



## Original Article

# Protective effects of Jing-Si-herbal-tea in inflammatory cytokines-induced cell injury on normal human lung fibroblast *via* multiomic platform analysis

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** The protective effects and related mechanisms of Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT) were investigated in cellular damage mediated by pro-inflammatory cytokines, including interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, and tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , on normal human lung fibroblast by multiomic platform analysis. **Materials and Methods:** The *in silico* high-throughput target was analyzed using pharmacophore models by BIOVIA Discovery Studio 2022 with ingenuity pathway analysis software. To assess cell viability, the study utilized the MTT assay technique. In addition, the IncuCyte S3 ZOOM System was implemented for the continuous monitoring of cell confluence of JSHT-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells. Cytokine concentrations were determined using a Quantibody Human Inflammation Array. Gene expression and signaling pathways were determined using next-generation sequencing. **Results:** *In silico* high-throughput target analysis of JSHT revealed ingenuity in canonical pathways and their networks. Glucocorticoid receptor signaling is a potential signaling of JSHT. The results revealed protective effects against the inflammatory cytokines on JSHT-treated HEL 299 cells. Transcriptome and network analyses revealed that induction of helper T lymphocytes, TNFSF12, NFKB1-mediated relaxin signaling, and G-protein coupled receptor signaling play important roles in immune regulatory on JSHT-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells. **Conclusion:** The findings from our research indicate that JSHT holds promise as a therapeutic agent, potentially offering advantageous outcomes in treating virus infections through various mechanisms. Furthermore, the primary bioactive components in JSHT justify extended research in antiviral drug development, especially in the context of addressing coronavirus.

**KEYWORDS:** Coronavirus, Cytokines, Lung injury, Multiomic, Protective effects

## INTRODUCTION

Toward the close of 2019, a newly identified coronavirus, subsequently termed severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was first discovered in clusters of pneumonia of unknown cause. This virus led to a global pandemic, recognized as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus, is classified within the

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beta-coronavirus subfamily of the *Coronaviridae* family and is a zoonotic infectious disease [1,2]. COVID-19 infection can range from being asymptomatic to causing mild symptoms, including fever and dry cough. In severe cases, it may lead to critical adverse events, including sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or life-threatening pneumonia [3]. Among critically ill patients in the intensive care unit, 90-day mortality was 31%, and higher mortality rates were noted in older, diabetic, and obese patients as well as those with severe ARDS [4,5]. The infection mechanism of SARS-CoV-2 involves the invasion of pulmonary cells through angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 receptor (ACE2) [6]. ACE receptors are widely present in animals, and the variable affinity of ACE receptors expressed across species is the primary factor affecting variances in susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection [7,8]. Studies have reported that SARS-CoV-2 mainly infects the lungs and other organs, such as the kidneys and heart [2,9]. The appearance and severity of symptoms vary according to age and sex and are related to the degree of ACE expression in different organs [10]. An imbalance of immune reactions to SARS-CoV-2 may induce ARDS, sepsis, and other lethal inflammation processes [2,3]. Cytokine storms and over-production lead to poor clinical outcomes and are correlated with an elevated mortality rate [5,11].

Currently, vaccines are the most valuable preventative mechanism against SARS-CoV-2. However, a mutation in the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 promotes transmission between different hosts and leads to immune escape [12,13]. Globally, five SARS-CoV-2 variants are designated as variants of concern due to their heightened transmissibility and reduced vaccine efficacy. These include Alpha/B.1.1.7, Beta/B.1.351, Gamma/P. 1, Delta/B.1.617.2, and Omicron/B.1.1.529 [14]. Therefore, adjuvant therapy is required to reduce the replication of SARS-CoV-2 *in vivo* and avoid the occurrence of a cytokine storm [11].

Owing to their widespread historical use for treating a variety of illnesses, exploring the potential therapeutic mechanisms and applications of Chinese herbal medicines forms a strong foundation for clinical research. After the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003, many literature reviews and publications on treating SARS using traditional Chinese medicines (TCMs) were published [15,16]. Some studies suggested that combined TCM approaches can reduce mortality and relieve symptoms in SARS patients, although the evidence is lacking due to the low methodological quality of experimental trials [17]. Owing to the structure and gene homology of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2, many compounds have been reported to exert defensive effects against SARS-CoV-2 infection [18].

Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT) [Figure 1a] is a traditional Chinese medicinal formulation developed by Tzu Chi Hospital in Hualien for combating COVID-19 and regulating immunity. It has received approval from Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare [19,20]. In an early clinical trial, the combination of JSHT with standard therapy enhanced the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) cycle threshold value, reduced C-reactive protein levels, and improved the Brixia score in patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. These

findings suggest that JSHT may be a promising adjunctive treatment for COVID-19 patients [21]. This research examined the protective impact and associated mechanistic pathways of JSHT in mitigating injury induced by pro-inflammatory cytokines, including tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- $\alpha$ , interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6, in normal human pulmonary fibroblast cells (HEL 299). We focused on integrating multiomic results from *in silico* and *in vitro* studies, such as ligand profiler target, ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA), pharmacophore fitting and next-generation sequencing (NGS) analysis. Figure 1b illustrates the design framework and schematic representation of the JSHT study. This paper details the mechanisms and targets of JSHT, which make it a potential protective TCM agent for lung inflammation.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *In silico* high-throughput target analysis

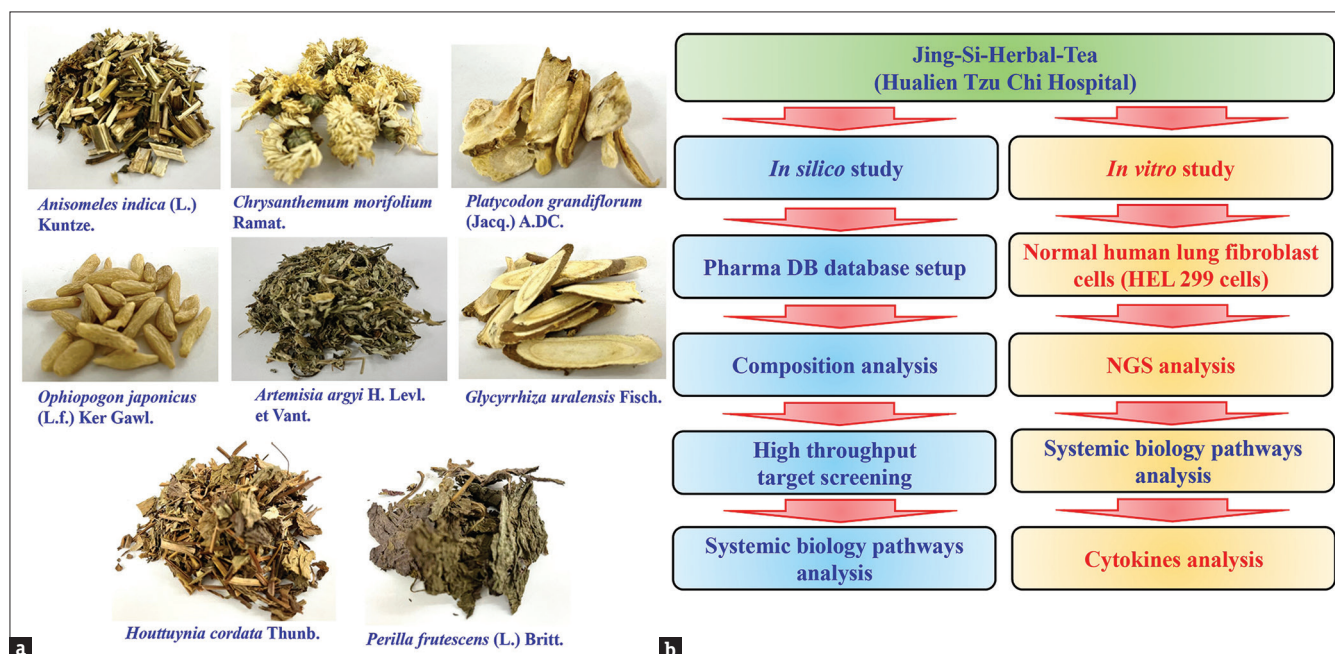
*In silico* high-throughput target analysis was conducted *in silico* using BIOVIA Discovery Studio 2022 (Dassault Systèmes) through the application of pharmacophore models. These models were evaluated considering the intricacies of the proteins prepared and their respective ligands. Subsequently, PharmaDB's database of 16,035 pharmacophore models served as the screening basis for every JSHT component. Furthermore, network analysis target outcomes were acquired using IPA software [22,23].

### Chemicals and reagents

JSHT contains *Anisomeles indica* (L.) Kuntze., *Artemisia argyi* H. Levl. et Vant., *Chrysanthemum morifolium* Ramat., *Houttuynia cordata* Thunb., *Ophiopogon japonicus* (L.f.) Ker Gawl., *Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britt., *Platycodon grandiflorum* (Jacq.) A.DC., and *Glycyrrhiza uralensis* Fisch., which were obtained from Tzu Chi Hospital, Hualien, Taiwan [20]. Acetonitrile, methanol, and phosphoric acid of high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) grade were sourced from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. For the procurement of ultrapure water, the Milli-Q water purification system, supplied by EMD Millipore, was employed. The purity of all JSHT standards was >98%, as determined by HPLC. MTT, calceolarioside A (SMB00246), and Sigma-Aldrich and Merck KGaA were the sources for chlorogenic acid (CA) (C3878), while glycyrrhetic acid (G735000) was acquired from Toronto Research Chemicals based in Toronto, Canada. Life Technologies provided essential cell culture supplies, including Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM), l-glutamine, penicillin G, trypsin-EDTA and fetal bovine serum (FBS).

### Analysis employing ultra-high capacity trap mass spectrometry

The JSHT extract was formulated with the following composition: *A. argyi* (6 g), *A. indica* (6 g), *Ophiopogon japonicus* (4 g), *Platycodon grandiflorus* (4 g), *H. cordata* (4 g), *P. frutescens* (2 g), *G. uralensis* (2 g), and *C. morifolium* (0.2 g). The mixture underwent a boiling process (100°C) and agitated on a heated plate with 1000 mL of distilled water for 60 min (Corning® PC-220 Analog Hot Plate/Stirrers, 6795-220). Subsequently, the mixture was concentrated



**Figure 1:** (a) Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT) formula developed by Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital's efforts in addressing coronavirus disease 2019 infection and modulating immune responses. (b) Study design and JSHT schematics. NGS: Next-generation sequencing

to 3.63 g under reduced pressure employing a rotary evaporator (N-1300VF/OSB-2200; EYELA, Japan) [19]. The chromatographic examination was conducted utilizing the ACQUITY UPLC I-Class/Xevo TQ-XS IVD System, a product of Waters Corporation. This system was equipped with a ZORBAX SB-C18 column, dimensions 4.6 mm × 50 mm, sourced from Agilent Technologies, Inc. Mass spectrometry (MS) data were obtained using an Esquire high capacity trap (HCT) ultra-HCT mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) in the electrospray positive mode. The m/z scan range was 50–1400. MS/MS fragmentation of the five most intense precursors was automatically triggered. The nebulizer gas flow was set at 40 psi, and the drying gas flow rate was adjusted to 10 L/min. The drying temperature was maintained at 350°C. Chromatographic separation was conducted on an Atlantis T3 column (2.1 mm × 150 mm, 3 μm) maintained at 35°C using a binary mobile phase composed of 0.1% formic acid in water (solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile (solvent B) at the flow rate of 0.25 mL/min following a gradient elution procedure: 0–2 min: 0%–2% solvent B; 2–21 min: 2%–99% solvent B; 21–26 min: 99% solvent B; 26–26.5 min: 99%–100% solvent B; 26.5–30 min: 2% solvent B. The volume injected was 5 μL [23,24].

### Cell culture and cell viability

The HEL 299 cell line, a normal human embryonic pulmonary fibroblast variant, was acquired from the Bioresources Collection and Research Center, bearing the catalog number 60117, and was also sourced from the Food Industry Research and Development Institute. The cells were maintained in a 75-T culture flask and cultured in DMEM supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine, 10% FBS, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 μg/mL streptomycin. The culture was incubated at 37°C in a humidified

atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> [22,23,25]. HEL 299 cells were seeded in 24-well plates at a density of 2.5 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells per milliliter per well. The cells underwent treatment with TNF-α (10 ng/mL), IL-6 (10 ng/mL), IL-1β (10 ng/mL), and JSHT (250, 500, 750, and 1000 μg/mL), calceolarioside A (50–100 μM), CA (50–100 μM), and glycyrrhetic acid (50–100 μM) diluted in 0.1% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) for 12 and/or 24 h. A control treatment was administered to the cells using 0.1% DMSO. Cell viability was assessed using an MTT assay (Sigma) after JSHT treatment for 24 h. The blue MTT formazan crystals were solubilized in DMSO and quantified by measuring absorbance at 570 nm using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay reader [24,26].

### Real-time cell confluence

The cell confluence assay was performed using the IncuCyte S3 ZOOM System from Essen BioScience. HEL 299 cells were plated at a density of 1 × 10<sup>4</sup> cells per 100 μL per well in a 96-well plate and treated with TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6 (10 ng/mL each, individually), and/or 1000 μg/mL of JSHT for a duration of 0–24 h. Cells were visualized and photographed every 2 h, as previously described [27].

### Inflammatory proteins array detection

The assessment of inflammation-related protein levels was performed using the Quantibody® Human Inflammation Array 3 (QAH-INF-3) from RayBiotech, Inc., located in Norcross, GA, USA. For detection purposes, HEL 299 cells were cultured in 24-well plates at a concentration of 2.5 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells per milliliter per well. The cells were subjected to individual treatments with TNF-α/IL-1β/IL-6 at a concentration of 10 ng/mL each, as well as JSHT at a concentration of 1000 μg/mL, for 24 h. The cells underwent a control treatment with 0.1% DMSO. Cells were harvested, and total proteins were extracted following the manufacturer's instructions

using RIPA buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) and phosphatase inhibitor cocktail (Sigma). The protein concentration was quantified using a protein assay kit from Bio-Rad. Fifty microgram samples from individual cells were utilized for the QAH-INF-3 assay. Protein hybridization was conducted following the manufacturer's instructions provided with the QAH-INF-3 kit. Fluorescent images were scanned using an Innopsys innoscan710 (Innopsys, Carbonne, France), and the data were analyzed using Mapix software (Innopsys) [28].

### Whole-transcriptome sequencing of next-generation sequencing analysis

To assess the potential mechanisms and signaling pathways of JSHT in HEL 299 cells subjected to cytokine injury induced by TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6, RNA sequencing analysis of JSHT and cytokine-exposed and cytokine-injured control groups was performed. Total RNA was isolated following the manufacturer's guidelines using TRIzol<sup>®</sup> reagent (Invitrogen, USA). The purified RNA was quantified at an optical density of 260 nm using an ND-1000 spectrophotometer from Nanodrop Technology, USA. In addition, quantification was performed using a Bioanalyzer 2100 from Agilent Technology, USA, with the RNA 6000 LabChip Kit (Agilent Technology, USA). The preparation of all RNA samples was meticulously conducted in strict accordance with the guidelines set forth in Illumina's established protocol. The construction of the library was carried out using the SureSelect XT HS2 mRNA Library Preparation Kit, sourced from Agilent in the United States. This step was succeeded by a purification process, which involved the employment of AMPure XP beads, a product of Beckman Coulter, also based in the United States. Sequencing was accomplished using Illumina sequencing-by-synthesis technology provided by Illumina, USA (300-cycle paired-end read; 150 PE). Data from sequencing, presented in the FASTQ format, were generated through the application of Illumina's base calling software, bcl2fastq version 2.20. The subsequent steps of adaptor removal and enhancement of sequence quality were proficiently performed using the Trimmomatic tool, version 0.36. The alignment of RNA sequences was performed utilizing HISAT2. For the purpose of normalizing expression levels, the calculation of transcripts per million (TPM) mapped reads was employed. Differential expression analysis was conducted utilizing StringTie (StringTie v2.1.4) and DESeq (DESeq v1.39.0). The detection and correction of genome bias were integrated through the utilization of Welgene Biotech's proprietary pipeline. For statistical analysis, the *P* value computation was based on the hypergeometric distribution, conceptualized as the likelihood of an occurrence in a random selection process [29,30].

### Network analysis was conducted using ingenuity pathway analysis

Network analysis was conducted using IPA. Potential compound targets were selected based on a goodness-of-fit value exceeding 0.6. A comprehensive set of 419 human target genes was aggregated as focal entities. These genes were then analyzed utilizing the core analysis functionality embedded in the IPA software (IPA 2021; Qiagen Sciences, Inc.). This analysis was employed to generate molecular networks

derived from the identified targets. Enriched networks, along with their associated ontology groups, upstream regulators, canonical pathways, functions, diseases, and network analysis rankings, were determined based on statistical significance by the Fisher's exact *t*-test ( $P < 0.05$ ). The molecular networks in the QIAGEN knowledge base originated from the focus molecules, with each molecule being interconnected with others in the network. This analysis was performed in duplicate [22,23].

### Statistical analysis

The results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, and the experiments were conducted independently and in triplicate as indicated. Statistical analysis was carried out using one-way analysis of variance or Tukey's test. Levels of significance were represented with  $***P < 0.001$ , delineating statistical discrepancies between the control group and the groups treated with TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6. In contrast, the notation  $###P < 0.001$  was used to signify statistical distinctions between the TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6-treated groups and those treated with JSHT [24,31].

## RESULTS

### *In silico* high throughput target analysis of Jing-Si herbal tea

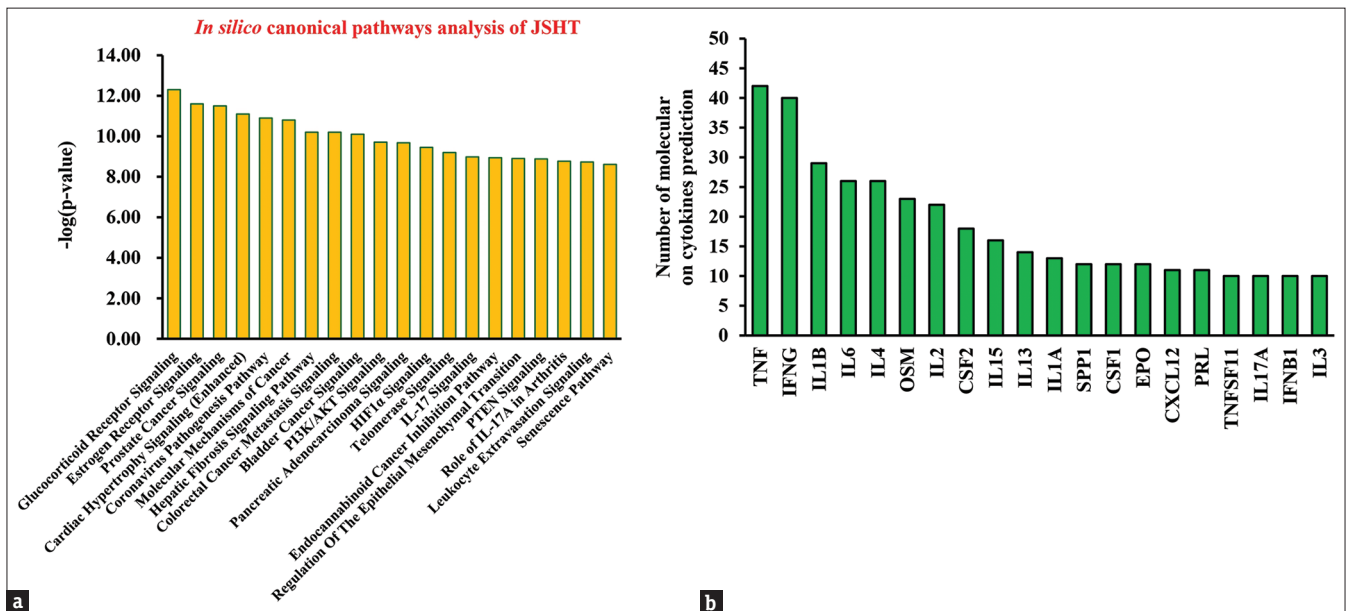
The formulation of JSHT and its constituent herbal elements have been methodically standardized, incorporating a total of eight principal ingredient categories. The key bioactive compounds in JSHT were identified and compiled from the pertinent sections of the 2015 edition of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia [19,20]. The *in silico* high-throughput target was analyzed using pharmacophore models utilizing BIOVIA Discovery Studio 2022 software, provided by Dassault Systèmes, alongside IPA software, facilitated this analysis. The top 20 ingenuity canonical pathways are shown in Figure 2a included glucocorticoid receptor signaling, estrogen receptor signaling, prostate cancer signaling, coronavirus pathogenesis pathway, cardiac hypertrophy signaling (enhanced), molecular cancer mechanisms, hepatic fibrosis signaling pathway, bladder cancer signaling, colorectal cancer metastasis signaling, PI3K/AKT signaling, pancreatic adenocarcinoma signaling, HIF1 $\alpha$  signaling, telomerase signaling, IL-17 signaling, endocannabinoid cancer inhibition pathway, regulation of epithelial-mesenchymal transition through the growth factor signaling pathway, PTEN signaling, role of IL-17A in arthritis, leukocyte extravasation signaling, and the senescence pathway. The top 20 ingenuity canonical pathways with their associated molecules are listed in Table 1. These identified targets could be associated with downstream cellular functionalities and phenotypic expressions. A network of associations between JSHT and anti-inflammatory cytokines was generated, and cytokine levels are shown in Figure 2b. The top 20 regulated cytokines included TNF, IFNG, IL1B, IL6, IL4, OSM, IL2, CSF2, IL15, IL13, IL1A, SPP1, CSF1, EPO, CXCL12, PRL, TNFSF11, IL17A, IFNB1, and IL3, which were the most highly regulated by JSHT-targeted genes. Finally, viral infection, lung inflammation, and lower respiratory tract disorder networks were constructed using IPA core analysis. Figure 3 illustrates the focal molecules, depicted in grey,

identified as potential targets of JSHT. The results revealed the potential therapeutic effects of JSHT through interference with pathways related to lung inflammation disease [Figure 3a], lower respiratory tract disorder [Figure 3b], and viral infection [Figure 3c] by identifying JSHT target proteins. Detailed information regarding the target genes is presented in Table 2. The five primary cytokines correlating with these target genes include TNF, IL-1 $\beta$ , IFN- $\gamma$ , IL-4, and IL-6.

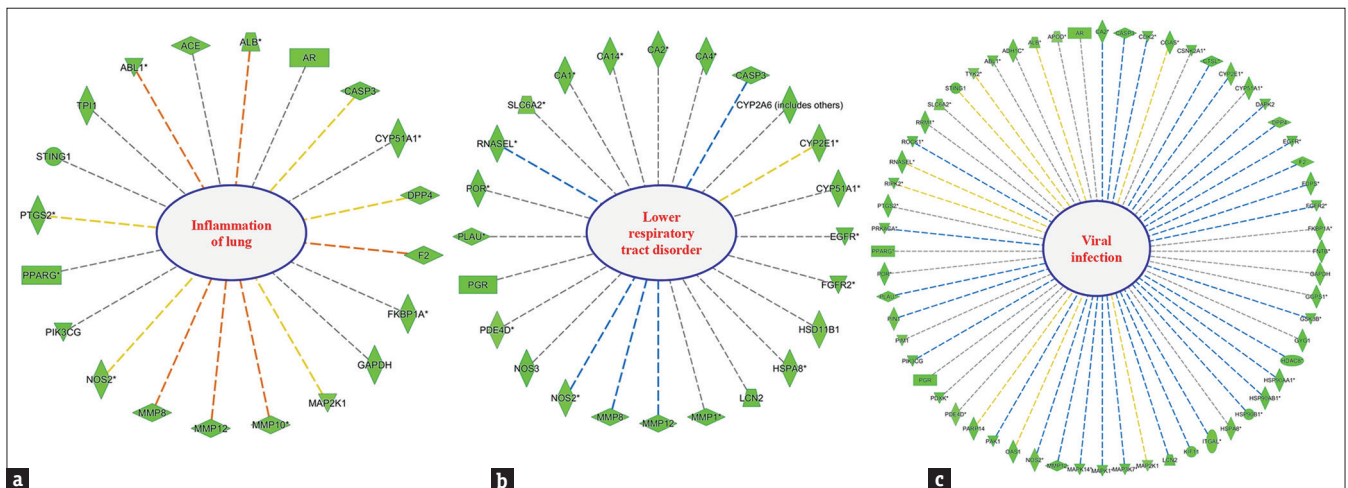
**Jing-Si herbal tea treatment revealed protective effects against inflammatory cytokines on HEL 299 cells**

We prepared and analyzed JSHT extracts by liquid chromatography. As shown in Figure 4, the UPLC-Q-TOF/MS data showed a standard peak for CA and Glycyrrhetic acid (GA). Our study explored the putative protective influences of JSHT against cytokine-induced cellular damage in normal human pulmonary HEL 299 cells,

employing *in vitro* experimental approaches. Figure 5a demonstrates that cell viability notably diminished in the presence of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6 (10 ng/mL each) in the absence of JSHT extract treatment. In addition, the cellular confluence exhibited a time-dependent alteration, as depicted in Figure 5c. In contrast, groups treated with JSHT showed preserved cellular confluence and protected cell viability. Then, we examined the protective effects of individual phytochemicals, including calceolarioside A, CA, and glycyrrhetic acid. As shown in Figure 5b, cell viability significantly increased after treatment with calceolarioside A or CA (control: 101.07%  $\pm$  1.99%; TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6: 57.39%  $\pm$  1.21%; calceolarioside A [100  $\mu$ M]: 66.17%  $\pm$  2.06%; CA [100  $\mu$ M]: 72.22%  $\pm$  2.22%). These results suggest that JSHT and its major components, calceolarioside A and CA, cytoprotective influences in



**Figure 2:** (a) Top 20 ingenuity canonical pathways of Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT) by *in silico* high throughput target screening analysis. (b) Ingenuity pathway core analysis for potential cytokines gene targets of JSHT. JSHT: Jing-Si herbal tea, IL: Interleukin, TNF: Tumor necrosis factor



**Figure 3:** *In silico* pathway core analysis for potential targets of Jing-Si herbal tea in (a) lung inflammation genes; (b) lower respiratory tract disorder; (c) the viral infection genes

**Table 1: The top 20 ingenuity canonical pathways of Jing-Si-Herbal-Tea by ingenuity pathway analysis**

| Ingenuity canonical pathways  | P (-log) | Ratio  | Molecules  |
|---|----------|--------|--|
| Glucocorticoid receptor signaling   | 12.3     | 0.0389 | AR, EGFR, FBP1, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, HSPA8, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, MMP1, MMP8, NOS2, NOS3, PGR, PIK3CG, PLAU, PPARG, PRKACA, PTGS2, TYK2 |
| Estrogen receptor signaling   | 11.6     | 0.0465 | EGFR, GSK3B, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS3, PAK1, PGR, PIK3CG, PRKACA, ROCK1, SETD7, TYK2                           |
| Prostate cancer signaling   | 11.5     | 0.103  | ABL1, AR, CDK2, GSK3B, HDAC8, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, MAP2K1, MAPK1, PDPK1, PIK3CG  |
| Cardiac hypertrophy signaling (enhanced)                                      | 11.1     | 0.0382 | ACE, ACVR1, FGF1, FGFR2, GSK3B, HDAC8, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, PDE10A, PDE4D, PDE6D, PIK3CG, PRKACA, PTGS2, PTK2, ROCK1, TDP2              |
| Coronavirus pathogenesis pathway  | 10.9     | 0.069  | ABL1, ACE, AR, CASP3, CDK2, CTSL, HDAC8, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, OAS1, PTGS2, STING1, TYK2  |
| Molecular mechanisms of cancer  | 10.8     | 0.0419 | ABL1, AURKA, CASP3, CDK2, CHEK1, CHEK2, GSK3B, HDAC8, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, PAK1, PIK3CG, PRKACA, PTK2, TYK2                             |
| Hepatic fibrosis signaling pathway  | 10.2     | 0.042  | ACVR1, BRD4, CASP3, CSNK1D, CSNK1G3, GSK3B, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, MMP1, PIK3CG, PPARG, PRKACA, PTK2, ROCK1                               |
| Colorectal cancer metastasis signaling  | 10.2     | 0.0547 | CASP3, EGFR, GSK3B, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MAPK10, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS2, PIK3CG, PRKACA, PTGS2, TYK2   |
| Bladder cancer signaling  | 10.1     | 0.0948 | ABL1, DAPK1, EGFR, FGF1, HDAC8, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8  |
| PI3K/AKT signaling  | 9.71     | 0.0637 | GSK3B, GYS1, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAPK1, NOS3, PDPK1, PIK3CG, PTGS2, TYK2   |
| Pancreatic adenocarcinoma signaling   | 9.68     | 0.0859 | ABL1, CDK2, CYP2E1, EGFR, HDAC8, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MAPK10, PIK3CG, PTGS2, TYK2  |
| HIF1 $\alpha$ signaling   | 9.45     | 0.0607 | HIF1AN, HSP90AA1, HSPA8, Ldha/RGD1562690, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS2, PIK3CG, VHL   |
| Telomerase signaling  | 9.2      | 0.0935 | ABL1, EGFR, HDAC8, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, MAP2K1, MAPK1, PDPK1, PIK3CG   |
| IL-17 signaling   | 8.98     | 0.0635 | GSK3B, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, LCN2, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, NOS2, PIK3CG, PTGS2   |
| Endocannabinoid cancer inhibition pathway                                     | 8.94     | 0.0733 | CASP3, GSK3B, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MAPK14, NOS2, NOS3, PIK3CG, PRKACA, PTK2, ROCK1   |
| Regulation of the epithelial mesenchymal transition by growth factors pathway | 8.9      | 0.0625 | EGFR, FGF1, FGFR2, GSK3B, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, MMP1, PIK3CG, TYK2  |
| PTEN signaling  | 8.88     | 0.0724 | CASP3, CSNK2A1, EGFR, FGFR2, GSK3B, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAPK1, PDPK1, PIK3CG, PTK2  |
| Role of IL-17A in arthritis   | 8.77     | 0.136  | MAP2K1, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, MMP1, NOS2, PIK3CG, PTGS2   |
| Leukocyte extravasation signaling   | 8.73     | 0.0603 | ABL1, ITGAL, MAPK1, MAPK10, MAPK14, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, PIK3CG, PTK2, ROCK1  |
| Senescence pathway  | 8.61     | 0.0464 | ACVR1, CDK2, CGAS, CHEK1, CHEK2, DLD, MAP2K1, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK14, PDK2, PIK3CG, STING1, VHL   |

IL: Interleukin

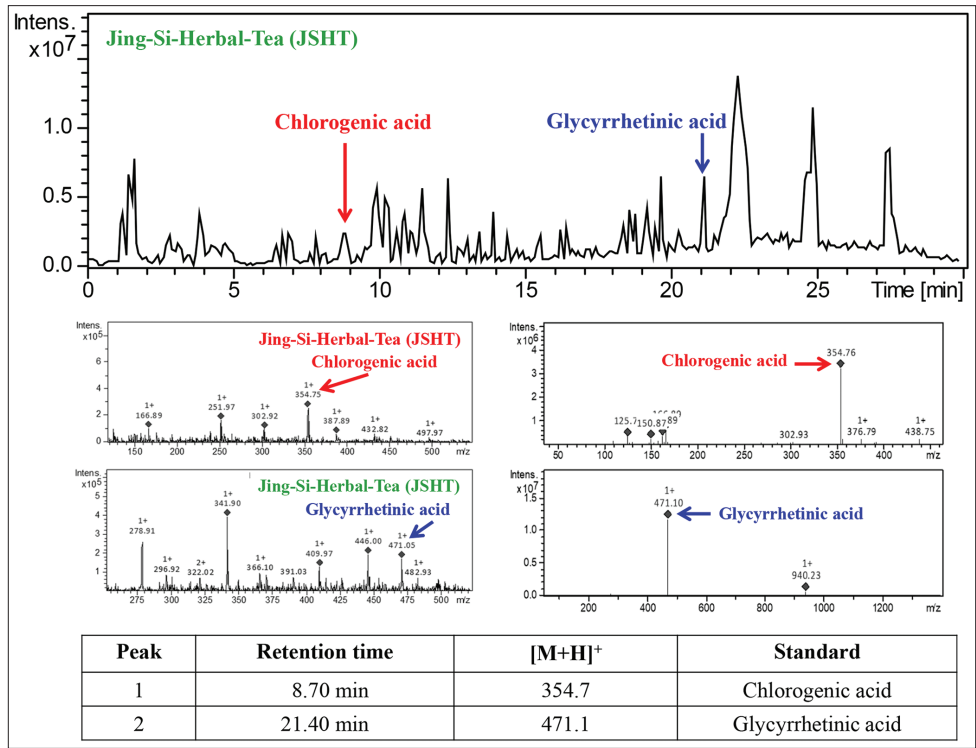
**Table 2: The top 5 inflammatory cytokines regulated gene of Jing-Si-Herbal-Tea by ingenuity pathway analysis**

| Upstream regulator | Target number | P-value of overlap | Target molecule in dataset   |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| TNF                | 42            | 9.72E-11           | ACE, ALB, AR, BACE1, CA2, CASP3, CDK2, CSF1R, CYP2E1, DPP4, EGFR, FDPS, FGFR2, GSK3B, HSD11B1, HSP90AB1, HSP90B1, HSPA8, ITGAL, LCN2, MAP3K7, MAPK1, MAPK14, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS2, NOS3, OAS1, PARP14, PIK3CG, PIM1, PLAU, PPARG, PTGS2, RIPK2, RRM1, SHBG, TH, TYK2, VDR        |
| IFN- $\gamma$      | 40            | 1.06E-12           | ACE, BACE1, CASP3, CDK2, CGAS, CSF1R, CYP2E1, DAPK1, DPP4, FBP1, FECH, FGF1, FKBP1A, GART, HSP90AA1, HSP90AB1, HSPA8, ITGAL, LCN2, Ldha/RGD1562690, MAP2K1, MAPK14, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, NOS2, NOS3, OAS1, PARP14, PIM1, PLA2G7, PLAU, PPARG, PTGS2, RIPK2, RORC, SAMHD1, STING1, TPI1, VDR |
| IL-1 $\beta$       | 29            | 9.11E-10           | ACE, BACE1, CASP3, CYP2E1, DPP4, EGFR, FGFR2, GSK3B, GYS1, HSD11B1, LCN2, Ldha/RGD1562690, MAPK14, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS2, NOS3, PAK1, PGR, PIM1, PLAU, PPARG, PTGS2, REN, RIPK2, RORC, VDR  |
| IL-6               | 26            | 1.74E-10           | ACVR1, ALB, CASP3, CDK2, CHEK1, CSF1R, CYP2E1, DHFR, EGFR, KIF11, LCN2, MAP2K1, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, MMP8, NOS2, NOS3, PIM1, PLAU, PPARG, PTGS2, RORC, STING1, TH, TYK2   |
| IL-4               | 26            | 8.05E-07           | CA2, CASP3, CDK2, CSF1R, CTSL, CYP2E1, DPP4, GALK2, HSD11B1, ITGAL, MAP2K1, MAPK1, MMP1, MMP10, MMP12, NOS2, PGK1, PIM1, PIN1, PLAU, PNP, PPARG, PTGS2, SYK, TPI1, VDR   |

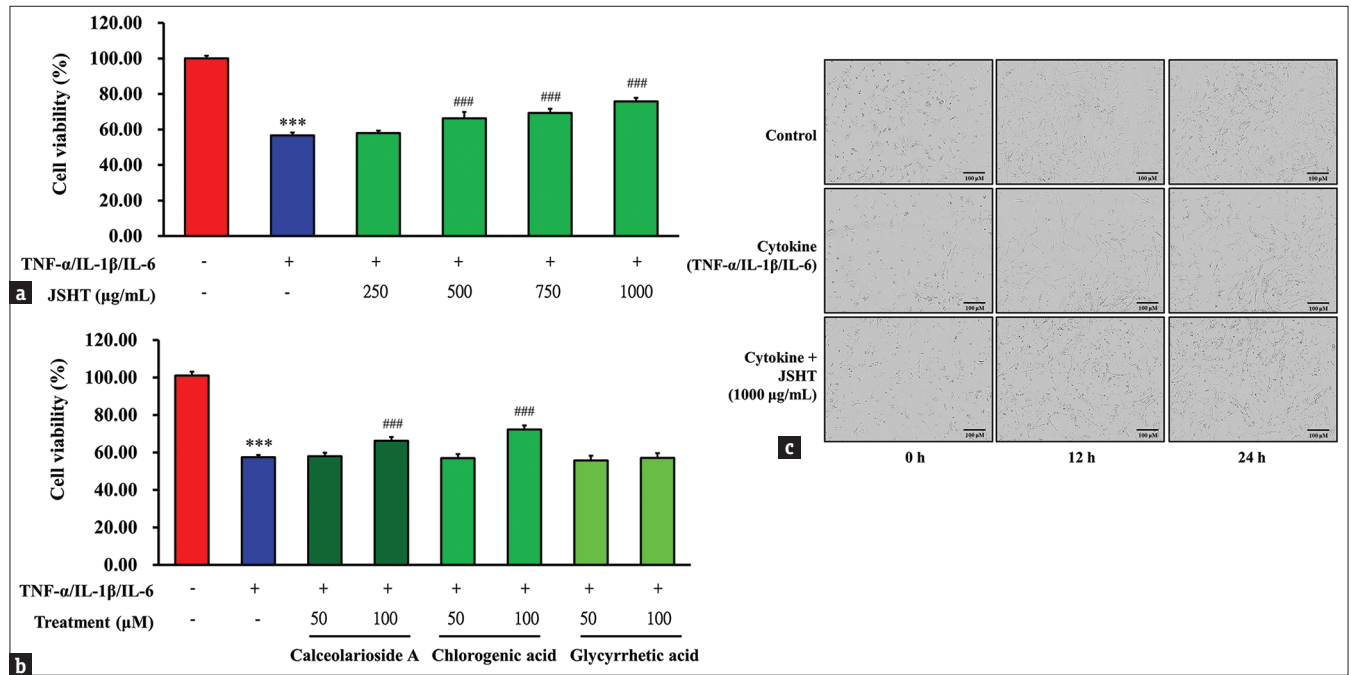
TNF: Tumor necrosis factor, IL: Interleukin

mitigating cytokine-induced injury within HEL 299 cells. Subsequently, we used a protein microarray (Quantibody®

Human Inflammation Array) to investigate the inflammatory cytokines in HEL 299 cells. The results revealed that



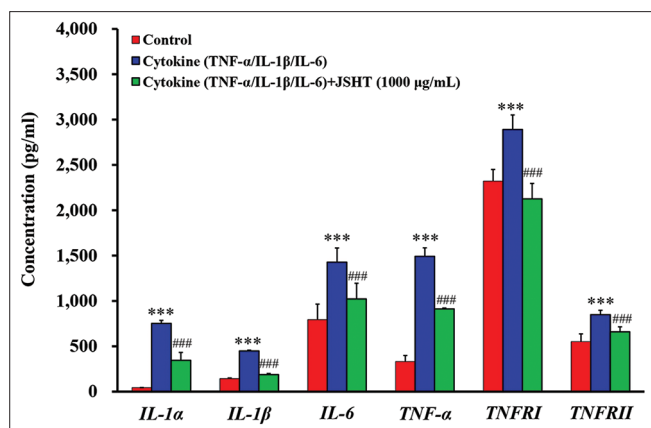
**Figure 4:** UPLC-Q-TOF/MS analysis data showing standard peaks of chlorogenic acid and glycyrrhetic acid. JSHT: Jing-Si herbal tea, CA: Chlorogenic acid, GA: Glycyrrhetic acid



**Figure 5:** Cell viability exhibited a significant concentration-dependent decrease in the absence of Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT) extract, calceolarioside A, and chlorogenic acid treatments when exposed to tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-α, interleukin (IL)-1β, and IL-6. (a) HEL 299 cells were seeded at a density of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/mL/well and subsequently exposed to individual cytokines (TNF-α, IL-1β, and IL-6) at a concentration of 10 ng/mL, along with JSHT at concentrations of 250, 500, 750, and 1000 µg/mL, for a duration of 24 h. (b) The HEL 299 cells were treated with TNF-α/IL-1β/IL-6 (10 ng/mL, individual) and calceolarioside A, chlorogenic acid, glycyrrhetic acid (50–100 µM) for 24 h. The cells were treated with 0.1% DMSO as control treatment. Cell viability was measured by the MTT assay ( $n = 3$ ). The obtained results were subjected to statistical analysis employing a one-way analysis of variance, followed by Tukey's *post hoc* test. Significance levels were denoted as \*\*\* $P < 0.001$  and ### $P < 0.001$ . (c) Real-time cellular confluence after TNF-α/IL-1β/IL-6 and JSHT treatments changed in a time-dependent manner. JSHT: Jing-Si herbal tea, IL: Interleukin, TNF: Tumor necrosis factor

JSHT (1000 µg/mL) reduced the protein levels of TNF-α, TNF-R1, TNF-RII, IL-1α, IL-1β, and IL-6 in

cytokine-induced injury in HEL 299 cells [Figure 6]. Based on the results, we treated injured HEL 299 cells with 1000



**Figure 6:** The cytokines concentration of Jing-Si-herbal-tea (JSHT) by protein microarray detection analysis. Cultured HEL 299 cells at a concentration of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/mL/well were subjected to treatment with individual cytokines, namely tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6, each at a concentration of 10 ng/mL, in combination with JSHT at a concentration of 1000  $\mu$ g/mL. The exposure duration for this experimental setup was 24 h. Cytokines concentration was measured by the protein microarray ( $n = 3$ ). The acquired data were subjected to statistical analysis employing a one-way analysis of variance, followed by *post hoc* testing using Tukey's method. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$  and ### $P < 0.001$ . JSHT: Jing-Si herbal tea, IL: Interleukin, TNF: Tumor necrosis factor

$\mu$ g/mL of JSHT to investigate the possible mechanisms and signaling transduction using transcriptome analysis of NGS.

### Transcriptome and network analysis

RNA sequencing transcriptional profile analysis was conducted to investigate the mechanism of action (MOA) and signal transduction pathways of JSHT in cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells. The postcytokine-injured samples, JSTH-treated samples, JSTH-treated cytokine-injured samples, and the control group were clustered separately and compared. We compared the differences in the transcriptome of cytokine-injured and JSTH-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells. Figure 7a shows the differential expression in the MA plot. Significantly differentially expressed genes were shown as green dots. Figure 7b shows the differential expression using a volcano plot. Red dots represent genes that are significantly upregulated, while blue dots denote genes that are significantly downregulated. In total, 311 genes were upregulated and 109 genes were downregulated. Supplementary Table 1 shows the raw transcriptome sequencing data of JSHT-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells.

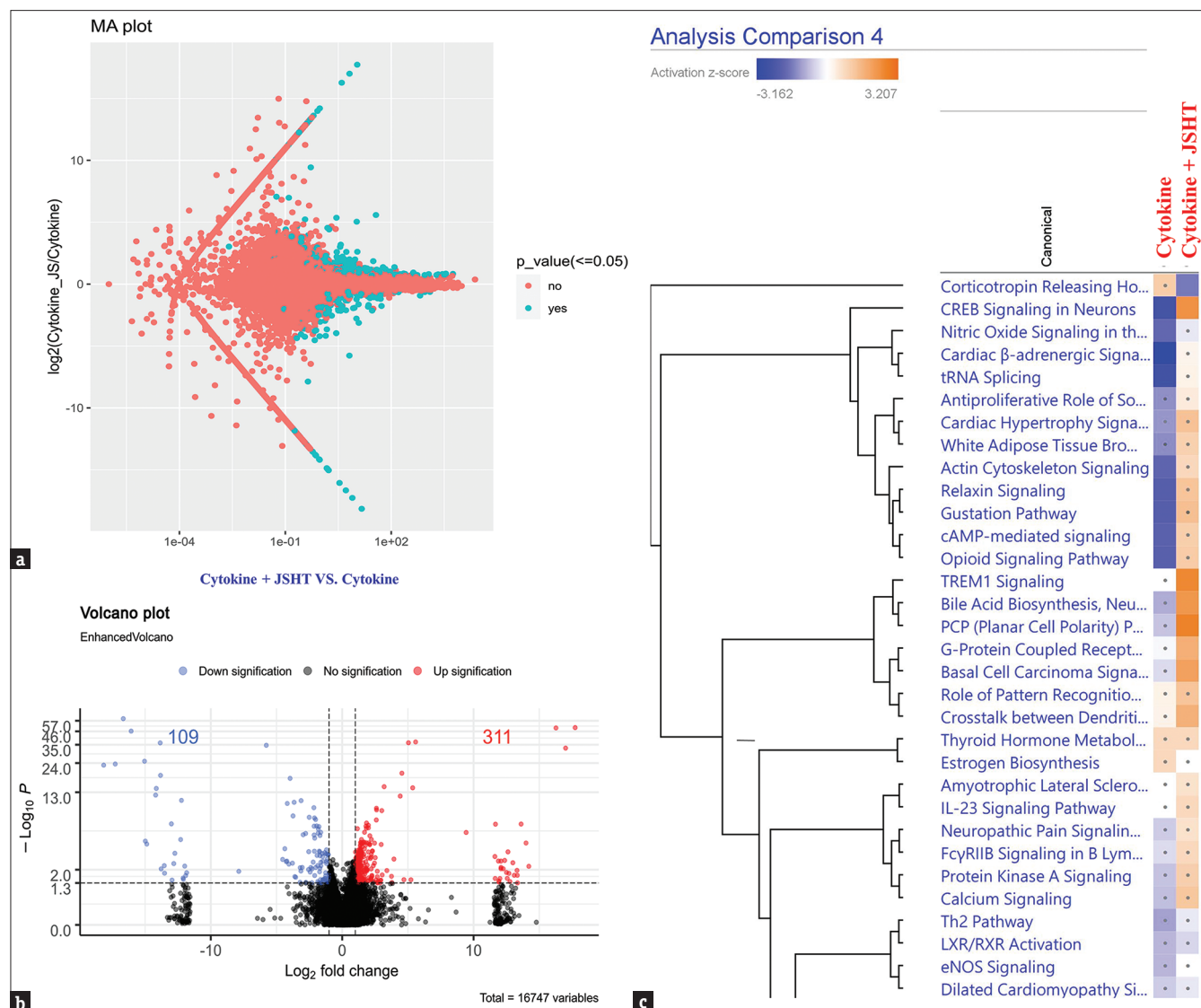
To elucidate the physiological functions of these genes and their related activities, the IPA database was utilized. This was done to examine the protective mechanisms and signaling networks of JSHT in counteracting cytokine-induced cellular injuries. The assessment focused on the rich factor, Q-value, and the quantity of genes enriched in these pathways. Two replicates for normalized RNA sequencing data from cytokine-injured and JSTH-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells were clustered separately using Ingenuity Canonical Pathways in Ingenuity's Knowledge Base. Figure 7c illustrates the pathway analysis and the values of the activation Z-score. Following the IPA analysis, a network illustrating the interrelations among various genes was constructed, as depicted in Figure 8a, where induction of helper T

lymphocytes, TNFSF12, MYD88, STIRG1, RELA, CREBBP, NFKB1-mediate relaxin signaling, and G-protein coupled receptor signaling played key roles in immune regulatory pathways. The relevant biological pathways of JSTH-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells were analyzed to determine their transcriptional profiles. The predictive target genes and associated pro-inflammatory cytokines in the pulmonary system were analyzed, and the results are shown in Figure 8b. The expression of FGF7, FGF11, FGF17, FGF20, OSM, CD70, LTA, LTB, CD17C, TNFSF11, IL23A, IL23, C8G, and TSLP was decreased and that of AMBP alpha-1-microglobulin/bikunin precursor (ANBP) was increased. Taken together, JSHT treatment of cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells led to decreased cytokine release and inhibited pro-inflammatory processes.

## DISCUSSION

Over the past 3 years, although COVID-19 has led to relatively high mortality rates in humans worldwide, with the development of vaccines and the discovery of oral anti-SARS-CoV-2 therapy, fatality rates have begun to decrease gradually. At present, the most significant threat of COVID-19 to human beings is severe infection cytokine storm, resulting in multiorgan failure, which strains the capacities of emergency and hospital services. Further research on antiviral agents and vaccines to prevent the cytokine storm and anti-inflammatory response caused by SARS-CoV-2 remains a major focus in drug discovery and development [2,23]. Clinical evidence has demonstrated that Chinese herbal medicines and/or TCMs may be helpful in preventing or treating human coronavirus-related disorders [2,20,22,23,32]. TCMs have been included in the guidelines for COVID-19 therapies in China. In Taiwan, JSHT has received approval from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, bearing the registration number MOHW-PM-060,635. Furthermore, a drug permit for export purposes has been granted by the same ministry under the registration number CM100106063507. In addition, research papers such as the clinical trial titled "enhances the diminution of SARS-CoV-2 viral load in patients with COVID-19" (NCT04967755) have demonstrated potential direct effects of JSHT on disease progression [20]. The combination of JSHT with standard treatment resulted in improvements in the RT-PCR cycle threshold value, C-reactive protein level, and Brixia score among patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms, indicating that JSHT is a promising complementary agent for COVID-19 treatment [21]. Our early review article described the anti-SARS-CoV-2 efficacy and MOA of the active ingredients of JSHT [20]. JSHT includes five herbs with antiviral activity, seven herbs with anti-oxidant activity, and seven herbs with anti-inflammatory activity. In addition, two herbs exert a modulatory effect on the immune system; one herb exhibits anti-thrombotic activity, and one herb has been shown to attenuate cell death [20]. In this study, we used a multiomic platform to analyze the molecular mechanisms of JSHT in the context of inflammatory cytokine-induced cellular injury in human pulmonary HEL 299 cells. Our results from *in silico* [Figures 2 and 3] and *in vitro* studies [Figures 5-8] may provide a useful basis for further clinical studies on the treatment of JSHT. JSHT has been demonstrated to



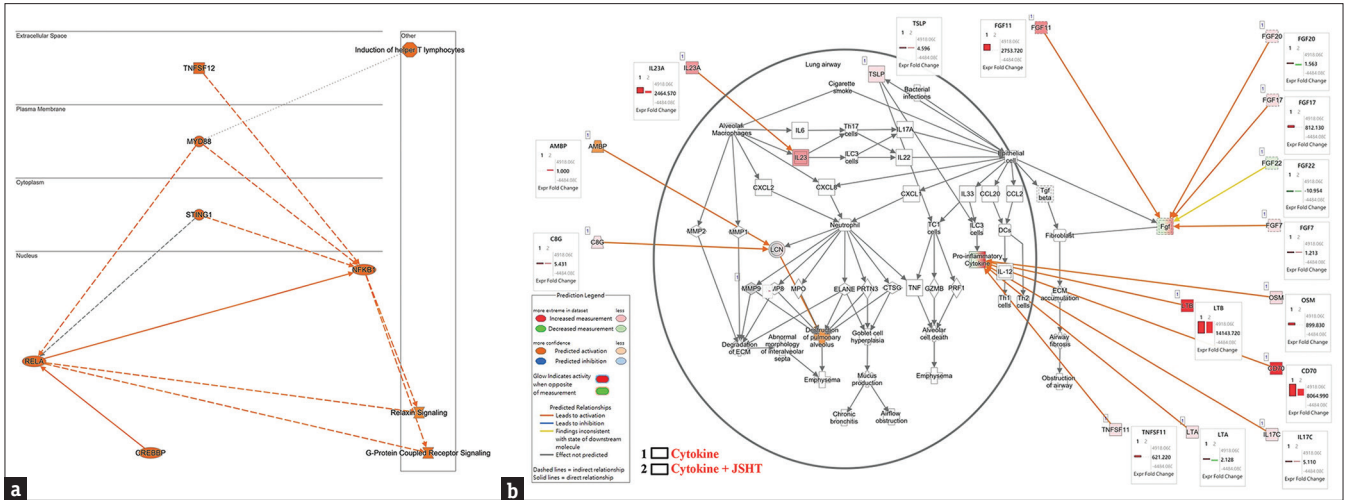


**Figure 7:** Transcriptome analysis of Jing-Si herbal tea (JSHT)-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells was shown. (a) Differential expression of MA and (b) volcano plots. Cytokine: Tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ /interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ /IL-6 (10 ng/mL, individual); JSHT. (c) Whole-transcriptome sequencing and comparative analysis using the ingenuity pathway analysis software on JSHT-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells. Blue and red coloring indicates the activation of Z-score values. JSHT: Jing-Si herbal tea, IL: Interleukin

exert pleiotropic effects on aging, skin health, or immune function [19]. The direction of JSHT is adding 300cc water to a bag of herbal tea, boil, and then serve. Therefore, it is most appropriate to conduct research using water extraction. CA and Glycyrrhetic acid are water soluble compounds, so it is most suitable as a quantitative standard when performing LC-MS/MS analysis [33-35]. In this study, we prepared a water extract of JSHT and analyzed it by UPLC-Q-TOF/MS. Figure 4 illustrates that both positive and negative ion modes were detected, including CA and glycyrrhetic acid (GA) compounds. Several pharmacological studies have reported the anti-inflammatory and antiviral activities of CA [33-36]. Three approved antiviral drugs (nelfinavir, ritonavir, and lopinavir) showed reliable inhibitory effects in *in silico* and *in vitro* studies on 3CL (pro) main protease [37,38].

In our *in silico* study, additionally, we have demonstrated the inhibitory effect on the 3CL (pro) protease of SARS-CoV-2,

though this data is not presented here. Bond interaction analysis showed that CA formed bond interactions with residues CYS145, LEU141, GLY143, HIS41, HIS163, and MET165 of the 3CL (pro) main protease. CA from *C. morifolium* Ramat., has been reported to inhibit the 3CL (pro) main protease on SARS-CoV-2 [39-41]. The pharmacologic activities of CA include modulation of NF- $\kappa$ B activity, TNF signaling pathway, T cells differentiation, and IL-17 function [42,43]. Glycyrrhizic acid (GA) from *G. radix*, which is known as licorice, suppressed LPS-induced TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , nitric oxide, and prostaglandin E2 production through nuclear factor  $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B) pathway [44,45]. Glycyrrhizic acid (GA) was also reported to bind at the spike glycoprotein receptor-binding domain of the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant (B.1.1.529) and exhibit high binding affinity with ACE2 [45,46]. Other reports also demonstrated that glycyrrhizic acid (GA) showed highly favorable free binding energies with 3CL (pro) main protease



**Figure 8:** (a) A network depicting associations among various genes was constructed through IPA analysis. Induction of helper T lymphocytes, TNFSF12, MYD88, STIRG1, RELA, CREBBP, NFKB1-mediate relaxin signaling, and G-protein coupled receptor signaling play key roles in immune regulatory pathways. (b) The target genes and associated pro-inflammatory cytokines in the pulmonary system of JSTH-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells were analyzed using IPA software to determine the transcriptional profile. (1: Cytokine (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ /interleukin [IL]-1 $\beta$ /IL-6) treatment; 2: Cytokine with Jing-Si herbal tea treatment. IL: Interleukin, TNF: Tumor necrosis factor

and PLpro [47,48]. Here, bond interaction analysis showed that glycyrrhizic acid (GA) conducted bond interaction with residues CYS145, LEU141, GLY143, HIS41, IS163, and MET165 of 3CL (pro) main protease (data not shown). The binding activity results of glycyrrhizic acid (GA) are similar to those of suggested inhibitors of 3CL (pro) main protease. However, further research on anti-SARS-CoV-2 activity associated with JSHT treatment by *in vitro* and *in vivo* analysis is required.

The advancement of acute pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2 infection can lead to elevated levels of host lung cell mortality, potentially resulting in diminished lung functionality [3,22]. The inflammatory response, immune system, and various intercellular signaling mechanisms play crucial roles in influencing the progression of COVID-19. Cytokine release syndrome has been associated with poor outcomes of COVID-19, and various conventional and traditional treatment options have been considered to control the cytokine storm [3,22]. Our study focused on the *in vitro* examination of the protective impact of JSHT extract against injury induced by TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6 in normal human lung fibroblast cells. The results demonstrated that treating HEL 299 cells with TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6 (10 ng/mL, individual) decreased cell viability to < 60% compared to the control group [Cell viability: control: 99.73  $\pm$  0.54%; TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6: 56.62  $\pm$  1.62%, Figure 5a] and induced changes in cellular confluence [Figure 5b]. These results are comparable to those of our early studies, showing that TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6-induced fibroblast cell damage [22]. In contrast, treatment with JSHT maintained cellular morphology and safeguarded cell viability, achieving approximately 40%–50% of the control group’s level in the presence of the three inflammatory cytokines, as shown in Figure 5a. Cell viability significantly increased after treatment with calceolarioside A or CA [Figure 5b]. These results suggest that calceolarioside A and CA play critical roles in protection against lung injury. In previous studies, CA was demonstrated to reduce lipopolysaccharide-induced acute lung injury and protect against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* infection [49,50].

TCM is thought to comprise a wide array of components, each interacting with diverse targets. We used a multiomic platform (such as high-throughput target analysis, pharmacophore fitting, IPA, and NGS analysis) to investigate the underlying molecular mechanisms responsible for the protective effects of JSHT in inflammatory cytokine-induced cell damage in pulmonary fibroblast cells and anti-SARS-CoV-2 activity. Figure 5 demonstrates the protective effects of JSHT. By NGS analysis, a total of 311 genes exhibited upregulation, while 109 genes were found to be downregulated [Figure 7b]. Helper T lymphocyte induction, TNFSF12, MYD88, STIRG1, RELA, CREBBP, NFKB1-mediate relaxin signaling, and G-protein coupled receptor signaling are major signaling pathways in immune regulatory functions [Figure 8a]. Our results suggest that treatment of JSHT with cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells interferes with the expression of cytokines and pro-inflammatory genes. The innate immune system serves as the initial line of defense against pathogenic organisms [51-54]. Cells constituting the innate immune system, such as neutrophils, monocytes, and macrophages, recognize these pathogens via pattern-recognition receptors and produce cytokines to stimulate the activation of cells within the adaptive immune system [53-55]. IL-1, IL-6, and TNF are pivotal pro-inflammatory cytokines involved in the dynamics of cytokine storms. IL-1 binds to the IL-1 receptor (IL-1R) and activates a cascade of NF- $\kappa$ B pro-inflammatory signaling pathways [56,57]. IL-6, another inflammatory cytokine, binds to the membrane-bound IL-6 receptor (IL-6R) and creates a physiological immune balance. Excessive IL-6 binds to the soluble IL-6 receptor and activates the JAK-STAT3 cascade in endothelial cells, resulting in systemic hyper-inflammation [58-60]. Initial research indicates a correlation between elevated levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines and pulmonary inflammation and lung damage in patients with SARS [61], and many studies have reported that excessive IL-6 levels are highly correlated with mortality

in COVID-19 patients [58-62]. The findings of our study revealed that JSHT potentially reduced the protein levels of IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , TNF-RI, and TNF-RII in injury of normal human lung fibroblast cells induced by TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6, as illustrated in Figure 6. Based on the results of the *in silico* study, JSHT influences a range of cytokine genes, such as TNF, IFNG, IL1B, IL6, IL4, OSM, IL2, and CSF2, as detailed in Table 2. Notably, all these cytokine genes have been previously identified in patients with COVID-19 [23]. Our NGS and pathway analysis results demonstrated that the induction of helper T lymphocytes, TNFSF12, MYD88, STIRG1, RELA, CREBBP, NFKB1-mediates relaxin signaling, and G-protein coupled receptor signaling plays important roles in immune regulatory pathways in JSHT-treated cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells [Figure 8a]. In addition, the target genes associated with pro-inflammatory cytokines in the pulmonary system were FGF7, FGF11, FGF17, FGF20, OSM, CD70, LTB, LTA, CD17C, TNFSF11, IL23A, IL23, C8G, TSLP, and AMBP [Figure 8b]. NF- $\kappa$ B plays a critical role as a transcription factor, significantly influencing immune functions and inflammatory responses. NF- $\kappa$ B affects cell survival and cell differentiation of immune cells such as T cells, macrophages, dendritic cells, and neutrophils [63]. Severe COVID-19 cases may be characterized by cytokine storms owing to NF- $\kappa$ B, which mediates macrophage activation and inflammatory cytokines production in the lung, ultimately leading organ failure and the development of ARDS [64-66]. Our results suggested that treatment of JSHT with cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells decreases cytokines release and inhibits pro-inflammatory process mediated NF- $\kappa$ B [Figure 8a]. Ovatodioides in *A. indica* (L.) Kuntze exhibited potent anti-inflammatory properties through an inhibition pathway of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-12 production [67,68]. *A. argyi* H. Lev. et Vant. and its active compound *dehydromatricarin A* were observed to exert potent anti-inflammatory effects in a murine model of acute lung injury [69]. Furthermore, in animal studies conducted on asthmatic subjects, they were shown to decrease inflammatory cell counts and lower the levels of IL-4, IL-5, IL-13, and immunoglobulin E [70].

When pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1 and IL-23 activate macrophages and/or neutrophils, IL-17A is synthesized. IL-17A plays a dual role by contributing to the recruitment of neutrophils and other immune cell types to the infection site, as well as facilitating immune cell infiltration. This, in turn, leads to tissue damage and exacerbates the severity of SARS-CoV-2 infection [71]. The immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 infection lead to the activation and differentiation of T cells, resulting in the production of cytokines commonly associated with various Th17 cell subsets. In addition, infected cells release cytokines as part of the immune response [72]. T-cell immune function against SARS-CoV-2 infection may contribute to clinical protection [71]. Inhibition of IL-17 production reduces the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF, and IL-6 [72]. IL-17 inhibitors have been approved as a successful strategy for reducing psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis injuries [72]. Our NGS analysis results demonstrated

that treatment of JSHT with cytokine-injured HEL 299 cells and induction of T help cell signaling play a key role [Figure 8a]. Our high-throughput target analysis results demonstrated that the coronavirus pathogenesis pathway (top 5), IL-17 signaling, and IL-17A signaling are potential targets of JSHT [Figure 2a]. In addition, the top 20 regulated cytokines were regulated most significantly by JSHT-targeted genes [Figure 2b]. Our study indicates that JSHT may serve as a promising multi-target candidate from TCM for the regulation of immune function.

The lungs are vital organs for oxygen and CO<sub>2</sub> exchange. SARS-CoV-2 infects the lungs and causes tissue damage. Severe damage can result in insufficient oxygen exchange and other tissue injuries. Recently, the Warburg effect was shown to exert a significant role in modulating the inflammatory response to COVID-19 [73-75]. SARS-CoV-2-infected pulmonary epithelial cells show increased HIF-1 expression through metabolic reprogramming via the Warburg effect [74]. In addition, these metabolic reprogramming cells increase the consumption of glucose and pro-inflammatory cytokines secretion, including IL-1, IL-6, and TNF- $\alpha$ , and induce monocytes and neutrophils infiltration into the lungs [76,77]. We conducted an *in vitro* investigation to assess the protective effects of JSHT extract against injury induced by TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6 in human lung fibroblast cells. Our findings demonstrated that TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IL-6-induced injury in pulmonary fibroblast cells. Conversely, treatment with JSHT maintained cellular morphology and safeguarded cell viability in the presence of the three inflammatory cytokines, as depicted in Figure 5. We also demonstrated that JSHT potentially decreased the protein levels of IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , TNF-RI, and TNF-RII in TNF- $\alpha$ /IL-1 $\beta$ /IL-6-induced fibroblast cell damage [Figure 6]. The results of the *in silico* analysis showed that a network representing the associations between JSHT and anti-inflammatory cytokines as the Warburg effect pathway included coronavirus pathogenesis pathway, molecular cancer mechanisms, PI3K/AKT signaling, and HIF1 $\alpha$  signaling [Figure 2]. These results suggest that JSHT regulates metabolic reprogramming and decreases inflammatory injury induced by cytokines in human pulmonary fibroblasts.

## CONCLUSION

Our findings have unveiled the therapeutic potential of JSHT as a TCM-based agent, which may offer favorable effects to patients with coronavirus through multiple signaling pathways. Furthermore, the primary bioactive compounds found in JSHT merit consideration as promising candidates for subsequent antiviral drug discovery investigations, particularly in the context of coronavirus management. The current investigation relied on bioinformatics and employed an *in silico* approach, necessitating validation through additional experimental analyses.

## Data availability statement

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its supplementary information files).

## Acknowledgments

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## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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**Supplementary Table 1: Data of transcriptome sequencing on Jing-Si-Herbal-Tea (JSHT)-treated HEL 299 cells was performed**

| Gene ID         | Gene name      | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|----------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000267924 | AC139769.2     | 17.729                                      | 2.45E-50 |
| ENSG00000215472 | RPL17-C18orf32 | 17.003                                      | 2.22E-33 |
| ENSG00000251537 | AC005324.3     | 16.270                                      | 5.10E-50 |
| ENSG00000278621 | AC037198.2     | 14.205                                      | 6.20E-03 |
| ENSG00000260342 | AC138811.2     | 13.990                                      | 7.98E-05 |
| ENSG00000260121 | AC138028.4     | 13.615                                      | 3.68E-07 |
| ENSG00000231369 | Z97353.1       | 13.341                                      | 4.96E-02 |
| ENSG00000258608 | DNAJC19P9      | 13.327                                      | 2.08E-02 |
| ENSG00000272146 | ARF4-AS1       | 13.303                                      | 1.10E-02 |
| ENSG00000225313 | AL513327.1     | 13.094                                      | 2.08E-02 |
| ENSG00000271699 | SNX29P2        | 12.988                                      | 3.60E-03 |
| ENSG00000260571 | BNIP3P5        | 12.766                                      | 4.30E-02 |
| ENSG00000228613 | AC141930.1     | 12.688                                      | 1.63E-02 |
| ENSG00000255073 | ZFP91-CNTF     | 12.616                                      | 5.34E-04 |
| ENSG00000264577 | AC010761.1     | 12.562                                      | 3.01E-02 |
| ENSG00000251246 | AL691442.2     | 12.502                                      | 1.45E-02 |
| ENSG00000244414 | CFHR1          | 12.367                                      | 2.48E-03 |
| ENSG00000286445 | AL355334.2     | 12.257                                      | 8.79E-03 |
| ENSG00000232070 | TMEM253        | 12.087                                      | 7.29E-03 |
| ENSG00000233967 | AL359715.1     | 12.083                                      | 2.76E-03 |
| ENSG00000233673 | ANAPC1P1       | 12.083                                      | 8.75E-03 |
| ENSG00000227942 | FRMD8P1        | 12.008                                      | 3.06E-02 |
| ENSG00000234709 | UPF3AP3        | 11.933                                      | 4.55E-02 |
| ENSG00000238160 | LINC02863      | 11.924                                      | 4.03E-02 |
| ENSG00000125954 | CHURC1-FNTB    | 11.890                                      | 2.74E-03 |
| ENSG00000206530 | CFAP44         | 11.668                                      | 3.86E-07 |
| ENSG00000117472 | TSPAN1         | 11.643                                      | 3.04E-02 |
| ENSG00000268030 | AC005253.1     | 11.623                                      | 1.27E-03 |
| ENSG00000196136 | SERPINA3       | 9.434                                       | 5.13E-06 |
| ENSG00000257379 | AC023509.1     | 5.586                                       | 9.68E-38 |
| ENSG00000266086 | AC015813.2     | 5.364                                       | 5.29E-15 |
| ENSG00000135437 | RDH5           | 5.229                                       | 3.52E-02 |
| ENSG00000257390 | AC023055.1     | 5.044                                       | 3.96E-37 |
| ENSG00000240038 | AMY2B          | 4.699                                       | 3.48E-02 |
| ENSG00000273763 | AC007318.1     | 4.544                                       | 3.78E-20 |
| ENSG00000257921 | AC025165.3     | 4.416                                       | 1.08E-12 |
| ENSG00000188629 | ZNF177         | 3.940                                       | 1.98E-03 |
| ENSG00000217289 | AC079776.1     | 3.782                                       | 4.76E-02 |
| ENSG00000273148 | LINC00653      | 3.753                                       | 2.36E-02 |
| ENSG00000279425 | AC092279.2     | 3.401                                       | 1.12E-02 |
| ENSG00000286185 | AC242842.3     | 3.192                                       | 2.36E-15 |
| ENSG00000166343 | MSS51          | 3.044                                       | 1.99E-02 |
| ENSG00000099974 | DDTL           | 3.012                                       | 1.98E-09 |
| ENSG00000277304 | AC142086.6     | 2.967                                       | 1.12E-04 |
| ENSG00000279030 | AC007336.3     | 2.947                                       | 3.68E-02 |
| ENSG00000255524 | NPIP8          | 2.898                                       | 3.82E-02 |
| ENSG00000250111 | AC107982.1     | 2.881                                       | 5.00E-02 |
| ENSG00000239653 | PSMD6-AS2      | 2.741                                       | 4.21E-02 |
| ENSG00000269533 | AC003002.3     | 2.685                                       | 4.99E-02 |
| ENSG00000261542 | AC011978.2     | 2.674                                       | 2.49E-02 |
| ENSG00000232186 | TERF1P7        | 2.670                                       | 1.24E-02 |
| ENSG00000171121 | KCNMB3         | 2.656                                       | 4.69E-02 |
| ENSG00000213250 | RBMS2P1        | 2.616                                       | 1.42E-09 |

Contd...

**Supplementary Table 1: Contd....**

| Gene ID         | Gene name       | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000285053 | TBCE            | 2.604                                       | 6.71E-10 |
| ENSG00000205236 | AC105052.1      | 2.597                                       | 8.79E-08 |
| ENSG00000254732 | AP001931.1      | 2.571                                       | 3.58E-02 |
| ENSG00000272410 | AC022384.1      | 2.515                                       | 1.55E-03 |
| ENSG00000250132 | AC004803.1      | 2.461                                       | 8.16E-05 |
| ENSG00000284337 | AC013271.1      | 2.457                                       | 3.81E-03 |
| ENSG00000099251 | HSD17B7P2       | 2.375                                       | 4.28E-02 |
| ENSG00000278897 | AC020951.1      | 2.369                                       | 5.67E-03 |
| ENSG00000166455 | C16orf46        | 2.300                                       | 4.42E-04 |
| ENSG00000269929 | MIRLET7A1HG     | 2.294                                       | 4.66E-04 |
| ENSG00000184206 | GOLGA6L4        | 2.272                                       | 2.38E-02 |
| ENSG00000147437 | GNRH1           | 2.261                                       | 2.11E-02 |
| ENSG00000264112 | AC015813.1      | 2.223                                       | 3.39E-05 |
| ENSG00000272772 | AC104109.3      | 2.221                                       | 8.76E-04 |
| ENSG00000215252 | GOLGA8B         | 2.209                                       | 1.41E-03 |
| ENSG00000273345 | AC104109.4      | 2.203                                       | 9.03E-03 |
| ENSG00000188818 | ZDHHC11         | 2.203                                       | 3.11E-02 |
| ENSG00000267059 | AC005943.1      | 2.199                                       | 3.38E-02 |
| ENSG00000226361 | TERF1P5         | 2.195                                       | 2.89E-02 |
| ENSG00000281183 | NPTN-IT1        | 2.152                                       | 1.78E-03 |
| ENSG00000250979 | AC022905.1      | 2.107                                       | 1.31E-05 |
| ENSG00000245532 | NEAT1           | 2.104                                       | 1.06E-04 |
| ENSG00000135315 | CEP162          | 2.102                                       | 1.18E-04 |
| ENSG00000251194 | AL133330.1      | 2.036                                       | 2.80E-02 |
| ENSG00000286162 | AL162253.2      | 2.017                                       | 3.98E-02 |
| ENSG00000183793 | NPIPA5          | 2.005                                       | 7.73E-05 |
| ENSG00000254870 | ATP6V1G2-DDX39B | 1.996                                       | 1.27E-06 |
| ENSG00000152926 | ZNF117          | 1.996                                       | 5.60E-07 |
| ENSG00000204778 | CBWD4P          | 1.994                                       | 5.45E-04 |
| ENSG00000178397 | FAM220A         | 1.979                                       | 1.65E-03 |
| ENSG00000270055 | AC127502.2      | 1.960                                       | 3.95E-02 |
| ENSG00000189367 | KIAA0408        | 1.917                                       | 1.05E-02 |
| ENSG00000283761 | AC118553.2      | 1.907                                       | 5.18E-03 |
| ENSG00000075826 | SEC31B          | 1.882                                       | 9.91E-03 |
| ENSG00000223546 | LINC00630       | 1.866                                       | 1.19E-02 |
| ENSG00000251562 | MALAT1          | 1.855                                       | 2.63E-07 |
| ENSG00000143674 | MAP3K21         | 1.846                                       | 8.09E-03 |
| ENSG00000230551 | AC021078.1      | 1.840                                       | 1.44E-06 |
| ENSG00000153234 | NR4A2           | 1.835                                       | 7.57E-05 |
| ENSG00000165115 | KIF27           | 1.827                                       | 9.47E-03 |
| ENSG00000004799 | PDK4            | 1.810                                       | 7.39E-07 |
| ENSG00000286104 | AC016629.3      | 1.792                                       | 3.08E-03 |
| ENSG00000273018 | FAM106A         | 1.781                                       | 1.35E-04 |
| ENSG00000240053 | LY6G5B          | 1.732                                       | 1.71E-02 |
| ENSG00000138778 | CENPE           | 1.700                                       | 4.81E-06 |
| ENSG00000232593 | KANTR           | 1.700                                       | 3.76E-02 |
| ENSG00000250519 | AP002784.1      | 1.695                                       | 2.91E-04 |
| ENSG00000279342 | AP000866.6      | 1.689                                       | 3.24E-02 |
| ENSG00000229152 | ANKRD10-IT1     | 1.687                                       | 2.70E-02 |
| ENSG00000258741 | H2AZZP1         | 1.681                                       | 6.42E-03 |
| ENSG00000196597 | ZNF782          | 1.679                                       | 1.43E-02 |
| ENSG00000175265 | GOLGA8A         | 1.666                                       | 6.57E-05 |
| ENSG00000259522 | AL136295.4      | 1.657                                       | 8.68E-04 |

Contd...

Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name  | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000122483 | CCDC18     | 1.644                                       | 1.29E-03 |
| ENSG00000259959 | AC107068.1 | 1.639                                       | 1.15E-02 |
| ENSG00000162927 | PUS10      | 1.627                                       | 8.28E-03 |
| ENSG00000257524 | AL157935.2 | 1.616                                       | 6.53E-05 |
| ENSG00000283050 | GTF2IP12   | 1.595                                       | 3.37E-02 |
| ENSG00000188611 | ASAH2      | 1.594                                       | 3.58E-03 |
| ENSG00000183479 | TREX2      | 1.579                                       | 3.43E-02 |
| ENSG00000235770 | LINC00607  | 1.576                                       | 4.09E-02 |
| ENSG00000198157 | HMGNS      | 1.570                                       | 4.21E-02 |
| ENSG00000268173 | AC007192.1 | 1.548                                       | 8.49E-05 |
| ENSG00000139116 | KIF21A     | 1.525                                       | 1.46E-02 |
| ENSG00000250067 | YJEFN3     | 1.523                                       | 1.89E-04 |
| ENSG00000278662 | GOLGA6L10  | 1.522                                       | 3.34E-02 |
| ENSG00000115604 | IL18R1     | 1.503                                       | 2.66E-02 |
| ENSG00000233327 | USP32P2    | 1.502                                       | 6.40E-04 |
| ENSG00000270069 | MIR222HG   | 1.500                                       | 5.77E-04 |
| ENSG00000138587 | MNS1       | 1.492                                       | 2.97E-02 |
| ENSG00000107890 | ANKRD26    | 1.484                                       | 6.09E-04 |
| ENSG00000146247 | PHIP       | 1.476                                       | 9.18E-05 |
| ENSG00000173588 | CEP83      | 1.472                                       | 8.99E-04 |
| ENSG00000101745 | ANKRD12    | 1.469                                       | 3.42E-05 |
| ENSG00000156876 | SASS6      | 1.459                                       | 1.61E-03 |
| ENSG00000230373 | GOLGA6L5P  | 1.454                                       | 1.34E-02 |
| ENSG00000280046 | AC104581.4 | 1.453                                       | 5.42E-03 |
| ENSG00000223509 | AC135983.3 | 1.451                                       | 9.86E-03 |
| ENSG00000197969 | VPS13A     | 1.421                                       | 1.66E-03 |
| ENSG00000163535 | SGO2       | 1.416                                       | 6.86E-05 |
| ENSG00000120832 | MTERF2     | 1.415                                       | 3.18E-02 |
| ENSG00000196247 | ZNF107     | 1.414                                       | 3.63E-04 |
| ENSG00000175471 | MCTP1      | 1.412                                       | 6.26E-04 |
| ENSG00000003987 | MTMR7      | 1.406                                       | 2.20E-02 |
| ENSG00000198707 | CEP290     | 1.400                                       | 1.21E-04 |
| ENSG00000066279 | ASPM       | 1.399                                       | 3.11E-04 |
| ENSG00000174718 | RESF1      | 1.398                                       | 7.27E-05 |
| ENSG00000248124 | RRN3P1     | 1.391                                       | 3.24E-02 |
| ENSG00000181619 | GPR135     | 1.389                                       | 2.64E-02 |
| ENSG00000113369 | ARRDC3     | 1.386                                       | 4.37E-04 |
| ENSG00000177853 | ZNF518A    | 1.385                                       | 5.18E-03 |
| ENSG00000263006 | ROCK1P1    | 1.385                                       | 2.79E-02 |
| ENSG00000196074 | SYCP2      | 1.382                                       | 4.73E-02 |
| ENSG00000197044 | ZNF441     | 1.380                                       | 6.23E-03 |
| ENSG00000144674 | GOLGA4     | 1.376                                       | 1.48E-04 |
| ENSG00000210151 | MT-TS1     | 1.374                                       | 2.80E-03 |
| ENSG00000197837 | H4-16      | 1.374                                       | 2.46E-02 |
| ENSG00000254536 | AL360181.3 | 1.365                                       | 1.95E-02 |
| ENSG00000173209 | AHSA2P     | 1.365                                       | 7.28E-04 |
| ENSG00000152409 | JMY        | 1.360                                       | 1.37E-03 |
| ENSG00000224287 | ZNF3P1     | 1.360                                       | 9.66E-03 |
| ENSG00000196437 | NSL569     | 1.350                                       | 2.65E-03 |
| ENSG00000138182 | KIF20B     | 1.348                                       | 2.87E-04 |
| ENSG00000188994 | ZNF292     | 1.341                                       | 5.20E-04 |
| ENSG00000189423 | USP32P3    | 1.336                                       | 1.26E-02 |
| ENSG00000165813 | CCDC186    | 1.331                                       | 8.92E-04 |

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Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name       | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000154874 | CCDC144B        | 1.329                                       | 7.57E-04 |
| ENSG00000261490 | AC005674.2      | 1.326                                       | 4.31E-02 |
| ENSG00000277701 | AC159540.2      | 1.325                                       | 3.51E-03 |
| ENSG00000244754 | N4BP2L2         | 1.316                                       | 4.75E-03 |
| ENSG00000189195 | BTBD8           | 1.315                                       | 2.02E-02 |
| ENSG00000121621 | KIF18A          | 1.314                                       | 1.85E-03 |
| ENSG00000153914 | SREK1           | 1.309                                       | 2.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000103995 | CEP152          | 1.308                                       | 4.11E-03 |
| ENSG00000089048 | ESF1            | 1.307                                       | 4.32E-04 |
| ENSG00000133863 | TEX15           | 1.306                                       | 2.69E-02 |
| ENSG00000250299 | MRPS31P4        | 1.296                                       | 1.99E-02 |
| ENSG00000196696 | PDXDC2P-NPIP14P | 1.293                                       | 7.43E-03 |
| ENSG00000267680 | ZNF224          | 1.288                                       | 4.77E-03 |
| ENSG00000227671 | AL390728.4      | 1.278                                       | 1.29E-03 |
| ENSG00000182263 | FIGN            | 1.272                                       | 1.13E-02 |
| ENSG00000274272 | AC069281.2      | 1.271                                       | 3.76E-02 |
| ENSG00000166004 | CEP295          | 1.264                                       | 2.38E-03 |
| ENSG00000279419 | AC004925.1      | 1.264                                       | 2.72E-02 |
| ENSG00000180376 | CCDC66          | 1.263                                       | 2.34E-03 |
| ENSG00000196693 | ZNF33B          | 1.256                                       | 1.09E-02 |
| ENSG00000162572 | SCNN1D          | 1.254                                       | 4.29E-02 |
| ENSG00000256525 | POLG2           | 1.250                                       | 3.87E-02 |
| ENSG00000241697 | TMEFF1          | 1.250                                       | 5.41E-03 |
| ENSG00000177888 | ZBTB41          | 1.250                                       | 8.76E-04 |
| ENSG00000178146 | AL672207.1      | 1.245                                       | 2.95E-02 |
| ENSG00000267368 | UPK3BL1         | 1.245                                       | 5.00E-02 |
| ENSG00000255717 | SNHG1           | 1.241                                       | 1.00E-02 |
| ENSG00000288473 | AL669830.2      | 1.234                                       | 1.58E-03 |
| ENSG00000251022 | THAP9-AS1       | 1.231                                       | 1.29E-02 |
| ENSG00000114857 | NKTR            | 1.225                                       | 6.89E-04 |
| ENSG00000214548 | MEG3            | 1.222                                       | 1.24E-03 |
| ENSG00000176597 | B3GNT5          | 1.217                                       | 3.57E-02 |
| ENSG00000129534 | MIS18BP1        | 1.215                                       | 1.66E-03 |
| ENSG00000197050 | ZNF420          | 1.201                                       | 4.53E-03 |
| ENSG00000276550 | HERC2P2         | 1.193                                       | 2.96E-03 |
| ENSG00000230453 | ANKRD18B        | 1.191                                       | 4.93E-02 |
| ENSG00000187790 | FANCM           | 1.191                                       | 3.16E-03 |
| ENSG00000143971 | ETAA1           | 1.189                                       | 1.95E-03 |
| ENSG00000173275 | ZNF449          | 1.189                                       | 5.44E-03 |
| ENSG00000230630 | DNM3OS          | 1.189                                       | 2.01E-02 |
| ENSG00000118482 | PHF3            | 1.187                                       | 2.18E-03 |
| ENSG00000080345 | RIF1            | 1.186                                       | 2.02E-03 |
| ENSG00000178338 | ZNF354B         | 1.185                                       | 2.17E-02 |
| ENSG00000075292 | ZNF638          | 1.182                                       | 2.54E-03 |
| ENSG00000273136 | NBPF26          | 1.180                                       | 8.68E-03 |
| ENSG00000085224 | ATRX            | 1.175                                       | 4.13E-04 |
| ENSG00000171016 | PYGO1           | 1.174                                       | 2.21E-02 |
| ENSG00000162601 | MYSM1           | 1.173                                       | 2.61E-03 |
| ENSG00000258441 | LINC00641       | 1.172                                       | 6.17E-03 |
| ENSG00000197978 | GOLGA6L9        | 1.169                                       | 3.42E-02 |
| ENSG00000196081 | ZNF724          | 1.169                                       | 1.22E-02 |
| ENSG00000132424 | PNISR           | 1.169                                       | 2.27E-03 |
| ENSG00000092140 | G2E3            | 1.166                                       | 4.95E-03 |

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Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name  | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000197054 | ZNF763     | 1.164                                       | 4.53E-02 |
| ENSG00000134897 | BIVM       | 1.162                                       | 1.65E-06 |
| ENSG00000257315 | ZBED6      | 1.159                                       | 1.35E-03 |
| ENSG00000139618 | BRCA2      | 1.158                                       | 7.82E-03 |
| ENSG00000137135 | ARHGEF39   | 1.143                                       | 3.48E-02 |
| ENSG00000230397 | SPTLC1P1   | 1.143                                       | 2.14E-02 |
| ENSG00000131127 | ZNF141     | 1.142                                       | 3.17E-02 |
| ENSG00000083535 | PIBF1      | 1.139                                       | 4.43E-03 |
| ENSG00000254413 | CHKB-CPT1B | 1.135                                       | 4.13E-03 |
| ENSG00000197989 | SNHG12     | 1.134                                       | 8.69E-03 |
| ENSG00000228315 | GUSBP11    | 1.134                                       | 1.27E-02 |
| ENSG00000236801 | RPL24P8    | 1.134                                       | 2.01E-02 |
| ENSG00000082269 | FAM135A    | 1.131                                       | 1.07E-02 |
| ENSG00000176055 | MBLAC2     | 1.130                                       | 2.14E-02 |
| ENSG00000157741 | UBN2       | 1.129                                       | 5.72E-03 |
| ENSG00000146414 | SHPRH      | 1.128                                       | 7.65E-03 |
| ENSG00000170396 | ZNF804A    | 1.126                                       | 3.65E-03 |
| ENSG00000120798 | NR2C1      | 1.126                                       | 8.08E-03 |
| ENSG00000141446 | ESCO1      | 1.125                                       | 2.70E-03 |
| ENSG00000127081 | ZNF484     | 1.123                                       | 1.03E-02 |
| ENSG00000126777 | KTN1       | 1.120                                       | 1.53E-03 |
| ENSG00000122008 | POLK       | 1.119                                       | 2.84E-02 |
| ENSG00000261408 | TEN1-CDK3  | 1.117                                       | 5.59E-03 |
| ENSG00000023287 | RB1CC1     | 1.114                                       | 2.23E-03 |
| ENSG00000188234 | AGAP4      | 1.112                                       | 2.66E-02 |
| ENSG00000009694 | TENM1      | 1.110                                       | 2.44E-02 |
| ENSG00000139132 | FGD4       | 1.109                                       | 2.27E-03 |
| ENSG00000280347 | AC000123.3 | 1.108                                       | 3.49E-02 |
| ENSG00000136603 | SKIL       | 1.107                                       | 1.46E-02 |
| ENSG00000114120 | SLC25A36   | 1.107                                       | 1.98E-02 |
| ENSG00000145777 | TSLP       | 1.107                                       | 7.85E-03 |
| ENSG00000163428 | LRRCS58    | 1.106                                       | 3.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000167635 | ZNF146     | 1.106                                       | 3.68E-03 |
| ENSG00000118412 | CASP8AP2   | 1.103                                       | 3.13E-03 |
| ENSG00000189057 | FAM111B    | 1.100                                       | 9.39E-03 |
| ENSG00000119778 | ATAD2B     | 1.099                                       | 1.91E-02 |
| ENSG00000149054 | ZNF215     | 1.098                                       | 3.03E-02 |
| ENSG00000100815 | TRIP11     | 1.097                                       | 1.27E-03 |
| ENSG00000125351 | UPF3B      | 1.095                                       | 6.28E-03 |
| ENSG00000189190 | ZNF600     | 1.095                                       | 2.72E-02 |
| ENSG00000138399 | FASTKD1    | 1.092                                       | 3.62E-02 |
| ENSG00000117262 | GPR89A     | 1.091                                       | 3.96E-03 |
| ENSG00000078177 | N4BP2      | 1.085                                       | 1.08E-02 |
| ENSG00000135338 | LCA5       | 1.085                                       | 8.36E-03 |
| ENSG00000163611 | SPICE1     | 1.085                                       | 2.74E-02 |
| ENSG00000165525 | NEMF       | 1.084                                       | 2.30E-03 |
| ENSG00000196757 | ZNF700     | 1.083                                       | 1.79E-02 |
| ENSG00000196227 | FAM217B    | 1.080                                       | 5.24E-03 |
| ENSG00000102189 | EEA1       | 1.080                                       | 3.08E-03 |
| ENSG00000145734 | BDP1       | 1.078                                       | 1.80E-03 |
| ENSG00000226102 | SEPTIN7P3  | 1.077                                       | 1.98E-02 |
| ENSG00000100592 | DAAM1      | 1.076                                       | 9.06E-03 |
| ENSG00000223705 | NSUN5P1    | 1.075                                       | 1.49E-02 |

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Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name   | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|-------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000169131 | ZNF354A     | 1.073                                       | 1.22E-02 |
| ENSG00000139793 | MBNL2       | 1.072                                       | 1.12E-02 |
| ENSG00000229419 | RALGAPA1P1  | 1.070                                       | 2.30E-02 |
| ENSG00000198046 | ZNF667      | 1.069                                       | 2.46E-02 |
| ENSG00000047410 | TPR         | 1.068                                       | 3.05E-03 |
| ENSG00000183474 | GTF2H2C     | 1.068                                       | 7.58E-03 |
| ENSG00000140285 | FGF7        | 1.067                                       | 2.59E-03 |
| ENSG00000182504 | CEP97       | 1.066                                       | 5.84E-03 |
| ENSG00000117724 | CENPF       | 1.066                                       | 4.42E-03 |
| ENSG00000011405 | PIK3C2A     | 1.066                                       | 4.05E-03 |
| ENSG00000163029 | SMC6        | 1.065                                       | 4.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000256591 | AP003108.2  | 1.065                                       | 2.69E-02 |
| ENSG00000159086 | PAXBP1      | 1.064                                       | 6.28E-03 |
| ENSG00000146757 | ZNF92       | 1.063                                       | 1.19E-02 |
| ENSG00000116741 | RGS2        | 1.053                                       | 1.30E-02 |
| ENSG00000230606 | AC092683.1  | 1.053                                       | 3.39E-03 |
| ENSG00000181450 | ZNF678      | 1.047                                       | 2.09E-02 |
| ENSG00000163738 | MTHFD2L     | 1.045                                       | 2.55E-02 |
| ENSG00000137871 | ZNF280D     | 1.045                                       | 7.95E-03 |
| ENSG00000138398 | PPIG        | 1.042                                       | 5.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000145241 | CENPC       | 1.042                                       | 1.37E-02 |
| ENSG00000198105 | ZNF248      | 1.041                                       | 7.98E-03 |
| ENSG00000111860 | CEP85L      | 1.040                                       | 7.33E-03 |
| ENSG00000153165 | RGPD3       | 1.040                                       | 3.35E-02 |
| ENSG00000182903 | ZNF721      | 1.038                                       | 1.64E-03 |
| ENSG00000092208 | GEMIN2      | 1.036                                       | 4.29E-02 |
| ENSG00000197121 | PGAP1       | 1.036                                       | 2.58E-02 |
| ENSG00000129317 | PUS7L       | 1.034                                       | 4.79E-03 |
| ENSG00000179104 | TMTC2       | 1.030                                       | 4.01E-02 |
| ENSG00000163848 | ZNF148      | 1.024                                       | 2.02E-02 |
| ENSG00000205413 | SAMD9       | 1.021                                       | 4.47E-03 |
| ENSG00000133739 | LRRCC1      | 1.021                                       | 6.39E-03 |
| ENSG00000198464 | ZNF480      | 1.020                                       | 8.07E-03 |
| ENSG00000185246 | PRPF39      | 1.019                                       | 1.12E-02 |
| ENSG00000138688 | KIAA1109    | 1.012                                       | 1.67E-02 |
| ENSG00000032219 | ARID4A      | 1.011                                       | 4.66E-03 |
| ENSG00000127914 | AKAP9       | 1.011                                       | 5.53E-04 |
| ENSG00000083097 | DOPIA       | 1.011                                       | 3.07E-02 |
| ENSG00000164463 | CREBRF      | 1.009                                       | 1.86E-02 |
| ENSG00000151835 | SACS        | 1.008                                       | 5.30E-03 |
| ENSG00000135968 | GCC2        | 1.006                                       | 7.64E-03 |
| ENSG00000118939 | UCHL3       | 1.005                                       | 1.88E-02 |
| ENSG00000115355 | CCDC88A     | 1.004                                       | 5.53E-03 |
| ENSG00000113448 | PDE4D       | 1.003                                       | 3.13E-02 |
| ENSG00000114796 | KLHL24      | 1.002                                       | 4.09E-03 |
| ENSG00000198521 | ZNF43       | 1.000                                       | 4.29E-03 |
| ENSG00000213689 | TREX1       | -1.003                                      | 2.04E-02 |
| ENSG00000257511 | AC084824.1  | -1.012                                      | 2.78E-02 |
| ENSG00000270800 | RPS10-NUDT3 | -1.054                                      | 9.04E-04 |
| ENSG00000100311 | PDGFB       | -1.065                                      | 9.15E-04 |
| ENSG00000174977 | AC026271.1  | -1.081                                      | 3.45E-02 |
| ENSG00000286219 | NOTCH2NLC   | -1.127                                      | 4.43E-02 |
| ENSG00000149798 | CDC42EP2    | -1.133                                      | 8.31E-04 |

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Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name     | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|---------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000270011 | ZNF559-ZNF177 | -1.137                                      | 4.89E-02 |
| ENSG00000234648 | AL162151.2    | -1.154                                      | 2.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000288534 | AP001931.2    | -1.192                                      | 4.06E-03 |
| ENSG00000260643 | AC092718.3    | -1.192                                      | 3.01E-03 |
| ENSG00000229638 | RPL4P4        | -1.195                                      | 3.60E-04 |
| ENSG00000177272 | KCNA3         | -1.207                                      | 4.11E-02 |
| ENSG00000203761 | MSTO2P        | -1.224                                      | 8.00E-04 |
| ENSG00000131737 | KRT34         | -1.261                                      | 1.51E-02 |
| ENSG00000255339 | AL133352.1    | -1.263                                      | 2.26E-02 |
| ENSG00000254852 | NPIPA2        | -1.277                                      | 3.01E-02 |
| ENSG00000255135 | AP002360.1    | -1.321                                      | 4.14E-02 |
| ENSG00000255526 | NEDD8-MDP1    | -1.326                                      | 3.09E-02 |
| ENSG00000163219 | ARHGAP25      | -1.329                                      | 6.18E-04 |
| ENSG00000229018 | PMS2P7        | -1.377                                      | 3.58E-02 |
| ENSG00000154133 | ROBO4         | -1.453                                      | 3.43E-02 |
| ENSG00000214654 | B3GNT10       | -1.478                                      | 2.84E-03 |
| ENSG00000203995 | ZYG11A        | -1.479                                      | 3.50E-02 |
| ENSG00000215915 | ATAD3C        | -1.486                                      | 1.30E-03 |
| ENSG00000228903 | RASA4CP       | -1.520                                      | 7.36E-04 |
| ENSG00000263887 | AC053481.2    | -1.612                                      | 4.89E-02 |
| ENSG00000166317 | SYNPO2L       | -1.618                                      | 5.74E-03 |
| ENSG00000185839 | AL035411.1    | -1.626                                      | 3.33E-03 |
| ENSG00000213780 | GTF2H4        | -1.631                                      | 4.89E-06 |
| ENSG00000232553 | CLK2P1        | -1.653                                      | 3.45E-02 |
| ENSG00000276345 | AC004556.3    | -1.687                                      | 1.20E-05 |
| ENSG00000006210 | CX3CL1        | -1.688                                      | 8.10E-03 |
| ENSG00000255639 | AC005833.1    | -1.695                                      | 1.09E-03 |
| ENSG00000253767 | PCDHGA8       | -1.710                                      | 5.40E-04 |
| ENSG00000187013 | LINC02875     | -1.719                                      | 1.33E-02 |
| ENSG00000273590 | SMIM11B       | -1.741                                      | 4.62E-04 |
| ENSG00000174028 | FAM3C2        | -1.766                                      | 8.65E-07 |
| ENSG00000023892 | DEF6          | -1.801                                      | 4.87E-02 |
| ENSG00000257949 | TEN1          | -1.823                                      | 1.82E-06 |
| ENSG00000250021 | ARPIN-AP3S2   | -1.833                                      | 6.22E-06 |
| ENSG00000272449 | AL139246.5    | -1.863                                      | 4.30E-02 |
| ENSG00000284391 | AL139398.1    | -1.866                                      | 5.55E-03 |
| ENSG00000234287 | AC099560.2    | -1.914                                      | 1.03E-03 |
| ENSG00000254692 | AL136295.1    | -1.943                                      | 6.96E-07 |
| ENSG00000230667 | SETSIP        | -2.014                                      | 7.33E-03 |
| ENSG00000137411 | VAR52         | -2.024                                      | 7.29E-08 |
| ENSG00000257207 | AC112229.3    | -2.091                                      | 2.42E-05 |
| ENSG00000254806 | SYS1-DBNDD2   | -2.094                                      | 2.15E-02 |
| ENSG00000268575 | AL031282.2    | -2.110                                      | 4.11E-08 |
| ENSG00000268083 | AC008982.1    | -2.115                                      | 4.68E-04 |
| ENSG00000283390 | AC068631.3    | -2.136                                      | 7.54E-07 |
| ENSG00000182890 | GLUD2         | -2.138                                      | 1.05E-05 |
| ENSG00000261553 | AL137782.1    | -2.155                                      | 5.15E-10 |
| ENSG00000203618 | GP1BB         | -2.207                                      | 3.24E-03 |
| ENSG00000256206 | AC018523.2    | -2.292                                      | 8.88E-03 |
| ENSG00000103710 | RASL12        | -2.309                                      | 4.89E-02 |
| ENSG00000272822 | AC073610.2    | -2.387                                      | 7.38E-03 |
| ENSG00000151967 | SCHIP1        | -2.442                                      | 1.38E-02 |
| ENSG00000274810 | NPHP3-ACAD11  | -2.511                                      | 3.16E-08 |

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Supplementary Table 1: Contd....

| Gene ID         | Gene name      | Log2 ratio<br>(Cytokine +<br>JSHT/Cytokine) | P        |
|-----------------|----------------|---|----------|
| ENSG00000188223 | AD000671.1     | -2.547                                      | 5.14E-04 |
| ENSG00000212643 | ZRSR2P1        | -2.563                                      | 9.73E-03 |
| ENSG00000130940 | CASZ1          | -2.758                                      | 4.67E-02 |
| ENSG00000232527 | LINC02802      | -2.781                                      | 6.78E-06 |
| ENSG00000103426 | CORO7-PAM16    | -2.969                                      | 9.74E-06 |
| ENSG00000114786 | ABHD14A-ACY1   | -3.043                                      | 7.33E-03 |
| ENSG00000167774 | AC010323.1     | -3.127                                      | 1.44E-11 |
| ENSG00000267348 | GEMIN7-AS1     | -3.140                                      | 1.20E-02 |
| ENSG00000144834 | TAGLN3         | -3.198                                      | 7.62E-03 |
| ENSG00000214322 | CBX1P2         | -3.204                                      | 4.65E-02 |
| ENSG00000205639 | MFS2B          | -3.536                                      | 2.63E-02 |
| ENSG00000236546 | MYCL-AS1       | -3.603                                      | 2.45E-02 |
| ENSG00000240764 | PCDHGC5        | -3.654                                      | 3.50E-11 |
| ENSG00000264058 | AC073508.2     | -3.739                                      | 1.83E-08 |
| ENSG00000279504 | AD001527.2     | -3.785                                      | 3.86E-03 |
| ENSG00000239704 | CDRT4          | -3.964                                      | 3.63E-18 |
| ENSG00000285402 | AC244230.2     | -4.056                                      | 4.44E-03 |
| ENSG00000285130 | AL358113.1     | -4.180                                      | 6.37E-11 |
| ENSG00000257341 | AL928654.3     | -4.210                                      | 2.75E-03 |
| ENSG00000215196 | BASP1-AS1      | -4.252                                      | 3.04E-03 |
| ENSG00000172548 | NIPAL4         | -4.364                                      | 2.83E-04 |
| ENSG00000260899 | AC106886.2     | -4.533                                      | 2.11E-03 |
| ENSG00000270181 | BIVM-ERCC5     | -5.775                                      | 2.57E-35 |
| ENSG00000272821 | U62317.1       | -7.870                                      | 1.25E-02 |
| ENSG00000285427 | SOD2-OT1       | -11.834                                     | 1.50E-02 |
| ENSG00000235529 | AGAP1-IT1      | -11.908                                     | 2.16E-02 |
| ENSG00000254968 | LINC02763      | -11.983                                     | 6.02E-03 |
| ENSG00000231050 | AL109917.1     | -12.082                                     | 3.35E-02 |
| ENSG00000205436 | EXOC3L4        | -12.112                                     | 2.91E-02 |
| ENSG00000269693 | AC010422.6     | -12.234                                     | 1.24E-11 |
| ENSG00000260853 | AC109460.2     | -12.294                                     | 3.45E-05 |
| ENSG00000100121 | GGTLC2         | -12.735                                     | 7.01E-04 |
| ENSG00000222032 | AC112721.2     | -12.817                                     | 4.10E-03 |
| ENSG00000265818 | EEF1E1-BLOC1S5 | -12.951                                     | 3.65E-02 |
| ENSG00000273259 | AL049839.2     | -12.998                                     | 3.44E-07 |
| ENSG00000269688 | AC008982.2     | -13.517                                     | 1.60E-02 |
| ENSG00000238123 | MID1IP1-AS1    | -13.540                                     | 5.63E-03 |
| ENSG00000259079 | AC005476.1     | -13.778                                     | 8.95E-03 |
| ENSG00000283765 | AC131160.1     | -13.824                                     | 2.79E-19 |
| ENSG00000285238 | AC006064.6     | -13.848                                     | 5.09E-37 |
| ENSG00000260272 | AC093525.2     | -14.146                                     | 8.14E-15 |
| ENSG00000259171 | AL163636.2     | -14.195                                     | 5.76E-13 |
| ENSG00000251259 | AC004069.1     | -14.870                                     | 1.02E-04 |
| ENSG00000205362 | MT1A           | -14.982                                     | 5.11E-05 |
| ENSG00000256500 | AL139300.1     | -15.042                                     | 1.15E-25 |
| ENSG00000261796 | ISY1-RAB43     | -16.060                                     | 6.13E-47 |
| ENSG00000285991 | AL355312.5     | -16.658                                     | 3.68E-60 |
| ENSG00000235236 | AC137630.2     | -17.271                                     | 2.86E-24 |
| ENSG00000277702 | AC239859.5     | -18.151                                     | 9.91E-24 |