

1 **Title: Human Vascularized Macrophage-Islet Organoids to Model Immune-**
2 **Mediated Pancreatic β cell Pyroptosis upon Viral Infection**

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45 **SUMMARY**

46 There is a paucity of human models to study immune-mediated host damage. Here, we
47 utilized the GeoMx spatial multi-omics platform to analyze immune cell changes in
48 COVID-19 pancreatic autopsy samples, revealing an accumulation of proinflammatory
49 macrophages. Single cell RNA-seq analysis of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or
50 Coxsackievirus B4 (CVB4) viruses identified activation of proinflammatory macrophages
51 and β cell pyroptosis. To distinguish viral versus proinflammatory macrophage-mediated
52 β cell pyroptosis, we developed human pluripotent stem cell (hPSC)-derived vascularized
53 macrophage-islet (VMI) organoids. VMI organoids exhibited enhanced marker expression
54 and function in both β cells and endothelial cells compared to separately cultured cells.
55 Notably, proinflammatory macrophages within VMI organoids induced β cell pyroptosis.
56 Mechanistic investigations highlighted TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A involvement in
57 proinflammatory macrophage-mediated β cell pyroptosis. This study established hPSC-
58 derived VMI organoids as a valuable tool for studying immune cell-mediated host damage
59 and uncovered mechanism of β cell damage during viral exposure.

60 INTRODUCTION

61 A strong connection between Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) and diabetes is now
62 recognized. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been reports of new-onset
63 diabetes¹⁻⁵ and exacerbated complications in patients with pre-existing diabetes.
64 Moreover, a rise in type 1 diabetes (T1D) incidence has been observed^{4,6}. A study from
65 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that persons aged <18 years
66 with COVID-19 were more inclined to receive a new diabetes diagnosis compared to
67 those without COVID-19. Studies reported a heightened T1D and type 2 diabetes (T2D)
68 incidence rates after the beginning of pandemic, surpassing pre-pandemic period^{7,8,9}. In
69 addition to SARS-CoV-2, a number of studies suggests the correlation between viral
70 infections and T1D¹⁰, including enteroviruses¹¹, such as coxsackievirus B^{12,13}, as well as
71 rotavirus¹⁴, mumps virus¹⁵, and cytomegalovirus¹⁶. Coxsackievirus B4 (CVB4), a positive-
72 sense single-stranded RNA virus, isolated from newly diagnosed T1D patients could
73 infect and induce destruction of human islet cells *in vitro*¹⁷.

74
75 In infectious diseases, multiple mechanisms contribute to the observed host injury. Our
76 group and others discovered that SARS-CoV-2 infection induces the transdifferentiation
77 of human β cells¹⁸ and damage of β cells^{19,20}. In addition, the accumulation of
78 macrophages has been reported in the lungs²¹ and heart²² of COVID-19 patients. Further
79 insight would benefit from robust human models to explore immune cell-mediated host
80 damage. Human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs)²³ provide a powerful *in vitro* platform for
81 studying disease mechanisms, developing cell therapy approaches and drug screening²⁴⁻
82 ²⁶. Many efforts have applied hPSC-based platforms to study SARS-CoV-2 tropism²⁷ and

83 host responses. Recently, we performed a 2D co-culture system utilizing hPSC-derived
84 cardiomyocytes and macrophages and identified a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor that
85 effectively thwarts macrophage-mediated damage to cardiac cells²².

86

87 In this study, we applied spatial multi-omics assays to comprehensively analyze
88 pancreatic autopsy samples of COVID-19 patients and identified the accumulation of
89 proinflammatory macrophages in COVID-19 samples. Single cell RNA-seq analysis
90 confirmed the activation of proinflammatory macrophages and enrichment of the
91 pyroptotic pathway in β cells of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 viruses.
92 Next, we developed a vascularized macrophage-islet (VMI) organoid model containing
93 hPSC-derived endocrine cells, macrophages, and endothelial cells and found that
94 proinflammatory macrophages induced β cell pyroptosis through the secretion of IL-1 β
95 and interaction with β cells via the TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A pathway. This study not only
96 establishes a VMI organoid model to study macrophage-mediated host damage, but also
97 identifies the previously unknown role of TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A-mediated pyroptosis in
98 β cell damage in infectious diseases.

99 RESULTS

100 Spatial multi-omics analysis to identify the activation of proinflammatory 101 macrophages in pancreatic autopsy samples of COVID-19 patients.

102 To systematically analyze the pancreatic damage of COVID-19 patients, we collected
103 pancreatic autopsy samples from 7 COVID-19 patients and 8 age and gender-matched
104 control subjects (**Table S1**). GeoMx multi-omics assays were applied to analyze two
105 adjacent tissue sections of each donor, providing paired analysis of changes at both
106 transcriptome and protein levels (**Figure S1A**). For GeoMx analysis, we selected 6
107 regions of interests (ROIs) in the islet area, 3 ROIs in ductal area and 3 ROIs in exocrine
108 area per sample (**Figure 1A and Figure S1A**). Through morphology marker staining
109 (INS/Pan-CK/TOTO-3), we observed no obvious change of islet areas, but lower
110 percentage of INS⁺ cells within islets of COVID-19 samples compared to control samples
111 (**Figures 1B and 1C**), which is consistent with the previous reports¹⁸. 3D PCA analysis
112 of whole transcriptome sequencing data from ROIs in the islet areas showed distinct
113 transcriptional profiles in COVID-19 samples separated from control samples (**Figure 1D**).
114 Pathway analysis of differentially expressed (DE) genes between ROIs in islet areas from
115 COVID-19 and control samples highlighted viral infection associated pathways, such as
116 viral mRNA translation, influenza infection, interferon α/β signaling pathways and stress
117 associated pathways, such as cellular response to stress or external stimuli pathways,
118 and toll-like receptor 2 cascade pathway (**Figure 1E**). Consistently, PCA of ROIs in ductal
119 and exocrine areas also showed separation between COVID-19 and control samples
120 (**Figures S1B and S1C**). Moreover, pathway analysis of DE genes between ROIs in

121 ductal and exocrine areas in COVID-19 and control samples also revealed the enrichment
122 of interferon signaling pathways in COVID-19 samples (**Figures S1D and S1E**).

123

124 To further analyze the changes in immune cell composition, we conducted CIBERSORT
125 analysis of transcriptome profiles from COVID-19 and control samples. Within the ROIs
126 in islet area of the 7 COVID-19 samples, we found 4 samples (#4-#7) enriched with
127 proinflammatory macrophages, and 2 samples (#2-#3) enriched with monocytes (**Figure**
128 **1F**). The enrichment of monocytes or proinflammatory macrophages were not dependent
129 on the pre-existing type 2 diabetes condition of the subjects (**Figure S1F**). Consistently,
130 we detected enrichment of proinflammatory macrophages in ductal ROIs in 4 (#4-#7) out
131 of 7 COVID-19 samples, and monocyte enrichment in ductal ROIs in 1 (#3) out of 7
132 COVID-19 samples (**Figure S1G**). In exocrine ROIs, we observed enrichment of
133 proinflammatory macrophages in 4 (#4-#7) out of 7 COVID-19 samples (**Figure S1H**).

134

135 We further conducted GeoMx protein assays and found that macrophages were enriched
136 in islet ROIs of COVID-19 samples compared to control samples (**Figure 1G and 1H**);
137 while T cells, NK cells, B cells and neutrophils were not enriched (**Figure S1I**). Moreover,
138 the proteins related to T cell activation were not increased in islet ROIs of COVID-19
139 samples compared to control samples (**Figure S1J**). Notably, CD44, previously reported
140 to regulate the TLR2-mediated macrophage activation and proinflammatory
141 responses^{28,29}, was also found to be significantly increased in ROIs in islet, ductal, and
142 exocrine areas of COVID-19 samples (**Figure 1G and Figure S1K**). CD163, which
143 functions as the scavenger receptor is highly upregulated in infiltrating macrophages in

144 sites of inflammation^{30,31}. Soluble CD163, was also identified as a biomarker of
145 macrophage activation and associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), insulin
146 resistance, and β cell dysfunction³². Finally, immunohistochemistry validated the
147 accumulation of both CD163⁺ macrophages and CD80⁺ proinflammatory macrophages in
148 pancreatic tissues of COVID-19 patients (**Figures 1I-1J and Figures S1L-S1M**).

149

150 **Single cell RNA-seq analysis identifies activation of proinflammatory macrophages**
151 **and β cell pyroptosis in SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 exposed human islets.**

152 To further explore the status of macrophages upon virus exposure in human islets, we
153 performed single cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) of human islets upon exposure of SARS-
154 CoV-2 or CVB4. UMAP analysis revealed nine cell clusters within human islets (**Figures**
155 **S2A and S2B**). In our previous publication, we have already characterized the SARS-
156 CoV-2 infected human islets³³. Here, we further characterized the CVB4 infected human
157 islets. UMAP and violin plot showed the high expression of CVB4 virus *polyprotein* in
158 endocrine cells (β cells, α cells and δ cells), as well as mesenchymal cells, immune cells,
159 and endothelial cells (**Figures S2C and S2D**). Immunostaining confirmed the
160 colocalization of enterovirus (CVB4) and endocrine cell markers, including INS (β cells),
161 GCG (α cells) and SST (δ cells) (**Figures S2E-S2I**).

162

163 We then focused on the immune cell population and performed sub-clustering analysis,
164 identifying five sub-clusters (**Figure 2A**). UMAP and violin plots confirmed the expression
165 of marker genes for each subpopulation (**Figure 2B**). We compared the transcriptional
166 profiles of macrophages and found increased expression of proinflammatory

167 macrophage-associated genes, including *IL1B*, *IL6*, *CXCL8* and *TNF* in macrophages of
168 human islets upon SARS-CoV-2 exposure (**Figure 2C**). Immunostaining also confirmed
169 the activation of proinflammatory macrophages in human islets upon SARS-CoV-2
170 infection (**Figures 2D-2E and Figures S2J-S2M**). We further analyzed several cell death-
171 associated pathways within β cell cluster of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 virus.
172 Interestingly, we found the activation of pyroptosis and apoptosis pathways in β cells of
173 human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure 2F**). Our previous studies have reported
174 the activation of apoptosis of SARS-CoV-2 infected β cells²⁷. In the current study, we
175 focused on β cell pyroptosis. Dot plot analysis showed increased expression levels of
176 pyroptosis-associated genes in both SARS-CoV-2+ and SARS-CoV-2- β cells of human
177 islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure 2G and Figure S3A**). Immunostaining further
178 confirmed the increased expression of cleaved caspase1 (CASP1) in β cells of human
179 islets upon SARS-CoV-2 infection (**Figures 2H and 2I**). In addition, we found enrichment
180 of pyroptosis pathway in other endocrine cell clusters (α and δ cell clusters) of human
181 islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure S3B**). Moreover, autophagy pathway was
182 enriched in mesenchymal cell cluster; while ferroptosis and apoptosis pathways were
183 enriched in endothelial cell cluster of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure S3B**).
184
185 Next, we analyzed human islets exposed to CVB4 virus. Similar with SARS-CoV-2 virus,
186 CVB4 virus exposure also induced activation of proinflammatory macrophages (**Figures**
187 **2J-2L and Figures S3C-S3F**). Furthermore, dot plots showed increased expression of
188 pyroptotic pathway associated genes in both CVB4+ and CVB4- β cells of human islets
189 upon CVB4 infection (**Figure 2M and Figure S3G**). Finally, immunostaining confirmed

190 the increased expression of CASP1 in β cells of human islets upon CVB4 infection
191 (**Figures 2N and 2O**). Together, these data demonstrate the activation of
192 proinflammatory macrophages and β cell pyroptosis in human islets exposed to SARS-
193 CoV-2 or CVB4 viruses.

194

195 To further analyze the changes of immunogenicity profiles of β cells in response to viral
196 infection, we analyzed the expression of HLA molecules and autoantigen associated
197 genes. We observed a pattern of the increased expression of HLA class I genes in β cells
198 of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 versus mock (**Figure S3H**). In contrast, there
199 was a trend of reduced expression of HLA class I genes in β cells of human islets exposed
200 to CVB4 versus mock (**Figure S3I**). In terms of autoantigen expression, we observed a
201 similar increase in the expression of *GAD2* and *IAPP* in β cells of human islets exposed
202 to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 compared to mock conditions. For *CHGA* and *SLC30A8*, we
203 noted different trends of expression, which increased in β cells of human islets exposed
204 to SARS-CoV-2 but decreased in β cells of human islets exposed to CVB4 (**Figures S3J**
205 **and S3K**). Moreover, we also examined the genes related to antigen presentation and
206 found an increased expression of antigen presentation associated genes in β cells of
207 human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and a reduced expression of them in β cells of
208 human islets exposed to CVB4 (**Figures S3L and S3M**).

209

210 **Construction of a vascularized macrophage-islet organoid.**

211 To determine whether β cell pyroptosis is caused by proinflammatory macrophages
212 activation, we constructed a vascularized macrophage-islet organoid (VMI organoid)
213 model (**Figure 3A**). First, we differentiated MEL-1^{INS/GFP} hESCs into pancreatic endocrine
214 cells (**Figure S4A**). At day 16, we detected the robust generation of INS⁺ β cells, GCG⁺
215 α cells and SST⁺ δ cells (**Figure S4B**). H9 hESCs were differentiated toward
216 macrophages which expressed CD11B, CD14 and CD206, but not CD80 (**Figures S4C-**
217 **S4D**). Functional assays confirmed that hESC-derived macrophages can engulf bacteria,
218 indicating that they exhibited phagocytic activity which similar to primary human
219 macrophages (**Figure S4E**). Human islets are highly vascularized and endothelial cells
220 play an important role in systemic inflammatory responses^{34,35}, as well as pancreatic cell
221 development³⁶⁻³⁸. Thus, we decided to add endothelial cells to VMI organoids. ETV2 was
222 reported to promote the development of endothelial cells^{39,40}. Here, we overexpressed
223 ETV2 to promote the differentiation and function of endothelial cells from H1 hESCs⁴⁰⁻⁴²
224 (**Figure S4F**). qRT-PCR confirmed the overexpression of ETV2 in H1 hESCs (**Figure**
225 **S4G**) and immunostaining confirmed that differentiated endothelial cells expressed
226 PECAM1 (CD31) (**Figure S4H**).

227
228 After optimizing the culture medium and cell ratio, we mixed the hESC-derived endocrine
229 cells, unstimulated macrophages, and endothelial cells in three-dimension (3D) culture to
230 form organoids (**Figure 3A**). The VMI organoids exhibited similar size and morphologies
231 as primary human islets (**Figure 3B**). To perform live imaging of the VMI organoid, we
232 labeled cells with fluorescent reporters or CellTrace dye. Pancreatic endocrine cells were
233 derived from MEL-1^{INS/GFP} hESCs, allowing real-time monitoring of INS-GFP⁺ β cells.

234 Macrophages were derived from RFP labelled H9 (RFP-H9) hESCs and purified using
235 magnetic sorting before organoid formation. Additionally, H1 hESC-derived endothelial
236 cells were selected by magnetic sorting and the purified endothelial cells were labelled
237 with CellTrace proliferative far-red dye before forming 3D organoids. 3D confocal images
238 confirmed the presence of INS-GFP⁺ β cells, RFP⁺ macrophages, and far red⁺ endothelial
239 cells in VMI organoids (**Figure 3C and Supplemental Video 1**). Immunostaining of VMI
240 organoids confirmed the presence of INS⁺ β cells, CD68⁺ macrophages and PECAM1⁺
241 endothelial cells (**Figure 3D and Supplemental Video 2**). Most of the INS⁺ β cells in VMI
242 organoids co-expressed NKX6.1, a key transcription factor of β cells (**Figure S4I and**
243 **Supplemental Video 3**). Immunostaining further confirmed the presence of GCG⁺ α cells
244 and SST⁺ δ cells in VMI organoids (**Figure 3E and Supplemental Videos 4-5**).

245
246 Next, we used different assays to determine whether the cells in VMI organoids closely
247 resembled the cells in primary islets. Initially, electron microscopy (EM) was used to
248 observe fenestrae, which are transcellular pores found in endothelial cells facilitating the
249 transfer of substances between blood and the extravascular space⁴³. Indeed, the
250 fenestrations were detected in the endothelial cells of both primary human islets and VMI
251 organoids, but not in separately cultured endothelial cells (**Figure 3F**). We performed an
252 acetylated-low density lipoprotein (Ac-LDL) uptake assay to assess the function of
253 endothelial cells in VMI organoids. Ac-LDL can bind to the receptor on the surface of
254 vascular endothelial cells, facilitating the delivery of cholesterol via endocytosis^{44,45}. We
255 found co-localization of Ac-LDL with PECAM1⁺ endothelial cells (**Figure S4J**). Then, we
256 performed dynamic glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS) to examine the secretion
257 of insulin upon glucose or KCl stimulation. We found increased insulin expression in VMI

258 organoids than separately cultured hESC-derived endocrine cells under both high
259 glucose and KCl stimulation conditions. The amount of insulin secreted upon KCl
260 stimulation was significantly higher in VMI organoids than separately cultured hESC-
261 derived endocrine cells (**Figure 3G**). Besides, we also found a decrease of GCG
262 secretion in VMI organoids compared to separately cultured endocrine cells (**Figure S4K**).
263 To further elevate the function of β cells upon low glucose and high glucose stimulation,
264 we performed dynamic calcium Flu4 imaging. We detected dynamic calcium mobilization
265 in cells of VMI organoids upon high glucose stimulation (**Figure S4L and Supplemental**
266 **Video 6**). Together, the data indicate that the pancreatic β cells and endothelial cells in
267 VMI organoids are functionally more mature than cells that are cultured separately.

268
269 Finally, we exposed the VMI organoids with CVB4 virus and found macrophages
270 engulfing the damaged β cells upon virus infection (**Figure 3H and Supplemental Video**
271 **7**). To examine monocyte infiltration, we created organoids containing endocrine cells and
272 endothelial cells (VI organoids) and monitored monocyte infiltration upon CVB4 infection.
273 We first added monocytes to VI organoids, then introduced CVB4, and conducted live cell
274 imaging at 24hpi and 48hpi. We did not find obviously infiltration of monocytes into VI
275 organoids (**Figure S4M**).

277 **Single cell multi-omics analysis of VMI organoids.**

278 We then performed scRNA-seq and single nucleus assay for transposase-accessible
279 chromatin using sequencing (snATAC-seq) to compare the cell compositions,
280 transcriptional and epigenetic profiles of VMI organoids and separately cultured cells⁴⁶

281 **(Figure 4A)**. Cells that were cultured in separate plates but mixed together before library
282 preparation was compared to cells in VMI organoids **(Figure S4N)**. UMAP analysis
283 identified 9 cell clusters **(Figure 4A)**. Dot plot of scRNA-seq analysis **(Figure 4B)** and
284 integrative genomics viewer plot of snATAC-seq **(Figure S4O)** confirmed the marker
285 gene expression in each cluster. Consistent with previous studies⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹, *GCG* expression
286 was detected in β cell cluster and *INS* expression was detected in α and δ cell clusters,
287 suggesting the immature status of hESC-derived endocrine cells. Next, we compared the
288 cells in VMI organoids with separately cultured cells **(Figure 4C)**. Pie chart showed the
289 relative proportions of major cell types in VMI organoids **(Figure 4D)**. Volcano plot
290 analysis of gene expression in β cell cluster showed decreased expression of non- β cell
291 associated genes, *AFP*⁵⁰, *GCG*, *SST*, *ACTB* and *PRSS2* and increased expression of β
292 cell associated genes *RPL13A*⁵¹ and *SMIM32*⁵² in β cell cluster of VMI organoids
293 compared to separately cultured cells **(Figure 4E)**. Dot plot and violin plot analysis also
294 showed that genes associated with β cell identity and function, including *SLC2A1*⁵³⁻⁵⁵,
295 *PIK3CB*⁵⁶, *HNF1B*, *PAX6*, *PDX1* and *INS*, are relatively increased in β cell cluster of VMI
296 organoids **(Figure 4F and Figure S4P)**. Consistently, snATAC-seq analysis showed
297 increased open chromatin accessibility peaks of *SLC2A1*⁵³⁻⁵⁵, *INS* and *PDX1* in β cells of
298 VMI organoids compared to separately cultured cells which might indicate the potential
299 of increased gene expression of *SLC2A1*, *INS* and *PDX1* **(Figure 4G)**. In addition, dot
300 plot and violin plot also revealed the upregulation of genes associated with endothelial
301 cell function in endothelial cell cluster of VMI organoids compared to separately cultured
302 cells, including *INSR*⁴³, *VWF*⁵⁷, *PDGFB*⁵⁸, *EDN1*⁵⁹, *S1PR1*⁶⁰ and *RSPO3*⁶¹ **(Figure 4H**
303 **and S4Q)**.

304

305 **Proinflammatory macrophages cause β cell pyroptosis.**

306 We have shown the activation of proinflammatory macrophages, as well as upregulation
307 of the pyroptotic pathway in β cell cluster of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or
308 CVB4 viruses. Here, we also detected the activation of proinflammatory macrophages,
309 as well as β cells pyroptosis, in VMI organoids exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 viruses
310 **(Figures S5A-S5D)**. To determine whether proinflammatory macrophages cause β cell
311 pyroptosis, we constructed the VMI organoids with proinflammatory or unstimulated
312 macrophages. First, LPS and IFN- γ were used to stimulate macrophages into
313 proinflammatory status **(Figure S5E)**. Both RNA-seq and ELISA analysis confirmed the
314 increased expression of proinflammatory associated genes and cytokines, including IL-
315 1 β and IL-6 in proinflammatory macrophages **(Figures S5F and S5G)**. Then, we
316 constructed VMI organoids using either unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages.
317 VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages showed decreased expression
318 levels of INS compared to VMI organoids containing unstimulated macrophages **(Figures**
319 **5A-5B and Supplemental Video 8, 9)**. We collected the supernatant of VMI organoids
320 containing proinflammatory or unstimulated macrophages and confirmed the increased
321 expression of IL-1 β , IL-6 and TNF- α in the supernatant of VMI organoids containing
322 proinflammatory macrophages **(Figure 5C)**.

323

324 Next, scRNA-seq and snATAC-seq were performed to analyze the VMI organoids
325 containing proinflammatory or unstimulated macrophages. Consistent with the previous
326 analysis, 9 cell clusters were identified in VMI organoids. UMAP showed a decrease of

327 the β cell cluster in VMI organoids with proinflammatory macrophages, which was also
328 confirmed by quantification of the percentage of β cells (**Figures 5D and 5E**). Moreover,
329 volcano plot comparing the β cell cluster of VMI organoids containing proinflammatory
330 macrophages to that of organoids containing unstimulated macrophages showed the
331 downregulation of β cell identity and function associated genes, including the decreased
332 expression levels of *IGF2*⁶², *IGFBP3*⁶³ and *SLC2A3*⁶⁴, and upregulation of non- β cell
333 identity and function associated genes, *GCG*, *ALDH1A1*⁶⁵, *FGB*⁶⁶ and *AFP*⁵⁰ (**Figure. 5F**).
334 Dot plot analysis further confirmed the downregulation of β cell identity and function
335 associated genes, including *SLC2A1*⁵³⁻⁵⁵, *PIK3CB*,⁵⁶ *HNF1B*, *PAX6*, *PDX1* and *INS*, in
336 the β cluster of VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages compared to
337 VMI organoids containing unstimulated macrophages (**Figure 5G**). Consistently,
338 snATAC-seq analysis also showed decreased open chromatin accessibility peaks of *INS*
339 and *PDX1* in β cells of VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages (**Figure**
340 **S5H**). Furthermore, dot plot analysis of scRNA-seq analysis also showed increased
341 expression of pyroptotic pathway associated genes in the β cluster of VMI organoids
342 containing proinflammatory macrophages (**Figure 5H**). Consistent with increased
343 expression of pyroptotic pathway associated genes, snATAC-seq analysis showed
344 increased open chromatin accessibility peaks of *CASP1*, *CASP9*, *IL1B* and *NLRP3*, in
345 the β cell cluster of VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages (**Figure 5I**).
346 Upregulation of the pyroptotic pathway in the β cell cluster of VMI organoids containing
347 proinflammatory macrophages was further confirmed by immunostaining using an
348 antibody against *CASP1* (**Figures 5J and 5K**). Apart from β cell pyroptosis, we did not
349 observe β cell dedifferentiation in VMI organoids with pro-inflammatory macrophages

350 **(Figure S5I)**. Together, these data suggest that proinflammatory macrophages can
351 induce β cell pyroptosis.

352

353 **Mechanistic studies identify pathways contributing to proinflammatory**
354 **macrophage-mediated β cell pyroptosis.**

355 To determine the potential mechanisms by which proinflammatory macrophages induce
356 β cell pyroptosis, we performed cell-cell interaction (cell-chat) analysis and focused on
357 the interactions from macrophages to β cells. First, when comparing differential signaling
358 from macrophages to β cells in VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages
359 to VMI organoids containing unstimulated macrophages, we identified four enhanced
360 macrophage-to- β cell interaction pathways, including *TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A*, *SPP1-*
361 *ITGAV+ITGB1*, *F11R-F11R* and *DSC2-DSG2* (**Figure 6A**). Next, we examined cell-cell
362 interactions from macrophages to β cells in human islets exposed to CVB4 virus and also
363 found increased communication probability of the *TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A* pathway
364 (**Figure 6B**). Furthermore, the expression level of *TNFSF12* was increased in
365 macrophages of human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure 6C**). Immunostaining
366 confirmed the increased expression of *TNFSF12* in both human islets exposed to viruses
367 and VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages (**Figures S6A and S6B**).
368 These data indicate that the *TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A* pathway might contribute to
369 proinflammatory macrophage mediated β cell pyroptosis.

370

371 To validate the role of *TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A* in proinflammatory macrophage mediated
372 β cells pyroptosis, we treated human islets and VMI organoids containing unstimulated

373 macrophages with TNFSF12 protein and detected increased CASP1 expression in INS⁺
374 β cells in both cases (**Figures 6D-6G**). Next, we tested TNFSF12 neutralization antibody
375 and found that it partially blocked β cell pyroptosis caused by SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4
376 exposure (**Figures 6H and 6I**), suggesting that other factors, might also contribute to this
377 process. One candidate is IL-1 β , which was detected in the supernatant of VMI organoids
378 containing proinflammatory macrophages and macrophages of human islets exposed to
379 SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 (**Figures 2C, 2J, 5C and Figures S2J-2K, S3C-S3D**) and was
380 reported to contribute to cell pyroptosis^{67,68}. Indeed, IL-1 β neutralization antibody partially
381 blocked the increased β cell pyroptosis in human islets exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4.
382 Furthermore, the combination of IL-1 β and TNFSF12 neutralization antibodies showed
383 add-on/synergistic effect to further decrease the CASP1 expression levels in human islets
384 exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4 (**Figures 6H and 6I**) and VMI organoids with
385 proinflammatory macrophages or VMI organoids exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4
386 (**Figures 6J-6K and Figures S6C-S6F**). Finally, we stained the pancreatic autopsy
387 samples and confirmed the increased CASP1 expression in COVID-19 samples
388 compared to control samples (**Figures 6L and 6M**). Moreover, the increased CASP1
389 expression was independent of T2D conditions (**Figures 6L and 6M**). GeoMx
390 transcriptomic data also showed increased expression of pyroptosis-associated genes in
391 ROIs of islets in COVID-19 samples compared to control samples (**Figure S6G**).

392

393 **Discussion**

394 While several spatial transcriptomic analyses have been applied to study COVID-19
395 autopsy samples, they have focused on lung⁶⁹⁻⁷¹, liver⁷², heart⁷³, and placenta⁷⁴. In this

396 study, we used the GeoMx spatial transcriptomics and proteomics platform to
397 comprehensively analyze changes in the immune cell composition and endocrine cell
398 damage of COVID-19 pancreatic samples. Our findings revealed accumulation of
399 proinflammatory macrophages in islets of COVID-19 samples, which highlights the critical
400 role of macrophages in pathological changes observed in host tissues in COVID-19
401 patients. Previous study has shown that SARS-CoV2 induces a pro-fibrotic signature in
402 monocytes, which includes CD163, a marker not expressed in homeostatic monocytes⁷⁵.
403 We also see an increase of CD163+ macrophages in islets of COVID-19 samples, which
404 could be an indication of fibrogenic monocyte infiltration. Fibrosis might also play a role
405 for pancreatitis, new onset diabetes and thus β cell damage⁷⁶. Fibrotic alterations might
406 be another potential driver of tissue dysfunction besides β cell pyroptosis. Surprisingly, in
407 our spatial transcriptomics data, we didn't see an increase of T cells in islets of COVID-
408 19 samples while both CD4 and CD8 T cells contribute to T1D development^{77,78}. Upon
409 thorough examination of published studies, no reports were identified regarding T cell
410 infiltrations in the islets of COVID-19 samples. This underscores the need to impartially
411 assess immune cell accumulation and expand the scope of investigation by examining
412 additional COVID-19 pancreas samples.

413

414 In our study, we found that β cells in VMI organoids showed improved maturity. Islet
415 vascular endothelial cells were reported to promote insulin production and secretion, as
416 well as β -cell proliferation, survival, and maturation, by secreting a variety of growth
417 factors, components of the extracellular matrix (ECM), and other molecules⁷⁹⁻⁸¹.
418 Macrophages exist in the pancreas from the embryonic stage onward. While the role of

419 macrophages in islet morphogenesis is not well understood, various observations
420 underscore their significance in the formation of the endocrine pancreas, especially in the
421 development of β cells^{82,83}.

422

423 While immune-mediated host damage is recognized as a critical factor in various
424 diseases, there is a scarcity of suitable human in vitro models. Here, we constructed a
425 hPSC-derived VMI organoid model, which allowed us to dissect molecular mechanisms
426 of macrophage-mediated host damage. Through cell-cell interaction analysis, we found
427 that proinflammatory macrophages induce β cell pyroptosis through the TNFSF12-
428 TNFRSF12A pathway. Previous studies in the context of cholestasis demonstrated that
429 bile acids induce TNFRSF12A expression, subsequently initiating hepatocyte pyroptosis
430 through the NF κ B/Caspase-1/GSDMD signaling pathway⁸⁴. TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A
431 pathway has been reported to contribute to the hepatocyte pyroptosis through
432 NF κ B/Caspase-1/GSDMD signaling⁸⁴. Persistent TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A signaling has
433 been implicated in the pathogenesis of numerous diseases, including atherosclerosis,
434 ischemic stroke, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and inflammatory bowel diseases^{85,86}. Some
435 of the TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A targeted therapeutic agents under development for these
436 conditions⁸⁷. Enavatuzumab, BIIB036 and RG7212, the humanized monoclonal
437 antibodies targeting the TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A signaling, were tested in patients with
438 tumors⁸⁸⁻⁹⁰. BIIB023 was also tested in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (NCT00771329)
439 and lupus nephritis (NCT01499355) in clinical trials⁹¹. Here, we identified a previously
440 unknown role of TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A in macrophages induced β cell pyroptosis.

441 Besides, we also explored the cell-cell interactions from β cells to immune cells (**Figure**
442 **S6H**).

443

444 β cell death constitutes a pathophysiological cornerstone in the natural progression of
445 diabetes. Previous investigations into β cell death have primarily centered on apoptosis,
446 necrosis, and autophagy. In this study, we uncovered a previously unknown mechanism
447 in which proinflammatory macrophages induce β cell pyroptosis. An expanding body of
448 research has linked β cell pyroptosis to diabetes⁹²⁹³. These findings suggest that
449 macrophage-mediated β cell pyroptosis may contribute to the increased incidence of
450 diabetes among COVID-19 patients.

451

452 **Limitations of study**

453 In this study, we analyzed the pancreatic autopsy samples from non-COVID and
454 COVID19 subjects. COVID-19 subjects might have experienced bed resting and
455 starvation (ICU), which could have influenced the β cell phenotype, including insulin
456 content. Additionally, the inherent variability/heterogeneity of studying pancreatic autopsy
457 samples could pose analytical challenges in distinguishing genuine disease pathology or
458 differences between human donors from experimental noise⁹⁴. The modest sample size
459 and potential confounders in the clinical samples could also be limitations in this study. In
460 VMI organoids, we found that some endothelial cells can form small vessels. However,
461 they cannot form intact blood vessels, which are likely required for monocyte infiltration
462 into tissue. The vascular structure of VMI organoids is not fully functional yet, suggesting
463 a need for further modification of the culture conditions. This might also be why we didn't

464 find obvious infiltration of monocytes into organoids containing endocrine cells and
465 endothelial cells. Using this VMI organoid model, we observed that pro-inflammatory
466 macrophage activation induced β cell death. However, we cannot distinguish whether the
467 observed effects were derived from monocyte derived or tissue resident macrophages.

468

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484 Mike Drdos from National Human Genome Research Institute for his help on islet
485 collection.

486

487

488 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

489 S. C., R.E.S., L.Y. Q.J., S. C.J. P., and T.E. conceived and designed the experiments.

490 L. Y., Y.H., T.Z., X. D. T. L., J.J. V. N. d. S., C. C. R., and A. R. performed cell
491 differentiation and immunostaining.

492 C. P., Y.S., and J. X. assisted with the library preparation.

493 J.G. performed SARS-CoV-2 infections.

494 C. L., W.W., and A.L. prepared the human islets and human pancreas samples.

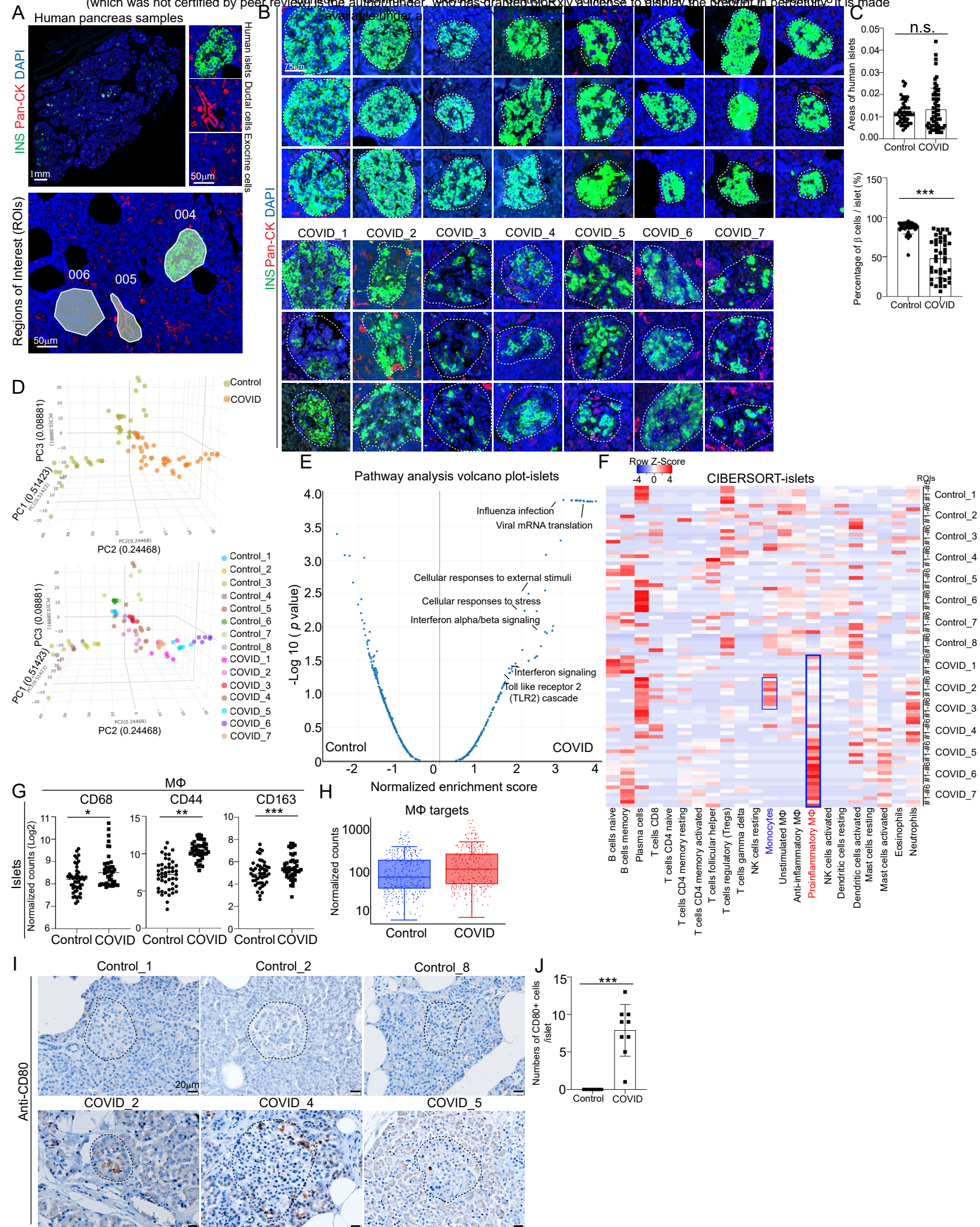
495 R.E.S. provided autopsy sample of COVID-19 patients.

496 T. Z. and J. Z. performed the bioinformatics analyses.

497

498 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

499 R.E.S. is on the scientific advisory board of Miromatrix Inc. and Lime Therapeutics and is
500 a consultant and Speaker for Alnylam Inc. S.C. and T.E are the co-founders of OncoBeat,
501 LLC. S.C. is a consultant of Vesalius Therapeutics and co-founder of iOrganBio. The
502 other authors have no conflict of interest.



503 **Main Figure Titles and Legends.**

504 **Figure 1. Macrophage accumulation in islets of COVID-19 pancreatic autopsy**
505 **samples.**

506 **(A)** Representative images illustrating morphology marker and selection of ROIs using
507 GeoMx platform. 004: islet area; 005: ductal area; 006: exocrine area. Scale bar= 1 mm
508 or 50 μm .

509 **(B)** Representative images illustrating the insulin (INS) staining in COVID-19 (N=7) and
510 control (N=8) pancreatic autopsy samples. Dotted lines encircle the islet regions. Scale
511 bar=75 μm .

512 **(C)** Quantification of areas of islets and percentages of INS⁺ β cells per islet in COVID-19
513 (N=7) and control (N=8) pancreatic autopsy samples.

514 **(D)** 3D PCA plot of data from human islet areas of COVID-19 (N=7) and control (N=8)
515 pancreatic autopsy samples.

516 **(E)** Volcano plot of transcriptome sequencing data highlighting the pathways enriched in
517 human islet areas of COVID-19 (N=7) versus control (N=8) pancreatic autopsy samples.

518 **(F)** Heatmap of the CIBERSORT analysis of immune cells (LM22) using the GeoMx whole
519 transcriptome sequencing data of human islet areas of COVID-19 (N=7) and control (N=8)
520 pancreatic autopsy samples.

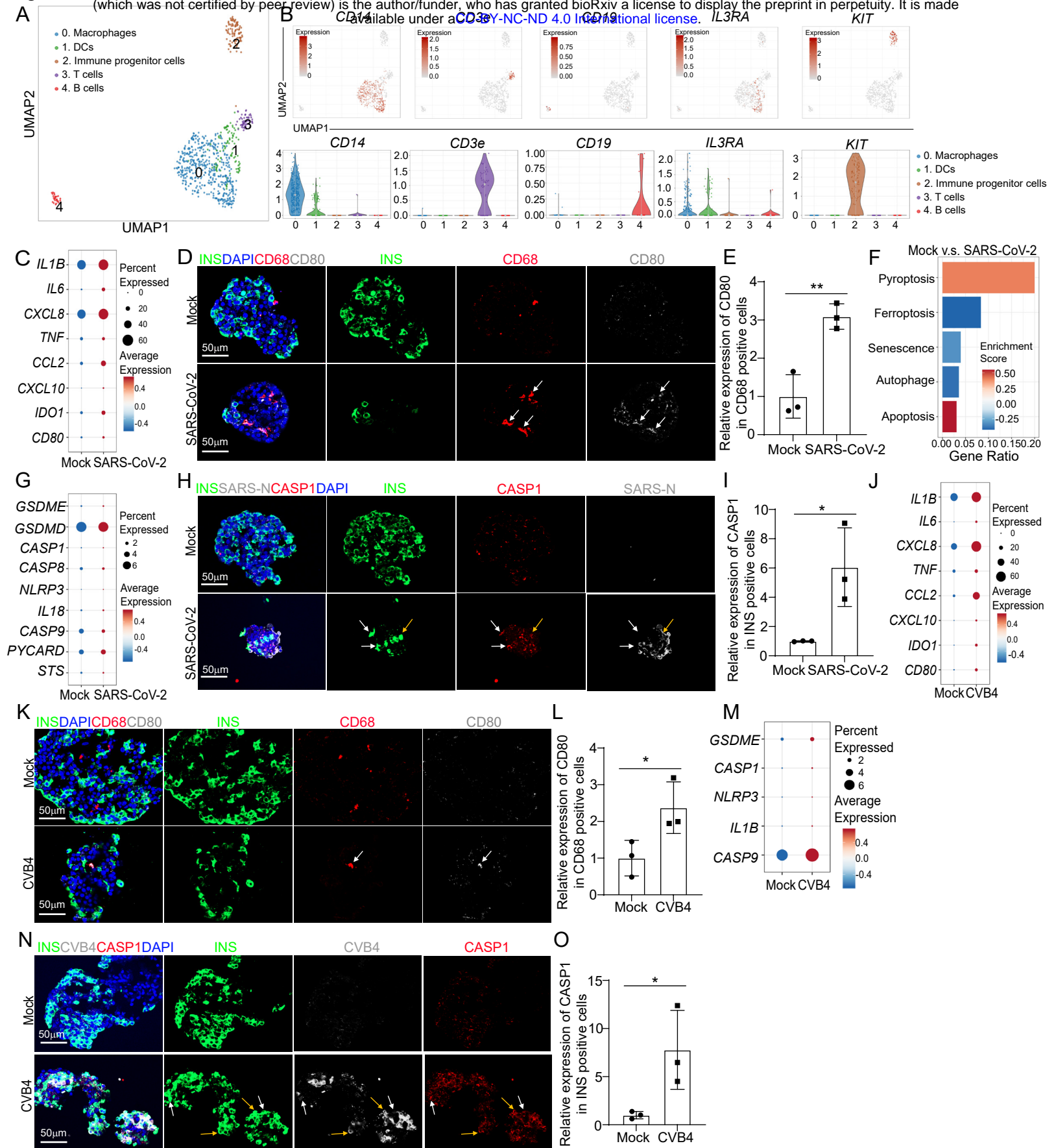
521 **(G)** Normalized counts (Log2) of marker proteins associated with macrophages from
522 human islet areas of COVID-19 (N=7) and control (N=8) pancreatic autopsy samples.
523 Each dot represents one count in each ROI.

524 **(H)** Box plot of normalized counts of macrophage associated targets in human islet areas
525 of COVID-19 (N=7) and control (N=8) pancreatic autopsy samples. Each dot represents
526 one count in each ROI.

527 **(I and J)** Immunohistochemistry staining (I) and quantification (J) of CD80 in COVID-19
528 (N=3) and control (N=3) pancreatic autopsy samples. Dotted lines encircle the regions of
529 the islets. Scale bar=20 μm .

530 *P* values were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student's t test. n.s., no significance; **P*
531 < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01, ****P* < 0.001.

532 See also Figure S1.



533 **Figure 2. Single cell RNA-seq analysis of human islets upon SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4**
534 **exposure.**

535 **(A)** UMAP of immune cell populations in human islets exposed to mock, SARS-CoV-2
536 (MOI=1) or CVB4 (2×10^6 PFU/ml) .

537 **(B)** UMAP and violin plots of immune cell markers.

538 **(C)** Dot plot analysis of proinflammatory macrophage-associated genes in macrophages
539 of human islets exposed to mock or SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=1).

540 **(D and E)** Confocal images (D) and quantification (E) of the relative expression of CD80
541 in CD68⁺ cells in human islets exposed to mock or SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=0.5). The white
542 arrows highlight the CD68⁺CD80⁺ cells. Scale bar= 50 μ m.

543 **(F)** Pathway enrichment analysis of cell death pathways in β cell cluster of human islets
544 exposed to mock or SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=1).

545 **(G)** Dot plot analysis of pyroptosis associated genes in β cell cluster of human islets
546 exposed to mock or SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=1).

547 **(H and I)** Confocal images (H) and quantification (I) of the relative expression of CASP1
548 in human islets exposed to mock or SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=0.5). The yellow arrows highlight
549 the expression of CASP1 in SARS-N⁺INS⁺ cells while the white arrows highlight the
550 expression of CASP1 in SARS-N⁻INS⁺ cells. Scale bar= 50 μ m.

551 **(J)** Dot plot analysis of proinflammatory macrophage-associated genes in macrophage
552 cluster of human islets exposed to mock or CVB4 (2×10^6 PFU/ml).

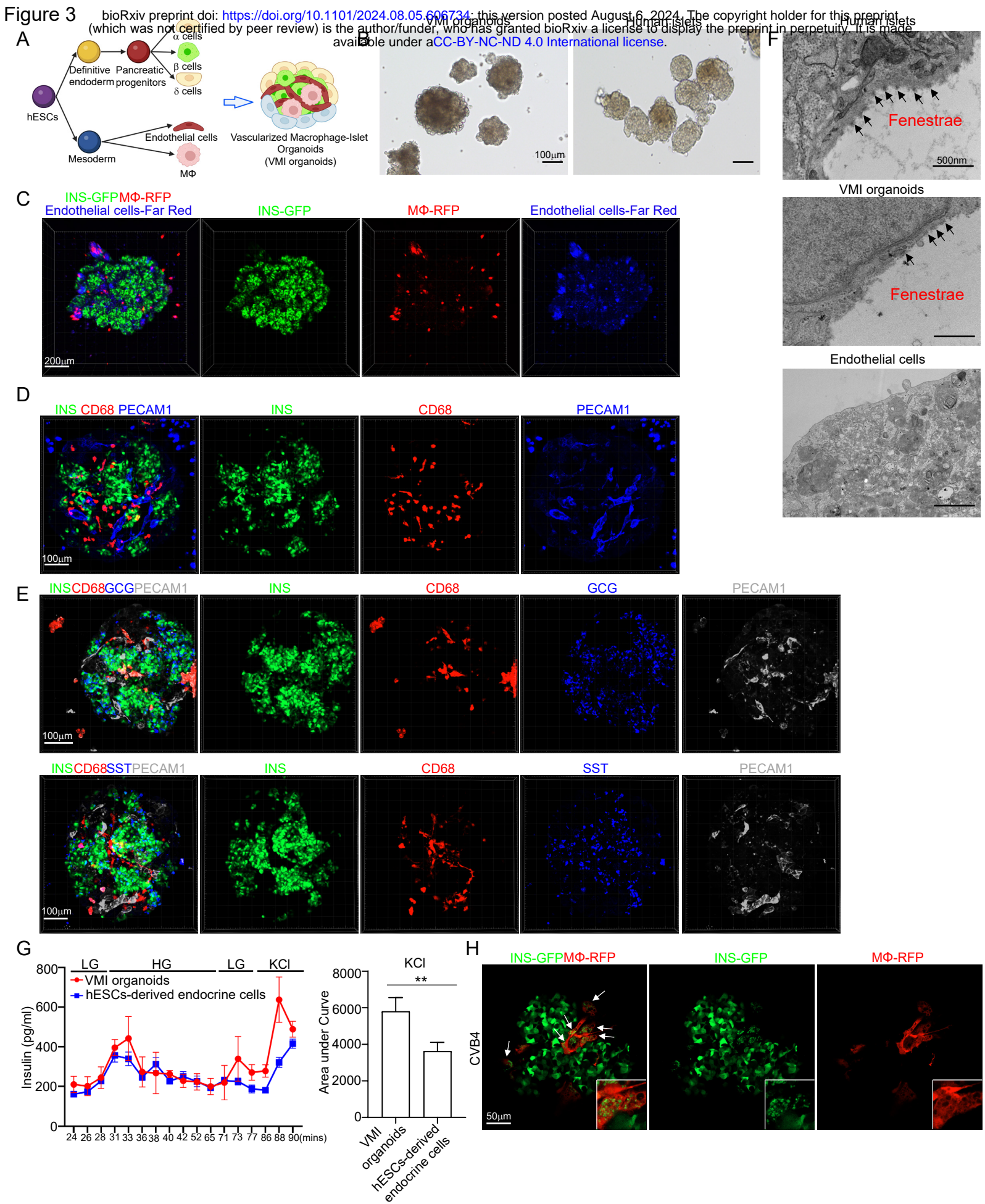
553 **(K and L)** Confocal images (K) and quantification (L) of the relative expression of CD80
554 in CD68⁺ cells in human islets exposed mock or CVB4 (2x10⁶ PFU/ml). The white arrows
555 highlight the CD68⁺CD80⁺ cells. Scale bar= 50 μm.

556 **(M)** Dot plot analysis of pyroptosis pathway associated genes in β cell cluster of human
557 islets exposed to mock or CVB4 (2x10⁶ PFU/ml).

558 **(N and O)** Fluorescent images (N) and quantification (O) of the relative expression of
559 CAPS1 in human islets exposed to mock or CVB4 (2x10⁶ PFU/ml). The yellow arrows
560 highlight the expression of CASP1 in SARS-N⁺INS⁺ cells while the white arrows highlight
561 the expression of CASP1 in SARS-N⁻INS⁺ cells. Scale bar= 50 μm.

562 N=3 independent biological replicates. Data was presented as mean ± STDEV. *P* values
563 were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student's t test. **P* < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01.

564 See also Figure S2 and S3.



565 **Figure 3. Construction of hPSC-derived VMI organoids.**

566 **(A)** Schematic representation of VMI organoids construction.

567 **(B)** Phase contract images of VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation and human
568 islets. Scale bar= 200 μm .

569 **(C)** Composite Z-stack confocal images of live VMI organoids at day 14 after
570 reaggregation. β cells: INS-GFP; macrophages: RFP; and endothelial cells: Far Red.
571 Scale bar= 200 μm .

572 **(D)** Composite Z-stack confocal images of VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation
573 stained with antibodies against INS, CD68 and PECAM1 (CD31). Scale bar= 100 μm .

574 **(E)** Composite Z-stack confocal images of VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation
575 stained with antibodies against INS, CD68, GCG, SST and PECAM1 (CD31). Scale bar=
576 100 μm .

577 **(F)** Transmission electron microscope (TEM) images of human islets, VMI organoids at
578 day 14 after reaggregation, and endothelial cells without reaggregation. Arrows indicate
579 fenestrae. Scale bar= 500 nm.

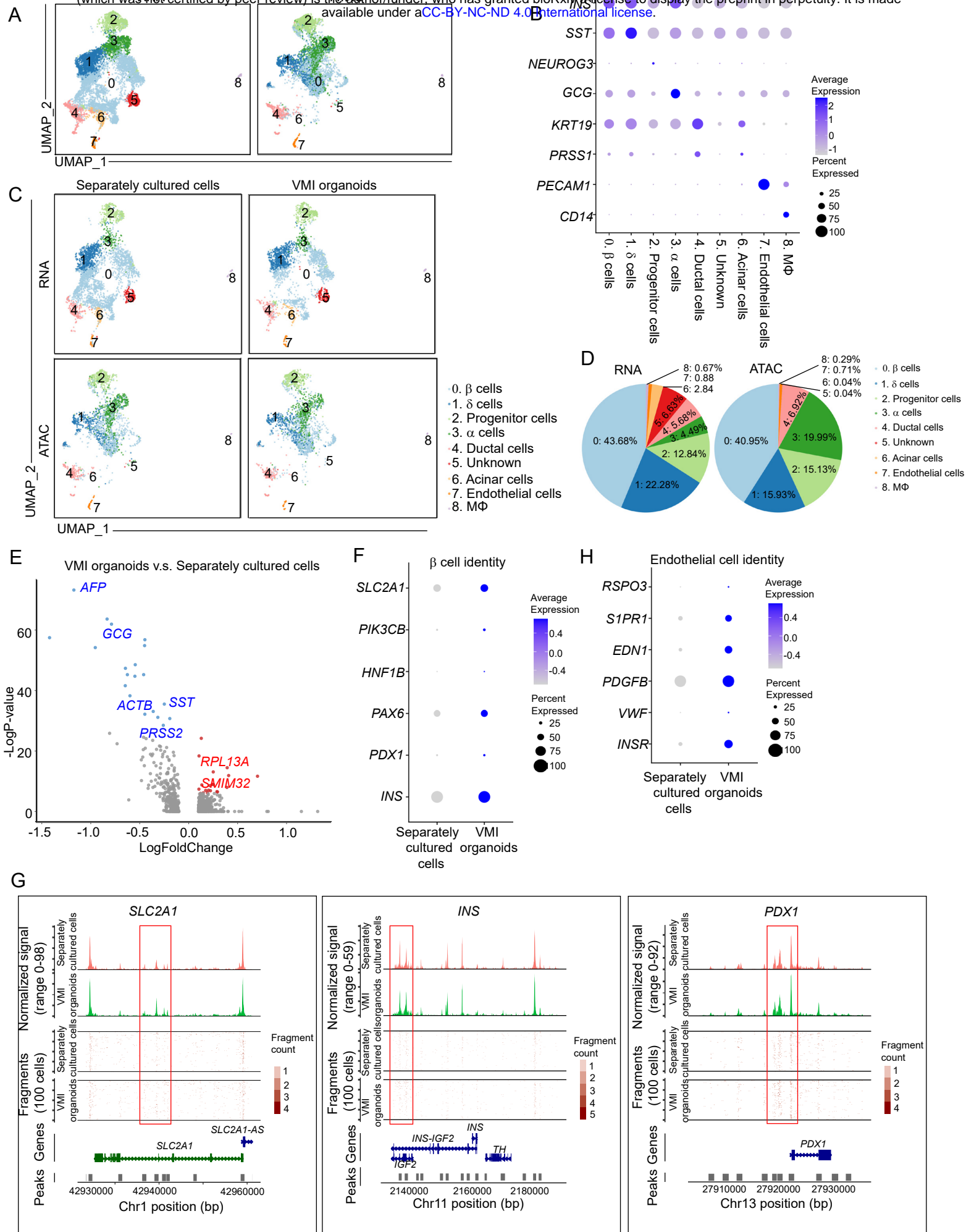
580 **(G)** Dynamic glucose stimulated insulin secretion of VMI organoids at day 14 after
581 reaggregation and hPSC-derived endocrine cells. LG (low glucose): 2 mM D-glucose; HG
582 (high glucose): 20 mM D-glucose; KCl: 30 mM KCl. Quantification was performed using
583 the areas under curve of KCl stimulation from 86 min to 90 min.

584 **(H)** Composite Z-stack confocal images of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation
585 upon CVB4 infection (2×10^6 PFU/ml). β cells: INS-GFP, macrophages: RFP. Scale bar=

586 50 μm . Arrows highlight RFP⁺ macrophages that have phagocytosed damaged INS-GFP⁺
587 β cells.

588 N=3 independent biological replicates. Data was presented as mean \pm STDEV. *P* values
589 were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student's *t* test. ***P* < 0.01.

590 See also Figure S4.



591 **Figure 4. Single cell multi-omics analysis of VMI organoids.**

592 **(A)** Integrative UMAP of scRNA-seq and snATAC-seq analysis of VMI organoids at day
593 7 after reaggregation and separately cultured cells.

594 **(B)** Dot plot displaying cell markers of each cluster using scRNA-seq dataset.

595 **(C)** Individual UMAP of scRNA-seq and snATAC-seq analysis of VMI organoids at day 7
596 after reaggregation and separately cultured cells.

597 **(D)** Pie chart showed the relative percentages of each cell types in VMI organoids at day
598 7 after reaggregation.

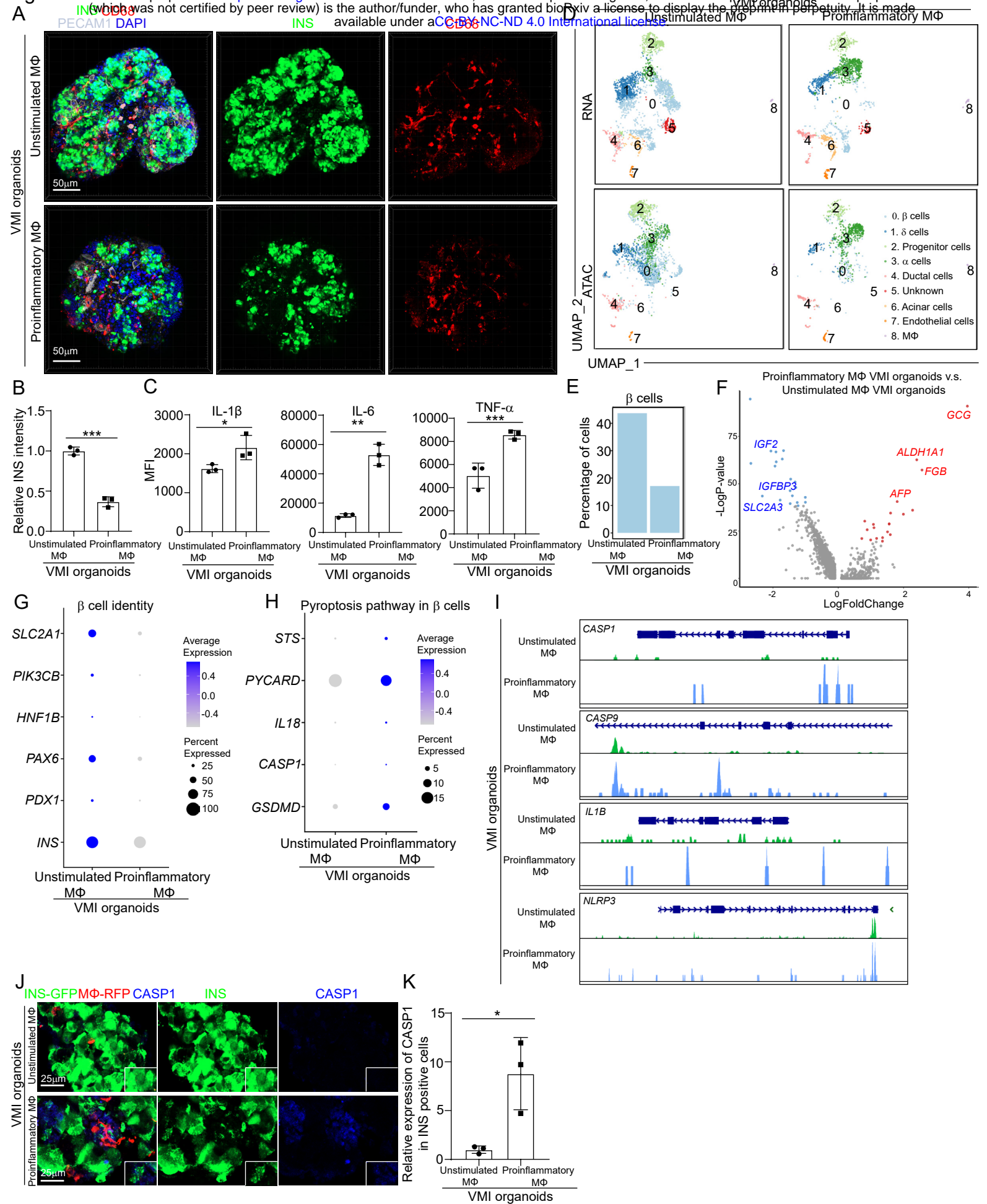
599 **(E)** Volcano plot of DE genes in β cell cluster of VMI organoids at day 7 after
600 reaggregation versus separately cultured cells.

601 **(F)** Dot plot analysis of β cell associated genes in β cell cluster of VMI organoids at day 7
602 after reaggregation and separately cultured cells.

603 **(G)** Chromatin accessibility signals of *SLC2A1*, *INS*, *PDX1* in β cell cluster of VMI
604 organoids at day 7 after reaggregation and separately cultured cells. The normalized
605 signal shows the averaged frequency of sequenced DNA fragments within a genomic
606 region. The fragment shows the frequency of sequenced fragments within a genomic
607 region for individual cells.

608 **(H)** Dot plot analysis of endothelial cell associated genes in endothelial cell cluster of VMI
609 organoids at day 7 after reaggregation and separately cultured cells.

610 See also Figure S4.



611 **Figure 5. Construction and multi-omics analysis of VMI organoids containing**
612 **unstimulated and proinflammatory macrophages.**

613 **(A and B)** Composite Z-stack confocal images (A) and quantification (B) of INS intensity
614 in INS⁺ cells of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or
615 proinflammatory macrophages stained with the antibodies against INS, CD68 and
616 PECAM1 (CD31). Scale bar= 50 μ m.

617 **(C)** Measurements of cytokine secretions in the supernatant of VMI organoids at day 5
618 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages.

619 **(D)** Integrative UMAP of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing
620 unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages.

621 **(E)** Percentage of cells in β cell cluster in VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation
622 containing unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages.

623 **(F)** Volcano plot of DE genes in β cell cluster of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation
624 containing proinflammatory versus unstimulated macrophages.

625 **(G)** Dot plot analysis of β cell identity associated genes in β cell cluster of VMI organoids
626 at day 7 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages.

627 **(H)** Dot plot analysis of pyroptosis pathway associated genes in β cell cluster of VMI
628 organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or proinflammatory
629 macrophages.

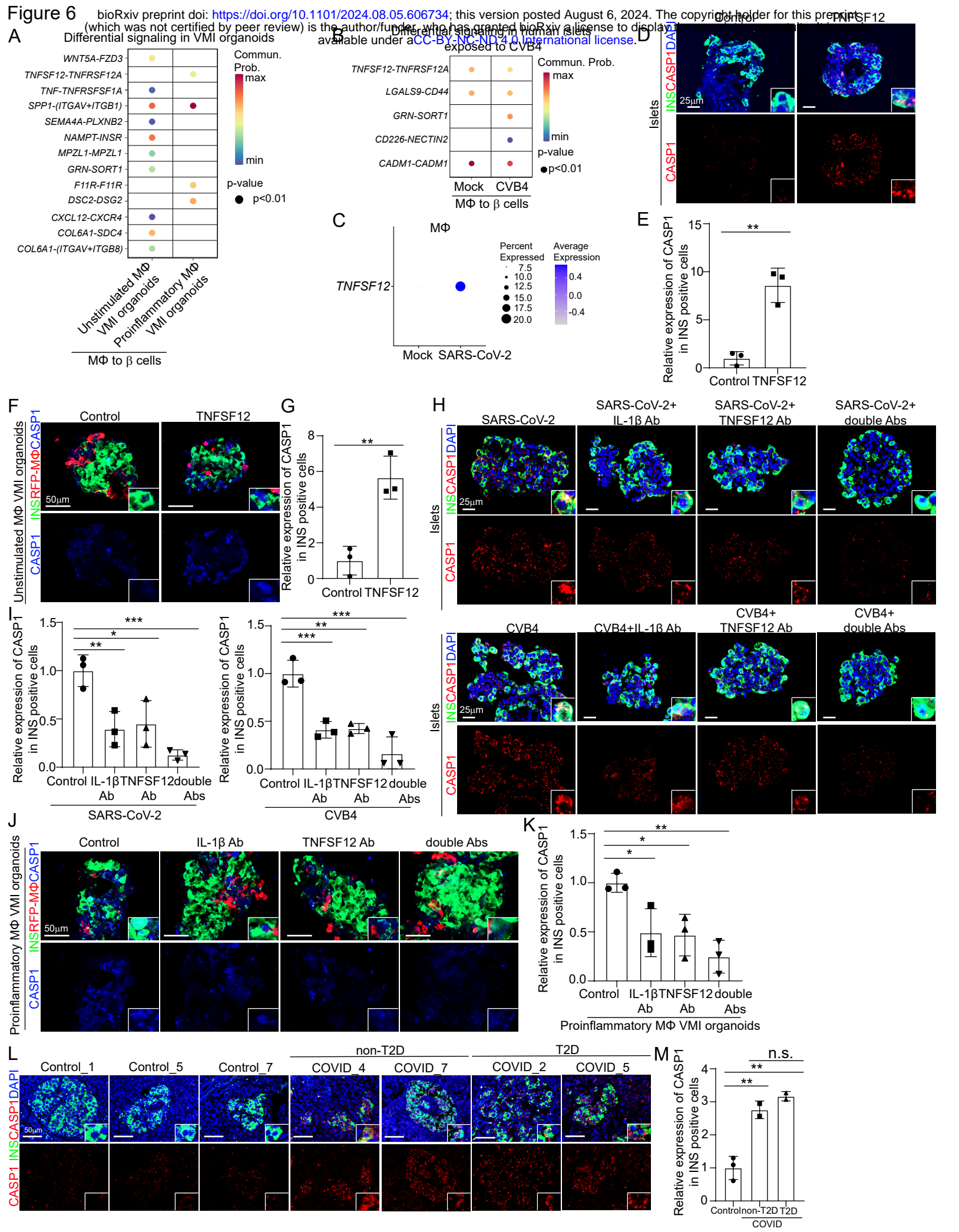
630 **(I)** Chromatin accessibility signals of *CASP1*, *CASP9*, *IL1B* and *NLRP3* in β cell cluster
631 of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or proinflammatory
632 macrophages. The normalized signal shows the averaged frequency of sequenced DNA

633 fragments within a genomic region. The fragment shows the frequency of sequenced
634 fragments within a genomic region for individual cells.

635 **(J and K)** Immunostaining (J) and quantification (K) of CASP1 staining in INS+ cells of
636 VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing unstimulated or proinflammatory
637 macrophages. β cells: INS-GFP, macrophages: RFP, endothelial cells: Far Red. CASP1:
638 grey. Scale bar= 25 μ m.

639 N=3 independent biological replicates. Data was presented as mean \pm STDEV. *P* values
640 were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student's t test. **P* < 0.01, ***P* < 0.05, ****P* < 0.001.

641 See also Figure S5.



642 **Figure 6. TNFSF12-TNFRSF12A as a candidate pathway that contributes to**
643 **proinflammatory macrophage-mediated β cell pyroptosis.**

644 **(A)** Dot plot showed the differential signaling from macrophages to β cells in VMI
645 organoids containing unstimulated or proinflammatory macrophages at day 7 after
646 reaggregation.

647 **(B)** Dot plot showed the differential signaling from macrophages to β cells in human islets
648 exposed to mock or CVB4 virus (2×10^6 PFU/ml).

649 **(C)** Dot plot of the expression level of *TNFSF12* in macrophage of human islets exposed
650 to mock or SARS-CoV-2 virus (MOI=1).

651 **(D and E)** Confocal images (D) and quantification (E) of CASP1 expression in INS^+ cells
652 in control or 10 ng/ml TNFSF12 treated human islets. Scale bar= 25 μ m.

653 **(F and G)** Confocal images (F) and quantification (G) of CASP1 expression in INS^+ cells
654 in control or 10 ng/ml TNFSF12 treated VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation. Scale
655 bar= 50 μ m.

656 **(H and I)** Confocal images (H) and quantification (I) of CASP1 expression in INS^+ cells of
657 SARS-CoV-2 (MOI=0.5) or CVB4 (2×10^6 PFU/ml) exposed human islets treated with
658 control, 10 μ g/ml TNFSF12 blocking antibody, 5 μ g/ml IL-1 β blocking antibody or 10 μ g/ml
659 TNFSF12 + 5 μ g/ml IL-1 β blocking antibodies. Scale bar= 25 μ m.

660 **(J and K)** Confocal images (J) and quantification (K) of CASP1 expression in INS^+ cells
661 of VMI organoids containing proinflammatory macrophages at day 7 after reaggregation
662 and treated with control, 10 μ g/ml TNFSF12 blocking antibody, 5 μ g/ml IL-1 β blocking
663 antibody or 10 μ g/ml TNFSF12 + 5 μ g/ml IL-1 β blocking antibodies. Scale bar= 50 μ m.

664 **(L and M)** Confocal images (L) and quantification (M) of the CASP1 expression in INS⁺
665 cells of pancreas autopsy samples from control (N=3) and COVID-19 (N=4) subjects. The
666 insert shows a high magnification of cells. Scale bar= 50 μm.
667 N=3 independent biological replicates. Data was presented as mean ± STDEV. *P* values
668 were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student's *t* test or one-way ANOVA with a
669 common control. n.s., no significance; **P* < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01, ****P* < 0.001.
670 See also Figure S6.

671 **STAR*METHODS**

672 Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

673 **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**

674 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

675 **Lead contact**

676 Further information and requests for resources, reagents or codes should be directed to
677 and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Shuibing Chen (shc2034@med.cornell.edu).

678 **Materials availability**

679 This study did not generate new unique reagents.

680 **Data and code availability**

681 scRNA-seq, snATAC-seq and RNA-seq data have been deposited at GEO and are
682 publicly available as of the date of publication. Accession numbers are listed in the key
683 resources table. All original code has been deposited at Github and is publicly available
684 as of the date of publication. DOI is listed in the key resources table. Any additional
685 information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead
686 contact upon request.

687

688 **METHOD DETAILS**

689 ***Human studies.*** Pancreas tissues from COVID-19 samples were provided by the Weill
690 Cornell Medicine Department of Pathology using protocols approved by the Tissue
691 Procurement Facility of Weill Cornell Medicine. Experiments using samples from human

692 subjects were conducted in accordance with local regulations and with the approval of
693 the IRB at the Weill Cornell Medicine. The autopsy samples were collected under protocol
694 20-04021814. For GeoMx RNA and protein analysis, seven COVID19 human pancreas
695 samples were deceased upon tissue acquisition and were provided from Weill Cornell
696 Medicine as fixed samples. The control human pancreas samples were obtained from the
697 Human Islet Core at the University of Pennsylvania. The pancreatic organs were obtained
698 from the organ procurement organization under the United Network for Organ Sharing.
699 The organs were kept in the University of Wisconsin solution at 4°C before the tissue
700 samples biopsies. The freshly dissected tissues (<3mm thick) were fixed with 10%
701 formalin for 8 hours at room temperature. The tissue samples were rinsed with running
702 tap water for 5 min then through 80% and 95% alcohol for 1 hour each, followed with 2
703 rinses of 100% alcohol for 1 hour each for dehydration. The tissues were cleared in xylene
704 3 times for 1 hour each. The tissues were immersed in paraffin 3 times for 1 hour each
705 before being embedded in a paraffin block. The paraffin-embedded tissue blocks were
706 sectioned at 5 µm thickness on a microtome and floated in a 40°C water bath containing
707 distilled water. The sections were transferred onto glass slides which were suitable for
708 immunohistochemistry and the slides were dried at room temperature before use.

709
710 ***hPSC maintenance and pancreatic differentiation.*** *INS^{GFP/W}* MEL-1 cells were used to
711 generate pancreatic endocrine cells using a previously reported strategy⁹⁵. In brief,
712 *INS^{GFP/W}* MEL-1 cells were cultured on Matrigel-coated 6-well plates in StemFlex medium
713 (Gibco Thermo Fisher) and maintained at 37°C with 5% CO₂. At stage 1-day 1, cells were
714 exposed to basal RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 1× Glutamax (Thermo Fisher

715 Scientific), 50 µg/mL Normocin, 100 ng/mL Activin A (R&D systems), and 3 µM of
716 CHIR99021 (GSK3β inhibitor 3, Cayman Chemical) for 24 hours. At stage 1-day 2 and 3,
717 the medium was changed to basal RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 1× Glutamax,
718 50 µg/mL Normocin, 0.2% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Corning), 100 ng/mL Activin A for 2
719 days. At stage 2-day 4 and 5, the resulting definitive endoderm cells were cultured in
720 MCDB131 medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 1.5 g/L sodium
721 bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 10 mM glucose (Sigma Aldrich) at final concentration, 2%
722 bovine serum albumin (BSA, Lampire), 0.25 mM L-ascorbic acid (Sigma Aldrich) and 50
723 ng/ml of fibroblast growth factor 7 (FGF-7, Peprotech) to acquire primitive gut tube. At
724 stage 3-day 6 and day 7, cells were induced to differentiate to posterior foregut in MCDB
725 131 medium supplemented with 2.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 10 mM
726 glucose at final concentration, 2% BSA, 0.25 mM L-ascorbic acid, 50 ng/ml of FGF-7, 1
727 µM Retinoic acid (RA; Sigma Aldrich), 100 nM LDN193189 (LDN, Axon Medchem), 1:200
728 ITS-X (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 200 nM TPPB (Tocris Bioscience) and 0.25 µM SANT-
729 1 (Sigma Aldrich) for 2 days. At stage 4-day 8-day 10, cells were differentiated to
730 pancreatic endoderm in MCDB 131 medium supplemented with 2.5 g/L sodium
731 bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 10 mM glucose at final concentration, 2% BSA, 0.25 mM L-
732 ascorbic acid, 2 ng/ml of FGF-7, 0.1 µM RA, 200 nM LDN193189, 1:200 ITS-X, 100 nM
733 TPPB and 0.25 µM SANT-1 for 3 days. At stage 5-day 11-day 13, cells were differentiated
734 to pancreatic endocrine precursors in MCDB 131 medium supplemented with 1.5 g/L
735 sodium bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 20 mM glucose at final concentration, 2% BSA, 0.05
736 µM RA, 100 nM LDN, 1:200 ITS-X, 0.25 µM SANT-1, 1 mM T3 hormone (Sigma Aldrich),
737 10 µM ALK5 inhibitor II (Cayman Chemical), 10 µM zinc sulfate heptahydrate (Sigma

738 Aldrich) and 10 µg/ml of heparin (Sigma Aldrich) for 3 days. At day 14, cells were exposed
739 to MCDB 131 medium supplemented with 1.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 20
740 mM glucose at final concentration, 2% BSA, 100 nM LDN193189, 1:200 ITS-X, 1 µM T3,
741 10 µM ALK5 inhibitor II, 10 µM zinc sulfate, 10 µg/ml of heparin, 100 nM gamma secretase
742 inhibitor XX (Millipore) for 7 days. Then, cells were exposed to MCDB 131 medium
743 supplemented with 1.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 20 mM glucose at final
744 concentration, 2% BSA, 1:200 ITS-X, 1 µM T3, 10 µM ALK5 inhibitor II, 10 µM zinc sulfate
745 heptahydrate, 10 µg/ml of heparin, 1 mM N-acetyl cysteine (Sigma Aldrich), 10 µM Trolox
746 (Millipore), 2 µM R428 (MedchemExpress) for another 7-15 days. The medium was
747 subsequently refreshed every day.

748

749 ***hPSC differentiation toward endothelial cells.*** To derive endothelial cells from hPSCs,
750 we optimized a previously reported strategy⁹⁶. Briefly, H1 hESCs were passaged onto
751 Matrigel-coated 6-well plates in StemFlex medium. Before differentiation, we infected H1
752 hESCs with lentivirus carrying ETV2. After two days selection with 1 µg/ml puromycin and
753 1 day recovery in StemFlex medium, hESCs will be switched to StemDiff APEL medium
754 (STEMCELL Technologies) with 6 µM CHIR99021 for 2 days. Then, cells were cultured
755 in StemDiff APEL medium with an additional of 25 ng/ml BMP-4, 10 ng/ml bFGF and 50
756 ng/ml VEGF (R&D Systems) for another two days. On day 4, cells were dissociated with
757 Accutase (Innovative Cell Technologies) and reseeded onto p100 culture dishes in EC
758 Growth Medium MV2 (Promocell) with an additional 50 ng/ml VEGF for 4-6 days. Finally,
759 endothelial cells were generated and passaged every 3-5 days in EC Growth Medium
760 MV2 with an additional 50 ng/ml VEGF. Before coculture as organoids or non-coculture

761 as control, hPSCs-derived endothelial cells were purified by magnetic sorting using anti-
762 CD31 (PECAM1) beads.

763

764 ***hPSCs differentiation towards macrophages.*** H9 hESCs expressing RFP (RFP-H9)
765 were differentiated using a previously reported protocol⁹⁷. RFP-H9 cells were dissociated
766 with ReLeSR (STEMCELL Technologies) as small clusters onto Matrigel-coated 6-well
767 plates at low density. The day after passaging, cells were cultured in IF9S medium
768 supplemented with 50 ng/ml BMP-4, 15 ng/ml Activin A and 1.5 μ M CHIR99021. After 2
769 days, medium was refreshed with IF9S medium supplemented with 50 ng/ml VEGF, 50
770 ng/ml bFGF, 50 ng/ml SCF (R&D Systems) and 10 μ M SB431542 (Cayman Chemical).
771 On day 5 and 7, medium was changed into IF9S medium supplemented with 50 ng/ml IL-
772 6 (R&D Systems), 10 ng/ml IL-3 (R&D Systems), 50 ng/ml VEGF, 50 ng/ml bFGF, 50
773 ng/ml SCF and 50 ng/ml TPO (R&D Systems). On day 9, cells were dissociated with
774 TrypLE (Life Technologies) and resuspended in IF9S medium supplemented with 50
775 ng/ml IL-6, 10 ng/ml IL-3 and 80 ng/ml M-CSF (R&D Systems). On day 13, medium was
776 changed to IF9S medium supplemented with 50 ng/ml IL-6, 10 ng/ml IL-3 and 80 ng/ml
777 M-CSF. On day 15, monocytes can be collected at this stage for further experiments.
778 Otherwise, monocytes can be collected and plated on FBS-coated plates in IF9S medium
779 supplemented with 80 ng/ml M-CSF to generate macrophages. IF9S medium was
780 prepared according to previous publication⁹⁷. All differentiation steps were cultured under
781 normoxic conditions at 37 °C, 5% CO₂. Before coculture as organoids or non-coculture as
782 control, hPSCs-derived macrophages were purified by magnetic sorting using anti-CD14
783 beads.

784

785 **GeoMx transcriptomic and protein assays.** Human control and COVID-19 pancreas
786 samples were prepared as FFPE slides and applied to the NanoString GeoMx® Digital
787 Spatial Profiler platform according to the manufacturer's instructions. In brief, slides from
788 FFPE embedded pancreatic autopsy samples were prepared two weeks before
789 experiments. Insulin (INS), Pan-ck (Pan Cytokeratin) and nuclear dye (TOTO™-3 Iodide)
790 were used as morphology markers for selecting ROIs. We selected 6 ROIs in human islet
791 areas, 3 ROIs in exocrine area and 3 ROIs in ductal area for each pancreas sample. The
792 protein assays and transcriptomic assays were performed using adjacent sides. Data
793 analysis was performed on GeoMx DSP software.

794

795 **Construction of VMI organoids.** The VMI organoids were constructed with hPSC-
796 derived pancreatic endocrine cells, endothelial cells, and macrophages. Briefly,
797 endocrine cells were dissociated with Accutase (Innovative Cell Technologies) at Day 16-
798 19, macrophages were dissociated with Accutase after day 19 of the differentiation
799 procedure, and endothelial cells were dissociated with Trypsin 0.25% EDTA (THERMO
800 FISHER) after day 10 of the differentiation procedure. The dissociated single cells were
801 reaggregated with approximately 70-80% pancreatic endocrine cells, 10-20% endothelial
802 cells, and approximately 2-5% macrophages in VMI organoid culture medium containing
803 80% pancreatic endocrine cells' stage 6 medium (MCDB 131 medium supplemented with
804 1.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 1× Glutamax, 20 mM glucose at final concentration, 2% BSA,
805 100 nM LDN193189, 1:200 ITS-X, 1 μM T3, 10 μM ALK5 inhibitor II, 10 μM zinc sulfate,
806 10 μg/ml of heparin, 100 nM gamma secretase inhibitor XX) plus 20% endothelial cells'

807 medium (EC Growth Medium MV2 with an additional 50 ng/ml VEGF) using low-attach U
808 plates. 48 hours later, the cells self-assembled into organoids. Subsequently, the medium
809 was changed every two days.

810

811 **Human islets.** The pancreatic organs were obtained from the local organ procurement
812 organization under the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The islets were
813 isolated in the Human Islet Core at the University of Pennsylvania following the guidelines
814 of Clinical Islet Transplantation consortium protocol⁹⁸. Briefly, the pancreas was digested
815 following intraductal injection of Collagenase & Neutral Protease in Hanks' balanced salt
816 solution. Liberated islets were then purified on continuous density gradients
817 (Cellgro/Mediatech) using the COBE 2991 centrifuge and cultured in CIT culture media
818 and kept in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator.

819

820 **Cell Lines.** HEK293T (human [*Homo sapiens*] fetal kidney) and Vero E6 (African green
821 monkey [*Chlorocebus aethiops*] kidney) were obtained from ATCC). Cells were cultured
822 in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% FBS and 100
823 I.U./mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. All cell lines were incubated at 37°C with
824 5% CO₂.

825

826 **SARS-CoV-2 Viruses and infection.** SARS-CoV-2, isolate USA-WA1/2020 was
827 obtained from World Reference Center for Emerging Viruses and Arboviruses located at
828 University of Texas Medical Branch via the CDC. Vero E6 cells (ATCC) served as the

829 culture system for SARS-CoV-2 propagation, utilizing EMEM with a supplement of 10%
830 FCS, 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate, and 10 mM HEPES (citation). All work involving live SARS-
831 CoV-2 was performed in the CDC/USDA-approved BSL-3 facility at Aaron Diamond AIDS
832 Research Center located at Columbia University. The Aaron Diamond AIDS Research
833 Center's BSL-3 facility at Columbia University prepared the SARS-CoV-2 WA1 strain,
834 subsequently stored at -70°C. Infection assays on human islets or hESCs-derived VMI
835 organoids were conducted in culture medium at specified multiplicity of infections (MOIs)
836 and incubated at 37°C. Post-infection, at predetermined hours post-infection (hpi), the
837 cells underwent triple PBS washes and a 60-minute fixation in 4% formaldehyde at room
838 temperature. Culture medium alone served as control.

839

840 **CVB4 Viruses and infection.** The aliquots of CVB4 E2, the diabetogenic strain of
841 coxsackievirus B4 virus were provided by Didier Hober and were then stored frozen at
842 -80°C. Human islets or hESCs-derived VMI organoids were infected with CVB4 E2 at 2
843 $\times 10^6$ PFU/ml (2×10^4 PFU/organoid)⁹⁹. Human islets or VMI organoids were then
844 incubated in a humidified incubator at 37°C with 5% CO₂ at predetermined hours post-
845 infection (hpi), the cells underwent triple PBS washes and a 60-minute fixation in 4%
846 formaldehyde at room temperature. Culture medium alone served as control.

847

848 **Immunohistochemistry.** Tissues were fixed overnight in 4% buffered formalin and
849 transferred to 30% sucrose before being snap-frozen in O.C.T (Fisher Scientific,
850 Pittsburgh, PA). Live organoids in culture were directly fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for

851 30 min, followed with 60 min of permeabilization and blocking in PBS supplemented with
852 0.2% Triton X-100 and 5% horse serum. For immunofluorescence, cells or tissue sections
853 were stained with primary antibodies at 4°C overnight and secondary antibodies at RT for
854 1h. The information for primary antibodies and secondary antibodies were provided in
855 Table S3. Nuclei were counterstained by DAPI.

856

857 ***Single-cell RNA-seq data analysis of human islets upon SARS-CoV-2 or CVB4***
858 ***infection.*** The 10X libraries were sequenced on the Illumina NovaSeq6000 sequencer
859 with paired end reads (28 bp for read 1 and 90 bp for read 2). Subsequently, the
860 sequencing data were primarily analyzed using the 10X cellranger pipeline v6.1.1 in a
861 two-step process. In the initial step, cellranger *mkfastq* demultiplexed the samples and
862 generated fastq files. In the subsequent step, cellranger *count* aligned the fastq files to a
863 customized reference genome, extracting a gene expression UMI counts matrix for each
864 library. The customized reference genome was constructed by integrating the 10X pre-
865 built human reference GRCh38-2020-A, the SARS-CoV-2 virus genome, and the CVB4
866 virus genome using the cellranger *mkref*. The two virus genomes were obtained from the
867 NCBI Nucleotide database with accession numbers NC_045512.2 (SARS-CoV-2) and
868 AF311939.1 (CVB4).

869

870 We applied several filtering criteria, excluding cells with fewer than 500 or more than 6000
871 detected genes, cells with fewer than 1000 or more than 60000 detected transcripts, and
872 cells with mitochondrial gene content exceeding 15%. Subsequently, we employed a
873 deconvolution strategy¹⁰⁰ for normalizing gene expression UMI counts, utilizing the R

874 scran package (v. 1.14.1). Specifically, we initiated the process by pre-clustering cells with
875 the *quickCluster* function. We then computed size factors per cell within each cluster,
876 rescaled these factors by normalization between clusters using the *computeSumFactors*
877 function, and normalized the UMI counts per cell by the size factors, followed by a
878 logarithmic transform using the *normalize* function. We further normalized UMI counts
879 across samples using the *multiBatchNorm* function in the R batchelor package (v1.2.1).
880 We employed solo¹⁰¹ v0.6 to identify doublets, which were subsequently excluded from
881 the downstream analysis.

882

883 We identified highly variable genes using the *FindVariableFeatures* function in the R
884 Seurat package v3.1.0, selecting the top 3000 variable genes after excluding
885 mitochondria genes, ribosomal genes, viral genes, and dissociation-related genes. The
886 list of dissociation-related genes, originally built on mouse data, was converted to human
887 ortholog genes using Ensembl BioMart. Cells from multiple samples were aligned based
888 on their mutual nearest neighbors (MNNs)¹⁰² using the *fastMNN* function in the R
889 batchelor package v1.2.1. This involved performing principal component analysis (PCA)
890 on the highly variable genes and then correcting the principal components (PCs)
891 according to their MNNs. We chose the corrected top 50 PCs for downstream
892 visualization and clustering analysis.

893

894 Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) dimensional reduction were
895 executed using the *RunUMAP* function in the R Seurat package, with the number of
896 neighboring points set to 30 and the training epochs set to 4000. Cells were clustered into

897 thirteen clusters by constructing a shared nearest neighbor graph and grouping cells of
898 similar transcriptome profiles using the *FindNeighbors* function and *FindClusters* function
899 (resolution set to 0.2) in the R Seurat package. After reviewing the clusters, we merged
900 them into nine clusters representing acinar cells, α cells, β cells, δ cells, ductal cells,
901 mesenchymal cells, PP cells, immune cells, and endothelial cells for further analysis.
902 Marker genes for the merged nine clusters were identified by performing differential
903 expression analysis between cells inside and outside each cluster using the *FindMarkers*
904 function in the R Seurat package. The expressions of cell type markers within each cell
905 population were depicted through violin plots, utilizing the *VlnPlot* function in the R Seurat
906 package. The expression of CVB4-polyprotein were visualized either through UMAP plot,
907 employing the Seurat *DimPlot* function, or via jitter plot created with R ggplot2 package
908 v3.2.1.

909

910 To assess cell death associated pathways within varied cell types following SARS-CoV-
911 2 infection, we compared gene expressions in α cells, β cells, δ cells, mesenchymal cells
912 and endothelial cells between mock and SARS-CoV-2 infected conditions using the
913 Wilcoxon rank-sum test via the *FindMarkers* function in the R Seurat package.
914 Subsequently, we ordered the genes based on log2 fold change and performed gene set
915 enrichment analysis on cell death associated pathways using the *GSEA* function in the R
916 clusterProfiler¹⁰³ package v4.6.2. The expressions of pyroptosis pathway associated
917 genes in β cells under mock and SARS-CoV-2 infected conditions were visualized using
918 the *DotPlot* function in the R Seurat package. The expressions of HLA genes and
919 autoantigen associated genes in β cells under mock, SARS-CoV-2 infection or CVB4

920 infection conditions were represented using violin plots generated with the *VlnPlot*
921 function in the R Seurat package.

922

923 To investigate the immune cell population, we extracted immune cells and performed a
924 sub-clustering analysis. Highly variable genes were identified using the
925 *FindVariableFeatures* function in the R Seurat package, and the top 3000 variable genes
926 were selected, excluding mitochondria genes, ribosomal genes, viral genes and
927 dissociation-related genes. Cells from multiple samples were aligned using the *fastMNN*
928 function in the R batchelor package, as described above. The top 50 corrected PCs were
929 selected for UMAP dimensional reduction using the *RunUMAP* function in the R Seurat
930 package, with the number of neighboring points set to 30 and training epochs setting to
931 200. The immune cell population was clustered into seven clusters using the
932 *FindNeighbors* function and *FindClusters* function (resolution set to 0.8) in the R Seurat
933 package. After reviewing these clusters, we merged them into five clusters representing
934 macrophages, dendritic cells, immune progenitor cells, T cells and B cells.

935

936 UMAP and violin plots were generated to illustrate the cell clusters and highlight
937 expressions of selected genes using the R ggplot2 package v3.2.1. Dot plots were
938 generated to show gene expression changes in the mock and infected conditions using
939 the *DotPlot* function in the R Seurat package.

940

941 **Single-cell RNA-seq data analysis of VMI organoids.** The 10X scRNA-seq libraries
942 underwent sequencing on the Illumina NovaSeq6000 sequencer with pair-end reads (28
943 bp for read 1 and 90 bp for read 2). Subsequently, the sequencing data were primarily
944 analyzed using the 10X cellranger pipeline v7.1.0 in a two-step process. In the initial step,
945 cellranger *mkfastq* demultiplexed the samples and generated fastq files. In the
946 subsequent step, cellranger *count* aligned the fastq files to the 10X pre-built human
947 reference GRCh38-2020-A reference, extracting a gene expression UMI counts matrix
948 for each library.

949
950 Several filtering criteria were applied, excluding cells with fewer than 300 or more than
951 9000 detected genes, cells with fewer than 600 or more than 75000 detected transcripts,
952 and cells with mitochondrial gene content exceeding 10%. Doublet cells in each sample
953 were identified, assuming a doublet rate 0.8% per 1000 recovered cells, as reported by
954 10X Genomics, using the R DoubletFinder¹⁰⁴ package v2.0.3. The doublet cells were
955 subsequently excluded from downstream analysis.

956
957 We employed a deconvolution strategy¹⁰⁰ for normalizing gene expression UMI counts,
958 utilizing the R scran (v.1.22.1), scuttle (v1.4.0) and batchelor (v1.10.0) packages. The
959 process involved pre-clustering cells with the *quickCluster* function in the R scran
960 package, computing size factors per cell within each cluster, rescaling these factors by
961 normalization between clusters using the *computeSumFactors* function in the R scran
962 package, normalizing the UMI counts per cell by the size factors, followed by a logarithmic
963 transform using the *logNormCounts* function in the R scuttle package. Further

964 normalization of UMI counts across samples was performed using the *multiBatchNorm*
965 function in the R batchelor package. Cells from multiple samples were aligned based on
966 their MNNs using the *quickCorrect* function in the R batchelor package. This involved
967 identifying highly variable genes, performing PCA on the highly variable genes and then
968 correcting the PCs according to their MNNs. The corrected top 50 PCs were chosen for
969 downstream clustering analysis. The corrected gene expression values on variable genes
970 were reconstructed based on the corrected PCs and were used for coembedding scRNA-
971 seq and snATAC-seq data.

972

973 UMAP dimensional reduction were executed using the *RunUMAP* function in the R Seurat
974 package¹⁰⁵ av4.1.0, with the number of neighboring points set to 30 and the training
975 epochs set to 500. Cells were clustered into fourteen clusters by constructing a shared
976 nearest neighbor graph and grouping cells of similar transcriptome profiles using the
977 *FindNeighbors* function and *FindClusters* function (resolution set to 0.5) in the R Seurat
978 package. After reviewing the clusters, we merged them into nine clusters representing
979 acinar cells, α cells, β cells, δ cells, ductal cells, endocrine progenitor cells, endothelial
980 cells, macrophages and proliferation cells for further analysis.

981

982 DE analysis was performed on β cells between VMI organoids and non-coculture cells,
983 and between VMI organoids with and without proinflammatory macrophages using the
984 Wilcoxon rank-sum test via the *FindMarkers* function in the R Seurat package. Volcano
985 plots were generated to illustrate DE genes using the R ggplot2 package v3.4.2. Dot plots
986 were generated to show gene expression changes in different clusters or conditions using

987 the *DotPlot* function in the R Seurat package. Pie charts were utilized to visualize cell type
988 compositions within VMI organoids using the R ggplot package v3.4.2.

989
990 To determine the mechanisms by which proinflammatory macrophages induce β cell
991 pyroptosis, we conducted cell-cell interaction analysis between macrophage and β cell
992 populations using the R CellChat¹⁰⁶ package v1.5.0. Bubble plots were generated to
993 illustrate the communication probabilities mediated by ligand-receptor pairs in between
994 macrophage and β cell populations using the *netVisual_bubble* function.

995
996 ***Single-nuclear ATAC-seq data analysis of VMI organoids.*** The 10X snATAC-seq
997 libraries underwent sequencing on the Illumina NovaSeq6000 sequencer with pair-end
998 reads (51bp for read 1 and 51bp for read 2). Subsequently, the sequencing data were
999 primarily analyzed using the 10X cellranger-atac pipeline v2.1.0 in a two-step process. In
1000 the initial step, cellranger-atac *mkfastq* demultiplexed the samples and generated fastq
1001 files. In the subsequent step, cellranger-atac *count* aligned the fastq files to the 10X pre-
1002 built GRCh38 2020-A-2.0.0 reference, performed peak calling, and extracted a barcoded
1003 and aligned fragment file for each library.

1004
1005 We utilized the R Signac¹⁰⁷ package v1.10.0 to analyze snATAC-seq data. Specifically,
1006 we created a common set of peaks across all samples using the *reduce* function and
1007 generated a peaks x cell matrix for each sample by quantifying the common peaks using
1008 the *FeatureMatrix* function. We applied several filtering criteria, excluding cells with fewer

1009 than 3000 or more than 30000 peaks detected, cells with fewer than 20% of reads in
1010 peaks, cells with more than 5% of reads in blacklist regions, cells with the ratio of
1011 mononucleosomal to nucleosome-free fragments greater than 4, and cells with TSS
1012 enrichment score smaller than 3. Term frequency-inverse document frequency (TF-IDF)
1013 normalization was performed using the *RunTFIDF* function. We selected the top-ranked
1014 peaks using the *FindTopFeatures* function and ran singular value decomposition (SVD)
1015 to obtain latent semantic indexing (LSI) components using the *RunSVD* function. The top
1016 50 LSI components, excluding the first LSI component, were used for downstream
1017 clustering analysis.

1018

1019 We classified cells into the nine cell types based on clustering results from scRNA-seq
1020 data. This was achieved by quantifying gene expression activity from the snATAC-seq
1021 data using the *GeneActivity* function, identifying anchors between scRNA-seq and
1022 snATAC-seq data using the *FindTransferAnchors* function, and transferring the cell
1023 clustering labels from scRNA-seq to snATAC-seq data using the *TransferData* function.

1024 We co-embedded the scRNA-seq and snATAC-seq cells in the same UMAP plot. This was
1025 done by imputing gene expressions for the snATAC-seq cells based on the corrected
1026 gene expression values from the scRNA-seq cells using the *TransferData* function,
1027 merging cells from scRNA-seq and snATAC-seq, scaling the expression values and
1028 performing PCA using the *ScaleData* and *RunPCA* functions, and selecting the top 30
1029 PCs for UMAP dimensional reduction using the *RunUMAP* function with the number of
1030 neighboring points setting to 30 and training epochs setting to 500.

1031

1032 UMAP plots were generated to illustrate the cell clusters using the R *ggplot2* package
1033 v3.4.2. Aggregated chromatin accessibility signals were visualized for multiple groups of
1034 cells within a given genomic region using the *CoveragePlot* function. Chromatin
1035 accessibility signal for individual cells were visualized using the *TilePlot* function. Pie
1036 charts were utilized to visualize cell type compositions within VMI organoids using the R
1037 *ggplot* package v3.4.2.

1038

1039 ***Bulk RNA-seq data analysis.*** The libraries underwent sequencing with single-end 50
1040 bps on the Illumina NovaSeq6000 sequencer. Raw sequencing reads in BCL format were
1041 processed through *bcl2fastq* 2.20 (Illumina) for FASTQ conversion and demultiplexing.
1042 After trimming the adaptors with *cutadapt* v1.18, the sequencing reads were mapped to
1043 the human GRCh37 reference by *STAR*¹⁰⁸ av2.5.2b. Read counts per gene were
1044 extracted using *HTSeq-count* v0.11.2¹⁰⁹, and normalized through a regularized log
1045 transformation with the *DESeq2* package v1.26.0¹¹⁰.

1046

1047 ***RNA-Seq.*** Total RNA was extracted in *TRIzol* (Invitrogen) and DNase I treated using
1048 *Directzol* RNA Miniprep kit (Zymo Research) according to the manufacturer's instructions.
1049 RNAseq libraries of polyadenylated RNA were prepared using the *TruSeq* RNA Library
1050 *Prep Kit* v2 (Illumina) or *TruSeq* Stranded mRNA Library *Prep Kit* (Illumina) according to
1051 the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA libraries were sequenced using an Illumina
1052 *NextSeq* 500 platform. The resulting single end reads were checked for quality (*FastQC*
1053 v0.11.5) and processed using the *Digital Expression Explorer 2 (DEE2)*¹¹¹ workflow.
1054 Adapter trimming was performed with *Skewer* (v0.2.2)¹¹². Further quality control done

1055 with Minion, part of the Kraken package¹¹³. The resultant filtered reads were mapped to
1056 human reference genome GRCh38 using STAR aligner¹⁰⁸ and gene-wise expression
1057 counts generated using the “-quantMode GeneCounts” parameter. BigWig files were
1058 generated using the bamCoverage function in deepTools2 (v.3.3.0)¹¹⁴. After further
1059 filtering and quality control, R package edgeR¹¹⁵ was used to calculate RPKM and Log2
1060 counts per million (CPM) matrices as well as perform differential expression analysis.
1061 Heatmap was generated using online tool: <http://www.heatmapper.ca/>.

1062

1063 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

1064 N=3 independent biological replicates were used for all experiments unless otherwise
1065 indicated. *P*-values were calculated by unpaired two-tailed Student’s t-test or one way
1066 ANOVA with a common control unless otherwise indicated. n.s. indicates a non-significant
1067 difference. **p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01 and ****p*<0.001.

1068

1069 **Supplemental Video 1.** VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation. β cells: INS-GFP;
1070 macrophages: RFP; and endothelial cells: Far Red. **Related to Figure 3.**

1071 **Supplemental Video 2.** VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation stained with
1072 antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red) and PECAM1 (CD31, Blue). **Related to**
1073 **Figure 3.**

1074 **Supplemental Video 3.** VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation stained with
1075 antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red), GCG (Blue) and PECAM1 (CD31, Gray).
1076 **Related to Figure 3.**

1077 **Supplemental Video 4.** VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation stained with
1078 antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red), SST (Blue) and PECAM1 (CD31, Gray).

1079 **Related to Figure 3.**

1080 **Supplemental Video 5.** VMI organoids at day 14 after reaggregation stained with
1081 antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red), NKX6.1 (Blue) and PECAM1 (CD31, Gray).

1082 **Related to Figure 3.**

1083 **Supplemental Video 6.** Live imaging of calcium signaling in VMI organoids upon high
1084 glucose stimulation. High glucose: 20 mM D-glucose. Each frame was captured every
1085 500 ms. **Related to Figure 3.**

1086 **Supplemental Video 7.** Live imaging of VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation
1087 exposed with with CVB4 virus (2×10^6 PFU/ml). β cells: INS-GFP, macrophages: RFP.

1088 **Related to Figure 3.**

1089 **Supplemental Video 8.** VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing
1090 unstimulated macrophages stained with antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red),
1091 PECAM1 (CD31, Gray) and DAPI (Blue). **Related to Figure 5.**

1092 **Supplemental Video 9.** VMI organoids at day 7 after reaggregation containing
1093 proinflammatory macrophages stained with antibodies against INS (Green), CD68 (Red),
1094 PECAM1 (CD31, Gray) and DAPI (Blue). **Related to Figure 5.**

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