

1 **A Novel Humanized Mouse Model for HIV and Tuberculosis Co-infection Studies**

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3 José Alejandro Bohórquez*^{1, 2, 3}, Sitaramaraju Adduri*^{1, 2}, Danish Ansari^{1, 2, 3}, Sahana John^{1, 2, 3},
4 Jon Florence^{1,2}, Omoyeni Adejare^{1,2}, Gaurav Singh³, Nagarjun Konduru^{1,2}, Chinnaswamy
5 Jagannath⁴, and Guohua Yi^{1, 2, 3#}

6 1. Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology, The University of Texas Health Science Center
7 at Tyler, Tyler, TX 75708, USA.

8 2. Center for Biomedical Research, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Tyler,
9 TX 75708, USA.

10 3. Department of Medicine, The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine, Tyler, TX 75708,
11 USA.

12 4. Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, Center for Infectious Diseases and
13 Translational Medicine, Houston Methodist Research Institute, Houston, TX, USA

14 * Authors contributed equally to this work

15 #Corresponding author. Email: guohua.yi@uthct.edu

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17 **Key words**

18 Humanized mouse model, HIV, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, NSG-SGM3 mice, HIV/*Mtb*-
19 induced immunopathogenesis, HIV/*Mtb*-differentiated metabolites

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22 **ABSTRACT**

23 Tuberculosis (TB), caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), continues to be a major
24 public health problem worldwide. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is another equally
25 important life-threatening pathogen. Further, co-infections with HIV and *Mtb* have severe effects
26 in the host, with people infected with HIV being fifteen to twenty-one times more likely to develop
27 active TB. The use of an appropriate animal model for HIV/*Mtb* co-infection that can recapitulate
28 the diversity of the immune response in humans would be a useful tool for conducting basic and
29 translational research in HIV/*Mtb* infections. The present study was focused on developing a
30 humanized mouse model for investigations on HIV-*Mtb* co-infection. Using NSG-SGM3 mice
31 that can engraft human stem cells, our studies showed that they were able to engraft human CD34+
32 stem cells which then differentiate into a full-lineage of human immune cell subsets. After co-
33 infection with HIV and *Mtb*, these mice showed decrease in CD4+ T cell counts overtime and
34 elevated HIV load in the sera, similar to the infection pattern of humans. Additionally, *Mtb* caused
35 infections in both lungs and spleen, and induced the development of granulomatous lesions in the
36 lungs, detected by CT scan and histopathology. Distinct metabolomic profiles were also observed
37 in the tissues from different mouse groups after co-infections. Our results suggest that the
38 humanized NSG-SGM3 mice are able to recapitulate the effects of HIV and *Mtb* infections and
39 co-infection in the human host at pathological, immunological and metabolism levels, providing a
40 dependable small animal model for studying HIV/*Mtb* co-infection.

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43 INTRODUCTION

44 Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the biggest public health problems worldwide, being the
45 second cause of death in mankind in 2022, behind COVID-19¹. Over seven million people were
46 newly diagnosed with TB in the past year and around 1.3 million people were killed by this deadly
47 disease. There is a consensus that a quarter of the world population are infected with
48 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), the causative agent for TB¹. The majority of *Mtb*-infected
49 individuals remain latently infected without clinical signs (LTBI). However, around 10% of the
50 infected patients will develop active TB, especially in conjunction with immunodeficiency caused
51 by malnutrition, immunosuppressive therapy using steroids, or infection with immunosuppressive
52 pathogens². Among these infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) plays a pivotal
53 role, given that immunosuppression is the hallmark of HIV pathogenesis³. HIV is the etiological
54 agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), another equally important public health
55 concern responsible for the death of over 40 million people as of 2023⁴. The synergy between HIV
56 and *Mtb* in co-infection has been extensively examined, and compelling evidence showed that HIV
57 exacerbates TB severity, and is the leading cause of death for people infected with *Mtb*⁴⁻⁶. This is
58 likely because HIV-induced immunosuppression leads to a disruption of CD4 T cells, the main
59 driver of Th-1 immunity in LTBI patients, resulting in active TB⁷.

60 Non-human primates (NHP) are routinely used as large animal models for HIV/*Mtb*
61 research not only because the monkeys and humans have remarkably similar genomes, physiology,
62 and immune systems, but also because the monkeys can be infected by both *Mtb* and Simian
63 immunodeficiency virus (SIV)⁸. The latter is also a retrovirus and belongs to the same Lentivirus
64 genus as HIV and causes HIV-like infection in NHPs. After co-infection, NHPs also display AIDS-
65 like features as in humans, such as massive reduction of CD4+ T cells and a high viral load in the

66 sera if without anti-retroviral treatment, as well as chronic immune activation in animals during
67 extended observation^{7,9}. Furthermore, the co-infected monkeys also recapitulate key aspects of
68 human TB infection stages, including latent infection, chronic progressive infection, and acute TB,
69 depending on the route and dose of infection¹⁰⁻¹². Importantly, *Mtb* latently infected macaques co-
70 infected with SIV results in reproducible LTBI reactivation¹³, providing a reliable model for
71 HIV/*Mtb* research. However, NHPs require specialized infrastructure for experimentation and are
72 cost-restrictive, and are not readily available in the majority of animal facilities^{14,15},

73 The use of other small animal models, such as rodents poses different challenges. Although
74 inbred and genetic knockout mice are easily available, and readily infective using *Mtb*, most strains
75 of mice are not a natural host for HIV, which require human CD4⁺ T cells to establish infection.
76 Whereas the use of mouse models for *Mtb* research has also been criticized due to their inability
77 to form granulomas which are a hallmark of *Mtb* infection in humans¹⁶, certain mouse strains and
78 infection protocols show the formation of granulomas.¹⁷ Fortunately, humanized mouse models,
79 the immunodeficient mice that have been reconstituted with a human immune system, appears to
80 be a promising small animal model for HIV and *Mtb* research^{14,15,18,19}. They have been extensively
81 used for evaluating HIV gene therapy and therapeutics^{20,21}, and recently, the NSG (NOD scid
82 gamma)-based humanized BLT mice were developed for analyzing *Mtb* and HIV/*Mtb* co-
83 infections^{15,18,22}. However, humanized BLT mice need surgical transplantation (under
84 the kidney capsule) of fetal liver, bone marrow and thymus tissues, and restriction of human fetal
85 tissues used for research and the sophisticated surgery has markedly limited the use of this model.
86 In addition, these mice have immature B cells with poor IgG class-switching and poor
87 reconstitution of myeloid lineage of antigen-presenting cells (APCs)^{23,24}, posing a challenge for

88 HIV/*Mtb* research because myeloid cells, especially macrophages, are important targets for both
89 HIV and *Mtb*.

90 We demonstrate here that these deficiencies can be ameliorated in the newly developed
91 NSG-SGM3 mice, which transgenically express three human cytokine/chemokine genes IL-3,
92 GM-CSF, and KITLG. The expression of these genes improves the differentiation and maturation
93 of the myeloid cells²⁵⁻²⁹. The present study is aimed at establishing a reliable new-generation,
94 humanized mouse model for the HIV/*Mtb* co-infection research. We show that humanized NSG-
95 SGM3 mice can differentiate CD34⁺ stem cells into a full-lineage of immune cell subsets,
96 including both lymphoid and myeloid lineages. Importantly, we show that HIV/*Mtb* infections are
97 reproducible in these mice with a spectrum of immunological, pathological, and metabolic changes
98 when compared to uninfected mice.

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100 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

101 **Bacterial and viral strains**

102 *Mtb* H37Rv was obtained from BEI Resources (USA) and propagated in the biosafety level
103 3 (BSL-3) facilities at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT). It was
104 cultured in 7H9 broth with 10% OADC supplement following standard *Mtb* culture procedures³⁰.
105 After 7 days of growth, the bacteria were collected and subjected to sonication three times, at an
106 amplitude of 38%, for 10 seconds/each, with a 5-second interval, followed by low-speed
107 centrifugation (1,100 RPM). Bacteria were diluted to an optical density (OD) value of ≈ 1 in sterile
108 NaCl 0.9% and aliquots were made and frozen at -80 °C to be used as inoculum. Two weeks later,
109 one aliquot was thawed, and the bacterial content was evaluated by plating ten-fold serial dilutions

110 in 7H10 agar, supplemented with OADC. After 3 weeks of incubation, the colony forming units
111 (CFU) per mL were calculated.

112 HIV-1 BaL strain was obtained from NIH AIDS Reagent Program, also prepared in the
113 BSL-3 facilities at UTHSCT, following standard procedures ³¹. Briefly, frozen human PBMCs
114 (STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, Canada) were thawed and seeded in a 75 cm² flask at a
115 concentration of 5×10^6 cells/mL in RPMI 1640 media (Corning Inc., Corning, NY) supplemented
116 with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1 µg/ml of PHA and 2 µg/ml
117 polybrene (MilliporeSigma, Burlington, MA). After 3 days of stimulation, 4×10^7 cells were
118 centrifuged and infected with HIV-1 BaL using an MOI (multiplicity of infection) of 0.1 (4×10^6
119 TCID₅₀) in two adsorption cycles. Following the second adsorption cycle, the cells were seeded in
120 two 75 cm² flasks with 30 ml of media supplemented with FBS, antibiotics, and human IL-2 (20
121 Units/ml). Cell culture supernatant was collected every three days, with fresh media being added,
122 until day 21 of culture and stored at -80 °C. A small aliquot from each collection will be used to
123 titrate the virus using quantitative RT-PCR.

124 **Animal experiment design**

125 All animal procedures were approved by the UTHSCT Institutional Animal Care and Use
126 Committee (IACUC) (Protocol #707). NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid} Il2rg^{tm1Wjl} Tg(CMV-
127 IL3,CSF2,KITLG)1Eav/MloySzJ (NSG-SGM3) mice were purchased from The Jackson
128 laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME) and bred in the Vivarium facilities at UTHSCT. Pups were weaned
129 at 21 days after birth and, 1-3 weeks after that, they were irradiated at a dose of 100 cgy/mouse,
130 followed by intravenous injection with 2×10^5 CD34⁺ stem cells/mouse at 12 h post-irradiation.
131 Humanization was monitored starting at 12 weeks after stem cell transplantation and again at 14
132 and 16 weeks. For this purpose, blood was drawn from the submandibular vein (100-150 µl, based

133 on animal weight) and PBMCs were collected through density gradient centrifugation using Ficoll
134 Paque (Cytiva, Marlborough, MA). After erythrocyte lysis, the PBMC from each animal were
135 stained for human (hu) and mouse (mo) hematopoietic cell surface marker (CD45⁺), as well as
136 lymphocytic and myeloid markers. Animals that showed a positive huCD45⁺/moCD45⁺ ratio,
137 accompanied by differentiation of various immune cell populations, were selected for
138 experimental infection.

139 Mice were randomly divided into four experimental groups: Uninfected (n=5), HIV-
140 infected (n=8), *Mtb*-infected (n=8) and HIV/*Mtb* co-infected (n=7). *Mtb* infection was performed
141 using aerosolized *Mtb* H37Rv through a Madison chamber, as previously described³², using an
142 infection dose of 100 CFU/mouse. Three additional mice were included in the Madison chamber
143 at the time of infection and were euthanized 24 hours after infection. The lungs were collected,
144 macerated and plated on 7H10 agar, to confirm the initial bacterial implantation³³.

145 One day after *Mtb* infection, the mice for the HIV alone and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection groups
146 were subjected to intraperitoneal (IP) inoculation with 10⁵ TCID₅₀ of HIV_{BaL}. Blood samples from
147 all experimental groups were collected on the day of infection and at 15-, 28- and 35-days post
148 infection (dpi). Serum samples from all the animals were separated and stored at -80 °C until
149 further use. PBMCs were isolated and stained for flow cytometry analysis. At 35 dpi, the animals
150 were terminally anesthetized, using a Ketamine/Xylazine mixture, in order to perform computed
151 tomography (CT) scan and pulmonary function (PF) tests. Afterwards, the animals were
152 euthanized and whole blood samples were collected through cardiac puncture. During necropsy,
153 lung and spleen samples were collected and macerated through a 70 µm cell strainer (Thermo
154 Fisher scientific) in a final volume of 2 ml of PBS. Serial ten-fold dilutions of the organ macerates

155 were plated in 7H10 agar, supplemented with OADC, to assess the bacterial load. The remaining
156 volume of lung and spleen macerates were stored at -80 °C for further analysis.

157 For each experimental group, lung sample from one animal was selected for
158 histopathological analysis and, therefore, not subjected to maceration and bacterial culture. Lungs
159 were filled with 10% formalin, before being removed from the animal, and stored in the same
160 media after the necropsy^{34, 35}. Sample processing and Hematoxylin-Eosin (HE) staining was
161 carried out at the histopathology core of UT southwestern.

162 **CT scan and PF testing**

163 Mice were intraperitoneally injected with ketamine/xylazine (100 mg/kg Ketamine, 20
164 mg/kg Xylazine). Once the correct anesthetic plane was achieved, the mice were intubated with a
165 sterile, 20-gauge intravenous cannula through the vocal cords into the trachea. Following
166 intubation, anesthesia was maintained using isoflurane.

167 Elastance (Ers), compliance (Crs), and total lung resistance (Rrs) was assessed for each
168 mouse through the snapshot perturbation method, as previously described³⁶. Measurements were
169 performed in triplicates for each animal, using the FlexiVent system (SCIREQ, Tempe, AZ), with
170 a tidal volume of 30 mL/kg at a frequency of 150 breaths/min against 2–3 cm H₂O positive end-
171 expiratory pressure.

172 After PF testing, the mice were subjected to CT scans for the measurements of lung
173 volume, using the Explore Locus Micro-CT Scanner (General Electric, GE Healthcare,
174 Wauwatosa, WI). CT scans were performed during full inspiration and at a resolution of 93 μm.
175 Lung volumes were calculated from lung renditions collected at full inspiration. Microview

176 software 2.2 (<http://microview.sourceforge.net>) was used to analyze lung volumes and render
177 three-dimensional images.

178 **RNA extraction and RT-qPCR**

179 Serum samples from all experimental groups were extracted using the NucleoSpin RNA
180 isolation kit (Macherey-Nagel, Allentown, PA). Following viral RNA extraction, samples were
181 evaluated using RT-qPCR to determine the viral RNA load in each animal³⁷. Control standards
182 (obtained from NIH AIDS Reagent Program) with known quantities of HIV-1 genome copies were
183 used as amplification controls, as well as to establish a standard curve that was used to determine
184 the viral RNA load, based on the cycle threshold (Ct) value.

185 **Flow cytometry analysis**

186 Flow cytometry was performed using the PBMCs from all experimental animals at the
187 specified sampling timepoints. In all cases, the PBMCs isolated from each animal were divided
188 into two wells of a 96-well U-shaped bottom plate (Corning Inc., Corning, NY), used for staining
189 with two separate flow cytometry panels. Cells were washed and inoculated with Fc block
190 (Biolegend, San Diego, CA) at 4 °C for 20 minutes, followed by another wash. Afterwards, cells
191 were incubated with fluorescence-conjugated monoclonal antibodies. For the first flow cytometry
192 panel, cells were incubated with antibodies against the following human surface markers: Alexa
193 Fluor™ 405-CD45, FITC-CD3, APC-CD4, PE-CD8, PerCP-CD56, Alexa Fluor™ 510-CD19
194 (Biolegend, San Diego, CA). For the second flow cytometry panel, the antibodies against human
195 cell surface markers were as follows: Alexa Fluor™ 405-CD45, Alexa Fluor™ 510-CD86, APC-
196 CD11b, PE-CD11c, PerCP-HLA-DR, Alexa Fluor™ 700-CD14 (Biolegend, San Diego, CA).
197 Additionally, for the second panel, the cells were also incubated with an FITC-labelled antibody

198 against moCD45. After staining, the cells were washed and fixed for 1 hour, followed by another
199 wash. Flow cytometry was performed using the Attune NxT flow cytometer (Invitrogen, Waltham,
200 MA), including the corresponding isotype controls for each antibody. Analysis was carried out
201 with the FlowJo software v10.6.1 (BD life sciences), using the isotype controls as guidelines for
202 gating.

203 **Immunofluorescence staining**

204 Paraffin-embedded lung sections were used for immunofluorescent staining against human
205 immune cell subsets³⁸. Samples were deparaffined by submerging the slides in Xylene (Fisher
206 bioreagents), followed by sequentially lower concentrations of ethanol. Afterwards, antigen
207 retrieval and blocking of non-specific binding were performed, using 10mM sodium citrate buffer
208 and PBS with 0.4% triton and 5% FBS, respectively. Primary antibody incubation was carried out
209 overnight at 4 °C with human-CD68 monoclonal antibody (cat. No. 14-0688-82, Invitrogen) and
210 CD19 Rabbit polyclonal antibody (cat. No. 27949-1-AP, Proteintech, Rosemont, USA), diluted in
211 PBS + 0.4% triton + 1% FBS at the recommended dilutions. The following day, samples were
212 incubated for 2 hours at room temperature with goat anti-mouse IgG1-Alexa Fluor™ 568 (cat. No.
213 A21124, Invitrogen) and goat anti-rabbit IgG-Alexa Fluor™ 488 (cat. No. A11008, Invitrogen), at
214 the recommended dilutions. The slides were mounted using DAPI-supplemented mounting
215 medium (Abcam, Cambridge, UK) and images were captured with a LionheartLX automated
216 microscope (Biotek, Winoovsk, VT). Images were processed with the GEN5 software version
217 3.09 (Biotek) and the ImageJ software (NIH).

218 **Multiplex assay for cytokine profiling**

219 The cytokine profile in lung and spleen tissue macerate, as well as serum samples at 35
220 dpi, from all experimental groups were evaluated in duplicates using the Bio-Plex Pro™ Human
221 Cytokine panel (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 50
222 µL of filtered tissue homogenate, or 1:4 diluted serum, were dispensed in a 96-well plate
223 containing magnetic beads conjugated with antibodies for the detection of 27 different cytokines.
224 Following incubation with detection antibodies and streptavidin-PE, the samples were analyzed in
225 the Bio-Plex MAGPIX multiplex reader (Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc., CA). A regression curve,
226 based on the values obtained from a set of standard dilutions, was used to convert the fluorescence
227 values reported by the machine into cytokine concentrations (expressed as pg/mL).

228 The 27 cytokines and chemokines reported by the Bio-Plex Pro™ Human Cytokine panel
229 were: Basic FGF, Eotaxin, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN- γ , IL-1 β , IL-1Ra, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7,
230 IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IL-15, IL-17, IP-10, MCP-1, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , PDGF-BB,
231 RANTES, TNF- α and VEGF.

232 **Mouse blood sample handling for metabolomic analysis**

233 Whole blood sample was collected from mice in all the experimental groups at the end of
234 the study and plasma was separated through centrifugation. The samples were processed for
235 collection of the metabolite pellet as follows: 50 µl of plasma were mixed with 950 µl of 80% ice-
236 cold methanol, followed by centrifugation at >20.000 G for 15 minutes in a refrigerated centrifuge.
237 Afterwards, the supernatant was transferred to a new tube and vacuum dried, using no heat. The
238 metabolite pellet was analyzed at the metabolomic core facility at the Children's Medical Center
239 Research Institute at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas, TX, USA) using
240 liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS), as previously described³⁹.

241 **Metabolome data analysis**

242 Statistical analysis of metabolome profiles was performed in R environment (R version
243 4.1.0). Raw abundance values of metabolites were used as input for statistical analysis. The raw
244 data was log₂ transformed and normalized across the samples using ‘limma’ package⁴⁰ by
245 cyclically applying fast linear loess normalization with a 0.3 span of loess smoothing window and
246 10 iterations wherein each sample was normalized to pseudo-reference sample which was
247 computed by averaging all samples. Principal components analysis was performed using
248 ‘PCAtools’ package. Orthogonal partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) was
249 performed and variable importance on projection (VIP) score were computed using ‘ropls’
250 package. VIP score of >1 is considered for feature selection. Hierarchical clustering was
251 performed on normalized data after univariate scaling. Hierarchical clustering was performed
252 using correlation to calculate clustering distance with averaging method for clustering.
253 Differentially abundant metabolites (DAMs) were identified using student t test. The correlation
254 between metabolite abundances and *Mtb* or HIV loads were analyzed using Pearson correlation
255 method. For all hypothesis testing analyses, statistical significance was set 5% (p value = 0.05) to
256 reject null hypothesis.

257 **Statistical analysis**

258 Statistical differences between groups were assessed using the Prism software version
259 8.3.0. for Windows (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California USA, www.graphpad.com).
260 Unpaired, non-parametric, t-tests were employed for different comparisons between groups.

261

262

263 **RESULTS**

264 **Human CD34⁺ HSCs-engrafted NSG-SGM3 mice can differentiate a full array of human**
265 **immune cell phenotypes.**

266 After 16 weeks of humanization, PBMCs from the hCD34⁺ HSCs-transplanted mice were
267 evaluated by flow cytometry for human lymphoid and myeloid cell surface markers. The NSG-
268 SGM3 mice allow stem cells to develop into human lymphoid lineages, such as T cells (CD3⁺,
269 between 10-90%, including both CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells) and B cells (CD19⁺, between 7-60%)
270 (**Fig. 1**). Additionally, differentiation of human myeloid subsets (CD14⁺) was also observed,
271 ranging between 1 and 25%. Within the myeloid lineage, we also detected CD11b⁺ macrophages
272 (**Fig. 1**, Gating strategy is shown in **Supplementary Fig. 1**).

273 **Humanized NSG-SGM3 mice are susceptible to both HIV-1 and *Mtb* infections.**

274 After HIV/*Mtb* infections, HIV viral RNA was detected in serum samples from the infected
275 mice starting at 15 dpi, with most animals in the HIV single-infection group being positive at this
276 time, while only two out of the seven mice in the HIV/*Mtb* co-infection group showed viral RNA
277 (**Fig. 2a**). The viral RNA load detected in the positive animals at 15 dpi was between 2×10^5 and
278 2.2×10^6 copies/ml. However, all the HIV-infected animals were positive in subsequent samplings
279 at 28 and 35 dpi. The HIV RNA load was between 3.7×10^4 and 6.8×10^5 copies/ml for animals with
280 single HIV infection and between 4.1×10^4 and 7.7×10^5 copies/ml for the HIV/*Mtb* co-infected
281 mice. No significant differences were detected in the viral RNA load between the two HIV-infected
282 groups at these timepoints.

283 The *Mtb* bacterial load was assessed in lung and spleen samples after euthanasia in the *Mtb*
284 single infection group and the HIV/*Mtb* coinfecting mice (**Fig. 2b**). In both groups, a higher

285 bacterial load was found in lungs than in spleens. Moreover, the mean CFU count in the lungs and
286 spleens from *Mtb* single infection group (7.3×10^6 and 1.4×10^6 , respectively) was higher than the
287 animals co-infected with HIV (5.8×10^6 for lung and 9.2×10^5 for spleen), even though their
288 differences are not significant (**Fig. 2b**).

289 **Immune phenotype changes in humanized mice after infection.**

290 We also monitored the human immune cell population changes over time after HIV/*Mtb*
291 infections. Starting from 15 dpi, huCD45⁺/moCD45⁺ ratio was significantly decreased ($p < 0.05$) in
292 the two HIV-infected groups (HIV single infection and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection), and the
293 huCD45⁺/moCD45⁺ ratio decrease was sustained until the late stage of the experiment. Conversely,
294 the *Mtb* single infection group showed similar or even increased huCD45⁺/moCD45⁺ ratio after
295 infection (**Fig. 3a**).

296 We observed significant CD4⁺ T cell depletion in the HIV-infected groups (HIV single
297 infection and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection). We used CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio as an indicator for CD4⁺ T cell
298 depletion, and we found a ~10-fold CD4⁺/CD8⁺ reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the HIV/*Mtb* co-infected
299 mice as early as 15 dpi, and this trend remained until the end of the experiment. In the single
300 infection group, we also found a lower mean CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio since 15 dpi, while the subsequent
301 samplings at 28 and 35 dpi showed significant decreases on CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio values. In contrast,
302 there was no significant difference detected over time in the *Mtb* alone infection group (**Fig. 3b**).

303 **Alterations in cytokines and chemokines production in humanized mice after infection**

304 In serum sample, significant increases in G-CSF, MCP-1 and MIP-1 α was detected in the
305 *Mtb* single infection group, in comparison with both HIV-infected groups (**Fig. 4a**). Additionally,
306 the serum concentration of IL-2 and IL-8 were also significantly increased in the *Mtb* single

307 infection group, compared to the HIV/*Mtb* co-infection. The HIV/*Mtb* co-infected mice analyzed
308 showed higher IP-10 than both the HIV and *Mtb* single infection mice (**Fig. 4a**).

309 Lung macerate supernatants showed an increase in the concentration of IL-6, RANTES
310 and TNF- α in the HIV single infection group compared to the uninfected control animals, as well
311 as the *Mtb* single infection group (**Fig. 4b**). Additionally, IL-2 concentrations were also higher in
312 the HIV-infected animals than in the uninfected mice. Moreover, HIV single infection also induced
313 statistically higher levels of Eotaxin, MIP-1 α and MIP-1 β than single *Mtb* infection. Statistical
314 analysis also revealed a decrease in MCP-1 and PDGF concentration in lung samples from *Mtb*
315 infected mice, compared to the remaining three experimental groups (**Fig. 4b**).

316 In the case of spleen samples, macerates from the *Mtb* single-infection group were found
317 to have significantly higher concentrations of IL-1 β , G-CSF and MIP-1 β than the HIV single-
318 infection group (**Fig. 4c**). Similarly, the levels of IL-8 and MIP-1 α were higher in the *Mtb* group
319 than in both HIV-infected groups. In contrast, both the HIV and *Mtb* single infection groups
320 showed lower concentrations of GM-CSF than the HIV/*Mtb* co-infected animals, while this group
321 also had statistically higher amounts of IFN- γ than the *Mtb* group. All the infected groups showed
322 a decrease in IL-1R α and IL-13, compared to the uninfected control animals (**Fig. 4c**).

323 ***Mtb* infection induced pathological changes in the lungs of humanized mice.**

324 We stained the lung section with H&E staining, and we observed diffuse immune cell
325 infiltration in lung sample from *Mtb*-infected mice. In some cases, immune cell infiltration was
326 observed around a necrotic nucleus, in structures similar to TB granulomas. No such cellular
327 aggregates were detected in either the uninfected or the HIV single infection groups (**Fig. 5a**). We
328 stained lung sections from *Mtb*-infected humanized mice by immunofluorescent staining, and the

329 result showed that the cell populations surrounding the necrotic area mostly corresponded with
330 macrophages (CD68⁺), though other immune cell types, such as CD19⁺ B cells, were also found.
331 However, no granuloma structure was observed in the lung section of the uninfected mice, even
332 though a low proportion of cells expressing the human CD68⁺ and CD19⁺ surface markers was
333 observed in the lung sections from uninfected mice (**Fig. 5b**).

334 The CT scan showed an increase in high density areas in the *Mtb*-infected animals,
335 regardless of their HIV-infection status, indicating the occurrence of inflammation and other
336 pathological changes in the lungs (**Fig. 5c**). However, no significant differences were detected in
337 the pulmonary function tests between the experimental groups (**Fig. 5d**).

338 **Different plasma metabolome landscapes in healthy mice, HIV infection, *Mtb* infection and** 339 **co-infection.**

340 Plasma metabolome profiling was performed for a total of 10 samples including no
341 infection (n=3), *Mtb* infection (n=3), HIV infection (n=2), and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection (n=2).
342 Abundances of 175 metabolites were estimated. To enable comparison of metabolite abundances
343 between different samples, data was normalized across the samples. To investigate differences in
344 plasma metabolome landscape among the four categories of infection, principal components
345 analysis (PCA) was performed. PCA is an unsupervised learning method suitable for
346 dimensionality reduction of high dimensional metabolome data. Interestingly, the plasma
347 metabolome profiles are stratified according to infection status in PCA (**Fig. 6a**). Mice with no
348 infection appeared distinct from all infected mice. While the mice with infections were clustered
349 separately from healthy mice, there was a clear distinction among HIV infection alone, *Mtb*
350 infection alone, and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection. This suggests that the global plasma metabolome is
351 distinctly altered based on infection status and type. Interestingly, the samples from HIV/*Mtb* co-

352 infected mice clustered in between HIV infection alone and *Mtb* infection alone suggesting they
353 show metabolic changes common for individual infections.

354 To identify metabolites varying across the four categories, we performed OPLS-DA
355 followed by computation of VIP scores on all 175 metabolites. OPLS-DA is a supervised analysis
356 which helps in identifying variables that discriminate different categories of samples based on VIP
357 score. There were 75 metabolites with a VIP score >1 (**Supplementary Table 1**). The abundances
358 of these metabolites across all four categories were shown with hierarchical clustering (an
359 unsupervised algorithm) in **Fig. 6b**. As expected, in concordance with PCA, dendrogram of
360 hierarchical clustering showed that infection and no infection categories are distinct, while co-
361 infection stratified between the two individual infections (**Fig. 6b**).

362 To identify metabolites that are differentially abundant in HIV infection, we compared
363 healthy mice (n=3) to HIV infection mice (n=4; HIV infection alone and HIV/*Mtb* co-infection).
364 We identified 8 DAMs in HIV infection with a p value <0.05 (**Fig. 6c** and **Table 1**). Similarly, we
365 compared healthy mice (n=3) to *Mtb* infection mice (n=5; *Mtb* infection alone and HIV/*Mtb* co-
366 infection) to identify metabolites differentially abundant in *Mtb* infection which yielded 13 DAMs
367 (**Fig. 6d** and **Table 2**). Interestingly, three fatty acids, namely dodecanoic acid, palmitic acid and
368 myristic acid exhibited reduced abundance in HIV infected mice as well as *Mtb* infection mice
369 (**Table 1** and **2**).

370 **Metabolite abundances correlated with HIV and *Mtb* loads.**

371 To identify metabolites correlating with HIV or *Mtb* load with metabolites, we used
372 Pearson correlation analysis. HIV infection load (as detected by RNA copies/ml plasma) positively

373 correlated with diethanolamine ($r=0.99$), and negatively correlated with glucose 6-
374 phosphate/mannose 6-phosphate ($r=-0.95$) and imidazole acetic acid ($r=-0.92$) (**Fig. 7A**).

375 Next, we observed that *Mtb*-infected mice did not show a strong correlation ($r=0.68$)
376 between pathogen load (as measured by colony forming units per organ) in the lungs and spleens
377 (**Supplementary Fig. 2**) underscoring the heterogeneity of *Mtb* distribution in these organs of the
378 humanized mice. This is consistent with an earlier report⁴¹ showing that increase of *Mtb* load in
379 the lungs and spleens follow different trajectories over the course of infection. Therefore, we
380 analyzed the correlation between metabolites abundances and *Mtb* load in spleens and lungs
381 separately.

382 Interestingly, none of the metabolites correlated with the HIV load (shown in **Fig. 6c**)
383 exhibited correlation either positively or negatively with *Mtb* load in lung or spleen. However,
384 PC(16:0/18:1(11Z)) and lysoPC(16:0/0:0) positively correlated with *Mtb* load in lung as well as
385 spleen (**Fig. 7b**). In addition, 3-hydroxyheptanoic acid exhibited a strong negative correlation with
386 *Mtb* load in lung (**Fig. 7b**). Similarly, LysoPC(18:1/0:0) showed strong positive correlation, and
387 myristic acid, PC(20:3(5Z,8Z,11Z)/20:3(5Z,8Z,11Z)) and PC(18:2(9Z,12Z)/16:0) showed strong
388 negative correlation with *Mtb* load of the spleens (**Fig. 7c**).

389

390 DISCUSSION

391 The development of animal models is a major requirement for developing drugs and
392 vaccines for infectious diseases⁴²⁻⁴⁴. The lack of an ideal animal model can therefore delay the
393 development of intervention strategies that can improve the outcome of disease in humans. The
394 study of the interactions taking place during HIV/*Mtb* co-infection is particularly challenging due

395 to a variety of factors, related to the nature of these pathogens, and the animal models. In this study,
396 we demonstrated a reliable and reproducible small animal model for HIV/*Mtb* co-infection
397 research using humanized NSG-SGM3 mice. We show that our model can recapitulate many
398 aspects of HIV/*Mtb* co-infection in clinical settings, which will be helpful for characterizing the
399 HIV/*Mtb*-induced immunopathogenesis, and to test therapeutics and vaccines.

400 A primary concern with using the mouse models for HIV/*Mtb* co-infection studies relates
401 to the viral host range, which is naturally limited to humans and some NHPs^{45, 46}. This poses
402 restrictions on experimentation using NHPs, which require specialized infrastructure and personal
403 training that is not widely available⁸. However, this limitation has been circumvented to some
404 extent by the use of immunocompromised mice strains that can engraft human stem cells and
405 differentiate them into a variety of human immune cells, allowing for both HIV and *Mtb* infection
406 and viral replication^{14, 15, 18, 19, 47}. We show that the NSG-SGM3 mice allow stem cells to
407 differentiate into a range of immune cells becoming susceptible to HIV infection and viral
408 replication. This is due to the differentiation of human lymphoid lineage cell subsets, in particular
409 generation of CD4⁺ T cells, which are the major target for HIV infection and replication. Moreover,
410 the abundant differentiation of both lymphoid and myeloid lineage subsets allows for the
411 assessment of immunological markers of disease relevance during HIV infection, and to measure
412 vaccination-induced immune responses. A decreased CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio was observed in the
413 humanized mice following HIV-1 infection, suggesting that our model reproduced similar
414 immunological alterations observed during the natural infection of humans^{48, 49}.

415 A comparative advantage that the NSG-SGM3 mice used in the present study over the
416 previous generation of humanized mouse models is the transgenic expression of three human
417 cytokine genes that enhance the differentiation and maturation of myeloid cell lineages and

418 regulatory T cells¹⁴. This is particularly important, considering that these immune cells play
419 important roles in controlling both HIV and *Mtb* growth and also serve as the target cells for these
420 pathogens^{50-53, 54, 55}. Moreover, the presence of granulomas, which are the hallmark of *Mtb*
421 pathology, in the *Mtb*-infected humanized NSG-SGM3 mice is noteworthy, given that these
422 structures are composed of multiple human immune cell populations from different lineages, that
423 has not been seen in the C57BL/6 or BALB/c mice⁵⁶. In addition, the previously reported
424 humanized NSG-BLT mice required specialized surgical procedures in adult mice¹⁹, or the
425 handling of newborns¹⁴. The humanization of NSG-SGM3 mice only requires a single intravenous
426 injection of stem cells, which makes humanization much simpler to produce a viable small animal
427 model for HIV/*Mtb* research.

428 We further note the differential expression of multiple human cytokines by the NSG-SGM3
429 humanized mice after HIV and *Mtb* single-infection or co-infection, which indicates that the
430 reconstituted human immune cell subsets in these animals are functional and responsive during
431 the infectious process. It should be noted that many of the cytokines that showed increased levels
432 of expression in tissues after infection, were colony stimulating factors (G-CSF and GM-CSF) or
433 chemoattractants (MCP-1, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β), which have been implicated in human immune
434 response against HIV and *Mtb*⁵⁷⁻⁶². This indicates that immune cell recruitment and differentiation
435 diverge according to the immune response induced by these pathogens in our model. Moreover,
436 each tissue exhibited a different cytokine production profile. This could be due to the difference in
437 cell types present in the tissues, as well as the viral/bacterial load and its effect on the immune
438 response. In this regard, we noted that cytokine production did not increase in the lungs of the
439 *Mtb* infection group, despite having a high bacterial load confirmed by culture. This is interesting
440 and may suggest that *Mtb* suppresses lung immune responses to enhance its growth^{52, 63-65}.

441 Nevertheless, cytokine expression in spleens was increased in the *Mtb*-infected mice, indicating
442 immune activation in this organ. Similarly, the results of the Pearson correlation in plasma
443 metabolites from the HIV-infected mice likely reflect the immune modulation by the pathogen,
444 considering the positive correlation of viral load with an immunostimulatory xenobiotic
445 (diethanolamine)⁶⁶, while an inverse correlation was found with a subproduct of histamine
446 metabolism (Imidazoleacetic acid)⁶⁷. Although additional investigations are required, these results
447 suggests concurrent activation of immune response, and suppression of the inflammation
448 pathway; this coincides with earlier reports which show that histamine release is inversely
449 correlated to the number of HIV-infected CD4+ T cells in humans⁶⁸. The differences in cytokine
450 and metabolite production may also reflect different stages of disease, and further studies are
451 needed to validate these hypotheses.

452 The metabolome data also provided insight into the disruptions of the immunometabolism
453 after HIV/*Mtb* infections in the humanized mice. It is noteworthy that the majority of the DAMs
454 detected in the present study for both HIV and *Mtb* infection are fatty acids or metabolites involved
455 in their metabolism. In accordance with previous reports, triglycerides were found to be increased
456 in the plasma of HIV-infected mice, regardless of *Mtb* infection status⁶⁹. Thus,
457 Lysophosphatidylcholines (LysoPC), such as LysoPC (16:0/0:0), have been found to be increased
458 in HIV-infected individuals⁷⁰. Paradoxically, the concentration of palmitic acid (16:0), the fatty
459 acid attached to the C-1 position of LysoPC (16:0/0:0), was found to be decreased in HIV-infected
460 mice compared to the uninfected controls, suggesting a disruption in fatty acid metabolism.
461 Moreover, dodecanoic (12:0), myristic (14:0) and arachidic (20:0) acids were also decreased in the
462 HIV-infected mice, in line with a previous study that reported a reduction in free fatty acid
463 concentration in serum from people living with HIV, which increased after antiretroviral

464 treatment⁷¹. On the other hand, Pearson correlation showed an inverse relation between HIV load
465 and imidazoleacetic acid, an imidazole receptor stimulator. Given the anti-HIV potential of the
466 imidazole derivatives^{72, 73}, the higher concentration of imidazoleacetic acid may facilitate the
467 imidazole receptor binding, thus activating the imidazole-mediated anti-HIV capacity, and a lower
468 HIV load. In addition, glucose metabolic pathways in regulating HIV infection in CD4+ T cells
469 have been extensively reported^{74, 75}. HIV infection increases glucose uptake in CD4+ T cells, and
470 consequently, a higher glucose uptake by the CD4+ T cells will result in a lower concentration of
471 glucose left in the serum; therefore, it was not surprising to see a negative correlation between HIV
472 load and the metabolite glucose/mannose 6-phosphate in the serum (**Fig 7a**).

473 In the case of *Mtb* infection, multiple DAMs related to TB pathogenesis were found in the
474 plasma of infected mice (Table 2). Platelet-activating factor, increased in the *Mtb*-infected mice,
475 has been previously shown to be an important part of TB immunopathology, and present in TB
476 granulomas of humans and participating in the activation of other immune cell types during
477 infection⁷⁶. Meanwhile, N⁶-(Δ^2 -isopentenyl) adenine, a cytokinin previously thought to be
478 produced only in plants, has been recently proven to be produced by *Mtb* (thus significantly
479 increased in *Mtb*-infected mice), likely having a role in the protection of *Mtb* against nitric oxide⁷⁷.
480 Interestingly, three fatty acids (Dodecanoic acid, Myristic acid, and Palmitic acid) that were
481 decreased in the HIV-infected mice were also decreased in plasma from *Mtb*-infected humanized
482 mice, in addition to gluconic acid (6:0). The fatty acids alterations reflected the changes of
483 mitochondrial function and β -oxidation, and this also is also evidenced by the reduction of L-
484 carnitine, a metabolite necessary for the uptake of large chain fatty acids by the mitochondria⁷⁸.
485 We recall here that lipid-related metabolites have been reported to be decreased in humans co-
486 infected with HIV and *Mtb*⁷⁹. It has been reported that *Mtb* can alter lipid metabolism in

487 macrophages, reducing the rate of ATP production, while at the same time, increasing their
488 dependence on exogenous rather than endogenous fatty acids⁸⁰. We therefore propose that the
489 decrease of free fatty acids in the plasma of *Mtb*-infected animals might be related to sequestering
490 of the pathogen in the macrophages⁸¹.

491 Collectively, our study shows that the NSG-SGM3 humanized mice can efficiently engraft
492 human CD34+ stem cells which differentiate into a full lineage of functional immune cells. These
493 mice are susceptible to both HIV-1 and *Mtb* infections, and the HIV/*Mtb* infections cause similar
494 immunological, pathological, and metabolic changes in these mice as in humans. Therefore, the
495 humanized NSG-SGM3 mice recapitulate the human-like immune responses to HIV/*Mtb*
496 infections.

497

498 **Data availability**

499 All data supporting the findings of this study are available in the manuscript. If there are any
500 special requests or questions for the data, please contact the corresponding author (G.Y.).

501

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504 and performed *Mtb* infection of the humanized mice.

505

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511

512

513

514 **Contributions**

515 Guohua Yi: Conceived and guided the study, designed experiments, analyzed data, edited figures,
516 and wrote and finalized the manuscript.

517 José Alejandro Bohórquez: Designed and performed the experiments, analyzed data, made the
518 figures, and wrote the manuscript.

519 Sitaramaraju Adduri: Performed the experiments, analyzed data, made the figures, and wrote the
520 manuscript.

521 Danish Ansari: Performed the experiments.

522 Sahana John: Performed the experiments.

523 Jon Florence: Performed the experiments and analyzed data.

524 Omoyeni Adejare: Performed the experiments.

525 Gaurav Singh: Performed the experiments.

526 Nagarjun Konduru: Edited the manuscript.

527 Chinnaswamy Jagannath: Provided guidance on experimental design and edited the manuscript.

528

529 **Competing interests**

530 All the authors declare no competing interests.

531

532

533 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

534 **Figure 1. Human CD34⁺ hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) engraftment and differentiation of**

535 **human immune cells in the NSG-SGM3 mice. (A and B):** The differential expression of

536 humanCD45 (huCD45) and mouseCD45 (moCD45) expressing cells in mice after 14 weeks of

537 humanization. Percentages of human and mouse CD45⁺ cells are shown as histogram in A (n=27),

538 and the representative flow cytometry dot plot of the comparative expression of human cell surface

539 markers between the humanized NSG-SGM3 mice and human PBMCs are shown in B. (C)

540 Percentages of human immune cell populations (n=27). **(D)** representative flow cytometry dot plot
541 of T lymphocytes, B cells and myeloid cells.

542

543 **Figure 2. Establishment of HIV-1 and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) infections in**
544 **humanized mice. (A)** HIV-1 RNA load, expressed as genome copies/mL, was assessed in serum
545 samples from all experimental groups at three different timepoints of the study **(B)** *Mtb* bacterial
546 load in lungs and spleens, expressed as CFU/organ, was evaluated in all experimental groups at
547 the end of the study.

548

549 **Figure 3. Immune cell phenotype changes after HIV-1 and *Mtb* infections.**
550 HuCD45⁺/moCD45⁺ ratio **(A)** and CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio **(B)** were calculated for each infected animal
551 at different timepoints after infection. Asterisk indicates statistically significant differences
552 (p<0.05, what test)

553

554 **Figure 4. Cytokine profiles (Heatmap) in serum, lung and spleen samples.** The Bio-Plex Pro™
555 Human Cytokine panel was used in the multiplex assay to evaluate the concentrations of 27
556 different human cytokines, which are expressed as pg/ml. **(A)** Cytokine profile of lung samples.
557 **(B)** Cytokine profile of spleen samples. **(C)** Cytokine profile of serum samples. the letters under
558 the columns show differences as follows: **A:** Difference between uninfected and HIV-infected, **B:**
559 Difference between uninfected and *Mtb*-infected, **C:** difference between uninfected and HIV/*Mtb*-
560 coinfecting, **D:** Difference between HIV-infected and *Mtb*-infected, **E:** difference between HIV-
561 infected and HIV/*Mtb*-coinfecting, and **F:** Difference between *Mtb*-infected and HIV/*Mtb*-

562 coinfecting. ($p < 0.05$; unpaired T test). Note: The black color on the right of heatmap shows the far
563 high value that are out-of-range levels.

564

565 **Figure 5. Histopathological, radiological and functional changes in the lungs of NSG-SGM3**

566 **mice after HIV/*Mtb* infection and coinfection. (A)** Lung sections were obtained from formalin-
567 fixed tissues of animals in all experimental groups (one animal for each group) and subjected to
568 hematoxylin-eosin staining, two different amplifications are shown. **(B)** Immunofluorescence
569 staining of surface markers for human macrophages (CD68-Alexafluor 568, in orange) and B-cells
570 (CD19-Alexa 488, in green) in lung sections from uninfected and *Mtb*-infected mice. DAPI-
571 supplemented mounting buffer (in blue) was used for nuclei staining. **(C)** Representative 3D
572 renditions of CT scan and lung volume pictures obtained from animals in all experimental groups.
573 **(D)** Pulmonary function test parameters: Resistance (Rrs), compliance (Crs) and elastance (Ers),
574 were collected from animals in all experimental groups at the end of the trial (Uninfected: n=5;
575 HIV-infected: n=8; *Mtb*-infected: n=8; HIV/*Mtb*-co-infected: n=7).

576

577 **Figure 6. Metabolomics analysis of the plasma from healthy and HIV and/or *Mtb*-infected**

578 **humanized mice. (A)** Principal components analysis of plasma metabolome profiles of mice from
579 no infection (n=3), *Mtb* infection (n=3), HIV infection (n=2), and dual infection (n=2) categories.
580 Two principal components were selected to plot a two-dimensional graph to depict variation across
581 the sample categories. Variance explained by each of the two components was given in parenthesis.
582 **(B)** Heatmap showing abundances of 75 metabolites with a VIP score > 1 computed in OPLS-DA
583 on plasma metabolome profiles of mice from no infection (n=3), *Mtb* infection (n=3), HIV

584 infection (n=2), and dual infection (n=2) categories. Normalized data was scaled using univariate
585 scaling. Hierarchical clustering was performed using correlation to calculate clustering distance
586 with averaging method for clustering. **(C and D)** Heatmap showing differentially abundant
587 metabolites in **(C)** HIV infection and **(D)** *Mtb* infection compared with healthy mice. Normalized
588 data was scaled using univariate scaling. Hierarchical clustering was performed using correlation
589 to calculate clustering distance with averaging method for clustering.

590

591 **Figure 7. Scatter plots show Pearson correlation between metabolites and HIV/*Mtb* load in**
592 **mice. (A)** Pearson correlation between metabolites and serum HIV load (viral copies/ml). **(B)**
593 Pearson correlation between metabolites and *Mtb* load in lungs (CFU/lung). **(C)** Pearson
594 correlation between metabolites and *Mtb* load in spleens (CFU/spleen). Y axis shows normalized
595 metabolites abundance values. Dotted curves show 95% confidence interval of model fit. *r* denotes
596 Pearson correlation coefficient.

597

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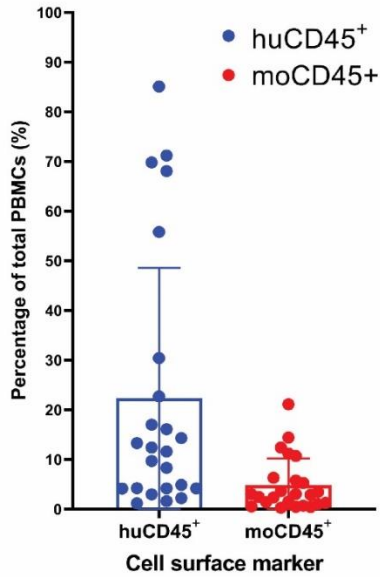
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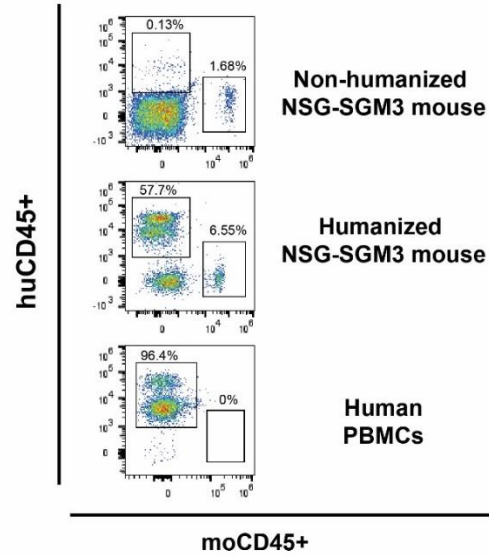
602 **Figures:**

603 **Figure 1.**

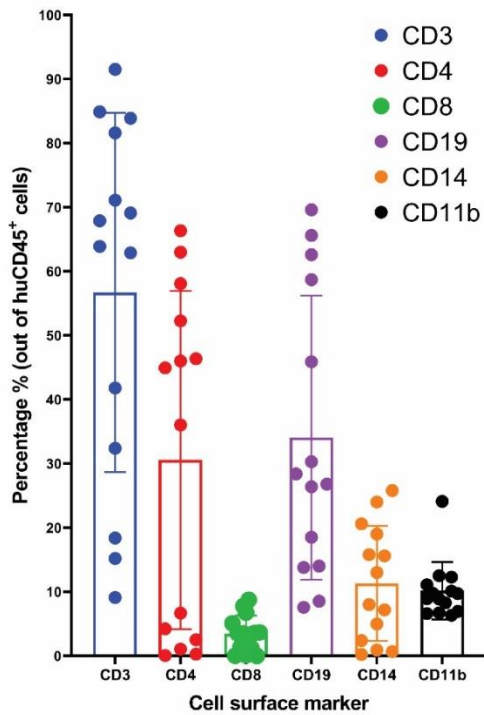
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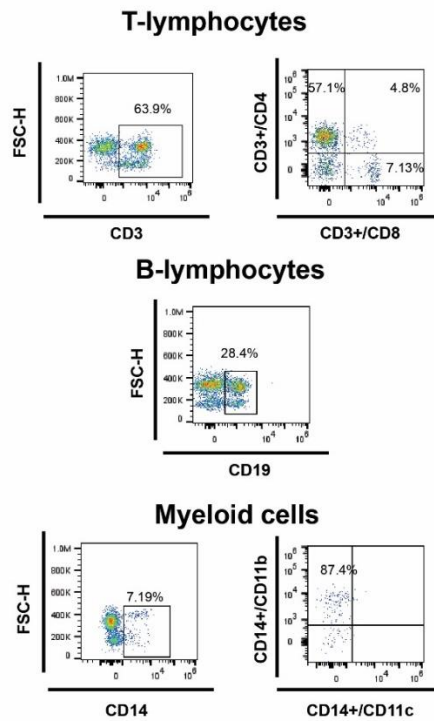
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C)

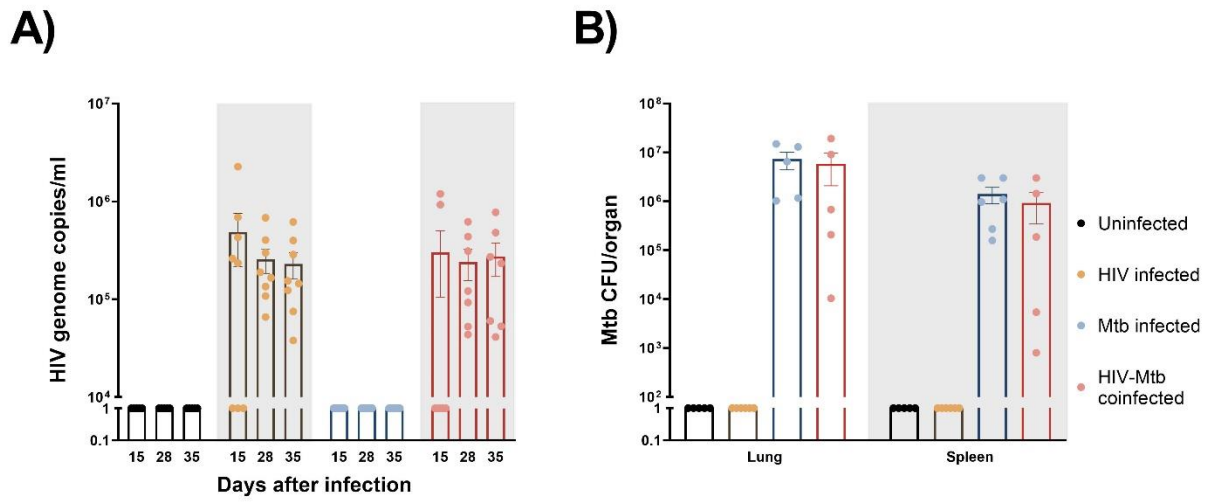


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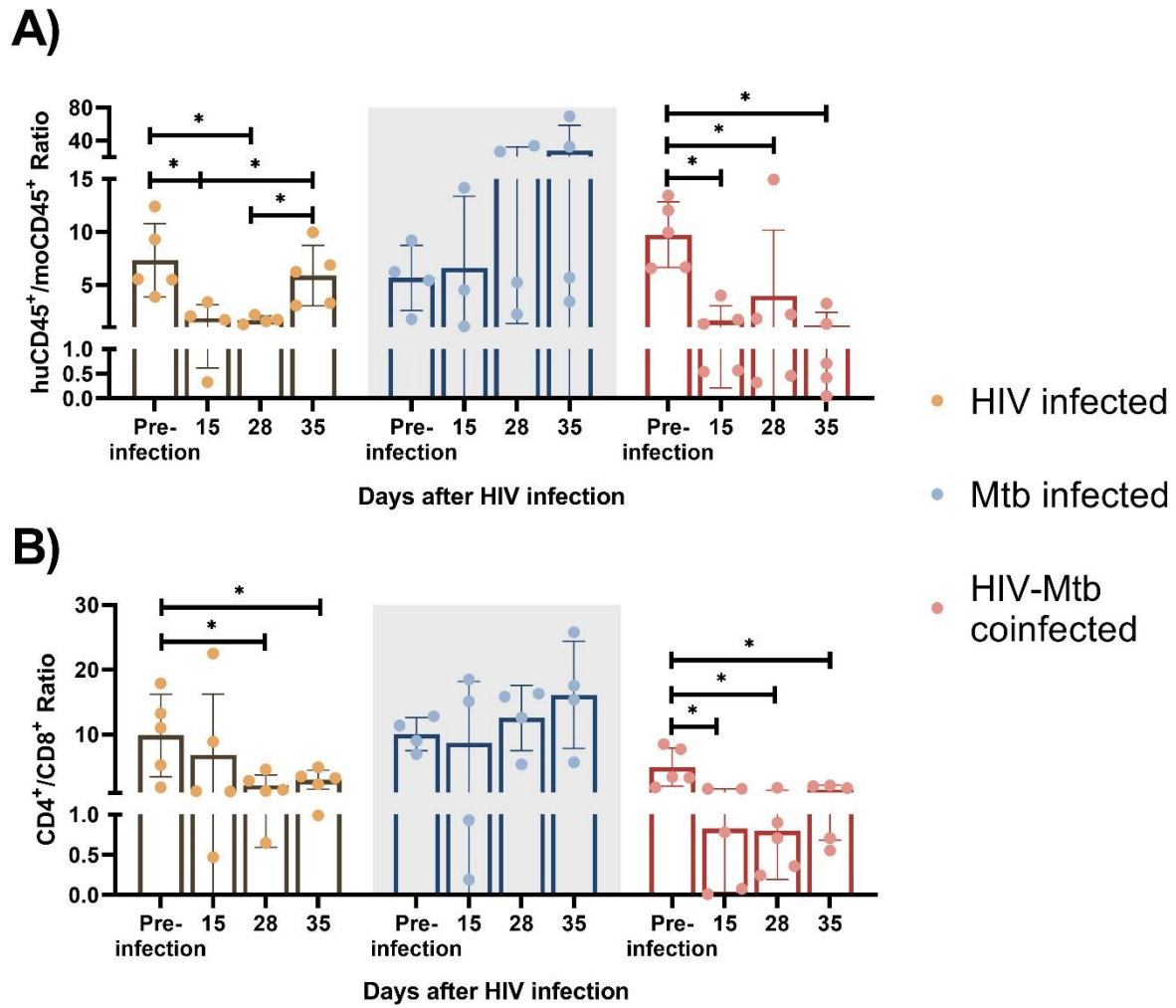
605 **Figure 2.**



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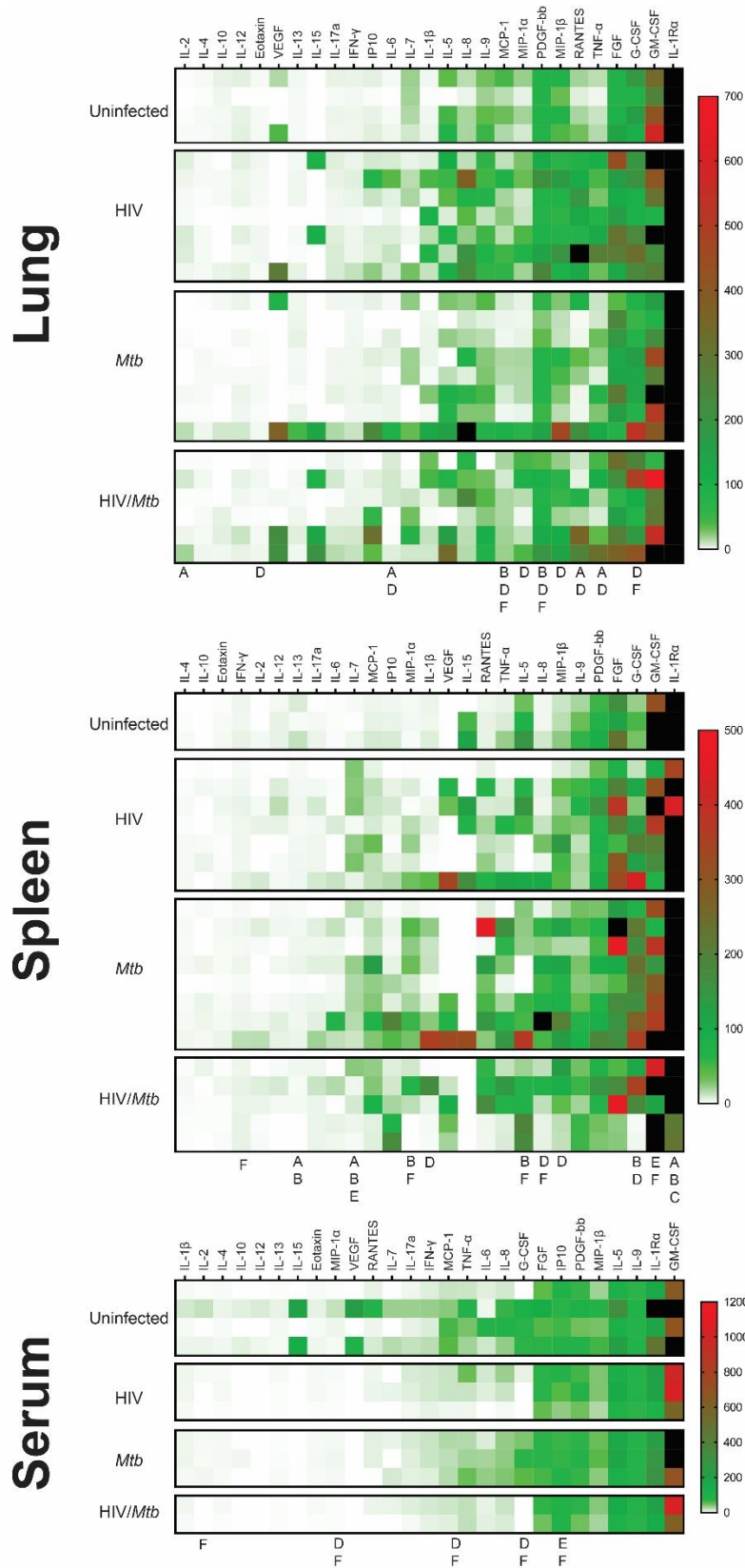
608 **Figure 3.**



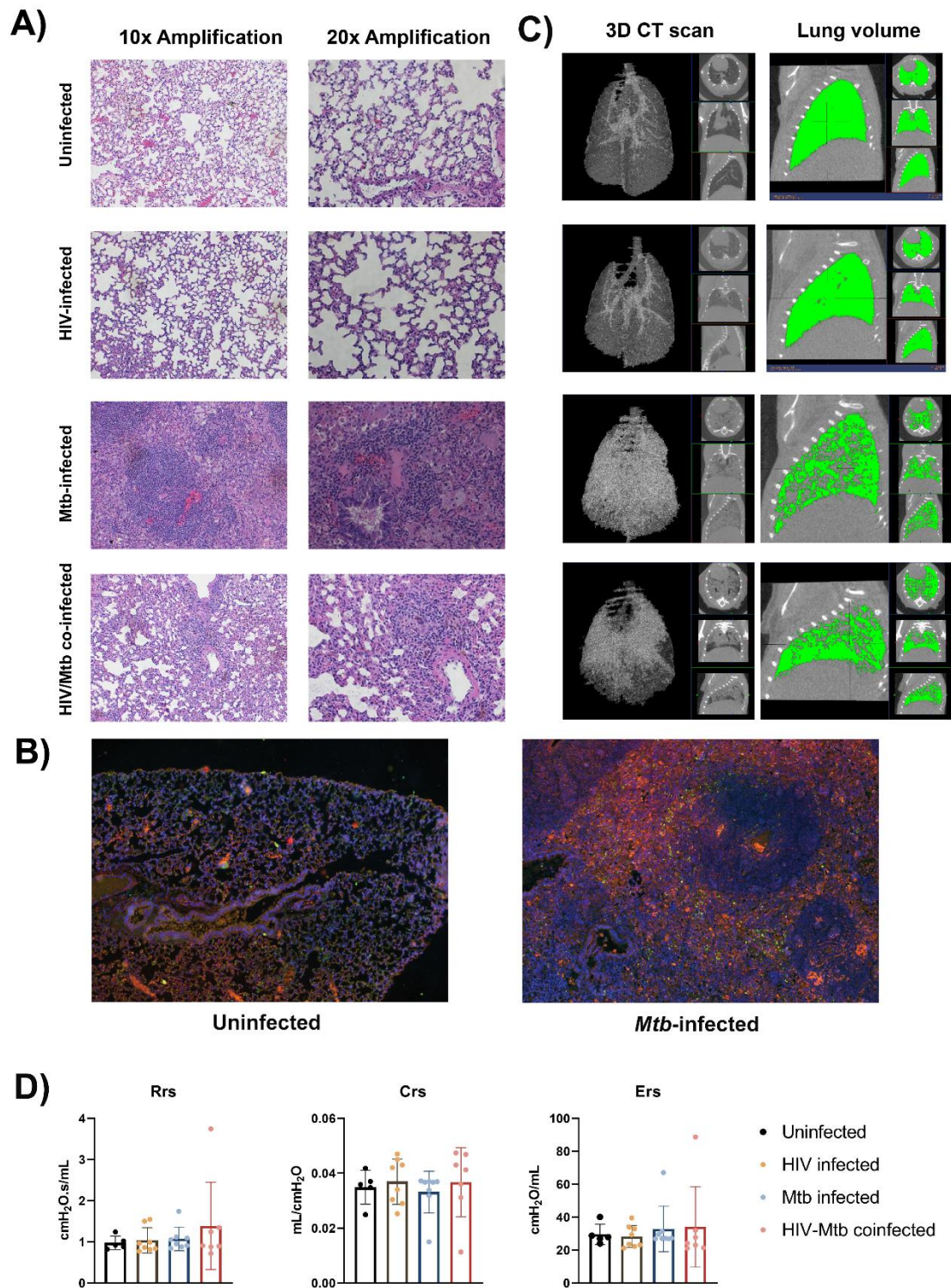
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611 **Figure 4.**



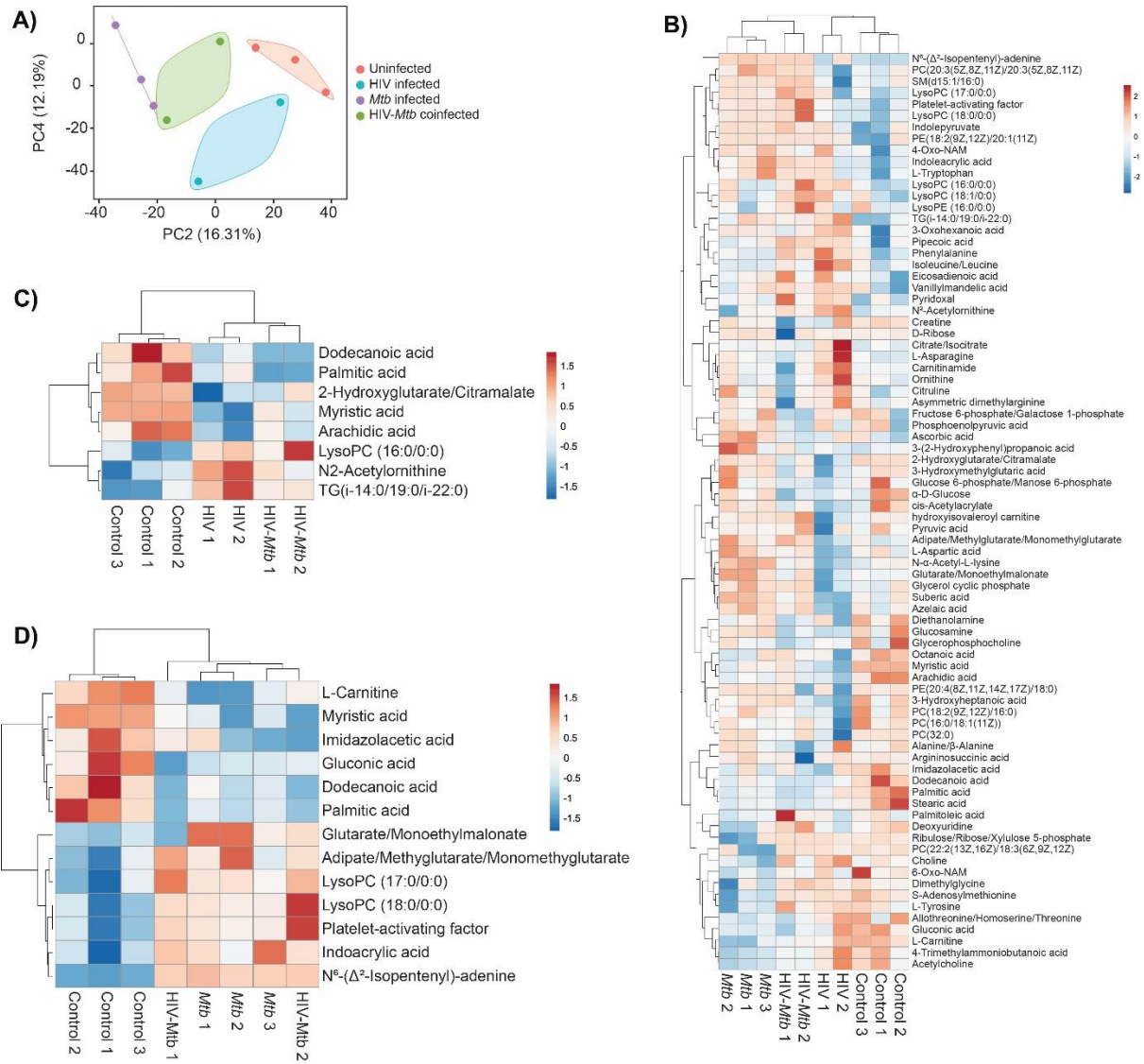
613 **Figure 5.**



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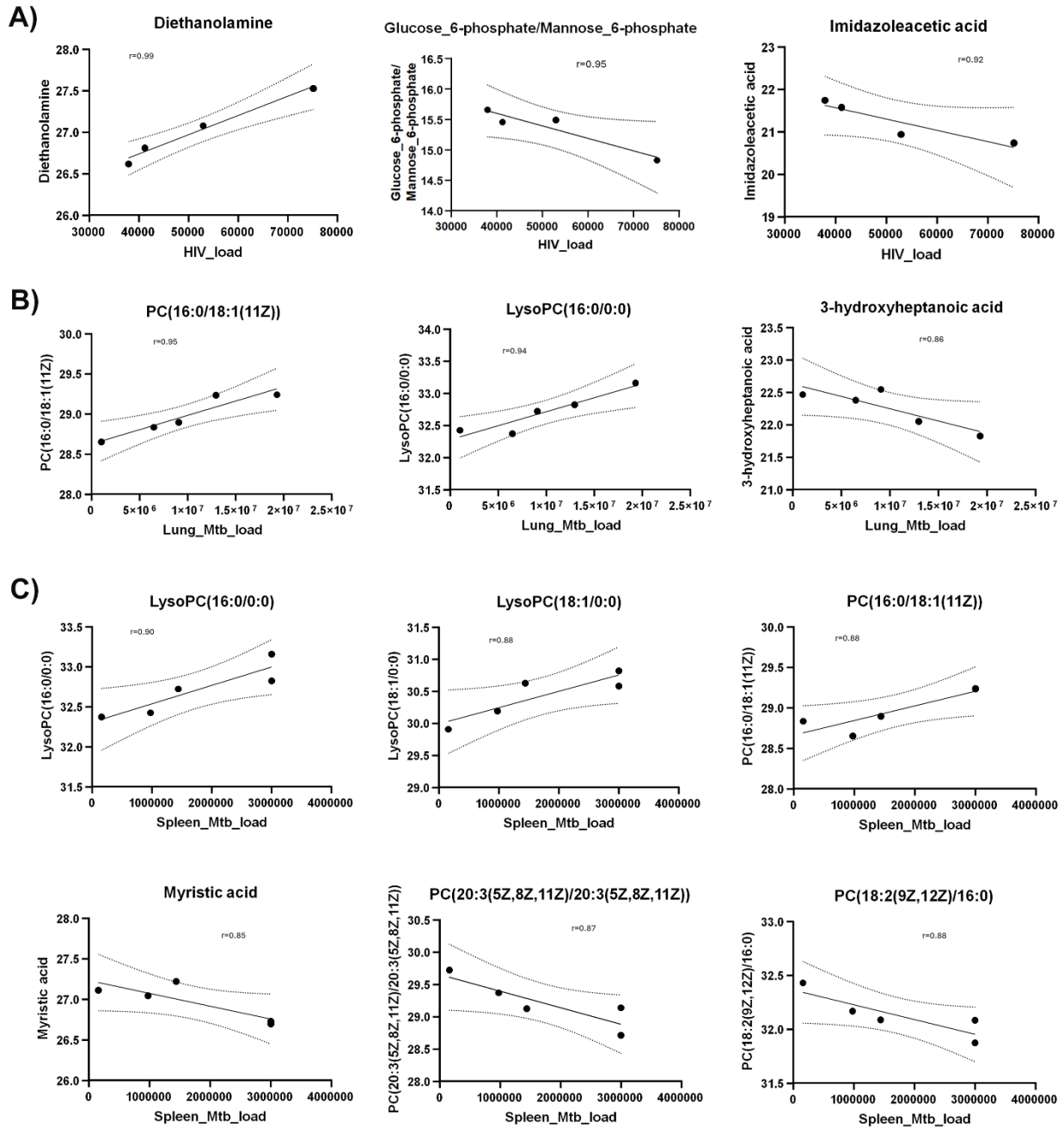
616 **Figure 6.**



617

618

619 **Figure 7.**



620

621

622 **Table 1: Metabolites differentially abundant in HIV infection.**

	Control_1	Control_2	Control_3	HIV_1	HIV_2	HIV.Mtb_1	HIV.Mtb_2	Log2FC	P Values
Dodecanoic acid	30.84885	29.48828	29.18148	27.5704	28.27857	27.25359	27.25838	-2.2493	0.030561
Myristic acid	27.62307	27.64284	27.60289	26.46469	26.14845	27.22307	26.72852	-0.98175	0.022716
Arachidic acid	26.34177	26.28904	25.58546	25.05928	24.64442	25.58284	25.14256	-0.96481	0.033856
Palmitic acid	32.91019	33.14279	32.61936	32.21672	32.58976	31.93621	31.97329	-0.71178	0.022067
2-Hydroxyglutarate/Citramalate	25.06593	25.04706	25.11372	24.06289	24.50181	24.48949	24.90492	-0.58579	0.04128
N2-Acetylornithine	21.69086	21.75382	21.41989	22.18159	22.33382	22.04002	21.82825	0.474396	0.024962
LysoPC(16:0/0:0)	32.25447	32.3347	32.58121	32.82015	32.90289	32.72403	33.16134	0.511976	0.014624
TG(i-14:0/19:0/i-22:0)	26.03645	26.48443	26.03211	26.84162	27.13346	26.63223	26.67844	0.637108	0.02702

623

624

625 **Table 2: Metabolites differentially abundant in Mtb infection**

	Control_			HIV.Mtb_			HIV.Mtb_		Log2FC P Values	
	Control_1	Control_2	Control_3	Mtb_1	Mtb_2	Mtb_3	1	2		
Dodecanoic acid	30.84885	29.48828	29.18148	28.63719	27.70525	28.08153	27.25359	27.25838	-2.05235	0.036073
L-Carnitine	29.48852	29.10614	29.56318	27.76163	27.77312	28.5133	28.5302	28.77454	-1.11539	0.004612
Gluconic acid	27.48128	26.69745	27.25191	26.19547	26.24986	26.29529	25.81699	26.40603	-0.95082	0.038034
Palmitic acid	32.91019	33.14279	32.61936	32.25708	32.07672	32.22627	31.93621	31.97329	-0.79686	0.020473
Myristic acid	27.62307	27.64284	27.60289	27.11416	26.69864	27.04336	27.22307	26.72852	-0.66138	0.003101
Imidazoleacetic acid	22.10264	21.58731	21.79266	21.68153	21.05739	20.98498	21.58037	20.94255	-0.57817	0.040855
Glutarate/Monoethylmalonate	23.40639	23.4395	23.50502	23.97748	23.97929	23.69304	23.38075	23.76985	2	0.046714
Adipate/Methylglutarate/Monomethylglutarate	22.09507	22.23793	22.42262	22.54096	22.81072	22.38233	22.71625	22.58343	2	0.037601
Indoleacrylic acid	25.11462	25.54944	25.52602	25.9564	25.74232	26.24451	26.02944	25.90877	7	0.031357
LysoPC(18:0/0:0)	30.93056	31.40324	31.21889	31.77792	31.69742	31.71439	31.8485	32.31356	0.68613	0.014163
Platelet-activating factor	30.90966	31.38026	31.20963	31.7655	31.68164	31.70822	31.88227	32.29686	0.70038	0.013158
LysoPC(17:0/0:0)	26.47687	26.82401	27.24183	27.52935	27.56634	27.37764	27.9864	27.78227	0.80083	0.048066
N6-(delta2-Isopentenyl)-adenine	-20.6891	-18.9004	-18.5067	10.33699	7.60551	8.233653	8.368181	8.958558	7	5.36E-06

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