SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Figure S1. *Ft.n* infection cause cardiac fibrosis. Cross sections of hearts obtained from BALB/c mice after 96 hours of *Ft.n* challenge. The four chamber view sections from uninfected (A) and *Ft.n*-infected (B &C) mice were stained with Masson's Trichrome to identify fibrosis in cardiac tissue. Image shown in figure B is interstitial fibrosis and C is perivascular fibrosis from *Ft.n* infected mice hearts. The image shown in right panel is 60x magnification and representative of 6 animals per group.

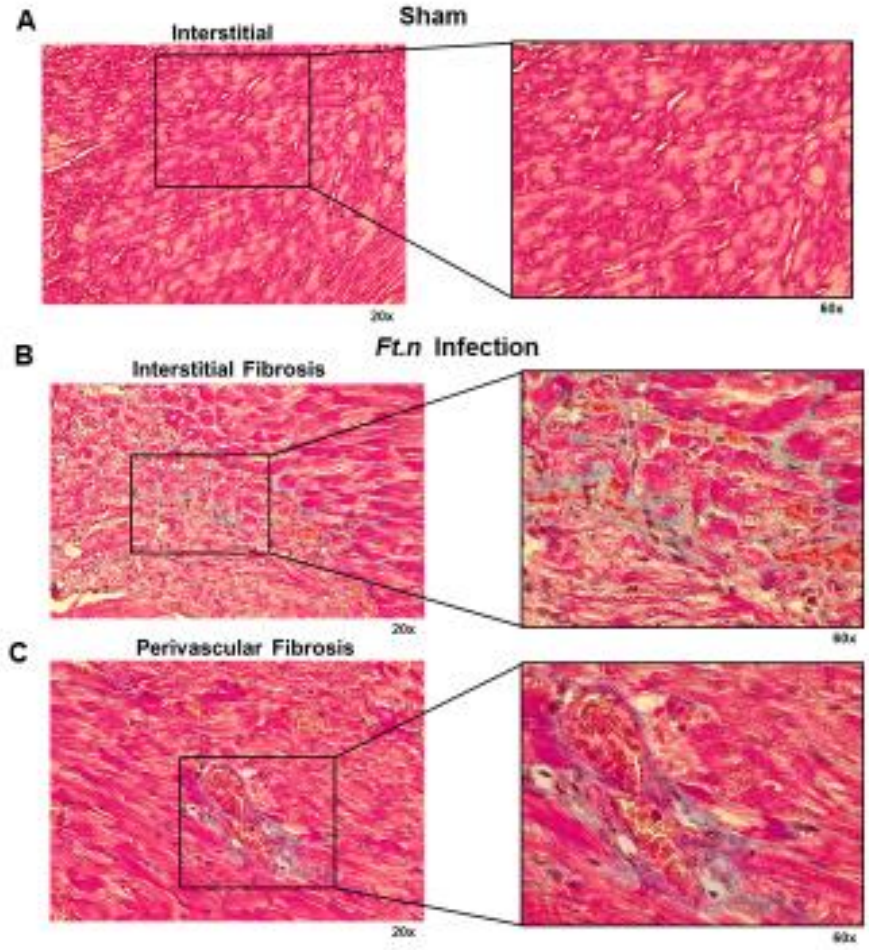

Figure S2. *Ft.n* infection increases the expression of inflammatory mediators in the heart as well as serum cytokine levels. BALB/c mice were infected with *Ft.n* (25 CFUs) through the intranasal route and after 96 hours incubation, mice were sacrificed to harvest the heart which was cut into small pieces, washed with PBS and immediately homogenized with Trizol reagent. Total RNA were extracted and purified by using RNAeasy column, and converted into cDNA. Quantitative real time RT-PCR was used to determine (**A**) IL-1β, (**B**) TNF, (**C**) IL-8 and (**D**) SOD2 mRNA levels. Data were normalized to the β actin gene and relative gene expression was determined. Blood samples from *Ft.n*-infected or sham-treated mice were kept at 4^{o}C for one hour and centrifuged at 1500g for 10 min at 4C. Serum samples were used to determine the levels of inflammatory cytokines by ELISA. The graph shown in (**E**) IL-1β and (**F**) TNF is a

representative graph from three experiments (N=3; $**P < 0.005$, $***P < 0.0005$).

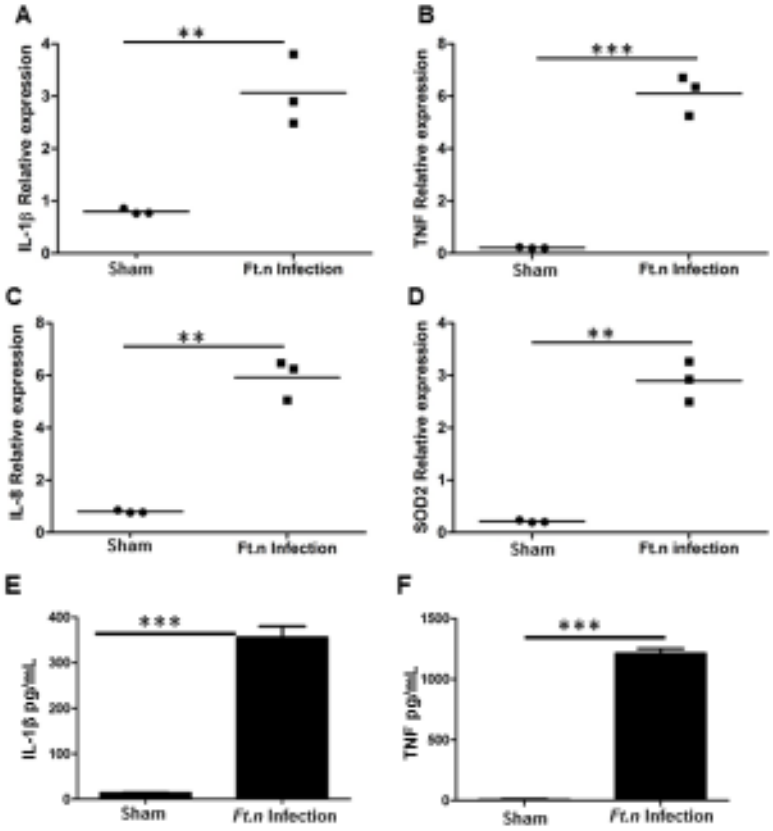

Figure S3. *Ft.n* infection induces cardiomyocyte apoptosis. Neonatal myocytes were isolated from BALB/C mice and infected with GFP-*Ft.n* (MOI 10:1) and after 6 hours of incubation cells were washed , fixed, permeabilized and stained with AF594 conjugated phalloidin antibody. The myocytes were examined under confocal microscopy and the image shown is representative of 10 infected myocytes.