

## Supplemental materials and methods

### *Induction of the Fra-1 deletion by the inducible promoter Mx1*

The deletion of Fra-1 by Cre under the control of the Mx1 promoter was induced by 250 µg poly(I:C) (Invivogen, San Diego, USA) injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) three times in a 2-day interval (1). Control littermates were also treated with poly(I:C). The mice were used 7 to 10 days later for the generation of thioglycollate-elicited macrophages, bone marrow transfer or serum-induced arthritis. Detailed information about the time-line of the experiments performed with the Mx-Cre strain is illustrated in supplementary fig. 12A-C. Additionally, the effect of the poly(I:C) treatment of the mice during the serum induced was excluded (Supplemental Fig. 12D).

### *In vivo modulation of Arginase activity*

To inhibit arginase activity in vivo, mice with K/BxN induced arthritis were injected daily i.p. with 100 mg/kg bodyweight of N<sup>o</sup>-hydroxy-nor-L-arginine (NOHA) in a volume of 0.2 mL PBS from day 0 of the experiment until day 10 (2). The control groups were injected with 0.2 mL PBS. To increase arginase activity in vivo, the drinking water of the mice was supplemented with 40 g/L L-arginine (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany). Previous measurements found that daily water intake of a male mouse weighting 28 g was 2.7±0.2 ml, which results in an expected daily intake of approximately 110 mg surplus arginine (3).

### *Bone marrow transfer (BMT) reconstitution*

Before BMT reconstitution, Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> and control (graft and host) mice were injected with poly(I:C), as described above, to induce the Mx1 promoter for proper deletion of Fra-1 in bone marrow cells. Two weeks later, 6 week-old C57BL/6 wild type recipient male mice were lethally irradiated with 6 Gy for 230 s and with 5 Gy for 190 s 5 hours after the first irradiation.

The mice were then subsequently reconstituted retro-orbitally with  $2 \times 10^6$  bone marrow cells derived from Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> mice or littermate control mice (4). The mice were used for further experiments 6 weeks post injection, when the K/BxN model was applied.

#### *Generation of apoptotic cells (AC)*

A single cell suspension of splenocytes was incubated in RPMI-1640 (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts) supplemented with 10 % (v/v) FCS (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts), 1 % (v/v) penicillin/streptomycin (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts), in presence of 1 μM dexamethasone (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany). Following a 12-h incubation, the AC were washed several times with PBS, centrifuged through a FCS cushion and resuspended in RPMI-1640 with supplements added as described above. The viability of the cells was checked by annexin V/PI staining and subsequent flow cytometry analysis. Samples containing at least 90 % apoptotic cells (annexin V<sup>+</sup>/PI<sup>+</sup>) were used for further experiments.

#### *Histological analyses*

Histological analysis of mice paws was carried out as previously described (5). Briefly, hind paws were dissected, fixed overnight in 4% formalin and then decalcified in 14% EDTA until bones were pliable. Following embedding, serial paraffin sections (2 μm) were obtained and stained with haematoxylin and eosin, and tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) using the Acid Phosphatase Kit (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany). The sections were evaluated using a light microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) and a histomorphometry image analysis system (Osteomeasure, OsteoMetrics, Decatur, USA).

Staining for CD68 (CD68 antibody [clone: FA-11], GeneTex, Irvine, California, US), Fra-1 (Fra-1 [clone: D-3], Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, Texas, US) and Arg1 (Arginase-1 (D4E3M™) XP® Rabbit mAb, Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, Massachusetts, US) in

the synovium of RA patients was performed as described previously (5). Briefly, antigen retrieval was performed using citrate buffer, the sections were blocked with 1% horse serum followed by antibody staining with mouse anti-mouse/human/rat Fra-1 (D-3, Santa Cruz, Dallas, Texas, US), rabbit anti-human/mouse Arg1 (Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, Massachusetts, US), rat anti-human/mouse CD68-Biotin (GeneTex, Irvine, California, US), horse anti-mouse DyLight488 (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, California, US), horse anti-rabbit DyLight549 (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, California, US) and Cy5 Streptavidin (BioLegend, San Diego, California, US). The slides were covered with fluorescence mounting medium and acquired with the BZ-X 710 All-in-One Fluorescence Microscopes (Keyence, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, Japan).

#### *RNA Isolation, reverse transcription and real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)*

To isolate RNA from paws, the skin was removed and the total paw tissues were homogenized in peqGOLD TriFast™ (Peqlab, Life Science, VWR, Radnor, Pennsylvania, USA) using a Precellys® Ceramic Kit on a Precellys®24 tissue grinder (Peqlab, Life Science, VWR, Radnor, Pennsylvania, USA) with the conditions 2 x 30 s at 6,500 rpm, followed by the RNA isolation according to the manufacturer's instruction. RNA was isolated from cells with TriFast™ (Peqlab, Life Science, VWR, Radnor, Pennsylvania, USA) according to the manufacturer's instruction. 1 µg of total RNA was digested with 1 Unit DNase I (Invitrogen, Life Technologies GmbH, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) and reverse transcribed to cDNA using the *High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit* (Applied Biosystems, Life Technologies GmbH, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). The RT-PCR reactions were performed using *SYBR® Select Master Mix* (Applied Biosystems, Life Technologies GmbH, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). The data analysis was performed according to the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta ct}$  method with  $\beta$ -*actin* used as a housekeeping gene for normalization.

### *Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP)*

ChIP was performed as described previously (6). *Nos2* and *Arg1* promoter regions were amplified with specific primers for the corresponding promoter sites by real-time PCR. The percent binding of input was determined as  $2^{(Ct_{input}-Ct_{sample})} \times 100$ .

### *Luciferase reporter assay*

The putative AP-1 binding regions in the promoter of *Arg1* and *Nos2* were amplified by PCR from genomic DNA extracted from splenocytes in C57BL/6 WT mice and cloned using XhoI and SacI into the pGL4.23 firefly reporter vector (Promega). To delete 6 bp containing the AP-1 binding sites, the Q5® Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, United States) was used. All the constructs were verified by sequencing. Then 293T cells were co-transfected with the luciferase reporter construct, Renilla plasmid and the Fra-1 expression vector using calcium phosphate. Transfected cells were then lysed and luciferase activity was quantified and normalized to the activity of the co-transfected Renilla reporter gene.

### *Flow cytometry*

For flow cytometry analysis, a single-cell suspension was prepared from paws by mincing the tissue and subsequent collagenase A (Biochrom, Merck Millipore, Berlin, Germany) digestion for 60 min at 37 °C. For cell surface staining, the cell suspension was blocked with a final concentration of 0.5 µg/ml anti-mouse CD16/32 (clone: 93) for 10 min at 4 °C and subsequently stained with the following directly conjugated antibodies: anti-mouse F4/80-APC (clone: BM8), anti-mouse Ly-6G-FITC (clone: 1A8), anti-mouse CD11b-PerCP (clone: ICRF44), anti-mouse Siglec F-BrilliantViolet421 (clone: S17007L), anti-mouse CD11b-APCCy7 (clone: ICRF44), anti-mouse Ly6G-PE (clone: 1A8), anti-mouse Ly6C-PECy7

(clone: HK1.4) and anti-mouse Ly-6C-BrilliantViolet421 (clone: HK1.4) (all BioLegend, San Diego, California, US). The gating strategy is illustrated in supplementary fig. 8A. Briefly, the events were gated for CD11b<sup>+</sup>/Ly6G<sup>+</sup> indicating neutrophils, the CD11b<sup>+</sup>/Ly6G<sup>-</sup> population was further gated for Ly6C<sup>+</sup> cells indicating monocytes and the CD11b<sup>+</sup>/Ly6C<sup>-</sup> population was then gated for F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells indicating macrophages. Intracellular staining was carried out using the intracellular fixation and permeabilization buffer set (eBioscience, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, US) according to the manufacturer's instructions and the staining of Arg1 was carried out with a directly labelled anti-mouse arginase I-PE (clone: E-2, Santa Cruz Biotechnologies, Dallas, Texas, US). Samples were analysed using the *CytoFLEX S Flow Cytometer* (Beckman Coulter, Krefeld, Germany), for sorting the *MoFlo Astrios* (Beckman Coulter, Brea, California, US) was used instead.

#### *Western Blot analysis*

Cells were lysed in Frackelton buffer (10 mM Tris, 50 mM NaCl, 30 mM NaPPi, 50mM NaF, 1 % (v/v) Triton X-100) supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (cOmplete™ ULTRA, Roche, Basel, Switzerland) followed by three freeze/thaw cycles performed by flash-freezing the sample in liquid nitrogen followed by thawing on ice. Lysates were boiled at 95 °C for 5 minutes in Laemmli buffer. Cell lysates from 0.25 x 10<sup>6</sup> macrophages were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in a 10 % (w/v) polyacrylamide gel. Semidry immunoblotting was carried out on PVDF membranes, blocked with 10 % (w/v) milk powder in TBS/ 0.05% (v/v) tween 20 and further incubated overnight at 4 °C with rabbit anti-mouse Fra-1 1:1000 (R-60, Santa Cruz, Dallas, Texas, US) and mouse anti-mouse β-actin antibody 1:5000 (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany) and the respective secondary antibody, goat anti-rabbit IgG or goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (both used at a dilution of 1:20,000; Promega, Madison, US). Chemiluminescence was carried out using Pierce ECL Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts,

US) and monitored with *Celvin* chemiluminescence-imager (Biostep, Burkhardtsdorf, Germany).

#### *Arginase activity assay and Griess assay*

The arginase assays were performed as described previously (7). 100  $\mu$ l human serum samples from patients were depleted of urea through centrifugal filter units with 10 kDa cut off (Amicon, Merck, Kenilworth, New Jersey, US). For the preparation of the paw lysates, the skin was removed and the total paw tissues were homogenized using a Precellys® Ceramic Kit on a Precellys®24 tissue grinder (bertin instruments, Frankfurt am Main, Germany) with the conditions 2 x 30 s at 6,500 rpm, subsequently samples were sonificated on ice (settings: cycle5, power 50%, 40 s) and centrifuged at 23,000 x g for 10 min. Arginase assays of *in vitro* cell culture were performed with lysates from  $1 \times 10^6$  cells.

To measure the accumulation of nitrite, which is a stable end product of the synthesized NO, the Griess Reagent System from Promega was used according to the manufacturer's instructions (Promega, Madison, US).

#### *Network reconstruction*

With the lists of targeted gene loci in the ChIP-Seq, sets of unique gene loci per treatment group were prepared via standard set operations (union and difference). A network was then reconstructed by querying interactions from the databases TRANSFAC (release 2015/3) (8), miRTarBase (release 6.1) (9), and RegPhos (release 2.0) (10) for each set and the connected components (genes with interactors) extracted and used for enrichment analyses. See Wentker *et al.* 2017 for a more involved description of the network reconstruction procedure (11).

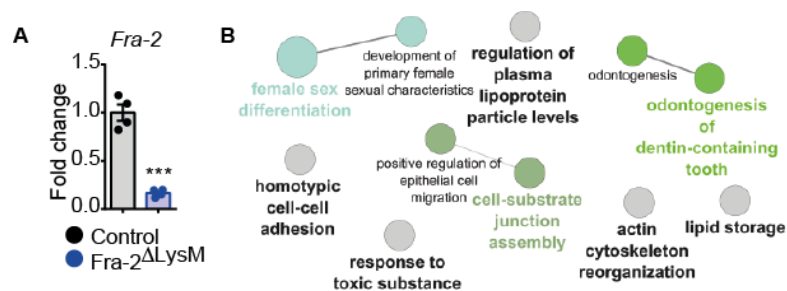
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**Supplemental figures**





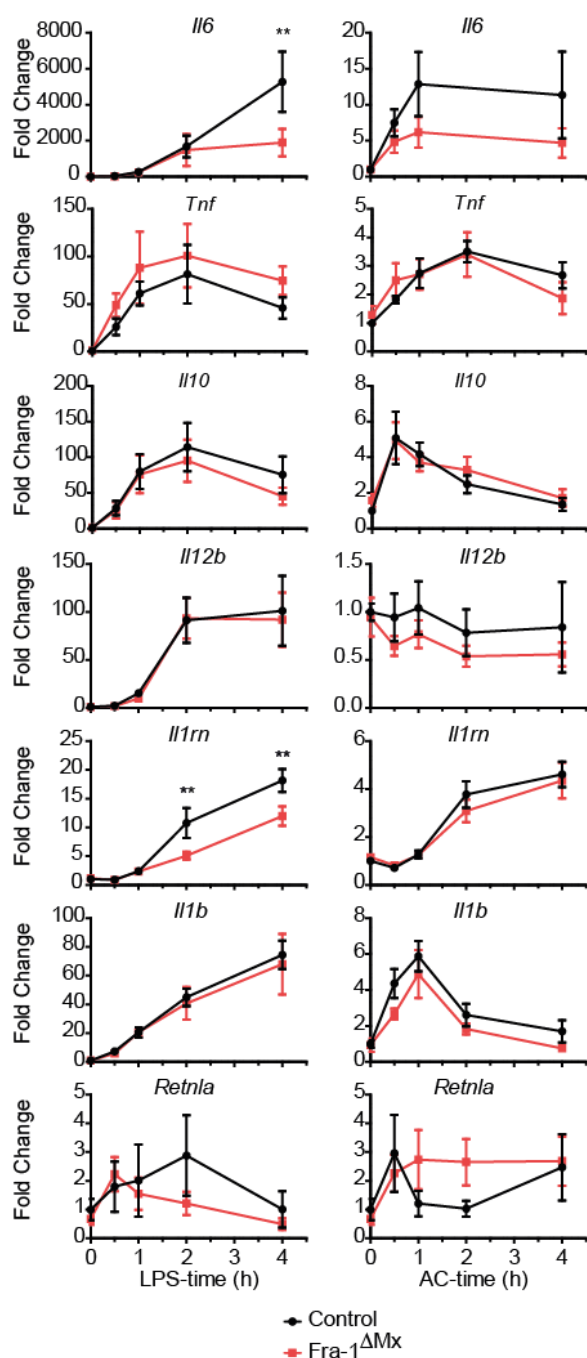
*Supplemental Figure 1: GO cluster analyses links Fra-2 expression in macrophages to developmental processes.*

Thioglycollate-elicited macrophages were isolated from Fra-2<sup>ΔLysM</sup> (n=2) and control mice (n=2). (A) The deletion efficiency of *Fra-2* was quantified by real-time PCR. Data are shown as mean of 2 samples with duplicates and the error bars represent S.E.M. ANOVA \*\*\* $P < 0.01$  was considered as significant.

(B) *Agilent* microarrays were performed comparing Fra-2<sup>ΔLysM</sup> macrophages to their respective control macrophages and the differentially expressed genes were enriched into GO groups.

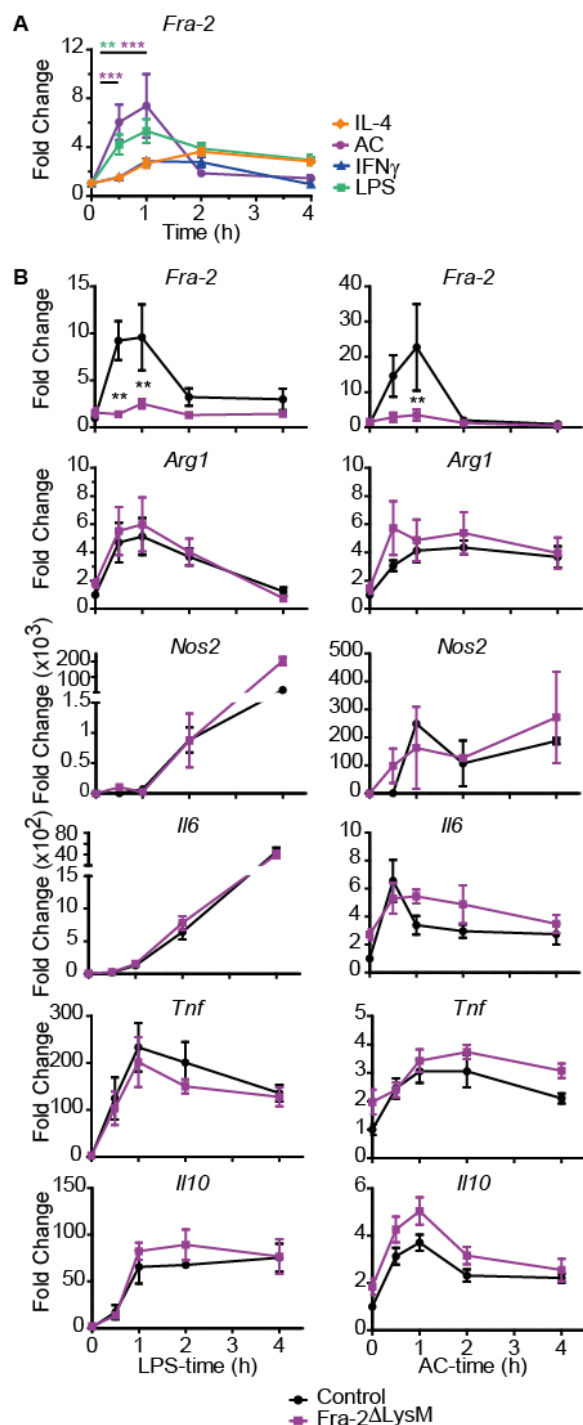


*Supplemental Figure 2: GO cluster analyses links Fra-1 expression in macrophages to cellular responses, such as wound response, proliferation and the response to diverse stimuli.* Thioglycollate-elicited macrophages were isolated from Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> (n=2) and control mice (n=2). *Agilent* microarrays were performed comparing Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> macrophages to control macrophages and the differentially expressed genes were enriched into GO groups.



Supplemental Figure 3: Decreased *Il6* expression in thioglycollate-elicited macrophages following AC and LPS stimulations.

$1 \times 10^6$  thioglycollate-elicited macrophages isolated from Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> or control littermate mice were stimulated with 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  LPS or  $5 \times 10^6$  AC. The mRNA levels of *Il6*, *Tnf*, *Il10*, *Il12b*, *Il1rn*, *Il1b* and *Retnla* were determined by quantitative PCR at the indicated time points post stimulation. Data are shown as mean of 3 independent experiments and the error bars represent S.E.M. Student's *t*-test with  $**P < 0.01$  was considered as significant.

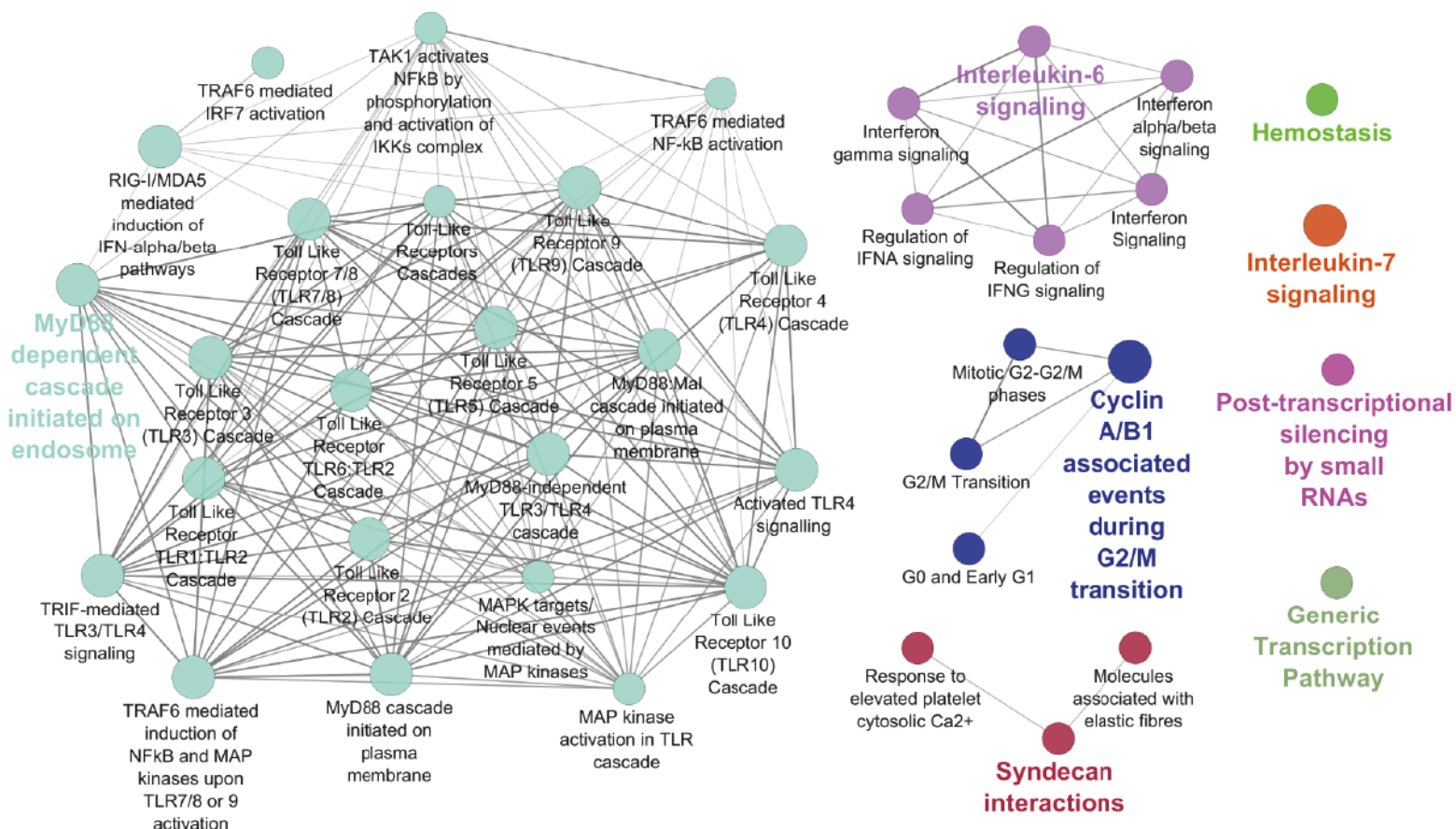


Supplemental Figure 4: No regulation of *Arg1*/*Nos2* expression by *Fra-2* in macrophages.

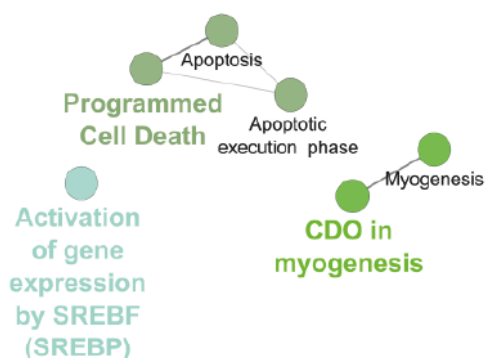
(A)  $1 \times 10^6$  thioglycollate-elicited macrophages isolated from wildtype mice were stimulated with 50 ng/ml IFN $\gamma$ , 1  $\mu$ g/ml LPS, 100 ng/ml IL-4 or  $5 \times 10^6$  AC. *Fra-2* mRNA levels were determined by quantitative PCR at the indicated time points post stimulation.

(B)  $1 \times 10^6$  thioglycollate-elicited macrophages isolated from Fra-2 $\Delta$ LysM or control littermate mice were stimulated with 1  $\mu$ g/ml LPS or  $5 \times 10^6$  AC. *Fra-2*, *Arg1*, *Nos2*, *Il6*, *Tnf* and *Il10* mRNA levels were determined by quantitative PCR following LPS (left panel) or AC (right panel) stimulation. Data are shown as mean of 3 independent experiments and the error bars represent S.E.M. ANOVA \*\* $P < 0.01$  and \*\*\* $P < 0.001$  were considered as significant.

A



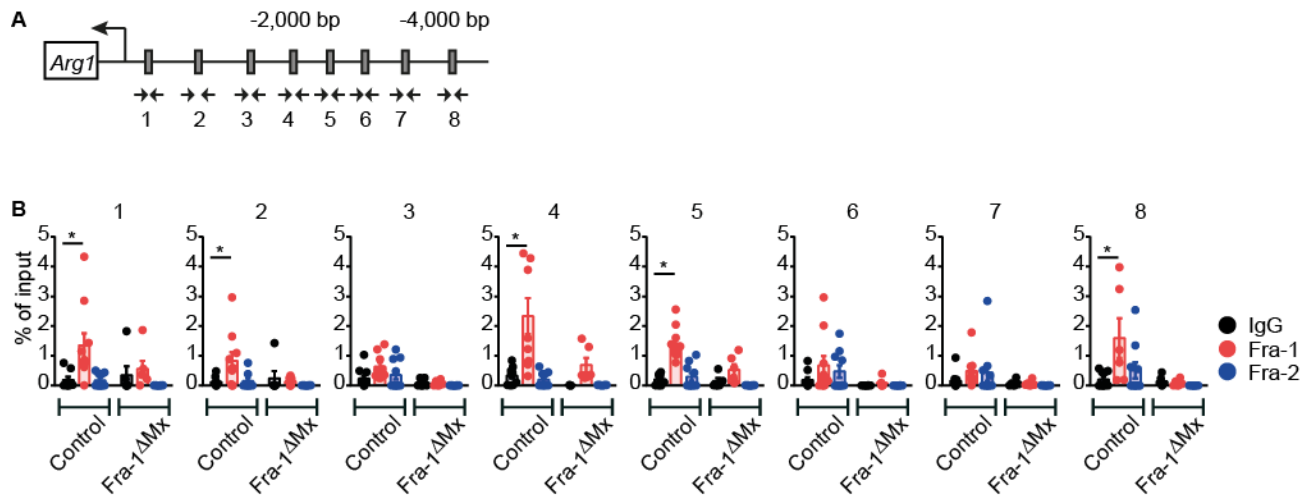
B



Supplemental Figure 5: ChIP-Sequencing analyses highlighted Fra-1 expression in macrophages involved in immune responses.

Thioglycollate-elicited macrophages from wildtype mice unstimulated or stimulated for 1 h with (A) 1  $\mu$ g/ml LPS or (B)  $5 \times 10^6$  AC were used for ChIP-Sequencing analysis. Chromatin was precipitated using an anti-mouse Fra-1 antibody or IgG isotype control (n=3 for each group), the obtained eluate was sequenced and the predicted genes bound by Fra-1 were clustered into their GO groups.

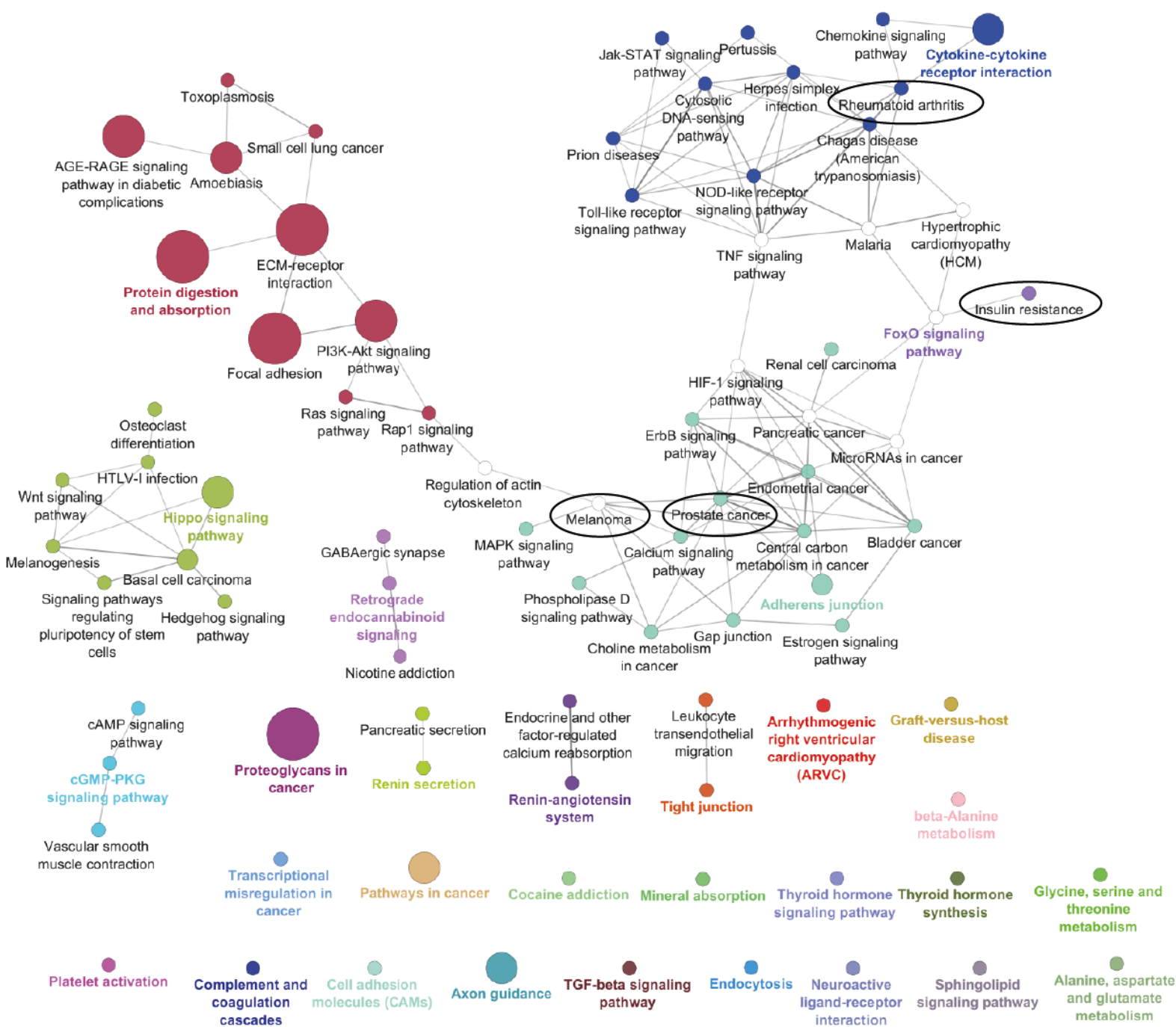




*Supplemental Figure 6: No binding of Fra-2 on Arg1 promoter, neither in control macrophages nor in Fra-1 $\Delta$ Mx macrophages.*

(A) Scheme of AP-1 consensus sequences on the *Arg1* promoter determined by the online tool TF search and indicated by grey boxes. Arrows below indicate the primer binding sites for ChIP analysis.

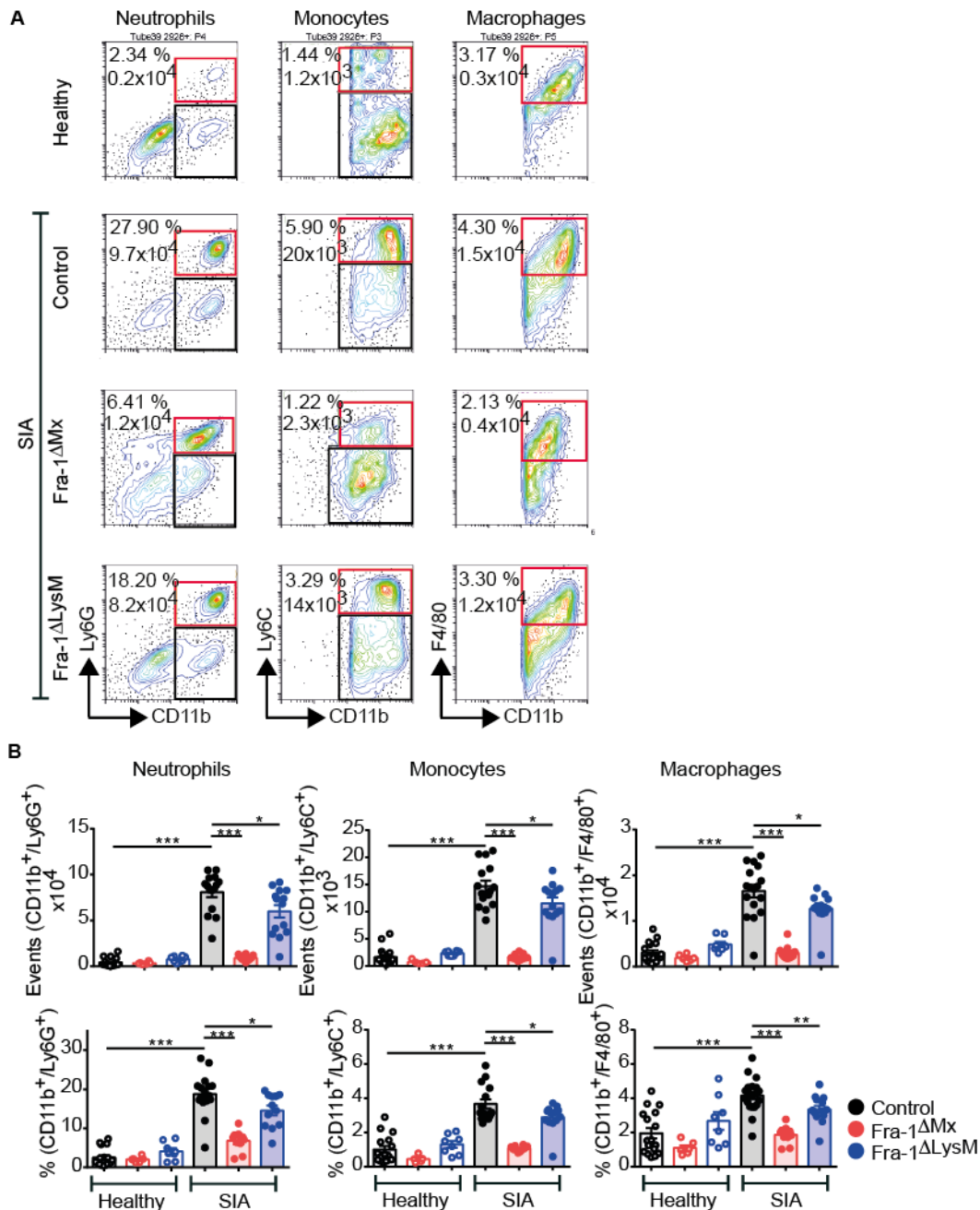
(B) Chromatin from thioglycollate-elicited macrophages isolated from Fra-1 $\Delta$ Mx or control littermate mice were precipitated using anti-mouse Fra-1, anti-mouse Fra-2 or IgG isotype. Eluates were analysed by RT-PCR using primer specific for the respective binding sites of *Arg1* promoter. The Ct values are normalized to input.



Supplemental Figure 7: KEGG cluster analyses linked *Fra-1* expression in macrophages to diseases.

KEGG cluster analysis based on microarray data differentially expressed genes from *Fra-1*<sup>ΔMx</sup> (n=2) and control (n=2) thioglycollate-elicited macrophages.



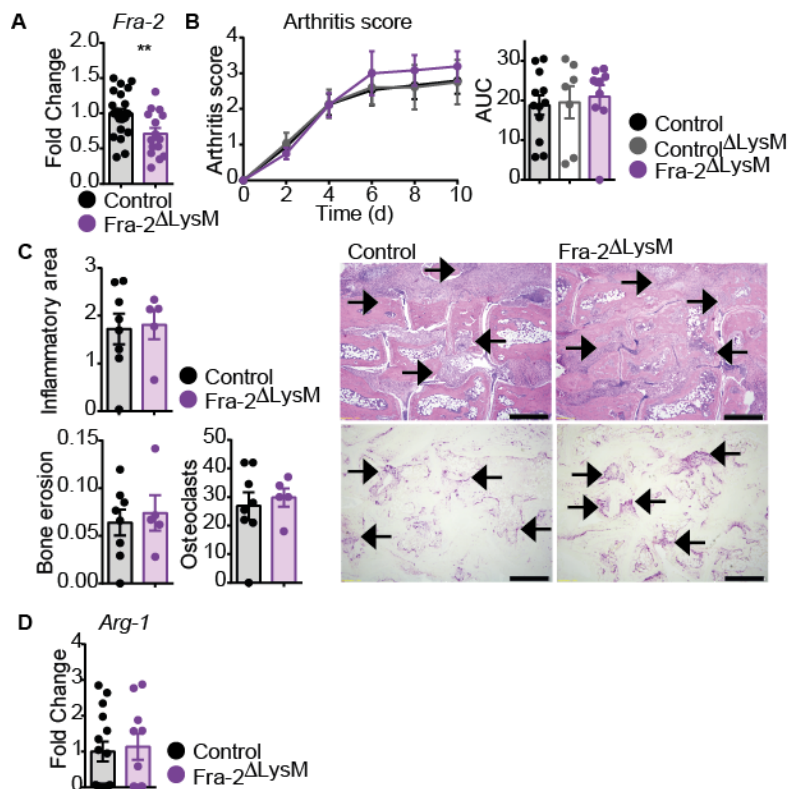


Supplemental Figure 8: Decreased immune cell infiltration in joints of arthritic *Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup>* and *Fra-1<sup>ΔLysM</sup>* mice.

*Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup>*, *Fra-1<sup>ΔLysM</sup>* or control littermate mice were analysed in steady state or after arthritis induced by K/BxN serum transfer.

(A) 10 days after serum transfer a single cell suspension of the joints were analysed for infiltrated immune cell populations and consecutive gates are represented by the black arrows. Representative contour plots including absolute cell numbers and the percentage are shown for healthy and arthritic control, *Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup>* and *Fra-1<sup>ΔLysM</sup>* joints.

(B) Quantification of the flow cytometric analysis for infiltrated neutrophils, monocytes and macrophages ( $n > 5$ ). Data are shown as mean values and the error bars represent S.E.M. ANOVA with  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$  and  $***P < 0.001$  were considered as significant.



*Supplemental Figure 9: No altered course of rheumatoid arthritis in Fra-2<sup>ΔLysM</sup> mice.*

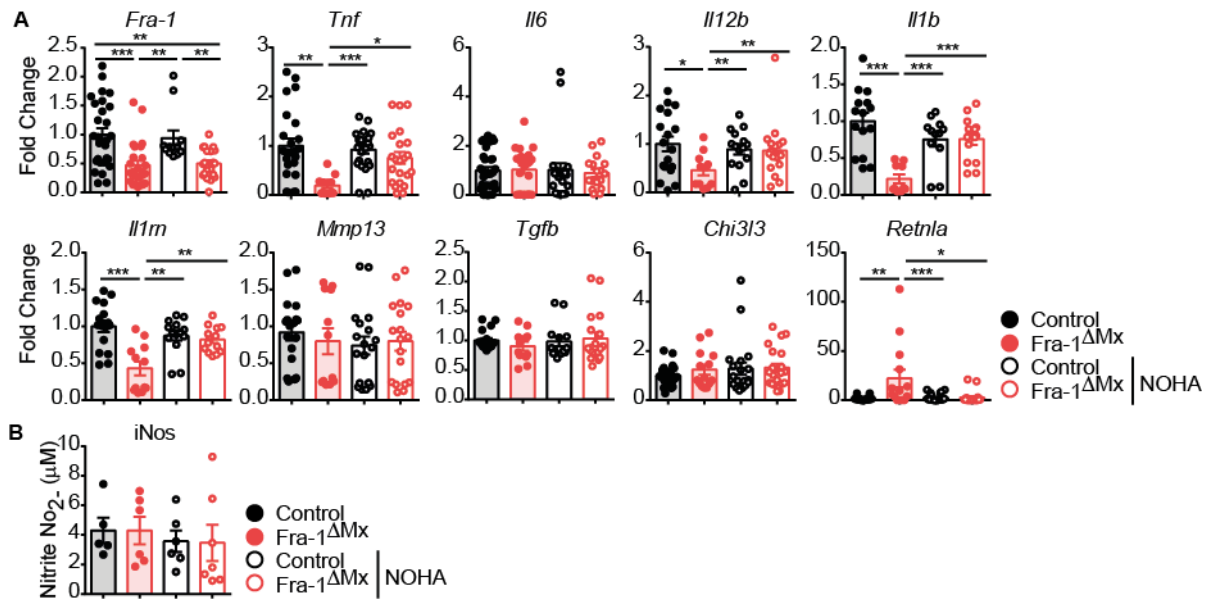
K/BxN arthritis was applied to Fra-2<sup>ΔLysM</sup> (n=9), control<sup>ΔLysM</sup> (n=7) and control (n=12) littermate mice. The mice were analysed 10 days post serum transfer.

(A) *Fra-2* mRNA levels in whole paws.

(B) The arthritis score and its quantification of area under the curve (AUC).

(C) Quantification of the inflammatory area, erosion area and number of osteoclast and representative images ascertained from H&E (top) and TRAP (bottom) staining of arthritic paws. Scale bars indicate 500 μm.

(D) *Arg1* mRNA level in total paw lysates. Data are shown as mean values and the error bars represent S.E.M. Student's *t*-test with  $**P < 0.01$  were considered as significant.

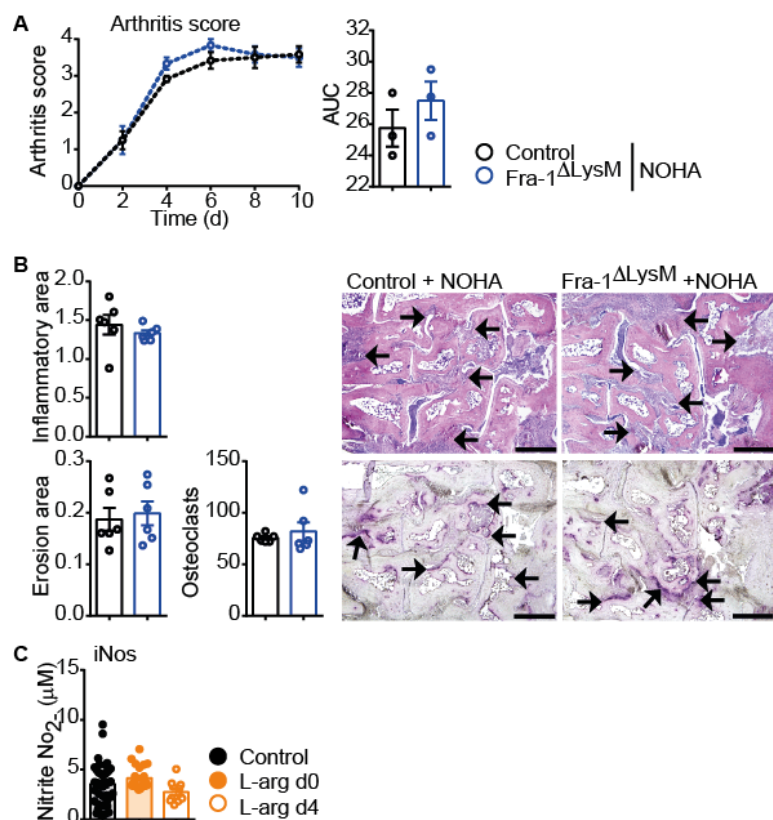


Supplemental Figure 10: Arginase inhibition by NOHA rescues the pro- and anti-inflammatory gene expression in arthritic *Fra-1*<sup>ΔMx</sup> mice.

Arthritis was induced by K/BxN serum-transfer in *Fra-1*<sup>ΔMx</sup> or control mice and the mice were injected daily *intra peritoneally* with NOHA (100 mg/kg body weight) or PBS.

(A) *Fra-1*, *Tnf*, *Il6*, *Il12b*, *Il1b*, *Il1rn*, *Mmp13*, *Tgfb*, *Chi3l3* and *Retnla* mRNA levels day 10 post-serum transfer in total paw lysates.

(B) *iNos* activity was determined in paw lysates. Data are shown as mean values and the error bars represent S.E.M. Student's *t*-test with \**P*<0.05, \*\**P*<0.01 and \*\*\**P*<0.001 were considered as significant.



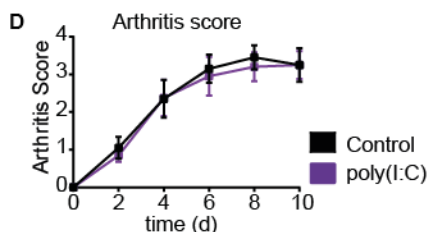
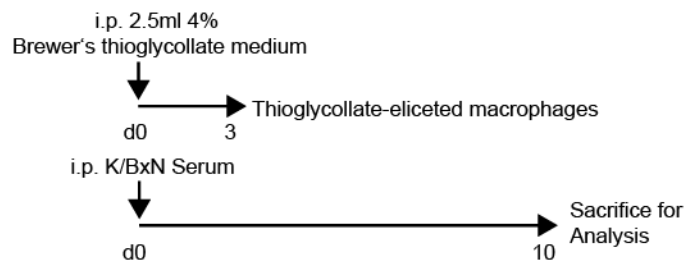
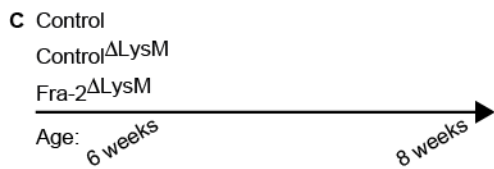
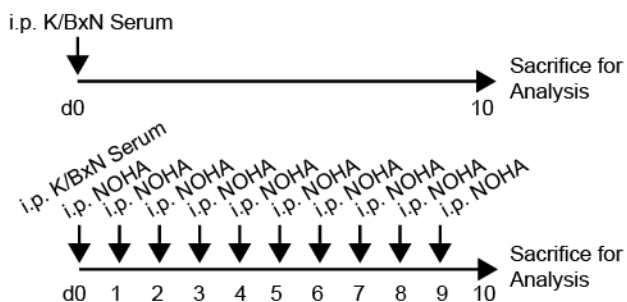
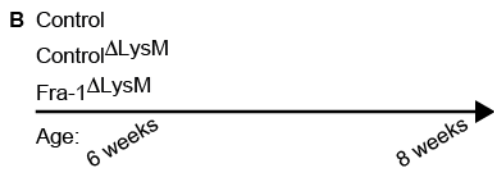
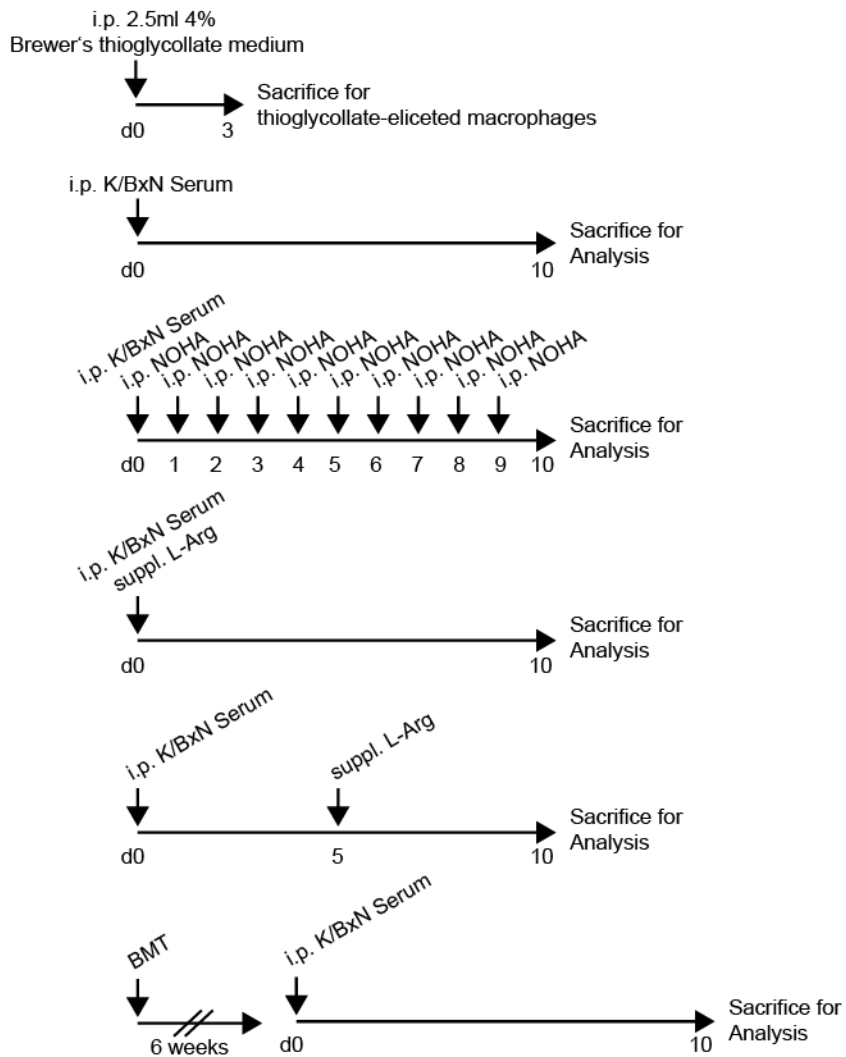
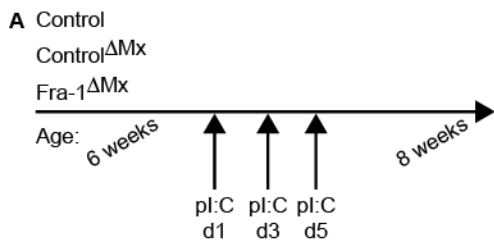
*Supplemental Figure 11: Arginase inhibition by NOHA rescues the pro- and anti-inflammatory gene expression in arthritic Fra-1<sup>ΔLysM</sup> mice.*

(A-B) Arthritis was induced by K/BxN serum-transfer in Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> or control mice, the mice were intraperitoneally injected with NOHA (100 mg/kg body weight, Fra-1<sup>ΔMx</sup> [n=3] or control [n=3]) daily from the day of arthritis induction and the mice were analysed 10 days post-serum transfer.

(A) Arthritis score and its quantification of AUC.

(B) Quantification of the inflammatory area, erosion area and number of osteoclasts from the histological analysis of H&E (top) and TRAP (bottom) staining and its representative images. Scale bars indicate 500 μm.

(C) Arthritis was induced by K/BxN serum-transfer to wild type mice, supplemented with 40 g/L L-arginine in the drinking water, either simultaneously with the K/BxN serum transfer (d0; n=11) or at d4 post serum transfer (n=6). iNOS enzyme activity in whole-paw lysates were quantified 10 days post serum transfer. Data are shown as mean values and the error bars represent S.E.M.



*Supplemental Figure 12: Schematic time-line of in vivo experiments performed with the different mice strains.*

(A) The deletion of Fra-1 by Cre under the control of the Mx1 promoter was induced with the age of 6 weeks by 250  $\mu$ g poly(I:C) injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) three times in a 2-day interval. Control littermates without Cre were also treated with poly(I:C).

(B) Control mice with and without LysMCre or Fra-1 <sup>$\Delta$ LysM</sup> mice were used at the age of 8 weeks for the indicated experiments.

(C) Control mice with and without LysMCre or Fra-2 <sup>$\Delta$ LysM</sup> mice were used at the age of 8 weeks for the indicated experiments.

(D) Wildtype control mice with the age of 8 weeks were left untreated or treated with poly(I:C) i.p. three times in a 2-day interval and arthritis was induced 10 d later. The arthritis score was determined to the indicated times points.