

Supplementary Materials for
Ikaros is a principal regulator of Aire⁺ mTEC homeostasis, thymic mimetic cell diversity, and central tolerance

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Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following:

Data S1 to S3
MDAR Reproducibility Checklist

Figure S1

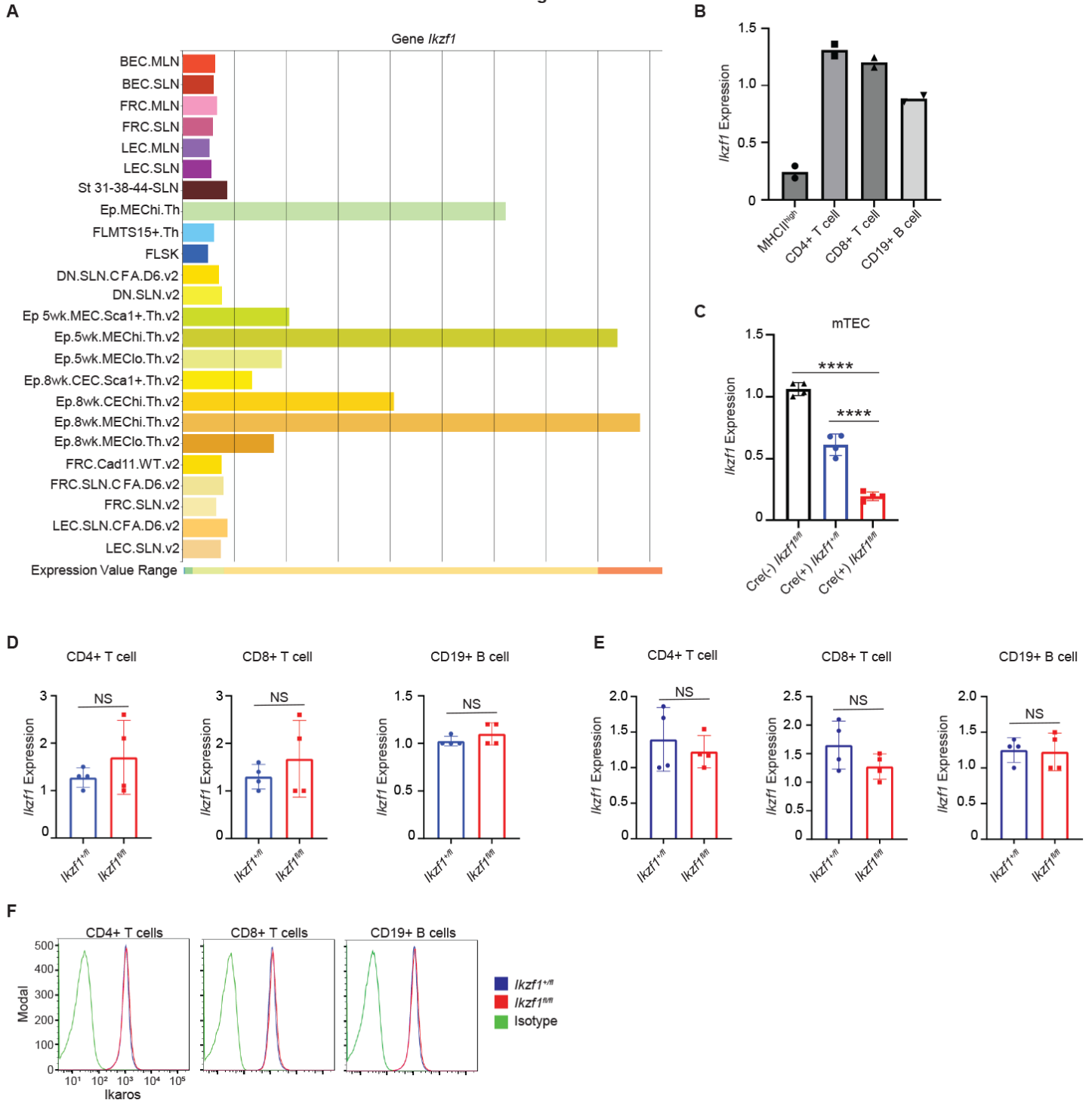


Fig. S1 – *Izkf1* is efficiently deleted in *Foxn1*-Cre/*Izkf1*^{fl/fl} mTECs. (A) Relative expression of *Izkf1* mRNA in stromal cells. Downloaded from the Immgen expression database. *Izkf1* is highly expressed in medullary thymic epithelial cells (MEC^{hi}). (B) Relative expression of *Izkf1* mRNA in sorted MHC-II^{high} mTECs and lymph node CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, and CD19⁺ B cells from C57BL/6 mice. (C) Relative expression of *Izkf1* mRNA in sorted MHC-II^{high} mTECs from *Foxn1*-Cre(-)/*Izkf1*^{fl/fl}, *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Izkf1*^{+/fl}, and *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Izkf1*^{fl/fl} mice. (n = 4 mice per genotype). (D) Relative expression of *Izkf1* mRNA in sorted lymph node CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, and CD19⁺ B cells from *Foxn1*-Cre/*Izkf1*^{fl/fl} (*Izkf1*^{fl/fl}) and *Foxn1*-Cre/*Izkf1*^{+/fl} (*Izkf1*^{+/fl}) mice. (n = 4 mice per genotype). (E) Relative expression of *Izkf1* mRNA in sorted splenic CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, and CD19⁺ B cells. (n = 4 mice per genotype). (F) Representative flow cytometry plots of Ikaros levels in splenic CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells and CD19⁺ B cells. (B-E) In graphs, the bar corresponds to

the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. **(C)** Statistical significance was calculated using one-way ANOVA and grouped comparisons were corrected using Tukey's multiple-comparison test, **** $P < 0.0001$. **(D, E)** Statistical significance was determined using Student's T-test. NS = not significant.

Figure S2

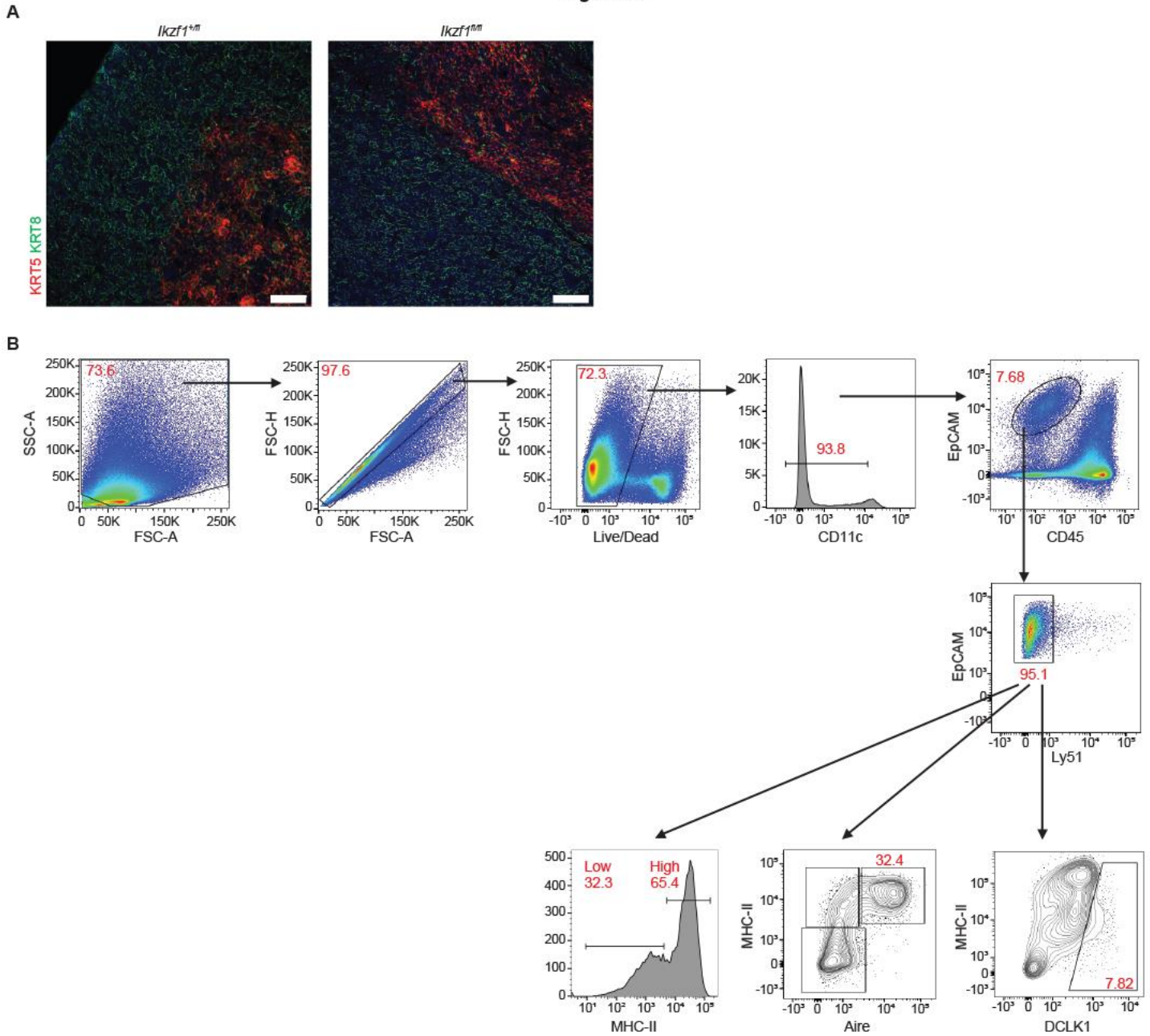


Fig. S2 – Deletion of *Ikzf1* does not alter thymic architecture. (A) Confocal microscopy of Keratin 5 (KRT5) (red) and Keratin 8 (KRT8) (green) of 30-day old thymi from *Foxn1-Cre(+)/Ikzf1^{+/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{+/fl}*) mice and *Foxn1-Cre(+)/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*) mice. Scale bars = 100 μ m. (B) Flow cytometry gating strategy for the isolation CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺ CD45⁺LY51⁺IA^{b+}Aire⁺ mTECs and CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺ CD45⁺LY51⁺IA^{b+}DCLK1⁺ thymic tuft cells.

Figure S3

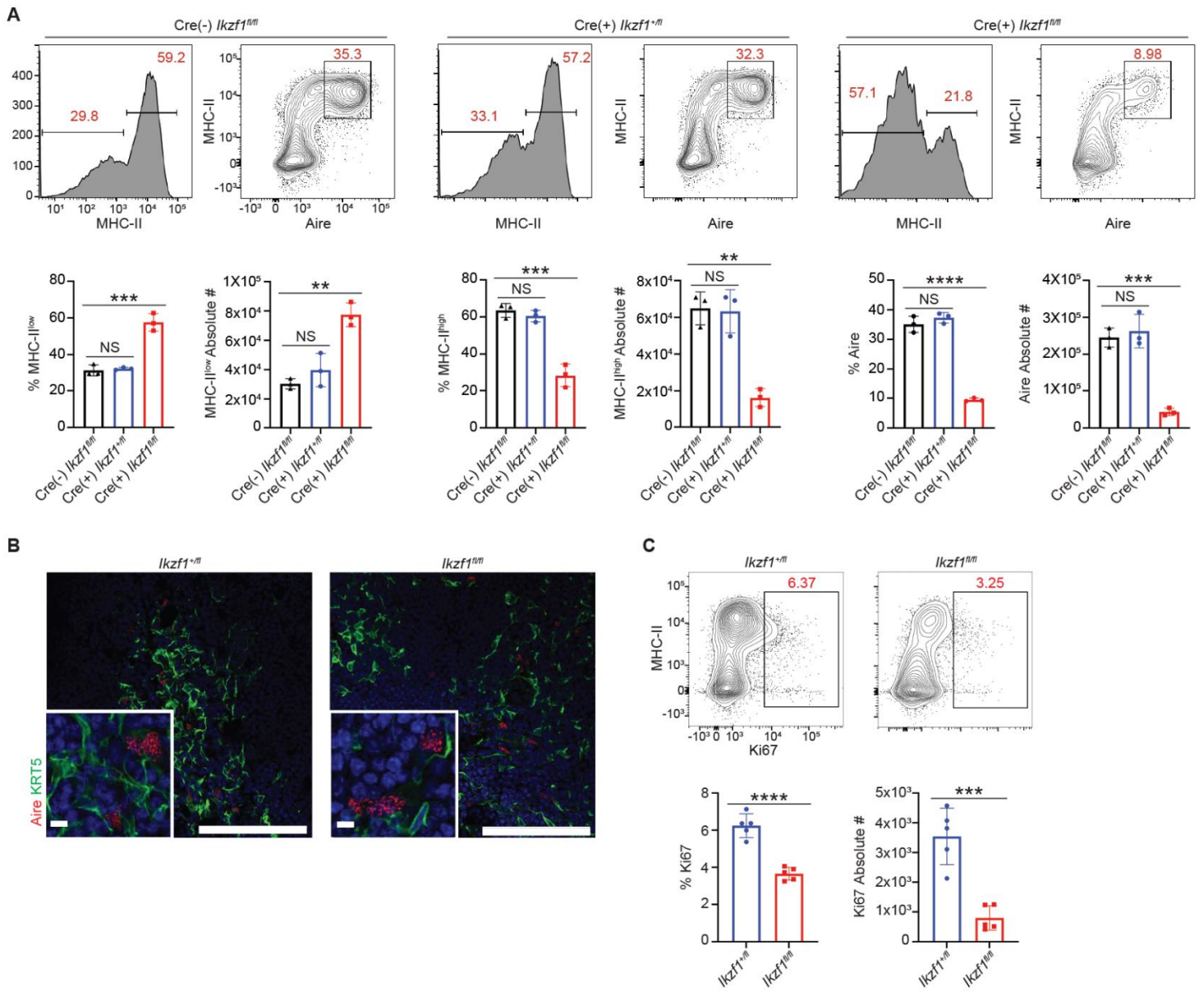


Fig. S3 – *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{+/fl} and *Foxn1*-Cre(-)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl} mice are phenotypically indistinguishable. (A) Flow cytometry (left) and percentage and absolute number (right) of CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺CD45⁻LY51⁻MHC-II^{high}, MHC-II^{low}, and Aire⁺ mTECs from *Foxn1*-Cre(-)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl} mice, *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{+/fl} mice, and *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl} mice. (n = 3 mice per genotype). **(B)** Confocal microscopy of Aire (red) and KRT5 (green) from 30-day old thymi. Scale bars = 100 μm and 20 μm for inset. **(C)** Flow cytometry (left) and percentage and absolute number (right) of CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺ CD45⁻LY51⁻IA^{b+}Ki67⁺ mTECs. (n = 5 mice per genotype). **(A and C)** In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. **(A)** Statistical significance was calculated using one-way ANOVA and grouped comparisons were corrected using Tukey's multiple-comparison test, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001, ****P<0.0001. NS = not significant. **(C)** Statistical significance was determined using Student's T-test, ***P<0.001, ****P<0.0001.

Figure S4

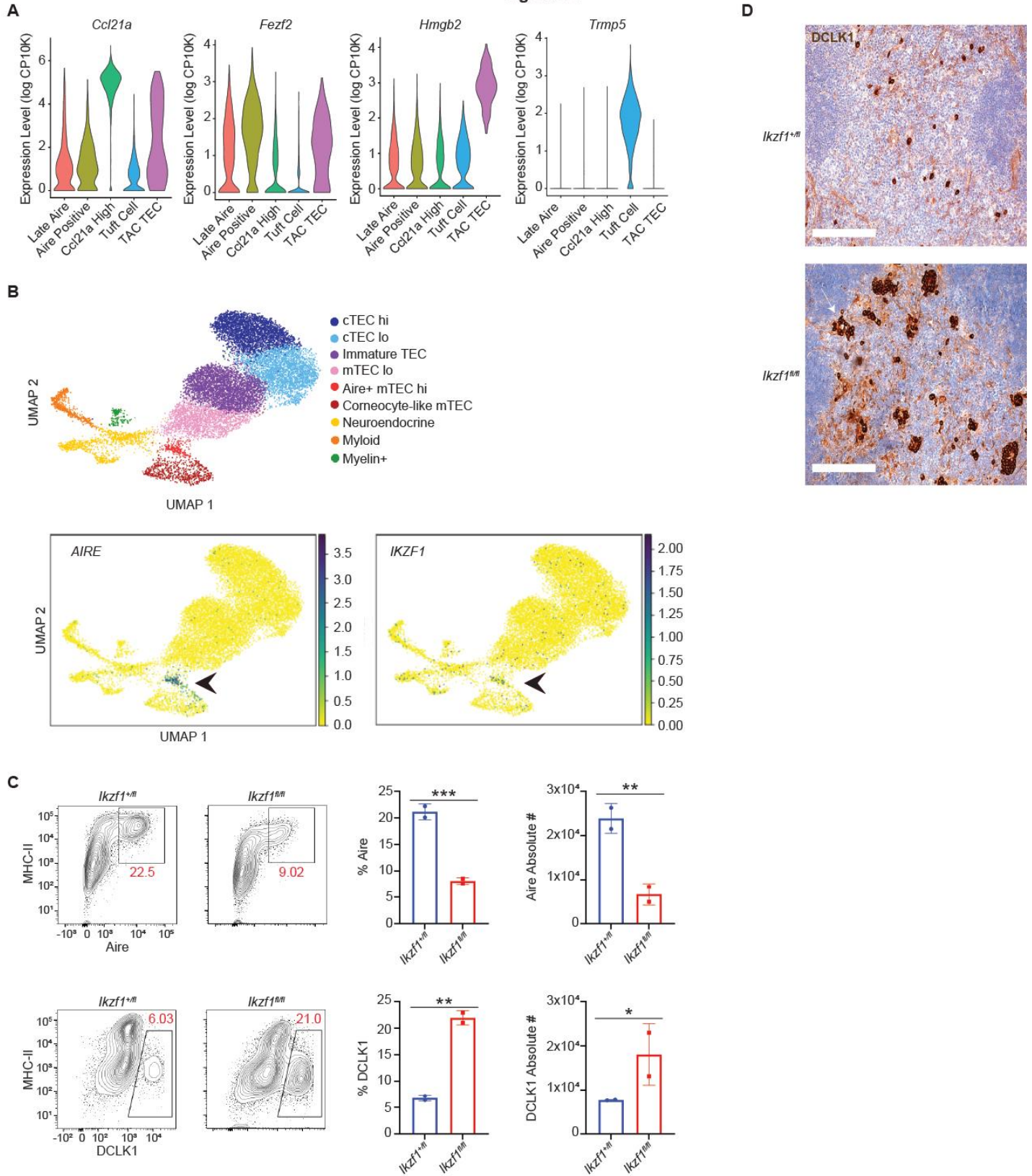


Fig. S4 – IKZF1 is present in human mTECs. (A) Violin plots of marker genes for specific mTEC subsets from murine scRNA-seq data. (B) UMAPs of scRNA-seq data from human thymic epithelial cells. Arrows denote the mTEC subset with increased *AIRE* and *IKZF1* expression. (C) Flow cytometry (left) and percentage and absolute number of CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺CD45⁻LY51⁻Aire⁺ and DCLK1⁺ mTECs in 6-month-old *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{+/fl}* mice and *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* mice. (n = 2 mice per genotype). (D) Representative

immunohistochemistry images of 30- day-old thymi stained with DCLK1 (5 μ m sections). Scale Bar = 100 μ m. (C) In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. (C) Statistical significance was determined using Student's T-test. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

Figure S5

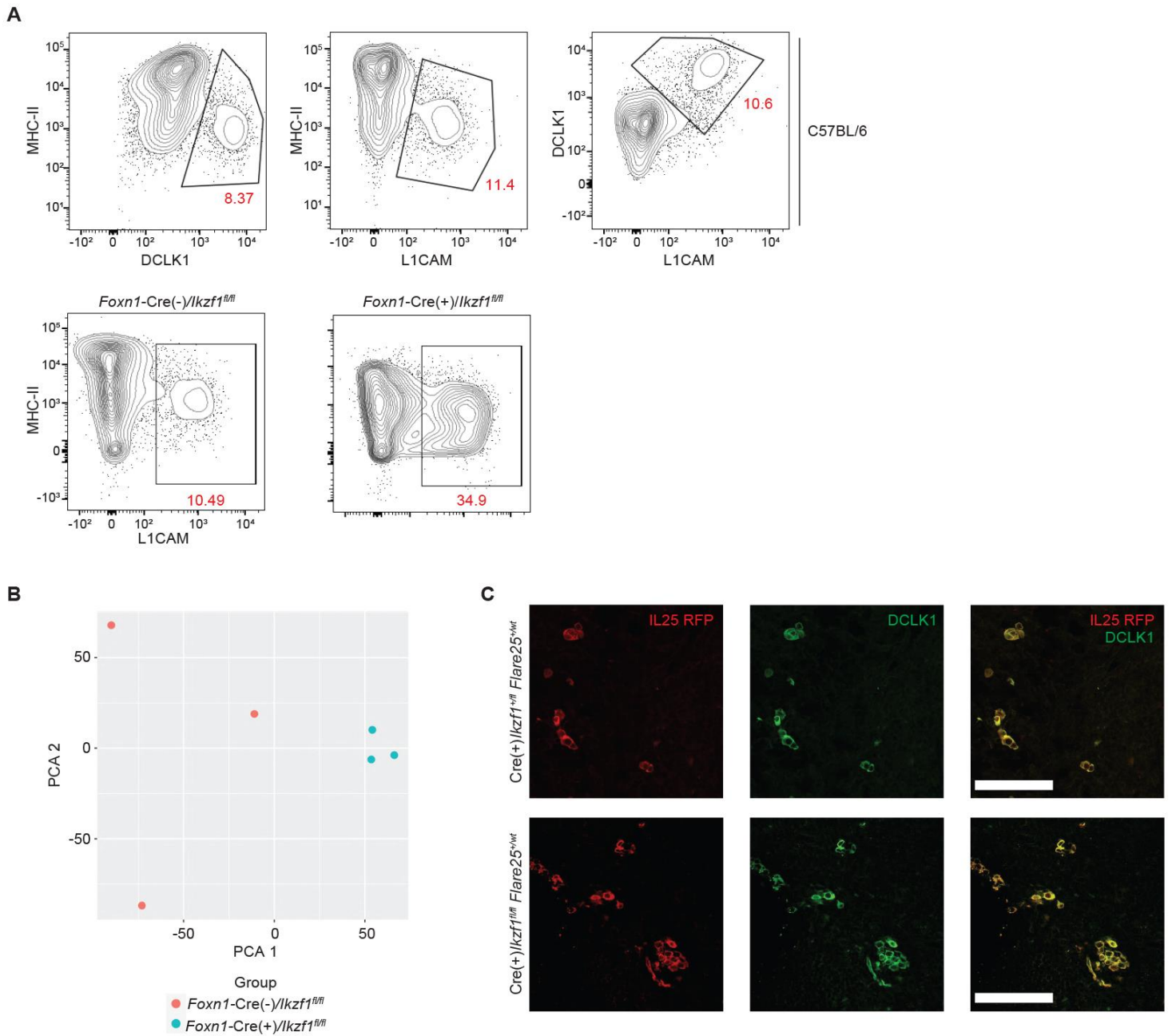


Fig. S5 – Expression of DCLK1 and IL-25 overlap in tuft cells. (A) Flow cytometry of CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺CD45⁻LY51⁻DCLK1⁺ and CD11c⁺EPCAM⁺CD45⁻LY51⁻L1CAM⁺ tuft cells in C57BL/6, *Foxn1-Cre(-)/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*, and *Foxn1-Cre(+)/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* mice. (B) Principal component analysis of bulk RNA-seq data from sorted L1CAM⁺ tuft cells. Each data point represents tuft cells isolated from an individual mouse. (C) Representative confocal images (25 μ m sections) of IL25-RFP (red) and DCLK1 (green) from 30-day old thymi of the indicated genotype. Immunofluorescence (IF) staining of thymic slices at high (40X optical) magnification. Scale bars = 100 μ m.

Figure S6

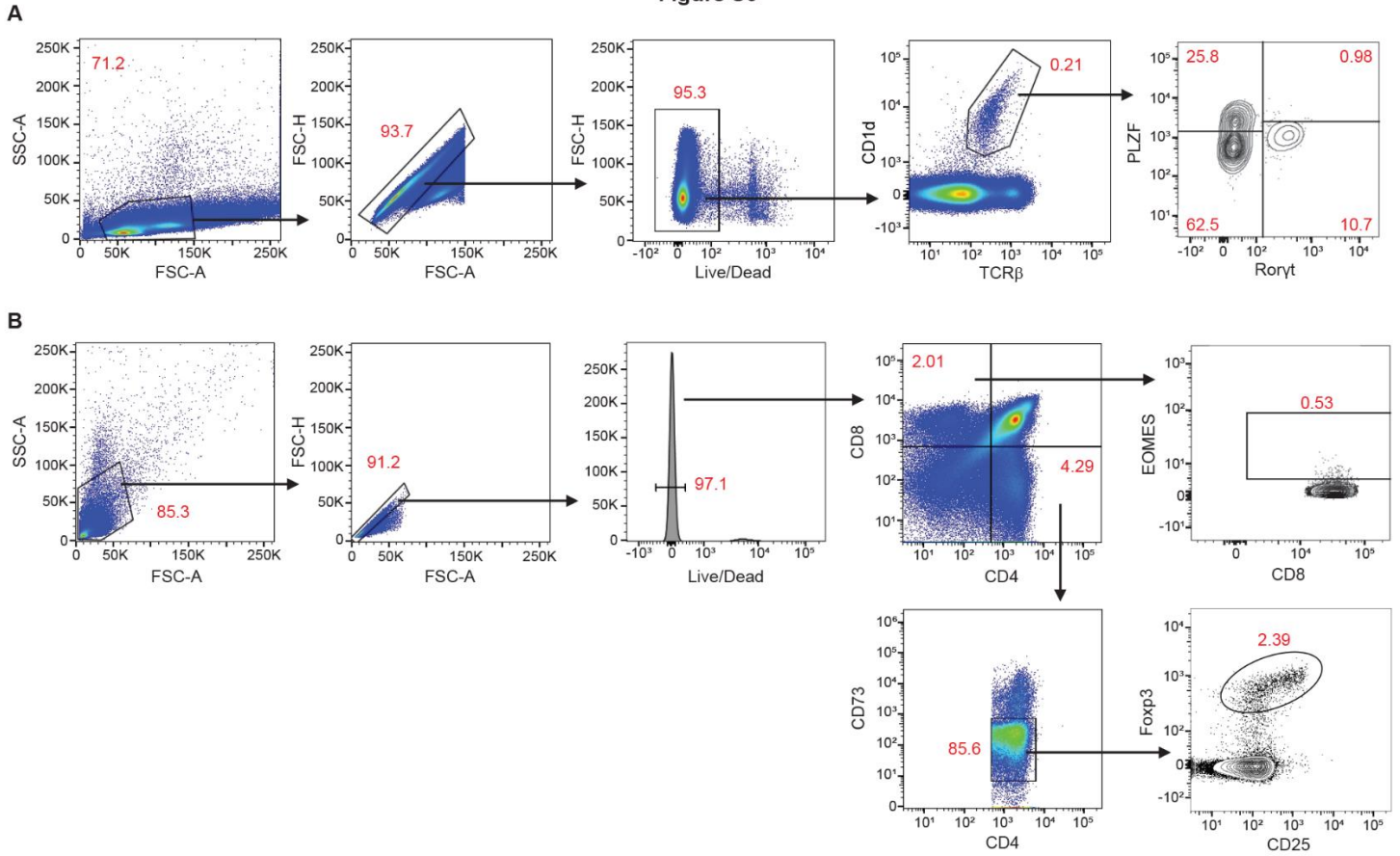


Fig. S6 – Gating strategy for iNKT and CD8⁺ EOMES panels. (A) Representative flow cytometry gating strategy for two iNKT subsets: CD1d⁺PLZF1⁺ iNKT2s and CD1d⁺RORγt⁺ iNKT3s. **(B)** Representative flow cytometry gating strategy for CD8⁺EOMES⁺ innate T cells and CD4⁺CD73⁻CD25⁺Fop3⁺ Tregs.

Figure S7

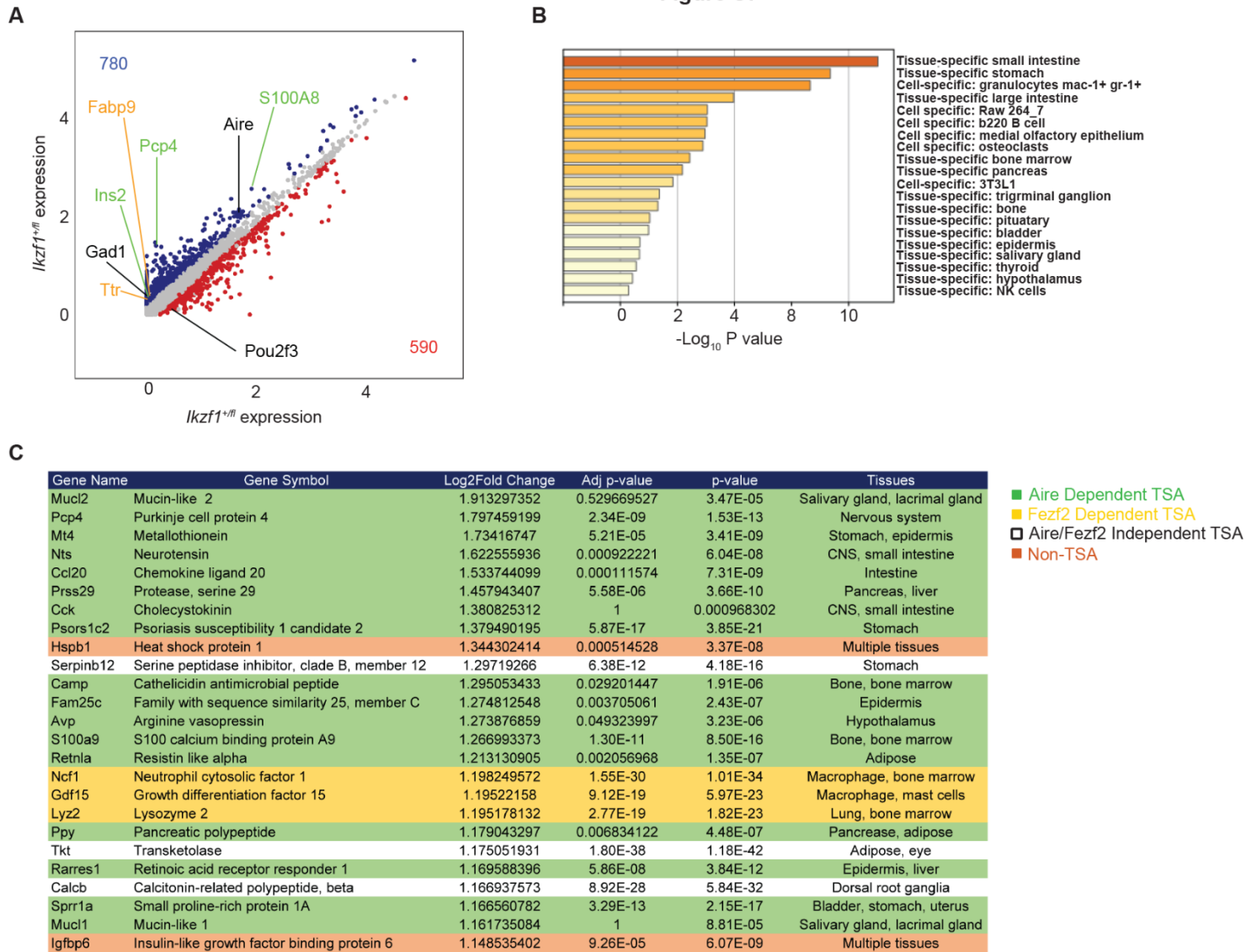


Fig. S7 – scRNA-seq reveals that *Ikzf1*-deletion results in decreased TSA gene expression. (A) Gene expression in *Foxn1*-Cre/*Ikzf1*^{+/*fl*} mice (*Ikzf1*^{+/*fl*}) versus *Foxn1*-Cre/*Ikzf1*^{fl/*fl*} mice (*Ikzf1*^{fl/*fl*}) in Aire⁺ mTECs. Blue numbers represent the number of genes increased in *Ikzf1*^{+/*fl*} mTECs (log₂FC>0.25, p<0.05) and red numbers equal the number of genes increased in *Ikzf1*^{fl/*fl*} mTECs (log₂FC>0.25, p<0.05). Genes labelled in green are Aire-dependent TSAs and genes labelled in orange are Fezf2-dependent TSA genes. **(B)** Metascape gene ontology analysis showing pathways downregulated in *Foxn1*-Cre/*Ikzf1*^{fl/*fl*} Aire⁺ mTECs. **(C)** Table of top 25 genes downregulated in *Ikzf1*^{fl/*fl*} Aire⁺ mTECs.

Figure S8

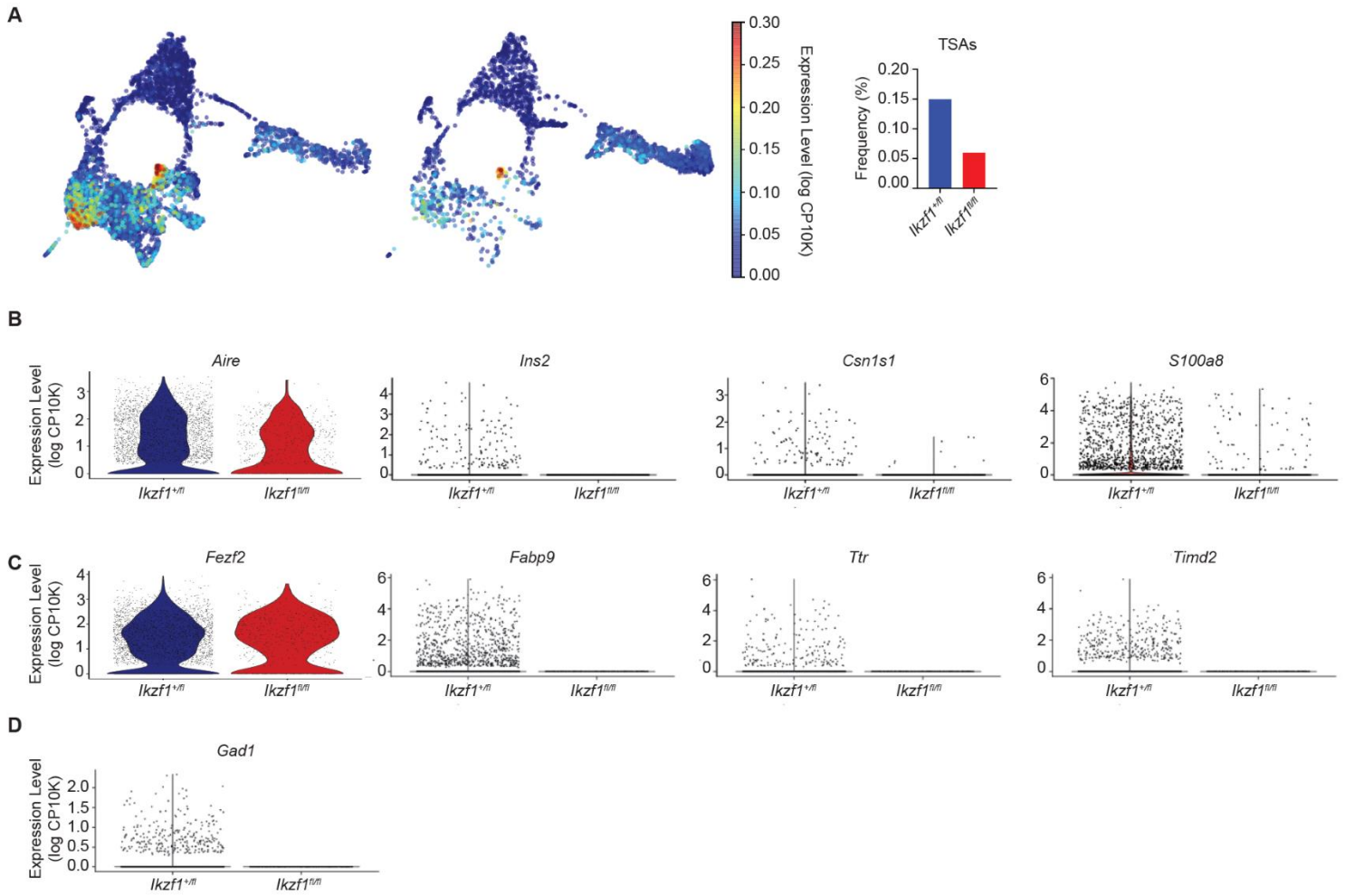


Fig. S8 – Ikaros regulates TSA gene expression. (A) UMAP visualization of the average expression of TSA genes. Bar graph shows the percentage of *Aire⁺* mTECs expressing TSA genes at an expression level of 0.15. (B) Violin plots for *Aire* and *Aire*-dependent TSA genes in *Aire⁺* mTECs. (C) Violin plots for *Fezf2* and *Fezf2*-dependent TSA genes in *Aire⁺* mTECs. (D) Violin plot for the *Aire/Fezf2*-independent TSA gene *Gad1* in *Aire⁺* mTECs.

Figure S9

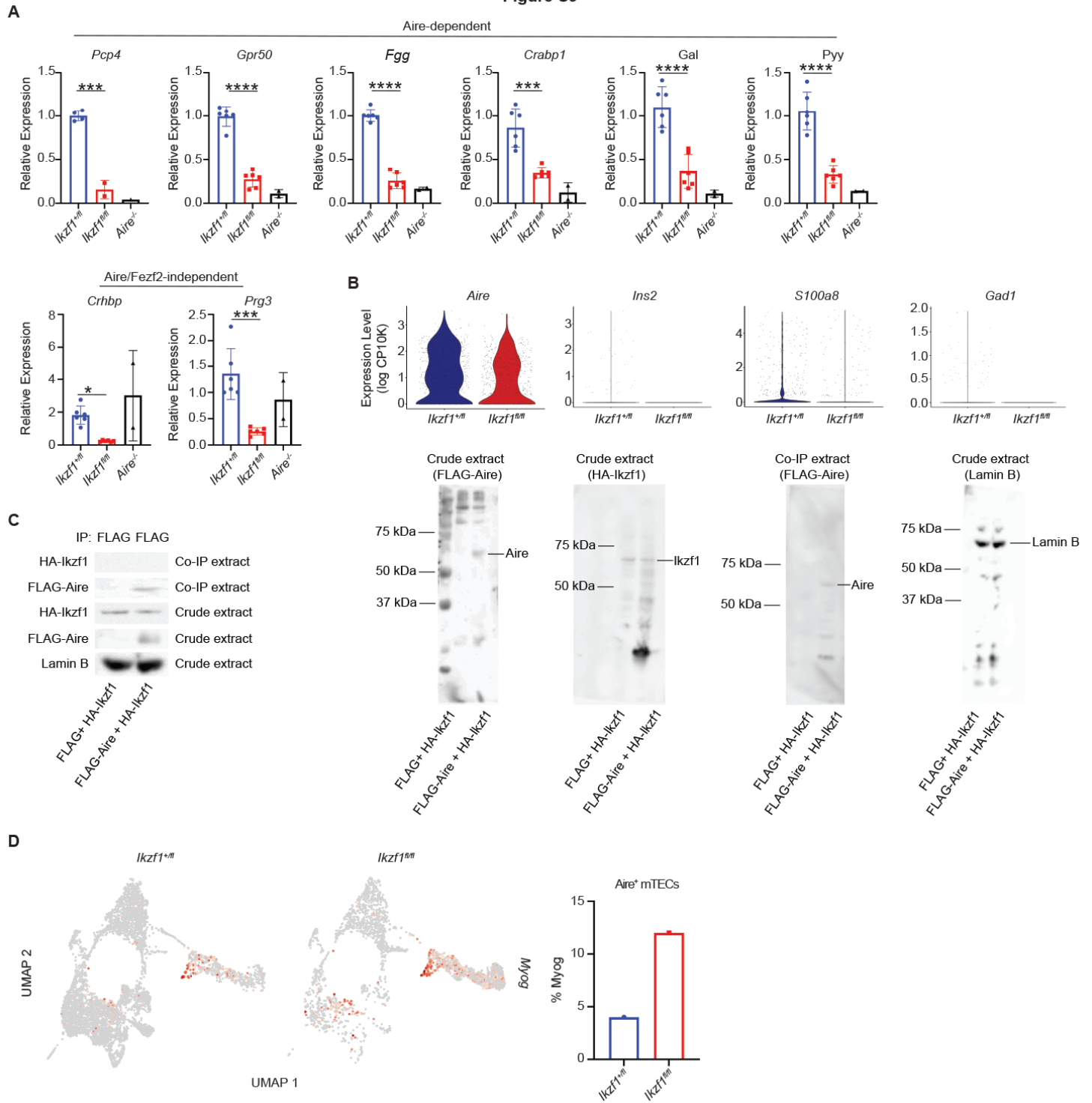


Fig. S9 – Ikaros modulates TSA gene expression and Ikaros does not interact with Aire. (A) qPCR of Aire-dependent and Aire/Fezf2-independent TSA gene expression. (n = 2 to 6 mice per genotype). (B) An equal number of Aire⁺ mTECs were analyzed (downsampling) to control for cell number(s) differences between genotypes. Violin plots are shown for Aire and the indicated TSA genes. (C) 293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing either FLAG and HA-Ikzf1 or FLAG-Aire and HA-Ikzf1. Coimmunoprecipitation (Co-IP) was performed with an anti-FLAG antibody and proteins were visualized by western blot. (D) UMAP of *Myog* expression in Aire⁺ mTECs from scRNA-seq data. Bar graph represents the percentage of cells of each genotype expressing *Myog* in Aire⁺ mTECs. (A) In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. (A) Statistical

significance was calculated using one-way ANOVA and grouped comparisons were corrected using Tukey's multiple-comparison test, * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$.

Figure S10

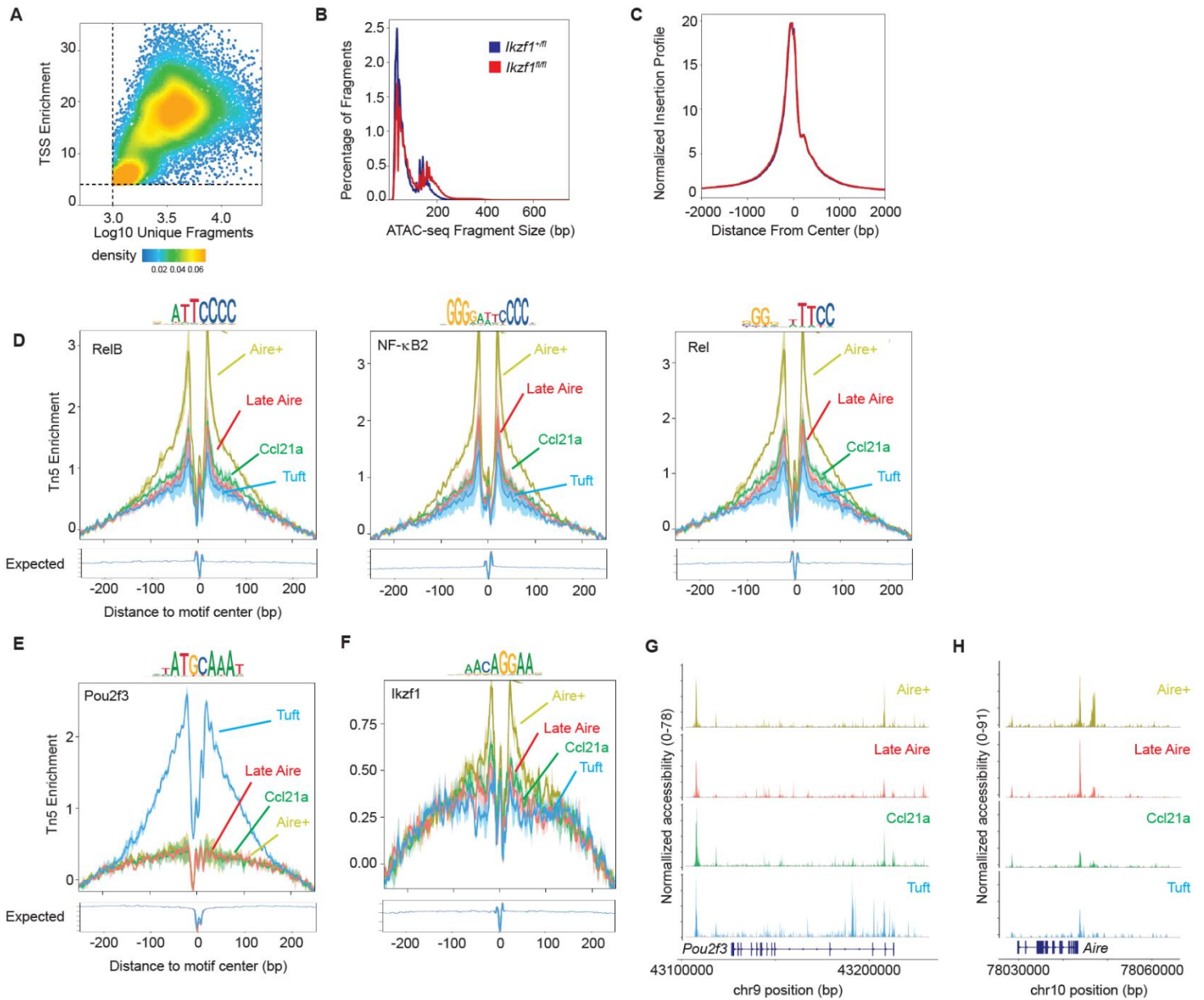


Fig. S10 – scATAC-seq identified four mTEC subsets: Aire⁺ mTECs, Late Aire mTECs, Ccl21a mTECs, and tuft cells. (A to C) scATAC-seq data quality control. (A) Number of unique nuclear fragments versus the transcriptional start site (TSS) enrichment of all fragments. (B) Percentage of fragments versus the ATAC-seq fragment size for each genotype (*Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{+fl}* (*Ikzf1^{+fl}*) versus *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*) mTECs). (C) Normalized TSS enrichment score profile for each genotype. (D to F) TF footprints with motifs for each mTEC subset. Expected Tn5 insertion shown below. (D) TF footprints for select *NF-κB* family members, (E) *Pou2f3*, and (F) *Ikzf1*. (G) Genome track of pseudobulk scATAC-seq for the *Pou2f3* locus. (H) Genome track of pseudobulk scATAC-seq for the *Aire* locus.

Figure S11

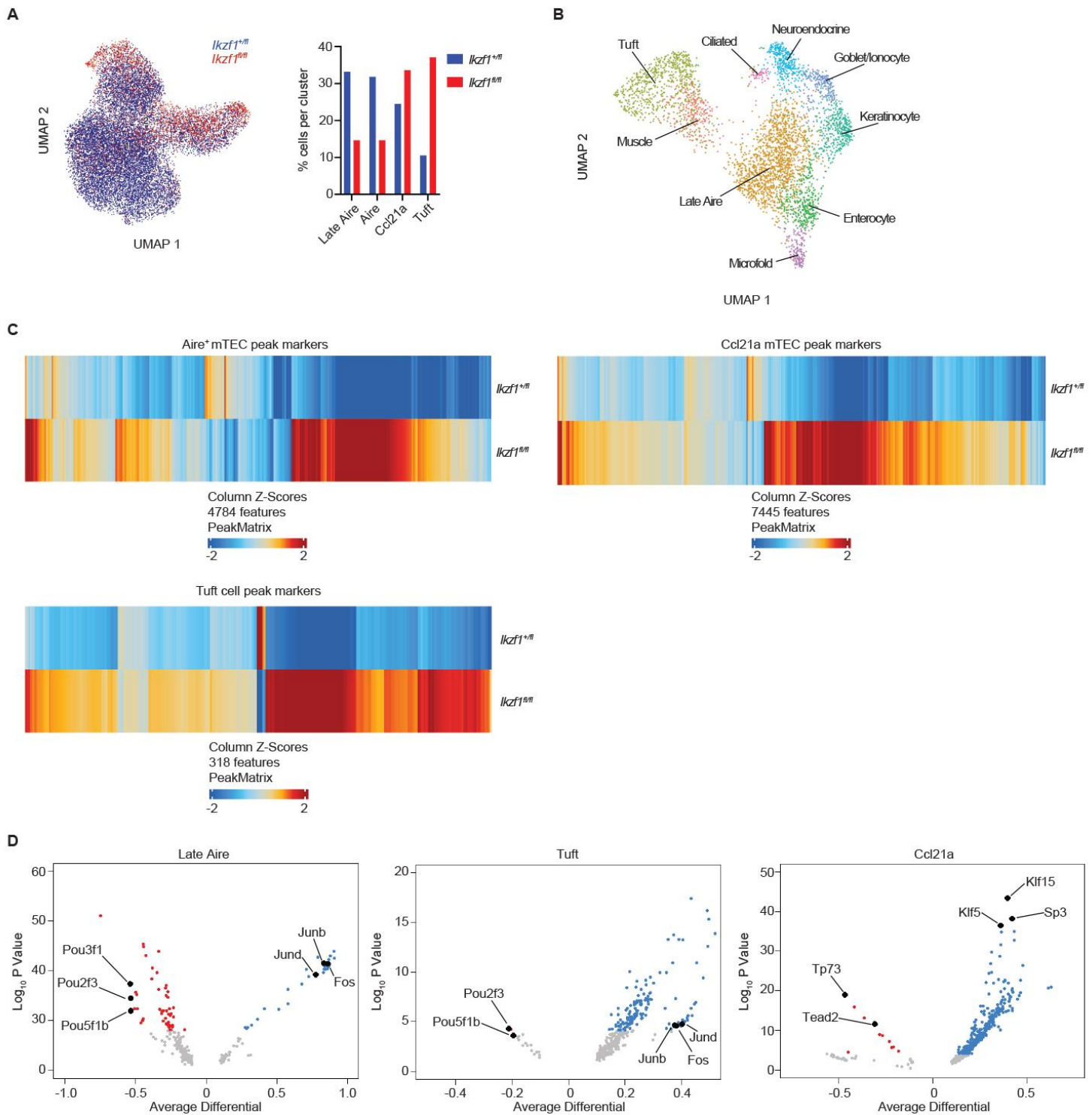


Fig. S11 - scATAC-seq replicates the cell composition changes seen in scRNA-seq. (A) UMAP of scATAC-seq clustering for the indicated genotypes. Blue = *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{+fl}* (*Ikzf1^{+fl}*) mTECs and Red = *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*) mTECs. Bar graph shows percentage of individual mTEC subsets for each genotype. (B) UMAP of mimetic cell populations within Late Aire and tuft scATAC-seq data. (C) Heat map of normalized scATAC-seq fragment density at differential peaks (FDR<0.05) for Aire⁺ mTECs, tuft cells, and Ccl21a mTECs. (D) chromVAR motif accessibility volcano plot in Late Aire mTECs, Ccl21a mTECs, and tuft cells. Blue dots show motifs significantly enriched (FDR <0.05) in *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{+fl}* (*Ikzf1^{+fl}*) mTECs. Red dots show motifs significantly enriched in *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*) mTECs (FDR <0.05).

Figure S12

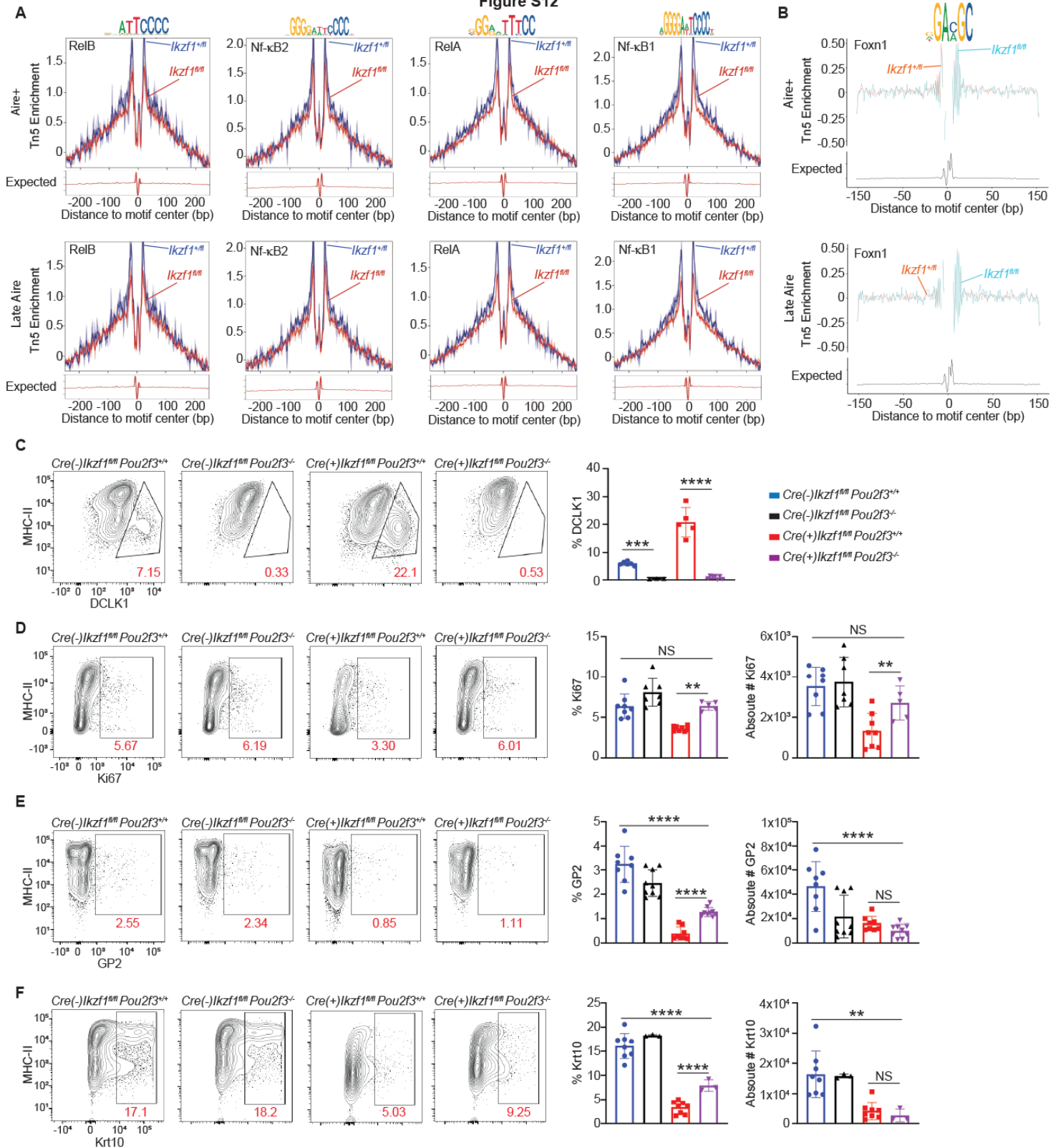


Fig. S12 - Combined deletion of *Ikzf1/Pou2f3* fails to rescue Aire-dependent mimetic cells. (A-B) TF footprints with motifs for *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{+/fl} and *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl} Aire⁺ mTECs and Late Aire mTECs. Expected Tn5 insertion shown below. (A) TF footprints for select NF-κB family members, (B) *Foxn1*. (C-F) Flow cytometry (left) and percentage and absolute number (right) of mTEC populations from *Foxn1*-Cre(-)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl}/*Pou2f3*^{+/+} mice, *Foxn1*-Cre(-)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl}/*Pou2f3*^{-/-} mice, *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl}/*Pou2f3*^{+/+} mice, and *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{fl/fl}/*Pou2f3*^{-/-} mice (n = 3-8 mice per genotype). (C) Staining for CD11c⁻EPCAM⁺CD45⁻

LY51-IA^bDCLK1⁺ tuft cells. **(D)** Staining for Ki67. **(E)** Staining for GP2⁺ M cells. **(F)** Staining for KRT10⁺ Keratinocytes. **(C-F)** In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. **(C-F)** Statistical significance was calculated using one-way ANOVA and grouped comparisons were corrected using Tukey's multiple-comparison test, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001, ****P<0.0001. NS = not significant.

Figure S13

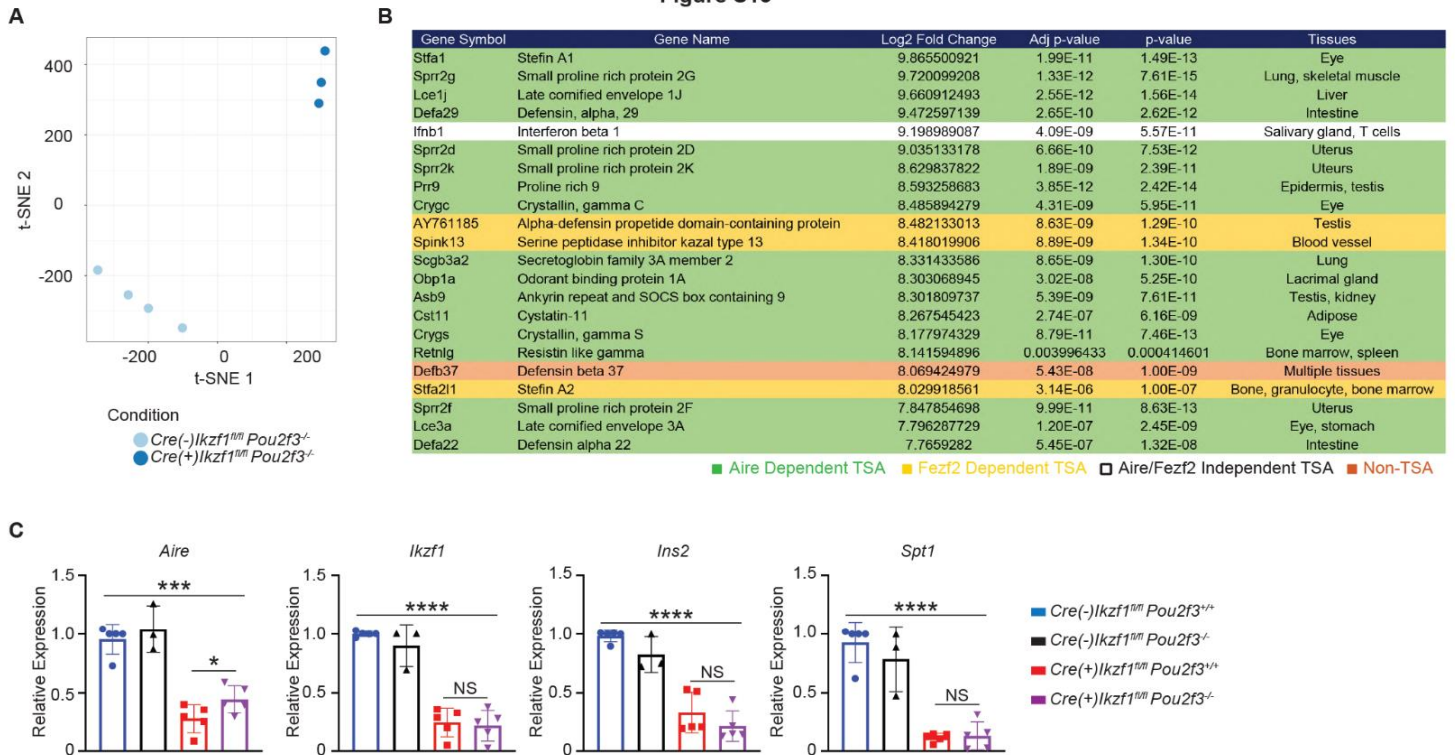
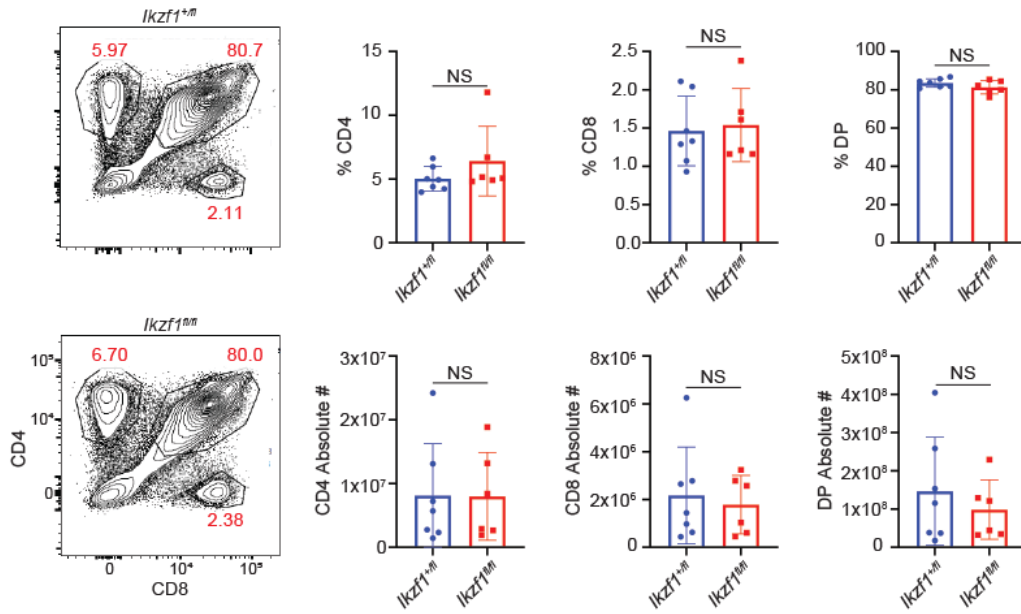


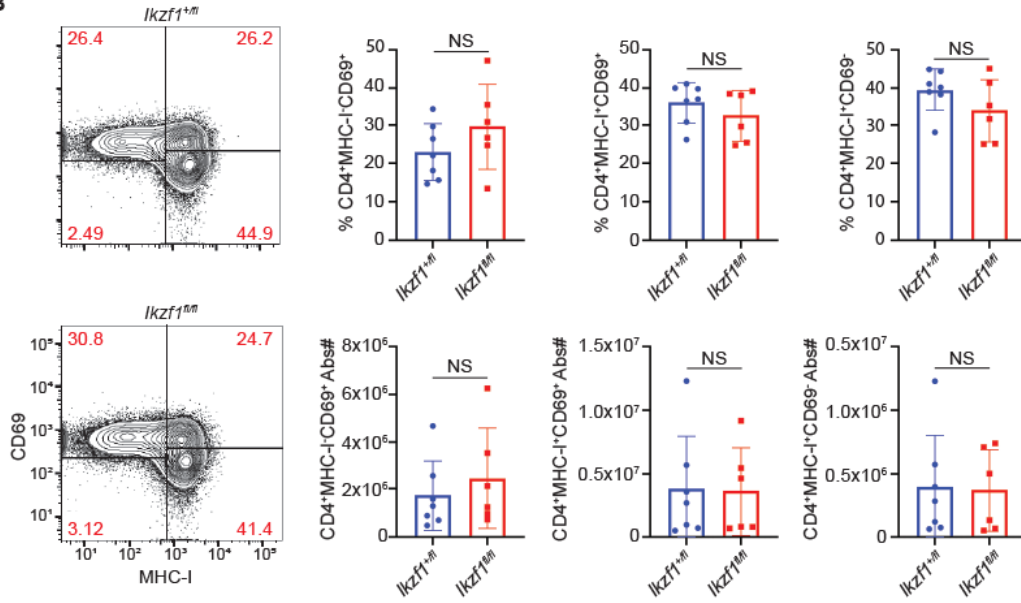
Fig. S13 - Bulk RNA-seq in MHC-II^{high} mTECs with combined *Ikzf1/Pou2f3* deletion. (A) t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE) plot of bulk RNA-seq samples from MHC-II^{high} mTECs of the indicated genotype. Each data point represents MHC-II^{high} mTECs isolated from an individual mouse. (B) Table of top 25 genes upregulated genes in MHC-II^{high} mTECs in *Foxn1-Cre(-)/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}/Pou2f3^{-/-}* versus *Foxn1-Cre(+)/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}/Pou2f3^{-/-}*. (C) qPCR of select target genes. Each data point represents an individual mouse. (C) In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with the error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. (C) Statistical significance was calculated using one-way ANOVA and grouped comparisons were corrected using Tukey's multiple-comparison test, *P<0.05, *P<0.001, ****P<0.0001. NS = not significant.**

Figure S14

A



B



C

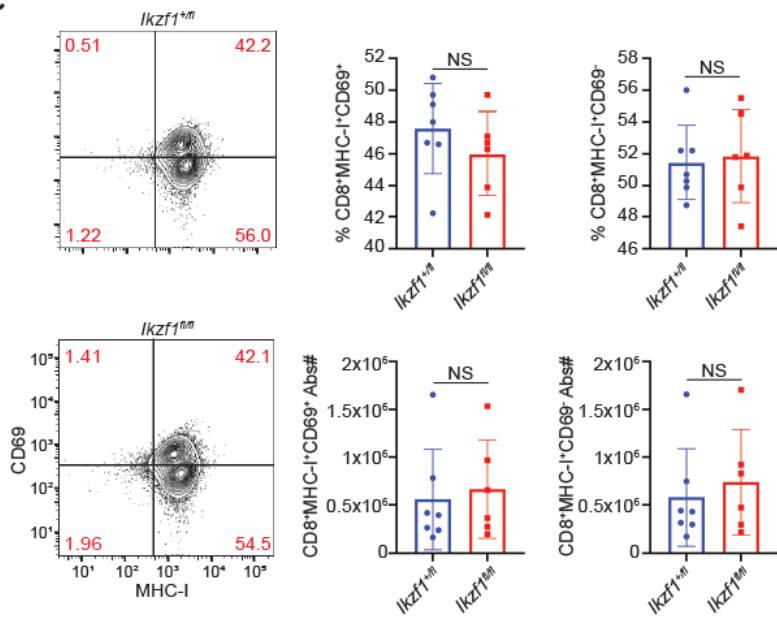


Fig. S14 – Deletion of *Ikzf1* in mTECs does not alter T cell development. (A) Flow cytometry plots (left) and counts (right) of thymocyte subsets from *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{+/-}* (*Ikzf1^{+/-}*) and *Foxn1-Cre/Ikzf1^{fl/fl}* (*Ikzf1^{fl/fl}*) mice. (n = 6-7 mice per genotype). (B and C) Flow cytometry plots (left) and counts (right) of CD69⁺/MHC-I⁺ semi-mature (SM), CD69⁺/MHC-I⁺ mature 1 (M1), and CD69⁻/MHC-I⁺ mature 2 (M2), (B) SP CD4⁺ T cells and (C) SP CD8⁺ T cells. (n = 6-7 mice per genotype). (A-C) In graphs, the bar corresponds to the mean, with error bars showing +/- SD of values shown, and each data point represents an individual mouse. (A-C) Statistical significance was determined using Student's T-test. NS = not significant.

Figure S15

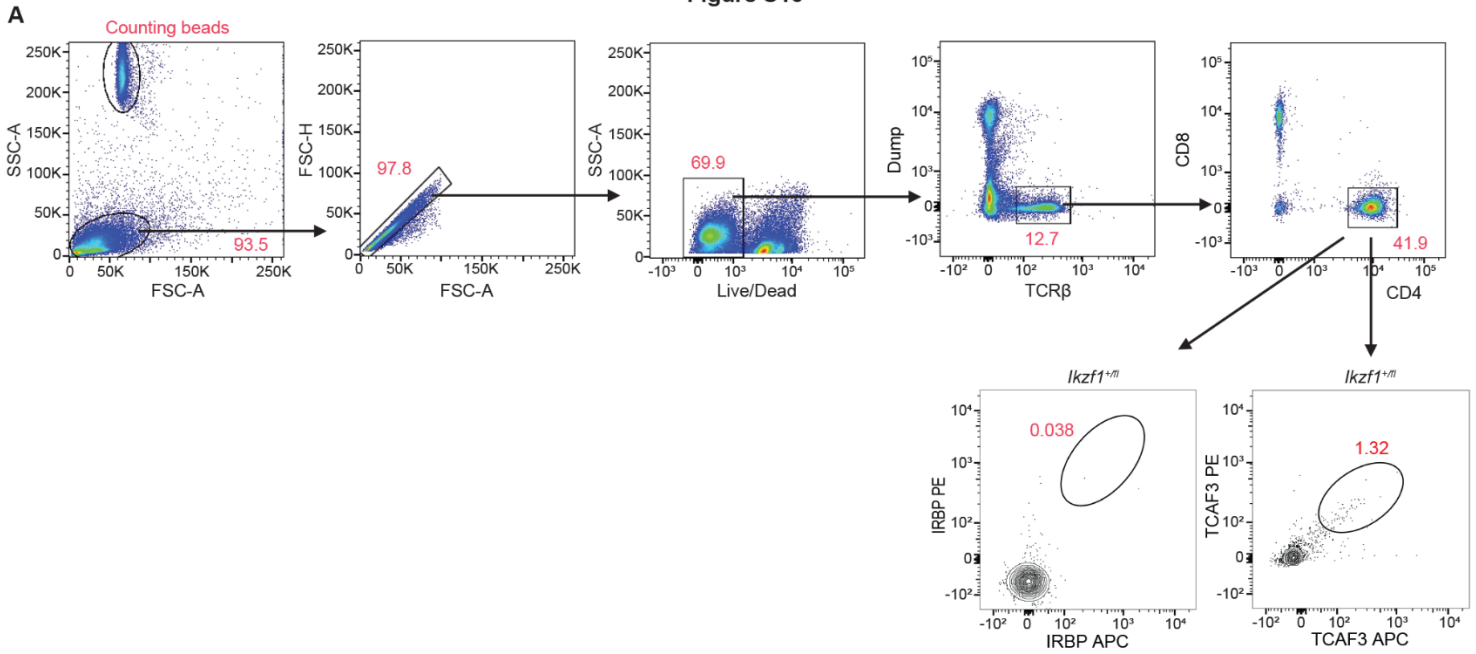


Fig. S15 – Gating strategy for IRBP and TCAF3 tetramer staining. (A) Representative gating strategy used for flow cytometry analysis of TCR β ⁺CD4⁺CD8⁻IRBP⁺ and TCR β ⁺CD4⁺CD8⁻TCAF3⁺ T cells from immunized *Foxn1*-Cre(+)/*Ikzf1*^{+/-fl} (*Ikzf1*^{+/-fl}) mice.

Supplementary Table 1 – Resource Table.

Antibodies	Source	Clone/Tetramer Sequence	Used for
M2 antibody to Flag	Sigma	F1082	Co-IP/Western Blot
HRP-conjugated M2 anti-Flag	Sigma	A8592	Co-IP/Western Blot
HRP-conjugated anti-HA	Roche	12CA5	Co-IP/Western Blot
Anti-LaminB	Abcam	ab65986	Co-IP/Western Blot
HRP-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit	Jackson ImmunoResearch	711-035-152	Co-IP/Western Blot
A647-conjugated Krt10	Abcam	EP1607IHCY	Immunofluorescence
A488-conjugated DCLK1	Abcam	EPR6085	Immunofluorescence
e660-conjugated Aire	eBiosciences	clone 5H12	Immunofluorescence
A488-conjugated- Krt5	Abcam	EP1601Y	Immunofluorescence
Krt8 (Rabbit polyclonal to KRT8)	Abcam	ab59400	Immunofluorescence
Rabbit polyclonal RFP antibody pre-adsorbed	Rockland	Cat. 600-401-379	Immunofluorescence
A488-conjugated Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) secondary antibody	Life Technologies	A-11008	Immunofluorescence
A647-conjugated goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) secondary antibody	Thermo Scientific	A-21244	Immunofluorescence
Ikaros rabbit polyclonal targeting the N-terminus	gift to HS from Stephen T. Smale Lab, UCLA	-	Immunofluorescence
Rabbit monoclonal to DCLK1	Abcam	ab109029	Immunohistochemistry
Rabbit polyclonal to Biotin	Abcam	ab1227	Immunohistochemistry
LIVE/DEAD Fixable Blue Dead Cell Stain Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat. L23105	Flow cytometry
PerCPCy5.5-conjugated CD8	BioLegend	SK1	Flow cytometry
PerCPCy5.5-conjugated CD44	Tonbo Biosciences	IM7	Flow cytometry
PerCP-conjugated CD45	Invitrogen	30-F11	Flow cytometry
BUV737-conjugated CD8a	BD Biosciences	53-6.7	Flow cytometry
Pacific Blue-conjugated CD19	BioLegend	6D5	Flow cytometry
Alexa Fluor e450-conjugated CD11B	Thermo Fisher Scientific	M1/70	Flow cytometry
BV421-conjugated F4/80	BioLegend	BM8	Flow cytometry
BV421-conjugated CD11c	BioLegend	N418	Flow cytometry
BUV737-conjugated CD11c	BD Biosciences	HL3	Flow cytometry
BV605-conjugated CD45	BD Biosciences	30 F11	Flow cytometry

Alexa Fluor e450-conjugated MHC-II I-Ab	Thermo Fisher Scientific	AF6-120.1	Flow cytometry
BV605-conjugated CD8	BD Biosciences	SK1	Flow cytometry
PE-Cy7-conjugated CD4	Tonbo Biosciences	RM4-5	Flow cytometry
PE-Cy7-conjugated CD45	Invitrogen	30-F11	Flow cytometry
PECy7-conjugated CD11c	Tonbo Biosciences	N418	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated CD62L	Tonbo Biosciences	MEL-14	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated CD44	BioLegend	IM7	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated Ly51	BioLegend	6C3	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated FOXP3	eBioscience	FJK-16s	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated MHCI	eBioscience	AF6-88.5.5.3	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated RORg	eBioscience	B2D	Flow cytometry
FITC-conjugated Foxp3	Invitrogen	FJK-16s	Flow cytometry
FITC-conjugated Ly51	BioLegend	6C3	Flow cytometry
FITC-conjugated CD69	Thermo Fisher Scientific	CH/4	Flow cytometry
A488-conjugated EOMES	Invitrogen	Dan11mag	Flow cytometry
A488-conjugated Aire	Thermo Fisher Scientific	5H12	Flow cytometry
A488-conjugated DCLK1	Abcam	EPR6085	Flow cytometry
A488-conjugated PLZF	eBioscience	Mags.21F7	Flow cytometry
APC-conjugated CD25	Tonbo	PC61.5	Flow cytometry
APC-conjugated MHC-II I-Ab	eBioscience	AF6-120.1	Flow cytometry
APC-conjugated Ikaros	BioLegend	2A9/Ikaros	Flow cytometry
A647-conjugated KRT10	Abcam	EP1607IHCY	Flow cytometry
Alexa Fluor e660-conjugated AIRE	eBioscience	5H12	Flow cytometry
APCCy7-conjugated EPCAM	BioLegend	G8.8	Flow cytometry
APCe780-conjugated TCRb	eBioscience	H57-597	Flow cytometry
Mouse CCL21/6Ckine Antibody	R&D Systems	MAB457	Flow cytometry
Rabbit polyclonal RFP antibody pre-adsorbed	Rockland	Cat. 600-401-379	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated L1CAM	Bio-Techne	555	Flow cytometry
PE-conjugated Glycoprotein 2	MBL Life Science	2F11-C8	Flow cytometry
Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated Ki67	BD Pharmingen	B56	Flow cytometry
Alexa Fluor A488-conjugated UEA1	VWR	Cat. 10360-710	Flow cytometry
Donkey anti-goat IgG (H+L) secondary Antibody PE	Invitrogen	Cat. PA1-29953	Flow cytometry

PE-labeled tetramer for IRBP	NIH Tetramer Facility	QTWEGSGVLPCVG	Tetramer staining
APC-labeled tetramer for IRBP	NIH Tetramer Facility	QTWEGSGVLPCVG	Tetramer staining
PE-labeled tetramer for TCAF3	NIH Tetramer Facility	THYKAPWGELATD	Tetramer staining
APC-labeled tetramer for TCAF3	NIH Tetramer Facility	THYKAPWGELATD	Tetramer staining
BV421-labeled tetramer for CD1d	NIH Tetramer Facility	PBS-57	Tetramer staining