

# T-cell–intrinsic Tif1 $\alpha$ /Trim24 regulates IL-1R expression on T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated airway allergy

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There is a paucity of new therapeutic targets to control allergic reactions and forestall the rising trend of allergic diseases. Although a variety of immune cells contribute to allergy, cytokine-secreting  $\alpha\beta^+$ CD4<sup>+</sup> T-helper 2 (T<sub>H</sub>2) cells orchestrate the type-2-driven immune response in a large proportion of atopic asthmatics. To identify previously unidentified putative targets in pathogenic T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. we performed in silico analyses of recently published transcriptional data from a wide variety of pathogenic T<sub>H</sub> cells [Okoye IS, et al. (2014) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 111(30):E3081-E3090] and identified that transcription intermediary factor 1 regulator-alpha ( $Tif1\alpha$ )/tripartite motif-containing 24 (Trim24) was predicted to be active in house dust mite (HDM)- and helminth-elicited  $II4^{gfp+}\alpha\beta^+$ CD4<sup>+</sup> T<sub>H</sub>2 cells but not in T<sub>H</sub>1, T<sub>H</sub>17, or Treg cells. Testing this prediction, we restricted Trim24 deficiency to T cells by using a mixed bone marrow chimera system and found that T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 is essential for HDMmediated airway allergy and antihelminth immunity. Mechanistically, HDM-elicited Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells have reduced expression of many T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokines and chemokines and were predicted to have compromised IL-1-regulated signaling. Following this prediction, we found that Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells have reduced IL-1 receptor (IL-1R) expression, are refractory to IL-1β-mediated activation in vitro and in vivo, and fail to respond to IL-1 $\beta$ -exacerbated airway allergy. Collectively, these data identify a previously unappreciated Trim24-dependent requirement for IL-1R expression on T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and an important nonredundant role for T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 in T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated allergy and antihelminth immunity.

Trim24 | Th2 | allergy | inflammation | asthma

llergic diseases, including allergic asthma, have continued to Arise in the past 50 y. With few new drugs available to treat allergic diseases and many patients with severe asthma refractory to currently available drugs (1), there is a growing need for new molecular targets to curb symptoms and prevent exacerbations. Dysregulated T-cell responses underpin the hyperinflammatory allergic reaction leading to asthma. Although many T-cell populations contribute to the spectrum of allergic asthma phenotypes (2), cytokine-secreting T-helper 2 (T<sub>H</sub>2) cells have the capacity to induce allergen-specific IgE (atopy) and invoke many of the pathophysiological manifestations associated with asthma, including airway eosinophilia, mucus hypersecretion, airway remodeling, and airway hyperreactivity. Targeting specific cytokinesignaling pathways in allergic asthma has had mixed efficacy (3-5), suggesting that additional targets and more focused approaches should be considered (6). Several T<sub>H</sub>2 cell lineage-promoting transcriptional regulators, including GATA binding protein 3 (GATA-3) (7), STAT-3 (8), STAT-6 (9), and avian musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma (cMAF) (10), have been identified in  $T_{H2}$  cells; however, it is unclear whether other transcriptional regulators are required for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated responses.

The two-signal model of  $T_H^2$  cell differentiation, involving T-cell receptor (TCR) and costimulatory engagement coupled with secondary cytokine signaling, is well defined (11). However, the activation of differentiated  $T_H^2$  cells and the acquisition of cytokine-secreting effector function in the tissues is poorly understood.

Tertiary cytokine signals by tissue-associated inflammatory cytokines, including members of the IL-1 family (12, 13), and the "alarmins" (IL-25 and TSLP) (14) have been proposed to activate  $T_{H2}$  cells; however, the regulation and pathways involved are unclear. An IL-1R (IL-1 receptor)/ubiquitin C/Trim24 (tripartite motif-containing 24) axis has been identified previously (15–19), but the involvement of Trim24 in  $T_{H2}$  biology has not been reported.

The tripartite motif (Trim) family of more than 60 proteins is highly conserved throughout metazoans and has been widely studied in innate antiviral immunity (20). However, Trim proteins have a variety of functions, including regulation of transcription and chromatin (21-23), tumor suppression (24), and cytokine signaling and secretion, in both innate and adaptive immune cells (25, 26). Specifically, the transcription intermediary factor 1 regulator-alpha, Tif1 $\alpha$  (Trim24), which is structurally related to Tif1 $\beta$  (Trim28) and Tif1 $\gamma$  (Trim33) (22), has important roles in cancer (27, 28), gene regulation (29), and cytokine signaling (30), in part through the interaction of Trim24 with nuclear hormone receptors, vitamin D receptors, estrogen receptors, and retinoic acid receptors (30, 31). Unlike the closely related Trim28 (26), which regulates  $T_H$ 17-mediated immunity, a role for Trim24 in T-cell biology, type-2 immunity, or allergic asthma has not been reported. In this study, we found that deletion of Trim24 in T cells did not lead to any overt autoimmune phenotype. In contrast, Trim24 is essential for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated airway allergy and T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent expulsion of intestinal helminths. Mechanistically,  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells isolated from the lungs of allergic mice had a dampened IL-1-regulated transcriptome, suggesting that

### Significance

The increasing number of patients presenting with severe asthma throughout the world present a clear unmet medical need. This study identified putative transcriptional regulators in T-helper 2 (T<sub>H</sub>2) cells with the aim of identifying previously unidentified targets to inhibit T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated allergy. Genetic deletion of *Trim24* (tripartite motif-containing 24) in T cells showed that Trim24 was essential for T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated allergy. Transcriptional analysis showed that *Trim24* was required for many of the pathogenic properties of T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and that IL-1-regulated signaling is compromised in Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> cells. In vivo, in vitro, and in silico approaches identified a previously overlooked role for Trim24 in T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated allergy and validate a combined approach to interrogate transcriptional datasets to identify new therapeutic targets to prevent allergy and asthma.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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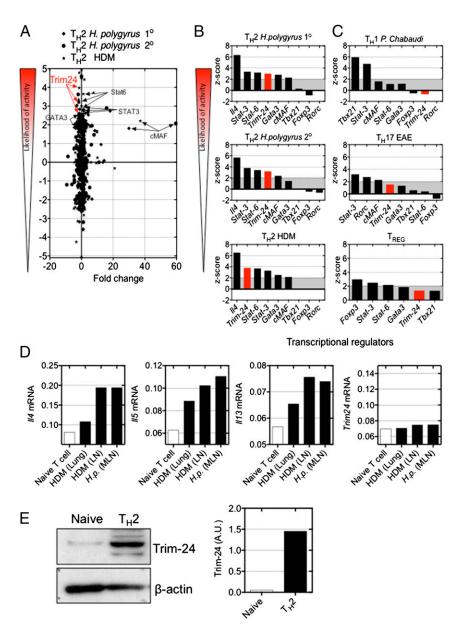
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Trim24 is required for IL-1–mediated  $T_H2$  cell activation. Indeed,  $Trim24^{-/-} T_H2$  cells had reduced IL-1R expression. Furthermore, deletion of T-cell–intrinsic Trim24, similar to the effect of IL-1R deletion on T cells, rendered T cells refractory to the stimulatory effects of IL-1 $\beta$  and curtailed the manifestation of house dust mite (HDM)-induced airway allergy, identifying a critical and nonredundant role for Trim24 in IL-1–mediated  $T_H2$  cell-mediated inflammation in vivo.

# Results

Tif1 $\alpha$ /Trim24 Is a Predicted Transcriptional Regulator in T<sub>H</sub>2 Cells but Not in T<sub>H</sub>1, T<sub>H</sub>17, or Foxp3<sup>+</sup> Treg Cells. Dysregulated T<sub>H</sub>2-cell responses following allergen exposure contribute directly to allergic disease (32). We recently reported that HDM- or helminthelicited  $T_H^2$  cells have distinct transcriptional profiles, compared with ex vivo  $T_H^1$ ,  $T_H^17$ , and natural Treg cells (33). Using these transcriptional datasets (more than twofold change relative to naive T cells, P < 0.05) we applied in silico upstream regulator analyses (Ingenuity Pathways Analysis, IPA) (34) and generated a z-score representing the likelihood of activity of putative transcriptional regulators. Briefly, this analysis examines how many known target genes of a transcription regulator are present in the dataset and compares their expression with the level expected from the literature to predict transcriptional regulator activity. If the observed expression of target genes is mostly consistent with a particular activation state of the transcriptional regulator, then a higher prediction (z-score) is made about that activation state. This in silico approach identified GATA-3,

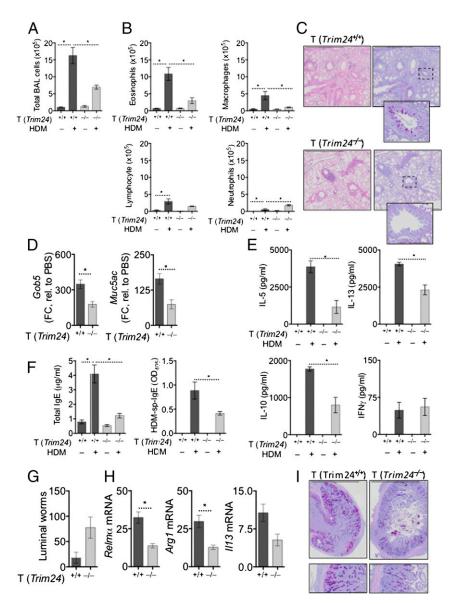


**Fig. 1.** Trim24 protein is elevated in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and is predicted to be functionally active in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells but not in T<sub>H</sub>1, T<sub>H</sub>17, or Treg cells. (*A*) Transcriptional datasets from T<sub>H</sub>2 cells purified from helminth (*H. polygyrus*)-infected or HDM-challenged mice (33) were analyzed using IPA upstream analysis software (34) to generate a z-score of the likelihood of activity. (*B* and *C*) Comparative analysis of predicted upstream transcriptional regulators in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells (*B*) and T<sub>H</sub>1, T<sub>H</sub>17, and Treg cells (*C*). (*D*) Expression of *II4*, *II5*, *II13*, and *Trim24* in *II4*<sup>gfp+</sup> T<sub>H</sub>2 cells isolated from pulmonary tissue [HDM (lung)] and local lymph nodes [HDM (LN)] of mice with HDM-induced airway allergy and from the local lymph nodes of *H. polygyrus*-infected mice [*H.p.* (MLN)]. Expression is shown relative to *Hprt*. (*E*) Expression of Trim24 protein in naive and in vitro-generated T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. A.U., arbitrary units.

STAT-6, and cMAF as putative regulators of  $T_H2$  cells (Fig. 1 *A* and *B*), in line with previous experimental observations. This analysis also predicted that Tif1 $\alpha$ , belonging to the tripartite motif (Trim) family (i.e., Trim24), would be active in  $T_H2$  cells but not in  $T_H1$ ,  $T_H17$ , or Treg cells (Fig. 1 *A*–*C* and Table S1). The microarray analysis showed that Trim24, like Gata3, Stat6, and other Trim family members, was not significantly differentially regulated in  $T_H2$  cells as compared with naive T cells (Fig. 1*A* and Fig. S1 *A* and *B*). Using *II4*<sup>gfp</sup>-reporter mice, we assessed the expression of *Trim24* mRNA by quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) in freshly isolated *II4*<sup>gfp+</sup>  $T_H2$  cells from the lung tissue or local lymph nodes of HDM-challenged mice and from the local lymph nodes of helminth-infected mice. *II4*<sup>gfp+</sup>  $T_H2$  cells had

elevated *Il4*, *Il5*, and *Il13* mRNA but not *Trim24* mRNA (Fig. 1*D*), in line with the microarray data (Fig. S14). Western blot analysis of  $Il4^{gfp+}$  T<sub>H</sub>2 cells generated in vitro identified increased Trim24 protein expression, as compared with naive T cells (Fig. 1*E*), supporting a role for Trim24 in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. Collectively, predictive in silico analyses coupled with the elevated levels of Trim24 protein in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells suggest that Trim24 may contribute to T<sub>H</sub>2 cell biology.

T-Cell–Intrinsic Tif1 $\alpha$ /Trim24 Is Required for HDM-Induced Airway Allergy and Antihelminth Immunity. To test whether the predicted activity of Trim24 (Fig. 1*A*) and the elevated expression of Trim24 protein in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells (Fig. 1*E*) is required for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated



**Fig. 2.** T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 is essential for T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated airway allergy and T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent antihelminth immunity. Chimeric mice with WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were sensitized and challenged with HDM, and airway allergy was assessed 1 d after the last airway challenge. \**P*  $\leq$  0.05. One of three representative experiments is shown. (*A* and *B*) BAL cells were recovered, counted (*A*), and used for cytospins for differential analysis (*B*). (*C*) H&E- and AB-PAS-stained lung sections from chimeric mice with HDM-induced airway allergy. (*D*) Gene expression in the pulmonary tissue of mice with HDM-induced airway allergy. Expression is shown relative to PBS-treated mice. (*E*) Cells from local lymph nodes were restimulated with HDM. Secreted cytokines were measured in supernatas after 4 d. (*F*) Circulating total and HDM-specific IgE measured in the serum of mice with HDM-induced airway allergy. (*G*) Chimeric mice with WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were infected, drug-treated on days 14 and 15, and given a challenge infection with *H. polygyrus* on day 21. Adult worms were counted in the small intestine 14 d after the challenge infection. Fold change (FC) is shown relative to uninfected mice. (*I*) AB-PAS-stained tissue sections from chimeric mice 14 d after the challenge infection.

airway allergy and T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent antihelminth immunity in vivo, we generated chimeric mice in which Trim24-deficiency was restricted to T cells (Fig. S24). T-cell-chimeric mice had a comparable number and frequency of naive, memory, and regulatory T cells with no overt immunopathology after 3 mo of bone marrow reconstitution (Fig. S2 B-D). This T-cell-chimera system relied upon on the fact that non-T cells from WT or  $Trim24^{-/-}$  bone marrow repopulate at a similar rate in both WT and Trim24chimeric mice and constitute only a minor fraction (20%) of the total bone marrow. To determine whether Trim24-/- cells displayed any potential growth advantage that might compromise the T-cell-chimeric system, we generated separate 50:50 chimeras with 50% WT and 50% Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow. After 8 wk of reconstitution, the 50:50 chimeras retained the 50:50 ratio with comparable ratios of lymphocytes, myeloid cells, and granulocyte populations, indicating that neither the WT nor the Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> populations had an overt growth advantage (Fig. S2E). Following HDM sensitization and local airway challenge of T-cell-chimeric mice (Fig. S24), mice with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells had significantly reduced T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated airway allergy, with reduced airway inflammation (Fig. 2A) and reduced airway eosinophilia (Fig. 2B), as compared with mice with WT T cells. Mild perivascular infiltrates were present in mice with Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells; however, the cells failed to migrate and cause interstitial or peribronchial inflammation or mucus secretion following HDM challenge (Fig. 2C). Reduced airway mucus was supported by reduced Gob5 and Muc5ac expression in pulmonary tissue of mice with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells (Fig. 2D). Local lymph node cells restimulated with HDM indicated that Trim24 is required for optimal T<sub>H</sub>2 responses, because the absence of T-cellintrinsic Trim24 led to reduced HDM-induced IL-5, IL-13, and IL-10 secretion without any appreciable change in HDM-induced IFNy (Fig. 2E). Mice with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells also had reduced total and HDM-specific IgE (Fig. 2F), confirming the requirement of T-cellintrinsic Trim24 for T<sub>H</sub>2-orchestrated type-2 immunity. Using an additional, adjuvant-free HDM-induced airway allergy model, we observed a similar reduction in airway infiltrates, eosinophilia, airway pathology, IgE production, and  $T_H2$  cytokine secretions in chimeric mice with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells as compared with mice with WT T cells (Fig. S3), further confirming an important requirement for T-cell-intrinsic Trim24.

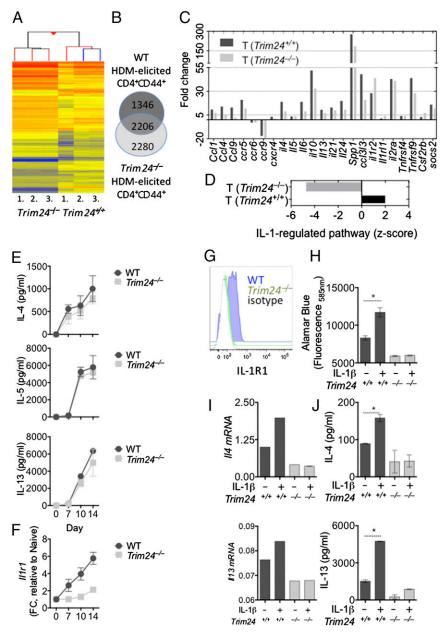
Expulsion of a challenge infection with the intestinal helminth Heligmosomoides polygyrus following drug cure of a primary infection requires T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent orchestration of a type-2 inflammatory cascade around invading larvae (35). To test further whether T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 is required for T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent antihelminth immunity in the gut, we gave a challenge infection of H. polygyrus to previously infected and drug-cured mice. Mice with Trim24-deficient T cells failed to expel the challenge infection (Fig. 2G), indicating that T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 also is required for proficient antihelminth immunity in the gut. The failure to expel H. polygyrus correlated with reduced expression of type-2 innate immune cell activation, including reduced  $Relm\alpha$ and Arg1, as well as reduced Il13 expression in the small intestine (Fig. 2H) and reduced mucus staining in the small intestine (Fig. 21). Collectively, these data identify an important requirement for T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 for T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated airway allergy and  $T_{\rm H}$ 2-dependent antihelminth immunity.

Tif1α/Trim24 Is Required for IL-1R Expression and IL-1β–Mediated Activation of T<sub>H</sub>2 Cells in Vitro. To identify how T-cell–intrinsic Trim24 regulated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell responses and T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated immunity, we purified activated WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells (TCRβ<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>CD44<sup>+</sup>) from the lungs of HDM-challenged mice, isolated total RNA, and subjected the RNA to transcriptional profiling (Fig. 3*A*). Microarray analysis showed that Trim24 regulated many genes in the purified T cells (Fig. 3*B*), with reduced expression of several chemokines (*Ccl1*, *Ccl4*, and *Ccl5*), chemokine receptors (*Ccr5*, *Ccr6*, *Ccr9*, and *Cxcr3*), cytokines (*II4*, *II10*, *II21*, *Spp1*, and *Ccl3l3*),

with WT T cells. These data indicate that Trim24 is required for a spectrum of T<sub>H</sub>2-associated characteristics and provide a mechanistic explanation for the reduced airway allergy and compromised antihelminth immunity observed in vivo (Fig. 2). To identify how Trim24 regulates such a broad spectrum of pathways, we again used an upstream analysis algorithm [IPA software (34)] similar to that used in Fig. 1 and found that an IL-1-regulated pathway was predicted to be inhibited or absent in  $Trim 24^{-/-}$  T cells as compared with WT T cells (Fig. 3D and Table S2). These data suggest that Trim24 is required for IL-1activated pathways in HDM-elicited pulmonary T cells. Several lines of evidence support this Trim24/IL-1 pathway. First, it has been widely reported that IL-1 signaling is required for T<sub>H</sub>2mediated immunity and allergy (36-39). More specifically, IL-1 signaling is required to activate  $T_H^2$  cells directly in vivo (13, 40). Second, a relationship between IL-1R/ubiquitin C and Trim24 has been suggested previously (15-19); however, the requirement of Trim24 for IL-1R expression has not been reported. Thus, based on our in silico prediction (Fig. 3D) and the previous reports mentioned above, we hypothesized that Trim24 regulates IL-1R expression and/or IL-1-mediated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation. To test this hypothesis, we isolated naive (CD4+CD44-CD62L<sup>hi</sup>) WT and  $Trim24^{-/-}$ T cells and polarized these cells under T<sub>H</sub>2 conditions.  $Trim24^{-/-}$ T<sub>H</sub>2 cells secreted slightly lower levels of IL-4, IL-5, and IL-13 in vitro, but these differences failed to reach statistical significance (Fig. 3*E*). However, in vitro  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T<sub>H</sub>2 cells had lower mRNA (Fig. 3F) and protein (Fig. 3G) expression of IL-1R1. Similarly, ex vivo Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells had lower expression of IL-1R (Fig. S4D), indicating that Trim24 is required for IL-1R expression on T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. To test whether the reduced IL-1R expression led to a functional reduction of T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation, at day 10 in vitro-generated WT or  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T<sub>H</sub>2 cells were washed, counted, and restimulated with anti-CD3 in the presence or absence of IL-1 $\beta$  for 24 h. Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>  $T_{\rm H}2$  cells proliferated less than WT cells (Fig. 3H) and transcribed (Fig. 3I) and secreted (Fig. 3J) slightly less IL-4 and less IL-13; however, this difference failed to reach statistical significance. In the presence of IL-1β, WT cells increased activation/proliferation (Fig. 3H) with increased Il4 transcription (Fig. 31) and IL-4 and IL-13 secretion (Fig. 3J). In contrast,  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T<sub>H</sub>2 cells were almost completely refractory to IL-1β-mediated activation/proliferation and cytokine production, suggesting that Trim24 is required for IL-1β-mediated  $T_{\rm H2}$  cell activation in vitro. Similarly, ex vivo  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells  $(TCR\beta^+CD4^+CD44^+)$  isolated from the lungs of HDM-challenged mice were refractory to IL-1 $\beta$ -mediated activation in vitro (Fig. S4E). Collectively, these data suggest that Trim24 is required for IL-1R expression on T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and for IL-1β-mediated activation of  $T_{\rm H}2$  cells in vitro.

cytokine receptors (*Il1r2*, *Il1r1*, *Il2ra*, *Il17re*, *Csf1r*, and *Csf2rb*), and regulators of cytokine secretion (*Socs2*) (Fig. 3C), compared

T-Cell-Intrinsic Trim24 Is Required for IL-1<sub>B</sub>-Mediated Activation of T<sub>H</sub>2 Cells in Vivo. IL-1R signaling is essential for the effector phase of  $T_{\rm H}$ 2-mediated airway allergy (38, 39), and IL-1 can directly activate  $T_{H2}$  cells in vivo (13, 40). However, it is unclear how this process is regulated and whether Trim24 is required for IL-1mediated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation in vivo. First, using chimeric mice with an IL-1R deficiency restricted to T cells (Fig. S5A), we confirmed that IL-1R-signaling in T cells is required for a fulminant type-2 allergic airway response. In line with previous reports (38, 39), mice with  $ll1r^{-/-}$  T cells had reduced airway inflammation (Fig. S5B), eosinophilia (Fig. S5C), and pulmonary inflammation (Fig. S5D) as compared with chimeric mice with Illr-sufficient T cells. Furthermore, T-cell expression of IL-1R is required for IL-1β-mediated exacerbation of airway allergy, because intratracheal challenge with HDM and IL-1 $\beta$  had little impact in chimeric mice with  $Il1r^{-/-}$  T cells (Fig. S5). These data suggest both that IL-1R signaling in T cells is required for

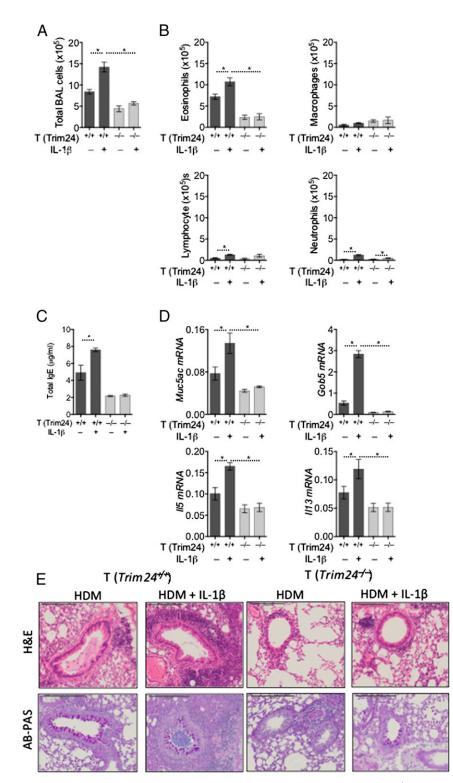


**Fig. 3.** Transcriptional analysis of activated (CD44<sup>+</sup>) *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells from the lungs of mice with identified airway allergy, reduced cytokine and chemokine expression, and reduced IL-1–regulated pathways. Chimeric mice with WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were sensitized and challenged with HDM. Activated (CD4<sup>+</sup>CD44<sup>+</sup>) WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were isolated from the lungs and FACS-purified for transcriptional analysis 1 d after the final airway challenge. \**P*  $\leq$  0.05. (*A*) Heat map of differentially expressed genes in WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells, relative to naive T cells. (*B*) Venn diagram showing common and unique genes regulated in WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells. (*C*) Noteworthy T<sub>H</sub>2 effector genes involved in airway allergy. (*D*) Z-score of the likelihood of activity for IL-1–regulated pathways in WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells. (*C*) Naive (CD4<sup>+</sup>CD44<sup>-/-</sup>CD42L<sup>hi</sup>) WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were FACS-purified and cultured under T<sub>H</sub>2 conditions for the indicated days. IL-4, IL-5, and IL-13 were measured in supernatant. (*F*) WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells cultured under T<sub>H</sub>2 conditions were harvested at the indicated days. RNA was extracted, and *Il1r1* expression was determined by qRT-PCR. (G) IL-1R1 expression on CD4<sup>+</sup>CD44<sup>hi</sup> WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T<sub>H</sub>2 cells at day 10. (*H*) Day 10 WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T<sub>H</sub>2 cells were washed, counted, and replated at 2 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells per well. Cells were stimulated with anti-CD3 in the presence or absence of IL-1β (10 ng/mL), as indicated. Cell viability/activity was determined by Alamar blue fluorescence. (*J*) *II-4* and *II-13* mRNA expression in day 10 WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells. Expression is shown relative to *Hprt*. One of three representative experiments is shown. (*J*) IL-4 and IL-13 protein expression in supernatant from WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells. Expression is shown relative to *Hprt*. One of three representative experiments is shown.

fulminant airway allergy and that T cells are a major target of IL- $1\beta$ -exacerbated airway allergy.

To determine whether T-cell–intrinsic Trim24 is required for IL-1 $\beta$ –mediated T-cell activation in vivo, we challenged mice with WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells with HDM supplemented with IL-1 $\beta$ . After HDM/IL-1 $\beta$  challenge chimeric mice with WT T cells developed significantly enhanced airway inflammation (Fig. 4*A*) with elevated eosinophilia, lymphocyte recruitment, and, to a

lesser extent, increased neutrophilia (Fig. 4*A* and *B*). In contrast, mice with *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells had only a modest increase in airway inflammation with a small increase in airway neutrophils after HDM/IL-1β challenge (Fig. 4*A* and *B*). HDM/IL-1β challenge also increased systemic IgE in mice with WT cells but not in mice with *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells (Fig. 4*C*). Within pulmonary tissue, the expression of mucus-associated genes (*Muc5ac* and *Gob5*) and type-2 cytokine genes (*Il5* and *Il13*) also was increased in mice



**Fig. 4.** IL-1 $\beta$ -exacerbated airway allergy is dependent on T-cell-intrinsic Trim24. Chimeric mice with WT or *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells were sensitized with HDM and challenged with HDM supplemented with IL-1 $\beta$  or unsupplemented as indicated. One of two representative experiments is shown. \**P*  $\leq$  0.05. (*A* and *B*) BAL cells were recovered, counted (*A*), and used for cytospins for differential analysis (*B*). (*C*) Circulating IgE was measured in the serum of chimeric mice. (*D*) Gene expression in pulmonary tissue of mice with HDM-induced airway allergy. Expression is shown relative to *Hprt.* (*E*) H&E- and AB-PAS-stained lung sections from chimeric mice with HDM-induced airway allergy.

with WT cells but not in those with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells (Fig. 4D). Most strikingly, pulmonary inflammation was increased in dramatically HDM/IL-1 $\beta$ -challenged mice with WT T cells and was accompanied by increased mucus staining (Fig. 4E). Supporting the requirement of T-cell–intrinsic Trim24 for T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated airway allergy and the mechanistic requirement of T-cell–intrinsic Trim24 for IL-1 $\beta$ -mediated exacerbation, mice with *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells showed very little pulmonary inflammation with only a

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modest increase in mucus staining following HDM/IL-1 $\beta$  challenge. In summary, we have identified an unappreciated and nonredundant role for T-cell-intrinsic Trim24 in the manifestation of T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated allergy and immunity and have identified mechanistically that Trim24 is required for IL-1R expression on T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and for IL-1 $\beta$ -mediated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation in vivo.

## Discussion

In this study we found that T-cell-intrinsic Trim24, which was predicted to be active in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells but not in T<sub>H</sub>1, T<sub>H</sub>17, or Treg cells, is essential for HDM-mediated airway allergy and T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent expulsion of the intestinal helminth *H. polygyrus*. Genome-wide transcriptional analysis of activated, tissue-derived *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells showed that Trim24 is required for cytokine, chemokine, and chemokine receptor expression. In silico upstream analyses of transcriptional data from WT and *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells suggested that IL-1 signaling is compromised in *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells. Both in vitro and in vivo experiments supported this mechanistic pathway, with *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* T cells being refractory to IL-1β–mediated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation. Thus this study has identified a previously unappreciated role for Trim24 in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and highlights a previously unidentified therapeutic target to forestall hyperactive T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated inflammatory diseases.

A large proportion of allergic asthmatic patients mount dysregulated type-2 immune responses to otherwise innocuous allergens. An increasing number of these patients-indeed, the majority of asthmatics-respond poorly to currently available drugs (1), increasing the need to identify new targetable pathways to treat allergic asthma. Cytokine and chemokine-secreting  $T_{\rm H}^2$  cells orchestrate many of the pathophysiological features of allergic asthma. We therefore interrogated the transcriptional profile of highly purified T<sub>H</sub>2 cells that contribute directly to HDM-induced airway allergy, in addition to T<sub>H</sub>2 cells isolated from helminth-infected mice (33). Rather than focusing on differentially regulated genes in the datasets, we focused on putative upstream pathways that could contribute to the transcriptional profiles. Validating this approach, we identified IL-4 (41) and several transcriptional factors/regulators including Gata3 (7), Stat3 (8), Stat6 (9), and cMaf (10), all of which are necessary for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell differentiation and/or effector function. This approach also predicted that Trim24 is functionally active in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells, even though its expression does not change significantly. Trim24 was not transcriptionally regulated in vitro in T cells after 3 d of stimulation with IL-4 and TCR engagement, but the protein levels of Trim24 were increased as compared with naive T cells, supporting the involvement of Trim24 in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. The precise mechanisms of posttranscriptional regulation of Trim24, which could explain the disparity in mRNA and protein levels, are currently unclear. There are many miRNAs that are predicted to target Trim24, which, if down-regulated in T<sub>H</sub>2 cells, could permit the translation of Trim24 without altering the transcription of Trim24. For example, miR-384 and miR-539 are predicted to target Trim24 and are down-regulated in  $T_{H2}$  cells (33). Whether these or other miRNA-mediated pathways regulate Trim24 expression in T cells requires further validation.

Trim24 is expressed early in the developing embryo (42) in the developing nervous system (43), liver (28, 44), intestine (45), lung (46), and microglia (47). Unlike Trim28 (26) and Trim33 (48), which have reported roles in T cells, Trim24 has not been studied within the immune system. However, IL-4 can up-regulate *Trim24* expression in microglia as early as 4 h poststimulation (47), and combinatorial transcription factor predictions identified that Trim24 interacts with Stat-6 (49), an IL-4-mediated signal transduction component. Furthermore, elevated Trim24 (28, 44, 45, 50–52) and constitutively active IL-4/STAT6 signaling (53–56) have been observed in many forms of human cancer. However, whether observation describes a causal relationship is currently unclear.

Trim24 can promote glucose metabolism and cellular proliferation (28, 44, 45, 50-52, 57) in a variety of cells, contributing to its involvement in tumorigenesis. T<sub>H</sub>2 cells are dependent on glucose metabolism (58); thus deletion of Trim24 in T cells also may compromise glucose metabolism, providing an additional explanation for reduced T<sub>H</sub>2 cell responses in the absence of Trim24. In addition, Trim24 interacts with several nuclear receptors, including the estrogen and retinoic acid receptors (28, 59), regulating a variety of transcriptional programs. Both estrogen receptor (60) and retinoic acid receptor signaling (61) have been widely studied in the context of allergy and T-cell biology; however, our transcriptional analysis of Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells (Fig. S4) did not indicate that these pathways are dysregulated in the absence of Trim24. Instead, Trim24-/- T cells had dysregulated expression of the genes involved in amino acid transport, lipid metabolism, and glucogenesis (Lat-1, Trib3, Gpt2, Arsb, Chpt1, and Galc). However, the most notable transcriptional changes observed in Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells included chemokines, cytokines, and their receptors (Fig. 3), many of which have critical functions in airway allergy. For example, Trim24-deficient T cells had reduced expression of Ccl1 and Ccl5, chemokines involved in the recruitment of eosinophils (62) and T<sub>H</sub>2 cells (63), respectively; reduced expression of Il4, Il21, and Spp1 (Osteopontin), all of which contribute significantly to airway allergy (64-66); and reduced expression of *Illrl1 (Il33r*) and *il17re (Il25r*), both of which contribute to  $T_{H2}$  cell activation and recruitment (67-69). These data highlight the importance of Trim24 for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell effector function and provide multiple mechanistic explanations for the reduced airway allergy observed in mice with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells.

To identify an upstream mechanistic link that could underpin the various deficiencies observed in  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells, we performed upstream analyses of transcriptional datasets from WT and Trim24<sup>-/-</sup> T cells. These analyses predicted that IL-1R signaling would be compromised in  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells. In line with this prediction, IL-1R signaling is required for T<sub>H</sub>2-dependent immunity (36, 37) and T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated airway allergy (38, 39), supporting observations presented here with  $Trim24^{-/-}$  T cells. Specifically, IL-1 signaling is required to activate T<sub>H</sub>2 cells in vivo (13, 40), and, as we show here, IL-1R signaling in T cells can exacerbate T<sub>H</sub>2-driven airway allergy. In support of this upstream mechanistic link,  $Tim24^{-/-}$  T<sub>H</sub>2 cells were refractory to IL-1β-induced activation/proliferation and cytokine production in vitro, and mice with  $Tim24^{-/-}$  T cells failed to develop exacerbated disease when activated with allergen and IL-1β. Whether integrated IL-1R and IL-4R signaling pathways converge on Trim24 in T cells is unclear; however, a series of protein interactions involving an IL-1R1-ubiquitin C-Trim24-STAT6 axis (15, 18, 49) has been independently described but as yet not validated. In addition, IL-1 signaling in lymphocytes potently activates NFkB (70), which is regulated by several Trim family members (71). Whether Trim24 regulates IL-1-mediated NFkB also is currently unknown but may explain the requirement of Trim24 for IL-1-mediated T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation.

Therapeutically, anakinra, an IL-1R antagonist, has been approved and is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis when there are no signs of infection (72); however, inhibiting IL-1R signaling may compromise continuous immunosurveillance, particularly in the allergic lung. Instead, targeting Trim24 may not disarm the host as much as blocking IL-1R but still may curtail  $T_H$ 2-mediated airway disease. Bromodomain inhibitors targeting Trim24 have been developed (73, 74) and also may prevent dysregulated  $T_H$ 2-mediated diseases. In summary, we have identified an important and previously unappreciated role for T-cell–intrinsic Trim24, which is required for  $T_H$ 2 cell-mediated airway allergy and for IL-1R–mediated exacerbation of allergic airway disease.

# **Materials and Methods**

**Animals.** C57BL/6, C57BL/6  $II4^{gfp}$ , C57BL/6. $Tcra^{-/-}$ ,  $Rag2^{-/-}$ , and  $II1r^{-/-}$  mice were bred and kept in the specific pathogen-free facility at The Francis Crick Institute. *Trim24<sup>-/-</sup>* bone marrow was kindly provided by Gabrielle Mengus and Irwin Davidson (Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, Illkirch, France). Mice were randomly housed five mice per cage before the experimental procedure. A minimum of five mice per group was used for each experiment, unless indicated.

**Generation of Mixed T-Cell Bone Marrow Chimeric Mice.**  $Rag2^{-/-}$ mice (6–8 wk old) were irradiated (2 × 450 rad) followed by adoptive transfer of 2–5 × 10<sup>6</sup> bone marrow cells (20% bone marrow from  $Trim24^{-/-}$ ,  $II1^{-/-}$ , or WT donor mice and 80% bone marrow from C57BL/6. $Tcra^{-/-}$  mice) for 6–8 wk before any experimental procedure. Mice were given water ad libitum that was supplemented with Baytril for 3 wk after radiation. For 1:1 chimeric mice,  $Rag2^{-/-}$  mice were lethally irradiated (2 × 450 rad) and given 2 × 10<sup>6</sup> WT and  $Trim24^{-/-}$  bone marrow cells for 8 wk before analysis.

**CD4 T-Cell Isolation, Flow Cytometry, and T<sub>H</sub>2 Polarization.** CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were isolated from tissues by mechanical disruption followed by red blood cell lysis and Percoll gradient separation followed by positive or negative cell enrichment using magnetic beads (L3T4; Miltenyi Biotec). Cells then were stained with anti-mouse CD4 (clone RM4-5), CD44 (clone IM7), CD25 (clone PC61), TCR- $\beta$  (clone H57-597), Vβ5 (clone MR9-4), Vα2 (clone B20.1), and IL-1R1 (JAMA-147). Dead cells were excluded from sorting and analysis with propidium iodide or Live/Dead stain (Invitrogen). Anti-CD16/32 was used in all staining. Cells were acquired using a BD LSR II flow cytometer and were analyzed with FlowJo software (Tree Star). For cell sorting, BD Influx, FACS Aria (BD), or MoFlo XDP (Beckman Coulter) sorters were used, with a purity of sorted cells >95%. For T<sub>H</sub>2 polarization, naive T cells were stimulated with anti-CD3 (1 µg/mL) and anti-CD28 (10 µg/mL) and were cultured with IL-4 (10 ng/mL), IL-2 (5 ng/mL), and anti-IFNγ (10 µg/mL) for 10 d or as indicated in figures.

### Airway Allergy and H. polygyrus Infection Models.

*H. polygyrus.* Mice were infected with 200 *H. polygyrus* infective larvae (stage 3) by oral gavage. On day 14 and 15 mice were treated with an oral dose of pyrantel embonate (2 mg) to clear the helminth infection. On day 28 mice were given a challenge infection.  $T_H2$ -dependent immunity to *H. polygyrus* determined 14 d after the secondary infection by counting luminal worms in the small intestine.

HDM/alum-induced airway allergy. For HDM/alum-induced airway inflammation, mice were sensitized by i.p. injection with 10 µg HDM (Greer) with 2 mg of Imject Alum (Thermo Scientific) on day 0 and day 14 followed by intratracheal challenge with 10  $\mu g$  of HDM in PBS on day 21 and day 24. The severity of airway inflammation and pathology was determined on day 25. HDM-induced airway allergy, without alum. Alternatively, mice were sensitized by intranasal (i.n.) delivery of 10 µg HDM (Greer) in PBS on day 0 followed by i.n. challenge with 10  $\mu$ g of HDM in PBS on days 7–11, with airway allergy determined on day 14. Cytospins of bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) recoveries were performed to determine cellular infiltrates. Pulmonary tissue was recovered in RNAlater (Thermo Fisher) for gene-expression analysis or in 10% neutral-buffered formalin for histopathology. Tissues were stained with Alcian blue Periodic acid-Schiff (AB-PAS) stain and H&E to detect mucus production and leukocyte infiltration, respectively. Local lymph nodes were recovered, and  $2 \times 10^5$  cells were restimulated in 96-well plates with 10  $\mu$ g of HDM to determine antigen-specific cytokine secretions. Serum was recovered for IgE analysis.

Western Blot for Trim24. For immunoblotting, cells were lysed in 1× RIPA buffer [500 mM Tris·HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% deoxycholate, 1% Nonidet-P40] containing protein inhibitors per the manufacturer's instructions (Roche), including 50 mM sodium flouride (NaF), 1 mM sodium orthovanadate, 100 nM Okadaic acid, and 2 mM sodium pyrophosphate tetrabasic in MilliQ water. Cell lysates were normalized to equal total protein content using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Life Technologies) and were resolved on NuPAGE 4–12% Bis-Tris Gel (Life Technologies). Separated proteins were transferred onto Amersham Hybond-P PVDF membranes (GE Healthcare) via the semidry Trans-Blot Turbo system (Bio-Rad). Membranes were blocked with 0.1% TBS and Tween 20 (TBST) containing 5% milk (Sigma) and were incubated with primary Rabbit anti-TIF1a/TRIM24 (A300-815A; Bethyl) in 0.1% TBST containing 5% BSA and secondary antibodies (Rabbit IgG; GE Healthcare) in 0.1% TBST, and specific bound antibodies were visualized by chemiluminescence (Immobilon; Merck Millipore).

RNA, gRT-PCR, Microarray, and in Silico Analysis. RNA was isolated from tissues and cells using RNeasy mini spin columns according to the manufacturer's instructions (Qiagen). For microarray analysis, cDNA was generated from 5 ng of total RNA using the WT-Ovation Pico (version 1) RNA Amplification System followed by double-stranded cDNA synthesis using the WT-Ovation Exon Module, cDNA quality was determined using an Agilent BioAnalyzer and through hybridization performance on Affymetrix GeneChip mouse Genome 430A 2.0 microarray (Affymetrix) by the Systems Biology Unit at The Francis Crick Institute. Microarray data were quantile-normalized and analyzed using GeneSpring software (Agilent). Differentially expressed genes were determined using ANOVA and t tests. Genes with false discovery rate-corrected P values <0.1 and fold-change values  $\geq$ 1.5 were considered significant, as indicated in figure legends. Three to five biological replicates were used, as indicated. Data then were uploaded into IPA (Ingenuity Systems; www.ingenuity.com) for pathways and upstream analysis (34). For qRT-PCR, RNA was reverse-transcribed using miScript II RT Kit (Qiagen). Realtime RT-PCR was performed on an ABI Prism 7900HT Sequence Detection System (Applied Biosystems) with relative quantities of mRNA determined using SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) and by the comparative threshold cycle method as described by Applied Biosystems for the ABI Prism 7700/7900HT Sequence Detection Systems. mRNA levels were normalized to hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (HPRT) or GAPDH and expressed as a relative increase or decrease compared with levels in controls or relative to HPRT, as indicated. The following primer pairs were used: II4, forward: ACGAGGTCACAGGAGAAGGGA, reverse: AGCCC-TACAGACGAGCTCACTC; 1/5, forward: TGACAAGCAATGAGACGATGAGG, reverse: ACCCCCACGGACAGTTTGATTC; II13, forward: CCTCTGACCCTTAAG-GAGCTTAT, reverse: CGTTGCACAGGGGAGTCTT: Relma, forward: CCCTCCA-CTGTAACGAAGACTC, reverse: CACACCCAGTAGCAGTCATCC; Muc5ac, forward: CAGGACTCTCTGAAATCGTACCA, reverse: AAGGCTCGTACCACAGGGA; Gob5, forward: CATCGCCATAGACCACGACG, reverse: TTCCAGCTCTCGGGAATCAAA; Arg1, F-GGAAAGCCAATGAAGAGCTG, reverse: GCTTCCAACTGCCAGACTGT; Trim24, forward: TTACCAAACCCTAGAATGCAG, reverse: ACATTCTGGCTTGG-TGAATATC.

**ELISA.** Cytokines and IgE were measured by ELISA. Capture and biotinylated detection antibodies for IL-4, IL-5, IL-13, IFN $\gamma$ , and IL-10 were from R&D Systems. Total IgE was measured in serum using Purified Rat Anti-Mouse IgE (R35-72; BD Pharmingen) at 2 µg/mL For measurement of HDM-specific IgE, IgG was adsorbed to protein G Sepharose beads before measurement of HDM-specific IgE on HDM-coated (10 µg/mL) plates, as previously described (75) followed by Biotin Rat Anti-Mouse IgE at 1 µg/mL (R35-118; BD Pharmingen) with IgE, k isotype standard (BD Pharmingen), and was detected with Streptavidin HRP at 1:000 (BD Pharmingen) and ABTS One Component HRP Microwell Substrate (SurModics). The concentration of analytes in the sample was determined from a serial-fold diluted standard curve with OD read at 405 nm in an ELISA reader (Tecan II Safire).

**Statistical Analysis.** Datasets were compared by Mann–Whitney test using GraphPad Prism (V.5.0). Differences were considered significant at  $P \le 0.05$ .

**Ethics Statement.** All animal experiments were carried out following United Kingdom Home Office regulations (project license 80/2506) and were approved by the Francis Crick Institute Ethical Review Panel.

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