1	High-dimensional immune phenotyping of blood cells by mass cytometry in patients infected with
2	hepatitis C virus
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4	Jacobus Herderschee ¹ , Tytti Heinonen ¹ , Craig Fenwick ² , Irene T. Schrijver ¹ , Khalid Ohmiti ² , Darius
5	Moradpour ³ , Matthias Cavassini ¹ , Giuseppe Pantaleo ^{2,4} , Thierry Roger ^{1\$} , Thierry Calandra ^{1\$#} , and the
6	Swiss HIV Cohort Study
7	¹ Infectious Diseases Service, ² Division of Immunology and Allergy, and ³ Division of Gastroenterology and
8	Hepatology, Department of Medicine, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne;
9	⁴ Swiss Vaccine Research Institute, Lausanne, Switzerland.
10	^{\$} These authors contributed equally to this work.
11	*Corresponding author: Thierry Calandra. Infectious Diseases Service, Department of Medicine, BH-10.555,
12	Lausanne University Hospital, Rue du Bugnon 46, CH-1011 Lausanne, Switzerland.
13	Thierry.Calandra@chuv.ch Tel: + 41 21 314 10 10; Fax: + 41 21 314 05 97
14	
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18 Abstract

19 **Objectives**

20 Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection affects the immune system. Whether elimination of HCV with

21 direct-acting antivirals (DAA) restores immunity is unclear. We used mass cytometry to get a broad and in-

- 22 depth assessment of blood cell populations of patients with chronic HCV prior to and after DAA therapy.
- 23 Methods
- Before and 12 weeks after sustained virological response to DAA therapy (SVR12), 22 cell populations were analysed by mass cytometry in blood collected from 10 healthy controls and 20 HCV patients with (10) or without human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (10) infection.
- 27 Results

28 HCV infection altered the frequency of 14/22 (64%) blood cell populations. At baseline, the frequencies 29 (median [IQR]; control, HCV, HCV/HIV) of intermediate monocytes (1.2 [0.47-1.46], 1.76 [0.83-2.66], 0.78 30 [0.28-1.77]), non-classical monocytes (1.11 [0.49-1.26], 0.9 [0.18-0.99], 0.54 [0.28-1.77]), conventional 31 dendritic cells type 2 (0.55 [0.35-0.59], 0.31 [0.16-0.38], 0.19 [0.11-0.36]) and CD56dim natural killer cells 32 (8.08 [5.34-9.79], 4.72 [2.59-6.05], 3.61 [2.98-5.07]) were reduced by 35% to 65%, particularly in HCV/HIV 33 co-infected patients. In contrast, activated double-negative T cells (0.07 [0.06-0.10], 0.10 [0.09-0.19], 0.19 34 [0.12-0.25]), activated CD4 T cells (0.28 [0.21-0.36], 0.56 [0.33-0.77], 0.40 [0.22-0.53]) and activated CD8 35 T cells (0.23 [0.14-0.42], 0.74 [0.30-1.65], 0.80 [0.58-1.16]) were increased 1.4 to 3.5 times. Upon 36 stimulation with Toll-like receptor ligands, the expression of cytokines was up-regulated in 7/9 (78%) and 37 17/19 (89%) of the conditions in HCV and HCV/HIV patients, respectively. Most alterations persisted at 38 SVR12.

39 Conclusions

- 40 Chronic HCV and HCV/HIV infections induces profound and durable perturbations of innate and adaptive
- 41 immune homeostasis.

42 Introduction

Infections with hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide [1]. In 2015, a study estimated that 71 million people were chronically infected with HCV. Among the 37.9 million people living with HIV, 2.3 million were coinfected with HCV [1, 2]. Patients with HCV and HIV coinfection have higher mortality rates than patients with HCV or HIV monoinfection [3]. The ability of HIV and HCV to subvert and evade the host immune response explains why the diseases follow a chronic course [4, 5].

49 HCV evades the host innate immune system efficiently, preventing a successful adaptive immune 50 response, resulting in chronic infection in up to 80% of patients [1, 5]. In infected hepatocytes, HCV proteins 51 inhibit transduction of signals from pattern recognition receptors and cap-dependent mRNA translation, 52 limiting the production of type I interferon (IFN) and other cytokines, thereby preventing the establishment 53 of an antiviral state [6]. After infection, HCV titers rise within days, reach a plateau of 10⁵–10⁷ IU/mL and 54 decrease after 4 to 8 weeks contemporaneously with the appearance of HCV-specific CD8 T cells [7]. HCV 55 replication results in prolonged antigenic stimulation associated with disappearance of HCV-specific CD4 T 56 cells and exhaustion of CD8 T cell responses [6, 8]. In HCV/HIV coinfected patients, HCV-specific immunity 57 is impaired further by the depletion of CD4 T cells. Depletion of mucosal CD4 T cells also impairs gut barrier 58 function, leading to increased microbial translocation and production of pro-fibrotic cytokines by Kupffer cells 59 [6]. Thus, HIV infection alters the course of HCV disease via combined effects on innate and adaptive 60 immunity.

For two decades, studies of the innate immune responses during HCV therapy were hampered by the use of pegylated-IFNα that exerts widespread effects on cellular immune functions. This changed with the introduction of direct-acting antivirals (DAA) for the treatment of hepatitis C. In this study, we used highdimensional mass cytometry to get a broad and in-depth qualitative and quantitative assessment of blood cells before, during and after DAA-based therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C with or without HIV coinfection.

67 Materials and Methods

68 Subjects

69 We conducted a longitudinal, non-interventional study in 10 patients with HCV, 10 patients with HCV and 70 HIV (HCV/HIV), and 10 healthy subjects (controls) (Fig. 1, Table S1). Ethical approval was obtained from 71 the Commission cantonale d'éthique de la recherche sur l'être humain, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland (CER-72 VD, PB 2016-01464). The project was approved by the Scientific Board of the Swiss HIV Cohort Study 73 (SHCS, project number 788). Study participants provided written informed consent. HCV-infected patients 74 received IFNα-free, DAA-based therapy. Depending on the duration of DAA treatment, follow-up ranged 75 from 6 to 9 months. HCV viral loads were measured at baseline, one or two weeks after initiation of 76 treatment, at the end of therapy, and 12 weeks thereafter to determine whether the patient achieved a 77 sustained virologic response (SVR). For immune profiling, blood was collected in heparin tubes at baseline 78 (within 4 weeks prior to the initiation of DAA-based therapy) and 12 weeks after therapy (SVR12) (#1 and 79 #4, Fig. 1a). To avoid bias linked to cell isolation or cryopreservation, blood was immediately either stabilized 80 for frequency analysis or stimulated as described in Supplementary Materials and Methods. Blood was 81 collected once in healthy controls. HCV or HIV viral loads were determined by the clinical laboratory of the 82 Division of Immunology and Allergy of Lausanne University Hospital.

83 Processing and clustering of CyTOF data

84 Information about conjugation of antibodies, mass-tag barcoding, sample staining for CyTOF and data 85 analysis are presented in the Supplementary Materials and Methods and Tables S6-8. Samples were 86 acquired on a CyTOF 2 (Fluidigm) [9]. Flow cytometry standard (FCS) files were normalized using the 87 MATLAB normalizer [10]. Debris were gated out manually and barcoded files were deconvoluted using 88 OpenCyto-based boolean gating [11]. FlowSOM clustering was performed on 99.5th percentile scaled, 89 hyperbolic arcsine transformed expression levels, using co-factor 5, for the markers CD1c, CD3, CD4, CD7, 90 CD8, CD11b, CD11c, CD14, CD16, CD20, CD38, CD56, CD66b, CD123, CD141, HLADR and Slan [12]. 91 We overclustered the data to 40 metaclusters, manually merged into 22 populations based on biological 92 knowledge [13]. For dimensionality reduction, we performed Uniform Manifold Approximation Projection 93 (UMAP) with a minimal distance of 0.2 on a dataset down-sampled to 5000 randomly selected cells per 94 sample [14].

95 Statistical analysis

96 Data were analyzed in R with the Ime4 package using generalized linear mixed models [13]. To control 97 for batch effects, random effects were added for sample and batch. Thresholds for cytokine positivity were 98 determined as the 99th percentile levels of matched unstimulated samples that were processed 99 simultaneously and identically as stimulated sample in a subject and time point dependent fashion [15]. 100 Median signal intensities (MSI) of cytokines and co-stimulatory or inhibitory markers were calculated and 101 compared with linear models. For all methods, p values were extracted and corrected for multiple testing 102 using the false discovery rate (FDR). We used a threshold of 5% to indicate statistical significance and of 103 15% to indicate a trend. Only FDR adjusted p values are shown. Statements regarding percentage increase 104 or decrease are based on medians. For boxplots show the 75th and 25th percentile, the horizontal line the 105 median and the whiskers hinges to 1.5-times the interquartile range. Heatmaps show normalized 106 frequencies where the frequency of each population is scaled 0-1.

107 Results

108 Characteristics of patients and controls

109 We conducted a longitudinal, non-interventional study in 10 patients infected with HCV, 10 patients infected 110 with HCV and HIV (HCV/HIV), and 10 healthy subjects (controls) (Fig.1a and Table S1). Patients and 111 controls were recruited by the Infectious Diseases Service and Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology 112 of Lausanne University Hospital (Switzerland). HCV patients were slightly older than controls (p=0.001) and 113 HCV/HIV patients (p=0.042). Baseline HCV loads and viral load reductions were comparable in HCV and 114 HCV/HIV patients. All subjects achieved sustained virologic response 12 weeks after the end of therapy and 115 completed the follow-up period (Fig. 1b). Whole blood was collected from healthy controls and patients just 116 before, during and after DAA therapy and used immediately to perform in-depth immunoprofiling (Fig. 1a). 117 HCV infection causes extensive and sustained changes in populations of circulating immune cells

Twenty-two cell populations were identified in whole blood by mass cytometry and FlowSOM clustering (Fig. 1c,d, Figs S1-S3). It included 3 granulocyte clusters (basophils, CD11b^{high} and CD11b^{low} neutrophils), intermediate and non-classical monocytes, type 2 conventional DCs (cDC2), plasmacytoid DCs (pDCs), classical, CD56^{high} and CD56^{dim} NK cells, CD1c⁺, CD11c⁺ and CD1c⁻/CD11c⁻ B cells, CD4 and CD8 doublenegative (DN), single-positive (SP) and double-positive (DP) T cells. T cell subsets included activated and non-activated T cells according to CD38 and HLA-DR expression.

124 We compared the frequency of merged clusters at baseline in controls and patients using generalized 125 mixed linear models [13]. The full dataset of the normalized frequencies of immune cell populations prior to 126 antiviral therapy and at SVR12 is shown in Fig. 2a. The proportion of the main subsets of innate and adaptive 127 immune cells is reported in Table S2 and Table S3. Overall, both HCV monoinfection and HCV/HIV 128 coinfection were associated with significant changes in the frequency of 14 of 22 (64%) immune cell 129 populations (Fig. 2b). Prior to therapy, innate immune cells were markedly reduced. The reduction was 35% 130 to 51% for intermediate and non-classical monocytes (HCV/HIV, p=0.038), 44% to 65% for cDC2 (HCV, 131 p=0.007; HCV/HIV, p<0.001) and 42% to 55% for circulating CD56dim NK cells (HCV, p=0.074; HCV/HIV, 132 p=0.012). In contrast, the frequencies of activated DN T cells (HCV, p=0.042; HCV/HIV, p<0.001), activated 133 CD4 T cells (HCV, p=0.059), CD8 T cells (HCV/HIV, p<0.001) and activated CD8 T cells (HCV, p=0.023; 134 HCV/HIV, p=0.025) were increased by a factor ranging from 1.4 to 3.5. The frequencies of B cells and CD11c⁺ B cells were increased 2.1 and 3-fold in HCV/HIV coinfected patients (p=0.125 and p=0.042).
Except for cDC2 (HCV patients) and activated DN cells (HCV and HCV/HIV patients), changes in innate
and adaptive cell populations persisted up to SVR12 (Figs 2 and 3). Consistent with this observation, SVR12
samples tended to cluster with baseline samples from the same group.

139 Impact of HCV infection on innate immune responses

140 To investigate the effect of HCV on innate immune function, we stimulated whole blood with TLR agonists 141 (LPS and R848) and analysed the expression of pro-inflammatory (TNF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8, IL-12p40, 142 IFNα and MCP-1) and anti-inflammatory (IL-1RA and IL-10) cytokines by mass cytometry (Figs S4-S9). The 143 full dataset of cytokine expression is shown in Fig. 4a, Fig. 5, Table S4 and Table S5. Cytokine expression 144 induced by LPS and R848 clustered by cell type (Fig. 4a). Classical, intermediate and non-classical 145 monocytes and cDC2 had the highest frequencies of TNF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β and IL-8-positive cells after LPS 146 stimulation. All classes of innate immune cells had a high frequency of TNF-positive cells after R848 147 stimulation, while cDC2, classical, intermediate and non-classical monocytes had the highest frequencies 148 of IL-1 β and IL-8-positive cells and pDCs had the highest frequency of IFN α -positive cells. Overall, the 149 frequency of TNF, IL-1α, IL-1β, IL-6 and IL-8 cytokine-positive cells was higher in classical, intermediate 150 and non-classical monocytes especially in HCV/HIV patients after stimulation with R848 (Fig. 4b). The trend 151 was less striking in cDC2. The frequency of IFNα-positive cells was also higher in HCV/HIV patients than in 152 controls. In contrast, the expression of IL-1RA and IL-10 by monocytes and DCs did not differ between 153 patients and controls. The pro-inflammatory signature of monocytes persisted up to SVR12 in HCV/HIV 154 patients and to a lesser degree in HCV patients (Fig. 5).

Inflammatory signals enhance the expression of CD80 and CD86 co-stimulatory molecules and PD-1 and PD-L1 immune checkpoint molecules by antigen presenting cells [16]. Considering the pro-inflammatory signature of HCV patients, we analysed the expression CD80, CD86, PD-1 and PD-L1 by monocytes, cDC2 and pDCs. At baseline or 24 hours after LPS stimulation, we found no differences in the expression of these molecules by innate immune cells of patients and controls (cDC2 are shown in Fig. S10).

160 Discussion

Patients infected with HCV with or without HIV display an immune signature characterized by altered innate and adaptive immune cell profiles and cytokine response by monocytes and DCs. Innate immunity was severely dysregulated. Chronic HCV caused a profound and widespread decrease of intermediate and nonclassical monocytes, cDC2 and CD56^{dim} NK cells. Yet, *ex vivo* production of pro-inflammatory cytokines by innate immune cells was upregulated particularly in HCV/HIV patients. Adaptive immune signatures were upregulated, with increased frequencies of activated DN, CD4, and CD8 T lymphocytes. This HCV-related immune dysregulation persisted up to 12 weeks after HCV clearance.

168 Previous studies on the effects of HCV used fresh or cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells 169 (PBMCs) or monocyte-derived DCs (moDCs) and a limited number of phenotypic markers [17-25]. Isolation, 170 cryopreservation and differentiation alter the phenotype and function of PBMCs and moDCs. To avoid these 171 limitations, we analysed blood immediately after drawing and mass cytometry with clustering strategies 172 allowing the identification of a broad spectrum of immune cells and cytokines. Studies of innate immunity in 173 HCV patients yielded mixed results. Some studies reported a clear reduction in the frequency and function 174 of pDCs and cDCs, while others did not [17-24, 26]. Our results are unambiguous with striking reduction of 175 intermediate and non-classical monocytes, cDC2 and CD56^{dim} NK cells. The broad and persistent reduction 176 in circulating innate immune cells is an important hallmark of acute hepatitis C and possibly part of a strategy 177 whereby HCV evades innate immune responses and prevents the development of an effective adaptive 178 immune response. HCV-infected patients do not suffer from opportunistic infections, nor do they appear to 179 be protected against other infections. The response to vaccination, such as against HBV, appears to be 180 intact in patients with HCV infection, although some authors have found a reduced response [27].

181 Cytokine analysis at the single cell level revealed a pro-inflammatory profile in patients. One cannot 182 exclude a restoration of immune homeostasis beyond SVR12. However, the persistence of immune 183 alterations may be a systemic signature consistent with reports of ongoing liver inflammation documented 184 long after SVR in patients with normal levels of transaminases [28-30]. If sustained, the inflammatory 185 signature may contribute to the development of HCV-associated complications such as hepatocellular 186 carcinoma, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Along this line, increased cytokine response by innate 187 immune cells were more pronounced in HCV/HIV patients than in HCV patients, indicating that HIV

188 coinfection amplified immunophenotypic alterations. This observation may explain the progression of liver 189 disease, including cirrhosis, liver failure and hepatocellular carcinoma in HCV/HIV patients. Of note, 190 coinfected patients had HIV viral loads below the lower limit of detection. Coinfected patients receiving HIV 191 treatment progress more slowly than untreated patients. Yet, disease progression in the context of an 192 undetectable HIV viral load remains incompletely understood [6].

193 HCV infection has been associated with broad-spectrum alterations of adaptive immunity [5]. We 194 confirmed and extended these findings by demonstrating increased frequencies of activated DN T cells at 195 baseline that normalized after viral clearance. We also observed an increase in activated CD8 T cells in 196 HCV and HCV/HIV at baseline that persisted up to SVR12. A recent study reported a molecular signature 197 of exhaustion that persisted in HCV-specific CD8 T cells after DAA-mediated cure of HCV [8]. This illustrates 198 the strength of the clustering approach to look at a broad range of cell populations. As we did not examine 199 antigen specificity of T cells, we did not check for T cell exhaustion in chronically infected patients. We 200 cannot differentiate between the expansion of HCV-specific T cells driven by the high HCV mutation rate or 201 the expansion of non-HCV-specific T cells linked to a general pro-inflammatory status or secondary to other 202 patient characteristics such as fibrosis. Chronic hepatitis C is characterized by an increased risk of 203 progressive liver fibrosis and immune complex-mediated autoimmunity [1]. The increased frequencies of 204 activated T cells in patients with chronic HCV infection may facilitate the development of these features.

205 Our study has several strengths and limitations. We performed whole blood analysis of 22 cell 206 populations and conducted *ex vivo* functional studies by mass cytometry in patients before, during and up 207 to 12 weeks after DAA-mediated virological cure. The limited number of subjects may have limited our ability 208 to detect more subtle changes possibly linked to HCV genotype or host genetic or risk factors features. An 209 HIV mono-infected group could have been included. Finally, all patients were under ART and had low or 210 undetectable HIV viral loads, precluding to detect interactions between HIV with HCV infections.

High-dimensional immune profiling of blood cells provided a broad and in-depth picture of the systemic immune dysregulation induced by chronic HCV. A salient finding was the observation of a profound derangement of the homeostasis of the immune system triggered by HCV characterized by a proinflammatory innate immune signature extending well beyond the clearance of HCV, especially in HCV/HIV

- 215 patients. This inflammatory phenotype may contribute to the pathogenesis of systemic complications of
- chronic HCV infection.

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226 Author contributions statement

JH, TR and TC designed the study. MC and DM recruited the patients. JH, TH and IS processed the blood samples. CF and GP gave advice and access to the CyTOF. JH performed CyTOF studies. JH and KO performed computational analysis of the data. JH, TR and TC analysed and interpreted the data. JH, TR and TC wrote the manuscript. All the authors revised the manuscript.

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232 Members of the Swiss HIV Cohort Study

233 Aebi-Popp K, Anagnostopoulos A, Battegay M, Bernasconi E, Böni J, Braun DL, Bucher HC, Calmy A, 234 Cavassini M, Ciuffi A, Dollenmaier G, Egger M, Elzi L, Fehr J, Fellay J, Furrer H, Fux CA, Günthard HF 235 (President of the SHCS), Haerry D (deputy of "Positive Council"), Hasse B, Hirsch HH, Hoffmann M, Hösli 236 I, Huber M, Kahlert CR (Chairman of the Mother & Child Substudy), Kaiser L, Keiser O, Klimkait T, Kouyos 237 RD, Kovari H, Ledergerber B, Martinetti G, Martinez de Tejada B, Marzolini C, Metzner KJ, Müller N, Nicca 238 D, Paioni P, Pantaleo G, Perreau M, Rauch A (Chairman of the Scientific Board), Rudin C, Scherrer AU 239 (Head of Data Centre), Schmid P, Speck R, Stöckle M (Chairman of the Clinical and Laboratory Committee), 240 Tarr P, Trkola A, Vernazza P, Wandeler G, Weber R, Yerly S.

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242 Conflict of Interest Statement

243 The authors do not have any conflict of interest regarding this manuscript.

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326 Fig. 1. Study design, HCV viral loads and analyses of blood cell populations with mass cytometry 327 workflow. (a) Blood samples were obtained within 4 weeks of the start of therapy (baseline, #1), after 1 328 week of treatment (#2), at the end of treatment (#3), and 12 weeks after the end treatment and sustained 329 virologic response (SVR12) (#4). Four blood samples (#1 to 4) were collected for measurement of HCV viral 330 loads and two blood samples (#1 and #4) were collected for immune profiling. (b) HCV viral loads. Each dot 331 represents one single patient (some dots overlap). The solid line connects the median viral loads of each 332 time point. RNA levels were similar in patients with HCV or HCV/HIV infections. The horizontal dotted line 333 indicates the lower limit of detection of the test (15 IU/ml). (c) Heatmap showing expression of markers and 334 blood cell populations. Each row corresponds to a manually annotated immune cell type based on the profile 335 identified with the markers (columns) used for clustering. Data are expressed as median of hyperbolic 336 arcsine transformed signal intensities (MSI). (d) Dimensionality reduction with UMAP performed with a 337 random subset of 5000 cells per sample. Colors correspond to merged and annotated FlowSOM clusters 338 (populations).

339 Fig. 2. Changes of immune cell populations in patients infected with HCV or HCV and HIV. (a) 340 Heatmap showing normalized frequencies of cell subsets in unstimulated samples at baseline and at 341 SVR12. The scale of normalized frequencies ranges from 0 to 1. Row order was determined by hierarchical 342 clustering. The group and timepoint column serve as a legend and was not used for clustering. (b) Summary 343 of statistically significant changes in immune cell populations observed at baseline and at SVR12 when 344 compared to healthy controls (N=10 in each group). Red, white and blue squares show increased, 345 unchanged or decreased frequencies of the immune cell populations shown on the y-axis. Numbers in cells 346 indicate fold-change and p value (in brackets). Medians of the frequency of cytokine positive cells and p 347 values are provided in Tables S2 and S3.

Fig. 3. Proportions of innate and adaptive immune cells before and after HCV therapy. Box plots of the frequencies of intermediate monocytes, type 2 conventional DC (cDC2) and CD56^{dim} NK cells (a) and activated double negative (DN) T cells, activated CD4 T cells and activated CD8 T cells (b) at baseline and at SVR12. N=10 in each group. Each dot represents one individual subject. Statistical analyses were

performed using mixed linear models. P values corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rateare provided in Tables S2 and S3.

354 Fig. 4. Cytokine response of innate immune cells in patients infected with HCV or HCV and HIV. (a) 355 Frequency of cytokine-positive innate immune cells following stimulation with LPS or R848 of blood samples 356 collected at baseline and SVR12. Row order was determined by hierarchical clustering. Left two columns 357 serve as a legend and have not been used for clustering. (b) Summary of statistically significant changes in 358 the frequency of cytokine-positive innate immune cells at baseline and at SVR12 when compared to healthy 359 controls (N=10 in each group). Red, white and blue squares illustrate increased, unchanged or decreased 360 frequencies. Numbers in each cell indicate fold-change and p value (in brackets). Medians of the frequency 361 of cytokine positive cells and p values are provided in Tables S4 and S5.

Fig. 5. Proportion of cytokine-positive classical monocytes after stimulation with a TLR7/8 agonist. Box plots of the frequencies of classical monocytes positive for IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-6 and IL-8 after stimulation with R848 at baseline and at SVR12. N=10 in each group. Statistical analysis was performed using mixed linear models. P values corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rate are provided in Tables S4 and S5.

Graphical abstract

















Fig. S1. Analyses of blood cell populations with mass cytometry. Blood samples were analyzed as described in Materials and Methods. UMAP plots show normalized signal intensity of markers used for clustering.



Fig. S2. Staining pattern in ungated cells. Staining patterns in ungated cells for all markers used for clustering



Fig. S3. Minimal gating example. Minimal gating example of a representative sample to illustrate marker expression in subsets.



Fig. S4. Cytokine expression in healthy controls after LPS stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in healthy controls in response to 6 h LPS stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S5. Cytokine expression in HCV infected patients after LPS stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV infected patients in response to 6 h LPS stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S6. Cytokine expression in HCV/HIV infected patients after LPS stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV/HIV infected patients in response to 6 h LPS stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S7. Cytokine expression in healthy controls after R848stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in healthy controls in response to 6 h R848 stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S8. Cytokine expression in HCV infected patients after R848stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV infected patients in response to 6 h R848 stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S9. Cytokine expression in HCV/HIV infected patients after R848stimulation. Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV/HIV infected patients in response to 6 h R848 stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.



Fig. S10. Figure S9 Baseline and induced expression of inhibitory and co-stimulatory molecules in cDC2. Whole blood was stimulated for 24 h with 100 ng/mL of LPS. Left panels show baseline expression while right panel shows regulation in response to LPS..



Fig. S11. Depletion of CD15 positive cells does not affect the frequency of other immune subsets. (a) UMAP plot of a split sample, granulocytes were depleted from half of the sample (left plot). (b) Frequencies of FlowSOM clusters with and without CD15 depletion. Frequency has been calculated as a percentage of non-granulocyte events and these clusters have been excluded from visualization. An independent FlowSOM run was used for this analysis.

1	High-dimensional immune phenotyping of blood cells by mass cytometry in patients infected with
2	hepatitis C virus
3	

4 Supplementary Materials and Methods

5

6 Blood stimulation and processing for CyTOF

7 We recruited 10 subjects in each study subgroup, without performing a power calculation as we did not have 8 an accurate estimate of either variability between subjects nor of the immune response variability relative to 9 antiviral treatment. All patients and volunteers were recruited by the Infectious Diseases Service (Prof 10 Cavassini) with the exception of HCV mono-infected patients who were recruited by the Division of 11 Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Prof Moradpour) of Lausanne University Hospital. Blood was collected 12 in heparin tubes and either stabilized (see below) for frequency analysis or stimulated. Stimulation for 13 cytokine expression was performed for 6 hours with 100 ng/mL E. coli O111:B4 Ultrapure LPS (Invivogen) 14 or 5 µg/mL R848 (Invivogen) in the presence of 5 µg/mL brefeldin A (Biolegend). A 24-hour stimulation with 15 LPS was used to investigate expression of co-stimulatory and inhibitory molecules. EDTA (2 mM, Merck) 16 was added for the last 15 minutes of stimulation. Blood was stabilized using the Smart Tube Proteomic 17 Stabilizer (Smart Tube Inc.). Briefly, 1.4 mL of Proteomic Stabilizer was added to 1 mL of blood and left to 18 incubate for 10 minutes at 20°C to fix the cells. Samples were then stored at -80°C until processing, at which 19 time they were thawed for 6 minutes in a 10°C water bath and red blood cells lysed twice for 5 minutes at 20 20°C in 25 mL of 1 x Lyse Buffer (Smart Tube Inc.). From each sample, 3 million cells were suspended in 1 21 mL of heat-inactivated FCS (Biochrom), passed through an 85-µm filter (Sefar, Nitex), washed three times 22 in PBS, barcoded and stained.

23

24 Conjugation of antibodies for CyTOF analysis

Purified, carrier free, antibodies were purchased from Biolegend, BD, Miltenyi and Santa Cruz (Table S6)
 and conjugated using Multi-Metal Maxpar X8 kit. Conjugated antibodies were diluted to 0.2 mg/mL with
 antibody stabilizer and titrated over a range of 0.5 to 8 µg/mL.

28

29 Mass-tag barcoding

30 Palladium and indium isotopes were purchased from Trace Sciences and incorporated in 31 isothiocyanobenzyl-EDTA (Scn-Bn-EDTA) and maleimido-mono-amide-DOTA (mDOTA) chelating agents 32 [1, 2]. Barcode plates using titrated amounts of barcode reagents were prepared and stored at -80°C in zip-33 lock bags containing desiccant (Acros Organics). We used a hybrid barcoding strategy, consisting of a first 34 barcoding step using a CD45-89Y antibody, followed by incubation with Scn-Bn-EDTA and mDOTA barcode 35 reagents [3]. Selected samples were incubated for 30 minutes with CD45-89Y at RT and washed three times 36 with ice-cold PBS before incubation with barcode reagents in 1 mL of PBS with 0.02% saponin for 30 37 minutes at 4°C. Scn-Bn-EDTA and mDOTA reagents were used at 200 nM and 400 nM. Barcode pools 38 consisted of a balanced mix of samples to ensure presence of all stimulation conditions and multiple groups 39 in each sample pool. Following barcoding, cells were washed three times with CSM and pooled in a 50 mL 40 conical centrifuge tube (BD Falcon).

41

42 Sample staining and sample acquisition by CyTOF

43 To limit acquisition time, granulocytes were depleted using CD15-microbeads from 90% of each sample 44 (Miltenyi) and an autoMACS Pro Separator (Miltenyi) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Depletion 45 did not affect the frequency of other immune subpopulation (Figure S10). Samples were stained in 2 mL for 46 30 minutes at RT, washed and fixed overnight with 2% formaldehyde in PBS at 4°C. The following day, 47 pooled samples were washed and incubated with antibodies against intracellular targets in CSM-S in a total 48 volume of 2 mL for 30 minutes at 4°C. Pooled samples were washed and incubated with intercalation 49 solution: PBS, 0.3% saponin, 1% formaldehyde, and 125 nM Iridium CellID (Fluidigm) for 30 minutes at RT 50 before storing the sample at 4°C until acquisition. Samples were acquired as described [4]. Samples were 51 washed twice with CSM and twice with miliQ before resuspension in 0.1X EQ beads (Fluidigm) and filtering 52 through a 35 µm filter (BD Falcon). Samples were acquired on a daily tuned CyTOF 2 (upgraded from a 53 CyTOF 1, Fluidigm) at an event rate of 300 cells/s using a syringe pump (New Era Pump Systems, Inc) set 54 to 45 µL/min.

55

56 References

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Group	Age	Sex	HCV	METAVIR	HIV	Year first	HCV therapy	by CD4 count		HIV I	Sampling	
	•		genotype		therapy	HIV		Baseline	SVR12	Baseline	SVR12	interval
						therapy						(weeks)
HCV	49	Μ	1	F3			EBR, GZR					25
	56	Μ	1	F4			LDV, SOF, RBV					41
	64	Μ	1	F2			LDV, SOF					27
	66	F	1	F3			LDV, SOF					25
	53	F	3	F4			DCV, SOF, RBV					39
	56	Μ	3	F3			DCV, SOF, RBV					29
	58	F	3	F2			DCV, SOF					26
	61	Μ	3	F4			DCV, SOF, RBV					31
	64	Μ	3	F4			DCV, SOF, RBV					25
	59	F	4	F2			EBR, GZR					26
HCV/HIV	37	Μ	1	F2	ABC, 3TC,	1994	LDV, SOF	694	902	180	230	37
					ATV, RTV							
	38	Μ	1	F2	ABC, 3TC,	1996	LDV, SOF	1083	1628	<20	<20	36
					DTG							
	50	F	1	F3	3TC, DRV,	2005	LDV, SOF	644	997	<20	<20	24
					RTV, RAL							
	53	М	1	F4	FTC, TAF,	1991	LDV, SOF	324	591	<20	<20	26
					DRV, RTV							
	55	Μ	1	F1	ZDV, 3TC,	1998	LDV, SOF	546	663	<20	<20	25
					EFV							
	56	F	1	F1	ETV, DTG,	2004	LDV, SOF	1297	1314	<20	<20	24
					DRV, RTV							
	59	Μ	1	F2	ABC, 3TC,	1992	LDV, SOF	887	627	<20	<20	27
					ETV, RAL							
	54	Μ	3	F2	FTC, TAF,	2012	DCV, SOF	287	431	<20	<20	24
					RPV							
	59	Μ	3	F1	EFV, TAF,	2011	DCV, SOF	615	683	<20	<20	28
					FTC							
	58	Μ	4	F4	ABC, 3TC,	2002	DSV, OBV, PTV,	871	732	<20	<20	40
					DRV, RTV,		RTV, RBV					
					DTG							
Controls	41	F										

70 Table S1. Characteristics of patients and healthy subjects.

Controls 41 42 Μ 42 Μ 45 Μ 46 F 46 Μ 48 Μ 52 F Μ

54 63 Μ

71 Controls: healthy subjects. Antiviral therapy: 3TC: lamivudine, ABC: abacavir, ATV: atazanavir, COBI: 72 cobicistat, DCV: daclatasvir, DRV: darunavir, DSV: dasabuvir, DTG: dolutegravir, EBR: elbasvir, EFV: 73 efavirenz, ETV: etravirine, EVG: elvitegravir, FTC: emtricitabine, GZR: grazoprevir, LDV: ledipasvir, OBV: 74 ombitasvir, PTV: paritaprevir, RAL: raltegravir, RBV: ribavirin, RPV: rilpivirine, RTV: ritonavir, SOF: 75 sofosbuvir, TAF: tenofovir, ZDV: zidovudine. The HCV patients were significantly older than HCV-HIV 76 patients (p=0.042) or healthy controls (p=0.001). The proportions of male and female were similar in patients 77 and controls (p=0.62).

Table S2. Proportion of immune cell populations in the blood of healthy controls and HCV 79 80 and HCV/HIV infected patients at baseline.

Population	Percent	positive cell	s (median)	p '	value
	Controls	HCV	HCV/HIV	HCV	HCV/HIV
cDC2	0.55	0.31	0.19	0.007	< 0.001
Intermediate monocytes	1.20	1.76	0.78		0.038
Non-classical monocytes	1.11	0.90	0.54		0.038
CD56 dim NK cells	8.08	4.72	3.61	0.074	0.012
B cells	4.58	4.99	9.80		0.125
CD11c positive B cells	0.14	0.24	0.42		0.042
CD4 T cells	41.00	43.80	29.80		< 0.001
Activated CD4 T cells	0.28	0.56	0.40	0.059	
CD8 T cells	16.70	20.10	23.40		< 0.001
Activated CD8 T cells	0.23	0.74	0.80	0.023	0.025
Activated DN T cells	0.07	0.10	0.19	0.042	< 0.001
Activated DP T cells	0.04	0.50	0.03	0.004	

Data are median percentage values of 10 controls or patients per group. Cell populations have been

81 82 83 84 85 86 selected based on a p value ≤ 0.15 when compared to healthy controls. Statistical analysis of population abundance was performed using mixed linear models. Reported p values have been corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rate.

88 Table S3. Proportion of immune cell populations in the blood of healthy controls and HCV 89 and HCV/HIV infected patients at SVR12.

Population	Percent positive cells (median)		p value		
	Controls	HCV	HCV/HIV	HCV	HCV/HIV
cDC2	0.55	0.35	0.28		0.041
Intermediate monocytes	1.20	2.39	0.93	0.076	0.126
Non-classical monocytes	1.11	0.65	0.44		0.019
CD56 dim NK cells	8.08	4.53	3.56	0.146	0.02
CD56 high NK cells	0.43	0.25	0.26		0.088
B cells	4.58	3.80	8.47		0.061
CD11c pos B cells	0.14	0.20	0.27		0.146
CD4 T cells	41.00	44.60	33.70		0.015
Activated CD4 T cells	0.28	0.57	0.30	0.008	
CD8 T cells	16.70	18.00	25.20		0.001
Activated CD8 T cells	0.23	0.69	0.42	0.024	0.078
DN T cells	0.68	0.55	0.42		0.146
Activated DP T cells	0.04	0.45	0.04	0.002	

90

Data are median percentage values of 10 controls or patients per group. Cell populations have been

selected based on p value ≤ 0.15 (highlighted in grey) when compared to healthy controls. Statistical analysis of population abundance was performed using mixed linear models. Reported p values have been

90 91 92 93 94 corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rate. Table S4. Cytokine expression by TLR ligand-stimulated innate immune blood cells
 isolated from healthy controls and from HCV and HCV/HIV infected patients (baseline).

Population	Stimulus	Cytokine	Percent positive cells (median)			р	value
			Controls	HCV	HCV/HIV	HCV	HCV/HIV
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-1α	89.6	84.7	88.4	0.149	
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-1β	92.8	93.9	94.9		0.004
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-8	89.8	94.1	92.1		0.125
Intermediate monocytes	LPS	IL-1β	90.8	94.4	91.1	0.071	
Intermediate monocytes	LPS	IL-8	68.0	81.4	73.1	0.007	
Non-classical monocytes	LPS	IL-1α	49.1	41.9	39.5		
Non-classical monocytes	LPS	IL-8	35.8	51.9	45.5	0.059	
Non-classical monocytes	LPS	TNF	86.8	92.7	95.2		0.045
cDC2	LPS	IL-1β	67.1	72.0	66.6		
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-1α	61.1	74.6	80.9		< 0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-1β	66.4	83.8	91.0	0.041	< 0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-6	46.3	46.1	70.4		< 0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-8	48.2	69.9	68.5	0.016	0.004
Classical monocytes	R848	TNF	90.2	94.5	97.9		< 0.001
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-1α	39.2	58.6	51.0	0.002	0.038
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-1β	82.6	87.3	91.7		0.101
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-6	44.3	40.3	48.1		
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-8	23.3	50.7	37.5	0.001	0.021
Intermediate monocytes	R848	TNF	97.5	97.0	98.6		0.041
Non-classical monocytes	R848	IL-6	27.2	17.3	29.8		0.141
Non-classical monocytes	R848	TNF	96.1	95.6	97.7		0.049
cDC2	R848	IL-1α	47.7	48.2	60.3		0.031
cDC2	R848	IL-6	40.9	23.9	54.2		0.021
cDC2	R848	IL-12p40	61.8	46.1	49.1		0.026
cDC2	R848	TNF	98.7	96.1	97.7	0.023	0.005
pDCs	R848	IL-8	13.0	10.1	14.1		
pDCs	R848	IFNα	62.5	71.0	75.2		0.026

97

98 Data are median percentage values of 10 controls or patients per group. Cells were stimulated with LPS or

99 R848. Cell populations have been selected based on a p value ≤ 0.15 (highlighted in grey) when compared

100 to healthy controls. Statistical analysis of cytokine expression was performed using mixed linear models.

101 Reported p values have been corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rate.

102 Table S5. Cytokine expression by TLR ligand-stimulated innate immune blood cells 103 isolated from healthy controls and from HCV and HCV/HIV infected patients (SVR12).

Population	Stimulus	Cytokine	Percent positive cells (median)			р	value
-		-	Controls	HCV	HCV/HIV	HCV	HCV/HIV
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-1α	89.6	85.0	92.0	0.015	
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-1β	92.8	92.7	94.9		0.005
Classical monocytes	LPS	IL-8	89.8	93.0	94.3		0.005
Classical monocytes	LPS	TNF	89.7	77.9	84.2	0.029	0.091
Intermediate monocytes	LPS	IL-8	68.0	85.0	76.2	0.055	
Non-classical monocytes	LPS	IL-8	35.8	59.2	50.8	0.011	0.143
cDC2	LPS	IL-8	81.2	77.8	85.2		0.129
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-1α	61.1	61.8	75.2		0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-1β	66.4	77.3	85.0		< 0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-6	46.3	38.8	62.5		0.002
Classical monocytes	R848	IL-8	48.2	58.3	70.4	0.098	< 0.001
Classical monocytes	R848	TNF	90.2	90.0	95.8		< 0.001
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-1α	39.2	54.5	56.0		0.005
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-1β	82.6	86.6	89.9		0.143
Intermediate monocytes	R848	IL-8	23.3	47.5	32.5	0.100	0.016
cDC2	R848	IL-1α	47.7	43.6	63.5	0.143	0.026
cDC2	R848	IL-1β	95.2	91.3	96.7	0.043	
cDC2	R848	IL-6	40.9	16.8	51.4	0.133	0.100
cDC2	R848	TNF	98.7	97.0	98.1	0.100	

104

105 Data are median percentage values of 10 controls or patients per group. Cells were stimulated with LPS or

R848. Cell populations have been selected based on a p value ≤ 0.15 when compared to healthy controls.

106 107 Statistical analysis of cytokine expression was performed using mixed linear models. Reported p values

108 have been corrected for multiple testing using the false discovery rate.

Table S6. Reagents.

Product	Manufacturer	Reference
Antibody Stabilizer PBS	Candor Bioscience	131 050
Bovine Serum Albumin	Sigma	A7906
Brefeldin A	Biolegend	420601
EDTA	Merck	E7889
Fetal calf serum (FCS)	Biochrom	S 0615
Formaldehyde	Thermo Scientific	28908
Human Immunoglobulin	CSL Behring	Beriglobin
Iridium cell-ID	Fluidigm	201192B
Isothiocyanobenzyl-EDTA	Dojindo	M030-10
<i>E. coli</i> O111:B4 Ultrapure LPS	Invivogen	trlr-3pelps
Mmaleimido-mono-amide-DOTA	Macrocyclics	B-272
MaxPar X8 conjugation kit	Fluidigm	201300
PBS	Bichsel AG	PBS-CHUV
Protein Stabilizer and Lysis buffer I	Smart Tube Inc.	PROT1
R848	Invivogen	tlrl-r848-5
Saponin	Sigma	84510
Sodium azide	Sigma	71289

Target	Clone	Manufacturer	Isotope	Used for clustering
Barcode (CD45)	HI30	Fluidigm	89Y	
Barcode	Scn-BN-EDTA		104Pd	
Barcode	Scn-BN-EDTA		105Pd	
Barcode	Scn-BN-EDTA		106Pd	
Barcode	Scn-BN-EDTA		108Pd	
Barcode	Scn-BN-EDTA		110Pd	
Barcode	mDOTA		113In	
Barcode	mDOTA		115In	
CD1c	L161	Biolegend	143Nd	Yes
CD3	UCHT1	Biolegend	148Nd	Yes
CD4	RPA-T4	Biolegend	144Nd	Yes
CD7	CD7-6B7	Biolegend	169Tm	Yes
CD8	SK1	Biolegend	145Nd	Yes
CD11b	ICRF44	Biolegend	141Pr	Yes
CD11c	Bu15	Biolegend	163Dy	Yes
CD14	HCD14	Biolegend	160Gd	Yes
CD16	3G8	Fluidigm	209Bi	Yes
CD20	2H7	Biolegend	147Sm	Yes
CD38	HIT2	Biolegend	142Nd	Yes
CD45	HI30	Biolegend	176Yb	
CD56	R19-760	BD	158Gd	Yes
CD66b	REA306	Miltenyi	158Gd	Yes
CD80	2D10	Biolegend	161Dy	
CD86	IT2.2	Biolegend	146Nd	
CD123	6H6	Biolegend	162Dy	Yes
CD141	M80	Biolegend	168Er	Yes
HLA-DR	L243	Biolegend	170Er	
IFNα	LT27:295	Miltenyi	167Er	
IFNγ	B27	Biolegend	165Ho	
IL-1α	364-3B3-14	Biolegend	150Nd	
IL-1β	AS10	BD	153Eu	
IL-1Ra	AS17	SantaCruz	172Yb	
IL-6	MQ2-13A5	Biolegend	156Gd	
IL-8	BH0814	Biolegend	154Sm	
IL-10	JES3-12G8	Biolegend	175Lu	
IL-12-p40	C11.5	Biolegend	149Sm	
MCP-1	2H5	Biolegend	174Yb	
PD1	EH12.2H7	Biolegend	164Dy	
PD-L1	29E.2A3	Biolegend	171Yb	
Slan	DD1	Miltenyi	151Eu	Yes
TNF	Mab11	Biolegend	152Sm	

Table S7. Antibodies and barcodes.

Table S8. Softwares.

Software name	Manufacturer	Version
Flowjo	FlowJo, LLC	10.2
MATLAB	Mathworks	R2014a
MATLAB Normalizer	Fink et al.	v0.3
R	R Foundation for Statistical Computing	3.4.2
Bioconductor	Bioconductor	3.6
ConsensusClusterPlus	Wilkerson & Hayes	1.42.0
cowplot	Wilke	0.9.2
data.table	Dowle & Srinivasan	1.10.4-3
flowCore	Ellis et al.	1.44.1
FlowSOM	van Gassen et al.	1.10.0
flowWorkspace	Finak & Jiang	3.26.4
fst	Klik	0.8.2
ggplot2	Wickham	2.2.1
lme4	Bates et al.	1.1-15
MASS	Venables & Ripley	7.3-48
Matrix	Bates & Maechler	1.2-12
multcomp	Hothorn et al.	1.4-8
mvtnorm	Genz et al.	1.0-6
ncdfFlow	Jiang et al.	2.24.0
openCyto	Finak et al.	1.16.1
pheatmap	Kolde	1.0.8
RcppArmadillo	Eddelbuettel & Sanderson	0.8.300.1.0
readxl	Wickham & Brian	1.0.0
Rtsne	Krijthe	0.14
scales	Wickham	0.5.0
stringr	Wickham	1.2.0
viridis	Garnier	0.4.1
Python	Python Software Foundation	3.7.7
Pandas	The pandas development team	1.0.3
UMAP	McInnes et al.	0.4.6

120 Legends of supplementary Figures

121

Fig. S1. Analyses of blood cell populations with mass cytometry. Blood samples were
 analyzed as described in Materials and Methods. UMAP plots show normalized signal intensity of
 markers used for clustering.

Fig. S2. Staining pattern in ungated cells. Staining patterns in ungated cells for all markers
used for clustering

Fig. S3. Minimal gating example. Minimal gating example of a representative sample to illustrate
 marker expression in subsets.

Fig. S4. Cytokine expression in healthy controls after LPS stimulation. Representative
example of cytokine staining patterns in healthy controls in response to 6 h LPS stimulation. Red:
unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

Fig. S5. Cytokine expression in HCV infected patients after LPS stimulation. Representative
example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV infected patients in response to 6 h LPS stimulation.
Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

Fig. S6. Cytokine expression in HCV/HIV infected patients after LPS stimulation.
Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV/HIV infected patients in response to
6 h LPS stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

Fig. S7. Cytokine expression in healthy controls after R848stimulation. Representative
example of cytokine staining patterns in healthy controls in response to 6 h R848 stimulation. Red:
unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

141 **Fig. S8. Cytokine expression in HCV infected patients after R848stimulation.** Representative

example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV infected patients in response to 6 h R848 stimulation.

143 Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

Fig. S9. Cytokine expression in HCV/HIV infected patients after R848stimulation.
Representative example of cytokine staining patterns in HCV/HIV infected patients in response to
6 h R848 stimulation. Red: unstimulated sample, blue: stimulated sample.

Fig. S10. Figure S9 Baseline and induced expression of inhibitory and co-stimulatory
molecules in cDC2. Whole blood was stimulated for 24 h with 100 ng/mL of LPS. Left panels
show baseline expression while right panel shows regulation in response to LPS..

150 Fig. S11. Depletion of CD15 positive cells does not affect the frequency of other immune

151 **subsets.** (a) UMAP plot of a split sample, granulocytes were depleted from half of the sample (left

152 plot). (b) Frequencies of FlowSOM clusters with and without CD15 depletion. Frequency has been

153 calculated as a percentage of non-granulocyte events and these clusters have been excluded

154 from visualization. An independent FlowSOM run was used for this analysis.