

1 **Gene editing of *SAMHD1* in macrophage-like cells reveals complex relationships**
2 **between *SAMHD1* phospho-regulation, HIV-1 restriction and cellular dNTP levels**

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35 **Abstract**

36 Sterile α motif (SAM) and HD domain-containing protein 1 (SAMHD1) is a dNTP
37 triphosphate triphosphohydrolase (dNTPase) and a potent restriction factor for
38 immunodeficiency virus 1 (HIV-1), active in myeloid and resting CD4 $^{+}$ T cells. The anti-
39 viral activity of SAMHD1 is regulated by dephosphorylation of the residue T592.
40 However, the impact of T592 phosphorylation on dNTPase activity is still under debate.
41 Whether additional cellular functions of SAMHD1 impact anti-viral restriction is not
42 completely understood.

43 We report BLaER1 cells as a novel human macrophage HIV-1 infection model
44 combined with CRISPR/Cas9 knock-in (KI) introducing specific mutations into the
45 SAMHD1 locus to study mutations in a physiological context. Transdifferentiated
46 BLaER1 cells harbor active dephosphorylated SAMHD1 that blocks HIV-1 reporter
47 virus infection. As expected, homozygous T592E mutation, but not T592A, relieved a
48 block to HIV-1 reverse transcription. Co-delivery of VLP-Vpx to SAMHD1 T592E KI
49 mutant cells did not further enhance HIV-1 infection indicating the absence of an
50 additional SAMHD1-mediated antiviral activity independent of T592 de-
51 phosphorylation. T592E KI cells retained dNTP levels similar to WT cells indicating
52 uncoupling of anti-viral and dNTPase activity of SAMHD1. The integrity of the catalytic
53 site in SAMHD1 was critical for anti-viral activity, yet poor correlation of HIV-1
54 restriction and global cellular dNTP levels was observed in cells harboring catalytic
55 core mutations. Together, we emphasize the complexity of the relationship between
56 HIV-1 restriction, SAMHD1 enzymatic function and T592 phospho-regulation and
57 provide novel tools for investigation in an endogenous and physiological context.

58

59 **Importance**

60 We introduce BLaER1 cells as an alternative myeloid cell model in combination with
61 CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing to study the influence of SAMHD1 T592
62 Mophosphorylation on anti-viral restriction and the control of cellular dNTP levels in an
63 endogenous, physiological relevant context. Proper understanding of the mechanism
64 of the anti-viral function of SAMHD1 will provide attractive strategies aiming at
65 selectively manipulating SAMHD1 without affecting other cellular functions.
66 Even more, our toolkit may inspire further genetic analysis and investigation of
67 restriction factors inhibiting retroviruses, their cellular function and regulation, leading
68 to a deeper understanding of intrinsic anti-viral immunity.

69 **Introduction**

70 Sterile α motif (SAM) and HD domain-containing protein 1 (SAMHD1) is a potent anti-
71 viral restriction factor with broad anti-viral activity against a number of viruses, including
72 lenti- and non-lenti retroviruses (for review see (Majer et al. 2019)). In particular, HIV-
73 1 replication is restricted in myeloid cells and resting CD4 $^{+}$ T cells (Lagquette et al. 2011;
74 Hrecka et al. 2011; Berger et al. 2011; Baldauf et al. 2012; Descours et al. 2012).
75 SAMHD1 depletion leads to an increase in intermediates of reverse transcription (RT),
76 especially late cDNA products, indicating that SAMHD1 inhibits the RT process
77 (Hrecka et al. 2011; Baldauf et al. 2017; Schott et al. 2018).
78 SAMHD1 is a cellular dNTP triphosphate triphosphohydrolase (dNTPase). It is active
79 as a tetramer, regulated by binding of GTP/dGTP and dNTPs to primary and secondary
80 allosteric sites, respectively (Hansen et al. 2014). Therefore, the obvious assumption
81 might be that SAMHD1 inhibits HIV-1 replication through depletion of dNTPs, the
82 substrate for HIV-1 RT (Goldstone et al. 2011; Lahouassa et al. 2012). Providing
83 exogenous desoxyribonucleotides (dNs) rescues HIV-1 replication in cells expressing
84 SAMHD1 (Baldauf et al. 2012; Lahouassa et al. 2012). In addition, SAMHD1 mutants
85 shown to lack dNTPase activity, both *in vitro* or in cells, lose their restrictive potential,
86 when overexpressed in phorbol 12-myristate-13-acetate (PMA)-activated
87 macrophage-like U937 cells (Lagquette et al. 2011; Lahouassa et al. 2012; Arnold et al.
88 2015; White et al. 2013a). However, SAMHD1 dNTPase activity might not be sufficient
89 for HIV-1 restriction (Majer et al. 2019; Welbourn und Strelbel 2016). It is hypothesized
90 that additional SAMHD1 mediated functions like modulation of immune signaling,
91 resolution of stalled replication forks and R-loops, RNA binding, or its role in DNA
92 damage response, might contribute to the restrictive phenotype (Majer et al. 2019;
93 Chen et al. 2018; Coquel et al. 2018; Park et al. 2021; Daddacha et al. 2017).
94 Only SAMHD1 dephosphorylated at residue T592 is active against HIV-1 (Cribier et al.
95 2013; White et al. 2013b; Welbourn et al. 2013). SAMHD1 is phosphorylated in cycling
96 cells by cyclin dependent kinases CDK1 and CDK2 in complex with Cyclin A2 in S and
97 G $_{2}/M$ phase (White et al. 2013b; Cribier et al. 2013). At mitotic exit, SAMHD1 is rapidly
98 dephosphorylated at residue T592 due to the action of the PP2A-B55 α phosphatase
99 complex (Schott et al. 2018). While the effect of SAMHD1 T592 phosphorylation on
100 HIV-1 restriction is consistently demonstrated, the consequence for its dNTPase
101 activity is still under debate. Biochemical approaches to measure the effect of SAMHD1
102 T592 phosphorylation and phosphomimetic mutants on SAMHD1 tetramer formation

103 and dNTPase activity have not been able to reveal a functional relationship (Arnold et
104 al. 2015; White et al. 2013b; Welbourn et al. 2013; Bhattacharya et al. 2016; Yan et al.
105 2015). Still, cell cycle dependent SAMHD1 phosphorylation, loss of HIV-1 restriction
106 and increased dNTP levels in S- and G₂/M phase in synchronized HeLa cells show a
107 clear timely correlation (Schott et al. 2018). In contrast, mutagenic analysis of T592
108 site in myeloid cells challenges a causative link. Phosphoablative T592A or T592V, but
109 not phosphomimetic T592E or T592D mutants, were able to inhibit HIV-1 replication,
110 when overexpressed in PMA activated U937 cells (Arnold et al. 2015; White et al.
111 2013b; Welbourn et al. 2013; Ryoo et al. 2014). Conversely, not only phosphoablative
112 but also phosphomimetic SAMHD1 T592 mutants efficiently limited the cellular dNTP
113 pool (Welbourn und Streb 2016; White et al. 2013b; Welbourn et al. 2013). This
114 obvious discrepancy might be due to biological reasons (for details refer to discussion
115 and review (Majer et al. 2019)). However, also technical limitations might be the cause
116 for this problem.

117 Genetic studies of SAMHD1 phospho-mutants in myeloid cells are currently limited to
118 PMA-activated macrophage-like THP-1 or U937 cells. As treatment with PMA can
119 activate non-physiological intracellular pathways (Chanput et al. 2010; Zeng et al.
120 2015), alternative myeloid models are needed, which ideally would be both genetically
121 amendable and based on physiological myeloid differentiation pathways.

122 So far, anti-viral restriction has been tested with mutant constructs of SAMHD1 using
123 lenti- or retroviral transduction. In this case, an exogenous promotor mediates
124 overexpression of SAMHD1. The use of CRISPR/Cas9 allowed us to modify SAMHD1
125 within the native genetic environment and to analyze the impact of selected mutations
126 on anti-viral restriction in a physiological context, avoiding potential unwanted effects
127 of mutant protein overexpression.

128 Here, we use CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knock-in (KI) in combination with
129 transdifferentiated macrophage-like BLaER1 cells as a tool to study the impact of
130 SAMHD1 T592 phosphorylation on HIV-1 restriction and dNTP pools in myeloid cells.
131 Transdifferentiated macrophage-like BLaER1 cells expressed SAMHD1, which was
132 dephosphorylated at residue T592. Concomitantly, transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells
133 restricted HIV-1 replication in a SAMHD1 dependent manner. Introduction of SAMHD1
134 homozygous T592E mutations via CRISPR/Cas9 KI led to loss of HIV-1 restriction,
135 while SAMHD1 T592A mutants maintained their anti-viral activity. Interestingly, HIV-1
136 infection was not further enhanced by SAMHD1 T592E mutant depletion suggesting

137 the absence of an additional anti-viral activity of SAMHD1 that is independent of T592
138 de-phosphorylation. This highlights the T592 phospho-site as the critical residue for
139 anti-viral activity. Remarkably, neither endogenous SAMHD1 T592E, nor T592A
140 mutants, had an impact on cellular dNTP levels in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells,
141 indicating that the regulation of anti-viral and dNTPase activity of SAMHD1 can be
142 uncoupled. However, mutagenic analysis of the catalytic residues H210, D218 and
143 D311 highlights the importance of the integrity of the catalytic site for anti-viral
144 restriction. Yet, we observed again a lack of correlation between cellular dNTP levels
145 and HIV-1 restriction potential, indicating that the relationship between SAMHD1
146 function, HIV-1 restriction and T592 phospho-regulation is complex. Also we
147 emphasize that regulation of dNTP levels is neither sufficient, nor necessary for
148 SAMHD1-dependent HIV-1 restriction in macrophage-like BLaER1 cells.

149

150 **Results**

151 **SAMHD1 is dephosphorylated at residue T592 in macrophage-like BLaER1 cells**

152 Myeloid models to study HIV-1 restriction by mutagenesis are very limited.
153 Transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells are a novel myeloid cell model, which has
154 successfully been used to study innate immune signaling in macrophage-like cells
155 (Gaidt et al. 2016; Rapino et al. 2013). The native, B-lineage derived BLaER1 cells
156 undergo macrophage transdifferentiation by induction of the myeloid transcription
157 factor C/EBP α . Transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells have been shown to closely resemble
158 human macrophages with respect to mRNA expression, cell cycle arrest and immune
159 functions (Rapino et al. 2013; Gaidt et al. 2018). In order to test whether these cells
160 can serve as a model to study SAMHD1 mediated anti-viral restriction, we analyzed
161 SAMHD1 expression in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. Flow cytometry analysis of
162 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells showed loss of B cell marker CD19 and acquisition of
163 surface expression of the macrophage marker CD11b (Fig. 1A), as demonstrated
164 earlier (Rapino et al. 2013). Transdifferentiation of BLaER1 cells using an adopted
165 protocol, was highly reproducible and yielded $89.3 \pm 8.8\%$ ($n = 33$) of CD19 $^-$ CD11b $^+$
166 cells in viable BLaER1 cells expressing GFP (Fig. 1B). In addition, transdifferentiated
167 BLaER1 cells expressed monocyte-derived macrophage and dendritic cell markers
168 CD14, CD163, CD206 and CD11c (Fig. 1C) highlighting the myeloid phenotype of
169 these cells and validating previous results based on mRNA expression (Uhlen et al.
170 2019; Karlsson et al. 2021; Rapino et al. 2013). Interestingly, transdifferentiated

171 BLaER1 cells displayed HIV-1 entry receptor CD4 expression and high surface level
172 expression of both co-receptors CXCR4 and CCR5 indicating that they may be
173 amenable to infection with CCR5- and CXCR4- tropic HIV-1 (Fig. 1C).
174 Transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells expressed levels of SAMHD1 comparable to cycling
175 THP-1 cells (Fig. 1D), whereas native BLaER1 cells showed no SAMHD1 expression.
176 As T592 phosphorylation in SAMHD1 is the major regulator of anti-viral restriction
177 (Cribier et al. 2013; White et al. 2013b; Schott et al. 2018), we analyzed the
178 phosphorylation status in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. Relative SAMHD1 T592
179 phosphorylation was 31-fold lower in transdifferentiated BLaER1 compared to cycling
180 THP-1 cells (0.032 ± 0.013 relative SAMHD1 pT592 normalized to cycling THP-1, $n =$
181 6) and in fact was barely detectable by immunoblotting even after long exposure times
182 (Fig. 1D). Absence of SAMHD1 pT592 correlated well with the reported G₁/G₀ cell cycle
183 arrest in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells (Schott et al. 2018; Rapino et al. 2013), as
184 well as with low cyclin A2 expression (Fig. 1D), which in complex with CDK1 and CDK2
185 is known to mediate T592 phosphorylation (Cribier et al. 2013). Thus, macrophage-like
186 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells expressed SAMHD1 dephosphorylated at residue
187 T592, suggesting it to be anti-virally active.

188

189 **SAMHD1 restricts HIV-1 in macrophage-like BLaER1 cells**

190 To define the restrictive capacity of SAMHD1 in the context of transdifferentiated
191 BLaER1 cells, we infected the cells with a single-cycle HIV-1 luciferase reporter virus
192 (HIV-1-luc), in presence or absence of virus like particles containing Vpx (VLP-Vpx).
193 VLP-Vpx treatment led to efficient degradation of SAMHD1 (0.013 ± 0.007 relative
194 SAMHD1 expression normalized to no VLP-Vpx, $n = 3$) (Fig. 2A) and increased HIV-
195 1-luc infection. Linear regression revealed a significant ($p = 0.0125$, $n = 3$, unpaired t-
196 test) increase over a wide range of MOIs (Fig. 2B). To validate this further, we
197 generated SAMHD1 knock-out (KO) BLaER1 cells using CRISPR/Cas9
198 ribonucleoprotein (RNP). Three independent SAMHD1 KO BLaER1 single cell clones
199 were analyzed in detail and showed bi-allelic InDels at the intended target site (Fig.
200 2C) leading to a frameshift, the introduction of premature stop codons and therefore,
201 absence of SAMHD1 expression in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells (Fig. 2D). While
202 SAMHD1 KO did not affect BLaER1 transdifferentiation (Fig. 2E), it strongly increased
203 HIV-1-luc infection at 24 hpi, as compared to wild type (WT) cells. Significance of
204 differences in the slopes of linear regressions are suggesting SAMHD1 to be a major

205 restriction factor in these cells over a wide range of MOIs ($p < 0.0001$ for Clone #1, 2
206 and 3, $n = 7$, One-way ANOVA) (Fig. 2F). In order to rule out a potential confounding
207 effect of a minor CD11b⁻ native-like population, we developed a flow cytometry
208 workflow combining the use of a single-cycle HIV-1 mCherry (HIV-1-mCherry) reporter
209 virus together with staining for viable CD11b⁺ cells. Thereby, we could specifically
210 analyze infection in transdifferentiated CD11b⁺ macrophage-like BLaER1 cells. HIV-1-
211 mCherry infection, as measured by %mCherry⁺ cells in CD11b⁺ viable GFP⁺
212 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells, was strongly increased upon SAMHD1 KO at 24 hpi
213 (Clone #1 $p = 0.3633$, #2 $p = 0.0360$, #3 $p = 0.0013$, $n = 5$, Kruskal–Wallis test) (Fig.
214 2G and H). This indicates that SAMHD1 is a major anti-lentiviral restriction factor in
215 macrophage-like transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. We therefore conclude that
216 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells are an excellent model to study SAMHD1 mediated
217 HIV-1 restriction.

218

219 **A pipeline to generate mutants of SAMHD1 by CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knock-in**
220 So far, mutagenic analysis of SAMHD1 has been limited to model systems in which
221 SAMHD1 is overexpressed by transient transfection or retroviral transduction.
222 Overexpression of SAMHD1, especially in the context of phosphomimetic T592E or
223 phosphoablative T592A mutation and their effect on viral restriction and intracellular
224 dNTP levels, might affect functional readouts due to non-physiological expression
225 levels, abnormal genomic context and altered post-translational regulation (Majer et al.
226 2019). To overcome this challenge, we decided to introduce SAMHD1 point mutations
227 directly into the *SAMHD1* gene locus by CRISPR/Cas9 KI. Therefore, we developed a
228 pipeline based on the introduction of RNPs and single-stranded DNA correction
229 templates by electroporation, followed by an allele-specific PCR (KASP-genotyping
230 assay screening) and rigorous validation by Sanger sequencing and quantitative
231 genomic PCR to exclude large genomic deletions (qgPCR) (Weisheit et al. 2020) (Fig.
232 3A). We identified single cell clones, displaying homozygous introduction of T592A and
233 T592E mutations into the *SAMHD1* locus of BLaER1 cells (Fig. 3B). Quantification of
234 allele numbers of SAMHD1 exon 16 revealed that the majority of homozygous single
235 cell T592A and T592E KI clones still contained two alleles of SAMHD1 exon16 (Fig.
236 3C). However, we could identify one out of 8 clones analyzed (Clone X), which showed
237 loss of one allele in qgPCR, indicative of pseudo-homozygosity (Weisheit et al. 2020).
238 In total, we were able to generate and validate two homozygous T592A, as well as

239 three homozygous T592E BLaER1 KI mutants, corresponding to a homozygous KI
240 frequency of ~1% and highlighting the necessity of KASP-screening to reduce the
241 number of KI candidates (Fig. 3D). Expression of SAMHD1 mutants in
242 transdifferentiated T592A or T592E KI BLaER1 single cell clones was at similar level
243 compared to WT protein in the respective parental cell line (Fig. 3E). SAMHD1 KI had
244 no negative impact on BLaER1 transdifferentiation (Fig. 3F). In summary, using our
245 pipeline we introduced homozygous T592A and T592E mutations into the endogenous
246 *SAMHD1* locus of BLaER1 cells without affecting SAMHD1 expression or BLaER1
247 transdifferentiation into macrophage-like cells.

248

249 **Homozygous SAMHD1 T592E mutation increases HIV-1 infection in
250 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells**

251 We infected several clones of transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1
252 phosphoablative T592A and phosphomimetic T592E KI BLaER1 cell mutants with HIV-
253 1-mCherry reporter virus and measured the fold change of %mCherry⁺ cells in CD19⁺
254 viable GFP⁺ cells relative to infection in WT cells. In all three clones, homozygous
255 SAMHD1 T592E mutation significantly increased HIV-1-mCherry infection up to 31-
256 fold (T592E/T592E Clone #1 $p = 0.0017$, #2 and #3 $p < 0.0001$, $n = 3$, One-way
257 ANOVA) (Fig. 4A and 4B). In contrast, SAMHD1 T592A KI mutants completely retained
258 their restrictive potential in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cell clones and behaved similar
259 to WT BLaER1 cells upon challenge with HIV-1-mCherry (Fig. 4A and 4B). Using
260 CRISPR/Cas9 KI, we were able to validate the loss of HIV-1 restriction in SAMHD1
261 phosphomimetic T592E mutants in macrophage-like cells. In this model, mutants of
262 SAMHD1 are analyzed in the native genomic context and show physiological
263 expression levels, confirming the role of T592 phosphorylation in the regulation of the
264 anti-viral activity of SAMHD1.

265

266 **SAMHD1 T592E or T592A knock-in does not affect dNTP levels in
267 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells**

268 Previous reports on the effect of SAMHD1 T592 phosphorylation on SAMHD1
269 dNTPase activity were in-conclusive (Majer et al. 2019). In order to correlate HIV-1
270 restrictive potential in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells with cellular dNTP pool size and
271 thus SAMHD1 dNTPase activity, we measured intracellular dNTP levels by primer
272 extension assay. Transdifferentiated WT BLaER1 cells contained low amounts of

273 dATP (846 ± 63 fmol/ 10^6 cells, $n = 5$), dCTP (788 ± 117 fmol/ 10^6 cells, $n = 5$), dGTP
274 (724 ± 94 fmol/ 10^6 cells, $n = 5$) and dTTP (933 ± 342 fmol/ 10^6 cells, $n = 5$). Depletion
275 of the minor fraction of CD19 $^+$ cells after transdifferentiation further reduced the levels
276 of dATP (578 fmol/ 10^6 cells), dCTP (661 fmol/ 10^6 cells), dGTP (295 fmol/ 10^6 cells) and
277 dTTP (448 fmol/ 10^6 cells). Since activity of HIV-1 RT is likely to be dependent on
278 cellular dNTP concentrations rather than total dNTP pools, we determined cellular
279 dNTP concentrations as a function of transdifferentiated BLaER1 cell volumes ($569 \pm$
280 $138 \mu\text{m}^3$, $n_{\text{cells}} = 15$). We found transdifferentiated WT BLaER1 cells to harbor dNTP
281 concentrations (Tab. 1), similar or lower to those found in resting T cells (Diamond et
282 al. 2004). Depletion of incompletely transdifferentiated (CD19 $^+$) cells from bulk
283 preparations of transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells further reduced dNTP concentrations
284 (Tab. 1). As expected, SAMHD1 KO led to a significant increase in cellular dATP (2.3-fold,
285 $p < 0.0001$, One-way ANOVA), dGTP (3.2-fold, $p < 0.0001$, One-way ANOVA)
286 and dTTP (2.2-fold, $p < 0.0001$, One-way ANOVA) levels in transdifferentiated BLaER1
287 cells, as compared to WT cells (Fig. 5A). In contrast, neither homozygous SAMHD1
288 T592E, nor T592A mutations led to an increase of cellular dNTP levels (Fig. 5A). Since
289 SAMHD1 KO only slightly affected cellular dCTP levels, dNTP composition in
290 transdifferentiated BLaER1 SAMHD1 KO cells was altered. In contrast, neither
291 SAMHD1 T592E nor SAMHD1 T592A KI mutants showed consistent differences in
292 cellular dNTP composition (Fig. 5B). In summary, dNTP measurements in
293 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells, harboring homozygous phosphomimetic T592E or
294 phosphoablative T592A mutations in the endogenous *SAMHD1* locus indicate that
295 phosphorylation at SAMHD1 residue T592 has no impact on cellular dNTP pools and
296 is therefore unlikely to regulate SAMHD1 dNTPase activity in cells.

297
298 **SAMHD1 T592E knock-in relieves a block to HIV-1 reverse transcription and HIV-
299 1 infection, which is not further enhanced by SAMHD1 T592E mutant depletion**
300 Previous results indicate that SAMHD1 inhibits HIV-1 replication at the step of reverse
301 transcription (Hrecka et al. 2011; Schott et al. 2018; Baldauf et al. 2017). To better
302 understand the effect of endogenous SAMHD1 T592E mutation on HIV-1 replication,
303 we measured the abundance of HIV-1-mCherry reverse transcription products in
304 CD19-depleted transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. While late reverse transcription
305 product copy numbers in WT BLaER1 cells stayed low until 24 hpi, both SAMHD1 KO
306 and SAMHD1 T592E KI mutant BLaER1 cells showed a strong increase in HIV-1 late

307 reverse transcription product copy numbers starting from 9 hpi (Fig. 6A). This indicates
308 that endogenous mutation of SAMHD1 T592E in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells
309 relieves a block to HIV-1 replication which is situated at or before the step of reverse
310 transcription. Several restriction mechanisms have been proposed for SAMHD1,
311 notably dNTP degradation, RNase activity and nucleic acid binding (Choi et al. 2015;
312 Ryoo et al. 2014; Beloglazova et al. 2013; Goncalves et al. 2012; Seamon et al. 2015;
313 Goldstone et al. 2011; Powell et al. 2011; Franzolin et al. 2013; Majer et al. 2019). To
314 understand if additional SAMHD1 mediated, but T592 de-phosphorylation independent
315 anti-lentiviral mechanisms could influence HIV-1 replication in transdifferentiated
316 BLaER1 cells, we tested whether SAMHD1 mutant depletion using VLP-Vpx would
317 further enhance HIV-1 replication. As anticipated, VLP-Vpx mediated SAMHD1
318 depletion (Fig. 6B) in WT cells significantly increased the percentage of HIV-1-mCherry
319 infected CD11b⁺ macrophage-like BLaER1 cells, while there was no effect on
320 SAMHD1 KO cells, when compared to empty VLP treated control cells (Fig. 6C; WT p
321 < 0.0001 , KO Clone #2 $p = 0.9615$, $n = 3$, One-way ANOVA). In contrast, depletion of
322 endogenous T592A mutant SAMHD1 significantly increased HIV-1 infection rates
323 (Clone #1 and 2 $p < 0.0001$, $n = 3$, One-way ANOVA). VLP-Vpx treatment in SAMHD1
324 T592E KI mutant clones however had no effect on HIV-1 infection rates (Fig. 6C; Clone
325 #2 $p = 0.2654$, #3 $p = 0.1788$, $n = 3$, One-way ANOVA). Thus, our data indicate that
326 no T592 de-phosphorylation independent anti-lentiviral mechanism is exerted by
327 SAMHD1 in macrophage-like cells.

328

329 **The integrity of the catalytic site in SAMHD1 is critical for anti-viral activity,**
330 **however antiviral activity correlates poorly with global cellular dNTP levels**
331 Previous results indicate the loss of SAMHD1's anti-viral potential in mutants of key
332 catalytic residues, as shown by overexpression of mutants such as combined
333 H206A_D207A or the D311A mutant (Laguette et al. 2011; Lahouassa et al. 2012;
334 Arnold et al. 2015; White et al. 2013a). However, overexpression might introduce
335 substantial experimental bias, therefore, we decided to validate the requirement of the
336 catalytic dNTPase pocket by CRISPR/Cas9 knock-in. To do so, we modified the
337 residues, H210, D218 and D311 in BLaER1 cells. These residues have been
338 suggested to be directly or indirectly implicated in the triphosphohydrolase activity of
339 SAMHD1 (Morris et al. 2020). The introduction of homozygous mutations were verified
340 by Sanger sequencing and qPCR (Fig. S1). The mutant proteins with alanine

341 substitution of the respective residues, were expressed in macrophage-like BLaER1
342 cells (Fig. 7A). While H210A showed similar or slightly higher expression compared to
343 WT protein, D218A and D311A expression was slightly reduced. Importantly, we did
344 not see increased SAMHD1 pT592 in any of the mutant clones, indicating phospho-
345 regulation of all three endogenous catalytic site mutants similar to WT (Fig. 7A). As
346 expected, macrophage-like BLaER1 cells harboring SAMHD1 D311A mutation
347 displayed a significant increase in cellular dNTP levels (dATP #1-4 $p<0.0001$; dCTP
348 #1 $p=0.0079$, #2 $p=0.0003$, #3 $p=0.1271$, #4 $p=0.0169$; dGTP #1-4 $p<0.0001$; dTTP
349 #1-4 $p<0.0001$, n = 3, One-way ANOVA) (Fig. 7 B to E), for dATP, dGTP and dTTP
350 even above the levels measured in SAMHD1 KO BLaER1 cell clone #2, indicating a
351 complete loss of SAMHD1 dNTPase activity in D311A mutant protein. The increase of
352 dNTP levels in homozygous D210A and D218A mutant cells was much less
353 pronounced and only consistently significant in D210A clone #2 and D218A clone #1
354 for dATP, dGTP and dTTP (dATP D210A #2 $p=0.0025$, D218A #1 $p=0.0724$; dGTP
355 D210A #2 $p<0.0001$, D218A #1 $p=0.0003$; dTTP D210A #2 $p=0.0052$, D218A #1
356 $p=0.0457$, n = 3, One-way ANOVA) with levels similar to SAMHD1 KO (Fig. 7 B to C).
357 Importantly, several cell clones, namely D210A #3 and 4, as well as D218A #2,
358 revealed dNTP levels similar or only marginally increased, when compared to WT or
359 T592A mutant cells indicating that D210A and D218A mutation does not lead to
360 complete loss of SAMHD1 dNTPase activity or alternatively, loss of control of dNTP
361 levels could be compensated. Next, we infected transdifferentiated D210A, D218A and
362 D311A mutant cells with HIV-1-mCherry reporter virus at three different MOI and
363 quantified infected mCherry⁺ cells in CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells after 24 h (Fig. 8).
364 CRISPR/Cas9 D210A and D311A KI mutant cells showed a significant ($p<0.0001$ for
365 all clones, n = 3, One-way ANOVA) increase in infection level, which was consistent
366 over a range of MOI from 0.1 to 1 (Fig 8B). Surprisingly, however, the loss of restrictive
367 potential in the D218A mutant cell clones was strikingly lower and only significant for
368 Clone #2 (#1 $p=0.1975$, #2 $p<0.0001$, n = 3, One-way ANOVA). When compared to
369 SAMHD1 KO, HIV-1-mCherry infection at MOI 1 was significantly lower in D218A
370 ($p<0.0001$, n = 3, One-way ANOVA), but similar in D210A and D311A mutants.
371 Depletion of SAMHD1 D210A and D311A mutant protein by VLP-Vpx treatment did
372 not further increase HIV-1-mCherry infection at MOI 0.1 (Fig 8C and D). In contrast,
373 VLP-Vpx mediated depletion of SAMHD1 D218A mutants allowed higher infection
374 levels, which after depletion were similar to SAMHD1 KO cells (Fig. 8D). In summary,

375 using CRISPR/Cas9 KI mutants of the SAMHD1 catalytic dNTP pocket, we were able
376 to show that the residues H210 and D311 are critical for anti-viral restriction. However,
377 this seems not to be the case for D218, highlighting that the individual residues of the
378 catalytic pocket might be differentially involved in HIV-1 restriction. Importantly, lack of
379 correlation of cellular dNTP levels and HIV-1 restriction potential in D210A and D218A
380 mutants, together with loss of HIV-1 restriction in dNTP low T592E mutants, indicates
381 that maintenance of low global dNTP levels is a poor predictor of SAMHD1 anti-viral
382 activity.

383

384 **Discussion**

385 SAMHD1 is a major cellular dNTPase and a potent HIV-1 restriction factor (Laguette
386 et al. 2011; Berger et al. 2011; Hrecka et al. 2011; Baldauf et al. 2012; Descours et al.
387 2012; Goldstone et al. 2011; Franzolin et al. 2013). However, whether SAMHD1
388 dNTPase activity is mediating its anti-viral activity and how this is regulated by T592
389 phosphorylation is still a matter of debate (Majer et al. 2019; Welbourn und Strebler
390 2016).

391 To tackle this question with a novel toolkit, we used transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells
392 as an alternative and versatile myeloid model to study HIV-1 infection in macrophage-
393 like cells. Transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells closely resemble human macrophages and
394 have successfully been used to study innate immune signaling (Gaidt et al. 2016;
395 Rapino et al. 2013). In contrast to PMA activated THP-1 or U937 cells, BLaER1 cell
396 transdifferentiation relies on the activation of the fusion protein of the macrophage
397 transcription factor C/EBP α and the estradiol receptor leading to the induction of a
398 myeloid cell program (Rapino et al. 2013; Gaidt et al. 2018). Transdifferentiated
399 BLaER1 cells show surface expression of classical monocyte-derived macrophage
400 and dendritic cell markers CD14, CD163, CD206 and CD11c, validating previous
401 transcriptional data (Rapino et al. 2013), as well as HIV-1 CD4, CCR5 and CXCR4 (co-
402) receptor expression. This cell system is an interesting physiological model for HIV-1
403 infection in macrophage-like cells, as we were able to show that SAMHD1 is completely
404 dephosphorylated at residue T592 in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells and serves as
405 a major restriction factor for HIV-1.

406 To test mutants of SAMHD1 for anti-viral restriction activity in a physiological genetic
407 and relevant cellular context, we combined transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells, as a
408 novel myeloid model, with CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knock-in. We developed a gene

409 editing strategy using CRISPR/Cas9 RNP and ssDNA oligo introduction by
410 nucleofection, KASP screening of single cell clones and rigorous validation by
411 sequencing and qPCR (Fig. 3A). By introducing point mutations that correspond to
412 phosphoablate T592A and phosphomimetic T592E mutations into the genomic
413 *SAMHD1* locus, we were able to genetically uncouple *SAMHD1* mediated anti-viral
414 restriction and cellular dNTPase activity. As expected, we showed that endogenous
415 T592 phospho-mimetic mutants lose their anti-viral activity against HIV-1 in
416 macrophage-like BLaER1 cells, while phospho-ablate KI mutants maintained their
417 anti-viral potential (Fig. 4). Furthermore, using endogenous mutants of T592, we
418 highlighted that T592 phospho-regulation indeed affects anti-lentiviral activity of
419 *SAMHD1* at the step of reverse transcription (Fig. 6A). Thus, the first time, we both
420 validated and expanded our knowledge on the phenotypic consequences of *SAMHD1*
421 T592E phosphomimetic mutation, and hence the effect of T592 phosphorylation, for its
422 anti-viral restriction activity in a myeloid model not based on overexpression.
423 Overexpression of *SAMHD1* mutants in U937 background using retroviral transduction
424 has several technical limitations. Even though PMA-activated U937 cells are often
425 considered not to express *SAMHD1*, they actually can express small amounts of
426 endogenous *SAMHD1*, which can be further enhanced upon interferon treatment
427 (Riess et al. 2017). Presence of endogenous WT *SAMHD1* might affect the function of
428 overexpressed mutant *SAMHD1*, especially if heterotetramers are formed. In addition,
429 strong exogenous, often viral promoters drive *SAMHD1* expression here, leading to
430 high expression levels and to non-physiological phosphorylation ratios, *i.e.*
431 hyperphosphorylation (data not shown). In mutants generated by CRISPR/Cas9 KI,
432 modified *SAMHD1* is expressed in the physiological genomic context from the
433 endogenous promoter and thus under normal transcriptional regulation. In BLaER1
434 cells, *SAMHD1* expression is very low in native cells, but strongly induced upon
435 transdifferentiation (Fig. 1D). This is also the case for *SAMHD1* mutants. The use of
436 CRISPR/Cas9 KIs avoids potential effects of constitutively expressed *SAMHD1*
437 mutants on cycling BLaER1 cells.
438 In macrophage-like WT BLaER1 cells, we measured dNTP levels and concentrations,
439 which were similar or slightly lower than those found in resting T cells (Tab. 1)
440 (Diamond et al. 2004). After depletion of CD19⁺ incompletely transdifferentiated cells
441 from bulk preparations of transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells, we were able to further
442 reduce the levels of all dNTPs (Tab. 1) (Diamond et al. 2004). Considering HIV-1

443 reverse transcriptase K_m and K_d values measured *in vitro*, this indicates that the dNTP
444 concentrations found in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells are sufficiently low to restrict
445 or delay HIV-1 RT (Kennedy et al. 2010; Klarmann et al. 1993; Derebail und DeStefano
446 2004; Jacques et al. 2016).

447 Concomitantly, SAMHD1 KO increased cellular dNTP concentrations in
448 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells up to 4-fold (Fig. 5A), which is reminiscent of the 5-
449 to 8-fold increase upon T cell activation (Diamond et al. 2004). In stark contrast
450 however, neither endogenous SAMHD1 T592E nor T592A mutation increased cellular
451 dNTP concentrations in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells (Fig. 5A). This indicates that
452 the loss of restriction observed in endogenous T592E mutants is probably not caused
453 by increased dNTP levels or reduced SAMHD1 dNTPase activity in transdifferentiated
454 BLaER1 cells. This lack of correlation between cellular dNTP levels and HIV-1
455 restriction was also observed in a study published during revision, highlighting the
456 possibility that T592 phosphorylation might indeed impact SAMHD1 tetramer stability
457 (Monit et al. 2019). However, using our endogenous approach, we exclude artifacts of
458 overexpression and the use of U937 cells as a model and thereby improve the
459 physiological value of the conclusions.

460 In addition, we demonstrated that SAMHD1 T592E and T592A mutations had no
461 consistent effect on dNTP pool composition in macrophage-like BLaER1 cells (Fig.
462 5B), ruling out an effect of the phosphomimetic mutation on SAMHD1 dNTPase
463 substrate preferences and thus dNTP ratios, which was proposed earlier (Jang et al.
464 2016). More specifically, endogenous SAMHD1 T592E mutations did not increase
465 cellular dCTP concentration (Fig. 5A). Taken together mutagenic analysis of SAMHD1
466 residue T592 indicates that SAMHD1 dNTPase activity or substrate preference in
467 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells is not regulated by phosphorylation at this specific
468 residue. Consequently, loss of HIV-1 restriction in SAMHD1 T592E mutants cannot be
469 attributed to changes in SAMHD1 dNTPase activity. In addition, by combining
470 SAMHD1 T592E KI mutants with VLP-Vpx mediated depletion of SAMHD1 in trans,
471 we did not find an anti-lentiviral activity of SAMHD1 independent of SAMHD1 T592 de-
472 phosphorylation (Fig. 6B and C).

473
474 To address the relationship between SAMHD1 enzymatic function and its anti-lentiviral
475 activity further, we introduced KI mutations for specific residues in the catalytic
476 dNTPase pocket of SAMHD1 (Fig. 7A) (Morris et al. 2020). Loss of restrictive potential

477 of H210A and D311A mutations in an endogenous context, indicate that the integrity
478 of the catalytic site is indeed required for HIV-1 restriction (Fig. 8A and B). While the
479 loss of restriction with the endogenous H210A and D311A mutations is in concordance
480 with previous data employing overexpression models (Lahouassa et al. 2012; Laguette
481 et al. 2011; Arnold et al. 2015; White et al. 2013a), two alternative hypotheses can be
482 drawn from this observation: either the enzymatic SAMHD1 dNTPase activity per se is
483 required for the inhibition of HIV-1 replication, or an (enzymatic) activity other than the
484 canonical dNTPase activity, but still involving these residues is at play.

485 In favor of the first and so far, most often discussed hypothesis speaks data from
486 further studies, showing that addition of exogenous dNs and a concomitant increase
487 in cellular dNTP levels can leverage SAMHD1 mediated block to HIV-1 restriction
488 (Baldauf et al. 2012; Lahouassa et al. 2012). Also, in concordance with previous
489 results, the D311A mutation increases cellular dNTPs to levels equal or higher than
490 those found in SAMHD1 KO macrophage-like BLaER1 cells (Fig. 7B to E), correlating
491 HIV-1 restriction to SAMHD1 dNTPase activity. In addition, no D311 residue
492 independent HIV-1 restriction potential was observed (Fig. 8C and D).

493 In contrast however, data on H210A and D218A mutants seems to be at odds with this
494 hypothesis. First, while all SAMHD1 H210A mutant clones showed complete loss of
495 HIV-1 restriction potential (Fig. 8 B and D), enhancement of dNTP levels was less
496 pronounced (Fig. 7B to E). In particular, clone #3 and 4 showed global dNTP levels
497 comparable to WT or T592A mutant clones, indicating that the H210 residue is not
498 essential for dNTP degradation and that loss of dNTPase activity can only be partial in
499 H210A mutant cells. Even more striking is the phenotype of the D218A mutation.
500 SAMHD1 D218 was recently shown to be involved in the triphosphohydrolase reaction
501 (Morris et al. 2020). D218A mutation only leads to partial loss of dNTPase activity in
502 vitro (Morris et al. 2020), which is in concordance with our data in cellulo, showing a
503 clone dependent significant increase of cellular dNTP levels, similar to what was found
504 in H210A mutants (Fig. 7B to E). Importantly however, at least one of the D218A
505 mutant cells maintained their potential to restrict HIV-1 replication (Fig. 8B and D).
506 Thus, in the case of both H210A and D218A mutant cells, cellular dNTP levels and
507 thus presumably SAMHD1 dNTPase activity, do not entirely correlate with their anti-
508 lentiviral capacity.

509 A possible explanation is that a still to be defined function, other than dNTP
510 triphosphohydrolase, which also depends on the residues of the catalytic pocket, is

511 required for HIV-1 restriction and that this function is directly or indirectly modulated by
512 T592 phosphorylation. Ribonuclease (RNase) activity was proposed as a mechanism
513 responsible for HIV-1 restriction (Beloglazova et al. 2013; Ryoo et al. 2014; Choi et al.
514 2015). While initial reports of SAMHD1 associated RNase activity were strongly
515 questioned by the community because of the reversible nature of SAMHD1 restriction
516 and due to potential co-purification of unknown RNase(s) (Hofmann et al. 2013;
517 Seamon et al. 2015; Antonucci et al. 2016; Tsai et al. 2023), recent evidence links
518 SAMHD1 RNase activity to the inflammatory phenotype in Aicardi-Goutières syndrome
519 (Maharana et al. 2022). Catalytic residues, such as H206, D207, D311 and H167 were
520 proposed to be critical for RNase activity (Maharana et al. 2022; Beloglazova et al.
521 2013; Ryoo et al. 2014), while reports on the role of T592 phospho-regulation are
522 contradictory (Ryoo et al. 2014; Maharana et al. 2022). The contribution of the
523 proposed SAMHD1 RNase activity to HIV-1 restriction thus merits further investigation.
524 Nucleic acid binding and exo-/endonuclease recruitment could be an alternative anti-
525 lentiviral restriction mechanism. SAMHD1 is participating in the resolution of stalled
526 replication forks and homologous recombination by recruitment of endo-/exonuclease
527 MRE11 and CtIP (Coquel et al. 2018; Daddacha et al. 2017). Interestingly, SAMHD1
528 T592 phosphorylation is required for DNA end resection and resolution of stalled
529 replication forks (Coquel et al. 2018). However, crucial residues of the catalytic
530 dNTPase pocket such as H206, D207 and K312 of SAMHD1 seem dispensable for
531 this process and endo-/exonuclease recruitment therefore unlikely to contribute to the
532 phenotypes we observed in BLaER1 cells (Coquel et al. 2018; Daddacha et al. 2017).
533 SAMHD1 was shown to bind to single-stranded RNA and DNA, as well as RNA or DNA
534 with complex secondary structures in vitro (Beloglazova et al. 2013; Seamon et al.
535 2015). Whether nucleic acid binding is contributing to the recruitment of endo-
536 /exonucleases in cells or anti-viral activity, is still an open question. Short
537 phosphorothioate oligonucleotides can bind to the allosteric sites of SAMHD1,
538 promoting formation of a distinct SAMHD1 tetramer (Yu et al. 2021). Mutations that
539 abolish phosphorothioate oligonucleotide binding also reduced HIV-1 restriction
540 potential. How SAMHD1 nucleic acid binding activity is regulated is currently not clear.
541 SAMHD1 phosphomimetic T592E mutant had no influence on ssRNA and ssDNA
542 binding in vitro (Seamon et al. 2015). Intriguingly, ssDNA or ssRNA binding to
543 SAMHD1's dimer-dimer interface can inhibit the formation of catalytically active
544 SAMHD1 tetramer and thus interferes with dNTPase activity (Seamon et al. 2016).

545 Even though the SAMHD1-nucleic acid binding interface seems to be distinct from the
546 catalytic pocket (Seamon et al. 2015; Yu et al. 2021), a deeper investigation is needed
547 to understand this phenomenon and its implications for HIV-1 restriction in cells.
548 Another possible explanation could be that the dNTPase activity per se is required for
549 HIV-1 restriction, but global cellular dNTP levels do not correlate with this anti-viral
550 activity. Sub-cellular dNTP levels, i.e. in the nucleus or at sites of HIV replication, such
551 as the nuclear pore, nuclear speckles or the capsid shell (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen
552 et al. 2021) could be modulated by the active site mutants, such as H210A and D311A.
553 In reverse, T592 phosphorylation could regulate the sub-cellular distribution of
554 SAMHD1. T592 phosphorylation, however, has no influence on cytoplasmic vs.
555 nuclear localization of SAMHD1 (White et al. 2013b). In addition, mutation of the n-
556 terminal nuclear-localization signal (NLS) does not affect HIV-1 restriction (Brandariz-
557 Nuñez et al. 2012). Yet, it is possible that T592 de-phosphorylation alters SAMHD1
558 distribution and i.e. allows the recruitment of SAMHD1 to the capsid shell or into the
559 sub-nuclear compartments in which HIV-1 reverse transcription occurs and thereby
560 locally modulates the availability of dNTPs.

561

562 SAMHD1 regulation certainly is more complex than commonly assumed. In addition to
563 multiple potential phosphorylation sites, SAMHD1 is modified by acetylation,
564 SUMOylation, ubiquitination and O-GlcNAcylation (White et al. 2013b; Welbourn et al.
565 2013; Kim et al. 2019; Ochoa et al. 2020; Lee et al. 2017; Lamoliatte et al. 2014;
566 Hendriks et al. 2017; Lumpkin et al. 2017; Elia et al. 2015; Hu et al. 2021) and harbors
567 redox-active cysteines (Mauney et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2018). Recently, SAMHD1
568 SUMOylation at residue K595 was shown to be required for HIV-1 restriction in PMA
569 differentiated U937 cells. Overexpression of SAMHD1 mutants that abrogate
570 restriction and SUMOylation at residue K595 did not show increased dATP levels,
571 phenocopying phosphomimetic T592 mutants of SAMHD1 (Martinat et al. 2021). It will
572 be interesting to investigate in more detail how T592 phosphorylation and K595
573 SUMOylation are integrated and it will be crucial to validate SAMHD1 (co-) regulation
574 via diverse proposed post-translational modifications in physiological settings. Post-
575 translational regulation of SAMHD1 might not only be achieved by the direct
576 modification of single residues, but also by interaction partners, that could modulate or
577 mediate SAMHD1 anti-viral activity.

578 A better understanding SAMHD1 regulation in relevant HIV-1 target cells, will also
579 improve our understanding of how SAMHD1 inhibits HIV-1 replication and which
580 conditions license SAMHD1 anti-viral capacity.

581

582 **Material and Methods**

583 **Cell lines**

584 Human 293T/17 (ATCC No.: CRL-11268) cells were cultured in DMEM (Sigma-Aldrich)
585 supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS; Sigma-Aldrich) and 2 mM L-glutamine
586 (Sigma-Aldrich) at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Human BLaER1 cells (a kind gift of Thomas
587 Graf) (Rapino et al. 2013) cells were grown in RPMI (Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented
588 with 10% FCS and 2 mM L-glutamine at 37°C and 5% CO₂. For transdifferentiation, 1
589 x 10⁶ BLaER1 cells per well of a 6-well tissue culture plate were treated with 10 ng/ml
590 human recombinant M-CSF and IL-3 (PeproTech) and 100 nM β-estradiol (Sigma-
591 Aldrich) for 7 days. Half of the cell culture supernatant was replaced with medium
592 containing cytokines and β-estradiol at days 2 and 6. All cell lines were free of
593 mycoplasma contamination, as tested by PCR Mycoplasma Test Kit II (PanReac
594 AppliChem).

595

596 **CRISPR/Cas9 knock-out and knock-in**

597 For CRISPR/Cas9 mediated SAMHD1 knock-out (KO), 200 pmol Edit-R Modified
598 Synthetic crRNA targeting *SAMHD1* exon 1 (crSAMHD1_ex1, target sequence: 5'-ATC
599 GCA ACG GGG ACG CTT GG, Dharmacon), 200 pmol Edit-R CRISPR-Cas9
600 Synthetic tracrRNA (Dharmacon) and 40 pmol Cas9-NLS (QB3 Macrolab) were
601 assembled *in-vitro*, as previously described (Hultquist et al. 2016). Ribonucleoproteins
602 were introduced into 1 x 10⁶ sub-confluent BLaER1 cells using 4D-Nucleofector X Unit
603 and SF Cell line Kit (Lonza), applying program DN-100. Single cell clones were
604 generated using limited dilution one day after nucleofection. To confirm bi-allelic
605 SAMHD1 KO, the modified region was amplified using primer SAM_Seq_Gen-23_FW
606 (5'-GAT TTG AGG ACG ACT GGA CTG C) and SAM_Seq_Gen1116_RV (5'-GTC
607 AAC TGA ACA ACC CCA AGG T) together with GoTaq polymerase (Promega),
608 followed by cloning into pGEM T-easy vector system (Promega) and Sanger
609 sequencing. For knock-in (KI), 100 pmol of the respective ssDNA homologous
610 recombination template with 30 bp homology arms (Dharmacon) to introduce T592A
611 (5'-TAG GAT GGC GAT GTT ATA GCC CCA CTC ATA GCA CCT CAA AAA AAG

612 GAA TGG AAC GAC AGT A) or T592E (5'-TAG GAT GGC GAT GTT ATA GCC CCA
613 CTC ATA GAA CCT CAA AAA AAG GAA TGG AAC GAC AGT AC), as well as Alt-R
614 HDR Donor Oligos (IDT) to introduce H210A (5'-GT GGA ATA AAT CGT CCA TCA
615 AAC ATG TGA GAA AAT GGC CCA GCA CCT TAA AAA CAA AAG CAG CCT TAG
616 AAC AAG AAA AAC ATC), D218A (5'-TC CAT TTC ACC TCC GGG CGA GCA AGT
617 GGA ATA AAT CGT CCA GCG AAC ATG TGA GAA AAT GGC CCA TGA CCT TAA
618 AAA CAA AAG C) or D311A (5'-CA GAA GTG TTC AGT GCA TAC CTG GCA AAA
619 TAA TCC CAT TTG GCG ACG TCA ATG CCA TTT CTT TTA TTA GAT ACT ATC
620 TCA TAA AGG AA) were nucleofected together with ribonucleoprotein complex
621 containing crSAMHD1_ex16 (target sequence: 5'-TTT TTT TGA GGT GTT ATG AG,
622 Dharmacon), crSAMHD1_ex8_1 (target sequence: 5'-TAA AAG AAA TGG CAT TGA
623 TG, Alt-R custom guide IDT), crSAMHD1_ex8_2 (5'-ATG GCA TTG ATG TGG ACA
624 AA), crSAMHD1_ex6_1 (5'-GC TTT TGT TTT TAA GGT CAT GTT TTA GAG CTA
625 TGC T) or crSAMHD1_ex6_2 (5'-CCA TTT TCT CAC ATG TTT GA). To increase KI
626 efficiency, Alt-R HDR Enhancer (V1 or V2, IDT) was added at 1:500 dilution after
627 nucleofection for 24 h. Single cell clones were generated by limited dilution or using
628 Hana single cell dispenser (Namocell) five days after nucleofection. When single cell
629 clones reached confluence, duplicates were generated. One half was lysed (10 min,
630 65°C; 15 min, 95°C) in lysis buffer (0.2 mg/ml Proteinase K, 1 mM CaCl₂, 3 mM MgCl₂,
631 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM Tris (pH 7.5)) (Schmid-Burgk et al. 2014) and
632 screened for successful KI using mutation specific custom designed KASP genotyping
633 assays (LGC) and KASP V4.0 2x Master mix (LGC) on a CFX384 Touch Real-Time
634 PCR Detection System (BioRad). Alternatively, mutation specific primer were used to
635 screen for successful KI (H210A 5'-TGA GAA AAT GGC CCA GCA CCT TAA, D218A
636 5'-TAA ATC GTC CAG CGA ACA TGT GA, D311A 5'-ATA ATC CCA TTT GGC GAC
637 GTC AAT G) using KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix (Roche). Homozygous KI was
638 confirmed by Sanger sequencing after amplification using primer SAM_Seq_Ex16_FW
639 (5'-CAT GAA GGC TCT TCC TGC GTA A) and SAM_Seq_Ex16_RV (5'-ACA AGA
640 GGC GGC TTT ATG TTC C), SAM_Seq_Ex6_FW (5'-GAA TTC AGT TTG GCT GAG
641 TGT GG) and SAM_Seq_Ex6_RV (5'-AAG CAC ATG GGA ATT TTT CAG GAA G), or
642 SAM_Seq_Ex8_FW (5'-TAC AGG CAC TTG CTA CCA TGC CCA AC) and
643 SAM_Seq_Ex8_RV (5'-CTT CTT ATT GCC TCC TCT GGC ACA GC) together with
644 KOD Hot Start DNA Polymerase (Merck) or KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix.
645 Additionally, allele specific sequencing as described for SAMHD1 KO was performed,

646 if required. Absence of large deletions in the region between amplification primers was
647 tested by PCR and analytic gel electrophoresis. Presence of both alleles was
648 confirmed by quantitative genomic PCR (Weisheit et al. 2020), performed using
649 *SAMHD1* exon 16 (FW: 5'-CTG GAT TGA GGA CAG CTA GAA G, RV: 5'-CAG CAT
650 GCG TGT ACA TTC AAA, Probe: /56-FAM/ AAA TCC AAC /Zen/ TCG CCT CCG AGA
651 AGC /3IABkFQ/), exon 6 (FW: 5'-TTT CTT GTT CTA AGG CTG CTT, RV: 5'-AAT ACA
652 TAC CGT CCA TTT CAC C, Probe: /56-FAM/AT TTA TTC C/ZEN/A CTT GCT CGC
653 CCG GA/3IABkFQ/) or exon 8 (FW: 5'-AGG TAC AGC TTC CTT GTT GAA A, RV: 5'-
654 ACA GAC ACG GGC AAA CTT AAT A, Probe: /56-FAM/AG GGA CTG C/Zen/C ATC
655 ATC TTG GAA TCC /3IABkFQ/) specific PrimeTime qPCR Assay (IDT), human TERT
656 TaqMan Copy Number Reference (Thermo Fischer) and PrimeTime Gene Expression
657 Master Mix (IDT) on a CFX384 machine.

658

659 **HIV-1 reporter virus infection**

660 VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1 reporter viruses pNL4.3 E⁻ R⁻ luc (Connor et al. 1995) (HIV-
661 1-luc) and pNL4.3 IRES mCherry E⁻ R⁺ (HIV-1-mCherry) were produced, as detailed
662 previously (Schott et al. 2018). Briefly, pNL4.3 E⁻ R⁻ luc (a kind gift of Nathaniel Landau)
663 or pNL4.3 IRES mCherry E⁻ R⁺ (a kind gift of Frank Kirchhoff) were co-transfected
664 together with pCMV-VSV-G into 293T/17 cells using 18 mM polyethylenimine (Sigma-
665 Aldrich). Filtered (0.45 µm) supernatants were treated with 1 U/ml DNase I (NEB; 1 h,
666 RT) and purified through a 20% sucrose cushion (2 h, 106750g, 4°C). Viral stocks were
667 titrated for β-galactosidase activity on TZM-bl cells. Virus-like particles containing Vpx
668 (VLP-Vpx) were produced in an analogue manner using pSIV3+ (Nègre et al. 2000)
669 derived from SIVmac251 (a kind gift of Nicolas Manel) and pCMV-VSV-G.
670 Alternatively, pPBj-psi10, VSV-G encoding pMD.G and pcDNA3.1-Vpx (SIVsmm)
671 (Berger et al. 2011; Schüle et al. 2009) were used to produce VLP-Vpx or empty
672 (pcDNA3.1 only) control VLPs. The amount of VLP-Vpx used in all experiments was
673 optimized for complete SAMHD1 degradation. For infection, 3 x 10⁴ cells were seeded
674 per well of a 96-well tissue culture plate. Transdifferentiated BLAER1 cells were
675 allowed to settle for 2 h in medium without cytokines and β-estradiol. VSV-G
676 pseudotyped HIV-1 reporter virus at indicated MOI, as well as VLP-Vpx, were added,
677 followed by spin occlusion (1.5 h, 200g, 32°C). For more recent experiments (Fig. 6
678 and 8) cytokines and β-estradiol were added also after seeding, which increased
679 viability and percentage of CD11b⁺ cell population. Infection was quantified after 24 h

680 by FACS or qPCR (for HIV-1-mCherry), or alternatively by adding 50 μ l/well britelite
681 plus reagent (PerkinElmer) and measurement on a Pherastar FS (BMG) (for HIV-1-
682 luc). To show VLP-Vpx mediated SAMHD1 degradation, 4.4×10^5 transdifferentiated
683 BLaER1 cells were treated in a 12-well tissue culture plate in the same conditions and
684 concentrations as stated above.

685

686 **Flow Cytometry**

687 For flow cytometric analysis of BLaER1 transdifferentiation and surface marker
688 expression, 1×10^6 native or transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells were collected, washed
689 once in FACS buffer (10% FCS, 0.1% Sodium acetate in PBS; 10 min, 300g, 4°C) and
690 stained with CD11b-APC (M1/70, Biolegend), CD19-PE (HIB19, Biolegend), CD14-
691 PacBlue (M5E2, Biolegend), CD163-PE (GHI/61, BD), CD206-APC (19.2, BD),
692 CD11c-VioBlue (MJ4-27G12, Miltenyi), CD4-APC (RPA-T4, Biolegend), CXCR4-PE
693 (12G5, BD), CCR5-PE (T21/8, Biolegend) or respective isotype controls (Biolegend,
694 BD, Miltenyi) and Fixable Viability Dye eFluor 780 (Thermo Fischer) in presence of FC
695 Block (BD, 20 min, 4°C). Stained cells were washed in FACS buffer twice and fixed in
696 2% paraformaldehyde (30 min, RT), before analyzing on a LSR II instrument (BD). For
697 readout of HIV-1-mCherry infection, up to six wells of a 96-well plate were pooled and
698 stained with CD11b-APC and Fixable Viability Dye eFluor 780 as detailed above. For
699 intracellular SAMHD1 staining, cells were fixed in Cytofix Buffer (BD; 37°C, 10 min),
700 subsequent to cell surface staining, and permeabilisation with Perm Buffer III (BD; 2min
701 on ice), before staining with anti-SAMHD1 (12586-1-AP, Proteintech) or an isotype
702 control (CST; 60 min, RT) and anti-rabbit IgG-DyLight 405 (Thermo Fischer; 60 min
703 RT). Infected cells were analyzed on a BD LSRFortessa.

704

705 **Immunoblot**

706 For immunoblot, cells were washed in PBS, lysed in radioimmunoprecipitation buffer
707 (RIPA; 2 mM EDTA, 1% glycerol, 137 mM NaCl, 1% NP40, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% sodium
708 deoxycholate, 25 mM Tris (pH 8.0)) supplemented with proteinase and phosphatase
709 inhibitor (Roche) for 30 min on ice. Lysate was cleared (30 min, 15000g, 4°C) and
710 protein content was measured by Bradford assay using Protein Assay Dye Reagent
711 Concentrate (BioRad). 20 μ g total protein were denatured (10 min, 70°C) in NuPAGE
712 LDS Sample Buffer and Reducing Reagent (Thermo Fischer) and separated on a
713 NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris gradient gel (Thermo Fischer) in MOPS running buffer (1 M

714 MOPS, 1 M Tris, 69.3 mM SDS, 20.5 mM EDTA Titriplex II). Transfer was performed
715 in an XCell II Blot Module in NuPAGE Transfer Buffer (Thermo Fischer) onto a Hybond
716 P 0.45 PVDF membrane (GE Healthcare). After blocking in 5% BSA or milk powder
717 (Carl Roth) in TBST (Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Tween; 2 h, 4°C), primary antibodies
718 anti-GAPDH (14C10, CST), anti-Cyclin B1 (4138, CST), anti-Cyclin A2 (4656, CST),
719 anti-SAMHD1 (12586-1-AP, Proteintech), anti-SAMHD1 (A303-691A, Bethyl) and anti-
720 SAMHD1-pT592 (D702M, CST) diluted in 5% BSA or milk powder in TBST were
721 applied overnight at 4°C. Subsequent to washing in TBST, anti-rabbit IgG, horseradish
722 peroxidase (HRP)-linked antibody (CST) was applied (2 h, 4°C) and the membrane
723 was washed again before detection on a FUSION FX7 (Vilber Lourmat) using ECL
724 Prime reagent (GE). If required, membranes were stripped of bound antibody in
725 stripping buffer (2% SDS, 62.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 100 mM β-mercaptoethanol; 1
726 h, 65°C). Band densities were determined with FUSION software (Vilber Lourmat).

727

728 **Quantification of HIV-1 DNA copy number by qPCR**

729 HIV-1-mCherry copy number was quantified by qPCR as detailed previously (Schott et
730 al. 2018). In brief, four wells of CD19-depleted infected, heat inactivated virus (5 min,
731 95°C) or mock treated BLaER1 cells were harvested and pooled at indicated time
732 points. To reduce background, cells were washed 2 h after infection with medium. Cells
733 were washed and incubated in Proteinase K (Roth) and Ribonuclease A (Roth; 5 min,
734 RT) before isolating cellular and viral DNA with DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen).
735 qPCR was performed using FastStart Universal Probe Master (Roche) with primers
736 and probes specific for late HIV-1 reverse transcription products (FW: 5'-TGT GTG
737 CCC GTC TGT TGT GT, RV: 5'-GAG TCC TGC GTC GAG AGA TC, Probe: FAM-5'-
738 CAG TGG CGC CCG AAC AGG GA-3'-TAMRA) or reference gene *PBGD* (FW: 5'-
739 AAG GGA TTC ACT CAG GCT CTT TC, RV: 5'-GGC ATG TTC AAG CTC CTT GG,
740 Probe: VIC-5'-CCG GCA GAT TGG AGA GAA AAG CCT GT-3'MGBNFQ) on a
741 CFX384.

742

743 **Cellular dNTP levels and concentrations**

744 For measurement of cellular dNTP levels, 2×10^6 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells
745 were washed in PBS and subjected to methanol extraction of dNTPs, followed by
746 quantification of all four dNTPs by single nucleotide incorporation assay, as described
747 previously (Diamond et al. 2004). CD19 depletion was performed using CD19

748 microbeads and MS columns (Miltenyi). Cell volumes were determined by seeding
749 respective cell types on a Poly-D-Lysine (Sigma) coated (10%, 1.5h, RT) Cell Carrier-
750 96 well plate (Perkin Elmer). After centrifugation (5 min, 300g), cells were fixed (4%
751 PFA, 15 min, 37°C), permeabilized (0.1% Triton X-100, 5 min, 37°C) and stained using
752 HCS CellMask Deep Red Stain (Thermo Fischer, 30 min, RT). Z-Stack of stained cells
753 was acquired using confocal imaging platform Operetta (Perkin Elmer) and volume
754 was calculated as a sum of cell areas in all relevant Z-stacks using Harmony software
755 (Perkin Elmer).

756

757 **Statistical analysis**

758 Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism (V8). Mean and standard
759 deviations are shown. Statistical significance was assessed using unpaired two-tailed
760 t-test, as well as non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test or parametric One-Way ANOVA,
761 corrected against multiple testing using Dunn's or Dunnet correction, respectively.

762

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776 B.K., R.K.; writing—original draft preparation, M.S., R.K.; writing—review and editing,
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1041

1042 Figure Legends

1043 **Figure 1: SAMHD1 is dephosphorylated at residue T592 in macrophage-like**
1044 **BLaER1 cells. (A)** Representative flow cytometry analysis of CD19 and CD11b
1045 surface expression in native (n) and transdifferentiated (td) BLaER1 cells. Relative
1046 frequencies of CD19⁺ CD11b⁻ and CD19⁻ CD11b⁺ cell populations are indicated as %
1047 of viable GFP⁺ cells (n = 33). **(B)** Relative quantification of macrophage-like CD19⁻
1048 CD11b⁺ cells in viable GFP⁺ native (n) or transdifferentiated (td) BLaER1 cells. Every
1049 dot represents an individual transdifferentiation approach. Experiments in which
1050 transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells show < 75% CD19⁻ CD11b⁺ cells in viable GFP⁺ cells
1051 were excluded from downstream analysis (open circles). Error bars represent standard
1052 deviation (n_n = 30, n_{td} = 33). **(C)** Surface expression of indicated monocyte-derived
1053 macrophage or dendritic cell associated markers CD14, CD163, CD206 or CD11c
1054 respectively, as well as HIV-1 (co-) receptors CD4, CXCR4 (CD184) and CCR5
1055 (CD195), as analyzed by flow cytometry in viable GFP⁺ cells of native (blue) and
1056 transdifferentiated (red) BLaER1 cells. HeLa TZM-bl cells were used as positive
1057 controls for HIV-1 (co-) receptors. Solid or dashed black lines indicate respective
1058 isotype or fluorescence minus one (FMO) controls (n = 3). **(D)** Representative
1059 immunoblot analysis of SAMHD1, Cyclin B1 and Cyclin A2 expression in native (n) and
1060 transdifferentiated (td) BLaER1 cells, as well as cycling THP-1 cells. GAPDH serves
1061 as a loading control. Mean signal of SAMHD1 T592 phosphorylation (pT592) relative

1062 to total SAMHD1 expression in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells was normalized to
1063 cycling THP-1 (n = 6).

1064

1065 **Figure 2: SAMHD1 restricts HIV-1 replication in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells.**

1066 **(A)** Transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells were treated with VLP-Vpx or medium for 24 h.
1067 SAMHD1 degradation was measured by immunoblot and quantified relative to GAPDH
1068 expression, followed by normalization to medium treated control (mean of n = 3). **(B)**
1069 VLP-Vpx or medium treated transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells were infected with VSV-
1070 G pseudotyped HIV-1 single-cycle luciferase reporter virus pNL4.3 E⁻ R⁻ luc at an MOI
1071 of 0.1, 0.33 and 1. Relative light units (RLUs) were quantified by luciferase
1072 measurement at 24 hpi. Linear regressions (dashed lines) were calculated and
1073 differences of slopes were tested for significance (n = 3, t-test). **(C)** BLaER1 cells were
1074 treated with CRISPR/Cas9 protein complexed with crRNA-SAMHD1-KO. Single cell
1075 clones were Sanger sequenced after TA-cloning to separate alleles and aligned to WT
1076 sequence. Insertions (red) and/or deletions (InDel) are indicated, as well as the position
1077 of the premature stop codon (gray), introduced by the respective genetic modification.

1078 **(D)** Genetically confirmed SAMHD1 knock-out (KO) clones were analyzed via
1079 immunoblot for SAMHD1 expression in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. GAPDH was
1080 used as loading control (n = 7). **(E)** Percentages of CD19⁻ CD11b⁺ cells in viableGFP⁺
1081 transdifferentiated WT and SAMHD1 KO cells were quantified by flow cytometry (n =
1082 7, One-way ANOVA). **(F)** RLUs in transdifferentiated BLaER1 WT and KO cell clones
1083 were quantified 24 hpi with pNL4.3 E⁻ R⁻ luc (VSV-G). Statistical significance of
1084 differences between linear regressions (dashed lines) in SAMHD1 KO clones
1085 compared to WT are indicated (n = 7, One-way ANOVA). **(G, H)** Transdifferentiated WT
1086 and SAMHD1 KO cell clones were infected with VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1 single cycle
1087 mCherry reporter virus pNL4.3 IRES mcherry E⁻ R⁺ at MOI 1. Percentage of mCherry⁺
1088 cells was quantified by flow cytometry in viable GFP⁺ CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells 24 hpi. **(G)**
1089 Representative histograms are shown for mock and HIV-1-mCherry reporter virus
1090 infected cells. Percentage of mCherry⁺ in viable GFP⁺ CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells is
1091 indicated. **(H)** Bar graphs indicate mean of experiments, dots individual biological
1092 replicates (n = 5, Kruskal–Wallis test). **(B, E, F, H)** Error bars correspond to standard
1093 deviation (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.0001; ns, not significant).

1094

1095 **Figure 3: A pipeline to generate mutants of SAMHD1 by CRISPR/Cas9 mediated
1096 knock-in. (A)** Schematic representation of CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knock-in (KI) to
1097 generate mutants of SAMHD1 in BLaER1 cells. Cas9 ribonucleoprotein (RNP)
1098 together with ssDNA correction template was introduced into BLaER1 cells via
1099 nucleofection. Single cell clones generated by limiting dilution were screened using
1100 KASP assay and validated by Sanger sequencing and quantitative genomic PCR
1101 (qgPCR) (Weisheit et al. 2020). **(B)** Representative sections of Sanger sequencing
1102 traces obtained from genomic *SAMHD1* exon 16, highlighting successful bi-allelic
1103 single base exchange at the base triplet corresponding to amino acid position T592 in
1104 BLaER1 *SAMHD1* KI T592A and T592E mutant single cell clones. No further
1105 mismatches were detected up- or downstream of shown section in the amplified region.
1106 Two independent sequencing runs were performed. Homozygous T592E mutants
1107 were additionally confirmed by allele specific sequencing after TA-cloning. **(C)**
1108 Quantitative genomic PCR for *SAMHD1* exon 16 against reference gene *TERT* was
1109 performed and $2^{-\Delta ct}$ value obtained from *SAMHD1* KI clones normalized to WT in order
1110 to obtain the allele number. As a control half of the WT (WT 1/2) DNA was inoculated
1111 and Δct of *SAMHD1* was calculated against ct of *TERT*, which was obtained in the WT
1112 with normal DNA amount. Error bars indicate standard deviation of technical triplicates
1113 in a representative experiment ($n = 2$). **(D)** Number of single cell clones obtained from
1114 CRISPR/Cas9 RNP and ssDNA correction oligo treated BLaER1 cells and number of
1115 clones scoring positive in KASP assay, as well as homozygous (Mut/Mut) mutants
1116 identified by Sanger sequencing and confirmed by qgPCR are shown. **(E)**
1117 Transdifferentiated *SAMHD1* KI BLaER1 cells were analyzed by immunoblot for
1118 *SAMHD1* expression and compared to WT cells. GAPDH was used as a loading
1119 control (representative for $n = 3$). **(F)** Percentage of CD19 $^-$ CD11b $^+$ cells in viable GFP $^+$
1120 transdifferentiated WT and *SAMHD1* KI cells were quantified by flow cytometry. Error
1121 bars indicated standard deviation of biological replicates ($n = 4$).
1122

1123 **Figure 4: Homozygous SAMHD1 T592E, but not T592A mutation leads to loss of
1124 HIV-1 restriction in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. (A, B)** Transdifferentiated
1125 homozygous *SAMHD1* T592E and T592A BLaER1 KI clones were infected with VSV-
1126 G pseudotyped HIV-1 single cycle mCherry reporter virus pNL4.3 IRES mcherry E $^-$ R $^+$
1127 at MOI 1. Percentage of mCherry $^+$ cells was quantified by flow cytometry in viable GFP $^+$
1128 CD11b $^+$ BLaER1 cells at 24 hpi. **(A)** Representative histograms are shown for mock

1129 and HIV-1-mCherry reporter virus infected cells. Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in viable
1130 GFP⁺ CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells is indicated (n = 3). **(B)** To calculate fold change,
1131 percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in infected SAMHD1 KI clones was normalized to WT.
1132 Bar graphs indicate mean of experiments, dots individual biological replicates. Error
1133 bars correspond to standard deviation (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, ** p < 0.01; **** p <
1134 0.0001; ns, not significant).

1135

1136 **Figure 5: SAMHD1 T592E or T592A knock-in does not affect dNTP levels in**
1137 **transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. (A, B)** Cellular dNTP levels were measured in
1138 transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1 T592E and T592A BLaER1 KI mutants.
1139 dNTP amounts were compared to transdifferentiated WT BLaER1 cells. **(A)** Amount of
1140 indicated dNTP is depicted per 1 x 10⁶ cells. Bar graphs indicate mean of experiments,
1141 dots individual biological replicates. Error bars correspond to standard deviation (n =
1142 3, One-way ANOVA, *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.0001; ns, not significant). **(B)** dNTP
1143 composition in individual BLaER1 SAMHD1 KI clones is shown, with total dNTP
1144 content set as 100%. Error bars indicate standard deviation (n = 3).

1145

1146 **Figure 6: SAMHD1 T592E knock-in relieves a block to HIV-1 reverse transcription**
1147 **and HIV-1 infection, which is not further enhanced by SAMHD1 T592E mutant**
1148 **depletion. (A)** Transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1 T592E and T592A BLaER1
1149 KI clones were depleted for CD19⁺ cells and infected with VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1
1150 single cycle mCherry reporter virus pBR HIV1 M NL4.3 IRES mcherry E⁻ R⁺ at MOI 1.
1151 At the indicated time point post infection, late reverse transcription (RT) products were
1152 quantified by qPCR and normalized against *PBGD* to determine late RT copy number
1153 per cell. Error bars correspond to standard deviation (n = 3). **(B, C)** Transdifferentiated
1154 homozygous SAMHD1 T592E and T592A BLaER1 KI clones were treated with virus-
1155 like particles (VLPs) co-packaging Vpx or empty controls in parallel to infection with
1156 HIV-1-mCherry (MOI 1). **(B)** SAMHD1 abundance in CD11b⁺ cells was analyzed by
1157 flow cytometry at 24 hpi. **(C)** Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells at
1158 24 hpi is shown. Bar graphs indicate mean of experiments, dots individual biological
1159 replicates. Error bars correspond to standard deviation (n = 3, One-way ANOVA; ****
1160 p < 0.0001; ns, not significant).

1161

1162 **Figure 7: CRISPR/Cas9 mediated mutation of SAMHD1 catalytic core residues**
1163 **partly increases dNTP levels in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells. (A)**
1164 Transdifferentiated SAMHD1 KI BLaER1 cells were analyzed by immunoblot for
1165 SAMHD1 expression and T592 phosphorylation in comparison to WT and cycling THP-
1166 1 cells. GAPDH was used as a loading control. Mean of SAMHD1 T592
1167 phosphorylation (pT592) relative to total SAMHD1 expression and SAMHD1
1168 expression relative to GAPDH abundance in transdifferentiated BLaER1 cells was
1169 normalized to WT cells (n = 4). **(B-E)** Cellular dNTP levels were measured in
1170 transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1 H210A, D218A and D311A BLaER1 KI
1171 mutants. dNTP amounts were compared to transdifferentiated WT and SAMHD1 KO
1172 BLaER1 cells. Amount of indicated dNTP is depicted per 1 x 10⁶ cells. Bar graphs
1173 indicate mean of experiments, dots individual biological replicates. Error bars
1174 correspond to standard deviation (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, * = p < 0.05; ** = p < 0.01;
1175 *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.0001; ns, not significant).

1176

1177 **Figure 8: CRISPR/Cas9 mediated mutation of SAMHD1 catalytic core residues**
1178 **reveal that the integrity of the catalytic site is required for HIV-1 restriction. (A,**
1179 **B)** Transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1 T592A, T592E, H210A, D218A and
1180 D311A BLaER1 KI clones were infected with VSV-G pseudotyped HIV-1 single cycle
1181 mCherry reporter virus pBR HIV1 M NL4.3 IRES mcherry E⁻ R⁺ at MOI 1, 0.25 and 0.1,
1182 as indicated. Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells was quantified by flow cytometry in CD11b⁺
1183 SAMHD1⁺ BLaER1 cells at 24 hpi. **(A)** Representative histograms are shown for HIV-
1184 1-mCherry reporter virus infected cells. Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in CD11b⁺
1185 SAMHD1⁺ BLaER1 cells is indicated (n = 3). **(B)** Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in
1186 infected SAMHD1 KI clones is shown for MOI 0.1 (n = 2), 0.25 (n = 1) and 1 (n = 3).
1187 **(C, D)** Transdifferentiated homozygous SAMHD1 T592A, T592E, H210A, D218A and
1188 D311A BLaER1 KI clones were treated with virus-like particles (VLPs) co-packaging
1189 Vpx or empty controls in parallel to infection with HIV-1-mCherry (MOI 0.1). **(C)**
1190 SAMHD1 abundance in CD11b⁺ cells was analyzed by flow cytometry at 24 hpi. **(D)**
1191 Percentage of mCherry⁺ cells in CD11b⁺ BLaER1 cells at 24 hpi is shown. Bar graphs
1192 indicate mean of experiments, dots individual biological replicates. Error bars
1193 correspond to standard deviation (n = 2). Bar graphs indicate mean of experiments,
1194 dots individual biological replicates. Error bars correspond to standard deviation (One-
1195 way ANOVA, * p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.0001; ns, not significant).

1196

1197 **Table 1: dNTP concentrations in transdifferentiated and CD19 depleted BLaER1**
1198 **cells.**

Cellular concentration (μM)	dATP	dCTP	dGTP	dTTP	n
WT BLaER1 cells (td)	1.51	1.22	1.40	1.83	5
SAMHD1 KO BLaER1 cells (td)	4.39	1.89	5.92	5.88	5
WT CD19 ⁻ BLaER1 cells (td)	1.02	1.16	0.52	0.79	1
SAMHD1 KO CD19 ⁻ BLaER1 cells (td)	2.21	1.54	2.31	2.03	1
Resting T cells (Diamond et al. 2004)	1.72	1.88	1.51	1.67	3
Activated T cells (Diamond et al. 2004)	5.09	5.91	4.53	7.91	3

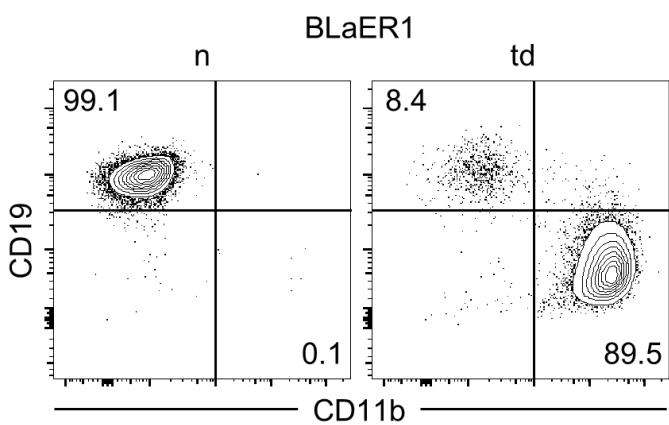
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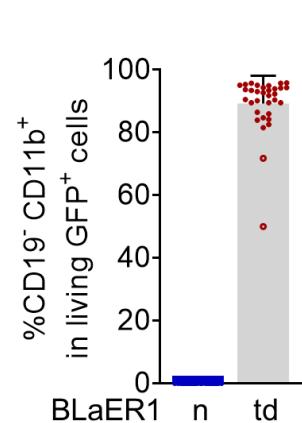
1201 **Figure S1: Validation of CRISPR/Cas9 mediated mutagenesis of SAMHD1**
1202 **catalytic core residues.** (A) Representative sections of Sanger sequencing traces
1203 obtained from genomic *SAMHD1* exon 6 and 8. Base triplets corresponding to modified
1204 amino acids are highlighted. Asterisk indicate coding and silent mutations introduced.
1205 At least two independent sequencing runs were performed per clone. (B) Quantitative
1206 genomic PCR for *SAMHD1* exon 6 and 8 against reference gene *TERT* was performed
1207 and $2^{-\Delta ct}$ value obtained from *SAMHD1* KI clones normalized to WT. As a control, half
1208 of the WT (WT 1/2) DNA was inoculated and Δct of *SAMHD1* calculated against ct of
1209 *TERT* which was obtained in the WT with normal DNA amount. Bar graphs indicate
1210 mean of experiments, dots individual biological replicates. Error bars correspond to
1211 standard deviation (n = 3).

Figure 1

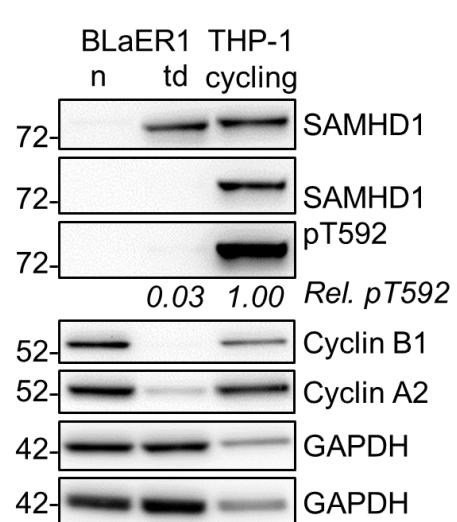
A



B



D



C

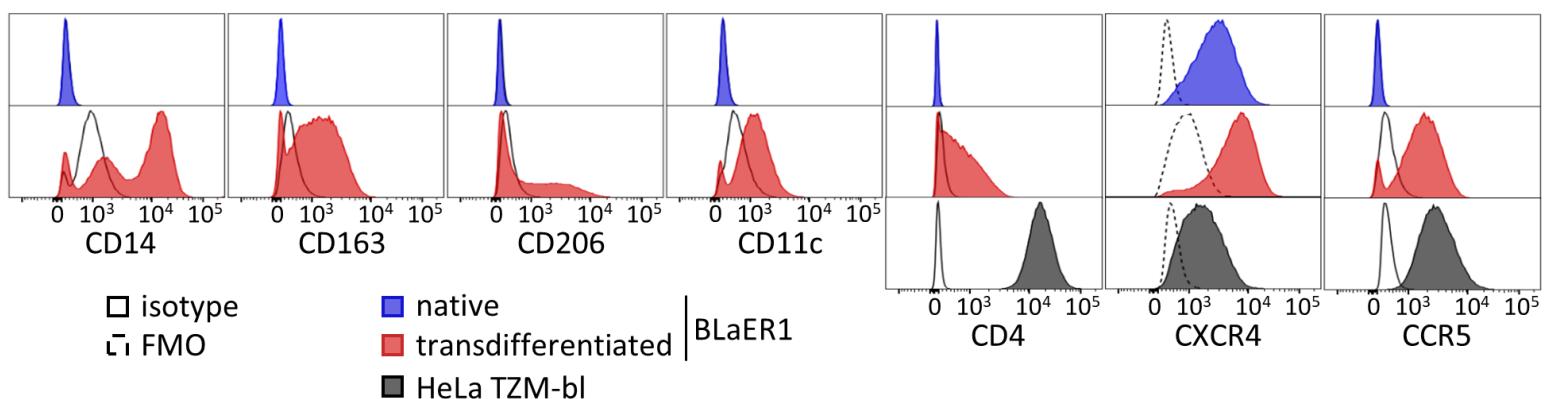


Figure 2

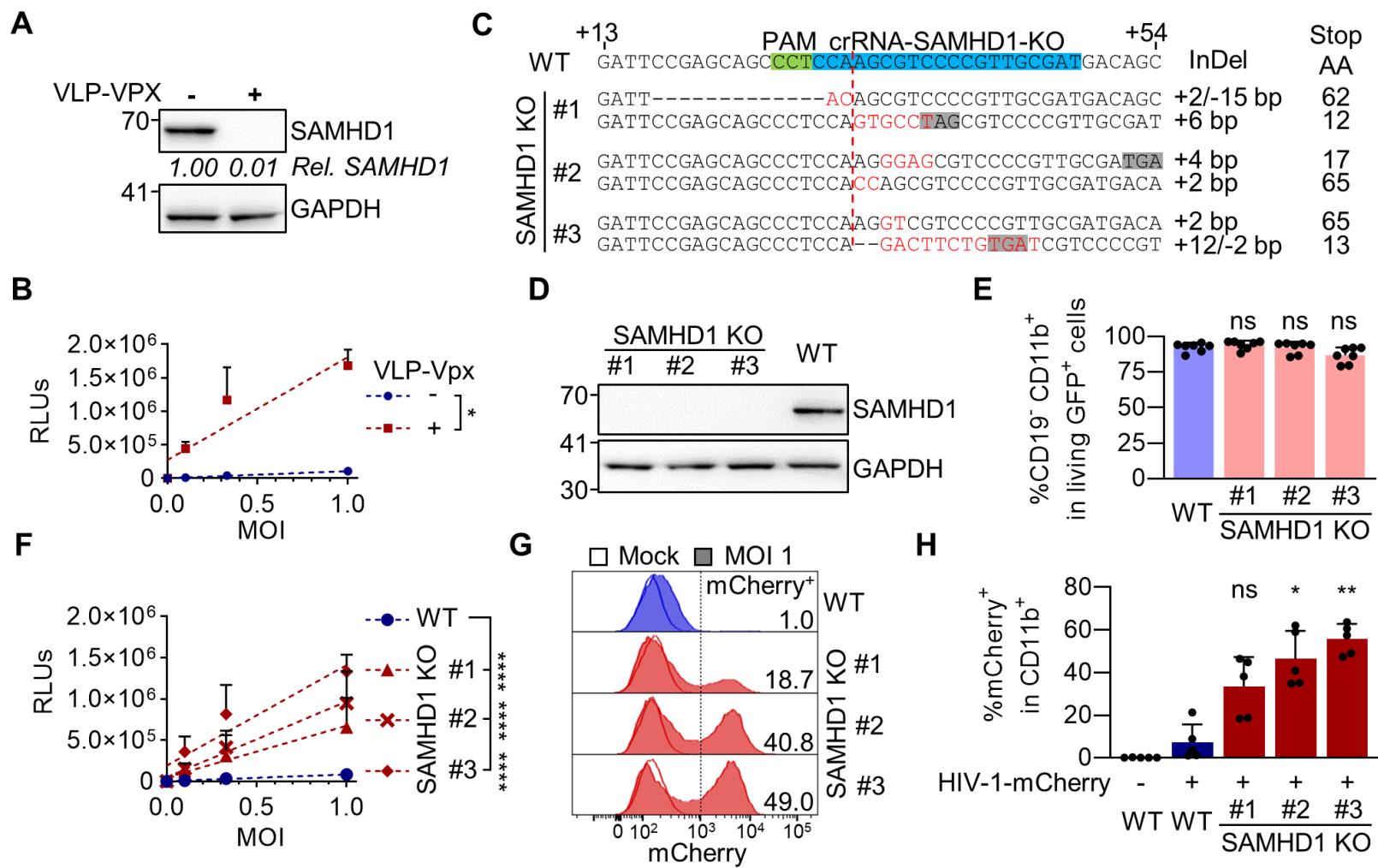
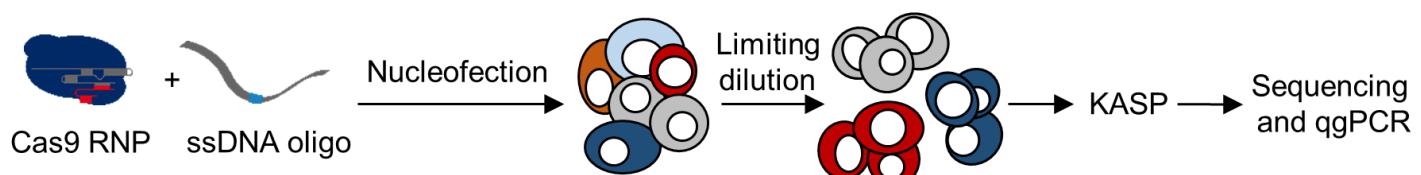
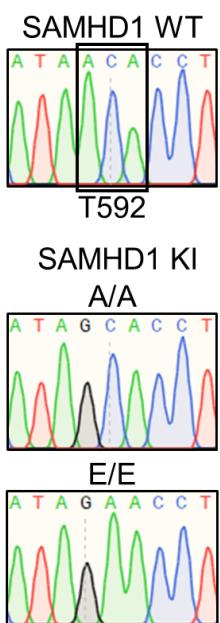


Figure 3

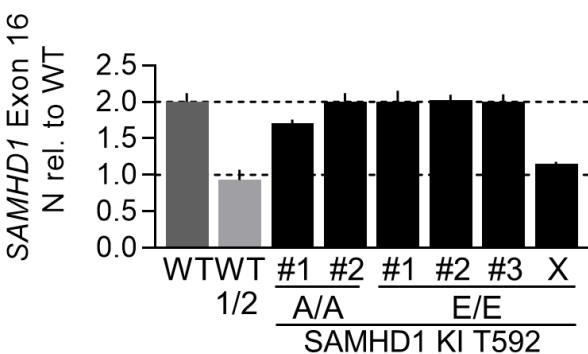
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C



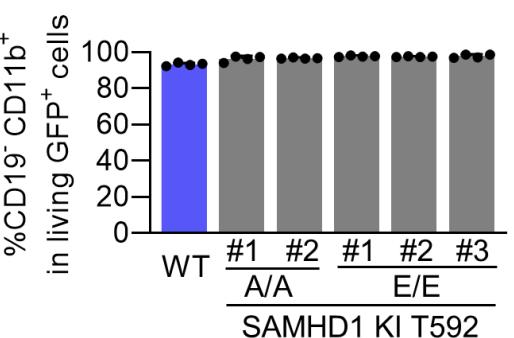
E



D

KI	KASP Assay		Sequencing Mut/Mut
	Clones	KASP ⁺	
T592A	226	22	2
T592E	350	48	3

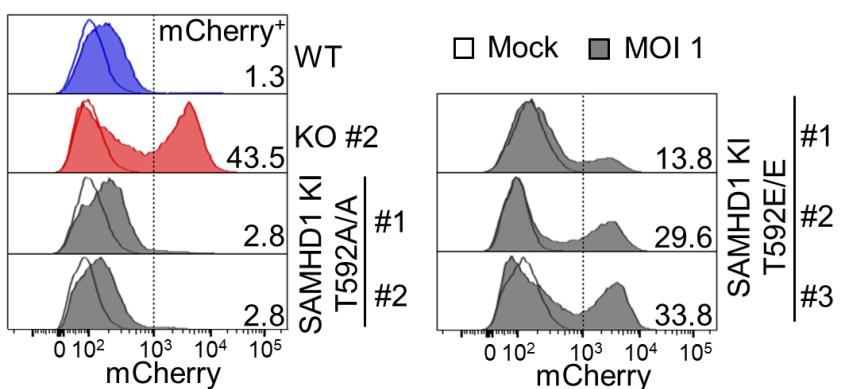
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SAMHD1 KI T592

Figure 4

A



B

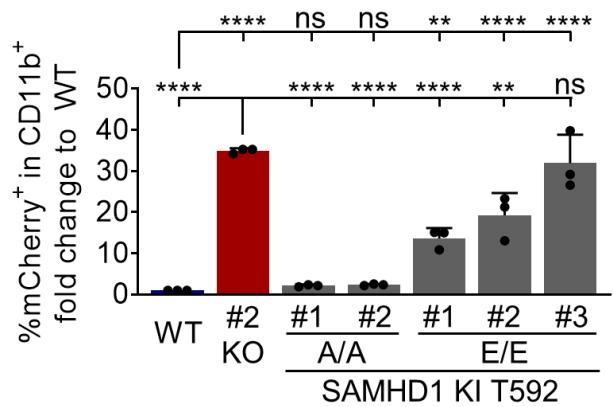
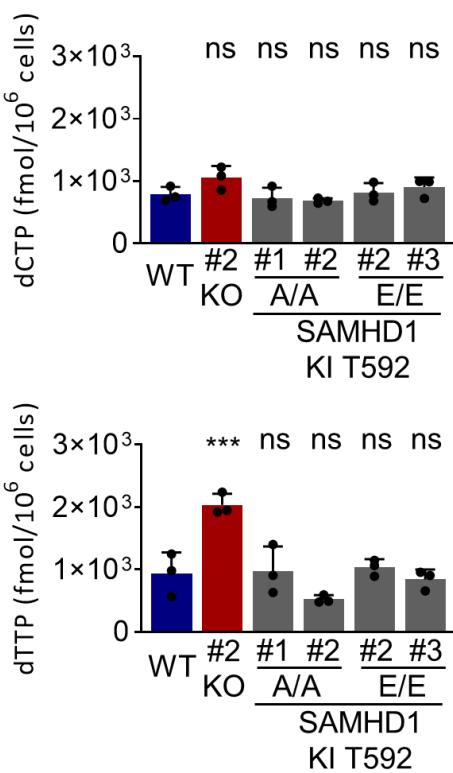
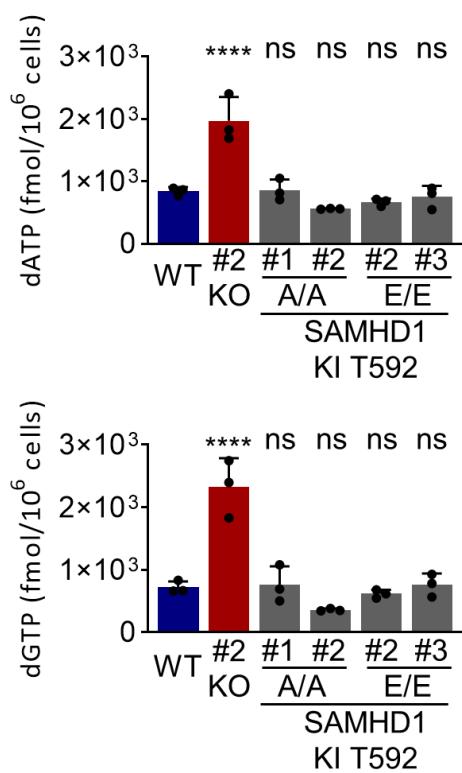


Figure 5

A



B

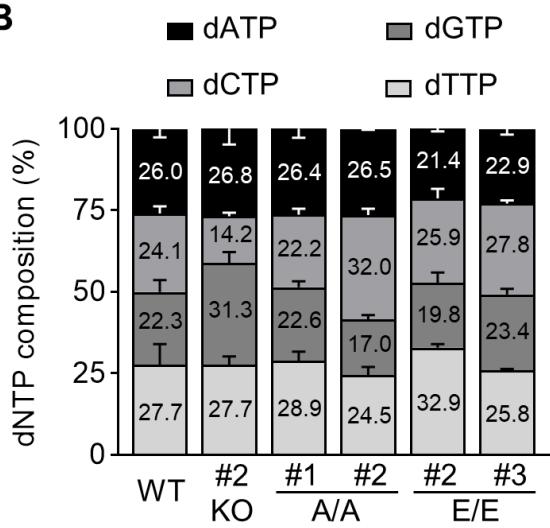


Figure 6

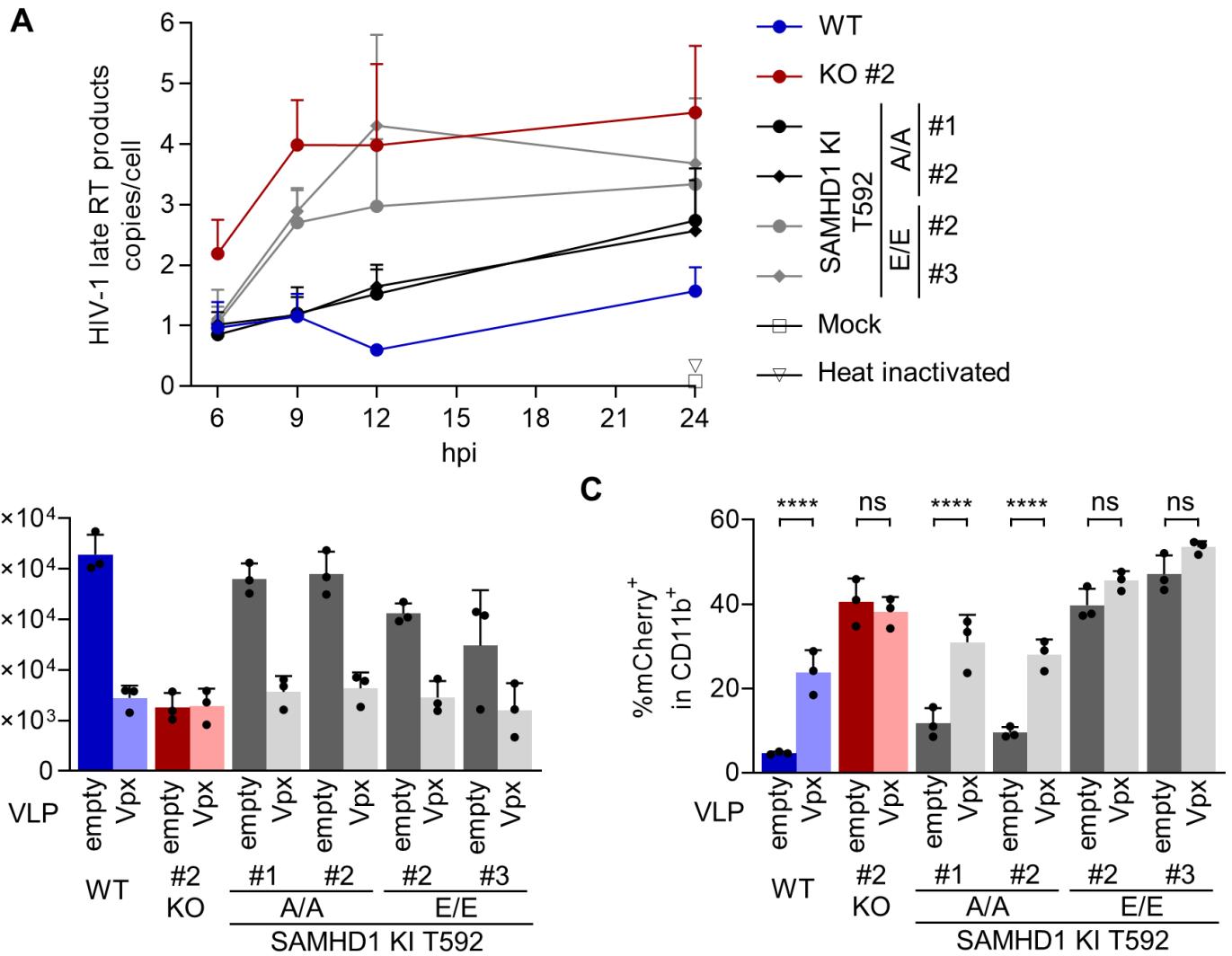


Figure 7

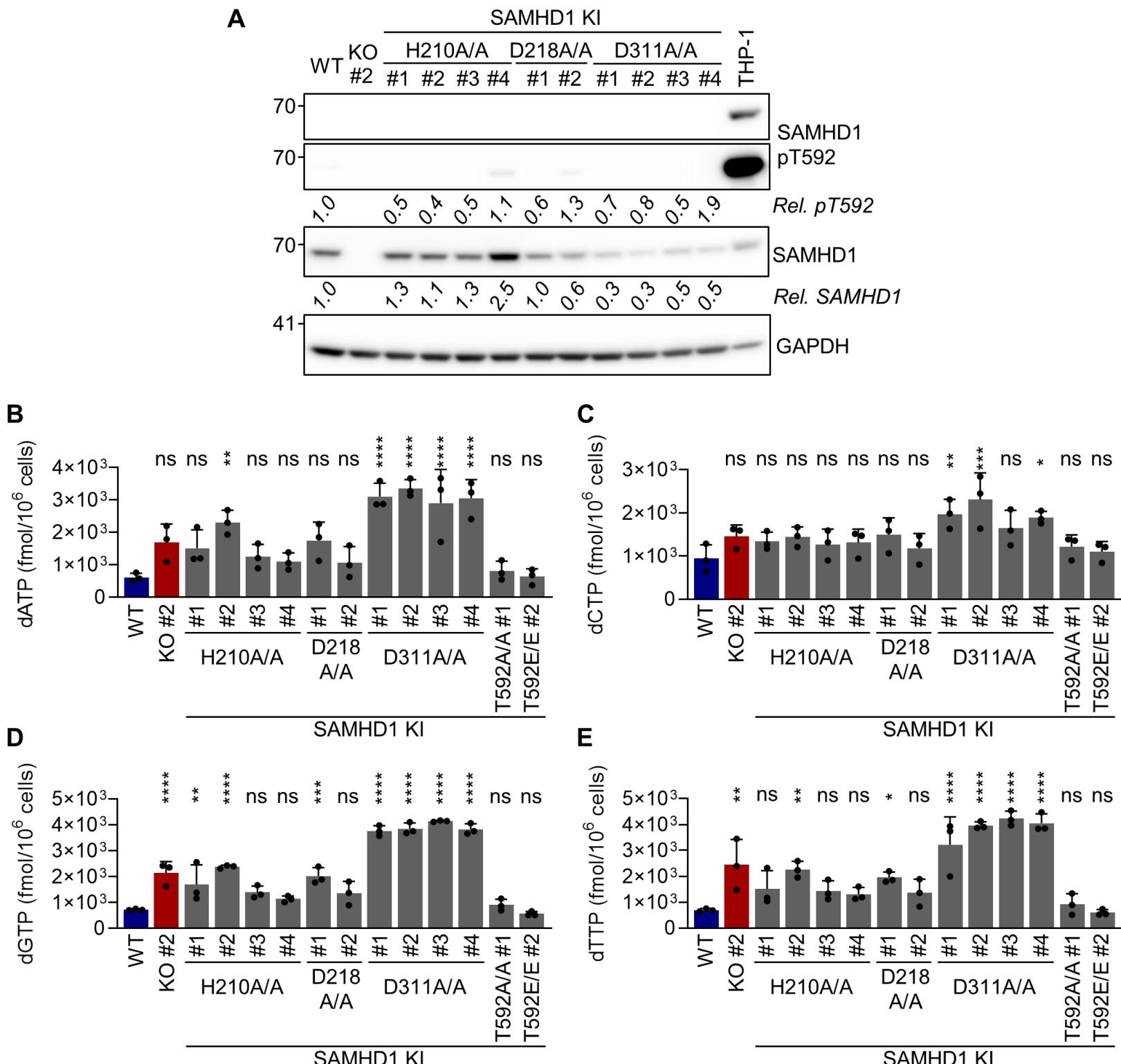
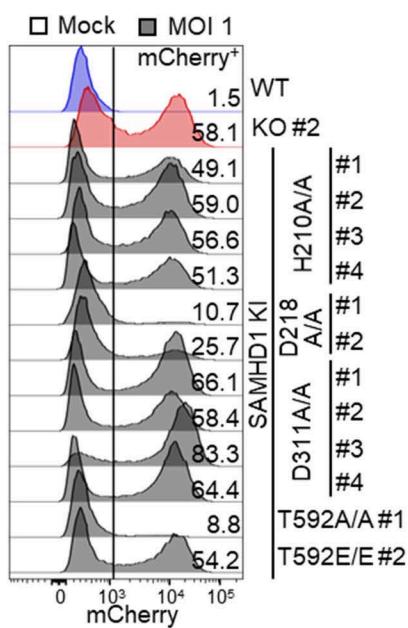
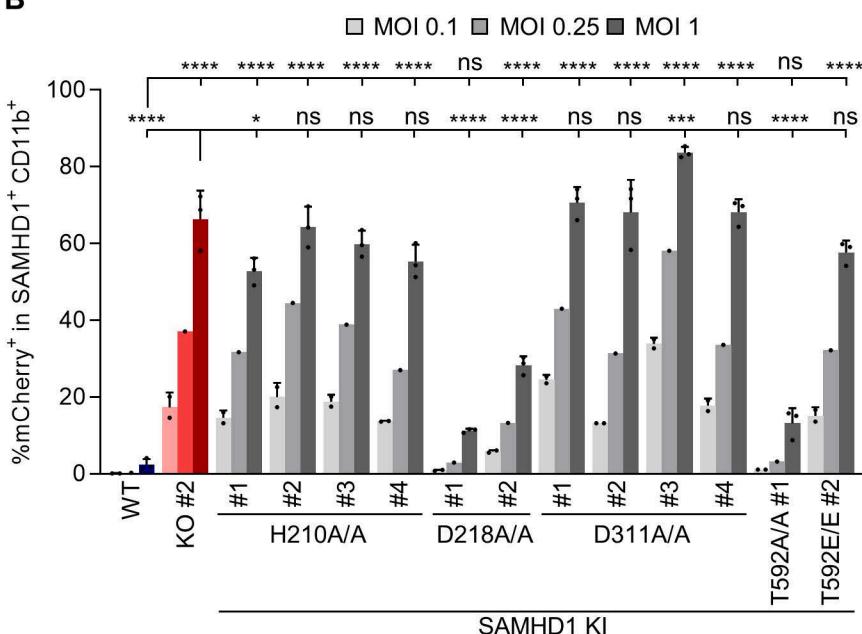
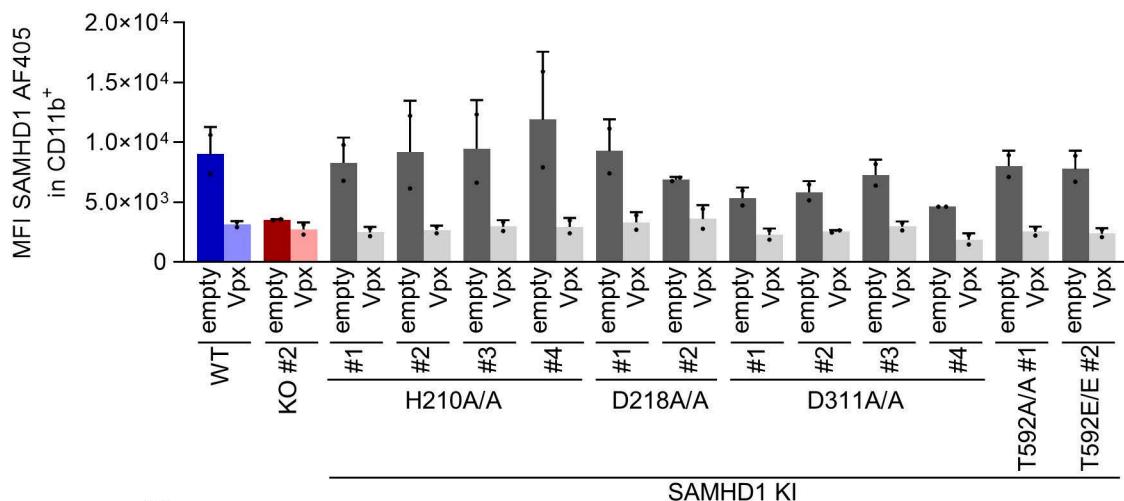


Figure 8**A****B****C****D**