

# **B cells rapidly target antigen and surface-derived MHCII into peripheral degradative compartments**

Running title: **B cell early peripheral MIICs**

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**List of Symbols and Abbreviations used:** BCR, B cell receptor; MHCII, major histocompatibility complex Class II; pMHCII, peptide-MHCII; MIIC, MHCII peptide-loading compartment; eMIIC, early MIIC; SDCM, spinning disk confocal microscopy; EE, early endosome; LE, late endosome; RE, recycling endosome; CatS, cathepsin S

## 31 **Abstract**

32 In order to mount high-affinity antibody responses, B cells internalise specific antigens and process  
33 them into peptides loaded onto MHCII for presentation to T<sub>H</sub> cells. While the biochemical principles  
34 of antigen processing and MHCII loading have been well dissected, how the endosomal vesicle  
35 system is wired to enable these specific functions remains much less studied. Here, we performed a  
36 systematic microscopy-based analysis of antigen trafficking in B cells to reveal its route to the MHCII  
37 peptide-loading compartment (MIIC). Surprisingly, we detected fast targeting of internalised antigen  
38 into peripheral acidic compartments that possessed the hallmarks of MIIC and also showed  
39 degradative capacity. In these vesicles, internalised antigen converged rapidly with membrane-  
40 derived MHCII and partially overlapped with Cathepsin-S and H2-M, both required for peptide  
41 loading. These early compartments appeared heterogenous and atypical as they contained a mixture  
42 of both early and late markers, indicating specialized endosomal route. Together, our data suggests  
43 that, in addition to previously-reported perinuclear late endosomal MIICs, antigen processing and  
44 peptide loading could start already in these specialized early peripheral acidic vesicles (eMIIC) to  
45 support fast peptide-MHCII presentation.

## 46 **Introduction**

47 B lymphocytes (B cells) are an essential part of the adaptive immune system, initiating antibody  
48 responses against a vast repertoire of different antigens. The presentation of specific antigen-derived  
49 peptides loaded onto the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II (MHCII) is critical for the  
50 ability of B cells to mount a mature antibody response, including class-switch recombination and  
51 affinity maturation. In addition, the presentation of peptide-MHCII (pMHCII) complex on the B cell  
52 surface enables them to act as antigen-presenting cells (APCs) to CD4<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes (T helper  
53 cells, T<sub>H</sub> cells). T cell receptor (TCR)-pMHCII interaction provides a second activation signal to the  
54 B cells and, reciprocally, pMHCII presented on B cells stimulates cognate T<sub>H</sub> cells to orchestrate  
55 other branches of the immune system and to generate CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell memory (Whitmire et al., 2009).

56  
57 Presentation of different antigenic peptides on MHCII is a critical driver of various adaptive immune  
58 responses. Other professional APCs, such as dendritic cells (DCs) and macrophages, present peptides  
59 from antigens taken up unspecifically by phagocytosis or via receptor-mediated uptake by innate  
60 immune receptors, like complement receptors or Fc-receptors. B cells, however, ensure efficient  
61 presentation of antigens of given specificity, determined by the B cell antigen receptor (BCR)  
62 (Aluvihare et al., 1997; Unanue et al., 2016). Studies on pMHCII loading have largely focused on  
63 DCs and macrophages, leaving B cell antigen processing and presentation less understood.

64  
65 The MHCII peptide-loading compartment (MIIC), where antigen is processed into peptides for  
66 loading onto MHCII molecules, is characterized by its main hallmarks, antigen and MHCII. In  
67 addition, MIIC contains the key peptide loading chaperone H2-M and the proteolytic enzyme  
68 Cathepsin-S (Adler et al., 2017). MIIC has been well characterized by various biochemical  
69 fractionation techniques. However, in these assays the information about the heterogeneity,  
70 localization and dynamics of the vesicles is typically lost. Therefore, important questions remain  
71 about the coordination of antigen processing and MHCII loading and presentation. How the  
72 endosomal vesicle machinery of B cells is tuned to enable this highly specific process and how  
73 efficient targeting of BCR-bound antigen for processing is coordinated remain unknown. It has been  
74 suggested that MIICs are multivesicular and typically contain late endosomal (LE)/lysosomal marker  
75 Late Antigen Membrane Protein 1 (LAMP1) (Adler et al., 2017; Lankar et al., 2002; Unanue et al.,  
76 2016). Thus, a picture has been outlined where the maturation of MIIC diverts at the stage of  
77 multivesicular bodies (MVB) before fusion with end-stage lysosome. However, it is not understood  
78 how this process is regulated. To help to decipher the molecular underpinnings of antigen  
79 presentation, deeper knowledge on intracellular trafficking of antigen would be required.

80

81 In the last 10-15 years, developments in fluorescence microscopy techniques, including improved  
82 fluorophores and fluorescent fusion proteins, as well as more sensitive and higher resolution imaging  
83 modalities, have significantly increased our general understanding of intracellular vesicle traffic.  
84 Microscopy can provide information about the dynamics and heterogeneity of different vesicle  
85 carriers that are otherwise challenging to decipher with other techniques. The classical or ubiquitous  
86 endolysosomal pathway is delineated as a route from early endosomes (EE) to LE/MVB and, lastly,  
87 to lysosomes, with early and late recycling endosomes (RE) sending cargo back to the cell surface.  
88 While this general view is relatively well established, new studies continue to reveal dramatic  
89 complexity within the endolysosomal system with numerous vesicle sub-populations, transport  
90 proteins and vesicle markers as well as vesicle scission and fusion machineries (Chen et al., 2019;  
91 Delevoeye et al., 2019; Huotari and Helenius, 2011). A group of vital regulators of vesicle traffic are  
92 the small GTPases of the Rab protein family that are widely used to define different endolysosomal  
93 sub-populations. This family contains more than 60 proteins in humans performing either ubiquitous  
94 or specific functions in vesicle traffic (Wandinger-Ness and Zerial, 2014). The appreciation of the  
95 role of the Rab proteins has been key in unravelling endosomal network dynamics. However, different  
96 carriers vary not only in terms of their Rab identity markers, but also in size, shape, membrane  
97 morphology, subcellular localization and acidity. In addition, identification of different cell-type  
98 specific variations of vesicular transport systems and diverse specialized endolysosome-related  
99 organelles, where MIIC could be included (Delevoeye et al., 2019), pose an ongoing challenge for  
100 researchers.

101

102 In this work, we set up a systematic microscopy approach to follow how antigen, after BCR-mediated  
103 internalisation, traffics to MIIC. In accordance with previous studies, we detected and quantified  
104 gradual clustering of antigen vesicles towards perinuclear region in 30-60 min. However, already  
105 right after internalisation, antigen appeared in heterogenous vesicles that harboured mixed selection  
106 of both early and late endosomal markers. Interestingly, these early compartments in the cell  
107 periphery possessed hallmarks of MIIC and showed degradative capacity. By specific visualization  
108 of membrane-derived MHCII molecules, we found that in these early antigen compartments, MHCII  
109 originated largely from the plasma membrane pool, possibly to support fast, first-wave peptide  
110 presentation. This study provides the first in-depth imaging of antigen processing pathway in B cells.  
111 We found remarkable efficiency in joint targeting of antigen and membrane-derived MHCII into  
112 peripheral compartments with hallmarks of MIIC that we name early MIIC (eMIIC). The results

- 113 increase our understanding of the endolysosomal machinery responsible for MIIC formation and can  
114 facilitate future dissections of the regulation of successful antigen presentation.

## 115 **Results**

116

### 117 *Antigen migrates into the perinuclear area in 30-60 min after activation*

118 To characterize antigen vesicle trafficking in B cells, we first analyse the migration and clustering of  
119 antigen in a quantitative manner. We used cultured A20 B cells expressing transgenic D1.3 IgM (A20  
120 D1.3) and activated them with Alexa Fluor-labelled anti-IgM antibodies (AF- $\alpha$ IgM) as surrogate  
121 antigen. The localization of the antigen vesicles was imaged in cells fixed at different timepoints and  
122 stained for pericentriolar material 1 (PCM1) as a marker for microtubule organizing centre (MTOC)  
123 by spinning disc confocal microscopy (SDCM). Well consistent with the literature (Aluvihare et al.,  
124 1997; Siemasko et al., 1998; Tsui et al., 2018; Vascotto et al., 2007a) we found that, within 30-60  
125 min, most cells gathered antigen in a cluster that typically localized quite centrally in the cell, in the  
126 vicinity of MTOC (Fig. 1A). The same phenomenon was also detected in splenic primary B cells  
127 isolated from MD4 mouse strain, selected for their relatively high and homogenous levels of IgM.  
128 Primary B cells, however, showed faster kinetics with most cells accumulating antigen in central  
129 clusters already in less than 30 min (Fig. 1B). To quantitatively analyse antigen migration, we  
130 deconvolved the images to improve the separation of small vesicles and then quantified the total  
131 number of vesicles per cell and their mean distance to the MTOC using MATLAB-based 3D analysis  
132 (Fig. 1C). By showing a reduction of the vesicle number over time, the analysis clearly demonstrated  
133 the fusion, or clustering, of vesicles into bigger entities. At the same time, the average distance to the  
134 MTOC decreased, depicting migration of the vesicles closer to the MTOC over time (Fig. 1D, E).  
135 Although the vesicle number diminished between 30 and 45 min, the mean distance of the vesicles  
136 to the MTOC remained constant. This suggested that the majority of the antigen was trafficked to the  
137 perinuclear region already in 30 min, but vesicle fusion events and/or clustering continued at later  
138 timepoints (Fig. 1E). The quantification revealed the overall kinetics of the antigen transition from  
139 smaller peripheral vesicles into bigger vesicles or vesicle clusters that accumulate close to the MTOC.

140

141 In order to gain insights into the morphological features of the antigen vesicles, we activated the A20  
142 D1.3 cells with a mixture of AF- $\alpha$ IgM and 6 nm-colloidal gold- $\alpha$ IgM and used transmission electron  
143 microscopy (TEM) to visualize antigen-containing membrane structures. We found high  
144 heterogeneity in the vesicle morphologies, including multivesicular structures, both after 15 min of  
145 activation and after 75 min of activation (Fig. 1F; Fig. S1). As MIICs have earlier been characterized  
146 as MVB-like structures (Adler et al., 2017; Lankar et al., 2002; Unanue et al., 2016; Vascotto et al.,  
147 2007b), the localization of antigen into multivesicular structures raised a question whether already at

148 15 min after activation, in the cell periphery, antigen could be processed. At 75 min timepoint, the  
149 perinuclear area was, in addition to antigen vesicles, very dense in various other membrane  
150 organelles, such as Golgi and mitochondria. Consistent with the literature (Vascotto et al., 2007a),  
151 we typically found these vesicle-dense areas at sites of nuclear invaginations (Fig. 1F).

152

### 153 *Antigen colocalisation with early and late endosomal Rab-proteins*

154 Mechanisms of endolysosomal trafficking in various cellular systems are largely governed by Rab-  
155 family of small GTPases, which are commonly used to define sub-populations of vesicles with  
156 different functions. To reveal the endolysosomal character of the vesicles transporting antigen, we  
157 designed a series of colocalisation analyses with the following classical endosomal markers: Rab5  
158 for EEs, Rab7 and Rab9 for LEs and lysosomes, and Rab11 for REs. As antigen-bound BCR is known  
159 to form clusters at the cell membrane prior to endocytosis, we first examined the proportion of the  
160 dot-like antigen features that was internalised at 10-20 min timepoints, and thus would be expected  
161 to colocalise with vesicular markers. At these early timepoints most vesicles still remain in the cell  
162 periphery and it is not readily apparent if the antigen is internalised or just clustered at the plasma  
163 membrane. To distinguish the internalised antigen from the antigen still on the plasma membrane, we  
164 stimulated the cells with biotinylated AF- $\alpha$ IgM and stained with fluorescent streptavidin (Fig. S2A).  
165 We detected that in 10-20 min approximately 40-50% of the dotted antigen features in the images  
166 represented internalised vesicles, while the rest of the signal originates from antigen that still remains  
167 at the cell surface. As expected, at later timepoints (60 min) majority of the antigen pool was detected  
168 inside the cells (Fig. S2B, C). This was well consistent with the flow cytometric analysis of antigen  
169 internalisation (Fig. S2D). Consistently, we also frequently found non-internalised antigen at the  
170 plasma membrane in TEM samples after 15 min of activation (Fig. S1A).

171

172 To study the colocalisation of antigen and different vesicle markers, we performed  
173 immunofluorescence analysis with SDCM. We expected to see clearly higher colocalisation of  
174 antigen with early endosomal Rab5 in the early timepoints, and with LE/MVB markers at later  
175 timepoints. To our surprise, we did not detect major differences between the markers. Instead, Rab5,  
176 Rab7, Rab9 and Rab11 all showed prominent punctate pattern of vesicles very close to the plasma  
177 membrane that partially overlapped with antigen and partially located just underneath the antigen  
178 signal (Fig. 2A, C; Fig. S3A). As a negative control, we used Golgi-specific transport protein Rab6  
179 and, as expected, it showed no notable colocalisation with antigen. We quantified the colocalisation  
180 using Manders' overlap coefficient, split for antigen channel (M2) (Manders, E. M.M. Verbeek, F. J.  
181 Aten, 1993), using Huygens software with automated thresholding. M2 measures the portion of

182 antigen that overlaps with the signal from different Rab-proteins. The analysis supported partial  
183 colocalisation of antigen with Rab5, Rab7, Rab9 and Rab11, already at early timepoints after  
184 activation (Fig. 2C).

185

186 At 60 min timepoint, when most of the antigen was clustered in the perinuclear region, we found  
187 enhanced colocalisation with LE/MVB markers Rab7 and Rab9, as expected (Fig. 2B, Fig. S3B).  
188 Rab11, involved in slow recycling, also localized to the antigen cluster as well as the EE marker  
189 Rab5. The negative control, Rab6, was found in the perinuclear region close to antigen but with very  
190 limited overlap in signals. This suggested translocation of the antigen close to the Golgi apparatus,  
191 supporting the above observed localization close to the MTOC (Fig. 1). The quantification suggested  
192 significant overlap of antigen with all the studied Rab-proteins except Rab6, with an increasing trend  
193 over time (Fig. 2C). We also analysed the possible effect of antigen uptake in the distribution of Rab  
194 proteins by comparing the intensity of different Rab<sup>+</sup> compartments in the vicinity of MTOC to the  
195 intensity throughout the cell before or 10 and 45 min after activation (Fig. S4A, B). The change in  
196 the distribution was most clear in the case of Rab7, which concentrated significantly closer to the  
197 MTOC at late time points after activation, accompanied by a decrease in the number of Rab7 vesicles  
198 (Fig. S4C, D). However, interestingly Rab9 distribution did not show any alteration, indicating  
199 functional divergence between these two LE/MVB markers. On the other hand, Rab5 and Rab11  
200 showed rather increased dispersion away from MTOC after 10 minutes, which could be explained by  
201 the activation of the endocytic and exocytic machineries in the case of Rab5 and Rab11, respectively.

202

203 Majority of the vesicles were found very close to each other, both at the early and late time points, at  
204 the vicinity of the plasma membrane or in the perinuclear region, respectively, leading to  
205 overestimation of the signal overlap. The antigen vesicles detected by spinning disk confocal  
206 microscope, after deconvolution and the analysis by MATLAB script (as in Fig 1), range between  
207 200nm and 1µm in diameter, with a large majority of vesicles falling in between 400-500 nm (data  
208 not shown). Based on EM micrographs, the actual size of the antigen-containing unilamellar vesicles  
209 was, however, found to be ≈120 nm and multilamellar vesicles ≈290 nm (Fig 1F, Fig S1A, C),  
210 suggesting that the apparent vesicle sizes in fluorescence microscopy are affected by the limited  
211 resolution in optical microscopy. Small vesicles located close together are not resolved individually,  
212 but appear as one or several larger vesicles. In order to improve the resolution of our data and to better  
213 separate different vesicles, with a method still suitable for relatively large sample numbers and  
214 quantification, we employed super-resolution radial fluctuations (SRRF), an imaging method based  
215 on post-processing analysis of signal fluctuations (Gustafsson et al., 2016). Here, we analysed



216 samples activated for 10 or 45 min in order to resolve the nature of the antigen vesicles in the  
217 perinuclear region. Super-resolution SRRF images were obtained by taking 20-50 repetitive images  
218 of the same field of view with SDCM and post-processing the data using SRRF plugin in ImageJ. In  
219 this way, we could improve the separation of the vesicles significantly and now detected more distinct  
220 differences in the localization of Rab-proteins with respect to antigen, especially in later timepoints.  
221 In 45 min, Rab7 and Rab9 showed clear colocalisation with antigen, as expected for their late  
222 endosomal nature, while Rab5 and Rab11 appeared more scattered and only partially colocalised with  
223 antigen, often marking vesicles or membrane domains adjacent to it (Fig. 2D and Fig. S5). We  
224 analysed SRRF images for Manders' overlap coefficient (M2) and detected a marked colocalisation  
225 of antigen signal with LE markers Rab7 and Rab9 in 45 min. We also detected overlap with Rab11,  
226 and, to some extent, with Rab5. However, in 10 min the analysis showed close to equal colocalisation  
227 of Rab5, Rab7 and Rab9, and a modest level of colocalisation with Rab11. Colocalisation of antigen  
228 with Rab6 remained low, confirming the specificity of the analysis (Fig. 2E). The presence of Rab11  
229 in the antigen vesicles could suggest fission and recycling to some extent already at early timepoints,  
230 but with increasing efficiency towards later timepoints.

231

232 All together, these results point towards a previously unnoticed heterogeneity in the antigen-  
233 containing endosomes. Early association of antigen with classical LE/MVB markers Rab7 and Rab9  
234 raises the possibility that antigen vesicles deviate from classical steps of EE to LE conversion during  
235 their maturation into MIIC.

236

### 237 ***Antigen trafficking involves atypical vesicles that share both early and late endosomal character***

238 To better define antigen transport vesicles, we asked how other typical EE and LE markers, Early  
239 Endosome Antigen 1 (EEA1) and LAMP1, respectively, correlated with antigen at different  
240 timepoints. Consistent with the data on different Rab-proteins, we detected partial colocalisation of  
241 antigen with both EEA1 and LAMP1 already at early timepoints (Fig. 3A, Fig. S3C). The  
242 colocalisation became more prominent as antigen trafficked to the perinuclear region (Fig. 3B, Fig.  
243 S3D). Manders' overlap coefficient also showed continuous, or perhaps even increasing, overlap with  
244 antigen for both markers (Fig. 3C). However, Pearson's correlation coefficients for EEA1 and  
245 LAMP1 crossed over time indicating that significantly higher proportion of LAMP1 compared to  
246 EEA1 colocalised with antigen at later timepoints. This is consistent with a high proportion of EEA1  
247 endosomes remaining in the cell periphery, while some coalesce in the central cluster together with  
248 antigen, as shown by the M2. On the other hand, increasing proportion of LAMP1-positive vesicles  
249 accumulated in the perinuclear region with antigen over time.

250

251 As a complementary approach, we again turned to SRRF super-resolution analysis in order to achieve  
252 higher accuracy. We examined the colocalisation of antigen with EEA1 and LAMP1 at 10 and 45  
253 min after activation. SRRF analysis confirmed higher colocalisation of antigen with EEA1 compared  
254 to LAMP1 in the early timepoints (10 min), and vice versa after 45 min (Fig. 3D, E). Nevertheless,  
255 EEA1 colocalisation with antigen was also detected both in some remaining peripheral vesicles and  
256 in the perinuclear antigen vesicle cluster, raising a possibility that also EEA1 could indeed localize  
257 to the MIIC. Together, this data revealed surprising localization of antigen with not only early, but  
258 also late endosomal carriers shortly after internalisation. At later timepoints, close to the MTOC,  
259 preference for LE/MVB markers was notable, yet also EE markers were found to overlap with  
260 antigen.

261

262 As previous shown (Fig. S2B-C), in 15 min approximately half of the dots with antigen signal should  
263 represent vesicles inside the cell, and the rest should originate from antigen-BCR clusters still at the  
264 plasma membrane. Therefore, M2 values for one type of vesicle marker should not be considerably  
265 higher than 50% in the early timepoints. Our observation that antigen showed an overlap of 40-60%  
266 with both early and late endosomal markers can simply reflect technical challenges to resolve small  
267 vesicles close to each other, causing adjacent vesicles to appear as colocalised. Additionally, it could  
268 point towards mixed vesicle identities that would simultaneously possess both types of markers. To  
269 test for these two non-exclusive scenarios, we next performed SRRF super-resolution analysis on  
270 cells activated either for 10 or 45 min and stained for LAMP1 and EEA1, and asked if they colocalised  
271 in the same antigen vesicles. We found vesicles, where antigen only colocalised with either EEA1 or  
272 LAMP1, but we also found several prominent vesicles that clearly contained both markers  
273 simultaneously (Fig. 3G). To investigate if this atypical colocalisation was triggered by antigen  
274 uptake, we next analysed non-activated cells. Interestingly, we found vesicles with clear  
275 EEA1/LAMP1 colocalisation already in resting cells. The quantification by Pearson's coefficient  
276 showed lower colocalisation in resting cells as compared to cells activated for 10 min, but comparable  
277 colocalisation as in the cells activated for 45 min (Fig 3F; Fig. S6A). In order to seek for further  
278 confirmation to these findings, we also analysed the colocalisation between other pairs of early and  
279 late endosomal markers, namely Rab5/LAMP1, Rab7/EEA1 and Rab9/EEA1, before and after  
280 activation. In all cases, already at the resting state, we detected some vesicles with colocalisation, but  
281 very low overall level of correlation, which again, however, increased in 10 min after antigen  
282 stimulation (Fig. S6B).

283

284 Next, we asked if the vesicles that share both early and late endosomal markers were in the transition  
285 state of their maturation or if they represented a special compartment. To investigate this, we  
286 performed live imaging of A20 D1.3 B cells transfected with green fluorescent protein (GFP)-fused  
287 Rab5 and loaded with LysoTracker, a fluorescent tracer that labels low pH compartments, such as  
288 LE/MVBs and lysosomes. We followed antigen vesicles at early timepoints after internalisation by  
289 SDCM. We detected several antigen vesicles that contained both Rab5 and LysoTracker (Fig. 3H;  
290 Movie S1). Joint movement of the markers implied physical colocalisation, and indicated that antigen,  
291 indeed, traffics in atypical vesicles that share both early and late endosomal features. Interestingly,  
292 we detected double positive vesicles also before cell activation (Fig. S6C).

### 293 294 *Antigen enters degradative compartments shortly after internalisation*

295 As the primary purpose of antigen uptake by B cells is to degrade it for loading the resulting peptides  
296 onto MHCII complexes, we next asked the question where and when does the antigen degradation  
297 start. We linked a fluorescent probe for proteolysis, DQ-OVA, to  $\alpha$ IgM or specific HEL antigen  
298 recognized by the D1.3 BCR (Fig. 4A). Fluorescent DQ moieties quench each other when the probe  
299 remains intact. However, upon proteolysis the quenching ceases and the fluorescence can be detected.  
300 We first analysed the increase in DQ fluorescence by flow cytometry. Already at 15-20 min we  
301 detected a clear signal that constantly increased through the analysis period, 45 min, suggesting that  
302 the proteolysis starts relatively fast after antigen uptake (Fig. 4B). We detected brighter DQ-Ova  
303 signal at later timepoints when linked to HEL, despite having similar internalisation rate to anti-IgM  
304 (see Fig. S2D). Due to the brighter signal of DQ-Ova conjugated to HEL, we performed the  
305 microscopy analysis using this probe. Fluorescence signal from antigen-linked DQ moieties was also  
306 visible by microscopy at 20 min after activation. The DQ-signal overlapped well with EEA1 and was  
307 also found to colocalise with CatS, an enzyme essential for preparing the MHCII for peptide loading  
308 (Fig. 4C).

309  
310 To investigate the level of antigen colocalisation with CatS in a more comprehensive way, we  
311 performed immunofluorescence analysis in cells activated for 10 or 45 min. Conventional SDCM  
312 imaging suggested partial colocalisation of CatS with antigen both at 10 and 45 min timepoints (Fig.  
313 4D, upper panel). In order to resolve the vesicles better, we performed SRRF analysis, and could  
314 more unambiguously detect antigen vesicles that clearly contained CatS already 10 min after  
315 activation (Fig. 4D, middle panel). Interestingly, the colocalisation level remained roughly similar,  
316 although low, in the later timepoints in the perinuclear region (Fig. 4D, bottom panel; Fig. S6D).

317

318 Proteolytic activity typically requires acidic pH of the vesicles. To examine the pH of the antigen  
319 vesicles, we used live imaging with LysoTracker, as its accumulation is based on acidic pH. In line  
320 with our data above (Fig. 3H), we found strong colocalisation of antigen with LysoTracker already  
321 in the very early timepoints (1-5 min after activation) (Fig. 4E; Movie S2). Notably, we also detected  
322 antigen fusing with LysoTracker positive vesicles immediately after internalisation, indicating very  
323 fast and efficient targeting of antigen to acidic vesicles (Fig. 4F; Movie S3). Curiously, LysoTracker  
324 positive vesicles appeared to hover beneath the plasma membrane ready to catch the internalised  
325 antigen.

326

327 In addition to LysoTracker, we indirectly studied vesicle pH by analysing the fluorescent decay of  
328 FITC coupled to  $\alpha$ -IgM. While AlexaFluor fluorophores are highly stable at acidic pH, FITC  
329 fluorescence is pH-sensitive. A20 D1.3 cells were activated using both AF647-conjugated  $\alpha$ -IgM, as  
330 a control, and FITC-conjugated  $\alpha$ -IgM as pH probe, and fluorescence intensities were followed over  
331 time by flow cytometry. In agreement with our results using DQ-Ova and fast colocalisation with  
332 lysotracker+ compartments, we observed a decay in FITC signal already at 5 minutes after  
333 internalization that continued to further decrease through the experiment (Fig S6E). In contrast,  
334 AF647 signal remained constant, indicating high stability of the fluorophore.

335

### 336 *Antigen colocalises with plasma membrane derived MHCII rapidly after internalisation*

337 The data above suggests that antigen processing could be initiated already in the peripheral antigen  
338 vesicles shortly after internalisation. To ask if these early vesicles might represent MIIC, we asked  
339 whether they also contain MHCII. We activated the cells for 10 or 60 min with fluorescent antigen  
340 and performed immunofluorescence staining of total MHCII. As expected, we found MHCII to  
341 strongly colocalise with antigen in the perinuclear antigen cluster at 30 min timepoint. Interestingly,  
342 after 10 min of activation, we also detected MHCII in various intracellular vesicles including those  
343 containing antigen (Fig. S6F). Due to the high signal originating from the plasma membrane-resident  
344 MHCII and several internal MHCII-positive structures, we decided to analyse the samples with a  
345 super-resolution technique structured illumination microscopy (SIM). SIM significantly improved  
346 the resolution and clarity of the imaging (x-y-z), and we could detect strong colocalisation of antigen  
347 and MHCII in clearly defined vesicles already at 15 min after cell activation. We detected extremely  
348 high M1 Manders' overlap coefficients in the areas with peripheral antigen vesicles indicating that  
349 almost all internalized antigen overlapped with MHCII. A significant proportion of MHCII was also  
350 found with antigen in these regions, further supported by Pearson's correlation coefficients (Fig. 5A).

351

352 To investigate if the MHCII in the early antigen vesicles was newly synthesized from the trans-Golgi  
353 network, or originated from the plasma membrane pool, we prelabelled the surface MHCII prior to  
354 cell activation (Fig. 5B). Interestingly, we saw a strong localization of surface-derived MHCII  
355 (sMHCII) to early antigen vesicles (Fig. 5C). We then proceeded to verify the colocalisation by  
356 performing live imaging of cells labelled with fluorescent anti-MHCII prior to activation with  
357 fluorescent antigen. The movies revealed very high level of sMHCII in the antigen vesicles (Fig. 5D,  
358 Movie S4). Finally, to further prove that the early antigen vesicles could function as MIIC, we stained  
359 the cells for H2-M, a molecule of MHC family that functions as a key chaperone in peptide loading  
360 to MHCII (Mellins and Stern, 2014). Notably, SRRF super-resolution imaging of  
361 immunofluorescence samples showed clear colocalisation of antigen vesicles and H2-M already at  
362 15 min after activation further supporting classification of these vesicles as early MIICs (eMIICs)  
363 (Fig. 5E; Fig. S6D).

364

365 Finally, to examine the functionality of eMHCII compartments in peptide loading, we utilized a well-  
366 established 3,3' diaminobenzidine-peroxidase (DAB-HRP) endosome ablation technique combined  
367 with an ELISA-based antigen presentation assay. Monomeric DAB is polymerised in the presence of  
368 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and HRP, selectively fixing the HRP-containing endosomes by crosslinking the luminal and  
369 membrane integral proteins of the vesicles (Henry and Sheff, 2008; Pond and Watts, 1999; Stoorvogel  
370 et al., 1996). We pulsed A20 D1.3 cells with HRP-labeled  $\alpha$ IgM (HRP- $\alpha$ IgM) for 10, 20 or 45  
371 minutes followed by DAB-ablation of the HRP- $\alpha$ IgM-containing endosomal compartments. Then,  
372 we activated the endosome-ablated A20 D1.3 cells with HEL antigen. Using a cognate T cell line  
373 1E5, that recognizes HEL-derived peptides on *I-A<sub>d</sub>* MHCII of the A20 D1.3 B cells, we were able to  
374 measure IL-2 secretion by T cells as an antigen presentation readout. We found normal levels of  
375 peptide presentation when HRP- $\alpha$ IgM vesicles were ablated after 10 minutes, and close to normal  
376 levels after 20 min activation. In these time points, however, only a fraction of the antigen is  
377 internalized (Fig. S2D), and the cells continue internalizing antigen and are likely to have remaining  
378 endosomal capacity for trafficking. This indicates that, even if all HRP- $\alpha$ IgM endosomes are ablated  
379 at these time points, a pool of early carriers still remains functional. Interestingly, we also detected  
380 robust presentation, 60% compared to the non-treated cells, in cells where HRP- $\alpha$ IgM vesicles were  
381 ablated after the 40 minutes. In this time point, most of the antigen has been internalized and reached  
382 the perinuclear MIICs (see Fig. 1 and Fig. S2D). This result suggests that the perinuclear MIICs are  
383 not fundamentally required for presentation but the eMIIC could also generate pMHCII to support

384 pMHCII generation. Nevertheless, it is also possible that the DAB-HRP reaction does not completely  
385 abolish all perinuclear MIICs, or that they are regenerated during the second activation maturing from  
386 a non-ablated endosomal pool.

387

## 388 **Discussion**

389

390 To the study vesicular networks responsible for antigen processing in B cells, we utilized high and  
391 super-resolution microscopy for systematic colocalisation analysis of antigen with key markers of  
392 various endolysosomal compartments and known components of MIIC. Consistent with previous  
393 studies (Aluvihare et al., 1997; Siemasko et al., 1998; Vascotto et al., 2007a), we observed that, over  
394 time, antigen concentrates in the perinuclear region together with LE/MBV markers LAMP1, Rab7  
395 and Rab9, in compartments well-fitting to the description of MIIC. However, we also observed fast  
396 and highly efficient targeting of antigen into acidic compartments, that also possessed key features  
397 of MIIC, already in minutes after internalisation. These vesicles, located in the cell periphery,  
398 displayed a heterogenous combination of early and late endosomal markers and also exhibited  
399 variable ultrastructural morphologies. Interestingly, we show robust recruitment of surface-derived  
400 MHCII to these compartments, that we named eMIICs, suggesting that they could support fast  
401 presentation using MHCII recycled from the plasma membrane. This work provides the first  
402 endosomal roadmap of the intracellular trafficking of antigen in B cells and reveals previously  
403 unappreciated efficacy in MIIC formation.

404

405 Much of our knowledge in B cell antigen processing compartments is derived from biochemical  
406 studies, including cell fractionations, radiolabelling of antigen, and electron microscopy (Amigorena  
407 et al., 1994; Lankar et al., 2002; West et al., 1994). While already these early studies drew a valid  
408 picture of late endosomal or lysosomal, i.e. LAMP1-positive, multivesicular compartment, the  
409 approaches were not suitable to address questions about intracellular localization or dynamics of the  
410 antigen vesicles. Yet, these features have been strongly linked to distinct functional properties of  
411 endolysosomes and they also inform us about the possible molecular machineries regulating the  
412 vesicle traffic (Huotari and Helenius, 2011; Hutagalung and Novick, 2011). Our microscopic analysis  
413 revealed a remarkable heterogeneity in the endolysosomal markers of antigen vesicles (Fig. 1-3).  
414 However, overlapping fluorescent signals could be derived from a vesicle containing two markers,  
415 two vesicles containing different markers, or a multilobular vesicle with distinct markers in different  
416 domains, not resolvable by conventional light microscopy. Therefore, the small size and crowdedness  
417 of the vesicles generated challenges for the colocalisation analyses, particularly affecting Manders'

418 overlap coefficient, which relies on area overlap. We could, at least partially, overcome by the super-  
419 resolution SRRF and SIM analyses. While SDCM can achieve a lateral resolution of 250-300 nm,  
420 SIM and SRRF improve the x-y resolution by approximately 2-fold. SIM also improves the axial  
421 resolution by 2-fold from approximately 600 to 300nm.

422

423 The vesicle heterogeneity could be linked to the notion that antigen enters vesicles with low pH  
424 (indicated by LysoTracker and fast decay of FITC fluorescence), and degradative capacity  
425 (demonstrated by DQ-Ova signal and partial overlap with CatS) extremely fast after internalisation  
426 (Fig. 4). It has also been shown that the amounts of Rab-proteins on a given vesicle can fluctuate,  
427 increasing the noise in the colocalisation parameters (Huotari and Helenius, 2011; Hutagalung and  
428 Novick, 2011; Rink et al., 2005; Vonderheit and Helenius, 2005). Notably, we found that antigen also  
429 trafficked in atypical vesicles stably marked by both early endosomal Rab5 and LysoTracker  
430 indicating that the heterogeneity of the vesicles would be a more constant feature and not a mere  
431 transition state. Our data does not clearly fit the classical “Rab conversion” model, where a vesicle  
432 rapidly shifts from Rab5-positive into Rab7-positive (Huotari and Helenius, 2011; Hutagalung and  
433 Novick, 2011). Instead, the data might better comply with an alternative model, where sequential  
434 budding of membrane domains with LE markers would occur from EE/sorting endosomes (Huotari  
435 and Helenius, 2011; Wandinger-Ness and Zerial, 2014) and, indeed, we often detected adjacent  
436 localization of different markers possibly indicative of distinct domain on the same vesicle.

437

438 Martinez-Martin and colleagues used SIM to demonstrate, in primary B cells, that 15 min after  
439 activation, part of the internalised antigen concentrated in ring-like structures representing  
440 autophagosomes (Martinez-Martin et al., 2017). However, it remains unclear what could be the role  
441 of autophagy in terms of antigen fate or pMHCII processing. In our SIM analysis, we also detected  
442 some ring-like structures, that could represent autophagosomes (Fig. 5A) and the partial partitioning  
443 of antigen in these autophagosomes, or amphisomes, could explain some of the vesicle heterogeneity  
444 we observed. Our data also does not rule out contribution of other vesicular carriers, like clathrin-  
445 independent carriers (CLICs), void of specific markers (Kirkham et al., 2005).

446

447 An interesting finding from our live imaging data was that the LysoTracker positive, i.e. low pH  
448 vesicles, appeared to hover close to the plasma membrane and capture antigen right after  
449 internalisation (Fig. 4F). Some of these LysoTracker-positive vesicles also contained Rab5 already  
450 before cell activation (Fig. S6C). The overexpression of Rab-proteins has some caveats and Rab5-  
451 GFP can, for instance, generate enlarged EEs and lead into only partial recapitulation of endogenous

452 Rab5. We, however, also stained B cells for different pairs of endogenous early and late endosomal  
453 markers, and consistently found indications of colocalisation of both markers, especially in early  
454 stages after cell activation but to some extent already prior to cell activation (Fig 3F; Fig. S6). This  
455 effectiveness suggests prewiring of the B cells endolysosomal system towards antigen presentation,  
456 accompanied or boosted by a signalling component from the BCR, as indicated by our analysis in  
457 steady state vs activated cells (Fig. S6) and suggested already by Siemasko and colleagues (Siemasko  
458 et al., 1998). As such, we support MIIC to be considered as a member of the growing family of  
459 specialized endolysosome-related organelles (ELRO) with diverse functions, as proposed in a recent  
460 review by Delevoeye and colleagues (Delevoeye et al., 2019). Considering the poor compliance of  
461 antigen vesicles with classical endolysosomal pathway, other ELROs could serve as valuable  
462 additional points of comparisons for studies of MIIC membrane traffic. It has been shown that B cells  
463 on activatory surfaces mimicking immunological synapses, polarize the MTOC and acidic MHCII  
464 vesicles to secrete proteases for antigen extraction (Yuseff et al., 2011). While this happens at later  
465 stages of activation and is proposed to precede antigen internalisation, it demonstrates atypical  
466 functions of B cell acidic compartments, perhaps analogous to the secretion of lytic granules, another  
467 type of ELRO, by CD8+ T cells (Delevoeye et al., 2019; Yuseff et al., 2013).

468  
469 Early biochemical studies, using lipopolysaccharide-activated B lymphoblasts, have proposed the  
470 existence of peptide-loaded MHCII in multiple endolysosomal compartments (Castellino and  
471 Germain, 1995) and, using the same B cell line than us, demonstrated that B cells can indeed present  
472 antigen already in 20 min after activation (Aluvihare et al., 1997). Furthermore, studies have shown  
473 antigen degradation into peptides 20 min after activation (Barroso et al., 2015; Davidson et al., 1990).  
474 These studies are consistent with our finding that the internalised antigen vesicles highly efficiently  
475 colocalise with MHCII in various compartments, as well as partially overlap with Cathepsin-S and  
476 H2-M (Fig. 4-5). The acidic nature and degradative capacity of the eMIICs (Fig. 4-5) further supports  
477 function in antigen processing, which is also suggested by robust pMHCII presentation detected in  
478 the cells where late perinuclear MIIC were ablated with DAB-HRP reaction (Fig 5F).

479  
480 Interestingly, we found that the newly internalised antigen robustly co-localized with surface-derived  
481 MHCII (Fig. 5), suggesting that the pre-existing pool of MHCII could be used for the first wave of  
482 pMHCII presentation. This point has been previously tested using cycloheximide, known to block de  
483 novo protein synthesis. There, however, cycloheximide was found to inhibit all presentation and it  
484 was interpreted so that B cells could only present peptides on newly synthesized MHCII (Aluvihare  
485 et al., 1997). Later, concerns have been raised on the side effects of cycloheximide. These include



486 disturbance of vesicle trafficking, actin cytoskeletal dynamics and cell polarization and motility  
487 (Clotworthy and Traynor, 2006; Darvishi and Woldemichael, 2016; Oksvold et al., 2012). Thus, the  
488 old findings with cycloheximide warrant for a revisit with a sensitive pulse assay for antigen  
489 presentation together with more specific inhibitors like, for example, the newly developed FLI-06  
490 that targets ER-exit sites and trans-Golgi network (Yonemura et al., 2016). Our suggestion that  
491 biosynthetic MHCII probably arrives to MIIC at later stages, is supported by the old metabolic  
492 labelling studies, where, again using the same B cell line than in our study, it was shown that the  
493 newly synthesized MHCII arrives to MIIC in 30-60 min after cell activation (Amigorena et al., 1994).

494  
495 eMIICs could facilitate the speed of pMHCII presentation but could also tune the peptide repertoire.  
496 In cell fractionation studies, an MHC class II-like protein H2-O has been reported to concentrate more  
497 with the EE fraction as compared to LE fraction, while the peptide-loading chaperone H2-M shows  
498 the opposite trend (Gondré-Lewis et al., 2001). While H2-O has been characterized with an inhibitory  
499 effect on H2-M, it has also been shown to modulate the repertoire of peptides presented on MHCII  
500 with a mechanism still unclear (Denzin et al., 2005; Karlsson, 2005). Due to lack of working  
501 antibodies for mouse cells, we were not able to analyse H2-O in our system. Nevertheless, H2-O has  
502 been shown to dissociate from H2-M in acidic pH, thereby releasing the inhibition of peptide loading  
503 by H2-M (Jiang et al., 2015). This mechanism would allow peptide loading already from eMHCII  
504 even in the presence of H2-O. Different ratios of H2-M and H2-O could thus distinguish the peptides  
505 sent out from eMIICs from those originating from mature MIIC.

506  
507 Using TEM, we found antigen in vesicles with diverse morphologies (Fig. 1F, left; Fig. S1A).  
508 Ranging from spherical to multilobular, various compartments harboured intraluminal vesicles,  
509 consistent with reports characterizing MIICs with multivesicular features (Roche and Furuta, 2015;  
510 Unanue et al., 2016; van Lith et al., 2001; Xiu et al., 2011). Antigen-containing single-membrane  
511 vesicles with round or horse-shoe shapes were also detected. While it has been shown in dendritic  
512 cells that intraluminal vesicles are not required for MHCII loading (Bosch et al., 2013), also  
513 multilamellar MIIC have been reported (Unanue et al., 2016). These notions suggest that MIIC  
514 function is not bound to certain vesicle morphology. Based on both the morphological and vesicle  
515 marker-based heterogeneity, we propose that early peripheral antigen vesicles, eMIICs, are functional  
516 MIIC in transit. While eMIICs might part off and fuse again or migrate as such to the perinuclear  
517 region for gradual maturation into MIIC, we suggest that they are functional throughout the pathway.

518

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535

### 536 **Competing interests**

537 No competing interests declared.

## 538 **Materials and Methods**

539

540 For more information about reagents and antibodies, please check Table S1.

541

### 542 *Cells and mice*

543 A20 mouse lymphoma cells stably expressing a hen egg lysozyme (HEL)-specific IgM BCR (D1.3)  
544 (Williams et al, 1994) and 1E5 T cells, kind gifts from Prof Facundo Batista, stably expressing a  
545 transgenic TCR specific for HEL<sub>108-116</sub>/I-Ad (Adorini et al., 1993) were maintained in complete RPMI  
546 (cRPMI; RPMI 1640 with 2.05 mM L-glutamine supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), 50  
547  $\mu$ M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 4 mM L-glutamine, 10 mM HEPES and 100 U/ml Penicillin/Streptomycin).  
548 Cells were regularly examined for bacterial and fungal contaminations and tested for mycoplasma  
549 contaminations, but no other tests were run on the cell lines. Primary splenic B cells were isolated  
550 from 2-5 months-old male and female MD4 mice (C57BL/6-Tg(IghelMD4)4Ccg/J, The Jackson  
551 Laboratory) using a negative selection kit (StemCell Technologies, #19854). All animal experiments  
552 were approved by the Ethical Committee for Animal Experimentation in Finland. They were done in  
553 adherence with the rules and regulations of the Finnish Act on Animal Experimentation (62/2006)  
554 and were performed according to the 3R-principle (animal license numbers: 7574/04.10.07/2014,  
555 KEK/2018-2504-Mattila, 10727/2018 ).

556

### 557 *Transfection*

558 A20 D1.3 cells were transfected as previously described (Sustar et al., 2018). Briefly, 2 million cells  
559 were resuspended in 180ul of 2S transfection buffer (5 mM KCl, 15 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 15 mM HEPES, 50  
560 mM Sodium Succinate, 180 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>/ NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> pH 7.2) containing 2  $\mu$ g of plasmid and  
561 electroporated using AMAXA electroporation machine (program X-005, Biosystem) in 0.2 cm gap  
562 electroporation cuvettes. Cells were then transferred to 2ml of cRPMI to recover overnight. Rab5a-  
563 GFP plasmid was a kind gift from Prof. Johanna Ivaska.

564

### 565 *B cell activation and visualization of antigen vesicles by immunofluorescence*

566 A20 D1.3 or isolated primary B cells were activated with 10 $\mu$ g/ml of Alexa Fluor-647 or Rhodamine  
567 Red-X (RRx) anti-mouse IgM ( $\alpha$ -IgM) (Jackson ImmunoResearch), unless indicated otherwise. Cells  
568 were labelled with fluorescently-labelled  $\alpha$ -IgM for 10 min on ice, washed with PBS to remove  
569 excess unbound antigen and resuspend in Imaging Buffer (PBS, 10% FCS). When indicated, cells  
570 were also labelled with anti-MHCII-Alexa Fluor 488 on ice. After washing, cells were activated for  
571 different timepoints in an incubator (5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 37°C) in a 12-wells PTFE diagnostic slide (Thermo,

572 #10028210), coated with fibronectin, and fixed with 4% PFA 10min at RT. Samples were blocked  
573 and permeabilized with blocking buffer (5% horse or donkey serum, 0.3% Triton X100 in PBS) for  
574 20min at RT. After blocking, samples were stained with primary antibodies for 1h at RT or 4°C O/N  
575 in staining buffer (1% BSA, 0.3% Triton X100 in PBS), followed by washes with PBS and incubation  
576 with the secondary antibodies 30min at RT in PBS. Samples were mounted using FluoroMount-G  
577 containing DAPI (Thermo #00495952).

578

#### 579 *Visualization of antigen vesicles by live imaging*

580 A20 D1.3 cells (1 million/ml) were labelled with 125 nM LysoTracker Deep Red (Thermo # L12492)  
581 for 1 hour in an incubator (5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 37°C), washed with PBS and resuspended in cRPMI. Cells were  
582 then labelled with 10µg/ml of donkey anti-mouse IgM-AF488 on ice for 10 min and washed with  
583 cold PBS. For surface-MHCII internalisation experiments, cells were stained on ice with anti-MHCII-  
584 AF488 and 10µl/ml donkey-anti-mouse IgM-RRx for 5min and washed with cold PBS. Cells were  
585 resuspended in cold Imaging Buffer and seeded on 4-well MatTek dishes on ice. After seeding, cells  
586 were activated at 37 °C inside the environmental chamber of the microscope and image immediately.

587

#### 588 *Image acquisition and processing, spinning disk confocal microscopy*

589 Images were acquired using a 3i CSU-W1 spinning disk equipped with 405, 488, 561 and 640 nm  
590 laser lines and 510-540, 580-654 and 672-712 nm filters and 63x Zeiss Plan-Apochromat objective.  
591 Hamamatsu sCMOS Orca Flash4 v2 C11440-22CU (2048 x 2048 pixels, 1x1 binning) was used to  
592 image fixed samples unless otherwise indicated, and Photometrics Evolve 10 MHz Back Illuminated  
593 EMCCD (512 x 512 pixels, 1x1 binning) camera was used to image live samples.

594 All SDCM images were deconvolved with Huygens Essential version 16.10 (Scientific Volume  
595 Imaging, The Netherlands, <http://svi.nl>), using the CMLE algorithm, with Signal to Noise Ratio of  
596 20 and 40 iterations. For SRRF, 20-50 images were acquired from one single plane using timelapse  
597 mode and processed in Fiji ImageJ using the SRRF module.

598

#### 599 *Colocalisation analysis*

600 Colocalisation on Spinning Disk Confocal Microscope images were analysed with Huygens Essential  
601 version 16.10 (Scientific Volume Imaging, The Netherlands, <http://svi.nl>), using optimized,  
602 automatic thresholding. Colocalisation on SRRF images was performed on ImageJ using  
603 Colocalisation Threshold tool. Graphs and statistics were prepared on GraphPad Prism (GraphPad  
604 Software, La Jolla California USA).

605

606 *Analysis of antigen clustering*

607 Cluster analysis of the deconvolved data was done by batch processing in MATLAB R2018b (The  
608 MathWorks Inc.). Binary masks were created from full volumes containing one cell using the method  
609 by Otsu. Objects were then segmented in 3D using the regionprops function. Only objects inside a  
610 circular mask were kept in order to exclude clusters from adjacent cells, for simplicity this was done  
611 in 2D by manually overlaying the image with a circle. The MTOC channel was segmented in the  
612 same way and the cluster with the highest intensity value was identified as MTOC. The distances of  
613 each cluster to the MTOC was calculated from the centroid positions in 3D. Graphs and statistics  
614 were prepared on GraphPad Prism. The scripts can be found on MattilaLab's GitHub  
615 (<https://github.com/mattilalab/herandez-perez-et-al-2019>).

616

617 *Structured illumination microscopy (SIM)*

618 The samples were prepared as above in “*B cell activation and visualization of antigen vesicles by*  
619 *immunofluorescence*” on fibronectin-coated MatTek dishes and mounted in Vectashield (Vector  
620 Laboratories, US) mounting medium. 3D structured illumination (SIM) Imaging was performed with  
621 GE Healthcare, DeltaVision OMX SR V4 with 60x/1.42 SIM Olympus Plan Apo N objective, front  
622 illuminated sCMOS cameras, 488, 568 and 640 nm solid-state lasers by optical sectioning of 0.125  
623  $\mu\text{m}$ . The SIM reconstruction was performed with OMX Acquisition software version 3.70. (GE  
624 Healthcare, UK).

625

626 *Antigen internalisation for flow cytometry*

627 A20 D1.3 cells were stained on ice for 10 min with anti-IgM-biotin (Southern Biotech) or HEL-biotin  
628 and washed with PBS. Cells were incubated at 37C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at different timepoints. For time 0  
629 the samples were kept on ice all the time After incubation, cells were kept on ice and stained with  
630 streptavidin-633 (LifeTechnologies #S-21375) for 20min, washed and analysed. BD LSR Fortessa  
631 analyser equipped with four lasers (405, 488, 561 and 640nm) was used. Data was analysed using  
632 FlowJo v10 (Tree Star).

633

634 *Antigen internalisation, immunofluorescence*

635 A20 D1.3 cells were stained on ice for 10 min with biotinylated anti-IgM-Alexa Fluor F647- (labelled  
636 in-house) and washed with PBS. Cells were resuspended in Imaging Buffer (PBS, 10% FCS) and  
637 activated for different timepoints in an incubator (5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 37°C) on fibronectin-coated 12-well  
638 microscope slide. After activation, slides were kept on ice to stop internalisation and stained with

639 streptavidin-Alexa Fluor 488 (#S11223) for 10 min. Cells were washed with PBS and fixed with 4%  
640 PFA 10 min at RT. Samples were mounted using FluoroMount-G (Thermo 00-4958-02).

641

#### 642 *DQ-Ova proteolysis reporter*

643 DQ Ovalbumin (Thermo Fisher Scientific D12053) was biotinylated in-house with EZ-Link  
644 Maleimide-PEG2-biotin (Thermo 21901BID). HEL from (#L6876 Sigma) was biotinylated using  
645 EZ-Link™ Sulfo-NHS-LC-LC-Biotin (Thermo 21338). A20 D1.3 cells were first incubated with 10  
646 µg/ml biotin-HEL or biotinylated anti-IgM (Southern Biotech) for 10 min on ice. After washing with  
647 PBS, cells were incubated for 5min on ice with unlabelled streptavidin for IF samples or Alexa Fluor  
648 633-labelled streptavidin for flow cytometry samples, wash with PBS, and incubated 5min on ice  
649 with biotinylated-DQ-Ova. After 3 washes with PBS, cells were activated in an incubator (5% CO<sub>2</sub>,  
650 37°C) to allow internalisation of the probe-linked antigen. After the activation, cells were placed on  
651 ice and analysed by flow cytometry immediately. For immunofluorescence samples, cells were  
652 activated on 12-well slides coated with fibronectin in the incubator, fixed with 4% PFA after  
653 activation, and stained as previously described. DQ-Ova was excited with 488 nm laser and measured  
654 with filters identical to Alexa Fluor 488 or GFP.

655

#### 656 *Assessment of low pH for flow cytometry*

657 A20 D1.3 cells were stained on ice for 10 min with anti-IgM-AF647 (5 µg/ml) and anti-IgM-FITC (5  
658 µg/ml) and washed with PBS. Cells were then incubated at 37C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at different timepoints  
659 in a 96 well-plate for flow cytometry analysis. After incubation, cells were kept on ice and analysed  
660 using a BD LSR Fortessa analyser equipped with four lasers (405, 488, 561 and 640nm). As time 0,  
661 the samples were kept on ice all the time. Data was analysed using FlowJo v10 (Tree Star).

662

#### 663 *Transmission electron microscopy*

664 A20 D1.3 cells were activated with a mixture of 6 nm colloidal-gold conjugated goat anti-Mouse IgM  
665 (Jackson ImmunoResearch, 115-195-075; 1:650 dilution) and 20 µg/ml Alexa Fluor 647 labelled  
666 donkey anti-mouse IgM F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments (Jackson ImmunoResearch, 715-606-020) in imaging  
667 buffer (0.5mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5.5mM D-Glucose, 10% FBS in PBS) and placed on  
668 fibronectin (4 µg/ml) coated glass coverslips (thickness #1) for 15 or 75 min. The cells were fixed  
669 with 2 % Glutaraldehyde (EM-grade, Sigma G7651) in 0.1 M Na-Cacodylate buffer, pH 7.4, for 30  
670 min at room temperature, and then washed twice for 3 min with 0.1 M Na-Cacodylate buffer, pH 7.4.  
671 The samples were processed for TEM as described in Seemann et al., 2000. 60-nm-thick sections  
672 parallel to the cover slip were cut using a Leica EM Ultracut UC7 ultramicrotome (Leica Mikrosysteme

673 GmbH, Austria). The electron micrographs post-stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and  
674 imaged with Jeol JEM 1400 transmission electron microscope (Jeol Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) equipped  
675 with a bottom mounted CCD-camera (Orius SC 1000B, Gatan Inc., Pleasanton, CA) and Jeol JEM-  
676 1400 Plus equipped with OSIS Quemesa bottom-mounted CCD-Camera (EMSIS, Germany), both  
677 operating at 80 kV.

678

#### 679 *DAB endosome ablation*

680 Endosome ablation assay was adapted from Pond and Watts, 1999. A20 D1.3 cells (10<sup>7</sup>/ml) were  
681 incubated in FCS-free RPMI for 45 minutes at 37°C. Cells were surface-stained on ice with 10 µg/ml  
682 of anti-IgM-biotin (Southern Biotech) for 10 minutes, followed by one PBS wash. Then, cells were  
683 incubated with streptavidin-HRP for 10 minutes on ice and washed twice with PBS. Internalization  
684 of anti-IgM-HRP was initiated by incubation at 37°C 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for different times (10, 20 and 40  
685 minutes). After that, vesicle traffic was stopped by incubation on ice and anti-IgM-HRP-containing  
686 endosomes were ablated by addition of 0.1 mg/ml DAB (Santa Cruz sc-24982) and 0.025% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in  
687 freshly prepared DAB buffer (70 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES, 2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 50 mM ascorbic acid)  
688 for 30 minutes on ice in the dark. Ascorbic acid is a membrane-impermeable molecule that acts as a  
689 radical scavenger inhibiting extracellular HRP activity to avoid DAB deposits on the plasma  
690 membrane. As a control, cells were incubated in DAB buffer with 0.1 mg/ml DAB, but without HRP  
691 or without H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Cells were then washed 3 times with PBS-1% BSA and kept on ice. Viability after  
692 endosome ablation assessed with Trypan Blue was 95-98%.

693

#### 694 *Antigen presentation measured by ELISA*

695 After endosome ablation, A20 D1.3 cells were incubated with 10 µg/ml of HEL for 1h at 37°C in  
696 cRPMI. After 1h, cells were washed and resuspend in cRPMI. A20 D1.3 B cells were mixed with  
697 1E5 T cells (ratio 2:1) and incubated at 37°C 5% CO<sub>2</sub> overnight. IL-2 secretion levels were measured  
698 next day by ELISA on half-area 96-well plates coated with capture antibodies (anti-IL-2) for 1h at  
699 37°C in 25 µL of PBS. Non-specific binding sites were blocked overnight at 4°C in 150 µL of  
700 blocking buffer (PBS, 1% BSA). Appropriate dilutions of 50 µL supernatant samples in cRPMI were  
701 added to the ELISA plate for 1-2h incubation at 37°C. Biotin-conjugated detection antibodies (anti-  
702 IL-2-biotin) in 50 µL of blocking buffer are added for 1 hour at RT followed by 50 µL AP (alkaline  
703 phosphatase)-streptavidin in blocking buffer for 1 hour at RT. In between all incubation steps, plates  
704 were washed with 150 µL washing buffer (PBS, 0.05% Tween-20). The final wash was completed  
705 with 2 times wash with 150 µL of water. Finally, 50 µL of pNPP solution was added and optical

706 density (OD) was measured at 405 nm. Typical time for AP-substrate incubation before measurement  
707 was about 10-20 min at RT, before reaching signal saturation.

708

709 All ELISA samples were run in duplicates, OD values were averaged and blank background was  
710 subtracted. All samples were normalized to the control cells (100%) and data is presented as mean  
711 values and standard deviation of 3 experiments.

712

### 713 *Statistical analysis and illustrations*

714 Statistical significances were calculated using unpaired Student's *t*-test assuming normal distribution  
715 of the data. Statistical values are denoted as: \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ .  
716 Graphs were created in GraphPad Prism 6 and illustrations were created with BioRender. Figure  
717 formatting was done on Inkscape v.092.2.

718

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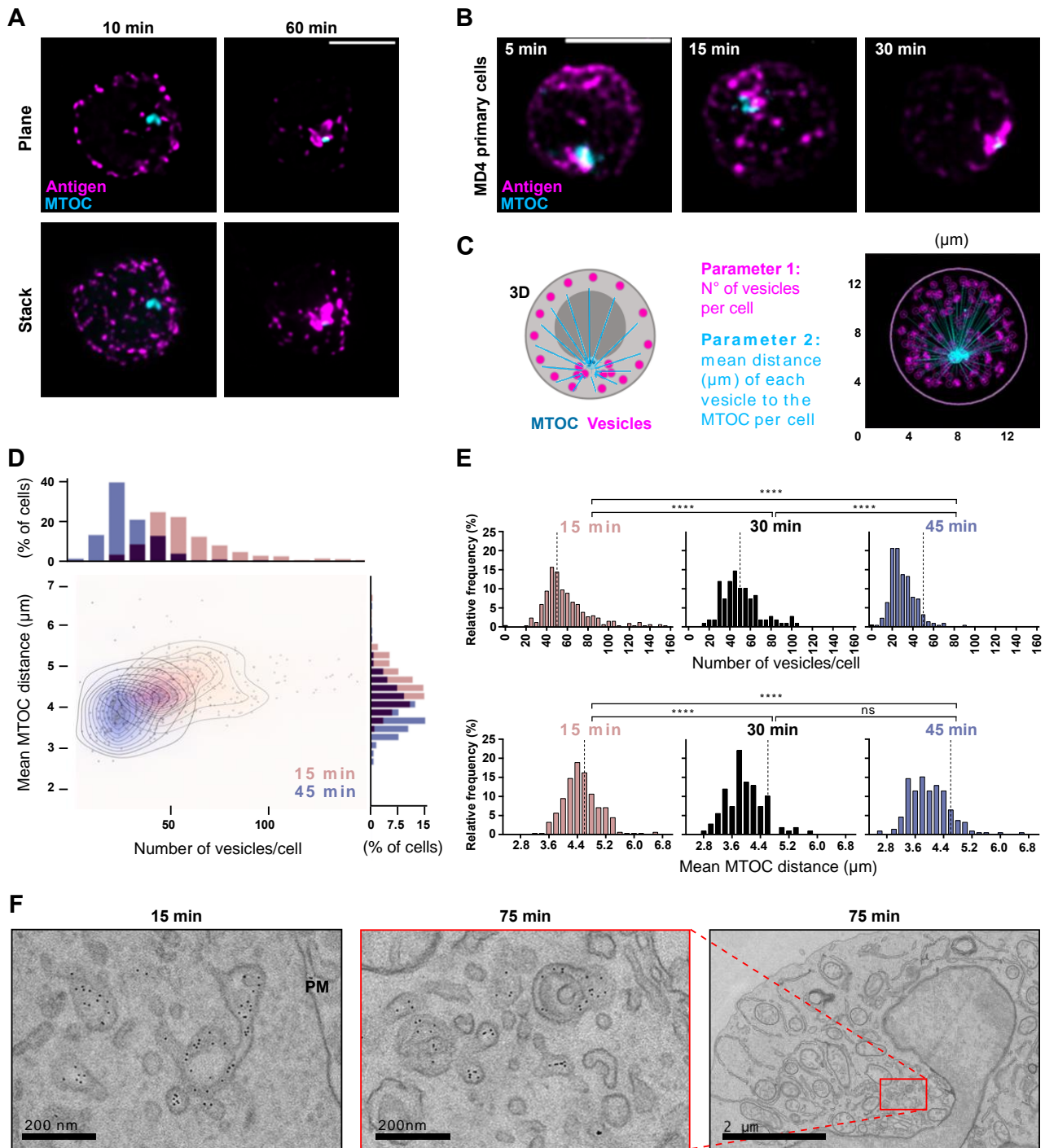
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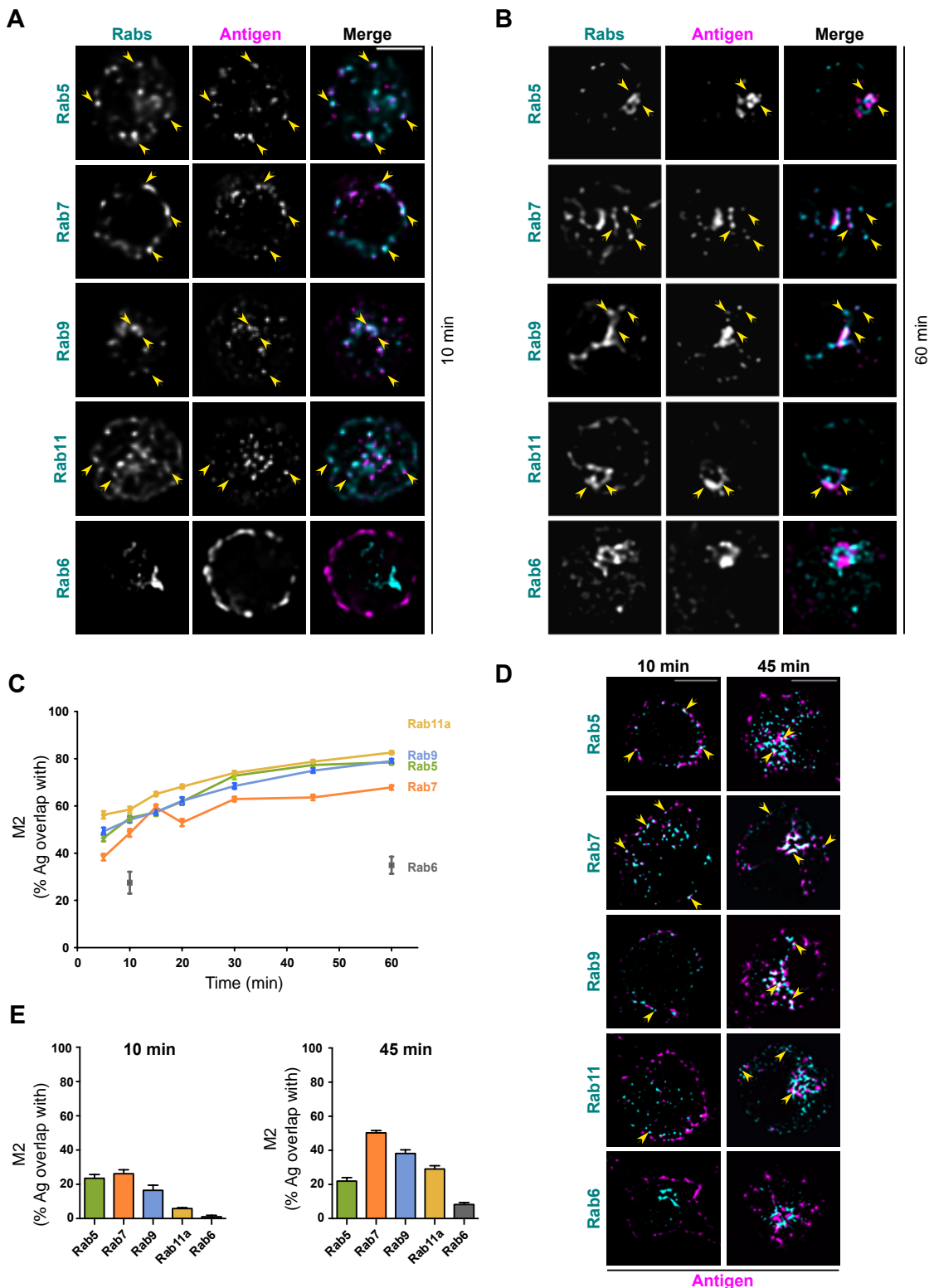
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 820 **Figure 1. Antigen vesicles traffic to a perinuclear compartment in the vicinity of the MTOC.** A  
 821 A20 D1.3 B cells were activated with Alexa Fluor-labelled anti-IgM antibodies (AF- $\alpha$ IgM) (antigen,  
 822 magenta) for 10/60 min and stained with anti-PCM-1 (MTOC, cyan). Cells were imaged with 3D  
 823 SDCM and deconvolved. Upper panel, single confocal planes; lower panel, z-projections of 10  $\mu$ m  
 824 stacks of representative cells. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **B** Primary MD4 B cells were activated with AF- $\alpha$ IgM  
 825 (antigen, magenta) for different timepoints and stained with anti-PCM-1 (MTOC, cyan) and imaged  
 826 as in A. Z-projections of the whole stacks from representative cells are shown. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **C**  
 827 Schematic of the vesicle quantification using a MATLAB-based script. Number of antigen vesicles  
 828 in one cell (in magenta) and mean distance from all the vesicles to the MTOC (in cyan) is measured

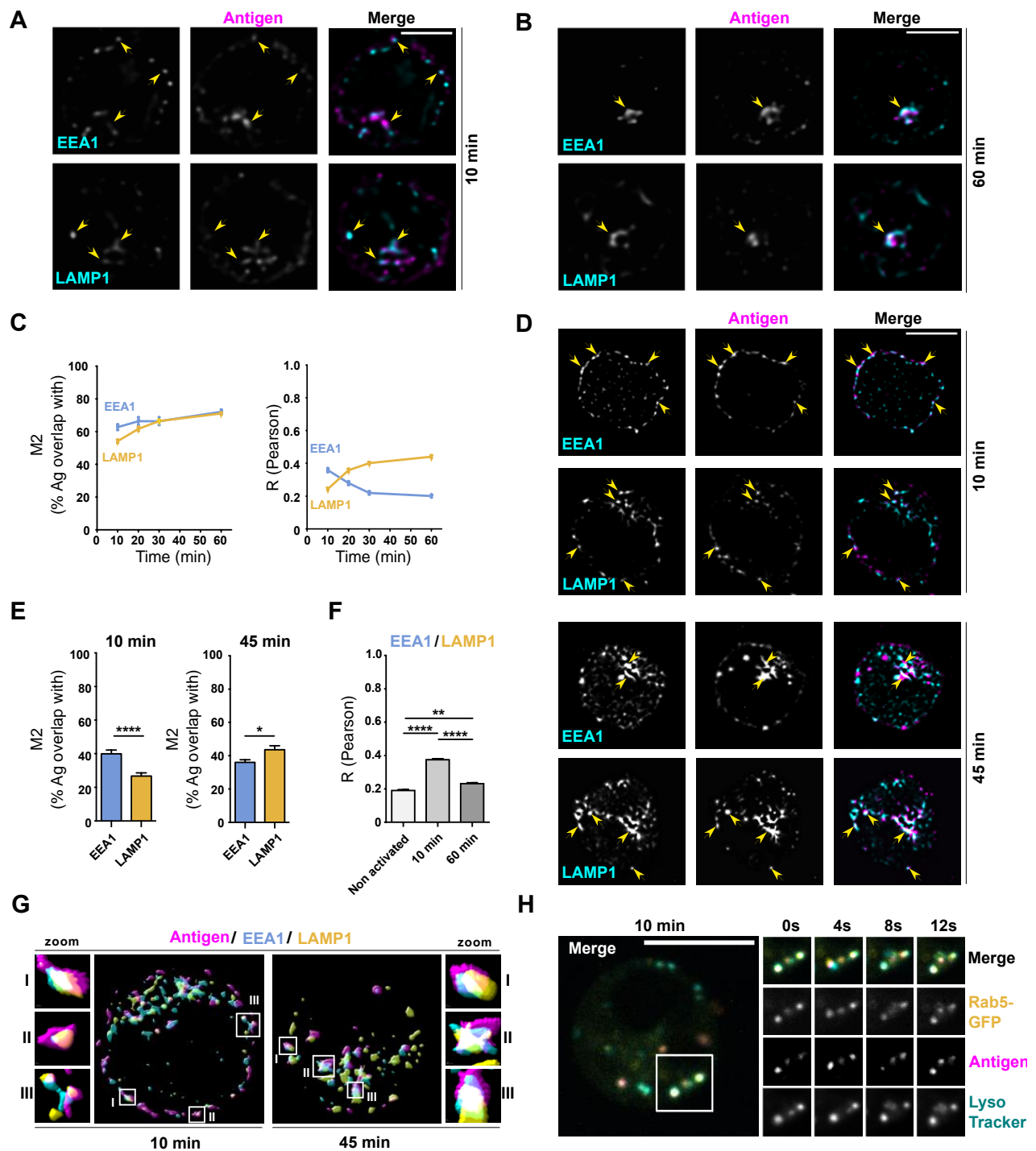
829 in a 3D image. Left, schematic representation; right, example image from the script. **D** Quantification  
830 of data in A. 3D images from cells activated for 15 (pink) and 45 (blue) min were analysed as in C.  
831 Upper axis, mean number of vesicles per cell; right axis, mean distance of the vesicles to MTOC per  
832 cell. The two timepoints were compared using a density plot. **E** Comparison of samples prepared as  
833 in A, activated for 15, 30 and 45 min and analysed as in C and D. Dashed line represent the median  
834 of the cell population in 15 min. Statistical analysis was done using Student's t-test. Timepoints 15  
835 and 45 min contain 2 experiments (n>200 cells) and timepoint 30 min one experiment (n>100 cells).  
836 **F** A20 D1.3 cells were activated with  $\alpha$ IgM conjugated with 6nm colloidal gold particles mixed with  
837 AF647- $\alpha$ IgM, for 15 and 75 min and imaged using TEM. PM – Plasma membrane. Scale bars 200  
838 nm and 2  $\mu$ m.



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**Figure 2. Colocalisation analysis of antigen with different Rab-proteins.** A-B SDCM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 min (A) or 60 min (B) and immunostained for different Rab-proteins: Rab5, Rab7, Rab9, Rab11 and Rab6 (cyan). Single confocal planes from deconvolved representative cells are shown and examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrow-heads. For clear representation, single confocal planes close to the bottom of the cell are shown for Rab5, Rab7, Rab9 and Rab11. For Rab6, a confocal plane from the middle of the cell, where Golgi is typically located, was selected. See Figure S3A-B for Z-

847 projections. Scale bar 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . **C** Quantification of the data in A and B with additional timepoints.  
848 Antigen colocalisation with different Rab-proteins was measured from deconvolved images  
849 analysing Manders' overlap coefficients using Huygens. Data from three independent experiments  
850 ( $>80$  cells/timepoint) as mean  $\pm$ SEM. **D** Samples were prepared with cells activated for 10 or 45 min  
851 as in A-B and imaged with iterative imaging of a single plane with SDCM (20-25 frames/plane) and  
852 post-processed to obtain SRRF super-resolution image (antigen, magenta; Rabs, cyan). Examples of  
853 colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrowheads. Scale bar 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . **E** Quantification of the  
854 SRRF data in D analysing Manders' overlap coefficients with ImageJ. Data shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM.  
855 45 min timepoint, two independent experiments; 10 min, one experiment ( $>25$  cells/timepoint).



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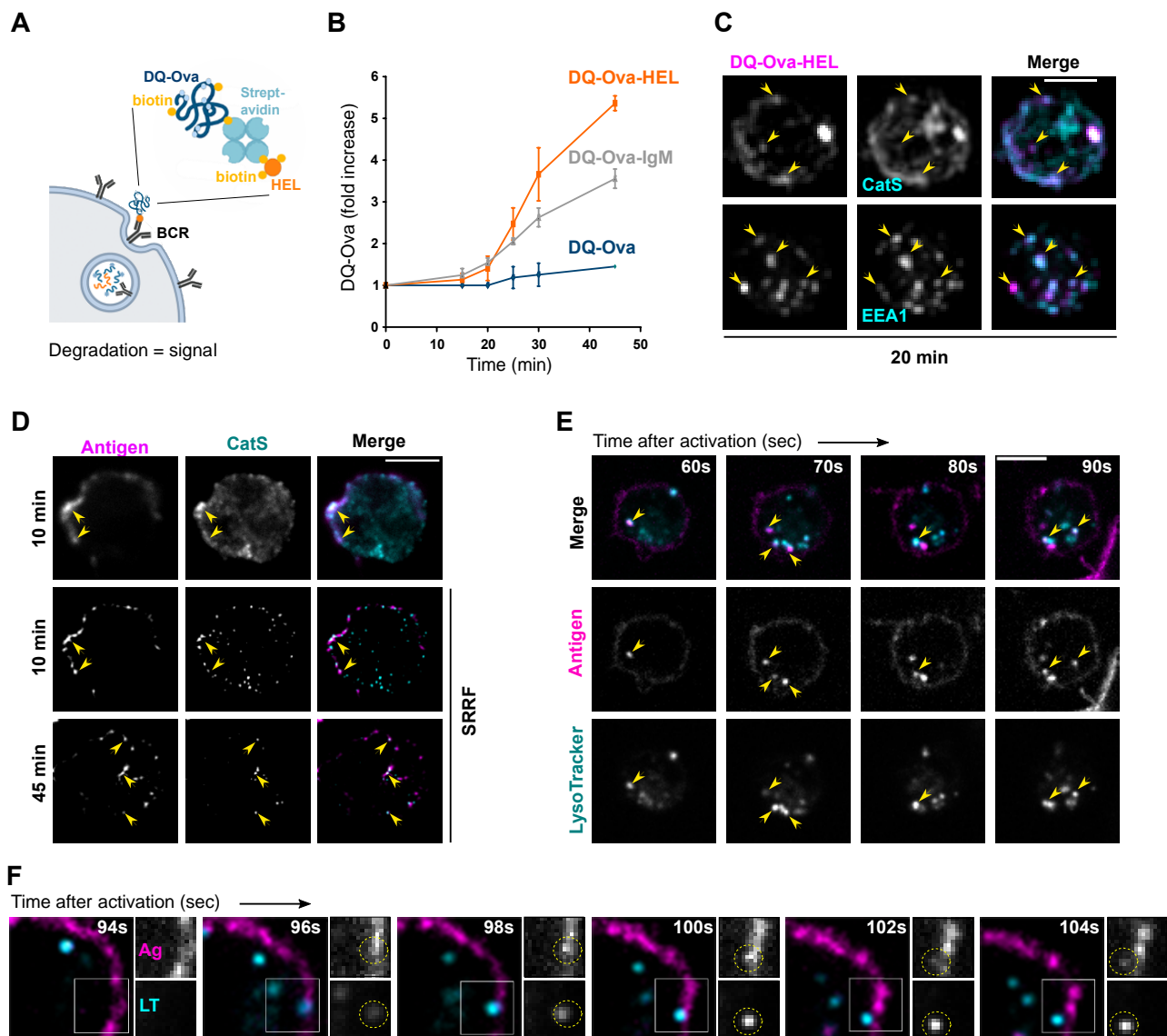
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**Figure 3. Antigen colocalises with both EEA1 and LAMP1 while trafficking to the perinuclear region.** A-B SDCM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 min (A) or 60 min (B) and immunostained for EEA1 or LAMP1 (cyan). Single confocal planes from deconvolved representative cells are shown and examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrow-heads. See Figure S3C-D for Z-projections. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. C Quantification of the data in A and B with additional timepoints. Antigen colocalisation with EEA1 and LAMP1 was measured from deconvolved images analysing Manders' overlap coefficients and Pearson's correlation coefficients using Huygens. Data from two independent experiments (>40 cells/timepoint) shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM. D Samples were prepared with cells activated for 10 or 45 min as in A-B and

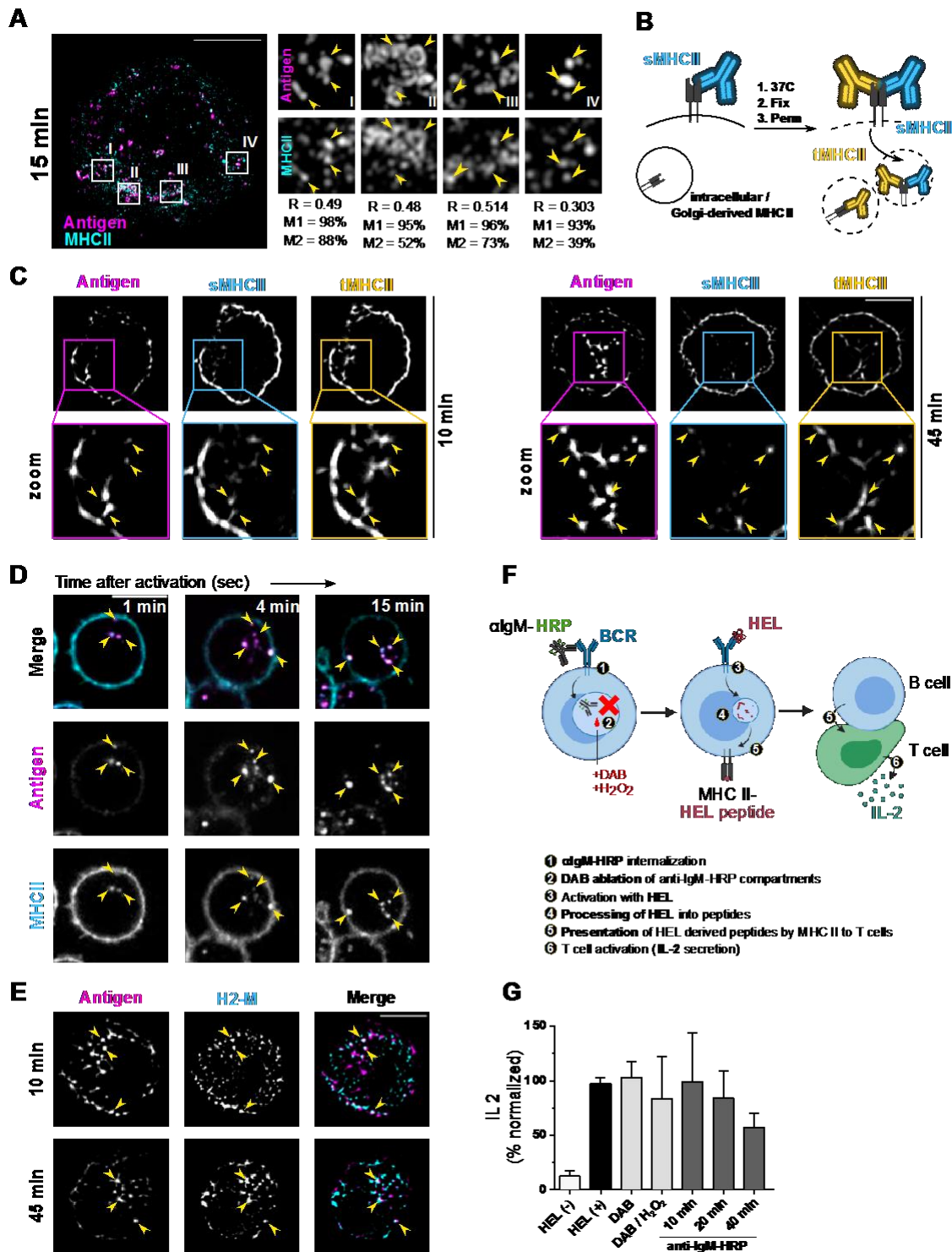
866 imaged with iterative imaging of a single plane with SDCM (20-25 frames/plane) and post-processed  
867 to obtain SRRF super-resolution image (antigen, magenta; EEA1/LAMP1, cyan). Examples of  
868 colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrowheads. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **E** Quantification of the  
869 SRRF data in D analysing Manders' overlap coefficients with ImageJ. Data from three independent  
870 experiments (>30 cells/timepoint) shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM. **F** Quantification of EEA1/LAMP1  
871 colocalisation by analysing Pearson's correlation coefficient with Huygens. Data from three  
872 independent experiments (>30 cells/timepoint) shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM. **G** Surface reconstruction  
873 using Huygens rendering tool of SRRF images from samples prepared as in D (antigen, magenta) and  
874 immunostained for EEA1 (cyan) and LAMP1 (yellow). Three selected example vesicles are  
875 highlighted by zoom-in. **H** A20 D1.3 cells were transfected with GFP-Rab5 (yellow), loaded with  
876 LysoTracker (LT; cyan) and activated with RR $\alpha$ -IgM (antigen, magenta). Live-imaging was  
877 performed with SDCM (ORCA camera) on a single plane. On the left, a merge image of a  
878 representative cell after 10 min of activation is shown. On the right, the region in the white square is  
879 followed in split channels as a timelapse for 12 s, starting 10 min after activation. See Movie S1.





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 881 **Figure 4. Internalised antigen incorporates into vesicles with low pH and capability to degrade**  
 882 **cargo.** **A** Schematic view of DQ-Ova-antigen (HEL) sandwich to probe proteolysis of antigen  
 883 internalised by the BCR. **B** DQ-Ova and DQ-Ova-antigen ( $\alpha$ IgM or HEL) degradation assessed by  
 884 flow cytometry. Cells were labelled as in A, washed, and incubated for different timepoints at 37°C  
 885 and fluorescence of DQ-OVA was acquired immediately. Results are shown as fold increase (mean  
 886  $\pm$ SD of the DQ-OVA intensity, normalized to the intensity at time zero).  $N > 2$  independent  
 887 experiments. **C** A20 D1.3 cells activated with DQ-Ova-HEL (magenta) as in B, for 20 min, were  
 888 immunostained for EEA1 or CatS (cyan). Images were acquired using SDCM with EVOLVE  
 889 (EMCCD) camera. Z-projections of representative cells ( $n = 3$  independent experiments) are shown

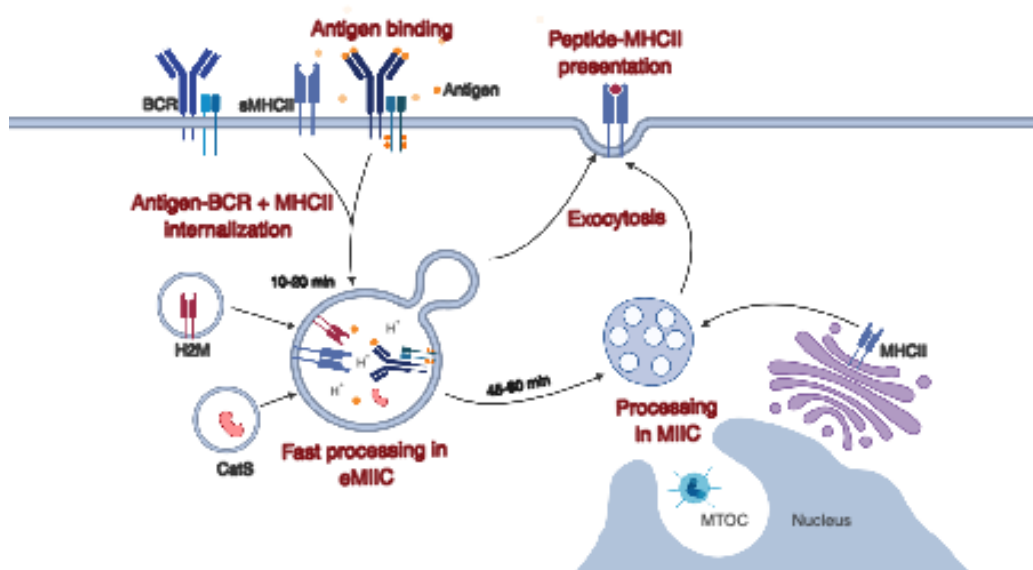
890 with examples of colocalising vesicles pointed with yellow arrow-heads. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **D** A20  
891 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 or 45 min and immunostained for  
892 CatS (cyan) were imaged with conventional SDCM (upper panel, single plane) or with iterative  
893 imaging to obtain SRRF super-resolution image (20-25 frames/plane) (middle and bottom panels).  
894 Examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrowheads. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **E-F** A20  
895 D1.3 were loaded with LysoTracker (cyan) and activated with AF488 F(ab')<sub>2</sub>- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen,  
896 magenta). Live-imaging was performed with SDCM with EVOLVE (EMCCD) camera every 2s (E)  
897 or 500 ms (F), starting as soon as possible after transition of the cells to 37°C under the microscope.  
898 **(E)** A timelapse from a representative cell is shown and examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed  
899 with yellow arrowheads. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. See Movie S2. **(F)** A timelapse of an example movie  
900 highlighting a probable fusion event between an internalising antigen vesicle and a LT vesicle (dashed  
901 yellow circle). A white square in the merge image (left) depicts the region of the split channel insets.  
902 See Movie S3.



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**Figure 5. Antigen and surface-derived MHCII rapidly converge after internalisation.** **A** SIM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 15 min and immunostained for MHC-II (cyan). A representative cell (scale bar 5  $\mu$ m; stack image; 0.125  $\mu$ m step size) is shown on the left with white squares indicating insets I-IV (1.6  $\mu$ m x 1.6  $\mu$ m) shown on panels on the right. Quantification of each inset is shown below as M1 (Manders' coefficient 1; % colocalisation of antigen with MHCII), M2 (Manders' coefficient 2; % colocalisation of MHCII with antigen) and R (Pearson's correlation coefficient). **B** A schematic view on the staining to distinguish surface-derived MHCII from the total pool, used in C-D. **C** A20 D1.3 cells (plane image; antigen in magenta) were stained with anti-MHCII (AF488) before activation with RRx- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen,

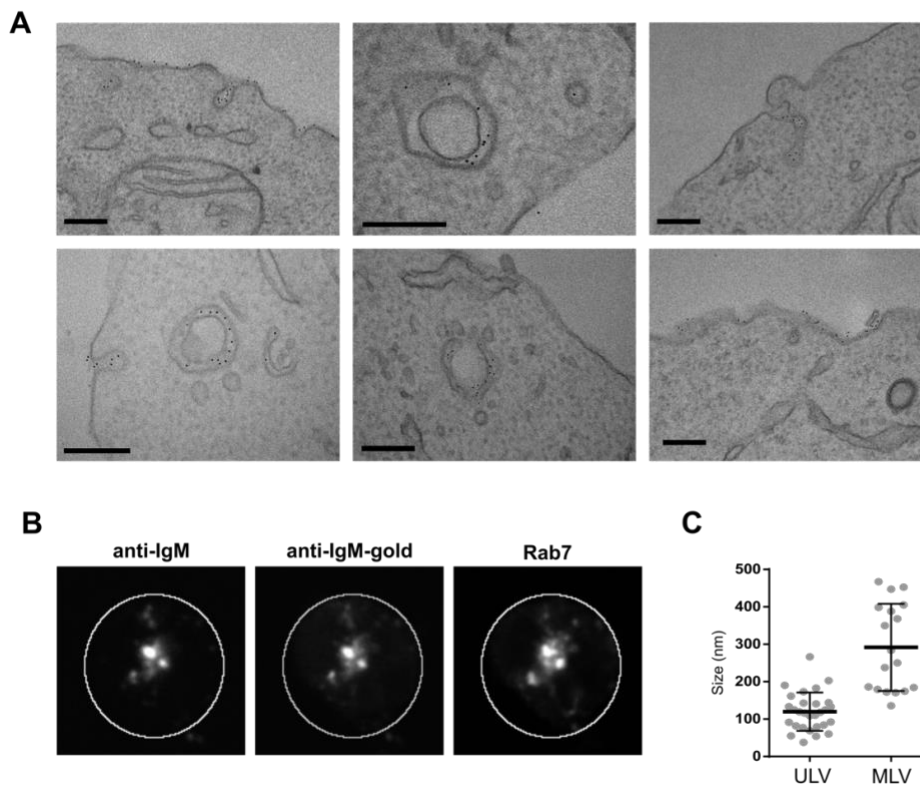
913 magenta) to label surface-bound MHCII (sMHCII, cyan). After activation for 10 or 45 min at 37°C,  
914 cells were fixed and permeabilised to stain with anti-MHCII and a secondary antibody (AF633;  
915 tMHCII, yellow). Samples were imaged with iterative imaging of a single plane with SDCM (20-25  
916 frames/plane) and post-processed to obtain SRRF super-resolution image. Upper panel:  
917 representative cell; lower panel, zoom-in of the white square in the upper panel. Examples of  
918 colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow arrowheads. Scale bar 5µm. **D** Live imaging of A20D1.3  
919 stained on ice with AF488-anti-MHCII (cyan) and RRx-αIgM (antigen, magenta). Samples were  
920 imaged every 5 seconds using SDCM after 1 min at 37 °C (ORCA camera). A timelapse from a  
921 representative cell is shown and examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed with yellow  
922 arrowheads. Scale bar 5 µm. See Movie S4. **E** SRRF imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with  
923 AF647-αIgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 or 45 min and immunostained for H2-M (cyan). A  
924 representative cell is shown and examples of colocalising vesicles are pointed to with yellow arrow-  
925 heads. Scale bar 5 µm. **F** A Schematic illustration explaining the experimental process of DAB-  
926 mediated endosome ablation and antigen presentation to T cells. **G** Effect of DAB mediated  
927 endosome ablation on antigen presentation measured as IL-2 secretion by ELISA, as schematically  
928 illustrated in F. HEL (-): negative control, untreated A20 D1.3 cells without antigen. HEL (+):  
929 positive control, untreated cells activated with HEL. DAB: cells treated with DAB and HRP (without  
930 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) and activated with HEL. DAB/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: cells treated with DAB and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (without HRP) and  
931 activated with HEL. HRP-αIgM: cells activated with HRP-αIgM for different time points, treated  
932 with DAB and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and activated with HEL. Results (mean ± SD, n = 3) are shown as % of IL-2  
933 secretion normalised to the control cells (HEL(+), 100%).



934 **Figure 6. Model of antigen processing in B cells.** B cell internalise antigen and surface MHCII  
935 (sMHCII) and target them to early MHCII Compartments (eMIIC) to support fast antigen processing  
936 and pMHCII presentation. At later stages, antigen is targeted to classical MIIC compartments in the  
937 perinuclear region for further pMHCII presentation.  
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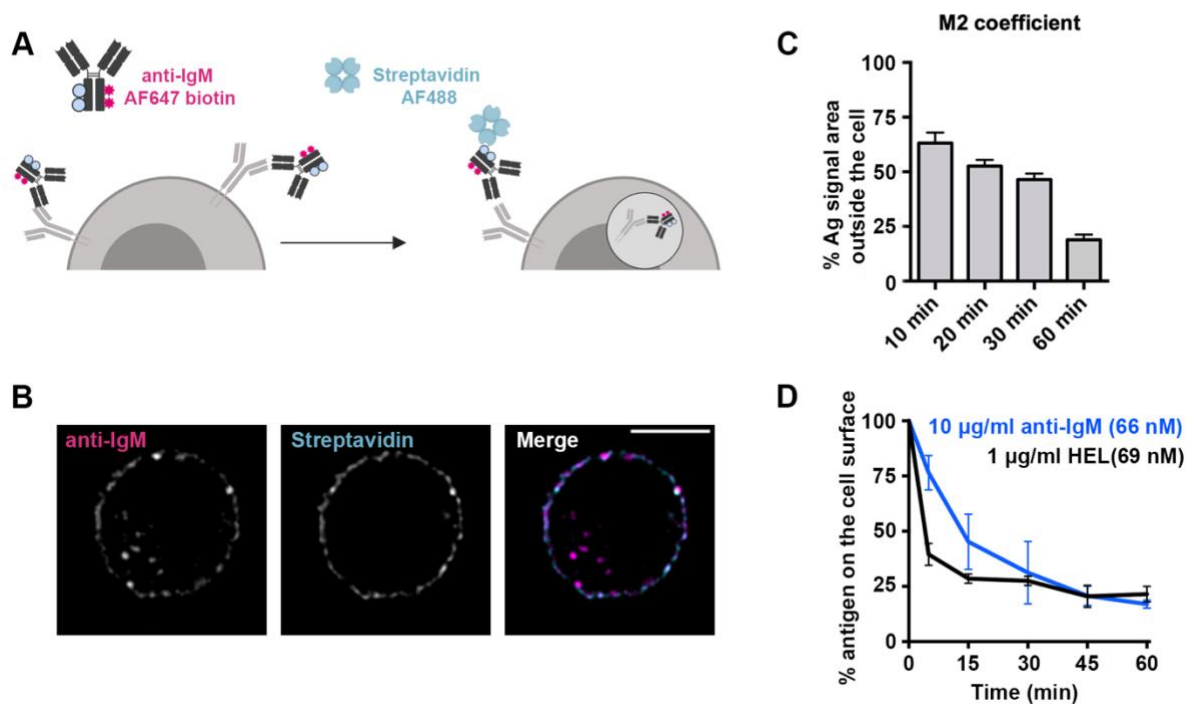
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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



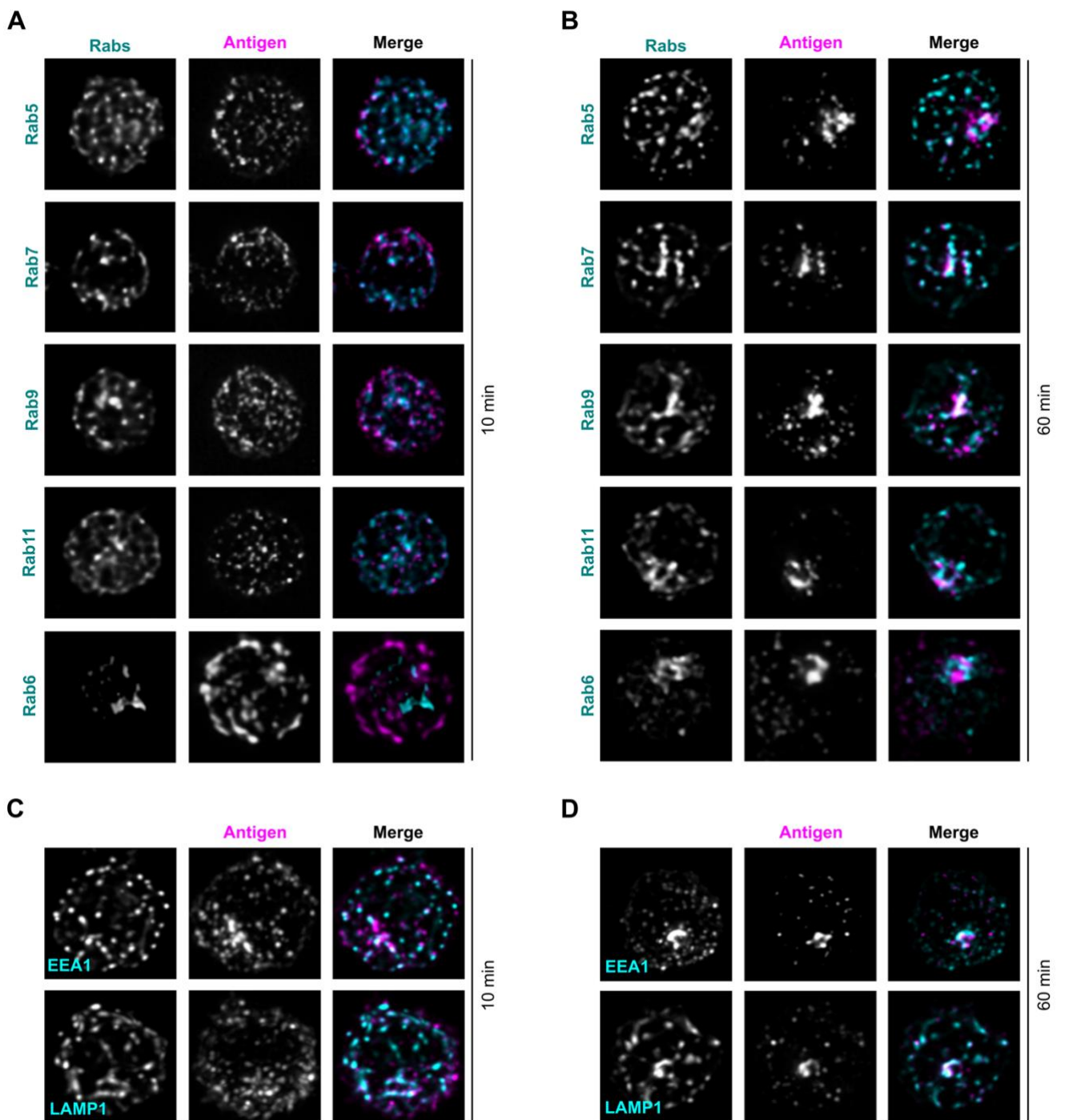
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941 **Figure S1.** A A20 D1.3 cells were activated with  $\alpha$ IgM conjugated with 6nm colloidal gold particles  
942 mixed with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM, for 15 min and imaged using Transmission Electron Microscopy. Scale  
943 bars 200 nm. B The possible effect of colloidal gold-conjugation to the localization of  $\alpha$ -IgM was  
944 controlled by immunofluorescence analysis of sample duplicates (from A). The cells activated for 75  
945 min were fixed and permeabilised, and gold-conjugated  $\alpha$ IgM was stained using an isotype-specific  
946 secondary antibody (middle panel) and compared to AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (left). The cells were also  
947 immunostained with anti-Rab7 antibody (right). SDCM image shows single section of a  
948 representative cell (cell plasma membrane marked with a white circle), where a strong colocalisation  
949 of fluorescently labelled  $\alpha$ -IgM and gold-conjugated  $\alpha$ -IgM was detected together with Rab7,  
950 similarly to the samples without colloidal gold (Fig. S1B; see Fig. 1A and Fig. 2B). C EM  
951 micrographs (as in panel A) were subjected to vesicle size analysis. Vesicles were classified as  
952 unilamellar (ULV) or multilamellar (MLV) and their diameter was measured in ImageJ.



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954 **Figure S2.** **A** Schematic representation of the staining to distinguish between internalised AF647-  
955  $\alpha$ IgM (magenta) and surface-resident  $\alpha$ IgM (probed with AF488-streptavidin; cyan). **B** SDCM  
956 imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with biotin-AF647- $\alpha$ IgM for 10 min. AF647- $\alpha$ IgM used for  
957 activation is shown in magenta, and surface-resident  $\alpha$ IgM (AF488-streptavidin) in cyan. SDCM  
958 images were deconvolved with Huygens software. Single confocal plane from a representative cell is  
959 presented. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **C** Quantification of the data in B, including additional timepoints. 3D  
960 images from cells activated for 10, 20, 30 and 60 minutes were analysed for Manders' overlap  
961 coefficients (M2) using ImageJ. Data shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM of one experiment ( $n > 20$  cells per  
962 timepoint). **D** A20 D1.3 cells labelled with biotinylated- $\alpha$ IgM or biotinylated-HEL were incubated  
963 at 37  $^{\circ}$ C at different timepoints and stained on ice with AF488-streptavidin to detect surface-resident  
964  $\alpha$ IgM. Intensity was normalised to time 0 (100%). Data from at least three independent experiments  
965 is presented as mean  $\pm$ SD.



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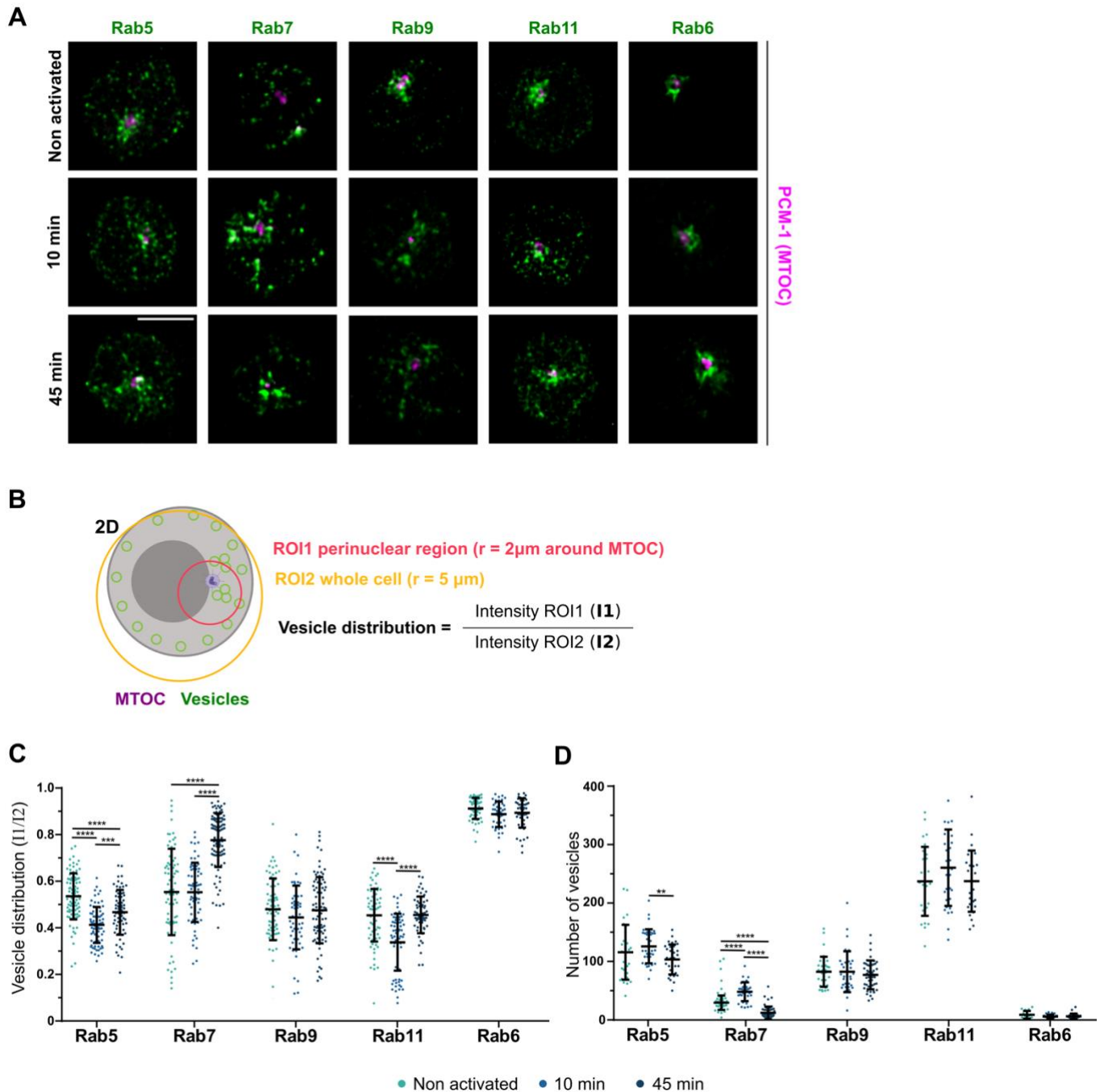
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**Figure S3. Colocalization of antigen with different Rab-proteins.** A-B SDCM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 min (A) or 60 min (B) and immunostained for different Rab-proteins: Rab5, Rab7, Rab9, Rab11 and Rab6 (cyan). Images were deconvolved with Huygens software. Z-projections of the 3D images from representative cells are shown. C-D SDCM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 min (C) or 60 min (D) and immunostained for EEA1 or LAMP1 (cyan). Images were deconvolved with Huygens software. Z-projections of the 3D images from representative cells are shown.

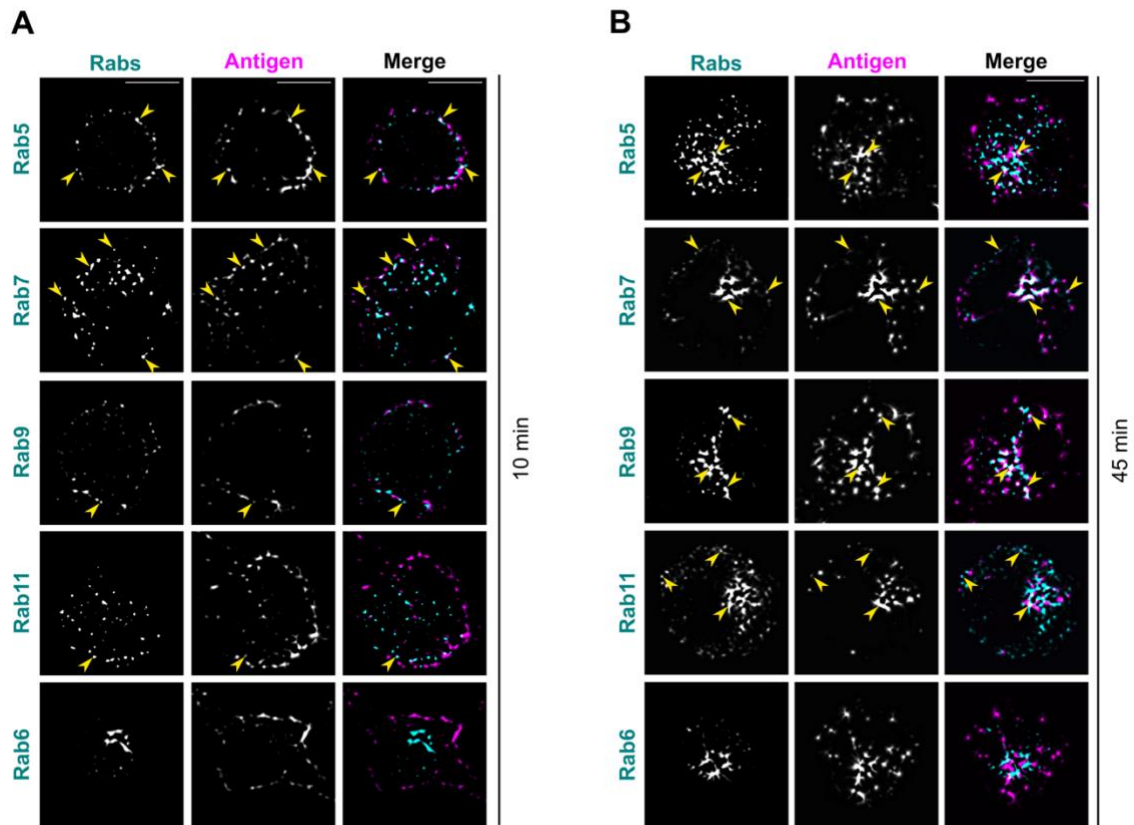


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975 **Figure S4. Effect of B cell activation on the distribution of Rab compartments.** A SDCM  
 976 imaging of A20 D1.3 cells non-activated or activated with  $\alpha\text{IgM}$  for 10 min or 45 min and  
 977 immunostained for different Rab-proteins (Rab5, Rab7, Rab9, Rab11 and Rab6) in green, and an  
 978 MTOC marker PCM—1 in magenta. Images were deconvolved with Huygens software. Z-  
 979 projections of the 3D images from representative cells are shown. B Schematic representation  
 980 showing the analyses performed on the images in A to generate quantification in C. In ImageJ, two  
 981 different regions of interested (ROI) were selected: ROI1, a circle with radius of  $2\mu\text{m}$  around the  
 982 MTOC; and ROI2, a circle around the whole cell. Distribution of the vesicles was quantified as



983 intensity of ROI1/intensity ROI2. **C** Results of the analysis performed as described in B. Data from  
984 two independent experiments (mean + SD, 50-100 cells). **D** Results of the quantification of the same  
985 data (A) for number of vesicles using the MATLAB script described in Fig.1. Data from one  
986 experiment (mean + SD of at least 30 cells).



987

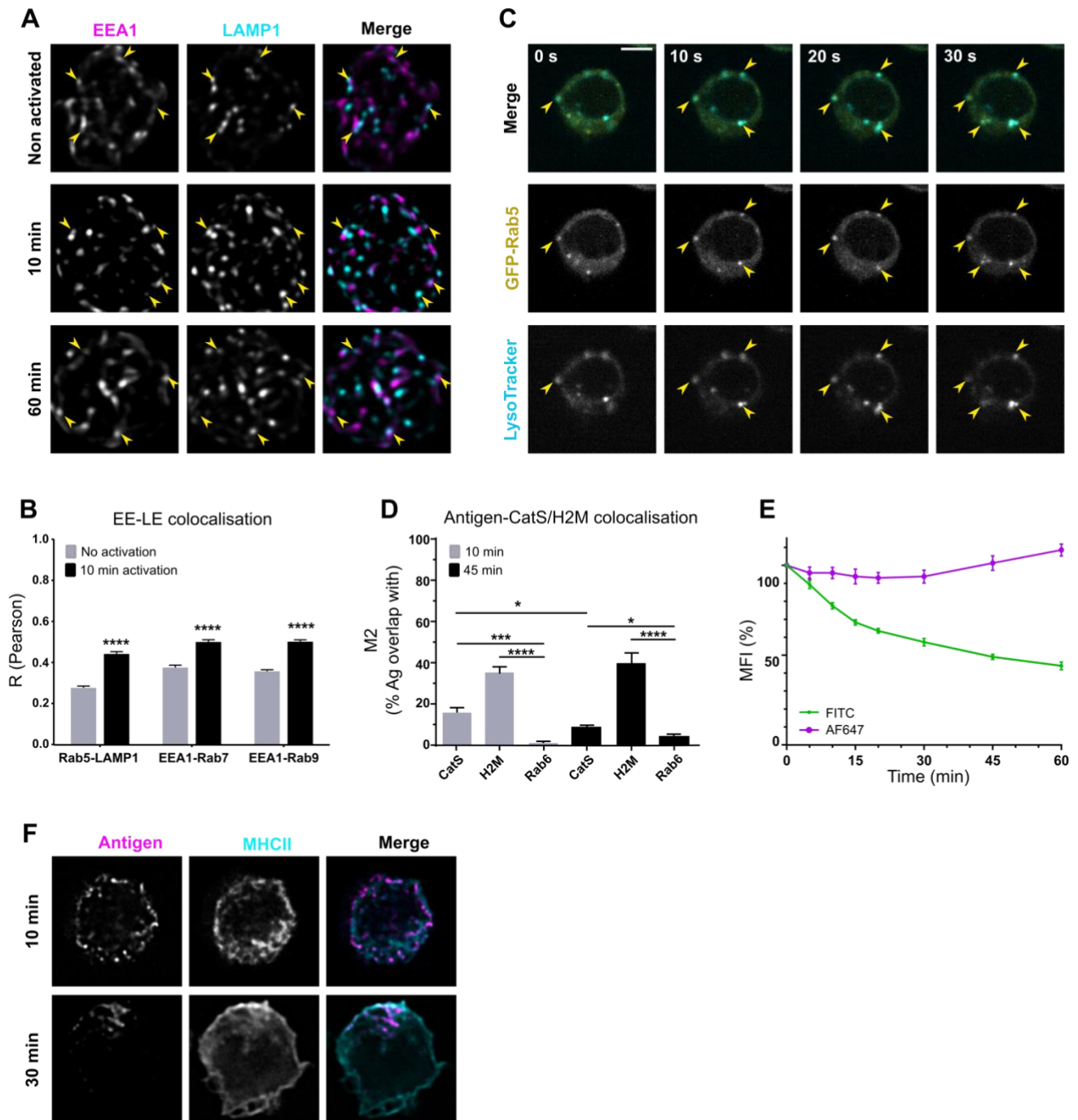
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**Figure S5. Colocalization of antigen with different Rab-proteins in SRFF. A-B** SRFF imaging of A20 D1.3 cells activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen, magenta) for 10 min (**A**) or 60 min (**B**) and immunostained for different Rab-proteins: Rab5, Rab7, Rab9, Rab11 and Rab6 (cyan). Z-projections of the 3D images from representative cells are shown. Scale bar: 5  $\mu$ m.



992

993 **Figure S6. Early and late endosomal markers' colocalization before and after activation. A**  
 994 SDCM imaging of A20 D1.3 cells non-activated or activated with  $\alpha$ IgM for 10 min or 60 min and  
 995 immunostained for EEA1 (magenta) and LAMP1 (cyan). Images were deconvolved with Huygens  
 996 software. Z-projections of the 3D images from representative cells are shown. **B** Analysis of  
 997 correlation shown by Pearson's coefficient of early-late endosomal markers in pairs (Rab5/LAMP1,  
 998 EEA1/Rab7, EEA1/Rab9) before and after 10 minutes activation. Results from one experiment (n>

999 40 cells) shown as mean +SEM. **C** Rab5-GFP localises to LysoTracker-positive vesicles already  
1000 before activation. A20 D1.3 cells were transfected with GFP-Rab5 (yellow) and loaded with  
1001 LysoTracker (LT; cyan). Live-imaging was performed with SDCM (with sCMOS Orca Flash4 v2  
1002 camera) on a single plane. On the upper panel, a merge image of a representative cell is shown as a  
1003 timelapse for 30 seconds. Split channels for GFP-Rab5 and LysoTracker are shown in the middle  
1004 and bottom panel respectively. Examples of colocalizing vesicles pointed to with yellow arrow-  
1005 heads. Scale bar 5  $\mu$ m. **D** Quantification of the data shown in Fig. 4D and Fig. 5E. Antigen  
1006 colocalization with CatS and H2M, compared to the negative control Rab6, was measured from  
1007 SRRF images by analysing Manders' overlap coefficients using ImageJ. Data from two independent  
1008 experiments (>30 cells/timepoint). Results are shown as mean  $\pm$ SEM. **E** Antigen enters low pH  
1009 compartments after internalisation. Flow cytometric analysis of pH-sensitive FITC- and pH-stable  
1010 AF647-conjugated anti-IgM for different timepoints. 3 experiments mean + SD. **F** A20 D1.3 cells  
1011 were activated with AF647- $\alpha$ IgM (antigen in magenta) for 10 or 30 minutes. Samples were then  
1012 fixed, permeabilised and stained with anti-MHCII (cyan). SDCM images were deconvolved with  
1013 Huygens software. Single confocal sections from representative cells are shown.  
1014

1015 **Movie S1. Antigen is transported in vesicles positive for early and late endosomal markers.**  
1016 A20 D1.3 cells were transfected with GFP-Rab5 (right panel), loaded with LysoTracker (left panel)  
1017 and activated with RRx- $\alpha$ IgM (middle panel). Live-imaging was performed with SDCM (sCMOS  
1018 Orca Flash4 v2 camera) on a single plane. Triple-positive vesicles are highlighted with a purple circle  
1019 tracking the spots in the antigen channel. Movie was recorded 10 min after activation and imaged  
1020 every 2 s.

1021  
1022 **Movie S2. Antigen colocalises with acidic vesicles soon after internalisation.** A20 D1.3 cells were  
1023 loaded with LysoTracker (middle panel) and activated with AF488- $\alpha$ IgM (left panel). Right panel  
1024 shows merge image of antigen channel (magenta) and LysoTracker channel (cyan). Live-imaging  
1025 was performed with SDCM (EVOLVE camera) on a single plane every 500 ms. Double-positive  
1026 vesicles are highlighted with a purple circle tracking the spots in the antigen channel. Movie was  
1027 recorded 1 min after cell activation.

1028  
1029 **Movie S3. Antigen vesicles fuse with LysoTracker-positive vesicles hovering beneath the**  
1030 **plasma membrane.** A20 D1.3 cells were loaded with LysoTracker (middle panel) and activated with  
1031 AF488- $\alpha$ IgM (left panel). Right panel shows merge image of antigen channel (magenta) and  
1032 LysoTracker channel (cyan). Live-imaging was performed with SDCM (EVOLVE camera) on a  
1033 single plane every 500 ms. An antigen vesicle fusing with LysoTracker after pinching from the  
1034 plasma membrane is highlighted with a purple circle. Movie was recorded 80 s after activation.

1035  
1036 **Movie S4. Surface MHCII is internalised together with the antigen after activation.** A20 D1.3  
1037 cells were labelled on ice with AF488-anti-MHCII (left panel) and RRx- $\alpha$ IgM (middle panel). Cells  
1038 were shifted at 37 °C to start activation and recorded after 40 s. Right panel shows merge image of  
1039 antigen channel (magenta) and MHCII channel (cyan). Live-imaging was performed with SDCM  
1040 (sCMOS Orca Flash4 v2 camera) on a single plane every 4 s. Vesicles positive for MHCII and antigen  
1041 were tracked with circles (shown in different colours) in the antigen channel.

1042

1043 *Table S1. Key resources/reagents table*

1044

	Reagents	Source/Brand	Cat. number	Dilution or concentration	Use
<b>Antigens</b>	Anti-IgM-biotin	SouthernBiotech	1021-08	10 µg/ml	Antigen internalisation (FACS) DAB ablation
	6nm Gold rat anti-mouse IgM	Jackson ImmunoResearch (JIR)	115-195-075	1:650	EM
	Rhodamine Red-X-AffiniPure Donkey anti-mouse IgM	JIR	715-295-140	10 µg/ml	IF/Live imaging
	Alexa Fluor 647AffiniPure Donkey anti-mouse IgM	JIR	715-605-140	5-10 µg/ml	IF/Live imaging/FACS
	Alexa Fluor 488 AffiniPure F(ab') <sub>2</sub> Fragment Donkey anti-mouse IgM	JIR	715-546-020	10 µg/ml	Live imaging
	FITC anti-mouse IgM	JIR	715-095-140	5 µg/ml	pH probe (FACS)
	Donkey anti-mouse IgM AlexaFluor647-biotin	In-house	715-605-140 + Thermo 21343	10 µg/ml	IF
	Hen Egg Lysozyme (HEL)	Sigma-Aldrich	#L6876	10 µg/ml	ELISA
<b>Antibodies (IF)</b>	HEL-biotin	In-house	Sigma-Aldrich # L6876 + Thermo 21338	1-10 µg/ml	For DQ-Ova probe/FACS
	Anti-Rab5	CST	3547	1:150	IF
	Anti-Rab6	CST	9625S	1:200	IF
	Anti-Rab7	Santa Cruz	Sc-376362	1:100	IF
	Anti-Rab9	CST	5118	1:150	IF
	Anti-Rab11	CST	5589	1:200	IF
	Anti-EEA1	Santa Cruz	Sc-6415	1:50	IF
	Anti-LAMP1	DSHB	1D4B	1:75	IF
	Anti-CathepsinS	LSbio	B2550	1:50	IF
	Anti-CathepsinS	Santa Cruz	sc-271619	1:50	IF
	Anti-MHCII	Santa Cruz	Sc-59322	1:50	IF
	Anti-MHCII-AF488	In-house	Sc-59322 + Thermo A20000	1:50	IF/Live imaging
	Anti-PCM1-AF647	Santa Cruz	Sc-398365 AF647	1:200	IF
	Donkey-anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) AlexaFluor 488/555/647	Thermo	A21206, A31572, A31573	1:500	IF
	Donkey anti-goat IgG (H+L) AlexaFluor 488/555	Thermo	A11055, A21432	1:500	IF
	Mouse anti-rat IgG Fcy Fragment Specific AlexaFluor 488/RRx/647	JIR	212-545-104 212-295-104 212-605-104	1:500	IF
	Goat-anti-mouse IgG Fcy subclass 1 AlexaFluor 488/RRx/647	JIR	115-545-205 115-295-205 115-605-205	1:500	IF
<b>ELISA</b>	Anti-mouse IL-2	Nordic Biosite	503804	4 µg/ml	ELISA
	Anti-mouse IL-2, biotin	Nordic Biosite	503702	1 µg/ml	ELISA
	ExtrAvidin-AP (alkaline phosphatase)	Sigma-Aldrich	E2636	1:5000	ELISA
	FAST pNPP substrate tablet	Sigma-Aldrich	N2770-5SET	-	ELISA

<b>Other</b>	LysoTracker Deep Red	Thermo	L12492	125 nM	Live imaging
	DQ-OVA-biotin	In-house	Thermo D12053 +EZ-Link Maleimide-PEG2- biotin (Thermo 21901BID)	1:10	FACS
	Fibronectin	Sigma	F4759-2MG	4 µg/ml	IF

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