Figure S3. Rapamycin-preconditioned CD8⁺ T cells upregulate the levels of antioxidant molecules. PBMCs were cultured with or without rapamycin for 5 days. (A) Cells were gated on CD8 and analyzed for the expression of CD62L. (B) Upper panel: Cells were gated on CD8 and analyzed for the expression of cell surface thiols (c-SH) using ALM-633. Lower panel: Cells were left untreated or re-stimulated for 4h with PHA. Cells were gated on CD8 and flow cytometric analysis of DHE (superoxide) was performed. Experiments were repeated thrice with similar results. (C) Cells were left untreated or treated with H₂O₂ for 4 h in the presence or absence of rapamycin. Annexin V levels were then determined in CD62L^{lo} and CD62L^{hi} CD8⁺ T cells. Result from one of the two experiments with similar results is shown. (D) Purified CD8⁺ T cells were analyzed for mRNA of key antioxidant molecules (as indicated) by real-time PCR. Results are representative from one of the two similar experiments. (E) The c-SH levels on CD8⁺ T cells, either untreated or pretreated with 5 mM L-NAC for 30 minutes, was determined using ALM-633 staining. (F) For antigen-specific pS6 expression, TIL13831 TCR-transduced CD8⁺ T cells were co-cultured for 4 h with T2 cells that were pulsed with cognate tyrosinase or control MART-1 peptides and stained with anti-CD8, CD34, CD62L and phosphoS6 (pS6) antibodies. pS6 was evaluated on CD8⁺CD34⁺CD62L^{lo} and CD8⁺CD34⁺CD62L^{hi} fractions by intracellular staining. Results are representative from one of three similar experiments. (G) Human TIL1383I TCR were cultured in IL2 or IL15 and analyzed for extracellular acidification rate using seahorse XF24 analyzer. Experiments were repeated thrice with similar results. ** p < 0.005, * p < 0.05.

