

1 Macrophage-specific responses to human- and animal- 2 adapted tubercle bacilli reveal pathogen and host 3 factors driving multinucleated cell formation

4
5 Christophe J. Queval¹, Antony Fearn¹, Laure Botella¹, Alicia Smyth², Laura
6 Schnettger¹, Morgane Mitermite², Esen Wooff³, Bernardo Villarreal-Ramos^{3,4}, Waldo
7 Garcia-Jimenez⁵, Tiaan Heunis⁶, Matthias Trost⁶, Dirk Werling⁷, Francisco J.
8 Salguero⁸, Stephen V. Gordon² and Maximiliano G. Gutierrez^{1*}

9
10 ¹The Francis Crick Institute, UK; ²UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and Conway
11 Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland; ³Animal and Plant Health Agency, UK;
12 ⁴IBERS, Aberystwyth University, U.K; ⁵University of Surrey, UK; ⁶Newcastle
13 University, UK; ⁷Royal Veterinary College London, UK; ⁸Public Health England, UK

14 *Corresponding author: max.g@crick.ac.uk

15
16 Abbreviations:
17 MNCs: Multinucleated Cells; hM ϕ : Human Macrophage; bM ϕ : Bovine Macrophage;
18 Mtb: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv; Mbv: *Mycobacterium bovis* AF2122/97;
19 EVs: Extracellular Vesicles

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21 Short title:
22 Mbv-specific extracellular vesicles promote MNCs formation

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29 **Key words**
30 Tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, multinucleated
31 cells, bovine macrophages, human macrophages, MPB70, extracellular vesicles,
32 granuloma, host-tropism

33 **Abstract**

34 The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) is a group of related pathogens
35 that cause tuberculosis (TB) in mammals. MTBC species are distinguished by their
36 ability to sustain in distinct host populations. While *Mycobacterium bovis* (Mbv)
37 sustains transmission cycles in cattle and wild animals and causes zoonotic TB, *M.*
38 *tuberculosis* (Mtb) affects human populations and seldom causes disease in cattle.
39 However, the host and pathogen determinants driving host tropism between MTBC
40 species are still unknown. Macrophages are the main host cell that encounters
41 mycobacteria upon initial infection and we hypothesised that early interactions
42 between the macrophage and mycobacteria influence species-specific disease
43 outcome. To identify factors that contribute to host tropism, we analysed both blood-
44 derived primary human and bovine macrophages (hMφ or bMφ, respectively)
45 infected with Mbv and Mtb. We show that Mbv and Mtb reside in different cellular
46 compartments and differentially replicate in hMφ whereas both Mbv and Mtb
47 efficiently replicate in bMφ. Specifically, we show that out of the four infection
48 combinations, only the infection of bMφ with Mbv promoted the formation of
49 multinucleated cells (MNCs), a hallmark of tuberculous granulomas. Mechanistically,
50 we demonstrate that both MPB70 from Mbv and extracellular vesicles released by
51 Mbv-infected bMφ promote macrophage multi-nucleation. Importantly, we extend our
52 *in vitro* studies to show that granulomas from Mbv-infected but not Mtb-infected
53 cattle contained higher numbers of MNCs. Our findings implicate MNC formation in
54 the contrasting pathology between Mtb and Mbv for the bovine host, and identify
55 MPB70 from Mbv and extracellular vesicles from bMφ as mediators of this process.

56

57 **Introduction**

58 Host tropism is determined by the range of host species that a pathogen can infect
59 and transmit between, allowing it to sustain in the host population. *Mycobacterium*
60 *tuberculosis* (Mtb) causes tuberculosis (TB) in humans and remains the leading
61 cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide from a single infectious agent, with 1.8
62 million deaths in 2018 [1]. Mtb is an obligate pathogen, with transmission between
63 individuals *via* aerosols. Infection generally occurs in terminal lung airways, where
64 the bacillus is taken up by alveolar macrophages before disseminating to other
65 organs. Regardless of which tissues are involved, the immune response against the

66 bacillus progressively leads to the formation of granulomas, where the bacilli can
67 either disseminate or persist [2-4].

68 On the other hand, bovine TB is caused by *M. bovis* (Mbv), that displays a broad
69 host-range, infecting and transmitting between a variety of livestock and wildlife
70 populations [5]. Mbv also poses a risk as a zoonotic pathogen, representing a
71 serious threat to human health [1]. In 2005, the WHO declared bovine TB as the
72 most neglected zoonotic disease threatening human health [6-8].

73 The genomes of Mbv and Mtb are over 99.9 % identical [9]. The main genomic
74 differences between these two pathogens encompass 8 regions of difference (RDs)
75 and over 2000 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) [9, 10]. While this level of
76 genetic difference is relatively small, it results in major phenotypic variation that
77 ultimately defines host tropism. Comparative analysis of the Mbv AF2122/97 and Mtb
78 H37Rv transcriptome and proteome revealed upregulation of 77 and 103 genes and
79 encoded proteins, respectively, in each pathogen [11]. Proteins showing differential
80 abundance included known virulence factors such as EsxA, EsxB as well as the
81 immunogenic MPB70 and MPB83 [11-15].

82 In both human and bovine TB, macrophages are the first line of defence as well as
83 one of the main cellular reservoirs of tubercle bacilli [16]. Here, we compared two
84 archetypal MTBC host-adapted species, Mtb H37Rv and Mbv AF2122/97 [9, 10, 17]
85 for *in vitro* interactions with monocyte-derived primary human (hMφ) or bovine (bMφ)
86 macrophages. We show that Mtb and Mbv reside in different cellular compartments
87 and differentially replicate in hMφ, while both strains efficiently replicate in bMφ. We
88 demonstrate that both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, Mbv specifically promotes multinucleated
89 cells (MNCs) formation in bMφ, arguing that this host-specific MNCs generation
90 contributes to the contrasting pathogenesis between Mtb and Mbv in cattle. Finally,
91 we show that the secreted Mbv protein MPB70 and bMφ -derived extracellular
92 vesicles (EVs) are bacterial and host factors specifically implicated in bMφ-multi-
93 nucleation. Our results have identified functional differences between Mbv and Mtb
94 host-pathogen interaction that reveal a role for MPB70 and EVs in the process of
95 multinucleation, a process that may play a crucial role in MTBC host tropism.

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100 **Results**

101 **Mtb and Mbv differentially replicate within human or bovine macrophages.**

102 In order to identify host and bacterial factors during species-specific macrophage
103 interactions, we set up an experimental infection model comparing, side by side,
104 blood-derived primary human or bovine macrophages (hM ϕ and bM ϕ , respectively)
105 infected with either Mtb or Mbv. First, we optimized the infection ratios for both
106 macrophage models by analysing the ability of hM ϕ and bM ϕ to phagocytose Mtb-
107 RFP or Mbv-RFP. After 2 h, we observed that Mtb-RFP and Mbv-RFP uptake was
108 similar in both hM ϕ or bM ϕ . However, bacterial uptake was approximately 8 to 10
109 times higher in bM ϕ when compared to hM ϕ (data not shown). In order to normalize
110 the infection protocol, we then infected bM ϕ with a lower MOI (MOI of 1) than hM ϕ
111 (MOI of 10) (Fig. S1A). We then monitored Mtb and Mbv replication in hM ϕ and bM ϕ
112 by microscopically quantifying their intracellular growth after 72 h of infection (Fig.
113 1A). In hM ϕ , Mtb replicated as previously shown [18] whereas Mbv replication was
114 delayed (Fig. 1B). In contrast, both Mtb and Mbv replicated at similar rates in bM ϕ up
115 to 72 h (Fig. 1C). After 72 h of infection, there was cytotoxicity associated with bM ϕ
116 but not hM ϕ (Fig. S1B and S1C). In hM ϕ , cytotoxicity was detectable after 5 days of
117 infection with Mtb, while a significant number of hM ϕ infected with Mbv was still
118 detectable (Fig. S1C). Next, we assessed the cytotoxicity of Mtb in hM ϕ using the
119 cell death reporter Green Live/Dead (Fig. S1D). After 5 days of infection, Mtb actively
120 replicated in hM ϕ and was associated with cell death while Mbv slowly replicated in
121 hM ϕ with limited cell death (Fig. S1D). We then infected hM ϕ at a low MOI (MOI 2)
122 with Mtb-RFP and Mbv-RFP for 8 days and found that Mbv replication significantly
123 increased after 8 days of infection compared to the basal uptake observed 2 h post-
124 infection (Fig. S1E). Thus, the progression of Mbv-intracellular replication in hM ϕ
125 suggests that, although Mbv replication is restricted compared to Mtb, hM ϕ failed to
126 completely eradicate the infection.

127

128 **Intracellular localization of Mtb and Mbv differs in human macrophages**

129 Next, we tested whether the different bacterial replication rates were associated with
130 a differential ability of Mtb or Mbv to evade host macrophage restriction. Although
131 both hM ϕ and bM ϕ were produced with a similar method, electron microscopy
132 analysis showed that the cytoplasm of resting bM ϕ was strongly enriched with
133 spacious single-membrane vesicles when compared to hM ϕ (Fig. S1F). These large

134 vacuoles were positive for the late endosomal marker, LAMP-1 (Fig. S1G). Whereas
135 in hMφ the localisation of intracellular mycobacteria is relatively well characterised
136 [16, 19], the localisation of Mbv in bMφ is unknown. We therefore quantified the
137 percentage of bacteria associated with (i) the late endosomal marker LAMP-1, (ii) the
138 pH-sensitive Dye Lysotracker Red (LTR) or (iii) the autophagosome marker LC3B,
139 after 24 h of infection (Fig. S2). For that, we used two different approaches to
140 quantify the localisation: one for markers closely associated with bacteria [20] and
141 another method for spacious compartments such as the LAMP-1 positive
142 phagosomes [21]. In hMφ, $37\% \pm 14.7$ and $39\% \pm 11.9$ of Mtb and Mbv respectively
143 were found associated with LAMP-1. Similarly, in bMφ, $45\% \pm 9.4$ and $36\% \pm 5.4$ of
144 Mtb and Mbv, respectively, were found in a LAMP-1-positive vacuole. The high level
145 of bacterial association with the LAMP-1 marker suggests that, in both species, a
146 significant fraction of the bacteria is membrane-bound (Fig. S2A and S2B). In
147 contrast, only 15 to 20% were found associated with lysotracker in both hMφ and
148 bMφ, suggesting that, independent of the host species, a limited proportion of
149 membrane-bound mycobacteria were in acidic compartments after 24 h of infection
150 (Fig. S2C and S2D).

151 In hMφ, LC3B was found associated with $28\% \pm 6.06$ of Mbv, while only $10\% \pm 0.86$
152 of Mtb was positive for this autophagosome marker (Fig. S2E). Autophagy is an anti-
153 mycobacteria pathway [22-24] and the higher association of Mbv with LC3B-positive
154 compartments may explain the delayed intracellular replication. However, Mtb and
155 Mbv presented a similar association with LC3B or all the other markers tested in bMφ
156 (Fig. S2F). Next, we analysed the localisation of mycobacteria at the ultrastructural
157 level and defined the proportion of bacteria localised in (i) a single-membrane
158 phagosome, (ii) in a multi-membrane vacuole or (iii) cytosolic (Fig. 1D and 1F). In
159 hMφ, circa 40% of the Mtb population was localised in the cytosol. Mtb also resided
160 in a single-membrane compartment (>55%) and a minor proportion in multi-
161 membrane compartments (<5%) (Fig. 1D and 1F). In contrast, the majority of Mbv
162 were localized in single- and multi-membrane compartments (>75% and around
163 20%, respectively) and only a minority of Mbv was localised in the cytosol (<5%)
164 (Fig. 1D and 1F). On the other hand, in bMφ, the majority of Mtb localised in the
165 cytosol (around 75%) whilst the rest mainly resided in a single-membrane
166 compartment (Fig. 1F). Moreover, Mbv was associated with single-membrane
167 compartments and also localised in the cytosol of bMφ (Fig. 1F). Given that cytosolic

168 DNA will trigger expression of interferon- β (IFN β) [23, 25, 26], we monitored by RT-
169 qPCR the expression of *IFN- β* in hM ϕ and bM ϕ infected with Mtb or Mbv. We found
170 that Mtb induced higher *IFN- β* levels than Mbv in hM ϕ and bM ϕ , confirming that,
171 regardless of species, Mtb accessed the cytosol more efficiently than Mbv (Fig. 1G).

172

173 **Mbv specifically induces the formation of multinucleated cells (MNCs) in bM ϕ**

174 The similar features observed for both pathogens during infection of bM ϕ did not
175 reflect the attenuated phenotype of Mtb seen in cattle [27]. However, we noticed that
176 the fusogenic properties of bM ϕ were different after infection with either Mtb-RFP or
177 Mbv-RFP. As early as 24 h post-infection, bM ϕ tended to form multinucleated cells
178 (MNCs) especially when infected with Mbv (Fig. 2A). A quantitative analysis of MNCs
179 numbers confirmed that Mbv infection induced more MNCs when compared to Mtb-
180 infected or non-infected (NI) cells (Fig. 2B). Multi-nucleation of bM ϕ occurred only
181 with live bacteria since paraformaldehyde-killed-Mbv (PFA-Mbv) failed to induce
182 MNCs (Fig. S3A and S3B). This effect was restricted to bM ϕ , since MNCs were
183 almost absent in hM ϕ infected either with Mtb or Mbv (Fig. 2C). At the ultrastructural
184 level, we confirmed that the multiple nuclei were contained in a single cell (Fig. 2D
185 and Fig. S3C). MNCs were significantly larger than mononucleated bM ϕ and
186 contained a central vesicle-rich area surrounded by intact nuclei (Fig. 2D). Although
187 the number of nuclei was variable, their circular alignment within the periphery of the
188 cytosol was reminiscent to the morphology of the multinucleated giant cells (also
189 called Langhans' cells) present in granulomatous lesions (Fig. 2D and Fig. S3C).
190 Altogether, these data suggest that as early as 24 h post infection, Mbv interactions
191 with bM ϕ induces the formation of MNCs. Importantly, 54 and 58% of MNCs
192 observed by fluorescence microscopy were uninfected, suggesting a bystander
193 effect (Fig. 2E and 2F). To test this possibility, we stimulated naïve bM ϕ with filtered
194 supernatant from infected-bM ϕ . Only supernatants from Mbv-infected bM ϕ led to a
195 significant increase in MNCs formation when compared to supernatants from non-
196 infected or Mtb-infected bM ϕ (Fig. S3D). In agreement with a species-specific
197 phenotype, supernatants from hM ϕ infected with either Mtb or Mbv failed to induce
198 multi-nucleation in bM ϕ (Fig. S3D). These results demonstrate that factors present in
199 the extracellular medium contribute to multi-nucleation in bM ϕ . The factor(s)
200 responsible for cell multi-nucleation were proteinaceous since heat-inactivated
201 supernatant did not induce MNCs formation (Fig. S3D). Similar experiments in

202 infected hMφ showed that none of the conditions tested increased the number of
203 MNCs (Fig. S3E). These data show that proteins secreted by bMφ after infection with
204 Mbv induced MNCs formation.

205

206 **Secreted bacterial MPB70 contributes to MNCs formation in bMφ**

207 One of the main differences between Mbv and Mtb is the level of expression of
208 genes in the SigK regulon that encode secreted proteins such as MPB70. The gene
209 encoding MPB70 is highly expressed by Mbv, whereas its expression is low in Mtb *in*
210 *vitro* but shows intracellular induction [28]. Furthermore, MPB70 contains a FAS1-
211 domain, a structure that is known to play a role in cell adhesion [29, 30]. Hence, we
212 hypothesised that MPB70 induces multinucleation during Mbv macrophage
213 infections [11, 14, 31, 32]. To investigate whether MPB70 affects bMφ multi-
214 nucleation, we generated an Mbv strain with the gene encoding MPB70 deleted
215 (Mbv ΔMPB70) and the complemented strain (Mbv-Compl) (Fig. 3 and Fig. S4). As
216 expected, deletion of the MPB70 gene completely abolished the secretion of MPB70
217 in Mbv ΔMPB70 compared to Mbv wild type (Mbv WT) and Mbv-Compl (Fig. 3A).
218 Next, we infected bMφ with Mbv WT, Mbv ΔMPB70 or Mbv-Compl and analysed the
219 numbers of MNCs after 24 h of infection (Fig. 3B). We found that the Mbv ΔMPB70
220 mutant lost its ability to induce multinucleation. In agreement with MPB70 having a
221 role in the multinucleation process, infection with Mbv-Compl induced MNCs
222 formation at similar levels to that of Mbv WT infection (Fig. 3C). We concluded that
223 MNCs formation in bMφ is a specific response to MPB70 activity after Mbv infection.

224

225 **Extracellular vesicles from Mbv-infected bMφ promote MNCs formation.**

226 To identify the host factors involved in bMφ multi-nucleation, we analysed the
227 secretome of Mtb- versus Mbv-infected bMφ. We identified 1341 host proteins in the
228 cell-free supernatants and found that 192 proteins showed differential abundance
229 between mycobacteria-infected bMφ and uninfected control samples by mass
230 spectrometry-based proteomics (Fig. 4A). Notably, the majority of the identified
231 proteins were associated with extracellular vesicle (EVs) biogenesis and trafficking,
232 cellular focal adhesion or membrane trafficking (Fig. 4A). Furthermore, 27 proteins
233 were found to be differentially secreted between Mtb- and Mbv-infected bMφ (Fig. 4B
234 and 4C, Table S1). Given the marked presence of EVs-associated signature in the
235 proteomic analysis, we hypothesized that EVs released during infection might

236 contribute to the bMφ multi-nucleation. To test this, we isolated EVs and assessed
237 the quality and purity of the EVs-enriched fractions by electron microscopy (Fig. 4D
238 and 4E). Naïve bMφ were then stimulated for 24 h with the EVs-enriched fraction
239 from uninfected (NI), Mtb- or Mbv- infected bMφ, or with serum-free medium (SFM)
240 as a negative control. The percentage of MNCs significantly increased in bMφ
241 stimulated with the EVs fraction from Mbv-infected bMφ, whereas the EVs from Mtb-
242 infected bMφ did not induce MNCs formation (Fig. 4F and 4G). Altogether, our data
243 suggest that Mbv-induced EVs contribute to bMφ multi-nucleation by acting as cargo
244 for the transport and delivery, to targeted cells, of key components involved in the
245 multi-nucleation process.

246

247 **Granulomas from Mbv-infected cattle contain a higher number of MNCs than**
248 **Mtb-infected cattle.**

249 Inflammation occurring within granulomatous lesions leads to the formation of
250 specific multinucleated cells called Langhans' cells. Our *in vitro* data suggested that
251 cattle infected with Mbv or Mtb should show variation in Langhans' cells *in vivo*.
252 Post-mortem histopathological analysis was performed on H&E stained thoracic
253 lymph node (LN) sections from cattle infected with Mtb H37Rv for 10 weeks or with
254 Mbv AF2122/97 for 6 weeks. Limited numbers of granulomas were detected in LNs
255 from cows infected with Mtb (Fig. 5). In agreement with previously described studies
256 [27, 33], Mtb-induced granulomas were at an early stage of maturation (type I and II
257 as described by [34, 35]), with limited traces of necrosis or caseification (Fig. 5A and
258 5C). In contrast, LNs from cows infected with Mbv contained a large number of
259 granulomatous lesions at all stages of maturation (Fig. 5B and 5C).

260 In agreement with the *in vitro* data, we found that the number of MNCs present in
261 Mtb-induced granulomas was significantly lower than in Mbv-induced granulomas
262 (Fig. 5A, 5B and 5E). It is noteworthy that for a similar amount of Acid Fast-positive
263 Bacilli (AFB) detected in stage II granulomas from both Mtb- and Mbv-infected cows
264 (Fig. 5D), Mbv-infected granulomas contained around 2.5 times more MNCs
265 compared to Mtb-infected granulomas (Fig. 5E). Moreover, the number of MNCs
266 increased during granuloma maturation, suggesting that the expansion of the MNCs
267 population correlates with the severity of granulomatous inflammation.

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270

271 **Discussion**

272 In this work, by analysing infections of M ϕ from two host species with two host-
273 adapted mycobacteria, we shed new light on species-specific host-pathogen
274 interactions in tuberculosis. When comparing the M ϕ infections side-by-side,
275 unexpectedly, there were no striking species-specific differences in bacterial
276 replication that could explain host tropism in human and bovine TB. Mtb replicates
277 more efficiently than Mbv in hM ϕ , while both pathogens replicated similarly in bM ϕ .
278 These differences could be related to the differentiation protocols and more studies
279 are needed to identify the possible differentiation factors implicated. Nevertheless,
280 both Mtb and Mbv showed similar uptake in each M ϕ species, suggesting that
281 despite the interspecies differences, both Mtb and Mbv are similarly recognized by
282 macrophage receptors.

283 Mtb produces MNCs in human disease and animal models, but the underlying
284 mechanisms remain unclear. Here we show that both *in vitro* and *in vivo* the specific
285 interaction between Mbv and the bovine host led to the formation of MNCs, arguing
286 that both host and pathogen factors are required for MNC formation. Because the
287 production and secretion of the mycobacterial protein MPB70 is one of the main
288 phenotypic differences between Mbv and Mtb [14], this protein was an obvious
289 candidate. Moreover, MPB70 has homology with the cell adhesion domain Fasciclin
290 1 (Fas1), Osteoblast-specific factor II (OSFII) or β IgH3, suggesting that MPB70 could
291 mediate cell-to-cell contact or cellular adhesion by interacting with cellular receptors
292 such as stabilins, integrins, as well as extracellular matrix components [29, 30]. Cell-
293 adhesion is a crucial step in the fusion process, bringing M ϕ into close contact with
294 extracellular matrix components. It is tempting to speculate that MPB70 is implicated
295 in bM ϕ fusion by mediating cellular interactions and adhesion properties. The
296 differential expression of MPB70 between both pathogens may also partially explain
297 the inability of Mtb to induce MNCs in our *in vitro* model. On this latter point, further
298 studies are needed to explore the kinetics of MNC formation *in vitro* and if, or how,
299 Mtb can be modified to induce bM ϕ MNC formation. Although MPB70 expression is
300 low in Mtb, its expression may increase in stress conditions such as exposure to
301 antibiotics or depending on the M ϕ lineage in which the pathogen resides [36, 37].
302 The MPB70 homologous protein MPT70 is thus likely secreted by *M. tuberculosis*
303 and locally accumulates during human TB progression, contributing to the formation

304 of MNCs in human TB. The observed reduced levels of MNCs in granulomas from
305 cattle infected with *Mtb* as compared to *Mbv* further indicates that multinucleation
306 requires both host and pathogen factors.

307 Our results that bMφ multi-nucleation is driven by factors released into the
308 extracellular milieu after infection suggested a host factor was also involved. In this
309 context, the extracellular microenvironment plays an important role in Mφ fusion and
310 MNC-formation. The cell density, the nature of the extracellular matrix, and the local
311 concentration of growth factors, chemokines or cytokines are important factors for
312 cell differentiation, cell-to-cell contact and membrane fusion [38-40]. In agreement
313 with this notion, the *Mbv*-infected bMφ secretome analysis revealed a dominant
314 signature of proteins related to cell-adhesion, membrane trafficking, and extracellular
315 vesicles. Extracellular vesicles and exosomes play a crucial role in cell
316 communication, inflammation, and are implicated in multiple infectious diseases [41].
317 During *Mtb* infection, extracellular vesicles participate in the inflammation process
318 through the recruitment of Mφ to the site of infection, the modulation of immune
319 responses, antigen presentation, and/or transport of bacterial components [42-45].
320 Exosomes from murine J774 macrophages infected with *Mtb* contained several
321 antigenic bacterial proteins such as EsxA, EsxB, SapM, PknG as well as MPB32,
322 MPB53, MPB63 and MPB64 [42]. We speculate that EVs modulate cell
323 multinucleation by acting as cargo for the transport of host and bacterial factors that
324 will promote multi-nucleation. In our proteomics approach, we were not able to detect
325 *Mtb* proteins and complementary approaches with increased sensitivity are needed
326 for the identification of bacterial factors present in the supernatants. *In vivo*, when
327 released, these vesicles may then traffic towards the tissue to another site such as
328 the periphery of granulomas, interact with resident macrophages and promote the
329 formation of MNCs.

330 During TB inflammation, macrophage fusion occurs during granuloma progression
331 leading to MNCs or Langhans' cells. Generally, Langhans' cells are localised at the
332 peripheral epithelioid rim of the granuloma and can contain around 20 nuclei.
333 Langhans cells, associated with granulomatous lesions, are derived from pro-
334 inflammatory macrophages (CD68+, CD40+, DC-STAMP+), which fuse in response
335 to inflammatory stimuli such as macrophage-colony stimulating factor (M-CSF),
336 Tumour necrosis factor-α (TNF- α) or interferon-γ (IFN- γ) [46-49]. Although the role
337 of MNCs in the granuloma is still unclear, several studies suggest a role of these

338 cells in inflammation and bacterial control (reviewed in [46, 50]). MNCs can indeed
339 take up large targets for degradation [51] and when they mature and lose their ability
340 to uptake bacteria, the remaining NADH oxidase activity and antigen presentation
341 clear all pathogens already inside [52].

342 Mtb has previously been isolated from lesions found in naturally infected cattle [53-
343 56]. These latter cases show that, in certain circumstances, Mtb can cause disease
344 in cattle, an outcome that may depend on the genetic background of both the
345 infecting strain and host, as well as immune status. This underlines the need to
346 unravel the mechanistic basis for MNC formation in well controlled experimental
347 systems. In a head to head experimental cattle infections, we have previously shown
348 that two Mtb strains, the hallmark H37Rv and an Mtb isolated from a bull in Ethiopia
349 (BTB1558) are attenuated in cattle as compared to Mbv AF2122/97, with the latter
350 inducing greater inflammation and pathology [11, 27]. Here we found that, even
351 when the amounts of bacteria are comparable, Mbv induces a much higher number
352 of MNCs per granuloma than Mtb, including the early stage type I and type II
353 granulomas. This suggests that the intensity of the inflammatory response *in vivo*
354 influences not only granuloma maturation but also the formation of MNCs. Reduction
355 of inflammation by treatment with anti-inflammatory IL-10 has been shown to reduce
356 both granulomatous inflammation and MNCs formation [57]. Additionally,
357 assessment of cytokine expression of MNCs in cattle infected with Mbv showed a
358 correlation between the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines and the severity of
359 granulomatous lesions [58]. The higher presence of MNCs in Mbv thus correlates
360 with its virulent phenotype in cattle, suggesting a role for MNCs in inflammation,
361 granuloma maturation and severity of TB lesions.

362 Altogether, our data provide evidence that a combination of bacterial effectors and
363 species-specific responses shapes the singular interaction of the pathogen with its
364 host, in this instance triggering the formation of MNC, one of the cellular hallmarks of
365 granulomas.

366

367 **Methods**

368 **Reagents and antibodies**

369 Recombinant human Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF)
370 and bovine GM-CSF were provided by Miltenyi (#130-093-867) and Abcam
371 (#ab209168), respectively. Dapi used to stain cell nuclei was purchased from Sigma-

372 Aldrich (#D9542) and the Alexa Fluor-488 Phalloidin was from Invitrogen #A12379.
373 Detection of cell death was visualized using Live/Dead Green dye
374 (ImmunoChemistry #6342). Immunolabelling of LC3B and LAMP-1 was performed
375 using a rabbit anti-LC3B from Enzo Lifesciences (MBL-PM036) and a rabbit anti-
376 LAMP-1 from Abcam (Ab24170). Mouse antibody to MPB70 (#LAB-0007a2) and the
377 Mouse antibody to Ag85 (#ab36731) were purchased from Lionex GmbH and
378 Abcam, respectively. The secondary antibodies used in this study were: goat anti-
379 rabbit conjugated with Alexa Fluor 488 (#A11034), (ii) goat anti-mouse conjugated
380 with Alexa Fluor 488 (#A11029), both purchased from Life technologies and (iii) an
381 anti-mouse conjugated with HRP (#W402B) from Promega. For light or electron
382 microscopy, cells were fixed using Paraformaldehyde (PFA) from Electron
383 Microscopy Sciences (#15710) or Glutaraldehyde from Sigma-Aldrich (#G5882),
384 respectively.

385

386 **Mycobacterial strains**

387 In the study, we used the sequenced and annotated *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (Mtb)
388 and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 (Mbv) reference strains as models [9, 10, 17]. Fluorescent
389 Mtb and Mbv were engineered to constitutively express Red fluorescent proteins
390 (RFP) encoded by the plasmid pML2570 integrated into the bacterial genome
391 (Integrase: Giles, Resistance: Hygromycin). Mbv wild type (WT), Mbv *mpb70* knock-
392 out (Mbv Δ MPB70) and the Mbv Δ MPB70 complemented strains (Mbv-compl) were
393 used in this study. Mbv Δ MPB70 cloning and complementation are detailed in the
394 paragraph “Cloning and characterisation of *Mycobacterium bovis* 2122/97 *mpb70*
395 knock-out and complemented strains”. Mtb strains were grown in 7H9 Middlebrook
396 broth supplemented with 10% Albumin Dextrose Catalase (ADC), 0.05% Tween 80
397 and 0.5% glycerol. All Mbv strains were grown in 7H9 Middlebrook supplemented
398 with 10% ADC, 0.05% Tween 80 and 40 mM Sodium Pyruvate. When required,
399 selective antibiotics were added to the medium.

Strains	plasmids	Genetic feature	Selective antibiotic
H37Rv-RFP	pML2570	RFP	Hygromycin 50 μ g/ml
<i>M. bovis</i> AF2122/97-RFP	pML2570	RFP	Hygromycin 50 μ g/ml
<i>M. bovis</i> wild-type	None	Wild-type	None
<i>M. bovis</i> Δ MPB70	phAE159	<i>mpb70</i> deletion	Hygromycin 50 μ g/ml

<i>M. bovis</i> ΔMPB70/MPB70 (Mbv-Compl)	phAE159 pEW70c2	<i>mpb70</i> deletion pEW70c2- <i>mpb70</i> complementation	Hygromycin 50 µg/ml Kanamycin 25 µg/ml

400

401 **Cloning and characterisation of *Mycobacterium bovis* 2122/97 *mpb70* knock-
402 out and complemented strains**

403 *Cloning strategy*

404 A knockout mutant in the *mpb70* gene (*Mb2900*) of *M. bovis* 2122/97 was
405 constructed using the phAE159 shuttle phasmid. One kb regions flanking the
406 chromosomal *M. bovis* *mpb70* were cloned into phAE159 so as to flank a
407 hygromycin resistance marker to generate the allelic exchange substrate (Fig. S4A).
408 After amplification in *M. smegmatis* mc2155, recombinant phages were used to
409 infect *M. bovis* wild type and hygromycin resistant Mbv ΔMPB70 transductants were
410 selected. In the deletion mutant complementation was achieved by expression of the
411 wild type *mpb70* gene from the replicating plasmid pEW70c2 (Mbv
412 ΔMPB70::MBP70).

413 *Selection and characterisation by PCR*

414 For PCR analysis, the bacteria were grown in 7H9 media containing 50 µg/ml
415 hygromycin for Mbv ΔMPB70 cultures, and 50 µg/ml hygromycin and 25 µg/ml
416 kanamycin for Mbv-Compl cultures. DNA for PCR analysis was collected through
417 crude DNA extraction. PCRs were performed with the Phusion High-Fidelity DNA
418 polymerase from NEB, using the Phusion GC Buffer. The primers listed below were
419 used to ascertain the presence of *dipZ* and/or *mpb70* genes (Fig. S4B and S4C) List
420 of primers: *dipZ*-Forw: GAATTACCACGCCAAAGACG; *dipZ*-Rev:
421 TCATCCGTAGGTGAAGGAAAA; *dipZ-mpb70*-intergenic-Forw:
422 GCTCCGAAGAAATCATGTCG; *mpb70*-5'end-Rev: AGACAGGCCACCGCCAGAG;
423 *mpb70*-Rev: CTGCGACATTCCCTGCAC.

424 *Detection of secreted MPB70 by Western blot*

425 The bacteria were grown in Sauton's media with antibiotics added as appropriate
426 (described above). The supernatant of each strain was collected and concentrated
427 with Amicon Ultra-15 Centrifugal Filter Units. Protein concentrations were then
428 determined using a Pierce BCA Protein Assay kit and the supernatants were diluted
429 to get a normalised whole protein load per well for gel electrophoresis of 25 µg. After

430 transfer of the proteins to the membrane, the membrane was probed using a mouse
431 anti-MPB70 IgG, and an anti-mouse HRP-conjugated (Fig. S4D).

432

433

434

435 **Isolation of primary human and bovine monocytes and differentiation into**
436 **macrophages**

437 Human monocytes were obtained from leukocyte enriched blood fractions from
438 healthy adult donors provided by the British National Health Service (NHS) under
439 strict anonymity. Bovine blood was obtained from clinical healthy Holstein cows in
440 mid-lactation phase housed at Bolton Park's Farm of the Royal Veterinary College
441 (University of London). Blood was collected by jugular venepuncture into sterile glass
442 bottles containing 10% Acid Citrate Dextrose (ACD) as anticoagulant, as previously
443 described [59]. Prior to monocyte isolation, bovine whole blood was aliquoted into 50
444 mL centrifugation tubes and centrifuged for 15 minutes at 1200 xg to collect the buffy
445 coat. Both human leucocyte enriched fraction and bovine buffy coat were then
446 processed in the standard way but with the difference that PBS-EDTA was used as
447 the buffer for the isolation of human monocytes, while PBS was used for the
448 processing of bovine blood. Peripheral Blood Monocytes Cells (PBMCs) were
449 isolated by centrifugation onto a Ficoll gradient. PBMCs were then washed and
450 CD14-expressing monocytes were labelled with the anti-human CD14-antibody
451 conjugated with magnetic beads (Miltenyi #130-050-201) and isolated by direct
452 magnetic selection using the LS column (Miltenyi #130-042-401). Human and bovine
453 CD14-positive monocytes were finally incubated in RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco #
454 72400021) containing: GlutaMax, 25 mM Hepes, 10% Foetal bovine serum (FBS)
455 and 10 ng/mL of recombinant human GM-CSF or 20 ng/mL of recombinant bovine
456 GM-CSF to allow differentiation into M ϕ for 7 days at 37°C in an atmosphere
457 containing 5% CO₂.

458

459 **Cell culture**

460 After 7 days of differentiation, when M ϕ were ready for infection and during all the
461 infection process, GM-CSF was omitted from the culture medium. Once
462 differentiated, M ϕ were washed once with PBS and detached from the petri dish by
463 incubation for 20 min at 4°C in PBS-EDTA followed by gentle scrapping. Cells were

464 seeded depending on the type of experiment. For immunofluorescence, 1.8×10^5
465 cells/well were seeded into 24 well plates containing untreated glass coverslips
466 (diameter 10 mm, No:1.5). For stereology, electron microscopy, transfer supernatant
467 assays or RT-qPCR, cells were seeded into 6 well plates at a concentration of 7×10^5
468 cells/well. Alternatively, untreated glass bottom (No:1.5) dishes with grids from Matek
469 Corporation (#P35G-1.5-14-C-GRID) containing 2×10^5 cells/dish were used for light
470 and electron microscopy.

471

472 **Mycobacteria preparation and macrophage infection:**

473 Bacterial strains were cultured in a 50 mL centrifugal Falcon tube containing their
474 respective optimal media until the exponential phase was reached. One day before
475 infection, bacteria were diluted to reach an Optical Density (OD_{600nm}) of 0.4 and
476 cultured for an additional 24 h. Prior to infection, bacteria were pelleted by
477 centrifugation at 2,900 xg for 5 min and washed twice with PBS. Bacteria were
478 pelleted again before adding an equivalent number of sterile 2.5- to 3.5-mm glass
479 beads that matched the pellet size into the Falcon tube (usually 4–5 beads). The
480 Falcon tubes were then vigorously shaken for 1 min to break up bacterial clumps.
481 The bacteria were suspended in 7 ml of RPMI 1640 medium containing GlutaMax,
482 25 mM HEPES, 10% FBS (complete RPMI) and transferred to a 15 mL centrifugal
483 Falcon tube. Bacterial suspensions were then spun down at low speed (150 xg) for 3
484 min to allow the removal of the remaining bacterial clumps. The supernatant, cleared
485 of bacterial clumps, was transferred into a clean 15 mL Falcon tube and the OD_{600nm}
486 was measured to determine the concentration of the bacterial suspension, and
487 further diluted in complete RPMI to reach a final OD_{600nm} of 0.1 (based on growth
488 curves it was determined that an OD 0.1 the density of bacteria in the culture is $1 \times$
489 10^7 bacteria/ml; data not shown). Bacteria were finally added to the MΦs at an MOI
490 of 10 for hMΦ infection or an MOI of 1 for bMΦ infection and incubated at 37°C in an
491 atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ for 2h (bacterial uptake). Cells were then washed
492 twice with PBS, the medium was replaced with fresh complete RPMI and incubated
493 at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ until the samples were processed for
494 analysis.

495

496 **Supernatant stimulation assay**

497 Human or bovine M ϕ were seeded into 6 well or 24 well plates and infected as
498 described above. The supernatants were then collected, sterilized by double filtration
499 using 0.22 μ m PVDF filters, before being transferred onto naïve uninfected M ϕ .
500 Supernatant-stimulated M ϕ were then incubated for 24 h at 37°C in an atmosphere
501 containing 5% CO₂. For each experiment, infected M ϕ and supernatant-stimulated
502 M ϕ were from the same donor. Finally, M ϕ were fixed overnight with a solution of
503 PBS-PFA 4% before being stained for immunofluorescence.

504 **Extracellular vesicle (EVs) purification**

505 Two and a half million of bM ϕ were seeded into T25 cm² flasks and incubated in
506 complete RPMI, overnight at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. The
507 following day, cells were infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP at an MOI of 2. After 2
508 hours uptake, cells were washed 3 times with PBS to remove bacteria and residual
509 FBS. Cells were then fed with RPMI 1640 without FBS (5 mL per T25 cm² flask) and
510 incubated 24 hours at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. After 24 h
511 infection, the supernatant from two T25 cm² flasks (total volume of at least 10 ml)
512 was collected and processed for EVs purification using the Exo-spin purification Kit
513 from Cell guidance systems (#EX01). Briefly, the supernatants were cleared by
514 ultracentrifugation at 16,000 xg for 30 minutes. Ten mL of cleared supernatants were
515 then mixed with 5 mL of Exo-spin buffer and incubated overnight at 4°C. EVs were
516 then precipitated by centrifugation at 16,000 xg for 90 min. EVs pellets were then
517 suspended in PBS and purified using a size exclusion chromatography resin column.
518 A small fraction of EVs were fixed with PBS-Glutaraldehyde 1% and PFA 4%
519 solution and purity control was assessed by Electron microscopy. The rest of EVs-
520 enriched fractions were finally diluted in complete RPMI and used to stimulate naïve
521 bM ϕ . After 24 h of stimulation with EVs, cells were fixed with PBS-PFA 4% solution
522 and the number of MNCs was assessed by confocal light microscopy.

523

524 **Immunofluorescence and image acquisition**

525 *Immunofluorescence*

526 Cells were cultured onto glass coverslips. Prior to immunolabeling, cells were fixed
527 overnight at 4°C with a PBS-PFA 4% solution. Fixed cells were then incubated for 10
528 min at room temperature (RT) with a solution of PBS-NH₄Cl 50 mM to quench free
529 aldehyde groups, before being permeabilized for 20 min with PBS-Saponin 0.2%.
530 Cells were then blocked for 30 min with PBS-BSA 1%. For the immunofluorescence,

531 both primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in PBS-Saponin 0.02%-BSA
532 0.1% (dilution buffer). LC3B and LAMP-1 were labelled using a rabbit anti-LC3
533 (dilution 1/200) and a mouse anti-LAMP-1 (dilution 1/100). After 1 h incubation at RT,
534 cells were washed three times with PBS and incubated with the respective
535 secondary antibodies for one additional hour. Cells were washed 3 times prior to
536 nuclei staining with DAPI. When required, the actin cytoskeleton was labelled using
537 phalloidin conjugated with Alexa-Fluor 488 (dilution 1/800 into dilution buffer;
538 incubation 45 min at RT). For the detection of live versus dead cells, the cells were
539 stained with Green Live/Dead stain (500 nM for 10 min at RT) prior to PFA fixation.
540 The coverslips were finally mounted onto microscopy glass slides using Dako
541 fluorescence mounting medium (Dako, #S3023).

542 *Image acquisition*

543 Confocal images were acquired using a confocal inverted microscope (Zeiss
544 LSM710) or Zeiss LSM880 both equipped with a 40X oil Lens or Plan-Apochromat
545 63x/1.4 NA lens and excitation laser 405, 488, 561, 633 nm. For the quantification of
546 multinucleated cells, a field was randomly chosen and images were acquired in tile
547 scan mode (4x4) with 40X oil lens.

548

549 **Image analysis**

550 Image analysis was performed using free open-source FIJI software (NIH). Zeiss
551 LSM confocal images files (.czi) were opened using the BioFormats plug-in of FIJI.

552 *Cell number and intracellular bacterial growth*

553 Confocal images were first split into separate channels: Cell nuclei DAPI (blue), RFP
554 (red) corresponding to RFP-mycobacteria.

555 (a) To measure the number of cells, a threshold was applied to the DAPI images in
556 order to mask and calculate the number of nuclei. The presence of multinucleated
557 cells in the field was manually adjusted for each image. (b) The bacterial area was
558 calculated by applying the threshold function in the RFP-channel to mask the
559 fluorescent bacteria. “Analyse Particles” function of FIJI (size = 0.5–infinity, circularity
560 = 0–1) was applied to calculate the area of each bacteria. For each time point, the
561 intracellular growth was expressed in bacteria (RFP) area per cell.

562 *Intracellular markers association*

563 Confocal images were first split into separate channels: Cell nuclei DAPI (blue),
564 RFP-mycobacteria (red) and Green channel corresponding to the marker tested

565 (e.g., LC3B). The cell number and bacteria area were determined as described in (a)
566 and (b). Mask corresponding to all the bacteria was created and each bacteria object
567 was extended from 2 pixels using the function “Dilate” and converted into a “region of
568 interest”. Finally, the green channel corresponding to the cellular marker was
569 subjected to pixel intensity measurement within the bacteria region of interest.
570 Marker association was expressed in mean intensity of green pixels for each
571 bacteria object. For each marker, the fluorescence background was measured from
572 several fields and bacteria were considered positive when the mean intensity of the
573 marker > background + 1 STD. The percentage of association was calculated as
574 follows: number of positive bacteria x 100 / total number of bacteria. All values were
575 analysed and plotted using Excel and GraphPad Prism.

576

577 **Electron Microscopy**

578 *Extracellular vesicle negative staining*

579 Ten μ l of sample was incubated at RT on a 200 mesh formvar/carbon grid. Grids
580 were then washed 5 x 1 min in 200 mM HEPES (Sigma-Aldrich H0887) and
581 transferred to 20 μ l 1% Uranyl acetate, (UA) (Agar scientific AGR1260A) and
582 incubated for 1 min at RT. Excess 1% UA was removed and the grids were left to dry
583 before imaging. Images were acquired using a 120 kV Tecnai G2 Spirit BioTwin (FEI
584 company) with an Orius CCD camera (Gatan Inc.)

585 *Stereology*

586 Transmission electron microscopy sample preparation for stereology: Cells were
587 washed in PBS and then fixed in 2.5% GA in 200 mM HEPES pH7.4 for 30 min at
588 RT, followed by overnight fixation at 4°C. After several washes in 200 mM HEPES
589 buffer, samples were processed in a Pelco Biowave Pro (Ted Pella, USA) with the
590 use of microwave energy and vacuum. Briefly, samples were fixed and stained using
591 a reduced osmium, thiocarbohydrazide, osmium (ROTO)/en bloc lead aspartate
592 protocol. Samples for stereological analysis were dehydrated using an ethanol series
593 of 50, 75, 90 and 100% then lifted from the tissue culture plastic with propylene
594 oxide, washed 4 times in dry acetone and transferred to 1.5 ml microcentrifuge
595 tubes. Samples were infiltrated with a dilution series of 50, 75, 100 % of Ultra Bed
596 Low Viscosity Epoxy (EMS) resin to acetone mix and centrifuged at 600 xg between
597 changes. Finally, samples were cured for a minimum of 48 h at 60°C before trimming
598 and sectioning. Sectioning and imaging: ultrathin sections (~50nm) were cut with an

599 EM UC7 Ultramicrotome (Leica Microsystems) using an oscillating ultrasonic 35°
600 diamond Knife (DiaTOME) at a cutting speed of 0.6 mm/sec, a frequency set by
601 automatic mode, and a voltage of 6.0 volts. Images were acquired using a 120 kV
602 Tecnai G2 Spirit BioTwin (FEI company) with an Orius CCD camera (Gatan Inc.)
603 Stereological analysis of Mtb infected cells: At least 22 different infected cells per
604 group were imaged at a magnification of 3,900 by systematic and random sampling.
605 Cross points of the stereological test grid over bacteria were counted with regard to
606 the subcellular localization of bacteria, which was determined from images taken at a
607 minimum magnification of x16,000. The following criteria were employed for the
608 assessment of subcellular membrane involvement: (a) Single surrounding
609 membrane; bacteria were, at least partially, tightly lined by a phospholipid bilayer,
610 representing the phagosomal membrane (b) cytosolic; bacteria were surrounded by
611 ribosomes, representing the cytoplasm with no indication of the phagosomal
612 membrane; (c) Multiple surrounding membranes; bacteria were enveloped by double
613 or multiple membrane structures. Data are shown as the proportions of the total
614 counts per sample group.

615

616 **Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)**

617 hMφ and bMφ were seeded into 6 well plates (8×10^5 cells per well) and infected as
618 described earlier. Cells were washed three times with PBS before being lysed in
619 Trizol (1 mL per well). mRNAs were purified using Direct-zol RNA Miniprep kit from
620 Zymo Research (#R2052), following the manufacturer's recommendations and
621 reverse transcribed to cDNA with QuantiTect™ Reverse Transcription Kit (Qiagen).
622 Quantitative real-time RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) was performed using 11.25 ng cDNA per
623 well with 0.5 µl TaqMan™ Gene Expression Assay probe and 5 µl
624 TaqMan™ Universal PCR Master Mix in a 10-µl reaction volume on an Applied
625 Biosystems™ QuantStudio™ 7 Flex Real-Time PCR System. Each reaction was
626 performed in triplicate. Data was analysed using ExpressionSuite for QuantStudio™
627 (Applied Biosystems). Fold change was determined in relative quantification units
628 using GAPDH for normalization of RT-qPCR. TaqMan probes used were from
629 Thermo Scientific: human *IFN B1*-FAM (Hs01077958-s1), human *GAPDH*-FAM
630 (Hs02786621-g1), bovine *IFN B1*-FAM (Bt03279050-g1) and bovine *GAPDH*-FAM
631 (Bt03210913-g1).

632

633 **Secretome analysis of mycobacterial-infected bovine macrophages**

634 *Sample preparation*

635 BMφ were seeded into 6 well plates and infected with Mtb or Mbv as described
636 above. Uninfected cells were used as control. After 2 h of bacterial uptake, cells
637 were washed three times with PBS and incubated in RPMI 1640 supplemented with
638 glutamine but without FBS and without Phenol Red for 22 h. The supernatants (2
639 mL) were then collected and sterilized by double filtration using 0.22 µm PVDF
640 filters. Supernatants were then placed at -80°C prior to being analysed.

641 *Filter-aided sample preparation and trypsin digestion of protein samples*

642 Samples were processed using a modified version of the filter-aided sample
643 preparation (FASP) [60]. Briefly, 800 µl of cell-free supernatant was denatured in 4 M
644 urea in 50 mM triethylammonium bicarbonate buffer (TEAB) and loaded onto a 0.5
645 ml Amicon ultra 30 kDa cut-off spin filter (Millipore). Samples were centrifuged at
646 12,000 xg for 15 min. Filters were washed thrice/twice by addition of 400 µl UB buffer
647 (8 M urea in 50 mM TEAB) followed by centrifugation (12,000 xg, 15 min). This
648 process was repeated twice for a total of three UB washes. Samples were reduced
649 with 5 mM tris (2-carboxyethyl) phosphine at room temperature for 1 h and
650 subsequently alkylated with 10 mM iodoacetamide for 1 h in the dark. Filters were
651 then washed consecutively thrice/twice by addition of 400 µl UB buffer and twice by
652 addition of 400 µl of TEAB followed by centrifugation (12,000 xg, 15 min). This
653 process was repeated twice for a total of three UB washes. Four hundred µl of TEAB
654 50 mM was added to each filter, and the samples were centrifuged (12,000 xg, 15
655 min). This was repeated twice for a total of three TEAB washes.

656 Proteins were on-filter for 24 h at 37 °C using 200 ng trypsin in a humidified
657 chamber. The filter unit was placed in a new collection tube after digestion, and the
658 peptides were obtained in the flow-through by centrifugation (12,000 xg, 15 min).
659 Peptides were eluted once more from the filter unit by the addition of 250 µl 50mM
660 TEAB and further centrifugation (12,000 xg, 15 min). Trypsin digestion was stopped
661 with the addition of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) at a final concentration of 1%, and
662 peptides were desalted using Macro C18 Spin Columns (Harvard Apparatus).
663 Peptides were dried before storage at -20 °C.

664 *Mass spectrometry*

665 Peptides were dissolved in 2% acetonitrile containing 0.1% TFA, and each sample
666 was independently analysed on an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos Tribrid mass

667 spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific), connected to an UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano
668 System (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Peptides were injected on an Acclaim PepMap
669 100 C18 LC trap column (100 μ m ID \times 20 mm, 3 μ m, 100 \AA) followed by separation on
670 an EASY-Spray nanoLC C18 column (75 ID μ m \times 500 mm, 2 μ m, 100 \AA) at a flow rate
671 of 300 nL/min. Solvent A was 0.1% formic acid, 3% dimethyl sulfoxide in water, and
672 solvent B was 0.1% formic acid, 3% dimethyl sulfoxide, 20% water in acetonitrile.
673 The gradient used for analysis was as follows: solvent B was maintained at 3% for 5
674 min, followed by an increase from 3 to 35% B in 99 min, 35-90% B in 0.5 min,
675 maintained at 90% B for 5 min, followed by a decrease to 3% in 5 min and
676 equilibration at 3% for 10 min. The Orbitrap Fusion Lumos was operated in positive
677 ion data-dependent mode for Orbitrap-MS and Ion trap-MS2 data acquisition. Data
678 were acquired using the Xcalibur software package. The precursor ion scan (full
679 scan) was performed in the Orbitrap in the range of 400-1600 m/z with a nominal
680 resolution of 120,000 at 200 m/z. Ion filtering for Ion trap-MS2 data acquisition was
681 performed using the quadrupole with a transmission window of 1.6 m/z. The most
682 intense ions above an intensity threshold of 5×10^3 were selected for high-energy
683 collisional dissociation (HCD). An HCD normalized collision energy of 30% was
684 applied to the most intense ions, and fragment ions were analysed in the Ion trap
685 using Rapid scan rate. The number of Ion trap-MS2 events between full scans was
686 determined on-the-fly to maintain a 3 sec fixed duty cycle. Dynamic exclusion of ions
687 within a ± 10 ppm m/z window was implemented using a 35 sec exclusion duration.
688 An electrospray voltage of 2.0 kV and capillary temperature of 275°C, with no sheath
689 and auxiliary gas flow, was used. The automatic gain control (AGC) settings were 4×10^5 ions
690 with a maximum ion accumulation time of 50 ms for Orbitrap-MS, and 1×10^4 ions
691 with a maximum ion accumulation time of 45 ms for Ion trap-MS2 scans,
692 respectively. Ions with <2+ or undetermined charge state were excluded from MS2
693 selection.

694 *Mass spectrometry data analysis*

695 All tandem mass spectra were analysed using MaxQuant 1.6.1.6 [61], and searched
696 against the *Bos taurus* proteome database (containing 23,965 entries) downloaded
697 from Uniprot on 01 December 2018. Peak list generation was performed within
698 MaxQuant and searches were performed using default parameters and the built-in
699 Andromeda search engine [62]. The enzyme specificity was set to consider fully
700 tryptic peptides, and two missed cleavages were allowed. Oxidation of methionine,

701 N-terminal acetylation and deamidation of asparagine and glutamine was allowed as
702 variable modifications. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine was allowed as fixed
703 modification. A protein and peptide false discovery rate (FDR) of less than 1% was
704 employed in MaxQuant. Proteins were considered confidently identified when they
705 contained at least one unique tryptic peptide. Proteins that contained similar peptides
706 and that could not be differentiated based on tandem mass spectrometry analysis
707 alone were grouped to satisfy the principles of parsimony. Reverse hits,
708 contaminants and protein groups only identified by site were removed before
709 downstream analysis. A label-free quantification strategy was employed using the
710 MaxLFQ algorithm [63] within MaxQuant. Assigned LFQ values of protein groups
711 containing ≥ 2 unique peptides were used for statistical analysis in Perseus 1.6.2.3
712 [64]. Data were \log_2 transformed and filtered to contain at least two valid LFQ values
713 in one group for comparison. Missing values were imputed using random numbers
714 drawn from a normal distribution that simulates signals from low abundance proteins.
715 An analysis of variance (ANOVA) as performed, and p-values were corrected for
716 multiple hypothesis testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg FDR method. A Tukey's
717 post-hoc test was performed to determine pairwise comparisons among means of
718 the different groups. A total of 192 differentially regulated proteins were identified
719 using an ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test. Among those hits, 27 were differentially
720 regulated between H37Rv and *M. bovis* groups.

721

722 *Data availability*

723 Mass spectrometric raw data has been uploaded to the ProteomExchang. Project
724 accession: PXD017949 (Username: reviewer65235@ebi.ac.uk Password:
725 5yBTVK8y, Table S2).

726

727 **Cattle infection and histopathological analysis**

728 *Cattle infection*

729 Lymph node tissue samples used in this study were collected from animals infected
730 in the context of a prior study [27]. Cattle had been infected with *Mtb* H37Rv for 10
731 weeks or *Mbv* AF2122/97 for 6 weeks at the 'Platform for experimentation on
732 infectious diseases' biocontainment level 3 suites of the Institut National de la
733 Recherche Agronomique (INRA) of Tours, France, as previously described [27, 65].
734 Briefly, eight female Limousin x Simmental cattle of approximately six months of

735 age were divided into two groups of four. Animals were sedated with xylazine
736 (Rompun® 2%, Bayer, France) according to the manufacturer's instructions (0.2
737 mL/100 kg, IV route) prior to the insertion of an endoscope through the nasal cavity
738 into the trachea for delivery of the inoculum through a 1.8 mm internal diameter
739 cannula (Veterinary Endoscopy Services, U.K.) above the bronchial opening to the
740 cardiac lobe and the main bifurcation between left and right lobes. For each strain,
741 an infective dose of 1×10^4 CFU was delivered endo-bronchially in 2 ml of 7H9
742 medium. Two ml of PBS were used to rinse any remains of the inoculum into the
743 trachea and then cannula and endoscope were withdrawn. The canal through which
744 the cannula was inserted into the endoscope was rinsed with 20 ml of PBS and the
745 outside of the endoscope was wiped with sterilizing wipes (Medichem International,
746 U.K.) prior to infection of the next animal. Inoculation with the two different
747 pathogens occurred at different days; the endoscope was sterilised as
748 recommended by the manufacturer between the two the infections. Retrospective
749 counting of the inocula revealed infection with 1.66×10^4 CFU Mtb H37Rv and
750 1.12×10^4 CFU Mbv AF2122/97.

751

752 *Histopathological analysis*

753 Animals inoculated with Mtb H37Rv or Mbv AF2122/97 were sacrificed 10 weeks or
754 6 weeks post-infection, respectively and subjected to post-mortem analysis. In this
755 study, tissues evaluated for gross pathology included the following, lymph nodes: left
756 and right parotid, lateral retropharyngeal, medial retropharyngeal, submandibular,
757 caudal, cranial mediastinal and cranial tracheobronchial and pulmonary lymph
758 nodes. The presence of gross pathological TB-like lesions was scored as previously
759 described [27, 66]. Tissue samples were preserved in 10% phosphate-buffered
760 formalin for 7 days before being embedded in paraffin wax. Four-micron sections
761 were cut and stained with haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) or Ziehl-Neelsen staining
762 for examination by light microscopy (at x100 magnification) to assess the number,
763 developmental stage and distribution of each granuloma (types I-IV) [34, 35], the
764 number of Langhans' cells as well as assessing the quantity and location of acid fast
765 bacilli for each granuloma within the tissue section.

766

767 **Statistical analysis**

768 Results were plotted as mean \pm SEM or SD and statistical analyses were performed
769 in Microsoft Excel 2010 (Microsoft) and GraphPad Prism 8 (GraphPad Software
770 Inc.). 2-tailed Student's t-tests were used to compare 2 groups and 1-way ANOVA
771 with Tukey's multiple comparisons was used to compare 3 or more groups. A p-
772 value is considered significant when < 0.05 and indicate as follow: * $p<0.05$; **
773 $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$; ns: not significant.

774

775 **Ethical Statement**

776 Holstein Friesian cows housed at the RVC Boltons Park Farm (Hertfordshire, UK)
777 were used to obtain blood for PBMC isolation and subsequent M ϕ generation.
778 Animals were held at the RVC under certificate of designation. Animals were
779 dewormed regularly, checked regularly for the presence of bovine viral diarrhoea
780 virus and bovine herpes virus, which both can infect bM ϕ , leading to
781 immunosuppression. Furthermore, all animals tested negative for bovine TB. All
782 study cows received a physical examination, including assessment of the respiratory,
783 cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, and reproductive systems, as well
784 as skin, udder, and teats. The physical examination included BCS, pulse rate,
785 respiration rate, and a rectal temperature conducted by a licensed veterinarian or
786 trained designee approximately 7 d before their anticipated calving date. To avoid
787 influences on cellular function through various stages in the reproductive cycle,
788 animals used were age- and lactation-matched (2nd or 3rd lactation, respectively),
789 and were in mid-lactation. All procedures were carried under Home Office Project
790 licence (PPL7009059), after approval by the RVC's Ethics and Welfare Committee.
791 Furthermore, handling of cows and blood sampling were conducted in accordance
792 with EU legislation (Directive 2010/63/UE, related to the protection of animals used
793 for scientific goals).

794

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802

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993

994

995 **Figure Legends**

996 **Fig. 1: Mtb and Mbv differentially replicate and localise within human or bovine**
997 **macrophages. (A)** Confocal images of monocyte-derived GM-CSF differentiated-
998 human or bovine Mφ (hMφ or bMφ) infected with RFP-expressing *M. tuberculosis*
999 H37Rv (Mtb-RFP) or *M. bovis* (Mbv-RFP) for 2, 24 and 72 h. Brightfield was used to

1000 visualize the cells. Cell nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue) and bacteria-RFP are
1001 visualized in red. Scale bar: 20 μ m. **(B and C)** Quantification of intracellular growth
1002 expressed in bacteria area (μ m²) per infected cell of Mtb-RFP and Mbv-RFP within
1003 hM ϕ **(B)** and bM ϕ **(C)**. **(D and E)** Electron microscopy images of hM ϕ **(D)** and bM ϕ
1004 **(E)** infected with Mtb or Mbv for 24 h. Asterisks mark the intracellular bacteria.
1005 Images were selected to illustrate free cytosolic bacteria (left-hand panels),
1006 phagosomal bacteria (middle panels) and bacteria surrounded by multiple
1007 membranes (right-hand panels). Scale bar, 200 nm. **(F)** Quantification by stereology
1008 of the proportion of bacteria contained in each compartment. Black represents the
1009 proportion of cytosolic bacteria; green, the proportion of single membrane bound
1010 bacteria, and grey, the bacteria surrounded by multiple membranes. **(G)**
1011 Quantification by RT-qPCR of the relative fold change mRNA expression of
1012 interferon- β (*IFN- β*) in hM ϕ **(left graph)** and bM ϕ **(right graph)** infected with Mtb or
1013 Mbv for 24 h. Data are normalized to Mtb. (Housekeeping gene used: *GAPDH*).
1014

1015 **Fig. 2: Mbv specifically induces the formation of MNCs in bM ϕ . (A)**
1016 Fluorescence confocal images of bM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP for 24 h.
1017 Non-infected cells (NI) were used as a control. The bacteria are visualized in red, the
1018 cell actin cytoskeleton is in white (phalloidin-488) and cell nuclei (DAPI) in cyan.
1019 Arrows highlight the cells containing 2 or more nuclei, corresponding to
1020 multinucleated cells (MNCs). Scale bar, 50 μ m. **(B)** Quantification of the percentage
1021 of MNCs in bM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP for 24 hours. Non-infected cells
1022 (NI) were used as a control. Each dot represents one donor tested. **(C)**
1023 Quantification of the percentage of MNCs in hM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP
1024 for 24 h. Non-infected cells (NI) were used as a control. **(D)** Electron microscopy
1025 image of an uninfected bystander-MNC containing four distinct nuclei. The images
1026 displayed on the right side correspond to the magnification of each region (a-c)
1027 delimited by black squares in the main image. Scale bar are D: 40 μ m; D^a: 2 μ m; D^b:
1028 2 μ m; D^c: 1 μ m. **(E)** Maximum projection (14 Z-stacks with an interval of 0.8 μ m) from
1029 confocal images of bovine MNCs without intracellular Mbv-RFP (Byst-MNC) or
1030 containing intracellular Mbv-RFP (Mbv-MNC). In the latter image, the presence of
1031 intracellular bacteria is highlighted in the region delimited by a white square,
1032 magnified in the right corner. Bacteria are visualized in red, the cells with brightfield
1033 image, and nuclei in cyan. A dashed line delimits the edge of MNCs. **(F)**

1034 Quantification of the percentage of bystander and Mbv-MNCs in the Mbv-infected
1035 bMφ population for two independent donors. Each bar chart represents the total
1036 MNCs population (100%); in black is percentage of Mbv-infected MNCs, and in grey
1037 the percentage of uninfected bystander-MNCs.

1038

1039 **Fig. 3: Secreted bacterial MPB70 contributes to MNCs formation in bMφ.**

1040 (A) Culture filtrate from Mbv wild-type (WT), Mbv ΔMPB70, Mbv ΔMPB70/MPB70
1041 (Mbv-Compl.) were assessed for immuno-labelling of MPB70 (23 kDa). Immuno-
1042 labelling of Ag85 (38 kDa) was used as gel loading control (B) Fluorescence
1043 confocal images of bMφ infected Mbv WT, Mbv ΔMPB70, Mbv-Compl. for 24 h.
1044 Uninfected cells had been used as a negative control. Cell nuclei are stained with
1045 DAPI (cyan) and actin is visualized in grey. Yellow arrows point the multi-nucleated
1046 cells. Scale bar, 50 µm (C) Quantification of MNCs from each experiment displayed
1047 in B. Graph represents the quantification of MNCs for each condition tested where
1048 each dot represents one bovine donor. Data shown are representative of four
1049 biological repeats.

1050

1051 **Fig. 4: Extracellular vesicles produced by Mbv-infected bMφ induce cell multi-
1052 nucleation.**

1053 (A) A total of 192 proteins were determined to be differentially regulated using an
1054 ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test in the secretome of infected bMφ and sorted
1055 according to Gene Ontology Cellular Component (GOCC). (B and C) List of 27
1056 proteins differentially expressed in the secretome of Mtb-infected or Mbv-infected
1057 bMφ clustered into 3 groups: extracellular vesicles, membrane trafficking and cell
1058 adhesion or others. The log₂ fold change Mtb or Mbv, both normalised to uninfected
1059 (NI), samples are displayed in (B) and the log₂ fold change Mbv/Mtb is displayed in
1060 (C). Proteomics data were obtained from 3 independent experiments carried out with
1061 3 different bovine donors. (D) EVs purification procedure summarized in 3 steps. (E)
1062 Electron microscopy micrographs of EVs-enriched fraction. The white arrows show
1063 the extracellular vesicles. Scale bar: 0.1 µm. (F) Fluorescence confocal images of
1064 naïve bMφ stimulated for 24 hours with EVs-enriched fraction from uninfected (NI),
1065 Mtb-infected or Mbv-infected bMφ. Cell nuclei are stained with DAPI (cyan) and actin
1066 is visualized in grey. Yellow arrows point the MNCs. Scale bar: 50 µm (G)
1067 Quantification of MNCs after bMφ stimulation with EVs-enriched fractions. The graph

1068 represents the quantification of MNCs for each condition tested where each dot
1069 represents one bovine donor. Data are representative of 4 independent experiments.
1070

1071 **Fig. 5: Granulomas from Mbv-infected cows contain a higher number of MNCs**
1072 **than Mtb-infected cows. (A, left image)** Histological Haematoxylin and Eosin
1073 (H&E) staining of granulomatous lesions in thoracic lymph nodes of cows challenged
1074 for 10 weeks with Mtb H37Rv strains. Scale bar, 200 μ m. **(A, right image)** higher
1075 magnification of multinucleated giant cells (white square). Scale bar, 50 μ m. **(B, left**
1076 **image)** H&E staining of granulomatous lesions in thoracic lymph nodes of cows
1077 challenged for 6 weeks with Mbv AF2122/97. Scale bar, 200 μ m. **(B, right image)**
1078 higher magnification of multinucleated giant cells (white square). Scale bar, 50 μ m.
1079 **(A and B)** Granulomas are classified from early stage of maturation (type I and II) to
1080 late granulomas (type III and IV) **(C)** Quantification of the number of granulomas
1081 counted for each condition. **(D)** Quantification of bacterial load in each granuloma
1082 based on acid fast staining of the tissue section and expressed as the mean Acid
1083 Fast Bacilli (AFB) \pm SEM. **(E)** Quantification of the number of MNCs per granuloma \pm
1084 SEM.
1085

1086 **Supplementary Figures**

1087 **Fig. S1: Physiological and morphological differences between GM-CSF-derived**
1088 **human and bovine macrophages.**

1089 **(A)** hM ϕ were infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP at an MOI of 10, whereas bM ϕ
1090 were infected at an MOI of 1. Intracellular bacteria were quantified based on
1091 intracellular RFP signal and expressed in bacteria area per infected cells. Each dot
1092 represents the average of 10 fields from 2 independent experiments (also with
1093 different donors). **(B)** Evolution of the number of hM ϕ during the course of infection
1094 (2 to 120 hours post-infection). **(C)** Evolution of the number of bM ϕ during the course
1095 of infection (2 to 72 hours post-infection). **(D)** Left panel: Confocal images of hM ϕ
1096 infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP after 5 days of infection. Brightfield was used to
1097 visualize the cells. Bacteria are visualized in red, cell nuclei were stained with DAPI
1098 (blue) and nuclei from dead cells in green. Scale bar: 20 μ m. Right panel:
1099 Quantification of the level of cytotoxicity based on Green Live/Dead stain; uninfected.
1100 Non-infected cells (NI) were used as a control, n represents the number of cells
1101 analysed. **(E)** Left panel: Confocal images of hM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-

1102 RFP for 2 hours or 8 days. Actin (in green) was used to visualize the cells. Cell
1103 nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue) and bacteria-RFP are visualized in red. Scale
1104 bar: 20 μ m. Right panel: quantification of intracellular growth expressed in bacteria
1105 area (μ m 2) per hM ϕ . Data are representative of 2 independent experiments. (F)
1106 Representative electron microscopy images of hM ϕ and bM ϕ . Scale bar: 5 μ m (G)
1107 Representative confocal images of hM ϕ or bM ϕ fluorescently stained for the late
1108 endosomal marker Lamp-1. The regions in the white squares are highlighted on the
1109 right-hand side of the micrograph.

1110

1111 **Fig. S2: Differential intracellular trafficking between Mtb and Mbv.**

1112 hM ϕ or bM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP or Mbv-RFP (A, B, E and F) or Mtb-GFP or Mbv-
1113 GFP (B and C) for 24 h. Samples were fixed and fluorescently stained for the late
1114 endosomal marker Lamp-1 (A and B), for the pH sensitive dye Lysotracker DN99
1115 Red (LTR) (C and D) and for the autophagic marker LC3B (E and F). For each
1116 fluorescent confocal image, the cell nuclei were stained with DAPI. Positive
1117 association of bacteria with the different markers, delimited by a white square, are
1118 magnified and displayed at the top right corner and the right-hand side of each
1119 image. Scale bars represent 10 μ m. Graphs represent the quantification of the
1120 marker association with Mtb or Mbv \pm SEM from three independent experiments.
1121 Each dot represents the mean relative fluorescent intensity of the cellular marker
1122 with a single or distinct bacteria group. The population within each dotted red box
1123 corresponds to the percentage (\pm STD) of bacteria positive for the marker tested.

1124

1125 **Fig. S3: Mbv induces multinucleation of bM ϕ .** (A) Fluorescence confocal images
1126 of bM ϕ infected with Mtb-RFP, Mbv-RFP or PFA-killed-Mbv-RFP for 24 h. Non-
1127 infected cells (NI) were used as a control. The bacteria are visualized in red, the
1128 cells-actin cytoskeleton is in white (phalloidin-488) and cell nuclei (DAPI) in cyan.
1129 The white square represents a region of interest magnified below each image.
1130 Arrows highlight the MNCs containing 2 or more nuclei. Scale bar, 40 μ m. (B)
1131 Quantification of the percentage of MNCs in bM ϕ for each condition. Data are
1132 representative of two independent biological repeats, each carried out in duplicate.
1133 (C) Electron microscopy image of Mbv-induced bovine MNCs containing three or six
1134 distinct nuclei (black arrows). Scale bar, 10 μ m. (D) Supernatant transfer assay from,
1135 bM ϕ infected with Mtb, Mbv, PFA-killed Mbv, or hM ϕ infected with Mtb or Mbv for 24

1136 h, onto naïve bMφ. Graph represents the number of MNC formed in cultures of naïve
1137 bMφ following the addition of 400 µl of supernatant derived from cultures of bMφ
1138 infected with Mbv or Mtb (**E**) Supernatant transfer assay from hMφ infected with Mtb,
1139 Mbv, PFA-killed Mbv, or bMφ infected with Mtb or Mbv for 24 h, onto naïve hMφ. The
1140 graph represents the quantification of MNCs for each condition tested. (**D** and **E**)
1141 Data are representative of 2 independent experiments, each carried out in
1142 duplicates.

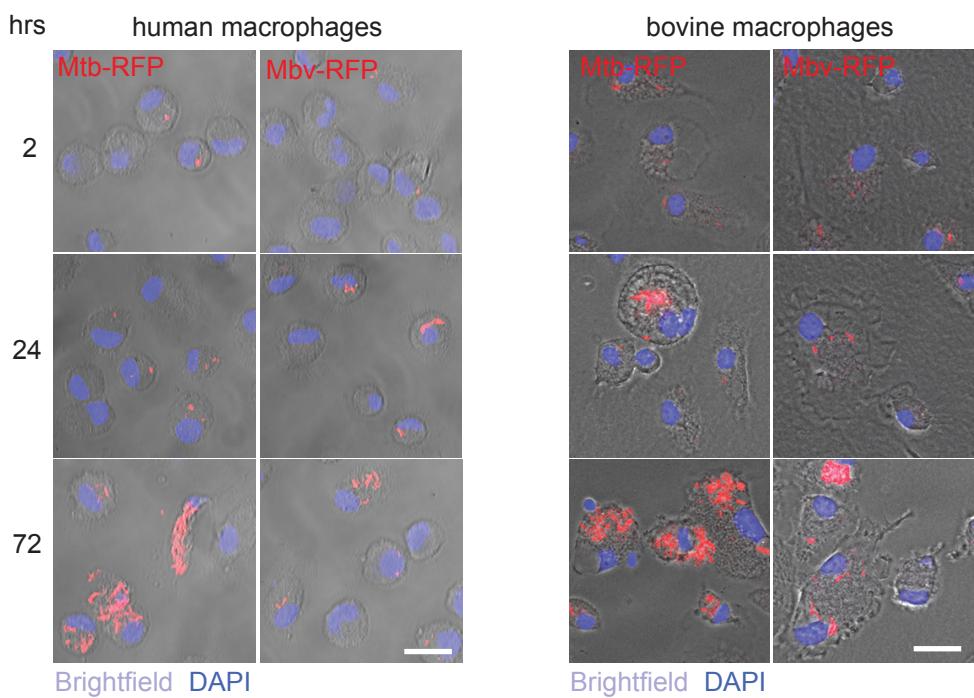
1143
1144 **Fig. S4: Cloning *M. bovis* MPB70 mutants and secretome analysis:** (**A**) Genetic
1145 arrangement *M. bovis* wild-type (WT) and *M. bovis* *mpb70* knock-out (Δ *mpb70*)
1146 strains. (**B**) Genetic organisation of *dipZ-mpb70* genes and primer locations (**C**)
1147 Characterisation of *M. bovis* mutants by PCR. Deletion of *mpb70* and maintenance
1148 of *dipZ* in *M. bovis* Δ *mpb70* and complemented compared to WT. *dipZ* is amplified in
1149 all the strains. *mpb70* (244 bp) was amplified in the WT strain but not in Δ *mpb70* and
1150 complemented strains. The PCR with a forward primer in *dipZ* and reverse primer in
1151 *mpb70* gave the expected amplification of a 370 bp product for WT, but was absent
1152 in Δ *mpb70*. Its absence from the complemented Δ *mpb70*/*mpb70* (Compl) strain,
1153 confirms that the location of *mpb70* gene, carried by the replicative plasmid
1154 pEW70c2, is distal to the wild type chromosomal location. (**D**) Western immunoblot
1155 for detection of MPB70 in the supernatant of the Mbv WT, Δ *mpb70* and
1156 complemented (Mbv-Compl) strains. Each sample was analysed in duplicate. A 23
1157 kDa band corresponding to MPB70 was detected for the WT and complemented
1158 strain but not for Δ *mpb70* strain. (**E**) Principal component analysis of secretome
1159 samples. Distinct clusters of sample groups are observed that indicate high
1160 reproducibility between replicates and major protein expression differences between
1161 the samples analysed. (**F**) Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of secretome
1162 samples. Distinct clusters of sample groups indicate high reproducibility of replicates
1163 and distinct protein expression differences between the samples. Two major clusters
1164 are observed with uninfected controls clustering separately from mycobacterial-
1165 infected samples. Protein groups with lower abundance (i.e. lower LFQ intensity) are
1166 in purple and protein groups with higher abundance are in orange.

1167
1168 **Table S1:** Proteins secreted by bMφ during infection with Mtb or Mbv.
1169

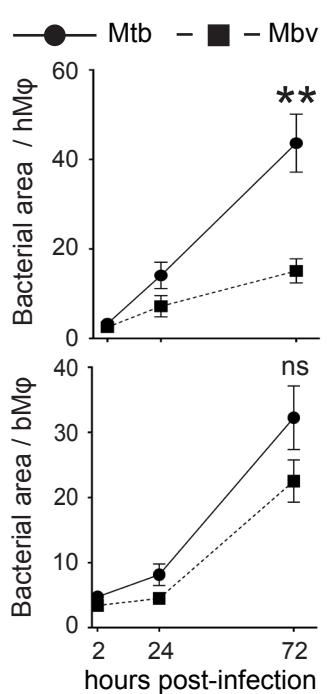
1170 **Table S2:** Mass spectrometric raw data of the secretome of non-infected (NI), Mtb-
1171 or Mbv-infected bMφ.

Figure 1

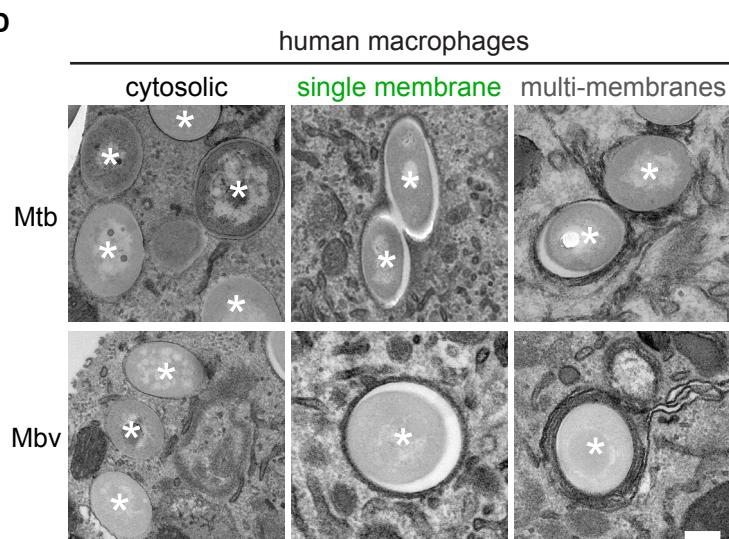
A



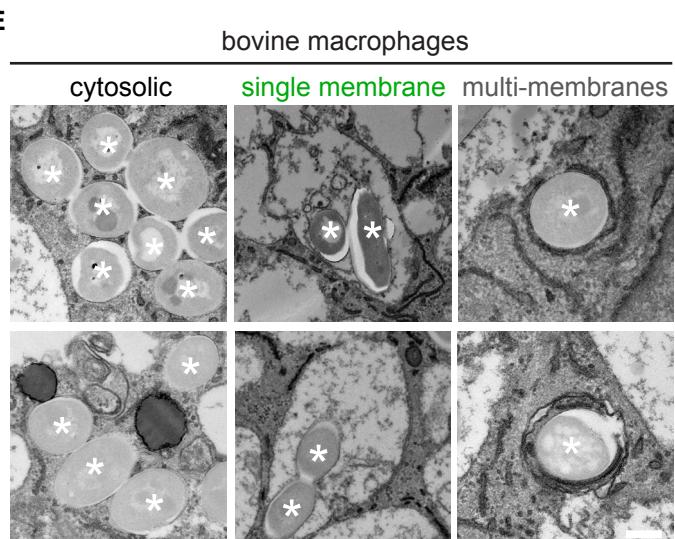
B



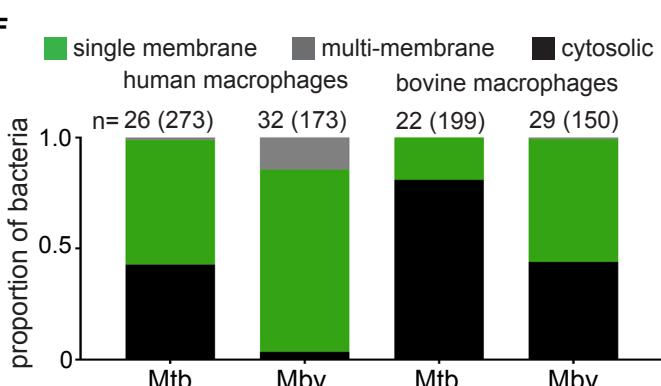
D



E



F



G

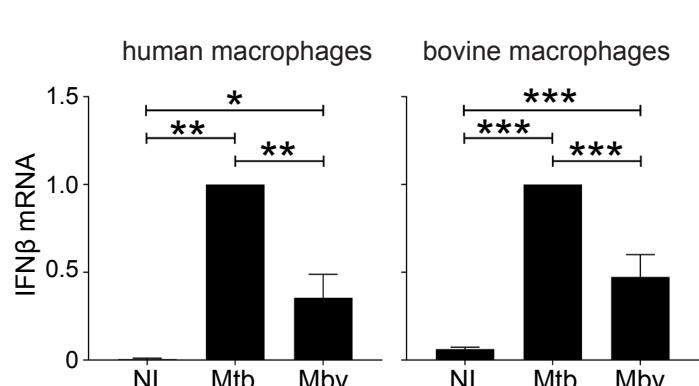


Figure 2

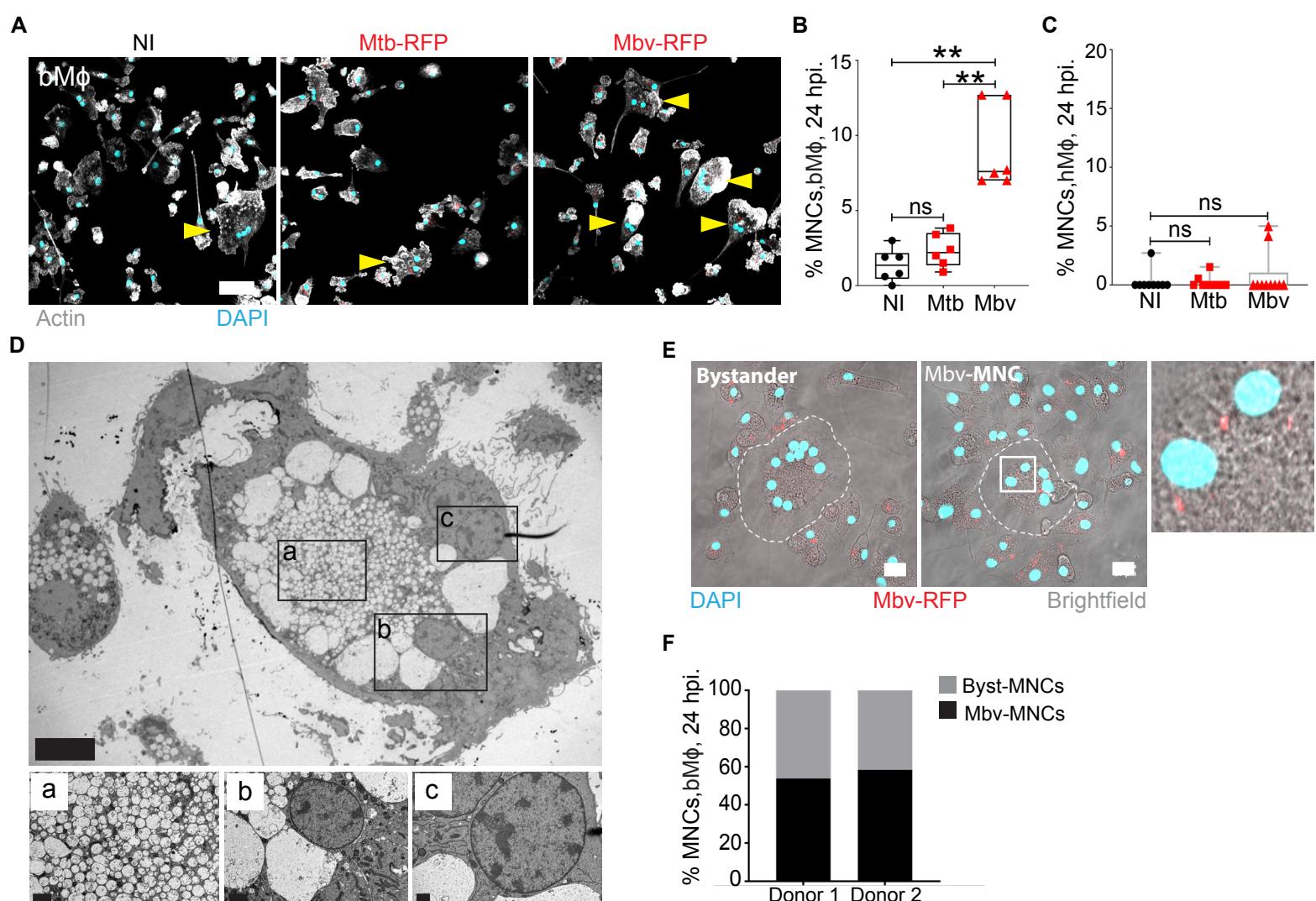


Figure 3

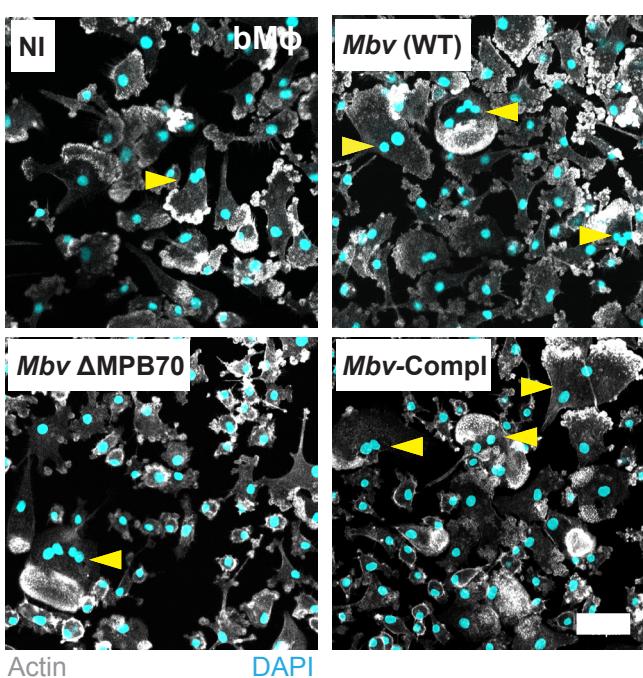
A

Mbv (WT)
Mbv Δ MPB70
Mbv-Compl

Ag85 - 35 kDa

MPB70 - 25 kDa

B



C

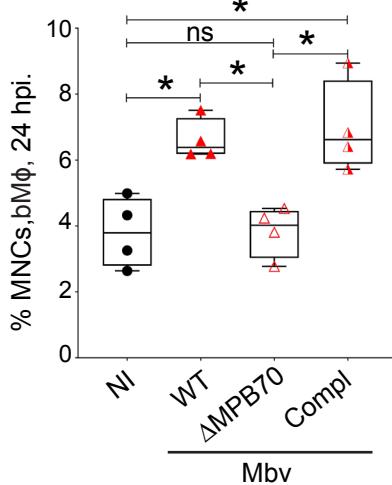


Figure 4

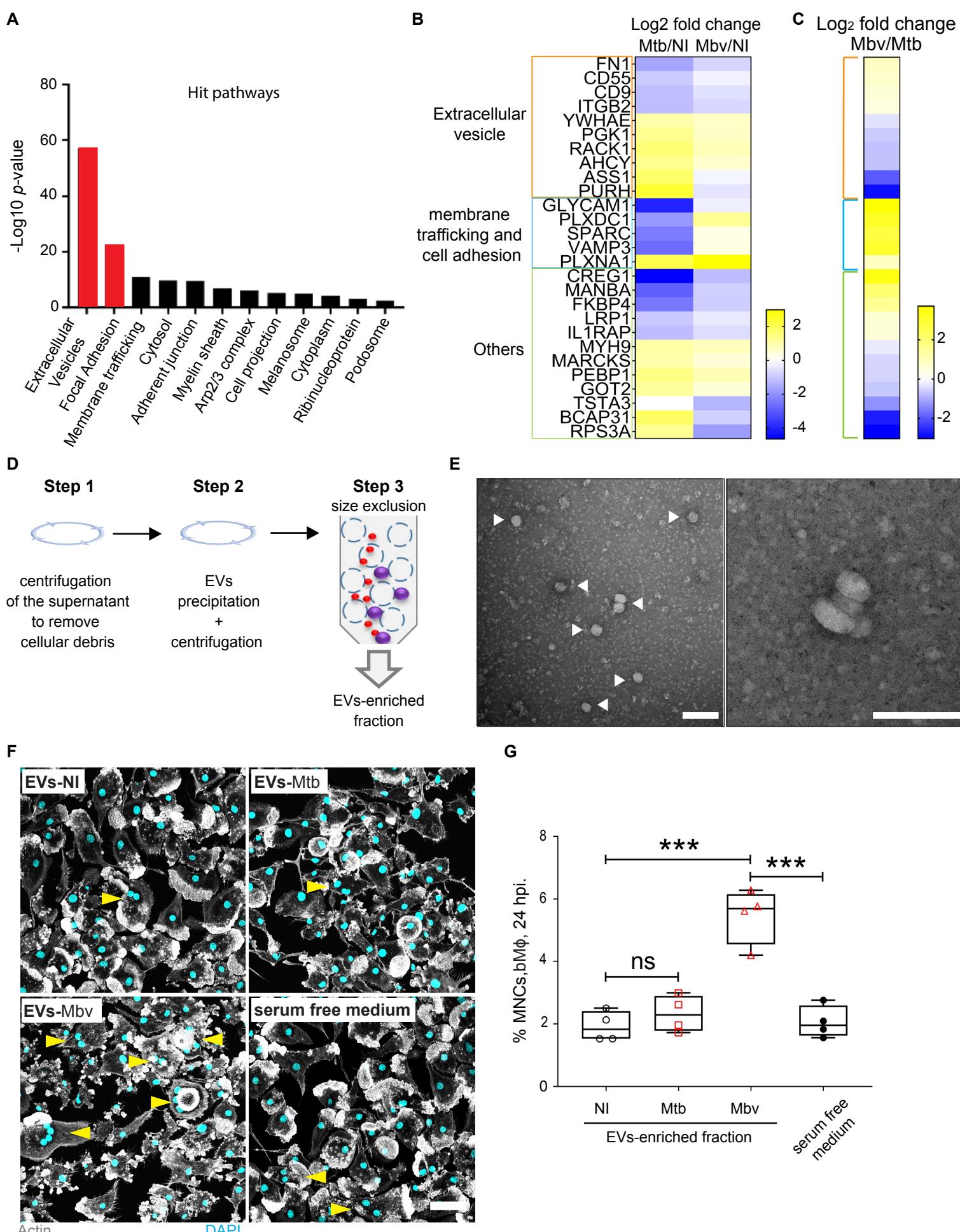


Figure 5

