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Upregulation of CD47 Is a Host Checkpoint Response to Pathogen Recognition

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Irving L. Weissman and Kim J. Hasenkrug are co-senior authors, and both have the right to list their name last in their CV.

ABSTRACT It is well understood that the adaptive immune response to infectious agents includes a modulating suppressive component as well as an activating component. We now show that the very early innate response also has an immunosuppressive component. Infected cells upregulate the CD47 “don’t eat me” signal, which slows the phagocytic uptake of dying and viable cells as well as downstream antigen-presenting cell (APC) functions. A CD47 mimic that acts as an essential virulence factor is encoded by all poxviruses, but CD47 expression on infected cells was found to be upregulated even by pathogens, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), that encode no mimic. CD47 upregulation was revealed to be a host response induced by the stimulation of both endosomal and cytosolic pathogen recognition receptors (PRRs). Furthermore, proinflammatory cytokines, including those found in the plasma of hepatitis C patients, upregulated CD47 on uninfected dendritic cells, thereby linking innate modulation with downstream

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adaptive immune responses. Indeed, results from antibody-mediated CD47 blockade experiments as well as CD47 knockout mice revealed an immunosuppressive role for CD47 during infections with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Since CD47 blockade operates at the level of pattern recognition receptors rather than at a pathogen or antigen-specific level, these findings identify CD47 as a novel potential immunotherapeutic target for the enhancement of immune responses to a broad range of infectious agents.

IMPORTANCE Immune responses to infectious agents are initiated when a pathogen or its components bind to pattern recognition receptors (PRRs). PRR binding sets off a cascade of events that activates immune responses. We now show that, in addition to activating immune responses, PRR signaling also initiates an immunosuppressive response, probably to limit inflammation. The importance of the current findings is that blockade of immunomodulatory signaling, which is mediated by the upregulation of the CD47 molecule, can lead to enhanced immune responses to any pathogen that triggers PRR signaling. Since most or all pathogens trigger PRRs, CD47 blockade could be used to speed up and strengthen both innate and adaptive immune responses when medically indicated. Such immunotherapy could be done without a requirement for knowing the HLA type of the individual, the specific antigens of the pathogen, or, in the case of bacterial infections, the antimicrobial resistance profile.

KEYWORDS CD47, host response, immune checkpoint, innate immunity, pathogen recognition receptors

The earliest immune responses to invasion by pathogenic microorganisms begin with the sensing of pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) by pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) such as Toll-like receptors (TLRs). Ligation of PRRs initiates signal transduction pathways that ultimately lead to the activation of broad innate and highly specific adaptive immune responses. Discoveries in recent years have demonstrated that the induction of adaptive immune responses involves not only activation mechanisms but also inhibitory mechanisms or “checkpoints,” which regulate immune function at a cellular level to prevent immunopathological damage by overactivated effector responses (1). Antibody (Ab)-mediated blockade of checkpoint molecules such as CTLA4 and PD-1 is being used therapeutically to enhance anticancer immune responses (2, 3), and blockade of CD47 is now in clinical trials to activate macrophage-mediated phagocytosis of cancer cells (4–7), which upregulate CD47 expression as an immune evasion mechanism (8–11).

CD47 is an abundantly expressed transmembrane cell surface glycoprotein that can act as a receptor for thrombospondins, form complexes with integrins, and bind to the inhibitory receptor signal-regulatory protein alpha (SIRP α) (12–14). CD47 binding to SIRP α has emerged as an important innate immune checkpoint by regulating immune cell clearance and inflammatory signaling (6). CD47 engagement of SIRP α results in the phosphorylation of cytoplasmic ITIM motifs by inhibitory protein tyrosine phosphatases, SHP-1 and SHP-2 (15). Given the well-established role of CD47 in cancer cell immune evasion, we investigated whether CD47 expression is modified in other disease contexts, specifically infectious diseases. The CD47-SIRP α axis has immunomodulatory functions that impact phagocytosis, chemokine and cytokine responses, innate and adaptive immune cell homeostasis and activation, T cell killing, and B cell antibody production (15–18).

Viruses have evolved mechanisms to evade host defenses (19) and take advantage of inhibitory signaling pathways for selective advantage. Of interest, poxviruses, which devote many genes toward immune suppression and evasion, encode a CD47 mimic (20). The CD47 mimic of myxomavirus, M128L, can be deleted with no effect on *in vitro* replication, but the deletion mutant loses pathogenicity *in vivo*. This loss of pathogenicity was associated with increased monocyte/macrophage activation (20).

The present study examines CD47 expression in the context of infectious agents that

encode no CD47 mimic. Both mouse and human cells showed a significant upregulation of CD47 upon infection with various pathogens. The results indicated that stimulation of either cytosolic or endosomal PRRs resulted in CD47 upregulation. In addition, inflammatory cytokines present in the serum of hepatitis C virus (HCV)-infected patients could also induce CD47 upregulation, even in the context of no virus. In addition to viruses, clinically relevant bacteria such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* induce the upregulation of CD47 that limits host resistance. Our results indicate that CD47 upregulation is a very early innate checkpoint response and that immunological inhibitory mechanisms are activated not only at the effector phase of immune responses but also already at the induction phase of PRR sensing. Thus, CD47 is a promising target for checkpoint therapies against a wide range of infectious diseases.

RESULTS

CD47 expression is upregulated on mouse hematopoietic cells in response to *in vivo* infection. To examine the role of CD47 expression during the innate response to infection, we investigated whether hematopoietic cells upregulated CD47 expression in several unrelated infection models during the first days after infection. We began by analyzing CD47 expression on cells from mice inoculated with Friend virus (FV), a naturally occurring retroviral infection in mice (21). FV primarily infects erythroid progenitor cells in the spleen but can also infect immune cells (22). CD47 was significantly upregulated on several hematopoietic cell lineages from mouse spleens at 3 days postinfection (dpi) compared to cells from naive mice (Fig. 1A). CD47 expression was also analyzed at 2 dpi in mice infected with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV). Compared to naive controls, all of the spleen cell types analyzed showed significantly increased cell surface expression of CD47 (Fig. 1B). A significant upregulation of CD47 expression was also observed in response to LCMV at 3 dpi in a previous report (23). Infections with La Crosse arbovirus were also analyzed at 2 dpi, and we also observed significantly upregulated CD47 expression in hematopoietic spleen cells compared to naive controls (Fig. 1C).

CD47 expression is upregulated on human cells in response to *in vitro* infection. Examination of a publicly available gene expression data set (Gene Expression Omnibus [GEO] accession number [GSE147507](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE147507)) from severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection of A549 human lung cells also showed a significant upregulation of CD47 compared to mock-infected controls (Fig. 1D). To determine whether bacterial infection would also upregulate CD47 expression, human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were examined 24 and 48 h after infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi in vitro*. Multiple PBMC subsets showed significantly upregulated CD47 expression in response to *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection compared to naive cells (Fig. 1E). We also investigated CD47 expression on human PBMCs infected *in vitro* with mCherry-expressing strains of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi. Wild-type *Salmonella* Typhi (Ty2 WT) and *Salmonella* Typhi Δ *fliC* (Ty2 Δ *fliC*), a mutant strain that lacks flagella, were examined. Infections were done by centrifugation to compensate for the lack of motility of the flagellum mutant. Compared to naive cells, mCherry-positive B cells significantly upregulated CD47 expression when infected with wild-type *Salmonella* Typhi for 24 h (Fig. 1F). In contrast, CD47 expression was not significantly upregulated in B cells infected with the mutant strain lacking flagella, *Salmonella* Typhi Δ *fliC* (Fig. 1F). The reduced upregulation of CD47 expression by *Salmonella* Typhi Δ *fliC* compared to wild-type *Salmonella* Typhi suggested that the sensing of pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) by pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) might play a role in CD47 upregulation, as flagellin is a potent PAMP recognized by extracellular TLR5 (24) and the NLR family of apoptosis-inhibitory proteins (NAIPs) (25). Overall, the combined *in vivo* and *in vitro* results from multiple pathogen infections in both human and mouse cells indicated that the upregulation of CD47 was a conserved host response possibly related to host sensing mechanisms.

CD47 is upregulated in response to host recognition of pathogens. To determine whether CD47 upregulation was initiated by PRR stimulation, we specifically

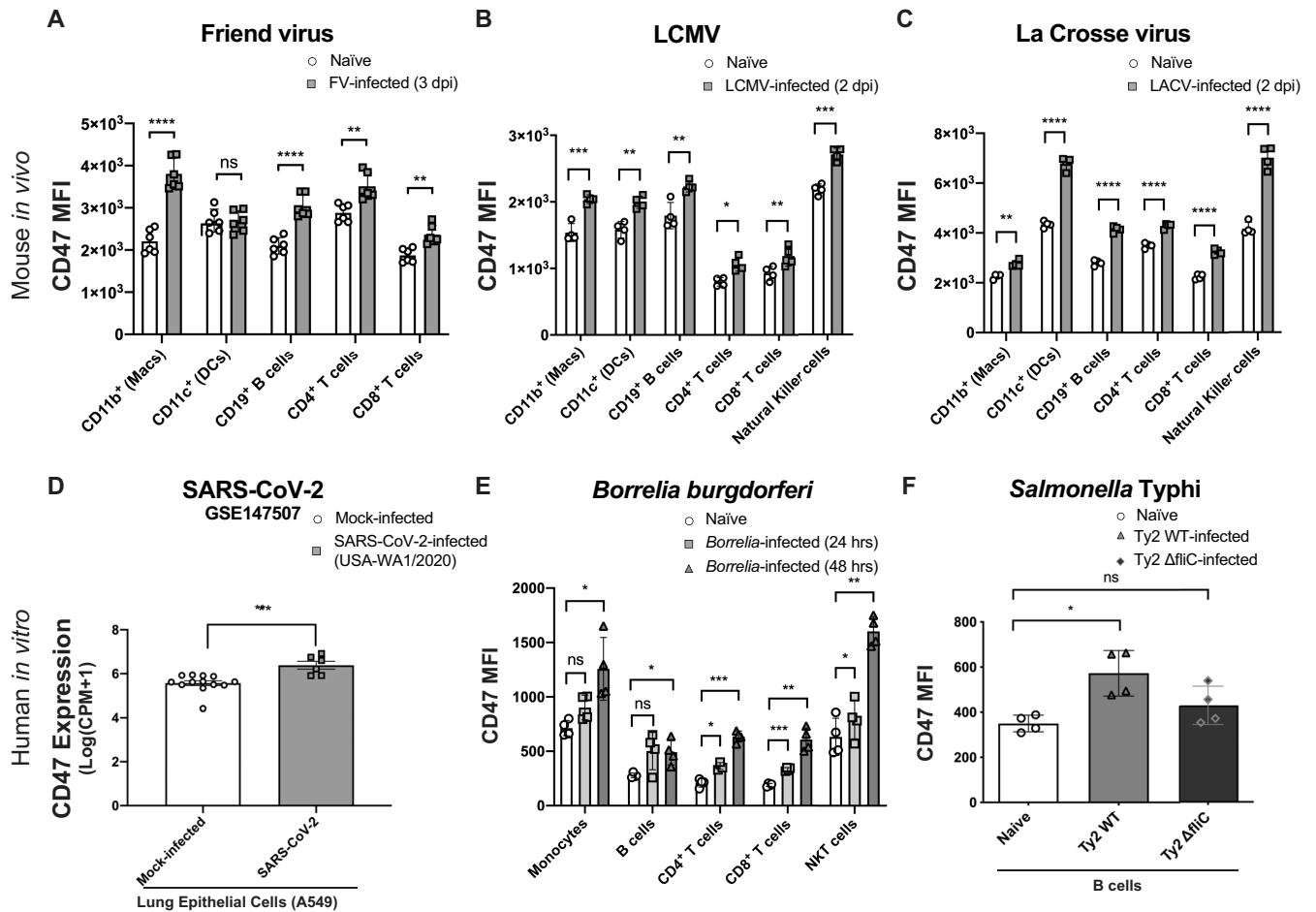


FIG 1 CD47 is broadly upregulated in immune cell types in response to several types of infection. (A and B) Comparison of CD47 median fluorescence intensities (MFI) on splenic hematopoietic cell subsets from naive mice and female (A.BY \times C57BL/6) F_1 mice infected intravenously with 2×10^4 SFFU Friend virus at 3 days postinfection (A) or female C57BL/6 mice infected intravenously with 2×10^6 PFU LCMV-WE at 2 days postinfection (B). (C) Female C57BL/6 mice inoculated intraperitoneally with 10^5 PFU La Crosse virus at 2 days postinfection. (D) CD47 expression levels analyzed from the publicly available gene expression data set from SARS-CoV-2 infection of A549 human lung tumor cells (GEO accession number [GSE147507](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE147507)) ($n = 10$) comparing mock-infected ($n = 13$) with SARS-CoV-2 (USA-WA1/2020)-infected cells ($n = 6$). (E) Comparison of CD47 MFI on hematopoietic cells from *Borrelia burgdorferi*-GFP-infected human PBMCs 24 and 48 h after *in vitro* infection, compared to naive controls. GFP was used under infection conditions to identify cells with intracellular *Borrelia* infection (shaded). (F) Comparison of CD47 MFI on human CD19⁺ B cells 24 h after *in vitro* infection with *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi strain Ty2 (Ty2 WT) or *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi strain Δ *fljC* (Ty2 Δ *fljC*), which lacks flagella, compared to naive controls. Statistical analyses were done by Student's *t* tests for panels A to D and by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a multiple-comparison posttest for panels E and F (ns [not significant], $P > 0.05$; *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$). Error bars represent standard errors of the means (SEM).

stimulated PRRs using small-molecule agonists rather than infectious agents. CD47 upregulation on human dendritic cells (DCs) and monocytes was tested *in vitro* using PBMCs stimulated with either muramyl dipeptide (MDP) to activate the bacterial peptidoglycan PRR, nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain-containing protein 2 (NOD2), or CL264 to activate the single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) endosomal PRR, TLR7. Flow cytometry was used to identify cell subsets and measure CD47 expression at 24 h poststimulation. Both human DCs and monocytes responded to either type of PRR stimulation with a significant upregulation of CD47 surface expression (Fig. 2A). We also tested TLR stimulation using a dual TLR7/8 agonist, R848. Since this dual agonist, which also has *in vivo* activity (26), produced dose-dependent upregulation of CD47 on human PBMCs (Fig. 2B), we proceeded to test PRR stimulation in an *in vivo* mouse model. Daily intraperitoneal injections of R848 into mice led to strongly upregulated CD47 expression on both macrophages and DCs isolated from spleens on day 3 (Fig. 2C). Together, these data demonstrated that CD47 was upregulated on both human and mouse immune cells via pathogen-sensing mechanisms. Furthermore, TLR7 stimulation via endosomal uptake indicated that CD47 could be upregulated not only

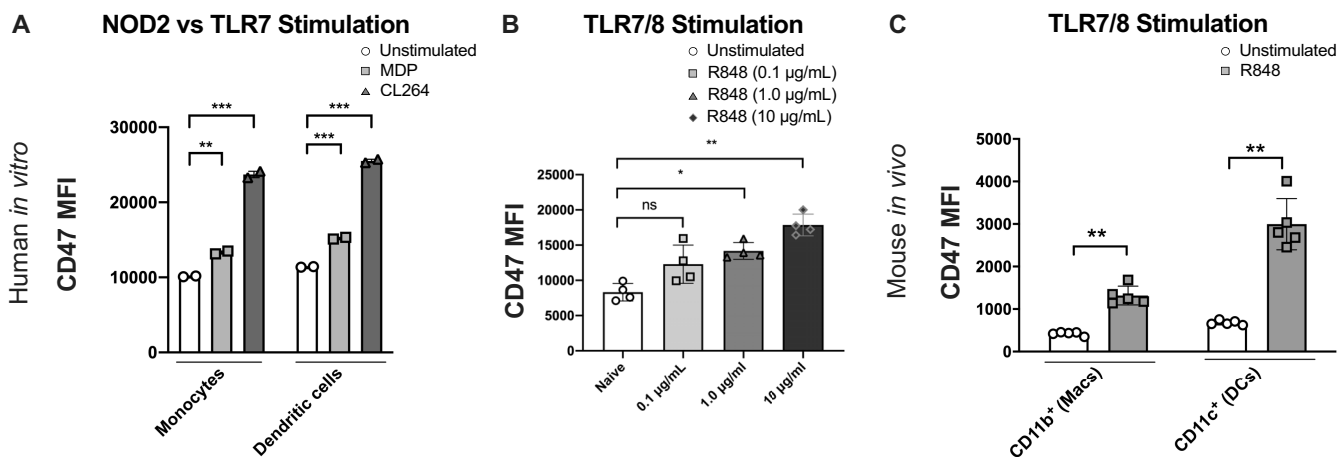


FIG 2 Stimulation of pathogen-associated molecular patterns upregulates CD47 surface expression. (A) MFI of CD47 surface expression on human PBMC monocytes and dendritic cells after 48 h of stimulation with either 1 μ g/ml MDP or 1 μ g/ml CL264 or with no stimulation. The results are from one of three experiments with two different donors. All 3 experiments showed consistent effects. Statistics were done by a paired two-way *t* test with Bonferroni correction. (B) CD47 MFI on human total PBMCs from 4 separate donors stimulated with titrated concentrations of R848 from 0.1 μ g/ml to 10 μ g/ml, as indicated, for 48 h. Statistics were done by a paired two-way *t* test with Bonferroni correction. (C) Mice (*n* = 5/group) were injected intraperitoneally with 1 mg/kg R848 for 3 days, and on day 3, splenocytes were isolated and macrophages and DCs were analyzed for CD47 MFI. Statistics were done by an unpaired two-way *t* test. (ns, *P* > 0.05; *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ***, *P* < 0.001). Error bars represent SEM.

by infected cells, as would be reflected by cytosolic NOD2 stimulation, but also by surveilling immune cells.

CD47 expression is upregulated during HCV infection *in vivo*. To examine CD47 expression in human viral infection, we first compared transcriptional levels of CD47 from publicly available microarray data (GEO accession number [GSE38597](#)) from healthy and hepatitis C virus (HCV) patient liver biopsy specimens. The analysis revealed significantly higher expression levels of CD47 in the liver biopsy specimens from acutely infected HCV patients than for healthy controls (Fig. 3A). We then used cytometry by time of flight (CyTOF) to examine CD47 expression on PBMCs during HCV infection in the context of sofosbuvir (SOF) therapy (27), comparing healthy controls to HCV-infected patients prior to treatment, midway through treatment, and at 6 months posttreatment. Compared to healthy controls, monocytes and DCs from HCV patients demonstrated a sustained upregulation of CD47 at all treatment time points, including the 6-month posttreatment time point (Fig. 3B and C). There were no significant

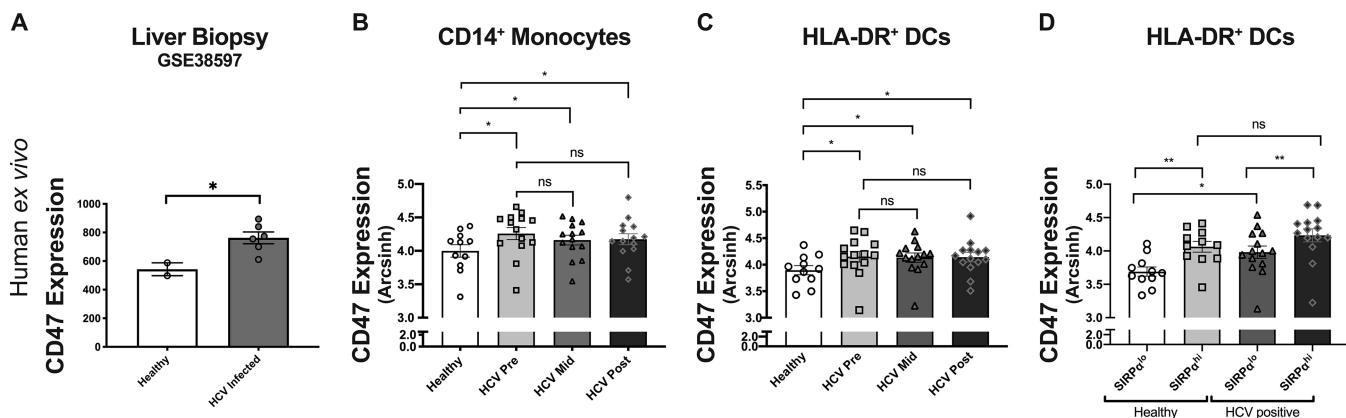


FIG 3 CD47 is involved in innate licensing of adaptive immune responses in HCV patient clinical samples. (A) Comparison of CD47 expression from Affymetrix array profiles of liver biopsy specimens from two healthy controls and six patients with acute HCV infection (*P* = 0.03 by an unpaired two-way *t* test) (NCBI GEO accession number [GSE38597](#)). (B and C) Comparison of CD47 expression by CyTOF MFI on CD14⁺ monocytes (B) and HLA-DR⁺ DC subpopulations (C) isolated from HCV-infected sofosbuvir-treated patients before the initiation of treatment (Pre), midway through treatment (Mid), and after treatment (Post) compared to healthy controls. (D) Comparison of CD47 expression on SIRP α^{lo} versus SIRP α^{hi} DCs from healthy control and HCV patients. Statistics were done by one-way ANOVA with multiple-comparison posttests (ns, *P* > 0.05; *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01). Error bars represent SEM.

differences between pre-, mid-, and posttreatment CD47 levels in either monocytes or DCs, and all of these time points were significantly different from those for healthy controls (Fig. 3B and C). Conventional dendritic cells (cDCs) are classified into cDC1s and cDC2s, which can be distinguished in part through the specific expression of the CD47 receptor, SIRP α , on cDC2s (28). When we compared CD47 expression levels within SIRP α^{lo} and SIRP α^{hi} DCs, we observed that CD47 expression was highest on SIRP α^{hi} DCs (Fig. 3D). There was no correlation between viral titers and CD47 expression on either monocytes or DC subsets in this patient cohort (see Fig. S1A in the supplemental material). Between healthy controls and pretreatment HCV patients, there was significant CD47 upregulation in SIRP α^{lo} DCs but not in SIRP α^{hi} DCs (Fig. 3D). However, compared to healthy controls, the proportion of SIRP α^{hi} DCs was significantly increased at both pretreatment and midtreatment, which could also contribute to higher CD47 expression levels in DCs (Fig. S1B). Thus, HCV infections were associated with the increased expression of both CD47 and its receptor, SIRP α , on antigen-presenting cells (APCs).

HCV patient plasma-induced CD47 expression *ex vivo*. To determine whether inflammatory factors present in HCV patient plasma could affect CD47 upregulation, we derived DCs from healthy donor monocytes with plasma added from either patients in the HCV patient cohort or healthy controls. We found that monocyte-derived DCs (mDCs) cultured in the presence of HCV patient plasma significantly upregulated CD47 compared to plasma from healthy donors (Fig. 4A). Luminex analysis of patient plasma was used to characterize the inflammatory milieu over the course of HCV infection and treatment. Plasma isolated from patients at the pretreatment time point contained both virus and inflammatory cytokines, indicating that CD47 upregulation could have been due to infection of the DCs. However, plasma isolated from patients at the midtreatment and posttreatment time points contained no detectable virus (data not shown) but still had increased levels of inflammatory cytokines, including tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α), CXCL10, and interferon alpha (IFN- α), compared to healthy controls (Fig. 4B to D). CD47 expression was increased under all HCV patient plasma conditions compared to healthy controls despite undetectable virus at the midtreatment and posttreatment time points. The differences between the pre-, mid-, and posttreatment time points within HCV patients were not statistically significant. These results suggested that cytokines in the inflammatory milieu of HCV patient plasma could upregulate CD47 expression.

To confirm the ability of cytokines to upregulate CD47 surface expression, we performed *in vitro* stimulations of human PBMCs isolated from healthy donors using TNF- α , CXCL10, and IFN- α , as single treatments and in combinations. At 72 h post-stimulation, the only single cytokine that induced significant CD47 upregulation was IFN- α (Fig. 4E). Combinations of these inflammatory cytokines enhanced the upregulation of CD47 surface expression, with the triple combination of TNF- α , CXCL10, and IFN- α having the strongest effect (Fig. 4E). These experiments demonstrated that in addition to pathogen recognition, host immune cells could also upregulate CD47 surface expression in response to the inflammatory milieu induced by the pathogen.

Blockade of CD47 signaling enhances antiviral immune responses *in vivo*. To determine the effects of CD47 blockade during a live viral infection, C57BL/6 mice were injected with anti-CD47 (blocking) antibody daily beginning 2 days prior to infection with LCMV. To ascertain whether both anti-CD47-treated and mock-treated animals were equivalently infected, LCMV titers in the spleens and liver were determined at 3 dpi. The analyses showed no significant differences in viral titers at this time point regardless of treatment (Fig. 5A). Anti-CD47 injections were continued through 5 dpi, and plasma virus levels were then measured at 8 and 12 dpi. Significantly reduced viremia levels were observed in anti-CD47-treated mice compared to mock-treated mice at both time points (Fig. 5B). Since it is known that host clearance of LCMV is highly dependent on CD8⁺ T cell responses (29, 30), it was of interest to determine if CD47 blockade affected those responses. Total CD8⁺ T cell levels were determined

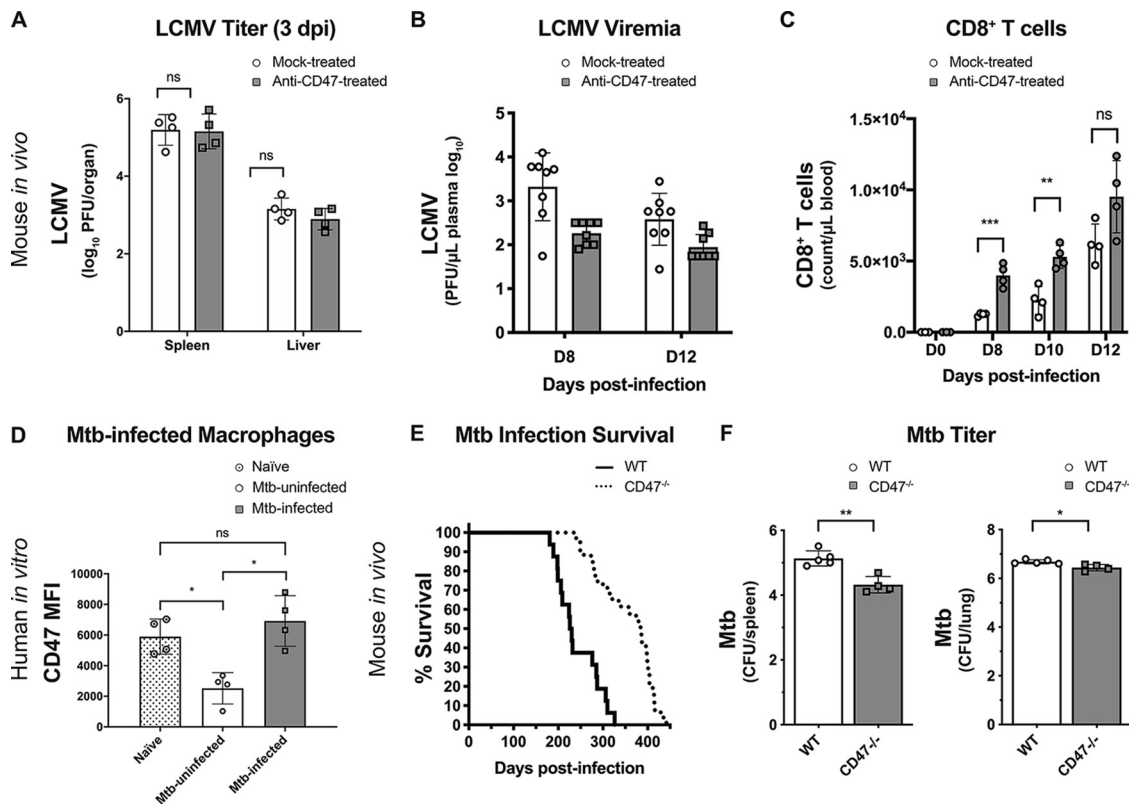


FIG 5 *In vivo* CD47 blockade in LCMV infection and CD47 genetic inactivation in *M. tuberculosis* infection. (A to C) Female C57BL/6 mice 8 to 12 weeks old were treated by intraperitoneal injection with either 100 μ g anti-CD47 or an isotype control antibody at days -2 , -1 , 0 , $+1$, and $+2$ relative to the day of intravenous infection (day 0 [D0]) with 2×10^6 PFU LCMV-WE. (A) Mice were euthanized at 3 dpi, and LCMV PFU from spleen and liver were determined as described in Materials and Methods. (B) LCMV viremia levels were determined from blood samples by plaque-forming assays for control and anti-CD47-treated mice at 8 and 12 dpi. (C) CD8⁺ T cell counts in blood samples from control and anti-CD47-treated mice were analyzed by flow cytometry at 0, 8, 10, and 12 dpi. Statistics were done by unpaired two-way *t* tests (ns, $P > 0.05$; *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$). Error bars represent SEM. (D) Human peripheral blood monocyte-derived macrophages from four different donors were infected *in vitro* with *M. tuberculosis* (Mtb) (pantothenate/lysine mutant strain) fluorescently labeled with pHrodo (to distinguish infected from uninfected cells) in triplicate and stained with anti-CD47 at 24 h postinfection. Flow cytometry was used to measure CD47 MFI in cells from uninfected cultures (naive) compared to both infected and uninfected cells from *M. tuberculosis*-infected cultures. Statistics were done by one-way ANOVA with multiple-comparison posttests (ns, $P > 0.05$; *, $P < 0.05$). (E) Both male and female C57BL/6 WT ($n = 16$) and C57BL/6.CD47^{-/-} ($n = 23$) mice were analyzed for survival (humane endpoints) following *M. tuberculosis* infection by inhalation. The difference between C57BL/6 WT and C57BL/6.CD47^{-/-} mice was statistically significant (****, $P < 0.001$) by a log rank Mantel-Cox test from pooled data from three independent experiments. (F) Analysis of *M. tuberculosis* CFU from lungs and spleens of endpoint animals. Statistical analyses were done by Student's *t* tests, and two-sided *P* values are shown (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$) with standard deviations.

comparing microarrays for gene expression signatures specific to HCV and tuberculosis (TB) (Fig. S2). The disease-specific gene expression signature for HCV consistently showed an upregulation of CD47, whereas the disease-specific gene expression signature for TB showed downregulation.

For an *in vivo* assessment of a possible functional role for CD47 in host resistance to *M. tuberculosis* infection, CD47 knockout (KO) mice were infected via the aerosol route with a low dose (100 to 200 CFU) of *M. tuberculosis* strain H37Rv. CD47-deficient mice displayed significantly increased host resistance to *M. tuberculosis* infection, with significantly longer survival (humane endpoints), compared to wild-type C57BL/6 mice (Fig. 5E). Furthermore, spleens and lungs from the CD47-deficient mice at humane endpoints yielded significantly lower mycobacterial CFU (Fig. 5F). These results indicated that CD47 expression can exert significant suppressive effects on immune responses to infectious pathogens *in vivo*.

DISCUSSION

Previous results demonstrating that malignant cells upregulate CD47 expression to evade cellular clearance (9, 31) led us to hypothesize that pathogens might also induce

CD47 surface expression as an immune evasion mechanism. In fact, poxviruses encode a CD47 mimic that acts as a potent virulence factor (20). Curiously, we repeatedly observed an upregulation of CD47 surface expression across diverse infections with both viruses and bacteria, none of which are known to encode a CD47 mimic or have any CD47 sequence homology. Flagella are potent inducers of TLRs, so the finding that *Salmonella* Typhi Δ fliC mutants lacking flagella were poor at inducing CD47 suggested a possible connection to host sensing via PRR signaling (Fig. 1F). Indeed, direct stimulation of PRRs with synthetic ligands such as MDP, CL264, and R848 induced CD47 upregulation *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Fig. 2). Since SIRP α -mediated recognition of CD47 on infected cells by macrophages and DCs transduces an inhibitory signal that attenuates phagocytosis and downstream antigen presentation functions, it was counterintuitive that CD47 upregulation would be due to a host response. Why would the host dampen its immune response to infection? We have shown that *in vivo*, CD47 blockade improved the control of LCMV infection (Fig. 5A), increased CD8⁺ T cell responses (Fig. 5C), and, in a previous report, increased the expression of costimulatory molecules on APCs as well (23), thus confirming that CD47 induces immunosuppressive signals. Similarly, mice with genetic inactivation of CD47 had reduced bacterial loads and longer survival times when infected with *M. tuberculosis* (Fig. 5E and F). We conclude that, like coinhibitory molecules such as PD-1 that dampen adaptive immune responses, CD47 upregulation acts as an intrinsic governor of the innate immune response to prevent overactivation that can lead to immunopathology. Thus, the initial immune response to infections is attenuated until proinflammatory signals overcome anti-inflammatory signals.

CD47 was previously identified by microarray analysis as an interferon-stimulated gene (ISG), upregulated as part of a coordinated program of host defense mechanisms upon IFN- α stimulation (32). In addition, TNF- α was demonstrated to induce the upregulation of CD47 on vascular smooth muscle cells *in vitro* (33). In breast cancer, TNF- α -mediated CD47 upregulation is transcriptionally controlled by NF- κ B through an NF- κ B motif within an enhancer of the CD47 gene (34). These reports are consistent with our findings showing that the inflammatory milieu in patient blood during HCV infection is sufficient to upregulate CD47 surface expression (Fig. 4E). While our study focused on TNF- α , CXCL10, and IFN- α , redundant mechanisms of CD47 upregulation by additional inflammatory mediators are possible and should be examined in depth in future experiments. In the experimental models utilized, it is difficult to distinguish the relative contributions of cytokine-induced CD47 upregulation from those of direct pathogen-induced CD47 upregulation where both are present and either is sufficient. The results clearly indicate that CD47 surface expression can be upregulated either in a cell-intrinsic manner via stimulation of PRRs or by surveilling immune cells in response to extrinsic signaling by inflammatory cytokines. It may also be possible that signaling via *cis* interactions within a cell could occur in cells such as macrophages, which express both CD47 and SIRP α .

Of the infectious agents that we analyzed, *M. tuberculosis* infection was unique in failing to induce CD47 expression upon infection. Of interest, uninfected cells from *M. tuberculosis*-infected cultures downregulated CD47 expression. This may not be too surprising because the life cycle of *M. tuberculosis* is dependent on phagocytosis by alveolar macrophages, and *M. tuberculosis* is known to induce strong inflammatory responses via the induction of cytokines and chemokines. Further research will be required to identify the mechanisms involved in these unique responses to *M. tuberculosis*, but despite its failure to upregulate CD47, improved survival from *M. tuberculosis* infection was observed in mice genetically deficient in CD47 compared to wild-type mice (Fig. 5E). Better recoveries from malaria parasites (35, 36) and *Escherichia coli* infections (37) have also been shown in CD47 KO mice. In addition, CD47 KO mice have improved influenza virus vaccine responses (16). However, from an evolutionary standpoint, the upregulation of CD47 expression in response to pathogens must result in a competitive advantage for the host. As an example, CD47 KO mice show poorly controlled inflammatory responses to and increased morbidity and mortality from

Candida albicans infection (38). The contrasting results from various infections in CD47 KO mice illustrate how tightly balanced the immune system has evolved to be and the care that must be taken when immune interventions are undertaken. That said, the results from CD47 KO mice, in which the entire immune system has developed in the absence of a critical immunomodulatory molecule, might produce different results than the same infection in an immune-replete mouse treated with anti-CD47 antibodies during the infectious process. Indeed, while we found that treating wild-type mice with anti-CD47 before LCMV strain WE (LCMV-WE) infection improved recovery, it has been reported that CD47 KO mice have decreased resistance to LCMV Clone-13 infections (39). Additional experiments will be required to determine which experimental factors may account for the differences in these outcomes.

The accelerated CD8⁺ T cell responses and clearance of LCMV infections following prophylactic blockade of CD47 were most likely due to enhanced APC function evidenced by the increased expression of costimulatory CD86 on dendritic cells observed at 3 dpi (23). However, it is also possible that there were direct effects on CD8⁺ T cells since it was previously shown that activated CD8⁺ T cells express SIRP α , the receptor for CD47 (17). It was shown that only activated effector cells and not naive CD8⁺ T cells express SIRP α , and any direct effects on CD8⁺ T cells would occur only after expansion and development of effector functions. Furthermore, in contrast to the negative signal delivered to cells of the monocytic lineage via SIRP α ligation to CD47, evidence suggested that CD47-SIRP α signaling in CD8⁺ T cells delivered a positive signal associated with improved cytolytic killing of infected target cells *in vivo*. The CD8⁺ T cell responses measured in this prophylactic anti-CD47 study were total CD8⁺ T cell responses rather than tetramer-stained cells known to be virus specific. Thus, the expansion of bystander CD8⁺ T cells by anti-CD47 was not excluded. However, when anti-CD47 was used in a therapeutic setting against LCMV infections, the predominant CD8⁺ T cell expansions were virus specific, and the mechanism of protection was dependent on DCs and CD8⁺ T cells (23).

The current results demonstrate that CD47 plays a prominent role in modulating inflammatory responses to infections. While these findings open new possibilities for therapeutic intervention against pathogenic agents, it is important to note that the context of the host response to specific types of infections will determine whether CD47 blockade would be protective or detrimental. There may be circumstances where host responses need boosting, and CD47 represents a novel target for host-directed therapies in such cases. Possibilities include viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, human immunodeficiency virus, human papillomavirus, cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, varicella-zoster virus, and Ebola virus, etc. There is also a potential application for treating infections with bacteria, including *M. tuberculosis* and multidrug-resistant bacterial strains that might otherwise be untreatable. Although not addressed in this study, other infectious agents, such as fungi or parasites, that elicit PRR responses might also be tractable to anti-CD47 therapy. A key factor is that infected cells also express damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs), which act as “eat me” signals that are being masked by the CD47 “don’t eat me” signal (11, 40). Therefore, releasing the inhibition of phagocytosis of these cells would need to be weighed cautiously with the extent of infection and the replaceability of the infected cell types.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All animal studies were performed at NIAID Laboratories and Stanford University and were done so under animal study proposals approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees following all regulations and guidelines of the Public Health Service’s Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare.

Murine *in vivo* viral infections and flow cytometry analysis. Friend virus (FV)-infected mice were female (C57BL/10 \times A.BY)F₁ (abbreviated Y10) (H-2^{b/b}, Fv1^b, Rfv3^{r/s}) mice bred at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) (Hamilton, MT) and were used at between 8 and 16 weeks of age at the beginning of the experiments. The FV stock used in these experiments has been passaged in mice for more than 3 decades and contains three separate viruses: (i) replication-competent B-tropic Friend murine leukemia helper virus (F-MuLV), (ii) replication-defective polycythemia-inducing spleen focus-forming retrovirus that is packaged by F-MuLV-encoded virus particles, and (iii) lactate dehydrogenase-elevating virus (LDV), an endemic murine positive-sense ssRNA [(+)-ssRNA] virus (22, 41). Mice were infected by intravenous

(i.v.) injection of 0.2 ml of a phosphate-buffered balanced salt solution (PBS) containing 1,500 spleen focus-forming units (SFFU) of the FV complex. La Crosse virus (LACV) infections were performed with a 1978 human isolate provided as a gift from Stephen Whitehead (NIAID, NIH). Virus stocks were passaged no more than 3 times in Vero cells. For analysis of CD47 expression in mice during LACV infection, 21-day-old C57BL/6 (Jackson Laboratories) male or female mice were inoculated intraperitoneally with a 10^5 -PFU dose of virus diluted into a 200- μ l volume of sterile PBS. Mice of the same strain, age, and sex inoculated with an equivalent volume of a Vero cell culture supernatant in PBS were used as controls. At 2 dpi, whole blood and spleen were isolated from mice and processed for flow cytometry as described above. LCMV viral titers were detected by plaque-forming assays on MC57 fibroblasts (obtained from the Ontario Cancer Institute, Canada). Organs were dissociated, and plasma was diluted in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM) containing 2% fetal calf serum (FCS), titrated 1:3 over 12 steps, and incubated on MC57 cells. After 4 h of incubation at 37°C, a methylcellulose overlay was added, and the cells were incubated for 48 h, followed by staining of LCMV plaques using an anti-LCMV-NP antibody (clone VL4). C57BL/6 mice were infected with 2×10^6 PFU of LCMV strain WE and treated with anti-CD47 via daily intraperitoneal injections of 100 μ g of anti-CD47 (clone 410, catalog number BE0283; BioXCell) or an isotype control (rat IgG2a isotype) (BioXCell) from day -2 to day 6 postinfection.

To analyze infected spleen cells, splenocytes were isolated by tissue homogenization through a 100- μ m filter, and red blood cells were removed using ACK lysis buffer (0.15 M NH_4Cl , 10 mM KHCO_3 , 0.1 M EDTA). The gating strategy for spleen cell subset analyses was the same as the one described previously (23). All antibodies were from BD Biosciences, BioLegend, or eBioscience/Thermo Fisher Scientific, including Brilliant Violet 605-anti-CD11b (clone M1/70), phycoerythrin (PE)-CF594-anti-CD19 (clone ID3), PE-Cy7-anti-CD11c (clone HL3), PE-Cy7-anti-Ter119 (clone TER-119), Alexa Fluor 647-anti-CD47 (clone MIAP301), and fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-anti-major histocompatibility complex class II (MHCII) (I-A/I-E) (catalog number FAB6118F); lymphocyte populations were initially gated on single live cells on the basis of forward scatter (FSC) versus side scatter (SSC). Mouse DCs were defined as CD11c^+ CD11b^- , and macrophages were defined as CD11c^- CD11b^+ . Human DCs were also gated on the basis of high MHCII expression levels. The CD11c^+ subset contained a minor population of CD11b^- intermediate cells that could have been inflammatory macrophages. The multiparameter data were collected with an LSRII instrument (BD Biosciences) and analyzed using FlowJo software.

Bacterial strains. Bacterial strains included a B31 *Borrelia burgdorferi* clone (GCB726) with the cp9 plasmid replaced by a cp9-based pTM61 construct containing green fluorescent protein (GFP) (42). *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi Ty2 mCherry mutant strains were generated via λ red recombination and included the *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi Ty2 mCherry Δ Fla (*fliC::Kan*) mutant (25). *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv Δ *lysA* and Δ *panCD*, used for the *in vitro* studies, were provided by William R. Jacobs, Jr. (43). *M. tuberculosis* strain H37Rv was used for the *in vivo* studies.

Affymetrix array profiles of liver biopsy specimens. Affymetrix arrays were obtained as CEL files, MASS normalized using the "affy" package in Bioconductor, mapped to NCBI Entrez gene identifiers using a custom chip definition file (Brainarray version 19 [<http://brainarray.mbni.med.umich.edu/Brainarray/>]), and converted to HUGO gene symbols (44).

SARS-CoV-2. A publicly available gene expression data set from SARS-CoV-2 infection of A549 cells (accession number [GSE147507](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE147507)) ($n = 10$) was downloaded from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO). Independent biological replicates of transformed lung alveolar (A549) cells were mock infected (uninfected [Un]) ($n = 13$) or infected (Inf) ($n = 6$) with SARS-CoV-2 (USA-WA1/2020). cDNA libraries were sequenced from each sample using the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform. Raw sequencing reads were aligned to the human genome (hg19) using the RNA-Seq Alignment App (v2.0.1) on Basespace (Illumina, CA). Gene expression values were summarized using counts per million (CPM) and converted to a \log_2 scale using the formulas $\log_2(\text{CPM})$ if the CPM were >1 and $\text{CPM} - 1$ if the CPM were <1 . A standard t test was performed using the Python `scipy.stats.ttest_ind` package (version 0.19.0) with Welch's two-sample t test (unpaired, unequal variance [`equal_var=False`], and unequal sample size) parameters. The results were independently validated with R statistical software (R version 3.6.1, 5 July 2019). CD47 was significantly upregulated ($P = 0.00332$) in SARS-CoV-2-infected samples. (45).

HCV sofosbuvir cohort. PBMCs, plasma, and serum were studied in 14 HCV-infected patients previous to direct-acting antiviral therapy (sofosbuvir [SOF] and simeprevir [SIM]; SOF and ribavirin [RBV]; and SOF, RBV, and pegylated interferon [PEGI]) before treatment, during treatment, and after treatment. Ten patients underwent at least one previous treatment with interferon, and the other four were treatment naive. Thirteen patients experienced a sustained virologic response (SVR) after 12 weeks of therapy. PBMCs, plasma, and serum were collected from noninfected patients as a control (Table 1). One patient relapsed. Patients provided written informed consent for research testing under protocols by the Stanford University Institutional Review Board.

Phospho-CyTOF sample processing and staining. Cryopreserved PBMCs stored at -180°C were thawed in warm RPMI medium supplemented with 10% FBS, Benzodase, and a penicillin-streptomycin mixture (complete RPMI medium). Cells were transferred into serum-free RPMI medium containing 2 mM EDTA and Benzodase, incubated with cisplatin for 1 min, and immediately quenched with 4 volumes of complete RPMI medium. Next, 1 million cells per sample were transferred into complete RPMI medium and rested for 30 min at 37°C. Following this rest period, cells were fixed in PBS with 2% paraformaldehyde (PFA) at room temperature for 10 min. Cells were then washed twice with CyFACS buffer and barcoded as previously described (46). Following barcoding, samples were combined for surface marker staining, performed at room temperature for 1 h. Subsequently, cells were washed and permeabilized in methanol (MeOH) at -80°C overnight. The next day, cells were washed and incubated with the intracellular cytokine cocktail at room temperature for 1 h. DNA staining was performed for 20 min with

TABLE 1 HCV sofosbuvir cohort

Patient	Previous IFN	Genotype	Treatments	Liver transplant waitlist	Outcome	Sex	Viral titer (copies/ml)
2	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	1,790,000
4	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Female	921,000
7	No	2	SOF, RBV	No	SVR	Female	2,180,000
8	Yes	2	SOF, RBV	No	SVR	Female	5,380,000
9	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	2,230,000
12	No	2	SOF, RBV	No	SVR	Female	3,160,000
13	No	1	SOF, SIM	Yes	Relapse	Female	696,000
14	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	9,290,000
20	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	50,000,000
22	Yes	1	SOF, PEG, RBV	No	SVR	Female	5,030,000
27	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	148,505
29	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	Yes	SVR	Male	2,630,000
30	No	4	SOF, PEG, RBV	No	SVR	Female	1,200,000
35	No	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	79,900
38	Yes	1	SOF, SIM	No	SVR	Male	6,556,280

iridium (191/193) in PBS with 2% PFA at room temperature. Finally, cells were washed twice with CyFACS buffer and then twice with MilliQ water before data acquisition on the CyTOF2 instrument. Data were debarcoded and manually analyzed on Cytobank (www.cytobank.org/).

Monocyte-derived DC and macrophage cultures. Healthy donor leukocyte reduction system cones were provided by the Stanford blood center. PBMCs were isolated by a 1.077-g/ml Ficoll gradient using Sep-mate tubes. Monocytes were selected for by plastic adherence after 20 min of incubation at 37°C with 5% CO₂ in RPMI medium plus 10% human serum (Gemini). Selected monocytes were then cultured for 72 h in RPMI medium supplemented with 1% serum, 10 ng/ml interleukin-4 (IL-4), and 800 IU/ml granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF); the concentration of GM-CSF was increased to 1,600 IU/ml for the final 24 h. Immature DCs were matured by replacing culture medium with RPMI medium supplemented with 1% healthy donor or HCV patient plasma, 10 ng/ml IL-4, 800 IU/ml GM-CSF, 10 mg/ml lipopolysaccharide (LPS), and 100 IU/ml IFN- γ . For macrophage derivation, monocytes were cultured in RPMI medium supplemented with 10% human serum for 7 days.

Human and murine Luminex assays. The human samples were analyzed at the Human Immune Monitoring Center at Stanford University. Human 63-plex or mouse 38-plex kits were purchased from eBioscience/Affymetrix and used according to the manufacturer's recommendations, with modifications as described below. Briefly, beads were added to a 96-well plate and washed in a BioTek ELx405 washer. Samples were added to the plate containing mixed antibody-linked beads and incubated at room temperature for 1 h, followed by incubation overnight at 4°C with shaking. Cold and room-temperature incubation steps were performed on an orbital shaker at 500 to 600 rpm. Following incubation overnight, plates were again washed in a BioTek ELx405 washer, and a biotinylated detection antibody was then added for 75 min at room temperature, with shaking. The plate was washed as described above, and streptavidin-PE was added. After incubation for 30 min at room temperature, another wash was performed as described above, and reading buffer was added to the wells. Each sample was measured in duplicate. Plates were read using a Luminex 200 instrument with a lower bound of 50 beads per sample per cytokine. Custom assay control beads by Radix Biosolutions were added to all wells.

In vitro stimulations and infections of human PBMCs and macrophages. Healthy donor leukocyte reduction system cones were provided by the Stanford blood center. Human PBMCs were isolated by a 1.077-g/ml Ficoll gradient using Sep-mate tubes. Isolated PBMCs were cultured in RPMI medium supplemented with 10% FBS and 100 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin at a concentration of 1×10^6 cells/ml. To activate PRRs, cells were stimulated with either 1 μ g/ml CL264-rhodamine (InvivoGen), 1 μ g/ml muramyl dipeptide (InvivoGen), or R848 at concentrations of 0.1 μ g/ml, 1 μ g/ml, and 10 μ g/ml or left unstimulated. Cells were collected at 48 h poststimulation prior to flow cytometry. PBMCs were stimulated with single treatments or combination treatments of 10 ng/ml TNF- α , 100 ng/ml CXCL10, and 100 ng/ml IFN- α . Cells were then analyzed for CD47 expression 72 h after cytokine stimulation. *In vitro* bacterial infections of PBMCs were performed at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 10 for *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi strains and at an MOI of 40 for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, for 24 and 48 h, respectively. *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi strains were spun onto the cells to compensate for the motility differences. Indeed, the strain of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi infected a lower percentage of cells, but infected versus uninfected cells were differentiated for the analyses. For *M. tuberculosis in vitro* infection of macrophages, *M. tuberculosis* was stained for 1 h in PBS with a 1:20,000 dilution of pHrodo (Essen Biosciences) at 37°C to fluorescently label infected macrophages. Macrophages were plated into 96-well U-bottom plates. Fluorescently labeled *M. tuberculosis* bacteria were used to infect macrophages at an MOI of 1:10 for 24 h. For antibodies for flow cytometry, anti-CD11c (clone 3.9), anti-HLA-DR (clone L243), anti-CD11b (clone M1/70), anti-CD14 (clone M5E2), anti-CD16 (clone 3G8), and anti-SIRP (clone SE5A5) were purchased from BioLegend, except for allophycocyanin (APC)-anti-CD47 (clone B6H12; eBioscience), which was purchased from Invitrogen. Cells were analyzed with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) for dead-cell exclusion and then gated on single cells using FSC-a (forward scatter

area) by FSC-h (forward scatter height) and SSC-a (side scatter area) by SSC-h (side scatter height). Dendritic cells were defined as MHCII/HLA-DR^{hi} and CD11c^{hi}.

All human *in vitro* experiments were repeated in at least two independent experiments with a minimum of 4 biological replicates.

In vivo and in vitro stimulation of mouse cells. Female C57BL/6 RRID:IMSR_JAX:000664 (WT) mice were bred at the Stanford University Stem Cell Institute Barrier Facility (Stanford, CA) and used at between 8 and 12 weeks of age at the beginning of the experiments. For R848 *in vivo* analysis, 10 naive mice were injected intraperitoneally with either 1 mg/kg of body weight of R848 or PBS, all at a volume of 0.1 ml, for three consecutive days. On day 3 after the first treatment, splenocytes were isolated. Spleens were dissociated by collagenase treatment in the presence of DNase I and mechanical dissociation to obtain a single-cell suspension of splenocytes. Red blood cells were removed using ACK lysis buffer (Gibco), and the remaining splenocytes were seeded at a density of 1×10^6 splenocytes/well in a 96-well U-bottom low-adherence plate. Cells were then stained for the macrophage and DC markers CD11b, MHCII, and CD11c, as well as SIRP α and CD47, with DAPI for live/dead exclusion. For *in vitro* stimulation, splenocytes were isolated from naive mice as described above and then stimulated with either 1 μ g/ml CL264-rhodamine (InvivoGen) overnight or 1 μ g/ml poly(I:C)-rhodamine (InvivoGen) complexed with Lipofectamine 2000 for 1 h or left unstimulated. Cells were collected at 24 h poststimulation for analysis by flow cytometry. Antibodies for flow cytometry were purchased from BioLegend or BD Biosciences.

M. tuberculosis infections. *M. tuberculosis* infections were done in C57BL/6 mice or CD47 KO RRID:IMSR_JAX:003173 (CD47 KO) mice that were bred at NIAID facilities. For infections with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv (100 to 200 CFU), 8- to 12-week-old male and female mice were placed in a whole-body inhalation system (Glas-Col, Terre Haute, IN) and exposed to aerosolized *M. tuberculosis*. Delivery doses were set by measuring lung CFU at 2 to 24 h postexposure from three to five control mice through mechanical homogenization using Precellys Evolution (Precellys, Atkinson, NH). Lung homogenates were then serially diluted in PBS-Tween 20 and cultured on Middlebrook 7H11 agar plates supplemented with oleic acid-albumin-dextrose-catalase (Difco, Detroit, MI), and CFU were counted 21 days later.

Cell isolation from M. tuberculosis-infected lung tissue and flow cytometry. Lungs were digested and dissociated using gentle magnetically activated cell sorting (MACS) and lung cell isolation buffer (Miltenyi Biotec). The digested lung was passed through a 100-mm cell strainer, and an aliquot was removed for the determination of CFU. Cells were washed and purified with 37% Percoll. Cells for sorting were washed, counted, and subsequently surface stained in a biosafety level 3 (BSL3) containment area under sterile conditions. The following cell populations were sorted to 90 to 97% purity and plated for CFU counts: CD45.1⁺ (WT) or CD45.1⁻ (Il1r12/2) CD11b⁺, CD11b⁺ Gr1^{high} (neutrophils), and CD11b⁺ Gr1^{low} (myeloid). Abs against I-Ab (clone M5/114.15.2), Ly6G (clone 1A8), CD11c (clones HL3 and N418), CD45.1 (clone A20), CD45.2 (clone 104), T cell receptor β (TCR β) (clone H57-597), NK1.1 (clone PK136), CD11b (clone M1/70), CD45 (clone 30-F11), and Gr-1 (clones RB6 and 8C5) and live/dead fixable cell stains were obtained from eBioscience/Thermo Fisher Scientific, BioLegend, or BD Pharmingen. Samples were acquired on a 350 Symphony flow cytometer or sorted on a FACSAria instrument (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA) and analyzed using FlowJo software.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material is available online only.

FIG S1, PDF file, 0.5 MB.

FIG S2, PDF file, 0.4 MB.

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