

1 The Chromatin Landscape of Pathogenic Transcriptional Cell States in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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3 Kathryn Weinand<sup>1,2,3,4,5,#</sup>, Saori Sakaue<sup>1,2,3,4,5,#</sup>, Aparna Nathan<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Anna Helena Jonsson<sup>1</sup>,  
4 Fan Zhang<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>, Gerald F. M. Watts<sup>1</sup>, Zhu Zhu<sup>1</sup>, Accelerating Medicines Partnership Program:  
5 Rheumatoid Arthritis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (AMP RA/SLE) Network, Deepak A.  
6 Rao<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer H. Anolik<sup>7</sup>, Michael B. Brenner<sup>1</sup>, Laura T. Donlin<sup>8,9</sup>, Kevin Wei<sup>1</sup>, Soumya  
7 Raychaudhuri<sup>1,2,3,4,5,10,\*</sup>

8  
9 <sup>1</sup> Division of Rheumatology, Inflammation, and Immunity, Department of Medicine, Brigham and  
10 Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA.

11 <sup>2</sup> Center for Data Sciences, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School,  
12 Boston, MA, USA.

13 <sup>3</sup> Division of Genetics, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard  
14 Medical School, Boston, MA, USA.

15 <sup>4</sup> Department of Biomedical Informatics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA.

16 <sup>5</sup> Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA.

17 <sup>6</sup> Division of Rheumatology and the Center for Health Artificial Intelligence, University of  
18 Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, USA.

19 <sup>7</sup> Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology; Department of Medicine, University of  
20 Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA.

21 <sup>8</sup> Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY, USA.

22 <sup>9</sup> Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA.

23 <sup>10</sup> Versus Arthritis Centre for Genetics and Genomics, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research,  
24 Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK.

25 # These authors contributed equally.

26 \* Corresponding author

27  
28 Correspondence to:

29 Soumya Raychaudhuri

30 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Harvard, New Research Building, Suite 250D

31 Boston, MA 02115, USA.

32 [soumya@broadinstitute.org](mailto:soumya@broadinstitute.org); 617-525-4484

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35

36 **Abstract**

37

38 Synovial tissue inflammation is the hallmark of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Recent work has  
39 identified prominent pathogenic cell states in inflamed RA synovial tissue, such as T peripheral  
40 helper cells; however, the epigenetic regulation of these states has yet to be defined. We  
41 measured genome-wide open chromatin at single cell resolution from 30 synovial tissue  
42 samples, including 12 samples with transcriptional data in multimodal experiments. We  
43 identified 24 chromatin classes and predicted their associated transcription factors, including a  
44 *CD8+ GZMK+* class associated with EOMES and a lining fibroblast class associated with AP-1.  
45 By integrating an RA tissue transcriptional atlas, we found that the chromatin classes  
46 represented 'superstates' corresponding to multiple transcriptional cell states. Finally, we  
47 demonstrated the utility of this RA tissue chromatin atlas through the associations between  
48 disease phenotypes and chromatin class abundance as well as the nomination of classes  
49 mediating the effects of putatively causal RA genetic variants.

50

## 51 Introduction

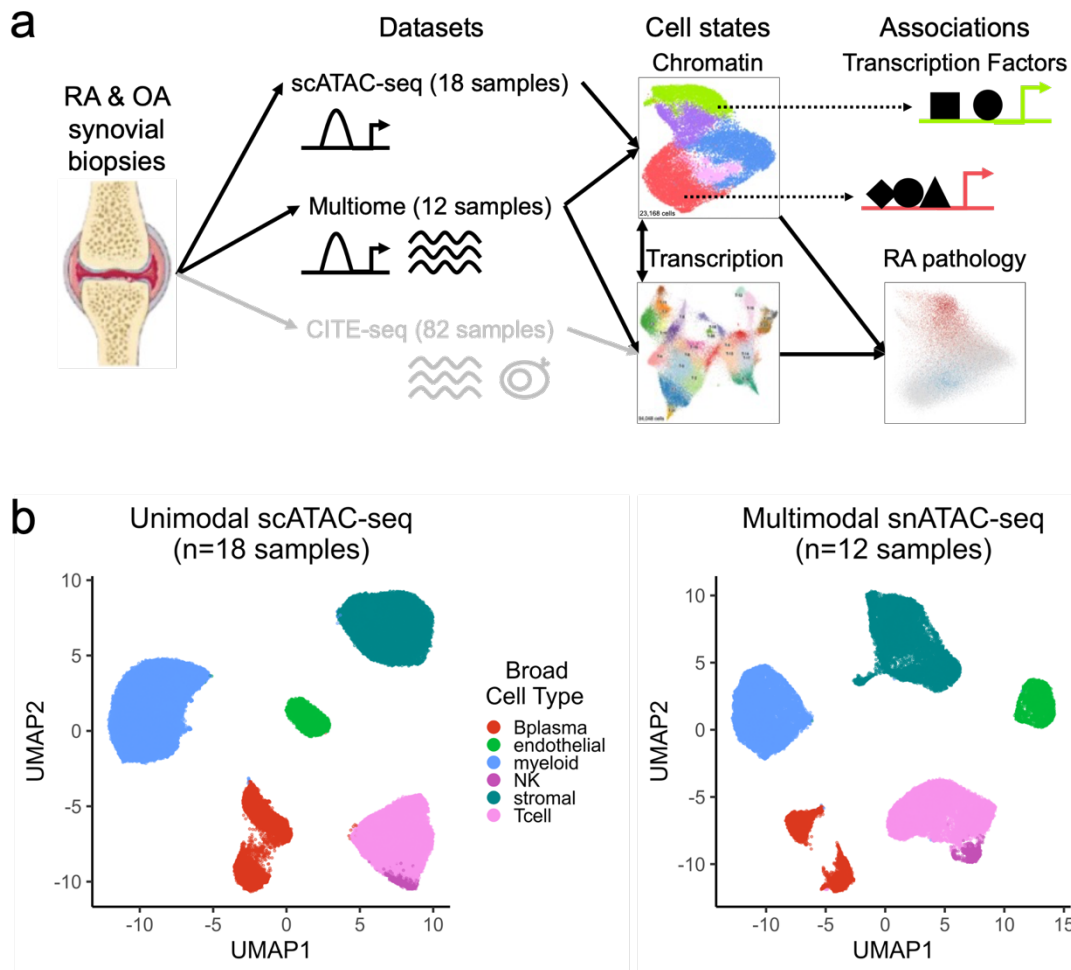
52 Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects roughly one  
53 percent of the population<sup>1</sup>. In RA, the synovial joint tissue is infiltrated by immune cells that  
54 interact with stromal cells to sustain a cycle of inflammation. Untreated, RA can lead to joint  
55 destruction, disability, and a reduction in life expectancy<sup>2</sup>. The heterogeneous clinical features of  
56 RA, including differences in cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody autoreactivity<sup>3</sup>, underlying  
57 genetics<sup>4,5</sup>, and response to targeted therapies<sup>6-10</sup>, render it challenging to construct generic  
58 treatment plans that will be effective for most patients.

59 Recent studies have taken advantage of single cell technologies to define key cell  
60 populations that are present and expanded in RA tissue inflammation<sup>11-14</sup>, demonstrating both  
61 the heterogeneous nature of tissue inflammation and the promise to identify novel targeted  
62 therapeutics for RA. Our recent AMP-RA reference study<sup>12</sup> comprehensively classified  
63 pathogenic transcriptional cell states within synovial joint tissue using single cell CITE-seq  
64 technology<sup>15</sup>, which simultaneously measures mRNA and surface protein marker expression in  
65 a single cell. Within 6 broad cell types (B/plasma, T, NK, myeloid, stromal [fibroblasts/mural],  
66 and endothelial), the study defined 77 fine-grain cell states. Many of these cell states have been  
67 previously shown to be associated with RA pathology: for example, CD4+ T peripheral helper  
68 cells (TPH)<sup>11,13</sup>, HLA-DR<sup>hi</sup> sublining fibroblasts<sup>11</sup>, proinflammatory IL1B+ monocytes<sup>11</sup>, and age-  
69 associated B cells (ABC)<sup>11,16</sup>. However, we have a limited understanding of the chromatin  
70 accessibility profiles that underlie these pathogenic synovial tissue cell states.

71 Open chromatin at critical *cis*-regulatory regions allows essential transcription factors  
72 (TFs) to access DNA and epigenetically regulate gene expression<sup>17</sup>. Chromatin accessibility is a  
73 necessary, but not sufficient, condition for RNA polymerases to produce transcripts at gene  
74 promoters<sup>18</sup>. Therefore, one possibility is that each transcriptional cell state has its own unique  
75 chromatin profile<sup>19</sup>, which we will denote as a chromatin class. Alternatively, multiple  
76 transcriptional cell states could share a chromatin class if the cell states were dynamically

77 transitioning from one to another in response to external stimuli without altering the chromatin  
78 landscape<sup>19</sup>. In RA, those external stimuli could be cytokines that activate TFs to induce  
79 expression of key genes and drive pathogenic cell states<sup>20</sup>. For example, NOTCH3 signaling  
80 propels transcriptional programs coordinating the transformation from perivascular fibroblasts to  
81 inflammatory sublining fibroblasts<sup>21</sup>. Similarly, exposure to TNF and interferon gamma  
82 transforms monocytes into inflammatory myeloid cells<sup>22</sup>.

83         Here, we characterized synovial cells with unimodal single cell ATAC-seq (scATAC) and  
84 multimodal single nuclear ATAC-seq (snATAC) and RNA-seq (snRNA) technologies to compare  
85 chromatin classes to transcriptional cell states (**Fig. 1a**). These results support a model of open  
86 chromatin superstates shared by multiple fine-grain transcriptional cell states. We show these  
87 superstates may be regulated by key TFs and associated with clinical and genetic factors in the  
88 pathology of RA (**Fig. 1a**).



89

90 **Fig. 1. Study overview and open chromatin broad cell type identification.**

91 **a.** Study overview. Synovial biopsies from RA and OA patients were utilized for unimodal  
92 scATAC-seq, multimodal snATAC-seq + snRNA-seq experiments. CITE-seq was performed in  
93 the AMP-RA reference study<sup>12</sup>. We defined chromatin classes using the unimodal and  
94 multimodal ATAC data and compared them with AMP-RA transcriptional cell states<sup>12</sup> classified  
95 onto the multiome cells. We further defined transcription factors likely regulating these  
96 chromatin classes and found putative links to RA pathology by associating the classes to RA  
97 clinical metrics, RA subtypes, and putative RA risk variants.

98 **b.** Open chromatin broad cell type identification in unimodal scATAC-seq datasets (**left**) and  
99 multimodal snATAC-seq datasets (**right**), processed separately.

100

## 101 Results

### 102 Unimodal scATAC and multimodal snATAC synovial tissue datasets

103 We obtained synovial biopsies from 25 people with RA and 5 with osteoarthritis (OA)

104 and disaggregated cells using well-established protocols from the AMP-RA/SLE consortium<sup>23</sup>

105 **(Methods)**. We conducted unimodal scATAC-seq on samples from 14 RA patients and 4 OA  
106 patients and multimodal snATAC-/snRNA-seq on samples from 11 RA patients and 1 OA  
107 patient (**Supplementary Table 1**). Applying stringent ATAC quality control, we retained cells  
108 with >10,000 reads, >50% of those reads falling in peak neighborhoods, >10% of reads in  
109 promoter regions, <10% of reads in the mitochondrial chromosome, and <10% of reads falling in  
110 the ENCODE blacklisted regions<sup>24</sup> (**Methods; Supplementary Fig. 1a-b**). We further required  
111 that cells from the multimodal data passed stringent quality control for both the snRNA and  
112 snATAC (**Supplementary Fig. 1c**). After additional QC within individual cell types combining  
113 both technologies, the final dataset contained 86,994 cells from 30 samples (median: 2,990  
114 cells/sample) (**Supplementary Fig. 1d-e**). For consistency, we called a set of 132,520  
115 consensus peaks from unimodal scATAC data to be used for all analyses (**Methods**). We  
116 observed that 95% of the called peaks overlapped ENCODE candidate *cis*-regulatory elements  
117 (cCREs)<sup>25</sup> and 17% overlapped promoters<sup>26</sup>, suggesting highly accurate peak calls  
118 (**Supplementary Fig. 1f**).

119

## 120 **Defining RA broad cell types by clustering ATAC datasets**

121 To assign each ATAC cell to a broad cell type, we clustered the unimodal scATAC and  
122 multimodal snATAC datasets independently (**Methods**). In both instances, we defined six cell  
123 types that we annotated based on the chromatin accessibility of “marker peaks,” or peaks in cell  
124 type marker gene promoters (**Methods; Fig. 1b**). We identified T cells (*CD3D* and *CD3G*), NK  
125 cells (*NCAM1* and *NCR1*), B/plasma cells (*MS4A1* and *TNFRSF17*), myeloid cells (*CD163* and  
126 *C1QA*), stromal cells (*PDPN* and *PDGFRB*), and vascular endothelial cells (*VWF* and *ERG*)  
127 (**Supplementary Fig. 1g-j**). In the multimodal data, we observed consistent peak accessibility  
128 and RNA expression for marker genes in these cell types (**Supplementary Fig. 1k-m**).

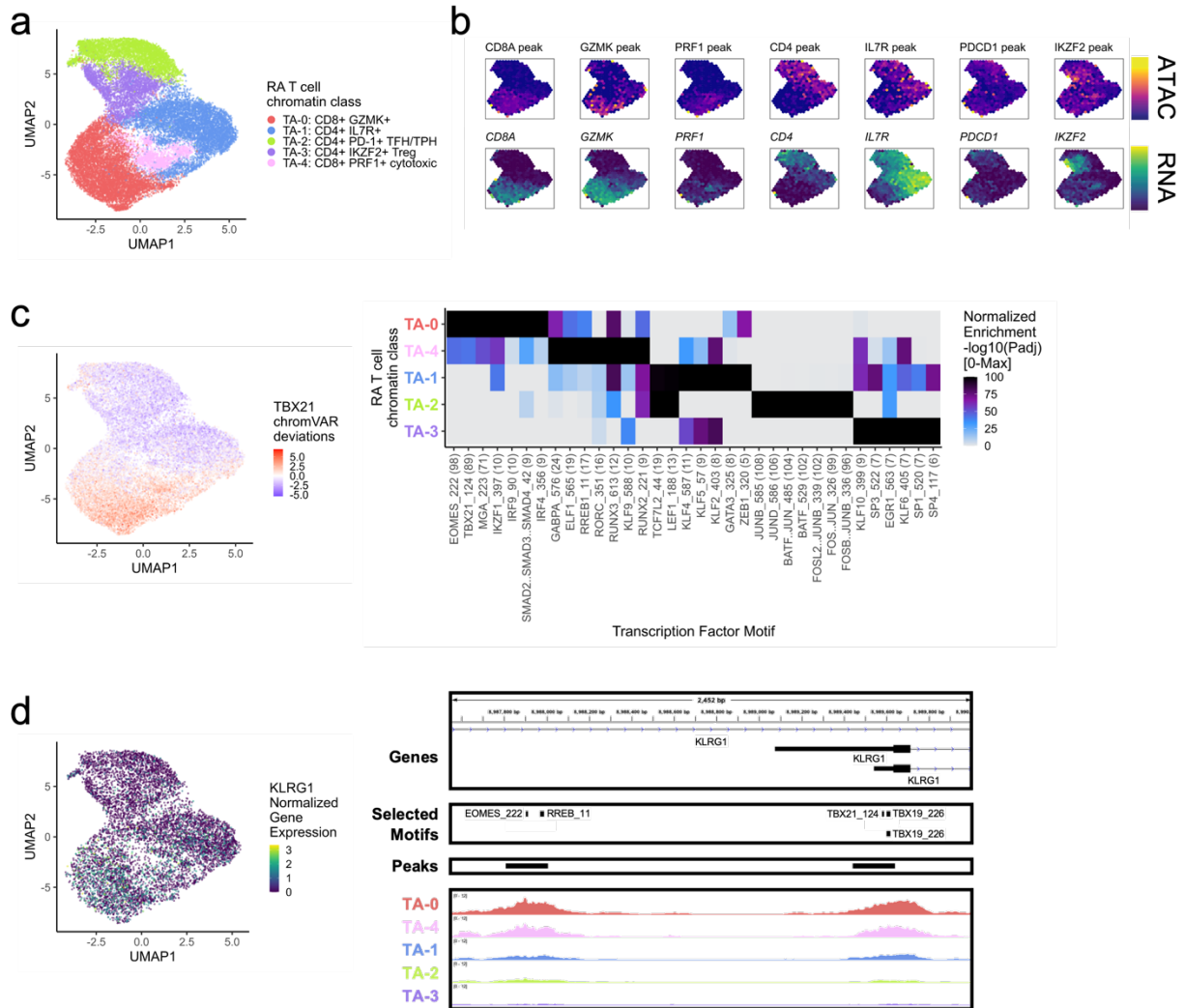
129 We combined ATAC cells from multimodal and unimodal technologies and then created  
130 datasets for each of the broad cell types. For cell types with more than 1,500 cells, we applied

131 Louvain clustering to a shared nearest neighbor graph based on batch-corrected<sup>27</sup> principal  
132 components of chromatin accessibility to define fine-grain chromatin classes (**Methods**).

133

### 134 **RA T cell chromatin classes**

135 We first examined the accessible chromatin for 23,168 T cells across unimodal and  
136 multimodal ATAC datasets. Louvain clustering defined 5 T cell chromatin classes, denoted as  
137  $T_A$  for T cell ATAC, across 30 samples (**Fig. 2a; Supplementary Fig. 2a**). In the  $T_{A-2}$ : CD4+  
138 PD-1+ TFH/TPH chromatin class, we observed high promoter accessibility and gene expression  
139 for *PD-1* (*PDCD1*) and *CTLA4*, known marker genes for T follicular helper (TFH)/T peripheral  
140 helper (TPH) cells (**Fig. 2b; Supplementary Fig. 2b**). A known expanded pathogenic cell state  
141 in RA, TFH/TPH cells help B cells respond to inflammation<sup>11,13</sup>. The  $T_{A-3}$ : CD4+ IKZF2+ Treg  
142 cluster had high accessibility and expression for *IKZF2* (Helios), which is known to stabilize the  
143 inhibitory activity of regulatory T cells<sup>28</sup> (Tregs) (**Fig. 2b**). We also observed open chromatin  
144 regions at both the *FOXP3* transcription start site (TSS) as well as the downstream Treg-  
145 specific demethylated region<sup>29</sup> (TSDR) specifically for  $T_{A-3}$  (**Supplementary Fig. 2c**); *FOXP3*  
146 was also expressed exclusively in  $T_{A-3}$  cells (**Supplementary Fig. 2b**). We found one more  
147 predominantly CD4+ T cell class,  $T_{A-1}$ : CD4+ IL7R+, with high expression and accessibility for  
148 *IL7R*, encoding the CD127 protein. This marker is typically lost with activation, suggesting that  
149  $T_{A-1}$  is a population of unactivated naive or memory T cells, as further evidenced by *SELL* and  
150 *CCR7* expression (**Fig. 2B; Supplementary Fig. 2b**). The  $T_{A-0}$ : CD8+ GZMK+ cluster was  
151 marked by *GZMK* and *CRTAM* peak accessibility and gene expression (**Fig. 2b**;  
152 **Supplementary Fig. 2b**); a similar population has been shown to be expanded in RA and a  
153 major producer of inflammatory cytokines<sup>11,30</sup>. We found another primarily CD8+ group of T  
154 cells, the  $T_{A-4}$ : CD8+ PRF1+ cytotoxic cluster, which had high accessibility for the *PRF1*  
155 promoter and expression for the *PRF1*, *GNLY*, and *GZMB* genes (**Fig. 2b; Supplementary Fig.**  
156 **2b**).



157

158 **Fig. 2.** RA T cell chromatin classes.

159 **a.** UMAP colored by 5 T cell chromatin classes defined from unimodal scATAC and multimodal

160 snATAC cells.

161 **b.** Binned normalized marker peak accessibility (**top**) and gene expression (**bottom**) for

162 multiome snATAC cells on UMAP.

163 **c.** UMAP colored by chromVAR<sup>31</sup> deviations for the TBX21 motif (**left**). Most significantly

164 enriched motifs in marker peaks per T cell chromatin class (**right**). To be included per class,

165 motifs had to be enriched in the class above a minimal threshold and corresponding TFs had to

166 have at least minimal expression in snRNA (**Methods**). Color scale normalized per motif across

167 classes with max  $-\log_{10}(p_{adj})$  value shown in parentheses in motif label. P-values were

168 calculated via hypergeometric test in ArchR<sup>32</sup>.

169 **d.** UMAP colored by *KLRG1* normalized gene expression in multiome cells (**left**). *KLRG1* locus

170 (chr12:8,987,550-8,990,000) with selected isoforms, motifs, open chromatin peaks, and

171 chromatin accessibility reads from unimodal and multimodal ATAC cells aggregated by

172 chromatin class and scaled by read counts per class (**Methods**) (**right**).

173



174 Since T cells are primarily defined by CD4 and CD8 lineages that are not thought to  
175 cross-differentiate<sup>33</sup>, we next examined whether the chromatin classes strictly segregated by  
176 CD4 or CD8 promoter peak accessibility. We observed that each chromatin class, while largely  
177 showing accessibility for only one lineage's promoter, also includes some cells with accessibility  
178 for the other lineage's promoter (**Supplementary Table 2**). For example, cytotoxic T cells in T<sub>A</sub>-  
179 4 were more likely to have an accessible CD8A promoter, but also included a minority of cells  
180 with accessibility at the CD4 promoter. Therefore, we assessed which promoter peaks were  
181 associated with a specific lineage. While accounting for chromatin class, donor, and read depth,  
182 we ran a logistic regression model over all cells relating each promoter peak's openness to  
183 CD4/CD8A promoter peak accessibility status: 1 for open CD4 and closed CD8A, -1 for open  
184 CD8A and closed CD4, or 0 otherwise (**Methods**). We only found 93 out of 16,383 promoter  
185 peaks significantly associated to a lineage's promoter accessibility, with 29 associating to CD4  
186 and 64 to CD8A, at FDR<0.20 (**Supplementary Table 3**). This suggested that lineage is  
187 important for a small subset of genes' local promoter chromatin environment, such as *IL6ST* in  
188 CD4 T cells and *CRTAM* in CD8 T cells, and for those lineage-specific loci, they segregate by  
189 chromatin class as expected (**Methods; Supplementary Figure 2d**). However, the majority of  
190 promoters appeared to be more specifically accessible within their chromatin classes across  
191 lineages. This might suggest that the corresponding gene's function was critical for the class  
192 definition, as highlighted by functional genes such as *PRF1* that is expressed in both cytotoxic  
193 CD4 and CD8 T cells<sup>34</sup> as well as the homing gene *CCR7* that acts across both lineages<sup>35</sup>.

194 We next determined TFs potentially regulating these T cell chromatin classes by  
195 calculating TF motif enrichments<sup>31</sup> per class marker peaks<sup>32</sup> whose TFs are at least minimally  
196 expressed within that class (**Methods**). In the primarily CD8+ classes, T<sub>A</sub>-0: CD8+ GZMK+ and  
197 T<sub>A</sub>-4: CD8+ PRF1+ cytotoxic, we found EOMES ( $p_{\text{adj}}=7.44\text{e-}99$ ,  $8.12\text{e-}44$ , respectively) and T-  
198 bet (TBX21) ( $p_{\text{adj}}=4.92\text{e-}90$ ,  $2.75\text{e-}38$ , respectively) motifs preferentially enriched (**Fig. 2c**); the  
199 corresponding TFs are known to drive memory and effector CD8+ cell states<sup>36</sup>. Furthermore, we

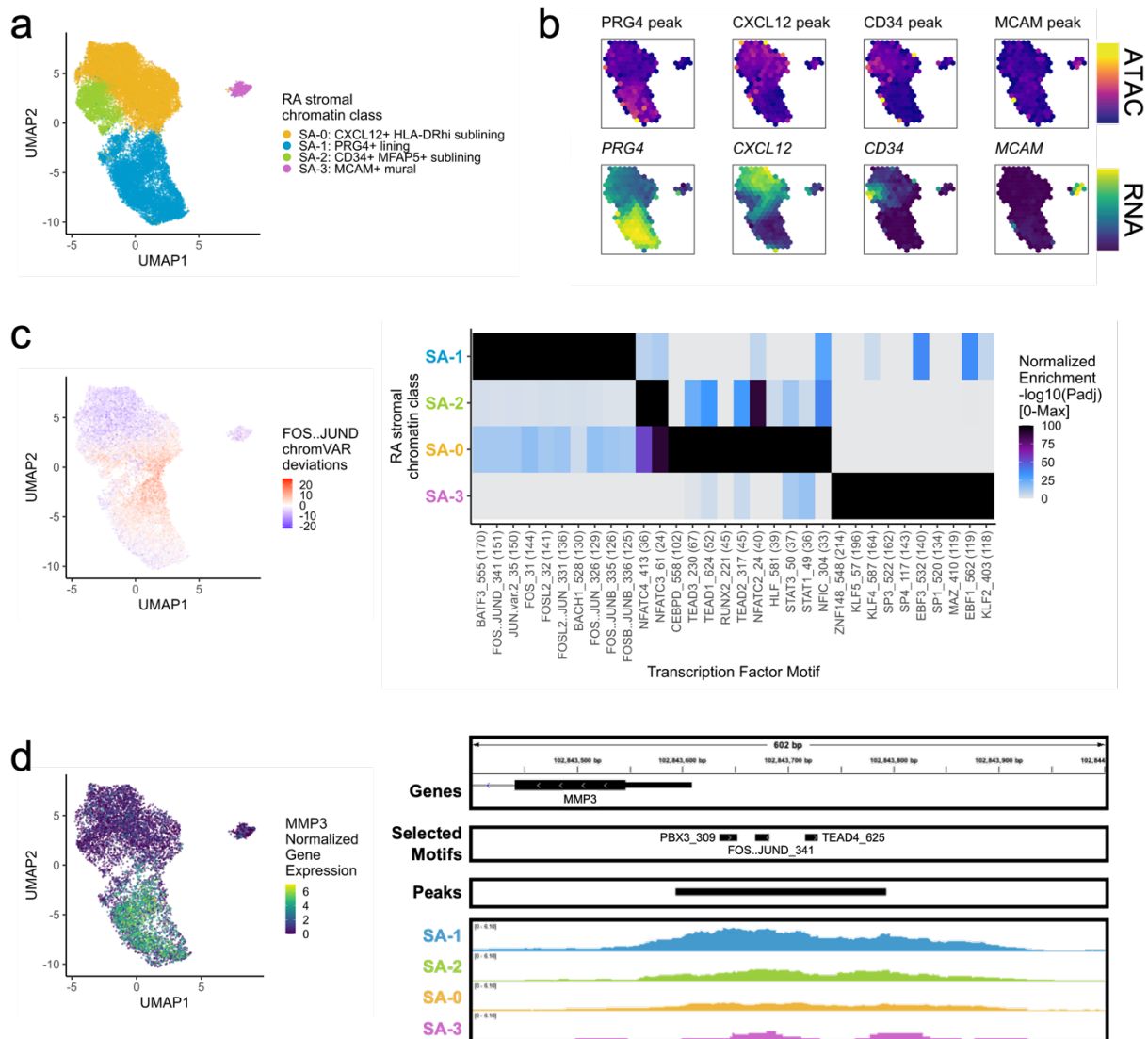
200 found both motifs in the promoter of *KLRG1*, a gene found in CD8+ effector T cells that might  
201 participate in the effector-to-memory transition<sup>37</sup> (**Fig. 2d**). The cytotoxic T<sub>A</sub>-4 class was also  
202 enriched for RUNX3<sup>38</sup> motifs ( $p_{\text{adj}}=5.81\text{e-}13$ ) (**Fig. 2c**). Within the T<sub>A</sub>-2: CD4+ PD-1+ TFH/TPH  
203 class, we observed high enrichments for AP-1 motifs, especially BATF ( $p_{\text{adj}}=3.31\text{e-}103$ ), which  
204 promotes expression of key programs in TFH cells<sup>39</sup> (**Fig. 2d**). We found TCF7 and LEF1  
205 motifs<sup>40</sup> within the unactivated T<sub>A</sub>-1: CD4+ IL7R+ cluster ( $p_{\text{adj}}=1.14\text{e-}10, 3.97\text{e-}13$ , respectively;  
206 **Fig. 2d**).

207

## 208 RA stromal chromatin classes

209 Next, we analyzed 24,307 stromal cells (**Methods**). With Louvain clustering, we  
210 partitioned the cells into 4 open chromatin classes: lining fibroblasts (S<sub>A</sub>-1) along the synovial  
211 membrane, sublining fibroblasts (S<sub>A</sub>-0, S<sub>A</sub>-2) filling the interstitial space, and mural cells (S<sub>A</sub>-3)  
212 adjacent to blood vessels<sup>41</sup> (**Fig. 3a; Supplementary Fig. 3a**). The most abundant sublining  
213 cluster, S<sub>A</sub>-0: CXCL12+ HLA-DR<sup>hi</sup> sublining fibroblasts, was a proinflammatory cluster marked  
214 by *CXCL12*, *HLA-DRA*, and *CD74* accessibility and expression; S<sub>A</sub>-0 also expressed *IL6*, which  
215 is an established RA drug target<sup>7,8</sup> (**Fig. 3b; Supplementary Fig. 3b**). The S<sub>A</sub>-2: CD34+  
216 MFAP5+ sublining fibroblast class had accessible promoter peaks, where available, for the  
217 expressed *CD34*, *MFAP5*, *PI16*, and *DPP4* genes, previously reported to represent a  
218 progenitor-like fibroblast state shared across tissue types<sup>42-44</sup> (**Fig. 3b; Supplementary Fig.**  
219 **3b**). The S<sub>A</sub>-1: PRG4+ lining fibroblast chromatin class was characterized with high accessibility  
220 and expression of *PRG4* and *CRTAC1* (**Fig. 3b; Supplementary Fig. 3b**). We also observed  
221 high expression of *MMP1* and *MMP3*, matrix metalloproteinases responsible for extracellular  
222 matrix (ECM) destruction<sup>45</sup>, within S<sub>A</sub>-1 (**Supplementary Fig. 3b**). Finally, we found a mural cell  
223 cluster, S<sub>A</sub>-3: MCAM+ mural, with both gene expression and promoter peak accessibility for  
224 *MCAM* and *NOTCH3* (**Fig. 3b; Supplementary Fig. 3b**). In RA, NOTCH3 signaling from the  
225 endothelium acts primarily on mural cells, which in turn stimulate sublining fibroblasts along a

226 spatial axis<sup>21</sup> as seen in the decreasing NOTCH3 gene expression from SA<sub>-3</sub>, SA<sub>-0</sub>, SA<sub>-2</sub>, to SA<sub>-</sub>  
 227 1 in the multiome cells (**Supplementary Fig. 3b**). Knockout of *NOTCH3* has been shown to  
 228 reduce inflammation and joint destruction in mouse models<sup>21</sup>.



229

230 **Fig. 3.** RA stromal chromatin classes.

231 **a.** UMAP colored by 4 stromal chromatin classes defined from unimodal scATAC and  
 232 multimodal snATAC cells.

233 **b.** Binned normalized marker peak accessibility (**top**) and gene expression (**bottom**) for  
 234 multiome snATAC cells on UMAP.

235 **c.** UMAP colored by chromVAR<sup>31</sup> deviations for the FOS..JUND motif (**left**). Most significantly  
 236 enriched motifs in marker peaks per stromal chromatin class (**right**). To be included per class,  
 237 motifs had to be enriched in the class above a minimal threshold and corresponding TFs had to  
 238 have at least minimal expression in snRNA (**Methods**). Color scale normalized per motif across  
 239 classes with max  $-\log_{10}(\text{p}_{\text{adj}})$  value shown in parentheses in motif label. P-values were

240 calculated via hypergeometric test in ArchR<sup>32</sup>.  
241 **d.** UMAP colored by *MMP3* normalized gene expression (**left**). *MMP3* locus  
242 (chr11:102,843,400-102,844,000) with selected isoforms, motifs, open chromatin peaks, and  
243 chromatin accessibility reads from unimodal and multimodal ATAC cells aggregated by  
244 chromatin class and scaled by read counts per class (**Methods**) (**right**).

245

246 DNA methylation and chromatin accessibility work in tandem to define cell-type-specific  
247 gene regulation through silencing CpG-dense promoters and repressing methylation-sensitive  
248 TF binding<sup>46</sup>. Methylation changes have been previously described between cultured fibroblast  
249 cell lines from RA and OA patients<sup>47,48</sup>. Thus, we wondered if a specific subset of fibroblasts  
250 might be the source of these differentially methylated regions (DMRs). Using a published set of  
251 DMRs for RA versus OA synovial fibroblast cell lines<sup>47</sup>, we defined a per-cell score of peak  
252 accessibility associated to hypermethylated (positive) or hypomethylated (negative) loci in RA  
253 (**Methods**). The sublining fibroblasts in S<sub>A</sub>-0 were enriched for hypomethylated regions  
254 (Wilcoxon S<sub>A</sub>-0 cells versus rest one-sided p=0), suggesting that the RA synovial fibroblast  
255 DMRs were relatively enriched for putatively functional chromatin accessible regions specifically  
256 in sublining fibroblasts (**Supplementary Fig. 3c**). These results proposed the possibility of  
257 epigenetic memory retention even after multiple cell line passages<sup>49</sup>, as sublining fibroblasts,  
258 particularly HLA-DR<sup>hi</sup> and CD34<sup>-</sup> fibroblasts, are expanded in RA relative to OA in synovial  
259 tissue samples<sup>11</sup>.

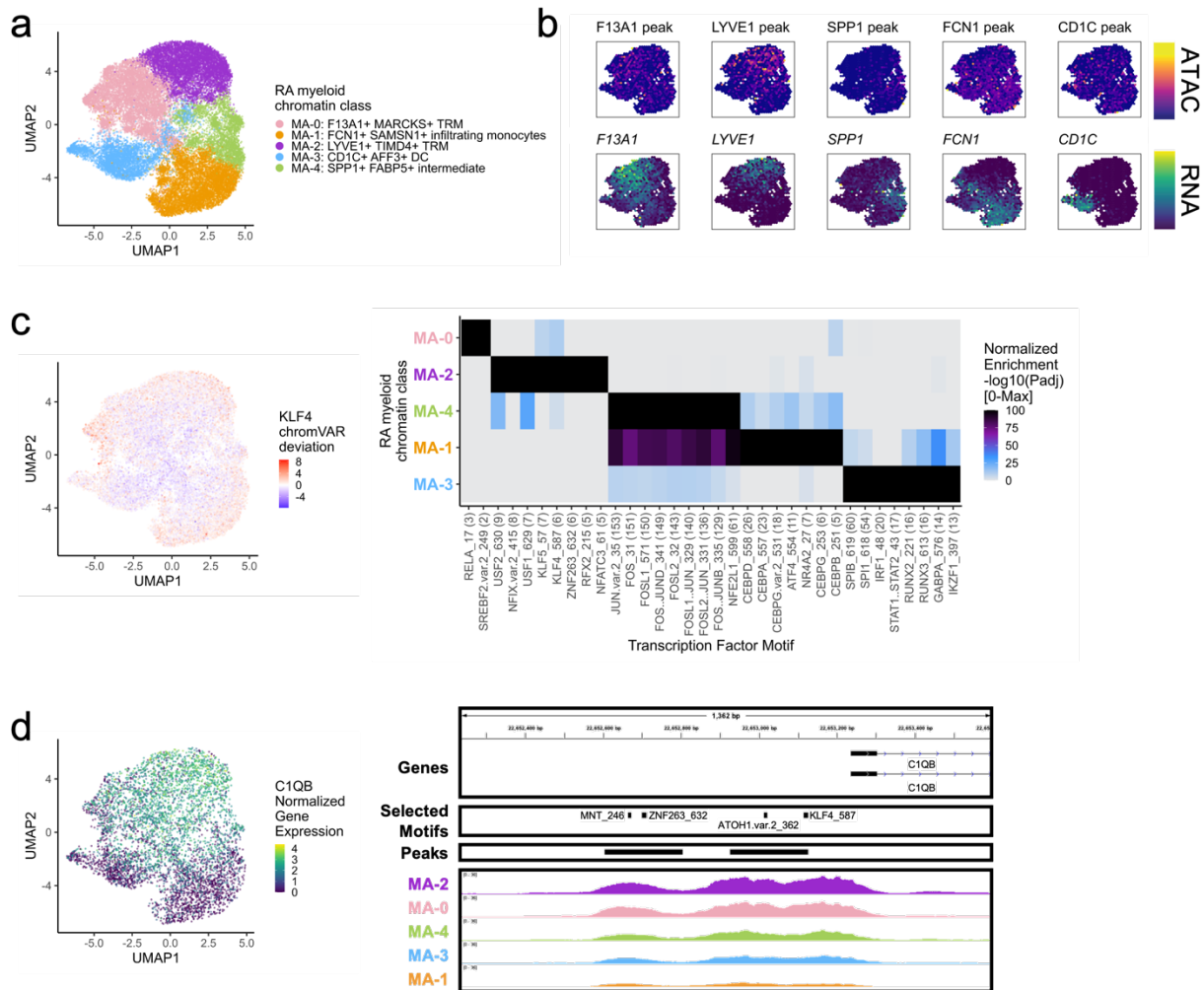
260 Next, we investigated which TFs were putatively driving these chromatin classes (**Fig.**  
261 **3c**). AP-1 motifs such as FOS::JUND were most significantly enriched in the S<sub>A</sub>-1 lining class  
262 (p<sub>adj</sub>=9.29e-152; **Fig. 3c**). These TFs are known to play many roles in RA and specifically  
263 regulate *MMP1* and *MMP3* promoters<sup>49,50</sup> (**Fig. 3d**). The progenitor-like sublining S<sub>A</sub>-2 class  
264 harbored NFATC motifs, such as NFATC4 (p<sub>adj</sub>=2.89e-36; **Fig. 3c**). In the S<sub>A</sub>-0: CXCL12+ HLA-  
265 DR<sup>hi</sup> sublining chromatin class, we found TEAD1<sup>51</sup> (p<sub>adj</sub>=2.86e-52; **Fig. 3c**) and STAT1/3 TF  
266 motif enrichments (p<sub>adj</sub>=3.34e-37, 4.27e-38, respectively; **Fig. 3c**), the later likely regulating the  
267 JAK/STAT pathway responsible for proinflammatory cytokine activation central to RA clinical

268 activity<sup>9,52</sup>. Finally, S<sub>A</sub>-3: MCAM+ mural cells were enriched for KLF2<sup>53,54</sup> and EBF1<sup>55,56</sup> motifs  
269 ( $p_{adj}$ =4.94e-119, 1.83e-119, respectively; **Fig. 3c**).

270

## 271 **RA myeloid chromatin classes**

272 We classified 25,691 myeloid cells into 5 chromatin classes (**Fig. 4a; Supplementary**  
273 **Fig. 4a**). The first cluster, M<sub>A</sub>-2: LYVE1+ TIMD4+ TRM, is a tissue-resident macrophage (TRM)  
274 cluster that had RNA and ATAC signal at *LYVE1*, a perivascular localization marker<sup>14</sup>, and  
275 *TIMD4*, a scavenger receptor<sup>14</sup> (**Fig. 4b; Supplementary Fig. 4b**). We found another TRM  
276 cluster, M<sub>A</sub>-0: F13A1+ MARCKS+ TRM, with high accessibility and expression at *F13A1* and  
277 *MARCKS*, both known to be expressed in macrophages<sup>57,58</sup> (**Fig. 4b; Supplementary Fig. 4b**).  
278 The M<sub>A</sub>-1: FCN1+ SAMS1+ infiltrating monocytes had accessibility and expression for *FCN1*,  
279 *PLAUR*, *CCR2*, and *IL1B*, similar to an expanded proinflammatory population in a previous RA  
280 study<sup>11</sup> (**Fig. 4b; Supplementary Fig. 4b**). The M<sub>A</sub>-4: SPP1+ FABP5+ intermediate class likely  
281 arose from bone-marrow-derived macrophages<sup>59</sup> with its high accessibility and expression for  
282 *SPP1* (**Fig. 4b**); bone-marrow-derived macrophages are known to be abundant in active RA and  
283 induce proinflammatory cytokines/chemokines<sup>14,60</sup>. Finally, we found the M<sub>A</sub>-3: CD1C+ AFF3+  
284 DC chromatin class with expression markers *CD1C*, *AFF3*, *CLEC10A*, and *FCER1A*, whose  
285 corresponding promoter peaks generally showed more promiscuity across classes (**Fig. 4b;**  
286 **Supplementary Fig. 4b**).



287

288 **Fig. 4. RA myeloid chromatin classes.**

289 **a.** UMAP colored by 5 myeloid chromatin classes defined from unimodal scATAC and  
290 multimodal snATAC cells.

291 **b.** Binned normalized marker peak accessibility (**top**) and gene expression (**bottom**) for  
292 multiome snATAC cells on UMAP.

293 **c.** UMAP colored by chromVAR<sup>31</sup> deviations for the KLF4 motif (**left**). Most significantly enriched  
294 motifs in marker peaks per myeloid chromatin class (**right**). To be included per class, motifs had  
295 to be enriched in the class above a minimal threshold and corresponding TFs had to have at  
296 least minimal expression in snRNA (**Methods**). Color scale normalized per motif across classes  
297 with max  $-\log_{10}(\text{padj})$  value shown in parentheses in motif label. P-values were calculated via  
298 hypergeometric test in ArchR<sup>32</sup>.

299 **d.** UMAP colored by *C1QB* normalized gene expression (**left**). *C1QB* locus (chr1:22,652,235-  
300 22,653,595) with selected isoforms, motifs, open chromatin peaks, and chromatin accessibility  
301 reads from unimodal and multimodal ATAC cells aggregated by chromatin class and scaled by  
302 read counts per class (**Methods**) (**right**).

303

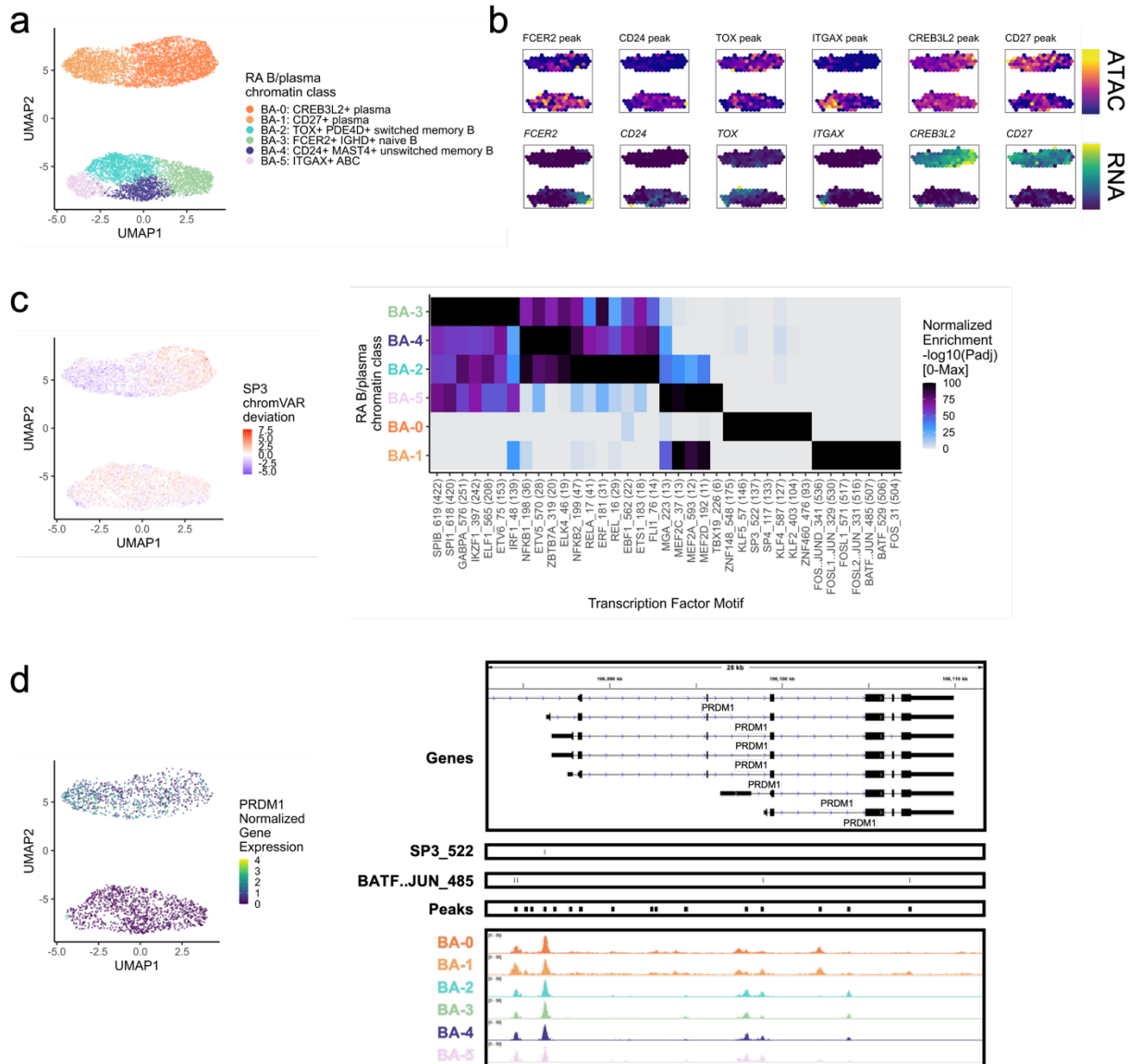
304 We next investigated the TF motifs enriched in the myeloid chromatin classes. M<sub>A</sub>-2 was  
305 enriched for KLF motifs (**Fig. 4c**), with *KLF4* ( $p_{\text{adj}}=1.34\text{e-}6$ ) known to both establish residency of  
306 TRMs and to assist in their phagocytic function<sup>61</sup>. Furthermore, we found a KLF4 motif in the  
307 promoter of *C1QB*, whose protein product bridges phagocytes to the apoptotic cells they clear<sup>62</sup>  
308 (**Fig. 4d**). Both the intermediate M<sub>A</sub>-4 and the infiltrating monocyte M<sub>A</sub>-1 classes had significant  
309 enrichments of AP-1 activation motifs<sup>63</sup> (JUN  $p_{\text{adj}}=1.77\text{e-}153$ ,  $3.65\text{e-}136$ , respectively; **Fig. 4c**).  
310 AP-1 factors have been shown to function in human classical monocytes along with CEBP  
311 factors<sup>64</sup>, also enriched in M<sub>A</sub>-1 (CEBPD  $p_{\text{adj}}=2.10\text{e-}26$ ; **Fig. 4c**). SPI1 (PU.1) is the master  
312 regulator of myeloid development<sup>65</sup>, including conventional DCs<sup>66</sup>. We found PU.1 motifs most  
313 strongly enriched in the DC cluster M<sub>A</sub>-3 ( $p_{\text{adj}}=3.24\text{e-}55$ ; **Fig. 4c**).

314

#### 315 **RA B/plasma chromatin classes**

316 Next, we clustered 8,641 B and plasma cells into 4 MS4A1+ B cell and 2 SDC1+ plasma  
317 cell chromatin classes (**Methods; Fig. 5a; Supplementary Fig. 5a**). We defined a B<sub>A</sub>-3:  
318 FCER2+ IGHD+ naive B class with high accessibility and expression of *FCER2* encoding naïve  
319 marker CD23<sup>67</sup> (**Fig. 5b; Supplementary Fig. 5b**). We also labeled a B<sub>A</sub>-4: CD24+ MAST4+  
320 unswitched memory B class (**Supplementary Fig. 5b**). *IGHD* and *IGHM* expression was lower  
321 in B<sub>A</sub>-2: TOX+ PDE4D+ switched memory B cells, and the TF TOX had its highest expression  
322 and accessibility within B cells in B<sub>A</sub>-2 as previously shown in switched memory B cells<sup>68,69</sup> (**Fig.**  
323 **5b; Supplementary Fig. 5b**). B<sub>A</sub>-5: ITGAX+ ABC (Age-Associated B cells) had high  
324 accessibility and expression of *ITGAX*, which encodes for CD11c, a key ABC marker<sup>70</sup> (**Fig. 5b;**  
325 **Supplementary Fig. 5b**). ABCs were shown to be associated with leukocyte-rich RA<sup>11</sup> with a  
326 potential role in antigen presentation<sup>71</sup>, which was supported here by expression of LAMP1 and  
327 HLA-DRA in B<sub>A</sub>-5 (**Supplementary Fig. 5b**). The plasma chromatin class, B<sub>A</sub>-0: CREB3L2+  
328 plasma, was marked by the TF *CREB3L2*, a known factor in the transition between B and  
329 plasma cells<sup>72</sup> (**Fig. 5B; Supplementary Fig. 5b**). These results suggested tissue *in situ* B cell

330 activation and differentiation into plasma cells, as we have previously suggested<sup>73</sup>. Finally, B<sub>A</sub>-1:  
 331 CD27+ plasma, had the highest accessibility and expression of CD27 (Fig. 5b; Supplementary  
 332 Fig. 5b). We note that plasma cells were difficult to define using ATAC data, with many of the  
 333 immunoglobulin genes having a paucity of chromatin accessibility (Supplementary Fig. 5b).



334

335 **Fig. 5. RA B/plasma chromatin classes.**

336 **a.** UMAP colored by 6 B/plasma chromatin classes defined from unimodal scATAC and  
 337 multimodal snATAC cells.

338 **b.** Binned normalized marker peak accessibility (**top**) and gene expression (**bottom**) for  
 339 multiome snATAC cells on UMAP.

340 **c.** UMAP colored by chromVAR<sup>31</sup> deviations for the SP3 motif (**left**). Most significantly enriched  
 341 motifs in marker peaks per B/plasma chromatin class (**right**). To be included per class, motifs



342 had to be enriched in the class above a minimal threshold and corresponding TFs had to have  
343 at least minimal expression in snRNA (**Methods**). Color scale normalized per motif across  
344 classes with max  $-\log_{10}(\text{padj})$  value shown in parentheses in motif label. P-values were  
345 calculated via hypergeometric test in ArchR<sup>32</sup>.

346 **d.** UMAP colored by *PRDM1* normalized gene expression (**left**). *PRDM1* locus  
347 (chr6:106,082,865-106,111,658) with selected isoforms, motifs, open chromatin peaks, and  
348 chromatin accessibility reads from unimodal and multimodal ATAC cells aggregated by  
349 chromatin class and scaled by read counts per class (**Methods**) (**right**).

350

351 We then explored the TF motif landscape of B and plasma cells. B cells shared many TF  
352 motifs across clusters, with many ETS factors (e.g., SPIB, SPI1, ETS1) as well as EBF1 and  
353 NFkB1/2 (**Fig. 5c**). SPIB and SPI1 work together to regulate B cell receptor signaling<sup>74</sup>, which  
354 starts its dysregulation in RA at the naive B cell level<sup>75,76</sup> ( $p_{\text{adj}}=0, 0$ , respectively; **Fig. 5c**).  
355 Switched memory B cells were enriched for ETS1 motifs ( $p_{\text{adj}}=9.51\text{e-}19$ ; **Fig. 5c**), whose TF is  
356 required for IgG2a class switching in mice<sup>77</sup>. In plasma cells, B<sub>A</sub>-0 had motifs such as KLF2<sup>78</sup>  
357 and SP3<sup>79</sup> ( $p_{\text{adj}}=8.94\text{e-}105, 3.84\text{e-}138$ , respectively; **Fig. 5c-d**). B<sub>A</sub>-1 was enriched for AP-1  
358 factor motifs<sup>80</sup>, namely BATF::JUN ( $p_{\text{adj}}=0$ ; **Fig. 5c-d, Supplementary Fig. 5c**). In the locus of  
359 *PRDM1*, a known plasma TF<sup>79</sup>, the more B<sub>A</sub>-0 accessible peak had an SP3 motif while the more  
360 B<sub>A</sub>-1 accessible peaks had BATF::JUN motifs (**Fig. 5d**), suggesting potentially different  
361 regulatory strategies by class.

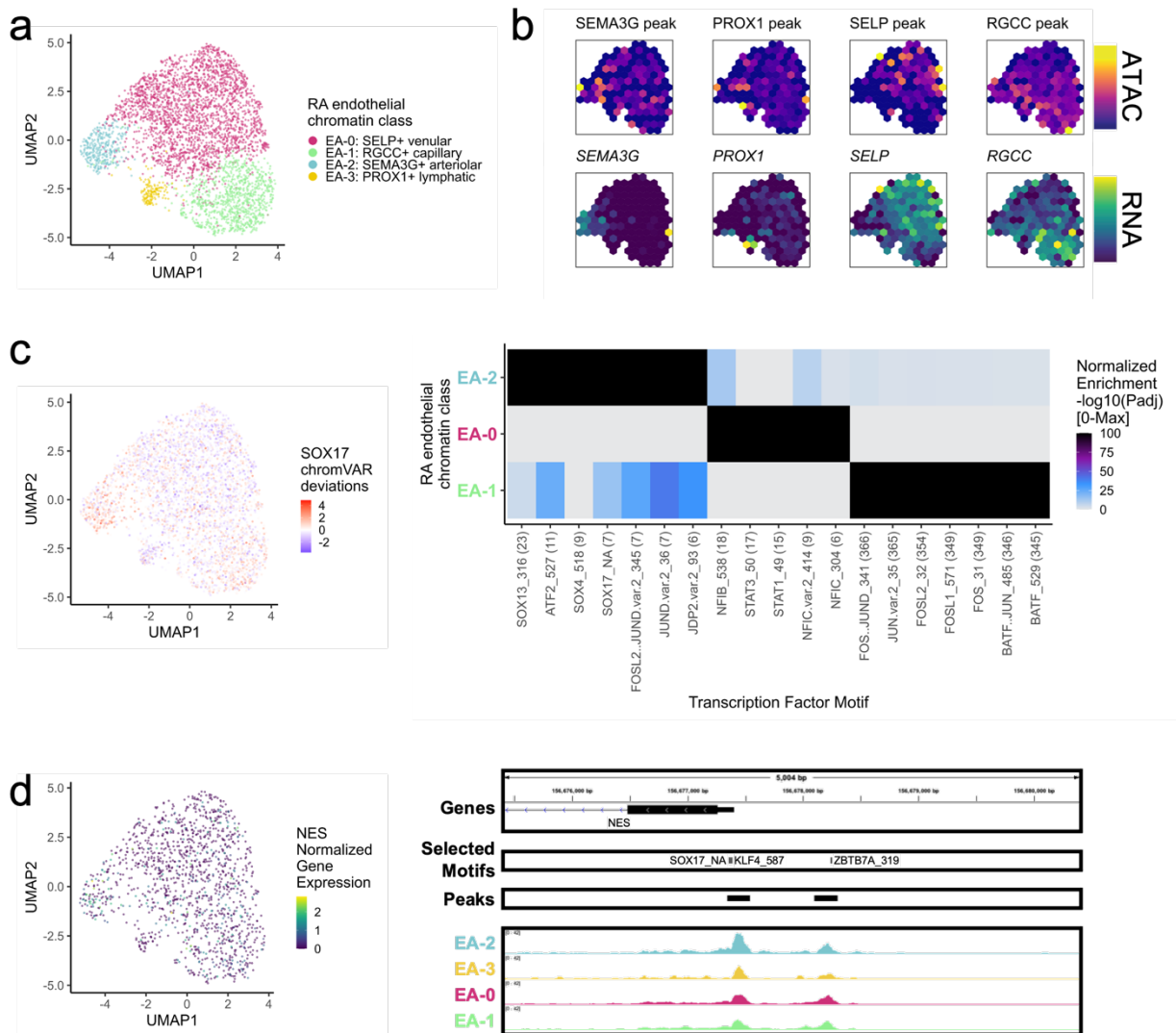
362

### 363 **RA endothelial chromatin classes**

364 Among the 3,809 endothelial cells, we identified 4 chromatin classes (**Fig. 6a**;  
365 **Supplementary Fig. 6a**). The E<sub>A</sub>-2: SEMA3G+ arteriolar class had gene and peak markers for  
366 signaling-related genes including *SEMA3G*<sup>81</sup>, *CXCL12*, and *JAG1* (**Fig. 6b; Supplementary**  
367 **Fig. 6b**). The NOTCH3 signaling gradient that causes inflammation and joint destruction in RA  
368 mouse models likely originates through Notch ligand *JAG1* in these arteriolar endothelial cells<sup>21</sup>.  
369 We identified the E<sub>A</sub>-0: SELP+ venular class with markers for leukocyte trafficking to tissue such  
370 as *SELP*<sup>82</sup> as well as inflammatory genes *HLA-DRA* and *CD74* (**Fig. 6b; Supplementary Fig.**

371 **6b**). We also found a capillary class, E<sub>A</sub>-1: RGCC+ capillary marked by *RGCC* and *SPARC*<sup>83</sup>  
372 chromatin accessibility and gene expression (**Fig. 6b**; **Supplementary Fig. 6b**). Finally, a small  
373 population of E<sub>A</sub>-3: PROX1+ lymphatic cells had gene expression of and promoter accessibility  
374 at *PROX1*<sup>84</sup> and *PARD6G* genes (**Fig. 6b**; **Supplementary Fig. 6b**).

375 We identified SOX motifs<sup>85</sup> in E<sub>A</sub>-2, STAT motifs<sup>86</sup> in E<sub>A</sub>-0, and AP-1 motifs<sup>87</sup> in E<sub>A</sub>-1  
376 (**Fig. 6c**). *Sox17* is a crucial intermediary between Wnt and Notch signaling that specifically  
377 initiates and maintains endothelial arterial identity in mice<sup>85</sup>. Similarly, we found a SOX17 motif  
378 ( $p_{\text{adj}}=3.27\text{e-}8$ ) in the promoter of *NES*<sup>88,89</sup> with its highest accessibility and expression in E<sub>A</sub>-2  
379 cells (**Fig. 6d**).



380

381 **Fig. 6.** RA endothelial chromatin classes.

382 **a.** UMAP colored by 4 endothelial chromatin classes defined from unimodal scATAC and

383 multimodal snATAC cells.

384 **b.** Binned normalized marker peak accessibility (**top**) and gene expression (**bottom**) for

385 multiome snATAC cells on UMAP.

386 **c.** UMAP colored by chromVAR<sup>31</sup> deviations for the SOX17 motif (**left**). Most significantly

387 enriched motifs in marker peaks per endothelial chromatin class (**right**). To be included per

388 class, motifs had to be enriched in the class above a minimal threshold and corresponding TFs

389 had to have at least minimal expression in snRNA (**Methods**). Color scale normalized per motif

390 across classes with max  $-\log_{10}(\text{padj})$  value shown in parentheses in motif label. P-values were

391 calculated via hypergeometric test in ArchR<sup>32</sup>. EA-3 is not shown because only 1 marker peak

392 was found, likely due to low cell counts.

393 **d.** UMAP colored by NES normalized gene expression (**left**). NES locus (chr1:156,675,399-

394 156,680,400) with selected isoforms, motifs, open chromatin peaks, and chromatin accessibility

395 reads from unimodal and multimodal ATAC cells aggregated by chromatin class and scaled by

396 read counts per class (**Methods**) (**right**).

397

## 398 **Synovial tissue is key to identifying pathogenic RA chromatin classes**

399 To determine if the chromatin classes identified in RA tissue were comparable with the  
400 known peripheral blood chromatin landscape, we clustered the tissue cells with those from a  
401 published healthy PBMC multiome dataset<sup>90,91</sup> (**Methods; Supplementary Fig. 7**). To  
402 determine the similarity between the PBMC and tissue chromatin classes, we calculated the  
403 Odds Ratio (OR) between the newly defined clusters and the previous blood and tissue labels;  
404 overall, there was good concordance. For example, the PBMC Treg cells and T<sub>A</sub>-3: CD4+  
405 IKZF2+ Treg cells were grouped in combined cluster 5 (OR: 12 and 85, respectively)  
406 (**Supplementary Fig. 7a**) and PBMC cDC1, cDC2, and pDCs all associated with M<sub>A</sub>-3: CD1C+  
407 AFF3+ DCs in combined cluster 4 (OR: Infinite, 45, 78, and 98, respectively) (**Supplementary**  
408 **Fig. 7b**). However, there were some tissue chromatin classes that did not have clear  
409 counterparts in PBMCs, such as T<sub>A</sub>-2: CD4+ PD-1+ TFH/TPH, M<sub>A</sub>-2: LYVE1+ TIMD4+ TRM,  
410 M<sub>A</sub>-4: SPP1+ FABP5+ intermediate, and B<sub>A</sub>-5: ITGAX+ ABC (**Supplementary Fig. 7**).  
411 Intriguingly, these chromatin classes only identified in the RA synovial tissue are known to be  
412 important in RA pathogenesis<sup>11,13,14,16,60</sup>. While this could be a difference between healthy and  
413 disease states beyond the blood and tissue comparison, these populations generally skew  
414 towards tissue populations<sup>13,92,93</sup> and suggested the importance of examining cells from  
415 diseased tissue environments.

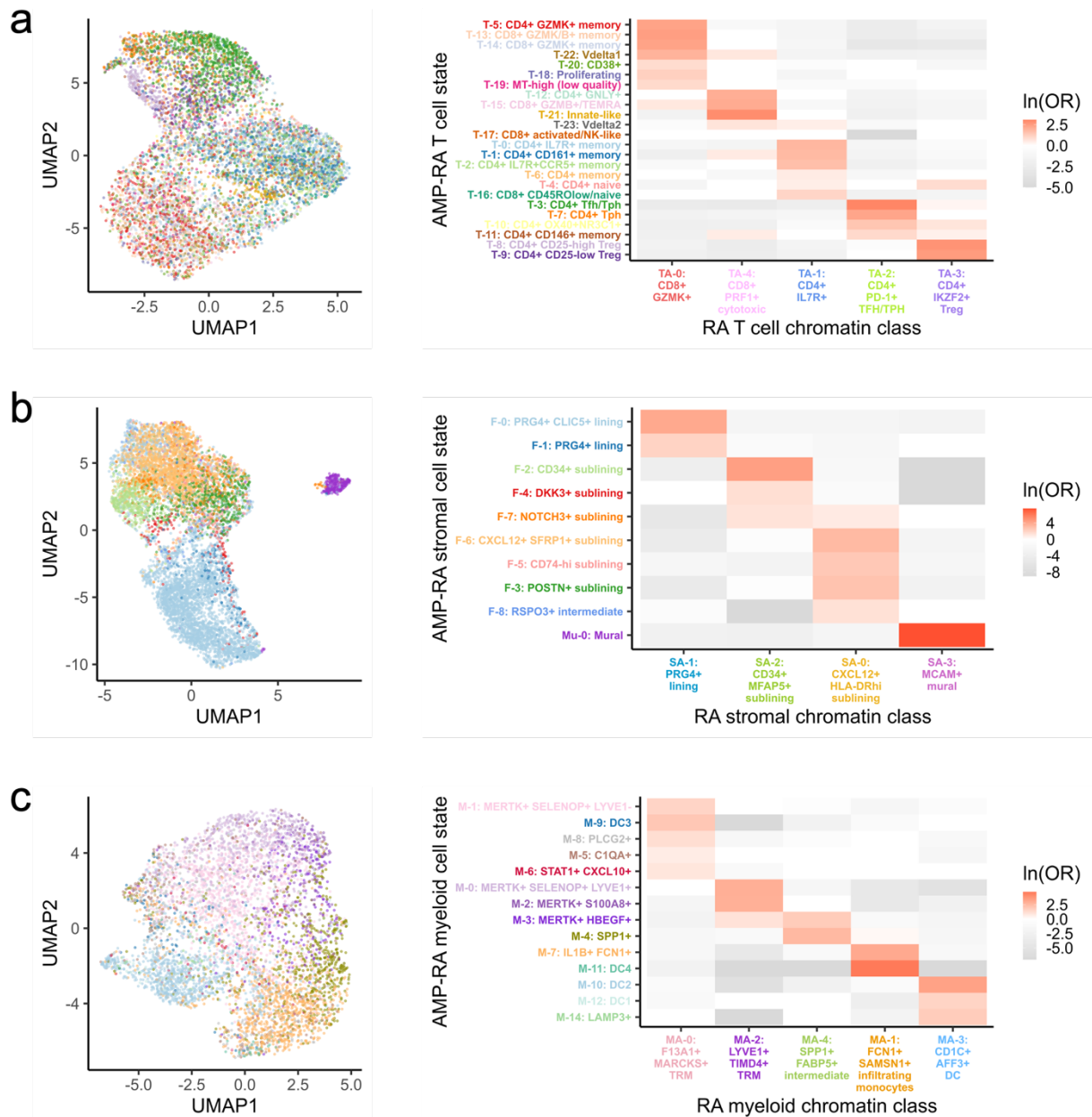
416

## 417 **Chromatin classes are epigenetic superstates of transcriptional cell states**

418 To understand how these chromatin classes corresponded to transcriptionally defined  
419 cell states, we used Symphony<sup>94</sup> to map the RA multimodal snRNA profiles into the well-  
420 annotated AMP-RA cell type references<sup>12</sup>. After embedding the multimodal snRNA profiles into  
421 the AMP-RA reference data, we annotated each multimodal cell by the most common cell state  
422 of its five nearest reference neighbors (**Methods**). 70% of T cells (24 states), 96% of stromal

423 cells (10 states), 96% of myeloid cells (15 states), 96% of B/plasma cells (9 states), and 99% of  
424 endothelial cells (5 states) mapped well (*i.e.*, 3/5 neighbors had the same cell state annotation).  
425 We also observed that the proportion of each cell state in the AMP-RA reference and the  
426 multimodal query datasets was consistent, suggesting that the reference and query datasets  
427 have comparable cell state distributions despite different technologies (**Supplementary Fig. 8a-**  
428 **e**).

429 We then sought to understand the correspondence between the mapped transcriptional  
430 cell states and chromatin classes. We calculated an OR for each combination of state and class  
431 to measure the strength of association and used a Fisher's exact test to assess significance  
432 (**Methods**).



433

434 **Fig. 7.** A chromatin class encompassed multiple transcriptional cell states in proposed  
435 superstate model.  
436 For (a.) T, (b.) stromal, and (c.) myeloid cells, UMAP colored by classified AMP-RA reference  
437 transcriptional cell states for multiome cells (left) and natural log of Odds Ratio between  
438 chromatin classes and transcriptional cell states (right). Non-significant values (FDR<0.05) are  
439 white. In c., M-13: pDC transcriptional cell state was excluded as fewer than 10 cells were  
440 classified into it.

441

442 We observed that each transcriptional cell state generally corresponded to a single  
443 chromatin class (**Fig. 7; Supplementary Figure S8g-h**). In contrast, a single chromatin class  
444 represents a superstate encompassing multiple transcriptionally defined cell states. For  
445 example, cells in the  $T_A-0$ : CD8+ GZMK+ chromatin class were more likely to be labelled in the  
446 T-5: CD4+ GZMK+ memory, T-13: CD8+ GZMK/B+ memory, and T-14: CD8+ GZMK+  
447 transcriptional cell states across CD4/CD8 lineages (OR=11, 12, 11, respectively; **Fig. 7a**); the  
448 high GZMK promoter accessibility and expression shared by these states may contribute to this  
449 categorization (**Supplementary Fig. 8f**). We saw examples of this model in every cell type:  $S_A-1$   
450 linked to F-0/F-1 and  $S_A-0$  to F-6/F-5/F-3/F-8 in stromal cells;  $M_A-1$  to M-7/M-11 and  $M_A-4$  to M-  
451 3/M-4 in myeloid cells;  $B_A-4$  to B-1/B-3 in B/plasma cells; and  $E_A-0$  to E-1/E-2 in endothelial cells  
452 as more examples (**Fig. 7b-c; Supplementary Figure S8g-h; Supplementary Table 4**).  
453 Indeed, when we aggregated the snATAC reads by states, we observed shared openness  
454 between transcriptional cell states within the same class (*i.e.*, superstate), as seen with the  
455 cytotoxic  $T_A-4$  grouped cell states T-12/T-15 at the cytotoxicity-associated<sup>34</sup> *FGFBP2* gene,  
456 lining fibroblast  $S_A-1$  grouped cell states F-0/F-1 at the lining-associated<sup>11</sup> *CLIC5* gene, and  
457 intermediary myeloid  $M_A-4$  grouped cell states M-3/M-4 at bone marrow macrophage-  
458 associated<sup>59</sup> *SPP1* gene (**Supplementary Fig. 9**).

459 We next asked if evidence for chromatin superstates was sensitive to clustering  
460 resolution. We observed that the class and state relationships largely replicated when we  
461 increased the open chromatin clustering resolution (**Supplementary Fig. 10**). To further support  
462 the superstate hypothesis, we trained a linear discriminant analysis (LDA) model to predict the  
463 transcriptional cell state between each pair of states from the ATAC principal components  
464 (PCs), upon which the chromatin classes were defined (**Methods**). Generally, transcriptional  
465 cell states belonging to the same chromatin class were difficult to distinguish using ATAC data  
466 alone (**Supplementary Fig. 11**). For example, transcriptional states T-14 and T-13 both  
467 belonged to chromatin class  $T_A-0$ , and thus ATAC PCs could not easily discriminate between

468 them (AUROC=0.61); on the other hand, T-14 and T-3 belonged to classes  $T_A-0$  and  $T_A-2$ ,  
469 respectively, and LDA nearly perfectly distinguished them (AUROC=0.98) (**Supplementary Fig.**  
470 **11a**). In all cell types, the mean AUROC between states within the same chromatin class was  
471 less than that of states across different chromatin classes. For example in T cells, the mean  
472 AUROC was 0.77 within the same classes and 0.88 across different chromatin classes,  
473 suggesting that there was a limit to how well the ATAC data could differentiate between  
474 transcriptional cell states.

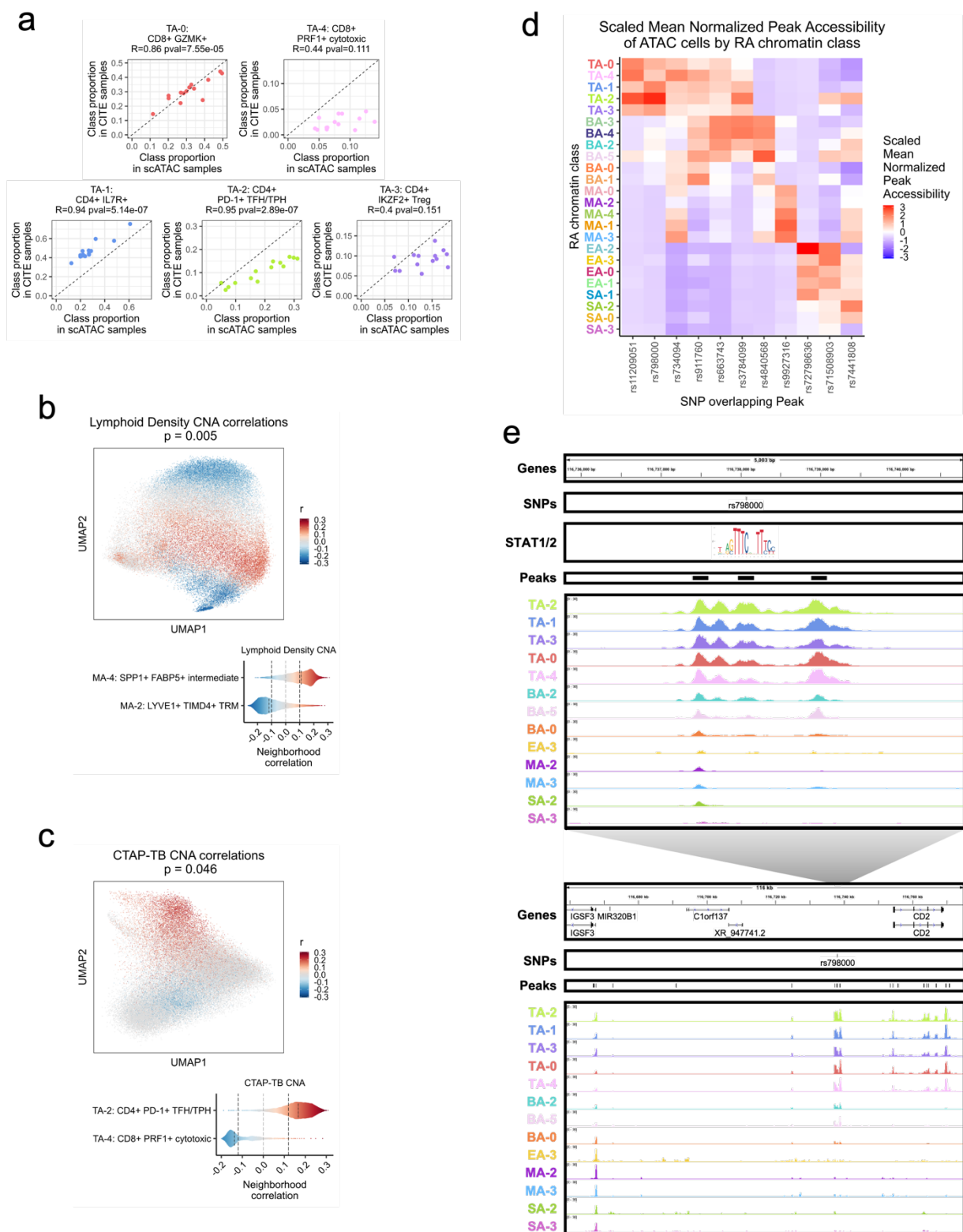
475

### 476 **Cell neighborhood associations with histological metrics and cell state proportions**

477       Next, we sought to investigate associations between the RA chromatin classes and RA  
478 clinical metrics using the larger AMP-RA reference dataset with clinical measurements for 79  
479 RA or OA patients. Per cell type, we classified<sup>94</sup> each cell from the AMP-RA reference dataset,  
480 now the query, into the RA chromatin classes based on the five nearest multiome snRNA  
481 neighbors, now the reference (**Methods**). To validate this annotation, we compared the relative  
482 proportions of chromatin classes between the unimodal scATAC cells and the projected AMP-  
483 RA scRNA cells for donors in both studies (**Methods**). We observed generally high correlation  
484 between the two technologies (**Fig. 8a; Supplementary Fig. 12a**). We then investigated RA  
485 clinical associations calculated via Co-varying Neighborhood Analysis (CNA)<sup>95</sup>. In brief, CNA  
486 tests associations between sample-level attributes, such as clinical metrics, and cellular  
487 neighborhoods, which are small groups of cells that reflect granular cell states. We used the  
488 previously described CNA associations defined in the AMP-RA reference cells and re-  
489 aggregated them by their chromatin classes (**Methods**). For example, we found an association  
490 between myeloid cells and histology characterized by lymphoid infiltration density ( $p=0.005$ ).  
491 Specifically, the increase in lymphocyte populations was positively associated with  $M_A-4$ : SPP1+  
492 FABP5+ intermediate class, whose inflammatory cytokines/chemokines production may be  
493 responsible for lymphocyte homing<sup>96</sup>, and negatively associated with  $M_A-2$ : LYVE1+ TIMD4+



494 TRM, whose gene markers were found more often on synovial TRMs from healthy and  
495 remission RA than active RA patients<sup>14</sup> (**Fig. 8b**). Additionally, we observed an association  
496 between T cells and histological Krenn inflammation score ( $p=0.02$ ), with T<sub>A</sub>-2: CD4+ PD-1+  
497 TFH/TPH positively<sup>97</sup> and T<sub>A</sub>-4: CD8+ PRF1+ cytotoxic negatively correlated (**Supplementary**  
498 **Fig. 12b**). These results were consistent with the original transcriptional cell state findings<sup>12</sup> and  
499 suggested that the connections between RA pathology and cell state may begin before  
500 transcription.



501

502 **Fig. 8.** Linking RA chromatin classes to RA pathology.

503 **a.** For each donor shared between the unimodal ATAC and AMP-RA reference studies with at

504 least 200 T cells, the Pearson correlation between the relative proportions of T cell chromatin

505 classes defined in the unimodal ATAC datasets (**x-axis**) and classified into in the CITE datasets  
506 through the multiome cells (**y-axis**). Pearson Correlation Coefficients (R) and p-values (pval)  
507 noted.  
508 **b.** CNA correlations between myeloid cell neighborhoods and lymphoid density in AMP-RA  
509 reference myeloid cells visualized on UMAP (**top**) and aggregated by classified myeloid  
510 chromatin classes (**bottom**). On the top, cells not passing the FDR threshold were colored grey.  
511 On the bottom, FDR thresholds shown in dotted black lines.  
512 **c.** CNA correlations between T cell neighborhoods and CTAP-TB in AMP-RA reference T cells  
513 visualized on UMAP (**top**) and aggregated by classified T cell chromatin classes (**bottom**). On  
514 the top, cells not passing the FDR threshold were colored grey. On the bottom, FDR thresholds  
515 shown in dotted black lines.  
516 **d.** Scaled mean normalized chromatin accessibility for peaks that overlap putatively causal RA  
517 risk variants across chromatin classes. Additional information in **Supplementary Table 5**.  
518 **e.** rs798000 locus, zoomed in (chr1:116,735,799-116,740,800) (**top**) and zoomed out  
519 (chr1:116,658,581-116,775,106) (**bottom**) with isoforms, SNPs, open chromatin peaks, and  
520 chromatin accessibility reads aggregated by chromatin class and scaled by read counts per  
521 class (**Methods**). STAT1/2 motif was downloaded from JASPAR<sup>98</sup> ID MA0517.1 and is not to  
522 scale, but it is aligned to the SNP-breaking motif position.

523

524 One of the key findings from the AMP-RA study was the identification of six Cell Type  
525 Abundance Phenotypes (CTAPs), which characterized RA patients into subtypes based on the  
526 relative proportions of their broad cell type abundances in synovial tissue<sup>12</sup>. For example,  
527 CTAP-TB has primarily T and B/plasma cells. Specific cell neighborhoods within cell types were  
528 expanded or depleted in these CTAPs as defined by CNA associations in the AMP-RA  
529 reference cells. We recapitulated some of these transcriptional associations by re-aggregating  
530 the CNA results within the chromatin classes; for example, the RA T cell class T<sub>A</sub>-2 was  
531 positively associated with CTAP-TB compared to other T cell states, likely reflecting the role of  
532 TFH/TPH cells in B cell inflammation response<sup>11,13</sup>, while T<sub>A</sub>-4 was negatively associated  
533 ( $p=0.046$ ; **Fig. 8c**). Furthermore, in stromal cells, we saw the S<sub>A</sub>-1: PRG4+ lining class positively  
534 associated with CTAP-F, a primarily fibroblast CTAP ( $p=0.0027$ ; **Supplementary Fig. 12c**). This  
535 suggested that the most expanded type of fibroblasts in CTAP-F individuals was predominantly  
536 from the synovial lining layer, which was consistent with lining marker CLIC5 protein having high  
537 staining in the lining fibroblasts and being expressed in the highest proportion of cells from high  
538 density fragments of CTAP-F samples (ANOVA  $p_{adj}<0.001$  between CTAPs)<sup>12</sup>. Therefore, we

539 could meaningfully replicate the RA pathological associations of both clinical metrics and  
540 phenotypic subtypes to transcriptional cell states using their related chromatin class superstate,  
541 suggesting that the epigenetic regulation underlying the transcriptional cell states may be mined  
542 for further pathological insights into RA.

543

#### 544 **Chromatin classes prioritize RA-associated SNPs**

545 We next asked whether RA risk variants overlap the chromatin classes to help define  
546 function for putatively causal variants, genes, and pathways at play in RA pathology<sup>99–103</sup>. Using  
547 an RA multi-ancestry genome-wide association meta-analysis study<sup>104</sup>, we overlapped fine-  
548 mapped non-coding variants with posterior inclusion probability (PIP) greater than 0.1 with the  
549 200 bp open chromatin peaks and assessed peak accessibility across the 24 chromatin classes  
550 (**Methods; Fig. 8D; Supplementary Table 5**). For six loci, putatively causal variants overlapped  
551 a peak accessible in predominantly one cell type, such as rs11209051 in peak chr1:67333106-  
552 67333306 in T cells (Wilcoxon T versus non-T class one-sided  $p=4.17e-04$ ; **Methods**) near the  
553 *IL12RB2* gene and rs4840568 in peak chr8:11493501-11493701 in B/plasma cells (Wilcoxon  
554  $p=1.49e-05$ ) near the *BLK* gene. In the other loci, variants overlapped with chromatin classes  
555 from 2 cell types, with most combinations involving T cells. Moreover, there were 4 SNPs  
556 overlapping peaks accessible in the T<sub>A</sub>-2: CD4+ PD-1+ TFH/TPH class, which is the most  
557 targeted class within T cells and important for RA pathogenesis<sup>11,13</sup>.

558 As an example, we observed putatively causal SNP rs798000 (PIP=1.00) overlap peak  
559 chr1:116737968-116738168, accessible primarily in T cells (Wilcoxon  $p=2.35e-05$ ) with T<sub>A</sub>-2 as  
560 its most accessible class ( $z=3.03$ ) (**Fig. 8d-e**, top). In a previous study<sup>91</sup>, we linked active  
561 chromatin regions to their target genes, which suggested *CD2* is a causal gene in this locus.  
562 *CD2* is a co-stimulatory receptor primarily expressed on T and NK cells<sup>105</sup>, which likely explains  
563 why it was only accessible in our T cell chromatin classes among the five cell types investigated  
564 (**Fig. 8e**, bottom). Intriguingly, rs798000 overlaps a STAT1/2 binding site at a high information

565 content half site position (**Fig. 8e**, top, position 8 in JASPAR<sup>98</sup> motif MA0517.1), suggesting a  
566 potential direct link to TF regulation of the JAK/STAT pathway commonly upregulated in RA<sup>52</sup>.

567 We also discovered SNP rs9927316 (PIP=0.54) in myeloid-specific peak  
568 chr16:85982638-85982838 (Wilcoxon  $p=4.165e-04$ ), downstream of *IRF8*, one of the master  
569 regulator TFs of myeloid and B cell fates<sup>106-108</sup> (**Supplementary Fig. 13a**). The SNP disrupts a  
570 KLF4 motif<sup>61</sup>, one of the TRM TFs highlighted earlier (**Supplementary Fig. 13a; Fig. 4c-d**).

571 Furthermore, we observed SNP rs734094 (PIP=0.41) overlapping peak chr11:2301916-  
572 2302116, with its most accessible classes in T and myeloid cells: T<sub>A</sub>-4: CD8+ PRF1+ cytotoxic  
573 and M<sub>A</sub>-3: CD1C+ AFF3+ DC ( $z=1.94, 1.65$ , respectively) (**Fig. 8d; Supplementary Fig. 13b**).

574 While existing in the promoters of both *TSPAN32* and *C11orf21* gene isoforms (**Supplementary**  
575 **Fig. 13b**), we<sup>91</sup> proposed the causal gene as Lymphocyte-specific Protein 1 (*LSP1*), shown to  
576 negatively regulate T cell migration and T cell-dependent inflammation in arthritic mouse  
577 models<sup>109</sup>. For each of these loci, we also aggregated chromatin accessibility by classified  
578 transcriptional cell state and saw that the multiple states underlying each class had similar  
579 patterns, such as rs734094 having some of the strongest signal in T<sub>A</sub>-4 associated classes T-  
580 12, T-21 and M<sub>A</sub>-3 associated classes M-10, M-14 (**Supplementary Fig. 14**). This both  
581 reaffirmed our chromatin class superstate model and suggested that the classes are useful  
582 functional units that may help simplify mapping risk loci to affected cell states. The RA tissue  
583 chromatin classes can help prioritize putative cell states of action for non-coding RA risk  
584 variants that may help assist in their functional characterization within disease etiology.

585

## 586 Discussion

587 In this study, we described 24 chromatin classes across 5 broad cell types in 30 synovial  
588 tissue samples assayed with unimodal scATAC and multimodal snATAC along with TFs  
589 potentially regulating them. Based on our observation that cells from the same chromatin class  
590 corresponded to multiple transcriptional cell states, we proposed that these chromatin classes

591 are putative superstates of related transcriptional cell states. Finally, we assessed these  
592 chromatin classes' relationship to RA clinical metrics, subtypes, and genetic risk variants.

593 Simultaneous chromatin accessibility and gene expression measurements in the  
594 multiome cells were essential to test the relationship between chromatin classes and  
595 transcriptional cell states. Biologically, open chromatin is necessary but not sufficient for gene  
596 expression<sup>18</sup>, so it is reasonable to expect related cell states to have similar open chromatin  
597 landscapes with poised enhancers activated by specific TFs in the required state. The  
598 robustness of the observed class-state relationships across multiple clustering resolutions  
599 mitigated concerns that this proposed model was a technical artifact. Moreover, even in the  
600 absence of clusters, classifiers based on continuous ATAC PCs also demonstrated the similarity  
601 of transcriptional states within the same chromatin class.

602 Defining the relationship between transcriptional cell state and chromatin class may  
603 have important therapeutic implications. One effective RA treatment strategy is the deletion of  
604 the pathogenic cell state: the use of B-cell depleting antibodies (*e.g.*, rituximab<sup>10</sup>) is an example.  
605 However, if one chromatin class corresponds to multiple transcriptional cell states, then deleting  
606 very specific pathogenic populations may be ineffective as other non-pathogenic transcriptional  
607 cell states may transition into the specific pathogenic cell state in response to the same  
608 pathogenic tissue environment. In that case, altering the environment or removing exogenous  
609 factors (*e.g.*, TFs, cytokines) might be a more effective treatment. S<sub>A-0</sub>: CXCL12+ HLA-DR<sup>hi</sup>  
610 sublining fibroblasts, with its four related transcriptional states in our superstate model, may be  
611 an interesting class to study in this regard. S<sub>A-0</sub> accessible peaks were enriched for STAT  
612 motifs, suggesting potential regulation by the JAK/STAT signaling pathway. Indeed, JAK  
613 inhibition via tofacitinib and upadacitinib has been shown to prevent HLA-DR induction in RA  
614 synovial fibroblasts<sup>110</sup>.

615 More broadly, the results presented here suggest some interesting next steps. First, our  
616 chromatin class superstate model indicated that certain transcriptional cell states were more

617 closely linked, but further experimentation would be required to ascertain whether these related  
618 cell states have a plastic enough chromatin landscape that they can potentially cross-  
619 differentiate within a cell type or whether they are more broadly grouped by function. Second, to  
620 better understand whether the more pathogenic chromatin classes such as T<sub>A</sub>-2: CD4+ PD-1+  
621 TFH/TPH and M<sub>A</sub>-1: FCN1+ SAMS1+ infiltrating monocytes are indeed only in tissue, a RA  
622 PBMC scATAC-seq study may be warranted. If we see more of a consensus between the  
623 chromatin landscapes of RA blood and tissue, we may be able to determine if the chromatin  
624 environment is permissible for some of these pathogenic transcriptional populations to arise  
625 before they do. If not, then we confirm the need to investigate tissue inflammation directly at the  
626 tissue level. Third, the chromatin classes could prioritize where to look for functional effects of  
627 putatively causal RA genetic variants. For example, further study could investigate whether  
628 STAT signaling upon CD2 stimulation<sup>111,112</sup> is affected by the STAT1/2-motif breaking SNP  
629 rs798000 in TFH/TPH cells, in particular from donors with a subtype of RA characterized by  
630 primarily T and B/plasma cells, as in CTAP-TB, where TFH/TPH cells are most positively  
631 correlated. Our study underscores the value for larger tissue-specific genetic studies examining  
632 the role of genetic variation on open chromatin.

633 In conclusion, we presented an atlas for RA tissue chromatin classes that will be a useful  
634 resource for linking chromatin accessibility to gene expression and the interpretation of genetic  
635 information.

636

637 **Accelerating Medicines Partnership Program: Rheumatoid Arthritis and Systemic Lupus**  
638 **Erythematosus (AMP RA/SLE) Network includes:**

639 Jennifer Albrecht<sup>7</sup>, William Apruzzese<sup>11</sup>, Nirmal Banda<sup>18</sup>, Jennifer L. Barnas<sup>7</sup>, Joan M. Bathon<sup>12</sup>,  
640 Ami Ben-Artzi<sup>13</sup>, Brendan F. Boyce<sup>14</sup>, David L. Boyle<sup>15</sup>, S. Louis Bridges Jr.<sup>8,9</sup>, Vivian P.  
641 Bykerk<sup>8,9</sup>, Debbie Campbell<sup>7</sup>, Hayley L. Carr<sup>16</sup>, Arnold Ceponis<sup>15</sup>, Adam Chicoine<sup>1</sup>, Andrew  
642 Cordle<sup>17</sup>, Michelle Curtis<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Kevin D. Deane<sup>18</sup>, Edward DiCarlo<sup>19</sup>, Patrick Dunn<sup>20,21</sup>, Andrew

643 Filer<sup>16</sup>, Gary S. Firestein<sup>15</sup>, Lindsay Forbess<sup>16</sup>, Laura Geraldino-Pardilla<sup>12</sup>, Susan M. Goodman<sup>8,9</sup>,  
644 Ellen M. Gravallesse<sup>1</sup>, Peter K. Gregersen<sup>22</sup>, Joel M. Guthridge<sup>23</sup>, Maria Gutierrez-  
645 Arcelus<sup>1,2,3,4,5,24</sup>, Siddarth Gurajala<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, V. Michael Holers<sup>18</sup>, Diane Horowitz<sup>22</sup>, Laura B.  
646 Hughes<sup>25</sup>, Kazuyoshi Ishigaki<sup>1,2,3,4,5,26</sup>, Lionel B. Ivashkiv<sup>8,9</sup>, Judith A. James<sup>23</sup>, Joyce B.  
647 Kang<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Gregory Keras<sup>1</sup>, Ilya Korsunsky<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Amit Lakhanpal<sup>8,9</sup>, James A. Lederer<sup>27</sup>,  
648 Zhihan J. Li<sup>1</sup>, Yuhong Li<sup>1</sup>, Katherine P. Liao<sup>1,4</sup>, Arthur M. Mandelin II<sup>28</sup>, Ian Mantel<sup>8,9</sup>, Mark  
649 Maybury<sup>16</sup>, Andrew McDavid<sup>29</sup>, Joseph Mears<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Nida Meednu<sup>7</sup>, Nghia Millard<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Larry  
650 W. Moreland<sup>18,30</sup>, Alessandra Nerviani<sup>31</sup>, Dana E. Orange<sup>8,32</sup>, Harris Perlman<sup>28</sup>, Costantino  
651 Pitzalis<sup>31</sup>, Javier Rangel-Moreno<sup>7</sup>, Karim Raza<sup>16</sup>, Yakir Reshef<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Christopher Ritchlin<sup>7</sup>,  
652 Felice Rivellese<sup>31</sup>, William H. Robinson<sup>33</sup>, Laurie Rumker<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Ilfita Sahbudin<sup>16</sup>, Jennifer A.  
653 Seifert<sup>18</sup>, Kamil Slowikowski<sup>4,5,34,35</sup>, Melanie H. Smith<sup>8</sup>, Darren Tabechian<sup>7</sup>, Dagmar Scheel-  
654 Toellner<sup>16</sup>, Paul J. Utz<sup>33</sup>, Dana Weisenfeld<sup>1</sup>, Michael H. Weisman<sup>13,33</sup>, Qian Xiao<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

655

656 <sup>11</sup> Accelerating Medicines Partnership® Program: Rheumatoid Arthritis and Systemic Lupus  
657 Erythematosus (AMP® RA/SLE) Network

658 <sup>12</sup> Division of Rheumatology, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New  
659 York, NY, USA.

660 <sup>13</sup> Division of Rheumatology, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

661 <sup>14</sup> Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Rochester Medical Center,  
662 Rochester, NY, USA

663 <sup>15</sup> Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, University of California, San Diego, La  
664 Jolla, CA, USA.

665 <sup>16</sup> Rheumatology Research Group, Institute for Inflammation and Ageing, University of  
666 Birmingham, NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Center and Clinical Research Facility,  
667 University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK.

668 <sup>17</sup> Department of Radiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.



- 669 <sup>18</sup> Division of Rheumatology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, USA.
- 670 <sup>19</sup> Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Hospital for Special Surgery; New York,  
671 NY, USA.
- 672 <sup>20</sup> Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation, National Institute of Allergy and  
673 Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA.
- 674 <sup>21</sup> Northrop Grumman Health Solutions, Rockville, MD, USA.
- 675 <sup>22</sup> Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Northwell Health, Manhasset, New York, NY, USA.
- 676 <sup>23</sup> Department of Arthritis & Clinical Immunology, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation,  
677 Oklahoma City, OK, USA.
- 678 <sup>24</sup> Division of Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard  
679 Medical School, Boston, MA. US.
- 680 <sup>25</sup> Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, University of  
681 Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, USA.
- 682 <sup>26</sup> Laboratory for Human Immunogenetics, RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences,  
683 Yokohama, Japan.
- 684 <sup>27</sup> Department of Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston,  
685 MA, USA.
- 686 <sup>28</sup> Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School  
687 of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 688 <sup>29</sup> Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, University of Rochester School of  
689 Medicine and Dentistry; Rochester, NY, USA.
- 690 <sup>30</sup> Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of  
691 Medicine; Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- 692 <sup>31</sup> Centre for Experimental Medicine & Rheumatology, William Harvey Research Institute,  
693 Queen Mary University of London; London, UK.
- 694 <sup>32</sup> Laboratory of Molecular Neuro-Oncology, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA.

695 <sup>33</sup> Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and  
696 Infection, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA.

697 <sup>34</sup> Center for Immunology and Inflammatory Diseases, Department of Medicine, Massachusetts  
698 General Hospital (MGH), Boston, MA, USA

699 <sup>35</sup> MGH Cancer Center, Boston, MA, USA

700

## 701 **Methods**

702 **Patient recruitment.** Fourteen RA and 4 OA patients were recruited by the Accelerating  
703 Medicines Partnership (AMP) Network for RA and SLE to provide samples for use in the  
704 unimodal scATAC-seq experiments. Separately, synovial tissue samples from 11 RA patients  
705 and 1 OA patient were collected from Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and the Hospital  
706 for Special Surgery (HSS) for use in the multimodal ATAC + Gene Expression experiments.  
707 Histologic sections of RA synovial tissue were examined, and samples with inflammatory  
708 features were selected in both cases.

709 All clinical and experimental sites that recruited patients obtained approval for this study from  
710 their Institutional Review Boards. All patients gave informed consent. We have complied with all  
711 relevant ethical regulations.

712

713 **Synovial tissue collection and preparation.** Synovial tissue samples from 14 RA patients and  
714 4 OA patients were collected and cryopreserved as part of a larger study cohort by the AMP  
715 Network for RA and SLE, as previously described<sup>12</sup>. Synovial tissue samples were thawed and  
716 disaggregated as previously described<sup>12,23</sup>. The resulting single-cell suspensions were stained  
717 with anti-CD235a antibodies (clone 11E4B-7-6 (KC16), Beckman Coulter) and Fixable Viability  
718 Dye (FVD) eFlour 780 (eBioscience/ThermoFisher). Live non-erythrocyte (*i.e.*, FVD- CD235-)   
719 cells were collected by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (BD FACSAria Fusion). The sorted  
720 live cells were then re-frozen in Cryostor and stored in liquid nitrogen. The cells were later

721 thawed and processed as described above for droplet-based scATAC-seq according to  
722 manufacturer's protocols (10X Genomics). For the multimodal experiments, the 11 RA and 1 OA  
723 synovial tissue samples were collected and cryopreserved before being thawed, disaggregated,  
724 and FACS-sorted as described above.

725

726 **Unimodal scATAC-seq experimental protocol.** Unimodal scATAC-seq experiments were  
727 performed by the BWH Center for Cellular Profiling. Each sample was processed separately in  
728 the cell capture step. Nuclei were isolated using an adaptation of the manufacturer's protocol  
729 (10X Genomics). Approximately ten thousand nuclei were incubated with Tn5 Transposase. The  
730 transposed nuclei were then loaded on a Chromium Next GEM Chip H and partitioned into Gel  
731 Beads in-emulsion (GEMs), followed by GEM incubation and library generation. The ATAC  
732 libraries were sequenced to an average of 30,000 reads per cell with recommended number of  
733 cycles according to the manufacturer's protocol (Single Cell ATAC V1.1, 10X Genomics) using  
734 Illumina Novaseq. Samples were initially processed using 10x Genomics Cell Ranger ATAC  
735 1.1.0, which includes barcode processing and read alignment.

736

737 **Multiome experimental protocol.** Multiome experiments were performed by the BWH Center  
738 for Cellular Profiling. Each sample was processed separately in the cell capture step. Nuclei  
739 were isolated as above. Approximately ten thousand nuclei transposed nuclei were loaded on  
740 Chromium Next GEM Chip J followed by GEM generation. 10x Barcoded DNA from the  
741 transposed DNA (for ATAC) and 10x Barcoded, full-length cDNA from poly-adenylated mRNA  
742 (for Gene Expression) were produced during GEM incubation. The ATAC libraries and Gene  
743 Expression libraries were then generated separately. Both library types were sequenced to an  
744 average of 30,000 reads per cell on different flowcells with recommended sequencing cycles  
745 according to the manufacturer's protocol (Chromium Next GEM Single Cell Multiome ATAC +  
746 Gene Expression, 10X Genomics) using Illumina Novaseq. Samples were initially processed

747 using 10x Genomics Cell Ranger ARC 2.0.0, which includes barcode processing and read  
748 alignment, for both ATAC and GEX information.

749

750 **ATAC quality control.** The unimodal scATAC and multimodal snATAC datasets were  
751 processed separately, but in the same manner unless otherwise stated. Reads were quality  
752 controlled from the Cell Ranger BAM files via a new cell-aware strategy that removes likely  
753 duplicate reads from PCR amplification bias within a cell while keeping reads originating from  
754 the same positions but from different cells. For unimodal scATAC-seq data, duplicate reads  
755 from the same cell were called based on read and mate start positions and CIGAR scores, but  
756 the multimodal snATAC-seq data only used start positions since Cell Ranger ARC did not  
757 provide a mate CIGAR score (MC:Z flag). Reads that were not properly mapped within a pair,  
758 had a MAPQ < 60, did not have a cell barcode, or were overlapping the ENCODE blacklisted  
759 regions<sup>24</sup> of 'sticky DNA' were also removed. BAM read files were converted to fragment BED  
760 files using BEDOPS<sup>113</sup> bam2bed while accounting for the 9-bp Tn5 binding site. We kept cells  
761 with more than 10,000 reads with at least 50% of those reads falling in peak neighborhoods (5x  
762 full peak size), at least 10% of reads in promoter regions, not more than 10% of reads calling in  
763 the mitochondrial chromosome, and not more than 10% of pre-deduplication reads falling in the  
764 ENCODE backlisted regions<sup>24</sup>. The genome annotation we used to define promoters was  
765 GENCODE v28 basic<sup>26</sup> as was done for Cell Ranger ATAC read mapping; we defined promoter  
766 regions for the QC step as 2kb upstream of HAVANA protein coding transcripts that we  
767 subsequently merged to avoid double counting. The fragments from the post QC cells were  
768 quantified within the 200bp trimmed consensus peaks (see **ATAC peak calling**) via  
769 GenomicRanges::findOverlaps<sup>114</sup> into a peaks x cells matrix. We then did an initial round of  
770 broad cell type clustering: binarize peaks x cells matrix, log(TFxIDF) normalization using  
771 Seurat::TF.IDF<sup>115</sup>, most variable peak feature selection using Symphony::vargenes\_vst<sup>94</sup>,  
772 center/scale features to mean 0 and variance 1 across cells using base::scale, PCA

773 dimensionality reduction to 20 PCs using `irlba::prcomp_irlba`, batch correction by sample using  
774 `Harmony::HarmonyMatrix`<sup>27</sup>, shared nearest neighbor creation using `RANN::nn2` and  
775 `Seurat::ComputeSNN`<sup>115</sup>, and Louvain clustering using `Seurat::RunModularityClustering`<sup>115</sup>. For  
776 the unimodal scATAC-seq broad cell type processing, we chose peaks that had at least one  
777 fragment in at least five percent of cells, TFxIDF normalization using `Seurat::TF.IDF`<sup>115</sup>, and  
778 PCA to 20 PCs using `irlba::prcomp_irlba` with centering and scaling internally before continuing  
779 in the above steps. We visualized clusters using UMAP coordinates via `umap::umap`. We  
780 removed doublet clusters with multiple cell-type-specific marker peaks (see **Broad cell type**  
781 **clustering**), intermediate placement between broad cell type clusters in principal component  
782 space, high fragment counts, and high doublet scores determined per cell per donor by ArchR<sup>32</sup>.  
783 Note that this does not necessarily preclude doublets of the same cell type.

784  
785 **ATAC peak calling.** For consistent analysis, we used trimmed consensus peaks across all  
786 ATAC cells for all analyses unless otherwise stated. Peaks were called twice, before and after  
787 ATAC cell QC, to first provide general peak information to be used in cell QC step and then  
788 afterwards on the post QC cells to provide the final, refined peak set. Individual scATAC-seq  
789 donor BAM files were converted to MACS2<sup>116</sup> BEDPE files using `macs2 randsample`,  
790 concatenated across donors, and then used to call peaks with `macs2 callpeak --call-summits`  
791 using a control file<sup>117</sup> where ATAC-seq was done on free DNA to account for Tn5's inherent  
792 cutting bias. The best sub-peak, as determined by signal value and q-value, was trimmed to 200  
793 bp (summit  $\pm$  100bp) to localize the signal and avoid confounding any statistical analysis with  
794 peak length. Any overlapping peaks were removed iteratively, keeping the best sub-peak, to  
795 avoid double counting. We confirmed these scATAC-seq peaks were reasonable to use for the  
796 multiome snATAC-seq datasets, beyond just that the datasets were done on the same tissue  
797 type, as there was an average of 75% (n=12 datasets; range: 66%-83%) of the 200bp trimmed  
798 snATAC-seq donor-specific peaks overlapping the scATAC-seq consensus peaks; we used the

799 5x full consensus peak neighborhoods in the cell QC step for multiome datasets as an added  
800 safeguard. We also confirmed our peaks' quality by seeing good overlap with ENCODE  
801 SCREEN v3 candidate cis-regulatory elements (cCREs)<sup>25</sup> and the GENCODE v28<sup>26</sup> promoter  
802 annotations via bedtools<sup>118</sup> intersectBed (**Supplementary Fig. 1f**).

803

804 **RNA quality control.** snRNA cells had to pass Cell Ranger ARC cell filtering and have at least  
805 500 genes and less than 20% of mitochondrial reads. The Cell Ranger ARC genes x cells  
806 matrix was subsetted to only these cells passing cell QC. We did an initial round of broad cell  
807 type clustering: log normalization to 10,000 reads using Seurat::NormalizeData<sup>115</sup>, most variable  
808 gene feature selection using a variance stabilizing transformation (VST)<sup>115</sup>, center/scale features  
809 to mean 0 and variance 1 across cells using base::scale, PCA dimensionality reduction to 20  
810 PCs using irlba::prcomp\_irlba, batch correction by sample via Harmony::HarmonyMatrix<sup>27</sup>,  
811 shared nearest neighbor creation using RANN::nn2 and Seurat::ComputeSNN<sup>115</sup>, and Louvain  
812 clustering using Seurat::RunModularityClustering<sup>115</sup>. We visualized clusters using UMAP  
813 coordinates using umap::umap. We removed doublet clusters with multiple cell-type-specific  
814 genes (see **Broad cell type clustering**), intermediate placement between broad cell type  
815 clusters in principal component space, high UMI counts, and high doublet scores determined  
816 per cell per donor by Scrublet<sup>119</sup>. Note that this does not necessarily preclude doublets of the  
817 same cell type.

818

819 **Broad cell type clustering.** The unimodal scATAC and multimodal snATAC datasets were  
820 processed separately, but in the same manner unless otherwise stated. For cells passing QC,  
821 we subsetted the feature x cells matrices and performed broad cell type clustering within  
822 modalities as described above. Marker peaks/genes denoting cell types were used as follows:  
823 *CD3D* and *CD3E* in T cells; *NCAM1* and *NCR1* in NK cells; *MS4A1* and *TNFRSF17* in B/plasma  
824 cells; *CD163* and *C1QA* in myeloid cells; *PDPN* and *PDGFRB* in fibroblasts; and *VWF* and *ERG*

825 in endothelial cells. Marker peaks were defined as peaks overlapping the promoters of marker  
826 genes; if there were multiple peaks overlapping a gene's promoter or multiple isoforms of a  
827 gene, the peak that best tracked with the gene's expression in the multiome cells was chosen.  
828 We also classified the multiome snRNA cells into the AMP-RA CITE-seq study<sup>12</sup> broad cell  
829 types using Symphony<sup>94</sup> (see **Symphony classification of transcriptional cell state**). The  
830 small minority of cells (2%) with discordant cell types defined in the snATAC, snRNA, and CITE-  
831 seq modalities for the multiome datasets were removed. Here, as in all analyses, we included  
832 OA samples to increase cell counts, but we did not make any OA versus RA comparisons due  
833 to low power.

834

835 **Fine-grain chromatin class clustering.** To define chromatin classes within broad cell types,  
836 we made peaks x cells matrices for each broad cell type combining unimodal scATAC-seq and  
837 multimodal snATAC-seq cells. Since peaks were called on all scATAC-seq cells regardless of  
838 cell type, we first subset each peaks x broad cell type cells matrix by "peaks with minimal  
839 accessibility" (PMA). We defined minimal accessibility as peaks that had a fragment in at least  
840 0.5% of cells, except for endothelial cells which we increased to a minimum of 50 cells. After  
841 subsetting the matrix by PMA peaks, we ran the same clustering pipeline detailed in the broad  
842 cell type clustering section with 10 PCs requested. For T, stromal, myeloid, and B/plasma cell  
843 types, we used Harmony<sup>27</sup> for batch-correction by sample with all other default parameters. For  
844 endothelial cells, due to small cell counts, we batch-corrected on both sample and assay and  
845 updated Harmony's sigma parameter to 0.2. We did another round of QC to exclude cells that  
846 clustered primarily due to relatively fewer total fragments per cell and fewer peaks with at least  
847 one 1 fragment per cell, and then re-clustered. We tried a number of clustering resolutions (see  
848 **Supplementary Fig. 10** for a subset) and chose the resolution at which we could define  
849 clusters biologically with known markers that tracked in both chromatin accessibility and gene  
850 expression spaces.

851

852 **T cell lineage analysis.** We used a logistic model to investigate how promoter peaks align with

853 the CD4 and CD8 lineage distinction ('lineage') across cells beyond their chromatin class

854 identity ('class'), sample's donor ('donor'), and overall fragment counts ('nFragments'). The

855 lineage variable was defined as the cell's chromatin accessibility at the promoter peaks of:

856 CD4+ CD8A- (+1), CD4+ CD8A+ or CD4- CD8A- (0), CD4- CD8A+ (-1); cell counts by lineage

857 and class are in **Supplementary Table 2**. Genome-wide T cell promoter peaks were defined as

858 those T cell PMA peaks that overlapped an ENCODE promoter-like cCRE<sup>25</sup>, whose proposed

859 target gene was assessed via overlapping ENSEMBL<sup>120</sup> hg38 release 92 transcript annotations.

860 For each of these binarized promoter peaks ('peak'), we calculated two logistic regressions

861 using lme4::glmer<sup>121</sup>:

862 Full model:  $\text{peak} \sim \text{lineage} + \text{class} + (1|\text{donor}) + \text{scale}(\log_{10}(\text{nFragments}))$

863 Null model:  $\text{peak} \sim \text{class} + (1|\text{donor}) + \text{scale}(\log_{10}(\text{nFragments}))$

864 A lineage beta in the model is positive if the peak is associated to CD4 and negative if

865 associated to CD8. We calculated significance as a likelihood ratio test (LRT) between the full

866 and null models with multiple hypothesis test correction using  $\text{FDR} < 0.20$ ; significant results are

867 shown in **Supplementary Table 3**. Furthermore, we defined a lineage score by cell via: 1)

868 subsetting the normalized chromatin accessibility matrix by the lineage-significant peaks; 2)

869 dividing CD4-associated peaks by the number of CD4-associated peaks to normalize; 3)

870 dividing CD8A-associated peaks by the number of CD8A-associated peaks to normalize; 4)

871 multiplying CD8A-associated peaks by -1 to differentiate lineage; 5) summing over peaks by cell

872 to get a cell score. Thus, if a cell's lineage score is positive, that cell is more associated to CD4

873 and CD8 if otherwise. We aggregated these cell scores by chromatin class in **Supplementary**

874 **Fig. 2d**.

875



876 **Transcription Factor motif analysis.** We used ArchR<sup>32</sup> version 1.0.2 for our TF motif analysis.  
877 For each cell type's final QC cells, we subsetting each donor's fragments using awk<sup>122</sup>, bgzip<sup>123</sup>,  
878 and tabix<sup>124</sup> before creating arrow files from them using createArrowFiles with all additional QC  
879 flags nullified. ArchR removed samples with two or fewer cells, so one sample with only two  
880 B/plasma cells was removed in that cell type. From the arrow files, we created an ArchR project  
881 via ArchRProject. We added our peak set into the project by addPeakSet and recreated a peaks  
882 by cells matrix via addPeakMatrix. We added our chromatin classes to the project's cell  
883 metadata with addCellColData. Then, we added motif annotations to our peaks using  
884 addMotifAnnotations with the JASPAR2020 motif set version 2, a 4 bp motif search window  
885 width, and motif p-value of 5e-05. We added chromVAR background peaks via addBgdPeaks  
886 and then calculated chromVAR deviations using addDeviationsMatrix. Next, we found marker  
887 peaks for each chromatin class using getMarkerFeatures via a Wilcoxon test and accounting for  
888 TSS Enrichment and log<sub>10</sub>(nFragments). Within those marker peaks, we found motif  
889 enrichment via peakAnnoEnrichment with cutoffs FDR ≤ 0.1 and Log<sub>2</sub>FC ≥ 0.5. We modeled  
890 our heatmap of motif enrichment on plotEnrichHeatmap, but we added some filters. As in the  
891 default plotEnrichHeatmap method, we used the -log<sub>10</sub>(padj), where the p-value is calculated  
892 via a hypergeometric test, as the motif enrichment value. For each chromatin class sorted by  
893 maximum motif enrichment value, we chose the top motifs not already chosen that had at least  
894 an enrichment value of 5 for that class, had the maximal or within 95% of the maximal  
895 enrichment for that class, and whose corresponding TF had at least 0.05 mean-aggregated  
896 normalized gene expression for that class. For myeloid cells, the enrichment cutoff was set to 2  
897 to show some motifs for M<sub>A</sub>-0. In endothelial cells, there were so few E<sub>A</sub>-3 cells that only 1  
898 marker peak was called for that class, resulting in no useful motif information to be shown; we  
899 also added a SOX17 motif (JASPAR<sup>98</sup> ID MA0078.1), a prominent arteriolar endothelial TF<sup>85</sup>, to  
900 the JASPAR2020 motif set for endothelial cells. For the chosen motifs, we plotted the

901 percentage of the max enrichment value across classes with the max value in parentheses in  
902 the motif label as in plotEnrichHeatmap.

903

904 **Loci visualization.** To visualize the ATAC read buildups by chromatin class or transcriptional  
905 cell state (class/state), we first subsetted the deduplicated BAM files for each donor by the cells  
906 in the specific state/class using an awk<sup>122</sup> command looking for the samtools CB:Z (*i.e.*, cell  
907 barcode) flag; a BAM index file was made for each BAM file for region subsetting purposes  
908 later. Then for each class/state at each locus, we subsetted each donor's BAM file for that  
909 region using samtools view, merged the BAM files across donors using samtools merge,  
910 converted the BAM files to bedgraph files using bedtools<sup>118</sup> genomecov, and then divided the  
911 bedgraph counts by the total read count (by 1e7 reads) in that class/state to allow for  
912 comparison between classes/states. The bedgraph files were then imported to IGV<sup>125</sup> and the  
913 data range for each class/state was set to the maximum value across classes/states. Tracks  
914 were colored by their class/state. We did not always show all classes/states for space reasons,  
915 but we picked representatives that were similar in the locus shown. Peaks (see **ATAC peak**  
916 **calling**), motifs (see **Transcription Factor motif analysis**), and SNPs (see **Genetic variant**  
917 **analysis**) were imported into IGV as BED files. We could not label all motifs found in these loci  
918 for space reasons, so we picked the enriched motif we were highlighting and a few other motifs  
919 enriched in the highlighted class. We also could not always show all the gene isoforms for all  
920 loci for space reasons, but we did always show a representative isoform for those that looked  
921 similar in the locus shown.

922

923 **Stromal DNA methylation analysis.** We downloaded 1859 differentially methylated (DM) loci  
924 for RA versus OA synovial fibroblast cell lines from Nakano et al., 2013<sup>47</sup>. We converted the 1  
925 bp DM regions from hg19 to hg38 reference genomes using liftOver<sup>126</sup>; 1 region did not map.  
926 Next, we overlapped these DM loci with our 200 bp stromal PMA peaks using intersectBed<sup>118</sup> to

927 get 152 DM loci, 67 associated to hypermethylation and 85 to hypomethylation. We defined a  
928 per-cell score as in the **T cell lineage analysis** section, but with positive scores corresponding  
929 to hypermethylation and negative scores to hypomethylation. We calculated a Wilcoxon Rank  
930 Sum Test p-value of DNA methylation cell scores between the 11,733 cells in S<sub>A</sub>-0 and the  
931 12,574 cells not in S<sub>A</sub>-0 to get significance.

932

933 **Tissue and blood analysis.** We downloaded a publicly available 10x Single Cell Multiome  
934 ATAC + Gene Expression dataset<sup>90</sup> of healthy donor (female, age 25) PBMCs with granulocytes  
935 removed through cell sorting as part of our sister study<sup>91</sup> ('Public PBMC' dataset). The PBMC  
936 cell labels were generated using the processing defined in that study. No further quality control  
937 was done on the fragment file downloaded from the 10x website

938 ([https://cf.10xgenomics.com/samples/cell-](https://cf.10xgenomics.com/samples/cell-arc/2.0.0/pbmc_granulocyte_sorted_10k/pbmc_granulocyte_sorted_10k_atac_fragments.tsv.gz)

939 [arc/2.0.0/pbmc\\_granulocyte\\_sorted\\_10k/pbmc\\_granulocyte\\_sorted\\_10k\\_atac\\_fragments.tsv.gz](https://cf.10xgenomics.com/samples/cell-arc/2.0.0/pbmc_granulocyte_sorted_10k/pbmc_granulocyte_sorted_10k_atac_fragments.tsv.gz))

940 . For each cell type (B, T, and myeloid), we subset the fragment file by that cell type's cells and

941 then overlapped them with our peaks to get a peaks x cells matrix as done in **ATAC quality**

942 **control**. We concatenated this matrix to our RA tissue's peaks x cells matrix for each

943 corresponding cell type and then re-clustered using the same PMA and variable peaks chosen

944 for tissue and harmonizing by sample. We chose the resolution that best mirrored the RA tissue

945 chromatin classes. The odds ratio for each individual biological source's cell label and the

946 combined tissue and blood cluster label was calculated as in **Class/state odds ratio**.

947

948 **Symphony classification of transcriptional cell state.** To determine the RA transcriptional

949 cell states within our multimodal data, we used Symphony<sup>94</sup> to map the multimodal snRNA

950 profiles into the AMP-RA reference synovial tissue transcriptional cell states<sup>12</sup>. We used a

951 Symphony reference object from that study for each broad cell type we tested (T cell, stromal,

952 myeloid, B/plasma, and endothelial); the lymphocyte states were defined using both gene and

953 surface protein expression while the others were defined using gene expression only. For each  
954 cell type, we mapped each multimodal snRNA gene x cells matrix into the appropriate  
955 Symphony reference object using the mapQuery function, accounting for donor as a batch  
956 variable. Using the knnPredict function with k=5, each multiome cell was classified into a  
957 reference transcriptional cell state by the most common annotation of its five nearest AMP-RA  
958 reference neighbors in the harmonized embedding. We considered it a high confidence  
959 mapping if at least 3 out of the 5 nearest reference neighbors were the same cell state, though  
960 the number of cell states will affect this as more cell states means more boundary regions  
961 between cell states.

962

963 **Class/state odds ratio.** For each combination of chromatin class and transcriptional cell state  
964 within a cell type, we constructed a 2x2 contingency table of the number of cells belonging or  
965 not to the class and/or state. For cell states that had more than 10 classified cells, we then  
966 calculated the odds ratio (OR) and p-value via stats::fisher.test. We did multiple hypothesis test  
967 correction via stats::p.adjust using FDR<0.05. We displayed the natural log of the OR via  
968 base::log, and if the value was infinite, we capped it at 1 plus the ceiling of the non-infinite max  
969 absolute value of logged OR for display purposes; negative infinity was the negative capped  
970 number. All the ORs and p-values for all class/state combinations from **Fig. 7** and

971 **Supplementary Fig. 8g-h** are in **Supplementary Table 4**.

972

973 **Linear discriminant analysis.** We used linear discriminant analysis (LDA) to determine how  
974 well knowing the ATAC harmonized principal component (hPC) information helped predict the  
975 mRNA fine-grain cell states for each pairwise combination of states. We specifically use  
976 pairwise combinations instead of 1 versus all comparisons to assess the chromatin accessibility  
977 data's ability to give rise to one or multiple transcriptional cell states. For each pair of  
978 transcriptional cell states within a broad cell type, we subset all data structures by those cells

979 and remade the cell state vector into a 1-hot encoding. If either cell state of the pair has less  
980 than 50 cells, we excluded it from further analysis. We used the ten ATAC hPCs from the fine-  
981 grain chromatin class clustering (see **Fine-grain chromatin class clustering**). Covariates of  
982 donor (1-hot encoded for 12 donors) and scaled logged number of fragments (nFragments)  
983 were used since both can affect cell type identity. We trained an LDA model using MASS::lda on  
984 75% of cells across the pair of states, verifying that the training and testing sets had cells from  
985 both states:

986 LDA model: cell state ~ ATAC hPCs + donors + scale(log10(nFragments))

987 We tested the model using stats::predict for the 25% of held-out data and quantified the  
988 discriminative value of the model using an area under the curve AUC metric from ROCR<sup>127</sup>  
989 library functions ROCR::prediction and ROCR::performance. Pairs of distinct clusters were only  
990 calculated once; the square matrices of results have the triangles mirrored. If the cell states  
991 were the same and a model was not run (identity line) or the model between pairs of clusters  
992 had a constant variable due to donors with too few cells (non-identity line), the box is greyed  
993 out.

994

995 **Symphony classification of chromatin class.** To utilize the richer clinical information in the  
996 more abundant AMP-RA reference datasets, we classified each AMP-RA reference cell into a  
997 chromatin class. We used the same shared transcriptional spaces by cell type defined in  
998 **Symphony classification of transcriptional cell state**, but we reversed the reference and  
999 query objects in the knnPredict function, such that the multiome cells were in the 'reference' and  
1000 the AMP-RA reference cells were in the 'query'. We used the most common annotation of the 5  
1001 nearest multiome neighbors to classify the chromatin class in the AMP-RA reference cells. We  
1002 averaged the 5 nearest multiome neighbors' UMAP dimensions to visualize the classified  
1003 chromatin classes in the AMP-RA reference cells on the ATAC-defined UMAPs.

1004

1005 **scATAC-seq and CITE-seq shared donor analysis.** There were different samples that came  
1006 from the same donors in the unimodal scATAC-seq and AMP-RA reference CITE-seq datasets.  
1007 We expected similar, but not the same, chromatin class proportions for samples coming from  
1008 the same donor's tissue but put through different experimental protocols and class assignment  
1009 methods. First, we filtered out any donors that did not have at least 200 scATAC or CITE cells in  
1010 all cell types except endothelial in which we lowered the threshold to 100 cells. We then  
1011 calculated the proportion of each sample's cells coming from each chromatin class for each  
1012 technology and plotted the CITE proportion by scATAC proportion for each donor, faceted by  
1013 chromatin class in **Fig. 8a** and **Supplementary Fig. 12a**. We calculated the Pearson correlation  
1014 and p-value for each chromatin class by `stats::cor.test`.

1015  
1016 **Co-varying neighborhood analysis (CNA).** We used the significant CNA<sup>95</sup> correlations  
1017 between AMP-RA reference cell neighborhoods and sample-level covariates from our AMP-RA  
1018 reference study<sup>12</sup>. We re-plotted the AMP-RA reference cell CNA correlations on the ATAC-  
1019 defined UMAPs and re-aggregated them by classified chromatin class calculated in **Symphony**  
1020 **classification of chromatin class**.

1021  
1022 **Genetic variant analysis.** We used the set of RA-associated non-coding SNP locations and  
1023 statistically fine-mapped post-inclusion probabilities (PIPs) from our previously published RA  
1024 multi-ancestry genome-wide association meta-analysis study<sup>104</sup>. We subsetted the SNPs by  
1025  $PIP > 0.1$  and overlapped their locations with our peaks using `intersectBed`<sup>118</sup>. For the  
1026 overlapping peaks, we plotted their normalized chromatin accessibility mean-aggregated by  
1027 chromatin class and scaled in **Fig. 8d** with more description in **Supplementary Table 5**. To  
1028 determine broad cell type specificity of a peak's accessibility, we calculated a Wilcoxon Rank  
1029 Sum Test 1-sided "greater" p value between the normalized, aggregated, scaled peak  
1030 accessibility in the broad cell type's classes versus those classes in the other broad cell types.

1031 Classes were considered accessible for that peak if the scaled mean normalized peak  
1032 accessibility over 24 classes and 11 peaks,  $z$ ,  $> 1$ . We plotted example loci in **Fig. 8e** and  
1033 **Supplementary Fig. 13** as described in **Loci visualization**; we excluded some chromatin  
1034 classes for space, but we kept the most accessible chromatin classes and at least one  
1035 chromatin class from each cell type at each locus. The TF motif logos in **Fig. 8e** and  
1036 **Supplementary Fig. 13** were downloaded from JASPAR motif database<sup>98</sup> for accession IDs  
1037 MA0517.1 (STAT1::STAT2), MA0039.4 (KLF4), and MA1483.1 (ELF2); they were not to scale,  
1038 but the motif position the SNP disrupts is aligned to the SNP. We further aggregated ATAC  
1039 reads by transcriptional cell state for visualization purposes in **Supplementary Fig. 14**.

1040

#### 1041 **Data Availability**

1042 Raw and processed data will be available on public repositories upon acceptance.

1043

#### 1044 **Code Availability**

1045 The code used to generate the results presented herein can be found on GitHub

1046 ([https://github.com/immunogenomics/RA\\_ATAC\\_multiome/](https://github.com/immunogenomics/RA_ATAC_multiome/)).

1047

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- 1339

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## 1341 **Acknowledgements**

1342 This work was supported by the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) in Rheumatoid  
1343 Arthritis and Lupus Network. AMP is a public-private partnership (AbbVie Inc., Arthritis  
1344 Foundation, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Foundation for the National Institutes of Health,  
1345 GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Research and Development, LLC, Lupus Foundation of America,  
1346 Lupus Research Alliance, Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., National Institute of Allergy and  
1347 Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, Pfizer  
1348 Inc., Rheumatology Research Foundation, Sanofi and Takeda Pharmaceuticals International,  
1349 Inc.) created to develop new ways of identifying and validating promising biological targets for  
1350 diagnostics and drug development. Funding was provided through grants from the National  
1351 Institutes of Health (UH2-AR067676, UH2-AR067677, UH2-AR067679, UH2-AR067681,  
1352 UH2AR067685, UH2-AR067688, UH2-AR067689, UH2-AR067690, UH2-AR067691,  
1353 UH2AR067694, and UM2-AR067678). Accelerating Medicines Partnership and AMP are  
1354 registered service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This work is

1355 supported in part by funding from the National Institutes of Health (1UH2AR067677-01,  
1356 U01HG009379, UC2AR081023). We also acknowledge support by NIH NHGRI T32HG002295  
1357 and NIAMS T32AR007530 (to K. Weinand and A.N.); and NIH NIAMS AR078769 (to D.A.R.).  
1358 S.S. was in part supported by the Uehara Memorial Foundation and the Osamu Hayaishi  
1359 Memorial Scholarship. UK Birmingham is supported by the Versus Arthritis Research Into  
1360 Inflammatory Arthritis Centre Versus Arthritis (Versus Arthritis grant 22072) and the EU  
1361 Innovative Medicines Initiative RT CURE. We wish to thank Tiffany Amariuta, Kaitlyn A.  
1362 Lagattuta, Anika Gupta, and Angela Zou for helpful discussion.

1363

#### 1364 **Author Contributions**

1365 K. Weinand, S.S., and S.R. conceptualized the study. K. Weinand conducted all computational  
1366 analyses. S.S., A.N., F.Z., and S.R. provided input on statistical analyses and study design.  
1367 S.S., A.N., A.H.J., D.A.R., M.B.B., K. Wei, and S.R. provided input on cellular analysis and  
1368 interpretation. S.S. and S.R. supervised the study. AMP RA/SLE Consortium recruited patients  
1369 and obtained synovial biopsies for unimodal scATAC-seq. L.T.D. and K. Wei recruited patients  
1370 for multimodal samples. K. Wei, A.H.J, G.F.M.W., A.N., and M.B.B. designed and implemented  
1371 the tissue disaggregation, cell sorting, and single cell sequencing pipeline. A.H.J., K. Wei, and  
1372 G.F.M.W supervised and executed the tissue disaggregation pipeline for unimodal scATAC-seq  
1373 samples. K. Wei, G.F.M.W, and Z.Z. supervised and executed the tissue disaggregation  
1374 pipeline for multimodal samples. K. Weinand, S.S., and S.R. wrote the initial manuscript. All  
1375 authors contributed to editing the final manuscript.

1376

#### 1377 **Competing Interests**

1378 S.R. is a founder for Mestag Therapeutics, a scientific advisor for Janssen and Pfizer, and a  
1379 consultant for Gilead. D.A.R. reports personal fees from Pfizer, Janssen, Merck,  
1380 GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Scipher Medicine, HiFiBio, and Bristol-Myers Squibb, and grant

1381 support from Merck, Janssen, and Bristol-Myers Squibb outside the submitted work. D.A.R. is a  
1382 co-inventor on the patent for Tph cells as a biomarker of autoimmunity.  
1383