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Supplementary information for

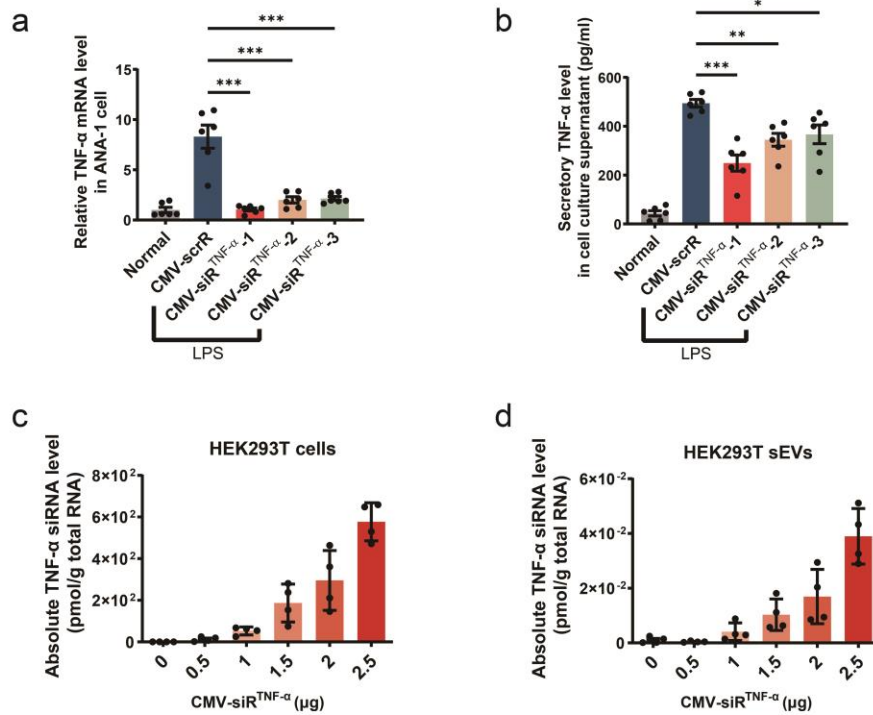
***In vivo* self-assembled siRNA as a modality for combination
therapy of ulcerative colitis**

(Xinyan Zhou *et al.*)

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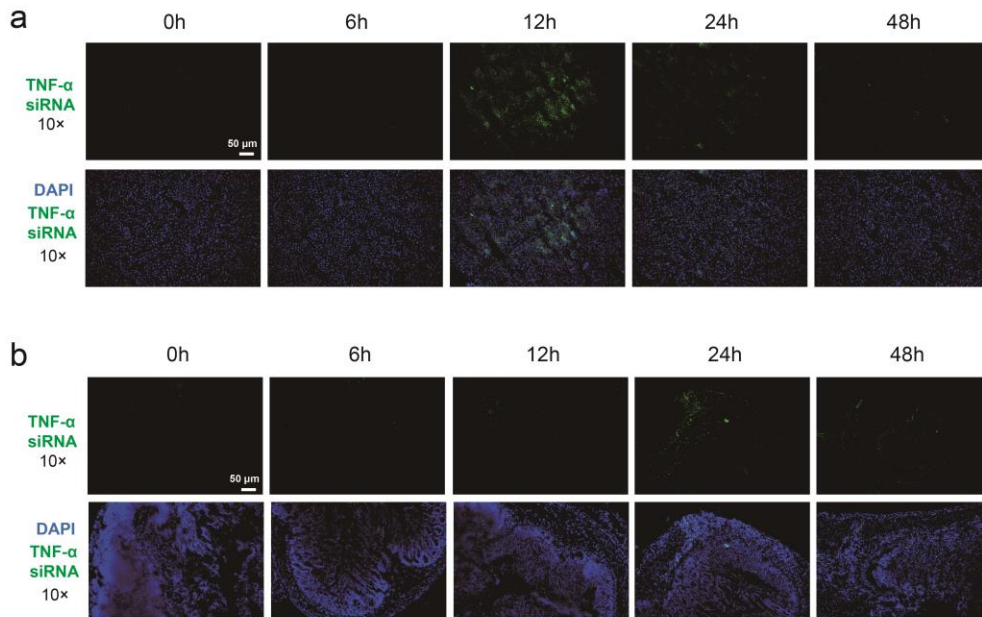
Supplementary Figure 1 to Supplementary Figure 28

Supplementary Table 1 to Supplementary Table 3



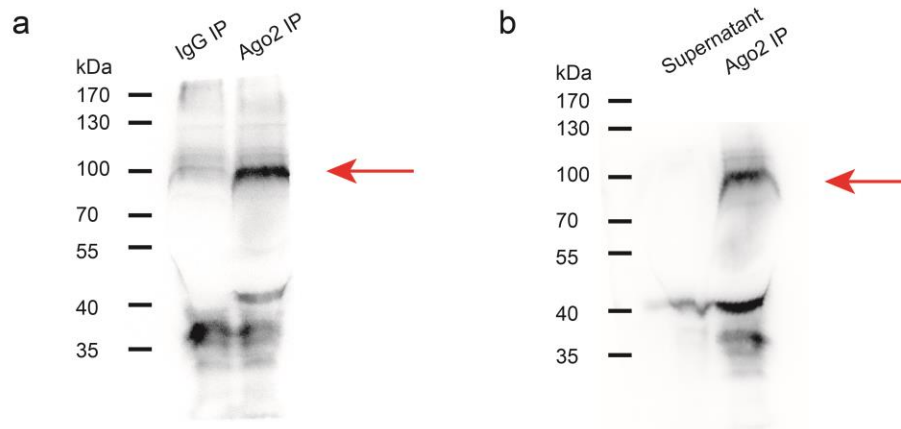
19
20 **Supplementary Figure 1. Characterisation of the genetic circuits *in vitro*.** (a) ANA-1 cells were
21 transfected with CMV-scrR or three CMV-siR^{TNF-α} circuits. At 24 hours posttransfection, ANA-1
22 cells were treated with LPS to stimulate an inflammatory response, and quantitative RT-PCR
23 analysis was performed to measure TNF-α mRNA levels at 48 hours posttransfection (n = 6 in each
24 group). Untreated cells were used as normal controls. (b) Determination of the levels of secretory
25 TNF-α protein in cell culture supernatant by ELISA (n = 6 in each group). (c) Quantitative RT-
26 PCR analysis of TNF-α siRNA levels in HEK293T cells transfected with increasing dose of CMV-
27 siR^{TNF-α} circuit (n = 4 in each group). (d) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of TNF-α siRNA levels in
28 the sEVs derived from the culture medium of HEK293T cells transfected with increasing dose of
29 CMV-siR^{TNF-α} circuit (n = 4 in each group). Values are presented as the mean ± SEM. Significance
30 was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05;
31 ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

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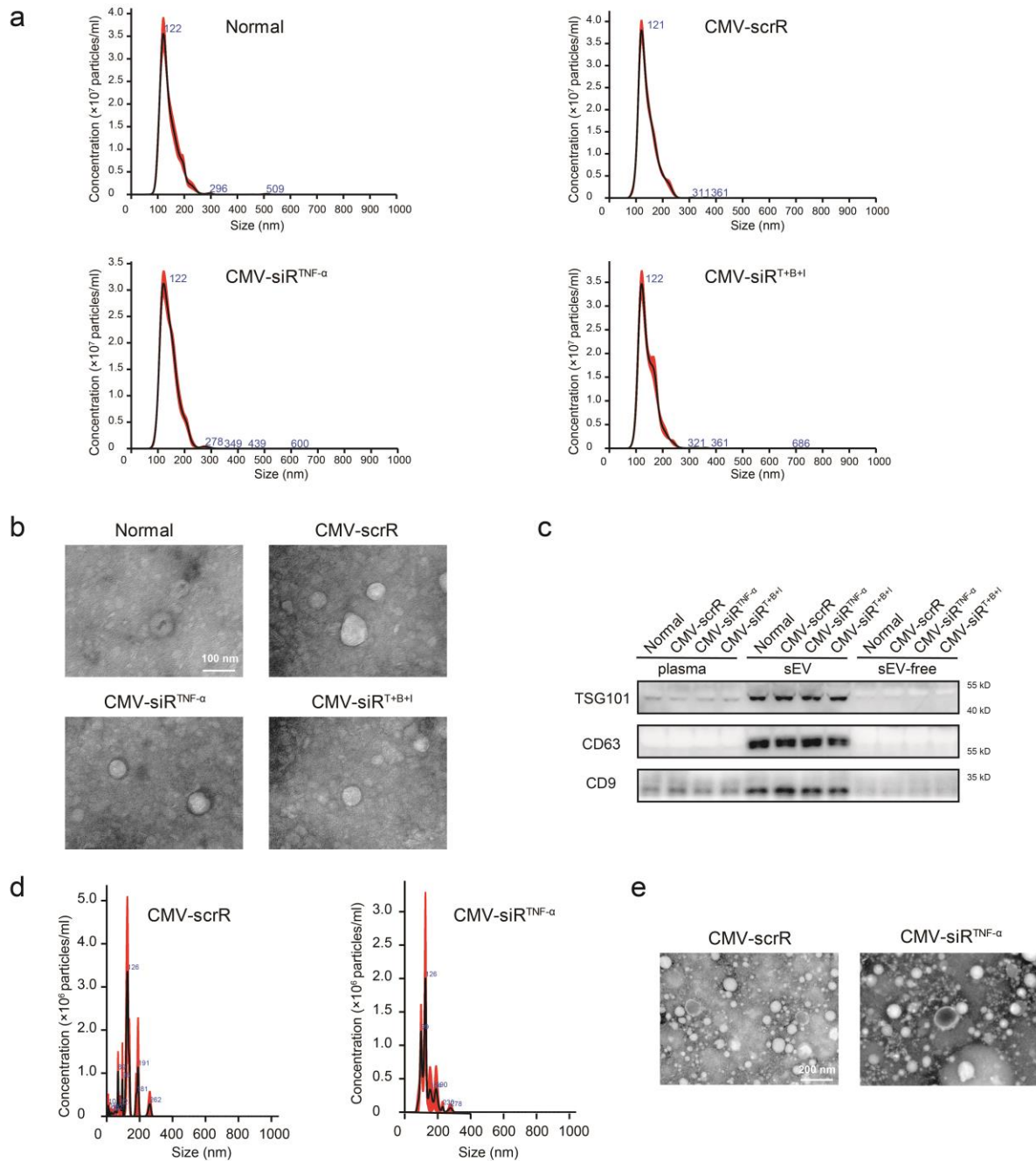
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 37 **Supplementary Figure 2. Tracking and visualisation of TNF-α siRNA *in vivo*.** (a and b) *In situ*
 38 detection of TNF-α siRNA in liver (a) and colon (b) sections of DSS mice at 0, 6, 12, 24 or 48
 39 hours after injection with the CMV-siR^{TNF-α} circuit. Positive *in situ* hybridisation signals are shown
 40 in green, and DAPI-stained nuclei are shown in blue. Scale bar: 50 μm. Each *in situ* hybridisation
 41 was repeated independently three times, and representative images are shown.

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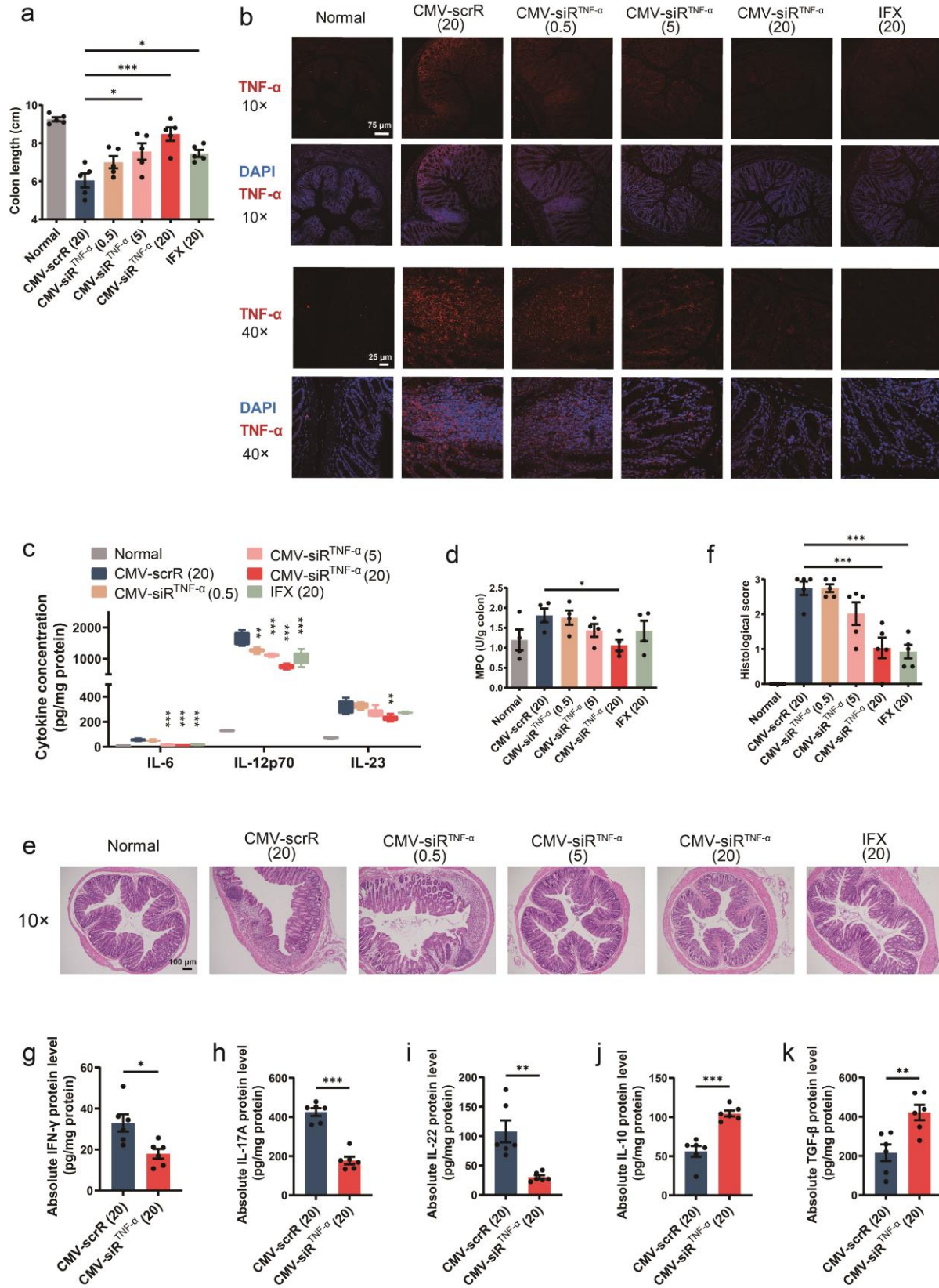
50
 51 **Supplementary Figure 3. Western blots probed with an anti-Ago2 antibody to assess the Ago2**
 52 **associated with the captured beads following Ago2 immunoprecipitation.** Bead-conjugated
 53 anti-Ago2 antibody was incubated with the plasma of CMV-scrR circuit- or CMV-siR^{TNF- α} circuit-
 54 injected mice under native conditions. The beads were separated by centrifuging and processed for
 55 protein extraction and subsequent Western blotting using a rabbit anti-Ago2 antibody. Total protein
 56 extracted from the supernatant was also subjected to Western blot analysis to determine the
 57 amounts of Ago2. The IgG antibody was used as a negative control. **(a)** Red arrow indicating an
 58 Ago2 band at ~97 kDa in the Ago2 immunoprecipitates but not in the IgG immunoprecipitates. **(b)**
 59 Red arrow indicating an Ago2 band at ~97 kDa in the Ago2 immunoprecipitates but not in the
 60 supernatant. Each immunoprecipitation was repeated independently three times, and representative
 61 images are shown.

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66 **Supplementary Figure 4. Characterisation of the properties of siRNA-encapsulating sEVs.**
67 BALB/c mice were intravenously injected with 5 mg/kg CMV-scrR, CMV-siR^{TNF-α} or CMV-
68 siR^{T+B+I} circuit every day for a total of 7 times, and sEVs were then purified by using commercially
69 available kit (a-c) or density gradient centrifugation (d and e) from mouse plasma and characterised
70 using NTA and TEM. The enrichment of sEV markers was analysed by Western blotting. sEVs
71 derived from untreated BALB/c mice were included as normal controls. **(a)** Size distribution and

72 concentration of purified sEVs determined by NTA. **(b)** Representative TEM images of sEVs.
73 Scale bar: 100 nm. **(c)** Western blot analysis of specific sEV markers (TSG101, CD63 and CD9)
74 in whole plasma, purified sEVs and sEV-free plasma. An equal amount of total protein was loaded
75 in each lane. **(d)** Size distribution and concentration of purified sEVs determined by NTA. **(e)**
76 Representative TEM images of sEVs. Scale bar: 100 nm. Each experiment was repeated
77 independently three times, and representative results are shown.
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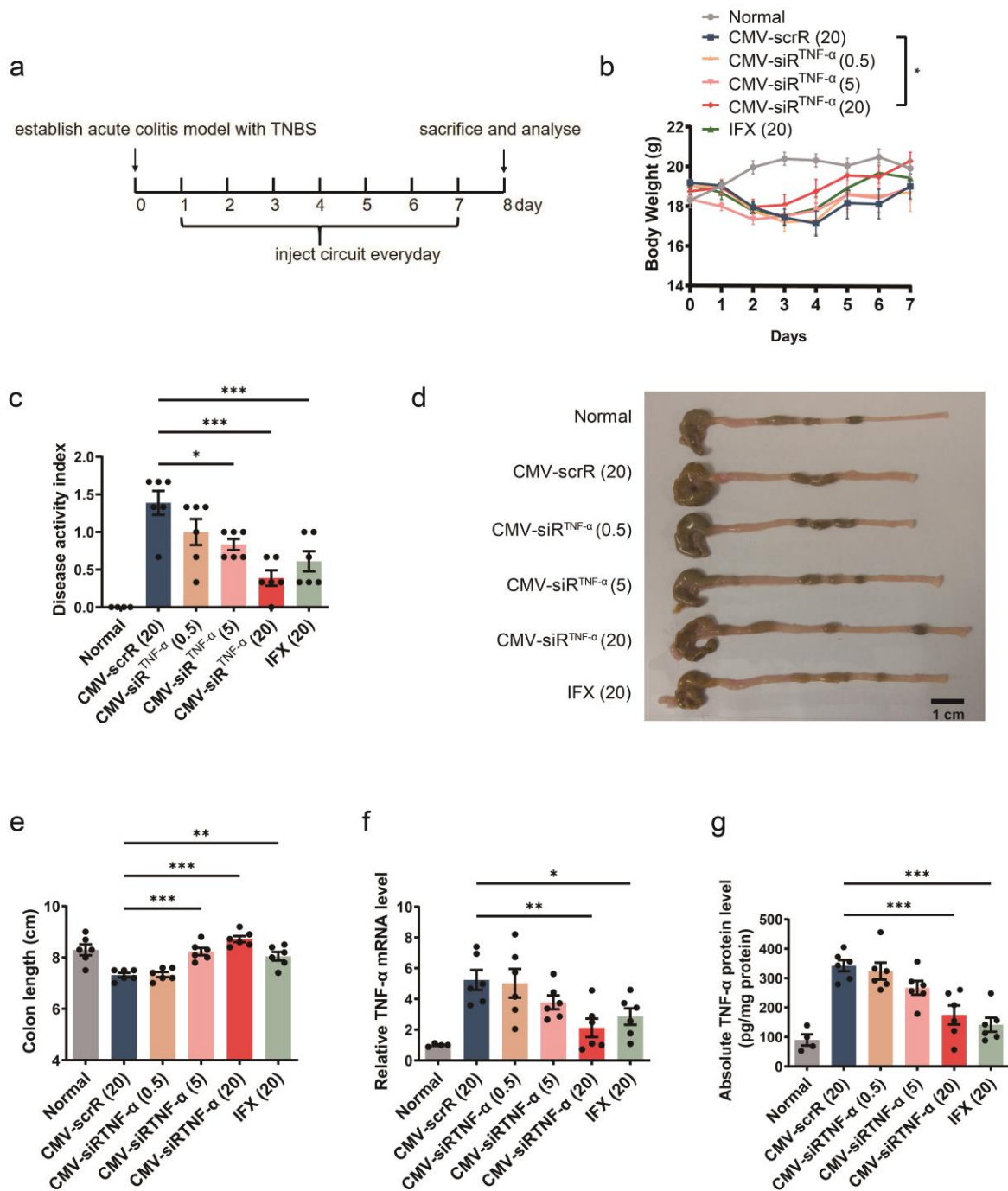


80 **Supplementary Figure 5. Intravenous injection of the CMV-siR^{TNF- α} circuit protects mice**
81 **from DSS-induced acute UC. (a)** Mean colon length (n = 5 in each group). **(b)**
82 Immunofluorescence staining of TNF- α (red) and DAPI (blue) in colon sections. Scale bar: 75 μ m
83 (10 \times) or 25 μ m (40 \times). **(c)** Determination of serum levels of IL-6, IL-12p70 and IL-23 by ELISA
84 (n = 4 in normal group; n = 5 in CMV-scrR (20), CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (0.5), CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (5), CMV-
85 siR^{TNF- α} (20) and IFX (20) groups). **(d)** Colonic MPO activity (n = 4 in each group). **(e)**
86 Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale bar: 100 μ m. **(f)** Histological
87 scores of colon sections (n = 5 in each group). **(g–k)** Determination of the levels of IFN- γ , IL-17A,
88 IL-22, IL-10 and TGF- β 1 in the colon by ELISA (n = 6 in each group). Values are presented as the
89 mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's
90 multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

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 95 **Supplementary Figure 6. Intravenous injection of the CMV-siR^{TNF-α} circuit protects mice**
 96 **from a TNBS-induced acute colitis model. (a)** Flow chart of the experimental design. Acute
 97 colitis was induced by intracolonic administration of 2.5% TNBS into BALB/c mice. One day later,
 98 mice were intravenously injected with 20 mg/kg CMV-scrR or three dosages (0.5, 5 and 20 mg/kg)

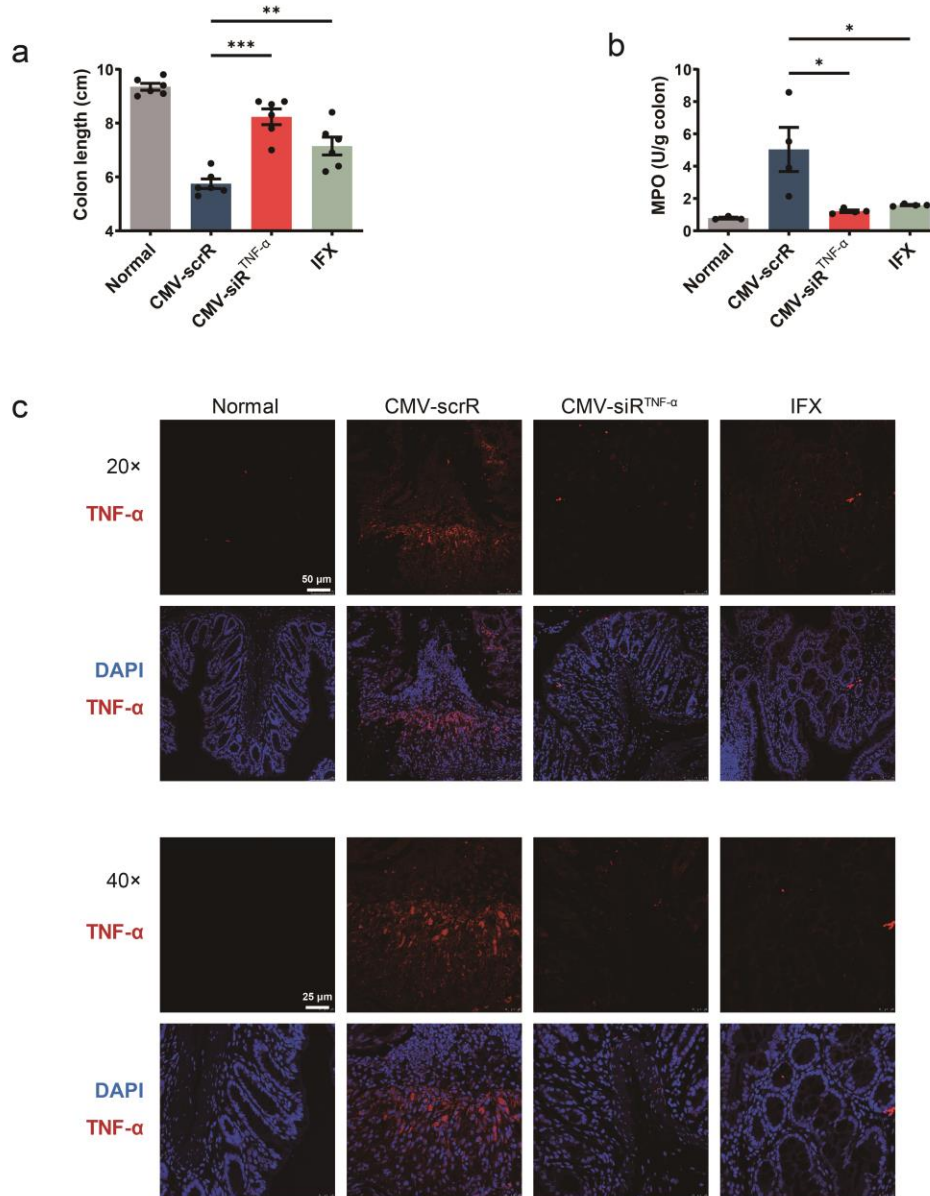
99 of CMV-siR^{TNF- α} circuit or 20 mg/kg infliximab (IFX) once a day. After 7 injections, the mice were
100 euthanised. Body weights were monitored daily, and symptoms and histology were evaluated on
101 day 8. Untreated BALB/c mice were included as normal controls. **(b)** Body weight curves (n = 6
102 in each group). **(c)** DAI scores (n = 6 in each group). **(d)** Representative macroscopic features of
103 colons. Scale bar: 1 cm. **(e)** Mean colon length (n = 6 in each group). **(f)** Quantitative RT-PCR
104 analysis of the relative expression levels of TNF- α mRNA in the colon (n = 6 in each group). **(g)**
105 Determination of the absolute expression levels of TNF- α protein in the colon by ELISA (n = 6 in
106 each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-
107 way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panels c, e, f and g or two-way
108 ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panel b. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p <
109 0.005.

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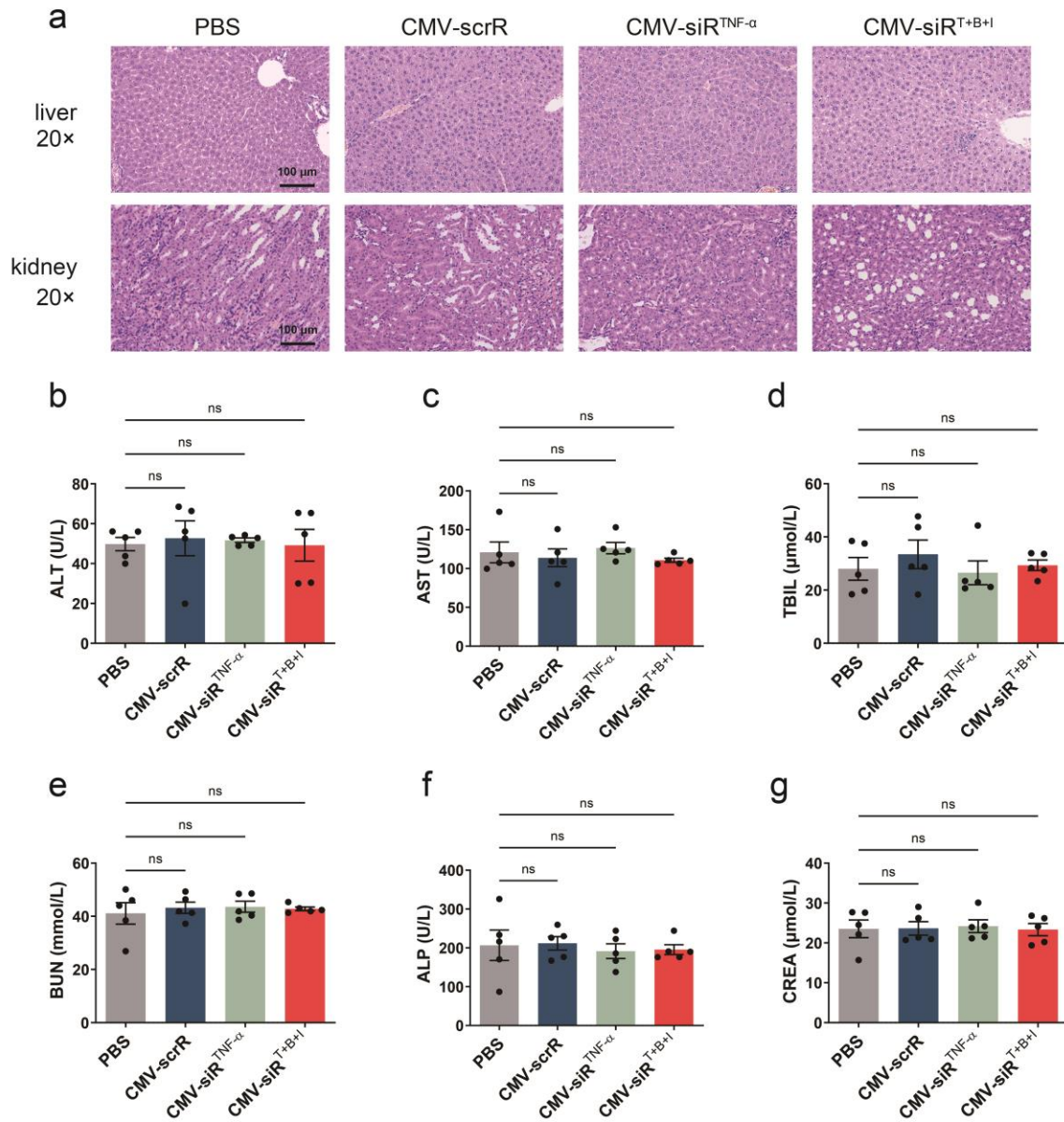
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 115 **Supplementary Figure 7. Intravenous injection of the CMV-siR^{TNF-α} circuit protects mice**
 116 **from DSS-induced chronic UC. (a) Mean colon length (n = 6 in each group). (b) Colonic MPO**
 117 **activity (n = 4 in each group). (c) Immunofluorescence staining of TNF-α (red) and DAPI (blue)**
 118 **in colon sections. Scale bar: 50 μm (20 ×) or 25 μm (40 ×). Values are presented as the mean ±**
 119 **SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple**
 120 **comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.**
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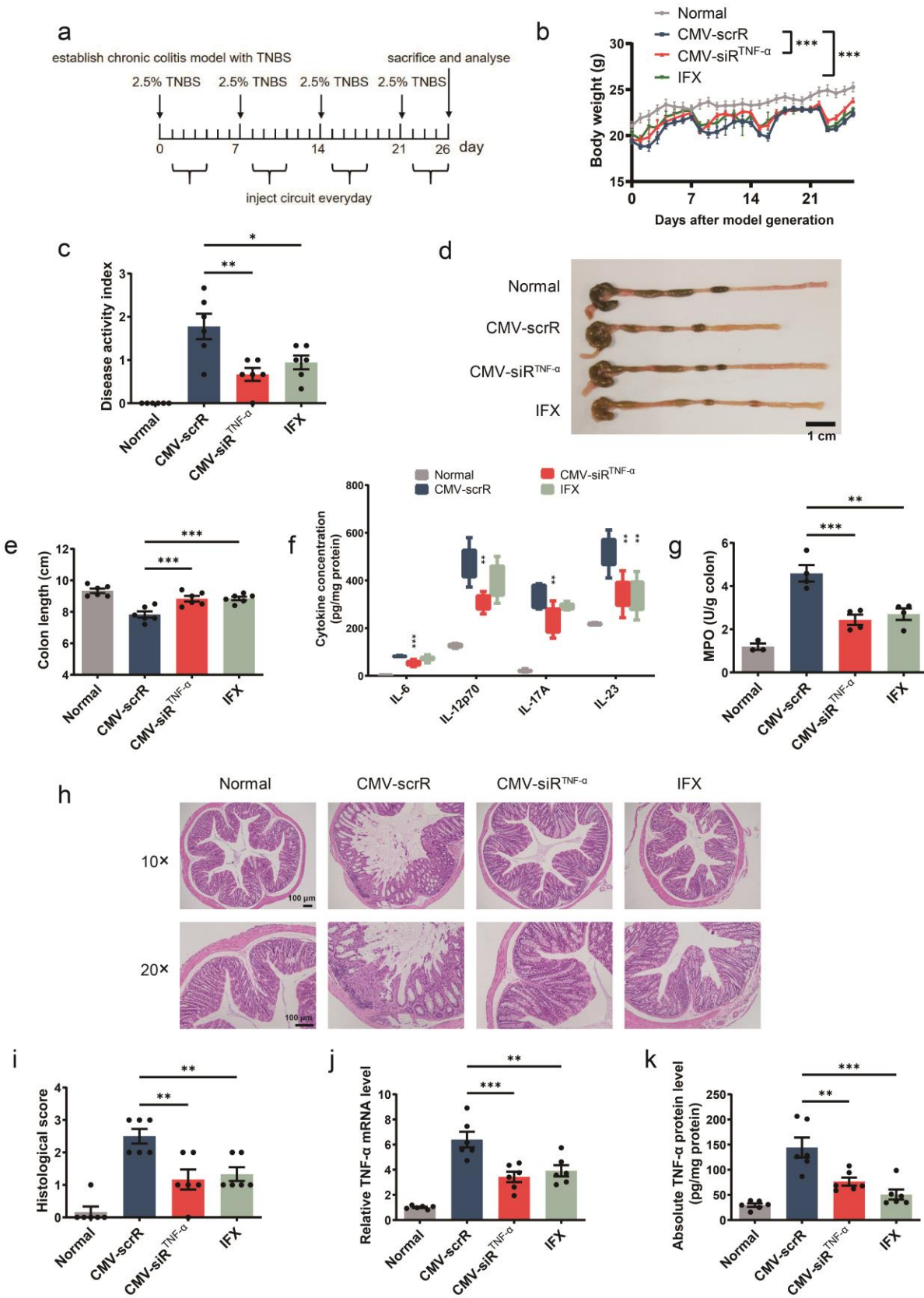


122
 123 **Supplementary Figure 8. Evaluation of the toxic effects and tissue damage in mice after**
 124 **intravenous injection of the genetic circuits.** Chronic UC was induced in male BALB/c mice by
 125 rhythmically administering to mice 2.5% DSS for 1 week and water for 2 weeks and the cycle was
 126 repeated for 3 times. Four days after each DSS drinking, mice were intravenously injected with
 127 PBS or with equal dose (20 mg/kg) of CMV-scrR, CMV-siR^{TNF-α} or CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit for a
 128 total of 3 times, once every 2 days. Twelve hours after the last injection, mice were sacrificed, and
 129 blood and tissue samples were collected and analysed for serum biochemical indicators and tissue
 130 damage. **(a)** Histological examination of the liver and kidney. Scale bar: 100 μm. **(b-g)**

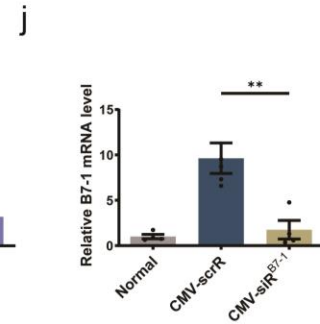
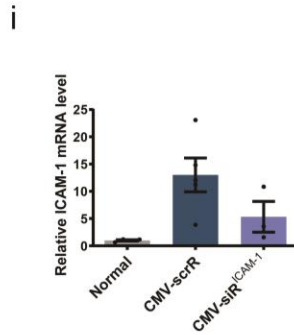
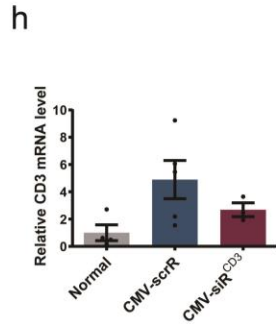
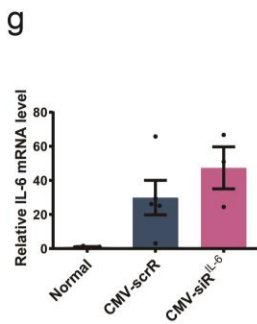
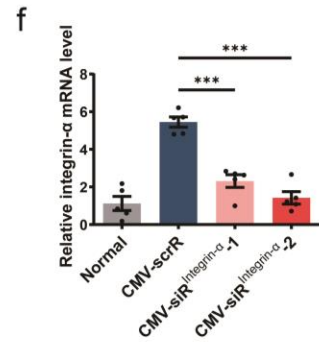
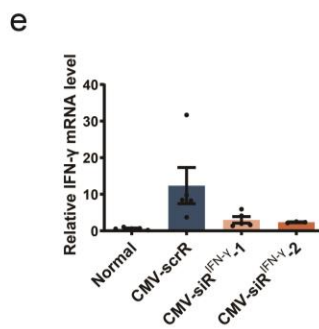
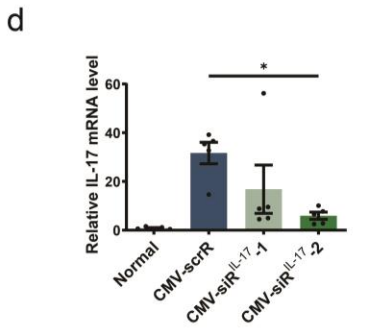
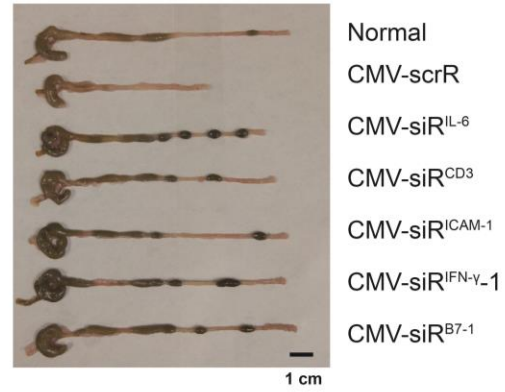
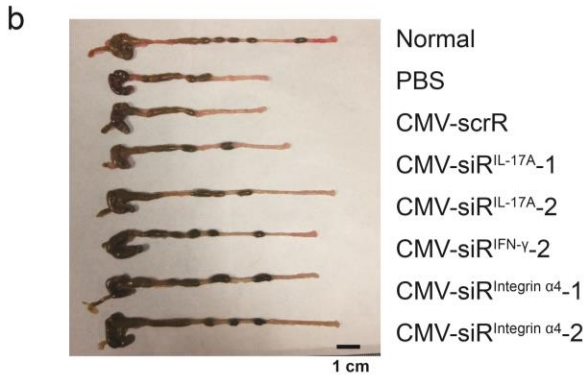
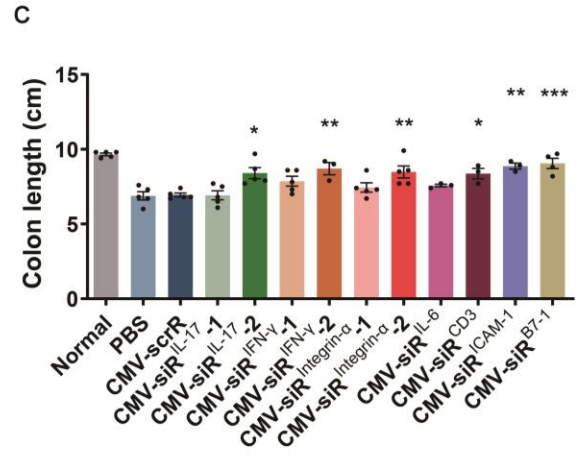
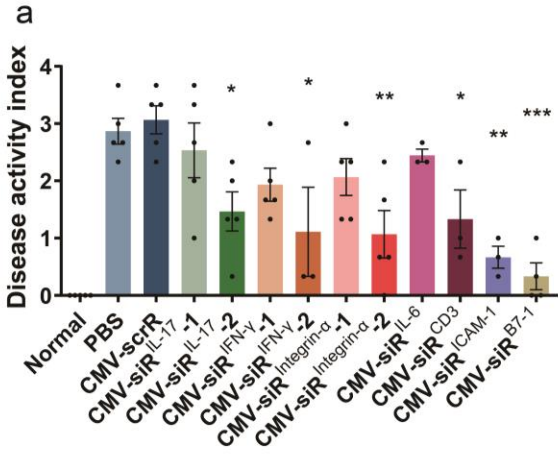
131 Measurement of representative serum biochemical indicators, including alanine aminotransferase
132 (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), total bilirubin (TBIL), blood urea nitrogen (BUN),
133 alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and creatinine (CREA), in the serum (n = 5 in each group). Values are
134 presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by
135 Dunnett's multiple comparison. NS, not significant.

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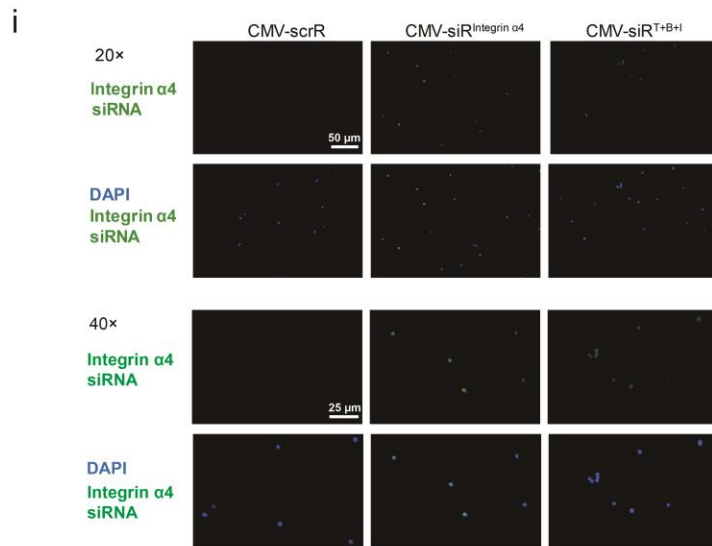
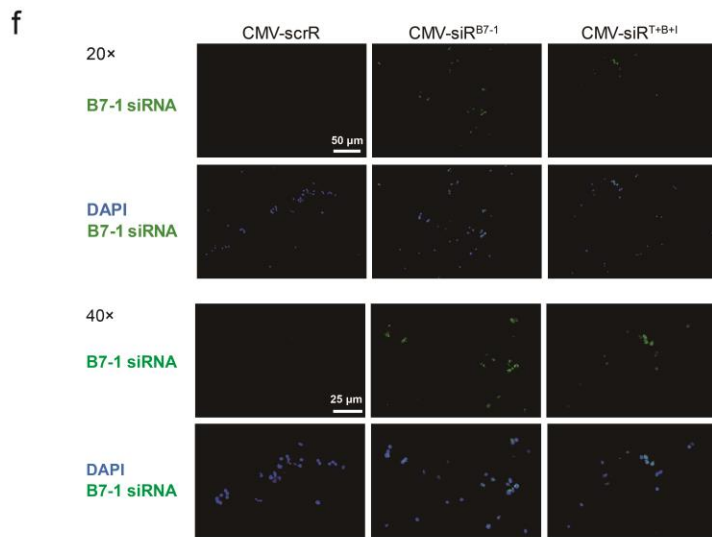
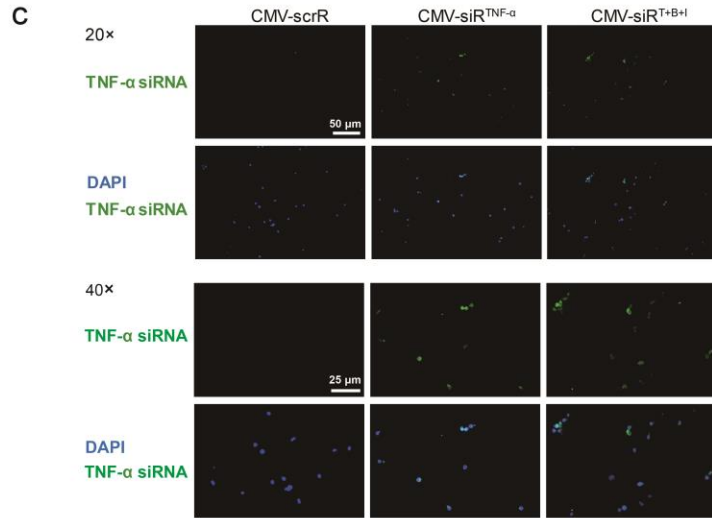
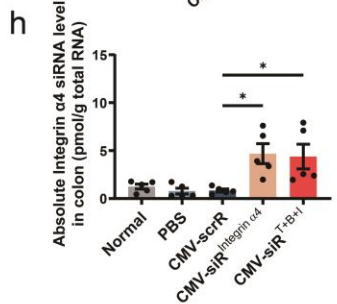
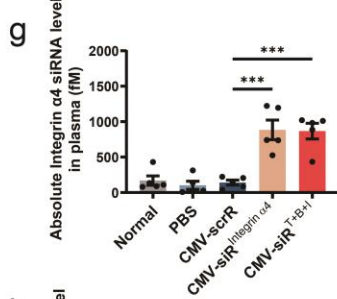
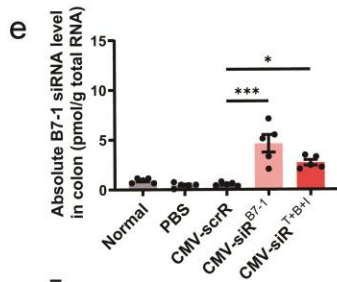
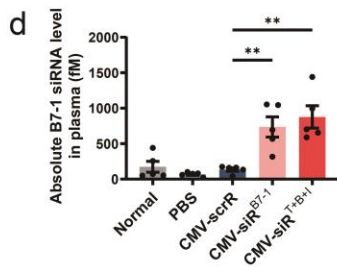
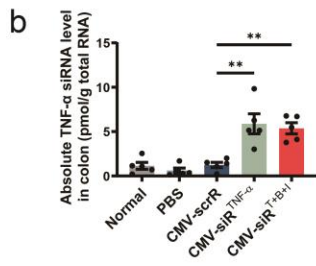
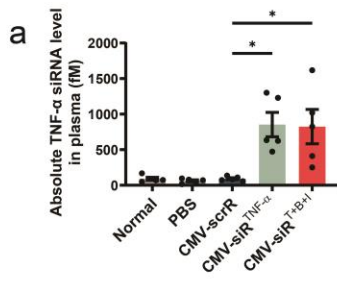


139 **Supplementary Figure 9. Intravenous injection of the CMV-siR^{TNF- α} circuit protects mice in**
140 **the TNBS-induced chronic colitis model. (a)** Flow chart of the experimental design. Chronic
141 colitis was induced by rhythmic administration (once a week) of 2.5% TNBS into BALB/c mice
142 for 4 times. After each TNBS administration, mice were intravenously injected with 20 mg/kg
143 CMV-scrR, 20 mg/kg CMV-siR^{TNF} circuit or 20 mg/kg infliximab for a total of 4 times over the
144 first 4 days. Body weights were monitored daily, and symptoms and histology were evaluated on
145 day 26. Untreated BALB/c mice were used as normal controls. **(b)** Body weight curves (n = 6 in
146 each group). **(c)** DAI scores (n = 6 in each group). **(d)** Representative macroscopic features of
147 colons. Scale bar: 1 cm. **(e)** Mean colon length (n = 6 in each group). **(f)** Determination of serum
148 levels of IL-6, IL-12p70, IL-17A and IL-23 by ELISA (n = 6 in each group). **(g)** Colonic MPO
149 activity (n = 4 in each group). **(h)** Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale
150 bar: 100 μ m. **(i)** Histological scores of colon sections (n = 6 in each group). **(j)** Quantitative RT-
151 PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of TNF- α mRNA in the colon (n = 6 in each group).
152 **(k)** Determination of the absolute expression levels of TNF- α protein in the colon by ELISA (n =
153 6 in each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-
154 way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panels c, e, f, g, i, j and k or two-way
155 ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panel b. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p <
156 0.005.
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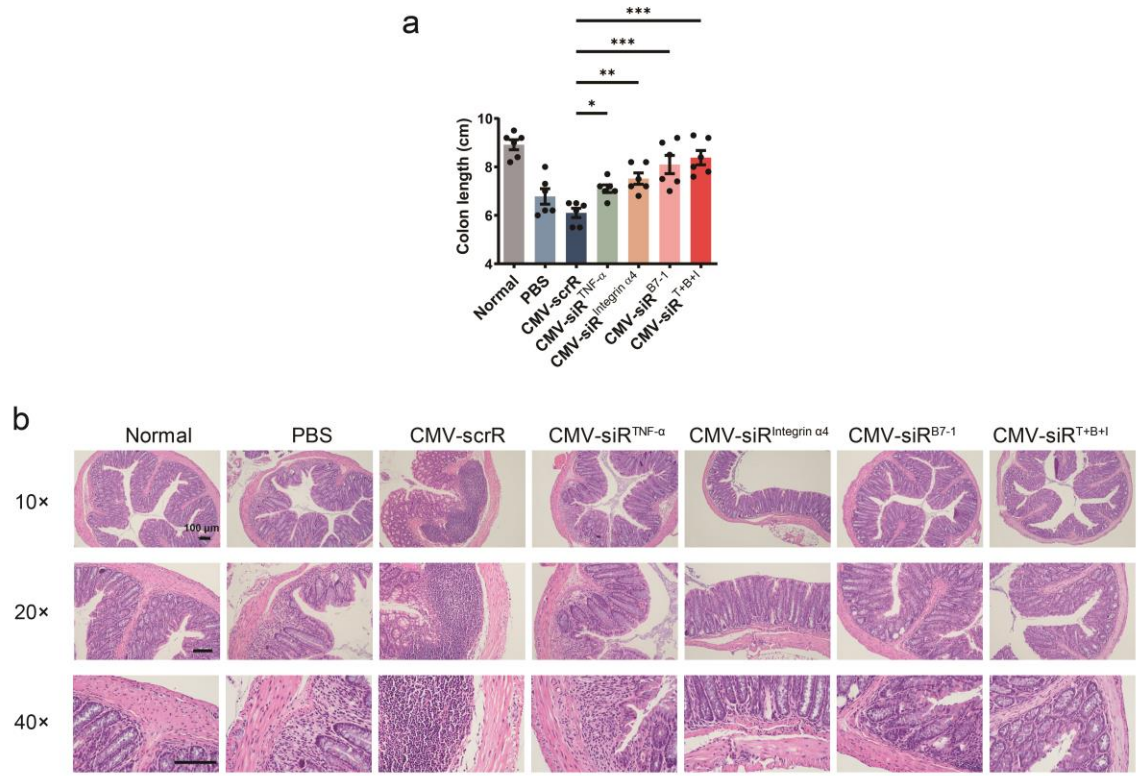


159 **Supplementary Figure 10. Assessing the therapeutic efficacy of candidate siRNA expression**
160 **cassettes.** Acute UC was induced in male BALB/c mice by replacing their drinking water with a
161 2.5% DSS solution for 7 days. From day 3 of modelling, the mice were intravenously injected once
162 a day with PBS, CMV-scrR, two types of genetic circuits targeting IL-17A (CMV-siR^{IL-17A-1} and
163 CMV-siR^{IL-17A-2}), two types of genetic circuits targeting INF- γ (CMV-siR^{INF- γ -1} and CMV-siR^{INF- γ -2}),
164 a genetic circuit targeting IL-6 (CMV-siR^{IL-6}), two types of genetic circuits targeting integrin
165 α 4 (CMV-siR^{Integrin α 4-1} and CMV-siR^{Integrin α 4-2}), a genetic circuit targeting ICAM-1 (CMV-
166 siR^{ICAM-1}), a genetic circuit targeting CD3 (CMV-siR^{CD3}) or a genetic circuit targeting B7-1 (CMV-
167 siR^{B7-1}). Each genetic circuit was injected at a dosage of 20 mg/kg. After 7 injections on day 10,
168 the mice were euthanised and analysed. Untreated BALB/c mice were included as normal controls.
169 **(a)** DAI scores (n = 3 in each group). **(b)** Representative macroscopic features of colons. Scale bar:
170 1 cm. **(c)** Mean colon length (n = 3 in each group). **(d)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative
171 expression levels of IL-17A mRNA in the colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{IL-17A-1} and CMV-
172 siR^{IL-17A-2} (n = 3 in each group). **(e)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression levels
173 of IFN- γ mRNA in the colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{INF- γ -1} and CMV-siR^{INF- γ -2} (n = 3 in
174 each group). **(f)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of integrin α 4
175 mRNA in the colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{Integrin α 4-1} and CMV-siR^{Integrin α 4-2} (n = 3 in each
176 group). **(g)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of IL-6 mRNA in the
177 colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{IL-6} (n = 3 in each group). **(h)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis
178 of the relative expression levels of CD3 mRNA in the colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{CD3} (n
179 = 3 in each group). **(i)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of ICAM-1
180 mRNA in the colon after treatment with CMV-siR^{ICAM-1} (n = 3 in each group). **(j)** Quantitative RT-
181 PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of B7-1 mRNA in the colon after treatment with
182 CMV-siR^{B7-1} (n = 3 in each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was
183 determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. In panels a and
184 b, all groups were compared with CMV-scrR. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

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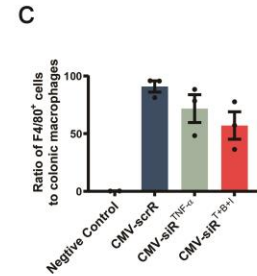
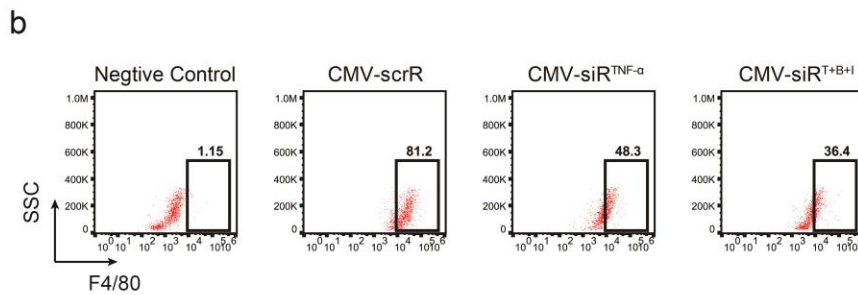
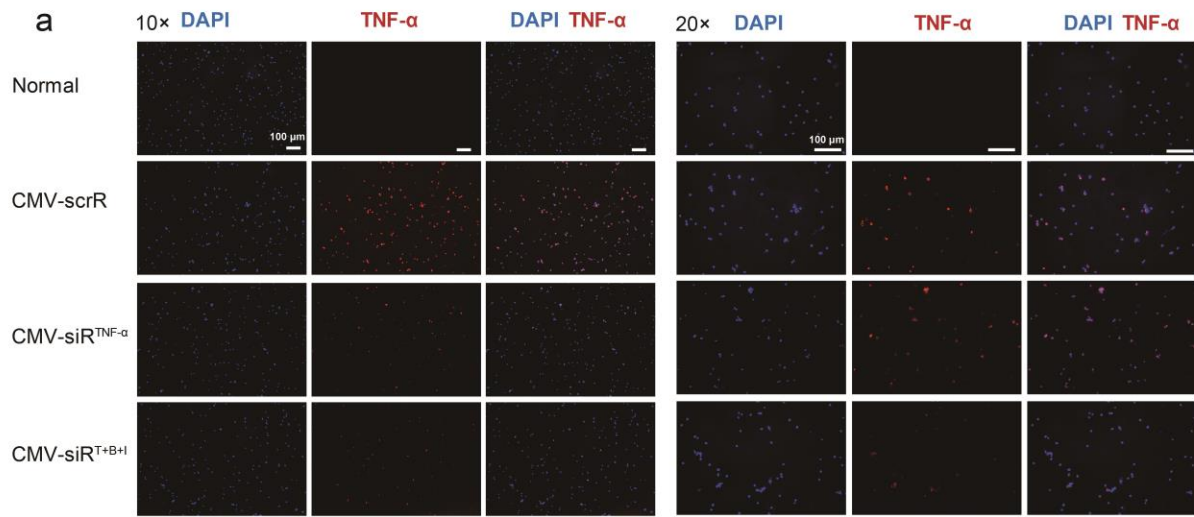


187 **Supplementary Figure 11. Tracking and visualisation of the delivery of self-assembled**
188 **siRNAs into desired tissues and cells in the DSS-induced acute UC model.** Chronic UC was
189 induced in male BALB/c mice by rhythmically administering to mice 2.5% DSS for 1 week and
190 water for 2 weeks and the cycle was repeated for 3 times. Four days after each DSS drinking, mice
191 were intravenously injected with PBS or with equal dose (10 mg/kg) of CMV-scrR, CMV-siR^{TNF-}
192 ^α, CMV-siR^{Integrin α4}, CMV-siR^{B7-1} or CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit for a total of 3 times, once every 2 days.
193 Two days after the final injection on day 52, the mice were euthanised, and the presence of siRNAs
194 in various tissues and cells was evaluated. **(a and b)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute
195 expression levels of TNF-α siRNA in the plasma and colon (n = 5 in each group). **(c)** *In situ*
196 detection of TNF-α siRNA in colonic macrophages extracted from DSS mice. Positive *in situ*
197 hybridisation signals are shown in green, and DAPI-stained nuclei are shown in blue. Scale bar: 50
198 μm (20 ×) or 25 μm (40 ×). **(d and e)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression
199 levels of B7-1 siRNA in the plasma and colon (n = 5 in each group). **(f)** *In situ* detection of B7-1
200 siRNA in colonic macrophages extracted from DSS mice. Positive *in situ* hybridisation signals are
201 shown in green, and DAPI-stained nuclei are shown in blue. Scale bar: 50 μm (20 ×) or 25 μm (40
202 ×). **(g and h)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of integrin α4 siRNA
203 in the plasma and colon (n = 5 in each group). **(i)** *In situ* detection of integrin α4 siRNA in peripheral
204 blood CD4⁺ T cells extracted from DSS mice. Positive *in situ* hybridisation signals are shown in
205 green, and DAPI-stained nuclei are shown in blue. Scale bar: 50 μm (20 ×) or 25 μm (40 ×). Values
206 are presented as the mean ± SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed
207 by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

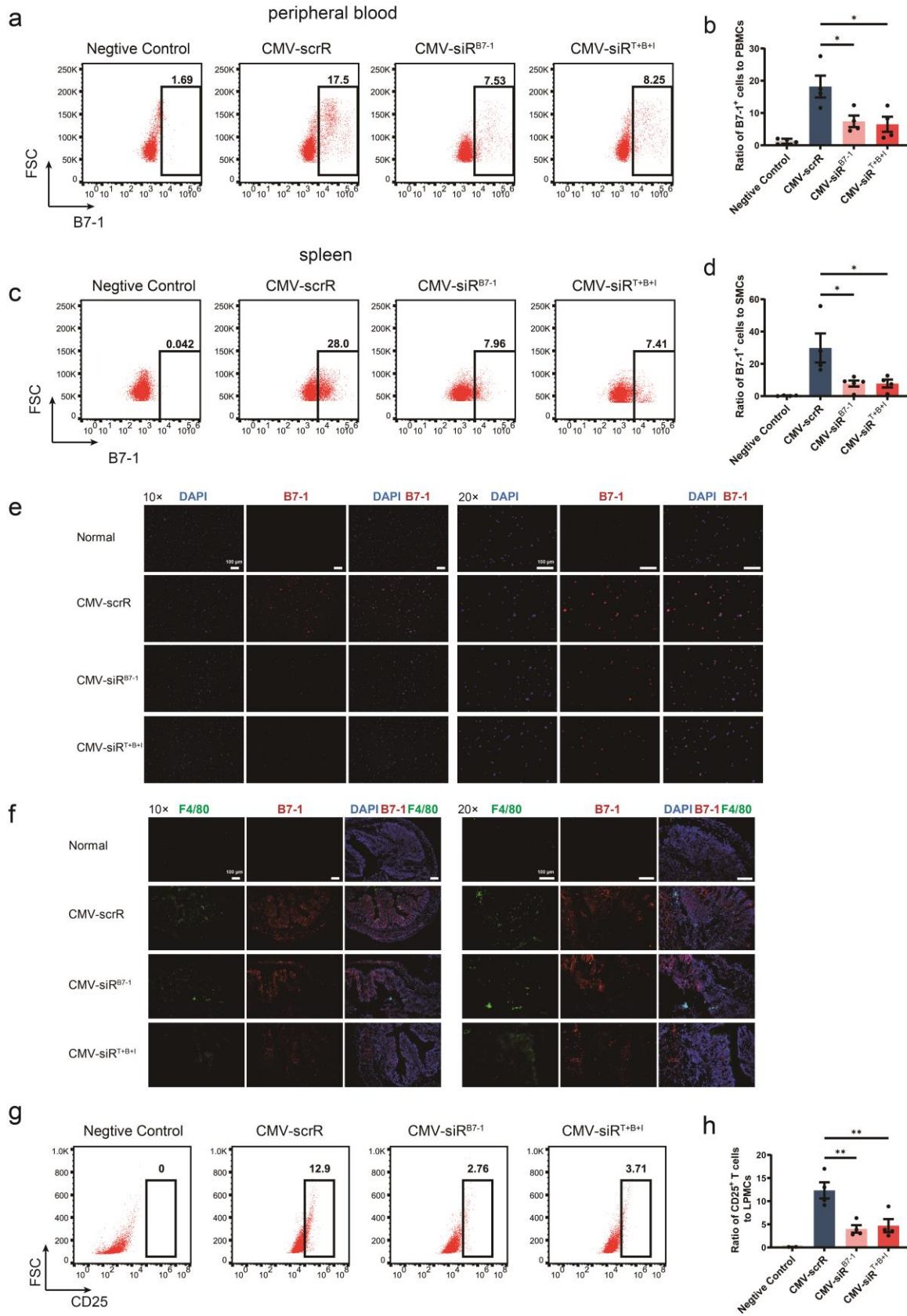


208
 209 **Supplementary Figure 12. Intravenous injection of the multi-targeted CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit**
 210 **exerts a synergistic therapeutic effect against DSS-induced chronic UC.** Chronic UC was
 211 induced in male BALB/c mice by rhythmically administering to mice 2.5% DSS for 1 week and
 212 water for 2 weeks and the cycle was repeated for 3 times. Four days after each DSS drinking, mice
 213 were intravenously injected with PBS or with equal dose (10 mg/kg) of CMV-scrR, CMV-siR^{TNF-}
 214 ^α, CMV-siR^{Integrin α4}, CMV-siR^{B7-1} or CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit for a total of 3 times, once every 2 days.
 215 Two days after the final injection on day 52, the mice were euthanised and analysed. Untreated
 216 BALB/c mice were included as normal controls. **(a)** Mean colon length (n = 6 in each group). **(b)**
 217 Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale bar: 100 μm. Values are presented
 218 as the mean ± SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's
 219 multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

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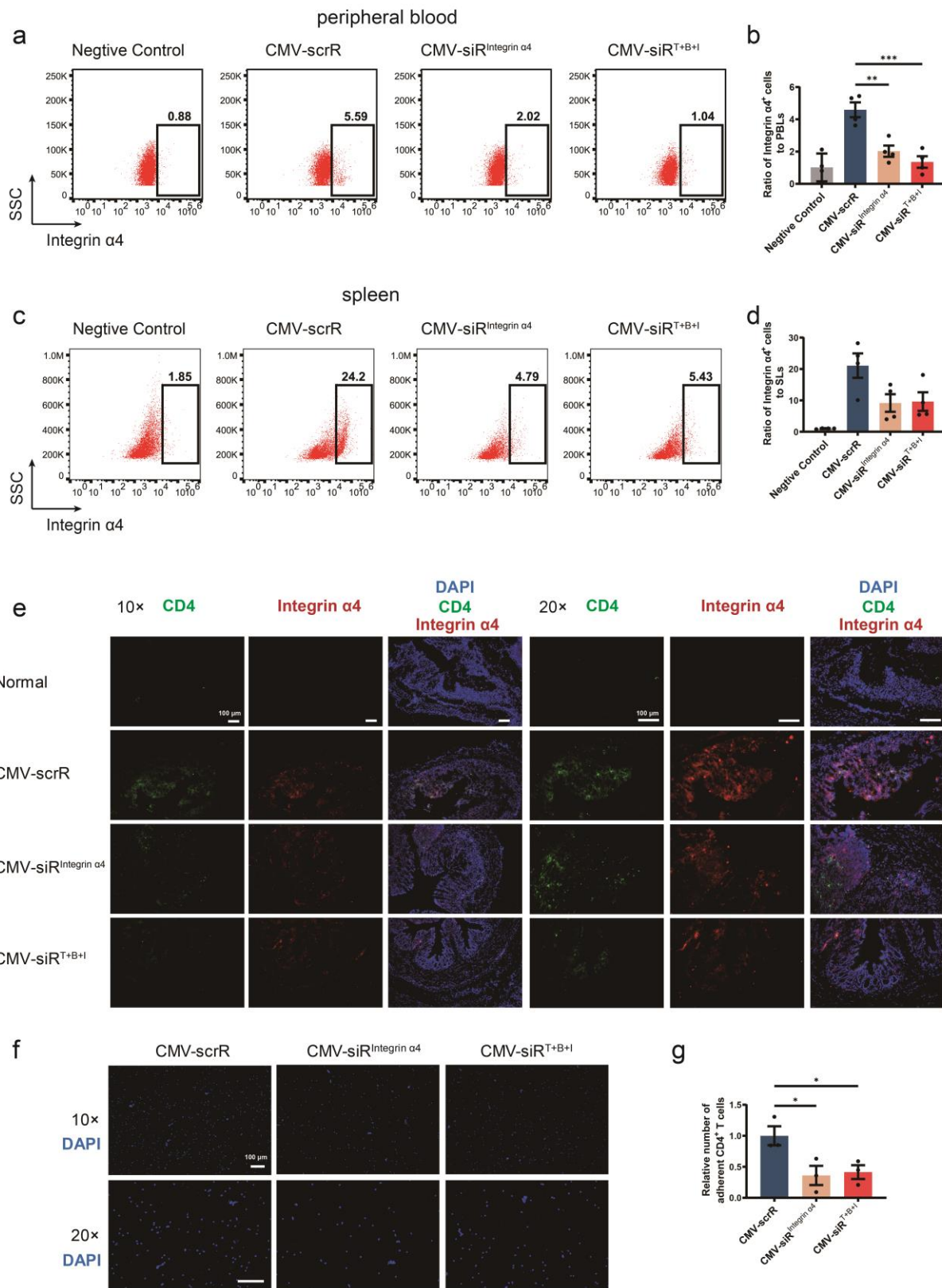


225
 226 **Supplementary Figure 13. Intravenous injection of the multi-targeted CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit**
 227 **inhibits TNF- α in macrophages. (a)** Immunofluorescence staining of TNF- α (red) and DAPI
 228 (blue) in primary macrophages isolated from colonic lamina propria and cultured in conditioned
 229 medium for 12 hours. Scale bar: 100 μ m. **(b)** Representative flow cytometric plots of F4/80⁺
 230 on colonic lamina propria macrophages. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. **(c)**
 231 The population of F4/80⁺ cells in all colonic lamina propria macrophages (n = 3 in each group).
 232 Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA
 233 followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison.
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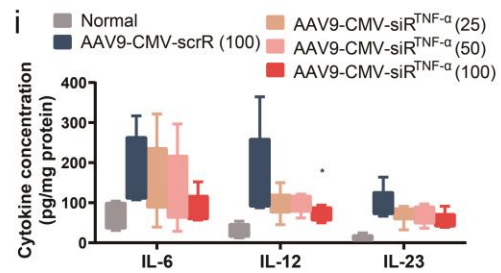
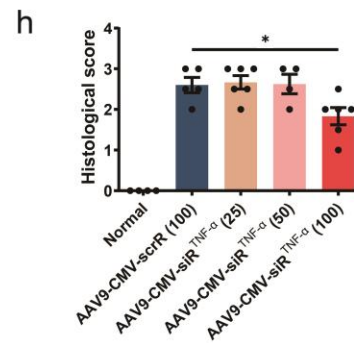
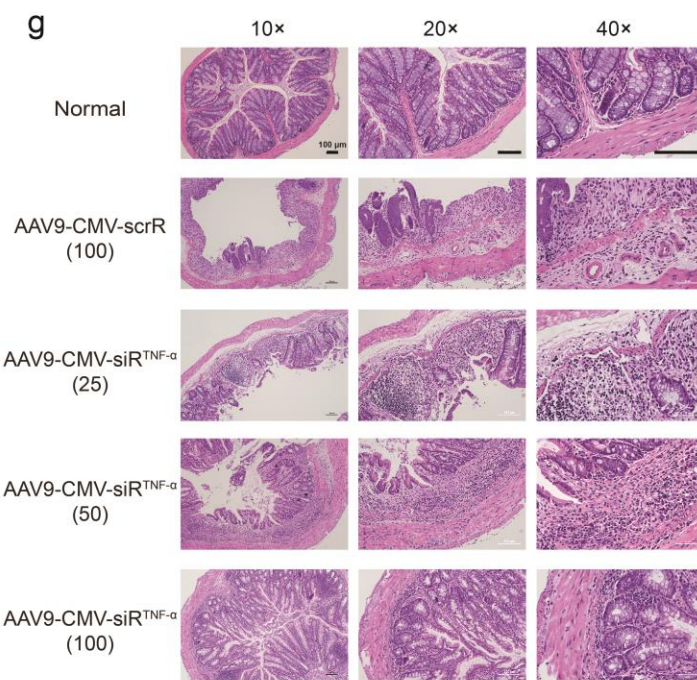
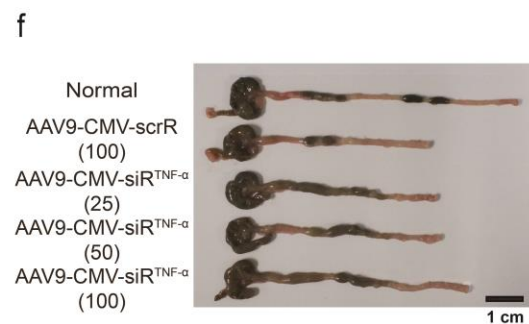
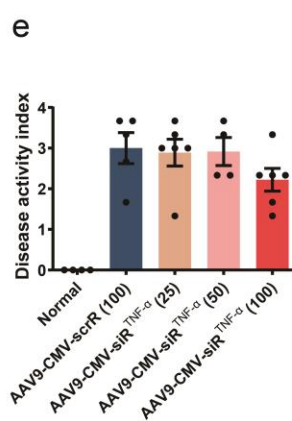
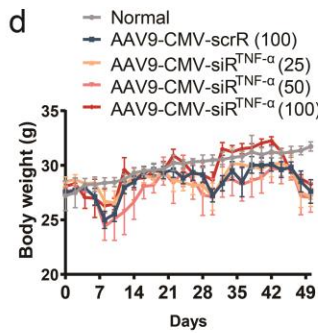
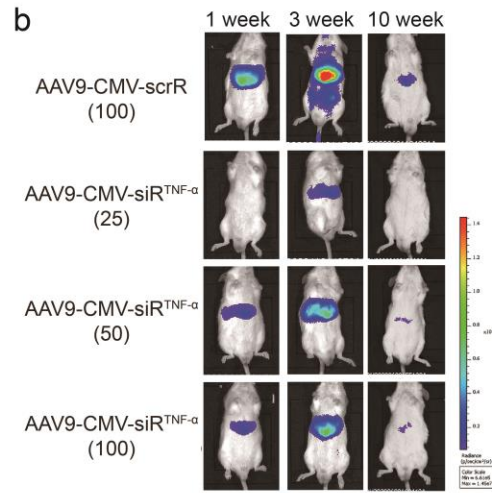
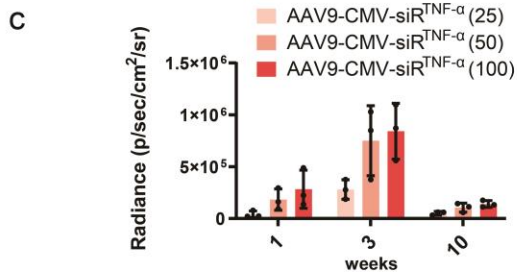
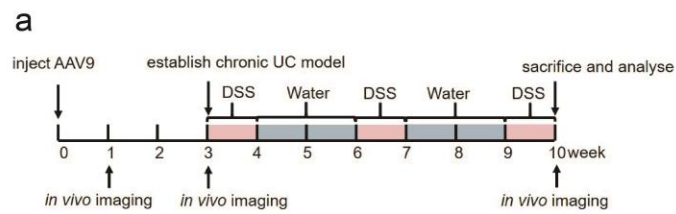
236 **Supplementary Figure 14. Intravenous injection of the multi-targeted CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit**
237 **inhibits B7-1 in macrophages.** (a) Representative flow cytometric plots of B7-1 on the surface of
238 peripheral blood mononuclear cells. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. (b)
239 The population of B7-1⁺ cells in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) (n = 4 in each group).
240 (c) Representative flow cytometric plots of B7-1 on the surface of splenic mononuclear cells. IgG
241 isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. (d) The population of B7-1⁺ cells in splenic
242 mononuclear cells (SMCs) (n = 4 in each group). (e) Immunofluorescence staining of B7-1 (red)
243 and DAPI (blue) in primary macrophages isolated from colonic lamina propria and cultured in
244 conditioned medium for 12 hours. Scale bar: 100 μ m. (f) Immunofluorescence staining of B7-1
245 (red), F4/80 (green) and DAPI (blue) in colon sections. Double-positive (red and green) signals
246 indicate B7-1⁺ macrophages. Scale bar: 100 μ m. (g) Representative flow cytometric plots of CD25
247 on colonic lamina propria mononuclear cells. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative
248 control. (h) The population of CD25⁺ T cells in total colonic lamina propria mononuclear cells (n
249 = 4 in each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using
250 one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01.

251

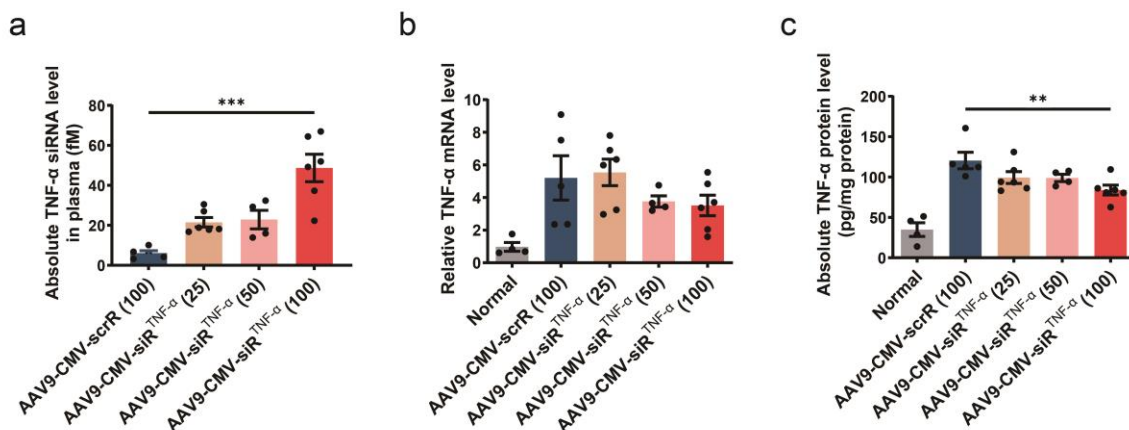


253 **Supplementary Figure 15. Intravenous injection of the multi-targeted CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit**
254 **inhibits integrin $\alpha 4$ in CD4⁺ T cells.** (a) Representative flow cytometric plots of integrin $\alpha 4$ on
255 the surface of peripheral blood lymphocytes. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative
256 control. (b) The population of integrin $\alpha 4^+$ cells in peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs) (n = 4 in
257 each group). (c) Representative flow cytometric plots of integrin $\alpha 4$ on the surface of splenic
258 lymphocytes. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. (d) The population of
259 integrin $\alpha 4^+$ cells in splenic lymphocytes (SLs) (n = 4 in each group). (e) Immunofluorescence
260 staining of integrin $\alpha 4$ (red), CD4 (green) and DAPI (blue) in colon sections. Double-positive (red
261 and green) signals indicate integrin $\alpha 4^+$ CD4⁺ cells. Scale bar: 100 μm . (f) Representative images
262 of adhesion assays showing the adhesion of peripheral blood integrin $\alpha 4^+$ CD4⁺ T cells to plates
263 coated with E-cadherin. Scale bars: 100 μm . (g) Quantitative analysis of the amounts of adherent
264 CD4⁺ T cells (n = 3 in each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was
265 determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p
266 < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

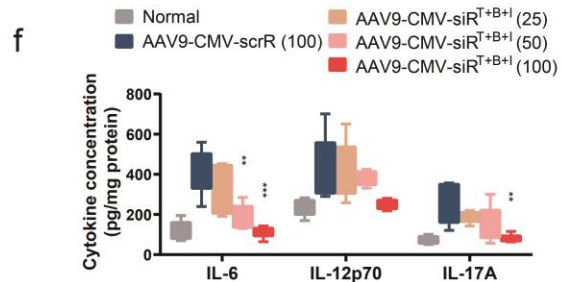
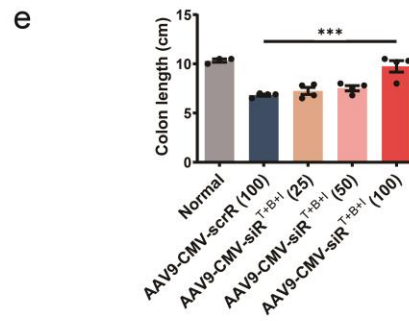
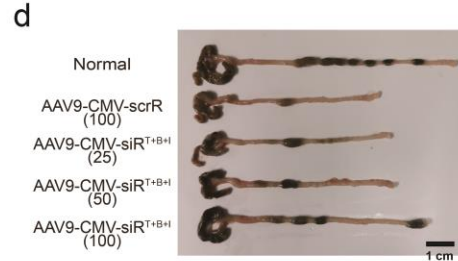
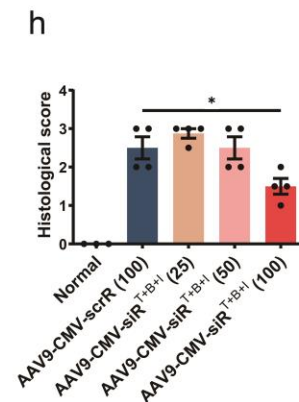
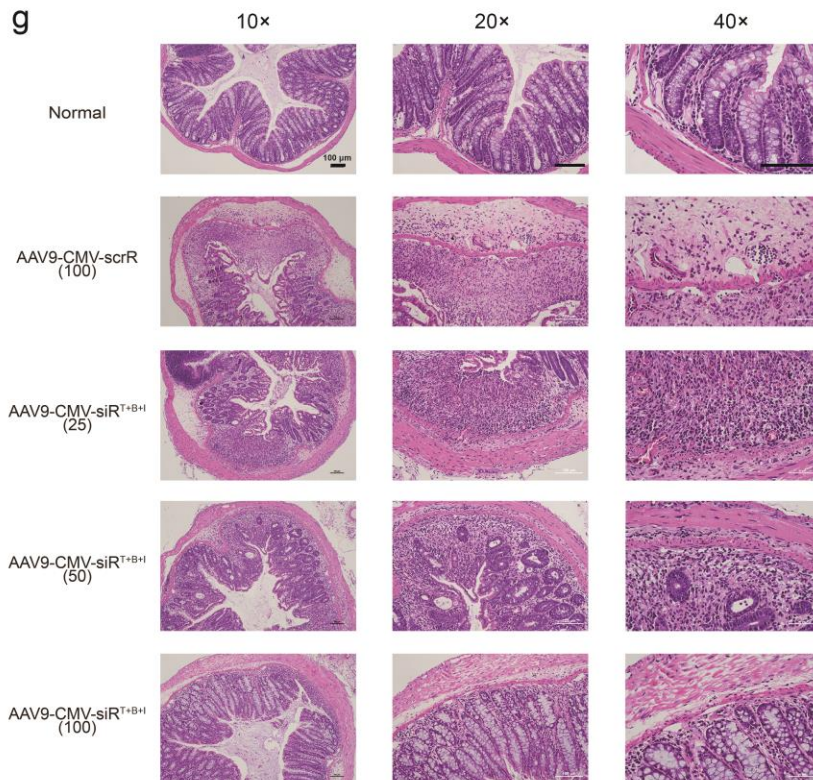
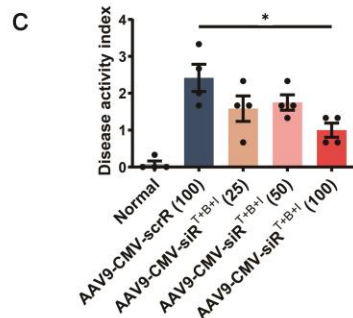
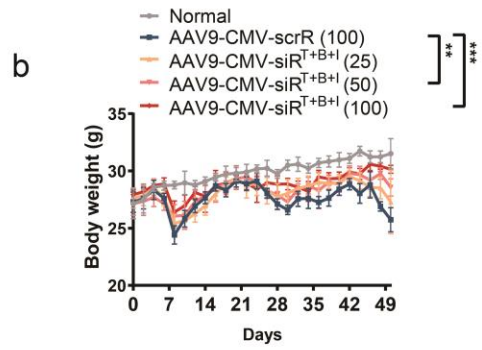
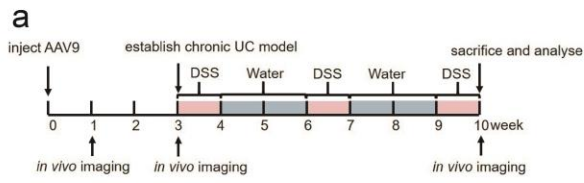
267



269 **Supplementary Figure 16. Intravenous injection of the AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} induces a long-**
270 **term therapeutic effect in the DSS-induced chronic UC model. (a)** Flow chart of the
271 experimental design. **(b and c)** Evaluation of AAV-mediated luciferase expression to reflect co-
272 expressed TNF- α siRNA accumulation *in vivo* (n = 3 in each group). **(d)** Body weight curves
273 (Normal, n = 4; AAV9-CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-
274 siR^{TNF- α} (50), n = 4; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (100), n = 6). **(e)** DAI scores (Normal, n = 4; AAV9-
275 CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (50), n = 4;
276 AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (100), n = 6). **(f)** Representative macroscopic features of colons. Scale bar:
277 1 cm. **(g)** Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale bar: 100 μ m. **(h)**
278 Histological scores of colon sections (Normal, n = 4; AAV9-CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-
279 siR^{TNF- α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (50), n = 4; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (100), n = 6). **(i)**
280 Determination of serum levels of IL-6, IL-12p70 and IL-23 by ELISA (Normal, n = 4; AAV9-
281 CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (50), n = 4;
282 AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF- α} (100), n = 6). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was
283 determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panels e, h and
284 i or two-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison in panel d. * p < 0.05; ** p <
285 0.01.
286

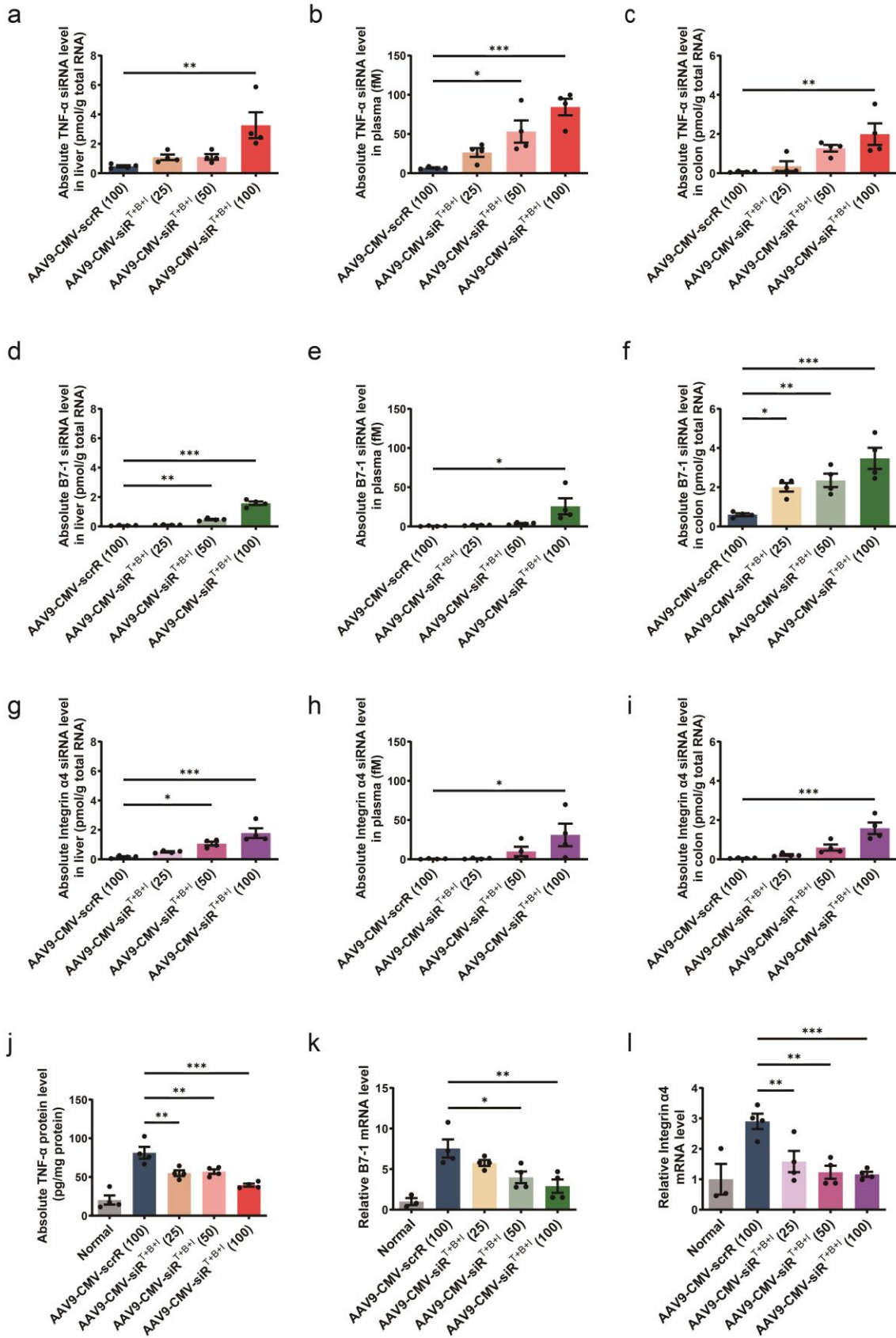


287
 288 **Supplementary Figure 17. Intravenous injection of the AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} results in TNF-**
 289 **α siRNA accumulation in the plasma and TNF-α downregulation in the colon. (a)** Quantitative
 290 RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of TNF-α siRNA in plasma (Normal, n = 4;
 291 AAV9-CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (50), n =
 292 4; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (100), n = 6). **(b)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression
 293 levels of TNF-α mRNA in the colon (Normal, n = 4; AAV9-CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-
 294 siR^{TNF-α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (50), n = 4; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (100), n = 6). **(c)**
 295 Determination of the absolute expression levels of TNF-α protein in the colon by ELISA (Normal,
 296 n = 4; AAV9-CMV-scrR (100), n = 5; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (25), n = 6; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α}
 297 (50), n = 4; AAV9-CMV-siR^{TNF-α} (100), n = 6). Values are presented as the mean ± SEM.
 298 Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison.
 299 ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.005.

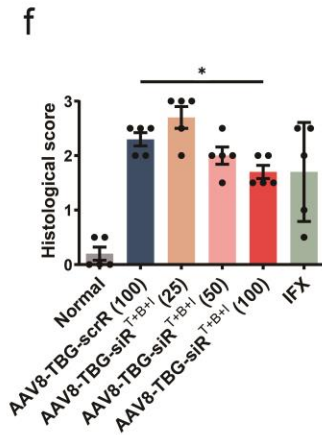
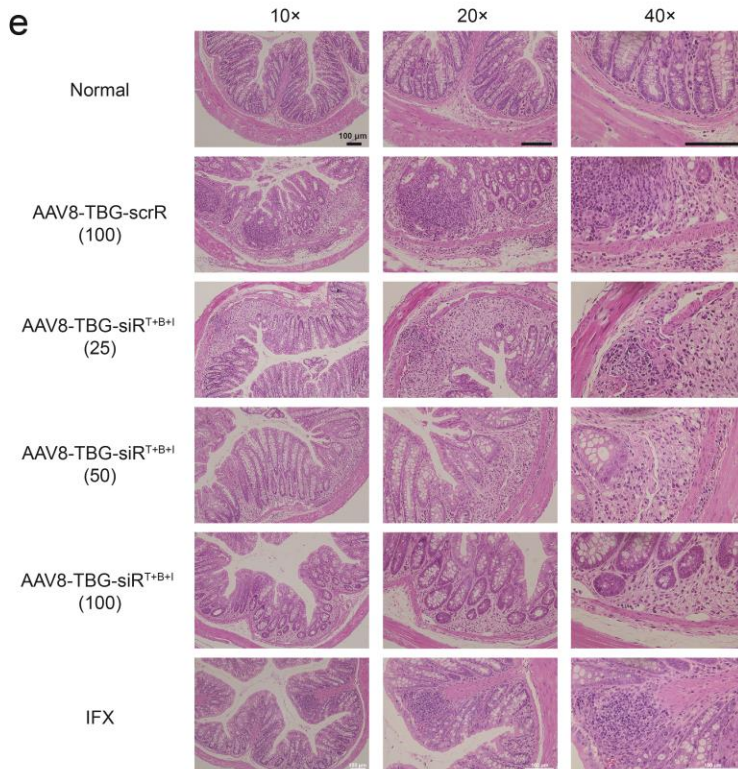
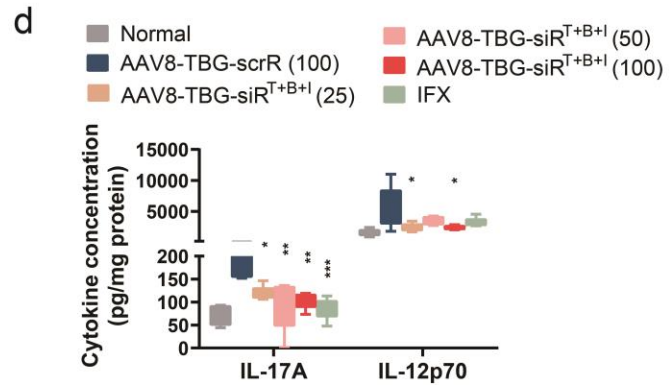
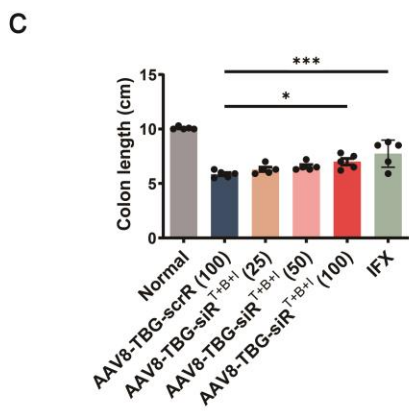
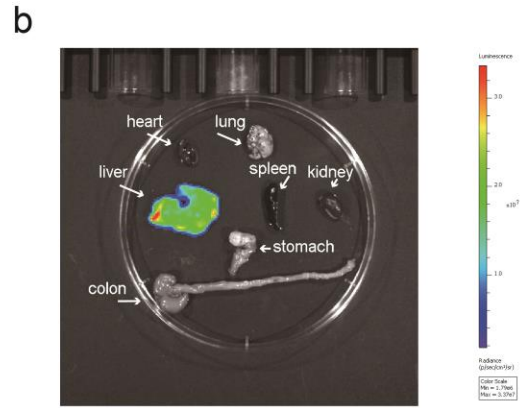
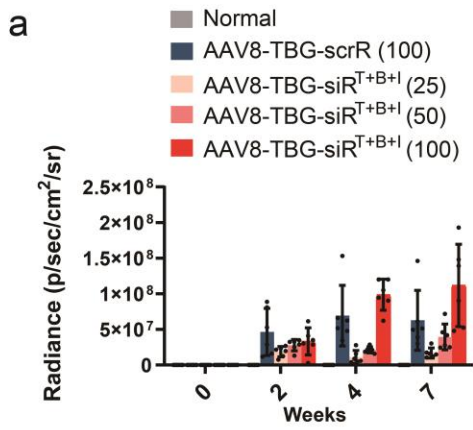


302 **Supplementary Figure 18. Intravenous injection of the AAV9-CMV-siR^{T+B+I} induces long-**
303 **term combination therapy in the DSS-induced chronic UC model. (a)** Flow chart of the
304 experimental design. **(b)** Body weight curves (n = 4 in each group). **(c)** DAI scores (n = 4 in each
305 group). **(d)** Representative macroscopic features of colons. Scale bar: 1 cm. **(e)** Mean colon length
306 (n = 4 in each group). **(f)** Determination of serum levels of IL-6, IL-12p70 and IL-17A by ELISA
307 (n = 4 in each group). **(g)** Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale bar: 100
308 μm . **(h)** Histological scores of colon sections (n = 4 in each group). Values are presented as the
309 mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's
310 multiple comparison in panels c, e, f and h or two-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple
311 comparison in panel b. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.

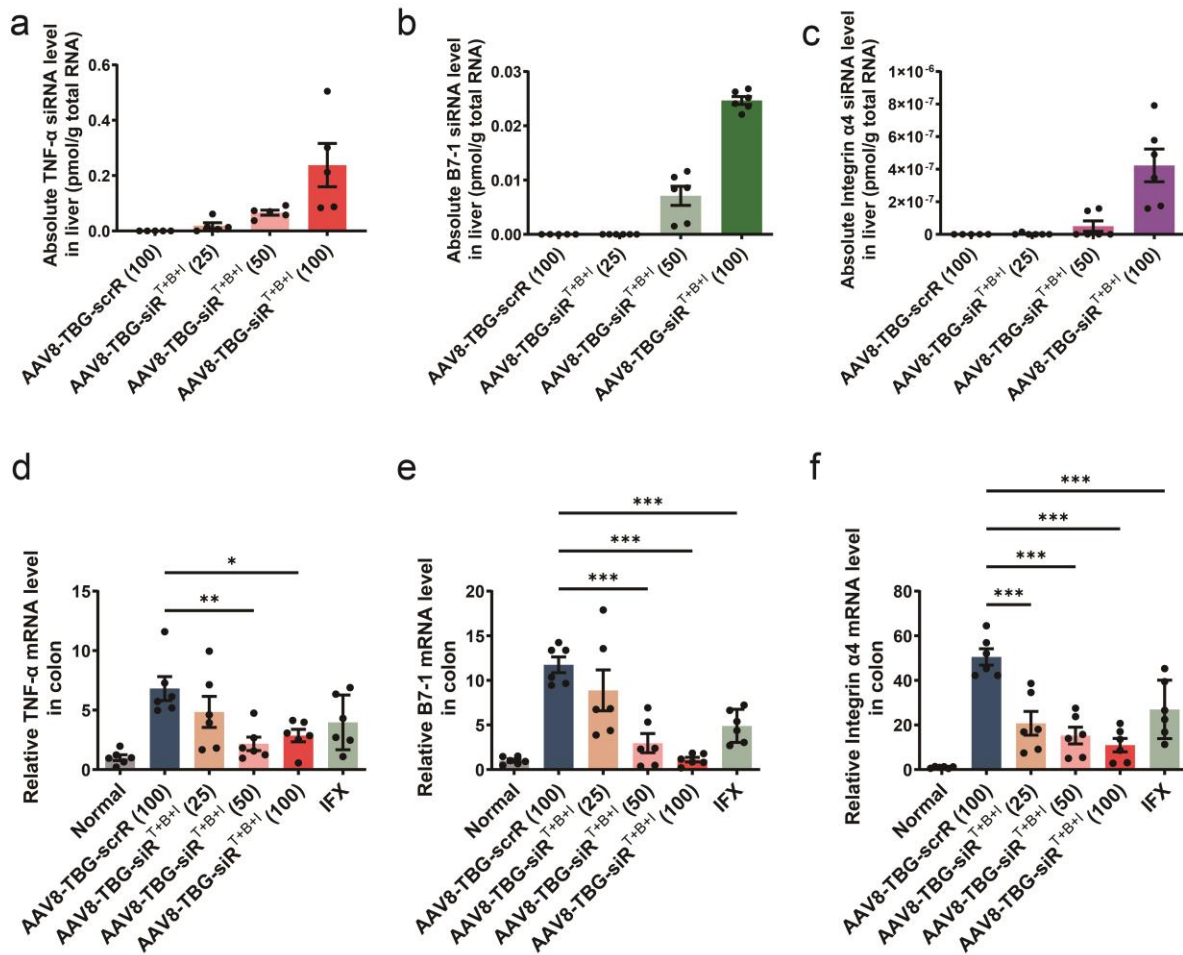
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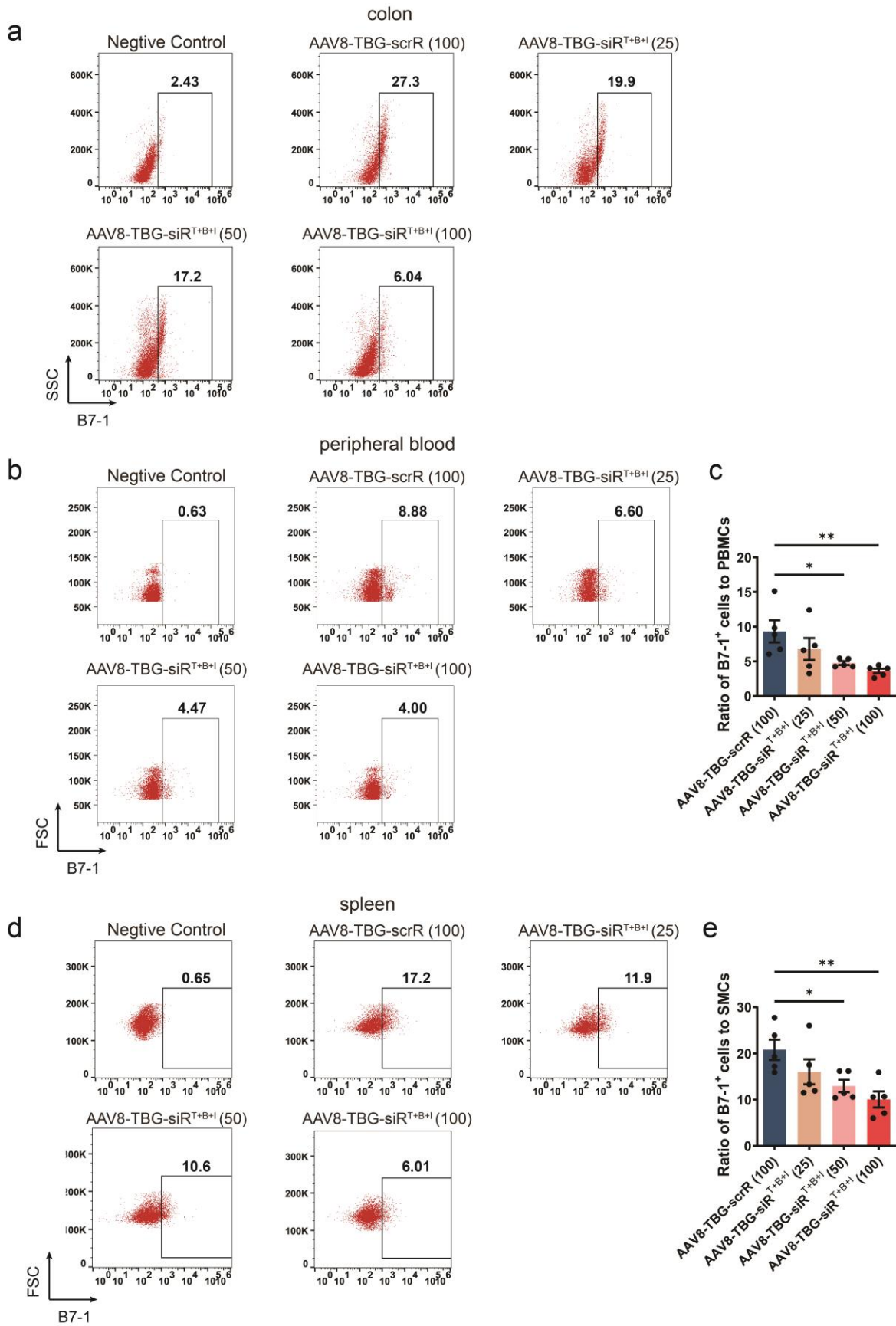
314 **Supplementary Figure 19. Intravenous injection of the AAV9-CMV-siR^{T+B+I} results in**
315 **accumulation of TNF- α siRNA, B7-1 siRNA and integrin α 4 siRNA *in vivo* and silencing of**
316 **target genes in the colon. (a-c)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of
317 TNF- α siRNA in the liver, plasma and colon (n = 4 in each group). **(d-f)** Quantitative RT-PCR
318 analysis of the absolute expression levels of B7-1 siRNA in the liver, plasma and colon (n = 4 in
319 each group). **(g-i)** Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of integrin α 4
320 siRNA in the liver, plasma and colon (n = 4 in each group). **(j)** Determination of the absolute
321 expression levels of TNF- α protein in the colon by ELISA (n = 4 in each group). **(k and l)**
322 Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the relative expression levels of B7-1 mRNA and integrin α 4
323 mRNA in the colon (n = 4 in each group). Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance
324 was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05;
325 ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.
326



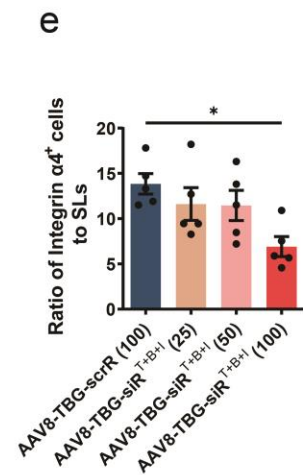
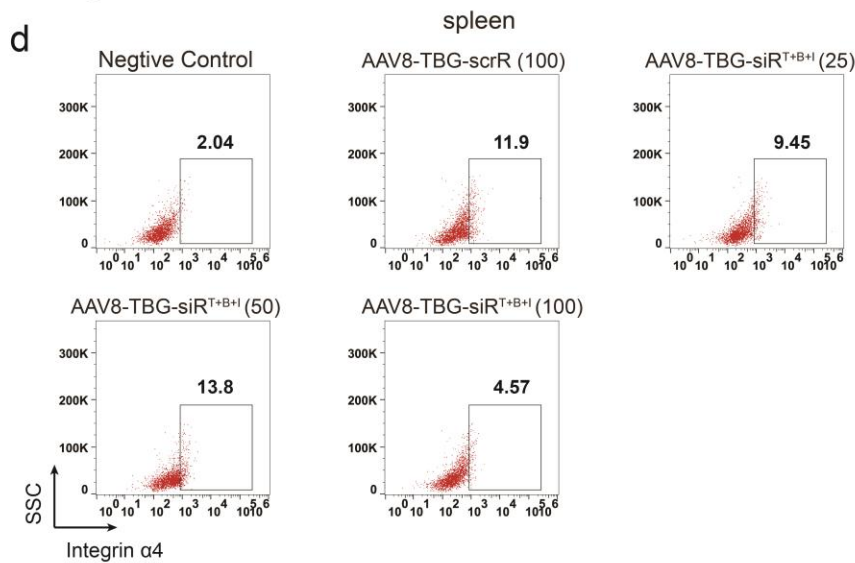
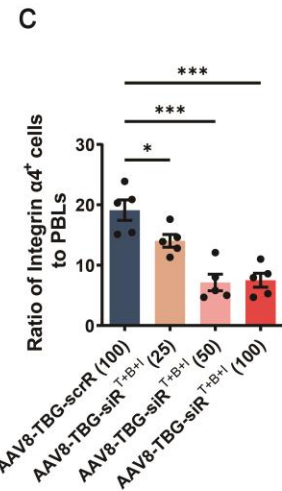
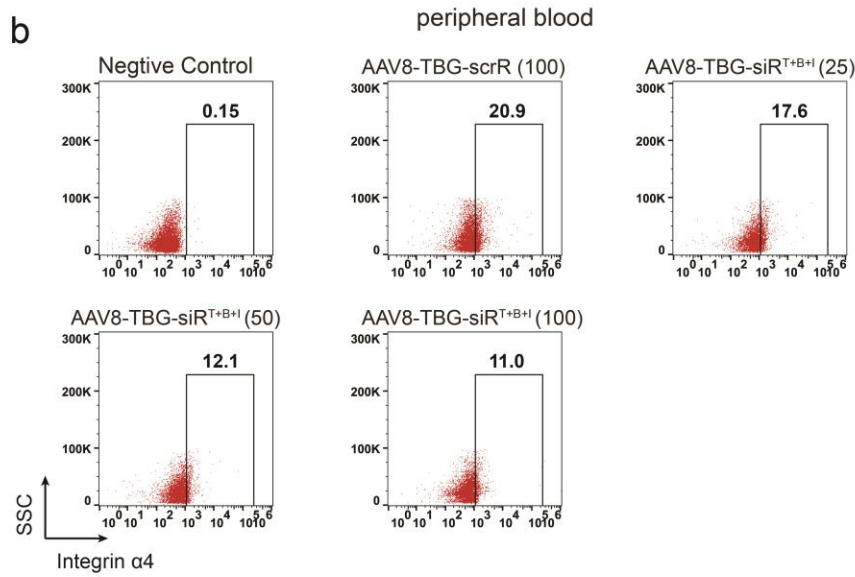
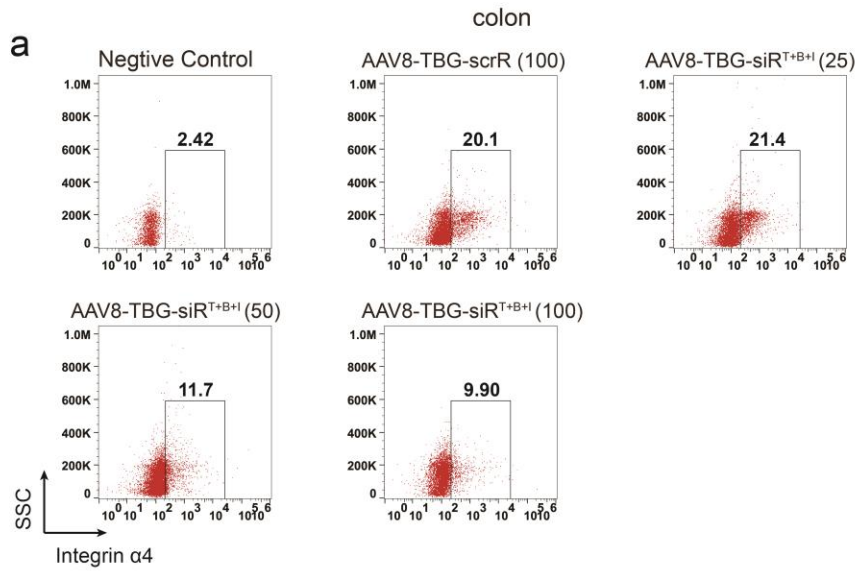
328 **Supplementary Figure 20. Intravenous injection of the AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} induces long-**
329 **term combination therapy in the DSS-induced chronic UC model. (a)** Evaluation of AAV-
330 mediated luciferase expression to reflect co-expressed siRNA accumulation *in vivo* (n = 6 in each
331 group). **(b)** Evaluation of AAV-mediated luciferase expression in various tissues of mice. **(c)** Mean
332 colon length (n = 5 in each group). **(d)** Determination of serum levels of IL-17A and IL-12p70 by
333 ELISA (n = 5 in each group). **(e)** Representative images of H&E staining of colon sections. Scale
334 bar: 100 μ m. **(f)** Histological scores of colon sections (n = 5 in each group). Values are presented
335 as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's
336 multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.
337



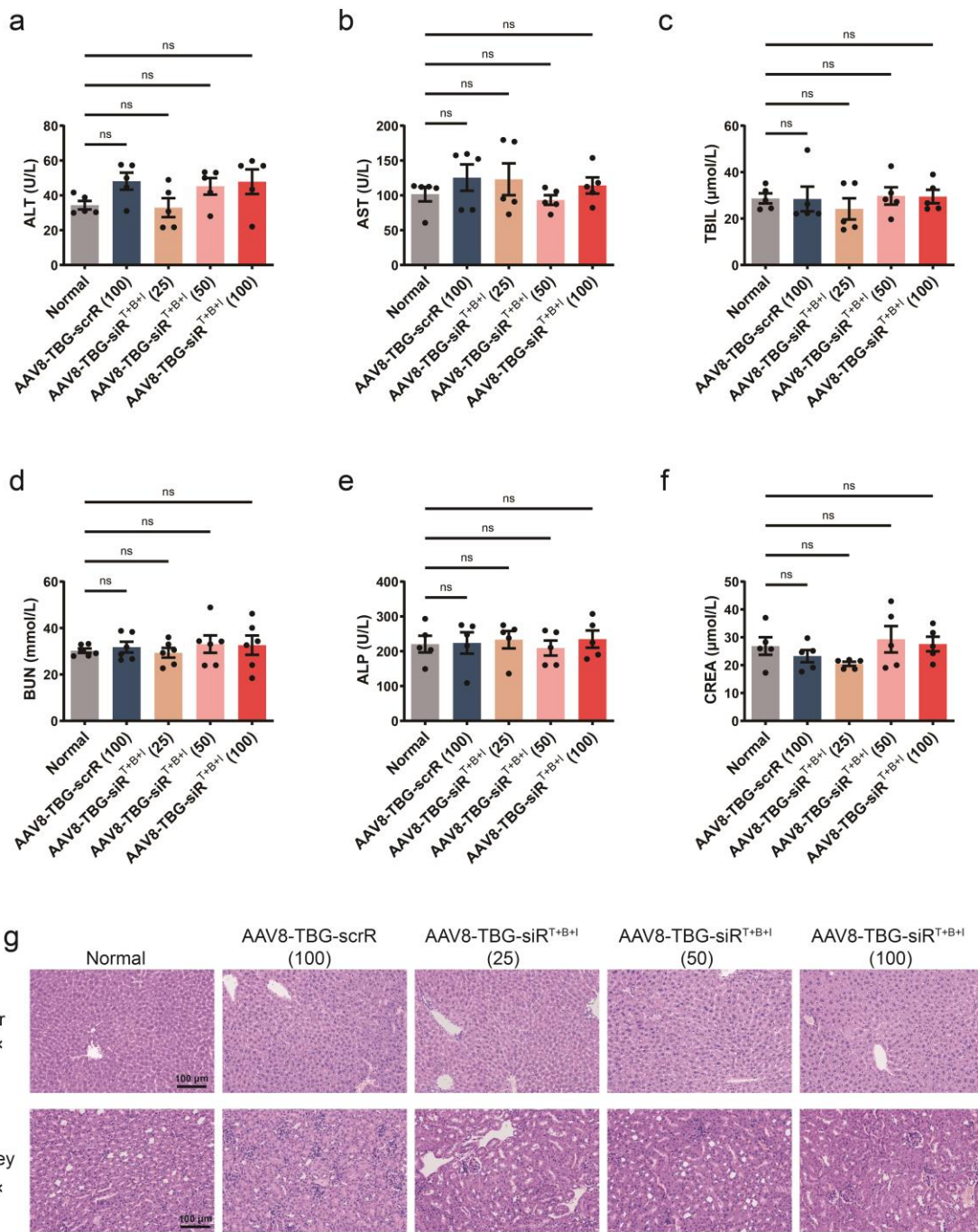
338
 339 **Supplementary Figure 21. Intravenous injection of the AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} results in**
 340 **accumulation of TNF- α siRNA, B7-1 siRNA and integrin $\alpha 4$ siRNA *in vivo* and silencing of**
 341 **target genes in the colon. (a-c) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of**
 342 **TNF- α siRNA, B7-1 siRNA and integrin $\alpha 4$ siRNA in the liver (n = 6 in each group). (d-f)**
 343 **Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of the absolute expression levels of TNF- α mRNA, B7-1 mRNA**
 344 **and integrin $\alpha 4$ mRNA in the colon (n = 6 in normal, AAV8-TBG-scrR (100), AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I}**
 345 **(25), AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} (50), and AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} (100) groups; n = 5 in IFX group).**
 346 **Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA**
 347 **followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.005.**



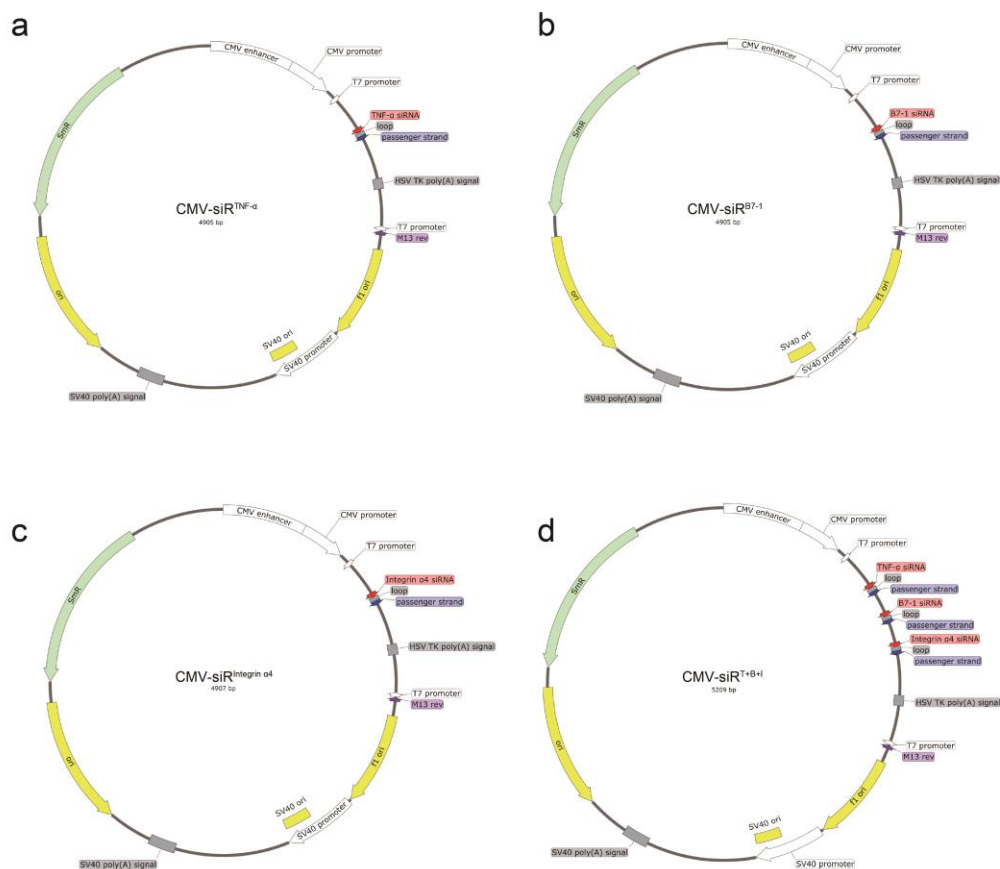
350 **Supplementary Figure 22. Intravenous injection of the AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} results in loss of**
351 **B7-1 protein on the membrane surface of mononuclear cells. (a)** Representative flow
352 cytometric plots of B7-1 on the surface of colonic lamina propria mononuclear cells. IgG isotype-
353 labelled cells was used as a negative control. **(b)** Representative flow cytometric plots of B7-1 on
354 the surface of peripheral blood mononuclear cells. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative
355 control. **(c)** The population of B7-1⁺ cells in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (n = 5 in each
356 group). **(d)** Representative flow cytometric plots of B7-1 on the surface of splenic mononuclear
357 cells. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. **(e)** The population of B7-1⁺ cells
358 in splenic mononuclear cells (n = 5 in each group). Values are presented as the mean ± SEM.
359 Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison.
360 * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01.
361



363 **Supplementary Figure 23. Intravenous injection of the AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I} results in loss of**
364 **integrin $\alpha 4$ protein on the membrane surface of mononuclear cells. (a)** Representative flow
365 cytometric plots of integrin $\alpha 4$ on the surface of mononuclear cells derived from the colonic lamina
366 propria. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control. **(b)** Representative flow
367 cytometric plots of integrin $\alpha 4$ on the surface of peripheral blood lymphocytes. IgG isotype-
368 labelled cells was used as a negative control. **(c)** The population of integrin $\alpha 4^+$ cells in peripheral
369 blood lymphocytes (n = 5 in each group). **(d)** Representative flow cytometric plots of integrin $\alpha 4$
370 on the surface of splenic lymphocytes. IgG isotype-labelled cells was used as a negative control.
371 **(e)** The population of integrin $\alpha 4^+$ cells in splenic lymphocytes (n = 5 in each group). Values are
372 presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by
373 Dunnett's multiple comparison. * p < 0.05; *** p < 0.005.
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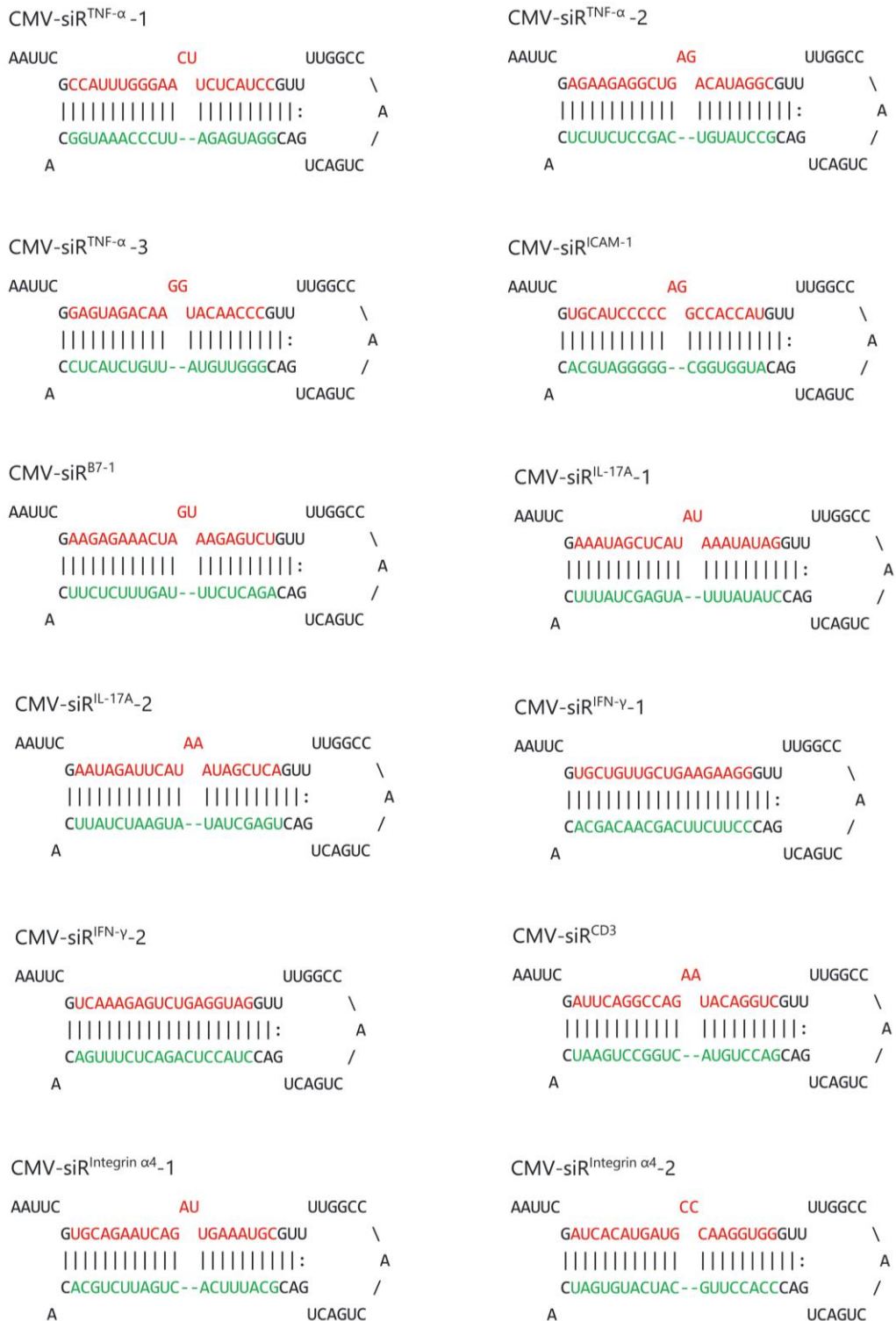


376 **Supplementary Figure 24. Evaluation of the toxic effects and tissue damage in mice after**
377 **intravenous injection of AAV8-TBG-siR^{T+B+I}.** On week 0, BALB/c mice were intravenously
378 injected with 100 μ L AAV8-TBG-scrR (3.0×10^{12} V. G/mL) or 25, 50 or 100 μ L AAV8-TBG-
379 siR^{T+B+I} (3.0×10^{12} V. G/mL). At the same time, chronic UC was induced by rhythmically
380 administering to mice 2.5% DSS for 1 week and water for 2 weeks and the cycle was repeated for
381 3 times. Untreated BALB/c mice were included as normal controls. After the treatment, mice were
382 sacrificed, and blood and tissue samples were collected and analysed for serum biochemical
383 indicators and tissue damage. **(a-f)** Measurement of representative serum biochemical indicators,
384 including alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), total bilirubin
385 (TBIL), blood urea nitrogen (BUN), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and creatinine (CREA), in the
386 serum (n = 5 in each group). **(g)** Histological examination of the liver and kidney. Scale bar: 100
387 μ m. Values are presented as the mean \pm SEM. Significance was determined using one-way
388 ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison. NS, not significant.
389

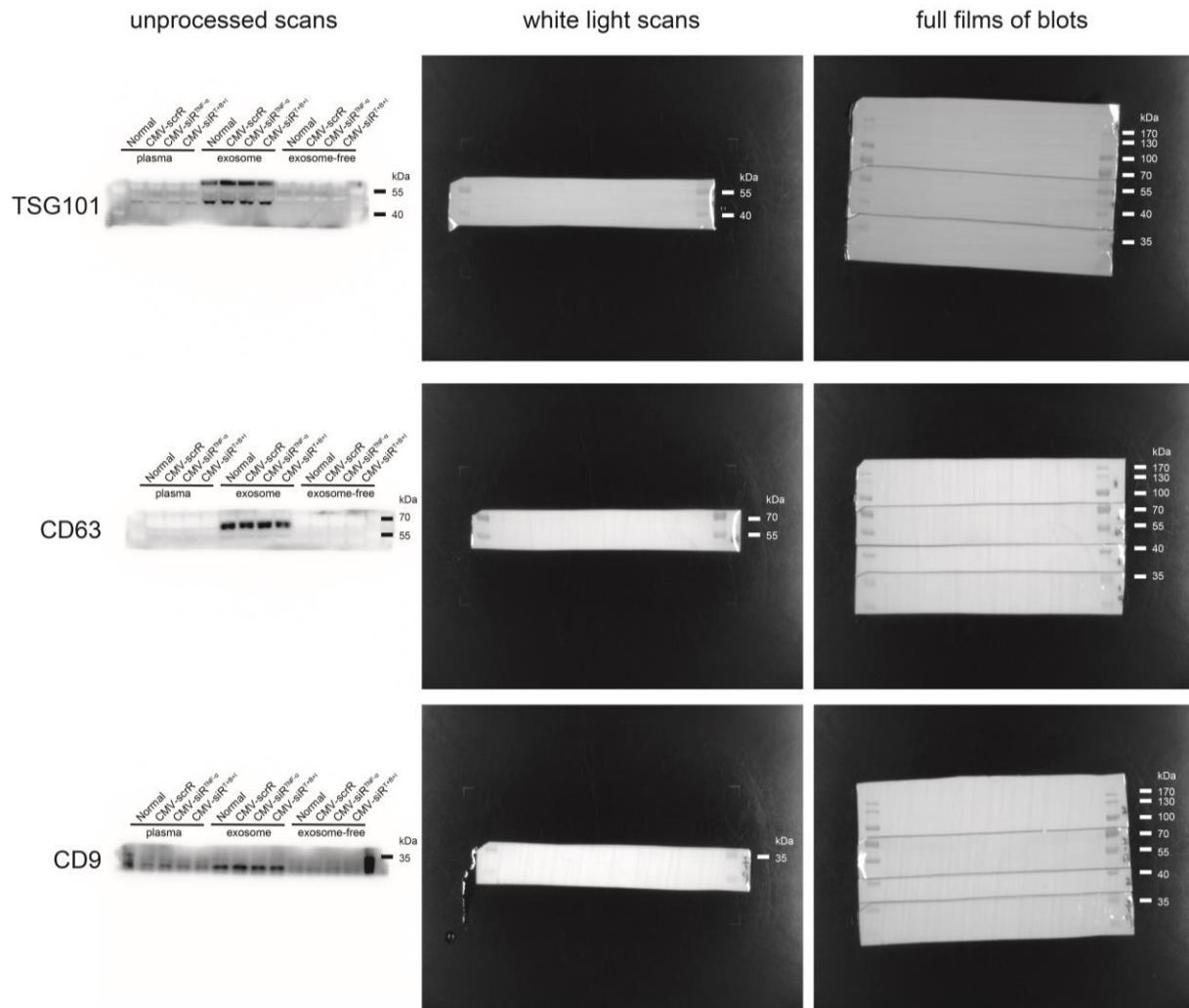


390
 391 **Supplementary Figure 25. Maps of the plasmids used to express genetic circuits. (a) CMV-**
 392 **siR^{TNF-α} circuit. (b) CMV-siR^{B7-1} circuit. (c) CMV-siR^{Integrin α4} circuit. (d) CMV-siR^{T+B+I} circuit.**

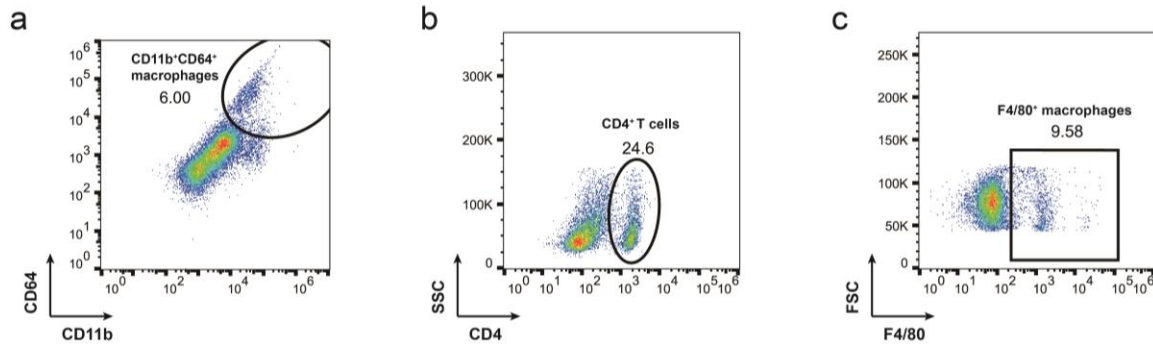
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 394



395
396 **Supplementary Figure 26. Sequences of siRNA expression cassettes.** Sequences of the siRNA
397 expression cassettes designed for silencing of TNF- α , IL-17A, IFN- γ , IL-6, integrin α 4, ICAM-1,
398 CD3 and B7-1 are shown. Guide strands are marked in red, and passenger strands are marked in
399 green.



400
 401 **Supplementary Figure 27. Original Western blot images for Supplementary Figure 4c.**
 402 Western blot analysis was performed to determine specific sEV markers (TSG101, CD63 and CD9)
 403 in whole plasma, purified sEVs and sEV-free plasma. An equal amount of total protein was loaded
 404 in each lane. Whole uncropped images of the original western blots and the raw, unprocessed scans
 405 are shown.



406
 407 **Supplementary Figure 28. Gating strategy.** (a) Gating strategy to obtain CD11b⁺CD64⁺
 408 macrophages. Strategy applies to data generated in Figure 5j. (b) Gating strategy to obtain CD4⁺ T
 409 cells. Strategy applies to data generated in Figure 5l, 5n and 8h and Supplementary Figure 14g,
 410 15a, 15c, 23a, 23b and 23d. (c) Gating strategy to obtain F4/80⁺ macrophages. Strategy applies to
 411 data generated in Figure 8d and Supplementary Figure 13c, 14a, 14c, 22a, 22b and 22d.
 412

413 **Supplementary Tables**

414 **Supplementary Table 1. Comparison of the therapeutic effects between genetic circuits and**
 415 **infliximab (IFX).**

416

Models	Groups	Body weight	Colon length	DAI	Expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines	Pathological evaluation
DSS-induced acute UC model	CMV-siR ^{TNF-α} vs. IFX	≈	>	>	>	<
TNBS-induced acute colitis model	CMV-siR ^{TNF-α} vs. IFX	>	>	>	\	\
DSS-induced chronic UC model	CMV-siR ^{TNF-α} vs. IFX	>	>	>	>	>
TNBS-induced chronic colitis model	CMV-siR ^{TNF-α} vs. IFX	>	≈	>	>	>
IL-10 ^{-/-} mice with spontaneous chronic colitis	CMV-siR ^{TNF-α} vs. IFX	≈	>	\	>	<
IL-10 ^{-/-} mice with spontaneous chronic colitis	CMV-siR ^{T+B+1} vs. IFX	≈	>	\	>	>
DSS-induced chronic UC model	AAV8-TBG-siR ^{T+B+1} vs. IFX	≈	>	>	≈	≈

417 >: Plasmid-based or AAV-driven genetic circuits perform better than IFX.

418 <: Plasmid-based or AAV-driven genetic circuits perform worse than IFX.

419 ≈: Plasmid-based or AAV-driven genetic circuits perform same as IFX.

420 \: not available.

421

422 **Supplementary Table 2. Sequences of the siRNAs designed for silencing of TNF- α , IL-17A,**
 423 **INF- γ , IL-6, integrin α 4, ICAM-1, CD3 and B7-1.**

424

Name	siRNA sequences (5' - 3')
CMV-siR ^{TNF-α-1}	CCATTTGGGAACTTCTCATCC
CMV-siR ^{TNF-α-2}	AGAAGAGGCTGAGACATAGGC
CMV-siR ^{TNF-α-3}	GAGTAGACAAGGTACAACCC
CMV-siR ^{ICAM-1}	TGCATCCCCCAGGCCACCAT
CMV-siR ^{B7-1}	AAGAGAACTAGTAAGAGTCT
CMV-siR ^{IL-17A-1}	AAATAGCTCATATAAATATAG
CMV-siR ^{IL-17A-2}	AATAGATTCATAAATAGCTCA
CMV-siR ^{IFN-γ-1}	TGCTGTTGCTGAAGAAGG
CMV-siR ^{IFN-γ-2}	TCAAAGAGTCTGAGGTAG
CMV-siR ^{IL-6}	AGAGCAGAATGAGCTACAGAC
CMV-siR ^{CD3}	ATTCAGGCCAGAATACAGGTC
CMV-siR ^{Integrin α4-1}	TGCAGAATCAGATTGAAATGC
CMV-siR ^{Integrin α4-2}	ATCACATGATGCCCAAGGTGG

425

426

427 **Supplementary Table 3. Primer sequences.**

Name	Primer sequences (5' - 3')
TNF- α (forward)	CAGGCGGTGCCTATGTCTC
TNF- α (reverse)	CGATCACCCCGAAGTTCAGTAG
B7-1 (forward)	TCCTGGGCCTGGTCCTTTCA
B7-1 (reverse)	GGGAAACCCCGGAAGCAA
Integrin α 4 (forward)	GCCAACCGTCGCATCCTGTG
Integrin α 4 (reverse)	TCGGTCTGCACCTCGCTTCC
ICAM-1 (forward)	CTGGCAGCAAGTAGGCAAGGAC
ICAM-1 (reverse)	TGGCTGGCGGCTCAGTATCTC
IFN- γ (forward)	CAGGCCATCAGCAACAACATAAGC
IFN- γ (reverse)	AGCTGGTGGACCACTCGGATG
IL-6 (forward)	AGGAGTGGCTAAGGACCAAGACC
IL-6 (reverse)	CTGACCACAGTGAGGAATGTCCAC
CD3 (forward)	GTCTGCGTCTGGTGCCTTCTTC
CD3 (reverse)	CGGCATCGTCCTGGCAAGTG
IL-17A (forward)	TGATGCTGTTGCTGCTGCTGAG
IL-17A (reverse)	TGGAACGGTTGAGGTAGTCTGAGG
GAPDH (forward)	GATATTGTTGCCATCAATGAC
GAPDH (reverse)	TTGATTTTGGAGGGATCTCG

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