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The gut protist Tritrichomonas arnold restrains virus-mediated loss of oral tolerance by modulating dietary antigen-presenting dendritic cells

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DECLERATION OF INTERESTS

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SUMMARY

Loss of oral tolerance (LOT) to gluten, driven by dendritic cell (DC) priming of glutenspecific T helper 1 (Th1) cell immune responses, is a hallmark of celiac disease (CeD) and can be triggered by enteric viral infections. Whether certain commensals can moderate virus-mediated LOT remains elusive. Here, using a mouse model of virus-mediated LOT, we discovered that the gut colonizing protist Tritrichomonas (T.) arnold promotes oral tolerance and protects against reovirus- and murine norovirus-mediated LOT, independent of the microbiota. Protection was not attributable to antiviral host responses or T. arnold-mediated innate type-2 immunity. Mechanistically, T. arnold directly restrained the proinflammatory program in dietary antigen-presenting DCs, subsequently limiting Th1 and promoting regulatory T cell responses. Finally, analysis of fecal microbiomes showed that T. arnold-related Parabasalid strains are underrepresented in human CeD patients. Altogether, these findings will motivate further exploration of oral-tolerance-promoting protists in CeD and other immune-mediated food sensitivities.

Graphical Abstract

eTOC

Enteric viruses can trigger loss of oral tolerance to dietary gluten resulting in the development of Celiac disease. Medina Sanchez et al. discovered Tritrichomonas arnold, a previously undescribed murine gut commensal protist capable of preventing virus-mediated loss of oral tolerance by directly restraining proinflammatory dendritic cell function.

INTRODUCTION

Celiac disease (CeD) is an immune disorder in which genetically susceptible individuals expressing the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) DQ2 or DQ8 molecules display an inflammatory T helper 1 (Th1) cell immune response against dietary gluten present in wheat, barley, and rye that results in loss of oral tolerance to gluten $(LOT)^{1-3}$. Elimination of gluten from the diet is the current and only standard of care. With its high prevalence among the general population (1-2%), challenges of maintaining a gluten free diet (GFD), poor efficacy of GFD in 40-60% of CeD patients, and associated risks for other autoimmune diseases and cancer, CeD is a significant cause of disease and disability ^{4,5}. The HLA-DQ2or DQ8-restricted Th1 cell response against gluten initiates CeD pathogenesis, characterized by cytotoxic intraepithelial CD8⁺ lymphocyte-mediated tissue destruction resulting in villous atrophy ^{6,7}. Dendritic cells (DCs) play a central role in maintaining tolerance to dietary antigens such as gluten. During homeostasis, tolerogenic DCs sample dietary antigens from the intestinal lumen and migrate to the mesenteric lymph nodes (mLN), the

inductive site of oral tolerance. DCs promote dietary antigen-specific regulatory T (Treg) cell responses, and consequently sustain oral tolerance ^{8,9}. In CeD, the suppression of gluten-specific immunity is impaired, characterized by proinflammatory DC responses that subsequently lead to dampened Treg and heightened proinflammatory Th1 cell responses against gluten $1-3,10$. LOT to gluten is central to CeD pathogenesis and precedes the development of villous atrophy ⁶.

Even though approximately 30% of the human population carry HLA DQ2 or DQ8, only 1% develop CeD¹, suggesting that additional factors contribute to CeD pathogenesis. Viruses have been implicated as potential environmental triggers in CeD pathogenesis ¹¹⁻¹⁴. Concordantly, we showed previously that reovirus, a largely avirulent pathogen that elicits protective immunity, can nonetheless promote LOT by suppressing Treg cell conversion and promoting inflammatory Th1 cell responses to dietary antigen. Mechanistically, the human reovirus isolate, type 1 Lang (T1L) mediates LOT by endowing dietary antigen presenting DCs with proinflammatory properties in the mesenteric lymph nodes (mLN) 15 . Using both reovirus and murine norovirus strains, we have shown that the capacity of a virus to disrupt tolerance to oral antigens is not determined by its viral family, but rather by its potential to trigger IRF1-dependent inflammatory pathways in the mLN 15,16. Gut microbes have emerged as important modulators of mucosal immunity during homeostasis and in intestinal diseases, such as CeD $17-19$. The mammalian gut microbiome encompasses bacteria, archaea, viruses, fungi, and protists; all having a profound impact on gut immunity in health and disease. Protists are unicellular organisms that commonly inhabit mammalian intestines 20. The majority of known and well-studied intestinal protists are pathogenic to humans $21,22$ and other mammals 23 . The murine gut commensal protist Tritrichomonas sp. (class Parabasalia) can initiate strain- and location-dependent mucosal immune responses 24-28. However, whether and how gut commensal protists impact mucosal immunity in CeD and thereby affect its etiopathogenesis remains enigmatic.

By using our previously defined reovirus-mediated LOT CeD model ¹⁵, here we showed that the gut protist *Tritrichomonas arnold* (*T. arnold*), which belongs to the class *Parabasalia*, promoted oral tolerance, and prevented virus-mediated LOT. Mechanistically, we showed that T. arnold modulates dietary antigen-presenting DCs to promote Treg cells and to restrain the virus-induced proinflammatory IRF1/NF-κB program, thereby limiting Th1 cell responses. T. arnold-mediated protection from virus-induced LOT was not specific to T1L but was also observed with murine norovirus strain CW3. Highlighting the translational relevance of our findings, analysis of stool samples of a cohort of CeD patients and healthy controls revealed that *Parabasalia* were underrepresented in CeD patients relative to healthy controls.

RESULTS

Suppression of T1L-induced LOT is associated with the presence of Tritrichomonas in in-housed mice.

In the course of our studies on reovirus T1L-mediated inflammatory responses to dietary antigen 15, we reproduced our findings using C57BL/6 mice commercially acquired from Jackson Laboratories (JAX). However, we did not observe T1L-mediated inflammatory

responses to dietary antigen in aged- and sex-matched C57BL/6 mice bred in our vivarium ("in-housed" mice originally acquired from JAX) using an oral tolerance assay (Figure 1A-C and Figure S1A-D). T1L-mediated CD4+ Th1 cell immune responses specific for dietary antigen, characterized by elevated expression of interferon- γ (IFN γ) and T-box transcription factor 21 (Tbx21 encoding Tbet), were absent in in-housed mice when compared with JAX mice (Figure 1A-C and Figure S1B-D). Untreated and T1L-infected in-housed mice displayed an expansion of Treg cells compared with untreated and T1L-infected JAX mice, respectively (Figure 1A-C and Figure. S1B-D), suggesting that environmental factors present in in-housed but not JAX mice mediate protection against T1L-mediated LOT. T1L infection promoted host Tbet⁺ CD4⁺ T cell responses that were comparable between in-housed mice and JAX mice and concordant with our previous findings ((Figure S1E-G) and 15), indicating that host Th1 cell responses to T1L infection are uncoupled from dietaryantigen-specific Th1 cell responses in in-housed mice. Dietary antigen uptake takes place in the small intestine 29,30. Histological examination revealed an enlarged small intestine and an expansion of tuft and goblet cells in in-housed mice relative to JAX mice, independent of T1L infection (Figure 1D-F). These findings suggest an elevated type-2 immune response, which is usually observed in mice infected with helminths $31,32$ or colonized with the gut commensal protist *Tritrichomonas*²⁴. As helminth infections are unlikely, based on our specific-pathogen free (SPF) mouse facility status, we examined animals for Tritrichomonas in cecal contents. This analysis revealed the presence of Tritrichomonas in in-housed mice but not mice acquired from JAX (Figure 1G). Internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequencing identified this protist as an uncharacterized Tritrichomonas sp. isolate with the accession number MF375342 and with 86%, 84%, and 85% homology to the ITS of Tritrichomonas muris, Tritrichomonas musculis, and Tritrichomonas rainier, respectively ((Figure S2A-B) and $24-26$). Although the precise taxonomic relationship of these tritrichomonads remains to be determined, for clarity we hereafter refer to the University of Pittsburgh isolate as T. arnold. Collectively, our findings demonstrate that the suppression of T1L-induced LOT is associated with the presence of T. arnold in the intestines of in-housed mice.

T. arnold promotes dietary antigen-specific Treg cell responses.

T. arnold colonization was observed along the small intestine, cecum, and colon to similar levels in naturally colonized in-housed mice and JAX WT mice orally gavaged with T. arnold (Figure 2A). Furthermore, dietary ovalbumin (OVA) failed to affect the ability of T. arnold to colonize the intestinal tract (Figure S2C). Next, we wanted to better understand how T. arnold colonization affects mucosal CD4+ T cell responses to dietary OVA during homeostasis, in the absence of T1L infection (Figure S2D). We found that T. arnold colonization of JAX WT mice promoted an enhancement of dietary-antigen-specific Treg cells relative to controls (Figure 2B-D). Although T. arnold induced type-2 responses in the enteric mucosa (Figure 1E-F), we neither observed T. arnold-induced Th2 cell responses against dietary antigen nor T. arnold-induced Th2 cell responses in the polyclonal T cell pool in the mLN (Figure 2E and Figure S2E). In addition, T. arnold colonization failed to promote Th1 and Th17 cell differentiation against dietary antigen (Figure 2B-D and Figure 2F). Altogether, these findings suggest that T arnold selectively drives dietary-antigenspecific Treg cell differentiation.

T. arnold protects against T1L-mediated LOT without impacting antiviral immunity and independent of the microbiota.

To test the sufficiency of T. arnold in protecting against T1L-mediated inflammatory responses to dietary antigen, we orally inoculated 6-week-old JAX WT mice with T. arnold. Twelve days post T. arnold colonization, we conducted an oral tolerance assay (Figure S3A). T1L infection failed to impact on the colonization efficiency of T. arnold (Figure S3B). Confirming previous observations ¹⁵, T1L blocked Treg cell responses and promoted Th1 cell responses specific for dietary antigens in the absence of T. arnold (Figure 3A-C). T. arnold efficiently counteracted both T1L-mediated Treg cell suppression and Th1 cell responses against dietary antigen (Figure 3A-C). T. arnold restored T1L-mediated Treg cell suppression to levels comparable to that of non-T1L infected T. arnold colonized mice (Figure S3C-D). T. arnold did not affect viral replication, anti-reovirus antibody titers, and host type-1 interferon responses (Figure 3D-F; Table S1), suggesting that T. arnold-mediated protection against T1L-induced LOT is not attributable to differences in antiviral host responses. To assess whether protection against T1L-mediated LOT requires active T. arnold colonization we put mice colonized with T. arnold (Figure 3G) on a cellulose-rich diet in the absence of water-soluble fibers. This diet regimen successfully depletes Tritrichomonas from the intestine 28. We observed a 5-log fold reduction in relative abundance, suggesting that T. arnold was successfully depleted (Figure 3G). In contrast to our previous results (Figure 3A-C), mice cleared of T. arnold prior to an oral tolerance assay failed to protect against T1L-mediated LOT (Figure 3H). These findings indicate that active T. arnold colonization is sufficient and required to suppress virus-mediated LOT.

We next sought to determine how T. arnold confers the protective effect against T1Lmediated LOT. One possibility is that T. arnold influences oral tolerance indirectly by modulation of the microbiota. The short chain fatty acid (SCFA) butyrate produced by specific bacteria promotes tolerogenic immune responses and Treg cell differentiation 33. We confirmed that T. arnold, similar to other Tritrichomonas spp., is unable to produce butyrate ²⁵ and (Figure S3E). Furthermore, *T. arnold* colonization did not alter butyrate concentrations within the cecum, indicating that T. arnold-mediated protection against virusinduced LOT is not due to increased microbial butyrate levels (Figure S3F). To directly test whether T. arnold requires the microbiota to protect against T1L-induced LOT, we conducted T cell conversion assays using germ-free WT mice monocolonized with T. arnold. We found that T. arnold protected from T1L-mediated LOT independent of a pre-established microbiome (Figure 3I-J).

Succinate and IL-25 are not sufficient to protect against T1L-mediated LOT and IL-18 is dispensable for T. arnold-mediated protection against T1L-mediated LOT.

Similar to studies using other *Tritrichomonas* spp. 24.25 , *T. arnold* colonization of JAX mice for 2 weeks resulted in elevated type-2 immunity in the small intestine, characterized by tuft and goblet cell hyperplasia (Figure S4A-B). Typically, Tritrichomonas spp. promote type-2 immunity by releasing succinate, a carboxylic acid and fermentation product from the ingestion of complex polysaccharides $25,28$ and (Figure S4C). Succinate is sensed by succinate-receptor-expressing tuft cells and is sufficient to promote IL-25-mediated tuft and goblet cell expansion and group 2 innate lymphoid cell (ILC2) activation 25,28,34. As

observed previously 25,28,34, succinate supplementation in drinking water was sufficient to induce type-2 immune responses in the small intestine similar to T. arnold colonization in Tritrichomonas-free mice (Figures S4A-B and S4D-E). Next, we tested whether succinate supplementation in drinking water is sufficient to promote oral tolerance and protect against T1L-mediated LOT. Mice were administered succinate in drinking water for 12 days prior to an OT-II conversion assay (Figure S4F). In contrast to T , arnold, succinate alone was neither sufficient to promote Treg cell responses to dietary antigen nor capable of protecting against T1L-mediated LOT (Figure 4A-B). Succinate failed to influence viral replication and host Th1/Treg cell responses (Figure 4C-E). These data indicate that T. arnold-mediated oral tolerance is independent of the capacity of the protist to release succinate. Goblet cells are implicated in dietary antigen uptake and oral tolerance $35,36$. Although we observed an expansion of goblet cells in T. arnold-colonized mice (Figure S4B), the fact that succinate supplementation induced similar levels of goblet cell expansion (Figure S4E) suggests that goblet cell expansion alone cannot explain the immunologic tolerance to dietary antigen induced by T. arnold. Similar to previous studies 24,37 , daily IL-25 treatment (Figure S4G) led to a robust tuft cell expansion in the gut (Figure S4H) and expansion of ILC2 in the mLN (Figure 4F), a tissue site where oral tolerance is initiated. However, IL-25 induced type-2 immunity was neither sufficient to prevent T1L-mediated Th1 cell responses to dietary antigen nor to restore dietary antigen specific Treg cell responses (Figure 4G-H). IL-25 also failed to impact host Th1 and Treg cell responses in the mLN. (Figure 4I-J). Collectively, we show that T. arnold colonization promotes oral tolerance and prevents T1L-mediated LOT independent of succinate and IL-25 signaling.

T. musculis promotes IL-18 release by colonocytes, which confers protection against Salmonella typhimurium infection 26 . To determine whether IL-18 functions in the protective effects of T. arnold in reovirus-induced LOT, we conducted an OT-II conversion assay using IL-18 deficient mice. T. arnold protected against T1L-induced LOT to a comparable extent in IL-18 deficient mice and WT controls, suggesting that IL-18 is dispensable for the effects of T. arnold on dietary-antigen-specific immune responses (Figure S4I-J).

T. arnold restrains the T1L-induced proinflammatory program in dietary antigen-presenting DCs.

DCs orchestrate protective and tolerogenic T cell responses to reovirus infection and dietary antigen, respectively $8,9,38$. In Peyer's patches (PP), protective immunity to T1L is initiated by viral antigen processing CD103− CD11b+ DCs 38. In contrast, in mLN, tolerogenic CD103+ DCs present dietary antigen and induce oral tolerance 29. Dietary antigen-presenting CD103+ CD11b− CD8a+ conventional type 1 DCs (cDC1) have the highest tolerogenic potential ^{8,15,39} but also drive Th1 cell responses to enteric pathogens 9,15,40,41. We previously showed that T1L infection induces an interferon regulated factor 1 (IRF1)-mediated proinflammatory program in cDC1, characterized by elevated interleukin 12 (IL-12) production, activation of the costimulatory molecule CD86, and increased Il27 gene expression, that subsequently promotes LOT 15 . Based on our finding that *T. arnold* blocks T1L-mediated inflammatory responses to dietary antigen, we determined whether T. arnold prevents T1L-mediated inflammatory DC responses in PP and mLN, respectively.

As expected, flow cytometric analysis of DCs in PP and mLN revealed that T1L infection induces inflammatory DC activation as evidenced by IL-12 production and upregulation of CD86 at both sites (Figure 5A-F and Figure S5A-B). Strikingly, T. arnold colonization specifically suppressed T1L-mediated IL-12 production and CD86 and Il27 expression in DCs, including cDC1 in mLN but not in the PP (Figure 5A-G and Figure S5A-B) suggesting that T. arnold protects against T1L-mediated LOT by suppressing inflammatory cDC1 responses specifically in the mLN. Furthermore, the observation that T. arnold failed to restrain T1L-mediated inflammatory responses in PP is consistent with our finding that T. arnold prevented T1L-mediated LOT without affecting the antiviral host immunity (Figure 3D-F). T1L-mediated IL-12 production and expression of CD86 in mLN cDC1 of T. arnold colonized mice remained elevated when compared to PBS and T. arnold control groups (Figure 5D-F), but the level of DC activation was insufficient to either prevent Treg or promote Th1 cell induction to dietary antigens (Figure 3A-C and Figure S3C-D). CD103⁺ DCs in the small intestinal *lamina propria* take up dietary antigens and migrate to the mLN to present dietary antigen to CD4⁺ T cells ^{8,39}. T. arnold colonization did not affect the overall composition of mLN DC subsets, efficiency of dietary OVA-antigen uptake by mLN DCs or OT-II T cell proliferation (Figure S5C-E), suggesting that T. arnold does not impact the presence of dietary antigen-presenting DCs at inductive sites of oral tolerance and their ability to present dietary antigen to OT-II T cells. To better understand how *T. arnold* colonization impacts the T1L-mediated proinflammatory response in dietary antigen-presenting cDC1, we examined the transcriptional profile of mLN-derived cDC1. We found increased expression of the transcription factor *Irf1* in cDC1 from T1L infected mice compared to PBS and T. arnold colonized mice (Figure 5H-I; Table S2), which is required for T1L- and CW3-mediated induction of the Th1-promoting cytokines IL-12 and IL-27 and LOT in these models ^{15,16}. T. arnold suppressed T1L-induced expression of Irf1 in cDC1 (Figure 5I-J; Table S2). The transcription factors Nuclear factor κB (NF-κB) and IRF1 are important regulators of inflammatory immune responses in cDC1, and their involvement to promote Th1 cell responses has been previously shown by studying the gene expression profile of *Irf1*-deficient and *Ikbkb*-deficient intratumoral cDC1⁴². Analysis of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between T1L and T1L + T. arnold revealed a significant enrichment for the NF-κB pathway and in genes harboring transcription factor binding sites for Irf1, Irf8, and NF-κB (Figure S5F-G). We next assessed DEGs that were regulated in an IRF1 and/or NF- κ B dependent manner ⁴² and had increased expression in the T1L group compared to the PBS group. Here we found that cDC1 from T1L infected mice had increased gene expression levels for activation markers, Th1 cell associated markers, and IFN-regulated genes such as *Cd40*, *Cd274* (PDL1), *Ccl5*, *Il27*, *Isg15*, and Mx1 (Figure 5K). Comparison of cDC1 gene expression profiles showed that the presence of T. arnold restrained the induction of the majority of IRF1 and/or NF-κB regulated genes (Figure 5K). These findings suggest that the suppression of the T1L-induced transcription factors IRF1 and/or NF- κ B in cDC1 by T. arnold is a possible mechanism of how T. arnold protects against T1L-induced LOT.

Given our observation that T. arnold promoted dietary antigen-specific Treg cells during homeostasis (Figure 2B-D) we examined the transcriptional profile of mLN-derived cDC1 to investigate whether *T. arnold* colonization promotes a tolerogenic program in cDC1 in

the absence of T1L infection. DEG analysis in mLN cDC1 between PBS and T. arnold did not reveal any differences in genes primarily involved in Treg cell differentiation such as TGFβ and retinoic acid (Figure S5H; Table S2). However, we identified two DEGs, Cdk19 and $Clec7a$ (Dectin1), with decreased expression in the T. arnold group compared to the PBS group that play a role in tolerogenic DC responses ^{43,44}. Cdk19 blockade will drive IL-10 production in DCs 43, while Dectin1 deficiency promotes tolerogenic DC responses and increased Treg cell differentiation 44 . We next assessed whether T. arnold directly acts on mLN DCs to promote tolerance at steady state. Thus, we performed ex vivo co-cultures of mLN derived DCs from T. arnold colonized mice with naïve CD4+ OT-II T cells and OVA peptide in the presence of suboptimal TGFβ concentration. We found that the presence of T. arnold in vivo promoted increased OVA-specific Treg cell responses compared to PBS treated mice ex vivo (Figure S5I). Taken together these findings suggest that T. arnold colonization during homeostasis, in the absence of T1L infection, directly acts on DCs to promote dietary antigen specific Treg cell responses in the mLN.

Most important to our model, we next set out to interrogate whether T. arnold-mediated suppression of the T1L-induced inflammatory IRF1/NF-κB program of dietary antigenspecific DCs affects the ability of DCs to promote Th1 cell responses. To this end, we performed ex vivo co-cultures of mLN-derived DCs isolated 48 hours after T1L inoculation in the presence or absence of T. arnold colonization with naïve CD4+ OT-II T cells and OVA peptide. We found that T. arnold directly acts on DCs in vivo to mediate suppression of T1L-induced inflammatory Th1 cell responses ex vivo. (Figure 5L-M). To test whether T. arnold-derived metabolites are sufficient to prevent T1L-induced Th1 cell responses, we pre-incubated mLN-derived DCs isolated 48 hours after T1L inoculation with T. arnoldderived cell culture supernatant. We found that T. arnold derived metabolites restrain Th1 cell differentiation, shown by a decrease in Tbet expression (Figure 5N), suggesting that T. arnold mediated protection against T1L-induced LOT may in part be driven by T. arnoldderived metabolites.

Comparable to T1L, CW3 mediates inflammatory responses to dietary antigen in an IRF1-dependent manner 15,16. Given our findings that T. arnold suppressed a T1L-induced inflammatory IRF1/NF-κB program in dietary antigen-presenting cDC1s (Figure 5I-K and Figure S5F-G), we next addressed the question of whether T. arnold is sufficient to suppress CW3-induced LOT. Colonization with T. arnold indeed suppressed CW3-mediated Th1 cell responses to dietary antigen without affecting anti-viral host responses (Figures 5O and Figure S5J-K).

Collectively, our findings demonstrate that T. arnold protects against virus-induced LOT, using two different virus strains that have previously been shown to mediate LOT in an IRF1-dependent manner 15,16 , suggesting that T. arnold confers protection by suppressing the virus-induced inflammatory IRF1/NF-κB program in dietary antigen-presenting cDC1.

Parabasalia protect against LOT to gluten and are underrepresented in CeD patients.

To determine the relevance of these findings to CeD, we analyzed the effect of T. arnold colonization on T1L-mediated LOT to gluten in transgenic mice expressing the CeD-predisposing HLA molecule DQ8 (DQ8tg mice) 15. Whereas T1L induced LOT to

gluten in mice without *T. arnold* colonization, the presence of *T. arnold* prevented T1Lmediated LOT to gluten in DQ8tg mice, as assessed by the presence of anti-gliadin IgG2c antibodies and the development of a Th1 delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) reaction (Figure 6A-B and Figure S6A). We obtained similar results using OVA antigen instead of gluten (Figure S6B-C). Gluten proteins, predominantly gliadins in wheat, are resistant to complete degradation by mammalian enzymes, which results in the production of large peptides with immunogenic sequences such as the 33-mer in α -gliadin 45 . Certain intestinal bacteria participate in gliadin degradation including 33-mer gluten peptides, reducing their immunogenicity 46 . To assess whether T. arnold protects from LOT by reducing the immunogenicity of gluten peptides, we incubated T. arnold with chymotrypsin-digested gliadin to measure the amount of QPQLPQ-peptide, a key motif in the major immunogenic epitope within the 33-mer peptide 46 . Although T. arnold was metabolically active during in vitro co-culture with gliadin as observed by the production of succinate and active locomotion after 20 hours of in vitro culture (Figure S4C; Videos S1 and S2), it did not digest 33-mer gluten peptides in contrast to co-cultures of small intestinal contents of T. arnold-free mice (Figure 6C). Furthermore, a gluten-containing diet did not alter the abundance of T. arnold in the intestine when compared to a gluten-free diet, suggesting that gluten is not a major nutritional source for T. arnold in contrast to water-soluble fibers (Figure S6D and 28). In addition to intestinal environmental conditions favoring Th1 cell responses against dietary antigen, transglutaminase-2 (TG2) activation is thought to promote CeD pathogenesis by increasing the affinity of gluten peptides for HLA-DQ2 and DQ8 molecules through posttranslational modifications $1-3$. T1L infection induces TG2 activation ¹⁵. To test whether *T. arnold* suppresses T1L-mediated TG2 activation, we quantified the incorporation of 5-(biotinamido)-pentylamine (5BP), a small-molecule TG2 activity probe. We found that T. arnold effectively suppressed T1L-mediated TG2 activation (Figure 6D), suggesting that T. arnold prevents LOT and prevents the modification of gluten peptides.

Based on our findings about the protective role of T. arnold in a CeD mouse model, we hypothesized that protists of the Parabasalia family, including Tritrichomonas spp. and other human gut colonizing protists such as Dientamoeba fragilis and Pentatrichomonas hominis²⁶, could protect against LOT and CeD development in humans. To investigate a role for Parabasalia in CeD, we isolated DNA from stool samples of healthy individuals and those with active CeD and conducted ITS sequencing using Parabasalia specific primers 26 . We detected *Parabasalia* in 35% of controls (8/23) but only in 8% of active CeD patients (2/26) (Figure 6E), suggesting that Parabasalia are underrepresented in the intestines of persons with CeD compared with healthy controls. We detected Parabasalia with ITS sequence homology closest to *Pentatrichomonas hominis* and *Tritrichomonas* spp (Dataset S1). Further stratification of the detected strains showed that Tritrichomonas spp. was overrepresented in controls compared to CeD patients (Figure 6F), whereas Pentatrichomonas hominis was detected in one control and two CeD patients who were also positive for Tritrichomonas spp. (Figure 6G). Taken together, our findings that T. arnold prevented T1L-mediated abrogation of oral tolerance to gluten and T1L-mediated TG2 activation and that Parabasalia are underrepresented in CeD patients compared to controls, suggest that T. arnold-related strains may protect against LOT to gluten and development of CeD.

DISCUSSION

Besides the requirement for HLA DQ2 or DQ8, additional genetic and environmental factors are needed for the development of CeD¹. Viruses have been implicated as a potential environmental trigger in CeD pathogenesis $11-14$. Concordantly, we discovered that reovirus strain T1L and murine norovirus strain CW3 promote LOT to dietary gluten ^{15,16}. In this study, we made the unexpected finding that an undescribed commensal Tritrichomonas species, Tritrichomonas arnold $(T.$ arnold), protected against virus-mediated LOT by directly suppressing the virus-induced inflammatory program in dietary antigen-presenting cDC1, and this with neither impacting the viral host immune responses nor requiring the microbiota. Mechanistically, we showed that *T. arnold* restrains the reovirus-induced proinflammatory IRF1/NF-κB program of cDC1 and thus limit their ability to promote Th1 cell responses. Furthermore, we showed that T. arnold mediated protection from virusinduced LOT is not specific to T1L but was also observed with CW3. Collectively, our findings highlight the protective role of T. arnold against reovirus-mediated LOT to gluten and suggest a potentially protective role of Parabasalia against LOT events leading to CeD development in humans.

While succinate produced by T. arnold promoted mucosal type-2 immunity, it was insufficient to promote tolerance or protect against T1L-induced LOT, suggesting that T. arnold modulates immune responses to dietary antigens independent of succinate. Given its large genome size of approximately 100 megabases (unpublished findings), T. arnold likely harbors additional immunoregulatory functions besides succinate which are yet to be explored. In line with this hypothesis, our data suggest that metabolites secreted by T. arnold are sufficient to restrain T1L-mediated proinflammatory DC-mediated Th1 cell responses ex vivo.

While we showed that T. arnold directly acts on DCs to suppress the virus-induced inflammatory IRF1/NF-κb program in dietary antigen-presenting DCs, the mechanism of how T. arnold promotes tolerogenic DC responses during homeostasis remains undetermined. In this regard, the roles of Cdk19 and Dectin1, identified in our cDC1 RNA-seq, in T. arnold-mediated oral tolerance warrant further investigation. It is possible that the mechanisms by which T. arnold modulates dietary antigen-presenting DCs under homeostasis and enteric inflammation are uncoupled from each other. In line with this hypothesis, we showed that while T. arnold potently suppressed the T1L-induced inflammatory transcriptional profile in T1L-induced DCs, it failed to induce an obvious tolerogenic transcriptional gene profile during homeostasis. The evolutionary benefit for T. arnold to modulate tolerogenic responses to dietary antigens is unknown but may have evolved to evade unwanted immune responses to itself; however, this hypothesis warrants to be tested in future studies.

In contrast to a study that found *Dientamoeba fragilis* in up to 30% of individuals from a healthy cohort in Colombia, South America 26 , we did not detect *Dientamoeba fragilis* in stool samples collected from patients attending the endoscopic clinic at McMaster University, Canada. It is not well understood how *Parabasalia* colonize the human gut and whether such colonization is persistent or intermittent. These parameters could contribute to

the geographically distinct human gut colonizing *Parabasalia* strains, hence providing further explanation of how environmental factors contribute to differences in CeD prevalence in otherwise genetically similar populations $¹$. Furthermore, as shown in our and other</sup> mouse studies 28, differences in consumption of dietary components such as fibers may explain variation in colonization of *Parabasalia* strains and should be further explored. Interestingly, a population-based case-control study found that antibiotic use prior to CeD onset, especially metronidazole, which targets anaerobic microbes and is highly potent in eradicating gut protists, is associated with CeD development 47 . This observation is supported by our findings that mice depleted of T. arnold through dietary intervention failed to protect against T1L-mediated LOT (Figure 3H), further demonstrating that active colonization is sufficient and required to retain protection from virus-mediated LOT. One promising strategy to promote oral tolerance and prevent LOT or reinstate tolerance in CeD is to use the immunoregulatory potential of commensal gut microbes. Here, we identified an oral-tolerance-promoting protist that can prevent virus-mediated LOT to gluten in a CeD-relevant mouse model.

There is an unmet need to develop effective therapies to prevent LOT to gluten in at-risk individuals and to reinstate oral tolerance to gluten in CeD patients. Furthermore, the need for the development of an adjunct treatment to the gluten-free diet is supported by the difficulties in strictly excluding gluten from the diet and the lack of mucosal healing observed in 40% of adults with CeD who maintain a gluten-free diet. Our study will motivate a new line of investigation to use oral tolerance-promoting protists in CeD and potentially other immune-mediated food sensitivities including food allergies.

Limitations of the study

While data from murine models ⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ support a role of Treg cells in oral tolerance and the suppression of unwanted Th1 cell responses towards dietary antigens, the OT-II T cell conversion and DTH assays used in this study provide an incomplete picture and may or may not recapitulate functional oral tolerance in humans. While we provide evidence for the presence of *Parabasalia* in a fraction of human stool samples, future studies are required to firmly define the *Parabasalid* species that colonize humans using next generation metagenomic sequencing approaches and larger cohort sizes. It is possible that other Parabasalia strains can promote oral tolerance and protect from virus-induced LOT. Furthermore, while we uncovered that T . arnold-derived metabolites are sufficient to suppress virus-induced proinflammatory DC responses, future studies will need to identify the specific metabolite(s) and the mechanisms in suppressing proinflammatory DCs. Additional studies should address whether T. arnold is able to reestablish oral tolerance to provide a potential therapeutic avenue for CeD and food allergy patients.

STAR * METHODS

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Reinhard Hinterleitner (reinhard@pitt.edu).

Materials availability—Materials generated in this study are available from the lead contact upon request.

Data and code availability—Raw and processed RNA-seq data of mLN and mLNderived DC1s are available at Gene Expression Omnibus (GSE230558; GSE230530). Remaining data needed to support the conclusion of this manuscript are included in the main text and supplementary materials. Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact upon request. This paper does not report original code.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Human stool samples—Stool samples from consented healthy volunteers (controls) and patients with CeD were collected and processed in anaerobic conditions, frozen, and stored at −80°C until analysis at McMaster University. CeD diagnosis (n=26; age range: 19-75; 65% females) was based on a positive serology for anti-transglutaminase-2 (TG2) antibodies (IgA) or deamidated gliadin antibodies (IgG) and confirmed by duodenal biopsies, as assessed by a pathologist. Controls (n=23; age range:19-57; 55% females) had normal CeD serology and endoscopy and no functional gastrointestinal disorders (according to the Rome IV criteria). Subjects with concomitant inflammatory bowel disease or any other autoimmune disease were excluded. The sample collection was approved by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HiREB #12599-T for CeD patients; HiREB #2820 for controls).

Animals—All knockout and transgenic mice used in this study are on a C57BL/6 background. RAG−/− OT-II+/− CD45.1+/+ mice were provided by Dr. Bana Jabri and bred and housed in our animal facility. HLA-DQ8 transgenic (DQ8tg) mice were described 15 and maintained on a gluten-free diet (AIN76A, Envigo). B6.129P2-Il18^{tm1Aki}/J (IL-18-deficient) mice and C57BL/6 (WT) mice were purchased from Jackson Laboratories. Female and male mice were used for experiments. Except for DQ8tg mice which were housed at the University of Chicago, all other mouse strains were housed at the University of Pittsburgh animal facility. In both locations mice were housed under specific pathogen-free (SPF) conditions, where cages were changed on a weekly basis; ventilated cages, bedding, food, and water (non-acidified) were autoclaved before use, ambient temperature maintained at 23°C, and 5% Clidox-S was used as a disinfectant. Experimental cages were randomly housed on two different racks in the vivarium and all cages were kept on automatic 12-h light/dark cycles. Germ-free C57BL/6 WT mice were maintained in flexible film isolators at the University of Pittsburgh Gnotobiotic facility. Animal husbandry for both SPF and germ-free facilities, and experimental procedures were conducted in accordance with Public Health Service policy and approved by the University of Pittsburgh and University of Chicago Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

METHOD DETAILS

Infection with reovirus and quantification of virus-specific antibody responses

—Reovirus strain type 1 Lang (T1L) virions were purified using CsCl gradient centrifugation and viral titer determinations were conducted using plaque assays as

described 15 . Mice were inoculated perorally with purified 10^9 plaque-forming units (PFU) of T1L diluted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) using a 22-gauge round-tipped needle (Cadence Science). To assess T1L infection in the intestine, a 3 cm section of the ileum was resected, and viral titers were determined by plaque assay. Reovirus-specific antibody responses in sera were determined 18 days post T1L infection using a 60% plaque-reduction neutralization assay (PRNT 60) as described ¹⁵.

Infection with norovirus—Murine norovirus strain CW3 stocks were generated from plasmids as previously described 51 . Mice were inoculated perorally with purified $5x10⁷$ PFU of CW3 diluted in PBS using a 22-gauge round-tipped needle (Cadence Science).

Tritrichomonas arnold isolation, colonization, and in vitro culture—Cecal contents were harvested from T. arnold colonized C57BL/6 mice and mashed through a 100 μM cell strainer. Cecal contents were washed 3 times with PBS containing 0.5 μg/ml Amphotericin, 20 μg/ml Gentamicin, 100 μg/ml Streptomycin, 50 μg/ml Vancomycin and 100 U/ml Penicillin (Sigma) and centrifuged after each wash at 200g for 5 minutes. T. arnold was further purified by a 40% Percoll at 1000g for 15 minutes without braking. T. arnold was washed 3 times with sterile PBS to remove remaining antibiotics. The number and viability of isolated T. arnold was determined by counting with a hemocytometer. Approximately $1x10^6$ T. arnold in 200 μl PBS were orally gavaged into Tritrichomonas-free C57BL/6 mice. For germ-free experiments and in vitro cultures T. arnold was sorted twice on a BD Aria IIU (BD Biosciences) post Percoll purification based on size (forward scatter) to exclude any residual bacterial contaminants. For *in vitro* cultures, *T. arnold* was incubated anaerobically in glass vials at a 15-degree angle at 37° C in RPMI media containing 10% FBS for $4 - 24$ hours.

In-vivo T cell conversion assay—At the start of the experiment C57BL/6 mice were colonized with $1x10^6$ T. arnold in 200 μl PBS or PBS alone by oral gavage for 12 days. Naïve CD4⁺ T cells were purified from the spleen and lymph nodes of RAG^{-/−} OT-II^{+/−} $CD45.1^{+/+}$ mice and sorted on a BD Aria IIU (BD Biosciences). Approximately, 10^5 OT-II T cells were transferred retro-orbitally into congenic C57BL/6 mice. 1 day post OT-II T cell transfer, mice were gavaged with 10^9 PFU T1L or $5x10^7$ PFU of CW3 in 200 µl PBS or PBS alone. Mice were fed an OVA-containing diet (ENVIGO, TD.130362, 10 mg/kg) for 6 days. For germ-free experiments, cellulose-containing diet experiments, and recombinant IL-25 treatment experiments, mice received OVA (grade V, Sigma) dissolved in the drinking water (1.5%) for 6 days.

In vivo succinate and recombinant IL-25 treatment—C57BL/6 mice received 150 mM succinate in drinking water 12 days prior to *in vivo* T cell conversion assay for the duration of the experiment. C57BL/6 mice were subjected to daily intraperitoneal injections of 300 ng recombinant mouse IL-25 (in 100 μl sterile PBS) or PBS alone for 6 days as indicated.

Loss of tolerance and delayed type hypersensitivity assay—At the start of the experiment a subset of DQ8tg mice or WT were colonized with $1x10^6$ T. arnold in 200 µl PBS by oral gavage. 12 days post *T. arnold* administration, mice received a dose of 50 mg

of chymotrypsin-digested gliadin (CT-gliadin) or 50 mg OVA 15 by oral gavage for 2 days. In the course of the first CT-gliadin or OVA feeding, a subset of mice was gavaged with 10⁹ PFU T1L. Two days after CT-gliadin or OVA administration and infection, a mixture of complete Freund's adjuvant (CFA, Sigma) and CT-gliadin or OVA was administered subcutaneously in the lower back as an emulsion of 100 μl CFA and 100 μl PBS containing 300 μg CT-gliadin or OVA, under isoflurane gas anesthesia. At day 27 or 35, mouse sera were obtained by submandibular bleeding for anti-gliadin or anti-OVA IgG2c enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) quantification. IgG2c ELISA was conducted as described ¹⁵. Ear challenges were conducted 14 and 24 days after immunization. A volume of 20 μl of 100 μg CT-gliadin or OVA/ PBS was injected under isoflurane gas anesthesia. Ear thickness was measured 2 days after second CT-gliadin or OVA challenge using a digital precision caliper (Fisher Scientific). Swelling was determined by subtracting pre-challenge from post-challenge ear thickness.

DNA extraction from intestinal contents and feces for 28S RT-PCR—Total DNA was extracted using the Fast DNA Stool Mini Kit (Qiagen, 51604). For quantification, quantitative PCR of the 28S rRNA-encoding gene was conducted on a Bio-Rad CFX384 using iTaq™ SYBR (Bio-Rad, 1725125). Tritrichomonas 28S rRNA gene qPCR (28S GCTTTTGCAAGCTAGGTCCC; 18S TTTCTGATGGGGCGTACCAC) was normalized to the host murine *Ifnb1* gene $24,52$.

Parabasalia internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequencing—Total DNA was extracted from stool samples using the Fast DNA Stool Mini Kit (Qiagen, 51604). Separate processing areas for DNA extraction and PCR amplification for both human and mouse samples were used. For ITS sequencing of human stool samples, the ITS region was PCR-amplified using pan-parabasalid primers (28S CTTCAGTTCAGCGGGTCTTC; 18S AACCTGCCGTTGGATCAGT) described in ²⁶. For ITS sequencing of the *Tritrichomonas* sp. identified in the University of Pittsburgh vivarium we used pan-parabasalid primers (28S TCCTCCGCTTAATGAGATGC; 18S AATACGTCCCCTGCCCTTTGT) described in 25,26. The resulting PCR products were purified from gels and submitted to Azenta Life Sciences for Sanger Sequencing and a BLASTn search was conducted. Alignment with the ITS sequences of T. muris (GenBank: AY886843.1), T. musculis (GenBank: KX000922.1), T. rainier (GenBank: MH370486.1), and Tritrichomonas sp. (GenBank: MF375342.1) was conducted 53,54 .

RNA processing and RT-PCR—RNA was prepared using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, 74136). cDNA synthesis was conducted using iScript™ (Bio-Rad, 1708891BUN) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Expression analysis was conducted in duplicate via RT– PCR on a Bio-Rad CFX384 using iTaq™ SYBR (Bio-Rad, 1725125). Expression levels were quantified and normalized to *Gapdh* expression. Murine *Gapdh, Il27*, and murine norovirus primers were previously described in ¹⁵.

Antibodies and flow cytometry—Single cell suspensions were pelleted and resuspended in FACS buffer (PBS, 2% FBS) for immunostaining and subsequent flow cytometry analysis. Cell suspensions were incubated with Fc Block (BD

Biosciences, 553142) before staining with fluorophore-conjugated monoclonal antibodies. All fluorophore-conjugated antibodies used are listed as follows (clone, fluorophore, company, catalog number): CD45.1 (A20, BV480, BD Biosciences, 746666), CD4 (GK1.5, BV650, BD Biosciences, 563232), I-A/I-E (M5/114.15.2, APC-Fire750, BioLegend, 107652), Foxp3 (FJK-16s, FITC, eBioscience, 11-5773-82), Tbet (4B10, APC, eBioscience, 17-5825-82), Gata3 (TWAJ, PerCPeF710, eBioscience, 46-9966-42), Rorγt (AFKJS-9, PE, eBioscience, 12-6988-82), IFNγ (XMG1.2, BV605, BioLegend, 505839), CD11b (M1/70, APCeF780, eBioscience, 47-0112-82), CD45 (30-F11, BV480, BD Biosciences, 566095), CD44 (IM7, APC, BD Biosciences, 559250), CD62L (MEL-14, PE, eBioscience, 12-0621-81), CD45 (30-F11, APC-R700, BD Biosciences, 565478), CD4 (GK1.5, BUV395, BD Biosciences, 563790), CD11b (M1/70, PEcy7, eBioscience, 25-0112-82), CD19 (1D3, BV605, BD Biosciences, 563148), CD3 (17A2, BV605, BD Biosciences, 564009), Ter119 (TER-119, BV605, BD Biosciences, 563323), IL-12p40 (C17.8, PE, eBioscience, 12-7123-82), CD86 (GL-1, AF647, BioLegend, 105020), CD11c (N418, BV421, BD Biosciences, 565452), CD103 (M290, BV786, BD Biosciences, 564322), F4-80 (BM8, PEcy5, eBioscience, 15-4801-82), I-A/I-E (M5/114.15.2, FITC, eBioscience, 11-5321-82), CD8a (53-6.7, BV570, BioLegend, 100740), I-A/I-E (M5/114.15.2, BV421, BioLegend, 107632), CD45 (30-F11, BUV395, BD Biosciences, 564279), CD11c (HL3, FITC, BD Biosciences, 557400), CD11b (M1/70, BV605, BioLegend, 101257), CD103 (M290, APC, BD Biosciences, 562772), CD8a (53-6.7, BUV737, BD Biosciences, 612759), IFNγ (XMG1.2, PEcy7, Tonbo Biosciences, 60-7311), CD45.2 (104, BUV615, BD Biosciences, 751642), KLRG1 (2F1, BV786, BD Biosciences, 565477), NK1.1 (PK136, BUV805 BD Biosciences, 741926). Zombie NIR Fixable Viability Kit was purchased from BioLegend (423106). Fixable Aqua Dead Cell Stain Kit was purchased from Life Technologies (L34966). CellTrace Violet Cell Proliferation Kit was purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific (C34557) and used according to manufacturer's protocol. For analysis of transcription factors and cytokine expression cells were incubated in RPMI media in the presence of 50 ng/ml phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA), 500 ng/ml ionomycin (Sigma), 1.3 μl/ml Golgi Stop and 1 μl/ml Golgi Plug (BD Biosciences) for 3 hours at 37° C, 5% CO₂. For intracellular staining cells were permeabilized with the Foxp3 fixation/ permeabilization kit from eBioscience (00-5523-00). For IL-12p40 staining, cells were incubated in RPMI media in the presence of 1 μ /ml Golgi Plug for 6 hours at 37 \degree C, 5% CO2. For intracellular staining cells were permeabilized with the Cytofix/Cytoperm kit from BD Biosciences (554714). Flow cytometry analysis was conducted on a Cytek Aurora (Cytek). Cell sorting was conducted on a BD Aria IIU (BD Biosciences). Data was analyzed with FlowJo (Treestar).

Cell dissociation and isolation—Small intestinal and cecum draining mesenteric lymph nodes (mLN) and Peyer's Patches were dissected followed by digestion with 1 mg/ml collagenase VIII (Sigma) in a shaking incubator at 37°C, 220 rpm for 30 minutes. After the incubation, 10 μl/ml of 0.5 M EDTA (Fisher Scientific) was added to inactivate the collagenase and cells were mashed through a 100 μm cell strainer to obtain a single cell suspension.

Oral antigen uptake by DCs—OVA was labelled with Alexa Fluor-647 succinimidyl ester according to the manufacturer's protocol (Molecular Probes). T. arnold colonized mice or control mice received 3.2 mg OVA-Alexa Fluor-647 by oral gavage. Mice were euthanized 18 hours post-feeding and OVA uptake by DCs in mLN was assessed by flow cytometry.

In vitro T cell conversion assay—mLN DCs were isolated and purified (CD11c) Positive Selection Kit II, STEMCELL Technologies). 2x10⁴ DCs were co-cultured for 3 days with $5x10^4$ FACS sorted naïve OT-II CD4⁺ T cells in the presence of 1 µg/ml OVA peptide (OVA323-339, Invivogen), 0.25 ng/ml TGFb (recombinant mouse TGF-b1, BioLegend), and 1:20 dilution of T. arnold culture supernatant from $1x10^6$ /ml T. arnold as indicated.

Analysis of cytokine production—IFNγ was measured using electrochemiluminescence (IFNg V-PLEX Mouse, Meso Scale Diagnostics).

QPQLPY-peptide quantification—1 mg/ml CT-gliadin was incubated with 1x10⁶/ml T. arnold or media only (negative control) anaerobically in glass vials at a 15-degree angle at 37°C in RPMI media containing 10% FBS for 4 and 18 hours. As positive control, small intestinal contents from SPF non-T. arnold colonized mice were diluted 1:4 in De Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) broth and incubated under anaerobic conditions at 37°C for 4 hours with 1 mg/ml CT-gliadin. Supernatants were collected and remaining amount of QPQLPY-peptide, a key motif in the major immunogenic epitope within the 33-mer peptide from α-gliadin was measured with the competitive G12 ELISA GlutenTox kit according to the manufacturer's instructions ⁵⁵.

Measurement of butyrate and succinate by liquid chromatography high

resolution-mass spectrometry (LC-HRMS)—Cecum samples were homogenized with 50% aqueous acetonitrile at a ratio of 15:1 μl/mg. 50 μL culture supernatants were diluted 1:1 in 100% acetonitrile and vortexed vigorously. 10 μM deuterated internal standard $(D₅)$ -butyrate and $(D₆)$ -succinate (CDN Isotopes) were added. Samples were homogenized using a FastPrep-24 system (MP-Bio), with Matrix D at 60hz for 30 seconds, before being cleared of protein by centrifugation at 16,000 x g . Cleared supernatants (60 μ L) were collected and derivatized using 3-nitrophenylhydrazine. Each sample was mixed with 20 μL of 200 mM 3-nitrophenylhydrazine in 50% aqueous acetonitrile and 20 μL of 120 mM N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-N0-ethylcarbodiimide −6% pyridine solution in 50% aqueous acetonitrile. The mixture was incubated at 50°C for 40 minutes and the reaction was stopped with 0.45 mL of 50% aqueous acetonitrile. Derivatized samples were injected (5 μL) via a Thermo Vanquish UHPLC and separated over a reversed phase Phenomenex Kinetex 150 mm x 2.1 mm 1.7 μM particle C18 maintained at 55°C. For the 20-minute LC gradient, the mobile phase consisted of the following: solvent A (water/0.1% formic acid) and solvent B (acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid). The gradient was the following: 0-2 minutes 15% B, increasing to 60% B over 10 minutes, followed by an increase to 100% B over 1 minute and holding for 3 minutes. This was followed by an equilibration at initial conditions for 4 minutes. The Thermo ID-X tribrid mass spectrometer was operated in both positive ion

mode, scanning in ddMS² mode (2 µscans) from 75 to 1000 m/z at 120K resolution with an AGC target of 2e5 for full scan, 2e4 for $MS²$ scans using HCD fragmentation at stepped collision energies (15,35,50). Spray voltage was set at 3.0 kV for positive mode and source gas parameters were 45 sheath gas, 12 auxiliary gas at 320°C, and 3 sweep gas. Calibration was conducted prior to analysis using the PierceTM FlexMix Ion Calibration Solutions (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Integrated peak areas were then extracted manually using Quan Browser (Thermo Fisher Xcalibur ver. 2.7). Butyrate and succinate are reported as area ratio of the analyte to the internal standard ⁵⁶.

Histology for PAS (Periodic acid Schiff staining)—A 10 cm piece of the jejunum was removed, cut longitudinally, and pinned down onto wax. Tissue pieces were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA, Fisher Scientific) for 3 hours at 4°C and dehydrated in 30% w/v sucrose overnight. Tissue sections were coiled into a Swiss roll, embedded in optimal cutting temperature (OCT) compound (Tissue-Tek) and stored at −80°C prior to sectioning. Sections were sliced to 8 μm on a cryostat (Leica CM 1950) and fixed in RT methanol (Sigma-Aldrich) for 2 minutes prior to PAS staining according to manufacturer's protocol (Sigma-Aldrich, 395B-1KT). Slides were digitized for representative section (Nikon 90i, 0.75 N.A. 20x objective and a Hamamatsu Flash 4.0 CMOS camera) and were quantified for goblet cells per villi or per 100 intestinal epithelial cells.

Immunofluorescence Staining—For Tuft cell staining, 8-10 μm Swiss roles were fixed in 4% PFA for 10 minutes at RT. Slides were washed in blocking buffer (1% w/v bovine serum albumin, 0.1% Tween20, 1x PBS) for 10 minutes at RT. Sections were surrounded using a hydrophobic barrier (PAP pen, Thermo-Fischer) and permeabilized by incubating tissue in permeabilization buffer (0.4% Tritonx100, 1% fetal bovine serum, 1x PBS) for 10 minutes at RT. Sections were then incubated with anti-mouse IgG DCAMKL1 antibody (Abcam, ab31704) in blocking buffer for 1 hour at RT, washed three times in PBS, and incubated with anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) antibody, Alexa Flour Plus 647 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A32733) for 30 minutes at RT, and washed 3 times in PBS. Slides were incubated in blocking buffer for 30 minutes at RT prior to staining for epithelial cells by anti-mouse IgG2a CD326/Ep-CAM conjugated to Alexa-Fluor 488 (Biolegend, 118210) for 1 hour at RT, washed three times in PBS, counter stained with 500 ng/ml 4',6-Diamidino-2- Phenylindole, Dihydrochloride (DAPI, Thermofisher) for 5 minutes at RT, washed three times in PBS, and mounted in Fluoromount-G (Thermofisher). Slides were stored light protected at 4°C until digitized (Nikon Ti inverted microscope equipped with a Nikon A1 point scanning confocal scan head and a 1.40 N.A. 20x objective or Keyence BZX-810 Widefield microscope equipped with an 0.75 N.A. 20x objective). Tuft cells were quantified for tuft cells per villi.

Visualization and quantification of TG2 activity—At the start of the experiment DQ8tg mice were colonized with 10⁶ Tritrichomonas in 200 μl PBS or PBS alone by oral gavage. 12 days post *T. arnold* administration mice were gavaged with 10^9 PFU T1L in 200 μl PBS or PBS alone. The in vivo TG2 enzymatic activity was assessed 18 hours post T1L infection. Six and three hours prior to euthanasia, mice were injected i.p. with 100 mg/kg 5-(biotinamido)-pentylamine (5-BP), a substrate for TG2 transamidation

activity, which was synthesized following a published protocol 57 . Jejunal pieces were collected and frozen in optimum cutting temperature (OCT) compound (Tissue-Tek). Frozen sections of 5 μ m thickness were cut, fixed in 1% paraformaldehyde, and TG2 protein was visualized by staining with a rabbit polyclonal anti-TG2 antibody (custom produced by Pacific Immunology), followed by AF488-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit IgG antibody (Invitrogen, A32790). TG2 enzymatic activity was measured using 5-BP crosslinking and was visualized by costaining with AF594-conjugated streptavidin (Invitrogen, S32356). Images were acquired at 20x magnification using a Leica SP8 Laser Scanning Confocal microscope. TG2 activity was quantified by systematically taking two sections of the jejunum from each mouse, quantifying the 5-BP signal / TG2 protein signal on a per villi basis. The mean 5-BP signal / TG2 signal is shown for each mouse that was assessed.

RNA sequencing processing and data analysis—For RNA sequencing on bulk mLN, libraries were prepared using the Illumina TruSeq protocol and sequenced with paired-end 75 bp reads on an Illumina HiSeq. For RNA-sequencing on CD103+ CD11b[−] CD8a+ mLN DCs, 1,000 CD103+ CD11b− CD8a+ DCs were FACS sorted into a 96-well plate containing 12.5 μl of lysis buffer and cDNA was generated using the Takara Smart-Seq HT Kit (Takara, 634438) following manufactures instructions, with 15 cycles of cDNA amplification. Smart-Seq cDNA was assessed for quality on an Agilent Fragment Analyzer 5300 using the High sensitivity NGS kit (Agilent, DNF-474-1000). Samples that passed QC with full length cDNA proceeded to library preparation using Illumina Nextera DNA prep (Illumina, 20018705) with UDI indexes (Illumina, 20027214) added using 8 PCR cycles. Libraries were pooled and sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq 2000 using a P2 200 cycle flow cell (Illumina 20046812), $2x101bp$, for an average of ~ 30 million reads per sample. Libraries were demultiplexed using the NextSeq 2000 Dragen server (v 1.4.1.39716) and BCL Convert (v3.9.3). Reads were aligned to mouse reference genome mm10 (GRCm38). Raw FASTQ files were processed using kallisto (v0.46.0) to obtain abundances (TPM) as well as the counts 58 . Sleuth (v0.30.0), an R (v4.2.0)/ Bioconductor package was used to identify differentially expressed transcripts among the groups of interest. Genes with false discovery rate (FDR) <0.1 were considered as significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs). The volcano plots representing the DEGs were obtained using EnhancedVolcano (1.14.0) package in R. Heatmaps based on z scores and hierarchical clustering using the one minus Pearson correlation were generated using Morpheus [\(https://software.broadinstiute.org/morpheus](https://software.broadinstiute.org/morpheus)). WebGestalt was used to perform enrichment analysis, www.webgestalt.org ⁵⁹.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Mice were allocated to experimental groups based on their genotype and randomized within the given age-matched groups. Male and female mice were used. Because our mice were inbred and matched for age and sex, we always assumed similar variance between the different experimental groups. All experimental and control animals were littermates, and none were excluded from the analysis at the time of collection. Data were analyzed using paired or unpaired two-tailed Student's *t*-test for single comparisons. Ordinary oneway ANOVA analysis (equal standard deviations) or Brown-Forsythe and Welch ANOVA analysis was used for multiple comparisons. ANOVA analysis was followed by Tukey's,

Sidak's or Dunnett T3 post hoc tests. Fisher's exact test was used test significance of observed frequencies of *Parabasalia* in human stool samples. Figures and statistical analysis were generated using GraphPad Prism 8 (GraphPad Software). The statistical test used, and P values are indicated in each figure legend. P values of < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ and **** $P < 0.0001$. ns = not significant.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

One or more of the authors of this paper self-identifies as an unrepresented ethnic minority in their field of research or within their geographical location.

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HIGHLIGHTS

• T. arnold promotes oral tolerance and protects against virus-mediated LOT.

- **•** T. arnold mediated protection is independent of antiviral immunity and the microbiota.
- **•** Succinate and IL-25 are not sufficient to protect against virus-mediated LOT.
- **•** T. arnold restrains virus-induced IRF1/NF-κB inflammatory responses in cDC1.

Figure 1. Suppression of T1L-induced LOT is associated with the presence of *Tritrichomonas* **in in-housed mice.**

(A-C) OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S1A. Expression of Foxp3 and IFN γ in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. **(A)** Representative contour plots, **(B)** percentages and **(C)** absolute numbers. **(D)** Small intestine length **(E)** Tuft cells in the jejunum visualized by expression of DCLK1 in red; epithelial cells (EPCAM) in green; nuclei (DAPI) in blue. **(F)** Goblet cells in the jejunum visualized by PAS staining. **(E-F)** Representative images (left), quantification (right); Scale bars, 50 μm. **(G)** Tritrichomonas colonization in the cecum quantified by real time (RT)-PCR. Center is median. n.d. not detected. **(A-G)** Data represent two independent experiments (n=4-8 mice/group). **(A-F)** Center is mean, one-way ANOVA, Sidak's post hoc test. $*P < 0.05$, $*P$ $< 0.01, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0001$, n.s. not significant.

Figure 2. *T. arnold* **promotes dietary antigen-specific Treg cell responses.**

(A) WT mice were inoculated perorally with T. arnold for 12 days. T. arnold colonization quantified by RT-PCR from intestinal contents of different regions. Center is median. **(B-F)** OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S2D. Expression of **(B-D)** Foxp3 and IFNγ, **(E)** Gata3, and **(F)** Rorγt in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. **(B)** Representative contour plots, **(C)** percentages and **(D-F)** absolute numbers. **(A-F)** Data represent two independent experiments (n=5-9 mice/group). **(C-F)** Center is mean, two-tailed unpaired *t*-test. *** $P < 0.001$, n.s. not significant.

Figure 3. *T. arnold* **protects against T1L-mediated LOT without impacting antiviral immunity and independent of the microbiota.**

(A-F) OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S3A. **(A-C)** Expression of Foxp3 and IFNγ in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. **(A)** Representative contour plots, **(B)** percentages and **(C)** absolute numbers. **(D)** T1L titers in the ileum assessed by plaque assay (post infection p.i.) (Plaque-forming unit (PFU)). Dotted line indicates detection limit. **(E)** 18 days post T1L infection sera were used for a plaque-reduction neutralization assay (PRNT 60). **(D-E)** Center is median. n.d. not detected. **(F)** RNA-seq of mLN 48 hours post T1L infection. Heat map of selected type-1 interferon inducible genes. The scale represents the Row Z-score. (n=4 mice/group). **(G)** T. arnold colonized mice were fed a non-water-soluble fiber diet for 4 weeks. T. arnold colonization quantified by RT-PCR from feces before (pre) and after (post) diet intervention. Lines connect values obtained from same mouse sampled pre and post diet intervention. Twotailed paired *t*-test. **(H)** T. arnold colonized WT mice and control mice were fed non-water soluble fiber diet for 4 weeks prior to OT-II T cell transfer. One day after transfer mice were inoculated perorally with T1L or PBS and fed OVA in drinking water for 6 days. The expression of Foxp3 and IFN γ in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. Percentages are shown. **(I-J)** Germ-free WT mice were inoculated perorally with T. arnold or PBS for 12 days prior to OT-II T cell transfer. One day after transfer mice were inoculated perorally with T1L or PBS and fed OVA in drinking water for 6 days. The expression of **(I)** Tbet and **(J)** Foxp3 in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. Percentages are shown. **(B-E, H-J)** Data represent two independent

experiments (n=3-9 mice/group). **(B-C, I-J, H)** Center is mean, one-way ANOVA, Sidak's post hoc test. $*P < 0.05$, $*P < 0.01$, $**P < 0.001$, n.s. not significant.

Figure 4. Succinate and IL-25 are not sufficient to protect against T1L-mediated LOT. (A-E) OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S4F. **(A-B, D-E)** The expression of Foxp3 and IFNγ in **(A-B)** transferred OT-II T cells **(D-E)** host CD4+ T cells in the mLN assessed by flow cytometry. Percentages are shown. **(C)** T1L titers in the ileum assessed by plaque assay 6 days post infection (Plaque-forming unit (PFU)). Dotted line indicates detection limit. . n.d. not detected. **(F-J)** OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S4G. **(F)** Absolute numbers of ILC2 in the mLN. **(G-J)** Expression of Foxp3 and IFNγ in **(G-H)** transferred OT-II T cells **(I-J)** host CD4+ T cells in the mLN assessed by means of flow cytometry. Percentages are shown. **(A-J)** Data represent two independent experiments (n=4-7 mice/group). **(A-B, D-J)** Center is mean, one-way ANOVA, Sidak's post hoc test. **(C)** Center is median. $*P < 0.05$, $*P < 0.01$, $**P < 0.001$, $***P <$ 0.0001, n.s. not significant.

Figure 5. *T. arnold* **restrains the virus-mediated proinflammatory program in dietary antigenpresenting DCs.**

(A-M) WT mice were inoculated perorally with T. arnold or PBS for 12 days followed by peroral inoculation with T1L or PBS for 48 hours. **(A-F)** Expression of **(A-B, D-E)** IL-12p40 and **(C, F)** CD86 on **(A-C)** gated MHC-II+ CD11c+ CD103− CD11b+ PP DCs and **(D-F)** gated MHC-II+ CD11c+ CD103+ CD11b− CD8a+ mLN DCs assessed by flow cytometry. **(A, D)** Representative dot plots, **(B, E)** percentages, and **(C, F)** MFI. **(G)** Il27 gene expression in the mLN quantified by RT-PCR. **(H-K)** RNA-seq of MHC-II+ CD11c⁺ CD103+ CD11b− CD8a+ mLN DCs (n =3-4 mice/group). **(H)** Volcano blot for PBS vs T1L. **(I)** Normalized count number of *Irf1*. **(J)** Volcano blot for T1L vs T1L + T. arnold. **(K)** Heatmap showing IRF1 and NF-κB dependent DEGs increased in T1L compared to PBS. $*$ Indicate significant differences between T1L vs T1L + T. arnold based on false discovery rate < 0.1. **(L-M)** mLN DCs co-cultured with naïve OT-II T cells for 3 days in presence of OVA peptide. **(L)** Expression of Tbet in OT-II T cells assessed by flow cytometry. **(M)** IFN γ in co-culture supernatants assessed by electrochemiluminescence (n=3) mice/group). **(N)** mLN DCs were pre-incubated with T. arnold culture supernatant and OVA peptide for 5 hours followed by co-culture with naïve OT-II T cells for 3 days. Expression of Tbet in OT-II T cells assessed by flow cytometry. Lines connect same mouse in the presence or absence of T. arnold supernatant (T. arnold SN). Two-tailed paired t-test. **(O)**

OT-II T cell conversion assay; see schematic in Figure S3A. Mice were inoculated perorally with CW3 or PBS instead of T1L. Expression of IFNγ in transferred OT-II T cells in the mLN assessed by means of flow cytometry. Percentages are shown. **(A-G, N-O)** Data represent two independent experiments (n=4-8 mice/group). **(A-G, I, L-M, O)** Center is mean, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc test. $*P < 0.05$, $*P < 0.01$, $***P < 0.001$, $****P$ < 0.0001 .

Figure 6. *Parabasalia* **protect against LOT to gluten and are underrepresented in CeD patients compared to healthy controls.**

(A-B) DTH assay; see schematic in Figure S6A. **(A)** Serum levels of Glia-specific IgG2c antibodies. **(B)** Degree of ear swelling. Data represent two independent experiments (n=4-7 mice/group). **(C)** Amount of remaining Glia measured by G12 antibody, detecting the immunogenic QPQLPY sequence within the 33-mer after in vitro Glia- T. arnold or small intestinal (SI) content co-incubation at indicated time points (n=2-3 biological replicates/ group). **(D)** DQ8tg mice were inoculated perorally with T. arnold or PBS for 12 days followed by peroral inoculation with T1L or PBS for 18 hours. TG2 enzymatic activity assessed in the jejunum by 5BP cross-linking is shown in red (nuclei (blue), TG2 protein (green)). Representative images are shown. Scale bars, 50 μm. **(E-G)** Human stool DNA from healthy volunteers and active CeD patients subjected to ITS PCR-DNA sequence analysis. Frequency of **(E)** Parabasalia **(F)** Tritrichomonas spp. and **(G)** Pentatrichomonas spp. detected in healthy and active CeD patients (detected (Pos), not detected (Neg)). Two-sided Fisher's exact test. **(A-C)** Center is mean, one-way ANOVA, Sidak's post hoc test. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, *** $P < 0.0001$, n.s. not significant.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

