

Supplementary Information

A third vaccination with a single T cell epitope confers protection in a murine model of SARS-CoV-2 infection

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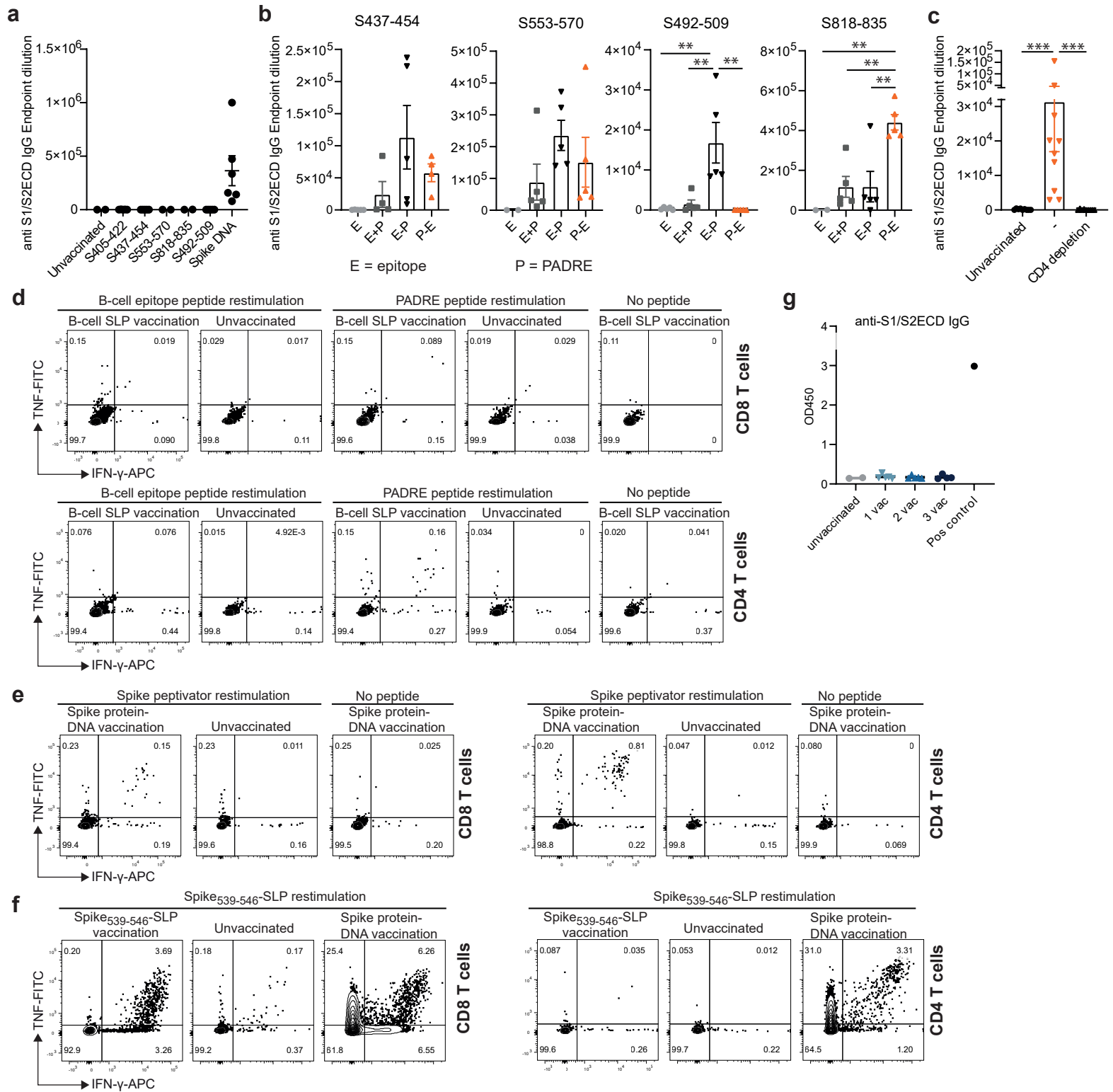
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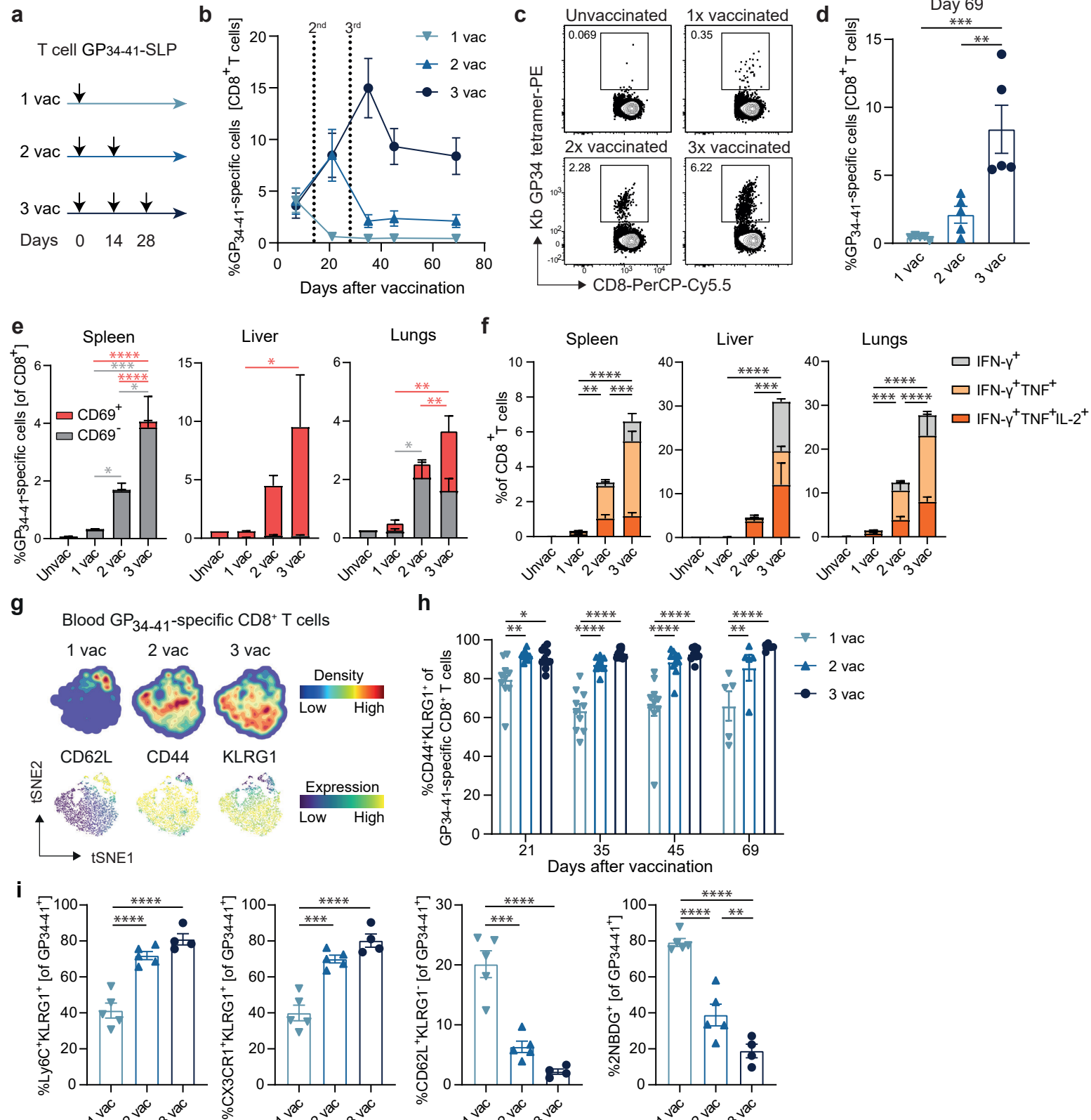
Supplementary References

Supplementary Figure 1



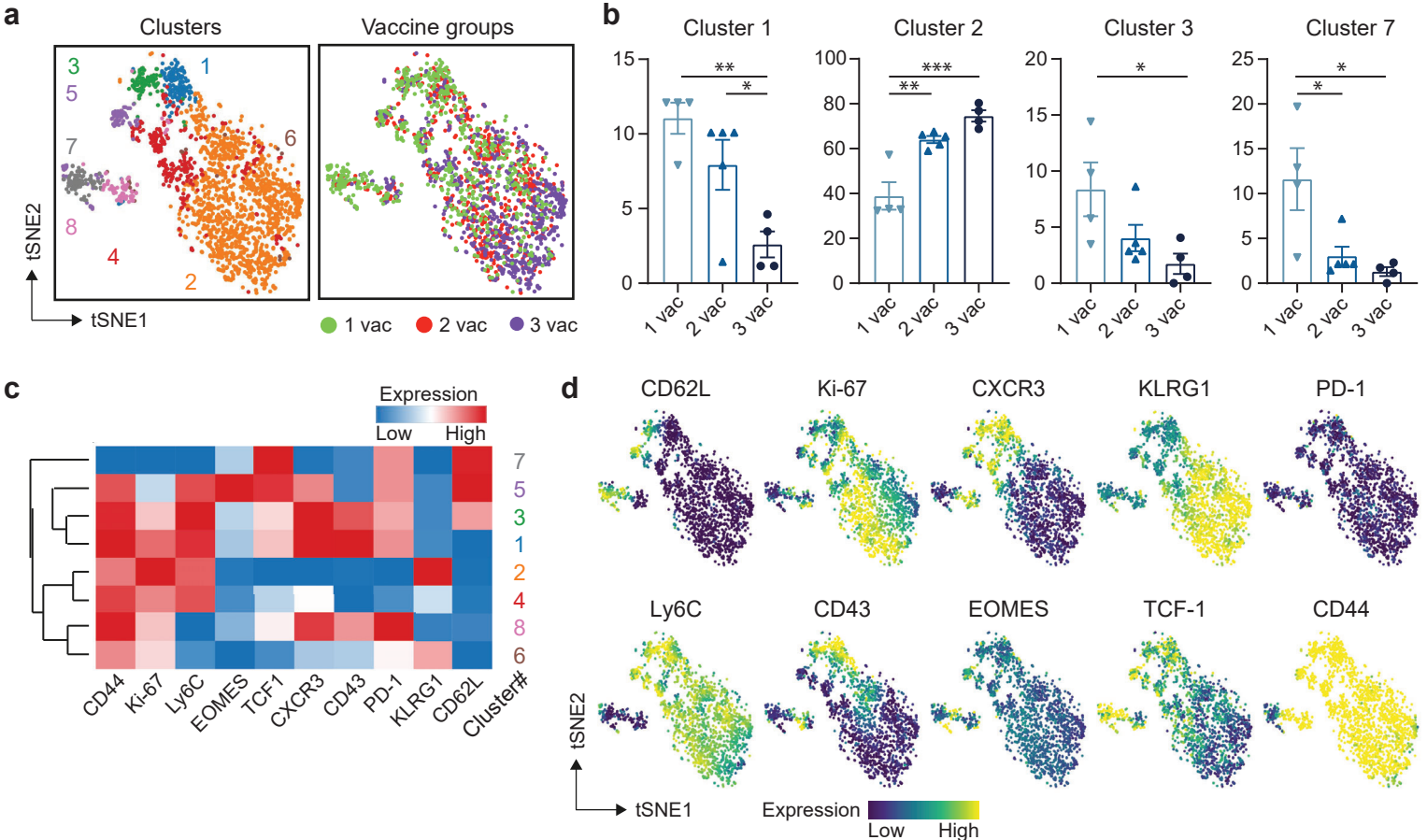
Supplementary Figure 1. Synthetic long peptide (SLP)-based vaccines containing a single B cell epitope require adjuvants to elicit antibodies. (a) C57BL/6 mice were subcutaneously vaccinated on day 0, day 14 and day 28 with SLPs containing linear B cell epitopes adjuvanted with CpG and Inactivated Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). Spike-specific IgG in blood was determined at day 42 after vaccination. Serum from a Spike protein-encoding DNA vaccinated animal was used as a positive control. Results are depicted as the endpoint dilution. Data represented as mean \pm SEM. S553-570, S818-835: n=2; S405-422, S437-454, S492-509: n=5; Spike DNA: n=6. (b) C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated as described in (a) with SLPs consisting of the B-cell epitope alone (E), the B cell epitope combined with the PADRE peptide (E+P) or C-terminal and N-Terminal PADRE-coupled linear B cell epitopes (E-P, P-E). Spike-specific IgG in blood at day 42 after vaccination. Results are depicted as the endpoint dilution. Data represented as mean \pm SEM. Symbols represent individual mice. S437-454: E, E-P: n=5; E+P, P-E: n=4. S553-570: E, n=2, other n=5. S492-509: n=5. S818-835: E, n=2, other n=5. $**P=0.006-0.0059$. One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test was performed to determine statistical significance. (c) Spike-specific IgG antibodies in blood at day 27 in unvaccinated mice and in CD4⁺ T cell depleted and proficient mice that were vaccinated with SLPs consisting of PADRE-coupled linear B cell epitopes adjuvanted with CpG and IFA. Results are depicted as the endpoint dilution. Data is represented as mean \pm SEM (n=10). $***P=0.001-0.008$. Kruskal-Wallis test with multiple comparisons was performed to determine significance. (d) Intracellular cytokine production (IFN- γ and TNF) of CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells in the spleen at day 35 after PADRE-coupled linear B cell epitope SLP vaccination adjuvanted with CpG and IFA. Splenocytes were restimulated with the SLPs containing linear B cell epitopes coupled to PADRE, the PADRE peptide alone or no peptide. (e) Intracellular cytokine production (IFN- γ and TNF) of splenic CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells at day 70 after Spike protein DNA vaccination. Splenocytes were restimulated with the S1 peptivator mix or no peptide. (f) Intracellular cytokine production of splenic CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells at day 35 after Spike₅₃₉₋₅₄₆ SLP vaccination or Spike protein DNA vaccination and re-stimulated with Spike₅₃₉₋₅₄₆-SLP. (g) OD450 values of Spike-specific IgG in blood at day 42 after either 1, 2 or 3 times vaccination with the Spike₅₃₉₋₅₄₆-SLP. Serum from a Spike-encoding DNA vaccinated animal was used as a positive control. Data represented as mean \pm SEM (n=5). Symbols represent individual mice. Source data are provided as Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 2



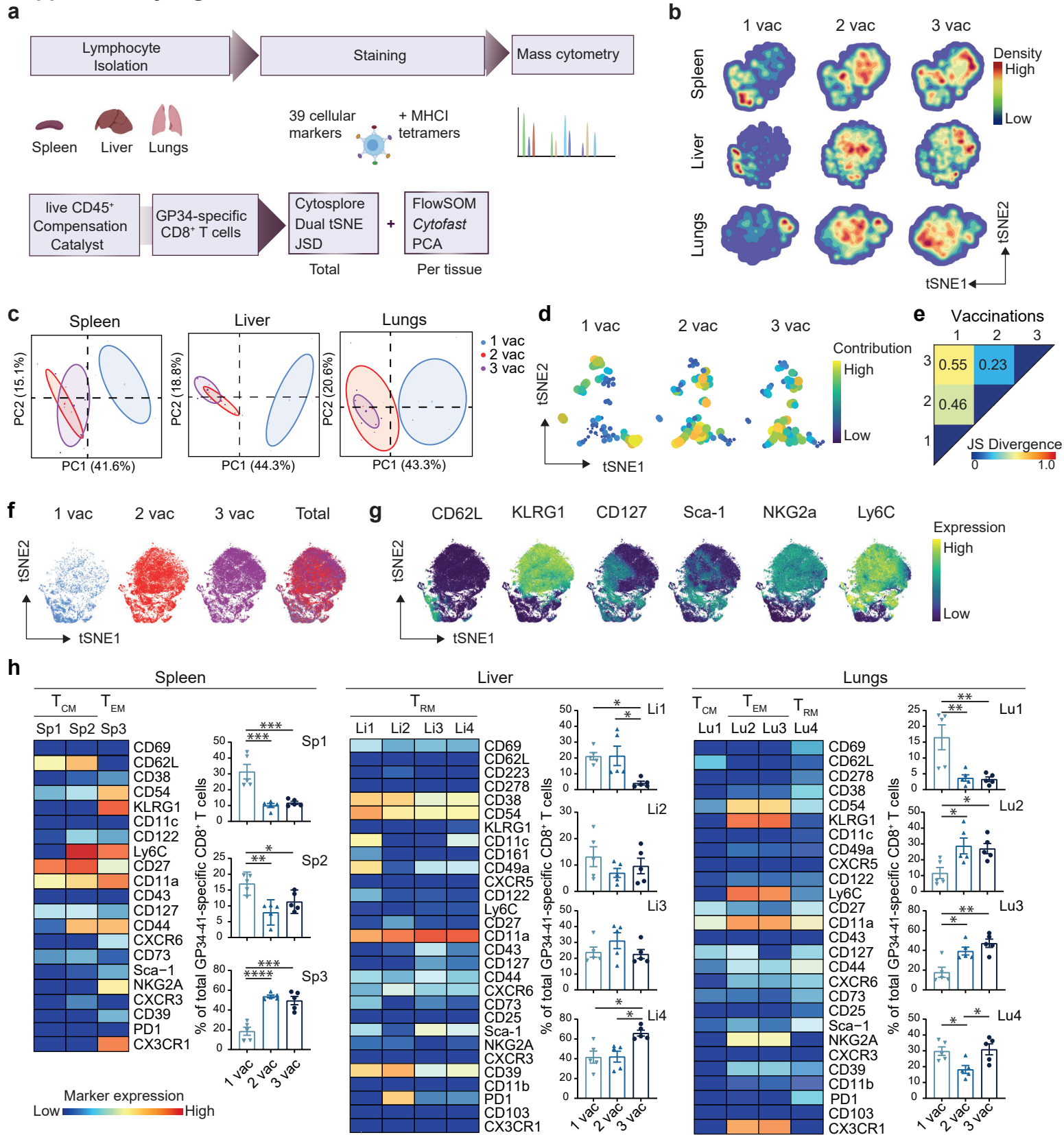
Supplementary Figure 2. A third vaccination with a single T cell epitope augments effector-memory and tissue-resident memory CD8⁺ T cell formation. (a) C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated with the GP34-41-SLP vaccine adjuvanted with CpG in a prime-boost-boost regimen with 2 week intervals. (b) GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cell kinetics in blood at indicated days after vaccination. Data represented as mean \pm SEM (n=5 per group). (c) Representative flow cytometry plots of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells determined by MHC class I tetramer staining. (d) GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells in blood at day 69 after vaccination. Data represented as mean \pm SEM (n=5 per group). Symbols represent individual mice. **P=0.0038, ***P=0.0006. (e) Frequencies of CD69⁺ and CD69⁻ GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells in the CD8⁺ T cell population in the spleen, liver and lungs at day 66 after 1, 2 or 3 SLP vaccinations. Data represented as mean + SEM (Spleen 1 vac, 2 vac: n=10, 3 vac: n=9; Liver/Lungs 1 vac, 2 vac: n=5, 3 vac: n=4). *P=0.037-0.0477, **P=0.0049-0.0097, ***P=0.0009, ****P=<0.0001. (f) Intracellular cytokine production of CD8⁺ T cells after restimulation with the GP34-41 peptide epitope on day 66 after SLP vaccination. Data represented as mean + SEM (Spleen 1 vac, 2 vac, n=10, 3 vac, n=9; Liver/Lungs 1 vac, 2 vac: n=5, 3 vac: n=4). **P=0.0043, ***P=0.003-0.005, ****P=<0.0001. (g) tSNE maps describing the local probability density of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells in the blood stained for CD62L, CD44, KLRG1 at day 71 after 1, 2 and 3 vaccinations. (h) Frequencies of CD44⁺KLRG1⁺ GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells in blood at indicated time points. Data represented as mean \pm SEM (Day 21, day 35 and day 45: n=10; Day 69: n=5). Symbols represent individual mice. *P=0.0124-0.0334, **P=0.0011-0.0033, ****P=<0.0001. (i) Cell surface marker (Ly6C⁺KLRG1⁺, CX3CR1⁺KLRG1⁺ and CD62L⁺KLRG1⁺) expression and 2-NBDG uptake of splenic GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells at day 66 post SLP vaccination. Data represented as mean \pm SEM (1 vac, 2 vac: n=5; 3 vac: n=4). Symbols represent individual mice. **P=0.024, ***P=0.001-0.002, ****P=<0.0001. One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test for (d-f, h, i). Source data are provided as Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 3



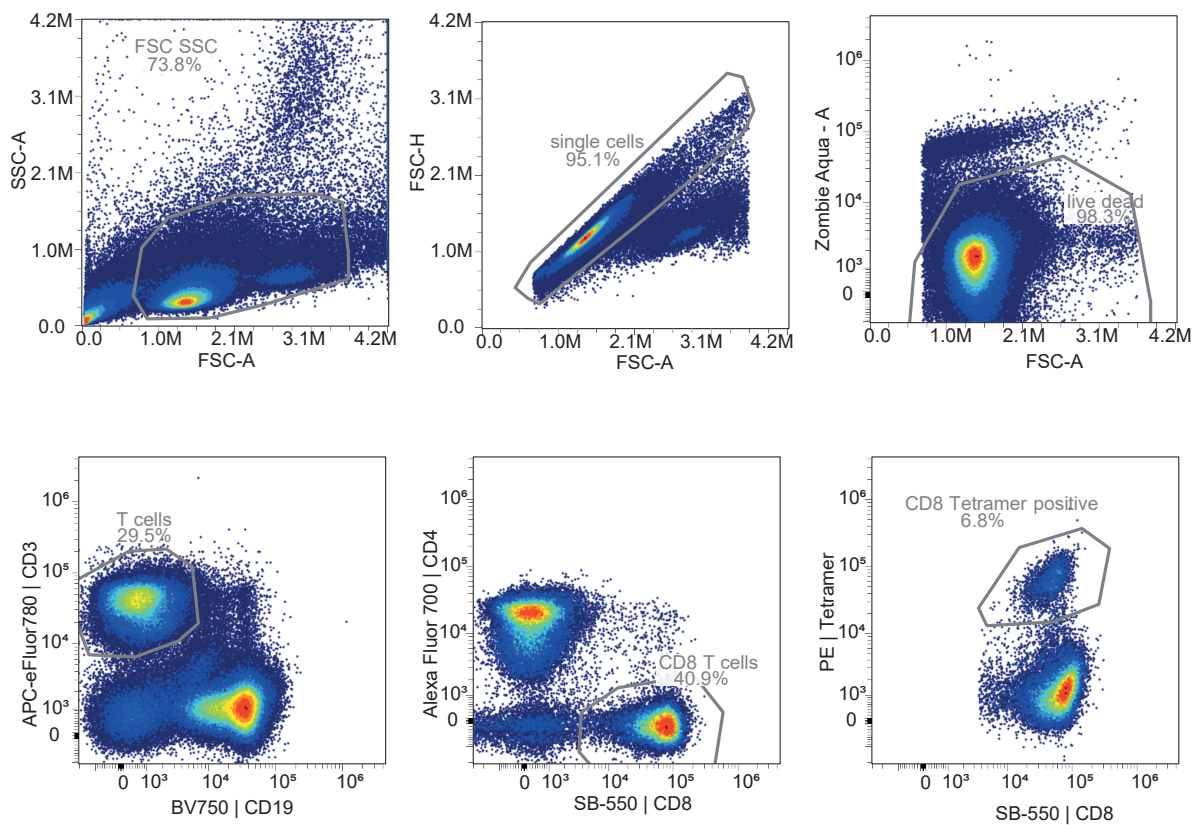
Supplementary Figure 3. Progressive differentiation of vaccine-specific CD8+ T cells after booster vaccination. C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated subcutaneously on day 0 (1st vaccination), day 14 (2nd vaccination) and day 28 (3rd vaccination) with the GP34-41-SLP vaccine adjuvanted with CpG. Following downsampling tSNE analysis, FlowSOM consensus metaclustering with 8 clusters analysis was performed on 695 live CD3⁺CD8⁺CD4⁺CD19⁻ Spike539-546 tetramer⁺ cells per group harvested at day 66 after SLP vaccination. Overlay of (a) the 8 FlowSOM clusters and vaccination status on the tSNE-map. (b) Significant clusters were selected and shown in bar graphs. Data represented as mean ± SEM. Symbols represent individual mice. 1 vac; 2 vac, n=5. 3 vac, n=4. *P=0.0132-0.0428, **P=0.0015-0.0043, ***P=0.0002. One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test was performed to determine statistical significance. (c) Hierarchically clustered heatmap of phenotypes of the clusters shown in (A) – the indicated marker expression is shown per cluster as z-Score of median signal intensity per channel; blue, low expression; red, high expression. (d) Expression intensity of cell surface markers (color indication: blue, low expression; yellow, high expression). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 4



Supplementary Figure 4. Booster vaccination impacts the differentiation of vaccine-specific CD8⁺ T cells system-wide. (a) Schematic of the mass cytometric analysis of lymphocytes isolated from spleen, liver, and lungs. (b) tSNE maps describing the local probability density of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells in spleen, liver and lungs stained at day 71 after 1, 2 and 3 vaccinations with the mass cytometry panel. (c) Principal Component Analysis illustrating the phenotypic dissimilarity of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells per tissue upon multiple vaccinations. (d) tSNE maps showing GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cell clusters per vaccination. Clusters with similar composition profiles across samples end up close together in the map. The varying dot size and color in this cluster tSNE map shows the average cluster normalized frequencies per vaccination group. (e) Pairwise Jensen-Shannon Divergence plots of the tSNE map obtained from all samples of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells grouped by vaccinations. (f) tSNE embedding of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells isolated from vaccinated mice and multiple tissues in one analysis. Cells are color coded per vaccination. (g) Expression intensity of the cell-surface markers on the GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cells. The color of the cells indicates ArcSinh5-transformed expression values for a given marker analyzed. (h) Heat maps of GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T cell clusters in the spleen, liver and lungs of mice that received multiple vaccinations. Clusters were selected based on their significant difference and categorized into T_{CM}, T_{EM} and T_{RM} subsets. Bar graphs indicate the average percentage (± SEM, n=5) of each cluster within the GP34-41-specific CD8⁺ T-cell population elicited by 1, 2 and 3 vaccinations. Symbols represent individual mice. Spleen: *P=0.0302, **P=0.0014, ***P=0.0001-0.0009, ****P<0.0001; Liver: *P=0.0133-0.0217; Lungs: *P=0.0239-0.0440, **P=0.0015-0.0065. One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test was performed to determine statistical significance. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 5



Supplementary Figure 5. Flow cytometry gating strategies. Representative plots show the gating strategy for detecting MHC class I tetramer positive cells depicted. In this sequential gating, cells were first gated on lymphocytes (forward-scatter (FSC-A) vs. side-scatter (SSC-A)) and then on singlets (FSC-A vs. FSC-H). The cells were next analysed for their uptake of Zombie Aqua to exclude dead cells, followed by their expression of CD3 and CD8. Finally, MHC class I tetramer positive cells were gated on the live CD3⁺CD8⁺ T-cell population.

Table S1. Synthetic long peptides

X = cyclohexylalanine, u = d-Ala, B = amide

PADRE	AKXVAAWTLKAuB
Spike ₅₅₃₋₅₇₀	TESNKKFLPFQQFGRDIA
Spike ₅₅₃₋₅₇₀ -PADRE	TESNKKFLPFQQFGRDIAAKXVAAWTLKAuB
PADRE-Spike ₅₅₃₋₅₇₀	AKXVAAWTLKAuTESNKKFLPFQQFGRDIA
Spike ₈₁₈₋₈₃₅	PSKPSKRSFIEDLLFNKV
Spike ₈₁₈₋₈₃₅ -PADRE	PSKPSKRSFIEDLLFNKVAKXVAAWTLKAuB
PADRE-Spike ₈₁₈₋₈₃₅	AKXVAAWTLKAuPSKPSKRSFIEDLLFNKV
Spike ₄₀₅₋₄₂₂	DEVQRQIAPGQTGKIADYN
Spike ₄₀₅₋₄₂₂ -PADRE	DEVQRQIAPGQTGKIADYNAKXVAAWTLKAuB
PADRE-Spike ₄₀₅₋₄₂₂	AKXVAAWTLKAuDEVQRQIAPGQTGKIADYN
Spike ₄₃₇₋₄₅₄	NSNNLDSKVGGNYNLYR
Spike ₄₃₇₋₄₅₄ -PADRE	NSNNLDSKVGGNYNLYRAKXVAAWTLKAuB
PADRE-Spike ₄₃₇₋₄₅₄	AKXVAAWTLKAuNSNNLDSKVGGNYNLYR
Spike ₄₉₂₋₅₀₉	LQSYGFQPTNGVGYQPYPYR
Spike ₄₉₂₋₅₀₉ -PADRE	LQSYGFQPTNGVGYQPYPYRAKXVAAWTLKAuB
PADRE-Spike ₄₉₂₋₅₀₉	AKXVAAWTLKAuLQSYGFQPTNGVGYQPYPYR
Spike ₅₃₉₋₅₄₆	IKNQCVNFNFNGLTGTGVLTESNK
GP ₃₄₋₄₁	KAVYNFATCGIFALIS
OVA	SMLVLLPDEVSGLEQLESIIINFEKLTWTS

Table S2. Flow Cytometry antibodies and MHC tetramers

Antibody	Fluorophore	Clone	Supplier	Catalogue number	Dilution
CD3	APC-eF780	17A2	Thermofisher	47-0032-82	1:100
CD3	PE	145-2C11	Thermofisher	12-0031-83	1:200
CD4	FITC	RM4-4	Thermofisher	11-0043-85	1:400
KLRG1	PE-Cy7	2F1	Thermofisher	25-5893-82	1:100
KLRG1	BV785	2F1	Biolegend	138429	1:100
IFN γ	APC	XMG1.2	Thermofisher	17-7311-82	1:400
CD3	BV510	145-2C11	BD Biosciences	563024	1:150
CD69	BV711	H1.2F3	BD Biosciences	104537	1:100
PD-1	BUV615	J43	BD Biosciences	752299	1:100
TCF1	AF647	S33-966	BD Biosciences	566693	1:100
CD4	AF700	RM4-5	BioLegend	100536	1:400
CD8a	BV605	53-6.7,	BioLegend	100743	1:1000
CD8a	SparkBlue550	53-6.7	Biolegend	100779	1:400
CD38	PE	90	Thermofisher	12-0381-81	1:200
CD44	BV786	IM7	BioLegend	103059	1:100
CD44	PacB	IM7	Biolegend	103019	1:200
CD44	APC-Cy7	IM7	BD Biosciences	560568	1:600
CD62L	BV421	MEL-14	BioLegend	104435	1:300
CD62L	BUV395	MEL-14	BD Biosciences	740218	1:1600
CD62L	BV510	MEL-14	Biolegend	104441	1:800
CX3CR1	BV785	SA011F11	BioLegend	149029	1:1600
Ly6C	FITC	HK1.4	BioLegend	128006	1:50
Ly6C	PacB	HK1.4	Biolegend	128013	1:600
TNF	FITC	MP6-XT22	BioLegend	506304	1:1000

Ki-67	BV605	16A8	BioLegend	652413	1:800
CXCR3	BV650	CXCR3-173	BioLegend	126531	1:150
CD19	BV750	6D5	BioLegend	115561	1:300
CD43	PerCP-Cy5.5	1B11	BioLegend	121223	1:200
Zombie Aqua	BV510	-	BioLegend	423101	1:800
Eomes	PE-Cy7	Dan11mag	Invitrogen	25-4875-82	1:100
CD3	FITC	145-2C11	Thermofisher	11-0031-85	1:100
IL-2	PE	JES6-5H4	Thermofisher	12-7021-82	1:200
MHC Tetramer	Fluorophore	Peptide	Supplier	Dilution	
MHC class I H2-Kb tetramer SARS-CoV-2 Spike ₅₃₉₋₅₄₆	APC	VNFNFNGL	LUMC Tetramer Facility	1:100	
MHC class I H2-Kb tetramer LCMV GP ₃₄₋₄₁	PE	AVYNFATC	LUMC Tetramer Facility	1:200	
MHC class I H2-Kb tetramer Ovalbumin OVA ₂₅₇₋₂₆₄	APC	SIINFEKL	LUMC Tetramer Facility	1:400	
MHC class II I-A(b) tetramer PADRE	PE	AKFVAAWTLKAA	NIH Tetramer Core Facility	1:200	

Table S3. CyTOF Mass Cytometry Panel. Anti-mouse monoclonal antibodies used for staining of cells for mass cytometry analysis. Antibodies were either purchased pre-conjugated, or antibodies were conjugated to the indicated lanthanide metal isotopes.

Antibody	Clone	Metal	Pre-conjugated	Company	Cat no	Cat no metal (Fluidigm)
Anti-PE	PE001	165 Ho	x	Fluidigm	3165015B	
Anti-APC	APC003	176 Yb	x	Fluidigm	3176007B	
CD3e	145-2C11	172 Yb		eBioscience	14-0031-86	201172A
CD4	RM4-5	145 Nd	x	Fluidigm	3145002B	
CD8a	53-6.7	168 Er	x	Fluidigm	3168003B	
CD8b	YTS156.7.7	194 Pt		BioLegend	126602	201194
CD11a	M17/4	160 Gd		eBioscience	16-0111-82	201160A
CD11b	M1/70	154 Sm	x	Fluidigm	3154006B	
CD11c	N418	167 Er		eBioscience	14-0114-85	201167A
CD19	6D5	Qdot655: 112/114 Cd	x	ThermoFisher	Q10379	
CD25	3C7	150 Nd	x	Fluidigm	3150002B	
CD27	LG.3A10	158 Gd		eBioscience	14-0272-82	201158A
CD38	90	163 Dy		eBioscience	14-0381-85	201163A
CD39	24DMS1	152 Sm		eBioscience	14-0391-82	201152A
CD43	1B11	115 In		BioLegend	121202	
CD44	IM7	142 Nd		eBioscience	14-0441-86	201142A
CD45	30-F11	89Y	x	Fluidigm	3089005B	
CD49a	Ha31/8	151 Eu		BD Biosciences	555001	201151A
CD54	YN1/1.7.4	164 Dy		BioLegend	116102	201164A
CD62L	MEL-14	169 Tm		BioLegend	104443	201169A
CD69	H1.2F3	143 Nd	x	Fluidigm	3143004B	
CD73	TY/23	148 Nd		BD Biosciences	550738	201148A
CD86	GL1	171 Yb		eBioscience	14-0862-85	201171A
CD103	2.E7	173 Yb		eBioscience	14-1031-85	201173A
CD122	TM-b1	155 Gd		eBioscience	14-1222-85	201155A
CD127	A7R34	175 Lu	x	Fluidigm	3175006B	
CD160	7H1	209 Bi		BioLegend	143002	
CD161	PK136	170 Er	x	Fluidigm	3170002B	
CD223	eBioC9B7W	161 Dy		eBioscience	14-2231-85	201161A
CD278	7E.17G9	162 Dy		eBioscience	14-9942-85	201162A
CX3CR1	SA011F11	174 Yb		BioLegend	149002	201174A
CXCR3	CXCR3-173	149 Sm		eBioscience	16-1831-85	201149A
CXCR5	L138D7	153 Eu		BioLegend	145502	201153A
CXCR6	SA051D1	144 Nd		BioLegend	151102	201144A
FR4	TH6	198 Pt		BioLegend	125102	201198
KLRG1	2F1	166 Er		eBioscience	16-5893-85	201166A
Ly6C	HK1.4	156 Gd		eBioscience	16-5932-85	201156A
NKG2A	20d5	147 Sm		eBioscience	16-5896-85	201147A
PD-1	29F.1A12	159 Tb	x	Fluidigm	3159024B	
Sca-1	D7	141 Pr		BioLegend	108135	201141A
TCRgd	eBioGL3	146 Nd		eBioscience	14-5711-85	201146A

Supplementary Methods

Mass cytometry and analysis.

Metal-conjugated antibodies were either purchased from Fluidigm or were generated by conjugation of lanthanide metal isotopes to anti-mouse antibodies using the Maxpar X8 Polymer method according to the manufacturer's protocol (Fluidigm). Cisplatin 194 and 198 and Bismuth 209 were conjugated to anti-mouse monoclonal antibodies using protocols previously described (1, 2). All in-house conjugated antibodies were diluted to 0.5 mg/ml in antibody stabilizer supplemented with 0.05% sodium azide (Candor Biosciences). Serial dilution staining was performed on mouse lymphocytes to determine appropriate antibody dilution.

The CyTOF staining was performed as described elsewhere (3). In brief, around 3×10^6 cells per sample were stained for CyTOF analysis. First, cells were stained in FACS buffer with PE and APC labelled tetramers and incubated for 30 minutes on ice. Cells were washed with Maxpar Cell Staining buffer (201068, Fluidigm) and subsequently incubated for 20 minutes with 1 μ M Interchaloator-Rh (201103A, Fluidigm) in staining buffer. Next, aspecific binding was prevented by incubating cells with Fc blocking solution and mouse serum for 15 minutes. Anti-PE and anti-APC were added and incubated for 45 minutes. The antibody mix was added and incubated for an additional 45 minutes. After washing the cells, samples were incubated overnight with 25nM Interchaloator-Ir (201192A, Fluidigm) in Maxpar Fix and Perm Buffer (201067, Fluidigm). Cells were pelleted in staining buffer and measured within one week. Before measuring, EQ™ Four Element Calibration Beads (201078, Fluidigm) were added in a 1:10 ratio. Mass cytometry data analysis focused on the antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cells. For the selection, we set our gating strategy to live single cells, positive for CD45, and excluded reference beads. The live CD45⁺ gated files were compensated using Catalyst (4). Subsequently, MHC class I tetramer-specific CD8⁺ T cells were selected in FlowJo for subsequent analysis. Next, marker expression was ArcSinh5 transformed and subjected to dimensionality reduction analyses and cluster identification using Cytosplore (5) or FlowSOM (6). For Cytosplore analysis, samples were analysed by hierarchical stochastic neighbor embedding (HSNE) (7) based on approximated t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (A-tSNE) (8). The similarity between tSNE maps was quantified using the Jensen-Shannon (JS) divergence as previously described (3). The JS divergence values ranged from 0 (indicating identical distributions) to 1 (indicating disjoint distributions). The dual tSNE analysis was performed to quantify the individual samples similarity based on the clusters composition as previously described (3, 9). FlowSOM was used for the identification of vaccination and tissue-specific clusters. Using FlowSOM, 14 clusters were identified per analysis. Subsequently, Cytofast (10, 11) was used for visualization and quantification of cell clusters. T_{RM} (CD62L⁻ CD69⁺), T_{CM} (CD62L⁺ CD69⁻) and T_{EM} (CD62L⁻ CD69⁻) CD8⁺ T cell clusters were selected by expression of CD62L and CD69. Visualization of heatmaps and selection of clusters based on the size of the cluster (abundance of at least >5% of total) and significance was performed as previously described (3).

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