

1 SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS

2 **Fig. S1. Characterization of virion and DBs** (a) A brief flow chart of experiments. (b) Virions
3 and DBs were purified from RNase-ONE treated virus stocks, dialyzed and treated with
4 micrococcal nuclease; DNA was extracted and quantified, the purity of DNA is the estimated
5 from the OD values obtained at 260/280 nm. OD, optical density. (c) RNA was isolated from
6 purified virions and DBs, while during the RNA extraction columns were treated with Dnase-
7 I. OD, optical density. (d) Mean Ct values of gB Taqman assays of viral stocks, virions, DBs,
8 and mock samples (used during the WHO standards estimation of copy numbers); DNA from
9 uninfected and infected MRC-5 cells were used as assay controls, analysed data is shown in
10 Fig 1e. Values are mean \pm SEM of three experiments performed in triplicate.

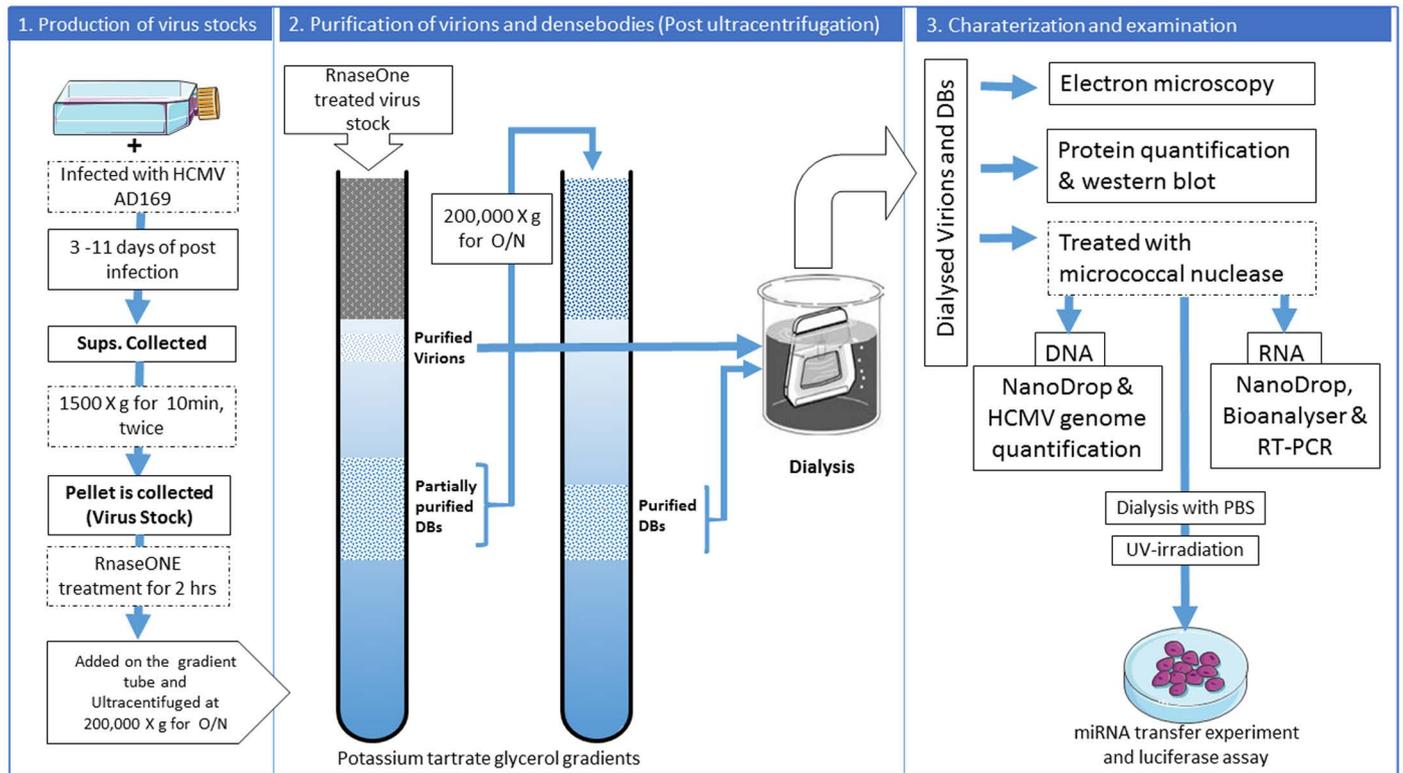
11 **Fig. S2. Taqman PCR mean Ct values of various RNA transcripts found in HCMV virions**
12 **and DBs.** Virions and DBs were purified from RNase-ONE treated virus stocks, dialyzed and
13 treated with micrococcal nuclease, and RNA was extracted; during the RNA extraction column
14 was treated with Dnase-I. cDNA reactions were made with or without reverse transcriptase and
15 TaqMan assays were performed. (a) Presence of viral IE RNA transcripts, (b) long noncoding
16 RNA 2.7 transcripts, (c) cellular beta-2-microglobulin transcripts in virions and DBs. Values
17 are mean \pm SEM of three experiments performed in triplicate. RT, reverse transcriptase.

18 **Fig. S3. miRNA taqman assays of RNA obtained from virions and DBs, and transfer of**
19 **viral RNAs from particles to target host cells** (a) Mean Ct values of host cell miRNAs,
20 analysed data is shown in fig. 4b and (b) HCMV miRNAs in purified virions, DBs and mock-
21 infected and HCMV infected cells analysed data is shown in fig. 5. (c) Fold change of
22 HCMV miRNA levels in purified virions, DBs, and mock-infected and HCMV infected cells,
23 analysed data is shown in fig. 5. (d) Transferred lncRNA 2.7 in cells treated with UV-
24 irradiated virions or DBs or with viral stock or mock samples. (e) Mean Ct values of

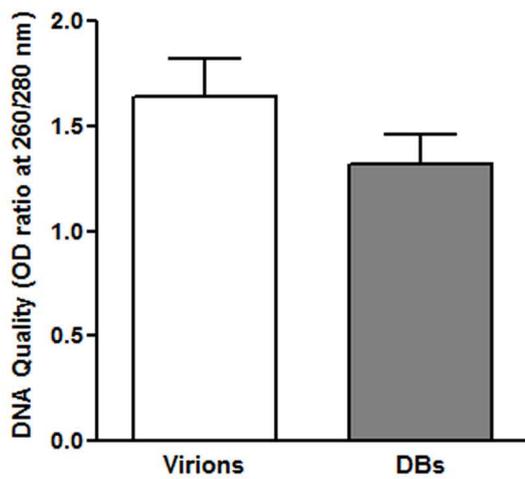
25 transferred HCMV miRNAs; host RNU48 served as an endogenous control, analysed data is
26 shown in fig. 6b. Values are mean \pm SEM of three experiments performed in triplicate.

Figure S1

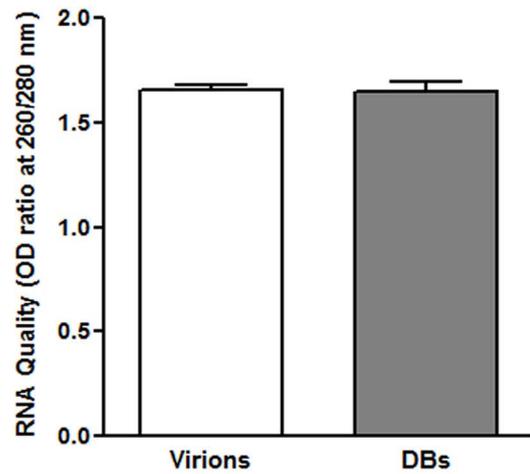
a



b



c



d

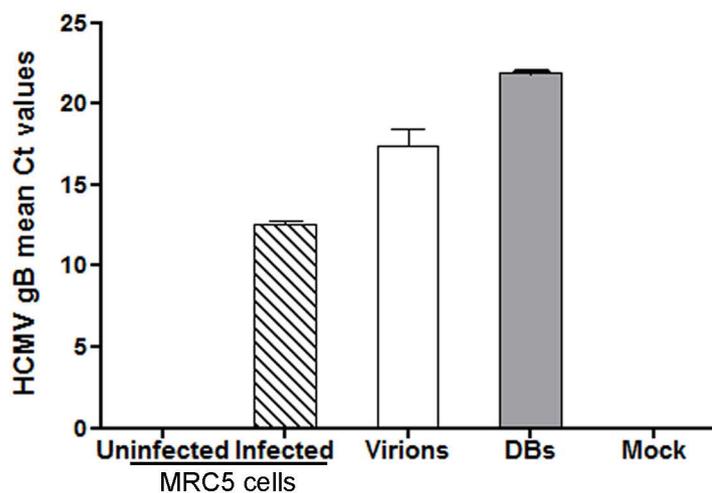
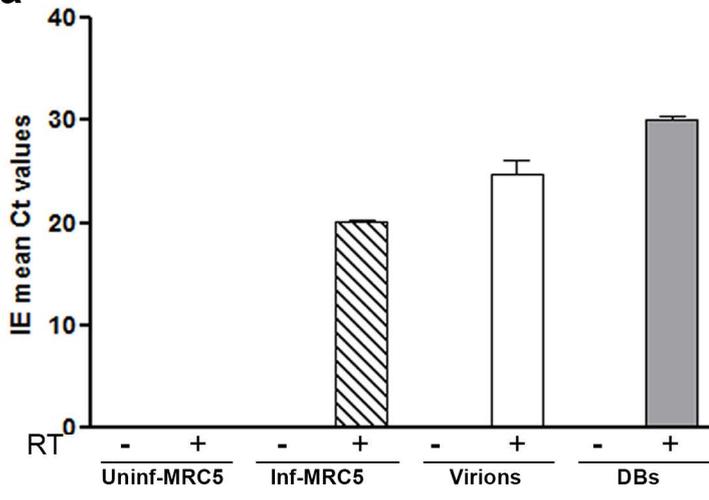
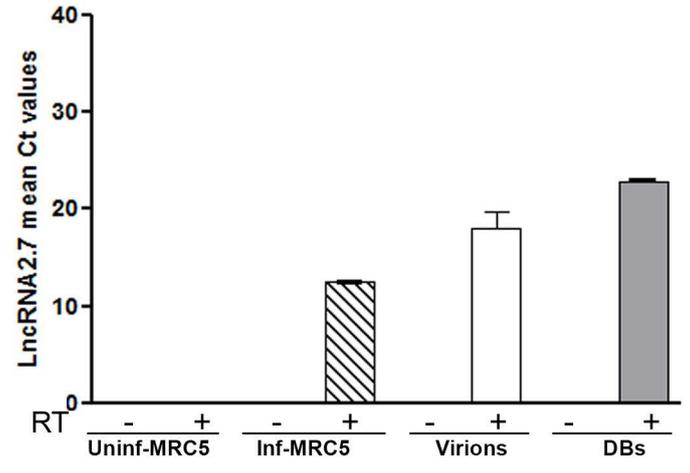


Figure S2

a



b



c

