

Oral Infection Drives a Distinct Population of Intestinal Resident Memory CD8⁺ T Cells with Enhanced Protective Function

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SUMMARY

The intestinal mucosa promotes T cell responses that might be beneficial for effective mucosal vaccines. However, intestinal resident memory T (Trm) cell formation and function are poorly understood. We found that oral infection with *Listeria monocytogenes* induced a robust intestinal CD8 T cell response and blocking effector T cell migration showed that intestinal Trm cells were critical for secondary protection. Intestinal effector CD8 T cells were predominately composed of memory precursor effector cells (MPECs) that rapidly upregulated CD103, which was needed for T cell accumulation in the intestinal epithelium. CD103 expression, rapid MPEC formation, and maintenance in intestinal tissues were dependent on T cell intrinsic transforming growth factor β signals. Moreover, intestinal Trm cells generated after intranasal or intravenous infection were less robust and phenotypically distinct from Trm cells generated after oral infection, demonstrating the critical contribution of infection route for directing the generation of protective intestinal Trm cells.

INTRODUCTION

The intestinal mucosa sits as a dominant site for exposure to potential microbial invaders, and these tissues promote the ability to rapidly respond to insults by generating robust yet regulated immunity. For most intracellular bacterial infections, generating proper T cell responses is ultimately necessary for the successful elimination of the pathogen. For *Listeria monocytogenes* (*L. monocytogenes*) infections, sterilizing immunity requires a robust T cell response capable of providing common effector functions such as interferon- γ (IFN- γ) production and lysis of infected cells. After infection, induction of a protective T cell response includes mobilization of effector cells to peripheral tissues resulting in elimination of any remaining bastions of infection. Although these processes have been well defined following intravenous (i.v.) infection, the pathogen-specific CD8 T cell response has not been well characterized following oral infections.

Naive CD8 T cells specific for a pathogen are exceedingly rare and predominately reside in secondary lymphoid tissues (Obar et al., 2008; von Andrian and Mackay, 2000). Therefore, primary CD8 T cell responses to infections require a lag period in order to mount a robust response. Following successful elimination of a pathogen, CD8 T cells establish distinct memory populations with defined migratory properties that are able to rapidly respond to challenge (Schenkel et al., 2013; Gebhardt et al., 2011; Ariotti et al., 2012). The developmental pathway a naive T cell follows to progress to memory has been widely studied. However, this process has been complicated by the identification of several distinct memory populations. One memory population resides within lymphoid tissues as central memory T cells (T_{cm}), whereas effector memory cells and an associated subset, resident memory T cells (Trm), reside predominately in peripheral nonlymphoid tissues. For the most part, T_{cm} behave similarly to naive T cells in terms of their lymphoid microanatomical locations and trafficking patterns. However, Trm are anatomically positioned to immediately respond to antigen reexposure without an appreciable delay in mediating protective effector function (Schenkel et al., 2013; Gebhardt et al., 2009; Ariotti et al., 2012). Although it is becoming clearer that Trm provide superior protection in some infection models, both lymphoid memory and Trm participate through distinct mechanisms (Gebhardt et al., 2009; Jiang et al., 2012; Mackay et al., 2012). Trm in the reproductive tract have recently been shown to provide an organizational framework to secondary immune responses by enhancing the recruitment of innate cells through rapid IFN- γ production (Schenkel et al., 2013). However, the mechanisms for generation and maintenance of Trm remain controversial and might vary depending on infection route and tissue type. In the case of the intestinal epithelium, a critical barrier tissue, a clear picture explaining the events leading to Trm development and establishment in response to oral infection has not emerged.

Here, we utilized an oral *L. monocytogenes* infection model to recapitulate human infection and examine the generation of intestinal Trm populations. Unexpectedly, we observed rapid formation of an intestinal CD127⁺ KLRG1⁻ CD8 T cell population that resembled memory precursor effector cells (MPECs) following oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. These early mucosal MPECs preferentially upregulated CD103 and survived long-term, providing a means of identifying mucosal Trm precursors. On the contrary, KLRG1⁺ CD127⁻ CD8 T cells underwent apoptosis in the intestinal epithelium consistent with short-lived effector cells (SLECs). The establishment of a rapid resident memory population was dependent on intrinsic TGF- β signals.

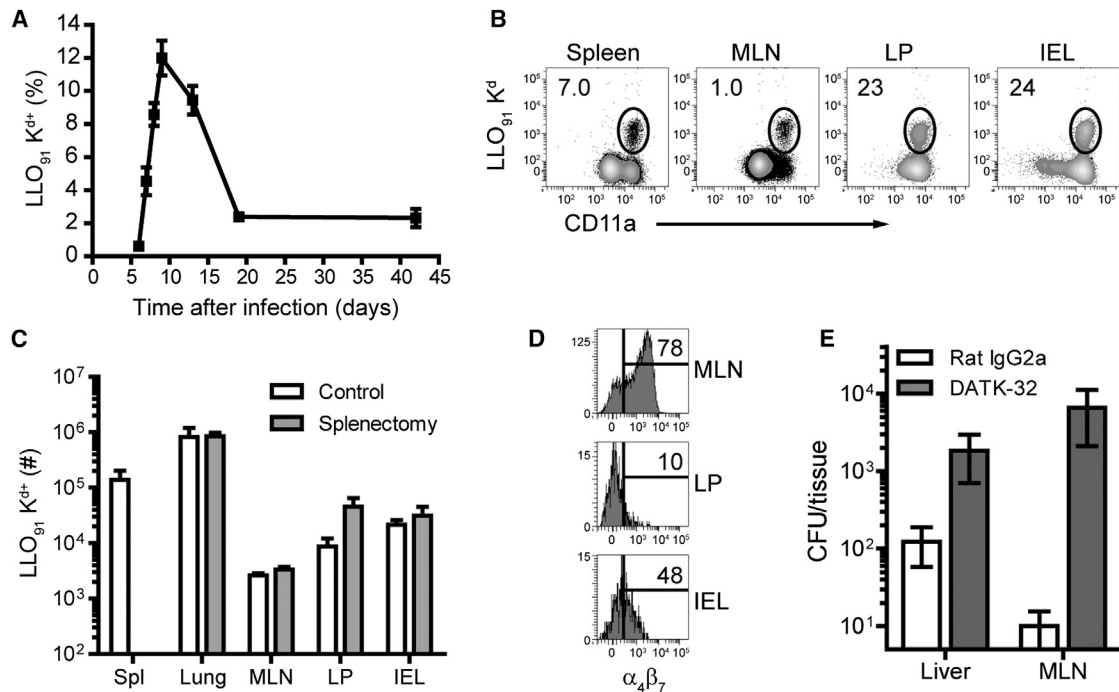


Figure 1. Oral *L. monocytogenes* Infection Generates a Protective Mucosal T Cell Response

(A) The LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cell response was quantified in the blood after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. Data are representative of at least two independent experiments with at least four mice per group (mean and SEM).

(B) The LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cell response in tissues at 9 dpi mice. Representative contour plots are gated on CD8αβ⁺ T cells. The numbers within plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gates.

(C) Spleens were surgically removed (splenectomized) or mice underwent a sham surgery (control) and recovered for 2 weeks prior to oral infection. LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells were enumerated at 12 dpi. Data are representative of at least two independent experiments with at least three mice per group (mean and SEM).

(D) Integrin α₄β₇ expression was determined on LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells at 7 dpi. Data are representative of at least two independent experiments.

(E) Mice were orally immunized with 2×10^9 cfu *L. monocytogenes* and received 100 μg DATK-32 (anti-α₄β₇) or Rat IgG_{2A} injections daily for the first 14 days and every 5 days thereafter. Thirty days after primary infection, mice were rechallenged with 2×10^{10} cfu *L. monocytogenes* and the bacterial burden was determined 3 days following challenge infection. Data are pooled from two experiments with at least 12 mice per group (mean and SEM). See also Figure S1.

Contrary to peripheral lymphoid tissues where long-term maintenance was independent of TGF-β signals, maintenance in intestinal tissues was highly dependent on the ability to rapidly generate MPECs. Moreover, CD103 expression by infiltrating CD8 T cells promoted CD8 T cell accumulation in the epithelium, rather than retention, after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. Route of infection influenced intestinal Trm as intranasal (i.n.) infection, although mucosal in nature, failed to generate comparable intestinal Trm responses. Thus, our findings identified intestinal mucosa-specific mechanisms controlling protective immunity within the intestine.

RESULTS

Protective CD8 T Cell Response to Murinized Oral *L. monocytogenes* Infection

While i.v. and intraperitoneal (i.p.) *L. monocytogenes* infection has been widely utilized in murine models, inherent differences between mouse and human E-cadherin has hindered the effective examination of oral *L. monocytogenes* infection in mice (Bonazzi et al., 2009). The bacterial surface protein internalin A is responsible for invasion of human epithelial cells lining the

testinal mucosa through interaction with its ligand, E-cadherin. However, wild-type (WT) internalin A fails to recognize murine E-cadherin, preventing invasion of murine intestinal epithelial cells. Here, we utilized a recombinant *L. monocytogenes* containing a mutation in the internalin A protein to facilitate invasion of murine epithelial cells (Wollert et al., 2007; Bou Ghanem et al., 2012). After oral *L. monocytogenes* infection, BALB/c mice generated a rapid and robust expansion of endogenous antigen-specific CD8 T cells responding to the immunodominant K^d-restricted LLO₉₁ epitope (Figures 1A–1C). This population of LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells was first detected in the blood at 6–7 dpi and rapidly reached peak response by 9 dpi. Removal of the spleen did not impact the magnitude of the LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cell response, suggesting that the spleen was not required as a site of T cell priming after oral infection (Figure 1C). Moreover, the integrin α₄β₇ was upregulated on LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells located within the mesenteric lymph nodes (MLN) consistent with APC-mediated priming in intestinal tissues (Figure 1D) (Mora et al., 2003; Johansson-Lindbom et al., 2003). Together, these data suggest organized intestinal lymphoid tissues such as the MLN as the principal T cell priming site following oral *L. monocytogenes* infection.

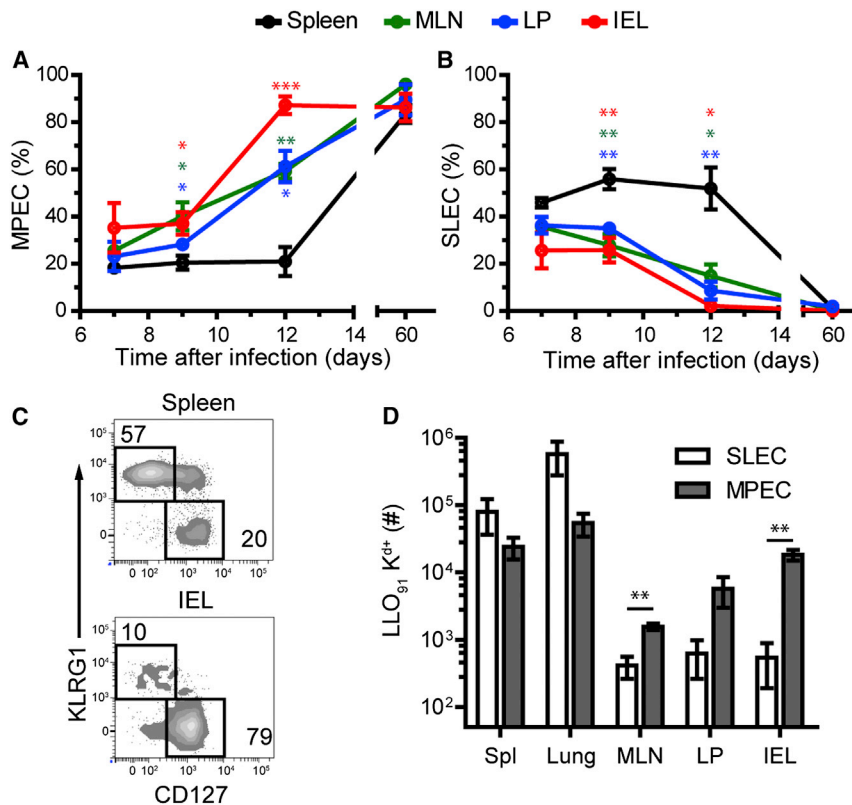


Figure 2. Memory T Cells Are Generated Early in Intestinal Tissues after Oral *L. monocytogenes* Infection

(A and B) MPEC (A) and SLEC (B) phenotype was determined for LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells following oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, ****p* < 0.001 (unpaired two-tailed *t* test). *p* value indicators (*) are color matched to the tissue compared to the spleen. Data are representative of at least two independent experiments with at least three mice per group (mean and SEM). See also Figure S2.

(C) Representative contour plots gated on LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells depicting identification of MPECs and SLECs at 12 dpi. The numbers within plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gates.

(D) Quantification of SLEC and MPEC LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells at 12 dpi following oral infection. ***p* < 0.01 (unpaired two-tailed *t* test). Data are representative of at least two independent experiments with at least three mice per group (mean and SEM).

To determine the contribution of intestinal Trm to protection following a challenge infection, mice were treated with DATK-32 (anti- $\alpha_4\beta_7$) throughout the primary response and into memory homeostasis to prevent $\alpha_4\beta_7$ -dependent migration into the intestinal mucosa (Hamann et al., 1994; Lefrançois et al., 1999). After treatment, *L. monocytogenes* immune mice had reduced LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells in the intestinal epithelium but not in the LP (see Figure S1 available online). No other intestinal T cell populations were significantly perturbed (Figure S1). By using this approach, pathogen-specific CD8 Trm cell numbers were reduced within the intestinal epithelium while normal circulating CD8 memory populations were maintained in the peripheral lymphoid organs, including the MLN (data not shown). Mice were then challenged with oral *L. monocytogenes* infection, and bacterial burdens were measured. Integrin $\alpha_4\beta_7$ blockade resulted in elevated bacterial burdens following challenge infection demonstrating the importance of establishing intestinal Trm populations for optimal protection against oral infections, particularly for those that reside within the intestinal epithelium (Figure 1E).

Early MPEC Phenotype Cells Accumulate in the Intestinal Mucosa

The intestinal tissues are distinct from lymphoid and other nonlymphoid tissues with regard to T cell effector phenotype and function (Casey et al., 2012; Masopust et al., 2010; Masopust et al., 2006; Sheridan and Lefrançois, 2011; Masopust et al., 2001; Pope et al., 2001). Generally, cells within intestinal tissues express an activated phenotype (Masopust et al., 2006). We sought to determine how the CD8 lineage is regu-

lated within intestinal tissues after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. At 7 dpi, T cells infiltrating the intestinal LP and epithelium were heterogeneous with regard to effector differentiation based on CD127 and KLRG1 expression and were similar in phenotype to cells in the spleen and MLN (Figures 2A and 2B) (Joshi et al., 2007). In the spleen, antigen-specific CD8 T cells were composed of ~50% KLRG1⁺ and ~20% CD127⁺ cells up to at least day 12 dpi (Figure 2C). In contrast, by 12 dpi, nearly the entire intestinal LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cell population was represented by cells with an MPEC phenotype (Figure 2). This accelerated memory phenotype formation was also evident by heightened multifunctionality with regard to cytokine production (Figure S2). However, in the spleen and lung, LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells maintained a prolonged SLEC phenotype and were less multifunctional than intestinal LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells (Figures 2B and 2D; Figure S2).

Prolonged expression of KLRG1 in the spleen suggested that preferential migration of effector subsets to the intestinal mucosa was not the underlying reason for the rapid accumulation of MPEC phenotype cells. In addition, $\alpha_4\beta_7$ was comparably expressed by SLEC and MPEC phenotype cells (Figure S3A). To test whether migration of distinct subsets contributed to accelerated memory formation in intestinal tissues, DATK-32 was administered daily between 7 and 11 dpi, and the intestinal tissues were harvested 1 day later to examine LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells and their differentiation status. Transient $\alpha_4\beta_7$ blockade reduced the size of the LP and intraepithelial lymphocyte (IEL) LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cell populations indicating that migration of effector T cells during this time period contributed to accumulation at these sites (Figures 3A and 3B). Despite the reduced accumulation of LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells within intestinal tissues, rapid conversion to an MPEC phenotype was unaltered (Figures 3C and 3D). In addition, daily DATK-32 treatment or anti-CCR9 administration throughout primary infection

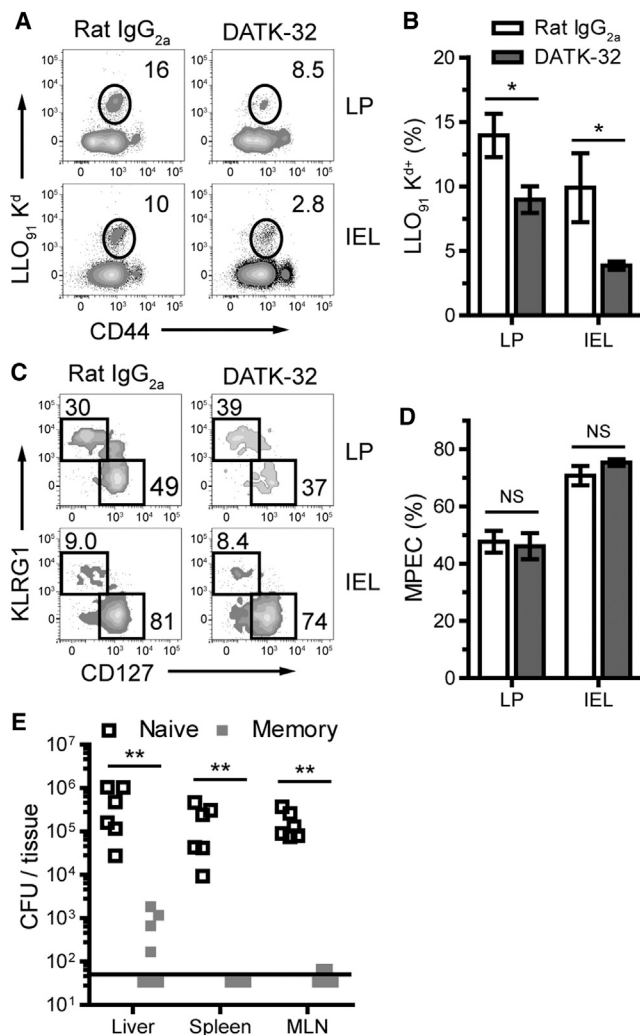


Figure 3. In Situ Events Regulate MPEC Accumulation Within Intestinal Tissues

(A–D) BALB/c mice were treated with 100 μ g DATK-32 or Rat IgG_{2a} daily from 7 to 11 dpi. The LP and IEL were harvested at 12 dpi and LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells were identified (A and B) and analyzed for CD127 and KLRG1 expression (C and D). Representative contour plots gated on CD8 β ⁺ T cells (A) or LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells (C) are shown. The numbers within plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gates. NS, not significant; * $p \leq 0.05$ (unpaired two-tailed t test). Data represents five mice per group (mean and SEM). See also Figure S3.

(E) Naive BALB/c mice were challenged with 2×10^{10} cfu *L. monocytogenes* and indicated tissues were harvested 4 days following infection. Alternatively, mice orally immunized with 2×10^9 cfu *L. monocytogenes* were challenged with 2×10^{10} cfu *L. monocytogenes* 15 days following primary infection and indicated tissues were harvested 4 days following secondary infection. Both groups were treated with 100 μ g DATK-32 daily following the challenge infection. ** $p < 0.01$ (Mann-Whitney two-tailed test). Data represents at least six mice per group and is representative of two independent experiments.

led to reduced LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells in intestinal tissues at the peak of the T cell response (Figure S3B). Even under these conditions, rapid development of a MPEC phenotype population was not hindered (Figure S3C). Taken together, these data suggest that rapid memory accumulation within intestinal tissues

occurred via in situ regulation and not through differential migration of distinct T cell subsets. To determine whether rapid accumulation of intestinal MPECs occurred via proliferation or apoptosis, we examined bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU) incorporation and Annexin V reactivity, respectively. Indeed, rapid MPEC phenotype formation appeared to be predominately due to the increased apoptosis of SLEC phenotype cells and not the differential proliferation of MPEC phenotype cells in intestinal tissues (Figures S3D and S3E). Together, these data suggest that rapid memory development in intestinal tissues is regulated in situ by preferential SLEC apoptosis.

We also tested whether early memory cells were capable of providing protection and reducing dissemination of bacteria in the absence of newly infiltrating intestinal T cells. Naive or *L. monocytogenes*-immune mice infected 15 days previously were treated with DATK-32 daily following secondary *L. monocytogenes* challenge, and bacterial burden was quantified in the spleen, liver, and MLN after challenge infection. Bacteria were nearly undetectable in the MLN and spleen, and the bacterial load in the liver was greatly reduced (Figure 3E). Thus, even very early after primary infection, protective immunity had been established in the intestinal mucosa.

MPEC Phenotype Cells Preferentially Express CD69 and CD103 in Intestinal Tissues

A subset of LP CD8 T cells and nearly all IELs express CD69 and the α_E integrin CD103, both of which are upregulated as cells enter the mucosa (Masopust et al., 2006; Klonowski et al., 2004; Ericsson et al., 2004). As circulating memory CD8 T cells provide minimal input into the intestinal memory pool (Klonowski et al., 2004), these CD103⁺ memory CD8 T cells are considered resident (Gebhardt et al., 2009; Wakim et al., 2010; Mackay et al., 2012; Klonowski et al., 2004; Jiang et al., 2012; Gebhardt et al., 2011). Current evidence suggests that CD103 is involved in retention of T cells in the epithelium through interactions with E-cadherin (El-Asady et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2011; Casey et al., 2012). We examined CD103 and CD69 expression on effector subsets in the mucosa 12 days after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. Splenic effector cells of either MPEC or SLEC phenotypes lacked expression of CD103 and CD69, whereas a subset of MPEC phenotype cells in the MLN expressed CD103 (Figure 4). CD103 was exclusively expressed by MPEC phenotype cells in the LP and IEL compartments and was absent from SLEC phenotype cells (Figure 4). CD69 was also preferentially expressed by MPEC phenotype cells, with only low amounts expressed by SLEC phenotype cells. This rapid Trm development was independent of infectious dose. Mice receiving 10- or 100-fold less *L. monocytogenes* infection demonstrated a dose-dependent expansion of LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells in intestinal tissues (Figure S4A). However, the development of an MPEC phenotype population and CD103 expression at 15 dpi occurred independently of infectious dose (Figure S4B and S4C). These results identify CD103 and CD69 coexpression as a hallmark of MPEC identification in the intestinal mucosa, which further supports the concept that Trm are descendants of early infiltrating MPECs.

As CD8 T cells activated at remote sites traffic to the intestinal mucosa (Masopust et al., 2004), we wished to determine whether local priming was required to drive accelerated memory

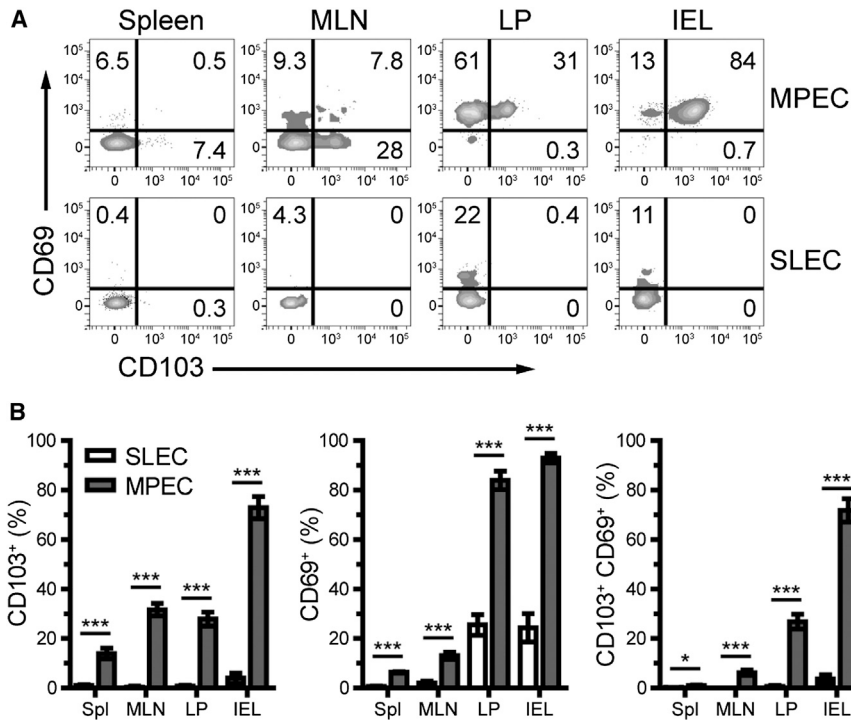


Figure 4. CD103 Expression Identifies Mucosal Memory Precursor CD8 T Cells

(A) BALB/c mice were orally infected with *L. monocytogenes* and LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells from the indicated tissues were analyzed at 12 dpi. Representative contour plots gated on either LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells with an MPEC (top row) or SLEC (bottom row) phenotypes demonstrate CD103 and CD69 staining. Numbers in plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gated quadrants.

(B) Graphical quantification of the data presented in (A). **p* < 0.05, ****p* < 0.001 (unpaired two-tailed *t* test). Data are representative of at least two independent experiments with five mice per group (mean and SEM). See also Figure S4.

development in the intestinal mucosa. Just as in BALB/c mice, early accumulation of MPEC phenotype cells was evident in the intestinal mucosa of B6 mice after oral infection (Figure S5). Therefore, we performed i.n. influenza virus infection of B6 mice and tracked the resulting effectors in the intestinal mucosa. After i.n. infection with an influenza virus expressing ovalbumin, robust expansion of ova-specific CD8 T cells occurred and these cells migrated to intestinal tissues (Figure 5A). In contrast to the events following oral *L. monocytogenes* infection, the effector cells were largely made up of SLECs and early effector cells (EEC; KLRG1⁻ CD127⁻) (Figure 5B). This lack of MPEC accumulation in the intestinal tissues resulted in poor development of long-lived memory cells, and ova-specific CD8 T cells were barely detectable in the intestinal tissues at 25 dpi (Figure 5A). Despite the limited presence of MPECs in intestinal tissues following influenza virus infection, CD103 expression remained limited to MPEC phenotype cells (Figure 5B). As i.n. influenza virus infection failed to generate readily identifiable memory populations in intestinal tissues, we examined the intestinal compartment of mice infected with i.n. *L. monocytogenes* 30 days previously. Memory LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells were readily identified in the LP and IEL, though to a lesser degree than oral infection (Figure 5C). Moreover, these cells failed to fully convert to a memory phenotype and only a small proportion expressed CD69 and CD103 (Figure 5D compared to Figures 2A and 4B). These data demonstrate that the route of priming has a dramatic impact on the process of local Trm development.

CD103 Regulates Accumulation but Not Retention within the Intestinal Epithelium

Because oral infection induced Trm that appeared distinct from intestinal Trm primed in nonintestinal tissues, we examined the role of CD103 on CD8 T cells after oral infection. *Itgae*^{-/-}

(CD103 deficient) mice developed a normal T cell response within the epithelium after i.v. (Lefrançois et al., 1999) and oral infection, and these cells were maintained into the memory phase (Figure S6). These findings suggest that a role for CD103 expression in the accumulation of CD8 T cells in intestinal compartments is not absolute. However, accumulation within the intestine might be a combination of multiple biologic processes including migration, proliferation, survival, and/or retention. Previous studies have cotransferred *Itgae*^{-/-} and CD103-sufficient (B6) T cells into naive recipients prior to infection to demonstrate a role for CD103 in retention of T cells in epithelial layers. By using this approach, *Itgae*^{-/-} CD8 T cells are not readily maintained within the epithelium of peripheral tissues (Lee et al., 2011; Casey et al., 2012; Mackay et al., 2013). We employed this cotransfer system to test the role of CD103 expression after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. At the peak of the T cell response, comparable ratios of B6 and *Itgae*^{-/-} OT-I cells were present in the MLN and LP. In contrast, OT-I cells in the epithelium were heavily skewed toward B6 OT-I cells suggesting that CD103 promotes T cell accumulation in the epithelium (Figure 6A). This ratio remained unchanged at 29 dpi suggesting that CD103 was not required for further retention in the intestinal epithelium after initial establishment of the T cell population (Figure 6A). The preferential accumulation of B6 OT-I in the epithelium was apparent as early as 7 dpi but was further exaggerated at 9 dpi, suggesting that CD103 provides a selective advantage for accumulation in the epithelium (Figure 6B). This selective advantage is likely due to differential migration into the epithelium because total antigen-specific CD8 T cell numbers in the LP and IEL declined after 9 dpi yet the number of CD103⁺ antigen-specific CD8 T cells remained constant (data not shown). *Itgae*^{-/-} OT-I cells were maintained at similar proportions for at least 113 dpi with no further reductions (Figure 6B). Together, these data suggest that CD103 does not regulate retention of pathogen-specific CD8 T cells in the intestinal epithelium after oral infection (Figures 6A and 6B). These findings were further corroborated by examination of luminal CD8 T cells, where ratios of B6 and *Itgae*^{-/-} OT-I cells were identical to those in the epithelial layer (Figure 6A).

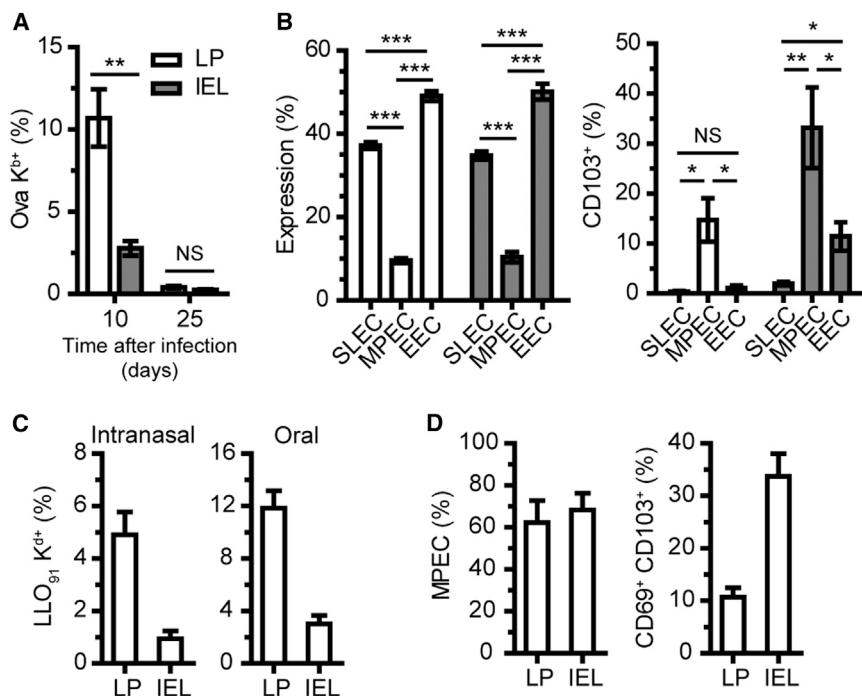


Figure 5. Intranasal Infection Leads to Distinct Trm Populations in the Intestine

(A) C57Bl/6 mice were infected with i.n. influenza virus expressing ovalbumin and the LP and IEL of the small intestine were harvested 10 and 25 days later to identify ova-specific CD8 α^+ TCR β^+ cells. NS, not significant; ** $p < 0.01$ (unpaired two-tailed t test). See also Figure S5.

(B) Effector subset phenotype was determined for ova-specific CD8 T cells in the LP and IEL at 10 dpi (EEC - CD127 $^-$ KLRG1 $^-$). CD103 expression was determined on ova-specific effector subsets in the LP and IEL at 10 dpi. NS, not significant; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ (unpaired two-tailed t test).

(C) BALB/c mice were infected with i.n. or oral *L. monocytogenes* and the LP and IEL of the small intestine were harvested 30–32 days later. Cells are gated on CD8 α^+ TCR β^+ cells.

(D) LLO₉₁-specific CD8 T cells from i.n. infection were examined for MPEC phenotype and CD103 and CD69 coexpression.

All data are representative of at least two independent experiments with three to four mice per group (mean and SEM).

Preferential accumulation of *Itgae* $^{-/-}$ OT-I cells should occur in the lumen if CD103 was required for retention. In addition, CD103 expression appeared to have no effect on the rapid accumulation of memory in the epithelium and lumen (Figures 6C and 6D). This would suggest that changes in survival or proliferation of *Itgae* $^{-/-}$ cells did not contribute to the accumulation of B6 T cells in the epithelium as CD103 expression is limited to cells with an MPEC phenotype and alterations in proliferation or survival should modify the proportion of MPEC phenotype cells. Overall, these data demonstrate that CD103 promotes accumulation of CD8 T cells in the epithelium but was not required for rapid MPEC development or long-term retention of Trm in the epithelium.

TGF- β Drives Rapid Memory Formation and Subsequent Maintenance of Trm Cells

TGF- β has numerous functions that might contribute to the establishment of Trm populations. TGF- β signaling is required for upregulation of CD103 (El-Asady et al., 2005) and through this action subsequently involved in retention of Trm in a number of peripheral tissues (Casey et al., 2012; Lee et al., 2011; Mackay et al., 2013). Under certain conditions TGF- β might also regulate expression of the integrin $\alpha_4\beta_7$ and thereby influence intestinal homing (Zhang and Bevan, 2013). Because CD103 expression was not required for T cell retention within the intestinal epithelium (Figure 6) and $\alpha_4\beta_7$ expression was TGF- β -independent (Figure S7A), we asked whether impaired TGF- β signaling regulated intestinal Trm development after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. We utilized a system in which TGF- β receptor II (TGF- β RII) is absent and TGF- β signaling is completely abrogated (Zhang and Bevan, 2012; Zhang and Bevan, 2013; Mackay et al., 2013). Thus, we cotransferred equal numbers of CD44^{lo} CD8 T cells from *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} distal promoter (d) *Lck-cre* (TGF β RII-deficient) CD45.1 OT-I and *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} (WT) CD45.1/2

OT-I into CD45.2 B6 mice. At the peak of the T cell response, the overall responses and the ratios of TGF- β RII-deficient to WT OT-I cells were comparable in peripheral lymphoid tissues and intestinal tissues demonstrating that the magnitude of the T cell response is unaffected by loss of TGF- β signals (Figures 7A and 7B). The overall responses and the ratios of TGF- β RII-deficient to WT OT-I cells remained comparable in lymphoid tissues as the T cell response progressed into the memory phase. Contrary to these findings, TGF- β RII-deficient T cells were not maintained in the intestinal LP and IEL as TGF- β RII-deficient cells were barely detectable at 16 and 32 dpi in both tissues (Figures 7A and 7B). When TGF- β signaling was ablated specifically in responding OT-I T cells, CD103 upregulation did not occur at any time after infection and CD69 upregulation was initially blunted (Figure 7C; Figure S7B). After the peak of the T cell response, CD69 expression on TGF- β RII-deficient T cells was comparable to or greater than WT T cells among CD103 $^-$ T cells suggesting that CD69 expression among CD103 nonexpressing cells might be TGF- β -independent (Figure S7B). However, it is unclear whether CD69 $^+$ CD103 $^-$ T cells are a distinct population from or precursors to CD69 $^+$ CD103 $^+$ T cells. Because CD103 expression did not mediate T cell retention in this model and a comparable loss of CD8 memory T cells was observed in the intestinal LP, a tissue where CD103 is not required for retention in any model, it is unlikely that this rapid decline was related to the inability for intestinal Trm to upregulate CD103. Collectively, these data demonstrated that CD103 expression and Trm generation is TGF- β -dependent within intestinal tissues after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection.

TGF- β is also thought to be important for regulation of CD8 T cell differentiation. TGF- β promotes SLEC apoptosis during effector responses in lymphoid tissues and thereby regulates the ratio of SLECs versus MPECs (Sanjabi et al., 2009). Whether similar effects are exerted in intestinal tissues remains unclear.

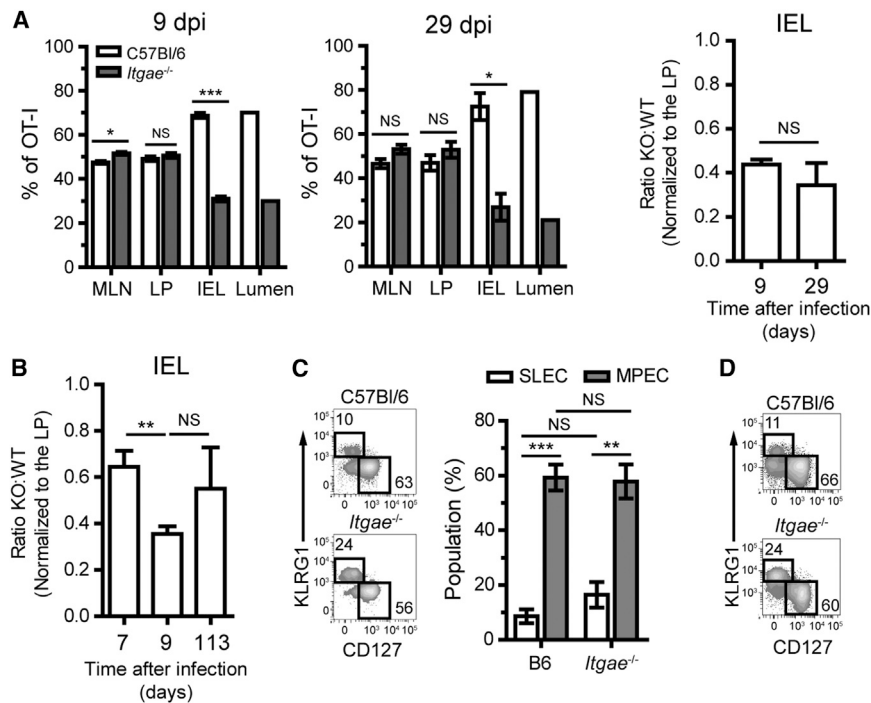


Figure 6. CD103 Expression Provides a Selective Advantage for Epithelial Accumulation but Is Not Required for Retention

Equal numbers of B6 (CD45.1/2) and *Itgae*^{-/-} (CD45.1) OT-I T cells were mixed and transferred into naive B6 mice (CD45.2) prior to infection.

(A) OT-I T cells from B6 and *Itgae*^{-/-} donors were quantified at 9 and 29 dpi with congenic markers in the spleen, MLN, LP, IEL, and lumen. OT-I IELs are presented as a ratio of *Itgae*^{-/-} to B6 OT-I T cells and normalized to the LP ratio. NS, not significant; **p* < 0.05, ****p* < 0.001 (left panels, paired two-tailed *t* test; right panel, unpaired two-tailed *t* test). See also Figure S6.

(B) Mice orally infected with *L. monocytogenes* were examined at 7, 9, and 113 dpi and presented as in (A). NS, not significant; ***p* < 0.005 (unpaired two-tailed *t* test). Data from (A) and (B) are representative of three similar experiments with at least four mice per group (mean and SEM).

(C and D) B6 or *Itgae*^{-/-} OT-I cells from the intestinal epithelium (C) and lumen (D) at 9 dpi were examined for CD127 and KLRG1 expression. Representative contour plots are shown. (C) NS, not significant; ***p* < 0.005, ****p* < 0.001 (unpaired two-tailed *t* test). Data are representative of three similar experiments with at least four mice per group (mean and SEM). (D) Data represents the pooled luminal contents of at least four mice per group.

To test this, we determined whether TGF- β signaling regulated early accumulation of MPECs in intestinal tissues. Indeed, whereas a modest increase in SLECs was observed in splenic TGF- β RII-deficient cells, TGF- β RII-deficient cells in the IEL lacked the rapid appearance of MPECs observed in WT T cells and did not form memory populations until 16 to 32 dpi (Figure 7D). Approximately 70% of TGF- β RII-deficient cells expressed a SLEC phenotype in the intestinal epithelium at 9 dpi. This observation is consistent with a role for TGF- β in promoting the rapid apoptosis of SLECs in the intestinal epithelium. However, these data would suggest that the inability to become MPECs early in the response impairs the maintenance of this population. Moreover, IEL T cells that could not receive TGF- β signals phenocopy WT T cells in the spleen, further demonstrating that TGF- β is critical for the rapid accumulation of MPECs within intestinal tissues.

DISCUSSION

The basis of our understanding of T cell memory has relied predominantly on the role of memory T cell populations in secondary lymphoid organs. However, this centralized view of T cell memory has progressed toward recent studies highlighting the significance of memory T cells residing in peripheral tissues (Wakim et al., 2008; Gebhardt et al., 2009; Shin and Iwasaki, 2012; Jiang et al., 2012; Masopust et al., 2010). The behavior of these cell populations is distinct from their circulating counterparts and new therapeutic avenues might target enhancing long-lived resident memory populations for rational vaccine design. These populations appear to provide all the advantages of memory T cells found in secondary lymphoid organs with the added benefit of being anatomically positioned at the barriers where

initial pathogenic insults occur. In this manner, Trm generated after oral *L. monocytogenes* challenge are ideally suited to rapidly respond to future exposures thereby limiting associated pathologies. Blockade of the $\alpha_4\beta_7$ integrin after *L. monocytogenes* infection resulted in the establishment of a reduced Trm population within the intestinal epithelium. These mice demonstrated an enhanced susceptibility to bacterial dissemination following a challenge infection. Indeed, localized i.n. influenza infection failed to induce efficient homing of Trm to the intestinal epithelium. However, a small window of T cell migration resulted in efficient infiltration of effector cell subsets into the intestinal LP. Despite this, intestinal flu-specific CD8 T cells failed to rapidly develop a MPEC population within the intestinal tissues and were poorly maintained, suggesting that i.n. routes of infection are poor inducers of intestinal residency. This was confirmed with an i.n. *L. monocytogenes* infection that induced a robust LP but a diminished IEL memory population. Despite their maintenance in the intestine, they did not bear resemblance to orally induced Trm populations. Therefore, approaches aimed at providing valuable protection to intestinal pathogens might utilize oral vaccination strategies to boost intestinal epithelial resident memory populations. In a similar manner, skin infections induce strong protective Trm responses in the skin (Jiang et al., 2012; Gebhardt et al., 2009) and i.n. infections induce robust Trm in the lungs (Lee et al., 2011).

It remains unclear where Trm development interfaces with our classic understanding of T cell memory generation. Even prior to Trm inclusion into this paradigm, multiple models of T cell memory could encompass the observations associated with memory T cell formation (Lefrançois and Masopust, 2009). Because intestinal Trm are not populated from circulating memory T cells, it is reasonable to propose that they are generated from T cells

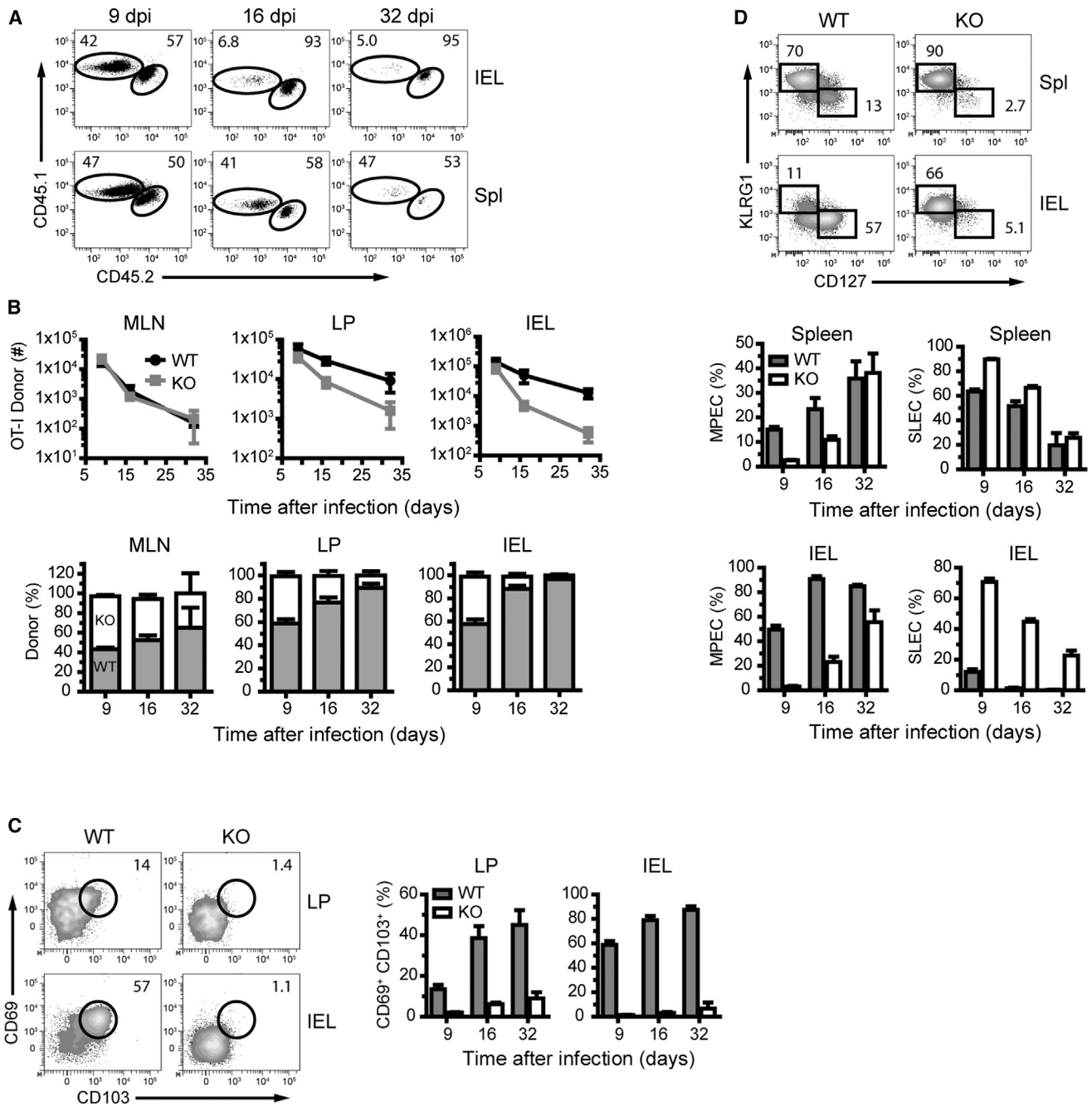


Figure 7. TGFβ Regulates Rapid MPEC and Trm Generation and Is Required for Intestinal Trm Maintenance

Equal numbers of CD44^{lo} CD8 T cells from *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} distal promoter (d) *Lck-cre* (KO) CD45.1 OT-I and *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} (WT) CD45.1/2 OT-I were cotransferred into CD45.2 B6 mice and infected 1 day later.

(A) Representative dot plots are gated on donor cells after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. The numbers within plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gates.

(B) Donor-derived cells were quantified in the indicated tissues after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. Absolute number and ratios of donor cells are depicted graphically with mean and SEM of four mice per group. See also Figure S7.

(C and D) Donor-derived OT-I T cells were analyzed for CD69 and CD103 (C) and CD127 and KLRG1 (D) expression in the indicated tissues. Representative contour plots are gated on donor OT-I T cells as indicated at 9 dpi. The numbers within plots correspond to the percentage of cells within gates. Graphs depict the mean and SEM of four mice per group. See also Figure S7.

that initially seed the site of infection during the primary response when intestinal homing receptors are expressed (Klonowski et al., 2004; Masopust et al., 2010). Surprisingly, little attention

has focused on CD8 T cell differentiation into resident memory T cells within these peripheral tissues. On the basis of other models, it is reasonable to speculate that memory development

in intestinal tissues would occur gradually as it occurs in the lymphoid compartments. On the contrary, these data clearly demonstrated an extremely rapid development of memory T cells in intestinal tissues after oral *L. monocytogenes* infection. This rapid memory formation is driven by TGF- β -dependent in situ events. The accelerated memory formation was associated with preferential expression of CD103 and CD69 by MPECs but not by effector subsets expressing KLRG1. Clearly, both SLECs and MPECs received signals through TGF- β . In the case of SLECs, these signals interfered with their survival, whereas TGF- β signals instructed MPECs to upregulate CD103 without impacting their survival. It is unclear why CD103 expression does not occur in SLECs even though they received instructive signals through TGF- β . Similarly, cytokines like interleukin-15 (IL-15) and IL-7 might promote the maintenance of MPECs in intestinal tissues despite receiving TGF- β signals. Both KLRG1 and CD103 can recognize and bind to E-cadherin (Gründemann et al., 2006; Cepek et al., 1994) providing a potential mechanism for early E-cadherin interactions and migration of SLECs into the epithelium. Additionally, E-cadherin expression on Trm has been shown to regulate Trm accumulation in the salivary gland, providing a potential mechanism for retention in epithelial layers in the absence of CD103 (Hofmann and Pircher, 2011). CD69 is also important in driving T cell migration to the lung and skin but has not been evaluated in this model (Lee et al., 2011; Mackay et al., 2013). CD8 T cells in the intestinal LP that lack CD103 in a competitive transfer model still express CD69 yet migrate into the epithelium to a lesser degree. This suggests that CD69 is not providing a selective migratory advantage or that any advantage awarded through CD69 expression is mitigated in the absence of CD103. However, because both LP and IEL subsets express high amounts of CD69 and it is reexpressed after migration into the LP, it is more likely that the CD69-S1P₁ axis is regulating Trm retention within the LP and IEL after establishment (Shiow et al., 2006; Skon et al., 2013). Our studies demonstrate that Trm rapidly arise from MPECs expressing CD103 and CD69, which seed intestinal tissues early after oral infection. CD103 was involved in the accumulation of CD8 T cells into the intestinal epithelium, but not in long-term retention of mucosal memory T cells. Moreover, T cells that cannot respond to TGF- β are incapable of being maintained in the lamina propria or epithelium of the intestine, even though normal numbers of antigen-specific T cells are maintained in other peripheral tissues. Collectively, these results suggest that the inability of TGF- β RII-deficient T cells to be maintained in intestinal tissues is independent of TGF- β effects on CD103 expression and a result of the inability to form early MPEC populations within intestinal tissues.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Mice

BALB/cJ and C57Bl/6J mice were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory. B6-Ly5.2/Cr mice were purchased from Charles River Laboratories. *Itgae*^{-/-}, *Itgae*^{-/-} *Rag1*^{-/-} OT-I, C57Bl/6, and *Rag1*^{-/-} OT-I mice with mixed congenic backgrounds are maintained in house. *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} *dLck-cre* OT-I and *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} OT-I mice (Zhang and Bevan, 2012) were obtained from University of Washington. All mice were maintained in specific-pathogen-free conditions and 8- to 14-week-old, age-matched mice were used for experiments. All animal experiments were conducted in accordance with the University of Connecticut

Health Center Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and National Institutes of Health guidelines.

Bacteria, Virus, and Infections

L. monocytogenes strain EGDe carrying a recombinant internalin A with a mutation in S192N and Y369S (InIA^M) has been described previously (Wollert et al., 2007). All mice were food and water deprived for ~4 hr prior to infection, housed individually with minimal bedding, and given an approximately 0.5 cm³ piece of bread inoculated with 2×10^9 colony-forming units (cfu) of *L. monocytogenes* in PBS. In experiments designed to quantify bacterial burden, a recombinant *L. monocytogenes* InIA^M strain 10403s, which is naturally streptomycin resistant, was used for primary (2×10^9 cfu) and secondary (2×10^{10} cfu) infections. For i.n. (i.n.) *L. monocytogenes* infection, mice were anesthetized by i.p. injection with 2,2,2-tribromoethanol (Avertin) before infection with *L. monocytogenes* InIA^M strain EGDe. For oral *L. monocytogenes* infection of B6 mice, infection was performed with *L. monocytogenes* InIA^M strain 10403s expressing a truncated form of ovalbumin. For i.v. *L. monocytogenes* infection of B6 mice, 1×10^3 cfu of *L. monocytogenes* InIA^M strain 10403s expressing a truncated form of ovalbumin was injected into the tail vein. For influenza virus infection, mice were anesthetized prior to infection with 10^3 PFU of WSN-OVA₁ (Lee et al., 2011).

Tissue Preparation

Single-cell suspensions were prepared from MLN, spleen, lung, LP, and IEL as previously described (Sheridan and Lefrancois, 2012; Lee et al., 2011). Briefly, MLNs, spleen, and lung were digested with 100 U/ml of collagenase prior to mechanical dissociation through a 70 μ m filter. Small intestines were removed and Peyer's patches were dissected away prior to processing. IEL, LP, and lung lymphocytes were isolated on Percoll.

Flow Cytometry

Cells were stained at 4°C in the dark with combinations of directly fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies purchased from BioLegend or eBiosciences. MHC class I tetramer staining was performed at ambient temperature for 1 hr. Cells were then fixed for 20 min with 2% paraformaldehyde. Tetramer enrichment was used in some experiments (Obar et al., 2008). Acquisition was performed on a LSR II flow cytometer (BD) and data were analyzed with FACSDiva (BD).

In Vitro Stimulations

Single-cell suspensions were incubated with brefeldin A in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, L-glutamine, gentamycin, penicillin, and streptomycin. Cells were stimulated with 1 μ g/ml of LLO₉₁₋₉₉ for 5 hr at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Cells were stained intracellularly with antibodies specific for IFN- γ and tumor necrosis factor alpha.

Adoptive Transfer

Equal numbers of WT OT-I and OT-I (either *Itgae*^{-/-} *Rag1*^{-/-} or *Tgfb2*^{fl/fl} *dLck-cre*) splenocytes were mixed and cotransferred into naive B6 mice prior to infection. A total of 4×10^3 cells were transferred. Congenic markers were used to distinguish donors and recipients. For TGF- β RII experiments CD44^{lo} CD8 α^+ cells were sorted for transfer.

In Vivo Antibody Treatments

Mice were given i.p. injections with 100–200 μ g anti- $\alpha_4\beta_7$ (Bio X Cell; DATK32), 200 μ g anti-CCR9 (Biolegend; 9B1), or 100–200 μ g Rat immunoglobulin G_{2A} (IgG_{2A}) (Bio X Cell; 2A3).

Proliferation and Apoptosis

Mice were given 100 μ g BrdU via intraperitoneal injection. Incorporation of BrdU was determined per manufacturer's guidelines (BD). Annexin V reactivity was performed per manufacturer's instructions (BD).

Quantification of Bacterial Burden

All tissues were mechanically dissociated through a 70 μ m filter and incubated with 1% saponin for 1 hr at 4°C. Tissue homogenates were plated on Brain Heart Infusion agar plates supplemented with 50 μ g/mL streptomycin. Colonies were counted after 2 days at 37°C.

Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed with Prism 5 (GraphPad) software.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes seven figures and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2014.03.007>.

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