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## Next generation sequencing of the pig $\alpha\beta$ TCR repertoire identifies the porcine invariant NKT cell receptor

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### Abstract

Swine represent the only livestock with an established invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell-CD1d system. Here, we exploited the fact that pig iNKT cells can be purified using a mouse CD1d tetramer reagent to establish their T cell receptor (TCR) repertoire by next generation sequencing. CD1d tetramer-positive pig cells predominantly expressed an invariant Va-Ja rearrangement, without non-template nucleotide diversity, homologous to the Va24-Ja18 and Va14-Ja18 rearrangements of human and murine iNKT cells. The co-expressed  $\beta$  chain used a V $\beta$  segment homologous to the semivariant V $\beta$ 11 and V $\beta$ 8.2 segments of murine and human iNKT cell receptors. Molecular modeling found that contacts within CD1d and CDR1 $\alpha$  that underlie fine specificity differences between mouse and human iNKT cells are conserved between pigs and humans, indicating that the response of porcine and human iNKT cells to CD1d-restricted antigens may be similar. Accordingly, pigs, which are an important species for diverse fields of biomedical research, may be useful for developing human-based iNKT cell therapies for cancer, infectious diseases, and other disorders. Our study also sequenced the expressed TCR repertoire of conventional porcine  $\alpha\beta$  T cells (Tconv), which identified 48 Va, 50 Ja, 18 V $\beta$ , and 18 J $\beta$  sequences, most of which correspond to human gene segments. These findings provide information on the  $\alpha\beta$  TCR usage of pigs, which is understudied and deserves further attention.

### Keywords

T cell receptors; NKT cells; tetramer; repertoire; swine

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## Introduction

CD1d-restricted invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cells are an innate-like T cell subset expressed by some, but not all mammals. Unlike conventional  $\alpha\beta$  T cells (Tconv) that bind peptide antigens, iNKT cells recognize self and exogenous lipids with an  $\alpha$ -anomericallinked sugar presented by CD1d proteins expressed on the surface of various antigen-presenting cells and non-hematopoietic cells (1). iNKT cells interact with CD1d-bound antigen through a highly conserved invariant T cell receptor (TCR) that is a product of a canonical rearrangement between gene segments V $\alpha$ 14 and J $\alpha$ 18 in mice (2), V $\alpha$ 14 and J $\alpha$ 18 in rats (3), and V $\alpha$ 24 and J $\alpha$ 18 in humans (2, 4, 5). iNKT cell  $\alpha$  chains are paired with either V $\beta$ 8.2, V $\beta$ 7, or V $\beta$ 2 in mice (6, 7) or V $\beta$ 11 in humans (5). The invariant  $\alpha$  chain interacts with antigen via the complementarity-determining region (CDR) 1 $\alpha$  and CDR3 $\alpha$ , while the  $\beta$  chain makes stabilizing contacts with CD1d and modulates the affinity of the TCR for the antigen/CD1d complex (8, 9). A number of microorganisms contain lipid antigens that bind CD1d and activate iNKT cells (10–17). iNKT cells can also be activated with the prototypical ligand  $\alpha$ -galactosylceramide ( $\alpha$ -GalCer) that was originally isolated from the marine sponge *Agelas mauritanus* (18). Accordingly, fluorescently labeled CD1d tetramers or multimers loaded with  $\alpha$ -GalCer analogs can be used to visualize and purify iNKT cells by flow cytometry (19).

Because CD1d is a non-polymorphic molecule, mouse CD1d (mCD1d)/ $\alpha$ -GalCer tetramer cross-reacts with human iNKT cells and vice versa (20, 21). In addition, mouse and human CD1d/ $\alpha$ -GalCer tetramers have been found to cross-react with porcine iNKT cells (22–24). We took advantage of this phenomenon to purify porcine iNKT cells and establish their receptor repertoire using RNA sequencing (RNA-seq). Our results show that porcine iNKT cell  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chains are highly homologous to their human counterparts, including the critical CDR3 $\alpha$  sequence. Molecular modeling found that several contacts which distinguish mouse and human iNKT cell TCR-antigen-CD1d interactions are conserved between pigs and humans. Accordingly, swine may be useful for testing of iNKT cell agonists for human use, especially as pigs are more similar to humans than mice with regard to iNKT cell frequency and tissue distribution (25). Also like humans, pigs possess a full complement of CD1 molecules (CD1a, CD1b, CD1c, CD1d, CD1e), some of which can present lipid antigens that may activate iNKT cells or other innate-like lymphocyte subsets (26, 27), while mice only express two copies of CD1d, one of which is non-functional in some strains (28).

The current study also examined the expressed  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chain usage of Tconv. Our RNAsequencing approach identified a large number of V and J segments, many of which overlapped with sequences discovered in previous studies that used traditional cloning techniques to identify TCR  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -chains. We also detected V and J segments that have not been previously described, which should be useful for understanding porcine TCR  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chain usage in a variety of contexts, such as during infections, and for porcine models of cancer and xenotransplantation.

## Materials and methods

### iNKT cell expansion and purification

Peripheral blood (10 ml per pig) was collected from the jugular vein of eight 4- to 6-week old Hampshire, Yorkshire, Chester White, Duroc, and Landrace crossbred pigs of mixed sex that were maintained under standard husbandry conditions at the University of Florida's swine unit. Blood was collected in heparinized vacutainers (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA) in accordance with the University of Florida's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee under protocol 201509134. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated using Ficoll-Paque™ PREMIUM (GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp., Uppsala, Sweden) as previously described (25). Cells were seeded in U-bottomed 96-well cell culture plates (BD Falcon, Multiwell Cell Culture Plate) at a density of  $5 \times 10^5$  PBMC/well in 200  $\mu$ l of RPMI 1640 (containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin) with DMSO or 1  $\mu$ g/ml  $\alpha$ -GalCer and cultured at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 7 days without the addition of exogenous cytokines. After culture, PBMCs were harvested and incubated at 4°C for 10 min with 10  $\mu$ g rat IgG (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO) to block Fc receptor binding. Cells were then surface stained for 30 min at 4°C with fluorescein isothiocyanate-labelled antibody to CD3e (clone BB23-8E6-8C8, BD Biosciences) and phycoerythrin-labelled mouse CD1d tetramer, unloaded or loaded with the  $\alpha$ -GalCer analog PBS57 provided by the National Institutes of Health Tetramer Core Facility. Cells were washed in PBS and counted using a BD Accuri C6 flow cytometer as previously described (29). PBMC samples incubated with  $\alpha$ -GalCer were sorted for iNKT cells (CD3e<sup>+</sup>CD1d tetramer<sup>+</sup>) and Tconv (CD3e<sup>+</sup>CD1d tetramer<sup>-</sup>) using a Sony SH800 cell sorter. At least  $1 \times 10^5$  iNKT cells and  $5 \times 10^5$  conventional T cells from each pig were collected with a purity of >90%.

### Sequencing of the TCR repertoire

For each of two donor preparations, a total of  $6 \times 10^5$  iNKT cells and at least  $2.5 \times 10^6$  Tconv from 4 pigs were pooled, pelleted and lysed with RNA lysis buffer from Quick-RNA™ MiniPrep (ZYMO Research, Irvine, CA) to extract RNA. RNA quantity and purity were measured with an Agilent 2100 bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA). mRNA was isolated using poly-T beads that hybridizes to the RNA poly-A tag (mRNA-seq kit from Bioo Scientific Corporation, Austin, TX) and sheared to ~600bp fragments using magnesium ions and high temperature. Fragments were then converted to double stranded cDNA using random primers. Two universal sequences (adaptor 1 and 2, compatible with Illumina sequencing instruments) were ligated to both ends of the cDNA molecule with unique molecular identifiers (UMIs). Nested PCR was then performed with 3'-primers binding to a segment of the constant region and the 5'-universal adapter to enrich the library for TCR transcripts. This generated Illumina compatible amplicons with greater than 90% specificity to the TCR transcripts. The library was sequenced using the Illumina NextSeq 500. Raw data is available in the Sequence Read Archive at <https://trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Traces/sra/>, accession number SRP156281.

### Bioinformatic analysis of TCR amplicons

The UMIs in the sequenced reads were used to remove PCR duplicates. Annotations were compiled from the IMGT (<http://www.imgt.org/>) and EST (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>)

nucst) databases, as well as data from previous swine T cell sequencing experiments performed in house. Sequences with gaps in annotation were manually curated while sequences with stop codons were dropped. All non-redundant TCR-segment sequences were grouped into sets of Vs, Js, Ds and Cs. V-J pairs, CDR3 sequences and V-CDR3-J combinations were tabulated from the data and used to catalog the restricted usage of segments. Sequences recovered by the above process were compared to those in the human V and J IMGT database and to genomic and cDNA sequences in GenBank. J $\alpha$  sequences also were compared with pig J $\alpha$  sequences annotated in IMGT while V $\beta$  and J $\beta$  sequences were correlated to published and unpublished cDNA sequences generously provided by Dr. John Butler (30). Based on these comparisons, the nomenclature used for the porcine V $\alpha$ , V $\beta$ , and J $\beta$  genes was adopted from the human classification, with the prefix “p” for porcine added to indicate provisional nomenclature. J $\alpha$  genes were named according to the IMGT database. Phylogenetic analysis of the porcine iNKT cell repertoire was performed using Blast searches of the human, mouse, and rat genome databases of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, <https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) with the nucleotide sequence of the of the pig *pTRAV10*, *TRAJ18\*01*, and *pTRBV25* gene segments as well as porcine *CD1D*. Phylogenetic trees were constructed according to the maximum likelihood method using Mega X (<https://www.megasoftware.net>).

### Structural modeling

The nucleotide sequence of porcine *pTRAV10* was submitted to NCBI Open Reading Frame Finder to determine the amino acid sequence. The parameters were set to search for ATG and alternative initiation codons. An open reading frame was determined that codes for a protein of 92 amino acids in length. Sequencing results of *pTRBV25* translated to a protein sequence of 26 amino acids in length, which is too short to build a reliable model. Therefore, the amino acid sequence was submitted to ExPASy Blast to search the UniProt database for proteins of similar sequence. The submitted sequence shared 100% identity with residues 64–95 of pig T-cell receptor V $\beta$ 25 (Uniprot identifier: I3LEA5). Sequence alignment of this sequence with the human TCR V $\beta$ 11 segment (Protein Data Bank [PDB]: 2PO6) determined these proteins share 76% sequence identity. Subsequently, the I3LEA5 sequence was determined an appropriate representation of full length porcine *pTRBV25*.

A model of porcine iNKT cell receptor (*pTRAV10-TRAJ18\*01*, *pTRBV25* segments) in complex with CD1d-bound  $\alpha$ -GalCer was generated in SWISS-MODEL using the structure of human iNKT cell receptor (V $\alpha$ 24-J $\alpha$ 18, V $\beta$ 11 segments) in complex with CD1d- $\alpha$ -GalCer as a template. The human and mouse structures were obtained from RCSB PDB under the respective identifiers 2PO6 (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/2po6>) and 3HE6 (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3HE6>). The porcine  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin structure was obtained from PDB under the identifier 5NQ0 (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/5NQ0>) and its interactions with CD1d were modeled using the human structure. The porcine CD1d, pTRAV10, and pTRBV25 models were superimposed on the template crystal structure of the human complex and  $\alpha$ -carbon root mean square deviation (rmsd) values calculated in COOT (31). The  $\alpha$ -GalCer glycolipid was docked between the subunits based on the binding of  $\alpha$ -GalCer in the human complex. The interface surface areas between each of the components were determined in PDB ePISA (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/pisa/>).

## Results

### Enrichment of iNKT cells from pig peripheral blood

The proportion of iNKT cells in pig blood typically ranges between 0.01 and 1% of total lymphocytes (23, 25). To collect enough iNKT cells for TCR sequencing, PBMCs from 8 pigs were cultured with  $\alpha$ -GalCer for 7 days which expanded iNKT cells by an average of 155-fold (Supplementary Table 1). Addition of exogenous cytokines was not required to expand pig iNKT cells, which is consistent with a previous report (23). iNKT cells were identified using anti-porcine CD3 $\epsilon$  antibody and mCD1d tetramer loaded with the  $\alpha$ -GalCer analog PBS57, which cross-reacts with the porcine invariant TCR (22, 24, 25, 32–35). iNKT cells and Tconv were respectively distinguished as CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD1d tetramer<sup>+</sup> and CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD1d tetramer<sup>-</sup> cells. An example of two-color flow cytometric analysis of one representative PBMC preparation cultured with DMSO or  $\alpha$ -GalCer is shown (Figure 1). iNKT cells were not detected in  $\alpha$ -GalCer-cultured PBMCs stained with the unloaded CD1d tetramer, which demonstrates the specificity of porcine invariant TCR for the mouse CD1d tetramer-antigen complex. For iNKT cell purification, two donor preparations were produced by pooling  $\alpha$ -GalCer-cultured PBMCs from 4 pigs each. FACS sorting was used to isolate approximately  $6 \times 10^5$  iNKT cells and  $2.5 \times 10^6$  Tconv from each pool with >90% purity (Figure 1).

### T cell receptor repertoire analysis

The objective was to compare the TCR  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chains expressed by mCD1d tetramer positive and negative T cells to determine whether porcine iNKT cells are biased for specific  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  TCR genes compared to Tconv. However, annotation of the porcine TCR repertoire is incomplete, leading to the concern that porcine iNKT cells could potentially use previously undescribed TCR  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  chains. Therefore, an approach was taken to use recombination signal sequences (RSSs) to map sequence reads generated from the Tconv and enriched for TCR transcripts by PCR, to porcine V and J segments compiled from *Sus scrofa* NCBI assembly Sscrofa11.1. Using this strategy, it was anticipated that invariant chains expressed by iNKT cells would be found on multiple Tconv clones. A total of 187,881 CDR3 $\alpha$  and 136,529 CDR3 $\beta$  unique sequences were identified from the two pooled Tconv samples. These were used to identify 48 V $\alpha$  sequences, 50 J $\alpha$  sequences, 18 V $\beta$  sequences, and 18 J $\beta$  sequences. The complete collection of sequences are provided in Supplementary Table 2 and the raw data are available in the Sequence Read Archive at <https://trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Traces/sra/>, accession number SRP156281.

All 48 of the V $\alpha$  sequences that we identified were among 33 TRAV segments deposited in Genbank by Yamamoto *et al.* (36) (Table 1). Because porcine V $\alpha$  genes are not annotated in IMGT, segment naming was based on similarity with consensus sequences of human TRAV genes with nucleotide identities of  $\geq 75\%$ . The prefix “p” for porcine was added to indicate provisional nomenclature. Thirty-two of our sequences are homologous to human genes. Some human segments aligned with more than one pig V sequence that could not be distinguished from each other due to our relatively short V segment reads. We detected one V $\alpha$  gene (*pTRADV8*) that aligned with a previously cloned porcine TCR  $\alpha/\delta$  gene with no orthologous segment in humans, rodents, or other artiodactyls. Examination of the expressed V $\alpha$  repertoire found that five segments, *pTRAV8-2*, *pTRAV18*, *pTRADV17-3*,

*pTRADV17-2*, and *pTRAV26-2*, were used preferentially and together accounted for ~58% of the TRAV segments expressed (Figure 2A). We did not detect segments homologous to human TRAV pseudogenes *TRAV8-5*, *TRAV11*, *TRAV15*, *TRAV31*, *TRAV32*, suggesting that these are also pseudogenes in pigs. However, a TRAV segment homologous to the human pseudogene *TRAV28* was detected, albeit at low levels (0.33%). Interestingly, we did not detect a homolog to *TRAV1-2* that is used by the invariant TCR  $\alpha$  chain of human mucosal associated-invariant T (MAIT) cells (37). We were also unable to detect MAIT cells from pig blood using mouse or macaque MR1 tetramers (data not shown).

Analysis of J $\alpha$  gene segment usage found that all 50 sequences detected were among 61 J $\alpha$  gene segments previously identified in the pig germline sequence and annotated in IMGT according to their human TRAJ orthologs (Table 2). Thus, designations for the J $\alpha$  segments were adapted from IMGT (38). All of the J $\alpha$  sequences aligned with human TRAJ genes with nucleotide identities of ~78%. The frequency of J $\alpha$  segment usage ranged between 0.28 and 5.82%, with *TRAJ18\*01*, *TRAJ29\*01*, and *TRAJ43\*01* representing the most frequently used segments (Figure 2B). Orthologs to human J $\alpha$  pseudogenes, *TRAJ51* and *TRAJ55*, were not detected, although we did identify a segment corresponding to the *TRAJ60* pseudogene, which is functional in pigs (38). We also found J $\alpha$  segments that corresponded with human *TRAJ2*, *TRAJ25*, and *TRAJ35*, which in humans contain open reading frames with non-canonical RSS and J-region segments that result in non-functional products (38). We did not detect sequences that aligned with *TRAJ1\*01*, *TRAJ19\*01*, *TRAJ38\*01*, *TRAJ45\*01*, *TRAJ51\*01*, *TRAJ55\*01*, *TRAJ59\*01*, and *TRAJ61\*01*, which are predicted to be non-functional in pigs (38), although expression of *TRAJ38\*01*, *TRAJ45\*01*, and *TRAJ61\*01* has been reported by Yamamoto *et al.* (39).

Examination of the V $\beta$  repertoire identified 18 sequences that overlapped with 12 of 19 previously reported pig TRBV gene groups (Table 3). Designations for the V $\beta$  segments were adapted from nomenclature published by Butler *et al.* (30) and Eguchi-Ogawa *et al.* (40). Human orthologs for the pig V $\beta$  sequences were identified, with sequence similarities of ~75%. The exception was a sequence corresponding to the previously identified clone gT203 that belongs to the gene group *pTRBVX*, which is not related to any human family. The human homologs of the pig V $\beta$  genes we identified are functional with the exception of *pTRBV21*, which is a pseudogene in humans due to a frameshift in the leader sequence (38). The most highly expressed porcine TRBV genes were *pTRBV4*, *pTRBV5*, *pTRBV7*, and *pTRBV20* that belong to the V $\beta$  supergroups V, III, VI, and I respectively (Figure 2C) (30).

Finally, we identified sequences corresponding to 17 of 21 TRBJ segments encoded in the porcine genome (40) (Table 4). As in sheep and cattle, the porcine genome carries three TRDB-J-C clusters. The clusters at either end of the TRDB-J-C-containing region respectively correspond to human TRDB-J-C1 and TRDB-J-C2. The center structure is a mixture of the end clusters and appears to have arisen from the crossover of the end clusters in the ancestors of pigs (40). Our analysis found that most sequences reported to be expressed by pigs were also expressed in the current study (30, 40, 41), with the exception of *TRBJ1-5* from the first cluster and *TRBJ3-1* from the last cluster. Also undetectable were *TRBJ1-A* and *TRBJ3-A* that contain alterations in the structure of their RSSs that may affect their expression (40). *TRBJ1-1* and *TRBJ1-2* segments that are on the edge of the first



cluster, were preferentially used (Figure 2D). Human homologs were identified for 8 of the pig TRBJ segments by sequence similarity of ~76% (Table 4). Among the segments without human orthologs, Blast searches in Genbank found that porcine *TRBJ1-1*, *TRBJ1-2*, and *TRBJ2-2* most closely align with sheep *TRBJ1-1*, *TRBJ1-2*, and *TRBJ3-2*, respectively, while pig *TRBJ2-6* and *TRBJ3-2* were most similar to *TRBJ2-5* and *TRBJ2-2* in camels at the nucleotide level.

### V $\beta$ /J $\beta$ rearrangements

The expression of V $\beta$ /J $\beta$  combinations was examined to establish whether particular rearrangements were favored. Of note, *TRBJ1-1* and *TRBJ1-2* were used in many rearrangements with *TRBV4*, *TRBV7*, *TRBV15*, and *TRBV20*, which accounted for 16.3% of the repertoire (Figure 3). Also interesting is the combination of *TRBJ3-6* and *TRBV7* that accounted for 35.2% of the *TRBJ3-6* usage. The *TRBJ2-7* segment was seldom combined with 5' TRBV genes although these segments are used at high frequencies with other J $\beta$  segments. The *pTRBVX* group, which has no human homolog, was used most frequently with *TRBJ1-1*, *TRBJ2-5*, and *TRBJ3-3* among the first, second and third TRDB-J-C clusters, respectively.

### TCR usage by porcine iNKT cells

In contrast to Tconv, porcine iNKT cells mostly used a single combination of V $\alpha$ , J $\alpha$ , and V $\beta$  segments: *pTRAV10*, *TRAJ18\*01*, and *pTRBV25*, respectively (Figure 4A-C). Blast searches were performed to compare the homology of these genes to TCR segments in humans, mice and rats that are species with known iNKT cell receptor usage. *pTRAV10* was highly homologous to segments encoding *TRAV10* (V $\alpha$ 24) in humans, *Trav11* (V $\alpha$ 14) in mice, and *Trav14S1* (V $\alpha$ 14) in rats, which are the canonical V $\alpha$  segments used by iNKT cells in these species (Table 5). The best alignments for *TRAJ18\*01* were *TRAJ18*, *Traj18*, and *Traj18*, the J $\alpha$ 18 segments respectively used by the human, rat and mouse invariant  $\alpha$  chain. *pTRBV25* was most similar to human *TRBV25-1* (V $\beta$ 11), mouse *Trbv13-2* (V $\beta$ 8.2) and rat V $\beta$ 8.2, the canonical V $\beta$  segments used by iNKT cells in these species. Sequence alignments were more similar between pig and human gene segments than between humans and mice and rats (Table 5). Furthermore, phylogenetic trees constructed using the maximum likelihood method indicate that porcine invariant TCR chains are more evolutionarily related to human than rodent TCR chains (Figure 5). Porcine CD1d is also more homologous to human than rodent CD1d (Table 5).

Examination of the ten most frequently expressed CDR3 $\alpha$  sequences showed that porcine iNKT cells predominantly use a single V-J rearrangement (*pTRAV10-TRAJ18\*01*) and that the amino acid sequence of this junction was highly restricted. Most of the CDR3 $\alpha$  sequences identified contained the single amino acid combination cVVGDRGSRLGRLYf (Table 6), which is highly homologous to CDR3 $\alpha$  sequences used by mouse (cVVGDRGSALGRLHf) and human (cVVS DRG STLGRLYf) iNKT cell receptors. All of the porcine CDR3 $\alpha$  segments analyzed were 15 amino acids in length and the V-J junction consisted of a single amino acid that was usually glycine. In contrast, Tconv used a wide variety of CDR3 $\alpha$  lengths (Table 7). Unlike the invariant TCR $\alpha$  chain, the TCR $\beta$  chain of iNKT cells used all 17 J $\beta$  segments expressed by Tconv and with a similar relative

frequency (Figure 4D versus Figure 2D). They also displayed a large variation in N nucleotides indicating that, like rodents and humans, the CDR3 $\beta$  does not contribute to the structural specificity of the invariant TCR.

Among purified mCD1d tetramer positive cells, non-canonical sequences accounted for 30% of TRAV segments, 31% of TRAJ segments, and 10% of TRBV segments (Figure 4A-C). These sequences may have originated from Tconv contamination during the sorting process (Figure 1) and/or from cells that recognize  $\alpha$ -GalCer by non-canonical TCRs. To address the second possibility, we searched for but failed to discover enrichment of sequences homologs to non-canonical mouse TCR  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  segments reported to expand when murine iNKT cells are cultured with  $\alpha$ -GalCer (42, 43). Nevertheless, pigs may express alternative non-canonical TCRs capable of binding PBS57-loaded CD1d tetramers.

### Homology modeling of antigen recognition

Molecular modeling of the porcine iNKT-CD1d/ $\alpha$ -GalCer complex suggests that the overall structure and interface surface areas are similar to its mouse and human counterparts (Figure 6). Superposition of the modeled porcine components CD1d, pTRAV10, and pTRBV25 with the human template complex respectively results in  $\alpha$ -carbon rmsd values of 0.08, 0.08, and 0.32Å (Supplementary Table 3), indicating that the three-dimensional structures are essentially the same. Like other species, porcine CD1d is composed of  $\alpha$ 1,  $\alpha$ 2, and  $\alpha$ 3 domains. The  $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 domains combine to form a hydrophobic antigen-binding groove that further separates into two connected pockets, A' and F', which bind the sphingoloid base and fatty acid chain of  $\alpha$ -GalCer, respectively. CD1d contact sites at residues Arg79, Asp80, Glu83, and Asp151 (Arg106, Asp107, Glu110, and Asp178 in porcine CD1d) that are known to mediate  $\alpha$ -GalCer-induced iNKT cell activation are conserved in pigs (Supplementary Table 4) (44–46). Three CD1d-mediated interactions, at positions 84, 89, and 150, that are non-conserved between mouse and human are also non-conserved between mouse and pig (47). Among these, only Phe84 (Phe111 in porcine CD1d) is conserved between pig and human. This residue contributes to the different specificities that mouse and human iNKT cells possess for various CD1d-presented antigens, including  $\alpha$ -GalCer (48).

Contacts at the pig TCR- $\alpha$ -GalCer-CD1d interface include interactions that are conserved and different between the mouse and human complexes. CDR2 $\beta$  contacts with CD1d at positions 48, 50, and 56 that are conserved between mouse V $\beta$ 8.2 and human V $\beta$ 11, are also conserved in pig TRBV25 (Figure 7D-F). Contact sites in CD1d that interface with CDR2 $\beta$  are conserved in mice, humans and pigs, with the exception that interactions between Arg89 in human CD1d and Asn53 at the tip of the V $\beta$ 11 CDR2 $\beta$  loop are lost in pigs and mice due to respective alterations to Gly116 and Ser89. CDR3 $\alpha$  residues that contact CD1d are also mostly conserved (Figure 7A-C). However, two H-bonds and one van der Waal bond between Gln150 of CD1d and Thr98 of CDR3 $\alpha$  in humans are lost in pigs and mice due to alterations to Arg98 and Ala98, respectively. Contact sites at Pro28 and Asn30 of mouse CDR1 $\alpha$ , which mediate interactions with carbon atoms and hydroxyl groups of the  $\alpha$ -GalCer glycosyl head, are conserved in pigs (Figure 7G-I). Pro28 is conserved in humans, but Asn30 is altered to Ser30. Asn30 forms hydrogen bonds with both the 3'-OH and 4'-OH moieties of  $\alpha$ -GalCer, while Ser30 bonds only with the 3'-OH moiety. Position 29 is altered



to phenylalanine in humans, which enables the CDR1 $\alpha$  loop to make additional contacts with 4'-OH and C6 of  $\alpha$ -GalCer. This position is conserved between pigs and humans.

## Discussion

Although a previous report predicted the porcine invariant V $\alpha$  segment based on homology to the *TRAV10* sequence used by human iNKT cells (49), the current study is the first, to our knowledge, to establish the porcine iNKT cell receptor and compare its sequence and conformation to mouse and human iNKT cell receptors. As previously described, pigs express a population of CD3e<sup>+</sup>CD1d tetramer<sup>+</sup> cells that share similar characteristics to iNKT cells in rodents and primates, including that they rapidly produce IFN $\gamma$  in response to activation with  $\alpha$ -GalCer analogs and that once stimulated, they transactivate a wide range of innate and adaptive immune responses (50). Another similarity is that CD1d is necessary for porcine iNKT cell development as CD1d knockout swine do not possess CD1d tetramer positive cells (32). Pig iNKT cells express high levels of the transcription factor promyelocytic leukemia zinc finger, which is required for iNKT cell development and innate-like functions in other species (24). Furthermore, pig iNKT cell frequency in blood and tissues closely resembles the distribution of iNKT cells in human tissues (25). The current work found that pig iNKT cells predominantly express a single V $\alpha$ , J $\alpha$ , and V $\beta$  segment. The sequences are highly homologous to invariant chain receptors expressed by mice, rats, cotton rats, and humans (3, 5, 51–54), which are other species for which iNKT cell receptor sequences have been established. Phylogenetic trees constructed using the maximum likelihood algorithm showed that the V $\alpha$ , V $\beta$ , and J $\alpha$  segments of pig and human iNKT cell receptors were more related to each other than the corresponding mouse and rat segments, which reflects the relative similarity in genomic sequences between these species (55).

Previously published crystal structures of mouse and human iNKT cell receptor-  $\alpha$ -GalCer-CD1d complexes have demonstrated the evolutionarily conserved nature of this interaction. Our *in-silico* model of the porcine iNKT TCR/CD1d/ $\alpha$ -GalCer complex identified most of the same highly conserved interactions, including critical CD1d contact sites at positions 79, 80, 83, and 151 (positions 106, 107, 110, and 178 in porcine CD1d) that are involved in TCR recognition of  $\alpha$ -GalCer (44–46). The only contact site conserved between pig and mouse and not conserved between pig and human is Asn30 in CDR1 $\alpha$  that forms hydrogen bonds with the 3'-OH and 4'-OH moieties of  $\alpha$ -GalCer (56). The Ser30 modification in humans lacks the hydrogen bond with 4'-OH, which may weaken the iNKT TCR/CD1d/ $\alpha$ -GalCer interaction compared to mice and pigs. The human complex also contains two contact sites that are missing in mice and pigs (Thr98 in CDR3 $\alpha$  and Arg89 in CD1d), which increases the stability of TCR interactions. Contacts conserved between humans and pigs, but not mice, include Phe29 that provides interactions with 4'-OH and C6 of  $\alpha$ -GalCer. Another difference is position 84 that is altered from Leu84 in mouse CD1d to Phe84 in humans and Phe111 in pigs. In mice, Leu84 is able to form a roof over the F' pocket before TCR engagement. This structure is created when the hydrocarbon chains of various lipid antigens, including  $\alpha$ -GalCer, orientate CD1d sidechains at Leu84, Val149 and Leu150 to an optimal alignment for docking with TCR CDR3 $\alpha$  residue Leu99. Consequently, the TCR does not expend energy to keep the roof closed upon engagement, which results in a more

stable complex with a reduced TCR dissociation rate (57). Not all iNKT cell ligands preform the F' roof in mice, and those ligands that do not preform the F' roof have much faster TCR off rates than ligands that do (58). The F' roof is unable to pre-form when Leu84 is altered to Phe84, which probably underlies why the TCR dissociation rates are more similar between iNKT cell agonists when they bind human CD1d compared to mouse CD1d (48). Conservation of Phe84 (Phe111 in porcine CD1d) between pigs and humans suggest that swine also have a narrower range of TCR dissociation rates for different CD1d-presented antigens.

To our knowledge, this study represents the first use of RNA-seq to characterize the TCR repertoire of swine, and thus provides a useful opportunity to compare this approach to previous studies that used traditional cloning and DNA sequencing. A characteristic of our method is that it sometimes generated several sequences that aligned with one human TRAV or TRBV segment (Tables 1 & 3). We cannot determine whether this is because of polymorphisms or due to homologous gene segments that were indistinguishable from each other. The latter scenario is more likely because our method involves sequencing 135 nucleotides in one direction starting from the C region. This yields full-length J segments that can be unambiguously mapped to the genome, but only partial V segments that are sometimes less than 30 nucleotides in length. We mapped the V segments to the *Sus scrofa* genome when reliable RSS could be identified at the 3' end of the V segment. However, because of the relatively short V segment reads and incomplete annotation of the pig genome, we could not disambiguate exons that were similar to each other. Nor could we be sure if we are missing any segments.

Previous characterization of porcine TRAV and TRAJ gene expression comes from ~100 independent cDNA clones generated by Yamamoto *et al.*, from the thymus of a 1 month-old Large White piglet and the peripheral blood of a 5 month-old Clawn minipig (36, 39). From the resulting clones, 33 Va segments and 44 Ja segments were identified as well as V-J CDR3 sequences. The authors found corresponding human segments for all but one of these Va segments (designated *Va01*), which is a sequence that more closely aligns with mouse and horse TRDV clones (36). With the exception of *Va16*, the current study identified the same collection of TRAV gene segments as previously reported, including the *Va01* sequence (designated *pTRADV8*). In addition, we identified sequences corresponding to 11 human TRAV genes which had not been previously detected, including *TRAV10* that is used by human iNKT cells. We also detected 41 of the 44 TRAJ genes previously identified (39), as well as nine extra TRAJ sequences that included the *TRAJ18* segment expressed by iNKT cells.

Previous information about the expressed porcine TRB repertoire also comes from a small number of studies. Barron *et al.* used pig renal graft infiltrates to identify 12 TRBJ segments, two TRBD segments and 19 TRBV segments, including a TRBV subfamily (designated TRBVX) that corresponds to a Vβ segment in the mouse but not the human genome (59). In another study, Butler *et al.* examined more than 300 clones isolated from pig thymocytes and peripheral blood lymphocytes and identified 19 TRBV groups and two (subsequently discovered to be three) groups of J segments (30). Watanabe *et al.* identified many of the same clones from pig thymocytes and peripheral blood lymphocytes (41). The TRBV

segments detected in the current study corresponded to 12 TRBV groups from the above described reports, including sequences that matched the TRBVX group. All 17 TRBJ segments that we identified have been previously described. Only four TRBJ segments encoded in the pig germline were not detected; two non-functional genes (*TRBJ1-A* and *TRBJ3-A*) and two genes (*TRBJ1-5* and *TRBJ3-1*) that only Butler *et al.* previously detected and at very low frequencies (30).

Several similarities exist between our dataset and the cloning-based studies described above. They include that: i) almost all V and J segments identified in previous studies were detected within our collection of sequences (with the exception of the V $\beta$  cluster where only 12 of 19 previously reported groups were detected). ii) We also did not detect predicted TCR pseudogenes. iii) The relative usage of V $\alpha$ , V $\beta$ , and J $\beta$  segments in the current work was correlated to their frequency in previous publications; we found a high ( $r^2 = 0.75$ ,  $p$  value  $<0.0001$ ), medium ( $r^2 = 0.47$ ,  $p$  value  $<0.0001$ ) and low ( $r^2 = 0.27$ ,  $p$  value = 0.023) correlation in J $\beta$ , V $\alpha$  and V $\beta$  segment usage between our results and the frequency of J $\beta$ , V $\alpha$  and V $\beta$  segments respectively reported by Eguchi-Ogawa *et al.* (40), Yamamoto *et al.* (36), and Butler *et al.* (30). The high correlation in J $\beta$  gene usage was likely because these segments are particularly sensitive to non-random rearrangement according to their chromosomal location (30, 36, 40, 60). Indeed, we found a closely matched pattern of J $\beta$  segment usage in our results compared with a previous compilation of publicly available porcine TRBJ cDNA and EST sequences (Figures 2D & 4D vs. (40)). No correlation was found for J $\alpha$  segments (J $\alpha$  compared to (39):  $r^2 = 0.03$ ,  $p$  value = 0.1988), which is not surprising as usage of these genes is thought to be random (39, 61). (iv) Lastly, we confirmed the findings of Butler *et al.* that some V $\beta$ /J $\beta$  combinations are non-randomly expressed, such as *TRBJ1-1* and *TRBJ1-2* with *TRBV4* and *TRBV7*, respectively (30). This is consistent with reports that TCR $\beta$  chain repertoires contain public clonotypes that are shared across individuals. It has been shown that the observed repertoire overlap between any two individuals is several thousand-fold larger than the potential diversity of CDR3 sequences and that there is a bias towards sequences using specific V $\beta$  and J $\beta$  segment combinations (62–64).

In summary, our study characterized the expressed  $\alpha\beta$  TCR repertoire of pig peripheral blood T cells using RNA-seq, which provides an efficient, unbiased method that does not require prior knowledge of the V or J segments. The high-throughput nature of this approach allows for the simultaneous sequencing of both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chains. It is also sensitive enough to detect TCRs expressed by rare T cell populations, such as the iNKT cell receptor, which was identified in this study. Analysis of the porcine invariant TCR found that it closely resembles the mouse, but particularly the human receptor, including for its predicted interaction with antigen-loaded CD1d molecules. Thus, pigs may be useful for determining the efficacy of various glycolipid ligands for human use. There is also potential to use iNKT cell agonists for veterinary applications including as vaccine adjuvants and anti-microbial agents, which has recently been explored in swine with encouraging results (25, 33–35).

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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## Abbreviations used in this paper:

<b><math>\alpha</math>-GalCer</b>	$\alpha$ -galactosylceramide
<b>CDR</b>	complementarity determining region
<b>iNKT cell</b>	invariant natural killer T cell
<b>MAIT</b>	mucosal associated-invariant T
<b>NCBI</b>	National Center for Biotechnology Information
<b>PBMC</b>	peripheral blood mononuclear cell
<b>PDB</b>	Protein Data Bank
<b>RNA-seq</b>	RNA sequencing
<b>RSS</b>	recombination signal sequence
<b>Tconv</b>	conventional porcine $\alpha\beta$ T cells
<b>TCR</b>	T cell receptor
<b>UMI</b>	unique molecular identifier

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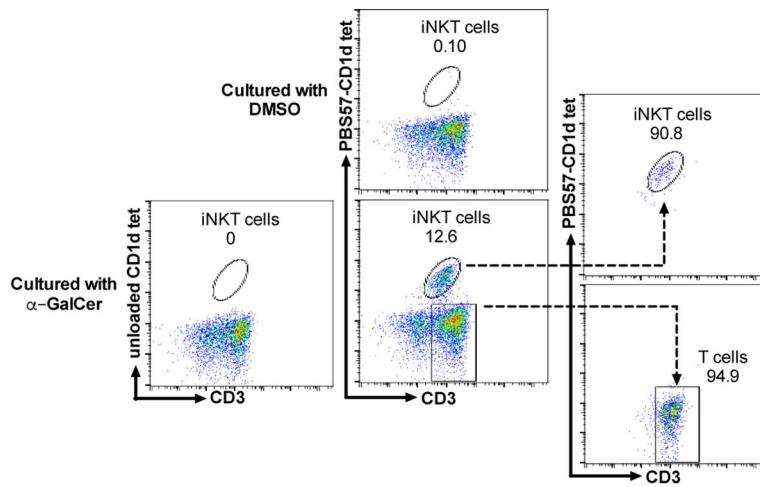
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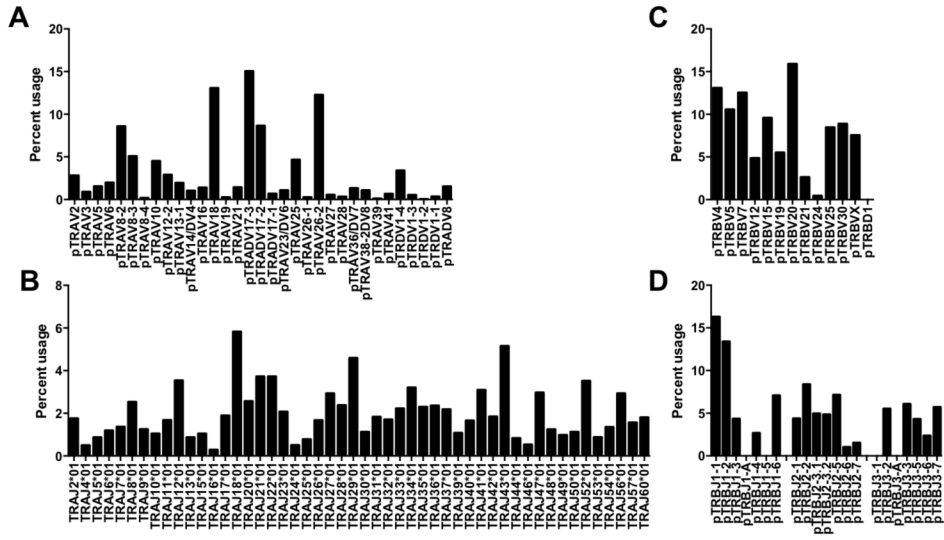


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**Figure 1.** Acquisition of porcine iNKT cells and conventional  $\alpha\beta$  T cells (Tconv) for TCR sequencing. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were labeled with PBS57-loaded or unloaded CD1d tetramer and anti-CD3 antibody seven days after culture with vehicle (DMSO) or  $\alpha$ -GalCer. PBMCs cultured with  $\alpha$ -GalCer were FACS sorted into iNKT cell ( $CD3^+CD1d$  tetramer $^+$ ) and Tconv ( $CD3^+CD1d$  tetramer $^-$ ) populations to a purity of  $>90\%$  according to the post-sort analysis.



**Figure 2.** Percent usage of (A) V $\alpha$ , (B) J $\alpha$ , (C) V $\beta$ , and (D) J $\beta$  gene segments among porcine Tconv from peripheral blood.

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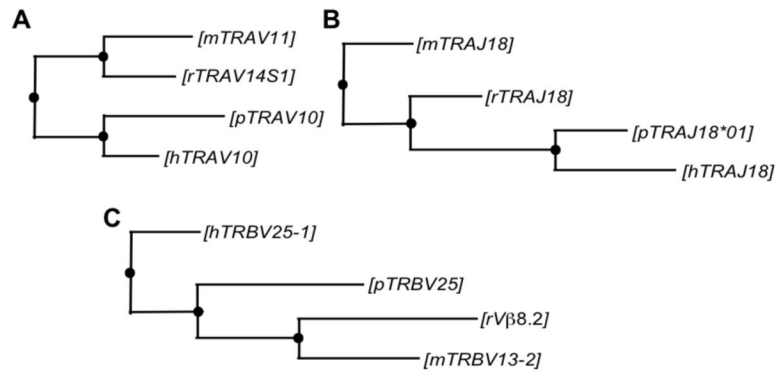
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pJB	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-6	2-1	2-2	2-3.1	2-3.2	2-5	2-7	3-2	3-3	3-5	3-6	3-7
pTRBV4	9563	10840	2346	359	6317	1057	4299	3285	1821	2501	324	1217	2589	1268	533	1819
pTRBV5	4771	4696	1663	2659	2251	2207	7233	1667	2614	4621	683	1388	1390	925	861	2340
pTRBV7	8393	5963	2818	945	1998	3025	3111	4489	3484	3685	6	2633	2011	4092	2958	2789
pTRBV12	2143	2706	970	270	1513	914	1731	1232	2160	992	1	946	1066	231	227	539
pTRBV15	8893	3968	897	2166	2245	2391	2763	1774	1802	3658	173	1566	173	2121	1269	1476
pTRBV19	4563	2245	133	569	659	603	4600	420	1655	932	201	1604	2329	835	79	1623
pTRBV20	7458	6297	1976	1268	3790	2264	4789	3782	2724	5013	1907	5835	3695	4455	1273	3414
pTRBV21	2836	3333	35	368	243	156	528	250	416	264	145	0	274	316	149	253
pTRBV24	716	29	0	0	232	2	43	169	0	287	0	0	502	1	0	8
pTRBV25	4652	2992	1623	221	1228	862	813	2229	900	650	1055	818	2413	559	409	2132
pTRBV30	3876	3247	1563	983	6110	939	1750	668	1004	2241	635	3062	2081	617	364	1559
TRBVX	4935	2655	3000	318	1608	1115	1713	1014	1226	3582	782	1445	2169	607	277	1243
pTRBD1	0	6	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Figure 3.** The relationship between porcine TRBV and TRBJ usage in porcine TCR rearrangements in peripheral T cells. Boxes contain the number of reads for each V-J combination. Intensity of red shading corresponds to the number of reads in each box.

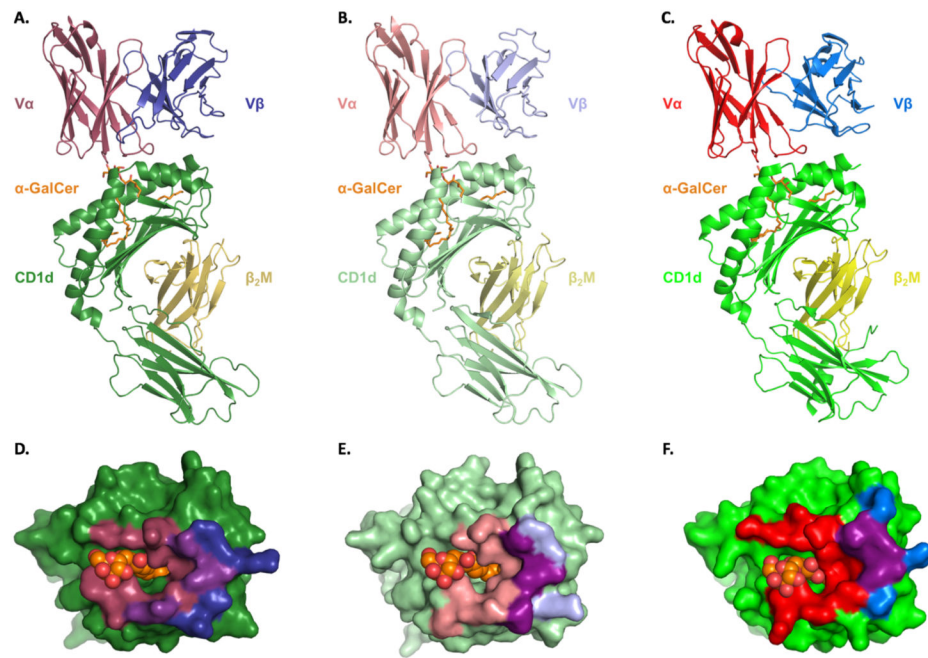




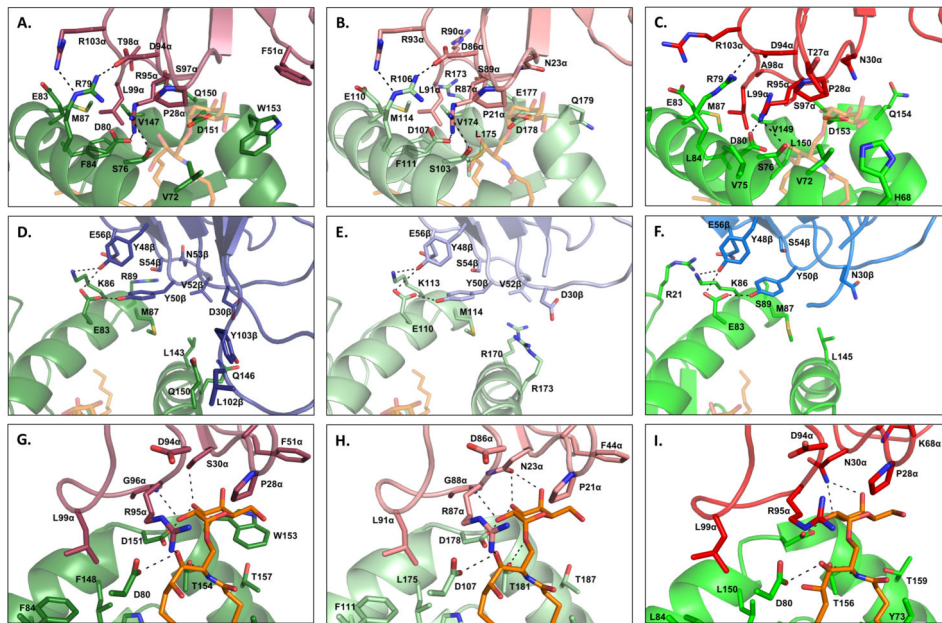


**Figure 5.**

Phylogenetic trees comparing (A) *TRAV*, (B) *TRAJ*, and (C) *TRBV* genes expressed by pig (p), human (h), mouse (m), and rat (r) iNKT cells. Phylogenetic trees were constructed by the neighbor-joining method using nucleotide sequences from the current study compared to the following sources in the Genbank database; Homsap: *TRAV10* (NC\_000014.9), *TRAJ18* (NC\_000014.9), *TRBV25-1* (NC\_000007.14); Musmus (C57BL/6J): *Trav11* (NC\_000080.6), *Traj18* (NC\_000080.6), *Trbv13-2* (NC\_000072.6); Rattus-Norway rat: *Trav14S1* (AB041999.1), *Traj18* (DQ340291.1), *Vβ8.2* (X14973.1).



**Figure 6.** Molecular modeling of the iNKT TCR interacting with the CD1d- $\alpha$ -GalCer complex in (A) human, (B) pig, and (C) mouse. CD1d, green;  $\beta$ 2m, yellow;  $\alpha$ -GalCer, orange; iNKT TCR  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chain, red and blue, respectively. Footprint of the iNKT TCR on the surface of (D) human, (E) pig and, (F) mouse CD1d- $\alpha$ -GalCer. Color coding as in A-C.



**Figure 7.** iNKT cell receptor contacts with CD1d in human (A, D, G), pig (B, E, H), and mouse (C, F, I). Images A-C describe interactions between V $\alpha$  and CD1d. Images D-F describe interactions between V $\beta$  and CD1d. Images G-I describe interactions between V $\alpha$  and CD1d with  $\alpha$ -GalCer. Hydrogen bonds are shown as black dashed lines.

Table 1.

Pig *TRAV* genes

Pig <i>TRAV</i> segments <sup>†</sup>	Number of distinct sequences	Human homologue <sup>†</sup>	Nucleotide identity (%) human/pig
<i>pTRAV2</i>	1	<i>TRAV2</i>	90
<i>pTRAV3</i>	1	<i>TRAV3</i>	83
<i>pTRAV5</i>	1	<i>TRAV5</i>	79
<i>pTRAV6</i>	1	<i>TRAV6</i>	81
<i>pTRAV8-2</i>	2	<i>TRAV8-2</i>	83
<i>pTRAV8-3</i>	2	<i>TRAV8-3</i>	86
<i>pTRAV8-4</i>	1	<i>TRAV8-4</i>	85
<i>pTRAV10</i>	1	<i>TRAV10</i>	85
<i>pTRAV12-2</i>	2	<i>TRAV12-2</i>	84
<i>pTRAV13-1</i>	1	<i>TRAV13-1</i>	86
<i>pTRAV14/DV4</i>	2	<i>TRAV14/DV4</i>	82
<i>pTRAV16</i>	1	<i>TRAV16</i>	83
<i>pTRAV18</i>	2	<i>TRAV18</i>	75
<i>pTRAV19</i>	1	<i>TRAV19</i>	82
<i>pTRAV21</i>	1	<i>TRAV21</i>	83
<i>pTRADV17-3</i>	3	<i>TRAV22</i>	84
<i>pTRADV17-2</i>	3	<i>TRAV22</i>	85
<i>pTRADV17-1</i>	1	<i>TRAV22</i>	82
<i>pTRAV23/DV6</i>	2	<i>TRAV23/DV6</i>	85
<i>pTRAV25</i>	1	<i>TRAV25</i>	85
<i>pTRAV26-1</i>	1	<i>TRAV26-1</i>	79
<i>pTRAV26-2</i>	1	<i>TRAV26-2</i>	84
<i>pTRAV27</i>	1	<i>TRAV27</i>	83
<i>pTRAV28</i>	1	<i>TRAV28</i>	82
<i>pTRAV36/DV7</i>	2	<i>TRAV36/DV7</i>	75
<i>pTRAV38-2DV8</i>	1	<i>TRAV38-2DV8</i>	82
<i>pTRAV39</i>	1	<i>TRAV39</i>	81
<i>pTRAV41</i>	1	<i>TRAV41</i>	83
<i>pTRDV1-4</i>	5	<i>TRDV1</i>	78
<i>pTRDV1-3</i>	1	<i>TRDV1</i>	78
<i>pTRDV1-2</i>	1	<i>TRDV1</i>	77
<i>pTRDV1-1</i>	1	<i>TRDV1</i>	79
<i>pTRADV8</i>	1	-	-

<sup>†</sup>Sequences obtained from the NCBI database

Table 2.

Pig *TRAJ* genes

Pig <i>TRAJ</i> segments <sup>‡</sup>	Human homologue <sup>†</sup>	Nucleotide identity (%) human/pig
<i>TRAJ2*01</i>	<i>TRAJ2</i>	78
<i>TRAJ4*01</i>	<i>TRAJ4</i>	84
<i>TRAJ5*01</i>	<i>TRAJ5</i>	83
<i>TRAJ6*01</i>	<i>TRAJ6</i>	86
<i>TRAJ7*01</i>	<i>TRAJ7</i>	89
<i>TRAJ8*01</i>	<i>TRAJ8</i>	82
<i>TRAJ9*01</i>	<i>TRAJ9</i>	88
<i>TRAJ10*01</i>	<i>TRAJ10</i>	81
<i>TRAJ11*01</i>	<i>TRAJ11</i>	90
<i>TRAJ12*01</i>	<i>TRAJ12</i>	90
<i>TRAJ13*01</i>	<i>TRAJ13</i>	83
<i>TRAJ15*01</i>	<i>TRAJ15</i>	83
<i>TRAJ16*01</i>	<i>TRAJ16</i>	88
<i>TRAJ17*01</i>	<i>TRAJ17</i>	86
<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	<i>TRAJ18</i>	86
<i>TRAJ20*01</i>	<i>TRAJ20</i>	85
<i>TRAJ21*01</i>	<i>TRAJ21</i>	79
<i>TRAJ22*01</i>	<i>TRAJ22</i>	81
<i>TRAJ23*01</i>	<i>TRAJ23</i>	90
<i>TRAJ24*01</i>	<i>TRAJ24</i>	86
<i>TRAJ25*01</i>	<i>TRAJ25</i>	93
<i>TRAJ26*01</i>	<i>TRAJ26</i>	80
<i>TRAJ27*01</i>	<i>TRAJ27</i>	90
<i>TRAJ28*01</i>	<i>TRAJ28</i>	88
<i>TRAJ29*01</i>	<i>TRAJ29</i>	88
<i>TRAJ30*01</i>	<i>TRAJ30</i>	83
<i>TRAJ31*01</i>	<i>TRAJ31</i>	90
<i>TRAJ32*01</i>	<i>TRAJ32</i>	87
<i>TRAJ33*01</i>	<i>TRAJ33</i>	95
<i>TRAJ34*01</i>	<i>TRAJ34</i>	86
<i>TRAJ35*01</i>	<i>TRAJ35</i>	83
<i>TRAJ36*01</i>	<i>TRAJ36</i>	85
<i>TRAJ37*01</i>	<i>TRAJ37</i>	84
<i>TRAJ39*01</i>	<i>TRAJ39</i>	89
<i>TRAJ40*01</i>	<i>TRAJ40</i>	86
<i>TRAJ41*01</i>	<i>TRAJ41</i>	83
<i>TRAJ42*01</i>	<i>TRAJ42</i>	88
<i>TRAJ43*01</i>	<i>TRAJ43</i>	89

Pig TRAJ segments <sup>‡</sup>	Human homologue <sup>†</sup>	Nucleotide identity (%) human/pig
<i>TRAJ44*01</i>	<i>TRAJ44</i>	78
<i>TRAJ46*01</i>	<i>TRAJ46</i>	90
<i>TRAJ47*01</i>	<i>TRAJ47</i>	86
<i>TRAJ48*01</i>	<i>TRAJ48</i>	84
<i>TRAJ49*01</i>	<i>TRAJ49</i>	86
<i>TRAJ50*01</i>	<i>TRAJ50</i>	81
<i>TRAJ52*01</i>	<i>TRAJ52</i>	91
<i>TRAJ53*01</i>	<i>TRAJ53</i>	92
<i>TRAJ54*01</i>	<i>TRAJ54</i>	92
<i>TRAJ56*01</i>	<i>TRAJ56</i>	84
<i>TRAJ57*01</i>	<i>TRAJ57</i>	88
<i>TRAJ60*01</i>	<i>TRAJ60</i>	81

<sup>‡</sup>Sequences obtained from the NCBI database and annotated according to IMGT

<sup>†</sup>Sequences obtained from the NCBI database

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**Table 3.**Pig *TRBV* genes

Pig <i>TRBV</i> segments <sup>†</sup>	Number of distinct sequences	Human homologue <sup>†</sup>	Nucleotide identity (%) human/pig
<i>pTRBV4</i>	1	<i>TRBV4-1</i>	84
<i>pTRBV5</i>	2	<i>TRBV5-4</i>	76
<i>pTRBV7</i>	1	<i>TRBV7-6</i>	86
<i>pTRBV12</i>	2	<i>TRBV12-3</i>	84
<i>pTRBV15</i>	1	<i>TRBV15</i>	79
<i>pTRBV19</i>	1	<i>TRBV19</i>	82
<i>pTRBV20</i>	3	<i>TRBV20-1</i>	75
<i>pTRBV21</i>	1	<i>TRBV21-1</i>	78
<i>pTRBV24</i>	2	<i>TRBV24-1</i>	76
<i>pTRBV25</i>	1	<i>TRBV25-1</i>	79
<i>pTRBV30</i>	1	<i>TRBV30</i>	85
<i>pTRBVX</i>	1	-	-
<i>pTRBD1</i>	1	<i>TRBD1</i>	-

<sup>†</sup>Sequences obtained from the NCBI database

**Table 4.**Pig *TRBJ* genes

Pig <i>TRBJ</i> segments <sup>†</sup>	Number of distinct sequences	Human homologue <sup>†</sup>	Nucleotide identity (%) human/pig
<i>pTRBJ1-1</i>	1	-	-
<i>pTRBJ1-2</i>	1	-	-
<i>pTRBJ1-3</i>	1	<i>TRBJ1-3</i>	80
<i>pTRBJ1-4</i>	1	<i>TRBJ1-4</i>	81
<i>pTRBJ1-6</i>	1	<i>TRBJ1-6</i>	79
<i>pTRBJ2-1</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-1</i>	80
<i>pTRBJ2-2</i>	2	-	-
<i>pTRBJ2-3.1</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-3</i>	80
<i>pTRBJ2-3.2</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-3</i>	84
<i>pTRBJ2-5</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-5</i>	87
<i>pTRBJ2-6</i>	1	-	-
<i>pTRBJ2-7</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-7</i>	76
<i>pTRBJ3-2</i>	1	-	-
<i>pTRBJ3-3</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-3</i>	87
<i>pTRBJ3-5</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-5</i>	89
<i>pTRBJ3-6</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-6</i>	80
<i>pTRBJ3-7</i>	1	<i>TRBJ2-7</i>	83

<sup>†</sup>Sequences obtained from the NCBI database

**Table 5.**

Comparison of identity between porcine iNKT cell TCR [nucleotide (nt)] and CD1D proteins [amino acid (aa)] and the corresponding TCR genes or proteins in human, mouse, and rat

	<b>Human</b>	<b>Mouse</b>	<b>Rat</b>
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAV10</i>	<i>Trav11</i>	<i>Trav14S1</i>
Accession #	NC_000014.9	NC_000080.6	AB041999.1
nt identity	282/333 (85%)	228/309 (74%)	214/290 (74%)
<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	<i>TRAJ18</i>	<i>Traj18</i>	<i>Traj18</i>
Accession #	NC_000014.9	NC_000080.6	DQ340291.1
nt identity	74/86 (86%)	69/87 (79%)	49/59 (83%)
<i>pTRBV25</i>	<i>TRBV25-1</i>	<i>Trbv13-2</i>	<i>Vβ8.2</i>
Accession #	NC_000007.14	NC_000072.6	X14973.1
nt identity	98/132 (74%)	70/98 (71%)	66/89 (74%)
<i>CD1D</i>	<i>CD1D</i>	<i>Cd1d</i>	<i>CD1d1</i>
Accession #	BC027926.1	NM_007640.2	NP_058775.1
aa identity	213/313 (68%)	200/345 (58%)	199/345 (58%)

Accession numbers and nucleotide identities, and amino acid identities were obtained from the NCBI database. Nucleotide and amino acid identities displayed as the number and percentage of overlapping nucleotides and amino acids, respectively.

**Table 6.**Ten most frequently used CDR3 $\alpha$  sequences from porcine iNKT cells

<i>pTRAV</i>	<i>pTRAJ</i>	CDR3 sequence	Frequency
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVGDRGSRLGRLYf	53.62%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVGGDRGSRLGRLYf	1.14%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVADRGSRGRLYf	1.09%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVVDRGSRLGRLYf	1.01%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVCDRGSRGRLYf	0.97%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVGDRGSSLGRLYf	0.96%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVDDRGSRLGRLYf	0.80%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVGDRGSRLGRLFf	0.69%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVGNRGSRLGRLYf	0.67%
<i>pTRAV10</i>	<i>TRAJ18*01</i>	cVVGDRGSRLGRLYl	0.54%

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**Table 7.**Ten most frequently used CDR3 $\alpha$  sequences from porcine Tconv

<i>pTRAV</i>	<i>pTRAJ</i>	CDR3 sequence	Frequency
<i>pTRAV26-2</i>	<i>TRAJ21*01</i>	cIGVPYNTNRLYf	1.49%
<i>pTRADV17-3</i>	<i>TRAJ29*01</i>	cAGASRQLVf	0.83%
<i>pTRADV17-3</i>	<i>TRAJ29*01</i>	cAGASRQLVf	0.57%
<i>pTRADV8</i>	<i>TRAJ43*01</i>	cALRNNDLRf	0.42%
<i>pTRAV8-3</i>	<i>TRAJ11*01</i>	cAVSDPGNSGYSKLtf	0.37%
<i>pTRAV26-2</i>	<i>TRAJ43*01</i>	cILRNNDLRf	0.63%
<i>pTRADV17-3</i>	<i>TRAJ35*01</i>	cAGELPNSGGVLHf	0.35%
<i>pTRAV26-2</i>	<i>TRAJ2*01</i>	cILIGATTGKLif	0.29%
<i>pTRAV26-2</i>	<i>TRAJ12*01</i>	cILPNDGGYKWif	0.27%
<i>pTRAV18</i>	<i>TRAJ34*01</i>	cAVSVSYDKLif	0.24%

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