



Published in final edited form as:

Cell Rep. 2021 October 12; 37(2): 109796. doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109796.

Proinflammatory cytokines promote TET2-mediated DNA demethylation during CD8 T cell effector differentiation

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SUMMARY

To gain insight into the signaling determinants of effector-associated DNA methylation programming among CD8 T cells, we explore the role of interleukin (IL)-12 in the imprinting of IFN γ expression during CD8 T cell priming. We observe that anti-CD3/CD28-mediated stimulation of human naive CD8 T cells is not sufficient to induce substantial demethylation of the IFN γ promoter. However, anti-CD3/CD28 stimulation in the presence of the inflammatory cytokine, IL-12, results in stable demethylation of the IFN γ locus that is commensurate with IFN γ expression. IL-12-associated demethylation of the IFN γ locus is coupled to cell division through TET2-dependent demethylation in an *ex vivo* human chimeric antigen receptor T cell model system and an *in vivo* immunologically competent murine system. Collectively, these data illustrate that IL-12 signaling promotes TET2-mediated effector DNA demethylation

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

C.C.Z. and B.Y. designed the experiments and supervised the study; C.C.Z., H.A.A., and H.E.G. collected whole-genome bisulfite sequencing (WGBS) data and analyzed and interpreted results; S.A. and C.B. collected data; T.H. and M.A.M. contributed to the design of LM murine experiments, collected and analyzed data, and interpreted results; D.H. and G.K. contributed to the TET2KO CAR T cell experiments, collected and analyzed data, and interpreted results; and C.C.Z. and B.Y. wrote the manuscript.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109796>.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

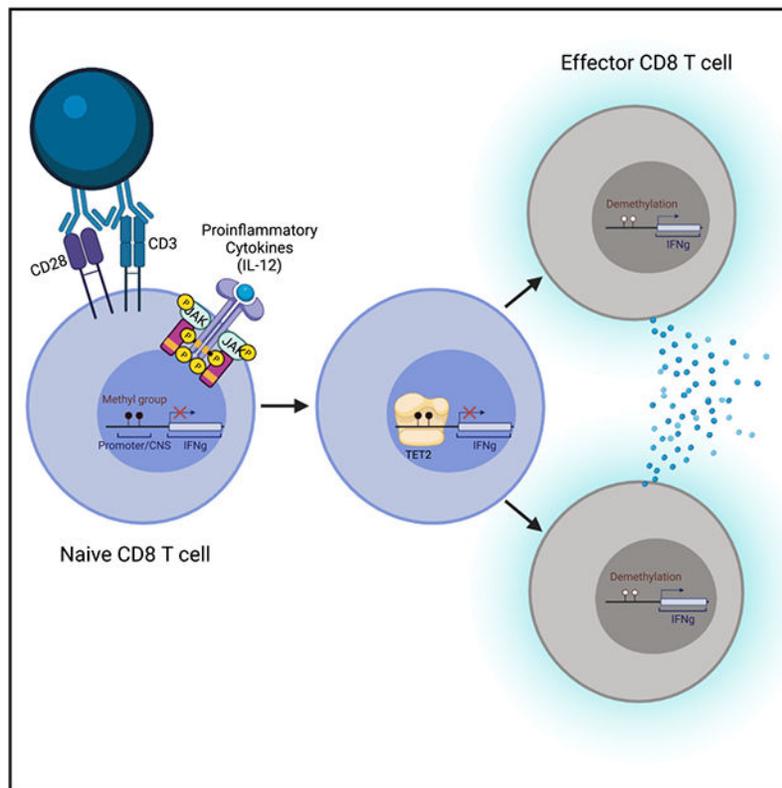
C.C.Z., G.K., and B.Y. have patents related to epigenetic biomarkers and methods for enhancing CAR T cell function. B.Y. has a consulting agreement with ElevateBio.

programming in CD8 T cells and serve as proof of concept that cytokines can guide induction of epigenetically regulated traits for T cell-based immunotherapies.

In brief

Zebley et al. report that proinflammatory cytokines imprint CD8 T cells with effector-associated DNA methylation programs during T cell priming. Specifically, interleukin-12 promotes division-dependent TET2-mediated demethylation of the IFN γ locus during an endogenous CD8 T cell response to an acute infection in mice and during human chimeric antigen receptor T cell expansion.

Graphical Abstract



INTRODUCTION

Adoptive transfer of T cells into patients with cancer has proven efficacious against multiple tumor targets (Garfall et al., 2015; Park et al., 2016, 2018). Despite the potential of this approach, many patients still succumb to their disease, prompting investigation into correlates of clinical response as well as methods to improve upon T cell-based therapies. Interleukin (IL)-12 has been shown to be an essential cytokine for enhancing the anti-tumor ability of T cells in multiple settings including intratumoral administration (van Herpen et al., 2004; Zhao et al., 2011), facilitating successful anti-PD1 immunotherapy (Garris et al., 2018), and improving adoptive cell therapy approaches such as chimeric antigen receptor

(CAR) T cell-mediated tumor eradication (Liu et al., 2019; Yeku et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2015). IL-12-driven tumoricidal activity has been directly linked to an upregulation in interferon gamma (IFN γ) expression (Yu et al., 1997). Prior work in murine model systems has established that IL-12 signaling during T cell priming promotes IFN γ expression in both effector and memory T cells and is critical for establishing long-lived functional memory CD8 T cells (Curtsinger and Mescher, 2010; Gerner et al., 2013; Xiao et al., 2009). Given the vital role of IL-12 in mediating a successful immune response, a deeper understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying inflammation-mediated epigenetic (DNA methylation) programming of T cells is needed.

Immunological imprinting of effector programs in CD8 T cells occurs following naive T cell antigen recognition and is tailored to the cytokine signals received from the innate immune system. Antigen-presenting cells (APCs), such as dendritic cells, sense pathogens through Toll-like receptors, which triggers production of proinflammatory cytokines including IL-12 (Trinchieri, 2003; Zundler and Neurath, 2015). While naive CD8 T cells are able to proliferate in response to TCR (signal 1) and CD28 (signal 2), signal 3 provided by either IL-12 or type I IFN is necessary for the development of a functional effector response (Xiao et al., 2009). Importantly, IL-12 or type I IFN signals are not only crucial for the differentiation of naive CD8 T cells into effector cells, but they are also required for the development of memory cells (Xiao et al., 2009). The critical role of IL-12 and type I IFN in memory formation is consistent with previous work in both humans and mice demonstrating that memory CD8 T cells originate from a subset of fate-permissive effector CD8 T cells (Youngblood et al., 2017). These memory CD8 T cells retain effector epigenetic programs that allow them to rapidly recall effector functions upon antigen reencounter (Abdelsamed et al., 2018). The ability of memory CD8 T cells to rapidly elicit effector functions contributes to their overall capacity to provide the host with lifelong protection against previously encountered pathogens.

Persistence of memory CD8 T cells in the absence of their cognate antigen indicates that the cells undergo stable changes to gene regulation that can persist during homeostatic self-renewal (Goldrath et al., 2002). Dividing cells preserve transcriptionally repressive and permissive chromatin states through DNA methylation programs (Youngblood et al., 2012). Propagation of these acquired epigenetic programs preserves a population of long-lived CD8 T cells poised to recall an effector response. Indeed, our previous work shows that the effector DNA methylation programs of human memory CD8 T cells are conserved during antigen-independent self-renewal (Abdelsamed et al., 2017). DNA methylation programming is maintained by DNA methyltransferase 1 (DNMT1), which recognizes hemimethylated CpG sites in order to re-establish 5-methylcytosine (5mC) on the daughter strand after DNA replication. DNA demethylation is driven by ten-eleven translocation (TET) protein-mediated oxidation of 5mC to 5-hydroxymethylcytosine and can occur passively through decreasing the affinity of DNMT1 binding, resulting in the dilution of 5mC during DNA replication (An et al., 2017). While effector loci have broadly been shown to undergo demethylation during the priming stage of a T cell immune response, the mechanism governing acquisition of a memory T cell's poised effector potential requires further investigation.

To better understand the molecular mechanisms reinforcing effector-associated epigenetic programs instilled during CD8 T cell differentiation, here we investigate the role of IL-12 in CD8 T cell priming with a focus on IFN γ . Using a human CAR model system, we report that IL-12-driven demethylation of the IFN γ promotor is mediated by TET2 and occurs following cell division. We extend these results to an endogenous immune response using the well-established lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) murine model of acute viral infection. Our results inform on the signaling events that promote effector-associated DNA demethylation during both human and mouse CD8 T cell effector differentiation and provide clinically relevant mechanistic insight regarding the optimization of adoptive T cell therapies.

RESULTS

IL-12 signaling promotes IFN γ locus epigenetic reprogramming during human CD8 T cell effector differentiation

DNA methylation is known to play a crucial role in T cell differentiation. For instance, during effector differentiation, the IFN γ locus in CD8 T cells becomes demethylated commensurate with its high level of expression (Kersh et al., 2006). To investigate the role of individual cytokines in effector differentiation-driven epigenetic reprogramming, we isolated naive CD8 T cells from a healthy human donor and cultured them *in vitro* with anti-CD3/CD28 plus different cytokines known to be crucial for CD8 T cell function, including IL-2, IL-7, IL-12, IL-15, IL-18, and IL-21 (Figure S1). While the majority of cytokines did not impact IFN γ protein expression or locus methylation status, naive CD8 T cells cultured in the presence of IL-12 and anti-CD3/CD28 both exhibited an increase in IFN γ expression and underwent demethylation of the IFN γ promotor, prompting further investigation of IL-12 (Figures 1A and S1). We next proceeded to define the kinetics for IFN γ expression and locus demethylation. At the 2-, 7-, and 14-day time points of the *in vitro* culture, we measured IFN γ expression and examined the methylation status of the IFN γ locus for naive CD8 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 plus IL-12. As early as day 2, the CD8 T cells cultured in the presence of IL-12 exhibited robust IFN γ expression as compared to minimal IFN γ expression seen in the CD8 T cells stimulated only with anti-CD3/CD28 (Figures 1B–1D). Further, the CD8 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 and IL-12 maintained a heightened ability to express IFN γ at both the 7- and 14-day time points (Figures 1B–1D). Notably, the ability of these CD8 T cells to express IFN γ was coupled to epigenetic changes at the IFN γ locus. While unstimulated naive CD8 T cells and naive CD8 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 remained methylated, naive CD8 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 in the presence of IL-12 underwent demethylation of the IFN γ locus by day 7 and the demethylation persisted at day 14 (Figure 1E). These data suggest that the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 signaling alone is not sufficient to fully upregulate IFN γ expression or induce complete demethylation of the IFN γ locus. The presence of proinflammatory cytokines, specifically IL-12, during CD8 T cell priming is necessary to drive the expression of IFN γ and instill the effector-associated epigenetic programs of the IFN γ locus.

Based on prior published work demonstrating that memory T cells transition through an effector stage of differentiation (Akondy et al., 2017; Youngblood et al., 2017), we proceeded to ask whether IL-12 signaling induced DNA demethylation events were also present in freshly isolated endogenous memory T cells from healthy human donors. Consistent with our loci-specific DNA methylation profiling, genome-wide methylation profiling documented demethylation of the IFN γ promoter as well as the 5' conserved noncoding sequence (CNS) element (Schoenborn et al., 2007) in the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 and IL-12 (Figures 1F and S2A). This specific CNS, which is approximately 5 to 6 kb upstream of the promoter, has previously been shown to directly enhance promoter activity (Schoenborn et al., 2007). Notably, these specific demethylation events were present in memory T cell subsets freshly isolated from healthy human donors (Abdelsamed et al., 2017, 2020). For further comparison, we looked at other effector-associated genes (CCR5, GZMB, TNF) and found similar demethylation events that were enriched in the long-lived endogenous T cell memory populations (Figures 1F and S2B). Given that IL-12 enhances effector differentiation, our methylation data further support a model of memory T cell development whereby the memory CD8 T cells transition through an effector stage of the immune response. To further explore the biological pathways associated with anti-CD3/CD28 and IL-12 signaling, we performed a Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of the top genes and found regulation of the JAK-STAT cascade as well as IFN γ production (Figure S2C). We also performed a HOMER motif analysis for the genome regions that underwent demethylation in the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 and IL-12 (Figure S2D). Notably, the transcription factor consensus sequences were heavily enriched for CpGs, further supporting the role of DNA (de)methylation in regulation of these sites. To further characterize the implementation of IL-12-associated differentially methylated regions (DMRs) among functional memory CD8 T cells, we performed a comparison of naive CD8 T cells to each of the memory subsets (effector memory [Tem], central memory [Tcm], and stem cell memory [Tscm]; Figure S2E). Consistent with IL-12 inducing effector-associated epigenetic programs, we found the most overlap between naive and Tem CD8 T cells, followed by naive and Tcm, and lastly naive and Tscm. Taken together, these data highlight that IL-12 plays a role in establishing effector-associated epigenetic programs in memory CD8 T cells.

Cell division is coupled to epigenetic reprogramming of the IFN γ locus during human effector CD8 T cell differentiation

Prior efforts to identify the origin of human memory CD8 T cells have demonstrated that long-lived memory T cells are derived from a subset of T cells that have undergone a proliferative burst during the effector stage of a primary immune response (Akondy et al., 2017). Given that we did not observe notable demethylation of the IFN γ locus until after 2 days of stimulation (Figure 1E), we proceeded to evaluate whether cell division plays a role in establishing the observed epigenetic reprogramming. To evaluate the role of cell division in demethylation of the IFN γ locus, CFSE-labeled naive CD8 T cells were stimulated in the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 with and without IL-12. After 1 week, the carboxyfluorescein succinimidyl ester (CFSE)-labeled CD8 T cells were assessed for IFN γ expression. While both culture conditions resulted in significant cell division after stimulation with anti-CD3/CD28, the majority of IFN γ expression was observed in those CD8 T cells that divided

in the presence of IL-12 (Figures 2A and 2B). We next used fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) to purify the CD8 T cells into undivided and divided cell populations to determine whether the IFN γ expression was correlated with division-dependent changes in epigenetic programs. Bisulfite sequencing revealed that IFN γ expression in the divided cell population was coupled to DNA demethylation of the IFN γ locus. These results demonstrate that cell division promotes IFN γ locus demethylation in CD8 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 and IL-12 (Figure 2C). While these results further support the conclusion that IL-12 signaling is critical for inducing IFN γ expression, the association with cell division prompted us to further explore the enzymatic mechanism responsible for inducing DNA demethylation.

IL-12 signaling promotes TET2-driven IFN γ locus demethylation during human CAR T cell activation and expansion

Previous studies have shown that the TET enzymes oxidize 5mC to 5-hydroxymethylcytose (5hmC) (An et al., 2017). The maintenance methyltransferase, DNMT1, does not readily recognize 5hmC, which results in a failure to maintain DNA methylation after cell division (An et al., 2017). Given our observation that IFN γ demethylation occurs in a division-dependent manner, we used an *ex vivo* human CAR T cell system to ask whether TET2-mediated 5hmC deposition resulted in DNA demethylation of the IFN γ locus. To investigate the role of TET2 in human CD8 T cell effector differentiation, human naive CD8 T cells were FACS purified from a healthy donor, activated in the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 followed by electroporation with Cas9 and gRNA targeting either mCherry (control) or TET2, and subsequently transduced with a lentivirus that expressed the B7-H3-specific CAR. The cells were then expanded in the presence of IL-7 and IL-15 until day 10, at which point they were activated with plate-bound recombinant human B7-H3 with or without IL-12 for 7–14 days prior to DNA methylation profiling (Figure 3A). Loci-specific bisulfite sequencing revealed that DNA demethylation of the IFN γ locus was significantly enhanced by IL-12 as seen in the control knockout (KO) but strikingly, IFN γ locus demethylation did not occur in the absence of TET2 in conditions either with or without IL-12 (Figure 3B). These findings were confirmed by performing whole-genome methylation profiling on both the control and TET2KO CAR T cells cultured in the presence of IL-12 at 1 and 2 weeks postactivation. Again, we observed IFN γ demethylation but only in the presence of TET2. In addition, we looked at the effector-associated genes CCR5, GZMB, and TNF, which had similar TET2-mediated demethylation regions (Figure S3A). In comparing the DMRs between the control and TET2KO CAR T cells, there are 882 DMRs that are methylated after TET2KO compared to only 77 demethylated genes (Figure S3B). GO analysis was performed in order to characterize the biological pathways associated with control and TET2KO CAR T cell DMRs (Figure S3C). Notably, the methylated DMRs were associated with regulation of lymphocyte activation, while the unmethylated DMRs were associated with T cell differentiation and activation. These results document the critical role of TET2 in driving demethylation of the human IFN γ locus as well as other effector-associated genes in the setting of inflammatory cytokines.

***In vivo* inflammation during T cell priming promotes TET2-mediated Ifng locus demethylation**

We next sought to extend our findings by examining the role of inflammatory cytokines in an endogenous immune response using an immunocompetent model system. Previously, we demonstrated that demethylation of *Ifng* occurs in memory precursor T cells and persists into the development of all memory T cell subsets (Youngblood et al., 2017)(Figures S4A and S4B). Building on these previous findings, we examined *Listeria monocytogenes* (LM)-specific effector CD8 T cells to begin dissecting the role of inflammation on DNA methylation of the *Ifng* locus. LM-specific effector CD8 T cells undergo extensive proliferation during the effector response to acute LM infection, which has been shown to involve various inflammatory cytokines including IL-12 (Nomura et al., 2002). However, unlike acute LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells, LM-specific effector CD8 T cells are resistant to demethylation of the *Ifng* 3' CNS (Figure S4C), a site that has been previously described as a regulatory element for *Ifng* expression (Schoenborn et al., 2007). Notably, LM-specific effector CD8 T cells do undergo demethylation of the *Ifng* promoter (Northrop et al., 2006), illustrating inflammatory environment-associated intergenic variability and focusing our efforts on identifying the signaling determinants for demethylation of the *Ifng* 3' CNS.

Having identified a dichotomous methylation state among LM- and LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells, we sought to determine whether the inflammatory milieu of an acute LCMV infection could promote further demethylation of the *Ifng* locus in LM-specific CD8 T cells. We proceeded to interrogate LM-specific CD8 T cells in the context of single infection with LM or co-infection with LM and acute LCMV. To track an LM-specific CD8 T cell response, we adoptively transferred ova-specific T-cell receptor transgenic OT-1 CD8 T cells into naive C57BL/6 mice prior to either infection with LM-OVA or co-infection with LM-OVA and acute LCMV (Figure 4A). Relative to the OT-1 cells in mice infected only with LM-OVA, the OT-1 CD8 T cells exhibited a more effector-like phenotype in the context of LM-OVA and LCMV co-infection as exemplified by a higher percentage of KLRG1⁺CD127⁻ cells (Figure S4D). Having observed a difference in the phenotypes, we next FACS purified OT-1 effector CD8 T cells from mice either single infected with LM-OVA or co-infected with LM-OVA and LCMV. The OT-1 effector CD8 T cells remained mostly methylated at the *Ifng* 3' CNS after acute LM-OVA infection. Remarkably, the OT-1 CD8 T cells become demethylated in the setting of co-infection with LM-OVA and acute LCMV (Figure 4B), which we believe supports a role for proinflammatory cytokines in providing the signals required to induce epigenetic changes. Demethylation of the *Ifng* 3' CNS was maintained in OT-1 memory cells generated during co-infection with LM-OVA and acute LCMV (Figure S4E), demonstrating the stability of DNA methylation programming instilled during effector differentiation. Given that LM infection induces production of IL-12, the differences in *Ifng* 3' CNS methylation between LM-OVA and LM-OVA + LCMV-generated OT-1 effector and memory CD8 T cells suggests that demethylation of the *Ifng* 3' CNS element is enhanced by additional proinflammatory cytokines in the setting of co-infection.

After establishing that the cytokine milieu resulting from LCMV infection enables demethylation of the *Ifng* 3' CNS, we asked whether Tet2 was playing a role in this inflammatory-mediated process. To answer this question, we infected either wild-type (WT) or TET2cKO mice with acute LCMV and analyzed the LCMV-specific CD8 T cells at the effector time point. Bisulfite sequencing analysis revealed that the *Ifng* 3' CNS was primarily demethylated in LCMV-specific CD8 T cells isolated from WT mice but remained mostly methylated in LCMV-specific CD8 T cells isolated from TET2cKO mice (Figures 4C and 4D). To further investigate these differences in *Ifng* 3' CNS methylation while controlling for environmental differences between mice, we transferred 5,000 WT Thy1.1 P14s into TET2cKO or C57BL/6 mice and infected the mice with the LCMV Armstrong strain. From the same mouse, the transferred Thy1.1 P14s and endogenous LCMV-specific CD8 T cells were sorted at the effector time point (Figure 4E). Phenotypic analysis revealed that the endogenous LCMV-specific CD8 T cells isolated from the TET2cKO mice had a significantly greater proportion of memory precursors (CD127⁺ KLRG1⁻) compared to adoptively transferred P14 cells within the same animal (Figure 4F). Conversely, endogenous LCMV-specific CD8 T cells from WT mice exhibited a similar phenotype to the adoptively transferred P14 cells within the same mouse (Figures 4F and S4F–S4H). These results are consistent with a prior study documenting a role for TET2 in delineating terminal-effector versus memory-precursor differentiation programs during an LCMV T cell-mediated immune response (Carty et al., 2018). We next performed targeted DNA methylation profiling to interrogate the methylation status of the *Ifng* 3' CNS. As expected, the endogenous naive population retained methylation at the *Ifng* locus, while the transferred Thy1.1 P14s underwent greater demethylation at the *Ifng* locus in both the WT and TET2cKO mice (Figure 4G). Importantly, differences in methylation were observed among the endogenous WT and TET2cKO LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells. While the endogenous LCMV-specific CD8 T cells underwent demethylation of the *Ifng* locus in the WT mice consistent with the demethylation observed in the transferred Thy1.1 P14s, this was not the case in the TET2cKO mice. The endogenous LCMV-specific CD8 T cells in the TET2cKO mice underwent only partial demethylation of the *Ifng* locus and remained significantly more methylated than the transferred Thy1.1 P14s isolated from the same mouse (Figure 4E). This result demonstrates that TET2 regulates the demethylation of a cytokine-sensitive CNS element in the *Ifng* locus during an *in vivo* CD8 T cell effector response to a viral infection. Collectively, our results provide further mechanistic insight into how memory CD8 T cells acquire effector-associated epigenetic programs during the proliferative burst of an immune response.

DISCUSSION

Here we show that IL-12 acts as a signal 3 cytokine during effector and memory CD8 T cell differentiation to drive TET2-mediated DNA demethylation of the *IFN* γ locus during T cell priming. Collectively, our data broadly demonstrate that communication between the innate and adaptive immune systems via cytokine signaling can lead to stable changes in DNA methylation. While T cells recognize antigenic peptide in the context of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) and co-stimulation during activation, cytokine exposure introduces variability during the process of T cell differentiation. It has been

previously shown that the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 signaling alone is not sufficient to produce a functional effector or memory CD8 T cell (Curtsinger and Mescher, 2010). The data we provide here highlight the importance of inflammatory cytokines in tailoring the epigenetic programs that are acquired during the priming stage of a human immune response that are maintained in long-lived memory T cells. Our *in vitro* studies characterizing the impact of proinflammatory cytokines on epigenetic programming of early T cell priming during an immune response are further supported by our *in vivo* analysis showing that the inflammatory milieu of a bystander viral infection can impact the reprogramming of an unrelated antigen-specific T cell undergoing effector differentiation. Our results build on previous work demonstrating that memory T cells arise from fate-permissive effector T cells and subsequently maintain effector-associated DNA methylation programs (Youngblood et al., 2017). Further, these observations are consistent with prior reports that memory T cells divide extensively after infection and are endowed with an effector epigenetic landscape that is maintained by quiescent memory cells (Abdelsamed et al., 2017; Akondy et al., 2017).

Previous work has shown that T-bet requires signal transducer and activator of transcription 4 (Stat4) for complete IL-12-dependent development of murine T helper 1 (Th1) cells (Thieu et al., 2008). Stat4 dimerization regulates chromatin remodeling (Becksei and Grusby, 2007), yet Stat4 is only transiently activated and the mechanisms that dictate Th1 transcriptional regulation in effector and memory CD8 T cells have not been fully elucidated. While IL-12 is known to play a critical role in murine Th1 differentiation (Jacobson et al., 1995), here we show a direct link between signal 3 cytokine signaling and DNA methylation remodeling during human effector and memory CD8 T cell differentiation. Our data suggest that site-specific IFN γ demethylation is regulated by TET2 with development of a memory precursor phenotype in TET2-deficient CD8 T cells. These results are consistent with previous studies reporting that loss of TET2 limited effector T cell differentiation (Carty et al., 2018). Our findings provide additional insight into recent reports showing improved clinical efficacy coupled to CAR T cells that had a mutation in TET2 and ultimately enriched for survival of TET2 KO CAR T cells with a central memory phenotype (Fraietta et al., 2018). Here we show that deletion of TET2 during naive to effector differentiation modifies the effector DNA methylation program in CAR T cells.

In order to incorporate mechanisms of memory T cell differentiation into the manufacturing process of CAR T cells, it is important to define when and how memory T cells acquire and maintain their effector potential. Consistent with prior investigations into the origin of human memory T cells, our work here shows that effector-associated epigenetic programs are acquired during the proliferative burst of an effector response and are promoted by signal 3 cytokines present during T cell priming. Future efforts to improve CAR T cell therapeutic approaches are now looking to exploit our understanding of memory T cell identification by incorporating cytokines into conditions for developing CAR T cells. Notably, with the field looking to expand current CAR T cell protocols in treating solid tumors, our work serves as a proof of principle that such engineering approaches may be implemented to enhance the effector potential of long-lived adoptive T cell therapies.

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, Ben Youngblood (benjamin.youngblood@stjude.org).

Materials availability—All stable reagents generated in this study are available from the lead contact without restriction.

Data and code availability—Whole genome methylation data have been deposited to GEO and are publicly available as of the date of publication. Accession numbers are listed in the key resources table.

All original code has been deposited at GEO and is publicly available as of the date of publication. DOIs are listed in the key resources table.

Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in the paper is available from the lead contact upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mouse strains—Tet2 floxed mice were obtained from Jackson laboratories (Catalog #017573) and crossed with granzyme B cre mice (Ghoneim et al., 2017) to generate mice that conditionally delete Tet2 in activated CD8 T cells. Wild-type C57B6 mice were purchased from Jackson laboratories. Female mice age ~6 weeks were used for all experiments. Littermates of the same sex were randomly assigned to experimental groups. Mouse studies were performed in accordance with ISCUC guidelines and adhered to the regulatory standards.

Human samples—This study was conducted with approval from the Institutional Review Board of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Deidentified human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were collected through the St. Jude Blood Bank from healthy donors, and samples for methylation profiling were collected under IRB protocol XPD15-086.

METHODS DETAILS

Isolation and phenotypic analysis of mouse antigen-specific CD8 T cells—LM specific CD8 T cells were generated by adoptive transfer of ~5000 naive OT-1 anti-CD3/CD28 transgenic CD8 T cells (CD45.1/1+) into C57BL/6 mice (CD45.1/2+). Chimeric mice were subsequently infected with *Listeria monocytogenes* containing OVA by injection of 1.5×10^4 CFU per mouse. LCMV specific CD8 T cells were generated by adoptive transfer of ~5000 congenically distinct naive P14 CD8 T cells. One day later, we infected the mice with acute lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV). Acute LCMV infection was performed by i.p. injection of 2×10^5 PFU Armstrong strain per mouse. Chronic LCMV infections were performed by i.v. injection of 2×10^6 PFU LCMV per mouse using either Clone 13 strain. Antigen specific CD8 T cells were identified by gating on

CD44^{hi} CD8⁺ lymphocytes that were either tetramer⁺ or congenically labeled. Tetramer was obtained from the NIH Yerkes tetramer core facility. All antigen specific CD8 T cells were phenotypically analyzed by Flow Cytometry after surface staining using monoclonal antibodies for Thy1.1(BD clone OX-7), CD45.1 (Biolegend clone A20), CD45.2 (Biolegend clone 104), CD8 (Biolegend clone 53-6.7), Klrp1 (Biolegend clone 2F1), CD127 (Biolegend clone A7R34), CD44 (Biolegend clone IM7).

Isolation of human naive CD8 T cells from healthy donor blood—PBMCs were purified from platelet apheresis blood unit by density gradient. Briefly, blood was diluted 1:2.5 using sterile Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline (Life Technologies). The diluted blood was then overlaid above Ficoll-Paque PLUS (GE Healthcare) at a final dilution of 1:2.5 (ficoll:diluted blood). The gradient was centrifuged at 400 xg with no brake for 20 minutes at room temperature. The PBMCs interphase layer was collected and washed with 2% fetal bovine serum (FBS)/1mM EDTA PBS buffer and then centrifuged at 400xg for 5 minutes.

Flow cytometric analysis of human naive CD8 T cells—After enrichment of CD8 T cells, naive and memory CD8 T cell subsets were sorted using the following markers, as previously described (Gattinoni et al., 2011; Lugli et al., 2013). Naive CD8 T cells were defined as live CD8⁺ CCR7⁺, CD45RO⁻, CD45RA⁺, and CD95⁻ cells. CD8 Tem cells were defined as live CD8⁺, CCR7⁻, and CD45RO⁺ cells. TCM cells were defined as live CD8⁺, CCR7⁺, and CD45RO⁺ cells. Tscm cells were defined as live CD8⁺, CCR7⁺, CD45RO⁻, and CD95⁺ cells. Naive sorted cells were checked for purity (i.e., samples were considered pure if > 90% of the cells had the desired phenotype). The naive CD8 T cells were then cultured *ex vivo* with or without anti-CD3/CD28 (1:1 ratio) in the presence or absence of the following cytokines: IL-2 (10 ng/mL), IL-7 (5 ng/mL), IL-12 (10ng/mL), IL-15 (5ng/mL), IL-18 (10ng/mL), IL-21 (30ng/mL). At 2, 7, or 14 days, the levels of IFN γ expression was examined by intracellular staining after exposure to 4 hours of GolgiStop and GolgiPlug (BD).

Human CD8 T cells were stained with the following antibodies: CCR7 (Biolegend clone G043H7), APCCy7 (Biolegend clone SK1), PeCy7 (Biolegend clone DX2), CD38 (Biolegend clone HB-7), IFN γ (Biolegend clone 4S.B3) APC (Biolegend clone UCHL1).

In vitro CD8 T cell ex vivo proliferation—Sorted naive CD8 T cells and memory CD8 T cell subsets were labeled with CFSE (Life Technologies) at a final concentration of 2 μ M. CFSE-labeled cells were maintained in culture in RPMI containing 10% FBS, penicillin-streptomycin, and gentamycin. After 7 days of *ex vivo* culture at 37°C and 5% CO₂, undivided and divided cells (third division and higher) were sorted and checked for purity (> 90%). The levels of IFN γ protein expression was determined by intracellular staining after exposure to 4 hours of GolgiStop and GolgiPlug (BD).

Genomic methylation analysis—DNA was extracted from the sorted cells by using a DNA-extraction kit (QIAGEN) and then bisulfite treated using an EZ DNA methylation kit (Zymo Research). The bisulfite-modified DNA-sequencing library was generated using the

EpiGenome™ kit (Epicenter) per the manufacturer's instructions. Bisulfite-modified DNA was PCR amplified using the following primers for mouse and human, respectively.

Mouse IFN γ Forward: 5'-GTTTATTTTATTGTTGTGGTTGGTAGCTG-3'

Mouse IFN γ Reverse: 5'-CCTTCTCTCTCCAAATTACTTTTAATC-3'

Human IFN γ Forward: 5'-GATTAGAGTAATTTGAA ATTTGTGG-3'

Human IFN γ Reverse: 5'-CCTCCTCTAACTACT AATATTTATACC-3'

The PCR amplicon was cloned into a pGEMT easy vector (Promega) and then transformed into XL10-Gold ultracompetent bacteria (Agilent Technologies). Bacterial colonies were selected using a blue/white X-gal selection system after overnight growth, the cloning vector was then purified from individual colonies, and the genomic insert was sequenced. After bisulfite treatment, the methylated CpGs were detected as cytosines in the sequence, and unmethylated CpGs were detected as thymines in the sequence by using QUMA software (Kumaki et al., 2008).

WGBS was performed as described previously. Briefly, bisulfite-modified DNA sequencing libraries were generated using the EpiGenome kit (Epicenter) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Bisulfite-modified DNA libraries were sequenced using Illumina HiSeq 4000 and NovaSeq 6000 systems (Abdelsamed et al., 2017). Sequencing data were aligned to the HG19 genome using the BSMAP v. 2.74 software (Xi and Li, 2009). Differential analysis of CpG methylation among the datasets was determined with a Bayesian hierarchical model to detect regional methylation differences with at least three CpG sites (Wu et al., 2015).

MiSeq—Naive, endogenous LCMV-specific, and WT P14 LCMV-specific CD8 T cells were FACs purified from either WT B6 or Tet2cKO mice. DNA was isolated from the cells, bisulfite converted, and then PCR amplified using primers from the Integrated DNA Technologies custom oligos tool. Illumina overhang adaptor sequences were added to each respective primer to make the products compatible with Illumina index and sequencing adapters. Amplified samples were analyzed using the MiSeq platform.

Mouse IFN γ Forward:

5'TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGTATTTTATTGTTGTG
GTTGGTAGCTG-3'

Mouse IFN γ Reverse:

5'GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGCTTCTCTCTCCAAAT
TACTTTTAATC3'

Generating human TET2-KO.B7-H3 CAR T cells

Generating B7-H3-CAR lentiviral vectors: Human B7-H3 CAR T cells were generated using the previously described CAR backbone (Nguyen et al., 2020). The vector was modified by removing the insulators from the self-inactivating (SIN) 3' partially-deleted viral LTRs (Cornetta et al., 2018; McGarrity et al., 2013). Briefly, codon-optimized DNA encoding B7-H3 specific scFv derived from the m276 monoclonal antibody (Haydar et al.,

2021; Seaman et al., 2017) was synthesized by GeneArt (Thermo Fisher, Waltham, MA). The scFv was then ligated using InFusion cloning (Takara Bio, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan) into the backbone encoding a CD8 α transmembrane domain, CD28 costimulatory domain, and CD3 ζ activation domain. All final constructs were verified by sequencing. High titer lentiviral particles were then generated by the St. Jude Vector Core as described in Bauler et al. (2019).

TET2 knock-out T cells—*TET2* and control knock-out T cells were generated using CRISPR-Cas9 technology. At 48 hours post-activation, sorted naive T cells were nucleofected with *TET2* or control (mCherry) sgRNAs as Cas9 ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes. We used a *TET2* sgRNA (5'-CGAAGCAAGCCTGATGGAAACNGG-3', Synthego, Menlo Park, CA) and a control sgRNA targeting *mCherry* (5' - CAAGUAGUCGGGAUGTCGG - 3', Synthego, Menlo Park, CA). RNPs were pre-complexed at a sgRNA:Cas9 ratio of 4.5:1, prepared by adding 3 μ L of 60 μ M sgRNA (Synthego, Menlo Park, CA) to 1 μ L of 40 μ M Cas 9 (Macro Lab, University of California, Berkeley), incubated at room temperature for 10 min and then stored at -20°C for later use. Activated T cells were collected by gentle pipetting up and down and then pelleted at 0.5×10^6 cells per reaction. Cell pellets were resuspended in 17 μ L of P3 transfection solution (13.94 μ L of Nucleofector Solution with 3.06 μ L of supplement, Lonza, Walkersville, MD) and 4 μ L of RNP complexes were added for each reaction. Electroporation was then performed by transferring 20 μ L of T cell-RNP mixture into the transfection vessel and using the Lonza transfection program EH:115 (4D-Nucleofector, Lonza, Walkersville, MD). Electroporated T cells were then allowed to recover for overnight in RPMI media supplemented with 20% FBS and 1% glutamax and in the presence of IL-7 and IL-15 cytokines at 10ng/mL and 5ng/mL respectively.

Transducing CAR T cells—For generating human CAR T cells, electroporated cells were collected after 24 hours and washed with complete RPMI media (10% FBS with 1% Glutamax). Cells were then plated at 0.5×10^6 cells/well in 500 μ L of complete RPMI media supplemented with IL-7 and IL-15 cytokines. T Cells were transduced by adding the lentiviral particles at a multiplicity of infection of 50, and protamine sulfate at 8ug/ml. Transduced T cells were then expanded until day 10 post-transduction with frequent supplementation with fresh media containing IL-7 and IL-15. CAR detection was performed using anti-Fab specific antibody at day 5 post-transduction (109-606-006, Jackson ImmunoResearch, West Grove, PA).

TET2-KO.B7-H3 CAR T cell activation assay—To evaluate the interaction of signal 3 cytokine signaling and DNA methylation in TET2-KO CAR T cells, transduced cells were activated with plate-bound recombinant human B7-H3 protein. Briefly, non-tissue culture plates were coated overnight at 4°C with recombinant human B7-H3 protein (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN) at 10 μ g/well in 500 μ L of PBS. Wells coated with PBS only served as unstimulated controls. TET2 and control knockout CAR T cells were then washed with complete RPMI media and added to coated wells at 1×10^6 cells/well in the presence or absence of IL-12 (10ng/mL). Stimulated and control unstimulated CAR T cells were then collected at day 14 post-activation for analysis.

GO annotation—Gene ontology annotation was carried using GREAT web server (<http://great.stanford.edu/public/html/index.php>). Input regions include top 300 methylated and demethylated DMRs.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical details of experiments can be found in the figure legends, including sample sizes and p values. For sample size, n = the number of mice or human samples as specified. For p values, ns = not significant, p < 0.05: *, p < 0.01: **, p < 0.001: ***, p < 0.0001: ****. Unpaired t tests were performed to assess differences. A p value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Drs. Yiping Fan and Jeremy Crawford for bioinformatic analysis of methylation profiling. This work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (R01AI114442 and R01CA237311 to B.Y., R01NS121249 to G.K., and a loan repayment program to C.C.Z.) and the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC; to B.Y.). Part of the laboratory studies were performed by the Center for Translational Immunology (CeTI²), which is supported by St. Jude. Some figures were generated with BioRender. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

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Highlights

- Bystander inflammation promotes effector DNA methylation programs during T cell priming
- The proinflammatory cytokine, IL-12, induces demethylation of IFN γ locus CNS elements
- IL-12 drives TET2-mediated demethylation of the mouse and human IFN γ locus
- Human memory T cells retain DNA methylation signatures of IL-12 signaling

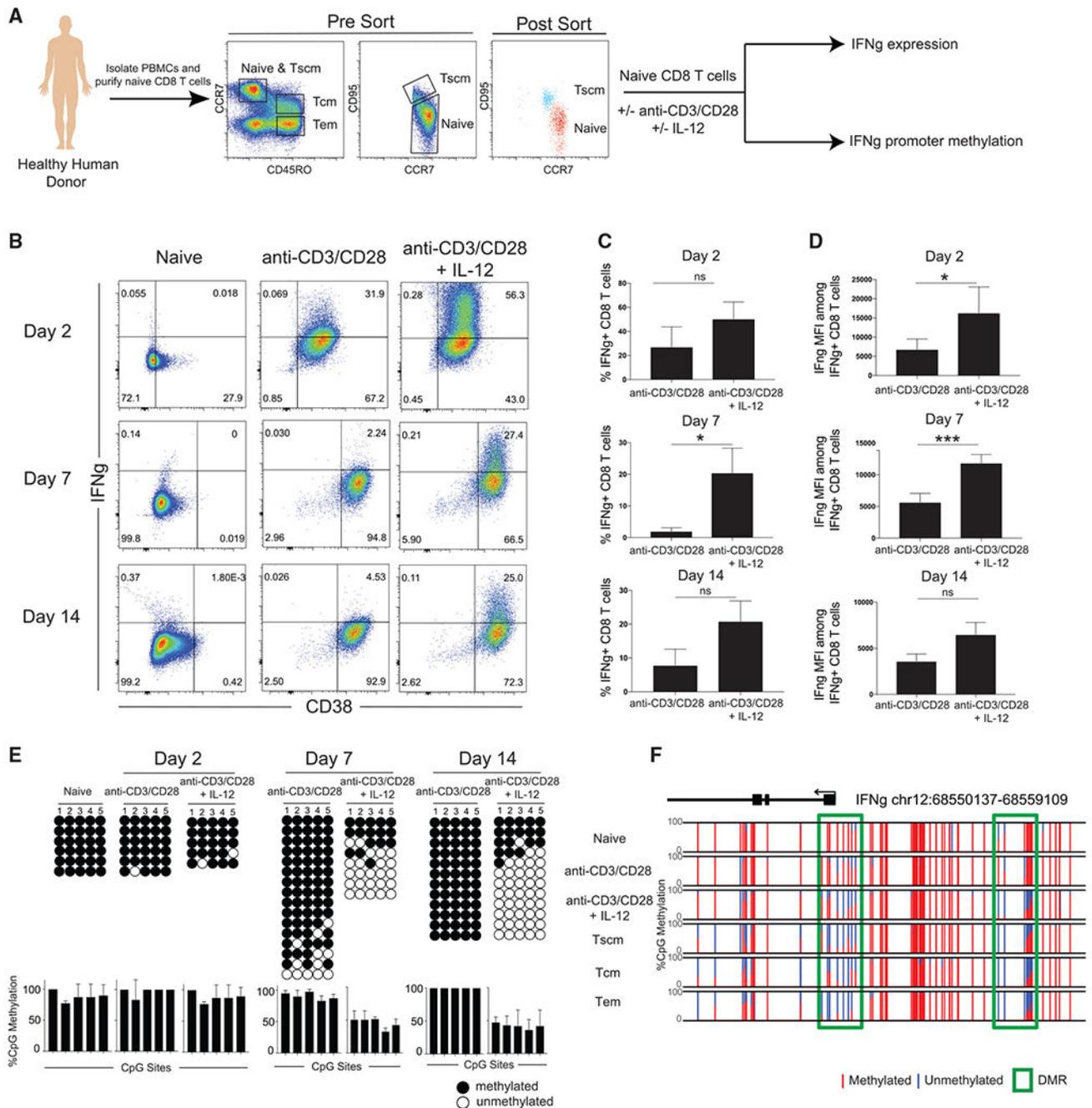


Figure 1. IL-12 signaling during human CD8 T cell priming promotes IFNg expression and locus demethylation

(A) Experimental setup showing isolation of naive CD8 T cells for *in vitro* stimulation with or without anti-CD3/CD28 and with or without IL-12. PBMC, peripheral blood mononuclear cell.

(B) CD38 and IFNg expression of naive, anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated, and anti-CD3/CD28 + IL-12-stimulated CD8 T cells after 2, 7, and 14 days. $n = 2$ independent donors.

(C) Summary graph of the percentage of CD8 T cells expressing IFNg. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM. * $p < 0.05$. ns, not significant.

(D) Summary graph of IFN γ mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) among IFN γ -positive CD8 T cells. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM. * $p < 0.05$ and *** $p < 0.001$.

(E) Representative IFN γ promotor bisulfite sequencing methylation profiles and summary graph of naive, anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated, and anti-CD3/CD28 + IL-12-stimulated CD8 T cells after 2, 7, and 14 days. For all representative bisulfite sequencing analysis, each horizontal line represents a clone and each vertical line represents a different CpG site. Black circles represent methylated CpGs, while white circles represent unmethylated CpGs. $n = 2$ independent donors.

(F) WGBS nucleotide-resolution methylation profiling of IFN γ . Individual CpG sites are represented by vertical lines with red indicating methylation and blue indicating lack of methylation. DMRs are represented by a green box. $n = 3$ independent donors.

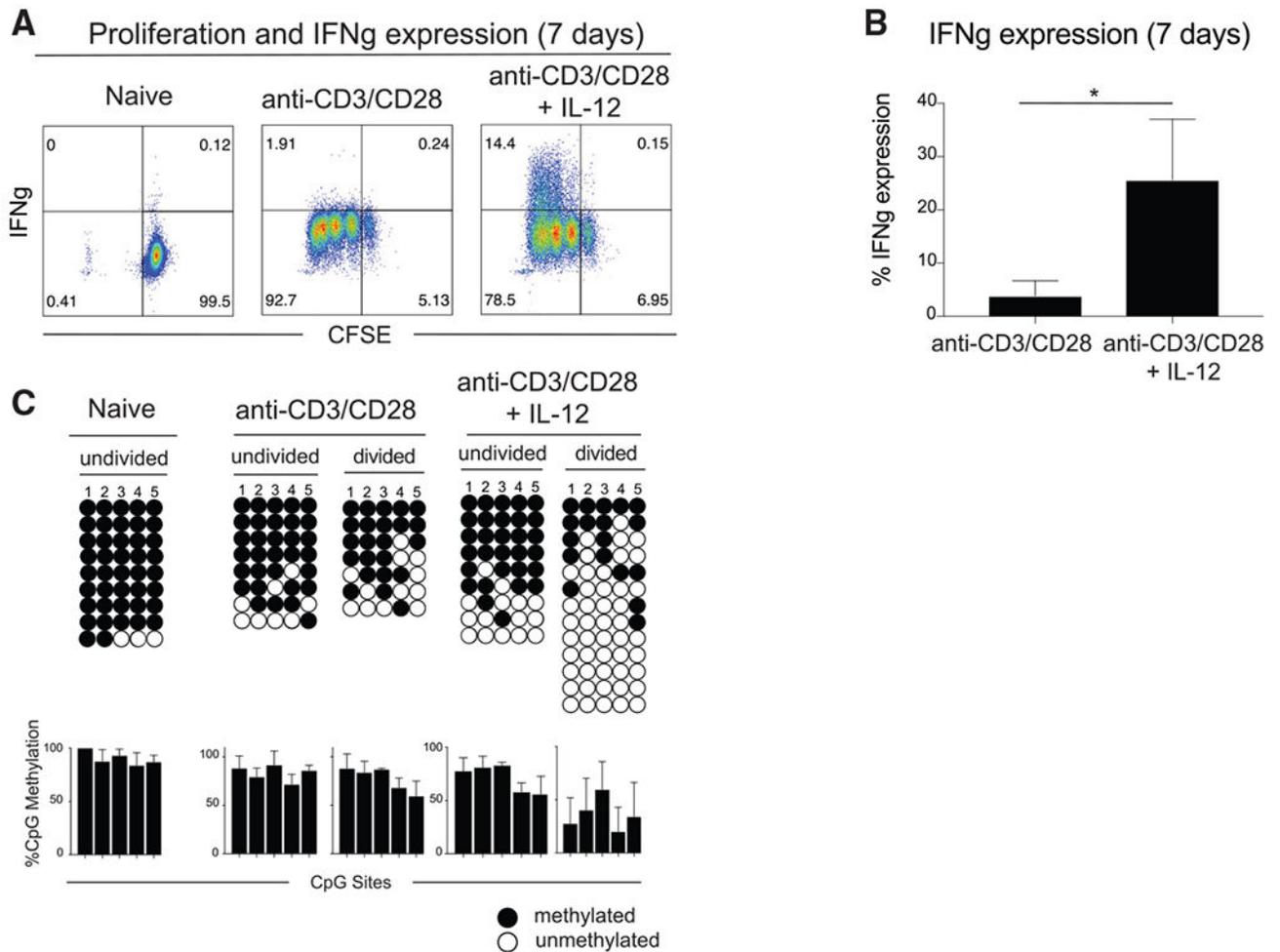


Figure 2. IL-12-mediated demethylation of the human IFN γ promoter occurs after cell division
 (A) Representative IFN γ expression of CFSE-labeled naive, anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated, and anti-CD3/CD28 + IL-12-stimulated CD8 T cells. $n = 4$ independent donors.
 (B) Summary of IFN γ expression in CFSE-labeled anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated and anti-CD3/CD28 + IL-12-stimulated CD8 T cells from (A). $n = 4$ independent donors. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM. * $p < 0.05$.
 (C) Representative IFN γ promoter bisulfite sequencing methylation profiles and summary graph of naive, anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated, and anti-CD3/CD28 + IL-12-stimulated CD8 T cells in FACS-purified undivided and divided cell populations after 7 days. Divided populations were sorted after three or more CFSE-defined divisions. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM. $n = 2$ independent donors.

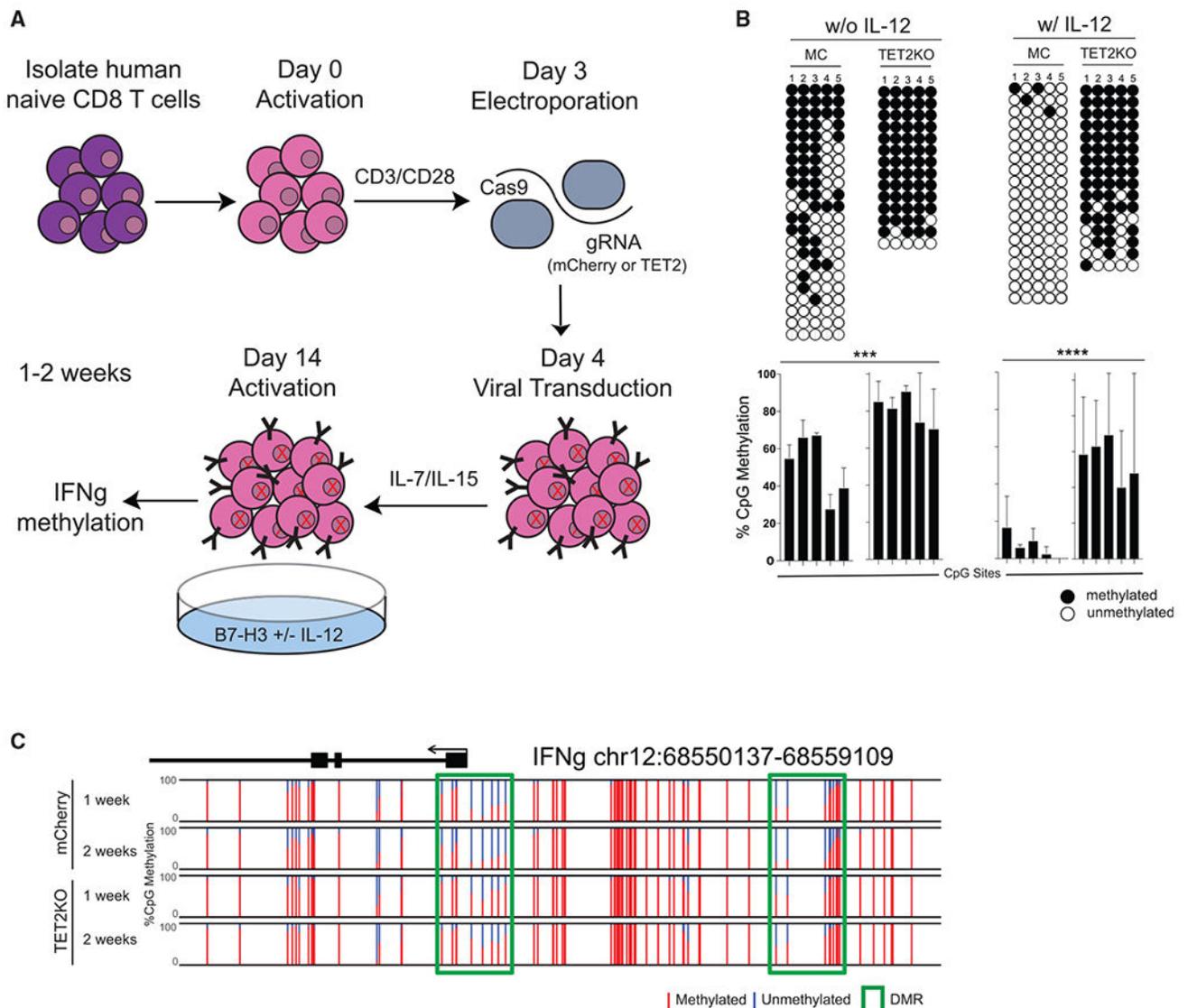


Figure 3. TET2 drives demethylation of the human IFNg promoter

(A) Experimental setup for TET2KO in activated human naive CD8 T cells. Human naive CD8 T cells were FACS purified from a healthy donor, activated in the presence of anti-CD3/CD28 for 48 h, electroporated with cas9 and gRNA targeting either mCherry (control) or TET2, transduced with lentivirus, expanded in the presence of IL-7 and IL-15 until day 14, and activated with plate-bound recombinant B7-H3 with or without IL-12 for 7–14 days prior to DNA methylation profiling.

(B) Representative IFNg promoter bisulfite sequencing methylation profiles and summary graph of control or TET2KO *ex vivo* expanded CD8 T cells either in the absence or presence of IL-12. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM. $n = 2$ independent donors. *** $p < 0.001$ and **** $p < 0.0001$.

(C) WGBS nucleotide-resolution methylation profiling of control or TET2KO *ex vivo* expanded CD8 T cells in the presence of IL-12 for 1–2 weeks. $n = 2$ independent donors.

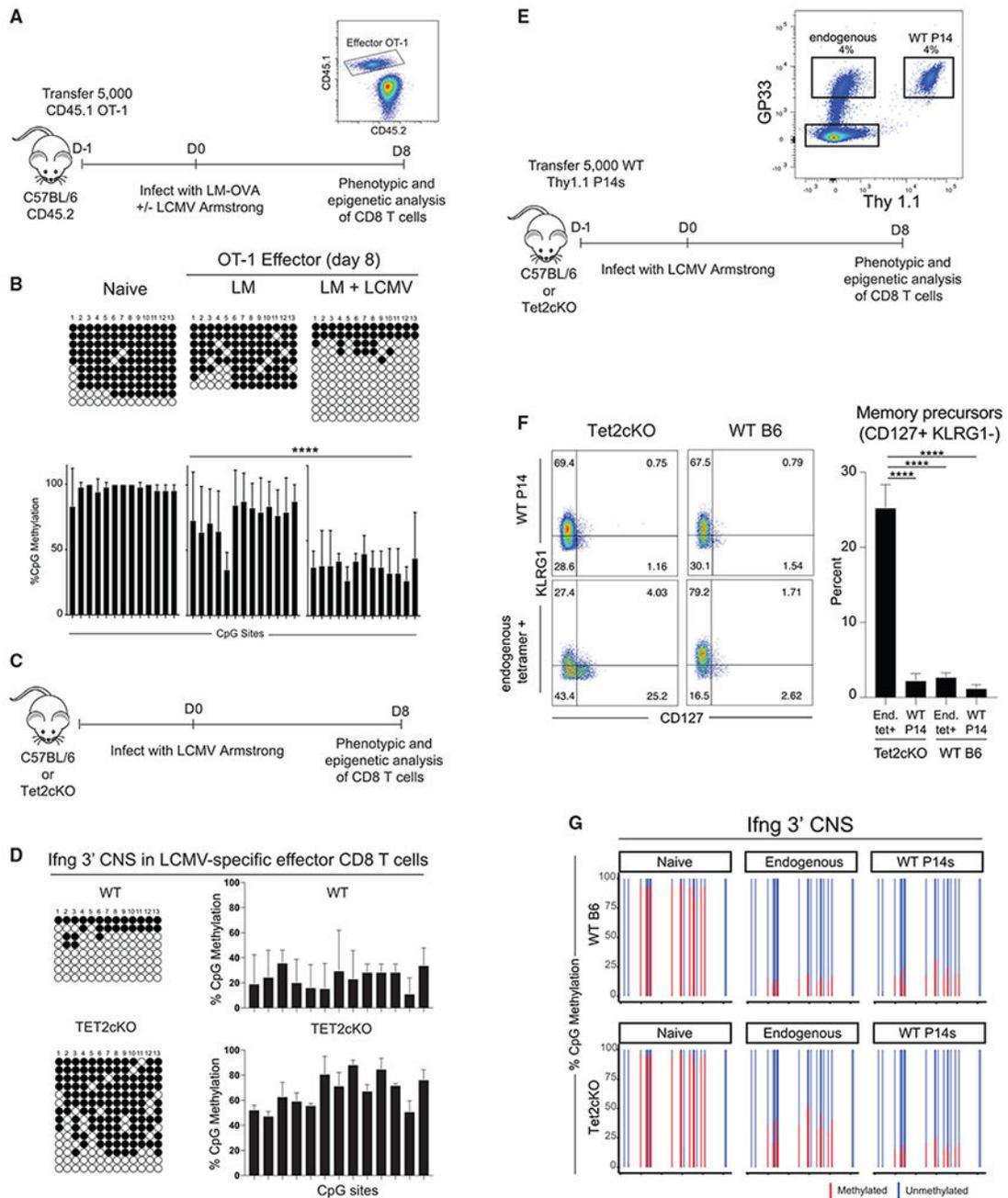


Figure 4. TET2 promotes inflammatory cytokine-mediated demethylation of murine *Ifng* during effector CD8 T cell differentiation

(A) Experimental setup showing adoptive transfer of CD45.1 OT-1 CD8 T cells into WT C57BL/6 CD45.2 mice. One day later, the mice were either infected with LM-OVA or co-infected with LM-OVA and LCMV Armstrong. At the effector (8 days) and memory (>2 months) stages, CD45.1 OT1 CD8 T cells were FACS purified for phenotypic and DNA methylation analysis.

(B) Representative and summary graphs of *Ifng* CNS bisulfite sequencing methylation profiles of naive CD8 T cells and LM-specific and LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells

at day 8 postinfection. The bottom bar graphs show the percentage of CpG methylation (mean \pm SEM) at each individual CpG site of the IFN γ locus. n = 3 for LM and n = 2 for LM+LCMV summary graphs.

(C) Experimental setup showing infection of WT C57BL/6 or TET2cKO mice with LCMV Armstrong. At the effector (8 days) stage, LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells were FACS purified for DNA methylation analysis.

(D) Representative and summary bisulfite sequencing methylation profiles of the Ifng 3' CNS in LCMV-specific effector CD8 T cells from WT or TET2cKO mice. Error bars are defined based on the means \pm SEM.

(E) Experimental setup showing adoptive transfer of Thy1.1⁺ P14 CD8 T cells into Thy1.2⁺ WT C57BL/6 or TET2cKO mice. One day later, the mice were infected with LCMV Armstrong. At the effector (8 day) stages, endogenous and adoptively transferred GP33-specific CD8 T cells were phenotypically characterized and FACS purified for DNA methylation analysis.

(F) Representative FACS analysis and summary graph characterizing the terminal effector (KLRG1⁺ CD127⁻) and memory precursor (KLRG1⁻ CD127⁺) phenotype of either endogenous or adoptively transferred LCMV-specific CD8 T cells isolated from WT C57BL/6 or Tet2cKO mice. n = 4 for Tet2cKO and n = 4 for WT C57BL/6 summary graphs. ****p < 0.0001.

(G) Targeted methylation profiling of the IFN γ 3' CNS in naive, endogenous, and WT P14s CD8 T cells isolated from WT and TET2cKO mice at the effector time point.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
APC-Cy7 anti-mouse CD90.1 (clone OX-7)	BD Biosciences	Cat#561401; RRID: AB_10645789
PerCp anti-mouse CD45.1 (clone A20)	BioLegend	Cat#110725; RRID: AB_893347
BV421 anti-mouse CD45.2 (clone 104)	BioLegend	Cat#109831; RRID: AB_10900256
FITC anti-mouse CD8a (clone 53-6.7)	BioLegend	Cat#100705; RRID: AB_312744
PeCy7 anti-mouse CD8a (clone 53-6.7)	BioLegend	Cat#100721; RRID: AB_312760
FITC anti-mouse Klrg1 (clone 2F1)	BioLegend	Cat#138409; RRID: AB_10643998
PE anti-mouse CD127 (clone A7R34)	BioLegend	Cat#135009; RRID: AB_1937252
BV421 anti-mouse/human CD44 (clone IM7)	BioLegend	Cat#103309; RRID: AB_10895752
BV605 anti-mouse CD62L (clone MEL-14)	BioLegend	Cat#104437; RRID: AB_11125577
FITC anti-human CCR7 (clone G043H7)	BioLegend	Cat#353215; RRID: AB_10945291
APCCy7 anti-human CD8 (clone SK1)	BioLegend	Cat#344713; RRID: AB_2044005
PeCy7 anti-human CD95 (clone DX2)	BioLegend	Cat#305621; RRID: AB_2100370
FITC anti-human CD38 (clone HB-7)	BioLegend	Cat#356609; RRID: AB_2561949
Pe anti-human IFN γ (clone 4S.B3)	BioLegend	Cat#502508; RRID: AB_315233
APC anti-human CD45RO (clone UCHL1)	BioLegend	Cat#304210; RRID: AB_314426
Alexa Fluor® 647 AffiniPure F(ab') ₂ Fragment Goat Anti-Human IgG, F(ab') ₂ fragment specific	Jackson ImmunoResearch	Cat#109-606-006;
Bacterial and virus strains		
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, Armstrong strain		NA
XL10-Gold Ultracompetent E. Coli	Stratagene	Cat#200314
Listeria monocytogenes	Gift from McGargill lab, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	NA
Biological samples		
Human PBMCs	St. Jude blood donor bank	NA
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
Ghost Dye Violet 510 viability dye	Tonbo Biosciences	Cat#13-0870

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
BD Cytotfix/Cytoperm	BD Biosciences	Cat#554714
LCMV gp33 monomer	Yerkes NIH tetramer core facility	NA
LCMV gp33 peptides	Peptide synthesis facility at SJCRH	NA
Cas9-NLS, purified protein	MacroLab	NA
Protamine Sulfate	Fresenius Kabi	C22905
CD28 Antibody, anti-human	Miltenyi Biotec	130-093-375
CD3 Antibody, anti-human	Miltenyi Biotec	130-093-387
Recombinant Human B7-H3 Fc Chimera Protein	R&D systems	1027-B3
Recombinant human IL-12 p70	PeproTech	Cat#200-12
Recombinant human IL-7	PeproTech	Cat#200-07
Recombinant human IL-2	PeproTech	Cat#200-02
Recombinant human IL-15	PeproTech	Cat#200-15
Recombinant human IL-21	PeproTech	Cat#200-21
Recombinant human IL-18	Medical & biological laboratories	Cat#B001-5
Critical commercial assays		
QIAGEN DNeasy kit	QIAGEN	Cat#69506
EZ DNA methylation kit	Zymo Research	Cat#D5002
EZ DNA methylation-Direct kit	Zymo Research	Cat#50-444-323
pGEM-T Vector cloning kit	Promega	Cat#A3600
JumpStart Taq ReadyMix	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P2893
In-Fusion® HD Cloning Kit	TakaraBio	Cat#639650
P3 Primary Cell 4D X Kit S	Lonza	V4XP-3032
Directprep 96 Miniprep kit	QIAGEN	Cat#27361
Taq polymerase-based PCR kit	QIAGEN	Cat#201225
Human CD3/CD28 T cell activator	Stemcell technologies	Cat#10971
EasySep human CD8+ T cell isolation kit	Stemcell	Cat#19053
Deposited data		
WGBS data	This paper	GEO: GSE182968
Experimental models: Organisms/strains		
Mouse: C57BL/6	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#000664
Mouse: CD45.1/1 +	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#002014
Mouse: B6, Granzyme b-Cre	SJCRH animal house	NA
Mouse: Tet2 floxed	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#017573
Oligonucleotides		

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
pUC/M13 reverse primer	Promega	Cat#5421
Human IFNg Forward: 5'-GATTAGAGTAATTGAAATTTGTGG-3'	IDT	NA
Human IFNg Reverse: 5'-CCTCCTCTAACTACTAATATTTATACC-3'	IDT	NA
Mouse IFNg Forward: 5'-GTTATTTTTATTGTGTGGTTGGTAGCTG-3'	IDT	NA
Mouse IFNg Reverse: 5'-CCTTTCTTCTCCAAATTACTTTTAATC-3'	IDT	NA
Mouse Miseq IFNg Forward: 5' TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGTATTTTTATTGTGTGGTTGGTAGCTG-3'	IDT	NA
Mouse Miseq IFNg Reverse: 5' GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGCTTTCTTCTCCAAATTACTTTTAATC3'	IDT	NA
TET2 sgRNA:5'-CGAAGCAAGCCTGATGGAACNGG-3'	Synthego	NA
sgRNA mCherry:5'-CAAGUAGUCGGGAUGTCGG - 3'	Synthego	NA
Recombinant DNA		
Plasmid: pCL45.MND.m276.hCD8aTM.hCD28.z	This paper	NA
Software and algorithms		
Prism 6	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
FlowJo 9.9.5	FlowJo	NA
SnapGene	Insightful Science	snapgene.com
Model-based analysis of bisulfite sequencing		https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26184873/
Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis	GREAT	http://great.stanford.edu/public/html/index.php
Loci-specific bisulfite sequencing	Quma	http://quma.cdb.riken.jp/
Other		
Fortessa flow cytometer	Flow cytometry core facility at SJCRH	NA
Illumina NovaSeq	Hartwell Center at SJCRH	NA
Illumina HiSeq 4000	Hartwell Center at SJCRH	NA
4D-Nucleofector	Lonza	Cat#AAF-1002B
Ficoll-Paque PLUS	GE Healthcare	
BD GolgiPlug	Fisher scientific	Cat#15847968
BD GolgiStop	Fisher scientific	Cat#10716676
CFSE	Fisher scientific	Cat#50-591-407
Penicillin-streptomycin (GIBCO)	ThermoFisher	Cat#1514012
Gentamycin (GIBCO)	ThermoFisher	Cat#15750060