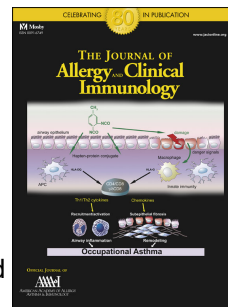


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Aeroallergen-induced IL-33 predisposes to respiratory virus-induced asthma by dampening anti-viral immunity

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1 **Aeroallergen-induced IL-33 predisposes to respiratory virus-induced asthma by dampening**  
2 **anti-viral immunity**

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29

## 30 **Abstract**

31 **Background.** Frequent viral lower respiratory infections in early-life are an independent risk factor  
32 for asthma onset. This risk, and the development of persistent asthma, is significantly greater in  
33 children who later become sensitized.

34 **Objective.** To elucidate the pathogenic processes that underlie the synergistic interplay between  
35 allergen exposures and viral infections.

36 **Methods.** Mice were inoculated with a murine-specific Pneumovirus (Pneumonia virus of mice;  
37 PVM) and exposed to low-dose cockroach extract (CRE) in early- and later-life, and airway  
38 inflammation, remodeling and hyperreactivity assessed. Mice were treated with anti-IL-33 or  
39 apyrase to neutralize or block the release of IL-33.

40 **Results.** PVM infection or CRE exposure alone failed to induce disease whereas PVM/CRE co-  
41 exposure acted synergistically to induce the hallmark features of asthma. CRE exposure during  
42 virus infection in early-life induced a biphasic IL-33 response and impaired IFN- $\alpha$  and IFN- $\lambda$   
43 production, which in turn increased epithelial viral burden, airway smooth muscle growth, and type-  
44 2 inflammation. These features were ameliorated when CRE-induced IL-33 release was blocked or  
45 neutralized, while substitution of CRE with exogenous IL-33 recapitulated the phenotype observed  
46 in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice. Mechanistically, IL-33 down-regulated viperin and IFN regulatory  
47 factor 7 gene expression, and rapidly degraded IRAK1 expression in pDC both *in vivo* and *in vitro*,  
48 leading to TLR7 hypo-responsiveness and impaired IFN- $\alpha$  production.

49 **Conclusion.** We identify a hitherto unrecognized function of IL-33 as a potent suppressor of innate  
50 antiviral immunity, and demonstrate that IL-33 contributes significantly to the synergistic interplay  
51 between respiratory virus and allergen exposures in the onset and progression of asthma.

## 53 Key messages:

- 54 • Aeroallergen-induced IL-33 release suppresses antiviral immunity, increasing the severity of  
55 viral bronchiolitis.
- 56 • IL-33 impairs antiviral immunity by degrading IRAK1 and viperin in pDCs leading to a  
57 state of TLR7 hypo-responsiveness.
- 58 • Co-exposure to virus and allergen in early-life predisposes towards asthma progression in  
59 later-life.

60

## 61 Capsule summary:

62 Aeroallergen exposure perturbs the host response to Pneumovirus infection in early-life and  
63 predisposes toward virus/allergen provoked asthma. Aeroallergen-induced IL-33 dampens virus-  
64 induced IFN production by degrading IRAK1 and viperin in pDC to establish a microenvironment  
65 that is conducive for the expansion of type-2 inflammation.

66

## 67 Key words:

68 pneumonia virus of mice, IL-33, type-2 innate lymphoid cell, antiviral, respiratory syncytial virus,  
69 interferon, plasmacytoid dendritic cell

70

71

## 72 Abbreviations:

73 AEC: Airway epithelial cell

74 ASM: Airway smooth muscle

75 BALF: Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid

76 CRE: Cockroach extract

77 HDM: House dust mite

78 IFN: Interferon

79 IL: Interleukin

80 ILC2: Type-2 innate lymphoid cell

81 IRAK: Interleukin-1 receptor associated kinase 1

82 ISG: Interferon stimulated gene

83 pDC: Plasmacytoid dendritic cell

84 PVM: Pneumonia virus of mice

85 RSV: Respiratory syncytial virus

86 TLR: Toll-like receptor

87 vLRI: Viral lower respiratory tract infection

88

## 89 **Introduction**

90 Pathologically, asthma is characterized by airway inflammation and airway remodeling; structural  
91 changes including goblet cell metaplasia, increased deposition of extracellular matrix proteins, and  
92 increased airway smooth muscle (ASM) mass. These features collectively contribute to airway  
93 narrowing, loss in lung function, and airway hyperreactivity (AHR), and are poorly responsive to  
94 conventional therapies<sup>1, 2</sup>. The inflammatory response is typically of a type-2 cytokine profile,  
95 which promotes the recruitment and survival of key effector cells such as eosinophils and mast  
96 cells, and can induce features of airway remodeling through direct activation of airway epithelial  
97 and mesenchymal cells<sup>3, 4</sup>. Both CD4+ T helper 2 (Th2) cells and type-2 innate lymphoid cells  
98 (ILCs) produce the type-2 cytokines IL-5 and IL-13<sup>5</sup> in response to the tissue alarmin IL-33, and  
99 work collaboratively to affect their teleological role, namely anti-helminthic immunity<sup>6</sup>. However,  
100 why type-2 immunity is elevated during acute exacerbations of asthma, most commonly triggered  
101 by a respiratory virus infection, remains less clear.

102

103 Epidemiological studies have reproducibly demonstrated that severe/frequent viral lower respiratory  
104 tract infections (vLRI) in early-life are a major independent risk factor for asthma inception<sup>7-9</sup>.  
105 Notably, this association is markedly increased in children who later become sensitized to food or  
106 aeroallergens, and significantly, confers the greatest risk for progression to severe and/or persistent  
107 asthma<sup>10-12</sup>. The underlying mechanisms remain poorly defined, although it is likely that the  
108 synergistic interaction between allergen exposures and respiratory virus infection is underpinned by  
109 genetic and/or functional defect(s) in a shared antiviral immune pathway necessary for viral control  
110 in early-life<sup>11</sup>. Phenotypically this may manifest as a deficiency in the production of the antiviral  
111 cytokines, IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\beta$  and IFN- $\lambda$ , by leukocytes and airway epithelial cells (AECs)<sup>13-15</sup>, although  
112 whether such defects are virus-specific, genetic or acquired, for example as a consequence of a  
113 type-2 inflammatory milieu, remains highly contentious<sup>16-18</sup>.

114

115 Plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) are amongst the first cells to respond to a viral infection;  
116 sensing viral RNA and producing vast amounts of IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  downstream of toll-like receptor  
117 (TLR)7 activation<sup>19, 20</sup>. Defects in pDC and TLR7 responsiveness are associated with bronchiolitis,  
118 infant wheeze, and childhood asthma<sup>21, 22</sup>. In recent studies, we have used the natural mouse  
119 pathogen pneumonia virus of mice (PVM), which unlike human RSV, replicates more readily in  
120 mice to induce the more severe symptoms of infantile RSV bronchiolitis<sup>20, 23</sup>. TLR7 gene-deletion  
121 delayed the antiviral response, causing a severe viral bronchiolitis and the release of the alarmin IL-  
122 33 in early-life, and consequently, an asthma-like pathology developed upon viral challenge in  
123 later-life<sup>20, 24</sup>. Of note, the transfer of TLR7-sufficient, but not deficient pDC, ameliorated  
124 bronchiolitis, suggesting that perturbations to the pDC compartment in early-life predispose to AEC  
125 damage and IL-33 release, and hence may underlie the association between severe vLRI and the  
126 onset of asthma<sup>21</sup>. Intriguingly, IL-33 and its receptor, IL-1 receptor-like 1 (IL1RL1, also known as  
127 ST2), are susceptibility loci for wheezing in infancy (and asthma)<sup>25, 26</sup>, although the molecular basis  
128 for this association is not known. This led us to question whether allergen-induced release of IL-33  
129 increases the severity of virus-induced bronchiolitis by dampening pDC-orchestrated innate  
130 antiviral immunity, and to assess whether this early-life interaction causes persistent changes to host  
131 immunity that underlie disease progression in response to viral and/or allergen challenge in later-  
132 life.

## 133 **METHODS**

### 134 **Experimental Procedures**

135 Detailed description of materials and procedures is provided in the Methods section in this article's  
136 Online Repository at [www.jacionline.org](http://www.jacionline.org).

137

138 *Induction of co-virus and allergen-induced asthma and associated perturbations.*

139 Specific pathogen-free BALB/c mice or 4C13R mice<sup>27</sup> were inoculated with PVM (strain J3666; 1  
140 pfu 'early life'; 20 pfu 'later life') or cockroach allergen extract (CRE, 1 µg) as previously  
141 described<sup>20, 28</sup> and as outlined in the study design (Figure 1A). In some experiments, mice were  
142 exposed to HDM extract (5 µg or 100ug), LPS (186 pg), recombinant IL-33 (10 ng), anti-IL-  
143 33/isotype control antibody (200 µg), apyrase (4 U/mL) or pyridoxalphosphate-6-azophenyl-2',4'-  
144 disulfonic acid (PPADS, 100 µm in 10uL). All studies were approved by The University of  
145 Queensland Animal Ethics Committee. Sample processing is described in the Methods section in  
146 this article's Online Repository.

147

#### 148 *Flow cytometry*

149 Lungs were digested to single cell suspensions as previously described<sup>24</sup> then incubated with anti-  
150 FcγRIII/II before incubation with fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies at 4°C for 30 minutes, as  
151 described in the Methods section in this article's Online Repository.

152

#### 153 *Histology and Immunohistochemistry*

154 Paraffin-embedded lung sections were prepared as described<sup>20</sup> then stained with Chromotrope 2R,  
155 Periodic acid-Schiff, Masson's Trichrome, anti-IL-33, anti-PVM G protein, anti-α-SM actin or anti-  
156 periostin as described in the Methods section in this article's Online Repository.

157

#### 158 *Measurement of protein expression*

159 IL-33, IFN-λ2/3, IL-12p40, IFN-γ, IL-13, IL-5 were quantified by ELISA. IFN-α and IL-13 were  
160 quantified by CBA. IgG1a was detected using an in-house ELISA system<sup>28</sup>.

161

#### 162 *Quantitative real time PCR*

163 Total RNA was isolated with TriReagent solution followed by phenol-chloroform extraction.  
164 Reverse transcription was performed using M-MLV reverse transcriptase and random primers.  
165 qRT-PCR was performed with SYBR Green using the primers described in Table S1.

166

#### 167 *Airway function assessment*

168 Airways resistance was determined by forced oscillation technique in response to methacholine, as  
169 previously described<sup>29</sup>.

170

#### 171 *Type-2 innate lymphoid cell culture*

172 Type 2 ILCs were FACS-sorted from PVM/CRE co-exposed mice at 10 dpi. Cells were cultured  
173 with IL-2 (30 ng/mL) and pre-incubated with IFN- $\alpha$  (5000U/mL) before stimulation with IL-33 (30  
174 ng/mL).

175

#### 176 *Plasmacytoid dendritic cell culture*

177 Bone marrow-derived pDC were generated as described previously<sup>20</sup>. pDC were pre-incubated with  
178 IL-33 (3 ng/mL) then stimulated with imiquimod (3  $\mu$ g/mL).

179

#### 180 *Statistical analyses*

181 Data were analyzed using a Student's t-test, one-way ANOVA with a Tukey post-hoc test or two-  
182 way ANOVA with a Sidak post-hoc test, as appropriate, using GraphPad Prism software (version  
183 5.0; GraphPad Software, La Jolla, Calif). A *P* value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

184



185 **Results**186 ***Pneumovirus and allergen co-exposure synergise to promote asthma onset and progression***

187 To interrogate the synergistic interaction between a respiratory virus infection and allergen  
188 exposures, we first identified a dose of cockroach extract (CRE) that by itself would not induce  
189 allergic inflammation. As we had previously developed a mouse model of virus-induced asthma by  
190 inoculating mice with PVM at 7 and 49 days of age<sup>24</sup>, we elected to expose mice to CRE (i.n. route)  
191 at 10 days of age (i.e. 3 days after the primary virus inoculation; ‘early-life’), followed by a series  
192 of CRE exposures (challenges in ‘later-life’) at 52, 59, 66, and 73 days of age (i.e. starting 3 days  
193 after virus challenge; see study design in Fig 1A). Repeated exposure to 10 or 100 µg, but not 0.1 or  
194 1 µg of CRE (in the absence of PVM infection), induced peribronchial eosinophilia and mucous  
195 hypersecretion (Fig E1 in online repository). Therefore, we elected to use 1 µg of CRE for all  
196 further studies. To assess for a synergistic effect between PVM and CRE, we superimposed a low-  
197 dose PVM infection, which by itself did not induce features of type-2 inflammation (Fig 1B-D, Fig  
198 2 in online repository), onto the low-dose CRE exposure model (Fig 1A). Eosinophilic  
199 inflammation, mucous hypersecretion, CRE-specific IgG1a (Fig 1B-D) and mucosal mast cells  
200 (data not shown) were greatest in mice exposed to both PVM and CRE. By contrast, these features  
201 of type-2 inflammation were absent in mice exposed to PVM alone or low dose CRE alone in both  
202 early and later-life, or low dose CRE alone in later-life (Fig 1B-D, Fig E2 in online repository).  
203 Similarly, features of airway remodeling including collagen and periostin deposition, and airway  
204 smooth muscle (ASM) remodeling (Fig 1E-G) were only evident in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice.  
205 To compare our findings to contemporary acute models of allergen-induced disease<sup>30</sup>, we exposed a  
206 group of mice to high dose (100 µg) CRE in later-life alone. Strikingly, this regimen elicited type-2  
207 inflammation, but was not sufficient to elicit features of airway remodeling (Fig E2 in online  
208 repository). Thus, low dose virus and low dose allergen co-exposures acted synergistically to induce  
209 all of the cardinal features of asthma.

210

211 ***Virus and allergen exposure in early- and later-life are necessary for maximal asthma severity.***

212 We next addressed the relative contribution of the virus and allergen exposures in early- and later-  
213 life. PVM/CRE co-exposure in early-life alone was not sufficient to induce type-2 inflammation or  
214 airway remodeling as compared to the vehicle treated group (Fig E2 in online repository). The  
215 importance of both the virus and allergen challenge for asthma progression was confirmed when the  
216 omission of either exposure significantly diminished airway inflammation, airway remodeling, and  
217 AHR when assessed at 76 days of age (Fig E2 in online repository). These findings led us to  
218 question the importance of the CRE exposure during primary virus infection. Remarkably, when  
219 this exposure was omitted, type-2 inflammation, airway remodeling, and AHR were completely  
220 absent (Fig 1, final row), even though the mice had been infected with PVM in early and later-life,  
221 then challenged repeatedly with CRE. Taken together, these data suggested that the CRE exposure  
222 in early-life fundamentally altered the nature of the host response to secondary virus and/or allergen  
223 exposure in later-life, and that this effect was necessary for disease progression.

224

225 ***Allergen exposure increases viral load and lung tissue damage, and dampens antiviral cytokine***  
226 ***production***

227 Aeroallergens are known to rapidly induce innate inflammation in the airways<sup>28, 31, 32</sup>. We  
228 hypothesised that allergen-induced inflammation may perturb the host's antiviral response to PVM,  
229 thus increasing the severity of viral bronchiolitis. Viral load in the airway epithelium was  
230 significantly greater and persisted for longer in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice compared to mice  
231 inoculated with virus alone (Fig 2A and Fig E3A in online repository). In children with severe RSV  
232 bronchiolitis, the virus can spread to the parenchyma<sup>33</sup>, however, few PVM-immunoreactive cells  
233 were observed in the alveoli (data not shown). Strikingly, PVM/CRE co-exposure stunted weight  
234 gain and heightened tissue oedema, indicative of severe disease (Fig 2B-C). The elevated viral  
235 illness in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice was associated with significantly lower IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\lambda$  and  
236 IL-12p40 but not IFN- $\gamma$  production in the bronchoalveolar fluid (BALF) (Fig 2D), and attenuated

237 transcription of interferon stimulated genes (ISGs) involved in TLR7 and type I IFN receptor  
238 signaling, including *Irf7*, *Viperin* and *Stat1* (Fig 2E). Intriguingly, CRE exposure alone significantly  
239 down-regulated the expression of *Viperin*, a component of the TLR7 signaling cascade in pDCs<sup>34</sup>.  
240 Although TLR7-mediated activation of pDC is critical for host defense against acute PVM  
241 infection<sup>20</sup>, CRE exposure did not affect pDC numbers in the lung (Fig E3B in online repository).

242

243 ***Type-2 inflammation and ASM remodeling is elevated in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice in early-life***

244 Allergen exposure is well known to induce the release of IL-33 to promote type-2 inflammation<sup>35</sup>.  
245 Analyzing IL-33 protein expression across the time course of infection revealed a significant  
246 increase in the lung homogenates at 3 dpi (sampling two hours after CRE exposure) and at 7 dpi in  
247 the co-exposed mice, but not those exposed to PVM alone (Fig 3A, upper panel). Although CRE  
248 exposure did not increase lung IL-33 expression at 3 dpi, it did increase airway luminal IL-33  
249 measured in the BALF at this time, both in PVM infected mice and non-infected mice (Fig 3B).  
250 Consistent with other reports<sup>36</sup>, under homeostatic conditions IL-33 was expressed predominantly  
251 in resident myeloid cell populations and alveolar (but not airway) epithelial cells (Fig 3C, top left  
252 panel). However, by 7 dpi IL-33-immunoreactive AECs were evident in PVM alone and PVM/CRE  
253 exposed mice (Fig 3C and Fig E3C), which was notable as a second phase of IL-33 release occurred  
254 at 10 dpi (Fig 3B). In contrast to IL-33, the expression of IL-25 and TSLP was unaffected by PVM  
255 and/or CRE exposure (data not shown). Critically, the IL-33 response was associated with increased  
256 numbers of type-2 ILCs and eosinophils (CD4+ and CD8+ T cell numbers were unaffected; data  
257 not shown) and type-2 cytokine expression (Fig 3D-F and Fig E4A online repository). Using IL-  
258 4/IL-13 reporter mice<sup>27</sup>, we revealed that CD8+, but not CD4+, T cells contributed to IL-4 and IL-  
259 13 production. However, the majority of type-2 ILCs were IL-13-positive, and the proportion of IL-  
260 13-expressing type-2 ILCs, but not CD4+ or CD8+ T cells, increased in PVM/CRE co-exposed  
261 mice (Fig E4B online repository). Similar to our observations of ASM remodeling in later-life (Fig

262 1G), PVM infection or CRE exposure alone had no effect on ASM growth, while co-exposure  
263 induced a 3-fold increase in ASM area (Fig 3G).

264

265 ***Elevated viral load is not sufficient to induce type 2 inflammation and ASM remodeling.***

266 To address whether elevated viral load was causally related to the development of ASM growth, we  
267 first inoculated mice with a 10x higher dose of PVM. While this increased the viral load and  
268 induced severe illness and mortality (Fig 4A-B), it was not sufficient to increase IL-33 release at 3  
269 dpi (even when the dose was increased 100-fold (data not shown)) or induce ASM growth (Fig 4C-  
270 D). We then assessed whether house dust mite (HDM), was able to affect viral load and ASM  
271 growth at 7 and 10 dpi respectively (when these pathologies peaked). Substitution of CRE with  
272 HDM significantly increased viral load similar to CRE co-exposure but had no effect on ASM  
273 growth (Fig 4E-F), consistent with a lack of effect on anti-viral cytokine expression, type-2 ILCs in  
274 the lungs or the release of IL-33 (Fig 4G-I). Notably, HDM induced IL-33 release was detectable at  
275 7 dpi, consistent with the findings of others (data not shown)<sup>28, 31, 37-39</sup>. Since the level of endotoxin  
276 in the CRE was high (395 EU per 100 µg protein), we co-exposed mice to PVM and an equivalent  
277 dose of LPS. LPS induced a massive IFN- $\alpha$  response and lowered viral load (Fig 4H-I), suggesting  
278 LPS contamination of CRE was not the cause of impaired antiviral immunity. Taken together, our  
279 findings suggested that ASM growth and the onset of type 2 inflammation was associated with an  
280 IFN- $\alpha$ / $\lambda$ <sup>low</sup>IL-33<sup>high</sup> cytokine micro-environment rather than viral load.

281

282 ***Anti-IL-33 prevents type-2 inflammation and remodeling in response to virus and allergen co-***  
283 ***exposure in early and later-life.***

284 To assess the contribution of IL-33, mice were treated with a neutralizing antibody in both early and  
285 later-life (Fig E5A in online repository). Whereas mice treated with an isotype-matched control  
286 developed all of the hallmark features of asthma, treatment with anti-IL-33 abolished these features  
287 (Fig E5B-E in online repository). Similarly, anti-IL-33 treatment in early life ablated ASM growth

288 and the onset of type-2 inflammation (Fig 5A-D, Fig E5F in online repository). As expected, anti-  
289 IL-33 had no effect in mice infected with PVM alone.

290

291 ***IL-33 is a negative regulator of innate antiviral immunity.***

292 We hypothesized that CRE might dampen innate antiviral immunity via the release of IL-33.  
293 Strikingly, anti-IL-33 reversed the elevated viral burden, dampened IFN- $\alpha$  and IFN- $\lambda$  production  
294 and attenuated ISG expression caused by CRE exposure, but did not alter pDC or CD8 T cell  
295 numbers in the lung (Fig 6A-C, Fig E5G-H in online repository). In contrast, anti-IL-33 had no  
296 effect on the antiviral response in mice infected with PVM alone. CRE-induced IL-33 release  
297 occurs downstream of ATP-mediated purinergic receptor activation<sup>35</sup>. In our model, treatment with  
298 apyrase (to catalyse the hydrolysis of ATP) significantly decreased IL-33 in BALF (2 hours after  
299 CRE exposure, Fig E6A in online repository), and significantly lowered viral load at 7 dpi in the  
300 airway epithelium of PVM/CRE co-exposed mice (Fig 6D). Treatment with the broad-spectrum  
301 P2R antagonist PPADS had the same effect (Fig E6A-B), further implicating nucleoside/purinergic  
302 receptor signaling in mediating IL-33 release. As with anti-IL-33, blocking IL-33 release  
303 recapitulated IFN- $\alpha$  production and ISG expression in the lung (Fig 6E-F), decreased IL-13  
304 expression (data not shown) and ablated ASM growth (Fig 6G), again highlighting the protective  
305 nature of an IFN- $\alpha$ / $\lambda^{\text{high}}$ IL-33<sup>low</sup> cytokine environment. This led us to question whether IFN- $\alpha$   
306 suppresses IL-33-induced cytokine production by type-2 ILCs. Notably, FACS-purified type 2 ILCs  
307 expressed the type I IFN receptor (IFNAR; Fig E4A in online repository) and produced less IL-5  
308 and IL-13 in response to IL-2/IL-33 stimulation when pretreated with IFN- $\alpha$  (Fig 6H). This  
309 response was unrelated to cell death (Fig E6C-D in online repository), however we observed that  
310 IFN- $\alpha$  attenuated IL-2/IL-33-induced up-regulation of ST-2 (Fig 6I).

311

312 ***Exogenous IL-33 increases viral load and decreases IRAK1 expression and antiviral cytokine***  
313 ***production by pDC***

314 We next examined the effect of low-dose exogenous IL-33 during acute PVM infection. Similar to  
315 CRE, exposure to exogenous IL-33 (10 ng at 3, 4 and 5 dpi; i.n. route) during acute PVM infection  
316 did not affect the infiltration of pDC (Fig E7A-B in online repository), however it significantly  
317 diminished IFN- $\alpha$  and IFN- $\lambda$  in the BALF, increased epithelial viral load, and ablated ISG  
318 expression in the lung (Fig 7A-D). Moreover, IL-33/PVM co-exposure significantly increased ASM  
319 growth, in contrast to IL-33 or PVM alone (Fig 7E). Lastly, we questioned whether IL-33 affects  
320 TLR7-mediated activation of pDC by rapidly depleting the intracellular adaptor molecules  
321 interleukin-1 receptor associated kinase 1 (IRAK1) and viperin<sup>40, 41</sup>. Consistent with this possibility,  
322 ST2 was expressed on pDCs in bone marrow, lung and mediastinal lymph nodes (Fig 7F). Notably,  
323 in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice, intracellular IRAK1 and viperin expression in pDC was  
324 significantly diminished within 2 hours of CRE administration (Fig 7G). To directly assess the role  
325 of IL-33, we stimulated pDCs *in vitro* with IL-33. As shown *in vivo*, IRAK1 expression by pDCs  
326 was rapidly decreased (Figure 7H). Additionally, IL-33 treatment significantly diminished the  
327 production of IFN- $\alpha$  (Figure 7I) and IL-12p40 (data not shown) production in response to TLR7  
328 stimulation. Collectively, these data suggest that IL-33 negative regulates the early antiviral  
329 response by inducing a state of TLR7 hypo-responsiveness in pDC.

330

### 331 Discussion

332 IL-33 and its receptor, ST2, have been reproducibly identified in genetic studies as asthma  
333 susceptibility loci, and clinical and experimental studies have revealed a preeminent role for IL-33  
334 in the development and expansion of Th2 immunity via the activation of CD4+ Th2 cells, type-2  
335 ILCs and various type-2 effector cells. In the present study we extend this paradigm to show that  
336 IL-33 dampens antiviral cytokine production, thus removing an inhibitory tonic and establishing a  
337 cytokine microenvironment that is conducive for the expansion of type-2 inflammation and ASM  
338 growth. Critically, using a novel preclinical model of asthma, we demonstrate that this dual activity

339 of IL-33 underlies the synergistic effect of respiratory virus and allergen exposures on the  
340 development and progression of asthma.

341

342 We repeatedly inoculated mice with low-dose virus and allergen to better simulate the natural  
343 course of events, and demonstrated that each of these environmental exposures, in both early and  
344 later-life, was necessary to maximally induce all of the cardinal features of asthma. Several  
345 investigators have developed experimental mouse models of virus/allergen co-exposure to show  
346 that a respiratory virus infection facilitates sensitization to an otherwise innocuous allergen;  
347 however in these models, as in ours, allergic sensitization was not apparent until after allergen  
348 challenge. We note that analysis from one birth cohort study found that allergic sensitization  
349 precedes rhinovirus induced wheezing<sup>42</sup>. However, it is important to note that while rhinovirus-  
350 associated illness occurs in older children, severe RSV bronchiolitis often occurs in the first year of  
351 life, when aeroallergen-specific IgE titers remain low<sup>10</sup>. Since an antibody-mediated response did  
352 not account for the predisposing effect of CRE in early-life, we questioned whether the primary  
353 allergen exposure altered the course of the respiratory virus infection. Unexpectedly, we found that  
354 the CRE exposure attenuated antiviral cytokine production and doubled the viral load in the airway  
355 epithelium. Treatment of PVM/CRE co-exposed mice with anti-IL-33 or apyrase, restored IFN- $\alpha$   
356 production and decreased the viral burden to levels observed with PVM alone, while substitution of  
357 CRE with exogenous IL-33 attenuated IFN- $\alpha$  production and increased viral load, implicating IL-33  
358 as a potent suppressor of antiviral immunity. Mechanistically, we found that IRAK1 and viperin  
359 expression by pDC was lower *in vivo* in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice and IRAK1 lower *in vitro*  
360 following IL-33 treatment. Significantly, IL-33 impaired the production of IFN- $\alpha$  by pDC,  
361 consistent with our earlier report that TLR7 hypo-responsiveness is a feature of asthma<sup>22</sup>.  
362 Additionally, CRE or IL-33 exposure decreased *Viperin* and *Irf7* gene expression *in vivo*, while  
363 anti-IL-33 or apyrase treatment attenuated this down-regulation. Because viperin interacts with  
364 IRAK1 to induce the nuclear translocation of IRF7 and downstream IFN production by pDCs<sup>34</sup>, our



365 findings illustrate that IL-33 negatively regulates TLR7 signaling by at least three key points:  
366 viperin, IRAK1 and IRF7.

367

368 Presently, the role of type I and III IFNs in asthma pathogenesis is highly contentious. The first  
369 reports of impaired IFN- $\beta$  and IFN- $\lambda$  production by *ex vivo* virus-stimulated AECs from  
370 asthmatics<sup>13, 14</sup> have not been universally replicated by other investigators<sup>16-18</sup>, leading to  
371 suggestions that the phenotype is only present in a subpopulation of patients or may stem from the  
372 cytokine milieu<sup>43</sup>. In light of our findings, these concepts may not be mutually exclusive since the  
373 IL-33 receptor IL-1 receptor-like 1, a common susceptibility loci for asthma<sup>25</sup>, is expressed on  
374 AECs<sup>44</sup>, and RV infected AECs secrete IL-33<sup>45</sup>. Accordingly, it will be important to test whether  
375 the increased viral load in the nasal lavage, reported by Jackson *et al*<sup>45</sup> is related to the suppressive  
376 effects of IL-33 on antiviral immunity.

377

378 The phenotype of our early-life model shows a number of striking similarities to pediatric patients  
379 with severe therapy-resistant asthma, including impaired type I and III IFN production, increased  
380 collagen deposition, and eosinophilic inflammation<sup>46-48</sup>. It remains to be established whether the  
381 aetiology of disease in this patient group relates to severe/frequent vLRIs; however, it is noteworthy  
382 that they present with elevated IL-33 expression<sup>47</sup>, and therefore have an IFN- $\alpha/\lambda$ <sup>low</sup>IL-33<sup>high</sup>  
383 cytokine microenvironment, as observed in our model. We and others have shown that type I and  
384 III IFNs suppress CD4+ Th2 cytokine production<sup>49</sup>, and here we show that IFN- $\alpha$  suppressed IL-33  
385 induced type-2 cytokine production by type 2 ILCs, in part by preventing the up-regulation of ST2.  
386 Our findings highlight an important counter-regulatory process whereby IL-33 suppresses antiviral  
387 cytokine production. Such systems are critically dependent on the timing of expression,  
388 emphasizing the need to tightly regulate the release of pre-stored IL-33. Evidently, if the release of  
389 IL-33 is triggered inadvertently, as we show here in response to CRE exposure, this can have  
390 profound short- and long-term effects which may be exacerbated in individuals with a gain of



391 function single nucleotide polymorphism in the IL-33 or IL1RL1 gene<sup>50</sup>. The importance of timing  
392 was further emphasized when we switched CRE with HDM; although HDM did induce IL-33 as  
393 others have shown, the response was too slow to affect the antiviral response. Thus, we predict that  
394 exposure to HDM at the time of inoculation would predispose to viral bronchiolitis and subsequent  
395 asthma.

396

397 In the naïve mouse lung, IL-33 is primarily expressed by alveolar epithelial cells, however in  
398 response to ovalbumin challenge several different types of hematopoietic cells also produce IL-33<sup>36</sup>.  
399 In our model, PVM/CRE co-exposure of neonatal mice induced IL-33 release in a biphasic manner,  
400 peaking at 3 dpi (i.e. 2 hr after CRE exposure) and then at 10 dpi. Notably, CRE alone induced IL-  
401 33 release at 3 dpi but not 10 dpi, PVM infection alone induced IL-33 release at 10 dpi only, while  
402 expression at both time points was significantly elevated in co-exposed mice. PVM infection  
403 increased IL-33 expression in AECs, though not until 7 dpi, implicating infiltrating inflammatory  
404 cells or alveolar epithelial cells as the source of IL-33 at 3 dpi. This release of IL-33 was ATP-  
405 dependent<sup>35</sup>; however, the late release, which was associated with PVM infection, may have  
406 involved a separate mechanism. Indeed, recent reports have shown that the release of active IL-33  
407 can also occur downstream of necroptosis, a programmed form of necrotic cell death, that can be  
408 initiated by viral activation of TLR3<sup>51</sup>, consistent with the apparent association between late IL-33  
409 release and viral load in our model at 10 dpi.

410

411 A striking feature of our model was the development of ASM growth, which to our knowledge has  
412 not been observed previously in an experimental model of virus-induced asthma. Furthermore, we  
413 demonstrated that this hallmark pathology of asthma began to develop in early life, consistent with  
414 a recent clinical report where ASM changes were evident in preschool age children with wheeze  
415 who are later diagnosed with asthma<sup>52</sup>. In fact, evidence of ASM proliferation is infrequent in  
416 subjects with established asthma<sup>53</sup>, emphasizing the need for new therapies to target prevention in

417 early-life, rather than resolution of ASM mass in later-life. Neutralization or blockade of IL-33  
418 release significantly decreased the development of ASM remodeling, together with other features of  
419 asthma, in both early- and later-life. IL-33 has been shown to directly induce collagen synthesis  
420 from fibroblasts<sup>47</sup>, however ASM cells do not express ST2<sup>44</sup>, and hence it is likely that the effects of  
421 IL-33 on ASM growth in our model were indirect, perhaps being mediated via the activation of  
422 type-2 ILCs and/or eosinophils.

423

424 In summary, we have developed a novel model to study the molecular processes that underlie the  
425 synergistic relationship between vLRI and allergen exposure, and the onset of asthma. CRE  
426 exposure rapidly induces the release of IL-33, which down-regulates components of the TLR7  
427 signaling pathway causing TLR7 hypo-responsiveness in pDC. The ensuing IFN- $\alpha/\lambda$ <sup>low</sup>IL-33<sup>high</sup>  
428 cytokine microenvironment allows for the expansion of type-2 inflammation and increased ASM  
429 growth in early-life. This in turn leads to persistent alterations to resident airway cells and/or  
430 immune cells necessary for disease progression following viral and allergen challenge in later-life.  
431 Thus, emerging therapies aimed at targeting IL-33 will not only decrease Th2 inflammation, but  
432 will likely boost innate antiviral immunity.

433

434

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581  
582



583 **Figure legends**

584

585 **Figure. 1. Pneumovirus and allergen co-exposure synergise in both early- and later-life to**  
 586 **promote type-2 inflammation and airway remodeling.** (A) Study design. (B) Peribronchial  
 587 eosinophils expressed per 100  $\mu\text{m}$  of the epithelial basement membrane (BM). (C) Mucous-  
 588 secreting cells as a % of airway epithelial cells (AECs). (D) Serum levels of cockroach-specific  
 589 immunoglobulin (Ig) G1a measured by ELISA. (E) Top panel: peribronchial collagen area; bottom  
 590 panel: representative micrograph (x400 magnification), scale bar = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , white arrow indicates  
 591 collagen (blue). (F) Top panel: peribronchial periostin; bottom panel: representative micrograph  
 592 (x1000 magnification), scale bar = 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , white arrow indicates periostin (pink). (G) Top panel:  
 593 peribronchial airway smooth muscle (ASM) area; bottom panel: representative micrographs of  
 594 ASM (x400 magnification), scale bar = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , white arrow indicates ASM (pink). Data are mean  $\pm$   
 595 SEM, representative of three independent experiments, n=6-9 mice per group. \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01,  
 596 \*\*\* p<0.001 compared with vehicle mice. # p<0.05, ## p<0.01, ### p<0.001 compared with  
 597 PVM/CRE/PVM/CRE mice.

598

599

600 **Figure. 2. Early-life CRE exposure increases viral load and dampens antiviral cytokine**  
 601 **production.** (A) Viral load in airway epithelial cells (AEC) detected by immunohistochemistry and  
 602 enumerated as % of total AECs. (B) Oedema in the lung parenchyma. (C) Weight gain. (D)  
 603 Interferon (IFN)- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\lambda$  and IFN- $\gamma$  in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) and IL-12p40 in lung  
 604 homogenate. (E) mRNA expression of IRF7, Viperin and STAT1 in lung, relative to vehicle treated  
 605 mice. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of 2-3 experiments, n=4-6 mice per group. \*compared  
 606 with vehicle mice. # compared with PVM/CRE mice.

607

608 **Figure. 3. Type-2 inflammation in early-life is elevated in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice.** (A) IL-  
 609 33 in lung homogenate and (B) bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF). (C) Representative  
 610 micrographs of IL-33 immunostaining plus DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole) counterstain,  
 611 scale bar = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . (D) Type-2 innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) in lung (Lineage-, CD45+, CD90.2+,  
 612 CD25+, ST2+). (E) Peribronchial eosinophils. (F) IL-5 and IL-13 in BALF. (G) ASM area. Data are  
 613 mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of two independent experiments, n=6-8 mice per group. \*compared  
 614 with vehicle mice. # compared with PVM/CRE mice.

615

616 **Figure 4. High viral load alone does not promote type 2 inflammation and airway remodeling.**  
 617 (A, E) Viral load in airway epithelial cells (AEC). (B) Survival curve of after i.n. infection with 1  
 618 plaque forming unit (pfu) or 10pfu of PVM. (C,G) IL-33 in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF).  
 619 (D) ASM area. (H) Interferon (IFN)- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\lambda$ , IFN- $\gamma$  in BALF and IL-12p40 in lung homogenate.  
 620 (I) Type-2 innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) in the lung. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of two  
 621 independent experiments, n=6-8 mice per group. \*compared with PVM mice. # compared with  
 622 PVM/CRE mice.

623

624 **Figure 5. Anti-IL-33 prevents type-2 inflammation and remodeling in response to PVM and**  
 625 **CRE co-exposure in early--life.** (A) Type-2 innate lymphoid cells in lung (ILCs). (B) IL-13 in  
 626 bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF). (C) Peribronchial eosinophils (D) ASM area. Data are mean  
 627  $\pm$  SEM, representative of 2 experiments, n=6-7 mice per group. \*compared with isotype-treated  
 628 PVM/CRE co-exposed mice.

629

630 **Figure. 6. IL-33 blockade in PVM/CRE co-exposed mice prevents excessive viral load and**  
 631 **reverses dampened antiviral immunity induced by CRE.** (A, D) Airway epithelial cell (AEC)  
 632 viral load. (B, E) IFN- $\alpha$  and IFN- $\lambda$  in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF); IL-12p40 in lung  
 633 homogenate. (C, F) mRNA expression of interferon stimulated genes, relative to vehicle treated  
 634 mice. (G) ASM area. (H) Type 2 ILCs were treated with IL-2  $\pm$  IFN- $\alpha$  for 30 min followed by



635 culture with IL-33 and IL-2 for 72 hours, before the supernatant was probed for IL-5 and IL-13; (I)  
636 ST-2 expression on cultured ILC2s; MFI, mean fluorescence intensity. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM,  
637 representative of two to three independent experiments, n=6-10 mice per group. \*compared with  
638 PVM/CRE/isotype mice. \* compared with PVM/CRE isotype mice or as indicated

639

640 **Figure. 7. Exogenous IL-33 dampens IFN- $\alpha$  production and increases viral load by decreasing**  
641 **IRAK1 expression and antiviral cytokine production by pDC** (A) IFN- $\alpha$  and (B) IFN- $\lambda$  in  
642 bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF). (C) Viral load in airway epithelial cells (AECs). (D) mRNA  
643 expression, relative to vehicle treated mice. (E) ASM area. (F) ST2 staining of bone marrow (BM),  
644 lung and mediastinal lymph node (LN) pDC (solid line). Fluorescence minus one for ST2 staining  
645 (grey). (G) IRAK1 and viperin intracellular expression in pDC *in vivo* at 2 hours post CRE  
646 administration. Mean fluorescence intensity (MFI). (H) Intracellular IRAK1 staining of bone  
647 marrow (BM)-pDC pre-incubated with vehicle (solid line) or IL-33 (3ng/ml, dotted line) for 0.5 h.  
648 Fluorescence minus one for IRAK staining (grey). (I) IFN- $\alpha$  production in BM-pDC cell culture  
649 supernatant Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of two independent experiments, n=7 mice per  
650 group. N.D., not detected. \* compared with PVM-alone mice or vehicle treated BM-pDC.

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#### Author contributions

664 J.P.L., R.B.W., K.S., P.D.S., S.M., J.W.U., and S.P. designed research; J.P.L., R.B.W., J.S., Z.L.,  
665 V.Z., performed research; K.S. and A.H., contributed reagents/analytic tools; J.P.L., R.B.W., J.S.,  
666 analyzed data; and J.P.L., R.B.W., S.P., wrote the paper.

668

669

Figure 1

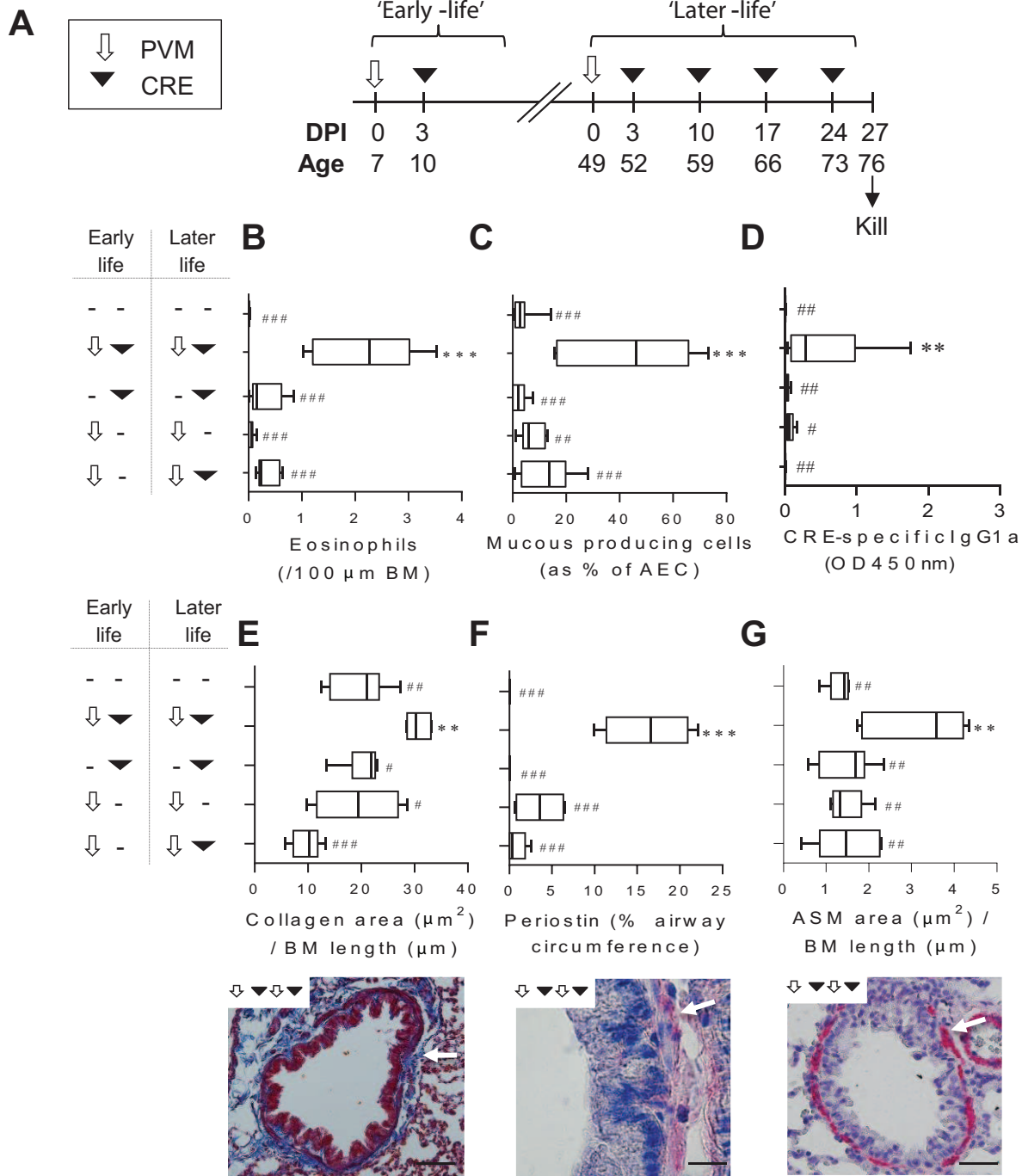
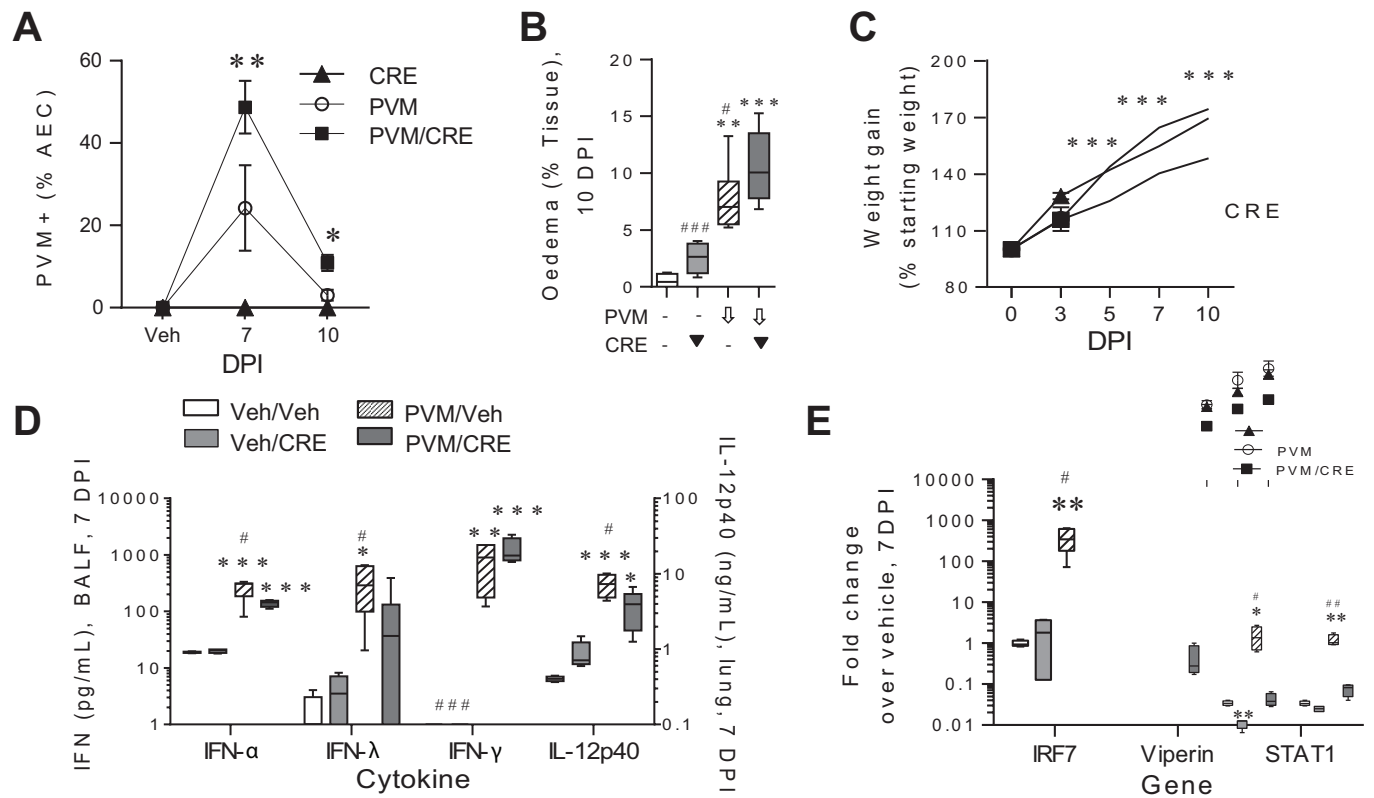


Figure 2



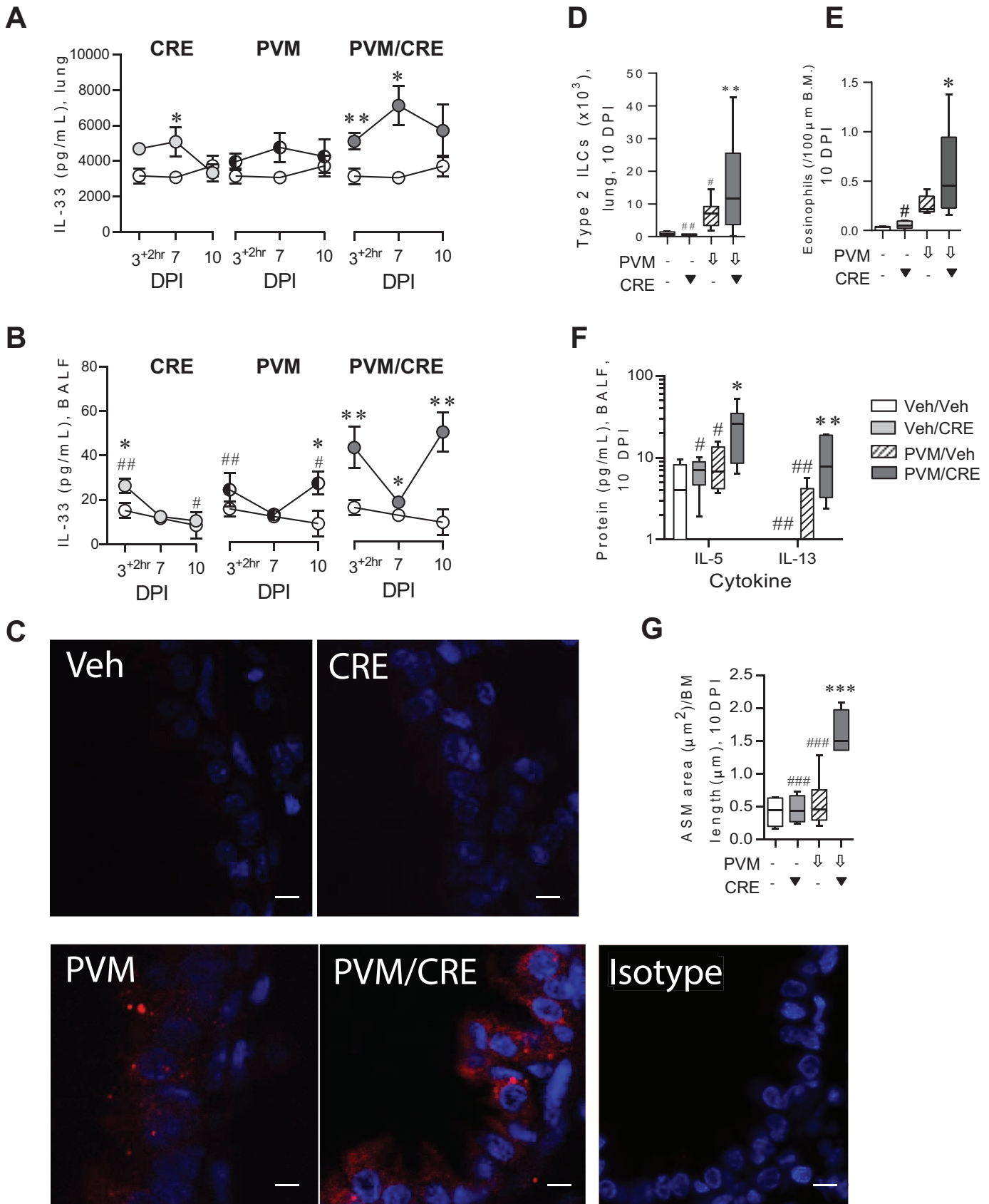


Figure 4

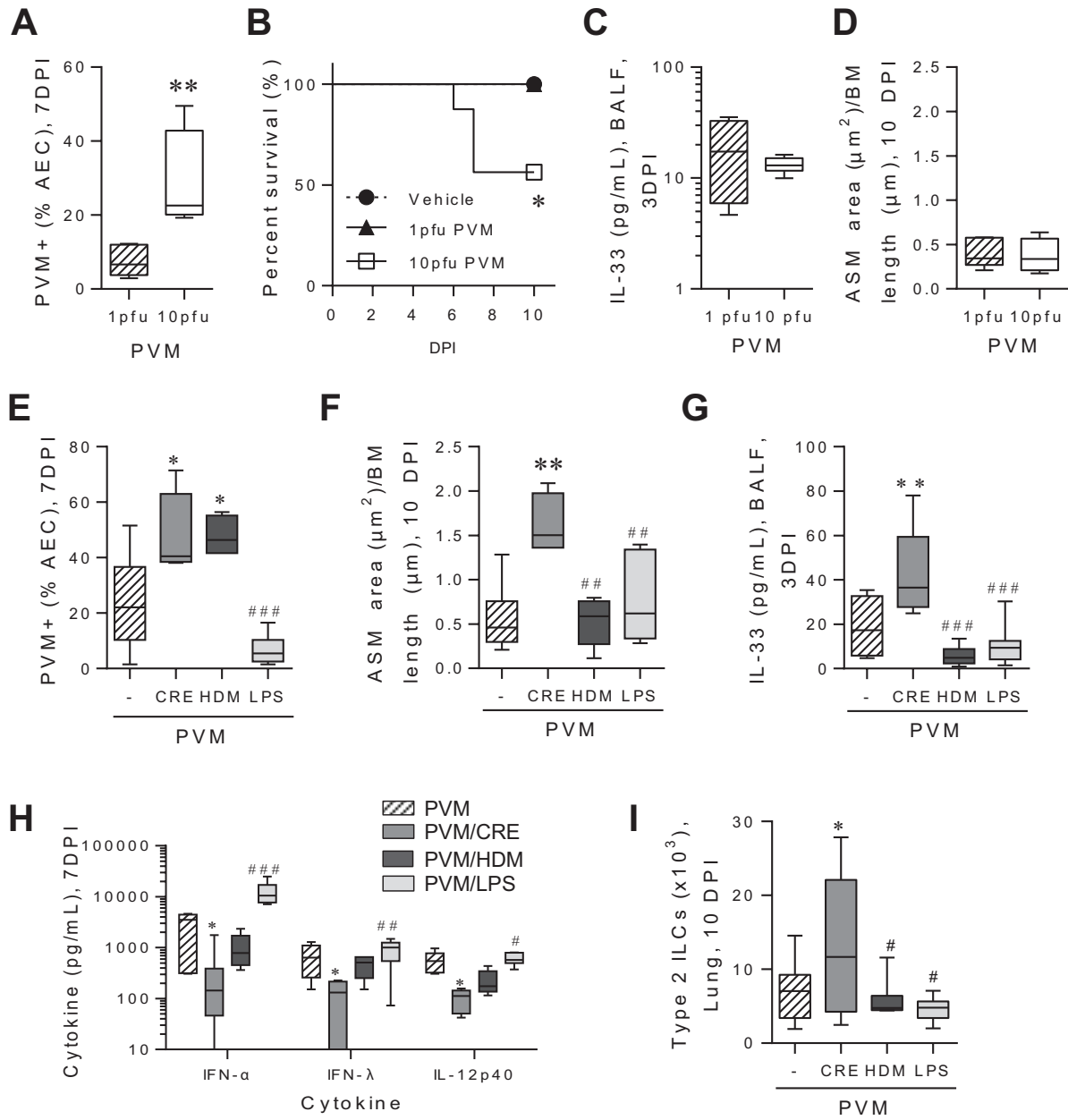


Figure 5

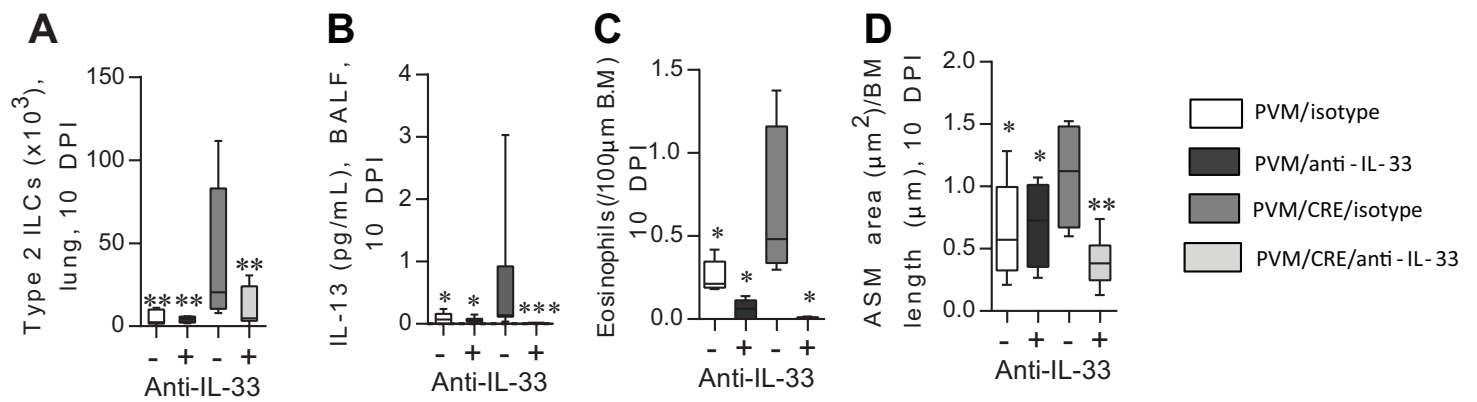


Figure 6

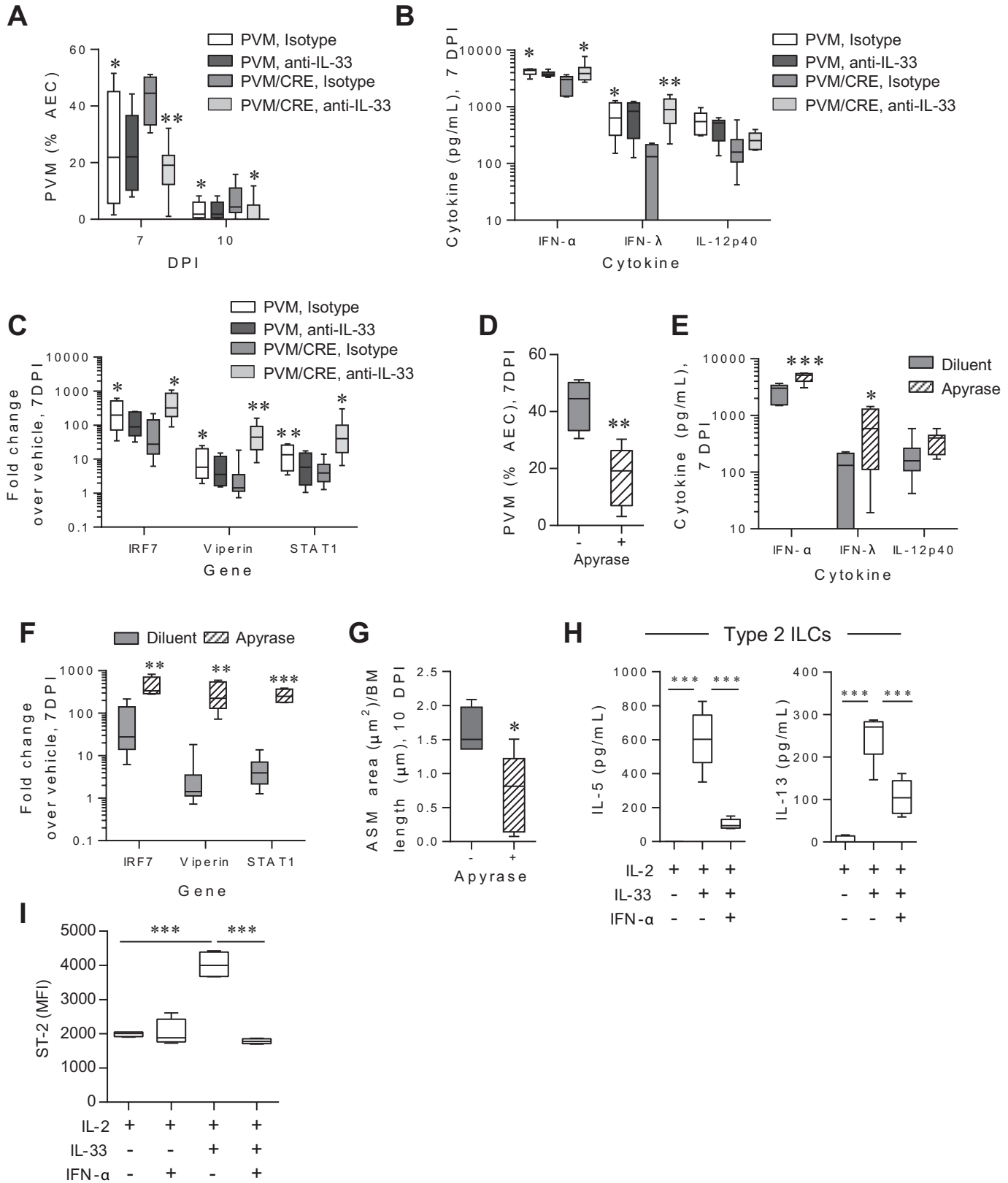
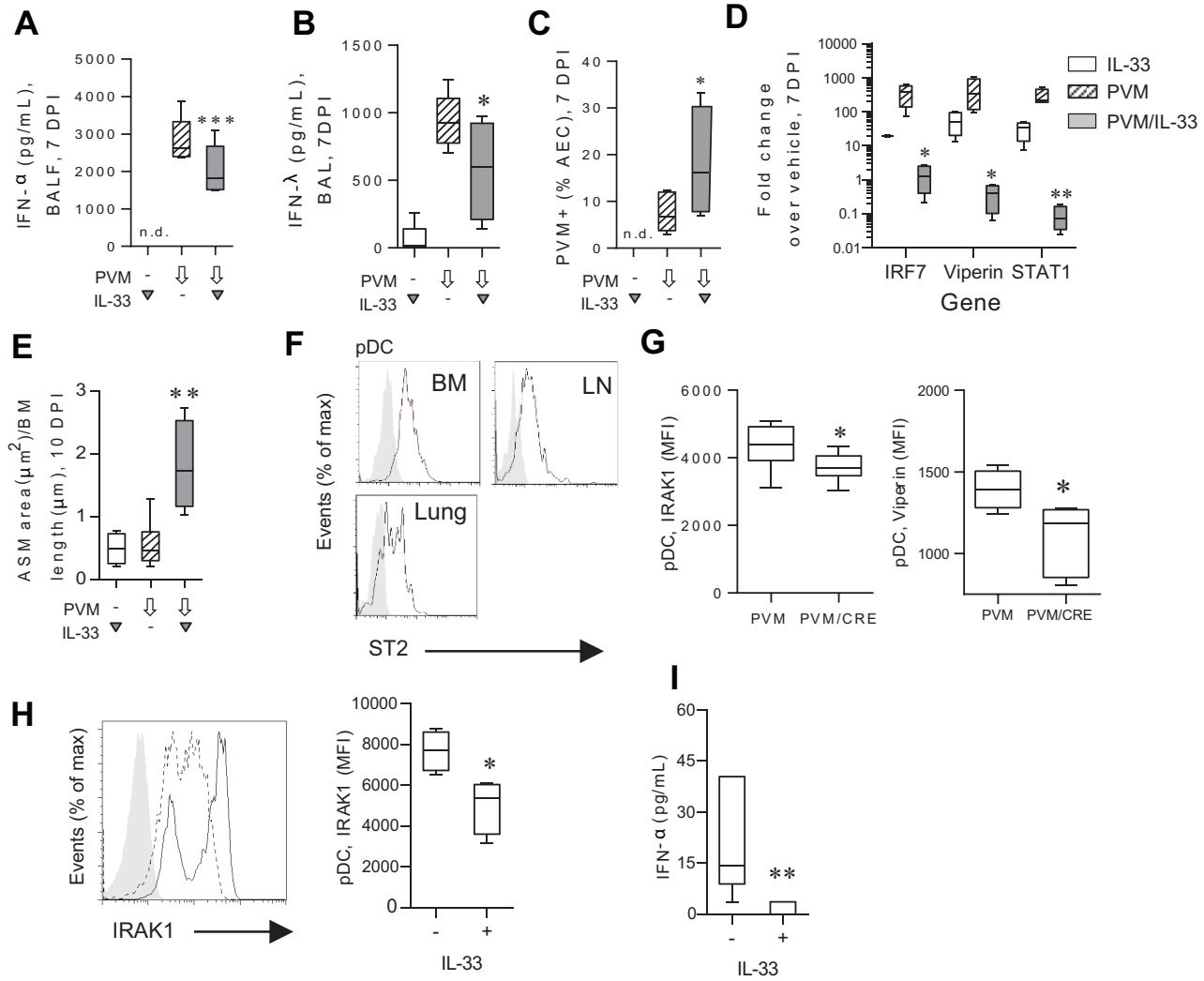


Figure 7





## **Online Repository**

### **Aeroallergen-induced IL-33 predisposes to respiratory virus-induced asthma by dampening anti-viral immunity**

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## **Online Methods**

### *Induction of co-virus and allergen-induced asthma and associated perturbations.*

Specific pathogen-free BALB/c mice or 4C13R mice<sup>1</sup> were inoculated with PVM (strain J3666; 1 pfu ‘early life’; 20 pfu ‘later life’) or cockroach allergen extract (CRE, 1 µg, Greer Laboratories) as previously described<sup>2, 3</sup> and as outlined in the study design (Figure 1A). In some experiments, mice were exposed to HDM extract (5 µg or 100ug, Greer Laboratories) or LPS (186 pg, Sigma-Aldrich), recombinant IL-33 (10 ng, eBioscience), anti-IL-33/isotype control antibody (200 µg, Pfizer, Inc), apyrase (4 U/mL, Sigma-Aldrich) or pyridoxalphosphate-6-azophenyl-2',4'-disulfonic acid (PPADS, 100 µm, Sigma-Aldrich). All studies were approved by The University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee.

### *Sample extraction and processing*

Following euthanasia by pentobarbitone overdose, blood was obtained by cardiac puncture, centrifuged twice (13,000 rpm, 4°C) and the serum stored at -80°C. A bronchoalveolar lavage

(BAL) was performed with 400  $\mu$ L (neonate/‘early life’) or 600  $\mu$ L (adult/‘later life’) of PBS. The BAL fluid was centrifuged at 5,000 rpm, 4°C for 5 min and the supernatant stored at -80°C until analysis by cytokine bead array (CBA) or ELISA. Lung lobes were excised and processed as previously described<sup>4</sup>. Briefly, the left lung lobe was processed immediately for flow cytometry and the superior right lobe fixed in 10% formalin neutral buffer overnight before storage in 70% ethanol. The post-caval and inferior lobes were pooled and snap frozen before mechanical digestion and clarification, followed by analysis by ELISA. The inferior right lobe was snap frozen before RNA extraction. All snap frozen lungs were stored at -80 °C.

#### *Flow cytometry*

Flow cytometry was performed on lung tissue digest cells as previously described<sup>4</sup>. Briefly, single cell suspensions were incubated with anti-Fc $\gamma$ RIII/II (Fc block) for 15 min at 4°C then incubated with the following fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies at 4°C for 30 minutes: anti-mouse CD2-FITC (RM2-5), CD4-AF488 (RM4-5), Gr-1-AF488 (RB6-8C5), CD11c-AF488 (HL3), CD11b-AF488 (M1/70), B220-AF488 (RA36B2), CD3-AF488 (145-2C11) CD45RA-PE (14.8), B220-V500 (RA36B2), CD8a-PerCP (53-6.7), Sca1-PE (E13-161.7) (all BD Bioscience), CD19-AF488 (6D5), CD45-BV421 (30-F11), CD11b-BV421 (M1/70), ST-2-APC (DIH9), IFNAR (MAR1-5A3), ICOS-PE (7E.17G9), IL-7Ra-PE (SB/199) (all Biolegend), IL-17RB-PE-Cy7 (eBio17B7) (eBioscience) and Siglec-H-APC (511.3D3) (Miltenyi Biotec). 7-AAD (eBioscience) was used to exclude dead cells. For intracellular staining, cells were fixed and permeabilised using the BD Cytofix/Cytoperm kit as per the manufacturer’s instructions, followed by staining with rabbit anti-mouse IRAK1 (D51G7, Cell Signalling) or anti-mouse Viperin (HM1016, Hycult) for 30 minutes. Cells were then washed followed by incubation with

goat anti-rabbit AF647 (Invitrogen) for 30 minutes. Samples were collected with an LSR Fortessa X-20 (BD Biosciences) and the data analysed with FACSDiva v8 (BD Biosciences) and FlowJo v8.8 (Treestar). Type 2 ILCs were identified as Lineage<sup>-</sup> (CD2, Gr-1, CD3, CD11b, B220, CD4, CD19), CD45<sup>+</sup>, CD25<sup>+</sup>, CD90.2<sup>+</sup>, ST-2<sup>+</sup>, ICOS<sup>+</sup>, IL-7Ra<sup>+</sup>, IL-17RB<sup>+</sup> (Fig E4A). pDCs were identified as CD11b<sup>-</sup>, CD11c<sup>+</sup>, CD45RA<sup>+</sup>, B220<sup>+</sup>, Siglec-H<sup>+</sup>.

### *Histology and Immunohistochemistry*

Paraffin-embedded lung sections were prepared as previously described<sup>3</sup>. Lung tissue sections were stained with Chromotrope 2R, Periodic acid-Schiff or Masson's Trichrome, to enumerate eosinophils, mucus-secreting cells and collagen deposition respectively. For immunohistochemistry, lung sections were pretreated with 10% normal goat serum for 30 min. Sections were probed with anti-IL-33 (AF3626, R&D), anti-PVM G protein (kindly provided by Dr Ulla Buchholz), anti- $\alpha$ -SM actin and anti-periostin (both Sigma-Aldrich) overnight at 4°C. Following incubation with appropriate secondary antibodies, immunoreactivity was developed with Fast Red (Sigma-Aldrich) and counterstained with Mayer's hematoxylin (bright field) or with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI, Sigma-Aldrich) (fluorescence). The percentage of PVM positive or mucous AECs was quantified in 5 airways per mouse (Scanscope XT, Aperio). Oedema was assessed by point counting of fluid-filled airspaces. Eosinophils were enumerated around the airways and expressed as cells per 100  $\mu$ m of epithelial basement membrane. Airway smooth muscle mass and collagen deposition around the small airways (defined as a circumference <500  $\mu$ m for neonates and <800  $\mu$ m for mice aged >7 week) was measured using Scanscope XT software and expressed as area per  $\mu$ m of basement membrane. Periostin expression was quantified as a % of the airway circumference. Photomicrographs were taken at

400x and 1000x magnification using an Olympus BX-51 microscope with an Olympus DP-72 camera at room temperature and acquired using Olympus Image Analysis Software. IL-33 images were false colored using Adobe Photoshop CS6 software. Immunofluorescent images were taken using Discovery Spinning disk confocal using Nikon Viewer software. Images were processed using Image J and Imaris software.

#### *Measurement of protein expression*

IL-33 and IFN- $\lambda$ 2/3 (R&D Systems), IL-12p40 and IFN- $\gamma$  (Biolegend) and IL-5 (BD Biosciences) expression was quantified by ELISA. IFN- $\alpha$  (eBioscience) and IL-13 (Quantikine kit, R&D or Enhanced Sensitivity Flex Set, BD Biosciences) expression was quantified by CBA. IgG1a was detected in the serum using an in-house ELISA system<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Quantitative real time PCR*

Total RNA was isolated from the inferior right lung lobe with TriReagent solution (Ambion) followed by phenol-chloroform extraction. DNase digestion was performed with Turbo DNase (Ambion), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Reverse transcription was performed using M-MLV reverse transcriptase and random primers (Invitrogen). qRT-PCR was performed with SYBR Green (Life Technologies) with the primers described in Table S1. Expression values were normalized to *Hprt* and expressed as fold change over vehicle mice, as described<sup>3,4</sup>.

#### *Airway function assessment*

AHR was measured as described previously<sup>5</sup>. Briefly, airways resistance was determined by forced oscillation technique (Flexivent, Scireq) in response to nebulized methacholine (0.3 to 10 mg/mL; Sigma-Aldrich).

#### *Type-2 innate lymphoid cell culture and activation*

Lungs were excised from PVM/CRE co-exposed mice at 10 dpi and digested by gentleMACS dissociation (Miltenyi Biotech). Type 2 ILCs (7-AAD<sup>-</sup> Lineage<sup>-</sup> CD45<sup>+</sup>, CD25<sup>+</sup>, CD90.2<sup>+</sup>) were FACS-sorted to 96% purity (Fig E6C) using a BD FACS-Aria, and cultured in the presence of IL-2 (30 ng/mL, eBioscience). Cells (10,000/well) were pre-incubated with IFN- $\alpha$  (5000U/mL, Hycult Biotech) for 30 minutes, before stimulation with IL-33 (30 ng/mL, eBioscience) for 72 hours. Supernatant was collected and probed for cytokine production.

#### *Plasmacytoid dendritic cell culture*

Bone marrow-derived pDC were generated as described previously<sup>3</sup>. On day 8 of culture, pDC were pre-incubated with IL-33 (3 ng/mL, eBioscience) then stimulated with imiquimod (3  $\mu$ g/mL, Sigma-Aldrich).

#### *Statistical analyses*

GraphPad Prism version 5.0 software (La Jolla, California) was used for all statistical analyses. A Student's t-test, one-way ANOVA with a Tukey post-hoc test or two-way ANOVA with a Sidak post-hoc test were applied as appropriate. A *P* value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Supplemental Figure Legends

**Figure E1. Determination of CRE allergen dose** (A) Study design. (B) Peribronchial eosinophils. BM, basement membrane. (C) Mucous-secreting cells. AEC, airway epithelial cells. Data are mean $\pm$ SEM, representative of 2 experiments, n=5-9 mice per group.

**Figure E2. Both virus and allergen challenge in later life are necessary for asthma progression.** (A) Peribronchial eosinophils. Basement membrane (BM). (B) Mucous-secreting airway epithelial cells (AECs). (C) Cockroach-specific IgG1a in serum. (D) Collagen area. (E) ASM area. (F) Airway resistance (Rn) in response to increasing doses of methacholine (MCh), response at 10mg/mL shown. (G) Representative micrograph (x400 magnification) of peribronchial eosinophils (chromotrope 2R), scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m, white arrows indicate eosinophils. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of three independent experiments, n=6-9 mice per group. \* compared with vehicle mice. # compared with PVM/CRE/PVM/CRE mice. Dashed line denotes vehicle treated mice. Related to Figure 1.

**Figure E3. Expression of virus and IL-33 in airway epithelial cells.** (A) Representative micrographs of PVM immunostaining, scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m, arrows indicate PVM+ airway epithelial cells. (B) pDC 7 days post infection, enumerated as CD11b- CD11c+ Siglec-H+ B220+ CD45RA+. (C) Quantification of airway epithelial cells (AECs) expressing IL-33 as % of AECs. (D) Bronchoalveolar lavage total and differential counts.

**Figure E4. Type 2 innate lymphoid cell and T cell responses.** (A) Representative scatter plots showing gating strategy for enumeration of type 2 ILCs and their immunophenotype in the lung. Grey filled histogram = fluorescence of minus one control for staining; solid line = expression of ILC2 markers in lung. Values are % of total lung cells. (B) ILC2, CD4- and CD8-T cell expression of IL-13 and IL-4 at 10 DPI in 4C13R mice. Values are % parent population.

**Figure E5. Anti-IL-33 prevents type 2 inflammation and remodeling in response to virus and allergen co-exposure in later-life.** (A) Study plan. (B) Airway resistance (Rn) in response to increasing doses of methacholine (MCh). (C) Mucous-secreting airway epithelial cells (AECs). (D) Peribronchial eosinophils. Basement membrane (BM). (E) ASM area. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM, representative of 2 experiments, n=6-7 mice per group. Dashed line denotes vehicle treated mice, solid line denotes PVM treated mice. (F) Bronchoalveolar lavage total and differential counts. (G) pDC number and (H) Sca-1+ CD8 T cells in the lung.

**Figure E6. Blockade of IL-33 release and type-2 ILC sort purity and viability in culture following stimulation.** (A) IL-33 in bronchoalveolar lavage (BALF), following treatment with apyrase or pyridoxalphosphate-6-azophenyl-2',4'-disulfonic acid (PPADS). (B) Viral load in airway epithelial cells and IL-12p40 in lung. (C) Representative scatter plots showing gating strategy for FACS sorting of lung type-2 ILCs. Values are % of parent population. (D) Viable (7-AAD-) type-2 ILCs following 3 day culture.

**Figure E7. Exogenous IL-33 dampens IFN- $\alpha$  production and increases viral load** (A) Study design. Mice were inoculated with PVM at 7 dpi, then exposed (i.n.) to 10 ng IL-33 3, 4 and 5 days later. (B) Plasmacytoid dendritic cell (pDC), (C) Type-2 ILC and (D) Eosinophil number in

the lung. (E-I) Bronchoalveolar lavage total and differential counts. (E) Representative scatter plots showing gating strategy for cultured pDCs.

Supplemental Table Legends

**Table E1.** Oligonucleotide sequences used in this study are shown.

**Supplemental References**

1. Huang Y, Guo L, Qiu J, Chen X, Hu-Li J, Siebenlist U, et al. IL-25-responsive, lineage-negative KLRG1(hi) cells are multipotential 'inflammatory' type 2 innate lymphoid cells. *Nat Immunol* 2015; 16:161-9.
2. Ullah MA, Loh Z, Gan WJ, Zhang V, Yang H, Li JH, et al. Receptor for advanced glycation end products and its ligand high-mobility group box-1 mediate allergic airway sensitization and airway inflammation. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2014; 134:440-50.
3. Davidson S, Kaiko G, Loh Z, Lalwani A, Zhang V, Spann K, et al. Plasmacytoid dendritic cells promote host defense against acute pneumovirus infection via the TLR7-MyD88-dependent signaling pathway. *J Immunol* 2011; 186:5938-48.
4. Kaiko GE, Loh Z, Spann K, Lynch JP, Lalwani A, Davidson S, et al. TLR7 gene deficiency and early-life Pneumovirus infection interact to predispose toward the development of asthma-like pathology in mice. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2013; 131:1331-39.
5. Phipps S, Lam CE, Kaiko GE, Foo SY, Collison A, Mattes J, et al. Toll/IL-1 signaling is critical for house dust mite-specific helper T cell type 2 and type 17 [corrected] responses. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2009; 179:883-93.



Table S1

Name	Oligonucleotide Primer
<i>Irf7</i>	Forward: 5'-CTTAGCCGGGAGCTTGGATCTACT-3' Reverse: 5'-CCCTTGTACATGATGGTCACATCC-3'
<i>Stat1</i>	Forward: 5'-ACAGTGGTTCGAGCTTCAG-3' Reverse: 5'-GGCCAGGTACTGTCTGATTT-3'
<i>Viperin</i>	Forward: 5'-CGAAGACATGAATGAACACATCAA-3' Reverse: 5'-AATTAGGAGGCACTGGAAAACCT-3'
<i>Hprt</i>	Forward: 5'-AGGCCAGACTTTGTTGGATTTGAA-3' Reverse: 5'-CAACTTGCGCTCATCTTAGGCTTT-3'

Figure E1

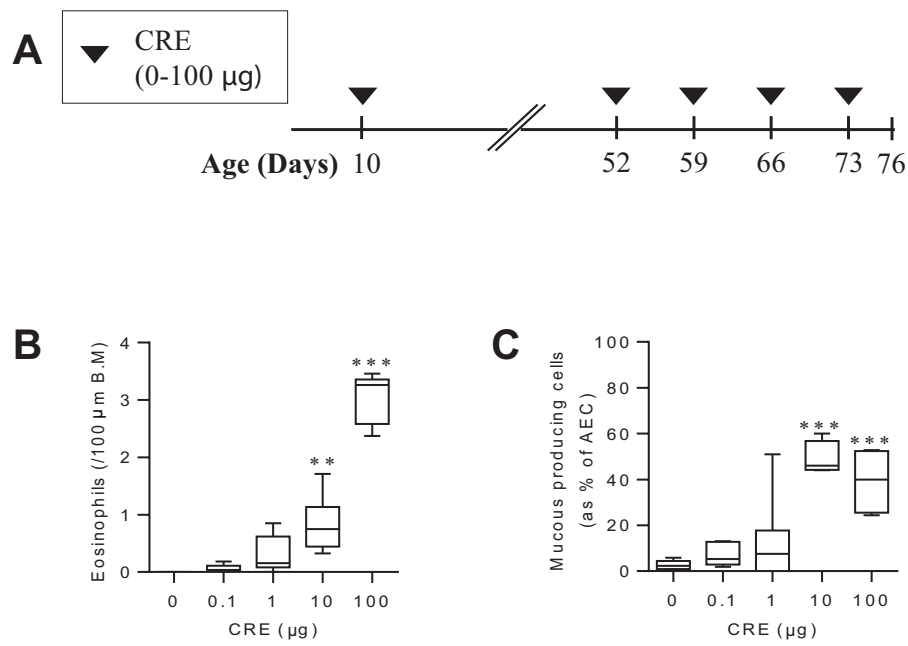
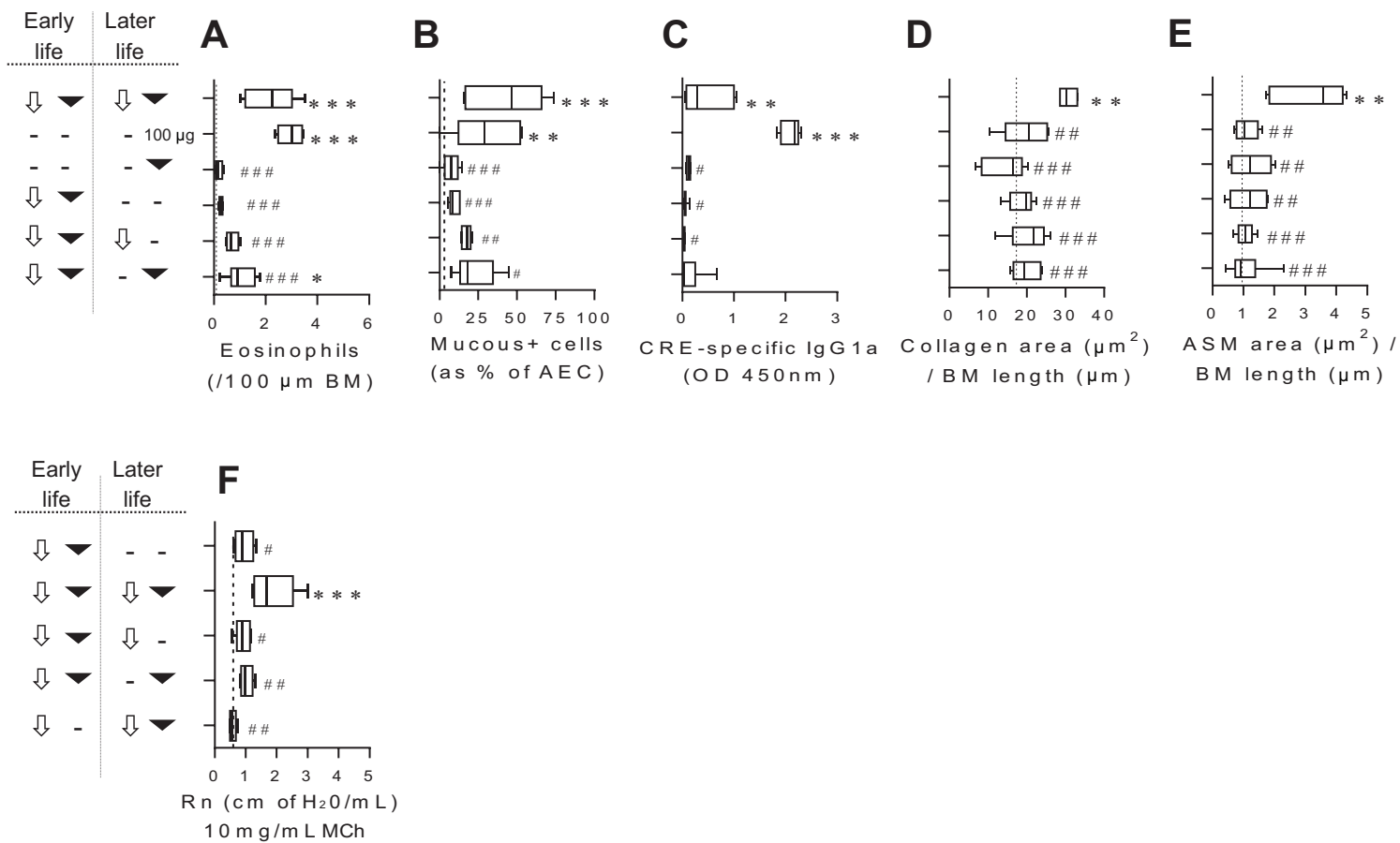
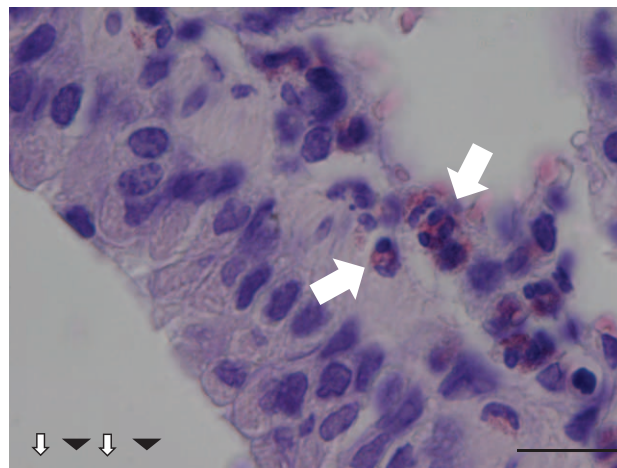
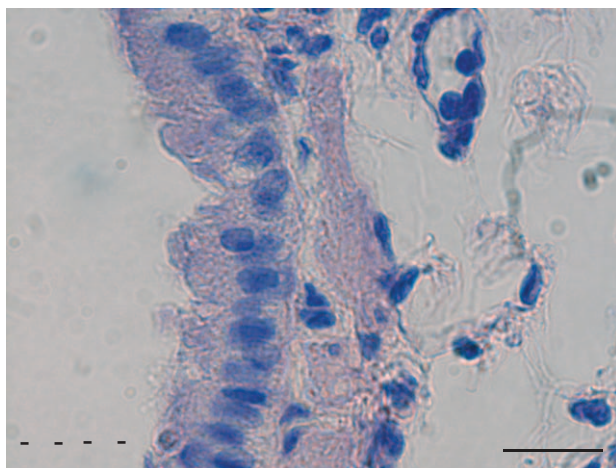


Figure E2



G



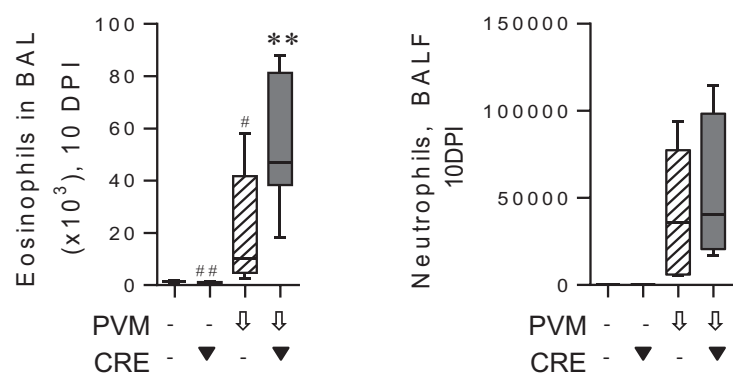
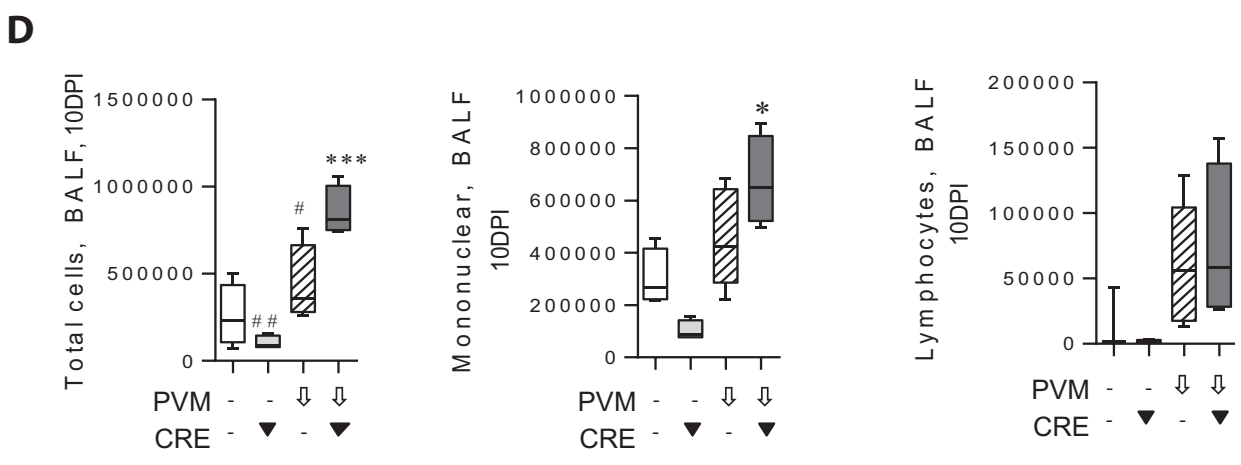
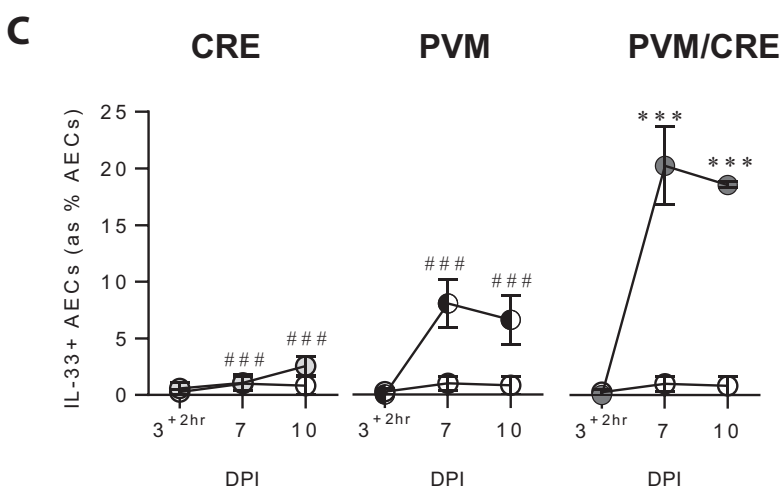
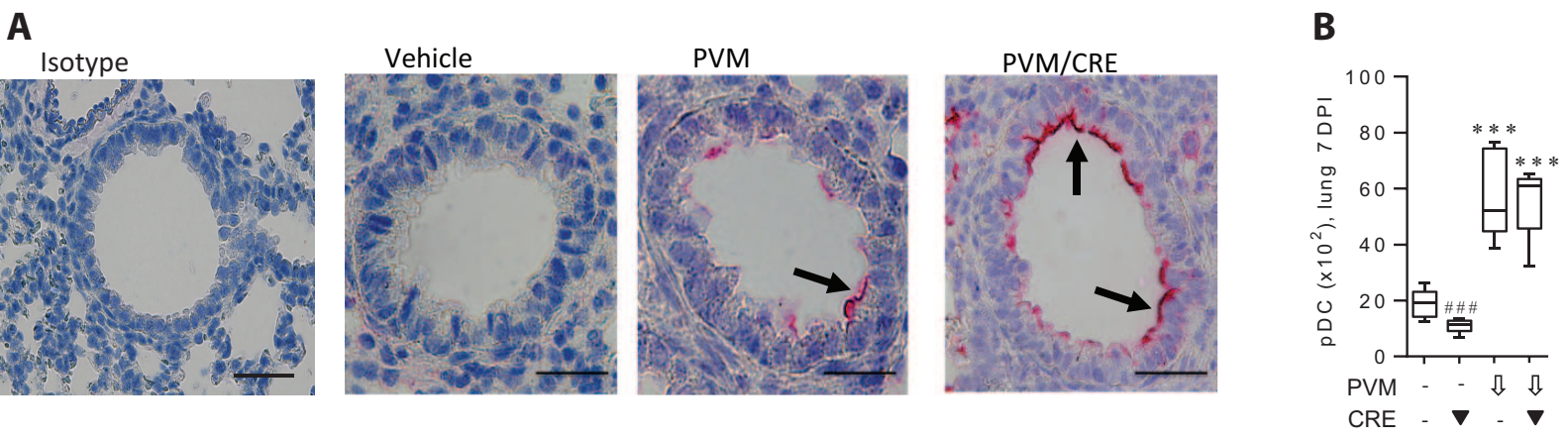


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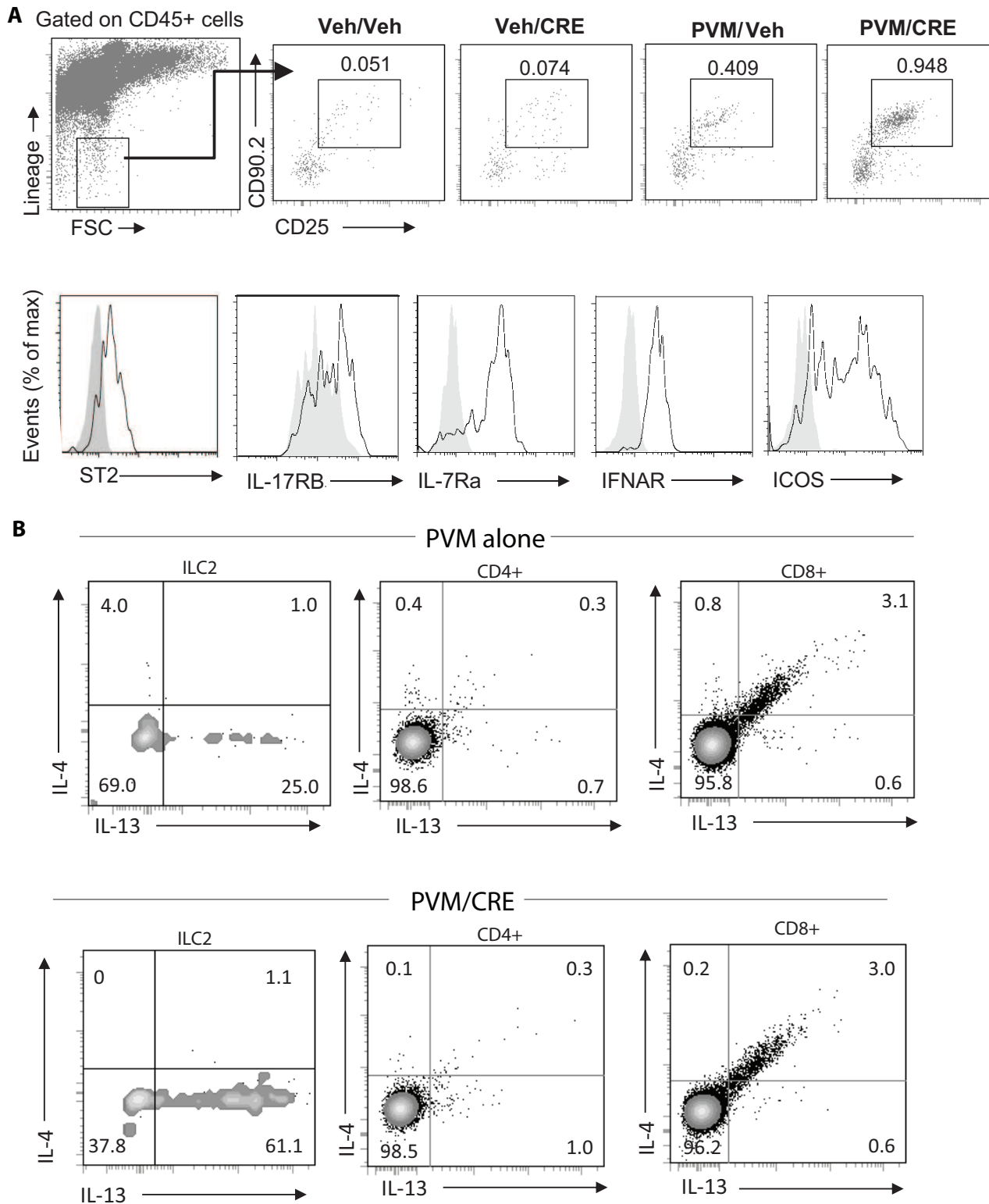


Figure E5

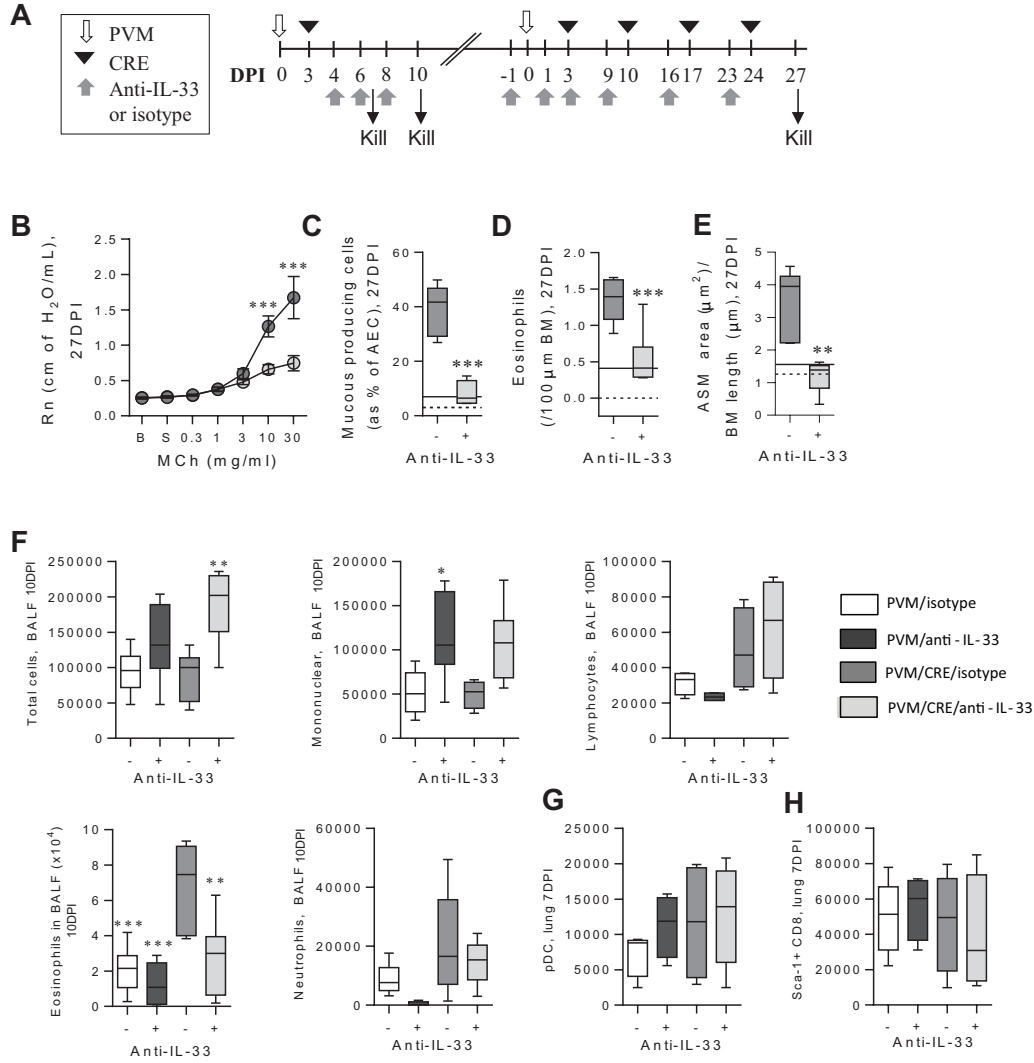


Figure E6

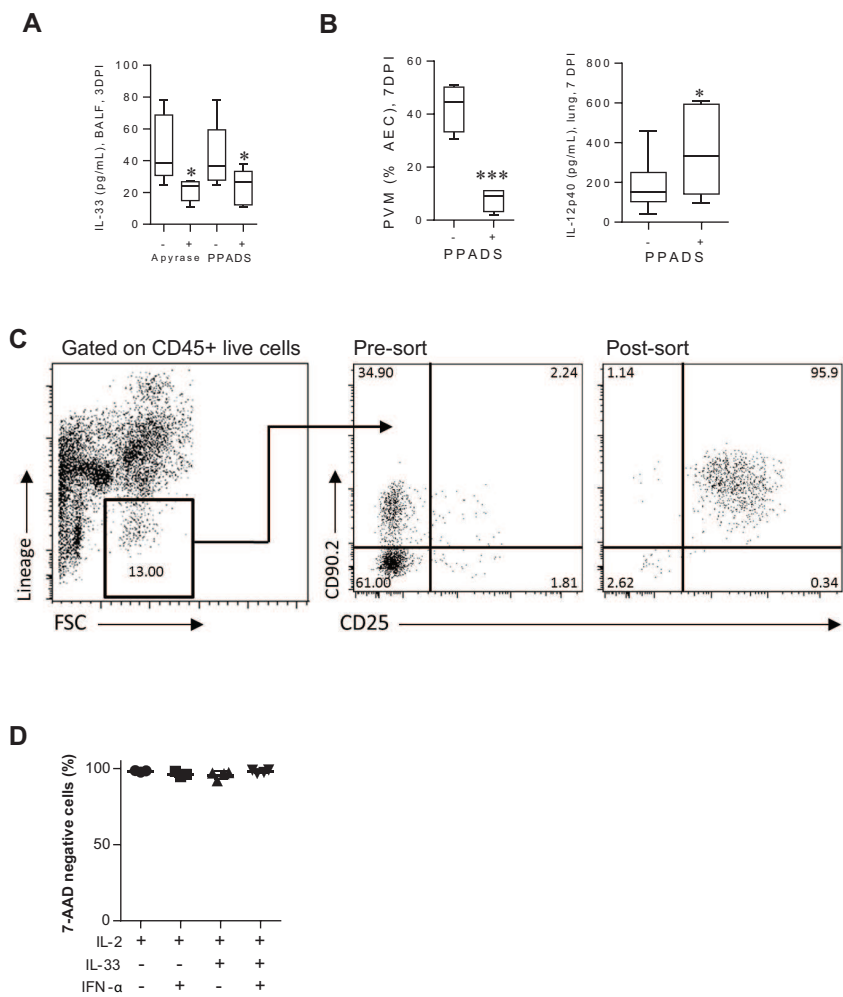


Figure E7

