

## Supplemental Figure legends:

### Supplemental Figure 1. Analysis of acute and chronic inflammation in the antrum and corpus of the gerbil stomach.

Gerbils were infected with WT *H. pylori* or an isogenic *cagA*<sup>-</sup> mutant strain and maintained on either a regular diet or a high salt diet. As controls, uninfected gerbils were maintained on either a regular diet or a high salt diet. At 16 weeks post-infection, gastric tissue was collected and sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Representative micrographs of gastric tissue were scored for total inflammation on a scale of 0-3 for either chronic or acute inflammation of either the corpus or antral portion of the stomach. A) Analysis of acute inflammation in the antrum. Animals infected with WT *H. pylori* and maintained on a high salt diet had significantly higher acute inflammation scores for the antral portion of the stomach than WT-infected animals maintained on a regular diet ( $p=0.0346$ ). B) Analysis of chronic inflammation in the antrum. Animals infected with WT *H. pylori* and maintained on a high salt diet had significantly higher chronic inflammation scores for the antral portion of the stomach than WT-infected animals maintained on a regular diet ( $p=0.0372$ ). C) Analysis of acute inflammation in the corpus. Animals infected with WT *H. pylori* and maintained on a high salt diet had significantly higher acute inflammation scores for the corpus portion of the stomach than WT-infected animals maintained on a regular diet ( $p=0.0077$ ). D) Analysis of chronic inflammation of the corpus. Animals infected with WT *H. pylori* and maintained on a high salt diet had significantly higher chronic inflammation scores for the corpus portion of the stomach than WT-infected animals maintained on a regular diet ( $p=0.0477$ ). Horizontal bars indicate mean inflammation  $\pm$  SEM. Statistics were performed using Mann-Whitney U analysis.

**Supplemental Figure 2. qRT-PCR analysis of innate and adaptive cytokine and chemokine expression.** RNA extracts from 5-7 individual *H. pylori*-infected rodents were analyzed, along with RNA from uninfected control animals (same diet conditions) pooled into a single control. The results represent mean values based on analyses of 5-7 animals per group. IL-10, IL-6, CCL12, KC, and iNOS were significantly induced by WT-infection compared to uninfected animals on similar diets ( $p < 0.05$ , paired Student's t-test). The expression of iNOS was significantly increased in WT-infected animals maintained on a high salt diet compared to WT-infected animals maintained on a regular diet ( $p < 0.01$ ). Transcript abundance was normalized to GAPDH, and relative units were calculated as described in Methods.