

1 **Single-Cell Peripheral Immunoprofiling of Lewy Body Disease in a Multi-site Cohort**

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3 Thanaphong Phongpreecha^{1,2,3,*}, Kavita Mathi⁴, Brenna Cholerton¹, Eddie J. Fox¹, Natalia
4 Sigal⁴, Camilo Espinosa^{2,3,5}, Momsen Reincke^{2,3,5}, Philip Chung², Ling-Jen Hwang³, Chandresh
5 R. Gajera¹, Eloise Berson^{1,2,3}, Amalia Perna¹, Feng Xie^{2,3,5}, Chi-Hung Shu^{2,3,5}, Debapriya
6 Hazra^{2,3,5}, Divya Channappa⁶, Jeffrey E. Dunn⁶, Lucas B. Kipp⁶, Kathleen L. Poston⁶, Kathleen
7 S. Montine¹, Holden T. Maecker⁴, Nima Aghaeepour^{2,3,5}, Thomas J. Montine¹

8

9 1 Department of Pathology, Stanford University, CA, USA

10 2 Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Stanford University, CA,
11 USA

12 3 Department of Biomedical Data Science, Stanford University, CA, USA

13 4 Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection, Stanford University, CA, USA

14 5 Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University, CA, USA

15 6 Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences, Stanford University, CA, USA

16 Summary

17 Studies implicated peripheral organs involvement in the development of Lewy body disease
18 (LBD), a spectrum of neurodegenerative diagnoses that include Parkinson's Disease (PD)
19 without or with dementia (PDD) and dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB). This study characterized
20 peripheral immune responses unique to LBD at single-cell resolution. Peripheral mononuclear
21 cell (PBMC) samples were collected from sites across the U.S. The diagnosis groups comprise
22 healthy controls (HC, n=164), LBD (n=132), Alzheimer's disease dementia (ADD, n=98), other
23 neurodegenerative disease controls (NDC, n=21), and immune disease controls (IDC, n=14).
24 PBMCs were activated with three stimulants, stained by surface and intracellular signal
25 markers, and analyzed by flow cytometry, generating 1,184 immune features. Our model
26 classified LBD from HC with an AUROC of 0.90 ± 0.06 . The same model distinguished LBD from
27 ADD, NDC, IDC, or other common conditions associated with LBD. Model predictions were
28 driven by pPLC γ 2, p38, and pSTAT5 signals from specific cell populations and activations.

29 Keywords

30 Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Biomarkers, Dementia, Inflammation

31 Introduction

32 Lewy Body Disease (LBD) comprises a spectrum of clinically and pathologically overlapping
33 conditions: Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) and Parkinson's Disease (PD) with or without
34 Dementia (PDD)¹⁻⁵. Human genetic, biochemical, and pathological evidence, as well as
35 experimental models, support involvement not only by neuroinflammation⁶⁻⁸ but also a
36 peripheral immune response in the initiation and/or progression of LBD^{6,9-13}. While there is
37 intense interest in the systemic origins of pathologic alpha-synuclein, the role of the peripheral
38 immune system in LBD remains unclear. One possibility is that subsets of peripheral immune
39 cells migrate into the brain and consequently play a direct role in neurodegeneration¹⁴.
40 Alternatively, peripheral immune cells may serve as biomarkers of an inherited or acquired trait
41 shared by both peripheral and brain immune cells without peripheral cells directly contributing to
42 neurodegeneration. Past research has explored peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs)
43 as a platform to gain insights into the development of LBD with a focus on changes in the
44 proportion of specific cell types¹⁵⁻²⁰ or concentration of intercellular signals such as interleukins
45 (ILs)²¹⁻²⁴. While alteration of intracellular signaling in PBMCs of cognitively impaired or
46 Alzheimer's Disease (AD) patients has been explored previously²⁵⁻²⁹, only a handful of studies
47 have profiled PBMC intracellular signaling for LBD³⁰⁻³². Moreover, most of these investigations
48 of PBMCs in LBD have been limited by small sample sizes, single cohorts, bulk analysis, and
49 lack of disease controls to determine non-specific changes related to neurodegenerative
50 diseases or immune-mediated diseases.

51
52 This study sought to address several of these limitations through a rigorous profiling of
53 peripheral immune responses by PBMCs from 429 age- and sex-matched multisite research
54 participants diagnosed with LBD, other neurodegenerative diseases (NDC), or healthy controls
55 (HC). Fourteen additional samples also were obtained from patients at a single site who were

56 diagnosed with autoimmune disease. Samples were unstimulated or activated with three
57 different canonical immune stimulants to gain functional insight and then assayed with a panel
58 of markers that resolved 37 different cell types and the intracellular signaling pathways that
59 were selected to encompass those previously implicated by genetic risk and their associated
60 pathways³³⁻³⁶.

61 Results

62 Overview of the Cohort and Immune Features

63 Samples were from individuals with one of these clinical diagnoses: healthy controls (HC), LBD,
64 ADD, other neurodegenerative disease controls (NDC), or autoimmune disease controls (IDC).
65 All diagnosis groups were exclusive, e.g. no patients were diagnosed with both LBD and AD.
66 Each individual's PBMCs were stimulated with LPS, IFN α , IL6, or unstimulated, followed by
67 staining and measurement of cell type-specific abundance and intracellular signaling (see
68 **Methods Section**), including Lamp2, p38, pPLC γ 2, pS6, pSTAT1, pSTAT5, and Rab5. After
69 cell type gating, there were 1,184 immune features total in each of the 429 individual PBMC
70 samples (**Fig. 1A**).

71
72 The immune feature landscape (**Fig. 1B**) indicates that, regardless of stimulation and cell type,
73 features from the same intracellular signals tended to be highly correlated with each other,
74 aligning with known intracellular signaling cascades. A subset of pSTAT1, pSTAT5, and
75 pPLC γ 2 were highly correlated, whereas pS6 was the least correlated to other signals. A t-SNE
76 plot for patient landscape colored by site indicated that batch correction was effective as there
77 was no apparent site-specific cluster (**Fig. 1C** left). While there could be other confounding

78 factors other than sites, **Fig. 1C** shows that all diagnosis groups were well distributed, hence
79 allaying concerns of any strong effects introduced by confounders.

80 Immune Features Differentiate LBD from HC and Other Diseases

81 The machine learning model (LGBM) exhibited strong performance for separating LBD from HC
82 (Area Under the Receiver Operating Curve [AUROC]=0.90±0.06, Area Under Precision-Recall
83 Curve [AUPRC]=0.86±0.06; **Fig. 2A**), while predictions were essentially random for HC vs. ADD
84 (AUROC=0.52±0.06, AUPRC=0.42±0.05). It should be noted that random guess would yield an
85 AUROC of 0.50, and an AUPRC equivalent to the prevalence of the positive class, which is
86 displayed as patterned gray bars in all figures. The uneven distribution of LBD among sites
87 could be concerning; however, even if the training and test set were split by site, instead of
88 random cross-validation, or if only the Stanford cohort was included, the model still achieved
89 high performance for HC vs. LBD (AUROC=0.77 in **Fig. 2B**; AUROC=0.82±0.08 in **Fig. S2**).
90 This indicates that there was a generalizable pattern of PBMC response for participants with
91 LBD regardless of clinical subgrouping. To ensure that these immune features were unique to
92 LBD, the same HC vs. LBD model was used to predict ADD vs. LBD, NDC vs. LBD, and IDC vs.
93 LBD without retraining. All of these comparisons resulted in high performance with all AUROC
94 above 0.85 (**Fig. 2C**). Corresponding to these AUROC performances, **Fig. 2D** shows that the
95 predicted values for LBD in the test set were significantly different from all other diagnoses.
96 Moreover, the residual of the model predictions (**Fig. 2E**) was not significantly correlated with
97 sex, age, *APOE* epsilon 4 allele status, Levodopa dosage, or subgroup diagnosis of PD vs.
98 PDD; however, the model's residuals were significantly correlated with DLB vs. PD/PDD,
99 indicating that the model performed equally well across these major variables except diagnosis
100 group DLB compared to PD/PDD.

101

102 Model reduction indicated that only the top 4 immune features were necessary to achieve a
103 satisfactory prediction performance, and 32 features would yield similar performance as using
104 all 1,184 immune features (**Fig. 2F**). The top 4 immune features for LBD were highlighted in the
105 immune feature correlation network (**Fig. 2G**). They include reduced pPLC γ 2 response from
106 LPS-stimulated CD14⁺ CD16⁺ monocytes, elevated p38 response from unstimulated CD69⁺ B
107 cells, and frequency of IFN α and LPS-stimulated B cells.

108

109 Due to the high correlations among immune features, the model may only select a few
110 representative ones, and interpretation from the model alone may leave out other important
111 biological features. For this reason, other immune features were investigated from a univariate
112 perspective. Heatmaps of the correlations between the top intracellular signals and LBD
113 diagnosis show cell type-specific signals, including: reduced expression of pPLC γ 2 in CD69⁺
114 NK cells, transitional monocytes (TM), and CD11b⁺HLA-DR⁺ TM; reduced expression of
115 pSTAT5 in multiple CD4⁺ cells; and elevated expression of p38 in multiple CD4⁺ and CD8⁺
116 cells in patients with LBD compared to HC (**Fig. 3A**). Notably, these signals were significantly
117 different between LBD vs. HC and LBD vs. ADD but not between LBD vs. NDC or LBD vs. IDC
118 (**Fig. 3B**), highlighting the needs to integrate multiple immune features and non-linear models.

119 Differential Signals Separating DLB, PD, and PD with Cognitive Impairment

120 So far, we have determined a unique peripheral immune pattern for patients with LBD compared
121 to HC, ADD, and other neurodegenerative or autoimmune disease controls. However, as noted
122 above, patients with LBD are a mix of individuals with three different clinical diagnoses (PD,
123 PDD, and DLB) that can be difficult to distinguish clinically with precision and that can merge
124 over time. Our results show that each of these diagnostic subgroups of LBD can be separated
125 from HC moderately well with HC vs. DLB exhibiting the lowest performance (AUROC=0.70-
126 0.93, AUPRC=0.35-0.87; **Fig. 4A**). Transferring these models without retraining to cross-predict

127 among themselves, e.g. PD vs. PDD or PDD vs. DLB, exhibited moderately low performance
128 (AUROC=0.60-0.71; **Fig. 4B**). The moderate classification performance indicates that PD, PDD,
129 and DLB share some critical PBMC immune responses in addition to the known shared
130 neuropathological features. Interestingly, the model transfer to classify each LBD subgroup vs.
131 ADD resulted in high AUROC (>0.89) for both PD and PDD (**Fig. 4B**) but not as high for ADD
132 vs. DLB (AUROC=0.67), perhaps because of the well-described comorbidity between DLB and
133 AD neurodegenerative change in the majority of people diagnosed clinically with DLB³⁷.

134

135 From a univariate perspective when compared with HC, PDD exhibited the highest number of
136 statistically significant immune features (M.W.U. $P < 0.01$), and only a handful of these was
137 shared by PD and DLB (**Fig. 4C**). From the univariate intracellular signals for LBD in the
138 previous section, elevated p38 responses were uniquely associated with a diagnosis of PD with
139 or without dementia (**Fig. 4D**), while most of the reduced pPLC γ 2 response and reduced
140 expression of pSTAT5 were uniquely associated with PDD only.

141

142 Cognitive exams in multiple domains are predictive of cognitive status in LBD³⁸, and together
143 with motor exams and clinicians' judgment, were the source for deriving a clinical diagnosis. We
144 also tested if the immune features can predict any of the 18 neuropsychological battery test
145 scores in the cases where the data were available, such as trail making or MMSE, or any of the
146 23 motor examinations from the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) among
147 patients with LBD. Our results show moderately low performance, indicating that the selected
148 immune features were not specific to these measurements in LBD patients (**Fig. S3 & S4**).

149 The Biological Pathways from the Identified Biomarkers did not Overlap 150 with Other Comorbidities

151 Several diseases and conditions that are not primarily associated with neurodegeneration tend
152 to increase or lower the risk of dementia and PD. Examples of these include arthritis³⁹,
153 diabetes⁴⁰, hypercholesterolemia⁴¹, hypertension⁴², REM sleep disorder⁴³, sleep apnea⁴⁴,
154 traumatic brain injury (TBI)⁴⁵, and vitamin B12 deficiency (VB12DEF)⁴⁶. This section aims to
155 investigate whether the peripheral immune biomarkers discovered above had links with these
156 common comorbidities. In the cases where comorbidities data were available in our sample set,
157 individuals with these comorbidities were almost equally split among HC, ADD, or LBD (**Fig 5A**)
158 except for diabetes, which only occurred in HC and AD, and REM sleep disorders, which only
159 occurred in LBD. Models developed to test if the collected PBMC immune features were able to
160 predict these comorbidities showed that none of the comorbidities could be predicted accurately
161 with the marker panel selected for this study (**Fig. 5B**). Indeed, only TBI and VB12DEF
162 achieved AUROC above 0.60. This is further supported by a univariate analysis showing that
163 there was minimal overlap of significant features (M.W.U. $P < 0.01$) between TBI, VB12DEF, and
164 LBD (**Fig. 5C**). Together, these results suggest that the biomarkers identified were unique to
165 LBD and were minimally influenced, if at all, by these comorbidities.

166 Discussion

167 Human genetic, pathologic, imaging, and biochemical data as well as results from experimental
168 models have linked neuroinflammation with the initiation or progression of prevalent age-related
169 neurodegenerative diseases. Among these, the LBD spectrum, PD, PDD, and DLB, have been
170 most strongly linked to events in the periphery as potential contributing mechanisms that impact
171 the brain⁴⁷. Here we tested the hypothesis that cell-specific immune responses by PBMCs might
172 be associated with LBD diagnosis, highlighting potential peripheral biomarkers and possibly

173 illuminating mechanisms of disease. Our multisite study design included PBMCs from 429
174 participants from five diagnostic groups (HC, LBD, ADD, and NDC as controls for non-specific
175 changes occurring with debilitation from neurodegenerative diseases, and IDC to control for
176 non-specific changes occurring with immune-mediated diseases) that were investigated in basal
177 state or following stimulation by canonical immune activators to generate 1,184 molecular
178 features per individual. These rich immune response data were coupled with extensive clinical
179 annotation and analyzed by machine learning techniques.

180

181 Our major finding was that, within the context of our stimulants and multiplex panel, only 4
182 immune features were necessary to achieve similar prediction performance for LBD as all
183 immune features; these were: reduced pPLC γ 2 response from LPS-stimulated transitional
184 monocytes, elevated p38 response from unstimulated CD69+ B cells, and increased frequency
185 of IFN α and LPS stimulated B cells. Together these data suggest a broad alteration in
186 peripheral immune response in patients with LBD that is distinct from other neurodegenerative
187 and autoimmune diseases, and that involves monocytes and lymphocytes. Although these
188 findings establish relevance to the human condition, determining the mechanisms by which
189 these stimulant- and cell-specific immune responses may or may not directly contribute to LBD-
190 type neurodegeneration will require means of selectively manipulating each in isolation or
191 combinations in model systems that faithfully reflect the human immune system and
192 mechanisms of neurodegeneration in LBD.

193

194 On top of identified features from the model, univariate statistical analysis results highlight three
195 immune response features that are strongly characteristic of PBMCs from people diagnosed
196 with LBD: reduced pSTAT5 in CD4+ subset and reduced pPLC γ 2 response and elevated p38
197 response in subsets of NK cells and TM cells. Our localization of elevated p38 response to
198 lymphocytes in people with LBD suggests that this may be a feature of a subset of lymphocytes

199 that traffic into the brain as immune master regulators⁴⁷. Additionally, p38 is extensively related
200 to gut immunity, inflammation, and aging^{48–50}; gut physiology has been implicated by many
201 studies as a potential contributor to LBD⁵¹. PLCg2 is highly expressed in immune cells including
202 microglia, and gain-of-function mutations in *PLCG2* cause autoimmune diseases^{52–55}. A
203 nonsynonymous variant in *PLCG2* is associated with reduced risk of ADD, DLB, and
204 frontotemporal dementia, suggesting a broad influence on the mechanisms of
205 neurodegeneration, most likely neuroinflammation^{33,56}. Our results showed reduced
206 phosphorylation of PLCg2, the molecular mechanism of its activation, in peripheral monocytes
207 and other PBMCs of patients with LBD, thereby aligning with genetic data associating less
208 active PLCg2 with increased risk of LBD. In a previous single-site study we identified reduced
209 pPLCγ2 in a small group of ADD participants²⁵; however this result did not generalize to the
210 current multisite study with 4 times more ADD samples. Together, these findings suggest a
211 broad influence of PLCg2 activation in peripheral immunocompetent cells in multiple forms of
212 neurodegenerative disease but most robustly in LBD.

213

214 The medical and pathological distinctiveness of the LBD subgroups, PD, PDD, and LBD, is a
215 decades-long debate⁵. We sought to determine the extent to which peripheral immune
216 responses as measured here may potentially point to LBD subgroup-specific features. We
217 observed low model prediction performance among PD, PDD, and DLB suggesting that at least
218 as determined by our multiplex panel, PBMC immune responses are similar among the three
219 subgroups. Further univariate analysis suggested that increased signaling through pPLCγ2 and
220 pSTAT might be a peripheral immune feature specific to PDD and not PD or DLB. Interestingly,
221 despite being predictive of LBD and its subgroups, peripheral immune responses were not
222 strongly predictive of performance on neuropsychological tests or consensus motor evaluation,
223 nor were they associated with other medical conditions shown to modulate the risk of LBD. We
224 speculate that the detected peripheral immune response in LBD subgroups may be a

225 consequence of LBD-type neurodegeneration or may reveal an underlying inherited or acquired
226 trait that renders a person more vulnerable to developing LBD without being directly involved in
227 the extent of neurodegeneration.

228

229 Our study has limitations. While the overall sample size is adequate, some of the LBD subgroup
230 sizes were small and lacked neuroimaging, biomarkers, or pathologic validation of clinical
231 diagnosis. For these reasons, LBD subgroup comparisons should be considered preliminary.
232 Also, the multisite samples were majority Caucasian or Asian representing a national deficit in
233 sample diversity among these diseases that is currently being addressed. With these limitations
234 in mind, our quantification of PBMC immune response from multisite research participants
235 yielded a unique pattern for LBD compared to HC, multiple related neurodegenerative diseases,
236 and autoimmune diseases thereby highlighting potential biomarkers and insights into
237 mechanisms of LBD.

238 Acknowledgments

239 Samples from the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related
240 Dementias (NCRAD), which receives government support under a cooperative agreement grant
241 (U24 AG21886) awarded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), were used in this
242 study. We thank contributors who collected samples used in this study, as well as patients and
243 their families, whose help and participation made this work possible. Support for this research
244 related to healthy controls, ADD, and LBD samples has also been kindly provided by the
245 Stanford ADRC and the Pacific UDALL Center. Support for this research related to autoimmune
246 disease controls has been kindly provided by the Project BIG Fund and the Garrett Immunology
247 Research Fund. Flow cytometry and initial analysis thereof were performed in the Stanford
248 Human Immune Monitoring Center (HIMC).

249

250 This work was supported by NIA RF1AG077443 (T.J.M., N.A.), NIGMS 5T32GM089626 (P.C.).

251 Funding also provided for by the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) Diagnostics

252 Accelerator, a fund set up in collaboration with Bill Gates and other philanthropic partners. The

253 initiative seeks to accelerate the development of affordable and accessible biomarkers to

254 diagnose Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and to advance the development of more

255 targeted treatments. To learn more about the initiative visit the website at: (AlzDiscovery.org).

256 Acknowledgments

257 Conceptualization, T.P. and T.J.M.; Methodology, T.P., C.R.G., K.M., H.T.M., F.X., C-H.S., N.A.,

258 and T.M.; Investigation, T.P., N.S., K.M., E.J.F., S.C.P., and S.Y.W.; Visualization, T.P., C.E.,

259 A.P.; Writing – Original Draft, T.P. and T.J.M.; Writing – Review & Editing, E.B., D.H., B.C.,

260 M.R., P.C., N.A., and K.S.M.; Data Curation, D.C., L-J.H., T.P., K.M.; Funding Acquisition, T.P.,

261 E.J.F., T.J.M., N.A., K.L.M., K.S.M.; Resources, D.C., L-J.H., J.E.D., and L.B.K.; Supervision,

262 T.P., N.A., and T.J.M.

263 Competing Interests

264 The authors declare no competing interests.

265 Figure Legends

266 **Figure 1. Overall Experiment and Resulting Immune Landscape. (A)** Diagram of the
267 experiment. PBMCs were collected from diagnosis groups at Stanford ADRC, Stanford BIG, and
268 NCRAD, which in itself aggregated samples from multiple sites. This was followed by
269 stimulating the PBMCs with one of three different canonical immune activators or vehicle
270 control, immunolabelling for surface and intracellular markers, and measuring the cell-specific
271 signals using flow cytometry. Single-cell signals were manually gated to different cell types,
272 resulting in 1,184 immune features for each PBMC sample that were then used by machine
273 learning for the identification of biomarkers. **(B)** A correlation network (edges represent
274 Pearson's $R > 0.7$) indicates that the immune landscape was mostly determined by the
275 intracellular signals, i.e. the same intracellular signals tend to be correlated to each other
276 despite different cell types and stimulating conditions. **(C)** The t-SNE plots suggest that there
277 was not a strong effect by the site of sample collection (left), and that samples from different
278 diagnosis groups were well distributed overall (right).

279
280 **Figure 2. Models developed from multi-site data suggest peripheral biomarkers for LBD.**
281 **(A)** The model performance suggested good separation for HC vs. LBD, but not for HC vs.
282 ADD. Note that a random guess baseline would yield an AUROC of 0.50 and an AUPRC
283 equivalent to the prevalence of the positive class in the sample group, which are shown as
284 patterned gray bars. **(B)** Performance using cross-site splitting instead of random cross-
285 validation suggests the generalizability of the biomarkers. **(C)** Transferring the HC vs. LBD
286 model (without retraining) to classify LBD from disease controls, including ADD, NDC, and IDC,
287 yielded similarly high performance. **(D)** The predicted values from the HC vs. LBD model for all
288 diagnosis groups show that the model is LBD-specific. **(E)** Model residual (errors from each
289 prediction) did not significantly (M.W.U. $P < 0.05$) vary with sex, age, Levodopa dosage, APOE

290 e4 status, or PD vs. PDD. This indicates that the model performed equally well across these
291 variables. In contrast, the model's residual varied for the DLB vs. PD/PDD group, suggesting
292 that the performance of the DLB group differed from the PD/PDD group. **(F)** The required
293 number of top immune features needed to achieve similar performance as all 1,184 features.
294 **(G)** Correlation network highlighting the top features and the immune features with which they
295 are correlated.

296

297 **Figure 3. Strong signals for HC vs. LBD were cell-type specific. (A)** The heatmap of
298 selected intracellular signals (or frequency) from all cell types shows the cell types with the
299 strongest correlations to LBD. **(B)** Examples of the top univariate immune features.

300

301 **Figure 4. All subgroups within LBD can be separated from HC, but not among**
302 **themselves. (A)** Model performance of three separate models each developed for classifying
303 HC from each of the subgroups within LBD, including DLB, PDD, and PD. **(B)** The performance
304 of the same models (without retraining) classifying among each of the subgroups and all of them
305 vs. AD. **(C)** The Venn diagrams of significant immune features for each group (M.W.U. $P < 0.01$)
306 indicated small overlapping features among them. **(D)** The correlation network shows which
307 immune features were unique to or overlapping between DLB, PDD, and PD.

308

309 **Figure 5. The identified LBD biomarkers did not have overlapping biological pathways**
310 **with common non-neurodegenerative comorbidities. (A)** A chord diagram displaying LBD,
311 ADD, or HC co-occurrence with other comorbidities. Note that TBI was also included but due to
312 a low number of cases ($n=6$), it is now shown in the plot. **(B)** Model performances (AUROC) for
313 all comorbidities were below 0.60 except for TBI and vitamin B12 deficiency (VB12DEF). **(C)**
314 The Venn diagrams of significant immune features for each group (M.W.U. $P < 0.01$) indicated no
315 overlapping features among them.

316 Methods

317 Study Design

318 This study aimed to determine whether differences in peripheral immune responses between
319 healthy controls (HC) and research participants with LBD (PD, PDD, and DLB) are detectable
320 by flow cytometry analysis of PBMCs. In addition, we included samples from other research
321 participants for neurodegenerative disease controls (NDC) and patients with autoimmune
322 diseases for immune disease controls (IDC) to control for nonspecific effects of debilitation from
323 neurodegeneration and immune-mediated diseases. Participants were research volunteers at
324 Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center or the Pacific Udall Center (Stanford ADRC),
325 Stanford BIG Project (BIG), and many other Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs),
326 whose samples were aggregated and distributed by the National Centralized Repository for
327 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD). All participants provided written
328 informed consent to participate in the study, which followed protocols approved by the Stanford
329 Institutional Review Board. Clinical diagnosis was made by consensus criteria.

330
331 Blood was collected from a total of 429 volunteers stratified into seven diagnosis groups: HC
332 ($n=164$), LBD (total $n=132$ including 67 PD without dementia, 47 PD with dementia (PDD), and
333 18 DLB), Alzheimer's disease dementia (ADD, $n=98$), other neurodegenerative disease controls
334 (NDC; $n=21$), and immune disease controls (IDC; $n=14$). The diseases included in NDC were
335 multiple system atrophy, primary supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, frontotemporal
336 lobar degeneration, behavioral frontotemporal dementia, primary progressive aphasia, vascular
337 brain injury, prion disease, and traumatic brain injury. HCs were individuals who were not
338 diagnosed with any neurological disease and had no cognitive impairment. AD, LBD
339 (PD/PDD/DLB), and NDC participants had a single clinical diagnosis without clinical

340 comorbidity. The sex distribution of each group is shown in **Fig. 1A**, and the average age was
341 73 ± 6 for HC, 75 ± 8 for AD, 71 ± 7 for PD, 73 ± 7 for PDD, 73 ± 7 for DLB, 74 ± 7 for NDC, and 67 ± 3
342 for IDC. The race distribution of participants who contributed to our sample set was 86% White,
343 12% Asian, 1% Black or African American, and 1% Others. The percent contribution of each
344 diagnosis group from each site was 35% Stanford ADRC and 65% NCRAD for HC, 36%
345 Stanford ADRC and 64% NCRAD for ADD, 93% Stanford ADRC and 7% NCRAD for LBD,
346 100% NCRAD for NDC, 100% BIG for IDC. The protocol for PBMC collection and storage by
347 each site can be found in the **Supplementary Materials**.

348 Flow Cytometry Experiment

349 PBMCs were isolated by density-gradient centrifugation and cryopreserved. Post-thaw, cells
350 were washed in a complete RPMI medium with benzonase. Cell viability as measured by Vi-Cell
351 (Beckman Coulter) for all samples was above 90%. After resting for 2h at 37°C, PBMCs were
352 either left unstimulated or stimulated with a panel of cytokines: IFN α (10,000 units/ml), IL-2 (50
353 ng/ml), IL-6 (50 ng/ml) and LPS (200 ng/ml) for 15 min, at 37°C. Stimulation was stopped by
354 fixing cells with paraformaldehyde for 10 minutes at room temperature. After washing cells with
355 PBS, samples were stained with LIVE/DEAD™ Fixable Blue Dead Cell Stain Kit, for UV
356 excitation (from Invitrogen) for 15 min at room temperature. After live dead staining, cells were
357 washed with wash buffer (Phosphate buffered saline, 2% Fetal bovine serum, 0.1% sodium
358 azide), followed by surface staining with anti- CD4(BUV805), CD7 (AF780), CD8 (AF700),
359 CD11b (BUV395), CD14 (BUV737), CD16 (BV750), CD19 (PerCP-Cy5.5), CD27 (BV711),
360 CD56 (BUV563), CD69 (BUV661), HLA-DR (BV480) (antibodies from BD Biosciences), CD3
361 (BV605) and CD45RA (BV570) (antibodies from BioLegend). Staining was done at room
362 temperature for 30 min. After 2 washes, cells were permeabilized with ice-cold methanol and
363 were stored overnight at -80°C. Post permeabilization, cells were washed again, and
364 intracellular staining was done with anti-pSTAT1 (AF488), pSTAT5 (PE-Cy7), pP38 (PE),

365 pPLC γ 2 (APC), pS6 (BV421), CD107b/Lamp2 (BV786), (antibodies from BD Biosciences) and
366 Rab5 (PE-CF594) (from Santa Cruz Biotechnology) at room temperature for 30 min. After two
367 further washes, the acquisition was performed on a BD Symphony A5 flow cytometer with a
368 High Throughput Sampler (HTS) and analyzed using FlowJo software where median
369 expressions were collected for each gated cell type. The reagents and the gating scheme can
370 be found in **Table S1** and **Fig. S1**. Lastly, Combat⁵⁷ was used to correct site effects.

371 Data Analysis

372 Machine learning is a common tool for extracting insight from high-dimensional cytometry
373 data^{58,59}. Here, light gradient-boosting machine (LGBM)⁶⁰ was used as it outperformed other
374 machine learning models, including logistic linear, random forest, and feed-forward neural
375 network models, in our dataset. To maximize generalizability, the performance was evaluated
376 using 10 repeated 4-fold cross-validation where the model is trained on a randomized train set
377 and tested on unseen samples. For the classification of the three main groups, HC and IDC
378 were merged and labeled 0, and the disease group (LBD or ADD) was labeled 1. The test set
379 prediction values were used for subsequent analyses and visualizations. The model
380 performance metrics include the Area Under the Receiving Operating Curve (AUROC) and the
381 Area Under the Precision-Recall Curve (AUPRC). For differential predictions, *e.g.* ADD vs. LBD
382 or NDC vs. LBD, the primary model trained for HC vs. LBD was used without retraining. For the
383 prediction of LBD subgroups (PD, PDD, DLB), comorbidities, and motor examinations, LGBM
384 was also used with the same cross-validation setup except that a subsampling technique was
385 used to ensure balanced age and sex ratios between case and controls. Methods for model
386 reduction and correlation networks can be found in the **Supplementary Materials**.

387

388 Supplemental Information

389 Data availability: Singlet live cell data (.fcs format), gated median value data (.csv format), the
390 associated metadata (.csv format), and the data dictionary are made publicly available at DOI:
391 https://datadryad.org/stash/share/LT4qx1N_pGC5WIOo24QNDt7R61BgIFXnxuK7qgjvTpE..

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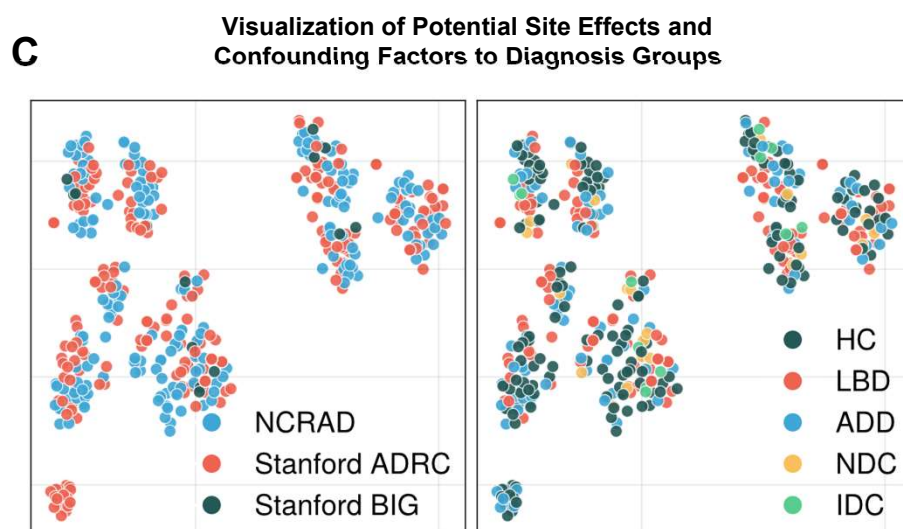
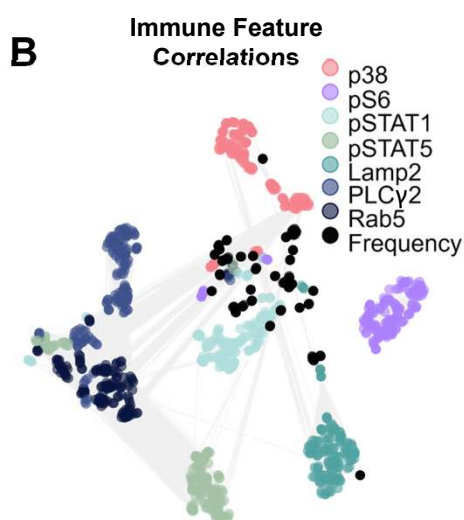
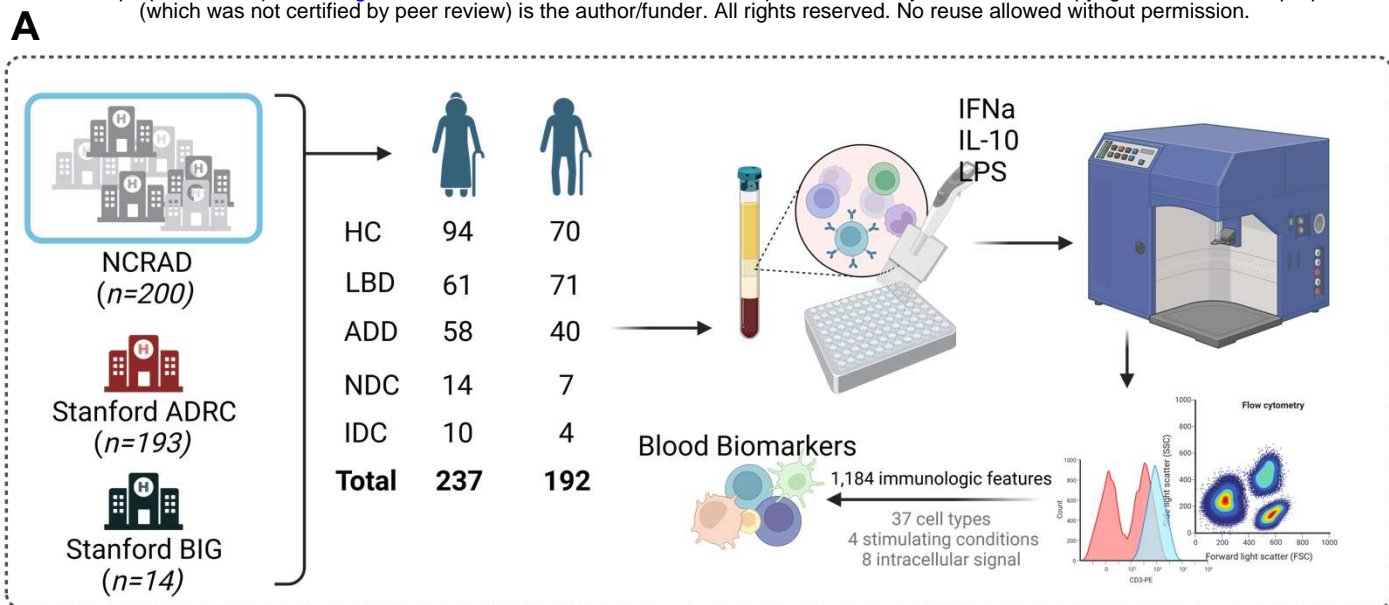
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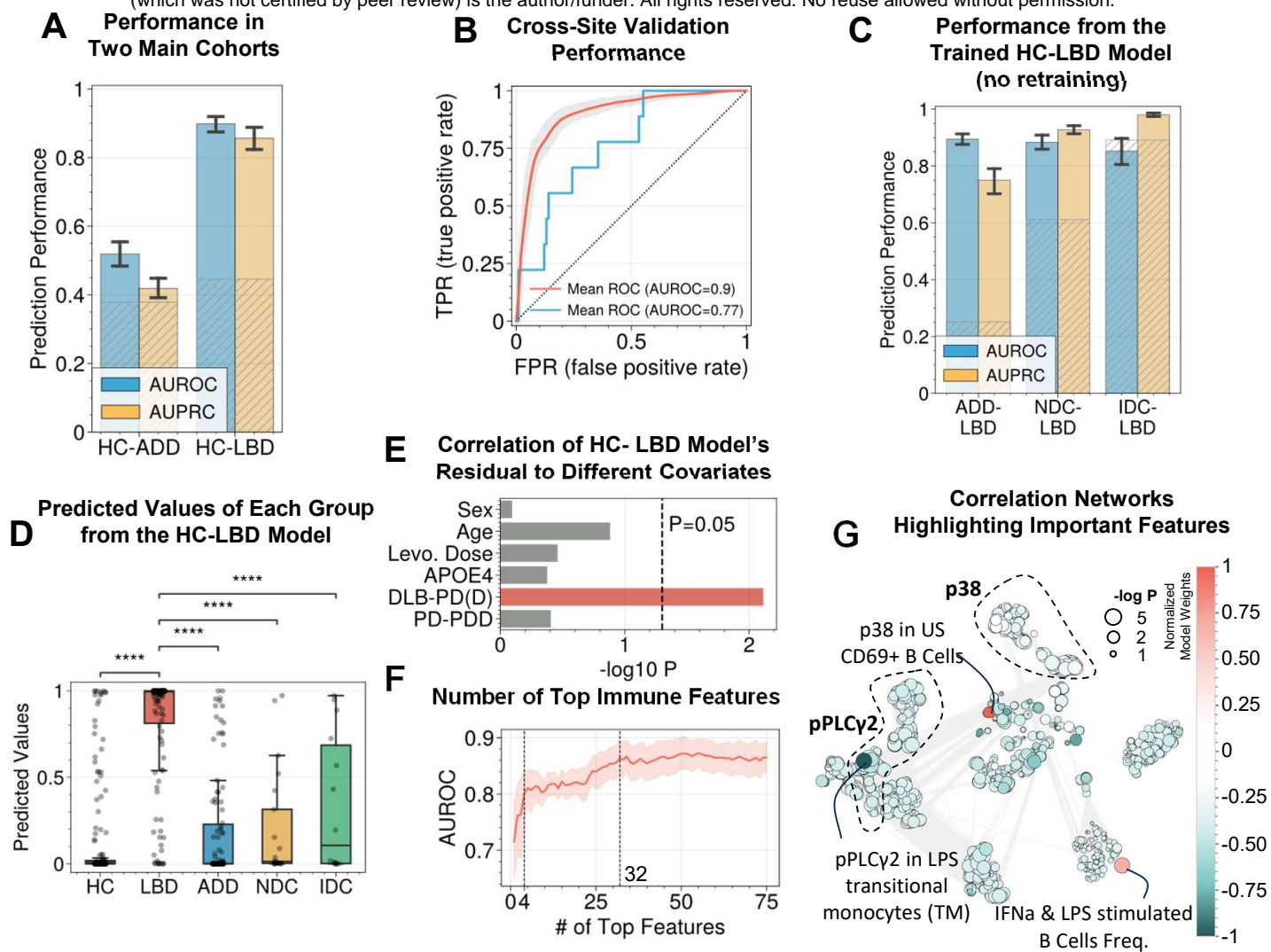
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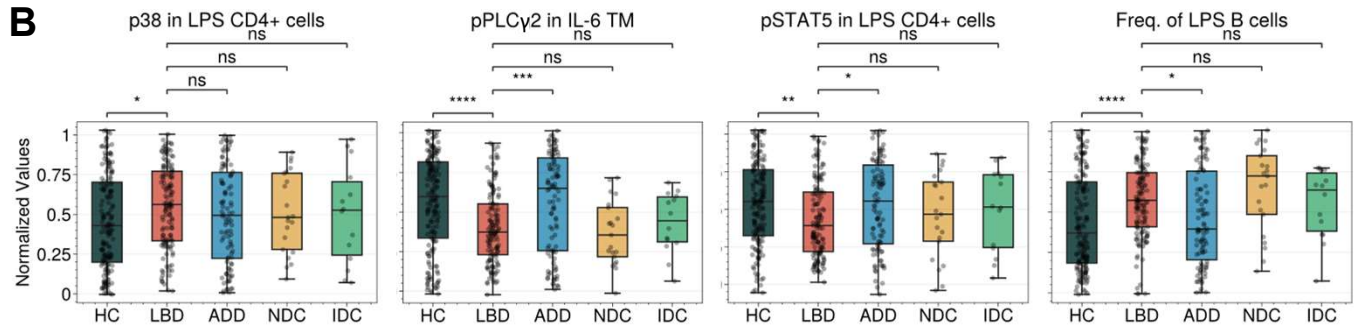
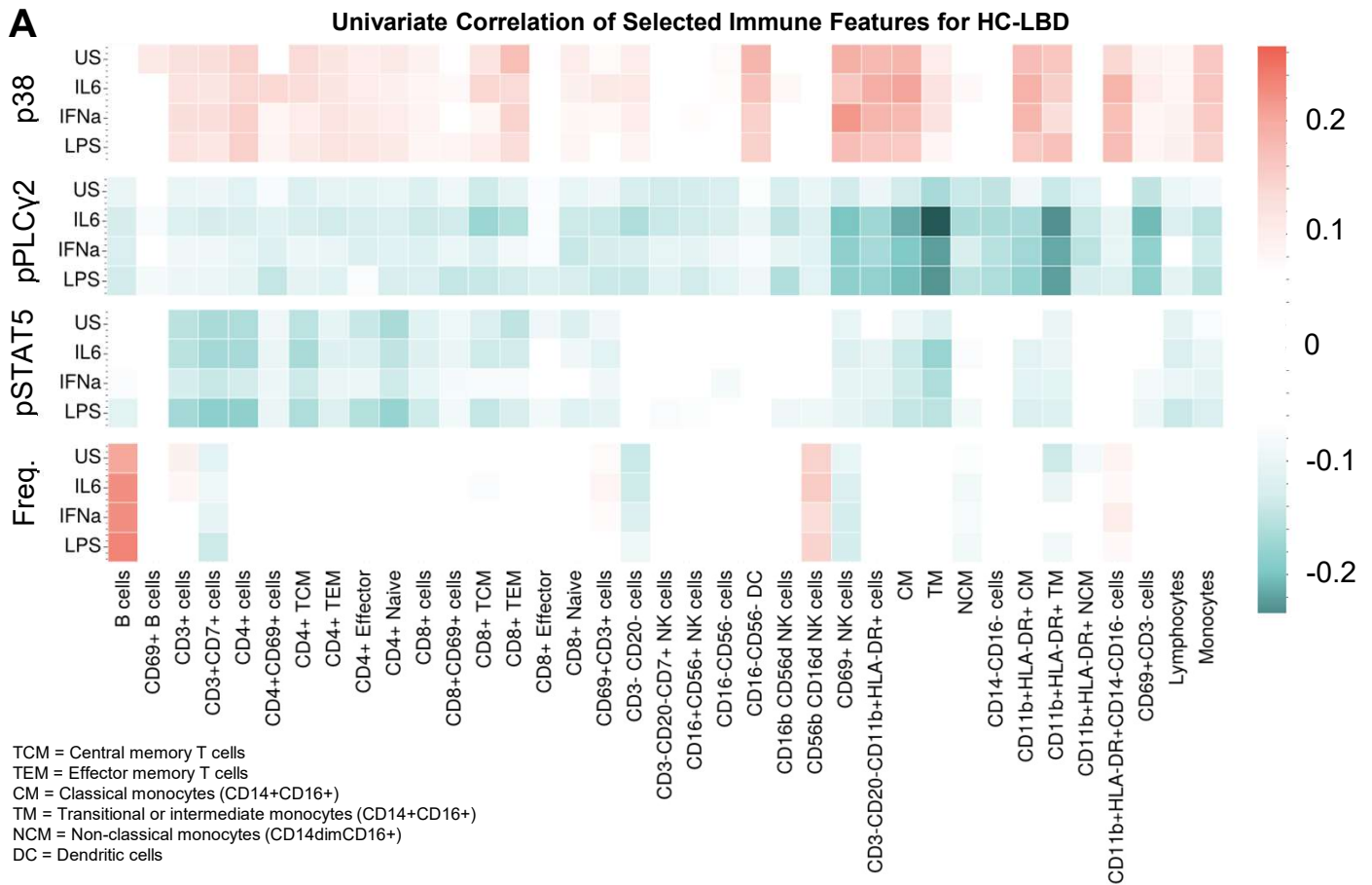
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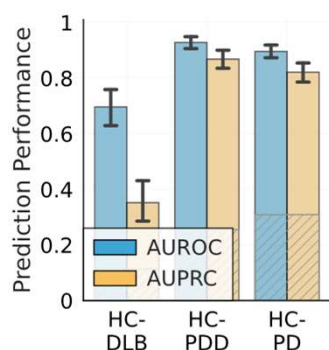
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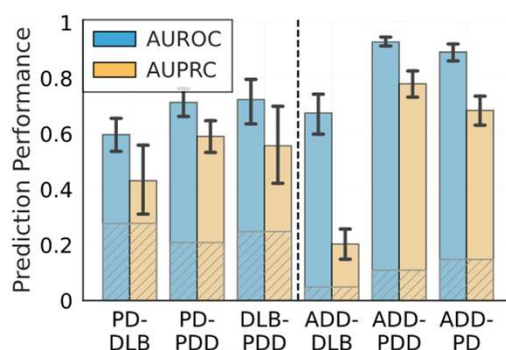




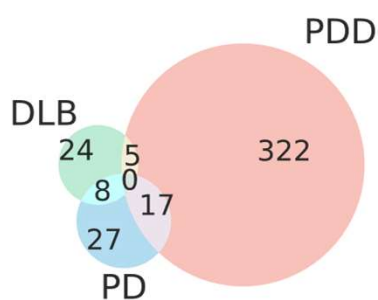
A Performance for Diagnoses within LBD



B Performance from the Trained Transferred Model (no retraining)



C Intersection of Significant Immune Features in LBD



D Overview of Immune Features Significantly Unique to/Overlapped among Groups

