

1 **Title:**

2 **Rhythmicity of Intestinal IgA Responses Confers Oscillatory**  
3 **Commensal Microbiota Mutualism**

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30 **ABSTRACT**

31 Mutualistic interactions with the commensal microbiota are enforced through a range of immune  
32 responses that confer metabolic benefits for the host and ensure tissue health and homeostasis.  
33 Immunoglobulin (Ig)A responses directly determine the composition of commensal species that  
34 colonize the intestinal tract but require significant metabolic resources to fuel antibody production  
35 by tissue-resident plasma cells. Here we demonstrate IgA responses are subject to diurnal  
36 regulation by dietary-derived metabolic cues and a cell-intrinsic circadian clock. Rhythmicity in  
37 IgA secretion conferred oscillatory patterns on the commensal microbial community and its  
38 associated metabolic activity, resulting in changes to metabolite availability over the course of the  
39 circadian day. Our findings suggest circadian networks comprising intestinal IgA, the diet and the  
40 microbiota align to ensure metabolic health.

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43 **One-Sentence Summary:**

44 We demonstrate diurnal rhythms in intestinal IgA act to cross-regulate oscillations in the  
45 abundance of commensal microbes to foster mutualism.

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62 **MAIN TEXT**

63 **Introduction**

64 Multiple mammalian species have evolved to maintain a finely balanced relationship with tissue-  
65 resident commensal bacteria that is mutually beneficial and critical for tissue homeostasis and the  
66 health of the organism. The commensal microbiota confers a multitude of mutualistic functions to  
67 mammalian hosts via the provision of complementary metabolic activity, immune regulation and  
68 colonization resistance that prevents outgrowth of pathogenic microbes (1-4). Healthy interactions  
69 between the host and commensal microbes are dynamically regulated and determined via a  
70 complex crosstalk between the microbiota - at both the individual species and community level -  
71 the intestinal immune system, metabolites and nutritional cues. Conversely, disruption of this  
72 network through changes in lifestyle, diet, infection or antibiotic use can precipitate the onset or  
73 progression of metabolic and inflammatory diseases (2, 4-6).

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75 Immunoglobulin (Ig)A is a specialized antibody isotype that acts to regulate commensal bacteria  
76 community composition, tissue and niche residence and microbial gene expression (7-9). Within  
77 mucosal barrier tissues IgA is the dominant antibody isotype and is produced in a dimeric form  
78 bound by a *J chain* linker that facilitates its selective transport across the intact intestinal epithelium  
79 and secretion into the intestinal lumen (7-9). IgA is produced by tissue-resident plasma cells (IgA<sup>+</sup>  
80 PC) predominantly found within the small intestine, and at higher quantities than any other  
81 antibody isotype at homeostasis – with estimates suggesting that several grams of IgA are  
82 produced per day in healthy humans (10). Plasma cells are terminally differentiated antibody-  
83 secreting lymphocytes of the B cell lineage, that dedicate the vast majority of their cellular capacity  
84 to expanded organelle function required to power antibody translation and secretion (11, 12). In  
85 line with this, the differentiation of a class-switched B cell to plasma cell is associated with a huge  
86 increase in cell-intrinsic cellular metabolism and nutrient transport (12, 13). Moreover, emerging  
87 evidence suggests changes in nutrition and diet can potentially perturb IgA responses in the intestinal  
88 tract, with consequences for the microbiota and whole-body metabolism (9, 14, 15).

89  
90 Taken together these findings highlight the significant metabolic requirements of maintaining  
91 mucosal antibody responses to reinforce homeostatic host-commensal bacteria interactions and  
92 mutualism. To minimize the energetic cost of such metabolically demanding biological axes many  
93 species have evolved dynamic regulatory mechanisms – most notably the regulation of key

94 physiological processes through circadian rhythms. Circadian rhythmicity acts to align  
95 metabolically demanding processes with diurnal light cycles and feeding activity, thus temporally  
96 regulating biological activity during active periods - associated with feeding activity and potential  
97 immune challenges - or periods of rest. Mechanistically this is controlled by a hierarchically  
98 layered series of circadian clocks – most notably within the light-sensing suprachiasmatic nucleus  
99 of the brain – but also cell-intrinsic clocks present across a broad range of cell types in peripheral  
100 organs (16-18). At the molecular level this is controlled by a transcriptional feedback loop  
101 mediated by a series of core clock genes that counter-regulate their own transcription – thus  
102 imprinting rhythmicity, while also modulating a wider signature of genes to alter cell function  
103 (17). Indeed, it is now appreciated that many immune cells exhibit cell-intrinsic circadian-  
104 mediated control of cell migration and magnitude of effector functions (19). Furthermore,  
105 circadian misalignment - through altered dietary composition and feeding times, jet lag or shift  
106 work - has been associated with a number of metabolic and inflammatory diseases, suggesting a  
107 better understanding of circadian regulation of immunity will have therapeutic implications.  
108 However, the role of circadian rhythms in modulating intestinal immune crosstalk with the  
109 microbiota have only recently begun to be clarified (20), and remain incompletely understood.

110  
111 Recent advances have also demonstrated diurnal oscillatory behavior within the composition and  
112 activity of the commensal microbiota itself, in part imprinted through immune pressures (21-25).  
113 Intriguingly it has also been proposed that bacteria may possess analogous circadian clock  
114 machinery (26), suggesting circadian rhythmicity and oscillatory biology may have evolved across  
115 species to bidirectionally regulate microbial mutualism with the mammalian host. Here, we report  
116 diurnal rhythmicity of the secretory IgA response and the IgA<sup>+</sup> PC transcriptome and demonstrate  
117 roles for both the cell-intrinsic circadian clock machinery and cell-extrinsic feeding cues in  
118 aligning IgA responses. Critically, rhythmicity in IgA regulated oscillations in the composition  
119 and metabolic activity of the commensal microbiota, thus highlighting circadian regulation of the  
120 immune system and microbiota as a key determinant of microbial mutualism.

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## 126 RESULTS

### 127 *Intestinal IgA responses exhibit diurnal rhythmicity*

128 We hypothesized that energetically demanding intestinal IgA responses may be subject to diurnal  
129 regulation. To test this, we assessed the levels of secretory IgA within the feces of a single cohort  
130 of C57BL/6 mice at five time points over a 24-hour day (Zeitgeber times; ZT0, 6, 12, 18, 0). The  
131 concentration of IgA detected in the feces was found to exhibit significant and marked variation  
132 over the day (Fig. 1A;  $p < 0.0001$  by JTK analysis and  $p < 0.001$  by One-Way ANOVA test; see  
133 methods), suggestive of diurnal oscillatory activity, and which remained evident after normalizing  
134 for minor variations in total protein content between samples (Fig. S1A). In contrast, we did not  
135 observe time of day differences in the frequency or cell numbers of tissue-resident IgA<sup>+</sup> plasma  
136 cells (IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs) within the small intestinal and colonic lamina propria (Fig. 1B-C and Fig. S1B-  
137 D), nor were diurnal oscillations observed in Peyer's Patch-associated IgA class-switched  
138 germinal centre (GC) B cells (Fig. S1E-G). As IgA<sup>+</sup> PC numbers and intestinal IgA secretion are  
139 most enriched in the small intestine (27), we next determined the intrinsic capacity of IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs  
140 sort-purified at different times of the day to secrete IgA *ex vivo*. As expected, IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs secreted  
141 high amounts of IgA into culture supernatants, unlike equal numbers of sort-purified IgD<sup>+</sup> B cells  
142 or IgA<sup>+</sup> B cells (Fig. S1H). Strikingly, IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs from ZT0 secreted significantly higher IgA than  
143 equal numbers of cells sort-purified at ZT12 (Fig. 1D), suggesting the capacity of IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs to  
144 secrete IgA - as opposed to the numbers of IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs in the intestine - may determine diurnal  
145 rhythms in IgA secretion, as observed in the feces (Fig. 1A).

146  
147 To further investigate the nature of diurnal regulation of IgA<sup>+</sup> PC responses, we sort purified small-  
148 intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs at ZT0, 6, 12 and 18 and performed bulk RNA-seq; of ~16,000 transcripts  
149 detected within our samples 2713 genes were found to exhibit highly significant time of day  
150 differences and oscillatory patterns after adjusting for false discovery rate (JTK analysis, BHQ  
151  $< 0.01$ ), equivalent to ~16% of the observed transcriptome (Fig. 1E and Fig. S2A - top 50  
152 differentially expressed genes). GO Term enrichment of highly oscillatory genes revealed  
153 enrichments in genes involved in Cell Cycle, Protein Translation, Metabolism and Rhythmic  
154 Process (Fig. 1F). Notably, oscillations were detected in the expression of key genes involved in  
155 IgA<sup>+</sup> PC phenotype and transcriptional regulation (Fig. 1G), sensing of external activating signals  
156 and cell-cell crosstalk pathways known to influence antibody secretory activity (Fig. 1H), and  
157 metabolic activity and cholesterol biosynthesis pathways (Fig. 1I, Fig. S2B-G). Together, these

158 findings suggest that IgA secretion and IgA<sup>+</sup> PC-intrinsic transcriptional activity within the  
159 intestinal tract exhibits diurnal rhythmicity - and provoked the possibility of potential circadian  
160 entrainment.

161

162 *Cell-intrinsic circadian clock function is required for plasma cell transcriptional rhythmicity, but*  
163 *not rhythmic IgA secretion.*

164 Diurnal regulation of oscillatory transcriptional activity and function in both non-immune and  
165 immune cells is controlled in part by the cell-intrinsic “clock” - a transcriptional-translational  
166 feedback loop mediated by core clock proteins, including CLOCK, Bmal1 (encoded by *Arntl*),  
167 Rev-erba (*Nr1d1*), Period (*Per1/2*) and Cryptochrome (*Cry1/2*). Notably, IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs were found to  
168 have significant oscillations in the expression of *Arntl1*, *Nr1d1* and *Per2* by RNA Seq (Fig. S3A),  
169 which was independently validated via RT-PCR (Fig. 2A). As expected, expression of *Arntl* within  
170 IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs was found to oscillate in anti-phase to *Nr1d1* and *Per2* over the circadian day, mirroring  
171 expression patterns in control liver tissue (Fig. S3B). In contrast, sort-purified naïve IgD<sup>+</sup> B cells  
172 displayed no evidence of rhythmic expression of *Arntl* or *Per2*, although they surprisingly  
173 exhibited comparable oscillatory expression of *Nr1d1* (Fig. S3C). To determine the role of this  
174 cell-intrinsic circadian clock in regulating IgA secretion within the intestine, we generated  
175 conditional knockout mice in which Bmal1 was deleted within the B cell and PC lineages (*Mb1*<sup>Cre</sup>  
176 x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup>). Efficient deletion of *Arntl* and disruption of associated clock gene transcription was  
177 confirmed in IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs by RT-PCR (Fig. 2B and Fig. S3D).

178

179 To determine the role of IgA<sup>+</sup> PC-intrinsic clock gene expression, we performed bulk RNA-seq  
180 on sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs at ZT0 and ZT12 from *Mb1*<sup>Cre</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> and wildtype  
181 littermate controls (Fig. 2C), and further confirmed severe disruption of time of day expression of  
182 the wider circadian clock gene family following deletion of *Arntl* (Fig. 2D). Analysis of  
183 differentially expressed genes revealed significant time of day-dependent signatures in control  
184 animals that were either lost (Cluster I and IV), suppressed (Clusters II and V), or retained (Cluster  
185 III) in the absence of a functional intrinsic clock (Fig. 2C). Additionally, we observed a time of  
186 day gene signature that was significantly enhanced in conditional knockout cells, when compared  
187 to controls (Cluster VI). Amongst these signatures we detected a loss of time of day differences in  
188 classical IgA<sup>+</sup> PC-associated genes (Fig. 2E), as also identified in bulk RNA Seq analyses of wild  
189 type IgA<sup>+</sup> PC over four time points (Fig. 1). In contrast, while a proportion of metabolism-

190 associated genes displayed a clear loss of time of day differences in the absence of *Arntl* (Fig. 2F),  
191 others – including those involved in glycolysis, amino acid transport, the mevalonate pathway and  
192 cholesterol biosynthesis – retained time of day patterns (Fig. 2G), although in some cases the  
193 magnitude of this difference was altered or did not reach statistical significance.

194

195 Next we determined the impact of disrupted Bmal1-mediated regulation of PC transcription on  
196 rhythms in fecal IgA but unexpectedly found oscillations were retained (Fig. 2H), while IgA<sup>+</sup> PC  
197 frequencies and numbers were unaffected by disruption of the cell-intrinsic circadian clock (Fig.  
198 S3E-F). As some time of day signatures in IgA<sup>+</sup> PC transcription were only partly dependent on  
199 intrinsic *Arntl* expression and rhythmicity in IgA secretion was retained, we asked whether IgA  
200 secretion into the intestinal lumen could be subject to further circadian regulation at the tissue  
201 level. IgA produced by lamina propria-resident PCs requires active transport across the intestinal  
202 epithelium by the polymeric Ig receptor (pIgR). However, we failed to detect oscillatory  
203 expression of the *Pigr* gene in small intestinal tissue (Fig. 2I), while conditional deletion of *Arntl*  
204 in intestinal epithelial cells (*Villin*<sup>Cre</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup>) also failed to perturb rhythmicity in fecal secretory  
205 IgA (Fig. 2J). Together these findings suggest that the IgA<sup>+</sup> PC-intrinsic circadian clock is a major  
206 contributor to rhythmic transcriptional activity, but that rhythms in IgA secretion can persist in the  
207 absence of intrinsic clock function, indicating additional factors may entrain circadian function.

208

209 *Feeding-associated metabolic cues determine the magnitude and rhythmicity of intestinal IgA*  
210 *responses*

211 While cell-intrinsic circadian clocks are important for driving oscillatory immune cell activity,  
212 additional exogenous signals can act to entrain these circadian rhythms - most notably feeding  
213 cues (20, 28). Moreover, emerging evidence suggests IgA responses are highly sensitive to  
214 changes in nutrition and diet (9, 14, 15, 29). To determine whether feeding-associated cues  
215 contribute to the entrainment of rhythms in IgA secretion, we utilized light-tight cabinets on  
216 reverse 12-hour light:dark schedules in combination with 6 hour periods of feeding restricted to  
217 either the dark phase (dark-fed) or light phase (light-fed) (Fig. 3A). Fecal sampling of animals  
218 maintained under these conditions at four time points (ZT0, 6, 12 and 18) revealed that dark-fed  
219 animals displayed oscillations in fecal IgA similar to that of *ad lib* fed mice (Fig. 3B, Fig. 1A), in  
220 line with the largely nocturnal feeding patterns of experimentally housed mice. Strikingly,  
221 restriction of food availability to a six-hour window during the light-phase led to a reversal in

222 oscillatory IgA secretion (Fig. 3B and Fig. S4A) – indicating feeding cues act as a key entrainer  
223 of IgA secretion in the gastrointestinal tract. Notably, while IgA<sup>+</sup> PC from dark-fed animals  
224 displayed cell-intrinsic time of day differences in clock gene expression comparable with *ad lib*  
225 fed mice, reversal of feeding also reversed clock gene expression patterns (Fig. 3C), which was  
226 mirrored in the liver (Fig. S4B). In line with our findings under *ad lib* conditions (Fig. 1 and Fig.  
227 S1), feeding cue-associated regulation of fecal IgA could not be attributed to alterations in IgA<sup>+</sup>  
228 PC or IgA<sup>+</sup> B cell frequencies in the intestinal tract and associated lymphoid structures (Fig.  
229 S4C+D).

230

231 Together these findings suggested that feeding-associated cues, such as dietary-derived nutrients  
232 and metabolites, may act upstream to entrain cell-intrinsic clock genes - while also acting to  
233 regulate cell function through additional mechanisms independent of clock gene expression *per*  
234 *se*. As we observed time of day differences in a series of metabolic genes despite deletion of *Arntl*  
235 in IgA<sup>+</sup> PC (Fig. 2G), we reasoned that feeding cues may further entrain IgA secretion via effects  
236 on plasma cell metabolic activity, in concert with clock gene driven regulation of transcription.  
237 We thus hypothesized that alterations in dietary nutritional content may perturb rhythms in IgA  
238 secretion. As proof of concept we fed mice normal chow or a commercial high fat diet (HFD), to  
239 establish a state of overnutrition, and assessed circadian rhythms in IgA secretion at baseline, 2  
240 weeks or 6 weeks later. Animals fed HFD gained a moderate amount of weight over the 6-week  
241 period when compared to mice fed normal chow (Fig. S4E), and critically while post-prandial  
242 blood glucose was elevated in HFD mice after six weeks (Fig. S4F), no signs of metabolic disease  
243 or impaired glucose tolerance were observed at this time (Fig. S4G). In contrast, mice fed HFD  
244 for a prolonged period of 12 weeks began to exhibit elevated fasting glucose levels (Fig. S4G).  
245 Fecal IgA levels consistently exhibited circadian oscillations over a 24-hour period in animals fed  
246 normal chow and serially sampled at baseline, 2 weeks and 6 weeks (Fig. 3D). In contrast, while  
247 the HFD-fed group exhibited a comparable oscillation in fecal IgA at baseline, the same animals  
248 began to exhibit dysregulation of oscillatory IgA secretion following two weeks on HFD, and a  
249 complete loss of IgA rhythmicity after 6 weeks (Fig. 3D). Notably, the overall magnitude of IgA  
250 secretion was increased significantly in mice fed HFD for 6 weeks (Fig. 3D) suggesting excessive  
251 nutrition may nonetheless elevate IgA secretion in the intestinal tract over this time period.

252



253 Cell-intrinsic metabolic activity and nutrient availability have been demonstrated to be critical  
254 determinants of plasma cell survival, function and antibody secretory capacity (12, 13, 30, 31). In  
255 line with this concept, we found that small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs exhibited elevated metabolic  
256 activity when compared to either IgA<sup>+</sup> B cells or IgD<sup>+</sup> B cells derived from the Peyer's patches  
257 (Fig. S4H-Q). Notably, IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs exhibited markedly elevated uptake of the glucose analogue  
258 2NDBG (Fig. S4H-I), expressed higher levels of the solute carrier chaperone protein CD98 –  
259 which functionally endowed cells with enhanced amino acid uptake capacity (Fig. S4J-N), and  
260 exhibited elevated intracellular lipid content (Fig. S4O-P). The heightened metabolic activity of  
261 IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs was further reflected in extracellular flux assays (Fig. S4Q). Nonetheless, the *ex vivo*  
262 metabolic activity of IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs did not significantly differ by time of day (Fig. S4R-U), suggesting  
263 that circadian rhythms in IgA<sup>+</sup> PC function and IgA secretion were not dictated by diurnal changes  
264 in the metabolic capacity of plasma cells *per se*. Rather, we hypothesized that changes in nutrient  
265 availability - as a result of feeding activity - may act as a rate-limiting factor for antibody secretion  
266 by fueling IgA<sup>+</sup> PC metabolism, and entraining rhythmicity in concert with the cell-intrinsic clock.  
267 In line with this hypothesis, the IgA secretory capacity of sort-purified PCs cultured *ex vivo* was  
268 found to be sensitive to the nutrient content of culture media, with an increase in glucose from  
269 subphysiological (1mM) to physiological (9mM) levels resulting in increased magnitude of IgA  
270 secretion (Fig. 3E). Similarly, IgA secretion from cultured PCs was sensitive to the presence of  
271 the amino acid leucine in the culture media (Fig. 3F), while pharmacological inhibition of either  
272 amino acid transport (BCH) or glycolysis (2DG) conversely reduced the magnitude of IgA  
273 secretion (Fig. 3G). Taken together these findings suggest that feeding-associated cues, through  
274 changes in nutrient availability, act to entrain and align oscillations in IgA production and the IgA<sup>+</sup>  
275 PC transcriptional circadian clock in-part by fueling cell-intrinsic metabolic activity.

276  
277 *Oscillatory IgA secretion partially imprints rhythms in the microbiota and modulates host-*  
278 *commensal mutualism.*

279 IgA is a canonical immune regulator of host-commensal microbe interactions and mutualism, and  
280 while a significant proportion of the microbiota is bound by secretory IgA the precise impact of  
281 IgA on the composition and mutualistic functions of the microbiota has remained incompletely  
282 understood. Conversely, emerging evidence suggests that the composition of the microbiota  
283 exhibits circadian rhythmicity which is in part dictated by host immune circuits (20-23, 25, 32).  
284 The dissection of the precise roles of IgA in regulating the commensal microbiota have been

285 hindered by the observed generation of compensatory IgM responses in both *Igha*-knockout mice  
286 and IgA-deficient humans, which bind to a comparable repertoire of commensal bacteria (27, 33-  
287 35). Thus, to circumvent this issue and determine whether circadian oscillations in intestinal IgA  
288 impact upon the commensal microbiota we utilized IgMi mice, which lack the ability to class  
289 switch and secrete antibody yet retain a mature B cell compartment (36-38)(Fig. 4A). Thus, this  
290 model allowed us to study the microbiota in the absence of both secretory IgA and any other  
291 mucosal antibody isotypes transported into the intestinal lumen in the absence of IgA that may  
292 fully or partially compensate. As expected IgMi mice lacked detectable fecal IgA by ELISA when  
293 compared to littermate control animals (Ctrl) (Fig. S5A), and furthermore lacked IgA-bound  
294 bacteria as determined by flow cytometry (Fig. 4B, Fig. S5B). Next, we serially collected fecal  
295 samples from IgMi and littermate control animals over multiple circadian time points and  
296 performed 16S rRNA sequencing. In line with previous findings (37), we did not observe any  
297 dramatic changes in the global composition of fecal bacteria at the phylum or genus level when  
298 analyzing the microbiota of mice lacking IgA versus control animals, irrespective of circadian time  
299 (Fig. 4C; data shows average of combined timepoints). One notable exception was a clear  
300 reduction in the abundance of *Akkermansia* in IgMi mice (Fig. 4C and Fig. S5C-D), suggesting  
301 IgA binding may favor colonization of this mucosal-dwelling microbe. In contrast analysis by  
302 *Zeitgeber time* identified rhythms within the commensal microbiota, in line with previous reports  
303 (21-23, 25, 32). Consistent with these prior studies we were able to identify circadian rhythmicity  
304 in a number of bacteria genera including *Mucispirillum*, *Helicobacter*, *Peptococcaceae*,  
305 *Desulfovibrio* and *Bilophila* (Fig. 4D-E, H-I). In contrast, other major bacterial genera  
306 demonstrated no observable time of day differences (Fig. S5E). Critically, we identified a signature  
307 of rhythmic bacteria that lost circadian rhythmicity in the absence of IgA (Fig. 4D, H-I, Fig. S5F),  
308 although others retained or gained rhythmicity in IgMi mice (Fig. 4E-F). To determine whether  
309 the loss of bacterial rhythmicity in IgMi mice was preferentially observed amongst bacteria  
310 directly bound by IgA, we further performed IgA-Seq (Fig. 4G). IgA-Seq analysis revealed an  
311 enrichment (71%) of oscillatory microbes (*red*) amongst bacteria identified to be preferentially  
312 IgA bound in control animals. Notably, many of these bacteria also demonstrated a loss of  
313 rhythmicity (Fig. 4D and H), or changes in circadian phase (Fig. S5G) in the absence of mucosal  
314 antibody. Surprisingly, while we also observed a small subset of oscillatory bacteria that were  
315 preferentially enriched in the IgA negative fraction and unperturbed in IgMi mice (Fig. S5H), we  
316 also detected some bacteria that were not directly bound by IgA yet lost rhythmicity in IgMi mice

317 (Fig. 4I) – suggesting circadian regulation of commensal communities may be complex and  
318 potentially subject to reciprocal interactions and competition for niche. Thus, we were able to  
319 identify oscillations in the abundance of a number of commensal bacteria that were dependent  
320 upon IgA, the secretion of which is itself regulated in a circadian manner.

321

322 While this provides evidence for a circadian role for IgA in regulating the composition of  
323 commensal bacteria, the consequences of this for the mutualistic functions of the microbiota and  
324 the mammalian host were unclear. Thus, we further performed shotgun metagenomics on serially  
325 sampled fecal bacteria from littermate control mice over five distinct time points (ZT0, ZT6, ZT12,  
326 ZT18 and a second ZT0, within the same 24-hour period). Analysis of functional GO-Terms in  
327 wild type control littermates predicted that a significant proportion of predicted bacterial functional  
328 pathways undergo circadian oscillation (Fig. 5A). Strikingly, IgMi mice exhibited a near-complete  
329 loss of highly oscillatory GO-Terms when compared to littermate controls (Fig. 5A+B). Many of  
330 the microbial GO-Terms that were found to be oscillatory in control animals and lost in IgMi mice  
331 related to metabolic processes, including *Glycolytic Process* and *Gluconeogenesis* (Fig. 5B+C,  
332 Fig. S6A+B), suggesting the presence of IgA may promote rhythmicity in microbial metabolism  
333 and liberation of nutrients from the diet. We also identified a small number of GO-Terms that  
334 indicated alterations in basic microbial biology, including several that in contrast were predicted  
335 to gain oscillations in the absence of IgA, including bacterial *Flagellum Assembly* and  
336 *Extrachromosomal Circular DNA* (Fig. S6C). Next, in order to determine whether changes in  
337 microbial function and metabolic activity altered nutrient availability within the intestine we  
338 performed metabolomics on fecal samples from IgMi mice and littermate controls. We observed  
339 evidence of time of day differences in the relative abundance of glucose in the feces over the course  
340 of a day, which were blunted in the absence of mucosal antibody (Fig. 5D), and to a lesser extent  
341 in short chain fatty acid availability (Fig. S7A), while availability of succinate exhibited  
342 comparable time of day differences regardless of the presence or absence of mucosal antibody  
343 (Fig. S7A). Despite changes in fecal metabolite levels, we confirmed that IgMi mice retained  
344 comparable circadian patterns in food intake (Fig. S7B), suggesting differences could not be  
345 attributed to changes in feeding behavior. To determine the potential impact of circadian changes  
346 in intestinal metabolite availability on the host we placed mice in metabolic cages (CLAMS) but  
347 found no evidence for major dysregulation of whole-body metabolism and energy usage (Fig.  
348 S7C+D). However, we observed perturbed time of day differences in circulating glucose in the

349 blood of IgMi mice (Fig. 5E), which mirrored predicted microbial metabolic activity and glucose  
350 abundance in the feces, thus suggesting that circadian IgA regulation of microbial function may  
351 modulate time of day differences in metabolite availability and/or uptake by the host.

352

## 353 **DISCUSSION**

354 The complex interplay between the microbiota, intestinal immune system and diet is increasingly  
355 understood to be central to a broad range of inflammatory, metabolic and systemic pathologies –  
356 and an increasing driver of morbidity and mortality in the industrialized world. In particular, an  
357 increased prevalence of high fat, low fibre diets and antibiotic use has been implicated in the onset  
358 and progression of obesity, allergy and chronic inflammation. Thus, understanding the  
359 consequences of interactions between commensal bacteria, intestinal immune responses and  
360 nutrition are key to disentangling the etiology and pathogenesis a broad range of diseases.

361

362 The constitutive regulation of host-microbiota interactions at mucosal barrier sites has the potential  
363 to be metabolically demanding. Here we provide evidence of circadian regulation of a major  
364 mucosal immune pathway central to host-microbiota crosstalk, which we hypothesize may have  
365 evolved to balance energetic cost with optimal orchestration of microbial mutualism. Specifically,  
366 we report diurnal secretion of IgA - in line with previous observations (39, 40) - and further define  
367 the precise cues and molecular mechanisms that align rhythms in mucosal antibody secretion as  
368 well the impact of this response on the microbiota. Our findings suggest a combination of cell-  
369 intrinsic circadian clocks and cell-extrinsic, feeding-associated nutritional cues entrain rhythms in  
370 IgA that modulate oscillations in the commensal microbiota and alter metabolite availability (Fig.  
371 S8). Intriguingly, the rhythmic regulation of glucose availability by IgA, and converse regulation  
372 of IgA oscillations by feeding-associated cues including glucose, suggests a bidirectional feedback  
373 loop may exist that tightly links IgA and commensal mutualism over the course of a day (Fig. S8).

374

375 Surprisingly while we observed IgA<sup>+</sup> PC-intrinsic oscillations in canonical clock genes, and  
376 significant disruption of clock gene expression upon deletion of *Arntl*, rhythmicity in luminal  
377 secretory IgA was retained - suggesting *Bmal1* is in part dispensable for oscillations in IgA  
378 secretion despite its clear role in regulating IgA<sup>+</sup> PC transcription over time. This could be  
379 explained by findings that rhythmicity in both IgA secretion and clock gene expression was aligned  
380 by the time of feeding, in line with an emerging body of evidence that has demonstrated that

381 rhythmic processes can be dictated in concert by both circadian and metabolic cues (41, 42).  
382 Nonetheless, we cannot rule out roles for circadian clock gene regulation independent of Bmal1.  
383 For example, other clock components have been reported to retain rhythmicity in the absence of  
384 Bmal1, while Rev-erb $\alpha$  has been attributed clock-independent roles as a transcription factor (43).  
385 Moreover, *Xbp1* – which is highly expressed by IgA<sup>+</sup> PC – has recently been described to induce  
386 rhythmic gene expression independent of core clock genes (44).

387

388 In line with several previous studies a lack of IgA did not result in a marked dysbiosis *per se*,  
389 although we observed a loss of *Akkermansia* spp. in line with current understanding that in many  
390 cases IgA promotes host mutualism with mucosal-dwelling commensals (45-47). Strikingly  
391 however, we were able to recapitulate seminal observations made by other groups who reported  
392 diurnal oscillations in many of the same commensal microbes – including *Mucispirillum*,  
393 *Peptococcaceae* and *Streptococcaceae* spp (21-23, 25, 32). Critically, as in previous studies, these  
394 oscillations in bacterial constituents further manifested as time of day regulation of commensal  
395 function and broader microbial biology – most notably in pathways orchestrating nutrient  
396 metabolism, bacterial replication and pathogenicity (21, 23, 25). To date the role of IgA in  
397 impacting upon microbial *function* – as opposed to composition - has remained relatively poorly  
398 understood; here we demonstrate that lack of IgA secretion causes a loss in diurnal oscillations at  
399 the level of both composition and microbial activity, and consequently alters metabolite  
400 availability and host metabolic homeostasis.

401

402 Indeed, these data build upon previous findings in the field that suggest IgA binding has key roles  
403 in modulating bacterial gene expression, in addition to its more classical roles in regulating  
404 colonization and outgrowth. For example, we found that lack of IgA led to a gain in flagellum  
405 assembly over the circadian day, supporting findings that IgA binding can suppress bacterial  
406 flagellum expression (48). One notable observation was the circadian regulation of microbial  
407 pathways of glucose metabolism and glucose availability both within the intestine and circulation  
408 – adding to previous findings that IgA may be an important immune pathway in the regulation of  
409 glucose metabolism and risk of metabolic disease (14). Our data also build upon previous findings  
410 that indicate nutritional status and feeding-associated cues potently alter the magnitude of IgA  
411 secretion and microbiota-associated oscillations. Indeed, both long-term undernutrition or chronic  
412 overnutrition can alter the generation of IgA responses in the intestinal tract, suggesting a dynamic

413 interplay between nutrition, circadian rhythms and mucosal antibody responses and host-  
414 commensal mutualism (9, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23, 25, 28, 29). More broadly, these findings suggest  
415 circadian IgA regulation of the microbiota may act to promote mutualism, metabolite availability  
416 and metabolic health, which together with recent advances (49), suggest IgA acts to determine host  
417 exposure to microbially-derived metabolites.

418

419 These findings complement and expand upon other recent studies that together suggest circadian  
420 regulation may be a common feature of tissue-resident intestinal immune cells that constitutively  
421 act to maintain healthy interactions with commensal bacteria (24, 25, 43, 50-54), and that immune  
422 pressure may partially imprint rhythmicity on the microbiota itself to confer mutualistic benefits  
423 for the host over the daily light:dark cycle, including ensuring energetic and metabolic efficiency  
424 aligned with feeding activity. An increasing body of evidence has begun to link lifestyles that  
425 disrupt circadian rhythmicity and microbial rhythms with the onset and progression of human  
426 inflammatory and metabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes (55), and thus an increased  
427 understanding of circadian immune regulation will be critical to harness the full potential of the  
428 emerging field of circadian medicine (56, 57)

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## 445 MATERIALS AND METHODS

446

### 447 *Mice*

448 Age and sex-matched C57BL/6 mice were purchased from Envigo laboratories. *Mbl<sup>Cre</sup> x Arntl<sup>fl/fl</sup>*  
449 were originally generated and provided by Kai-Michael Toellner (University of Birmingham), and  
450 IgMi mice were a kind gift from Ari Waisman (IMB Mainz). *Villin<sup>Cre</sup> x Arntl<sup>fl/fl</sup>* were maintained  
451 within the Centre for Biological Timing at the University of Manchester. All transgenic mouse  
452 experiments were performed using cohoused littermates and under specific pathogen free  
453 conditions with *ad libitum* feeding as 12h:12h light:dark cycle at the University of Manchester,  
454 United Kingdom, unless otherwise specified. In some cases, mice received irradiated High Fat  
455 Diet (Research Diets; D12492i; 60% Kcal from fat) *ad lib* for up to 12 weeks. Where indicated  
456 experimental cages were placed in controlled light-tight cabinets under opposing 12-hour  
457 light:dark cycles to facilitate investigation of circadian rhythms. In some experiments mice were  
458 placed in bespoke housing for the measurement of metabolic readouts and feeding as detailed  
459 below. All animal experiments were performed under Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) in single  
460 ventilated cages conditions and under license of the U.K. Home Office and under approved  
461 protocols at the University of Manchester.

462

### 463 **Tissue Processing**

464 Small intestinal lamina propria lymphocyte preparations were prepared by opening longitudinally  
465 and removing the Peyer's patches, associated fat and luminal content by gently shaking in cold  
466 PBS. Epithelial cells and intra-epithelial lymphocytes were removed by shaking tissues in stripping  
467 buffer (1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT and 5% FCS) for two rounds of 20 min at 37°C. Lamina propria  
468 lymphocytes were isolated by digesting the remaining tissue in 1 mg/mL collagenase D (Roche)  
469 and 20 µg/mL DNase I (Sigma-Aldrich) for 45 min at 37°C. Liberated cells were then extracted  
470 by passing the tissue and supernatant over a 70µm nylon filter and centrifuged to isolate lamina  
471 propria lymphocytes. Isolated Peyer's patches were processed by passing them through a 70µm  
472 nylon filter. In a small number of cases Peyer's patches were retained during intestinal tissue digest  
473 to facilitate concurrent analysis of tissue-resident plasma cells and B cell subsets.

474

### 475 **Flow Cytometry**

476 Single cell preparations were stained with antibodies to the following markers: anti-CD3 (clone  
477 145-2C11, eBioscience), anti-CD5 (clone 53-7.3, eBioscience), anti-B220 (clone RA3-6B2,  
478 eBioscience), anti-CD11b (clone M1/70, eBioscience), anti-MHCII (clone M5/114.15.2,  
479 eBioscience), anti-CD45 (clone 30-F11, Biolegend), anti-Fas (clone 15A7, eBioscience), anti-GL7  
480 (clone GL7, Biolegend), anti-CD38 (clone 90, eBioscience), anti-CD98 (clone 4F2, Biolegend)  
481 anti-CD19 (clone 1D3, BD), anti-IgA (clone mA-6E1, eBioscience), anti-IgD (clone 11-26c.2a,  
482 Biolegend), anti-CD138 (clone 281-2, Biolegend). Specific conjugates are indicated within  
483 Figures. Dead cells were excluded from analysis using the LIVE/DEAD Fixable Aqua Dead Cell  
484 Stain (Life Technologies). Samples were acquired using a BD Fortessa Cytometer, and analysed  
485 with FlowJo (TreeStar).

486

### 487 **Bacterial flow cytometry**

488 Feces were collected in Fast Prep lysing Matrix A tubes (MP Biomedicals), resuspended in 1ml of  
489 PBS per 100mg fecal material and incubated at 4°C for 20 min. Bacterial suspensions were  
490 resuspended in a final volume of 2 ml PBS and incubated at 4°C for 20 min. Samples were  
491 homogenized in a FastPrep-24 Tissue homogenizer (MP Biomedicals) for 30s. After  
492 homogenization, samples were centrifuged at 50 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C to remove debris and  
493 the bacteria-containing supernatant transferred through 70µm filters into a new tube. Bacteria were  
494 washed in FACs buffer (PBS, 2% FCS, 5mM EDTA) and pelleted at 8000 x g for 5 min. For flow  
495 cytometry, bacterial pellets were resuspended in 100µl FACs buffer containing SYTO 9 green  
496 fluorescent nucleic stain (Life Technologies) (10µM), incubated at 4°C for 15 minutes, and  
497 subsequently stained with 1µg/ml of an anti-mouse IgA-PE antibody (clone mA-6E1, eBioscience)  
498 for 30 min at 4°C. Samples were thoroughly washed and acquired on a BD Fortessa flow  
499 cytometer.

500

### 501 **Cell-sorting and *ex vivo* culture assays**

502 Kynurenine uptake was assessed as previously reported (58). Briefly, after surface antibody  
503 staining,  $2 \times 10^6$  cells were resuspended in 200µl warmed Hanks Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS;  
504 Sigma, UK), and 100µl of HBSS, or BCH (40mM, in HBSS), or leucine (20mM, in HBSS), was  
505 added to appropriate samples. Kynurenine (800µM, in HBSS) was then added and uptake  
506 subsequently stopped after 4 minutes by adding 125µl 4% PFA for 30min at room temperature in  
507 the dark. After fixation, cells were washed twice in HBSS and then resuspended in HBSS prior to



508 acquisition on the flow cytometer. For assessment of 2-NBDG uptake *in vitro*,  $1 \times 10^6$  small  
509 intestinal cells were cultured in glucose-free DMEM medium (Agilent, USA) supplemented with  
510 2mM L-glutamine and 100 $\mu$ M 2-NBDG (Thermo Fischer, USA) for 10 minutes at 37°C. Surface  
511 antibody staining of samples was then performed and acquisition of samples on the flow cytometer  
512 was undertaken within 2 hours. For assessment of lipid accumulation within cells *in vitro*,  $1 \times 10^6$   
513 small intestinal cells were cultured in glucose-free DMEM medium (Agilent, USA) supplemented  
514 with 2mM L-glutamine and LipidTOX™ (Thermo Fischer, USA) for 30 minutes at 37°C. Cells  
515 were then washed, surface antibody staining of samples was then performed and acquisition of  
516 samples on the flow cytometer was undertaken within 2 hours.

517

## 518 **ELISA**

519 Mouse fecal IgA titers were measured using the Mouse IgA ELISA Quantitation Set (Bethyl  
520 Laboratories) following manufacturers' instructions. Fecal samples were serially diluted and  
521 optimal dilutions and concentration were determined based via a standard curve. For core data sets  
522 an additional BCA assay (Pierce Coomassie Plus (Bradford) Assay Kit, Thermo Scientific) was  
523 performed on fecal extracts to measure total protein, and IgA concentrations normalized.

524

## 525 **Metabolic inhibitor assays.**

526 Sort-purified IgA+ PCs isolated from the small intestinal lamina propria were incubated ( $10^4$  cells/  
527 well) in either leucine free media (US Biological, USA) or glucose free media (Gibco, UK), with  
528 IL-6 (10ng/ml) (PeproTech, USA) and BAFF (200ng/ml) (Biolegend, UK), supplemented with  
529 differing concentrations of leucine, or glucose (both Sigma, UK). To determine the effects of  
530 inhibiting nutrient uptake or metabolic signaling on IgA secretion, sort-purified IgA+ PCs isolated  
531 from the small intestinal lamina propria were cultured ( $10^4$  cells/ well) as above with or without  
532 the addition of metabolic inhibitors including pp242 (500nM), BCH (10mM) and 2-Deoxy-D-  
533 glucose (2DG) (1mM) (all Sigma, UK). Cells were incubated for 16 hours at 37°C, following  
534 which culture supernatants were removed and IgA concentrations determined by ELISA. Cell  
535 viability was determined under different culturing conditions, by either using a hemocytometer or  
536 flow cytometry.

537

## 538 **Extracellular Flux Analysis**

539 Extracellular flux analysis (Agilent, USA) was performed with replicates of 150,000 sort-purified  
540 IgA<sup>+</sup> PCs isolated from small intestinal lamina propria or IgD<sup>+</sup> B cells isolated from Peyer's  
541 patches. Cells were adhered to each well of the Seahorse plate (Seahorse/Agilent, USA) using  
542 CellTak (Corning, USA). Cells were rested in Seahorse medium (glucose-free DMEM) at 37°C  
543 without CO<sub>2</sub> for at least 30 minutes prior to the run. For the test, Seahorse XF medium was  
544 supplemented with 2mM of L-glutamine (Sigma, UK) and pH was adjusted to 7.35±0.05 (at 37°C).  
545 Glucose (10mM final concentration) (Fischer Scientific, USA), oligomycin (1µM final  
546 concentration (Sigma, UK) and 2-DG (100mM final concentration; Sigma), were added to  
547 individual ports to complete this assay.

548

### 549 **Metabolic and physiological monitoring**

550 To assess metabolic gas exchange, mice were individually housed in indirect calorimetry cages  
551 (CLAMS cages, Columbus instruments). Mice previously maintained on a controlled light-dark  
552 light cycle were acclimatized to the cages for two 24-hour cycles, and oxygen consumption and  
553 carbon dioxide production was recorded at 10-minute intervals for at least a further three  
554 consecutive 24h light-dark cycles. Respiratory exchange ratio (RER) was derived from these  
555 measurements (VCO<sub>2</sub>/VO<sub>2</sub>), as was energy expenditure. For measurement of food intake  
556 genotype-matched co-housed mice were placed in a Sable System for a full week on a controlled  
557 24-hour light-dark cycle. Following a two-day acclimatization period, food intake was measured  
558 for at least three consecutive 24h light-dark cycles.

559

### 560 **RT-PCR**

561 Total RNA was purified using the RNeasy Micro Kit (Qiagen) and cDNA was prepared using the  
562 high capacity cDNA reverse transcription kit (Applied Biosystems). Real-time qPCR was  
563 performed with the real-time PCR StepOnePlus system (Applied Biosystems). TaqMan based  
564 assays (Applied Bio Systems) used the following primers and probes; *Gapdh* forward 5' CAA  
565 TGT GTC CGT CGT CGA TCT 3', Reverse 5' GTC CTC AGT GTA GCC CAA GAT G 3' and  
566 Probe 5' CGT GCC GCC TGG AGA AAC CTG CC 3'; *Arntl* forward 5' CCA AGA AAG TAT  
567 GGA CAC AGA CAA A 3', Reverse 5' GCA TTC TTG ATC CTT CCT TGG T 3' and Probe 5'  
568 TGA CCC TCA TGG AAG GTT AGA ATA TGC AGA A 3'; *Per2* forward 5' GCC TTC AGA  
569 CTC ATG ATG ACA GA 3', Reverse 5' TTT GTG TGC GTC AGC TTT GG G 3' and Probe 5'  
570 ACT GCT CAC TAC TGC AGC CGC TCG T 3. *Nr1d1* was detected with a commercial Taqman

571 probe assay (Mm00520708\_m1; Applied Biosystems); Alternatively, LightCycler 480 SYBR  
572 Green I Master Mix (Roche) was used with the following primers; *pIgR* forward 5' CTG GGG  
573 AAG AGG GAT CCA GA 3' and reverse 5' ACT CCC TTC ACA ACA GAG CG 3', and *bactin*  
574 forward 5' TCCTATGTGGGTGACGAG 3' and *bactin* reverse 5'  
575 CTCATTGTAGAAGGTGTGGTG 3'.

576

### 577 **Bulk RNA sequencing**

578 RNA was isolated from sort-purified cells, as above, and library preparation and bulk RNA  
579 sequencing was performed commercially with Novogene (UK) Company Ltd. Briefly, normalised  
580 RNA was used to generate libraries using NEB Next Ultra RNA library Prep Kit (Illumina). Indices  
581 were included to multiplex samples and mRNA was purified from total RNA using poly-T oligo-  
582 attached magnetic beads. After fragmentation, the first strand cDNA was synthesised using  
583 random hexamer primers followed by second strand cDNA synthesis. Following end repair, A-  
584 tailing, adaptor ligation and size selection libraries were further amplified and purified and insert  
585 size validated on an Agilent 2100, and quantified using quantitative PCR (qPCR). Libraries were  
586 then sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 S4 flowcell with PE150 according to results from  
587 library quality control and expected data volume. RNA Seq data are available via the GEO  
588 repository (Accession numbers: GSE175637, GSE175609).

589

### 590 **16S rRNA sequencing**

591 Bacterial DNA from fecal bacteria was isolated using the PowerSoil DNA Isolation Kit (Qiagen,  
592 Netherlands) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Pre-amplification of the V3V4 region  
593 of 16S rRNA was performed by PCR in triplicate using 2xKAPA HiFi Hot Start ReadyMix  
594 (Roche) using primer pairs containing adaptor sequences, as follows: 16S Amplicon PCR Forward  
595 Primer = 5'TCGT  
596 CGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGCCTACGGGNGGCWGCAG; 16S Amplicon  
597 PCR Reverse Primer = 5' GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGGACT  
598 ACHVGGGTATCTAATCC. Following this, AMPure XP beads (Fisher Scientific) were used to  
599 purify the 16S V3V4 amplicon away from free primers and primer dimer species, according to the  
600 manufacturer's protocol. Illumina sequencing adapters were then attached using the Nextera XT  
601 Index Kit (Illumina Inc, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA libraries were  
602 then further purified using AMPure XP beads. DNA libraries were then quantified, normalised and

603 pooled together for 16S sequencing via the Illumina MiSeq platform (Illumina, USA) at the  
604 University of Manchester. IgA-Seq was performed as described previously (36), and sequencing  
605 performed at the University of Liverpool.

606

### 607 **Shotgun Metagenomics**

608 Shotgun metagenomics was performed commercially by CosmosID. Briefly, microbial DNA was  
609 extracted from fecal pellets and quantified using Qubit 4 fluorometer and HS Assay Kit  
610 (ThermoFisher Scientific). DNA libraries were prepared using the Nextera XT DNA Library  
611 Preparation Kit and Nextera Index Kit (Illumina) following the manufacturer's protocol with  
612 minor modifications. The standard protocol was used for a total DNA input of 1ng. Genomic DNA  
613 was fragmented using a proportional amount of Illumina Nextera XT fragmentation enzyme.  
614 Combinatory dual indexes were added to each sample followed by 12 cycles of PCR amplification.  
615 DNA libraries were then purified using AMPure magnetic beads (Beckman Coulter) and eluted in  
616 Qiagen EB buffer. DNA libraries were re-quantified and pooled together for sequencing via the  
617 Illumina HiSeqX. Raw reads from metagenomics samples were analysed by CosmosID  
618 metagenomic software (CosmosID Inc., Rockville, MD, USA) to identify microbes to the strain  
619 level and a high-performance data mining k-mer algorithm was employed alongside highly curated  
620 dynamic comparator databases to rapidly disambiguate short reads into related genomes and genes.

621

### 622 **Functional profiling of shotgun metagenomic data**

623 Following initial QC, adapter trimming and preprocessing of metagenomic sequencing reads were  
624 performed using BBduk. The quality-controlled reads were then subjected to a translated search  
625 using Diamond against a comprehensive and non-redundant protein sequence database, UniRef  
626 90. The mapping of metagenomic reads to gene sequences were weighted by mapping quality,  
627 coverage and gene sequence length to estimate community wide weighted gene family  
628 abundances. Gene families are then annotated to MetaCyc reactions (Metabolic Enzymes) to  
629 reconstruct and quantify MetaCyc metabolic pathways in the community. Furthermore, the  
630 UniRef\_90 gene families were regrouped to GO terms to generate an overview of community  
631 function. To facilitate comparisons across multiple samples with different sequencing depths, the  
632 abundance values were normalized using Total-sum scaling (TSS) normalization to produce  
633 "Copies per million" units.

634

## 635 **Bioinformatics**

636 Where indicated bioinformatic analyses of data were performed via commercial platforms. For  
637 analysis of bulk RNA seq data differential gene expression analyses were performed in R (version  
638 4.0.2) using RStudio Version 1.2.5033 (RStudio, Inc). Raw non-normalised counts were imported  
639 into R and subsequently analysed using the DESeq2 package (59), using the default pipeline.  
640 Genes with a total of fewer than ten counts across all samples were removed, and normalisation  
641 was calculated using the DESeq() function with default parameters for estimating size factors and  
642 dispersions. Differential expression was then calculated using the results() function with the  
643 default parameters. Genes with a significance value of less than 0.01 after correction for multiple  
644 comparisons using the Benjamini-Hochberg method were defined as “differentially expressed”  
645 and taken forward for further analysis. In some cases heatmaps were generated from normalised  
646 counts using the counts (normalised = TRUE) function followed by scaling and centring.  
647 Hierarchical clustering of genes was then computed using the ComplexHeatmap package (60). In  
648 other cases, clustering and normalised counts were then exported to excel and plotted in Graphpad  
649 Prism.

650

## 651 **Metabolomics**

652 The metabolic profiles of fecal samples were measured using <sup>1</sup>H nuclear magnetic resonance  
653 (NMR) spectroscopy as previously described (61). Briefly, fecal samples (30 mg) were defrosted  
654 and combined with 600μL of water and zirconium beads (0.45 g). Samples were homogenized  
655 with a Precellys 24 instrument (45 s per cycle, speed 6500, 2 cycles) and spun at 14,000 g for 10  
656 minutes. The supernatants (400μL) were combined with 250μL phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, 100%  
657 D<sub>2</sub>O, 3 mM NaN<sub>3</sub>, and 1 mM of 3-(trimethyl-silyl)-[2,2,3,3-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>4</sub>]-propionic acid [TSP] for the  
658 chemical shift reference at δ0.0) before centrifugation at 14,000 g for 10 minutes, and then  
659 transferred to 5 mm NMR tubes for analysis on a Bruker 700 MHz spectrometer equipped with a  
660 cryoprobe (Bruker Biospin, Karlsruhe, Germany) operating at 300 K. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were  
661 acquired for each sample using a standard one-dimensional pulse sequence using the first  
662 increment of the NOE pulse sequence for water suppression as previously described (62). Raw  
663 spectra were phased, baseline corrected and calibrated to TSP using Topspin 3.2 (Bruker Biospin)  
664 and then digitized in a Matlab environment (Version 2018; Mathworks Inc, USA) using in-house  
665 scripts. Redundant spectral regions (related to water and TSP resonance) were removed and the  
666 spectral data was manually aligned and normalized to the probabilistic quotient using in-house

667 Matlab scripts. The peak integrals (relating to relative abundance) for metabolites of interest were  
668 calculated for each sample.

669

### 670 **Statistical analyses**

671 Statistical analysis of rhythmicity was calculated via JTK\_Cycle analysis (63) of double plotted  
672 data sets using an established R pipeline. In some cases variations over time were additionally or  
673 alternatively analysed by Kruskal Wallis test or One Way ANOVA.

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717

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719 Conceptualization: MRH, HAP, JG

720 Investigation: HAP, RGD, MZK, FMG, SD, MH, CP, EJ, CG-S, MR, DB, JS, MRH

721 Data Curation: HAP, RGD, JS, MRH

722 Formal Analysis: JP, HAP

723 Funding Acquisition: MRH, HAP, RGD.

724 Resources: DB, KMT, AW, HVF

725 Supervision: MRH, RKG, JG.

726 Writing – original draft: MRH

727 Writing – review and editing: HAP, RGD, MRH

728

729 **COMPETING INTERESTS:** The Authors declare that they have no competing interests.

730       **DATA AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY:** Data are included in the main text or  
731       supplementary materials. RNA Sequencing data sets will be made available via the  
732       aforementioned GEO accession numbers.

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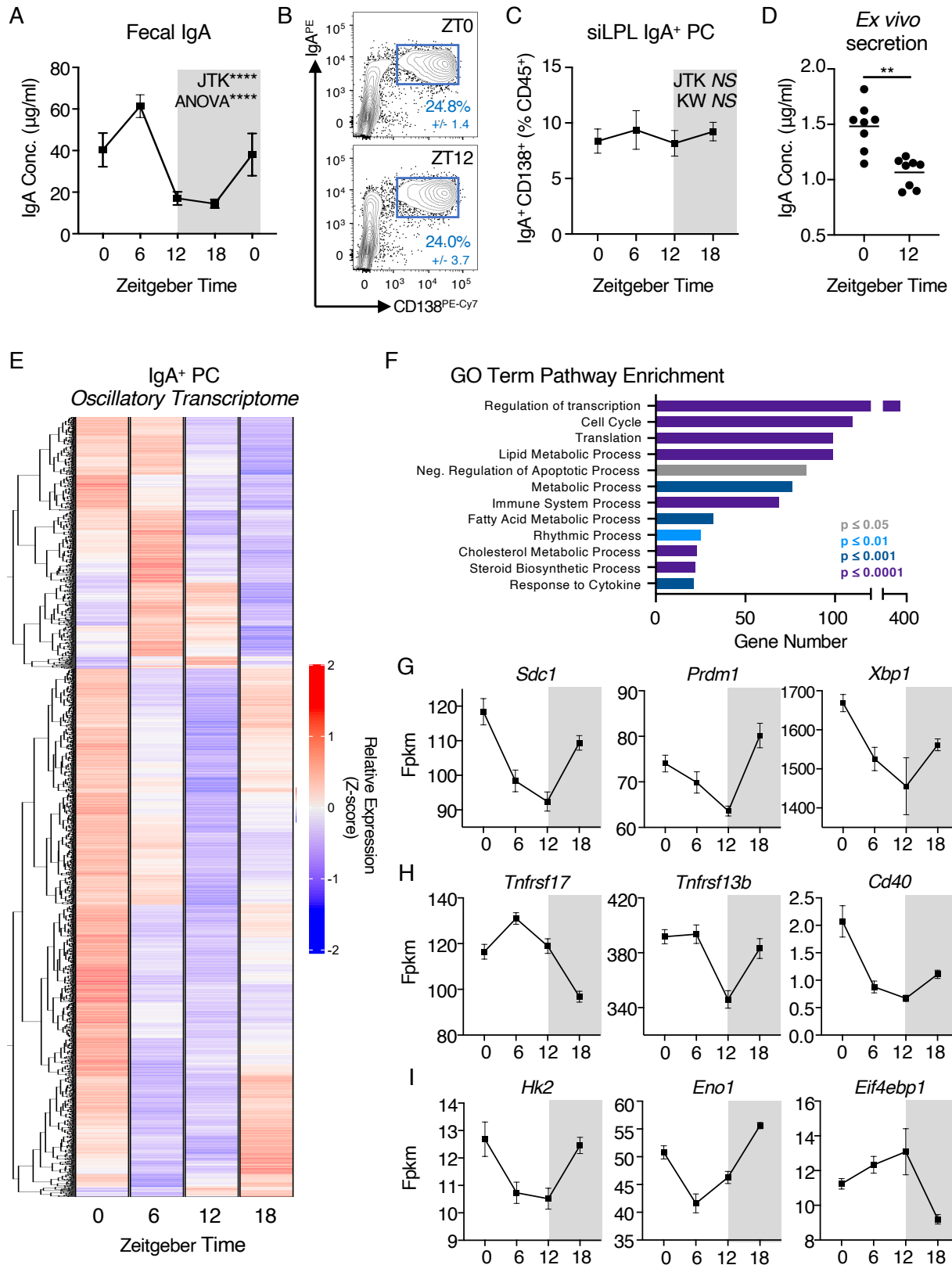
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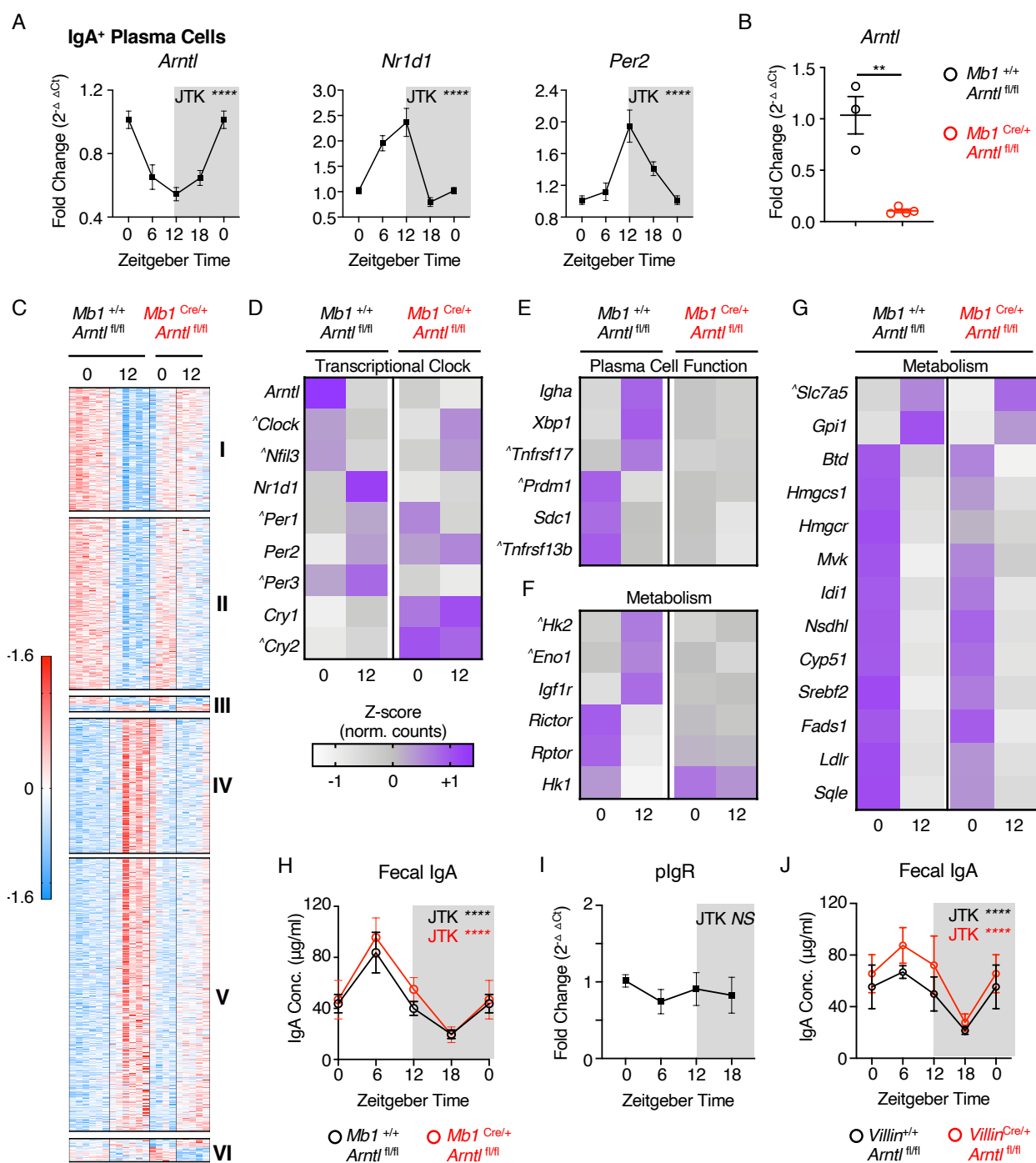
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901 **Figure 1. Mucosal antibody secretion and small intestinal  $\text{IgA}^+$  Plasma Cell activity exhibit**  
902 **diurnal rhythmicity.** A) Serial fecal sampling of C57BL/6 mice at five 6 hour intervals over a

903 circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18, 0),  $n=10$  (pooled from two independent data sets). Data  
904 representative of at least 4 independent experiments. B) Exemplar flow plots of small intestinal  
905 CD138<sup>+</sup> IgA<sup>+</sup> plasma cells, pregated as Live CD45<sup>+</sup>CD3<sup>-</sup>CD5<sup>-</sup>NK1.1<sup>-</sup>MHCII<sup>+/+</sup>B220<sup>-</sup>IgD<sup>-</sup>, at ZT0  
906 and ZT12 and C) Quantification of IgA<sup>+</sup> plasma cell frequencies at ZT0, 6, 12 and 18. B+C  $n=5$   
907 and representative of three independent experiments. D) *Ex vivo* secretion of IgA by sort-purified  
908 IgA<sup>+</sup> PC (from ZT0 and ZT12) cultured for 18 hours. Data pooled from two independent  
909 experiments,  $n=8$ . E) Heatmap of significantly oscillatory genes identified from bulk RNA  
910 Sequencing of sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> plasma cells taken at ZT0, 6, 12 and 18, z-score  
911 of average relative gene expression (fpkm) values of  $n=5$  per timepoint. F) GO-Term pathway  
912 enrichment analysis on oscillatory gene signatures. Selected relative expression (fpkm) values for  
913 oscillatory gene signatures related to G) Plasma Cell function, survival and identity, H) Extrinsic  
914 survival and antibody secretion signals, and I) Cellular Metabolism. All data shown as +/- SEM,  
915 \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

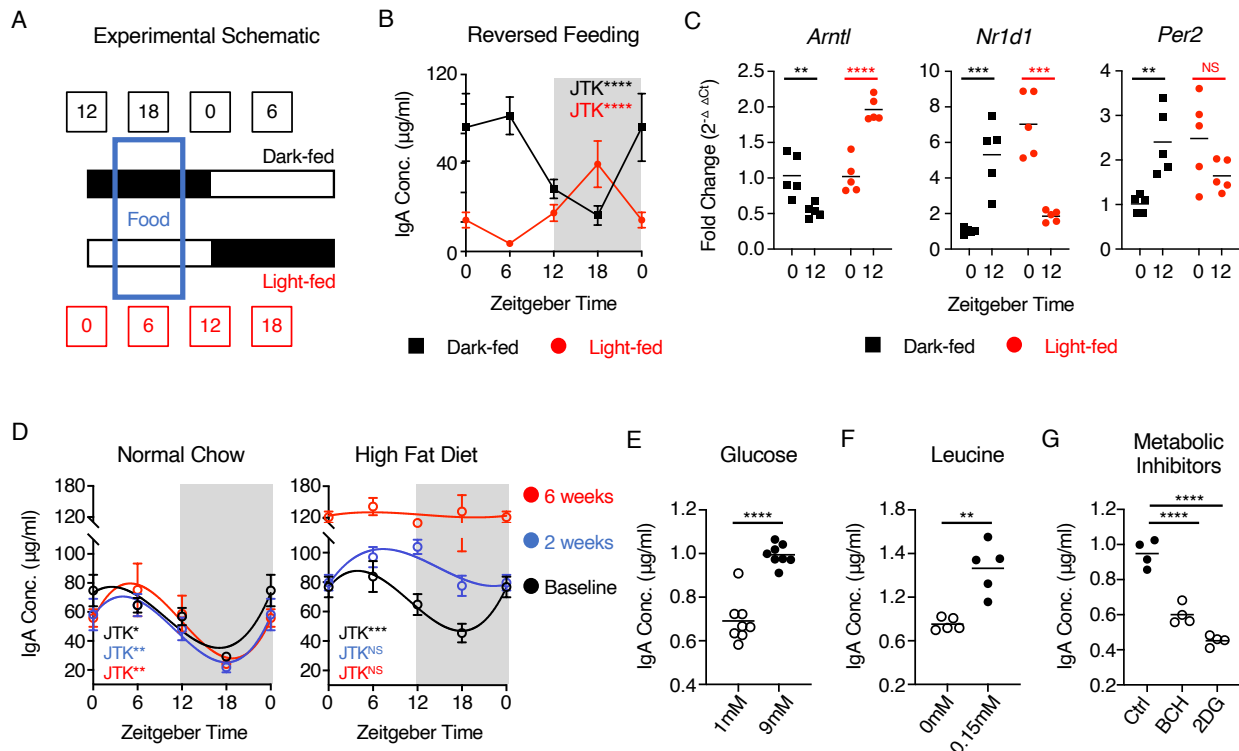
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918 **Figure 2. Rhythmic IgA<sup>+</sup> Plasma Cell activity is in part dictated by the cell-intrinsic circadian**  
919 **clock.** A) Relative expression of circadian clock genes in sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PC at  
920 ZT 0, 6, 12 and 18 (ZT0 double plotted), determined by RT-PCR. *n*=10 (pooled from two  
921 independent experimental cohorts). Data representative of at least 3 independent experiments. B)  
922 RT-PCR validation of *Arntl* deletion in small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PC sort-purified from *Mb1<sup>Cre/+</sup> x*  
923 *Arntl<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice in comparison to *Mb1<sup>+/+</sup> x Arntl<sup>fl/fl</sup>* littermate control animals, *n*=3-4 representative

924 of a single experiment. C) Heatmap comparison of differentially expressed genes identified by  
925 bulk RNA sequencing of sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PC at ZT0 and 12, and found to  
926 significantly differ between ZT0 and ZT12 in control animals. Z-scores of relative gene expression  
927 (fpkm) values in individual animals of  $n=6$  *Mbl*<sup>+/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice and  $n=4-5$  *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup>  
928 mice per timepoint. Gene clusters: I+II (decrease in gene expression between ZT0 + ZT12 in  
929 controls, loss of suppression in *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice), III (time of day difference retained in  
930 both genotypes), IV+V (increase in gene expression between ZT0 + ZT12 in controls, loss of  
931 suppression in *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice) and VI (enhanced time of day difference in *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x  
932 *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice). D-G) Average z-score values in IgA<sup>+</sup> PC at ZT0 and ZT12 taken from *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x  
933 *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice and *Mbl*<sup>+/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> littermate control animals, representative of D) Circadian clock  
934 genes, E) Plasma Cell-associated genes, F+G) Metabolism-associated genes. ^ identifies genes  
935 where time of day differences either did not reach statistical significance in control animals in this  
936 analysis but were either previously identified in Figure 1 as oscillatory, or are directly related and  
937 relevant to the biological pathway described. H) Serial fecal sampling of *Mbl*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice  
938 and *Mbl*<sup>+/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice at four time points over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18; ZT0 double  
939 plotted),  $n=8-9$  and pooled from two independent experimental cohorts. I) RT-PCR expression of  
940 *pIgR* relative to housekeeping gene in whole small intestinal tissue samples. J) Serial fecal  
941 sampling of *Villin*<sup>Cre/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice and *Villin*<sup>+/+</sup> x *Arntl*<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice at four time points over a  
942 circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18; ZT0 double plotted),  $n=5$  and representative of two independent  
943 experiments. All data shown as +/- SEM unless otherwise indicated, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  
944  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

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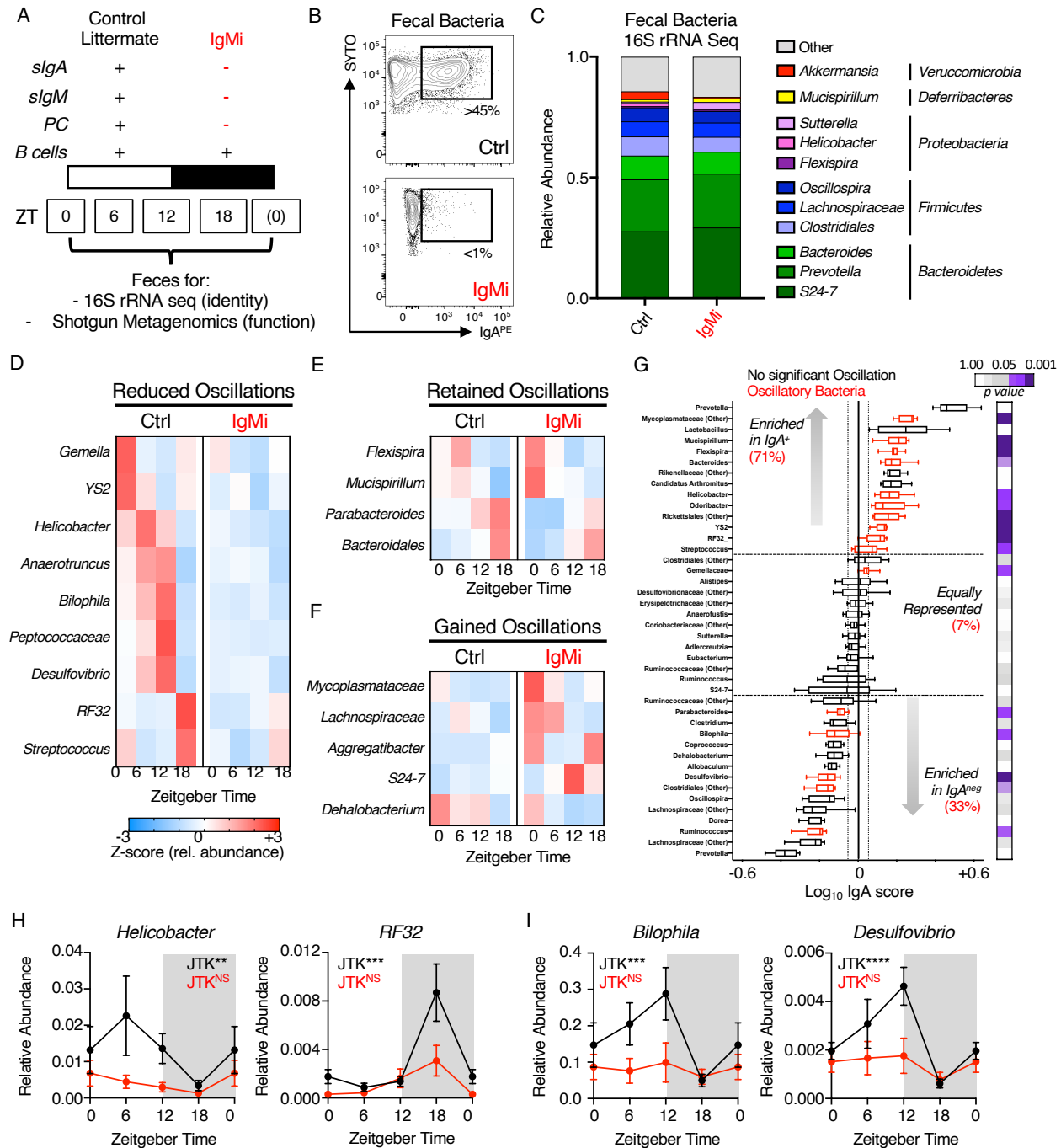
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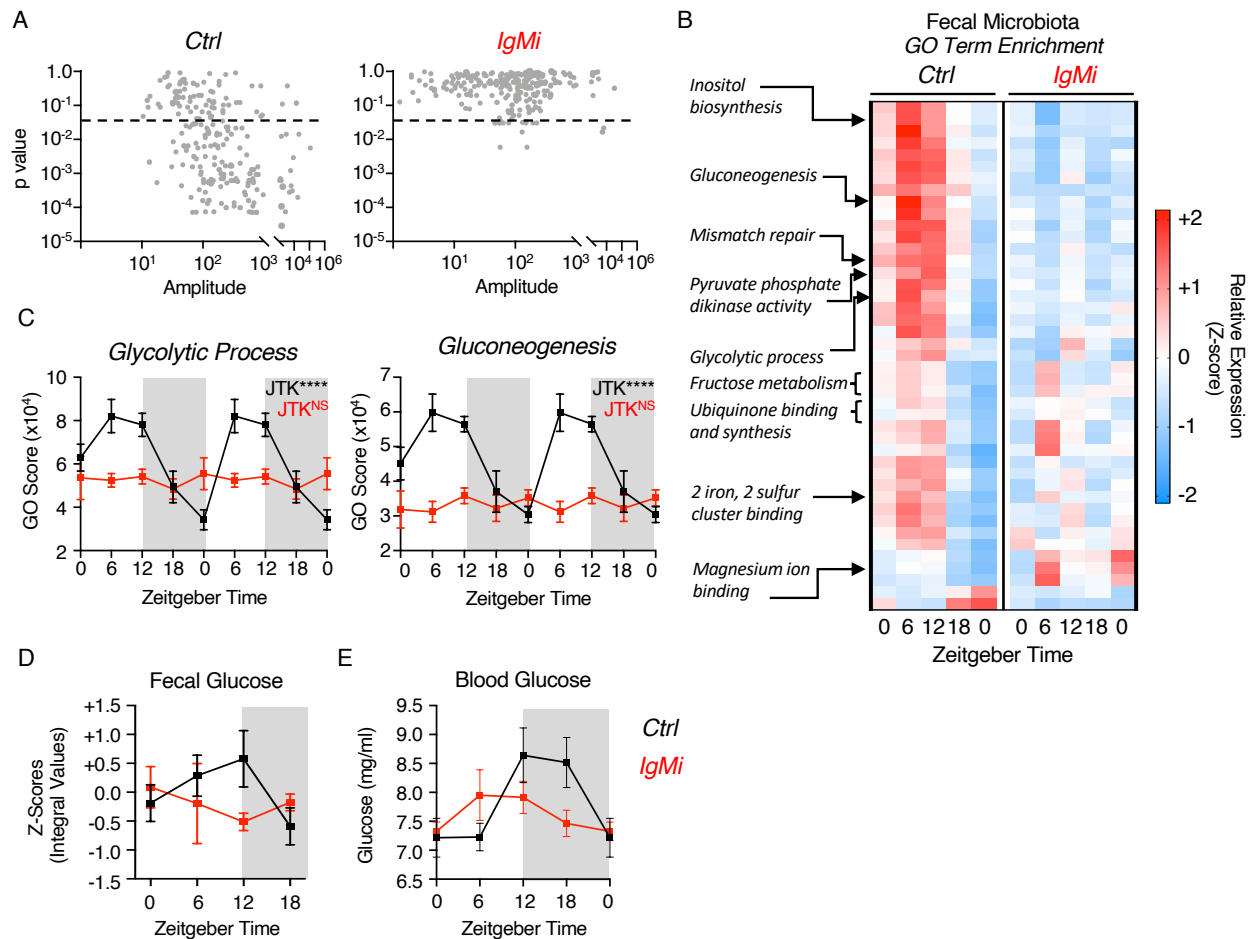
**Figure 3. Oscillations in secretory IgA are aligned by feeding cues and cellular metabolic activity.** A) Schematic of reversed feeding regimen, B) Serial fecal sampling of light-fed or dark-fed C57BL/6 mice at four 6 hour intervals over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18; ZT0 double plotted),  $n=9-10$  (pooled from two independent experimental cohorts). Data representative of at least 4 independent experiments. C) RT-PCR analysis of circadian clock genes at ZT0 and ZT12 in sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PC isolated from light-fed or dark-fed mice,  $n=5$  per group, data representative of two independent experiments. D) Serial fecal sampling of C57BL/6 mice fed normal chow or high fat diet (HFD at five 6 hour intervals over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18; ZT0 double plotted), taken at baseline, two weeks or six weeks on the indicated diet,  $n=4-5$  and data representative of at least 2 independent experiments. E-G) *Ex vivo* secretion of IgA by sort-purified small intestinal IgA<sup>+</sup> PC cultured with differing concentrations of E) glucose ( $n= 8$ , representative of pooled data from two independent experiments) F) leucine ( $n= 5$ , representative of data from two independent experiments) or G) in the presence of metabolic inhibitors ( $n= 4$ , representative of data from three independent experiments). All data shown as  $\pm$  SEM unless otherwise indicated, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .





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964 **Figure 4. Rhythmic mucosal antibody production regulates circadian rhythmicity in the**  
965 **commensal microbiota.** A) Summary of features of the IgMi mouse model. B) Representative  
966 measurement of IgA-binding to fecal bacteria in IgMi mice or littermate wild type control mice  
967 (Ctrl). C) Global analysis of average microbiota composition in Ctrl and IgMi animals elucidated  
968 by 16S rRNA Sequencing of fecal pellet-derived bacteria. D-F) Z-score heatmaps indicating  
969 average relative abundance of microbial genera in Ctrl and IgMi mice from serially sampled fecal  
970 bacteria taken at ZT0, 6, 12 and 18. G) IgA-Seq analysis of fecal bacteria isolated from Ctrl

971 animals. Bacteria determined to exhibit oscillatory patterns in C-F are highlighted in red and the  
972 relative percent enrichment of oscillatory bacteria in IgA<sup>+</sup> or negative fractions are indicated, *p*  
973 values for oscillatory analyses indicated in grey-purple. IgA enrichment indicate as log<sub>10</sub> score.  
974 H+I) Individual data sets for selected bacteria identified as oscillatory in Ctrl animals and  
975 perturbed in IgMi mice, ZT0 data double plotted. All 16S rRNA sequencing and IgA Seq data  
976 representative of two independent experiments with *n*=4-5 animals per genotype, per ZT time  
977 point. All data shown as +/- SEM unless otherwise indicated, \* *p*< 0.05, \*\* *p*< 0.01, \*\*\* *p*< 0.001,  
978 \*\*\*\* *p*< 0.0001.  
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 981 **Figure 5. Mucosal antibody regulation of microbiome circadian rhythmicity modulates**  
 982 **nutrient and metabolite availability and uptake.** A) JTK analysis of GO Term pathway scores  
 983 identified by shotgun metagenomics of serially sampled feces of Ctrl and IgMi mice over five 6  
 984 hour intervals over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18, 0),  $n=5$  per group per timepoint, and  
 985 representative of a single experiment. B) Z-score heatmap of average GO Term scores identified  
 986 to be oscillatory in Ctrl mice and perturbed in IgMi mice, and C) select exemplar pathways double  
 987 plotted. D) Glucose levels in serially sampled feces of Ctrl and IgMi mice over five 6 hour intervals  
 988 over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18, 0),  $n=5$  per group per timepoint, and representative of a  
 989 single experiment. E) Glucose levels in serially sampled blood of Ctrl and IgMi mice over five 6  
 990 hour intervals over a circadian day (ZT 0, 6, 12, 18; ZT0 double plotted),  $n=8-12$  per group per  
 991 timepoint, representative of data pooled from three independent experiments. All data shown as  
 992  $\pm$  SEM unless otherwise indicated, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

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