

1 **PARP12 is required to repress the replication of a Mac1 mutant coronavirus in a cell and**
2 **tissue specific manner**

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 ADP-ribosyltransferases (ARTs) mediate the transfer of ADP-ribose from NAD⁺ to protein or
18 nucleic acid substrates. This modification can be removed by several different types of proteins,
19 including macrodomains. Several ARTs, also known as PARPs, are stimulated by interferon,
20 indicating ADP-ribosylation is an important aspect of the innate immune response. All
21 coronaviruses (CoVs) encode for a highly conserved macrodomain (Mac1) that is critical for
22 CoVs to replicate and cause disease, indicating that ADP-ribosylation can effectively control
23 coronavirus infection. Our siRNA screen indicated that PARP12 might inhibit the replication of a
24 MHV Mac1 mutant virus in bone-marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs). To conclusively
25 demonstrate that PARP12 is a key mediator of the antiviral response to CoVs both in cell culture
26 and *in vivo*, we produced PARP12^{-/-} mice and tested the ability of MHV A59
27 (hepatotropic/neurotropic) and JHM (neurotropic) Mac1 mutant viruses to replicate and cause
28 disease in these mice. Notably, in the absence of PARP12, Mac1 mutant replication was
29 increased in BMDMs and in mice. In addition, liver pathology was also increased in A59 infected
30 mice. However, the PARP12 knockout did not restore Mac1 mutant virus replication to WT virus
31 levels in all cell or tissue types and did not significantly increase the lethality of Mac1 mutant
32 viruses. These results demonstrate that while PARP12 inhibits MHV Mac1 mutant virus
33 infection, additional PARPs or innate immune factors must contribute to the extreme attenuation
34 of this virus in mice.

35 **IMPORTANCE**

36 Over the last decade, the importance of ADP-ribosyltransferases (ARTs), also known as
37 PARPs, in the antiviral response has gained increased significance as several were shown to
38 either restrict virus replication or impact innate immune responses. However, there are few
39 studies showing ART-mediated inhibition of virus replication or pathogenesis in animal models.
40 We found that the CoV macrodomain (Mac1) was required to prevent ART-mediated inhibition
41 of virus replication in cell culture. Here, using knockout mice, we found that PARP12, an
42 interferon-stimulated ART, was required to repress the replication of a Mac1 mutant CoV both in
43 cell culture and in mice, demonstrating that PARP12 represses coronavirus replication.
44 However, the deletion of PARP12 did not fully rescue Mac1 mutant virus replication or
45 pathogenesis, indicating that multiple PARPs function to counter coronavirus infection.

46 INTRODUCTION

47 Coronaviruses (CoVs) are the most prominent viruses in the *Nidovirales* order. CoVs are
48 large positive-sense RNA viruses that cause significant human and veterinary diseases and
49 have been responsible for several outbreaks of lethal human disease in the past few decades,
50 including SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV, which emerged in 2002 and 2012, respectively. In
51 December 2019, a new human CoV emerged from China, SARS-CoV-2, causing Coronavirus
52 Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (1). In March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared the
53 SARS-CoV-2 outbreak as a pandemic, making it the first pandemic to be caused by a CoV (1).

54 CoVs have a 30 kb genome, which encodes for 20-30 proteins (2, 3). There are four
55 main structural proteins, spike (S), envelope (E), membrane (M), and nucleocapsid (N). CoVs
56 can have up to nine accessory proteins, which are unique to each CoV lineage and are
57 important for the evasion of the immune system (4). There are also sixteen non-structural
58 proteins (nsps) required for virus replication (3). In addition to their roles in viral replication,
59 several nsps also have a role in the evasion of the innate immune response. For example, non-
60 structural protein 3 (nsp3) of coronaviruses encodes for a highly conserved macrodomain,
61 termed Mac1, that has ADP-ribose binding and ADP-ribosylhydrolase (ARH) activity. These
62 activities are conserved across the Hepeviridae, Togaviridae, and Coronaviridae families (5, 6).

63 Macrodomains are well-described structural domains of ~20 kDa with central β -sheets
64 flanked by α -helices (7). The macrodomains from each of these viral families can promote virus
65 replication or pathogenesis (8). The CoV Mac1 also counteracts the host immune response, as
66 mutation of a highly conserved asparagine shown to ablate ARH activity leads to increased
67 levels of IFN-I and other cytokines (9, 10). Using Murine Hepatitis Virus (MHV) strain JHM
68 (JHMOV) as a model, we previously showed that this asparagine-alanine mutation (N1347A) led
69 to decreased virus replication in Type I Interferon (IFN-I) competent, but not IFN-I null cells.
70 Notably, these Mac1-deficient viruses are extremely attenuated *in vivo*, causing little to no
71 disease compared to a wildtype (WT) CoVs in several lethal models of CoV infection (11).

72 ADP-ribosylation is a common, reversible post-translational modification, defined as the
73 addition of ADP-ribose units onto target protein or nucleic acid. It is known to affect a variety of
74 cellular processes, including cell signaling, DNA repair, and apoptosis (12, 13). Also, it is crucial
75 for the host response to virus infections and several other stress responses. In addition, many
76 bacterial toxins utilize ADP-ribosylation to shut down host processes (14). This modification can
77 contain one or more consecutive ADP-ribose units, resulting in either mono- or poly-ADP-
78 ribosylation (MAR and PAR). Both MAR and PAR are carried out by ADP-ribosyltransferases
79 (ARTs) which utilize NAD⁺ as a substrate to MARylate or PARylate target proteins (15). These
80 ARTs include diphtheria toxin-like (ARTD) and cholera-toxin like (ARTC) families, of which
81 ARTDs carry out most of the ADP-ribosylation in mammalian cells. The ARTDs were formerly
82 known as PARPs, though individual ARTDs are still known by their PARP nomenclature (i.e.
83 PARP1, PARP2, etc.) (16). There are 17 mammalian PARPs, and several are interferon-
84 stimulated genes (ISGs). PARPs can have both pro- and anti-viral effects (17, 18). The PARPs
85 with pro-viral activity include PARP1, PARP7, and PARP11, which can reduce IFN-I production
86 or IFN-I signaling, leading to the enhancement of virus replication (19-22). The PARPs with
87 antiviral activities include PARP7, PARP9, PARP10, PARP11, PARP12, and PARP13 (17).

88 PARP12 is a mono-ADP-ribosyltransferase that inhibits the replication of several viruses.
89 It can mildly inhibit vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) when overexpressed in HEK293T cells (23).
90 The over expression of PARP12 from a Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (VEEV) vector
91 strongly restricted the replication of several other viruses, including Sindbis virus (SINV),
92 encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV), and VEEV (18). PARP12 was also identified in a screen
93 for ISGs that inhibit the Zika virus (ZIKV) replication (24). Further results showed that PARP12,
94 in coordination with PARP11, was required for the ADP-ribosylation, ubiquitination, and
95 degradation of two ZIKV proteins involved in virus replication (25). Also, PARP12 has also been
96 shown to bind to TRIF and enhance NF- κ B activation, which indicates that it may have a role in
97 the inflammatory response (26).

98 Recently, using PARP inhibitors and NAD⁺ boosters, we demonstrated that ADP-
99 ribosylation was responsible for the attenuation of MHV-JHM (JHMOV) N1347A replication and
100 enhanced the IFN-I response to this virus, but had no impact on WT virus (10, 27). These
101 results supported the hypothesis that 1 or more PARPs are potent inhibitors of CoV replication
102 and that CoVs have evolved to encode a protein that is specifically required to antagonize them.
103 To identify the specific PARP(s) that restrict CoV replication, we performed an siRNA screen in
104 primary bone-marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs) targeting most of the IFN-induced
105 PARPs. From this screen we found that knockdown of PARP12 and PARP14 enhanced the
106 replication of N1347A. Knockdown of PARP12 demonstrated the greatest enhancement of
107 N1347A replication, indicating that it may be an inhibitor of CoV replication (10). Notably, a
108 separate study found that PARP12 bound to SARS-CoV-2 RNA and that knockdown of PARP12
109 in Calu-3 cells enhanced SARS-CoV-2 genomic RNA production, providing further evidence that
110 PARP12 may be a potent inhibitor of CoV replication (28). While powerful, there are some
111 limitations of RNAi knockdown, most notably that a portion of the protein is still present and that
112 there is the potential for off-target effects. To fully understand the role of PARP12 on CoV
113 replication, complete deletion models are necessary.

114 Here, we created PARP12^{-/-} mice to further explore the role of PARP12 in MHV
115 replication both in cell culture and *in vivo*. We found that the deletion of PARP12 fully rescued
116 Mac1 mutant replication in primary macrophages but did not enhance viral replication in
117 dendritic cells. Furthermore, Mac1 mutant replication and pathogenesis was partially restored in
118 PARP12^{-/-} mice, following JHMOV intracranial infection or A59 liver infection. These results
119 indicate that PARP12 contributes to the antiviral response to CoV infection but also that other
120 PARPs must function during infection to prevent Mac1 mutant virus from causing severe
121 disease *in vivo*.

122

123

124 RESULTS

125 **Generation of PARP12^{-/-} mice.** To test the hypothesis that PARP12 is a host factor capable of
126 inhibiting CoV replication, we generated a PARP12 knockout (KO) mouse to test its role both in
127 cell culture and *in vivo*. The PARP12 KO was engineered by replacing PARP12 with lacZ (for
128 details see Methods) (Fig. 1A). To determine the genotypes of the mice, primers were used that
129 separately detect the presence of the WT PARP12 gene and the lacZ insert (Fig. 1A, Methods).
130 We tracked the overall number of PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and PARP12^{-/-} mice born from
131 PARP12^{+/-} × PARP12^{+/-} crosses over the course of a full year, and we found that WT, Het, and
132 KO mice were born at the expected Mendelian ratios (Fig. 1B). We measured PARP12
133 expression from each organ using qPCR analysis (Fig. 1C). PARP12 was expressed in both
134 PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{+/-} in all organs, while it was completely absent in PARP12^{-/-} mice as
135 expected, confirming that we had knocked out PARP12 (Fig. 1C). PARP12 expression was
136 highest in the heart, lung, liver, and testes (male mice), and lowest in the brain and spleen (Fig.
137 1C). To determine if the PARP12^{-/-} mice developed normally, several organs including the brain,
138 heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, spleen, and testes from PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and PARP12^{-/-} mice
139 were harvested and weighed (Fig. 1D-E). The organ weights from the PARP12^{-/-} mice were
140 largely comparable to those from the PARP12^{+/+} mice and the PARP12^{+/-} mice, indicating
141 normal development of PARP12^{-/-} mice (Fig. 1D-E). However, the testes of male mice were
142 smaller than WT mice, though this difference was not statistically significant. Finally, to
143 determine if the loss of PARP12 impacted the development of immune cells, we collected cells
144 from the spleen and analyzed the frequency of innate and adaptive immune cells in 14 week-old
145 PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice. We found that PARP12 KO had no impact on the percentages
146 of these cells in the spleen as the frequency of innate immune cells such as macrophages and
147 DCs, and adaptive immune cells such as CD8 T cells, CD4 T cells, and B cells were all nearly
148 identical between PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice (Fig. 1F-G, Fig. S1).

149 One notable issue we identified with the PARP12^{-/-} mice was that we were unable to
150 produce litters from a PARP12^{-/-} × PARP12^{-/-} pairing. While surprising, this is not without
151 precedent, as several PARPs have been shown to impact the reproductive system (29-32). To
152 formally test this observation, we allowed 3 breeder pairs of PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and
153 PARP12^{-/-} mice to breed over the course of 4 months. We found that PARP12^{+/+} breeders
154 produced 6 successful pregnancies, PARP12^{+/-} mice produced 4 successful pregnancies, while
155 PARP12^{-/-} mice failed to become pregnant (Table S1). However, in rare occasions we were able
156 to get a PARP12^{-/-} female pregnant when bred with a PARP12^{+/-} male, but not vice versa. These
157 results demonstrate that PARP12^{-/-} mice have some defect in their ability to establish
158 pregnancy, which could be tied to the reduced size of the testes in PARP12^{-/-} male mice.

159

160 **PARP12 is required for the restriction of Mac1-mutant virus replication in BMDMs.** We
161 previously found that siRNA knockdown of PARP12 enhanced, but did not fully restore, the
162 replication of a JHMV N1347A in bone-marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs) (10). Due to the
163 limitations of siRNA knockdown, we hypothesized that a greater enhancement of N1347A
164 replication would be observed with PARP12 knockout cells. We harvested bone marrow cells
165 from PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice and then differentiated them into macrophages in cell
166 culture (M0). We then infected the BMDMs with JHMV WT and N1347A at an MOI of 0.05
167 PFU/cell and collected cells and cell supernatants at 12, 20, and 24 hpi (Fig. 2A). While N1347A
168 replicated at significantly lower levels than WT virus in PARP12^{+/+} cells at 12 and 20 hpi, it
169 replicated at WT virus levels in PARP12^{-/-} cells, demonstrating that PARP12 is required to inhibit
170 JHMV N1347A replication. Importantly, there was no difference in WT virus replication between
171 PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs, indicating that PARP12 only inhibits JHMV replication in the
172 absence of Mac1 activity and that Mac1 counters PARP12 activity in these cells. Interestingly,
173 we found that N1347A replication reached near WT levels in PARP12^{+/+} cells at 24 hpi, which

174 we hypothesize was due to a reduction in PARP12 activity in the later stages of infection
175 because of the depletion of NAD⁺ during infection (27).

176 To further expand our results to additional strains of MHV, we tested the replication of
177 the MHV-A59 Mac1 mutant virus, N1348A (equivalent mutation to N1347A in JHMV), in both
178 PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs. At 12 hpi, there was no difference in replication between WT
179 and N1348A in both PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs. But by 24 hpi, there was a significant
180 reduction in the replication of the N1348A virus in the PARP12^{+/+} BMDMs compared to WT
181 virus. In contrast, no difference was detected between N1348A and WT virus replication in
182 PARP12^{-/-} cells (Fig. 2B). This confirmed that PARP12 is necessary for the restriction of the
183 N1348A virus replication in BMDMs.

184 Next, we tested whether PARP12 was required for the inhibition of JHMV N1347A in
185 other myeloid derived cells. Bone marrow cells were harvested from PARP12^{+/+} mice and
186 PARP12^{-/-} mice and were differentiated into dendritic cells using GM-CSF. Similar to
187 macrophages, N1347A had a significant replication defect in these cells of ~10-fold at 20 hpi.
188 Remarkably, unlike macrophages, the replication defect was not rescued or even enhanced in
189 the PARP12^{-/-} cells (Fig. 2C and D). These results indicate that PARP12 may function in a cell
190 type-specific manner to repress N1347A replication, and that other PARPs are capable of
191 restricting N1347A in GM-CSF derived DCs.

192 Recently we identified another JHMV Mac1 point mutant that was highly attenuated in
193 cell culture. It was significantly more attenuated than N1347A across multiple cell lines,
194 indicating that Mac1 may have multiple functions during the viral lifecycle (33). This mutant virus
195 (D1329A) was rescued by PARP inhibitors and further inhibited by addition of nicotinamide
196 riboside (NR), clearly demonstrating that it is restricted by ADP-ribosylation. To determine if
197 PARP12 also inhibited the replication of D1329A we infected BMDMs with WT and D1329A
198 viruses and analyzed their replication in PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} cells as described above. In

199 contrast to N1347A, D1329A was not rescued in PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs (Fig. S2). These results
200 again indicate that multiple PARPs are capable of inhibiting CoV replication.

201

202 **PARP12 does not impact the IFN-I response during an N1347A infection.** Previously we
203 found that N1347A induces an increased IFN-I response in BMDMs that was ablated in
204 PARP14^{-/-} cells, demonstrating that PARP14 is required for the induction of IFN-I (10). To
205 determine if PARP12 is also important for this IFN-I response we performed a similar
206 experiment with PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs. Again, we observed an increase in IFN- β mRNA from
207 N1347A as compared to WT virus infected PARP12^{+/+} BMDMs (Fig. 3). However, as opposed to
208 results with PARP14^{-/-} BMDMs, we observed a similar increase of IFN-I mRNA during an
209 N1347A infection in PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs, indicating that PARP12 is not required for IFN-I mRNA
210 induction during a N1347A infection. We also looked at the mRNA levels of several key
211 cytokines including IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF- α , and CXCL-10 (Fig. 3). Again, there was no significant
212 difference in mRNA levels between N1347A infected PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs.

213

214 **PARP12 deletion increases JHM N1347A replication following intracranial, but not**
215 **intranasal infection.** Despite multiple reports demonstrating PARP12 antiviral activity in cell
216 culture, its ability to restrict virus replication *in vivo* has not been tested. Based on the increased
217 replication seen in PARP12^{-/-} M0 macrophages, we hypothesized that JHNV N1347A replication
218 in brains would be enhanced in PARP12^{-/-} mice. An intranasal infection with JHNV typically
219 results in the infection of olfactory neurons and transneuronal spread via the olfactory bulb (OB)
220 to primary, secondary, and tertiary connections of the OB. PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice were
221 infected intranasally with 10⁴ PFU of JHNV WT or JHNV N1347A. Brains were then harvested
222 at peak titer (5 dpi) (Fig. 4A). Similar to the BMDM titers and prior results (2), N1347A had
223 reduced viral loads of approximately one-log in the PARP12^{+/+} mice compared to the WT virus,
224 but surprisingly, there was no enhancement of N1347A replication in the PARP12^{-/-} mice (Fig.

225 4A). In addition, we performed immunohistochemistry staining of the forebrains of mice at 5
226 days-post-infection to assess virus spread (Fig. 4B, Fig. S4). PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice
227 infected with the WT virus had extensive viral N-protein staining, in contrast, both PARP12^{+/+}
228 and PARP12^{-/-} mice infected with N1347A had minimal N protein accumulation, indicating
229 N1347A replicates poorly in the brain and that it is not restricted by PARP12 (Fig. 4B). We also
230 looked at survival rates and weight loss following an intranasal infection. Both PARP12^{+/+} mice
231 and PARP12^{-/-} mice succumbed to the WT virus at a similar rate with weight loss ranging from
232 10-15%. Following infection with N1347A, there was similar survival between the PARP12^{+/+}
233 mice and the PARP12^{-/-} mice and little to no weight loss (Fig. 4C and D). We conclude that
234 either a separate PARP or other innate immune factors act to suppress JHMV N1347A
235 replication in the brains of PARP12^{-/-} mice following an intranasal infection.

236 To test whether the route of infection into the brain would impact the ability of PARP12 to
237 inhibit virus replication or reduce pathogenesis, we infected both PARP12^{+/+} mice and PARP12^{-/-}
238 mice intracranially with 750 PFU of JHMV WT and JHMV N1347A and virus replication was
239 measured at 4 dpi (peak titer). In the PARP12^{+/+} mice, there was a significant reduction in the
240 replication of the JHM N1347A virus compared to the WT virus. However, in the PARP12^{-/-} mice
241 there were several mice where N1347A replicated to the same level as WT virus, and there was
242 no significant difference in the viral loads between WT and N1347A viruses, indicating that
243 PARP12 at least partially restricted N1347A replication in the brains of mice (Fig. 5A). We then
244 tested if there was an increase in disease in PARP12^{-/-} mice following an intracranial infection
245 with N1347A. The WT virus caused 15-20% weight loss and 100% lethality in both PARP12^{+/+}
246 mice and PARP12^{-/-} mice. However, following an intracranial N1347A infection, PARP12^{+/+} mice
247 exhibited 10-15% weight loss and ~75% of infected mice survived. PARP12^{-/-} mice infected with
248 N1347A also had 10-15% weight loss but only ~50% of infected mice survived, indicating a
249 slight increase in lethality of PARP12^{-/-} mice following infection with N1347A, though this result
250 was not statistically significant (Fig. 5B and C). These results demonstrate that the loss of

251 PARP12 can in some cases impact the outcome of infection but continues to indicate that
252 multiple PARPs or other innate immune factors contribute to reducing the instance of severe
253 encephalitis following infection with N1347A.

254

255 **PARP12 deletion enhances virus replication and pathology following infection of A59**

256 **N1348A in the liver.** Given that MHV-A59 N1348A replication was rescued in PARP12^{-/-}
257 BMDMs (Fig. 2A-B) and that PARP12 is well-expressed in the liver (Fig. 1D), we hypothesized
258 that N1348A replication and pathogenesis would be enhanced in the livers of infected PARP12^{-/-}
259 mice. To test this hypothesis, we infected 8-week-old mice with 500 PFU of A59 WT and
260 N1348A viruses and measured virus replication at 3 dpi, the time of peak replication in the liver
261 (34). While the viral loads of N1348A were significantly reduced compared to WT virus in
262 PARP12^{+/+} mice, the viral loads of N1348A were rescued to WT levels in PARP12^{-/-} mice,
263 indicating that PARP12 was indeed required to inhibit the replication of N1348A in livers (Fig.
264 6A). We next tested if there was increased disease in PARP12^{-/-} mice infected with N1348A
265 compared to PARP12^{+/+} mice. Here we infected mice with 50,000 PFU of WT and N1348A to
266 enable the development of clinical disease. In PARP12^{+/+} mice, WT virus caused 10-15% weight
267 loss and ~50% of infected mice succumbed to the infection, whereas N1348A infected mice
268 caused only mild weight loss and only one of the infected mice succumbed to infection. Even
269 though viral loads of N1348A were rescued in PARP12^{-/-} mice, we were unable to detect any
270 significant differences in the weight loss or survival of N1348A infected PARP12^{-/-} mice
271 compared to the PARP12^{+/+} mice (Fig. 6B and C). To determine if PARP12 affects liver
272 pathology in this animal model of MHV infection, we performed H&E staining on livers at the end
273 point of infection. Livers were analyzed blindly and scored for inflammation, necrosis, and
274 edema/fibrin depositions. Both PARP12^{-/-} and PARP12^{+/+} mice demonstrated substantial tissue
275 damage following infection with WT virus, though about half of these mice still only scored a 1 or
276 0 in each category indicating a bimodal distribution (Fig. 7A-B). Following infection with N1348A,

277 PARP12^{+/+} livers appeared largely normal, as only one of the PARP12^{+/+} mice infected with
278 N1348A scored higher than a “1” in any category. In contrast, PARP12^{-/-} mice showed signs of
279 tissue damage in their livers following N1348A infection, with several mice scoring a 2 or 3 in all
280 3 categories. These results indicate that PARP12 plays at least a part in preventing liver
281 pathology following infection with a Mac1-mutant coronavirus.

282 In total, we have found that PARP12 restricts the replication of a Mac1 mutant
283 coronavirus in a cell culture and in mice in a cell type and tissue specific manner.
284

285 DISCUSSION

286 ADP-ribosylation is an important yet under-recognized protein modification that plays
287 numerous roles in cell biology. In recent years the importance of ADP-ribosylation in the context
288 of virus infection has gotten increased attention as multiple studies across several positive-
289 strand RNA virus families have indicated important roles for viral macrodomains in infection (35,
290 36). All CoVs encode for a macrodomain in nsp3 which can both bind to ADP-ribosylated
291 proteins and reverse ADP-ribosylation via its enzyme activity (5-7). Work from our lab and
292 others have demonstrated that this enzyme is critical for viral replication and pathogenesis and
293 antagonizes IFN-I responses (2, 9, 10, 34). This includes SARS-CoV-2, as we recently found
294 that Mac1-deleted SARS-CoV-2 is extremely attenuated in mice and induces a robust IFN
295 response (37). However, many details of how ADP-ribosylation mediates these anti-viral effects
296 remain unclear, including: *i*) what PARP(s) inhibit virus replication and pathogenesis and
297 promote IFN-I responses, *ii*) how does ADP-ribosylation impact the virus lifecycle, and *iii*) how
298 do these PARPs mechanistically inhibit virus replication.

299 Several PARPs are induced by interferon, including PARP7, PARP9, PARP10, PARP11,
300 PARP12, PARP13, and PARP14. The first indication that the interferon-induced ARTDs may
301 restrict N1347A replication was the finding that N1347A replicates to near WT virus levels in
302 IFNAR^{-/-} cells. A subsequent siRNA screen of IFN-stimulated PARPs found that the knockdown
303 of PARP12 and, to a lesser extent, PARP14 could enhance N1347A replication (10). To expand
304 upon our siRNA results, we developed PARP12 knockout mice to confirm our siRNA results and
305 define the role of PARP12 during an *in vivo* virus infection. While PARP12 can inhibit the
306 replication of several families of viruses, including alphaviruses, flaviviruses, and rhabdoviruses
307 (18, 23, 24), no one has demonstrated a role for this host factor *in vivo*.

308 One of the first notable findings here was that, despite being an ISG, PARP12 mRNA is
309 relatively well expressed in several tissues of WT mice, especially the heart, lung, liver, and
310 even the testes of male mice. However, the lack of a reliable antibody has prevented us from

311 examining PARP12 expression at the protein level in tissue and even in cell culture. PARPs
312 exist at low levels in cells which are difficult to detect even by mass spec (38, 39). Thus, novel
313 detection methods may be required to identify PARP12 protein expression in cells and tissue.

314 Despite difficulties in detecting PARP12 protein, we demonstrated that the deletion of
315 the PARP12 gene fully or partially rescued the replication of a Mac1 mutant MHV, but not WT
316 MHV, in both in cell culture and in mice. These results demonstrate that PARP12 can function to
317 inhibit CoV replication, but also that its function is effectively thwarted by Mac1. The mechanism
318 by which PARP12 represses coronavirus replication remains unknown. PARP12 has been
319 shown to relocate to stress granules from the Golgi following induction of cell stress, where it
320 could potentially function to inhibit viral protein translation (18, 26). However, the very low
321 abundance of PARP12 and lack of effective antibodies for PARP12 have limited our ability to
322 detect its localization during infection. When expressed from a VEEV vector, PARP12 repressed
323 the VEEV replication and expression of nsp2, a marker for general protein expression. When
324 further investigated, PARP12 expression led to decreased cellular translation through
325 interactions with ribosomes, specifically polysomes (18). PARP12 catalytic activity was largely
326 required for its ability to inhibit translational inhibition, but only played a small role in its antiviral
327 activity, making it unclear exactly how PARP12 represses VEEV replication (40). PARP12
328 contains several Zn-Finger and WWE domains like PARP7 and PARP13 (Zinc-antiviral protein
329 or ZAP). ZAP has several known antiviral activities, including blocking protein translation,
330 degrading viral RNAs, and others, though it lacks ADP-ribosyltransferase activity due to the
331 mutation of several key enzymatic residues (17). One hypothesis is that PARP12 positively
332 regulates itself by auto-MARylation which activates its additional domains to restrict CoV
333 replication. Alternatively, it could ADP-ribosylate other host or viral proteins which could activate
334 their functions to repress virus replication. We previously determined that the CoV N protein is
335 ADP-ribosylated; however, the level of ADP-ribosylation was unchanged in the N1347A mutant
336 virus infection, indicating that the ADP-ribosylation of N protein does not likely impact the

337 phenotypes described in this or previous reports (41). Further investigation into the mechanisms
338 of PARP12's antiviral activity and its impact on the viral lifecycle are needed to fully uncover the
339 basis for its antiviral activity.

340 PARP12 is likely not the only PARP that inhibits Mac1 mutant MHV. Our results revealed
341 a substantial level of both cell-type and tissue specific activity for PARP12. Our observation that
342 PARP12 knockout could enhance both JHMV-N1347A and A59-N1348A viruses to WT levels in
343 BMDMs, but has no impact on their replication in BMDCs, demonstrates that other PARPs must
344 have redundant functions. The idea that PARPs may be redundant is not without precedent. For
345 instance, PARP1 or PARP2 KO mice are developmentally normal, but a double knockout is
346 embryonic lethal, and PARP1 shares many similar functions with other nuclear PARPs (29, 42,
347 43). Furthermore, PARP5a/5b share multiple functions and recently were found to target MAVS
348 for PARylation and subsequent proteasome degradation (44, 45). In addition to redundancy, our
349 results indicate that multiple PARPs likely work together to fully attenuate Mac1 mutant virus.
350 For instance, in the livers, the loss of PARP12 enhanced virus replication and increased virally
351 induced pathology, but the N1348A virus still did not cause significant weight loss or lethality in
352 infected mice, indicating a role for additional PARPs in driving disease phenotypes.

353 These results drive the question, what other PARP may have redundant function or
354 cooperate with PARP12 to fully attenuate a Mac1 mutant virus? Expression of PARP7 and
355 PARP10 blocked cellular translation and VEEV replication to nearly identical levels as PARP12,
356 indicating similar function (40). PARP12 was shown to interact with PARP14 (46), and our
357 previous study found that knockdown of PARP14 also slightly enhanced N1347A virus
358 replication in BMDMs. Finally, PARP11 was shown to function along with PARP12 to restrict
359 Zika virus infection by targeting NS1 and NS3 for degradation (25). PARP10, PARP11, and
360 PARP14 do not share many of the same domains as PARP12, thus, it is not clear which PARP
361 may be functionally redundant with PARP12 or provide additional functions to prevent viral

362 pathogenesis. We are actively pursuing which additional PARPs might contribute to the
363 attenuation of Mac1 mutant coronaviruses.

364 In total, these results have revealed extensive new insight into the role of the PARP12
365 protein in the antiviral response to coronavirus infection both in cell culture and in mice.
366 Understanding the interactions between Mac1 and ARTs could have important implications in
367 coronavirus evolution and antiviral drug and vaccine development.

368 **METHODS**

369 **Cell culture.** HeLa cells expressing the MHV receptor carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell
370 adhesion molecule 1 (CEACAM1) (HeLa-MHVR) were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle
371 Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U/ml penicillin and 100
372 mg/ml streptomycin, HEPES, sodium pyruvate, non-essential amino acids, and L-glutamine.
373 Bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) sourced from PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice
374 were differentiated by incubating cells in Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) media
375 supplemented with 10% L929 cell supernatants (unless otherwise stated), 10% FBS, sodium
376 pyruvate, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 mg/ml streptomycin, and L-glutamine for seven days.
377 Bone marrow derived dendritic cells (BMDCs) were differentiated by incubating cells with
378 Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) media supplemented with 10% FBS, sodium pyruvate,
379 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 mg/ml streptomycin, L-glutamine, and 20 ng/ml GM-CSF for seven
380 days. All cells were washed and replaced with fresh media every day after the 4th day.

381 **Mice.** C57BL/6N-*Parp12*^{tm1.1(KOMP)^{Vl}cg}/MbpMmucd (PARP12^{-/-}) was produced by the Mouse
382 Biology Program using ES cell clone 15401A-D1, which was provided to KOMP by Velocigene-
383 Regeneron. After microinjection and germline transmission, mice that contained the reporter-
384 tagged null allele (tm1) were bred to Cre-expressing mice. This resulted in removal of the β -
385 actin promoter and the Neomycin gene it activated (tm1.1). The tm1.1 allele remains a lacZ
386 reporter and is a non-conditional knock-out of the gene (Fig. 1A). Please see the following link
387 for targeting strategy information and images: [https://www.mousephenotype.org/understand/the-](https://www.mousephenotype.org/understand/the-data/allele-design/)
388 [data/allele-design/](https://www.mousephenotype.org/understand/the-data/allele-design/). All animal procedures were conducted according to the Transgenic and
389 Gene-Targeting Facility's and the Fehr lab Animal Care and Use Protocol approved by the
390 KUMC and KU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC), respectively, following
391 guidelines set forth in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The KUMC
392 transgenic mouse facility performed *in vitro* fertilization of the sperm from PARP12^{+/-} mice with
393 pathogen-free C57BL/6NJ (B6) mice to reestablish the mouse line. Pathogen-free C57BL/6NJ

394 (B6) mice were originally purchased from Jackson Laboratories. prepubertal female mice were
395 superovulated by i.p. administration of 5 IU P.G. 600 (PMSG)(Intervet Inc.), followed 48 hours
396 later by i.p. administration of 5 IU human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG)(Sigma, #C1063). The
397 next morning, females were euthanized 15 hours after administration of hCG for the collection of
398 oviducts. Cumulus-oocyte complexes were released from the oviducts under oil and dragged
399 into a 90ml drop of CARD medium (COSMO BIO USA, kit KYD-005-EX) and incubated at 37°C,
400 6% CO₂, 5% O₂ for 30 minutes to one hour. A straw of frozen PARP12^{+/-} sperm was removed
401 from liquid nitrogen, held in air for five seconds, and submerged in a 37°C water bath for 10
402 minutes. The sperm sample was expelled into a 90ml drop of CARD Preincubation Medium and
403 incubated. After 30 minutes, a 10ml aliquot of the sperm suspension was withdrawn from the
404 preincubation drop and released into the CARD drop containing the oocytes. Gametes were co-
405 incubated for four hours, at which time the oocytes were washed free of the sperm and moved
406 to a drop of KSOM culture medium (Millipore Sigma, #MR-101-D) for overnight culture.
407 Fertilized oocytes were scored and separated the next morning at the two-cell stage for surgical
408 transfer to pseudopregnant CD-1 recipient females (Charles River, #022). Heterozygote mice
409 were transferred to the University of Kansas Animal Care Unit and heterozygote pairs were bred
410 to create PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and PARP12^{-/-} mice. Mice were genotyped using primers F 5'-
411 TGTGGGTGTATTTTCACACAAGC-3' and R 5'-TGTACCACTGGAGAAGGATGAAGCC-3' to
412 detect the PARP12 WT allele (224 bp) and primers F 5'-
413 AAAAGCAAACCTGGACCACAAGACCC-3' and R 5'-ACTTGCTTTAAAAAACCTCCCACA-3' to
414 detect the PARP12 KO allele (950 bp).

415 **Virus infection.** Recombinant MHV-JHMV was previously described (2) and recombinant MHV-
416 A59 was kindly provided by Dr. Susan Weiss. Cells were infected with recombinant MHV at a
417 multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.05-0.1 PFU/cell with a 60 min adsorption phase. For MHV-A59
418 *in vivo* infections, 8-12 week-old male and female mice were inoculated via an intraperitoneal
419 injection with either 500 or 5x10⁴ PFU of recombinant A59 in a total volume of 200µl PBS. For

420 JHMV *in vivo* infections, 5-8 week-old male and female mice were anesthetized with
421 ketamine/xylazine and inoculated intranasally with either 1×10^4 PFU recombinant JHMV in a
422 total volume of 12 μ l DMEM, or 5-6 week old male and female mice were anesthetized with
423 ketamine/xylazine and inoculated intracranially with 750 PFU of recombinant JHMV in a total
424 volume of 30 μ l DMEM. To obtain viral titers from infected animals, mice were sacrificed, and
425 brain tissue was collected and homogenized in DMEM. Viral titers were determined by plaque
426 assay using HeLa-MHVR cells.

427 **Real-time qPCR analysis.** RNA was isolated from BMDMs using TRIzol (Invitrogen) and cDNA
428 was prepared using MMLV-reverse transcriptase as per manufacturer's instructions (Thermo
429 Fisher Scientific). Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) was performed on a QuantStudio3
430 real-time PCR system using PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific).
431 Primers used for qPCR are listed in Table S2. Cycle threshold (C_T) values were normalized to
432 the housekeeping gene hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase (HPRT) by the following
433 equation: $C_T = C_{T(\text{gene of interest})} - C_{T(\text{HPRT})}$. Results are shown as a ratio to HPRT calculated as $2^{-\Delta C_T}$.
434

435 **Immunohistochemistry Staining.** Mice were perfused intracardially with 4% formaldehyde
436 (FA) diluted in 1X HBSS. After perfusion, each mouse brain was dissected and immersed in
437 fresh 4% FA in individual tubes for post-fixation. The forebrain region was cut, placed on a
438 freezing stage at -20°C and sectioned rostral-to-caudal at 30 μ m in intervals (skip 60 μ m
439 between sections) using a sliding block microtome (American Optical Spencer 860 with Cryo-
440 Histomat MK-2 controller). Four to six forebrain sections per group were moved individually on a
441 24-well plate using a camel hairbrush < 1.59 mm (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Cat. No.
442 65575-02), free-floating on HBSS/0.1% sucrose (HBSS/Su) at room temperature (RT) for
443 rinsing. To perform single immunohistochemistry, forebrain sections were permeabilized with
444 HBSS/Su + 0.1% saponin (HBSS/Su/Sap; 2x, 5 min each), blocked with HBSS/Su/Sap + 0.1%
445 Triton X-100 + 3% rabbit serum (1x, 1hr at RT), rinsed and incubated with the primary antibody

446 mouse anti-N (1:5000) diluted in HBSS/Su/Sap + 3% rabbit serum O/N at 4 °C. The next day,
447 forebrain sections were rinsed with HBSS/Su/Sap (3x, 5 min each) and incubated with the
448 secondary antibody Alexa Fluor 594 rabbit anti-mouse (1:200) diluted in HBSS/Su/Sap (3 hrs at
449 RT), rinsed with HBSS/Su/Sap (2x, 5 min each), HBSS/Su (1x, 5 min) and HBSS (1x, 5 min).
450 DAPI (10 µM) diluted in HBSS was added for nuclear counterstain (1hr at RT) and then rinsed
451 with HBSS (2x, 5 min each). Forebrain sections were carefully moved on a microscope slide
452 using a camel hairbrush < 1.59 mm, mounted with Vectashield® Antifade mounting medium,
453 and cover-slipped (22 x 50 cover glass; No. 1.5 thickness) for imaging.

454 **Image acquisition.** Fluorescent images were acquired using a TCS SPE Laser Scanning
455 Confocal Upright Microscope (Leica Microsystems, DM6-Q model), with the 405 nm and 561 nm
456 laser lines, an Olympus 20X/0.75NA UPlanSApo infinity corrected, 8-bit spectral PMT detector
457 and a Leica LAS X Imaging software (version 3.5.7.23225). Two to four images were taken per
458 section. Anti-N + Alexa Fluor 594 signal was detected using 561 nm excitation (35% laser
459 intensity), 600-620 nm emission range, 700 V PMT gain, and 0% offset, while DAPI signal was
460 detected using 405 nm excitation (6% laser intensity), 430-480 nm emission range, 700 V PMT
461 gain, and 0% offset. Images were captured at 1024 x 1024-pixel resolution with a scan speed at
462 400, no bidirectional scanning, a zoom factor at 1.0, Pinhole 1.0 AU = 75.54 µm (550 µm x 550
463 µm image size; 537.63 nm x 537.63 nm pixel size; 2.057 µm optical section and 0.69 µm step
464 size). Leica LAS X software_3D Viewer was used for post-processing to create figure plates,
465 while raw data was exported as .tiff for relative fluorescent data analysis. All the workflow
466 design, sample preparation, processing and imaging was performed in the Microscopy and
467 Analytical Imaging Resource Core Laboratory (RRID:SCR_021801) at The University of
468 Kansas.

469 **H&E Staining.** The livers were perfused and placed in 10% of formalin. The representative liver
470 sections were then processed for hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining. The liver lesions were
471 blindly scored by an American College of Veterinary Pathology Board-certified pathologist. The

472 lesions were scored on a scale of 0-10% (score 1), 10-40% (score 2), 40-70% (score 3) and
473 >70% (score 4) and cumulative scores were obtained for each mouse. The lesions scored were
474 inflammation, necrosis, and edema/fibrin.

475 **Flow Cytometry.** Mouse spleens were excised and placed in PBS. Samples were smashed into
476 single cell suspension and filtered through a 40uM filter to create a single cell suspension.
477 Single cell suspension was counted and resuspended to desired concentration (dependent on
478 experiment) in PBS. Single cell suspensions were used for staining and flow cytometric
479 analysis. Cell were stained in serum free PBS. All flow cytometry was completed on a spectral
480 cytometer the Cytex Aurora with a 5 laser system (355nm, 405nm, 488nm, 561nm, 640nm).
481 Single color stain OneComp eBeads (Thermo Fisher) were used for unmixing. Unmixed files
482 were analyzed using FlowJo Software (BD Biosciences, San Diego, California). Antibodies used
483 in various combinations (depending on experiment) are as follows: Ghost Viability Dye (v510,
484 Tonbo Biosciences, 1:1000 dilution), CD45 (BUV395, BD Biosciences, 1:500 dilution, clone 30-
485 F11), CD3 (PE-Cy5, Tonbo, 1:200, clone 145-2C11), CD4 (BV605, Biolegend, 1:200, clone
486 GK1.5), CD8a (APC-Cy7, Tonbo, 1:200, clone 53-6.7), CD11c (PE-Cy5.5, Tonbo, 1:100, clone
487 N418), CD11b (PerCP-Cy5.5, Tonbo, 1:100, clone M1/70), CD19 (BV711, Biolegend, 1:400,
488 clone 6D5), CD69 (PE, Biolegend, 1:200, clone H1-2F3), CD103 (PerCP-ef710, Thermo Fisher,
489 1:200, clone 2E7), CD44 (AlexaFluor700, Tonbo, 1:200, clone IM7), CD62L (PE-Cy7, Tonbo,
490 1:200, clone MEL-14), MHC II (I-A/I-E) (SuperBright645, Thermo Fisher, 1:200, M5/114.15.2),
491 MHC I (H-2Kb/Db) (FITC, Biolegend, 1:200, clone 28.8-6), Ly6C (BV785, Biolegend, 1:300,
492 clone HK1.4), Ly6G (PE-efluor610, company, 1:300, clone IA8), B220 (APC-Cy5.5, Thermo
493 Fisher, 1:200, clone RA3-6B2) PDCA-1/CD317 (Pacific Blue, Biolegend, 1:200, clone 129C1),
494 F4/80 (Pacific Orange, Thermo Fisher, 1:100, clone BM8). All surface markers were stained in
495 PBS at 4°C in the dark. Samples were fixed in 1% PFA.

496 **Statistics.** A Student's *t* test was used to analyze differences in mean values between groups.
497 All results are expressed as means \pm standard errors of the means (SEM). Differences in
498 survival were calculated using a Kaplan-Meier log-rank test. P values of ≤ 0.05 were considered
499 statistically significant (*, $P \leq 0.05$; **, $P \leq 0.01$; ***, $P \leq 0.001$; ****, $P \leq 0.0001$; n.s., not significant).

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521

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524

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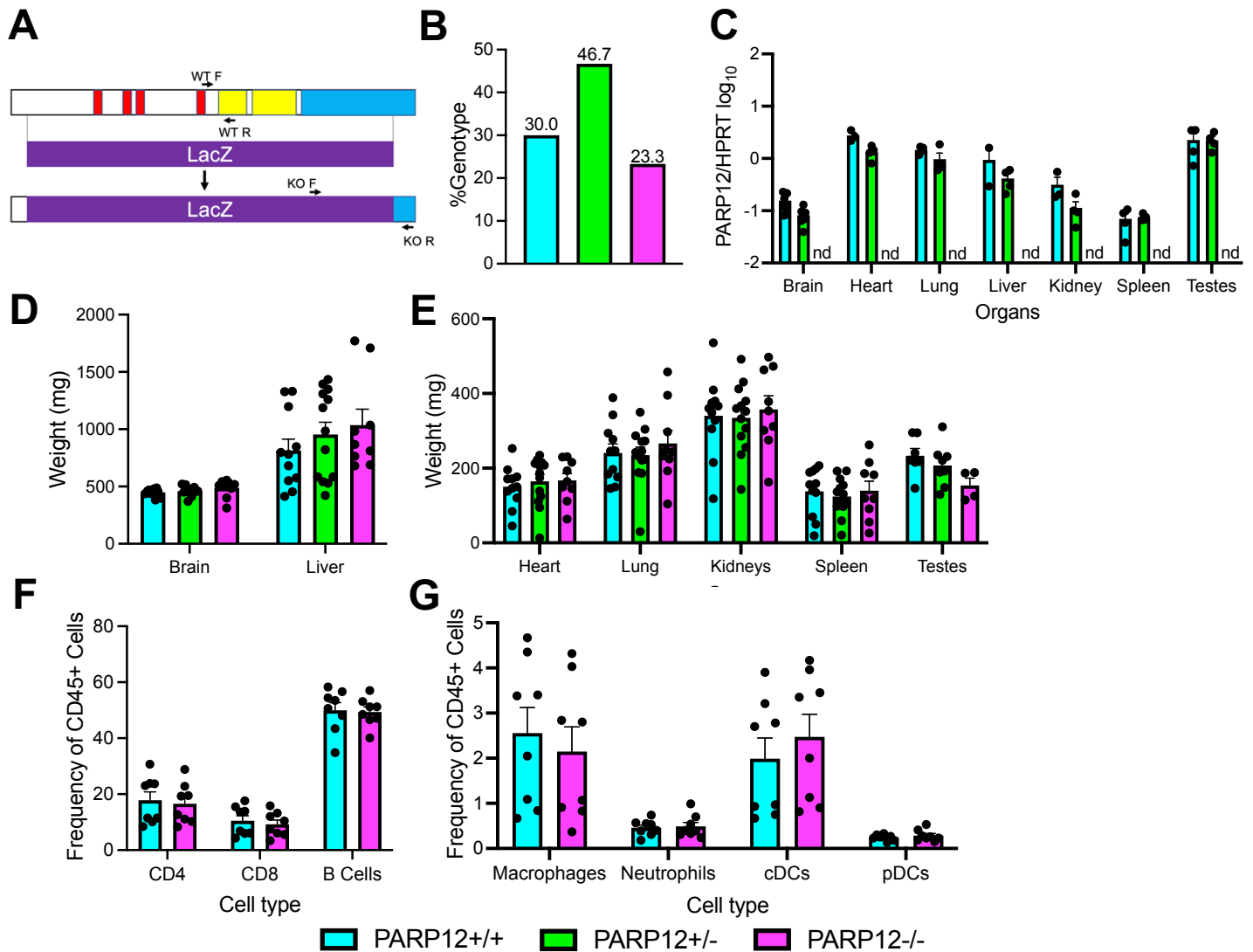


Figure 1. Generation of PARP12^{-/-} mice. (A) Schematic of the LacZ insertion used to create the PARP12 knockout in C57B6/NJ mice. The insertion induces a frameshift mutation, creating a completely null mutation. (B) Ratio of PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and PARP12^{-/-} mice following PARP12^{+/-} × PARP12^{+/-} breeding over the course of one year (n=3). (D-E) PARP12 expression (D) and weights (E) in various organs of PARP12^{+/+}, PARP12^{+/-}, and PARP12^{-/-} mice (n=4). (F-G) Immune cells from the spleens of naïve PARP12^{+/+} mice and PARP12^{-/-} mice (n=8).

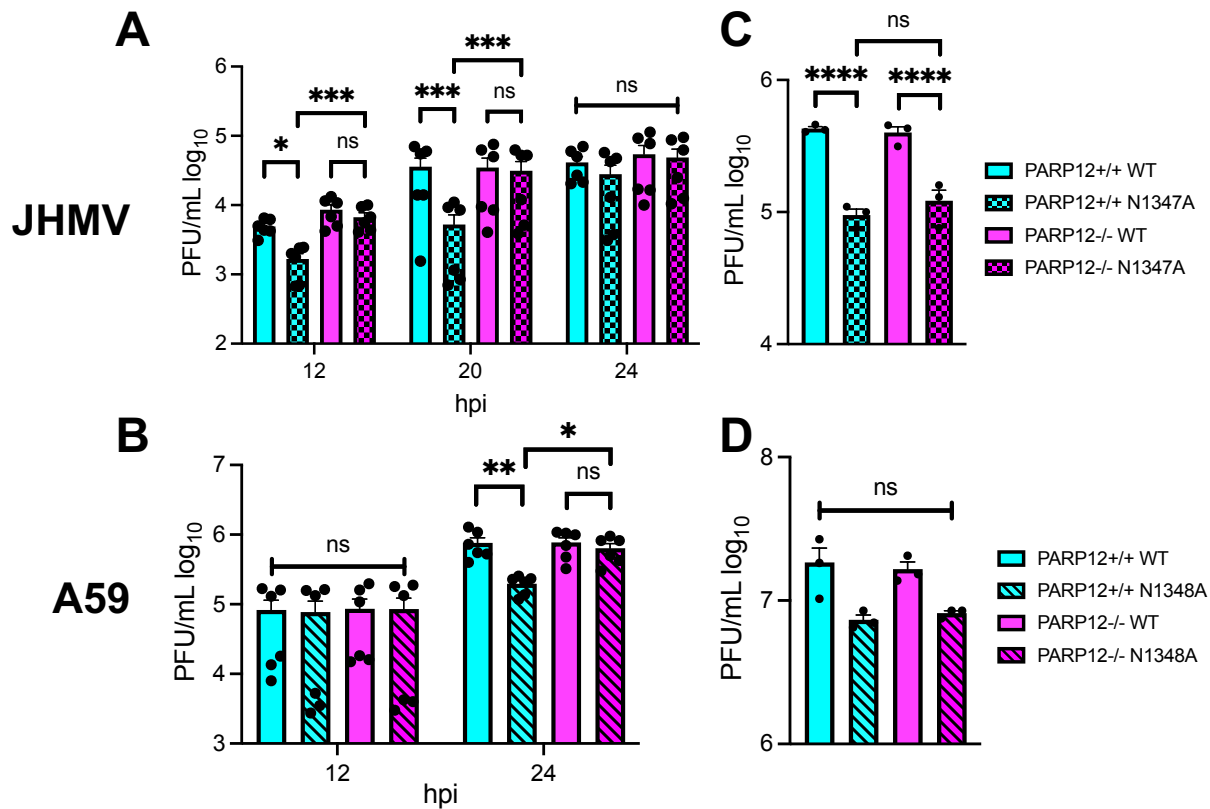


Figure 2: PARP12 is required for the restriction of Mac1-mutant MHV replication in BMDMs, but not BMDCs. (A-B) PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs were infected with MHV JHM WT or N1347A (A) or MHV-A59 WT and N1348A (B) at an MOI of 0.05 PFU/cell. Cells and supernatants were collected at indicated times post-infection (hpi) and assayed for progeny infectious virus by plaque assay. The data in A-B are the combined results of 2 independent experiments (n=6). (C-D) PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDCs were infected with MHV JHM WT or N1347A (C) or MHV-A59 WT and N1348A (D) at an MOI of 0.05 PFU/cell. Cells and supernatants were collected at indicated times post-infection (hpi) and assayed for progeny infectious virus by plaque assay. The data in C-D is from one experiment representative of 3 independent experiments (n=3).

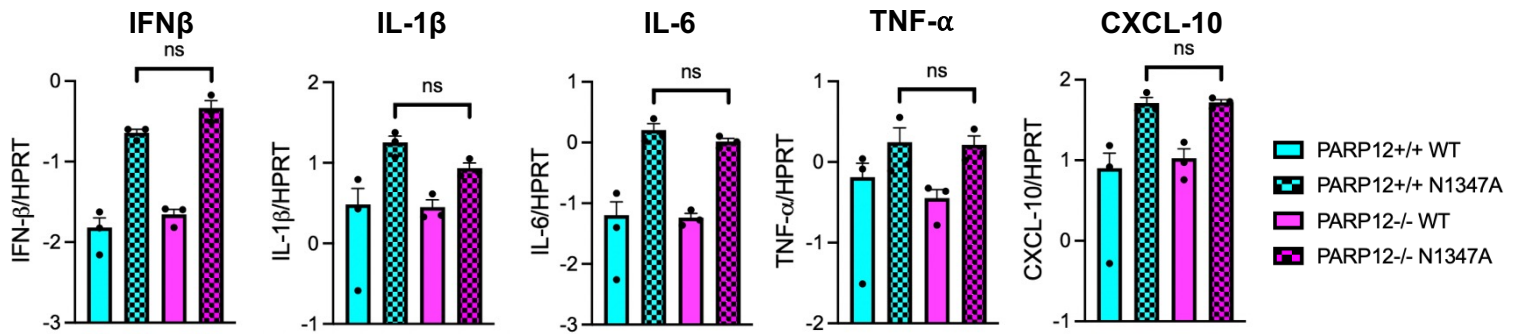


Figure 3. PARP12 does not contribute to enhance IFN and cytokine levels following BMDM infection with JHMV N1347A. PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} BMDMs were infected with WT or N1347A JHM. Cells were collected in Trizol at 12 hpi and RNA levels were determined using RT-qPCR with specific primers for each gene of interest and normalized to HPRT. These data are from one experiment representative of two independent experiments (n=3).

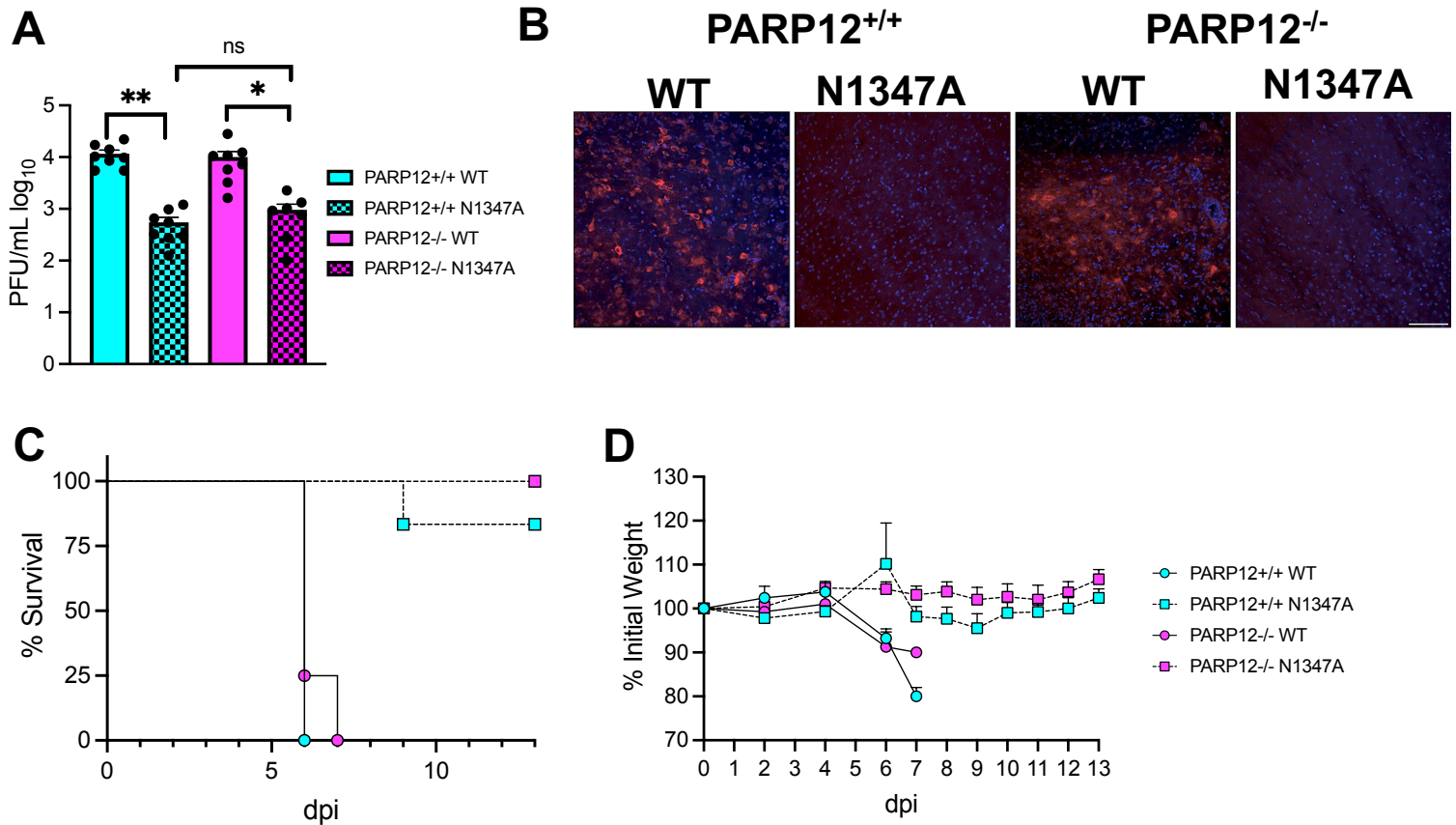


Figure 4: PARP12 is not required for the restriction of JHM virulence and replication following an IN infection. (A) PARP12^{+/+} mice and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected with 10⁴ PFU of JHMV WT or N1347A virus via intranasal (IN) infection. Brains were harvested at 5 dpi and titers determined via plaque assay. The data in A is the combined results of 3 independent experiments (n=7-8 per group). (B) Infected brains were harvested at 5 dpi then forebrain sections were stained for MHV nucleocapsid (N) protein by IHC. n=2-4. (C-D) PARP12^{+/+} mice and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected as described above. Survival and weight loss was monitored for 12 days (n=4-9 per group).

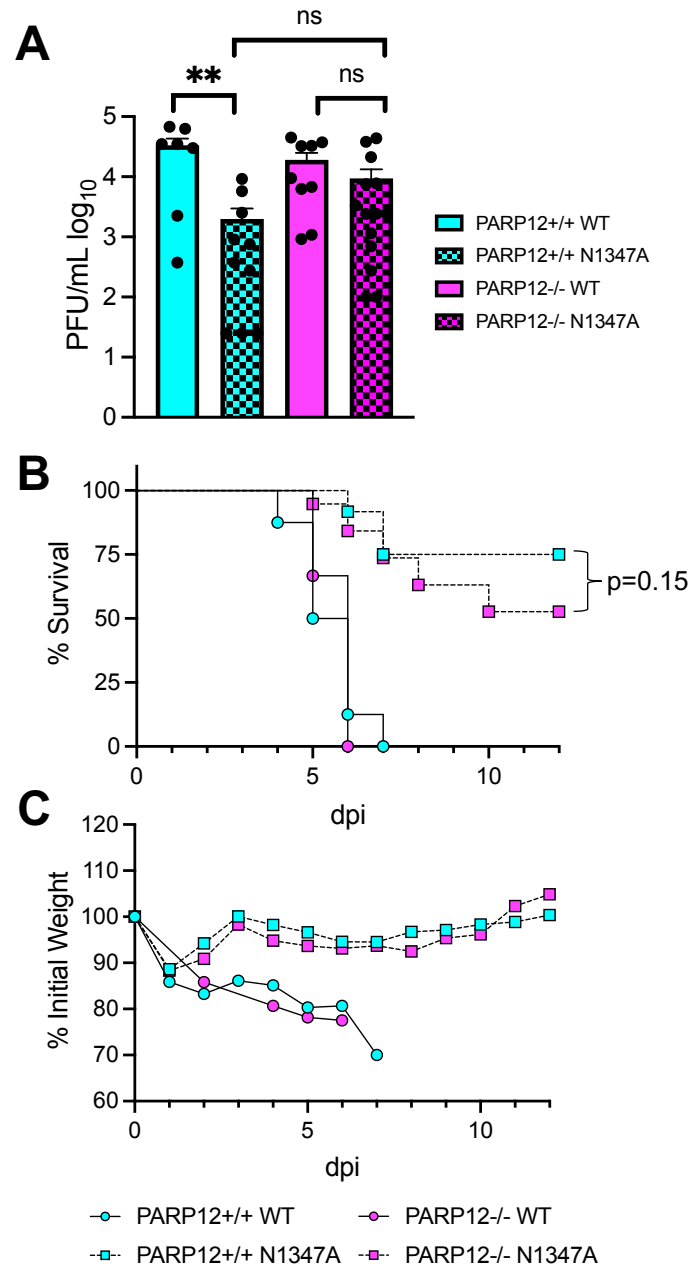


Figure 5. PARP12 KO mildly increases virus replication and lethality in the brain following an IC infection with N1347A. (A) PARP12^{+/+} mice and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected IC with 750 PFU of MHV JHM WT or N1347A virus. (A) Brains were harvested at 4 dpi and titers were determined via plaque assay. Data in A is combined from >3 independent experiments (n=7-14 per group). (B and C) Mice were infected as described in A and survival and weight loss were monitored for 12 days (n=6-22 per group).

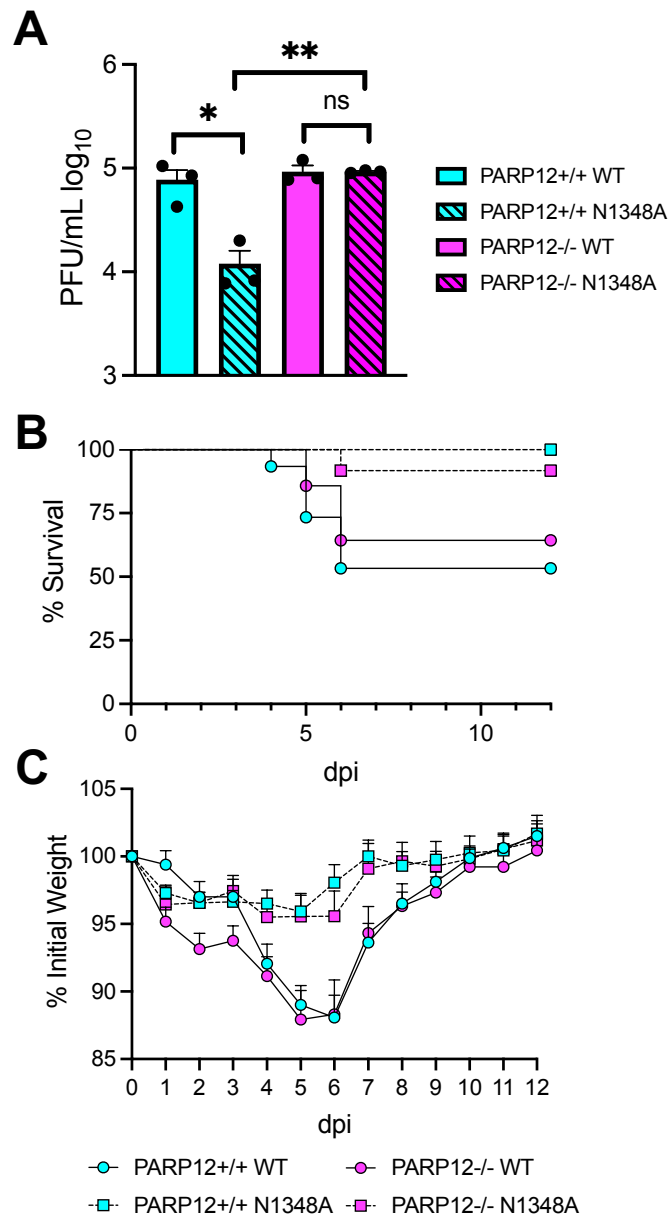
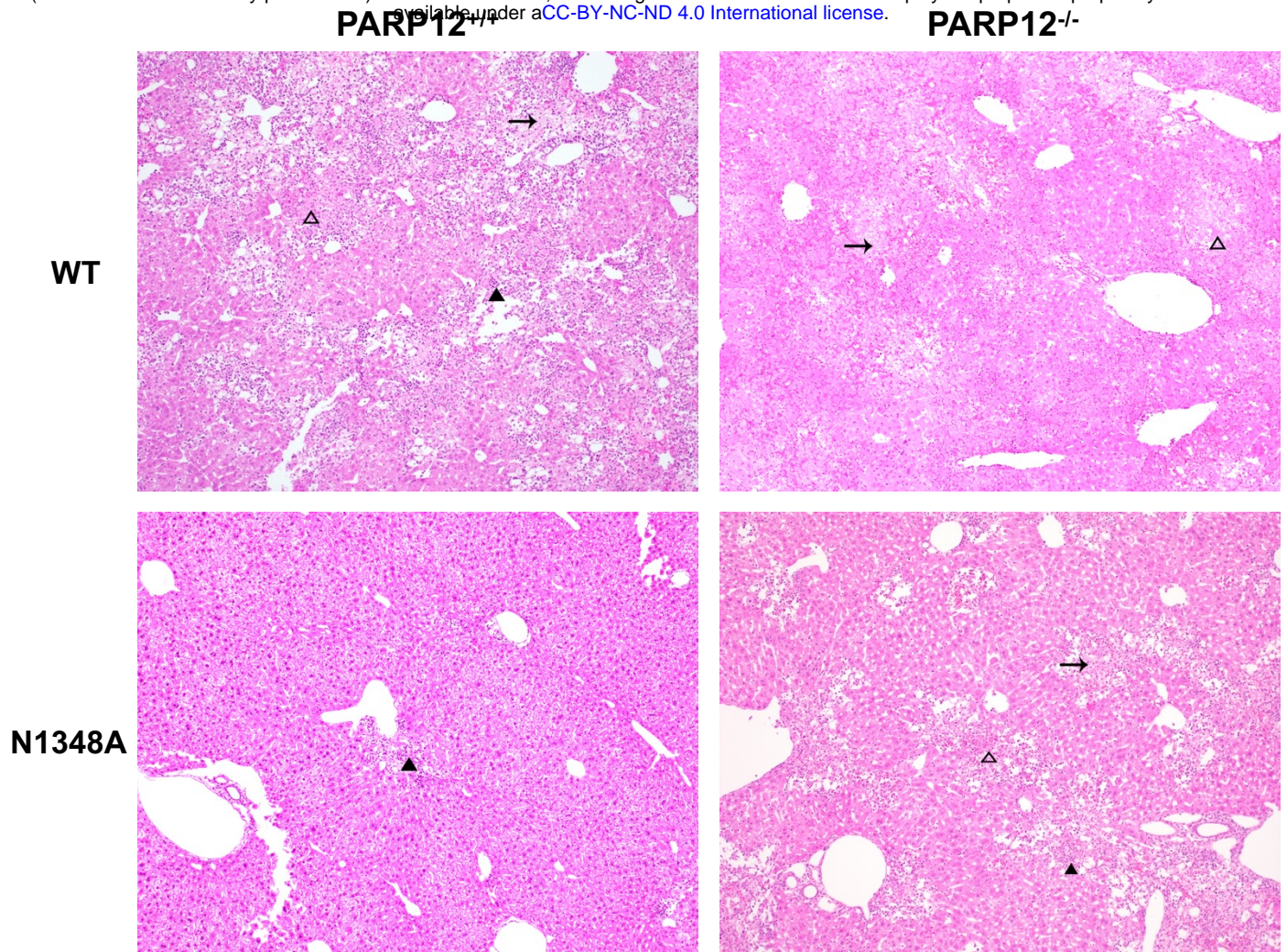


Figure 6. PARP12 KO increases N1348A replication in livers but does not impact survival or weight loss. (A) PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected IP with 500 PFU of MHV-A59 WT or N1348A virus. Brains were harvested at 4 dpi and titers were determined via plaque assay. The results in A are from one experiment representative of 3 independent experiments (n=3 per group). (B-C) PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected IP with 5×10⁴ PFU of MHV-A59 WT or N1348A virus and survival and weight loss was monitored for 12 days (n=12-16 per group).

A



B

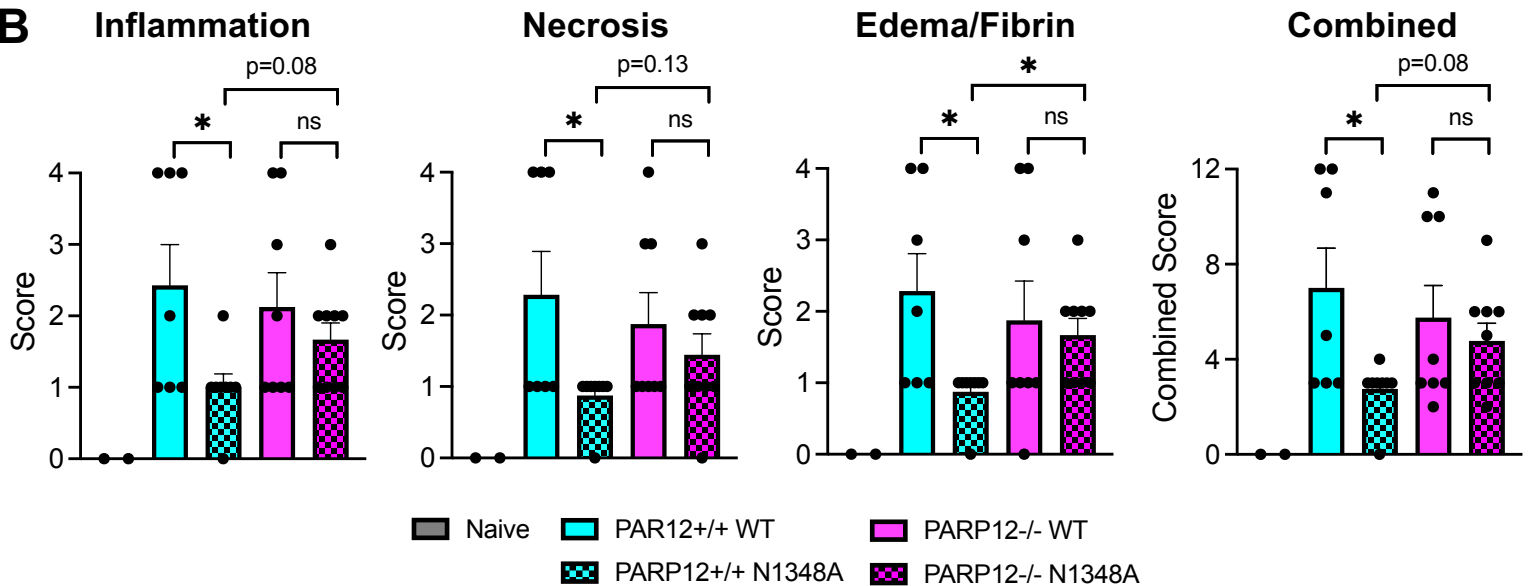


Fig. 7. PARP12 is required to prevent severe liver pathology following A59 N1348A infection. (A) PARP12^{+/+} and PARP12^{-/-} mice were infected with 5×10^4 PFU of MHV A59 WT or N1348A virus via IP injection and livers were harvested at 12 days post infection (dpi) and histological analysis of livers was performed (n=7-9 per group). Dark arrowheads represent inflammation, blank arrowheads represent necrosis, and arrows represent edema/fibrin. (B) Liver pathology was scored based on inflammation, necrosis, and edema/fibrin on a scale of 0-4 (see Methods). The combined score represents the combined scores for all 3 categories.