# **Supplementary Information**





# Supplementary Fig. 1, related to Fig. 1.

**a**, Spearman's correlation between SPHK1 expression and MSigDB hallmark pathways across 33 cancer types. **b**, Spearman's correlation between SPHK1 expression and anti-tumor immune cells. **c-f**, Spearman's correlation between SPHK1 expression and ratio of anti-tumor and suppressive immune cells (**c-e**), and the fraction of significantly correlation (**f**). Color of dots represent the correlation. Blackmark represents the significance (Spearman's correlation test, p < 0.05). Color of bar plots and pie charts represent the count and fraction of significant correlation. Blue represents a significantly negative correlation (NEG), red represents a significantly positive correlation (NS).





## Supplementary Fig. 2, related to Fig. 2.

**a-e,** Representative profiles of fluorescence-activated cell sorting of CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**a**), CD3<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**b**), CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> in CD3<sup>+</sup> cells (**c**), GZMB<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> TILs (**d**), and PD-L1 on CD45<sup>-</sup> cells (**e**) from B16F10. **f-g**, Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) of PD-1<sup>+</sup>CD45<sup>+</sup> cells from B16F10 plots (**f**) and quantification (**g**). **h-i**, FACS analysis of CD25<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>+</sup> in CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells plots (**h**) and quantification (**i**). **j-k**, FACS analysis of Gr-1<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells plots (**j**) and quantification (**k**). Data represent mean ± SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, and \*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**g**, **i**, **k**).









## melanoma tumor growth in vivo.

**a**, Schematic diagram illustrating the treatment protocol of CTLA-4 mAb or/ and PF543 in B16F10 cells constructed mice model. At the endpoint, tumor cells were isolated for analysis. **b**, Image of B16F10 tumors, as captured on the twelfth day. **c**, Summary tumor volume data harvested on the twelfth day. See also Supplementary Tables 3-4. **d-e**, B16F10 tumor volume (**d**) and body weight (**e**) were measured at the indicated time points. **f-m**, FACS quantification of CD3<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**f**), CD8<sup>+</sup> (**g**), GZMB<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> (**h**) in CD3<sup>+</sup> cells, CD25<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>+</sup> in CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (**i**), MHC class II<sup>+</sup>CD206<sup>-</sup> in CD11b<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells (**j**), CD206<sup>+</sup>MHC class II<sup>-</sup> in CD11b<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells (**k**), Gr-1<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**l**) and plots (**m**). 5 mice per cohort. Data represent mean ± SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*p < 0.01, and \*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**c**, **f-l**).





#### B16F10 in vitro.

**a**, Representative Western blot analysis of B16F10 cell line treated with increasing concentrations of PF543 (25  $\mu$ M, 50  $\mu$ M) for 24 hours under IFN- $\gamma$  exposure. **b**, Bar graph presenting the quantitative analysis of PD-L1 protein expression data from (**a**). **c**, Bar diagram presentation of PD-L1 mRNA levels as determined by qRT-PCR of increasing concentrations of PF543 treatment for 24 hours under IFN- $\gamma$  exposure (n = 3). The plot (**b**) was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean ± SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, as determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**b**, **c**).



Supplementary Fig. 5 Dose-response to PF543 in melanoma cell lines.

SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 melanoma cells were treated with DMSO or different concentrations of PF543 for 24 hours. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM. IC50, half maximal

inhibitory concentration.



Supplementary Fig. 6 SPHK1 inhibitor PF543 leads to the suppression of tumor growth and correlates with the expression of tumor PD-L1 *in vitro*.

**a-c,** PD-L1 expression in SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 cells treated with PF543 (concentrations based on dose-response analysis, see also Supplementary Fig. 5) and IFN- $\gamma$  (200 ng/mL) for 24 hours was analyzed by western blot (**a**) and quantification (**b**), or by RT-PCR (**c**; n = 3). The plot (**b**) was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **d**, Representative profiles of flow cytometric analysis of PD-L1<sup>+</sup> membrane expression. **e**, Quantitative analysis of membrane PD-L1 of melanoma cell lines by mean fluorescence intensity (MFI). **f**, T cell-mediated tumor cell killing assay, SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 cells treated with PF543 or DMSO co-cultured with activated T cells for 24 hours. The viability of tumor cells was analyzed with CCK8 assays (n = 4). Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test (**b**, **c**, **e**) and two-way ANOVA (**f**).



Supplementary Fig. 7, related to Fig. 4.

**a-b,** SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 melanoma cells were transfected with siSPHK1 or scrambled negative control siRNA. SPHK1, MTA3, c-Myc, or PD-L1 expression was analyzed by western blot (**a**) and RT-PCR (**b**; n = 3). The plot (**a**) was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, as determined by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test.



Supplementary Fig. 8 SPHK1-MTA3 axis regulated PD-L1 expression levels in vitro.

**a-c,** Melanoma cells were transfected with siMTA3 or scrambled negative control siRNA. MTA3, c-Myc, or PD-L1 expression were visualized and analyzed by western blot (**a**) and quantification (**b**), or by RT-PCR (**c**; n = 3). The plot (**b**) was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **d-e**, SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 cells overexpressing MTA3 were transfected with sic-Myc or scrambled negative control siRNA. MTA3, c-Myc, or PD-L1 expression was visualized by western blot (**d**) and quantification (**e**). The plot (**e**) was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **f**, Melanoma cells overexpressing SPHK1 were transfected with siMTA3 or scrambled negative

control si*RNA*, SPHK1, MTA3, c-Myc, or PD-L1 expression was analyzed by western blot. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test (**b**, **c**) and Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**e**).





SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28, and A375 cells overexpressing SPHK1 were transfected with si*MTA3* or scrambled negative control si*RNA*. SPHK1, MTA3, c-Myc, or PD-L1 protein levels were analyzed based on western blot. The plot was generated from three independent experiments and showed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by Tukey's multiple comparisons test.





Supplementary Fig. 10, related to Fig. 5.

**a**, Representative profiles of fluorescence-activated cell sorting of PD-L1 on CD45<sup>-</sup> subsets, CD3<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells, CD8<sup>+</sup> in CD3<sup>+</sup> cells, and GZMB<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> TILs from B16F10. **b-f**, Representative profiles and quantification of fluorescence-activated cell sorting of CD206<sup>-</sup> MHC class II<sup>+</sup> (**c**) or CD206<sup>+</sup>MHC class II<sup>-</sup> (**d**) in CD11b<sup>+</sup>Gr-1<sup>+</sup> cells, PD-1 on CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**e**), and PD-1<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> cells (**f**) from B16F10. **g-j**, Gating strategies and quantification of fluorescence-activated cell sorting of Gr-1<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> in CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (**g**, **h**) and CD25<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>+</sup> in CD4<sup>+</sup> cells (**i**, **j**) from B16F10. **k**, Representative images displaying the individual markers from Fig. 5j. 5 mice per cohort. Data represent mean ± SEM. ns, non-significant, p > 0.05, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, and \*\*\*\*p < 0.001, as determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**c-f**, **h**, **j**).







#### Supplementary Fig. 11, related to Figure 6.

**a**, Heat map showing the differential gene expression by calculating average z-scores in a total of 28 melanoma patients respond (R, n = 14) or nonrespond (NR, n = 12) to anti-PD-1 therapies. NA, not available (n = 2). **b-c**, Kaplan–Meier estimates for overall survival of SKCM patients from TCGA database. Patients were subdivided according to the treatment (**b**) without or (**c**) with immunotherapies and stratified into two groups: low MTA3 expression (bottom 35%) and high MTA3 expression (the other). Significance was determined by the Log-rank test. **d-e**, Representative images displaying the individual markers together with the DAPI nuclear marker from No.13, No.18, No.19 cases (**d**) and No.1, No.10, No.17 cases (**e**). **f**, Kaplan–Meier survival curves of melanoma patients' progression-free survival. Patients were stratified into two groups by median expression of c-Myc. Significance was determined by the Log-rank test.

			Days		
	0	2	4	6	8
PF543 (5 mg/kg) vs Vehicle	0.9065	0.6168	0.0516	0.0051	0.0071
PF543 (10 mg/kg) vs Vehicle	0.9299	0.4507	0.0091	0.0007	0.0001
PF543 (10 mg/kg) vs PF543 (5 mg/kg)	0.7209	0.9584	0.7446	0.3253	0.0050

Supplementary Table 1, related to Fig.2 Summary of the pairwise comparison *p* values at each time point.

**Supplementary Table 2, related to Fig.2** Summary of a mixed-effect model fitting. The tumor volume data were Log<sub>2</sub>-transformed before fitting. The vehicle was set as the reference group. The significant interaction effects between days and treatments suggest that the treatment functions as a higher anti-tumor efficacy as time goes versus the vehicle group.

	Estimates	SEM	Р
Days	0.49	0.19	0.014
Body weight	-0.19	0.26	0.48
PF543 (5 mg/kg)	0.27	0.19	0.163
PF543 (10 mg/kg)	0.02	0.13	0.87
Days: PF543 (5 mg/kg)	1.20	0.19	2.90×10 <sup>-7</sup>
Days: PF543 (10 mg/kg)	0.43	0.17	0.019

Supplementary Table 3, related to Supplementary Fig. 3 Summary of the pairwise comparison *p* values at each time point.

		Days		
0	3	6	9	12

Vehicle+CTLA-4 mAb vs Vehicle+IgG2b	0.9587	0.9061	0.0165	0.0105	0.0002
PF543+IgG2b vs Vehicle+IgG2b	0.8686	0.4527	0.0029	0.0606	0.0117
PF543+CTLA-4 mAb vs Vehicle+IgG2b	0.9947	0.1181	0.0017	0.0003	< 0.0001
PF543+CTLA-4 mAb vs Vehicle+CTLA-4 mAb	0.8730	0.3878	0.7127	0.4453	0.0152
PF543+CTLA-4 mAb vs PF543+IgG2b	>0.9999	0.9193	0.9749	0.0824	0.0017

**Supplementary Table 4, related to Supplementary Fig. 3** Summary of a mixed-effect model fitting. The tumor volume data were Log<sub>2</sub>-transformed before fitting. The PF543+CTLA-4 mAb was set as the reference group.

	Estimates	SEM	Р
Days	0.701	0.348	0.024
Body weight	0.902	0.610	0.150
Vehicle+IgG2b	0.675	0.664	0.319
PF543+IgG2b	0.329	0.644	0.960
Vehicle+CTLA-4 mAb	-0.838	0.577	0.157
Days: Vehicle+IgG2b	-0.084	0.071	0.245
Days: PF543+IgG2b	-0.016	0.069	-0.822
Days: Vehicle+CTLA-4 mAb	0.146	0.067	0.038

# Supplementary Table 5, related to Fig.3.

Table summary of differentially expressed genes based on RNA sequencing analyses.

Symbol	Log(FC)	Log(CPM)	LR	FDR	Р
MYBL2	-0.80	7.07	260.49	9.70×10 <sup>-57</sup>	1.34×10 <sup>-58</sup>
E2F1	-0.77	4.72	138.33	1.91×10 <sup>-30</sup>	6.17×10 <sup>-32</sup>

UBTF	-0.51	6.69	135.44	7.98×10 <sup>-30</sup>	2.64×10 <sup>-31</sup>
GATA3	-0.50	2.74	20.22	2.89×10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.91×10 <sup>-6</sup>
STAT5A	-0.37	4.68	35.18	2.00×10 <sup>-8</sup>	3.01×10 <sup>-9</sup>
NFATC1	-0.31	3.39	9.85	4.58×10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.70×10 <sup>-3</sup>
MTA3	-0.30	4.58	17.23	1.24×10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.30×10 <sup>-5</sup>
SMAD1	-0.28	3.36	8.59	8.52×10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.38×10 <sup>-3</sup>

FC=fold change, CPM=count-per-million, LR=likelihood ratio, FDR=false discovery rate.

### Supplementary Table 6, related to Fig.4.

Correlation analyses among PD-L1, c-Myc, SPHK1 and MTA3 expression levels in melanoma patients. Samples were divided into two groups based on the median gene expression. For all of the expected values in cells that were greater than 5, p values were computed using Chi-square tests. Statistical significance was considered with p < 0.05.

			MTA3	c-Myc						MTA3		
		High	Low	N	High	Low	Ν			High	Low	Ν
	High	33	12	45	28	17	45		High	35	10	45
SPHK1	Low	12	33	45	17	28	45	PD-L1	Low	10	35	45
	Ν	45	45	90	45	45	90		Ν	45	45	90
		Pears	Pearson $\chi^2 = 19.600$ , $n \le 0.0001$		Pearson $\chi^2 = 5.378$ ,		Pearson $\chi^2 = 5.378$ ,			Pears	on $\chi^2 = 27$	.778, 1

Supplementary Table 7, related to Fig.5 Summary of the pairwise comparison p values at

each time point.

	Days					
	0	2	5	8	11	13
B16F10+PD-1 mAb vs B16F10+IgG2a	0.8526	0.9844	>0.9999	0.9860	0.9903	0.9919

B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +PD-1 mAb vs B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a	0.9996	>0.9999	0.9924	>0.9999	0.6295	0.1929
B16F10 <sup>SPHK1-OE</sup> +PD-1 mAb vs B16F10 <sup>SPHK1-OE</sup> + IgG2a	>0.9999	0.9993	0.6802	0.1843	0.0008	< 0.0001
B16F10 <sup>SPHK1-OE</sup> +PD-1 mAb vs B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +PD-1 mAb	0.4904	0.8589	0.9964	>0.9999	0.9998	>0.9999
B16F10 <sup>SPHK1-OE</sup> + IgG2a vs B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a	0.8157	0.9867	0.9316	0.3011	0.1716	0.0106
B16F10 <sup>MTA3-OE</sup> +PD-1 mAb vs B16F10 <sup>MTA3-OE</sup> + IgG2a	0.9984	0.9995	0.9338	0.3801	0.0134	0.0001
B16F10 <sup>MTA3-OE</sup> +PD-1 mAb vs B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +PD-1 mAb	0.7571	0.9746	>0.9999	>0.9999	0.9990	>0.9999
B16F10 <sup>MTA3-OE</sup> + IgG2a vs B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a	>0.9999	0.7315	0.9817	0.7063	0.7516	0.2053

**Supplementary Table 8, related to Fig.5** Summary of a mixed-effect model fitting. The tumor volume data were Log<sub>2</sub>-transformed before fitting. The SPHK1-OE+PD-1 mAb or MTA3-OE+PD-1 mAb was set as the reference group.

	Estimates	SEM	Р		Estimates	SEM	Р
Days	-0.116	0.571	0.008	Days	0.269	0.295	0.009
Body weight	0.858	0.105	0.421	Body weight	0.247	0.462	0.958
B16F10+IgG2a	0.033	0.707	0.963	B16F10+IgG2a	0.266	0.334	0.431
B16F10+PD-1 mAb	1.041	0.855	0.231	B16F10+PD-1 mAb	-0.110	0.404	0.787
B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a	-0.358	0.866	0.682	B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a	-0.322	0.405	0.431
B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +PD-1 mAb	-0.577	1.47	0.697	B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +PD-1 mAb	-1.15	0.625	0.074
B16F10 <sup>SPHK10E</sup>	-1.13	0.906	0.220	B16F10 <sup>MTA3OE</sup>	0.078	0.406	0.849
+IgG2a				+IgG2a			
Days: B16F10+IgG2a	-0.026	0.061	0.669	Days: B16F10+IgG2a	-0.110	0.029	0.034
Days: B16F10	0.099	0.080	0.221	Days: B16F10	-0.004	0.038	0.909
+PD-1 mAb				+PD-1 mAb			
Days:	0.041	0.083	0.621	Days:	0.016	0.039	0.686

B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a				B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup> +IgG2a					
Days: B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup>	0.050	0.154	0.748	Days: B16F10 <sup>CTL</sup>	-0.021	0.021	0.031		
+PD-1 mAb				+PD-1 mAb					
Days:	0.114	0.782	0.153	Days:	-0.001	0.037	0.984		
B16F10 <sup>SPHK10E</sup> +IgG2a				B16F10 <sup>MTA3OE</sup> +IgG2a					

Supplementary Table 9, related to Fig. 6 Clinicopathologic characteristics of PD-1 mAb

therapy cohorts.

No.	Age	Sex	TNM Stage	Clinical Stage	Response	PS score	PFS (days)	Metastatic site	Adverse effect	
1	66	Female	T2aN1M0	IIIA	NR	1	93	Inguinal lymph nodes	None	
2	53	Female	T4aNxM1c	IV	NR	1	186	Neck, axilla and inguinal lymph nodes, abdominal cavity, peritoneum, lung	None	
3	38	Female	T3aN2bM0	IIIB	R	1	558 <sup>+</sup>	Axillary, subclavian, and elbow fossa lymph nodes	None	
4	75	Female	T3bN3M0	IIIC	NR	1	62	Axillary lymph nodes	None	
5	46	Female	T2bN2cM0	III	NR	1	124	Popliteal lymph nodes	None	
6	35	Female	TxN2M1	IV	R	1	527	Liver, bone, brain, inguinal lymph nodes	None	
7	56	Female	T4bN3cM1c	IV	R	1	124+	Inguinal and retroperitoneal lymph nodes	Low cortisol	
8	56	Female	T1bN1aM0	IIIA	R	1	124+	Inguinal lymph node	Low cortisol	
9	70	Female	T4bN2bM1a	IV	NR	1	186	Neck and inguinal lymph nodes	None	
10	71	Male	T3bN3M1a	IV	NR	1	217	Inguinal lymph nodes, left leg skin	None	
11	46	Male	T4bN0M1	IV	NR	1	155	Lung	None	
12	37	Female	T1aN1aM0	IIIA	R	1	124+	Popliteal lymph node	White blood cell decreased	
13	58	Female	T4bN1aM0	IIIB	R	1	124+	Inguinal lymph node	None	
14	68	Male	T3bN1aM0	IIIA	R	1	124+	Inguinal lymph node	Transient mania, psychosis	

15	11	Female	T4aN2bM0	IIIB	R	1	124+	Inguinal lymph nodes	None
16	68	Female	T3bN2bM1c	IV	R	1	93 <sup>+</sup>	Inguinal lymph nodes, lung	Nausea, vomiting
17	64	Female	TxN2M0	IIIA	NR	1	62	Inguinal lymph nodes	None
18	64	Female	T4bN1aM0	IIIB	R	1	124+	Inguinal lymph node	Skin ulceration, ACTH increased
19	50	Male	T4bN0M0	IIC	R	1	124+	None	None

TNM stage based on the 8th Edition Melanoma Stage Classification. PS, Performance Status; PFS, progressionfree survival; OS, overall survival. ACTH=adrenocorticotropic hormone. All patients were treated with PD-1 monoclonal antibody after surgical resection of primary lesions, and those with recurrence or metastasis  $\leq 6$ months were considered as nonresponders (NR), while those without recurrence or metastasis longer than 6 months were considered as responders (R).

Supplementary Table 10, related to Fig. 6 Association analyses between PD-L1 and SPHK1 or MTA3 expression levels in melanoma patients. For the expected values in cells that were less than 5, P values were computed using Fisher's exact tests. Statistical significance was considered with p < 0.05.

			SPHK1		MTA3		
		High	Low	Ν	High	Low	Ν
	High	9	1	10	7	3	10
PD-L1	Low	1	8	9	1	8	9
	Ν	10	9	19	8	11	19
		<i>p</i> =	= 9.85×1(	)-4	<i>p</i> =	= 5.48×10	)-3