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Multiple receptors converge on H2-Q10 to regulate NK and $\gamma\delta$ T cell development

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Running Title: H2-Q10 is a new ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$

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52 **Keywords:** Non-classical MHC, Natural Killer cells, gamma delta T cells, CD8
53 alpha/alpha

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56 **ABSTRACT**

57

58 Class Ib MHC are an extended family of molecules which demonstrate tissue-
59 specific expression and presentation of monomorphic antigens. These
60 characteristics tend to imbue class Ib MHC with unique functions. H2-Q10 is
61 potentially one such molecule in that it is overexpressed in the liver but its
62 immunological function is not known. We have previously shown that H2-Q10
63 is a ligand for the natural killer cell receptor Ly49C and now, using H2-Q10
64 deficient mice, we demonstrate that H2-Q10 can also stabilize the expression
65 of Qa-1b. In the absence of H2-Q10 the development and maturation of
66 conventional hepatic NK cells is disrupted. We also provide evidence that H2-
67 Q10 is a new high affinity ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ and controls the development of
68 liver-resident CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells. These data demonstrate that H2-Q10 has

69 multiple roles in the development of immune subsets and identify an overlap
70 of recognition within the class Ib MHC that is likely to be relevant to the
71 regulation of immunity.

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80 **INTRODUCTION**

81 The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) plays a central role in the
82 development of the immune system and its activation following infection or
83 neoplastic transformation. There are two types of MHC, class I and class II,
84 which activate T cells belonging to the CD8 and CD4 lineages respectively.
85 The class I MHC family can be further subdivided into class Ia and class Ib
86 molecules. Class Ia MHC are ubiquitously expressed and are highly
87 polymorphic. In contrast, class Ib MHC demonstrate tissue specificity and are
88 less polymorphic than their class Ia counterparts ^{1, 2}. This is thought to allow
89 them to serve more diverse and specialised functions than their class Ia
90 counterparts, whose primary function is the presentation of intracellular
91 peptides to CD8 T cells ³.

92

93 In humans, there are only 3 class Ib MHC and these are termed HLA-E/-F/-
94 G ⁴. In contrast, the mouse class Ib MHC has undergone a significant
95 expansion and includes multiple genes allocated to 3 subfamilies, H2-Q/-T/-
96 M ¹. Among these 3 subfamilies the Q genes are thought to be more closely
97 related to class Ia MHC than the T family ^{1, 5, 6}. These observations are
98 supported by the fact that Q family proteins such as H2-Q7/Qa-2 tend to
99 present peptide repertoires that are more reminiscent of class Ia MHC ⁷, while
100 the T family molecules such as H2-T10/22 and H2-T3/TL do not ^{8, 9}. Further
101 separated from the class Ia MHC at the distal end of the MHC-encoding locus

102 on chromosome 17 in mice, the M family may have evolved from an ancient
103 MHC-like molecule and appears to be largely divergent from class Ia MHC ¹⁰.

104

105 While these data suggest an interesting role for evolution in the development
106 of the class Ib MHC, there is a significant gap in our understanding of the
107 molecules. This is most easily highlighted by the fact that out of the
108 approximately 30 genes in the mouse class Ib MHC complex, only 7 of these
109 molecules have been examined beyond their pattern of tissue expression ¹.
110 Furthermore, the immunological function of only 4 of these 7 molecules has
111 been explored ¹¹. This represents a significant lapse in our understanding of
112 these MHC which is particularly relevant given the fact that they represent
113 ligands for specialised and novel immune pathways such as $\gamma\delta$ T cell
114 restriction (H2-T10/22) ^{8, 12, 13}, CD94/NKG2 interactions (Qa-1b) ^{14, 15} or
115 CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ recognition (H2-T3/TL) ⁹.

116

117 One of the most intriguing class Ib MHC is H2-Q10. This molecule was first
118 identified almost 30 years ago during a sequence analysis of class I MHC
119 clones ¹⁶. This study demonstrated that H2-Q10 lacked a transmembrane
120 region and transcription could only be detected in the liver where it made up
121 20% of the total MHC pool ¹⁶. Subsequent studies confirmed that H2-Q10
122 could be secreted with protein detected at high concentrations in the serum ¹⁷,
123 ¹⁸. Much like H2-Q7/Qa-2, H2-Q10 was subsequently shown to bind a
124 classical peptide repertoire ¹⁹ and we have recently demonstrated that H2-
125 Q10 is able to bind to the natural killer (NK) cell receptor, Ly49C ²⁰. Despite
126 these observations, the immunological function for H2-Q10 remains unknown.

127

128 Using a newly derived H2-Q10 deficient mouse strain, we have made an
129 assessment of the role of this class Ib MHC in the development of liver-
130 specific lymphocytes. Our data provide evidence that H2-Q10 plays a role in
131 the development of liver conventional NK (cNK) and $\gamma\delta$ T cells, an effect
132 modulated via multiple pathways of recognition. While regulation of cNK is
133 polygamous and involves Qa-1b mediated presentation of the H2-Q10 leader
134 sequence as well as the direct recognition by Ly49C, the interaction with $\gamma\delta$ T

135 cells is monogamous and occurs via CD8 $\alpha\alpha$. Therefore, we provide evidence
136 that H2-Q10 is a new, high affinity ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, an observation that
137 provides a rationale for the presence of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ expressing cells outside of the
138 small intestine. These new data reinforce the role of class Ib MHC as class Ia
139 MHC independent and highly specialised molecules and highlights the need
140 for the ongoing study of these molecules as immune modulators.

141

142 **RESULTS**

143 *The H2-Q10 leader sequence can stabilise Qa-1b*

144 We have previously demonstrated that H2-Q10 binds Ly49C, however this
145 occurs with an affinity lower than that of H-2K^b ²⁰, suggesting that H2-Q10 is
146 unlikely to be the primary recognition element for Ly49C. The leader
147 sequence of H2-Q10 contains Qdm, which is the high affinity peptide
148 occupying the groove in Qa-1b ²¹ and this could also be a target for
149 lymphocyte recognition. In order to determine whether H2-Q10 regulated the
150 expression of Qa-1b, we generated B16F10 cells expressing H2-Q10 or H2-
151 Q10 in which the leader sequence was substituted with that of H-2K^b (K^bQ10),
152 which does not contain Qdm ²². Overexpression of H2-Q10 in these cells
153 demonstrated an up-regulation of Qa-1b at the cell surface when compared to
154 K^bQ10 (**Figure 1a**).

155 With these data sets in hand, we began exploring the immunological
156 consequences of H2-Q10 deficiency *in vivo*. Whilst it has been shown that
157 H2-Q10 is highly expressed in the liver, it is necessary as a first step to further
158 identify which liver cells are responsible for H2-Q10 expression. As
159 hepatocytes are the principal hepatic cell, we reasoned that H2-Q10
160 expression would be restricted to these cells. Transcript H2-Q10 expression
161 levels in total liver were equivalent to those in purified hepatocytes, (**Figure**
162 **1b**) and significantly enriched ($P = 0.0003$) when compared to non-
163 hepatocytes (**Figure 1b**), suggesting that hepatocytes were the source of H2-
164 Q10.

165

166 To examine whether lack of H2-Q10 expression influenced Qa-1b expression
167 levels, hepatocytes from wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice were analysed

168 for the expression of Qa-1b as well as H-2K^b, H-2D^b and H2-Q7/9. While
169 expression of H-2K^b, H-2D^b and H2-Q7/9 was not altered in the absence
170 of H2-Q10, we did observe a significant ($P = 0.0003$) decrease in the
171 expression of Qa-1b on hepatocytes (Figure 1c and e) but not leukocytes
172 (Figure 1d and e). Together, these data demonstrate a requirement for the
173 H2-Q10 leader sequence in the surface expression of Qa-1b.

174

175 *H2-Q10 plays a role in the development of liver cNK*

176 Qa-1b is the ligand for heterodimeric complexes of CD94/NKG2^{15, 22}
177 expressed on a variety of lymphocytes but most commonly associated with
178 NK cells and innate lymphoid cells (ILCs). Having demonstrated a
179 requirement of H2-Q10 for the stabilization of Qa-1b, we next sought to
180 determine whether this interaction could have any effect on the development
181 of NK cells/ILCs as these cells constitutively express CD94 at high levels. As
182 a first step, we examined the development of total NKp46⁺/CD3⁻ populations
183 in the spleen and liver.

184

185 NKp46⁺/CD3⁻ cells are comprised of CD49a⁺ ILC-1 cells and CD49b⁺
186 conventional NK cells (cNK)²³. In line with the observation that H2-Q10 is not
187 expressed in the spleen¹ we observed no effect of H2-Q10 deficiency on the
188 development of CD49a⁺ ILC-1 or CD49b⁺ cNK cells in this organ (**Figure 2a**).
189 In contrast, we observed a significant alteration in the balance of ILC-1 and
190 cNK cells (** $P = 0.0017$ and 0.0019 respectively) in the livers of H2-Q10
191 knockout mice, (**Figure 2b**). Wild type mice tended to have a larger proportion
192 of cNK cells compared to ILC-1 while this was reversed in the H2-Q10
193 deficient mice (**Figure 2b**). While we observed a trend towards a reduction in
194 total NKp46⁺/CD3⁻ cells in the liver of H2-Q10^{-/-} mice, this was not significant
195 however we did observe a significant (* $P = 0.0499$) decrease in the number of
196 cNK cells, (**Figure 2b**). We did not observe any effect of H2-Q10 deficiency
197 on the total number of ILC-1 (**Figure 2b**), an observation we associate with
198 the lower numbers of total NKp46⁺/CD3⁻ cells.

199

200 Having demonstrated an effect on cNK cell development in H2-Q10-deficient
201 mice, we next analysed the development of subsets within this population.

202 Using our observations that H2-Q10 is a ligand for Ly49C²⁰ and stabilizes the
203 CD94 ligand, Qa-1b (**Figure 1**) we assessed the presence of subsets
204 expressing CD94 and Ly49C-I. We were unable to source a Ly49C specific
205 antibody but H2-Q10 does not bind Ly49I²⁰, suggesting that any effects on
206 the Ly49C-I⁻ population will be Ly49I independent. Using these markers
207 allowed us to separate ILC-1 and cNK cells into populations that are immature
208 (CD94⁺/Ly49C⁻) and mature (CD94⁻/Ly49C⁺). Analysis of these populations
209 within the cNK cell pool demonstrated that H2-Q10-deficient mice had a
210 significant increase in the percentage (**P* = 0.0407) and number (***P* =
211 0.0002) of CD94⁺/Ly49C-I⁻ immature populations with a corresponding
212 decrease in the frequency (***P* = 0.0019) and number (***P* = 0.0070) of
213 CD94⁺/Ly49C-I⁺ cells, (**Figure 3a**). In contrast, no effect was observed in the
214 ILC populations (**Figure 3b**). Similar to the effects observed for CD94/Ly49C,
215 we also observed significant alterations the populations of NK cells
216 expressing CD27 and CD11b. The absence of H2-Q10 resulted in significant
217 alterations to the frequency and number of CD27⁺/CD11b⁻ and CD27⁻/CD11b⁺
218 NK cell subsets (**Supplementary Figure 1**). Further examination of a panel of
219 additional inhibitory receptors demonstrated no role for H2-Q10 in the
220 expression of KLRG1, CD96 and TIGIT (**Supplementary Figure 1**). These
221 data indicate H2-Q10 plays an important role in the development of liver NK
222 cells and highlights the specificity of the interaction for Qa-1b.

223
224 In order to determine whether H2-Q10 deficiency also regulated the function
225 of these cNK cell subsets, we sorted and stimulated them in the presence of
226 IL-12/IL-18 or IL-12/IL-15 to determine their capacity to produce IFN- γ and
227 MIP-1 α respectively²⁴. These experiments demonstrated no significant
228 difference in IFN- γ (**Figure 3c**) or MIP-1 α (**Figure 3d**) production for either the
229 CD94⁺/Ly49C-I⁻ or the CD94⁻/Ly49C-I⁺ populations in wild type and H2-Q10
230 deficient mice. Similarly, we observed no difference in the cytotoxic capacity
231 of liver NK cells directed against cells expressing ligands for NKG2D or
232 DNAM-1, (**Supplementary Figure 2**). These data demonstrate that H2-Q10
233 plays a role in the development of cNK cell subsets in the liver but does not
234 affect their functionality.

235

236 *H2-Q10 plays a role in the development of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ ⁺ $\gamma\delta$ T cells*

237 CD94/NKG2 heterodimers can be found on other subsets of cells including
238 CD8 T cells, NKT cells and $\gamma\delta$ T cells. Given our observation regarding H2-
239 Q10, Qa-1b and cNK cells, we next sought to determine whether H2-Q10
240 played a role in the development of other subsets of lymphocytes found in the
241 liver. Leukocytes from the spleen and livers of wild type and H2-Q10^{-/-} mice
242 were prepared and subsets of CD8, NKT and $\gamma\delta$ T cells were analysed. A
243 comparison of CD8 and NKT cells demonstrated no significant differences in
244 the number and frequency of these cells in the spleen or liver
245 (**Supplementary Figure 3**). In contrast, a significant decrease (**P* = 0.0104)
246 in liver $\gamma\delta$ T cells was observed in H2-Q10^{-/-} mice (**Figure 4a**). In a similar
247 manner to the ILC and NK cells, we then analysed the populations of CD94
248 and Ly49C expressing subsets of $\gamma\delta$ T cells. In contrast to the effects we
249 observed on the NK cells, there was no difference in the CD94/Ly49C-I
250 subpopulations in the $\gamma\delta$ T cell pool (**Figure 4b**).

251

252 Due to the majority of $\gamma\delta$ T cells not expressing Ly49C-I, this indicated that H2-
253 Q10 may be regulating these cells via an alternative receptor. Therefore, we
254 then other populations of $\gamma\delta$ T cells and, in particular, we focused on the CD8
255 subsets as this molecule can also interact with class I MHC. These studies
256 identified a significant decrease in the proportion (~20% in wild type vs ~8% in
257 H2-Q10^{-/-} **P* = 0.0407) and number (15034 \pm 3520 in wild type vs 4934 \pm 656
258 in H2-Q10^{-/-} ** *P* = 0.0070) of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ T cells, (**Figure 4c**). This effect
259 was specific for the liver as no differences were observed in the spleen
260 (**Figure 4c**).

261

262 The principal ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, H2-T3/TL, demonstrates restricted expression
263 on intestinal epithelial cells of the small intestine^{25, 26} which is also the
264 location of a large population of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cells²⁷. In order to determine whether
265 the effects we were observing we related to altered expression of H2-T3/TL in
266 H2-Q10 deficient mice, we analysed the expression of this gene in
267 hepatocytes. In line with previous data^{1, 25, 26}, we were unable to detect H2-

268 T3/TL transcripts in the livers but it was highly expressed in the small
269 intestine, (Figure 4d). This indicated that the effects we observed on CD8 $\alpha\alpha$
270 TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells were independent of H2-T3/TL. Together, these data
271 demonstrate that H2-Q10 plays a role in the development of $\gamma\delta$ T cells
272 expressing CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ in the liver which is independent of Qa-1b, CD94, Ly49C
273 and H2-T3/TL.

274

275 *CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells are liver resident*

276 Under homeostatic conditions, CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cells in the gut are liver-resident ²⁸,
277 suggesting a localisation of these cells at the site of their ligand. This
278 prompted us to determine whether the CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cells in the liver are similarly
279 restricted, which would allow them constant exposure to H2-Q10 produced by
280 hepatocytes. As such, we performed parabiosis studies where pairs of wild
281 type and congenic CD45.1 mice were surgically engrafted and the circulation
282 allowed to mix for a period of 3 weeks. Following this time, we harvested the
283 livers and assessed the residence/circulating capacity of ILC-1, cNK and
284 CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells. cNK cells were not restricted to the liver as demonstrated by
285 the equal amounts of CD45.1⁺ and CD45.2⁺ cells in the CD45.1 and CD45.2
286 parabionts (Figure 5a). In contrast, ILC cells demonstrate a high degree of
287 liver residence with greater than 80% of these cells being of host origin
288 (Figure 5a). When we analysed the $\gamma\delta$ T cell pool, TCR $\gamma\delta$ ⁺ CD8 $\alpha\beta$ ⁺ T cells
289 demonstrated a preference to migrate out of the liver as these cells were
290 predominantly enriched for CD45.2⁺ cells in the CD45.1 parabiont and vice
291 versa (Figure 5b). Similar to the ILC-1, CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ ⁺ $\gamma\delta$ T cells largely retained in
292 the liver of their origin (Figure 5b). Thus, liver specific expression of H2-Q10
293 is associated with the retention of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells, analogous to the
294 interaction between H2-T3/TL and CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cells in the gut.

295

296 *H2-Q10 is a high affinity ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$*

297 Finally, our observations regarding CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells and H2-Q10 prompted us
298 to explore the possibility that H2-Q10 represented a new ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$.
299 To test this hypothesis, we examined the capability of hepatic CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$

300 cells in the liver to bind H2-Q10 and the prototypical CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ ligand, H2-T3/TL.
301 Using a FACS based approach, we observed a strong interaction between
302 H2-Q10 and the subset of $\gamma\delta$ T cells expressing the CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ homodimer, which
303 was similar to that observed for H2-T3/TL (**Figure 6a**). In contrast, we did not
304 observe binding to the CD8 β population (**Figure 6a**). In order to confirm that
305 H2-Q10 was binding to CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, we performed direct binding studies using
306 SPR. The results from these experiments reinforced our tetramer data and
307 showed that H2-Q10 bound to CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ (**Figure 6b**), with an affinity (~300nM)
308 higher than that of positive control H2-T3/TL (~800nM) (**Figure 6c**). To
309 confirm the interaction between H2-Q10 and CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ was occurring in a
310 cellular context we pre-treated $\gamma\delta$ T cells with CT-CD8a, which has previously
311 been shown to inhibit MHC binding to CD8²⁹. In contrast to the isotype, pre-
312 treatment with CT-CD8a completely impaired H2-Q10 binding to CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ [±] $\gamma\delta$ T
313 cells, (**Figure 6d**). These data identify H2-Q10 as a new high affinity ligand for
314 CD8 $\alpha\alpha$.

315

316 DISCUSSION

317 The large family of genes that comprises the class Ib MHC in the mouse
318 remains underexplored. This is a clear deficit in our understanding of
319 immunity when considering the unique function of class Ib MHC members
320 such as H2-T3/TL, Qa-1b and H2-M3. Our previous results have
321 demonstrated that H2-M3 controls NK cell responses through the inhibitory
322 receptor Ly49A³⁰ and that H2-Q10 binds to Ly49C²⁰. We have now added to
323 this data set by demonstrating that H2-Q10 acts to control the development of
324 lymphocyte subsets found in the liver and performs this function via different
325 receptor-ligand pathways. As such, H2-Q10 appears to simultaneously control
326 NK and $\gamma\delta$ T cell development in the liver and, therefore, represents the first
327 class I MHC able to act in this manner.

328

329 One of the main drivers of the development of the immune system is co-
330 evolution with viruses. Many viruses have developed means by which to
331 orchestrate the immune response such that a non-sterilising response occurs,
332 allowing the virus to persist life-long with its host. Qa-1b recognition by

333 CD94/NKG2 heterodimers is thought to be an example of a relatively new
334 immune pathway, driven by the co-evolution between the murine immune
335 system and Cytomegalovirus (CMV) ³¹. A similar observation can be made
336 with another mouse pathogen, Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) ³².
337 However, of more relevance here would be the association between H2-Q10
338 and murine hepatitis virus (MHV), given the fact that H2-Q10 and the infection
339 are highly restricted to the liver. Interestingly, NK cells and $\gamma\delta$ T cells have both
340 been implicated in the response to MHV ^{33, 34} and MHV infection is lethal in
341 neonates and weaning mice but is asymptomatic in adults ³⁵. These results
342 reflect our observations regarding H2-Q10 and the innate immune cells in the
343 liver as well as the expression pattern of H2-Q10, which does not reach high
344 levels in the liver until post-weaning ¹⁸. An investigation of the role of H2-Q10
345 during MHV infection, while a logistical challenge, would represent an
346 excellent opportunity to assess virus-host co-evolution.

347
348 The ability of H2-Q10 to stabilise Qa-1b is not unique to this molecule. Indeed,
349 the Qdm peptide can be found in several class I MHC leader sequences,
350 where it acts as a measure of class I MHC bio-synthesis. While our *in vitro*
351 data demonstrated that the leader sequence of H2-Q10 could stabilise Qa-1b
352 expression, we did not observe a complete downregulation of Qa-1b in H2-
353 Q10 deficient hepatocytes. This is most likely due to the fact that H-2D^b also
354 contains the Qdm peptide ³⁶, as does H2-T13/Blastocyst MHC ³⁷ and either of
355 these MHC could be providing a source of Qdm in the absence of H2-Q10.
356 Another target for H2-Q10 derived Qdm could be the Qa-1b paralog, H2-T11.
357 This molecule shares significant homology with Qa-1b and has a high affinity
358 for Qdm peptides to occupy its groove but it is not recognised by CD94/NKG2
359 complexes or Qa-1b restricted CD8 T cells ³⁸. The function of H2-T11 is
360 unknown but as it is expressed in the liver ³⁸, a potential interaction with H2-
361 Q10 should be explored.

362
363 Another interesting question regarding H2-Q10 and Qa-1b would be the effect
364 of H2-Q10 derived Qdm outside of homeostasis. Under normal conditions, the
365 groove of Qa-1b is largely occupied by Qdm owing to its capacity to

366 outcompete other peptides³⁹. However, this balance can be upset during
367 infections such as *Listeria monocytogenes*⁴⁰ and *Salmonella typhimurium*⁴¹.
368 Interestingly, infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* can induce a Qa-1b
369 restricted CD8 T cell response against a peptide derived from the GroEL
370 protein (GMQFDRGYL) which cross reacts with a peptide derived from Heat
371 Shock Protein 60 (HSP60) (GMKFDRGYI)⁴². Qa-1b molecules in which the
372 Hsp60 peptide occupies the groove can be found under conditions of stress
373 and these become a target for CTL^{42, 43}. Given that hepatocytes are highly
374 secretory cells and are thus rich in Endoplasmic Reticulum, any level of stress
375 could be enough to induce Qa-1b expression in which self-peptides like
376 Hsp60 are presented. Given the importance of the liver in overall health and
377 survival, the generation of liver specific, Qa-1b restricted CD8 T cells would
378 be a significant problem. As such, it is possible that the overexpression of H2-
379 Q10 in this organ helps protect against the generation of autoimmunity by
380 providing a constantly saturating, competitive level of Qdm that is able to
381 reduce or prevent the generation of self-restricted Qa-1b specific T cells.

382

383 The absence of H2-Q10 altered the balance of cNK and ILC-1 in the liver and
384 further regulated the maturation of cNK cell subsets, with a propensity for the
385 cells to accumulate at the more immature CD94+/Ly49C-l- stage. Despite this,
386 we did not observe any alterations in cytokine-producing capacity of the cNK
387 cell populations, suggesting that the functionality of these cells remains intact.
388 It was interesting to note that the absence of H2-Q10 did not affect the
389 maturation of ILC-1, given that these cells are liver-restricted while the cNK
390 cells are not (**Figure 5**)^{44, 45}. As such, it would be expected that ILC-1 would
391 be more consistently exposed to Qa-1b and the associated reduction of its
392 expression in H2-Q10 deficient mice. This would suggest that ILC-1 are less
393 responsive to minor alterations in the expression of Qa-1b than their cNK
394 counterparts. This does not appear to be due to differences in CD94 and
395 NKG2A/C/E expression as cNK and ILC-1 express equivalent levels of these
396 receptors (**Figure 3**)⁴⁶. Given that H2-Q10 can bind to Ly49C as well as
397 regulate the expression of Qa-1b, it is possible that the absence of H2-Q10 is
398 affecting the cNK cells through both pathways. In support of this, biochemical
399 analysis of H2-Q10 binding to Ly49C demonstrates that H2-Q10 is a low

400 affinity ligand for this receptor and, in fact, cannot bind this receptor when H-
401 2K^b is present²⁰. This would suggest that the predominant pathway by which
402 cNK cell maturation is regulated in H2-Q10 deficient mice is through Qa-1b.
403 However, Qa-1b deficient mice have normal numbers of cNK and ILC-1 in the
404 liver⁴⁶. Given the promiscuity of Ly49C for class I MHC^{20, 47, 48}, it remains
405 possible that another, unrecognized class Ib MHC is contributing to the
406 development of Ly49C expressing NK cells and this this interaction involves a
407 contribution from H2-Q10.

408

409 The observation that H2-Q10 deficient mice had a defect in CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$
410 cells was unexpected, although not completely surprising. Until our
411 observation, the only known ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ is the class Ib MHC, H2-
412 T3/TL⁹. Biologically, H2-T3/TL and CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ expressing cells are well matched
413 as both are found in the small intestine, where they demonstrate restricted
414 expression on epithelial cells^{25, 26} and residence²⁸. Our data regarding H2-
415 Q10 mirrors this interaction as H2-Q10 is overexpressed in hepatocytes and
416 CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells are resident in the liver. As such, the CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells
417 in the liver would be exposed to a constant source of H2-Q10, much like the
418 cells in the small intestine and H2-T3/TL. It is important to note that we have
419 also demonstrated that that H2-Q10 binds to CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ with an affinity that
420 exceeds that of H2-T3/TL. Thus, in an *in vivo* developmental setting, this
421 suggests that any interaction with CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ would favour binding of H2-Q10
422 over H2-T3/TL. However, we have demonstrated that the absence of H2-Q10
423 results in a loss of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells, while the absence of H2-T3/TL has no
424 effect on CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cell development in the small intestine⁴⁹. Thus, the absence
425 of H2-Q10 should have no effect on the development of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells if
426 H2-T3/TL is present, however, we and others have demonstrated^{1, 25, 26} that
427 H2-T3/TL is not expressed in the liver. Given that H2-Q10 is a soluble MHC, it
428 is unlikely to directly stimulate CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, suggesting that it acts to inhibit
429 interaction with stimulating receptors, subsequently resulting in cell death.
430 Given that we have identified another class Ib MHC ligand for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, it
431 remains possible that other members of the class Ib MHC bind this molecule
432 and, in the absence of H2-Q10, induce the death of these cells via low affinity

433 interactions. Further investigation of the capacity of other class Ib MHC to act
434 in this area should prove useful.

435 As a corollary to the above, it has been demonstrated that conventional CD8
436 T cells upregulate CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ homodimers shortly after activation and that this
437 controls survival and development of memory ⁵⁰. It is possible to induce
438 activated, long lived CD8 T cells in the liver ⁵¹ but the dependence on CD8 $\alpha\alpha$
439 has not been explored. Much like its effect on CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells, it is
440 possible to speculate that H2-Q10 prevents the generation of CD8 T cell
441 memory in the liver by inhibiting the engagement of other, lower affinity
442 molecules. It is not hard to imagine similar interactions occurring in other sites
443 where class Ib MHC are restricted. Targeting these MHC to determine their
444 capacity to bind CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ will be an essential first step.

445

446 Collectively, our data have demonstrated that H2-Q10 is the focus of multiple
447 receptors and that it plays an essential role in the development of innate
448 lymphocytes. Significant overlap in terms of restricted expression and
449 association with resident lymphocytes demonstrate that H2-Q10 shares some
450 features in common with H2-T3. Further exploration of other, tissue-restricted
451 class Ib MHC will be essential to exploring the unique characteristics of this
452 interesting family of molecules.

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460 **METHODS**

461 Mice: C57BL/6 mice were from Alfred Medical Research and Education
462 Precinct (AMREP) Animal services. C57BL/6.H2-Q10^{tm1.1(KOMP)Mbp} mice were
463 generated by the trans-NIH Knock-Out Mouse Project (KOMP) and obtained
464 from the KOMP repository (www.komp.org). NIH grants to Velocigene at
465 Regeneron INC (U01HG004085) and the CSD Consortium (U01HG004080)

466 funded the generation of gene-targeted ES cells for 8500 genes in the KOMP
467 Program and archived and distributed by the KOMP Repository at UC Davis
468 and CHORI (U42RR024244). A LacZ and Neomycin construct was inserted
469 into the coding region of H2-Q10. Cre recombinase was then used to excise
470 the neomycin gene leaving LacZ in the 2nd exon of H2-Q10, (**Supplementary**
471 **Figure 4**). A breeding colony of homozygous C57BL/6.H2-Q10^{tm1.1(KOMP)Mbp}
472 knockouts were established at Monash University Animal Services (Clayton).
473 Genotyping of breeding pairs was performed by Transnetyx (Memphis,
474 Tennessee, USA) using real-time PCR (RT-PCR). All mice were used
475 between 6 and 8 weeks of age. All experiments were in accordance with the
476 animal ethics guidelines of the National Health and Medical Research Council
477 of Australia. All experiments were approved by the AMREP Animal Ethics
478 Committee.

479

480 Generation of recombinant CD8 $\alpha\alpha$: The sequence of soluble mouse CD8 $\alpha\alpha$,
481 allele CD8A*02, was designed based on a previously published sequence to
482 fold soluble mouse CD8 α /CD8 β following *E. coli* expression⁵², GenBank
483 accession number GQ247790.1, except for the following modifications
484 whereby residue numbering is based on Kern *et al*⁵²: (i) Cys36 was mutated
485 to Ser as based on crystal structures of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, Cys 36 is not involved in
486 disulphide bonds^{52, 53} and we suspected that mutating this residue might
487 improve folding efficiency, (ii) the gene was shorted to cover residues⁻⁵Gly
488 to¹²⁸Lys, as in previously determined crystal structures that included mouse
489 CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ or CD8 $\alpha\beta$ there was no data beyond this region, (iii) the gene was
490 codon optimized for *E. coli* expression by Genscript (Piscataway, NJ, USA).
491 The gene was purchased from Genscript and subcloned into a pET30
492 expression vector, expressed in BL21 *E.coli* competent cells and purified from
493 inclusion bodies. The inclusion bodies were solubilized in 6M guanidine-HCl
494 and 120 mg/L of total protein (split over 3 injections) was rapidly diluted in a
495 buffer containing 0.4M arginine hydrochloride, 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH8), 2 mM
496 EDTA, 3 mM reduced glutathione and 0.3 mM oxidized glutathione and
497 allowed to sit for 2-3 days at 4°C. The refold was then dialyzed against 25 mM
498 MES (pH6) overnight, followed by filtration through a 0.45 μ M filter. The

499 CD8 α was purified by cation exchange using Hi-Trap SP column (GE
500 Healthcare, Chicago, Illinois, USA) and eluted using 25 mM MES (pH6)
501 containing 1M NaCl. The major peak was pooled, concentrated and further
502 purified by size exclusion chromatography using Superdex 75 column with a
503 buffer containing 25 mM Hepes (pH 7.4) with 150 mM NaCl.

504

505 Generation of tetramers: cDNA encoding residues 20-274 of H2-Q10 and H2-
506 T3/TL were generated by Genscript and cloned into a pUC57 vector. These
507 were sub-cloned into a pET-30-based vector that allowed for an in-frame
508 fusion of a substrate peptide for the enzyme BirA. The heavy chains of H2-
509 Q10, TL and mouse β 2-microglobulin were expressed separately in *E. coli*,
510 purified from inclusion bodies and refolded in the absence of peptide (H2-
511 T3/TL) or in the presence of ribophorin (VGITNVDL) for H2-Q10.

512

513 Generation of B16F10-Q10 cell lines: The full length sequences of wild type
514 and Qdm mutated H2-Q10 were cloned into the MSCV plasmid and retroviral
515 supernatants generated using 293T cells. B16F10 cells infected with
516 retrovirus were sorted on the basis of GFP expression. Populations were
517 sorted until stable with insertion of the class Ib MHC determined by PCR (H2-
518 Q10).

519

520 Real-time PCR (RT-PCR): Total RNA was isolated from cells either using the
521 RNEasy kit (Qiagen, Venlo, The Netherlands), or TRI Reagent RT (Merck,
522 Darmstadt, Germany) and complementary DNA (cDNA) synthesized from 1
523 μ g total RNA using an iScript cDNA Synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad, CA, USA).
524 Complementary DNA was amplified using QuantiNova SYBR Green mix
525 (Qiagen) and the Quantstudio 6 qPCR (Applied Biosystems, Foster City,
526 USA) with a two-step protocol including an annealing/extension temperature
527 of 60°C for all primer pairs. Primer sequences are shown in Supplementary
528 Table 1.

529

530 Flow Cytometry.

531 *Flow cytometric analysis of organs:* Organs were collected from wild type and
532 H2-Q10 deficient mice and single cell suspensions prepared using standard
533 protocols³⁰. Following removal of red blood cells using ACK, nonspecific
534 receptors were blocked with monoclonal antibody (mAb) 2.4G2, then cells ($5 \times$
535 10^6) were stained with mAb to H-2K^b (AF6-88.5; Biolegend, San Diego, CA,
536 92121, USA), H-2D^b (KH95; Biolegend), H2-Q7/9 (695H1-9-9; Biolegend),
537 NKp46 (29A1.4; Biolegend), CD49a (HM α 1; Biolegend), CD49b (HM α 2;
538 Biolegend), CD94 (18d3; Biolegend), Ly49C/I (14B11; BD Biosciences),
539 TCR $\gamma\delta$ (GL3; Biolegend), TCR β (H57-597; Biolegend), CD3 (17A2;
540 Biolegend), CD8 α (53-6.72; Biolegend and CT-CD8a ThermoFisher Scientific,
541 Waltham, MA, USA), CD8 β (53-5.8; Biolegend), CD27 (LG.3A10; Biolegend),
542 CD11b (M1/70; Biolegend), KLRG1 (2F1/KLRG1; Biolegend), CD96 (3.3;
543 Biolegend), TIGIT (1G9; Biolegend) and tetramers. Cells stained with
544 tetramers were fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde, washed twice in PBS before
545 being resuspended in FACS buffer (PBS-1%FCS). All other flow cytometry
546 combinations were acquired unfixed. For acquisition, events were
547 electronically gated on FSC-A vs FSC-H (singlets), followed by FSC-A and
548 SSC-A (to exclude doublets and debris). Among the remaining population at
549 least 5000 electronic events of interest were collected using an LSR-II or X-20
550 Fortessa (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, 07097, USA).

551
552 *Flow cytometric analysis of B16F10 cells:* B16F10-Q10 cells were incubated
553 in the presence of recombinant IFN- γ (Biolegend, $100\text{U}/\text{mL}^{-1}$) for 2 days and
554 then blocked with 2.4G2 prior to staining with Qa-1b antibody (6A8.6F10.1A6;
555 BD Biosciences). For acquisition, events were electronically gated on FSC-A
556 vs FSC-H (singlets), followed by FSC-A and SSC-A (to exclude doublets and
557 debris). Among the remaining population at least 10000 electronic events of
558 interest were collected using an LSR-II (BD Biosciences).

559
560 Sorting of Liver populations into hepatocyte and non-hepatocyte populations:
561 Livers were perfused with ice cold PBS and dissected whole. They were
562 subsequently dissociated in the presence of $100\text{U}/\text{mL}^{-1}$ Collagenase at 37
563 degrees for 30 minutes. Single cell suspensions were then filtered through

564 100 μ M and centrifuged twice using ice cold PBS. Hepatocytes and non-
565 hepatocytes were subsequently sorted on the basis of size and
566 complexity (FSC^{hi} v SSC^{hi} for Hepatocytes and FSC^{lo} v SSC^{lo/hi} for non-
567 hepatocytes **Supplementary Figure 5).**

568
569 Preparation of small intestine: Intestinal epithelial cells were purified as
570 described⁵⁴.

571
572 Sorting, activation and intracellular detection of IFN- γ in cNK: cNK cells were
573 sorted using a FACS Aria (BD Biosciences). 2 x 10⁵ cells were sorted/well and
574 triplicate cultures were setup in the presence of 1ng/ mL⁻¹ IL-12 and 5ng/ mL⁻¹
575 IL-18 or 1ng/ mL⁻¹ IL-12 and 50ng/ mL⁻¹ IL-15²⁴. After 6 and 24h of
576 incubation, supernatant was removed and the presence of IFN- γ determined
577 using a Cytometric Bead Array (CBA) (BD Biosciences), following the
578 manufacturers protocol.

579
580 Cytotoxicity assays: NK cells were sorted on a FACS Aria (BD Biosciences)
581 and co-cultured with YAC-1 (NKG2D ligands) or B16F10 (DNAM-1 ligands) at
582 different ratios. Cytotoxicity was determined using the 51Cr assay as
583 previously described⁵⁵.

584
585 Surface Plasmon Resonance. Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) was
586 performed essentially as described²⁰. Briefly, biotinylated MHC were captured
587 on the surface of a ProteOn NLC neutravidin chip (Bio-Rad, ~150 RU of
588 each). An empty flow cell with neutravidin alone served as a control. Serially
589 diluted CD8 $\alpha\alpha$, produced as described above was injected simultaneously
590 over the control and test surfaces. After subtraction of data from the control
591 flow cell, K_D was calculated by kinetic analysis using a Langmuir 1:1 binding
592 model with the ProteOn Manager software (Bio-Rad).

593
594 Parabiotic mice. Parabiosis surgery was performed as previously described⁵⁶.
595 Briefly, pairs of female C57BL/6 and B6.SJL-*Ptprc*^a *Pepc*^b/BoyJ mice, of equal
596 weight, were acclimatised for a period of 2 weeks prior to surgery. Pairs that

597 demonstrated harmonious cohabitation were then supplied with antibiotics
598 (Bactrim containing Sulfamethoxazole, 2 mg/ mL⁻¹ and Trimethoprim, 0.4 mg/
599 mL⁻¹) ad libitum in the drinking water for the 3-day period leading up to
600 surgery up until 10 days after surgery. Prior to surgery, mice were treated with
601 Carprofen (10mg/kg s.c.) and Buprenorphine (0.1mg/kg s.c.). The anaesthetic
602 plane was induced with 4-5% Isoflurane. Anaesthesia was maintained with
603 2% Isoflurane and mice were shaved along opposite lateral flanks. The skin
604 was then wiped with alcohol and Betadine wipes before mirrored, longitudinal
605 incisions were made along the lateral aspect of each mouse. Joining of the
606 mice was initiated by attaching the olecranon/elbow and the knee joints using
607 non-absorbable 3-0 nylon suture. Following the attachment of the joints, the
608 skin of two mice was connected with a continuous absorbable 5-0 polyglycolic
609 acid suture starting ventrally from the elbow towards the knee and continued
610 the suture dorsally closed with a surgical double knot. Pairs of mice were
611 allowed to recover for a period of 2 weeks, when a tail vein bleed was
612 performed to confirm parabiosis. 1 week later, confirmed pairs were
613 euthanized and organs prepared for flow cytometry as described above.

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615 Statistical Analysis: The nonparametric, two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U*-test was
616 used to determine the statistical significance of data sets. *P* values of less
617 than 0.05 were considered significant.

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637 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

638 The authors declare no conflicts

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642 Career Development Fellowship (CDF) for DMA. KG was supported by a
643 Monash University Post-Doctoral Award. We thank the members of the Alfred
644 Medical Research and Education Precinct (AMREP) Flow Cytometry unit for
645 expert assistance. We also thank Mrs Debbie Ramsay for assistance with the
646 parabiosis surgeries and the Monash Animal Research Platform (MARP) and
647 AMREP Animal Services (AAS) for husbandry.

648

649 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

650 KJG and AN designed the experiments and performed them in the laboratory
651 of DMA. The parabiosis studies were performed by AM and JRMcM. SBE
652 produced the recombinant CD8 used in Figure 6. PB provided input regarding
653 experiments. LCS performed the SPR studies and provided intellectual input
654 and helped drive the project. DMA conceived of the project and supervised
655 KJG and AN.

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661 **Figure 1: The H2-Q10 leader sequence contains the Qdm peptide of Qa-**
662 **1b and stabilizes its expression on hepatocytes. (a)** B16F10 cells stably
663 transfected with full length H2-Q10 (B16F10-Q10) or B16F10 encoding the
664 non Qdm containing leader sequence from H-2K^b (B16F10-K^bQ10) were

665 treated with recombinant interferon gamma and the expression of Qa-1b
666 determined by FACS. Histograms are representative of 2 independent
667 experiments performed in triplicate. The control is isotype stained. (b) Real
668 time PCR detection demonstrates that H2-Q10 is expressed by hepatocytes
669 and not liver leukocytes. Data are from 6 samples prepared in isolation. *** P
670 $\equiv 0.0003$. Expression of H-2K^b, H-2D^b, H-2Q7/9 and Qa-1b in hepatocytes (c)
671 and splenocytes (d) isolated from wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. The
672 filled histogram at the base is the unstained control, the middle dark shaded
673 histogram is the expression on wild type hepatocytes while the top light
674 shaded histogram is staining on H2-Q10 deficient hepatocytes. The
675 histograms are representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per
676 experiment (N=8). The numbers in the histogram represent the average
677 median fluorescent intensity. All histograms have been offset and are
678 modal. The controls are isotype stained. (e) Median Fluorescent Intensity
679 (MFI) of Qa-1b expression in Hepatocytes and Splenocytes. Data are pooled
680 from 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per time point (N=8).

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686 **Figure 2: H2-Q10 plays a role in the development of cNK cells in the**
687 **liver.** (a) Representative contour plots showing total ILC (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻) and
688 the subsets of cNK (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49b⁺) and ILC-1 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49a⁺)
689 in the spleen of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour plots are
690 representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment
691 (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average frequencies from the 8
692 samples (N=8). The absolute number and frequencies of total ILC
693 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻) cNK (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49b⁺) and ILC-1 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻
694 /CD49a⁺) in the spleen of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Data are
695 pooled from 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8).
696 Note that the y axis is logarithmic for absolute numbers. (b) Representative
697 contour plots showing total ILC (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻) and the subsets of cNK
698 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49b⁺) and ILC-1 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49a⁺) in the liver of wild

699 type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour plots are representative of 2
700 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). The numbers in
701 the plots are the average frequencies from the 8 samples (N=8). The absolute
702 number and frequencies of total ILC (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻) cNK (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻
703 /CD49b⁺) and ILC-1 (NKp46⁺/CD3⁻/CD49a⁺) in the liver of wild type and H2-
704 Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from 2 independent experiments using 4
705 mice per experiment (N=8). * $P=0.0499$, ** $P= 0.0019$ for CD49b⁺ frequency
706 and 0.0017 for CD49a⁺ frequency. Note that the y axis is logarithmic for
707 absolute numbers.

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711 **Figure 3: The absence of H2-Q10 does not affect the maturation and**
712 **activation of liver cNK cells.** (a) Representative contour plots showing
713 populations of CD94 and Ly49C-I expressing subsets of cNK in the liver of
714 wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour plots are representative of 2
715 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). The numbers in
716 the plots are the average frequencies from the 8 samples (N=8). The absolute
717 number and frequencies of CD94/Ly49C-I subsets in the cNK population in
718 the liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from 2
719 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). * $P = 0.0407$, **
720 $P = 0.0019$ for CD94/Ly49C/I frequencies and 0.0070 for CD94/Ly49C/I
721 numbers and *** $P = 0.0002$. Note that the y axis is logarithmic for absolute
722 numbers. (b) Representative contour plots showing populations of CD94 and
723 Ly49C-I expressing subsets of ILC-1 in the liver of wild type and H2-Q10
724 deficient mice. Contour plots are representative of 2 independent experiments
725 using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average
726 frequencies from the 8 samples (N=8). The absolute number and frequencies
727 of CD94/Ly49C-I subsets in the ILC-1 population in the liver of wild type and
728 H2-Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from 2 independent experiments
729 using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). Note that the y axis is logarithmic for
730 absolute numbers. cNK cells were purified from the liver of wild type and H2-
731 Q10 deficient mice and the levels of IFN- γ (c) and MIP-1 α (d) determined

732 following stimulation with IL-12 (1ng/ mL⁻¹) and IL-18 (5ng/ mL⁻¹) (to induce
733 IFN- γ) or IL-12 (1ng/ mL⁻¹) and IL-15 (50ng/ mL⁻¹) (to induce MIP-1 α). The
734 results are pooled from 2 independent experiments performed in triplicate
735 (N=6).

736 **Figure 4: H2-Q10 controls the development of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells in the**
737 **liver. (a)** Representative contour plots showing total $\gamma\delta$ T cells (TCR $\gamma\delta^+$ /CD3⁺)
738 in the spleen and liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour plots
739 are representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment
740 (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average frequencies from the 8
741 samples (N=8). The absolute number of total $\gamma\delta$ T cells (TCR $\gamma\delta^+$ /CD3⁺) in the
742 spleen and liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from
743 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). *P=0.0104.
744 Note that the y axis is logarithmic for absolute numbers. **(b)** Representative
745 contour plots showing CD94 and Ly49C-I expressing $\gamma\delta$ T cells in the spleen
746 and liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour plots are
747 representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment
748 (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average frequencies from the 8
749 samples (N=8). The absolute number of CD94 and Ly49C-I expressing $\gamma\delta$ T
750 cells (TCR $\gamma\delta^+$ /CD3⁺) in the spleen and liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient
751 mice. Data are pooled from 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per
752 experiment (N=8). Note that the y axis is logarithmic for absolute numbers. **(c)**
753 Representative contour plots showing CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ and CD8 $\alpha\beta$ expressing $\gamma\delta$ T
754 cells in the spleen and liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Contour
755 plots are representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per
756 experiment (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average frequencies from
757 the 8 samples (N=8). * P = 0.0407. The absolute number of CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ and
758 CD8 $\alpha\beta$ expressing $\gamma\delta$ T cells (TCR $\gamma\delta^+$ /CD3⁺) in the spleen and liver of wild
759 type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from 2 independent
760 experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8). ** P = 0.0070. Note that the
761 y axis is logarithmic for absolute numbers. **(d)** Real time PCR detection
762 demonstrates that H2-T3 is not expressed by hepatocytes but is found in the
763 small intestine (SI). Data are from 4 samples prepared in isolation.

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Figure 5: CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ cells are resident in the liver. (a) Representative contour plots demonstrate electronically gated CD45.1⁺ and CD45.2⁺ cells within the ILC populations in the liver. The colors on the chart demonstrate matched congenic markers (blue and black) and mismatched congenic markers (red and green). The corresponding colours are then used to demonstrate the migratory or residence pattern of the subsets as a percentage of distribution (right hand side panel). The green (migratory cNK) and black (resident cNK) panels demonstrate equal mixing while the black (migratory ILC-1) and blue (resident ILC-1) panels demonstrate retention of the ILC-1 in their host. (b) Representative contour plots demonstrate electronically gated CD45.1⁺ and CD45.2⁺ cells within the CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ and CD8 $\alpha\beta$ subsets of $\gamma\delta$ T cells populations in the liver. The colors on the chart demonstrate matched congenic markers

798 (blue and black) and mismatched congenic markers (red and green). The
799 corresponding colours are then used to demonstrate the migratory or
800 residence pattern of the subsets as a percentage of distribution (right hand
801 side panel). The green (migratory $CD8\alpha\beta^+ TCR\gamma\delta^+$) and black (resident
802 $CD8\alpha\beta^+ TCR\gamma\delta^+$) panels demonstrate a tendency for migration of $CD8\alpha\beta^+$
803 $TCR\gamma\delta^+$ cells while the black (migratory $CD8\alpha\alpha^+ TCR\gamma\delta^+$) and blue (resident
804 $CD8\alpha\alpha^+ TCR\gamma\delta^+$) panels demonstrate retention of the $CD8\alpha\alpha^+ TCR\gamma\delta^+$ in their
805 host. Data are representative of 2 independent experiments using 3 or 4 pairs
806 of mice per experiment (N=7 pairs).

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811 **Figure 6: H2-Q10 is a high affinity ligand for $CD8\alpha\alpha$.** (a) Representative
812 FACS plots demonstrating binding of H2-Q10 and H2-T3/TL to $CD8\alpha\alpha$
813 expressing $\gamma\delta$ T cells. Cells were electronically gated as
814 $TCR\gamma\delta^+/CD3^+/CD8\alpha^+/CD8\beta^-$. Contour plots are representative of 2
815 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8) and the
816 numbers in the plots are the mean of the 2 experiments (N=8). The raw
817 values for the percent $CD8\alpha\alpha^+/Tetramer^+$ events are presented in the chart.
818 Binding of decreasing concentrations of $CD8\alpha\alpha$ (4000, 1600, 640, 256 and
819 102.4 nM; solid lines, top to bottom) to neutravidin-immobilised H2-Q10
820 refolded with VGITNVDL (b) or H2-TL (no peptide) (c); results are presented
821 in response units (RU) after subtraction of baseline values. Plots are
822 representative of at least 2 independent experiments. Dotted vertical lines at
823 0s indicate injection start. Irregular lines represent raw data and solid lines
824 indicate data fit using a 1:1 Langmuir binding model. (d) Pre-treatment with
825 blocking antibody (CT-CD8a) prevents the binding of H2-Q10 tetramers to
826 $CD8\alpha^\pm \gamma\delta$ T cells. Contour plots are representative of 2 independent
827 experiments using 3 mice per experiment (N=6). The numbers in the plots are
828 the average frequencies from the 6 samples (N=6).

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836 **Supplementary Figure 1: H2-Q10 plays a role in liver NK cell**
837 **development and has no effect on KLRG1, CD96 and TIGIT. (a)**

838 Representative contour plots showing populations of CD27 and CD11b
839 expressing subsets of cNK in the liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice.

840 Contour plots are representative of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice
841 per experiment (N=8). The numbers in the plots are the average frequencies

842 from the 8 samples (N=8). The absolute number and frequencies of
843 CD27/CD11b subsets in the cNK population in the liver of wild type and H2-

844 Q10 deficient mice. Data are pooled from 2 independent experiments using 4
845 mice per experiment (N=8). *** $P = 0.0002$ for $CD27^+/CD11b^-$ and $CD27^-$

846 / $CD11b^+$ frequencies and ** $P = 0.0070$ and 0.0019 for $CD27^+/CD11b^+$ and
847 $CD27^-/CD11b^+$ numbers respectively. Note that the y axis is logarithmic for

848 absolute numbers. (b) Expression of KLRG1, CD96 and TIGIT on NK cells
849 isolated from the livers of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice. The filled

850 histogram at the base is the isotype control, the middle dark shaded
851 histogram is the expression on wild type NK cells while the top light shaded

852 histogram is staining on H2-Q10 NK cells. The histograms are representative
853 of 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per experiment (N=8).

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861 **Supplementary Figure 2: The absence of H2-Q10 has no effect on**
862 **cytotoxicity directed against NKG2D (YAC-1) or DNAM-1 (B16F10). NK**

863 cells purified from the liver of wild type and H2-Q10 deficient mice were
864 directly used as effectors in cytotoxicity assays. Decreasing ratios of effectors

865 and targets co-cultured for 4 hours and the specific lysis determined by ^{51}Cr
866 release.

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886 **Supplementary Figure 3: $\alpha\beta$ CD8 T and NKT cells develop normally in**
887 **H2-Q10^{-/-} mice.** Leukocytes from the liver of C57BL/6 and C57BL/6.H2-Q10^{-/-}
888 mice were FACS stained to determine the effect of H2-Q10 deficiency on $\alpha\beta$
889 CD8 T and NKT cells. **(a)** Contour plots are representative of 2 independent
890 experiments using 4 mice per time point (N=8). Numbers in the contour plots
891 represent the mean of the 3 experiments (N=8). **(b)** Absolute numbers of $\alpha\beta$
892 CD8 T and NKT cells in C57BL/6 and C57BL/6.H2-Q10^{-/-} mice. Data are
893 pooled from 2 independent experiments using 4 mice per time point (N=8).

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Supplementary Figure 4: Generation and validation of H2-Q10 deficient mice. (a) Diagrammatic representation of the molecular targeting approach used to disrupt gene expression. H2-Q10 was disrupted following insertion of a LacZ neomycin cassette. Mice with the targeted insert were bred to a Cre delete strain to excise neomycin. As such, exon 2 of the H2-Q10 gene is disrupted by the genomic insertion of LacZ. (b) RNA from hepatocytes of wild and H2-Q10 deficient mice was reverse transcribed and used as a template for PCR using primers specific for GAPDH and H2-Q10.

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Supplementary Figure 5: Gating strategy for the sorting of hepatocytes and non-hepatocytes from livers. Single cell preparations from enzymatically disrupted livers were sorted for hepatocytes (FSC^{hi} v SSC^{hi}) and non-hepatocytes (FSC^{lo} v SSC^{lo}). Contour plots are representative of 3 independent sorts.

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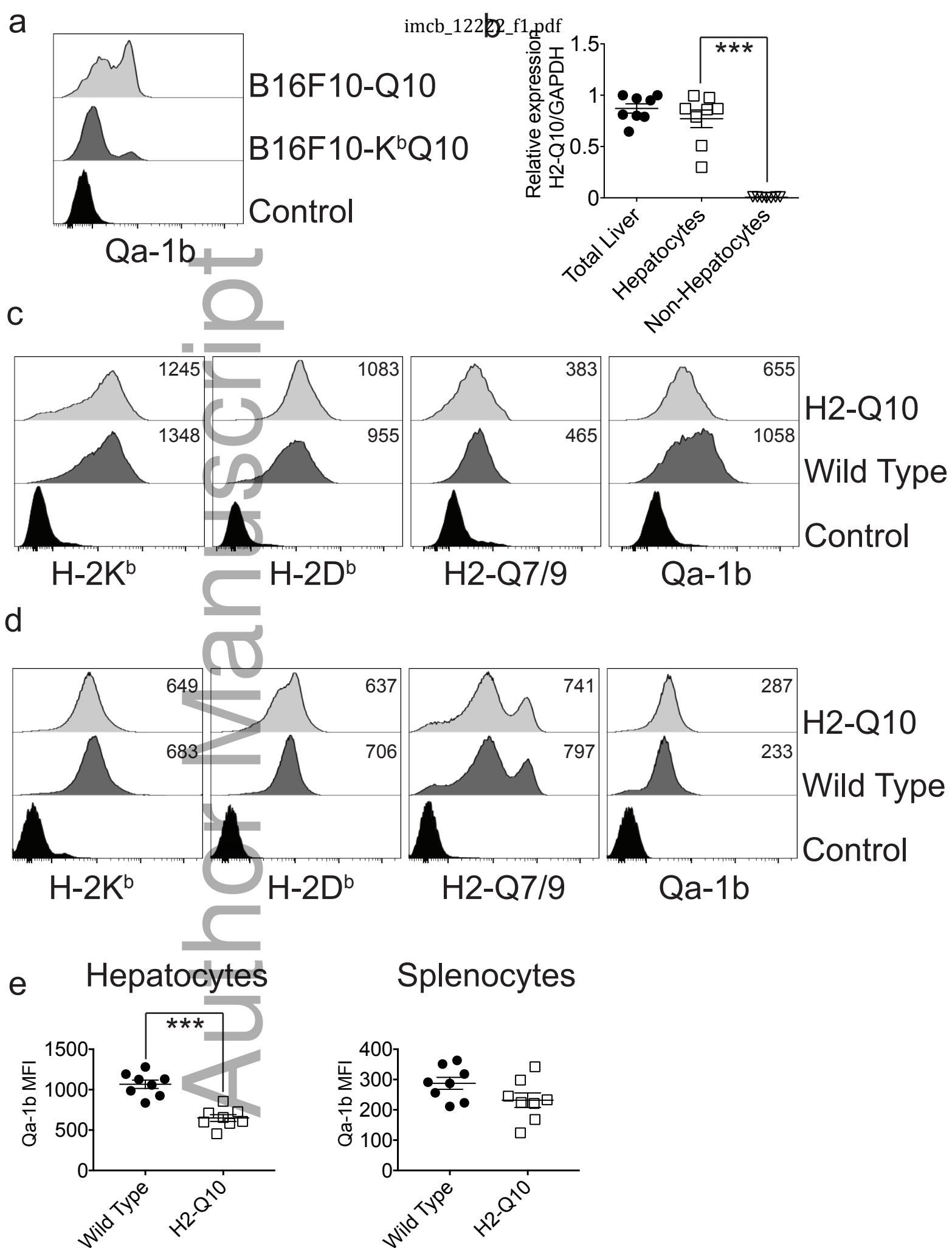
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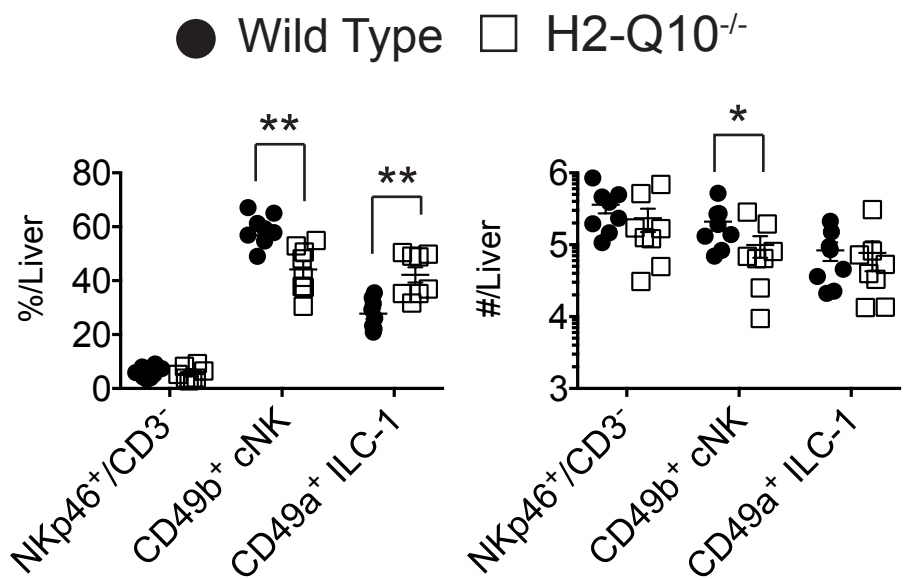
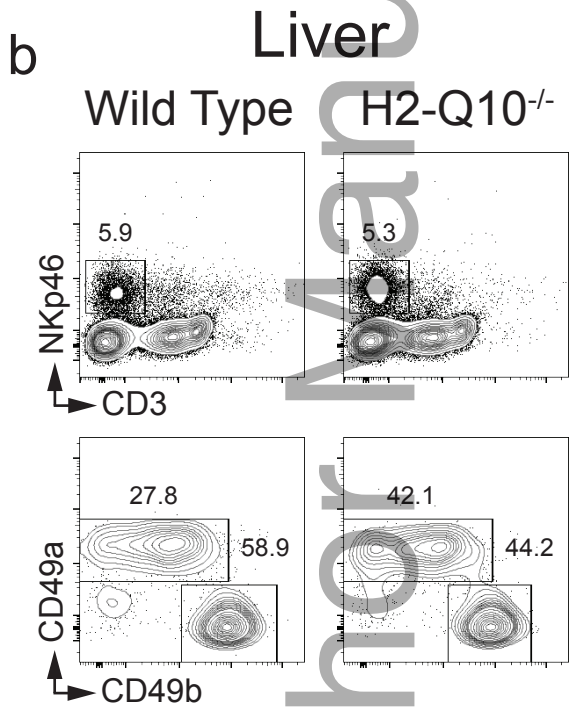
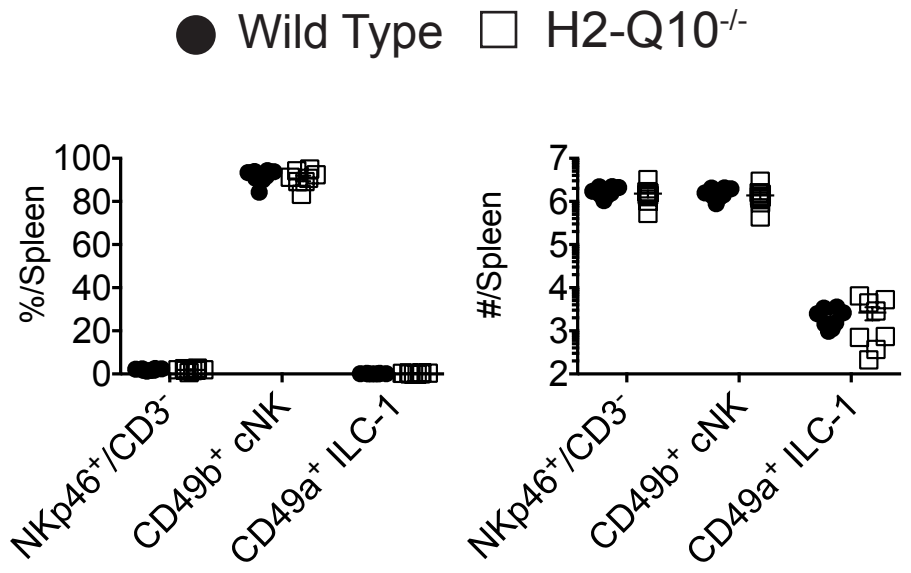
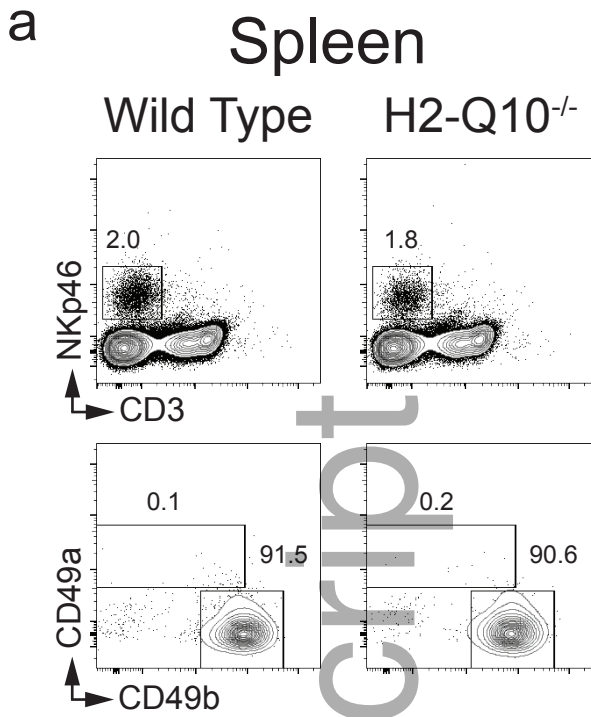
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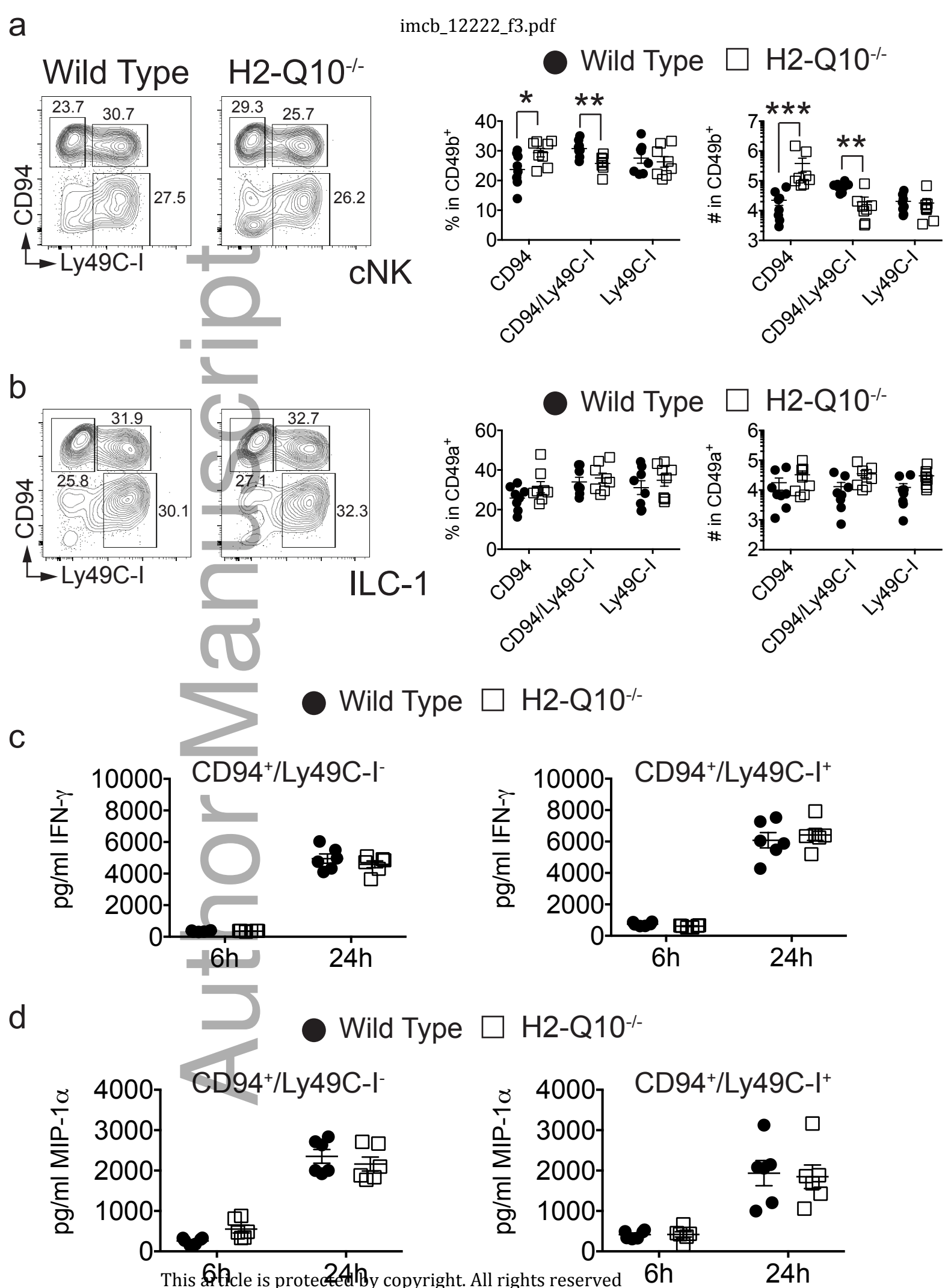
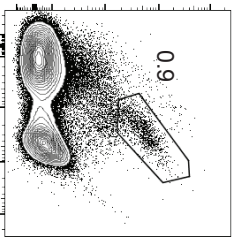
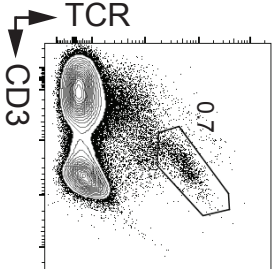


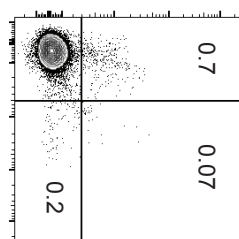
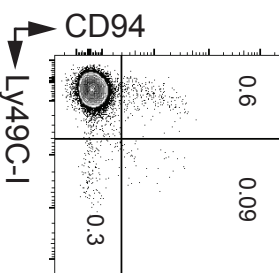
Figure 3 Goodall et al H2-Q10

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Wild Type

H2-Q10^{-/-}

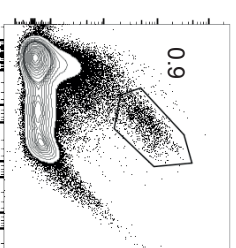
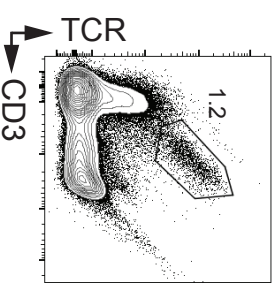
Spleen



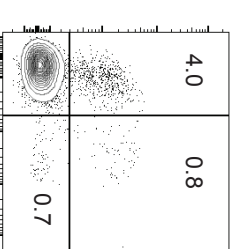
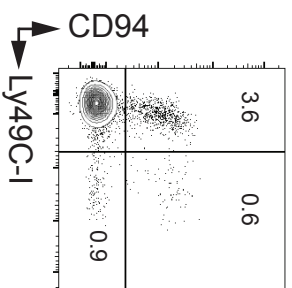
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Wild Type

H2-Q10^{-/-}

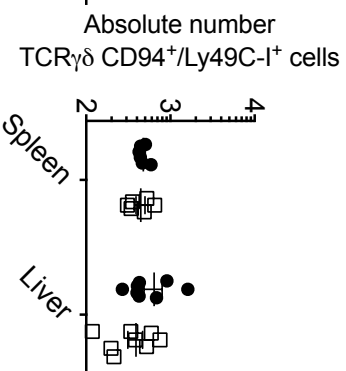
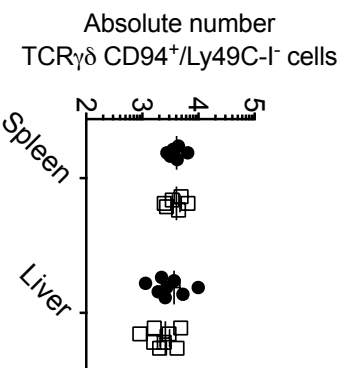
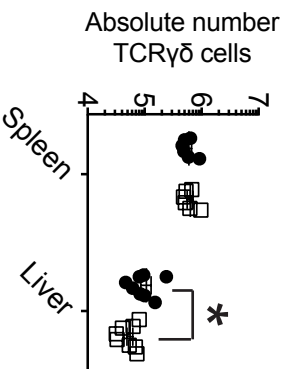
Liver



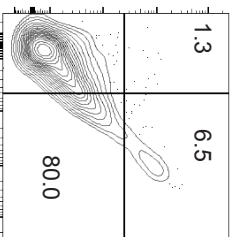
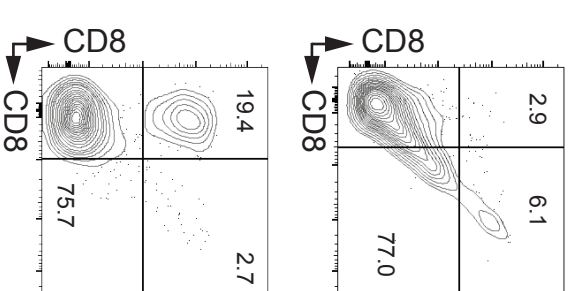
Liver

● Wild Type
□ H2-Q10^{-/-}

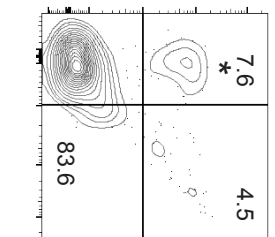
● Wild Type
□ H2-Q10^{-/-}

**c**

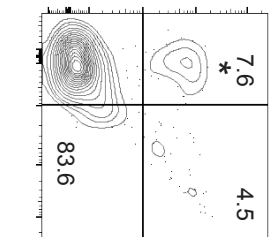
Wild Type

H2-Q10^{-/-}

Spleen

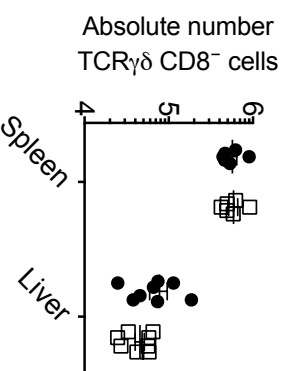
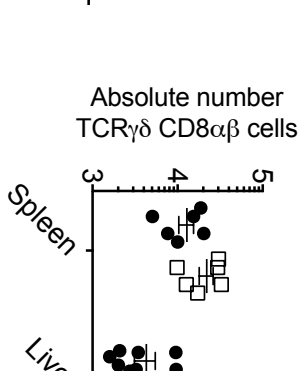
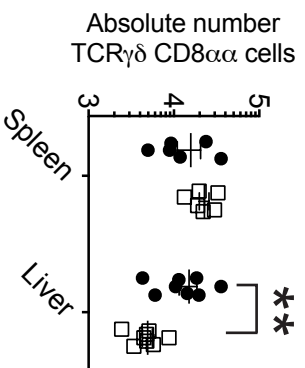
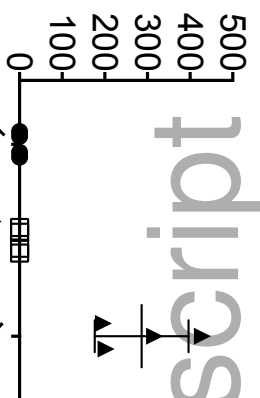


Liver



● Wild Type
□ H2-Q10^{-/-}

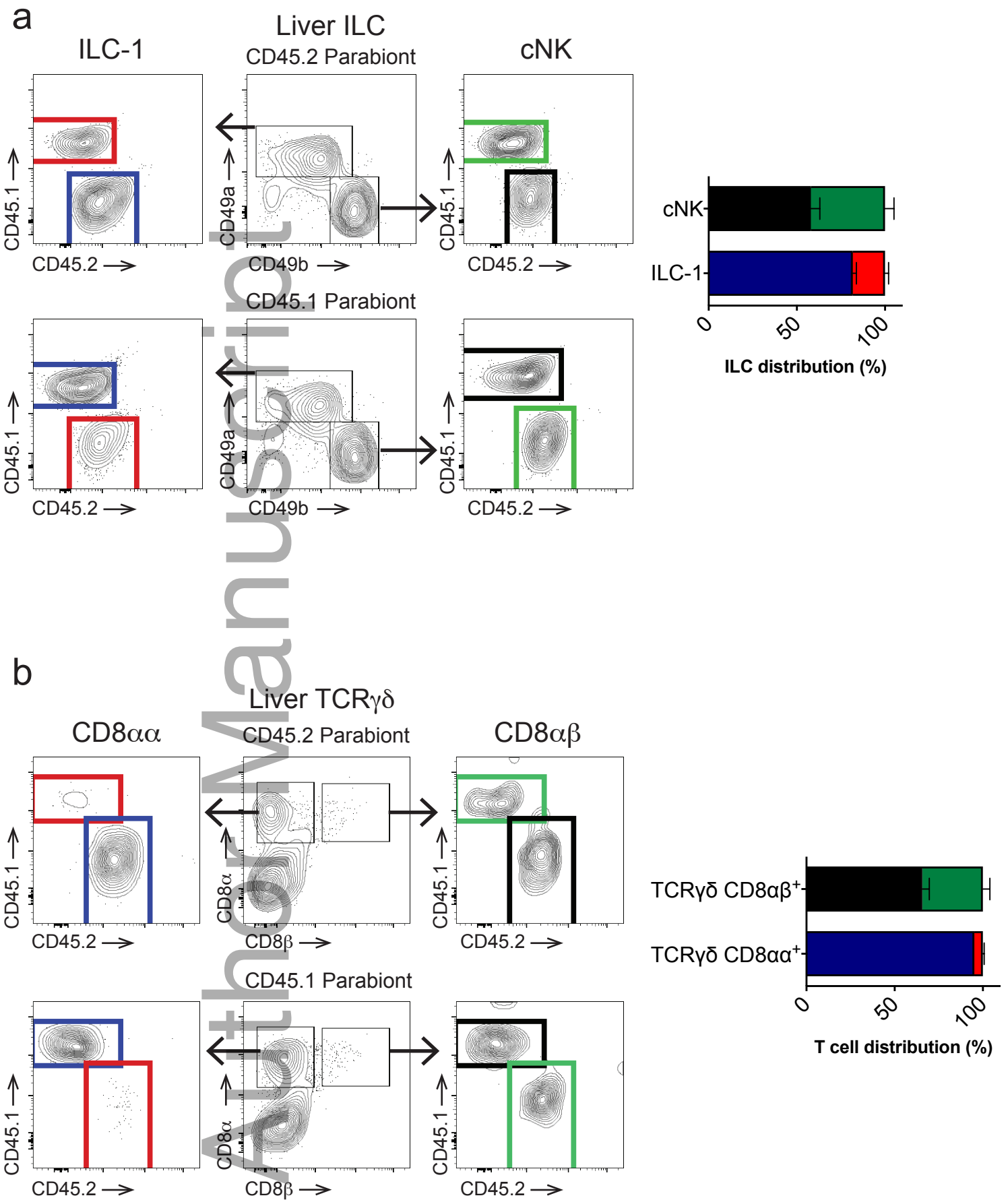
● Wild Type
□ H2-Q10^{-/-}

**d**Relative expression
H2-T3/GAPDH

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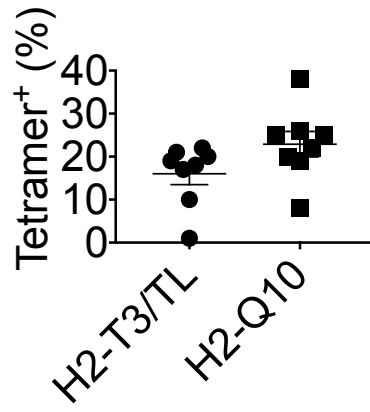
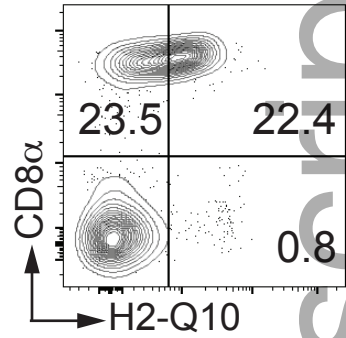
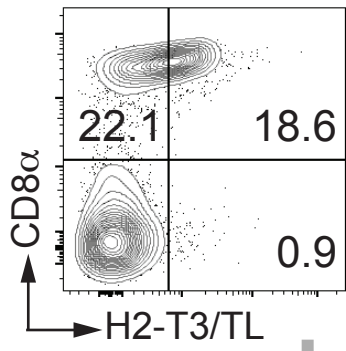
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H2-Q10

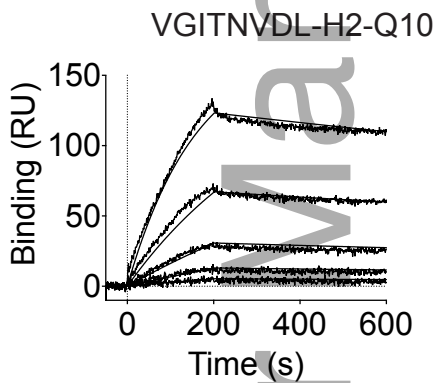


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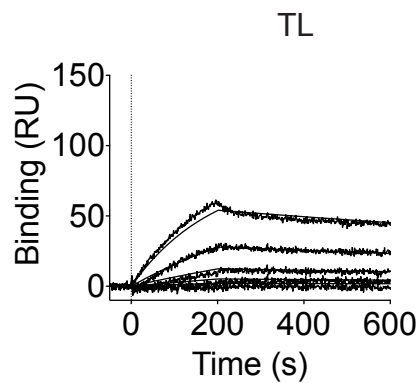


$$k_a = 7.28 \times 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$k_d = 2.90 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$K_D = 3.98 \times 10^{-7}$$

c



$$k_a = 5.79 \times 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$k_d = 4.52 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$K_D = 7.81 \times 10^{-7}$$

d

