Immunity

Supplemental Information

The TREM2-APOE pathway drives the transcriptional phenotype

of dysfunctional microglia in neurodegenerative diseases

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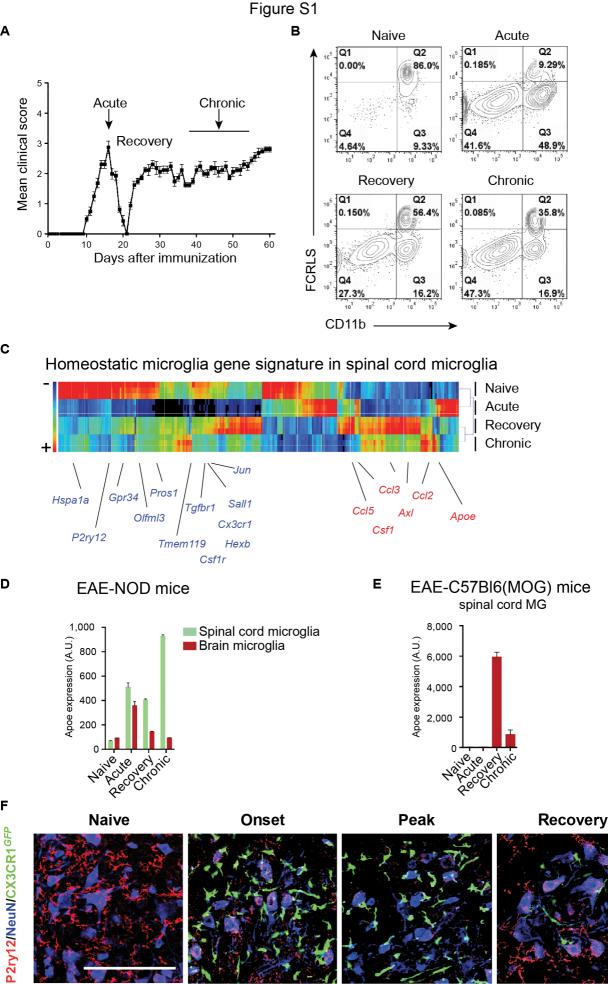


Figure S1. Microglia signature in EAE (related to Figure 1).

(A) Clinical scores of SJL-EAE mice are presented as mean \pm s.e.m (n = 5). Spinal cords were collected at different disease stages during EAE.

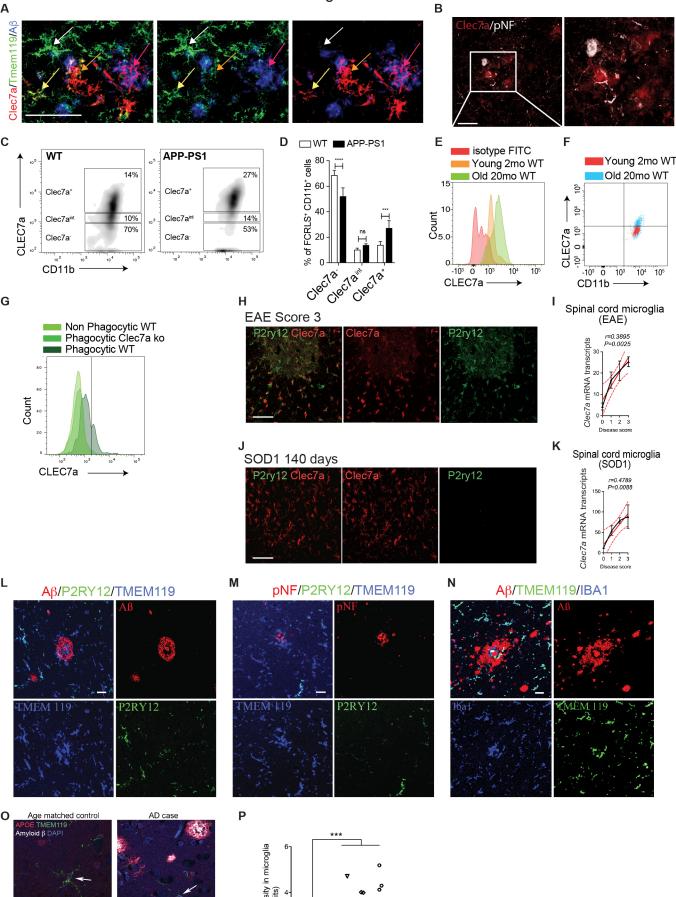
(B) Representative FACS plots of FCRLS+CD11b+ microglia and gating strategy to isolate resident FCRLS+ microglia (Q2) from recruited myeloid cells (Q3).

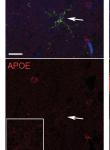
(C) Heatmap of 275 significantly affected genes in FCRLS+ spinal cord microglia based on Nanostring expression profile in naïve and EAE mice at different disease stages; ANOVA, *p < 0.05. Each lane represents mean of pooled spinal cord microglia from naïve (n = 5) and SJL-EAE (n = 6) mice. Downregulated key homeostatic genes are highlighted in blue and upregulated inflammatory genes highlighted in red.

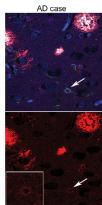
(D-E) qPCR analysis of Apoe expression in brain- and spinal cord-derived FCRLS+ microglia during disease stages in EAE-NOD (chronic) and (E) C57/Bl6 (acute) mouse models. Bars show relative expression of Apoe as compared to naïve microglia (n = 3 per disease stage). Expression levels were normalized to Gapdh. Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. Shown is one of two individual experiments.

(F) Representative immunohistochemical staining for spinal cord sections at different disease stages in EAE Cx3cr1:GFP+/- chimera mice. Confocal immunofluorescent images of P2ry12+ resident microglia (red), NeuN+ neurons (blue), and Cx3Cr1-GFP (green) recruited myeloid cells in EAE chimeric mice at high magnification in the ventral horn. Scale bar, 200 μ m. Each image represents similar results of 5 mice per group. See also Table S1.

Figure S2







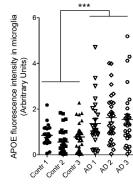


Figure S2. Apoe and Clec7a are dysregulated in MGnD microglia in mice and humans (related to Figure 2).

(A) Representative immunohistochemical staining for TMEM119, Clec7a and A β in APP-PS1 mice (24-month-old). Tmem119⁻Clec7a⁺ microglia associated with A β plaque (red arrows). Tmem119⁺Clec7a⁺ microglia associated with A β plaque (orange arrows). Tmem119⁺Clec7a⁺ microglia and Tmem119⁺Clec7a⁻ microglia at close vicinity of the A β plaque (yellow and white arrows, respectively). Scale bar, 100 µm.

(B) Representative immunohistochemical staining of Clec7a and phosphorylated Neurofilament (pNF) in APP-PS1 mice (24-month-old). Scale bar, 20 µm.

(C) Representative FACS plots of $Clec7a^+$ vs. $Clec7a^{int}$ vs. $Clec7a^-$ FCRLS⁺ microglia in APP-PS1 vs. WT mice (n = 5 per group; 24-month-old).

(D) Percentage of Clec7a cells in FCRLS⁺CD11b⁺ microglia in APP-PS1 vs. WT mice (n = 5 per group; 24-monthold). ***p < 0.001, Student t test, 2-tailed.

(E) Representative mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of Clec7a and isotype control in young (2-month-old) and old (20-month-old) WT mice (n = 2 per group).

(F) Representative FACS plot of $\text{Clec7a}^+\text{CD11b}^+$ in young (2-month-old) and old (20-month-old) WT mice (n = 2 per group).

(G) Representative MFI of Clec7a in FCRLS⁺CD11b⁺ non-phagocytic and phagocytic microglia from WT and Clec7a⁻ mice (n = 3 per group).

(H) Representative immunohistochemical staining of P2ry12 and Clec7a in spinal cord at the peak of EAE (score = 3). Scale bar, 100 μ m.

(I) Linear regression curve of Clec7a expression in spinal cord microglia from EAE with different disease scores. Thick line indicates 95% confidence interval of the regression line.

(J) Representative immunohistochemical staining of P2ry12 and Clec7a in spinal cord of SOD1 mice at 140 days (endstage). Scale bar, 100 µm.

(K) Linear regression curve of Clec7a expression in spinal cord microglia in SOD1 mice at different disease scores. Thick line indicates 95% confidence interval of the regression line.

(L) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of human AD brain for TMEM119 (blue), P2RY12 (green) and Aβ plaque (red). Scale bar, 20 μm.

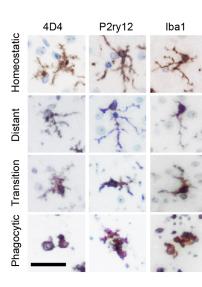
(M) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of human AD brain for TMEM119 (blue), P2RY12 (green) and pNF (red) for neuritic plaque. Scale bar, 20 µm.

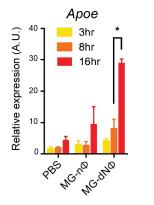
(N) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of human AD brain for TMEM119 (green), IBA1 (blue) and A β (red) for A β plaque. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

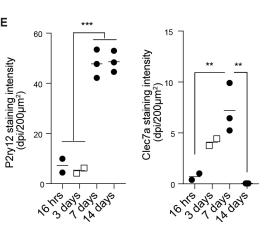
(O) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of human AD brain and an age-matched control for APOE (red), A β (white), DAPI (blue) and TMEM119 (green). White arrows indicate TMEM119⁺ microglia and co-expression of APOE in AD case. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

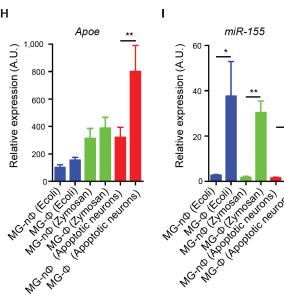
(P) Quantification of APOE fluorescence intensity in TMEM119⁺ microglia in AD and age-matched controls (n = 3 per group). Data points represent staining intensity of APOE per individual cell in 300 μ m², (A.U. arbitrary units). ***p < 0.005 (one-way ANOVA). Of note, cells close to amyloid-plaques or astrocytes were excluded due to potential overlap in APOE-content.

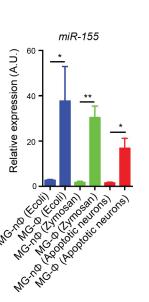
See also Table S1.











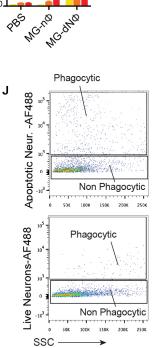


Figure S3

PBS-injected

6h p

Iba1

P2RY12

В

D

F

Relative expression (A.U.)

150

100

50

0.

285

3hr

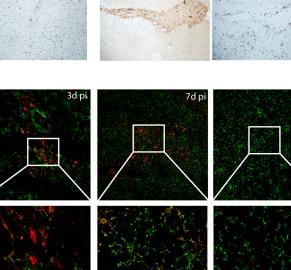
8hr

16hr

H&E

ApoE

2RY12



H&E

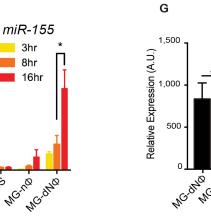
ApoE

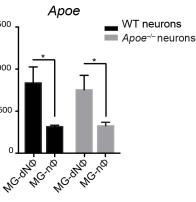
Apoptotic neuron-injected

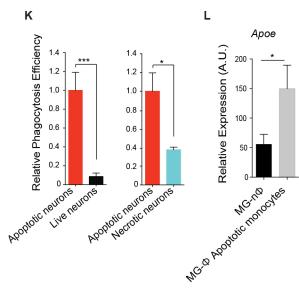
Iba1

P2RY12

14d pi







С

Figure S3. Apoptotic neurons affect microglia phenotype and specifically induce *Apoe* expression in phagocytic microglia (related to Figure 3).

(A) Representative close-up pictures of homeostatic microglia, microglia distant from the injection site, microglia in transition and amoeboid phenotype stained with microglial specific antibodies P2ry12 and 4D4 or macrophage/microglia marker Iba1, 16 h post-injection of apoptotic neurons. Scale bar, 5 µm.

(B) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of mouse brains injected with PBS (n = 5) or apoptotic neurons (n = 5) 16 h post-injection stained for hematoxylin-eosin (H&E), Iba1, Apoe and P2ry12. Scale bar, 250 μ m.

C) qPCR analysis of *Apoe* gene expression in FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ vs. MG-n Φ microglia. Alexa488⁺ apoptotic neurons were stereotaxically injected in WT mice and FCRLS⁺ microglia were sorted at 3, 8 or 16 h post-injection. PBS injection served as control. *Apoe* expression level was normalized against *Gapdh* using Δ Ct (n = 3, per group). Data are presented as mean normalized expression ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05 (one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post hoc* test).

(D) Representative immunohistochemical staining for P2ry12 and Clec7a at 16 h, 3, 7 and 14 d post-injection of apoptotic neurons. Scale bar, 100 µm. Area in white boxes is magnified in lower panel. Scale bar, 50 µm.

(E) Quantification of P2ry12 and Clec7a fluorescence intensity at 16 h, 3, 7 and 14 d post-injection of apoptotic neurons. Data points represent staining intensity (dpi) per 200 μ m², **p<0.01, ***p < 0.001 (one-way ANOVA).

(F) miR-155 expression in FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ vs. MG-n Φ microglia. Alexa488⁺ apoptotic neurons were stereotaxically injected in WT mice and FCRLS⁺ microglia were sorted at 3, 8 or 16 h post-injection. PBS injection served as control. miR-155 expression was normalized against U6 miRNA using Δ Ct (n = 3 per group). Data are presented as mean normalized expression ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05 (one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post hoc* test).

(G) qPCR analysis of FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ vs. MG-n Φ microglia sorted from mouse brains 16 h post-injection with apoptotic neurons derived from WT or *Apoe^{-/-}* mice (n = 3 per group). Expression levels were normalized to *Gapdh* using Δ Ct (n = 3 per group). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05, Student's t test, 2-tailed. Shown is one of two individual experiments.

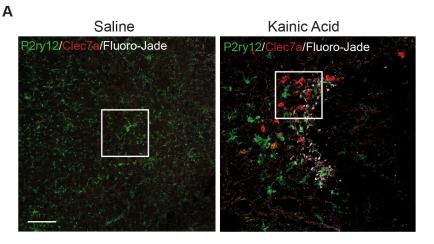
(H-I) qPCR analysis of *Apoe* gene expression (H) and miR-155 expression (I) in FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ vs. MG-n Φ microglia after injection of Alexa488⁺ apoptotic neurons, *E.coli* and Zymosan particles 16 h post-injection. *Apoe* expression was normalized against *Gapdh* and miR-155 expression was normalized against U6 miRNA using Δ Ct (n = 3 per group). Data are presented as mean normalized expression ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 (one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post hoc* test). Shown is one of two individual experiments.

(J) Representative FACS-plots of FCRLS⁺ microglia phagocyting Alexa488⁺ apoptotic vs. live neurons, 16 h post-injection.

(K) Quantification of phagocytosis efficiency of apoptotic vs. live neurons and necrotic neurons (n = 5 per group). Bars show relative fold change (mean \pm s.e.m) (*p < 0.05, ***p < 0.001 by Student t test, 2-tailed).

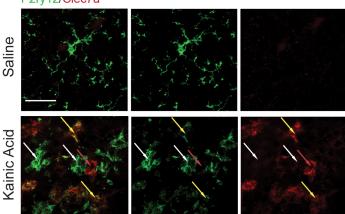
(L) qPCR analysis of *Apoe* gene expression in FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ containing Alexa488⁺ apoptotic monocytes and MG-n Φ , 16 h post-injection. Gene expression level was normalized against *Gapdh* using Δ Ct (n = 5, per group). Data are presented as mean normalized expression ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05, Student's t test, 2-tailed.

Figure S4



В

P2ry12/Clec7a



С

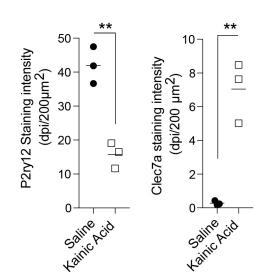


Figure S4. Intrahippocampal injection of Kainic acid induces MGnD microglia (related to Figure 3).

(A) Representative immunohistochemical staining for P2ry12, Clec7a and Fluoro-Jade (degenerating neurons) in the CA3 region of saline and kainic acid injected hippocampi. Scale bar, 100 µm.

(B) High magnifications of immunohistochemical staining for P2ry12 and Clec7a in the CA3 region of saline and kainic acid injected hippocampi shown in white boxes (A). Scale bar, 50 μ m. White arrows point to homeostatic P2ry12⁺Clec7a⁻ microglia, yellow arrows point to transitioning P2ry12⁺Clec7a⁺ microglia, red arrow points to MGnD P2ry12⁻Clec7a⁺ microglia. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

(C) Quantifications of P2ry12 and Clec7a staining intensity in the CA3 region of saline and kainic acid injected hippocampi (n = 3 per treatment). Data points represent staining intensity (dpi) per 200 μ m², **p < 0.01 by Student t test, 2-tailed.

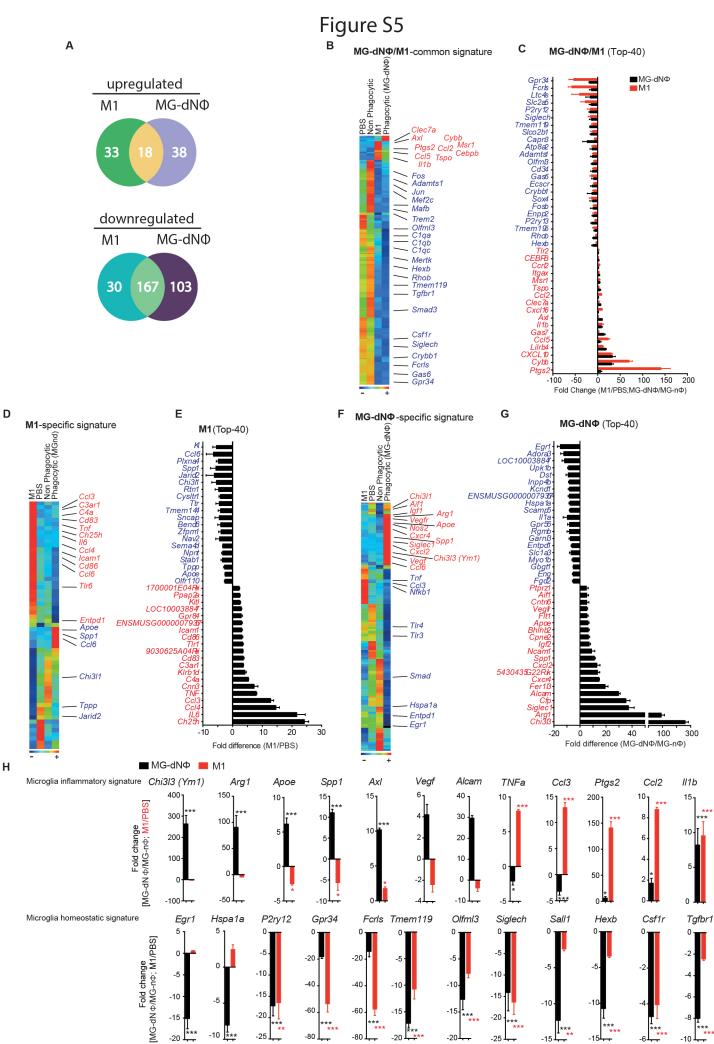


Figure S5. Molecular comparison of MG-dNΦ vs. M1 microglia (related to Figure 3). Gene expression profiles of FCRLS⁺ microglia sorted 16 h post-injection from LPS- and IFNγ- (100 ng and 10ng per injection site, respectively) (n = 18) vs. PBS-injected brains (n = 15) (see Table S4 for complete dataset), were compared to gene expression profiles of MG-dNΦ phagocytic microglia (n = 4) vs. non-phagocytic (n = 4).

(A) Venn diagram shows common and unique up- and down-regulated genes in M1 vs. MG-dN Φ microglia.

(B) Heatmap of MG-dN Φ /M1-common signature.

(C) Top-40 up- and down-regulated genes in the common MG-dN Φ and M1signature.

(D) Heatmap of M1-specific signature.

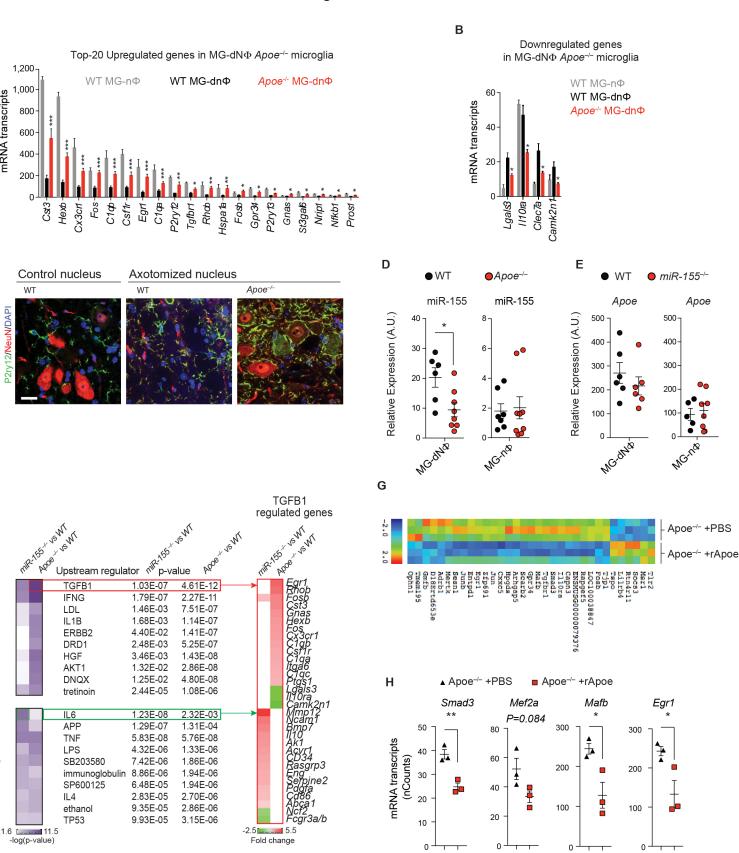
(E) Top-40 up- and down-regulated genes specific to M1 signature.

(F) Heatmap of MG-dN Φ specific signature.

(G) Top-40 up- and down-regulated genes specific to MG-dNΦ signature.

(H) Expression of key genes between M1 and MG-dN Φ microglia. Bars show mRNA counts per 100 ng total RNA as mean \pm s.e.m. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, Student's t test, 2-tailed. See also Table S3.

Figure S6



mRNA transcripts

С

F

Top-10 affected by APOE

Top-10 affected by miR-155

P2ry12/NeuN/DAPI

Figure S6. Targeting APOE signaling restores homeostatic microglia (related to Figure 4).

(A-B) Nanostring expression profile of (A) top-20 significantly upregulated and (B) downregulated genes in FACSsorted FCRLS⁺ MG-dN Φ microglia from WT and *Apoe^{-/-}* brains injected with Alexa488⁺ apoptotic neurons as compared to MG-n Φ microglia from the same injection site (n = 3 per group). Bars show mRNAs transcripts (mean \pm s.e.m) per 100 ng of total RNA. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001 (one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post hoc* test). Data represent one of two independent experiments.

(C) High magnification of representative immunohistochemical staining for NeuN⁺ and P2ry12⁺ in contralateral vs. axotomized facial motor nucleus 7 d post-surgery in WT vs. *Apoe^{-/-}* mice (n = 5 per group). Scale bar, 20 μ m.

(D) qPCR analysis of miR-155 expression in MG-n Φ vs. MG-dN Φ microglia from WT vs. *Apoe*^{-/-} mice (n = 6-8 per group). Gene expression level was normalized for miR-155 expression against U6 miRNA using Δ Ct. Data are presented as mean normalized expression ± s.e.m. *p < 0.05, by Student t test, 2-tailed.

(E) qPCR analysis of *Apoe* expression in MG-n Φ vs. MG-dN Φ microglia from WT vs. *miR-155^{-/-}* mice (n = 6-8 per group). Gene expression level was normalized for *Apoe* expression against *Gapdh* using Δ Ct. Data are presented as mean normalized expression \pm s.e.m. *p < 0.05, by Student t test, 2-tailed.

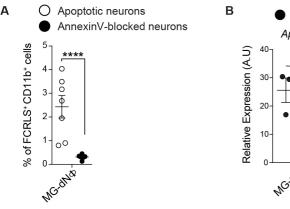
(F) IPA pathway analysis shows top-10 most significantly affected upstream regulators in the expression profiles of FCRLS⁺ phagocytic microglia from $Apoe^{-/-}$ vs. miR-155^{-/-} mice (n = 6-8 per group). Of note, TGF β is the most derepressed gene in phagocytic microglia from $Apoe^{-/-}$ mice. Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post-hoc* test.

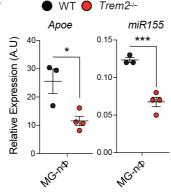
(G) Heatmap of significantly affected genes, 16 h post-injection, in FCRLS⁺ FACS-sorted microglia from $Apoe^{-/-}$ mice injected with recombinant Apoe (rApoe) or PBS (control) as determined by nCounter (n = 3 per group).

(H) Selected genes shown in (G). Dot plots show mRNAs transcripts (mean \pm s.e.m). *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.001 by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison *post-hoc* test.

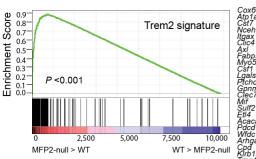
See also Table S5.

Figure S7





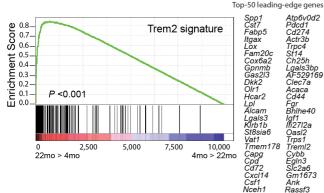
С



Cox6a2 Attp1a3 Cst7 Niceh1 Higax Clic4 Kax1 Fabp5 Kyc5a Cst1 Lgals3bp Fichd1 Gprmb Clec7a Mirf Sulf2 Etl4 Acaca Pdcd1 Fdc1a7 Arhgap24 Cpd Hoto17 Arhgap24 Cpd Chic4 Cpd Chic4 Tmem205 Ephx1 Cacna1a Anxa5 Nrp1 Sdc3 Hcar2 Got1 Galc Fabp3 GCpq Ank Cop Ank Psalc Fabp3 Cop Ank Psalc Fabp3 Cop Ank Psalc Fabp3 Cop Ank Psalc Fabp3 Cop Cop Fabp3 Cop Fabp3 Cop Fabp3 C

Top-50 leading-edge genes

Ε

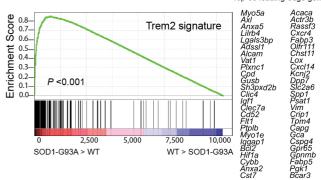


Atp6v0d2 Pdcd1 Cd274 Cd274 Actr3b Trpc4 St14 Ch25h Lgals3bp AF529169 Cloa22 Clec7a Acaca Cd44 Fgr Bhlhe40 lgf1 Ifi27l2a Oasl2 Trps1 Tmem178 Trem/2 Cybb Egln3 Slc2a6 Gm1673 Ank Rassf3

D

F





Top-50 leading-edge genes

Cox6a2

Csf1

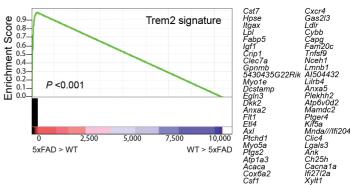


Figure S7. TREM2 implication in microglia regulation in disease (related to Figure 5).

(A) Quantification of phagocytosis efficiency of apoptotic vs. Annexin V-pretreated apoptotic neurons (n = 5 per group). Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. ****p < 0.001 by Student t test, 2-tailed.

(B) qPCR analysis of *Apoe* and miR-155 expression in non-phagocytic (MG-n Φ) microglia from Trem2^{-/-} vs. WT mice (n = 3-4 per group). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m normalized against *Gapdh* and U6 expression using Δ Ct. *p < 0.05, by Student t test, 2-tailed.

(C-F), GSEA plots demonstrate the over-representation of TREM2 signature (derived from GSE65067) in APP-PS1, $Mfp2^{-/-}$, SOD1 and Aging microglia transcriptomes of (C) $Mfp2^{-/-}$ mice; (D) aged mice; (E) SOD1 mice; and (F) 5xFAD mice compared with WT microglia. Genes are ranked into an ordered list according to their differential expression. The middle part of the plot is a bar code demonstrating the distribution of genes in the TREM2 transcriptional signature gene set against the ranked list of genes. The list on the right shows the top genes in the leading-edge subset.

See also Table S6.

TREM2 Genotype	APOE Genotype	Age	Gender	Braak Stage	Estimated CDR
WT	E3/E3	96	Female	Stage VI	3
WT	E3/E3	81	Male	Stage VI	3
R62H	E3/E4	89	Female	Stage VI	3
R47H	E3/E4	78	Male	Stage V	3
WT	E4/E4	72	Male	N/A	n/A
R47H	E4/E4	75	Male	Stage V	2
WT	E4/E4	72	Male	Stage VI	3
R62H	E3/E4	78	Male	N/A	N/A
WT	E3/E4	80	Male	N/A	N/A
R62H	E4/E4	83	Female	N/A	3
WT	E3/E4	85	Female	N/A	3

Table S7. Human AD subjects carrying AD-associated *TREM2* variants (related to Figure 6). Cortex samples from AD patients with and without mutations in TREM2 were sampled and characterized at the University of Washington (St. Louis). Demographic and Clinical Features including age, gender and disease severity (Braak stage, estimated CDR), and *APOE* and *TREM2* genotype was determined for each patient.