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The Histone Methyltransferase MLL1/KMT2A in Monocytes Drives Coronavirus-Associated Coagulopathy and Inflammation

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Abstract:

Coronavirus-associated coagulopathy (CAC) is a morbid and lethal sequela of SARS-CoV-2 infection. CAC results from a perturbed balance between coagulation and fibrinolysis and occurs in conjunction with exaggerated activation of monocytes/macrophages (MO/Mφs) and the mechanisms that collectively govern this phenotype seen in CAC remain unclear. In this study, using experimental models that employ the murine betacoronavirus MHVA59, a well-established model of SARS-CoV-2 infection, we identify that the histone methyltransferase Mixed Lineage Leukemia 1 (MLL1/KMT2A) is an important regulator of MO/Mφ expression of procoagulant and profibrinolytic factors such as tissue factor (F3; TF), urokinase (PLAU), and urokinase receptor (PLAUR) (herein "coagulopathy-related factors") in non-infected and infected cells. We show that MLL1 concurrently promotes the expression of the proinflammatory cytokines while suppressing the expression of interferon alpha (IFNα), a well-known inducer of TF and PLAUR. Using *in vitro* models, we identify MLL1-dependent NFκB/RelA-mediated transcription of these coagulation-related factors and identify a context dependent MLL1-independent role for RelA in the expression of these factors *in vivo*. As functional correlates for these findings, we demonstrate that the inflammatory, procoagulant and profibrinolytic phenotypes seen *in vivo* after coronavirus infection were MLL1-dependent despite blunted *Ifna* induction in MO/Mφs. Finally, in an analysis of SARS-CoV-2 positive human samples, we identify differential upregulation of MLL1 and coagulopathy-related factor expression and activity in CD14⁺ MO/Mφs relative to non-infected and healthy controls. We also observed elevated plasma urokinase and TF activity in COVID-positive samples. Collectively, these findings highlight an important role for MO/Mφ MLL1 in promoting coronavirus-associated coagulopathy and inflammation.

Conflict of interest: COI declared - see note

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1 The Histone Methyltransferase MLL1/KMT2A in Monocytes Drives Coronavirus-Associated Coagulopathy and
2 Inflammation

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4 Monocyte MLL1 drives COVID-Associated Coagulopathy

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- 38 • Monocyte/Macrophage MLL1 promotes the expression of coagulopathy-related factors and
39 proinflammatory cytokines after coronavirus infection
- 40 • Loss of monocyte/macrophage MLL1 attenuates the profibrinolytic and thrombophilic phenotype observed
41 upon coronavirus infection *in vivo*

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68 **Abstract:**

69 Coronavirus-associated coagulopathy (CAC) is a morbid and lethal sequela of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
70 CAC results from a perturbed balance between coagulation and fibrinolysis and occurs in conjunction with
71 exaggerated activation of monocytes/macrophages (MO/Mφs) and the mechanisms that collectively govern this
72 phenotype seen in CAC remain unclear. In this study, using experimental models that employ the murine
73 betacoronavirus MHVA59, a well-established model of SARS-CoV-2 infection, we identify that the histone
74 methyltransferase Mixed Lineage Leukemia 1 (MLL1/KMT2A) is an important regulator of MO/Mφ expression of
75 procoagulant and profibrinolytic factors such as tissue factor (F3; TF), urokinase (PLAU), and urokinase receptor
76 (PLAUR) (herein “coagulopathy-related factors”) in non-infected and infected cells. We show that MLL1
77 concurrently promotes the expression of the proinflammatory cytokines while suppressing the expression of
78 interferon α (IFN α), a well-known inducer of TF and PLAUR. Using *in vitro* models, we identify MLL1-dependent
79 NF κ B/RelA-mediated transcription of these coagulation-related factors and identify a context dependent MLL1-
80 independent role for RelA in the expression of these factors *in vivo*. As functional correlates for these findings, we
81 demonstrate that the inflammatory, procoagulant and profibrinolytic phenotypes seen *in vivo* after coronavirus
82 infection were MLL1-dependent despite blunted *Ifna* induction in MO/Mφs. Finally, in an analysis of SARS-CoV-2
83 positive human samples, we identify differential upregulation of MLL1 and coagulopathy-related factor expression
84 and activity in CD14⁺ MO/Mφs relative to non-infected and healthy controls. We also observed elevated plasma
85 urokinase and TF activity in COVID-positive samples. Collectively, these findings highlight an important role for
86 MO/Mφ MLL1 in promoting coronavirus-associated coagulopathy and inflammation.

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97 **Introduction:**

98 Infection with SARS-CoV-2 results in physiologic derangements that stem from both the direct action of
99 viral infection and ensuing host-immune response^{1,2}. Among these sequelae is COVID-associated coagulopathy
100 (CAC), which results in increased thrombotic complications and mortality, and features low-grade disseminated
101 intravascular coagulopathy and thrombotic microangiopathy³⁻⁵. The underlying pathophysiology is related in part to
102 the combined actions of opposing processes including thromboinflammation^{6,7} and altered fibrinolysis due to the
103 activity of urokinase (PLAU) and urokinase receptor (PLAUR), which results in D-dimer elevation that correlates
104 with disease severity^{3,8-11}. The concurrent increased risk of arterial and venous micro/macrothrombosis, represents a
105 major unaddressed cause of SARS-CoV-2 morbidity and mortality^{2,12}.

106 The pathophysiology of CAC involves exaggerated activation of leukocytes (including
107 monocytes/macrophages [MO/Mφs]), endothelial cells, and platelets^{2,13-16}. MO/Mφs impact local and systemic
108 coagulation and fibrinolysis via expression of tissue factor (F3; TF), PLAU, and PLAUR (“coagulopathy-related
109 factors”) in response to various stimuli, including coronavirus infection, and inflammatory cytokine and
110 interferon/interferon receptor (IFN/IFNR) stimulation¹⁷⁻²⁴. The stimuli that govern MO/Mφ responsiveness to
111 SARS-CoV-2 infection are not well understood but may be related to patient factors²⁵, alterations in IFN
112 response^{26,27}, or epigenetic regulation by chromatin modifying enzymes (CMEs) and associated proteins^{28,29}. CMEs
113 alter MO/Mφ function and are implicated in a variety of disease contexts including wound healing³⁰⁻³²,
114 atherosclerosis^{33,34}, and aneurysm development³⁵, and affect cytokine response in diabetic patients after SARS-CoV-
115 2 infection²⁹. Importantly, epigenetic changes may induce long-lasting alterations in gene expression (“epigenetic
116 memory”) following acute infection and may facilitate long term sequelae seen after coronavirus infection^{28,36}.

117 A candidate CME in altering MO/Mφ function is the histone methyltransferase Mixed Lineage Leukemia 1
118 (MLL1/KMT2A), which is ubiquitously expressed in human tissues³⁷, functions in core complexes containing
119 accessory proteins such as WDR5^{38,39} and Menin⁴⁰, and catalyzes the addition of methyl-groups to lysine-4 residues
120 on histone 3 proteins and facilitates a chromatin conformation conducive for gene transcription⁴¹. Initially
121 recognized for its role in leukemogenesis⁴², MLL1 has recently emerged as an important driver of MO/Mφ response
122 in many disease states^{30,31,36,43,44}. Previous work demonstrates MLL1-mediated IL1β expression and implicates
123 epigenetic changes secondary to MLL1 suppression in MO/Mφs following recovery from sepsis that impact wound
124 healing³⁶. MLL1 plays critical roles in facilitating immune responses downstream of proinflammatory and type I

125 IFN signaling pathways involving IL6, TNF α , and STAT4^{45,46}. MLL1 is also important in orchestrating signaling
126 involving NF κ B activation⁴⁷, which occurs through activation RelA, and is induced by SARS-CoV-2 infection.
127 Since RelA and IFN signaling regulate inflammatory cytokine and coagulopathy-related factor expression^{24,26,48-50},
128 we postulated that MLL1 may impact the expression of these factors in MO/M ϕ s to promote coagulopathy and
129 systemic inflammation.

130 To this end, we utilized the murine betacoronavirus MHVA59 (a well-established model of SARS-CoV-2
131 infection^{29,51}) to across *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to study the role of MLL1 in regulating the expression of CAC-
132 related factors, inflammatory cytokines and IFN/IFNRs. We found that infection of MO/M ϕ s yielded induction of
133 MLL1, coagulopathy-related factors, and cytokines. Through loss-of-function models, we identified that the
134 transcription of MLL1, these factors, and cytokines was directly regulated by MLL1. Next, we demonstrated that
135 MLL1 is required for RelA-dependent transcription of coagulopathy-related factors *in vitro*. We showed that MLL1
136 is critical in inducing MO/M ϕ and plasma expression of these factors and cytokines in response to coronavirus
137 infection and in promoting a prothrombotic/profibrinolytic phenotype *in vivo*. Interestingly, loss of MO/M ϕ MLL1
138 de-repressed expression of *Ifna*, a mediator of coagulopathy in other contexts²⁶, despite attenuating coronavirus-
139 induced coagulopathy. Finally, we observed upregulated MO/M ϕ MLL1, coagulopathy-related and inflammatory
140 cytokine expression in CD14⁺ MO/M ϕ s and plasma derived from COVID-positive patients, who also displayed a
141 concurrent induction of plasma urokinase and TF activity. Collectively, these results implicate MLL1 as a driver of
142 MO/M ϕ signaling critical for coronavirus-associated coagulopathy and inflammation.

143 **Materials and Methods:**

144 **Animals and MHVA59 inoculation:** C57BL/6/J mice were obtained from The Jackson Laboratory and
145 *Kmt2a^{fl/fl}Lyz2Cre^{+/-}* and *Kmt2a^{fl/fl}Lyz2Cre^{-/-}* mice were generated as previously described³⁶. MHVA59 was generated
146 as described previously²⁹. Mice underwent intranasal inoculation of 2x10⁵ plaque forming units of MHVA59 or with
147 phosphate buffered saline. Animal studies were performed with the approval of the University of Michigan
148 institutional animal care and use committee.

149 **Tail bleeding assays and Thromboelastography (TEG):** Mice were anesthetized using ketamine/xylazine and
150 placed on a heating pad. Five millimeters of the tail tip was sharply excised, and the tail was immersed in saline at
151 37°C. Bleeding time was defined as cessation of bleeding for 1 minute. Re-bleeds were identified if bleeding

152 occurred within the 10-minute observation period for each animal. For TEG, whole blood was drawn from the
153 inferior vena cava and citrate-anticoagulated (1:9; 3.2% sodium citrate:whole blood). 340µl of anticoagulated blood
154 was mixed with 20µl of 0.2N CaCl₂ and viscoelastic properties were analyzed using the Haemoscope TEG 5000
155 Thrombelastograph Hemostasis Analyzer (Haemonetics Corp.). Where indicated, corn trypsin inhibitor (CTI;
156 Prolytix) or TF-inhibiting antibody (TFI; rat-anti-mouse IgG2a/κ clone 1H1; Genentech) was incubated with
157 anticoagulated whole blood for 15 minutes at 37°C prior to TEG. Plasma was obtained by centrifugation of whole
158 blood at 2,000g for 10 minutes for two sequential spins.

159 **Human samples:** Plasma/buffy coats were isolated from peripheral blood samples collected from hospitalized
160 COVID-positive and COVID-negative patients, and healthy controls by centrifugation of citrate-anticoagulated
161 whole blood specimens for two sequential spins at 2000g for 15 min at room temperature. Patient characteristics are
162 listed in Supplemental Table 8. CD14⁺ MO/Mφs were isolated using the EasySep Human CD14 Positive Selection
163 Kit (Stemcell Technologies). All samples were collected under approved protocols from the University of Michigan
164 Institutional Review Board.

165 **Supplemental methods:** A detailed description of other methods is provided in the supplement.

166 **Data sharing statement:** For original data, please contact Andrea Obi (east@med.umich.edu).

167 **Results:**

168 **Coronavirus infection of MO/Mφs induces MLL1, coagulopathy-related factors, inflammatory cytokines,**
169 **type I-III IFN/IFNRs.**

170 Previous studies demonstrate that inflammatory MO/Mφ activation occurs in an MLL1-dependent
171 fashion^{30,31,34,36}. Therefore, we chose to investigate if MLL1 expression was increased in Mφs in response to
172 coronavirus infection. We performed infection of bone marrow derived Mφs (BMDMs) derived from C57BL6/J
173 mice with murine coronavirus MHVA59. Infected BMDMs displayed induction of MLL1 expression relative to
174 non-infected cells (Figures 1A-B). We observed similar upregulation of coagulopathy-related factor and
175 inflammatory cytokine expression (Figures 1C-F) in BMDMs and in a second context which utilized immortalized
176 murine Mφs (RAW264.7; Supplemental Figure 1). Additionally, we observed induction of mRNA levels of types I-
177 III IFNs and IFNRs in BMDMs (Supplemental Figure 2) in response to coronavirus infection. These results identify

178 MLL1, the coagulopathy-related factors PLAU, PLAUR, and F3, the inflammatory cytokines IL6, IL1 β , and TNF α ,
179 and type I-III IFNs as coronavirus-inducible factors *in vitro*.

180 **MLL1 regulates basal expression of coagulopathy-related factors, inflammatory cytokines, and type I IFNs**
181 **and type III IFNRs in MO/M ϕ s.**

182 As MLL1 has been described to regulate inflammatory gene and type I IFN-dependent responses after TLR
183 ligand and/or cytokine stimulation^{31,45}, we queried whether MLL1 was responsible for the expression of
184 coagulopathy-related factors, inflammatory cytokines, and IFN/IFNR genes in MO/M ϕ s in the non-infected state.
185 We analyzed expression of these genes in BMDMs from mice with myeloid specific MLL1 knockout
186 (*Kmt2a*^{fl/fl}Lyz2Cre^{+/+}; denoted Cre⁺) and littermate controls (*Kmt2a*^{fl/fl}Lyz2Cre^{-/-}; denoted Cre⁻). We confirmed loss
187 of MLL1 in harvested BMDMs (Figures 2A-B) and observed attenuated expression (Figures 2C-F) of coagulopathy-
188 related factors and inflammatory cytokines in Cre⁺ BMDMs relative to Cre⁻ cells. Furthermore, we observed
189 MLL1-dependent H3K4me3 abundance on the promoters of coagulopathy-related factors (Figure 2G). Interestingly,
190 denoting MLL1 self-regulation, MLL1 loss resulted in attenuated H3K4me3 abundance at its own promoter (Figure
191 2G). Moreover, baseline MLL1 promoter occupancy at candidate promoters in Cre⁻ cells was observed, and as
192 expected, this occupancy was lost in Cre⁺ cells (Supplemental Figure 3A). Finally, we observed MLL1-dependent
193 occupancy of phosphorylated RNA polymerase II β -subunit (Ser5; phospho-Rpb1), a marker of active transcription,
194 at the promoters of coagulopathy-related factors (Supplemental Figure 3B). These results indicate that MLL1
195 promotes the transcription of coagulopathy-related factors and itself.

196 We observed an induction of type I IFN (*Ifna* and *Ifnb1*) and type III IFNR levels in Cre⁺ cells compared to
197 Cre⁻ cells (Supplemental Figure 4), and these results indicated a role for MLL1 in regulating basal IFN signaling and
198 responsiveness *in vitro*. We observed similar MLL1-dependent regulation after siRNA-mediated MLL1 silencing in
199 WT-BMDMs (Supplemental Figure 5-6) and RAW264.7 cells (Supplemental Figure 7). Collectively, these results
200 identify basal MLL1-dependent regulation of coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines in MO/M ϕ s.

201 **MLL1 regulates coronavirus and inflammatory cytokine-dependent induction of coagulopathy-related**
202 **factors and inflammatory cytokines.**

203 In contrast to SARS-CoV-2, MHVA59 employs CEACAM1^{52,53} (found on murine MO/Mφs) as a co-
204 receptor for cell entry. Therefore, we sought to determine whether MLL1 mediated either MHVA59-initiated or
205 MHVA59-independent induction of coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines. We stimulated Cre-
206 and Cre+ BMDMs with either cytokines induced in the post-coronavirus hyperimmune state⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ or with MHVA59.
207 We observed robust induction of coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines after stimulation with
208 each cytokine and MHVA59 infection in Cre- cells (Figures 3A-D). A notable exception was that the PLAU levels
209 were suppressed by IL6 stimulation, and this finding indicated heterogeneity of cellular responses to inflammatory
210 stimuli. We also observed MLL1-dependent enrichment of H3K4me3, MLL1, and phospho-Rpb1 on the promoters
211 of MLL1 and coagulopathy-related factors after cytokine/coronavirus stimulation (Figure 3E, Supplemental Figures
212 8A-B). Collectively, these results highlight an important role for MLL1 in cytokine/coronavirus-mediated induction
213 of coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines. We confirmed our findings in MLL1-silenced BMDMs
214 (Supplemental Figure 9) and RAW264.7 cells (Supplemental Figure 10).

215 **MLL1 alters IFN production and IFN-dependent coagulopathy-related factor expression in BMDMs.**

216 As type I interferons such as IFN α have been described to promote coagulopathy through the expression
217 PLAUR²⁴ and F3⁵⁷, and the dysregulation of IFN signaling has been implicated in the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2
218 sequelae^{26,58,59}, we chose to determine the role of MLL1 in mediating IFN production and responsiveness after
219 coronavirus infection. We observed that Cre+ BMDMs displayed an induction of *Ifna*, *Ifnar1*, *Ifngr1*, and type III
220 IFN/IFNR mRNA expression, but also a suppression of *Ifng* levels after coronavirus infection (Supplemental Figure
221 11). Interestingly, though only IFN α 1 and IFN γ stimulation induced *Kmt2a* expression (Supplemental Figure 12A),
222 only IFN α 1 stimulation yielded enhanced expression of coagulopathy-related factors, and this induction was blunted
223 in Cre+ cells (Supplemental Figures 12B-D). These results highlight a dominant role for MLL1 in regulating
224 IFN α /coagulopathy-related-factor signaling after coronavirus infection *in vitro*.

225 **MLL1 is required for RelA-dependent transcription of coronavirus-responsive factors.**

226 As MLL1 function has been previously shown to be influenced by NF κ B signaling⁴⁷, we chose to
227 investigate collaborative gene regulation by MLL1 and RelA in MO/Mφs. We did not observe altered levels of RelA
228 mRNA or protein levels in Cre+ BMDMs relative to Cre- BMDMs (Figures 4A-B). Since activated RelA
229 (phosphorylated on Ser276 or Ser536) protein levels were not readily detectable in BMDMs in the basal state, we

230 analyzed RAW264.7 cells and did not observe any differences in phospho-RelA levels upon MLL1 knockdown
231 (Figure 4C). Conversely, we did not observe RelA-mediated regulation of MLL1 expression in siRelA treated
232 BMDMs (Figures 4D-E). However, MHVA59 infection of RelA-silenced BMDMs yielded attenuated induction of
233 MLL1 (Figure 4F), though RelA levels were not induced in either Cre- or Cre+ cells (Figure 4G). Collectively, these
234 results identify that RelA is needed for maximal induction of MLL1 levels after coronavirus infection and that RelA
235 and MLL1 do not participate in reciprocal regulation of each other's expression in MO/Mφs in the basal state.

236 Following coronavirus infection, we observed increased time-dependent RelA occupancy at the *Kmt2a*
237 promoter (Figure 4H). The ability of RelA to occupy the MLL1 promoter was dependent on MLL1 expression as
238 attenuated promoter occupancy dynamics were observed in Cre+ cells. We also observed that though RelA silencing
239 alone yielded a modest suppression of the coagulopathy-related factor and inflammatory cytokine expression in
240 response to MHVA59 infection (Figures 4I-J, Supplemental Figures 13A-B), combined RelA and MLL1 loss
241 resulted in robust abrogation of the coronavirus-dependent induction of these genes. Similarly, RelA abundance at
242 the coagulopathy-related factor promoters was attenuated in Cre+ BMDMs that were infected with MHVA59
243 (Figure 4K). Collectively, these results show that MLL1 is required for RelA-dependent transcription of
244 coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines in MO/Mφs *in vitro*.

245 **Coronavirus infection results in induction of MLL1 and dependent factors *in vivo*.**

246 We next aimed to determine whether MLL1 and its dependent factors are induced in MO/Mφs upon
247 coronavirus infection *in vivo*. C57BL6/J mice underwent intranasal inoculation of either 2×10^5 pfu of MHVA59 or
248 with PBS (sham). Through viral PCR and MHVA59 enumeration assays, we determined that post-infection day 3
249 (d3) represented a period of robust viremia and infection of lung, splenic MO/Mφs, and BMDMs and that post-
250 infection day 28 (d28) represented a late timepoint during which no measurable virus was present in these tissues
251 (Supplemental Figure 14). MHVA59 infection induced the expression of MLL1, coagulation-related factors, and
252 inflammatory cytokines (Figures 5A-C, Supplemental Figures 15A-B). Concordant with our *in vitro* findings, we
253 observed induction of H3K4me3, MLL1, and RelA occupancy on the promoters of *Kmt2a* and the coagulopathy-
254 related factors (Figure 5D and Supplemental Figures 15C-D). Interestingly, MLL1 silencing in splenic MO/Mφs
255 harvested from infected animals was able to attenuate coronavirus-mediated gene expression (Supplemental Figure
256 16). However, compared to our *in vitro* studies (Supplemental Figure 2), we observed that splenic MO/Mφs

257 displayed suppressed levels of *Ifnar1* and type II IFN/IFNRs, despite displaying inductions in *Ifna* and type III
258 IFN/IFNRs (Supplemental Figure 17). Nonetheless, we observed similar coagulopathy-related and inflammatory
259 cytokine gene expression and epigenetic changes in BMDMs from infected animals (Supplemental Figure 18).

260 Finally, we observed coronavirus-mediated induction of plasma inflammatory cytokine and coagulopathy-
261 related factor expression (Supplemental Figure 15E and Figures 5), and soluble PLAU/PLAUR expression (Figures
262 5E-G). We also observed an induction in plasma urokinase activity, and plasma and MO/M ϕ TF activity, suggesting
263 a concurrent fibrinolytic and hypercoagulable phenotype (Figures 5H-J). To explore functional consequences of
264 these results, we performed tail bleeding assays and thromboelastography (TEG). Coronavirus infection resulted in
265 faster cessation of tail bleeding and predisposed animals to a higher rate of re-bleeding, thus demonstrating a
266 hypercoagulable phenotype in which clot stability dynamics were perturbed, possibly through hyperfibrinolysis
267 (Figures 5K-L). Using TEG, we observed that coronavirus infection yielded shortened clot formation times (R)
268 (Figure 5M). We attributed this observation to TF activity as we observed a preferential effect of corn trypsin
269 inhibitor treatment (inhibitor of intrinsic coagulation)⁶⁰ in prolonging R-times in samples from sham animals (Figure
270 5N). Furthermore, treatment of samples with 100 μ g/ml, but not 50 μ g/ml of murine specific TF blocking antibody⁶¹
271 (TFI) was required to abrogate clot formation in infected samples, whereas 50 μ g/ml of TFI was sufficient to block
272 clot formation in sham samples (Figure 5N). Collectively, these results show that the expression of MLL1,
273 coagulation-related factors, and inflammatory cytokines is induced in an MLL1-dependent manner *in vivo* in
274 response to coronavirus infection and culminates in a prothrombotic and hyperfibrinolytic phenotype.

275 **MLL1 loss in MO/M ϕ s attenuates coronavirus-mediated induction of coagulation-related factors and**
276 **inflammatory cytokines *in vivo*.**

277 To further demonstrate MLL1-dependency for the induction of coagulation-related factors and
278 inflammatory cytokines, we performed inoculation of Cre- and Cre+ mice with MHVA59. We observed robust
279 induction of levels of coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines in harvested Cre- BMDMs
280 (Supplemental Figures 19A-B) and splenic MO/M ϕ s compared to Cre+ cells (Figures 6A-B and Supplemental
281 Figures 20A-B). We also observed differentially induced H3K4me3 enrichment on the promoters of *Kmt2a* and the
282 coagulopathy-related factors in Cre- splenic MO/M ϕ s and BMDMs relative to Cre+ cells upon coronavirus infection
283 (Figure 6C; Supplemental Figure 19C). However, we did not observe MLL1-dependence of RelA occupancy in

284 splenic MO/Mφs or differential promoter occupancy of RelA in BMDMs (Supplemental Figure 20C and 19D) in
285 contrast to our results *in vitro* (Figure 4K).

286 Indicating MLL1-dependence, plasma levels of inflammatory cytokines (Supplemental Figure 20D) and
287 coagulopathy-related factors (Figures 6D-F) were differentially upregulated in infected Cre- mice. Furthermore, we
288 observed a robust increase in plasma urokinase activity, and plasma and MO/Mφ TF activity (Figures 6G-I) in Cre-
289 mice compared to Cre+ mice. Finally, infected Cre- mice displayed shortened tail bleeding times with increased re-
290 bleeding events (Figures 6J-K) and shortened R-times which were TF dependent (Figures 6L-M). Interestingly,
291 uninfected Cre- and Cre+ mice did not display such differences, suggesting a context specific role for MO/Mφ
292 MLL1 *in vivo*. These results further support MO/Mφ MLL1's role in the pathogenesis of coronavirus-dependent
293 inflammatory coagulopathy.

294 **MLL1 loss alters IFN responsiveness of MO/Mφs but does not affect MHVA59 infection *in vivo*.**

295 We next chose to investigate whether MO/Mφ MLL1 impacted IFN production and responsiveness after
296 coronavirus infection *in vivo*. Analysis of type I-III IFN/IFNR mRNA transcript expression showed a consistent
297 pattern of IFN/IFNR transcript changes in splenic MO/Mφs between infected Cre- and C57Bl6/J animals
298 (Supplemental Figures 21 and 17). Interestingly, we observed concordant induction of only *Ifna* and *Ifnlr1* mRNA
299 levels in uninfected Cre+ BMDMs *in vitro* and Cre+ splenic MO/Mφs derived from sham animals *in vivo*
300 (Supplemental Figures 11 and 21). Analysis of infected BMDMs *in vitro* and splenic MO/Mφs derived from
301 infected animals also revealed concordant induction of *Ifna*, *Ifnar1*, and *Ifnlr1* in Cre+ cells compared to Cre- cells
302 (Supplemental Figures 11 and 21). Finally, a limited transcriptomic analysis by qRT-PCR array of IFN-signaling
303 relevant genes revealed heterogeneous coronavirus-mediated responses between uninfected and infected Cre- and
304 Cre+ splenic MO/Mφs (Sham: Cre+ v. Cre- MO/Mφs – decreased expression of 29/66 [43.9%, 1.25-fold average
305 decrease in expression] and increased expression of 37/66 [56.1%, 3.11-fold average increase in expression] of
306 analyzed transcripts; d3 Cre+ v. d3 Cre- MO/Mφs – decreased expression of 35/66 [53.0%, 1.73-fold average
307 decrease in expression] and increased expression of 31/66 [47.0%, 2.07-fold average increase in expression] of
308 analyzed transcripts), but nonetheless implicated *Ifna* transcripts as MLL1-repressible elements in both uninfected
309 and infected states (Supplemental Figure 21G). Despite these results in Cre- and Cre+ animals, we did not observe
310 differences in MHVA59 infection of lung, splenic MO/Mφs, BMDMs, or whole blood through viral PCR or viral

311 enumeration assay (Supplemental Figure 22). Thus, our results highlight MLL1-IFN α signaling that may
312 preferentially impact coagulopathy after coronavirus infection.

313 **MLL1 and regulated factors are induced in CD14⁺ cells and plasma derived from SARS-CoV-2 infected**
314 **patients.**

315 We assessed whether MO/M ϕ s isolated from human SARS-CoV-2 positive samples displayed differential
316 expression of MLL1 and dependent factors. We isolated CD14⁺ MO/M ϕ s and peripheral plasma samples from
317 hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 infected patients (n=28; hCoV+), hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 negative patients (n=24;
318 hCoV-), and healthy controls (n=14) and identified elevated mRNA levels of MLL1 in hCoV+ patients compared to
319 hCoV- patients and healthy controls (Figure 7A). We observed differential induction of MO/M ϕ and plasma levels
320 of coagulopathy-related factors in hCoV+ patients (Figures 7B-D, Supplemental Figures 23A-C). We observed these
321 changes in coagulopathy-related factors despite suppressed *Ifna* and *Ifnb1* mRNA levels in CD14⁺ cells from hCoV+
322 patients compared to hCoV- patients (Supplemental Figure 24). We also observed increased abundance of MLL1,
323 H3K4Me3, and RelA occupancy at the promoters of MLL1 and coagulopathy-related factors in hCoV+ MO/M ϕ s
324 relative to other groups (Figures 7E-F, Supplemental Figures 23C-D). Finally, we observed that elevated plasma
325 coagulation-related factor levels corresponded with induced urokinase and TF activity (Figures 7G-H). These data
326 mirror our experimental findings regarding MLL1 and show that hCoV+ patients display a MO/M ϕ and a plasma
327 profile featuring induced coagulopathy-related factors and inflammatory cytokines.

328 **Discussion:**

329 In this study, we report a critical role for MLL1 in promoting expression of coagulopathy-related factors
330 and inflammatory cytokines after coronavirus infection and delineate a context-specific role for MLL1 in regulating
331 RelA-dependent transcription of these factors (Figure 7I). We identify self-regulation of MLL1 expression and show
332 that myeloid MLL1 loss attenuates coronavirus-induced hypercoagulable/profibrinolytic phenotype *in vivo* despite
333 de-repressing expression of IFN α , which has been described as an inducer of coagulopathy after endotoxemia⁵⁷.
334 Finally, we demonstrate differential expression/activity of MLL1 and coagulopathy-related factors in samples from
335 SARS-CoV-2 positive patients. These findings highlight a novel role for MO/M ϕ MLL1 as a dominant regulator for
336 the expression of factors important for CAC.

337 Due to differences in cell-specificity between MHVA59 (utilizes CEACAM1 as co-receptors; found on
338 murine MO/Mφs^{52,53}) and SARS-CoV-2, it is difficult to dissect MHVA59-dependent regulation of MLL1 from
339 virus-independent mechanisms. Nonetheless, we identify inflammatory cytokine-mediated MLL1 induction and
340 reciprocal regulation of these cytokines by MLL1. Furthermore, we demonstrate *Kmt2a* and *Plaur* as two novel
341 MLL1/RelA-regulated targets. Though we did not identify reciprocal regulation of the expression MLL1 or RelA,
342 we observed that MLL1 regulated RelA occupancy at the *Kmt2a*, *Plau*, *Plaur*, and *F3* promoters *in vitro* but not *in*
343 *vivo*. These results across may highlight context-dependent NFκB/RelA signaling dynamics which have been
344 described in response to variety of stimuli⁶²⁻⁶⁵. Nonetheless, we observed increased MLL1 and RELA occupancy on
345 coagulopathy-related gene promoters in COVID-positive MO/Mφs relative to samples from COVID-negative
346 patients and healthy controls, indicating a potential for collaborative transcriptional regulation after SARS-CoV-2
347 infection.

348 In contrast to the bidirectional regulation between MLL1 and its dependent inflammatory effectors, we
349 observed heterogeneity in MLL1-regulated IFN expression/responsiveness across experimental contexts, though
350 *Ifna* suppression by MLL1 was a consistent observation. This finding may explain a mechanism by which type I IFN
351 expression/responses are repressed after SARS-CoV-2 infection^{26,27,58,59,66-68}. Though type I IFNs or MLL1 may
352 each promote the expression of coagulopathy-associated factors²⁴, our finding that MLL1 suppresses *Ifna* expression
353 indicates an alternate mechanism for coagulopathy in a setting of diminished IFN signaling after coronavirus
354 infection. Importantly, our observation of MLL1 as a mediator of IFNα1-induced expression of coagulopathy-
355 related factors in MO/Mφs may point to a role for MLL1 mediating IFN-dependent coagulopathy in other diseases
356 such as sepsis. Nonetheless, additional studies are needed to delineate the relationship between MLL1 and global
357 MO/Mφ transcription as attenuated expression of inflammatory cytokines/coagulopathy-related factors after MLL1
358 loss may relate to a general decrease in transcription, with MLL1-*Ifna* regulation representing an exception to such a
359 relationship.

360 Furthermore, an important role for CME and associated proteins continues to be described in the
361 immunopathogenesis of SARS-CoV2 infection^{28,29,69-72}. We observed rapid and sustained upregulation in MLL1
362 expression/function after coronavirus infection. Our finding that coronavirus-induced gene expression in MO/Mφs is
363 abrogated by silencing MLL1 is interesting as it suggests that MLL1 activity may enforce “epigenetic memory”

364 after coronavirus infection, however what contribution MLL1-associated proteins/MLL1-complex components play
365 in acute and chronic responses remains unclear. As such memory is thought to contribute to the long-term sequelae
366 in conditions such as aging, malignancy, and after recovery from sepsis, it is possible a prolonged state of
367 smoldering inflammation/dysregulated coagulation and other symptoms associated with “long-COVID”⁶⁹⁻⁷¹ may be
368 mediated through “epigenetic memory”.

369 The ability of CME and associated proteins to impact acute and chronic disease states renders factors such
370 as MLL1 and its core components (e.g., Menin, WDR5) as attractive therapeutic targets to blunt the sequelae of
371 SARS-CoV-2 infection^{38,40,42,73-77}. Targeting MLL1/MLL1 complexes with small molecule inhibitors has been
372 described for MLL1-rearranged leukemia treatment^{40,74}, and such inhibitors may be used to target MLL1-driven
373 CAC during which the balance between opposing procoagulant and fibrinolytic systems is perturbed. By addressing
374 both hypercoagulability and hyperfibrinolysis, such therapies could prevent immunothrombosis/dysregulated
375 fibrinolysis, and restore a normal coagulation profile without the attendant risks of current anticoagulant therapies,
376 especially in the ICU patient population where bleeding risk of anticoagulants has been shown to outweigh the
377 benefits⁷⁸. Nonetheless, since MLL1 expression is not limited to MO/Mφs³⁷, it is unclear what effects would result
378 from global inhibition of MLL1 activity (though immunosuppressive effects and poor wound healing a possible
379 side-effects), and therefore MO/Mφs-targeted therapies must be designed. Furthermore, our experimental model of
380 myeloid-specific MLL1 loss may capture MLL1’s effects other cells of myeloid lineage, such as neutrophils, which
381 have been implicated in SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis, coagulopathy, and inflammatory response^{79,80}.

382 Our study highlights the potential role of MO/Mφ MLL1 in regulating coagulation/fibrinolysis and our
383 findings add to the evidence that CMEs play major roles in directing MO/Mφ gene expression programs to drive
384 micro/macrovacular immunopathology^{32,42,81-85}. Epigenetics in translational thrombosis represents an exciting area
385 of discovery that has the potential to uncover novel immune based therapeutic strategies in the study of vascular
386 immunobiology. We have identified that MLL1 is a coronavirus-inducible factor in MO/Mφ that is responsible for
387 the expression of inflammatory and coagulopathy-related gene expression. Our study shows that MO/Mφ MLL1
388 induces a hypercoagulable and fibrinolytic phenotype upon coronavirus infection. These results point to MLL1
389 blockade as a potential therapeutic strategy to curb coronavirus-associated coagulopathy and inflammation, and
390 possible long-term sequelae associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

391

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401 **Authorship Contributions:**

402 S.B.S., W.J.M., C.A.O., M.B., N.R., Y.K., J. S. K., R.A., M.H., B.B.M., P.K.H., T. W. W., K.A.G. and A.T.O.
403 designed research strategy; S.B.S., W.J.M., C.O.A., M.B., N.R., and A.T.O. performed research; S.B.S., W.J.M.,
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405 performed analysis of sequencing data; S.B.S., W.J.M., C.A.O., N.R., R.A., M.H., B.B.M., T.W.W., P.K.H., K.A.G,
406 and A.T.O. analyzed data; S.B.S and A.T.O. wrote the paper.

407 **Conflict of Interest Disclosures:**

408 M.H. is a consultant and equity holder for Veralox Therapeutics and a consultant for Cereno Scientific which has an
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591 **Figure Legends:**

592 **Figure 1: Coronavirus infection of MO/Mφs induces expression of MLL1, coagulopathy-related factors and**
593 **inflammatory cytokines.** Bone marrow derived macrophages were harvested from C57Bl6/J mice (WT-BMDMs)
594 and were infected with 1 MOI of the murine coronavirus MHVA59 for the indicated times and mRNA (A) and
595 protein levels (B; representative blot shown [β -actin served as loading control]) of *Kmt2a*/MLL1 were assayed by
596 qRT-PCR and immunoblotting, respectively. (C) mRNA levels of factors important in CAC (*Plau*, *Plaur*, and *F3*)
597 were measured in infected BMDMs. (D) mRNA levels of proinflammatory cytokines identified in the inflammatory
598 signature resulting from acute SARS-CoV-2 (IL6 and TNF α) and the MLL1 regulated cytokine IL1 β were measured
599 in infected BMDMs. (E and F) Protein levels of coagulopathy-related factors (E) and proinflammatory cytokines (F)
600 were assayed by ELISA. Bar graphs represent mean values from at least n=5 independent experiments assayed in
601 triplicate and individual data points represent independent experiments. Errors bars represent standard error (SE).
602 Statistical testing was performed using Kruskal-Wallis tests with corrections for multiple comparisons. * $p < 0.05$;
603 ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; **** $p < 0.0001$.

604 **Figure 2: MLL1 regulates the basal expression of coagulopathy-related factors and proinflammatory**
605 **cytokines in BMDMs.** BMDMs were harvested from mice carrying a myeloid specific deletion of MLL1 (*Kmt2a*^{fl/fl}
606 *Lyz2Cre*^{+/-}; denoted Cre+) and littermate controls (*Kmt2a*^{fl/fl} *Lyz2Cre*^{-/-}; denoted Cre-). (A) mRNA levels of *Kmt2a*
607 were assayed in n=8 Cre+ and Cre- animals analyzed in triplicate. (B) Protein levels of MLL1 were assayed in
608 BMDMs from n=4 Cre+ and Cre- mice by immunoblotting (representative blot shown [β -actin served as loading

609 control]. (C and D) mRNA levels of coagulopathy-related factors (C) and proinflammatory cytokines (D) was
610 assayed. (E and F) Protein levels of coagulopathy-related factors (E) and inflammatory cytokines (F) were measured
611 by ELISA. (G) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assays were performed using antibodies specific to either
612 H3K4me3 or non-targeting species specific IgG. Bars graphs represent mean values from at least n=4 independent
613 experiments with individual data points representing independent experiments. For ChIP experiments, bar graphs
614 represent mean ChIP intensity relative to IgG derived from n=8 samples performed in triplicate. Statistical analysis
615 of pairwise comparisons was performed using Mann-Whitney tests. Error bars represent standard error (SE). * $p <$
616 0.05; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; **** $p < 0.0001$.

617 **Figure 3: Loss of MLL1 attenuates coronavirus and proinflammatory cytokine mediated induction of**
618 **coagulopathy-related factors and proinflammatory cytokines in BMDMs.** BMDMs were harvested from mice
619 carrying a myeloid specific deletion of MLL1 (*Kmt2a^{fl/fl} Lyz2Cre^{+/-}*; denoted Cre+) and littermate controls (*Kmt2a^{fl/fl}*
620 *Lyz2Cre^{-/-}*; denoted Cre-). Cells were either stimulated with TNF α (5 ng/ml), IL1 β (5 ng/ml), or IL6 (5 ng/ml) or
621 infected with 1 MOI of MHVA59 for 24 hours. (A and B) mRNA levels of coagulopathy associated factors and
622 inflammatory cytokines were assayed in stimulated/infected cells were assayed by qRT-PCR. (C and D) Protein
623 levels of coagulopathy-related factors (C) and inflammatory cytokines (D) were measured by ELISA. Crossed
624 circles indicate cytokine which was not measured in each assay as the particular cytokine was used for stimulation.
625 (E) ChIP assays were performed using antibodies specific for H3K4me3 or with non-targeting species specific IgG
626 antibodies. ChIP intensity (relative to IgG) at the indicated promoters is shown. For qRT-PCR and ELISA
627 experiments, graphs feature results from n=10 animals assayed in triplicate. For ChIP experiments, bar graphs
628 represent mean ChIP intensity relative to IgG from n=8 animals assayed in triplicate. Error bars represent standard
629 error (SE). For clarity of figure, graphical representation of statistical significance is not shown. Statistical analysis
630 of datasets was performed using Mann-Whitney U tests and pairwise comparisons between Cre- and Cre+ cells were
631 found to meet criteria for statistical significance ($p < 0.05$) except where indicated.

632 **Figure 4: MLL1 is required for RelA-dependent transcription of coagulopathy associated factors.** (A) *Rela*
633 mRNA levels were assayed in BMDMs harvested from MLL1 knockout mice (Cre+; n=4) and littermate controls
634 (Cre-; n=4). (B) RelA protein levels are assayed in these cells by immunoblot (β -actin served as loading control).
635 (C) The protein expression of MLL1 (MLL1^C = C-terminal epitope), phospho-RelA (Ser536), and RelA was assayed

636 in RAW264.7 cells that were transfected with either of two distinct siRNAs targeting MLL1 (denoted -1 and -2) or a
637 non-targeting control (-Ctl). (β -actin served as loading control) (D) mRNA expression of *Rela* and *Kmt2a* was
638 assayed in BMDMs transfected with siRNAs targeting *Rela* (smartpool; denoted siRelA) or a non-targeting control
639 (siCtl). Results are representative of n=4 independent experiments assayed in triplicate (E) Protein levels of MLL1
640 and RelA were assayed and representative immunoblot is shown. (F) BMDMs from littermate control mice (n=8,
641 assayed in triplicate) were transfected with the siRNAs were infected with 1 MOI of MHVA59 for 24 hours and
642 mRNA levels of *Kmt2a* were measured. (G) Cre- and Cre+ BMDMs (n=7 per group; assayed in triplicate) were
643 transfected as indicated and infected with 1 MOI of MHVA59 for 24 hours and mRNA levels of *Rela* were assayed
644 in these cells. (H) Cre- and Cre+ BMDMs (n=7 per group; assayed in triplicate) were infected with MHVA59 for the
645 indicated duration and ChIP assays were performed with antibodies specific to RelA or IgG. (I) mRNA levels of
646 coagulopathy associated factors were assayed in the indicated transfected cells (n=7; performed in triplicate). (J)
647 Protein levels of these coagulopathy-related factors were measured by ELISA (n=7; performed in triplicate). (K)
648 RelA ChIP assays were performed on candidate promoters and ChIP intensity relative to IgG was measured at the
649 indicated promoters (n=7 per group; assayed in triplicate). Bar graphs represent mean values and error bars represent
650 standard error (SE). Statistical analysis was performed by either Mann-Whitney U-test or Kruskal-Wallis test with
651 corrections for multiple comparisons. Error bars represent standard error (SE). * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p <$
652 0.001 ; **** $p < 0.0001$.

653 **Figure 5: Coronavirus induces the expression of MLL1 and its associated factors in MO/M ϕ s *in vivo* and**
654 **promotes a prothrombotic and profibrinolytic phenotype.** C57BL6/J mice underwent intranasal inoculation of
655 2×10^5 plaque forming units (*pfu*) MHVA59 (post-infection day 3 mice [d3; n=8]; post-infection day 28 mice [d28;
656 n=9]) or PBS (denoted as sham; n=8). Mice were sacrificed at the indicated timepoints and plasma and splenic
657 MO/M ϕ s (a surrogate for circulating MO/M ϕ s) were harvested. (A) *Kmt2a* mRNA levels were assayed by qRT-
658 PCR. (B and C) The mRNA levels and protein levels of coagulopathy associated factors in splenic MO/M ϕ s were
659 measured by qRT-PCR and ELISA, respectively. (D) H3K4me3 abundance at the indicated promoters was assayed
660 by ChIP assay. (E and F) Circulating levels of urokinase and urokinase receptor were measured by ELISA. (G)
661 Plasma tissue factor protein levels was measured by ELISA. (H) Plasma urokinase activity levels were measured
662 using a colorimetric assay in which absorbance (A405) correlates with enzyme activity level through the cleavage of
663 a plasmin (activated by urokinase) substrate which liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (I) Plasma tissue factor activity was

664 measured using a colorimetric assay in which the activation of factor X (FXa) by tissue factor and factor VII
665 (TF/FVIIa) and its cleavage of a FXa specific substrate liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (J) The tissue factor activity of lysed
666 harvested splenic MO/Mφs was measured. (K) Tail vein bleeding time was measured in infected and sham mice.
667 (L) The number of re-bleeding events during tail vein bleeding time assays was tallied. (M) Whole blood was
668 collected from infected and sham mice by inferior vena cava puncture and anticoagulated with 3.2 % sodium citrate
669 at a ratio of 9:1 (blood to citrate). Thromboelastography (TEG) was performed and R-time (time to formation of clot
670 of 2 mm thickness) was measured (left panel). Representative TEGs are presented in the right panel. (N) To
671 determine the role of tissue factor in hypercoagulability as assayed by a shortened R-time as measured by TEG after
672 coronavirus infection, citrated whole blood samples from either sham or infected (d3) mice was treated with either
673 corn trypsin inhibitor (CTI; 25 μg/ml final concentration) or a mouse specific anti-tissue factor neutralizing antibody
674 (TFI; clone 1H1 [Genentech]; 50 μg/ml final concentration) and the resultant viscoelastic properties were analyzed
675 using TEG. Samples which were not subjected to treatment (NT) served as controls. Bar graphs represent mean
676 values. qRT-PCR, ELISA, and ChIP data represent experiments performed in triplicate. Error bars represent
677 standard error (SE). Statistical analysis of datasets were performed by either Mann-Whitney U-test or Kruskal-
678 Wallis test with corrections for multiple comparisons. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; **** $p < 0.0001$.

679 **Figure 6: Coronavirus-mediated induction of coagulopathy-related factors and the resultant coagulopathy is**
680 **dependent on myeloid-specific expression of MLL1.** Mice harboring a myeloid specific MLL1 knockout (denoted
681 Cre+; n indicated per group) and littermate controls (Cre-) underwent intranasal inoculation of 2×10^5 plaque forming
682 units (*pfu*) of MHVA59. Mice were sacrificed at the indicated timepoints and plasma and splenic MO/Mφs (a
683 surrogate for circulating MO/Mφs) were harvested. (A and B) The mRNA and protein levels of coagulation
684 associated factors were assayed by qRT-PCR and ELISA in splenic MO/Mφs, respectively. (C) H3K4me3
685 abundance at the indicated promoters was measured by ChIP assay. (D and E) Circulating levels of urokinase (D)
686 and soluble urokinase receptor (E) were measured by ELISA. (F) Plasma urokinase activity levels were measured
687 using a colorimetric assay in which absorbance (A405) correlates with enzyme activity level through the cleavage of
688 a plasmin (activated by urokinase) substrate which liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (G) Plasma tissue factor protein levels
689 was measured by ELISA. (H) Plasma tissue factor activity was measured using a colorimetric assay in which the
690 activation of factor X (FXa) by tissue factor and factor VII (TF/FVIIa) and its cleavage of a FXa specific substrate
691 liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (I) The tissue factor activity of lysed harvested splenic MO/Mφs was measured. (J) Tail vein

692 bleeding time was measured in infected and sham mice. (K) The number of re-bleeding events during tail vein
693 bleeding time assays was tallied. (L) Whole blood was collected from infected and sham mice by inferior vena cava
694 puncture and anticoagulated with 3.2 % sodium citrate at a ratio of 9:1 (blood to citrate). TEG was performed and R-
695 time (time to formation of clot of 2 mm thickness) was measured (left panel). Representative TEG is presented in
696 the right panel. (M) To determine the role of tissue factor in hypercoagulability as assayed by a shortened R-time as
697 measured by TEG after coronavirus infection, citrated whole blood samples from either infected (d3) Cre- or Cre+
698 mice was treated with either corn trypsin inhibitor (CTI; 25 µg/ml final concentration) or a mouse specific anti-
699 tissue factor neutralizing antibody (TFI; clone 1H1 [Genentech]; 50 µg/ml final concentration) and the resultant
700 viscoelastic properties were analyzed using TEG. Samples which were not subjected to treatment (NT) served as
701 controls. Representative TEG is presented in the right panel. Bar graphs represent mean values and number of
702 independent experiments per panel is as indicated. qRT-PCR, ELISA, and ChIP experiments were performed in
703 triplicate. Error bars represent standard error (SE). Statistical comparisons were performed by either Mann-Whitney
704 U-test or Kruskal-Wallis test with corrections for multiple comparisons. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$;
705 **** $p < 0.0001$.

706 **Figure 7: SARS-CoV-2 infected patients display elevated levels of MLL1 in MO/Mφs, and upregulated**
707 **expression of MO/Mφ and circulating coagulopathy associated factors and inflammatory cytokines.** CD14⁺
708 cells were isolated peripheral blood samples from hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 infected patients (hCOV+; n=28),
709 hospitalized COVID negative patients (hCOV-; n=24), and healthy controls (n=14). (A) The mRNA levels of
710 *KMT2A* were measured in isolated cells by qRT-PCR. (B and C) The mRNA and protein levels of coagulopathy
711 associated factors in MO/Mφs were assayed by qRT-PCR and ELISA, respectively. (D) The expression of
712 coagulopathy associated factors was measured from isolated plasma samples. (E) H3K4me3 and (F) MLL1
713 abundance at the indicated promoters was measured by ChIP assay. (G) Plasma urokinase activity was measured
714 using a colorimetric assay in which absorbance (A405) correlates with enzyme activity level through the cleavage of
715 a plasmin (activated by urokinase) substrate which liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (H) Plasma tissue factor activity was
716 measured using a colorimetric assay in which the activation of factor X (FXa) by tissue factor and factor VII
717 (TF/FVIIa) and its cleavage of a FXa specific substrate liberates *p*-nitroaniline. (M) Schematic of the proposed
718 mechanism of coronavirus virus induced inflammation and coagulopathy as mediated by MLL1 in MO/Mφs. Bar
719 graphs represent mean values. qRT-PCR, ELISA, and ChIP experiments were performed in triplicate. Error bars

720 represent standard error (SE). Statistical comparisons were performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with corrections
721 for multiple comparisons. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; **** $p < 0.0001$.

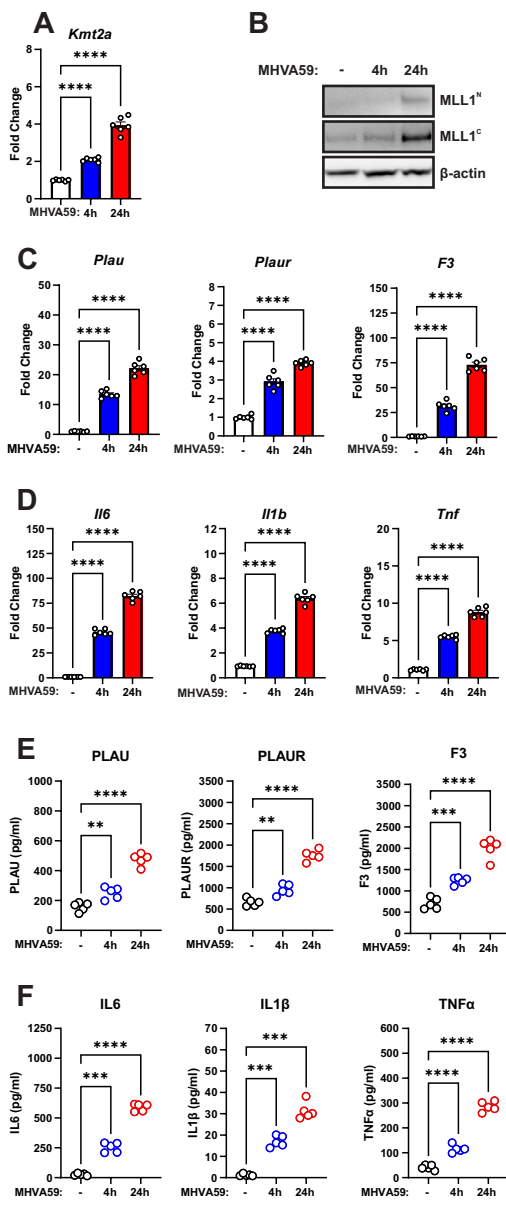


Figure 1

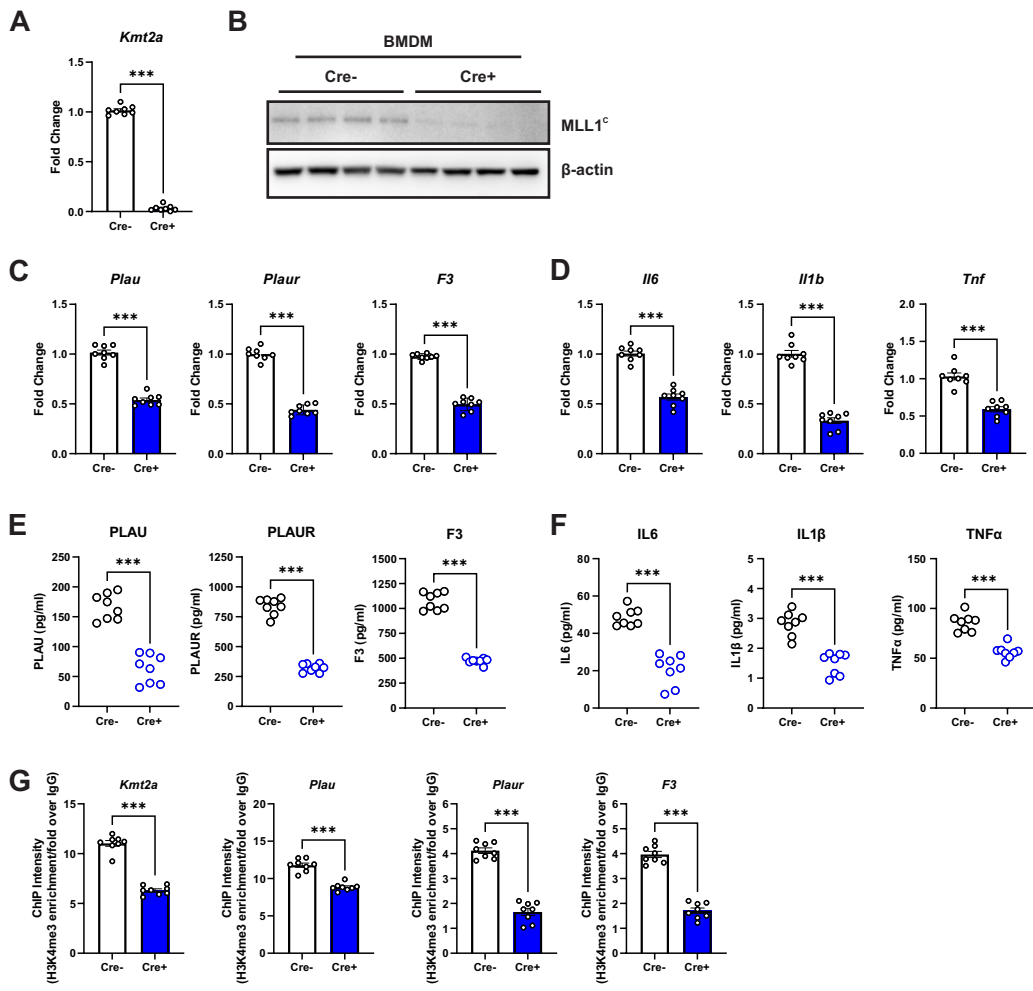


Figure 2

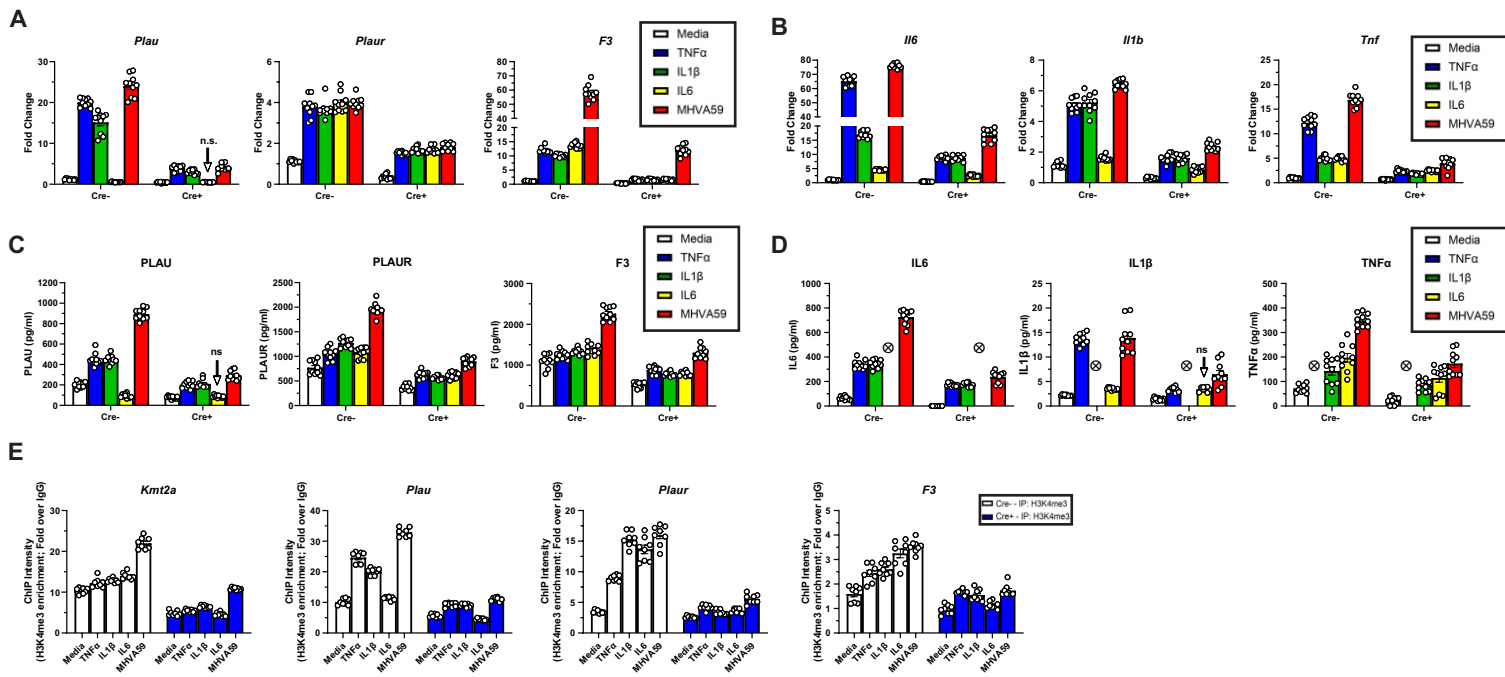


FIGURE 3

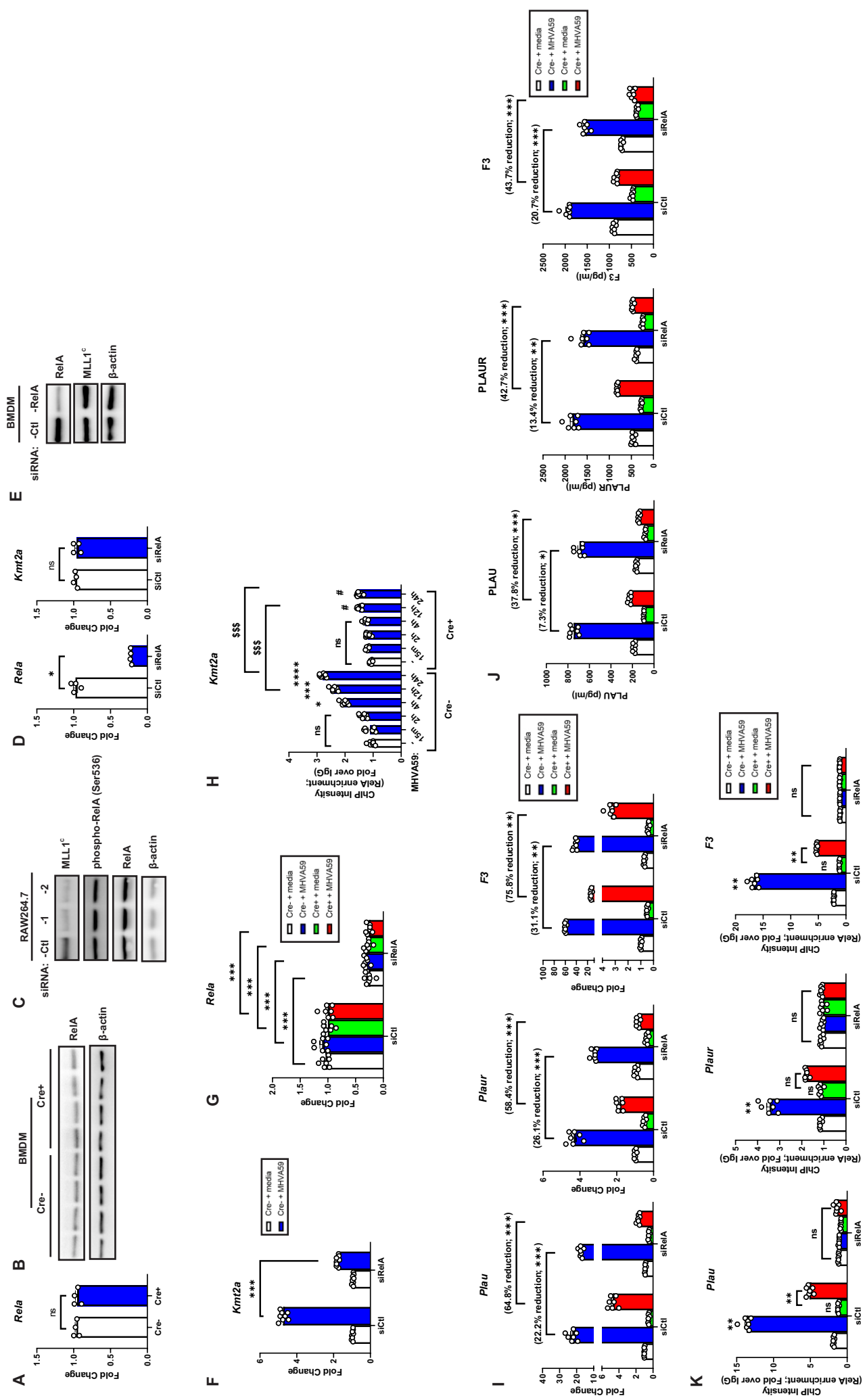


Figure 4

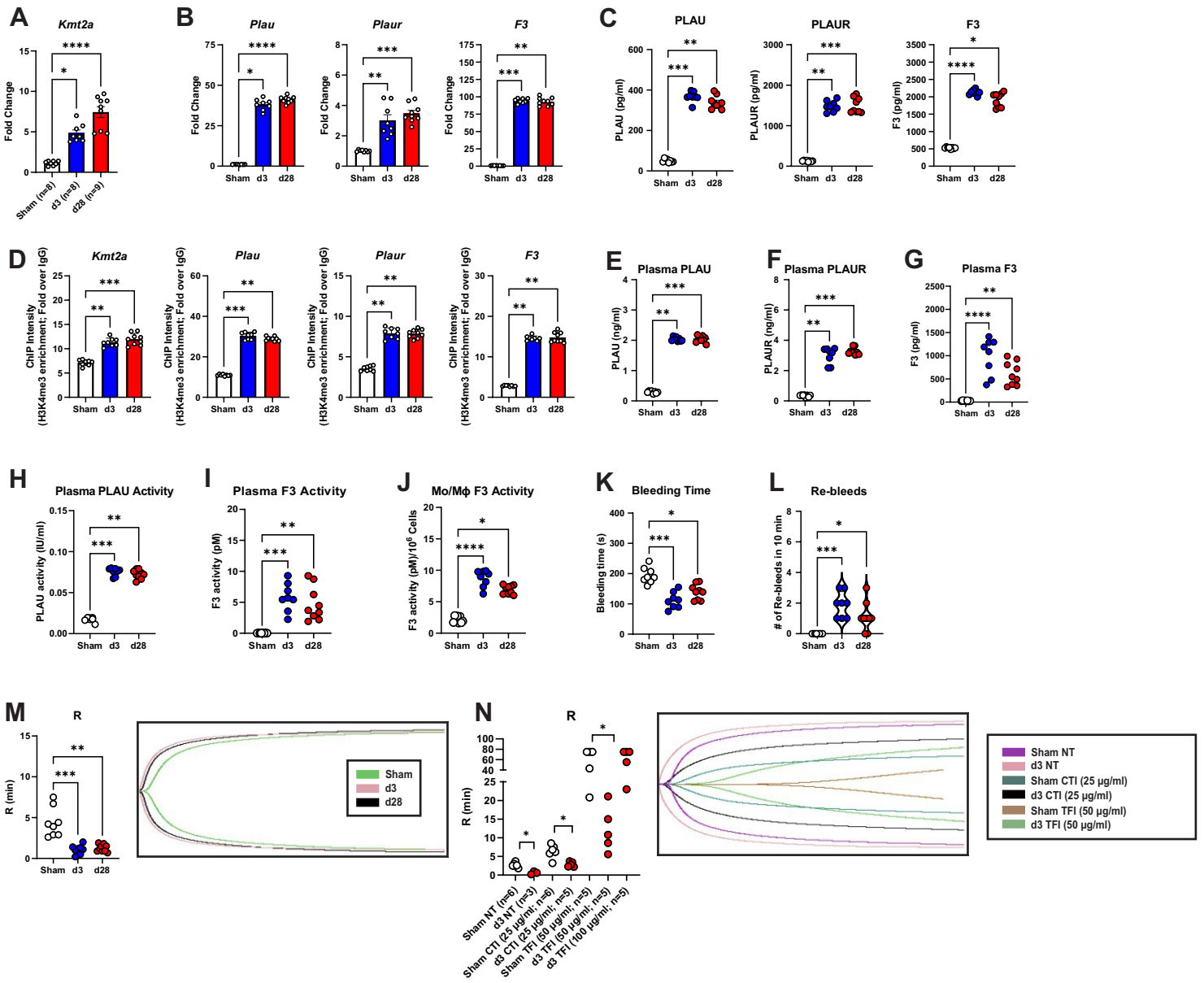


Figure 5

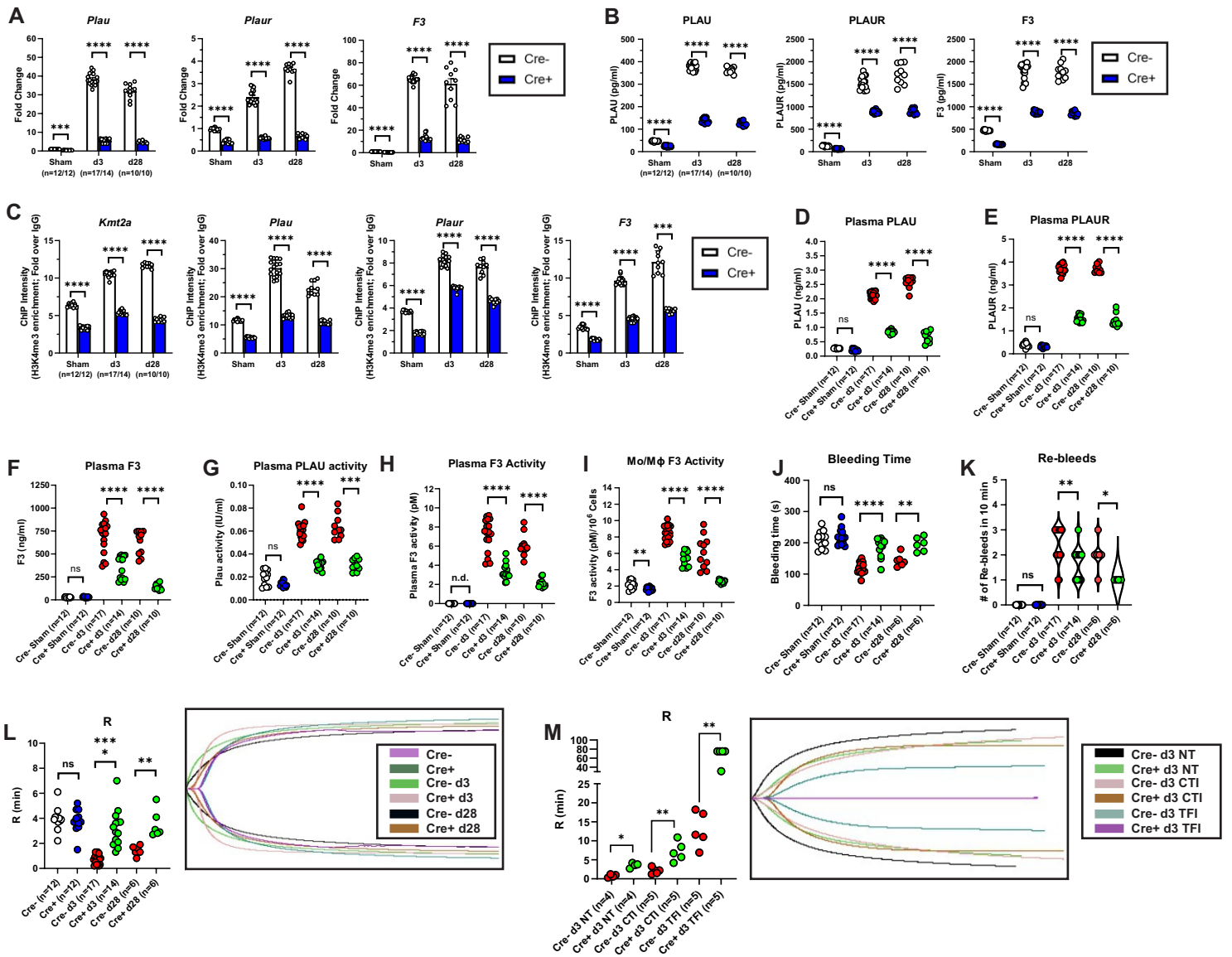


FIGURE 6

