

1 **Title:** Comparative ‘omics analyses differentiate *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and
2 *Mycobacterium bovis* and reveal distinct macrophage responses to infection with the
3 human and bovine tubercle bacilli

4 **Running title:** Host specificity and pathogenic mycobacteria

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45 **Abstract:**

46 Members of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) are the causative
47 agents of tuberculosis in a range of mammals, including humans. A key feature of MTBC
48 pathogens is their high degree of genetic identity, yet distinct host tropism. Notably,
49 while *Mycobacterium bovis* is highly virulent and pathogenic for cattle, the human
50 pathogen *M. tuberculosis* is attenuated in cattle. Previous research also suggests that
51 host preference amongst MTBC members has a basis in host innate immune responses.
52 To explore MTBC host tropism, we present in-depth profiling of the MTBC reference
53 strains *M. bovis* AF2122/97 and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv at both the global transcriptional
54 and translational level via RNA-sequencing and SWATH mass spectrometry.
55 Furthermore, a bovine alveolar macrophage infection time course model was employed
56 to investigate the shared and divergent host transcriptomic response to infection with
57 *M. tuberculosis* or *M. bovis*. Significant differential expression of virulence-associated
58 pathways between the two bacilli was revealed, including the ESX-1 secretion system. A
59 divergent transcriptional response was observed between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*
60 infection of bovine alveolar macrophages, in particular cytosolic DNA-sensing pathways
61 at 48 hours post-infection, and highlights a distinct engagement of *M. bovis* with the
62 bovine innate immune system. The work presented here therefore provides a basis for
63 the identification of host innate immune mechanisms subverted by virulent host-
64 adapted mycobacteria to promote their survival during the early stages of infection.

65 **Importance:**

66 The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) includes the most important global
67 pathogens for humans and animals, namely *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and
68 *Mycobacterium bovis*, respectively. These two exemplar mycobacterial pathogens share
69 a high degree of genetic identity, but the molecular basis for their distinct host
70 preference is unknown. In this work we integrated transcriptomic and proteomic
71 analyses of the pathogens to elucidate global quantitative differences between them at
72 the mRNA and protein level. We then integrated this data with transcriptome analysis
73 of the bovine macrophage response to infection with either pathogen. Increased
74 expression of the ESX-1 virulence system in *M. bovis* appeared a key driver of an
75 increased cytosolic nucleic acid sensing and interferon response in bovine macrophages
76 infected with *M. bovis* compared to *M. tuberculosis*. Our work demonstrates the
77 specificity of host-pathogen interaction and how the subtle interplay between
78 mycobacterial phenotype and host response may underpin host specificity amongst
79 MTBC members.

80

81 **Keywords:** *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium bovis*, cattle, gene expression,
82 RNA-sequencing, SWATH mass spectrometry, transcriptomics, proteomics, host
83 specificity, host-pathogen interactions, MTBC, infectious disease

84 **Introduction**

85 The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) comprises ten mycobacterial
86 species that cause tuberculosis (TB) in a broad range of mammalian species, including
87 humans (1-4). Typically, MTBC species show greater than 99% nucleotide sequence
88 identity and yet exhibit distinct host preference, indicating that this low-level of genetic
89 divergence holds major implications for host-pathogen interactions (1-3). Divergence in
90 host tropism is illustrated through the comparison of the human adapted
91 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* with the animal bacillus *Mycobacterium bovis*. *M.*
92 *tuberculosis* is a highly successful pathogen and is the world's leading cause of death
93 from an infectious agent with 1.7 million deaths reported in 2016 (5). *M. bovis*
94 predominantly causes disease in cattle and bovine TB exacts a tremendous economic
95 burden through production loss and control costs (6-8). *M. tuberculosis* appears unable
96 to sustain (i.e., through cycles of infection, disease and transmission) in non-human
97 animal populations, a fact that has been confirmed using an experimental bovine
98 infection model (1, 9): while cattle infected with *M. bovis* display characteristic
99 pathology, cattle infected with *M. tuberculosis* show minimal pathology despite positive
100 skin-test and interferon-gamma responses indicative of successful infection. Conversely,
101 while *M. bovis* can both infect humans and cause pulmonary disease that is clinically
102 indistinguishable from *M. tuberculosis*, it rarely transmits among immunocompetent
103 hosts (10, 11).

104 On a cellular level, the alveolar macrophage is the frontline host immune cell that
105 encounters both *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*, and its role during early stage infection is
106 well established (12-18). Several studies have highlighted significant differences in the
107 production of key innate factors, chemokines and cytokines at both the transcript and
108 protein level in macrophages infected with *M. tuberculosis* or *M. bovis* (15-20).
109 However, these studies evaluated only a subset of the innate response in macrophages
110 and differences in the global transcript and protein response to infection with
111 *M. tuberculosis* or *M. bovis* remains unknown. The central role of the alveolar
112 macrophage during infection is also reflected in the fact that pathogenic mycobacteria
113 have evolved several immune-evasion strategies to circumvent the killing mechanisms
114 of the macrophage, including inhibition of phagosomal maturation, phagosomal escape
115 and suppression of innate immune signalling (12-18). This facilitates the dissemination
116 of the bacilli to other macrophages and ultimately throughout the host, with the
117 concomitant development of immunopathology. Transmission of infection then occurs
118 through the rupture of lesions into associated airways and the dispersal of bacilli
119 (17,18). Thus, it can be hypothesized that the initial interaction between host and
120 pathogen may be key for the host preference observed between *M. tuberculosis* and *M.*
121 *bovis*; whether this interaction has roots in host-centric or pathogen-centric processes,
122 or indeed a combination of both, has yet to be fully elucidated.

123 *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 were the first MTBC genomes to
124 be fully sequenced and they represent the default reference strains for the human and
125 animal tubercle bacilli (2, 21, 22). It is hypothesized that host tropism between these

126 two species may be explained by differential gene expression profiles as a result of low
127 genetic divergence (2, 21, 22). So far, functional studies have revealed that genetic
128 changes between the two pathogens are responsible for differential nitrate reductase
129 activity, for the loss of phenolic glycolipid production in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv in
130 contrast to *M. bovis*, and for differences in the PhoPR regulation system that governs
131 the expression of virulence-related pathways such as EsxA/ESAT-6 secretion and cell
132 wall lipid biosynthesis (23-26). While these studies highlight important differences
133 between the two pathogens, host tropism likely involves a combination of events such
134 as these that affect the expression and regulation of multiple virulence associated
135 factors and/or the transcriptional regulators that govern their activity. In 2007, two
136 microarray-based studies highlighted genes encoding the major antigens MPT83 and
137 MPT70 that were expressed at higher levels in *M. bovis* and genes involved in SL-1
138 production that were expressed at a higher level in *M. tuberculosis* (27, 28). Since these
139 reports, investigations into species-specific expression profiles of the two pathogens
140 have been lacking at the global transcriptional level and have yet to be defined at the
141 proteomic level. Definition of the differential “expressome” between *M. tuberculosis*
142 and *M. bovis* will shed light on how alternate expression of two highly related genomes
143 impacts on the ultimate success of these pathogens and host specificity within the
144 MTBC.

145

146 As a route to defining host preference between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*, we
147 have conducted in-depth profiling of *M. bovis* AF2122/97 and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv at

148 both the global transcriptional and translational level *in vitro* using RNA-seq and
149 Sequential Window Acquisition of all Theoretical Spectra (SWATH) mass spectrometry, a
150 massively parallel targeting mass spectrometry that provides highly reproducible
151 quantitative measurements across samples (29). To address how MTBC pathogen
152 variation impacts on the host innate response, we have performed detailed comparative
153 transcriptomic analyses of the bovine alveolar macrophage response to infection with
154 both pathogens using RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq). Through these analyses, we reveal
155 significant differential expression of virulence-associated pathways between *M.*
156 *tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* was found, in particular the ESX-1 secretion system, while the
157 macrophage infection study highlights a distinct engagement of *M. bovis* with the
158 bovine innate immune system was found, in particular with the cytosolic DNA-sensing
159 pathways of the macrophage.

160

161 **Methods**

162 **Mycobacterial culture for pathogen transcriptomics and proteomics**

163 Exponentially grown mycobacterial liquid cultures were established in Sauton's basal
164 media +0.025% tyloxapol. For mid to late-log phase culture, mycobacterial cells were
165 grown to an optical density (OD_{600nm}) of 0.6 – 0.8 at 37°C prior to harvest. For the
166 current study, six *M. bovis* AF2122/97 and six *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv replicates were
167 prepared. Matched RNA and protein samples were harvested and prepared for strand-
168 specific RNA-sequencing or SWATH mass spectrometry.

169 **RNA extraction, RNA-seq library preparation and high-throughput sequencing for *M.***

170 ***bovis* and *M. tuberculosis***

171 Mycobacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation at 2,500 × g for 10 min and the
172 pellet was re-suspended in 1 ml of TRIzol® (Life Technologies). The suspension was
173 transferred to a 2 ml screw cap tube and the cells were lysed by bead-beating for 30 s at
174 maximum setting using 1 mm glass beads (Sigma) on a MagNaWLyser instrument
175 (Roche). Samples were placed at 80°C immediately and thawed before use. 20% v/v
176 chloroform was added, the sample were shaken vigorously for 15 s and incubated for 2-
177 3 min at room temperature. The samples were centrifuged at 12,000 × g for 15 min at
178 4°C and the top phase was added to the DNA-free columns from the RNeasy plus kit
179 (Qiagen). The sample were processed as per the manufacturer's guidelines with the
180 following exceptions: 1.5 volumes of 100% ethanol was added to sample prior to its
181 application to the RNeasy column in order to recover all RNA species. RNA was eluted in

182 molecular grade water and its concentration was determined using the NanoDrop
183 spectrophotometer (NDW1000) prior to DNase treatment. A DNase treatment using
184 TURBO DNase kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was performed by following the vigorous
185 DNase treatment as per manufacturer's guidelines; 7 μ l of DNase buffer + 1 μ l enzyme
186 at 37°C for 30 min followed by a further 1 μ l of enzyme and incubation at 37°C for 30
187 min. A DNase stopping solution was not added to the samples as they were column-
188 purified and concentrated using the RNA Clean and Concentrator kit according to
189 manufacturer's guidelines (Zymo). RNA was eluted in molecular grade water and its
190 concentration was determined using the NanoDrop spectrophotometer (NDW1000).
191 RNA integrity number (RIN) values were assessed for each RNA sample being considered
192 for RNA-sequencing using the 2100 Bioanalyser (Agilent) and the RNA 6000 Nano kit
193 (Agilent) according to manufacturer's guidelines. RIN values are calculated by assessing
194 the entire electrophoretic trace of an RNA sample, along with the 23S/16S rRNA
195 intensity value. Only samples with a RIN value > 8 were selected for further analysis by
196 RNA-sequencing. Sequencing libraries were prepared at the Genomics Core, Michigan
197 State University, Michigan, USA using the Illumina Truseq Stranded Total RNA Library
198 Prep Kit LT and the Epicenter RiboWZero Magnetic Bacteria kit to deplete ribosomal
199 RNA. Single-end, strand-specific 50 bp read data was produced with base calling
200 performed by Illumina Real Time Analysis (RTA) v1.18.64.

201 **Differential gene expression analysis of *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* RNA-sequencing**
202 **data**

203 Computational analyses were performed on a 32-node Compute Server with Linux

204 Ubuntu [version 12.04.2]. Briefly, adapter sequence contamination and paired-end
205 reads of poor quality were removed from the raw data. At each step, read quality was
206 assessed with FastQC [version 0.10.1] (30). Single-end reads were aligned to the *M.*
207 *bovis* AF2122/97 or *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv reference genomes with the aligner Stampy
208 in hybrid mode with BWA (31). Read counts for each gene were calculated using
209 featureCounts, set to unambiguously assign uniquely aligned single-end reads in a
210 stranded manner to gene exon annotation (32).

211 Prior to cross-species differential expression analysis, an Identical/Variable gene
212 dataset was constructed for *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis* AF2122/97 where
213 orthologous genes were separated into those genes whose protein products are of
214 equal length and 100% conserved at the amino acid level (Identical, $n = 2,775$) from
215 those that are not (Variable, $n = 1,224$). (Fig.1A, Supp_I.xlsx). Among the Variable genes
216 are examples of truncated genes, genes that have been split into two or more as a result
217 of in-frame sequence variance (leading to some genes being represented in more than
218 one Variable gene pair), or genes that differ by a non-synonymous SNP resulting in an
219 amino acid change at the protein level. Negative binomial modelling tools such as
220 DESeq2 that was used in this instance assume equal feature lengths when calculating
221 differential expression (DE) of a gene, or in this case between orthologous genes of two
222 species in a given condition (33). For those annotations whose gene lengths are not
223 equal, such as in the case of truncated/elongated/frameshift instances found in the *M.*
224 *bovis* AF2122/97 genome with respect to *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, analysis with DESeq2
225 would result in erroneous differential expression results; thus a separate differential

226 expression analyses was carried out for Variable genes using Transcript per Million
227 (TPM) values that are normalised for feature length (33, 34). Differential gene
228 expression analysis for those genes of equal lengths was performed using the DESeq2
229 pipeline, correcting for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method (33). All
230 further reference to differentially expressed genes between the two mycobacterial
231 species will be with regards to a gene being expressed at a higher level in one species
232 with respect to the other, and hence if a gene is upregulated in *M. bovis* it is
233 downregulated or expressed at a lower level in *M. tuberculosis* and vice versa (\log_2 fold
234 change ($\text{Log}_2\text{FC} > 1$ and < -1), false discovery rate (FDR) threshold of significance < 0.05).

235 **Transcription factor enrichment analysis**

236 Data relating to the shift in the transcriptional landscape of *M. tuberculosis* upon
237 overexpression of 183 transcription factors was used to perform a formal transcription
238 factor enrichment analysis (35-37). The data represents 9,335 regulatory events and
239 provides regulatory evidence for over 70% of the annotated genes in the *M. tuberculosis*
240 genome ($\text{FC} > 2$, $P < 0.01$) (35-37). This data was analysed alongside the DE genes
241 identified in this study between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*. Only genes and
242 transcription factors that are 100% identical in sequence and length between the two
243 species were considered for this analysis. Over-representation of a transcription factor
244 with a given set of differentially expressed genes was assessed by gene-regulon
245 association and calculation of the Rand Index ($\text{Log}_2\text{FC} > 1$ and $P < 0.05$ for a given DE
246 gene).

247

248 **Protein extraction and SWATH mass spectrometry for *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis***

249 Mycobacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation at $2,500 \times g$ for 10 min and the
250 pellet was re-suspended in 1 ml LB buffer (0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate buffer, 8 M
251 urea, 0.1% RapiGEST SF (Waters, UK)). The suspension was transferred to a 2-ml screw
252 cap tube and the cells were lysed by bead-beating for 30 s at maximum setting using 3
253 mm glass beads (Sigma) and a MagNalyser instrument (Roche). The lysate supernatant
254 was harvested by centrifugation at $12,000 \times g$ for 10 min and transferred to a clean 1 ml
255 tube. The remaining pellet was re-suspended in LB buffer and the bead beating cycle
256 was repeated twice more. Protein lysate samples were stored at -80°C . Protein samples
257 were removed from -80°C storage and thawed on ice. Total protein content was
258 measured using the Qubit Protein Assay kit according to manufacturer's guidelines and
259 protein concentrations were adjusted to 0.5 mg/ml. Protein disulphide bonds were
260 reduced by addition of 0.2 M Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP) and the resulting
261 free cysteine residues were alkylated by addition of 0.4 M iodoacetamide (IAA).
262 Extracted protein samples were diluted with 0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate buffer to
263 reach a urea concentration of $< 2 \text{ M}$ and then digested with 1:50 enzyme/substrate ratio
264 of sequencing grade modified trypsin (Promega). 50% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) was
265 added to lower the pH to 2 in order to stop the tryptic digest and to precipitate the
266 RapiGEST. Water-immiscible degradation products of RapiGEST were pelleted by
267 centrifugation at $12,000 \times g$ for 10 min. The cleared peptide solution was desalted with
268 C18 reversed-phase columns (SepWPak Vac C18, Waters). The columns were pre-

269 conditioned 2-3 times with acetonitrile and equilibrated 3 times with Buffer A (2%
270 acetonitrile, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in H₂O) prior to sample loading. The flow-through
271 was re-loaded onto the column and the column was then washed 3 times with Buffer A.
272 The peptides were eluted from the column using Buffer B (50% acetonitrile, 0.1%
273 trifluoroacetic acid in H₂O) and the elution step was repeated. The eluate was dried
274 under vacuum using a rotary evaporator at 45°C. Dried peptide pellets were re-
275 suspended in MS buffer (2% acetonitrile, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in ultra pure H₂O) to a
276 concentration of 1 µg/µl, sonicated in a water bath for 3 min and supernatant was
277 harvested by centrifugation at 12,000 × g for 10 min.

278 SWATH mass spectrometry measurements were conducted at the Institute for
279 Molecular Systems Biology at ETH Zurich. 1 µg of each peptide sample was measured in
280 SWATH mode on a TripleTOF 5600 mass spectrometer using data-independent
281 acquisition settings as described earlier (29, 38-40). Resulting raw SWATH data was
282 analysed using an automated pipeline and the software OpenSWATH with the *M.*
283 *tuberculosis* H37Rv SWATH assay library (38). Differential expression analysis of protein
284 identified in *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* samples was dependent on the detection of
285 the protein in both species. The difference in protein fold changes and the
286 corresponding FDR corrections between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* were calculated
287 using MSstats (39, 41). A $|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 0.56$ and an FDR < 0.05 was required for a protein
288 to defined as differentially expressed between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*.

289 **Animals**

290 All animal procedures were performed according to the provisions of the Irish
291 Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876 with ethical approval from the University College Dublin
292 (UCD) Animal Ethics Committee (protocol number AREC-13-14-Gordon). Ten unrelated
293 Holstein-Friesian male calves (7-12 weeks old) were maintained under uniform housing
294 conditions and nutritional regimens at the UCD Lyons Research Farm (Newcastle,
295 County Kildare, Ireland). All animals were selected from a tuberculosis-free herd that is
296 screened annually using the single intradermal comparative tuberculin skin test.

297 **Alveolar macrophage isolation, cell culture and infection**

298 The laboratory methods used to: (1) isolate, culture and infect bovine alveolar
299 macrophages with *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*, and (2) generate strand-specific RNA-
300 seq libraries using RNA harvested from these cells has been described in detail by us
301 elsewhere (15, 42). An abridged description of the laboratory methods used in this study
302 is provided below and the complete bioinformatics pipeline is accessible online
303 (<https://github.com/kerrimalone/AlvMac>). Total lung cells were harvested by
304 pulmonary lavage of lungs obtained post-mortem and stored in freezing solution (10%
305 DMSO (Sigma-Aldrich Ltd.), 90% FBS) at a density of 2.5×10^7 cells/ml in 1 ml cell
306 aliquots at -140°C . When required, the cell pellet was resuspended in 15 ml of R10⁺
307 media and placed in a 75 cm² vented culture flask (CELLSTAR®, Greiner Bio-One Ltd.)
308 and incubated for 24 h at 37°C, 5 % CO₂. After incubation, media was removed together
309 with non-adherent cells, adherent cells were washed with 15 ml HBSS pre-warmed to
310 37°C and dissociated by adding 10 ml pre-warmed 1× non-enzymatic cell dissociation
311 solution (Sigma-Aldrich Ltd.) to each culture flask. Cells were then pelleted (200 × g for 5

312 min), resuspended in 10 ml pre-warmed R10+ media and counted using a Vi-CELL™ XR
313 Cell Viability Analyzer and reagent kit (Beckman Coulter Inc.). Mean viable cell recovery
314 was estimated at ~ 80% for each animal. Cell counts for each animal were adjusted to
315 5×10^5 cells/ml (based on viable cell counts) using pre-warmed R10+ media, seeded at
316 5×10^5 cells/well on individual 24-flat well tissue culture plates (Sarstedt Ltd.) and
317 incubated for a further 24 h at 37°C, 5 % CO₂, until required for mycobacterial infection.
318 The purity of the seeded macrophages for each animal samples was 95% as estimated
319 by flow cytometry analysis (data not shown).

320 *M. bovis* AF2122/97 and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv were cultured in Middlebrook
321 7H9-ADC medium containing either 0.2% v/v glycerol for *M. tuberculosis* or 10 mM
322 sodium pyruvate for *M. bovis* at 37°C until mid-logarithmic phase. Prior to infection,
323 mycobacterial cultures were pelleted by centrifugation (200 × g, 10 min), pellets were
324 disrupted with 3 mm sterile glass beads (Sigma-Aldrich Ltd.) by vortexing at top speed,
325 1 min. Cells were resuspended in pre-warmed R10 media, sonicated at full power
326 (Branson Ultrasonics Corporation) for 1 min and the cell number was then adjusted to
327 5×10^6 bacterial cells/ml (OD_{600nm} of 0.1 = 1×10^7 bacterial cells) for a multiplicity of
328 infection (MOI) of 10 bacilli per alveolar macrophage.

329 For the infection time course, the R10 media was removed from the macrophages
330 and replaced with 1 ml R10 media containing *M. bovis* or *M. tuberculosis* (5×10^6
331 bacilli/ml); parallel non-infected control alveolar macrophages received 1 ml R10 media
332 only. The alveolar macrophages were incubated at 37°C, 5 % CO₂ for times of 2, 6, 24

333 and 48 hours post-infection (hpi). Following completion of the 2 hpi time point, the 2 hpi
334 macrophages were lysed (by adding 250 μ l RLT-1% β -mercaptoethanol buffer per tissue
335 culture plate well) and stored at -80°C , while the media for the 6, 24 and 48 hpi
336 macrophages was replaced with 1 ml fresh R10 media per well and cells were
337 reincubated at 37°C , 5 % CO_2 until required for harvesting. CFU were monitored over
338 the infection time course (Fig.S1).

339 **RNA extraction, RNA-seq library preparation and high-throughput sequencing for**
340 **bovine alveolar macrophage samples**

341 For the current study, 117 strand-specific RNA-seq libraries were prepared. These
342 comprised *M. bovis*-, *M. tuberculosis*- and non-infected samples from each time point
343 (0, 2, 6, 24 and 48 h) across 10 animals (with the exception of one animal that did not
344 yield sufficient alveolar macrophages for *in vitro* infection at the 48 hpi time point). RNA
345 extractions from macrophage lysates included an on-column genomic DNA elimination
346 step (RNeasy[®] Plus Mini kit (Qiagen Ltd)). RNA quantity and quality was assessed using a
347 NanoDrop[™] 1000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) and a Bioanalyzer
348 and an RNA 6000 Nano LabChip kit (Agilent Technologies Ltd). All samples displayed
349 260/280 ratio > 2.0 and RNA integrity numbers > 8.5. 200 ng total RNA from each
350 sample was used for RNA-seq library preparation. Poly(A) mRNA enrichment was
351 performed (Dynabeads[®] mRNA DIRECT[™] Purification Kit (Invitrogen, Life Technologies))
352 and Poly(A)-enriched mRNA was used to prepared individually barcoded strand-specific
353 RNA-seq libraries (ScriptSeq[™] version 2 RNA-Seq Library Preparation Kit (Illumina, San
354 Diego, CA, USA)). The libraries were pooled into three sequencing pools and sequenced

355 across 24 flow cell lanes (Illumina[®] HiSeq2000, Beijing Genomics Institute, Shenzhen,
356 China).

357 **Differential gene expression analysis of bovine alveolar macrophage RNA-sequencing** 358 **data**

359 Computational analyses was performed on a 32-node Compute Server with Linux
360 Ubuntu [version 12.04.2]. Briefly, pooled libraries were deconvoluted, adapter sequence
361 contamination and paired-end reads of poor quality were removed. At each step, read
362 quality was assessed with FastQC [version 0.10.1] (30). Paired-end reads were aligned to
363 the *Bos taurus* reference genome (*B. taurus* UMD3.1.1) with STAR aligner (43). Read
364 counts for each gene were calculated using featureCounts, set to unambiguously assign
365 uniquely aligned paired-end reads in a stranded manner to gene exon annotation (32).
366 Differential gene expression analysis was performed using the edgeR Bioconductor
367 package that was customized to filter out all bovine rRNA genes, genes displaying
368 expression levels below one count per million [CPM] in at least ten individual libraries
369 and identify differentially expressed (DE) genes between all pairs of infection groups
370 within each time point, correcting for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg
371 method with $\text{Log}_2\text{FC} > 1$ and < -1 and an FDR threshold of significance < 0.05 (44, 45).
372 Cellular functions and pathways over-represented in DE gene lists were assessed using
373 the SIGORA R package (46).

374 **Data availability**

375 RNA-seq datasets can be found using accession number PRJEB23469. SWATH MS data
376 and OpenSWATH outputs can be found on PeptideAtlas under identifier PASS00685
377 (<http://www.peptideatlas.org/PASS/PASS00685>).

378

379

380 Results

381 Differential RNA and protein expression between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*

382 For this study, 12 strand-specific RNA-seq libraries were prepared from *M. bovis*
383 AF2122/97 ($n = 6$) and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv ($n = 6$) grown exponentially in Sauton's
384 basal media pH 7.0 (Fig.S2; mapping statistics can be found in Supp_II.csv). An
385 'Identical'/'Variable' gene dataset was constructed where orthologous genes between
386 the two species were separated into those genes whose protein products are of equal
387 length and 100% conserved at the amino acid level (Identical, $n = 2,775$) from those that
388 are not (Variable, $n = 1,224$). (Fig.1A, Supp_I.xlsx). 170 and 146 differentially expressed
389 (DE) Identical genes and 133 and 124 DE Variable genes were identified for *M. bovis* and
390 *M. tuberculosis* respectively, amounting to 573 DE genes in total (Fig.1A, B,
391 Supp_III.xlsx). Twelve SWATH mass spectrometry (MS) datasets were generated from
392 total protein samples harvested from the same cultures as the RNA (Fig.S2, Fig.S4,
393 Supp_III.xlsx). Overall, 2,627 proteins were detected using the *M. tuberculosis* assay
394 library (~70% and ~56% of total Identical and Variable protein, respectively) (Fig.S4,
395 Supp_III.xlsx) (38, 40). Of the 1,937 Identical proteins detected by SWATH MS, 232 and
396 218 proteins were found to be upregulated *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* respectively,
397 totalling 450 DE proteins (Fig.1A, B, Supp_III.xlsx). 133 and 215 Variable proteins were
398 found to be upregulated *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* respectively, amounting to 348 DE
399 Variable proteins in total (50.4%) (Fig.1A, B, Supp_III.xlsx). Overlap of the DE lists for *M.*
400 *bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* revealed 77 and 103 genes that are significantly upregulated

401 in either species at both the RNA and protein level respectively (Fig.1D); the top 20 of
402 these are represented in Fig.1C.

403 Genes encoding Mpt70 and Mpt83 are the top two genes upregulated at the RNA
404 and protein level in *M. bovis*; this is a result of a non-operational anti-SigK protein in *M.*
405 *bovis* leading to constitutive upregulation of the SigK regulon, of which the *mpt83* and
406 *mpt70* genes are components (47). Furthermore, Rv0216/Mb0222, a double hotdog
407 hydratase, is upregulated in *M. bovis* at both the RNA and protein level as previously
408 observed by microarray analysis (27). Amongst the genes upregulated at both the RNA
409 and protein level in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv are: *ppe51*; antitoxin *vapB47*; and nitrate
410 reductase associated genes *narH* and *narG*, previously reported as upregulated at the
411 RNA level in *M. tuberculosis* in comparison to *M. bovis* as a result of a SNP in the
412 promoter region of *narGHJI* (Fig.1C)(25, 26). Incomplete overlap between DE genes at
413 the transcriptional and translational level seen in this study has been reported in other
414 studies and can be attributed to post-transcriptional and post-translational regulation
415 within the cell, but also to more technical aspects, such as differences in detection limits
416 and particular thresholds chosen to define differentially expressed RNA or protein (48-
417 50).

418

419 **Transcription factor enrichment analysis: the PhoP regulon and ESX-1 secretion system**

420 The differential gene expression observed between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*
421 may be a consequence of differences in global transcriptional network regulation

422 between the two species. To address this hypothesis, a formal transcription factor
423 enrichment analysis was performed and revealed the significant association of 16
424 transcription factors with the DE Identical genes between *M. bovis* ($n = 146$) and *M.*
425 *tuberculosis* ($n = 170$) (Fig.1E) (37). The association of transcription factors such as
426 alternate sigma factors SigK and SigF along with cytoplasmic redox sensor WhiB3 with
427 the DE gene lists indicates that disparate expression of virulence-related pathways
428 regulated by these transcription factors between the two pathogens could have
429 significant consequence for infection (47, 51, 52). Furthermore, PhoP, EspR and DosR
430 are also significantly associated with the DE genes; these transcription factors are
431 important for adaptation of *M. tuberculosis* to the intracellular environment and are
432 functionally linked by such processes (Fig.1E) (53, 54).

433 The PhoPR two-component system has a major role in regulating the pathogenic
434 phenotype of *M. tuberculosis* by controlling the expression of a variety of virulence-
435 associated pathways including SL-1, DAT and PAT lipid production and the Type-VII
436 secretion system ESX-1; mutations in the PhoPR system of *M. bovis* have been
437 suggested to play a role in the host specificity between the bovine- and human-adapted
438 mycobacterial species (23, 53, 55-57). Further investigation into the 72-gene regulon of
439 PhoP identified 33 DE genes between the two species and these are presented in Fig.2A.
440 The production of lipids SL-1 and PDIM is under PhoP regulation and is coupled within
441 the *M. tuberculosis* cell; intriguingly *M. bovis* is reported to lack SL-1 in the cell envelope
442 (58-60). In this study, the expression of genes associated with the biosynthesis of SL-1
443 (*e.g. papA1, papA2, pks2, mmpL8*) was at a higher level in *M. tuberculosis* and

444 conversely, genes associated with the biosynthesis of PDIM (*e.g. ppsA-E, lppX*) were
445 expressed at a higher level in *M. bovis* at the RNA and protein level (Fig.S5). SL-1 is one
446 of the most abundant lipids in the mycobacterial outer membrane, is unique to
447 pathogenic mycobacteria, is immunogenic, and is implicated in the alteration of phago-
448 lysosome fusion. Likewise, PDIM is required for mycobacterial virulence, facilitates
449 macrophage invasion and protects against reactive nitrogen species. The differential
450 expression of lipid-associated systems between the two species therefore presents
451 distinct lipid-repertoires to interact with the host that could affect the overall success of
452 infection (61-67).

453 The major antigens ESAT-6 and CFP10 are secreted by the ESX-1 secretion system
454 of *M. tuberculosis*, a system which has been implicated in mycobacterial escape from
455 the phagosome to the cytosol that results in a Type-I interferon response within the
456 infected macrophage (57, 68, 69). PhoP and EspR regulate the expression of ESX-1
457 secretion system-related genes and as stated are significantly associated with the DE
458 genes between the two pathogens; despite EspR being expressed to a higher level in *M.*
459 *tuberculosis* (Supp_III.xlsx), there is a significant upregulation of the ESX-1 secretion
460 system in *M. bovis* in comparison to *M. tuberculosis*, including ESX-1-related proteins
461 such as EsxA, EspA, EspC, EspD at both the transcriptional and translational level (55-57,
462 70, 71) (Fig.2B). Furthermore, PhoP was expressed to a higher level in *M. bovis*; this may
463 represent an attempt at a compensatory mechanism for aberrant PhoP signalling and
464 supports previous reports of suboptimal PhoP signalling in *M. bovis* (23, 59). Seven of 55
465 genes regulated by DosR were expressed higher at the RNA level in *M. tuberculosis*,

466 likely reflecting the intimate relationship of DosR and its associated regulon with that of
467 PhoP/EspR/WhiB3 (Supp_IV.xlsx).

468

469 **A “core” macrophage response common to infection with either species**

470 117 strand-specific RNA-seq libraries were prepared from bovine alveolar
471 infected macrophages that comprised *M. bovis*-, *M. tuberculosis*- and non-infected
472 samples from each time point (0, 2, 6, 24 and 48 hpi) across 10 animals, with the
473 exception of one animal that did not yield sufficient alveolar macrophages for *in vitro*
474 infection at the 48 hour post-infection time point). Matched non-infected macrophage
475 control samples were included for all infection time-points (Fig.S2). Quality control and
476 mapping statistics can be found in Supp_V.csv and Fig.S5.

477 The comparison of *M. bovis*- or *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages with
478 respect to non-infected macrophages revealed a sequential increase in the number of
479 DE genes across the infection time-course, which peaked at 48 hpi and a larger number
480 of DE genes were seen in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages with the exception of 6 hpi
481 (Fig.3A, B, C, Supp_VI.csv); similar temporal expression profiles were previously
482 reported in other *in vitro* bovine and human macrophage infection studies (42, 72-74).
483 Comparison of these DE gene lists identified a subset of genes that displayed the same
484 directionality and a similar magnitude of expression (Fig.4A) (Supp_VII.csv). The
485 association of enriched pathways such as *Cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction*, *NOD-*
486 *like receptor signalling* and *Jak-STAT signalling* with this gene subset suggests a robust

487 “core” macrophage response to infection with either mycobacterial species throughout
488 the time course (Fig.4B). The core response includes numerous key genes known to be
489 involved in the innate immune response against pathogenic mycobacteria such as:
490 *CCL20* (75); *IL18*, which limits the growth of *M. tuberculosis* in human macrophages (76-
491 78); anti-inflammatory *IL10* (79); and *NOS2*, polymorphisms of which are associated with
492 susceptibility of Holstein cattle to bovine TB (80) (Fig.4C). Furthermore, the *HIF-1*
493 signalling pathway was significantly enriched for the DE genes common to both infection
494 series; this pathway is associated with regulating a switch in central glucose metabolism
495 during high-energy demanding events, such as infection, in neutrophils and
496 macrophages (81)(Fig.S6A).

497

498 **DNA sensing and RIG-I like signalling pathways are found in the divergent response to**
499 **infection with *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis***

500 Aside from the defined “core” response genes, there were larger numbers of DE
501 genes in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages in contrast to *M. tuberculosis* infection, mainly
502 at 24 hpi (1,313 versus 904 genes respectively) and 48 hpi (2,271 versus 1,037 genes
503 respectively) (Fig.3A, B). Comparison of the relative change with respect to control
504 between *M. bovis*- and *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages at each time-point
505 revealed a statistically significant divergence in their responses at 48 hpi only associated
506 with DE signatures from 703 genes (Fig.4A, Supp_VIII.csv). Analysis of the expression
507 pattern of 576 of these genes with functional annotation across time revealed a greater
508 magnitude of change in *M. bovis*- infected macrophages, where DE genes are up- or

509 down-regulated to a higher extent in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages or not significantly
510 changing at all in *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages (Fig.5C). Pathway enrichment
511 analysis revealed association of *ABC transporters* with the divergent annotated gene set
512 (Fig.5B); these are involved in cholesterol efflux from the cell, and manipulation of host
513 cell cholesterol transport and metabolism has been documented in *M. tuberculosis*
514 containing macrophages (82). A general dampening in the expression of cholesterol-
515 associated genes was noted in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi (Fig.S6B).
516 Pathway enrichment analysis also associated *Cytosolic DNA-sensing* and *RIG-I-like*
517 *receptor signalling* with the 576 divergent genes (Fig.5C). Type-I interferons have been
518 associated with pathogenesis during *M. tuberculosis* infection and their production has
519 been found dependent on the mycobacterial ESX-1 secretion system and the cytosolic
520 sensing of extracellular *M. tuberculosis* DNA and subsequent cGAS-STING-dependent
521 signalling (83-86).

522 Overall, there is a stronger upregulation of genes encoding proteins involved in
523 *RIG-I-like* and *DNA-sensing* signalling in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages in comparison to
524 *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi. These include genes encoding DNA
525 sensors such as MB21D1/cGAS, MDA5, IFI16, and DDX58/RIG-I, antiviral and MAVS-TBK1
526 interacting protein IFIT3, serine/threonine kinase TBK1, and key interferon-I
527 transcriptional regulators IRF3 and IRF7 that are all known to contribute to STING-
528 dependent induction of type-I interferons (Fig.5D, Fig.6) (87-89). Furthermore, genes
529 *LGP2*, *ISG15* and *TRIM25* that encode regulators of *DDX58/RIGI* gene expression are
530 upregulated in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi (90). Likewise, downstream of

531 RIG-I, genes *IKBKB* and *IKB* are also expressed higher in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages
532 along with *NFKB*, the gene encoding a key transcription factor that regulates the
533 expression of inflammatory-related genes (89). Targets of *NFKB* such as *TNF*, *COX2*,
534 *CXC40*, *MIP1 α* , *IL8*, *IL12* and *IL23 α* are all expressed to a higher degree in *M. bovis*-
535 infected macrophages with respect to *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi
536 (Fig.5D, Fig.6). A low level of reads mapped to the type I interferon genes *IFNAD*
537 (orthologue of human *IFNA1*) and *IFNB1*, and only in a subset of animals at certain time
538 points excluded these genes from DE analysis based on filtering criteria.

539

540 Independent of RIG-I signalling, genes involved in *DNA sensing* such as *TREX1*,
541 which encodes a 3'-5' exonuclease that senses and degrades cytosolic DNA to prevent
542 type I interferon production through the *TBK1/STING/IRF3* pathway, and *OAS2* were
543 also found expressed to a higher level in *M. bovis* containing macrophages (91). *OAS2* is
544 a double stranded RNA binding protein that generates 2'-5'- adenosine oligomers which
545 activate RNase L resulting in the assembly of the *NLRP3* inflammasome and *IL-1 β*
546 production (92, 93); genes *RNASEL*, *NLRP3* and non-canonical activation of the *NLRP3*
547 inflammasome *CASP4* were all found expressed to a higher level in *M. bovis*-infected
548 macrophages 48hpi (94, 95) (Fig.4c, Fig.6). Taken together, these data highlight
549 dissimilarity in the engagement between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* with the nucleic
550 acid sensing system of the bovine macrophage, which in turn would influence
551 downstream immune-related events, and ultimately infection outcome.

552 **Discussion**

553 The data we present here provides significant insight on the molecular basis of
554 host tropism between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* in the bovine host. Determining the
555 differences between the transcriptional and translational profiles of these two hallmark
556 mycobacterial strains highlighted variable expression of virulence-associated pathways
557 while a divergent transcriptional response to infection with either species in bovine
558 alveolar macrophages was observed 48 hpi. The ESX-1 secretion system of *M.*
559 *tuberculosis* is linked to its phagosomal escape during infection, a process that is
560 coupled to the triggering of DNA-sensing pathways in the cytosol of the host cell (83-
561 86). In this study, we found that the ESX-1 secretion system was expressed to a higher
562 level in *M. bovis* and a substantially stronger induction of DNA-sensing related pathways
563 was seen in bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* versus *M. tuberculosis*.
564 These data therefore suggest that *M. bovis* has a distinct engagement with the bovine
565 immune system and might thus be better able to drive phagosome rupture and
566 downstream immune signalling, leading to successful infection and ultimately disease.

567

568 In this study, we have taken advantage of both RNA-seq and SWATH mass
569 spectrometry to compare both the global transcriptional and translational expression
570 profiles of the human and bovine tubercle bacilli for definition of functional variation
571 between the two species that may explain their exhibited host preference. Other
572 studies have assessed in isolation either the transcriptome by microarray or the
573 proteome by shotgun mass spectrometry (27, 28, 96, 97); the resolution afforded by

574 both RNA-seq and SWATH mass spectrometry in comparison to previous studies has
575 allowed for the most complete dataset for *M. bovis* to date and the most complete
576 comparative dataset between the two pathogens. Although conducting a dual RNA-
577 sequencing study may facilitate simultaneous assessment of the transcriptional
578 response of both the host macrophage and invading mycobacteria during infection, this
579 technique is limited with regards to the proportion of the bacterial-to-host
580 transcriptome ratio in the resulting data and it does not allow for the accurate capture
581 of both the global transcriptomic and proteomic dynamics of the mycobacteria during
582 infection (98). As we aimed to investigate the early response of the macrophage to
583 infection with both mycobacterial species, we believe the overall expression profiles
584 measured in this study *in vitro* more realistically represent the bacterial phenotypes first
585 encountered by the host cell. Lastly, we focused on *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis*
586 AF2122/97 as they are widely used reference strains and they have been previously
587 used to demonstrate the attenuation of *M. tuberculosis* in the bovine host (1, 9).

588

589 The relatively small number of DE genes at both the RNA and protein level
590 between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* highlights the close genetic relationship between
591 the two pathogens. That being said, assessment of these DE genes supports our
592 hypothesis that subtle genetic changes between the two species result in divergent
593 phenotypes driven by differential expression of major virulence associated factors and
594 pathways. We found that transcription factors PhoP, WhiB3 and DosR are significantly
595 associated with the DE genes between the two species and these are functionally linked

596 by processes that govern the adaptation of *M. tuberculosis* to the intracellular
597 environment (53, 54). The PhoPR two-component system is important for *M.*
598 *tuberculosis* infection and it has been suggested that mutations in PhoR attenuate
599 animal-adapted *M. bovis* in humans (23, 99-105). PhoP regulates the production of
600 virulence associated cell wall lipids and controls the expression of EspA, an ESX-1
601 secretion pathway related protein involved in the secretion of the major antigen
602 EsxA/ESAT6 (55, 56, 70, 71). We found that the ESX-1 secretion system is expressed to a
603 higher degree at both the RNA and protein level in *M. bovis* in comparison to *M.*
604 *tuberculosis*; differences in ESX-1 secretion system expression between the two
605 pathogens may be a consequence of a SNP in the promoter of the *whiB6* gene in *M.*
606 *tuberculosis* H37Rv or attributed to attenuated PhoPR signalling in *M. bovis* (56). There
607 is an emerging body of evidence showing that *M. tuberculosis* can rupture the
608 phagosome membrane through the action of the ESX-1 secretion system and that the
609 activation of cytosolic DNA-sensing pathways and the production of Type-I interferons is
610 dependent on ESX-1 expression (83-86). Based on our data, we speculate that alternate
611 transcriptional regulation between *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* as a consequence of
612 genetic variation may represent differential priming events in preparation for the initial
613 interactions of both species with their respective host immune systems. For example,
614 increased expression ESX-1 secretion system may facilitate faster escape of *M. bovis*
615 from the phagosome into the cytosol in contrast to *M. tuberculosis*, triggering DNA-
616 sensing pathways and increased type I interferon production (68, 85, 106).

617

618 To determine the impact of pathogen variation on host response, we conducted
619 an experimental infection of primary bovine alveolar macrophages with *M. tuberculosis*
620 and *M. bovis* and tracked the transcriptional response to infection. The bovine alveolar
621 macrophage response to infection with either pathogen was strikingly similar over the
622 first 24 hours of infection. Notably, a “core” macrophage response displayed
623 enrichment for differentially expressed genes involved in pathogen recognition, innate
624 cell signalling, and cytokine and chemokine production illustrating the initiation of host
625 innate defence mechanisms in response to infection with *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*.
626 One of the most striking observations is that divergence in macrophage gene expression
627 profiles between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* infections only occurs after 24 h, with *M.*
628 *bovis* infection eliciting a stronger response in comparison to *M. tuberculosis*. At 48 hpi,
629 enrichment for *DNA sensing* was found for 576 annotated genes that show divergent
630 expression patterns between the two infection models. The innate immune system
631 detects exogenous nucleic acid within the cell through pattern recognition receptors
632 (PRRs) that include Absent in Melanoma 2 (AIM2)-like receptors (ALRs) with Pyrin and
633 HIN domains (PYHIN proteins), *e.g.* IFI16 (107-109). Other DNA-sensing proteins include
634 cytosolic RIG-I-like receptors (RLR), (*e.g.* RIG-I, MDA5, LGP2), exonucleases, synthetases,
635 and cyclic GMP-AMP synthases (*e.g.* TREX1, OAS2 and cGAS) (83, 91, 93, 110, 111). A
636 stronger transcriptional induction of genes associated with cGAS-STING dependent
637 signalling was seen in macrophages infected with *M. bovis* including *MB21D1/cGAS* and
638 downstream effectors *TBK1* and *IRF3* (Fig.6). cGAS has a central role during *M.*
639 *tuberculosis* infection; 48-72 hpi cGAS senses *M. tuberculosis* in the host cell cytosol and

640 in turn signals through STING to drive type-I interferon production (Fig.6) (68, 83-86,
641 112). Surprisingly, the cGAS-STING axis was not the only PRR pathway found
642 upregulated during mycobacterial infection as *RIG-I like signalling* pathway was also
643 observed to be enriched at 48 hpi, with genes encoding TREX1, OAS2, and RLR receptors
644 RIG-I, MDA5 and LGP2 also found expressed to a higher level in *M. bovis*-infected
645 macrophages. As we hypothesised that the variation in host response at 48 hpi, and
646 ultimately host tropism, is driven by differential expression of virulence factors between
647 *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*, the identification of an increase in expression of DNA-
648 sensing related pathways in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi coincides with the
649 differential expression of the ESX-1 secretion system between the two pathogens. A
650 further role for the ESX-1 secretion system in host-pathogen interactions is described
651 through the activation of the host NLRP3 inflammasome and the production of IL-1 β
652 (113-116). Transcriptional signals associated with the NLRP3 inflammasome were higher
653 in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages at 48 hpi along with the increased expression of
654 *CASP4*, an NLRP3 inflammasome activator, which has a central role in mediating the
655 response to *Legionella*, *Yersinia* and *Salmonella* bacterial infection in primary human
656 macrophages and that has been found upregulated in the necrotic granuloma model of
657 mice and lymph nodes of TB patients (92, 117-119). Altogether, these data therefore
658 suggest that not only does mycobacterial infection in the bovine macrophage trigger an
659 increase in the transcription of the cGAS/STING/IRF3 pathway previously characterised
660 as responsible for type-I interferon production during *M. tuberculosis* infection, it also
661 triggers alteration in the transcription of genes encoding auxiliary DNA sensing RLR

662 receptors including RIG-I, MDA5 and TREX1, that likewise converge to signal through the
663 STING complex (Fig.6). Furthermore, the data highlights that *M. bovis* drives a stronger
664 transcriptional response in the aforementioned pathways in the bovine alveolar
665 macrophage at 48 hpi in comparison to *M. tuberculosis*, again highlighting a distinct
666 relationship between the bovine pathogen and the bovine host.

667

668 Altogether, the upregulation of the ESX1 secretion system at both the RNA and
669 protein level in *M. bovis* with the observed upregulation of DNA-sensing pathways and
670 the NLRP3/IL-1b pathway in *M. bovis*-infected macrophages suggests that the
671 expression level of virulence factors, rather than the presence or absence of them
672 between the highly related *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*, drives divergent host
673 responses and influences infection outcome overall. Indeed, the idea of a ‘perfect
674 balance’ with regards to the expression of mycobacterial virulence factors is reflected in
675 the findings that production of IFN- β 1 in monocyte-derived macrophages is strain
676 dependent amongst the *M. tuberculosis* lineages (120). That being said, we cannot
677 disregard that genetic differences between the bovine and human host may play a
678 factor. As the innate immune response in different mammals can vary, diversity in the
679 expression and structure in key innate immune genes and engagement with pathogen
680 factors must play major roles in host specificity and the outcome of pathogen encounter
681 (121). In this regard, it is interesting to note that the bovine PYHIN locus contains only
682 *IFI16* (bovine PYHIN) and cattle are the only mammals to date found to encode a single
683 member of PYHIN protein family; in contrast, humans have four genes, and mice 13

684 genes (122). Furthermore, polymorphisms in *NLRP3* have been found to influence host
685 susceptibility to *M. tuberculosis* infection, its induction is associated with the
686 mycobacterial ESX-1 secretion system, and bovine and human NLRP3 proteins share
687 83% sequence identity (123). Further comparative studies of human and bovine genetics
688 will ultimately aid in unravelling the complex differential host response to infection with
689 both pathogens. Moreover, we cannot overlook other virulence-associated factors
690 besides the ESX-1 secretion system that differ in expression or sequence between
691 *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*. Indeed, antigens MBP83 and MBP70, that show
692 constitutive upregulation in *M. bovis* versus *M. tuberculosis* and pathways such as ESX-3
693 and Mce-1 were also found differentially expressed between the two pathogens at both
694 the transcriptional and translational level during *in vitro* growth in this study
695 (Supp_III.xlsx) (47, 124).

696

697 In conclusion, we found that *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and *M. bovis* AF2122/97
698 induce divergent responses in infected bovine alveolar macrophages, a consequence of
699 the differential expression of key mycobacterial virulence-associated pathways. Our
700 work demonstrates the specificity of mycobacterial host-pathogen interaction and
701 indicates how the subtle interplay between the phenotype of the invading mycobacteria
702 and the subsequent host response may underpin host specificity amongst members of
703 the MTBC.

704

705

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714

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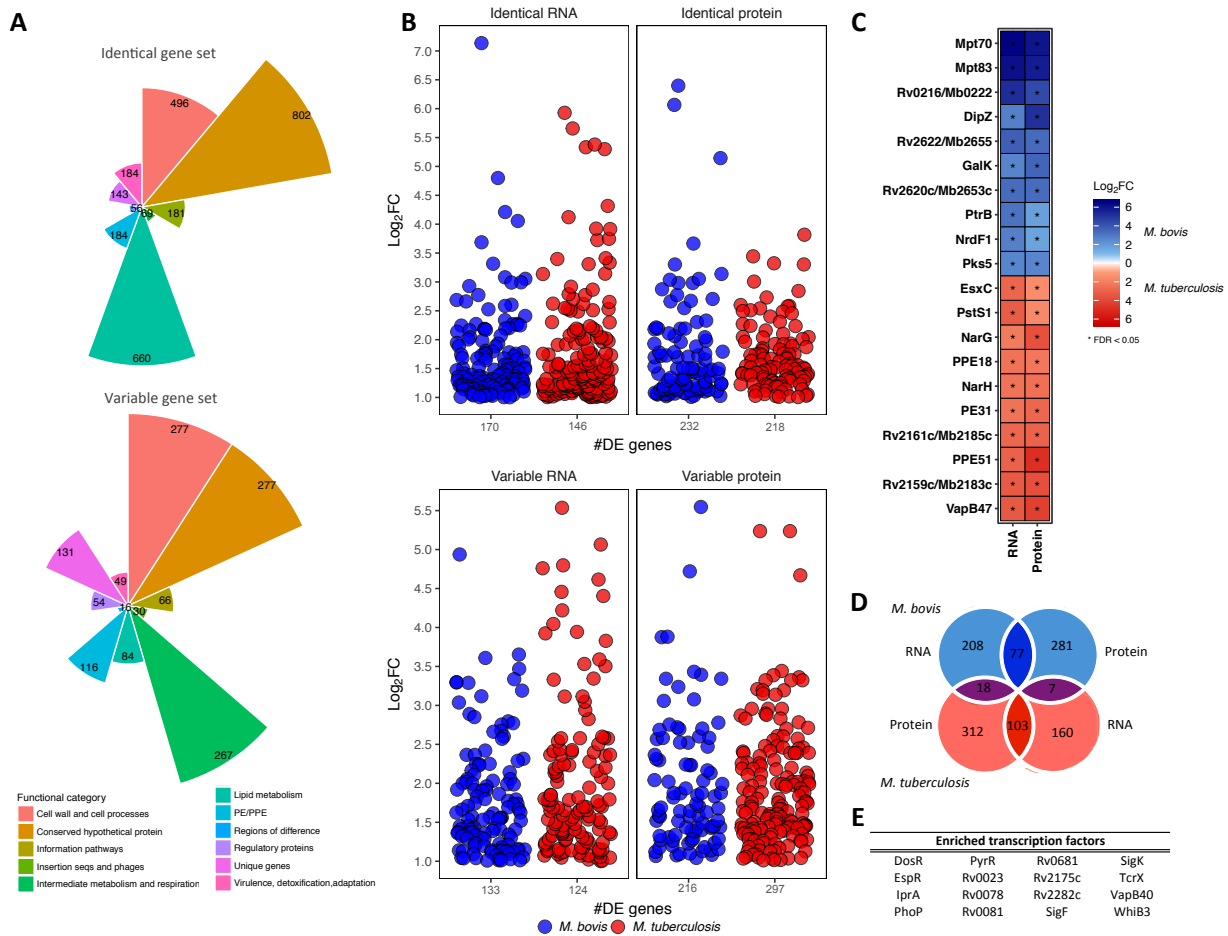


Figure 1: A) The number of genes from *M. bovis* AF2122/97 and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv classified as either “Identical” (100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence, top plot) or Variable (all other orthologous genes, bottom plot). Colours represent the various gene categories to which each gene belongs. **B)** The level of expression (Log_2FC) of Identical genes (top panel) and Variable genes (bottom panel) that are differentially expressed ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, FDR < 0.05) and upregulated in either *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at both the RNA and protein level. The number of genes in each category is indicated on the x-axis (“#DE genes”). **C)** The top 20 differentially expressed genes at the RNA and protein level ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, FDR < 0.05 (**)) that are upregulated in *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red). **D)** The overlap of

genes that are upregulated in either *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at the RNA and protein level. Dark blue overlap represents those genes upregulated in *M. bovis* only, dark red overlap represents those genes upregulated in *M. tuberculosis* while purple overlaps represent those genes that show discordant expression patterns at the RNA and protein level between the two species. **E**) The transcription factors enriched for Identical genes (100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence between the two species) that are differentially expressed between *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*. (Rand Index, $P < 0.01$).

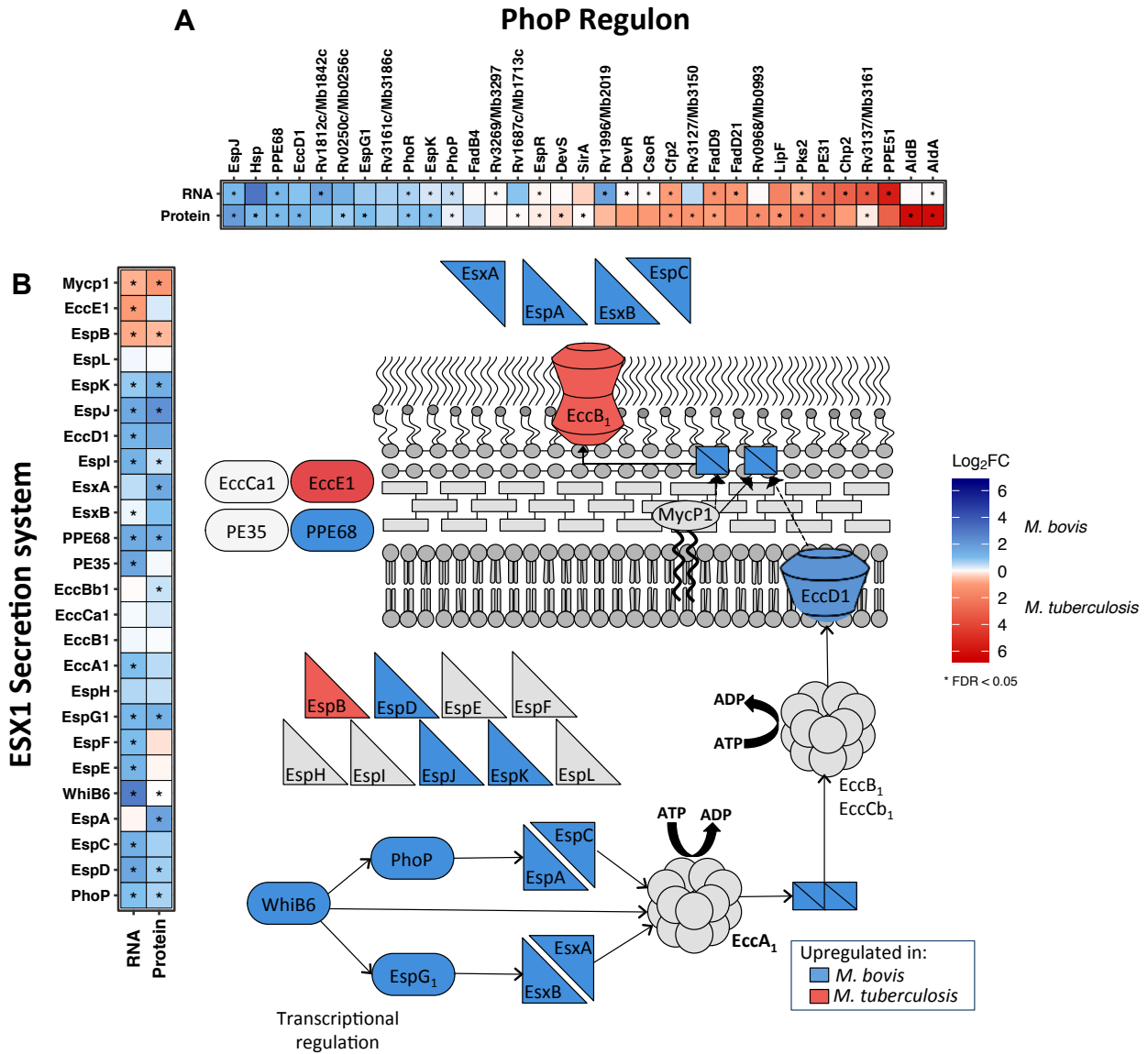


Figure 2: The differentially expressed genes ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, $\text{FDR} < 0.05$ (“*”)) belonging to **A**) the PhoP regulon and **B**) the ESX-1 secretion system that are upregulated in *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red). Inset is a representation of the ESX-1 secretion system pathway of *M. tuberculosis* coloured according to the upregulation of the associated gene in *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red).

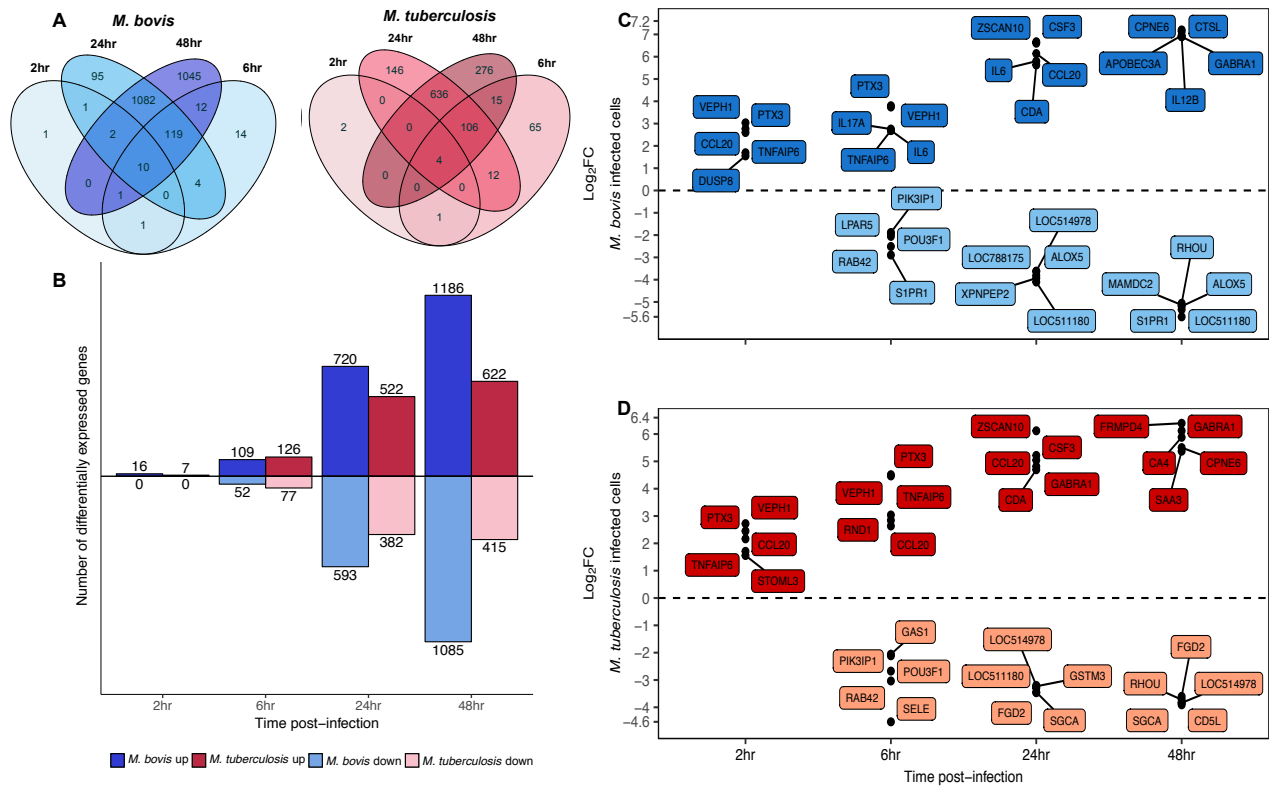


Figure 3: A) The differentially expressed genes ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, $\text{FDR} < 0.05$) of bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at 2, 6, 24 and 48 hours post-infection. **B)** The number (y-axis) and direction of change (up = positive y-space, down = negative y-space) of differentially expressed genes ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, $\text{FDR} < 0.05$) of bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at 2, 6, 24 and 48 hours post-infection (x-axis). **C)** The top 5 upregulated (positive y-space) and 5 downregulated (negative y-space) differentially expressed genes ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, $\text{FDR} < 0.05$) of bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* or **D)** *M. tuberculosis* at 2, 6, 24 and 48 hours post-infection (x-axis).

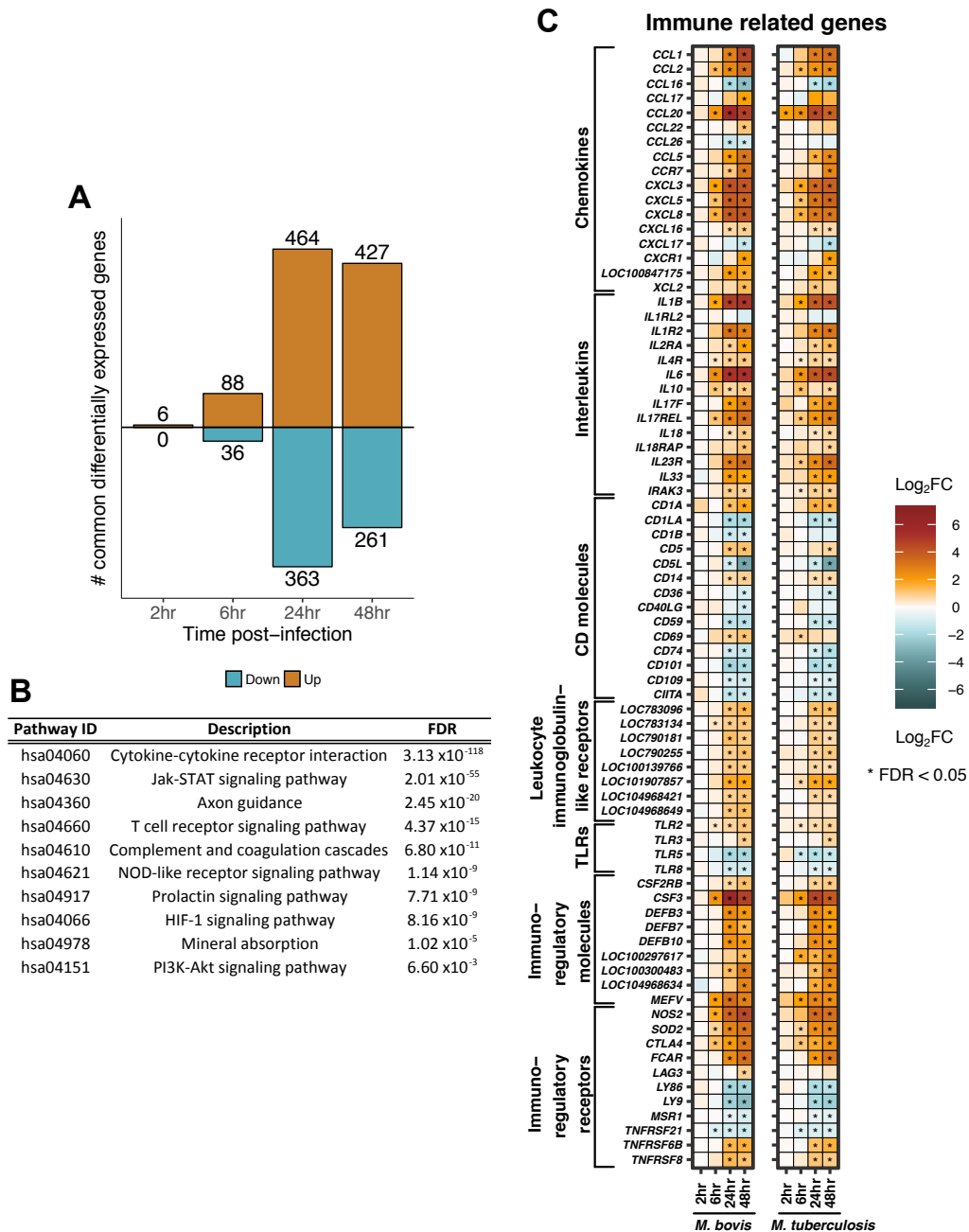
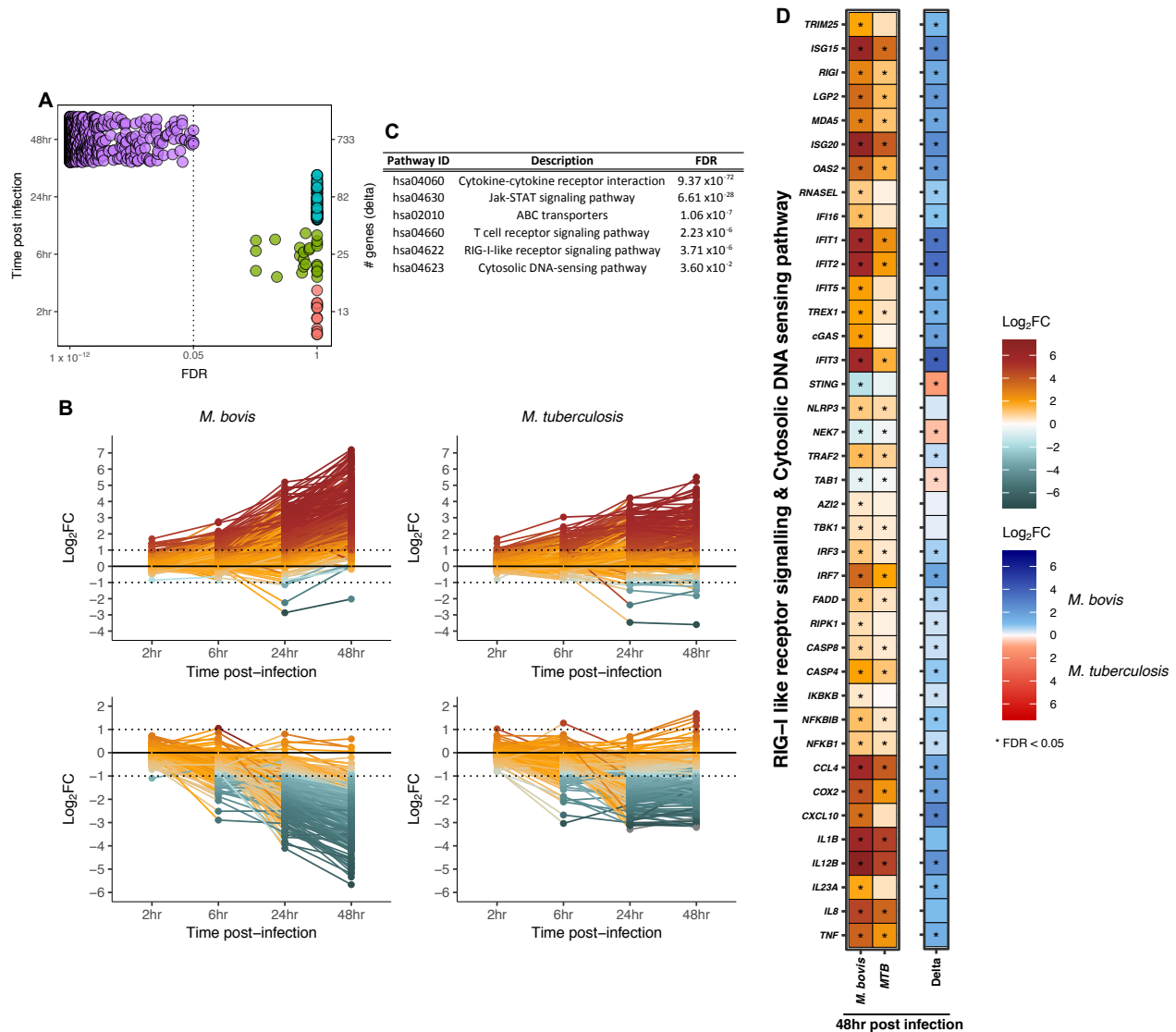


Figure 4: A) The number (y-axis) and direction of change (up = orange, down = cyan) of genes that are commonly differentially expressed (“core response”) ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, FDR < 0.05, with non-significant delta comparison values) in bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* and infected with *M. tuberculosis* at 2, 6, 24 and 48 hours post-infection. **B)** Pathways enriched for 688 genes that are commonly differentially expressed (“core response”) in bovine alveolar

macrophages infected with *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* over the first 24 hours of infection (FDR < 0.05). **C**) Genes that are commonly differentially expressed (“core response”) ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, FDR < 0.05 (**)) and associated with the innate immune response in bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* (left column) or *M. tuberculosis* (right column) over 48 hours post-infection.



respectively) and in a negative manner ($n = 253$) (left and right bottom panel respectively) at 2, 4, 24 and 48 hours post-infection. **C)** Pathways that are enriched for 576 functionally annotated genes that exhibit divergent expression patterns in *M. bovis*- or *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages at 48 hours post-infection (FDR < 0.05). **D)** The differentially expressed genes ($|\text{Log}_2\text{FC}| > 1$, FDR < 0.05) associated with *RIG-I*-like and *DNA sensing signalling* pathways in bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at 48 hours post-infection.

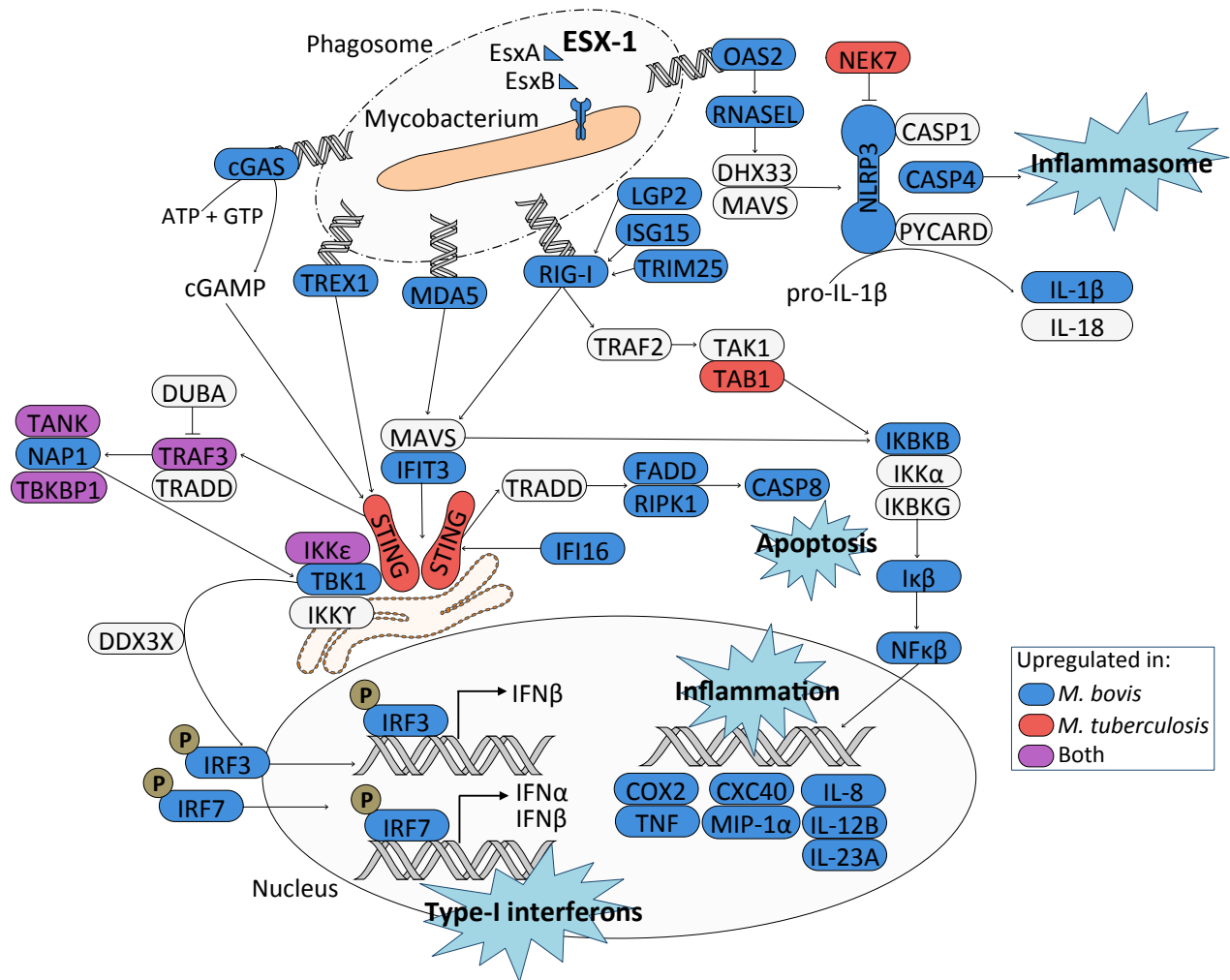


Figure 6: An overview of the DNA sensing and RIG-I signaling identified in this study 48 hours after infection of bovine alveolar macrophages with *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis*. Blue and red represents upregulation of the associated gene in either *M. bovis*- or *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages while purple represents upregulation of the associated gene in both infection models. The ESX-1 secretion system was found upregulated in *M. bovis* in comparison to *M. tuberculosis*.

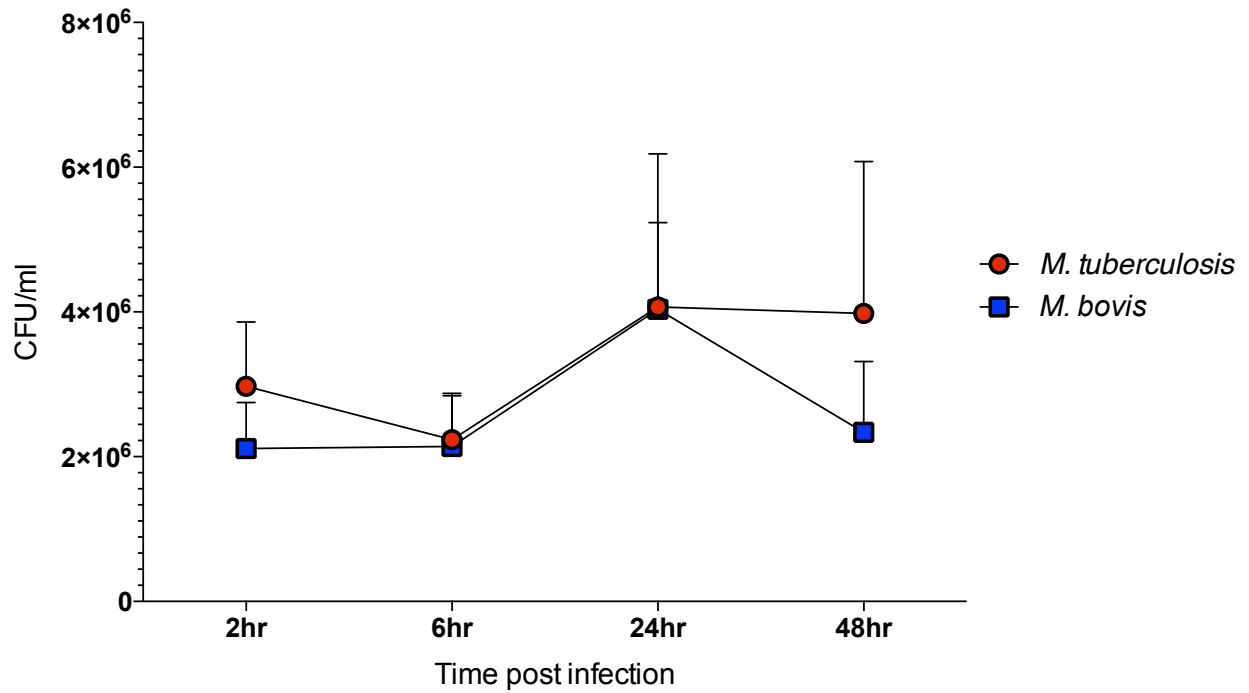


Figure S1: The number of colony forming units ('CFU/ml') recovered from bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* (blue) or *M. tuberculosis* (red) at 2, 6, 24 and 48 hours post-infection. (Error bars represent standard error of the mean, $n = 6$)

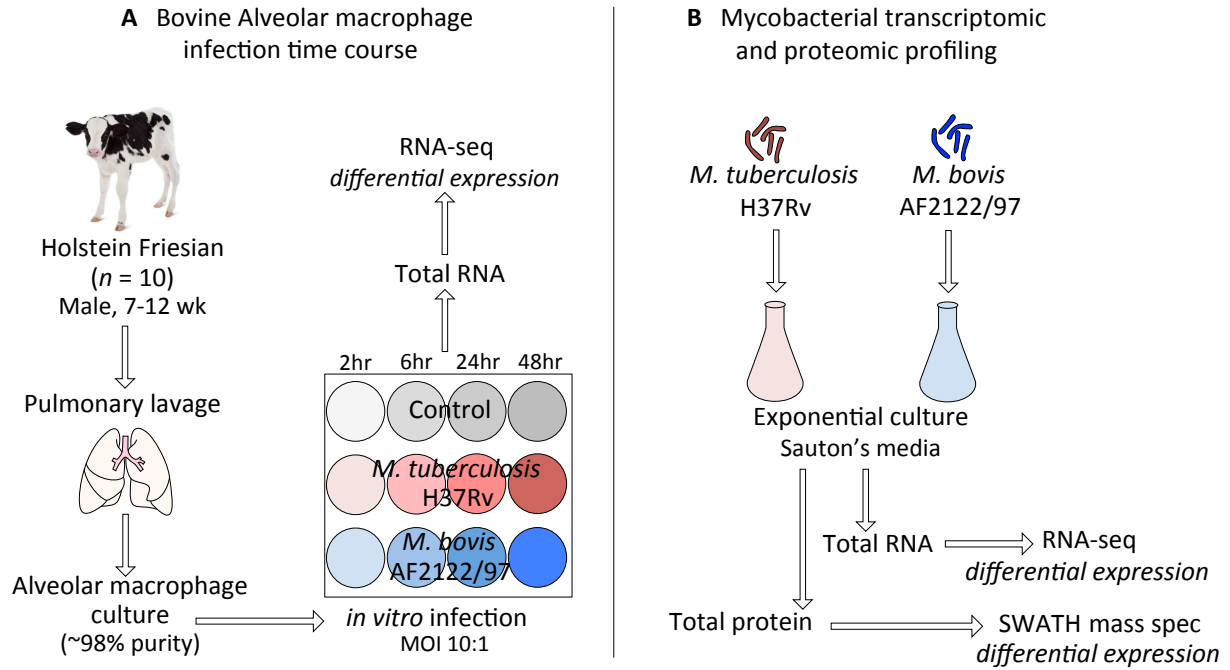


Figure S2: Overview of experimental design for the **A)** bovine alveolar macrophage infection time course and **B)** mycobacterial transcriptomic and proteomic profiling performed for this study.

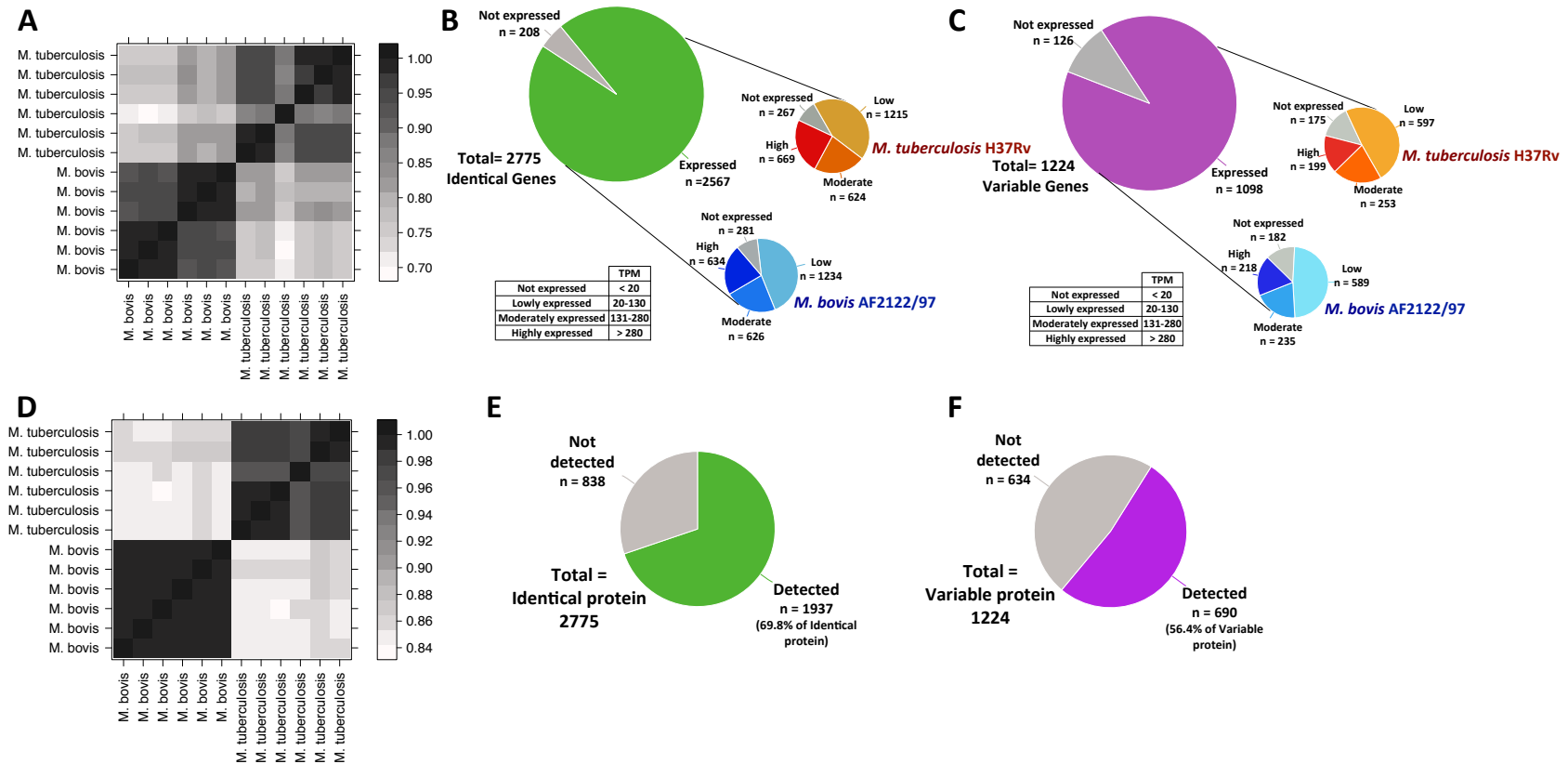


Figure S3: A) Pearson correlation plot of reads mapped to 2,775 Identical genes (100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence between the two species) in the six *M. bovis* and six *M. tuberculosis* RNA-seq datasets. Pie charts representing the proportion of **B)** Identical (100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence between the two species, green) and **C)** Variable genes (< 100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence between the two species, purple) detected and not detected across *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* RNA-seq datasets. RNA expression values (Transcripts per Million (TPM)) were calculated for each gene and gene

expression within either species was categorised into not expressed (<20 TPM), lowly expressed (20-130 TPM), moderately expressed (131-280 TPM) and highly expressed (>280 TPM). **D)** Pearson correlation plot of the intensity values of the 2,627 identified proteins in the six *M. bovis* and six *M. tuberculosis* SWATH MS datasets. Pie charts representing the expression of **E)** 2775 Identical genes (100% conserved in length and amino acid sequence) and **F)** 1224 Variable genes (< 100% conserved in length and amino acid) in *M. bovis* and *M. tuberculosis* detected by SWATH MS.

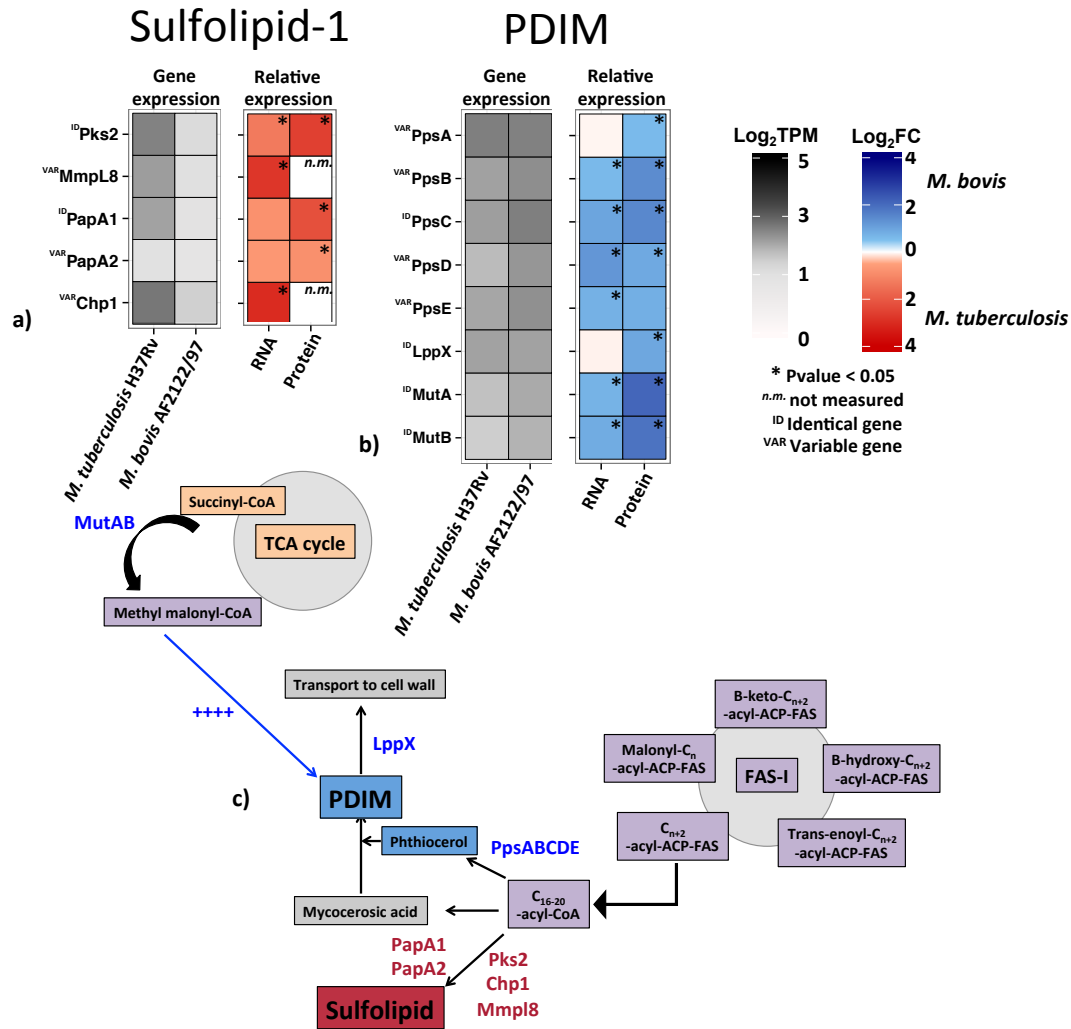


Figure S4: The expression of the **a)** sulfolipid-1 (SL-1) and **b)** phthiocerol dimycoerolate (PDIM) synthesis associated genes at the RNA and protein level in *M. tuberculosis* (red) and *M. bovis* (blue). The expression of each gene (“Gene expression”) is presented as Log₁₀TPM at the RNA level while the relative expression (“Relative expression”) between the two species is presented as log₂FC. Those genes that change significantly at the RNA and protein level (FDR < 0.05) are denoted (“*”). **c)** Diagrammatic overview of the SL-1 and PDIM biosynthesis pathways in *M. tuberculosis*. Blue represents the genes in b) that are upregulated in *M. bovis* in contrast to *M. tuberculosis* and red represents the genes in a) that are upregulated in *M. tuberculosis*.

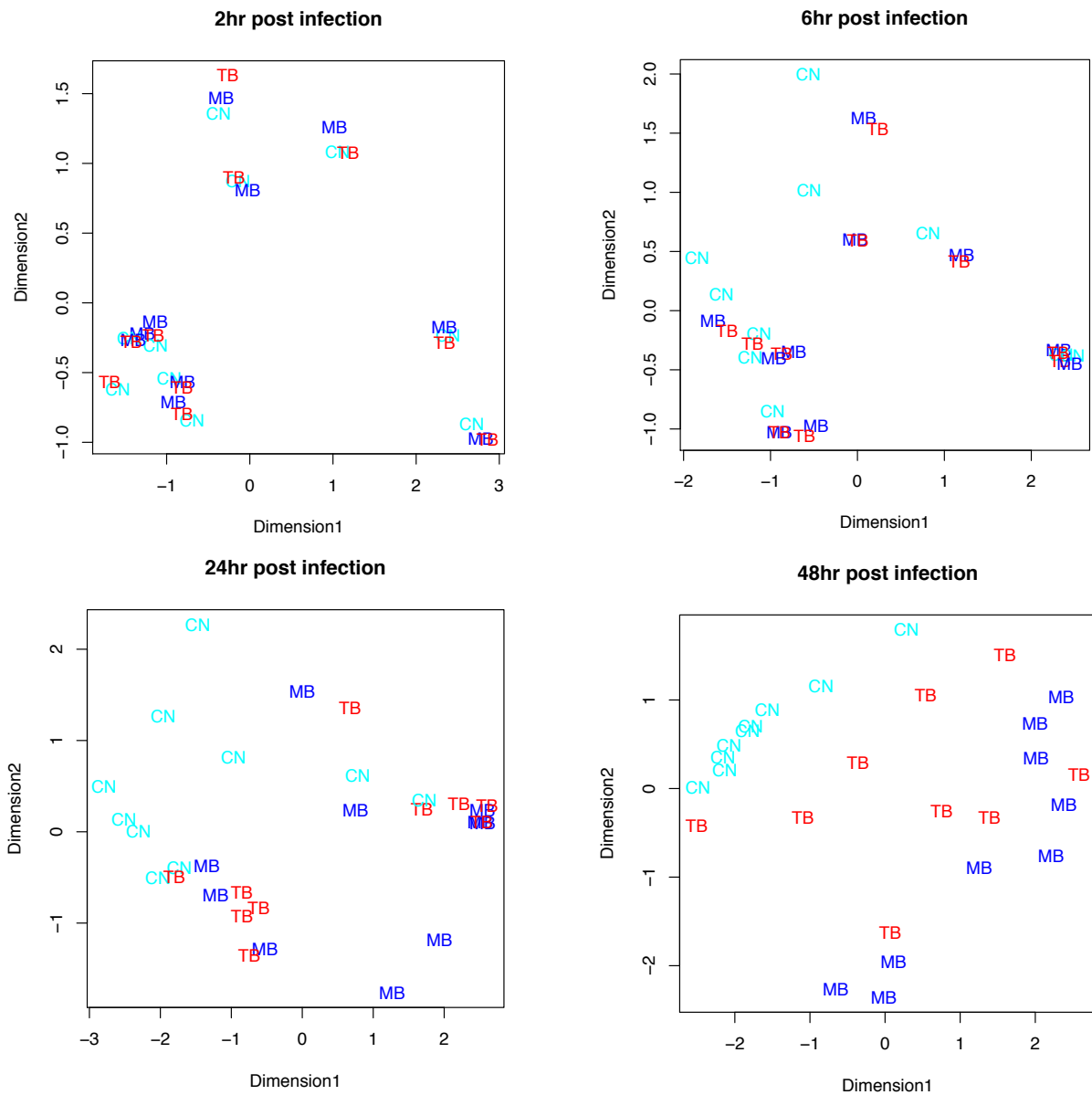


Figure S5: Multidimensional scaling plots of the RNA-seq expression data for individual of bovine alveolar macrophages infected with *M. bovis* ('MB', blue), *M. tuberculosis* ('TB', red) or none ('CN', cyan) at 2, 6, 24 ad 48 hours post-infection.

