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TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Immune response profiling of patients with spondyloarthritis reveals signalling networks mediating TNF-blocker function in vivo

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ABSTRACT

Objectives Antitumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy has revolutionised treatment of several chronic inflammatory diseases, including spondyloarthritis (SpA). However, TNF inhibitors (TNFi) are not effective in all patients and the biological basis for treatment failure remains unknown. We have analysed induced immune responses to define the mechanism of action of TNF blockers in SpA and to identify immunological correlates of responsiveness to TNFi.

Methods Immune responses to microbial and pathway-specific stimuli were analysed in peripheral blood samples from 80 patients with axial SpA before and after TNFi treatment, using highly standardised whole-blood stimulation assays. Cytokines and chemokines were measured in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory, and gene expression was monitored using nCounter assays.

Results Anti-TNF therapy induced profound changes in patients' innate immune responses. TNFi action was selective, and had only minor effects on Th1/Th17 immunity. Modular transcriptional repertoire analysis identified prostaglandin E₂ synthesis and signalling, leucocyte recirculation, macrophage polarisation, dectin and interleukin (IL)-1 signalling, as well as the nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) transcription factor family as key pathways targeted by TNF blockers in vivo. Analysis of induced immune responses before treatment initiation revealed that expression of molecules associated with leucocyte adhesion and invasion, chemotaxis and IL-1 signalling are correlated with therapeutic responses to anti-TNF.

Conclusions We show that TNFi target multiple immune cell pathways that cooperate to resolve inflammation. We propose that immune response profiling provides new insight into the biology of TNF-blocker action in patients and can identify signalling pathways associated with therapeutic responses to biological therapies.

INTRODUCTION

Chronic inflammatory diseases (CID) are challenging illnesses that often strike at a young age

Key messages**What is already known about this subject?**

► Antitumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy has revolutionised treatment of many chronic inflammatory diseases, including spondyloarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. However, TNF inhibitors (TNFi) are not effective in 30%–40% of patients. The immunosuppressive effects of TNF blockers therefore expose a substantial fraction of patients to side-effects, in particular infections, without clinical benefit. Despite the extensive use of TNFi for many years, the biological basis for treatment failure remains unknown.

What did this study add?

► We demonstrate that anti-TNF therapy induces profound changes in patients' innate immune responses, but does not affect Th1/Th17 immunity.

► Modular transcriptional repertoire analysis showed that prostaglandin E₂ synthesis and signalling, leucocyte recirculation, macrophage polarisation, dectin and interleukin (IL)-1 signalling, as well as the NF-κB transcription factor family are key pathways targeted by TNF blockers in vivo.

► To investigate the concept that the immune status of patients before treatment initiation will define their response to TNFi treatment, we have searched for immunological transcripts that correlate with clinical efficacy of TNF blockers in stimulated immune cells. We found that high expression of molecules associated with leucocyte adhesion and invasion, chemotaxis and IL-1 signalling is correlated with favourable outcome of anti-TNF therapy.

and cause lifelong morbidity, representing a considerable burden for the affected individuals and for society. Spondyloarthritis (SpA) is a family of related inflammatory disorders with common pathological



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Key messages

How might this study impact on clinical practice or future developments?

- We have established a robust pipeline to monitor immune responses in patients that can be translated into a clinical setting. We show that immune response profiling can identify signalling pathways associated with therapeutic responses to TNFi. Further studies will assess whether this approach can be used to develop molecular biomarkers to help stratify patients to the most appropriate therapy.

and genetic features.^{1–3} Clinical manifestations include spinal (axial) inflammation, peripheral arthritis, enthesitis and extra-articular features such as uveitis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel disease.⁴

Antitumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy has proven effective to reduce inflammation and clinical symptoms in SpA; however, little is known about how TNF inhibitors (TNFi) affect immune responses in patients, and TNFi have been associated with infectious complications,⁵ including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* reactivation.^{6–8}

Furthermore, the high rate of non-responsiveness (30%–40%) to TNFi exposes a substantial fraction of patients to side effects without clinical benefit, and it is still not possible to determine which patients will respond to TNFi before treatment initiation.^{9–11} The recent introduction of antibodies-blocking interleukin (IL)-17A has expanded the therapeutic options for axial SpA (axSpA), as well as psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.^{12–13} It is therefore important to develop tools to guide treatment decisions for patients affected by SpA and other CID, to optimise clinical care and contain healthcare costs.

Here, we investigated the global impact of TNFi on immune responses to microbial or pathway-specific stimuli, with the goal to enhance our understanding of the molecular mechanism of action of TNF blockers in patients with SpA and to identify immunological correlates of responsiveness to TNFi.

METHODS

Patients

Peripheral blood samples were obtained from 80 biologic-naïve patients fulfilling Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) criteria for axSpA,^{14–15} attending the Rheumatology Departments of Cochin or Saint-Antoine Hospitals (Paris, France). A written informed consent has been obtained from each subject.

Patients' demographics, HLA-B27 status, information regarding symptoms, ongoing treatments, comorbidities and other main clinical features of SpA were recorded on a Case Record Form before and 3 months (D90) after initiation of anti-TNF therapy (see table 1 and online supplemental table 1).

Primary responsiveness to anti-TNF therapy was based on the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS).¹⁶ The 'improvement score' was calculated as: ASDAS at baseline (D0)—ASDAS at D90. Patients achieving a delta ASDAS <1.1 were classified as non-responders.¹⁶

Whole-Blood TruCulture Stimulation was performed with TruCulture assays (Myriad RBM, Texas).¹⁷ Multianalyte profiling of culture supernatants was performed with Luminex xMAP technology (Myriad-RBM, Austin, Texas, USA), gene expression analysis with nCounter Technology (NanoString), with the Human Immunology v2 Gene Expression CodeSet.^{18–19}

Table 1 Clinical characteristics of the 80 patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) included in the study

Characteristic	SpA (n=80)
Female n (%)	25 (31%)
Median (IQR) age at sampling (years)	37 (19–64)
Median (IQR) disease duration (years)	2 (0–33)
HLA-B27 positive n (%)	63 (79%)
Current smokers n (%)	40 (50%)
Median (IQR) C reactive protein (CRP) (mg/L) at baseline	6.06 (0.09–62)
Median (IQR) BASDAI at baseline	49.80 (9.40–90)
Median (IQR) ASDAS at baseline	3.05 (1.13–4.79)
Axial involvement n (%)	80 (100%)
Axial and enthesial involvement n (%)	38 (47.5%)
Radiological sacroiliitis n (%)	48 (60%)
MRI sacroiliitis n (%)	63 (79%)
TNF blocker	
Soluble TNF receptor etanercept n (%)	53 (66.25%)
Monoclonal antibody adalimumab n (%)	13 (16.25%)
Monoclonal antibody golimumab n (%)	13 (16.25%)
Monoclonal antibody infliximab n (%)	1 (1.25%)
Extra-articular manifestations	
Psoriasis n (%)	16 (20%)
Uveitis n (%)	26 (33%)
IBD (%)	3 (4%)
Response at D90	
Median (IQR) CRP (mg/L) at D90	1.95 (0–51.80)
Median (IQR) BASDAI at D90	23.50 (0–78)
Median (IQR) ASDAS at D90	1.44 (0.64–3.45)
Patients with major ASDAS improvement n (%)	20 (25%)
Patients with clinically important improvement ASDAS n (%)	30 (37.5%)
Non-responder ASDAS n (%)	30 (37.5%)
Non-responder ASDAS treated with etanercept n (%)	22 (73.33%) (41.5%)†
Non-responder ASDAS treated with adalimumab n (%)	5 (16.67%) (38.5%)†
Non-responder ASDAS treated with golimumab n (%)	3 (10%) (23.1%)†
Non-responder ASDAS treated with infliximab n (%)	0 (0%)
Non-responder BASDAIS n (%)	52 (65%)

Median and IQR or percentages are shown.

*Percentage of total non-responders.

†Percentage of patients treated with the indicated drug.

ASDAS, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score; BASDAI, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; TNF, tumour necrosis factor.

Purification of monocytes and in vitro cell stimulation

To generate in vitro derived macrophages, monocytes were isolated from healthy donors and cultured with macrophage colony-stimulating factor (M-CSF) in the presence or absence of TNFi. Cells were polarised towards M1 with LPS (20 ng/mL, Invivogen) and interferon (IFN)- γ (20 ng/mL, Milteny), or towards M2 with IL-4 and IL-13 (20 ng/mL, Milteny).

Data analysis

Quantitative set analysis of gene expression was performed using the R QuSage package.²⁰ Differential gene expression was analysed using the LIMMA package²¹; principal component analysis and hierarchical clustering were performed with Qlucore Omics Explorer (Qlucore).

Methods are described in detail in the online supplementary material.

RESULTS

TNFi affect immune responses to microbes and stimuli targeting specific immune receptors

We analysed immune responses in patients with axSpA with indications for TNFi treatment (table 1), using whole blood

(‘TruCulture’) assays¹⁷ (figure 1A). We stimulated blood samples from 12 patients with a range of microbial stimuli or signalling agonists, and we measured the levels of 31 secreted molecules (online supplemental tables 3 and 4, online supplemental figure 1A). Three months (D90) after TNFi initiation, the induction of many proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines (such as macrophage inflammatory protein-1beta (MIP-1β), IL-1Ra and IL-8) was reduced in response to various stimuli, indicating that TNFi target intracellular pathways shared by a broad range of immune activators (figure 1B). In contrast, TNFi had no major effects on IL-6, IFN-γ and IL-17 (online supplemental figure 1D), although the Th17 pathway is suggested to be of key importance in SpA pathophysiology.²²

Only few secreted proteins increased after TNFi therapy. Among these was IL-10 following stimulation with gardiquimod (figure 1B), a selective ligand for TLR7.

These results show that TNFi induce selective changes in patients’ immune responses, mostly detected in the challenged immune system, and not in the resting state (online supplemental figure 1D).

The effects of TNFi are detected after a single injection and remain stable over time

To determine the early effects of TNFi, we analysed 17 consecutive patients with axSpA 7 days after initiation of TNFi therapy (online supplemental figure 1B). Secretion of proinflammatory mediators was already affected after a single TNFi injection (figure 1C, D and G) and over a broad range of stimuli (online supplemental figure 2A). Production of IL-6, IL-17 and IFN-γ was largely unaffected (figure 1E,F).

The reduction in proinflammatory mediators was maintained at D90 (online supplemental figure 2B,C), demonstrating that the effects of TNFi on immune responses remain stable over time.

TNF blockers affect key transcriptional networks of innate immune responses

To gain insight into the mechanisms by which TNFi affect immune responses, we analysed the expression of immune-related genes before and at D7 and D90 after TNFi treatment. TNF blockade profoundly altered the transcription of a large number of genes (figure 2A).

The majority of genes differentially expressed after therapy were shared by different stimulation conditions, revealing a ‘core immune response signature’ targeted by TNFi (figure 2B), which included NF-κB genes, such as *NFKB1*, *RELA*, *NFKB2* and *RELB*, and NF-κB targets, such as *IL1A*, *IL1B* and *CCL20* (figure 2C and D, online supplemental figure 3A,B). In particular, TNFi strongly downmodulated expression of *PTGS2*, encoding cyclooxygenase (COX-2), the key enzyme in prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) biosynthesis and *PTGER4* encoding the PGE₂ receptor EP4 (figure 2D). TNFi-induced downmodulation of *PTGS2* and *PTGER4* did not depend on the NSAID index at baseline (online supplemental figure 4). Consistent with our analysis of secreted proteins (figure 1D), *IL17A*, *IFNG* and *IL6* were largely unaffected (online supplemental figure 3A).

The analysis of patients stratified into responders and non-responders showed that the majority of differentially expressed genes are common to both groups, although a number of genes are uniquely affected in each patient subset (online supplemental table 6 and online supplemental figures 5 and 6).

The effects of TNFi also on gene expression could be measured after a single injection and remained stable over time (online supplemental figure 7A).

To determine if changes in cell populations accounted for these effects, we analysed cell counts at D0 and D90. While leucocyte and monocyte counts remained stable, we observed a modest decrease of neutrophils and increase of lymphocyte counts after TNFi therapy (online supplemental figure 7B).

Modular transcriptional repertoire analysis reveals multiple mechanisms of TNFi action in vivo

The observation that TNFi affected several molecules in the same signalling pathway prompted us to further define the effects of TNFi on immune networks. We compared immune responses at D0 and D7 using Quantitative Set Analysis for Gene Expression (QuSAGE)²⁰ (online supplemental table 5). The modules ‘NF-κB transcription factors’ and ‘NF-κB target genes’ were among those most strongly downregulated by TNFi (figure 3A–C and online supplemental table 7), followed by the ‘IL-1/IL-1R’ module (figure 3A,B). Inspection of the individual genes in this module showed downregulation of *IL1A*, *IL1B*, *IRAK2*, *IL1R1* and *IL1RN*, as well as a substantial increase of *SIGIRR*, after TNF blockade (figure 3D).

TNFi therapy also reduced the activity of the ‘dectin’ module (figure 3A,B and online supplemental figure 8A), which groups C-type lectin receptors (CLRs) for *Candida albicans* and other fungi such as Dectin-2 (encoded by *CLEC6A*), or Mincle (encoded by *CLEC4E*) and associated signalling molecules, such as *CARD9*, a molecule involved in antifungal immunity that mediates signals from CLRs to the NF-κB pathway via *BCL10*.²³

While gene set activities for most gene modules were reduced by TNFi, we observed increased activity at D7 of the ‘cytotoxic molecules’ module and of the ‘M2-like monocytes’ gene module, while the overall activity of the module ‘M1-like monocytes’ was reduced after TNFi, indicating that TNF blockers may affect monocyte/macrophage polarisation (figure 3).

In particular, we observed an upregulation of the genes encoding surface markers characteristic of regulatory macrophages, such as the mannose receptor *MRC1*, the scavenger receptors *MSR1* and *CD163*, the decoy receptor *IL1R2*, and of *IL10* (figure 3G and online supplemental figure 8B).

Analogous results were obtained at D90 after initiation of TNFi (online supplemental figure 8C), indicating the multiple immune pathways that mediate TNFi function in patients with SpA.

Many of the genes affected by TNFi are expressed in monocytes and macrophages, which prompted us to investigate the roles of these cells in the response to TNFi. We stimulated monocytes from patients with SpA with LPS in the presence or absence of etanercept (Eta), and measured transcript levels before and at different time points after stimulation (online supplemental figure 9). Several of the genes downregulated by etanercept were direct NF-κB target genes, such as *NFKBIA*, *TNFAIP3*, *TNFAIP6* or *IL1A* (online supplemental figure 9).

TNFi skew macrophage polarisation towards an M2 phenotype in vitro

We then asked whether TNFi affect also macrophage gene expression. As the analysis of tissues is rarely performed in axSpA,²⁴ we investigated the effects of two TNFi, etanercept and adalimumab, on in vitro differentiated macrophages (figure 4A). Although the effects of adalimumab on gene expression were stronger in our system, a core of 56 genes was regulated by both TNFi (figure 4B–E).

We noted strong downregulation of M1-macrophages genes such as *IL18* (figure 4C, D and E), while expression of genes

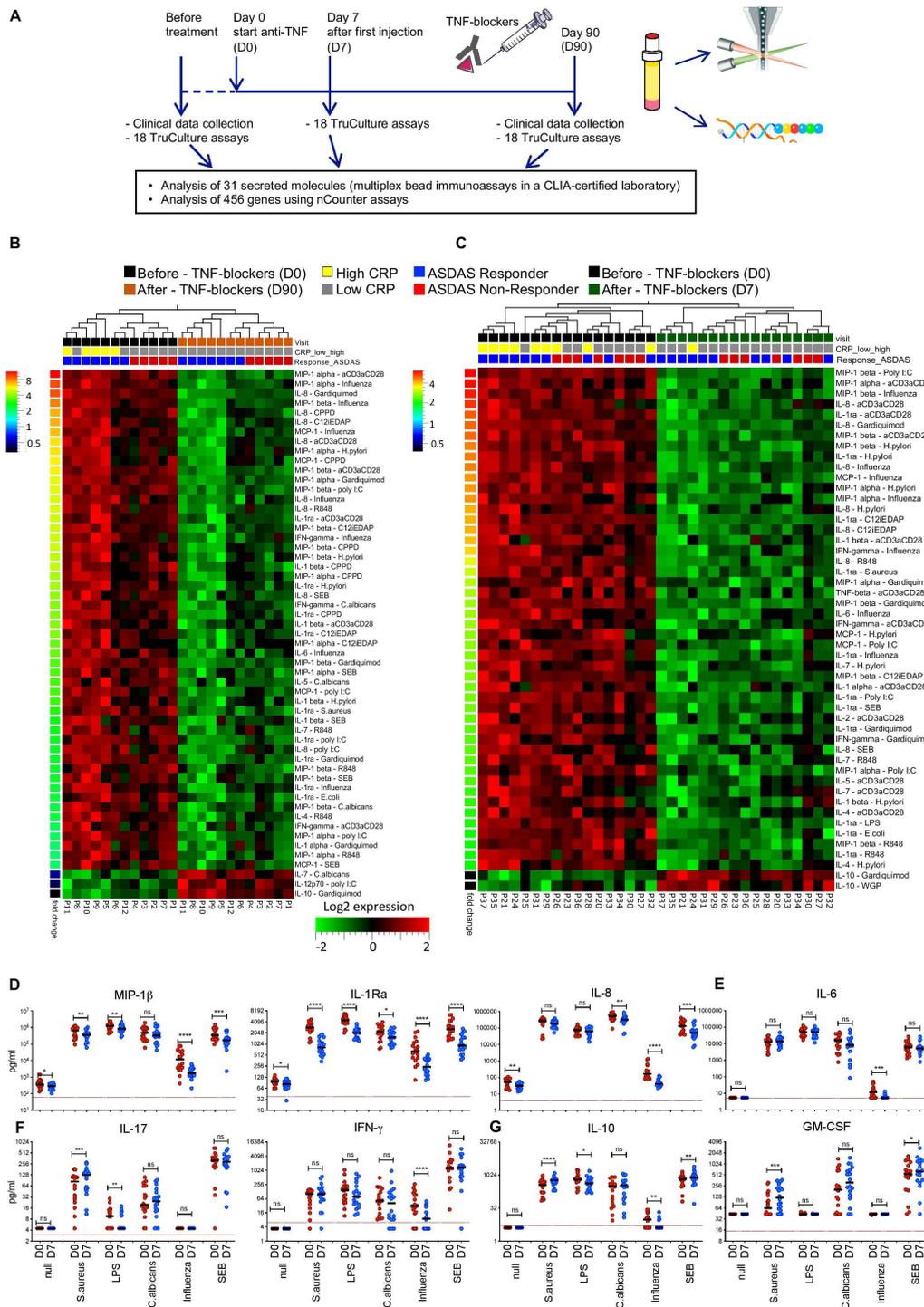


Figure 1 An immunological signature of antitumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy. (A) Study design. Blood samples were collected from patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) prior to (D0), 7 days (D7, for a subset of patients), and 3 months (D90) after beginning TNF inhibitors (TNFi) treatment. Clinical efficacy was monitored at D90 according to the current standard of care. (B) The levels of 31 secreted molecules in response to 18 different immune stimuli were compared in samples from 12 patients at D0 (black rectangles) and D90 (orange rectangles). Patients with C reactive protein (CRP) levels >6 mg/L are marked with yellow rectangles, while CRP levels <6 mg/L are indicated with grey rectangles. Patients responding to anti-TNF therapy (delta ASDAS ≥ 1.1) are marked in blue and non-responders (delta ASDAS <1.1) are marked in red. The heatmap shows the levels of differentially secreted proteins (paired t-test, FDR ≤ 0.05 , fold-change ≥ 2 , red indicates higher and green lower levels of protein secretion). Analyte-stimulus combinations were ranked by decreasing fold change (color-code bar, top left); patient IDs are indicated below the heatmaps. (C) The same analysis as in (B) was performed for additional 17 patients with axSpA, sampled at D0 (blue rectangles) and D7 (green rectangles). (D–G) Levels of proteins identified in (C), for 5 representative stimuli and the unstimulated (null) condition, in 17 patients with axSpA at D0 (red) and D7 (blue). Red lines indicate the least detectable dose (LDD) for each assay. P values were calculated using a Wilcoxon matched-pairs test (patients with SpA D0 vs D7): *, p<0.05; **, p<0.01; ***, p<0.001; ****, p<0.0001; ns, not significant. Horizontal black bars indicate the median. Y-axes are log₁₀ or log₂ scales. ASDAS, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score; IFN, interferon; IL, interleukin.

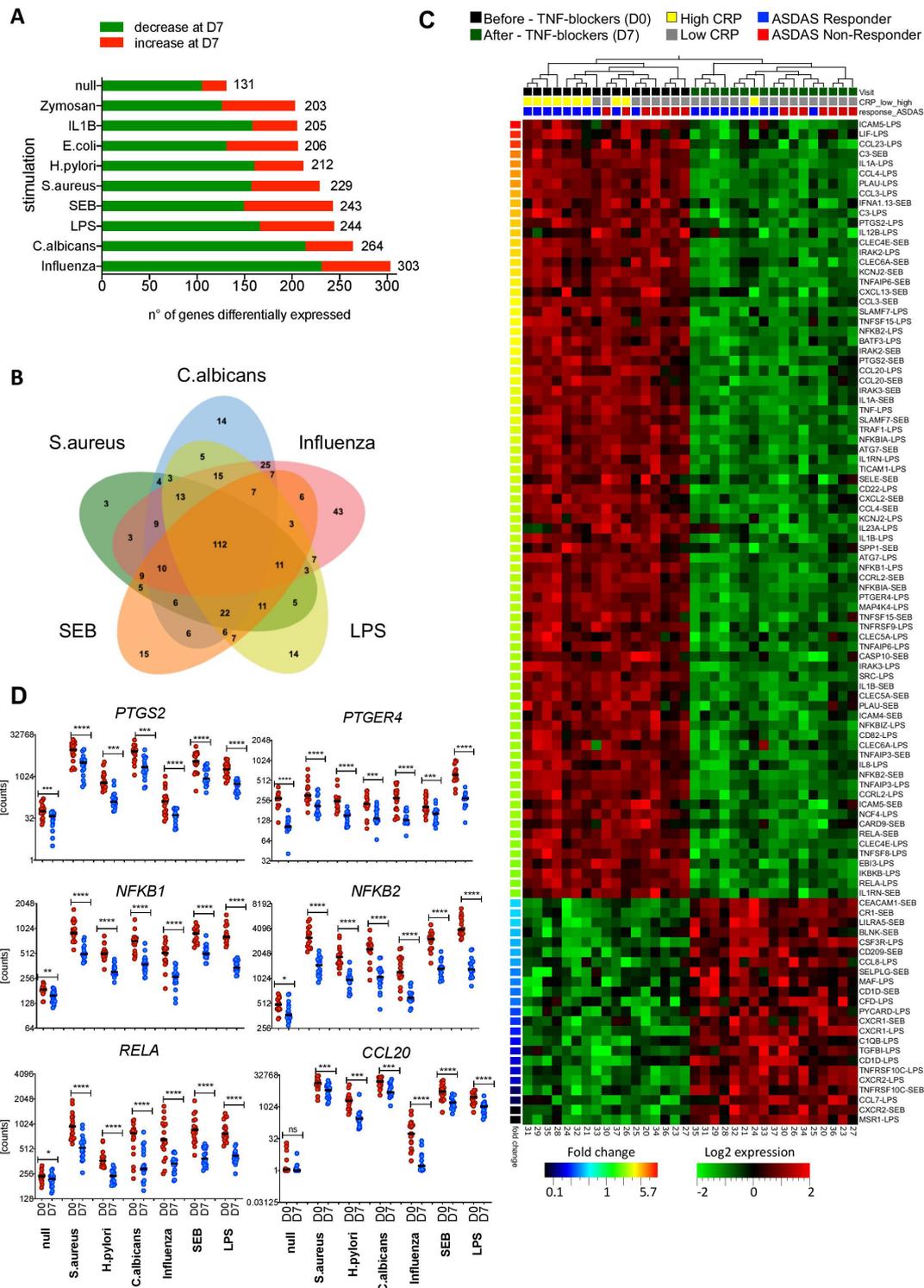


Figure 2 Tumour necrosis factor (TNF) blockers strongly affect key transcriptional networks of innate immune responses. (A) Number of genes differentially expressed in 10 different TruCulture stimulation assays performed at D0 and D7 (17 patients, paired t-test, false discovery rate (FDR) \leq 0.05). (B) Venn diagram of the genes differentially expressed as in (A), in five representative stimulation conditions. (C) Heatmap showing the genes most affected by TNF inhibitors (TNFi; D0, black rectangles vs D7, green) in lipopolysaccharides (LPS) and staphylococcal enterotoxin (SEB) stimulation conditions. Patients with C reactive protein (CRP) levels >6 mg/L are marked with yellow rectangles, while CRP levels <6 mg/L are indicated with grey rectangles. Patients responding to anti-TNF therapy (delta Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) ≥ 1.1) at M3 are marked in blue and non-responders (delta ASDAS <1.1) are marked in red. Paired t-test, FDR \leq 0.005 and fold-difference threshold of ≥ 2 . Gene-stimulus combinations were ranked by decreasing fold change (colour code bottom left bar). (D) Expression levels of *PTGS2*, *PTGER4*, NF- κ B family members, and *CCL20* for the unstimulated TruCulture assay and five representative stimuli at D0 (red) and D7 (blue) after initiation of TNFi therapy. P values were determined using a Wilcoxon matched-pairs test (D0 vs D7, *: $p < 0.05$; **: $p < 0.01$; ***: $p < 0.001$; ****: $p < 0.0001$; ns, not significant, $n=17$). Horizontal black bars indicate the median.

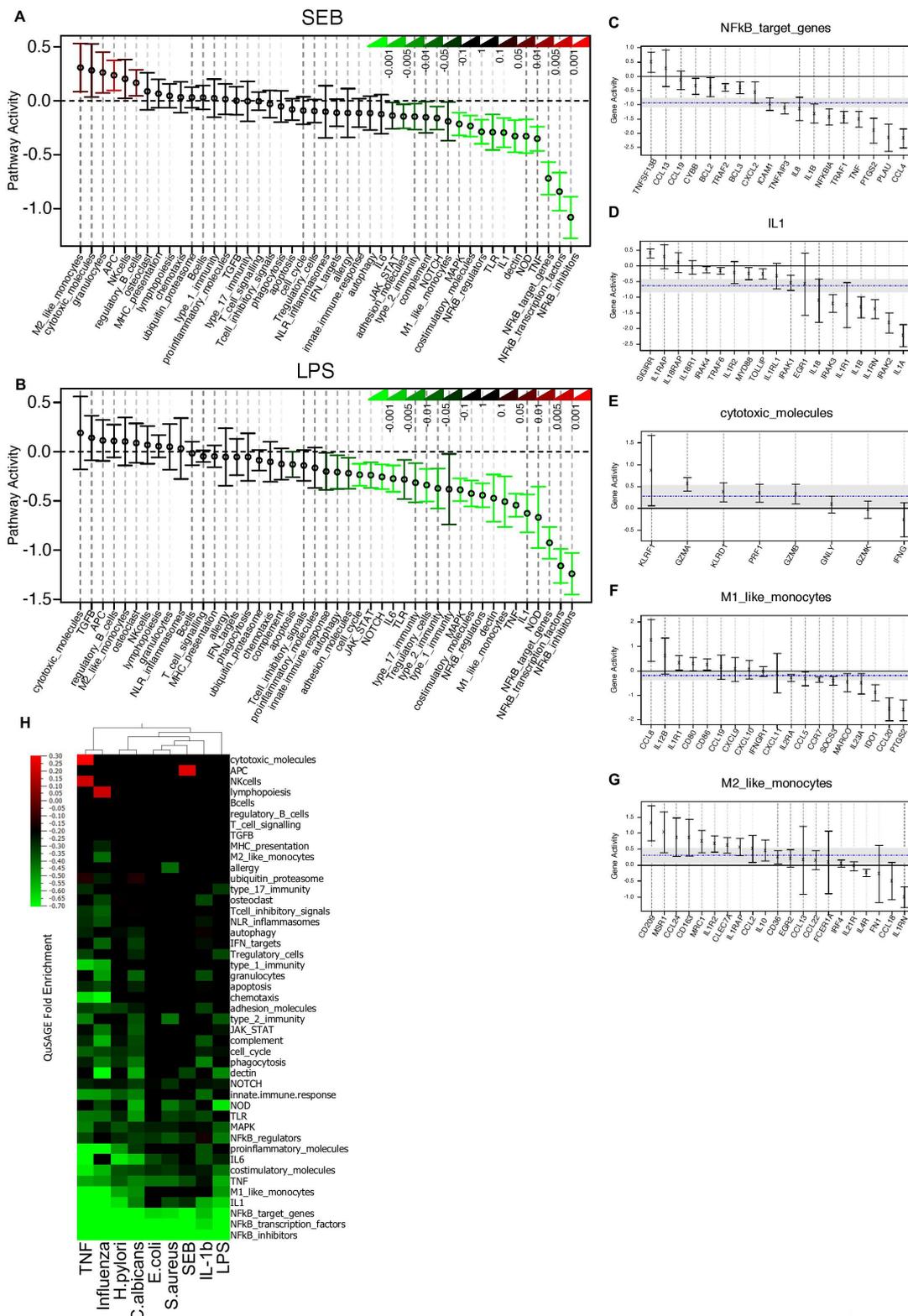


Figure 3 Modular transcriptional repertoire analysis reveals multiple mechanisms of tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-blocker action in spondyloarthritis (SpA). (A, B) Effect of anti-TNF therapy on the activity of 45 gene modules (online supplemental table 5) generated from 456 immune-related genes. Whole-blood cultures were stimulated with SEB (A) or LPS (B). For each gene module, the mean activity fold change and 95% CI are plotted and colour coded according to their FDR-corrected p values (means compared with fold-change zero). CIs overlapping the horizontal dotted line indicate statistically significant increased or decreased module activity at D7 as compared with D0. (C–G) Detailed gene activity in five representative modules with decreased (C, D, E, LPS stimulation) or increased (F, G, SEB stimulation) pathway activity after anti-TNF therapy. The cultures were stimulated with LPS and SEB, respectively. Represented are the mean fold change and 95% CI for individual genes in each module. The horizontal dashed blue line and the grey band indicate the mean differential expression of all genes in the module at D7 versus D0, and the 95% CI. (H) QuSAGE fold enrichment of gene set activity in nine different stimulated cultures at D7 versus D0. For each module, the mean fold change is color coded to indicate increased (red) or decreased (green) module activity. Only changes reaching a significance threshold of $FDR \leq 0.01$ are represented. IFN, interferon; IL, interleukin.

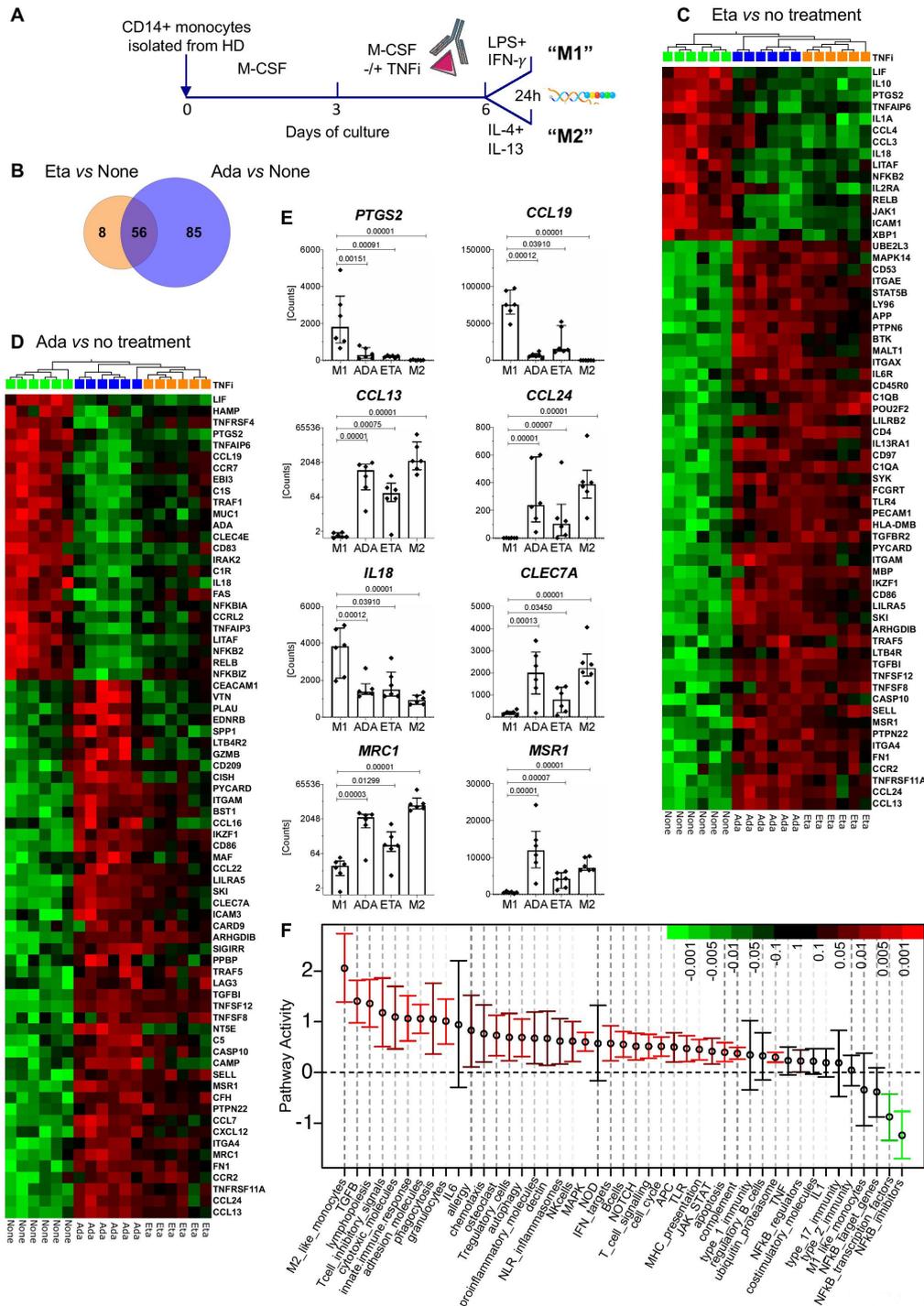


Figure 4 TNF inhibitors (TNFi) have largely overlapping effects on in vitro differentiated M1-type macrophages. (A) Study design. CD14+ cells isolated from healthy donors were differentiated in vitro into macrophages in the presence or absence of etanercept (Eta) or adalimumab (Ada). TNFi were added at day 3 and macrophages were polarised to the M1 subset in the presence or absence of Eta or Ada. Gene expression was analysed with the nCounter Human Immunology v2 panel and with LIMMA (paired sample adjusted p value threshold 0.01). (B) Venn diagram showing the overlap of genes affected by Eta or Ada. Analysis of paired samples with LIMMA, adjusted p value threshold 0.01. (C, D) Heatmaps showing the genes most affected by Eta (orange rectangles) versus no treatment (green rectangles) (C) and Ada (blue rectangles) versus no treatment (D) in macrophages stimulated for 24 hours with LPS and interferon (IFN)- γ ('M1' polarisation). (C) Paired t-test, Eta versus no treatment, adjusted p value threshold 0.01. Included are also gene expression levels for Ada-treated samples for the same genes. (D) Paired t-test, Ada versus no treatment and fold-change threshold of ≥ 2 . Included are also gene expression levels for Eta-treated samples for the same genes. Samples were ordered by hierarchical clustering and genes were ranked by decreasing fold change. (E) Shown are the mRNA levels of eight selected genes from (C) and (D) in untreated M1-polarised macrophages (M1), M1 macrophages treated with Ada, M1 macrophages treated with Eta or untreated M2-polarised macrophages (M2). Symbols represent individual data points, boxes the median and whiskers the IQR. Adjusted p values are those of the LIMMA analysis. (F) Effect of Ada on the activity of 45 gene modules (online supplemental table 5) as in figure 3. For each gene module, the mean activity fold change and 95% CI are plotted and color coded according to their FDR-corrected p values compared with zero. Red and green bars indicate statistically significant increased or decreased module activity, respectively, in M1 polarised macrophages treated with Ada versus no treatment.

associated with M2 macrophages, such *MRC1*, *MSR1* and *CLEC7A* was significantly increased (figure 4E).

TNFi also strongly downmodulated *PTGS2* expression in stimulated M1 macrophages (figure 4E), and affected the mRNA levels of chemokines and their receptors: the expression of *CCL19*, *CCL4* and *CCL3* was downregulated, while *CCL13* and *CCL24* were upregulated by TNFi (figure 4C, D and E). These data are consistent with our results for TNFi treatment in vivo and suggest that TNFi may affect leucocyte recruitment to inflamed joints.

Finally, we confirmed a significant downregulation of NF-κB pathway genes (figure 4C, D and F). These data further support the notion that TNFi affect immune responses by acting on multiple inflammatory pathways and that phagocytic cells are important targets of these effects (figure 4F).

Immune gene expression associated with therapeutic responses to anti-TNF therapy

Finally, we investigated the correlation between therapeutic responses to TNFi and stimulated immune responses in 80 patients with axSpA, before initiation of anti-TNF therapy. Response to therapy was calculated as the delta ASDAS ‘improvement score’ (ASDAS D0—ASDAS D90).^{16 25} Fifty patients (62.5%) had either a major or a clinically important improvement (‘responders’, delta ASDAS ≥ 1.1), while 30 (37.5%) were non-responders (table 1 and online supplemental table 1). The analysis of whole-blood cultures stimulated with LPS or SEB revealed that 55 genes were differentially expressed between responders and non-responders (table 2 and figure 5A).

To explore if different types of anti-TNF drugs could have an impact on therapeutic responses to TNFi, we compared differential gene expression between responders and non-responders treated with soluble TNFR2 (n=53) to those treated with monoclonal antibodies (n=27). We found a good correlation (R=0.901) for the 55 genes differentially expressed. These data indicate that the type of TNF blockers does not have a major effect on the genes significantly associated with therapeutic responses before treatment (online supplemental figure 10B).

A search of the DICE database²⁶ showed expression of these genes in different immune cells, including activated T cells, Treg, Th17 and NK cells (figure 5B). Notably, 29 of the genes were expressed specifically in resting classical or non-classical monocytes (figure 5B). These data suggest that several immune cell populations contribute to determine the efficacy of anti-TNF therapy in patients with SpA.

Among the 55 differentially expressed genes, 15 regulate key steps of leucocyte migration and invasion: these include *PLAU* and *PLAUR*, the integrin subunits *ITGB1*, *ITGA5*, *ITGAX*, and *ITGA6*, and the CD2 ligand *CD58* (figure 5B,C and table 2). The importance of leucocyte recirculation as a determinant of therapeutic responses to TNFi is supported by the observation that several genes encoding chemokines and their receptors, such as *CCL20*, *IL8*, *CXCL1*, *CXCL2* and *CXCR1* are expressed at higher levels in cultures from patients with SpA responding to TNFi than in non-responders, while *CXCL9* is expressed at higher levels in non-responders (figure 5B–C, table 2 and online supplemental figure 10). Expression of the receptors for the pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF (*TNFRSF1B*), IL-6 (*IL6R*) and IL-1 (*IL1R1*, *IL1R2* and *IL1RAP*) was also substantially higher in responders than in non-responders, as was expression of the IL-1R-associated kinases *IRAK1* and *IRAK3*, and of *NLRP3*, which controls caspase-1-dependent processing of pro-IL-1β and IL-18. These data indicate that the activation status of the

Table 2 Genes differentially expressed between responders and non-responders to TNFi

Gene ID	Log fold-change (R/NR)	P value (R/NR)	Adjusted P value (R/NR)
<i>PLAUR_LPS</i>	0.4816	2.86E-06	0.0023
<i>ITGB1_LPS</i>	0.2860	5.29E-06	0.0023
<i>CD14_LPS</i>	0.5704	1.78E-05	0.0041
<i>CCL20_LPS</i>	0.6264	2.04E-05	0.0041
<i>IL1R1_LPS</i>	0.7803	2.48E-05	0.0041
<i>IRAK1_LPS</i>	0.2964	3.41E-05	0.0041
<i>IRAK3_LPS</i>	0.3977	3.49E-05	0.0041
<i>CLECSA_LPS</i>	0.7180	3.8E-05	0.0041
<i>ITGA5_LPS</i>	0.2684	0.0001	0.0066
<i>LTB4R_LPS</i>	0.5985	0.0001	0.0069
<i>LTA_LPS</i>	-0.3366	0.0001	0.0074
<i>BST1_LPS</i>	0.5186	0.0001	0.0077
<i>IL1RAP_LPS</i>	0.4707	0.0001	0.0083
<i>CD58_LPS</i>	0.2690	0.0001	0.0083
<i>CEBPB_LPS</i>	0.2989	0.0001	0.0083
<i>IL8_LPS</i>	0.5694	0.0002	0.0083
<i>IFNGR1_LPS</i>	0.3022	0.0002	0.0097
<i>IL1R2_LPS</i>	0.4411	0.0003	0.0121
<i>CXCL9_LPS</i>	-2.0206	0.0003	0.0121
<i>TNFRSF1B_LPS</i>	0.3157	0.0003	0.0121
<i>IL6R_LPS</i>	0.3360	0.0003	0.0121
<i>NLRP3_LPS</i>	0.3896	0.0003	0.0121
<i>CTNNB1_LPS</i>	0.1495	0.0003	0.0121
<i>FCGRT_LPS</i>	0.3159	0.0003	0.0121
<i>ITGAX_LPS</i>	0.3600	0.0003	0.0121
<i>IFNG_LPS</i>	-1.4398	0.0005	0.0180
<i>CXCL1_LPS</i>	0.4515	0.0006	0.0180
<i>FCGR2A_LPS</i>	0.2634	0.0006	0.0180
<i>ITGA6_SEB</i>	-0.2569	0.0006	0.0180
<i>PRKCD_LPS</i>	0.3330	0.0006	0.0187
<i>ZEB1_LPS</i>	0.3487	0.0007	0.0201
<i>CLEC7A_LPS</i>	0.3795	0.0007	0.0201
<i>PECAM1_LPS</i>	0.4050	0.0008	0.0218
<i>IRAK1_SEB</i>	0.1988	0.0009	0.0231
<i>APP_LPS</i>	0.1938	0.0010	0.0237
<i>FCER1G_LPS</i>	0.2902	0.0011	0.0255
<i>ICAM5_SEB</i>	0.5363	0.0011	0.0257
<i>IL8_SEB</i>	0.3880	0.0011	0.0257
<i>PLAUR_SEB</i>	0.3067	0.0012	0.0270
<i>IL7R_SEB</i>	-0.1991	0.0012	0.0270
<i>IGF2R_LPS</i>	0.2310	0.0013	0.0270
<i>IKZF3_LPS</i>	-0.1544	0.0013	0.0276
<i>TNFRSF8_LPS</i>	0.3647	0.0014	0.0276
<i>NFIL3_LPS</i>	0.2830	0.0015	0.0290
<i>LIF_LPS</i>	1.0229	0.0015	0.0292
<i>MBP_LPS</i>	0.2114	0.0016	0.0296
<i>TP53_LPS</i>	-0.1846	0.0016	0.0296
<i>CXCL2_LPS</i>	0.4914	0.0020	0.0371
<i>CXCR4_LPS</i>	0.2833	0.0022	0.0398
<i>ATG7_LPS</i>	0.2486	0.0024	0.0412
<i>CRADD_SEB</i>	0.3238	0.0025	0.0435
<i>PLAU_LPS</i>	0.4759	0.0027	0.0452
<i>SPP1_SEB</i>	0.4451	0.0028	0.0452
<i>SKI_LPS</i>	0.1760	0.0028	0.0452
<i>CXCR1_LPS</i>	0.6786	0.0029	0.0452
<i>TLR2_LPS</i>	0.2718	0.0031	0.0471
<i>MAP4K4_LPS</i>	0.2504	0.0031	0.0471
<i>DUSP4_LPS</i>	0.4570	0.0031	0.0471

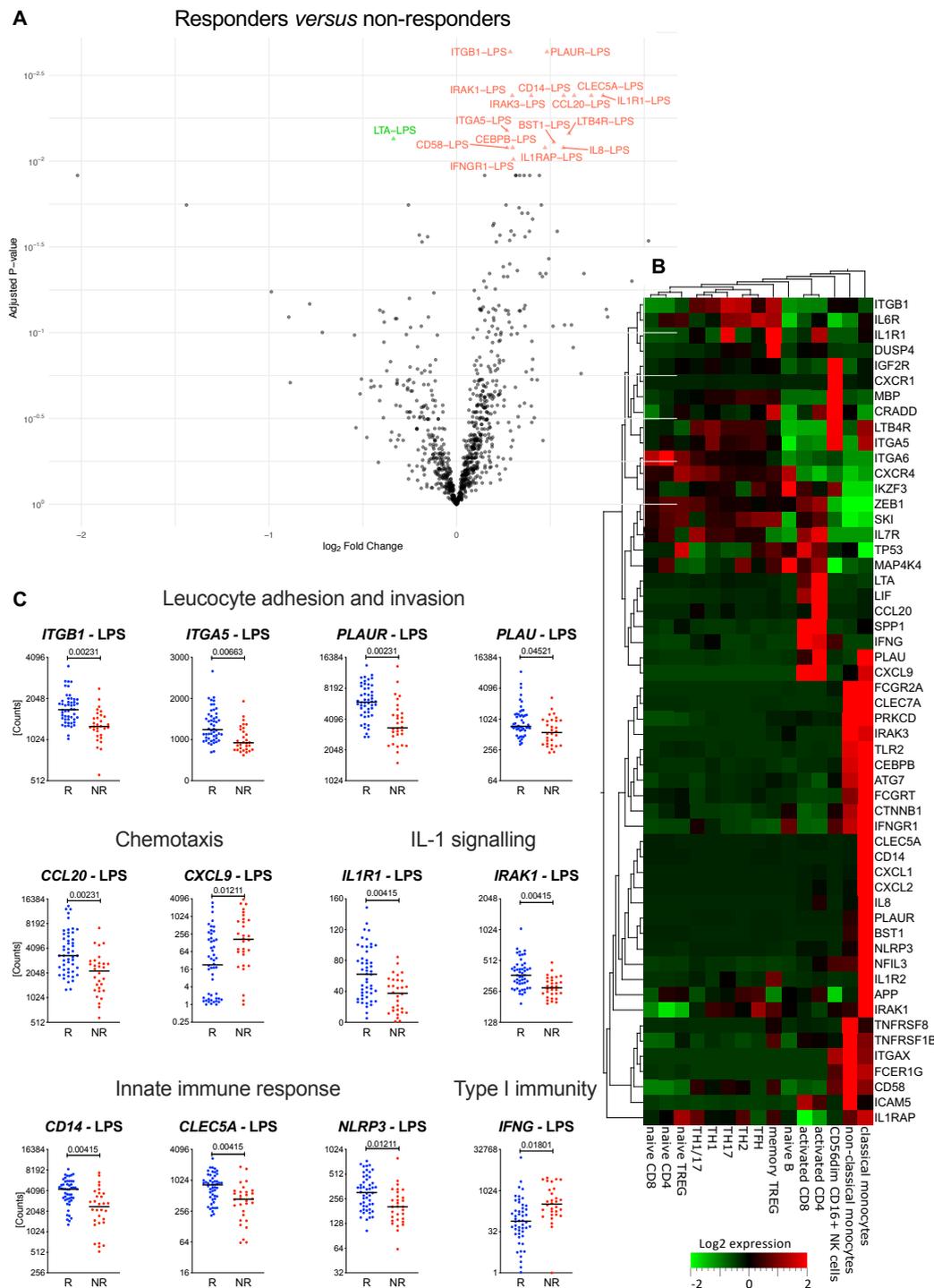


Figure 5 Immune gene expression associated with therapeutic responses to antitumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy. (A) Volcano plot representation of genes differentially expressed between 50 patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) responding to anti-TNF therapy and 30 non-responders in whole-blood cultures stimulated with LPS or SEB before initiation of therapy; red triangles: genes higher in responders; green triangle: higher in non-responders (LIMMA analysis, adjusted p value<0.05). Expression levels and fold-change values of the 58 gene-stimulus combinations (corresponding to 55 genes) that are the most differentially expressed between responders and non-responders are reported in table 2. (B) The heatmap shows the expression levels of the differentially expressed genes in different immune cell subpopulations. Gene expression data were extracted from the DICE database (<http://dice-database.org/>). (C) The expression levels of selected gene-stimulus combinations correlated with treatment response are plotted before treatment initiation (D0). Patients with major or clinically important improvement of disease activity were grouped together as responders and are represented in blue (R, blue, n=50). Non-responders are represented in red (NR, red, n=30). The horizontal black line represents the median. Statistical significance was tested using LIMMA analysis (responders vs non-responders) and adjusted p values are indicated above the graph. IL, interleukin.

IL-1 signalling pathway may influence responsiveness to TNFi. We also noted substantially higher expression in responders of *CLEC5A* (MDL-1, myeloid DAP12-associating lectin-1), an important mediator of autoimmune inflammation in experimental arthritis models²⁷ (figure 5C and table 2).

DISCUSSION

To investigate immune responses in patients with SpA, we have used highly standardised and robust assays that may be directly translated into a clinical setting. ‘TruCulture’ assays were designed to preserve physiological cellular interactions and capture immune cell activity without introducing sample collection and manipulation variables.²⁸ We chose to analyse responses in whole blood, because tissue biopsies cannot be performed routinely in axSpA.

Most of the effects of TNFi could be observed only in stimulated cultures, supporting the notion that TNFi act on activated immune cells, rather than in homeostatic conditions. This may explain the relatively modest changes in gene expression in response to TNFi detected in a recent study of unstimulated PBMCs from patients with axSpA.²⁹

Our modular transcriptional repertoire analysis of the stimulation cultures²⁰ established a hierarchy of signalling pathways affected by anti-TNF therapy, with potential clinical implications.

We found a strong decrease of proinflammatory molecules produced primarily by innate immune cells, pointing to the importance of these cells in SpA pathogenesis. The decreased activity of the NF- κ B module underlines the major role of these factors in mediating TNF-blocker functions. However, TNF blockade had only minor effects on the expression and secretion of IL-6, contrary to what observed in RA patients.³⁰ These data suggest that this cytokine may be more relevant to RA, but less to SpA pathogenesis, consistent with the limited therapeutic efficacy of IL-6-blockade in SpA.³¹

We observed downregulation of the classical, M1-like module and an increase of the non-classically activated, M2-like monocyte gene module activity, consistent with the finding that TNFi can expand a cell population with a M2 macrophage-like appearance *in vivo* and *in vitro*.^{32 33} Analysis of the effects of TNFi *in vitro* provided direct evidence that TNFi act directly on macrophage polarisation. These results are consistent with a previous study performed with *in vitro* differentiated macrophages from patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).³⁴ M2 macrophages, characterised by expression of IL-10, high levels of scavenger and mannose receptors, *IL1R2* and *IL1RN*, are implicated in the resolution of inflammation and orchestrate tissue repair and remodelling.^{35 36} Polarisation of monocytes/macrophages towards a M2-like profile may be an additional mechanism by which TNF blockers act on the immune system to regulate inflammatory responses³⁷ and could also explain the increased risk of opportunistic infections observed for patients treated with TNFi, in particular *M. tuberculosis*.³⁸

TNFi strongly downregulated expression of *PTGS2*, the key enzyme in prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) biosynthesis and target of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, the first-line treatment of SpA. PGE₂ is an important early mediator of enthesitis, the hallmark of SpA³⁹ and COX-2 inhibition may be an important mechanism of TNFi therapeutic action in this disease. PGE₂ induces vasodilation, which may facilitate neutrophil recruitment into the enthesial compartment.³⁹ We also found that expression of the PGE₂ receptor *PTGER4* (EP4) was downregulated by TNFi. Signalling through EP4 upregulates IL-23R expression promoting human Th17 cell development,⁴⁰ and

suppresses disease progression in an experimental mouse model of autoimmune encephalomyelitis.⁴¹ Of note, *PTGER4* has been associated with SpA susceptibility, as have been *NFKB1* and *CARD9*,⁴² also strongly downregulated by TNFi. Collectively, these data provide evidence that TNFi target the expression of genes closely linked to SpA pathogenesis.

Our findings suggest that TNFi target several immune cell pathways that cooperate to control inflammation. Targeting PGE₂ biosynthesis via *PTGS2* downregulation is of particular relevance for enthesitis, a critical early pathogenic feature of spondyloarthritis, while shifting the balance of macrophages from a proinflammatory phenotype to a proresolving phenotype is important for the resolution of synovitis. MDL-1/*CLEC5A* was among the most strongly downregulated molecule after TNFi therapy. Dengue virus-mediated activation of MDL-1/*CLEC5A* can trigger potent induction of TNF, IL-6 and IL-1 β and NLRP3 inflammasome activation and shock.^{43 44} MDL-1/*CLEC5A* is also expressed in synovial tissue from RA patients and MDL-1/*CLEC5A* blockade reduced tissue inflammation and bone erosion in experimental arthritis models.²⁷ Reduction of MDL-1/*CLEC5A* expression by TNFi may result in inhibition of bone erosion and inflammatory cytokine production in SpA.

The involvement of multiple pathways in TNF-blocker functions could also explain the difficulties in identifying a genetic marker for treatment response to TNFi.⁴⁵ We could not identify a single gene whose expression correlates with responsiveness to TNFi, but rather a set of genes. A limitation is that our study focused on a predefined panel with 594 genes. Genome-wide studies may be necessary to identify unique molecular biomarkers. Nevertheless, our data suggest that high expression of molecules associated with leucocyte invasion and migration as well as IL-1 signalling in stimulated immune cells predisposes to favourable outcome of anti-TNF therapy. Furthermore, this study was performed in patients from France and should be replicated in an independent cohort from different genetic and environmental backgrounds, to support the translational value of our findings.

In conclusion, we suggest that immune response profiling of patients is a powerful approach to define the mechanism of action of biological drugs and may be a useful strategy to establish objective criteria guiding treatment decisions.

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Correction notice This article has been corrected since it published Online First. The author's name has been corrected for Dr Millot and Prof Micelli-Richard.

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Contributors SM, EB and LR designed the study, analysed data, interpreted results and wrote the manuscript. SM, EL, EM, HY-C, DM, CL, NR and SK performed experiments. AG and SH-B-A analysed drug levels and antidrug antibodies in serum samples. SM, VG, VR, GM, EB and LR performed bioinformatics data analysis. DD provided data from the Milieu Intérieur cohort. JS and FB provided patient samples and clinical data. CM and MD had overall medical oversight, provided patient samples and clinical data, performed clinical data analysis and revised the manuscript. All authors approved the manuscript.

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Supplementary Material for:

Immune response profiling of spondyloarthritis patients reveals signaling networks mediating TNF-blocker function *in vivo*

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Supplementary Methods

Patients

Peripheral blood samples were obtained from 80 consecutive patients with a definitive diagnosis of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) attending the Rheumatology Department of Cochin Hospital or the Rheumatology Department of Saint-Antoine Hospital (Paris, France). This study fulfills the current Good Clinical Practice Guidelines and a clinical protocol to analyze peripheral blood from SpA patients before and after therapy with TNF-blockers has been accepted by ethical committees (Comité de Protection des Personnes Ile de France III; Référence CPP: n° AT-100) and Institut Pasteur (Projet de recherché clinique n° 2011-32). The project has been approved by the “comité consultatif sur le traitement de l’information en matière de recherche dans le domaine de la santé (CCTIRS, Référence DGRI CCTIRS MG/CP°2012.035), as well as the “Commission Nationale de l’Information et des Libertés” (CNIL; Project “du genotype à la physiopathologie dans les spondylarthropathies, analyse de l’axe IL-23/Th17 chez les patients traités par un anti-TNF”; Décision DR-2013-080). A written informed consent, in compliance with the applicable regulatory and ethical requirements, has been obtained from each subject. All patients met assessment of spondyloarthritis international society (ASAS) criteria for axSpA.[1, 2] Blood was collected from each participant at days 0, 7 and/or 90 after initiation of anti-TNF therapy.

Inclusion criteria

- Patients aged over 18 and under 65 years

- Compliance with criteria established by the “Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society” (ASAS, <http://www.asas-group.org/>)

Exclusion criteria:

- Other spinal disease clearly defined (e.g. discarthrosis);
- History of any biotherapy;
- It is possible to include patients that have received corticosteroid treatment, with the condition that the therapy is stable for at least 4 weeks at the moment of inclusion, and with a dose inferior to 10 mg prednisone.
- patient with active IBD or ongoing uveitis
- patients with psoriatic involvement more than 10% of the skin surface.
- Pregnancy
- History or current disorders which might interfere with the validity of the informed consent and/or prevent an optimal compliance of the patient to the cohort (e.g. alcoholism, psychological disorders).
- No affiliation with a social security scheme
- Person deprived of liberty by judicial or administrative decision, person subjected to a legal protection measure

The first 12 patients were recruited and analyzed during 2015. Recruitment of the subsequent patients was between 2016 and 2018. Patients’ demographics, HLA-B27 status, information regarding evaluation of symptoms (including duration of morning stiffness, pain or swelling in peripheral joints and back pain), ongoing treatments (e.g. analgesics, NSAIDs, DMARDs, physiotherapy), co-morbidities with a specific check-list including in particular cardiovascular and malignant diseases, and other main clinical features of spondyloarthritis (e.g. acute anterior uveitis, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, enthesitis, peripheral articular involvement) were recorded on a Case Record Form before and 3 months after initiation of anti-TNF therapy (see **Table 1 and online supplementary Table 1**). Axial, peripheral or enthesial presentation was clinically assessed.

The Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS), the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, cholesterol (HDL, LDL) and complete blood count were collected before and 3 months after initiation of anti-TNF therapy. C-Reactive Protein (CRP) levels were measured using the high-sensitivity test (hs-CRP test). Radiological evaluation (including plain X-rays and MRI of the spine and the pelvis) was collected systematically for each patient at baseline and at different times after the beginning of the biotherapy.

Definition of Disease Activity and Response to anti-TNF therapy

The criteria for determining disease activity and primary responsiveness to anti-TNF therapy based on the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) have been described previously.[3, 4] ASDAS-CRP was calculated at baseline (ASDAS D0) and 3 months after initiation of anti-TNF therapy (ASDAS D90). To assess the clinical response to anti-TNF therapy the “improvement score” (delta ASDAS = ASDAS D0 - ASDAS D90) was calculated. Delta ASDAS ≥ 2 defines a major improvement (responders), delta ASDAS ≥ 1.1 defines a clinically important improvement (partial responders) and patients achieving a delta ASDAS < 1.1 were classified as non-responders.[3, 4]

Whole-Blood TruCulture Stimulation

TruCulture tubes (Myriad RBM, Texas) are whole-blood stimulation systems consisting in syringe-based medical devices containing the indicated stimulus resuspended in 2 ml of buffered media.[5] Control tubes with no stimulants to assess background levels of genes and mediators of interest were included for each patient at each time point. TruCulture systems were manufactured in accordance with EN ISO 13485 (Medical Device Directive) standards, at EDI GmbH (Reutlingen, Germany), a subsidiary of Myriad RBM (Austin, TX, USA). All TruCulture tubes used in this study were prepared in the same batch, using the same lot of stimuli, and stored at -20°C until use. We performed whole blood stimulation experiments exactly as described previously.[5]

Multi-analyte Profiling

Supernatants from whole-blood stimulation systems were analyzed with Luminex xMAP technology by Myriad-RBM (Austin, TX, USA) as described.[5]

RNA Extraction

Total RNA was extracted from TruCulture cell pellets lysed in Trizol LS and stored at -80°C . Tubes containing cell lysate were thawed on ice 30 minutes before processing, vortexed twice for 5 min at 2000 rpm to complete thawing and RNA release and centrifuged ($3000 \times g$ for 5 min at 4°C) to pellet the cellular debris generated during the Trizol lysis. Total RNA was isolated according to a protocol provided by the supplier (Sigma-Aldrich).

RNA Quality Assessment

RNA concentration was estimated using Qubit RNA HS Assay Kit (Life Technologies, USA) according to the protocol provided by the manufacturer. RNA quality was assessed using an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). The RNA Integrity Number (RIN) was

determined using the LabChip System software and all samples with a RIN > 6 were processed for gene expression analysis.

Gene Expression Analysis with nCounter Technology

The nCounter system, a hybridization-based multiplexed assay, was used for the digital counting of transcripts using protocols provided by the supplier (NanoString). Briefly, 100 ng of total RNA from each sample was hybridized according to manufacturer's instructions with the Human Immunology v2 Gene Expression CodeSet, which contains 594 endogenous gene probes, 8 negative control probes (NEG A to NEG H) and 6 positive control probes (POS A to POS F) designed against six *in vitro* transcribed RNA targets at a range of concentrations (from 128fM to 0.125fM). Data collection was carried out in the nCounter Digital Analyzer at the highest standard data resolution (555 fields of view (FOV) collected per flow cell).

We used in total three different batches of the nCounter XT formulation. To correct for a potential batch effect, the expression level of 24 randomly selected RNA samples was measured with the three batches to calculate the calibration factor.

Quality Control of the NanoString Data

Each sample was analyzed in a multiplexed reaction including eight negative probes and six serial concentrations of positive control probes. Quality control consisted of checking the field of view counted (flag if < 0.75), binding density (flag if not in 0.05 – 2.75 range), linearity of positive controls (flag if $R^2 < 0.9$), and limit of detection for positive controls (flag if 0.5fM positive control < 2 standard deviation (SD) above the mean of the negative controls). Negative control analysis was performed to determine the background for each sample. Of note, we excluded three negative control probes (NEG B, NEG F, NEG H), for which we observed variable expression probably due to cross-reaction with bacterial nucleic acid present in two of the TruCulture stimulation systems (*S. aureus* and SEB). nSolver analysis software (version 3.0, NanoString) and R Software (version 3.3.3), NanoStringQCPro (version 1.12.0), NormqPCR (version 1.26.0) packages) were used for quality control and data normalization.

Normalization of the NanoString Data

A first step of normalization using the internal positive controls permitted correction of potential sources of variation associated with the technical platform (e.g. hybridization, purification, or binding efficiency). To do so, the geometric mean of the positive probe counts was calculated for each sample. The scaling factor for a sample was defined as: (average of all the sample geometric means) / (geometric mean of the considered sample). For each sample, we multiplied all gene counts by the corresponding scaling factor. Next, the

background noise, defined as the mean + 2 SD across the five negative probe counts, was subtracted from each gene in a sample. Finally, to normalize for differences in RNA input we used the same method as in the positive control normalization, except that geometric means were calculated over three housekeeping genes (EEF1G, HPRT1 and TBP). These genes were selected using geNorm method [6], an established approach for identification of stable housekeeping genes, from the 15 candidate genes included in the CodeSet. The impact of anti-TNF treatment on the expression level of these housekeeping genes was also evaluated and none of them were affected by TNFi in patient samples.

Gene Filtering

The Human Immunology v2 gene CodeSet contained a total of 594 probes (15 correspond to housekeeping genes), of which 456 were included in downstream analysis after removing probes mapping to multiple genes or aligning to polymorphic regions with greater than two SNPs (9 probes) and probes with low counts (114 probes). Probes mapping to multiple locations and aligning to polymorphic regions with more than two SNPs were excluded from the analysis as described.[7]

We estimated the background level for each sample as the mean plus 2 standard deviations of the five negative probes counts, excluding NEG B, NEG F and NEG H for which we observed significant differences in counts between conditions as previously explained. We defined as 30 counts the highest background level across all the genes in the different stimulations. In order to easily identify genes that were low in high proportions in a given condition, we calculated for each gene in each condition the percentage of samples with expression below the background (30 counts). We removed 114 genes which expression was below the background level in more than 80% of samples in one condition. A condition was considered a given stimulus at a given time point before or after anti-TNF treatment (D0, D7, D90).

Design of gene modules

We generated 45 gene modules by grouping genes included in the immunology_v2 panel according to the Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB) annotation (<http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb>)[8] and manual curation from published literature (see **online supplementary Table 5**). Each gene module contains a minimum of three genes, and the same gene can be included in different modules.

Quantitative set analysis of gene expression

We used quantitative set analysis of gene expression (QuSAGE) to identify differences in gene modules by quantifying gene-module activity using a probability density function.[9]

The analysis was performed using R Bioconductor package v2.6.1. As compared to other gene set enrichment analysis methods, QuSAGE improves power by accounting for inter-gene correlations and quantifies gene-module activity with a complete probability density function (PDF). From this PDF, P values and confidence intervals can be easily extracted.

To generate heatmaps representing QuSAGE fold-enrichment of gene sets in the different stimulated cultures, only changes reaching a significance threshold of $FDR \leq 0.01$ were represented. When this threshold was not reached for a given module in a specific culture, the value of 0 was assigned to the fold-change, to reflect no statistically significant change.

Venn diagram

The Venn diagram was generated using the web application [jvenn](http://genoweb.toulouse.inra.fr:8091/app/example.html) (<http://genoweb.toulouse.inra.fr:8091/app/example.html>).

Purification of PBMCs and *in vitro* cell stimulation

Peripheral blood mononucleated cells (PBMCs) were isolated from fresh blood samples by gradient separation on Ficoll density gradient centrifugation (Lymphocyte separation medium, Eurobio, France) as described previously.[10] Monocytes were purified by magnetic cell sorting using anti-CD14 monoclonal antibody (mAb)-coated beads as recommended by the manufacturer (Miltenyi Biotec). The purity of monocytes was over 97% as verified by flow cytometry (LSR II, BD Biosciences). CD14+ cells were plated in 48-well plates at a final concentration of 1×10^6 PBMCs per ml and cultured for different times in pre-warmed Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 medium (Invitrogen) not supplemented with fetal calf serum, nor antibiotics. Untreated cells were immediately lysed in RLT buffer (Qiagen) with 1% β -mercaptoethanol to form the naïve subset and snap frozen for RNA extraction at a later date. All the rest of the monocytes were incubated or not with the soluble receptor etanercept (gift from Rheumatology Hardy B Unit of Cochin Hospital (Paris, France)) at a concentration of 10 μ g/ml for 10 minutes at 37°C [11] prior to the stimulation for various times with lipopolysaccharide (LPS, 20 ng/mL) from *Escherichia coli* (LPS, Invivogen). Cells were harvested after 15, 30, 60, 120 and 240 minutes of stimulation for analysis of mRNA expression. Cultured monocytes were lysed directly in RLT buffer (Qiagen) with 1% β -mercaptoethanol and homogenized by pipetting. mRNA was isolated using a RNeasy Micro kit (Qiagen) and analyzed with the nCounter Human Immunology v2 Gene Expression CodeSet.

Culture of Monocyte-Derived Macrophages

Monocytes were isolated from peripheral blood of six healthy donors using CD14 microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec) and cultured for 3 days in RPMI-Glutamax medium (Gibco)

supplemented with antibiotics (penicillin and streptomycin) and 10% FCS in presence of 50 ng/ml M-CSF (Miltenyi Biotec). Monocyte-derived macrophages were subsequently cultured for three additional days in RPMI with M-CSF in presence or absence of etanercept or adalimumab (gifts from Rheumatology Hardy B Unit of Cochin Hospital (Paris, France)) at a concentration of 10 µg/ml, and then polarized for 24h towards the M1 subset with LPS (20 ng/mL, Invivogen) and IFN- γ (20 ng/ml, Miltenyi Biotec), or towards the M2 subset with IL-4 and IL-13 (both 20 ng/ml, Miltenyi Biotec). M1- and M2-macrophages were lysed in RLT buffer (Qiagen) with 1% β -mercaptoethanol and homogenized by pipetting. mRNA was isolated using a RNeasy Micro kit (Qiagen) and analyzed with the nCounter Human Immunology v2 Gene Expression CodeSet as described above.

Gene expression analysis for correlation to therapeutic responses

Using baseline clinical parameters (collected before the initiation of anti-TNF therapy), and baseline (D0) NanoString gene expression for LPS and SEB stimulations, differential gene expression analysis was performed to correlate therapeutic responses to TNFi in 80 axSpA patients, according to the delta ASDAS score.

Prior to the differential expression analysis, the NanoString gene expression dataset composed from LPS and SEB stimulations was filtered based on level of expression and pattern of expression. Lowly expressed genes were discarded when their normalized median count was below 30 counts in LPS and SEB stimulation conditions at D0 (R Software v3.3.3, dplyr v0.7.4).

We analyzed differential gene expression between the stimulation cultures from the 50 responders and 30 non-responders using the LIMMA package.[12] with an FDR correction for multiple testing. Age, sex, smoking history, B27 status, comorbidities and type of TNF inhibitor were included as covariates in the analysis. Genes were considered as differentially expressed when their adjusted p-values were lower than 0.05. The differentially expressed genes are reported in **Table 2** with their log Fold-Change, P-values and adjusted P-values.

Statistical analysis

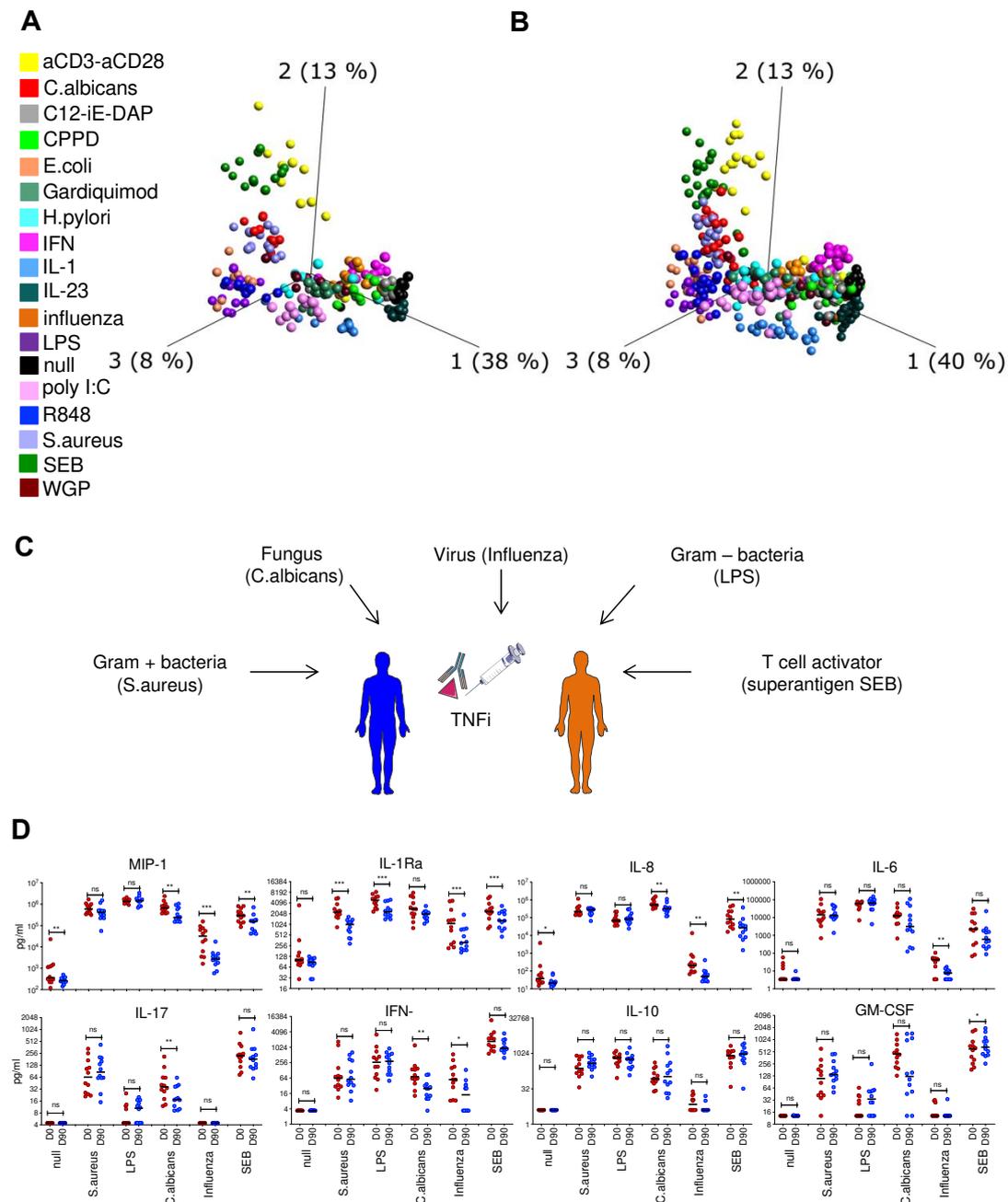
Unless otherwise indicated, horizontal bars represent the median. Statistical tests were two-sided and are specified in figure legends. Differences were considered to be significant when $P < 0.05$. Multiple testing corrections were applied where appropriate. Dot-plot graphs were compiled with GraphPad Prism v.7.0.

Principal component analysis (PCA) and agglomerative hierarchical clustering were performed with Qlucore Omics Explorer, version 3.6 (Qlucore). Before applying PCA and agglomerative hierarchical clustering, the variables (proteins or mRNA expression levels) were log-transformed, mean-centered per donor, and scaled to unit variance.

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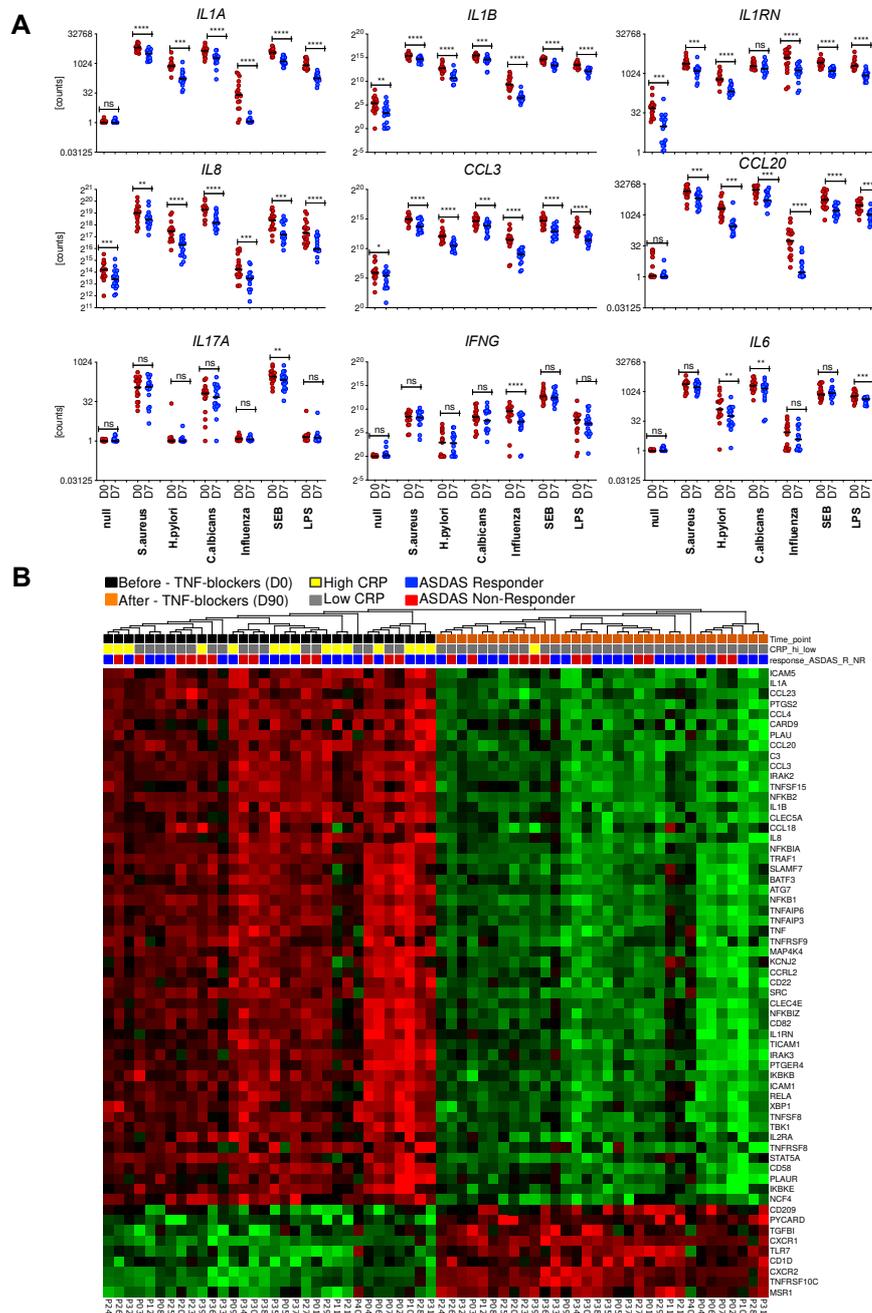
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Supplementary Figure 1

**Supplementary Figure 1. Effects of different stimuli on protein signatures.**

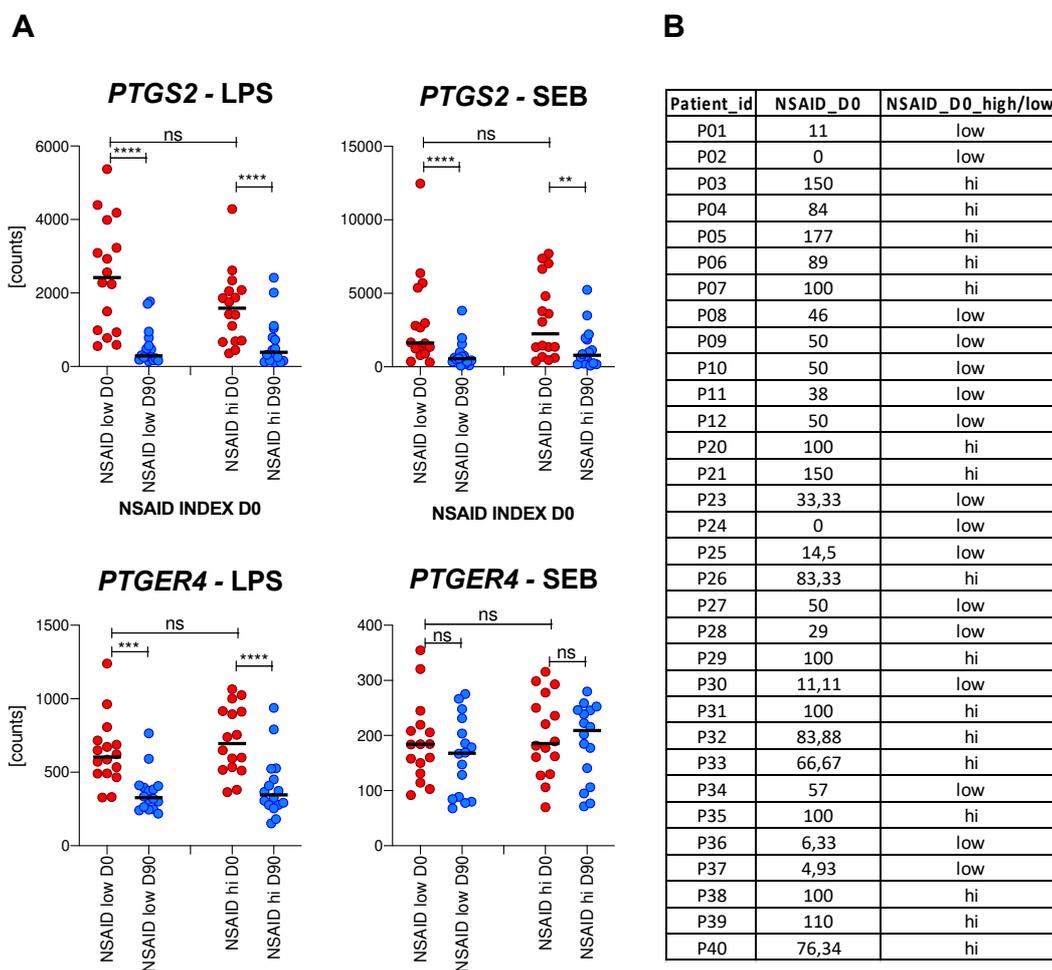
(A) Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed on the secreted protein data obtained from 12 patients before initiation of anti-TNF therapy (D0), measured in 18 different whole blood stimulations. Each filled circle represents a stimulated sample. Although the samples cluster by stimulation, some stimuli largely overlap, reflecting the activation of common signaling pathways. Values for each of the 31 analytes were centered to mean = zero and scaled to unit variance. (B) PCA was performed on the secreted protein data obtained from additional 17 patients at D0. The overall PCA structure of this cohort is similar to the one in (A). (C) Shown are the representative stimuli selected for further analysis of patient profiles before and after initiation of anti-TNF therapy: *S. aureus* (a gram-positive bacteria), *C. albicans* (a yeast), influenza virus, Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB), a superantigen triggering T cell activation. (D) Plots (as in Fig. 1) indicate the levels of differentially secreted proteins for 5 representative stimuli and the unstimulated (null) condition, in 12 patients before (D0, in red) and 90 days after (D90, in blue) initiation of anti-TNF therapy (identified as described in Fig. 1B).

Supplementary Figure 3

**Supplementary Figure 3. TNF-blockers strongly affect key regulators of innate immune responses.**

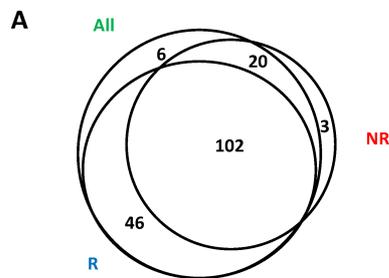
(A) Plots indicate expression level of genes encoding molecules with pro-inflammatory properties and of *IL17A*, *IFNG* and *IL6* for the unstimulated condition and 6 representative stimuli, in samples before (D0, red) and 7 days after (D7, blue) initiation of anti-TNF therapy. Stimuli present in the TruCulture assays are indicated below the x-axis ($n = 17$, $FDR \leq 0.05$, as in Fig. 2). (B) Heatmap of differentially expressed genes, comparing samples from 32 patients before (D0, black rectangles) and 90 days (D90, orange rectangles) after initiation of anti-TNF therapy. Patients with CRP-levels > 6 mg/l are marked with yellow rectangles, while CRP-levels < 6 mg/l are indicated with grey rectangles. Patients responding to anti-TNF therapy (delta ASDAS ≥ 1.1) are marked in blue and non-responders (delta ASDAS < 1.1) are marked in red. A paired t-test with false-discovery rate $FDR \leq 0.01$ and a fold-change threshold of ≥ 2 identified 61 genes (ranked by decreasing fold-change). Red indicates high-level, and green low level of gene expression, respectively. Data are normalized and log2 transformed.

Supplementary Figure 4

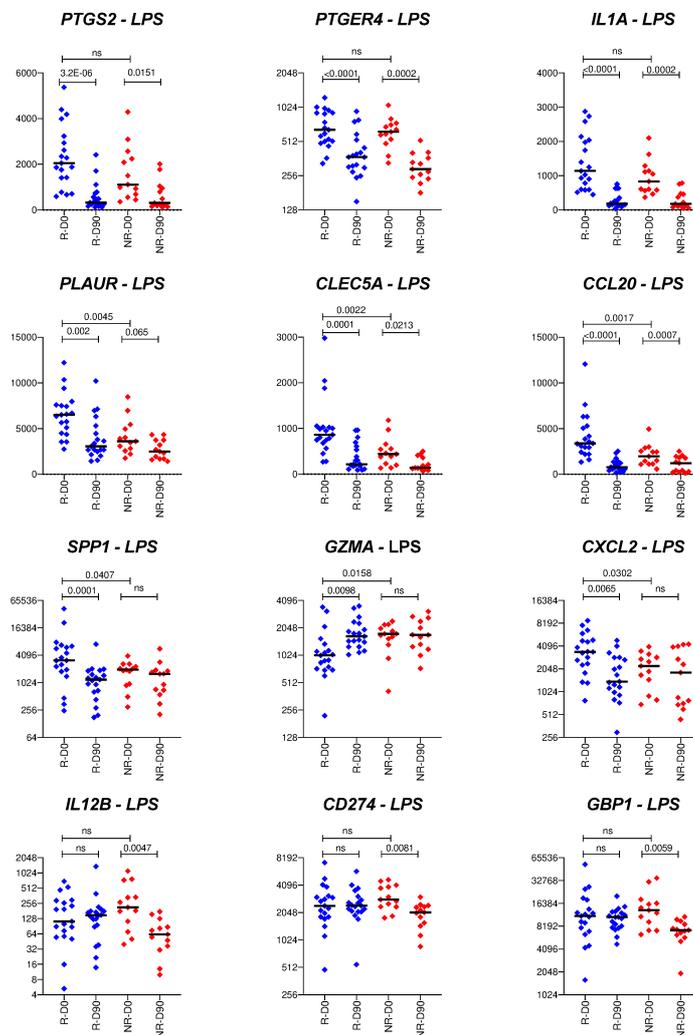


Supplementary Figure 4. The NSAID index was determined at baseline for the 32 patients for which gene expression data were available before (D0) and after (D90) TNFi treatment, and stratified patients according to the NSAID index (cut-off, median, **B**). *PTGS2* and *PTGER4* expression levels at D0 and D90 were plotted for the two groups of patients. Horizontal bars represent the median, and *P*-values are indicated above the graph (**: $P < 0.01$; ***: $P < 0.001$; ****: $P < 0.0001$; ns: not significant).

Supplementary Figure 5

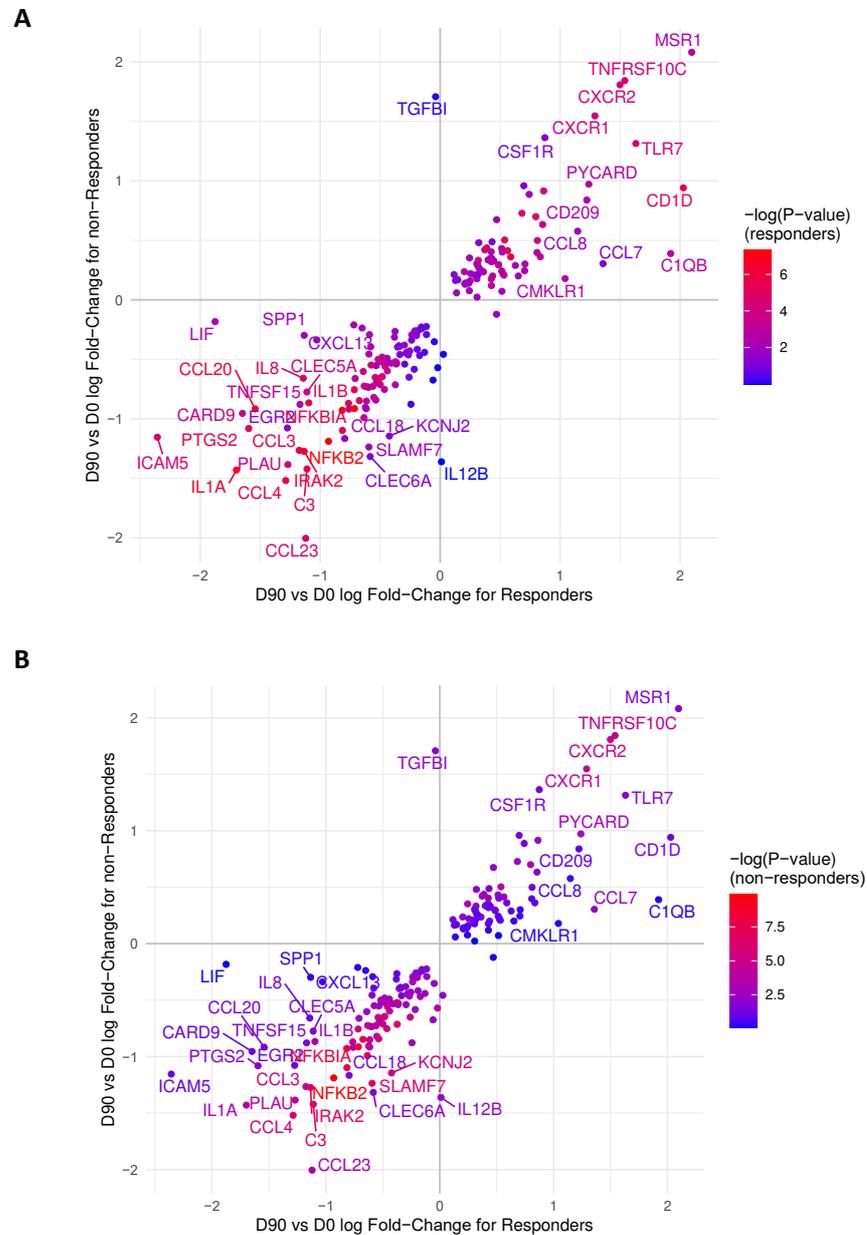


Supplementary figure 5. A. Gene expression data were analyzed in LPS-stimulated Truculture samples from 32 patients. Limma analysis was performed to compare gene expression at D0 versus D90 in 32 patients (all), or selectively in patients classified as Responders (R) or Non-responders (NR), according to ASDAS criteria. The Venn diagram shows the distribution of genes differentially expressed (adjusted p-value <0.05) in the indicated patient populations. The large majority (102) of differentially expressed genes was shared by all patient populations. Analysis of differentially expressed genes in NR patients alone identified 3 genes with significant changes between D0 and D90 specifically in these patients (*CD274*, *GBP1*, and *IL12B*).

B

B. Selected genes from A. See also Supplementary Table 6.

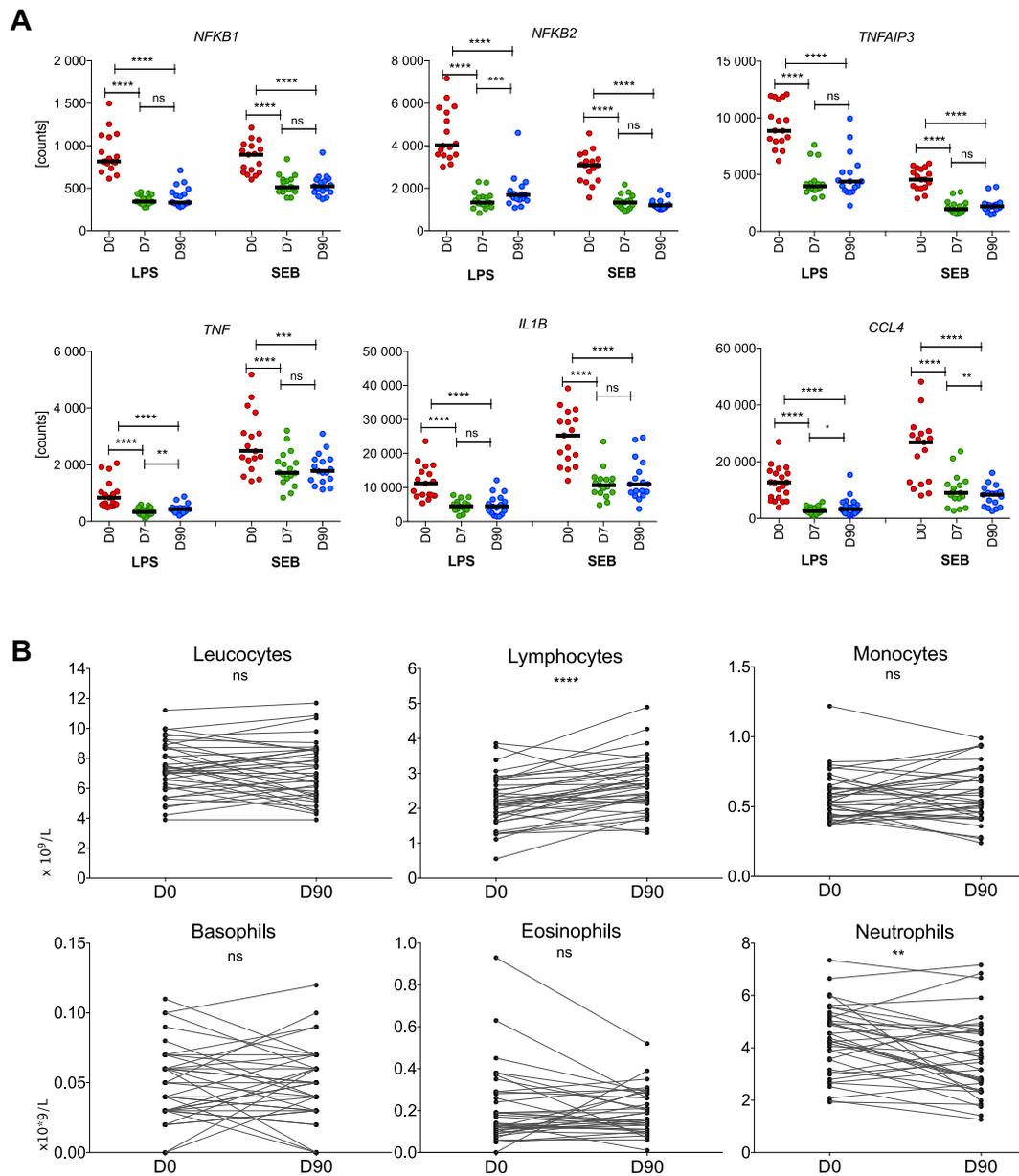
Supplementary Figure 6



Supplementary figure 6. Differential gene expression between D0 (before treatment initiation) and D90 after treatment initiation.

Differential gene expression before and 90 days after TNFi treatment was calculated for Responders and Non-Responders (adjusted p-value <0.01, see [online supplementary table 6](#)), and Fold-changes of the differentially expressed genes were plotted for both populations. The labels identify the genes with log Fold-Change > 1 or < 1. The colors indicate the value of the adjusted p-value for each gene in Responders (**A**) and Non-responders (**B**)

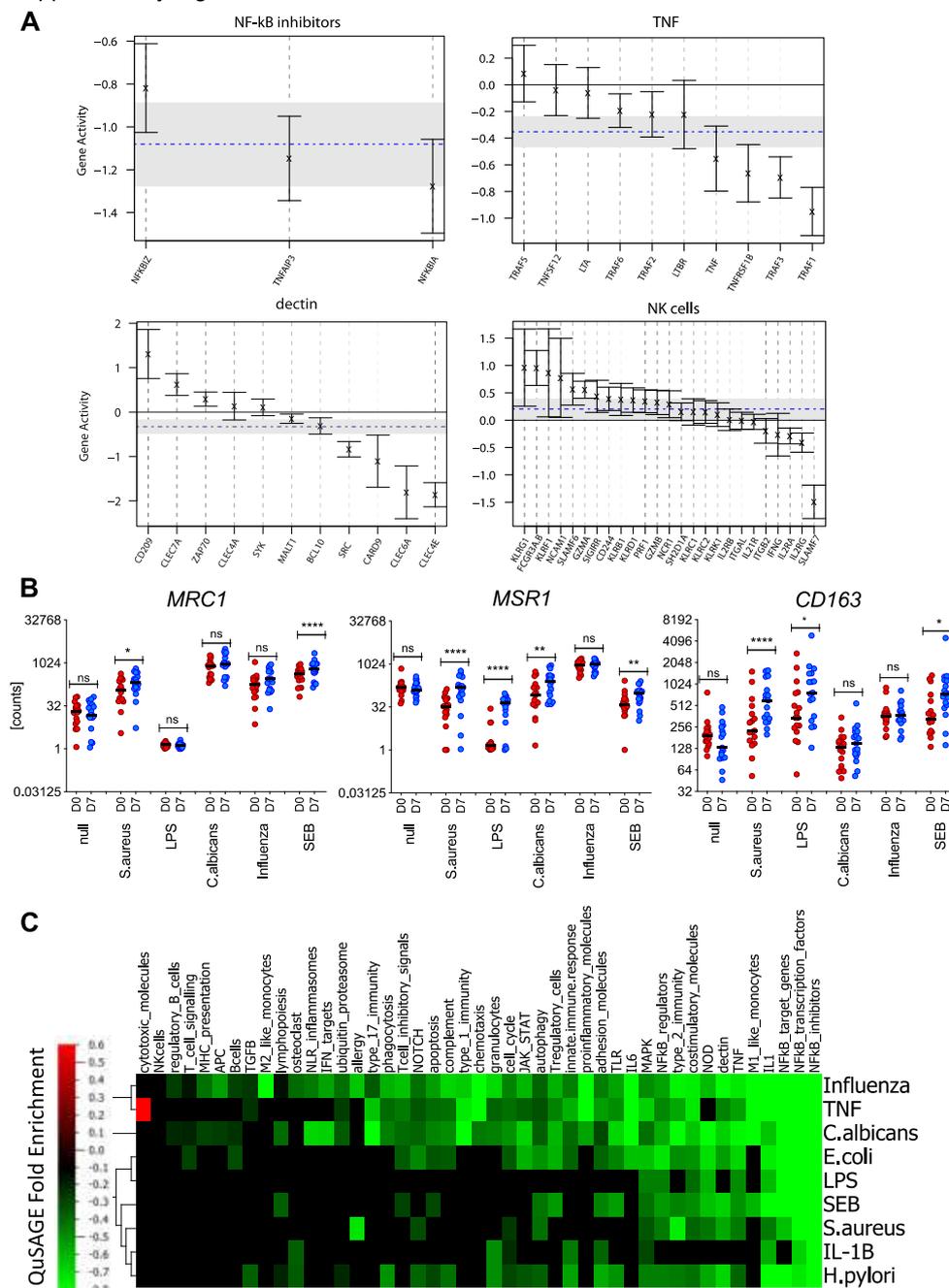
Supplementary Figure 7



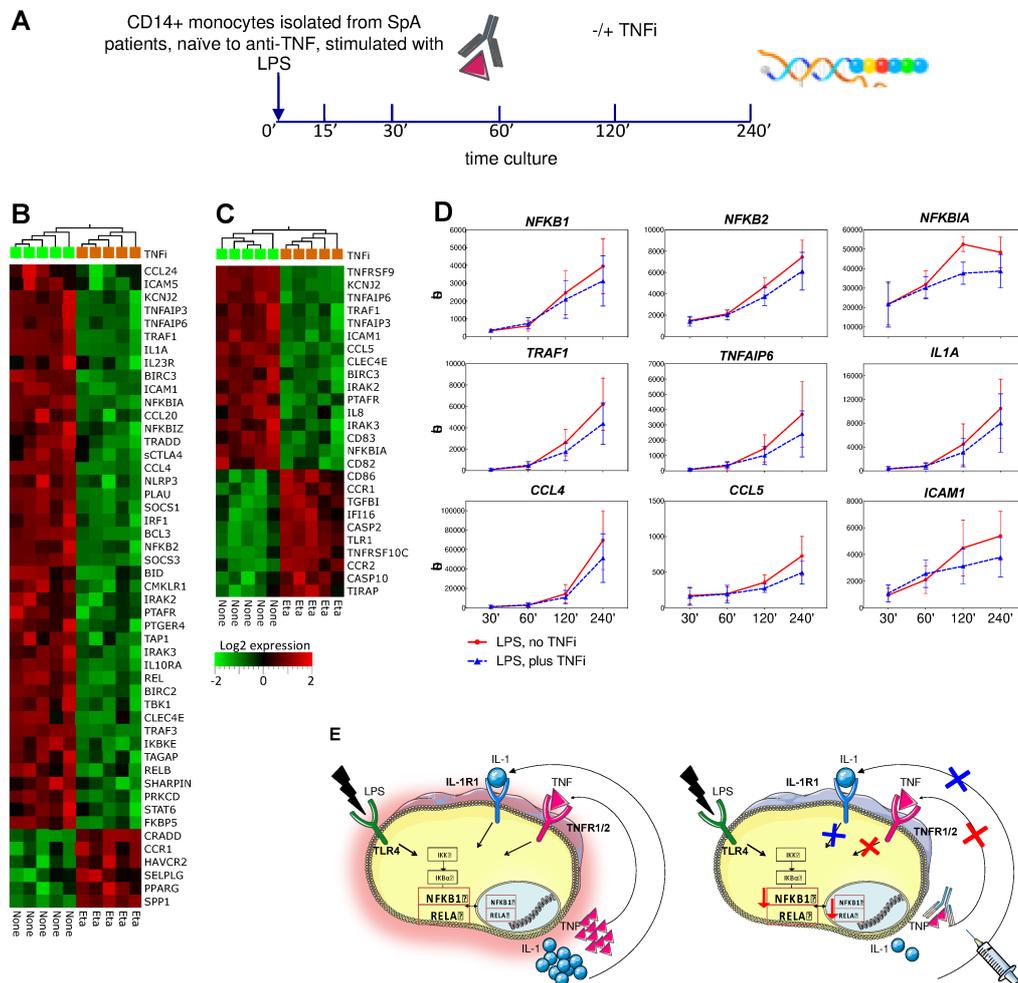
Supplementary Figure 7. The effects of TNF-blockers on immune responses can be detected after a single injection and remain stable over time.

(A) Plots indicate gene expression levels of immune genes from stimulation cultures containing LPS or SEB performed before (D0, in red), 7 days (D7, in green) and 90 days (D90, in blue) after initiation of anti-TNF therapy (17 patients). (B) Complete blood cell counts (Coulter counter) in 37 axSpA patients at D0 and D90 after initiation of anti-TNF therapy. Significance was determined using a Wilcoxon matched-pair test (values before versus after treatment). *P*-values are indicated above the graph (*: *P*<0.05; **: *P*<0.01; ***: *P*<0.001; ****: *P*<0.0001; ns: not significant). We noted a modest decrease (1.23-fold) of neutrophil counts and a 1.24-fold increase of lymphocyte counts after TNF therapy.

Supplementary Figure 8



Supplementary Figure 9

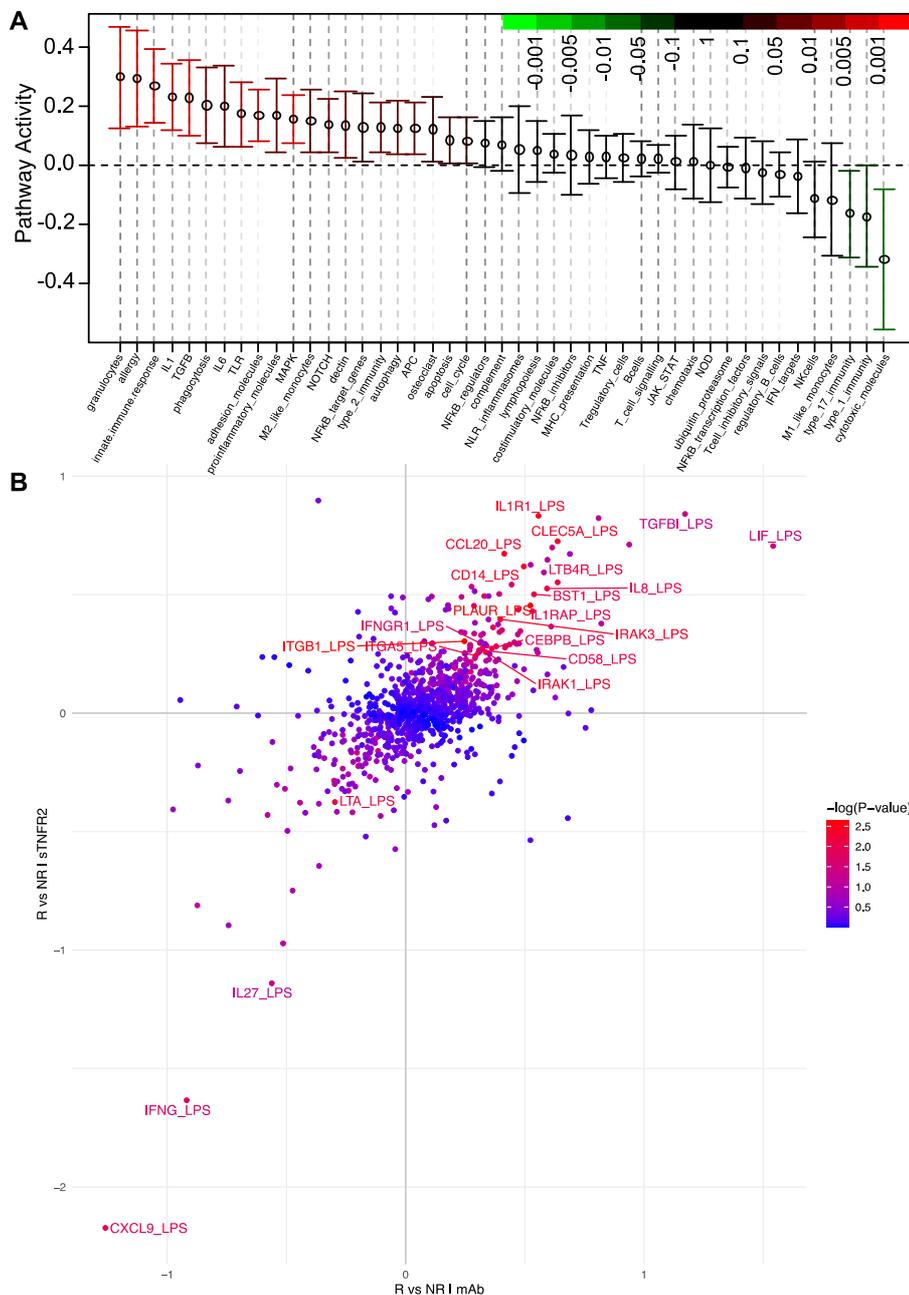


Supplementary Figure 9. TNF blockers break a TNF- and IL-1-dependent feed-forward loop of NF- κ B activation in monocytes isolated from SpA patients

(A) Monocytes were isolated from 5 SpA patients and pre-incubated with or without TNFi (etanercept) for 10 minutes, prior to stimulation with LPS (20 ng/mL) for the indicated times. Gene expression was analyzed with the nCounter Human Immunology v2 panel. (B, C) Heatmaps show the top differentially expressed genes in monocytes in response to *in vitro* TNFi treatment after stimulation with LPS for 120 minutes (B) or 240 minutes (C). Orange and green rectangles distinguish samples pre-treated or not with TNFi, respectively. Gene expression analysis at the individual time points was performed using the Limma package with an adjusted *P*-value threshold of 0.1. (D) Expression kinetics of NF- κ B target genes in LPS-stimulated monocytes cultured for the indicated times (minutes, horizontal axis). Monocytes were incubated with LPS (20 ng/mL) alone (red solid line), or pre-treated with TNFi for 10 minutes, followed by addition of LPS (blue dashed line). Shown are mean and standard deviation of 5 independent experiments. (E) Model for the intracellular mechanism of action of TNF-blockers.

Gene expression profiles of monocytes treated or not with Eta were strikingly different after 2 and 4 hours of LPS stimulation. A large proportion of the genes downregulated by TNFi at these time points were direct NF- κ B target genes, such *NFKBIA*, *TNFAIP3*, *TNFAIP6*, or *IL1A*. The expression of NF- κ B target genes in monocytes pre-treated with TNFi overlapped with untreated cultures during the first hour of stimulation, but diverged after 2 and 4 hours, compatibly with a positive feed-forward mechanism mediated by LPS-stimulated TNF production, which induces sustained activation of NF- κ B and expression of its target genes, such as *IL1A* and *IL1B*, amplifying the inflammatory response.[13] Our data suggest that TNFi act by breaking the TNF- and the IL-1-dependent autocrine loops, dampening the activity of the NF- κ B transcriptional cascade. Very similar results were obtained with monocytes isolated from 4 healthy donors, indicating that the action of TNFi on the NF- κ B pathway is not dependent on the disease process (data not shown).

Supplementary Figure 10



Supplementary Figure 10. A. Modular transcriptional repertoire analysis reveals differential activity of signaling pathways in responders versus non-responders before treatment initiation (D0).

Differential activity of 45 gene modules ([online supplementary table 5](#)) generated from 456 immune-related genes (80 patients). Whole-blood cultures were stimulated with LPS. For each gene module, the mean activity fold-change and 95% confidence interval are plotted and color-coded according to their FDR-corrected P-values (means compared to fold-change zero). Confidence intervals overlapping the horizontal dotted line indicate statistically significant increased or decreased module activity comparing responders and non-responders. **B.** Patients were grouped based on the type of treatment (etanercept (sTNFR2) versus monoclonal antibodies (mAb)), see [online supplementary table 1](#) and differential gene expression between responders and non-responders was calculated for each group at D0 (adjusted p-value <0.05, [table 2](#)), and fold-changes of the differentially expressed genes were plotted for both groups. The labels identify the genes with differential expression at adj. p-value < 0.05.

Supplementary Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics and response to anti-TNF treatment of the 80 axSpA patients included in the study

Patient ID	Gender	Age	CRP M0	ASDAS M0	CRP M3	ASDAS M3	Response ASDAS	Smoke	B27	Psoriasis	Uveitis	IBD	Anti-TNF
1	M	31	5.40	1.99	2.00	0.98	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
2	F	37	2.10	3.71	2.00	3.39	NR	1	1	0	1	0	Ada
3	M	19	2.00	2.28	2.00	2.08	NR	0	0	0	0	0	Eta
4	M	37	2.00	1.96	2.00	0.97	NR	1	1	1	0	0	Eta
5	M	24	47.00	4.79	2.00	1.27	R	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
6	M	53	7.00	2.64	2.00	1.26	PR	1	1	0	1	0	Eta
7	M	54	2.00	1.13	5.00	1.71	NR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
8	M	58	5.00	2.50	2.00	1.23	PR	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
9	M	34	17.00	4.39	2.00	1.58	R	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
10	M	42	9.00	3.03	2.00	0.94	R	1	0	1	0	0	Eta
11	M	23	51.00	4.46	2.00	0.87	R	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
12	F	42	2.00	2.16	2.00	0.83	PR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
13	M	26	0.09	3.87	1.20	2.61	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
14	M	26	2.48	1.28	0.00	0.87	NR	0	0	0	0	0	Eta
15	F	40	10.73	3.35	0.00	1.10	R	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
16	M	24	1.72	2.35	0.00	1.09	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
17	F	27	11.35	2.58	2.00	0.64	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
18	M	47	5.41	3.49	4.10	1.69	PR	0	1	1	1	0	Eta
19	M	30	1.11	3.53	0.50	2.58	NR	1	0	0	0	0	Eta
20	F	39	1.23	2.96	0.00	2.09	NR	1	1	1	0	0	Eta
21	F	21	20.15	2.35	2.80	1.08	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
23	M	20	0.53	2.02	4.00	1.38	NR	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
24	F	58	37.50	4.75	7.00	2.97	PR	1	0	0	0	0	Eta
25	M	36	0.28	1.72	0.30	0.64	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
26	M	48	7.46	1.61	0.00	0.77	NR	0	0	0	0	0	Eta
27	M	33	1.24	2.30	1.30	3.29	NR	0	1	1	1	0	Ada
28	F	40	21.44	4.68	0.00	0.87	R	1	1	1	0	0	Eta
29	M	50	27.45	4.39	3.10	2.29	R	1	1	0	1	0	Gol
30	M	57	2.63	3.07	1.20	2.67	NR	1	1	0	1	0	Gol
31	M	51	33.06	4.73	0.00	3.01	PR	1	1	0	1	0	Gol
32	M	58	16.97	3.25	0.00	1.24	R	0	0	1	0	0	Eta
33	F	24	5.72	2.78	4.00	1.16	PR	0	0	0	0	0	Eta
34	M	56	3.27	3.56	0.00	2.93	NR	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
35	F	38	39.38	4.43	2.00	0.75	R	0	1	0	1	1	Ada
36	F	47	0.68	2.50	0.50	1.48	NR	0	0	0	0	0	Eta
37	M	37	14.27	3.74	0.40	2.15	PR	0	1	0	1	0	Gol
38	M	43	4.09	3.10	2.00	1.71	PR	1	1	1	0	0	Eta
39	F	34	8.31	2.30	6.40	2.27	NR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
40	M	43	1.11	2.32	3.00	0.92	PR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
41	M	41	6.39	2.43	2.00	1.13	PR	0	1	1	0	0	Eta
42	M	55	15.24	2.88	21.10	2.63	NR	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
43	M	43	27.20	3.63	1.10	1.91	PR	0	1	0	1	0	Ada
44	M	47	0.18	2.14	0.50	1.63	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
45	M	24	0.50	2.62	0.00	2.76	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Gol
46	M	27	0.35	3.50	0.00	1.33	R	1	1	1	0	0	Gol
47	M	44	4.18	3.21	2.70	2.08	PR	1	0	0	0	0	Eta
48	M	27	0.82	2.55	0.90	1.70	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
49	F	52	15.20	4.07	9.00	1.87	R	0	0	0	1	1	Ada
50	F	27	3.58	3.09	4.00	2.82	NR	0	1	0	0	0	Gol
51	F	32	1.87	3.69	0.00	3.34	NR	1	0	0	0	1	Ada
52	M	27	2.00	2.56	1.00	0.96	PR	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
53	M	42	0.82	2.12	0.00	1.56	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
54	M	45	3.39	3.16	1.00	1.78	PR	1	0	0	0	0	Gol

Patient ID	Gender	Age	CRP M0	ASDAS M0	CRP M3	ASDAS M3	Response ASDAS	Smoke	B27	Psoriasis	Uveitis	IBD	Anti-TNF
55	M	58	16.65	3.45	7.00	2.47	NR	1	0	0	0	0	Eta
56	M	41	10.74	2.80	0.00	0.71	R	0	1	0	1	0	Gol
57	M	39	3.35	3.29	1.90	1.89	PR	1	1	0	0	0	Gol
58	M	46	21.24	3.96	1.00	1.06	R	1	0	1	1	0	Ada
59	M	27	12.21	2.17	3.40	0.86	PR	1	1	0	0	0	Gol
60	F	29	16.38	2.56	1.00	0.94	PR	1	1	0	0	0	Gol
61	M	20	17.48	3.99	0.80	0.84	R	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
62	F	23	2.55	1.88	0.00	1.15	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
63	M	32	0.48	1.92	2.00	0.64	PR	0	1	1	1	0	Eta
64	M	43	10.64	4.12	2.70	1.92	R	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
65	M	39	17.70	3.13	0.30	1.27	PR	0	1	0	1	0	Ada
66	F	64	15.23	3.88	6.00	1.72	R	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
67	M	57	12.53	4.19	2.10	3.45	NR	1	1	1	0	0	Eta
68	M	22	26.76	3.87	1.90	1.13	R	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
69	M	36	9.70	3.55	1.30	1.59	R	0	1	0	1	0	Eta
70	F	31	1.40	2.70	1.00	2.21	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
71	F	21	62.00	4.61	51.80	3.12	R	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
72	F	55	1.00	2.75	1.00	0.94	R	1	0	0	0	0	Eta
73	M	57	28.60	3.90	2.00	0.94	R	0	1	0	1	0	Ada
74	F	48	1.00	2.69	1.00	1.62	NR	1	1	1	1	0	Ada
75	F	33	1.00	2.61	1.00	2.73	NR	0	0	0	0	0	Ada
76	F	53	7.80	2.64	1.40	1.41	R	0	1	1	1	0	Ada
77	F	25	6.40	2.10	5.00	1.06	NR	1	1	0	0	0	Eta
78	M	30	1.90	1.54	0.60	0.64	NR	0	1	0	0	0	Eta
79	M	31	19.20	3.60	2.00	2.40	R	1	1	0	0	0	Inf
80	M	23	20.00	3.30	2.00	0.90	R	0	1	0	0	0	Gol
81	M	26	8.20	3.10	2.00	1.10	R	1	1	1	0	0	Ada

Abbreviations are as follows: NR, ASDAS Non-Responder; PR, ASDAS Partial-Responder; R, ASDAS Responder; Eta, Etanercept; Ada, Adalimumab; Gol, Golimumab; Inf, Infliximab.

Supplementary Table 2. Drug dosage and anti-drug antibodies

Patient ID	anti-TNF	response ASDAS	Drug dosage ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Dosage ADAb (ng/ml)
P01	Etanercept	NR	2.8	<10
P02	Adalimumab	NR	2	<10
P03	Etanercept	NR	1.6	<10
P04	Etanercept	NR	1.2	<10
P05	Etanercept	R	<0.2	<10
P06	Etanercept	R	1.2	<10
P07	Etanercept	NR	3.2	<10
P08	Etanercept	R	1.6	<10
P09	Etanercept	R	2.8	<10
P10	Etanercept	R	2.8	<10
P11	Etanercept	R	<0.2	<10
P12	Etanercept	R	1.6	<10
P13	Etanercept	R	2.3	<10
P14	Etanercept	NR	0.7	<10
P15	Etanercept	R	2.6	<10
P16	Etanercept	R	3.1	<10
P18	Etanercept	R	0.3	<10
P19	Etanercept	NR	3.7	<10
P21	Etanercept	R	0.7	<10
P23	Etanercept	NR	2.2	<10
P24	Etanercept	R	1.3	<10
P25	Etanercept	R	1.9	<10
P26	Etanercept	NR	2.5	<10
P27	Adalimumab	NR	8.7	<10
P28	Etanercept	R	2.3	<10
P29	Golimumab	R	4.2	<2,5
P30	Golimumab	NR	3.6	<2,5
P31	Golimumab	R	2.7	<2,5
P32	Etanercept	R	0.9	<10
P33	Etanercept	R	2.6	<10
P34	Etanercept	NR	4.2	<10
P35	Adalimumab	R	>20	<10
P36	Etanercept	NR	3.2	<10
P37	Golimumab	R	1	<2,5
P39	Etanercept	NR	3.8	<10
P40	Etanercept	R	1.7	<10
P41	Etanercept	R	3.3	<10
P42	Etanercept	NR	2.8	<10
P44	Etanercept	NR	1.6	<10
P45	Golimumab	NR	2	<2,5
P46	Golimumab	R	1.8	<2,5
P47	Etanercept	R	>5	<10

Patient ID	anti-TNF	response ASDAS	Drug dosage ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Dosage ADA _b (ng/ml)
P48	Etanercept	NR	2.3	<10
P49	Adalimumab	R	10.3	<10
50	Golimumab	NR	2	<2,5
51	Adalimumab	NR	10.2	<10
52	Etanercept	R	>5	<10
53	Etanercept	NR	2.1	<10
54	Golimumab	R	1.9	<2,5
55	Etanercept	NR	1.1	<10
56	Golimumab	R	1.8	<2,5
57	Golimumab	R	0.9	<2,5
58	Adalimumab	R	13.8	<10
59	Golimumab	R	<0,1	<2,5
60	Golimumab	R	4.8	<2,5
61	Etanercept	R	>5	<10
62	Etanercept	NR	1.8	<10
63	Etanercept	R	>5	<10
64	Etanercept	R	2.3	<10
65	Adalimumab	R	8.4	<10
66	Etanercept	R	3.3	<10
67	Etanercept	NR	<0,2	<10
68	Etanercept	R	>5	<10

Supplementary Table 3. Innate and Adaptive Immune Stimuli included in TruCulture Assays

Stimulus	Concentration	Supplier	Sensor or Receptor
Null		NA	
C12-iE-DAP	4 µg / ml	Invivogen	NOD1
α-CD3 + α-CD28	0.4µg/ml + 0.33 µg/ml		TCR
CPPD	100 µg/ml	Invivogen	NLRP3 & TLR2
Gardiquimod	3 µM	Invivogen	TLR7
HK <i>C. albicans</i>	10 ⁷ bacteria	Invivogen	complex
HK <i>E.coli</i> 0111:B4	10 ⁷ bacteria	Invivogen	complex
HK <i>H. pylori</i>	10 ⁷ bacteria	Invivogen	complex
HK <i>S. aureus</i>	10 ⁷ bacteria	Invivogen	complex
IFN γ (Imukin)	1000 IU/mL	Boehringer Ingelheim	IFN γ R
IL-1 β	25 ng/ml	Peptotec	IL1R
IL-1 β + TNF α	25 ng/ml + 10 ng/ml		IL1R + TNFR
IL-23	50 ng/ml	Miltenyi Biotech	IL23R
Influenza (live)	1:700	Charles Rivers	Complex
LPS-EB (hi)	10 ng/ml		TLR4
BCG (Immucyst)	3 * 10 ⁵ bacteria	Sanofi Pasteur	complex
poly I:C	20 µg/ml	Invivogen	TLR3
R848	1 µM	Invivogen	TLR7 & TLR8
Enterotoxin SEB	0.4 µg/ml	Bernhard Nocht Institute	TCR
TNF α	10 ng/ml	Miltenyi Biotech	TNFR
WGP	40 µg/ml	Invivogen	Dectin-1
Zymosan	300 µg/mL	Sigma-Aldrich	TLR2

Abbreviations are as follows: HK, heat killed; IU, international units. The stimulation conditions used for the preparation of TruCulture tubes are listed, with the indicated dose and commercial supplier.

Supplementary Table 4. Analytes measured in the supernatants of TruCulture Assays with Luminex xMAP technology

Analytes	Abbreviation	Units	LDD	LLOQ
Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor	BDNF	pg/mL	18.0	56.0
Eotaxin-1	Eotaxin-1	pg/mL	99.0	117.0
Factor VII	Factor VII	pg/mL	3000.0	2400.0
Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor	GM-CSF	pg/mL	15.0	26.0
Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1	ICAM-1	pg/mL	4200.0	6200.0
Interferon gamma	IFN-gamma	pg/mL	6.3	6.8
Interleukin-1 alpha	IL-1 alpha	pg/mL	0.8	1.1
Interleukin-1 beta	IL-1 beta	pg/mL	2.8	8.5
Interleukin-1 receptor antagonist	IL-1ra	pg/mL	38.0	59.0
Interleukin-2	IL-2	pg/mL	49.0	55.0
Interleukin-3	IL-3	pg/mL	8.3	8.6
Interleukin-4	IL-4	pg/mL	29.0	43.0
Interleukin-5	IL-5	pg/mL	3.5	6.0
Interleukin-6	IL-6	pg/mL	5.4	6.8
Interleukin-7	IL-7	pg/mL	30.0	41.0
Interleukin-8	IL-8	pg/mL	3.9	6.1
Interleukin-10	IL-10	pg/mL	4.9	8.1
Interleukin-12 Subunit p40	IL-12p40	pg/mL	220.0	450.0
Interleukin-12 Subunit p70	IL-12p70	pg/mL	25.0	37.0
Interleukin-15	IL-15	pg/mL	670.0	1200.0
Interleukin-17	IL-17	pg/mL	2.9	8.9
Interleukin-18	IL-18	pg/mL	31.0	42.0
Interleukin-23	IL-23	pg/mL	1300.0	3200.0
Macrophage Inflammatory Protein-1 alpha	MIP-1 alpha	pg/mL	43.0	48.0
Macrophage Inflammatory Protein-1 beta	MIP-1 beta	pg/mL	56.0	59.0
Matrix Metalloproteinase-3	MMP-3	pg/mL	55.0	70.0
Matrix Metalloproteinase-9	MMP-9	pg/mL	41000.0	33000.0
Monocyte Chemoattractant Protein 1	MCP-1	pg/mL	107.0	83.0
Stem Cell Factor	SCF	pg/mL	97.0	222.0
Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha	TNF-alpha	pg/mL	16.0	24.0
Tumor Necrosis Factor beta	TNF-beta	pg/mL	39.0	58.0
Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor	VEGF	pg/mL	16.0	42.0

* The least detectable dose (LDD) was determined as the mean + 3 standard deviations of 200 blank readings. Results below the LDD are more variable than results above the LDD.

† The LLOQ (Lower Limit of Quantitation) is the lowest concentration of an analyte in a sample that can be reliably detected and at which the total error meets CLIA requirements for laboratory accuracy. As the LLOQ and the LDD values are independent from each other, on occasion the LLOQ is lower than the LDD.

Supplementary Table 5. Gene modules used in QuSAGE analysis

Module	Genes
Adhesion molecules	<i>APP, CD164, CD2, CD36, CD44, CD58, CD6, CD9, CD97, CD99, CEACAM1, CTNNB1, CX3CR1, DPP4, FN1, ICAM1, ICAM2, ICAM3, ICAM4, ICAM5, ITGA4, ITGA5, ITGA6, ITGAE, ITGAL, ITGAM, ITGAX, ITGB1, ITGB2, LGALS3, PECAM1, PLAUI, PLAU, PTK2, S100A9, SELE, SELL, SELPLG, SPP1, SRC, TGFB1, TNFAIP6</i>
Allergy	<i>CCL18, CCL5, FCER1A, IL13RA1, LTB4R, LTB4R2</i>
APC (Antigen Presenting Cells)	<i>BATF3, CCR7, CD14, CD163, CD1D, CD209, CD80, CD83, CD86, CD8A, CX3CR1, CXCR4, ITGAL, ITGAM, ITGAX, PDCD1LG2</i>
Apoptosis	<i>APP, BAX, BCAP31, BCL10, BCL2, BCL2L1, BID, CASP1, CASP10, CASP2, CASP3, CASP8, CD2, CD27, CD44, CDKN1A, CLEC5A, CRADD, CSF2RB, CTSC, CTSS, FAS, GZMB, LEF1, LGALS3, LTBR, MCL1, PDCD2, PRF1, PTK2, RAF1, TNFRSF10C, TNFRSF8, TNFRSF10, TNFRSF12, TNFRSF15, TP53</i>
Autophagy	<i>ABL1, ATG10, ATG12, ATG16L1, ATG5, ATG7, IFI16, PTPN22, S100A8, S100A9, TOLLIP, XBP1</i>
B-cells	<i>BCL6, BLNK, BST1, BST2, BTK, CD19, CD22, CD24, CD27, CD79A, CD79B, CD80, CD81, CD99, CR2, CXCL13, ENTPD1, IFITM1, IL4R, IL6R, IRF8, ITGA5, LEF1, LILRB3, MS4A1, PAX5, PRDM1, PRKCD, PTPN6, SYK, TNFRSF13C, TNFRSF8, TNFRSF13B, TNFRSF8, ZAP70</i>
Cell cycle	<i>ABL1, AHR, BAX, BCL2, BID, CCND3, CDKN1A, IKZF1, MAPK1, PML, PRKCD, PTK2, RARRES3, S100A8, S100A9, SRC</i>
Chemotaxis	<i>CCL13, CCL18, CCL19, CCL2, CCL20, CCL22, CCL23, CCL24, CCL3, CCL4, CCL5, CCL7, CCL8, CCR1, CCR2, CCR5, CCR6, CCR7, CCRL2, CD99, CX3CR1, CXCL1, CXCL10, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL9, CXCR1, CXCR2, CXCR3, CXCR4, CXCR6, IL16, IL8, LGALS3, PPBP</i>
Complement	<i>C1QB, C1QBP, C2, C3, CASP1, CASP10, CASP3, CCL5, CD36, CD40LG, CD46, CD59, CEBPB, CFB, CFD, CFP, CR1, CR2, CTSC, CXCL1, FCER1G, FYN, ITGAM, ITGAX, ITGB2, LTF, PLAUI, PRKCD, PSMB9, RAF1, SERPING1, SRC, TNFAIP3</i>
Costimulatory molecules	<i>ADA, CD27, CD28, CD40, CD40LG, CD48, CD6, CD79B, CD80, CD82, CD86, CLEC5A, DPP4, ICOS, ICOSLG, MBP, PDCD1LG2, TAGAP, TNFRSF4, TNFRSF8, TNFRSF9, TNFRSF12, TNFRSF15, TNFSF4, TNFSF8, TRAF1</i>
Cytotoxic molecules	<i>GNLY, GZMA, GZMB, GZMK, IFNG, KLRD1, KLRF1, PRF1</i>
Dectin	<i>BCL10, CARD9, CD209, CLEC4A, CLEC4E, CLEC6A, CLEC7A, MALT1, SRC, SYK, ZAP70</i>
Granulocytes	<i>CCRL2, CD164, CD24, CD44, CLEC5A, CSF2, CSF3R, CXCL1, CXCR1, CXCR2, FCGR1A.B, FCGR3A.B, IL3, IL8, ITGAL, ITGAM, ITGAX, ITGB2, LTB4R, LTB4R2, LTF, MME, NCF4, SELL</i>
IFN targets	<i>BST2, CXCL10, IFI35, IFIH1, IFIT2, IFITM1, IFNA1.13, IFNAR1, IFNAR2, IRF1, IRF3, IRF4, IRF5, IRF7, IRF8, JAK1, MX1, PSMB8, TMEM173, TYK2</i>
IL1	<i>EGR1, IL18, IL18R1, IL18RAP, IL1A, IL1B, IL1R1, IL1R2, IL1RAP, IL1RL1, IL1RN, IRAK1, IRAK2, IRAK3, IRAK4, MYD88, SIGIRR, TOLLIP, TRAF6</i>
IL6	<i>IL6, IL6R, IL6ST</i>
Innate immune response	<i>ABL1, APP, BCL10, C1QBP, CD14, CLEC5A, CLEC7A, FCER1G, IKBKG, IL1RAP, IRAK1, IRAK4, LY96, NLRP3, S100A8, S100A9, TLR2, TLR4, TOLLIP</i>
JAK_STAT	<i>CISH, JAK1, JAK2, JAK3, PTPN2, PTPN6, PTPRC_all, SOCS1, SOCS3, STAT1, STAT2, STAT3, STAT4, STAT5A, STAT5B, STAT6, TYK2</i>
Lymphopoiesis	<i>CXCR4, IKZF1, IKZF2, IKZF3, NT5E, PAX5, RUNX1</i>
M1-like monocytes	<i>CCL19, CCL20, CCL5, CCL8, CCR7, CD80, CD86, CXCL10, CXCL11, CXCL9, IDO1, IFNGR1, IL12B, IL1R1, IL23A, IL2RA, MARCO, PTGS2, SOCS3</i>

Module	Genes
M2-like monocytes	<i>CCL13, CCL18, CCL2, CCL22, CCL24, CD163, CD209, CD36, CLEC7A, EGR2, FCER1A, FN1, IL10, IL1R2, IL1RAP, IL1RN, IL21R, IL4R, IRF4, MRC1, MSR1</i>
MAPK	<i>CD83, DUSP4, MAP4K1, MAP4K2, MAP4K4, MAPK1, MAPK14, MAPKAPK2, RAF1</i>
MHC presentation	<i>B2M, BCAP31, CD74, CTSS, HLA.A, HLA.B, HLA.C, HLA.DMA, HLA.DMB, HLA.DOB, HLA.DPA1, HLA.DPB1, KLRC1, KLRC2, KLRC3, KLRC4, KLRD1, KIRF1, KIRG1, KLRK1, LAMP3, LILRA1, LILRA2, LILRA3, LILRA6, LILRB1, LILRB2, LILRB4, MR1, MS4A1, NCF4, TAP1, TAP2, TAPBP, TNFSF4, XBP1</i>
NFκB inhibitors	<i>NFKBIA, NFKBIZ, TNFAIP3</i>
NFκB regulators	<i>BCL10, BTK, CHUK, IKBKAP, IKBKB, IKBKE, IKBKG, MALT1, MAP4K4, TBK1, TRAF4</i>
NFκB target genes	<i>BCL2, BCL3, CCL13, CCL19, CCL4, CXCL2, CYBB, ICAM1, IL1B, IL8, NFKBIA, PLAU, PTGS2, TNF, TNFAIP3, TNFSF13B, TRAF1, TRAF2</i>
NFκB transcription factors	<i>NFKB1, NFKB2, RELA, RELB</i>
NK-cells	<i>CD244, FCGR3A.B, GZMA, GZMB, IFNG, IL21R, IL2RA, IL2RB, IL2RG, ITGAL, ITGB2, KLRB1, KLRC1, KLRC2, KLRD1, KIRF1, KIRG1, KLRK1, NCAM1, NCR1, PRF1, SH2D1A, SIGIRR, SLAMF6, SLAMF7</i>
NLR inflammasomes	<i>BCL2, CASP1, GBP5, NLRP3, PYCARD</i>
NOD	<i>CARD9, NOD1, NOD2, TRAF4, TRAF6</i>
NOTCH	<i>APP, IL2RA, NCR1, NFIL3, NOTCH1, NOTCH2, TGFB1, TGFB2</i>
Osteoclast	<i>CEBPB, CSF1, CSF1R, CTNBNB1, GPR183, LILRA1, LILRA2, LILRA3, LILRA5, LILRA6, MAPK14, NFATC1, SYK, TFR3, TRAF6</i>
Phagocytosis	<i>CYBB, ETS1, FCER1A, FCER1G, FCGR1A.B, FCGR2A, FCGR2A.C, FCGR2B, FCGR3A.B, FCGRT, ICAM3, ICAM5, IRF8, ITGAL, ITGAM, ITGAX, ITGB2, MARCO, PECAM1, SLAMF1</i>
Proinflammatory molecules	<i>CCL13, CCL18, CCL19, CCL2, CCL20, CCL22, CCL23, CCL24, CCL3, CCL4, CCL5, CCL7, CCL8, CCR1, CCR2, CCR5, CD163, CMKLR1, CSF1, CSF1R, CSF2, CXCL1, CXCL2, CXCR1, CXCR2, CXCR4, IL1B, IL32, IL6, IL6R, IL6ST, IL8, LILRA5, LITAF, MIF, PTAFR, PTGER4, PTGS2, S100A8, S100A9, TNF</i>
Regulatory B-cells	<i>CD19, CD1D, CD24, CD27, CD40, CD5, CD80, CD86, ICOSLG, IL10, PAX5, TFR3, TGFB1, TNFRSF13C</i>
T-cell signaling	<i>CD247, CD28, CD3D, CD3E, CD4, CD45R0, CD45RA, CD45RB, CD7, CD8A, CD8B, FYN, IL2RA, IL2RB, IL2RG, LCK, LCP2, NFATC1, NFATC2, NFATC3, PTPN22, PTPRC_all, ZAP70</i>
T-cell inhibitory signals	<i>BTLA, CAMP, CD244, CD274, CD276, CD5, CD96, CTLA4_all, CTLA4.TM, HAVCR2, IDO1, LAG3, PDCD1LG2, sCTLA4, TIGIT, TNFRSF14</i>
TGFB	<i>MAPK1, SKI, SMAD3, SMAD5, TGFB1, TGFB1, TGFB1, TGFB2</i>
TLR	<i>BCL10, CD14, IRAK1, IRAK2, IRAK4, LY96, MALT1, MYD88, TBK1, TICAM1, TIRAP, TLR1, TLR2, TLR3, TLR4, TLR7, TLR8, TOLLIP</i>
TNF	<i>LTA, LTBR, TNF, TNFRSF1B, TNFSF12, TRAF1, TRAF2, TRAF3, TRAF5, TRAF6</i>
T-regulatory cells	<i>CTLA4_all, CTLA4.TM, EGR2, ENTPD1, FOXP3, IL10, IL2, IL2RA, IL2RB, IL2RG, LAG3, LGALS3, NT5E, RUNX1, sCTLA4, STAT5A, STAT5B, TGFB1</i>
Type 1 immunity	<i>BATF3, CSF2, CXCR3, EBI3, GZMB, IFNG, IFNGR1, IL12B, IL12RB1, IL27, PRF1, STAT1, STAT4, TBX21, TNF</i>
Type 17 immunity	<i>AHR, BATF, CCR6, IL12B, IL17A, IL17F, IL21, IL22, IL23A, IRF4, KLRB1, MAF, STAT3, ZBTB16</i>
Type 2 immunity	<i>CCL18, CEBPB, CXCR4, CXCR6, IL13, IL1RL1, IL4R, STAT6</i>
Ubiquitin / proteasome	<i>CUL9, PSMB10, PSMB5, PSMB7, PSMB8, PSMB9, PSMC2, PSMD7, UBE2L3</i>

Supplementary Table 6. Differential gene expression between D0 (before treatment initiation) and D90 after treatment initiation*

Gene ID	ALL patients (n=32)		RESPONDERS n=(19)		NON RESPONDERS (n=13)	
	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	adj.P.Val
ABL1	0.253176758	0.001442703	0.30586301	0.006636767	0.176173775	0.222400494
ARHGDI1	0.21558608	3.61186E-06	0.201240695	0.001991642	0.236552413	0.00577187
ATG7	-0.806553689	6.3366E-11	-0.76352244	4.30165E-06	-0.869445515	1.23085E-05
B2M	-0.186180517	0.003718453	-0.11403	0.232445	-0.291628825	0.004017264
BATF	-0.418270605	3.22532E-05	-0.25939167	0.086164035	-0.650478282	1.23085E-05
BATF3	-0.824332688	4.53682E-08	-0.76012543	0.000211741	-0.918174066	0.000377461
BCL10	-0.260307478	4.88768E-05	-0.23718	0.010894	-0.294103926	0.003440946
BCL2L1	0.310465201	1.08621E-05	0.361489029	0.001221817	0.235891913	0.016977221
BID	-0.386253923	0.003427715	-0.335769	0.07856512	-0.460039575	0.029254642
BLNK	0.642740956	0.000113894	0.83513124	0.000559507	0.361555156	0.088286622
BTK	0.407795145	1.10241E-06	0.485467354	4.54742E-05	0.294274224	0.025728486
C1QB	1.298878127	0.002256578	1.920997082	0.000728495	0.389627346	0.67250275
C1QBP	0.175416058	0.009720333	0.243298384	0.009080724	0.076203	0.597687
C3	-1.236195878	1.73288E-12	-1.10986335	4.86561E-06	-1.420835733	2.24648E-07
CARD9	-1.366533982	3.75512E-05	-1.64858428	0.000384184	-0.954306617	0.094026687
CASP1	-0.256446002	0.006838877	-0.13	0.354265	-0.441256469	0.002979257
CASP2	0.187295816	1.20777E-05	0.21786434	0.00065451	0.142619	0.070906
CASP8	0.153024118	0.00628384	0.14024682	0.09774861	0.171698632	0.060545374
CCL18	-0.945888265	0.0003865	-0.79553	0.010676	-1.16564	0.030486
CCL20	-1.287913287	4.62521E-08	-1.5420472	4.76266E-07	-0.916486796	0.03208227
CCL22	0.64122106	0.000282579	0.80783953	0.001002966	0.397701757	0.20070615
CCL23	-1.479951808	1.03024E-07	-1.12084465	4.69475E-05	-2.004800729	0.000650271
CCL3	-1.21153499	2.8261E-11	-1.17490667	3.20446E-06	-1.265068689	1.88176E-05
CCL4	-1.381514235	1.53306E-12	-1.28750358	1.79524E-06	-1.518914417	1.86125E-06
CCL7	1.397525731	0.006838877	1.357208422	0.067879816	0.303937794	0.005981057
CCL8	0.91478911	0.006054825	1.146072573	0.013102692	0.576759433	0.342077344
CCND3	0.30486017	5.86801E-07	0.305491269	0.000384184	0.303938	0.005981
CCR2	0.542001344	0.006267441	0.706916022	0.003047309	0.300972	0.496146
CCR6	0.373827331	0.00052979	0.399839161	0.009836448	0.33581	0.065575
CCRL2	-0.710506217	1.34062E-07	-0.61429394	0.001127077	-0.851124167	4.95602E-05
CD19	0.408952327	6.90133E-05	0.486926825	0.000446304	0.294989599	0.098863245
CD1D	1.58606564	1.25323E-07	2.027168669	3.20446E-06	0.941377	0.050676
CD209	1.066351628	0.00053409	1.221933753	0.002604643	0.838962368	0.145168481
CD22	-0.689190454	4.52499E-06	-0.70825783	0.00127915	-0.661322747	0.003015926
CD274	-0.169834846	0.229203138	0.027022	0.915602	-0.457548233	0.008113729
CD3E	0.142228304	0.008427814	0.127954284	0.127351976	0.16309	0.05572
CD4	0.175907644	0.007214366	0.207115	0.020234	0.130296392	0.315832453
CD44	-0.430761404	8.68282E-08	-0.36339167	0.000947654	-0.529224861	5.38549E-05
CD48	-0.15982423	0.006749758	-0.11564771	0.196980747	-0.22439	0.015094
CD53	-0.213420521	0.005641292	-0.18267	0.112217	-0.258361946	0.026996209
CD58	-0.510167608	4.77139E-08	-0.51696989	4.9506E-05	-0.500225805	0.000528138
CD74	0.255761012	0.000311337	0.288231669	0.013884888	0.208304	0.01278
CD79A	0.502219684	3.89983E-08	0.562565512	8.20946E-06	0.414021936	0.006403097
CD79B	0.470882264	1.88402E-05	0.518391159	0.000578627	0.401446188	0.041019776
CD82	-0.660170925	1.48723E-06	-0.61122447	0.002614556	-0.731708058	5.67222E-05
CD83	-0.436272449	9.93638E-05	-0.36562	0.024918	-0.53953624	0.00283801

Gene ID	ALL patients (n=32)		RESPONDERS n=(19)		NON RESPONDERS (n=13)	
	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	adj.P.Val
CD86	0.386163476	0.001303576	0.321470565	0.053924554	0.480714654	0.011091724
CDKN1A	-0.46189628	1.87844E-05	-0.44215002	0.004284074	-0.490756204	0.003520628
CFB	-0.50162	0.016864	-0.2442	0.489735	-0.877853933	0.001255433
CFP	-0.395356865	0.00853923	-0.29629492	0.226126483	-0.540139709	0.004705888
CLEC4E	-0.661224	1.60969E-08	-0.55272992	0.000372592	-0.819792266	2.88963E-05
CLEC5A	-0.974540425	8.55814E-06	-1.11103278	0.000132995	-0.775051593	0.021319142
CLEC6A	-0.88133631	0.001315286	-0.58318589	0.059775076	-1.317094621	0.018794245
CMKLR1	0.691054017	0.004847332	1.041467919	0.002100337	0.178911	0.712636
CR1	0.700674902	8.68282E-08	0.682214063	5.50216E-05	0.727656129	0.001976613
CSF1R	1.072382648	0.007543374	0.873350027	0.089829004	1.36327648	0.0376294
CSF3R	0.884218586	9.30584E-08	0.862728133	3.61882E-05	0.91562771	0.003520628
CTLA4.TM	0.30033701	0.002287422	0.322429	0.013816	0.268049	0.14634
CTSS	-0.291748424	0.00187452	-0.17162511	0.232253804	-0.467313265	0.000650271
CXCL13	-0.747634709	0.009915684	-1.02821	0.024732	-0.33756904	0.395990086
CXCL2	-0.512839732	0.012003273	-0.71951007	0.006462195	-0.21078	0.63822
CXCR1	1.393945583	1.35617E-09	1.289375477	5.13172E-05	1.546778815	3.05185E-05
CXCR2	1.624132901	4.78263E-10	1.498542502	4.9506E-05	1.8076881	1.01218E-05
CXCR3	0.455116599	0.003934521	0.432833349	0.062474661	0.487684	0.057755
EGR2	-1.193637301	0.005169237	-1.27371	0.051147	-1.07661219	0.078384248
FCGR3A.B	0.50565039	0.000473349	0.470280905	0.024887141	-0.12161	0.741475
GBP1	-0.30919	0.061949	-0.05915	0.856059	-0.674629045	0.00594838
GFI1	-0.331428841	0.000364426	-0.29799237	0.016222066	-0.380297523	0.01880011
GZMA	0.335012971	0.019117139	0.51511183	0.009836448	0.071792	0.797502
HLA.DMA	0.398497551	1.97889E-06	0.447338798	0.000804489	0.327114189	0.003135577
HLA.DMB	0.400221403	3.35841E-07	0.524745205	9.40411E-06	0.218225078	0.062579352
HLA.DPA1	0.399941187	2.11781E-05	0.531855391	0.0002424	0.207144	0.108904
HLA.DPB1	0.324440692	3.22532E-05	0.426154747	0.000442848	0.175781689	0.106433258
ICAM1	-0.585892693	3.82126E-09	-0.49916988	0.000283245	-0.712641417	1.23085E-05
ICAM5	-1.868511919	3.36776E-06	-2.35700327	2.63903E-05	-1.15456	0.097668
ICOSLG	-0.350217647	0.001818817	-0.28376	0.090759	-0.447349566	0.005241155
IFITM1	0.340797741	0.000117897	0.43726364	0.001416312	0.199809119	0.10777694
IFNA1.13	-0.482674487	0.008038195	-0.65052326	0.005755428	-0.23736	0.545243
IKBKAP	0.275415395	0.009915684	0.316681853	0.06165645	0.215102878	0.095971671
IKBKB	-0.586494261	4.05119E-10	-0.54132876	4.23135E-05	-0.652505384	2.07119E-05
IKBKE	-0.5041171	6.78676E-08	-0.4404755	0.000846567	-0.59713175	8.36705E-05
IKZF3	0.178708824	0.007872859	0.206137	0.020362	0.138621	0.260855
IL12B	-0.54674	0.08931	0.010747	0.984681	-1.361529376	0.004705888
IL12RB1	0.468047093	0.003956999	0.65134258	0.007385616	0.200153689	0.440823919
IL1A	-1.588912275	2.15941E-11	-1.69809729	2.14274E-07	-1.429334177	0.000314071
IL1B	-1.002162478	9.87292E-10	-1.0953298	1.79524E-06	-0.865994858	0.001269259
IL1RN	-0.651814707	2.97169E-05	-0.59560873	0.008921978	-0.733961901	0.002979257
IL21R	0.403332947	0.000582278	0.513279894	0.002100337	0.242641	0.227161
IL2RA	-0.541302821	8.09206E-05	-0.53361	0.013885	-0.552547674	0.001989851
IL2RG	-0.361122445	6.54302E-08	-0.33909897	0.00065451	-0.393310596	6.46097E-05
IL8	-0.945016376	1.10241E-06	-1.14106032	7.03263E-06	-0.658490605	0.06012345
IRAK2	-1.190504303	1.57408E-13	-1.13387517	7.19758E-07	-1.27326996	2.24648E-07
IRAK3	-0.62522298	2.44206E-06	-0.64086859	0.000155825	-0.602356317	0.005979485
IRF3	0.800892843	0.000443594	0.742095693	0.009345021	0.886827	0.05073

Gene ID	ALL patients (n=32)		RESPONDERS n=(19)		NON RESPONDERS (n=13)	
	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	Gene ID	logFC	adj.P.Val
IRF5	-0.365246966	0.001919254	-0.21617117	0.214886147	-0.583126974	0.001194602
IRF8	0.302224424	0.000790595	0.427388287	0.000278178	0.119292624	0.543391483
ITGA4	0.197001693	0.002680241	0.237105427	0.009836448	0.138389	0.273789
ITGA6	0.479899036	1.01785E-05	0.512806788	0.001481542	0.431803091	0.011464671
KCNJ2	-0.716060168	7.33496E-06	-0.42315	0.054942	-1.144152681	1.23085E-05
KLRB1	0.383235294	0.000150528	0.426704773	0.001982921	0.319703	0.078384
LCK	0.155076478	0.002051829	0.115774681	0.077399912	0.212517566	0.043546384
LGALS3	-0.346184251	0.000426199	-0.26579	0.069423	-0.463680833	0.002189262
LIF	-1.188262593	0.010734849	-1.87595349	0.002606424	-0.18318	0.851711
LILRA5	0.764340852	3.09327E-06	0.854163228	0.000207665	0.633061994	0.02163132
LITAF	-0.282569407	0.003504842	-0.1912827	0.195135199	-0.415988437	0.002785657
LY96	0.394479046	1.01785E-05	0.422931162	0.000680084	0.352895	0.019343
MAF	0.803491056	0.002838368	0.697089022	0.057124202	0.959001721	0.047282386
MAP4K1	0.323772798	7.34957E-07	0.317921328	0.000139679	0.332324946	0.008199687
MAP4K4	-0.731686012	2.88379E-10	-0.71535371	6.31502E-06	-0.755556305	1.23085E-05
MAPKAPK2	-0.23123666	0.000507941	-0.21108877	0.030291873	-0.260683578	0.017436201
MR1	-0.278917486	0.001462725	-0.23801	0.097427	-0.338701136	0.000505089
MS4A1	0.49613521	4.08127E-07	0.588380908	1.54772E-06	0.361314574	0.060322602
MSR1	2.090184322	5.50291E-05	2.096634806	0.002799193	2.080756691	0.021319142
NCF4	-0.502544188	1.7403E-06	-0.4912643	0.000637919	-0.519030178	0.002249831
NFATC3	0.105235214	0.004604782	0.136827971	0.009403209	0.059061	0.496146
NFIL3	-0.372637632	0.000643062	-0.35581634	0.026157748	-0.397222603	0.008199687
NFKB1	-0.79545124	3.85948E-17	-0.71464798	4.52343E-08	-0.913548312	1.15864E-08
NFKB2	-1.035590339	1.0278E-17	-0.93058387	4.52343E-08	-1.189061328	1.18783E-10
NFKBIA	-0.929375472	1.81968E-13	-0.8143065	4.30165E-06	-1.097553208	1.15864E-08
NFKBIZ	-0.660373378	1.64257E-08	-0.53605548	0.00127915	-0.842068761	3.84915E-06
NLRP3	-0.468266914	0.002203625	-0.58871229	0.002656799	-0.292231363	0.285936157
NOD2	-0.361212226	0.006838877	-0.34381	0.065951	-0.38664	0.070625
PAX5	0.684106563	3.00373E-06	0.810584093	4.23135E-05	0.499254788	0.04754084
PDCD2	0.396623252	0.000309816	0.430426776	0.002606424	0.347218	0.098863
PECAM1	0.553546251	6.90133E-05	0.471065216	0.009836448	0.674095456	0.004017264
PLAU	-1.316292651	1.97984E-08	-1.26929666	0.000140084	-1.384979097	4.02053E-05
PLAUR	-0.504355418	0.000365784	-0.57978451	0.001999694	-0.394112905	0.064915461
POU2F2	-0.482414564	9.17239E-07	-0.483269	0.000878999	-0.481165777	0.000912509
PSMB8	-0.17211	0.030245	-0.04890618	0.722042935	-0.352168114	0.004084143
PTAFR	-0.342918864	0.00060921	-0.27654	0.062596	-0.439939362	0.002767448
PTGER4	-0.597416412	2.13124E-07	-0.53083817	0.001517981	-0.694723068	4.26947E-05
PTGS2	-1.386926469	3.90116E-08	-1.59610243	3.20446E-06	-1.08121	0.015094
PTPN6	-0.325569865	0.000282579	-0.25426042	0.043644988	-0.429791368	0.004280161
PYCARD	1.130288149	3.07935E-06	1.238654912	0.00127915	0.971905957	0.000825361
RARRES3	0.191450911	0.017127959	0.306867286	0.008921978	0.02276544	0.883038304
RELA	-0.581464106	9.94774E-09	-0.46431158	0.001127077	-0.752687024	3.84915E-06
RELB	-0.432904533	1.93687E-08	-0.3725432	0.000756653	-0.521124937	1.23085E-05
S1PR1	0.392213947	7.07808E-07	0.372395484	0.000947654	0.421179392	0.001991995
sCTLA4	-0.478750817	0.000730678	-0.44104	0.053153	-0.533867162	0.001850054
SELL	0.523442023	1.35938E-10	0.537322904	4.30165E-06	0.503154582	0.000153988
SELPLG	0.757833519	8.83505E-10	0.797775589	8.20946E-06	0.699456648	0.000314071
SERPING1	0.51739366	0.00164636	0.703850838	0.004768582	0.244879	0.314625

Gene ID	ALL patients (n=32)		RESPONDERS n=(19)		NON RESPONDERS (n=13)	
	logFC	adj.P.Val	logFC	Gene ID	logFC	adj.P.Val
SIGIRR	0.407921841	1.87018E-08	0.388157515	5.04747E-05	0.436808164	0.001414008
SLAMF6	0.416915322	4.31456E-06	0.42569929	0.00214681	0.404077215	0.002437258
SLAMF7	-0.854984503	1.03024E-07	-0.59398939	0.00765582	-1.236438906	7.75456E-07
SMAD3	-0.457325657	8.20745E-07	-0.40614065	0.002213422	-0.532134521	0.000459663
SPP1	-0.794205003	0.006838877	-1.13375815	0.009734778	-0.297935018	0.525169427
SRC	-0.670388058	7.48334E-10	-0.63305952	4.9506E-05	-0.724945148	1.44397E-05
STAT3	-0.185796453	0.002739462	-0.15686506	0.084910947	-0.22808	0.030486
STAT4	-0.187332013	0.009835226	-0.15119	0.181257	-0.240157118	0.033513267
STAT5A	-0.511725699	2.11201E-08	-0.3733039	0.004269041	-0.714034475	4.03351E-07
TBK1	-0.548140736	3.17416E-09	-0.48200561	0.00013077	-0.644799762	1.23085E-05
TCF4	0.240389232	0.000182434	0.253729701	0.005921155	0.220892	0.027591
TGFBI	1.257893485	0.000934785	-0.03817041	0.799722111	1.707269505	0.008873181
TGFBR2	0.155682235	0.003427715	0.147221	0.045992	0.168048137	0.105730884
TICAM1	-0.627297527	9.94774E-09	-0.55943284	0.000251976	-0.726484375	5.38549E-05
TLR1	0.301487889	0.003795702	0.336966816	0.012181055	0.249634071	0.194842484
TLR2	-0.354026519	0.001753236	-0.38141463	0.010009451	-0.313997736	0.098863245
TLR7	1.502003515	4.85702E-07	1.630807897	4.23135E-05	1.313750958	0.008113729
TLR8	-0.24383	0.046783	-0.02036	0.923926	-0.570439977	0.000108151
TMEM173	0.212835816	0.001818817	0.249259051	0.010675997	0.159602	0.189862
TNF	-0.737837176	1.63006E-07	-0.62379687	0.001815452	-0.904511471	5.67222E-05
TNFAIP3	-0.743909873	3.73123E-12	-0.67338653	1.74548E-05	-0.846982456	1.5869E-08
TNFAIP6	-0.77937602	2.75691E-09	-0.63472702	0.000578627	-0.990786101	4.89881E-07
TNFRSF10C	1.662540627	2.75691E-09	1.539185685	5.50216E-05	1.842828618	4.26947E-05
TNFRSF13C	0.303073544	0.000626729	0.311564959	0.004009388	0.290663015	0.098863245
TNFRSF14	-0.23832668	0.000187472	-0.1966	0.039269	-0.299317481	0.001991995
TNFRSF1B	-0.331628502	0.003985162	-0.37665385	0.017275321	-0.26582	0.118605
TNFRSF8	-0.537510779	0.000157277	-0.59340591	0.004262181	-0.455817896	0.021041647
TNFRSF9	-0.737572652	7.60717E-06	-0.61598	0.012135	-0.915282656	0.00012323
TNFSF10	0.489942445	0.001425955	0.627319215	0.006396474	0.289161	0.208458
TNFSF12	0.288440067	4.37051E-06	0.244761545	0.009345021	0.352277908	0.000452173
TNFSF15	-1.050889668	3.49818E-05	-1.16887786	0.001218513	-0.87844539	0.034916538
TNFSF8	-0.564143873	6.42165E-08	-0.57483268	5.4258E-05	-0.548521777	0.002437258
TRAF1	-0.861854702	2.3542E-17	-0.81646177	4.52343E-08	-0.928198212	1.15864E-08
TRAF3	-0.499738901	6.61848E-10	-0.45991522	8.02238E-05	-0.557942744	3.84915E-06
XBPI	-0.566411149	3.14357E-11	-0.50349512	1.72885E-05	-0.65836535	8.47457E-06

*Gene expression data was analyzed in Truculture LPS stimulated samples from 32 patients. Limma analysis was performed to compare gene expression at D0 versus D90 in all 32 patients (column 2 and 3), or selectively in patients classified as Responders (column 4 and 5) or Non-responders, according to ASDAS criteria. Shown are the log fold change and adjusted p-values for the genes that resulted differentially expressed (adjusted p value equal or <0.01) in at least one of the three analyses. The grey shading indicates the comparisons that do not reach statistical significance at the adjusted p-value level of 0.05.

Supplementary Table 7. Gene Module Scoring Table when comparing D0 vs D7 for SEB and LPS stimulation

Gene module, SEB stimulation	log fold change	p Value	FDR
NFkB_inhibitors	-1.0811	2.02E-12	9.08E-11
NFkB_transcription_factors	-0.8426	2.51E-11	5.64E-10
NFkB_target_genes	-0.7197	4.46E-11	6.70E-10
TNF	-0.3519	1.23E-08	1.38E-07
NOD	-0.3290	0.0002	0.0009
dectin	-0.3283	4.29E-05	0.0003
IL1	-0.2952	6.18E-05	0.0003
TLR	-0.2914	0.0008	0.0031
NFkB_regulators	-0.2880	1.23E-06	1.11E-05
costimulatory_molecules	-0.2342	3.73E-06	2.8E-05
MAPK	-0.2158	0.0001	0.0007
M1_like_monocytes	-0.1913	0.0359	0.0734
NOTCH	-0.1599	0.0041	0.0142
complement	-0.1530	0.0387	0.0756
type_2_immunity	-0.1468	0.0190	0.0475
adhesion_molecules	-0.1445	0.0118	0.0312
JAK_STAT	-0.1374	0.0299	0.0641
IL6	-0.1241	0.1699	0.2548
autophagy	-0.1139	0.1506	0.2420
innate.immune.response	-0.1131	0.0951	0.1646
allergy	-0.1127	0.3181	0.4469
IFN_targets	-0.1111	0.0813	0.1510
NLR_inflammasomes	-0.1012	0.3928	0.5199
Tregulatory_cells	-0.0950	0.0839	0.1510
cell_cycle	-0.0905	0.1592	0.2470
apoptosis	-0.0806	0.1103	0.1839
phagocytosis	-0.0521	0.4715	0.5894
Tcell_inhibitory_signals	-0.0307	0.6199	0.7153
T_cell_signalling	-0.0052	0.9062	0.9483
type_17_immunity	-0.0037	0.9633	0.9852
TGFB	0.0006	0.9974	0.9974
proinflammatory_molecules	0.0143	0.8390	0.8989
type_1_immunity	0.0235	0.7952	0.8728
Bcells	0.0293	0.6046	0.7153
ubiquitin_proteasome	0.0304	0.5214	0.6341
chemotaxis	0.0324	0.6567	0.7387
lymphopoiesis	0.0458	0.4136	0.5318
MHC_presentation	0.0661	0.3278	0.4469
osteoclast	0.0872	0.3111	0.4469
regulatory_B_cells	0.1668	0.0084	0.0235
NKcells	0.2034	0.0268	0.0604
APC	0.2368	0.0011	0.0041
granulocytes	0.2622	0.0076	0.0229
cytotoxic_molecules	0.2823	0.0268	0.0604
M2_like_monocytes	0.3084	0.0073	0.0229

Gene module, LPS stimulation	log fold change	p Value	FDR
NFkB_inhibitors	-1.2400	3.44E-12	3.87E-11
NFkB_transcription_factors	-1.1598	1.78E-15	7.99E-14
NFkB_target_genes	-0.9257	4E-15	8.99E-14
NOD	-0.6677	0.0002	0.0007
IL1	-0.6262	1.47E-08	9.46E-08
TNF	-0.5435	4.41E-13	6.62E-12
M1_like_monocytes	-0.5073	0.0002	0.0006
dectin	-0.4728	0.0003	0.0008
NFkB_regulators	-0.4424	7.69E-10	6.92E-09
costimulatory_molecules	-0.4246	3.5E-08	1.97E-07
MAPK	-0.3875	6.25E-09	4.69E-08
type_1_immunity	-0.3813	0.0374	0.0732
type_2_immunity	-0.3728	0.0006	0.0017
Tregulatory_cells	-0.3393	0.0001	0.0004
type_17_immunity	-0.3152	0.0021	0.0052
TLR	-0.2818	0.0061	0.0144
IL6	-0.2740	0.0002	0.0007
NOTCH	-0.2562	0.0001	0.0004
JAK_STAT	-0.2377	0.0004	0.0011
cell_cycle	-0.2348	0.0001	0.0003
adhesion_molecules	-0.2189	0.0069	0.0156
autophagy	-0.2077	0.0177	0.0379
innate.immune.response	-0.2010	0.0362	0.0732
proinflammatory_molecules	-0.1644	0.1176	0.1864
Tcell_inhibitory_signals	-0.1397	0.0760	0.1368
apoptosis	-0.1290	0.0527	0.0988
complement	-0.1258	0.1201	0.1864
chemotaxis	-0.1028	0.3238	0.4180
ubiquitin_proteasome	-0.0873	0.0977	0.1691
phagocytosis	-0.0541	0.6510	0.7146
IFN_targets	-0.0537	0.5600	0.6300
allergy	-0.0535	0.7086	0.7416
MHC_presentation	-0.0474	0.3977	0.4774
T_cell_signalling	-0.0467	0.1170	0.1864
Bcells	-0.0173	0.7776	0.7952
NLR_inflammasomes	0.0318	0.8381	0.8381
granulocytes	0.0492	0.6799	0.7285
lymphopoiesis	0.0552	0.3251	0.4180
NKcells	0.0682	0.4773	0.5507
osteoclast	0.0878	0.3801	0.4751
M2_like_monocytes	0.1029	0.4031	0.4774
regulatory_B_cells	0.1091	0.1945	0.2917
APC	0.1140	0.2805	0.3944
TGFB	0.1404	0.2162	0.3139
cytotoxic_molecules	0.1906	0.3019	0.4117