Title:

Lipid Peroxidation and Type I Interferon Coupling Fuels Pathogenic Macrophage Activation Causing Tuberculosis Susceptibility

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Abstract

A quarter of human population is infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis, but less than 10% of those infected develop pulmonary TB. We developed a genetically defined sst1-susceptible mouse model that uniquely reproduces a defining feature of human TB: the development of necrotic lung granulomas and determined that the sst1-susceptible phenotype was driven by the aberrant macrophage activation. This study demonstrates that the aberrant response of the sst1-susceptible macrophages to prolonged stimulation with TNF is primarily driven by conflicting Myc and antioxidant response pathways leading to a coordinated failure 1) to properly sequester intracellular iron and 2) to activate ferroptosis inhibitor enzymes. Consequently, iron-mediated lipid peroxidation fueled IFNβ superinduction and sustained the Type I Interferon (IFN-I) pathway hyperactivity that locked the sst1-susceptible macrophages in a state of unresolving stress and compromised their resistance to Mtb. The accumulation of the aberrantly activated, stressed, macrophages within granuloma microenvironment led to the local failure of anti-tuberculosis immunity and tissue necrosis. The upregulation of Myc pathway in peripheral blood cells of human TB patients was significantly associated with poor outcomes of TB treatment. Thus, Myc dysregulation in activated macrophages results in an aberrant macrophage activation and represents a novel target for host-directed TB therapies.

Keywords: macrophage, inflammation, lipid peroxidation, type I interferon, antioxidant defense, Myc, tuberculosis

INTRODUCTION

Thousands of years of co-evolution with modern humans has made *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) arguably the most successful human pathogen(Orgeur & Brosch, 2018). It currently colonizes approximately a quarter of the global population(WHO, 2022). Most Mtb-infected people develop latent TB, in which the host responses either eliminate or sequester the bacteria inside a granuloma structure (Pagan & Ramakrishnan, 2018; Pai *et al*, 2016). However, about 5-10% of Mtb-infected individuals will eventually develop active TB either within a year after the primary infection, or later in their life after re-activation of persistent bacteria or re-infection(Behr *et al*, 2021; Drain *et al*, 2018; Horsburgh & Rubin, 2011; Reichler *et al*, 2018). A plethora of genetic, developmental and environmental factors contribute to TB progression in individuals that initially resisted the pathogen(Cohen *et al*, 2022; Simmons *et al*, 2018).

A major unanswered question in TB pathogenesis, is the mechanism of lung tissue damage and subsequent development of cavities in immunocompetent hosts. Infection of the lung is central to TB's evolutionary success because it allows the pathogen to spread among human hosts via aerosols. After systemic dissemination from primary lesions, Mtb can be found in many human organs(Bussi & Gutierrez, 2019; Ulrichs *et al*, 2005). However, approximately 85% of the disease develops in the lungs(Pai *et al.*, 2016). Necrotic lesions are the major pathologic manifestation of pulmonary TB ranging from central necrosis in organized granulomas during primary TB to massive necrotizing pneumonia and the formation of cavities in post-primary pulmonary TB. In humans, both types of necrotic lung lesions develop in immunocompetent hosts despite the presence of active T cell mediated immune response.

Existing mechanistic concepts explaining the lesion necrosis fall into two main categories: i) *inadequate* local immunity that allows exuberant bacterial replication and production of virulence factors that drive tissue necrosis, vs. ii) *excessive* effector immunity that results in immune-mediated tissue damage (Ernst, 2018; O'Garra *et al*, 2013; Ogongo & Ernst, 2023). Although both scenarios are credible, they are mechanistically distinct and would require different therapeutic strategies. Therefore, in-depth understanding of mechanisms of pulmonary TB progression in immunocompetent hosts is necessary for accurate patient stratification and for the development of personalized approaches to immune modulation(DiNardo *et al*, 2021).

Mouse models have been successfully used for mechanistic studies of Mtb infection, although classical inbred mouse strains routinely used in TB research, such as C57BL/6 (B6) and BALB/c, do not develop human-like necrotic TB lesions(Apt & Kramnik, 2009). Nevertheless, even in these models, Mtb predominantly replicates in the lungs irrespective of the route of infection(North & Jung, 2004). Mouse models that recapitulate the necrotization of pulmonary TB lesions have also been developed (reviewed in (Kramnik & Beamer, 2016). We have previously found that C3HeB/FeJ mice develop necrotizing granulomas after infection with virulent Mtb and mapped several genetic loci of TB susceptibility using a cross of the C3HeB/FeJ with the resistant B6 mice (Kramnik *et al*, 1998; Kramnik *et al*, 2000; Yan *et al*, 2006). A single locus on chromosome 1, *sst1* (**s**uper**s**usceptibility to **t**uberculosis 1), was responsible for the control of the necrotization of TB lesions (Sissons *et al*, 2009). The *sst1*-susceptible mice develop necrotic lung lesions irrespective of the route of infection – aerosol, intravenous or intradermal(Kramnik *et al.*, 1998; Kramnik *et al.*, 2000; Pan *et al*, 2005; Pichugin *et al*, 2009; Yabaji *et al*, 2023a) – thus demonstrating a common underlying mechanism.

We further found that the *sst1* locus primarily controls macrophage-mediated resistance to intracellular pathogens (Boyartchuk *et al*, 2004; He *et al*, 2013; Pan *et al.*, 2005; Yan *et al*,

2007) , associated with hyperactivity of the type I interferon (IFN-I) pathway in vitro and in vivo (Bhattacharya *et al*, 2021; He *et al.*, 2013; Ji *et al*, 2019). Of note, the hyperactivity of IFN-I pathway has been associated with TB susceptibility and the disease progression both in human patients and experimental models (Donovan *et al*, 2017; Moreira-Teixeira *et al*, 2018; O'Garra *et al*., 2013; Stanley *et al*, 2007). However, mechanisms that underlie the IFN-I hyperactivity and their roles in susceptibility to TB were insufficiently elucidated. The *sst1*-mediated susceptibility recapitulates the morphologic and mechanistic hallmarks of human TB disease and provides a model to study both the upstream mechanisms responsible for the IFN-I pathway hyperactivity(Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021) and its downstream consequences(Kotov *et al*, 2023).

The *sst1* locus encodes the SP110 (Pan *et al*., 2005) and SP140 (Ji *et al*, 2021) proteins – known as interferon inducible chromatin binding proteins(Fraschilla & Jeffrey, 2020a). The expression of mRNAs encoding both proteins is greatly diminished in mice that carry the *sst1* susceptibility allele and protein expression is undetectable for both(Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021; Ji *et al.*, 2021). Both proteins were shown to be involved in regulation of type I interferon pathway(Ji *et al.*, 2021; Lee *et al*, 2012). The overexpression of SP110b in macrophages increases their resistance to intracellular bacteria in vitro(Pan *et al*., 2005). However, the Sp140 gene knockout mice were extremely susceptible to several intracellular bacteria including virulent Mtb(Ji *et al.*, 2021). It was suggested that SP140 plays a dominant role in TB susceptibility, possibly via epistatic interactions. Better understanding the SP110 and SP140 functions in macrophages and, possibly other cells, is necessary to link them to TB pathogenesis.

Recent progress in understanding the SP140-mediated mechanisms was boosted by the discovery that its hypomorphic alleles were associated with susceptibility to chronic inflammatory diseases - multiple sclerosis and Crohn's disease(Matesanz *et al*, 2015; Mehta *et al*, 2017). SP140 mutations in a cohort of Crohn's disease patients predicted responsiveness to anti-TNF therapy, suggesting their roles in driving the aberrant TNF response in humans. Mechanistically, SP140 was implicated in silencing "lineage-inappropriate" and developmental genes and maintenance of heterochromatin in activated macrophages (Mehta *et al*., 2017). It regulated macrophage fate and transcriptional activity by binding to and inhibiting topoisomerases(Amatullah *et al*, 2022). Understanding how these molecular mechanisms contribute to the control of macrophage activation during chronic inflammation of various etiologies would allow for their optimal therapeutic modulation.

Previously, we found that prolonged TNF stimulation of B6.Sst1S macrophages in vitro uniquely induced an aberrant response that was characterized by the IFNβ superinduction, a coordinated upregulation of interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs), and markers of proteotoxic stress (PS) and the integrated stress response (ISR). While the initial responses of the B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages to TNF were similar, the expression of the aberrant response markers in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages occurred in a stepwise manner starting 8 – 12 h after continuous TNF stimulation. The PS and IFNβ superinduction were the earliest events followed by ISR. The ISR induction, but not that of the PS, was prevented by the type I IFN receptor blockade, whereas the inhibitors of stress kinase JNK prevented the IFNβ superinduction. The upregulation of all these pathways was prevented by a reactive oxygen scavenger (BHA) (Bhattacharya *et al*., 2021). These data suggested that oxidative stress was driving the aberrant activation of the *sst1*-susceptible macrophages, although its root cause(s) remained unknown.

Current literature provides ample evidence of the crosstalk between the above pathways: 1) stress kinase activation by oxidative stress(Blaser *et al*, 2016; Kamata *et al*, 2005); 2) promotion of type I interferon (IFN-I) responses by stress kinases(Boccuni *et al*, 2022;

Buskiewicz *et al*, 2016; Karin & Gallagher, 2005); 3) suppression of AOD by IFN-I (Lei *et al*, 2021; Riedelberger *et al*, 2020); 4) suppression of IFN responses and AOD by Myc (Levy & Forman, 2010; Torti & Torti, 2002; Zimmerli *et al*, 2022) (F**ig.1A**). However, the dynamic interactions and regulatory dependencies of these pathways in homeostasis and disease-specific contexts remain poorly understood. To develop rational therapeutic strategies, it is crucial to address this gap of knowledge.

In this study, we specifically addressed how a single genetic locus, *sst1*, regulated the AOD and IFN-I pathways' connectivity and hierarchy in primary TNF-activated macrophages, a cell state relevant to TB granuloma microenvironment(Flynn & Chan, 2022). We determined that the aberrant response of the *sst1*-susceptible macrophages to prolonged TNF stimulation was primarily fueled by conflicting Myc and anti-oxidant response pathways: Myc hyperactivity in TNF-activated mutant macrophages resulted in a failure to sequester intracellular iron, the accumulation of lipid peroxidation products and, eventually, the IFNβ superinduction that locked the *sst1*-susceptible macrophages in a state of persistent oxidative stress. The aberrantly activated macrophages accumulated within granuloma microenvironment leading to the gradual failure of local anti-tuberculosis immunity and, eventually, necrosis within TB lesions – a major barrier to TB therapy in human patients.

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RESULTS

1. The *sst1* locus controls diverse trajectories of macrophage activation by TNF

To explore the spectrum of TNF responses in the B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs, we compared gene expression in the BMDM populations either naïve, or after 24 h of stimulation with TNF (10 ng/ml) using single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq)(**Fig.1B**). The naïve macrophage populations of both backgrounds were similar. All BMDMs responded to TNF stimulation, as evidenced by the de novo formation of clusters 1- 6, where cluster 3 appeared exclusively in the resistant (B6) and clusters 4 and 5 in the susceptible (B6.Sst1S) macrophage populations (**Fig.1C** and **Suppl.Fig.1A**). After TNF stimulation, the expression of the *sst1*-encoded Sp110 and Sp140 genes coordinately increased only in the B6 macrophages (**Fig.1D** and **Suppl.Fig.1B**). The entire IFN pathway was dramatically upregulated in TNF stimulated B6.Sst1S cells that lacked the Sp110 and Sp140 expression, but it was upregulated to a lesser degree in cluster 3 exclusive for TNF-stimulated Sp110/140-positive B6 macrophages (**FIG.1E** and **Suppl.Fig.1C**).

To determine the relatedness of the diverse macrophage subpopulations, as they emerge during TNF stimulation, we performed trajectory analysis that clearly demonstrated partial overlap and the divergence between the trajectories of TNF-stimulated resistant (RT) and susceptible (ST) subpopulations (**Fig.1F**). Subpopulations sp1 and sp2 of the B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages were closely related and were characterized by the upregulation of cell division pathways in both backgrounds (**Fig.1G**). Cell cycle analysis demonstrated that TNF stimulation increased the fraction of macrophages in S phase (**Suppl.Table 1**).

The susceptible (ST) and resistant (RT) activation trajectories diverged as the RT transitioned from sp2 to sp3, but the ST transitioned from sp2 to sp4 and 5. The transition from sp2 to sp3 in the resistant B6 BMDMs, was characterized by an increase of the G1/S ratio, the downregulation of anabolic pathways involved in cell growth and replication (E2F and Myc), and the upregulation of anti-oxidant genes (**Fig.1G and 1H).** In contrast, in the susceptible B6.Sst1S macrophages, the sp2 transitioned to subpopulations sp4 and sp5 that were characterized by the decreased G1/S ratios as compared to sp3, signifying an increased G1 – S transition (**Suppl. Table 2**). The sp4 represented an intermediate state between sp2 and sp5 and was primarily characterized by the upregulation of the IFN pathway (**Fig.1G**), as evidenced by the upregulation of known IFN-I pathway activation markers (Rsad2, IL1rn, Cxcl10) (**Suppl.Fig.1C and D**).

The ST macrophages in sp5 uniquely demonstrated a coordinated upregulation of the IFN, TGFβ, Myc, E2F, and stress response (p53 and UPR) pathways (**Fig.1G**). They upregulated the Integrated Stress Response (ISR) genes (Ddit3/Chop10, Atf3, Ddit4, Trib1, Trib3, Chac1) in parallel with markers of immune suppression and apoptosis (Cd274/PD-L1, Fas, Trail/Tnfsf10, Id2, and a pro-apoptotic ligand – receptor pair Tnfsf12/Tweak and Tnfrsf12a/Tweak receptor) (**Suppl.Fig.1D**). Of note, IFN-I pathway genes were upregulated in all TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages in agreement with the paracrine effect of IFNβ, whose increased production by TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages we have described previously (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021). Interestingly, the expression of Irf7 and several IFN-inducible genes, such as B2m, Cxcl10, and Ube2l6 was reduced in the sp5 cells, suggesting partial dampening of their IFN-I responsiveness (**Suppl.Fig.1C**).

Taken together, the single cell trajectory analysis revealed that sp5 represented a terminal state of the aberrant B6.Sst1S macrophage activation by TNF that was characterized the

coordinated upregulation of stress, pro-apoptotic and immunosuppression genes. Unexpectedly, the stress escalation coincided with paradoxical activity of Myc and E2F pathways. Transition to this state in the susceptible macrophage population was preceded by IFN-I pathway upregulation (sp2 – sp4). In contrast, the sp2 – sp3 transition in the wild type macrophages was coincident with upregulation of both the Sp110 and Sp140 genes and was accompanied by the termination of cell cycle and the upregulation of antioxidant defense pathways. Therefore, we concluded that in resistant TNF-stimulated macrophages the *sst1* locus-encoded genes promoted the activation of the AOD pathway either directly, or by suppressing the IFN-I pathway.

To begin exploring the hierarchy and crosstalk of these pathways, we used an unbiased computational approach to define the Sp110 and Sp140 regulatory networks. First, we inferred a mouse macrophage gene regulatory network using the GENIE3 algorithm (Huynh-Thu & Geurts, 2018) and external gene expression data for mouse macrophages derived from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) (Clough & Barrett, 2016). This network represents co-expression dependencies between transcription factors and their potential target genes, calculated based on mutual variation in expression level of gene pairs (Huynh-Thu *et al*, 2010; Zhernovkov *et al*, 2019). This analysis revealed that in mouse macrophages the Sp110 and Sp140 genes co-expressed with targets of Nfe2l1/2 (Nuclear Factor Erythroid 2 Like 1/2) and Mtf (metal-responsive transcription factor) TFs that are involved in regulating macrophage responses to oxidative stress and heavy metals, respectively (**Fig.1I**). Taken together, our experimental data and the unbiased network analysis suggested that in TNF-stimulated macrophages the *sst1*-encoded Sp110 and/or Sp140 gene(s) might be primarily involved in regulating AOD.

2. Dysregulated AOD activation in B6.Sst1S macrophages

Next, we compared the expression of upstream regulators of AOD in B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages during TNF activation. Our previous studies demonstrated that the earliest differences between the B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs occurred between 8 and 12 h of TNF stimulation, concomitant with the upregulation of the SP110 protein in the B6 macrophages and heat shock proteins in the mutant cells(Bhattacharya *et al*., 2021). Comparing the time course of major transcriptional regulators of AOD in TNF-stimulated B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages during this critical time interval, we observed higher upregulation of NRF2 protein in TNF stimulated B6 BMDMs (**Fig.2A**). The NRF1 levels were not substantially upregulated after TNF stimulation and were similar in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs (**Fig.2A** and **Suppl.Fig.2A**).

The NRF2 difference was observed both in cytoplasmic and nuclear fractions (**Fig.2B** and **C**, respectively). The levels of NRF2 negative regulators Keap1 and β-TrCP (**Fig.2A**), and Bach1 (**Fig.2B** and **C**) were similar in both backgrounds and did not notably change after TNF stimulation. Quantitative microscopy confirmed that at 12 h of TNF stimulation the cytoplasmic and nuclear NRF2 levels significantly increased in B6 but not in B6.Sst1S BMDMs (**Fig.2D**, **E** and **Suppl.Fig.2B**). In contrast, the levels of Nrf2 mRNA induced by TNF were higher in the mutant macrophages suggesting post transcriptional regulation(**Fig.2F**). Therefore, we measured the rates of NRF2 protein degradation 6 – 8 h after TNF stimulation but found no difference (**Fig.2H** and **2I**).

Using EMSA, we demonstrated that binding activity of nuclear NRF2 to its target DNA at 8 and 12 h after TNF stimulation was greater in the resistant B6 BMDMs (**Fig.2G**). To identify core pathways controlled by the *sst1* locus during this critical period, we compared global mRNA expression profiles of the B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages after 12 h of TNF stimulation using bulk RNA-seq. This analysis confirmed that the Sp110 and Sp140 genes were

strongly upregulated by TNF stimulation exclusively in the B6 macrophages (**Fig.2J**). Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of genes differentially expressed between TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S and B6 macrophages at this critical junction revealed that the IFN response, Myc, E2F target gene, Hypoxia, UV response and DNA repair pathways were upregulated in the mutant macrophages, while the detoxification of reactive oxygen species, cholesterol homeostasis, fatty acid metabolism and oxidative phosphorylation, peroxisome and lysosome pathways were downregulated (**Suppl.Table 3**). Functional pathway profiling using KEGG and Reactome databases also highlighted the upregulation of genes involved in oxidative stress and cellular senescence in mutant macrophages. In contrast, the wild type macrophages upregulated genes involved in detoxification of reactive oxygen species, inhibition of ferroptosis and peroxisome function (**Suppl.Table 4**). Supporting these findings, the total antioxidant capacity of the B6 macrophages after TNF stimulation increased to significantly higher levels, as compared to the B6.Sst1S (**Suppl.Fig.2C**).

Transcription factor binding site analysis of genes specifically upregulated by TNF in B6, but not B6.Sst1S, macrophages (B6-specific cluster) revealed an enrichment of Nfe2l1/Nfe2l2, Bach1 and Mafk sequence motifs, i.e. binding sites of transcription factors regulating AOD. In contrast, overrepresentation of E2F, Egr1 and Pbx3 transcription factor binding sites was found for genes in the Sst1S-specific cluster (**Suppl.Table 5**). A master regulator analysis using Virtual Inference of Protein Activity by Enriched Regulon Analysis (VIPER) algorithm also revealed a key role for Nfe2l1/2 (NF-E2-like) transcription factors (TFs) as regulators of genes differentially induced by TNF in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs (**Suppl. Table 6**).

To further investigate this inference, we analyzed the expression of a gene ontology set "response to oxidative stress" (GO0006979, 416 genes) and observed clear separation of these genes in two clusters in an *sst1*-dependent manner (**Fig.2J** and **2K**). This analysis demonstrated that the response to oxidative stress in the *sst1* mutant macrophages was dysregulated, but not paralyzed. For example, the upregulation of well-known NRF2 target genes Heme oxygenase 1 (Hmox1) and (NAD(P)H quinone dehydrogenase 1 (Nqo1) were similar in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs (**Suppl.Fig.2D** and **2E**, respectively).

A subset of antioxidant defense genes whose expression was concordant with Sp110 and Sp140 in B6 macrophages represented genes that are known to be involved in iron storage (ferritin light and heavy chains, Ftl and Fth), ROS detoxification and maintenance of redox state (Cat, G6pdx, Gstm1, Gpx4, Prdx6, Srxn1, Txn2 and Txnrd1) **(Fig.2J)**. We hypothesized that their coordinate downregulation in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages sensitized the mutant cells to iron-mediated oxidative damage and played a pivotal role in shaping their divergent activation trajectory.

3. Persistent TNF stimulation of B6.Sst1S macrophages leads to increased accumulation of lipid peroxidation products and IFN-I pathway hyperactivity.

To test this hypothesis, first we explored the intracellular iron storage. Both the ferritin light (Ftl) and heavy (Fth) chain genes were dysregulated in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs. While the Fth mRNA was upregulated by TNF in B6 BMDMs, it remained at a basal level in the B6.Sst1S cells (**Fig.3A**). The Ftl mRNA level was significantly reduced after TNF stimulation in B6.Sst1S macrophages but remained at the basal level in B6 (**Fig.3B**). Accordingly, the expression of FTL protein was reduced in B6.Sst1S BMDMs after 12 h of TNF stimulation, and both FTL and FTH proteins were reduced at 24 h (**Fig.3C**). In parallel, the levels of GPX1 and GPX4 proteins were also substantially reduced by 24 h (**Fig.3D**). The glutathione peroxidase 4

(GPX4) protein plays a central role in preventing ferroptosis because of its unique ability to reduce hydroperoxide in complex membrane phospholipids and, thus, limit self-catalytic lipid peroxidation (Stockwell *et al*, 2017). Thus, the reduced intracellular iron storage capacity in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs was followed by the decline of the major lipid peroxidation inhibitor GPX4. Accordingly, we observed increases in an intracellular labile iron pool (LIP, **Fig.3E**), an intracellular accumulation of oxidized lipids (**Fig.3F),** a toxic terminal lipid peroxidation (LPO) products malondialdehyde (MDA, **Fig.3G**) and 4-hydroxynonenal (4-HNE, **Fig.3H**). Treatment with the LPO inhibitor Ferrostatin-1 (Fer-1) prevented the 4-HNE accumulation (**Fig.3H**).

After 48h of TNF stimulation the levels of the labile iron pool (LIP) and LPO remained significantly elevated in B6.Sst1S macrophages (**Suppl.Fig.3A – E**). By then, we noted moderate cell death in their cultures (**Fig.3I**) that further increased by 72h. Treatments with Fer1, the antioxidant butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), or IFNAR1 blockade each prevented the cell death. (**Fig.3J**). Also, the ASK1 - JNK – cJun stress kinase axis was upregulated in B6.Sst1S macrophages, as compared to B6, after 12 – 36 h of TNF stimulation, i.e. during the aberrant activation stage confirming persistent stress (**Fig.3K** and **L).** These data demonstrated that during prolonged TNF stimulation, B6.Sst1S macrophages incur iron-mediated oxidative stress that may lead to cell death mediated by lipid peroxidation and IFN-I.

Therefore, we wanted to test whether the IFN-I pathway hyperactivity in TNF stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages was responsible for the initial dysregulation of the Ftl, Fth and AOD gene expression, i.e. at 8 – 12 h of TNF stimulation. IFNAR1 blockade, however, did not increase either the NRF2 and FTL protein levels, or the Fth, Ftl and Gpx1 mRNA levels above those treated with isotype control antibodies (**Fig.4A – C**). The mRNA expression of the interferon-inducible gene Rsad2, however, was suppressed, demonstrating the efficiency of the IFNAR1 blockade (**Fig.4D**). Of note, the IFNAR1 blockade did not prevent the Ifnβ mRNA superinduction (**Fig.4E**), thus rejecting another hypothesis that the Ifnβ superinduction in B6.Sst1S macrophages was driven via an IFNβ – IFNAR1 positive feedback. In contrast, treatment of B6.Sst1S macrophages with Fer-1 or the iron chelator DFO during initial TNF stimulation inhibited both the Ifnβ and Rsad2 mRNAs upregulation (**Fig.4F** and **Suppl. Fig.3F,** respectively). Importantly, Fer-1 treatment also reduced the Ifnβ and Rsad2 levels in B6.Sst1S macrophages when added at 18 h after TNF stimulation, i.e. during established aberrant response (**Fig. 4G** and **Suppl. Fig.3G**). Thus, lipid peroxidation was involved in both the initial IFNβ superinduction and in maintenance of the and IFN-I pathway hyperactivity driven by prolonged TNF stimulation.

Next, we wanted to test whether continuous IFN-I signaling were required for the accumulation of 4-HNE during prolonged macrophage activation. Indeed, the blockade of type I IFN receptor (IFNAR1) after 2 or 12 h prevented the 4-HNE accumulation at 48 h post TNF stimulation (**Fig.4H and I,** and **Suppl.Fig.3H and I**). These data suggest that type I IFN signaling does not initiate LPO in our model but maintains and amplifies it during prolonged TNF stimulation that, eventually, may lead to cell death (**Fig.3J**).

The *sst1*-encoded Sp110 and Sp140 genes were described as interferon-induced genes, and SP140 protein was implicated in maintenance of heterochromatin silencing in activated macrophages (Fraschilla & Jeffrey, 2020a; Mehta *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, we hypothesized that their deficiency in the TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S mutants may lead to the upregulation of silenced transposons and, thus, trigger the IFNβ upregulation via intracellular RNA sensors, i.e. by an autonomous mechanism unrelated to the AOD dysregulation. We examined the

transcriptomes of B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages before and after TNF stimulation for the presence of persistent viruses or transposons using a custom bioinformatics pipeline (Ma *et al*, 2021). No exogenous mouse viral RNAs were detected. A select set of mouse LTR-containing endogenous retroviruses (ERV's) (Jayewickreme *et al*, 2021), and non-retroviral LINE L1 elements were expressed at a basal level before and after TNF stimulation, but their levels in the B6.Sst1S BMDMs were similar to or lower than those seen in B6 (**Suppl.Fig.4A - C**). We also tested the accumulation of dsRNA using deep sequencing of macrophage small RNAs and failed to detect evidence of transposon-derived dsRNAs (**Suppl.Fig.4D**). We concluded from these findings that the majority of the basal transposon RNAs in macrophages exist primarily as single-stranded mRNAs that evade triggering interferon pathway. The above analyses allowed us to exclude the overexpression of persistent viral or transposon RNAs as a primary mechanism of the IFN-I pathway hyperactivity.

Taken together, the above experiments allowed us to reject the hypothesis that IFN-I hyperactivity caused the *sst1*-dependent AOD dysregulation. In contrast, they established that the hyperactivity of the IFN-I pathway in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages was itself driven by the *initial* dysregulation of iron storage and AOD, possibly via lipid peroxidation-dependent JNK activation. During prolonged TNF stimulation, however, the IFN-I pathway acted as a potent amplifier of lipid peroxidation.

4. Hyperactivity of Myc in susceptible macrophages after TNF stimulation fuels lipid peroxidation

We wanted to determine whether the AOD genes were regulated by the *sst1*-encoded genes directly or indirectly via an intermediary regulator. Previously, we identified two transcription factors whose binding activity was exclusively upregulated in the susceptible macrophages after 12h of TNF stimulation: Myc and HSF1 (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021). The bulk RNA-seq analysis at this timepoint data also demonstrated the upregulation of Myc pathway along with E2F target genes, IFN-I and stress responses specifically in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1 macrophages, as compared to B6 (**Fig.2**). The scRNA-seq analysis also demonstrated the association of Myc and stress response pathways in the mutant cells (**Fig.1**). Therefore, we hypothesized that in susceptible macrophages Myc might be involved in the dysregulation of AOD and iron storage.

First, we observed that Myc mRNA and protein were regulated in an *sst1*-dependent manner: in TNF-stimulated B6 BMDMs, Myc mRNA and protein levels were initially increased and subsequently downregulated, while no downregulation was observed in the susceptible macrophages (**Fig.5A and B**). Next, we tested whether suppression of Myc activity could "normalize" the susceptible phenotype using Myc-Max dimerization inhibitor 10058-F4 (F4). Indeed, this treatment increased the levels of FTH and FTL proteins in TNF-stimulated susceptible macrophages (**Fig.5C**) and decreased the labile iron pool (**Fig.5D**). Accordingly, the levels of MDA, oxidized lipids and 4-HNE also significantly decreased (**Fig.5E – H, Suppl.Fig.5A**), as well as the levels of IFNβ, Rsad2 and the stress markers Trib3 and Chac1 (**Fig.5I**).

Next, we wanted to determine whether the upregulation of Myc is driven by TNF alone or in synergy with CSF1, a growth factor that also stimulates Myc. In vitro, we observed the upregulation of Myc shortly after the addition of fresh CSF1-containing media, but no difference in the Myc protein dynamics between B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs in the absence of TNF (**Suppl.Fig.5B**). Also, neither of three CSF1R inhibitors prevented the superinduction of IFNβ

and Rsad2 mRNAs in B6.Sst1S macrophages induced by TNF (**Suppl.Fig.5C** and **D**). Because Myc induction by CSF1 and TNF is conducted via distinct relays of receptor signaling and transcription factors, we concluded that the *sst1* locus specifically controls Myc expression induced by inflammatory signaling. Indeed, Myc promoter has multiple predicted NF-κB and/or AP-1 transcription factors binding sites. To test this hypothesis, we used specific JNK inhibitor D-JNK1, but it had no effect on Myc upregulation in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages (**Fig.5J**). Thus, JNK activation in B6.Sst1S macrophages drives pathways downstream of Myc. The upstream Myc regulators remain to be found. Because both Sp110 and Sp140 mRNAs and proteins are highly upregulated during extended TNF stimulation, one of them may participate in feedback regulation of TNF-induced Myc, either directly or via yet unknown intermediates.

5. Myc hyperactivity and lipid peroxidation compromise the cell autonomous and T cell-mediated control of Mtb infection by B6.Sst1S macrophages.

Next, we tested whether the described facets of the aberrant macrophage activation conferred by the *sst1S* allele were relevant to Mtb susceptibility. After macrophage infection with virulent Mtb in vitro, gradual accumulation of LPO product 4-HNE was observed in BMDMs of both B6 and B6Sst1S genetic backgrounds at 3 – 5 days post infection (dpi). It occurred either in the presence or absence of exogenous TNF (**Fig.6A,** and **Suppl.Fig.6A and B**). TNF stimulation tended to reduce the LPO accumulation in the B6 macrophages and to increase it in the B6.Sst1S ones (**Fig.6A**). Both Mtb-infected and bystander non-infected B6.Sst1S macrophages accumulated 4-HNE (**Fig.6B**).

TNF stimulation improved the control of Mtb growth in B6 but not in B6.Sst1S macrophages (**Fig.6C**) (Yabaji *et al*, 2023b). The LPO inhibition using Fer-1 improved the survival of the Mtb-infected BMDMs (**Fig.6D - E**) and prevented the intracellular Mtb growth (**Fig.6F**) during the five-day in vitro infection. The iron chelator DFO also significantly reduced the Mtb growth, although restricting iron availability may also directly affect the bacterial replication. Importantly, the survival of Mtb-infected BMDMs was also improved, and the bacterial loads were significantly reduced by the Myc inhibitor, F4 (**Fig.6G and H**). Of note, the effects of the lipid peroxidation inhibitors became prominent between days 3 and 5 post infection (**Suppl.Fig.6C**) suggesting that these inhibitors do not boost the bacterial killing by activated macrophages, but rather prevent macrophage damage and exhaustion caused by labile iron and lipid peroxidation during infection.

Next, we tested whether the *sst1* susceptible allele compromised responsiveness of Mtb-infected macrophages to mycobacteria-specific T cells. The immune T cells were isolated from the regional lymph nodes of the resistant B6 mice vaccinated with live attenuated BCG vaccine, and added either to the B6 or B.Sst1S BMDM monolayers infected with Mtb the day before. The BMDMs were either treated with TNF prior to infection or not. After co-culture with the immune T cells for one or two days (**Suppl.Fig.6D** and **Fig.6I - J**, respectively), Mtb loads were significantly reduced in T cell co-cultures with the resistant B6 macrophages. The susceptible B6.Sst1S BMDMs did not respond to the same T cells either in the presence or absence of exogenous TNF (**Fig.6J** and **Suppl.Fig.6D**). Their responsiveness to T cells was improved by inhibitors of lipid peroxidation (Fer1) and Myc (F4): the bacterial loads were significantly reduced 24 and 48 h after co-culture with the immune T cells (**Fig.6K, Suppl. Fig.6E**). The IFNAR1 blockade also improved macrophage ability to control Mtb (**Fig.6L, Suppl. Fig.6F**). It also restored their responsiveness to soluble IFNγ that was inhibited by pre-stimulation with TNF (**Fig.6M**). These data demonstrate that during prolonged TNF stimulation of B6.Sst1S

macrophages the Myc-driven lipid peroxidation and subsequent IFN-I hyperactivity compromise both the cell autonomous and T cell-mediated Mtb control. Consequently, the administration of BCG vaccine to Mtb-infected B6.Sst1S mice did not increase their survival (**Fig.6N**).

6. Loss of Mtb control in pulmonary TB lesions is associated with the accumulation of lipid peroxidation products and stress escalation in intralesional macrophages

We wanted to determine whether the aberrantly activated macrophages accumulate within TB lesions during progression of pulmonary TB in vivo. We used a mouse model of pulmonary TB where the lung lesions develop after hematogenous spread from the primary site of infection and progress exclusively in the lungs, despite systemic immunity and control of infection in other organs. Microscopic pulmonary lesions develop in the lungs of both B6 and B6.Sst1S mice, but subsequent progression occurs exclusively in the B6.Sst1S (Yabaji *et al.*, 2023a).

To detect the IFNβ-expressing cells within TB lesions, we introduced the Ifnβ-YFP reporter described previously (Scheu *et al*, 2008) in the B6.Sst1S background. The B6.Sst1S,ifnβ-YFP reporter mice were infected with virulent Mtb (*smyc'*::mCherry) constitutively expressing the red fluorescent protein reporter (Lavin & Tan, 2022). Lungs were collected 12 – 20 weeks post infection (wpi). After perfusion and fixation, 50 μm thick lung slices were prepared and stained using 4-HNE-specific antibodies. Following tissue clearing, 3D images were acquired using confocal microscopy.

Based on Mtb loads, TB lesions were classified in two categories: the Mtb-controlling paucibacillary lesions, and multibacillary lesions, in which the control of Mtb growth was compromised (**Suppl.Fig.7**). Both types of lesions contained numerous YFP-expressing cells **(Fig.7A)**. The multibacillary lesions contained clusters of replicating Mtb and large swaths of 4-HNE-positive tissue, possibly due to diffusion of low molecular weight 4-HNE (**Fig.7A** and **Suppl.Fig.8A**). The 3D imaging demonstrated that YFP-positive cells were restricted to the lesions, but did not strictly co-localize with intracellular Mtb, i.e. the *Ifnb* promoter activity was triggered by inflammatory stimuli, but not by the direct recognition of intracellular bacteria. We validated the IFNβ reporter findings using in situ hybridization with the *Ifnβ* probe, as well as anti-GFP antibody staining (**Suppl.Fig.8B - E**). These findings clearly demonstrated the accumulation of lipid peroxidation products within multibacillary TB lesions.

To characterize macrophages in TB lesions and identify pathways associated with the loss of Mtb control, we performed spatial transcriptomics analysis of intralesional macrophages (Iba1+) using the Nanostring GeoMX Digital Spatial Profiler (DSP) system(Merritt *et al*, 2020)(**Suppl.Fig.9**). Comparing the Iba1+ macrophage gene expression profiles in the mutibacillary vs paucibacillary lesions, we identified 192 upregulated and 376 downregulated genes at a two and above fold change (**Suppl.Table 7**). Pathway analysis demonstrated a highly significant upregulation of Hypoxia, TNF and IL6/STAT3 Signaling, Glycolysis, Complement and Coagulation pathways in the multibacillary lesions consistent with the escalation of hypoxia, inflammation and macrophage activation in the advanced lesions. Mechanistically, top transcription factors associated with genes upregulated in the multibacillary lesions were NFKB1, JUN, STAT1, STAT3 and SP1 (**Suppl.Fig.10A-C**).

To specifically interrogate the interferon pathways in paucibacillary vs multibacillary lesions, we compiled a list of 430 interferon type I and type II inducible genes from public databases that were also included in Nanostring Whole Transcriptome Analysis (WTA) probes. Among these, 70 genes were differentially regulated between the Iba1+ macrophages in multi- vs

paucibacillary lesions (**Fig.7B**). Among the upregulated genes were metalloprotease Mmp12, IL6 and Socs3, chemokines Cxcl10, Ccl2, Ccl3, Ccl4, Ccl19, cell stress and senescence marker p21 (Cdkn1a), and many known IFN-I target genes. The most upregulated pathways in Iba1+ cells within multibacillary lesions were Interferon, TNF, and IL6/STAT3 Signaling, and top transcription factors associated with upregulation of these pathways were NFKB1, STAT3, STAT1 and IRF1. Among the IFN-inducible genes upregulated in paucibacillary lesions were Ifi44l, a recently described negative regulator of IFN-I that enhances control of Mtb in human macrophages(DeDiego *et al*, 2019; Jiang *et al*, 2021) and Ciita, a regulator of MHC class II inducible by IFNγ, but not IFN-I (**Suppl.Table 8** and **Suppl.Fig.10 D-E**). Thus, progression of pulmonary TB and loss of local Mtb control within the lung lesions was associated with the accumulation of aberrantly activated macrophages that contained lipid peroxidation products, with upregulation of the IFN-I pathway and downregulation of IFNγ-inducible genes.

Using fluorescent multiplexed immunohistochemistry (fmIHC), we compared the upregulation of stress markers phospho-cJun and Chac1 (**Fig.7C** and **Suppl.Fig.11** and **12**). In the advanced lesions these markers were primarily expressed by activated macrophages (Iba1+) expressing iNOS and/or Ifnβ (YFP+)(**Fig.7D**). We also documented the upregulation of PKR in the multibacillary lesions, which is consistent with the upregulation of the upstream IFN-I and downstream Integrated Stress Response (ISR) pathways, as described in our previous studies (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021) (**Suppl.Fig.11B**).

Thus, progression from the Mtb-controlling paucibacillary to non-controlling multibacillary TB lesions in the lungs of TB susceptible mice was mechanistically linked with a pathological state of macrophage activation characterized by escalating stress (as evidenced by the upregulation phospho-cJUN, PKR and Chac1), the upregulation of IFNβ and the IFN-I pathway hyperactivity, with a concurrent reduction of IFNγ responses.

7. Myc upregulated genes are enriched in TB patients who fail treatment

Next, we tested whether the upregulation of Myc pathway is associated with pulmonary TB progression in human TB patients. We used blood samples obtained from 41 individuals recently (<90 days) diagnosed with TB that were enrolled in the Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tuberculosis (RePORT)-India consortium. Patients were infected with drug susceptible Mtb and treated with rifampicin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide, per Technical and Operational Guidelines for TB Control by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 2016. They were monitored for two years during and post-treatment. Individuals who failed the antibiotic treatment (n=21) were identified by positive sputum culture or clinical diagnosis of symptoms at any time after 4 full months of treatment and symptoms determined to not be from another cause. Cured TB patients (controls) remained culture-negative and symptom-negative for the two-year observation period.

Several oncogene signatures identified previously(Bild *et al*, 2006) were analyzed with the TBSignatureProfiler(Johnson *et al*, 2021) to determine their ability to differentiate between treatment failures and controls based on bootstrapped AUC scores. Myc_up ranked within the top 3 signatures with an AUC of 0.74 and p-value of 0.008 (**Suppl.Fig.13A**). Boxplots of ssGSEA scores were created to determine whether the myc signatures were differentially enriched between treatment failures and controls. Myc_upregulated genes were enriched in the treatment failure group relative to the treatment control group (**Suppl.Fig.13B, Suppl.Table 9**). The ROC curve used to generate the AUC scores for myc_up is depicted in **Suppl.Fig.13C**, and

a heatmap of the genes used to generate the ssGSEA scores is depicted in **Suppl.Fig.13D**, with ssGSEA scores of each patient sample. These data indicate that the upregulation of Myc pathway in peripheral blood cells of TB patients was associated with poor prognosis and TB persistence even in patients infected with antibiotic sensitive Mtb. Although pathological evaluation was not included in this study, treatment failures in immunocompetent patients are often associated with massive fibro-necrotic pulmonary TB lesions.

DISCUSSION

This study reveals novel upstream mechanisms that trigger and maintain hyperactivity of the IFN-I pathway in activated macrophages and demonstrates their relevance to pulmonary TB. First, we found that the hyperactivity of the IFN-I pathway was a part of a broader dysfunctional macrophage activation leading to unresolving stress and loss of Mtb control. Second, we have shown that oxidative stress in TNF-activated macrophages was sufficient to boost IFNβ expression, and it did not require the recognition of either the endogenous or Mtb-derived nucleic acids. Third, we demonstrated that accumulation of aberrantly activated, stressed macrophages within TB lesions, but not their death, preceded tissue necrosis and exuberant Mtb growth. Thus, in the mouse model that recapitulate key pathomorphological features of pulmonary TB in human patients, the aberrant macrophage activation state was responsible for both the inflammatory tissue damage and the failure of local immunity.

Previous studies demonstrated that inactivating the IFN-I pathway by IFN receptor knockout in B6.Sst1S background increased resistance to Mtb infection in vivo but did not restore it to the wildtype B6 level (Ji *et al.*, 2019). Thus, the superinduction of IFNβ alone was insufficient to explain the *sst1*-mediated cell autonomous macrophage phenotype. Comparing the pseudotime trajectories of the B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages during prolonged TNF stimulation, we found upregulation of anti-oxidant defense genes in the wild type B6 macrophages, while, in contrast, B6.Sst1S BMDMs demonstrated superinduction of IFNβ and IFN-I pathway genes. Using time-course experiments, we found that this divergence occurs 8 - 12h after TNF stimulation, i.e. the time interval during which the Sp110 and Sp140 genes and proteins are upregulated exclusively in the wild type cells. By 12 h of TNF stimulation, the B6.Sst1S mutant macrophages displayed the dysregulated activation of AOD concomitantly with the upregulation of heat shock proteins and the increased activity of HSF1 described previously (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021). Blockade of IFNAR1 did not prevent the initial AOD dysregulation during this period suggesting that the dysregulated oxidative stress response of B6.Sst1S macrophages was upstream of the IFN-I pathway hyperactivity. Indeed, blocking lipid peroxidation using Fer-1 or an iron chelator prevented the IFNβ superinduction. This conclusion was also supported by recent in vivo experiments in which antioxidant defense in B6.Sst1S mice was enhanced by knockout of the Bach1 gene – a negative regulator of NRF2 (Amaral *et al*, 2023). After Mtb infection, the B6.Sst1S,Bach1-/- mice displayed reduced lung inflammatory damage and decreased expression of the IFN-I pathway genes, as compared to the B6.Sst1S mice(Amaral *et al.*, 2023). Previously, we reported that the IFNβ super-induction in the *sst1*-susceptible macrophages was driven by the synergy of TNF/NFκB and stress-activated kinase JNK pathways (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021). In this study we demonstrated that JNK activation was sustained at higher levels in the B6.Sst1S macrophages after 12 h of TNF stimulation. We hypothesize that autocatalytic lipid peroxidation may be a major factor sustaining the unresolving stress and stress-kinase activation during prolonged stimulation of the B6.Sst1S macrophages with TNF.

This model is consistent with an unbiased computational approach that considered genes co-regulated with Sp110 and Sp140 in mouse macrophage datasets that independently suggested their primary association with anti-oxidant response pathways. Experimentally, we found that Sp110 and Sp140 deficiency in activated macrophages led to the partial AOD dysregulation: a coordinated downregulation of ferritin light and heavy chains mRNAs, as well as the genes of the glutathione and thioredoxin antioxidant systems and NADPH regeneration that are involved

in restoring redox balance and preventing lipid peroxidation. Free ferrous iron (Fe^{+2}) catalyzes the intracellular peroxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) via the Fenton reaction that in the absence of terminators, can proceed in an autocatalytic manner in cell membranes containing tightly packed PUFA (Mortensen *et al*, 2023). Indeed, the prolonged TNF stimulation of the *sst1* mutant macrophages led to increased labile iron pool and the accumulation of toxic low molecular weight lipid peroxidation products MDA and 4-HNE. Unlike ferroptosis, however, this did not result in massive cell death, but led to persistent unresolving stress and an aberrant state of macrophage activation.

Exploring potential mechanisms of the AOD dysregulation in B6.Sst1S macrophages, we found that the upregulation of NRF2 protein after TNF stimulation was impaired, although the Nrf2 mRNA levels were induced to higher levels in comparison to the B6 macrophages. This effect could not be explained by differences in the kinetics of NRF2 protein degradation suggesting that the *sst1* locus may regulate the NRF2 protein levels post-transcriptionally, either at the levels of Nrf2 mRNA splicing or translation, as suggested by(Goldstein *et al*, 2016; Li *et al*, 2010; Shay *et al*, 2012; Tonelli *et al*, 2018). The growing body of experimental evidence suggest that a specialized translation machinery is involved in context-dependent regulation of protein biosynthesis(Shi & Barna, 2015). Ribosome modifications, such as protein composition and rRNA methylation, were shown to be involved in control of selective IRES-dependent translation in myeloid cells(Basu *et al*, 2011; Mazumder *et al*, 2003) and regulation of inflammation(Basu *et al*, 2014; Poddar *et al*, 2013; Poddar *et al*, 2015). Recently, enrichment of SP100 and SP110 proteins in ribosomes was observed during B6 macrophage activation with LPS(Susanto *et al*, 2023). These findings suggest that the SP110 protein may be involved in fine tuning of protein biosynthesis in activated macrophages favoring the IRES-dependent NRF2 translation.

More broadly, we hypothesize that in activated macrophages the SP110 and SP140 proteins serve as context-dependent regulators of macrophage stress resilience. In addition to transcriptional regulation by interferons, their activities can by tuned by i) inflammatory stimuli via CARD domain(Fraschilla & Jeffrey, 2020b), ii) metabolism, via the activated nuclear receptor interaction domain LXXLL, and potentially, iii) intracellular nucleic acids via the DNA interaction domain SAND. In addition, the SP140 protein contains C terminal chromatin binding PHD and BRD domains that are most likely explain its unique role in chromatin regulation and suppression of illegitimate transcription. The upregulation and stabilization of these proteins would promote terminal differentiation, stress adaptation and functional fitness of activated macrophages.

To explain how the SP110 and SP140 regulate macrophage activation, we propose the following model (**Suppl.Fig.14**). In actively growing cells, Myc promotes ribosome biogenesis, cap-dependent protein translation and also suppresses expression of FTH, most likely to provide labile iron for anabolic metabolism(Torti & Torti, 2002; Wu *et al*, 1999). By inhibiting Myc in activated macrophages, SP140 may facilitate the SP110-mediated NRF2 translation, and the upregulation of ferritin proteins to sequester free iron. Thus, their combined effects would lead to fine tuning of macrophage activation within inflammatory microenvironments and increased stress resilience. Recent in vivo studies demonstrated that, indeed, ferritins and antioxidant pathways were upregulated in inflammatory macrophages isolated from Mtb-infected wild type B6 mice (Pisu *et al*, 2020). In contrast, during prolonged TNF stimulation of the B6.Sst1S macrophages, Myc hyperactivity and the impairment of AOD lead a coordinated downregulation of the Ferritin heavy and light chains and lipid peroxidation inhibitor genes. This initiates an

autocatalytic lipid peroxidation that fuels persistent oxidative stress and, likely, sustains the activity of JNK. Downstream, IFNβ superinduction in B6.Sst1S macrophages leads to the upregulation of interferon-inducible genes, including PKR. The subsequent PKR-dependent ISR activation leads to the upregulation of Chac1(Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021) - a glutathione degrading enzyme gamma-glutamylcyclotransferase 1(Crawford *et al*, 2015) that further compromises the AOD. This stepwise escalation eventually locks the susceptible macrophages in a state of unresolving stress which is maintained by continuous stimulation with TNF and boosted by persistent IFN-I signaling.

Contrary to our findings, a recent in vivo study demonstrated that early Mtb growth after aerosol infection is reduced in NRF2 knockout mice (Rothchild *et al*, 2019) possibly due to decrease anti-oxidant defense and a concordant increase in intracellular free radicals. A similar effect was found due to inactivation of ALDH2, an enzyme that inactivates aldehydes - toxic low molecular weight end products of lipid peroxidation. The ALDH2 knockout in B6.Sst1S mice reduced the bacterial loads during an acute phase of TB(Berry *et al*, 2023). In contrast, studies by Amaral et al. demonstrated that after high dose Mtb infection massive accumulation of lipid peroxidation products leads to necrosis of pulmonary TB lesions and macrophage ferroptosis (Amaral *et al*, 2019), while boosting antioxidant defense by Bach1 knockout improves the outcomes of TB infection in both B6 and B6.Sst1S mice (Amaral *et al.*, 2023).

Here, we also demonstrate that free radicals formed via iron-mediated lipid peroxidation damaged activated B6.Sst1S macrophages and, eventually reduced their ability to control Mtb both in a cell autonomous and a T cell-dependent manner. In the mouse model of chronic TB infection, the accumulation of lipid peroxidation products within the lesion did not appear to significantly affect the long term Mtb survival. Mycobacterial cell wall and multiple mycobacterial antioxidant pathways exist to allow for the survival of, at least, a fraction of mycobacterial population in highly oxidative environments (Pacl *et al*, 2018; Piddington *et al*, 2001). The self-inflicted oxidative damage, however, gradually degraded the macrophage population to a degree that allowed for Mtb replication, and eventually provided a fodder for growing mycobacteria(Mahamed *et al*, 2017).

In vivo, monocytes recruited to inflammatory lesions may be particularly vulnerable to the dysregulation of Myc. Prior to terminal differentiation within inflammatory milieu, these immature cells undergo several cycles of replication. Cell growth requires labile iron that is provided by Myc via downregulation of ferritins(Stockwell *et al.*, 2017; Torti & Torti, 2002). Recently we found that lung epithelial cells embedded within TB lesions express CSF1 – a macrophage growth factor known to stimulate Myc expression (Yabaji *et al.*, 2023a). Thus, the CSF1 – Myc axis may synergize with TNF to initiate and propagate the aberrant activation state in monocytes recruited to chronic pulmonary TB lesions. Similarly, growth factors produced locally within inflamed tissues may sustain Myc hyperactivity and the aberrant activation state of monocytes/macrophages in other chronic inflammatory pathologies.

In conclusion, the *sst1* mutant mice lacking the SP110 and SP140 proteins reveal a novel macrophage activation state shaped by the collision of anabolic (Myc), homeostatic (antioxidant defense and proteostasis), and immune pathways (TNF and type I IFN). Although this persistent activation state is damaging for macrophages and potentially suicidal, it may boost macrophage-mediated resistance to acute infections. By coordinately increasing free iron pool for non-enzymatic free radical generation, and simultaneously decreasing the buffering capacity of intracellular antioxidants, this activation state promotes generation and unopposed spread of free radicals. More broadly, it may facilitate the interferon-mediated elimination of the aberrantly

activated cells to prevent their oncogenic transformation (Gorbunova *et al*, 2012; Leonova *et al*, 2013). Perhaps, in addition to SP110/140 proteins other intracellular sensors and tunable controllers mediate the initiation and maintenance of this cell state. However, the inappropriate activation of its build-in amplification mechanisms, such as IFN-I, may drive immunopathologies in the face of chronic stimulation as occurs with Mtb infection. Further understanding the signals and checkpoints that regulate this pathological activation state is necessary for its rational therapeutic modulation to boost host defenses and mitigate the collateral tissue damage.

Resource availability

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Igor Kramnik (ikramnik@bu.edu).

Materials availability

All unique/stable reagents generated in this study are available from the Lead Contact with a completed Materials Transfer Agreement.

Data and code availability

This study did not generate datasets/code and any additional information will be available from the lead contact upon request.

Inclusion and Diversity

We support inclusive, diverse, and equitable conduct of research.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Reagents

Recombinant mouse TNF (Cat# 315-01A) and IL-3 (Cat# 213-13) were procured from Peprotech. The mouse monoclonal antibody to mouse TNF (MAb; clone XT22), isotype control, and mouse monoclonal antibody to mouse IFNβ (Clone: MAR1-5A3) were obtained from Thermo Scientific. BHA (Cat# B1253) and Deferoxamine mesylate (Cat#D9533]) were sourced from Sigma Aldrich. PLX3397 (Cat# S7818), Myc inhibitor (10058-F4) (Cat# S7153), Z-VAD-FMK (Cat# S7023), Necrostatin-1 (Cat# S8037), and ferrostatin-1 (Cat# S7243) were purchased from Selleckchem. D-JNK1 (Cat# HY-P0069), GW2580 (Cat# HY-10917), and BLZ945 (Cat# HY-12768) were acquired from Med Chem Express. Fetal bovine serum (FBS) for cell culture medium was sourced from HyClone. Middlebrook 7H9 and 7H10 mycobacterial growth media were purchased from BD and prepared following the manufacturer's instructions. A 50 μg/mL hygromycin solution was utilized for reporter strains of Mtb Erdman (SSB-GFP, smyc′::mCherry).

Animals

C57BL/6J inbred mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, Maine, USA). The B6J.C3-*Sst1*$^{C3HeB/Fej}$ Krmn congenic mice were created by transferring the *sst1* susceptible allele from C3HeB/FeJ mouse strain on the B6 (C57BL/6J) genetic background using twelve backcrosses (referred to as B6.Sst1S in the text). The B6.Sst1S,*ifnβ*-YFP mice were produced by

breeding B6.Sst1S mice with a reporter mouse containing a Yellow Fluorescent Protein (YFP) reporter gene inserted after the *Ifnb1* gene promoter (Scheu *et al.*, 2008). The YFP serves as a substitute for Interferon beta (IFNβ) gene expression. All experiments were performed with the full knowledge and approval of the Standing Committee on Animals at Boston University in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations.

BMDMs culture and Treatment

The isolation of mouse bone marrow and the cultivation of bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) were conducted following the procedures outlined in a prior study (Yabaji *et al*, 2022). BMDMs were plated in tissue culture plates, followed by treatment with TNF and incubation for 16 hours at 37°C with 5% CO2. Various inhibitors were applied to the cells until the point of harvest.

Infection of BMDM with *M. tuberculosis*

For infection experiments, M. tuberculosis H37Rv (Mtb) was cultured in 7H9 liquid media for three days and subsequently harvested. The bacteria were then diluted in media containing 10% L929 cell culture medium (LCCM) without antibiotics to achieve the desired Multiplicity of Infection (MOI). Following this, 100 µL of Mtb-containing media with the specified MOI was added to BMDMs cultivated in a 96-well plate format that had been pre-treated with TNF or inhibitors. The plates underwent centrifugation at 500xg for 5 minutes, followed by an incubation period of 1 hour at 37°C. To eliminate any extracellular bacteria, cells were treated with Amikacin at 200 µg/µL for 45 minutes. Subsequently, cells were washed and maintained with inhibitors, as applicable, in DMEM/F12 containing 10% FBS medium without antibiotics at 37°C in 5% CO2 for the duration of each experiment. Media changes and inhibitor replacements were carried out every 48 hours. The confirmation of MOIs was achieved by counting colonies on 7H10 agar plates. All procedures involving live Mtb were conducted within Biosafety Level 3 containment, adhering to regulations from Environmental Health and Safety at the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Center for Disease Control.

Cytotoxicity and Mycobacterial growth assays

The cytotoxicity, cell loss, and Mtb growth assays were conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined by (Yabaji *et al.*, 2022). In brief, BMDMs were subjected to inhibitor treatment or Mtb infection as previously described for specified time points. Upon harvesting, samples were treated with Live-or-Dye™ Fixable Viability Stain (Biotium) at a 1:1000 dilution in 1X PBS/1% FBS for 30 minutes. Following staining, samples were carefully washed to prevent any loss of dead cells from the plate and subsequently treated with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 30 minutes. After rinsing off the fixative, samples were replaced with 1X PBS. Following decontamination, the sample plates were safely removed from containment. Utilizing the Operetta CLS HCA System (PerkinElmer), both infected and uninfected cells were quantified. The intracellular bacterial load was assessed through quantitative PCR (qPCR) employing a specific set of Mtb and *M. bovis*-BCG primer/probes, with BCG spikes included as an internal control, as previously described(Yabaji *et al.*, 2022).

RNA Isolation and quantitative PCR

The extraction of total RNA was carried out utilizing the RNeasy Plus mini kit (Qiagen). Subsequently, cDNA synthesis was conducted using the Invitrogen™ SuperScript™ III First-Strand Synthesis SuperMix (Cat#18080400). Real-time PCR was executed with the GoTaq qPCR Mastermix (Promega) employing the CFX-96 real-time PCR System (Bio-Rad). Oligonucleotide primers were designed using Integrated DNA Technologies. Either 18S or β-actin expression served as an internal control, and the quantification of fold induction was computed using the ddCt method.

Analysis of RNA sequencing data

Raw sequence reads were mapped to the reference mouse genome build 38 (GRCm38) by STAR (Dobin *et al*, 2013). The read count per gene for analysis was generated by featureCounts (Liao *et al*, 2014). Read counts were normalized to the number of fragments per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads (FPKM) using the DESeq2 Bioconductor R package (Love *et al*, 2014). Pathway analysis was performed using the GSEA method implemented in the camera function from the limma R package (Wu & Smyth, 2012). Databases KEGG, MSigDB Hallmark, Reactome were used for the GSEA analysis . Transcripts expressed in either 3 conditions with FPKM > 1 were included in the pathway analyses. To infer mice macrophage gene regulatory network, we used ARCHS4 collected list of RNE-seq data for mice macrophages cells from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) (Lachmann *et al*, 2018). The total number of analyzed experimental datasets was 1960. This gene expression matrix was utilized as input for the GENIE3 algorithm, which calculated the most likely co-expression partners for transcription factors. The list of transcription factors was derived from the Animal TFDB 3.0 database (Hu *et al*, 2019). The Virtual Inference of Protein Activity by Enriched Regulon Analysis (VIPER) algorithm was used to estimate the prioritized list of transcription factors (Alvarez *et al*, 2016). The software Cytoscape (version 3.4.0) was used for network visualization (Shannon *et al*, 2003). The i-cisTarget web service was used to identify transcription factor binding motifs that were over-represented on a gene list (Imrichova *et al*, 2015). Statistical analysis and data processing were performed with R version 3.6.1 (https://www.r-project.org/) and RStudio version 1.1.383 (https://www.rstudio.com).

Generation and sequencing of single-cell RNA libraries

Single cell suspensions of mouse bone marrow derived macrophages were loaded on a 10X genomics chip G at concentrations varying between 1,240,000 – 1,575,000 cells/mL aiming for a targeted cell recovery of 5,000 cells per sample and processed using the 10X Genomics 3'v3.1 Dual index kit according to the manufacturer protocol (10x Genomics, CA, USA). Following the 10X Genomics Chromium controller run the Gel-beads in emulsion (GEMs) were transferred to strip tubes and subsequently put into a thermal cycler using the following parameters: 45 min at 53 °C, 5 min at 85 °C, hold at 4 °C. The samples were then stored in a -20˚C freezer overnight. The next day samples were thawed at room temperature before adding the recovery agent to break the GEMs. Subsequently the cDNA was purified and amplified, and the gene expression libraries were generated and purified. The size distribution and molarity of these libraries were assessed using the Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity DNA Assay (Agilent Technologies, Lexington,

MA, USA). The libraries were then pooled at 5nM and sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq 2000 instrument at a 600pM input and 2% PhiX spike in using a P3 100 cycle flow cell (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) resulting in 36000-58000 reads per cell.

Processing of scRNA-seq data

The 10x Genomics Cell Ranger pipeline v6.0.1 was used for demultiplexing, alignment, identification of cells, and counting of unique molecular indices (UMIs). The Cell Ranger mkfastq pipeline was used to demultiplex raw base call (BCL) files generated by Illumina sequencers into FASTQ files. The Cell Ranger count pipeline was used to perform alignment and create UMI count matrices using reference genome mm10 (Ensembl 84) and parameters –expect-cells = 5000. Droplets with at least 500 UMIs underwent further quality control with the SCTK-QC pipeline(Hong *et al*, 2022). The median number of UMIs was 9,927, the median number of genes detected was 2,637, the median percentage of mitochondrial reads was 5.43%, and the median contamination estimated by decontX was 0.17 across cells from all samples(Yang *et al*, 2020). Cells with less than 500 counts, less than 500 genes detected, or more than 25% mitochondrial counts were excluded leaving a total of 14,658 cells for the downstream analysis.

Clustering of single-cell data

The Seurat package was used to cluster the cells into subpopulations(Stuart *et al*, 2019). The 2,000 most variable genes were selected using the FindVariableFeatures function, after removing features with fewer than 3 counts in 3 cells. Cells were embedded in two dimensions with UMAP using the RunUMAP function. The clustering was performed at resolution 0.8 resulting in 15 clusters. Markers for each cluster were identified with the FindAllMarkers function using the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test and default parameters: log fold-change threshold = 0.25 and min.pct = 0.1. The trajectory analysis was performed using the slingshot package; the pseudotime trajectory was computed using the slingshot function and selecting the PCA and unweighted cluster labels as inputs(Street *et al*, 2018). The pathway analysis was performed using the VAM package in combination with MSigDB's Hallmark geneset collection. The genesets were scored using the vamForSeurat function, and the top pathways were found by running the FindAllMarkers analysis on the CDF assay.

Ethics approval

Ethics approval for the study was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee of the participating institutions, and written informed consent was obtained prior to enrollment.

Blood sample collection and processing

Blood samples were collected from 41 individuals matched for age, sex, BMI, Diabetes, alcohol and smoking use, and recently (<90 days) diagnosed with TB, within one week of treatment commencement from five clinical sites within the Regional Prospective Observational Research

for Tuberculosis (RePORT)-India consortium. Individuals were diagnosed with TB based on sputum culture or Xpert MTB/RIF assay positive (Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) and monitored for two years during and post-treatment with Rifampicin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide, per India national guidelines[Division CT. Technical and Operational Guidelines for TB Control in India 2016. Central TB Division, Directorate General of Health Service, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Government of India, New Delhi. 2016 (Bush *et al*, 1998). Individuals who failed treatment (n=21) were identified by positive sputum culture or clinical diagnosis of symptoms at any time after 4 full months of treatment and symptoms determined to not be from another cause. Treatment controls were determined by those who remained culture-negative and symptom-negative for the two-year observation period.

Blood samples from each person were collected and stored in PAXgene tubes (Cat #762165, BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) at -80C until processing using the PAXgene Blood RNA kit (Cat #762164, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). PAXgene tubes were sent to MedGenome (Bangalore, India) for processing. Library preparation and sequencing were performed at the GenoTypic Technology Pvt. Ltd. Genomics facility in Bangalore, India, with the SureSelect Strand-Specific mRNA Library Prep kit (Cat #5190–6411, Agilent, Santa Clara, USA). One µg of RNA was used for mRNA enrichment by poly(A) selection and fragmented using RNAseq Fragmentation Mix containing divalent cations at 94 degrees C for 4 minutes. Enriched mRNA underwent fragmentation through exposure to RNASeq Fragmentation Mix with divalent cations at 94□°C for 4□min. Subsequently, single-strand cDNA was synthesized in the presence of Actinomycin D (Gibco, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and purified utilizing HighPrep magnetic beads (Magbio Genomics Inc., USA). Following this step, double-stranded cDNA was synthesized, and the ends were repaired before undergoing further purification. Adenylation of the 3′-ends of cDNA preceded the ligation of Illumina Universal sequencing adaptors, which were then purified and amplified with 10 PCR cycles. The final cDNA sequencing libraries were purified and quantified using Qubit, while the fragment size distribution was assessed using Agilent TapeStation. Subsequently, the libraries were combined in equimolar proportions, and the resulting multiplexed library pools were sequenced utilizing the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform for 75 bp single-end reads.

RNA-sequencing data processing of human samples

QC and alignment

Raw sequencing FASTQ files were assessed for data quality using FastQC[S. A. FastQC: a quality control tool for high throughput sequence data. Babraham Bioinformatics, Babraham Institute. 2010]. Trimmomatic was used to trim the reads (SLIDINGWINDOW:4:20 LEADING:3 TRAILING:3 MINLEN:36) (Bolger *et al*, 2014). Rsubread (Liao *et al*, 2013)]was used to align reads to the human genome hg39 and to determine expression counts for each gene. Genes missing (or with 0 counts) in more than 20% of the samples were excluded before batch correction, as well as one outlier identified with Principal Components Analysis (PCA) before batch correction and could not be rectified using batch correction (unpublished data).

Batch correction and normalization

Batch effects created by combining the two batches were removed using ComBat-Seq(Zhang *et al*, 2020)). The ComBat-Seq adjusted counts were normalized using a $\log_2$-counts per million (logCPM) adjustment, and the logCPM values were used for downstream analysis.

Differential expression

Differential expression was performed on batch-corrected counts/logcpm using limma and signature genes were selected from the limma results to obtain logFC, p-values, and p-adjusted values (using a Benjamini-Hochberg false-discovery rate).

Oncogene signatures

Normal Human mammary epithelial cells (HMEC) were transfected with adenoviruses containing either the gene of interest or GFP as described in(McQuerry *et al*, 2019). Differentially expressed genes between transfected cells and controls with a Benjamini-Hochberg cutoff of < 0.05 were used in for the signatures of each transfected oncogene.

TBSignatureProfiler Platform

Heatmaps, boxplots, receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve, and area under the ROC curve (AUC) were calculated and depicted using the functions within the TBSignatureProfiler (Johnson *et al.*, 2021). Bootstrapping was used to iteratively calculate AUC values using leave-one-out cross-validation to obtain mean AUCs and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for 100 repeats for each signature. We generated mean AUC values for the predictive performance of collected oncogene-specific signatures(Bild *et al*., 2006; McQuerry *et al.*, 2019) in terms of their ability to distinguish between treatment-failure individuals and control samples in our cohort. The single sample Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (ssGSEA) (Barbie *et al*, 2009) was used to generate enrichment scores for each signature.

Western Blot Analysis

Equal amounts of protein extracts were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to a PVDF membrane (Millipore). Following a 2-hour blocking period in 5% skim milk in TBS-T buffer [20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, and 0.1% Tween20], the membranes were incubated overnight with the primary antibody at 4°C. Subsequently, bands were visualized using the chemiluminescence (ECL) kit (Thermo Scientific). A loading control, either β-actin or β-tubulin, was assessed on the same membrane. Secondary antibodies used included HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse and anti-rabbit antibodies.

Half-life determination of NRF2 protein.

The B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDM were stimulated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 6 h. Cycloheximide (2 uM) was added to the cultures and cells were harvested after 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, and 120 min. Western blotting was carried out for NRF2 and β-tubulin as described. The densitometry analysis was performed using ImageJ software (NIH, USA). The linear regression curve was plotted using GraphPad Prism software, and the half-life of NRF2 protein was derived."

Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay

The nuclear extracts were prepared using a nuclear extraction kit (Signosis Inc.) according to the instructions provided. The EMSA was carried out using the EMSA assay kit (Signosis Inc.) following the instructions provided. Briefly, 5 µg of nuclear extract was incubated with biotin-conjugated NRF2 (ARE) probe in 1X biding buffer for 30 min. The reaction mixture was electrophoresed in 6.5% non-denaturing polyacrylamide gel and then blotted onto a nylon membrane. The protein-bound probe and free probe were immobilized on the membrane by UV light mediated cross-linking. After blocking the membrane, the probes were detected using streptavidin-HRP mediated chemiluminescence method. The images were captured using ImageQuant LAS 4000.

Quantification of intracellular labile iron

The method used to measure Labile Intracellular Iron (LIP) involved the Calcein acetoxymethyl (AM) ester (Invitrogen) quenching technique with some modifications, as described in (Amaral *et al.*, 2019; Picard *et al*, 1998; Thomas *et al*, 1999). BMDMs were plated in 96 well plates and washed with 1× DPBS before being lysed with 0.05% saponin for 10 minutes. Next, the cell lysates were incubated with 125 nM calcein AM at 37°C for 30 minutes. A negative control was established by incubating the lysates with the iron chelator deferoxamine (Sigma-Aldrich) at room temperature for 30 minutes, while FeSO4-treated cells served as the positive control. The fluorescence of Calcein AM was measured using a fluorescence microplate reader, and the differential MFI of calcein AM between untreated and deferoxamine-treated samples was calculated to determine intracellular labile iron and represented as fold change.

MDA assay

The amount of MDA in the BMDMs were measured using a Lipid Peroxidation (MDA) Assay Kit (Abcam, ab118970) according to the manufacturer's protocols. Briefly, $2x10^6$ cells were lysed in Lysis Solution containing butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). The insoluble fraction was removed by centrifugation, and the supernatant was collected, protein concentrations were estimated and used for analysis. The equal amount of supernatants (Based on protein concentration) were mixed with thiobarbituric acid (TBA) solution reconstituted in glacial acetic acid and then incubated at 95˚C for 60 min. The supernatants containing MDA-TBA adduct were added into a 96-well microplate for analysis. A microplate reader was used to measure the absorbance at OD 532 nm.

Lipid peroxidation by C11-Bodipy 581/591

Briefly, the cells were washed 3 times with 1X PBS and treated with 1 µM C11-Bodipy 581/591 dye (Invitrogen) suspended in 1X PBS for 30 min in the dark at 37oC. The LPOs were measured fluorometrically using Spectramax M5 microplate reader (Molecular Devices).

Measurement of total antioxidant capacity

The total antioxidant capacity was quantified using the Antioxidant assay kit (Cayman chemical) according to the instructions provided. A standard curve was generated by using various concentrations of Trolox (0.068-0.495 mM). 10 µg of the cell lysate was used to determine the Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity. The percentage of induced antioxidant capacity was calculated using the formula, (Trolox equivalent$_{\text{TNF stimulated}}$-Trolox equivalent$_{\text{unstimulated}}$)/ Trolox equivalent $_{\text{unstimulated}}$ X 100.

Immunofluorescence imaging

BMDMs were cultured on coverslips and subjected to treatment with or without TNF, followed by processing for inhibitor treatment or Mtb infection. Subsequently, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 10 minutes (non-infected) or 30 minutes (Mtb infected) at room temperature and then blocked for 60 minutes with 1% BSA containing 22.52 mg/mL glycine in PBST (PBS + 0.1% Tween 20). After the blocking step, cells were incubated overnight with primary antibodies (4HNE, NRF2, or NRF-1), washed, and then incubated with Alexa Fluor 594-conjugated Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) secondary Antibody (Invitrogen) in 1% BSA in the dark for 1 hour. The cells were mounted using ProlongTM Gold antifade reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and images were captured using an SP5 confocal microscope. All images were processed using ImageJ software.

Analysis of Small RNAs in Macrophages

Small RNA libraries were prepared from size fractionation of 10ug of total macrophage RNA on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel to purify 18-35nt small RNAs, and converted into Illumina sequencing libraries with the NEBNext Small RNA Library kit (NEB). Libraries were sequenced on the Illumina NextSeq-550 in the Boston University Microarray and Sequencing Core. We applied long RNAs and small RNAs RNAseq fastq files to a transposon and small RNA genomics analysis pipeline previously developed for mosquitoes (Dayama *et al*, 2022; Ma *et al.*, 2021) with the mouse transposon consensus sequences loaded instead. Mouse transposon consensus sequences were downloaded from RepBase (Bao *et al*, 2015), and RNA expression levels were normalized internally to each library's depth by the Reads Per Million counting method.

Infection of mice with Mycobacterium tuberculosis and collection of organs

The subcutaneous infection of mice was conducted following the procedure outlined in (Yabaji *et al.*, 2023a). In brief, mice were anesthetized using a ketamine-xylazine solution administered intraperitoneally. Each mouse was subcutaneously injected in the hock, specifically in the lateral tarsal region just above the ankle (by placing the animal in the restrainer), with 50 µl of 1X PBS containing 10^6 CFU of Mtb H37Rv or Mtb Erdman (SSB-GFP, smyc′::mCherry). At the designated time points, the mice were anesthetized, lung perfusion was performed using 1X PBS/heparin (10 U/ml), and organs were collected.

Confocal immunofluorescence microscopy of tissue sections

Immunofluorescence of thick lung sections (50-100 µm) was conducted following the detailed procedures outlined earlier (Yabaji *et al.*, 2023a). Briefly, lung slices were prepared by embedding formalin fixed lung lobes in 4% agarose and cutting 50 µm sections using a Leica VT1200S vibratome. Sections were permeabilized in 2% Triton X-100 for 1 day at room temperature, followed by washing and blocking with 3% BSA in PBS and 0.1% Triton X-100 for 1 hour. Primary antibodies were applied overnight at room temperature, followed by washing and incubation with secondary antibodies for 2 hours. Samples were stained with Hoechst solution for nuclei detection, cleared using RapiClear® 1.47 solution for 2 days, and mounted with ProLong Gold Antifade Mountant. Imaging was performed using a Leica SP5 spectral confocal microscope. Primary rabbit anti-4-HNE, anti-Iba1, and anti-iNOS polyclonal antibodies were detected using goat anti-rabbit antibodies labelled with Alexa Fluor 647.

Mycobacterial staining of lung sections

Paraffin-embedded 5µm sections were stained using New Fuchsin method (Poly Scientific R and D Corp., cat no. K093) and counterstained with methylene blue following the manufacturer's instructions.

Tissue inactivation, processing, and histopathologic interpretation

Tissue samples were submersion fixed for 48 h in 10% neutral buffered formalin, processed in a Tissue-Tek VIP-5 automated vacuum infiltration processor (Sakura Finetek , Torrance, CA, USA), followed by paraffin embedding with a HistoCore Arcadia paraffin embedding machine (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany) to generate formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) blocks, which were sectioned to 5 µm, transferred to positively charged slides, deparaffinized in xylene, and dehydrated in graded ethanol. A subset of slides from each sample were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) and consensus qualitative histopathology analysis was conducted by a board-certified veterinary pathologist (N.A.C.) to characterize the overall heterogeneity and severity of lesions.

Chromogenic Monoplex Immunohistochemistry

A rabbit specific HRP/DAB detection kit was employed (Abcam catalog #ab64261, Cambridge, United Kingdom). In brief, slides were deparaffinized and rehydrated, endogenous peroxidases were blocked with hydrogen peroxidase, antigen retrieval was performed with a citrate buffer for 40 minutes at 90°C using a NxGen Decloaking chamber (Biocare Medical, Pacheco, California), non-specific binding was blocked using a kit protein block, the primary antibody was applied at a 1.200 dilution, which cross-reacts with mycobacterium species (Biocare Medical catalog#CP140A,C) and was incubated for 1 h at room temperature, followed by an anti-rabbit antibody, DAB chromogen, and hematoxylin counterstain. Uninfected mouse lung was examined in parallel under identical conditions with no immunolabeling observed serving as a negative control.

Multiplex fluorescent immunohistochemistry (mfIHC)

A Ventana Discovery Ultra (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) tissue autostainer was used for brightfield and multiplex fluorescent immunohistochemistry (fmIHC). In brief tyramide signaling amplification (TSA) was used in an iterative approach to covalently bind Opal fluorophores (Akoya Bioscience, Marlborough, MA) to tyrosine residues in tissue sections, with subsequent heat stripping of primary-secondary antibody complexes until all antibodies were developed. Before multiplex-IHC was performed, each antibody was individually optimized using a single-plex-IHC assay using an appropriate positive control tissue. Optimizations were performed to determine ideal primary antibody dilution, sequential order of antibody development, assignment of each primary antibody to an Opal fluorophore, and fluorophore dilution. Once an optimal protocol was established, 5µm tissue sections were cut from FFPE lung arrays. All Opal TSA-conjugated fluorophore reactions took place for 20 minutes. Fluorescent slides were counterstained with spectral DAPI (Akoya Biosciences) for 16 minutes before being mounted with ProLong gold antifade (ThermoFischer, Waltham, MA). Antibodies utilized in 4-plex 5 color (DAPI counterstained) analysis included: Iba1, iNOS, YFP, Chac1, and P-c-JUN. All rabbit antibodies were developed with a secondary goat anti-rabbit HRP-polymer antibody (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA) for 20min at 37C and all mouse derived

antibodies were developed with a secondary goat anti-mouse HRP-polymer antibody (Vector Laboratories).

Brightfield Immunohistochemistry

Antigen retrieval was conducted using a Tris based buffer-Cell Conditioning 1 (CC1)-Catalog # 950-124 (Roche). The MHCII primary was of mouse origin, so a goat anti-mouse HRP-polymer antibody (Vector Laboratories) was utilized. Brightfield slides utilized A ChromoMap DAB (3,3′-Diaminobenzidine) Kit-Catalog #760-159 (Roche) to form a brown precipitate at the site of primary-secondary antibody complexes containing HRP. Slides were counterstained with hematoxylin and mounted.

Multispectral whole slide microscopy

Fluorescent and chromogen labeled slides were imaged at 40X using a Vectra Polaris™ Quantitative Pathology Imaging System (Akoya Biosciences). For fluorescently labeled slides, exposures for all Opal dyes were set based upon regions of interest with strong signal intensities to minimize exposure times and maximize the specificity of signal detected. A brightfield acquisition protocol at 40X was used for chromogenically labeled slides.

Digitalization and linear unmixing of multiplex fluorescent immunohistochemistry

Whole slide fluorescent images were segmented into QPTIFFs, uploaded into Inform software version 2.4.9 (Akoya Biosciences), unmixed using spectral libraries affiliated with each respective opal fluorophore including removal of autofluorescence, then fused together as a single whole slide image in HALO (Indica Labs, Inc., Corrales, NM).

Quantitative analysis of immunohistochemistry

View settings were adjusted to allow for optimal visibility of immunomarkers and to reduce background signal by setting threshold gates to minimum signal intensities. After optimizing view settings, annotations around the entire tissue were created to define analysis area using the flood tool and artifacts were excluded using the exclusion pen tool. To analyze lesions independently, a tissue classifier that uses a machine-learning approach was utilized to identify lesions. The outputs from this classifier were annotations for each lesion, which were then isolated into independent layers, which were analyzed separately from other layers. For quantifying myeloid markers in multiplexes, an algorithm called the HALO (v3.4.2986.151, Indica Labs, Albuquerque, NM, USA) Area Quantification (AQ) module was created and finetuned to quantify the immunoreactivity for all targets. Thresholds were set to define positive staining based on a real-time tuning feature. AQ outputted the percentage of total area displaying immunoreactivity across the annotated whole slide scan in micrometers squared (μm^2). AQ output the total percentage positive for each phenotype. AQ and HP algorithms were run across all layers for each individual lesion and exported as a .csv file.

Spatial transcriptomics

To perform spatial transcriptomics analysis, we used the Nanostring GeoMX Digital Spatial Profiler (DSP) system (Nanostring, Seattle, WA) (Danaher *et al*, 2022; Merritt *et al.*, 2020). To identify pathways dominating early vs. late (advanced) lesions, we selected lungs from 2 mice with paucibacilarly early lesions and 2 mice with advanced multibacilarly lesions with necrotic areas. Slides were stained with fluorescent CD45-, pan-keratin-specific antibodies, and Iba1-

specific antibodies (sc-32725, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, CA, USA) and DAPI. Diseased regions of interest (ROI) for expression profiling of Iba1+ cells were selected to focus on myeloid-rich areas avoiding areas of micronecrosis and tertiary lymphoid tissue (**Suppl.Fig.9**). Eight ROI each of normal lung, early and late lesions (respectively) were studied. The profiling used the Mouse Whole Transcriptome Atlas (WTA) panel which targets ~21,000+ transcripts for mouse protein coding genes plus ERCC negative controls to profile the whole transcriptome, excluding uninformative high expressing targets such as ribosomal subunits. A subsequent study focused on gene expression within macrophages identified by Iba1 labeling in lung sections showing uncontrolled (advanced multibacillary) lesions in comparison to controlled (paucibacillary stage). Samples from each ROI were packaged into library for sequencing (NextSeq550, Illumina) following the procedure recommended by Nanostring. After sequencing, the data analysis workflow began with QC evaluation of each ROI based on thresholds for number of raw and aligned reads, sequencing saturation, negative control probe means, and number of nuclei and surface area. Background correction is performed using subtraction of the mean of negative probe counts. Q3 normalization (recommended by Nanostring) results in scaling of all ROIs to the same value for their 3rd quartile value. The count matrix was imported into the Qlucore Genomics Explorer software package (Qlucore, Stockholm, Sweden) and log2 transformed for further analysis. Statistical analysis was then performed to identify differentially expressed genes (typically unpaired t-test with Benjamini-Hochberg control for FDR rate at $q < .05$). Lists of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) from comparisons of distinct stages were further analyzed for enrichment of pathways or predicted transcription factors using the Enrichr online tool (Chen *et al*, 2013; Liberzon *et al*, 2015; Xie *et al*, 2021). To specifically explore interferon-related gene expression in Iba1+ macrophages, we used: 1) a list of genes unique to type I genes derived by pooling four common type I and type II interferon gene list respectively and identifying the non-overlapping (unique) genes for each type (see **Suppl.Table 8, Suppl. Fig. 10**); 2) using the GSEA analysis tool of the Qlucore software to evaluate enrichment of the MSigDB Hallmark collection of pathways (which include IFN-alpha and IFN-gamma, and other pathways of interest(Liberzon *et al.*, 2015).

Statistical Analysis

To assess differences among multiple groups with two or more variables, we employed a two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with adjustments for multiple post hoc comparisons. Various comparisons were conducted in our study, encompassing comparisons among all groups, between the control group and all other groups, as well as between selected groups. In instances where multiple groups were compared with only one variable, a one-way ANOVA was utilized, and adjustments were made for multiple post hoc comparisons. When comparing only two groups, two-tailed paired or unpaired t-tests were employed, depending on the context. All statistical analyses were carried out using GraphPad Prism 9 software. Statistical significance was defined as a p-value < 0.05. Significance levels are indicated using asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

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Author contributions:

Conceptualization: IK, LK, SMY, WEJ, WRB; Methodology : SMY, VZ, LK, OSR, AAG, YA, JDC, NAC, NCL, SL, WEJ; Validation and formal analysis: SMY, SAA, VZ, OSR, AAG, BNK, LK, NCL, QM, GD, AV; Investigation: SMY, PBA, SL, GD, AV; Resources: IK, LK, AAG, BK, NCL, JDC, NAC, WEJ; Writing – original draft: SMY, PBA, IK, LK; Writing – review & editing: IK, LK, WRB, WEJ; Supervision: IK; Funding acquisition: IK, LK, AAG, BNK, NCL, WRB, WEJ.

Declaration of interests:
The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Single cell RNAseq analysis of the population dynamics of B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages after TNF stimulation

(**A**). Connectivity of antioxidant defense (AOD) with the Myc-, NRF2-, JNK-, and IFN-I-regulated pathways: 1) stress kinase activation by oxidative stress; 2) promotion of IFN-I responses by stress kinases; 3) suppression of AOD by IFN-I; 4) inhibition of NRF2, AOD and IFN responses by Myc.

(B and **C)**. scRNA-seq analysis (UMAP and individual clusters) of B6 (R) and B6.Sst1S (S) BMDMs either naïve (R and S) or after 24 h of stimulation with TNF (RT and ST, respectively).

(**D**). Expression of the *sst1*-encoded Sp110 and Sp140 genes in the population of either naïve (R) or TNF-stimulated (RT) B6 BMDMs.

(**E**). Heatmap showing differentially expressed pathways in all cell clusters identified using scRNA-seq. Rows represent pathways and columns represent individual clusters with color intensity indicating the relative expression.

(**F)**. Reconstruction of the activation trajectories of TNF-stimulated resistant (RT) and susceptible (ST) macrophage populations using pseudotime analysis.

(**G**). Heatmap showing differentially expressed pathways in subpopulations 1 to 5 identified using pseudotime analysis. Rows represent pathways and columns represent individual subpopulations with color intensity indicating the relative expression.

(**H)**. Pathway heatmap representing transition from subpopulation 2 to unique subpopulation 3 in TNF-stimulated B6 macrophages.

(**I)**. The Sp110 and Sp140 gene regulatory network analysis. The mouse macrophage gene regulatory network was inferred using GENIE3 algorithm from mouse macrophages gene expression data sets obtained from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO). First neighbors of Sp110/Sp140 genes were selected to infer a subnetwork of Sp110/Sp140 co-regulated genes. Green nodes represent transcription factors, blue nodes denote their potential targets.

Figure 2: Gene expression profiling comparing B6 and B6.Sst1.S BMDMs stimulated with TNF and regulation of NRF2.

(**A)**. Total levels of NRF2, NRF1, b-TrCP and Keap1 proteins in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 8, 12 and 24 h (Western blotting).

(**B)**. Cytoplasmic NRF2 and Bach1 proteins in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 8 and 12 h (Western blotting).

(**C)**. Nuclear NRF2 and Bach1 protein levels in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 8 and 12 h (Western blotting).

(**D** and **E**). Confocal microscopy of NRF2 protein in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 12 h (scale bar 20 μm). Total NRF2 levels were quantified using ImageJ (E).

(**F)**. B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs were stimulated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 8 h. The Nrf2 mRNA levels were quantified using quantitative RT-PCR.

(**G)**. Nuclear NRF2 binding to target sequence. Nuclear extracts were prepared from BMDMs treated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 8 and 12 h. The binding activity of NRF2 was monitored by EMSA using biotin conjugated NRF2 specific probe (hot probe, red frames). Competition with the unconjugated NRF2 probe (cold probe) was used as specificity control.

(**H** and **I**). The NRF2 protein stability in TNF-stimulated (10 ng/ml) B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs. BMDMs were stimulated with TNF. After 6 h, 25 μg/ml of cycloheximide (CHX) was added and cells were harvested after 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, ad 120 min. The NRF2 protein levels after TNF stimulation and degradation after cycloheximide addition were determined by Western blotting. I - Linear regression curves of NRF2 degradation after addition of CHX. Band intensities were measured by densitometry using ImageJ. No significant difference in the NRF2 half-life was found: B6: 15.14 ± 2.5 min and B6.Sst1S: 13.35 ± 0.6 min.

(**J)**. Anti-oxidant genes co-regulated with Sp110 and Sp140 after stimulation with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 12 h. The heatmap was generated using FPKM values obtained from RNA-seq expression profiles of B6.Sst1S and B6 BMDMs after 12 h of TNF stimulation.

(**K)**. The heatmap of all genes related to response to oxidative stress (gene ontology category GO: 0006979). The heatmap was generated using FPKM values obtained using bulk RNAseq of B6.Sst1S and B6 BMDMs after 12 h of TNF stimulation. For heatmap generation, FPKM values were scaled using Z-scores for each tested gene.

The data represent the means ± SD of three samples per experiment, representative of three independent experiments.

The statistical significance was performed by two-way ANOVA using Tukey's multiple comparison test (Panels E-F). Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

Figure 3. Regulation of iron and lipid peroxidation in B6 and B6.Sst1.S BMDMs.

(A and **B**). The expression of Fth and Ftl genes in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 12 and 24 h was determined using qRT-PCR.

(**C)**. The FTH and FTL protein levels in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 0, 12 and 24 h (FTH) and 0, 8, 12 and 24 h (for FTL) (Western blot).

(**D)**. The GPX1 and GPX4 protein levels in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with TNF (10 ng/mL) for 0, 6, 12, and 24 h (Western blot).

(**E)**. The labile iron pool (LIP) in TNF-stimulated B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs from were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 24 h. UT - untreated control. The LIP was determined using Calcein AM method and represented as fold change. DFO was used as negative control and FeSo4 was used as positive control.

(**F)**. The lipid peroxidation levels were determined by fluorometric method using C11-Bodipy 581/591. BMDMs from B6 and B6.Sst1S were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 30 h. UT - untreated control.

(**G)**. Production of lipid peroxidation metabolite malondialdehyde (MDA) by B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 30 h. UT - untreated control.

(**H)**. The accumulation of the intracellular lipid peroxidation product 4-HNE in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 48 h. The lipid peroxidation (ferroptosis) inhibitor, Fer-1 (10 μM) was added 2 h post TNF stimulation in B6.Sst1S macrophages. The 4HNE accumulation was detected using 4-HNE specific antibody and confocal microscopy.

(**I)**. Cell death in B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with 50 ng/mL TNF for 48 h. Percent of dead cells was determined by automated microscopy using Live-or-DyeTM 594/614 Fixable Viability stain (Biotium) and Hoechst staining.

(**J)**. Inhibition of cell death of B6.Sst1S BMDMs stimulated with 50 ng/mL TNF for 48 h using IFNAR1 blocking antibodies, Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) or Ferrostatin-1. Percent cell death was measured as in I.

(**K)**. The TNF-induced c-Jun phosphorylation induced by TNF in B6.Sst1S BMDMs was inhibited by a highly specific JNK inhibitor. The B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 6, 12, and 24 h, in the presence or absence of D-JNK-1 (2 μM). The c-Jun phosphorylation was determined by Western blot.

(**L)**. Increased phosphorylation of ASK1 and cJUN in B6.Sst1S BMDMs during prolonged TNF stimulation. The B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 12, 24, and 36 h. The protein levels of phospho-cJun and phospho-ASK1 were determined using Western blot.

The data represent the means ± SD of three samples per experiment, representative of three independent experiments.

The statistical significance was performed by two-way ANOVA using Bonferroni's multiple comparison test (Panel A, B, E-G and I) and Tukey's multiple comparison test (Panel J). Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

Figure 4. Crosstalk of the IFN-I and AOD pathways.

(**A**). Blockade of IFNAR1 did not improve the upregulation of NRF2 in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1.S macrophages during the initial 12 h of treatment. B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs were stimulated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with IFNAR1 blocking antibodies or isotype control antibodies (Isotype C Ab) for 4, 8 and 12 h. The NRF2 protein levels were quantified using Western blot.

(**B**). Blockade of IFNAR1 did not increase the FTL expression in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs during the initial 12 h of TNF treatment. B6.Sst1S BMDMs were stimulated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with IFNAR1 blocking antibodies or isotype control antibodies (Isotype C Ab) for 8 and 12 h. The FTL protein levels were quantified using Western blot.

(**C**). Blockade of IFNAR1 did not increase the expression of Fth, Ftl and Gpx1 mRNAs. B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with the IFNAR1 blocking antibodies or isotype control (Isotype C Ab) for 12 h. The mRNA expression levels were quantified using qRT-PCR.

(**D** and **E**). Blockade of IFNAR1 inhibited the expression of Rsad2 (D), but not the Ifnβ(E) mRNAs. Expression of Rsad2 and Ifnβ was quantified using qRT-PCR after 16 h of TNF treatment.

(**F**). Inhibition of lipid peroxidation prevented the superinduction of Ifnβ mRNA. B6.Sst1S BMDMs were stimulated with 10 ng/mL TNF, then the LPO inhibitor (Fer1) was added 2 h after TNF for the remaining 14 h. The Ifnβ mRNA level was quantified using qRT-PCR after 16 h of TNF stimulation.

(**G**). Inhibition of TNF and lipid peroxidation reversed the superinduced Ifnb mRNA. B6.Sst1S BMDMs were stimulated with 10 ng/mL TNF, then the anti-TNF Ab or LPO inhibitor (Fer1) was added 18 h after TNF for the remaining 12 h. The Ifnβ mRNA level was quantified using qRT-PCR after 30 h of TNF stimulation.

(**H**). Inhibition of the 4-HNE accumulation in B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with TNF (10 ng/mL) for 48 h using IFNAR1 blocking antibodies. Isotype C Ab - isotype-matched negative control antibodies.

(**I**). Inhibition of the 4-HNE accumulation in B6.Sst1S BMDMs treated with TNF (10 ng/mL) for 48 h. The inhibitors were added 12 h post TNF stimulation.

The data represent the means ± SD of three samples per experiment, representative of three independent experiments.

The statistical significance was performed by two-way ANOVA using Sidak's multiple comparison test (Panel C-E), Ordinary one-way ANOVA using Dunnett's multiple comparison test (Panel F-G and I). Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

Figure 5. Myc dysregulation drives the aberrant state of macrophage activation

(**A**). The lack of Myc mRNA downregulation after prolonged TNF stimulation in B6.Sst1S macrophages. BMDMs from B6 and B6.Sst1S were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF for 6, 12 and 24 h. Expression of Myc was quantified using qRT-PCR and expressed as a fold change compared to the untreated B6 BMDMs.

(**B**). Myc protein levels expressed by B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs during the course of stimulation with TNF(10 ng/mL) for 6 and 12 h. (Western blot).

(**C**). Myc inhibition restored the levels of FTH and FTL proteins in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages to the B6 levels. B6 and B6.Sst1S BMDMs from were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with Myc inhibitor, 10058-F4 (10 μM) for 24 h. 10058-F4 was added 2 h post TNF stimulation. Protein levels of FTH and FTL were quantified using Western blot.

(**D**). Myc inhibition decreased the labile iron pool in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S macrophages. B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF or left untreated for 48 h. The 10058-F4 inhibitor was added 2 h post TNF stimulation. The labile iron pool (LIP) was measured using Calcein AM method and represented as fold change. DFO was used as negative control and FeSo4 was used as positive control.

(**E** and **F**). Myc inhibition reduced lipid peroxidation in TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs. Cells were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF in presence or absence of 10058-F4 for 48 h. The inhibitor was added 2 h post TNF stimulation. The MDA production was measured using commercial MDA assay (E). The lipid peroxidation was measured by fluorometric method using C11-Bodipy 581/591 (F).

(**G** and **H**). B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated as above The accumulation of lipid peroxidation product, 4HNE after 48h was detected by confocal microscopy using 4-HNE specific antibody. The 4HNE accumulation was quantified using ImageJ and plotted as fold accumulation compared to untreated group (G).

(**I**). The BMDMs from B6.Sst1S were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with Myc inhibitor, 10058-F4 (10 μM) for 24 h. 10058-F4 was added 2 h post TNF stimulation. Expression of Ifnβ, Rsad2, Trib3 and Chac1 were quantified using qRT-PCR.

(**J**). B6.Sst1S BMDMs were treated with TNF (10 ng/ml) for 6, 12, and 24 h in the presence or absence of JNK inhibitor D-JNK1 (2 μM). The cells were harvested and the protein levels of c-Myc and p-cJun were determined by western blotting.

The data represent the means ± SD of three samples per experiment, representative of three independent experiments.

The statistical significance was performed by two-way ANOVA using Bonferroni's multiple comparison test (Panel A) and ordinary one-way ANOVA using Dunnett's multiple comparison test (Panel D-G and I). Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

Figure 6. Myc and lipid peroxidation compromise control of intracellular Mtb by the B6.Sst1S macrophages.

(**A**). Accumulation of 4-HNE in Mtb-infected B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophage monolayers infected with Mtb. BMDMs were either treated with 10 ng/mL TNF or left untreated (UT), and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI=1. 4-HNE was detected by confocal microscopy using 4-HNE specific antibody 5 dpi. The 4HNE accumulation was quantified at 5 dpi using ImageJ and plotted as fold accumulation compared to untreated B6 (UT).

(**B**). Naïve and TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs were infected with Mtb Erdman reporter strain (SSB-GFP, smyc'::mCherry). The accumulation of 4HNE was detected in both Mtb-infected and non-infected cells.

(**C**). Naïve and TNF-stimulated B6.Sst1S BMDMs were infected with Mtb at MOI=1. At days 4 post infection Mtb load was determined using a qPCR-based method.

(**D**). Testing the effects of LPO and Myc inhibitors on the Mtb-infected B6.Sst1S BMDM survival and Mtb control: experimental design for panels E - H.

(**E** and **F**). Prevention of iron-mediated lipid peroxidation improves the survival of and Mtb control by the B6.Sst1S macrophages. BMDMs were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone in combination with Fer-1 (3 μM) or DFO (50 μM) for 16 h and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI=1. At days 1 and 5 post infection, total cell numbers were quantified using automated microscopy (E) and M.tb loads was determined using a qPCR-based method (F).

(G and **H)**. Myc inhibition improves the survival and Mtb control by B6.Sst1S macrophages. BMDMs were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with 3 μM or 10 μM 10058-F4 for 16 h and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI=1. At days 1 and 5 post infection, total cell numbers were quantified using automated microscopy (G) and Mtb loads was determined using a qPCR-based method (H).

(**I)**. LPO and Myc inhibitors improve Mtb control by B6.Sst1S BMDMs co-cultured with BCG-induced T cells: experimental design for panels J - L.

(**J)**. Differential effect of BCG-induced T cells on Mtb control by B6 and B6.Sst1S macrophages. BMDMs of both backgrounds were treated with 10 ng/mL TNF or left untreated and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI=1. T lymphocytes purified from lymph nodes of BCG vaccinated B6 mice were added to the infected macrophage monolayers 24 h post infection. The Mtb load was calculated by qPCR based method after 2 days of co-culture with T lymphocytes (3 days post infection). The dotted line indicates the Mtb load in untreated cells at day 2 post infection.

(**K)**. Inhibition of Myc and lipid peroxidation improves control of Mtb by B6.Sst1S macrophages co-cultured with immune T cells isolated from BCG-vaccinated B6 mice. BMDMs were pretreated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with either Ferrostatin 1 (3 μM) or 10058-F4 (10 μM) for 16 h and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI 1. At 24 h post infection the lymphocytes from BCG immunized B6 mice were added to the infected macrophage monolayers. The Mtb loads were determined by qPCR based method after 2 days of co-culture with T cells (3 days post infection).

(**L)**. Inhibition of type I IFN receptor improves control of Mtb by B6.Sst1S macrophages. BMDMs were pretreated with 10 ng/mL TNF alone or in combination with anti-IFNAR Ab for 16 h and subsequently infected with Mtb at MOI 1. At 24 h post infection the lymphocytes from BCG immunized B6 mice were added to the infected macrophage monolayers. The Mtb loads were determined by qPCR based method after 2 days of co-culture with T cells (3 days post infection).

(**M)**. TNF stimulation inhibits and IFNAR1 blockade restores the response of B6.Sst1S macrophages to IFNγ. BMDMs were pretreated with TNF (10 ng/mL) for 18 h and the IFNAR1 blocking Abs were added two hours after TNF. Subsequently, IFNγ (10 U/mL) was added for additional 12 h. The expression of the IFNγ-specific target gene Ciita was assessed using qRT-PCR.

(**N).** No effect of post-exposure BCG vaccination on the survival of Mtb-infected B6.Sst1S mice. Mice were infected with Mtb and BCG-vaccinated two months post infection. The survival curves of vaccinated and non-vaccinated mice were compared using the Log-rank (Mantel-Cox). Numbers of mice per group indicated in parentheses. This experiment was performed once.

The data represent the means ± SD of three samples per experiment, representative of three independent experiments.

The statistical significance was performed by two-way ANOVA using Bonferroni's multiple comparison test (Panel A, C, J and K) and Tukey's multiple comparison test (Panel E-H and L). One-way ANOVA using Bonferroni's multiple comparison test (Panel M). Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test was applied to determine statistical significances between the groups for panel N. Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).

Figure 7: Accumulation of lipid peroxidation products and stress escalation in macrophages during pulmonary TB progression.

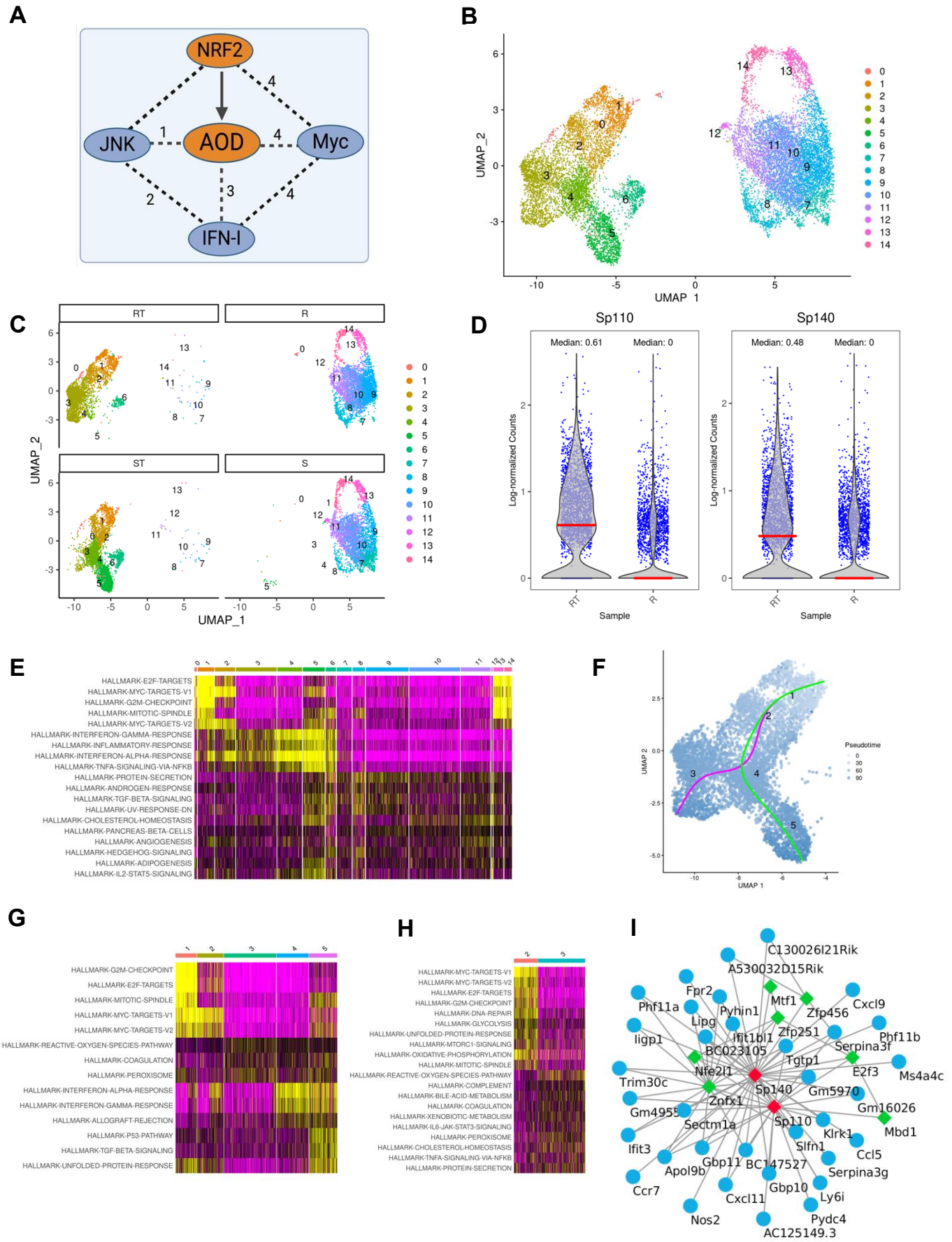
(**A**). 3D confocal images of paucibacillary and multibacillary pulmonary TB lesions of B6.Sst1S,ifnβ-YFP reporter mice stained with anti-4HNE antibody (magenta). Cells expressing YFP are green, Mtb reporter Mtb (smyc' :: mCherry) is red.

(**B**). Heatmap of interferon inducible genes differentially expressed in Iba1+ cells within multibacillary vs paucibacillary lesions (fold change 1.5 and above). Pooled gene list of IFN type I and II regulated genes was assembled using public databases (as described in Methods).

(**C**). The fluorescent multiplexed immunohistochemistry (fmIHC) images of paucibacillary (P) and multibacillary (M) TB lesions of B6.Sst1S, ifnβ-YFP mice stained with phospho-c-JUN- (magenta), Chac1-(yellow), iNOS- (teal), Iba1- (red) and YFP- (green) specific antibodies.

(**D**). Quantification of macrophages co-expressing activation and stress markers associated with pulmonary TB progression. Paucibacillary (n=12) and multibacillary (n=12) lung lesions of B6.Sst1S, ifnβ-YFP mice were compared using area quantification of double positive iNOS+ phospho-cJUN+, iNOS+Chac1+, YFP+ phospho-cJUN+, and YFP+Chac1+ marker combinations.

The data represent the means ± SD and the statistical significance was performed by unpaired t-test (Panels E). Significant differences are indicated with asterisks (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$).


A
NRF2
JNK
AOD
Myc
IFN-I
1
2
3
4
4
4
B
UMAP_2
UMAP_1
C
RT
R
ST
S
UMAP_2
UMAP_1
D
Sp110
Sp140
Median: 0.61
Median: 0
Median: 0.48
Median: 0
Log-normalized Counts
Sample
E
HALLMARK-E2F-TARGETS
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V1
HALLMARK-G2M-CHECKPOINT
HALLMARK-MITOTIC-SPINDLE
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V2
HALLMARK-INTERFERON-GAMMA-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-INFLAMMATORY-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-INTERFERON-ALPHA-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-TNFA-SIGNALING-VIA-NFKB
HALLMARK-PROTEIN-SECRETION
HALLMARK-ANDROGEN-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-TGF-BETA-SIGNALING
HALLMARK-UV-RESPONSE-DN
HALLMARK-CHOLESTEROL-HOMEOSTASIS
HALLMARK-PANCREAS-BETA-CELLS
HALLMARK-ANGIOGENESIS
HALLMARK-HEDGEHOG-SIGNALING
HALLMARK-ADIPOGENESIS
HALLMARK-IL2-STAT5-SIGNALING
F
Pseudotime
UMAP 1
UMAP 2
G
HALLMARK-G2M-CHECKPOINT
HALLMARK-E2F-TARGETS
HALLMARK-MITOTIC-SPINDLE
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V1
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V2
HALLMARK-REACTIVE-OXYGEN-SPECIES-PATHWAY
HALLMARK-COAGULATION
HALLMARK-PEROXISOME
HALLMARK-INTERFERON-ALPHA-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-INTERFERON-GAMMA-RESPONSE
HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJECTION
HALLMARK-P53-PATHWAY
HALLMARK-TGF-BETA-SIGNALING
HALLMARK-UNFOLDED-PROTEIN-RESPONSE
H
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V1
HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V2
HALLMARK-E2F-TARGETS
HALLMARK-G2M-CHECKPOINT
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HALLMARK-MTORC1-SIGNALING
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HALLMARK-BILE-ACID-METABOLISM
HALLMARK-COAGULATION
HALLMARK-XENOBIOTIC-METABOLISM
HALLMARK-IL6-JAK-STAT3-SIGNALING
HALLMARK-PEROXISOME
HALLMARK-CHOLESTEROL-HOMEOSTASIS
HALLMARK-TNFA-SIGNALING-VIA-NFKB
HALLMARK-PROTEIN-SECRETION
I
C130026I21Rik
A530032D15Rik
Fpr2
Mtf1
Cxcl9
Phf11a
Pyhin1
Zfp456
Lipg
Ifit1bl1
Zfp251
Phf11b
Iigp1
BC023105
Serpina3f
Tgtp1
Nfe2l1
E2f3
Ms4a4c
Trim30c
Sp140
Gm5970
Znfx1
Gm16026
Gm4955
Sectm1a
Sp110
Klrk1
Mbd1
Ifit3
Slfn1
Ccl5
Gbp11
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Ly6i
Nos2
Pydc4
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Figure 1

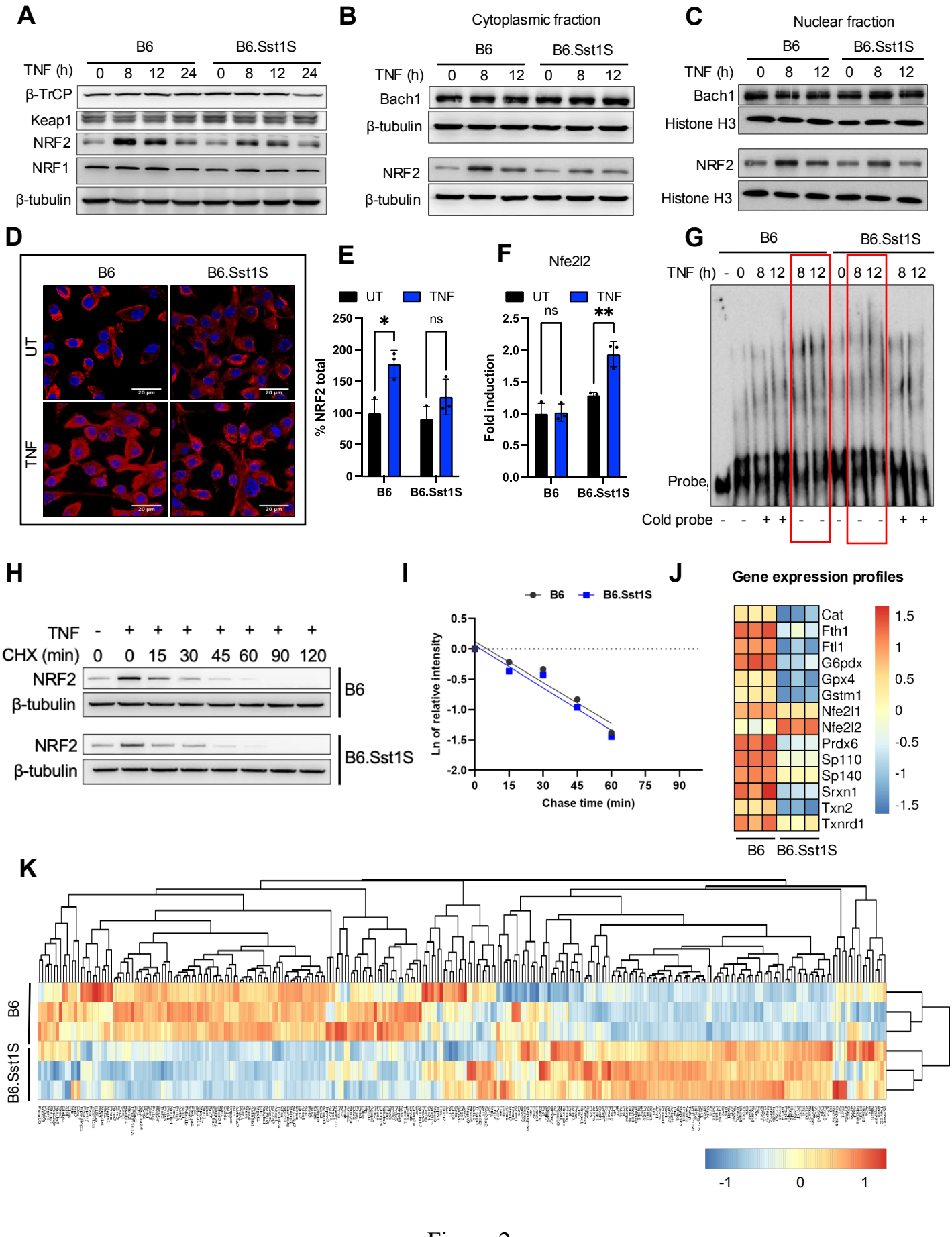
A
B6
B6.Sst1S
TNF (h)
0 8 12 24 0 8 12 24
β-TrCP
Keap1
NRF2
NRF1
β-tubulin
B
Cytoplasmic fraction
B6
B6.Sst1S
TNF (h)
0 8 12 0 8 12
Bach1
β-tubulin
NRF2
β-tubulin
C
Nuclear fraction
B6
B6.Sst1S
TNF (h)
0 8 12 0 8 12
Bach1
Histone H3
NRF2
Histone H3
D
B6
B6.Sst1S
UT
TNF
20 μm
E
UT
TNF
% NRF2 total
250
200
150
100
50
0
*
ns
B6
B6.Sst1S
F
Nfe2l2
UT
TNF
Fold induction
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
ns
**
B6
B6.Sst1S
G
B6
B6.Sst1S
TNF (h) - 0 8 12 8 12 0 8 12 8 12
Probe
Cold probe - - + + - - - - - + +
H
TNF - + + + + + + +
CHX (min) 0 0 15 30 45 60 90 120
NRF2
β-tubulin
B6
NRF2
β-tubulin
B6.Sst1S
I
B6
B6.Sst1S
Ln of relative intensity
0.5
0.0
-0.5
-1.0
-1.5
-2.0
0 15 30 45 60 75 90
Chase time (min)
J
Gene expression profiles
Cat
Fth1
Ftl1
G6pdx
Gpx4
Gstm1
Nfe2l1
Nfe2l2
Prdx6
Sp110
Sp140
Srxn1
Txn2
Txnrd1
1.5
1
0.5
0
-0.5
-1
-1.5
B6
B6.Sst1S
K
B6
B6.Sst1S
-1
0
1

Figure 2

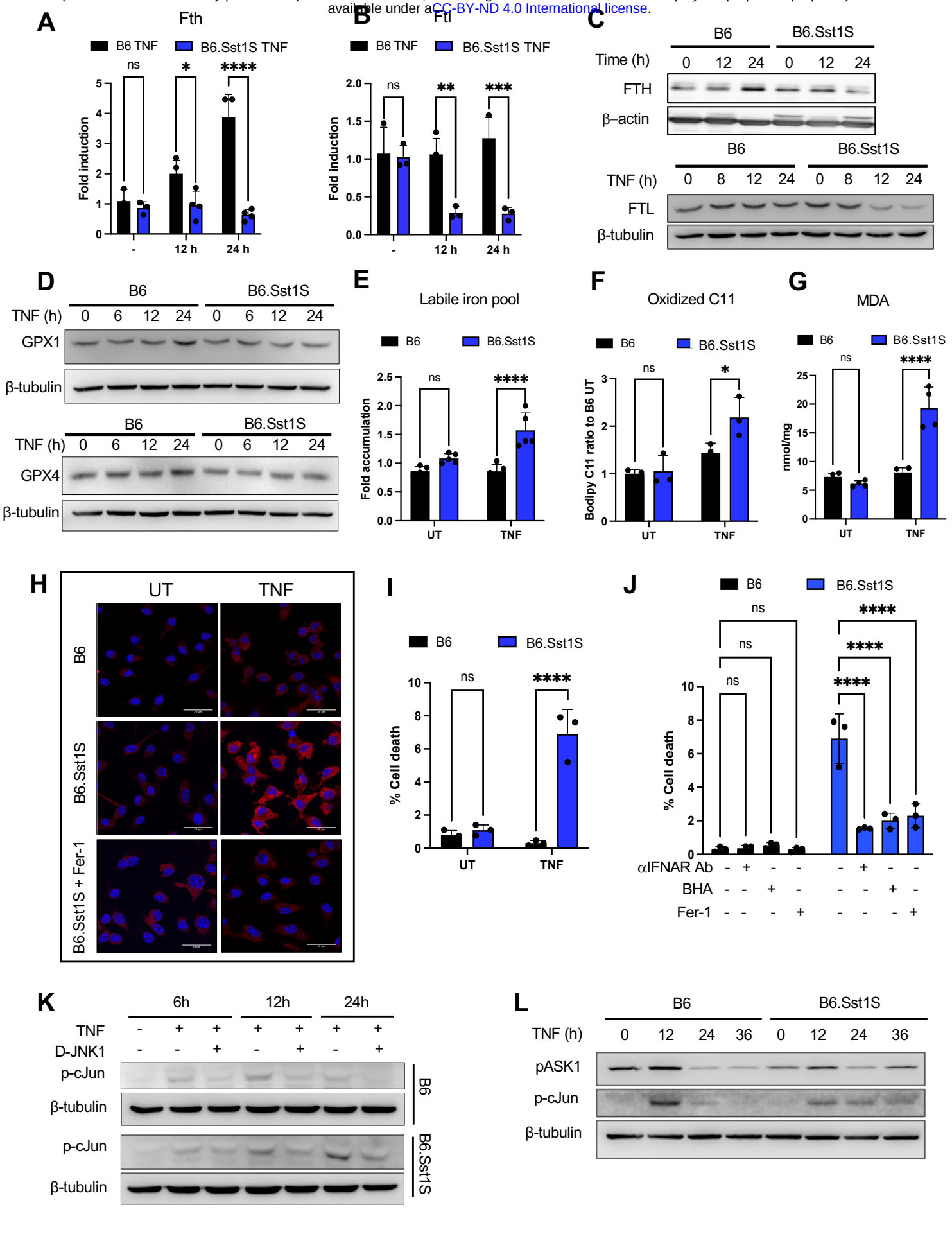

Figure 3

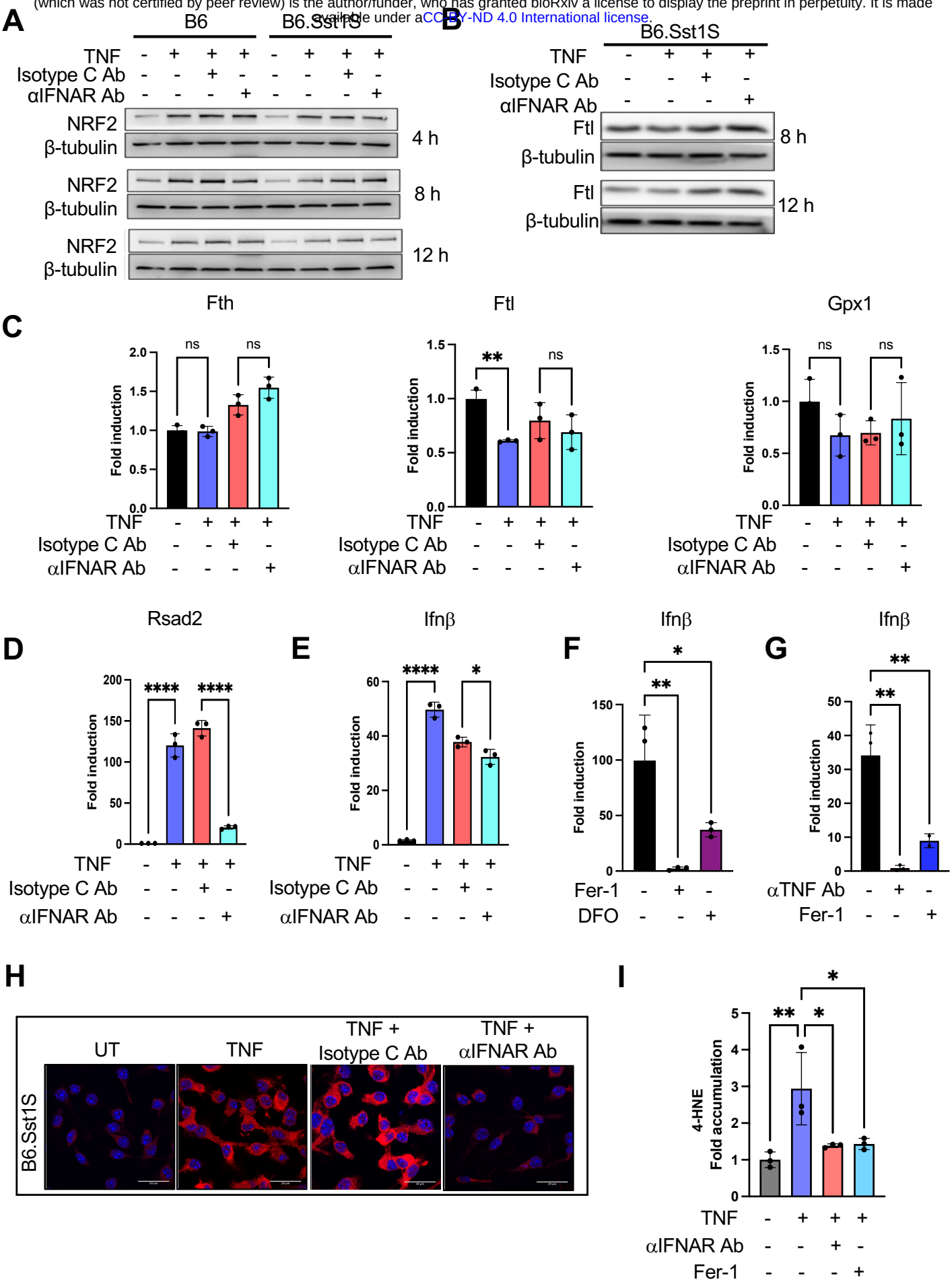

Figure 4

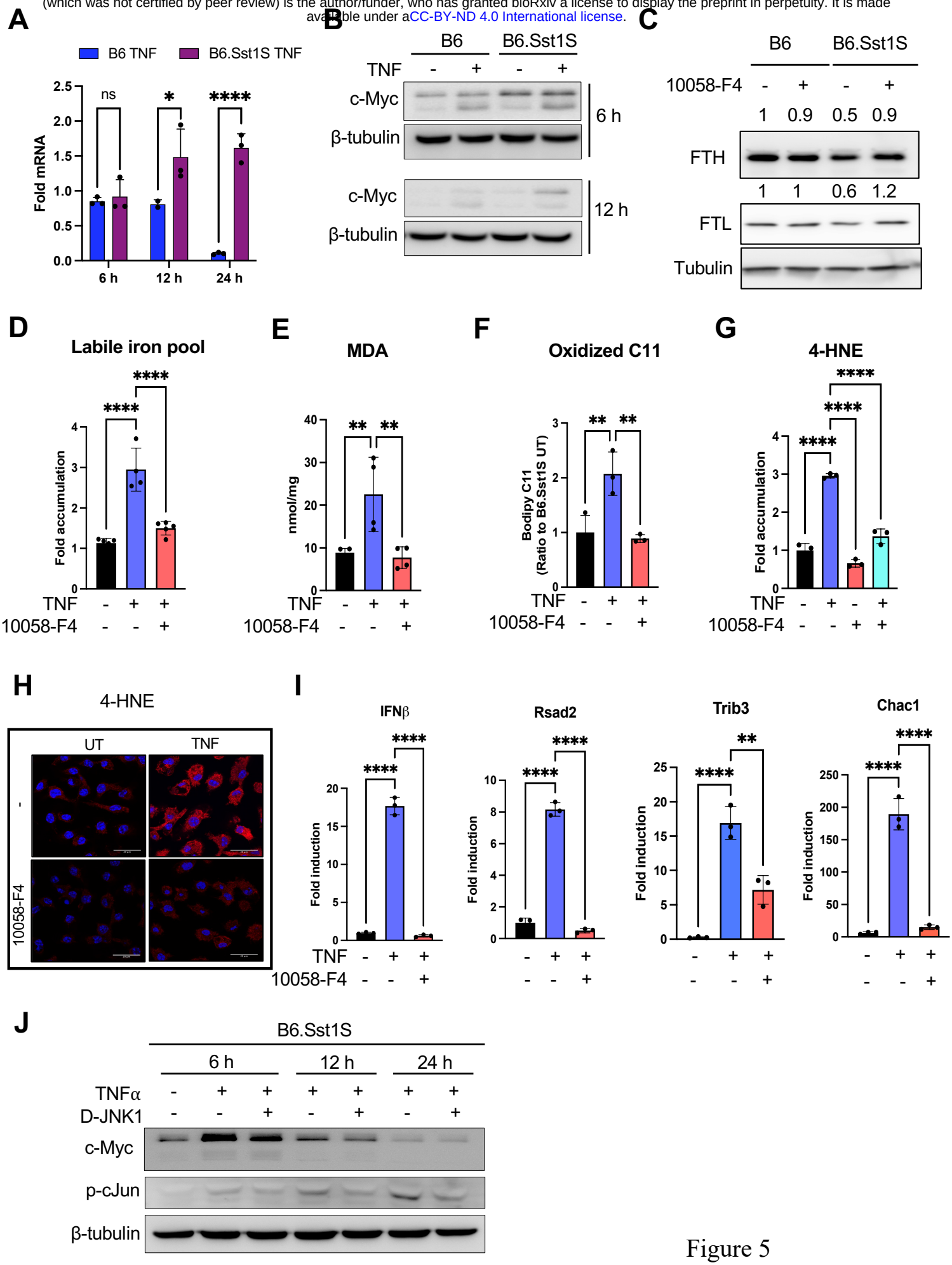

Figure 5

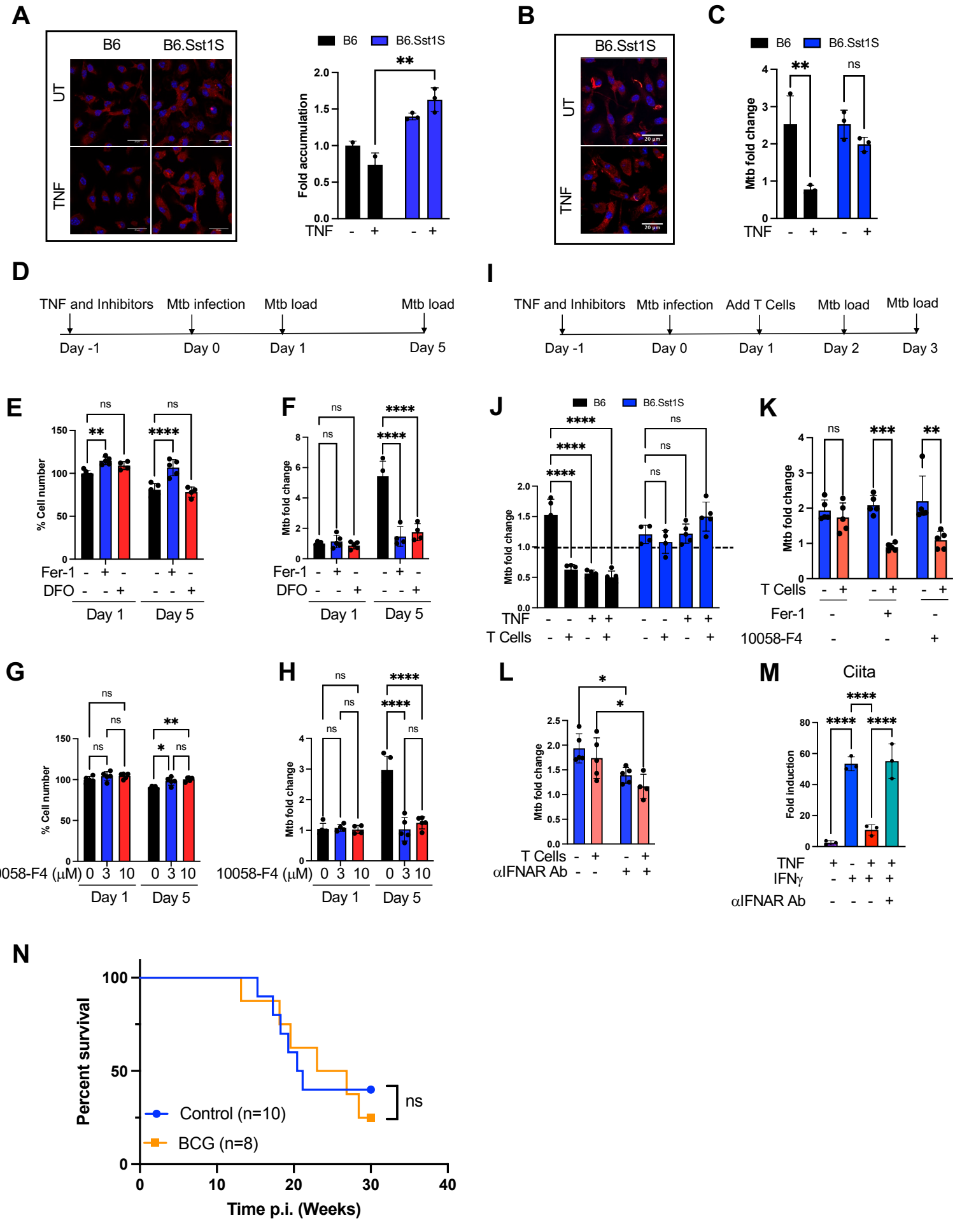
A
B6
B6.Sst1S
UT
TNF
B6
B6.Sst1S
Fold accumulation
TNF
B
B6.Sst1S
UT
TNF
C
B6
B6.Sst1S
Mtb fold change
TNF
D
TNF and Inhibitors
Mtb infection
Mtb load
Mtb load
Day -1
Day 0
Day 1
Day 5
I
TNF and Inhibitors
Mtb infection
Add T Cells
Mtb load
Mtb load
Day -1
Day 0
Day 1
Day 2
Day 3
E
% Cell number
Fer-1
DFO
Day 1
Day 5
F
Mtb fold change
Fer-1
DFO
Day 1
Day 5
J
B6
B6.Sst1S
Mtb fold change
TNF
T Cells
K
Mtb fold change
T Cells
Fer-1
10058-F4
G
% Cell number
10058-F4 (μM)
Day 1
Day 5
H
Mtb fold change
10058-F4 (μM)
Day 1
Day 5
L
Mtb fold change
T Cells
αIFNAR Ab
M
Ciita
Fold induction
TNF
IFNγ
αIFNAR Ab
N
Percent survival
Control (n=10)
BCG (n=8)
ns
Time p.i. (Weeks)

Figure 6

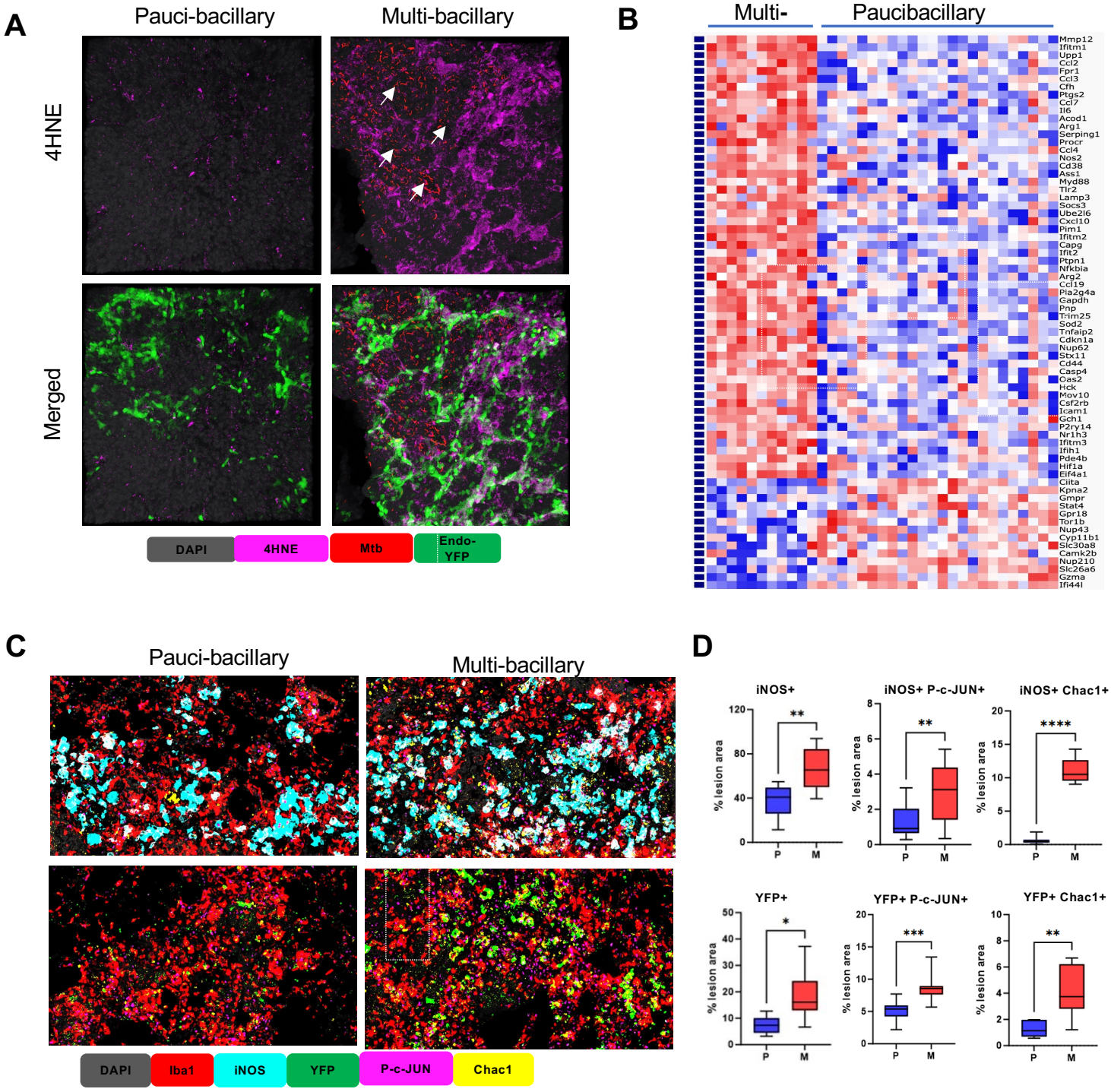
A
Pauci-bacillary
Multi-bacillary
4HNE
Merged
DAPI
4HNE
Mtb
Endo-YFP
B
Multi-
Paucibacillary
C
Pauci-bacillary
Multi-bacillary
DAPI
Iba1
iNOS
YFP
P-c-JUN
Chac1
D
iNOS+
iNOS+ P-c-JUN+
iNOS+ Chac1+
YFP+
YFP+ P-c-JUN+
YFP+ Chac1+
% lesion area
P
M

Figure 7