

Short Article

Seasonal human coronavirus antibodies are boosted upon SARS-CoV-2 infection but not associated with protection

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1 **SUMMARY**

2 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has rapidly spread within the
3 human population. Although SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus, most humans had been
4 previously exposed to other antigenically distinct common seasonal human coronaviruses
5 (hCoVs) before the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, we quantified levels of SARS-CoV-2-reactive
6 antibodies and hCoV-reactive antibodies in serum samples collected from 204 humans before the
7 COVID-19 pandemic. We then quantified pre-pandemic antibody levels in serum from a
8 separate cohort of 252 individuals who became PCR-confirmed infected with SARS-CoV-2.
9 Finally, we longitudinally measured hCoV and SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the serum of
10 hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Our studies indicate that most individuals possessed hCoV-
11 reactive antibodies before the COVID-19 pandemic. We determined that ~23% of these
12 individuals possessed non-neutralizing antibodies that cross-reacted with SARS-CoV-2 spike
13 and nucleocapsid proteins. These antibodies were not associated with protection against SARS-
14 CoV-2 infections or hospitalizations, but paradoxically these hCoV cross-reactive antibodies
15 were boosted upon SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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19 **KEYWORDS**

20 SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19; coronavirus; antibody

21 INTRODUCTION

22 Coronaviruses commonly infect humans¹⁻⁴. The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
23 (SARS-CoV-2) emerged at the end of 2019 and has rapidly spread among humans, many of
24 whom have been previously exposed to common seasonal human coronaviruses (hCoVs)⁵.
25 Common seasonal hCoVs include the betacoronaviruses HKU1 and OC43 and the
26 alphacoronaviruses 229E and NL63⁶⁻⁹. SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the betacoronavirus genus and is
27 more closely related to HKU1 and OC43 compared to the alphacoronaviruses 229E and NL63¹⁰.
28 A recent study examining electronic medical records concluded that recent hCoV infections are
29 not associated with decreased SARS-CoV-2 infections, but are associated with reducing the
30 severity of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)¹¹. It is unknown if prior hCoV exposures
31 elicit antibodies that prevent or alter the outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infections. Further, it is
32 unknown if different aged individuals have distinct hCoV immune histories that can affect
33 SARS-CoV-2 susceptibility. To address this, we completed a serological survey using serum
34 samples collected from different aged humans prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We quantified
35 levels of antibodies reactive to viral proteins from hCoVs and determined if these antibodies
36 were associated with SARS-CoV-2 protection. Finally, we completed a series of studies using
37 serum collected from COVID-19 patients to determine if antibodies reactive to hCoVs are
38 boosted upon SARS-CoV-2 infections.

39 RESULTS

40 Identification of SARS-CoV-2-reactive Antibodies in Human Sera Collected Prior to the 41 COVID-19 Pandemic

42 We completed ELISAs to quantify levels of pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2-reactive IgG
43 antibodies in 204 human serum samples collected in 2017. We tested serum samples collected

44 from 36 children (age 1-17) at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia originally collected for
45 lead testing and 168 adults (age 18-90) who had been recruited into the Penn Medicine Biobank.
46 We tested Penn Medicine Biobank samples from individuals who had no medical history of
47 cancer or organ transplantation, pregnancy during the previous 9 months, or an infectious disease
48 within the previous 28 days prior to blood draw. Using these samples, we previously found that
49 different aged individuals possess H3N2 influenza virus antibodies that have different
50 specificities¹².

51 We found that 5.4% of serum samples collected in 2017 contained IgG antibodies that
52 reacted to the SARS-CoV-2 full length spike (S) protein (**Figure 1a**), 2.0% of samples contained
53 antibodies that reacted to the receptor binding domain (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein
54 (**Figure 1b**), and 18.6% of samples contained antibodies that reacted to the SARS-CoV-2
55 nucleocapsid (N) protein (**Figure 1c**). Several pre-pandemic serum samples contained antibodies
56 that were at similar levels as those in serum from PCR-confirmed COVID-19 recovered donors
57 (**Figure 1a-c**). Most serum samples with antibodies reactive to the SARS-CoV-2 full length S
58 protein did not have antibodies that reacted to the SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD protein (**Figure 1d**),
59 which is consistent with a recent study showing that some individuals possessed pre-pandemic
60 antibodies against the S2 domain of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein¹³. In contrast to serum antibodies
61 isolated from PCR-confirmed COVID-19 recovered donors, serum antibodies from individuals
62 collected before the pandemic had very low or undetectable levels of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing
63 antibodies, regardless of whether or not the sample possessed cross-reactive antibodies against
64 SARS-CoV-2 S and N proteins (**Figure 1e**). We found no obvious differences in levels of
65 SARS-CoV-2 cross-reactive antibodies among donors with different birth years (**Figure S1 a-c**).

66

67 **Humans with Pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2-reactive Antibodies Had Elevated Levels of**
68 **Antibodies Against Previously Circulating Betacoronaviruses**

69 We completed ELISAs to quantify levels of pre-pandemic hCoV-reactive IgG antibodies
70 in all 204 human serum samples collected in 2017. Most serum samples possessed antibodies
71 that reacted to the S protein of 229E and NL63 (both alphacoronaviruses), as well as OC43 (a
72 betacoronavirus) (**Figure S1d-f**). There were no major differences in levels of these antibodies
73 among individuals with different birth years, however serum from very young children possessed
74 lower levels of antibodies reactive to the 229E and NL63 S proteins (**Figure S1d-f**). We
75 completed full antibody titrations to directly compared levels of hCoV antibodies in a subset of
76 pre-pandemic samples from individuals who either did (n=12) or did not (n=51) possess cross-
77 reactive SARS-CoV-2 antibodies (**Figure 1f-h**). Pre-pandemic antibody levels against the 229E
78 and NL63 alphacoronavirus S proteins were similar among individuals with and without SARS-
79 CoV-2 reactive antibodies (**Figure 1f-g**). In contrast, antibody levels against the betacoronavirus
80 OC43 S protein were higher in individuals with SARS-CoV-2 reactive antibodies compared to
81 individuals who did not possess pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 reactive antibodies (**Figure 1h**).
82 These data suggest that pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 reactive antibodies were likely elicited by
83 previously circulating betacoronavirus strains, such as OC43.

84

85 **Pre-existing hCoV Cross-reactive Antibodies Were Not Associated With Protection From**
86 **SARS-CoV-2 Infections**

87 It is unknown if antibodies elicited by prior hCoV infections protect against SARS-CoV-
88 2 infections and/or prevent severe COVID-19. To address this, we measured SARS-CoV-2 IgG
89 antibodies in pre-pandemic serum samples from 251 individuals who subsequently went on to

90 become PCR-confirmed infected with SARS-CoV-2 and in a control group of pre-pandemic
91 samples from 251 matched individuals who did not become infected with SARS-CoV-2. Pre-
92 pandemic samples were collected by the Penn Medicine BioBank from August 2013 to March
93 2020 and PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections were identified by nasopharyngeal swab PCR
94 testing results in electronic health records. We found that 2.2% samples possessed pre-pandemic
95 antibodies reactive to the SARS-CoV-2 full length S protein, 0.6% samples possessed pre-
96 pandemic antibodies reactive to the SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD, and 23.9% samples possessed pre-
97 pandemic antibodies reactive to the SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Importantly, we found no
98 differences in SARS-CoV-2-reactive antibodies in serum samples from individuals who did or
99 did not become subsequently infected with SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure 2a**; S protein: $p=0.62$, S-RBD:
100 $p=0.49$, N protein: $p=0.34$ and **Table S1** and **Table S2**). We also measured antibodies reactive to
101 the OC43 S protein and found no differences among samples from individuals who did or did not
102 become infected with SARS-CoV-2 (**Figure 2a**; $p=0.90$ and **Table S1** and **Table S2**). Among
103 those with PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections, we found no relationship between antibody
104 titers and hospitalization or disease severity among hospitalized patients (**Table S1** and **Table**
105 **S2**). We found no relationship between antibody titers and the need for respiratory support and
106 admittance into the ICU following SARS-CoV-2 infection (**Table S1** and **Table S2**).

107 Previous studies indicated that immunity to hCoV can be short-lived¹⁴ and a recent study
108 documented that antibody titers against hCoV can fluctuate over time⁵, presumably due to
109 repetitive hCoV exposures. In our study, pre-pandemic serum samples were collected from 2013-
110 2020 and therefore it is possible that antibody levels in some of the samples collected several
111 years prior to 2020 do not accurately reflect antibody levels present during the COVID-19
112 pandemic. To address this, we compared SARS-CoV-2 and OC43 IgG antibody titers in the

113 serum of individuals in our cohort who had samples collected within one year of the pandemic
114 (between April 2019 and March 2020). Using this smaller cohort (n=39 SARS-CoV-2 cases and
115 n=57 controls), we still found no differences in levels of antibodies reactive to the SARS-CoV-2
116 S protein, S-RBD protein, N protein, or OC43 S protein (**Figure 2B**). Taken together, our data
117 suggest that a subset of humans possessed non-neutralizing cross-reactive antibodies against
118 SARS-CoV-2 S and N proteins prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but these antibodies were not
119 associated with protection from SARS-CoV-2 infections or reducing hospitalizations upon
120 SARS-CoV-2 infections.

121

122 **SARS-CoV-2 Boosts Antibodies Reactive to Other Human Betacoronaviruses**

123 Recent studies indicate that COVID-19 recovered donors possess higher levels of
124 antibodies against seasonal betacoronaviruses¹³. To determine if antibodies against the S protein
125 of hCoVs are boosted upon SARS-CoV-2 infection, we measured 229E, NL63, OC43, and
126 SARS-CoV-2 S IgG antibody levels in sera collected longitudinally from 27 hospitalized
127 COVID-19 patients. Serum IgG antibodies reactive to the S protein of the 229E and NL63
128 alphacoronaviruses did not change over 7 days of hospitalization (**Figure 3A-B**). Conversely,
129 serum antibodies reactive to the S protein of OC43 and SARS-CoV-2 betacoronaviruses
130 significantly increased over the course of hospitalization (**Figure 3A-B**). The magnitude of
131 OC43 S antibody boost was not associated with outcome of disease (**Figure 3C**). Taken together,
132 these data suggest that cross-reactive antibodies elicited by previous hCoV infections are not
133 associated with protection from SARS-CoV-2 infections, but are boosted following infection
134 with SARS-CoV-2.

135

136 **DISCUSSION**

137 Our study demonstrates that ~23% of individuals possessed SARS-CoV-2 cross-reactive
138 serum antibodies prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using samples collected in 2017, we found
139 that pre-pandemic cross-reactive antibodies directed against the SARS-CoV-2 N protein were
140 more prevalent compared to those directed against the SARS-CoV-2 S protein (18.6%
141 seropositive versus 5.4% seropositive). We found that most individuals possessed pre-pandemic
142 serum antibodies reactive to the S proteins of 229E, NL63, and OC43 (**Figure S2**); however,
143 pre-pandemic samples with detectable levels of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies had higher levels of
144 antibodies against the OC43 S protein (**Figure 1H**). Although our data suggest that prior
145 infections with seasonal human betacoronaviruses (such as OC43) likely elicit antibodies that
146 cross-react with SARS-CoV-2 proteins, it is unclear why only a subset of OC43 seropositive
147 individuals possessed antibodies reactive to SARS-CoV-2 prior to the pandemic. Further studies
148 will be needed to determine the temporal relationship between seasonal human betacoronavirus
149 infections and the induction of SARS-CoV-2 cross-reactive antibodies. Further studies
150 investigating the relationship of pre-pandemic antibodies against other betacoronaviruses, such
151 as HKU1, with pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 cross-reactive antibodies are also needed.

152 We show that pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 cross-reactive antibodies are non-neutralizing
153 and are not associated with reducing SARS-CoV-2 infections and hospitalizations. We compared
154 serum from individuals who were and were not hospitalized after SARS-CoV-2 infections and
155 found no differences in pre-pandemic antibody levels against SARS-CoV-2 and OC43 (**Figure**
156 **2**). We evaluated the need for respiratory support and admittance into the ICU as a proxy for
157 COVID-19 severity (**Table S2**); however, larger cohorts including individuals with a large range
158 of different clinically-defined disease severities will be required to determine if pre-pandemic

159 levels of antibodies are associated with reducing some aspects of severe COVID-19. Additional
160 studies need to be completed to determine if neutralizing antibodies elicited by SARS-CoV-2
161 infections protect against subsequent reinfections with SARS-CoV-2.

162 Further studies also need to be completed to determine how immune history affects de
163 novo immune responses following SARS-CoV-2 infection. We find that individuals infected
164 with SARS-CoV-2 produce antibodies reactive to both the SARS-CoV-2 S protein and OC43 S
165 protein (**Figure 3**). In the case of influenza viruses, sequential infections with antigenically
166 distinct strains can elicit antibodies against conserved epitopes between the strains and it is
167 unclear if these cross-reactive antibodies inhibit de novo immune responses or affect disease
168 severity¹⁵. Further studies are needed to precisely map the footprints of OC43 S-reactive
169 antibodies elicited by SARS-CoV-2 infections. Additional studies need to be completed to
170 determine if these antibodies help resolve infections or if they enhance disease in COVID-19
171 patients.

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178 **STAR METHODS**

179 **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Goat anti-human IgG-HRP	Jackson ImmunoResearch	109-036-098
mAb CR3022	Expressed for this paper	
mAb 1E9F9	Absolute Antibody	Ab01402-2.0
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
SARS-CoV-2 VSV pseudotypes	Generated for this paper	N/A
Biological Samples		
Pre-pandemic adult serum samples	Penn Medicine Biobank (PMBB)	N/A
Pre-pandemic children serum samples	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)	N/A
COVID-19 patient serum samples	Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP)	N/A
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
SARS-CoV-2 spike protein	Expressed for this paper	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 RBD protein	Expressed for this paper	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein	Sino Biological	Cat. 40588-V08B
OC43 spike protein	Sino Biological	Cat. 40607-V08B
NL63 spike protein	Sino Biological	Cat. 40604-V08B
229E spike protein	Sino Biological	Cat. 40605-V08B
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
293T	ATCC	Cat. CRL-3216, RRID:CVCL_0063
293F	Laboratory of Scott Hensley, University of Pennsylvania, PA	Thermo Fisher cat. R79007
VeroE6/TMPRSS	Laboratory of Stefan Pohlman, German Primate Center, Leibniz Institute for Primate Research	Hoffman et al., 2020
Recombinant DNA		
Plasmid: pCAGGS SARS-CoV-2 spike	Laboratory of Florian Krammer, Mt. Sinai, NY	Amanat et al., 2020
Plasmid: pCAGGS SARS-CoV-2 RBD	Laboratory of Florian Krammer, Mt. Sinai, NY	Amanat et al., 2020
Plasmid: pCG1 SARS- 2 S	Laboratory of Stefan Pohlman, German Primate Center, Leibniz Institute for Primate Research	Hoffman et al., 2020
Software and Algorithms		
Prism8	GraphPad Software	www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
Flouro-X	ImmunoSpot	www.immunospot.com/ind-ex-ctl

180 **RESOURCES AVAILABILITY**

181 **Lead Contact**

182 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be
183 fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Scott E. Hensley (hensley@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

184 185 **Materials Availability**

186 All unique reagents generated in this study will be available from the Lead Contact upon
187 reasonable request.

188 189 **Data and Code Availability**

190 The published article includes all data generated or analyzed during this study.

191 192 193 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

194 **Pre-pandemic Human Serum Samples**

195 Serum samples shown in **Figure 1** were collected before the COVID-19 pandemic between May
196 and August of 2017 from individuals at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP; n=36,
197 children age 0-18 years old) and through the Penn Medicine BioBank (n=168, adults \geq 18 years
198 old). Samples from CHOP were leftover de-identified blood samples collected for routine lead
199 testing.

200
201 Serum samples shown in **Figure 2** were collected via the Penn Medicine BioBank prior to the
202 pandemic (n=502, between August 2013 and March 2020). These samples were from adults who
203 subsequently had a reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)
204 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection using nasopharyngeal swabs (cases, n=251), and those who
205 had SARS-CoV-2 PCR negative results (controls, n=251). The RT-qPCR clinical testing results
206 were acquired from Penn Medicine electronic health records and test results between March
207 2020 and August 2020 were included in the analysis. The Penn Medicine BioBank is an
208 established repository that routinely collects blood products from donors visiting the University
209 of Pennsylvania Healthcare system upon written informed consent. All studies were approved by
210 the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Review Board.

211

212 **Human Samples Collected After SARS-CoV-2 Infection**

213 Serum samples were obtained from recovered convalescent donors who had a history of PCR-
214 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection (n=15). These samples were used in experiments shown in
215 Figure 1. Additionally, plasma samples were collected from patients admitted to the Hospital at
216 the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) with PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections (n=27), as
217 previously described¹⁶. Hospital inpatients were categorized for pneumonia severity using a
218 WHO ordinal scale that was based on the level of oxygen support needed at day 0 and day 7. All
219 samples were collected after obtaining informed consent and studies were approved by the
220 University of Pennsylvania Institutional Review Board.

221

222 **Cell lines**

223 293F cells were from Thermo fisher (Thermo Fisher cat. R79007). 293T cells were from ATCC
224 (ATCC cat. CRL-3216, RRID:CVCL_0063). VeroE6/TMPRSS2 cells were a gift from Stefan
225 Pohlman (German Primate Center, Leibniz Institute for Primate Research) as described
226 previously¹⁷. All cell lines were cultured using manufacturer's guidelines and used as described
227 in Method Details below.

228

229

230 **METHOD DETAILS**

231 **Quantification of serum antibody titers**

232 Serum antibody titers against SARS-CoV-2 and other human coronavirus (hCoV) antigens were
233 quantified by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) as previously described¹⁸. Plasmids
234 encoding the full-length SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) protein and the receptor binding domain of the S
235 (S-RBD) were provided by Florian Krammer (Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York
236 City NY)¹⁹. SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD and the SARS-CoV-2 S proteins were purified from 293F
237 transfected cells by Ni-NTA resin. SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N) protein, and full-length hCoV
238 spike antigens (OC43, 229E, and NL63) were purchased (Sino Biological, Wayne PA; cat.
239 40588-V08B, 40607-V08B, 40604-V08B, and 40605-V08B, respectively) and reconstituted in
240 Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (DPBS). ELISA plates (Thermo Fisher Scientific: cat. 14-
241 245-153) were coated overnight at 4°C with either 2 µg/mL SARS-CoV-2 antigen, 1.5 µg/mL
242 hCOV antigen, or DPBS to control for background. Sera was heat-inactivated in a 56°C water

243 bath for 1 hour prior to serial dilutions starting at 1:50 in dilution buffer (DPBS supplemented
244 with 1% milk and 0.1% Tween-20). ELISA plates were blocked with 200 μ L of blocking buffer
245 (DPBS supplemented with 3% milk and 0.1% Tween-20), washed 3 times with PBS plus 2%
246 Tween (PBS-T), and 50 μ L of diluted sera was added. After 2 hours of incubation, ELISA plates
247 were washed 3 times with PBS-T and bound antibodies were detected using a 1:5000 dilution of
248 goat anti-human IgG conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (Jackson ImmunoResearch
249 Laboratories, West Grove PA: cat. 109-036-098). ELISA plates were developed with the
250 addition of 50 μ L SureBlue 3, 3', 5, 5'-tetramethylbenzidine substrate (SeraCare: material
251 number 5120-0077) and the reactions were stopped by the addition of 25 μ L of 250mM
252 hydrochloric acid after 5 minutes. Optical densities at 450nm wavelength were obtained on a
253 SpectraMax 190 microplate reader (Molecular Devices, San Jose CA). Serum antibody titers
254 were expressed as the reciprocal serum dilution at a set OD that was based off of a standard
255 curve from the monoclonal antibody CR3022 (a gift from Ian Wilson, Scripps) starting at
256 0.5 μ g/mL (for S-RBD and S ELISAs) or serially diluted pooled serum (for SARS-CoV-2 N
257 ELISAs and hCoV S ELISAs). Standard curves were included on every plate to control for plate-
258 to-plate variation. Antibody titers for each sample were measured in at least two technical
259 replicates performed on separate days.

260

261 **Generation of SARS-CoV-2 pseudotypes**

262 SARS-CoV-2 pseudotypes were generated with a previously described vesicular stomatitis virus
263 (VSV) pseudotype platform²⁰. Briefly, pseudotyped VSV virions with SARS-CoV-2 Spike were
264 produced through transfection of 293T with 35 μ g of pCG1 SARS-CoV-2 S delta18 expression
265 plasmid encoding a codon optimized SARS-CoV-2 S gene with an 18-residue truncation in the
266 cytoplasmic tail (kindly provided by Stefan Pohlmann)¹⁷. 30 hours post transfection, the SARS-
267 CoV-2 spike expressing cells were infected for 2-4 hours with VSV-G pseudotyped VSV Δ G-
268 RFP at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of \sim 1-3. Then, the cells were washed twice with media
269 to remove unbound virus. 28-30 hours after infection, the media containing the VSV Δ G-RFP
270 SARS-CoV-2 pseudotypes were harvested and clarified by centrifugation two times at 6000xg.
271 SARS-CoV-2 pseudotypes were aliquoted and stored at -80 $^{\circ}$ C until used for antibody
272 neutralization analysis.

273

274 **Quantification of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody titers**

275 Serum SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies were measured as previously described²⁰. Vero E6
276 cells stably expressing TMPRSS2 were seeded in 100 μ l at 2.5×10^4 cells/well in a 96 well
277 collagen coated plate. The next day, heat inactivated serum samples were serially diluted 2-fold
278 and mixed with 50-200 focus forming units/well of VSV Δ G-RFP SARS-CoV-2 pseudotype
279 virus and 600ng/ml of 1E9F9, a mouse anti-VSV Indiana G (Absolute Antibody, Oxford, UK:
280 cat# Ab01402-2.0). The serum-virus mixture was incubated for 1 hour at 37°C before being
281 plated on VeroE6 TMPRSS2 cells. 23-24 hours post infection, the cells were washed, fixed with
282 4% paraformaldehyde, and visualized on an S6 FluoroSpot Analyzer (CTL, Shaker Heights OH)
283 and individual infected foci were enumerated. The focus reduction neutralization titer 50%
284 (FRNT₅₀) was measured as the greatest serum dilution at which focus count was reduced by at
285 least 50% relative to control cells that were infected with pseudotype virus in the absence of
286 human serum. FRNT₅₀ titers for each sample were measured in at least two technical replicates
287 performed on separate days.

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290 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

291 Statistical analyses were performed using Prism version 8 (GraphPad Software, San Diego CA).
292 Reciprocal serum dilution antibody titers were log₂ transformed for statistical analysis. ELISA
293 antibody titers below the limit of detection (LOD; reciprocal titer <50) were set to a reciprocal
294 titer of 25. Log₂ transformed antibody titers were compared with unpaired t-tests and statistical
295 significance was set to p-value <0.05. Linear regressions were also performed using log₂
296 transform titers and untransformed data from the other variables. We compared antibody titers in
297 pre-pandemic serum samples from individuals who did and did not have a subsequent PCR-
298 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. For these analyses we selected serum sample from
299 individuals with RT-PCR negative results matching sex, age, and race for each SARS-CoV-2
300 PCR-confirmed case (RT-PCR positive) to define controls for our cohort. In instances we did not
301 find matched controls, we randomly selected patients with RT-PCR negative test results. We also
302 compared antibody titers in pre-pandemic serum samples among SARS-CoV-2 PCR-confirmed
303 individuals in relationship to hospitalization or need for respiratory support due to COVID-19.
304 Multivariate logistic regression was used to compare the antibody differences for these studies.

305 All the models were adjusted by sex, age, race, and analyses were performed in R^{21} . We
306 compared Log2 transformed antibody titers in COVID-19 hospitalized patients at day 0 and day
307 7. We also compared the fold change in titer by day 7. We compared the fold change in OC43
308 titers between patients who survived and patients who died by day 28 of hospitalization.

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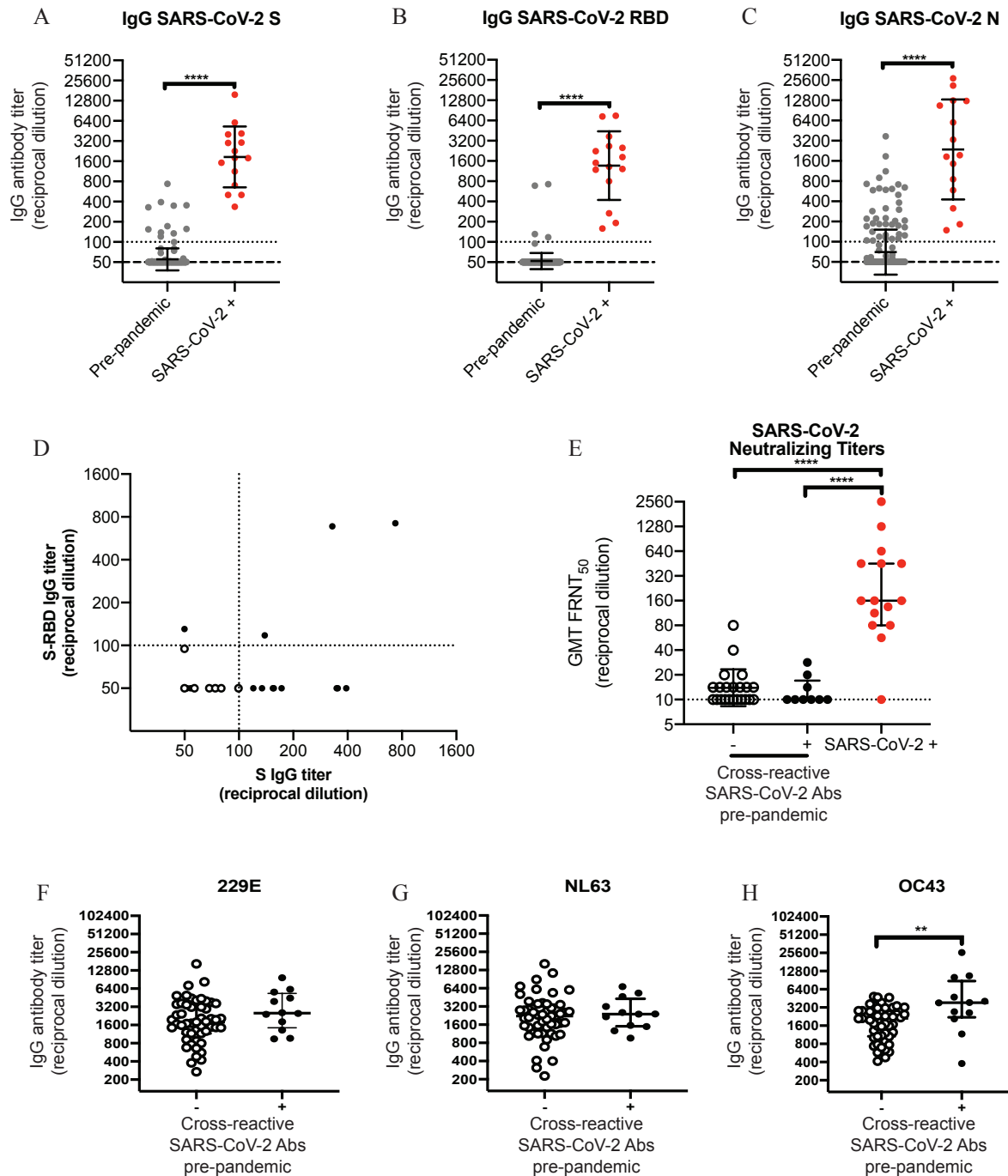
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324

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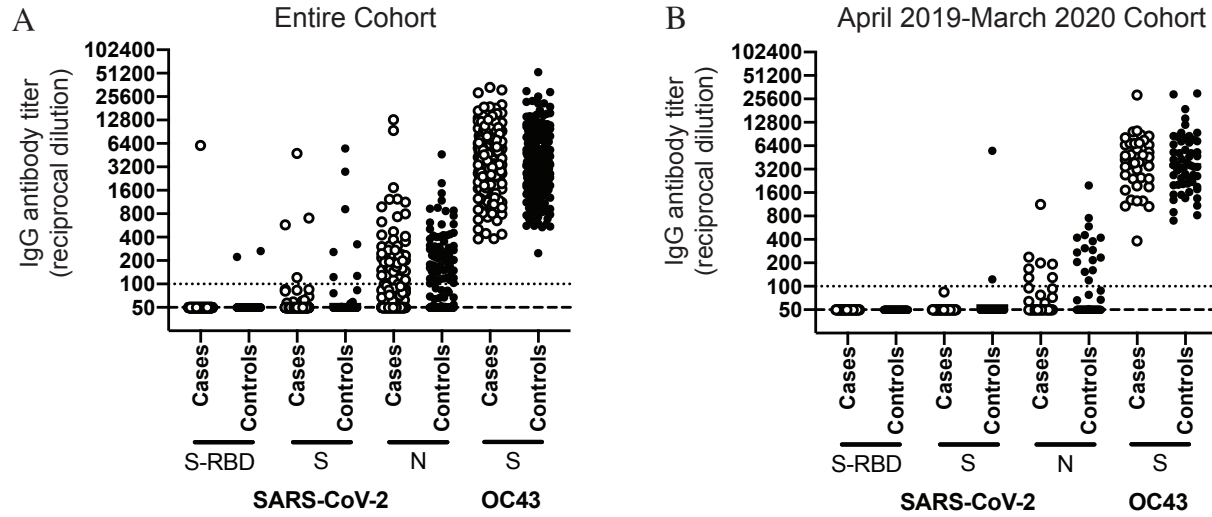
326 **FIGURES**



327

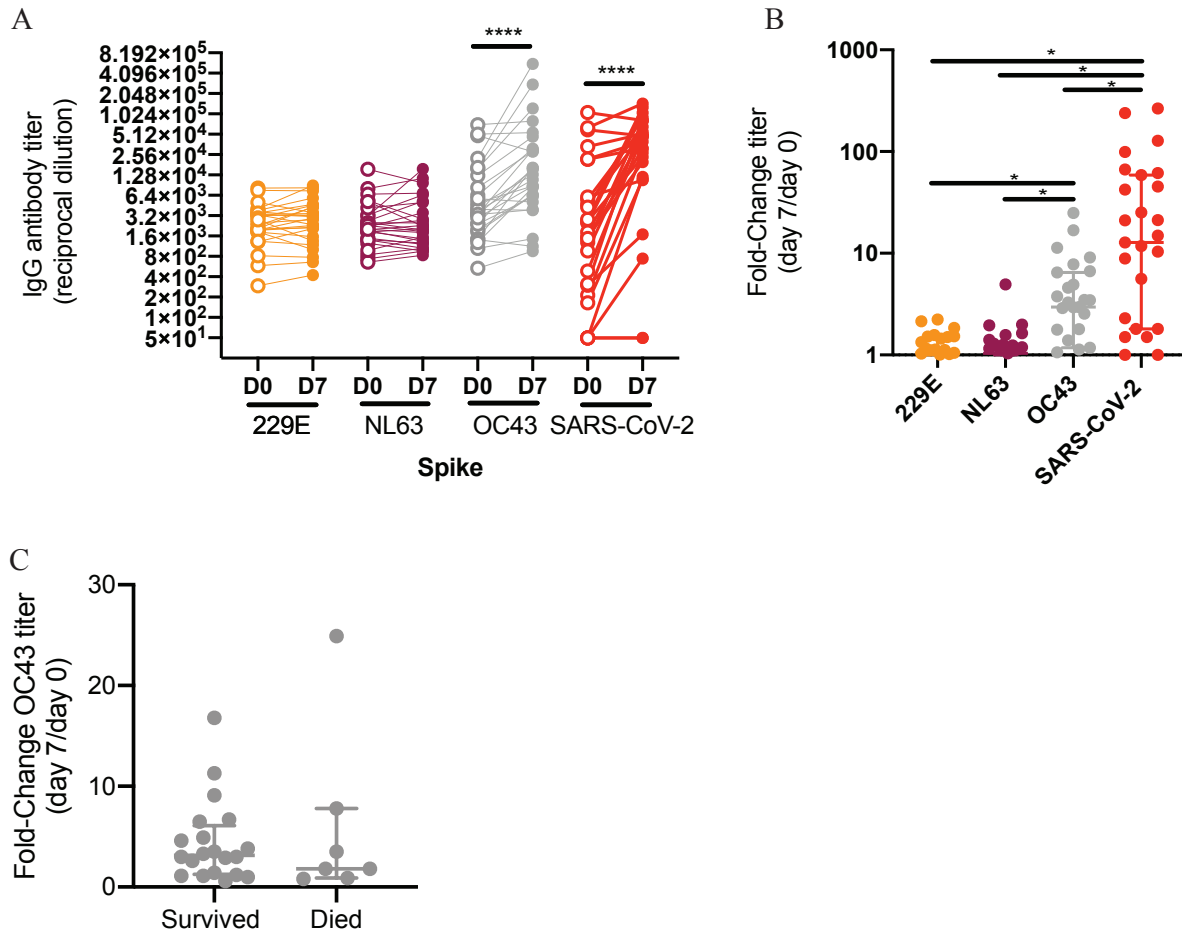
328 **Figure 1. Identification of pre-existing cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in human**
 329 **serum prior to the pandemic.** ELISAs were completed to quantify levels of serum antibodies
 330 binding to the SARS-CoV-2 full-length spike (S) protein (A), the receptor binding domain (S-
 331 RBD) of S (B), and the nucleocapsid (N) protein (C); dashed line denotes lower limit of
 332 detection (LOD=50), dotted line represents a threshold set 2-fold above LOD (>100). We tested
 333 samples collected from 204 individuals in the summer of 2017, prior to the global pandemic. We

334 also tested samples collected from 15 individuals following confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections.
335 and recovered adults. **(D)** The relationship between antibody titers in donors with detectable IgG
336 against the S-RBD and/or full length S is shown. **(E)** SARS-CoV-2 pseudotype neutralization
337 assays were completed using pre-pandemic serum samples with (n=9) and without (n=22) cross
338 reactive SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, as well as serum samples from individuals following
339 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections (n=15); one-way ANOVA Tukey's multiple comparisons of
340 log₂ transformed antibody titers ****p<0.0001; dotted line denotes lower LOD (=10). **(F-H)**
341 ELISAs were completed to quantify levels of serum antibodies binding to the full length S
342 proteins from 229E, NL63, and OC43 using pre-pandemic serum samples with (n=12) and
343 without (n=51). Unpaired t-tests of log₂ transformed antibody titers ****p<0.0001 and
344 **p=0.0027. Horizontal lines indicate geometric mean and error bars represent standard
345 deviation.



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347 **Figure 2. Pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 and OC43-reactive antibodies are not associated with**
348 **protection from SARS-CoV-2 infection.** We quantified antibody levels in pre-pandemic serum
349 serum samples collected from individuals who later became SARS-CoV-2 infected (cases; n=251) and
350 those who did not become SARS-CoV-2 infected (controls; n=251). ELISAs were completed to
351 quantify levels of antibodies reactive to SARS-CoV-2 proteins (S, S-RBD, and N) and the OC43
352 S protein. Shown are data using samples collected from the entire cohort between August 2013
353 and March 2020 (A) and samples from a smaller subset of individuals collected between April
354 2019-Mach 2020 (B). Antibody titers between cases and controls were not significantly different
355 as determined by unpaired t-tests of log₂ transformed antibody titers. Dashed line denotes lower
356 limit of detection (LOD=50), dotted line represents a threshold set 2-fold above LOD (>100).

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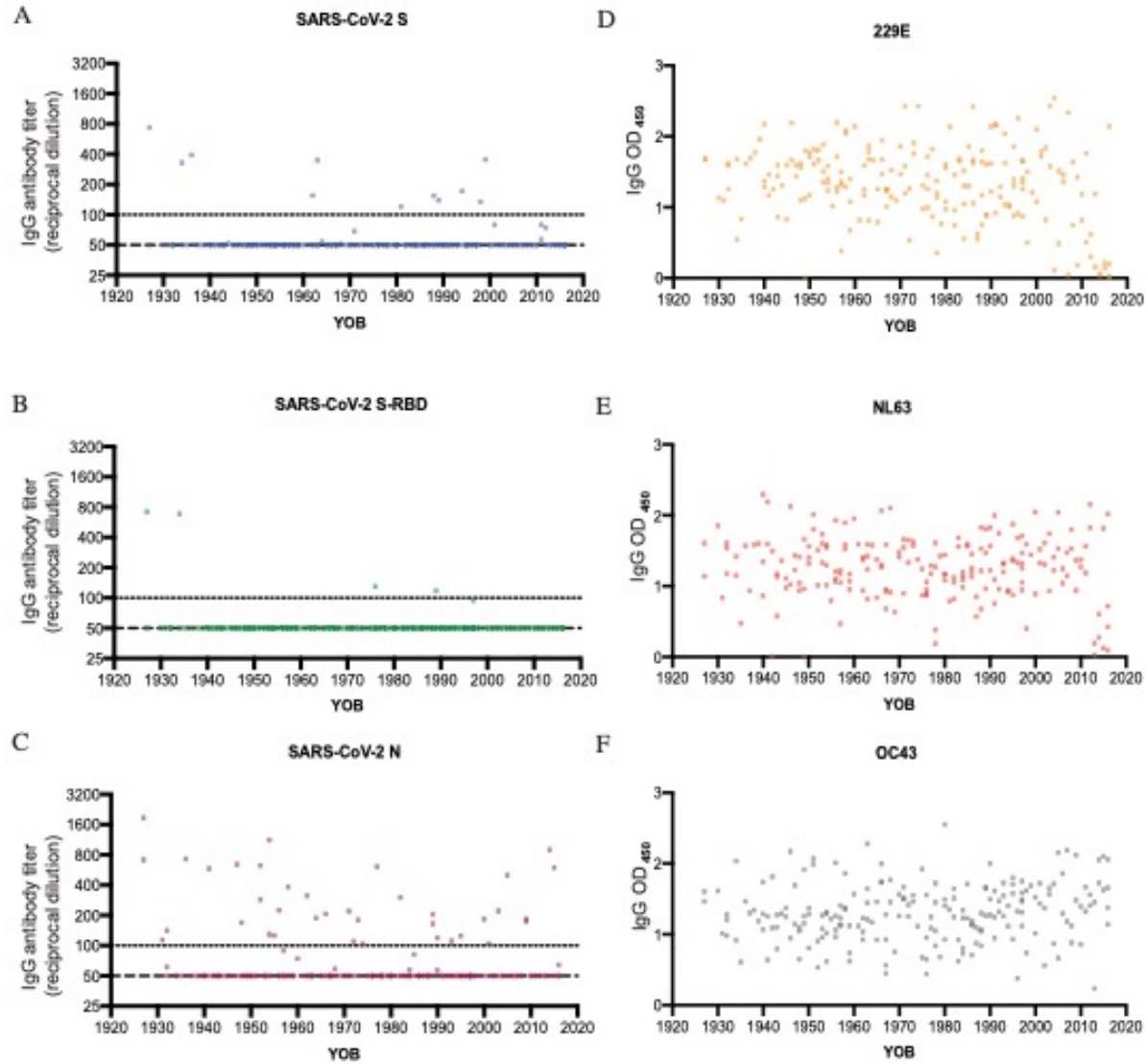
360 **Figure 3. SARS-CoV-2 infections boost antibodies that react to OC43 S protein.** We
361 quantified antibody levels in serum collected from 27 individuals 0 and 7 days after
362 hospitalization for COVID-19. ELISAs were completed to quantify levels of antibodies reactive
363 to the S proteins of 229E, NL63, OC43 and SARS-CoV-2. (A) IgG titers and (B) titer fold
364 change are shown. (C) Fold change in OC43 S-reactive antibodies was not associated with
365 disease outcome. Paired t-test of log₂ transformed antibody titers, ****p<0.0001. One-way
366 ANOVA Tukey's multiple comparisons fold-change in antibody titers, *p<0.04. Horizontal lines
367 indicate the mean and error bars show standard deviation.

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373 **Figure S1. There are no obvious age-related differences in pre-pandemic SARS-CoV-2 and**
374 **hCoV reactive antibodies.** ELISAs were completed to measure levels of serum antibodies
375 binding to the SARS-CoV-2 full-length spike (S) protein (A), SARS-CoV-2 receptor binding
376 domain (S-RBD) of S (B), SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N) protein (C), 229E S protein (D),
377 NL63 S protein (E), and OC43 S protein (F). Serum samples collected from 204 individuals in
378 the summer of 2017 were tested. Reciprocal titer from serially-diluted serum samples (A-C) and
379 optical densities at 450nm wavelength (OD₄₅₀) of 1:500 dilution of serum (D-F) are shown.
380 Dashed line denotes lower limit of detection (LOD=50), dotted line represents a threshold set 2-
381 fold above LOD (>100).

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388 **Supplementary Tables**

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390 **Table S1:** Comparison between antibody titers and COVID-19 phenotypes.

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Phenotype Name	Antibody Titers	Beta	SE	P	Cases	Controls
SARS-CoV-2 Susceptibility	N titer	9E-05	1E-04	0.47	251	251
SARS-CoV-2 Susceptibility	Spike-FL Titer	-1E-04	3E-04	0.65	251	251
SARS-CoV-2 Susceptibility	Spike-RBD Titer	5E-04	9E-04	0.53	251	251
SARS-CoV-2 Susceptibility	OC43 Spike Titer	1E-06	2E-05	0.93	251	251
COVID-19 Hospitalization	N Titer	1E-04	1E-04	0.40	80	171
COVID-19 Hospitalization	Spike-FL Titer	-5E-04	1E-03	0.61	80	171
COVID-19 Hospitalization	Spike-RBD Titer	-2E-03	1E-01	0.99	80	171
COVID-19 Hospitalization	OC43 Spike Titer	1E-05	3E-05	0.62	80	171
COVID-19 Severe Hospitalization	N Titer	-5E-04	1E-03	0.70	24	171
COVID-19 Severe Hospitalization	Spike-FL Titer	-1E-04	8E-04	0.88	24	171
COVID-19 Severe Hospitalization	Spike-RBD Titer	-2E-03	2E-01	0.99	24	171
COVID-19 Severe Hospitalization	OC43 Spike Titer	2E-05	5E-05	0.74	24	171

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394 **Table S2:** Phenotype definitions related to Table S1.

Phenotype Name	Case Definition	Control Definition	Case	Controls
SARS-CoV-2 Susceptibility	RT-PCR confirmed <i>positive</i> test for SARS-CoV2 infection	RT-PCR confirmed <i>negative</i> test for SARS-CoV2 infection	251	251
COVID-19 Hospitalization	RT-PCR confirmed positive test for SARS-CoV2 infection and <i>hospitalized</i> due to COVID-19	RT-PCR confirmed positive test for SARS-CoV2 infection and <i>not hospitalized</i> due to COVID-19	80	171
COVID-19 Severe Hospitalization	RT-PCR confirmed positive test for SARS-CoV2 infection and <i>required respiratory support or had ICU stay</i> due to COVID-19	RT-PCR confirmed positive test for SARS-CoV2 infection and <i>not hospitalized</i> due to COVID-19	24	171

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