#### **SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS**

#### **PSEA analysis**

#### *Gene expression data set*

The dataset included whole tissue transcriptomes from a total of 310 gingival tissue samples obtained from 120 patients with periodontitis, comprising interproximal papillae that were either periodontitis-affected [241 samples showing bleeding on probing (BoP), probing depth (PD) ≥4mm and clinical attachment level (CAL≥3mm)] or clinically healthy (69 samples; with no BoP, PD≤4 mm, and CAL≤2 mm). Inclusion criteria, demographics, sample characteristics and processing pipeline have been published previously (Kebschull et al. 2013).

Five outlier arrays (all from periodontitis-affected samples) were identified by the GNUSE method and removed, as earlier described (McCall et al. 2014). Data was first normalized using GCRMA (Wu et al. 2004; Wu and Irizarry 2005) and further between batches using COMBAT (Johnson et al. 2007) implemented in the SVA R package, as earlier described (Sawle et al. 2016). Whenever two periodontitis-affected samples were available from the same donor, their intensities were averaged. Thus, the dataset further analyzed comprised 118 periodontitis-associated and 69 healthy gingival tissue samples.

#### *Summary of the Barcode Methodology*

The Gene Expression Barcode 3.0 method (McCall et al. 2011; McCall et al. 2014) takes as its input the expression of each probeset for a given chip platform from samples from a wide variety of cell and tissue types, normalized by the frozen Robust Multichip Algorithm

( fRMA; McCall et al. 2010). The method infers an expression threshold for each chip by an hierarchical (Gelman and Hill 2006) Bayesian (Gelman et al. 2014) mixture model (Everitt and Hand 1981) which is an adaptation of the Probability of Expression model (POE; Parmigiani et al. 2002). The probability of expression of a given probeset in each cell or tissue type is then taken to be the fraction of samples of that cell or tissue type whose expression is greater than or equal to the expression threshold of that probeset.

### *Filtering of marker probesets (genes)*

The list of marker probesets were filtered further based upon gene expression data as follows: (i) if two probesets representing the same gene had a Pearson correlation coefficient of<0.7, one of them was discarded; (ii) if two probesets which were candidate markers for different cell types had a Pearson correlation coefficient p-value<0.05, one was eliminated (this criterion guaranteed that the markers for different cell types were not correlated in our models); (iii) the variance inflation factor (VIF) described below for all of the probesets within a marker for a cell type was<10; (iv) probesets were further discarded based upon known expression in other cellular subtypes in the gingiva.

### *Initial filtering of probesets in the differential expression analysis*

Probesets were removed from the differential expression analyses based upon the following criteria listed in the PSEA publication (Kuhn et al. 2011) : (i) probesets used as markers, to avoid circular reasoning; (ii) probesets with an adjusted coefficient of determination

 $R^2$ <0.6 for the best model, indicating a poor fit; and (iii) probesets whose intercepts were>0.5 their average expression, indicating that their expression did not vary with the marker for a cell type.

### *Cell type-specific filtering of probesets in the differential expression analysis*

Additional filtering criteria were applied to select probesets of interest: (i) p-value of presence of the gene in the cell type that is differentially expressed<0.05; (ii) p-value of differential expression in periodontitis-affected versus healthy gingiva<0.05; (iii) absolute log2FC differential expression of>0.4, and (iv) confidence coefficient (CC); i.e., the fraction of models with the same cell-type differentially expressed within 2 AIC of the best model, =1. Additional filtered-out probesets included those with negative coefficients of presence (corresponding to negative concentration) and those whose differential expression led to net negative concentration. Redundant probesets for the same gene were removed.

### **Validation of PSEA predicted genes**

## *Gingival tissue harvesting and preparation of single cell suspensions*

Gingival tissue samples were harvested from patients in conjunction with periodontal surgical procedures (pocket elimination/reduction surgery, crown lengthening or tooth extraction) after approval by the Columbia University Medical Center Institutional Review Board (Protocol # AAAR0526). Patients were recruited at the Clinic of Graduate Periodontics of the College of Dental Medicine and informed consent was obtained. All patients were systemically healthy, non-pregnant, non-smokers who had not used antibiotics or antiinflammatory drugs for the preceding 3-month period, as in our previous publications (Kebschull et al. 2013). Interproximal papillae included in the surgical area were harvested and originated either from areas affected by periodontitis, i.e., an interproximal site with  $PD \ge 5$  mm, with concomitant CAL  $\ge 3$  mm, presence of radiographic bone, and BoP or from clinically healthy sites, (i.e., sites with PD≤ 3 mm, no CAL, no radiographic bone loss and no BoP). From each patient one periodontitis-affected gingival tissue sample and one healthy tissue sample were harvested (15 pairs, n=30). Gingival tissue samples were processed to form a single-cell suspension using an established laboratory protocol (Almubarak et al. 2020), using a commercially available tissue dissociation kit (Miltenyi Biotech, USA). Samples were kept in Dulbecco's Phosphate-Buffered Saline, and minced into small pieces after washing with saline. Samples were processed in c-tubes (Miltenyi Biotech, USA) which contained 2.35 ml of RPMI 1640 (Thermo Fisher, USA) and 100 μl of Enzyme H, 50 μl of Enzyme R, and 12.5 μl of Enzyme A (Miltenyi Biotech, USA), as recommended by the manufacturer. A gentle MACS Dissociator (Miltenyi Biotech, USA) was used for tissue disruption and enzymatic digestion at 37°C as recommended by the manufacturer. The combination of this mechanical and enzymatic digestion leads to formation single cell suspensions, while maintaining cellular integrity. Cell suspensions were filtered with 70-micrometer filters and each sample was washed with 15 ml of RPMI 1640 solution. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation for 7 minutes (relative centrifugal field: 0.4) and cryopreserved immediately. The pellet was mixed with a freezing medium, which contained 90% of fetal bovine serum (FBS; Corning, USA) and 10% of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO; Sigma-Aldrich, USA). The samples were transferred to isopropanol chambers in a -80°C freezer and then transferred into liquid nitrogen within 24h. This protocol has been shown to have minimal effects on the transcriptional profiles after cell revival (Guillaumet-Adkins et al. 2017).

#### *Immuno-magnetic separation of epithelial cells and B cells*

All cryopreserved samples were revived from liquid nitrogen and viability was assessed using Trypan blue staining using a TC20 Automated Cell Counter. Approximately 5-6 x  $10^8$  cells were aliquoted in 300  $\mu$ l of autoMACS® Running Buffer (Miltenyi Biotec, USA) and 100 µl of FcR blocking reagent (Miltenyi Biotec, USA) was added and shaken gently for 5 minutes. 100 µl of CD326 (EpCAM) magnetic MicroBeads for isolation of epithelial cells or CD19 magnetic MicroBeads (Miltenyi Biotec, USA) for isolation of B cells were added to the suspension and incubated on a rocking platform for 30 minutes at 4°C. EpCAM is an established marker for epithelial cell isolation and has been reported to be highly expressed in gingival epithelial cells (Hasegawa et al. 2017; Huang et al. 2018; Balfe et al. 2018; Hyun et al. 2019). The cells were washed by adding 5 ml of buffer and centrifuged at 300×g for 10 minutes. The supernatants were aspirated and the cells were suspended in 500 µl of buffer. An LS column (Miltenyi Biotec, USA) was placed in the magnetic field and prepared by rinsing with 500µl of buffer. The cell suspension was applied gently from the sides onto the column and was washed three times using 500 µl of buffer. The column was removed from the separator and placed on a collection tube provided by the kit. 1ml of buffer was pipetted onto the column and the magnetically labeled cells were pushed by the plunger and isolated in a new tube. The isolated cells were pelleted by centrifugation at 800xg for 7 minutes, 500 µl TRI reagent (Zymo Research, USA) were added to the cell pellet and mixed well by pipetting, and the samples were kept at -80°C for RNA isolation.

#### *RNA isolation*

The Direct-zol RNA Microprep Kit (Zymo Research, USA) was used for RNA isolation according to the manufacturer's instructions. RNA was eluted in 30 µl RNase-free water. The quantity and quality of the RNA (260/280 and 260/230 ratios) were determined using a NanoDrop 1000 device.

#### *Real-time quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR)*

Prior to selection of probesets considered for PCR validation, Component and Residual (COR) plots, i.e., plots of the expression of a probeset predicted by the model against the expression of the marker genes with the error added were generated and the linearity of the plots was examined. Variance Inflation Factors (VIFs), that estimate the effect of collinearity on the final fit, were also considered and were required to be <10 for probesets further considered for PCR validation (Fox 2008; Fox and Weisberg 2011). We finally selected for validation two genes predicted by PSEA as differentially expressed in epithelial cells (RORA and TGF-β1) and two in B cells (CERS3 and CAMSAP1). cDNA was transcribed from 75 ng of total RNA utilizing a SuperScript VILO cDNA Synthesis Kit (Invitrogen, USA) in a final volume of 20 μl. The cycle for cDNA synthesis was as follows: 10 min, 25°C; 120 min, 37°C; 5 min 85°C. SYBR-Green-based real-time quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) was performed using the SYBR™ Select Master Mix (Applied Biosystems, USA) and the CDX96 Real Time PCR Detection System, following a standardized protocol. The thermal cycling conditions were as follows: 2 min, 50°C; 2 min, 95°C; 15 sec 95°C; and 1 min 60°C. Primers were designed for each of the four genes using Primer-BLAST, and

are presented in Supplementary Table 2. mRNA levels were normalized against 18s (internal control) and relative levels were calculated comparing the ΔCt values. One-tailed t-tests, for paired or unpaired observations, as appropriate, based on the availability of pairs of periodontitis-affected/healthy gingival tissue samples with good RNA quality from the same donor, were carried out to test differential expression between gingival health and periodontitis. Statistical significance was defined as p value less than 0.05. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard error of mean (Figures 2 and 3).

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**Supplementary Table 1.** Marker probesets used in the PSEA analysis



**Supplementary Table 2.** Primers used in the validation experiments



**Gene**



**Supplementary Table 3.** PSEA -predicted differentially expressed genes by cell type



## **Fibroblasts**



## **Endothelial cells**





# **Neutrophils**





# **Monocytes/Macrophages**



## **Plasma cells**



# **T cells**



# **B cells**



**Supplemental Figure 1.** Flowchart of the PSEA computational steps

