

Supplemental information

**Metformin inhibition of mitochondrial ATP
and DNA synthesis abrogates NLRP3 inflammasome
activation and pulmonary inflammation**

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Figure S1

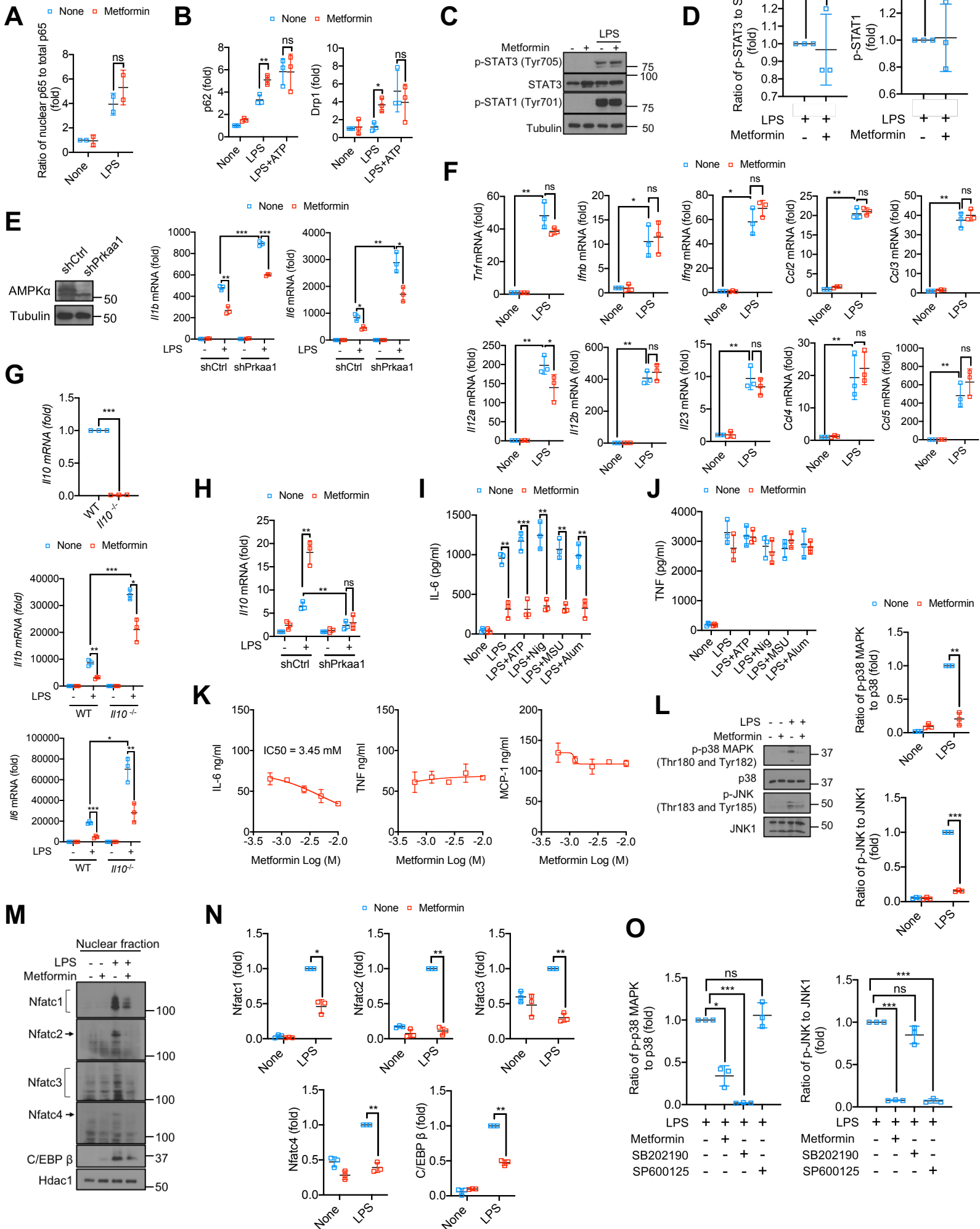


Figure S1. Effect of metformin on different cytokines and chemokines, related to Figure 1

- (A) Relative nuclear p65 to total p65 amounts by BMDM treated as in Figure 1A (n = 2).
- (B) Relative p62 and Drp1 amounts in mitochondria isolated from BMDM treated as in Figure 1B (n = 3).
- (C) IB analysis of phosphorylated STAT3 and STAT1 in lysates from BMDM pretreated -/+ metformin and stimulated with LPS. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.
- (D) Relative phosphorylated STAT3 and STAT1 amounts in BMDM stimulated as in (C) (n = 3).
- (E) Q-PCR quantitation of *Il1b* and *Il6* mRNAs (right) in shCtrl and shPrkaa1 (AMPK α 1) primary BMDM pretreated or not with metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) and stimulated with LPS (100 ng/ml) for 4 hrs. The left panel shows a blot that demonstrates knockdown efficiency (n = 3).
- (F) Q-PCR quantitation of the indicated cytokine, chemokine and interferon mRNAs before or after LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs) stimulation, -/+ metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pretreatment (n = 3).
- (G) Q-PCR quantitation of *Il10*, *Il1b* and *Il6* mRNAs in WT and *Il10*^{-/-} BMDMs treated as indicated (n = 3).
- (H) Q-PCR quantitation of *Il10* mRNA in shCtrl and shPrkaa1 BMDM treated as in (E) (n = 3).
- (I-J) IL-6 (I) and TNF (J) secretion by LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM challenged with different NLRP3 activators as indicated, -/+ metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) (n = 3).
- (K) IL-6, TNF and MCP1 secretion by GM-CSF differentiated human macrophages pretreated with increasing concentrations of metformin for 2 hrs and stimulated with IFN γ (20 ng/ml) and LPS (100 ng/ml) for 24 hrs. Results are averages \pm SD (n = 2 donors).
- (L) IB analysis for p38 MAPK and JNK phosphorylation (left) and quantitation (right) in BMDM pretreated with metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) stimulated with LPS (100 ng/ml) for 30 min. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.
- (M) IB analysis of indicated transcription factors in nuclear fractions from BMDM pretreated -/+ metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) and stimulated with LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs). HDAC1 was used as a loading control. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.

(N) Relative amounts of NFATc1, NFATc2, NFATc3, NFATc4 and c/EBP β in BMDM treated as in (M) (n = 3).

(O) Relative amounts of phosphorylated p38 MAPK and JNK expression in BMDM treated as in Figure 1E (n = 3).

Results in (A, B, D-J, L, N and O) are averages \pm SD. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ns, not significant. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

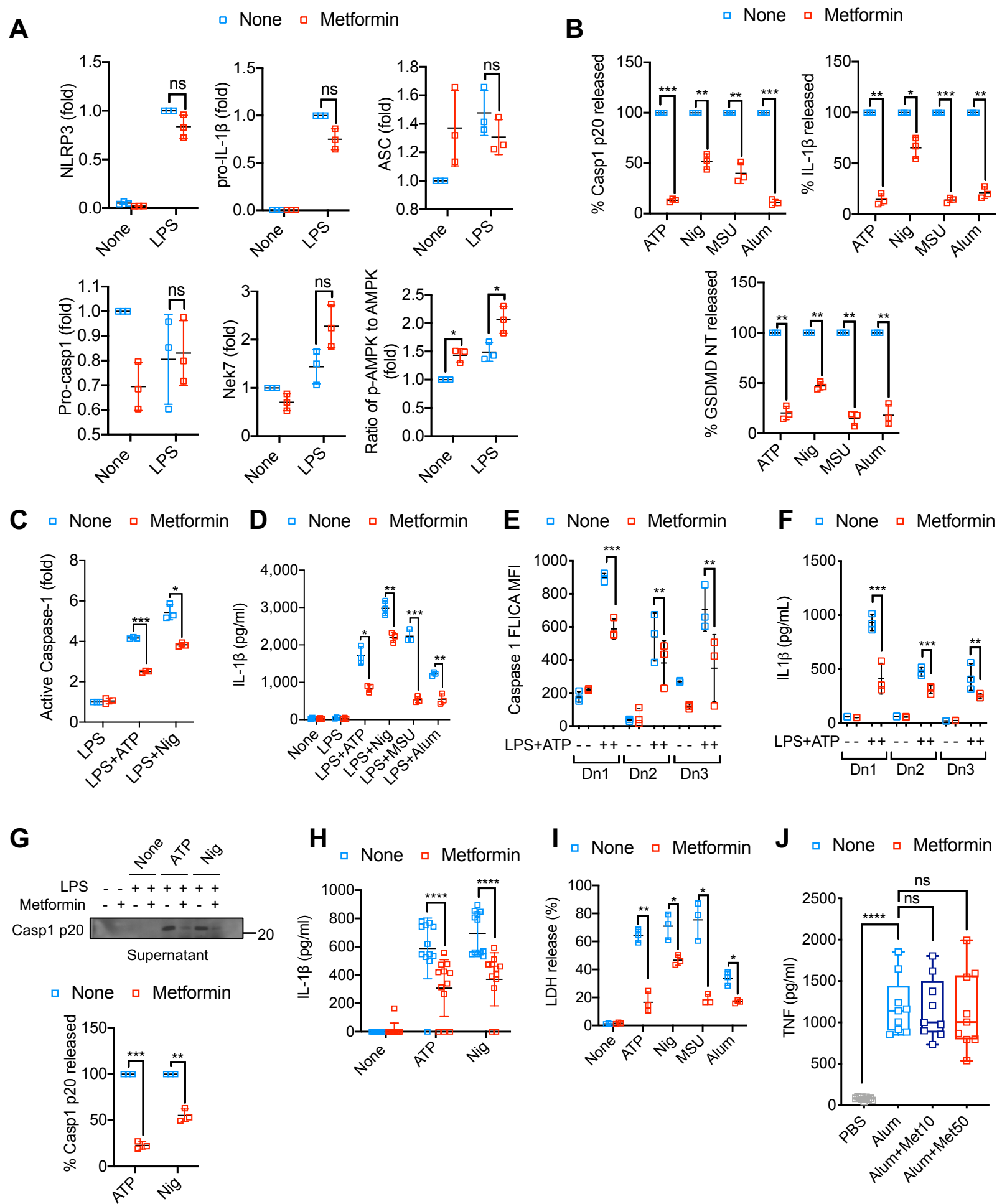
Figure S2

Figure S2. Metformin inhibits NLRP3 inflammasome activation, related to Figure 2

(A) Relative amounts of NLRP3 inflammasome components of BMDM as treated in Figure 2A (n = 3).

(B) Relative Casp1 p20, IL-1 β and GSDMD NT secretion of BMDM treated as in Figure 2B (n = 3).

(C) Casp1 activity in LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM stimulated with ATP (4 mM, 1hr) or nigericin (10 μ M, 1 hr) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment was measured by FAM-FLICA® Caspase-1 (YVAD) Assay Kit (n = 3).

(D) IL-1 β secretion by LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM challenged with different NLRP3 activators as indicated, +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment (n = 3).

(E-F) Active Casp1 measured by Caspase I FLICA dye (660-YVAD-FMK) staining and analyzed by flow cytometry (E) and IL-1 β secretion measured by ELISA (F) in GM-CSF differentiated human macrophages LPS (20 ng/ml, 3 hrs)-primed BMDM stimulated with ATP (2 mM, 30 min) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. Results are averages \pm SD (n = 3 different donors, Dn1-3). **p<0.01; ***p < 0.005. Two-way ANOVA, Sydak's multiple comparison test.

(G-H) Casp1 p20 (G) and IL-1 β (H) release by mouse microglia primed with LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 h) and challenged with different NLRP3 activators as indicated, +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment, were determined by IB (G) or ELISA (H). (G) shows representative IB (top) and relative Casp1 p20 secretion (bottom) as averages \pm SD (n = 3). **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.005. Two-sided unpaired t-test. (H) shows averages \pm SEM (n = 12). ****p < 0.0001. Two way ANOVA and Sidak's multiple comparison post-hoc test.

(I) LDH release by LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM stimulated with the indicated NLRP3 agonists, +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment (n = 3).

(J) Peritoneal TNF in mice treated with 10 or 50 mg/kg metformin 30 min prior to i.p. alum (700 mg) injection (n = 9 mice per group). Peritoneal fluid was collected 4 hrs after alum injection. Results are averages \pm SEM ****p < 0.0001; ns, not significant. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

Results in (A-D, G and I) are averages \pm SD. *p<0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ns, not significant. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

Figure S3

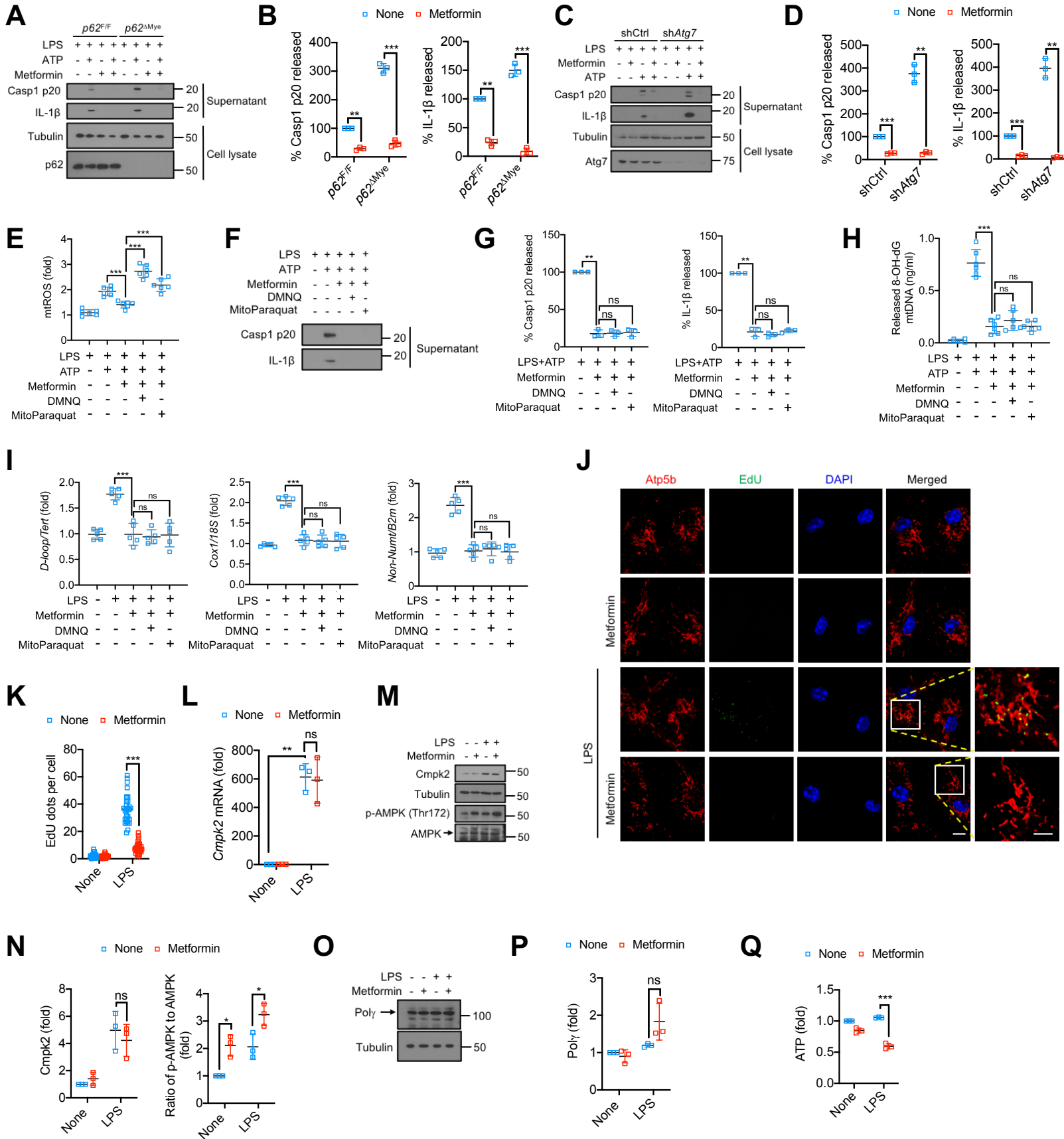


Figure S3. Metformin inhibits NLRP3 inflammasome activation independently of mitophagy, related to Figure 3

(A) IB analysis of Casp1 p20 and IL-1 β in culture supernatants, and p62 and tubulin in cell lysates of LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed *p62^{F/F}* or *p62 ^{Δ Mye}* BMDM stimulated with ATP (4 mM, 1 hr), +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.

(B) Quantitation of above results, averages \pm SD (n=3).

(C) IB analysis of Casp-1 p20 and IL-1 β in culture supernatants and ATG7 and tubulin in cell lysates of LPS-primed control (shCtrl) or ATG7-deficient (shAtg7) iBMDM stimulated with ATP (4mM, 1 hr) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.

(D) Quantitation of IB in (C), averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(E) Relative mtROS amounts measured by MitoSOX staining of LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM challenged with ATP (4 mM, 1hr) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs), DMNQ (20 μ M, 16 hrs), or MitoParaquat (5 μ M, 1 hr) pretreatment (n = 6).

(F) IB analysis of Casp1 p20 and mature IL-1 β in culture supernatants, of BMDM treated as above. One representative IB out of 3 is shown.

(G) Quantitation of IB in (F), averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(H) 8-OH-dG amounts in cytosolic mtDNA of BMDM treated as above (n = 6).

(I) Relative total mtDNA amounts in LPS (200 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM treated +/-metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs), DMNQ (20 μ M, 16 hrs), or MitoParaquat (5 μ M, 1 hr) pretreatment. Shown are the ratios of *D-loop* mtDNA to *Tert* nuclear (n) DNA, *Cox1* mtDNA to *18S* nDNA, or mtDNA that is not inserted into nuclear DNA (*non-NUMT*) to *B2m* nDNA. Results are averages \pm SD (n = 5).

(J-K) Representative fluorescent microscopy images (J) and quantification (K) of EdU-labelled BMDM that were co-stained for Atp5b and DAPI before and after stimulation with LPS (1 ug/ml, 4 hrs), +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. Scale bars, 10 μ m and 2 μ m. (K) shows results as average \pm SD (n = 30 HMF per treatment in 3 independent experiments).

(L) Q-PCR quantitation of *Cmpk2* mRNA in BMDM treated with LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) (n = 3).

(M-N) IB analysis of CMPK2 expression and AMPK phosphorylation in LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDMs +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. (M) shows representative blot. (N) shows quantitation of above results, averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(O-P) IB analysis of Poly expression in BMDM treated as indicated. (O) shows one representative blot and (P) shows quantitation, averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(Q) Relative cellular ATP amounts in LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDMs +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pre-treatment (n=3).

Results in (B, D, E, G-I, K, L, N, P and Q) are averages \pm SD. *p<0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ns, not significant. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

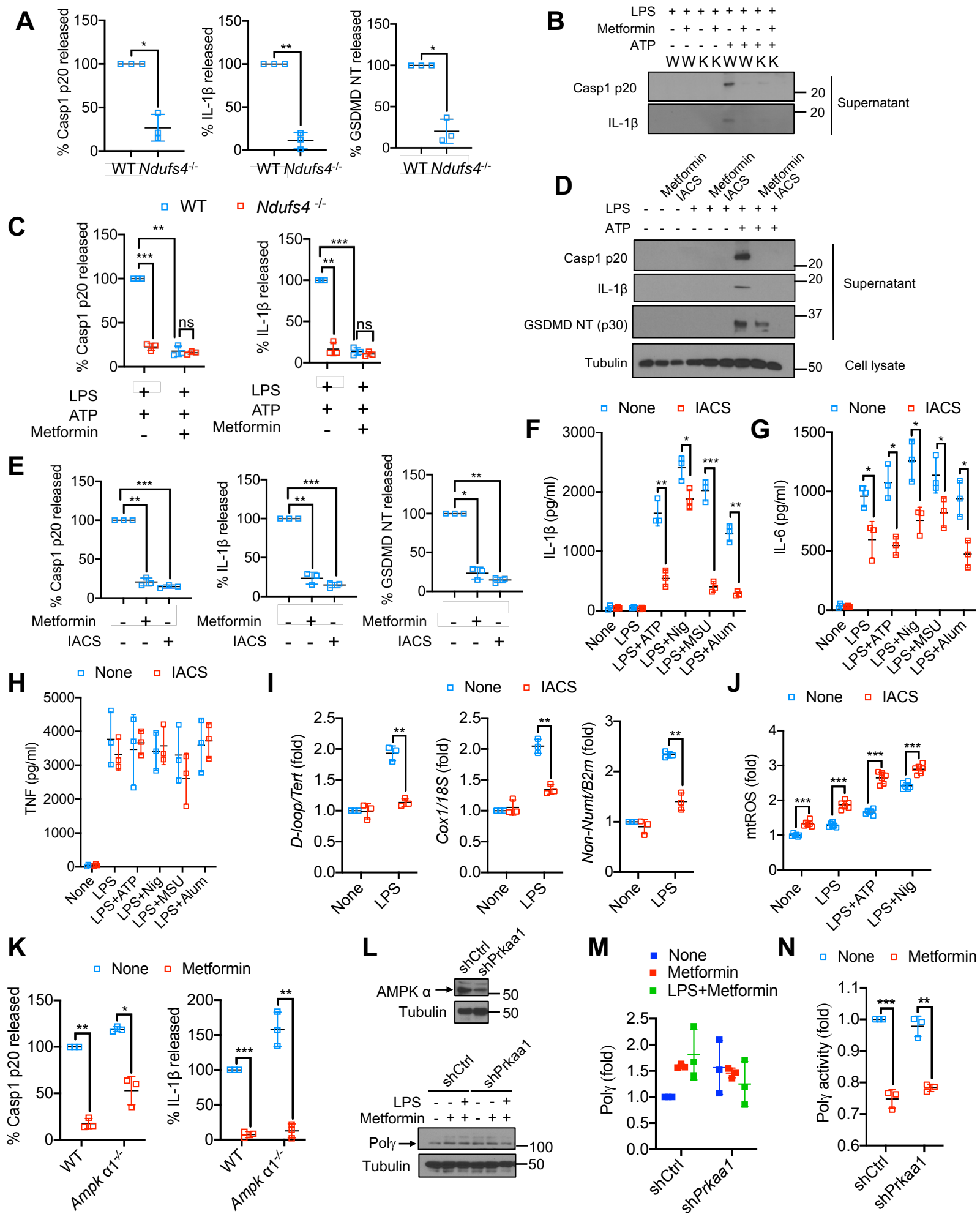
Figure S4

Figure S4. Metformin inhibits NLRP3 inflammasome activation independently of AMPK, related to Figure 4.

(A) Relative Casp1 p20, IL-1 β and GSDMD NT release by LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed wild type (WT) or *Ndufs4*^{-/-} BMDM stimulated with ATP (4 mM, 1hr), shown as in Figure 4A (n = 3).

(B, C) IB analysis of Casp1 p20 and mature IL-1 β in culture supernatants of LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed wild type (W) or *Ndufs4*^{-/-} (K) BMDM stimulated with ATP (4 mM, 1 hr), +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pretreatment. Representative IB of 3 independent experiments. (C) Quantitation of above results, averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(D, E) IB analysis of Casp1 p20, mature IL-1 β and cleaved gasdermin D (GSDMD NT (p30)) in culture supernatants, and tubulin in lysates of BMDM that were LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed and ATP (4 mM, 1 hr) challenged as indicated, +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) or IACS-010759 (20 μ M, 16 hrs) pretreatment. (E) Quantitation of above results, averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(F-H) IL-1 β (F), IL-6 (G) and TNF (H) secretion by BMDM pretreated +/- IACS-010759 (20 μ M, 16 hrs) that were left unstimulated or LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed and challenged with the indicated NLRP3 activators (n = 3).

(I) Relative total mtDNA amounts in LPS (200 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed BMDM +/- IACS-010759 (20 μ M, 16 hrs) pre-treatment. Shown are the ratios of *D-loop* mtDNA to *Tert* nuclear (n) DNA, *Cox1* mtDNA to *18S* nDNA, or mtDNA that is not inserted into nuclear DNA (*non-NUMT*) to *B2m* nDNA (n = 3).

(J) Relative mtROS amounts measured by MitoSOX staining of BMDM +/- IACS-010759 (20 μ M, 16 hrs) pretreatment that were left unstimulated or LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed and challenged with the indicated NLRP3 activators (n = 6).

(K) Relative Casp1 p20 and IL-1 β release by LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed wild type (WT) or *Ampk α 1*^{-/-} BMDM stimulated +/- ATP (4 mM, 1 hr), shown as in Figure 4C (n = 3).

(L, M) IB analysis of AMPK α 1/2 (top), POL γ (bottom) and tubulin in lysates of shCtrl and shPrkaa1 treated BMDM that were stimulated with LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs) +/- metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pretreatment. The top panel demonstrates knockdown efficiency. (M) Quantitation of POL γ expression, averages \pm SD (n = 3).

(N) Poly activity in lysates of LPS (100 ng/ml, 4 hrs)-primed shCtrl and shPrkaa1 BMDM with or without metformin (0.5 mM, 16 hrs) pretreatment (n = 3).

Results in (A, C, E-K, and M-N) are averages \pm SD. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ns, not significant. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

Figure S5

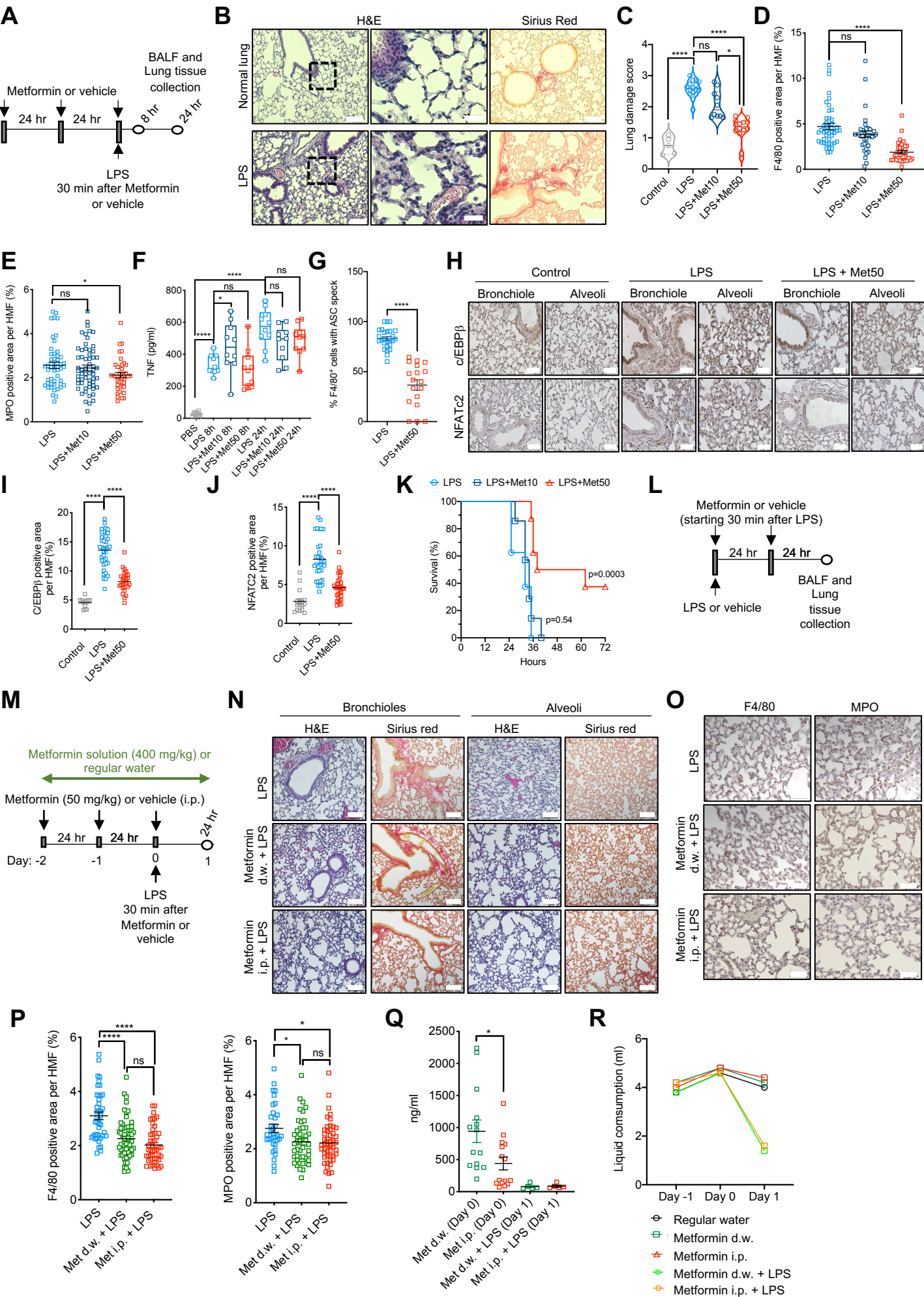


Figure S5. Metformin inhibits LPS-induced ARDS, related to Figure 5.

(A) Treatment and analysis scheme. Mice were i.p. injected with metformin (10 or 50 mg/kg), or vehicle daily for three days. LPS was i.p. injected 30 minutes after the last metformin injection. Lung tissue and BALF were collected 8 and 24 hrs after LPS administration.

(B) H&E and Sirius red staining of lung tissue isolated at the 24 hrs time point from control mice or mice i.p. injected with LPS (5 mg/kg). Scale bar 100 μm . Scale bar in highlighted area 20 μm . $n = 10$ mice per group. Ten to twelve images per mouse were evaluated. The figure shows a representative image for each group.

(C) The degree of lung damage and inflammation was blindly scored by two mouse lung pathology experts. The degree of lung damage and inflammation was assigned an arbitrary score of 0 (baseline, no inflammation, no airway thickening, no edema), 1 (minimal cellular infiltration, and minimal edema), 2 (mild-moderate cellular infiltration, plus mild airway thickening and mild edema), 3 (severe cellular infiltration, plus diffuse airway thickening and severe edema). The scores were averaged and are shown as average \pm SEM. $n = 10-16$ mice. * $p < 0.05$; **** $p < 0.001$; ns, not significant. All groups were compared to each other using ANOVA Kruskal-Wallis test.

(D-E) Area (in %) occupied by F4/80 stained macrophages (D), and MPO stained neutrophils (E), in lung sections from Figure 5B are shown as averages \pm SEM. $n = 4$ mice per group. Ten to twelve HMF per group were quantified using ImageJ. * $p < 0.05$; **** $p < 0.001$; ns, not significant. All groups were compared to each other using unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(F) TNF amounts in BALF from mice in Figure 5A measured by ELISA. $n = 10$ mice per group. * $p < 0.05$; **** $p < 0.001$; ns, not significant. Unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(G) Percentage of F4/80⁺ cells with ASC specks in lung sections from mice treated as in Figure 5E. Cells were quantified in 18-26 high magnification fields from 4-5 mice per group. Data are shown as average \pm SEM. **** $p < 0.001$. Unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(H) C/EBP β and NFATc2 staining of lung tissue isolated at the 24 hrs time point from control mice or mice i.p. injected with LPS (5 mg/kg). Scale bar 50 μm . $n = 5$ mice per

group. Ten to twelve images per mouse were evaluated. The figure shows a representative image for each group.

(I-J) Area (in %) occupied by C/EBP β (I), and NFATc2 staining (J), in lung sections from (H) are shown as averages \pm SEM. n = 3 mice per group. Ten to twelve HMF per group were quantified using ImageJ. ****p<0.001. All groups were compared to each other using unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(K) Kaplan Meyer survival analysis of mice pretreated with vehicle or metformin (10 and 50 mg/kg) and i.p. injected with LPS (30 mg/kg). n = 8 mice per group. Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test, p = 0.0003 LPS+Met50 vs LPS; p = 0.54 LPS+Met10 vs LPS.

(L) Treatment and analysis scheme of therapeutic administration of metformin. Mice were i.p. injected with 50 mg/kg metformin or vehicle daily for two days starting 30 minutes after i.p. injection of 5 mg/kg LPS. Lung tissue and BALF were collected 48 hrs after LPS administration.

(M) Treatment and analysis scheme for comparison the prophylactic i.p. versus oral administration of metformin. Metformin was provided to the mice in the drinking water (ad libitum at 400 mg/kg) or i.p. (daily at 50 mg/kg), starting two days before LPS challenge with 5 mg/kg. Lung tissue and plasma were collected 24 hrs after LPS administration.

(N) H&E and Sirius red staining of lung tissue collected from mice in (B). Scale bar 100 μ m. n = 8 mice per group. Ten to twelve images per mouse were evaluated. The figure shows a representative image for each group.

(O) Lung sections from mice in (N) were stained with F4/80 and MPO antibodies. Scale bar 50 μ m. n = 4 mice per group. Ten to twelve images per mouse were evaluated. The figure shows a representative image for each group.

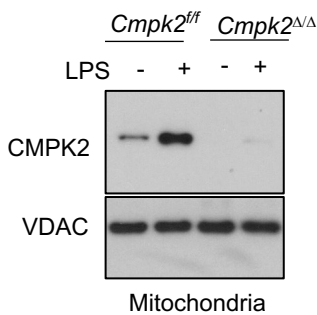
(P) Area (in %) occupied by F4/80 stained macrophages (left), and MPO stained neutrophils (right), in lung sections from (O) are shown as averages \pm SEM. n = 4 mice per group. Ten to twelve HMF per group were quantified using ImageJ. *p<0.05; ****p<0.001; ns, not significant. All groups were compared to each other using unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(Q) Metformin concentration in plasma from mice in (B) collected 1 hr after i.p. metformin on day 0 and 24 hrs after LPS challenge (day 1). n = 5-14 mice per group. * p < 0.05. Unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

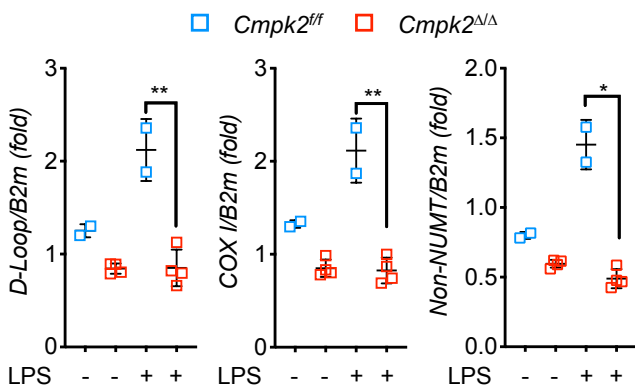
(R) Liquid consumption by mice in (N). Data are averages of 5 mice per group.

Figure S6

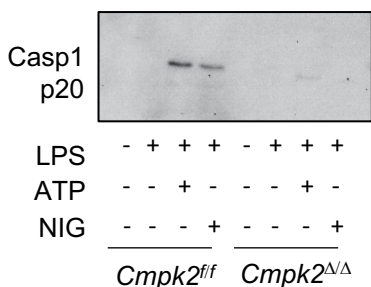
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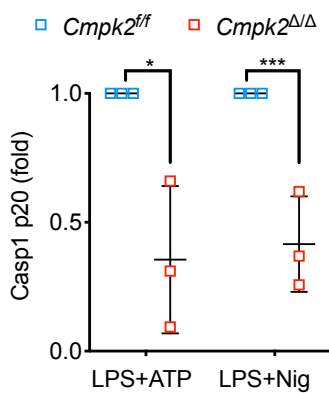
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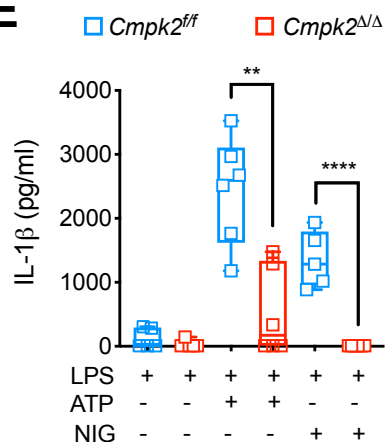
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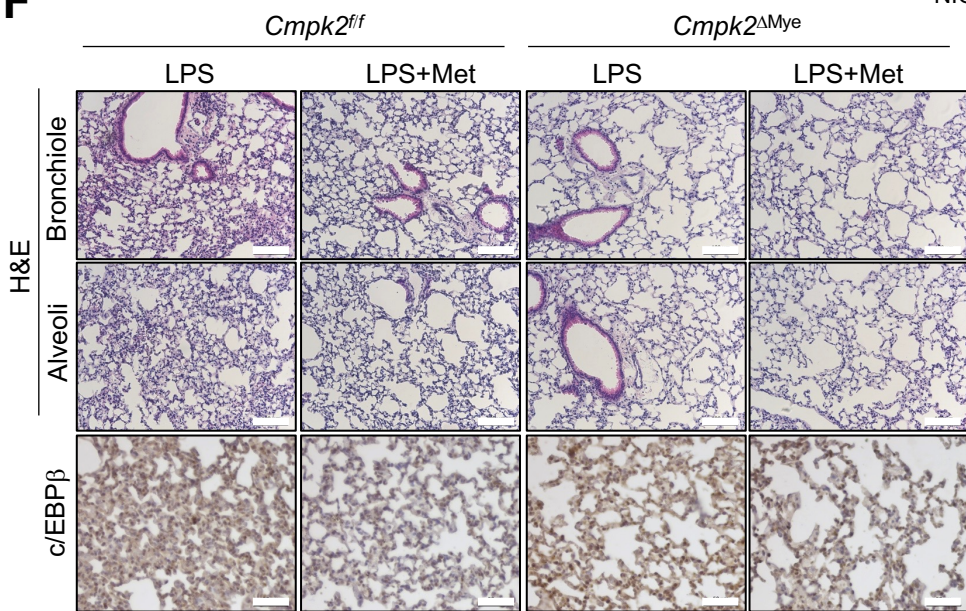
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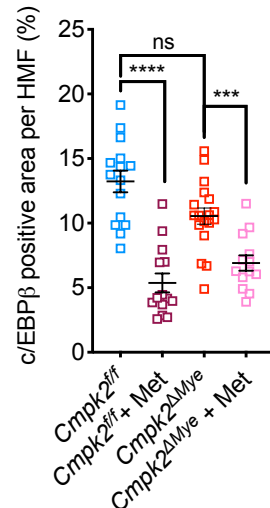
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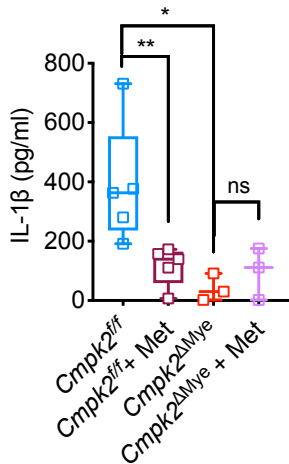
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I

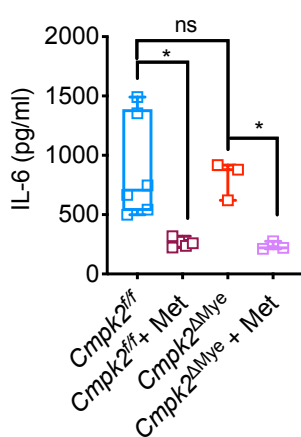


Figure S6. Myeloid specific CMPK2 ablation decreases IL-1 β but not IL-6 amounts in BALF, related to Figure 6.

(A) IB analysis of CMPK2 in mitochondria from BMDM isolated from *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Mye}* mice (*Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Δ}* , respectively), that were stimulated with LPS (200 ng/ml) for 4 hrs.

(B) Relative total mtDNA amounts *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Δ}* BMDM stimulated with LPS as above. Shown are the ratios of *D-loop* mtDNA, *Cox1* mtDNA, or mtDNA that is not inserted into nuclear DNA (*non-NUMT*) to *B2m* nDNA (n = 4). Results are averages \pm SD. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; Two-sided unpaired t-test.

(C-D) IB analysis of Casp1 p20 (C) and quantification (D) in culture supernatants of *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Δ}* BMDM that were LPS-primed and stimulated with ATP (4 mM) or nigericin (10 μ M) (n = 3). Results are average \pm SD.

(E) IL-1 β concentrations in culture supernatants of *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Δ}* BMDM treated as indicated in (C). Results are averages \pm SEM. **p < 0.01; ****p < 0.001. Two-sided unpaired t-test.

(F) H&E and c/EBP β staining of lung tissue collected from *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Mye}* mice pretreated with 50 mg/kg metformin daily starting 2 days before LPS challenge. Scale bar 100 μ m for H&E and 50 μ m for C/EBP β . n = 4 - 8 mice per group. Ten to twelve images per group were evaluated. The figure shows a representative image for each group.

(G) Area (in %) occupied by C/EBP β positive cells is shown as averages \pm SEM. n = 4 mice per group. Fifteen to twenty HMF images per group were quantified using ImageJ. ***p < 0.005; ****p < 0.001; ns, not significant. Unpaired T-test Mann-Whitney test.

(H-I) IL-1 β (H) and IL-6 (I) concentrations in bronchioalveolar lavage fluid from *Cmpk2^{ff}* and *Cmpk2 ^{Δ Mye}* mice pretreated with 50 mg/kg metformin or vehicle starting 2 days before i.p. LPS administration. n = 3 - 5 mice per group. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ns, not significant. Unpaired T-test Mann-Whitney test.

Figure S7

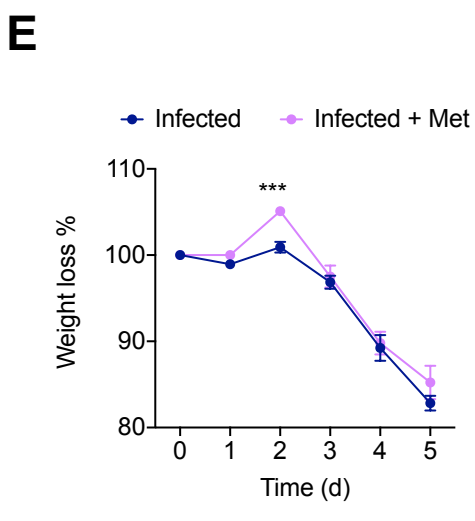
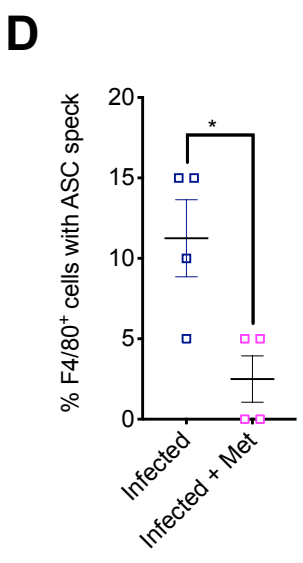
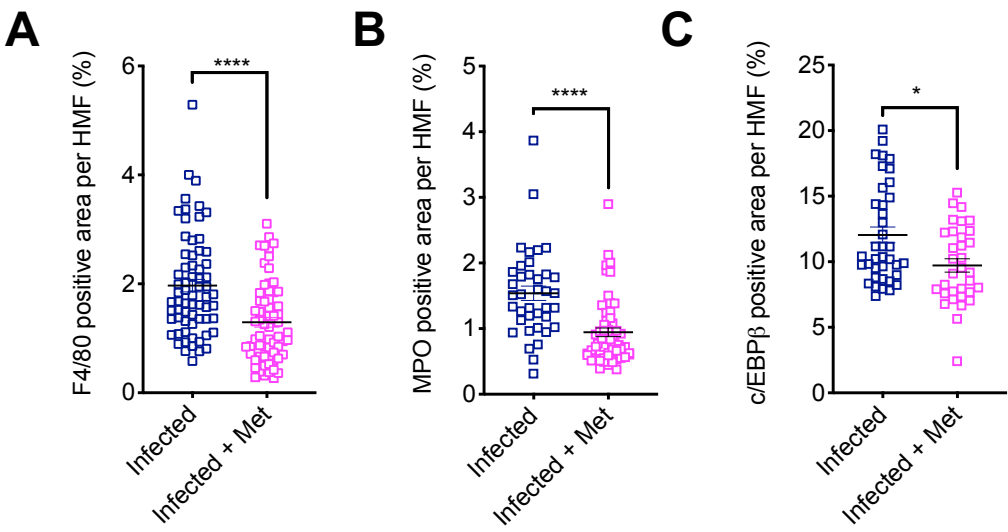


Figure S7. Metformin ameliorates ARDS induced by SARS-CoV-2 infection of hACE2 mice, related to Figure 7.

(A-C) Area (in %) occupied by F4/80 stained macrophages (A), MPO stained neutrophils (B), and c/EBP β positive cells (C), in lung sections from hACE2 Tg mice infected with SARS-CoV-2 (Figure 7F). Data are averages \pm SEM. n = 4 mice per group. Ten HMF per group were quantified using ImageJ. *p<0.05; ****p<0.001. Unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(D) Percentages of F4/80⁺ cells with ASC specks in lung sections from mice in Figure 7G. Cells were quantified in 8 high magnification fields from 4 mice per group. Data are shown as average \pm SEM. *p<0.05. Unpaired T-test and Mann-Whitney test.

(E) Percentage of weight loss during the course of SARS-CoV-2 infection (day 0 to day 5). n = 8 - 9 mice per group. ***p<0.005. Two-way ANOVA Sydak's multiple comparison test.