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Supplemental information

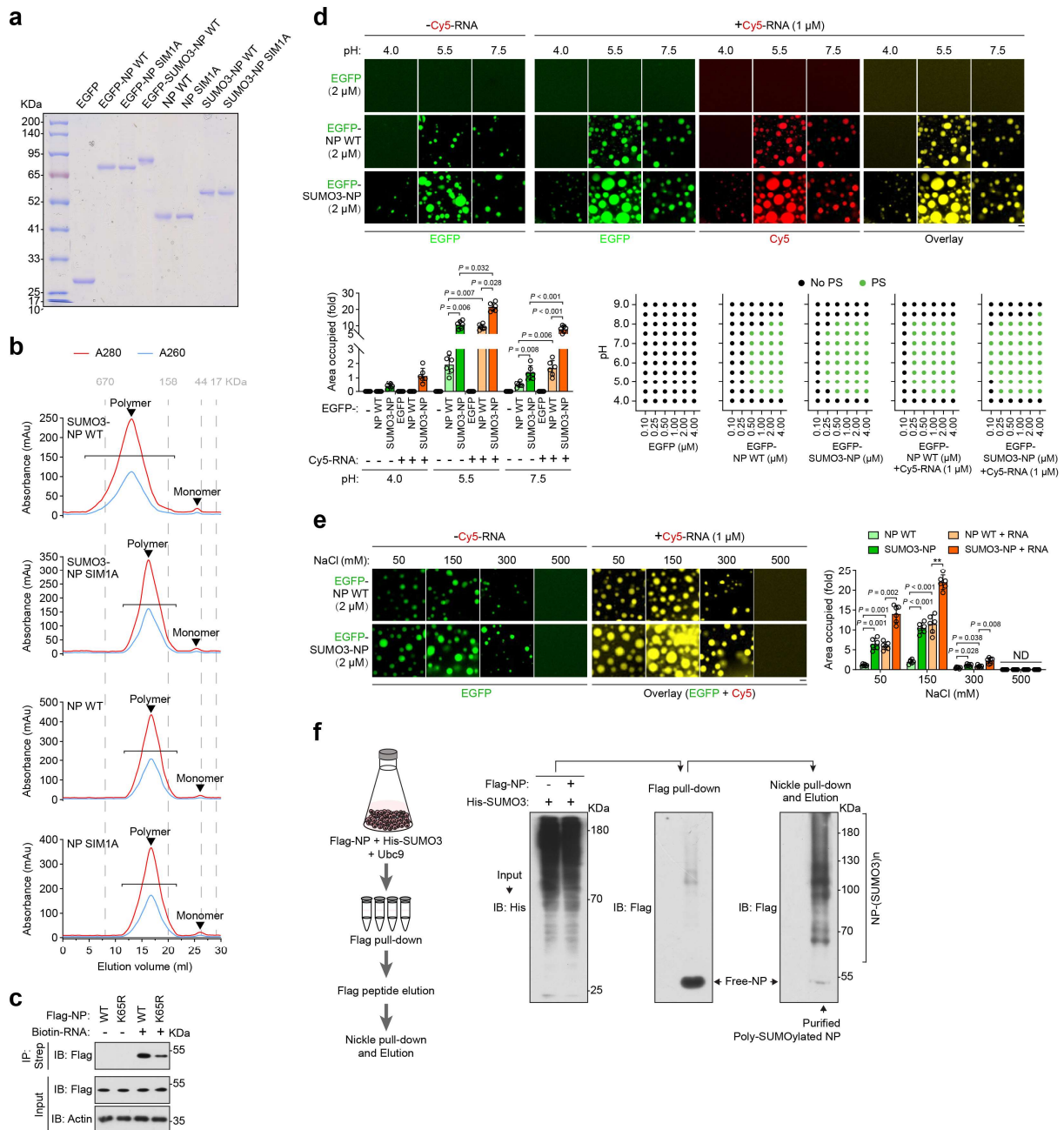
2 **TRIM28-mediated nucleocapsid protein SUMOylation enhances SARS-CoV-2 virulence**

3 This file includes:

4 Supplementary Fig. 1 to 10 and figure legends

5 Supplementary Table 1: The human or mouse primer sequences for qPCR

23 of total lysates and anti-Flag IP from HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression
24 plasmids. Data are representative of at least two (**d**) or three (**b, e, f**) independent experiments
25 with similar results.

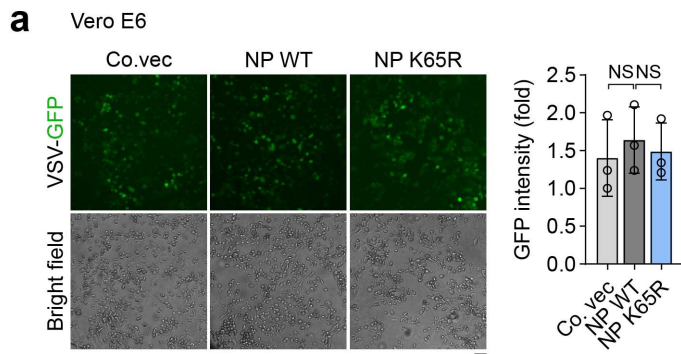


26

27 **Supplementary Fig. 2: Related to Fig. 2; Enhanced LLPS ability of SARS2-NP is mediated**
 28 **by poly-SUMOylation of SARS2-NP.**

29 **a** EGFP, EGFP-SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A, EGFP-SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT, SARS2-NP
 30 WT/SIM1A, and SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A proteins purified from bacteria were
 31 analyzed by Coomassie blue stain of SDS-PAGE. **b** Size-exclusion chromatography elution
 32 profiles of prokaryote-purified SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A or SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A
 33 using AKTA system. Brackets represent range of multimers. Vertical dash lines represent peak
 34 elution volumes of gel filtration protein calibration standards. **c** Immunoblot of total lysates
 35 (input) and streptavidin RNA pull-down of Flag-SARS2-NP WT/K65R (IP) from HEK293T

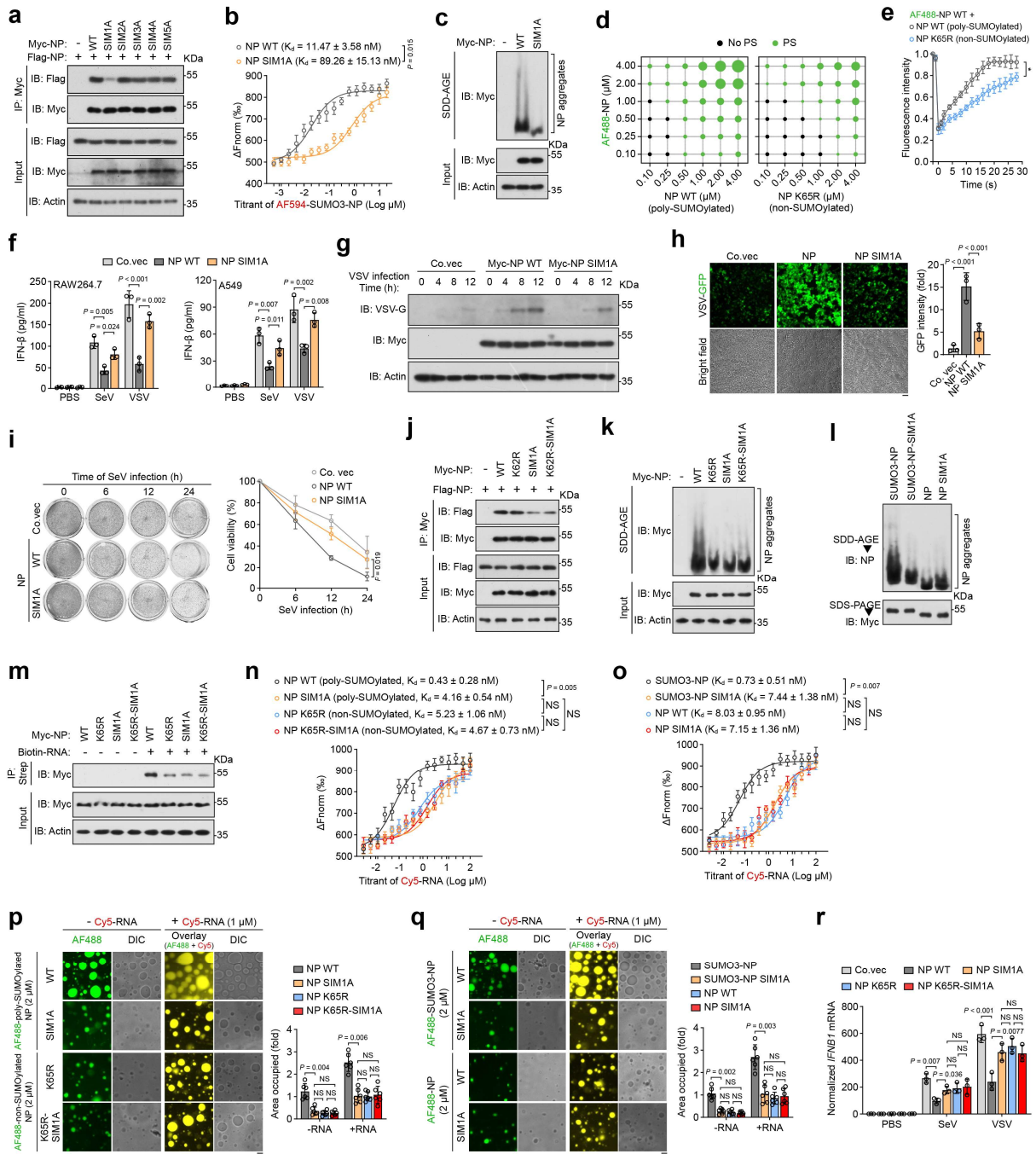
36 cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **d** Droplet formation of prokaryote-
37 purified EGFP, or EGFP-SARS2-NP WT, or EGFP-SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT without or with
38 Cy5-RNA, at indicated pH. Top, representative images. Bottom-left, fold change in droplet
39 formation; Data points indicate the relative area occupied by droplets. Bottom-right, phase
40 separation (PS) diagram of proteins at indicated concentrations and pH values. The green dots
41 indicate PS. And the black dots indicate no PS. **e** Droplet formation of prokaryote-purified
42 EGFP-SARS2-NP WT or EGFP-SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT without or with Cy5-RNA, at
43 indicated NaCl. Left, representative images. Right, fold change in droplet formation; Data
44 points indicate the relative area occupied by droplets. **f** Left, schematic showing the steps
45 involved in the purification of poly-SUMOylated SARS2-NP from HEK293F cells. Right,
46 immunoblots showing purified poly-SUMOylated SARS2-NP. Data are representative of at
47 least three independent experiments with similar results (**b–e**). Data are presented as Mean \pm
48 SD; n = 6 independent samples (**d** bottom-left, **D** right); statistical analyses were performed
49 using one-way ANOVA. Scale bar, 10 μ m(**d**, **e**).



50

51 **Supplementary Fig. 3: Related to Fig. 3; Loss of SUMOylation largely impairs SARS2-**
 52 **NP's promotion of viral replication.**

53 **a** Fluorescence microscopy and bright-field of VSV-GFP in Vero E6 cells transfected with Co.
 54 vec, or SARS2-NP WT/K65R plasmids, followed by infection with VSV-GFP (m.o.i. of 0.1)
 55 for 12 h (left). Scale bar, 100 μ m. The fold change in VSV-GFP intensity was quantified (right).
 56 Data are representative of at least three independent experiments with similar results. Data are
 57 presented as Mean \pm SD. n = 3 independent images. Statistical analyses were performed using
 58 one-way ANOVA.

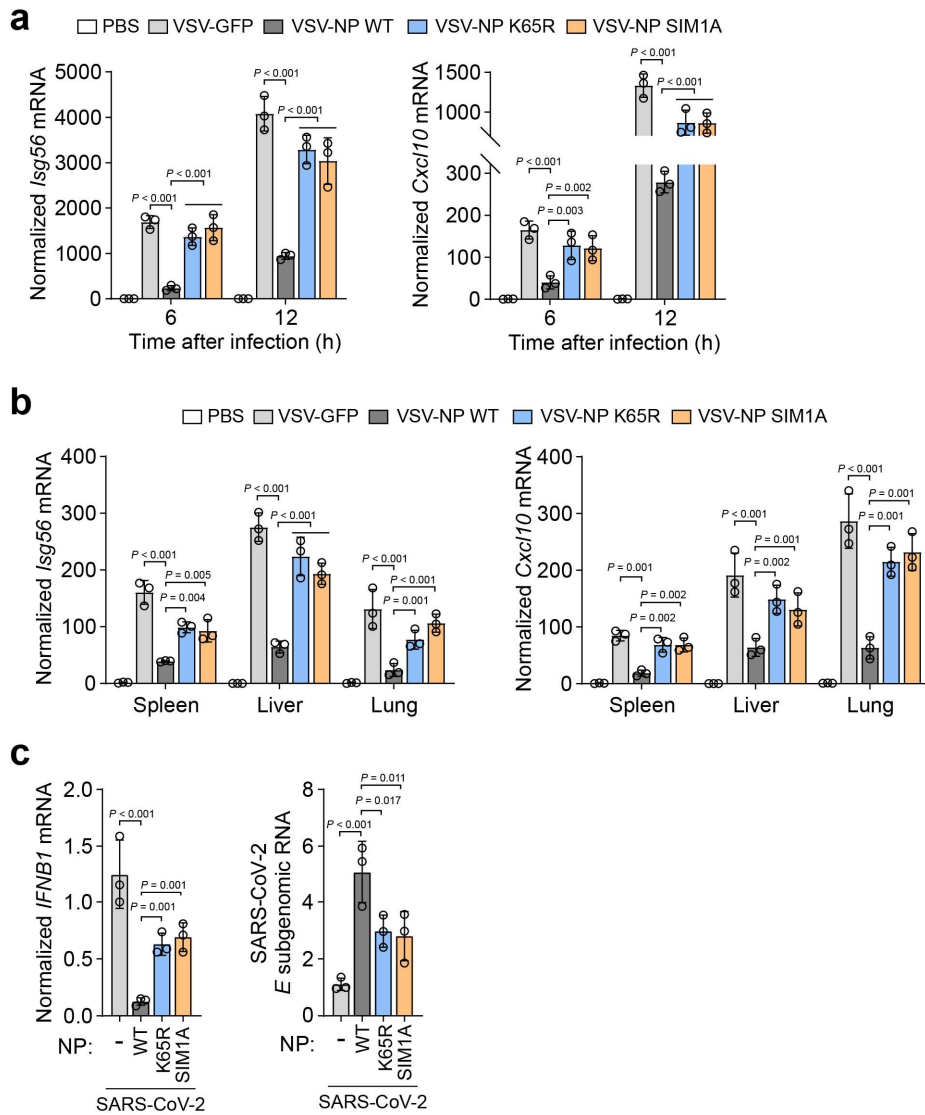


59

60 **Supplementary Fig. 4: Related to Fig. 4; SUMOylation and SUMO-interacting motif (SIM)**
 61 **of SARS2-NP mediates self-interaction and dampens IFN- β signaling.**

62 **a** Immunoblot (IB) of total lysates (input) and anti-Myc immunoprecipitates (IP) from
 63 HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **b** MST assay between AF594-
 64 labeled SUMO3-SARS2-NP and SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A. All are purified from bacteria. Data
 65 points indicate the difference in normalized fluorescence (F_{norm} , %). Curves indicate the
 66 calculated fits. **c** Aggregation assay. SDD-AGE (top) and SDS-PAGE (bottom) of lysates from
 67 HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **d** Phase separation (PS)

68 diagram of different concentrations of AF488-labeled SARS2-NP (prokaryote-purified) with
69 SARS2-NP WT/K65R purified from HEK293F cells. The green dots and dot sizes indicate PS,
70 and the black dots indicate no phase separation. **e** FRAP assay of mixture of AF594-labeled
71 SARS2-NP (prokaryote-purified) and SARS2-NP WT/K65R purified from HEK293F cells.
72 Quantification of FRAP before and after (over a 30 s time course) photobleaching is shown. **f**
73 Determination of the IFN- β levels in RAW264.7 (left) and A549 (right) cells transfected with
74 the indicated plasmids and infected with SeV/VSV for 12 h. **g** Immunoblot (IB) of VSV
75 glycoprotein (VSV-G) in MEF cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids and
76 infected with VSV at m.o.i. of 0.1 for the indicated time periods. **h** Fluorescence microscopy
77 and bright-field of VSV-GFP in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids,
78 followed by infection with VSV-GFP at m.o.i. of 0.1 for 12 h (left). Right, the fold change in
79 VSV-GFP intensity. **i** SeV-induced cytopathic effect (CPE) in A549 cells after being
80 transfected with indicated expression plasmids, followed by infection with SeV for the
81 indicated time periods (left). Right, the rates of CPE were quantified. **j** IB of total lysates and
82 anti-Myc IP from HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **k, l**
83 Aggregation assay. SDD-AGE (top) and SDS-PAGE (bottom) of lysates from HEK293T cells
84 transfected with indicated expression plasmids (**k**), or of prokaryote-purified SUMO3-SARS2-
85 NP WT/SIM1A, or SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A (**l**). **m** IB of total lysates and streptavidin RNA
86 pull-down of Myc-SARS2-NP WT/K65R/SIM1A/K65R-SIM1A (IP) derived from HEK293T
87 cells transfected with the indicated plasmids. **n, o** MST assay between ligand Cy5-RNA and
88 SARS2-NP WT (poly-SUMOylated)/SIM1A (poly-SUMOylated, but loss of SIM site)/K65R
89 (non-SUMOylated)/K65R-SIM1A double mutant (non-SUMOylated, and loss of SIM site)
90 purified from HEK293F cells (**n**), or SUMO3-SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A, or SARS2-NP
91 WT/SIM1A purified from bacteria (**o**). **p, q** Droplet formation of AF488-labeled SARS2-NP
92 WT/SIM1A/K65R/K65R-SIM1A purified from HEK293F cells (**p**), or SUMO3-SARS2-NP
93 WT/SIM1A, or SARS2-NP WT/SIM1A purified from bacteria (**q**), without or with Cy5-RNA.
94 Left, representative images. Right, fold change in droplet formation. **r** Normalized *IFN β*
95 mRNA in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids, followed by
96 SeV/VSV infection for 12 h. All data are representative of at least three independent
97 experiments with similar results. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD, n = 3 (**b, e, f, i, n, o, r, h**)
98 or 6 (**p, q**) independent samples. Statistical analyses were performed using One-way ANOVA
99 (**f, h, p-r**) or Two-way ANOVA (**b, e, i, n, o**). Scale bar, 10 μ m.

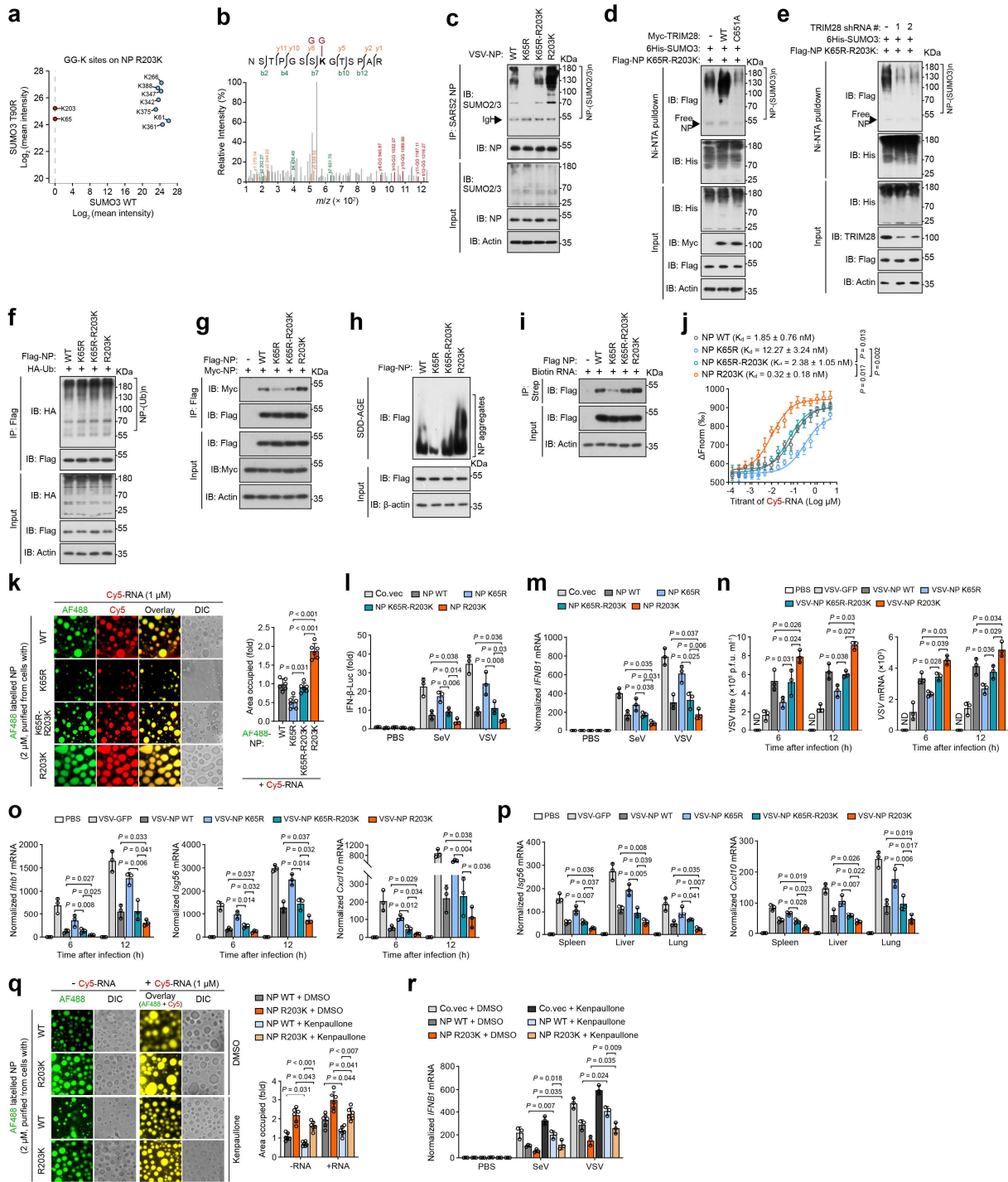


100

101 **Supplementary Fig. 5: Related to Fig. 5; SUMOylation and SIM site of SARS2-NP are**
 102 **required for SARS2-NP-mediated robust antiviral immunosuppression.**

103 **a** Normalized *Isg56* (left) and *Cxcl10* (right) mRNA in mice peritoneal macrophages infected
 104 with indicated recombinant VSV at m.o.i. of 0.1, or not. **b** Normalized *Isg56* (left) and *Cxcl10*
 105 (right) mRNA in the spleen, liver, and lungs of mice from Fig. 5d. **c** Normalized *IFNB1* mRNA
 106 (left) and SARS-CoV-2 *E* genomic RNA (right) levels in Caco-2 cells transfected with the
 107 indicated plasmids and then infected with SARS-CoV-2 for 12 h. All data are representative of
 108 at least two (**b**) or three (**a, c**) independent experiments with similar results. Data are presented
 109 as Mean \pm SD; n = 3 independent mice (**a, b**) or samples (**c**). Statistical analyses were
 110 performed using a One-way ANOVA.

118 expression plasmids. **e** HA-TRIM28 WT/C651A, or SARS2-NP WT/K65R proteins purified
119 from bacteria was analyzed by Coomassie blue stain of SDS-PAGE. **f** SUMOylation assay. IB
120 of total lysates and Ni-NTA pulldown of cell lysates from HEK293T cells transfected with
121 indicated expression plasmids. **g** Normalized *TRIM28* mRNA in HEK293T cells transfected
122 with non-target control (NTC) or TRIM28 shRNA. **h** *In situ* PLA for HA-SUMO3 and Flag-
123 SARS2-NP in HeLa cells with/without TRIM28 knockdown as indicated. Left, the PROX
124 complexes are represented by the red fluorescent dots. Right, changes in PROX dots intensity.
125 **i** IB of total lysates and anti-Flag IP from HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression
126 plasmids. **j** Aggregation assay. SDD-AGE (top) and SDS-PAGE (bottom) of lysates from
127 HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **k** IB of total lysates and
128 streptavidin RNA pull-down of Flag-SARS2-NP derived from HEK293T cells with/without
129 TRIM28 knockdown. **l** Co-expression of EGFP-SARS2-NP and mCherry-TRIM28 in HeLa
130 cells. Nuclei were visualized by DAPI staining. **m** Droplet formation of a mixture of AF594-
131 labeled SARS2-NP purified from bacteria and AF488-labeled SARS2-NP purified from
132 HEK293F cells. Right, fold change in droplet formation. **n** FRAP assay of mixture of AF594-
133 labeled SARS2-NP purified from bacteria and SARS2-NP purified from HEK293F cells with
134 Co. vec or TRIM28 WT/C651A. **o** Puncta formation of EGFP-SARS2-NP in HeLa cells with
135 Co. vec or TRIM28 WT/C651A. Left, representative fluorescence images. Middle, the
136 percentages of cells harboring puncta. Right, the ratio of puncta-like fluorescence intensity. **p**
137 IB and streptavidin RNA pull-down of Flag-SARS2-NP derived from HEK293T cells with Co.
138 vec or HA-TRIM28 WT/C651A. **q** Droplet formation of a mixture of AF488-labeled SARS2-
139 NP purified from HEK293F cells with Co. vec or TRIM28 WT/C651A and Cy5-RNA. Right,
140 fold change in droplet formation. All data are representative of at least three independent
141 experiments with similar results. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD (**g, h, m-o, q**). $n = 3$ (**g, n,**
142 **h**), or 6 (**m, o** middle, **q**), or 10 (**o** right) independent samples. Statistical analyses were
143 performed using a One-way ANOVA (**g, h, m, o, q**) or Two-way ANOVA (**n**). Scale bar, 10
144 μm (**h, l, m, o, q**). DIC, differential interference contrast microscopy (**m, o**).

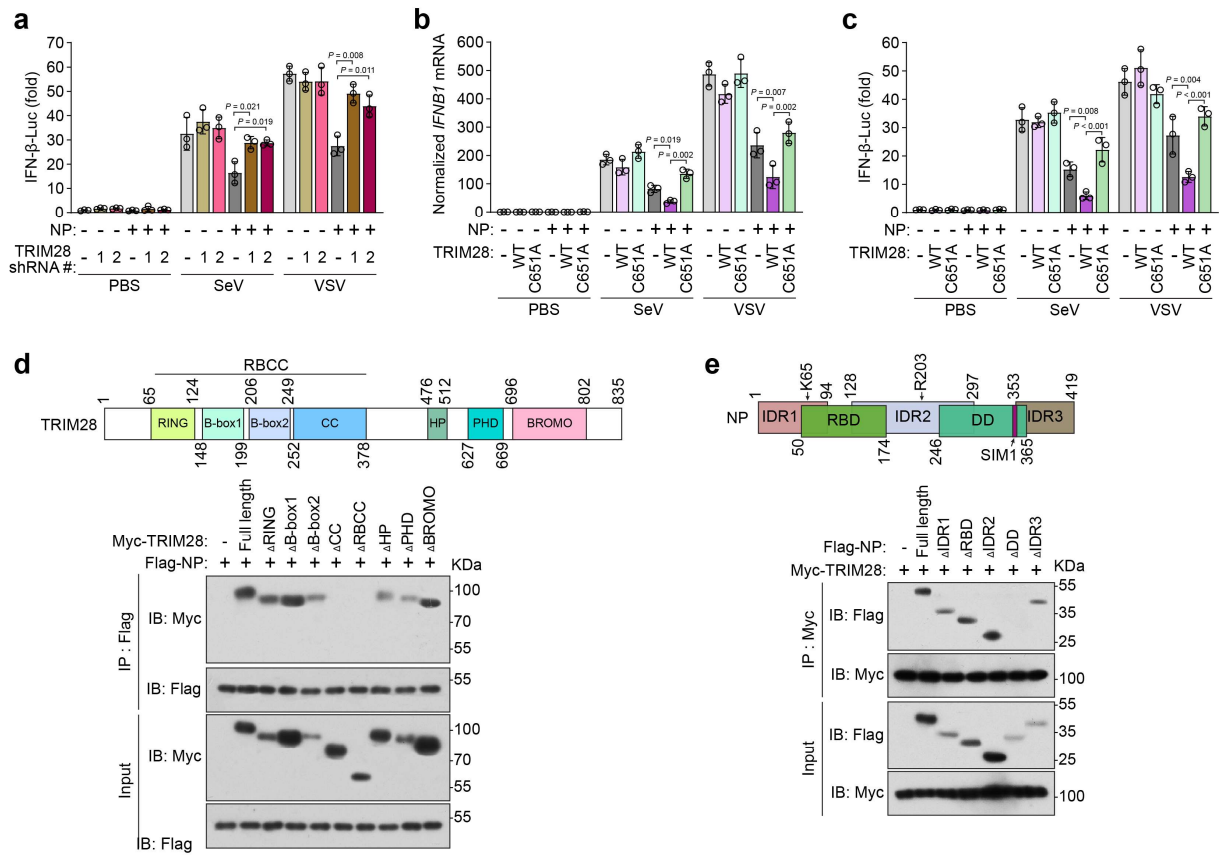


145

146 **Supplementary Fig. 7: Related to Fig. 7; Natural R203K mutant of SARS2-NP further**
 147 **inhibits innate antiviral immunity due to gain of an extra SUMOylation.**

148 **a** The mean intensity (label-free quantification) of GG-K sites of SARS2-NP R203K identified
 149 by MS/MS in SUMO3 WT/T90K-expressing HEK293T cells, as illustrated in Fig. 1c and
 150 supplementary Fig. 1c. **b** Mass spectrum of a SARS2-NP R203K peptide modified at K203 by
 151 SUMO3 T90R. **c** SUMOylation assay. Immunoblot (IB) of total lysates and anti-SARS2-NP
 152 immunoprecipitates (IP) of cell lysates from VSV-NP WT/K65R/K65R-R203K/R203K-

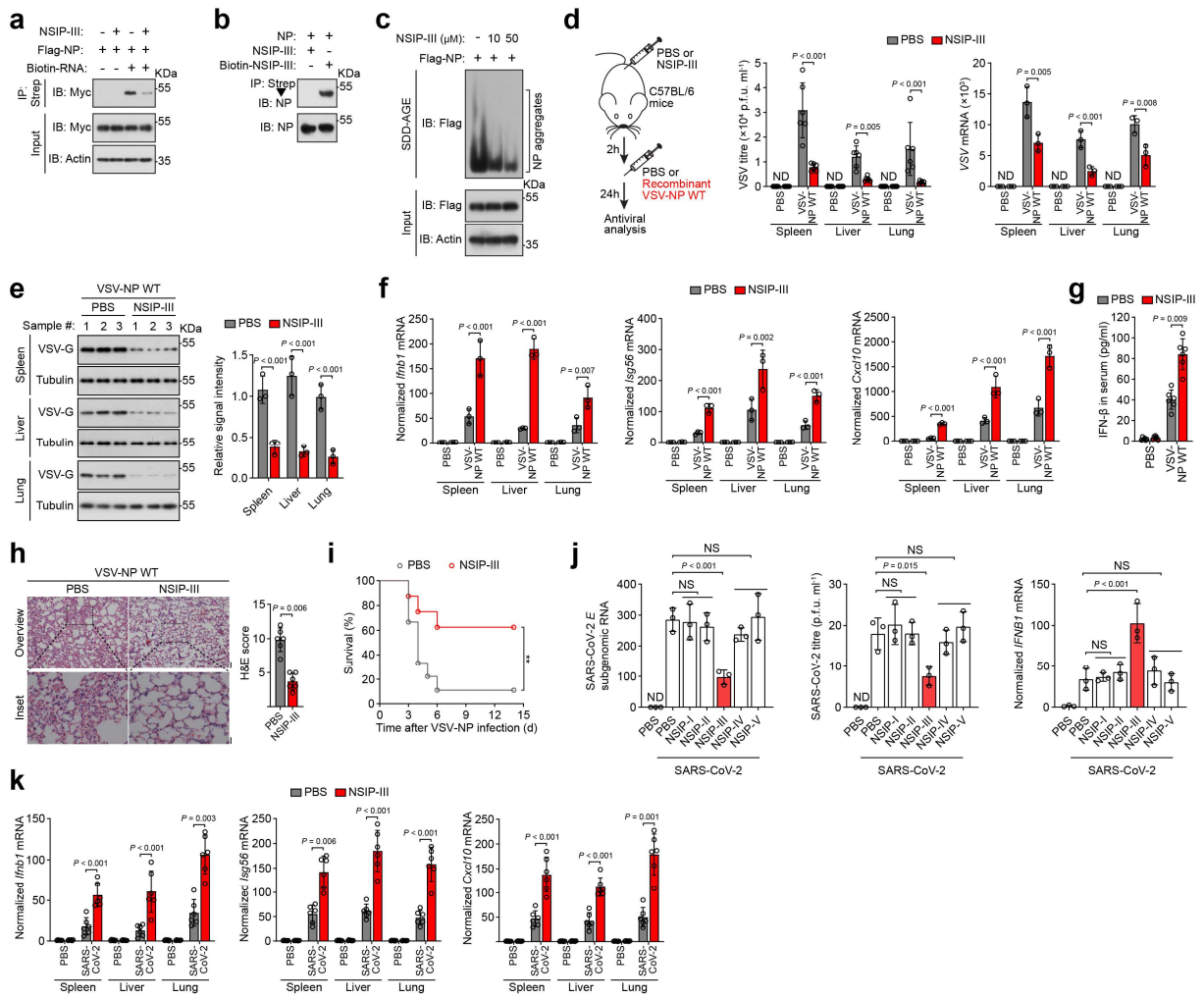
153 infected HEK293T cells. **d–e** SUMOylation assay. IB of total lysates (input) and Ni-NTA
154 pulldown of cell lysates from HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **f**
155 Ubiquitination assay. IB of total lysates and anti-Flag IP from HEK293T cells transfected with
156 indicated expression plasmids. **g** IB of total lysates and anti-Flag IP from HEK293T cells
157 transfected with indicated expression plasmids. **h** Aggregation assay. SDD-AGE (top) and
158 SDS-PAGE (bottom) of lysates of HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression
159 plasmids. **i** IB of total lysates and streptavidin RNA pull-down (IP) of Flag-SARS2-NP
160 WT/K65R/K65R-R203K/R203K derived from HEK293T cells transfected with the indicated
161 expression plasmids. **j** MST assay between ligand Cy5-RNA and SARS2-NP WT/K65R/K65R-
162 R203K/R203K purified from HEK293F cells. **k** Droplet formation of a mixture of AF488-
163 labeled SARS2-NP WT/K65R/K65R-R203K/R203K purified from HEK293F cells and Cy5-
164 RNA. Right, fold change in droplet formation. DIC, differential interference contrast
165 microscopy. **l** Fold change in IFN- β -luciferase (Luc) activity in HEK293T cells transfected with
166 indicated expression plasmids, followed by SeV/VSV infection for 12 h. **m** Normalized *IFNB1*
167 mRNA in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids, followed by
168 SeV/VSV infection for 12 h. **n** VSV titres (left) and copy number (right) in mice peritoneal
169 macrophages infected with indicated recombinant VSV at m.o.i. of 0.1, or not. ND, not
170 determined. **o** Normalized *Ifnb1* (left), *Isg56* (middle) and *Cxcl10* (right) mRNA in mice
171 peritoneal macrophages infected with indicated recombinant VSV at m.o.i. of 0.1, or not. **p**
172 Normalized *Isg56* (left) and *Cxcl10* (right) mRNA in the spleen, liver, and lungs of mice from
173 Fig. 7f. **q** Droplet formation of AF488-labeled SARS2-NP WT/R203K purified from HEK293F
174 cells (treated without or with 0.5 μ M of Kenpaullone), without or with Cy5-RNA. Left,
175 representative images. Right, fold change in droplet formation. **r** Normalized *IFNB1* mRNA
176 expression in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids and treated
177 without or with 0.5 μ M of Kenpaullone, followed by SeV/VSV infection for 12 h. Data are
178 representative of at least two (**a**, **b**, **o**, **p**) or three (**c–n**, **q**, **r**) independent experiments with
179 similar results. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD (**j–r**). n = 3 (**j**, **l–n**, **r**) or 6 (**k**, **q**) independent
180 samples, or 3 independent mice (**o**, **p**). Statistical analyses were performed using a One-way
181 ANOVA (**k–q**) or Two-way ANOVA (**j**). Scale bar, 10 μ m (**k**, **q**).



182

183 **Supplementary Fig. 8: Related to Fig. 8; Manipulating TRIM28 expression affects**
 184 **SARS2-NP-mediated innate immune suppression.**

185 **a, c** Fold change in IFN-β-luciferase (Luc) activity in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated
 186 expression plasmids, followed by SeV/VSV infection for 12 h. **b** Normalized *IFNB1* mRNA
 187 in HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids, followed by SeV/VSV
 188 infection for 12 h. **d** Top, domain structure of TRIM28. RING, really interesting new gene; CC,
 189 coiled coil; RBCC, RING domain followed by B-boxes and CC domain; HP, heterochromatin
 190 protein; PHD, plant homeodomain; BROMO, bromodomain. Bottom, immunoblot (IB) of total
 191 lysates (input) and anti-Flag immunoprecipitates (IP) from HEK293T cells transfected with
 192 indicated expression plasmids. **e** Top, domain structure of SARS2-NP. IDR, intrinsically
 193 disordered region; RBD, RNA-binding domain; DD, dimerization domain. Bottom, IB of total
 194 lysates and anti-Myc IP from HEK293T cells transfected with indicated expression plasmids.
 195 All data are representative of at least three independent experiments with similar results. Data
 196 are presented as Mean ± SD; n = 3 independent samples. Statistical analyses were performed
 197 using a One-way ANOVA. Δ, deletion mutants.



198

199 **Supplementary Fig. 9: Related to Fig. 8; SARS2-NP-mediated inhibition of innate**
 200 **antiviral immunity is alleviated significantly by a peptide, NSIP-III.**

201 **a** Immunoblot (IB) of total lysates and streptavidin RNA pull-down (IP) from HEK293T cells
 202 transfected with the plasmids expressing Flag-SARS2-NP, followed by 10 μ M of NSIP-III
 203 treatment for 12 h. **b** Binding assay of NSIP-III and NP. Prokaryote-purified SARS2-NP was
 204 incubated with NSIP-III labelled without or with biotin. Streptavidin pull-down was then
 205 performed. **c** Aggregation assay. SDD-AGE (top) and SDS-PAGE (bottom) of lysates of
 206 HEK293T cells transfected with plasmids expressing Flag-SARS2-NP, followed by 10 or 50
 207 μ M of NSIP-III treatment for 12 h, or not as indicated. **d** C57BL/6 mice were pretreated with
 208 PBS or NSIP-III (25 mg/kg, i.p., 6 mice each group) for 2 h and challenged with VSV-NP WT
 209 (5×10^8 p.f.u. per mouse, i.p) for another 24 h (left). Then, VSV titres (middle) and copy number
 210 (right) in the spleen, liver, lungs of mice were measured. **e** IB of VSV-G in the spleen, liver and
 211 lungs of mice from **d**. Right, the relative band intensity. **f** Normalized *Ifnb1* (left), *Isg56* (right)
 212 and *Cxcl10* (right) mRNA in the spleen, liver and lungs of mice from **d**. **g** IFN- β concentration

213 in the serum of mice from **d**. **h** H&E staining of lung sections of mice from **d** (left). Right, the
214 cumulative H&E score for quantification of lung lesions. Scale bars, 500 μm (left-top) and 100
215 μm (left-bottom). **i** Kaplan–Meier survival analysis of mice ($n=6$ mice each group) pretreated
216 with PBS or NSIP-III (25 mg/kg, i.p.) for 2 h and then challenged with VSV-NP WT (1×10^9
217 p.f.u. per mouse, i.p.). **j** CaCo-2 cells were pretreated PBS or NSIP-I–V (50 μM) for 2 h and
218 infected with SARS-CoV-2 for 12 h. Left, the subgenomic *E* gene. Middle, the SARS-CoV-2
219 titres. Right, normalized *IFN β 1* mRNA. **k** Normalized *Ifnb1* (left), *Isg56* (middle) and *Cxcl10*
220 (right) mRNA in the spleen, liver and lungs of mice from Fig. 8h. Data are representative of at
221 least two (**d–j**) or three (**a, b, c, k**) independent experiments with similar results. Data are
222 presented as Mean \pm SD (**d–h, j, k**). $n = 3$ (**d–f**) or 6 independent mice (**g–i, k**), or 3
223 independent samples (**j**). Statistical analyses were performed using a two-tailed Student’s *t*-test
224 (**d–h, j, k**), or log-rank test (**i**). Scale bar, 500 μm (**h** left-top), or 100 μm (**h** left-bottom). ND,
225 not determined.

238 not as indicated. **e** IB of total lysates and streptavidin RNA pull-down of Myc-SARS1-NP
239 WT//K62R/SIM1A/K62R-SIM1A (IP) derived from HEK293T cells transfected with the
240 indicated plasmids. **f** SUMO3-SARS1-NP WT/SIM1A, SARS1-NP WT/SIM1A proteins
241 purified from bacteria were analyzed by Coomassie blue stain of SDS-PAGE. **g** Droplet
242 formation of AF488-labeled SARS1-NP WT/SIM1A with AF594-labeled SUMO3-SARS1-NP.
243 All are prokaryote-purified, 2 μ M each (left). Right, fold change in droplet formation; Data
244 points indicate the relative area occupied by droplets per image field (40 \times). **h** Droplet formation
245 of 2 μ M of AF488-labeled SUMO3-SARS1-NP WT/SIM1A, or SARS1-NP WT/SIM1A
246 purified from bacteria, without or with 1 μ M of Cy5-RNA, at pH 5.5, 150 mM NaCl. Left,
247 representative images. Right, fold change in droplet formation; Data points indicate the relative
248 area occupied by droplets per image field (40 \times). **i** Normalized *IFNBI* mRNA expression
249 (determined by qPCR) in HEK293T cells transfected with Co. vec, or SARS1-NP
250 WT/SIM1A/K65R/K65R-SIM1A expression plasmids, followed by SeV/VSV infection for 12
251 h. All data are representative of at least three independent experiments with similar results (**a**,
252 **c–e**, **g–i**). Data are presented as Mean \pm SD (**g–i**), n = 3 independent samples (**i**), or 6
253 independent images (**g**, **h**). Statistical analyses were performed using Student's *t*-test (**g**), or
254 One-way ANOVA (**h**, **i**). Scale bar, 10 μ m.

Supplementary Table 1: The human or mouse primer sequences for qPCR

Gene	Sequence (5' >>> 3')	
Murine <i>Ifnb1</i>	Forward	TCCTGCTGTGCTTCTCCACCACA
	Reverse	AAGTCCGCCCTGTAGGTGAGGTT
Murine <i>Cxcl10</i>	Forward	ATCATCCCTGCGAGCCTATCCT
	Reverse	GACCTTTTTTGGCTAAACGCTTTC
Murine <i>Isg56</i>	Forward	AAGACAAGGCAATCACCCCTCTACT
	Reverse	GTCTTTCAGCCACTTTCTCCAAA
Murine <i>Gapdh</i>	Forward	GGCCTTCCGTGTTCTACC
	Reverse	AGCCAAGATGCCCTTCAGT
Human <i>IFNB1</i>	Forward	CCAACAAGTGTCTCCTCCAAAT
	Reverse	AATCTCCTCAGGGATGTCAAAGT
Human <i>CXCL10</i>	Forward	TTTGCTGCCTTATCTTTCTGACT
	Reverse	ATTGTAGCAATGATCTCAACACG
Human <i>ISG56</i>	Forward	GCTTTCAAATCCCTTCCGCTAT
	Reverse	CTTGGCCCGTTCATAATTTTTTC
Human <i>GAPDH</i>	Forward	AGGGCTGCTTTTAACTCTGGT
	Reverse	CCCCACTTGATTTTGGAGGGA
<i>VSV</i>	Forward	ACGGCGTACTTCCAGATGG
	Reverse	CTCGGTTCAAGATCCAGGT
SARS-CoV-2 subgenomic RNA	Forward	CTTTCGTGGTATTCTTGCTAGTT
	Reverse	CACGTTAACAATATTGCAGCA