**Cell Reports Medicine, Volume 3** 

## **Supplemental information**

## Human early syncytiotrophoblasts are highly

## susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection

Degong Ruan, Zi-Wei Ye, Shuofeng Yuan, Zhuoxuan Li, Weiyu Zhang, Chon Phin Ong, Kaiming Tang, Timothy Theodore Ka Ki Tam, Jilong Guo, Yiyi Xuan, Yunying Huang, Qingqing Zhang, Cheuk-Lun Lee, Liming Lu, Philip C.N. Chiu, William S.B. Yeung, Fang Liu, Dong-Yan Jin, and Pentao Liu



Figure S1. Generating trophoblast stem cells (TSCs) and subtype trophoblasts from hEPSCs. Related to Figure 1. RT-qPCR analysis of trophoblast genes (A) trophoblast-specific C19MC miRNAs (B), HLA-A and -B (C), and CDX2 and putative AME genes (E) were performed in hEPSCs and/or EPSC-TSCs and BST-TSC. Results are normalized to levels of GAPDH for marker genes or miR-103a for miRNAs using the  $\Delta$ Ct method Data are mean  $\pm$  sd, n=3 biological replicates. Student's *t*-test, nd: not detectable, ns: not significant, \*\**P* <0.01; \*\*\* P < 0.001; (D) Flow cytometry quantification of HLA-A, B, C on EPSC-TSCs and BST-TSCs. The antibody isotype is the control. (F) RT-PCR detection of CDX2 and putative AME genes in EPSC-TSCs, BST-TSC, and in cells of hEPSCs differentiation toward hTSCs on day 5. (G) Heatmap for signature genes of trophoblast and AME (Table S1). Genes are ordered by expression in respective gene sets and samples are ordered by cluster result. Expression is normalized with mean and log2 transformed. (H) Representative bright field images of STBs generated from EPSC-TSCs on day 2, 4 and 6. The arrow points to a multinucleated STB circled by a dashed line. Scale bar: 100 µm (I) STBs generated from EPSC-TSCs have distinct morphologies (mono-, bi- or multinucleated) and express GCM1 and CGB. Scale bar: 100 µm (J) Upper panel: Representative results using a human pregnancy test strip on medium collected from day-6 EPSC-STBs and STB medium control (Blank). Lower panel: ELISA (IU/L) detection of β-hCG in supernatant from different STB differentiation timepoints as indicated. (K) Immunofluorescence staining (ITGA1 and ITGA5) of day8 EVTs generated from EPSC-TSCs. Scale bar: 100 or 50 µm as indicated (L) EVTs generated from EPSC-TSCs (day 8) are immunofluorescence stained for GATA3 and HLA-G. Arrow indicates that a mature EVT (spindle shape, circled by a dashed line) does not express high GATA3. Scale bar: 100 µm (M) Flow cytometry quantification of EVT marker ITGA5 and ITGA1 on EVTs differentiated from EPSC-TSCs (day 8). (N) PCA analysis for comparison of placenta-derived trophoblast cells (CT and BTS) and EPSC-derived trophoblast cells (EPSC-TSC; EPSC-TSC differentiating toward STB at day2, 4, 6, and toward EVT at day4, 6 and 8, respectively). (O) Expression of HLA genes in human placenta-derived trophoblasts and EPSC-TSCs and their derivative trophoblasts. Error bars: standard errors.



Figure S2. Trophoblasts derived from hEPSCs resemble those in human peri-implantation embryos and the placenta. Related to Figure 2. Violin plots showing log-transformed TPM of trophoblast genes (A) and putative AME genes (B) in human peri-implantation embryos and placenta trophoblasts. (C) Heatmap of Pearson correlation coefficients among transcriptomics of peri-implantation embryo and placenta (pseudo-bulk RNAseq), and the in vitro cultured trophoblasts (bulk RNAseq). Batch effects were regressed out in transcriptomic expression. In vitro trophoblast samples include blastocyst- and placenta-derived TSCs (BST-TSC, CT-TSC) and the trophoblast subtypes STBs (BST-STB, CT-STB) and EVTs (BST-EVT, CT-EVT), and EPSC-TSC and their trophoblast subtypes STBs and EVTs (EPSC-STB, EPSC-EVT). (D) Potential amnion marker expression (in TPM) in hTSC derived from the blastocyst (BST, Upper panel) and hEPSC (Bottom panel) and their derivatives. GATA3 is a non-amnion marker for comparison. (E) Upper panel: Scatter plots showing the positive Pearson correlations of CD46, CGB5, ENG and CSH2 with ACE2 expression. Linear regression is drawn in black dashed line. The darkness of blue indicates cell density. Lower panel: Scaled expression of STB genes in human peri-implantation embryo and placenta trophoblasts. (F) Scaled expression of TMPRSS2, BSG and AXL in human peri-implantation embryo and placenta trophoblasts. (G-H) RNA-seq signal of ACE2 and TMPRSS2 in in vivo derived trophoblasts (G) and in hEPSCs and hEPSC derivatives (H). ACE2 and TMPRSS2 genomic regions are plotted at the bottom, where each vertical bar represents an exon.



Figure S3. In vitro generated human trophoblasts are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Related to Figure 3. (A) RT-qPCR detection of SARS-CoV-2 genome copy number in cell lysates of 2 h.p.i. and 48 h.p.i hEPSCs and EPSC-TSCs. (B) Immunofluorescence staining of 48 h.p.i. hEPSCs for pluripotent markers OCT4 or SSEA3 and ACE2, SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Scale bar: 100 µm. (C) Immunofluorescence-stained 24 h.p.i. BST-TSCs for SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Scale bar: 100 µm. Lower panel: Percentages of SARS-CoV-2 N protein positive BST-TSCs. n=48 random immunofluorescence staining images. (D) Immunofluorescence-stained SARS-CoV-2 N protein, ACE2, ENPEP, and KRT7 in 24 h.p.i. BST-TSC. Scale bar: 50 µm (E) Phase-contrast image of human naïve stem cells (H1) cultured on MEFs in PXGL condition. Scale bar: 100 µm (F) RT-qPCR quantification of naïve marker gene expression in naïve stem cells compared to hEPSCs (mean  $\pm$  s.d. n=3). (G) Immunofluorescence staining of naïve pluripotency markers KLF17 and CD75 in naïve stem cells. Scale bar: 50 μm. (H) Phase-contrast image of naïve stem cell-derived hTSCs (naïve-TSCs). Scale bar: 100 μm (I) RT-qPCR quantification of hTSC marker gene expression in naïve-TSC compared to EPSC-TSC (mean  $\pm$  s.d. n=3). (J) RTqPCR quantification of ISL1 and MUC16 gene expression in naïve stem cells and naive-TSCs (mean  $\pm$  s.d. n=3). (K) Immunofluorescence staining of hTSC markers in naïve-TSCs. Scale bar: 50 µm. (L) Immunofluorescence staining of SARS-CoV-2 N protein in 24 h.p.i. naïve-TSCs. Scale bar: 500 µm. Right panel: Percentages of SARS-CoV-2 N protein positive naïve-TSCs, respectively. n=60 random images. (M) Immunofluorescence staining of ENPEP and ACE2, SARS-CoV-2 N protein and in 24 h.p.i. naïve-TSCs. Scale bar: 100 µm and 50 µm as indicated. (N) Immunofluorescence staining for CGB in STB-D2. Dotted box showed a multinucleated CGB<sup>+</sup> cells. Scale bar: 100 µm. (O) Quantification of the percentages of CGB<sup>+</sup> in STB-D2. Error bar, mean and standard error (SEM). n=8 random images, total 5820 cells. Right panel: Quantification of percentages of mono-, bi- and multi-nucleated cells in STB-D2. Error bar, mean and standard error (SEM). n=40 random images, total 6734 cells. (P) RNAseq analysis of expression of CD46 and CGB5 in EPSC-TSCs and different STB differentiation timepoints. (Q) Representative immunofluorescence staining of 24 h.p.i. naïve-eSTB for SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Scale bar: 500 μm. Right panel: Percentages of SARS-CoV-2 N protein positive naïve-eSTBs, respectively. n=58 random images. (R) Immunofluorescence staining of 24 h.p.i. naïve-eSTB for ACE2, SARS-CoV-2 N protein, GATA2 and CGB. Dotted box showed mononucleated and binucleated infected naïve-eSTBs, some of them (white arrows) start to express CGB. Scale bar: 200 µm. (S) RT-qPCR analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genome copy number in supernatants and cell lysates of 2, 24, 48 and 72 h.p.i. EVTs (day8). Data are mean ± s.d. n=3 biological replicates. Student's *t*-test, \*\*\* *P* < 0.001 (T) Immunofluorescence staining of 48 h.p.i. EVTs for SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Scale bar: 100 µm. Right panel: Percentages of SARS-CoV-2 N protein positive EVTs. n=36 random images. (U) Immunofluorescence-stained SARS-CoV-2 infected EVTs for N protein and HLA-G. Scale bar: 100 µm (V) Bubble plot for ACE2, TMPRSS2 and genes of SARS-CoV-2 expression in 48 h.p.i. mock and infected EVTs. Label color is according to z-score and bubble sizes are proportional to expression levels.





Figure S4. eSTB's susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 variants and their differentiation impairment. Related to Figure 4. (A) Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 replication kinetics among Vero E6, EPSC-eSTB and hiEPSC-eSTB cells. Cells were infected with WT, the Delta variant or Omicron variant at 0.001MOI. Cell culture supernatant were collected at the indicated time-points and subject to viral load detection using RT-qPCR method. Data are mean ± s.d. n=3. Student's t-test, exact P values are presented. (B) Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 replication kinetics in naïve-eSTB and BST-eSTB cells. (C) Left panel: Venn plots for differential genes after SARS-CoV-2 WT infection in STB-D3 and STB-D4. Right panel: Heatmap for correlation between infected STBs and mock infection STBs. (D) The top 50 up or down-regulated genes in STB after virus infection. Genes are sorted by log10 (p value). Z-score of log2 transformed cpm was used. Red, upregulated genes; blue, downregulated genes. (E) Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) for cell cycle and apoptosis pathways in STB-D3, STB-D4 and Vero E6 cells after SARS-CoV-2 WT infection. (F) Images of SARS-CoV-2 infected Vero E6 cells and eSTBs and representative immunofluorescence staining images of TUNEL cell apoptosis detection assay. White arrows point to apoptotic cells. (G) RNAseq signal of HERV-K and HERV-FRD in SARS-CoV-2 infected STB-D3 and STB-D4 and the mock controls. Library size is used to normalize the reads. (H) GO and KEGG analysis for shared upregulated and downregulated genes in SARS-CoV-2 infected STB-D3 and STB-D4. (I) Bubble plot for genes of SARS-CoV-2, monkey host factors ACE2, TMPRSS2, CTSV, CTSL, CTSB, innate immune response, TNF signaling pathway, interleukin signaling pathway and TNF-α/NF-κB signaling in Vero E6 after SARS-CoV-2 infection. Label color is according to z-score and bubble sizes are proportional to expression levels.



Figure S5. eSTBs for evaluating antiviral drugs in SARS-CoV-2 and MERS-CoV infection. Related to Figure 5. (A) Measurement of eSTB cell viability by a CellTiter-Glo assay kit upon remdesivir or GC376 treatment for 48 hours. The results are shown as % of the non-treated cells (mean  $\pm$  SEM). Statistics analysis by two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. (B) Viral load reduction assay was performed to evaluate the inhibitory effect of remdesivir and GC376 against SARS-CoV-2 WT infection in EPSC-eSTBs. Data are mean ± SEM, One-way ANOVA. (\*\*\*\* P<0.0001) (C) Immunofluorescence-stained eSTB for nucleus (Blue), GATA3 (Green), CGB (Red), and SARS-CoV-2 N protein (purple). eSTB infected by SARS-CoV-2 with or without remdesivir (10µM) /GC376 (10µM) treatment, respectively. (Scale bar, 50 µm). (D) Viral load reduction assay for evaluating the inhibitory effect of the indicated drugs against SARS-CoV-2 WT and Delta and Omicron variants infection in naïve-eSTB cells. (E) Barplot for expression (cpm) of ACE2, TMPRSS2 and DPP4 in EPSC-TSC and EPSC-TSC differentiation toward STB. (F) Viral load reduction assay for evaluating the inhibitory effect of the indicated drugs against MERS-CoV infection in EPSC-eSTBs. (G) RT-qPCR detection of MDA5, IFNLs, IL6, IL8, TNF and IFNB in SARS-CoV-2 infected EPSC-eSTBs, in the presence or absence of remdesivir or GC376. Data are normalized to GAPDH using  $\Delta Ct$ , mean  $\pm$  s.d. n=3. Student's t-test, \*\*\* P<0.001, \*\* P<0.01, \* P<0.05 (H) Heatmap for correlation between infected and mock infection EPSC-eSTBs. Non-expressed genes were filtered out and cpm was used to calculate the Pearson correlation coefficient.





**Figure S6. Infection of EPSC-TSC-derived trophoblast organoids by SARS-CoV-2. Related to Figure 6.** (A) Immunofluorescence-stained trophoblast organoid cryosections for TFAP2C, GATA3 and E-cadherin. Scale bar: 100 μm (B) Immunofluorescence-stained trophoblast organoid paraffin sections for CD46, GATA3, ENDOU and CGB. (C) Expression of STB genes in STBs, EPSC-TSCs and trophoblast organoids by RT-qPCR (mean ± s.d. n=3). Student's *t*-test. \*\*\* *P*<0.001 (D) ELISA (mIU/mL) detection of hCG-β secreted by trophoblast organoids in the supernatant. Fresh TOM was used as the blank control. n=3 independent replicates. \*\*\* *P*<0.001 (Student's *t*-test). (E) Expression changes (RT-qPCR) of Trophoblast-specific C19MC miRNAs in EPSC-TSCs and trophoblast organoids. *miRNA103a* expression is used as the control. Data are mean ± s.d., n=3. (F) Representative phase-contrast image of cells migrating out of a trophoblast organoid seeded in EVT medium for 8 days. EVTs were stained for HLA-G, ITGA5 and KRT7. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI. (G) EVT genes expression (RT-qPCR) in trophoblast organoids and trophoblast organoid-derived EVTs. Data are mean ± s.d. n=3. Student's *t*-test, \*\*\* *P* < 0.001 (H) Additional immunofluorescence-stained SARS-CoV-2-infected trophoblast organoid paraffin sections for GATA3, CD46 and SARS-CoV-2-N. Arrows indicate an infected cell that is co-stained for GATA3, CD46 and SARS-CoV-2-N. Scale bar: 100 μm



## Figure S7. ACE2 is required for SARS-CoV-2 infection of human trophoblasts differentiated from hEPSCs.

**Related to Figure 7.** (A) CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout of the human *ACE2* gene. A pair of gRNAs targeting exon 2 of *ACE2* are listed in red. (B) Sanger sequencing of the mutant PCR fragment reveals a 148 bp deletion between the two CRISPR gRNAs in exon 2 as expected. (C) Genotyping of *ACE2*-KO hEPSC colonies by genomic DNA PCR. Colonies 1 and 4 are homozygous KO mutants. (D) Genome editing efficiency at the *ACE2* locus in hEPSCs. (E) Expression of pluripotency and various cell lineage genes in normal and *ACE2*-KO hEPSCs. (F) Flow cytometry quantification of pluripotency markers SSEA3 and TRA-1-60 on normal and *ACE2*-KO hEPSCs. (G) Morphology of hEPSCs and SB43-treated cells on days 0, 4 and 9. Scale bars: 100  $\mu$ m (H) Immunofluorescence staining images of STB markers CGB and CD46 in SB43-treated hEPSCs on day 9. Scale bars: 100  $\mu$ m (I) Expression of trophoblast genes in SB43-treated hEPSCs on day 9 by RT-qPCR. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.d. n=3. Student's *t*-test. (J) Immunofluorescence images of SARS-CoV-2 infection in SB43-treated hEPSCs (day 4). More mono- and bi-nucleated cells were infected. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ m and 100  $\mu$ m as indicated.

Table 52. Culture conditions for miscs from different reports, related to Figure 1.							
Cell Type	CO2 and O2	ECM	TSCM modification 1	TSCM modification 2	TSCM modification 3	TSCM modification 4	Reference
TSC-BST/ct	5% CO2	Collagen IV	0.5 uM A83-01	1uM SB431542	1.5 ug/ml L- ascorbic acid	0.8 mM VPA	Okae, H., et al. (2018)
Primed-TSC	5% CO2	Matrigel	0.5 uM A83-01	1uM SB431542	1.5 ug/ml L- ascorbic acid	0.8 mM VPA	Wei, Y., et al. (2021)
Naïve-TSC (PXGL)	7% CO2 and 5% O2	Collagen IV/ MEF	1.0 uM A83-01	Without SB431542	1.5 mg/ml L- ascorbic acid	0.8 mM VPA	Guo, G., et al. (2021)
Naïve-TSC (5iLA)	5% CO2 and 20% O2	Collagen IV	0.5 uM A83-01	1uM SB431542	1.5 ug/ml L- ascorbic acid	0.8 mM VPA	Dong, C., et al. (2020)
EPSC-TSC	5% CO2	Geltrex	0.5 uM A83-01	1uM SB431542	50 ug/ml	10 uM VPA	This study

Table S2. Culture conditions for hTSCs from different reports, Related to Figure 1.

Gene	coefficient	<i>P</i> value
CDX2	0.04266543	0.00256635
CD46	0.24451753	7.03E-69
TFRC	-0.0493468	0.00048636
GCM1	-0.0636706	6.72E-06
CGB3	0.10253989	3.79E-13
CGB5	0.19950932	5.37E-46
SDC1	0.10222731	4.46E-13
GATA2	-0.0356747	0.01170267
GATA3	-0.0968373	7.03E-12
TP63	-0.0269452	0.05692952
TEAD4	-0.1328758	4.15E-21
ACE2	1	0
ENG	0.20688926	2.11E-49
ITGA5	0.10266201	3.55E-13
ITGA6	-0.0676585	1.71E-06
CSH1	0.18957838	1.27E-41
CSH2	0.24808141	6.54E-71
HLA-G	0.0706351	5.85E-07
MMP2	0.03941273	0.00534726

 Table S3. Correlation index between ACE2 and Trophoblast markers, Related to Figure 2.

Gene Name	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')	
SARS-CoV-2	CGCATACAGTCTTRCAGGCT	GTGTGATGTTGAWATGACATGGTC	
ACE2 (Exon9-10)	TCCATTGGTCTTCTGTCACCCG	AGACCATCCACCTCCACTTCTC	
TMPRSS2	CTCTACGGACCAAACTTCATC	CCACTATTCCTTGGCTAGAGTA	
CD147	GGCTGTGAAGTCGTCAGAACAC	ACCTGCTCTCGGAGCCGTTCA	
NANOG	TGAACCTCAGCTACAAACAG	TGGTGGTAGGAAGAGTAAAG	
Oct-04	CCTCACTTCACTGCACTGTA	CAGGTTTTCTTTCCCTAGCT	
SOX2	TTCACATGTCCCAGCACTACCAGA	TCACATGTGTGAGAGGGGCAGTGTGC	
CDX2	TTCACTACAGTCGCTACATCACC	TTGATTTTCCTCTCCTTTGCTC	
GATA3	ACATCTCGCCCTTCAGCCAC	CATGGCGGTGACCATGCTGGA	
KRT7	AGGATGTGGATGCTGCCTAC	CACCACAGATGTGTCGGAGA	
TEAD4	CAGGTGGTGGAGAAAGTTGAGA	GTGCTTGAGCTTGTGGATGAAG	
TFAP2C	ACAGGATCCATGTTGTGGAAAATAACCGAT	ATACTCGAGTTTCCTGTGTTTCTCCATTTT	
TP63	AGAAACGAAGATCCCCAGATGA	CTGTTGCTGTTGCCTGTACGTT	
CGB	ACCCTGGCTGTGGAGAAGG	ATGGACTCGAAGCGCACA	
ERVW-1	GTTAATGACATCAAAGGCACCC	CCCCATCTCAACAGGAAAACC	
SDC1	GCTGACCTTCACACTCCCCA	CAAAGGTGAAGTCCTGCTCCC	
HLA-G	CAGATACCTGGAGAACGGGA	CAGTATGATCTCCGCAGGGT	
MMP2	TGGCACCCATTTACACCTACAC	ATGTCAGGAGAGGCCCCATAGA	
ITGB6	CTCAACACAATAAAGGAGCTGGG	AAAGGGGATACAGGTTTTTCCAC	
GABRP	TTTCTCAGGCCCAATTTTGGT	GCTGTCGGAGGTATATGGTGG	
MUC16	GGAGCACACGCTAGTTCAGAA	GGTCTCTATTGAGGGGAAGGT	
VTCN1	TCTGGGCATCCCAAGTTGAC	TCCGCCTTTTGATCTCCGATT	
cGAS	TAACCCTGGCTTTGGAATCAAAA	TGGGTACAAGGTAAAATGGCTTT	
ZBP1	TGGTCATCGCCCAAGCACTG	GGCGGTAAATCGTCCATGCT	
MDA5	GAGCAACTTCTTTCAACCACAG	CACTTCCTTCTGCCAAACTTG	

 Table S5. List of PCR primers, Related to Figure 1, 4, 6, 7, S1, S3, S5-7.

STING1	AGCATTACAACAACCTGCTACG	GTTGGGGTCAGCCATACTCAG
IFNA2	CTTGAAGGACAGACATGACTTTGGA	GGATGGTTTCAGCCTTTTGGA
IFNB1	AAACTCATGAGCAGTCTGCA	AGGAGATCTTCAGTTTCGGAGG
IFNG	TGGCTTTTCAGCTCTGCATC	CCGCTACATCTGAATGACCTG
IFNL1	CGCCTTGGAAGAGTCACTCA	GAAGCCTCAGGTCCCAATTC
IFNL2	AGTTCCGGGCCTGTATCCAG	GAGCCGGTACAGCCAATGGT
IFNL3	TCGCTTCTGCTGAAGGACTGCA	CCTCCAGAACCTTCAGCGTCAG
IFNL4	ATGCGGCCGAGTGTCTGG	GCTCCAGCGAGCGGTAGTG
IL6	GTCAGGGGTGGTTATTGCAT	AGTGAGGAACAAGCCAGAGC
IL28A	TCCAGTCACGGTCAGCA	CAGCCTCAGAGTGTTTCTTCT
TNF	CTCTTCTGCCTGCTGCACTTTG	ATGGGCTACAGGCTTGTCACTC
HLA-A	CGAGGATGGCCGTCATGGCG	CACATTCCGTGTCTCCTGGTCCC
HLA-B	CAGTTCGTGAGGTTCGACAG	CAGCCGTACATGCTCTGGA
ITGA1	CTGGACATAGTCATAGTGCTGGA	ACCTGTGTCTGTTTAGGACCA
ITGA5	GTCGGGGGCTTCAACTTAGAC	CCTGGCTGGCTGGTATTAGC
ITGA6	CACATCTCCTCCCTGAGCAC	TATCTTGCCACCCATCCTTG
CDX2	TTCACTACAGTCGCTACATCACC	TTGATTTTCCTCTCCTTTGCTC
ELF5	TGCCCTCACGGTAATGTTGGA	TGATGCTCAAAGGCAGGGTAG
GAPDH	CAAATTCCATGGCACCGTCA	ATCGCCCCACTTGATTTTGG
human miR-103a	GTAGCAGCATTGTACAGGG	
human miR-526b-3p	GTTTGGGAAAGTGCTTCCTTTT	
human miR-517a	GTTTGGATCGTGCATCCTTTTA	
human miR-517b	GTGCCTCTAGATGGAAGCA	
human miR-525-3p	GTTGAAGGCGCTTCCCTTT	