Antigen specificity shapes antibody functions in tuberculosis.

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<u>Abstract</u>

Tuberculosis (TB) is the number one infectious disease cause of death worldwide in part

due to an incomplete understanding of immunity. Emerging data highlight antibody functions as

correlates of protection and disease across human TB. However, little is known about how

antibody functions impact *Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb)*, the causative agent. Here, we use

antigen specificity to understand how antibodies mediate host-*Mtb* interactions. We focus on

Mtb cell wall and ESAT-6 & CFP-10, critical bacterial structural and secreted virulence proteins.

In polyclonal IgG from TB patients, we observe that antigen specificity alters IgG subclass and

glycosylation that drives Fc receptor binding and effector functions. Through in vitro models of

Mtb macrophage infection we find that *Mtb* cell wall IgG3, sialic acid, and fucose increase

opsonophagocytosis of extracellular *Mtb* and bacterial burden, suggesting that some polyclonal

IgG enhance disease. In contrast, ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 inhibits intracellular *Mtb*, suggesting

that antibodies targeting secreted virulence factors are protective. We test this hypothesis by

generating a mAb that reacts to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 and show that it alone inhibits intracellular

Mtb. Understanding which antigens elicit antibody mediated disease enhancement and or

protection will be critical in appreciating the many roles for antibodies in TB.

 Introduction

Antibodies are leveraged in vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics in many infectious

diseases but for tuberculosis (TB), their role is unclear (1-5). Unlike other pathogens, the

presence of antibodies reactive to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), the causative agent, is

linked to neither protection nor disease (6-9). In contrast, cellular immunity has been thought to

be the cornerstone of protection with loss of function in humans and animal models associated

with decreased survival after *Mtb* challenge (10). However, enhanced T cell responses through

immunomodulation such as programmed cell death protein 1 inhibitors paradoxically worsen

disease (11, 12). Moreover, the first large phase IIB clinical trial of a TB vaccine designed to

boost Th1 and Th17 responses, MVA85A, showed no protection (13), and unexpectedly, CD4 T

cell responses associated with increased whereas Ag85A IgG titers linked to decreased risk of

disease. In revisiting the paradigm of protection in TB (3), a significant gap in knowledge is the

role of antibodies.

Antibodies function by the combination of the Fab domain binding to the antigen and Fc

domain engaging receptors on immune cells to induce effector functions (2, 5). Diversity within

the Fc domain in subclass and post-translational glycosylation regulate binding to activating and

inhibitory Fc receptors (FcRs) that initiate downstream signaling and immune cell activation (14-

17). In mice, loss of activating FcR signaling decreases survival after *Mtb* challenge (18).

Conversely, loss of inhibitory FcR signaling limits bacterial burden. In humans, the activating

FcγRIIIa is associated with protection in latent TB as compared to disease in active TB (19). We

have shown that IgG Fc properties and effector functions diverge in latent and active TB (20,

21). Moreover, in an in vitro macrophage model of *Mtb* infection, treatment with IgG from latent

compared to active TB leads to decreased *Mtb* burden and increased antimicrobial activities

(20). These findings suggest that antibodies from TB patients are protective, disease enhancing,

or both. Here, we focus on *Mtb* antigen specificity to understand how antibody functions impact

Mtb and begin to define mechanisms of protection and disease.

With over 4000 open reading frames, glycans, and glycolipids, the immunodominant *Mtb*

repertoire in humoral immunity is not known (22). As such, a mixture of proteins from bacterial

culture (purified protein derivative (PPD)) has been used in many studies to identify reactivity to

Mtb (6, 23, 24). However, the Fab domain impacts Fc functions such that changing the Fab

domain to recognize different epitopes while maintaining the Fc domain alters the ability of the

antibody to bind to FcRs and initiate effector functions. Functionally, changing the Fab domain

sufficiently alters Fc domain mediated protection in animal infection models of influenza and

Cryptococcus (25-27). To this point, mAbs that target different *Mtb* surface and cell wall

antigens (LAM, PstS1, and heparin-binding hemagglutinin are examples) utilize different FcRs

to impact *Mtb* (28-31). Beyond testing mAbs in isolation, understanding how antigen specificity

impacts polyclonal antibody Fc functions highlights potential mechanisms of infection and

disease in humoral immune responses where antibodies function collectively.

In this study, we leverage the heterogeneity of polyclonal IgG responses in human latent

and active TB to understand the impact of antigen specificity on subclass, post-translational

glycosylation and Fc effector functions. For each individual TB patient, we measure the impact

of their IgG on infection using macrophage models that examine *Mtb* in its extracellular and

intracellular states of the life cycle. By linking IgG Fc properties to *Mtb* burden we discover that

with opsonophagocytosis of extracellular *Mtb*, *Mtb* cell wall IgG enhances disease through IgG3,

sialic acid, and fucose directed Fc receptor binding. In comparison, with antibody treatment of

macrophages after *Mtb* infection where the population is intracellular, we find that IgG reactive

to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 negatively correlates with bacterial burden, suggesting antibodies that

recognize secreted *Mtb* virulence factors are protective. We test this hypothesis by generating a

monoclonal human IgG1 that recognizes ESAT-6 and CFP-10 and show that it alone is

sufficient to inhibit intracellular *Mtb*. These data show that in latent and active TB, antigen

specificity influences how IgG impacts *Mtb* and helps define mechanisms of antibody mediated

disease enhancement and protection.

Results

Antigen specificity alters the capacity to differentiate latent and active TB by IgG subclass.

We began with the framework of latent TB infection and active TB disease to understand

the impact of antigen specificity on antibody functions in the context of protection and disease

as reflected by the clinical TB spectrum (Table). Individuals with latent TB infection have

decreased risk of progression to active TB disease compared to the uninfected (32). Latent TB

infection was diagnosed by the presence of a blood T cell-IFNγ response to *Mtb* ESAT-6, CFP-

10, and TB7.7, absence of signs and symptoms of disease, and history of exposure to TB.

Active TB was defined by the presence of clinical disease and detectable *Mtb* (33-35).

Individuals from the same area with no history of or exposure to TB were used as endemic

controls to account for environmental non-tuberculous mycobacteria and other geographical

variations that impact the development of immunity (36-40).

To systematically approach the >4000 *Mtb* protein antigens (41), we balanced breadth

and specificity with individual and fractions of mixed antigen preparations from bacteria in

culture. Since the dominant repertoire of epitopes recognized by antibodies in TB is unclear

(22), many studies use purified protein derivative (PPD) that reflects the bacterial cytosol and

cell wall though it can be skewed towards a subset of antigens (6, 23, 24). In addition to PPD,

we used protein fractions enriched in components of *Mtb* cell wall, cytosol, and secretions into

the culture (culture filtrate) (42-44) on the premise that localization with respect to the bacteria

could impact the sensing, processing, and development of antibodies (29, 30, 45-48). In

addition to protein mixes, we chose the well-studied secreted bacterial virulence factor

complexes Ag85A & Ag85B (49) and ESAT-6 & CFP-10 (50). As a non-*Mtb* control from a

common pulmonary pathogen with high seroprevalence in adults, we used a mixture of proteins

from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (51). Together these antigens enabled the evaluation of

humoral immunity targeting bacterial structural, metabolic, and immune modulatory functions

important for survival in the host.

We found that antigen specificity changes how IgG titers relate to disease, consistent

with the variable experience using *Mtb* reactive IgG for serological diagnoses (52, 53). Only *Mtb*

cell wall IgG significantly distinguished active from latent TB (Figure 1A) with differences in

levels of IgG1 and IgG2, not IgG3 and IgG4 (Figure 1B). In contrast, IgG reactive to PPD, *Mtb*

cytosolic proteins, culture filtrate, and the virulence factors Ag85A & Ag85B and ESAT-6 & CFP-

10 could not distinguish between clinical TB states (Figure 1A and 1C) like control RSV

(Supplemental Figure 1). To further examine the impacts of antigen specificities, we focused on

Mtb cell wall as the only antigen specific IgG that predicts disease and ESAT-6 & CFP-10 as the

most similar between latent and active TB.

Antigen specificity separates antibody Fc domain glycosylation in latent and active TB.

Antibodies function through the combinatorial diversity of the Fab domain via its

antigenic repertoire and the Fc domain with subclass distribution and post-translational N-

glycosylation (2, 14-17). On a single conserved asparagine residue on the IgG Fc domain

(N297) is a core biantennary complex of mannose and N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc)

(Supplemental Figure 2A). Addition and subtraction of galactose, sialic acid, bisecting GlcNAc,

and fucose to the core structure generates heterogenous individual glycan structures. For every

single individual cohort sample, we measured glycosylation patterns on IgG reactive to ESAT-6

& CFP-10, *Mtb* cell wall, control RSV, and total bulk IgG Fc domains (Figure 2A, Supplemental

Figure 2B). We summarized the individual glycans into total sialic acid (S), galactose (G),

fucose (F), bisecting GlcNAc (B), fucose with sialic acid (F w/ S), and fucose without sialic acid

(F w/o S) (Figure 2B, Supplemental Figure 2C and 2D). We observed that antigen specific

compared to total bulk IgG had higher sialic acid, galactose, and bisecting GlcNAc (Figure 2B

and Supplemental Figure 2D). Within antigen specific IgG, *Mtb* antigens distinguished

themselves from RSV through even higher sialic acid, galactose, and bisecting GlcNAc but

lower fucose (Figure 2B and Supplemental Figure 2D). Within *Mtb*-reactive IgG, bisecting

GlcNAc was not different. Rather, *Mtb* cell wall compared to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG had lower

sialic acid and galactose and higher fucose, with the major changes occurring in fucose without

sialic acid. Thus, each antigen specificity appeared to have a unique glycosylation pattern,

consistent with B cell intrinsic rather than extrinsic mechanisms dominating IgG glycosylation

(54, 55). Moreover, like subclass distribution, Fc glycosylation changes with antigen specificity

in TB.

Because we previously reported that differential IgG glycosylation was linked to latent

and active TB (20, 21, 56-58), we evaluated how clinical state in addition to antigen specificity

impacted IgG glycosylation in this cohort. Using principal components analysis and hierarchical

clustering to globally assess the individual glycoform patterns across all patients, we confirmed

prior findings that IgG Fc glycosylation was separated out by latent and active TB (Figure 2C).

However, we found that antigen specificity made a greater impact (Figure 2D and Supplemental

Figure 2F). Thus, post-translational glycosylation is influenced by antigen specificity more than

clinical TB state.

Antibody Fc effector functions diverge more by antigen specificity than latent and active TB.

The differences in subclass distribution and Fc N-glycosylation suggested that *Mtb* cell

wall compared to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG diverge in their abilities to bind to Fc receptors (FcRs)

and initiate immune cell effector functions. To evaluate the impact of antigen specificity on FcR

engagement, we measured binding to high and low affinity FcRs that have been described to

impact TB: FcγRI (28, 59, 60), FcγRIIa (28, 29, 46), FcγRIIb (18, 28, 29, 46), FcγRIIIa (19, 20,

29), and FcRn (30, 61) (Supplemental Figure 3A). Because Fc functions involve steps beyond

FcR binding including adaptor-mediated signaling and feedback we further evaluated with the

cell-based assays antibody dependent natural killer cell activation (ADNKA) that induces cellular

cytotoxicity and antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) (Supplemental Figure 3B and

C). Both have been linked to protection and disease in human TB (19, 20, 28, 56). Through

principal components analysis we found that Fc functions separated by antigen specificity more

than TB status (Figure 3A and 3B). ADNKA markers characterized ESAT-6 & CFP-10 while

ADCP highlighted *Mtb* cell wall IgG functions. Binding to individual FcRs minimally distinguished

the antigens. These data demonstrate that measurements of IgG engagement of multiple FcRs

to induce cell signaling and activation capture more distinctions between *Mtb* antigens as

compared to simply binding to individual FcRs. While previous work ((20)) showed Fc receptor

binding and effector function differences between latent and active TB IgG, these data show

that antigen specificity more than clinical TB states influence IgG Fc effector functions.

Moreover, differences in IgG subclass, glycosylation that drive Fc effector functions suggested

that antigen specificity alters how antibodies could modulate *Mtb*.

Latent and active TB IgG differentially impact Mtb in macrophage infection.

To begin to evaluate the impact of antigen specific antibodies on *Mtb*, we used in vitro

models of macrophage infection. Monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies have been shown to

mediate differential uptake of extracellular *Mtb* into the macrophage (28, 29, 62-64). This

quintessential immune cell niche has the capacity to restrict and also permit bacterial replication

(20, 28, 29, 58, 62, 63, 65-68). We evaluated how polyclonal IgG from this cohort impacts *Mtb*

burden resulting from opsonophagocytosis of extracellular bacteria into the macrophage. We

used a virulent *Mtb* H37Rv reporter strain (*Mtb*-276) where luminescence correlates with

bacterial burden (Supplemental Figure 4A) (69, 70) in primary human monocyte derived

macrophages (pMDM) that express FcRs involved in TB (FcγRI, FcγRIIa, FcγRIIb, FcγRIIIa,

and FcRn). We incubated bacteria with IgG from each individual patient and used the opsonized

Mtb to infect pMDMs at an MOI=1 (Figure 4A). We used a low MOI to mimic the high infectivity

and paucibacillary nature of *Mtb* and limit the macrophage toxic effects of non-physiological high

loads of bacteria and their components. We quantified *Mtb* growth after infection (Supplemental

Figure 4B) and found that *Mtb* burden was lower when opsonized by IgG from individuals with

latent compared to active TB (Figure 4B). These data demonstrated that polyclonal IgG from

individuals across the spectrum of protected latent and diseased active TB have properties that

alter uptake of extracellular *Mtb* into the macrophage and its subsequent growth.

While extracellular bacteria are present during initial infection and likely active TB

particularly with advanced disease, the majority of *Mtb* is thought to be intracellular (65, 66, 71,

72). We have previously shown that intracellular *Mtb* is differentially impacted by polyclonal IgG

pooled from latent and active TB patients (20). Here, we enhanced the resolution of these prior

experiments by evaluating the impact of IgG from each individual latent and active TB patient on

intracellular bacteria. We infected macrophages first, washed away the extracellular *Mtb*, then

treated the *Mtb* infected macrophages with IgG (Figure 4C). Consistent with prior studies using

IgG pooled from latent and active TB patients, on the level of individual TB patients intracellular

Mtb burden was lower after treatment with IgG from latent compared to active TB (Figure 4D).

Thus, polyclonal IgG from individuals across latent and active TB have properties that impact

intracellular *Mtb* replication after infection has occurred. The results of these extracellular

(Figure 4B) and intracellular (Figure 4D) assays were then leveraged to understand the

relationship of antigen specificity on modulation of *Mtb* during macrophage infection by IgG in

latent and active TB.

Mtb cell wall IgG enhances Mtb burden in opsonophagocytosis of extracellular bacteria.

To assess the impact of antigen specificity on opsonophagocytosis of *Mtb*, we evaluated

the relationships between antigen specific IgG properties and *Mtb* burden after extracellular

bacteria is opsonized, taken up, and then replicates in the macrophage. We used simple linear

regression to test the dependence of *Mtb* burden on *Mtb* cell wall specific subclass, FcR

binding, and Fc effector functions. We found that the *Mtb* burden from opsonophagocytosis and

subsequent growth in the macrophage was dependent on *Mtb* cell wall IgG3 and binding to high

(FcRn and FcγRI) and low (FcγRIIa and FcγRIIb) affinity FcRs (Figure 5A) contrasting control

RSV (Supplemental Figure 5). There were no relationships in the context of intracellular bacteria

with antibody treatment after macrophage infection (Figure 5B). To incorporate the combination

of subclass levels and glycosylation, we next used multiple linear regression. We found that

extracellular and not intracellular *Mtb* burden was enhanced by both fucose and sialic acid

(Figure 5C and 5D), the glycans that most significantly distinguished *Mtb* cell wall from ESAT-6

& CFP-10 IgG (Figure 2B). As has been reported by others (28), these relationships occurred

only in latent and not active TB disease and linked to higher potency of IgG Fc functions

(Supplemental Figure 6). These data show that with high Fc potency in latent compared to

active TB, *Mtb* cell wall IgG functions through opsonizing extracellular *Mtb* prior to and not after

infection.

ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG inhibits intracellular Mtb.

In contrast to *Mtb* cell wall, ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG appeared to inhibit *Mtb* after infection

and had no impact on opsonophagocytosis of extracellular bacteria prior to infection (Figure 6A

and 6B). More specifically, ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 negatively linked to intracellular bacterial

burden and growth rate (Figure 6C and 6D). This was also observed in latent and not active TB

though not linked to changes in Fc functional potency (Supplemental Figure 6). These data

suggested that some ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG in latent TB have the capacity to protect.

To test the ability of ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 to inhibit *Mtb*, we cloned a monoclonal

human IgG1 (ESAT-6 mAb) that recognizes ESAT-6, CFP-10, and the combination

(Supplemental Figure 8A-C). Treatment of *Mtb* infected macrophages with the ESAT-6 mAb as

compared to isotype control led to decreased intracellular *Mtb* burden in a dose-dependent

manner (Figure 6E and 6F and Supplemental Figure 8D and 8E). These data show that in latent

TB, IgG recognizing the secreted *Mtb* virulence factors ESAT-6 & CFP-10 function by targeting

246 intracellular bacteria after infection has been established in the macrophage and not

247 opsonization of extracellular *Mtb*.

249 <u>Discussion</u>

250  Building from studies in latent and active TB showing that antibody functions correlate

251 with protection and disease, here we use *Mtb* cell wall proteins and the secreted virulence

252 complex ESAT-6 & CFP-10 to begin to unravel the underlying mechanisms. We show that

253 antigen specificity alters IgG subclass distribution, glycosylation, and Fc effector functions to

254 reveal divergence in how disease and protection are mediated and the bacterial population

255 targeted. When *Mtb* cell wall IgG in latent TB is used to opsonize extracellular bacteria before

256 macrophage infection, *Mtb* burden is enhanced (Figure 5A). This is through IgG3, the subclass

257 with the highest ability to induce Fc receptor binding and effector functions (73). This is

258 consistent with links to FcγRI, FcγRIIa, and FcγRIIb that drive antibody dependent cellular

259 phagocytosis, as well as the high affinity FcRn (Figure 5A). In addition, the presence of Fc

260 sialylation and absence of Fc fucosylation link to *Mtb* burden (Figure 5C), indicating that glycan

261 modulation of Fc receptor binding described in the literature is also important (17, 74-77). In

262 contrast, ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 in latent TB targets the intracellular *Mtb* population that is

263 established after infection (Figure 6B). Its protective capacity is shown in both polyclonal and

264 mAb studies where ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 alone is sufficient to measurably inhibit bacterial

265 burden (Figure 6E and 6F). Thus, *Mtb* antigens do not all elicit the same Fc effector function.

266 Rather, diverse Fc properties and functions link to different antigens, and in combination with

267 the nature of the bacterial target determine how antibodies modulate *Mtb* infection.

268  Matching age and sex in the clinical groups of latent and active TB, stringent diagnostic

269 and exclusion criteria that limit confounding factors, and the use of endemic negatives

270 strengthens this study. However, latent and active TB represent a portion of the human TB

271 spectrum (4, 78). Evaluating individuals highly exposed but not considered to have classical

latent TB (58), during and after antimicrobial treatment (56, 79, 80), with reinfection (81), and

comparing those with and without BCG vaccination (82, 83) along with clinical outcomes (57)

would orthogonally validate our findings. Additionally, these data reflect a fraction of the *Mtb*

antigen repertoire (22, 41). Using this approach systematically would identify additional bacterial

antigens that elicit polyclonal antibody responses impacting *Mtb* throughout its life cycle in the

host.

One possible way that different antigens from the same bacteria could elicit such

divergent antibody Fc properties could be immune priming. *Mtb* cell wall proteins cross-react

with environmental NTMs (36-40, 45). The prevalence of ESAT-6 & CFP-10-like proteins is

comparatively far less such that it is used for current T-cell based diagnostics (35). As such, the

antibodies that react to *Mtb* cell wall could result from a priming effect due to pre-existing NTM

immunity. In contrast, antibodies reactive to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 could represent responses to de

novo exposure (37). Further studies that assess the effect of pre-existing immunity to NTMs on

antigen avidity and Fc properties after *Mtb* infection would help evaluate this possibility (36).

Antibodies targeting *Mtb* cell wall antigens have been described to enhance and inhibit

Mtb. Monoclonal IgG1 targeting the bacterial surface exposed heparin binding hemagglutinin

(HBHA), show that enhancement of entry into epithelial cells is possible through FcRn (30).

Monoclonal IgG targeting *Mtb* cell wall proteins (PstS1, HspX, and LpqH) (29, 84, 85) and

monoclonal and polyclonal IgG targeting the bacterial glycan arabinomannan inhibit *Mtb* through

Fc dependent and independent mechanisms (28, 62-64). Thus, while the overall mixture of *Mtb*

cell wall proteins enhances disease in this study, it is likely that within the cell wall fraction,

some antigens induce protective and others disease enhancing antibodies.

Antibody dependent enhancement of infection has been described in viral and bacterial

infections (86-89) including the intracellular pathogens Legionella (90) and Leishmania (91, 92)

in macrophages that involve cross-reactive and Fc receptor mediated mechanisms. Because

the macrophage is also an important niche for *Mtb* where the bacteria grows and dies, antibody

dependent enhancement of infection has been hypothesized to occur. These data show that

macrophage FcRs can be engaged by *Mtb* cell wall and not ESAT-6 & CFP-10 polyclonal IgG to

enhance disease.

IgG targeting the secreted virulence factors ESAT-6 & CFP-10 inhibit intracellular

bacteria, conferring protection after *Mtb* has established infection (Figure 6B – 6F). Comparative

genomics show that strains are attenuated with the absence of ESAT-6 & CFP-10, and then

virulence is re-established with the introduction of ESAT-6 & CFP-10 (93, 94). Moreover, an

anti-ESAT-6 nanobody blocks intracellular *Mtb* replication (95). Because the large size of intact

human IgG compared to a nanobody limits cellular penetration, direct neutralization may not be

the sole mechanism of IgG1 mediated bacterial inhibition. A complementary scenario is that

ESAT-6 & CFP-10 secreted away from *Mtb* (50, 96, 97) enables immune complex formation

separate from the bacteria to engage Fc receptors and induce macrophage effector functions.

Our data show that the ability to activate NK cells through FcγRIIIa and induce cellular

cytotoxicity highlights ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG (Figure 3). A similar process could be occurring

with macrophages who also carry out cellular cytotoxicity. Monoclonal Fc modifications to

enhance and inhibit cellular cytotoxicity could further evaluate mechanisms (98).

Notably, antibody mediated disease enhancement and protection for *Mtb* were observed

in the context of latent and not active TB (Figure 5 and 6). This difference with respect to TB

status has been reported with arabinomannan specific IgG (28) and thought to be due to higher

functional potency. In this study, increased Fc effector functional potency may explain the

observations with *Mtb* cell wall, not ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG (Supplemental Figure 6). As such

there are two additional possibilities to consider. First, high levels of IgG in active TB may

interfere with antibody functions in a prozone-like effect (99-101). Second, the large spectrum of

infection identified by the clinical diagnosis of latent TB enables the ability to capture differences

in antibody functions that active TB in this cohort does not. Latent TB describes individuals with

infection that has been progressing and regressing for years if not decades (57, 78, 102, 103).

Active TB in these studies represent only those within 7 days of diagnosis and in the absence of

treatment. Longitudinal studies that follow clinical outcomes of latent TB as well as extending

the spectrum beyond active TB to follow treatment would help clarify the findings for *Mtb* cell

wall and ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG made here.

What *Mtb* antigens are relevant for humoral immunity is unclear but essential to

understand if we are to harness antibodies for TB diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.

Through conventional approaches that define what is relevant by antigen specific antibody titers

(104, 105), *Mtb* cell wall IgG would be considered a correlate of disease and ESAT-6 & CFP-10

IgG would be less interesting due to its lack of association with a specific clinical state. Through

our antibody functional data that evaluate *Mtb* in its extracellular and intracellular stages in the

host (65, 66, 71, 72), *Mtb* cell wall IgG would be considered pathogenic and ESAT-6 & CFP-10

IgG protective. That pathogenic and protective IgG simultaneously exist could explain why some

passive serum transfer experiments show inhibition while others enhancement of bacterial

burden, contributing to the lack of clarity in the role of humoral immunity in TB (6-9). This study

represents a starting point with IgG from blood. Extending evaluations to IgA and IgM in

pulmonary and peripheral responses will highlight isotype and compartment specific distinctions

in mucosal (36, 84, 106-109) and systemic immunity critical to understanding how antibodies

impact TB.

Materials and Methods

Sex as a biological variable

To address sex as a biological variable, the experimental groups were matched by sex

and statistical analyses were performed to account for sex.

Study design

Adults were recruited from the Texas/Mexico border (2006-2010) (33). Latent TB (n=18)

was defined by a positive interferon γ release assay (IGRA) TSPOT or QuantiFERON with no

history of prior TB diagnosis or treatment, and no clinical signs and symptoms of active TB

disease. Active TB (n=19) was defined by sputum acid fast bacilli smear and culture in

combination with clinical signs and symptoms of disease. Endemic controls (n=8) were defined

by negative TSPOT or QuantiFERON with no history, clinical signs and symptoms, or exposure

to TB. To limit confounding variables, groups for latent and active TB were matched by age and

sex (57, 110), tested negative for HIV and type 2 diabetes as defined by WHO criteria (81, 111-

116), and received <8 days TB treatment (56, 79). Written informed consent was obtained from

study participants and approved by institutional IRBs.

Sample Collection

Blood samples were collected by venipuncture in sodium heparin tubes, plasma isolated

by centrifugation, aliquoted, stored at −80°C, and heat-inactivated (30 min, 55C) prior to use.

IgG purification

Polyclonal IgG from patient samples was isolated by negative selection via Melon Gel

resin (Thermo Fisher), concentrated by ultra-centrifugal filtration (Millipore Sigma), and

quantified by ELISA (Mabtech) per manufacturers' instructions.

Monoclonal hIgG1 plasmid design and construction

An anti-ESAT-6 VH/k sequence (GenBank: LC189555.1 (117)) was synthesized and

cloned into a pUC19 vector with a human IgG1 Fc domain as previously described in detail (98).

Donor and destination plasmids were combined in a single digestion-ligation reaction to

generate an expression plasmid encoding the heavy and light chains with BsaI-HF (NEB) and

T4 ligase (NEB), transformed into Stellar competent cells (Clontech) and selected by

kanamycin.

Production of monoclonal hIgG1

As previously described (98), plasmids were transfected into 293F suspension cells

using Polyethylenimine (PEI) (Polysciences). Supernatants were collected 5 days after

transfection and IgG was isolated by protein G magnetic beads (16 hours, 4C), eluted using

Pierce IgG Elution Buffer (Thermo Fisher), and neutralized with Tris-HCl pH 8.0.

Cell lines

NK92 cells expressing human FcγRIIIa (CD16.NK-92) (ATCC) were maintained in α-

MEM without nucleosides (Thermo Fisher), 2mM L-glutamine (Thermo Fisher), 1.5g/L sodium

bicarbonate (Thermo Fisher), 0.02mM folic acid (Alfa Aesar), 0.2mM inositol (MP Biomedicals),

0.1mM β-mercaptoethanol (Thermo Fisher), 100U/mL IL-2 (STEMCELL Technologies), 12.5%

horse serum (Cytiva), and 12.5% FBS (Gibco), 37C, 5% CO_2. THP-1 cells (ATCC) were

cultured in RPMI-1640 (Sigma-Aldrich), 10% FBS, 2mM L-glutamine, and 10mM HEPES

(Thermo Fisher), and 55μM beta-mercaptoethanol, 37C, 5% CO_2. Freestyle 293F cells (Thermo

Fisher) were maintained in a shaking incubator at 125 RPM, 37C, 8% CO_2 in Freestyle 293F

expression medium (Thermo Fisher).

Primary human monocyte derived macrophages

Monocytes were isolated from buffy coats obtained from healthy HIV negative adults by

CD14 positive selection (Miltenyi) per manufacturer's instructions and matured by adhesion for

7 days in RPMI-1640, 10% FBS, 2mM L-glutamine, and 10mM HEPES.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Rv

A virulent H37Rv (*Mtb*-276) strain expressing luciferase under the P*hsp60* promotor was

cultured using Middlebrook 7H9 (BD) with 0.05% Tween-80 (Millipore Sigma) and Zeocin

(20µg/mL) (Invivogen) to log-phase at 37C (69, 70), washed with PBS, and passed through a

5µm filter (Millipore Sigma) to obtain a single cell suspension prior to infection (MOI=1).

Enumeration by colony forming units was performed using serial dilutions on 7H10 medium

(BD).

Antigens

H37Rv purified protein derivative (PPD) (Statens Serum Institute), culture filtrate (BEI),

cytosolic proteins (BEI), and cell wall fractions (BEI), as well as ESAT-6 (BEI), CFP-10 (BEI),

Ag85A (BEI), Ag85B (BEI) were used as *Mtb* antigens. As controls, respiratory syncytial virus G

(BEI) and F (BEI) proteins were used.

Quantification of antigen specific IgG and subclasses

Customized Luminex assays were used to measure antigen specific IgG and subclass

levels as previously described (76, 118, 119). Carboxylated microspheres (Bio-Rad, MC100

series) were coupled to protein antigens using an NHS-ester reaction (Thermo Fisher,

cat#A32269) following manufacturer's instructions. Serial dilutions of IgG purified from each

individual patient sample (0.18, 0.06, 0.02 ug/mL) was added to antigen-coupled beads

(18hours, 4C) and washed. PE-conjugated antibodies detecting total IgG (JDC-10, Southern

Biotech), IgG1 (4E3, Southern Biotech), IgG2 (HP6002, Southern Biotech), IgG3 (HP60502,

Southern Biotech), and IgG4 (HP6025, Southern Biotech), were added (2 hours, room

temperature), washed with PBS 0.05% Tween-20, and re-suspended in PBS to acquire

fluorescence intensity on Magpix (Luminex). The relative level of antigen specific antibodies was

defined as the area under the curve (AUC) calculated from the serial dilutions for each individual

sample.

Quantification of antigen binding with ESAT-6 mAb

428   Customized Luminex assays were used to measure antigen binding (76, 118, 119).

429   Antigens were coupled to carboxylated microspheres as described above. Serial dilutions of

430   monoclonal hIgG1 (15, 1.5, 0.15 µg/mL) were added to antigen-coupled beads. PE-conjugated

431   anti-human IgG1 was used for detection and fluorescence intensity acquired on Magpix

432   (Luminex) as described above.

Isolation of antigen specific and total IgG Fc domains

Antigens were biotinylated using EZ-Link Sulfo-NHS-LC-Biotin (Thermo Fisher) per

manufacturer's instructions and coupled to streptavidin beads (NEB). Patient plasma (diluted

1:5 in 0.5M NaCl, 20mM Tris-HCl, 1mM EDTA, pH 7.5) was added to antigen-coupled beads for

immunoprecipitation of ESAT-6 & CFP-10 (18 hours, 4C), *Mtb* cell wall (2.5 hours, room

temperature), and RSV (18 hours, 4C) specific antibodies. For bulk total IgG, protein G beads

(Millipore Sigma) were used (2 hours, room temperature). IdeZ (NEB) (1.5 hours, 37C) was

used to cleave the Fc domain for subsequent glycan isolation.

N-linked glycan isolation and quantification

Isolation, labeling, and quantification of N-linked glycosylation are previously described

(76, 119-121). In brief, isolated Fc domains were denatured (10 minutes, 95C) prior to

enzymatic glycan release with PNGaseF (NEB) per manufacturer's instructions (18 hours, 37C).

For antigen specific IgG Fc domains, released glycans were isolated with Agencourt CleanSEQ

beads (Beckman Coulter). For total bulk IgG Fc domains, proteins were precipitated in ice-cold

ethanol. Glycan-containing supernatants were dried using a CentriVap, then labeled with 8-

aminoinopyrene-13,6-trisulfonic acid (APTS) (Thermo Fisher) in 1.2M citric acid and 1M

NaBH$_3$CN in tetrahydrofuran (Thermo Fisher), and 0.5% NP-40 (NEB) (3 hours, 55C). Excess

APTS was removed using Bio-Gel P-2 size exclusion resin (Bio-Rad) (antigen specific glycans)

and Agencourt CleanSEQ beads (total bulk glycans). Labeled samples were run with a LIZ 600

DNA ladder (Thermo Fisher) in Hi-Di formamide (Thermo Fisher) on an ABI Gene Analyzer

3500XL and analyzed using GlycanAssure version 1.0 (Thermo Fisher).

Measurement of antigen specific IgG Fc receptor binding

Customized Luminex assay was used to measure antigen specific IgG FcR binding as

previously reported (76, 118, 119, 122). As described above, carboxylated microspheres were

coupled to protein antigens using an NHS-ester reaction and serial dilutions of IgG purified from

each individual patient sample (0.18, 0.06, 0.02 ug/mL) was added to antigen-coupled beads.

Recombinant FcRs (FcγRIIIa, FcγRIIa, FcγRIIb, and FcRn) (R&D Systems) were conjugated

with phycoerythrin (PE) (Abcam) per manufacturer's instructions. PE-conjugated FcγRIIIa,

FcγRIIa, and FcγRIIb were added at pH 7.4; PE-conjugated FcRn at pH 6.0 (123) (2 hours,

room temperature). FcγRI recombinant protein (R&D Systems) was added to IgG coated beads

and then incubated with mouse anti-human FcγRI (10.1, Santa Cruz) (1 hour, room

temperature) followed by PE-conjugated goat anti-mouse (Southern Biotech) (1 hour, room

temperature) for detection. Fluorescence intensity was acquired on a Magpix instrument

(Luminex), and AUC calculated as described above.

Antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis

The THP-1 phagocytosis assay of antigen-coated beads is previously described (76,

119, 124). *Mtb* cell wall, ESAT-6 & CFP-10, or RSV antigen mix were biotinylated with EZ-Link

Sulfo-NHS-LC-Biotin following manufacturer's instructions and coupled to FluoSpheres

NeutrAvidin beads (Molecular Probes) (16 hours, 4C). Antigen-coupled beads were incubated

with 100µg/mL polyclonal IgG purified from each patient and then added to THP-1 cells (1x10^5

per well) (37°C, 16 hours). After fixation with 4% PFA, bead uptake was measured by flow

cytometry on a BD-LSR Fortessa and analyzed by FlowJo v10. Phagocytic scores were

calculated as the integrated median fluorescence intensity (MFI) (% bead-positive frequency ×

MFI/10,000) (125).

Antibody dependent natural killer cell activation

Antibody dependent NK cell activation is previously described (76, 119, 126). ELISA

plates were coated with antigen (300ng/well) (18 hours, 4C), washed 3 times with PBS, blocked

with 5% BSA (18 hours, 4C), and then washed 3 times. Purified polyclonal IgG from each

patient (100µg/mL) was added (2 hours, 37C), followed by CD16a.NK-92 cells (5×10^4

cells/well) with brefeldin A (Biolegend), Golgi Stop (BD Biosciences) and anti-CD107a (H4A3,

Biolegend) (5 hours, 37C). Cells were stained with anti-CD56 (5.1H11, Biolegend) and anti-

CD16 (3G8, Biolegend) and fixed with 4% PFA. Intracellular cytokine staining to detect IFNγ

(B27, Biolegend) and TNFα (Mab11, BD Biosciences) was performed in permeabilization buffer

(Biolegend). Markers were measured using a BD LSR Fortessa and analyzed by FlowJo as

described above.

Macrophage Mtb infections

To test the impact of antibodies on the uptake of extracellular *Mtb* into the macrophage

and its subsequent replication, purified IgG from each individual patient was incubated with log-

phase *Mtb* (4 hours, 37C). The IgG (100ug/mL) opsonized *Mtb* were used to infect primary

human monocyte derived macrophages (5x10^4 cells/well) at an MOI=1.

To test the impact of antibodies on intracellular *Mtb* replication, macrophages were first

infected with *Mtb* (MOI=1) (14 hours, 37C). Extracellular *Mtb* was then washed off prior to the

addition of IgG from each individual patient (100µg/mL).

Luminescence was measured using a BioTek Synergy Neo2 Hybrid Multimode Reader

plate reader every 24 hours until *Mtb* growth reached stationary phase. Each patient sample

was tested in duplicate in three independent experiments using macrophage derived from three

different healthy HIV negative donors.

Statistics

Data are presented as median with 95% confidence intervals (Figure 1B-C, 4B,4D,

Supplemental Figure 1, 3A). Data was analyzed by Mann – Whitney test (Table), Chi-square

test (Table), logistic regression (Figure 1A), multiple linear regression to adjust for age and sex

(Figure 1B-C, 4B, 4D, Supplemental Figure 1, 3A, 6) and to incorporate multiple antibody

features (Figure 5C,5D, Supplemental Figure 7), Friedman test with adjustment for FDR using

a two-stage step-up method of Benjamini, Krieger, and Yekutieli with Q=1% (Figure 2B, and

Supplemental Figure 2D), principal components analysis (Figure 2C, 2D, 3A-B, Supplemental

Figure 2E), hierarchical clustering (Supplemental Figure 2F), simple linear regression (Figure

5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, Supplemental Figure 5A-B), Pearson correlation (Supplemental Figure 4A), and

unpaired t-test (Figure 6F) using STATA v16, Graphpad Prism10, and JMP17.2.0. Figures were

generated using Graphpad Prism10, R using the ggplot package, Cytoscape v3.9.1, JMP17.2.0,

and Biorender.

Data availability

Original data are available in the Supplemental Supporting Data file.

<u>Author contributions</u>

JM and PL designed and conducted experiments, acquired data, analyzed data, and wrote the

manuscript. SB conducted experiments and acquired data. GA and JR provided reagents. BG

conducted experiments, acquired data, analyzed data, provided reagents, and wrote the

manuscript. BR designed the research study, provided reagents, and wrote the manuscript. LL

designed the research study, conducted experiments, acquired data, analyzed data, and wrote

the manuscript.

<u>Conflicts of interest</u>

The authors have declared that no conflicts of interests exist.

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Table. Cohort characteristics

	Latent TB	Active TB	Significance	Endemic Controls
Total number of individuals	18	19		8
Age in years (range [median])	23 – 79 (40)	18 – 82 (38)	$P = 0.5730$[A]	30 – 65 (47)
Sex (no. [%])			$P = 0.6185$[B]	
Female	10 (56%)	9 (47%)		5 (63%)
Male	8 (44%)	10 (53%)		3 (38%)
BCG vaccination	15 (83%)	16 (84%)	$P = 0.9423$[C]	7 (88%)

[A]Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare ages between latent and active TB groups. [B,C]Chi-square test was used to test the frequency of each sex and the rate of BCG vaccination between latent and active TB groups.

Figure 1. Differences between latent and active TB IgG titers are determined by antigen specificity. (A) The bubble plot shows the capacity of each antigen specific IgG to predict active TB disease and latent TB infection. Relative risk ratios (RRR) determined by logistic regression depict higher likelihood of active TB when >1 and latent TB when <1. Concentric rings represent 95% CI. **(B and C)** The median and 95% CI of the relative levels of IgG for the **(B)** most (*Mtb* cell wall) and **(C)** least (ESAT-6 & CFP-10) significant antigens in **(A)** are shown with *P*-values adjusted for sex and age using linear regression where $P \leq 0.05$ was considered significant.

Figure 2. Antigen specificity separates antibody Fc domain glycosylation in latent and active TB. (A) Chromatograms depict the relative abundance of individual glycoforms isolated from the Fc domain of antigen specific and bulk total IgG from a representative individual TB patient. **(B)** Radar plot shows the median of the relative abundance of total glycans from antigen specific and total bulk IgG. Comparisons between *Mtb* antigens are made by Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-ranks tests and *P*-values adjusted for multiple comparisons by controlling for the false discovery rate (Q=1%) using the two-stage step-up method of Benjamini, Krieger, Yekutieli. Adjusted *P*-values <0.05 comparing ESAT-6 & CFP-10 and *Mtb* cell wall are shown. The score plot from principal components analysis with each dot summarizing the linear combination of antigen specific glycoforms for each individual patient (n=37 patients) is shown with markers identified by **(C)** latent and active TB and **(D)** antigen specificity.

Figure 3. Antibody Fc effector functions diverge more by antigen specificity than latent and active TB. Biplots show scores and loadings from principal components analysis with each dot summarizing the linear combination of the antigen specific IgG effector functions and FcR binding for each individual TB patient (n=37 patients) with markers identified by **(A)** latent and active TB and **(B)** antigen specificity. The loadings (arrows) show the coefficients of the linear combination of the Fc effector functions (antibody dependent natural killer cell activation (ADNKA), Fc receptor binding, and antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP)) from which the principal components are constructed, demonstrating which IgG features contribute to the components.

Figure 4. Latent and active TB IgG differentially impact extracellular and intracellular *Mtb* in macrophage infection. (A) To test the effect of antibodies on extracellular *Mtb*, a H37Rv luminescent reporter strain opsonized by IgG isolated from each patient was used to infect primary monocyte derived macrophages (pMDMs) at an MOI=1. Daily luminescence readings during the exponential phase growth were used to calculate burdens for extracellular *Mtb* **(B). (C)** To test the effect of antibodies on intracellular *Mtb*, human pMDMs were first infected with the H37Rv luminescent reporter strain, extracellular bacteria washed away, and then *Mtb* infected macrophages were treated with IgG. Daily luminescence readings during the exponential phase growth were used to calculate burdens for intracellular *Mtb* **(D)**. Each dot represents IgG from a TB patient and is the average of data from three independent experiments with three different macrophage donors. Median and 95% CI are shown. The dashed line shows the median of endemic controls. *P*-values are adjusted for sex and age using linear regression.

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Figure 6. ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG inhibits intracellular *Mtb*. Depicted is the dependence of *Mtb* burden after IgG treatment of **(A)** extracellular *Mtb* before infection for opsonophagocytosis into macrophages and **(B)** intracellular *Mtb* in macrophages after infection on ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG features from individuals with TB (n=37) as determined by simple linear regression. Line thickness is inversely proportional to the *P*-value. Solid lines denote *P* ≤ 0.05; dashed *P* > 0.05. Colors represent the standardized beta for each variable and the model. The dependence of intracellular *Mtb* **(C)** burden and **(D)** growth rate on ESAT-6 & CFP-10 IgG1 is plotted with each dot representing an individual with latent TB. **(E)** Columns show intracellular *Mtb* burden after treatment with a monoclonal hIgG1 reactive to ESAT-6 & CFP-10 (anti-ESAT-6 mAb) and isotype control CR3022 hIgG1 each day of infection. Mean and SEM are shown. **(F)** *Mtb* burden for monoclonal IgG relative to control polyclonal human IgG is quantitated and unpaired t-test was used to test significance. *P*≤0.05 was considered significant.

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Supplemental Figure 1. No difference in RSV-specific IgG and subclasses between latent and active TB. Bar graphs show the median of the relative abundance of IgG for control RSV with 95% CI for individuals with latent and active TB. Statistical significance was determined by linear regression to adjust for sex and age. No *P*-values were ≤ 0.05.

Supplemental Figure 2. Antigen specificity impacts IgG Fc domain N-glycosylation. (A) On a conserved N297 of the IgG Fc domain is a complex biantennary glycan structure composed of core mannose and N-acetylglucosamine on which variable amounts of galactose, sialic acid, and fucose are added. **(B)** Individual glycoforms on polyclonal IgG can be quantified by capillary electrophoresis using standards from biantennary glycan libraries. **(C)** Total glycans summarize individual glycoforms. **(D)** Heatmap shows the relative abundance of the glycans by antigen specificity with significance determined by Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed rank tests and *P*-values adjusted for multiple comparisons by controlling for the false discovery rate (Q=1%) using the two-stage step-up method of Benjamini, Krieger, Yekutieli. **(E)** Principal components analysis of individual IgG glycoforms from TB patients show separation by antigen specificities. Each dot summarizes the linear combination of antigen specific glycoforms of an individual patient. The loadings (arrows) show the coefficients of the linear combination of the individual glycoforms from which the principal components are constructed, demonstrating which individual glycoforms give the largest contribution to the components. **(F)** Constellation plot shows the relationships from hierarchical clustering of the glycan patterns for ESAT6 & CFP10 and *Mtb* cell wall IgG in latent and active TB.

Supplemental Figure 3. High throughput approaches quantify antigen specific FcR binding and Fc effector functions in IgG isolated from individuals with TB. (A) Customized Luminex assays were used to measure the relative antigen specific IgG-FcγR binding in each patient sample across three dilutions to enhance sensitivity. A representative plot of the data is shown. Each line represents a single patient sample. The AUC of the MFI from IgG dilutions is used to summarize relative binding for each patient sample. The bold dashed line represents PBS control. Bar graphs show the median of with 95% CI for latent and active TB. Statistical significance was determined by linear regression to adjust for sex and age. **(B)** High throughput flow cytometry is used to measure antigen specific antibody dependent NK cell activation (ADNKA) in each individual patient sample. %NK CD56[+] cells expressing CD107a, IFNγ, or TNFα mark activation in response to antigen specific IgG. **(C)** The human monocyte cell line THP-1 is used to quantitate antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) by determining the frequency and extent of antibody mediated uptake of antigen coated coated fluorescent beads.

Supplemental Figure 4. Infection of macrophages by reporter strain of H37Rv captures differences in bacterial growth with treatment by latent and active TB IgG. (A) Log(*Mtb* luminescence) and Log(CFU) correlate as shown by Pearson. **(B)** Daily luminescence measurements of *Mtb* infected macrophages enable the determination of bacterial burden and growth rate by the exponential growth model.

Supplemental Figure 5. RSV IgG3 and Fc receptor binding do not relate to extracellular *Mtb*. The absence of relationships between RSV IgG3 from latent TB and **(A)** *Mtb* burden and **(B)** Fc receptor binding as determined by simple linear regression is shown with no significant *P*-values.

Supplemental Figure 6. *Mtb* cell wall, not ESAT-6 & CFP-10, IgG Fc potency is reduced in active compared to latent TB. Heatmap depicts ADCP and markers of ADNKA normalized by antigen specific IgG titers to determine functional potency. Statistical significance was determined by linear regression to adjust for sex and age. $*P \leq 0.05$ and $**P \leq 0.01$.

Supplemental Figure 7. ESAT-6 & CFP-10 subclasses and glycans have minimal relationships with *Mtb* burden. Heatmaps show that in **(A)** latent TB and **(B)** active TB, ESAT6 & CFP10 subclasses combined with glycans have limited relationships to intracellular and extracellular *Mtb* burden as determined by multiple linear regression. *$P \leq 0.05$.

Supplemental Figure 8. A human IgG1 mAb binds ESAT-6 & CFP-10 and does not inhibit intracellular *Mtb* at low doses. Luminex demonstrates relative binding of mAb to ESAT-6 and isotype control CR3022 anti-SARS-CoV-2 RBD hIgG1 to (A) ESAT-6 & CFP-10, (B) ESAT-6, and (C) CFP-10. Treatment of *Mtb* infected macrophages at the low doses of **(D)** 1.5 or **(E)** 0.15μg/mL mAb had limited impact on intracellular burden during macrophage infection. Mean and SEM are shown. There were no significance differences as determined by unpaired t-test.