

1    **Serpine1 negatively regulates Th1 cell responses in experimental autoimmune  
2    encephalomyelitis.**

3    (*Running title: Serpine1 negatively regulates Th1 cell responses in EAE*)

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28

29 **Abstract**

30 Th1 cells are critical in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE). Serpine1 has been  
31 posited as an inhibitor of IFN $\gamma$  from T cells though its role in autoimmunity remains unclear.  
32 Here, we show that Serpine1 knockout (KO) mice develop EAE of enhanced severity relative to  
33 wild-type (WT) controls. Serpine1 overexpression represses Th1 cell cytokine production and  
34 pathogenicity, while Serpine1-KO:2D2 Th1 cells transfer EAE of increased severity in  
35 comparison to WT 2D2 Th1 cells. Notably, polarized Serpine1-KO Th1 cells display delayed  
36 expression of the Th1-specific inhibitory receptor, Tim-3. Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg Th1 cells,  
37 which transgenically over-express Tim-3, showed increased expression of IFN $\gamma$  and reduced  
38 expression of the checkpoint molecules Lag-3 and PD-1 relative to WT Tim-3-Tg counterparts.  
39 Further, Serpine1 deficiency restored the EAE phenotype of Tim-3-Tg mice that normally  
40 develop mild disease. Together, we identify Serpine1 as a negative regulator of Th1 cells.

41

42 **Key points**

43 • Serpine1 inhibits EAE in a T cell-dependent manner.  
44 • Serpine1 is upregulated in Th1 cells and inhibits their pathogenicity.  
45 • Serpine1 promotes expression and function of Th1-specific inhibitory receptor Tim-3.

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50 **Introduction**

51       Effector CD4<sup>+</sup> Th1 cells are potent initiators and propagators of autoimmune diseases  
52   such as in the T cell-driven EAE<sup>1</sup> model of MS<sup>2</sup> (1). Th1 cells express a lineage-specific  
53   inhibitory receptor, Tim-3<sup>3</sup>, that resolves inflammatory responses when triggered at sites of  
54   inflammation (2-4). The Tim-3 pathway is crucial to repressing EAE pathology (2, 5, 6).  
55   Understanding the processes regulating Tim-3 expression and function might permit us to  
56   develop strategies to curb Th1-mediated inflammation in self-tissue.

57       Serpine1<sup>4</sup>, or PAI-1<sup>5</sup>, represses the conversion of the plasminogen proenzyme into mature  
58   plasmin and was previously suggested to regulate IFN $\gamma$ -driven T cell responses (7, 8). Here, we  
59   show that Serpine1 restrains EAE pathogenicity via its inhibitory effects on Th1 cells, and that  
60   Serpine1 is required for optimal expression of Tim-3 by Th1 cells.

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63

64 **Materials and Methods**

65

66 *Mice*

67 Tim-3-Tg (5) are described. B6<sup>6</sup> WT<sup>7</sup> (stock #000664), Serpine1-KO<sup>8</sup> (B6.129S2-

68 *Serpine1*<sup>tm1Mlg</sup>/J; #002507), 2D2-Tg (C57BL/6-Tg (Tcra2D2,Tcrb2D2)1KuchJ; #006912) and

69 *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> (B6.129S7-*Rag1*<sup>tm1Mmom</sup>/J; #002216) mice were obtained from Jackson Labs.

70 Experimental and control animals were co-housed at the animal facilities of CRCHU de Québec-  
71 Université Laval or Brigham & Women's Hospital. All procedures were authorized by the  
72 Animal Care Committee of Université Laval or the Institutional Animal Care and Use  
73 Committee of Harvard University.

74

75 *Helper cell differentiation*

76 CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were enriched from B6 spleens using anti-CD4 Microbeads (Miltenyi), purified as  
77 CD4+CD62L<sup>hi</sup> using a FACSaria (BD) high-speed cell sorter and cultured in supplemented T  
78 cell media as described (3). They were differentiated (9) for 2 days with plate bound anti-CD3  
79 and anti-CD28 (2  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> each; BioXcell) into Th1 cells – 10 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> rmIL-12 (R&D  
80 Biosystems) plus anti-IL-4 (10  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>, BioXcell), or Th17 – rhTGF $\beta$  (3 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, Miltenyi) +  
81 rmIL-6 (20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, Miltenyi) + anti-IFN $\gamma$  (10  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>, BioXcell). Cells were then transferred  
82 to uncoated tissue culture plates and cultured for an additional 3 days, with rmIL-2 (10 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>,  
83 Miltenyi) added to Th1, and rmIL-23 (20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, R&D Biosystems) added to Th17. For  
84 multiple rounds of polarization, cells were collected at d5 and then restimulated for a subsequent  
85 5-day period as above. Tiplaxtinin (25  $\mu$ M, Tocris) or equivalent volume of DMSO were  
86 maintained for 5 days of culture where indicated. Serpine1 cDNA was cloned into pMIG<sup>9</sup> vector

87 and RV<sup>10</sup> gene transduction of Th1 or Th17 cells was conducted using our described spin-  
88 infection protocol (10).

89

90 *EAE*

91 Active immunization was induced by s.c. injection of MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub><sup>11</sup> (CHU de Québec) in  
92 incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Difco) supplemented with 5 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> *Mycobacterium*  
93 *tuberculosis* extract (Fisher). A dose of 25 µg MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> per mouse was used to compare WT to  
94 Serpine1-KO mice, while 100 µg per mouse was used in EAE experiments involving Tim-3-Tg  
95 mice. In Figure 1D, passive EAE was induced by first immunizing Serpine1-WT 2D2 and  
96 Serpine1-KO 2D2 mice with MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub>. Nine days later, splenocytes were collected and  
97 stimulated *ex vivo* for 48 hours with MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> (20 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>), rmIL-12 and rmIL-23. Next,  
98 20x10<sup>6</sup> splenocytes were injected i.p. into unimmunized B6 recipients. Adoptive transfer of WT  
99 2D2, Serpine1-KO:2D2 or RV-transduced 2D2 Th1 cells entailed i.v. injection (2x10<sup>6</sup>) into  
100 *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> recipients at d5 of culture. In all EAE experiments, mice received 200 ng pertussis toxin  
101 (List Biological Labs) i.p. at d0 and d2. Mice were assessed for clinical symptoms daily as  
102 previously described (9).

103

104 *Flow cytometry*

105 Cell surface and intracellular flow cytometry were conducted as previously described (10). The  
106 following Abs and dyes were used: *CD4*, clone RM4-5, ThermoFisher (TF) cats #45-0042-82,  
107 48-0042-82; *CD62L*, MEL-14, TF #47-0621-82, *Tim-3*, RMT3-23, Biolegend #119706; *PD-1*,  
108 J43, TF #25-9985-82; *Lag-3*, eBioC9B7W, TF #12-2231-82; *IFNγ*, XMG1.2, TF # 48-7311-82;  
109 *TNFα*, MP6-XT22, TF #11-7321-82, 12-7321-41, 17-7321-82; *IL-2*, JES6-5H4, BD Biosciences

110 #560547; IL-17, TC11-18H10.1, Biolegend #506922; Fixable Viability Dye, TF #65-0865-14; 7-  
111 aminoactinomycin D, TF #A1310. Data were collected using an LSRII flow cytometer (BD  
112 Biosciences) and were analyzed with FlowJo (BD). Gates were set on fluorescence minus one  
113 controls and the following global strategy was used: *i*) singlets were selected based on FSC-H vs  
114 FSC-A; *ii*) live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells based on CD4<sup>+</sup> Viability Dye<sup>neg</sup> events, or on CD4<sup>+</sup>7-  
115 aminoactinomycin D<sup>neg</sup> events. RV-transduced CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were further gated on GFP  
116 positivity as indicated in Figure legends. In Figures 4CD, live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were gated as  
117 CD4<sup>+</sup>Tim-3<sup>pos</sup> or CD4<sup>+</sup>Tim-3<sup>neg</sup>.

118

119 *Ex vivo assessment of T cell function*

120 Splenocyte cultures from EAE mice were stimulated, or not, with 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> for 48  
121 hours. For proliferation studies, 1.25 µCi [<sup>3</sup>H]-thymidine (Perkin-Elmer) was added to each  
122 culture well for the last 16 hours. Cytokine supernatant ELISA were conducted using the  
123 following capture/detection sets: *IFN* $\gamma$ , clones RA-6A2/XMG1.2; *IL*-2, JES6-1412/JES6-5H4;  
124 *IL*-17, TC11-18H10.1/TC11-8H4. Serpine1 protein was measured using Serpin E1/PAI-1  
125 DuoSet ELISA (R&D Biosystems).

126

127 *Statistics*

128 Two-tailed parametric tests were conducted using Prism (GraphPad). Comparisons of 2 groups  
129 were made by *t*-test while comparisons of >2 groups were made by ANOVA followed by post-  
130 hoc test. In EAE studies, linear regression (6, 10) or area under curve (10) analyses were  
131 conducted on mice with symptoms.

132



134 **Results and Discussion**

135

136 *Serpine1 inhibits the severity of EAE.*

137       Upon immunization with MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub>, Serpine1-KO mice developed EAE of significantly  
138 greater severity than WT controls (Figure 1A). When the data were sex-disaggregated, Serpine1-  
139 KO females showed a significantly worsened disease burden as compared to WT females, while  
140 Serpine1-KO males showed a trend towards exacerbated disease relative to WT males  
141 (Supplementary Figure 1). Notably, antigen-specific proliferation responses to MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> were  
142 enhanced in peripheral Serpine1-KO CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells prior to clinical onset (Figure 1B), as was  
143 secretion of IFN $\gamma$  and IL-2, but not IL-17 (Figure 1C).

144       Serpine1 regulates CNS fibrinolysis (11) and thus heightened EAE severity in Serpine1-  
145 KO mice might be due to its absence in a non-T cell compartment. We thus crossed Serpine1-  
146 KO mice to the 2D2-Tg strain, which bear a MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> -specific TCR (12), and immunized WT  
147 2D2 and Serpine1-KO:2D2 mice. Prior to disease onset, we isolated splenocytes and  
148 restimulated them with Ag plus IL-12 and IL-23. Serpine1-KO:2D2 Ag-restimulated blasts  
149 induced EAE of significantly greater severity relative to WT 2D2 blasts upon adoptive transfer  
150 (Figure 1D).

151       Previous EAE studies that directly targeted Serpine1 *in vivo* revealed conflicting results  
152 possibly due to opposing effects on T cells and CNS repair (13, 14). Notably, in the  
153 chronic/relapsing Biozzi model of EAE, Serpine1-KO mice developed EAE of delayed onset and  
154 milder severity, due to superior CNS fibrinolytic capacity compared to controls (11); it is  
155 possible that the fibrogenic, pathogenic, properties of Serpine1 outweigh its anti-inflammatory

156 function in this model. Here, we show that Serpine1 represses antigen-specific T cell-driven  
157 CNS autoimmunity in a T cell-intrinsic manner.

158

159 *Serpine1 suppresses Th1 cell function in vitro and in vivo*

160 We next found that Serpine1 secretion was sharply upregulated in both Th1 (Figure 2A)  
161 and Th17 (Figure 2B) cells upon a second round of *in vitro* differentiation. Serpine1-deficient T  
162 cells can produce increased levels of IFN $\gamma$  relative *in vivo* (7, 8); however, the functional role of  
163 Serpine1 in differentiated *bona fide* Th1 and Th17 cells has never been directly assessed. Upon  
164 RV OE<sup>12</sup> of Serpine1 in Th1 cells, we observed a downregulation in expression of IFN $\gamma$  and a  
165 trend towards reduced TNF $\alpha$  relative to control transduced cells. By contrast, overexpression of  
166 Serpine1 in Th17 cells did not impact expression of either IL-17 or TNF $\alpha$  (Figure 2C).

167 To determine whether enforced expression of Serpine1 altered Th1 cell pathogenicity, we  
168 transduced 2D2 Th1 cells with Serpine1-OE or control RV and adoptively transferred these cells  
169 to *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice (6). Interestingly, Serpine1-OE 2D2 Th1 cells induced disease of lessened  
170 severity compared to control cells (Figure 2D), characterized by a reduced frequency of  
171 inflammatory IFN $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>IL-2<sup>+</sup> T cells *in vivo* (Figure 2E).

172 We next treated Th1 cells with tiplaxtinin, a small molecule that inhibits the  
173 antiproteolytic activity of Serpine1 towards the plasminogen activators urokinase and tissue  
174 plasminogen activator (15, 16). Tiplaxtinin enhanced IFN $\gamma$  and IL-2 production from Th1 cells  
175 (Figure 3A), suggesting that the Serpine1 may downregulate Th1 responses by repressing the  
176 activation of mature plasmin. We then generated Th1 cells from WT 2D2 and Serpine1-KO:2D2  
177 mice and found that the latter induced EAE of significantly greater severity upon adoptive  
178 transfer (Figure 3B).

179                   Increased IFN $\gamma$  was previously observed from Serpine1-KO CD4 $^{+}$  and CD8 $^{+}$  T cells upon  
180 LPS or staphylococcal enterotoxin B treatment *in vivo* (7). Further, Serpine1-KO mice are  
181 resistant to nasal allergy in a Th2-mediated OVA sensitization model, with IFN $\gamma$  production  
182 upregulated by Serpine1-KO splenocytes upon Ag recall (8). Here, we show that while Serpine1  
183 is expressed by both Th1 and Th17 cells, it impacts Th1 cells specifically by downregulating  
184 their inflammatory cytokine production and autoimmune potential.

185

186                   *Serpine1 promotes Tim-3 expression and inhibits Tim-3 $^{+}$  Th1 cell inflammatory responses.*

187                   As Serpine1 inhibits Th1-driven inflammation, we next asked whether it could augment  
188 the expression of inhibitory Tim-3. Repeatedly polarized Serpine1-KO Th1 cells expressed lower  
189 Tim-3, and with delayed kinetics, relative to S1-WT controls (Figure 4A). Loss of Serpine1  
190 signaling did not increase expression of IFN $\gamma$ ; however, the frequency of IFN $\gamma^{+}$ Tim-3 $^{+}$  Th1 cells  
191 was strikingly lower in its absence (Figure 4B).

192                   Tim-3-Tg mice ectopically overexpress Tim-3 cDNA in a T cell-restricted manner,  
193 without the need for multiple rounds of polarization under Th1 conditions (17). Reasoning that  
194 this might help us uncover Serpine1-dependent differences in IFN $\gamma$  expression, we crossed  
195 Serpine1-KO mice to the Tim-3-Tg strain and generated Th1 cells from these and Tim-3-Tg  
196 control mice. Tim-3 $^{\text{pos}}$  Th1 cells derived from Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg mice were strikingly more  
197 positive for IFN $\gamma$  than Tim-3-Tg counterparts; notably, no differences were observed with Tim-  
198 3 $^{\text{neg}}$  Th1 cells between the strains (Figure 4C). This indicated that Serpine1 represses IFN $\gamma$   
199 expression in a Tim-3-dependent manner. Interestingly, there was a concomitant reduction in the  
200 expression of the T cell negative regulatory receptors PD-1 and Lag-3 in Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg  
201 Th1 cells when compared to Tim-3-Tg controls (Figure 4D).

202                    Tim-3-Tg mice develop EAE of attenuated severity (5). To examine whether loss of  
203 Serpine1 expression could reverse this phenotype, we actively immunized WT, Tim-3-Tg and  
204 Serpine1:KO Tim-3-Tg mice. While Tim-3-Tg mice developed disease of only mild severity as  
205 expected, Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg mice displayed EAE that was of comparable severity to that  
206 seen in WT animals (Fig 4E). Our data thus demonstrate that Serpine1 is required for Tim-3-  
207 mediated repression of T cell inflammation and pathogenicity in EAE.

208                    Tim-3 marks exhausted T cells in chronic viral infections and cancers (18-20) and is  
209 functionally tractable, as concomitant blockade of Tim-3 and PD-1 causes tumor regression  
210 greater degree than that with anti-PD-1 alone (20). Further, depletion of Bat3, an intracellular  
211 repressor of Tim-3 signaling, causes Th1 cells to adopt an exhausted-like phenotype *in vivo* (6,  
212 21). While Serpine1-mediated upregulation of Tim-3 may be desirable in the context of  
213 autoimmunity, it remains to be seen what role, if any, Serpine1 plays in T cell exhaustion.

214                    Altogether, our data identify a novel Th1 cell-intrinsic regulatory mechanism. Serpine1  
215 represses Th1 cell pathogenicity by inhibiting their production of inflammatory cytokines and by  
216 restraining them from adopting a highly differentiated Tim-3<sup>+</sup> phenotype. Strategies to augment  
217 Serpine1 expression and function in Th1 cells could present an attractive therapeutic option in  
218 autoimmune disease.

219

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223

224 **Author Contributions**<sup>13</sup>

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226 **Data availability statement<sup>14</sup>**

227 **Conflicts of interest<sup>15</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis

<sup>2</sup> Multiple sclerosis

<sup>3</sup> T cell immunoglobulin and mucin domain-containing-3

<sup>4</sup> Serine protease inhibitor clade E1

<sup>5</sup> plasminogen activation inhibitor 1

<sup>6</sup> C57BL6/J

<sup>7</sup> Serpine1-WT

<sup>8</sup> Serpine1-KO

<sup>9</sup> pMSCV-IRES-GFP

<sup>10</sup> retroviral

<sup>11</sup> Myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein, amino acids 35-55

<sup>12</sup> overexpression

<sup>13</sup> I.A. conducted experiments and managed the project. R.T., J.B., A-P.R., P.M.I.A.D and C.Z. conducted experiments. V.K.K. co-supervised the project. M.R. conducted experiments, supervised the project and wrote the manuscript.

<sup>14</sup> The datasets generated for this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

<sup>15</sup> V.K.K. has an ownership stake and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Tizona Therapeutics. Further, he is a co-founder of, and has an ownership stake in, Celsius Therapeutics. In addition, he is an inventor on patents related to Th17 cell function. His interests are reviewed and managed by Brigham & Women's Hospital and Partners Healthcare in accordance with their conflict of interest policies.

314

315 **Figure Legends**

316

317 **Figure 1. Serpine1 inhibits the severity of EAE. A.** *Left*, Representative EAE curve of  
318 MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub>-immunized WT (n=9) and Serpine1-KO (n=7; abbreviated S1-KO) female mice.  
319 *Middle*, linear regression curves of the representative disease courses. The dashed lines indicate  
320 the 95% confidence intervals for each curve. *Right*, area-under-curve (AUC) comparison of mice  
321 pooled from 3 experiments. Filled circles, female mice (n=14, WT; n=12, Serpine1-KO); open  
322 circles, male mice (n=10, WT, n=10, Serpine1-KO). \*\*, p<0.01; two way-ANOVA analysis of  
323 genotype as a variable. Incidence of EAE over all experiments was 24/25 WT, 22/24 Serpine1-  
324 KO. **B.** MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub>-immunized female WT and Serpine1-KO mice (n=3 each) were sacrificed 10  
325 days post-immunization, and lymph node cells were stimulated, or not, with 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> MOG<sub>[35-  
326 55]</sub>. Proliferation was assessed at 48 hours. cpm, counts per minute. \*\*, p<0.01, *t*-test. **C.**  
327 Splenocytes from immunized female WT and Serpine1-KO mice (n=3 each) were restimulated,  
328 or not, with 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> for 48 (IL-2) or 72 (IFN $\gamma$ , IL-17) hours, and secretion of the  
329 indicated cytokines was measured by ELISA. \*, p<0.05; \*\*, p<0.01, *t*-test. **D.** Splenocytes from  
330 female 2D2 and Serpine1-KO:2D2 mice were restimulated with MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> in the presence of  
331 IL-12 and IL-23, prior to adoptive transfer to WT mice (n=5 each condition) that were monitored  
332 for signs of EAE. Right graph, linear regression analysis with 95% confidence intervals. \*\*\*\*,  
333 p<0.0001.

334

335 **Figure 2. Serpine1 is expressed in Th1 cells and suppresses Th1-driven EAE. A, B.** Naïve  
336 CD4<sup>+</sup>CD62L<sup>hi</sup> T cells were isolated from female B6 mouse spleen and were differentiated under  
337 Th1 or Th17 conditions for 2 rounds of polarization. Secretion of Serpine1 protein was measured

338 by ELISA in supernatant from Th1 (**A**) or Th17 (**B**) by ELISA. \*, p<0.05; \*\*\*, p<0.001, one  
339 way ANOVA. Cultures derived from 4 independent mice. **C.** Female B6 Th1 or Th17 cells were  
340 transduced with control or Serpine1-OE RV. Cells were analyzed for production of the indicated  
341 cytokines after 5 days. Gated on GFP-positive live events. Quantitation represents paired *t*-test  
342 analysis of 3 independent cultures each. \*, p<0.05. **D.** Female 2D2 Th1 cells were transduced  
343 with control- (n=5) or Serpine1-OE (n=4) RV. After 5 days of stimulation, cells were adoptively  
344 transferred to *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> recipients who were monitored for signs of EAE. *Bottom*, linear regression  
345 curves and 95% confidence intervals, for the disease courses. **E.** At disease endpoint (d35),  
346 splenic CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells from mice in (**D**) were assessed for production of IFN $\gamma$  and IL-2 by flow  
347 cytometry. Gated on live CD4<sup>+</sup> events. \*\*, p<0.01, *t*-test.

348

349 **Figure 3. Loss of Serpine1 function or expression exacerbates Th1 responses.** **A.** Female B6  
350 Th1 cells were treated with DMSO (control) or 25  $\mu$ M tiplaxtinin for 5 days, at which point IFN $\gamma$   
351 and IL-2 were measured by flow cytometry. \*, p<0.05, *t*-test; 3 independent observations. **B.**  
352 Female 2D2 and Serpine1-KO:2D2 CD4<sup>+</sup> Th1 cells were transferred i.v. to *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> recipients  
353 (2x10<sup>6</sup> cells/mouse). n=4, 2D2; n=5, Serpine1-KO:2D2. Mice were subsequently assessed for  
354 signs of EAE. Left graph, linear regression curves of the disease courses.

355

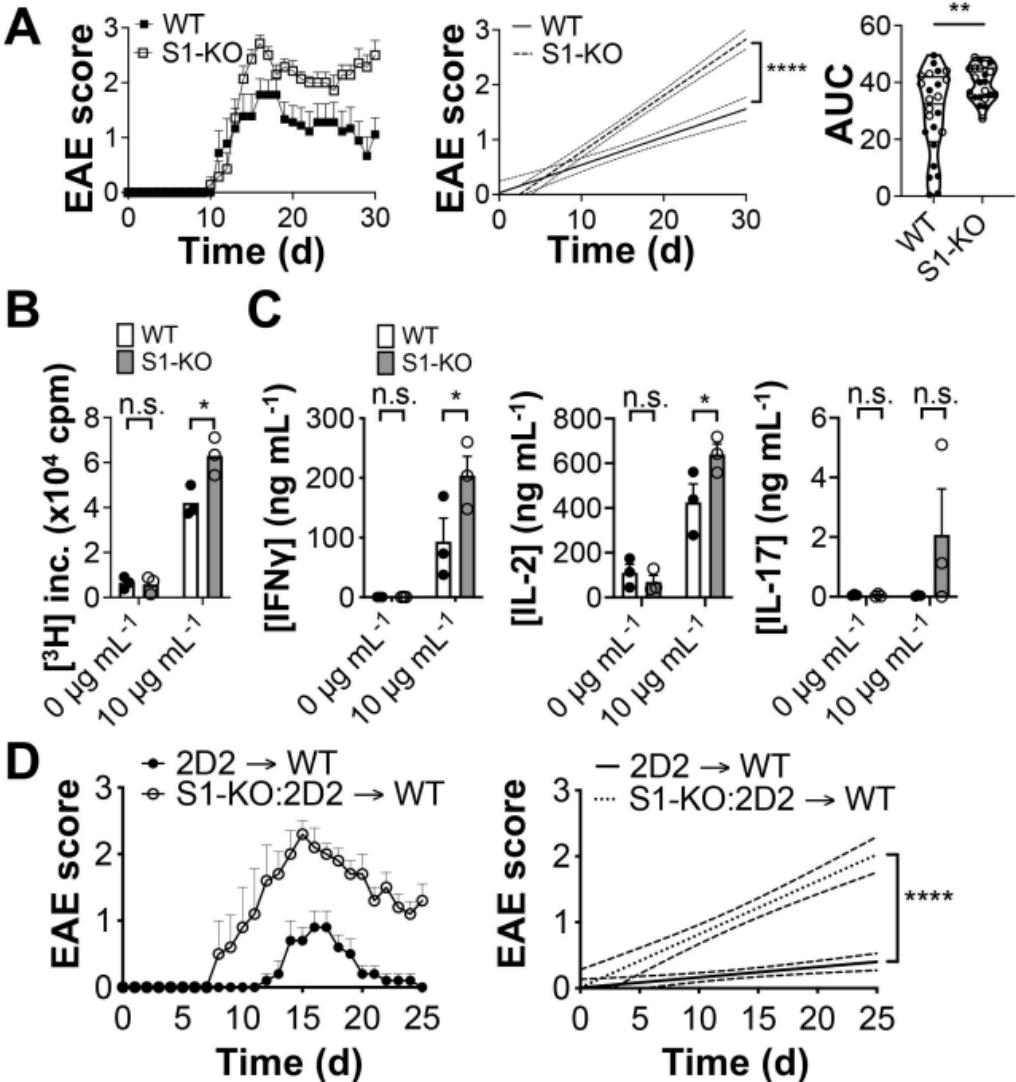
356 **Figure 4. Serpine1 promotes Tim-3 expression and inhibits Tim-3<sup>+</sup> Th1 cell inflammatory**  
357 **responses.** **A, B.** Female WT and Serpine1-KO:T cells were subjected to 4 successive rounds of  
358 Th1 polarization, and Tim-3 (**A,B**) and IFN $\gamma$  (**B**) were assessed by flow cytometry. (**A**)  
359 Quantification of Tim-3 expression at the end of each round. \*\*, p<0.01, one-way ANOVA. **B.**  
360 Expression of Tim-3 versus IFN $\gamma$  after 20 days of total culture (end of round 4). Gated on live

361 CD4<sup>+</sup> events. Representative of 4 experiments. **C.** Splenic T CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells from male Tim-3-Tg  
362 and Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg mice (n=6 independent cultures from each) were differentiated  
363 under Th1 conditions for 5 days. CD4, Tim-3 and IFN $\gamma$  expression were assessed by flow  
364 cytometry, with cells first gated on live CD4<sup>+</sup>Tim-3<sup>pos</sup> or live CD4<sup>+</sup>Tim-3<sup>neg</sup>. \*\*\*, p<0.001; t-  
365 test. **D.** Splenic T CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells from male Tim-3-Tg and Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg mice (n=3  
366 independent cultures from each) were differentiated under Th1 conditions for 5 days. Lag-3 and  
367 PD-1 expression were assessed by flow cytometry. \*, p<0.05; t-test. Gated on live CD4<sup>+</sup>Tim-3<sup>+</sup>  
368 events. **E.** Female WT (n=4), WT Tim-3-Tg (n=5) and Serpine1-KO:Tim-3-Tg (n=14) and mice  
369 were immunized with MOG<sub>[35-55]</sub> and were monitored for signs of EAE. *Right graph*, linear  
370 regression analysis of the disease curves with Bonferroni's correction applied. Representative of  
371 3 immunizations.

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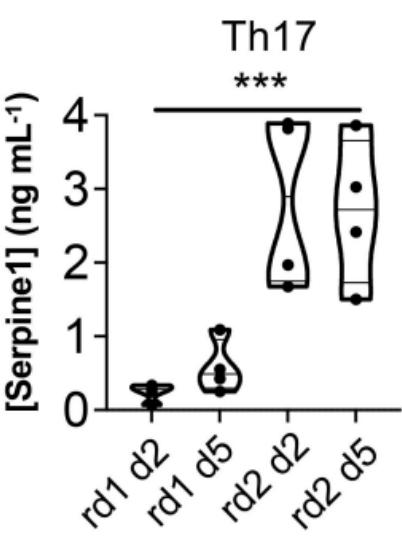
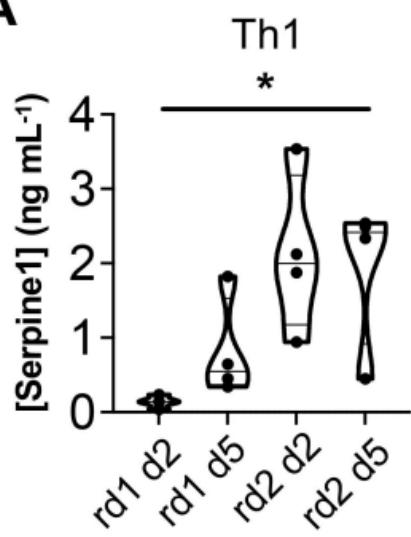
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# Figure 1

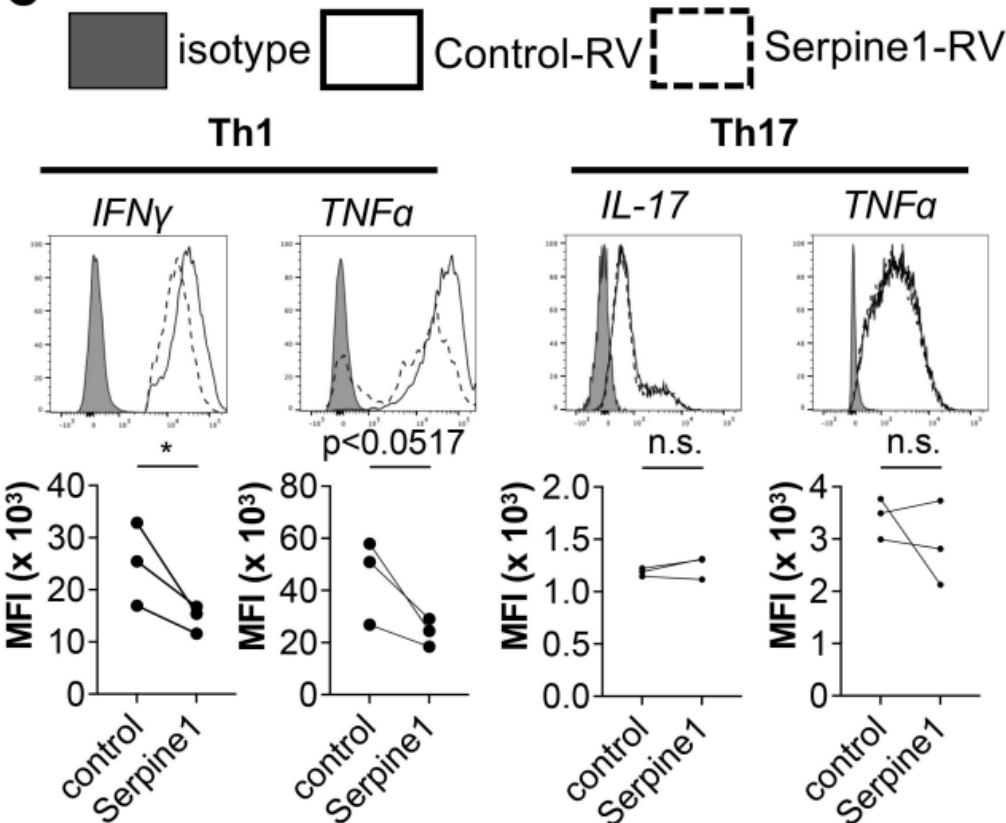


# Figure 2

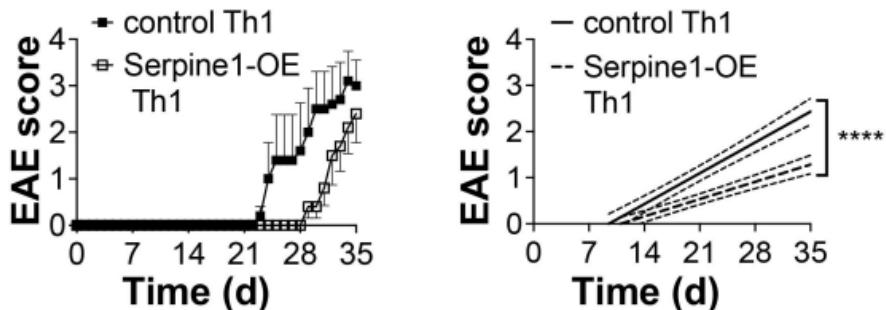
**A** **B**



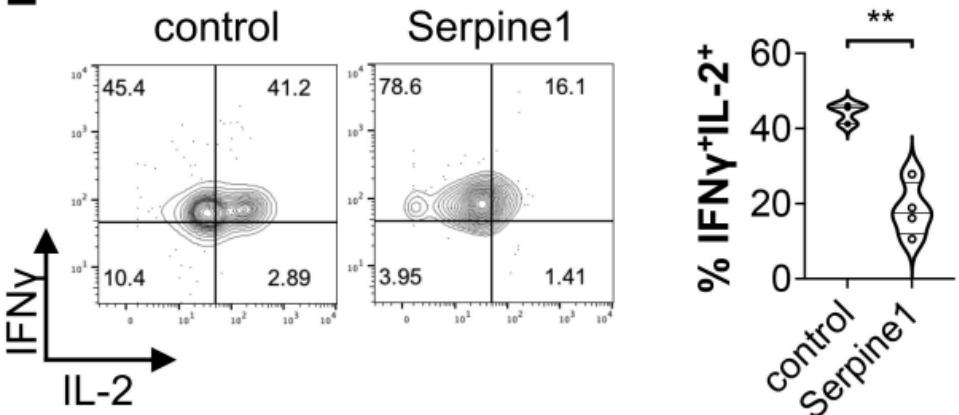
**C**



**D**

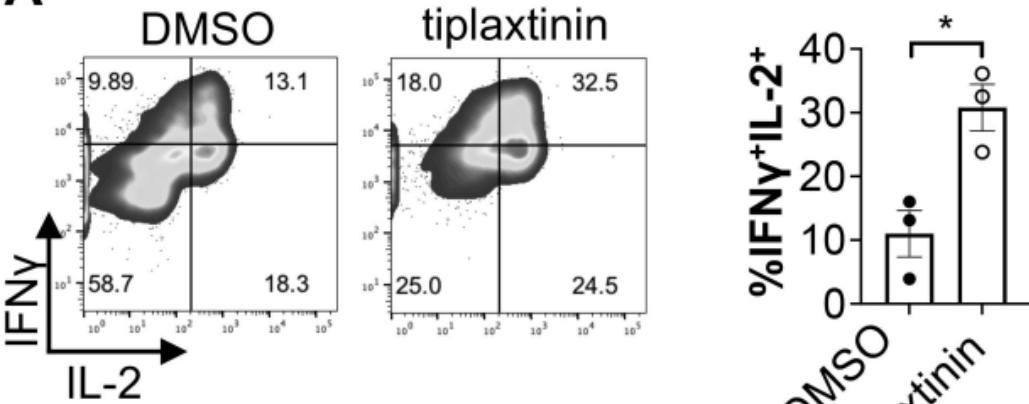


**E**

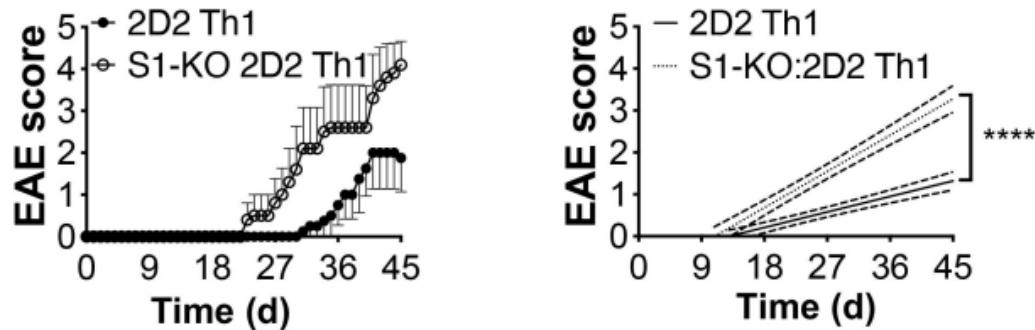


# Figure 3

A



B



# Figure 4

