Caspase-1 cleaves Bid to release mitochondrial SMAC and drive secondary necrosis in absence of GSDMD

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SUMMARY (198/200)

Caspase-1 activation in GSDMD-deficient cells induces a rapid form of caspase-3-dependent secondary necrosis that is licenced by caspase-1-induced Bid cleavage and the release of mitochondrial SMAC.

ABSTRACT (175/175)

Caspase-1 drives a lytic inflammatory cell death named pyroptosis by cleaving the pore-1 forming cell death executor gasdermin-D (GSDMD). Gsdmd-deficiency however only delays 2 cell lysis, indicating that caspase-1 controls alternative cell death pathways. Here we show that 3 in absence of GSDMD caspase-1 activates apoptotic initiator and executioner caspases and 4 5 triggers a rapid progression into secondary necrosis. GSDMD-independent cell death required 6 direct caspase-1-driven truncation of Bid and generation of caspase-3 p19/p12 by either 7 caspase-8 or caspase-9. tBid-induced mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization 8 (MOMP) was also required to drive SMAC release and relieve IAP inhibition of caspase-3 9 thereby allowing caspase-3 auto-processing to the fully active p17/p12 form. Our data reveal that cell lysis in inflammasome-activated Gsdmd-deficient cells is caused by a synergistic 10 effect of rapid caspase-1-driven activation of initiator caspases-8/-9 and Bid cleavage, resulting 11 in an unusually fast activation of caspase-3 and immediate transition into secondary necrosis. 12 This pathway might be advantageous for the host in counteracting pathogen-induced inhibition 13 of GSDMD, but also has implications for the use of GSDMD inhibitors in immune therapies for 14 caspase-1-dependent inflammatory disease. 15

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17 INTRODUCTION

Inflammasomes are cytosolic signalling platforms assembled after the recognition of host- or 18 19 pathogen-derived danger signals by cytosolic pattern recognition receptors, such as pyrin, 20 AIM2 and members of the NLR protein family (Broz and Dixit, 2016). These complexes serve 21 as activation platforms for caspase-1, the prototypical inflammatory caspase. Active caspase-22 1 cleaves the pro-inflammatory cytokines interleukin (IL)-1ß and IL-18 to their mature bioactive 23 form, and induces a lytic form of cell death known as pyroptosis, by processing the cell death executor gasdermin-D (GSDMD) (Shi et al., 2015; Kayagaki et al., 2015). Caspase cleavage 24 at the residue D276 in mouse (D275 in human), removes the inhibitory GSDMD^{CT} and allows 25 26 GSDMD^{NT} to translocate to cellular membranes and form permeability pores, that disrupt ion 27 homeostasis and the electrochemical gradient (Aglietti et al., 2016; Shi et al., 2015; Ding et al., 28 2016; Liu et al., 2016; Sborgi et al., 2016; Kayagaki et al., 2015). GSDMD is also cleaved by 29 caspase-11 in mice and by caspases-4 and -5 in humans, which are activated by the so-called 30 non-canonical inflammasome pathway in response to lipopolysaccharide (LPS) stemming from infections with cytosolic Gram-negative bacteria (Shi et al., 2014; Kayagaki et al., 2011; Hagar 31 et al., 2013; Kayagaki et al., 2013). Uncontrolled inflammasome activation by gain-of-function 32 mutations in inflammasome receptors or in the context of sterile inflammatory disease has 33 34 been linked to a number of hereditary and acquired inflammatory diseases, such as Cryopyrin-35 associated periodic syndrome (CAPS) Muckle-wells, but also gout, Alzheimer's disease and 36 atherosclerosis (Masters et al., 2009). It is thus of high interest to target and inhibit 37 inflammasome assembly or downstream effector processes like GSDMD pore formation and IL-1β release. 38

39 While Gsdmd-deficiency results in complete abrogation of caspase-11 (-4)-induced lytic cell death, it only delays caspase-1-induced cell lysis (He et al., 2015; Kayagaki et al., 2015). 40 Caspase-1 activation in Gsdmd^{-/-} cells correlates with high levels of caspase-3/7 and caspase-41 42 8 activity, but whether these apoptotic caspases trigger lysis of Gsdmd-deficient cells after caspase-1 activation has not been proven (He et al., 2015), and activation of apoptotic 43 44 caspases has been observed to occur even in inflammasome-activated WT cells (Lamkanfi et al., 2008; Sagulenko et al., 2018). The lytic death of *Gsdmd*^{-/-} cells is also in contrast to the 45 notion that apoptosis is non-lytic and thus immunologically silent. However, it is also known 46 that prolonged apoptotic caspase activity will result in apoptotic cells losing membrane 47 48 integrity, a process termed 'secondary necrosis'. Apoptosis is executed by caspase-3/-7, which 49 themselves are activated by either caspase-8 (extrinsic apoptosis pathway) or caspase-9 50 (intrinsic or mitochondrial apoptosis pathway). Ligation of death receptors at the plasma 51 membrane (FasR, TNFR, Trail) results in the assembly of the DISC (Death inducing signalling complex) or TNFR complex IIa/b, which activate caspase-8, the initiator caspase of the 52 extrinsic pathway. In type I cells caspase-8 activity is sufficient to activate the executioner 53

caspases, while in type-II cells caspase-8 requires activation of the intrinsic pathway (Jost et 54 55 al., 2009). Here, caspase-8 cleaves the Bcl-2 family protein Bid to generate a truncated version (tBid), which triggers Bax/Bak induced mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization 56 57 (MOMP). MOMP results in the release of second mitochondria-derived activator of caspases 58 (SMAC), ATP and cytochrome C to promote intrinsic apoptosis via formation of the 59 apoptosome. This complex consists of Apoptotic Protease Activating Factor 1 (APAF1), 60 cytochrome C, ATP and caspase-9 and serves as an activation platform for caspase-9 which in turn cleaves caspase-3. Apoptosis is a tightly regulated process, disturbance of the 61 equilibrium of cytosolic pool of pro- and anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 family proteins can result in 62 MOMP, apoptosis induction and cell death (Vince et al., 2018). To prevent accidental activation 63 64 of apoptosis, Inhibitor of Apoptosis Proteins (IAPs), in particular XIAP, supresses caspase-3/7 65 and -9 activation by direct binding to the caspases via BIR domains (Bratton et al., 2002; Takahashi et al., 1998; Roy et al., 1997; Scott et al., 2005). SMAC, that is released during 66 MOMP, antagonizes IAPs thus removing the brake on caspase auto-processing and allowing 67 full activity of the executioner caspases and apoptotic cell death (Du et al., 2000; Wilkinson et 68 al., 2004; Verhagen et al., 2000). 69

70 Here we investigated the mechanism that induces lytic cell death after caspase-1 activation in Gsdmd-deficient cells. We show that cell death in Gsdmd-/- macrophages requires caspase-71 72 1, Bid-dependent mitochondrial permeabilization and the executioner caspase-3. Remarkably, 73 Gsdmd-deficient cells form apoptotic blebs and bodies only transiently, before shifting rapidly 74 to a necrotic phenotype that is characterized by extensive membrane ballooning. Unexpectedly, we found that Bid cleavage and subsequent MOMP is driven directly by 75 76 caspase-1 independently of caspase-8, even though high levels of cleaved caspase-8 p18 are found in inflammasome-activated Gsdmd-deficient cells. Upon investigating the steps 77 downstream of MOMP, we observed that knocking-out Casp9 in Gsdmd^{-/-} cells had only a 78 small effect on cell death, while removing both Casp8 and Casp9 abrogated GSDMD-79 independent cell death. The redundancy in caspase-8 and -9 requirement was explained by 80 the observation that either caspase was sufficient to process caspase-3 between the large and 81 small catalytic domains thereby generating the intermediate caspase-3 p19 and p12 82 fragments. Caspase-1-dependent Bid cleavage and SMAC release is then required to remove 83 84 IAP inhibition, thereby allowing auto-cleavage of caspase-3 to the p17/p12 fragments and full caspase activation (Kavanagh et al., 2014). Thus, cell lysis in absence of GSDMD is driven by 85 86 the synergistic effect of both rapid caspase-1-driven activation of initiator caspases-8/-9 and 87 Bid cleavage, which results in an unusually fast activation of caspase-3 and immediate 88 transition into secondary necrosis.

89 RESULTS

90 Canonical inflammasomes trigger a rapid secondary necrosis in absence of GSDMD

The canonical and non-canonical inflammasome pathways converge on the caspase-91 dependent cleavage and activation of the pyroptosis executor GSDMD (Shi et al., 2015; 92 93 Kayagaki et al., 2015). However, while GSDMD is essential for lytic cell death (pyroptosis) after LPS-induced non-canonical inflammasome activation (Fig. S1A), Gsdmd-deficiency only 94 delays cell lysis after engagement of canonical inflammasome receptors, such as AIM2 (Fig. 95 1A, S1B-D), NLRC4 (Fig. S1B) and NLRP3 (Fig. S1B) (Kayagaki et al., 2015). The absence 96 of caspase-1 and -11 in primary bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs), by contrast, 97 showed a much stronger reduction in LDH release and PI influx; and Asc-deficiency completely 98 abrogated cell lysis after AIM2 or NLRP3 activation, in line with the reported ASC-dependent 99 activation of apoptosis in absence of caspase-1 (Sagulenko et al., 2013; Pierini et al., 2012; 100 101 Chen et al., 2015; Man et al., 2013; Vajjhala et al., 2015).

102 We next tested a number of cell death inhibitors for their ability to block cell lysis in Gsdmd^{-/-} 103 immortalized BMDMs (iBMDMs) transfected with poly(dA:dT), an activator of the AIM2 inflammasome (Fig. S2). Neither 7-CI-O-Nec1 (RIPK1 kinase inhibitor) nor GSK872 (RIPK3 104 105 kinase inhibitor) were able to delay cell death in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} iBMDMs, thereby excluding a role for necroptosis or complex IIb-dependent apoptosis which require the kinase activity of RIPK3 106 or RIPK1 respectively (Tenev et al., 2011; Feoktistova et al., 2011; He et al., 2009; Zhang et 107 al., 2009; Cho et al., 2009). Similarly, we ruled out the involvement of calpains, calcium-108 109 dependent proteases (PD150606, Calpeptin) or cathepsins (pan-cathepsin inhibitor K777), which were previously shown to induce apoptosis through a caspase-3 dependent or 110 independent mechanisms (Chwieralski et al., 2006; Stennicke et al., 1998; Momeni, 2011). 111 Finally, we also tested if caspase inhibitors delayed death in $Gsdmd^{--}$ or WT iBMDMs. 112 Remarkably, we found that whereas the pan-caspase inhibitor VX765 delayed PI uptake in 113 both WT and Gsdmd^{-/-} poly(dA:dT)-transfected cells, the specific caspase-3/-7 inhibitor I only 114 blocked cell death in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} but not in WT cells (Fig. 1B, Fig. S2). VX765 failed to prevent 115 116 cell death in WT cells at later timepoints in accordance with previous studies that showed that pyroptosis is difficult to block pharmaceutically (Schneider et al., 2017). 117

While this suggested that apoptotic executioner caspases were necessary for cell death in *Gsdmd*-deficient cells but dispensable for cell death in WT cells, the speed by which *Gsdmd*deficient cells underwent apoptosis and subsequently cell lysis was remarkable. *Gsdmd*-/-BMDMs displayed DNA-laddering and processing of caspase-3 to the mature p17 fragment within one hour after poly(dA:dT) transfection, which was faster than even the highest concentrations of either extrinsic or intrinsic apoptosis stimuli tested (**Fig. 1C-D**). It is noteworthy that the highest concentration regularly used to induce apoptosis is yet 20-times

lower than the concentration used in our study (Vince et al., 2018). Phenotypically, this rapid 125 activation of caspase-3 resulted in a very fast lytic cell death as measured by PI influx (Fig. 126 1E) and morphological analysis (Fig. 1F). Of note, inflammasome-stimulated Gsdmd^{-/-} 127 128 BMDMs initiated membrane blebbing and apoptotic body formation initially, but rapidly lost this 129 morphology and transitioned into a necrotic state, characterized by extensive membrane 130 ballooning (Fig. 1F), similarly to the end-stage of GSDMD-induced pyroptosis (Fig. S3A-C). 131 We conclude that inflammasome activation in absence of GSDMD results in rapid cell lysis, 132 which we propose to refer to as 'GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis' to reflect both the rapid transition to the necrotic state and the requirement for the activity of the apoptotic 133 134 executioner caspases-3/-7.

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136 GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis is mainly driven by caspase-3

We next investigated which executioner caspase was required for GSDMD-independent 137 secondary necrosis after caspase-1 activation. High levels of caspase-3/-7 activity was 138 detected in poly(dA:dT)-transfected and *Salmonella*-infected *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and to a lesser degree 139 in Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} BMDMs, whereas WT or Asc^{-/-} BMDMs showed minimal to no activity 140 (Fig. 2A, Fig. S4A). Since both caspase-3 and -7 cleave the DEVD peptidic substrate, we next 141 determined which executioner caspase was cleaved in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} cells, but found that both 142 caspase-3 and caspase-7 were rapidly cleaved (Fig. 2B). Although, caspase-7 was found in 143 WT and *Gsdmd*-deficient cells, only *Gsdmd*^{-/-} cells display detectable caspase-3/-7 activity 144 145 and caspase-3 cleavage (Fig. 2A). We therefore hypothesized that caspase-3 must account for the DEVDase activity in $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ BMDMs. 146

To confirm our hypothesis genetically, we used CRISPR/Cas9 genome engineering to delete 147 either Casp3 or Casp7, or both Casp-3/7 in Gsdmd^{-/-} BMDMs (Fig. S4B) and determined the 148 impact of the deletion on GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis after AIM2 inflammasome 149 activation (Fig. 2C, Fig. S4C). Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-} as well as Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} 150 151 iBMDMs were strongly protected against cell death after poly(dA:dT) transfection, while Casp7 152 single-deficiency did not provide protection, despite previous reports that caspase-3 and -7 153 function in redundant manner (Fig. 2C, Fig. S4C) (Lamkanfi and Kanneganti, 2010; Walsh et al., 2008). Caspase-7 appeared to mainly contribute to the cell death observed in Gsdmd^{-/-} 154 /Casp3^{-/-} iBMDMs, as these had higher LDH levels than Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} iBMDMs 155 (Fig. 2C). These data were further corroborated by knock-down of caspase-3 or -7 in Gsdmd⁻ 156 ^{-/-} iBMDMs (Fig. S4D). Finally, we also examined cell morphology after poly(dA:dT) 157 transfection. *Casp7* knock-out in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} iBMDMs failed to reduce necrotic features and cell 158 lysis, whereas Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-} as well as Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} iBMDMs remained 159 alive and intact (Fig. 2D) at 3 hours post treatment. In summary, these results demonstrate 160

that even though both executioner caspases are cleaved during cell death, it is caspase-3 that
 drives GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis in inflammasome-activated cells.

Because caspase-3 was shown to cleave gasdermin-E (GSDME), another member of the 163 164 gasdermin-family, and was proposed to drive secondary necrosis during prolonged apoptosis, 165 we asked whether lack of GSDMD drives an alternative pathway via caspase-3 mediated 166 GSDME cleavage and pore formation. We thus measured LDH release and PI influx in WT, *Gsdmd*^{-/-}, *Gsdme*^{-/-}, *Gsdmd*^{-/-}/*Gsdme*^{-/-} BMDMs upon activation of the AIM2 inflammasome 167 (**Fig. 2E, S5A**). Surprisingly, although GSDME was cleaved in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} at 1h post poly(dA:dT) 168 169 transfection, we did not find a contribution of GSDME to cell death in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} BMDMs, since double GSDMD/GSDME-deficiency did not conferred any additional protection (Fig. 2E, S5A-170 B). Furthermore, BMDMs lacking only GSDME were comparable to WT BMDMs, overall 171 suggesting that GSDME does neither contribute to pyroptosis nor GSDMD-independent 172 necrosis. 173

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175 Caspase-1 is required to cause GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis in 176 inflammasome-activated cells

177 Since the ASC speck has been reported to control activation of apoptotic caspases independently of caspase-1 (Sagulenko et al., 2013; Pierini et al., 2012; Schneider et al., 2017; 178 Van Opdenbosch et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2018; Mascarenhas et al., 2017), we next generated 179 *Gsdmd*^{-/-}/*Casp1*^{-/-} BMDMs to determine if caspase-1 was required for GSDMD-independent 180 secondary necrosis (Fig. 3A). Deletion of caspase-1 in Gsdmd-deficient BMDMs strongly 181 reduced LDH release, caspase-3 processing and caspase-3 activity (Fig. 3A-C). LDH levels 182 after 3 and 5 hours of poly(dA:dT) transfection were comparable to Casp1-//Casp11-/ 183 BMDMs, but not as low as in Asc^{--} , confirming that Casp1 deletion did not affect the cell death 184 that is caused through the ASC-Caspase-8 axis (Fig. 3B). It would theoretically be possible 185 that GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis is not driven by the catalytic activity of caspase-186 1, but by the formation of a caspase-1-containing scaffold and the assembly of an unknown 187 death inducing complex, in analogy to the scaffolding function of caspase-8 (Henry and Martin, 188 2017). However, we found that poly(dA:dT)-induced PI influx in BMDMs from Casp1^{C284A/C284A} 189 mice, which express a catalytically dead caspase-1, was comparable to $Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}$ or 190 Casp1^{-/-} BMDMs, and much lower than PI influx in Gsdmd^{-/-}, we formally excluded this 191 192 possibility (Fig. 3D), we formally concluded that caspase-1 enzymatic-activity is required to drive GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis. 193

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Bid cleavage is required for mitochondrial damage and GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis

While examining the morphology of inflammasome activated BMDMs by confocal microscopy, we found that *Gsdmd*^{-/-} cells were characterized by mitochondrial fragmentation and loss of mitochondrial membrane potential (Fig. S6A) and a rapid drop of cellular ATP levels (Fig. 4A, Fig. S6B-D) as early as 30 min after inflammasome activation. Given this rapid loss of mitochondrial integrity we hypothesized that it was linked to the rapid onset of caspase-3 activation and induction of secondary necrosis in *Gsdmd*-deficient cells.

An imbalance of pro- and anti-apoptotic Bcl2 family members results in activation of Bax/Bak 203 pore formation and loss of mitochondrial integrity during apoptosis. Often, degradation and/or 204 cleavage of anti-apoptotic Bcl2 proteins as well as activating cleavage of BH3-only protein are 205 responsible for mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization (MOMP). To identify which 206 pro-apoptotic Bcl2 proteins are processed in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} BMDMs, we made use of Stable Isotope 207 Labeling with Amino acids in Cell culture (SILAC) mass spectrometry approach (Ong et al., 208 2002). Differentially isotope-labelled immortalized Gsdmd^{-/-} and Asc^{-/-} BMDMs were 209 transfected with poly(dA:dT), proteins separated by molecular weight using SDS-PAGE, cut 210 211 according to MW and each slice analyzed by mass spectrometry (Slice-SILAC). The differential 212 analysis of the heavy versus light fraction enabled a comparison between the non-responsive 213 Asc^{-/-} and the responsive Gsdmd^{-/-}, wherein appearance of smaller fragments in Gsdmd^{-/-} indicated potential cleavage. We focused on potential cleavage of Bcl-2 family proteins that 214 indicate their inability to inhibit BH3-only proteins or promote BH3-only proteins to induce 215 mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization (MOMP) (Bock and Tait, 2019). The anti-216 apoptotic protein Mcl-1(of Bcl-2, Mcl-1 and Bcl-XL) and the pro-apoptotic proteins Bax, Bak, 217 Bid (but not Bim) were found to be cleaved in *Gsdmd*^{-/-}, but not in *Asc*^{-/-} cells (Fig. 4B). Since 218 in type-II cells caspase-8-cleaved tBid translocates to the mitochondria to promote Bax/Bak-219 220 dependent pore formation and intrinsic apoptosis, we investigated whether Bid cleavage promoted GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis. Confirming the SILAC data, Bid was 221 found to be rapidly cleaved in $Gsdmd^{--}$ cells but not in Asc^{---} after inflammasome activation 222 (Fig. 4C). However, since Bid cleavage was also observed in WT and Casp1^{-/}/Casp11^{-/} 223 224 BMDMs, we proceeded to assess its contribution to GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis genetically by generating Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-} iBMDMs (Fig. S7A). Knocking out Bid in Gsdmd^{-/-} 225 226 cells significantly reduced the levels of caspase-3 activity (Fig. S7B) after poly(dA:dT) 227 transfection and in agreement with that strongly reduced LDH release and PI uptake were observed (Fig. 4D, Fig. S7C). Strikingly, *Gsdmd*^{-/-}/*Bid*^{-/-} cells looked adhered and elongated 228 229 comparable to untreated iBMDMs upon transfection with poly(dA:dT) which is in contrast to $Gsdmd^{--}$ iBMDMs which displayed typical necrotic features such as rounding up, 230 permeabilization, shrinkage and blebbing (Fig. S7D). In summary, these results show that Bid 231

is an essential mediator of GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis, and suggest that Bidcleavage is required to drive this cell death.

234 Caspase-1 cleaves Bid to promote caspase-3 activation and cell lysis

Since proteolytic cleavage of Bid precedes MOMP and is required for cell death we next 235 236 enquired which upstream caspase is responsible for Bid activation. Immunoblotting for the cleaved p18 fragment of caspase-8 suggested that Gsdmd^{-/-} BMDMs contain active caspase-237 8 at 15-30 minutes after poly(dA:dT) transfection, while very little cleaved caspase-8 p18 was 238 found in WT, Asc^{-/-} or Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} BMDMs (Fig. 5A, S8A). Interestingly, the relatively 239 low levels of caspase-8 cleavage in $Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}$ compared to $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ BMDMs 240 suggested that direct activation of caspase-8 by the ASC speck was negligible and that instead 241 caspase-8 activation in $Gsdmd^{--}$ cells depended on the presence caspase-1. However, 242 whether caspase-1 would cleave and activate caspase-8 directly or by an indirect pathway 243 244 could not be deduced.

245 We next assessed the role of caspase-8 in causing GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis by generating *Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-}* iBMDM lines (**Fig. S8B**). Of note, while *Casp8*-deficiency in 246 mice results in embryonic lethality due to the unchecked activation of RIP3-dependent 247 necroptosis (Oberst et al., 2011; Kaiser et al., 2011), Casp8-deficient macrophages were 248 reported to be viable unless stimulated with extrinsic apoptotic triggers (Kang et al., 2004; 249 Cuda et al., 2015; Kaiser et al., 2011). Indeed, when testing if Gsdmd--/Casp8-- BMDMs 250 showed reduced levels of cell death after induction of apoptosis with the extrinsic apoptosis 251 stimulus TNF α /SMAC we found that cell death was reduced, but not completely abrogated 252 (Fig. S8C). The remaining cell death, however, was block when $TNF\alpha/SMAC$ was combined 253 254 with the RIPK3 kinase inhibitor GSK'872 (Fig. S8C). These results confirmed that the cells 255 were indeed Casp8 knock-outs, and that the necroptotic pathway was only initiated when death receptors were engaged. We next compared LDH release in Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-} 256 BMDMs after transfection of the AIM2 inflammasome activator poly(dA:dT). Unexpectedly, we 257 found no difference in LDH release nor PI uptake between these two genotypes (Fig. 5B, 258 259 **S8D**). Furthermore, we were still able to detect Bid cleavage and caspase-3 processing to the active p17 fragment in inflammasome-activated Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-} BMDMs (Fig. 5C-D). 260 Previous work has implied that Bid can also be a substrate of caspase-1 (Li et al., 1998), since 261 262 caspase-1 and caspase-8 have partially overlapping substrate spectrum that includes also 263 GSDMD and IL1 β (Orning et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2019; Sarhan et al., 2018; Maelfait et al., 2008). In line with caspase-1 controlling Bid cleavage directly and independently of caspase-264 8, we found that tBid generation after AIM2 activation was completely abrogated in Gsdmd^{-/-} 265 $/Casp1^{--}$ BMDMs at early timepoint and strongly reduced after prolonged incubation (Fig. 5E), 266 267 and that caspase-1 was able to efficiently convert Bid to tBid in an in vitro cleavage assay (Fig.

5F). In summary our data thus far suggest that while Bid cleavage is essential for GSDMDindependent secondary necrosis and high-levels of active caspase-8 are found in these cells,
it is caspase-1 and not caspase-8 that processes Bid and induces mitochondrial
permeabilization.

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273 GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis requires both caspase-8 and caspase-9

Having identified caspase-1, Bid and caspase-3 as the essential drivers of GSDMD-274 275 independent secondary necrosis, we next asked if activation of caspase-9 downstream of mitochondrial permeabilization and cytochrome c release provides the link between Bid and 276 caspase-3 activation. We thus generated Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} iBMDM lines by CRISPR/Cas9 277 genome targeting and verified that they lacked caspase-9 expression and no longer responded 278 to intrinsic apoptosis induction (Fig. S9A-B). However, we found that in analogy to Casp8-279 deficiency, knocking out of Casp9 in Gsdmd^{-/-} had only a small impact on poly(dA:dT)-induced 280 281 secondary necrosis after 5 hours of treatment, while no impact was detectable at earlier 282 timepoint (Fig. 6A, S9C). Furthermore, caspase-3 processing was also found to be unaffected in these cell lines (Fig. 6B). 283

These results raised the possibility that caspase-8 and caspase-9 activity was redundant or 284 285 that caspase-1 was driving Bid cleavage and caspase-3 activation somehow independently of both initiator caspases. We addressed these two scenarios by creating Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-} 286 /Casp9^{-/-} iBMDM lines (Fig. S9D) and compared their phenotype after AIM2 inflammasome 287 activation to our other knockout lines. Poly(dA:dT)-transfected Gsdmd-//Casp8-//Casp9-/ 288 BMDMs displayed significantly reduced levels of LDH release compared to Gsdmd^{-/-}, Gsdmd⁻ 289 ^{/-}/Casp8^{-/-} or Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} cells (Fig. 6C). Consistent with the reduced levels of cell lysis, 290 we also found that caspase-3 processing was significantly reduced in Gsdmd-/-/Casp8-/-291 $/Casp9^{-/-}$ when compared to the other genotypes (**Fig. 6D**), confirming that activity of either 292 293 initiator caspase was sufficient to drive caspase-3 activation and GSDMD-independent 294 secondary necrosis.

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Bid-induced mitochondrial permeabilization is required to release SMAC and promote conversion of caspase-3 p19 to p17

The finding that single deficiency in either caspase-8 or caspase-9 had no impact on caspase-3 activation and GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis, while double-deficiency abrogated cell lysis was unexpected and puzzling. Since Bid was essential for GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis while caspase-9 was not, we hypothesized that other factors released from permeabilized mitochondria were required. Besides cytochrome C, which activates Apaf-1 to

303 assemble the apoptosome and promote caspase-9 activity, mitochondria also release ATP and SMAC. SMAC binds IAPs, in particular XIAP, which normally supresses caspase-3/7 and 304 -9 activity, and thus relieves the block on apoptosis induction (Deveraux et al., 1997; Wu et al., 305 306 2000). We thus closely examined caspase-3 processing between poly(dA:dT)-transfected *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-}/*Bid*^{-/-}, and found that while only the p17 fragment of caspase-3 was 307 found in Gsdmd^{-/-} BMDMs, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-} featured two cleaved caspase-3 bands, at 19 and 308 309 17 kDa (Fig. 6E, S9E). Previous studies showed that p19 fragment is generated by apical caspases cleaving in the linker domain between the large and small subunit, while the p17 is 310 generated by auto-processing of the pro-peptide by caspase-3 itself (Kavanagh et al., 2014) 311 (Fig. 6F). We hypothesised that *Bid*-deficiency delayed IAP release and thus conversion from 312 313 the p19 to the p17 fragment and full activity of caspase-3 and that this was a critical factor for GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis. Indeed, treatment with the SMAC mimetic AZD 314 5582 increased generation of caspase-3 p17 (Fig. S9F), and partially restored cells death in 315 Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-} BMDMs (Fig. 6G). These results suggest that during GSDMD-independent 316 secondary necrosis, Bid cleavage and mitochondrial permeabilization are mainly required for 317 the release of SMAC and subsequent binding to XIAP, but not to drive caspase-9 activation. 318 However, since either caspase-8 or caspase-9 are needed to process caspase-3 (Fig. 6D), 319 320 caspase-1 cannot induce GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis in absence of both initiator 321 caspases (Fig. 7).

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323 DISCUSSION

Here we show that the cell lysis that occurs in Gsdmd-deficient cells upon activation of 324 325 canonical inflammasomes is a rapid form of secondary necrosis (referred to as 'GSDMD-326 independent secondary necrosis' in this manuscript), and that it depends on the caspase-1-327 dependent activation of either caspase-8 or -9, Bid cleavage, SMAC release and caspase-3 328 activity. Secondary necrosis describes the loss of membrane integrity of apoptotic cells or 329 apoptotic bodies, and is thus appropriate since death in *Gsdmd*-deficient cells relies on initiator caspases as well as the executor caspase-3 and results in a loss of membrane integrity. Yet, 330 it is remarkably different from regular apoptosis in the signaling pathways that underlies its 331 induction, cellular morphology and the speed by which cells undergo death. 332

GSDMD-independent cell lysis is characterized by a rapid loss of mitochondrial potential and 333 rapid activation of caspase-3, and an atypical apoptotic morphology. Indeed, cells undergoing 334 335 this type of cell death show only initially signs of regular apoptotic blebs or apoptotic body formation, and quickly lose membrane integrity and start ballooning, similarly to pyroptotic 336 337 cells. This morphology has in the past led to the speculation that caspase-1 might directly or 338 indirectly cleave an alternative lytic cell death executor, such as another gasdermin family member. Indeed, recently Tsuchiya and colleagues proposed that caspase-3 processes 339 340 GSDME in Gsdmd-deficient CL26 cells that harbor dimerizer-activated caspase-1 (Tsuchiya 341 et al., 2019). Our data in primary mouse macrophages however show no involvement of GSDME in GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis (Fig. 2E, Fig. S5A-B), even though 342 GSDME is detectable and processed (Fig. S5B). This discrepancy is most likely caused by 343 344 differences in GSDME expression levels between different cell types. Recent results show that 345 a number of cancer cell lines express sufficiently high levels of GSDME to cause pyroptosis upon treatment with apoptosis-inducing chemotherapy drugs (Wang et al., 2017b). It remains 346 to be determined how much GSDME is expressed by CL-26 cells, a murine colorectal 347 carcinoma cell line, compared to macrophages (Tsuchiya et al., 2019), but overwhelming 348 evidence suggest that at least in macrophages, GSDME expression or activity appear to be 349 350 insufficient to induce GSDME-dependent cell death after caspase-3 activation (Lee et al., 351 2018; Chen et al., 2019; Sarhan et al., 2018; Vince et al., 2018). Thus, other yet undefined factors drive the lysis of Gsdmd-deficient BMDMs. 352

Another striking difference between regular apoptosis and GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis is the signalling pathway underlying caspase-3 activation. Our data show that the main driver of this cell death is active caspase-1, and that it promotes cell death by cleaving several targets. The most critical of these targets appears to be Bid, which is converted by caspase-1 to tBid (independently of caspase-8) and which induces mitochondrial permeabilization and the release of cytochrome C, ATP and SMAC. Moreover, caspase-1 acts 359 as a kind of 'super-initiator' caspase by activating initiator caspases-8/-9. It is worth noting that 360 caspase-8-activation is mostly driven by caspase-1 with a negligible contribution of direct caspase-8 activation at the ASC speck, as evident from much reduced caspase-8 cleavage in 361 362 Casp1/Casp11-deficient compared to Gsdmd-deficient cells. This could potentially be driven 363 by direct caspase-1-induced cleavage of caspase-8, or by caspase-1 somehow enhancing 364 ASC-dependent caspase-8 activation. Caspase-9 activation however is downstream of Bid 365 cleavage. The requirement for either caspase-8 and -9 appears to stem from the fact that 366 caspase-1 fails to process caspase-3 efficiently, despite previous reports suggesting that caspase-1 cleaved caspase-3 directly (Taabazuing et al., 2017; Sagulenko et al., 2018). 367 368 However, caspase-1 is efficient enough to activate Bid to induce SMAC release, to relieve 369 inhibition by IAPs and allows full conversion to caspase-3 p17/p12.

370 Our findings are contradicting a recent report by the Suda lab, which proposed that cell death in Gsdmd-deficient cells is solely caused by the Bid-caspase-9-caspase-3 axis (Tsuchiya et 371 372 al., 2019). The discrepancy is potentially related to cell line-intrinsic differences or to the method used to activate caspase-1. Tsuchiya et al. performed experiments in CL26-cells, 373 which for example lack ASC, and thus lack ASC speck-induced activation of caspase-8 374 375 (Sagulenko et al., 2013; Vajihala et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2016; Pierini et al., 2012), while we 376 used immortalized macrophages, which recapitulate the behavior of primary BMDMs. 377 Furthermore, they used a dimerizer-based system to activate caspase-1, which most likely 378 induces higher levels of caspase-1 activity compared to physiological inflammasome triggers. 379 and thus might explain why Tsuchiya and colleagues did not observe a role for caspase-8, which we however find necessary to amplify caspase-1 activity after treatment with established 380 canonical inflammasome triggers. However, both studies agree that Bid cleavage is essential 381 for cell death in Gsdmd-deficient cells, and that Bid is cleaved by caspase-1 independent of 382 383 caspase-8.

Recent work has revealed a surprisingly high level of redundancy and crosstalk between the 384 apoptotic, necroptotic and pyroptotic cell death pathways. Interestingly, in many cases these 385 386 pathways or crosstalk are normally not detectable or only turned on when another pathway is 387 inhibited. For example, deletion of caspase-8 or its autoprocessing sites are known to results in activation of RIP3/MLKL-dependent necroptosis, a pathway that can otherwise not be 388 observed, and catalytic-dead caspase-8 results in activation of necroptosis as well pyroptosis 389 390 (Kaiser et al., 2011; Kang et al., 2018; Oberst et al., 2011). It is assumed that this redundancy 391 developed as a defense mechanism to guard against pathogen-induced inhibition of apoptosis, 392 and accordingly viral inhibitors of the three major cell death pathways have been identified 393 (Taxman et al., 2010; Nailwal and Chan, 2019; Li and Stollar, 2004), which highlights that 394 necroptosis is not an artifact caused by lack of caspase-8 activity. Similarly, it could be speculated that the ability of caspase-1 to induce rapid secondary necrosis by activating 395

apoptotic caspases might have developed as a safeguard against viruses that inhibit GSDMD. 396 Indeed, recently, the pathogenic enterovirus 71, that is known to trigger the NLRP3-397 inflammasome (Wang et al., 2017a), was shown to interfere with GSDMD activation. In 398 399 particular the viral protease 3C was shown to cleave GSDMD at Q193/194, interfering with N-400 terminal fragment formation, oligomerization and GSDMD pore formation (Wang et al., 2015). 401 Furthermore, GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis appears to contribute to the clearance 402 of bacterial infection, as it could be shown that *Gsdmd*^{-/-} mice are less susceptible to infection 403 with Francisella novicida compared to Casp1- or Aim2-deficient animals (Schneider et al., 404 2017; Kanneganti et al., 2018b). Along the same lines, Gsdmd-deficient mice infected with B. thailandensis show lower CFUs and lower IL-1 β levels than Casp1/Casp11-deficient animals 405 (Wang et al., 2019). Similarly, it was reported that peritoneal IL-1 β levels are higher in 406 Salmonella typhimurium-infected Gsdmd^{-/-} mice than Casp1^{-/-} controls (Monteleone et al., 407 2018). These studies thus allow the conclusion that GSDMD-independent cell death is also 408 engaged *in vivo* and that it allows partial protection against intracellular bacterial pathogens. 409 Unexpectedly however, GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis does not appear to be 410 important in models of autoinflammatory diseases, since Gsdmd-deficiency rescues mice 411 expressing mutant NLRP3 or Pyrin, linked to Neonatal Onset Multisystem Inflammatory 412 Disease (NOMID) and Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) (Xiao et al., 2018; Kanneganti et 413 414 al., 2018a).

Considering that knock-out of GSDMD showed a big improvement in pro-inflammatory 415 symptoms associated with the autoinflammatory disease NOMID and FMF, and the 416 417 importance of the canonical inflammasome pathway in sterile inflammatory disease, research 418 has focused on the discovery of GSDMD specific inhibitors. To date several inhibitors have 419 been identified, though off target effects and specificity still need to be evaluated in more detail 420 (Rathkey et al., 2018; Sollberger et al., 2018; Rashidi et al., 2019). Furthermore, it is important 421 to consider that caspase-1 activity is unrestrained by these inhibitors, and that thus caspase-1 might induce cell death and inflammation through the back-up pathway described in our 422 423 study.

424

425 MATERIAL AND METHODS

Antibodies, chemicals and reagents. Drugs: VX-765 (MedchemExpress), Caspase-3/7
inhibitor I (CAS 220509-74-0, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), Q-VD-Oph (Selleck Chemicals),
AZD5582 (Selleck Chemicals), 7-CI-O-Nec1 (Abcam), GSK872 (Selleck Chemicals), K777
(Adipogen), PD 150606 (Tocris), Calpeptin (Selleck Chemicals), ABT-737 (Selleck
Chemicals), S63845 (Selleck Chemicals), Nigericin (InvivoGen).

Antibodies: GSDMD (Ab209845, Abcam), Casp-1 (Casper1, AG-20B-0042-C100, AdipoGen),
Tubulin (Ab40742, Abcam), IL-1β (AF-401-NA, R & D Systems), Caspase-3 (#9662, Cell
Signaling Technology), Caspase-7 (#9492, Cell Signaling Technology), Caspase-8 (#9429 and
4927, Cell Signaling Technology), Caspase-9 (#9508 and #9504, Cell Signaling Technology),
Bid (#2003, Cell Signaling Technology).

Animal experiments. All experiments were performed with approval from the veterinary office 436 437 of the Canton de Vaud and according to the guidelines from the Swiss animal protection law (licence VD3257). C57BL/6J mice were purchased from Janvier Labs (France) and housed at 438 specific pathogen-free facility at the University of Lausanne. Mice lacking Asc, Casp1, 439 Casp1/11, Gsdmd, Gsdme or expressing mutant Casp1^{C284A} have been previously described 440 441 (Chen et al., 2019; Schneider et al., 2017; Mariathasan et al., 2004; Kayagaki et al., 2011). All mice were either generated (Gsdmd-/-, Gsdme-/-) or back crossed (other lines) in the C56BL/6J 442 background. 443

Cell culture and immortalization of macrophages. Primary mouse macrophages (BMDMs) 444 were differentiated for 6 days and cultured for up to 9 days in DMEM (Gibco) supplemented 445 with 10% FCS (Bioconcept), 20% 3T3 supernatant (MCSF), 10% Hepes (Gibco) and 10% non-446 essential amino acids (Gibco). Immortalization of macrophages was done as previously 447 described (Broz et al., 2010; Blasi et al., 1985). Immortalized macrophages (iBMDMs) were 448 cultured in DMEM complemented with 10% FCS (Bioconcept), 10% MCSF (3T3 supernatant), 449 450 10% Hepes (Amimed) and 10% non-essential amino acids (Life Technologies). To passage the BMDM and iBMDMs cells were washed with PBS and left to detach at 4°C for 15 min and 451 452 scarped using cell scrapers (Sarstedt), spun down at 300 g for 5 min at 4°C and resuspended 453 in the appropriate amount of medium.

454

Crispr genome editing in immortalized macrophages. Bid-, Casp9-, Casp-8-, Casp-455 456 8/Casp9-, Casp1-, Casp3-, Casp7- and Casp3/7-deficient immortalized BMDM (iBMDM) were 457 generated using the genome editing system Alt-R-CRISPR/Cas (IDT) according to the 458 manufacturer's Briefly, the gene-specific targeting (Bid: protocol. crRNA 459 TGGCTGTACTCGCCAAGAGC TGG Caspase-9: CACACGCACGGGCTCCAACT TGG, CTTCCTAGACTGCAACCGAG 460 Caspase-8: AGG. Caspase-1: 461 AATGAAGACTGCTACCTGGC AGG, Caspase-7: GATAAG TGGGCACTCGGTCC TGG, Caspase-3: AATGTCATCTCGCTCTGGTA CGG or TGGGCCTGAAATACCAAGTC AGG) 462 was mixed with the universal RNA oligo tracrRNA to form a gRNA complex (crRNA:-463 464 tracrRNA). The addition of the recombinant Cas9 nuclease V3 allowed the formation of an RNP complex specific for targeting the desired genes. The tracrRNA only or RNP complexes 465 were subsequently reverse-transfected into either WT or Gsdmd^{-/-} immortalized iBMDM using 466

RNAiMax (Invitrogen). The bulk population was tested for successful gene mutation using the 467 T7 endonuclease digestion assay as follows: cells were lysed by the KAPA Biosystems Kit 468 according to the manufacturer's protocol, and genomic DNA flanking the guide RNA (crRNA) 469 470 binding site was amplified bv PCR using gene-specific primers (Bid: fw: 471 CTGGACATTACTGGGGGGCAG, rv: CTCGATAGCCCCTTGGTGTC, Caspase-9: fw: 472 CAAGCTCTCCAGACCTGACC, rv: GAGATCTGACGGGCACCATT, Caspase-8: fw: 473 GGGATGTTGGAGGAAGGCAA, rv: GGCACAGACTTTGAGGGGTT, Caspase-1: fw: 474 CAGACAAGATCCTGAGGGCA, rv: AGATGAGGATCCAGCGAGTAT, Caspase-7: fw: TTGCCTGACCCAAG GTTTGT, rv: CCCAGCAACAGGAAAGCAAC; Caspase-3: fw: GTG 475 GGGGATATCGCTGTCAT, rv: TGTGTAAGGATGCGGACTGC). The amplified genomic DNA 476 477 was used to perform the heteroduplex analysis according to the manufacturer's protocol (IDT). 478 Single clones were derived from the bulk population by limiting dilution, and the absence of 479 protein expression in single clones was verified by immunoblotting and sequencing of genomic 480 regions, where required.

siRNA knockdown. 2.5 x 10⁵ Gsdmd-deficient iBMDMs were seeded per well of a 6-well plate 481 and incubated overnight. For the siRNA transfection, medium was changed to OptiMEM and 482 483 siRNA transfection was done according to the manufacturer's protocol, transfecting 25 pmol 484 siRNA (non-targeting: siGENOME Non-targeting siRNA Control Pools [D-001206-14, 485 Dharmacon], caspase-3: Casp3 SMART POOL [M-043042-01, Dharmacon], caspase-7: Casp7 SMART POOL [M-057362-01, Dharmacon])with 7.5 µl Lipofectamine RNAiMax 486 (Invitrogen) per well. Medium was exchanged for DMEM (10% FCS, 10% MCSF, 1% NeAA, 487 488 1% Hepes) after 6 hours. 48 hours post transfection cells were collected and reseeded in a 96-well plate at $3x10^4$ cells/well. Cells were primed and treated as in cell death assays. 489

Cell death assays. The cells were seeded in 96-well plates (100ul/well) or 12-well plates (1 490 ml/well) at a density of 0.5 x 10⁶ cells/ml overnight and primed the next day with 100 ng/mL 491 492 ultrapure LPS-B5 (055:B5, InvivoGen) for 4 hours. AIM2 inflammasome activation was achieved by transfecting 0.4 ug poly(dA:dT) (InvivoGen) per 10⁵ cells. In separate tubes 493 poly(dA:dT) and linear polyethylenimine (Polyscience, 1 ug per 10⁵ cells) were mixed with 494 OptiMEM by vortexing and left for 3 min at room temperature. Then poly(dA:dT) and PEI were 495 mixed together, vortexed shortly and left for 15 min before adding a quarter of the total volume 496 on top of the cells. Transfection was facilitated by spinning cells for 5 min at 300 g at 37°C. 497 498 Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium SL1344 and Francisella tularensis subsp. novicida 499 U112 (F. novicida) infection were done in OptiMEM. For S. Typhimurium infection bacteria were grown overnight and subcultured 1/40 for 3.5 hours in Luria low salt broth (LB low salt) 500 supplemented with appropriate antibiotics, whereas infection with Francisella were done from 501 502 the overnight culture grown in brain heart infusion (BHI) broth supplemented with 0.2% Lcysteine (Sigma) and appropriate antibiotics. Bacteria were then added on top of the cells in 503

504 OptiMEM, spun at 300 g for 5 min and incubated at 37°C for the duration of the experiment or 505 extracellular bacterial growth supressed by addition of gentamycin at 30 min, 120 min post infection for S. Typhimurium and F. novicida respectively. For the NLRP3 inflammasome 506 507 activation, LPS-B5 (055:B5, InvivoGen) priming was done in OptiMEM for 4 hours prior to 508 addition of 5 μ M nigericin (Sigma) and incubated for indicated time. Similarly, cells were primed 509 with 100 ng/ml LPS LPS-B5 (055:B5, InvivoGen) for 4 hours in OptiMEM. LPS/FuGeneHD 510 complexes were prepared by mixing 100 μ l Opti-MEM with 2 μ g ultrapure LPS O111:B4 511 (InvivoGen) and 0.5 μ I of FugeneHD (Sigma) per well to be transfected. The transfection 512 mixture was vortexed briefly, incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature and added dropwise to the cells. Plates were centrifuged for 5 minutes at 200 g and 37 °C. Extrinsic 513 apoptosis was induced by adding 100ng/ml TNF- α and the SMAC mimetic AZD5582 at the 514 indicated concentration. Intrinsic apoptosis was induced by addition of the BH3 mimetic small 515 molecule inhibitor ABT-737 in combination with the Mcl-1 inhibitor S63845 at the indicated 516 517 concentrations.

Cell death and cytokine release measurement. Cell lysis was assessed by quantifying the 518 519 amount of lactate dehydrogenase in the cell supernatant using the LDH cytotoxicity kit (Takara) according to the manufacturer's instructions. To measure cell permeabilization, propidium 520 iodide (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added to the medium at 12.5 µg/ml and fluorescent 521 emission measured by Cytation5 (Biotek) over time. LDH and PI uptake were normalized to 522 untreated control and 100% lysis. Cytokine release into the supernatant in particular 523 interleukin-1ß was measured by Elisa (ThermoFisher Scientifc) according to the 524 525 manufacturer's instructions.

526 **DNA fragmentation Assay.** DNA fragmentation during apoptosis and pyroptosis was 527 assessed by agarose gel electrophoresis as described before (Kasibhatla et al., 2006). In brief 528 *Gsdmd*^{-/-} BMDMs were seeded in a 12-well plate and treated with apoptotic triggers or 529 transfected with poly(dA:dT) as described under cell death assays.

Cell lysis and immunoblotting. After treatment of cells, cell supernatant was collected and 530 1x sample buffer (Thermo Fisher) complemented with 66 nM Tris, 2% SDS was added to the 531 532 cell lysate. The proteins of the supernatant were precipitated on ice using and end 533 concentration of 4% TCA (wt./vol) for 30 min. Supernatant was then spun down at 20 000g for 534 20 min at 4°C washed with 100% Aceton and centrifuged at 20 000 g for 20 min at 4°C. The 535 protein pellet was air-dried and resuspended with the lysate. The samples were boiled for 10 min at 70°C and separated by a 10- or 12% SDS page gel. The transfer to the 0.2 uM PVDF 536 membranes was accomplished by Trans-Blot Turbo system. Membranes were blocked with 537 5% milk in TBS-T and incubates with the primary antibody for 2 hours at RT or overnight. 538 539 Membranes were washed 3 times with TBS-T and HRP-coupled antibodies added in 5% milk in TBST-T for 1 hour. After washing, membranes were revealed by Fusion imager (VILBER)
using Pierce[™] ECL Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Pierce[™] ECL
Plus Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

543 Live cell imaging. BMDM or iBMDM were seeded 5x10⁴/well in 8-well tissue culture treated μ-slides (iBidi) or 96-Well Cell Culture Microplates, μClear® (Greiner-Bio One) overnight and 544 primed the next day with 100 ng/ml LPS 055:B5 for 4 hours. The AIM2 inflammasome was 545 activated by transfection of poy(dA:dT) (see cell death assay). For time-lapse microscopy cells 546 were incubated with CellTox Green (Promega) 1: 10 000 and AnnexinV (Biolegend) at at 547 500ng/ml or for mitochondrial health assessment MitotrackerGreen and MitotrackerCmXRos 548 were added to OptiMEM at a final concentration of 125 nM. Images were taken every 5 min. 549 550 or every 15min. respectively. Zeiss LSM800 point scanning confocal microscope equipped 551 with 63× Plan-Apochromat NA 1.4 oil objective, Zeiss ESID detector module, LabTek heating/ 552 CO₂ chamber and motorized scanning stage

Slice-SILAC. Gsdmd- and Asc-deficient iBMDMs were grown in SILAC DMEM (Thermo 553 Scientific) medium supplemented with 10% dialyzed FBS, 200 mg/ml proline, 150 mg/ml heavy 554 or light lysine and 50 mg/ml arginine respectively. Cells were passaged 5-6 times until 100% 555 556 labelling was achieved. For the experiment cells were seeded at 5x10⁵/well in 12-well plates 557 overnight and primed the next day with 100 ng/ml LPS 055:B5 for 4h. Poly(dA:dT) transfection was then carried out as described under Cell Death Assays and plates incubated for 3h. Cell 558 were scraped in OptiMEM and proteins precipitated by 4% TCA. The obtained protein pellet 559 was then resuspended in FASP buffer (4% SDS, 0.1 M DTT, 100 mM Tris pH 7.5) heated for 560 5min. at 95°C, sonicated and cleared by 10min. centrifugation at 13 000 rpm. Downstream 561 562 sample preparation including SDS gel preparation, mass spectrometry as well as data analysis have been described before (Di Micco et al., 2016). 563

564 Caspase-activity assay. Caspase-3/7 activity was either measured by luminescence using 565 the Caspase-Glo® 3/7 (Promega) according to the manufacturer's protocol or by fluorescence. The caspase-activity assay was performed as follows using the fluorescent substrate N-Acetvl-566 Asp-Glu-Val-Asp-7-amido-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin (Sigma-Aldrich): Cells were lysed cells 567 568 directly in the medium by adding 5x Lysis buffer (250 mM Hepes, 25 mM CHAPS, 25 mM DTT) and pipetting up and down. 30 μ l of lysed cells was incubated with 30 ul of 2x Assay buffer (40 569 mM Hepes, 200 mM NaCl, 2mM EDTA, 0.2% CHAPS 20% Sucrose, 20 mM DTT) and 50 µM 570 571 final concentration of substrate in black opaque OptiPlate-96 (PerkinElmer) and read at 400/505 at 37°C every 2 min. for 10 min. 572

573 Metabolic activity – ATP content. Metabolic activity was measured by TiterGlo (Promega)
 574 according to the manufacturer's protocol. In brief cells plus 25 μl supernatant were incubated

with 25 μ l TiterGlo shook for 2min at 600 rpm and incubated for 10 min. at room temperature 575 576 before reading.

In vitro caspase-cleavage assay. Active recombinant caspase-1 was purified as described 577 before (Sborgi et al., 2016). For the *in vitro* cleavage Assay cell lysate from i Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp-578 3--//Casp-7--/ was prepared as described before (Boucher et al., 2012). Briefly, cells were lysed 579 in ice-cold buffer (50 mM Hepes pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Igepal) and incubated on ice for 580 30 min. Cellular proteins were recovered by centrifugation at 7,000 × g for 10 min and kept at 581 -80 °C in 30 µL aliquots. Purified active caspase-1 (50 nM, 100 nM) was added to cell lysate 582 and incubated for 2 h at 37°C. The mixture was then analysed by immunoblot. 583 584

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592

593 AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

594 RH designed, performed and analysed all experiments with the exception of the time-lapse 595 microscopy in SFig. 2, *in vitro* cleavage studies and experiments in SFig. 1A, Fig. 6G that were 596 performed by KS, DB, BD, and KWC respectively. MD and DH contributed to the generation 597 of CRISPR knockouts. RH and PB designed the study and wrote the paper.

598

599 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

600 The authors declare no commercial or financial conflict of interest.

601

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Canonical inflammasome activation *Gsdmd*-deficient macrophages results in rapid secondary necrosis.

(A-B). LDH release, PI influx and IL-1β release from LPS-primed WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp1^{-/-} 894 $^{-}$ and *Gsdmd* $^{--}$ primary or immortalized bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs. 895 iBMDMs) after transfection of poly(dA:dT) in absence or presence of the indicated inhibitors. 896 (C-E) DNA cleavage, PI influx and immunoblots showing caspase-3/-7 processing from LPS-897 primed Gsdmd^{-/-} BMDMs transfected with poly(dA:dT) or treated with 100 ng/ml TNF- α plus 898 10, 5 or 1 µM AZD5582 (extrinsic apoptosis) or 1 µM ABT-737 plus 10, 1 or 0.5 µM S63845 899 (intrinsic apoptosis). (F) Confocal images of LPS-primed *Gsdmd*^{-/-} BMDMs transfected with 900 poly(dA:dT) or left untreated and stained with CellToxGreen (green). Scalebar 10 µM. Graphs 901 902 show mean ± SD. Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments.

Figure 2. Caspase-3 drives GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis in inflammasome activated cells

(A-B). LDH release, caspase-3/-7 activity (DEVDase activity) and immunoblots showing 905 caspase-3/-7 processing from LPS-primed WT, Asc-/, Casp1-//Casp11-/ and Gsdmd-/ 906 primary BMDMs after transfection of poly(dA:dT). (C) LDH release from LPS-primed WT, Asc-907 ^{/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp1^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3⁻⁻ 908 $\frac{1}{Casp7}$ iBMDMs after transfection of poly(dA:dT). (D) Confocal images of cells from C. 909 Insets show membrane ballooning in dying cells at 3h post transfection. Scalebar 10 µm. (E) 910 Quantification of LDH release in LPS primed WT, Asc--, Casp-1--/Casp-11--, Gsdmd--, 911 Gsdme^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Gsdme^{-/-} BMDMs transfected with poly(dA:dT) for 4 hours. Graphs show 912 mean \pm SD. **p \leq 0.01, ***p \leq 0.001, "ns" = no significance (Unpaired t-test). Data and blot are 913 representative of at least three independent experiments. 914

915 Figure 3: Caspase-1 is required for GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis

916 (A-C). Immunoblot showing Caspase-1 expression and caspase-3 processing, LDH release

- and caspase-3/-7 activity (DEVDase activity) from LPS-primed Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}
- 918 /*Casp1^{-/-}* immortalized BMDMs after transfection of poly(dA:dT). (D) PI influx of WT, *Asc^{-/-}*,
- 919 Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}, Casp1^{C284A/C284A} and Gsdmd^{-/-} primary BMDMs after
- transfection of poly(dA:dT). Graphs show mean \pm SD. **p \leq 0.01, ***p \leq 0.001, ****p \leq 0.0001
- 921 (Unpaired t-test). Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments.

922 Figure 4: Mitochondrial damage is caused by truncated Bid

- 923 (A) LDH release and TiterGlo measurements from LPS-primed WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11⁻
- 924 ^{/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} primary BMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (B) Schematic cleavage

profile of Bcl-2 family members generated from slice SILAC data. Bubble diameters are 925 proportional to the number of quantified peptide matches, whereas the gradient color 926 represents the H/L ratio, as indicated below. The green bubbles (negative log2H/L) represent 927 protein isoforms reduced in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} iBMDMs compared to *Asc*^{-/-} iBMDMs at 3 hours post 928 poly(dA:dT) transfection; the red bubbles (positive log2H/L) represent protein isoforms 929 enriched in Gsdmd^{-/-} iBMDMs compared to $Asc^{-/-}$ iBMDMs. (C) Immunoblots showing Bid 930 processing from LPS-primed WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} primary BMDMs 931 after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (D) LDH release from WT, $Asc^{-/}$, $Casp1^{-/}/Casp1^{-/}$. 932 *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Bid*^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). Graphs show mean 933 \pm SD. *p \leq 0.05, **p \leq 0.01, ****p \leq 0.0001, "ns" = no significance (Unpaired t-test).Data and 934 935 blots are representative of at least three independent experiments.

Figure 5: Caspase-1 drives Bid processing during GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis

(A) Immunoblots showing caspase-1, -7-, -3, -8 and -9 processing in WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-} 938 /Casp11^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} primary BMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (B) LDH release 939 from WT, $Asc^{-/-}$, $Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}$, $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-}$ iBMDMs after 940 941 transfection with poly(dA:dT). (C) Immunoblots showing caspase-3 processing in Gsdmd^{-/-} 942 and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (D) Immunoblots showing 943 Bid cleavage in Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} /Casp8^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (E) Immunoblots showing Bid cleavage in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp1*^{-/-} iBMDMs after 944 transfection with poly(dA:dT). (F) In vitro cleavage assay showing processing of recombinant 945 Bid by recombinant caspase-1. Graphs show mean ± SD. * "ns" = no significance (Unpaired t-946 test). Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments. 947

948 Figure 6: SMAC release and initiator caspases-8/-9 are required for GSDMD-949 independent secondary necrosis

(A) LDH release from WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} /Casp9^{-/-} 950 951 iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (B) Immunoblots showing caspase-3 cleavage in Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (C) LDH release 952 from WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} and 953 Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (D) Immunoblots 954 showing caspase-3 cleavage in Gsdmd^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp8^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} and Gsdmd⁻ 955 ^{-/}/Casp8^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). (E) Immunoblots showing 956 caspase-3 processing from $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ iBMDMs after transfection with 957 958 poly(dA:dT). (F) Schematic summary of the mechanism of caspase-3 cleavage and activation. (G) PI influx in untreated or poly(dA:dT)-transfected Gsdmd^{-/}/Bid^{-/} iBMDMs in presence or 959

- absence of the SMAC mimetic AZD5582. Graphs show mean \pm SD. *p \leq 0.05, **p \leq 0.01,
- 961 (Unpaired t-test). Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments.

Figure 7: Model of cell death in *Gsdmd*-deficient myeloid cells after activation of caspase-1

964 Model depicting the mechanism of canonical inflammasome activation in WT cells undergoing

caspase-1- and GSDMD-dependent pyroptosis and *Gsdmd*--- cells undergoing caspase-1-

966 induced GSDMD-independent secondary necrosis.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

967 **Figure S1:**

(A-B) LDH release from LPS-primed WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} iBMDMs 968 after transfection of LPS (A) or infection with log-phase S. Typhimurium, treatment with 969 970 Nigericin, infection with F. novicida or (B). (C) PI influx from mock or poly(dA:dT) transfected LPS-primed *Gsdmd*^{-/-} iBMDMs and LDH release from mock or poly(dA:dT) transfected LPS-971 primed WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} iBMDMs. (D) Immunoblots showing IL-972 1 β , caspase-1 and GSDMD processing in WT, Asc^{-/-}, Casp1^{-/-}/Casp11^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-} 973 BMDMs after transfection of poly(dA:dT). Data and blot are representative of at least three 974 independent experiments. 975

976 Figure S2:

- PI influx from poly(dA:dT) transfected LPS-primed $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ iBMDMs in the presence or absence of the indicated inhibitors added to the cells 30 min. prior and during the experiment at the following concentrations: 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25 µM VX765, 100, 50, 25, 12.5 µM Caspase-3/7 specific inhibitor I, 30, 15, 7.5, 3.25 µM K777, 100, 50, 25, 12.5 µM, PD150606 and, 100, 50, 25, 12.5 µM Calpeptin, 60, 30, 15, 7.5 µM 7-Cl-O-Nec1, 100, 50, 25, 12.5 µM GSK872. Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments.
- 983 **Figure S3**:
- 984 (A-B). Confocal microscopy images of poly(dA:dT) (A) or mock transfected (B) WT, Asc^{-L} ,
- 985 Casp1--/Casp11-- and Gsdmd-- primary BMDMs. Cells were stained with CellToxGreen
- 986 (green) and AnnexinV (red). (C) shows selected cells from (A). Scalebar 10 μ m.
- 987 **Figure S4:**
- 988 **(A)** LDH release and caspase-3/-7 activity (DEVDase activity) from LPS-primed WT, $Asc^{-/-}$,
- 989 $Casp1^{--/}Casp11^{--/}$ and $Gsdmd^{--/}$ primary BMDMs after transfection of Salmonella

Typhimurium at MOI 10. (B) Immunoblots for caspase-3 and -7 expression in lysates of 990 Gsdmd^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}, Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} iBMDMs. 991 (C) PI influx from LPS-primed WT, $Asc^{-/}$, $Casp1^{-//}Casp11^{-/}$, $Gsdmd^{-/}$, pool of $Gsdmd^{-/}$ 992 /Casp3^{-/-} clones (n=3), pool of Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} clones (n=5) and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp3^{-/-}/Casp7^{-/-} 993 994 ⁻ iBMDMs after transfection of poly(dA:dT). (D) Immunoblots showing caspase-3 and -7 995 expression and LDH release after transfection poly(dA:dT) transfection from LPS-primed 996 Gsdmd^{-/-} iBMDMs transfected with control siRNA or siRNA targeting caspase-3, -7 or both. Graphs show mean \pm SD. **p \leq 0.01, ***p \leq 0.001, (Unpaired t-test). Data and blot are 997 representative of at least three independent experiments. 998

999 **Figure S5**:

1000 **(A)** Quantification of PI uptake in LPS primed WT, $Asc^{-/-}$, $Casp-1^{-/-}/Casp-11^{-/-}$, $Gsdmd^{-/-}$, 1001 $Gsdme^{-/-}$, $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Gsdme^{-/-}$ BMDMs transfected with poly(dA:dT) for 4 hours. **(B)** 1002 Immunoblot for GSDMD, GSDME, caspase-1 and tubulin on pooled supernatant and lysate 1003 samples collected at indicated times. Graph shows mean \pm SD. Graph and blot are 1004 representative of at least three independent experiments.

1005 Figure S6:

1006 **(A)** Confocal microscopy images showing Mitotracker Green (Green) and Mitotracker Red 1007 (Red) and DIC, 30 min. and 60 min. post poly(dA:dT) transfection into LPS-primed *Gsdmd*^{-/-} 1008 and *Asc*^{-/-} iBMDMs. **(B-D)** LDH release and TiterGlo measurements at 0, 15, 30 and 45 min 1009 or as indicated from LPS-primed WT, *Asc*^{-/-}, *Casp1*^{-/-}/*Casp11*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} primary 1010 BMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT) **(C)** or infection with log-phase *S*. Typhimurium at 1011 MOI 10 **(B,D)**. Scalebar 10 μ m. Graphs show mean ± SD. Data and blot are representative of 1012 at least three independent experiments.

1013 **Figure S7:**

1014 **(A)** Immunoblots showing Bid expression in $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-}$ iBMDMs. **(B-C).** 1015 Caspase-3/-7 activity (DEVDase activity) and PI influx in $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and pool of $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-}$ 1016 $^{/-}$ clones (n=5) iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). **(D)** Confocal images of cells of 1017 $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid^{-/-}$ iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT) for 3 h. Insets show 1018 membrane ballooning in dying cells. Scalebar 10 µm. Graphs show mean ± SD. Data and blot 1019 are representative of at least three independent experiments.

1020 Figure S8:

1021 **(A)** Immunoblots showing caspase-1, -7-, -3, -8 and -9 processing in WT, $Asc^{-/}$, $Casp1^{-/}$ 1022 $/Casp11^{-/}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/}$ primary BMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). **(B)** Immunoblots

1023 showing caspase-8 expression in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp8*^{-/-} iBMDMs. (C) LDH release

in LPS-primed *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp8*^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT) in the presence of 100 ng/ml TNF- α , the SMAC mimetic AZD5582 (5 μ M) or AZD5582/GSK872. (**D**) PI influx in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and pool of *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp8*^{-/-} clones (n=3) iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT). Graphs show mean ± SD. Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments.

1029 Figure S9:

(A) Immunoblots showing Casp-9 expression in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp9*^{-/-} iBMDMs. 1030 (B) PI uptake of $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}/Casp9^{-/-}$ iBMDMs treated with 2 μ M ABT737 and 2 1031 µM S63845. (C) PI uptake in LPS-primed and poly(dA:dT)-transfected Gsdmd^{-/-} and pool of 1032 Gsdmd^{-/-} /Casp9^{-/-} clones (n=2) iBMDMs. (D) Immunoblots showing Casp-8 and Casp-9 1033 expression in *Gsdmd*^{-/-} and *Gsdmd*^{-/-} /*Casp8*^{-/-}/*Casp9*^{-/-} iBMDMs. (E) Immunoblots showing 1034 caspase-3 processing in $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ and $Gsdmd^{-/-}$ /Bid^{-/-} iBMDMs after transfection with 1035 poly(dA:dT). (F) Immunoblots showing caspase-3 processing in Gsdmd^{-/-} and Gsdmd^{-/-}/Bid⁻ 1036 1037 ^{-/} iBMDMs after transfection with poly(dA:dT) and treatment with AZD5582. Graphs show mean ± SD. Data and blot are representative of at least three independent experiments. 1038

Figure 1







Figure 3

Α

В



40



Time (h)

Casp1^{C284A/C284A} Casp1-∕-

Gsdmd-∕-









С

Figure 5







Figure 7

