Supplemental information

Longitudinal characterization of circulating neutrophils uncovers phenotypes associated with severity in hospitalized COVID-19 patients

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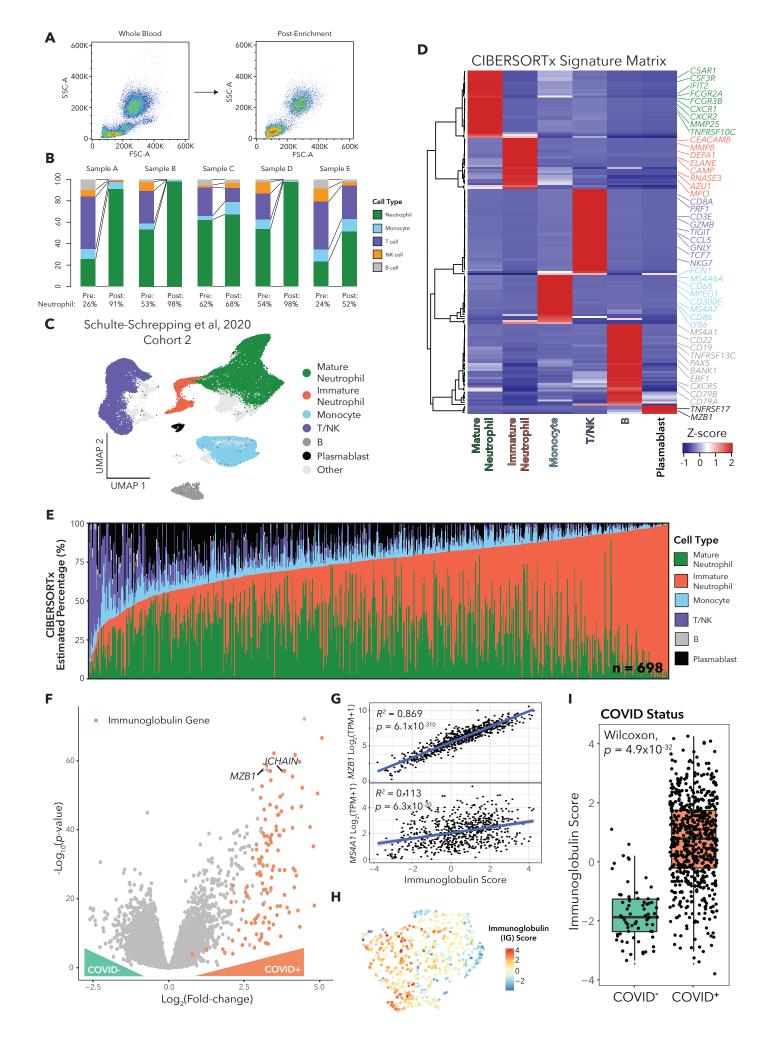


Figure S1. Estimation of Sample Purity Using CIBERSORTx and Regressing Plasmablast Contamination, Related to Figure 1.

- **(A)** Representative forward-scatter vs. side-scatter flow cytometry plot of healthy donor whole blood pre-enrichment (left) and post-enrichment (right) for neutrophils following partial red blood cell lysis and gating to remove doublets and some debris.
- **(B)** Bar plots displaying the composition of viable cells from healthy blood samples pre- and post-neutrophil enrichment with red blood cell lysis. Composition was determined by flow cytometry, broken down according to major lineage (neutrophil, monocyte, T cell, NK cell, B cell). Percentages below indicate the percentage of neutrophils in each sample. Average viable neutrophil percentage pre-enrichment: 44%. Average viable neutrophil percentage post-enrichment: 81%.
- **(C)** UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection) plot of single-cell RNA-seq data of fresh whole blood from COVID-19-positive patients and controls from Schulte-Schrepping et al. Cohort 2. Cells are colored according to their major lineage (neutrophil, monocyte, T/NK, B, Plasmablast, Other), with neutrophils split between mature and immature.
- **(D)** CIBERSORTx scaled expression signature matrix, generated from pseudobulked Schulte-Schrepping cell types using the "Create Signature Matrix" module, used to deconvolute the neutrophil-enriched bulk RNA-seq samples.
- **(E)** Distribution of the CIBERSORTx estimated cell type percentages for each sample. Each column is a single sample, and columns are ordered by increasing Total Neutrophil content (Immature Neutrophil Fraction + Mature Neutrophil Fraction).
- **(F)** Volcano plot showing differentially expressed genes between COVID-19-positive and COVID-19-negative samples on Day 0. Immunoglobulin genes (all of which are used in the score) are highlighted in red, and plasmablast marker genes *MZB1* and *JCHAIN* are annotated.
- **(G)** Scatter plots and linear regression of immunoglobulin score versus log₂(TPM+1) expression of (top) plasmablast marker gene *MZB1* and (bottom) B cell marker *MS4A1*. P values were obtained using Im() in R, which uses a t-test with the null hypothesis that the slope is zero.
- (H) UMAP plot of all bulk RNA-seg samples color-coded by immunoglobulin score.
- (I) Box plots comparing immunoglobulin score across COVID-19 status for all time points. Wilcoxon rank-sum test performed to determine significance.

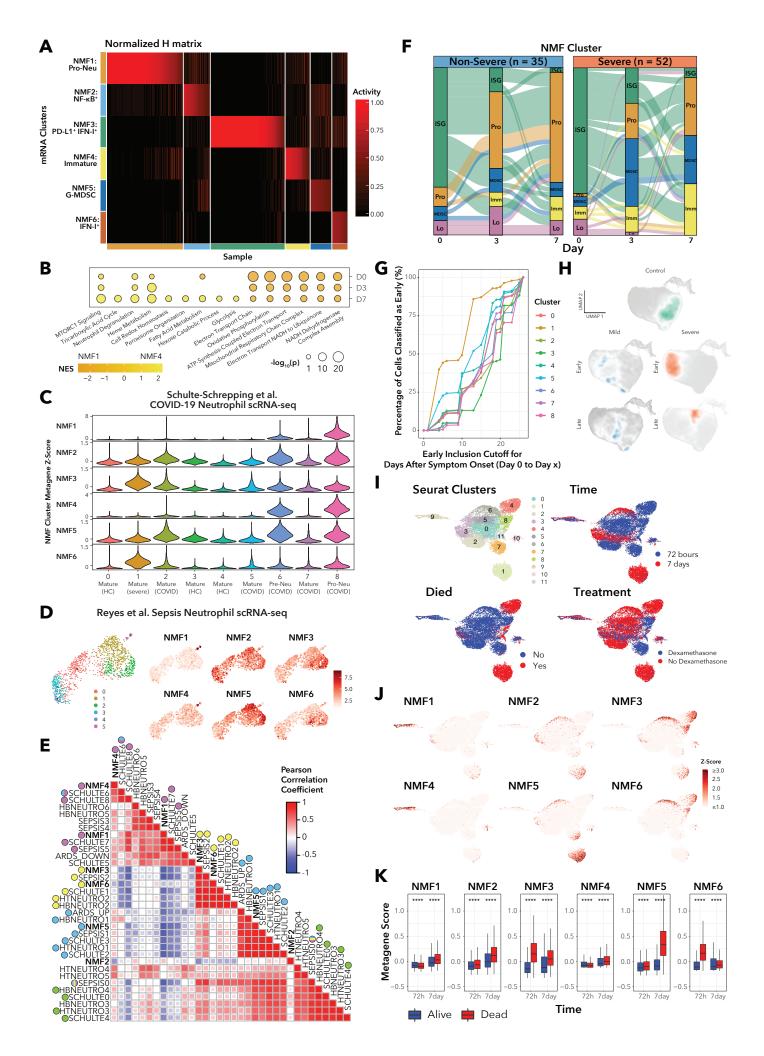


Figure S2. Characterization of NMF Clustering Results and Comparisons with Single-Cell RNA-seq Data, Related to Figure 2.

- **(A)** NMF Normalized H matrix of neutrophil-enriched bulk RNA-seq samples with CIBERSORTX Estimated Total Neutrophil Percentage above 50%. Clustering identified 6 subtypes. Activity corresponds to the probability that a sample is included in a given cluster. Samples are ordered according to activity value within a given cluster.
- **(B)** Gene set enrichment analysis on genes differentially expressed between COVID-19-positive samples in clusters NMF1 versus NMF4 on Days 0, 3, and 7, specifically highlighting metabolic pathways. Bubble size corresponds to -log₁₀(p) and color corresponds to NES.
- **(C)** Violin plots of the metagene z-score for each NMF cluster signature across the Schulte-Schrepping single-cell fresh whole blood neutrophil data.
- **(D)** UMAPs of single-cell RNA-seq data of fresh whole-blood neutrophils from sepsis patients and healthy controls from Reyes *et al.* 2021. UMAPs are color-coded by Seurat cluster (left) and NMF cluster metagene scores (right) from each NMF cluster's marker genes.
- **(E)** Pairwise Pearson correlation heatmap for the Z-scores of each gene set on all samples in the cohort. Color-coded dots indicate the network group membership from Figure 2C.
- **(F)** Alluvial diagrams displaying the change in NMF cluster membership over time for patients who had all three blood draws which all passed quality control, split by non-severe (n = 35 patients) and severe (n = 52 patients). "ISG" indicates NMF3 and NMF6, "Pro" indicates NMF1, "MDSC" indicates NMF5, "Immature" indicates NMF4, and "Lo" indicates samples with CIBERSORTx Estimated Total Neutrophil Percentage less than 50%.
- **(G)** Line chart showing the percentage of cells within a cluster that are categorized as early as a function of inclusion cutoff for days following symptom onset for the Schulte-Schrepping Cohort 2 fresh whole-blood neutrophil data. Data shown are for all COVID-19-positive samples. The early cutoff was defined as 0-10 days after disease onset by Schulte-Schrepping et al.
- **(H)** Density plots of healthy controls, disease severity, and time point overlaid on the Schulte-Schrepping Cohort 2 neutrophil UMAP, classifying early time points as days 0-13 following symptom onset.
- (I) UMAPs of single-cell RNA-seq data of circulating neutrophils in COVID-19 from Sinha et al. 2021. UMAPs are color-coded by Seurat clustering (top left), time point (top left), disease severity (bottom left), and dexamethasone treatment status (bottom right).
- (J) UMAPs of circulating neutrophils from Sinha et al. color-coded by NMF cluster metagene scores.
- **(K)** Box plots comparing NMF metagene scores between COVID-19 patients that survived severe disease and those that died in the Sinha et al. cohort. Quadruple asterisks indicate $p \le 0.0001$. P values are for the Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

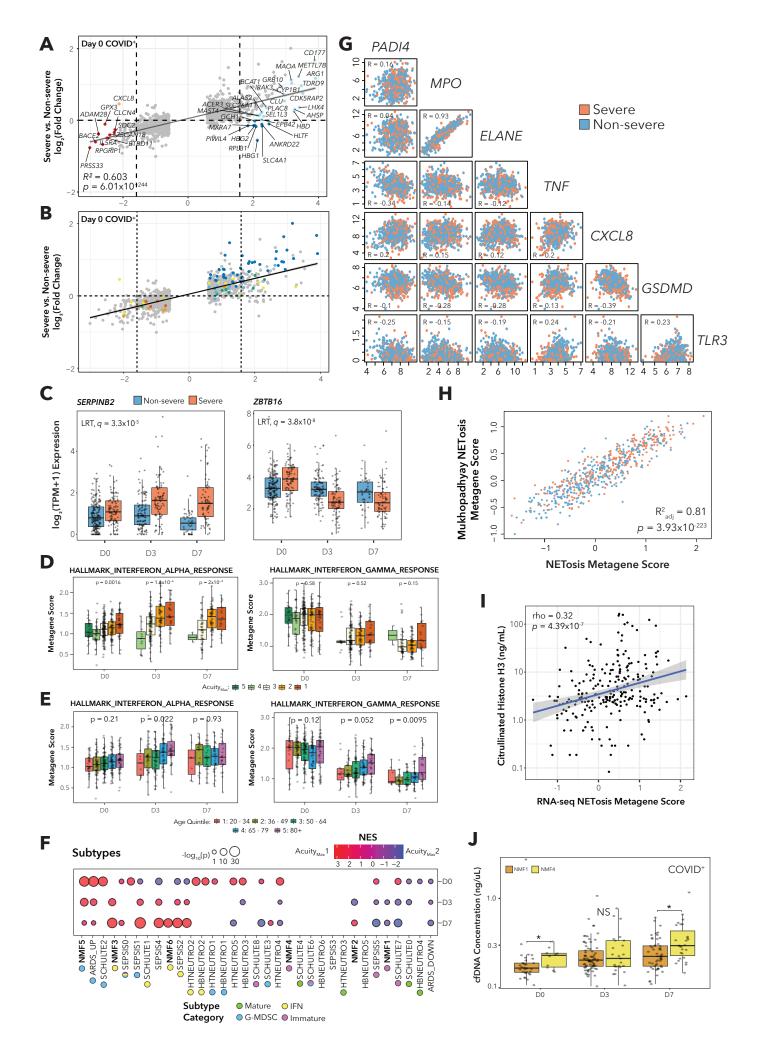


Figure S3. Genes and Pathways that Vary with Time According to Severity, and Patterns of NETosis Scores in RNA and Plasma, Related to Figures 2, 3, and 4.

- (A) Scatter plots and linear regression comparing log₂(fold-change) of COVID-19-positive severe versus non-severe on Day 0 to log₂(fold-change) of ARDS versus Healthy Volunteers at its only time point. For each gene, the difference between the ARDS and COVID-19 fold-changes was calculated. Genes with a difference in fold-change greater than two standard deviations are color-coded according to the legend.
- **(B)** Scatter plot from (A), color-coded according to whether the ARDS microarray differentially expressed gene is a COVID-19 NMF cluster marker gene.
- **(C)** Box plots of log₂(TPM+1) expression over time of *SERPINB2* and *ZBTB16*, two genes which show significant interactions between Day and Severity_{Max} according to the DESeq2 Likelihood Ratio Test.
- **(D)** Box plots displaying (top) the HALLMARK_INTERFERON_ALPHA_RESPONSE metagene score and (bottom) the HALLMARK_INTERFERON_GAMMA_RESPONSE metagene score, separated by Day and Acuity_{Max}. Indicated p values are for the Kruskal-Wallis test within each Day.
- **(E)** Box plots displaying (top) the HALLMARK_INTERFERON_ALPHA_RESPONSE metagene score and (bottom) the HALLMARK_INTERFERON_GAMMA_RESPONSE metagene score, separated by Day and Age quintile. Indicated p values are for the Kruskal-Wallis test within each Day.
- **(F)** Gene set enrichment analysis for the differentially expressed genes between COVID-19-positive Acuity_{Max}1 (death) and Acuity_{Max}2 (intubation with survival) patients on Days 0, 3, and 7. Gene sets correspond to the neutrophil states in Figure 2F. Bubble size is scaled to $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$ and color corresponds to normalized enrichment score (NES).
- **(G)** Scatter plots comparing $\log_2(\text{TPM+1})$ expression of genes contributing to the NETosis metagene score (*PADI4*, *MPO*, *ELANE*, *TNF*, *CXCL8*, *GSDMD*, *TLR3*). Points are color-coded according to Severity_{Max}. Pearson correlation coefficients are indicated.
- **(H)** Scatter plot comparing the NETosis metagene score to a previously defined NETosis gene set from Mukhopadhyay et al. (*CR1*, *ITGAM*, *CFH*, *CFB*, *C5*, *C5AR1*, *C3*, *CFP*, *MPO*, *ELANE*, *CTSG*, *HMGB1*, *AGER*, *TLR2*, *TLR4*, *H4C1*, *TF*, *TFPI*, *F2*, *FGB*, *PLG*, *VWF*, *PF4*, *CCL5*, *DNASE1*, *ITGB2*, *CD33*, *CEACAM8*). R² and p value determined using lm() in R.
- (I) Scatter plots comparing the RNA-seq NETosis Metagene Score versus citrullinated histone H3 in patient plasma as measured by ELISA. Linear regression was calculated using the Im() function in R, and rho refers to the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.
- (J) Box plots comparing cell-free DNA concentration in plasma from COVID-19-positive patients across time, separated by NMF1 versus NMF4. Single asterisk denotes Wilcoxon rank-sum test p < 0.05.

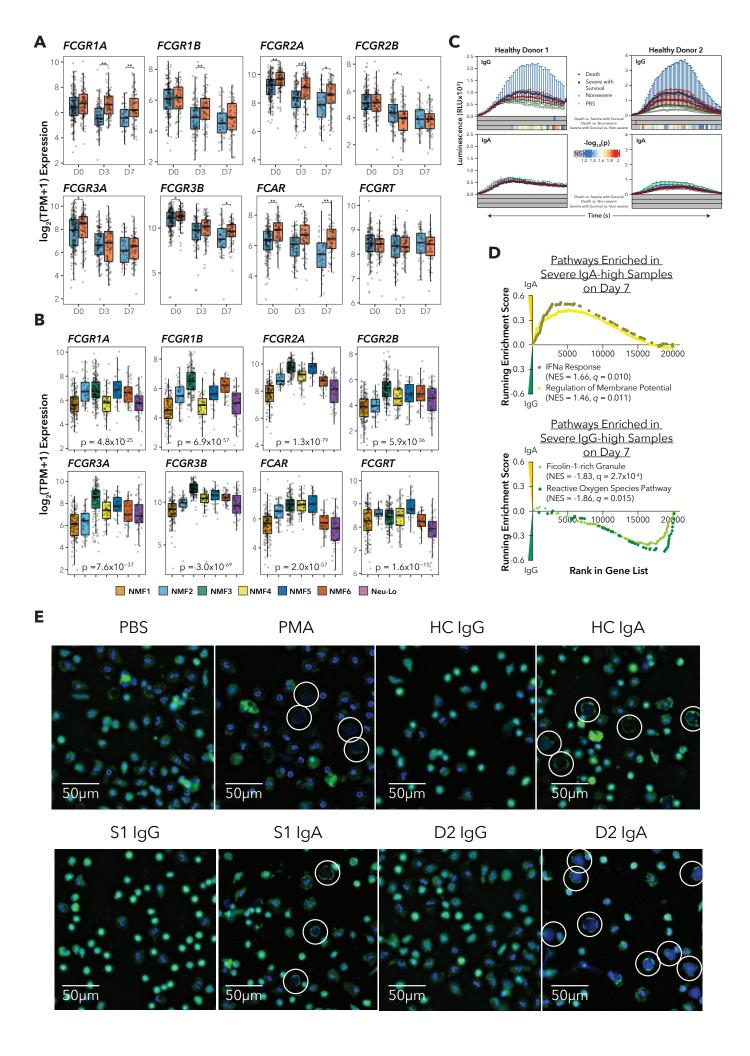


Figure S4. Fc Receptor Expression, and Differential Effects of IgG versus IgA Antibodies on Neutrophil Effector Functions, Related to Figure 5.

- **(A)-(B)** Box plots of $\log_2(\text{TPM+1})$ expression of Fc receptors (*FCGR1A*, *FCGR1B*, *FCGR2A*, *FCGR3B*, *FCGR3B*, *FCAR*, *FCGRT*) across (A) Day and Severity_{Max} and (B) NMF cluster. P values indicate the Kruskal-Wallis test: *: p < 0.05, **: p < 0.001.
- **(C)** Point-range plots showing the luminescence of the reactive oxygen species reagent, luminol, over time when neutrophils from two healthy donors are exposed to IgG:S or IgA:S immune complexes using purified IgG and IgA antibodies from serum of patients who died (n = 12), patients with severe disease who survived (n = 12), and patients with non-severe disease (n = 12), or PBS. Point ranges are plotted as median +/- interquartile range. Color bar beneath each plot displays the log-transformed P values for the Wilcoxon rank-sum test between (top) Death vs. Severe with survival, (middle) Death vs. Non-severe, and (bottom) Severe with survival vs. Non-severe values at each time point, with gray values indicating no significant difference.
- **(D)** GSEA enrichment plots for pathways enriched between samples with higher IgA:IgG or higher IgG:IgA ratios for COVID-19-positive samples from severe patients on Day 7. Pathways enriched in IgA-high samples are HALLMARK_INTERFERON_ALPHA_RESPONSE and GO_REGULATION_OF_MEMBRANE_POTENTIAL, and pathways enriched in IgG-high samples are HALLMARK_REACTIVE_OXYGEN_SPECIES_PATHWAY and GO_FICOLIN_1 RICH_GRANULE.
- **(E)** Representative fluorescence microscopy images of neutrophils treated with the following conditions: PBS, 100nM PMA + L-glu, one healthy control IgG + L-glu and IgA + L-glu, one severe with survival IgG + L-glu and IgA + L-glu, and one death IgG + L-glu and IgA + L-glu. Cells were stained for DNA (DAPI) and neutrophil elastase. Images were captured at 20x magnification. Blue; DAPI. Green; Neutrophil elastase. Circled cells indicate similar neutrophil cell death morphologies between PMA- and IgA-treated cells.

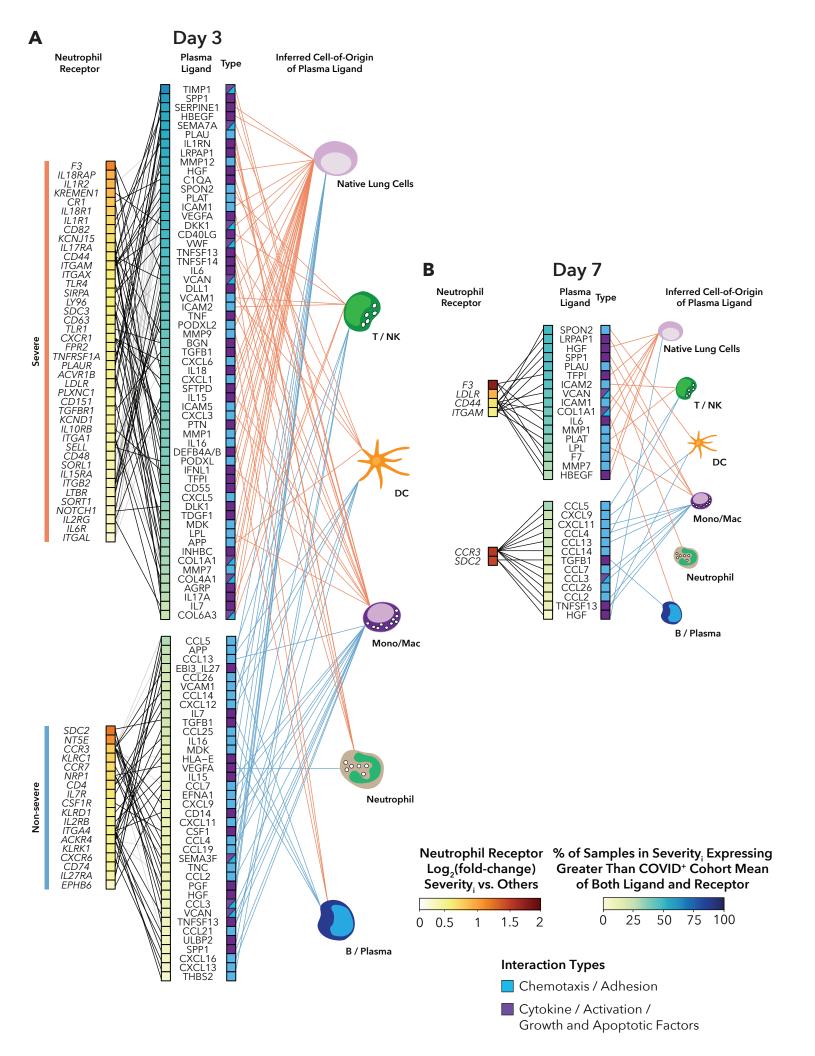


Figure S5. Ligand-receptor Interaction Analysis for Severe versus Non-severe Patients, Related to Figure 7.

Ligand-receptor analysis for differentially expressed ligands in plasma and receptors on neutrophils between COVID-19-positive severe and non-severe samples on (A) Day 3 and (B) Day 7. Ligands and receptors are color-coded by severity. Receptors are color-scaled according to the log₂(fold-change) between severity groups. Ligands are color-scaled according to the percentage of samples within the severity group for which the ligand and receptor are both expressed above the overall mean expression.

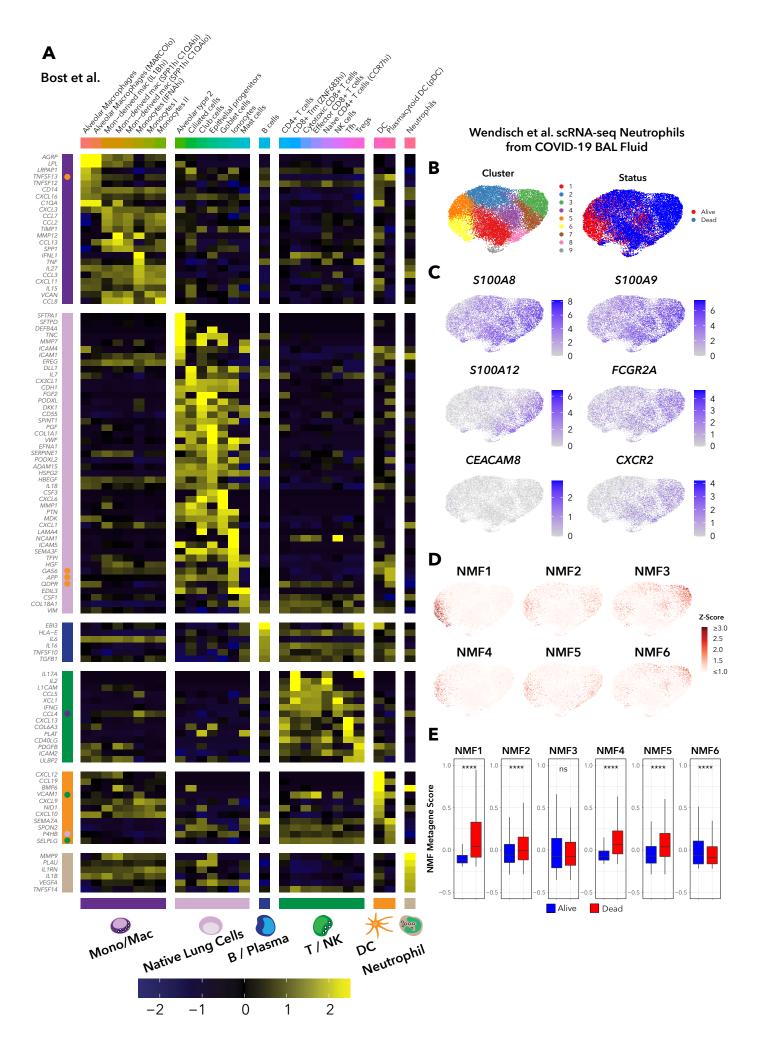


Figure S6. Inferring Cell-of-origin for Plasma Ligands Utilizing Single-cell RNA-seq Data and Neutrophil Subtypes in BAL Fluid, Related to Figure 7.

- (A) Heatmap displaying single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) average scaled expression values per cell type for the genes encoding the protein ligands found to be differentially expressed in plasma between NMF clusters or severity groups for the ligand-receptor analysis in Figure 7 and Figure S5. scRNA-seq data is from bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (Bost et al. 2020). Column breaks indicate major cell lineages (Mono/Mac, Native lung cells, B/Plasma, T/NK, DC, Neutrophil). Row breaks indicate which genes have the highest average expression in a given major cell lineage. Color-coded dots indicate that the highest-to-second-highest difference in average scaled expression was less than 0.1, and thus the ligand was assigned to both lineages.
- **(B)** UMAPs of single-cell RNA-seq data of neutrophils from COVID-19 BAL fluid from Wendisch et al. 2021. UMAPs are color-coded by Seurat clustering (left) and disease severity (right).
- **(C)** UMAPs of BAL fluid neutrophils color-coded according to scaled gene expression of *S100A8*, *S100A9*, *S100A12*, *FCGR2A*, *CEACAM8*, and *CXCR2*.
- (D) UMAPs of BAL fluid neutrophils color-coded by NMF cluster metagene scores.
- **(E)** Box plots comparing NMF metagene scores between patients with WHO severity 7 (severe disease with survival) and severity 8 (patients who died). ns; not significant. P values are for the Wilcoxon rank-sum test. Quadruple asterisks indicate $p \le 0.0001$.

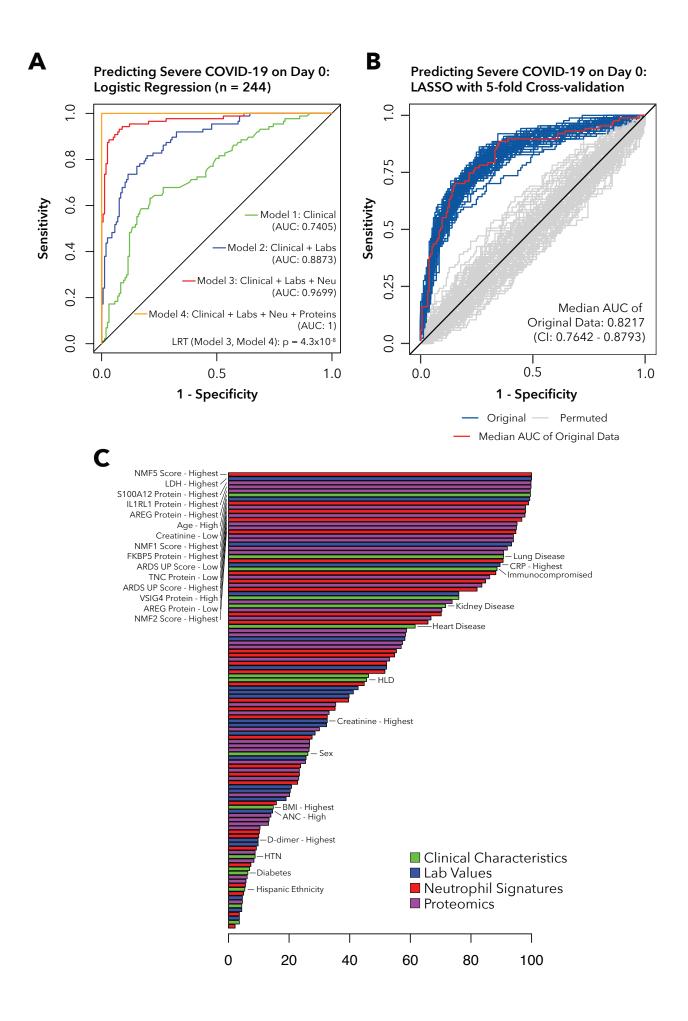


Figure S7. Predicting Severe COVID-19 on Day 0 Utilizing Clinical Data, Neutrophil Transcriptomics, and Neutrophil-expressed Plasma Proteins, Related to Figures 6 and 7.

- (A) Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve for predictive performance of logistic regression models predicting COVID-19 disease severity on Day 0. Ten samples were dropped from the models in Figure 3B due to missing proteomics data for a total of 244 samples. Model 1 includes only clinical characteristics: age, gender, ethnicity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, lung disease, kidney disease, immunocompromised status, BMI (AUC: 0.7405). Model 2 adds the following clinical laboratory values: ANC, ALC, Creatinine, CRP, D-dimer, LDH (AUC: 0.8873). Model 3 incorporates the following neutrophil gene signature scores, broken into quintiles: NMF1, NMF2, NMF3, NMF4, NMF5, NMF6, ARDS Up Juss, ARDS Down Juss (AUC: 0.9699). Model 4 adds the following plasma proteins, broken into expression quintiles: TNC, TNFRSF10C, S100A12, HGF, F9, AREG, MMP8, IL1RL1, FKBP5, VSIG4. Significance of improvement of model determined with the likelihood ratio test.
- **(B)** ROC curve of predictive performance of a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) model of COVID-19 disease severity on Day 0 using the parameters from Model 4. Prediction was performed with repeated 5-fold cross-validation with 100 repeats for both the original data and permutated labels of severity. Shown in red is the ROC curve for the cross-validation repeat with the median AUC across all repeats.
- **(C)** Bar plot displaying the selection frequency for each factor in the LASSO regression model. Bars are color coded by variable type, corresponding to the four models shown in (B). Lab values and gene signatures variables are broken into quintiles with levels: 1 = lowest, 2 = low, 3 = mid, 4 = high, 5 = highest.