



Figure S1: Experimental design workflow and analysis strategy.

(a) Peripheral blood was drawn from preterm infants and PBMCs were isolated immediately. Naïve CD4⁺ T lymphocytes were magnetically isolated on the day of experiment and plated. Conditioned media samples were harvested prior to and 6 hours after SEB/anti-CD28 addition. (b) Illustration of data acquisition and analysis methods. Conditioned media samples were prepared for exo-metabolomic analysis and analyzed with ultra-performance liquid chromatography-ion mobility-mass spectrometry. Analytical methods were then employed to transition the multidimensional dataset into statistically prioritized metabolic features and putative identifications.





Figure S2: Pairwise comparisons of identified metabolites' normalized abundance.

(a) Pairwise comparison of the normalized abundance of 5-HT (*m/z* 177.08, RT 2.57 min) in the naïve and activated states. Each graph depicts the results of 2-way repeated measures ANOVA. HCA-positive samples are represented with triangles while HCA-negative samples are represented by circles. Statistical significance is denoted with stars (p < 0.05 = *; p < 0.01 = **). (b) Pairwise comparison of the normalized abundance of 3-HK (*m/z* 225.09, RT 1.25 min) in the naïve and activated states. Each graph depicts the results of 2-way repeated measures ANOVA. HCA-positive samples are represented with triangles while HCA-negative samples are represented by circles. Statistical significance is denoted with stars (p < 0.05 = *; p < 0.01 = **). (c) Pairwise comparison of the normalized abundance of DA (*m/z* 176.07, RT 4.63 min) in the naïve and activated states. Each graph depicts the results of 2-way repeated measures ANOVA. HCA-positive samples are represented with triangles while HCA-negative samples are represented by circles. Statistical significance is denoted with stars (p < 0.05 = *; p < 0.01 = **). (d) Pairwise comparison of the normalized abundance of LPC (*m/z* 520.35, RT 10.49 min) in the naïve and activated states. Each graph depicts the results of 2-way repeated measures ANOVA. HCA-positive samples are represented with triangles while HCA-negative samples are represented by circles. Statistical significance is denoted with stars (p < 0.05 = *; p < 0.01 = **).



Figure S3: Pathways depicting biosynthesis and/or degradation of identified metabolites.

(a) Pathway illustrating 4-HNE detoxification; decreased 4-HNE abundances may result from increased GSH levels.

- (b) Pathway illustrating L-tryptophan degradation; elevated levels of 5-HT and 3-HK may indicate up-regulation of L-tryptophan degradation.
- (c) Pathway illustrating catecholamine biosynthesis.
- (d) Pathway illustrating LysoPC (18:2(9Z, 12Z)) biosynthesis.

Free Fatty Acid (FFA)