1	TRIM69 inhibits Vesicular Stomatitis Indiana Virus (VSIV)
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19	ABSTRACT
20	Vesicular Stomatitis Indiana Virus (VSIV) is a model virus that is exceptionally
21	sensitive to the inhibitory action of interferons. Interferons induce an antiviral state by
22	stimulating the expression of hundreds of interferon stimulated genes (ISGs). These
23	ISGs constrain viral replication, limit tissue tropism, reduce pathogenicity and inhibit
24	viral transmission. Because VSIV is used as a backbone for multiple oncolytic and
25	vaccine strategies, understanding how ISGs restrict VSIV, not only helps in
26	understanding VSIV-pathogenesis, but helps evaluate and understand the safety and
27	efficacy of VSIV-based therapies. Thus there is a need to identify and characterize
28	the ISGs that possess anti-VSIV activity. Using arrayed ISG expression screening,

29 we identified TRIM69 as an ISG that potently inhibits VSIV. This inhibition was highly 30 specific as multiple viruses (including influenza A virus, HIV-1, Rift Valley Fever Virus 31 and dengue virus) were not affected by TRIM69. Indeed, just one amino acid 32 substitution in VSIV can govern sensitivity/resistance to TRIM69. TRIM69 is highly 33 divergent in human populations and exhibits signatures of positive selection that are 34 consistent with this gene playing a key role in antiviral immunity. We propose that 35 TRIM69 is an IFN-induced inhibitor of VSIV and speculate that TRIM69 could be 36 important in limiting VSIV pathogenesis and might influence the specificity and/or 37 efficacy of vesiculovirus-based therapies.

38

39 **IMPORTANCE**

40 Vesicular Stomatitis Indiana Virus (VSIV) is a veterinary pathogen that is also used 41 as a backbone for many oncolytic and vaccine strategies. In natural and therapeutic 42 settings, VSIV infection is sensed by the host and host-cells make proteins that 43 protect them from viruses. In the case of VSIV, these antiviral proteins constrain viral 44 replication and protect most healthy tissues from virus infection. In order to 45 understand how VSIV causes disease and how healthy tissues are protected from 46 VSIV-based therapies, it is crucial that we identify the proteins that inhibit VSIV. 47 Here we show that TRIM69 is an antiviral defence that can potently and specifically 48 block VSIV infection.

49

50 **INTRODUCTION**

51 Most invading pathogens are sensed by the vertebrate host ensuring that 52 immune defences are deployed appropriately. Following sensing, one common 53 outcome is the secretion of type I interferons (IFNs) whose signalling results in the 54 upregulation of hundreds of IFN stimulated genes (ISGs) (1, 2). Many ISG products 55 interfere with viruses directly, generating an 'antiviral state' in stimulated cells that 56 impedes the infection, replication or propagation of viruses (3-5). In addition, many

ISGs are themselves involved in pathogen sensing and signal transduction, placing cells in a heightened state of alert poised to detect invading pathogens (6). The IFN response typically involves hundreds of ISGs, many of whom have been regulated by IFNs for hundreds of millions of years (1). Although the major role that IFNs play in constraining viral pathogenesis and viral colonization is well-established, because IFN responses involve so many ISGs, it is often unclear which individual geneproducts inhibit a given virus.

64 Vesicular stomatitis Indiana virus (VSIV) is a virus that is mainly restricted to the Americas where it causes vesicular stomatitis, a disease that primarily affects 65 66 ungulates and rarely causes mild infections in humans (7-9). VSIV is transmitted by 67 biting insects and causes characteristic vesicular lesions at bite sites around the 68 hooves, mouth, nose, teats and coronary bands (7). Although complications can 69 occur, natural VSIV infection is typically mild and rapidly resolved. In contrast, 70 experimental VSIV infection can be highly pathogenic and neurotropic in young mice 71 (10).

In addition to being a notable veterinary pathogen, VSIV has been used extensively as a model virus and has been integral to our understanding of vesiculovirus and rhabdovirus biology. Notably, vesiculoviruses can be particularly sensitive to IFNs, leading to their inclusion in the IFN unit definition assay (11). Indeed, type I IFNs likely play a major role in limiting the severity of VSIV infections and multiple ISGs have been ascribed anti-VSV activity (4, 12-15).

Importantly, IFNs play a major role in constraining VSIV *in vivo*. Type I IFN receptor (IFNAR) KO mice succumb to doses of VSIV that are several orders of magnitude lower than a lethal dose in wild-type (WT) mice (16). Moreover, whilst VSIV is largely restricted to the central nervous system (CNS) in lethally infected WT mice, VSIV colonizes multiple organs in IFNAR KO mice (16). Interestingly, it is likely that multiple ISGs are involved in limiting the tissue tropism of VSIV. Specifically, it appears that IFIT2 is crucial for preventing VSIV colonization of the brain but it is not

solely responsible for limiting VSIV replication in other organs (15). Thus, other ISGs
must play key roles in limiting VSIV tissue tropism. Importantly, VSIV causes
neurological disease in multiple species following intracranial inoculation (17, 18),
suggesting that the ability of ISGs to prevent VSIV from initially accessing the CNS is
the cornerstone in limiting VSIV neuropathology across multiple species (19).

90 VSIV's low pathogenicity in humans, its rapid replication, and ease of genetic 91 manipulation have made this virus the basis of multiple therapeutic strategies. For 92 example, VSIV can be modified to express antigens from heterologous viruses that 93 can be utilised as vaccine strategies (20). This approach has achieved recent notable 94 success in conferring protection from Ebola virus infection (21). Similarly, VSIV has 95 been used as the backbone of multiple oncolytic strategies (22). Just like natural 96 VSIV infection. IFNs and ISGs appear to be critical for preventing oncolvtic viruses 97 from invading healthy tissues (23, 24) and could be critical determinants governing 98 whether oncolytic vesiculoviruses will be efficacious (25). Furthermore, ISGs likely 99 play a key role in limiting the replication of VSIV-based vaccines and are an 100 important safety feature of this immunization strategy.

101 The key roles that ISGs play in constraining VSIV pathogenesis and limiting 102 VSIV replication (in natural infection, oncolytic therapies and vaccine strategies) 103 means there is a need to better understand how ISGs inhibit VSIV. Using arrayed 104 ISG expression screening, we identified that TRIM69, a relatively poorly 105 characterised TRIM protein, has anti-VSIV activity. Through exogenous expression 106 and CRISPR Cas9 knockout, we demonstrate that both exogenous and endogenous 107 TRIM69 have potent anti-VSIV activity. Importantly, the inhibition is highly specific 108 for VSIV and multiple other viruses were not inhibited by TRIM69. Notably, TRIM69 109 shows strong signatures of positive selection and multiple common alleles circulate in 110 human populations. Interestingly, murine orthologues of TRIM69 had no detectable 111 anti-VSIV activity whereas rat TRIM69 possessed potent antiviral activity. We 112 speculate that TRIM69 could be an important ISG for protecting healthy tissues from

- 113 VSIV and might therefore limit VSIV pathogenesis and influence the specificity and
- 114 efficacy of vesiculovirus-based therapeutic strategies.
- 115

116 **RESULTS**

117 **ISG expression screening reveals the anti-VSIV activity of TRIM69**

118 We have previously used arrayed ISG expression screening of human and 119 rhesus macague ISG libraries to identify antiviral factors targeting a range of viruses 120 (3, 5, 26). Although, VSIV has previously been subjected to a large-scale screen of 121 \sim 300 interferon induced genes (4), we reasoned that using larger libraries of arrayed 122 ISGs might identify additional anti-VSIV effectors. We recently expanded our human 123 ISG library to include >500 ISGs, which can be used in conjunction with our existing 124 library of >300 rhesus macaque ISGs (5, 26) (Figure 1A), all of which are encoded by 125 lentiviral vectors (Figure 1B). In addition, we took advantage of a single-cycle VSIV-126 GFP system (rVSVAG-GFP, referred to herein as VSIV-GFP) to allow us to identify 127 strong early blocks to VSIV with high fidelity (27). We first transduced human MT4 128 cells with each ISG-encoding lentiviral vector and then challenged these cells with 129 VSIV-GFP (using a dose where ~30% of cells were infected). The level of VSIV-GFP 130 infection in the presence of each individual ISG was then quantified using flow 131 cytometry (Figure 1D). Strikingly, only three genes potently inhibited VSIV under 132 these conditions: macaque IFNB1, human Mx1 and human TRIM69. Although we 133 identified only one ortholog of each gene, we do not ascribe this to species-specific 134 antiviral activity as macague TRIM69 and human IFNB1 were not present in these 135 libraries. Moreover, the isoform of macague Mx1 included in the screen lacked 154 136 N-terminal residues relative to the human counterpart (that exhibited anti-VSIV 137 activity), potentially explaining the lack of inhibition conferred by the macaque variant. 138 Importantly, TRIM69 was not identified in the previous ISG screen of VSIV, as it was 139 not present in the ISG library used (4).

140

141 TRIM69 exhibits potent and highly specific antiviral activity.

142 Because the anti-VSIV activity of type I IFN and Mx1 are well documented 143 (13, 16), we were immediately struck by how potent the TRIM69-mediated inhibition 144 of VSIV was in our initial screen (Figure 1D). At the time that these experiments 145 were carried out, TRIM69 had not been ascribed any antiviral activity, so we 146 examined the ability of doxycycline inducible TRIM69 to inhibit a small panel of 147 viruses. Notably, while VSIV-GFP infection was reduced by >100-fold by TRIM69, 148 the other viruses in our panel (Influenza A (PR8 (A/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1)), 149 RVFV (35/74) and HIV-1 (NHG)) were unaffected by TRIM69 expression (Figure 1E). 150 It is well documented that many TRIM proteins are involved in antiviral signalling, 151 which can often be triggered by exogenous expression (5, 28-30). Moreover. 152 exogenous or endogenous expression of many ISGs can promote cell death (31). 153 However, the highly specific antiviral activity of TRIM69, suggests that the antiviral 154 mechanism does not involve global processes such as cellular toxicity or the 155 induction of a polygenic antiviral state. Interestingly, a VSV-G (glycoprotein) 156 pseudotyped variant of HIV-1, that does not express an HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein, 157 was also insensitive to TRIM69-inhibition. This suggests that VSIV-inhibition occurs 158 after viral entry and that the VSIV glycoprotein is not directly targeted by TRIM69. 159 Importantly, unmodified wild-type replication competent VSIV, was also potently 160 inhibited by TRIM69 (Figure 1F).

161

162 Endogenous TRIM69 is IFN-inducible and potently inhibits VSIV.

We have previously used comparative transcriptomics to study the IFN response in a variety of species (1). Meta-analysis of these data indicated that TRIM69 expression was upregulated ~10-fold, following IFN-stimulation of primary human fibroblasts (Figure 2A). Similarly, TRIM69 has previously been identified as an ISG in multiple studies, and is typically induced between ~2 and ~10-fold by type I IFNs (2, 32). To examine whether the endogenous protein exhibited antiviral activity, we knocked out

169 TRIM69 using CRISPR/Cas9 in diploid CADOES1 cells (33). TRIM69 knock out (KO) 170 single-cell clones were derived and the KO was confirmed by sequencing the genetic 171 In accordance with the IFN-sensitive nature of vesiculoviruses, IFN lesions. 172 treatment potently blocked VSIV infection in "no guide" control clones (by ~25000 173 fold) (Figure 2B). In striking contrast, when TRIM69 was knocked out, the protective 174 effect of IFN was markedly reduced (by ~300 fold). We interpret this as endogenous 175 TRIM69 playing a major role in the anti-VSIV effects of IFN. Once again, the TRIM69 176 anti-VSIV activity was specific, as the magnitude of HIV-1 inhibition was similar in the 177 presence or absence of TRIM69 (Figure 2C).

178

179 Not all TRIM69 isoforms confer antiviral activity. Because alternative splicing can 180 produce divergent variants of antiviral factors, these spliced isoforms can exhibit 181 differential antiviral activity. In the case of TRIM5, the spliced isoforms have been 182 informative in understanding the mechanism of TRIM5's antiviral activity (34). We 183 therefore considered whether all isoforms of TRIM69 conferred anti-VSIV activity. 184 We cloned the five TRIM69 isoforms listed on ENSEMBL and we considered their 185 activity in our doxycycline inducible system. Under these conditions, the only variant 186 that conferred anti-VSIV activity was the longest isoform, isoform A (Figure 3A-F), 187 which potently inhibited VSIV-GFP infection. One caveat is that (despite multiple 188 attempts) we were unable to verify the expression of isoforms C, D and E (Figure 189 3G). We cannot therefore distinguish between technical difficulties (such as the 190 antibody not recognising these isoforms) or biological processes (such as the rapid 191 turnover of these isoforms) in preventing us from visualizing these proteins. 192 Nevertheless, we were able to detect abundant expression of isoform B (Figure 3G) 193 and conclude that this isoform has no anti-VSIV activity. This suggests that the 194 RING domain is critically required for anti-VSIV activity or the correct folding or 195 multimerization of TRIM69.

196 As well as lacking antiviral activity, shorter isoforms of TRIM5 can act as 197 dominant negative inhibitors of endogenous and exogenous TRIM5a-mediated 198 restriction (34). We thus examined whether TRIM69 isoform B might similarly inhibit 199 the anti-VSIV activity of isoform A. When TRIM69 (isoform A) was constitutively 200 expressed, it conferred potent protection from VSIV-GFP infection (Figure 3H) and 201 this protection was further enhanced by the presence of inducible myc-tagged 202 TRIM69 (Figure 3H). In contrast, constitutively expressed TRIM69 isoform B had 203 negligible effect on the ability of isoform A to inhibit VSIV (Figure 3H), despite being 204 abundantly expressed (Figure 3I). Thus, although TRIM69 isoform B has no 205 detectable antiviral activity, it does not appear to interfere with the ability of isoform A 206 to block VSIV.

207

208 Multiple TRIM69 alleles circulate in human populations and TRIM69 exhibits 209 strong signatures of positive selection. We next analysed structural variation at 210 the TRIM69 locus in human populations, using data from The 1000 Genomes Project 211 collated by ENSEMBL (35). Interestingly, multiple TRIM69 alleles circulate at high 212 frequencies in human populations. Surprizingly, the human RefSeg (NM 182985) is 213 only the third most common human allele, present at frequencies of $\sim 4\%$ (European) 214 to ~17% (South Asian) in human populations. In light of this, we examined the ability 215 of all the major TRIM69 alleles (with a frequency >5% in at least one population) to 216 inhibit a small panel of vesiculoviruses (Figure 4). We cloned the seven main alleles 217 into our doxycycline inducible expression system (Figure 4A-C) and challenged these 218 cells with a small panel of vesiculoviruses (Figure 4C). In spite of the amino acid 219 variation, all seven major alleles conferred potent protection from VSIV infection 220 (Figure 4E). Although some variation in the magnitude of protection was observed, 221 we attributed this to slight variations in TRIM69 expression levels, as opposed to 222 variation in the anti-VSIV activity of the different alleles (Figure 4C). TRIM69 again

223 exhibited exquisite antiviral specificity and none of the TRIM69 alleles inhibited VSV

224 New Jersey (VSNJV) or chandipura virus (CHNV-GFP) (Figure 4F,G).

225 Because multiple TRIM69 alleles currently circulate in human populations and 226 antiviral TRIM proteins can possess strong signatures of positive selection (36), we 227 conducted positive selection analysis of TRIM69 sequences from primates. We 228 retrieved and aligned the TRIM69 coding region from 18 primate species 229 representing >40 million years of divergent evolutionary pressures (37). Using the 230 maximum likelihood approach in PAML (38), we tested whether models that permit 231 positive selection on individual codons (dN/dS>1) were a better fit to these data, than 232 models that do not allow positive selection. In each case, permitting sites to evolve 233 under positive selection gave a better fit (Figure 5AB), with a high proportion of 234 codons exhibiting dN/dS ratios greater than 1 (32.8% with average dN/dS=1.9). 235 These analyses identified six residues exhibiting relatively strong signatures of 236 positive selection (Figure 5AB). One of the sites identified using this approach 237 (S404) is within the SPRY domain (the domain that forms the host-pathogen 238 interface that defines the antiretroviral specificity of TRIM5 (36)). These analyses 239 suggest that whilst the majority of sites (67.2%) in TRIM69 have evolved under 240 purifying selection (in order to maintain the overall structure and function of TRIM69), 241 positive selection has likely occurred at specific sites perhaps influencing the antiviral 242 activity of TRIM69 (36).

243 Based on the signatures of positive selection at the TRIM69 locus in primates, 244 we hypothesized that divergent TRIM69 proteins might exhibit divergent antiviral 245 specificities. We therefore cloned a variety of TRIM69 orthologs from a selection of 246 species (including primates and a variety of other mammals) into our doxycycline 247 inducible expression system. Similar to human TRIM69, orthologs from rhesus 248 macaques, rats, cows, alpacas, dogs, ferrets and horses all potently inhibited VSIV 249 infection (Figure 5C). The magnitude of inhibition was variable, but we attributed the 250 majority of this variability to different TRIM69 expression levels (Figure 5C).

251 Strikingly, murine TRIM69 did not inhibit VSIV, despite being expressed at higher 252 levels than multiple inhibitory orthologs (Figure 5C). Furthermore, the anti-VSIV 253 activity of TRIM69 has apparently been lost in the Mus genus as TRIM69 orthologs 254 from M. caroli and M. pahari were non-inhibitory, whereas rat TRIM69 potently 255 inhibited VSIV (Figure 5D). This is not simply due to the murine orthologs lacking 256 specific cofactors/interactions within human cells, as stable expression of murine 257 TRIM69 (*M. musculus*) in mouse cells indicated that murine TRIM69 still possessed 258 no apparent anti-VSIV activity (Figure 5E). Crucially, murine TRIM69 was 259 abundantly expressed in these cells and human TRIM69 conferred potent protection 260 from VSIV infection, when expressed at similar levels in the identical murine 261 background (Figure 5EF). Thus, while murine cells support TRIM69-mediated anti-262 VSIV activity, murine orthologs of TRIM69 have lost the ability to inhibit VSIV.

263 We also challenged the species variants of TRIM69 with related 264 vesiculoviruses (VSNJV and CHNV), but none of the orthologs considered 265 possessed substantial antiviral activity against these viruses (Figure 5GH).

266

267 The VSIV phosphoprotein confers sensitivity/resistance to TRIM69. The short 268 generation times inherent to the lifecycles of most viruses means that resistance to 269 inhibition can be rapidly selected in vitro (5, 26, 39, 40). These in vitro evolution 270 approaches can rapidly identify antiviral sensitivity/resistance determinants in viruses 271 targeted by antiviral factors (39, 41). We used a diverse swarm of replication 272 competent full-length VSIV-GFP (FL VSIV-GFP) (42) that had been propagated in 273 mammalian cells. This parental virus stock was potently inhibited by TRIM69 274 following overnight infection (Figure 6A). We used this virus to inoculate a culture 275 expressing TRIM69, using a dose where <1% of cells were GFP-positive following 276 overnight incubation. Four days later, VSIV had begun to overwhelm this culture and 277 the supernatant was filtered and transferred to a new culture (also induced to 278 express TRIM69). In this second passage, VSIV replicated far more efficiently in the

279 presence of TRIM69, suggesting resistance had emerged. Such rapid acquisition of 280 resistance is a documented property of VSIV populations and VSIV fitness has been 281 previously shown to increase >1000-fold in a single passage (within a new cellular 282 environment) (43). We titrated the filtered supernatant containing the TRIM69-283 passaged swarm, in the presence and absence of TRIM69, and observed that VSIV 284 had been selected to resist TRIM69 inhibition (Figure 6A). We sequenced the viral 285 population and observed four substitutions that had been selected to near uniformity 286 in the viral swarm (Figure 6BC). These substitutions included two synonymous 287 changes and two nonsynonymous substitutions. Because we had previously 288 observed that the VSV-G protein was not targeted by TRIM69 when used to 289 pseudotype HIV-1 (Figure 1E), we reasoned that one substitution, E92K in VSV-G, 290 was unlikely to confer resistance to TRIM69. This left only one non-synonymous 291 substitution, D70Y, located in the VSIV phosphoprotein (P-protein) that might confer 292 TRIM69-resistance. We mutated this residue in isolation, in the FL VSIV-GFP 293 plasmid background and rescued the parental and D70Y mutant viruses. While the 294 rescued parental virus was potently inhibited by TRIM69, the P-protein D70Y mutant 295 was completely insensitive to inhibition by TRIM69 (Figure 6D). Thus, the VSIV P 296 protein is the genetic target of TRIM69 and can determine sensitivity or resistance to 297 TRIM69. Moreover, just a single amino acid within the P protein can determine 298 TRIM69 sensitivity.

299

TRIM69 inhibits VSIV but not DENV2. During the preparation of this manuscript, it was reported that TRIM69 is an ISG that targets dengue virus type 2 (DENV-2), through an interaction with NS3, that targets NS3 for degradation (32). This TRIM69mediated degradation of NS3 interrupts the lifecycle of DENV-2 (32). This observation was of immediate interest to us as it is unusual for an antiviral factor to specifically target viruses as divergent as DENV-2 (positive sense ssRNA virus) and VSIV (negative sense ssRNA virus). Moreover, murine TRIM69, which is inactive

307 against VSIV, was reported to inhibit DENV-2 (32), suggesting species variants of 308 TRIM69 might have divergent antiviral specificities. We thus compared the ability of 309 TRIM69 to inhibit DENV-2 and VSIV in the same experiment. Because Vero cells 310 are susceptible and permissive to both DENV-2 and VSIV, we selected these cells as 311 the background for our experiments. We generated Vero cells that stably expressed 312 human, rat or mouse TRIM69 and infected these cells with a titrated challenge of 313 DENV-2 or VSIV-GFP. We used the New Guinea C strain of DENV-2 as this strain 314 was previously reported to be inhibited by TRIM69 (32). Unexpectedly, DENV-2 315 produced in mammalian or insect cells was not inhibited by TRIM69 under these 316 conditions (Figure 7 AD). In contrast, VSIV was potently inhibited by human and rat 317 TRIM69 (Figure 7 EF) in parallel experiments.

318 Because the previously published work had not specifically investigated 319 exogenous TRIM69 expression in Vero cells, we examined whether TRIM69 320 expression in HEK 293T cells would induce the degradation of transfected NS3 but 321 not NS3 K104R (recapitulating published observations) (32). Surprisingly, TRIM69 322 had no effect on NS3 expression levels (Figure 7G). In contrast, VSIV was potently 323 blocked in parallel experiments using the equivalent cells (Figure 7H). We conclude 324 that DENV-2 is not always inhibited by TRIM69, even under conditions where 325 TRIM69 exhibits substantial antiviral activity against VSIV.

326

327 The anti-VSIV activity of TRIM69 is not dependent upon IFN-signalling or E3 328 ubiguitin ligase activity. TRIM69 has a RING domain predicted to have E3 329 ubiquitin ligase activity. Moreover, proteasomal degradation has previously been 330 reported to be involved in the TRIM69-mediated inhibition of DENV-2 (32). In 331 addition, TRIM69 isoform B (which lacks a RING domain) possess no anti-VSIV 332 activity (Figure 3C). We therefore considered whether inhibiting proteasomal 333 degradation might affect TRIM69 antiviral activity. As a less toxic alternative to 334 MG132, we used bortezomib (Bort), an inhibitor of the 26S proteasome, which is also

335 licensed for clinical use (44, 45). In order to validate the efficacy of inhibition, we 336 transduced cells with a lentiviral vector encoding ubiquitin fused to GFP. This fusion 337 protein is rapidly degraded and GFP expression is not visible under normal culture 338 conditions (Figure 8AB). However, when the 26S proteasome was inhibited by 339 bortezomib treatment, abundant GFP expression was visible, suggesting 340 proteasomal inhibition was efficient in our culture system. In parallel experiments, we 341 considered the ability of proteasome inhibition to influence TRIM69-mediated 342 restriction of VSIV. When normalised to infection in the absence of TRIM69, 343 proteasomal inhibition appeared to partially rescue the restriction of VSIV (Figure 344 8C). However, bortezomib treatment caused noticeable toxicity in these 345 experiments, consistent with bortezomib's pro-apoptotic and anti tumor cell growth 346 properties (45). Visual inspection of the titration curves indicated that the majority of 347 the rescue was due to reduced VSIV infection in control cells (in the presence of 348 bortezomib), as opposed to proteasomal inhibition actually enhancing infection in the 349 presence of TRIM69 (Figure 8D). Importantly, TRIM69 potently restricted VSIV (>50-350 fold), in the presence of efficient proteasome inhibition, indicating that proteasomal 351 degradation is not necessary for effective TRIM69-mediated restriction.

352 Many TRIM proteins are involved in antiviral signalling and appear to have 353 antiviral activity because their exogenous expression promotes or potentiates a 354 polygenic antiviral state (29, 30). Although the observation that most viruses escape 355 inhibition by TRIM69 suggests that a polygenic response is not involved, we 356 investigated whether TRIM69 could inhibit VSIV in the absence of JAK-STAT 357 signalling. We therefore used the janus kinase inhibitor ruxolitinib to block interferon signalling in TRIM69 expressing cells (46). We then examined the ability of TRIM69 358 359 to block VSIV infection in the absence of IFN-signalling. As with bortezomib, some 360 toxicity was observed and ruxolitinib slightly reduced the level of infection in the 361 absence of TRIM69 (Figure 8E,F). Thus, the majority of the apparent ~7-fold rescue 362 (Figure 8F) was caused by reduced infection in the absence of TRIM69 (as opposed

363 to ruxolitinib solely enhancing infection in the presence of TRIM69). However, in 364 contrast to bortezomib, ruxolitinib did modestly increase the amount of VSIV infection 365 in the presence of TRIM69 (increasing the titer ~2.5-fold) (Figure 8E). Importantly, 366 the ruxolitinib treatment effectively blocked IFN-signalling and no phosphorylated 367 STAT1 was detectable following IFN-treatment in the presence of ruxolitinib (Figure 368 8G). Notably. TRIM69 expression alone was insufficient to trigger the 369 phosphorylation of STAT1 (Figure 8G) and TRIM69 potently blocked VSIV (>20-fold) 370 in the presence of ruxolitinib. Thus, IFN-signalling is not necessary for TRIM69 to 371 inhibit VSIV (although JAK-STAT signalling might modestly enhance this inhibition).

372

373 **DISCUSSION**

374 Although vesiculoviruses can be particularly sensitive to IFN-induced 375 inhibition, the specific ISGs that mediate the anti-VSIV activity of IFNs (and how this 376 inhibition is achieved) have not yet been fully defined. Here we show that one ISG, 377 TRIM69, can potently and specifically inhibit VSIV. Moreover, the high degree of 378 specificity of this inhibition overwhelmingly suggests that this inhibition is direct. 379 TRIM69 blocked VSIV whereas other vesiculoviruses (and more divergent RNA 380 viruses) were entirely resistant. Furthermore, the inhibition of VSIV appeared to be 381 remarkably specific, as a single substitution conferred complete resistance to 382 TRIM69. Thus, although we cannot exclude the possibility that TRIM69 expression 383 elicits some kind of antiviral signalling, such a signalling event would have to be 384 independent of proteasomal degradation and JAK-STAT signalling, and also result in 385 an outcome that specifically targeted VSIV. Therefore, the more parsimonious 386 explanation is that TRIM69, or a complex containing TRIM69, directly targets VSIV (and interferes with the virus lifecycle). This potentially adds TRIM69 to an 387 388 expanding list of directly antiviral TRIM proteins that includes the classical restriction 389 factors TRIM5 (34) and PML (47). Nonetheless, inhibition of IFN signalling modestly 390 rescued VSIV infection and TRIM69 KO slightly reduced the IFN-induced inhibition of

HIV-1. Thus, it is possible that TRIM69 might also play a signalling role, analogous
to the signalling capacity of established directly-antiviral factors such as TRIM5,
TRIM21 and tetherin (48-50).

394 The most surprizing aspect of the highly specific anti-VSIV activity of TRIM69 395 was that DENV-2, previously reported to be inhibited by TRIM69 (32), was not 396 inhibited in our experiments. Importantly, this lack of TRIM69-sensitivity was 397 observed whilst parallel cultures (of the equivalent cells) fiercely resisted VSIV 398 infection. There are many possible explanations for these apparently contradictory 399 observations. The most likely explanation is that due to the highly specific nature of 400 TRIM69-mediated inhibition, some aspect of the virus strain, cellular background or 401 method used has led to DENV-2 appearing insensitive to inhibition (in our 402 experiments). We were careful to use the same strain as used previously 403 (specifically the New Guinea C strain, which we obtained from Public Health 404 England). We confirmed the presence of the 'TRIM69-sensitive' lysine (at position 405 104 of NS3) in our virus stocks and more work will be required to understand why we 406 did not observe DENV-2 inhibition in the face of antiviral TRIM69. Importantly, with 407 both VSIV and DENV-2, a single amino acid substitution conferred resistance to 408 TRIM69. Thus, seemingly minor differences in viral strains could easily reconcile 409 these apparently contradictory observations.

410 Although we do not know how TRIM69 impedes VSIV, the block must occur 411 relatively early in the viral lifecycle. TRIM69 is able to block VSIV prior to the 412 expression of GFP, which in the case of the rVSV∆G-GFP system is encoded in 413 place of the VSV-G protein. Thus, the TRIM69-mediated block must occur at a step 414 prior to translation of VSV-G subgenomic RNA. In the absence of direct evidence, 415 the D70Y mutation in the VSIV phosphoprotein does provide some potential 416 mechanistic clues. Importantly, D70 is present in a region of VSV-P that is heavily 417 phosphorylated (phosphorylation of residues 60, 62 and 64 has been described) (51). 418 Phosphorylation of these sites has been proposed to be important in P-protein

419 dimerization and interaction with the L-protein (large polymerase protein) (52-56) and 420 phosphorylation of this region is essential for functional RNA dependent RNA 421 polymerase activity (57). Because tyrosine residues are known to be phosphorylated 422 in the VSV-P protein (58), it is therefore tempting to speculate that a tyrosine at 423 position 70 could be phosphorylated, and that this phosphorylation somehow 424 overcomes the block mediated by TRIM69. A speculative mechanism that involves 425 TRIM69-mediated inhibition of VSIV RNA dependent RNA polymerase activity (by 426 inhibiting the association of P and L-proteins) would be entirely consistent with the 427 early block described herein.

428 The N-terminal region of vesiculoviral P-proteins are relatively divergent, 429 providing a possible explanation for the observed insensitivity of VSNJV and CHNV 430 Thus, examining the more closely related Morreton virus (MORV), to TRIM69. 431 Vesicular Stomatitis Alagoas Virus (VSAV), Cocal virus (COCV) or Maraba viruses 432 (MARV) might identify more viruses which are sensitive to TRIM69, and potentially 433 identify further evidence of species specificity. Notably, after analysing 49 VSIV 434 sequences (deposited in GenBank), we did not observe a tyrosine at position 70 of 435 VSIV-P in any VSIV sequences. This suggests that if TRIM69 substantially inhibits 436 VSIV in vivo, the D70Y mutation must be deleterious for some other reason and is 437 therefore negatively selected (despite conferring resistance to TRIM69).

438 Our failure to identify any viruses other than VSIV that were inhibited by 439 TRIM69, limited our ability to identify whether species variants of TRIM69 possess 440 divergent antiviral specificities. Despite this, differential activity was observed as 441 anti-VSIV activity has apparently been lost in the Mus genus. Whether murine TRIM69s have been selected to target other viruses or whether murine orthologs 442 443 have no antiviral activity at all remains to be determined. Thus, murine TRIM69 444 might be an active antiviral factor selected to target a divergent spectrum of viruses, 445 in a way that prevents it from inhibiting VSIV. The rat and mouse TRIM69 variants 446 were the closest orthologs we tested, that displayed differential activity against VSIV,

447 and these species variants differ at 38 amino acid positions. Despite detecting site-448 specific signatures of positive selection in TRIM69, all of the signature sites are 449 conserved between rats and mice. Thus, the genetic basis of the differential anti-450 VSIV activity observed in rodent TRIM69 variants is currently unknown.

451 The lack of anti-VSIV activity conferred by murine TRIM69 could have 452 important implications for our understanding of how the IFN response constrains 453 VSIV. Many key experiments have been conducted in mice (15, 16) and it will be 454 important to establish, in future, whether non-murine variants of TRIM69 possess anti-VSIV activity in vivo, potentially limiting the ability of VSIV to invade and colonise 455 456 certain tissues. It is possible that the potent inhibition of VSIV observed in vitro will 457 be recapitulated in vivo. In this way, IFN-induced TRIM69 might inhibit natural VSIV 458 infections and similarly influence the safety and/or efficacy of therapeutic interventions (based upon VSIV). Thus, an improved understanding of how TRIM69 459 460 inhibits VSIV may help us to better understand VSIV pathogenesis and eventually 461 lead to tangible benefits in the clinical use of VSIV derivatives.

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463

464 MATERIALS AND METHODS

465 Cells and viruses. Adherent HEK 293T, BHK21, BSRT7/5 cells (modified to stably 466 express T7 RNA polymerase (59)), NIH 3T3 and Vero cells were propagated from lab 467 stocks maintained in DMEM supplemented with 9% fetal calf serum (FCS) and 20 468 µg/ml gentamicin. CADO-ES1 semi-adherent cells were purchased from the DSMZ 469 (ACC 255) and suspension MT4 cells were expanded from lab stocks and 470 maintained in RPMI supplemented with 9% FCS and 20 µg/ml gentamicin. C6/36 471 cells (Aedes albopictus) were propagated from existing lab stocks and maintained in 472 L-15 (Leibovitz) media with GlutaMAX, 10% Fetal bovine serum, 10% tryptose 473 phosphate broth and 1% penstrep. Transduced cells were selected and cultured in

474 medium additionally supplemented with 2 μg/ml puromycin (Melford laboratories) or
475 200 μg/ml of hygromycin B (Invitrogen).

476 The VSIV-GFP virus (rVSV Δ G-GFP) competent to undergo a single round of 477 infection but not encoding the VSV-G envelope (rVSV-ΔG-GFP decorated with VSV-478 G expressed in trans) system was used (27). Virus stocks were generated as 479 described previously (40). Briefly, HEK 293T cells were transfected with a VSV-G 480 expression plasmid. The next day, the cells were infected with rVSV- Δ G-GFP using 481 an MOI of 1. Progeny VLP stocks were harvested at 24 h postinfection and clarified 482 using a 0.45 µm filter. The replication competent FL-VSIV-GFP, VSIV and VSNJV viruses were a generous gift from Megan Stanifer (Heidelberg University). Virus 483 484 stocks were generated through infection of BHK21 cells using a low MOI. Once CPE 485 was readily apparent, supernatants were harvested and clarified using a 0.45 µm 486 filter.

487 The D70Y mutant (VSV-P) was made using the Agilent QuikChange Lightning 488 Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, 489 using the parental FL-rVSV-GFP plasmid as template (pVSV1(+)-GFP) (42) and the 490 following oligonucleotides, 5'- GCT TCC GGA TCT GGT ACA TAC AAG CCT TGA 491 TTG TAT TCA ATT TCT GGT TCA GAT TCT GT-3' and 5'-TGA TTC TGA CAC AGA 492 ATC TGA ACC AGA AAT TGA ATA CAA TCA AGG CTT GTA TGT ACC AG-3'. The 493 entire coding region was subsequently sequence verified to confirm the sole 494 presence of the D70Y (VSV-P) mutation. To rescue the parental and mutant virus, 495 BSR-T7 cells were seeded and infected with FP-T7 virus (equivalent to MOI ~2 496 determined using DF-1 cells) (60). After a 1 h incubation, the FL-VSIV-GFP rescue 497 plasmid (pVSV1(+)-GFP) or mutant D70Y (pVSV1(+)-GFP P-D70Y), were 498 cotransfected together with pBS-N, pBS-P and pBS-L (KeraFAST) using FuGENE6 499 (Promega) with 1.66 µg, 0.83 µg, 0.50 µg and 0.33 µg respectively. After 48 h, GFP 500 positive cells and CPE were observed in the transfected BSR-T7 cells. Supernatant 501 containing VSIV was harvested and clarified using a 0.45-µM filter and stored at -

502 80°C. VSIV was propagated in BHK-21 cells in T-25 flasks. Cells were infected with a 503 low MOI of VSV harvested from BSR-T7 cells. At 48 h postinfection, (or when the 504 majority of cells were GFP positive), supernatant was harvested and clarified using a 505 0.45-μM filter.

506 DENV2 was obtained from Public Health England (catalogue number 507 0006041v). The NS3 of the DENV2 stocks (propagated in Vero cells) used herein 508 was directly sequenced. Briefly, RNA was extracted from infected cells using the 509 same approaches described below for passaged FL-VSIV-GFP and the NS3 region 510 was amplified using the following primers 5'-CGA AGA GGA AGA ACA AAT ACT 511 GAC C-3', 5'-GAT TGT ACG CCC TTC CAC CTG CTT C-3' and PCR products 512 sequenced using these primers and an additional primer (5'-GTG GAG CAT ATG 513 TGA GTG CTA TAG C-3'). The NS3 sequence differed by one amino acid, a 514 threonine at position 442, from GenBank: AAC59275 (strain New Guinea C).

515 The replication competent proviral clone NHG (JQ585717) and Δenv 516 derivatives have been described previously (5, 61). Virus stocks were generated 517 through transient transfection of HEK 293T cells in isolation (NHG) or in conjunction 518 with a VSV-G expression plasmid (NHG Δenv). The single round RVFV system has 519 also been described previously (62). Briefly, BHK-Rep cells were transiently 520 transfected with pCAGGs-M. The cells were washed the following day and 521 supernatant was harvested 48 h posttransfection and clarified using a 0.45-µM filter.

522 An NS1-eGFP expressing A/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1) virus was designed 523 based on the previously described 'Color-Flu' system (63). A DNA sequence was 524 synthesized (Genewiz) with flanking BsmBI sites corresponding to the NS segment of 525 PR8 (GenBank accession EF467817.1) in which the NS1 ORF had been altered to 526 code for a C-terminally eGFP-tagged NS1 protein with a CSGG linker. This was 527 immediately followed in-frame by a CSG linker, the 2A protease of Porcine 528 Teschovirus (PTV), and the NEP ORF. A splice acceptor site in the NS1 ORF was 529 removed by introducing a527c and a530g (numbering in accordance with

530 EF467817.1). The sequence was sub-cloned into the pHW2000 reverse genetics 531 plasmid. The PR8-NS1-eGFP virus was rescued using a well-established reverse 532 genetics system previously described (64) a generous gift from Ron Fouchier.

533

534 Retroviral vectors and plasmids. The SCRPSY (KT368137.1) and doxycycline-535 inducible (LKOΔ-MycTagRFP-IP) lentiviral vectors have been previously described 536 (5, 41). The retroviral vector LHSXN (a gift from T. Zang and P. Bieniasz) is a 537 derivative of LHCX (Clontech) modified to contain the following MCS 5'-AAG CTT 538 GGC CGA GAG GGC CGA AAA CGT TCG CGG CCG CGG CCT CTC TGG CCG 539 TTA AC-3' between the HindIII and Hpal sites (highlighted in italics) of LHCX. All 540 human and species variants of TRIM69 were synthesized by Genewiz, based on 541 NCBI sequences of the longest isoform, unless otherwise noted, from: human 542 (human isoform A: NM_182985.4, isoform B: NM_080745.4, isoform C: 543 NM_001301144.1, isoform D: NM_001301145.1, isoform E: NM_001301146.1), macaque (M. mulatta: XM_015142131.1), rat (R. norvegicus: BC091171 (ordered 544 545 from Source Bioscience IRBPp993F0532D (IMAGE ID: 7132390))), mice (M. 546 musculus: ordered from Source Bioscience IRAWp5000E114D (IMAGE ID: 547 6774293)), M. caroli: XM_021183811.1 and M. pahari: XM_021193471.1), cow (B. 548 indicus: XM 019967990.1 (edited to change an ambiguity base at position 547 to a C 549 to match the sequence of *B. taurus* XM_015473308)), alpaca (V. pacos: 550 XM_015237089.1 (edited to remove 55 amino acids from the start of the sequence 551 and replaced with ATGGAG (ME) that is found in all other TRIM69 species variants)), 552 pig (S. scrofa: Ensembl ID: ENSSSCT00000005168 (edited to remove a 5' K and 553 replaced with ATGGAG [ME])), dog (C. lupus: XM_535459.6), ferret (M. furo: 554 XM_004751292.2), horse (*E. caballus*: XM_014733851), and lizard (*A. carolinensis*: 555 XM_008120705.1) sequences and cloned (using directional Sfil sites) into 556 pSCRPSY, pLKOΔ-Myc-IP or pLHSXN as indicated in the text, figure or figure 557 legend. Human allelic variants were cloned using overlap extension PCR and the

following oligos: allele 1 5'- CTC TCT GGC CGA GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC 558 559 CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC CAA CAT CGA TCC AGG CAA CTA TGT TGA AAT GAA 560 TGA TTC AAT C-3', 3'-TGA CCC TGT TGG ATG GCA AGC TCC TCC ATG AAG AAA TGG ACA GCA TCA GAG ATT TGC AG-5', 5'-GCA AAT CTC TGA TGC TGT 561 562 CCA TTT CTT CAT GGA GGA GCT TGC CAT CCA ACA GGG TCA AC-3', and 3'-TCT CTC GGC CAG AGA GGC CTT ACT GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'; 563 564 allele 2 5'- CTC TCT GGC CGA GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC-3', 3'-TGA CCC TGT TGG ATG GCA AGC TCC TCC ATG AAG AAA TGG 565 ACA GCA TCA GAG ATT TGC AG-5', 5'-GCA AAT CTC TGA TGC TGT CCA TTT 566 CTT CAT GGA GGA GCT TGC CAT CCA ACA GGG TCA AC-3', and 3'- TCT CTC 567 GGC CAG AGA GGC CTT ACT GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'; allele 4 568 569 5'-CTC TCT GGC CGA GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC-3', 3'-CAG ATG TAG CTT GTT TTC CTT GTG AGC AAC AAT AGC TTC CTT CTG 570 571 CAT GTT CCT CAG GG-5', 5'- CCT GAG GAA CAT GCA GAA GGA AGC TAT TGT 572 TGC TCA CAA GGA AAA CAA GCT ACA TCT GC-3', and 3'- TCT CTC GGC CAG 573 AGA GGC CTT ACT GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'; allele 5 5'- CTC TCT 574 GGC CGA GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC-3', 3'-GTG 575 GAT GGC CCT TGA GTA AGG GTA ACT TCC TAA TCT TCT CTA CCA ACT TGT 576 CCA GTA CAG-5' 5'-GTA CTG GAC AAG TTG GTA GAG AAG ATT AGG AAG TTA 577 CCC TTA CTC AAG GGC CAT CCA CAG-3', and 3'-TCT CTC GGC CAG AGA GGC 578 CTT ACT GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'; allele 6 5'-CTC TCT GGC CGA 579 GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC CAA CAT CAA TCC 580 AGG CGA CTA TGT TGA AAT GAA TG-3', and 3'-TCT CTC GGC CAG AGA GGC CTT ACT GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'; allele 7 5'-CTC TCT GGC CGA 581 582 GAG GGC CAT GGA GGT ATC CAC CAA CCC CTC CTC-3', 3'-GAG ACA TTG CTC CTG AAG CTG GCT CAG TTT CAA CTC CAT CTC CTC ATT CAA GGC TTT 583 C-5', 5'-GCC TTG AAT GAG GAG ATG GAG TTG AAA CTG AGC CAG CTT CAG 584 585 GAG CAA TGT CTC TTA GC-3', and 3'-TCT CTC GGC CAG AGA GGC CTT ACT 586 GTG GAT GTA AGA TGT GCA ATG G-5'. Allele 4 was used as a template for Allele 587 5 PCRs and allele 5 was used as a template for allele 7. The N-terminal fusion of a 588 mutated uncleavable ubiquitin moiety fused to GFP (Ub- G76V GFP) has been 589 described previously (PMID: 10802622). Plasmid DNA containing Ub- G76V GFP, a gift 590 from A. Fletcher (pcDNA3.1(+).Ub- G76V GFP), was digested with *Bam*HI and *Not*I and 591 inserted into the similarly digested lentiviral vector pCSGWΔ*Not*I (65) (a gift from G. 592 Towers and A. Thrasher).

593 Gene editing was achieved using the lentiGuide-Puro system (66) in 594 accordance with the ZhangLab protocols. The following oligos were used to make 595 TRIM69 guides: 5'-CAC CGC AAC CCT GTA CTG GAC AAG T-3', 5'-AAA CAC TTG 596 TCC AGT ACA GGG TTG C-3' (guide 1) and 5'-CAC CgA AGA AGT TAC CCT TAC 597 TCA A-3' and 5'-AAA CTT GAG TAA GGG TAA CTT CTT C-3'. Diploid CADOES1 598 cells were either transduced with vectors encoding Cas9 and the relevant TRIM69-599 targeting sgRNAs or transduced in parallel with vectors encoding Cas9 and no 600 sqRNA (No guide). Single cell clones were generated using limiting dilution and the 601 KO was confirmed by extracting genomic (DNeasy, Qiagen), followed by PCR 602 amplification of the guide target regions in exon 2 using the following oligos 5'-CAC 603 TTT CAA AGG AGA GAT TAT GTG C-3' and 5'-GAG CAG TCT GGG CTT TCT AAT 604 CAT C-3'. The PCR products were cloned into pGEM-T-Easy (Promega) and 605 multiple clones were Sanger-sequenced.

606 Viral vectors were produced using transient transfection of HEK 293T cells (5
607 μg of vector/genome plasmid, 5 μg of the relevant GagPol expression vector and 1
608 μg of a VSV-G expression plasmid). Vector-containing supernatants were filtered
609 (using a 0.45 μm filter) and were used to transduce the relevant cell types.

To make the NS3 expression plasmids, the NS3 coding sequence from DENV-2 New Guinea C strain (nucleotides 6376 – 6756 of GenBank accession KM204118.1), was synthesized (Genewiz), with a 5' ATG, flanked by 5' *Hind*III and 3'

*Xba*l sites and subcloned into pcDNA 3.1 (+). The K104R mutation (AAA -> AGA) was introduced using Agilent's QuikChange Lightning Mutagenesis kit and the following primers: 5'- GAC GGC TCT TGG ATT TCT TCC AGG CTC CAA TGC-3' and 5'-GCA TTG GAG CCT GGA AGA AAT CCA AGA GCC GTC-3'.

617

Arrayed ISG expression screening. The ISG screens were executed as described previously (5, 26). Briefly, MT4 cells were seeded in 96-well plates and transduced with ISG-encoding SCRPSY vectors (one ISG per well). 48 h posttransduction, cells were infected with VSIV-GFP. Following incubation overnight, cells were fixed and analyzed using flow cytometry.

623

624 Western blotting. For preparation of cell lysates, cell pellets were resuspended in 625 SDS sample buffer (12.5% glycerol, 175 mM Tris-HCI [pH 8.5], 2.5% SDS, 70 mM 2-626 mercaptoethanol, 0.5% bromophenol blue). Proteins were subsequently separated 627 on NuPage 4 to 12% Bis-Tris polyacrylamide gels and transferred onto nitrocellulose 628 membranes. Blots were probed with either anti-actin (JLA20 hybridoma, courtesy of 629 the Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, University of Iowa), one of two anti-630 TRIM69 antibodies (Abcam cat: ab111943 or Thermo Fisher cat: PA5-12215), anti-631 DENV2 NS3 (Thermo Fisher cat: PA5-32199), anti-phospho-STAT1 (Tyr701) (58D6), 632 or anti-c-myc (9E10 hybridoma, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, University 633 of Iowa). Thereafter, membranes were probed with DyLight labeled goat secondary 634 antibodies (Thermo) and scanned using a LiCor Odyssey scanner.

635

636 Virus infections and titrations.

For assays using GFP-encoding viruses, cells were seeded in 96 well plates.
Adherent and semi-adherent cells were seeded 24 hours before challenge or
treatment whereas suspension cells were seeded immediately prior to infection or
treatment. In experiments using doxycycline inducible TRIM69 expression, cells

641 were treated with 125 ng/ml of doxycycline hyclate (Sigma) 24 h before infection. 642 Where stated, cells were treated with 2 µM ruxolitinib (INCB018424, Stratech, 643 S1378-SEL) or 50 nM bortezomib (Cell Signaling Technology #2204) or 1000 units of IFNB (pbl Assay Science, cat: 11420-1) immediately before infection (or in the 644 645 case of IFN β , 24 hours before infection, or 4 hours treatment for the data in Figure 646 7). Cells were then infected with titrated challenges of the indicated virus and 647 incubated overnight (~16 h) or for 48 h (HIV-1 and RVFV) prior to fixation using 4% 648 formaldehyde and enumeration of infected GFP-positive cells using flow cytometry.

649 For quantification of focus forming units (FFUs), Vero cells were seeded in 650 96-well plates. The following day, cells were pretreated with IFNB (24h at 1000U/ml) 651 prior to infection with FL-VSIVGFP or DENV-2 propagated in Vero cells (Mammalian) 652 or C6/36 cells (Insect). Cells were infected with titrated DENV-2 in DMEM (2% FCS) 653 for one hour prior to overlay with DMEM (5% FCS, 0.8% carboxymethylcellulose). 48 654 h later, cells were fixed (methanol) and permeabilized (0.1 % Triton X-100, Fisher). 655 FFUs were visualized using MAB8705 Anti-dengue Virus Complex Antibody clone 656 D3-2H2-9-21 (Millipore) and goat anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 488 (A-11001, Thermo 657 Fisher) as described previously (67). As a control, serially diluted FL-VSIV-GFP was 658 examined in parallel and fixed in 4% formaldehyde following overnight incubation 659 (~16 h). The number of fluorescent foci of immunostained DENV-2 and VSIV infected 660 cells was enumerated using a Celigo imaging cytometer (Nexcelom, Bioscience).

For TCID50 assays, MT4 cells were seeded in 96-well plates and treated with 125 ng/ml of doxycycline hyclate (Sigma) 24 h prior to infection. The cells were infected with 8 replicates of 3-fold serially diluted full-length VSNJV or VSIV. After 72 hpi, CPE was analysed and the TCID50 was calculated using the Spearman & Kärber algorithm using a modified TCID50 calculator from Marco Binder.

666

667 **DENV-2 NS3 transfections**. HEK 293T cells were transduced with either SCRPSY-668 EMPTY or SCRPSY-TRIM69 and seeded in 6-well plates before transfection with 2

669 μg of pcDNA (either EMPTY, wild type DENV2 NS3, or DENV2 NS3 K104R mutant).

At 48h post transfection, cells were lysed in 500 µl of SDS sample buffer. In parallel,
293T cells transduced with SCRPSY-EMPTY and SCRPSY-TRIM69 were
challenged with serially diluted VSV-GFP to demonstrate TRIM69 activity.

673

674 VSIV in vitro evolution, RNA extraction, PCR and sequencing. MT4 cells 675 expressing TRIM69 were seeded and induced with doxycycline (200 ng/ml) 24 h prior 676 to challenge with FL-VSIV-GFP at low MOI (<1% infection following 16 h incubation). The level of infection based on percentage of GFP positive cells was monitored daily. 677 Once the culture was overwhelmed, supernatant was filtered (0.45 µm) and used to 678 679 infect a second culture. Following passage 2, CPE was observed 24 h postinfection 680 (in the presence of TRIM69). The supernatant of the passaged virus was filtered 681 (0.45 µm) and stored. Cell pellets were resuspended in TRIzol (Invitrogen) and viral 682 RNA was isolated from infected cells using a hybrid TRIzol and RNeasy extraction 683 (Qiagen) protocol. Viral cDNA was reverse transcribed (SuperScript III) using 684 random hexamer primers. All VSIV coding regions were PCR-amplified and the PCR 685 products were directly sequenced using Sanger sequencing (Eurofins Genomics).

686

687 TRIM69 sequences collection and alignment. TRIM69 sequences were obtained 688 from publicly available databases such as ENSEMBL and GenBank using TBLASTN 689 (68). Supplementary table (SequenceTable.xls) lists all the accession numbers and 690 species used. The protein sequences were aligned using MAFFT (69) and a codon 691 alignment generated based on the protein alignment using PAL2NAL (70). The 692 alignment was screened for recombination in HyPhy (71) using single breakpoint 693 recombination (SBP) and Genetic Algorithm for Recombination Detection (GARD) 694 (72).

695

696 **Phylogenetics and positive selection analyses**. The best substitution model was 697 selected using BIC in jModeltest (73) and the maximum likelihood phylogeny was 698 reconstructed with the latter model in PhyML with 1000 bootstrap replicates (74). The 699 primate lineage of the gene tree, which is more extensively sampled for species, was 690 used in CODEML (38) to detect sites under positive selection.

701

702 FIGURE LEGENDS

703

704 Figure 1. Arrayed ISG expression screening reveals the potent anti-VSIV 705 activity of TRIM69. (A) a schematic of the ISG libraries used herein. (B) a schematic 706 of the SCRPSY lentiviral vector (KT368137.1) used to deliver ISGs in C and D (one 707 ISG per well of a 96-well plate). (C) A schematic of the ISG screening pipeline used 708 in D. (D) Normalised infection (median centred) of cells expressing different ISGs 709 (each dot represents the observed infection in the presence of a single ISG). The 710 screen was executed once. (E) MT4 cells (modified to express doxycycline inducible 711 TRIM69) were incubated with and without doxycycline for 24 h and then challenged 712 with serially diluted GFP-encoding variants of VSIV for 16 h, IAV (influenza A virus) 713 for 16 h, RVFV (Rift Valley Fever phlebovirus) for 48 h and HIV-1 (Human 714 Immunodeficiency Virus) for 48 h prior to fixation and enumeration of GFP positive 715 cells using flow cytometry, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions 716 and typical results are shown. Mean values of experimental replicates are plotted 717 and error bars represent standard deviation. (F) The same cells as in E were infected 718 with unmodified (WT) VSIV (and infectivity/replication was guantified using TCID50) 719 The mean and standard deviation are plotted.

720

Figure 2. IFN stimulated Endogenous TRIM69 has potent anti-VSIV activity. (A)
 TRIM69 expression in primary human fibroblasts following 4 h in the presence or
 absence of 1000 units/ml of universal IFN. The transcriptomes were defined using

RNAseq (1) and the meta-analyzed TRIM69 expression is plotted. (B) VSIV-GFP inhibition was measured in CADOES1 cells where TRIM69 expression was knocked out using CRISPR CAS9 or in transduced 'no guide' controls. Titrated challenges were used to determine the titre and calculate the fold-inhibition16 h after infection. Fold-inhibition was calculated from 3 independent experiments, each experiment is represented by the circles and the mean and standard deviation is plotted. (C) As in B using a single cycle HIV-1 reporter system (CSGW) (65).

731

732 Figure 3. The anti-VSIV activity of TRIM69 appears limited to isoform A. (A) MT4 cells were modified to express myc-TagRFP in a doxycycline inducible fashion. 733 734 A cartoon of TagRFP is depicted above typical titration curves of VSIV-GFP, the 735 VSIV-GFP titres (16 h postinfection) and western blot (WB) analysis of Myc-TagRFP 736 expression (24 h postinduction) in the presence and absence of doxycycline 737 treatment. (B) MT4 cells were modified to express myc-TRIM69 isoform A in a 738 doxycycline inducible fashion. A cartoon of TRIM69 isoform A is depicted above 739 typical titration curves of VSIV-GFP alongside the VSIV-GFP titres of inducible 740 TRIM69 isoform A expression in the presence and absence of doxycycline treatment. 741 (C-F) As in B for (C) isoform B, (D) isoform C, (E) isoform D, and (F) isoform E. (G) 742 WB analysis of TRIM69 expression in panels C-F. (H) Cells from panel B were 743 modified to constitutively express TRIM69 isoform A, isoform B or TagRFP (by LHCX 744 transduction). The titre of VSIV-GFP was determined in the presence and absence 745 of doxycline inducible Myc-TRIM69 isoform A. (I) WB analysis of the cells in H. In all 746 cases, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and typical results are 747 shown. Mean titers and standard deviation are plotted based on at least 3 doses (in 748 the linear range).

749

Figure 4. Multiple TRIM69 alleles circulate in human populations. (A) The amino
acid substitutions of the most common TRIM69 alleles. (B) The allelic frequency of

752 the major alleles by geographic region. (C) MT4 cells were modified to express the 7 753 most common TRIM69 alleles in a doxycycline inducible fashion. WB analysis of 754 myc-TRIM69 expression in cells with and without 24 h of doxycycline treatment. (D) 755 The redrawn phylogeny of common vesiculoviruses (75) is shown (asterisks 756 represent bootstrap proportion higher than 85%). The cells from C were used to 757 examine the ability of divergent TRIM69 alleles to inhibit VSIV-GFP (E), VSNJV (F) 758 and CHNV-GFP (G). Virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and 759 typical results are shown. Mean titers and standard deviation are plotted based on at 760 least 3 doses (in the linear range).

761

762 Figure 5. TRIM69 exhibits signatures of positive selection and anti-VSIV activity 763 has been lost in the Mus lineage. (A) The diagram (above) illustrates the 764 conserved domains of TRIM69 based on CDD v3.16 from NCBI. The bar chart 765 (below) represents the dN/dS values of the sites with positive selection. The 6 sites 766 with statistically significant positive selection (PAML M8, BEB, P > 0.9) are shown in 767 red. The phylogenetic relationship between the 18 sequences spanning the 768 hominoids is shown on the left with the regions of the alignment with statistically 769 significant positive sites shown numbered on the right. (B) The results of the Chi-770 squared test comparing the PAML models is shown in the table along with the 771 proportion of sites under positive selection and the average dN/dS for those sites. (C) 772 MT4 cells were modified to express myc-TRIM69 orthologs from multiple species in a 773 doxycycline inducible fashion. WB analysis of TRIM69 expression in cells with and 774 without 24 h of doxycycline treatment is shown beneath the titres of VSIV-GFP (16 h 775 postinfection) in the presence and absence of doxycycline treatment. (D) As in C, examining TRIM69 from rat and divergent mice. (E) NIH3T3 cells were modified to 776 777 stably express human and mouse TRIM69 (LHCX) before being infected with serially 778 diluted VSIV-GFP. (F) WB analysis of TRIM69 expression in the cells from E. The 779 cells from C were used to determine the titers of (G) VSNJV and (H) CHNV-GFP. In

all cases, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and typical results
are shown. Mean and standard deviation are plotted and titres are based on at least
3 doses (in the linear range).

783

784 Figure 6. The VSIV phosphoprotein is a genetic susceptibility/resistance 785 determinant of TRIM69 anti-VSIV activity. Serially diluted infection of MT4 cells 786 modified to express doxycycline inducible human TRIM69 with (A) parental FL-VSIV-787 GFP or (B) FL-VSIV-GFP passaged twice in the presence of human TRIM69 is 788 shown. (B) The passaged and parental swarms were sequenced and the listed 789 changes were selected to near uniformity in the passaged population. (C) 790 Sequencing chromatograms of directly-sequenced PCR products amplified from the 791 reverse transcribed viral swarms are shown. (D) Titrated infection of the cells in A 792 with the parental virus and the D70Y (P) mutant FL-VSIV-GFP both rescued in 793 parallel. In all cases, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and 794 typical results are shown. Mean and standard deviation are plotted.

795

796 Figure 7. TRIM69-mediated inhibition of DENV-2 was not detected under 797 conditions that restrict VSIV. Vero cells were modified to stably express human, rat 798 and mouse TRIM69 or were transduced with the corresponding empty vector 799 (SCRPSY). (A and B) Cells were challenged with DENV-2 propagated in Vero cells 800 (Mammalian DENV-2) or (C and D) with DENV-2 produced from Aedes albopictus 801 C6/36 cells (Insect DENV-2). 48 h after infection, cells were fixed and stained for 802 DENV-2 infection and infected foci were imaged and enumerated using a Celigo 803 imaging cytometer. (E and F) As in A-D, Vero cells were infected with FL-VSIV-GFP, 804 fixed and analysed 16 h after infection as in A-D. (G) HEK 293T cells were modified 805 to stably express human TRIM69 or were transduced with the corresponding empty 806 vector (SCRPSY). Empty (-) and TRIM69-expressing (+) cells were transfected with 807 DENV-2 NS3 expression plasmids and NS3 expression was analysed 48 h later

using WB. (H) In parallel with the experiment in G, functional TRIM69 expression in
equivalent HEK29T cells was assessed by titrated infection with VSIV-GFP. In all
cases, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and typical results are
shown. Mean and standard deviation are plotted.

812

813 Figure 8. TRIM69-mediated antiviral activity does not require the proteasome or 814 IFN-signalling. (A) phase contrast and epifluorescence images (EVOS FL microscope) of unmodified MT4 cells or MT4 cells modified to express Ub-^{G76V}GFP in 815 816 the presence or absence of 50 nM bortezomib (proteasome inhibitor). (B) a cartoon of Ub-^{G76V}GFP. (C and D) MT4 cells modified to express inducible myc-TagRFP or 817 818 myc-TRIM69 (human) were treated or not treated with doxycycline (24 h) before 819 being infected with VSIV-GFP (16 h) in the presence or absence of 50 nM bortezomib. Normalized titers are shown in C of the titration curves in D. (E) As in C 820 821 and D examining VSIV-GFP in the presence of inducible myc-TRIM69 in the 822 presence and absence of 2 µM ruxolitinib (JAK1/2 inhibitor). Normalized titers are 823 shown in F of the titration curves in E (G) Phospho-Stat1 expression in the 824 presence and absence of 2 µM ruxolitinib incubated for 24 h in the presence or 825 absence of 1000 units of IFNB examined in MT4 cells measured in parallel with the 826 cells in E. In all cases, virus titrations were carried out on at least 2 occasions and 827 typical results are shown. . Mean and standard deviation are plotted.

828

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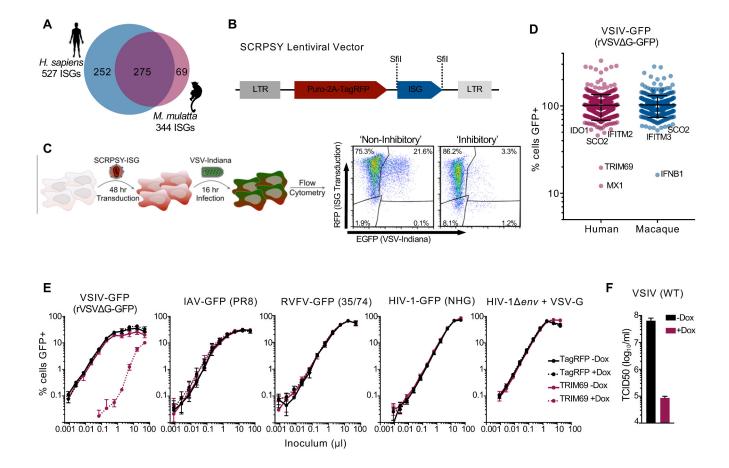
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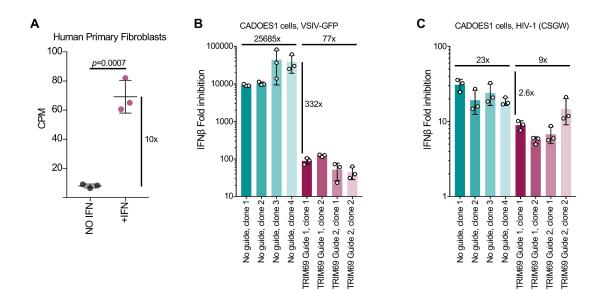
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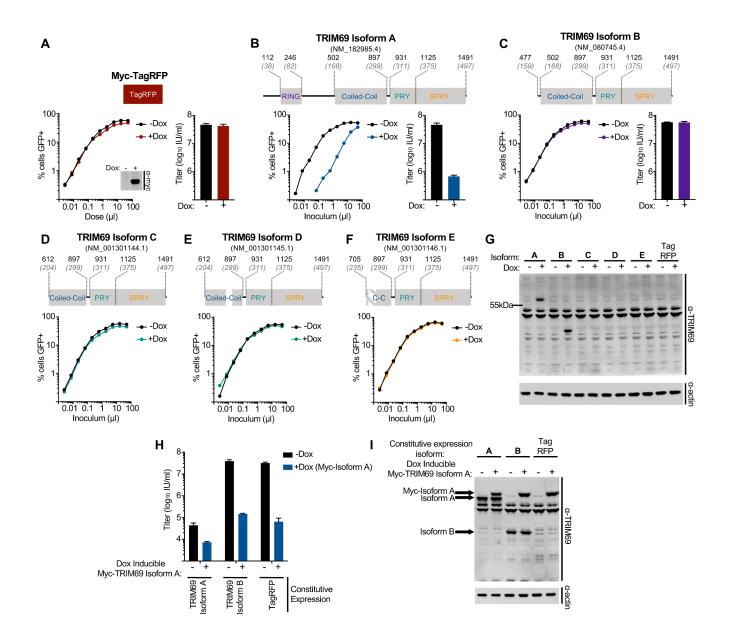
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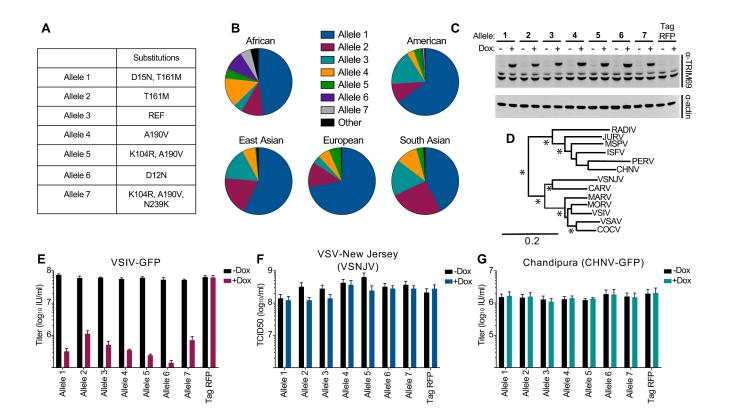
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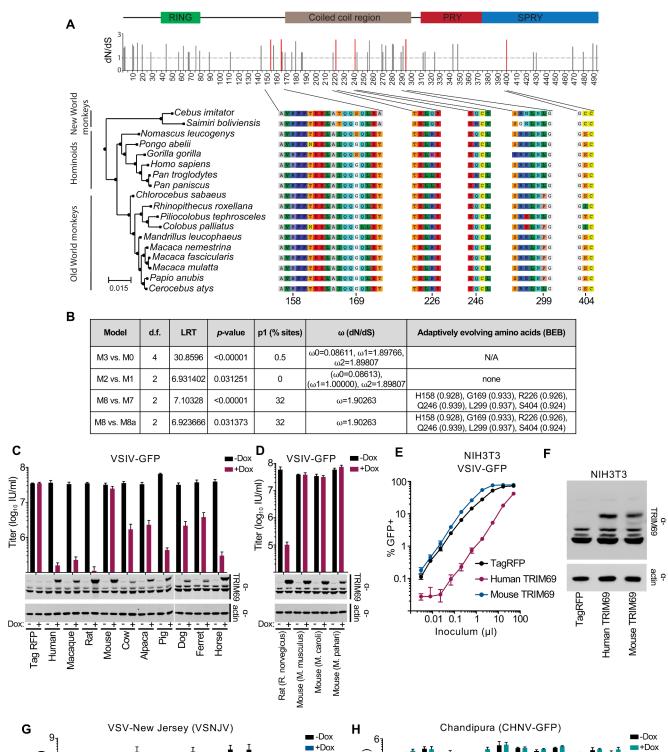
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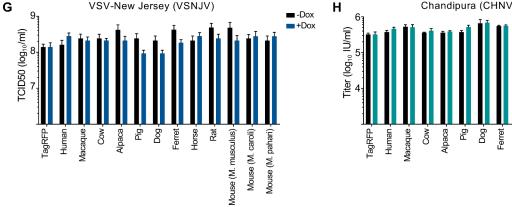
actin

Horse Rat

Mouse (M. musculus)

Mouse (M. pahari)

Mouse (M. caroli)



С

Titer (log₁₀ IU/ml)

