

1 **Title**

2 Antiviral innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages following SARS-CoV-2 infection.

3

4 **Authors**

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30 **Abstract**

31 Pathogen encounter results in long-lasting epigenetic imprinting that shapes diseases caused by  
32 heterologous pathogens. The breadth of this innate immune memory is of particular interest in  
33 the context of respiratory pathogens with increased pandemic potential and wide-ranging impact  
34 on global health. Here, we investigated epigenetic imprinting across cell lineages in a disease  
35 relevant murine model of SARS-CoV-2 recovery. Past SARS-CoV-2 infection resulted in increased  
36 chromatin accessibility of type I interferon (IFN-I) related transcription factors in airway-resident  
37 macrophages. Mechanistically, establishment of this innate immune memory required viral  
38 pattern recognition and canonical IFN-I signaling and augmented secondary antiviral responses.  
39 Past SARS-CoV-2 infection ameliorated disease caused by the heterologous respiratory pathogen  
40 influenza A virus. Insights into innate immune memory and how it affects subsequent infections  
41 with heterologous pathogens to influence disease pathology could facilitate the development of  
42 broadly effective therapeutic strategies.

43

44 **Introduction**

45

46 Immune memory is critical to fend off and ameliorate pathology of recurring diseases caused by  
47 pathogens. This is not only beneficial for the individual, but also forms the basis of herd immunity  
48 and population health <sup>1</sup>. Adaptive immune cells evolved to mount robust antigen-dependent  
49 responses and form long-lived memory cells. Complementary to this pathogen-specific immune  
50 memory, innate immune responses can facilitate the establishment of antigen-independent  
51 inflammatory memory <sup>2</sup>. This innate immune memory is defined as an epigenetic memory-state  
52 of a cell following encounter with inflammatory cues that alters subsequent immune responses  
53 <sup>3,4</sup>. The longevity of innate immune memory is influenced by cell type and stimulus and can be  
54 extended when established in immune progenitor cells in the bone marrow, tissue-resident stem  
55 cells or self-renewing tissue-resident macrophages <sup>5-8</sup>. The live-attenuated tuberculosis vaccine  
56 Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) elicits innate immune memory in humans that lasts for months  
57 and reduces child mortality caused by heterologous infectious agents <sup>9-12</sup>. Hence, innate immune  
58 memory is versatile and can provide long-lived cross-protection against heterologous pathogens.

59 Still, how this phenomenon influences real-word infectious encounters, such as serial infections  
60 with heterologous pathogens, is poorly understood.

61 Respiratory pathogens have increased pandemic potential due to efficient airborne transmission  
62 and often widespread illness within populations. The recent pandemic caused by severe acute  
63 respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the resulting coronavirus disease 2019  
64 (COVID-19) exemplified the far-reaching health and economic consequences of a new respiratory  
65 pathogen <sup>13</sup> encountering a highly permissive, immune naïve host population. Development of  
66 antigen-specific effective vaccines can help to achieve herd immunity requires time and success  
67 is not guaranteed. Additionally, viruses can rapidly evolve to escape antigen-specific immune  
68 memory <sup>14</sup>. Intervention strategies built upon the antigen-independent nature of innate immune  
69 memory could provide increased robustness to achieve protective immunity in a naïve  
70 population <sup>4</sup>. Alveolar macrophages are the most abundant immune cell type in the airway and  
71 form a stem-like immune cell population that is the first line of defense against respiratory  
72 pathogens <sup>15–17</sup>. Following bacterial or viral infections, alveolar macrophages are capable of  
73 forming innate immune memory that can affect the outcome of secondary lung diseases, such as  
74 bacterial pneumonia or cancer <sup>8,18,19</sup>. There is a gap in our understanding of innate immune  
75 memory in the context of commonly circulating respiratory viruses. Specifically, how past  
76 infections impact subsequent infections with unrelated viruses via epigenetic imprinting across  
77 airway-resident immune cell lineages remains understudied. Such insights into the  
78 establishment, maintenance, and recall of innate immune memory may therefore facilitate the  
79 development of novel therapeutic strategies that target a broad range of respiratory pathogens.

80 In this study, we used a disease-relevant murine infection model of SARS-CoV-2 recovery to study  
81 innate immune memory in airway-resident immune cells at single cell resolution and determine  
82 how this influences infection outcome of secondary influenza A virus infection.

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88 **Results**

89

90 Past SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to establishment of epigenetic imprinting in alveolar  
91 macrophages.

92 We intranasally (i.n.) infected C57Bl/6J wild type mice with 6,000 PFU of the mouse-adapted  
93 strain MA10 of SARS-CoV-2 (SARS2)<sup>20</sup>. Upon SARS2 infection, mice transiently lose body weight  
94 loss, which they regain by 20-30 days post infection (dpi) (Figure 1A). SARS2 is cleared by 15 dpi  
95<sup>20,21</sup> and we confirmed absence of SARS2 RNA and antigen in lung tissue via RT-qPCR or histology  
96 at 30 dpi (Figures S1A and S1B). Gene expression levels of many antiviral (*Ifit1*, *Bst2*, *Ifitm3*, *Isg15*)  
97 and inflammatory genes (*Tnfa*, *Il6*) were not significantly different in bulk lung tissue of recovered  
98 vs. naïve animals (Figure S1C). Immune cell profiling of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) via  
99 flow cytometry revealed no significant differences in numbers of alveolar macrophages  
100 (CD45<sup>+</sup>CD11c<sup>+</sup>SiglecF<sup>+</sup>), NK cells (CD45<sup>+</sup>CD11c<sup>-</sup>SiglecF<sup>-</sup>NK1.1<sup>+</sup>) or neutrophils (CD45<sup>+</sup>CD11c<sup>-</sup>  
101 SiglecF<sup>-</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup>Ly6G<sup>+</sup>) in recovered vs. naïve mice (Figure S1D). The inflammatory milieu in  
102 recovered and naïve airways was comparable. Among 32 detectable cytokines, only minor  
103 differences were observed for IFN- $\gamma$ , IL-2, IL-13 (decreased) and CXCL9, CCL19, CCL22, TIMP-1  
104 (increased) in recovered vs. naïve BALF (Figures S1E and S1F). Flow cytometric analyses of major  
105 subsets of bone marrow progenitor cells were comparable between recovered and naïve mice  
106 (Figure S1G). CD4 and CD8 T cell numbers were significantly increased in recovered BALF and  
107 expressed surface markers associated with effector memory (CD44<sup>+</sup>CD62L<sup>-</sup>) or tissue-resident  
108 memory (CD69<sup>+</sup>CD103<sup>+</sup>) cells (Figure S1H). Together, these data show that SARS2-recovered  
109 animals do not retain active inflammatory responses or tissue pathology.

110 Next, we tested whether past SARS2 infection leads to sustained cell-intrinsic changes of airway-  
111 resident cells. We investigated changes of chromatin accessibility and transcript levels of  
112 individual cells in recovered (31 dpi) or naïve BALF (n = 3) via single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA  
113 sequencing (10x Chromium Single Cell Multiome ATAC + Gene Expression). We profiled 13,622  
114 single nuclei (5,669 naïve and 7,339 recovered) and identified major clusters based on chromatin  
115 accessibility using Seurat<sup>22</sup> (Table S1). Most profiled nuclei were derived from macrophages  
116 (65%) that clustered as two separate populations, followed by CD8 T cells (16%) (Figure 1B). In

117 accordance with flow cytometry data, CD8 T cells were primarily present in BALF of recovered  
118 mice (Figure 1C). Intriguingly, macrophage clusters 1 and 2 were mainly driven by experimental  
119 condition, with macrophage cluster 2 consisting almost exclusively of nuclei isolated from  
120 recovered animals (Figure 1C). To compare epigenetic changes in recovered and naïve  
121 macrophages following SARS2 infection, we extracted and re-clustered all putative macrophages  
122 from the dataset, including myeloid cells (Figures 1S and S1I). Differentially regulated genes (DEG)  
123 were enriched for gene ontology (GO) terms related to cytokine production and myeloid cell  
124 differentiation for naïve and histone modification and chromatin organization in recovered  
125 macrophages (Figure S1J). Yet, the transcriptomic profiles of recovered and naïve macrophages  
126 were surprisingly comparable with only 36 of 5,701 detected genes being significantly regulated  
127 by more than 1.4-fold between conditions (Figure S1K; Table S1). However, comparing chromatin  
128 accessibility transcription factor (TF) binding motifs using chromVAR <sup>23</sup> revealed distinct  
129 differences in recovered and naïve macrophages. Recovered macrophages showed increased  
130 accessibility of TF binding motifs associated with antiviral immune response and type I interferon  
131 (IFN-I) signaling, including interferon regulatory factors (IRFs) and signal transducer and activator  
132 of transcription (STAT) proteins (Figure 1D). In contrast, accessibility of binding motifs associated  
133 with nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cell (NF-κB) was lower in recovered  
134 macrophages (Figure 1D; Table S1). Immunofluorescence staining of airway-resident  
135 macrophages *ex vivo* showed that recovered cells had increased nuclear levels of IRF3 but not  
136 RELA (p65 subunit of NF-κB) relative to naïve cells (Figures 1E and S1L).

137 These data show that alveolar macrophages in mice retain epigenetic imprinting following SARS2  
138 infection.

139

140 Past COVID-19 leads to establishment of epigenetic imprinting in circulating monocytes in  
141 patients

142 To determine if an antiviral program persists in humans following SARS2 infection and clearance,  
143 we recruited a patient cohort during the initial infection wave in 2020, prior to availability of  
144 COVID-19 vaccines. We performed single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA sequencing on peripheral  
145 blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) isolated from patients recovered from mild COVID-19 after 2-

146 4 months (n = 3) and healthy controls (n = 7). Based on transcriptional profile, we identified major  
147 cell clusters in PBMCs (Figure 2A). We focused our analyses on myeloid cell clusters (CD14<sup>+</sup> and  
148 CD16<sup>+</sup> monocytes and dendritic cells (DCs)) and found increased expression of genes related to  
149 the GO category “Defense Response to Virus” in recovered patients (Figures 2B and S2A, Table  
150 S2). Although to a lesser extent, this gene module was also enriched in recovered murine  
151 macrophages in BALF (Figure 2C). Gene module enrichment analyses of DEG in murine recovered  
152 vs. naïve BALF macrophages (Figure S1I-S1K) underscored human CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes as suitable  
153 cell population to analyze epigenetic memory in patients (Figures 2D and S2B). Consistent with  
154 data obtained from murine macrophages in BALF, TF binding site accessibility was significantly  
155 higher for IRFs and lower for NF-κB in CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes from recovered compared to healthy  
156 patients (Figure 2E and Table S2).

157

158 Past SARS2 infection increases secondary antiviral immune responses in murine airway-resident  
159 macrophages

160 To investigate whether SARS2-associated epigenetic imprinting alters secondary immune  
161 responses, we isolated airway-resident macrophages from recovered and naïve animals and  
162 stimulated them *ex vivo* with the synthetic viral double-stranded RNA mimic polyinosinic-  
163 polycytidylic acid (polyIC). Upon polyIC stimulation, recovered macrophages displayed  
164 significantly higher levels of nuclear IRF3 than naïve macrophages (Figure 3A). At the  
165 transcriptional level, control and polyIC-stimulated recovered and naïve macrophages clustered  
166 by stimulation and infection history (Figure S3A). We identified 2,654 DEG and hierarchical  
167 clustering revealed both infection history-specific gene sets (clusters 1 and 6) and polyIC  
168 response genes, including interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs)<sup>24</sup> (cluster 2) (Figure 3B; Table S3).  
169 Genes associated with naïve cells were enriched for GO terms related to lipid and cholesterol  
170 metabolism (Figure 3C), whereas recovered cells expressed genes related to macrophage  
171 activation and inflammatory response (Figure 3D). Cluster 2 was enriched for GO terms related  
172 to antiviral immunity and interferon response (Figure 3E). Recovered macrophages exhibited a  
173 pronounced hyperresponsiveness to polyIC, characterized by robust induction of ISGs, including  
174 *Ifit1*, *Ifitm3*, *Bst2* (Figures S3B-S3D; Table S3). As a functional consequence, recovered

175 macrophages were significantly less susceptible to infection with vesicular stomatitis virus  
176 expressing a GFP reporter (VSV-GFP) compared to naïve macrophages (Figure 3F). These findings  
177 suggest that SARS2-associated epigenetic imprinting of airway-resident macrophages results in  
178 innate immune memory that augments subsequent antiviral immune responses.

179

180 Viral PAMP encounter is sufficient to establish antiviral innate immune memory in primary  
181 alveolar macrophages and requires canonical IFN-I signaling

182 To explore these findings using a tractable *in vitro* system, we employed a long-term culture  
183 system of primary alveolar macrophages<sup>25</sup>. We exposed alveolar macrophages to polyIC for 24h  
184 and then re-stimulated them with polyIC after 5 days. Alveolar macrophages that previously  
185 experienced polyIC showed significantly increased nuclear IRF3 levels upon restimulation with  
186 polyIC (polyIC/polyIC) compared to control-experienced cells (control/polyIC) (Figure 4A). Like  
187 SARS2-experienced alveolar macrophages, we did not observe significant differences in nuclear  
188 localization of RELA (p65) (Figure S4A). Differential transcriptomic analyses confirmed a  
189 significantly more robust antiviral recall response (Figures 4B and 4C; Table S4) and ISG induction  
190 (*Ifit1*, *Ifitm3* and *Bst2*) (Figures S4B-S4D) in polyIC/polyIC vs. control/polyIC cells. Functionally,  
191 this correlated with a 17-fold increased resistance to infection with VSV-GFP as assayed after 5  
192 days and was maintained up to 14 days, albeit to a lesser extent (Figures S4E and S4F). Memory  
193 formation required IFN-I signaling during initial polyIC exposure (Figure 4D) and the canonical  
194 downstream transcription factor IRF9 (Figure 4E). Mice that received polyIC-experienced alveolar  
195 macrophages 3 days prior to infection showed significantly ameliorated body weight loss upon  
196 infection with influenza A/PR/8/34 virus (PR8) (Figure 4F). Thus, like SARS2 infection *in vivo*,  
197 polyIC exposure *in vitro* leads to innate immune memory formation in alveolar macrophages that  
198 is sufficient to ameliorate pathology of a viral infection *in vivo*.

199

200 Past SARS-CoV-2 infection can ameliorate the pathology of secondary influenza A virus infection  
201 Finally, we investigated whether innate immune memory following SARS2 infection affects  
202 disease pathology caused by a heterologous respiratory virus. We challenged naïve or SARS2-  
203 recovered animals with a sub-lethal dose of PR8 (naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8, respectively) and

204 found significantly reduced body weight loss in SARS2/PR8 animals (Figure S5A). Likewise, past  
205 SARS2 infection ameliorated body weight loss and reduced lethality using a higher (LD50)  
206 infectious dose of PR8 (Figures 5A and 5B). Immune cell profiling of BALF revealed significantly  
207 reduced neutrophil numbers in the SARS2/PR8 group but showed no significant differences in  
208 alveolar macrophages or NK cell numbers (Figures 5C-5E). Increased CD8 T cell numbers in SARS2-  
209 recovered animals (Figure S5H) were maintained in the early phase of PR8 infection (3dpi), but  
210 not at later time points (Figure 5F). Hyperinflammatory responses in the airway are the major  
211 determinant of lethal influenza infection <sup>26</sup>. Several pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines  
212 (IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-17, CCL4 and CCL12) were significantly reduced in BALF of SARS2/PR8 compared to  
213 naïve/PR8 animals at 5 dpi (Figure 5G), suggesting that past SARS2 infection limits dysregulated  
214 inflammatory responses. Notably, there was no significant difference in viral RNA levels in lung  
215 tissue between naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals (Figure S5B).

216 To identify cell type-specific and cell-intrinsic differences associated with secondary infection, we  
217 performed single cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 BALF at 7dpi. We  
218 sequenced 12,032 single cells (5,004 naïve/PR8 and 7,028 SARS2/PR8) and identified major cell  
219 clusters in which the majority were macrophages (40%), followed by CD8 T cells (18%) (Figure  
220 5H). Macrophages separated into clusters 1 (82%) and 2 (18%) characterized by increased  
221 antiviral immunity and fatty acid metabolism, respectively (Figure S5C; Table S5). Cells in  
222 macrophage cluster 1 and neutrophils expressed particularly high levels of ISGs (Figure S5D).  
223 Within those clusters, DEG analyses revealed significantly increased expression of antiviral genes  
224 in cells isolated from SARS2/PR8 compared to naïve/PR8 animals (Figures 5I and S5E; Table S5).  
225 DEG in CD8 T cells were enriched for GO terms related to T cell differentiation and RNA  
226 metabolism (SARS2/PR8) and oxidative phosphorylation and ATP metabolism (naïve/PR8),  
227 suggesting no antigen-independent bystander activation of SARS2-specific cells in SARS2/PR8  
228 animals (Figure S5F; Table S5). These data highlight a beneficial effect of past SARS2 infection on  
229 disease pathology caused by the heterologous pathogen influenza A PR8.

230  
231  
232

233 **Discussion**

234 Antigen-independent, innate immune memory alters secondary inflammatory responses.  
235 Consequently, heterologous pathogens can indirectly influence each other, including emerging  
236 pathogens <sup>4</sup>.  
237 Innate immune memory can be established locally or centrally. Systemic exposure to PAMPs can  
238 result in epigenetic imprinting of immune progenitor cells in the bone marrow and central innate  
239 immune memory that facilitates tissue cross-protection <sup>6,7,27-29</sup>. Further, innate immune memory  
240 mounted by long-lived stem cells can provide extended longevity compared to short-lived  
241 effector immune cells <sup>5,30</sup>. There is evidence of durable epigenetic memory in hematopoietic stem  
242 and progenitor cells and circulating monocytes from human patients following severe SARS-CoV-  
243 2 infection and hospitalization that translates to altered secondary responses <sup>31</sup>. Yet, pre-clinical  
244 animal models are critical to investigate the quality and breadth of SARS-CoV-2-induced innate  
245 immune memory – particularly at the tissue level and in the context of mild disease. The murine  
246 infection model of SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10 recapitulates many features of COVID-19 in humans  
247 <sup>20</sup>. We discovered that past SARS-CoV-2 infection induces local innate immune memory via  
248 epigenetic imprinting of airway-resident macrophages. Alveolar macrophages form a self-  
249 renewing macrophage population of the airway that maintains itself throughout life at an  
250 estimated cell division rate of more than 2 weeks <sup>16,32</sup>. Hence, epigenetic remodeling in airway-  
251 resident macrophages may contribute to the establishment of sustained, local innate immune  
252 memory. Of note, severe lung injury can coincide with depletion of alveolar macrophages that  
253 are sustainably replenished by infiltrating monocytes <sup>15,33</sup>. These monocyte-derived alveolar  
254 macrophages can display an inflammatory phenotype and contribute to innate immune memory  
255 on a population level <sup>34,35</sup>.

256

257 Following SARS-CoV-2, epigenetic memory of airway-resident macrophages was strongly skewed  
258 towards increased chromatin accessibility of IRF-related transcription factors. This allowed  
259 enhanced and rapid secondary antiviral responses, limiting detrimental hyperinflammatory  
260 responses in secondary influenza virus A infection. Epigenetic and transcriptional profiling of  
261 myeloid cells in a cohort comprised of healthy individuals and patients recovered from mild

262 COVID-19 before availability of COVID-19 vaccine corroborated these findings. Consistent with  
263 our observations, circulating CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes from individuals who received a trivalent seasonal  
264 influenza vaccine exhibited increased chromatin accessibility for IRFs and antiviral gene  
265 expression<sup>36</sup>.

266  
267 Next to epigenetic imprinting, recovered macrophages retained an altered metabolic  
268 transcriptional program that suggests reduced activity of fatty acid metabolism. A similar  
269 metabolic switch is associated with increased inflammatory responses of immune cells<sup>37-39</sup> and  
270 is in agreement with increased glycolytic activity of alveolar macrophages in adenovirus-  
271 recovered animals<sup>8</sup>. Interestingly, altered secondary immune responses of LPS-experienced  
272 alveolar macrophages seem to depend on fatty acid oxidation rather than glycolysis<sup>18</sup>.  
273 Similar to bacterial PAMP exposure<sup>18,40</sup>, the synthetic viral dsRNA mimic polyIC was sufficient to  
274 establish innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages that depended on canonical IFN-I  
275 signaling and the downstream TF IRF9. This aligns with our finding of increased chromatin  
276 accessibility of the IRF9 binding motif in airway-resident macrophages following SARS-CoV-2  
277 infection. Some studies suggest that IFN-I is sufficient to establish epigenetic memory, but  
278 appears to be more robust in immune cells compared to fibroblasts<sup>18,41</sup>. Exposure of alveolar  
279 macrophages to polyIC led to increased secondary antiviral responses *in vitro* and ameliorated  
280 disease caused by influenza A virus *in vivo*. These findings show that viral PAMP recognition can  
281 lead to formation of innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages that is sufficient to  
282 influence pathology of secondary respiratory viral infections. Our description of matching  
283 epigenetic antiviral imprinting in myeloid cells of recovered COVID-19 patients implies that these  
284 shared programs might broadly modulate human responses to subsequent infections.

285  
286 Further, innate immune memory in macrophages can impact on other immune cells and shape  
287 adaptive T cell responses<sup>8,42</sup>. While we did not observe pronounced differences in T cell  
288 recruitment and transcriptional profile between SARS2/PR8 and naïve/PR8 animals, we found  
289 increased ISG expression in alveolar macrophages and neutrophils. These data suggest that  
290 alveolar macrophages in SARS2/PR8 animals retain elevated antiviral activity during the acute

291 phase of PR8 infection. Increased expression of ISGs in recruited neutrophils may be a secondary  
292 effect resulting from disparate inflammatory conditions in the airways of naïve/PR8 and  
293 SARS2/PR8 animals.

294

295 Innate immune memory can be pro-inflammatory or tolerogenic which is thought to be primarily  
296 determined by initial PAMP encounter <sup>43</sup>. Increased LPS levels dampen secondary inflammatory  
297 responses in monocytes <sup>43,44</sup>. In line with this, monocytes of sepsis-recovered patients displayed  
298 immune paralysis and impaired phagocytic activity <sup>45</sup>. While these tolerogenic recall responses  
299 are detrimental in certain secondary diseases, including cancer <sup>46</sup>, they might also foster microbe-  
300 host co-existence and limit immunopathology <sup>47</sup>. LPS-induced tolerance in monocytes can be  
301 reverted by subsequent exposure to the fungal PAMP β-glucan <sup>44</sup>. This highlights a therapeutic  
302 opportunity, but also emphasizes that crosstalk between distinct inflammatory cues shapes the  
303 quality of innate immune memory in a cell-autonomous fashion. Likewise, the nature of  
304 secondary inflammatory signals influences the robustness of recall responses. Previous BCG  
305 encounter ameliorates disease caused by the respiratory pathogen influenza A virus but not  
306 SARS-CoV-2 and might be linked to differences in pulmonary vasculature damage and pathogen  
307 dissemination <sup>28</sup>. These observations highlight innate immune memory as a complex dynamic  
308 trait. Especially in the context of infectious diseases, individual contributions and interplay of  
309 pathogen, host immune response, tissue damage and cellular heterogeneity remain incompletely  
310 understood <sup>8,18,19,33,35,40</sup>. Well-controlled clinically relevant model systems are key to  
311 systematically dissect the interplay of inflammatory cues shaping the quality of innate immune  
312 memory.

313

314 Innate immune memory is not limited to infectious diseases but is also established in  
315 autoimmune disorders. Chronic rhinosinusitis in humans leads to epigenetic remodeling in basal  
316 stem cells of the upper airway that impacts inflammatory responses <sup>48</sup>. Allergic asthma causes  
317 inflammatory imprinting in macrophages that exacerbates disease in a TNF-dependent fashion  
318 <sup>49</sup>. Further, tissue crosstalk in autoimmune-induced innate immune memory can shape pathology  
319 of arthritis following recovery from periodontitis <sup>50</sup>. There is a gap of knowledge regarding the

320 crosstalk of pathogen and autoimmune-associated innate immune memory, as well as the  
321 reciprocal influence of disease pathology.

322

323 This study shows that past SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to establishment of epigenetic memory of  
324 airway-resident macrophages. Formation of innate immune memory depended on viral PAMP  
325 sensing and IFN-I signaling. This promoted increased secondary antiviral responses that  
326 translated to ameliorated pathology caused by subsequent challenge with influenza A virus. One  
327 can imagine that in the real-world onslaught of respiratory pathogens, the induction and duration  
328 of antigen-independent innate immune memory, along with the timing and nature of pathogen  
329 exposure, will have significant impact on infection outcome.

330

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336 Cytometry Resource Center at Rockefeller University for technical support.

337

### 338 **Data availability**

339 RNA sequencing and 10x Multiome data will be made publicly available once the manuscript is  
340 published.

341

### 342 **Conflict of interest**

343 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

344

### 345 **Author contributions**

346 A.L. and C.M.R. wrote the manuscript. A.L. designed and performed *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies.  
347 A.L., J.G.C., B.R.R. performed bioinformatic analyses. C.J., H.H.H., A.W.A., Y.S.Y., E.J.D. performed  
348 *in vitro* studies. C.Q. supported the *in vivo* studies. L.C. performed histological analyses. A.L.,

349 B.R.R., S.Z.J., C.M.R. designed and analyzed experiments. C.M.R. supervised the study. All co-  
350 authors provided feedback on the manuscript.

351

352

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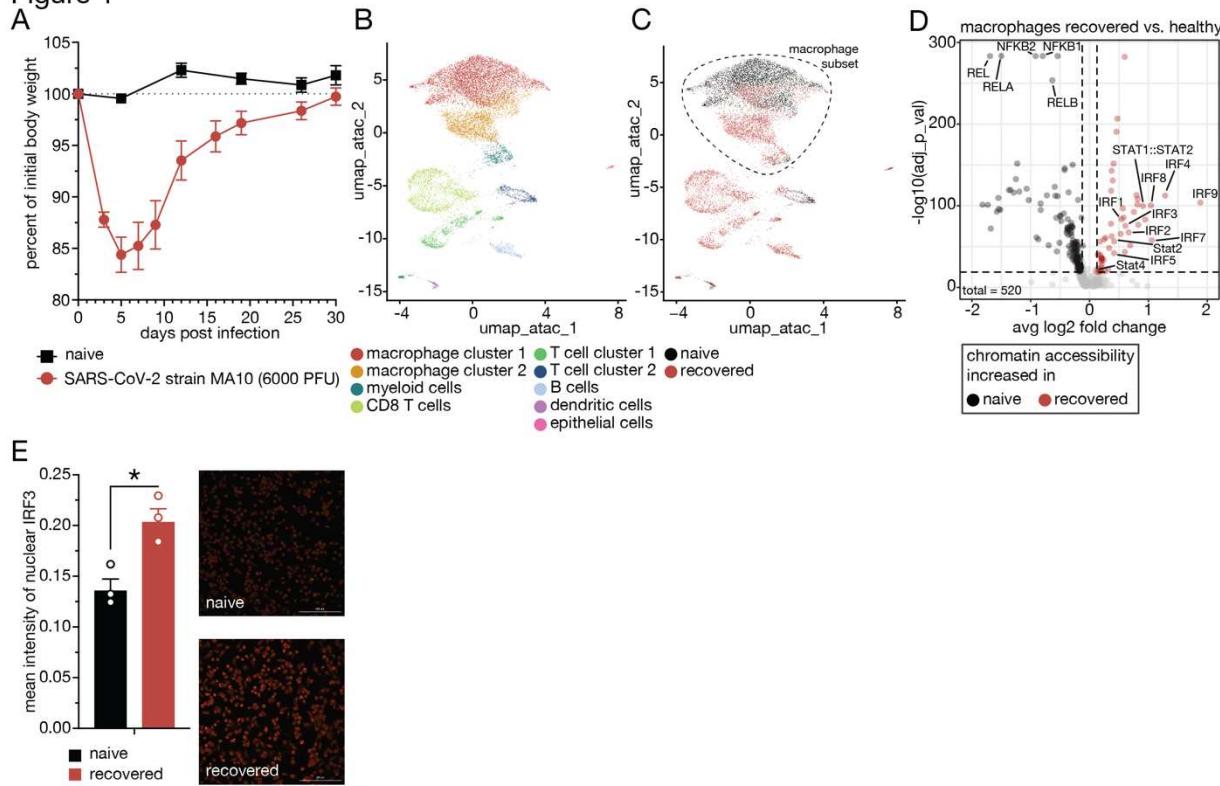
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364 **Figures**

365

**Figure 1**



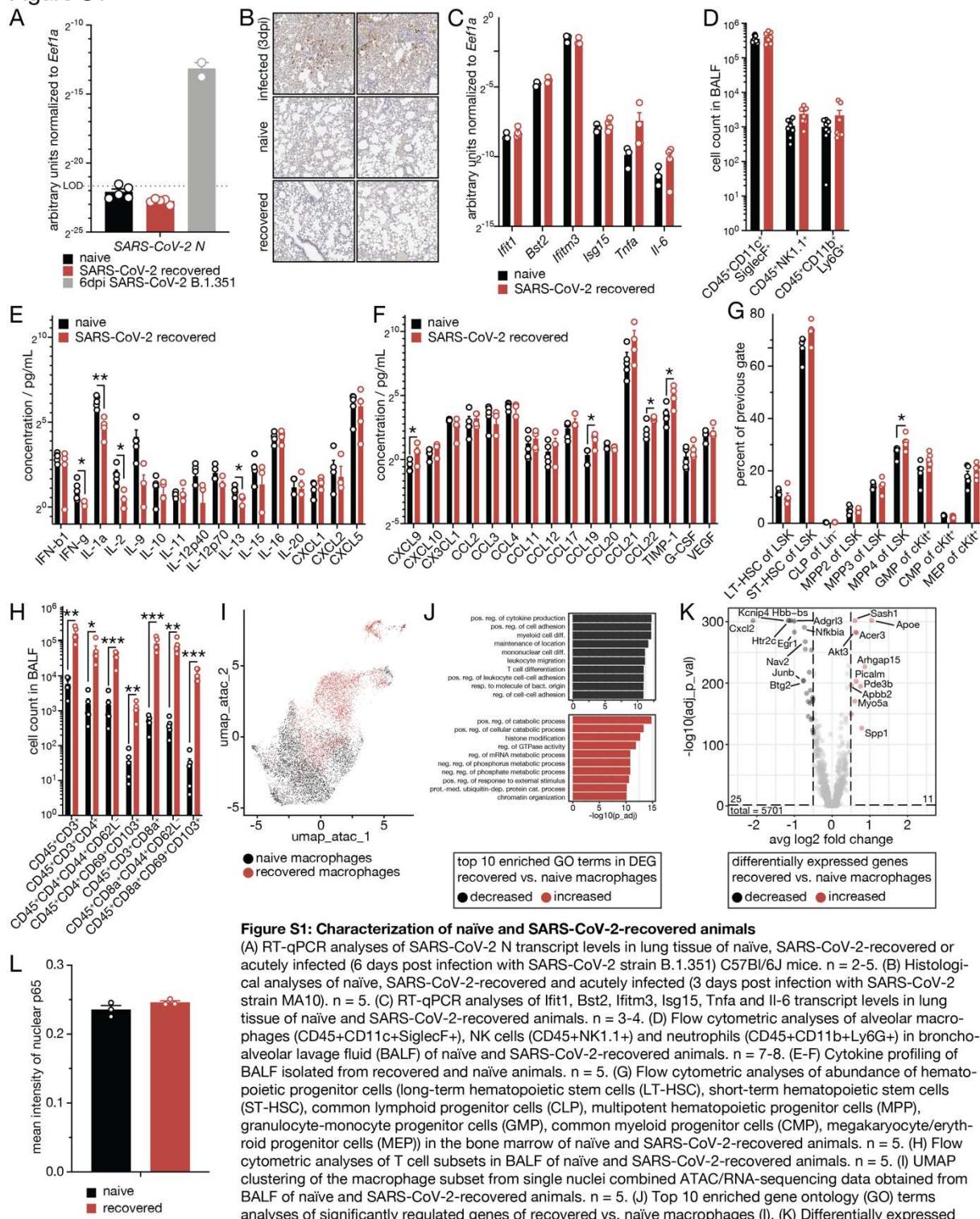
**Figure 1: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection establishes epigenetic memory in airway-resident macrophages.**

(A) Body weights of naïve and SARS-CoV-2 (strain MA10) infected C57Bl/6J mice. n = 11-12. (B) UMAP clustering of single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-seq data (10x Multiome) and annotated cell clusters of airway-resident cells from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered mice based on ATAC-seq data. n = 3. (C) Recovered and naïve sample annotation of UMAP clustering (B) with dashed line indicating the macrophage subset. (D) TF motif-associated chromatin accessibility analyses of recovered vs. naïve sub-setted macrophages. (E) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of nuclear IRF3 in airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals and representative image. n = 3. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (D), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon's test. For (E), statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

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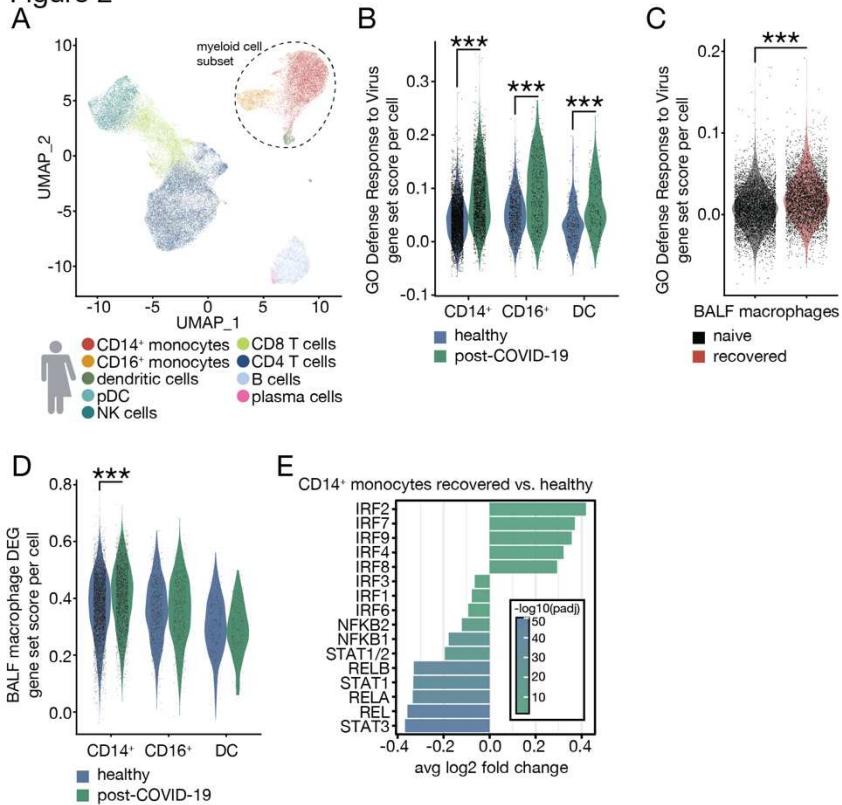
Figure S1



**Figure S1: Characterization of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals**

(A) RT-qPCR analyses of SARS-CoV-2 N transcript levels in lung tissue of naïve, SARS-CoV-2-recovered or acutely infected (6 days post infection with SARS-CoV-2 strain B.1.351) C57BL/6J mice. n = 2-5. (B) Histological analyses of naïve, SARS-CoV-2-recovered and acutely infected (3 days post infection with SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10). n = 5. (C) RT-qPCR analyses of *Ifit1*, *Bst2*, *Ifitm3*, *Isg15*, *Tnfa* and *Il-6* transcript levels in lung tissue of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3-4. (D) Flow cytometric analyses of alveolar macrophages (CD45+CD11c+SiglecF+), NK cells (CD45+NK1.1+) and neutrophils (CD45+CD11b+Ly6G+) in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 7-8. (E-F) Cytokine profiling of BALF isolated from recovered and naïve animals. n = 5. (G) Flow cytometric analyses of abundance of hematopoietic progenitor cells (long-term hematopoietic stem cells (LT-HSC), short-term hematopoietic stem cells (ST-HSC), common lymphoid progenitor cells (CLP), multipotent hematopoietic progenitor cells (MPP), granulocyte-monocyte progenitor cells (GMP), common myeloid progenitor cells (CMP), megakaryocyte/erythroid progenitor cells (MEP)) in the bone marrow of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (H) Flow cytometric analyses of T cell subsets in BALF of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (I) UMAP clustering of the macrophage subset from single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-sequencing data obtained from BALF of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (J) Top 10 enriched gene ontology (GO) terms analyses of significantly regulated genes of recovered vs. naïve macrophages (I). (K) Differentially expressed genes (DEG, absolute log<sub>2</sub> fold change > 0.5) in macrophages (I) of recovered and naïve animals. Top 10 significant DEG by fold change are labelled. (L) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of nuclear RELA (p65) in airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3. Data are mean ± s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A, C-H and L), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (K), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon rank sum test with Bonferroni correction. For (J), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

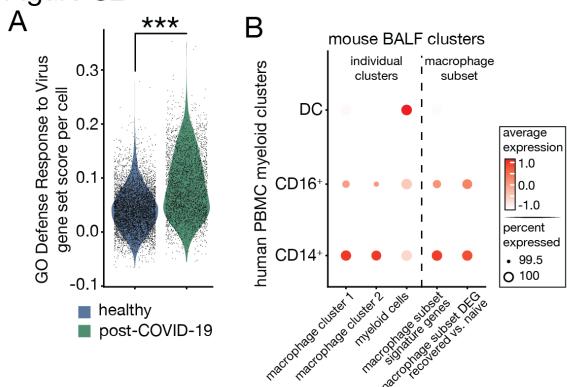
Figure 2



**Figure 2: Past COVID-19 establishes epigenetic memory in circulating monocytes in patients.**

(A) UMAP clustering of single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-seq data and annotated cell clusters of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) of recovered (2-4 months) mild COVID-19 and healthy patients with dashed line indicating the myeloid cell subset. n = 3-7. (B-C) Gene set expression score of GO: Defense Response to Virus in recovered and healthy circulating human myeloid cells (CD14+ and CD16+ monocytes and dendritic cells) (B) and murine BALF macrophages (C). (D) Gene set expression score of differentially expressed gene (DEG) module in circulating human myeloid cells. (E) Significantly different accessible TF motif-associated chromatin of recovered vs. healthy CD14+ monocytes. Data are represented as violin plots with each dot corresponding to one individual cell. For (B-E), statistical analyses were performed using Wilcoxon's test. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

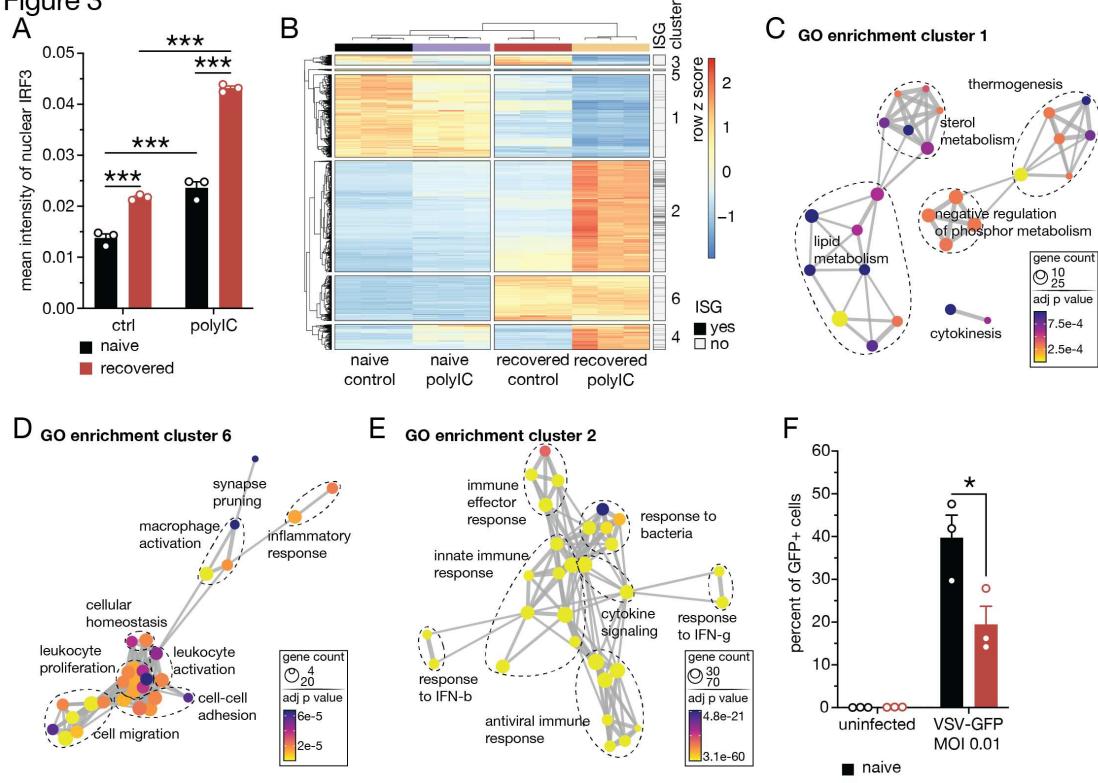
Figure S2



**Figure S2: Characterization of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered patient PBMCs**

(A) Gene set expression score of GO: Defense Response to Virus across all recovered and healthy circulating human myeloid cells. (B) Expression of BALF cluster signature genes and macrophage subset (Figure 1I) differentially expressed gene (DEG) modules in circulating human myeloid cells (CD14+ and CD16+ monocytes and dendritic cells). Data are represented as violin plots or dotplot with each dot corresponding to one individual cell or cell cluster, respectively. For (A-B), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon rank sum test with Bonferroni correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

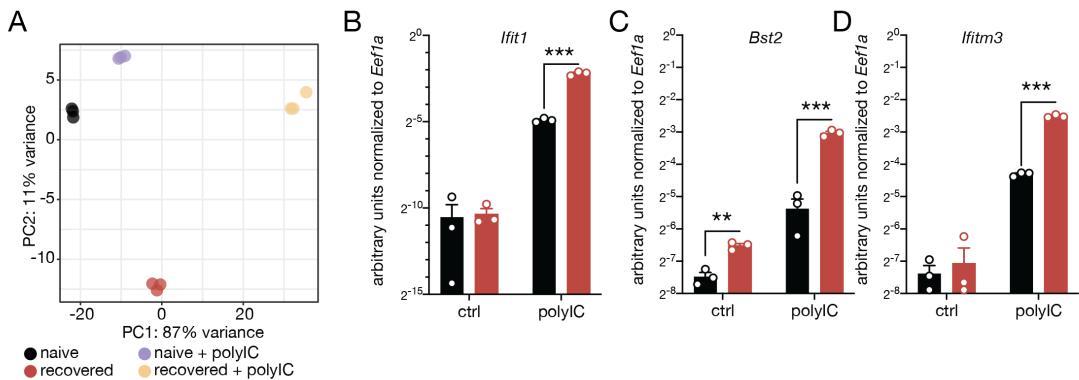
Figure 3



**Figure 3: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to increased secondary antiviral responses in airway-resident macrophages.**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) of IRF3 in control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals after 24 hours. n = 3. (B) Hierarchical clustering of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals after 6 hours. n = 3. (C-E), Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes in clusters 1 (C), 6 (D), 2 (E). (F) Percent of VSV-GFP infected airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3. For (A and F), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (C-E), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

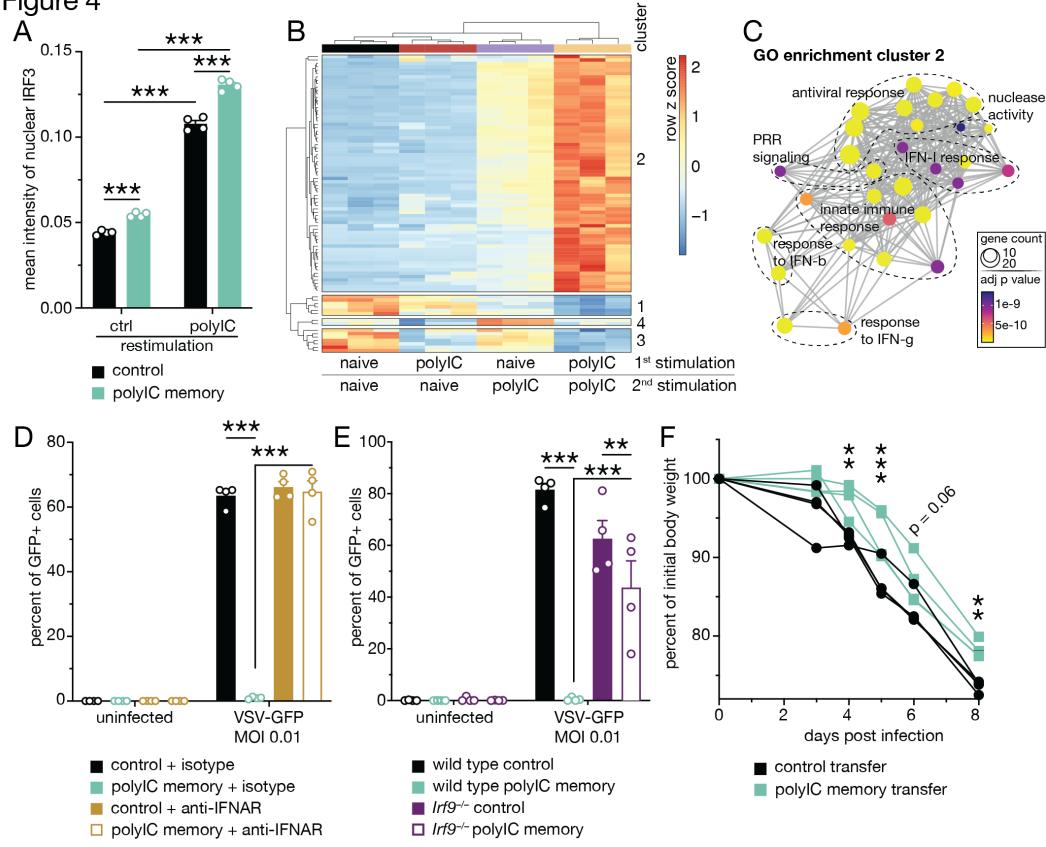
Figure S3



**Figure S3: Characterization of secondary response of airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals**

(A) Principal component analyses of transcriptomic profile of control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3. (B-D), RT-qPCR analyses of Ifit1 (B), Ifitm3 (C) and Bst2 (D) transcript levels in control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (B-D), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

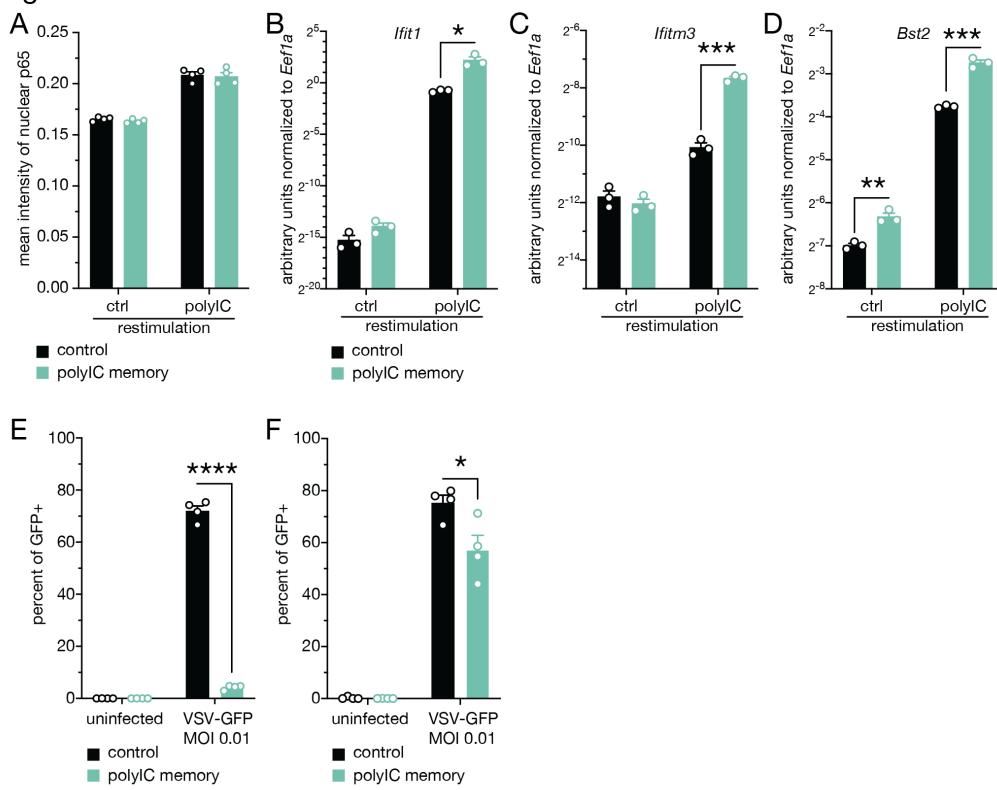
Figure 4



**Figure 4: Viral PAMP exposure is sufficient to establish innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages in vitro.**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) of IRF3 in control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 24 hours. n = 4. (B) Hierarchical clustering of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of polyIC/polyIC vs. control/polyIC alveolar macrophages 6 hours after re-stimulation. n = 3. (C) Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes in clusters 2. (D) Percent of VSV-GFP infected control- or polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages with or without anti-IFNAR blocking antibody treatment during initial polyIC exposure. n = 4. (E) Percent of VSV-GFP infected control- or polyIC-experienced wild type or *Irif9*<sup>-/-</sup> alveolar macrophages. n = 4. (F) Body weights of influenza A/PR/8/34 virus infected C57Bl/6J mice following transfer of control- or polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages. n = 4. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (C), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. For (D-E), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. For (F), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

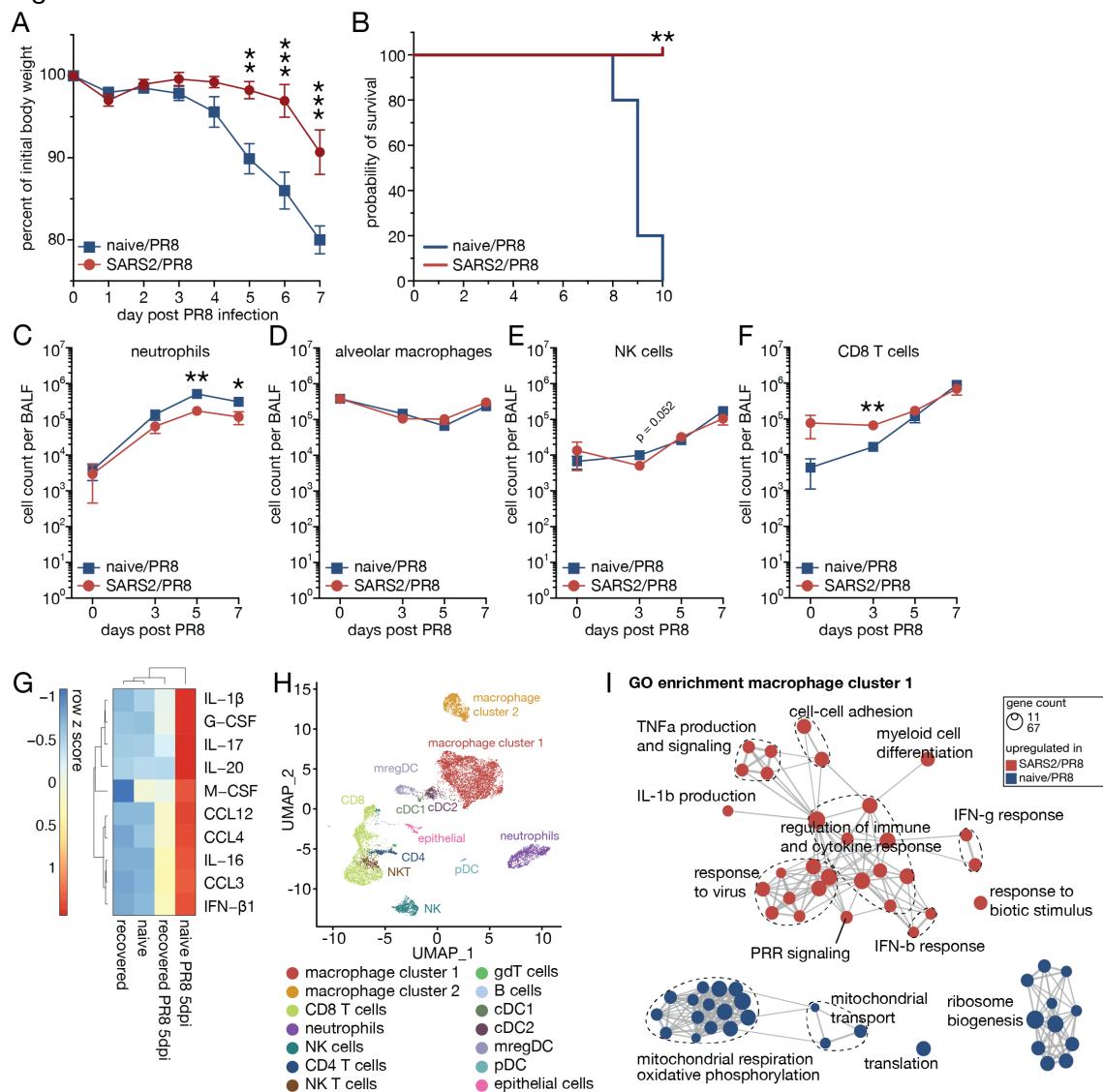
Figure S4



**Figure S4: Characterization of secondary response of polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages in vitro**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of RELA (p65) in control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 6 hours. n = 4. (B-D), RT-qPCR of *Ifit1* (B), *Ifitm3* (C) and *Bst2* (D) transcript levels of polyIC/polyIC vs. control/polyIC stimulated in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages 6 hours after re-stimulation. n = 3. (E-F), Percent of VSV-GFP-infected control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 5 (E) and 14 days (F). n = 4. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A-F), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

Figure 5



**Figure 5: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection ameliorates secondary influenza A virus infection.**

(A) Body weights of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals infected with influenza A/PR/8/34 virus at LD50 (naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8). n = 5. (B) Survival percentages of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals. n = 5. (C-F) Kinetics of neutrophils (C), alveolar macrophages (D), NK cells (E) and CD8 T cells (F) in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals. n = 3-7. (G) Significantly different cytokines and chemokines in BALF of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals at 5 days after PR8 infection. n = 4-5. (H) UMAP clustering and major cell cluster annotation of single cell RNA-seq data of BALF from naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals at 7 days post PR8 infection. (I) Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes associated with cells isolated from naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 BALF in macrophages cluster 1 (G). Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. For (B), statistical analysis was performed using a log-rank Mantel-Cox test. For (C-G), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (I), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

Figure S5

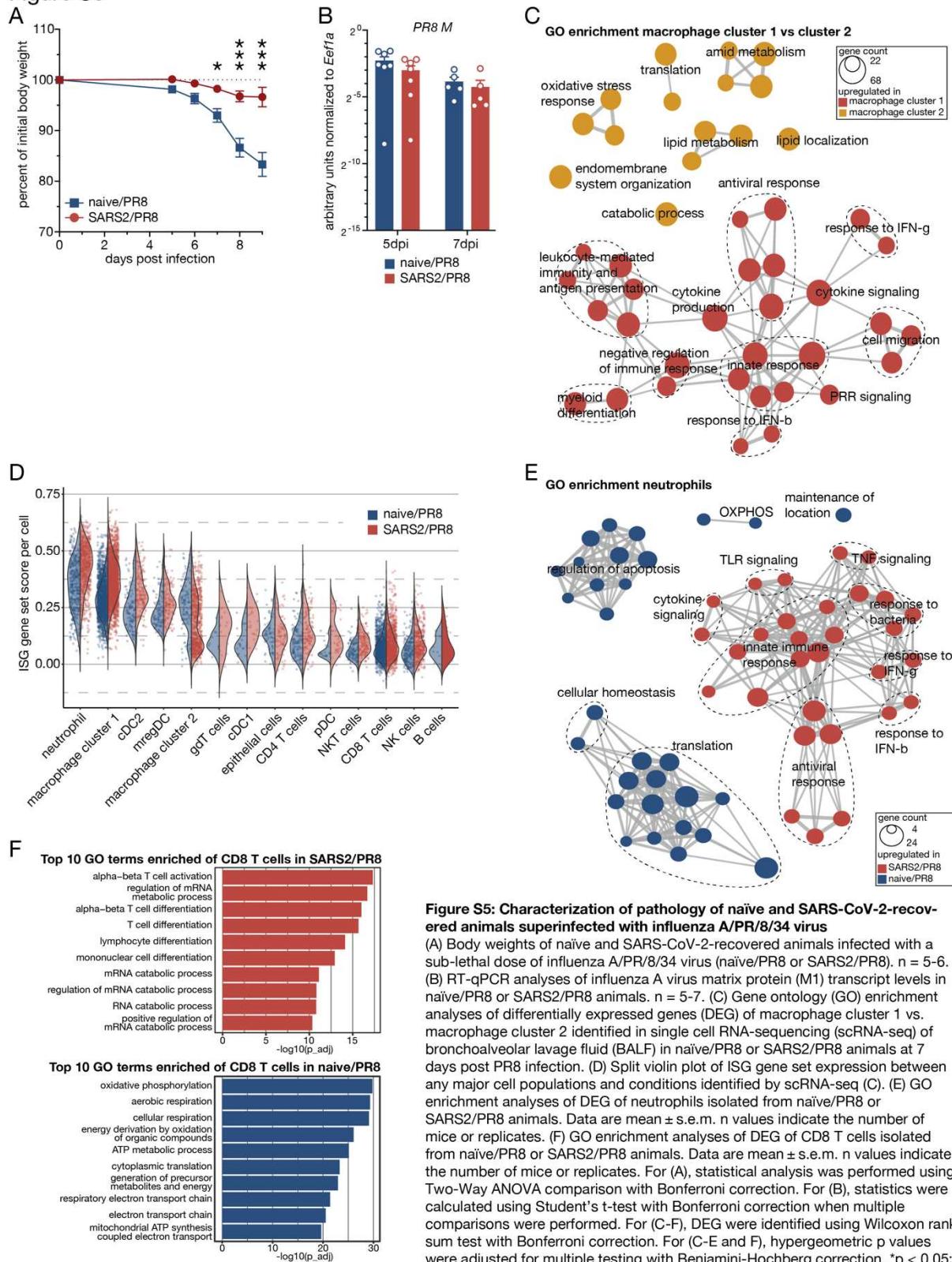


Figure S5: Characterization of pathology of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals superinfected with influenza A/PR/8/34 virus

(A) Body weights of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals infected with a sub-lethal dose of influenza A/PR/8/34 virus (naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8). n = 5-6. (B) RT-qPCR analyses of influenza A virus matrix protein (M1) transcript levels in naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 animals. n = 5-7. (C) Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of macrophage cluster 1 vs. macrophage cluster 2 identified in single cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) in naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 animals at 7 days post PR8 infection. (D) Split violin plot of ISG gene set expression between any major cell populations and conditions identified by scRNA-seq (C). (E) GO enrichment analyses of DEG of neutrophils isolated from naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 animals. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. (F) GO enrichment analyses of DEG of CD8 T cells isolated from naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 animals. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. For (B), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (C-F), DEG were identified using Wilcoxon rank sum test with Bonferroni correction. For (C-E and F), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

377 **Material and methods**

378

379 Mice

380 C57Bl/6J wild type mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory (strain #000664). *Irf9*<sup>-/-</sup> mice  
381 (RBRC00916)<sup>51</sup> were obtained from Riken Bioresource Center, Japan. Mice were maintained and  
382 bred at the AAALAC-accredited Comparative Bioscience Center of the Rockefeller University. All  
383 mouse experiments were in accordance with the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory  
384 Animals and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Rockefeller  
385 University. Four- to six-month-old mice of both sexes were used for SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10  
386 infection experiments. For all other experiments, adult mice (older than 2 months) of both sexes  
387 were used. For survival studies, body weight loss greater than 20% of initial weight was defined  
388 the humane endpoint. All SARS-CoV-2 animal experiments and downstream processing of live  
389 cells non-inactivated tissues were conducted under biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) containment in  
390 compliance with institutional and federal guidelines.

391

392 Cell lines

393 VeroE6 cells (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*; sex: female, kidney epithelial) obtained from the ATCC (CRL-  
394 1586) and Ralph Baric (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Huh-7.5 hepatoma cells  
395 (*Homo sapiens*; sex: male, liver epithelial)<sup>52</sup> were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium  
396 (DMEM, Thermo Fisher Scientific #11995065) supplemented to contain 1 % non-essential amino  
397 acids (NEAA, Thermo Fisher Scientific #11140076) and 10 % fetal bovine serum (FBS, HyClone  
398 Laboratories, Lot. #AUJ35777). BHK-21 cells (*Mesocricetus auratus*, sex: male, fibroblast) were  
399 obtained from ATCC (#CCL-10) and MDCK cells (*Canis familiaris*, sex: female, kidney epithelial)  
400 were obtained from ATCC (#CCL-34) and cultured in Modified Eagle Medium (MEM, Thermo  
401 Fisher Scientific #11095080) supplemented to contain 10 % FBS, 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin  
402 (Thermo Fisher Scientific #15140122) and 1% L-Glutamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific #A2916801).  
403 All cell lines were cultured at 37 °C and 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>. All cell lines were confirmed to be negative for  
404 mycoplasma contamination.

405

406 Viruses

407 *Influenza A/PR/8/34 virus*

408 Influenza A/PR/8/34 virus (IAV PR8) stocks were generated using 9-day-old embryonated chicken  
409 eggs (Charles River #10100335). Eggs were incubated over night at 37 °C and candled by holding  
410 the eggs directly against a light source to identify an inoculation site without any veins above the  
411 air sac. The egg was inoculated with 1,000 plaque forming units (PFU) diluted in Dulbecco's  
412 phosphate buffered saline (PBS, Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144) + 1% BSA (Sigma Aldrich  
413 #A9576) using a 18G needle. Eggs were incubated for 2 days at 37 °C and transferred to 4 °C for  
414 2 hours. Next, eggs were opened with a sterile spoon and a scoopula was used to push down the  
415 embryo and the allantoic fluid was collected. The allantoic fluid was centrifuged using an Allegra  
416 X-12R (Beckman Coulter) at 205 G for 5 min, the supernatant was transferred into a clean falcon  
417 tube and stored at -80 °C.

418 *VSV-GFP*

419 GFP-tagged vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV-GFP)<sup>53</sup> was generated by infecting 80% confluent BHK-  
420 21 cells (ATCC #CCL-10) at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.01 PFU/cell. Cells were cultured  
421 at 37 °C and cell culture supernatant was harvested after 2 days, clarified by centrifugation at  
422 1,850 G for 5 min, and filtered through a 0.22 µm membrane and stored at -80 °C.

423 *SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10*

424 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) strain MA10<sup>20</sup>  
425 was generously provided by Ralph Baric (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). A P1 stock  
426 was amplified in VeroE6 cells obtained from the ATCC that were engineered to stably express  
427 TMPRSS2 (VeroE6<sub>TMPRSS2</sub>). To generate a P2 working stock, VeroE6<sub>TMPRSS2</sub> cells were infected at a  
428 multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.1 PFU/cell and incubated at 37 °C for 4 days. The virus-  
429 containing supernatant was harvested, clarified by centrifugation at 1,850 G for 5 min for 10 min,  
430 and filtered through a 0.22 µm membrane and stored at -80 °C.

431

432 Plaque assay

433 *Influenza A/PR/8/34 virus*

434 IAV PR8 was titrated by plaque assay on MDCK cells (ATCC #CCL-34) in 6-well format. Briefly,  
435 5x10<sup>5</sup> cells per well were plated the day prior, medium was aspirated, and cells were washed  
436 with PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144) before 500 µL of a serial dilution of viral inoculum  
437 in infection medium (RPMI, 0.1 % fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1 % Penicillin-Streptomycin, 0.3 %  
438 BSA, 1 µg/mL tosylamido phenylalanyl chloromethyl ketone (TPCK)-treated trypsin) was added.  
439 Cells were incubated for 60 min at 37 °C and plates were moved every 20 min to prevent drying  
440 out of the wells. The initial inoculum was removed, 2 mL of overlay were added per well (25 mL  
441 2x DMEM, 0.05 mL FBS, 15 mL 2% oxoid agar (Thermo Fisher Scientific #LP0011B), 0.5 mL 30 %  
442 BSA, 0.5 mL 1 % diethylaminoethyl (DEAE)-dextran, 0.75 mL sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>), 0.05  
443 mL 1mg/mL TPCK trypsin, 8.15 mL water) and cells were incubated at 37 °C for 2 days. Cells were  
444 fixed by adding 2 mL 4 % paraformaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich #F8775) for 1 hour, the overlay was  
445 removed, and cells were permeabilized by incubating with 1 mL 0.1% Triton X-100 (Sigma Aldrich  
446 #93443) in PBS for 10 min at room temperature. Cells were washed 2 times with PBS, and  
447 incubated with 500 µL of anti-IAV nucleoprotein (NP) antibody (1:3000, Sigma Aldrich  
448 #MAB8257) in 5 % goat serum (Jackson Immuno Research #005-000-121) for 1 hour at 37 °C.  
449 Cells were washed 2 times with 0.05 % Tween-20 (Sigma Aldrich P1379) in PBS, and incubated  
450 with 500 µL anti-mouse-horseradish peroxidase (HRP) antibody (1:1000, Jackson Immuno  
451 Research #115-035-146) in 0.05 % Tween-20 in PBS at 37 °C for 1 hour. Next, cells were washed  
452 2 times with 0.05 % Tween-20 in PBS, add 500 µL KPL TrueBlue Peroxidase Substrate (Seracare  
453 #5510-0052) and incubated for 1 min at room temperature. Cells were washed with PBS and viral  
454 titer was quantified by enumerating foci.

#### 455 VSV-GFP

456 VSV-GFP was titrated by plaque assay on BHK-21 cells (ATCC #CCL-10) in 6-well format. Briefly,  
457 5x10<sup>5</sup> cells per well were plated the day prior, medium was aspirated and 500 µL before a 10-fold  
458 serial dilution of viral inoculum was added. Cells were incubated for 60 min at 37 °C and plates  
459 were moved every 20 min to prevent drying out of the wells. The initial inoculum was removed,  
460 2 mL of overlay were added per well (25 mL 2x DMEM, 10 mL FBS, 15 mL 2% oxoid agar) and  
461 incubated for 2 days at 37 °C. Cells were fixed by adding 2 mL 4 % paraformaldehyde (Sigma  
462 Aldrich #F8775) for 1 hour at room temperature. The overlay was removed, and virus was

463 quantified by enumerating GFP-positive foci and/or upon adding crystal violet solution (1.25 %  
464 crystal violet, 20 % methanol in distilled water) for 15 min at room temperature.

465 *SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10*

466 SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10 was titrated by plaque assay on VeroE6 cells obtained from Ralph Baric  
467 (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) that stably express TMPRSS2 (VeroE6<sub>UNC/TMPRSS2</sub>)  
468 (referred to as VeroE6<sub>UNC</sub>) in 6-well format. Briefly, 4x10<sup>5</sup> cells were plated the day prior, medium  
469 was aspirated and 500 µL of a serial 10-fold virus dilutions in Opti-MEM were added. Cells were  
470 incubated for 90 min 37 °C and plates were moved every 20 min to prevent drying out of the  
471 wells. The initial inoculum was removed, 2 mL overlay were added per well (DMEM containing  
472 10 % FBS with 1.2 % microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel)). Cells were incubated for four days at 33  
473 °C, followed by fixation with 7 % formaldehyde and crystal violet staining for 1 hour. The overlay  
474 was removed, and virus was quantified by enumerating plaques. All SARS-CoV-2 MA10  
475 experiments were performed in a biosafety level 3 laboratory. To verify SARS-CoV-2 MA10  
476 identity and test for unwanted mutations, RNA from virus stocks was purified using TRIzol  
477 Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #15596026). Briefly, 200 µL of each virus stock was added to  
478 800 µL TRIzol Reagent, followed by 200 µL chloroform, which was then centrifuged at 12,000 G  
479 for 5 min. The upper aqueous phase was moved to a new tube, mixed with an equal volume of  
480 isopropanol, and then added to an RNeasy Mini Kit column (QIAGEN, #74014) to be further  
481 purified following the manufacturer's instructions. Viral stocks were subsequently confirmed via  
482 next generation sequencing using libraries for Illumina MiSeq.

483

484 Intranasal treatments and infections

485 For anesthesia, mice were intraperitoneally injected with a mixture of ketamine (80mg/kg;  
486 Zoetis, #54771-2013-1) and xylazine (8.8 mg/kg; Akorn, #07-808-1947) in PBS. After mice were  
487 sufficiently anesthetized, 30µL of inoculum was applied to one nostril. Mice were monitored until  
488 they regained consciousness.

489 For infections, mice were inoculated with 6,000 PFU of SARS-CoV-2 MA10, 200 or 50 PFU of  
490 influenza A/PR/8/34 virus for LD50 and sublethal infections, respectively.

491

492 Isolation of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid

493 Mice were euthanized and the trachea was carefully exposed. A 18G catheter equipped with a 3-  
494 way cock stop valve was inserted into the trachea. Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) was  
495 obtained by flushing the airways with 5x 1mL of sterile PBS containing 2mM  
496 ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA). BALF was stored on ice at all times until further use.

497

498 Alveolar macrophage culture

499 Isolated BALF was counted, spun at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C and resuspended in medium to  
500 reach the desired cell concentration.

501 For short-term culture, cells were resuspended and cultured in RPMI medium (Thermo Fisher  
502 Scientific #11875093) supplemented to contain 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% Penicillin-  
503 Streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific #15140122) and 1% L-Glutamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific  
504 #A2916801). Cells were incubated over night, washed with PBS the next day and fresh medium  
505 containing the respective stimuli was added.

506 Long-term culture of alveolar macrophages was carried out as previously described <sup>25</sup>. Briefly,  
507 cells were resuspended and cultured in RPMI medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific #11875093)  
508 supplemented to contain 10 % fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1 % Penicillin-Streptomycin (Thermo  
509 Fisher Scientific #15140122), 1 % L-glutamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific #A2916801), 30 ng/mL  
510 granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) (Peprotech #315-03), 10 ng/mL  
511 transforming growth factor (TGF)-β1 (Peprotech #100-21), 1 μM Rosiglitazone (Sigma Aldrich  
512 #R2408) and 50 μg/mL Gentamicin (Thermo Fisher Scientific #15750060). Cells were cultured in  
513 standard tissue culture vessels, medium was changed every 3 days and split when they reached  
514 70-80 % confluence. Typical alveolar macrophage cultures consist of adherent and suspended  
515 cells. For splitting, culture supernatants were collected, cells were rinsed with Dulbecco's  
516 phosphate buffered saline (PBS, Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144). To detach adherent cells,  
517 ESGRO Complete Accutase (Sigma Aldrich #SF006) was added and cells were incubated at 37 °C  
518 for 5 to 10 minutes until cells were detached. Cells were completely detached and resuspended  
519 in medium by pipetting. Cells were counted on a Countess automated cell counter (Invitrogen

520 #c10281), spun at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C and resuspended in medium to reach the desired  
521 cell concentration and plated into a new cell culture vessel.

522

523 *In vitro* polyIC treatment of alveolar macrophages

524 For all experiments, endotoxin-free polyinosinic-polycytidylic acid (polyIC, InvivoGen #tlrl-pic)  
525 was used. Stimulation of alveolar macrophages with polyIC was done at 10 µg/mL for 24 hours  
526 (establishment of innate immune memory) or 6 hours (acute response or recall response).  
527 To establish innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages, cells were treated with 10 µg/mL  
528 polyIC for 24 hours. Cells were washed with PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144) and fresh  
529 medium was added. 2 days after washing, fresh medium was added and/or cells were split if  
530 necessary. 4 days after washing, cells were seeded into 24-well or 96-well plates. Cells were re-  
531 stimulated the next day with polyIC for 6 hours (RT-qPCR, RNA-seq or immunofluorescence) or  
532 24h (immunofluorescence).

533

534 VSV-GFP infection of alveolar macrophages

535 VSV-GFP infection of alveolar macrophages was carried out at a MOI of 0.01 PFU/cell. Medium  
536 was aspirated from cell cultures and medium containing VSV-GFP at the desired dilution and 1  
537 µg/mL Hoechst (Thermo Fisher Scientific #33342) was added. After 24 hours, medium was  
538 aspirated and cells were fixed for 10 min in 4 % paraformaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich #F8775) at  
539 room temperature, washed with 200 µL PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144) and stored in  
540 200 µL at 4 °C until imaging.

541

542 Alveolar macrophage transfer *in vivo*

543 Anesthetized mice were intranasally (i.n.) treated with 2x25 µL clodronate liposomes (Liposoma  
544 #C-005) 3 days prior to alveolar macrophage transfer. Alveolar macrophages were isolated and  
545 expanded *in vitro* as described above. Cells were treated with 10 µg/mL polyIC (InvivoGen #tlrl-  
546 pic) or PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144) and 1 day prior to transfer. At the day of  
547 transfer, cells were detached and washed 2 times with 50 mL PBS and counted and concentration  
548 was adjusted. Each mouse was i.n. transferred 700,000 cells in 30 µL PBS. Mice were allowed to

549 recover for 5 days and were subsequently challenged with 200 PFU (LD50) of influenza A virus  
550 strain PR8 and body weight loss was monitored.

551

552 RNA isolation

553 Cells or tissue samples were collected in 1 mL TRIzol Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific  
554 #15596026). Tissues were homogenized using glass beads (BioSpec Products #11079110) and a  
555 MagNA Lyser (Roche Diagnostics) at 6,000 rpm and 30 seconds. Total RNA was isolated according  
556 to the TRIzol/chloroform extraction protocol of the Ambion PureLink RNA Mini Kit (Thermo Fisher  
557 Scientific #12183025). RNA concentration was determined on a NanoDrop Instrument (Thermo  
558 Fisher Scientific) and RNA was stored at -80 °C.

559

560 cDNA synthesis

561 cDNA was synthesized using the RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit and random hexamer  
562 primers (Thermo Fisher Scientific #K1622) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

563

564 qPCR

565 Quantitative PCRs (qPCR) were run and analyzed on a QuantStudio3 Real-Time PCR System  
566 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the PowerUP SYBR Green (Thermo Fisher Scientific  
567 #25741) protocol with 1.5 to 15 ng cDNA input. Expression levels of *Eef1a* (5'-  
568 GCAAAACGACCCACCAATG-3', 5'-GGCCTGGATGGTTCAGGATA-3'), *Ifit1*  
569 (5'TTACAGCAACCATGGGAGAGAATG-3', 5'-GGAAGTGGACCTGCTCTGAGATT-3'), *Ifitm3* (5'-  
570 GCCTACTCCGTGAAGTCTAGGG-3', 5'-CCAAGGTGCTGATGTTCAAGGC-3'), *Bst2* (5'-  
571 TGTAGAGACGGGTTGCGAGC-3', 5'-CTCCTGAAGGGTCACCACGG-3'), *SARS-CoV-2 N* (5'-  
572 TAATCAGACAAGGAAGTATTA-3', 5'-CGAAGGTGTGACTTCCATG-3') and *PR8 M* (5'-  
573 CATGGAATGGCTAAAGACAAGACC-3', 5'-CCATTAAGGGCATTGGACA-3') were determined using  
574 a standard qPCR protocol (step 1: 20 sec at 95 °C, step 2: 1 sec at 95 °C, step 3: 20 sec at 60 °C,  
575 step 4: go to step 2 and repeat 40x, step 5: 1 sec at 95 °C, step 6: 20 sec at 60 °C, step 7: ramp  
576 down up to 95 °C at +0.15 °C/s, step 8: 1 sec 95 °C, step 9: end).

577

578 Flow cytometry

579 Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) was centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C. For bone  
580 marrow (BM), red blood cells (RBC) were lysed by incubating cells with RBC Lysis Buffer  
581 (Biolegend #420301) for 3 min at room temperature. To stop RBC lysis, 1 mL PBS (Thermo Fisher  
582 Scientific #14190144) was added, and cells were centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C.  
583 Supernatant was aspirated down to 100 µL, cells were resuspended and transferred to a V-  
584 bottom 96-well plate. Plates were centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C. Supernatant was  
585 aspirated and cells were resuspended in 25 µL FcR block per well (200x, Biolegend #101320)  
586 diluted in FACS buffer (2 % FBS, 2 mM EDTA, 10g/L NaN<sub>3</sub>) and incubated at room temperature  
587 for 15 min. This step was omitted for BM samples. Next, 25 µL 2x surface staining mix diluted in  
588 FACS buffer were added per well and cells were incubated for 30 min at 4 °C. For BM samples, 1x  
589 surface staining mix diluted in FACS buffer was added. Cells were washed with 150 µL PBS per  
590 well and resuspended in 100 µL viability dye. Cells were incubated for 15 min at room  
591 temperature and washed twice with 100 µL FACS buffer per well before fixation with 4 %  
592 paraformaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich #F8775) for 10 min at room temperature. Samples were  
593 washed once with 200 µL FACS buffer and resuspended in 150-250 µL FACS buffer and stored at  
594 4 °C until acquisition.

595 For BALF surface staining, anti-F4/80 (BV421, clone BM8, Biolegend #123137), anti-CD4 (BV510,  
596 clone GK1.5, Biolegend #100449), anti-CD11c (BV605, clone N418, Biolegend #117333), anti-  
597 CD11b (BV650, clone M1/70, Biolegend #101259), anti-CD69 (BV711, clone H1.2F3, Biolegend  
598 #104537), anti-CD44 (FITC, clone IM7, Biolegend #103005), anti-SiglecF (PerCP-Cy5.5, clone  
599 S17007L, Biolegend #155531), anti-CD3 (PE-Dazzle, clone 17A2, Biolegend #100245), anti-CD62L  
600 (PE-Cy5, clone MEL-14, Biolegend #104410), anti-CD103 (PE-Cy7, clone QA17A24, Biolegend  
601 #156905), anti-Ly6G (APC, clone 1A8, Biolegend #127613), anti-CD8a (AF647, clone 53-6.7,  
602 Biolegend #100724), anti-CD45 (AF700, clone I3/2.3, Biolegend #147715), anti-NK1.1 (APC-Cy7,  
603 clone S1701D, Biolegend #156509), anti-CD45.2 (APC, clone 104, Biolegend #109813), anti-  
604 SiglecF (APC-Cy7, clone S17007L, Biolegend #155531), anti-CD11c (Pacific Blue, clone N418,  
605 Biolegend #117321) were used.

606 For BM surface staining, Biotin anti-mouse Lineage Panel (Biolegend #133307), anti-CD150  
607 (BV650, clone TC15-12F12.2, Biolegend #115932), anti-CD117 (BV785, clone 2B8, Biolegend  
608 #105841), anti-CD48 (PerCP-Cy5.5, clone HM48-1, Biolegend #103421), anti-CD135 (PE, clone  
609 A2F10, Biolegend #135305), anti-Sca1 (PE-Dazzle, clone E13-161.7, Biolegend #122527), anti-  
610 CD16/32 (PE-Cy5, clone S17011E, Biolegend #156617), anti-CD34 (PE-Cy7, clone SA376A4,  
611 Biolegend #152217), anti-CD127 (APC, clone S18006K, Biolegend #158205), anti-CD115 (APC-  
612 Fire750, clone AFS98, Biolegend #135535), FITC Streptavidin (Biolegend #405201), BV421  
613 Streptavidin (Biolegend #405226) were used.  
614 For dead cell exclusion, Zombie Green Fixable Viability Kit (Biolegend #423111), Zombie Violet  
615 Fixable Viability Kit (Biolegend #423114) and LIVE/DEAD Fixable Blue dead Cell Stain Kit (Thermo  
616 Fisher Scientific #L23105) were used.

617

618 PKH26 labeling

619 Mice were anesthetized and intranasally treated with a 1:50 dilution of LumiTrace PKH26  
620 (Lumiprobe #13201). 5 days after treatment, mice were intranasally challenged with virus.

621

622 Histological analyses

623 After euthanasia, murine lung tissues were excised and placed in 10 mL 10% neutral buffered  
624 formalin (Fischer Scientific #SF100-4) for 48 hours. Samples were subsequently transferred to  
625 70% ethanol for processing in a Leica ASP300 following a one hour, 13 step program. Samples  
626 were embedded in paraffin using standard orientation procedures. Five-micron tissue sections  
627 were collected onto Plus slides (Fisher Scientific #22-042-924), air-dried, and stored at room  
628 temperature prior to use. Each sample was histochemically stained with hematoxylin-eosin.

629 Chromogenic immunohistochemistry (CIHC) was performed using unconjugated polyclonal  
630 rabbit anti-SARS CoV-2 Nucleocapsid protein (GeneTex Cat# GTX135357, Lot# 43979, RRID:  
631 AB\_2868464). Lungs from SARS-CoV-2 recovered and naïve animals were sectioned on to the  
632 same slide and used for antibody optimization. Initial optimization testing determined antigen  
633 retrieval requirements at fixed concentration. Subsequent optimization manipulated  
634 concentration and or incubation to establish final protocol parameters. Negative controls

635 consisted of primary antibody substituted with antibody diluent. All immunohistochemistry was  
636 performed on a Ventana Medical Systems Discovery Ultra platform using Ventana's reagents and  
637 detection kits unless otherwise noted. In brief, sections were deparaffinized online. Rabbit anti-  
638 SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid protein was diluted 1:200 (1.6 ug/ml) and incubated for 3 hours at  
639 room temperature and with goat anti-rabbit horseradish peroxidase conjugated for 8 minutes  
640 followed by DAB detection. Slides were washed in distilled water, counterstained with  
641 hematoxylin, dehydrated through graded alcohols, cleared in xylene and mounted with synthetic  
642 permanent media. Appropriate positive and negative controls were included with the study  
643 sections.

644

645 Immunofluorescence

646 Immunofluorescence experiments were performed in black wall 96-well plates (Corning #3904).  
647 At the respective time point, cells were fixed for 10 min in 4 % paraformaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich  
648 #F8775) at room temperature and washed 2 times with 200  $\mu$ L PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific  
649 #14190144). Next, cells were incubated with 100  $\mu$ L ice cold methanol (Sigma Aldrich #34860)  
650 for 10 min at -20 °C. After washing with 200  $\mu$ L PBS, 50  $\mu$ L of PBS containing 0.5% Triton X-100  
651 (Sigma Aldrich #93443) was added for 5 minutes and then blocked with 50  $\mu$ L 5% goat serum  
652 (Jackson Immuno Research #005-000-121) in PBS for 30 min at room temperature. Primary  
653 antibodies were added in 35  $\mu$ L per well and incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. Cells  
654 were washed 3 times with 200  $\mu$ L PBS for 4 min before secondary antibodies and 1  $\mu$ g/mL  
655 Hoechst (Thermo Fisher Scientific #33342) were added in 35  $\mu$ L per well and incubated for 1 hour  
656 at room temperature. Afterwards, cells were washed 3 times with 200  $\mu$ L PBS for 4 min and  
657 stored in 200  $\mu$ L PBS at 4 °C until imaging. Cells were imaged on a BioTek Cytaion 7 or a Perkin  
658 Elmer Operetta CLS instrument.

659

660 Image analyses

661 Images were analyzed and fluorescent intensities quantified using CellProfiler version 4.2.1 <sup>54</sup>.  
662 Subsequent analyses were performed using RStudio version 2023.03.0+386.

663

664 Cytokine profiling

665 Cytokines were quantified using Luminex xMAP technology for multiplexed quantification of 45  
666 Mouse cytokines, chemokines and growth factors offered by Eve Technologies Corp. (Calgary,  
667 Alberta, Canada). According to Eve Technologies, the multiplexing analysis was performed using  
668 the Luminex™ 200 system (Luminex, Austin, TX, USA). Forty-five markers were simultaneously  
669 measured in the samples using Eve Technologies' Mouse Cytokine 44-Plex Discovery Assay which  
670 consists of two separate kits; one 32-plex and one 13-plex (Sigma, Burlington, Massachusetts,  
671 USA). The assay was run according to the manufacturer's protocol. The 32-plex consisted of  
672 Eotaxin, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN $\gamma$ , IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-10, IL-12(p40), IL-  
673 12(p70), IL-13, IL-15, IL-17, IP-10, KC, LIF, LIX, MCP-1, M-CSF, MIG, MIP-1 $\alpha$ , MIP-1 $\beta$ , MIP-2,  
674 RANTES, TNF $\alpha$ , and VEGF. The 13-plex consisted of 6Ckine/Exodus2, Erythropoietin, Fractalkine,  
675 IFN $\beta$ -1, IL-11, IL-16, IL-20, MCP-5, MDC, MIP-3 $\alpha$ , MIP-3 $\beta$ , TARC, and TIMP-1. Assay sensitivities of  
676 these markers range from 0.3 to 30.6 pg/mL for the 45-plex. Individual analyte sensitivity values  
677 are available in the Sigma MILLIPLEX® MAP protocol.

678

679 Bulk transcriptomics

680 RNA was isolated as described above and were submitted to MedGenome Inc. (Foster City,  
681 California, USA). Sequencing libraries were prepped using the Takara SMARTer Stranded Total  
682 RNA-Seq Kit v3 or the Illumina TrueSeq RNA Library Prep Kit v2 and 150 bp paired-end sequencing  
683 was performed on an Illumina NovaSeq instrument. Reads were aligned to the *Mus musculus*  
684 genome mm10 GCRm38 (Fig 2) or GCRm39 (Fig 3) using STAR v. 2.7.10b. Read counts were  
685 normalized, statistically analyzed and differentially expressed genes between conditions  
686 identified using the DESeq2 package version 1.34.0<sup>55</sup> in RStudio version 2023.03/0+386.

687

688 Hierarchical clustering and gene ontology enrichment analyses

689 For hierarchical clustering of bulk RNA transcriptomics, lowly expressed genes were excluded  
690 (average FPKM across all conditions < 1) and only genes with an absolute log2 fold change greater  
691 than 1 and an adjusted *p*-value lower than 0.05 were considered. Significantly regulated genes of  
692 single cell RNA sequencing were identified using Seurat v4<sup>22</sup>. Gene ontology (GO) enrichment

693 analyses for biological processes (BP) of identified genes of interest of gene clusters was  
694 performed using the clusterProfiler package version 4.2.2<sup>56</sup> and hierarchical clustering was  
695 performed in RStudio version 2023.03/0+386.

696

697 Single cell RNA sequencing

698 *Library preparation*

699 Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid was centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C and supernatant was  
700 aspirated. Cells were resuspended in 300 µL PBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific #14190144), counted  
701 and adjusted to equivalent concentrations. Cell suspensions were processed for scRNA-seq with  
702 the 10x Chromium NextGEM Single-cell 3' v3.1 kit according to manufacturer's instructions. Each  
703 sample (naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8) was loaded to an individual 10x Chromium controller Chip G  
704 lane at a concentration for targeted recovery of 5,000 cells per lane. Barcode cDNA amplification  
705 was performed with 12 cycles of PCR. Following Bioanalyzer QC, libraries were pooled and  
706 sequenced on the Illumina NextSeq 500 instrument in paired end configuration (Read 1: 28 nt,  
707 Read 2: 55 nt).

708 *Data processing*

709 Sequencing data was mapped and quantified to per cell gene expression counts using CellRanger  
710 count (v5.0.0, 10x Genomics) with a mouse reference transcriptome (mm10) appended with  
711 annotations for IAV PR8 and SARS-CoV-2 MA10 (joint reference prepared with CellRanger mkref).  
712 Gene x cell matrices were further processed and analyzed with Seurat (v4.0.5)<sup>57</sup> in the R  
713 statistical framework (v4.0.3). After exclusion of several mouse RNAs (*Gm42418*, *Gm26917*,  
714 *AY036118*) associated with artifactual signals<sup>58,59</sup>, quality thresholds were set based on data  
715 exploration, and cells with fewer than 500 RNA UMI counts or greater than 10 % mitochondrial  
716 RNA UMI counts were excluded from further analysis. Putative heterotypic doublets were  
717 identified with scDblFinder (v1.4.0)<sup>60</sup> and excluded. Putative erythrocytes, defined as cells with  
718 greater than 75% of RNA UMI counts composed of hemoglobin transcripts, were excluded.

719 *Data analysis*

720 Sctransform<sup>61</sup> (default parameters, with fraction of mitochondrial genes and Seurat cell cycle  
721 score difference as regression factors) was used for normalization and variable feature selection.

722 Sample integration was performed with standard Seurat workflow; IAV PR8 genes (no SARS-CoV-  
723 2 reads were detected in any sample) and variable immune receptor genes (i.e. T and B cell  
724 receptor V, D, J genes) were excluded from integration and principal component dimensionality  
725 reduction. For dimensionality reduction, the first 60 principal components of the integrated  
726 dataset were used for UMAP generation, NearestNeighbor processing, and unsupervised graph-  
727 based clustering.

728 “Major cell groups” were annotated with SingleR<sup>62</sup> (v1.4.1, cluster mode and single cell mode for  
729 proliferating cells) and the Immunological Genome Project<sup>63</sup> reference datasets. Each major cell  
730 group was extracted, re-clustered, and further annotated (“Subpopulation level”, as in Figure 4)  
731 based on canonical marker gene expression patterns.

732 ISG gene set<sup>24</sup> expression scores were calculated per cell from log1p-normalized RNA counts  
733 using AddModuleScore() from Seurat v4.

734

735 10X Multiome sequencing

736 Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid from 3 animals per condition was pooled, centrifuged at 500 G for  
737 5 minutes at 4 °C. The supernatant was aspirated, and dead cells were removed using the Dead  
738 Cell Removal Kit (Miltenyi #130-090-101) and LS columns (Miltenyi #130-122-729) according to  
739 manufacturer’s instructions. Afterwards, nuclei were isolated according to the 10x Genomics  
740 standard protocol (#CG000365 Rev C). Briefly, cells were centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at 4  
741 °C, supernatant was aspirated and 200 µL of lysis buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM NaCl, 3 mM  
742 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1 % Tween-20, 0.1 % IGEPAL CA630, 0.01 % digitonin, 1 % BSA, 1 mM DTT, 1 U/µL Sigma  
743 Protector RNase inhibitor in nuclease free water) was added and mixed by pipetting. Cells were  
744 incubated on ice for 3 min and 2 mL wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM NaCl, 3 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1  
745 % Tween-20, 1 % BSA, 1 mM DTT, 1 U/µL Sigma Protector RNase inhibitor in nuclease free water)  
746 was added and mixed by inverting the tube. Samples were centrifuged at 500 G for 5 minutes at  
747 4 °C, supernatant aspirated and nuclei washed two more times with 1 mL wash buffer. During  
748 the last wash step, nuclei were filtered through a 40 µm FFlowMi filter (Sigma Aldrich  
749 #BAH136800040) into a new tube. After the last wash step, nuclei were resuspended in nuclei

750 buffer (10x Genomics #PN-20000153), counted using a Countess 3 cell counter (Thermo Fisher  
751 Scientific #A49865) and concentration was adjusted to 3,000-5,000 nuclei/µL.  
752 Nuclei were then processed using the Chromium Next GEM Single Cell Multiome ATAC + Gene  
753 Expression Reagent Bundle (10x Genomics #1000285) and Chromium Controller & Next GEM  
754 Accessory Kit (10x Genomics #1000202) following the manufacturer's user guide (10x Genomics  
755 CG000338-Rev F). The single cell RNA and ATAC sequencing libraries were prepared using Dual  
756 Index Kit TT Set A (10x Genomics #1000215) and Single Index Kit N Set A (10x Genomics  
757 #1000212) respectively and sequenced on Illumina NovaSeq6000 platform.

758 *Data Preprocessing*

759 The Multiome data underwent preprocessing using the Cell Ranger ARC 1.0.0 pipeline and were  
760 aligned to the mm10 genome. Subsequently, the Cell Ranger output was processed using the  
761 Seurat Weighted Nearest Neighbor Pipeline. To eliminate low-quality cells, a filtering process was  
762 employed as previously described<sup>31</sup>. Scrublet<sup>64</sup> was used on the RNAseq data to remove duplets.  
763 From the pooled data, low-quality cells from individual samples were filtered out. For the RNA-  
764 seq object, sctransform normalization was applied, followed by principal component analysis  
765 (PCA). The top 30 principal components were used for UMAP embedding and clustering. This  
766 process was repeated using 20 principal components.

767 Next, scATAC profiles from all samples were combined, and initial cell-type annotation was  
768 performed based on scRNA-seq annotations. Peaks were called for each cell type using MACS2  
769 (version 2.1.2). Redundant peaks were removed based on the q-value obtained from MACS2.  
770 Using the resulting list of peak regions, the number of reads overlapping each peak window was  
771 determined for each unique cell barcode tag. This generated a matrix of peak-by-cell counts  
772 corresponding to ATAC reads within peaks for each cell profiled. High-quality cells were retained  
773 based on having a fraction of reads in peaks (FRIP) greater than 0.4 and a sequencing depth of  
774 more than 1000. The cells filtered out during this step were also removed from the scRNA object  
775 to ensure consistency across both modalities.

776 After quality control, the scRNA-seq object was reprocessed using sctransform, PCA, clustering,  
777 and UMAP embedding. Clusters were obtained from the scRNA-seq data using the default  
778 parameters of Seurat (30 PCs for PCA). The annotations for these clusters were finalized based

779 on the expression of marker genes specific to distinct immune cell types. The same set of cells  
780 was retained in the scATAC-seq component of the Multiome data, and the annotations were  
781 transferred accordingly. The scATAC object was processed using the Signac pipeline, which  
782 involved TF-IDF normalization, singular value decomposition (SVD), UMAP embedding, and  
783 clustering.

784 *Motif Analysis*

785 To analyze motifs, position weight matrices (PWMs) from the JASPAR2020 database <sup>65</sup> and a  
786 motif occurrence matrix using the mm10 genome were added to the separate assay. Per-cell TF  
787 motif activity was calculated by employing the RunChromVAR function of Signac <sup>66</sup>.

788 *Differential gene expression analysis*

789 For differential analysis of gene expression and TF activity, the FindMarker function of Seurat was  
790 used. The Wilcoxon test was employed for statistical testing.

791

792 Human data generation and analyses

793 *Sample acquisition*

794 Study participants were enrolled at Weill Cornell Presbyterian Hospital during the initial infection  
795 wave of SARS-CoV-2 in New York City (spring to winter 2020) and were most likely infected by  
796 the original/non-variant strain of SARS-CoV-2. None of the patients had received a COVID-19  
797 vaccine at time of blood collection. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and plasma was  
798 isolated and single-cell Multiome datasets were generated as previously described <sup>31</sup>.

799 The classification of subjects into groups was based on the COVID-19 World Health Organization  
800 (WHO) Severity Classification. The groups included in this study were as follows: 1) healthy  
801 volunteer donors, and 2) recovered mild COVID-19 patients (with a WHO severity score of 1-2).

802 To meet the inclusion criteria for each group, the following criteria were applied: 1) For healthy  
803 volunteer donors, individuals had to be free of any clinical symptoms related to COVID-19 at the  
804 time of blood collection. Negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results and/or seronegative status were  
805 also considered when available. 2) For recovered mild COVID-19 patients, individuals had to have  
806 a confirmed PCR test indicating SARS-CoV-2 infection, along with clinical symptoms of COVID-19

807 that did not require hospitalization. The prior infection status of both healthy volunteer donors  
808 and recovered mild COVID-19 patients was confirmed through SARS-CoV-2 serological testing  
809 after blood donation. Blood samples were collected using EDTA or sodium heparin-coated  
810 vacutainers and were kept on gentle agitation until processing. All blood samples were processed  
811 on the same day as collection. Information regarding age, sex, and comorbidities was obtained  
812 either through EPIC EHR records or, if not available, through a standardized form filled out at the  
813 time of donation.

814

815

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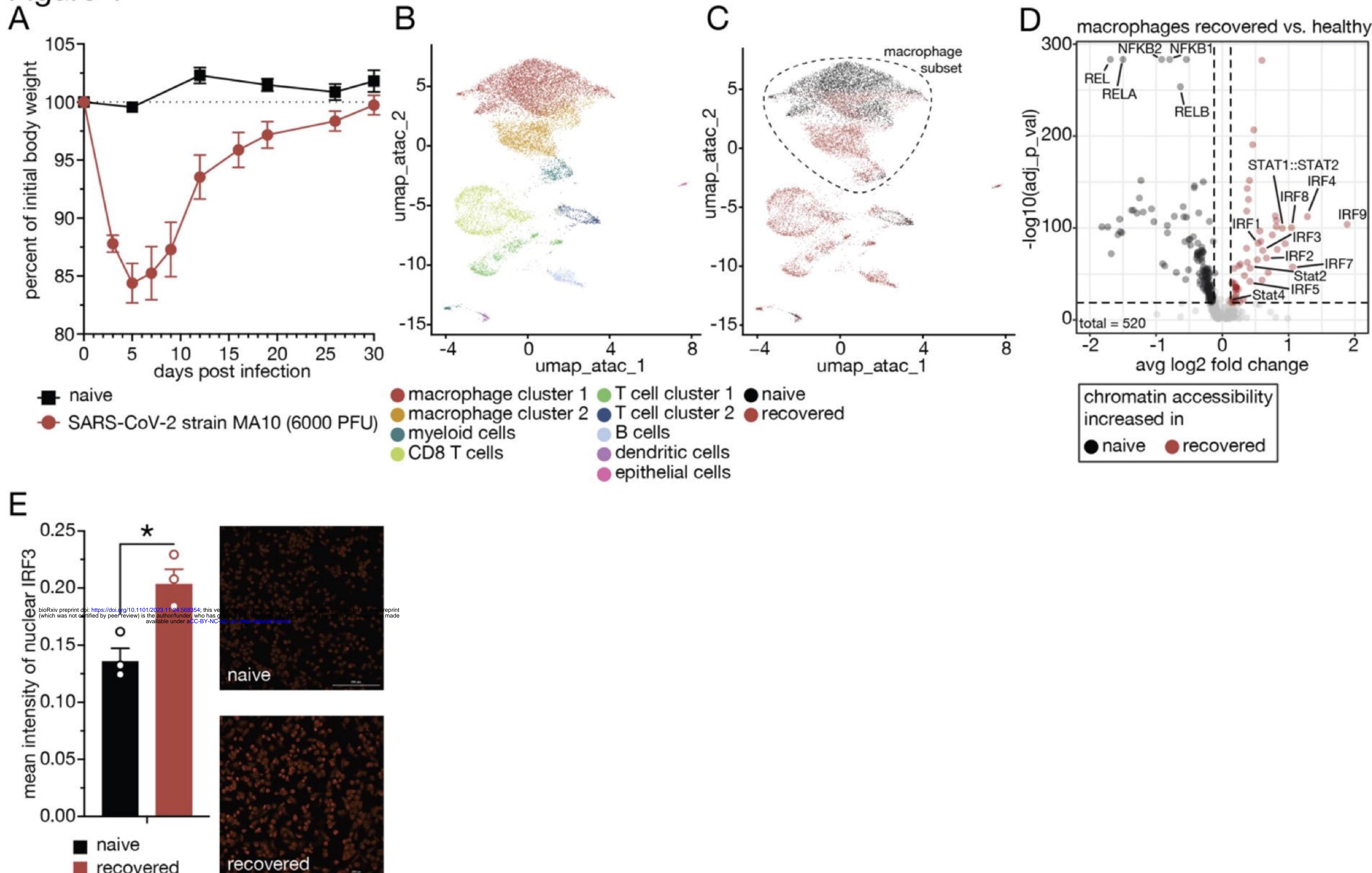
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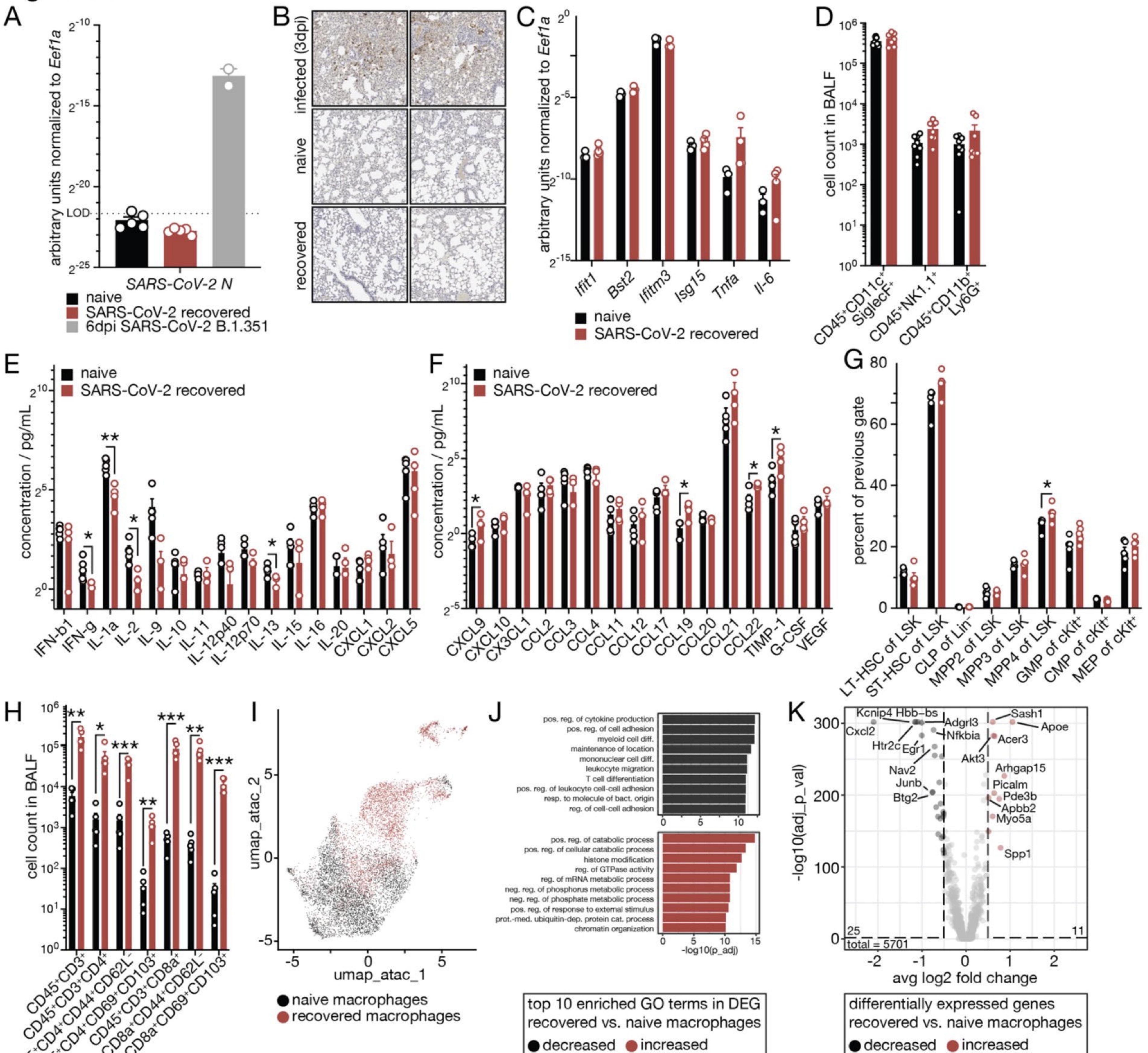
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Figure 1

**Figure 1: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection establishes epigenetic memory in airway-resident macrophages.**

(A) Body weights of naïve and SARS-CoV-2 (strain MA10) infected C57BL/6J mice.  $n = 11-12$ . (B) UMAP clustering of single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-seq data (10x Multiome) and annotated cell clusters of airway-resident cells from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered mice based on ATAC-seq data.  $n = 3$ . (C) Recovered and naïve sample annotation of UMAP clustering (B) with dashed line indicating the macrophage subset. (D) TF motif-associated chromatin accessibility analyses of recovered vs. naïve sub-setted macrophages. (E) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of nuclear IRF3 in airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals and representative image.  $n = 3$ . Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.  $n$  values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (D), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon's test. For (E), statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

# Figure S1



**Figure S1: Characterization of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals**

(A) RT-qPCR analyses of SARS-CoV-2 N transcript levels in lung tissue of naïve, SARS-CoV-2-recovered or acutely infected (6 days post infection with SARS-CoV-2 strain B.1.351) C57BL/6J mice. n = 2-5. (B) Histological analyses of naïve, SARS-CoV-2-recovered and acutely infected (3 days post infection with SARS-CoV-2 strain MA10). n = 5. (C) RT-qPCR analyses of Ifit1, Bst2, Ifitm3, Isg15, Tnfa and Il-6 transcript levels in lung tissue of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3-4. (D) Flow cytometric analyses of alveolar macrophages (CD45+CD11c+SiglecF+), NK cells (CD45+NK1.1+) and neutrophils (CD45+CD11b+Ly6G+) in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 7-8. (E-F) Cytokine profiling of BALF isolated from recovered and naïve animals. n = 5. (G) Flow cytometric analyses of abundance of hematopoietic progenitor cells (long-term hematopoietic stem cells (LT-HSC), short-term hematopoietic stem cells (ST-HSC), common lymphoid progenitor cells (CLP), multipotent hematopoietic progenitor cells (MPP), granulocyte-monocyte progenitor cells (GMP), common myeloid progenitor cells (CMP), megakaryocyte/erythroid progenitor cells (MEP)) in the bone marrow of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (H) Flow cytometric analyses of T cell subsets in BALF of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (I) UMAP clustering of the macrophage subset from single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-sequencing data obtained from BALF of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 5. (J) Top 10 enriched gene ontology (GO) terms analyses of significantly regulated genes of recovered vs. naïve macrophages (I). (K) Differentially expressed genes (DEG, absolute log2 fold change > 0.5) in macrophages (I) of recovered and naïve animals. Top 10 significant DEG by fold change are labelled. (L) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of nuclear RELA (p65) in airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals. n = 3. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A, C-H and L), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (K), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon rank sum test with Bonferroni correction. For (J), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

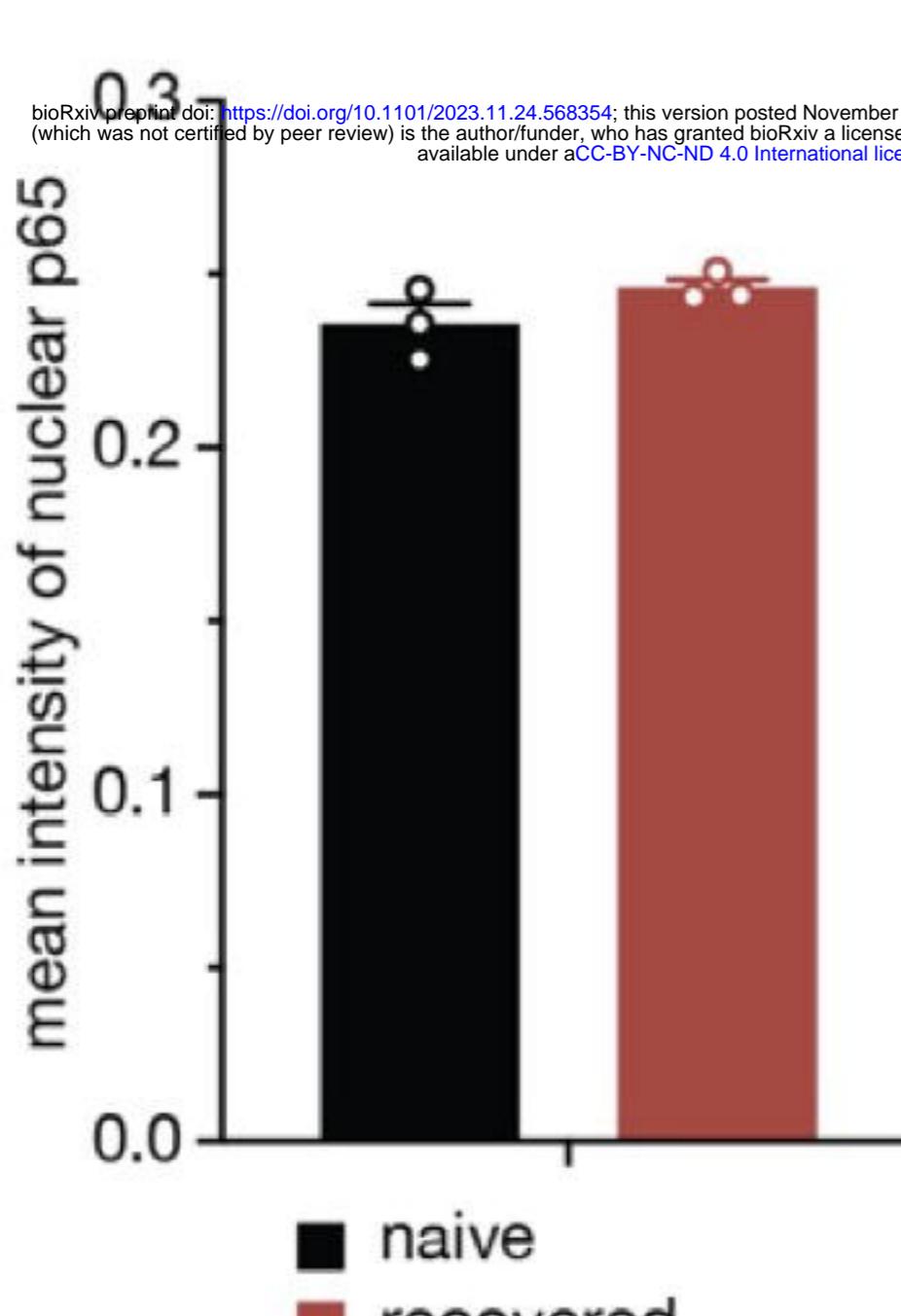
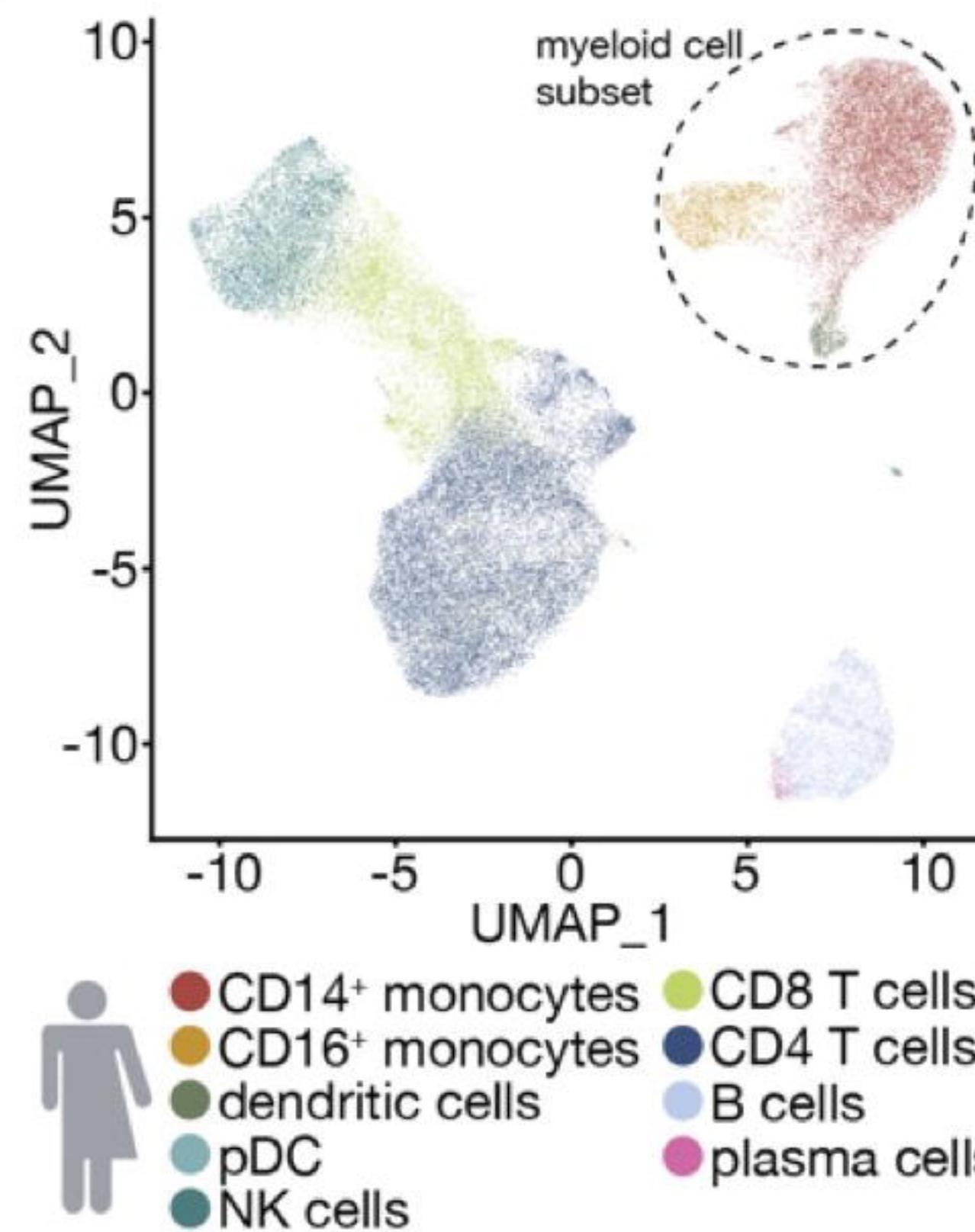
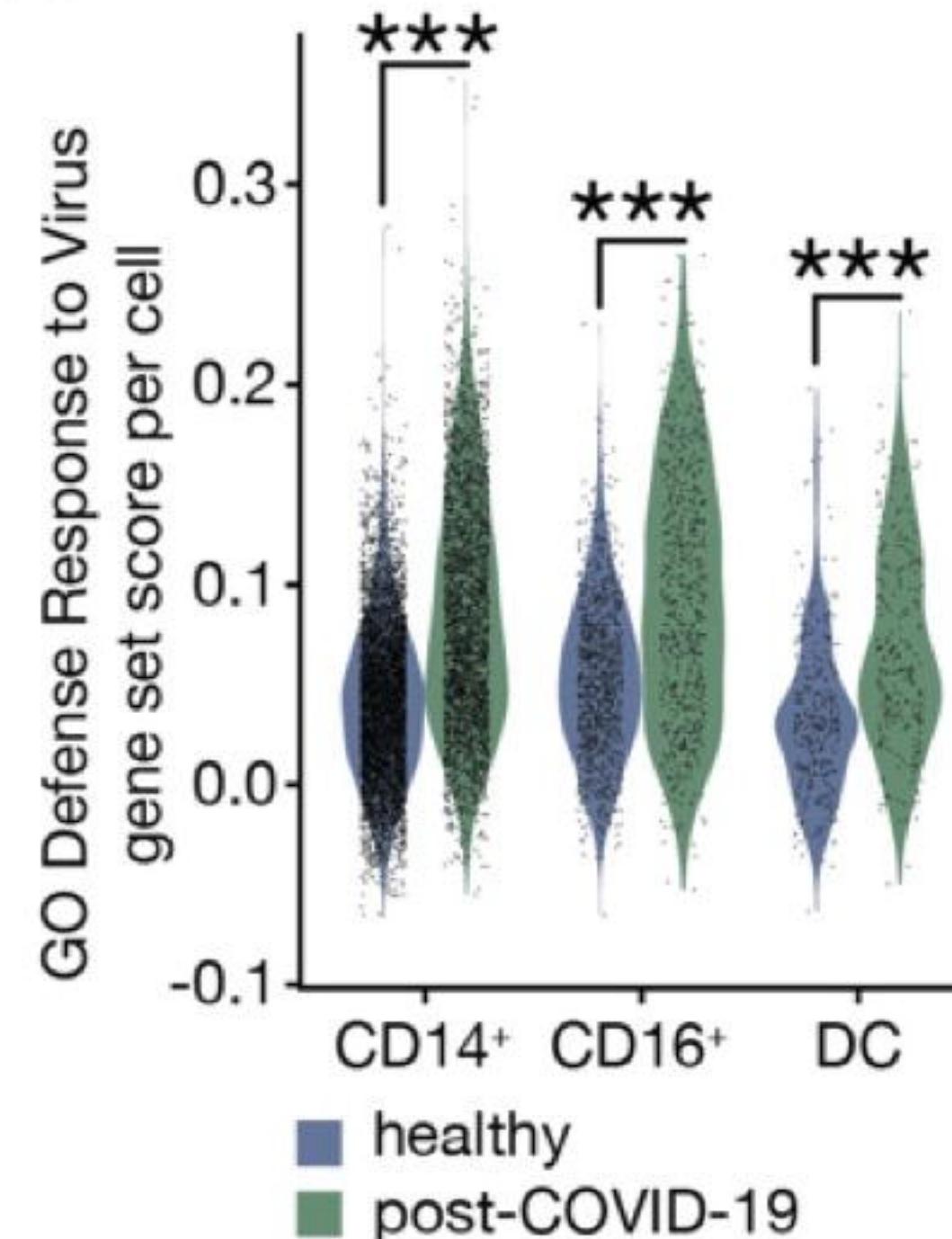


Figure 2

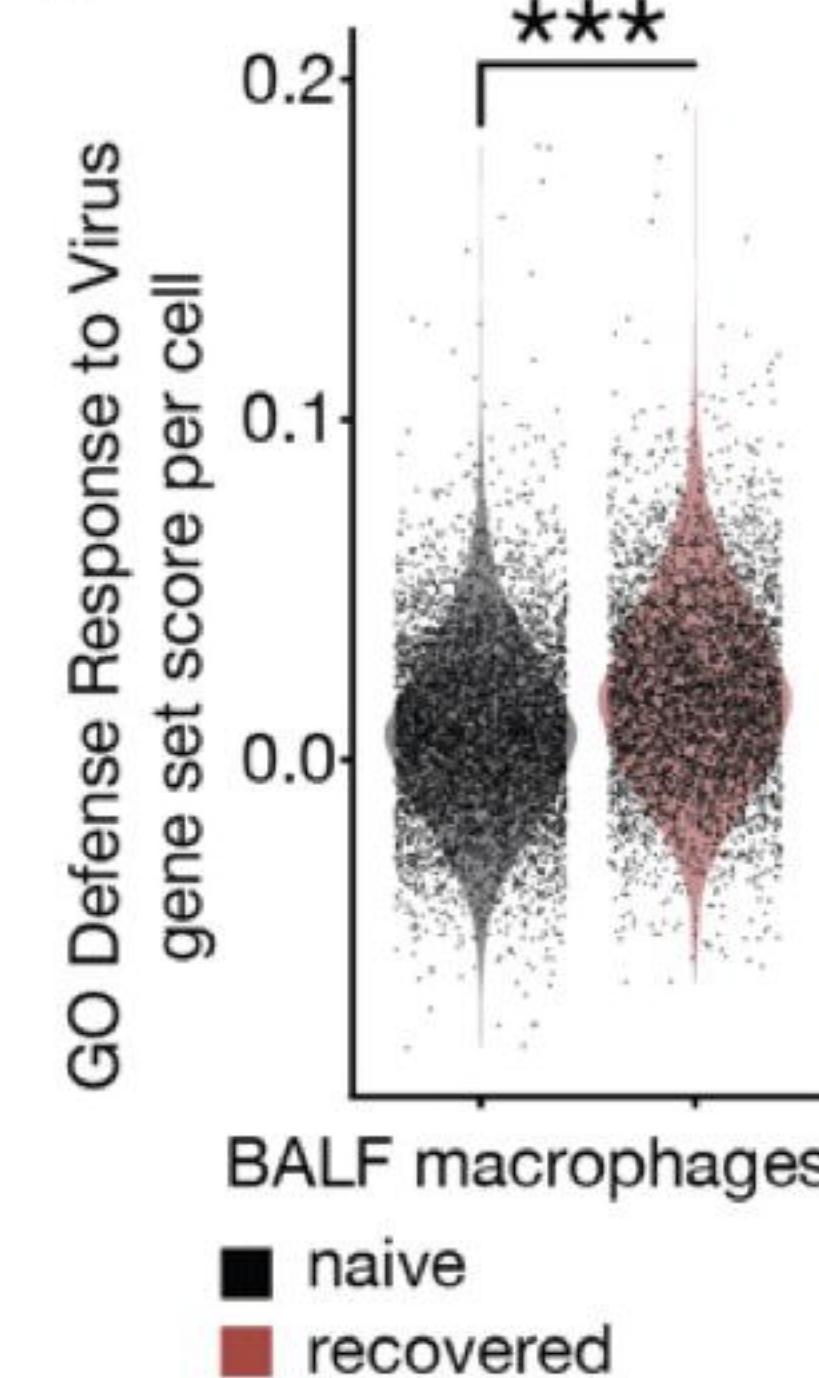
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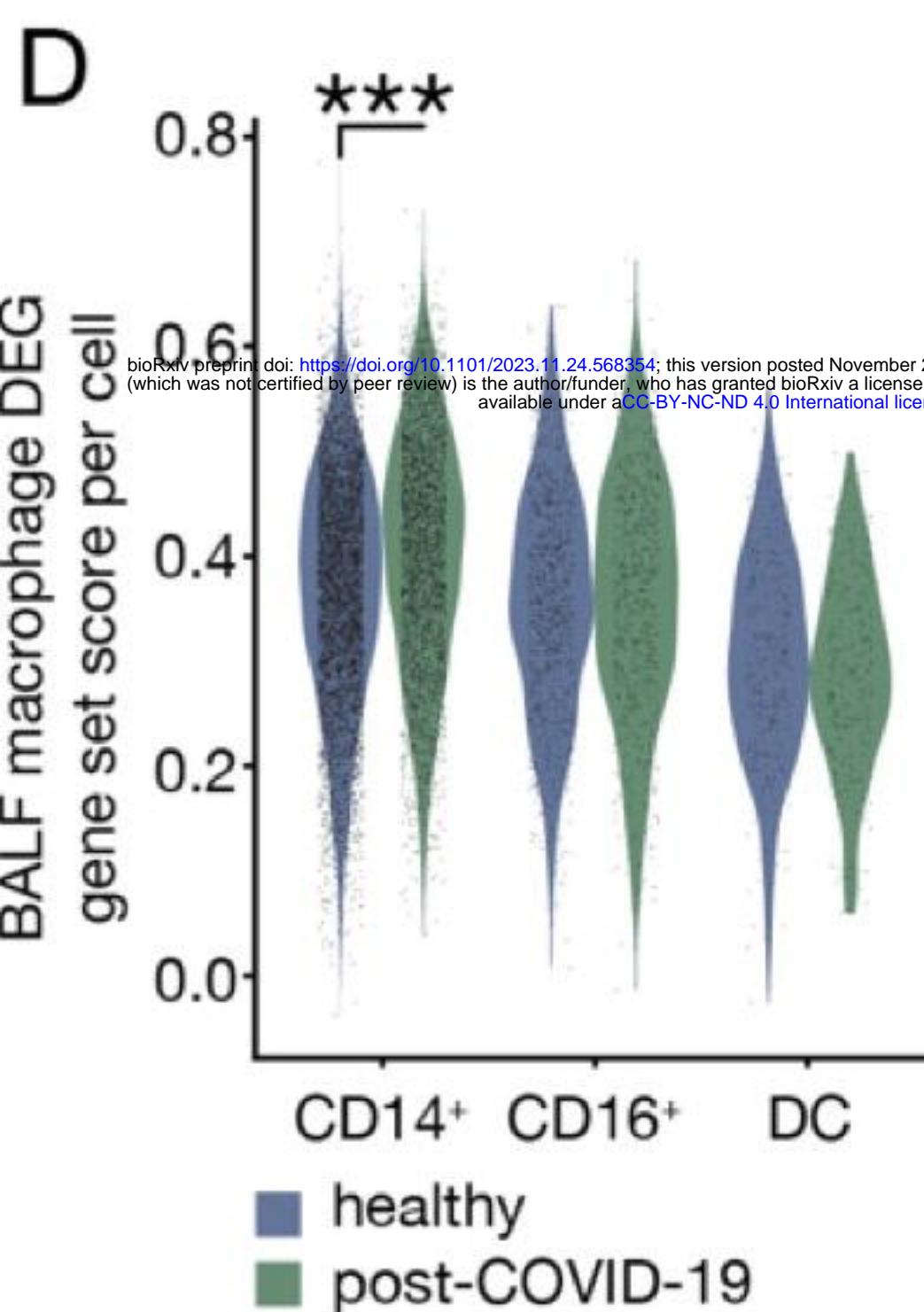
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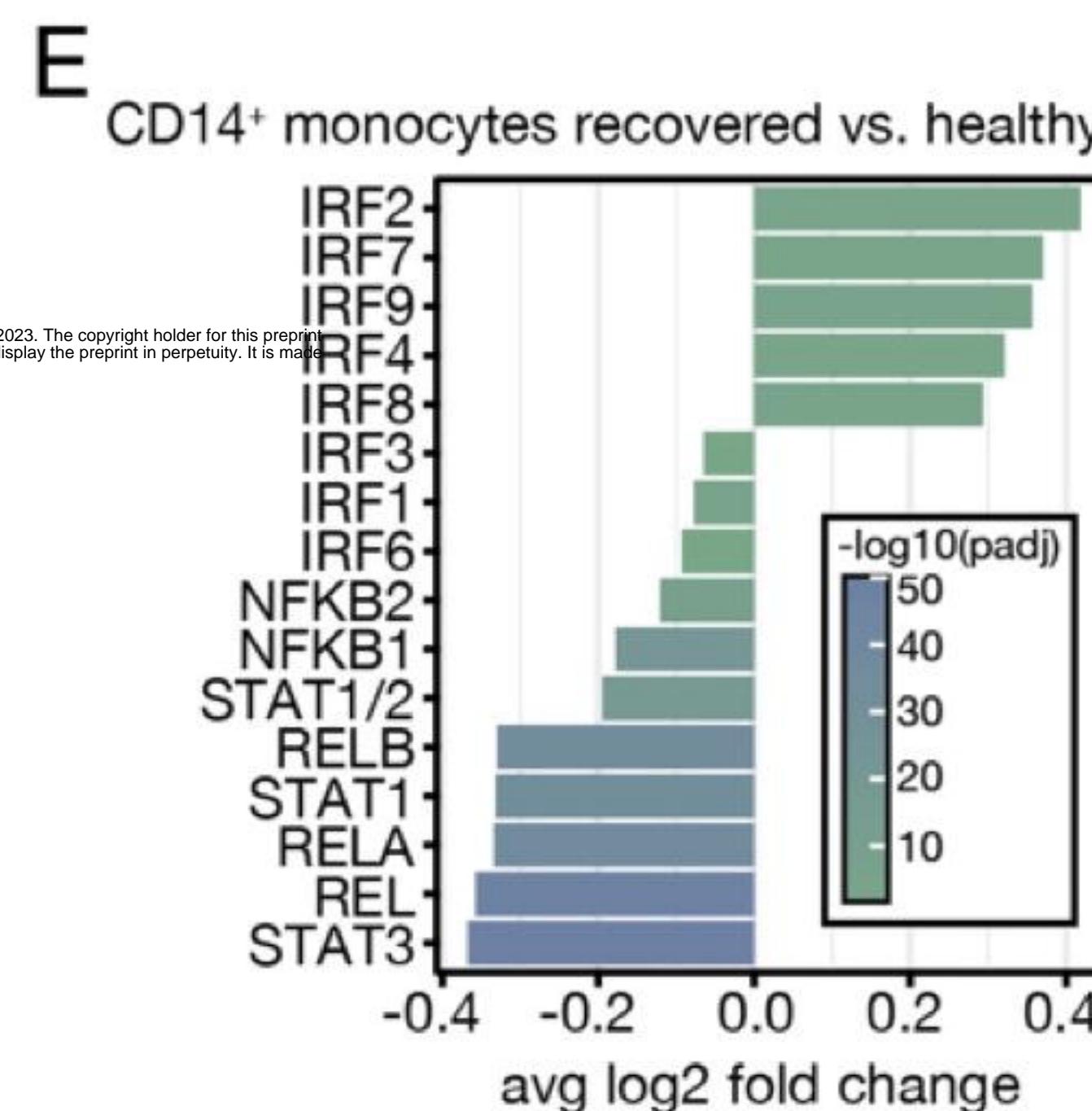
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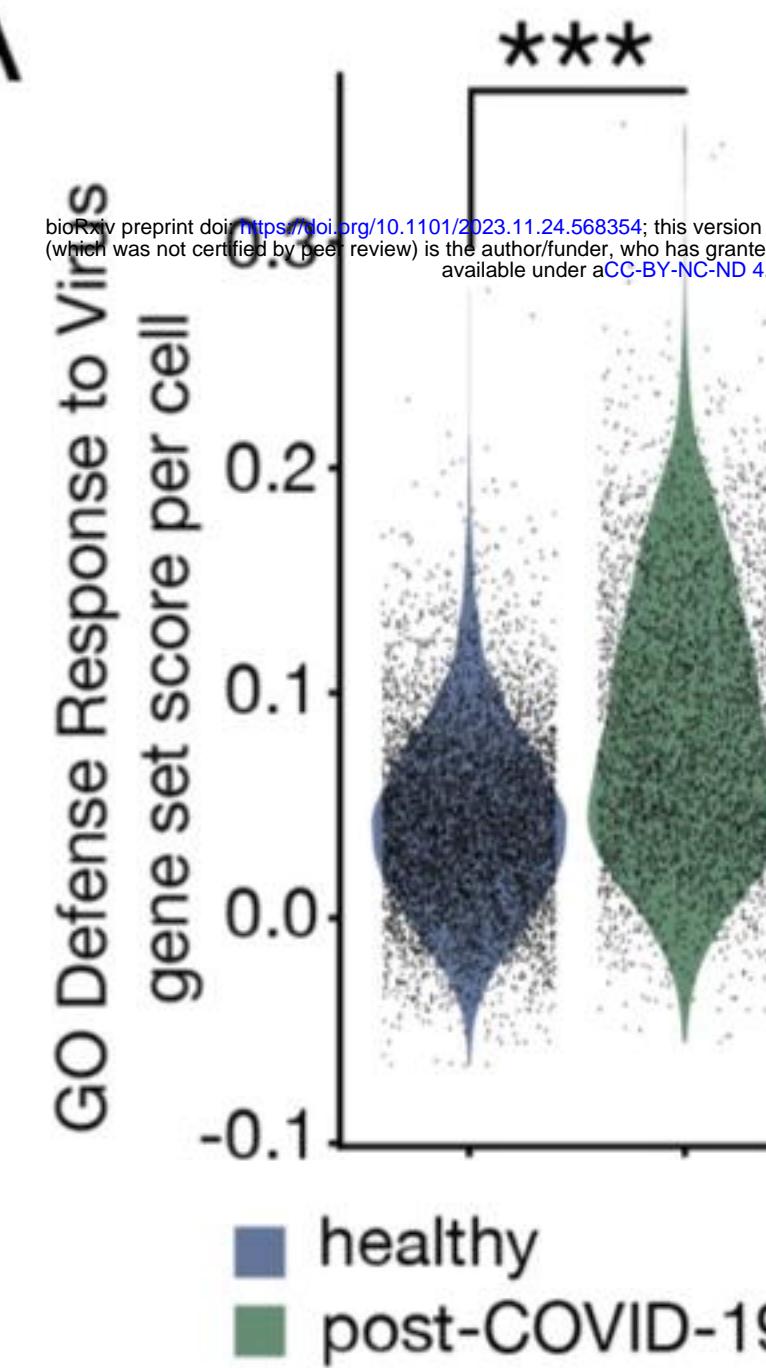


**Figure 2: Past COVID-19 establishes epigenetic memory in circulating monocytes in patients.**

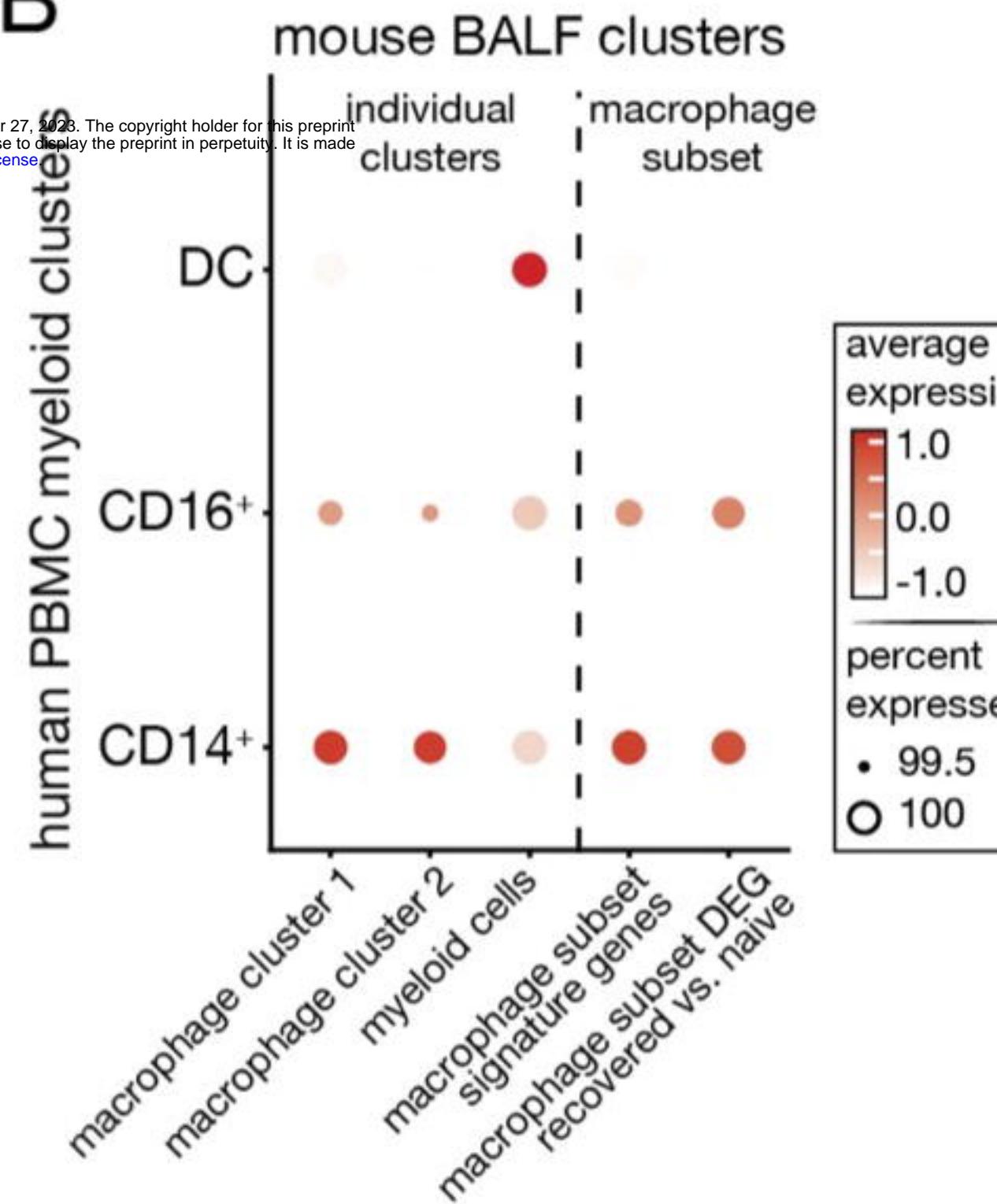
(A) UMAP clustering of single nuclei combined ATAC/RNA-seq data and annotated cell clusters of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) of recovered (2-4 months) mild COVID-19 and healthy patients with dashed line indicating the myeloid cell subset. n = 3-7. (B-C) Gene set expression score of GO: Defense Response to Virus in recovered and healthy circulating human myeloid cells (CD14+ and CD16+ monocytes and dendritic cells) (B) and murine BALF macrophages (C). (D) Gene set expression score of differentially expressed gene (DEG) module in circulating human myeloid cells. (E) Significantly different accessible TF motif-associated chromatin of recovered vs. healthy CD14+ monocytes. Data are represented as violin plots with each dot corresponding to one individual cell. For (B-E), statistical analyses were performed using Wilcoxon's test. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

# Figure S2

A

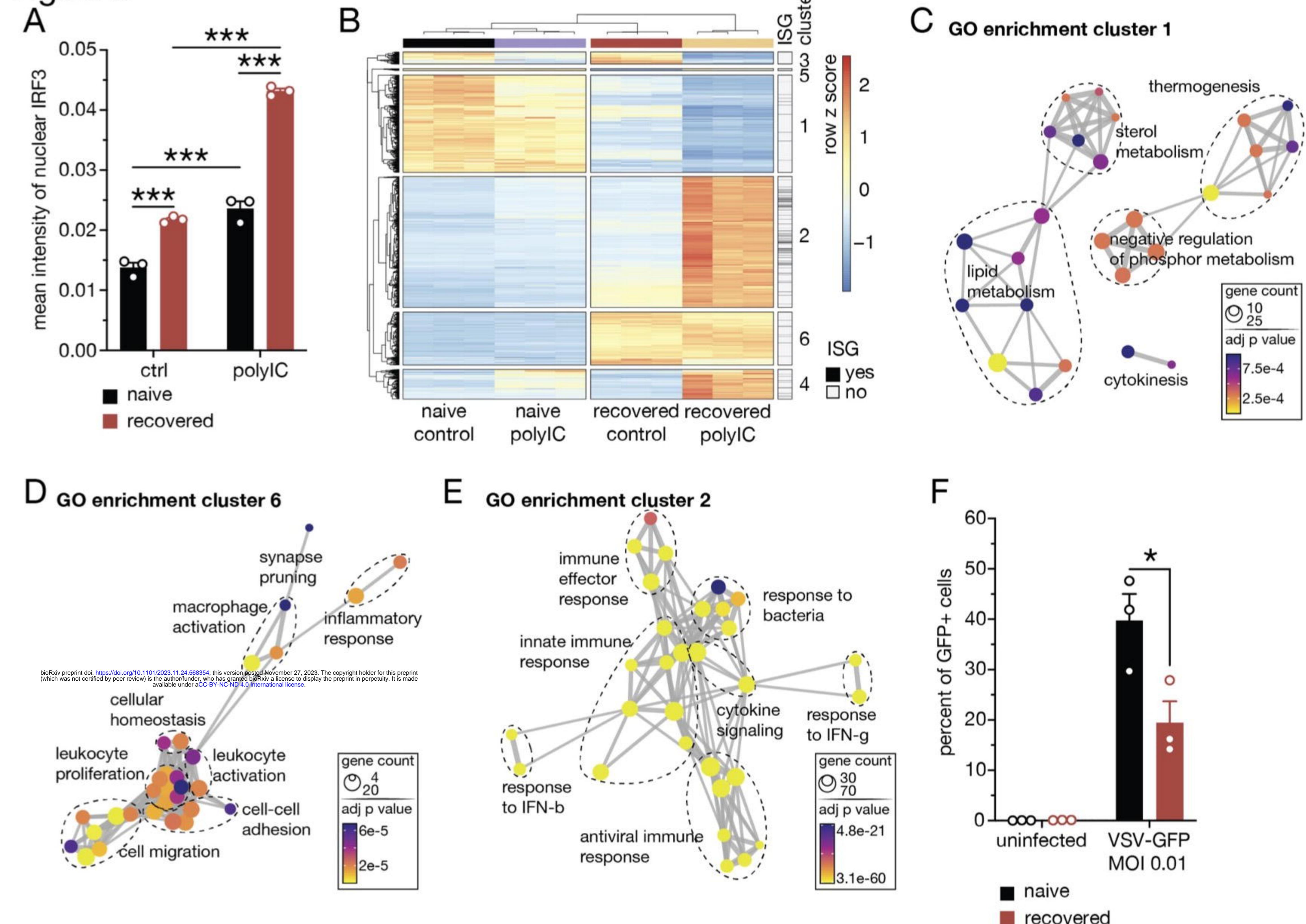


B



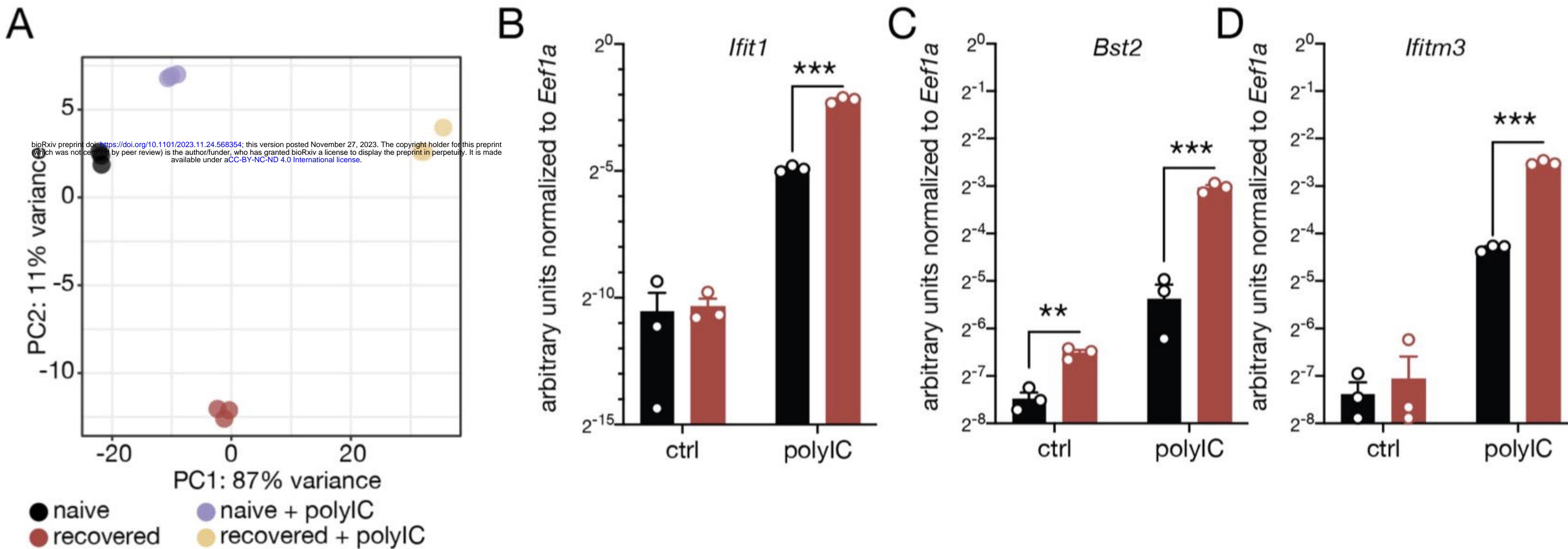
## Figure S2: Characterization of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered patient PBMCs

(A) Gene set expression score of GO: Defense Response to Virus across all recovered and healthy circulating human myeloid cells. (B) Expression of BALF cluster signature genes and macrophage subset (Figure 1I) differentially expressed gene (DEG) modules in circulating human myeloid cells (CD14+ and CD16+ monocytes and dendritic cells). Data are represented as violin plots or dotplot with each dot corresponding to one individual cell or cell cluster, respectively. For (A-B), statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon rank sum test with Bonferroni correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

**Figure 3****Figure 3: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to increased secondary antiviral responses in airway-resident macrophages.**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) of IRF3 in control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals after 24 hours.  $n = 3$ . (B) Hierarchical clustering of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals after 6 hours.  $n = 3$ . (C-E), Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes in clusters 1 (C), 6 (D), 2 (E). (F) Percent of VSV-GFP infected airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals.  $n = 3$ . For (A and F), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (C-E), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

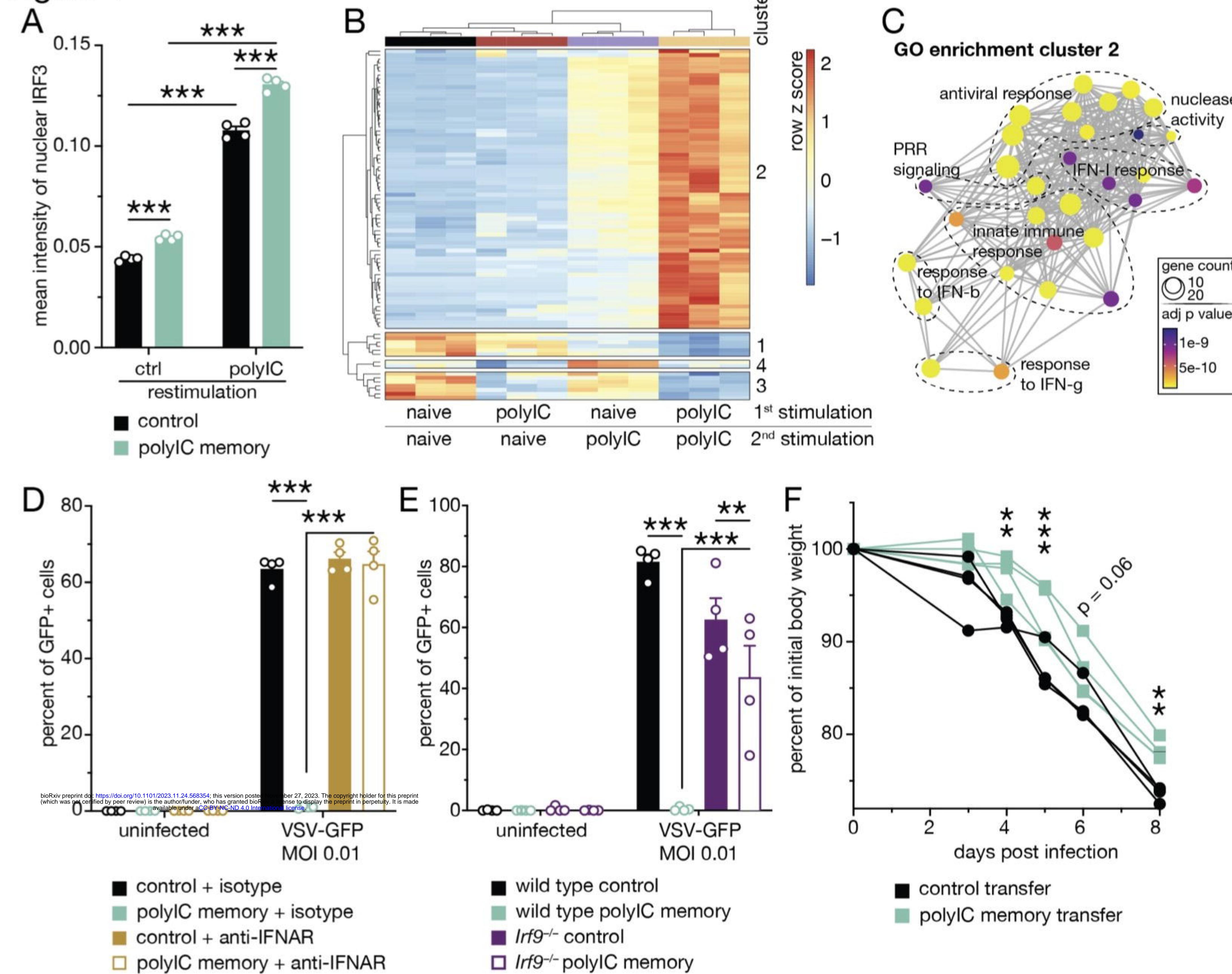
# Figure S3



**Figure S3: Characterization of secondary response of airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals**

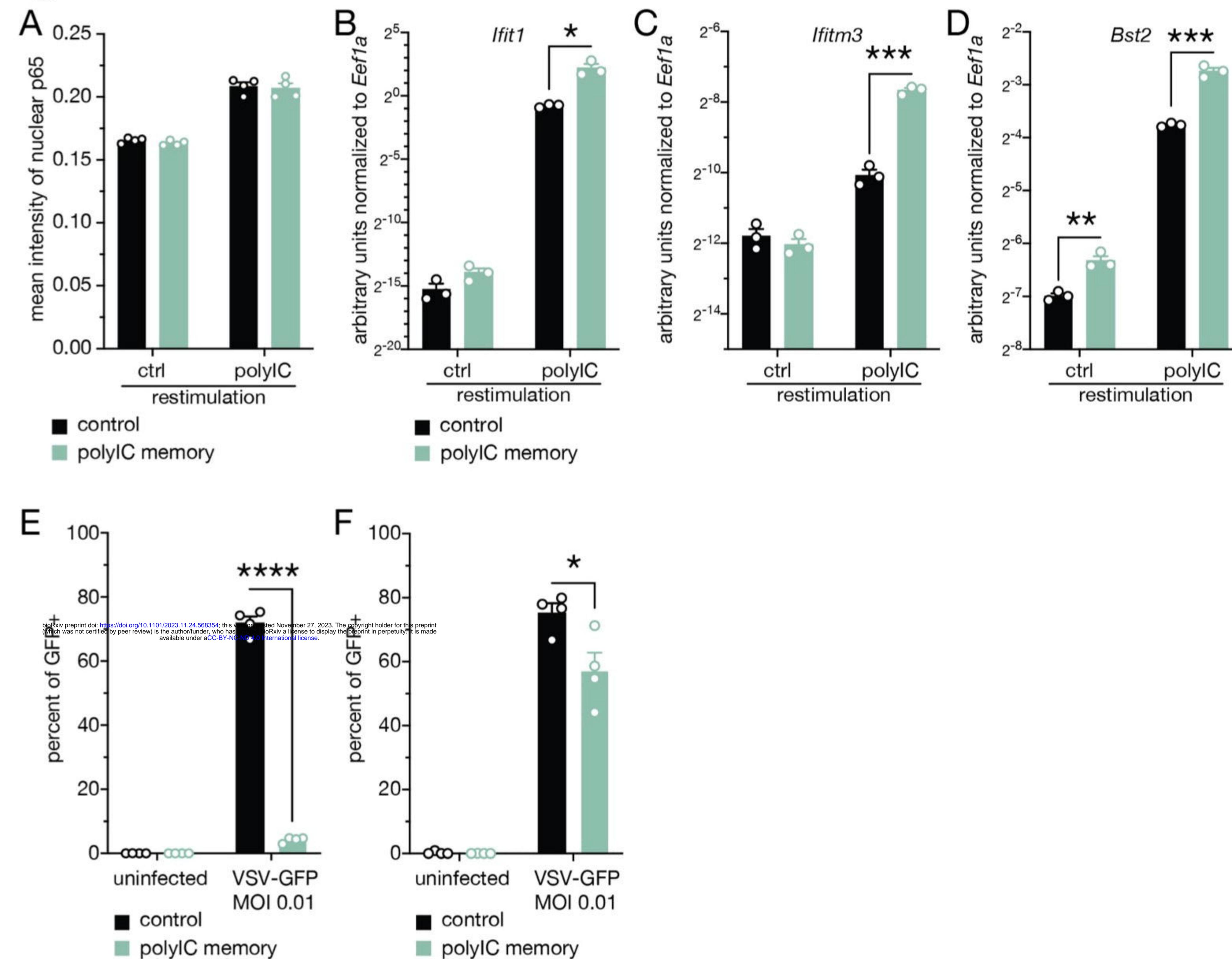
(A) Principal component analyses of transcriptomic profile of control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals.  $n = 3$ . (B-D), RT-qPCR analyses of *Ifit1* (B), *Ifitm3* (C) and *Bst2* (D) transcript levels in control- or polyIC-stimulated airway-resident macrophages isolated from naïve or SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals.  $n = 3$ . Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.  $n$  values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (B-D), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

Figure 4

**Figure 4: Viral PAMP exposure is sufficient to establish innate immune memory in alveolar macrophages in vitro.**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) of IRF3 in control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 24 hours. n = 4. (B) Hierarchical clustering of differentially expressed genes (DEG) of polyIC/polyIC vs. control/polyIC alveolar macrophages 6 hours after re-stimulation. n = 3. (C) Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes in clusters 2. (D) Percent of VSV-GFP infected control- or polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages with or without anti-IFNAR blocking antibody treatment during initial polyIC exposure. n = 4. (E) Percent of VSV-GFP infected control- or polyIC-experienced wild type or *Irf9*<sup>-/-</sup> alveolar macrophages. n = 4. (F) Body weights of influenza A/PR/8/34 virus infected C57BL/6J mice following transfer of control- or polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages. n = 4. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (C), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. For (D-E), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. For (F), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

Figure S4



**Figure S4: Characterization of secondary response of polyIC-experienced alveolar macrophages in vitro**

(A) Quantification of mean fluorescent intensity of RELA (p65) in control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 6 hours. n = 4. (B-D), RT-qPCR of *Ifit1* (B), *Ifitm3* (C) and *Bst2* (D) transcript levels of polyIC/polyIC vs. control/polyIC stimulated in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages 6 hours after re-stimulation. n = 3. (E-F), Percent of VSV-GFP-infected control- or polyIC-stimulated control- or polyIC-experienced in vitro cultured alveolar macrophages after 5 (E) and 14 days (F). n = 4. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A-F), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

Figure 5

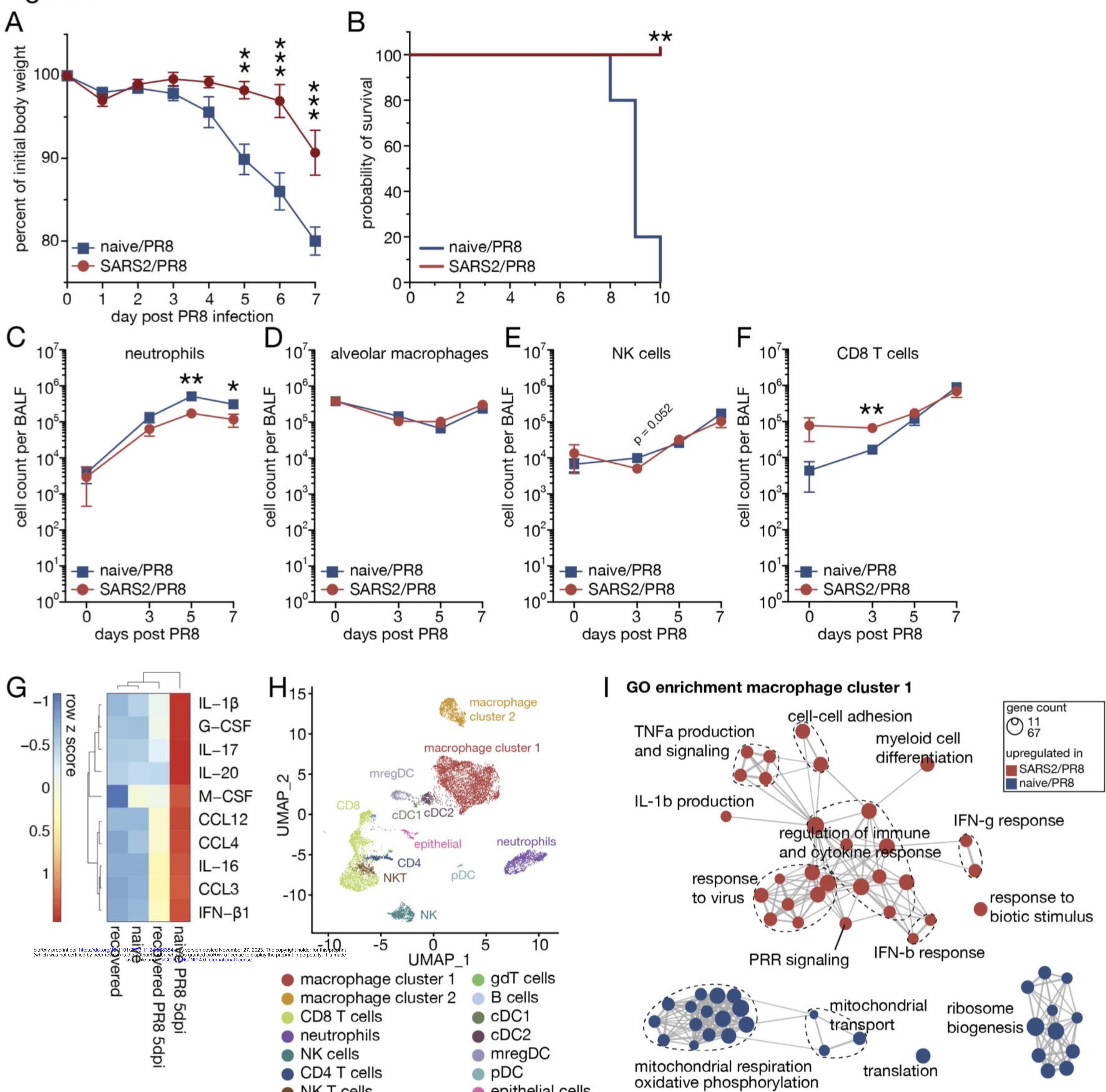


Figure 5: Past SARS-CoV-2 infection ameliorates secondary influenza A virus infection.

(A) Body weights of naïve and SARS-CoV-2-recovered animals infected with influenza A/PR/8/34 virus at LD50 (naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8). n = 5. (B) Survival percentages of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals. n = 5. (C-F) Kinetics of neutrophils (C), alveolar macrophages (D), NK cells (E) and CD8 T cells (F) in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals. n = 3-7. (G) Significantly different cytokines and chemokines in BALF of naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals at 5 days after PR8 infection. n = 4-5. (H) UMAP clustering and major cell cluster annotation of single cell RNA-seq data of BALF from naïve/PR8 and SARS2/PR8 animals at 7 days post PR8 infection. (I) Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses of genes associated with cells isolated from naïve/PR8 or SARS2/PR8 BALF in macrophages cluster 1 (G). Data are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. n values indicate the number of mice or replicates. For (A), statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA comparison with Bonferroni correction. For (B), statistical analysis was performed using a log-rank Mantel-Cox test. For (C-G), statistics were calculated using Student's t-test with Bonferroni correction when multiple comparisons were performed. For (I), hypergeometric p values were adjusted for multiple testing with Benjamini-Hochberg correction. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

Figure S5

