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Supplemental information

**Leveraging the antiviral type I interferon
system as a first line of defense
against SARS-CoV-2 pathogenicity**

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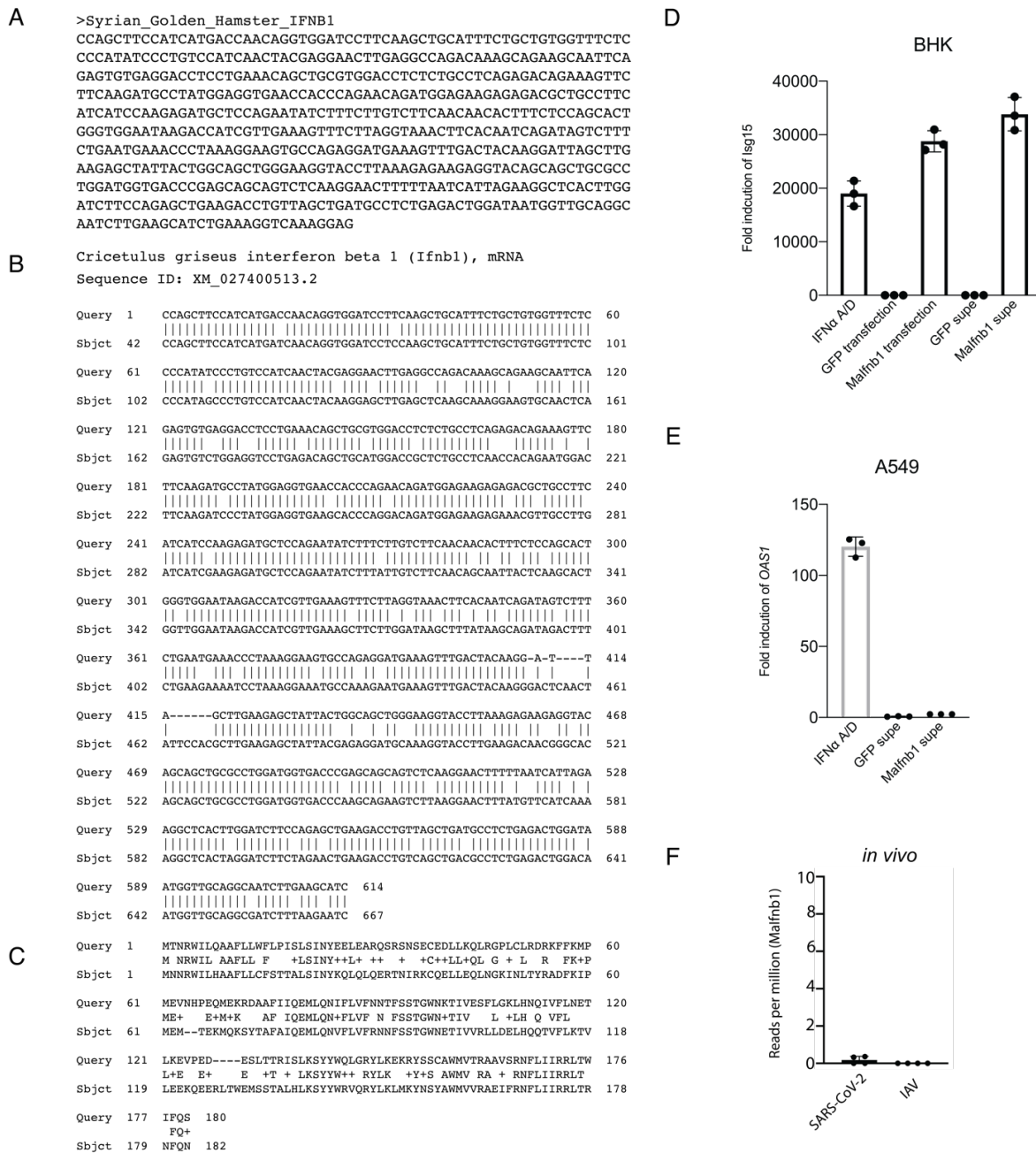


Figure S1. De novo assembly of *Mesocricetus auratus Ifnb1*. Related to Figure 1.

De novo assembly was performed using mRNA-seq reads from hamster trachea on day one after SARS-CoV-2 infection, (A) displaying the mRNA sequence deposited to NCBI. (B) Alignment to *Cricetulus griseus Ifnb1* mRNA. (C) Alignment of *Mesocricetus auratus* IFNB1 to *Peromyscus leucopus* IFNB1 at the protein level. (D) Relative expression of *Isg15* measured by qRT-PCR in BHK-21 cells treated with either IFN α A/D, transfected with constructs encoding green fluorescent protein (GFP) or *Mesocricetus auratus Ifnb1* (Malfnb1), or treated with supernatant (supe) from cells transfected with the constructs indicated for 16 hours. (E) Relative expression of *OAS1* measured by qRT-PCR in human A549 cells treated with either IFN α A/D or supernatant from BHK-21 cells transfected with the constructs indicated. (F) Reads per million of *Malfnb1* in mRNA-seq datasets of lungs from hamsters infected with either SARS-CoV-2 or IAV.

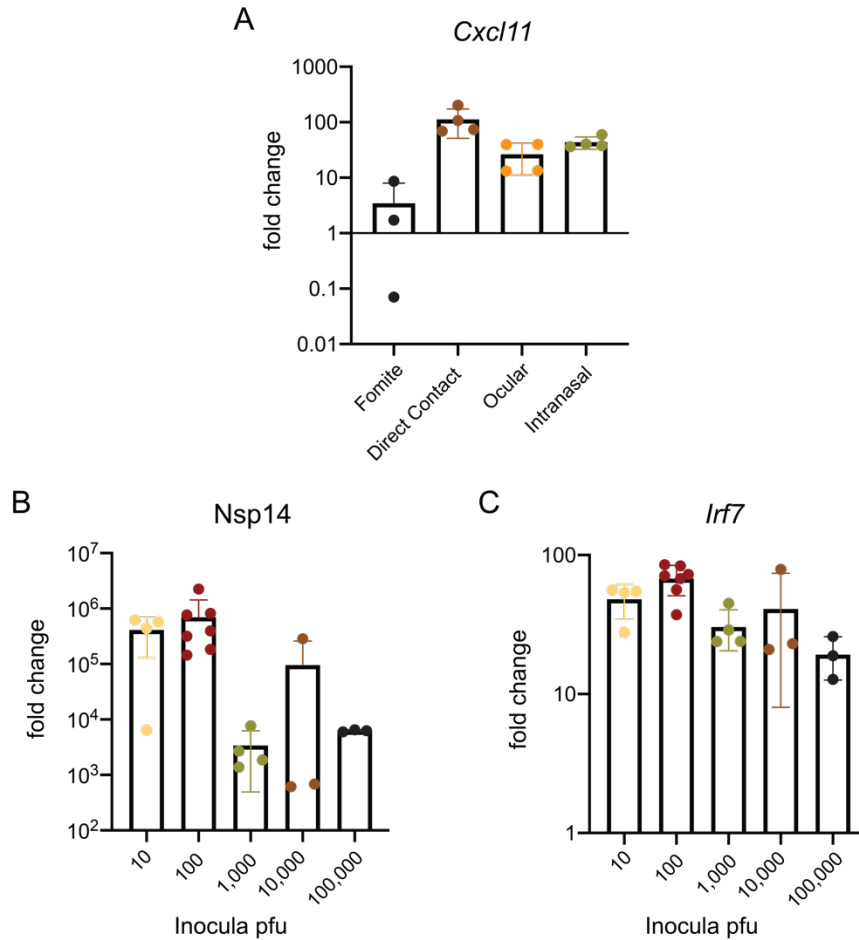


Figure S2. Corroborating immune response and vRNA-levels of different infection parameters. Related to Figure 2. (A) Relative *Cxcl11* expression at four days post infection from either fomite, direct contact with an infected animal, ocular or intranasal direct infection ($n = 4$; fomite transmission, $n = 3$). (B) SARS-CoV-2 *Nsp14* vRNA-levels and (C) *Irf7* expression measured by qRT-PCR and graphed as fold change following infection with 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, or 100,000 pfu of SARS-CoV-2, shown as fold change of transcript abundance compared to uninfected controls. ($n = 4$ for 10 pfu and 1,000 pfu, $n = 6$ for 100 pfu, and $n = 3$ for 10,000 pfu and 100,000 pfu).

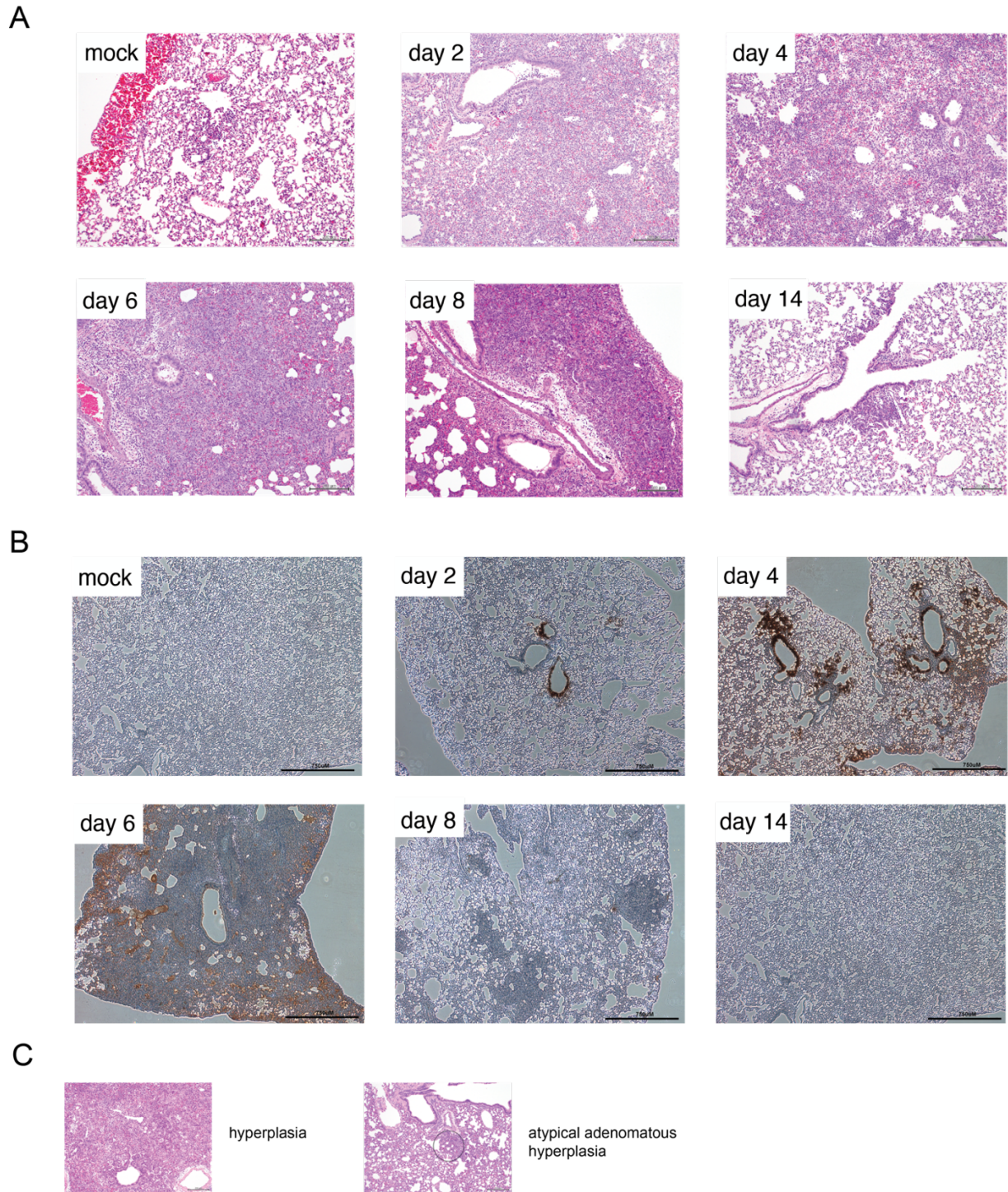


Figure S3. Representative images of lung pathology time course. Related to Figure 3.

Representative images of lungs assessed for pathology at a lower magnification from hamsters infected intranasally with 100 pfu of SARS-CoV-2 and harvested at day two, four, six, eight, or 14 post infection of (A) H&E staining (scale bar = 200 μ m) and (B) immunohistochemistry with nucleocapsid-specific antibody (scale bar = 750 μ m). (C) Representative images of hyperplasia and atypical adenomatous hyperplasia in hamster lungs (scale bar = 200 μ m).

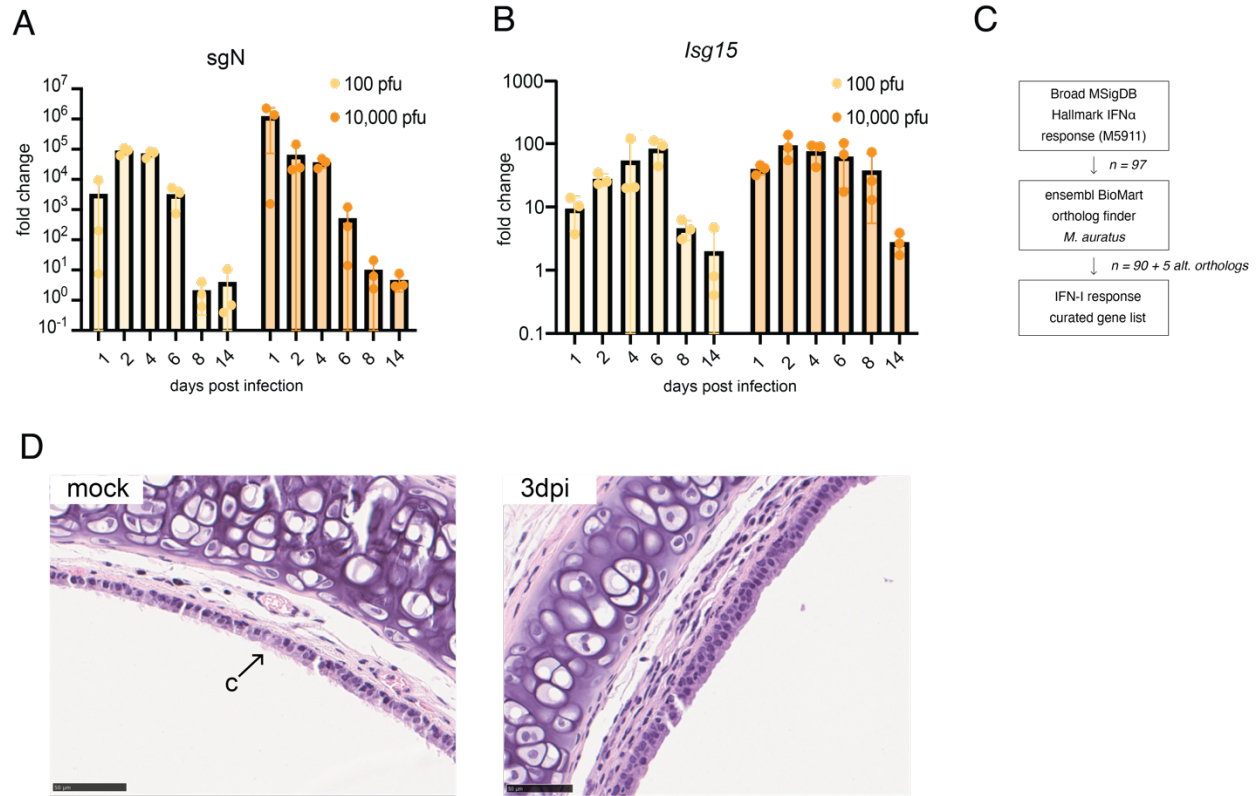


Figure S4. Defining temporal viral sgRNA levels and ISG signature in Golden Syrian hamsters across time at two different challenge doses. Related to Figure 4. (A) Nucleocapsid sgRNA and (B) *Isg15* qRT-PCR of RNA from total perfused lung harvested at indicated days post infection with 100 pfu or 10,000 pfu of SARS-CoV-2. RNA levels were normalized to those of RNA from mock-infected hamsters and represented as fold change, ($n = 3$ for all time points and treatment groups). (C) Curated list of IFN-I response genes used to generate the heat maps in Figure 4A-B. (D) Representative H&E images of trachea from a mock-infected hamster and hamsters infected with 100 pfu SARS-CoV-2 and collected three days post infection. "C" indicates cilia on the cells of the tracheal epithelium (scale bar = 50 μ m).

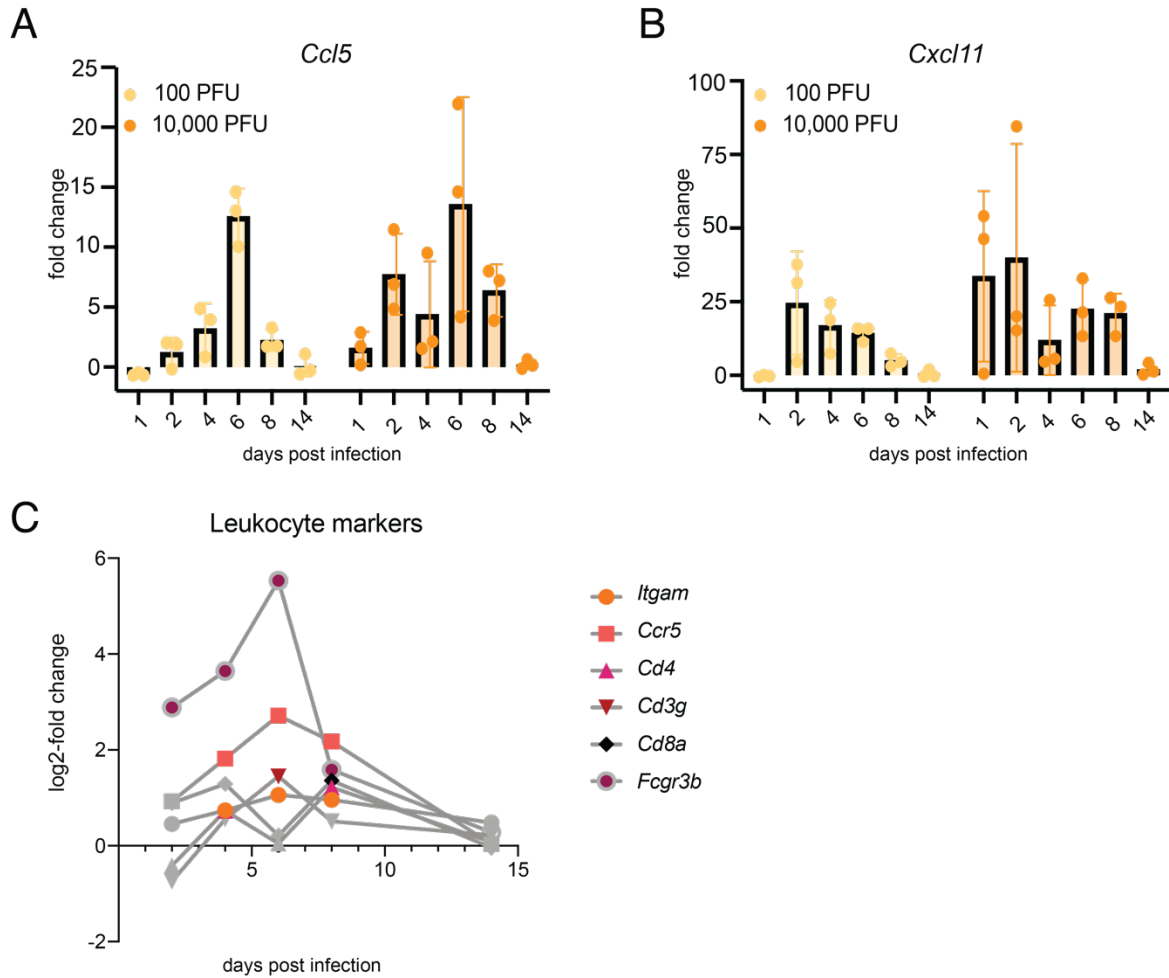


Figure S5. Defining the temporal cytokine response in Golden Syrian hamsters across time at two different challenge doses. Related to Figure 5. (A) *Cxcl11* and (B) *Ccl5* qRT-PCR of RNA from total perfused lung harvested at indicated days post infection with 100pfu or 10,000pfu of SARS-CoV-2. RNA levels were normalized to those of RNA from mock-infected hamsters and represented as fold change, ($n = 3$ per condition for all time points and treatment groups). (C) log₂ fold change of indicated cell surface markers from RNA-seq dataset of hamsters infected with 100 pfu SARS-CoV-2 ($n = 3$ per condition). Timepoints of markers with differential expression with $p < 0.05$ have colored symbols; data points in grey do not reach significance.

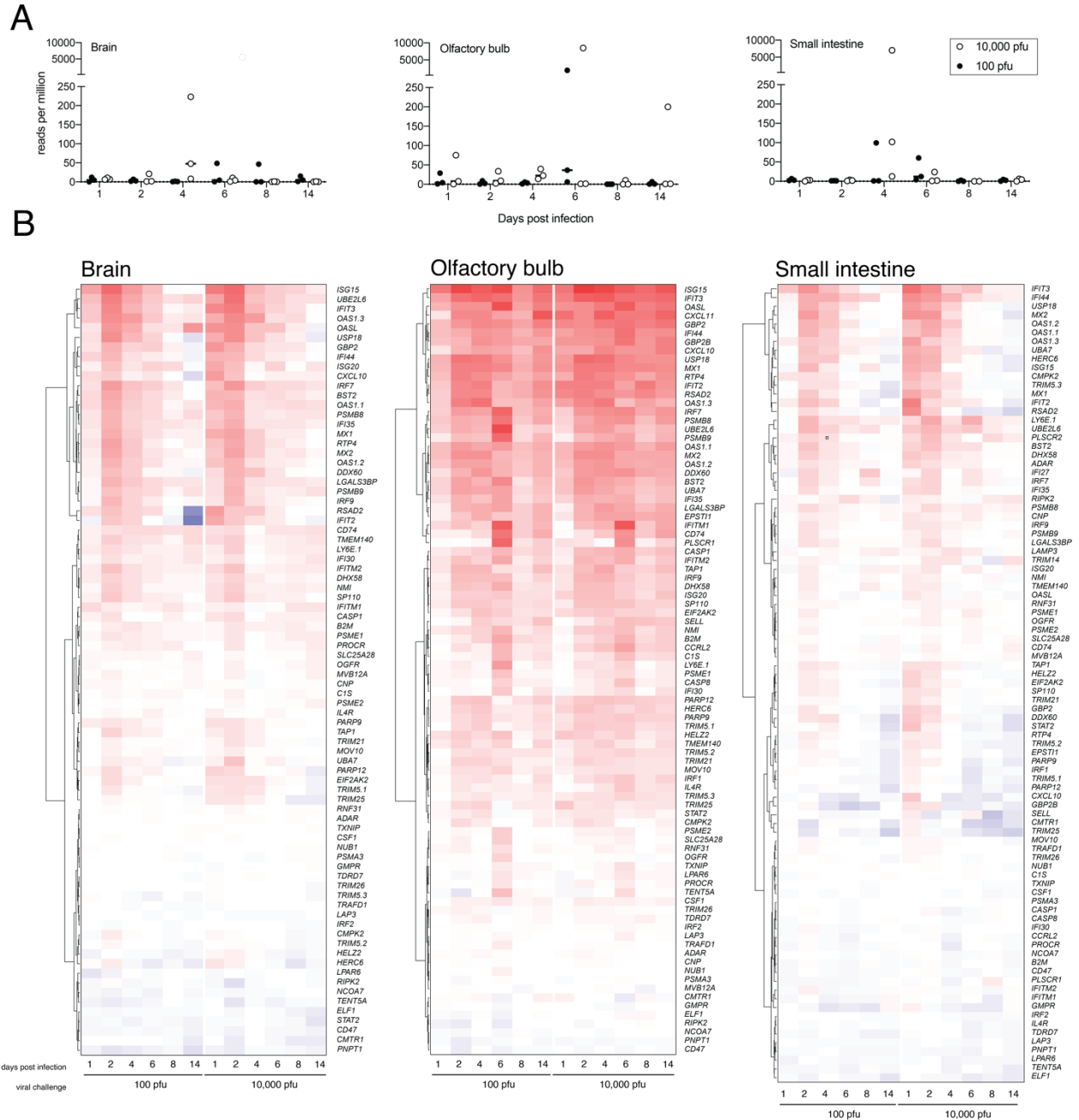


Figure S6. IFN-I signature of distal tissues. Related to Figure 6.

(A) Reads per million mapping to the SARS-CoV-2 genome in brain, olfactory bulb, and small intestine at the time points and inocula indicated ($n = 3$, except for small intestine, day 8, 10,000 pfu $n = 2$). (B) Differential gene expression of a curated list of interferon-stimulated genes calculated from bulk RNA sequencing of mRNA from brain, olfactory bulb and small intestine of hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 for the times and dosage indicated compared to uninfected controls. The heatmaps represent the \log_2 fold change of each gene indicated on the right (human ortholog) at the time points below (control group $n = 5$, experimental groups $n = 3$ apart from small intestine 10,000 pfu dose on day eight $n = 2$).

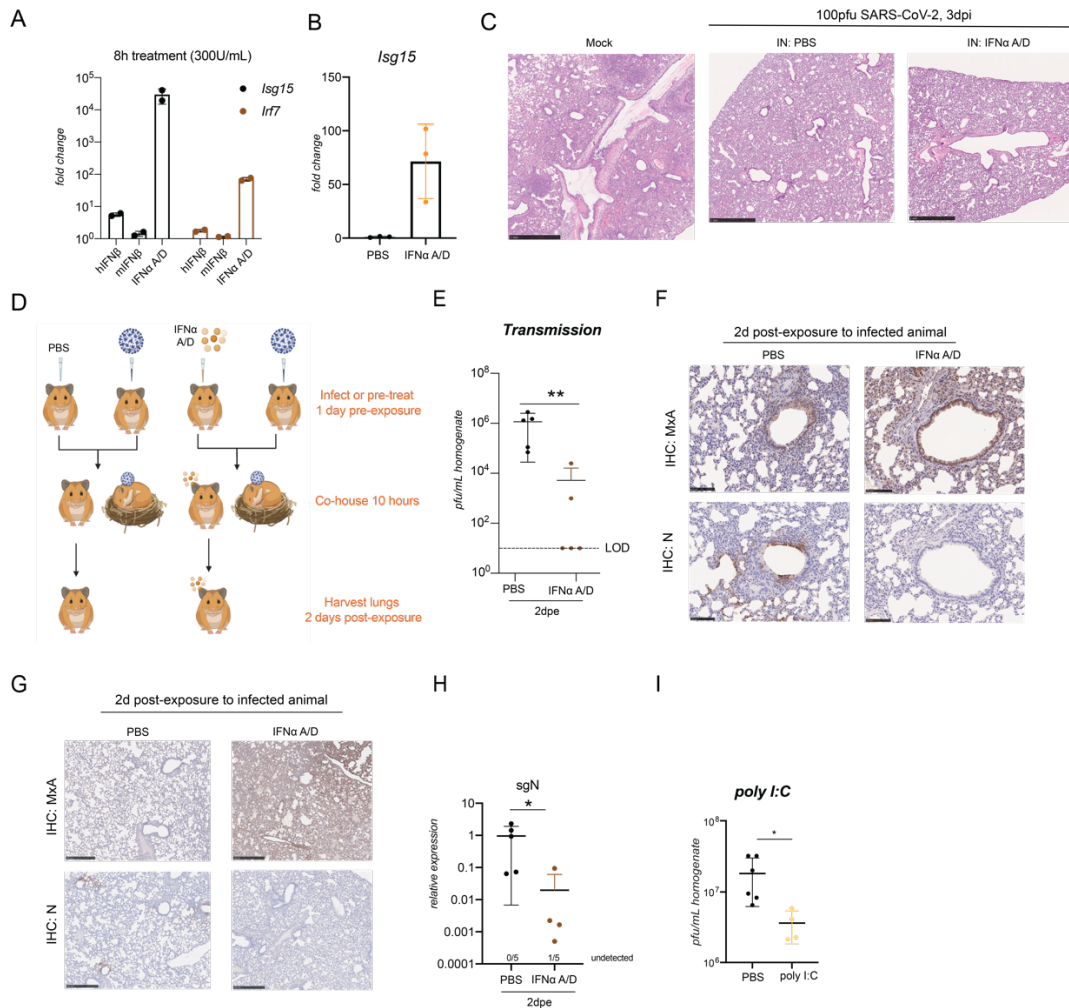


Figure S7. IFN α A/D induces ISGs in hamster cell lines and reduces viral load after 10pfu SARS-CoV-2 challenge. Related to Figure 7. (A) qRT-PCR for *Isg15* or *Irf7* after treatment of BHK-21 cells after 8h treatment with 300 U/mL of either hIFN β , mIFN β , or IFN α A/D displayed as log fold change compared to untreated cells. (B) qRT-PCR of lungs from hamsters treated either with PBS or IFN α A/D for eight hours, ($n = 3$ per condition). (C) Representative images of hematoxylin and eosin stains from perfused hamster lungs harvested three days after infection with 100 pfu SARS-CoV-2 and daily IN treatment with PBS or 200,000 units of IFN α A/D, scale bar = 1mm. (D) Transmission experimental design from Figure 7F-G. Hamsters were either treated with PBS, IFN α A/D, or infected with 100 pfu SARS-CoV-2. The next day, hamsters treated either with PBS or IFN α A/D were intranasally treated again and cohoused with a SARS-CoV-2-infected hamster for ten hours. They were then removed and caged separately, treated 24 hours later with PBS or IFN α A/D respectively, before lung collection two days after exposure. (E) Plaque assay of lung homogenates from hamsters treated intranasally with PBS or IFN α A/D and exposed to SARS-CoV-2 by transmission (see Figure S7E and Methods), ($n = 5$, $p = 0.004$, Mann-Whitney test). (F) sgN levels by qRT-PCR of animals described in (F), ($n = 5$, $p = 0.0293$). (G-H) Representative images from IHC staining for MxA or N protein of perfused lungs from transmission experiment, scale bar = 100 μ m, and at lower magnification, scale bar = 500 μ m. (I) Plaque assay of lung homogenate from hamster lungs infected with 100 pfu SARS-CoV-2 harvested two days after infection after daily IN treatment with PBS or 20 μ g of poly (I:C) starting 24 hours prior to infection, (PBS $n = 6$, poly (I:C) $n = 4$, p -value = 0.007). See Methods for statistical analyses.

Supplemental Table S5. Related to Key Resources Table.

OLIGONUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Oligonucleotides		
<i>M. auratus</i> actin forward primer 5'-CCAAGGCCAACCGTGAAAAG-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> actin reverse primer 5'-ATGGCTACGTACATGGCTGG-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Isg15 forward primer 5'-TCTATGAGGTCCGGCTGACA-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Isg15 reverse primer 5'-GCACTGGGGCTTTAGGTCAT-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Cxcl11 forward primer 5'-CCGCCTCATACTGGGAAATGT-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Cxcl11 reverse primer 5'-AAGACAGAAGGTTGGGCTCG-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Irf7 forward primer 5'-ATTTCCGGTCGCAGGGATCTG-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Irf7 reverse primer 5'-TGCAAGATAAAGCGTCCCGT-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Ccl5 forward primer 5'-ACTGCCTCGTGTTACATCA-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Ccl5 reverse primer 5'-TTCGGGTGACAAAACGACT-3'	This paper	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 Nsp14 (genomic) forward primer 5'-TGGGGYTTTACRGGTAACCT-3'	Chu et al., 2020	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 Nsp14 (genomic) reverse primer 5'-AACRCGCTTAACAAAGCACTC-3'	Chu et al., 2020	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 sgRNA (TRS-L) forward primer 5'-CTCTTG TAGATCTGTTCTCTAAACGAAC-3'	Yang et al., 2020	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 N sgRNA reverse primer 5'-GGTCCACCAAACGTAATGCG-3'	Yang et al., 2020	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 M sgRNA reverse primer 5'-TTACTGTACAAGCAAAGCAATATTGTCA-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Il6 forward primer 5'-GGTATGCTAAGGCACAGCACACT-3'	Sanchez-Felipe et al., 2020)	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Il6 reverse primer 5'- CCTGAAAGCACTTGAAGAATTCC-3'	Sanchez-Felipe et al., 2020)	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Il10 forward primer 5'-GAAGGACCAGCTGGACAACA-3'	This paper	N/A
<i>M. auratus</i> Il10 reverse primer 5'-TGGCAACCCAAGTAACCCTTA-3'	This paper	N/A