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Small CD4 mimetics sensitize HIV-1-infected macrophages to antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity

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SUMMARY

HIV-1 envelope (Env) conformation determines the susceptibility of infected CD4⁺ T cells to antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). Upon interaction with CD4, Env adopts more “open” conformations, exposing ADCC epitopes. HIV-1 limits Env-CD4 interaction and protects infected cells against ADCC by downregulating CD4 via Nef, Vpu, and Env. Limited data exist, however, of the role of these proteins in downmodulating CD4 on infected macrophages and how this impacts Env conformation. While Nef, Vpu, and Env are all required to efficiently downregulate CD4 on infected CD4⁺ T cells, we show here that any one of these proteins is

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A.L. and A.F. conceived the study. A.L., S.D., and A.F. designed experimental approaches. A.L., L.M., S.D., H.M., D.C., G.B.B., R.G., G.G.L., J.R., R.D., and A.F. performed, analyzed, and interpreted the experiments. B.H.H., F.K., J.C.K., J.P., H.D., H.C.C., A.B.S. provided reagents. A.L., B.H.H., and A.F. wrote the paper. All authors have read, edited, and approved the final manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

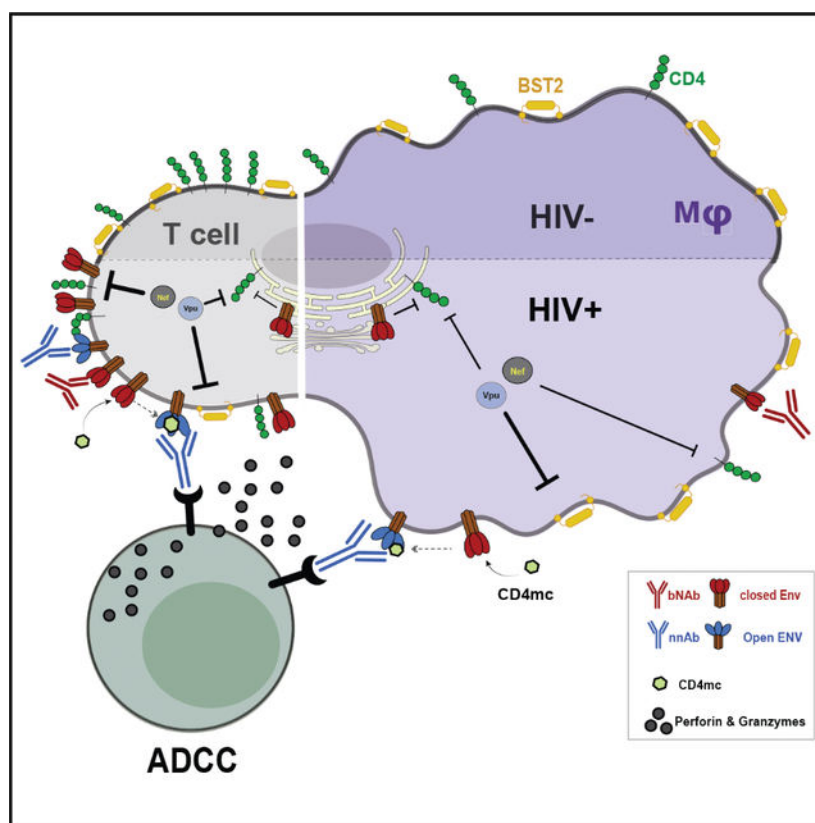
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sufficient to downmodulate most CD4 from the surface of infected macrophages. Consistent with this finding, Nef and Vpu have a lesser impact on Env conformation and ADCC sensitivity in infected macrophages compared with CD4⁺ T cells. However, treatment of infected macrophages with small CD4 mimetics exposes vulnerable CD4-induced Env epitopes and sensitizes them to ADCC.

In brief

In this study, Laumaea et al. characterize CD4 downregulation, Env conformation, and ADCC responses in infected macrophages and autologous CD4⁺ T cells. They report that Nef and Vpu protect infected macrophages from ADCC responses mediated by HIV⁺ plasma and that small CD4 mimetics sensitize them to ADCC.

Graphical Abstract



INTRODUCTION

Being the only viral protein exposed on the surface of infected cells, the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein (Env) is the main antigen targeted by neutralizing and non-neutralizing antibodies. Indeed, broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) have been shown to efficiently mediate antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) against productively infected cells.¹⁻⁴ Most of these studies largely focused on ADCC responses against infected CD4⁺ T cells. However, comparatively little is known about the conformation of Env at the surface

of infected macrophages and consequently its impact on responses against this cell type, with one recent study reporting resistance of infected macrophages to natural killer (NK) cell-mediated killing using select bNAbs.⁵

Macrophages, which are distributed throughout the body, are highly heterogeneous (reviewed in Qian et al.⁶). Tissue location of macrophage populations (blood, brain, gut, lungs, liver) is intimately associated with their ontogeny, and several lineages/subsets have been described based on their developmental origins: embryonic yolk sac and fetal liver precursors vs. bone marrow progenitors (reviewed in Ginhoux and Guilliams⁷). To date the relevance of HIV infection in the different subsets is poorly defined, though evidence support microglia, a tissue-resident subset, as an important target for HIV in the brain.^{8–10} Despite the susceptibility of macrophages to HIV infection,^{11–14} there exists important differences between CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages that could influence the efficiency of eliminating these cells. An important difference is cell surface levels of CD4,¹⁵ which have been shown to be important in the exposure of ADCC epitopes on CD4⁺ T cells.^{16–18} Interactions of CD4 with functionally conserved residues (365–373) within gp120's CD4 binding site (CD4BS), in particular, a critical electrostatic interaction between the aspartic acid at position 368 (D368) of gp120 with arginine 59 (R59) of CD4 that modulates infection,^{19,20} importantly, are key to exposing ADCC epitopes.^{16,21,22} Once infection is established, CD4 is downregulated from the surface of cells via the accessory proteins Nef and Vpu, as well as Env. These mechanisms are well characterized in CD4⁺ T cells,^{16,21,23,24} though there remains a paucity of data on their role in HIV-infected macrophages.

Here we used monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) as a model to better understand the role of HIV-1 Nef, Vpu, and Env on CD4 downregulation in this cell type and studied how this impacts Env conformation and susceptibility to ADCC.

RESULTS

HIV-1 mediated CD4 downregulation in macrophages

HIV-1 uses Vpu, Env, and Nef to downregulate CD4 from the surface of primary CD4⁺ T cells.^{25–30} To evaluate whether this was also the case for macrophages, which express comparatively little CD4,¹⁵ we infected MDMs and autologous CD4⁺T cells with the wild-type (WT) full-length infectious molecular clone (IMC) of the macrophage tropic, R5 isolate, HIV-1_{AD8}. The relative contribution toward CD4 downregulation by these viral proteins was measured by infecting cells with mutant IMCs unable to express Nef (N–), Vpu (U–) or both accessory proteins (N–U–). Additionally, the impact of Env on CD4 downregulation was measured with IMCs expressing an Env variant containing a mutation in the CD4 binding site (CD4BS) that prevents Env interaction with CD4^{20,21} (D368R; N–U–D368R). In both cell types, the maximal CD4 downregulation was achieved with the WT IMC (Figure 1A; Table S1). Infection with N–, U–, and N–U– but not D368R significantly disrupted CD4 downregulation in primary CD4 T cells. Of note, Env contribution to CD4 downregulation was evident when the D368R mutation was added to the N–U– IMC (N–U–D368R). In agreement with previous observations,^{16,21} only in this context, infected cells expressed the same levels of CD4 as uninfected cells (Figures 1A and 1B). Neither the

abrogation of Nef and/or Vpu nor the CD4BS mutation completely restored CD4 surface levels to those observed in uninfected cells. In both cell types, all three mechanisms of CD4 downregulation (i.e., Nef, Vpu, and Env, N-U-D368R) needed to be disrupted in order to present comparable levels of CD4 expression as mock infected cells (Figures 1A and 1B). As expected, in CD4⁺ T cells, deletion of Nef or Vpu resulted in a significant increase of cell surface levels of CD4 (Figures 1A and 1B). The same deletions did not impact CD4 levels at the surface of infected macrophages, which remained the same as in WT infected cells. Both Nef and Vpu had to be deleted (N-U-) in order to observe a significant increase in cell surface levels of CD4 in macrophages (Figures 1A and 1B). The lower overall CD4 expression on macrophages, as previously reported¹⁵ and supported herein (Figure 1A), likely explains this phenotype. To ensure that this phenotype was not restricted to HIV-1_{AD8}, we performed analogous experiments with two additional R5 (HIV-1_{JRFL}, HIV-1_{YU2}) and one dual tropic (HIV-1_{CH77}) IMCs. Similar phenotypes were observed (Figures 1B and S1E-S1G; Table S1).

In HIV-1-infected CD4⁺ T cells, Nef and Vpu restrict ADCC responses by limiting Env-CD4 complexes that otherwise expose vulnerable epitopes recognized by antibodies commonly present in plasma from infected individuals.^{16,21,23,31-35} In addition to downregulating CD4, Vpu contributes to protection of infected cells from ADCC by downregulating the restriction factor BST-2, which traps viral particles and results in antigen accumulation at the cell surface.^{16,21,36,37} We therefore measured cell surface levels of BST-2 in infected CD4⁺ T cells and autologous macrophages. In both cell types, Vpu was the principal viral determinant modulating BST-2 expression (Figure 1C). Similar results were obtained with the other IMCs tested (Figures 1D and S1E-S1G and Table S1). Thus, with respect to BST-2 modulation, Vpu performs parallel roles on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages. Of note, we observed that for HIV-1 AD8 and YU2, full recovery of BST-2 levels at the cell surface required Nef deletion (N-U-), in agreement with a recent report suggesting that Nef from some HIV-1 strains, including AD8, can downregulate BST-2.³⁸

Env conformation at the surface of infected primary CD4⁺ T cells and autologous macrophages

Using a panel of anti-Env antibodies (Table S2) and IMC variants (WT, N-, U-, N-U-, D368R, and N-U-D368R), we evaluated Env conformation at the surface of infected macrophages and autologous CD4⁺ T cells. In both cell types, recognition of infected cells with bNAbs having a conformational preference for the “closed” trimer (PG9, PGT121, 10.1074, 3BNC.117, PGT151) was modulated by Vpu. Vpu deletion (U-) alone or in combination with Nef (N-U-) enhanced recognition, in a manner that reflected overall amount of Env at the surface of infected cells, as measured with the conformational independent 2G12 antibody (Figure 2A). This is consistent with previous studies demonstrating that Vpu-mediated BST-2 downregulation prevents virion accumulation on the cell surface, thereby reducing the overall levels of detectable Env.^{16,21,36,37,39} The impact of Vpu on cell recognition by the different bNAbs was markedly lower on infected macrophages compared with CD4⁺ T cells (Figure 2).

PG9 recognizes V1V2 epitopes on the trimer apex^{40–42} and preferentially interacts with the “closed” Env. Indeed, interaction of Env with membrane-bound CD4 was shown to decrease PG9 interaction.¹⁶ Supporting the existence of a “closed” conformation of the unliganded trimer, we observed similar levels of Env recognition by PG9 (Figure 2B) at the surface of WT infected CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages (Figure 2B). Interestingly, while CD4-Env disruption in the context of the N-U-D368R infected cells significantly enhanced binding of PG9 on CD4⁺ T cells, this was not observed for macrophages (Figure 2B, lower panel). This phenotype was recapitulated with the HIV-1_{CH77} and HIV-1_{YU2} N-U-D368R mutants (Figure S2B).

Recent work showed comparable staining of Env with the 3BNC117 CD4BS Ab on both cell types,⁵ while others such as N6⁵ and NIH-45–46⁴³ showed better recognition of macrophages in comparison to CD4⁺ T cells. Consistent with Clayton et al.,⁵ we observed that 3BNC117 and VRC03 recognize Env similarly on both WT infected CD4⁺T cells and macrophages (Figures 2E and 2F). These CD4BS antibodies displayed improved recognition of cells infected with a Vpu- virus (Figures 2E and 2F). This recognition was diminished by deleting Nef. In the absence of Nef, there is more CD4 on the cell surface interacting with Env,¹⁶ therefore occluding the CD4BS. The D368R variant slightly decreased recognition by these antibodies, as expected due to the role played by D368 for their interaction.^{44,45} While disruption of the Env-CD4 interaction in the absence of Nef and Vpu (N–U–D368R) enhanced 3BNC117 recognition of infected CD4⁺ T cells, this did not happen in macrophages. This is likely due to low amounts of CD4 on the surface of macrophages, which might not be sufficient to compete with this CD4BS bNAbs (Figures 2E and 2F). When PGT151, an antibody that recognizes the interface between gp120 and gp41,⁴⁶ was tested, we observed efficient recognition of cells infected with a virus lacking Vpu or expressing Env D368R, but not when both Vpu and Nef were absent (Figure 2G). At the surface of infected cells, CD4 and Env are interacting on the same membrane, and the CD4 domains D3–D4 may prevent PGT151 access of its epitope on Env, which is located beneath the CD4 binding site. As observed for 3BNC117, disruption of Env-CD4 interaction in absence of Nef and Vpu (N–U– D368R) enhanced the recognition of infected CD4⁺ T cells by PGT151 but not in infected macrophages, consistent with low levels of CD4 in this cell type.

The bNAbs 10E8 recognizes the membrane proximal external region (MPER) of gp41.⁴⁷ While binding the unliganded trimer likely explains its neutralization breadth,⁴⁷ 10E8’s epitope, as with other MPER Abs, is better exposed upon CD4 interaction.⁴⁸ Accordingly, Nef deletion enhanced recognition of CD4⁺ T cells infected with the N– and N–U– constructs and was dependent on Env-CD4 interaction since introduction of the D368R mutation significantly decreased its binding (Figure 2H). Interestingly, no 10E8 recognition for macrophages was observed upon Nef and Vpu deletion (Figure 2H) despite enhanced recognition of CD4⁺T cells infected with the N- and N-U- constructs. For CD4⁺ T cells, this effect appeared to be dependent on Env-CD4 interaction since introduction of the D368R mutation significantly decreases its binding (Figure 2H). Whether this cell-type-dependent discrepancy is linked to the different levels of CD4 at the cell surface remains to be determined. Of note, however, similar phenotypes were observed with the three additional IMCs tested (JRFL, YU2, and CH77) (Figures S2–S4).

We then evaluated the recognition of infected cells by nnAbs. In agreement with the “closed” conformation adopted by the unliganded Env trimer, none of the tested nnAbs efficiently recognized WT infected cells (Figures 3A–3D). The CD4-triggerable nature of the epitope they recognize has been well documented.^{16–18,23,31,49,50} Accordingly, all Abs recognized more efficiently N–, U–, and N–U– infected CD4⁺ T cells, with the latter two mutants (U–, N–U–) to a greater magnitude, owing also to unconstrained action of BST-2 (Figure 3A). Abrogation of Env-CD4 interaction by introduction of the D368R mutation significantly impaired recognition by these nnAbs (Figure 3A), further supporting their CD4-induced nature. Importantly, consistent with lower CD4 levels on macrophages,¹⁵ these Abs barely detected infected macrophages with the exception of N– and N–U– infected cells, albeit to a lesser magnitude than CD4⁺ T cells (Figure 3B).

Exposing CD4i epitopes on the surface of infected macrophages

It has been well documented that nnAbs fail to recognize Env in its “closed” conformation.^{1,3,16,21–24,39,51,52} As shown in Figure 3, infected macrophages make no exception with poor recognition of WT infected cells by all tested nnAbs.

Small CD4-mimetic compounds (CD4mc) were shown to expose vulnerable Env epitopes at the surface of infected CD4⁺ T cells, resulting in their sensitization to ADCC mediated by nnAbs and plasma from infected individuals.^{22,52,53} To evaluate whether this could apply to infected macrophages, we used BNM-III-170, a CD4mc extensively used to expose epitopes recognized by nnAbs on infected primary CD4⁺ T cells.^{53–56} To facilitate comparisons, we infected autologous primary CD4⁺ T cells and evaluated the capacity of four non-neutralizing antibodies to recognize infected cells (macrophages and CD4⁺ T cells). As described above, in the absence of CD4mc the four nnAbs tested (19b, 17b, A32, and F240) poorly recognized WT infected macrophages or CD4⁺ T cells (Figures 3A and 3B). Consistent with the capacity of BNM-III-170 to “open up” Env and expose vulnerable epitopes, CD4mc addition enabled efficient recognition by 19b, 17b, and F240 (Figures 3C and 3D). In both infected CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages, and in agreement with the literature,^{52,53,55,56} efficient exposure of the gp120 inner domain cluster A region recognized by A32 required addition of the CoRBS 17b antibody together with the CD4mc, being more notable with infected MDMs (Figures 3C–3F and S4), potentially highlighting the efficiency of the CD4mc on MDMs that is otherwise masked by the CD4-rich surface of CD4⁺ T cells so that only a slight increase in A32 binding from baseline is observed when CD4mc and/or 17b are added. This phenotype was recapitulated with the other IMCs (Figures S4D and S4E).

BNM-III-170 sensitizes HIV-infected macrophages to ADCC mediated by HIV+ plasma

A recent study reported that infected macrophages are resistant to ADCC mediated by NK cells.⁵ However, it remained to be determined whether CD4mc renders infected macrophages susceptible to ADCC. To do this, we adapted our fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS)-based ADCC assay that uses infected CD4⁺ T cells^{3,16} for assessment of killing of infected macrophages (Figure 4, gating strategy shown in Figure S5). Briefly, macrophages differentiated for 7 days were infected with HIV-1_{AD8} WT and virus defective for Nef and Vpu (N–U–) for 5 days. WT infected cells were then treated with or without

BNM-III-170. N-U- infected cells were used as a positive control for ADCC activity mediated by nnAbs. ADCC activity was then measured following 5 h incubation with autologous peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) as effector cells in the presence of plasma from nine different HIV-1 infected individuals. Consistent with their role in protecting infected CD4⁺ T cells from ADCC, deletion of Nef and Vpu (N-U-) markedly increased their susceptibility to ADCC (Figure 4A). However, in infected macrophages, deletion of Nef and Vpu only led to a small increase in ADCC susceptibility (Figure 4B). This is consistent with the modest increase in CD4 levels at the surface of N-U- compared with WT infected macrophages (Figure 1A). Of note, addition of BNM-III-170 sensitized both infected CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages to ADCC mediated by plasma from nine different HIV-1-infected individuals (Figure 4). To determine the contribution of the different effectors (Figure S6) within the PBMC pool in mediating ADCC, we adapted the above described ADCC assay using NK cells or monocytes as effectors, with plasma from five different donors. In addition, the bNAbs that stained both CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages similarly (3BNC117, PGT121, 10.1074, and 2G12) and had been shown to mediate ADCC of CD4⁺ T cells (3BNC117 and PGT121)⁵ were selected to assess ADCC functionality for both CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages in the context of NK cells and monocytes.

Results suggest that CD4⁺ T cells are susceptible to killing by NK cells (Figure S7C) in the presence of the CD4mc consistent when PBMCs are effectors (Figures 4 and S7B) and that absence of Nef and Vpu further enhances susceptibility to NK-mediated killing. Absence of Nef and Vpu also increased susceptibility of infected CD4⁺ T cells to killing by monocyte effectors (Figure S7D), but addition of CD4mc did not facilitate killing of WT infected CD4⁺ T cells by monocytes. In contrast, while PBMCs maintained killing of macrophages in the presence of the CD4mc (Figure S7E), NK cells were inefficient even with the addition of the CD4mc (Figure S7F). Interestingly, monocytes exhibited potent ADCC of WT infected macrophages in the presence of the CD4mc (Figure S7G). Furthermore, macrophages infected with the mutant N-U- were not susceptible to monocyte-mediated killing, displaying a phenotype similar to Figure 4B.

Further analysis to assess the ability of bNAbs to mediate ADCC of infected macrophages suggests that, despite recognition of Env by the bNAbs (Figure 2) utilized here, these antibodies appeared to be less efficient, relative to HIV+ plasma in the presence of the CD4mc, at mediating ADCC of macrophages by the different effectors (Figures S7H-S7J), compared to when CD4⁺ T cells were used as targets. However, whether this relates to a differential capacity of HIV+ plasma (in the presence of CD4mc) and bNAbs to crosslink FcγR on effector cells remains to be determined. Finally, these results also show a differential susceptibility of infected CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages to NK cells and monocyte-mediated ADCC.

Integrated analysis of the associations between recognition of Env epitopes CD4 and BST-2 on the surface of macrophages and CD4⁺T cells

To assess the association of Env epitope recognition, CD4 and BST-2, we performed a network correlation analysis, done separately for CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages (Figure

5). For macrophages, the network had two distinct clusters of significant correlations (Figure 5B), whereas the T cell network was more intertwined (Figure 5A). While there were significant associations between nnAb recognition in the presence of the CD4mc and the measurements of BST-2 and CD4, only two antibodies, A32 and F240, significantly correlated with BST-2 measurements (Figure 5B, bottom panel). Importantly there was a striking disconnect of associations between bNAb binding and measurements of CD4, suggesting that Env epitope exposure on macrophages is minimally influenced by the surface levels of CD4. In stark contrast, the correlation network for CD4⁺ T cells (Figure 5A, top panel) was more balanced with intricate relationships between the levels of CD4/BST-2 and Env recognition by all antibodies, including the nnAbs. Furthermore, the inverse correlations between the levels of CD4 and recognition by nnAbs in the presence of the CD4mc on CD4⁺ T cells was more pronounced (Figure 5A, bottom panel), supporting that the levels of CD4 on CD4⁺ T cells greatly influence epitope recognition. Importantly, the heatmap analysis (Figure 5C) highlights that the differences between macrophages and CD4⁺ T cells are not virus strain dependent.

DISCUSSION

Recent work reported differential recognition of Env epitopes on the surface of infected macrophages^{5,43} with one study highlighting strong recognition of CD4BS epitopes on the surface of infected macrophages compared with CD4⁺ T cells.⁵ Here, we report that similarly to infected primary CD4⁺ T cells, Env on macrophages is predominantly in a “closed” conformation.

HIV-1 uses three different proteins (Nef, Vpu, and Env) to efficiently downregulate CD4 from the cell surface. While Nef targets CD4 molecules already present at the plasma membrane, Vpu and Env target newly synthesized CD4 for degradation. While in both cell types deletion of Nef and Vpu and abrogation of Env-CD4 interaction (N-U-D368R) was required to restore CD4 levels to those observed with uninfected cells, the effect of Nef and Vpu appeared more prominent in CD4⁺ T cells. Indeed, in this cell type but not in macrophages, their individual deletion (N- or U-) significantly increased CD4 levels. The relatively limited amount of CD4 at the surface of macrophages compared with autologous CD4⁺ T cells (Figure 1A and Lee et al.¹⁵) might facilitate the task of the two other remaining viral proteins to fully downregulate CD4 in macrophages.

In agreement with previous studies,^{16–18} we found that the ability of Nef and Vpu to protect infected cells from ADCC mediated by HIV+ plasma was linked to CD4 expression. Both CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages infected with the WT virus were resistant to ADCC. However, while Nef and Vpu deletion dramatically increased the susceptibility of infected CD4⁺ T cells to ADCC, it only had a minor effect in infected macrophages (Figures 4 and S7). This is consistent with the limited amount of CD4 present at the surface of infected macrophages to “open-up” Env and expose ADCC vulnerable epitopes. Nevertheless, similarly to infected primary CD4⁺ T cells, we were able to expose vulnerable epitopes at the surface of infected macrophages using the CD4mc BNM-III-170. Of note, exposure of the gp120 inner domain A32 epitope further required the combination of the CD4mc with a CoRBS Ab such as 17b. This combination was recently shown to stabilize an

ADCC vulnerable conformation of Env, State 2A,⁵³ indicating that this conformation can also be stabilized on infected macrophages. Interestingly, the combination of nnAbs (17b + A32) and CD4mc was also recently found to decrease HIV-1 replication and reduce HIV DNA in CD4⁺ T cells in humanized mice.⁵⁶ Accordingly, the data herein demonstrate that the addition of BNM-III-170 improved recognition and ADCC susceptibility of HIV-1 infected macrophages by nnAbs, commonly elicited antibodies that predominate in HIV+ plasma. These findings warrant further efforts to test whether CD4mc could enable nnAbs to eliminate infected macrophages *in vivo*.

Since a recent study reported that macrophages are resistant to NK cell killing,⁵ we decided to perform our ADCC assay using PBMCs (Figure 4), NK cells (Figure S7), and monocytes (Figure S7) as effector cells. Our results suggest that infected macrophages could be sensitive to Fc-effector functions mediated by monocytes but not NK cells. Consistent with published literature,⁵ we observed that NK cells are inefficient at eliminating HIV-infected macrophages even when bNAb or potent ADCC plasma are used. Interestingly monocytes demonstrate efficient killing capacity in the presence of the CD4mc (Figure S7). Monocytes as efficient mediators of ADCC have previously been explored. Earlier work suggested that CD16⁺ monocytes were able to efficiently perform ADCC of tumor cells,⁵⁷ HSV-infected cells,⁵⁸ SARS-CoV-2-infected cells,⁵⁹ and relevant to this study, HIV-1-infected CD4⁺ T cells.⁶⁰ It is possible that monocytes may bear the appropriate markers required for efficient targeting and elimination of HIV-infected macrophages compared with NK cells. Further work to scrutinize the mechanisms involved is therefore warranted.

Here, we used MDM as a model, and it would therefore be important to ascertain whether the phenotypes observed herein are consistent with other cells of the myeloid lineage, in particular microglia, an important HIV reservoir within the central nervous system (CNS).⁸ While we show that the small molecule CD4mc BNM-III-170 was able to expose CD4i epitopes on infected macrophages permitting ADCC, we acknowledge that the CNS may still remain inaccessible.

Altogether, our data provide further insights on the role of viral proteins in modulating cell-surface CD4 and Env conformation on infected macrophages, as well as proof of principle that HIV-1-infected macrophages can be sensitized to recognition and ADCC by CD4i antibodies. These findings provide additional information for the development of immunotherapies aimed at targeting and eliminating the HIV-1 reservoir *in vivo*.

Limitations of the study

Given that our study suggests differences in Env conformation at the surface of infected macrophages and CD4⁺ T cells, it is therefore possible that similar differences might exist on Env incorporated in viral particles derived from these cell types. Assays such as the one developed by Ding and colleagues⁶¹ might be useful in that regard. Additionally, here we used MDM as a model, and it would be important to extend our findings to additional macrophage subtypes from different lineages. Nevertheless, the data presented here using MDMs facilitate important assertions as to the mechanism of macrophage evasion of immune responses.

STAR★METHODS

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Andrés Finzi (andres.finzi@umontreal.ca).

Materials availability—All reagents generated in this study are available from Andrés Finzi (andres.finzi@umontreal.ca) with a completed Materials Transfer Agreement.

Data and code availability

- All data reported in this paper will be shared by the lead contact (andres.finzi@umontreal.ca) upon request.
- This paper does not report original code.
- Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact (andres.finzi@umontreal.ca) upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Ethics statement—Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants and research adhered to the ethical guidelines of CRCHUM and was reviewed and approved by the CRCHUM Institutional Review Board (ethics committee, approval number CE16.164-CA). Research adhered to the standards indicated by the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants were adult and provided informed written consent prior to enrollment in accordance with Institutional Review Board approval.

Experimental models: Cell lines—The HEK293T human embryonic kidney cells (293T) (obtained from ATCC and the NIH AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, respectively) were maintained at 37°C and 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Invitrogen) supplemented with 5% FBS (VWR) and 100 mg/ml of penicillin-streptomycin (Wisent).

Experimental models: Primary cells—Primary cells were grown as previously described.¹⁶ Briefly cryopreserved human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) isolated by ficoll density gradient from 6 healthy donors (HIV and hepatitis C virus [HCV] seronegative); 4 males (32, 53, 64 and 67 years of age) and 2 females (45 and 46 years of age), who gave written informed consent under research protocols approved by the CRCHUM, were thawed and monocytes were isolated by plate adherence in 10cm petri dishes (Sarsdedt) for 1h in Iscove's modified Dulbecco medium (IMDM). Non-adherent cells were collected while adherent cells washed extensively in serum free media and allowed to differentiate to macrophages for seven days in IMDM supplemented with 100 mg/ml of penicillin-streptomycin and 10% pooled human sera (Valley Biomedicals), with a half media change at day 3. CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from the non-adherent cells by negative selection (EasySep) activated and maintained in culture as previously described.^{52,74} NK cells and monocytes were isolated from PBMCs using the EasySep

Human NK Cell isolation Kit (Stemcell Technologies, Cat #17955) and EasySep Human Monocyte enrichment kit (Stemcell Technologies, Cat #19059) respectively. PBMC, NK and monocytes effectors were subsequently rested overnight at 37°C in culture medium prior to ADCC assays.

METHOD DETAILS

Bacterial and virus strains—The infectious molecular clones (IMCs) of HIV-1 strain AD8: (pAD8⁺) HIV-1AD8⁶⁶ Vpu- (AD8-U-), Nef- (AD8-N-) and Nef-Vpu- (AD8-N-U-); and HIV-1 YU2 strain: HIV-1 YU2,⁶⁷ Vpu- (YU2-U-) and Nef-Vpu- (AD8-N-U-). The D368R derivatives of AD8 and YU2 and Nef defective YU2 (YU2-N-) were generated by mutagenesis using primers listed in key resources table. The IMCs of HIV-1 strains JRFL was kindly provided by Dr Dennis Burton. The Nef-defective and Vpu-defective JR-FL IMCs were previously described.¹⁷ The CH77 (CH077) transmitter founder was previously described.⁶⁸ Mutated IMCs were previously described.^{22,68,75–77} Site-directed mutagenesis was performed on JR-FL and CH77 IMCs to introduce the Env D368R mutation using the QuikChange II XL site-directed mutagenesis protocol. The presence of the desired mutations was determined by automated DNA sequencing.

Antibodies and HIV + plasma—The following antibodies were used to assess cell surface staining: 2G12, PG9, PGT121, 10.1074, 3BNC117, VRC03, PGT151, 10e8, 19b, 17b, A32, F240. Details of which are listed in the key resources table. The panel of anti-HIV antibodies were conjugated with CF647 probe (Sigma Aldrich) as per the manufacturer instructions and used for cell-surface staining of HIV-1-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages. Mouse anti-human CD4 (Clone OKT4, BV421-conjugated; Biolegend, San Diego, CA, USA) and mouse anti-human BST2 (clone RS38E, PE-Cy7-conjugated; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA) were used as primary antibodies for cell surface staining. To confirm purity of macrophages mouse anti-human CD3 (Clone UCHT1; BUV395 conjugated; BD Biosciences), and to confirm differentiation of monocyte differentiation to macrophages the Rat anti-human/mouse CD11b (BV650 conjugated; Biolegend) were also used. To confirm purity of enriched monocytes and NK cells and to determine cell subsets in PBMC, monocyte and NK effector fractions, cells were stained with mouse anti-human CD3 and mouse anti-human CD19 (Clone HIB19; BV650 conjugated; Biolegend) to exclude lymphocytes. While the mouse anti-human CD14 (Clone M5E2; PerCPCy5.5 conjugated; BD Pharmingen) and mouse anti-human CD56 (Clone NCAM-1; PE conjugated, BD Pharmingen) were used to confirm monocyte and NK cell purity following enrichment and to determine monocyte and NK cell subsets. Plasma used for ADCC experiments were collected from 9 different HIV-infected individuals, heat-inactivated for 1h at 56°C and conserved as previously described¹⁷ until ready to use in subsequent experiments.

CD4-mimetic BNM-III-170—The small molecule CD4-mimetic BNM-III-170 synthesized as previously described⁶⁹ was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at a stock concentration of 10 mM, aliquoted, and stored at – 20°C prior to being diluted to 50µM in PBS for cell-surface staining and ADCC assays.

Viral stock production, infections, and detection of infected cells—

Vesicular stomatitis virus G (VSVG)-pseudotyped viruses were produced in 293T by Polyethylenimine (PEI) transfection. Briefly 1×10^7 293T seeded in a TC75cm² flasks (Cat# 734–2315; VWR) were transfected with plasmids encoding VSVG and HIV infectious molecular clone (IMC) at a ratio of 2:5. 4h post transfection, the supernatant was removed and replaced with fresh media and cultured for a further 72h. Cell supernatants were harvested, clarified by centrifugation, and filtered through a 0.45µM filter (Minisart) and layered onto a 25% sucrose gradient prior to ultracentrifugation. Pseudotyped viruses (concentrated 100-fold) were subsequently titrated on CD4⁺ T cells as described²¹. In addition day 7 differentiated macrophages were cultured in 3.5cm petri dishes and passively infected for 5 days to determine macrophage specific inoculum required to obtain >10% infection.

Flow cytometry analysis of cell-surface staining and ADCC responses—

Five days post-infection, macrophages were washed in PBS, incubated in 10 mM EDTA for 30 min at RT, detached and transferred to 96-well V-bottom plates (Corning; Cat # 0877126). In parallel, CD4⁺ T cells infected for 48h were harvested, washed and transferred to 96-well V-bottom plates and incubated for 30 min with AquaVivid viability dye (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# L43957) as per manufacturer's instructions. Cells were then washed twice in PBS. Prior to staining with antibodies, macrophages were incubated with 10% human sera (Valley Biomedicals) and 2% FcBlock (Miltenyi) in FACS buffer (1% BSA, 1mM EDTA in PBS) for 10 min. Following Fc blocking, macrophages and CD4⁺ T cells resuspended in 1% BSA were incubated with a panel of anti-Env antibodies (Table S2; key resources table) pre-coupled to CF647 fluorophore (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at RT. Binding of 19b, 17b, A32, F240 and 10E8 was done with or without BNM-III-170 (50µM). Cells were then washed twice with FACS buffer, fixed with 2% Paraformaldehyde (PFA) and permeabilized using BD CytoFix/CytoPerm Fixation/Permeabilization Kit (BD Biosciences) as per manufacturer's instructions. Detection of p24 + infected cells was performed as described^{21,52} using anti-Gag p24-FITC (Beckman Coulter). The percentage of infected cells (p24 + cells) was determined by gating the living cell population based on the viability dye staining (Aqua Vivid, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# L43957). Samples were analyzed on a Fortessa cytometer (BD Biosciences, Mississauga, ON, Canada) and data analysis was performed using Flow Jo version 10.4.0 (Tree Star, Ashland, OR, USA).

Measurement of ADCC-mediated killing was performed as previously described.^{17,22} Briefly, primary CD4⁺ T cells infected for 48h with the AD8 wild type (WT) virus or viruses defective for Nef and Vpu (N-U-) were co-cultured with autologous PBMC (Effector: Target ratio of 10:1), autologous NK (Effector: Target ratio of 1:1) or autologous monocytes (Effector: Target ratio of 2:1) in the presence of HIV + plasma (1:1000) with or without BNM-III-170 or bNAbs. Macrophage ADCC assays were performed as above with the following modifications; macrophages infected for 5 days with AD8 WT or N-U- were incubated with 10% human sera prior to co-culture with effectors and HIV + plasma (1:1000) with or without BNM-III-170 or bNAbs for 5h at 37°C. The percentage of cytotoxicity was calculated as described.^{17,22}

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Statistics were analyzed using GraphPad Prism version 9.3.1 (GraphPad, San Diego, CA, USA). All datasets with statistical analysis was tested for statistical normality and this information was used to apply the appropriate statistical tests. p values <0.05 were considered significant; significance values are indicated as $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$, $****p < 0.0001$. Circular edge bundling graphs were generated in undirected mode in program R v.4.1.2⁷⁸ using `ggraph`, `igraph`, `tidyverse`, and `RColorBrewer` packages. Edges are only shown if $p < 0.05$, and nodes are sized according to the sum of the connecting edges' absolute r values. Nodes are color-coded according to the groups of variables. Correlograms were generated using the `corrplot` and `RColorBrewer` packages using hierarchical clustering based on the principal component. Normalized heatmaps with dendrograms were created using the `complexheatmap` and `tidyverse` packages. Normalizations were done per column (analysis).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- Nef, Vpu, and Env are required to fully downregulate CD4 from infected CD4⁺ T cells
- Any combination of two of these proteins are sufficient in infected macrophages
- Infected macrophages are resistant to ADCC mediated by HIV+ plasma
- Small CD4 mimetics sensitize infected macrophages to ADCC mediated by HIV+ plasma

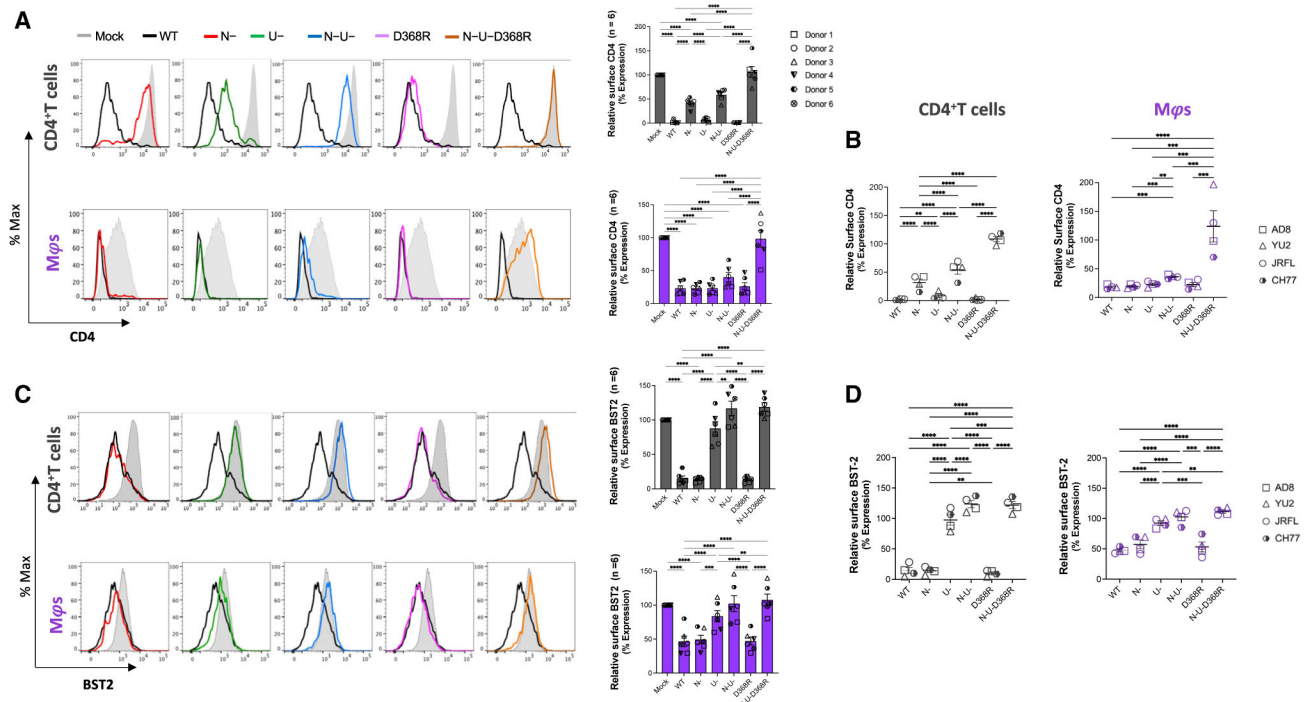


Figure 1. CD4 and BST2 downregulation in HIV-1-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells and autologous macrophages

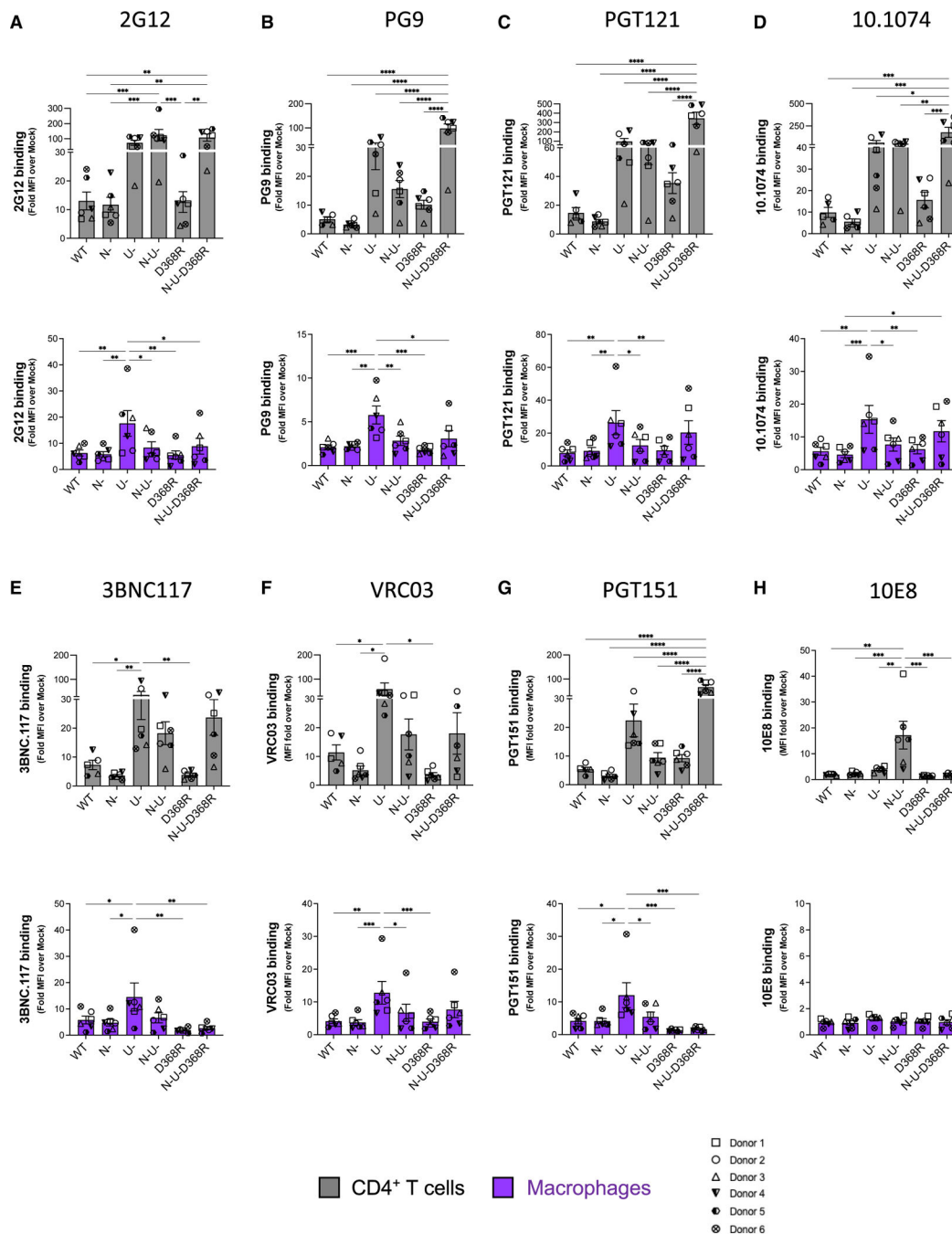
Autologous CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages were infected with the HIV-1_{AD8} panel of viruses (WT, Nef-defective [N-], Vpu-defective [U-], or both Nef and Vpu [N-U-] and CD4BS mutant [D368R] and N-U-D368R mutant), and CD4 and BST2 levels were determined 48 h later (CD4⁺ T cells) or 5 days after infection (macrophages).

(A) Relative surface levels of CD4 on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages. Histograms (left) depict representative staining of infected cells and bar graphs (right) show percent fold change in CD4 expression relative to mock (p24⁺/uninfected cells).

(B) Summary of relative surface levels of CD4 on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages infected with a panel of viruses (WT, Nef-defective [N-], Vpu-defective [U-], or both Nef and Vpu [N-U-] and CD4BS mutant [D368R] and N-U-D368R mutant) from HIV-1_{AD8}, HIV-1_{JR-FL}, HIV-1_{CH77}, and HIV-1_{YU2}.

(C) Relative surface expression of BST2 on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages. Histograms (left) depict representative staining of infected cells, and bar graphs (right) show percent fold change in BST2 expression of p24⁺ relative to p24⁻ cells (p24⁺/p24⁻).

(D) Summary of relative surface expression of BST2 on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages infected with a panel of viruses (WT, Nef-defective [N-], Vpu-defective [U-], or both Nef and Vpu [N-U-] and CD4BS mutant [D368R] and N-U-D368R mutant) from HIV-1_{AD8}, HIV-1_{JR-FL}, HIV-1_{CH77}, and HIV-1_{YU2}. Error bars indicate mean ± SEM. Statistical significance was tested using two-way ANOVA (A and C; n = 6 donors) or mixed effect analysis (B and D; n = 4 viruses) with Holm-Sídák's multiple comparisons test (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.001; ***p < 0.0001; ns, non-significant).



two-way ANOVA with Holm-Šídák's multiple comparisons test (* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.001$; *** $p < 0.0001$; ns, non-significant). Shown are data from 6 donors.

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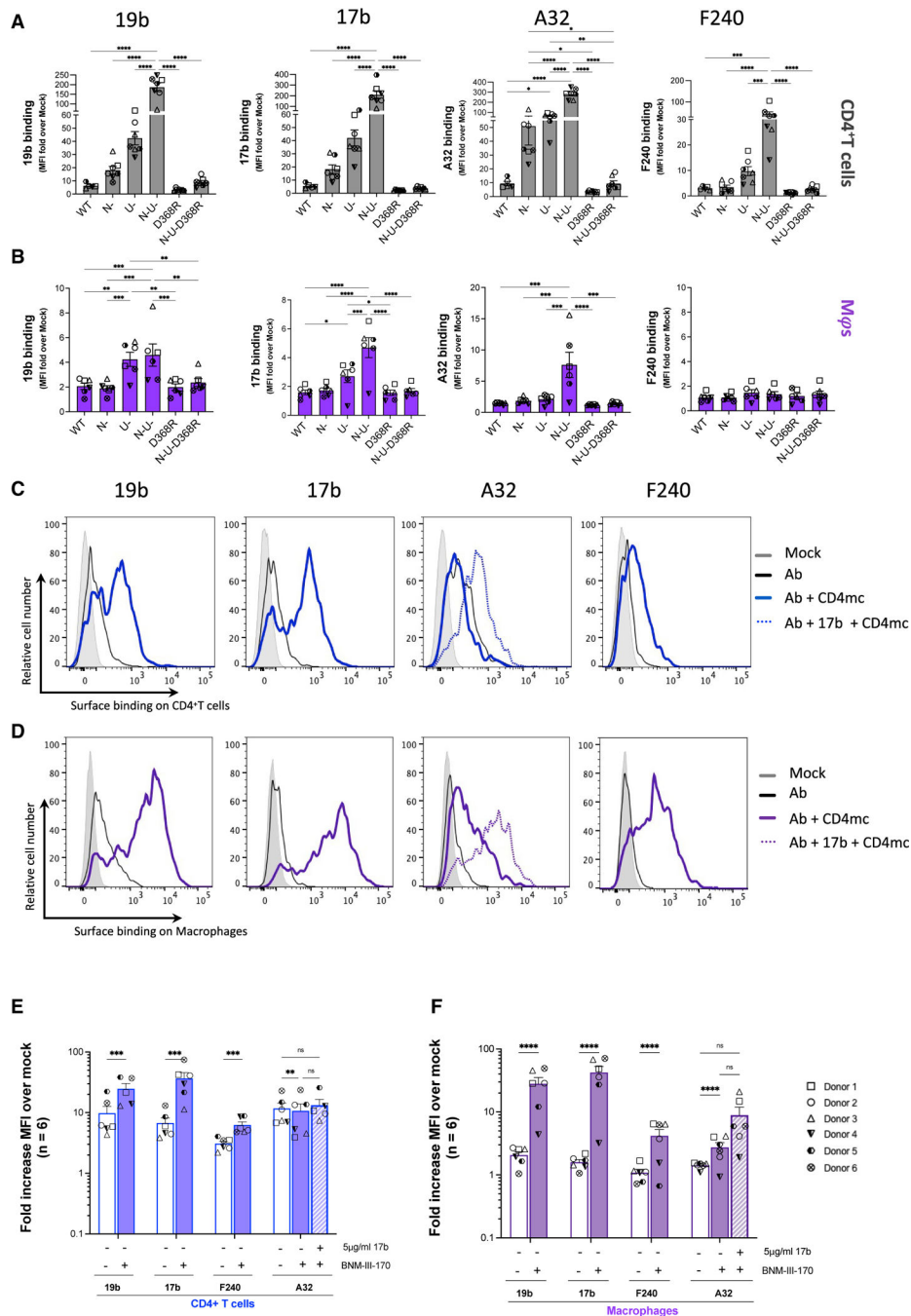


Figure 3. Recognition of HIV-1-infected primary CD4⁺ T cells and autologous macrophages by non-neutralizing antibodies
 Autologous (A and C) CD4⁺ T cells and (B and D) macrophages infected with the HIV-1_{AD8} panel of viruses (WT, Nef-defective [N-], Vpu-defective [U-], or both Nef and Vpu [N-U-] and CD4BS mutant [D368R] and N-U-D368R mutant) for 48h (CD4⁺ T cells) or 5 days (macrophages) were stained with non-neutralizing antibodies 19b (V3 crown), 17b (co-receptor binding site), A32 (anti-cluster A), and F240 (gp41-disulfide loop region). Histograms depict representative staining of infected cells of 19b, 17b, F240, and A32 with or without CD4mc BNM-III-170 or A32 with 17b and CD4mc. Fold increase in nnAb

binding for CD4⁺ T cells (E) and macrophages (F), relative to mock/uninfected cells, in the presence of the CD4mc is shown on the y axis. Error bars indicate mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was tested using two-way ANOVA with Holm-Šídák's multiple comparisons test (A and B) or mixed effect analysis (E and F). (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.001; ***p < 0.0001; ns, non-significant). Shown are data from 6 donors.

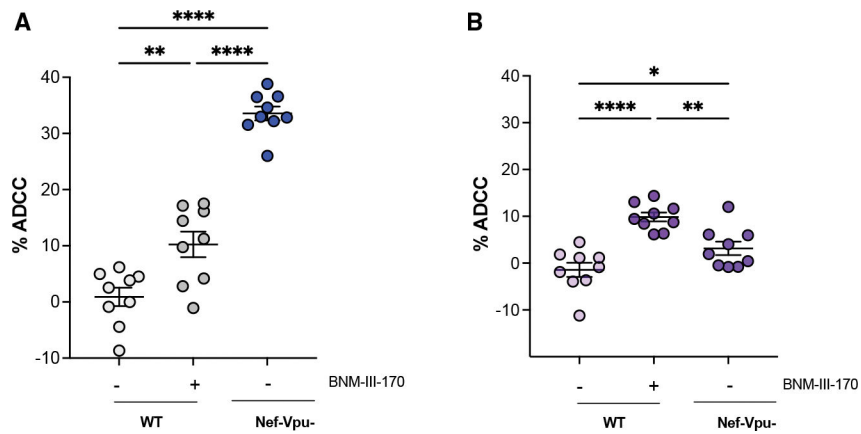


Figure 4. Small CD4mc BNM-III-170 sensitizes HIV-1-infected macrophages to ADCC mediated by HIV+ plasma

Autologous CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages were infected with HIV-1_{AD8} (WT and Nef- and Vpu-defective [N-U-] virus) and subsequently incubated with autologous PBMCs for 5 h in the presence of HIV+ plasma with or without the CD4mc BNM-III-170.

Percent (%) ADCC of CD4⁺ T cells (A) and macrophages (B). Error bars indicate mean ± SEM. Statistical significance was tested using ordinary one-Way ANOVA followed by Holm-Šídáks multiple comparisons test (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.001; ***p < 0.0001; ns, non-significant). Shown are data from at least three donors.

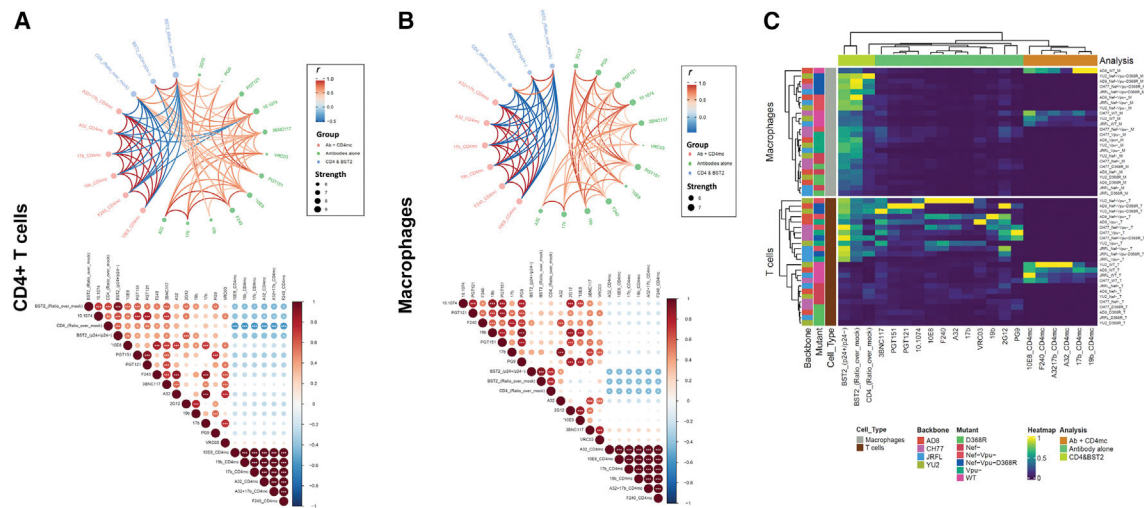


Figure 5. Network associations of Env epitope recognition with BST2 and CD4 on CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages
 (A and B) Circular edge bundling plots (top) and correlation matrices (bottom) for CD4⁺ T cells (A) and macrophages (B) where red and blue edges (top) and circles (bottom) represent positive and negative pairwise correlations between connected variables, respectively. Nodes in the edge bundling plots (top) are color-coded based on the grouping of variables shown in the legend with node size corresponding to degree of relatedness of correlations. Only significant correlations ($p < 0.05$, Spearman rank test) are displayed in the edge bundling plots (top). In the correlograms (bottom), * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.005$.
 (C) Heatmap showing Env, BST, and CD4 expression relative to virus strains tested and cell type. Columns represent recognition of BST2, CD4, and Env clustered based on similarity and grouped by analysis method according to the color code provided. Rows represent the viruses/mutants grouped according to cell type. Virus IDs are clustered according to their binding profile and done separately for each cell type.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
anti-gp12- outer domain 2G12	NIH Reagents program	N/A
anti-CD4 binding site VRC03	NIH Reagents program	Cat # 12032
anti-CD4 binding site 3BNC117	Scheid et al. ⁶²	Cat #: 12474
anti-V2 apex PG9	Polymun Scientific, Klosterneuburg, Austria	N/A
anti-V3 10.1074	Dr. Michel Nussenzweig; Mouquet et al. ⁶³	N/A
anti-V3 PGT121	IAVI; Walker et al. ⁶⁴	Cat # 12343
anti-gp120-gp41 interface PGT151	IAVI; Falkowska et al. ⁴⁶	N/A
anti-MPER 10e8	NIH Reagents program; Huang et al. ⁴⁷	Cat# 12294
anti-gp41 DSR F240	NIH Reagents program; Cavacini et al. ⁶⁵	Cat# 7623
anti-V3 crown 19b	NIH Reagents program	N/A
anti-coreceptor binding site 17b	NIH Reagents program	Cat # 4091
anti-cluster A A32	NIH Reagents program	Cat # 11438
PE-conjugated anti-HIV p24 (Clone KC57-RD1)	Beckman Coulter	Cat# CO6604667
FITC-conjugated anti-HIV-p24 (Clone KC57)	Beckman Coulter	Cat# 6604665
BUV395 conjugated anti-CD3 (Clone UCHT1)	BD Biosciences	Cat# 563546
BV650 conjugated anti-CD11b (Clone: M1/70)	Biologend	Cat# 101239
PE-Cy7 conjugated anti-BST2(Clone RS38E)	Biologend	Cat# 348416
BV421 conjugated anti-CD4 (Clone OKT4)	Biologend	Cat# 317434
BV650 conjugated anti-CD19 (CloneHIB19)	Biologend	Cat# 302201
FITC conjugated anti-CD16 (Clone 3G8)	BD Pharmingen	Cat # 555406
PerCPCy5.5conjugate anti-CD14 (Clone M5E2)	BD Pharmingen	Cat # 550787
PE conjugated anti-CD56 (Clone NCAM-1)	BD Pharmingen	Cat # 555516
Bacterial and virus strains		
HIV-1 AD8 (Proviral DNA)	Theodore et al. ⁶⁶	Genbank Accession no. AF004394.1
HIV-1 YU2 (Proviral DNA)	Li et al. ⁶⁷	N/A
HIV-1 JRFL (Proviral DNA)	Dr. Dennis Burton	N/A
HIV-1 CH77 T/F (Proviral DNA)	Ochsenbauer et al. ⁶⁸	N/A
Biological samples		
Plasma from HIV-1-infected individuals	FRQS AIDS network	N/A
Human PBMC from uninfected individuals	FRQS AIDS network	N/A
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
CD4mimetic BNM-III-170	Dr. Amos B. Smith III; Melillo et al. ⁶⁹	N/A
Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# BP2311
Phytohemagglutinin-L (PHA-L)	Sigma	Cat# L2769
Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM)	Wisent	Cat# 319-005-CL
RPMI 1640 medium	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#11875093
Penicillin/streptomycin	Wisent	Cat# 450-201-EL
Fetal bovine serum (FBS) VWR Cat# 97068-085	VWR	Cat# 97068-085
Phosphate buffered saline (PBS)	Wisent	Cat# 311-010-CL
Tris-buffered saline (TBS)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# BP24711
Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA)	BioShop	Cat# ALB001.100
Formaldehyde-37%	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# F79-500
Cell proliferation dye eFluor670	eBioscience	Cat# 65084085
Cell proliferation dye eFluor450	eBioscience	Cat# 65084285
LIVE/DEAD Fixable AquaVivid Cell Stain	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# L43957
Tween 20	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# BP337-500
Fc Blocking Reagent (human)	Miltenyi	Cat# 130-059-901
Pooled human sera	Valley Biomedicals	HS1004C
Iscove's modified Dulbecco medium (IMDM)	Gibco-ThermoScientific	Cat# 12440053
Critical commercial assays		
EasySep human CD4+ T cell enrichment kit	Stem Cell Technologies	Cat# 19052
EasySep human NK cell isolation kit	StemCell Technologies	Cat# 17955
EasySep human Monocyte enrichment kit	StemCell Technologies	Cat# 19059
Cytofix/Cytoperm Fixation/Permeabilization Kit	BD Biosciences	Cat# 554714
Mix-n-Stain CF-647 Antibody Labeling Kit (50–100µg)	Sigma-Aldrich	MX647S100-1KT
BD PhosFlow Perm/Wash Buffer I	BD Biosciences	Cat# 557885
QuikChange II XL Site directed mutagenesis Kit	Agilent Technologies	Cat # 200522
Experimental models: Cell lines		
HEK293T human embryonic kidney cells	ATCC	CAT # CRL-3216
Oligonucleotides		
ENV-YU2-D368R-FWD:5' CCTCAGGAGGGCGACCAGAAATT GTAAC	Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT)	N/A
ENV-YU2-D368R-REV:5' GTTACAATTTCTGGTCGCCCTCC TGAGG	Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT)	N/A
ADAD368RFWD:CAATCCTCAGGAGGGCGCCAGAAATTGTAATG	Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT)	N/A
ADAD368RREV:CATTACAATTTCTGGGCGCCCTCCTGAGGATTG	Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT)	N/A
Recombinant DNA		

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Plasmid: pAD8+ (IMC of HIV-1 AD8 WT)	Theodore et al. ⁶⁶	GenBank accession no. AF004394.1
HIV-1 AD8-Nef- (Proviral DNA)	Dr. Frank Kirchoff	N/A
HIV-1 AD8-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Krapp et al. ⁷⁰	N/A
HIV-1 AD8-Nef-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Dr. Frank Kirchoff	N/A
HIV-1 AD8-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-AD8-Nef-Vpu-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-1 YU2-Nef- (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-1 YU2-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Dr. Frank Kirchoff	N/A
HIV-1 YU2-Nef-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Dr. Frank Kirchoff	N/A
HIV-1 YU2-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-YU2-Nef-Vpu-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-1 JRFL-Nef- (Proviral DNA)	Prévost et al. ¹⁷	N/A
HIV-1 JRFL-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Prévost et al. ¹⁷	N/A
HIV-1 JRFL-Nef-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Prévost et al. ¹⁷	N/A
HIV-1 JRFL-D368R (Proviral DNA)	Ding et al. ⁷¹	N/A
HIV-JRFL-Nef-Vpu-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-1 CH77 -Nef- (Proviral DNA)	Prévost et al. ¹⁷	N/A
HIV-1 CH77 -Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Kmiec et al. ⁷²	N/A
HIV-1 CH77 -Nef-Vpu- (Proviral DNA)	Ding et al. ²³	N/A
HIV-1 CH77 -D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
HIV-CH77 -Nef-Vpu-D368R (Proviral DNA)	This paper	N/A
Vesicular Stomatitis virus G (VSV-G) plasmid	Emi et al. ⁷³	N/A
Software and algorithms		
FlowJo software v10.4 FlowJO,	LLC http://docs.flowjo.com/vx/	N/A
Prism software Graphpad v9.3.0	https://www.graphpad.com/scientificsoftware/prism/	N/A
Adobe Illustrator Version 26.31	https://www.adobe.com/products/illustrator	N/A
Other		
BD FORTESSA Flow Cytometer	BD Biosciences	N/A
Clear V-bottom 96 well plates (cell culture treated)	Corning	Cat #0877126