

1                   **Mechanistic Analysis of the Broad Antiretroviral Resistance Conferred by**  
2                   **HIV-1 Envelope Glycoprotein Mutations**  
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4   Short title: Broad resistance to antiretrovirals mediated by HIV-1 Env

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## 24 **Abstract**

25 Despite the effectiveness of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, virological failure can occur in some HIV-1  
26 infected patients in the absence of mutations in the proteins targeted by these drugs. We previously  
27 reported that, *in vitro*, the lab-adapted NL4-3 strain of HIV-1 can acquire resistance to the integrase  
28 inhibitor dolutegravir (DTG) by acquiring mutations in the envelope glycoprotein (Env) that enhance the  
29 ability of HIV-1 to spread via cell-cell transmission. In this study, we investigated whether Env-mediated  
30 drug resistance extends to ARVs other than DTG and whether it occurs in other HIV-1 isolates. We  
31 demonstrate that Env mutations can broadly confer resistance to multiple classes of ARVs in the context  
32 of cell-cell but not cell-free infection and also increase resistance to ARVs when coupled with target-gene  
33 drug resistance mutations. To investigate the mechanism of Env-mediated drug resistance, we evaluated  
34 the impact of the Env mutations on Env stability and conformational dynamics. We observe that the NL4-  
35 3 Env mutants display a more stable and closed Env conformation compared to WT virus and reduced  
36 rates of gp120 shedding. We also selected for mutations in the gp41 ectodomain of clinically relevant,  
37 CCR5-tropic isolates in the presence of DTG. These Env mutants exhibit reduced susceptibility to DTG,  
38 with effects on replication kinetics and Env structure that are HIV-1 strain-dependent. Finally, to examine  
39 a possible *in vivo* relevance of Env-mediated drug resistance, we performed single-genome sequencing of  
40 plasma-derived virus from five patients failing an integrase inhibitor-containing regimen. This analysis  
41 revealed the presence of several mutations in the highly conserved gp120-gp41 interface despite low  
42 frequency of resistance mutations in integrase. These results suggest a “stepping-stone” model whereby  
43 mutations in Env that enhance the ability of HIV-1 to spread via a cell-cell route increase the opportunity  
44 for the virus to acquire high-level drug resistance mutations in ARV-target genes.

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## 49 **Author summary**

50 Although combination antiretroviral (ARV) therapy has proven highly effective in controlling the  
51 progression of HIV disease, drug resistance can be a major obstacle to long-term treatment, particularly in  
52 resource-limited settings. In most cases, resistance arises from the accumulation of mutations in the ARV-  
53 target genes; however, in some cases, resistance develops without ARV target-gene mutations. We  
54 previously reported that mutations in the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein (Env) confer resistance to an  
55 integrase inhibitor. Here we investigated the mechanism of Env-mediated drug resistance and the possible  
56 contribution of Env to virological failure *in vivo*. We demonstrate that Env mutations can confer broad  
57 resistance to multiple classes of ARVs and define the effect of the Env mutations on Env subunit  
58 interactions and sensitivity to neutralizing antibodies. We also selected for drug resistance mutations in  
59 Env in clinically relevant HIV-1 isolates. We observed that many Env mutations accumulated in  
60 individuals failing integrase inhibitor therapy despite a low frequency of resistance mutations in integrase.  
61 Our findings suggest that broad-based, Env-mediated drug resistance may impact current and possibly  
62 future therapeutic strategies. Our findings also provide clues towards understanding how ARV-treated  
63 patients can experience virological failure without acquiring drug resistance mutations in ARV-target  
64 genes.

65

## 66 **Introduction**

67 More than thirty antiretrovirals (ARVs) are currently approved to treat HIV-1 infection [1]. These  
68 ARVs are categorized into five different classes based on their targets: (1) nucleoside analog reverse  
69 transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), (2) non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), (3)  
70 integrase (IN) strand transfer inhibitors (INSTIs), (4) protease (PR) inhibitors (PIs) and (5) entry  
71 inhibitors (Ent-Is). The use of combinations of these ARVs (combination antiretroviral therapy; cART)  
72 has proven remarkably effective in controlling HIV disease progression and prolonging survival.  
73 However, resistance to ARVs emerges in some patients because of poor adherence, use of a suboptimal  
74 drug regimen, and/or lack of viral load monitoring, particularly in resource-limited settings. Transmitted  
75 drug resistance is therefore becoming an increasingly serious problem in many parts of the world [2]. In  
76 most cases, HIV drug resistance is the consequence of mutations that emerge in the viral genes targeted  
77 by the drugs, and the molecular and structural basis for such resistance has been extensively studied [2].  
78 However, particularly in the case of PIs and INSTIs, virological failure can occur in the absence of target-  
79 gene mutations [3-10], indicating that mutations outside the target gene can contribute to drug resistance.  
80 For example, *in vitro* selection studies have demonstrated that mutations in the 3' polypurine tract (3'  
81 PPT) or in the viral long terminal repeat (LTR) can confer resistance to INSTIs [11, 12], and mutations in  
82 Gag and the envelope glycoprotein (Env) have been implicated in PI resistance [13, 14].

83 HIV-1 Env is translated as a gp160 precursor, which is cleaved by a cellular furin-like protease to  
84 generate noncovalently linked gp120 and gp41 subunits that are incorporated into virus particles as a  
85 heterotrimeric spike [15]. The binding of gp120 to CD4 on the target cell surface triggers a  
86 conformational rearrangement in Env that exposes the coreceptor (CCR5 or CXCR4)-binding site.  
87 Interaction of gp120 with coreceptor promotes the refolding of gp41 heptad repeat 1 and 2 (HR1 and 2) to  
88 form an antiparallel six-helix bundle that mediates the fusion of viral and cellular membranes, allowing  
89 viral entry into the cytosol of the target cell [16].

90 HIV-1 Env is the only viral protein exposed on the surface of the infected cell or viral particle; it  
91 is therefore the target of neutralizing antibodies (NAbs) that can block viral entry and induce antibody-  
92 mediated effector functions, such as antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). NAbs recognize  
93 conserved regions of the Env trimer, including (1) the CD4-binding site (CD4bs), (2) V2 apex, (3) V3  
94 glycan, (4) gp120-gp41 interface, and (5) gp41 membrane-proximal external region (MPER) [17]. Single-  
95 molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) analysis has revealed that Env trimers  
96 fluctuate between closed (state 1), intermediate (state 2) and open (state 3) conformations [18, 19]. The  
97 binding properties of NAbs are influenced by the conformational state of Env. For example, while many  
98 anti-V2 apex and anti-CD4bs Abs preferentially recognize the closed Env conformation, antibodies that  
99 bind the gp41 MPER and a CD4-induced epitope (CD4i) preferentially recognize Env conformations that  
100 arise after the engagement of gp120 with CD4. Therefore, NAbs are useful as molecular probes to  
101 investigate the structure and conformational dynamics of Env [18, 19].

102 HIV-1 can spread either via a cell-free route or by cell-cell transmission at points of cell-cell  
103 contact known as virological synapses (VSs). The formation of a VS is initiated by the interaction of Env  
104 on the infected cell and CD4 on the target cell [20-22], although Gag can accumulate at the VS even in  
105 the absence of Env [23]. The VS is stabilized by cellular adhesion proteins, such as LFA-1 and ICAM-1,  
106 and lipid raft microdomains and the actin cytoskeleton are also implicated in VS formation [24-26]. At  
107 least *in vitro*, cell-cell transfer of HIV-1 is markedly more efficient than cell-free infection [27-29]. HIV-1  
108 transmission at a VS provides a higher multiplicity of infection (MOI) than cell-free infection, resulting in  
109 multiple copies of proviral DNA in the target cells [30-33]. This high MOI allows HIV-1 to overcome  
110 multiple barriers to infection, such as those imposed by ARVs, NAbs, and inhibitory host factors [32-38].  
111 Although it is challenging to directly compare the relative contribution of cell-free infection and cell-cell  
112 transfer to HIV-1 dissemination and pathogenesis *in vivo*, several studies have suggested the importance  
113 of cell-associated virus in HIV-1 propagation in animal models of HIV-1 infection. Intravital imaging  
114 using humanized mice has demonstrated that HIV-1-infected T-cells are motile in lymph nodes and  
115 spleen, and form transient, Env-dependent adhesive contacts that may facilitate cell-cell viral transfer [39,

116 40]. In addition, multicopy transmission of HIV-1 as foci within lymphoid tissue has been reported in  
117 humanized mice [30, 40]. Inhibition of egress of lymphocytes reduced systemic dissemination of HIV-1,  
118 suggesting that migration of infected cells plays an important role in virus spread to other organs [39].  
119 Electron tomography and immunofluorescence analyses in gut lymphoid tissues and bone marrow of  
120 humanized mice have provided support for both cell-free and cell-cell modes of HIV-1 transmission [41-  
121 43]. If cell-cell transfer, and the resulting higher MOI, is a common occurrence *in vivo* one would expect  
122 to find large numbers of multiply infected cells in HIV-1-infected individuals. This has been observed in  
123 some [44-46] but not other [47] studies. Further analysis will be needed to understand the importance of  
124 cell-cell transfer in viral dissemination *in vivo*.

125 We previously reported that HIV-1 evades blocks to virus replication by acquiring Env mutations  
126 that enhance the capacity of the virus to spread via cell-cell transmission [48]. By propagating HIV-1  
127 mutants containing substitutions in the p6 domain of Gag that severely delay virus replication [49], we  
128 selected for second-site compensatory mutations Env-Y61H and P81S in gp120 and the Env-A556T  
129 mutation in gp41. These Env mutations decrease the sensitivity of the virus to the highly potent INSTI  
130 dolutegravir (DTG). Moreover, propagation of HIV-1 in the presence of DTG led to the selection of the  
131 DTG-escape mutant Env-A539V in the absence of any mutations in IN. These four Env mutations cluster  
132 within the C1 domain of gp120 and the HR1 domain of gp41 (Fig 1), which have been shown through  
133 mutagenesis and structural studies to be critical for the stability of gp120-gp41 association in the  
134 unliganded (non-CD4-bound) state [50-52]. These results suggest that Env mutations that increase cell-  
135 cell spread may alter the stability of the gp120-gp41 interaction and demonstrate that mutations in Env  
136 can confer resistance to an ARV, at least in a subtype B, CXCR4-tropic, laboratory-adapted HIV-1 strain.  
137 Whether Env-mediated drug resistance occurs in clinical HIV-1 isolates is unclear because Env from  
138 laboratory-adapted and primary HIV-1 strains differs in significant functional and structural aspects.  
139 Laboratory-adapted isolates often sample the open Env conformation and are more sensitive to NAb  
140 compared to primary isolates, as *in vitro* adaptation of HIV-1 in the absence of immune selective pressure  
141 often leads to the emergence of neutralization-sensitive variants [18, 53, 54]. In addition, laboratory-

142 adapted isolates are more sensitive to soluble CD4 (sCD4) than primary isolates. sCD4 inhibits HIV-1  
143 entry not only by competing with CD4 on the target cell, but also by inducing the shedding of gp120 from  
144 the surface of viral particles and infected cells. Env complexes from laboratory-adapted isolates are more  
145 prone to sCD4-induced gp120 shedding compared to primary isolates [55-57], indicating that Env  
146 stability differs between laboratory-adapted and primary isolates.

147         In the present study, we examined whether our previously described Env mutations confer  
148 resistance not only to DTG but also to other classes of ARVs. To evaluate the impact of the Env  
149 mutations on the conformation and stability of the Env complex, we examined their effects on sensitivity  
150 to NAbs and on gp120 shedding. To further characterize the mechanism of Env-mediated drug resistance,  
151 we obtained Env mutants through *in vitro* selection experiments by propagating clinically relevant HIV-1  
152 clones in the presence of DTG and analyzed the phenotypes of the selected Env mutants. Finally, to  
153 address the possible *in vivo* relevance of Env-mediated drug resistance, we used single-genome  
154 sequencing to compare viral sequences obtained from the plasma of individuals failing a raltegravir  
155 (RAL)-containing regimen. The results indicate that Env mutations confer resistance across a broad  
156 range of ARVs *in vitro*, and that the NL4-3 Env mutations decrease gp120 shedding and alter the  
157 sensitivity of Env to NAbs. Finally, we show that in some individuals failing a RAL-containing regimen  
158 in the absence of resistance mutations in IN, changes arise at the highly conserved gp120-gp41 interface,  
159 as observed during INSTI escape *in vitro*.

160

## 161 **Results**

### 162 **The A539V mutation in gp41 provides a replication advantage over WT NL4-3 in the** 163 **presence of multiple classes of ARVs.**

164 We previously reported that the Env-A539V mutation provides resistance to the INSTI DTG [48].  
165 To examine whether Env-A539V also provides a selective replication advantage in the presence of other  
166 ARVs, the SupT1 T-cell line was transfected with the WT NL4-3 molecular clone or the Env-A539V  
167 derivative in the absence or presence of various concentrations (0.1 – 3,000 nM) of a panel of ARVs.  
168 Replication kinetics were monitored by measuring the RT activity in the cell culture media. Consistent  
169 with our previous report [48], Env-A539V exhibited faster replication kinetics compared to WT in the  
170 absence of drugs (Fig 2). Whereas replication of WT NL4-3 was largely inhibited in the presence of 3.0  
171 nM DTG, Env-A539V could replicate, albeit with delayed kinetics (Fig 2A). By calculating the DTG  $IC_{50}$   
172 based on the RT activity at the peak of replication in the absence of drugs, we found that Env-A539V  
173 showed 8.1-fold resistance to DTG relative to WT (Fig 2I). We also examined the sensitivity of Env-  
174 A539V to another INSTI, raltegravir (RAL). Env-A539V could replicate in the presence of 10 nM RAL  
175 and showed 5.4-fold resistance relative to WT NL4-3 (Figs 2B and I). We also measured replication  
176 kinetics of Env-A539V in the presence of the NNRTI efavirenz (EFV) and the NRTI emtricitabine (FTC).  
177 Whereas replication of WT NL4-3 was strongly inhibited in the presence of 3.0 nM EFV or 30 nM FTC,  
178 Env-A539V could still replicate at these concentrations (Figs 2C and D).  $IC_{50}$  calculations showed that  
179 Env-A539V exhibited 28- and 5.4-fold resistance against EFV and FTC, respectively (Fig 2I). Next, we  
180 examined the impact of PIs on the replication kinetics of Env-A539V. While replication of WT NL4-3  
181 was strongly inhibited in the presence of 3.0 nM nelfinavir (NFV), the Env-A539V mutant could replicate  
182 and exhibited 24-fold resistance (Figs 2E and I). We also examined the sensitivity of Env-A539V to the  
183 allosteric integrase inhibitor (ALLINI), BI-224436, which induces aberrant IN multimerization and  
184 impairs the interaction between IN and the cellular cofactor LEDGF/p75 [58]. As shown in Fig 2F, Env-  
185 A539V caused a small but statistically significant reduction in the sensitivity to BI-224436 relative to WT



186 NL4-3 (2.3-fold resistance, Fig 2I). These data demonstrate that Env mutations can overcome inhibition  
187 imposed by multiple classes of ARVs targeting not only post-entry steps, but also the maturation step of  
188 the HIV-1 replication cycle.

189 It has been suggested that entry inhibitors (Ent-Is) are effective in the context of cell-cell  
190 transmission [59, 60]. In addition, several studies have shown that Env mutations selected in the presence  
191 of Ent-Is altered viral sensitivity to other anti-Env agents [61-64]. These findings raise the possibility that  
192 Env mutations selected in the presence of ARVs might alter the viral sensitivity to Env-targeted  
193 inhibitors. To examine this question, we measured replication kinetics in the presence of the fusion  
194 inhibitor T-20 and the attachment inhibitor BMS-378806. Interestingly, these Ent-Is could efficiently  
195 suppress replication of both WT NL4-3 and Env-A539V with no statistically significant differences in  
196 antiviral IC<sub>50</sub> in a multi-cycle spreading infection (Figs 2G – I). These observations suggest that Ent-Is  
197 could suppress the replication of Env mutants selected under the pressure of ARVs targeting the viral  
198 enzymes.

### 199 **The Env-A539V mutation does not alter drug sensitivity in cell-free infection.**

200 We previously proposed that Env mutations that confer resistance to ARVs do so by enhancing  
201 the efficiency of cell-cell transfer [48]. Based on this hypothesis, the Env mutations would not be  
202 predicted to confer resistance in the context of cell-free infectivity. To test this hypothesis, we measured  
203 the infectivity of WT NL4-3 and the Env-A539V mutant in the TZM-bl indicator cell line. For early-  
204 acting inhibitors (INSTI, NNRTI, NRTI and Ent-Is), infection of TZM-bl cells was performed in the  
205 presence of the drugs. For late-acting inhibitors (PI and ALLINIs), virus stocks were produced in the  
206 presence of the inhibitors, and then used to infect the TZM-bl cells. As we reported previously [48], Env-  
207 A539V showed comparable cell-free infectivity relative to WT NL4-3 in the absence of inhibitor (Fig 3A  
208 and Table 1). Consistent with the hypothesis that the reduced ARV sensitivity of the Env-A539V mutant  
209 is conferred at the level of cell-cell transmission, WT and Env-A539V infectivity was reduced to the same  
210 extent by the inhibitors (Figs 3B – I, and Table 1). Interestingly, Env-A539V did not alter susceptibility to

211 either T-20 or BMS-378806, suggesting that Ent-Is efficiently suppress both cell-free infection and cell-  
 212 cell transmission of HIV-1.

213

214 **Table 1. IC<sub>50</sub> values in cell-free infection for WT NL4-3 and the A539V variant**

ARV classes/NAb epitopes	Drug/NAbs	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM <sup>a</sup> , µg/ml <sup>b</sup> , dilution factors <sup>c</sup> , mean ± SE)			
		WT	Env-A539V	Fold changes	Significance
INSTIs	DTG <sup>a</sup>	3.3 ± 0.65	3.0 ± 0.72	0.91	ns
	RAL <sup>a</sup>	11 ± 0.94	15 ± 1.6	1.4	ns
NRTIs	FTC <sup>a</sup>	558 ± 10	511 ± 30	0.92	ns
NNRTIs	EFV <sup>a</sup>	1.2 ± 0.31	1.4 ± 0.27	1.2	ns
PIs	NFV <sup>a</sup>	46 ± 21	28 ± 3.1	0.61	ns
ALLINIs	BI-224436 <sup>a</sup>	14 ± 2.0	14 ± 1.9	1.0	ns
Ent-Is	BMS-378806 <sup>a</sup>	2.3 ± 0.66	2.9 ± 0.54	1.3	ns
	T-20 <sup>a</sup>	42 ± 13	38 ± 2.9	0.90	ns
	AMD3100 <sup>a</sup>	0.91 ± 0.070	0.77 ± 0.032	0.85	ns
	sCD4 <sup>b</sup> (0 hr)	0.40 ± 0.031	0.97 ± 0.14	2.4	*
	sCD4 <sup>b</sup> (2 hr)	0.30 ± 0.085	1.1 ± 0.21	3.7	**
anti-CD4 Ab	SIM.4 <sup>c</sup>	88 ± 30	79 ± 24	0.90	ns
anti-V2 apex Ab	PG16 <sup>b</sup>	13 ± 12	0.62 ± 0.30	0.048	ns
	PGT145 <sup>b</sup>	1.3 ± 0.087	0.39 ± 0.22	0.30	*
anti-V3 glycan Ab	2G12 <sup>b</sup>	1.3 ± 0.33	1.3 ± 0.54	1.0	ns
	PGT121 <sup>b</sup>	> 10	> 10	N.D.	N.D.
anti-CD4bs Ab	VRC01 <sup>b</sup>	0.11 ± 0.0070	0.11 ± 0.013	1.0	ns
	F105 <sup>b</sup>	1.4 ± 0.51	4.3 ± 0.43	3.1	**
anti-CD4i Ab	17b <sup>b</sup>	0.81 ± 0.28	22 ± 12	27	*
anti-V3 loop Ab	447-52D <sup>b</sup>	0.39 ± 0.096	11 ± 2.6	28	***
anti-gp41 MPER Ab	10E8 <sup>b</sup>	0.067 ± 0.020	0.12 ± 0.063	1.8	*
anti-gp120-gp41 interface Ab	35O22 <sup>b</sup>	0.062 ± 0.024	0.13 ± 0.026	2.1	ns

215 TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated virus in the presence of ARVs or NAbs. Data  
 216 are shown as mean ± SE. Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired *t*-test. ns, not significant; *p*-  
 217 values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*). N.D.; not determined.

218 <sup>a</sup> nM

219 <sup>b</sup> µg/ml

220 <sup>c</sup> dilution factors

221

222 **The Env-A539V mutation increases viral resistance to EFV when coupled with the RT-**  
223 **Y188L mutation.**

224 To examine whether mutations in Env can increase the level of resistance conferred by drug  
225 target gene mutations, we tested EFV resistance of the RT-Y188L mutant [65] in the context of either WT  
226 or A539V Env. As shown in Fig 4A (left panel), RT-Y188L showed a modest delay in replication  
227 compared to WT in the absence of EFV, indicating that this RT mutation confers a small fitness defect.  
228 This replication defect was rescued by Env-A539V, consistent with our earlier finding that Env mutations  
229 can rescue the replication defect conferred by a mutation in IN [48]. In the presence of 1.0 mM EFV, the  
230 Env-A539V mutation was able to markedly enhance the replication kinetics of the RT-Y188L mutant (Fig  
231 4A, right panel), a result that was confirmed over a broad range of EFV concentrations (Figs 4B and D).  
232 In contrast to the results in the multi-cycle spreading infection (Fig 4B), the Env-A539V mutation did not  
233 increase EFV resistance of RT-Y188L in a single-cycle infectivity assay (Figs 4C and D). Taken  
234 together, these results demonstrate that, in the context of a spreading infection in which virus transmission  
235 can take place via cell-cell transfer, an Env mutation can significantly increase the resistance conferred by  
236 a mutation in an ARV-target gene.

237

238 **NL4-3 Env mutations that overcome blocks to HIV-1 replication in spreading infections**  
239 **stabilize the gp120-gp41 interaction.**

240 As shown in Fig 1B, our previously reported Env mutations, which we selected for their ability to  
241 overcome blocks to virus replication in multi-cycle spreading infections, are located in the C1 domain of  
242 gp120 and the HR1 region of gp41. These domains of Env have been shown in mutagenesis and structural  
243 studies to be critical for the stability of the gp120-gp41 association in the unliganded state [50-52, 62, 66].  
244 To provide clues regarding the mechanism by which Env mutations enhance the capacity of HIV-1 to  
245 spread via cell-cell transfer, we examined their impact on gp120-gp41 association. It is known that sCD4  
246 induces gp120 shedding from virus particles [57]; we therefore incubated purified virions with sCD4 at  
247 37°C for 2 hrs, and then measured the amount of particle-associated gp120 and p24 by western blotting.  
248 The amount of gp160 in virions was used as a control, as it is not shed from virions and can be detected  
249 with the same antibody used to detect gp120. As expected, levels of gp120 associated with WT NL4-3  
250 particles were decreased in a dose-dependent fashion by sCD4 treatment (0.3 – 10 µg/ml). By contrast,  
251 the mutations in both gp120 (Env-Y61H and P81S) and gp41 (Env-A539V and A556T) showed  
252 significantly reduced sCD4-induced gp120 shedding (Fig 5A). To quantify this effect, we calculated the  
253 50% effective concentration (EC<sub>50</sub>) of sCD4-induced shedding. While the EC<sub>50</sub> of sCD4-induced gp120  
254 for WT NL4-3 was 0.99 µg/ml sCD4, the EC<sub>50</sub> for the Env-P81S and the other Env mutants was 3.5 and >  
255 10 µg/ml, respectively (Fig 5B). To examine the interaction between sCD4 and a representative Env  
256 mutant, we measured the sensitivity of Env-A539V infectivity to sCD4 (Fig 5C). Env-A539V showed a  
257 3.7-fold resistance to sCD4 relative to WT. Moreover, the IC<sub>50</sub> of sCD4 against Env-A539V was 1.1  
258 µg/ml (Table 1), which is more than about 10-fold less than the EC<sub>50</sub> of sCD4-induced gp120 shedding,  
259 suggesting that sCD4 could bind to mutant Env at lower concentrations than needed for gp120 shedding,  
260 leading to inhibition of viral entry. To further characterize the intrinsic stability of mutant Envs, we also  
261 performed a time-dependent gp120 shedding assay by incubating viruses at 37°C for up to 5 days (Fig  
262 5D). The levels of gp120 on WT NL4-3 particles were decreased during the 5-day incubation period. The  
263 Env mutations significantly reduced time-dependent gp120 shedding (Fig 5E). Whereas the half-life of  
264 WT NL4-3 gp120 shedding was 2.6 days, that of the Env mutants was > 5 days. These data suggest that  
265 the NL4-3 Env mutations stabilize the gp120-gp41 interaction.

266 **The Env-A539V mutation reduces sensitivity to neutralizing antibodies (NAbs) that**  
267 **recognize the CD4-induced Env conformation.**

268 smFRET analysis revealed that the HIV-1 Env trimer samples three conformational states [18,  
269 19]. It has been suggested that anti-Env NAbs and Env-targeting entry inhibitors display preferences for  
270 specific Env conformations [18, 19, 67] and that the gp41 ectodomain can modulate the conformational  
271 dynamics of Env [52, 62, 66]. To probe the impact of the Env-A539V mutation on Env conformation, we  
272 examined the sensitivity of Env-A539V to a panel of NAbs (Fig 6). We used three groups of NAbs: The  
273 first group (Figs 6A – E), which included VRC01 (specific for the CD4bs), PGT145, PG16 (specific for  
274 the V2 apex), 2G12 and PGT121 (V3-glycan-specific), preferentially bind to the unliganded, closed Env  
275 conformation [68-71]. The second group (Fig 6F) included 35O22, which is specific for the gp120-gp41  
276 interface and shows no conformational preference [72]. The third group (Figs 6G - J) included F105  
277 (CD4 bs-specific), 17b (specific for the CD4i epitope), 447-52D (V3 loop), and 10E8 (gp41 MPER),  
278 preferentially target the CD4-bound Env conformation [73-76]. Although the Env-A539V mutation is not  
279 located within the epitopes of the NAbs used in this analysis, it altered the sensitivity to several NAbs,  
280 with reduced sensitivity to F105 (3.1-fold), 447-52D (28-fold), 17b (27-fold), and 10E8 (1.8-fold) and  
281 increased (33-fold) sensitivity to PGT145 (Table 1). To further probe the effect of the Env-A539V  
282 mutation on Env conformation, we compared NAb binding to Env on 293T cells by flow-cytometry. As  
283 indicated in Figs 6M and N, 17b and 10E8 less efficiently bind to Env-A539V relative to WT Env. In  
284 contrast, PGT145 and PG16 bind the mutant Env to a similar extent as WT NL4-3 Env (Figs 6O and P).  
285 These data suggest that the Env-A539V mutation stabilizes the closed Env conformation. We also  
286 examined sensitivity to SIM.4 (an anti-CD4 Ab) [77] and AMD3100 (a CXCR4 antagonist) [78] to  
287 evaluate the impact of the Env-A539V mutation on Env function in HIV-1 entry. As shown in Figs 6K  
288 and L, Env-A539V showed comparable sensitivity to SIM.4 and AMD3100 compared to WT NL4-3,  
289 suggesting that this mutation does not alter CD4 and CXCR4 dependency.

290

## 291 Env mutations confer ARV resistance in the context of CCR5-tropic HIV-1.

292 To examine whether Env-mediated resistance to ARVs occurs in strains of HIV-1 other than the  
 293 CXCR4-tropic, lab-adapted strain NL4-3, we propagated the CCR5-tropic clone NL(AD8) [79] in the  
 294 SupT1huR5 T-cell line, which expresses high levels of human CCR5, in the presence of DTG. Treatment  
 295 of transfected SupT1huR5 cultures with 6.0 nM DTG markedly delayed NL(AD8) replication, but at 31  
 296 days post-transfection we observed a peak of replication (Fig 7A). Sequencing of the putative escape  
 297 mutant indicated the absence of any mutations in IN but revealed the presence of an Env-N654K mutation  
 298 in gp41 HR2 (Fig 7B). Asn at position in 654 is highly conserved (99.76%) in subtype B. To examine  
 299 whether the Env-N654K mutation in NL(AD8) confers resistance to DTG, we introduced the mutation in  
 300 WT NL(AD8) and examined replication kinetics in the presence of DTG (Fig 7C). Interestingly, this  
 301 mutant exhibits faster replication kinetics than WT and can still replicate in the presence of 300 nM DTG  
 302 (Fig 7C, left panel). IC<sub>50</sub> calculations indicate that the Env-N654K mutation confers 30-fold resistance to  
 303 DTG relative to WT NL(AD8) (Fig 7D). As observed with several of the Env mutations selected in our  
 304 previous study [48], the Env-N654K mutation impairs single-cycle infectivity (Fig 7E) and does not  
 305 confer DTG resistance in the context of cell-free infection (Fig 7F and Table 2). These results are all  
 306 consistent with the hypothesis that, as with the mutations selected in the context of NL4-3, the NL(AD8)  
 307 Env-N654K mutation confers DTG resistance by enhancing the efficiency of cell-cell transfer.

308 **Table 2. IC<sub>50</sub> values in cell-free infection for NL(AD8) variants**

ARV classes/NAb epitopes	Drug/NAbs	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM <sup>a</sup> , µg/ml <sup>b</sup> , dilution factors <sup>c</sup> , mean ± SE)			
		WT	Env-N654K	Fold changes	Significance
INSTIs	DTG <sup>a</sup>	4.9 ± 0.71	6.2 ± 2.7	1.3	ns
	BMS-378806 <sup>a</sup>	3.0 ± 0.24	2.8 ± 0.59	0.93	ns
Ent-Is	T-20 <sup>a</sup>	2,938 ± 724	797 ± 225	0.27	**
	MVC <sup>a</sup>	2.3 ± 0.36	1.1 ± 0.33	0.48	*
	sCD4 <sup>b</sup> (0 hr)	4.1 ± 0.23	1.3 ± 0.42	0.32	***
	sCD4 <sup>b</sup> (2 hr)	3.6 ± 0.25	1.4 ± 0.31	0.39	***
anti-CD4 Ab	SIM.4 <sup>c</sup>	113 ± 6.5	371 ± 44	3.3	***

anti-V2 apex Ab	PG16 <sup>b</sup>	0.040 ± 0.020	0.11 ± 0.053	2.8	ns
	PGT145 <sup>b</sup>	0.068 ± 0.0060	0.062 ± 0.014	0.91	ns
anti-V3 glycan Ab	2G12 <sup>b</sup>	> 30	> 30	N.D.	N.D.
	PGT121 <sup>b</sup>	0.043 ± 0.0026	0.036 ± 0.0073	0.84	ns
anti-CD4bs Ab	VRC01 <sup>b</sup>	0.40 ± 0.076	0.46 ± 0.14	1.2	ns
	F105 <sup>b</sup>	> 10	> 10	N.D.	N.D.
anti-CD4i Ab	17b <sup>b</sup>	> 30	> 30	N.D.	N.D.
anti-gp41 MPER Ab	10E8 <sup>b</sup>	0.47 ± 0.075	0.050 ± 0.012	0.11	***
anti-gp120-gp41 interface Ab	35O22 <sup>b</sup>	4.1 ± 2.2	0.074 ± 0.037	0.018	ns

309 TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated virus in the presence of ARVs or NAbs. Data  
 310 are shown as mean ± SE. Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired *t*-test. ns, not significant; *p*-  
 311 values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*). N.D.; not determined.

312 <sup>a</sup> nM

313 <sup>b</sup> µg/ml

314 <sup>c</sup> dilution factor

315 We also propagated the subtype C, CCR5-tropic transmitted-founder isolate K3016 [80] in the  
 316 presence of DTG. We identified the Env-T529I mutation in gp41 HR1, which is located at the same  
 317 position as NL4-3 Env-A539V (S1A and B Figs). This mutant showed 2.8-fold-reduced sensitivity to  
 318 DTG, although its replication was delayed relative to that of WT K3016 (S1C and D Figs). These results  
 319 indicate that Env-mediated drug resistance *in vitro* can occur in clinically relevant HIV-1 strains  
 320 independent of co-receptor usage and subtype.

321 To examine whether the Env-A539V mutation, which was originally selected in the context of  
 322 NL4-3 [48], would also confer ARV resistance in the context of another viral isolate we introduced this  
 323 mutation into the NL(AD8) molecular clone. In contrast to the phenotype of this mutant in NL4-3, the  
 324 NL(AD8) Env-A539V mutant exhibited delayed replication in the absence of DTG and caused an  
 325 increase (3.1-fold) in DTG sensitivity in multi-cycle spreading infections. Moreover, the cell-free

326 infectivity of the NL(AD8) Env-A539V mutant was reduced relative to that of WT NL(AD8) (Figs 7C -  
327 E). These data demonstrate that the impact of Env mutations on replication kinetics and drug sensitivity  
328 can be HIV-1 strain-dependent.

329         Next, to examine the impact of the Env-N654K mutation on the conformation and neutralization  
330 properties of NL(AD8) Env, we examined the sensitivity of this mutant to a panel of NAbs (Fig 8 and  
331 Table 2). Compared to NL4-3, NL(AD8) is more susceptible to NAbs, such as PGT121, PG16 and  
332 PGT145, that preferentially recognize the closed Env conformation (S2 Fig, and Tables 1 and 2).  
333 Conversely, NL(AD8) is resistant to 17b (S2 Fig, and Tables 1 and 2) and F105 (Table 1). These results  
334 suggest that NL(AD8) tends to sample the closed Env conformation relative to NL4-3. NL(AD8) Env-  
335 N654K increased sensitivity to 35O22 (56-fold) and 10E8 (9.1-fold) (Figs 8E and G, and Table 2).  
336 Because the effects of N654K on the sensitivity to other NAbs are minimal, this mutation may affect the  
337 local structure of HR2 and the MPER rather than the global structural dynamics of NL(AD8) Env. We  
338 also examined sensitivity to several entry inhibitors (Figs 8H – L and Table 2). Env-N654K slightly  
339 increased sensitivity to SIM.4, maraviroc (MVC; a CCR5 antagonist) and T-20. Moreover, Env-N654K  
340 increased the sensitivity to sCD4. Unlike NL4-3 (S2J Fig), incubation time did not affect the  
341 susceptibility of Env-N654K to sCD4 (Fig 8H and S2J Fig). This observation suggests that sCD4-  
342 induced gp120 shedding is minimal in the NL(AD8) strain, consistent with previous reports for non-lab-  
343 adapted isolates [55-57]. Indeed, we did not observe sCD4-induced gp120 shedding from either WT or  
344 Env-mutant particles at sCD4 concentrations up to 10 µg/ml (S3A, C and E Figs.). We also examined  
345 time-dependent gp120 shedding (S3B and D Figs). In contrast to NL4-3 (Figs 5D and E, and S3F Fig),  
346 only minimal gp120 shedding was observed for NL(AD8) Env over a 5-day incubation period at 37°C,  
347 and there was no significant difference in shedding between WT and Env-N654K NL(AD8) Env (S3B  
348 and D Figs).

349



350 **Sequence analysis of IN- and Env-coding regions of viruses from individuals failing a RAL-**  
351 **containing regimen.**

352 Our results indicate that Env-mediated drug resistance can occur in clinically relevant HIV-1  
353 strains *in vitro*. However, whether Env mutations contribute to drug resistance *in vivo* is unclear. To  
354 address this question, we used single-genome sequencing to compare viral sequences obtained from the  
355 plasma of participants failing a RAL-containing regimen in the SELECT study [5]. The aim of the  
356 SELECT study was to examine whether RAL with boosted lopinavir (LPV) would be non-inferior to  
357 boosted LPV with NRTIs. By 48 weeks of treatment, 10.3% of 258 participants treated with the RAL-  
358 containing regimen experienced virological failure, defined here as the inability to achieve a viral load  
359 under 400 copies/ml at two consecutive time points at or after 24 weeks of treatment. By the end of the  
360 follow-up in this study, ten participants developed new resistance mutations in IN, including IN-N155H.  
361 In the present study, we compared changes in the sequences of IN- and Env-coding regions from five  
362 participants who experienced viral rebound (Table 3). These participants were infected with subtype C,  
363 CCR5-tropic strains. Each participant had therapeutic plasma concentrations of RAL (> 33 ng/ml) at the  
364 time of virological failure. No resistance mutations in IN were detected at day 0, (Table 3). While we  
365 identified the IN-N155H mutation in participant identifier (PID) A5 with high frequency (73%), PID A1,  
366 A3 and A5 had resistance mutations in IN with low frequency (Table 3), suggesting that virological  
367 failure may have occurred in these participants as a result of mutations elsewhere in the HIV-1 genome.

368

369 **Table 3. Information on study participants failing a RAL-containing regimen.**

Participant		HIV-1	RAL	IN accessory/resistance mutations	
identifier	Sampling timepoint	RNA	conc.		
(PID)		(copies/ml)	(ng/ml)		
A1	Pre-ART	Day 0	805,710	-	No mutations detected

	Early RAL	Day			
	failure	181	570	990	Not determined
	Late RAL	Day			
	failure	250	11,335	89	<b>T97A (33%), N155H (5.6%)</b>
	Pre-ART	Day 0	17,450	-	No mutations detected
A2	Late RAL	Day			
	failure	195	1,772	93	No mutations detected
	Pre-ART	Day 0	1,329,415	-	No mutations detected
	Early RAL	Day			
A3	failure	178	433	965	Not determined
	Late RAL	Day			
	failure	196	1,139	3,371	<b>F121Y (14%)</b>
	Pre-ART	Day 0	1,617,523	-	No mutations detected
	Early RAL	Day			<b>E138K (2.7%), N155H</b>
A4	failure	175	7,208	1,142	<b>(73%)</b>
	Late RAL	Day			
	failure	199	9,918	480	Not determined
	Pre-ART	Day 0	30,206	-	No mutations detected
A5	Late RAL	Day			
	failure	194	18,806	2,729	<b>G163K (4.8%)</b>

370 Samples are derived from the SELECT study [5].

371 RAL resistance mutations are indicated in bold.

372

373 Evaluation of the Env-coding region before treatment and during virologic failure indicated the  
 374 presence of many changes in gp120 and gp41 that emerged or were selected with failure. Most of changes

375 in gp120 were located in highly variable regions, such as the variable loops (V1/V2, V4 and V5 loop),  
376 and the C3 region (data not shown). Because these regions contain immunodominant epitopes of subtype  
377 C Env, mutations in these regions may have been driven by immune pressure [81, 82]. Although we did  
378 not identify mutations at the same positions observed in our *in vitro* studies, we observed an accumulation  
379 of mutations in the gp120 C1 domain and gp41 ectodomain in PID A1, A3, A4 and A5 (Figs 9A and B).  
380 The frequency of most of the mutations increased significantly with viral rebound. Although we identified  
381 a number of Env mutations in PID A2, the frequency of mutations before RAL therapy was similar to that  
382 after viral rebound although the RAL-containing regimen decreased viral load before viral rebound (data  
383 not shown and Table 3). In many cases, amino acid residues were replaced with more conserved residues;  
384 however, we did identify changes to residues with very low prevalence, such as R577K (gp41 HR1) and  
385 L602R (gp41 HR2). Some mutated positions in the gp41 ectodomain were identified in several  
386 participants (Figs 9A and B). The observation of changes arising in highly conserved positions at the  
387 gp120-gp41 interface – a region in which, based on our data, mutations that confer ARV resistance *in*  
388 *vitro* cluster – in the absence of drug-resistance mutations in IN, suggests the possibility that these gp41  
389 changes may have contributed to virological failure in a subset of participants in the study. Further  
390 analysis will be needed to explore this hypothesis in more detail.

391

392

## 393 **Discussion**

394           In this study, we demonstrate that the NL4-3 Env-A539V mutant, which was selected in the  
395 presence of DTG, confers broad resistance to multiple classes of ARVs in multi-cycle spreading  
396 infections. This Env mutation also increases resistance to ARVs when coupled with ARV target-gene  
397 mutations, again in the context of spreading infections. However, the Env mutation does not alter ARV  
398 susceptibility in cell-free infection. The results demonstrate that Env mutations clustered at the gp120-  
399 gp41 interface can confer broad resistance by enhancing the ability of HIV-1 to spread via a cell-cell  
400 route of transmission. Interestingly, NL4-3 Env mutants exhibiting an enhanced ability to spread via cell-  
401 cell transmission have more stable and closed Env conformations compared to WT NL4-3. By  
402 propagating CCR5-tropic HIV-1 strains NL(AD8) and K3016 in the presence of DTG, we obtained gp41  
403 ectodomain mutations Env-N654K and Env-T529I, respectively. We demonstrate that these Env  
404 mutations reduce susceptibility to DTG in multi-cycle spreading infection as observed for the NL4-3 Env  
405 mutants, indicating that Env-mediated drug resistance can occur in non-laboratory-adapted HIV-1 strains.  
406 However, the effects of the Env mutations on replication kinetics and Env structure are HIV-1 strain-  
407 dependent. Finally, we performed single-genome sequencing analysis of the IN- and Env-coding regions  
408 of viruses from infected individuals failing a RAL-containing regimen. We observed that many mutations  
409 accumulated in the Env- but not IN-coding region in most study participants. While most of the gp120  
410 changes that arose *in vivo* were located in highly variable regions, a number of changes in the gp41  
411 ectodomain were observed at the highly conserved gp120-gp41 interface, as observed *in vitro*.

412           Several studies have demonstrated that cell-cell transfer is associated with a reduced  
413 susceptibility to ARVs relative to cell-free infection [32-34]. We previously proposed a model, consistent  
414 with other findings [33], whereby Env mutations that enhance cell-cell transmission increase the MOI  
415 following viral transfer across the VS; concentrations of DTG that are sufficient to inhibit cell-free  
416 infection by these mutants are therefore insufficient to block their cell-cell transmission [48]. Based on  
417 this model, the selected Env mutations would be predicted to confer resistance to multiple ARVs

418 independent of their mode of action, and should confer resistance in the context of a spreading, but not  
419 cell-free, infection. Indeed, the NL4-3 Env-A539V mutant selected in the presence of DTG exhibits  
420 broad resistance to a number ARVs including INSTIs, NRTIs, NNRTIs and PIs in spreading replication  
421 assays but not in cell-free infectivity assays. These observations suggest that the broad resistance  
422 conferred by the HIV-1 Env mutations will affect susceptibility to not only the currently approved ARVs,  
423 but also potentially to next-generation drugs.

424 In contrast to the other classes of ARVs, Env-A539V is sensitive to two types of Ent-Is: a fusion  
425 inhibitor (T-20) and an attachment inhibitor (BMS-378806). Previous studies have shown that Ent-Is  
426 targeting CD4 or co-receptor are effective in blocking cell-cell transmission [34, 60, 83]. While some  
427 CD4bs-targeting agents inefficiently inhibit cell-cell transmission, anti-gp41 MPER Abs and T-20 are  
428 effective [60, 84]. These observations suggest that accessibility of epitopes or time of action may be  
429 important factors for the efficacy of Ent-Is in blocking cell-cell transfer. Interestingly, the Env-A539V  
430 mutation has been reported to emerge in the presence of low concentrations of fusion inhibitors *in vitro*;  
431 however, this mutation does not confer resistance to the fusion inhibitor and reverted back to WT at high  
432 inhibitor concentration [85]. Overall, our findings imply that including Env-targeted inhibitors in a cART  
433 regimen may help prevent the emergence of the type of broadly resistance-conferring Env mutations  
434 described here and previously [48].

435 Virological failure has been observed in patients on PI-containing regimens in the absence of PI-  
436 resistance mutations in PR or in the vicinity of Gag cleavage sites [7, 86-89]. Likewise, recent studies  
437 have demonstrated that viral rebound can occur in individuals on INSTI-containing therapies without the  
438 emergence of INSTI-resistance mutations in IN [5, 6]. In some studies [90, 91] there are concerns about  
439 whether the infected individuals remained compliant (i.e., whether suppressive concentrations of the  
440 inhibitors were maintained), but in other studies (e.g., La Rosa et al., 2016 [5]) the maintenance of  
441 adequate plasma drug concentrations was experimentally verified. In some cases in which target-gene  
442 mutations were identified in the treated individuals experiencing virological failure, the resistance  
443 mutations identified conferred only low-level resistance [3-10]. These findings suggest that mutations

444 outside the *pol*-coding region (and not around Gag cleavage sites, in the case of PIs) also contribute to  
445 virological failure in association with the target-gene mutations. Mutations in the cytoplasmic tail of gp41  
446 have been previously proposed to contribute to PI resistance *in vivo* [13], potentially reflecting the role of  
447 virion maturation in Env-mediated viral entry [92, 93], and mutations in the gp41 HR region have also  
448 been observed in association with PI failure although the contribution of the mutants to virological failure  
449 is still unclear [9]. In addition to mutations in IN, it has also been reported that mutations in the 3' PPT  
450 contribute to INSTI failure both *in vitro* and *in vivo* [12, 94]. We demonstrate here that the Env-A539V  
451 mutation rescues the defect in virus replication imposed by the RT-Y188L mutation [65] and increases  
452 the resistance of this RT mutant to EFV in multi-cycle spreading but not cell-free infection. These  
453 observations indicate that Env mutations can increase resistance conferred by mutations in the ARV-  
454 target gene by enhancing viral cell-cell transmission. Mathematical modeling suggests that cell-cell  
455 transmission increases the probability that NAb-resistance mutations will emerge, relative to cell-free  
456 infection, as a result of reduced NAb potency in the context of cell-cell transmission [84]. As shown in  
457 Fig. 2, Env-A539V provides a replication advantage over WT NL4-3 in the presence of ARVs, suggesting  
458 that mutations in Env such as those described here may facilitate the acquisition by the virus of resistance  
459 mutations in ARV-target genes. According to this “stepping stone” model, by facilitating virus  
460 replication in the presence of ARVs the Env mutations would facilitate the emergence of high-level  
461 resistance mutations in ARV-target genes. Additional studies will be needed to investigate the role of  
462 HIV-1 Env in the development of high-level drug resistance.

463 We observed that Env mutations in the NL4-3 strain reduce sCD4-induced and time-dependent  
464 shedding of gp120 from viral particles. In addition, the Env-A539V mutation decreases sensitivity to  
465 NAb preferring the CD4-bound conformation, whereas this mutant is more susceptible to PGT145,  
466 which recognizes the closed Env conformation. These observations suggest that the NL4-3 mutant Envs  
467 are more closed and stable on viral particles compared to WT NL4-3 Env. Flow-cytometry analysis using  
468 Env-expressing cells indicates that the NAb-binding properties of the mutants largely parallel their  
469 neutralization properties, suggesting that mutant Envs on the surface of infected cells exhibit similar

470 conformational dynamics to those on viral particles. Because the NL4-3 Env-A539V mutation does not  
471 alter sensitivity to an anti-CD4 Ab or a CXCR4 antagonist, it is likely that the enhancement of cell-cell  
472 transfer is due to the increased probability of gp120-CD4 interactions, rather than the increased affinity of  
473 gp120 for CD4 or CXCR4. Our findings suggest that decreased gp120 shedding may contribute to  
474 enhanced Env-CD4 interactions at cell-cell contact sites. To better understand how Env mutations  
475 stabilize gp120-gp41 interactions, we generated structural models using the published Env structures (S4  
476 and S5 Figs) [95, 96]. The models suggest that, relative to the WT, Env-A539V and A556T likely make  
477 additional gp120-gp41 contacts in the unliganded Env structure. In addition, the His at residue 61 in the  
478 Env-Y61H mutant is predicted to form a salt bridge with E558 in the gp41 HR1 domain (S4 Fig). These  
479 new contacts may contribute to stabilization of the gp120-gp41 interaction. In contrast, the Env-P81S  
480 mutation does not result in the formation of obvious new contacts in either the unliganded or CD4-bound  
481 conformation; however, this mutation disrupts the interaction between Env-P81 and Env-P79 in the CD4-  
482 bound conformation (S5 Fig). These two residues are located in a loop region of the  $\alpha 0$  helix in the CD4-  
483 bound conformation. This helix is formed after CD4 binding and is suggested to have important roles in  
484 conformational rearrangements of Env [95]. Based on the results of our gp120 shedding assays, we  
485 hypothesize that the Env-P81S mutation may affect the folding of the CD4-bound gp120 structure,  
486 resulting in the mutant Env adopting a more closed conformation and reducing gp120 shedding. Our  
487 results provide new insights into the relationship between cell-cell transfer and the stability of the gp120-  
488 gp41 interaction.

489 We performed resistance analyses using the more clinically relevant HIV-1 strains NL(AD8) and  
490 K3016. We introduced the Env-A539V mutation into NL(AD8) and observed a different phenotype from  
491 that observed with this mutation in NL4-3. Whereas NL4-3 Env-A539V exhibited a faster-than-WT  
492 replication kinetics, NL(AD8) Env-A539V exhibited impaired replication kinetics and was more  
493 susceptible to DTG than WT NL(AD8). These results imply that the Env-A539V mutation will not  
494 emerge in the context of the NL(AD8) strain. However, DTG selection experiments led to the emergence  
495 of an Env-T529I mutation, which is located at the same position as NL4-3 Env-A539V, in the context of

496 the subtype C, CCR5-tropic transmitted-founder isolate K3016. Although this mutant replicated more  
497 slowly than WT K3016 it exhibited reduced susceptibility to DTG. These results highlight the context  
498 dependence of resistance-conferring Env mutations, consistent with the suggestion that residues in the  
499 gp41 ectodomain are functionally linked with gp120 and modulate conformational dynamics of Env in a  
500 strain-dependent manner [52, 62, 97, 98]. As shown in S2 and S3 Figs, the stability of the gp120-gp41  
501 interaction and the conformational dynamics of NL(AD8) Env are different from those of NL4-3 Env,  
502 suggesting that the differences in intra- and interprotomer interactions of Env are likely to affect the viral  
503 phenotypes of the Env mutants in terms of their fitness and ability to confer broad ARV resistance.

504 Propagation of NL(AD8) in the presence of DTG led to the selection of the Env-N654K mutation  
505 in gp41 HR2. Like several of the selected NL4-3 Env mutations (this report and Van Duyne et al., 2019  
506 [48]), the NL(AD8) Env-N654K mutation confers resistance to DTG and is highly fit in multi-cycle  
507 spreading infections, but is also profoundly defective in cell-free infectivity. These observations suggest  
508 that this mutant spreads predominantly via a cell-cell route as observed for the NL4-3 Env mutants.  
509 However, the effects of the NL(AD8) Env-N654K mutation on Env stability and conformational  
510 dynamics appear to be different from those of the NL4-3 Env mutants. This mutation increases sensitivity  
511 to the anti-CD4 Ab, MVC, and to sCD4, T-20 and anti-MPER Ab, suggesting that this mutation may alter  
512 Env conformational changes after CD4 binding. An Asn at Env-654 is highly conserved (99.76% in  
513 subtype B), and previous studies have shown that substitutions at this position decrease the affinity of  
514 HR2 for HR1, resulting in decreased cell-free infectivity and fusogenicity [99-101]. Several lines of  
515 evidence suggest that syncytium formation is tightly regulated at the site of cell-cell contact by viral and  
516 cellular factors [92, 93, 102]. Although the roles of syncytium formation in HIV-1 replication are still  
517 debated, the formation of large syncytia may negatively impact HIV-1 replication [102, 103]. Several  
518 studies have reported that mutations in Env arose in infected SupT1 cells and improved replication in the  
519 absence of syncytium formation [104-107]. As we previously reported, Env-Y61H, P81S and A556T in  
520 the NL4-3 strain enhance cell-cell transmission while impairing cell-free infectivity and fusogenicity,  
521 indicating that for these mutants reduced fusogenicity is associated with enhanced cell-cell transmission



522 capacity [48]. Additional studies will be needed to elucidate the precise mechanism of action of the Env-  
523 N654K mutation.

524         To explore the possibility that Env-mediated ARV resistance may occur *in vivo*, we performed  
525 single-genome sequence analysis using samples from the SELECT study [5], in which virological failure  
526 occurred despite the maintenance of therapeutic levels of RAL in the plasma. Because INSTIs are highly  
527 potent ARVs, several groups have investigated whether INSTI monotherapy would effectively suppress  
528 viral loads in animal models and human participants [6, 108, 109]. These trials demonstrated that INSTI  
529 monotherapy is not sufficient to suppress viral replication and viral loads rebounded. However, in many  
530 cases, virological failure occurred in either the absence of mutations in IN, or in association with low-  
531 frequency resistance mutations in IN [110]. Consistent with these observations, our single-genome  
532 sequence analysis revealed that four of the five participants we analyzed had only low-frequency  
533 resistance mutations in the IN-coding region. These results suggest that virological failure occurred in  
534 these four participants as a result of mutations outside the Pol-coding region. As expected, we observed  
535 that many Env mutations accumulated in less-conserved regions of Env, such as gp120 C3 and variable  
536 loops, which are predominant targets for the Ab response [81, 82]. More interestingly, we also found that  
537 several mutations in the gp41 ectodomain accumulated at the highly conserved gp120-gp41 interface, as  
538 observed in our *in vitro* selection experiments, despite the fact that none of these changes was identical to  
539 those selected *in vitro*. As shown in our *in vitro* studies, it is unlikely that the identical mutations observed  
540 *in vitro* would emerge *in vivo* because the effects of the Env mutations on viral fitness and drug resistance  
541 is viral strain dependent. It is interesting to note that viruses from PID A4, which had the IN-N155H  
542 mutation with high frequency, had many changes in the gp120 C1 domain and the gp41 ectodomain  
543 compared to viruses isolated from the other participants. A limitation of the current study is the relatively  
544 small number of INSTI-failure samples analyzed. Larger numbers of samples will be needed to identify  
545 specific mutational patterns associated with virological failure. In addition, other regions outside IN, such  
546 as the 3' PPT, may also be associated with virological failure [12, 94]. Nevertheless, our findings provide

547 tantalizing support for the possibility that HIV-1 Env simultaneously evolves to escape from both NABs  
548 and ARVs in association with ARV target-gene mutations *in vivo*.

549           In summary, the findings of this study demonstrate that mutations in Env can contribute to broad  
550 HIV-1 drug resistance *in vitro*. These findings offer mechanistic insights into Env-mediated drug  
551 resistance *in vitro* and provide new clues to understand how HIV-1 develops high-level resistance to  
552 ARVs *in vivo*.

553

## 554 **Materials and Methods**

### 555 **Cell lines.**

556 HeLa, HEK293T, and TZM-bl cells [111] were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium  
557 (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The SupT1 and  
558 SupT1huR5 T-cell lines [112] were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS at  
559 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The SupT1huR5 T-cell line was a kind gift from James Hoxie, Perelman School of  
560 Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

561

### 562 **Compounds and neutralizing antibodies.**

563 DTG and BMS-378806 were purchased from MedChemExpress. RAL, FTC, EFV, NFV, T-20,  
564 AMD3100 [78], MVC, SIM.4 [77], sCD4, PGT145 [69], PG16 [70], 2G12 [68], PGT121 [69], VRC01  
565 [71], 447-52D [74], 17b [76], 10E8 [75], F105 [73], 35O22 [72], 16H3 [113], and HIV-Ig were obtained  
566 from the NIH AIDS Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH. BI-224436 [58] was a kind gift  
567 from Alan Engelman, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA.

568

### 569 **Cloning and plasmids.**

570 The full-length HIV-1 molecular clones pNL4-3 [114] and pNL(AD8) [79], and the subtype C transmitted  
571 founder viral clone CH185 (here denoted K3016, a kind gift from Christina Ochsenbauer and John  
572 Kappes, University of Alabama) [80] were used in this study. pBR-NL43-IRES-eGFP-nef<sup>+</sup> (pBR43IeG),  
573 a proviral clone that coexpresses Nef and eGFP from a single bicistronic RNA, was obtained from Frank  
574 Kirchhoff through the NIH AIDS Reagent Program [115, 116]. pNL4-3 and pBR43IeG clones bearing  
575 Env mutations (Env-Y61H, P81S, A539V and A556T) were described previously [48]. The  
576 pBR43IeG/KFS clone, which does not express HIV-1 Env, was described previously [48, 117]. pNL4-3  
577 RT-Y188L [65] was constructed by an overlap PCR method using *SpeI* and *AgeI* restriction sites.  
578 pNL(AD8) Env mutants Env-A539V and N654K were constructed by an overlap PCR method using

579 *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI restriction sites. Constructed plasmids were verified by Sanger DNA sequencing  
580 (Psomagen).

581

## 582 **Preparation of virus stocks.**

583 The HEK293T and HeLa cell lines were transfected with HIV-1 proviral DNA using Lipofectamine 2000  
584 (Invitrogen). At 48 hrs post-transfection, virus-containing supernatants were filtered through a 0.45 µm  
585 membrane (Merck Millipore). The amount of virus in the supernatants was quantified by RT assay. RT  
586 assays were performed as described previously [118] with minor modification. Briefly, after incubation of  
587 the virus supernatants with RT reaction mixtures, which contained a template primer of poly (rA) (5  
588 µg/ml) and oligo-dT12-18 primers (1.57 µg/ml) in 50 mM Tris, pH 7.8, 75 mM KCl, 2 mM dithiothreitol,  
589 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.05% Nonidet P-40, and 0.25 µCi of <sup>32</sup>P-dTTP at 37°C for 3 hrs, the mixtures were  
590 spotted onto filtermat B (Perkin Elmer, cat#1450-521) soaked in 0.5% (v/v) branched-polyethylenimine  
591 (Merck Millipore, cat#402727). After washing the spotted filtermat with 2 x SSC buffer (300 mM NaCl  
592 and 30 mM sodium citrate), levels of bound <sup>32</sup>P were measured on a Wallac BetaMax plate reader (Perkin  
593 Elmer). TCID<sub>50</sub> of the virus stocks was determined using TZM-bl cells.

594

## 595 **Virus replication kinetics assays.**

596 Virus replication was monitored in SupT1 cells as previously described with minor modifications [48].  
597 Briefly, SupT1 cells were incubated with pNL4-3 clones (1.0 µg/1.0 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells) in the presence of 700  
598 µg/ml DEAE-dextran at 37°C for 15 min. Transfected cells (1.5 x 10<sup>5</sup> cells) were plated in 96 well flat-  
599 bottom plates and incubated at 37°C in the presence of various concentrations of ARVs. For CCR5-tropic  
600 viruses, we used SupT1huR5 cells, which express high levels of human CCR5. Aliquots of supernatants  
601 were collected to monitor RT activity, and cells were split 1:3 every other day with fresh drug and media.  
602 IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated based on RT activity at the peak of replication of each virus. To identify the  
603 selected mutations in Pol/Env-coding region, genomic DNA was extracted from infected cells using  
604 DNeasy Blood & Tissue mini kit (Qiagen), and then the Pol and Env-coding regions were amplified by

605 PrimeSTAR GXL DNA Polymerase (Takara) and sequenced (Psomagen) using previously described  
606 primers [48].

607

### 608 **Single-round infection assays.**

609 For cell-free infectivity assays, TZM-bl cells ( $1.0 \times 10^4$  cells) in 96-well plates were exposed to RT-  
610 normalized virus stocks produced in HeLa cells. For drug sensitivity assays, 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of virus  
611 produced in 293T cells was exposed to TZM-bl cells ( $1.0 \times 10^4$  cells) in the presence of various  
612 concentrations of drugs or neutralizing antibodies. For sCD4 sensitivity assay, prior to the infection, the  
613 viruses were incubated with various concentration of sCD4 at 37°C for 0 or 2 hrs. For assays using PIs or  
614 ALLINIs, viruses were produced in the presence of serial dilutions of inhibitors as described previously  
615 [119]. Briefly, 293T cells were transfected with WT or mutant molecular clones as indicated above. 6 hrs  
616 post-transfection,  $1.5 \times 10^5$  transfected cells were incubated with a 3-fold serial dilution of the inhibitors  
617 at 37°C for 48 hrs. Virus-containing supernatants were harvested and used to infect TZM-bl cells. At 48  
618 hrs post-infection, luciferase activity was measured using the Britelite plus reporter gene assay system  
619 and Wallac BetaMax plate reader (Perkin Elmer).

620

### 621 **gp120 shedding assay.**

622 To analyze time-dependent gp120 shedding, viruses produced from HeLa cells were incubated at 37°C  
623 for 0, 1, 3, or 5 days. For the sCD4-induced gp120 shedding assay, concentrated viruses were incubated  
624 with sCD4 (0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0, and 10 µg/ml) at 37°C for 2 hrs. Following incubation, the viruses were  
625 purified by ultracentrifugation through 20% sucrose cushions ( $60,000 \times g$ ) for 45 min at 4°C. The levels  
626 of virion-associated gp160, gp120, and p24 were determined by western blotting.

627

### 628 **Western blotting.**

629 Viral proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to polyvinylidene disulfide (PVDF)  
630 membranes (Merck Millipore). After blocking the membranes with 5% skim milk, they were probed with

631 primary antibodies for 1 hr, and then incubated for 1 hr with species-specific horseradish peroxidase-  
632 conjugated secondary antibody. After the final washes, bands were detected by chemiluminescence with a  
633 Sapphire Biomolecular Imager (Azure Biosystems). Quantification was performed using ImageStudio  
634 Lite (Li-Cor Biosciences) software. The p24 protein was detected with anti-HIV-Ig at a final  
635 concentration of 5.0 µg/ml in 5% skim milk. Gp160 and gp120 were detected with the 16H3 monoclonal  
636 antibody at a final concentration of 0.5 µg/ml in 5% skim milk.

637

### 638 **Antibody binding assay.**

639 HEK293T cells were transfected with pBR43IeG constructs as indicated above. At 24 hrs post-  
640 transfection, the cells were detached with 5 mM EDTA/PBS, and then washed with PBS.  $2.0 \times 10^5$  cells  
641 were incubated with the specified antibodies at a final concentration of 1.0 µg/ml at 4°C. After 1 hr  
642 incubation, the cells were washed with PBS. The cells were then washed with PBS and incubated with  
643 allophycocyanin (APC)-conjugated F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment donkey anti-human IgG antibody (Jackson  
644 ImmunoResearch Laboratories, cat# 709-136-149) at a final concentration of 62.5 µg/ml. The cells were  
645 washed with PBS and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA, Boston Biosciences). Fixed cells were  
646 analyzed with BD LSR-II (BD Biosciences). Data were analyzed by FCS Express Cytometry Software 7  
647 (De novo Software).

648

### 649 **Ethics Statement.**

650 Plasma samples were obtained prior to and after virologic failure from donors on combination ART of  
651 ritonavir (RTV)-boosted lopinavir (100 mg RTV, 400 mg LPV) plus 400 mg RAL twice a day. Samples  
652 were collected by the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) study A5273 - a randomized, open-label, phase  
653 3, non-inferiority study at 15 research sites in nine resource-limited countries (three sites in India and  
654 South Africa, two in Malawi and Peru, and one each in Brazil, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand, and  
655 Zimbabwe) [5]. The primary endpoint was time to confirmed virologic failure (two measurements of  
656 HIV-1 RNA viral load >400 copies/ml). This trial was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT01352715.

657 Entry and exclusion criteria are listed in the protocol [5]. The study was approved by ethics committees at  
658 each site and written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

659

### 660 **Plasma viral RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis.**

661 Viral RNA was extracted from plasma containing 200-20,000 copies of HIV-1 RNA. Plasma was first  
662 centrifuged at 5,300 x g for 10 min at 4°C to remove cellular debris. The supernatant was then centrifuged  
663 at 21,000 x g for 1 hr at 4°C. Viral RNA was extracted from the viral pellet as previously described [120]  
664 and resuspended in 40 µl of RNase-free 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0. Five µl each of 10 mM dNTPs and 10  
665 µM oligo dT were added prior to denaturing the RNA at 65°C for 10 min. cDNA was synthesized as  
666 previously described [121] except at 50°C for 1 hr followed by 55°C for another hour. Two µl RNase H  
667 (2U/reaction) were added and the RNA was digested at 37°C for 20 min.

668

### 669 **Single-genome sequencing.**

670 To obtain integrase PCR products from single cDNA molecules, cDNA was serially diluted to an  
671 endpoint (when approximately 30% of reactions yield PCR product). PCR master mix was prepared as  
672 previously described [121, 122] except primers targeting HIV integrase were used: Poli5 (OF) and Poli8  
673 (OR) followed by Poli7 (IF) and Poli6 (IR) [123] in a nested PCR. PCR cycling conditions were modified  
674 by decreasing annealing temperature to 50°C and increasing elongation time to 1 min and 30 s. To obtain  
675 *env* PCR products from single cDNA molecules, the same diluted cDNA was used but with the following  
676 primers, modified from [124]: HIVC.short.VIF1.F1 (5'-GTTTATTACAGGGACAGCAGA-3') and  
677 HIV.short OFM.R1 (5'-CAAGGCAAGCTTTATTGAGGCTTA-3'). Alternatively, E0 forward primer  
678 [125] was used. PCR cycling was performed as follows: 95°C for 2 min and 44 cycles of 95°C for 30 s,  
679 57°C for 30 s and 68°C for 3 min – 3 min 30 s, followed by final elongation of 68°C for 5 min. Nested  
680 PCR was performed with the following primers, modified from [126]: HIVC.short.ENVA.F2 (5'-  
681 GCATCTCCTATGGCAGGAAG-3') and HIV.short.ENVN.R2 (5'-CAATCAGGGAAGTAGCCTTG-  
682 3'). Alternatively, E00 forward primer [125] was used. PCR cycling was performed as follows: 95°C for

683 2 min, 10 cycles 95°C for 15 s, 57°C for 30 s and 68°C for 3 min, followed by 30 cycles of 95°C for 15 s,  
684 57°C for 30 s and 68°C for 2 min + 5 s per cycle, and a final elongation of 68°C for 7 min. Positive wells  
685 were identified by detection using 1% agarose E-Gel™ 96-well gels (ThermoFisher Scientific) and  
686 positive PCR reactions were sequenced by Sanger sequencing. For sequencing integrase: Poli7, Poli9D,  
687 and O-Poli2C forward and Poli6, Poli10B and Poli3 reverse primers were used [123]. For sequencing *env*:  
688 E00, For14, For15, For17, For18 and For19 forward and HIVCshort.ENVN.R2, Rev14, Rev16, Rev17,  
689 and Rev18 reverse primers were used [124, 125, 127]. Additional primers used for *env* sequencing are as  
690 follows:

691 For13: 5'-GAGAAAGAGCAGAAGACAGTGG-3'

692 For16: 5'-TTTAATTGTGGAGGAGAATTTTTCTA-3'

693 Rev19: 5'-ACTTTTTGACCACTTGCCACCCAT-3'

694 HIVC.REV20.SEQ: 5'-CACATGGAATTAAGCCAG-3'

695

## 696 **Sequence Analysis.**

697 Sanger sequencing data were analyzed using MEGA [128] to align and translate sequences. Sequences  
698 were analyzed for known INSTI resistance mutations using HIV Stanford HIV Drug Resistance database:  
699 <https://hivdb.stanford.edu/>

700

## 701 **Statistical analyses.**

702 Two-tailed unpaired *t*-tests and Fischer's exact tests were performed using GraphPad Prism 8 (Graphpad).  
703 \**p* < 0.05, \*\* *p* < 0.01, \*\*\* *p* < 0.001 were considered statistically significant. GraphPad Prism was also  
704 used to assess statistical significance by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test.

705

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719

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735

## 736 **Author Contributions**

737 Conceived and designed the experiments: YH EOF. Performed the experiments: YH RVD PP JLG AW.

738 Analyzed the data: YH RVD JLG MFK EOF. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YH RVD

739 JLG JWM. Wrote the paper: YH JLG MFK EOF.

740

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1143

1144

## 1145 **Figure captions**

1146 **Fig 1. The location of previously reported Env mutations that overcome blocks to virus replication**

1147 **(Van Duyne et al., PNAS, 2019 [48])** (A) Schematic of the HIV-1 Env-coding region with the position  
1148 of mutations indicated using NL4-3 (and HXB2, in parentheses) numbering. Labeled domains are defined  
1149 as follows: C1–C5, constant region 1–5; V1–V5, variable region 1–5; FP, fusion peptide; HR1/HR2,  
1150 heptad repeat 1/2; DSL, disulfide loop; MPER, membrane proximal external region; TM, transmembrane;  
1151 CT, cytoplasmic tail. (B) A prefusion Env structure of subtype B JR-FL SOSIP.664 (PDB accession  
1152 number 5FYK [96]) with the position of the Env mutations highlighted. Most of gp120 is shown in white,  
1153 with gp120 V1/V2 and V3 loops colored in light yellow and light green, respectively. gp41 is colored in  
1154 tan. Y61, P81, A539 and A556 are highlighted in green, yellow, red and blue, respectively. Structural  
1155 model was generated using UCSF Chimera software [129].

1156

1157 **Fig 2. Replication kinetics of Env-A539V in the presence of INSTIs, NRTI, NNRTI, PI, ALLINI**

1158 **and Ent-Is.** The SupT1 T-cell line was transfected with WT or Env-A539V proviral clones in the absence  
1159 or in the presence of indicated concentrations of ARVs. (A and B) INSTIs, (C and D) NNRTI and NRTI,  
1160 (E) PI, (F) ALLINI, and (G and H) Ent-Is. Virus replication kinetics were monitored by measuring RT  
1161 activity at the indicated time points. Data are representative of at least two independent experiments. (I)

1162 The SupT1 T-cell line was transfected with WT or Env-A539V proviral clones in the absence or in the  
1163 presence of serial dilutions (0.01 – 3,000 nM) of ARVs. IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated based on RT levels  
1164 at the peak of virus replication. Fold changes in IC<sub>50</sub> were calculated compared to WT. Data from at least  
1165 two independent experiments are shown as means ± SE. *p*-values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*) by  
1166 unpaired *t*-test. The EFV and NFV data are shown on a separate bar graph to avoid compression of the y-  
1167 axis.

1168

1169 **Fig 3. Cell-free infectivity of Env-A539V in the presence or absence of ARVs.** (A) RT-normalized  
1170 virus stocks produced from HeLa cells were used to infect TZM-bl cells. Luciferase activity was  
1171 measured at 48 hrs post-infection. Infectivity of WT NL4-3 is normalized to 1.0. (B – I) TZM-bl cells  
1172 were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of WT or Env-A539V virus in the presence of varying concentrations (from  
1173 0.003 – 3,000 nM) of ARVs and incubated for 48 hrs. For NFV and BI-224436, 293T cells were  
1174 transfected with the indicated proviral clones in the presence of the inhibitors. At 48 hrs post-transfection,  
1175 the supernatants were used to infect TZM-bl cells. Data from at least three independent experiments are  
1176 shown as mean ± SE.

1177

1178 **Fig 4. Effect of Env-A539V and RT-Y188L mutations on susceptibility to EFV.** (A) The SupT1 T-cell  
1179 line was transfected with the indicated proviral clones in the absence or presence of 1,000 nM EFV. Virus  
1180 replication kinetics were monitored by measuring RT activity at the indicated time points. Data are  
1181 representative of three independent experiments. (B) SupT1 T cells were transfected with the indicated  
1182 proviral clones in the absence or presence of serial dilutions of EFV (0.03 – 1,000 nM). The dose-  
1183 dependent inhibition curve was determined based on RT values at the peak of multi-cycle spreading virus  
1184 replication. (C) TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated viruses in the absence or  
1185 presence of serial dilutions of EFV (0.1 – 10,000 nM). Luciferase activity was measured at 48 hrs post-  
1186 infection. (D) IC<sub>50</sub> values for EFV in multi-cycle spreading and cell-free infection based on the data in



1187 Fig. 4B and C. Data from at least three independent experiments are shown as means  $\pm$  SE.  $p$ -values <  
1188 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*) by unpaired  $t$ -test.

1189

1190 **Fig 5. Effect of Env mutations on sCD4-induced and time-dependent gp120 shedding.** (A and B)

1191 Concentrated viruses were incubated with sCD4 at the indicated concentrations at 37°C for 0 or 2 hrs.

1192 Incubated viruses were subsequently purified through a 20% sucrose cushion, and viral proteins were

1193 detected by western blotting. A representative gel for the sCD4-induced gp120 shedding assay is shown

1194 in A. The ratio of gp120 to p24 was quantified and plotted in B. Data from at least two independent

1195 experiments are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE. (C) TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated

1196 viruses incubated with sCD4 prior to infection for 0 or 2 hrs. Luciferase activity was measured at 48 hrs

1197 post-infection. Data from three independent experiments are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE.  $p$ -values < 0.001

1198 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*) by unpaired  $t$ -test, with asterisks for 0 hr or 2 hrs incubation time points

1199 indicated in black or gray, respectively. (D and E) Concentrated viruses were incubated at 37°C for the

1200 indicated times. Incubated viruses were subsequently purified through a 20% sucrose cushion, and viral

1201 proteins were detected by western blotting. A representative gel for the time-dependent gp120 shedding

1202 assay is shown in D. The ratio of gp120 to p24 was quantified and plotted in E. Data from at least three

1203 independent experiments are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE.  $p$ -values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*) by

1204 unpaired  $t$ -test.

1205

1206 **Fig 6. The sensitivity or binding of Env-A539V to NAbs recognizing different Env conformations,**

1207 **anti-CD4 Ab and co-receptor antagonist.** TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of WT NL4-3 or

1208 Env-A539V viruses in the presence of varying concentrations of NAbs (A - J), anti-CD4 Ab (K) and

1209 CXCR4 antagonist (L); luciferase activity was measured at 48 hrs post-infection. Data from three

1210 independent experiments are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE. 293T cells transfected with the GFP-encoding reporter

1211 clone pBR43leG expressing WT NL4-3 Env or the Env-A539V mutant were preincubated with 17b (M),

1212 10E8 (N), PG16 (O) or PGT145 (P) at 4°C for 1 hr. KFS is an Env-defective mutant. The cells were

1213 washed, and APC-conjugated anti-human IgG was used to detect bound Ab. APC signals were  
1214 normalized by GFP signal to calculate the Ab binding efficiency. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE from  
1215 three independent experiments. *p*-values  $< 0.001$  (\*\*\*),  $< 0.01$  (\*\*),  $< 0.05$  (\*) by unpaired *t*-test or one-  
1216 way ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test.

1217

1218 **Fig 7. Selection for DTG resistance with the CCR5-tropic NL(AD8) strain.** (A) The SupT1huR5 T-  
1219 cell line was transfected with pNL(AD8) in the absence or presence of 6.0 nM DTG. At the time point  
1220 indicated by the arrow, DNA was extracted from the DTG-treated culture and the IN- and Env-coding  
1221 regions were sequenced, leading to the identification of the Env-N654K mutation. (B) A prefusion Env  
1222 structure of subtype B JR-FL SOSIP.664 (PDB accession number is 5FYK [96]), highlighting the  
1223 location of Env mutations selected in the context of NL4-3 [48] and the Env-N654K mutation selected in  
1224 NL(AD8). Env amino acid positions are indicated using the NL4-3 numbering. Most of gp120 is shown  
1225 in white, with gp120 V1/V2 and V3 loops colored in light yellow and light green, respectively. Env-Y61,  
1226 P81, and A556 are highlighted in cyan; Env-A539 and N654 are highlighted in red and purple,  
1227 respectively. The structural model was generated using the UCSF Chimera software. (C) The SupT1huR5  
1228 T-cell line was transfected with WT or mutant pNL(AD8) in the absence or presence of 300 or 0.3 nM  
1229 DTG. Replication kinetics were monitored by measuring RT activity at the indicated time points. Data  
1230 are representative of at least three independent experiments. (D) The SupT1huR5 T-cell line was  
1231 transfected with WT or mutant pNL(AD8) in the absence or presence of a serial dilution of DTG (1,000  
1232 nM- 0.03 nM). DTG IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated based on RT values at the peak of virus replication.  
1233 Fold changes in IC<sub>50</sub> relative to WT are indicated. Data from at least three independent experiments are  
1234 shown as means  $\pm$  SE. *p*-values  $< 0.001$  (\*\*\*),  $< 0.01$  (\*\*),  $< 0.05$  (\*) by unpaired *t*-test. (E) RT-  
1235 normalized virus stocks produced from HeLa cells were used to infect TZM-bl cells. Luciferase activity  
1236 was measured at 48 hrs post-infection. (F) TZM-bl cells were exposed to 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated  
1237 viruses in the presence of various concentrations of DTG and luciferase activity was measured at 48 hrs

1238 post-infection. Data are normalized to WT and are shown as means  $\pm$  SE from at least three independent  
1239 experiments. *p*-values  $< 0.001$  (\*\*\*),  $< 0.01$  (\*\*),  $< 0.05$  (\*) by unpaired *t*-test.

1240

1241 **Fig 8. The sensitivity of NL(AD8) Env-N654K to NAbs recognizing different Env conformations,**  
1242 **anti-CD4 Ab, and entry inhibitors.** TZM-bl cells were infected with 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated  
1243 viruses in the presence of various concentrations of NAbs (A- G), sCD4 (H), anti-CD4 Ab SIM.4 (I) and  
1244 entry inhibitors (J – L). Luciferase activity was measured at 48 hrs post-infection. Data from at least three  
1245 independent experiments are shown as means  $\pm$  SE. *p*-values  $< 0.001$  (\*\*\*),  $< 0.01$  (\*\*),  $< 0.05$  (\*) by  
1246 unpaired *t*-test. The asterisks for 0 hr or 2 hrs incubation with sCD4 (panel H) are indicated as black or  
1247 gray, respectively.

1248

1249 **Fig 9. Frequency of observed mutations in gp120 C1 domain and gp41 ectodomain in patient-**  
1250 **derived samples from the SELECT study.** (A) PID A1, A3 and A5. (B) PID A4.

1251 Positions of mutations are indicated using HXB2 numbering. FP, fusion peptide; FPPR, fusion peptide  
1252 proximal region; HR1/HR2, heptad repeat 1/2; DSL, disulfide loop. Mutations observed in multiple  
1253 patients are shaded in yellow. Observed residues are indicated in bold. Mutations that changed conserved  
1254 positions to less conserved residues are indicated with an <sup>a</sup>. Frequencies were determined for subtype C  
1255 sequences (n = 5,923) retrieved from the Los Alamos HIV Database. Fischer's exact test was performed  
1256 to determine statistical significance. *p*-values  $< 0.001$  (\*\*\*),  $< 0.01$  (\*\*),  $< 0.05$  (\*). ns: not significant,  
1257 N.D.; not determined.

1258

## 1259 **Supporting information**

1260 **S1 Fig. Selection for DTG resistance with the subtype C, CCR5-tropic strain K3016.** (A) The  
1261 SupT1huR5 T-cell line was transfected with pNL(AD8) in the absence or presence of 3.0 nM DTG. At  
1262 the time point indicated by the arrow, DNA was extracted from the DTG-treated culture and the IN- and

1263 Env-coding regions were sequenced, leading to the identification of the Env-T529I mutation. (B) gp41  
1264 HR1 sequences around the K3016 Env-T529I mutation are shown aligned with the NL4-3 sequence. (C)  
1265 The SupT1huR5 T-cell line was transfected with WT K3016 or the Env-T529I derivative in the absence  
1266 of DTG. The supernatants collected at the indicated time points were assayed for replication kinetics by  
1267 measuring RT activity. Data are representative of at three independent experiments. (D) The SupT1huR5  
1268 T-cell line was transfected with WT K3016 or the Env-T529I derivative in the absence or presence of a  
1269 serial dilution of DTG (0.03 – 1,000 nM). IC<sub>50</sub>s were calculated based on RT values at the peak of virus  
1270 replication. Fold changes in IC<sub>50</sub> relative to WT were calculated. Data from at least three independent  
1271 experiments are shown as means ± SE. *p*-values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*) by unpaired *t*-test.

1272

1273 **S2 Fig. Comparison of the sensitivity of NL4-3 and NL(AD8) to NAbs, DTG, T-20, and sCD4 in cell-**  
1274 **free infection.** TZM-bl cells were infected with 100 TCID<sub>50</sub> of the indicated viruses in the presence of  
1275 varying concentrations of NAbs (A – F), ARVs (H and I), and sCD4 (J). sCD4 incubations were  
1276 performed for 0 or 2 hrs. The data are related to Fig. 3 and 8. Data from at least three independent  
1277 experiments are shown as means ± SE.

1278

1279 **S3 Fig. Analysis of sCD4-induced and time-dependent gp120 shedding of NL(AD8) Env mutants**  
1280 **and comparison of NL4-3 vs. NL(AD8) gp120 shedding.** (A) Concentrated viruses were incubated with  
1281 the indicated concentrations of sCD4 at 37°C for 2 hrs. Incubated viruses were subsequently purified  
1282 through 20% sucrose cushions, and viral proteins were detected by western blotting. A representative gel  
1283 is shown. (B) Viruses were incubated at 37°C for the indicated times. Incubated viruses were  
1284 subsequently purified through 20% sucrose cushions, and viral proteins were detected by western  
1285 blotting. A representative gel is shown. Quantification of sCD4-induced (C) and time-dependent (D)  
1286 gp120 shedding from three independent experiments, calculated as the ratio of virion-associated  
1287 gp120/p24 and shown as mean ± SE. Comparison of NL4-3 and NL(AD8) sCD4-induced (E) and time-

1288 dependent (F) gp120 shedding. The data are related to Fig. 5 and S3. Data from at least three independent  
1289 experiments are shown as mean  $\pm$  SE. *p*-values < 0.001 (\*\*\*), < 0.01 (\*\*), < 0.05 (\*), by unpaired *t*-test.

1290

1291 **S4 Fig. Structural models of NL4-3 Env-Y61H, A539V and A556T mutations.** Unliganded Env  
1292 structure (PDB: 5FYK [96]) is shown at the top left. gp120 and gp41 of protomer 1 are indicated in white  
1293 and light blue, respectively. Other protomers are indicated in gray. Residues Y61, A539 and A556 are  
1294 highlighted in green, red and blue, respectively. *In silico* mutagenesis and analysis of possible contacts  
1295 were performed with UCSF Chimera software [129, 130]. Residues that contact the mutated residues are  
1296 indicated in magenta. Env amino acid positions are indicated using the NL4-3 numbering. Possible  
1297 contacts are highlighted as yellow lines.

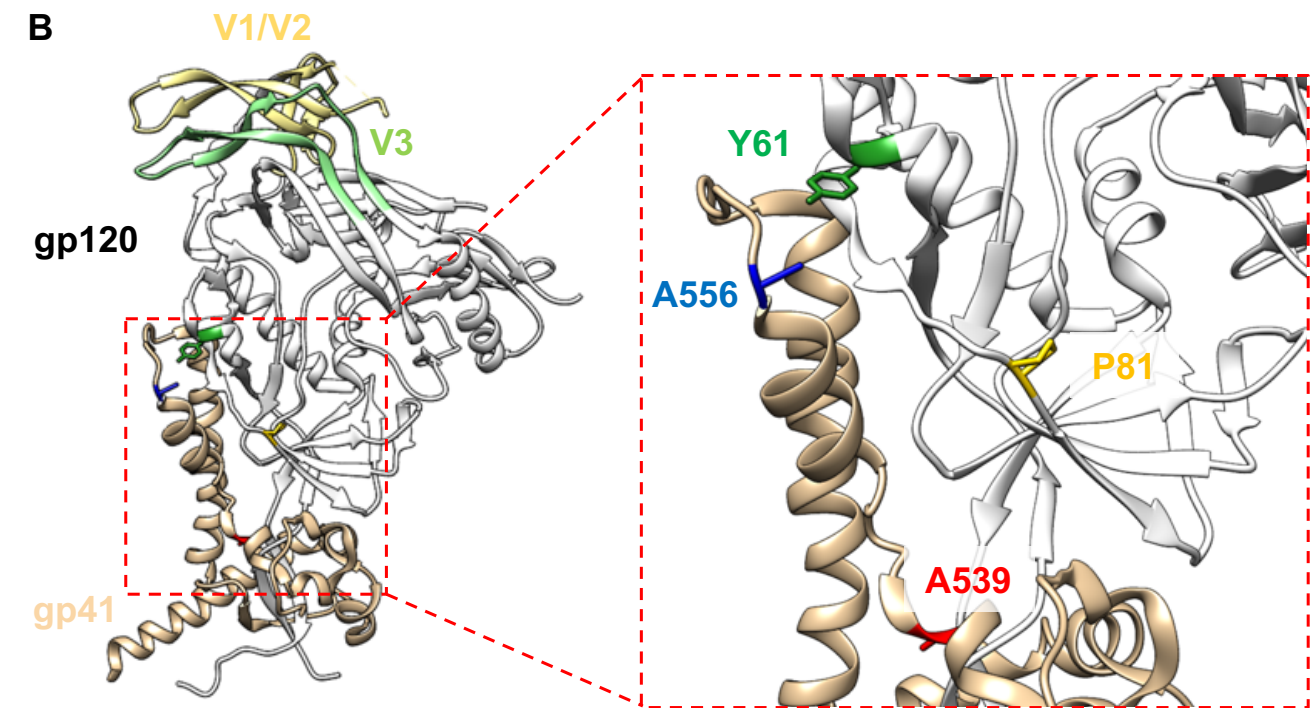
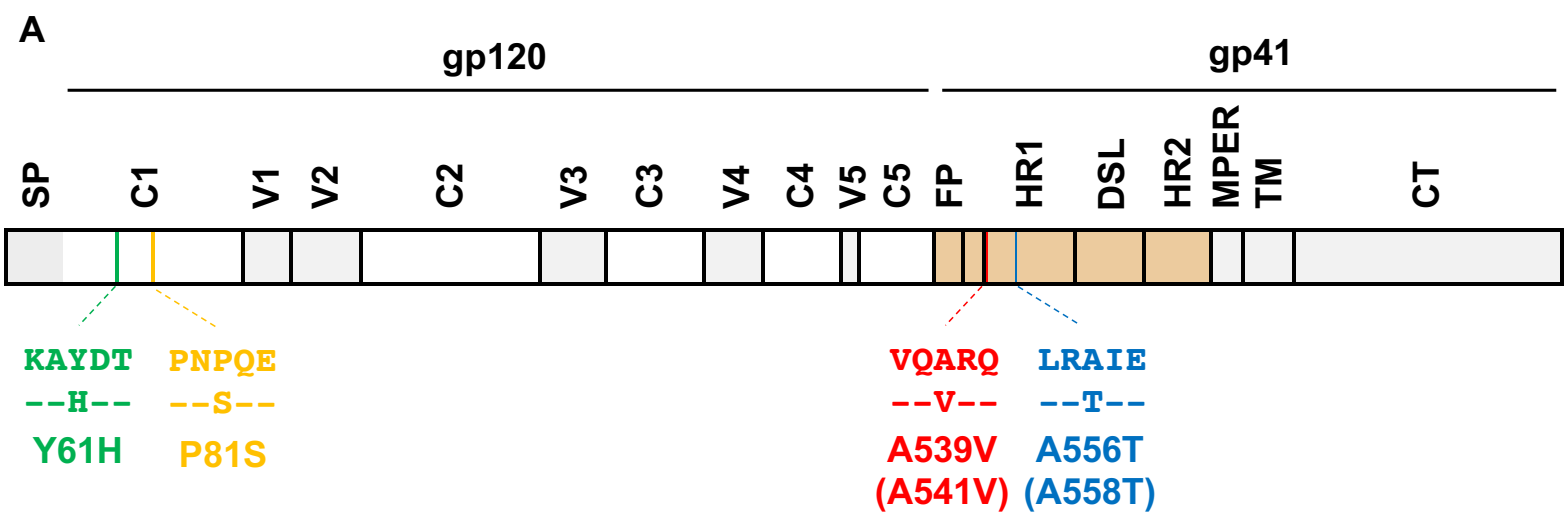
1298

1299 **S5 Fig. Structural models of the NL4-3 Env-P81S mutant.** (A) Unliganded Env structure (PDB:  
1300 5FYK [96]) (B) CD4-bound Env structure (PDB: 5VN3 [95]). gp120 and gp41 of protomer 1 are  
1301 indicated in white and light blue, respectively. Other protomers are indicated in gray. Residue P81 is  
1302 highlighted in orange. *In silico* mutagenesis and analysis of possible contacts were performed by UCSF  
1303 Chimera software [129, 130]. Residues that contact the mutated residues are indicated in magenta. Env  
1304 amino acid positions are indicated using the NL4-3 numbering. Possible contacts are highlighted as  
1305 yellow lines.

1306

1307

Fig 1



**Fig 2**

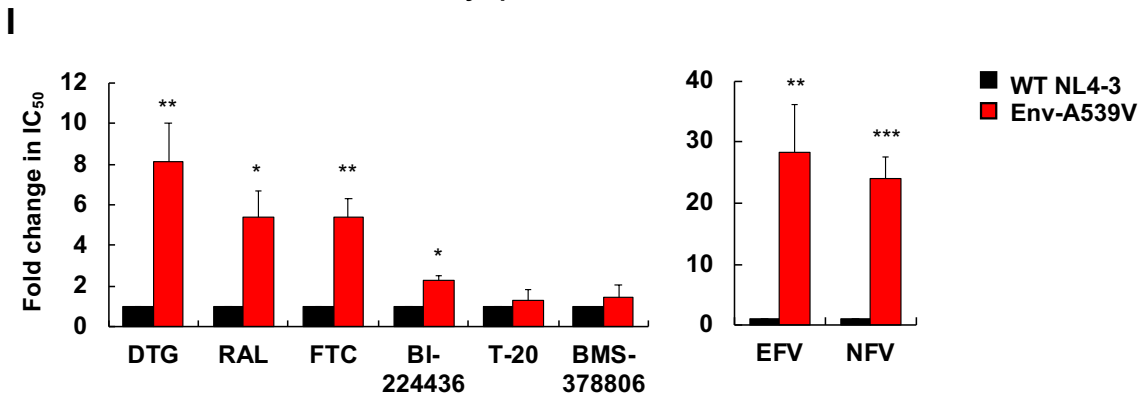
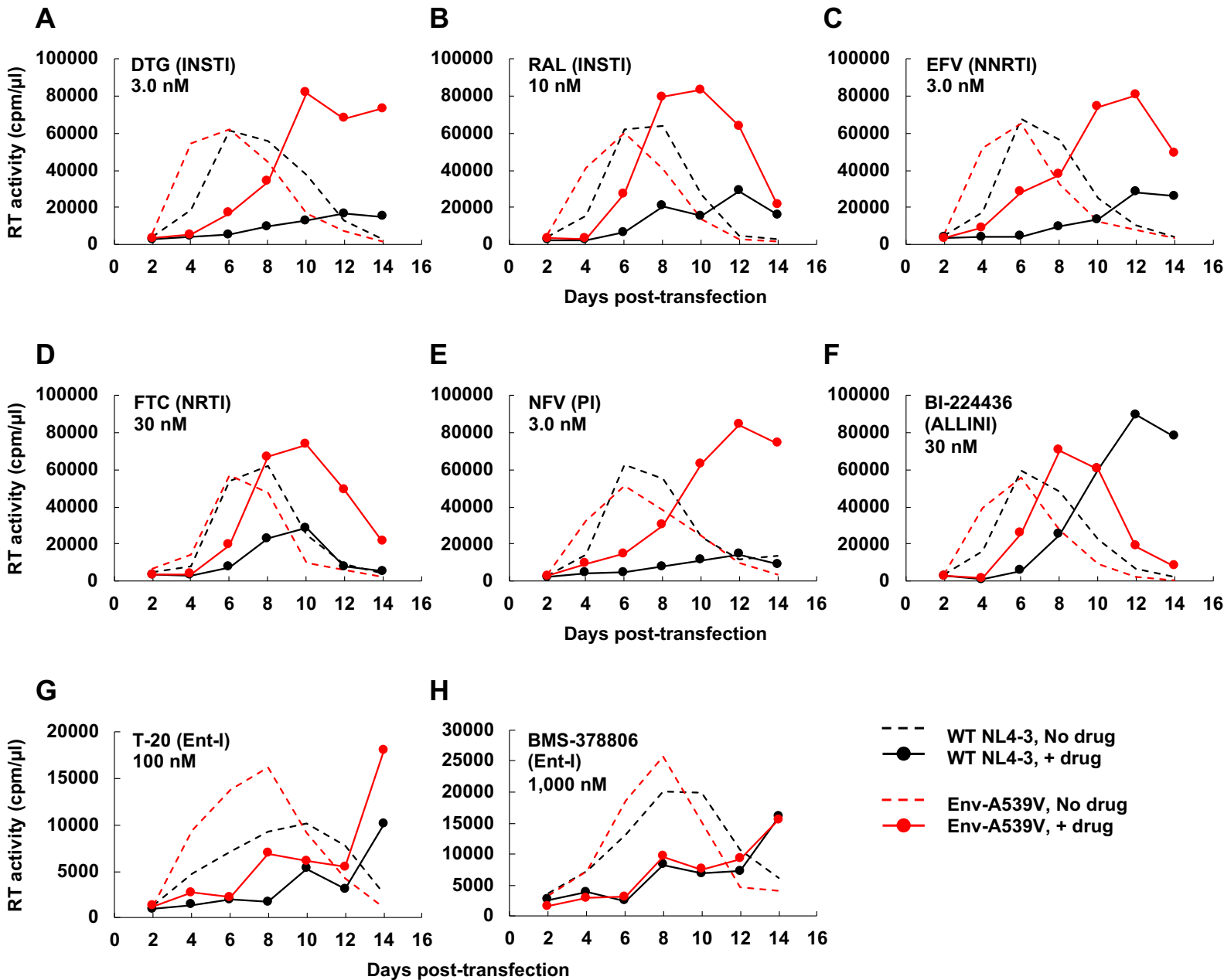
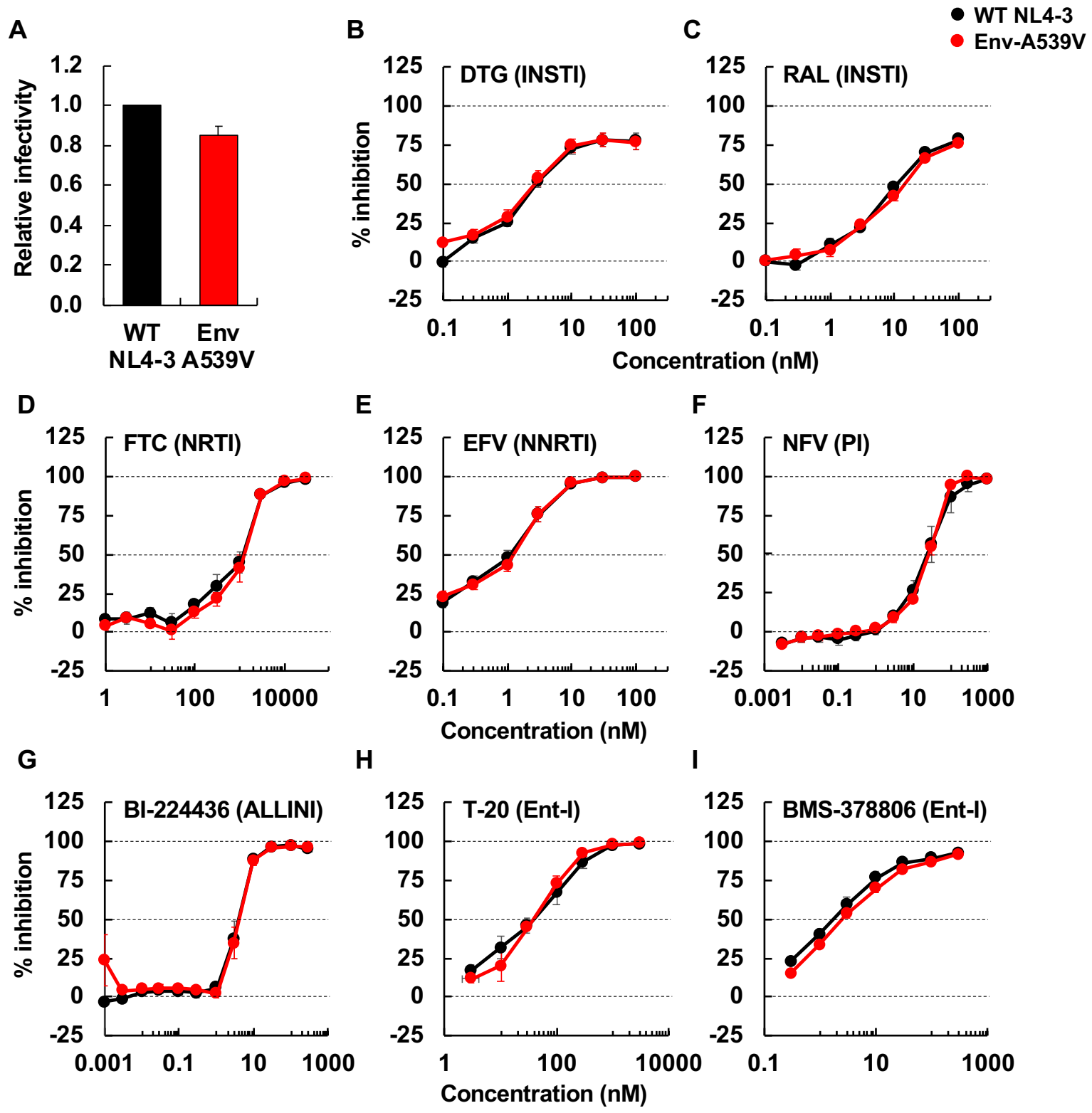
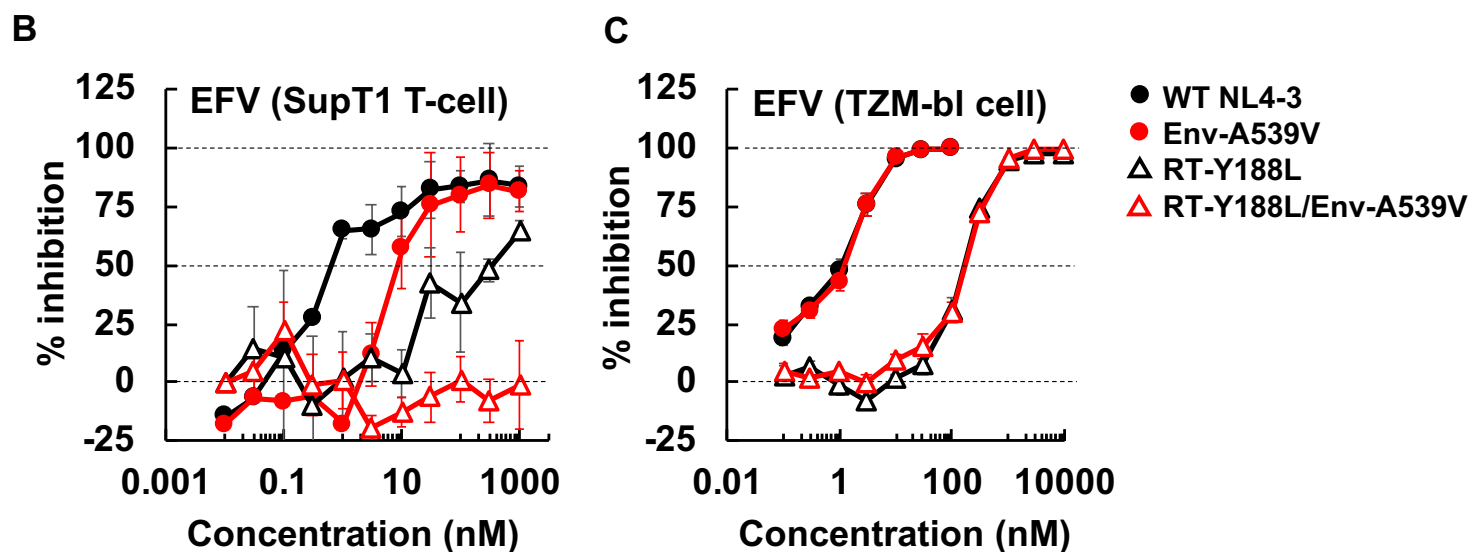
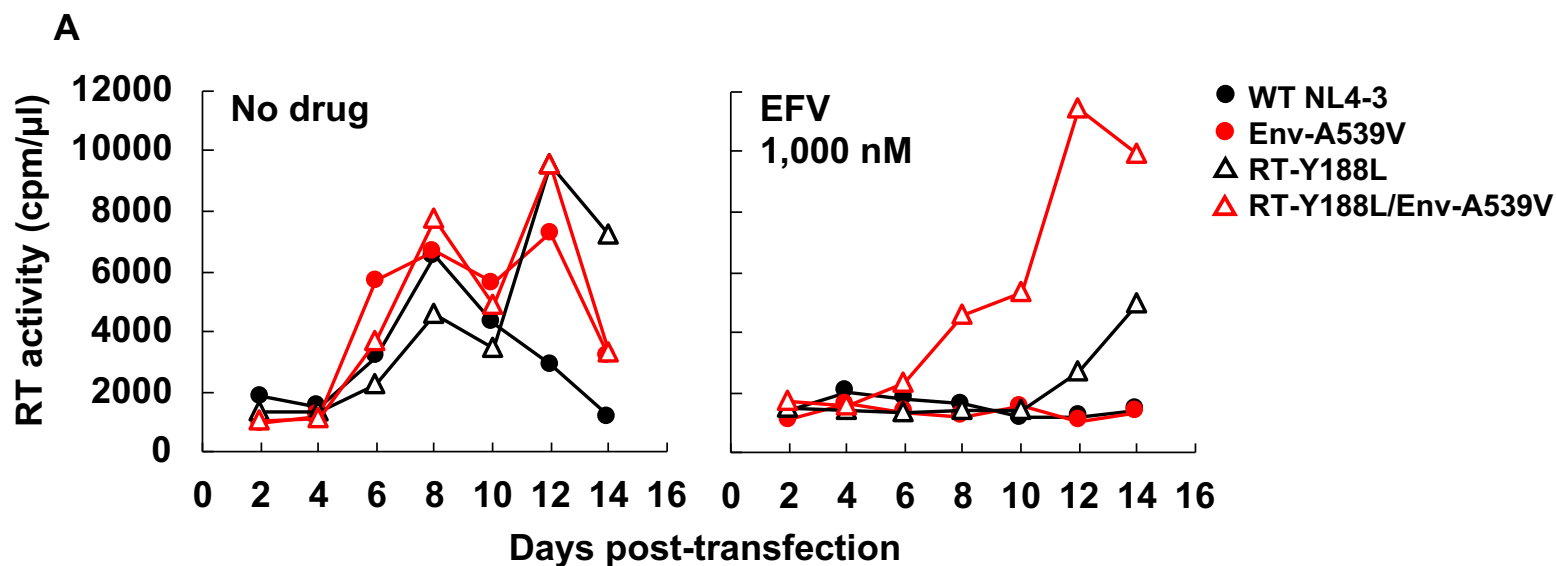


Fig 3





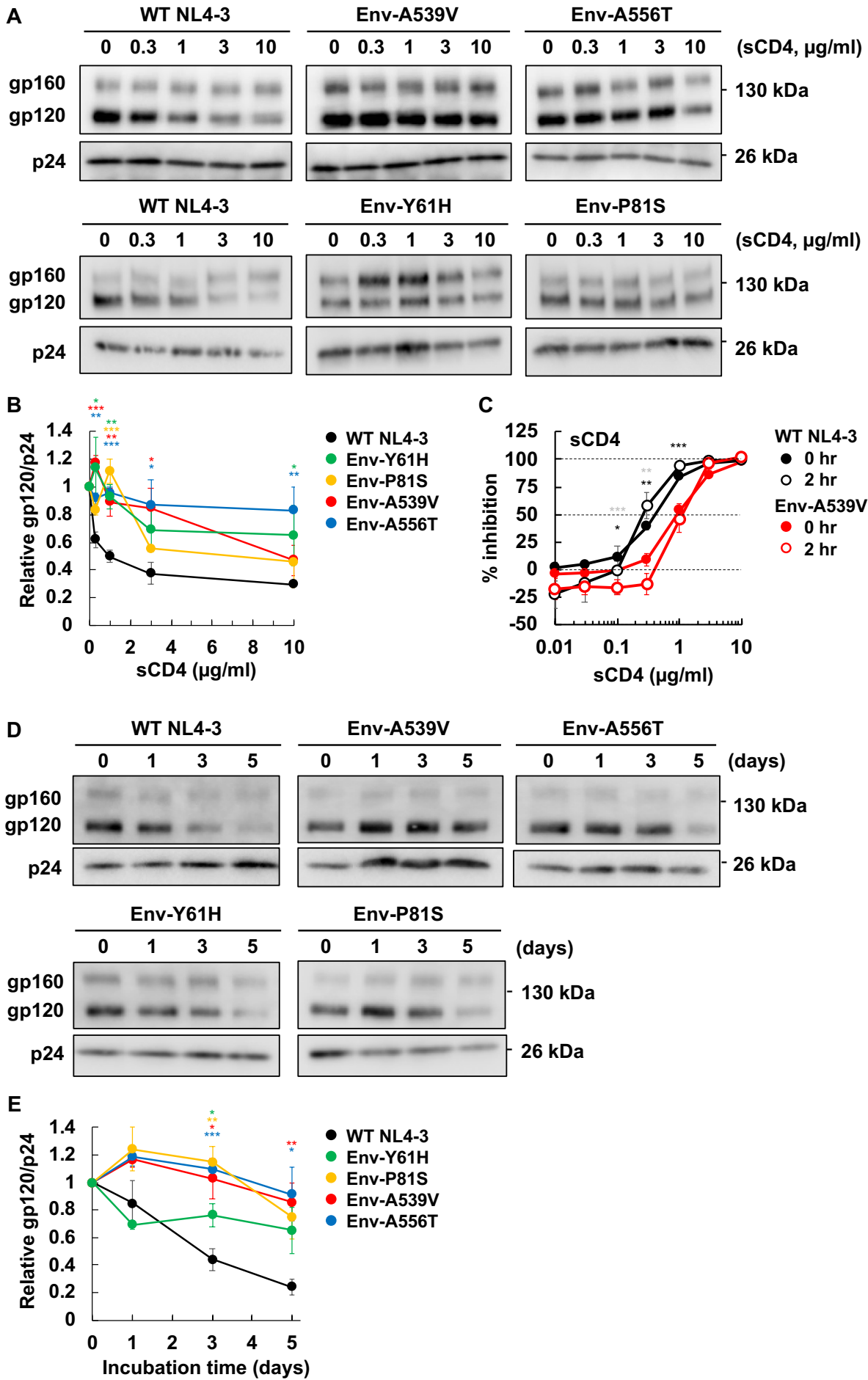
**Fig 4**

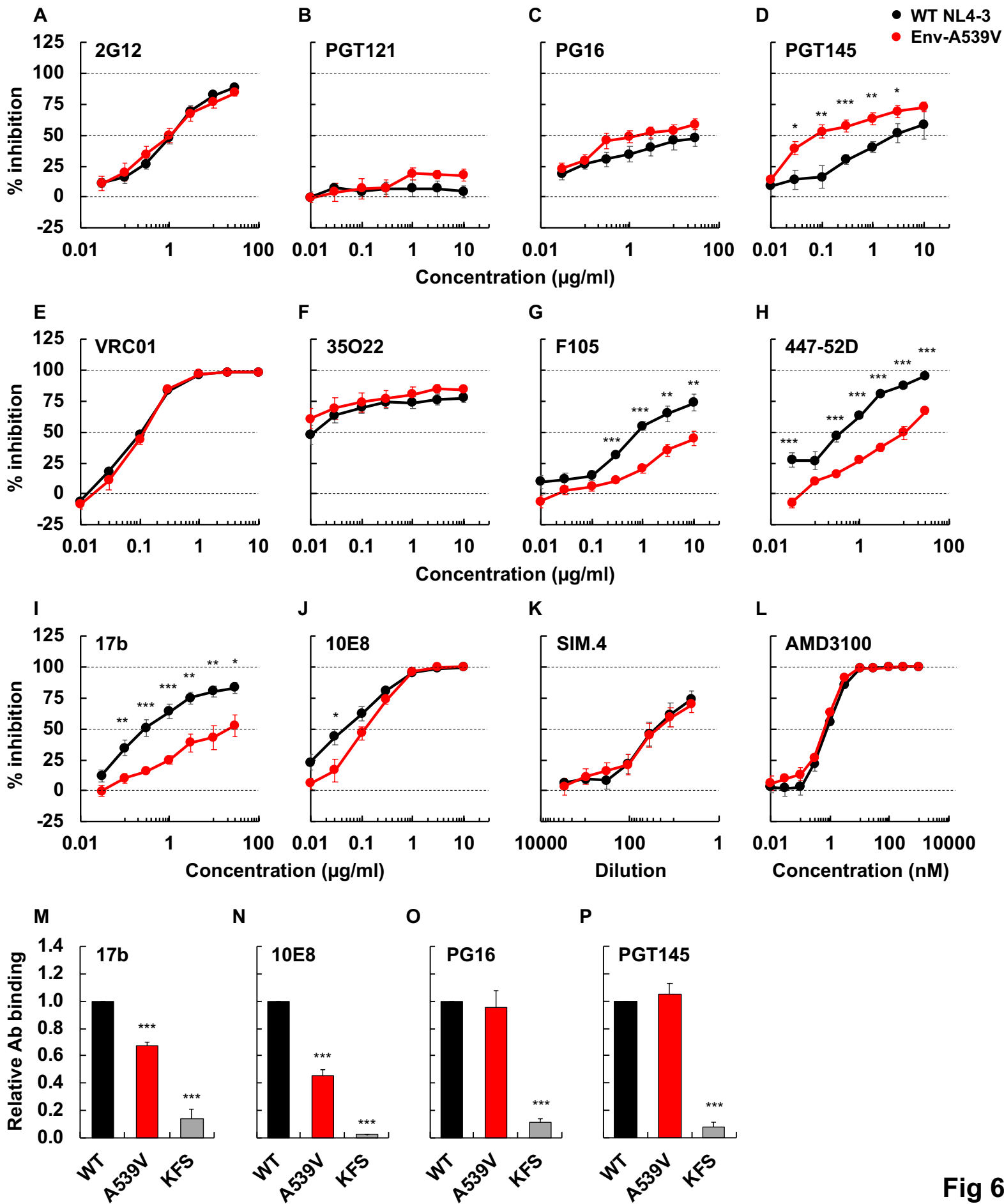


**D**

Viruses	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM, mean $\pm$ SE)	
	Spreading	Cell-free
WT NL4-3	0.41 $\pm$ 0.13	1.2 $\pm$ 0.31
Env-A539V	18 $\pm$ 7.2	1.4 $\pm$ 0.27
RT-Y188L	388 $\pm$ 72	126 $\pm$ 10
RT-Y188L/Env-A539V	> 1,000	136 $\pm$ 5.9

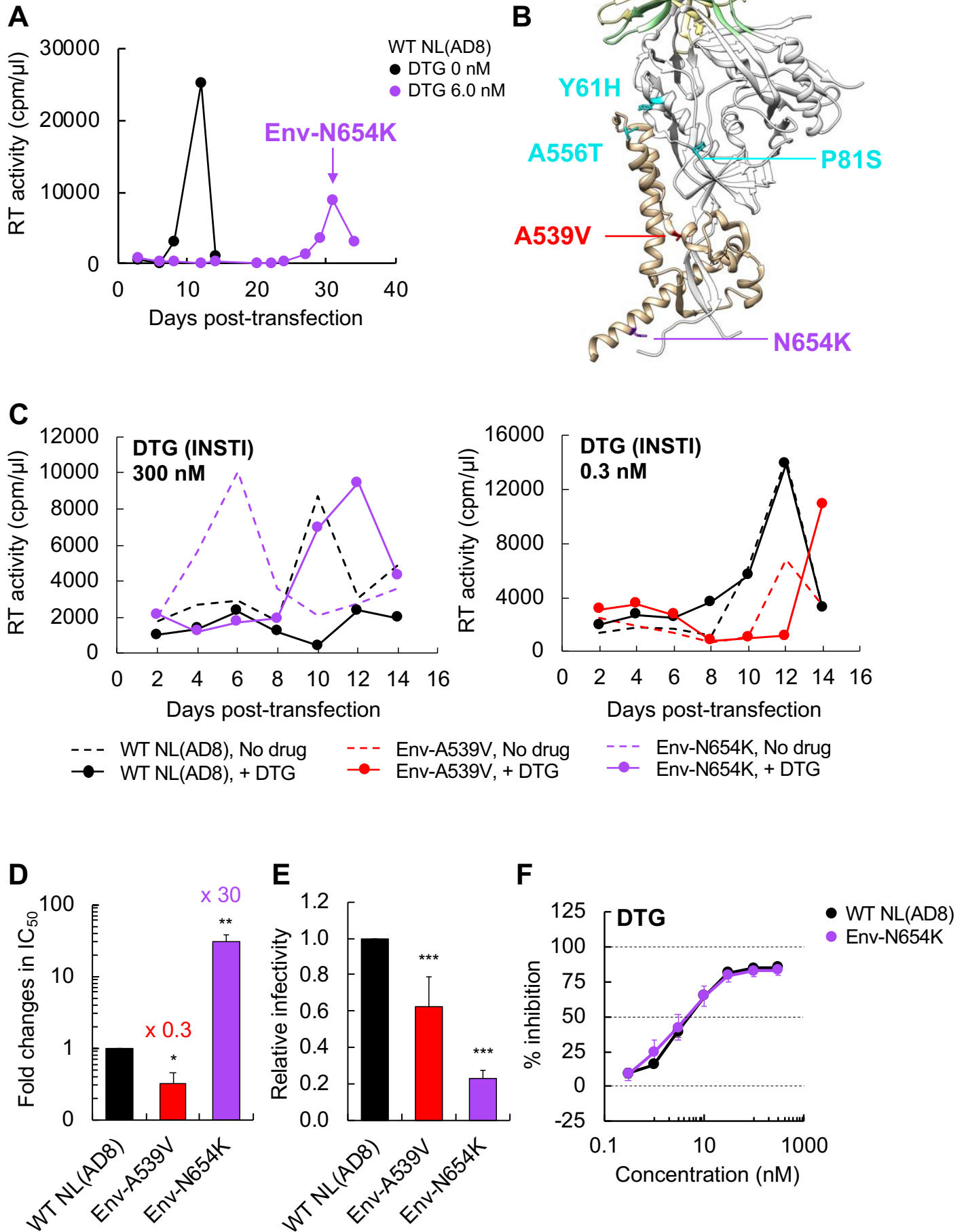
**Fig 5**



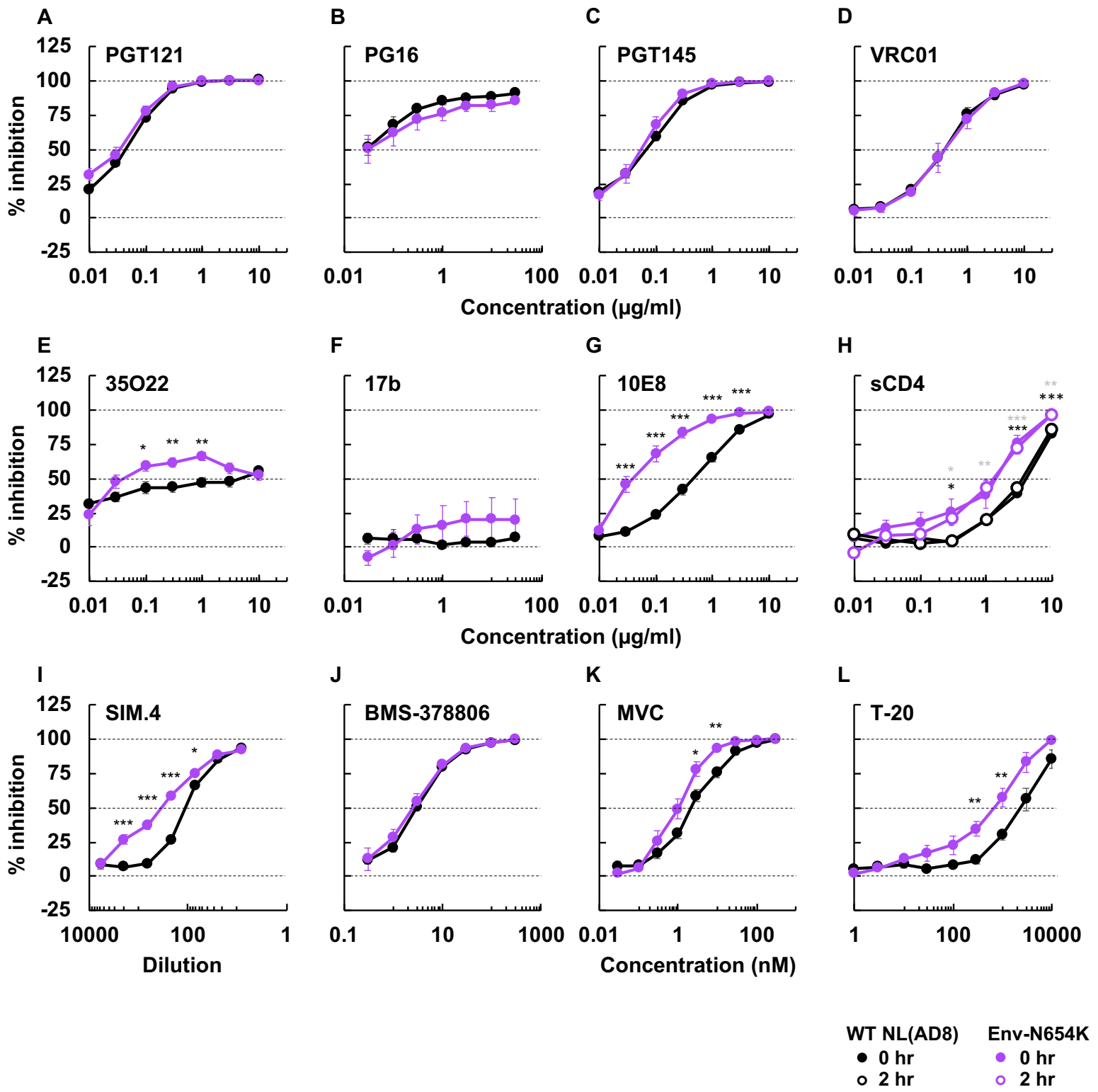


**Fig 6**

**Fig 7**



**Fig 8**



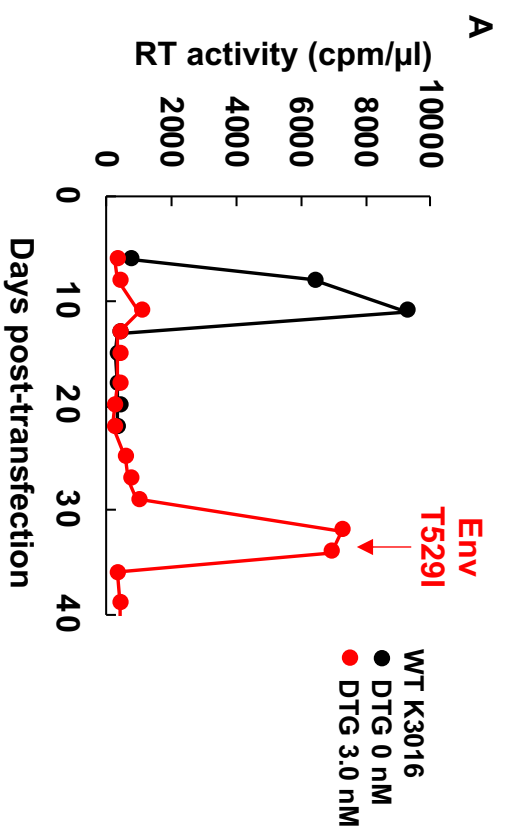
**Fig 9A**

Participant identifiers	Mutations	Frequency (%)		Frequency of residues (%) in subtype C Env	
		Pre	Late		
A1	gp120 C1 E32R <sup>a</sup>	4.8	0 ns	22 * G: 51.32, V: 14.47, E: 9.21, K: 6.58, N: 5.26, D: 3.95, S: 2.63, R: 2.63, other: 3.95	
	D62N <sup>a</sup>	0	0 ns	** E: 75.53, D: 18.54, K: 2.34, other: 3.58	
	D113N <sup>a</sup>	7.1	44 *	22 ns D: 96.90, other: 3.10	
gp41	FP V525A	4.5	0 ns	22 * A: 91.66, V: 3.31, T: 3.10, other: 1.93	
	HR2 N637S <sup>a</sup>	2.3	44 **	22 * N: 97.11, other: 2.89	
A3	R655K	6.8	0 ns	22 * K: 53.89, Q: 21.09, R: 10.82, E: 7.17, N: 3.24, other: 3.79	
	gp120 C1 V87A	38	100 *	100 * E: 56.04, G: 21.35, K: 10.33, A: 3.35 V: 3.28, D: 1.74, other: 3.91	
	gp41 FP	T514G	3.6	80 **	75 ** G: 95.63, other: 4.37
		M518V	7.1	80 **	100 *** V: 77.67, M: 12.54, L: 7.99, other: 1.79
		A525V <sup>a</sup>	3.6	80 **	75 ** A: 91.66, V: 3.31, T: 3.10, other: 1.93
		HR1 Q581L	32	100 **	100 * L: 99.24, other: 0.76
V583I	3.6	80 **	75 ** I: 78.08, L: 14.06, V: 5.31, M: 2.55		
DSL V595M	18	80 *	75 * I: 55.20, L: 36.04, M: 7.65, other: 1.10		
HR2	K633R	32	100 **	100 * R: 73.19, K: 24.67, other: 2.14	
	M644R	3.6	60 **	75 ** R: 50.10, K: 14.27, Q: 7.99, N: 6.20, S: 5.31, T: 3.45, E: 3.45, G: 2.96, W: 2.48, other: 3.79	
A5	E647A <sup>a</sup>	0	60 **	75 *** E: 95.79, other: 4.21	
	gp41 FP	T514G	26	N.D.	95 *** G: 95.63, other: 4.37
		L518V	30	N.D.	95 *** V: 77.67, M: 12.54, L: 7.99, other: 1.79
	F523L	30	N.D.	95 *** L: 90.55, F: 7.72, other: 1.72	
	HR1 A546S	30	N.D.	95 *** S: 96.83, other: 3.17	
	DSL L602R <sup>a</sup>	26	N.D.	95 *** L: 89.94, I: 3.86, V: 1.65, other: 4.55	
G624E	30	N.D.	95 *** D: 46.55, N: 20.07, E: 14.90, G: 10.69, K: 3.38, other: 4.41		
HR2 A654T	33	N.D.	95 *** E: 97.59, other: 2.41		

**Fig 9B**

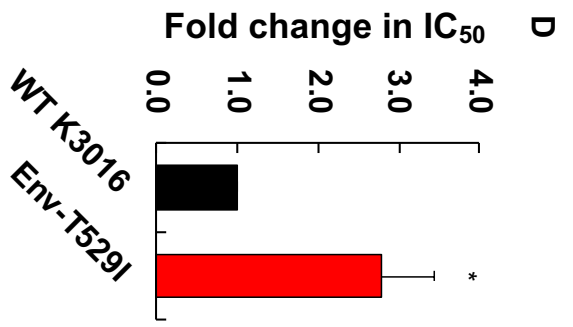
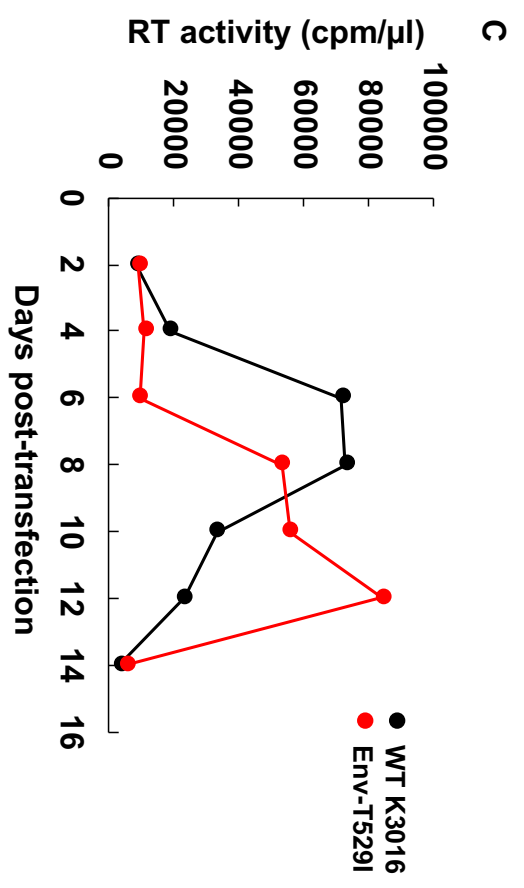
Participant identifiers	Mutations	Frequency (%)		Frequency of residues (%) in subtype C Env			
		Pre	Early	Late			
A4	gp120 C1	N57D	17	100	***	<b>D: 93.52, N: 3.79, other: 2.69</b>	
		G60A	0	100	***	<b>A: 89.32, G: 7.10, other: 3.58</b>	
		K63Q <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>K: 50.17, R: 28.12, T: 15.02, Q: 1.86, other: 4.82</b>	
		I68V	0	100	***	<b>V: 88.97, I: 9.93, other: 1.10</b>	
		D/N78S <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>D: 98.14, other: 1.86</b>	
		I/L84M	33	100	*	<b>M: 35.98, I: 35.08, L: 21.85, V: 5.03, other: 2.07</b>	
		M/K/I85V	26	100	*	<b>V: 65.33, F: 8.20, E: 4.20, I: 4.14, L: 3.79, D: 2.34, A: 2.07, K: 1.93, P: 1.31, N: 1.17, R: 1.10, other: 4.41</b>	
		G/K87E	32	100	*	<b>E: 56.04, G: 21.35, K: 10.33, A: 3.35, V: 3.28, D: 1.74, other: 3.91</b>	
		H105Q <sup>a</sup>	3.3	100	***	<b>H: 95.31, other: 4.69</b>	
		T130N	3.3	100	***	<b>N: 62.76, K: 7.24, E: 6.90, T: 4.76, H: 4.48, D: 4.21, R: 3.31, S: 2.55, other: 3.79</b>	
	gp41	FP	L515I	35	48	ns	<b>I: 67.72, L: 22.34, M: 7.52, other: 2.41</b>
		FPPR	L529F	18	100	***	<b>T: 99.45, other: 0.55</b>
			I535M <sup>a</sup>	0	41	***	<b>I: 79.39, M: 8.61, V: 6.00, L: 5.72, other: 0.28</b>
			A536T	35	59	ns	<b>T: 89.32, A: 9.24, other: 1.45</b>
HIR1		S553N <sup>a</sup>	0	40.7	***	<b>S: 83.87, N: 15.02, other: 1.10</b>	
		R557K <sup>a</sup>	0	59.3	***	<b>R: 88.35, K: 10.48, other: 1.17</b>	
		A578T <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>A: 59.68, T: 40.25, E: 0.07</b>	
DSL		I583L <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>I: 78.08, L: 14.06, V: 5.31, M: 2.55</b>	
		L595I	0	100	***	<b>I: 55.20, L: 36.04, M: 7.65, other: 1.10</b>	
		K601I <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>K: 98.14, other: 1.86</b>	
		P605T	0	100	***	<b>T: 95.24, other: 4.76</b>	
		A607N <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>A: 51.96, N: 30.88, T: 10.06, S: 4.20, other: 2.89</b>	
		S612D <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>S: 75.40, T: 6.20, A: 4.55, N: 4.00, I: 2.00, D: 1.93, V: 1.24, other: 4.69</b>	
		R617K	0	100	***	<b>K: 84.13, R: 14.63, other: 1.24</b>	
	E620K <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>E: 22.83, T: 19.79, D: 17.17, N: 7.52, K: 7.52, S: 6.97, A: 6.07, G: 4.97, Q: 2.97, other: 4.21</b>		
	Y621E	0	100	***	<b>D: 53.27, E: 34.67, Y: 3.58, A: 2.55, Q: 2.14, other: 3.79</b>		
	G624D	0	100	***	<b>D: 46.55, N: 20.07, E: 14.90, G: 10.69, K: 3.38, other: 4.41</b>		
	N625K <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>N: 96.35, other: 3.65</b>		
HIR2	R633K <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>R: 73.19, K: 24.67, other: 2.14</b>		
	D636S	0	100	***	<b>S: 53.55, N: 31.36, D: 11.58, other: 3.51</b>		
	T641I <sup>a</sup>	27	0	**	<b>T: 72.78, I: 21.23, L: 1.65, other: 4.34</b>		
	N644G	0	100	***	<b>R: 50.10, K: 14.27, Q: 7.99, N: 6.20, S: 5.31, T: 3.45, E: 3.45, G: 2.96, W: 2.48, other: 3.79</b>		
	I648E	0	100	***	<b>E: 38.83, D: 38.69, V: 9.10, K: 5.38, I: 3.31, other: 4.69</b>		
	N651A/T <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>N: 54.72, I: 16.26, T: 12.61, S: 11.30, K: 0.76, other: 4.34</b>		
	K655N <sup>a</sup>	0	100	***	<b>K: 53.89, Q: 21.09, R: 10.82, E: 7.17, N: 3.24, other: 3.79</b>		
	E658K	0	100	***	<b>K: 81.53, Q: 13.65, other: 4.82</b>		
	K662A/T	12	100	***	<b>A: 89.87, E: 7.51, other: 2.62</b>		
	N665K	0	100	***	<b>S: 66.09, K: 26.46, N: 3.24, other: 4.20</b>		

S1 Fig



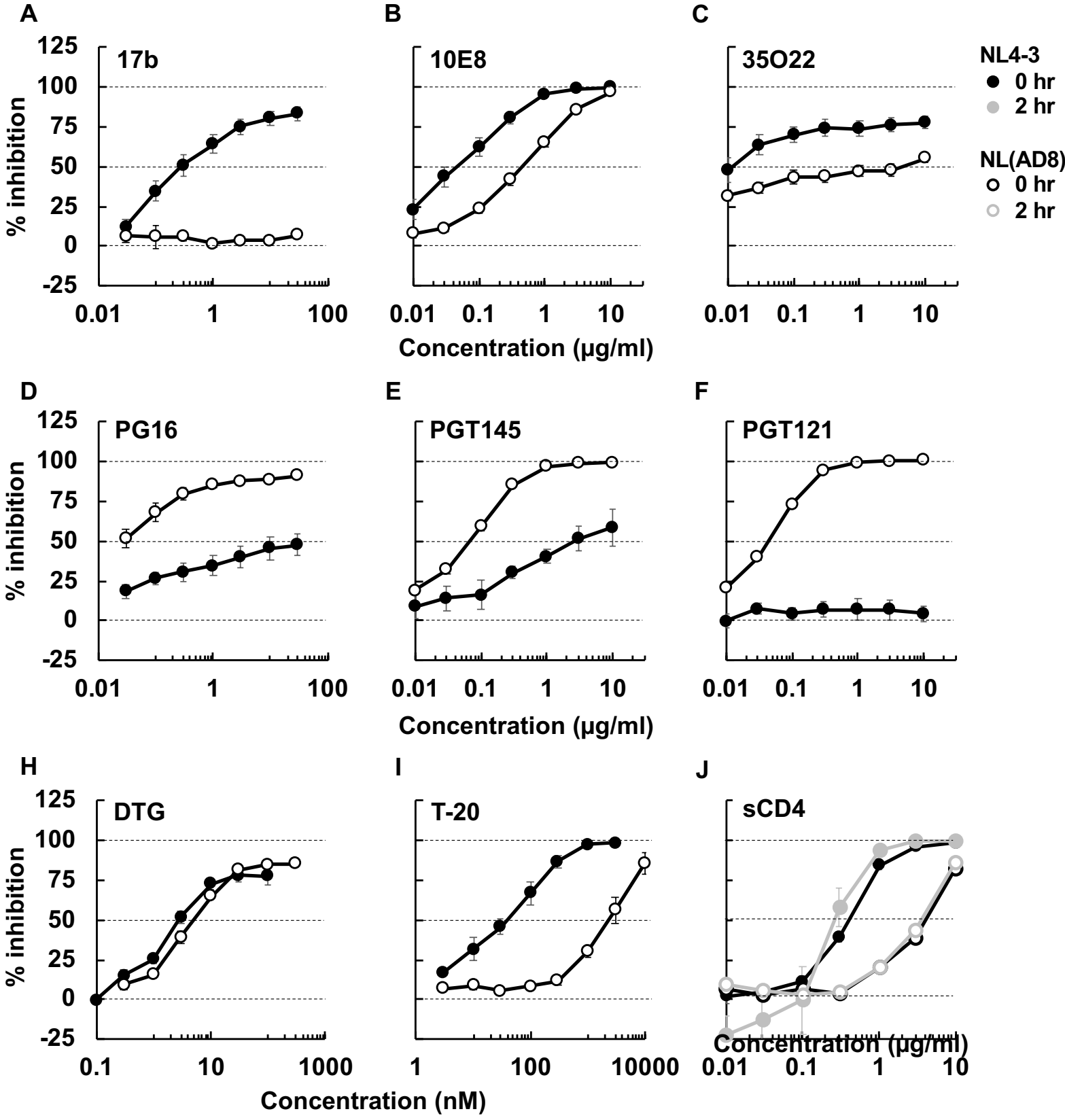
**B**

NL4-3_WT	T	L	T	V	Q	A	R	Q	L	L	S
NL4-3_A539V	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	.	.
K3016	.	.	.	.	.	T	.	.	.	.	.
K3016_T529I	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.

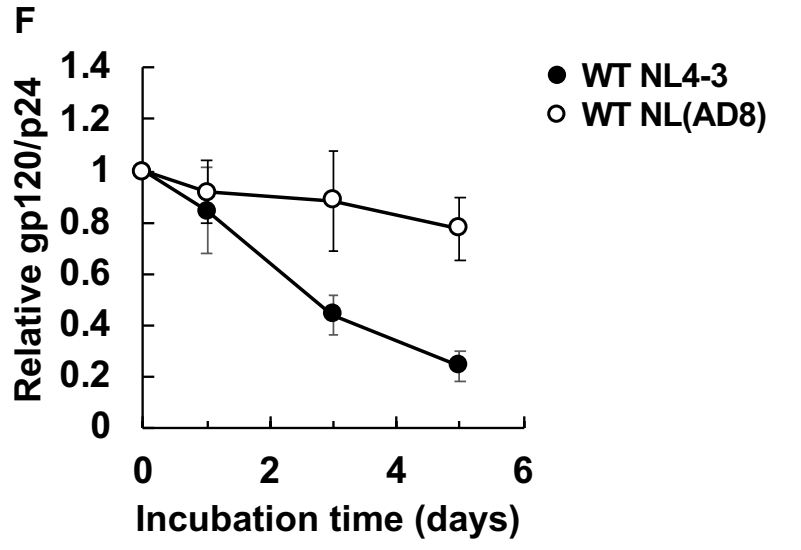
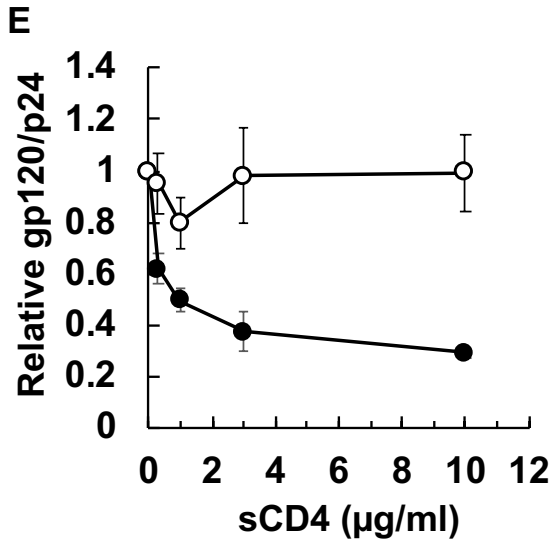
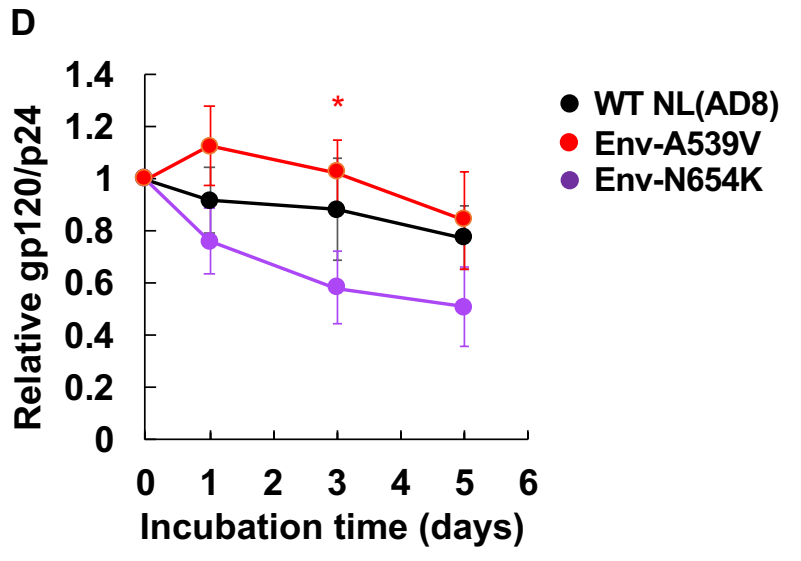
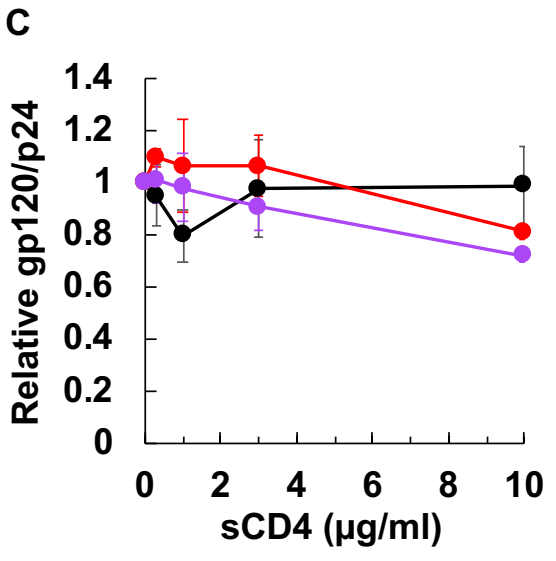
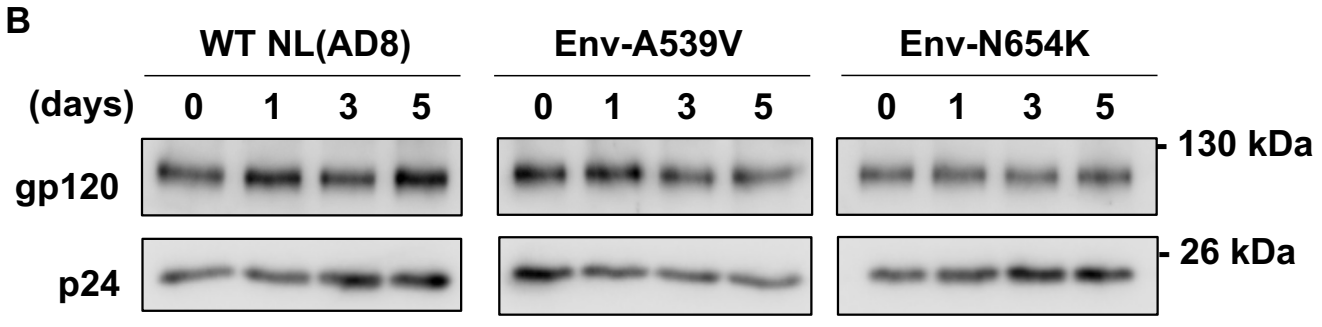
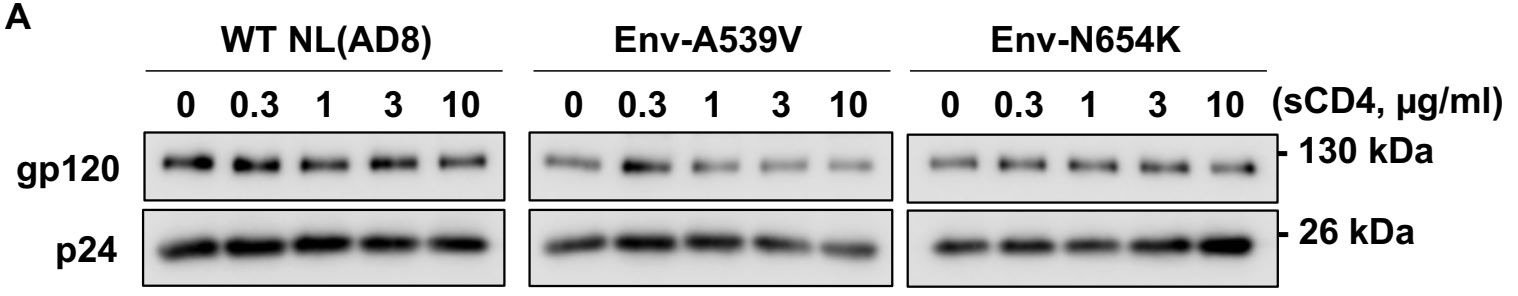




S2 Fig

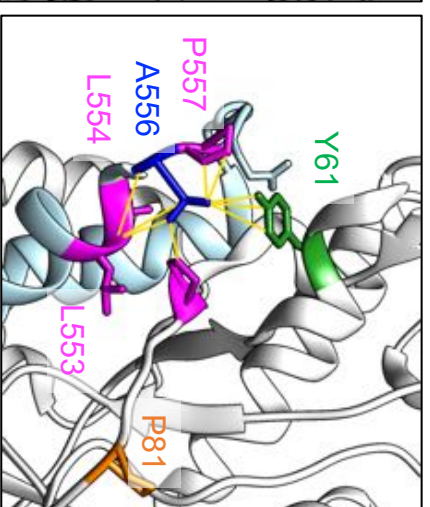
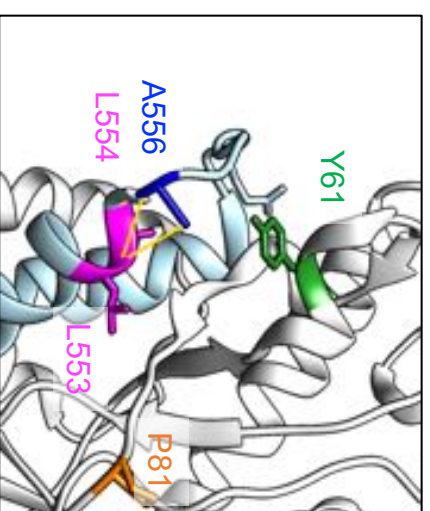
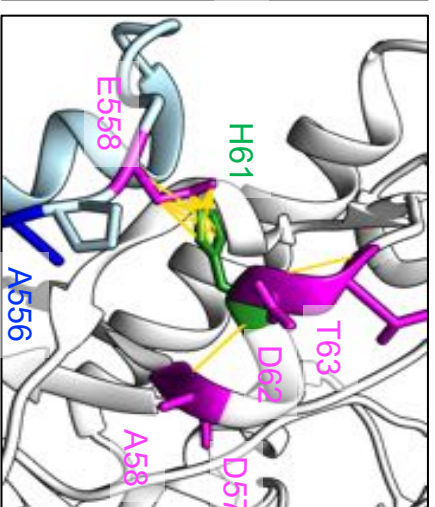
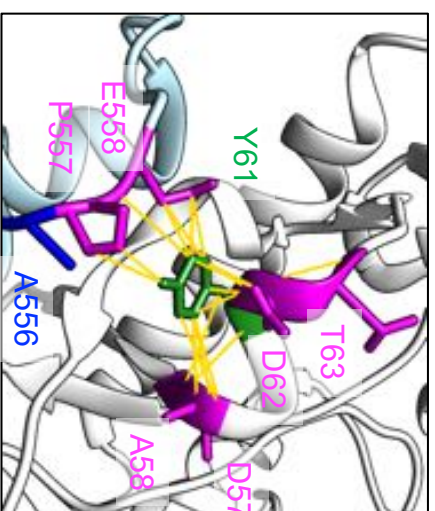
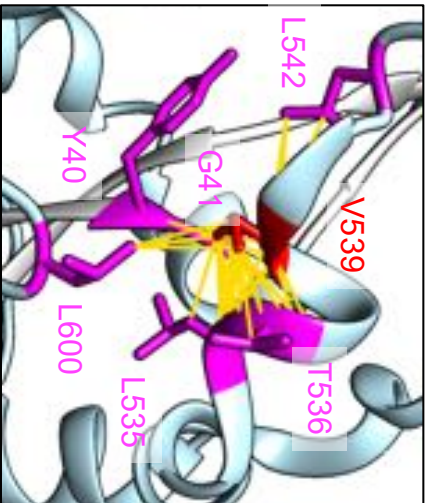
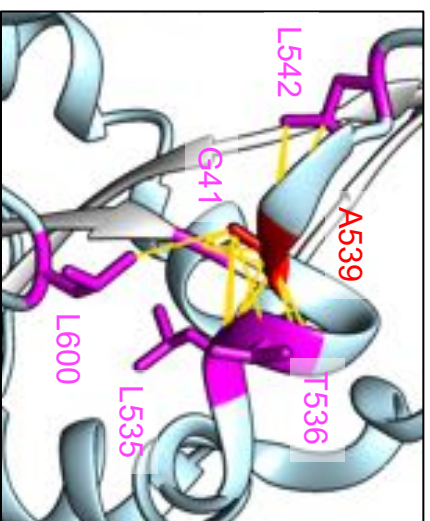
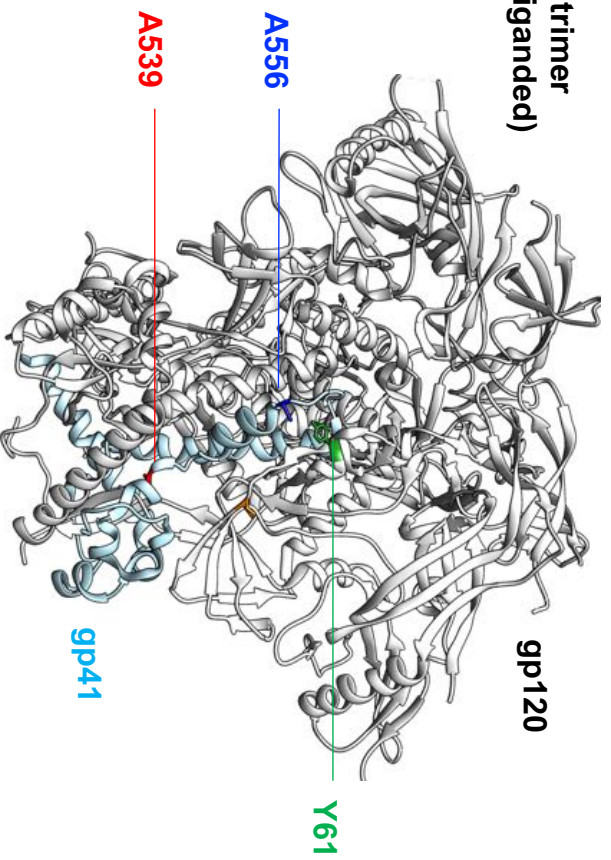


**S3 Fig**



S4 Fig

Env trimer  
(Unliganded)



A539

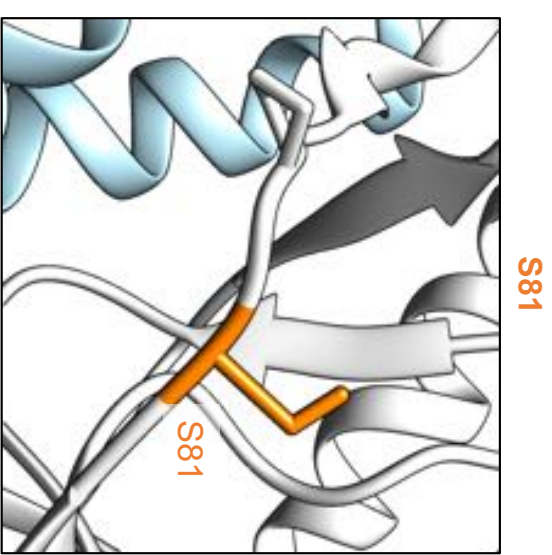
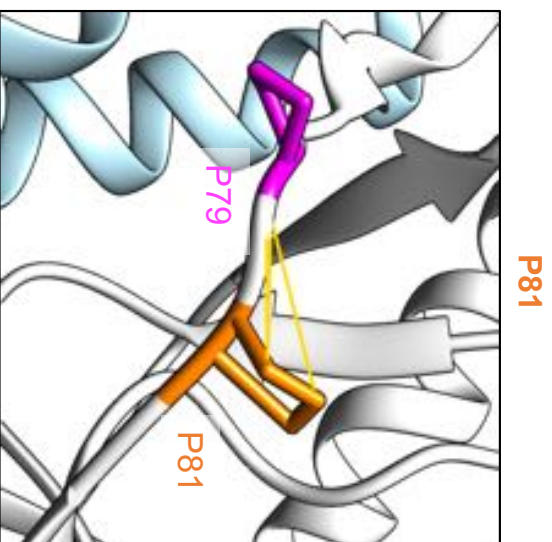
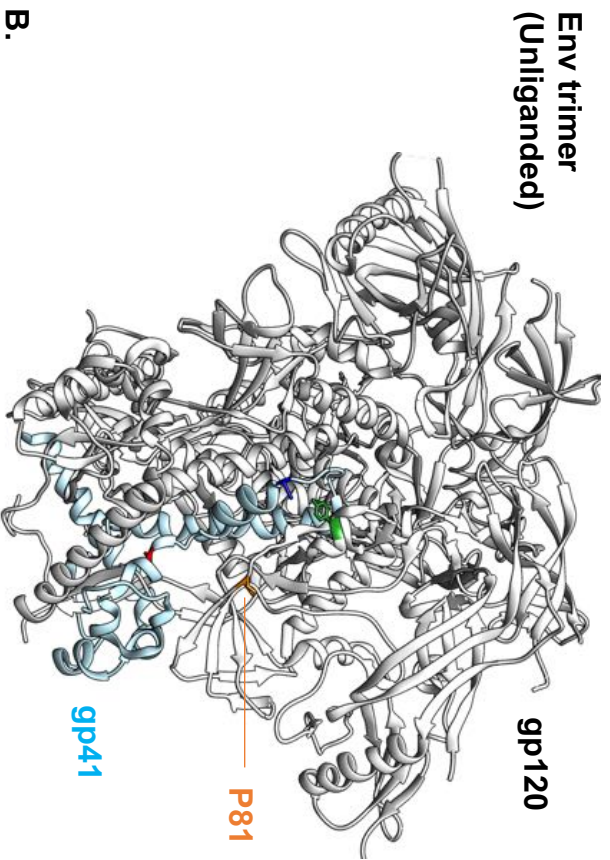
V539

A556

T556

S5 Fig

A



B.

