

Title

Quantitative modeling of STAT1 and STAT3 dynamics in IFN γ and IL-10 pathways uncovered robustness of anti-inflammatory STAT3 signaling.

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Abstract

Information relay by signal transduction pathways occasionally involves sharing of functionally opposing transcription factors. For instance, IFN γ -STAT1 and IL-10-STAT3 elicit pro and anti-inflammatory cellular responses, respectively, but IFN γ mediated STAT3 and IL-10 mediated STAT1 activation is also observed. Here, through experiments at the cell population level, we studied the dynamics of STAT1 and STAT3(S/1/3) in responses to both IFN γ and IL-10 stimulation and subsequently trained a simplified mathematical model that quantitatively explained the S/1/3 signal-response at different doses of IFN γ and IL-10. Next, to understand the robustness of the canonical signaling axis in each pathway, we simulated a costimulation scenario (IL-10 and IFN γ applied simultaneously) which predicted STAT3 activation would remain IL-10 driven in presence of IFN γ ; subsequent experiments validated the same. We next investigated how protein expression variability may plausibly influence the robustness of IL-10-STAT3 signaling at the level of individual cells. Simulating thousands of single cells and analyzing their responses to co-stimulation we could identify emergence of two new subpopulations; in one subpopulation co-stimulation dominantly activated STAT3 and suppressed STAT1 activation, and, vice versa in the other subpopulation. Analyzing the protein concentration from these reciprocal subpopulations we found the key proteins whose cell-specific expression could control S/1/3 responses in individual cells. Taken together, we present a quantitative model that captures the signaling dynamics of STAT1 and STAT3 in response to functionally opposing cues and through single cell simulations show how reciprocal responses could emerge at the level of individual cells.

Introduction

Information encoded in the dynamics of signalling pathways triggers a plethora of biological processes like cell growth, proliferation, apoptosis or developmental lineage commitments [1-12]. A sustained (NGF stimulation) or transient (EGF stimulation) MAPK signalling dynamics, for instance, is linked to cell differentiation and proliferation [8]. Distinct dynamics of the SMAD2 transcription factors during TGF β signalling is shown to trigger either growth inhibition [13, 14] or progression of EMT[15]. In CD40 receptor signalling the MAP kinases ERK and p38MAPK are observed [11, 12] to trigger anti-inflammatory(AIF) and pro-inflammatory(PIF) cellular responses, respectively. Similarly during IL-10 signalling sustained STAT3 dynamics triggers AIF [16] whereas

transient interferon gamma (IFN γ)-STAT1 pathway elicits PIF cellular responses [17]. However, although STAT1 and STAT3 (S/1/3) are the primary responders of the IFN γ and IL-10 pathways respectively, the STATs are often observed to be cross-activated: STAT1 is activated during IL-10 [18] and STAT3 is activated during IFN γ [19] signaling. The temporal activation profiles and the regulatory mechanisms controlling the amplitude and dynamics of S/1/3 in response to both the functionally opposing cues remains less understood.

Dynamics of signal response in the IFN γ -STAT1 and IL-10-STAT3 signalling pathways are studied independently through experiments [17, 20] and mathematical modelling [21]. In IFN γ signalling transcriptionally induced negative regulators like SOCS1 and phosphatases like SHP-2 are identified as important regulators of transient STAT1 dynamics [20-24]. IL-10-STAT3 signalling lacks rapid signal termination mechanisms and negative regulation of the IL-10 signalling is observed to occur via ubiquitination, endocytosis, and degradation of the IL-10 receptor 1 (IL-10R1) [25]. It however remains to be explored how different doses of IFN γ and IL-10 would tune the S/1/3 signal responses and how the two pathways regulate the STATs responses in different doses. Systematic study of such dose-dependent dynamics in a signalling pathway can facilitate better understanding on the control of amplitude and duration of signalling at different activation scenarios [14, 26, 27], and further, the data can be used to calibrate mathematical models [14, 26] for gaining better insight into the plausible regulatory processes in a system. The models calibrated and validated at the cell population level can also be extended to investigate the heterogeneity of signal-response at the level of individual cells [14, 28, 29].

Here, firstly our experiments demonstrate distinct responses of S/1/3 in response to different doses of IFN γ or IL-10 stimulus. To quantitatively understand the regulatory mechanisms controlling S/1/3 dynamics we built a simplified model of IFN γ or IL-10 pathways which quantitatively captured the dynamics of S/1/3 at different doses of IFN γ and IL-10 stimuli. The calibrated model suggested signal inhibition at the receptor level, and, IFN γ dose-dependent activation of S/1/3 phosphatase [20-25], as the regulatory processes controlling the observed dynamics. Next to explore the relative robustness of the canonical signaling axis in both the pathways we simulated a co-stimulation scenario (IL-10 and IFN γ applied simultaneously). The simulations predict STAT3 amplitude would primarily remain IL-10 driven during co-stimulation which IL-10 ensures through a stronger activation of SOCS1, a negative regulator of IFN γ signaling [20-21]; subsequent experiments validated the prediction. We further extended the calibrated model to study how cell-to-cell variability in protein expression would impact the S/1/3 dynamics at the level of single cells, particularly in the co-stimulation

scenario where the canonical IL-10 could inhibit the IFN γ mediated activation of STAT3. The single cell simulations suggest, in addition to the cells exhibiting responses similar to the population level experiments, two additional subpopulations with reciprocal STAT1 and STAT3 activation profiles could emerge as a function of cell-to-cell variability. Finally, analyzing the distribution of protein concentrations from these reciprocal subpopulations we identified key proteins whose relative concentration would result in either a dominant STAT3 or STAT1 response in individual isogenic cells. We further demonstrate that with targeted minimal perturbations S/1/3 responses can be tuned further, such that, occurrence of a desired subpopulation type can either be enriched or inhibited.

Results

STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation in response to different doses of IL-10 and IFN γ

We took the peritoneal macrophages obtained from BALBc mice and stimulated them with increasing doses (0.5, 1.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 20.0 and 40.0 ng/ml) of either IL-10 or IFN γ ligands(details in methods). We observed: STAT1 phosphorylation is proportional to the increasing dose of IFN γ stimulation (Figure 1A) but IL-10 induced STAT1 phosphorylation showed as bell-shaped response with strongest activation at 2.5 and 5ng/ml of IL-10 (Figure 1B). STAT3 phosphorylation showed a gradual increase with escalating doses of IL-10(Figure 1B). STAT1 phosphorylation in response to IFN γ treatment is maximal and comparable between the doses 2.5-10ng/ml(Figure1A). For both IFN γ and IL-10 stimulation of 1ng/ml weak induction of the cross-activated STATs is observed; at 5ng/ml of both canonical and cross-activated S/1/3 have high phosphorylation and at 20ng/ml cross-activated STATs amplitude are inhibited in both the pathway. We selected three doses of IFN γ and IL-10: low(L), medium(M) and high(H), which are respectively 1.0 ng/ml, 5.0 ng/ml and 20.0 ng/ml, for both the ligand types to study the dose-dependent dynamic responses of the STATs. The representative immunoblots are shown in figure S1. The selected doses were also used to calibrate the S/1/3 dynamics in a simplified mathematical model comprising both IFN γ and IL-10.

Peritoneal macrophages were stimulated with L, M and H dose of IFN γ and IL-10 stimuli and S/1/3 dynamics were captured at different time points, for a total duration of 2 hours. For IFN γ treatment STAT1 phosphorylation increases as the signal strength increases, however, M and H dose don't exhibit significant differences in phosphorylation, indicating signal saturation close to M dose upwards (Figure 1C, 1st

panel). STAT3 phosphorylation upon IFN γ stimulation exhibits a distinct profile: at M dose STAT3 is rapidly phosphorylated to a high amplitude and gets rapidly inhibited as well, but at L and H doses STAT3 phosphorylation is relatively negligible (Figure 1C, 2nd panel). Such bell-shaped dynamics of signalling intermediates is also observed elsewhere [30]. In response to IL-10, the STAT1 phosphorylation peaks at M dose and a slightly inhibited response can be observed at the H dose (Figure 1D, 1st panel). Unlike STAT1 in IFN γ stimulation STAT3 amplitude decreases at the H dose of IL-10 stimulus (compare Fig. 1C, 1st panel Fig. 1D, 2nd panel). Such dose-dependent inhibition of signal-response usually indicates presence of negative regulators induced/activated as a function of applied signal [11, 14, 31, 32]. SOCS1 being a commonly induced negative regulator in IFN γ signalling [19, 20, 22 -> 21-24], we next studied SOCS1 induction upon M dose of IFN γ (Fig 2E, 1st panel, dashed line). SOCS1 induction was also checked for IL-10 stimulation (Fig 2E, 1st panel, solid line). Notably, SOCS1 induction upon IFN γ stimulation remains negligible, but it's stronger induction is observed upon IL-10 treatment (Fig 2E, 1st panel, solid line). The dynamics of SOCS3 induction was also captured which is a target gene downstream to both the stimulation types (Fig 2E, 2nd panel). SOCS3 in principle can also inhibit IFN γ signalling, but the relative inhibitory strength of SOCS3 is observed to be negligible compared to SOCS1 [33], hence w.r.t IFN γ stimulation we studied SOCS3 only as a target gene.

Quantitative modelling captures dynamics of STAT3 and STAT1 activation at different doses of IL-10 and IFN γ ligand

We used the observed dynamics of S/1/3 to calibrate a mathematical model comprising both IFN γ or IL-10 pathways.

The model comprises three modules

- I. A Simplified receptor activation module for both IFN γ and IL-10 activation.
- II. A detailed STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation module in response to both the IFN γ and the IL-10 stimulation.
- III. A simplified transcriptional induction module where both SOCS1 and SOCS3 are induced as a function of activated STATs.

IFN γ pathway model

Figure 2A schematically shows the minimal models of IFN γ pathway. The model has a simplified step of receptor activation where details of the interaction between IFN γ Receptor (IFN-R) and the Janus kinases JAK1 and JAK2 [21] are simplified to one step

activation process [23]. As the ligand binds to the receptor the active receptor complex (IFN-LR) phosphorylates the transcription factors STAT1 and STAT3. Both the STATs undergo dimerization and forms transcriptionally active complexes [21] which in turn induces target genes such as SOCS1 and SOCS3. The time delay in transcriptional induction is captured with Hill functions [14]. Dephosphorylation of S/1/3 are assumed to be carried out by phosphatases such as SHP2[20, 36, 37] which we generically named in our model as “Phos”. We tested this simplified IFN γ model by fitting it against the dose-dependent kinetics of S/1/3. The model quantitatively captures the distinct dynamics of STAT1 phosphorylation at: L(Fig2B, 1st row, 1st column), M(Fig2B, 1st row, 2nd column) and H (Fig2B, 1st row, 3rd column) doses. Similarly, dynamics of the cross-activated STAT3 is fitted for L(Fig2B, 2nd row, 1st column), M(Fig2B, 2nd row, 2nd column) and H(Fig2B, 2nd row, 3rd column) doses. SOCS1 and SOCS3 induction kinetics at M dose was fitted together with the S/1/3 data (Fig2B, 3rd row). Details of model building and calibration is in the methods section and in the supplementary text TS1.

IL-10 pathway model

Figure 2C shows the schematics of IL-10 receptor-mediated phosphorylation of STATs and the transcriptional induction of the SOCS. Similar to the IFN γ pathway, the explicit steps of IL-10 receptor1(IL-10R1) and receptor 2(IL-10R2) binding to JAK1, Tyk2 kinases leading to the formation of active signaling complex [38] is simplified to one step activation process[25]. STAT1/3 phosphorylation steps are explicitly modeled and dephosphorylation of STAT1/3 is assumed to be carried out by a phosphatase [36,37]. Negative regulation of IL-10 receptor through degradation is considered and we named the inhibitor as IL-10Ri; such negative regulators are observed to act by sequestering the IL-10 receptor 1(IL-10R1) that subsequently leads to ubiquitination and degradation [22]. Figure 2D shows the STAT1/3 dynamics in the model upon IL-10 stimulation with L, M, and H doses. As both the pathways are built as one model with common signaling intermediates, we calibrated both IL-10 and IFN γ models simultaneously to their respective datasets. Hence, during the model calibration, the common signaling intermediates and biochemical parameters of both the pathways were constrained to have a common value that fits the S/1/3 activation in response to both stimuli.

Mechanism controlling dose dependent kinetics of the STATs

The observed bell-shaped dose response of STAT3 in both IFN γ and IL-10 stimulation, as well as the graduating pattern in activation of STAT1 for both M and H dose of IFN γ

stimulation, is captured simultaneously by our simplified model. To capture the signal-response of all the training datasets simultaneously the model required stoichiometric inhibition of IFN-LR by SOCS1 and IL-10-LR by IL-10Ri, respectively [20-25]. SOCS1 is a commonly reported feedback regulator in the IFN γ pathway but our experiments show negligible SOCS1 induction upon stimulation (Figure 1E, top panel, dotted line) and the basally present SOCS1 acts as the stoichiometric inhibitor of IFN γ signaling. Negative regulation of signal at the receptor level in both the pathways and activation of a S/1/3 phosphatase in the IFN γ pathway [20-25, 39, 40], are suggested by the model as the key regulatory processes controlling the observed S/1/3 responses.

Prediction and validation of a co-stimulation scenario: STAT3 dynamics remain robustly IL-10 driven in presence of IFN γ stimuli

As SOCS1 is strongly induced upon IL-10 but not upon IFN γ stimulation, in a scenario when both these functionally opposing pathways are simultaneously activated (co-stimulation) an IL-10 driven negative regulation of the IFN γ signaling can be expected. To quantitatively understand the consequence of IL-10 induced SOCS1 on the IFN γ pathway we next simulated both the pathways simultaneously. We chose the M doses of both the ligand types as both the canonical and cross-activated STATs are strongly activated in M dose (Figure 2B and 2D). Figure 3A depicts the co-stimulation scenario and the predictions for dynamics of STAT3 (Fig 3B), STAT1 (Fig 3C) and SOCS1 (Fig 3C) are shown (representative immunoblots in figure S2B and S2C). To achieve robust predictions we used 40 independently fitted models with comparable goodness of fit (see in methods for details). The models predict: IL-10 induced SOCS1 would impart additional inhibition of IFN γ signaling as the excess SOCS1 would inhibit the active IFN-LR, blocking its access to S/1/3. The simulation suggest, cells subjected to both AIF (IL-10) and PIF (IFN γ) signal would robustly exhibit IL-10 driven signal response overriding the IFN γ specific activation of both the STATs. Subsequent experiments quantitatively show that STAT3 dynamics indeed remain strongly IL-10 driven as predicted by the model (Figure 3B, black filled circles). Notably, the experimentally observed STAT1 amplitude is higher than the predicted amplitude (Figure S2A) which is quantitatively not in line with the initial model prediction. However, we found, despite the differences in amplitude STAT1 dynamics remain strongly comparable between the prediction and validation datasets as a quantitative match between model and data was obtained by multiplying the model trajectory with a scaling factor (Figure 3C). Figure 3D shows the SOCS1 expression dynamics in co-stimulation which is closely comparable to IL-10 only stimulation scenario (compare figure 3D with figure 2D, 3rd

row, 1st column). The SOCS1 expression dynamics is also predicted using the 40 independent models with similar goodness of fit obtained using local multistate optimization [41].

Next, we asked how cell-to-cell variability in protein expression [38, 39] might influence the robustness of IL-10-STAT3 signal response. It is usually observed that isogenic cells have heterogeneity in their protein expression that subsequently results in heterogeneity in signal-response[42-45]. Such heterogeneity in signaling dynamics has phenotypic consequences; for instance, individual cells with a certain signalling state can become cancerous and in rare cases can even become drug resistant [46, 47]. Hence signal processing at the level of individual cells remain as an important topic of investigation both computationally [48] as well as experimentally [14, 44]. Based on our findings at the cell population level we next used our model to investigate if STAT3 signal-response in costimulation would remain robustly IL-10 at the level of single cells as well.

Single cell simulations show emergence of reciprocal signalling subpopulations during co-stimulation

To this end, we have extended the population-level model to understand the effect of protein expression heterogeneity(implimentation detials details in methods) on S/1/3 dynamics in co-stimulation. The single cell simulations show, in addition to cells exhibiting responses observed in the population level(called as C0 cell; in C0 cells STAT3 responses are robustly comparable between IL-10 only stimulation and co-stimulation), two distinct subpopulation of cells with functionally opposing responses emerged as consequence of cell-to-cell variability. The first subpopulation with reciprocal cell type 1(Rc-t1) has high STAT3 and low STAT1 activation(Fig 4A, 1st column, 1st and 2nd row, red line) compared to C0 cell types(Fig 4A, 1st column, 1st and 2nd row, blue line, normalized to maximum amplitude). The other subpopulation (Rc-t2) has low STAT3 and high STAT1 activation in co-stimulation(Fig 4A, 1st column, 2nd row, green line). Figure 4 shows the normalized STAT3 dynamics from C0, Rc-t1 and Rc-t2 subpopulation (for 1000 cells in each subpopulation) with their respective median and standard deviations.

To mechanistically understand how the reciprocal subpopulation emerges we analysed the protein concentration distribution in the three subpopulations to uncover the sensitivity of single-cell variables (protein concentrations) specific to a given subpopulation [14]. Figure 4B compares the distribution of the protein concentration for C0, Rc-t1 and Rc-t2 cell types. The analysis show Rc-t1 subpopulation has a high level of IL-10R and low level of IL-10Ri compared to their respective values in

C0(Figure 4B, 1st row, 1st and 2nd column), and further, the ratio of positive and negative regulator [IL-10R]/[IL-10Ri] is distinct in the cells of Rc-t1 subpopulation (Figure 4C, 1st row). Rest of the single cell variables are not strongly separable between C0 and R1-ct subpopulation (Figure 4B). On the other hand, Rc-t2 subpopulation has a relatively lower basal SOCS1_B (Figure 4C, 2nd row). while rest of the variables in Rc-t2 don't exhibit sharp differences from either C0 or Rc-t1.

Mechanistically, in Rc-t1 cells stronger expression of IL-10R and a weak expression of IL-10Ri results in a stronger induction of SOCS1 through the IL-10 pathway; the abundant SOCS1, in turn, ensures stronger inhibition of IFN-LR complex. Inhibition of IFN-LR also results in lesser amount of activated S/1/3 phosphatase Phos, and consequently, a stronger and persistent STAT3 activation results. In Rc-t2 cells, weaker SOCS1_B basal expression ensures lesser inhibition of IFN-LR through sequestration and a resultant increase in the level of active Phos in Rc-t2. Effect of higher level of Phos in Rc-t2 is more pronounced in STAT3 dephosphorylation (Figure 4A, compare green lines in 1st and 2nd row) which is also influenced by the respective dephosphorylation rates of STAT1 and STAT3.

Subpopulation responses can be altered by tuning only one/two critical single-cell variable

Experimental studies show protein concentration mixing [43] due to processes like cell division and the inherent noise associated to expression/degradation of proteins in individual cells [49-51] leads to stochastic changes in the cellular states of individual cells. To understand the significance of single-cell variables with distinct distribution in the three subpopulations, we next performed a set of perturbation studies where we perturbed the signalling states of cells in one subpopulation by systematically replacing the single cell variables from a subpopulation with different signalling state. As the cells in different subpopulations emerge as a function of cell-to-cell variability, this analysis is designed to systematically understand the effect of expression noise on the most sensitive proteins of the pathway. For instance, we took one C0 cell and replaced a single cell variable (like STAT1) with its counterpart from an Rc-t1 cell(C0 -> Rc-t1). To obtain good statistics a variable in one cell of C0 subpopulation is replaced with its counterpart from 1000 other cells from Rc-t1 and this was repeated for each cell of C0 subpopulation; we show 100 representative cells in the heatmaps (Figure 5). We studied the effect of such perturbations in all pairwise combinations of the subpopulations (C0 -> Rc-t1 , Rc-t2 ->C0 , C0 -> Rc-t2 , Rc-t2 -> Rc-t1 , Rc-t1 -> Rc-t2). In Figure 5A each row shows the median fraction of Rc-t1 cells transformed to a C0 cell types when a given variable in the Rc-t1 cell is replaced by its counterpart from 1000 C0 cells. The analysis show, emergence of the two reciprocal subpopulations Rc-

t1 an Rc-t2 can be attributed to the differences in the values of a small number of single-cell variables. The protein concentration distributions already show a low basal SOCS1 concentration (SOCS1_B) in the Rc-t2 subpopulation (Figure 4A, 2nd row, 1st column), hence, in Rc-t2 → C0 relatively more frequent occurrences of C0 cells are observed when the SOCS1 concentration in Rc-t2 is replaced by its counterpart from C0 cells (Figure 4C, 2nd row). The analysis suggests that SOCS1_B is a key determinant for the emergence of Rc-t2 subpopulation. The perturbation analysis also shows significance of IFNR for the Rc-t2 → Rc-t1 transformation (Figure 5A, 2nd row, 2nd column), which is not evident only from the protein concentration distributions (Figure 4B). Next, as the ratio ILR0R/IL-10Ri is distinct in Rc-t1 we studied the effect of replacing the ratio from the other two subpopulations; figure 5B (1st row) shows the dramatic increase in the median frequency of Rc-t1 → C0 transition when both ILR0R and IL-10Ri were simultaneously replaced from C0 to Rc-t1. Similarly, when both IFNR and its inhibitor SOCS1_B is replaced between the pair of reciprocal subpopulation, the frequency of Rc-t2 → Rc-t1 or Rc-t1 → Rc-t2 transitions dramatically increased (compare figure 5B, 2nd row and figure 5A, 2nd row 2nd column; figure 5B, 3rd row and figure 5A, 3rd row 2nd column).

Hence our single cell analysis shows, a combinatorial change of key single-cell variables driven by the cell-to-cell variability can result in cell specific high STAT1 (low STAT3) or a high STAT3 (low STAT1) signalling and the robustness of IL-10-STAT3 signaling axis as observed in the cell population level would be lost, indicating a potential to generate opposing cellular responses within a population of isogenic cells.

Discussion

IL-10-STAT3 and IFN γ -STAT1 are observed to be functionally opposing a spectrum of biological processes; activation of macrophages is enhanced by STAT1 and inhibited by STAT3, cell proliferation is inhibited by STAT1 and promoted by STAT3, and in Th differentiation, STAT1 promotes Th1 responses and STAT3 inhibits Th17 response [52-58]. Transcriptionally active STAT1 induces death receptor expression to promote apoptosis and it negatively regulates the expression of several oncogenes [59, 60]; in contrast, constitutive activity of STAT3 is essential for the survival of many primary tumor cells [59]. Transcriptional targets of STAT3 are also many anti-apoptotic genes that promote tumor cell proliferation [59, 61]. Further, dynamic response of the STATs are shown to be critical in determining the cellular responses: IFN γ -STAT1 signaling or IL6-STAT3 signaling is transient and pro-inflammatory but anti-inflammatory IL-10-

STAT3 signaling is sustained [16, 23] in nature. However, despite the ability to activate functionally opposing cellular fates, experimental investigations unravel that STAT1 is also activated during IL-10 signaling and STAT3 is also activated during IFN γ signaling [18, 19, 62-64]. In this study, we firstly asked

1. How the dynamics of canonical and non-canonical STATs are regulated in the IFN γ and in the IL-10 pathway?
2. How functionally opposing cues applied simultaneously would get integrated at the level of the STATs activation?

To address these questions we conducted experiments at the cell population level, and through immunoblotting, captured the kinetics of STAT1 and STAT3 activation at different doses of IFN γ and IL-10 signal. Our kinetic studies show, in addition to activating their canonical signaling partners the IFN γ and IL-10 receptors also activates the non-canonical STATs. Such cross-activated STATs, especially STAT3 activated in IFN γ exhibited very high amplitude at a M dose of IFN γ but remained significantly inhibited in both L and H doses. Thus in signal strengths around the M dose a stronger STAT3 activation through the IFN γ pathway can be expected. STAT3 activation in the canonical IL-10-STAT3 pathway also exhibits bell-shaped dose-response with maximum amplitude achieved in the M dose. The cross-activated STAT1 in response to IL-10 is weakly activated which also peaks at the M dose and in response to IFN γ stimuli STAT1 amplitude is highest and lowest at L and H doses respectively.

To understand the regulatory mechanisms controlling the dose-dependent activation/inhibition of the STATs we constructed a simplified mathematical model of both the IFN γ and IL-10 pathways and calibrated the model to experimental data. The model quantitatively captured the dynamics of S/1/3 in both the signaling pathways and mechanistically explains the control of S/1/3 signaling. In the IFN γ pathway negative regulation of the active signaling complex by a negative regulator such as SOCS1 coupled to signal-dependent activation of a phosphatase explains the dose-dependent S/1/3 responses. In IL-10 pathway negative regulation of active IL-10 receptor by a receptor inhibitor regulate the S/1/3 responses. Intriguingly, our experiments show strong SOCS1 induction upon IL-10 stimulation, but not upon IFN γ stimulation. So we next predicted a co-stimulation scenario where both IL-10 and IFN γ were applied simultaneously. The model predicted: SOCS1 induced by IL-10 would inhibit IFN γ signaling such that STAT3 amplitude and dynamics primarily remains IL-10 driven, our experiments subsequently validated the same. The robust maintenance of the primary anti-inflammatory axis (IL-10-STAT3) during co-stimulation at the cell

population level led us to investigate if similar robustness in STAT3 responses could also be observed at the level of the single cells. Recent studies show, the signal-response at the level of single cells can determine an individual cell's fate in response to the external signal which often results in cell specific gene expression [50, 65] or phenotypic outcomes [14].

To computationally investigate the consequences of protein expression heterogeneity in S/1/3 signaling in co-stimulation we next introduced protein expression heterogeneity in the population-level model [14, 28], simulated thousands of single cells, and studied the S/1/3 dynamics in individual cells. Analyzing the single cell trajectories we found that in addition to cells exhibiting responses similar to population mean, where IL-10-STAT3 signaling is comparable between IL-10 only and co-stimulation, two distinct subpopulation of cells with reciprocal STAT1 and STAT3 responses emerge at the level of single cells. To understand the cellular states in the reciprocal cells we analyzed the distributions of protein concentration from differentially signaling subpopulations.

Our analysis show the two reciprocal subpopulations Rc-t1 and Rc-t2 have distinct distribution of some key variables: in Rc-t1 cells IL-10R expression is high and its inhibitor IL-10Ri is expressed in low concentration whereas in Rc-t2 cells the basal SOCS1(SOCS1_B) is lowest among the three subpopulations. The significance of distinct distribution of IL-10R and IL-10Ri was more pronounced in Rc-t1 when we compared a ratio [IL-10R]/[IL-10Ri]. The analysis suggests that distinct subpopulation with opposing signal responses can simply emerge when one(in Rc-t2) or two(in RC-t1) key single cell variables have their concentrations in the desired range. The frequency of occurrence of each subpopulation is different but all three subpopulations can be robustly obtained in multiple independent simulations(when several thousand cells were simulated in each independent run).

Our model next explored if the reciprocal responses can be altered by altering the cellular states via targeted perturbation. It is argued that understanding the control of signal response in individual cells has the potential to help design better interventions against complex diseases like cancer[66] and to understand the mechanisms of drug resistance in individual cells [67, 68]. We thus investigated if certain minimal perturbations in single cell variables can alter the reciprocal cellular states in a desired way. To do so we performed a perturbation analysis where we systematically swap the values of single-cell variables(one variable at a time) between the cells of a pair of subpopulation and compared the responses of a cell before and after such perturbations. We found C0 to Rc-t2 transformation or vice-versa is critically dependent on SOCS1_B; replacing the values of SOCS1_B from cells in C0 subpopulation into cells in Rc-t2 subpopulation resulted in a significant number C0 to Rc-t2

transformation. The transformation from Rc-t1 however required simultaneous replacements of IL-10R and IL-10Ri. Our analysis suggests, targeted inhibition/overexpression of few single-cell variables can in principle be used to enhance/inhibit STATs signal responses in a cell population. Notably, each of the three subpopulations has distinct single cell variable that critically determines the signaling state of the subpopulation; for instance, if an intervention requires more Rc-t2 cell types it can be achieved by inhibiting the basal SOCS1 expression, whereas, occurrences of Rc-t1 cells can be enhanced by adjusting the ratio [IL-10R]/[IL-10Ri] through overexpression/inhibition. The single cell simulations indicate occurrence of the reciprocal sub-population (Rc-t1 and Rc-t2) are relatively less frequent and the dominant cell types would remain as the average responders (C0), which is perhaps why we didn't observe such responses in the population median response (immunoblot analysis). Non-genetic cellular heterogeneity is argued as the plausible cause underlying occurrences of rare cell types with deleterious physiological consequences [46, 69, 70]. Findings from our single cell simulations may be explored further to understand the possible extremities of responses to a given stimuli/s or drug when the target nodes are pathway elements are shared between functionally opposing signaling pathways.

Materials and methods

Experimental protocol: Balb/c derived macrophages were treated with increasing doses of recombinant IL-10 and IFN γ protein. The cells were then lysed and processed for immunoblotting. Dose response studies were used for selecting the high (20ng/ml), medium (5ng/ml) and low (1ng/ml) doses of both cytokines and kinetic studies were performed at these three selected doses.

Western blotting: After treatment with the indicated reagents, cells were washed twice with chilled PBS and lysed in cell lysis buffer [20 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 10%glycerol, 1mMEDTA, 1mMEGTA, 1%NonidetP-40, protease inhibitor mixture (Roche Applied Science, Mannheim, Germany) and phosphatase inhibitor mixture (Pierce)]. Lysates were centrifuged (10,500 rpm, 10mins) and supernatants were collected. Protein was quantified by using the Bradford reagent (Pierce) and an equal amount of protein was run on SDS-PAGE. Resolved proteins were blotted to PVDF (Millipore) and then blocked with 5% nonfat dried milk in TBST [25 mM Tris (pH 7.6), 137 mM NaCl, and 0.2% Tween 20]. Membranes were incubated with primary antibody at 4°C overnight, washed with TBST, and incubated with HRP-conjugated secondary Ab.

Immunoreactive bands were visualized with the luminol reagent (Santa Cruz Biotechnology). The STAT1 antibody we used detected both splice variants of -STAT1 (Tyr701), p91 STAT1 α and p84 STAT1 β , here we detected STAT1 α . The STAT3 antibody we used is bound to tyrosine phosphorylated STAT3 molecules of both isoforms STAT3 α (86kDa) and STAT3 β (79kDa).

Reagents: Antibodies specific for p-STAT1 (Tyr-701), STAT1, p-STAT3 (Tyr-705) and STAT3 were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology (Danvers, MA) and those for SOCS1, SOCS3 and β -actin were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). Soluble mouse recombinant IL-10 and IFN γ were procured from BD Biosciences (San Diego, CA). RPMI 1640 medium, penicillin-streptomycin and fetal calf serum were purchased from Gibco®-ThermoFisher Scientific ((Life Technologies BRL, Grand Island, NY). All other chemicals were of analytical grade.

Animals and cell culture: BALB/c mice originally obtained from Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME) were bred in the National Centre for Cell Science's experimental animal facility. All animal usage protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. 3% thioglycolate-elicited peritoneal macrophages were isolated from Balb/c mice and cultured in RPMI containing 10% FCS. Adherent cells were washed and maintained in a water jacketed CO₂ incubator at 37^oC for 48hrs to allow them to reach resting stage. Serum-free medium was added to the cells for 4hrs before stimulation.

Mathematical model building:

The pathway schemes in Figure 2A and 2C and 3A were be converted to a set of ordinary differential equations (Supporting Material) which captures the dynamics of signalling in both FN γ and IL-10 pathways. We have both the pathways built within one model where we preferentially switch on either the IFN γ or IL-10 pathways for individual pathway stimulation scenarios, or activate both the pathways simultoneously in a costimulation scenario. Below we explain the model rections specific to each of pathway as well as reactions common to both the pathways.

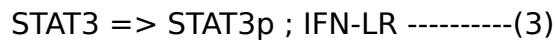
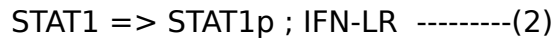
I. Receptor activation and engagement

A. IFN γ pathway

The ligand (IFN γ) bindss to the receptor (IFNR) to form an active signaling complex IFN-LR. We lumped several steps of receptor activation[21,22] into a one step receptor activation process [23] assuming reversible kinetics .



The signaling complex(IFN-LR) next carries out phosphorylation of the STAT1 and STAT3(shown in details in section ‘STAT1 and STAT3 signaling’, below); activates the STATs phosphatase Phos and also interact with the negative regulator SOCS1.



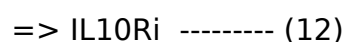
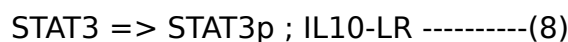
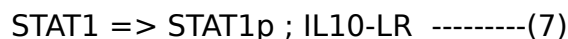
While in the reactions (1) - (4), IFN-LR acts as a modifier/enzyme, reaction (5) shows sequestration of IFN-LR by its negative regulator SOCS1 [21] resulting in an functionally inactive complex [IFN-LR.SOCS1] that blocks the access of downstream substrats STAT1 and STAT3 to their activator IFN-LR.

B. IL10 pathway

Similar to the IFN γ pathway the IL10 receptor also binds to ligand and become functionally active. In our simplified model of the pathway the explicit receptor activation deactivation steps are simplified to a one step activation and deactivation process .



The active signaling complex IL10-LR phosphorylates and activates STAT3 and STAT1(explained in section ‘STAT1 and STAT3 signaling’, below). A receptor level inhibitor that is observed to act by targeting the IL10R1 [25] is considered in our model as the negative regulator of IL10-LR.



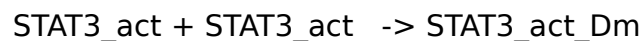
As observed experimentally [25], IL10Ri production and degradation is implemented in our model as stimulation independent processes; reaction (12) and (13) depicts the basal production and degradation of IL10Ri. The differential equations below capture the dynamics of IL10 receptor activation and its inhibition by IL10Ri.

II. STAT1 and STAT3 signaling

In addition to equations [2], [3], [7] and [8] representing the activation of IFN γ and IL-10 specific activation STAT1 and STAT3, in the third condition, co-stimulation, STAT1 and STAT3 are activated by both the stimulus types simultaneously.



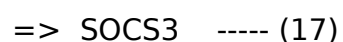
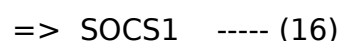
Studies show competition of STAT1 and STAT3 for the active IFN γ receptor [58] which is implemented in our model. In the same lines, we implemented competition of STAT1 and STAT3 for access to IL10 (see differential equations for x8 and x10). STAT1_act and STAT3_act are the activated/phosphorylated forms of STATs which subsequently undergo dimerization and in turn become transcriptionally active [21]



III. Transcriptional induction of SOCS1 and SOCS3

Transcriptional induction of SOCS1 and SOCS3 were experimentally tested upon both IFN γ and IL10 signaling. Both the SOCS are induced relatively strongly upon IL10 signaling compared to IFN γ signaling (Figure 2B and 2D), especially SOCS1 induced upon IL10 signaling is ~3 fold higher compared to IFN γ signaling.

In our model, in absence of external signal basal production and degradation of the SOCS is given as



$$\text{SOCS3} \Rightarrow \text{----- (19)}$$

Where reaction (16)&(17) represents production and reaction (18) & (19) represents degradation of the SOCS shown.

Upon IFN γ and IL10 signaling both the SOCS are transcriptionally induced as a function of dimeric STAT1 (in IFN γ pathway) or dimeric STAT3(in IL10 pathway). Experimental studies show during IFN γ signaling in STAT1 null mice SOCS3 but not SOCS1 is induced and in STAT3 null mice SOCS3 induction is blocked [58]; thus we modeled SOCS1 and SOCS3 induction as functions STAT1_act_Dm and STAT3_act_Dm respectively. Similarlry assumptions were made for SOCS1 and SOCS3 induction in the IL10 pathway. Additionally, studies show efficient promoter binding and gene expression by STAT1 and STAT3 also depends on other complex factors like availability of other cofactors. For instance, during IFN γ stimulation, occupation of DNA-binding sites for STAT1 and the transcriptional activator Sp1 are both required for full activation of certain genes [74]. Similarly gene expression in IL10 pathway are dependent on sp1 and sp3 cofactors [75]. Also cofactors like CoaSt6 selectively enhances the expression of genes in certain pathways but not others [76] and complexity of sch regulations increase as competition of bind to different cofactors emerge between STAT1 and STAT3 [77] where expression/activation of the cofactors can be further controlled by specific input stimuli [74]. Thus it seems plausible that relative abundance of cofacators of STAT1(STAT3) for SOCS1(SOCS3) induction in IFN γ or IL10 stimualtion could be differeent. Considering the complexity of such interactions and to accomodate the plausible differences in STAT1(STAT3) mediated induction of SOCS1(SOCS3) in IFN γ and IL10 pathways we considered differences in induction rates and Km values which were estimated during the model fitting. Differential equations below captures basal production/degradation as well as transcriptional induction dynamics of SOCS1 and SOCS3.

Model equations

The differential equations below captures the information propagation in both IFN γ and IL10 pathways. The xs' are model species and the ps are model paramters, names of the species and paramter as well as their bestfict values are detailed in supplementary table TS1.

$$\frac{d[x1]}{dt} = x5 * p2 - x1 * x2 * p1 * p44 + p46 * p47 * p44.$$

$$\frac{d[x_2]}{dt} = x_5 * p_2 - x_1 * x_2 * p_1.$$

$$\frac{d[x_3]}{dt} = -(x_5^{p_{43}} * x_3 * p_3)/(x_5^{p_{43}} + p_4^{p_{43}}).$$

$$\frac{d[x_4]}{dt} = (x_5^{p_{43}} * x_3 * p_3)/(x_5^{p_{43}} + p_4^{p_{43}}).$$

$$\frac{d[x_5]}{dt} = x_1 * x_2 * p_1 - x_5 * p_2 + p_{44} * x_6 * p_6 + p_{44} * x_6 * p_{17} - x_5 * p_{44} * x_{11} * p_5.$$

$$\frac{d[x_6]}{dt} = x_5 * p_{44} * x_{11} * p_5 - p_{44} * x_6 * p_{17} - p_{44} * x_6 * p_7 - p_{44} * x_6 * p_6.$$

$$\frac{d[x_7]}{dt} = x_4 * x_8 * p_9 + x_4 * x_{13} * p_9 - (x_5 * p_{44} * x_7 * p_8)/(p_{10} * (x_7/p_{10} + x_9/p_{11} + 1)) - (x_{17} * IL_{10_on} * x_7 * p_{26})/(p_{28} * (x_7/p_{28} + x_9/p_{29} + 1)).$$

$$\frac{d[x_8]}{dt} = x_4 * x_{13} * p_9 - x_4 * x_8 * p_9 - 2 * x_8^2 * p_{12} + (x_5 * p_{44} * x_7 * p_8)/(p_{10} * (x_7/p_{10} + x_9/p_{11} + 1)) + (x_{17} * IL_{10_on} * x_7 * p_{26})/(p_{28} * (x_7/p_{28} + x_9/p_{29} + 1)).$$

$$\frac{d[x_9]}{dt} = x_4 * x_{10} * p_{15} + x_4 * x_{14} * p_{15} - (x_5 * p_{44} * x_9 * p_{14})/(p_{11} * (x_7/p_{10} + x_9/p_{11} + 1)) - (x_{17} * IL_{10_on} * x_9 * p_{27})/(p_{29} * (x_7/p_{28} + x_9/p_{29} + 1)).$$

$$\frac{d[x_{10}]}{dt} = x_4 * x_{14} * p_{15} - x_4 * x_{10} * p_{15} - 2 * x_{10}^2 * p_{13} + (x_5 * p_{44} * x_9 * p_{14})/(p_{11} * (x_7/p_{10} + x_9/p_{11} + 1)) + (x_{17} * IL_{10_on} * x_9 * p_{27})/(p_{29} * (x_7/p_{28} + x_9/p_{29} + 1)).$$

$$\frac{d[x_{11}]}{dt} = p_{16} - x_{11} * p_{17} + p_{44} * x_6 * p_6 + p_{44} * x_6 * p_7 - x_5 * p_{44} * x_{11} * p_5 + (p_{44} * p_{20} * p_{16} * (x_{13}/p_{30})^{p_{41}})/((x_{13}/p_{30})^{p_{41}} + 1) + (IL_{10_on} * p_{34} * p_{16} * (x_{14}/p_{32})^{p_{39}})/((x_{14}/p_{32})^{p_{39}} + 1).$$

$$\frac{d[x_{12}]}{dt} = p_{18} - x_{12} * p_{19} + (p_{44} * p_{21} * p_{18} * (x_{13}/p_{31})^{p_{42}})/((x_{13}/p_{31})^{p_{42}} + 1) + (IL_{10_on} * p_{35} * p_{18} * (x_{14}/p_{33})^{p_{40}})/((x_{14}/p_{33})^{p_{40}} + 1).$$

$$\frac{d[x_{13}]}{dt} = x_8^2 * p_{12} - x_4 * x_{13} * p_9.$$

$$\frac{d[x_{14}]}{dt} = x_{10}^2 * p_{13} - x_4 * x_{14} * p_{15}.$$

$$\frac{d[x15]}{dt} = x17 * IL10_on * p23 + p48 * p45 * p49 - x15 * x16 * p45 * p22.$$

$$\frac{d[x16]}{dt} = x17 * p45 * p23 - x15 * x16 * p45 * p22.$$

$$\frac{d[x17]}{dt} = p45 * x18 * p25 - x17 * p45 * p23 + p45 * x18 * p37 - x17 * x19 * p45 * p24 + x15 * x16 * p45 * p22.$$

$$\frac{d[x18]}{dt} = x17 * x19 * p45 * p24 - p45 * x18 * p25 - p45 * x18 * p37 - p45 * x18 * p38.$$

$$\frac{d[x19]}{dt} = p45 * p36 + p45 * x18 * p38 - x19 * p45 * p37 + p45 * x18 * p25 - x17 * x19 * p45 * p24 .$$

The model comprising both the pathways is calibrated to the experimental data (Figure 2), and further, the calibrated model is used for making predictions that we validated experimentally (Figure 3). Details of model calibration and validation steps can be found in supplementary file S1.

Single cell simulations

To convert the calibrated population average model to single cell level we adopted an ensemble modelling approach in which a population of single cells are generated by sampling the protein concentration assuming protein expression noise at the level of single cells follow a log-normal distribution [14, 43]. Several studies show the distribution of protein concentration in individual cells were drawn from lognormal distributions [28, 29, 43, 46], where, for a given protein its population average value from the best-fit model is used as the median of the generated single cell population.

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Figure legends :

Figure 1: Dose-response and kinetic studies of STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation upon IL-10 or IFN γ stimulation. 48 hrs rested Balb/c derived peritoneal macrophages, cultured in RPMI 1640 with 10% fetal bovine serum were subjected to serum starvation for 3hrs. The cells were stimulated with increasing concentrations (0.5ng/ml, 1.0ng/ml, 2.5ng/ml, 5.0ng/ml, 10.0ng/ml, 20.0ng/ml, 40.0ng/ml) of (A) recombinant IL-10 protein or (B) recombinant IFN γ protein for 15mins, then washed with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline and lysed with RIPA lysis buffer containing protease and phosphatase inhibitors. The cell lysates were further processed for immunoblotting and probed for and total STAT1 and STAT3 proteins. (C) Kinetics of STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation by high (20ng/ml), medium (5ng/ml) and low (1ng/ml) doses of IFN γ stimulation.(D) Kinetics of STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation by high (20ng/ml), medium (5ng/ml) and low (1ng/ml) doses of IL-10 stimulation. (E) Kinetics of SOCS1 and SOCS3 expression on stimulation with medium dose of IL-10 or IFN γ . Data in (C-E) represents mean \pm s.d. of three sets.

Figure 2: Quantitative modeling of STAT1 and STAT3 dynamics at different doses of IL-10 and IFN γ . (A) Schematic representation of the IFN γ pathway. The blunt heads solid lines represent catalysis; arrowheads with solid lines represent binding, unbinding, phosphorylation and dephosphorylation; blunt-headed dashed lines represent transcriptional induction. Upon ligand(IFN) binding the receptor(IFNR) forms an active signaling complex(IFN-LR) which triggers the activation of STAT1(STAT1 \rightarrow STATp) and STAT3(STAT3 \rightarrow STAT3p) through phosphorylation. STAT1p and STAT3p undergo dimerization to become STAT1p_Dm and STAT3p_Dm, respectively. Transcription induction of target genes such as SOCS1 and SOCS3 is shown. SOCS1 is a negative feedback regulator of IFN γ signaling which forms a functionally inactive complex [SOCS1.IFN-LR] and inhibits the signaling. A STAT1/3 phosphatase is also activated (Phosi \rightarrow Phos) by IFN-LR. (B) IFN γ pathway in the model was calibrated to STAT1/3 activation dynamics at three different doses of applied signal 1ng/ml(L), 5ng/ml(M) and 20ng/ml(H). The pathway was also calibrated to the dynamics of SOCS1 and SOCS3 induction at M. (C) schematics of IL-10 signaling pathways in the model is shown. Notation of the arrows is kept same as described in the IFN γ pathway. Both STATs are activated by IL-10 stimulation. Upon ligand (IL-10) binding the receptor (IL-10R) forms an active complex (IL-10-LR) which activates both STATs. At the transcriptional level induction of SOCS1 and SOCS3 takes place. IL-10Ri represents an inhibitor of IL-10 signaling which acts by sequestering and degrading

the IL-10 receptor. (D) IL-10 pathway in the model is calibrated to STAT1/3 phosphorylation dynamics at L, M and H doses of IL-10 stimuli and SOCS1, SOCS3 expression dynamics at M dose .

Figure 3. Prediction of STAT1 and STAT3 dynamics in co-stimulation (IL-10 + IFN γ).

(A) Schematic representation of the co-stimulation scenario. Here both IL-10 and IFN γ signal were applied simultaneously. The cyan and orange colored dashed lines with blunt heads represent IFN γ and IL-10 pathway specific STAT1/3 activation, respectively. The stimulus type independent process like STAT1/3 dimerization or their dephosphorylation step is shown with black colored arrows. (B) STAT3 dynamics upon co-stimulation. The shaded area shows predictions from 50 independent fits with the similar goodness of fit and the black dots represent experimental data. (C) STAT1 dynamics upon co-stimulation, shaded area shows predictions (with amplitude correction) from the 40 independent fits and black dots shows the data (D) SOCS1 induction upon co-stimulation. The shaded areas show prediction range and the black dots show experimental data.

Figure 4: Cell-to-cell variability in protein expression results in reciprocally signaling subpopulations

(A) Normalized dynamics of STAT3 and STAT1 is shown from three distinct subpopulations C0, Rc-t1 and Rc-t2. STAT3 activation in a cell in C0 is closely comparable between it's IL-10-only and co-stimulation responses. Blue line shows median of the ratio $STAT3_{co-stimulation}/STAT3_{IL-10}$ (upper panel) and $STAT3_{co-stimulation}/STAT3_{IL-10}$ (lower panel) from 1000 C0 cells. Red line shows these ratios from Rc-t1 cells and green line shows the ratios from Rc-t2 cells, with 1000 cells in each subpopulation. (B) Distribution of single-cell variables (protein concentrations) in C0, Rc-t1, and Rc-t2 subpopulation with 1000 cells in each subpopulation. (C) Distribution of the most distinct variables in the Rc-t1 or Rc-t2 subpopulation is shown comparably.

Figure 5: Systematic replacement of single-cell variables identifies most sensitive perturbation targets specific to different subpopulations.

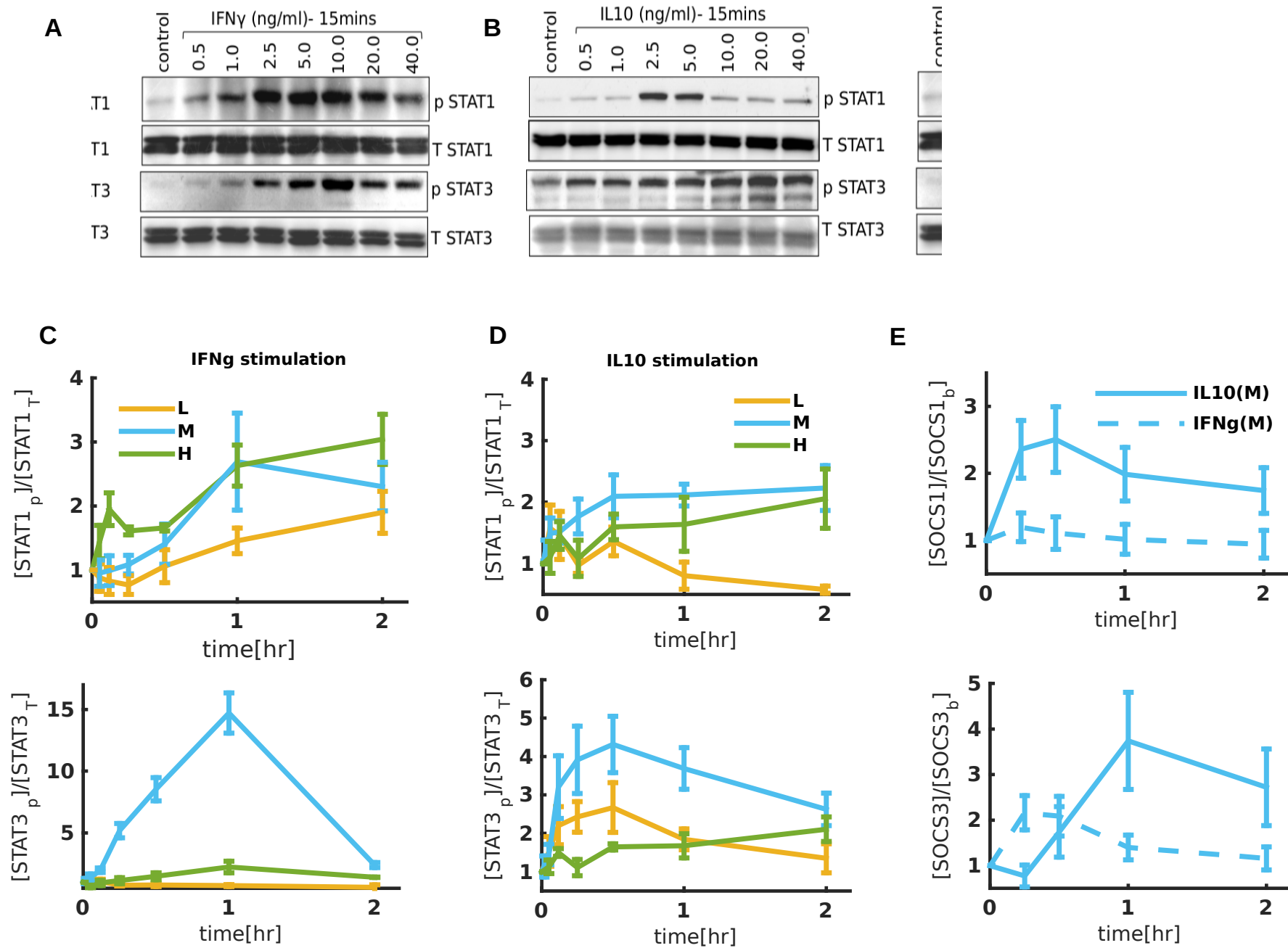
(A) Protein concentrations subjected to cell-to-cell variability were systematically replaced between the 6 pairs of subpopulations. In each heat map the x-axis direction shows the 100 representative cells from a subpopulation subjected to such parameter replacement. The notation Rc-t1 \rightarrow C0, for instance, would mean single-cell variables in Rc-t1 cells are replaced with their counterparts from C0 cells, following which, we calculate the fraction of C0 cell emerging from the Rc-t1 subpopulation. Each column in a row, for example in the 1st row 1st column of the heat map titled "Rc-t1 \rightarrow C0", shows the number of C0 cells emerging per Rc-t1 cell when IL-10Ri is replaced from

500 other C0 cells; the result is normalized to show the fractions where fraction = 1 means replacement of IL-10Ri from 500 C0 cells to Rc-t1 would result in 500 C0 cells. For all the heat maps the same procedure is followed, the title of the heat map shows the pair of subpopulation studied and the y-direction shows the protein concentrations that were replaced between the pairs. For each protein concentration, 100 representative cells are sorted according to their observed frequency of transformation to the respective new type of cells. (B) The significance of change in activator to inhibitor ratio in either IL-10 or IFN γ pathway. Replacing both IL-10R and IL-10Ri from C0 to Rc-t1 resulted in dramatic increase in the Rc-t1 to C0 transformations, as compared to, only IL-10R or IL-10Ri replacement(compare figure 5A, heat map titled Rc-t1 \rightarrow C0).

Supplementary figure.

Figure S1. Kinetic studies of STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation at low(L), medium(M) and high(H) dose of IL10 and IFN γ stimulation. Kinetics study of STAT1(A) and STAT3(B) phosphorylation at high (20ng/ml), medium (5ng/ml) and low (1ng/ml) doses of recombinant IL10 and IFN γ proteins. Balb/c derived macrophages were stimulated for 3', 7', 15', 30', 60' and 120' with the mentioned doses of IL10 or IFN γ , lysed and processed for immunoblot analysis of STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation.(C) Kinetics of SOCS1 AND SOCS3 expression on stimulation with MD of IL10 or IFN γ for 15', 30', 60' and 120' is shown.

Figure S2. STAT1 and STAT3 dynamics and SOCS transcriptional induction in co-stimulation (IL-10 + IFN γ)treatment. (A) Prediction from 40 independently fitted models with similar goodness of fit. The shaded area shows range of predictions and the blue filled circles show data. The model and data trajectories are closely comparable by multiplying the model trajectory with a scaling factor which is shown in Figure 3C. (B) Representative immunoblots for co-stimulation is shown. The experimental procedure is same as described in figure S1A or S1B. (C) Kinetics of SOCS1 and SOCS3 expression on stimulation with M dose of IL-10 or IFN γ .



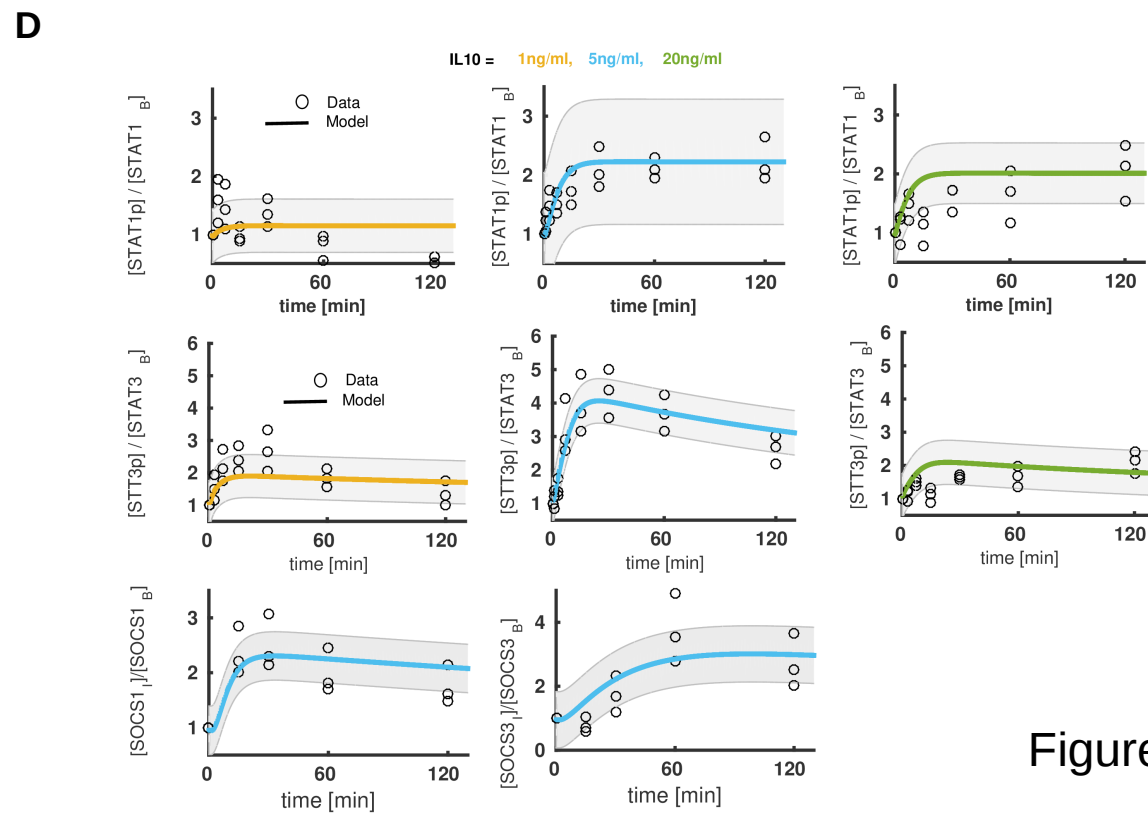
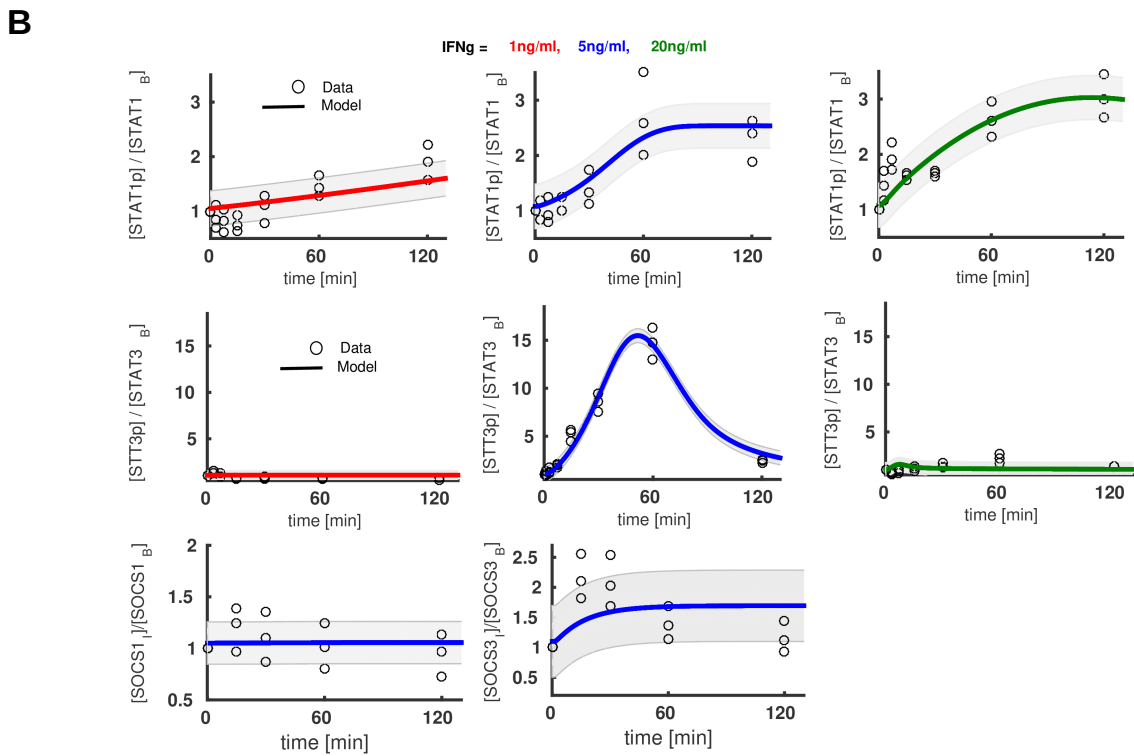
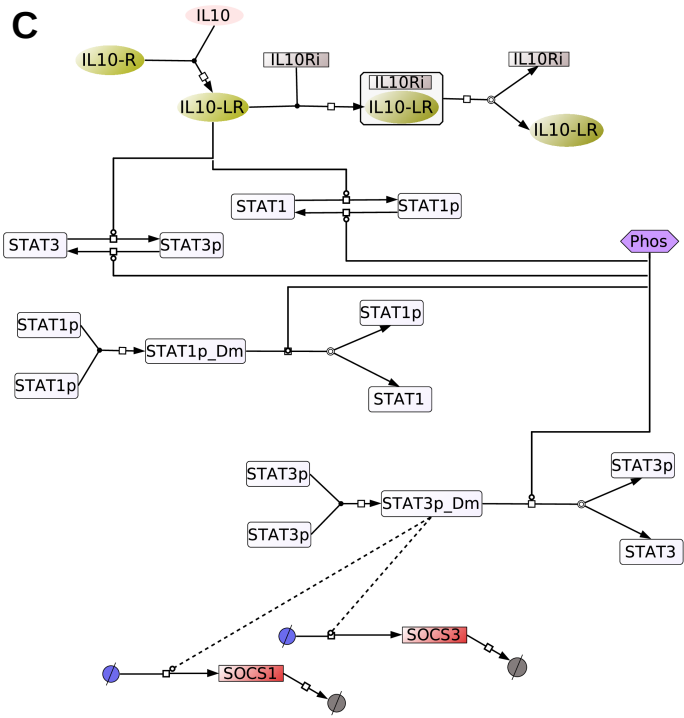
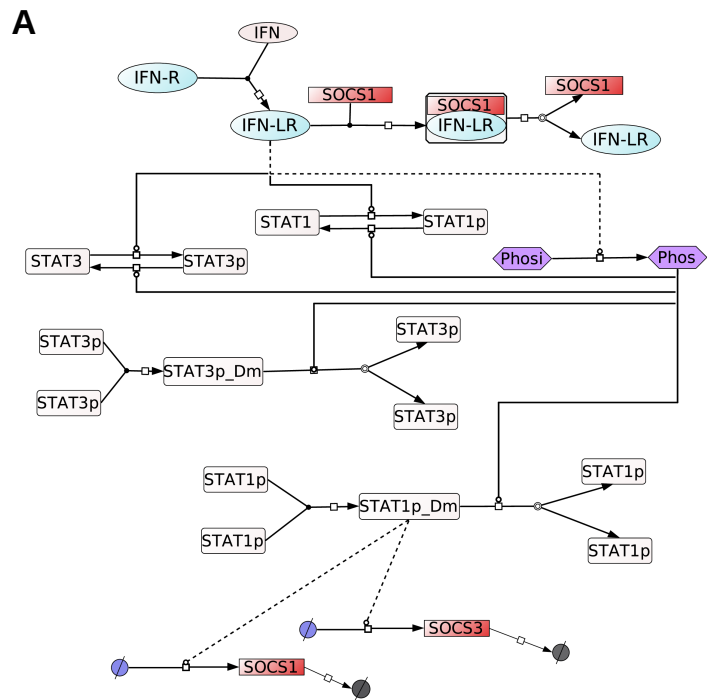


Figure 2

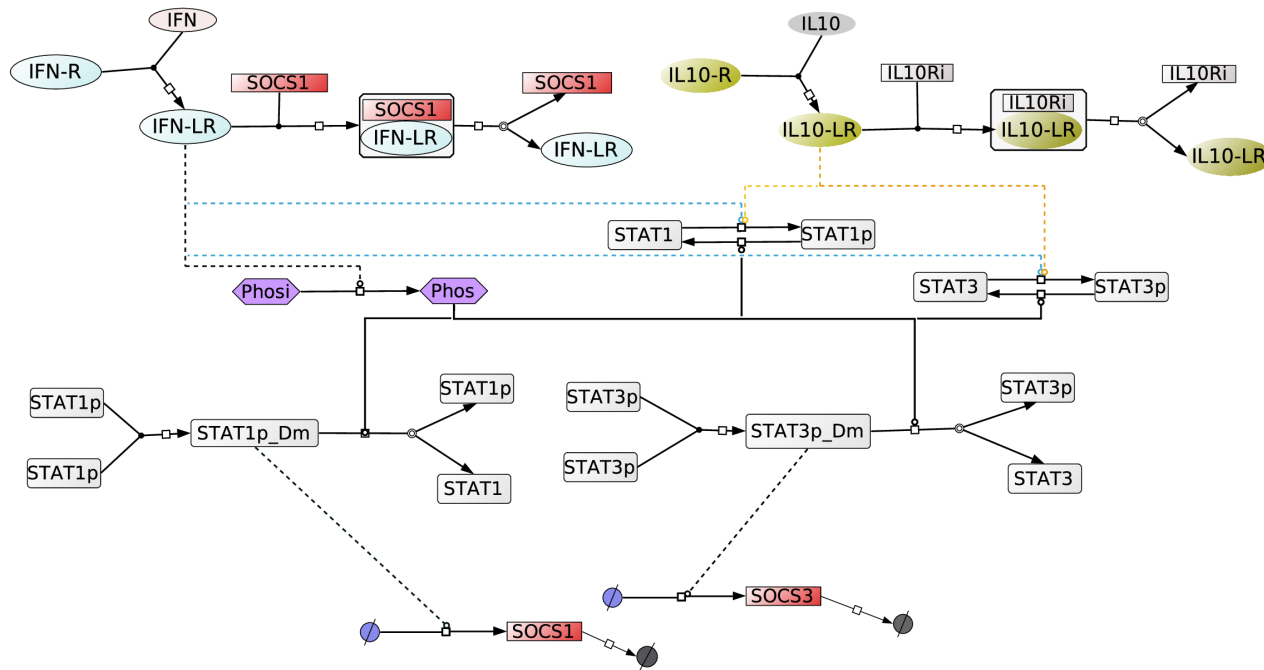
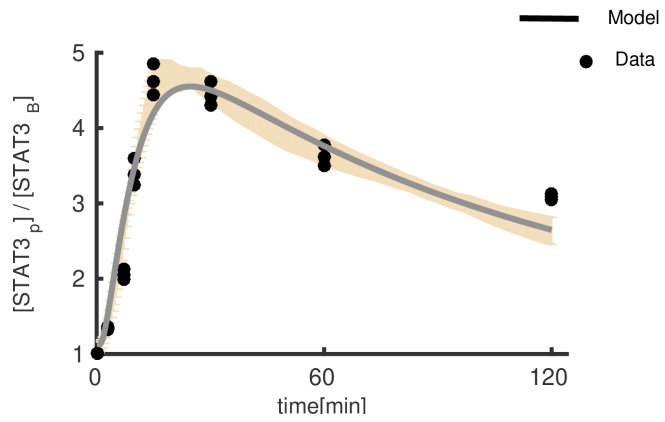
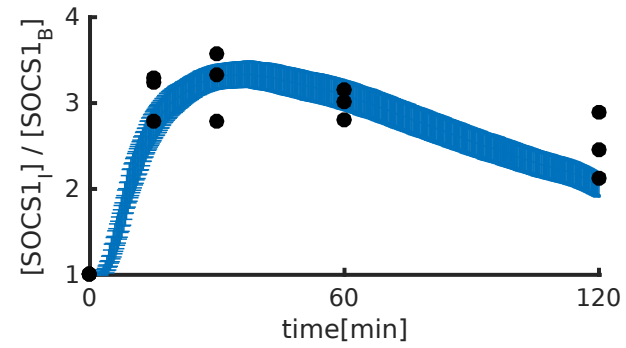
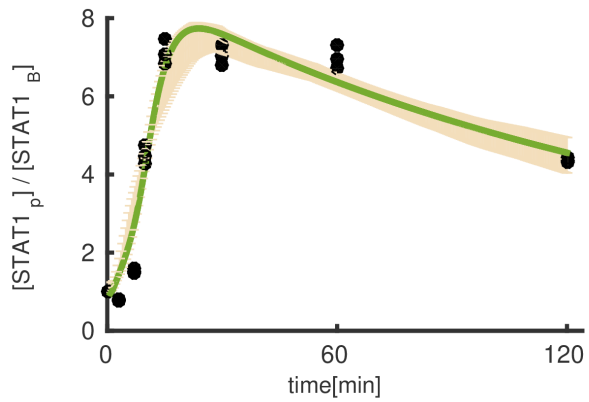
A**B****D****C**

Figure 3

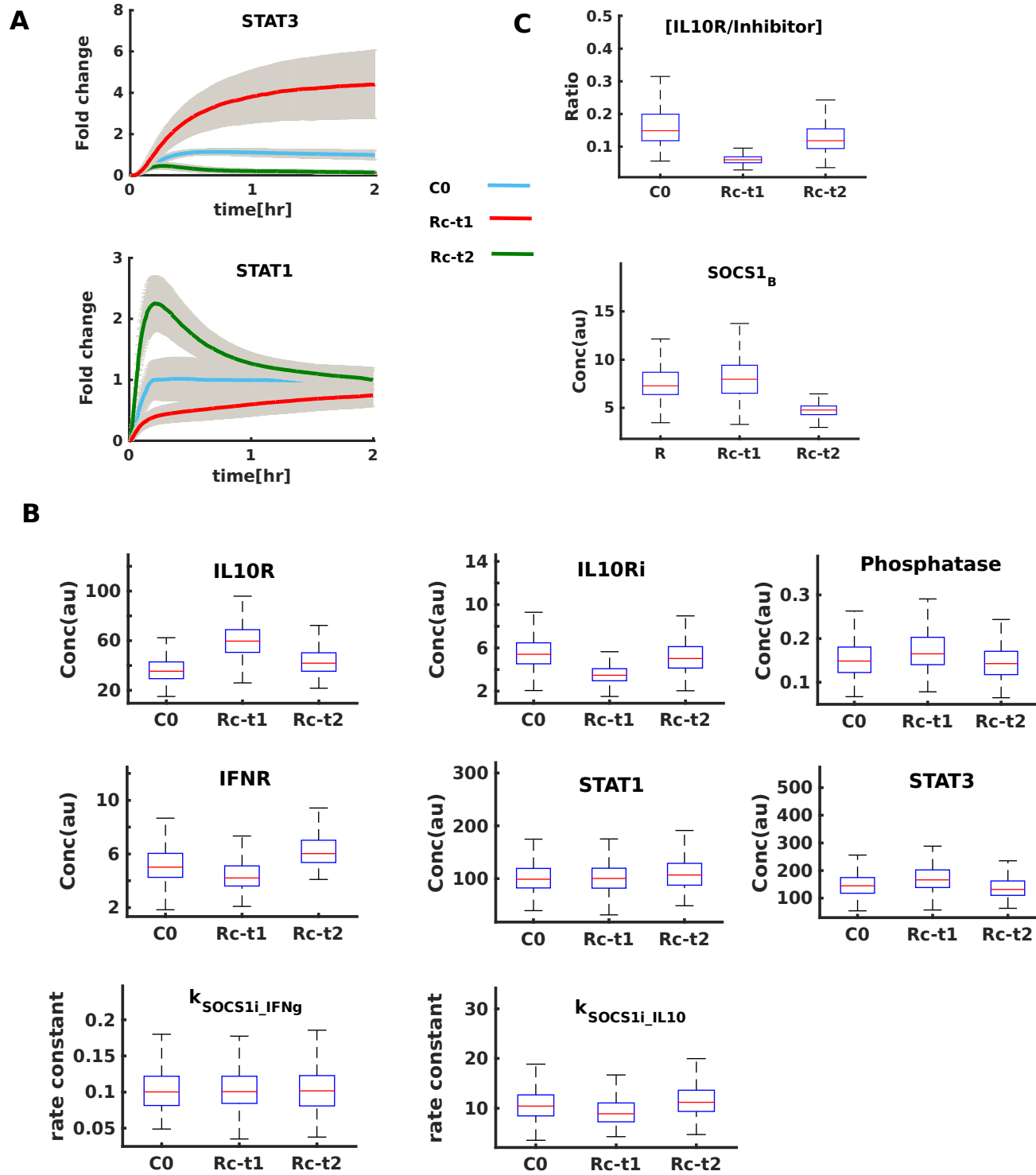


Figure 4

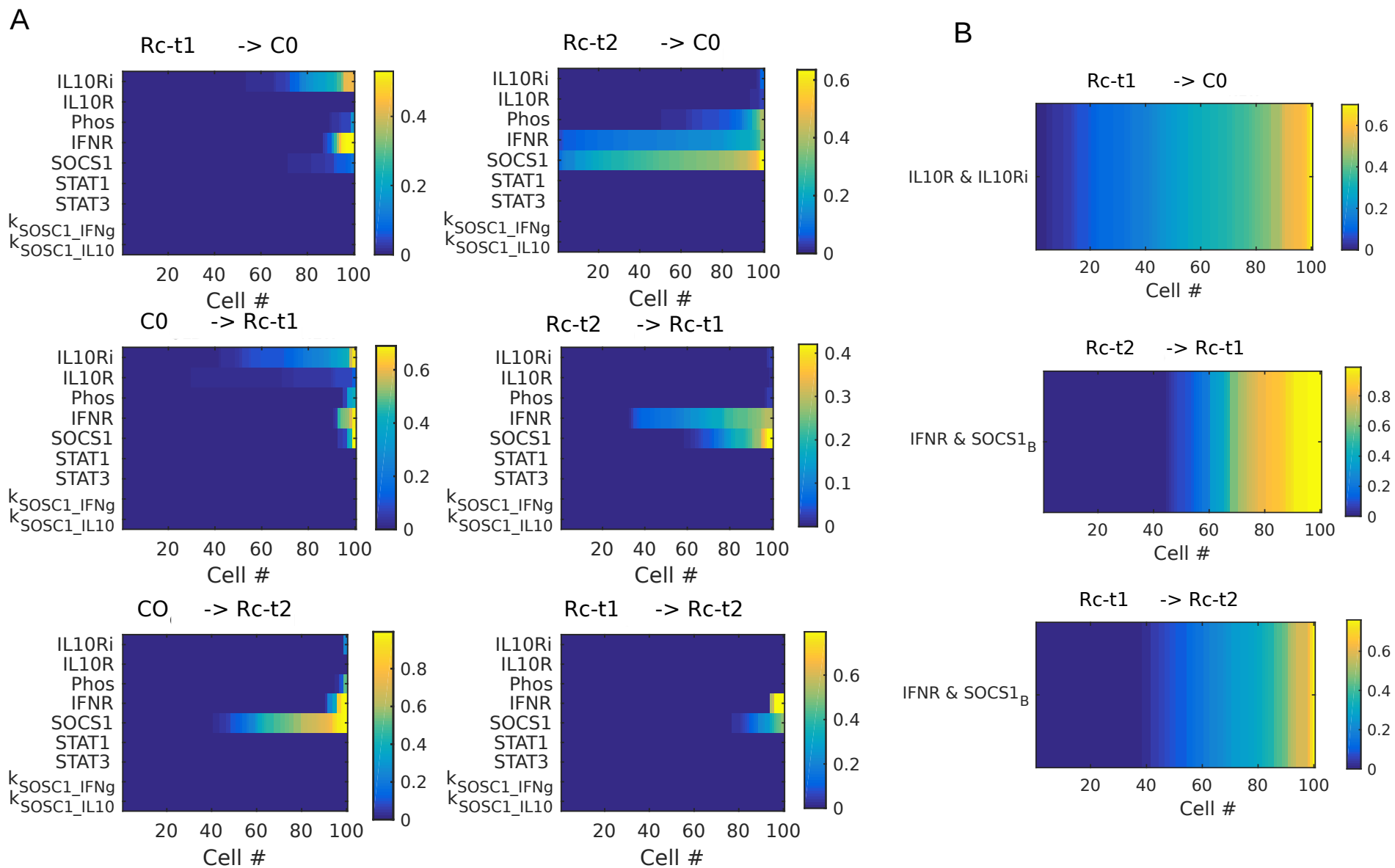


Figure 5