

1 **The combination of three CD4-induced antibodies targeting highly conserved Env regions**
2 **with a small CD4-mimetic achieves potent ADCC activity**

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44 **ABSTRACT**

45 The majority of naturally-elicited antibodies against the HIV-1 envelope glycoproteins (Env) are
46 non-neutralizing (nnAbs), because they are unable to recognize the Env trimer in its native “closed”
47 conformation. Nevertheless, it has been shown that nnAbs have the potential to eliminate HIV-1-
48 infected cells by Antibody-Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity (ADCC) provided that Env is present
49 on the cell surface in its “open” conformation. This is because most nnAbs recognize epitopes that
50 become accessible only after Env interaction with CD4 and the exposure of epitopes that are
51 normally occluded in the closed trimer. HIV-1 limits this vulnerability by downregulating CD4
52 from the surface of infected cells, thus preventing a premature encounter of Env with CD4. Small
53 CD4-mimetics (CD4mc) sensitize HIV-1-infected cells to ADCC by opening the Env glycoprotein
54 and exposing CD4-induced (CD4i) epitopes. There are two families of CD4i nnAbs, termed anti-
55 cluster A and anti-CoRBS Abs, which are known to mediate ADCC in the presence of CD4mc.
56 Here, we performed Fab competition experiments and found that anti-gp41 cluster I antibodies
57 comprise a major fraction of the plasma ADCC activity in people living with HIV (PLWH).
58 Moreover, addition of gp41 cluster I antibodies to cluster A and CoRBS antibodies greatly
59 enhanced ADCC mediated cell killing in the presence of a potent indoline CD4mc, CJF-III-288.
60 This cocktail outperformed broadly-neutralizing antibodies and even showed activity against HIV-
61 1 infected monocyte-derived macrophages. Thus, combining CD4i antibodies with different
62 specificities achieves maximal ADCC activity, which may be of utility in HIV cure strategies.

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67 **IMPORTANCE**

68 The elimination of HIV-1-infected cells remains an important medical goal. While current
69 antiretroviral therapy decreases viral loads below detection levels, it does not eliminate latently
70 infected cells which form the viral reservoir. Here, we developed a cocktail of non-neutralizing
71 antibodies targeting highly conserved Env regions and combined it with a potent indoline CD4mc.
72 This combination exhibited very potent ADCC activity against HIV-1-infected primary CD4+ T
73 cells as well as monocyte-derived macrophages, suggesting its potential utility in decreasing the
74 size of the viral reservoir.

75

76 INTRODUCTION

77 The HIV-1 envelope glycoproteins (Env) mediate viral entry into the host cell by
78 sequentially interacting with the CD4 receptor and co-receptor CCR5 or CXCR4 (1-5). Env is
79 synthesized as a gp160 precursor in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) where it trimerizes and gets
80 glycosylated (6, 7). Env is subsequently cleaved into gp120 and gp41 subunits during its transit
81 through the Golgi apparatus (8-10). Mature HIV-1 Envs are expressed at the surface of infected
82 cells for incorporation into viral particles. Env is a trimeric protein complex that samples different
83 conformations; the pre-fusion “closed” State-1 Env conformation has the highest energy and is
84 preferentially adopted by most primary isolates (11). Engagement of one Env protomer with the
85 CD4 receptor triggers the transition from State-1 to a partially open intermediate conformation
86 State-2, which decreases the energy barrier (12-14). Binding of two or three Env protomers to CD4
87 stabilizes the fully “open” State-3 CD4-bound Env conformation (14). These Env conformations
88 are targeted by different families of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) isolated from People Living
89 With HIV (PLWH). Broadly-neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) preferentially bind the “closed”
90 State-1 conformation (11, 15-17), while non-neutralizing antibodies (nnAbs) bind normally
91 occluded epitopes that become exposed only after Env adopts the CD4 induced (CD4i) “open”
92 conformation (18, 19). While few individuals develop potent bNAbs, nnAbs are readily elicited
93 upon infection and are present in most PLWH (19-23). Since nnAbs mediate potent antibody-
94 dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) upon binding to “open” Env (19, 24-28), one strategy is
95 to use CD4-mimetic compounds (CD4mcs) to induce conformational changes in Env similar to
96 those that occur upon CD4 binding. These small molecule inhibitors were originally developed to
97 sterically block Env - CD4 interaction. Here we show that CD4mcs are capable of “opening” Env

98 and expose CD4i epitopes recognized by nnAbs naturally present in the plasma from PLWH (23-
99 25, 29, 30), thus allowing the ADCC-mediated elimination of HIV-1-infected cells.

100

101 The opening of Env by CD4mc is a multi-step process, where the initial contact of CD4mc
102 within the Phe43 cavity of the gp120 unmasks the co-receptor binding site (CoRBS) (24). Binding
103 of anti-CoRBS Abs induces further conformational changes, exposing the inner domain layers 1
104 and 2 of gp120, which are recognized by anti-cluster A Abs (24, 31-35). The combination of the
105 indane CD4mc BNM-III-170, anti-CoRBS Abs and anti-cluster A Abs stabilizes an asymmetric
106 intermediate Env conformation, State2A (36), which was associated with increased ADCC
107 responses *in vitro* and Fc-effector functions *in-vivo* (24, 36, 37). In humanized mice, this cocktail
108 was shown to reduce the size of HIV-1 reservoir and delay viral rebound after antiretroviral therapy
109 interruption (ARTi) (37).

110

111 An indoline-based CD4mc, CJF-III-288, with superior neutralization and ADCC activities
112 compared to indane-based CD4mc was recently generated (38). We also identified anti-gp41
113 cluster I antibodies as an additional family of ADCC mediating nnAbs in the plasma from PLWH
114 (22, 23). Here, we tested a combination of anti-cluster A, anti-CoRBS and anti-gp41 cluster I
115 mAbs together with CJF-III-288 and found that this cocktail outperformed all previous ones with
116 respect to eliminating HIV-1-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells by ADCC. Remarkably, this
117 combination also had greater ADCC activity than a panel of well-characterized bNAbs and was
118 able to eliminate HIV-1-infected monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs). Detailed mechanistic
119 analysis by smFRET imaging of Env conformations showed that this cocktail destabilized State 1
120 and promoted downstream open conformations, including State2A, which is known to support

121 ADCC activity by anti-cluster A mAbs (36). The extent of conformational changes was greater
122 than what was reported for previous nnAb cocktails, further supporting the link between the degree
123 of “Env openness” and ADCC.

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126 MATERIALS AND METHODS

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128 Ethics statement

129 Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants, and the research adhered to the
130 ethical guidelines of CRCHUM and was reviewed and approved by the CRCHUM Institutional
131 Review Board (Ethics Committee approval number MP-02-2024-11734). The research adhered to
132 the standards indicated by the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants were adults and provided
133 informed written consent prior to enrollment, in accordance with the Institutional Review Board
134 approval.

135

136 Primary cells

137 CD4 T lymphocytes were purified from resting peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) by
138 negative selection and activated as previously described (25). Briefly, PBMCs were obtained by
139 leukapheresis from 5 healthy non-infected adults (4 males, 1 female). CD4⁺ T lymphocytes were
140 purified using immunomagnetic beads as per the manufacturer's instructions (StemCell
141 Technologies). CD4⁺ T lymphocytes were activated with phytohemagglutinin-L (PHA-L, 10 µg/
142 mL) for 48 hours and then maintained in RPMI 1640 complete medium supplemented with
143 recombinant IL-2 (100 U/mL). MDMs growing was performed as previously described (39).
144 Briefly, PBMCs were thawed, and monocytes were isolated by plate adherence in 10 cm petri
145 dishes (Sarstedt) for 30 min in Iscove's modified Dulbecco medium (IMDM). Non-adherent cells
146 were collected while adherent cells were washed extensively in serum free media and allowed to
147 differentiate to macrophages for seven days in IMDM supplemented with 100 U/mL of penicillin-
148 streptomycin and 10% heat-inactivated pooled human sera (Valley Biomedicals), with a half media

149 change at day 3 post-isolation.

150

151 **Plasmids and proviral constructs**

152 Infectious molecular clones (IMCs) of the Transmitted/Founder (TF) viruses CH058, CH077, and
153 CH040 were previously described (25, 40-43). IMC encoding HIV-1 reference strains JR-FL, JR-
154 CSF and AD8 were described elsewhere (44-46). The vesicular stomatitis virus G (VSV-G)-
155 encoding plasmid was previously described (47)

156

157 **Viral production, infections and *ex-vivo* amplification**

158 For *in vitro* infection, vesicular stomatitis virus G (VSV-G)-pseudotyped HIV-1 viruses were
159 produced by co-transfection of HEK293T cells with an HIV-1 proviral construct and a VSV-G-
160 encoding vector using the PEI reagent (Polysciences). Two days post-transfection, cell
161 supernatants were harvested, clarified by low-speed centrifugation ($300 \times g$ for 5 min), and
162 concentrated by ultracentrifugation at 4°C ($100,605 \times g$ for 1 h) over a 20% sucrose cushion.
163 Pellets were resuspended in fresh RPMI, and aliquots were stored at -80°C until use. To achieve
164 a similar level of infection in primary CD4⁺ T cells among the different IMCs tested, VSV-G-
165 pseudotyped HIV-1 viruses were produced and titrated as previously described (18, 25). Viruses
166 were then used to infect activated primary CD4⁺ T cells from healthy HIV-1 negative donors by
167 spin infection at $800 \times g$ for 1 h in 96-well plates at 25°C . To expand endogenously infected CD4⁺
168 T cells, primary CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from PBMCs obtained from ART-treated HIV-1-
169 infected individuals by negative selection. Purified CD4⁺ T cells were activated with PHA-L at
170 $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ for 48 h and then cultured for up to 14 days in RPMI 1640 complete medium
171 supplemented with rIL-2 ($100 \text{ U}/\text{mL}$) to reach greater than 5% infection for the ADCC assay. All

172 experiments using VSV-G-pseudotyped HIV-1 isolates or *ex-vivo* amplifications were done in a
173 biosafety level 3 laboratory following manipulation protocols accepted by the CRCHUM
174 Biosafety Committee, which respects the requirements of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

175

176 **Antibody production**

177 FreeStyle 293F cells (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were grown in FreeStyle 293F medium (Thermo
178 Fisher Scientific) to a density of 1×10^6 cells/mL at 37°C with 8% CO₂ with regular agitation
179 (150 rpm). Cells were transfected with plasmids expressing the light (LC) and heavy chains (HC)
180 of a given antibody using ExpiFectamine 293 transfection reagent, as directed by the manufacturer
181 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). One week later, the cells were pelleted and discarded. The supernatants
182 were filtered (0.22- μ m-pore-size filter), and antibodies were purified by protein A affinity
183 columns, as directed by the manufacturer (Cytiva, Marlborough, MA, USA). Antibodies were
184 dialyzed against phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and stored in aliquots at -80°C. To assess purity,
185 antibodies were loaded on SDS-PAGE polyacrylamide gels in the presence or absence of β -
186 mercaptoethanol and stained with Coomassie blue. The anti-cluster A, anti-CoRBS and anti-gp41
187 Fab fragments were prepared from purified IgG (10 mg/mL) by proteolytic digestion with
188 immobilized papain (Pierce, Rockford, IL) and purified using protein A, followed by gel filtration
189 chromatography on a Superdex 200 16/60 column (Cytiva).

190

191 **Antibodies**

192 The following antibodies were used to assess cell-surface Env staining and ADCC response: anti-
193 cluster A A32 (plasmids for HC and LC were kindly provided by James Robinson); anti-CoRBS
194 17b (plasmids for HC and LC were kindly provided by James Robinson); anti-gp41 nnAb 246D

195 (plasmids for HC, Cat#13741 and LC, Cat#13742 were provided by NIH AIDS Reagent Program
196 (48)); anti-nnAb F240 (plasmids for HC and LC were previously described (49)); QA255-067
197 (kindly provided by Julie Overbaugh); M785U1 (50). bNAbs anti-gp41 MPER 10E8 (plasmids for
198 HC, Cat#12290 and LC, Cat#12291 were provided by NIH AIDS Reagent Program (51)); 4E10
199 (plasmids for HC and LC were provided by NIH AIDS Reagent Program (52)). bNAb N6
200 (plasmids for HC, Cat#12967 and LC, Cat#12966 were provided by NIH AIDS Reagent Program
201 (53)); VRC01(plasmids for HC, Cat#12035 and LC, Cat#12036 were provided by NIH AIDS
202 Reagent Program (54)); PGT121 was provided by IAVI (55); 3BNC117 and 10-1074 (plasmids
203 for HC and LC were kindly provided by Michel C. Nussenzweig (56, 57)). The L234A/L235A
204 (LALA) mutations were introduced in the HC plasmids of A32, 17b, and 246D using the
205 QuikChange II XL site-directed mutagenesis protocol. Goat anti-human IgG (H + L) (Thermo
206 Fisher Scientific) or Goat anti-Human IgG Fc recombinant (ThermoFisher Scientific) antibodies
207 were pre-coupled to Alexa Fluor 647 and used as secondary antibody in flow cytometry
208 experiments. The panel of anti-HIV antibodies were conjugated with AF647 probe (Sigma
209 Aldrich) as per the manufacturer instructions and used for cell-surface staining of HIV-1-infected
210 MDMs. Mouse anti-human CD4 (Clone OKT4, FITC-conjugated; Biolegend, San Diego, CA,
211 USA) and anti-p24 mAb (clone KC57; PE-Conjugated; Beckman Coulter) or Mouse anti-human
212 CD4 (Clone OKT4, PE-conjugated; Biolegend, San Diego, CA, USA) and anti-p24 mAb (clone
213 KC57; FITC-Conjugated; Beckman Coulter) were used to identify the productively-infected cells
214 as previously described (58).

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218 **Small CD4-mimetics**

219 The small-molecule CD4-mimetic compound (CD4mc) CJF-III-288 was synthesized as described
220 previously (38). The compound was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at a stock
221 concentration of 10 mM and diluted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for cell-surface staining
222 or in RPMI-1640 complete medium for ADCC assays.

223

224 **Flow cytometry analysis of cell-surface staining**

225 Cell-surface staining of infected primary CD4⁺ T cells was performed 48h post-infection, as
226 previously described (24, 25). Infected CD4⁺ T cells were incubated for 30 min at 37°C with anti-
227 Env mAbs (5 µg/mL) or with plasma (dilution 1:1000). Cells were then washed once with PBS
228 and stained with the anti-human Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated secondary antibody (2 µg/mL),
229 AquaVivid (1:1000) and anti-CD4 FITC or PE conjugated mouse anti-CD4 Abs (1:1000) for 20
230 min at room temperature. After one more PBS wash, cells were fixed in a 2% PBS-formaldehyde
231 solution. Alternatively, cells were pre-incubated with anti-cluster A, anti-CoRBS and anti-gp41
232 Fab fragment at 10µg/mL in the presence of CJF-III-288 before a subsequent incubation with
233 PLWH plasma. Alexa Fluor 647 conjugated anti-human IgG Fc secondary antibodies (Invitrogen)
234 (1:1500) were used to measure plasma binding in this context. Infected cells were then
235 permeabilized using the Cytofix/Cytoperm Fixation/Permeabilization Kit (BD Biosciences,
236 Mississauga, ON, Canada) and stained intracellularly using PE-conjugated mouse anti-p24 mAb
237 or using PE of FITC-conjugated mouse anti-p24 mAb (clone KC57; Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA,
238 USA; 1:100 dilution). Cell-surface staining of infected primary MDMs cells was performed five
239 days post-infection, as previously described (39). Cells were washed in PBS, incubated in 10 mM
240 EDTA for 30 min at Room Temperature, detached and transferred to 96-well V-bottom plates

241 (Corning; Cat # 0877126). Cells were then washed twice in PBS. Prior to staining with antibodies,
242 macrophages were incubated with 10% human sera (Valley Biomedicals) and 2% FcBlock
243 (Miltenyi) in FACS buffer (1% BSA, 1mM EDTA in PBS) for 10 min. Following Fc blocking,
244 macrophages were resuspended in 1% BSA and incubated with anti-Env antibodies pre-coupled
245 to AF647 fluorophore (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at RT. Cells were then washed twice with FACS
246 buffer, fixed with 2% Paraformaldehyde (PFA). Infected cells were then permeabilized using the
247 Cytotfix/Cytoperm Fixation/Permeabilization Kit (BD Biosciences, Mississauga, ON, Canada) and
248 stained intracellularly using FITC-conjugated mouse anti-p24 mAb (clone KC57; Beckman
249 Coulter, Brea, CA, USA; 1:100 dilution). The percentage of productively infected cells (p24⁺) was
250 determined by gating on the p24⁺/CD4⁻ living cell population using a viability dye staining (Aqua
251 Vivid, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Samples were acquired on Fortessa cytometer (BD Biosciences),
252 and data analysis was performed using FlowJo v10.5.3 (Tree Star, Ashland, OR, USA).

253

254 **FACS-based ADCC assay**

255 Measurement of ADCC using a fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS)-based infected cell
256 elimination (ICE) assay was performed at 48h post-infection. Briefly, HIV-1-infected primary
257 cells were stained with AquaVivid viability dye and cell proliferation dye eFluor670 (Thermo
258 Fisher Scientific) and used as target cells. Cryopreserved autologous PBMC effectors cells, stained
259 with cell proliferation dye eFluor450 (Thermo Fisher Scientific), were added at an effector: target
260 ratio of 10:1 in 96-well V-bottom plates (Corning, Corning, NY). Target cells were treated with
261 either DMSO or CJF-III-288 at indicated concentrations. A 1:1000 final dilution of plasma or 5
262 µg/mL of anti-Env mAbs was added to appropriate wells and cells were incubated for 5 min at
263 room temperature. The plates were subsequently centrifuged for 1 min at 300 × g, and incubated

264 at 37°C, 5% CO₂ for 5 h before being fixed in a 2% PBS-formaldehyde solution. Productively-
265 infected cells were identified by intracellular p24 and cell-surface CD4 staining as previously
266 described (58). Samples were acquired on Fortessa cytometer (BD Biosciences) and data analysis
267 was performed using FlowJo v10.5.3 (Tree Star). The percentage of ADCC was calculated with
268 the following formula: [(% of p24 +CD4⁻ cells in Targets plus Effectors) – (% of p24 +CD4⁻ cells
269 in Targets plus Effectors plus plasma or nnAbs)/(% of p24 +CD4⁻ cells in Targets) × 100] by
270 gating on infected lived target cells.

271

272 **Pseudovirions production and fluorescent labelling for smFRET Imaging**

273 For smFRET imaging, pseudovirions were produced using HEK293T FirB cell line (59), which
274 have high furin expression. This cell line was a kind gift from Dr. Theodore C. Pierson (Emerging
275 Respiratory Virus section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, NIH, Bethesda, MD), and was
276 cultured in DMEM (Gibco ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) supplemented with
277 10% (v/v) cosmic calf serum (Hyclone, Cytiva Life Sciences, Marlborough, MA, USA), 100 U/ml
278 penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, and 1 mM glutamine (Gibco, ThermoFisher Scientific,
279 Waltham, MA, USA) at 37°C, 5% CO₂.

280 HIV-1_{JR-FL} Env pseudo-typed virions with a single gp120 domain bearing the non-natural
281 amino acid TCO* (SiChem GmbH, Bremen, Germany) substituting the residue N135 in V1 loop
282 and the insertion of the A1 peptide (GDSLDMLEWSLM) in V4 loop (V4-A1) were generated,
283 purified, and fluorescently labeled as previously described (16) with minor modifications. Briefly,
284 pNL4-3 ΔEnv ΔRT plasmid, and a 20:1 mass ratio of wild-type HIV-1_{JR-FL} gp160 plasmid to gp160
285 engineered to have both an amber (TAG) stop codon substituting the N135 residue in V1 loop to
286 introduce the non-natural amino acid TCO*, and V4-A1 peptide, were co-transfected together with

287 the plasmids NESPyIRS^{AF}/hU6tRNA^{PyI} and eRF1-E55D (60) in HEK293T FirB cells (59) and in
288 presence of 0.5 mM TCO* as previously described (61-63). Viruses were collected 48 hours post-
289 transfection and pelleted in DPBS over a 10% sucrose cushion at 25,000 RPM for 2 hours using a
290 SW32Ti rotor (Beckman Coulter Life Sciences, Brea, CA, USA). Virus pellet was then
291 resuspended in labeling buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.0, 10 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM MgCl₂), and
292 incubated overnight at room temperature with 5 μM LD650-coenzyme A (Lumidyne
293 Technologies, New York, NY, USA), and 5 μM acyl carrier protein synthase (AcpS), which labels
294 the A1 peptide present in Env as described (11, 16, 36). Then, the virus was incubated with 0.5
295 μM Cy3-tetrazine (Jena Biosciences, Jena, Germany) for 30 min at room temperature. 60 μM
296 DSPE-PEG2000-biotin (Avanti Polar Lipids, Alabaster, AL, USA) was then added to the labelling
297 reaction and incubated for additional 30 min at room temperature before labeled-virus purification
298 through ultracentrifugation for 1 hour at 35,000 RPM using a rotor SW40Ti (Beckman Coulter
299 Life Sciences, Brea, CA, USA), at 4 °C in a 6–30% OptiPrep (Sigma-Aldrich, MilliporeSigma,
300 Burlington, MA, USA) density gradient. Labelled pseudovirions were collected, aliquoted,
301 analyzed by western blot, and stored at -80°C until their use in imaging experiments.

302

303 **smFRET Imaging**

304 Labelled pseudovirions previously incubated with 100 μM CJF-III-288 (38), and 50 μg/ml of each
305 17b and A32 monoclonal antibodies, or with the same concentrations of CJF-III-288, 17b, A32,
306 plus mAb 246D, for 1 hour at room temperature, were immobilized on streptavidin-coated quartz
307 slides and imaged on a custom-built wide-field prism-based TIRF microscope (61, 64). Imaging
308 was performed in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) pH ~7.4, containing 1 mM trolox (Sigma-
309 Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), 1 mM cyclooctatetraene (COT; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO,

310 USA), 1 mM 4-nitrobenzyl alcohol (NBA; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), 2 mM
311 protocatechuic acid (PCA; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), and 8 nM protocatechuate 3,4-
312 deoxygenase (PCD; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) to stabilize fluorescence and remove
313 molecular oxygen. When indicated, concentrations of CJF-III-288 and mAbs were maintained
314 during imaging. smFRET data were collected using Micromanager v2.0 (65) at 25 frames/sec.
315 smFRET data were processed and analyzed using the SPARTAN software
316 (<https://www.scottcblanchardlab.com/software>) in Matlab (Mathworks, Natick, MA, USA) (66).
317 smFRET traces were identified according to criteria previously described (36), and traces meeting
318 those criteria were then verified manually. Traces from each of three technical replicates were then
319 compiled into FRET histograms and the mean probability per histogram bin \pm standard error were
320 calculated. Traces were idealized to a five-state HMM (four nonzero-FRET states and a 0-FRET
321 state) using the maximum point likelihood (MPL) algorithm (67) implemented in SPARTAN as
322 previously described (36). The idealizations were used to determine the occupancies (fraction of
323 time until photobleaching) in each FRET state, and construct Gaussian distributions of each FRET
324 state, which were overlaid on the FRET histograms to visualize the results of the HMM analysis.
325 The distributions in occupancies were used to construct violin plots in Matlab, as well as calculate
326 mean occupancy and standard errors. Statistical significance measures (p -values) of FRET state
327 occupancies were determined by one-way ANOVA in Matlab (The MathWorks, Waltham, MA,
328 USA). p -values <0.05 were considered to indicate statistical significance.

329

330 **Statistical analysis**

331 Statistics were analyzed using GraphPad Prism version 9.1.0 (GraphPad, San Diego, CA, USA).
332 Every data set was tested for statistical normality and this information was used to apply the

333 appropriate (parametric or nonparametric) statistical test. P values <0.05 were considered
334 significant; significance values are indicated as * P<0.05, ** P<0.01, *** P<0.001, ****
335 P<0.0001.

336

337 **RESULTS**

338 **Anti-gp41 cluster I Abs represent a major component of plasma mediated ADCC**

339 Recent studies suggested that anti-gp41 cluster I mAbs may play a role in plasma mediated
340 ADCC in presence of CD4mc CJF-III-288 (22, 23). To follow up on these observations, we
341 performed Fab competition experiments. Briefly, we infected primary CD4+ T cells with HIV-1
342 transmitted/founder virus CH058 (CH058TF) and evaluated the capacity of plasma from 10
343 PLWH (Table I) to bind infected cells and mediate ADCC after pre-incubation of target cells with
344 the CD4mc CJF-III-288 and Fab fragments of anti-CoRBS, anti-cluster A and anti-gp41 cluster I
345 mAbs. As shown in Figure 1A, all PLWH plasma bound infected cells more efficiently upon
346 CD4mc addition. Better binding translated into a significant improvement in ADCC (Figure 1B).
347 In agreement with previous results (24), Fab fragments from anti-CoRBS and anti-cluster A Abs
348 significantly decreased the capacity of PLWH plasma to mediate ADCC. However, this activity
349 was not abrogated, suggesting the presence of additional CD4mc responsive Ab specificities in the
350 plasma from PLWH. To test whether anti-gp41 cluster I Abs could be involved, we added a Fab
351 fragment from F240, a well-characterized anti-gp41 cluster I nAb recognizing the disulfide loop
352 region (DLR) of the principal immunodominant domain (PID) of gp41 (gp120 residues 595-609)
353 (23, 49, 68). Indeed, the combination of the three Fab fragments further decreased binding and
354 ADCC (Figure 1A-B). These results indicated that anti-gp41 cluster I gp41Abs are responsible
355 for a portion of plasma-mediated ADCC in PLWH.

356

357 **Development of a potent ADCC-mediating cocktail**

358 Since the Fab blocking experiments showed that anti-CoRBS, anti-cluster A and anti-gp41
359 cluster I Abs all contribute to PLWH plasma-mediated ADCC in presence of CD4mc, we reasoned
360 that a combination of monoclonal antibodies with these specificities could result in a cocktail that
361 potently eliminates infected cells. Since the use of the anti-cluster A A32 and anti-CoRBS 17b
362 Ab together with CD4mc was previously reported (24, 36, 37), we added anti-gp41 cluster I mAbs
363 to the cocktail. Specifically, we tested four well-characterized anti-gp41 cluster I Abs (F240, 246D,
364 QA255.067, M785U1) (48, 68-70) and two anti-gp41 MPER directed mAbs (10E8, 4E10) (51, 52)
365 in combination with A32/17b for their capacity to bind and kill HIV-1-infected cells in presence
366 of the CD4mc CJF-III-288. Compared to A32, 17b, and CJF-III-288 alone, all of the anti-gp41
367 cluster I mAbs tested increased binding to infected cells (Figure 2A). However, only addition of
368 anti-gp41 cluster I 246D mAb significantly improved the ADCC activity of the cocktail (Figure
369 2B). As a control, we tested two monoclonal antibodies against the MPER, 10E8 and 4E10.
370 However, neither anti-MPER mAbs increased the binding or killing of infected cells. Since 246D
371 was the only anti-gp41 mAb significantly improving the ADCC activity of the cocktail, all
372 subsequent experiments were performed with this mAb.

373

374 To test the combination of A32/17b/246D on a larger panel of viruses, we examined
375 primary CD4⁺ T cells infected with six infectious molecular clones for their susceptibility to
376 ADCC. In the absence of the CD4mc, no binding of infected cells or ADCC was observed. While
377 addition of CJF-III-288 enhanced infected cell binding (Figure 3A) and ADCC (Figure 3B) by
378 A32 and 17b, this enhancement was even more pronounced upon addition of 246D (Figure 3).

379

380 The potency of the A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288 combination prompted us to compare it to ADCC
381 mediated by bNAbs currently used in preclinical and clinical trials (71-83). We infected primary
382 CD4⁺ T cells with CH058TF and measured the capacity of the bNAbs or the cocktail to recognize
383 infected cells and mediate ADCC. The new cocktail increased recognition of infected cells (Figure
384 4A) and yielded higher levels of ADCC than any one of the three CD4-binding site (CD4bs) or
385 V3 glycan bNAbs tested (Figure 4B). We next tested *ex-vivo* expanded CD4⁺ T cells from ART-
386 treated individuals (25). Briefly, primary CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from ART-treated PLWH
387 (Table 2) and stimulated with PHA for 48 hours. Activated CD4⁺ T cells were maintained in
388 culture with IL-2 and monitored for p24 expression by flow cytometry overtime. Staining and
389 ADCC experiments were performed when the percentage of p24⁺ cells reached 5%. As for the
390 IMC infected cells, we observed increased binding of *ex vivo* expanded cells from PLWH by the
391 new cocktail compared to each of the bNAbs (Figure 4C). The ADCC activity of the new cocktail
392 was also superior to all bNAbs tested (Figure 4D). These results indicated that the
393 A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288 cocktail was more efficient in mediating ADCC than some of the most
394 potent bNAbs that recognize Env on the surface of CD4 T cells.

395

396 We next assessed the relative contribution of each antibody by introducing a leucine to
397 alanine substitution (LALA mutation) in their Fc fragment at position 234 and 235 of their heavy-
398 chains, which is known to reduce the ability of Abs to engage Fc γ -receptors and thus abrogate
399 ADCC (84-88). As expected, introduction of the LALA mutations did not alter the capacity of the
400 different combination of nnAbs to bind infected cells in the presence of CD4mc (Figure 4A). In
401 contrast, introduction of the LALA mutations into the three mAbs almost completely abrogated

402 ADCC (Figure 5B). From the three nnAbs of the cocktail, 246D appeared to contribute to most of
403 the ADCC activity observed. Indeed, among the various iterations tested, the biggest drop in
404 ADCC activity was observed with the combination A32/17b/246D LALA (Figure 5B). Altogether,
405 this data indicates that while all three nnAbs contribute to the ADCC activity of the cocktail, 246D
406 plays a major role.

407

408 **ADCC against HIV-1-infected monocytes-derived macrophages (MDMs)**

409 MDMs constitute a cell lineage susceptible to HIV-1 infection *in vitro* (89, 90) and have
410 been suggested to contribute to the viral reservoir (91-95). We previously have shown that the
411 indane CD4mc BNM-III-170 sensitizes HIV-1-infected MDMs to ADCC mediated by plasma
412 from PLWH (39). Given the increased potency of CJF-III-288, we evaluated the binding and
413 ADCC activity of the new cocktail against HIV-1-infected MDMs *in vitro* (Figure 6). Briefly,
414 MDMs were cultured for six days before infection with AD8 WT virus. Infected MDMs were
415 stained and used as target cells 5 days post-infection. We observed that the combination of
416 A32/17b/246D only bound to infected MDMs upon addition of the CJF-III-288 CD4mc (Figure
417 6B). This binding resulted in potent ADCC (Figure 6C).

418

419 **Impact of the combination of 17b/A32/246D/CJF-III-288 on Env conformation**

420 We next evaluated the conformation of full-length, native Env in the presence of the
421 17b/A32/246D/CJF-III-288 cocktail. To this end, we applied a modified version of a well-
422 established smFRET imaging assay (11). We attached one fluorophore to the V1 loop of gp120
423 using amber stop codon suppression to introduce a non-natural amino acid, followed by copper-
424 free click chemistry with a tetrazine-conjugated fluorophore (96). The second fluorophore was

425 enzymatically attached to the A1 peptide inserted in the V4 loop of gp120, as before (see Material
426 and Methods) (11). Virions incorporating a single fluorescently labeled protomer among the
427 otherwise wild-type distribution of Envs were immobilized on quartz microscope slides and
428 imaged using total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy (Figure 7A). As previously
429 reported, smFRET data indicated a predominant low-FRET conformation, consistent with the State
430 1. Incubation of the virions with CJF-III-288, A32, and 17b led to a dramatic destabilization of
431 State 1 and a shift to downstream open conformations, including States 2 and 3, and the high-
432 FRET State 2A, which was previously linked to anti-cluster A Ab binding and ADCC (Figure 7)
433 (36). The magnitude of this effect was greater than previously observed for full-length Env in the
434 presence of BNM-III-170, A32, and 17b (36) consistent with the greater potency of CJF-III-288
435 as compared to BNM-III-170 in sensitizing Env to ADCC (38). The additional presence of 246D,
436 when combined with CJF-III-288, A32, and 17b, had a modest impact on Env conformation as
437 shown by smFRET analysis. We observed only a slight further increase in State 2A, which did not
438 reach statistical significance (Figure 7). This suggests that 246D does not significantly remodel
439 gp120 conformation but may still exert an influence on gp41 conformation that is not detected
440 with the current fluorophore attachment sites.
441

442 **DISCUSSION**

443

444 Despite the success of ART in suppressing viral loads, the establishment of the viral
445 reservoir leads to a life-long infection, with increased co-morbidities. Monoclonal antibodies
446 (mAbs) represent an attractive therapeutic approach to purge the viral reservoir due to their
447 capacity to eliminate infected cells by Fc-effector functions, including ADCC. One strategy is to
448 harness the ADCC activity of nnAbs by enabling their recognition of infected cells using CD4mc
449 to “open-up” Env (24, 25, 36, 38, 39, 84, 97, 98). Here we improved a cocktail of nnAbs and
450 CD4mc, which showed promise at reducing the size of the viral reservoir in hu-mice (37), by
451 adding a new nnAb targeting a conserved epitope in the gp41 (23) and replacing the indane BNM-
452 III-170 by the newly developed indoline CJF-III-288 CD4mc (38).

453

454 Addition of 246D to the previous A32/17b combination enhanced the capacity of the
455 cocktail to eliminate HIV-1-infected cells in the presence of CD4mc. The new cocktail was also
456 superior to the potent bNAbs N6, VRC01, 3BNC117, 10-1074, PGT121 and PGT126 at
457 eliminating infected cells in both *in vitro* and *ex vivo* settings. Mechanistic studies by smFRET
458 indicate that this cocktail decreases State-1 occupancy and stabilizes Env in downstream
459 conformations which are vulnerable to ADCC (18, 19, 24-26, 28, 36, 37), although addition of
460 246D did not increase more open conformations compared to A32/17b. This suggest that the
461 improved ADCC activity is due to the addition of an extra Fc-portion, from 246D, which likely
462 helps in crosslinking the Fc γ R in effector cells. Indeed, while the Fc portion of all three nnAbs
463 were found to be required to mediate potent ADCC, the anti-gp41 cluster I 246D Ab played a
464 predominant role. Whether the Fc-portion of an Ab targeting gp41 facilitates the clustering of

465 Fc γ R on effector cells remains to be demonstrated. Nonetheless, the A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288
466 combination was efficient at eliminating infected MDMs, a cell type which was previously
467 reported to be resistant to mAb-mediated ADCC (99).

468

469 The A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288 cocktail may have therapeutic utility as it targets four
470 independent epitopes that represent some of the most conserved regions of HIV-1 Env. Figure 8
471 projects the A32, 17b, 246D epitopes and CJF-III-288 binding site onto an untriggered closed Env
472 trimer and shows the conservation of Env residues contributing to the binding of each component
473 based on available structural information of their antigen complexes or peptide mapping. A32 and
474 246D epitopes are localized within the interior of the Env trimer (Figure 8A). The A32 epitope
475 maps onto the gp120 inner domain proximal to the N- and C-termini of gp120 and around the α 0-
476 and α 1-helices (31, 34, 100), while 246D binds to a linear peptide in the immunodominant cluster
477 I region of gp41 (residues 596-606) (48). Analysis of sequence conservation among HIV-1 isolates
478 indicates that both epitopes map to highly conserved Env regions that contain gp41-gp120
479 interprotomer contacts (Figure 8b). The A32 epitope in particular is located in the cluster A gp120
480 region) (50) and is directly involved in CD4-triggered conformational changes in the gp120 inner
481 domain and thus constitute some of the most conserved regions of Env with certain residues or
482 motifs being identical among divergent HIV isolates (e.g. TLFC⁵⁴, W⁶⁹, THACVPTDP⁷⁹ and Q¹⁰³,
483 D¹⁰⁷ S¹¹⁰, Y²¹⁷ and PA²²¹) (31, 34, 100). In contrast to A32 and 246D, the epitopes for 17b and the
484 CJF-III-288 binding site map to the outer domain of gp120; 17b maps to the outer domain of
485 gp120, proximal to the CD4 binding site (101-103) and CJF-III-288 binds within the Phe43 cavity
486 in the CD4 binding site (38). The 17b epitope is well conserved among HIV-1 isolates with more
487 than 65% of Env residues that form the epitope being highly conserved (101). Similarly, CJF-III-

488 288 which targets the CD4 binding cavity interacts with strictly conserved residues of gp120 (e.g.
489 ST²⁵⁷ FN³⁷⁷, F³⁸², Y³⁸⁴, W^{Q428}, and GG⁴⁷³). Based on the high sequence conservation of these
490 epitopes among the HIV isolates, it is likely that treatments with a mix of A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-
491 288 may be highly cross-reactive and undergo limited immune escape.

492

493 Overall, here we show that upon CD4mc addition, antibodies targeting the immunodominant
494 cluster I region of gp41 comprise a major fraction of PLWH plasma ADCC activity.
495 Supplementing anti-gp41 cluster I to cluster A and CoRBS antibodies greatly enhanced ADCC
496 mediated cell killing in the presence of a potent indoline CD4mc, CJF-III-288. By combining
497 nnAbs targeting multiple conserved epitopes we achieved broad and potent ADCC activity, which
498 may be of utility in HIV cure strategies.

499

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502

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526 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

527 L.M., J.R., J.P., and A.F. conceived the study. L.M., J.R., and A.F. designed experimental
528 approaches. L.M., J.R., J.P., A.T., M.A.DS., M.N., M.B., G.B.B., S.P.A., K.D., E.B., D.C., H.M.,
529 C.B., B.H.H., J.M. M.P. and A.F. performed, analyzed, and interpreted the experiments. D.Y.,
530 T.J.C., H.C.C., B.H.H., M.P. and A.B.S., supplied novel/unique reagents. L.M., J.R., B.H.H and
531 A.F. wrote the paper. All authors have read, edited, and approved the final manuscript.

532

533 **DISCLAIMER**

534 The views expressed in this manuscript are those of the authors and do not reflect the official
535 policy or position of the Uniformed Services University, US Army, the Department of Defense, or
536 the US Government.

537

538 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

539 The authors declare no competing interests.

540

541 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

542 Data and reagents are available upon request.

543

544 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

545

546 **Figure 1. Anti-gp41 cluster I antibodies contribute to PLWH plasma-mediated ADCC.**

547 **(A)** HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were pre-incubated with 10 µg/mL of each Fab
548 antibodies in presence of CJF-III-288 depicted in blue or DMSO depicted in gray, 48h post-
549 infection. Plasma from PLWH (dilution 1:1000) was added after incubation and plasma binding
550 was measured by flow cytometry using Alexa-Fluor 647 conjugated anti-human IgG Fc secondary
551 antibody. **(B)** HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were used as target cells, while
552 autologous non-infected PBMCs were used as effector cells in our FACS-based ADCC assay.
553 Infected cells were pre-incubated with 10µg/mL of each Fab antibodies in presence of CJF-III-288
554 depicted in blue or DMSO depicted in gray prior to incubation with plasma from PLWH and
555 effector cells. Each data point within a group represents an independent measurement. Median
556 values are plotted. Statistical significance was tested using (A) Friedman test. (B) One-way
557 ANOVA (*, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01; ***, P < 0.001; ****, P < 0.0001; ns, non-significant).

558

559 **Figure 2. Incorporation of an anti-Cluster I mAb substantially improves the capacity of anti-**
560 **cluster A/anti-CoRBS to mediate ADCC in presence of CD4mc**

561 **(A)** HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4 T cells were stained with a total 5µg/mL of indicated
562 combination of nnAbs in presence of CJF-III-288 depicted in blue or DMSO depicted in gray 48h
563 post-infection. Flow cytometry was performed to detect antibody binding using appropriated
564 secondary antibody. The graph represents the mean fluorescence intensities (MFI) of Alexa-Fluor
565 647 obtained in at least 5 independent experiments. **(B)** HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4 T
566 cells were as target cells, while autologous non-infected PBMCs were used as effector cells in our

567 FACS-based ADCC assay in the presence of 5 µg/mL of indicated combination of nnAbs. The
568 graph represents the percentage of ADCC obtained in presence of indicated combination of
569 antibodies in at least 5 independent experiments. Statistical significance was tested using (A-B)
570 Mixed-effects analysis (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$; ns,
571 nonsignificant).

572

573 **Figure 3. A cocktail comprising 17b, A32, 246D and CJF-III-288 mediates potent ADCC.**

574 (A) Primary CD4⁺ T cells were infected with indicated primary viruses. At 48 h post infection,
575 cells were stained with a total 5 µg/mL of indicated antibody combination in presence of CJF-III-
576 288 depicted in blue or DMSO depicted in gray. Flow cytometry was performed to detect antibody
577 binding using Alexa-Fluor 647 conjugated anti-human secondary antibody. The graph represents
578 the MeanFI of Alexa-Fluor 647 obtained in at least 3 independent experiments with each virus.
579 Each virus is depicted as a different symbol. (B) Primary CD4⁺ T cells infected with indicated
580 viruses were used as target cells, while autologous non-infected PBMCs were used as effector cells
581 in our FACS-based ADCC assay in the presence of a total of 5 µg/mL of indicated combination of
582 nnAbs. The graph represents the mean percentage of ADCC obtained from each virus in at least 3
583 independent experiments. Each virus is depicted as a different symbol. Statistical significance was
584 tested using (A-B) paired t-tests or Wilcoxon tests based on statistical normality (*, $P < 0.05$; **,
585 $P < 0.01$).

586

587 **Figure 4. The A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288 cocktail mediates ADCC more efficiently than**
588 **bNAbs**

589 (A) HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were stained with 5 µg/mL of total antibodies in
590 presence of either DMSO depicted in gray or CJF-III-288 depicted in blue 48hrs post-infection.
591 Flow cytometry was performed to detect antibody binding. The graph represents the MFI of Alexa-
592 Fluor 647. (B) HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were incubated with 5 µg/mL of total
593 antibodies in presence of either DMSO depicted in gray or CJF-III-288 depicted in blue. CD4⁺ T
594 cells were used as target cells, while autologous non-infected PBMCs were used as effector cells
595 in our FACS-based ADCC assay. The graph represents the percentage of ADCC obtained in
596 presence of the indicated antibodies in at least 4 independent experiments. (C) Cell-surface
597 staining of primary CD4⁺ T cells isolated from 4 HIV-1-infected individuals under ART after *ex-*
598 *vivo* expansion with 5 µg/mL of total antibodies in presence of either DMSO depicted in gray or
599 CJF-III-288 depicted in blue. Each symbol represents a different donor. Flow cytometry was
600 performed to detect antibody binding. The graph represents the MFI of Alexa-Fluor 647. (D)
601 ADCC was assessed on primary CD4⁺ T cells isolated from 4 HIV-1-infected individuals under
602 ART after *ex-vivo* expansion. CD4⁺ T cells were used as target cells, while autologous PBMCs
603 were used as effector cells in our FACS-based ADCC assay with 5 µg/mL of total antibodies in
604 presence of either DMSO depicted in gray or CJF-III-288 depicted in blue. The graph represents
605 the percentage of ADCC obtained in presence of indicated antibodies. Statistical significance was
606 tested using (A, C) Kruskal- Wallis (B, D) One-way ANOVA, according to population normality
607 (*, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01).

608

609 **Figure 5. The Fc portion of all cocktail mAbs contributes to ADCC**

610 (A) HIV-1_{CH058TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were stained with a total of 5 µg/mL of indicated
611 antibody combination in presence of CJF-III-288 depicted in blue 48h post-infection. Flow

612 cytometry was performed to detect antibody binding using appropriated secondary antibody. The
613 graph represents the MFI of Alexa-Fluor 647 obtained in at least 6 independent experiments. **(B)**
614 HIV-1_{CH58TF}-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells were used as target cells, while autologous non-
615 infected PBMCs were used as effector cells in our FACS-based ADCC assay in the presence of 5
616 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of indicated combination of nnAbs. The graph represents the percentage of ADCC obtained
617 in presence of indicated combination of antibodies in at least 6 independent experiments. Statistical
618 significance was tested using (A-B) Wilcoxon test or paired t-test according to normality. (*,
619 $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$).

620

621 **Figure 6. Binding and elimination of HIV-1 infected MDMs by ADCC**

622 **(A)** HIV-1_{AD8}-infected primary MDMs were stained with a total of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ total of the combined
623 antibodies in presence of CJF-III-288 depicted in blue or DMSO depicted in gray 5 days post-
624 infection. Flow cytometry was performed to detect antibody binding. **(B)** The graph represents the
625 MFI of Alexa-Fluor 647 obtained in at least 5 independent experiments. **(C)** HIV-1_{AD8}-infected
626 primary MDMs were used as target cells, while autologous non-infected PBMCs were used as
627 effector cells in our FACS-based ADCC assay in the presence of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of indicated combination
628 of nnAbs. The graph represents the percentage of ADCC obtained in presence of indicated
629 combination of antibodies in at least 5 independent experiments. (B-C) Wilcoxon test or paired t-
630 test according to normality. *p*-values are plotted.

631

632 **Figure 7. smFRET imaging of Env conformations.**

633 **(A)** Histograms of FRET values compiled from the population of individual Env trimers on the
634 virion surface. smFRET data were fit using hidden Markov modeling (HMM) to a model with four

635 non-zero FRET states. Overlaid on the FRET histograms are four Gaussian distributions (grey
636 lines) with means and standard deviations determined through the HMM analysis. The red line
637 indicates the sum of the four Gaussians. The histograms reflect the mean of three independent
638 groups of trajectories with error bars corresponding to the standard error. **(B)** The occupancies in
639 States 1 and 2A were calculated from the HMM analysis for each trace and represented with violin
640 plots. Horizontal lines indicate the mean occupancies, while the grey circles and vertical whiskers
641 indicate the medians and quantiles, respectively. *p*-values were determined by ANOVA.

642

643 **Figure 8. Env regions targeted by the A32/17b/246D/CJF-III-288 cocktail.**

644 **(A)** Location of A32 (anti-cluster A), 17b (anti-CoRBS), 246D (anti-gp41 cluster I) and CJF-III-
645 288 (CD4mc) binding sites within the unliganded HIV-1 trimer. The BG505 SOSIP.664 gp140
646 unliganded trimer (PDB code: 4ZMJ) is shown, colored green and dark blue for gp41 and gp120
647 protomers. The nascent epitopes for A32, 17b, 246D and CJF-III-288 are colored magenta, cyan,
648 yellow and orange, respectively. The nascent epitopes are defined as gp120 contact residues
649 contributing buried surface area (BSA) to the Env antigen-Fab interface calculated from available
650 structures: A32 (PDB code: 4YC2), 17b (PDB code: 6CM3) and CJF-III-288 (PDB code:8FM3).
651 Epitope for 246D is as defined by peptide scanning in (48). The blow-up view shows insight into
652 one gp41-gp120 protomer with epitopes. **(B)** Sequence conservation of A32, 17b, 246D and CJF-
653 III-288 binding regions among all listed Env sequences from the Los Alamos Data Base. The
654 sequence of gp120 and gp41, excluding the V1V2 region, is shown based on the conservation of
655 each residue e.g. residues differed 0.2-7% and 87-99.9% from the Hxhc2 sequence colored with
656 dark blue and red. Lines (A32: magenta, 17b: cyan, 246D: yellow and CJF-III-288: orange) below
657 the sequence indicate the epitope footprints.

658

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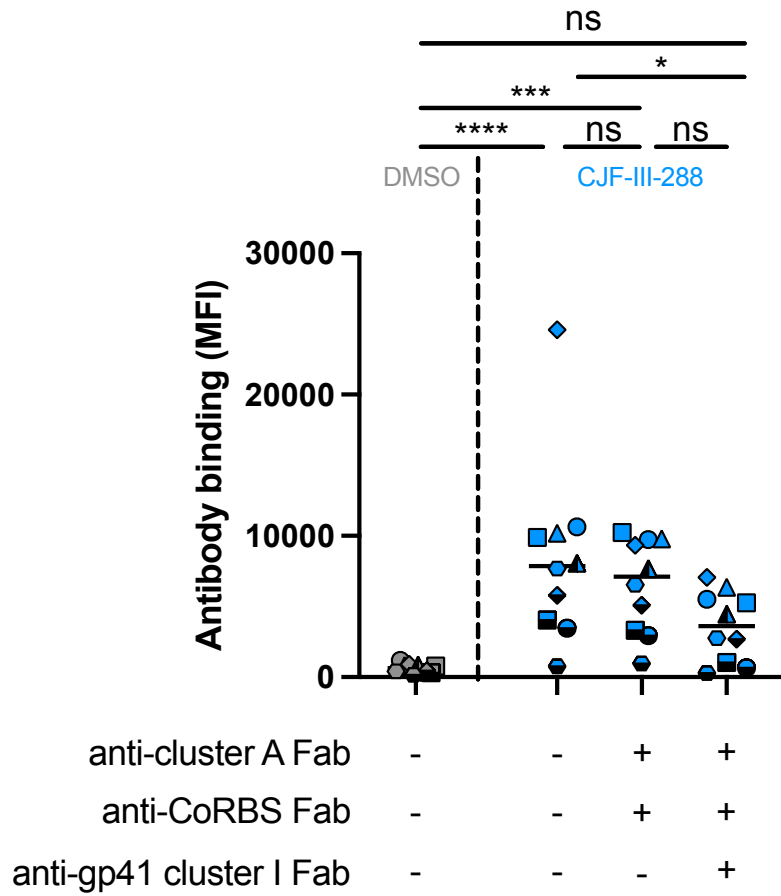
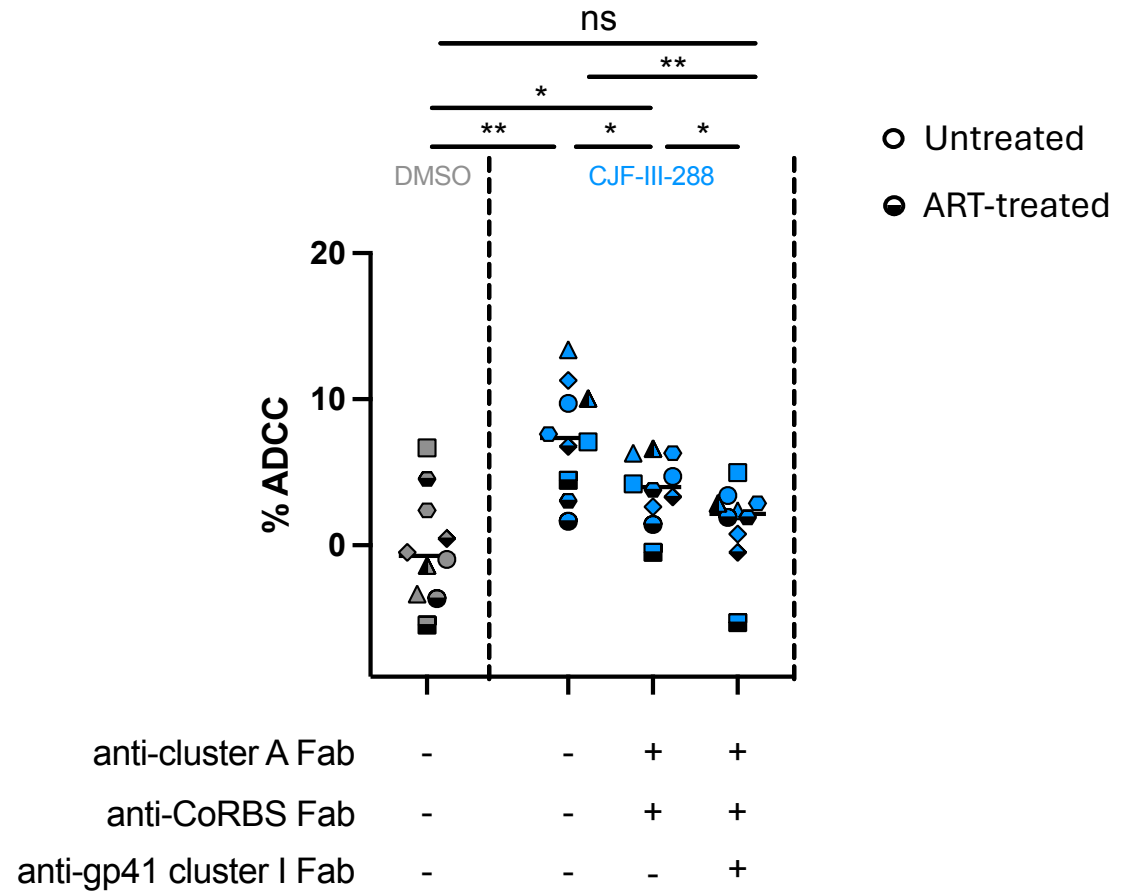
Table 1: PLWH plasma, cohort characteristics, related to Figure 1.

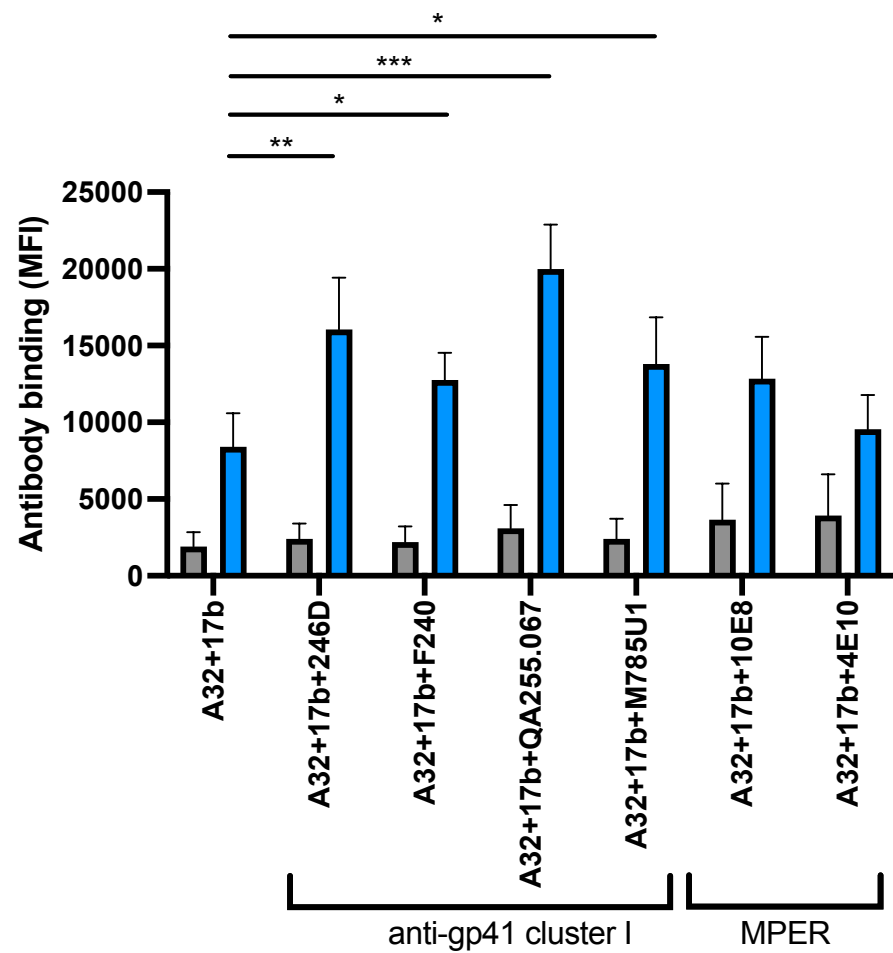
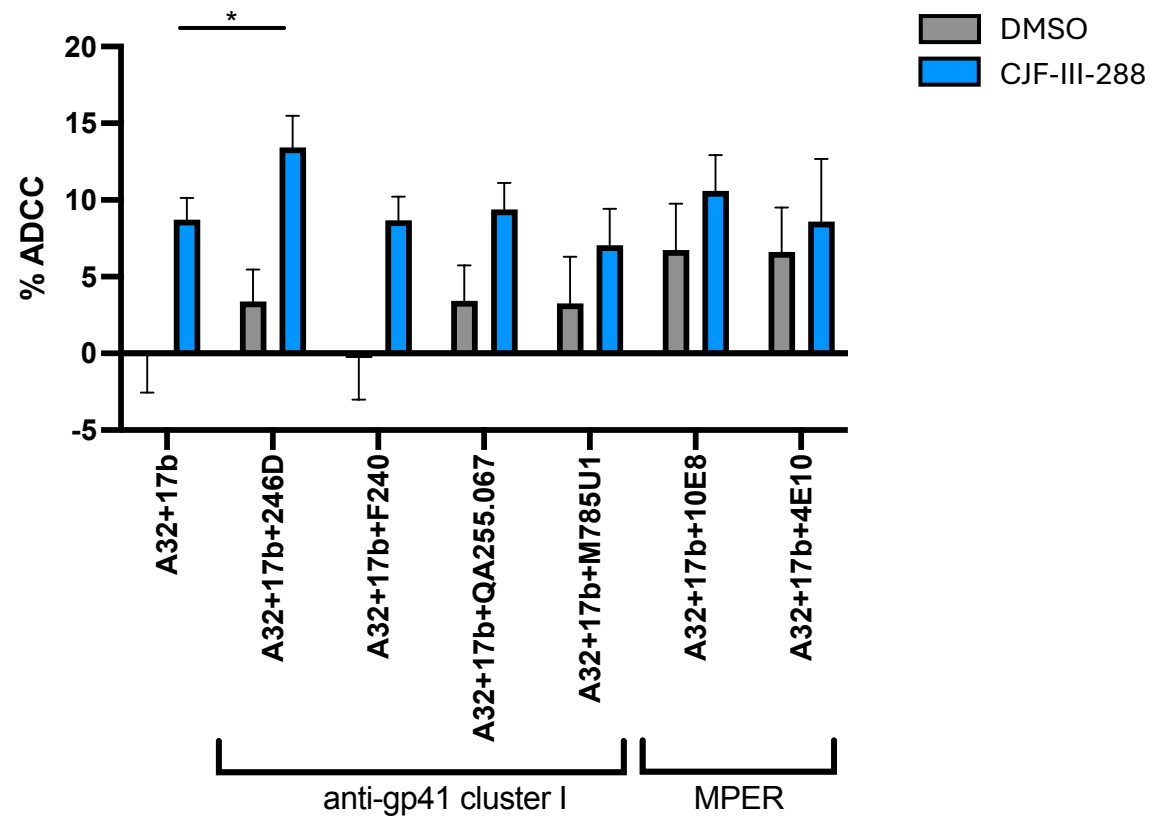
	All samples	Chronic infected	ART-treated
Number of plasma	10	5	5
Median Age (IQR)	34 (28 - 58)	34 (28 - 40)	36 (33 - 58)
Sex	Male (9) Female (1)	Male (5) Female (0)	Male (4) Female (1)
Median days since Infection (IQR)	1012 (856 - 1576)	1143 (856 - 1194)	1005 (936 - 1576)
Median Viral Load, (copies/ml), (IQR)	14358 (40 - 809 600)	35341 (28 666 - 809 600)	50 (40-50)
Median CD4 T cell count (cells/mm ³), (IQR)	496 (200-1149)	410 (200 - 691)	600 (170-1149)

Table 2: Demographic characterization of PLWH used to expand primary infected CD4

T cells, related to Figure 4.

	All samples
Number of donors	4
Median Age (IQR)	55 (44 - 58)
Sex	Male (4) Female (0)
Median year since Infection (IQR)	23 (14 - 34)
Median Viral Load, (copies/ml)	50 (All undetectable)
Median years since ART initiation (IQR)	8 (2 -13)

A**B****Figure 1**

A**B****Figure 2**

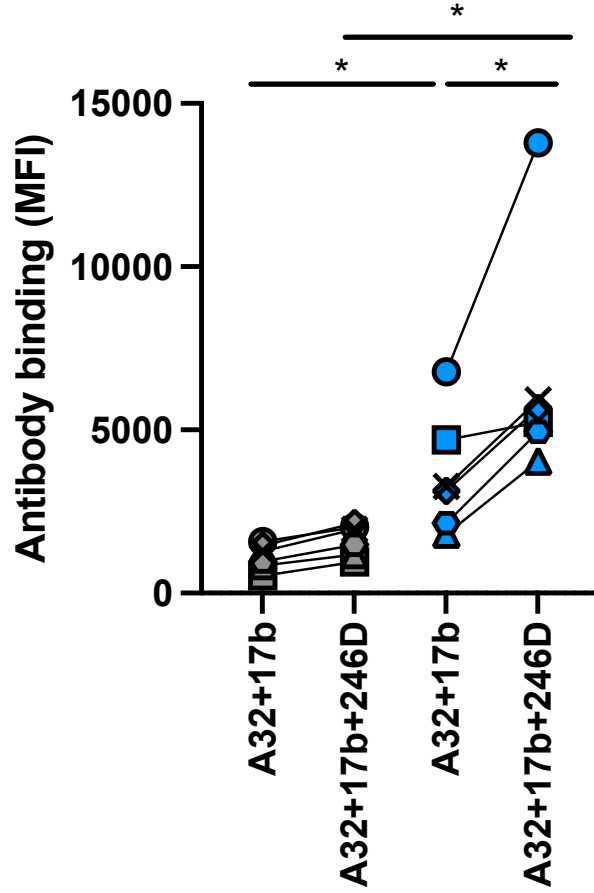
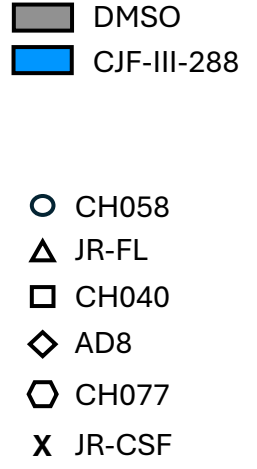
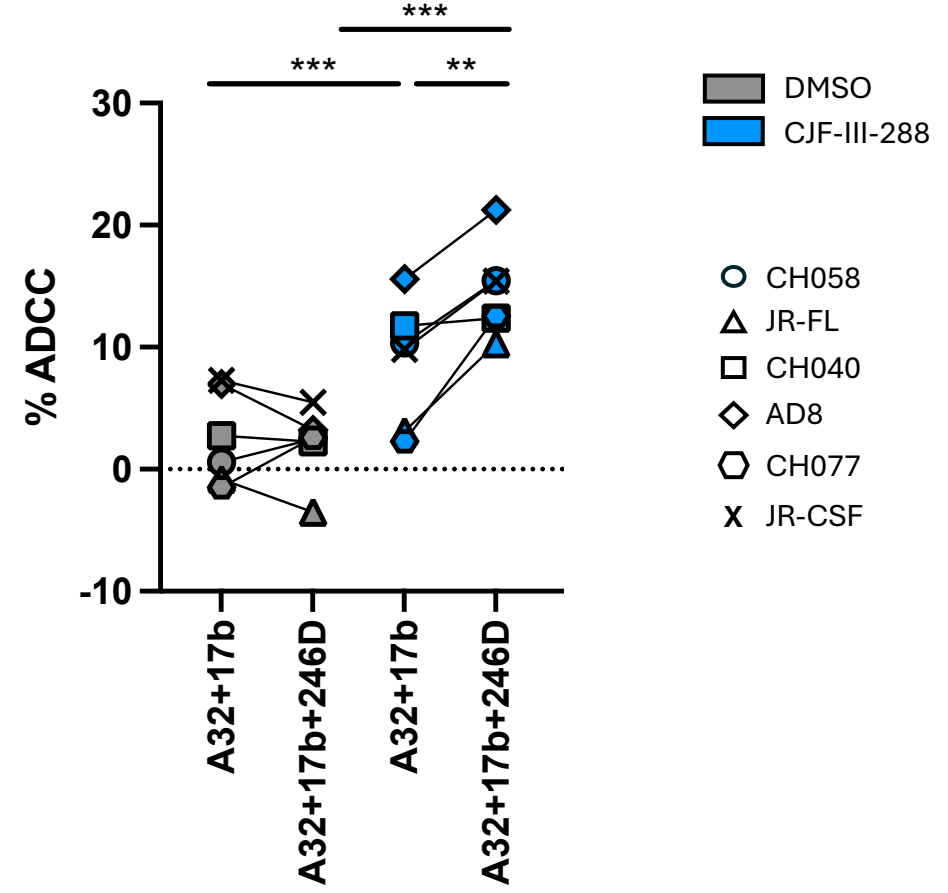
A**B**

Figure 3

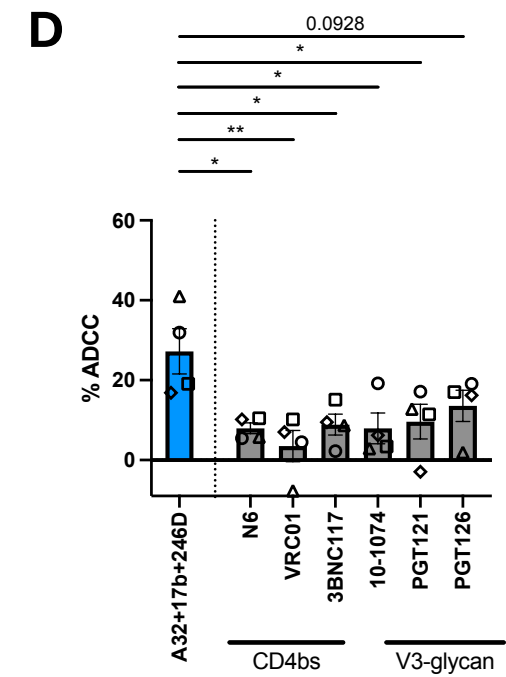
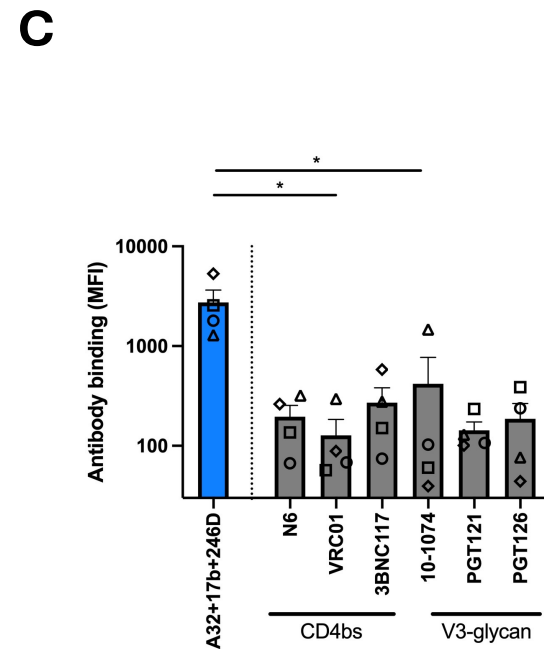
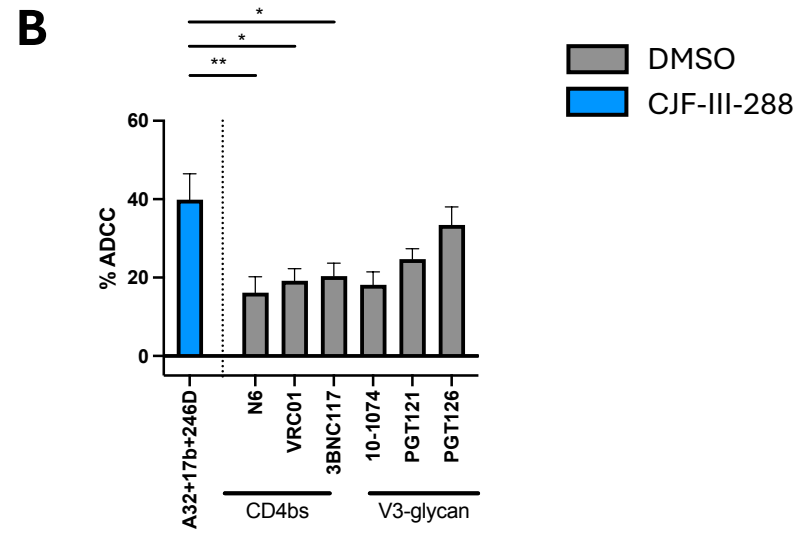
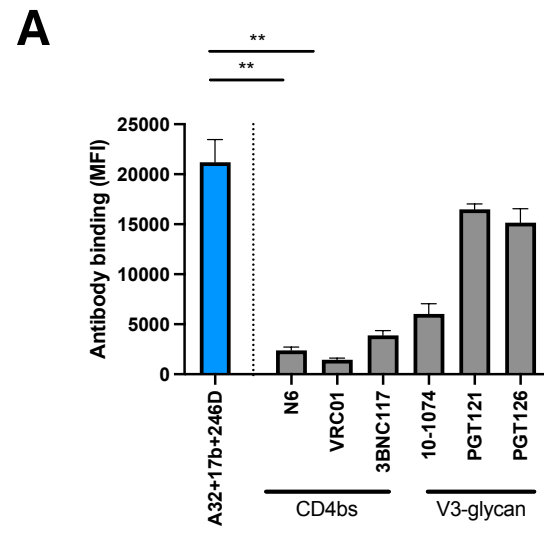
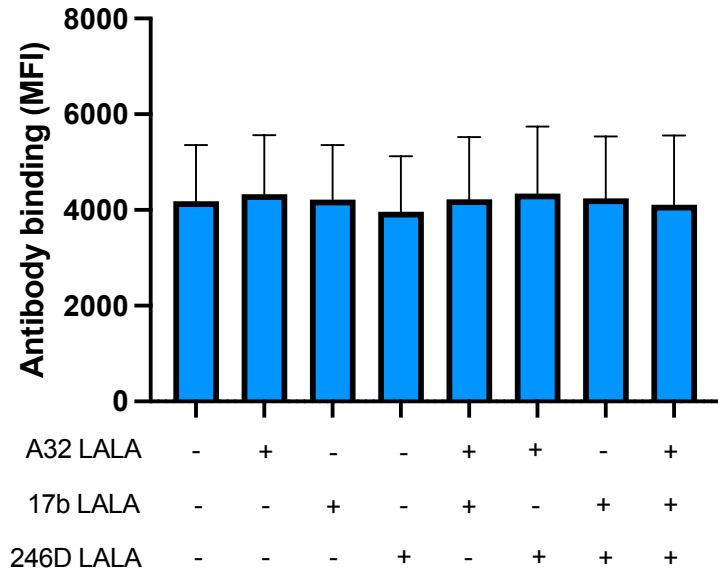
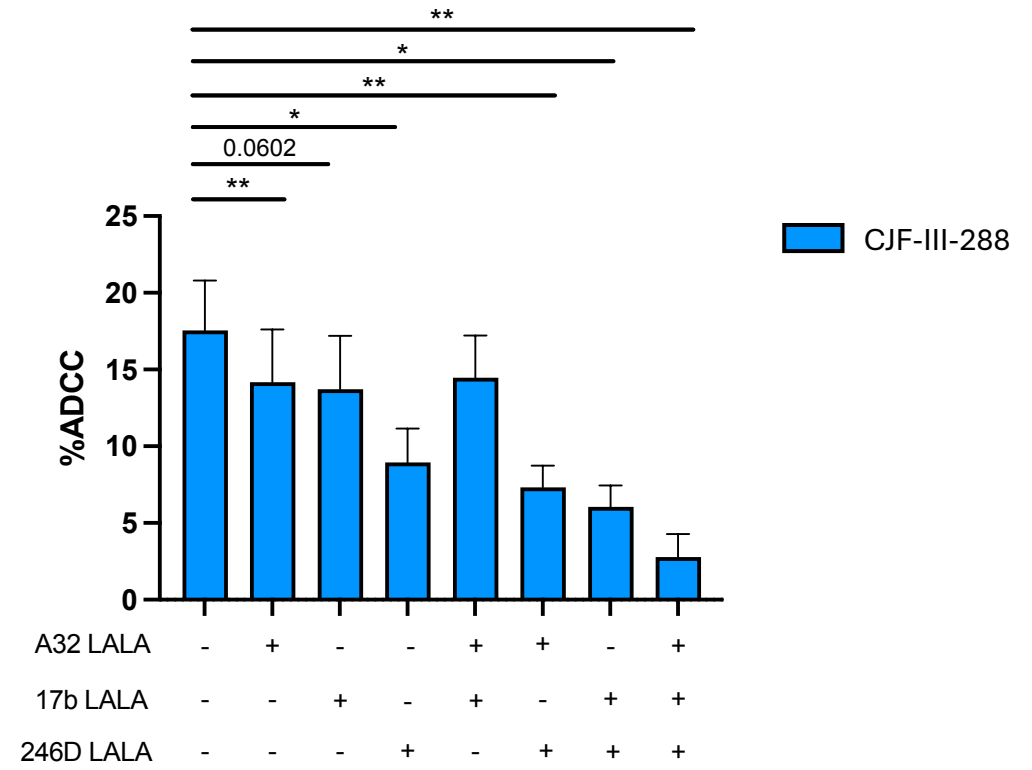
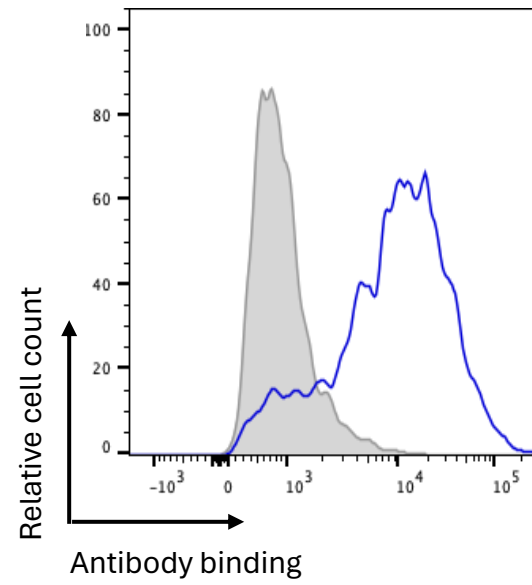
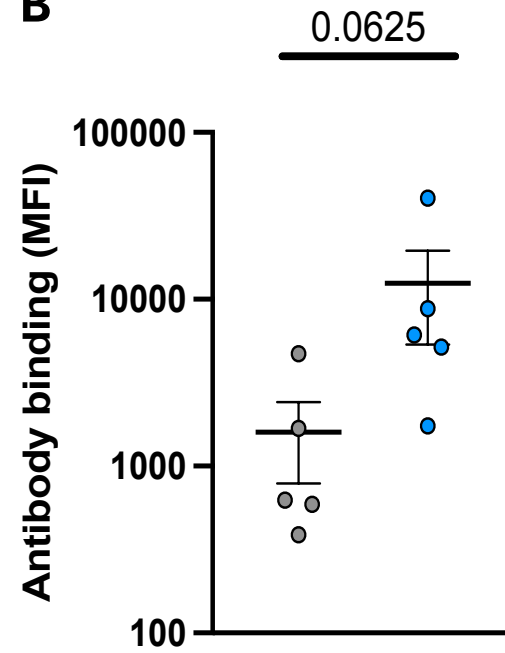
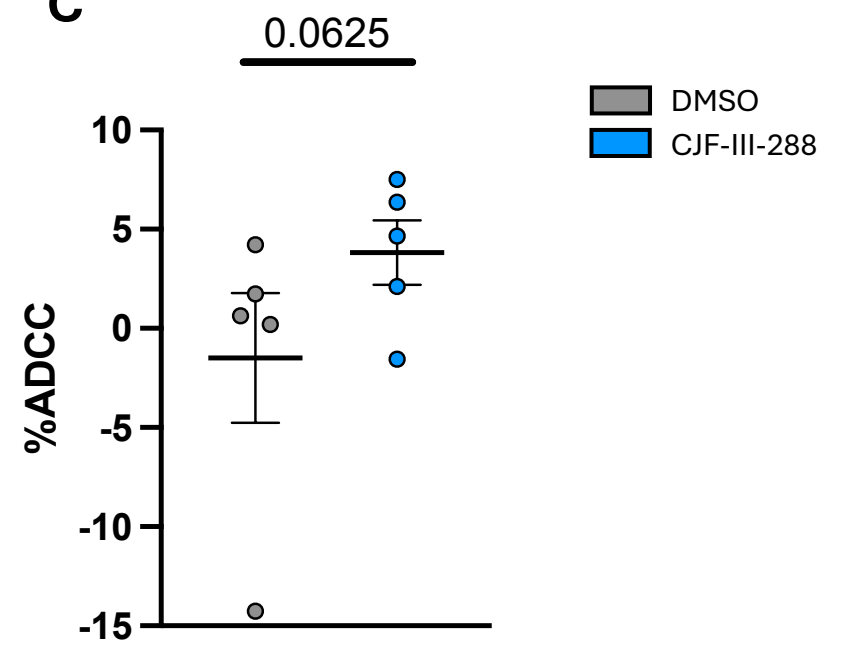


Figure 4

A**B****Figure 5**

A**B****C****Figure 6**

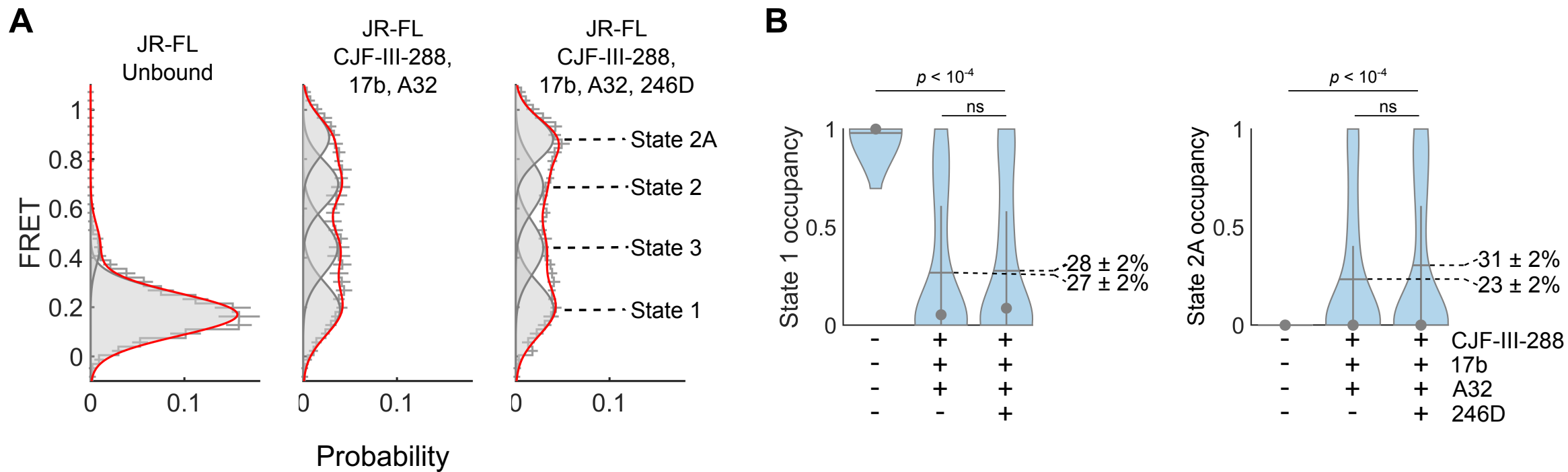


Figure 7

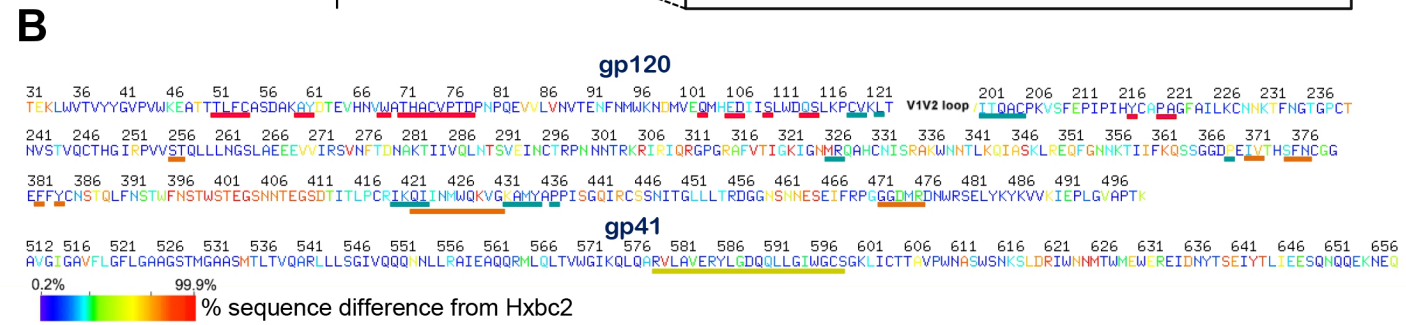
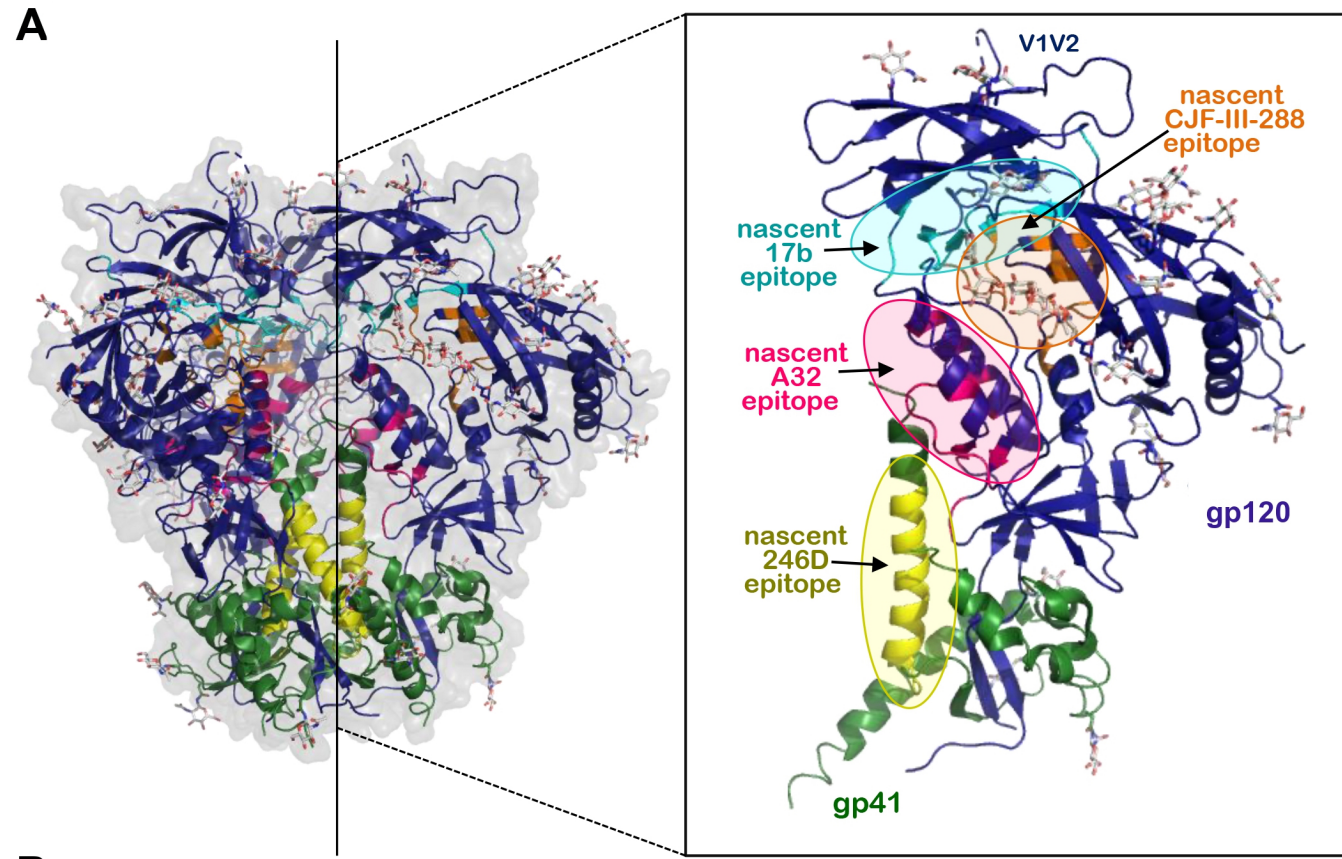


Figure 8