

1 **Supplementary Information**

2 **Supplementary Figures 1-7 and Legends**

3

4 **IL-33 induces thymic involution-associated naive T cell aging and impairs host control of**
5 **severe infection**

6

7 Lei Xu ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, #}, Chuan Wei ^{1, 2, 3, 4, #}, Ying Chen ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Yue Wu ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Xiaoli Shou ^{1, 2, 3, 4},
8 Wenjie Chen ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Di Lu ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Haoran Sun ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Wei Li ⁶, Beibei Yu ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Xiaowei Wang
9 ⁷, Xiaojun Zhang ⁸, Yanxiong Yu ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Zhigang Lei ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Rui Tang ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Jifeng Zhu ^{1, 2, 3, 4},
10 Yalin Li ^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Linrong Lu ⁹, Hong Zhou ¹⁰, Sha Zhou ^{1, 2, 3, 4, *}, Chuan Su ^{1, 2, 3, 4, *}, Xiaojun
11 Chen ^{1, 2, 3, 4, *}

12

13 ¹Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Pathogen Biology, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu
14 211166, P. R. China.

15 ²State Key Lab of Reproductive Medicine, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu
16 211166, P. R. China.

17 ³Department of Pathogen Biology and Immunology, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing,
18 Jiangsu 211166, P. R. China.

19 ⁴Center for Global Health, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu 211166, P. R.
20 China.

21 ⁵Department of Respiratory, Nanjing First Hospital, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing,
22 Jiangsu 210006, P. R. China.

23 ⁶Department of Clinical Laboratory, Nanjing First Hospital, Nanjing Medical University,
24 Nanjing, Jiangsu 210006, P. R. China.

25 ⁷Department of Blood Transfusion, Children's Hospital of Nanjing Medical University,
26 Nanjing, Jiangsu 210008, P. R. China.

27 ⁸Imaging Center, Children's Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu
28 210008, P. R. China.

29 ⁹Institute of Immunology, School of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, P. R.
30 China.

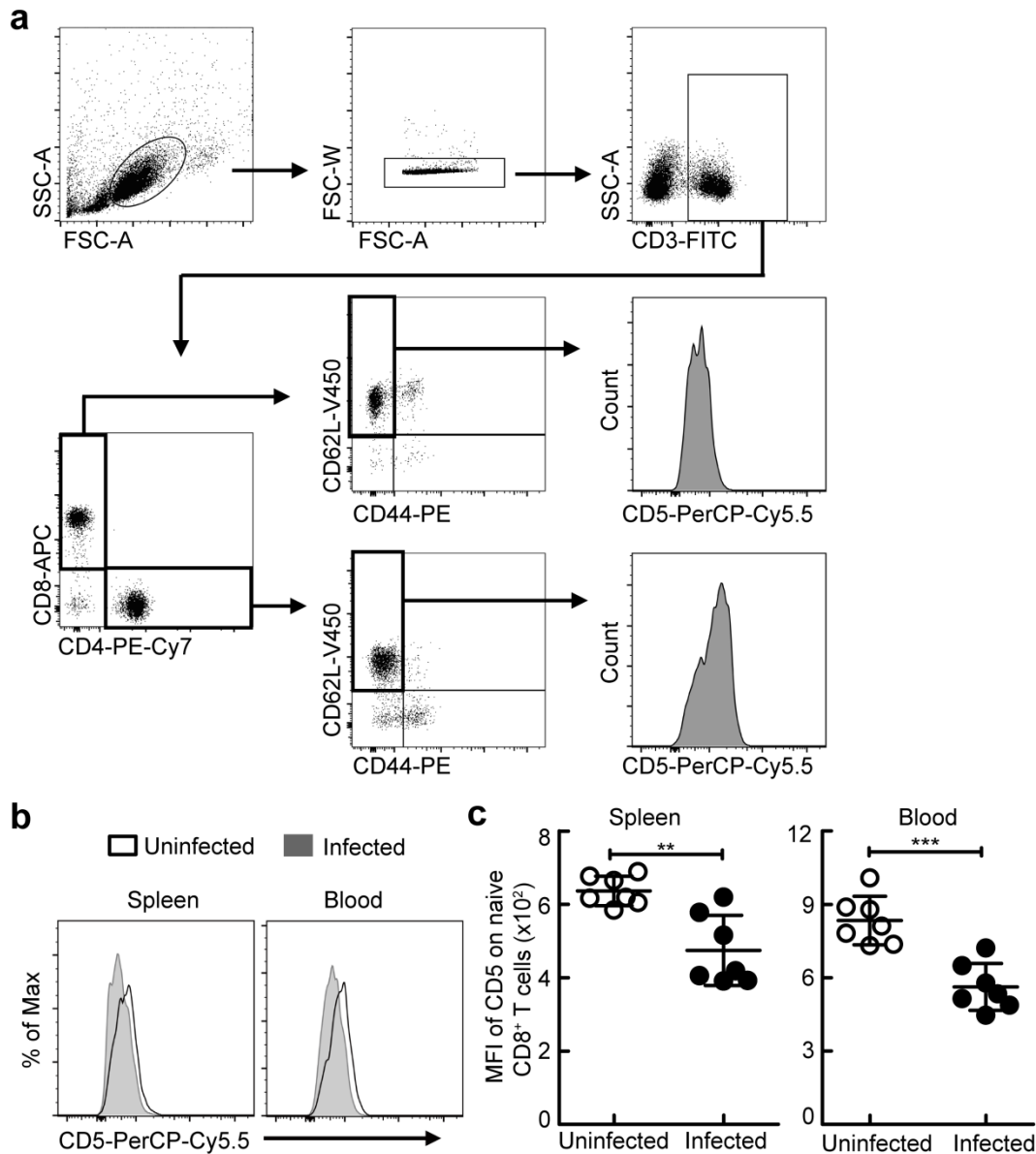
1 ¹⁰Department of Cell Biology, School of Life Sciences, Anhui Medical University, Hefei
2 230032, P. R. China.

3

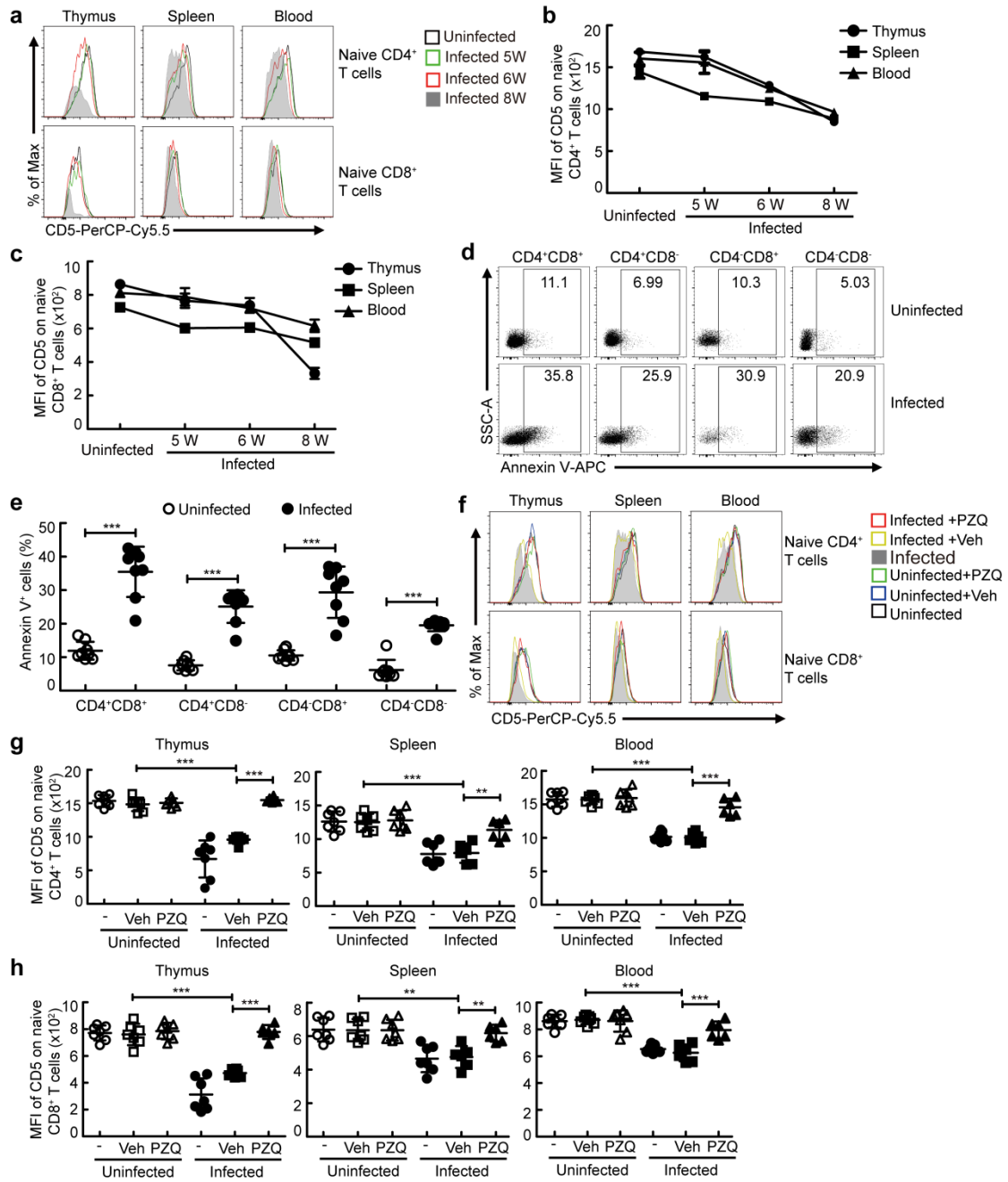
4 #These individuals contributed equally.

5 *Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to X.C. (email:
6 chenxiaojun@njmu.edu.cn), C.S. (email: chuansu@njmu.edu.cn), or S.Z. (shazhou@
7 njmu.edu.cn).

8



1
2 **Fig. S1. Schistosome infection decreases the expression of CD5 in naïve CD8⁺ T cells.** (a)
3 Gating strategy of CD5 expression on naïve CD4⁺ T cells or naïve CD8⁺ T cells; (b, c)
4 Samples were obtained from uninfected mice or mice 8 weeks after schistosome infection.
5 Representative and quantified flow cytometry of CD5 MFI on naïve CD8⁺ T cells from the
6 spleen or peripheral blood (n = 7 mice, pool of two independent experiments). P = 0.0014
7 (Spleen), P = 0.0002 (Blood), Unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test. All data are shown as the
8 mean ± s.d. **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



1

2 **Fig. S2. T cell aging is linked to thymic involution during schistosome infection.** (a-c)

3 Cells were from uninfected mice or mice 5, 6, or 8 weeks after schistosome infection.

4 Representative and quantified flow cytometry of CD5 MFI on naïve CD4⁺ T cells or naïve

5 CD8⁺ T cells from the thymus, spleen, or peripheral blood (Infected 8 W, n = 3 mice; other

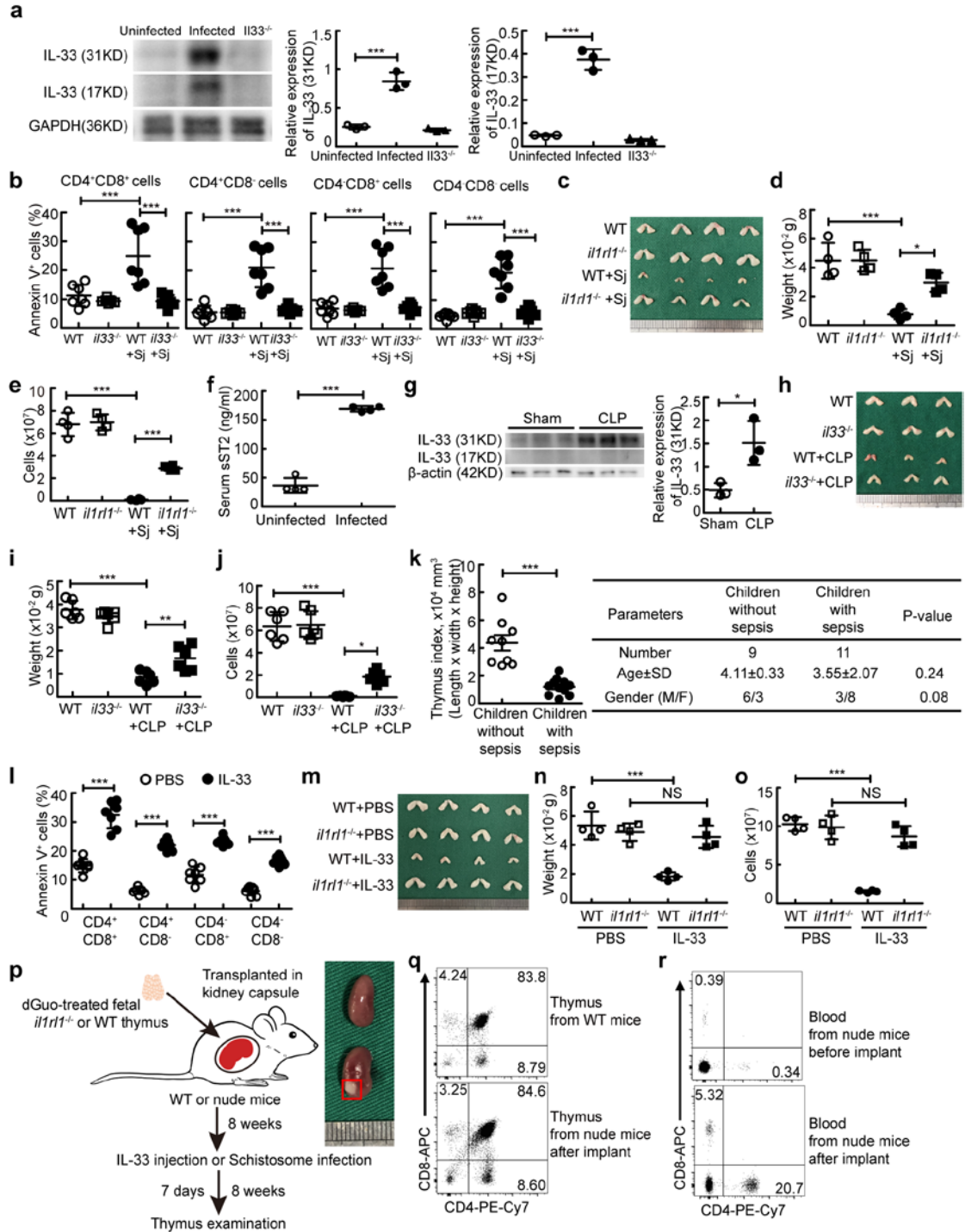
6 groups, n = 4 mice). (d, e) Samples were obtained from uninfected mice or mice 8 weeks after

7 schistosome infection. Representative and quantified flow cytometry of annexin V⁺ cells

8 gated on CD4⁺CD8⁺DP, CD4SP, CD8SP, or CD4⁻CD8⁻ DN thymocytes in the thymus (n = 8

9 mice, pool of two independent experiments). P < 0.0001 for all thymocyte subsets, One-way

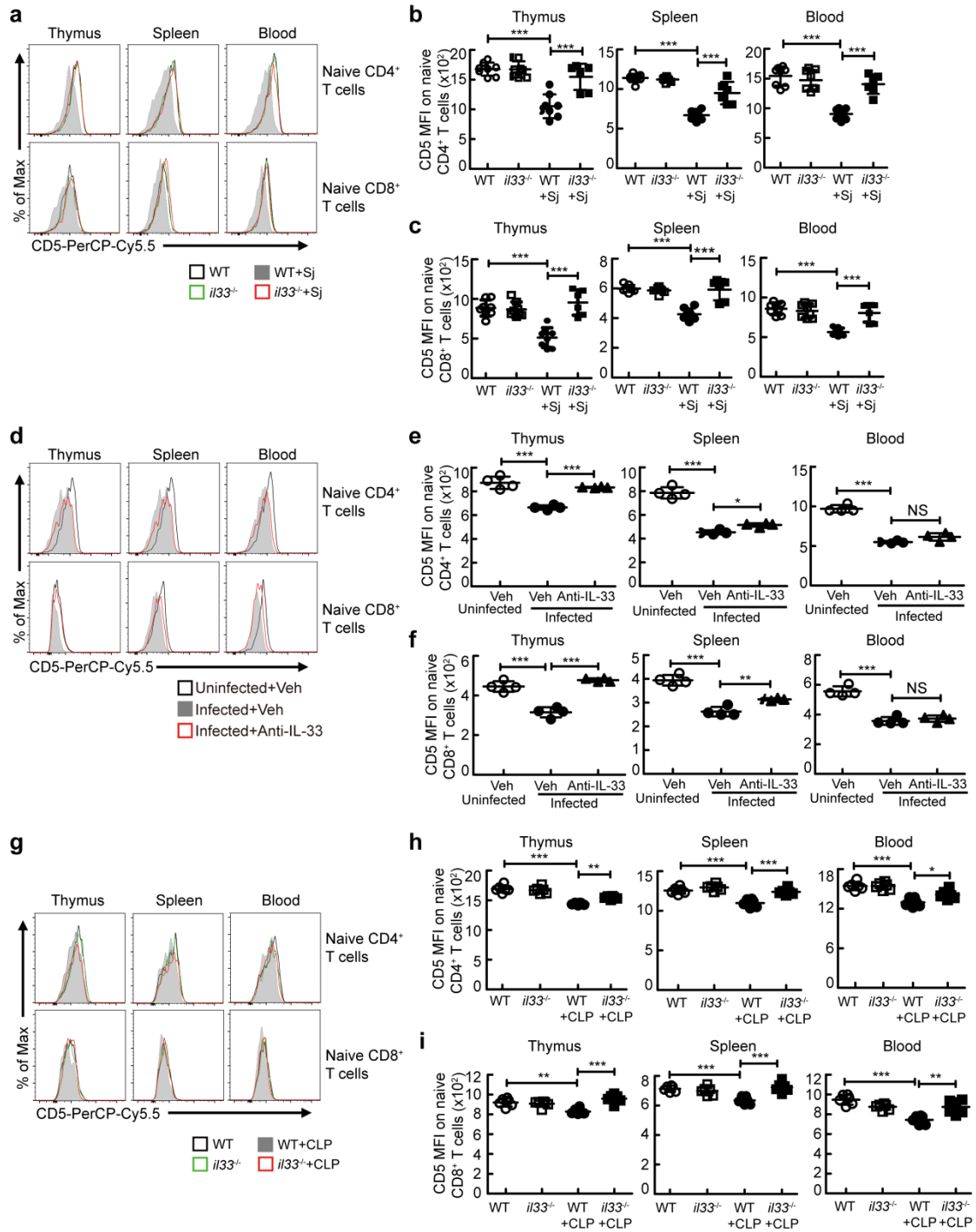
1 ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. **(f-h)** Mice were treated with PZQ at week 8
2 after infection and sacrificed 7 weeks after PZQ treatment. Representative and quantified flow
3 cytometry of CD5 MFI on naïve CD4⁺ T cells or naïve CD8⁺ T cells from the thymus, spleen,
4 or peripheral blood (Infected+Veh or Infected+PZQ, n = 6 mice; other groups, n = 7 mice;
5 pool of two independent experiments). CD4⁺ T cells: Infected+Veh versus Uninfected+Veh, P
6 < 0.0001 (Thymus), P < 0.0001 (Spleen), P < 0.0001 (Blood); Infected+PZQ versus
7 Infected+Veh, P < 0.0001 (Thymus), P = 0.0035 (Spleen), P < 0.0001 (Blood). CD8⁺ T cells:
8 Infected+Veh versus Uninfected+Veh, P < 0.0001 (Thymus), P = 0.0017 (Spleen), P < 0.0001
9 (Blood); Infected+PZQ versus Infected+Veh, P < 0.0001 (Thymus), P = 0.0094 (Spleen), P <
10 0.0001 (Blood). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. All data are shown as
11 the mean ± s.d; *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001. Source data are provided as a Source
12 Data file.



1

2 **Fig. S3. IL-33 leads to thymic involution during severe infection.** (a) Western blots of
 3 IL-33 in the liver after schistosomiasis (n = 3 mice). P = 0.0001 (31KD), P < 0.0001
 4 (17KD). (b) Annexin V⁺ cells in thymocytes after schistosomiasis (n = 7 mice, pool of
 5 two independent experiments). WT+Sj versus WT, P < 0.0001 for all subsets; *iI33*^{-/-}+Sj versus
 6 WT+Sj, P < 0.0001 for all subsets. (c-e) Morphology, weight and cellularity of thymus from
 7 schistosomiasis-infected mice (n = 4 mice). WT+Sj versus WT, P = 0.0002 (weight), P < 0.0001

1 (cells); *il33*^{-/-}+Sj versus WT+Sj, P = 0.0115 (weight), P = 0.0002 (cells). **(f)** The level of sST2
2 was determined by ELISA (n = 4 mice), P < 0.0001. **(g)** Western blots of IL-33 in the thymus
3 after CLP induction (n = 3 mice), P = 0.0204. **(h-j)** Morphology, weight, and cellularity of
4 thymus after CLP induction (n = 6 mice, pool of two independent experiments). WT+CLP
5 versus WT, P < 0.0001 (weight or cells); *il33*^{-/-}+CLP versus WT+CLP, P = 0.0069 (weight), P
6 = 0.0213 (cells). **(k)** Relative thymus size (n = 9 patients for children without sepsis, n = 11
7 patients for children with sepsis), P < 0.0001. **(l)** Annexin V⁺ cells in thymocytes after IL-33
8 treatment (n = 7 mice, pool of two independent experiments). P < 0.0001 for all thymocyte
9 subsets. **(m-o)** Morphology, weight, and cellularity of thymus after IL-33 treatment (n = 4
10 mice). WT+IL-33 versus WT+PBS, P < 0.0001 (weight or cells); *il33*^{-/-}+IL-33 versus
11 *il33*^{-/-}+PBS, P = 0.9063 (weight), P = 0.4730 (cells). **(p)** Morphology of the thymus in the
12 kidney capsule after thymus transplantation. **(q)** Representative flow cytometry of thymocytes
13 after thymus transplantation. **(r)** Representative flow cytometry of T cells in peripheral blood
14 after thymus transplantation. **(a, b, d, e, i, j, l, n, o)** One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple
15 comparisons. **(f, g, k)** Unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test. All data are shown as the mean ±
16 s.d. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001, NS, not significant. Source data are provided as a
17 Source Data file.



1

2 **Fig. S4. Loss of IL-33-mediated thymic involution reverses T-cell immunity during**

3 **severe infection.** (a-c) Samples were from uninfected or schistosome-infected WT or *il33*^{-/-}

4 mice. CD5 MFI on naive CD4⁺ T cells or naive CD8⁺ T cells from the thymus, spleen, or

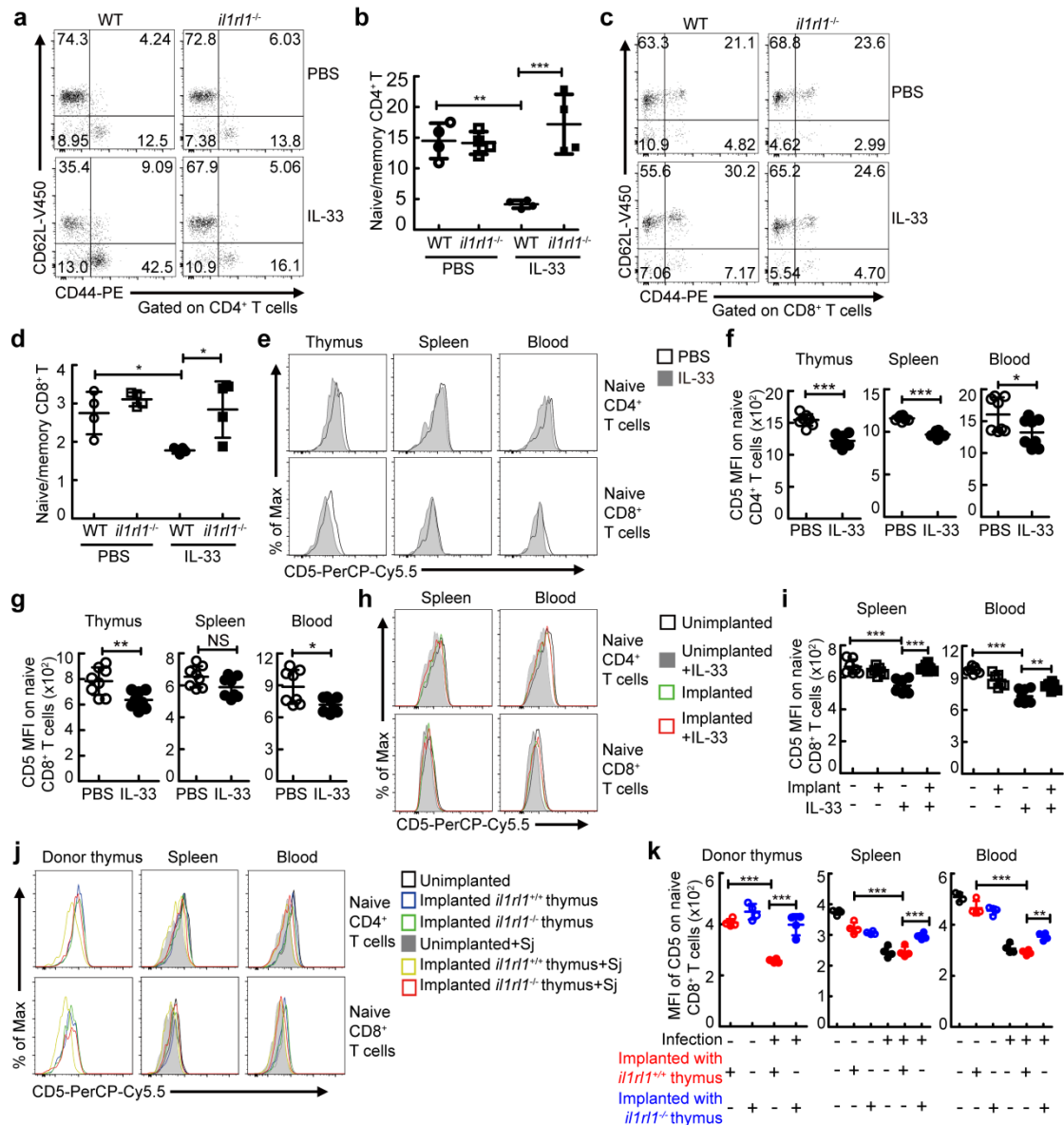
5 peripheral blood (*il33*^{-/-}+Sj, n = 6 mice, other groups, n = 8 mice, pool of two independent

6 experiments). CD4⁺ T cells: WT+Sj versus WT, P < 0.0001 (Thymus, Spleen, or Blood);

7 *il33*^{-/-}+Sj versus WT+Sj, P < 0.0001 (Thymus, Spleen, or Blood). CD8⁺ T cells: WT+Sj versus

1 WT, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus, Spleen, or Blood); $il33^{-/-}$ +Sj versus WT+Sj, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus,
2 Spleen, or Blood). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. **(d-f)** Samples were
3 from uninfected or schistosome-infected mice treated with anti-IL-33. CD5 MFI on naive
4 $CD4^{+}$ T or naive $CD8^{+}$ T cells from the thymus, spleen, or peripheral blood ($n = 4$ mice).
5 $CD4^{+}$ T cells: Infected+Veh versus Uninfected+Veh, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus, Spleen, or Blood);
6 Infected+anti-IL-33 versus Infected+Veh, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus), $P = 0.0439$ (Spleen), $P =$
7 0.0899 (Blood). $CD8^{+}$ T cells: Infected+Veh versus Uninfected+Veh, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus,
8 Spleen, or Blood); Infected+anti-IL-33 versus Infected+Veh, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus), $P =$
9 0.00559 (Spleen), $P = 0.7075$ (Blood). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons.
10 **(g-i)** Samples were from WT or $il33^{-/-}$ mice and WT or $il33^{-/-}$ mice after CLP induction. CD5
11 MFI on naive $CD4^{+}$ T or naive $CD8^{+}$ T cells from the thymus, spleen, or peripheral blood ($n =$
12 6 mice, pool of two independent experiments). $CD4^{+}$ T cells: WT+CLP versus WT, $P < 0.0001$
13 (Thymus, Spleen, or Blood); $il33^{-/-}$ +CLP versus WT+CLP, $P = 0.0034$ (Thymus), $P < 0.0001$
14 (Spleen), $P = 0.0175$ (Blood). $CD8^{+}$ T cells: WT+CLP versus WT, $P = 0.0018$ (Thymus), $P =$
15 0.0007 (Spleen), $P < 0.0001$ (Blood); $il33^{-/-}$ +CLP versus WT+CLP, $P < 0.0001$ (Thymus), $P =$
16 0.0002 (Spleen), $P = 0.0012$ (Blood). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons.
17 Data are shown as the mean \pm s.d. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, NS, not significant.
18 Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

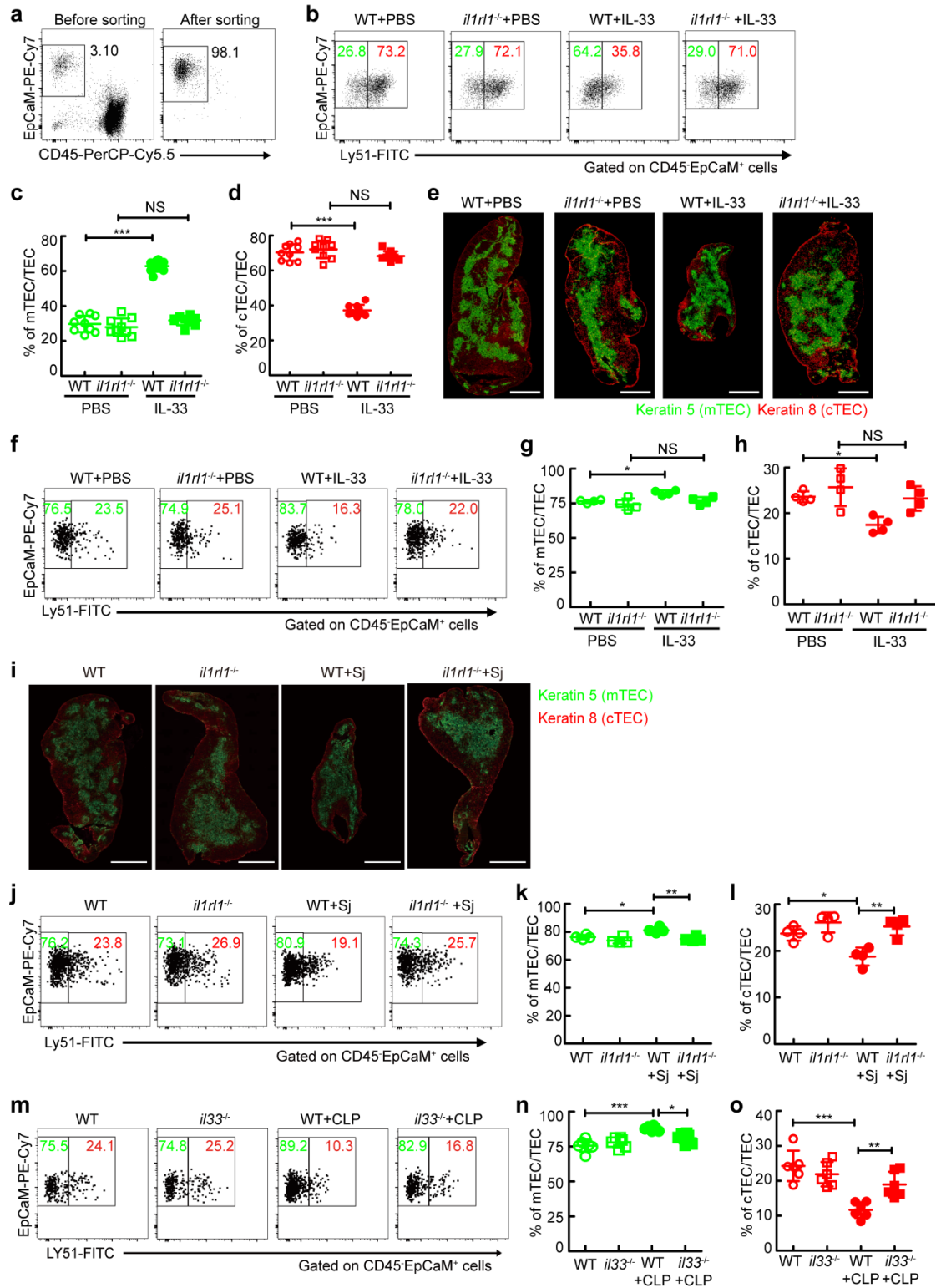
19



1

2 **Fig. S5. IL-33 results in thymic involution-mediated T cell aging.** (a-d) Naive/memory
 3 naïve CD4⁺ T cells or CD8⁺ T cells in the spleen from WT or *il1r1*^{-/-} mice after IL-33
 4 treatment (n = 4 mice). WT+IL-33 versus WT+PBS, P = 0.0018 (CD4⁺ T cells), P = 0.0271
 5 (CD8⁺ T cells); *il1r1*^{-/-}+IL-33 versus WT+IL-33, P = 0.0002 (CD4⁺ T cells), P = 0.0237
 6 (CD8⁺ T cells). (e-g) Samples were from mice after IL-33 treatment. CD5 MFI on naive CD4⁺
 7 T cells or CD8⁺ T cells from the thymus, spleen, or peripheral blood (n = 8 mice, pool of two
 8 independent experiments). CD4⁺ T cells, P < 0.0001 (Thymus or Spleen), P = 0.0392 (Blood);
 9 CD8⁺ T cells, P = 0.0057 (Thymus), P = 0.0676 (Spleen), P = 0.0162 (Blood); Unpaired
 10 two-tailed Student's t-test. (h, i) Mice were injected with IL-33 at week 8 after transplantation
 11 with *il1r1*^{-/-} thymus. (h) Representative flow cytometry of CD5 MFI on naive CD4⁺ T cells

1 or CD8⁺ T cells in the spleen or peripheral blood. **(i)** CD5 MFI on naive CD8⁺ T cells in the
2 spleen or peripheral blood (PBS, n = 7 mice; IL-33, n = 8 mice; pool of two independent
3 experiments). WT+IL-33 versus WT+PBS, P < 0.0001 (Spleen), P < 0.0001 (Blood);
4 *il1rl1*^{-/-}+IL-33 versus WT+IL-33, P < 0.0001 (Spleen), P = 0.0028 (Blood). **(j, k)** Mice were
5 infected with schistosome at week 8 after transplantation with *il1rl1*^{+/+} or *il1rl1*^{-/-} thymus. **(j)**
6 Representative flow cytometry of CD5 MFI on naive CD4⁺ T cells or CD8⁺ T cells in donor
7 thymus, spleen, or peripheral blood. **(k)** CD5 MFI on naive CD8⁺ T in donor thymus, spleen,
8 or peripheral blood (n = 4 mice). Infected+*il1rl1*^{+/+} thymus versus Uninfected+*il1rl1*^{+/+}
9 thymus, P < 0.0001 (Donor thymus, Spleen, or Blood); Infected+*il1rl1*^{+/+} thymus versus
10 Infected+*il1rl1*^{-/-} thymus, P < 0.0001 (Donor thymus), P = 0.0008 (Spleen), P = 0.0017
11 (Blood). **(b, d, i, k)** One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. Data are shown as
12 the mean ± s.d. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001. Source data are provided as a Source
13 Data file.



1

2 **Fig. S6. IL-33 perturbs the compartment of TECs.** (a) Representative flow cytometry of

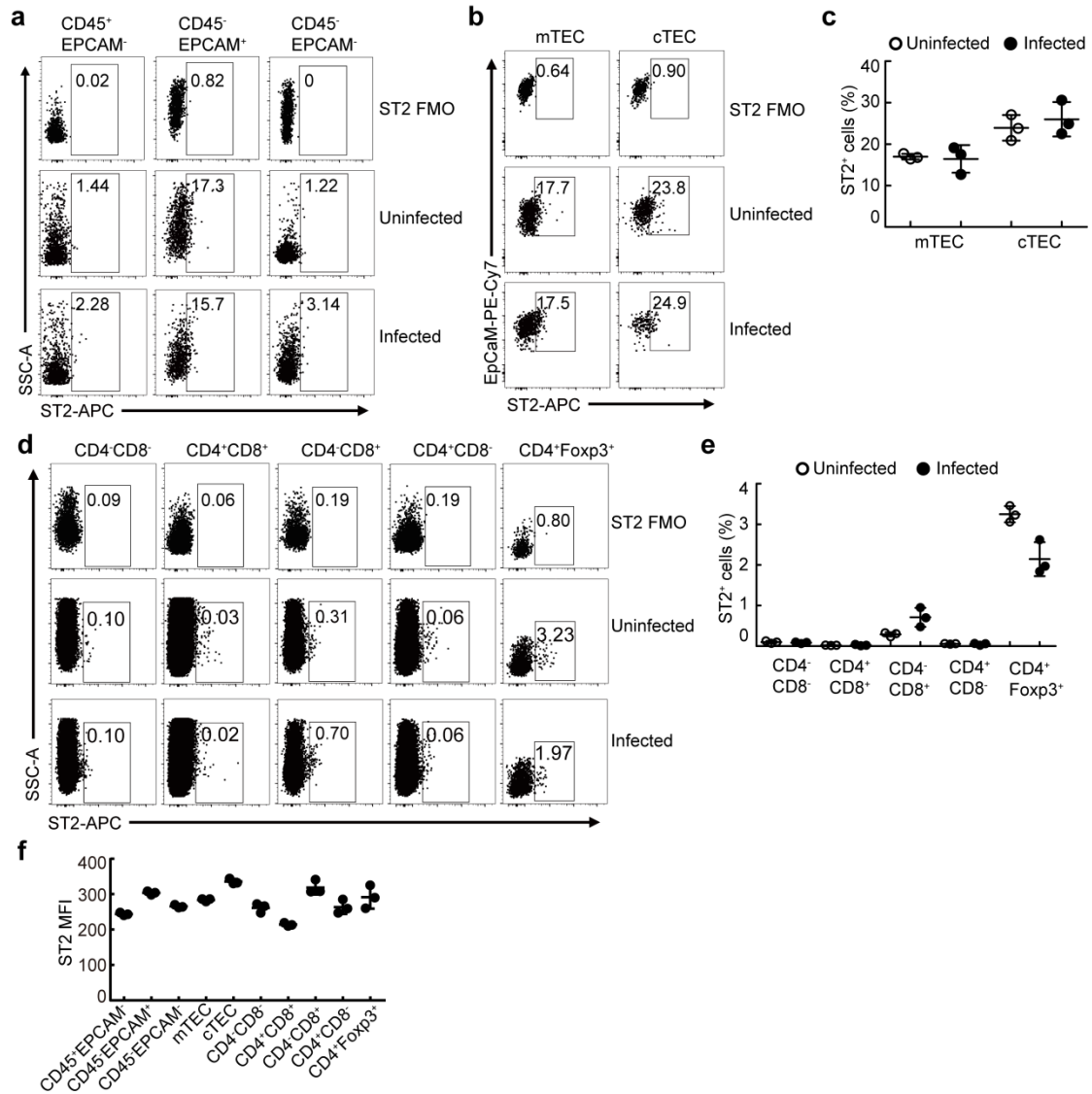
3 TECs before or after being sorted by MACS from the thymus cultured in FTOCs. (b-d)

4 Representative and quantified flow cytometry of mTECs and cTECs in FTOC treated with

1 IL-33 (n = 9 biologically independent samples of fetal thymic lobes, pool of three
2 independent experiments). WT+IL-33 versus WT+PBS, P < 0.0001 (mTEC or cTEC);
3 *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+IL-33 versus *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+PBS, P = 0.2001 (mTEC), P = 0.2018 (cTEC); One-way
4 ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. (e) Histology of the thymus from mice after
5 IL-33 treatment; Green, Keratin 5; red, Keratin 8; Scale bar, 1000 μm. (f-h) Representative
6 and quantified flow cytometry of cTECs or mTECs in WT or *Il1rl1*^{-/-} mice after IL-33
7 treatment (n = 4 mice). WT+IL-33 versus WT+PBS, P = 0.0314 (mTEC or cTEC);
8 *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+IL-33 versus *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+PBS, P = 0.5786 (mTEC or cTEC); One-way ANOVA with
9 Tukey's multiple comparisons. (i) Histology of the thymus from WT or *Il1rl1*^{-/-} mice after
10 schistosome infection; Green, Keratin 5; red, Keratin 8; Scale bar, 1000 μm. (j-l)
11 Representative and quantified flow cytometry of cTECs or mTECs in WT or *Il1rl1*^{-/-} mice
12 after schistosome infection (n = 4 mice). WT+Infected versus WT+Uninfected, P = 0.0115
13 (mTEC), P = 0.0113 (cTEC); *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+Infected versus WT+Infected, P = 0.0023 (mTEC), P =
14 0.0020 (cTEC); One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. (m-o) Representative
15 flow cytometry and quantification of flow cytometry of cTECs or mTECs in WT or *Il33*^{-/-}
16 mice after CLP induction (n = 6 mice, pool of two independent experiments). WT+CLP
17 versus WT, P < 0.0001 (mTEC or cTEC); *Il1rl1*^{-/-}+CLP versus WT+CLP, P = 0.0111 (mTEC),
18 P = 0.0094 (cTEC); One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. Data are shown as
19 the mean ± s.d. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001, NS, not significant. Source data are
20 provided as a Source Data file.

21

22



1
2 **Fig. S7. The expression of ST2 on cells in the thymus.** (a-e) Cells were from the thymus in
3 uninfected or schistosome-infected mice. (a) Representative flow cytometry of ST2⁺ cells
4 gated on CD45⁺EpCaM⁻, CD45⁺EpCaM⁺, or CD45⁺EpCaM⁻ cells. (b, c) Representative and
5 quantified flow cytometry of ST2⁺ cells gated on mTECs or cTECs (n = 3 mice). (d, e)
6 Representative and quantified flow cytometry of ST2⁺ cells gated on CD4⁺CD8⁺DP, CD4SP,
7 CD8SP, CD4⁺CD8⁻ DN, or Treg cells (n = 3 mice). (f) Quantified ST2 MFI of ST2⁺ cells gated
8 on CD45⁺EpCaM⁻, CD45⁺EpCaM⁺, CD45⁺EpCaM⁻, mTECs, cTECs, CD4⁺CD8⁺DP, CD4SP,
9 CD8SP, CD4⁺CD8⁻ DN, or Treg cells in the thymus from schistosome-infected mice (n = 3
10 mice). Data are shown as the mean ± s.d. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.