

1 **Human neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 require intact Fc effector
2 functions and monocytes for optimal therapeutic protection**

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27 Figures: 6 Supplemental Figures: 6

28 **SUMMARY**

29 SARS-CoV-2 has caused the global COVID-19 pandemic. Although passively delivered
30 neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 show promise in clinical trials, their mechanism of
31 action *in vivo* is incompletely understood. Here, we define correlates of protection of neutralizing
32 human monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) in SARS-CoV-2-infected animals. Whereas Fc effector
33 functions are dispensable when representative neutralizing mAbs are administered as
34 prophylaxis, they are required for optimal protection as therapy. When given after infection,
35 intact mAbs reduce SARS-CoV-2 burden and lung disease in mice and hamsters better than
36 loss-of-function Fc variant mAbs. Fc engagement of neutralizing antibodies mitigates
37 inflammation and improves respiratory mechanics, and transcriptional profiling suggests these
38 phenotypes are associated with diminished innate immune signaling and preserved tissue
39 repair. Immune cell depletions establish that neutralizing mAbs require monocytes for
40 therapeutic efficacy. Thus, potently neutralizing mAbs require Fc effector functions for maximal
41 therapeutic benefit during therapy to modulate protective immune responses and mitigate lung
42 disease.

43 **INTRODUCTION**

44 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the recently
45 emerged RNA virus responsible for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that
46 has led to over 52 million infections and over 1.29 million deaths (Dong et al., 2020). Clinical
47 disease is variable, ranging from asymptomatic infection to multi-organ failure and death. The
48 need for effective countermeasures of COVID-19 is urgent, as only dexamethasone and
49 remdesivir have demonstrated clinical efficacy in specific indications. One promising approach
50 for both the prevention and treatment COVID-19 has been the development of SARS-CoV-2-
51 neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) isolated from the B cells of individuals with recent
52 SARS-CoV-2 infection (Abraham, 2020; Marovich et al., 2020). Multiple neutralizing mAbs
53 directed against the spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 have been identified that target non-
54 overlapping epitopes and show differences in neutralization potency (Alsoussi et al., 2020; Cao
55 et al., 2020; Hansen et al., 2020; Ju et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; Noy-Porat et al., 2020; Pinto et
56 al., 2020; Robbiani et al., 2020; Zost et al., 2020a). The majority of these mAbs bind to the S1
57 subunit, specifically the receptor binding domain (RBD), and inhibit virus attachment to its
58 principal cell surface receptor, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE)2.

59 Prophylactic and therapeutic efficacy of anti-S mAbs has been demonstrated *in vivo* in
60 murine, hamster, and non-human primate models of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis (Alsoussi et al.,
61 2020; Baum et al., 2020; Fagre et al., 2020; Hansen et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2020; Kreye et
62 al., 2020; Rogers et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2020; Zost et al., 2020a), with varying degrees of
63 reduction in viral burden and dampened inflammation of the lung. However, the mechanisms of
64 protection *in vivo* can be due to multiple factors including direct virus neutralization and
65 engagement of complement or Fc gamma receptors (Fc γ Rs) on leukocytes. Fc effector
66 functions of antibodies can promote immune-mediated clearance mechanisms (by antibody-
67 dependent cellular cytotoxicity, antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis, and complement
68 activation), enhance antigen presentation and CD8 $^{+}$ T cell responses, and reshape inflammation

69 through engagement of individual Fc γ Rs on specific hematopoietic cells (Lu et al., 2018). In
70 contrast, under certain circumstances, Fc-Fc γ R interactions can promote antibody-dependent
71 enhancement of virus infection (ADE) (Halstead, 1994) or pathological immune skewing (Bolles
72 et al., 2011; Ruckwardt et al., 2019), which is at least a theoretical concern of antibody-based
73 therapies and vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 (Diamond and Pierson, 2020). Thus, a more
74 thorough understanding of the contribution of Fc effector functions in the context of antibody-
75 based therapies is needed.

76 Here, we use the K18-hACE2 transgenic mouse model of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis
77 (Golden et al., 2020; Winkler et al., 2020) and a Fc region genetic variant form of IgG (LALA-
78 PG) of a potent RBD-binding neutralizing mAb (COV2-2050) that cannot engage Fc γ Rs or
79 complement to define the role of Fc effector functions in antibody protection. We find that Fc
80 effector functions are dispensable when neutralizing mAbs are administered as prophylaxis, but
81 unexpectedly, they are required for optimal protection when given as post-exposure therapy.
82 When administered after SARS-CoV-2 infection, intact but not LALA-PG mAbs reduce viral
83 burden and lung disease. Fc engagement by antibodies decreases immune cell infiltration and
84 levels of inflammatory cytokines, and this activity is linked to improved respiratory mechanics
85 and outcome. RNA sequencing analysis of lung homogenates reveals distinct gene signatures
86 associated with Fc engagement including decreased innate immune signaling and extracellular
87 matrix remodeling but maintained expression of genes that mediate tissue repair. Immune cell
88 depletions showed that neutralizing mAbs require monocytes for therapeutic efficacy. We
89 confirmed these findings in mice with additional RBD-binding neutralizing mAbs (COV2-3025,
90 COV2-2072, and COV2-2381) as well as in hamsters, a second mammalian species, as Fc
91 effector functions of a neutralizing mAb also are required to prevent weight loss, control viral
92 infection, and limit inflammation. Overall, these studies establish that Fc effector functions of

93 neutralizing antibody are necessary for an optimal therapeutic outcome after SARS-CoV-2

94 infection.

95

96 **RESULTS**

97 **Pre-exposure protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection in mice by a neutralizing**
98 **mAb does not require Fc effector functions.** Passive transfer of neutralizing mAbs targeting
99 the S protein confers protection in multiple pre-clinical models of SARS CoV-2 infection
100 (Alsoussi et al., 2020; Baum et al., 2020; Hansen et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2020; Kreye et al.,
101 2020; Rogers et al., 2020; Zost et al., 2020a). However, *in vivo* antiviral efficacy can be due to
102 multiple mechanisms including Fab-dependent direct virus neutralization and Fc-dependent
103 engagement that promotes opsonization of virus, clearance of virally-infected cells, and
104 modulation of innate and adaptive immune responses (Bournazos et al., 2019; Bournazos et al.,
105 2014b; DiLillo et al., 2016; DiLillo et al., 2014; Fox et al., 2019). To evaluate the contribution of
106 Fc effector functions, we introduced loss-of-function LALA-PG (L234A, L235A, and P329G)
107 mutations into the human IgG1 heavy chain of COV2-2050, a previously described neutralizing
108 human mAb that binds the RBD of S and blocks ACE2 binding (Zost et al., 2020a), to abolish
109 antibody Fc interactions with FcγRs and complement proteins (Lo et al., 2017). Intact or LALA-
110 PG variants of COV2-2050 neutralized SARS-CoV-2 equivalently in cell culture (**Fig 1A**), and
111 introduction of the LALA-PG mutation prevented binding to mouse FcγRI and FcγRIV (**Fig 1B**).
112 To test their relative efficacy *in vivo*, we used the K18-hACE2 transgenic mouse model of
113 SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis in which human ACE2 expression is driven by the cytokeratin-18
114 gene promoter (McCray et al., 2007; Winkler et al., 2020). In prophylaxis studies, K18-hACE2
115 transgenic mice received decreasing doses of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG (200 µg (10
116 mg/kg), 40 µg (2 mg/kg), 8 µg (0.4 mg/kg), or 1.6 µg (0.08 mg/kg)) by intraperitoneal injection 16
117 h prior to intranasal inoculation with SARS-CoV-2 (10^3 PFU, strain 2019 n-
118 CoV/USA_WA1/2020). An isotype control human mAb (DENV-2D22) was delivered at a single
119 200 µg dose for comparison. At the time of SARS-CoV-2 challenge, the serum levels of COV2-
120 2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG were equivalent (**Fig 1C**). As expected, lower doses of COV2-

121 2050 resulted in decreasing neutralizing antibody titers in serum at the time of virus inoculation
122 (**Fig 1D**).

123 Effects on SARS-CoV-2-induced weight loss were comparable between COV2-2050 or
124 COV2-2050 LALA-PG at all doses with a loss of protection observed only at the 1.6 µg (0.08
125 mg/kg) dose (**Fig 1E-F**). Levels of COV2-2050 correlated with clinical protection (**Fig 1G-H**),
126 with a minimum serum neutralizing titer (NT₅₀) of 1:104 and concentration of 212 ng/mL required
127 to prevent weight loss in this stringent challenge model. Although weight loss was prevented at
128 a dose of 1.6 µg per animal, a higher 8 µg (0.4 mg/kg) dose was required to reduce viral burden
129 in the lung at 7 days post-infection (dpi) (**Fig 1I**). Levels of COV2-2050 also correlated inversely
130 with SARS-CoV-2 RNA in the lung (**Fig 1J-K**) with a minimum neutralizing titer of 1:381 and
131 mAb serum concentration of 851 ng/mL required to reduce viral infection at 7 dpi. Notably,
132 differences in viral burden were not observed at several different doses of COV2-2050 and
133 COV2-2050 LALA-PG treatment. Importantly, no evidence of antibody-dependent enhancement
134 of clinical disease or viral burden (Lee et al., 2020; Taylor et al., 2015) was detected even when
135 levels were below the protective dose. Thus, the Fc-dependent effector functions of COV2-2050
136 are dispensable for clinical and virological protection in K18-hACE2 transgenic mice when a
137 potently neutralizing antibody is administered as prophylaxis.

138 **Fc effector functions enhance the therapeutic activity of neutralizing antibodies.**

139 Although we did not detect a requirement for Fc effector functions when COV2-2050 was
140 administered as prophylaxis, we re-evaluated this observation in the setting of post-exposure
141 administration. We inoculated K18-hACE2 transgenic mice with SARS-CoV-2 by the intranasal
142 route and then delivered a single 200 µg (10 mg/kg) dose of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-
143 PG mAbs at 1 (D+1) or 2 (D+2) dpi by intraperitoneal injection. Whereas passive transfer of the
144 intact COV2-2050 prevented weight loss compared to isotype control mAb-treated animals, this
145 protection was lost in animals treated with the COV2-2050 LALA-PG variant (**Fig 2A**). The
146 differences in protection were not due to disparate levels of intact COV2-2050 and COV2-2050

147 LALA-PG variants, as equivalent amounts were detected in serum at 0 and 4 dpi (**Fig 2B**).
148 Treatment at 1 dpi with COV2-2050, but not COV2-2050 LALA-PG, reduced SARS-CoV-2 viral
149 RNA levels in the lung at 4 and 8 dpi substantially as measured by qRT-PCR (**Fig 2C-D**). In
150 contrast, D+2 treatment with either intact COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG did not reduce
151 viral RNA levels in the lung when compared to isotype-treated controls. However, COV2-2050
152 and COV2-2050 LALA-PG mAbs both reduced levels of infectious virus in the lung at 4 dpi (**Fig**
153 **2E**). Given the disparity in viral RNA levels, this effect might be due in part to *ex vivo*
154 neutralization after lung tissue homogenization, as reported for other respiratory viruses
155 (Subbarao et al., 2004; Wells et al., 1981). Although D+2 treatment did not reduce viral RNA
156 levels in the lung, K18-hACE2 mice receiving intact COV2-2050 at D+2, but not COV2-2050
157 LALA-PG, showed functional improvement in pulmonary mechanics including inspiratory
158 capacity, respiratory resistance, elastance, tissue damping, and compliance (**Fig 2F**). These
159 results correlated with a smaller downward deflection of the pressure-volume loop and improved
160 lung compliance and distensibility (**Fig 2G**).

161 To corroborate these results, we tested the therapeutic activity of additional neutralizing
162 human mAbs that bind the RBD on the S protein, COV2-3025, COV2-2072, and COV2-2381
163 (Zost et al., 2020b), and compared them to corresponding LALA-PG or LALA variants of each
164 mAb. For COV2-2381, we used a LALA variant of COV2-2381, since this version also is
165 commonly used to minimize Fc effector functions (Hessell et al., 2007; Sapparapu et al., 2016).
166 The LALA form lacks the P329G mutation, which is needed to fully abolish binding to all mouse
167 Fc γ Rs (e.g., mouse Fc γ RII) and prevent complement deposition (Arduin et al., 2015; Lo et al.,
168 2017; Sondermann et al., 2000). COV2-3025, COV2-2072, and COV2-2381 neutralized SARS-
169 CoV-2 equivalently compared to their respective LALA-PG or LALA variants (**Fig 2H, S1A, and**
170 **S1E**) and introduction of the LALA mutation abolished binding to mouse Fc γ RI and Fc γ RIV (**Fig**
171 **S1B**). Administration of intact COV2-3025 at D+1 recapitulated the same pattern of protection

172 observed with COV2-2050 treatment: COV2-3025 LALA-PG failed to protect mice from weight
173 loss or reduce viral titers compared to the intact COV2-3025 (**Fig 2I-J**).

174 In comparison, COV2-2381 LALA partially protected against weight loss, and viral
175 burden was reduced in mice receiving either COV2-2381 or COV2-2381 LALA compared to
176 isotype-treated controls, although we noted a trend towards lower levels of viral RNA in animals
177 receiving the intact COV2-2381 (**Fig S1C-D**). Administration of COV2-2072 LALA-PG at D+1
178 partially protected against SARS-CoV-2-induced weight loss compared to the isotype-treated
179 controls, but failed to reduce viral titers, unlike the intact COV2-2072 (**Fig S1F-G**). The relative
180 differences in therapeutic capacity of COV2-2050 LALA-PG and COV2-3025 LALA-PG
181 compared to COV2-2381 LALA and COV2-2072 LALA-PG antibodies could be due to
182 differential neutralizing activity *in vivo*, disparate affinity for Fc_γR or complement, or because
183 these mAbs, which recognize distinct epitopes on RBD (Zost et al., 2020b), variably engage
184 immune effector molecules based on their orientation of binding to the virion (Renner et al.,
185 2018). Regardless, these results indicate that intact Fc effector functions of neutralizing
186 antibodies are needed for optimal therapeutic activity to mitigate clinical disease caused by
187 SARS-CoV-2 infection. Notwithstanding this point, some antibodies (e.g., COV2-2381 and
188 COV2-2072) might confer therapeutic protection in the absence of Fc effector functions at least
189 at early time points post-infection, possibly due to differences in neutralizing activity *in vivo*.

190 **Fc effector functions of a neutralizing antibody modulate the immune responses**
191 **to SARS-CoV-2 infection.** An excessive pro-inflammatory host response to SARS-CoV-2
192 infection is hypothesized to contribute to pulmonary pathology and severe COVID-19
193 (Giamarellos-Bourboulis et al., 2020). Given that COV2-2050-mediated improvement in
194 pulmonary function was not associated with reduced viral RNA levels in the lung when given at
195 D+2, we speculated that the intact mAb might modulate immune cell and inflammatory
196 responses. Consistent with our previous study (Winkler et al., 2020), analysis of hematoxylin

197 and eosin-stained lung sections from isotype mAb-treated mice at 8 dpi showed perivascular
198 and parenchymal immune cell accumulation with accompanying edema and lung consolidation
199 (**Fig 3A**). Animals receiving COV2-2050 at D+1 showed markedly reduced lung inflammation
200 but this protection was lost in mice receiving COV2-2050 LALA-PG at D+1 or D+2. While COV2-
201 2050 treatment at D+2 did not completely reduce pathology, immune cell infiltration was more
202 focal in nature with patches of normal-appearing airspaces throughout the lung.

203 Measurements of pro-inflammatory cytokine and chemokines in the lung at 8 dpi showed
204 decreased levels of CXCL10, G-CSF, IL-6, IFN- γ , CCL2, CCL3, CCL4, CCL19, and CXCL1
205 following both D+1 and D+2 COV2-2050 treatment, which did not occur in animals receiving
206 COV2-2050 LALA-PG (**Fig 3B and S2**). Cellular analysis of bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid
207 at 4 dpi (**Fig S3**, using the gating scheme of (Misharin et al., 2013)) showed significantly
208 reduced numbers of CD8 $^{+}$ T cells with a trend towards fewer monocytes after administration of
209 intact COV2-2050 at D+1. Differences in BAL fluid cell numbers were not observed at 4 dpi
210 when treatment with COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG was started at D+2 (**Fig 3C**).
211 However, at 8 dpi, we observed a significant reduction in the numbers of CD45 $^{+}$ cells,
212 neutrophils, and CD8 $^{+}$ T cells in mice treated at D+1 with COV2-2050 compared to COV2-2050
213 LALA-PG (**Fig 3D**), consistent with histopathological findings (**Fig 3A**). However, the only
214 difference in immune cell infiltrates in BAL fluid at D+2 was a reduced number of alveolar
215 macrophages in animals receiving COV2-2050 compared to COV2-2050 LALA-PG (**Fig 3D**).
216 Given that viral RNA levels were equivalent in mice receiving COV2-2050 and COV2-2050
217 LALA-PG at D+2 (**Fig 2C and E**) and only small differences in BAL cell number were observed,
218 Fc effector engagement may shape inflammatory immune responses independently of effects
219 on viral burden or the number and type of immune cells recruited.

220 **Distinct transcriptional signatures in the lung after treatment with COV2-2050 or**
221 **COV2-2050 LALA-PG.** To interrogate further the impact of Fc effector functions on protection,
222 we performed RNA sequencing of lung homogenates at 8 dpi in mice receiving an isotype

223 control mAb, COV2-2050, or COV2-2050 LALA-PG mAbs at 1 (D+1) or 2 (D+2) and compared
224 the results to those from samples from naïve mice. Principal component analysis (PCA)
225 revealed distinct transcriptional signatures associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection when
226 compared to mock-infected naïve animals. Treatment with intact COV2-2050 demonstrated a
227 clear transcriptional shift towards the naive group, whereas the profiles from COV2-2050 LALA-
228 PG-treated mice were more similar to isotype control mAb-treated animals (**Fig 4A**). Indeed,
229 only 91 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified when comparing the isotype
230 control mAb to the COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1 group, whereas 2056 and 1975 DEGs were
231 detected when comparing COV2-2050 D+1 to isotype control and COV-2050 LALA-PG D+1,
232 respectively (**Fig 4B**). A similar large number of DEGs was observed in the lungs at 8 dpi from
233 mice treated at D+2 with COV-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG (**Fig 4B**). Gene ontology analysis
234 of the top downregulated genes comparing COV2-2050 to COV2-2050 LALA-PG showed
235 immune gene clusters including cytokine-mediated signaling (e.g., *Il10ra*, *Il15*, *Il17ra*, *Socs1*,
236 *and Jak3*), type I IFN signaling (e.g., *Ifnar2*, *Stat2*, *Ifit1*, *Ifit2*, *Ifit3*, *and Irf7*), and leukocyte
237 chemotaxis (e.g., *Ccl2*, *Cxcl10*, *and Ccl7*) as well as genes involved in cell proliferation (e.g.,
238 *Egfr*, *Fgfr1*, *Fosl1*, *Myc*, *and Cdkn2b*) and metalloproteinase-mediated extracellular matrix
239 organization (e.g., *Adam15*, *Adam19*, *Col1a*, *Mmp14*, *and Itgam*) (**Fig S4 and Table S1**).

240 We next performed CompBio analysis (v2.0, PercayAI), as we did previously (Adamo et
241 al., 2020; Gehrig et al., 2019), to identify biological themes uniquely enriched in the COV2-2050-
242 treated groups compared to the isotype control and COV2-2050 LALA-PG-treated groups (**Fig**
243 **4C, Table S2**). Pathways unique to the COV2-2050 D+1 treatment group compared to the
244 isotype-treated group included genes involved in actinomyosin-associated cell adhesion (e.g.,
245 *Kif1c*, *Ctnnd1*, *Nectin3*, *Unc45b*, *and Prkca*) and Rho GTPase signaling (e.g., *Rhoq*, *Mapk3*,
246 *Prkca*, *and Cdc42bpa*), processes that are typically associated with wound repair programs
247 (Verboon and Parkhurst, 2015) (**Fig 4D**). The expression pattern of these gene sets in the
248 COV2-2050 D+1 treatment was similar to naïve animals, suggesting that the intact antibody

249 limited virus-induced perturbations in transcription. Pathways uniquely downregulated in the
250 COV2-2050 D+1 group included genes involved in type I IFN and NF κ B-dependent signaling
251 (e.g., *Irf7*, *Stat2*, *Nfkb2*, *Bst2*, *Isg15*, and *Ikbk3*), which may in part be due to the lower levels of
252 viral RNA detected (**Fig 2C-D and 4D**).

253 Pathways that were downregulated in the D+2 COV2-2050-treated group compared to
254 the isotype control or D+2 COV2-2050 LALA-PG-treated animals included S100A8-associated
255 innate immune signaling (e.g., *Reg3g*, *Saa3*, *Itgma*, *Mmp8*, and *S100a8*), oncostatin M receptor
256 associated signaling (e.g., *Il6*, *Osmr*, *Csf1*, and *Socs3*), and extracellular matrix remodeling
257 (e.g., *Adamts15*, *Col5a1*, *Vcam1*, and *Lama4*) (**Fig S5, Table S2**). Thus, COV2-2050 treatment
258 at D+2 and the resultant Fc-dependent effector responses may differentially modulate neutrophil
259 activation, gp130 signaling, and tissue damage due to matrix metalloproteinase activation. Of
260 note, we also identified diminished expression of genes involved in immune complex clearance
261 following COV2-2050 versus COV2-2050 LALA-PG administration at D+2, which may reflect a
262 negative feedback loop of this pathway (Daëron and Lesourne, 2006). Collectively, our results
263 with intact COV-2050 suggest that Fc engagement by Fc γ R and/or complement can induce
264 distinct and protective transcriptional programs in the SARS-CoV-2-infected lung depending on
265 the timing of therapy.

266 **Monocytes are required for optimal therapeutic activity of neutralizing mAb.** Fc
267 engagement of Fc γ Rs on innate immune cells including macrophages, monocytes, NK cells,
268 and neutrophils can lead to antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) or phagocytosis
269 (ADCP), modulation of inflammatory mediators produced by these cells, and enhanced adaptive
270 immunity (Bournazos et al., 2020; Lu et al., 2018). To determine which innate immune cells
271 contribute to the antibody-mediated protection observed *in vivo*, we depleted Ly6 $^{\text{hi}}$ classical
272 monocytes (anti-CCR2) (**Fig 5A and S6**), natural killer (NK) cells (anti-NK1.1) (**Fig 5B and S6**),
273 or neutrophils (anti-Ly6G) (**Fig 5C and S6**) in combination with COV2-2050 treatment at D+1.

274 Depletion of neutrophils or NK cells did not affect SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis in the presence of
275 COV2-2050 or the isotype control mAb (**Fig 5B and C**). However, when monocytes were
276 depleted, COV2-2050 failed to prevent the weight loss phenotype seen in non-depleted, COV2-
277 2050-treated mice (**Fig 5A**). Moreover, monocyte depletion in the setting of COV2-2050 therapy
278 was associated with greater immune cell infiltration and lung damage (**Fig 5D**). Indeed,
279 expression of *Ccl2*, *Cxcl10*, and *Il6* were increased following COV2-2050 treatment and
280 monocyte depletion compared to treatment with COV2-2050 or an isotype control mAb (**Fig 5E**).
281 The monocyte depletion phenotype, however, was not associated with changes in viral RNA
282 levels at 8 dpi (**Fig 5F**). This result suggests that monocytes are a key immune cell type that
283 mediates therapeutic antibody-dependent protection through a mechanism that at least is
284 partially independent of viral clearance.

285 **Fc effector functions enhance the therapeutic activity of neutralizing antibodies
286 against SARS-CoV-2 in Syrian hamsters.** To validate the requirement for Fc effector functions
287 in optimal therapeutic antibody protection, we used a golden Syrian hamster model. This animal
288 model supports viral replication with corresponding weight loss and interstitial pneumonia
289 (Rosenke et al., 2020; Sia et al., 2020) and has been used to evaluate mAb-based therapies
290 and vaccines (Liu et al., 2020; Rogers et al., 2020; Tostanoski et al., 2020) against SARS-CoV-
291 2. We inoculated seven-month-old hamsters with SARS-CoV-2 (5×10^5 PFU, 2019 n-
292 CoV/USA_WA1/2020 strain) by the intranasal route and then delivered a single 1 mg (10 mg/kg)
293 dose of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG mAbs at 1 dpi (D+1) by intraperitoneal injection.
294 Consistent with observations in mice, passive transfer of intact COV2-2050 prevented weight
295 loss compared to isotype mAb-treated animals at 5 and 6 dpi, and this protection was lost in
296 animals treated with the COV2-2050 LALA-PG variant (**Fig 6A**). Furthermore, hamsters treated
297 with intact COV2-2050, but not COV2-2050 LALA-PG, showed a reduction in viral RNA levels at
298 6 dpi (**Fig 6B**). The improved viral burden with COV2-2050 was associated with lower levels of
299 the inflammatory mediators *Cxcl10*, *Ccl2*, *Ccl3*, *Ccl5*, and *Ifit3* (**Fig 6C**). Thus, therapeutic

300 efficacy following neutralizing mAb administration also depends on Fc interactions in a second,
301 relevant small animal model.

302

303

304 **DISCUSSION**

305 Neutralizing monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 are a promising option for the
306 treatment of COIVD-19 and have demonstrated therapeutic efficacy in a variety of pre-clinical
307 models (Abraham, 2020; Marovich et al., 2020). Antibody programs have reported encouraging
308 results in clinical trials (Chen et al., 2020), and recently, the FDA granted Emergency Use
309 Authorization to the anti-SARS-CoV-2 S mAb bamlanivimab for newly diagnosed, mild-to-
310 moderately ill, high-risk patients. However, the mechanisms of protection *in vivo* have not been
311 fully investigated and are assumed to be directly related to the neutralizing capacity of the mAb.
312 In this study, we examined the contributions of Fc effector functions for clinical and virological
313 protection in murine and hamster models of SARS-CoV-2 infection and pathogenesis. Whereas
314 intact Fc effector functions were not required when neutralizing mAbs were given as
315 prophylaxis, for several anti-RBD human mAbs tested in mice, a functional Fc region was
316 required for optimal protection as post-exposure therapy. This enhanced therapeutic efficacy of
317 intact COV2-2050 and COV2-3025 compared to their LALA-PG IgG loss-of-function Fc region
318 variants correlated with decreased viral burden, improved pulmonary function, diminished
319 inflammatory responses, and preserved tissue repair processes. In mice, cell depletion studies
320 identified monocytes as a key immune cell type for antibody-dependent clinical protection.

321 Fc effector function interactions were not required when neutralizing mAbs were
322 administered as prophylaxis, suggesting their mechanism of protection in a pre-exposure setting
323 depends largely on the neutralizing capacity of the antibody to prevent initial viral infection and
324 limit dissemination. In the stringent K18-hACE2 transgenic model of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis
325 (Golden et al., 2020; Winkler et al., 2020), we defined minimum serum neutralizing titers (NT₅₀)
326 and concentrations of 1:104 and 212 ng/ml for the prevention of weight loss and 1:381 and 851
327 ng/ml for reduction of viral burden in the lung. Establishing serum correlates of protection for
328 mAb- and vaccine-based therapies in pre-clinical models is an important first step for translation
329 and analysis of human studies. Levels of neutralizing antibody required for protection against

330 disease in humans might be lower due to the slower kinetics of disease pathogenesis and/or a
331 longer half-life of the antibody. Lastly, even at sub-protective doses of intact COV2-2050 (0.08
332 mg/kg), we did not observe evidence of antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of infection or
333 immune enhancement, consistent with other SARS-CoV-2 vaccine and antibody treatment
334 studies (Baum et al., 2020; Cao et al., 2020; Halstead and Katzelnick, 2020; Laczkó et al., 2020;
335 Luo et al., 2018; Qin et al., 2006; Rogers et al., 2020).

336 In contrast to prophylactic administration, Fc effector functions were required for optimal
337 efficacy when neutralizing mAbs were administered as post-exposure therapy. The treatment
338 window to reduce viral RNA levels in the lung in the stringent K18-hACE2 transgenic model was
339 essentially one day, suggesting that antibody therapy optimally should be given prior to the peak
340 of viral replication, which is 2 dpi in this model (Winkler et al., 2020). The narrow therapeutic
341 window for reducing viral load we observed could be related to the stoichiometry of antibody
342 binding required for virus neutralization (Pierson and Diamond, 2015), such that when too much
343 viral antigen is present in the lung, neutralization is limited. Against this hypothesis, infectious
344 virus levels were neutralized and equivalently low at 4 dpi in mice treated with intact or LALA-
345 PG versions of antibodies at 1 or 2 dpi, although it is possible that this effect is due to *ex vivo*
346 neutralization of virus after tissue homogenization (Subbarao et al., 2004; Wells et al., 1981).
347 More likely, the Fc effector functions of neutralizing antibodies serve to clear SARS-CoV-2
348 infected cells either directly by engagement of Fc γ R on myeloid cells and subsequent ADCP or
349 ADCC or through enhanced antigen presentation and induction of antigen-specific CD8 $^{+}$ T cell
350 responses (Bournazos et al., 2020). Although the precise mechanism awaits delineation, our
351 data suggests that in the post-exposure therapeutic setting, the neutralizing activity of most
352 RBD-specific antibodies may no longer be sufficient for optimal protection, and additional
353 mechanisms mediated by Fc effector functions are required. We acknowledge that some anti-
354 RBD mAbs with superior neutralizing activity *in vivo* may confer protection in the absence of Fc
355 effector functions at least at early time points post-infection. However, at later time points, once

356 infection is established and high amounts of viral RNA are produced in the lung, Fc effector
357 functions of even ‘elite’ neutralizing mAbs may be needed for immune modulation and the most
358 favorable clinical outcome.

359 With the lower levels of viral RNA in lungs of mice treated at 1 dpi with COV2-2050 but
360 not COV2-2050 LALA-PG, we also found reduced levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, immune
361 cell infiltration, and expression of genes downstream of type I IFN and NF κ B-dependent
362 signaling pathways. Transcriptional signatures associated with COV2-2050 therapy also
363 included enrichment of gene sets involved in tissue repair processes. This same pattern of
364 expression was observed in naïve mice, suggesting that Fc effector functions of antibodies may
365 limit virus-induced perturbations and maintain certain reparative homeostatic transcriptional
366 programs. Remarkably, administration of neutralizing mAb at 2 dpi still improved clinical
367 outcome and pulmonary function in an Fc-dependent manner without substantive reduction in
368 viral RNA levels. The gene signatures uniquely associated with intact COV2-2050 mAb
369 administration at 2 dpi differed from those at 1 dpi, as they showed reduced expression of
370 genes involved in neutrophil activation, IL-6 signaling, and metalloproteinase-mediated
371 extracellular matrix remodeling pathways. Altogether, these results suggest that at least some
372 neutralizing mAbs protect *in vivo* through multiple Fc-dependent mechanisms including viral
373 clearance and modulation of the immune response to enhance resolution of inflammation.

374 The importance of Fc effector functions for antibody efficacy *in vivo* has been illustrated
375 in other viral models, including HIV, Ebola, West Nile, hepatitis B, chikungunya, and influenza
376 viruses (Bournazos et al., 2020; DiLillo et al., 2016; DiLillo et al., 2014; Fox et al., 2019; Hessell
377 et al., 2007; Li et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Vogt et al., 2011), although the specific cells
378 mediating this protection have been characterized in relatively few cases (Fox et al., 2019; He et
379 al., 2017). Our immune cell depletion studies showed that monocytes, but not neutrophils or NK
380 cells were necessary for mAb-dependent clinical protection and diminished pro-inflammatory
381 cytokine responses following SARS-CoV-2 infection in mice, although monocyte depletion did

382 not affect viral burden. Circulating CCR2⁺ monocytes can differentiate into a different myeloid
383 cell subsets including interstitial macrophages and monocyte-derived dendritic cells following
384 migration into the lung (Jakubzick et al., 2017). The phenotype of these myeloid cells in the lung
385 can vary widely ranging from TNF/iNOS producing DCs (Tip-DCs) (Serbina et al., 2003) to
386 interstitial macrophages involved in tissue repair, and myeloid cell dysregulation has been linked
387 to severe COVID-19 in humans (Schulte-Schrepping et al., 2020). Thus, Fc effector
388 engagement on monocyte-derived cells in the lung may not directly impact viral clearance, but
389 rather limit immunopathology through reprogramming of the inflammatory response. Consistent
390 with this idea, administration of intact COV2-2050 but not COV2-2050 LALA-PG improved
391 clinical outcome and mitigated inflammation without decreasing viral RNA levels in the lung.
392 Notwithstanding these points, it remains to be determined which cell type is responsible for the
393 Fc-effector function dependent reductions in viral burden we observed with treatment at D+1;
394 this could occur through phagocytosis of infected cells by alveolar macrophages or other
395 myeloid cells that do not express CCR2 (He et al., 2017) or enhanced antigen presentation,
396 accelerated priming of CD8⁺ T cells, and cytolysis of virally infected cells (Bournazos et al.,
397 2020). Engineering of the Fc domain sequences to optimize or possibly enhance effector
398 functions (Bournazos et al., 2020; Lazar et al., 2006; Saunders, 2019) could have implications
399 for the therapeutic activity of neutralizing mAbs against SARS-CoV-2.

400 Our results highlight the importance of Fc effector functions of antibody in two animal
401 models of SARS-CoV-2 infection. While LALA-PG mutations abrogate binding to both Fc γ Rs
402 and C1q, it remains unknown which of these effector molecules or particular receptors (e.g.,
403 Fc γ RI, Fc γ RIII, or Fc γ RIV) dominantly associate with loss of anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAb therapeutic
404 activity. Confirmatory studies also are needed in non-human primates, a model that more
405 closely recapitulates human mAb dosing kinetics *in vivo*. Moreover, we used human IgG1 anti-
406 SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in mice and hamsters; Fc γ R expression patterns on immune cells and

407 human IgG-mouse/hamster Fc γ R interactions may not fully recapitulate patterns observed with
408 human IgG, human Fc γ Rs, and human cells (Bournazos et al., 2014a). While transgenic mice
409 expressing human Fc γ Rs exist (Smith et al., 2012), they are not on a congenic C57BL/6
410 background and have not been crossed to the K18-hACE2 transgenic mice. Future studies with
411 human Fc γ R mice, mouse-adapted strains of SARS-CoV-2 (Leist et al., 2020), and additional
412 human anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs may be useful for confirmation of the phenotypes described.

413 The requirement of Fc effector functions for protection by other anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs
414 warrants more study. Indeed, *in vitro* neutralization potency does not uniformly correlate with *in*
415 *vivo* protection (Schäfer et al., 2020). Our studies used neutralizing antibodies that bind the
416 RBD on S and block ACE2 receptor engagement (Zost et al., 2020b). Other neutralizing mAbs
417 against the N-terminal domain or some classes of non-neutralizing mAbs also may require Fc
418 effector functions for therapeutic activity. Even among anti-RBD mAbs, we observed variation,
419 as clinical protection with COV2-2381 and COV2-2072 was only partially Fc-dependent when
420 administered as post-exposure therapy at D+1, yet virological protection was lost with COV2-
421 2072 LALA-PG, but not COV2-2381 LALA administration. This result could be due to
422 differences in epitope binding or neutralization potency between different anti-RBD antibodies or
423 the angle of engagement and accessibility of the Fc region for C1q or Fc γ R binding. In
424 conclusion, our study highlights the contributions of Fc effector functions for therapeutic activity
425 of neutralizing mAbs through reductions in viral burden and/or immunopathology. Accordingly,
426 the design of antibody-based combinations against SARS-CoV-2 likely should optimize both
427 neutralization and Fc effector function activities to enhance the window of treatment and provide
428 the greatest virological and clinical protection.

429

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445

446

447 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

448 P.G., S.J.Z., R.E.S., and R.H.C. designed and generated human antibodies. E.S.W.,
449 A.L.B., and R.E.C. performed mouse experiments and clinical analyses. E.S.W. performed viral
450 burden analysis and performed immune cell processing for flow cytometry. E.S.W. and A.L.B.
451 performed pulmonary mechanics analysis. E.S.W. and J.B.C. performed neutralization analyses
452 J.Y. and R.H. performed RNA sequencing and analysis. H.J., Y.H., J.D.A., and T.M.R.
453 performed hamster experiments. T.L.D. and A.C.M.B. designed and validated reagents for
454 hamster gene expression. M.M. provided anti-CCR2 antibody. J.E.C., T.M.R., A.C.M.B., and
455 M.S.D. obtained funding and supervised research. E.S.W. and M.S.D. wrote the initial draft, with

456 the other authors providing editorial comments.

457

458 **COMPETING FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

459 M.S.D. is a consultant for Inbios, Vir Biotechnology, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Carnival
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463 Eli Lilly and Luna Biologics, is a member of the Scientific Advisory Boards of CompuVax and
464 Meissa Vaccines and is Founder of IDBiologics. The Crowe laboratory at Vanderbilt University
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469 Therapy Biopharma.

470 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

471 **Figure 1. Neutralizing activity is sufficient for prophylactic efficacy of mAbs**
472 **against SARS-CoV-2 infection in K18-hACE2 transgenic mice. (A)** Anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs
473 (COV2-2050 and COV2-2050 LALA-PG) were incubated with 10^2 focus-forming units (FFU) of
474 SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C followed by addition of mAb-virus mixture to Vero E6 cells. Wells
475 containing mAb were compared to wells without mAb to determine relative infection. One
476 experiment of two, with similar results, is shown. The mean of two technical replicates is shown.
477 **(B)** Binding of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG to recombinant mouse Fc γ RI and Fc γ RIV
478 as measured by ELISA (two independent experiments). For **C-J**, eight-week-old female and
479 male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice received 200 μ g, 40 μ g, 8 μ g, or 1.6 μ g of COV2-2050 or
480 COV2-2050 LALA-PG one day prior to intranasal inoculation with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. **(C)**
481 Serum concentrations (ng/mL) of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG at the time of challenge
482 (0 dpi) (mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM); n = 3-4, two experiments). **(D)** Neutralizing
483 titers in serum of indicated groups at 0 dpi as measured by FRNT (mean \pm SEM; n = 6, two
484 experiments). **(E)** Weight change following COV2-2050 administration (mean \pm SEM; n = 4-6,
485 two experiments: two-way ANOVA with Sidak's post-test: ns not significant, * P < 0.05, **** P <
486 0.0001; comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). **(F)** Weight change following
487 COV2-2050 LALA-PG (mean \pm SEM; n = 4-6, two experiments: two-way ANOVA with Sidak's
488 post-test: ns not significant, ** P < 0.01, **** P < 0.0001; comparison to the isotype control mAb-
489 treated group). **(G)** Correlation analyses comparing COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG serum
490 concentrations (day 0 (D0)) plotted against weight change (D+7) (n = 4-6, two experiments;
491 Pearson's correlations: COV2-2050, P = 0.0026; COV2-2050 LALA-PG, P = 0.0006). **(H)**
492 Correlation analyses comparing COV2-2050 neutralizing titers in serum (D0) plotted against
493 weight change (D+7) (n = 6-8, three experiments; Pearson's correlation: COV2-2050, P =
494 0.0008). **(I)** Viral RNA levels at 7 dpi in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 4-6, two

495 experiments: one-way ANOVA with Turkey's post-test: *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$,
496 comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). (J) Correlation analyses comparing
497 COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG serum concentrations (D0) plotted against lung viral titer
498 (D+7) (n = 4-6, two experiments; Pearson's correlation: COV2-2050, $P = 0.0022$; COV2-2050
499 LALA-PG, $P = 0.0095$). (K) Correlation analyses comparing serum neutralizing titers (D0)
500 plotted against lung viral titer (D7) (n = 6-8, two experiments; Pearson's correlation calculation
501 for COV2-2050, $P = 0.0006$).

502 **Figure 2. Fc effector functions enhance the therapeutic activity of a neutralizing**
503 **antibody against SARS-CoV-2 in K18-hACE2 transgenic mice. A-F.** Eight-week-old female
504 and male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice were inoculated by the intranasal route with 10^3 PFU of
505 SARS-CoV-2. At 1 (D+1) or 2 (D+2) dpi, mice were given a single 200 μg dose of COV2-2050
506 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG by intraperitoneal injection. Naïve animals were mock-infected with
507 sterile PBS. (A) Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 8-10, three experiments: two-way ANOVA
508 with Sidak's post-test: * $P < 0.001$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$; comparison to the isotype
509 control mAb-treated group). (B) Serum concentrations (ng/mL) of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050
510 LALA-PG at 4 dpi (mean \pm SEM; n = 8, two experiments). (C-D) Viral RNA levels at 4 and 8 dpi
511 in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 8-10, three experiments: one-way ANOVA with
512 Turkey's post-test: ns not significant, * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$, comparison to
513 the isotype control mAb-treated group). (E) Infectious virus as measured by plaque assay at 4
514 dpi in the lung (n = 8, two experiments). (F) Parameters of respiratory mechanics: inspiratory
515 capacity, resistance, elastance, tissue damping, and quasistatic compliance measured at 8 dpi
516 (n = 3-6, two experiments: two-way ANOVA with Turkey's post-test: ns not significant; * $P <$
517 0.05 , ** $P < 0.01$, comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). (G) Pressure volume
518 loops (n = 3-6, two experiments). (H) Anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs (COV2-3025 and COV2-3025
519 LALA-PG) were incubated with 10^2 FFU of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C followed by addition of

520 mAb-virus mixture to Vero E6 cells. Wells containing mAb were compared to those without mAb
521 to determine relative infection. One experiment of two, with similar results, is shown. The mean
522 of two technical replicates is shown. **I-J.** Eight-week-old male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice were
523 inoculated by the intranasal route with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. At 1 (D+1) dpi, mice were
524 given a single 200 μ g dose of COV2-3025 or COV2-3025 LALA-PG by intraperitoneal injection.
525 (I) Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 6, two experiments: two-way ANOVA with Sidak's post-
526 test: * P < 0.05, **** P < 0.0001; comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). (J) Viral
527 RNA levels at 8 dpi in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 6, two experiments: one-way
528 ANOVA with Turkey's post-test: ns not significant, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001, comparison to the
529 isotype control mAb-treated group).

530 **Figure 3. Fc effector functions of a neutralizing antibody modulate the immune**
531 **responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection.** Eight-week-old female and male K18-hACE2 transgenic
532 mice were inoculated by the intranasal route with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. At 1 (D+1) or 2
533 (D+2) dpi, mice were given a single 200 μ g dose of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG by
534 intraperitoneal injection. (A) Hematoxylin and eosin staining of lung sections at 8 dpi. Images
535 show low- (top; scale bars, 1 mm), medium-power (middle; scale bars, 200 μ m), and high-power
536 (bottom; scale bars, 50 μ m). Representative images from n = 3 per group. (B) Heat-maps of
537 cytokine levels as measured by multiplex platform in lung tissue of SARS-CoV-2-infected mice
538 at 8 dpi. For each cytokine, fold-change was calculated compared to mock-infected animals and
539 log₂(fold-change) was plotted in the corresponding heat-map (three experiments, n = 5 per
540 group except naïve (n = 2), associated statistics are reported in **Figure S2**). C-D. Flow
541 cytometric analysis of immune cells from BAL fluid harvested at (C) 4 and (D) 8 dpi post-SARS-
542 CoV-2 infection (two experiments, n = 4-8 per group; bars represent the mean. One-way
543 ANOVA with Dunnett's test; * P < 0.05; **** P < 0.0001.) Gating scheme shown in **Fig S3**.

544 **Figure 4. Distinct transcriptional signatures in the lung are associated with COV2-**
545 **2050 with intact Fc effector functions.** RNA sequencing analysis from the lung homogenates
546 of naive K18-hACE2 mice or mice infected with SARS-CoV-2 infection at 8 dpi. At 1 (D+1) or 2
547 (D+2) dpi, mice were given a single 200 µg dose of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG by
548 intraperitoneal injection. **(A)** Three-dimensional map from principal component analysis (PCA) of
549 the RNA-seq data in the study. The PCA has been performed using 12,157 unique genes with
550 count per million reads ≥ 1 in at least 5 of the study samples ($n = 31$). Each group is
551 represented by an ellipse and the color-matched solid circle, which is the centroid of each
552 group. The size of the ellipse is the centroid with one standard deviation. The dashed red lines
553 with numbers indicate the spatial distance between centroids of the 6 groups, which is
554 calculated by using the three-dimensional coordinates for the centroids. **(B)** Venn diagrams of
555 overlapping genes identified in differential expression analysis when comparing isotype control,
556 COV2-2050 D+1, and COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1 or isotype control, COV2-2050 D+2, and
557 COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+2. Numbers in the parenthesis under each comparison indicate the
558 number of differentially-expressed genes (fold-change ≥ 2 at $P < 0.05$) followed by the proportion
559 that are up or down-regulated. **(C)** The significantly enriched biological themes defined by a
560 novel pathway analysis tool ‘CompBio’ comparing treatments with isotype control mAb, COV2-
561 2050 (D+1 and D+2), and COV2-2050 LALA-PG (D+1 and D+2). Only those themes enriched in
562 at least two comparisons are displayed. These themes either are upregulated (brown color) or
563 downregulated (blue color) in the COV2-2050-treated group (at D+1 or D+2) when compared to
564 the isotype control or COV2-2050 LALA-PG-treated groups. The scaled color blocks represent
565 the mean fold-change of enriched genes with an enrichment score of 10 or greater in the
566 comparison. **(D)** Heatmaps of selected relevant biological themes (RIG-I/MDA-5 mediated
567 signaling, TNF receptor-associated signaling, actinomyosin cell adhesion, Rho GTPases related
568 signaling) enriched in COV2-2050 D+1 versus isotype control or COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1.

569 Genes shown are common in the pair of comparisons having an enrichment score of 100 or
570 greater.

571 **Figure 5. Monocytes are necessary for protection following mAb therapy. A-D.**

572 Eight-week-old female or male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice received the cell depleting
573 antibodies anti(α)-CCR2 (50 μ g/dose) (**A**), α -NK1.1 (200 μ g/dose) (**B**), or α -Ly6G (250 μ g/dose)
574 (**C**) or corresponding isotype controls at D-1, D+1, D+3, D+5, and D+7 relative to SARS-CoV-2
575 infection. At D0, animals were inoculated by the intranasal route with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2.
576 At 1 (D+1) or 2 (D+2) dpi, mice were administered a single 200 μ g dose of COV2-2050 by
577 intraperitoneal injection. (**A-C**) Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 8-12, 2-3 experiments: two-
578 way ANOVA with Sidak's post-test: * P < 0.001, *** P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001; comparison to
579 the isotype control mAb-treated group). (**D**) Hematoxylin and eosin staining of lung sections at 8
580 dpi. Images show low- (top; scale bars, 1 mm), medium-power (middle; scale bars, 250 μ m), or
581 high-power (bottom; scale bars, 50 μ m). Representative images from n = 3 per group. (**E**) Fold
582 change in gene expression of indicated cytokines and chemokines in lung homogenates as
583 determined by RT-qPCR, normalized to *Gapdh*, and compared to naïve controls (three
584 experiments, n = 8-12 per group, One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test; ** P < 0.01). Dotted
585 lines indicate the mean level of cytokine or chemokine transcript in naïve mice. (**F**) Viral RNA
586 levels at 8 dpi in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 8-12, 2-3 experiments).

587 **Figure 6. Fc effector functions enhance the therapeutic activity of neutralizing
588 antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in Syrian hamsters. A-C** Seven-month-old female Syrian
589 hamsters were inoculated by the intranasal route with 5×10^5 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. At 1 dpi
590 (D+1), hamsters were given a single 1 mg dose of COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG by
591 intraperitoneal injection. (**A**) Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 8-10, two experiments: two-way
592 ANOVA with Sidak's post-test: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01; comparison to the isotype control mAb-
593 treated group). (**B**) Viral RNA levels at 6 dpi in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 8-10,

594 two experiments: one-way ANOVA with Turkey's post-test: ns not significant, * $P < 0.05$,
595 comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). (C) Fold change in gene expression of
596 indicated cytokines and chemokines in lung homogenates as determined by RT-qPCR,
597 normalized to *Rpl18*, and compared to naïve controls (two experiments, n = 8-10 per group,
598 One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$). Dotted lines indicate the mean
599 cytokine or chemokine transcript levels in naïve hamsters.

600

601 **SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE AND TABLE LEGENDS**

602 **Figure S1. Protective effects of COV2-2381 or COV2-2072. Related to Figure 2. (A)**

603 Anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs (COV2-2381 or COV2-2381 LALA) were incubated with 10^2 focus-
604 forming units (FFU) of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C followed by addition of mAb-virus mixture to
605 Vero E6 cells. Wells containing mAb were compared to wells without MAb to determine relative
606 infection. One experiment of two is shown. **(B)** Binding of COV2-2381 and COV2-2381 LALA to
607 recombinant mouse Fc γ RI and Fc γ RIV as measured by ELISA (two experiments). For **C-D**,
608 eight-week-old male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice were inoculated by the intranasal route with
609 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. At 1 dpi (D+1), mice were given a single 200 μ g dose of COV2-2381
610 or COV2-2381 LALA by intraperitoneal injection. **(C)** Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 7-8, two
611 experiments: two-way ANOVA with Sidak's post-test: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, **** P < 0.0001;
612 comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group). **(D)** Viral RNA levels at 8 dpi in the lung
613 as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 8, two experiments, one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test; ****
614 P < 0.0001). **(E)** Anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAbs (COV2-2072 or COV2-2072 LALA-PG) were
615 incubated with 10^2 FFU of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C followed by addition of mAb-virus
616 mixture to Vero E6 cells. One experiment of two, with similar results, is shown. The mean of two
617 technical replicates is shown. **F-G.** Eight-week-old male K18-hACE2 transgenic mice were
618 inoculated by the intranasal route with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. At 1 (D+1) dpi, mice were
619 given a single 200 μ g dose of COV2-2072 or COV2-2072 LALA-PG by intraperitoneal injection.
620 **(F)** Weight change (mean \pm SEM; n = 6, two experiments: two-way ANOVA with Sidak's post-
621 test: * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001; comparison to the isotype control
622 mAb-treated group). **(G)** Viral RNA levels at 8 dpi in the lung as determined by qRT-PCR (n = 6,
623 two experiments: one-way ANOVA with Turkey's post-test: ns not significant, * P < 0.05, *** P <
624 0.001, **** P < 0.0001, comparison to the isotype control mAb-treated group).

625 **Figure S2. Cytokine induction following SARS-CoV-2 infection. Related to Figure**
626 **3.** Cytokine levels as measured by multiplex platform in the lungs of SARS-CoV-2 infected mice
627 at 8 dpi following isotype, COV2-2050, or COV2-2050 LALA-PG treatment at 1 dpi (D+1) or 2
628 dpi (D+2) (three experiments, n = 5 per group. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test; * P < 0.05;
629 ** P < 0.01; *** P < 0.001.) Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared to the isotype-
630 control mAb-treated group.

631 **Figure S3. Flow cytometric gating strategy for BAL analysis. Related to Figure 3.**
632 For BAL staining, cells were gated to live, single, autofluorescent-negative CD45⁺ cells to
633 identify hematopoietic cells. Alveolar macrophages were identified as SiglecF^{hi} CD11c^{hi} cells.
634 Neutrophils were identified as Ly6G^{hi} CD11b^{hi} cells. CD11b⁻ cells were gated further into CD4⁺
635 and CD8⁺ T cells. CD11b^{hi}Ly6G⁻ cells were gated subsequently using CD64, CD24, and MHC-II.
636 MHCII^{hi} CD24^{hi} were defined as CD11b⁺ DCs. MHCII^{lo} Ly6^{hi} cells were defined as monocytes.

637 **Figure S4. Gene ontology analysis of RNAseq data. Related to Figure 4. A-C.** RNA
638 sequencing analysis from the lung homogenates of naive K18-hACE2 mice or mice inoculated
639 with SARS-CoV-2 at 8 dpi. At 1 (D+1) or 2 (D+2) dpi, mice were given a single 200 µg dose of
640 COV2-2050 or COV2-2050 LALA-PG by intraperitoneal injection. (**A-B**) Gene Ontology (GO)
641 Enrichment Analysis of biological process terms enriched in down-regulated genes from
642 comparisons of isotype control, COV2-2050, and COV2-2050 LALA-PG when given at D+1 (**A**)
643 or isotype control, COV2-2050, and COV2-2050 LALA-PG when given at D+2 (**B**). Terms were
644 ranked by the false discovery rate (q-value), and the top 20 are listed after eliminating
645 redundant terms. (**C**) Heat maps of significantly downregulated gene sets corresponding with
646 intact COV2-2050 treatment identified through GO analysis. Genes shown in each pathway are
647 the union of the differentially expressed genes (DEGs) from the five comparisons (isotype
648 control, COV2-2050 D+1, COV2-2050 D+2, COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1, or COV2-2050 LALA-
649 PG D+2 versus mock-infected). Columns represent samples and rows represent genes. Gene

650 expression levels in the heat maps are z score-normalized values determined from log2cpm
651 values.

652 **Figure S5. CompBio Analysis comparing COV2-2050 D+2, Isotype control, and**
653 **COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+2. Related to Figure 4.** Heatmaps of selected relevant biological
654 themes enriched in COV2-2050 D+2 versus isotype control and COV2- LALA-PG D+2. Genes
655 shown are common in the pair of comparisons with an enrichment score of 100 or greater in
656 either of the paired comparisons.

657 **Figure S6. Confirmation of cellular depletions. Related to Figure 5. A.**
658 Representative flow cytometry plots of monocytes and neutrophils from peripheral blood at 8 dpi
659 following intraperitoneal injection of a depleting anti-CCR2 mAb or isotype control mAb. **B.**
660 Frequency of Ly6C^{hi} monocytes and neutrophils in blood at 8 dpi following anti-CCR2 or isotype
661 control mAb administration in isotype control or COV2-2050-treated mice (two experiments, n
662 = 6 per group). **C.** Representative flow cytometry plots of peripheral blood at 8 dpi following
663 intraperitoneal injection of a depleting anti-Ly6G mAb or isotype control mAb. **D.** Frequency of
664 Ly6C^{hi} monocytes and neutrophils in blood at 8 dpi following anti-Ly6G or isotype control mAb
665 administration in isotype control or COV2-2050-treated mice (two experiments, n = 5-6 per
666 group). **E.** Representative flow cytometry plots of peripheral blood at 8 dpi following
667 intraperitoneal injection of a depleting anti-NK1.1 mAb or isotype control mAb. **D.** Frequency of
668 NK cells in blood at 8 dpi following anti-NK1.1 or isotype control mAb administration in isotype
669 control or COV2-2050-treated mice (two experiments, n = 4-5 per group).

670 **Table S1. Related to Figure 4. Gene lists associated with GO analysis.** Lists of
671 up-regulated and down-regulated genes comparing Isotype control mAb versus COV2-
672 2050 D+1, COV2-2050 D+1 versus COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1, Isotype control mAb
673 versus COV2-2050 D+2, and COV2-2050 D+2 versus COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+2 in the
674 top pathways identified through Gene Ontology analysis. Associated q-value and fold-
675 change values are shown.

676 **Table S2. Related to Figure 4. Gene lists associated with CompBio analysis.**

677 Lists of up-regulated and down-regulated genes comparing Isotype control mAb versus
678 COV2-2050 D+1, COV2-2050 D+1 versus COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+1, Isotype control
679 mAb versus COV2-2050 D+2, and COV2-2050 D+2 versus COV2-2050 LALA-PG D+2 in
680 the top pathways identified through CompBio analysis. Associated q-value and fold-
681 change values are shown.

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684

685 **STAR METHODS**

686 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

687 **Lead Contact.** Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be
688 directed to the Lead Contact, Michael S. Diamond (diamond@wusm.wustl.edu).

689 **Materials Availability.** All requests for resources and reagents should be directed to the
690 Lead Contact author. This includes mice, antibodies, viruses, and proteins. All reagents will be
691 made available on request after completion of a Materials Transfer Agreement.

692 **Data and code availability.** All data supporting the findings of this study are available
693 within the paper and are available from the corresponding author upon request. RNA
694 sequencing datasets have been uploaded and are available at GSE161615.

695

696 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

697 **Cells and viruses.** Vero E6 (CRL-1586, American Type Culture Collection (ATCC),
698 Vero CCL81 (ATCC), and Vero-furin cells (Mukherjee et al., 2016) were cultured at 37°C in
699 Dulbecco's Modified Eagle medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS),
700 10 mM HEPES pH 7.3, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 1× non-essential amino acids, and 100 U/ml of
701 penicillin–streptomycin. The 2019n-CoV/USA_WA1/2019 isolate of SARS-CoV-2 was obtained
702 from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Infectious stocks were propagated by
703 inoculating Vero CCL81 cells and collecting supernatant upon observation of cytopathic effect;
704 debris was removed by centrifugation and passage through a 0.22 µm filter. Supernatant was
705 aliquoted and stored at -80°C. All work with infectious SARS-CoV-2 was performed in
706 Institutional Biosafety Committee approved BSL3 and A-BSL3 facilities at Washington
707 University School of Medicine using appropriate positive pressure air respirators and protective
708 equipment.

709 **Antibodies.** The human antibodies studied in this paper were isolated from blood
710 samples from two individuals in North America with previous laboratory-confirmed symptomatic

711 SARS-CoV-2 infection that was acquired in China. The original clinical studies to obtain
712 specimens after written informed consent were previously described (Zost et al., 2020b) and
713 had been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Vanderbilt University Medical Center,
714 the Institutional Review Board of the University of Washington and the Research Ethics Board
715 of the University of Toronto.

716 **Mouse experiments.** Animal studies were carried out in accordance with the
717 recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the National
718 Institutes of Health. The protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use
719 Committee at the Washington University School of Medicine (assurance number A3381–01).
720 Virus inoculations were performed under anesthesia that was induced and maintained with
721 ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine, and all efforts were made to minimize animal suffering.

722 Heterozygous K18-hACE c57BL/6J mice (strain: 2B6.Cg-Tg(K18-ACE2)2PrImn/J) were
723 obtained from The Jackson Laboratory. Animals were housed in groups and fed standard chow
724 diets. Eight- to nine-week-old mice of both sexes were administered 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2
725 by intranasal administration.

726 **Hamster experiments.** Seven-month-old female Syrian hamsters were purchased from
727 Charles River Laboratories and housed in microisolator units. All hamsters were allowed free
728 access to food and water and cared for under United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
729 guidelines for laboratory animals. Hamsters were administered with 5×10^5 PFU of SARS-CoV-
730 2 (2019-nCoV/USA-WA1/2020) by the intranasal route in a final volume of 100 μ L. One day
731 later, hamsters were administered by intraperitoneal injection COV2-2050, COV2-2050 LALA-
732 PG, or isotype control (10 mg/kg). All hamsters were monitored for body weight loss until
733 humanely euthanized at 6 dpi. All procedures were approved by the University of Georgia
734 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC number A2020 04-024-Y1-A4). Virus
735 inoculations and antibody transfers were performed under anesthesia that was induced and
736 maintained with 5% isoflurane. All efforts were made to minimize animal suffering.

737

738 **METHOD DETAILS**

739 **MAb production and purification.** COV2-2050, COV2-2381, COV2-2072, and COV2-
740 3025 were isolated from a B cell from a SARS-CoV-2 convalescent patient and described
741 previously (Zost et al., 2020a; Zost et al., 2020b). mAb 2D22 was described previously
742 (Fibriansah et al., 2015). Sequences of mAbs that had been synthesized (Twist Bioscience) and
743 cloned into an IgG1 monocistronic expression vector (designated as pTwist-mCis_G1) or IgG1
744 monocistronic expression vector containing L234A, L235A, and P329G mutations in the Fc
745 region of the heavy chain (designated as pTwist-mCis_LALA-PG) were used for mAb secretion
746 in mammalian cell culture. This vector contains an enhanced 2A sequence and GSG linker that
747 allows the simultaneous expression of mAb heavy and light chain genes from a single construct
748 upon transfection (Chng et al., 2015). mAb proteins were produced after transient transfection
749 using the Gibco ExpiCHO Expression System (ThermoFisher Scientific) following the
750 manufacturer's protocol. Culture supernatants were purified using HiTrap MabSelect SuRe
751 columns (Cytiva, formerly GE Healthcare Life Sciences) on an AKTA Pure chromatographer
752 (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). Purified mAbs were buffer-exchanged into PBS, concentrated
753 using Amicon Ultra-4 50-kDa centrifugal filter units (Millipore Sigma) and stored at -80 °C until
754 use. Purified mAbs were tested routinely for endotoxin levels (found to be less than 30 EU per
755 mg IgG). Endotoxin testing was performed using the PTS201F cartridge (Charles River), with a
756 sensitivity range from 10 to 0.1 EU per ml, and an Endosafe Nexgen-MCS instrument (Charles
757 River). Chinese hamster ovary cell expressed recombinant forms of COV2-2381 IgG1 or COV2-
758 2381 IgG1 containing L234A, L235A mutations in the Fc region of the heavy chain (COV2-2381-
759 LALA) were kindly provided by Ron Cobb, Ology Bioservices and Chris Earnhart, U.S. Joint
760 Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense.

761 **Plaque forming assay.** Vero-furin cells (Mukherjee et al., 2016) were seeded at a
762 density of 2.5×10^5 cells per well in flat-bottom 12-well tissue culture plates. The following day,

763 medium was removed and replaced with 200 µL of 10-fold serial dilutions of the material to be
764 titered, diluted in DMEM+2% FBS. One hours later, 1 mL of methylcellulose overlay was added.
765 Plates were incubated for 72 h, then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (final concentration) in
766 phosphate-buffered saline for 20 min. Plates were stained with 0.05% (w/v) crystal violet in 20%
767 methanol and washed twice with distilled, deionized water.

768 **Measurement of viral burden.** Tissues were weighed and homogenized with zirconia
769 beads in a MagNA Lyser instrument (Roche Life Science) in 1000 µL of DMEM media
770 supplemented with 2% heat-inactivated FBS. Tissue homogenates were clarified by
771 centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 5 min and stored at -80°C. RNA was extracted using the
772 MagMax mirVana Total RNA isolation kit (Thermo Scientific) on the Kingfisher Flex extraction
773 robot (Thermo Scientific). RNA was reverse transcribed and amplified using the TaqMan RNA-
774 to-CT 1-Step Kit (ThermoFisher). Reverse transcription was carried out at 48°C for 15 min
775 followed by 2 min at 95°C. Amplification was accomplished over 50 cycles as follows: 95°C for
776 15 s and 60°C for 1 min. Copies of SARS-CoV-2 N gene RNA in samples were determined
777 using a previously published assay (Case et al., 2020). Briefly, a TaqMan assay was designed
778 to target a highly conserved region of the N gene (Forward primer:
779 ATGCTGCAATCGTGCTACAA; Reverse primer: GACTGCCGCCTCTGCTC; Probe: /56-
780 FAM/TCAAGGAAC/ZEN/AACATTGCCAA/3IABkFQ/). This region was included in an RNA
781 standard to allow for copy number determination down to 10 copies per reaction. The reaction
782 mixture contained final concentrations of primers and probe of 500 and 100 nM, respectively.

783 **Cytokine and chemokine mRNA measurements.** RNA was isolated from lung
784 homogenates as described above. cDNA was synthesized from DNase-treated RNA using the
785 High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription kit (Thermo Scientific) with the addition of RNase
786 inhibitor following the manufacturer's protocol. Mouse cytokine and chemokine expression was
787 determined using TaqMan Fast Universal PCR master mix (Thermo Scientific) with commercial
788 primers/probe sets specific for *IFN-g* (IDT: Mm.PT.58.41769240), *IL-6* (Mm.PT.58.10005566),

789 CXCL10 (Mm.PT.58.43575827), CCL2 (Mm.PT.58.42151692), and results were normalized to
790 GAPDH (Mm.PT.39a.1) levels. Fold change was determined using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method comparing
791 treated mice to naïve controls. Hamster cytokine and chemokine expression was determined
792 using TaqMan Fast Universal PCR master mix (Thermo Scientific) with primers/probe sets
793 specific for *Rpl18* (For: GTTTATGAGTCGCACTAACCG, Rev: TGTTCTCTGGCCAGGAA,
794 Probe: YAK-TCTGTCCCTGTCCCAGGATGATC-BBQ), *Cxcl10* (For:
795 GCCATTCCATCACAGTTGACA, Rev: CATGGTGCTGACAGTGGAGTCT, Probe: 6FAM-
796 CGTCCCAGGCCAGCCAACGA-BBQ), *Ccl2* (For: CTCACCTGCTGCTACTCATTC, Rev:
797 CTCTCTTGAGCTTGGTGATG, Probe: 6FAM- CAGCAGCAAGTGTCCCCAAGAACGC-BBQ),
798 *Ccl3* (For: CTCACCTGCTGCTACTCATTC, Rev: CTCTCTTGAGCTTGGTGATG, Probe:
799 6FAM- CAGCAGCAAGTGTCCCCAAGAACGC-BBQ), *Ccl5* (For:
800 TGCTTGACTACCTCTCCTTAC, Rev: GGTCCTTCGGGTGACAAA, Probe: 6FAM-
801 TGCCTCGTGTTCACATCAAGGAGT-BBQ), *Ifit3* (For: CTGATACCAACTGAGACTCCTG, Rev:
802 CTTCTGTCCCTCGGATTAG, Probe: 6FAM- ACCGTACAGTCCACACCCAACTTT-BBQ).
803 Fold change was determined using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method comparing treated hamster to naïve
804 controls.

805 **Cytokine and chemokine protein measurements.** Lung homogenates were incubated
806 with Triton-X-100 (1% final concentration) for 1 h at room temperature to inactivate SARS-CoV-
807 2. Homogenates then were analyzed for cytokines and chemokines by Eve Technologies
808 Corporation (Calgary, AB, Canada) using their Mouse Cytokine Array / Chemokine Array 44-
809 Plex (MD44) platform.

810 **Lung histology.** Animals were euthanized before harvest and fixation of tissues. The
811 left lung was first tied off at the left main bronchus and collected for viral RNA analysis. The right
812 lung then was inflated with ~1.2 mL of 10% neutral buffered formalin using a 3-mL syringe and
813 catheter inserted into the trachea. Tissues were embedded in paraffin, and sections were

814 stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Tissue sections were visualized using a Nikon Eclipse
815 microscope equipped with an Olympus DP71 camera, a Leica DM6B microscope equipped with
816 a Leica DFC7000T camera, or an Olympus BX51 microscope with attached camera.

817 **Flow cytometry analysis of immune cell infiltrates.** For analysis of BAL fluid, mice
818 were sacrificed by ketamine overdose, followed by cannulation of the trachea with a 19-G
819 canula. BAL was performed with three washes of 0.8 ml of sterile PBS. BAL fluid was
820 centrifuged, and single cell suspensions were generated for staining. Single cell suspensions of
821 BAL were preincubated with Fc Block antibody (BD PharMingen) in PBS + 2% heat-inactivated
822 FBS for 10 min at room temperature before staining. Cells were incubated with antibodies
823 against the following markers: AF700 anti-CD45 (clone 30 F-11), APC-Cy7 anti-CD11c (clone
824 N418), PE anti-Siglec F (clone E50-2440; BD), PE-Cy7 anti-Ly6G (clone 1A8), BV605 anti-Ly6C
825 (clone HK1.4; BioLegend), BV 711 anti-CD11b (clone M1/70), APC anti-CD103 (clone 2E7;
826 eBioscience), PB anti-CD3 (clone 17A2), PE-Cy7, APC anti-CD4 (clone RM4-5), PE-Cy7 anti-
827 CD8 (clone 53-6.7), anti-NK1.1 (clone PK136), and BV605 anti-TCR γ/δ (clone GL3). All
828 antibodies were used at a dilution of 1:200. Cells were stained for 20 min at 4°C, washed, fixed
829 and permeabilized for intracellular staining with Foxp3/Transcription Factor Staining Buffer Set
830 (eBioscience) according to manufacturer's instructions. Cells were incubated overnight at 4°C
831 with PE-Cy5 anti-Foxp3 (clone FJK-16s), washed, re-fixed with 4% PFA (EMS) for 20 min and
832 resuspended in permeabilization buffer. Absolute cell counts were determined using Trucount
833 beads (BD). Flow cytometric data were acquired on a cytometer (BD-X20; BD Biosciences) and
834 analyzed using FlowJo software (Tree Star).

835 **Antibody depletion of immune cell subsets.** For neutrophil depletion, anti-Ly6G
836 (BioXCell; clone 1A8; 250 μ g) or an isotype control (BioXCell; clone 2A3; 250 μ g) was
837 administered to mice by intraperitoneal injection one day before infection and at D+1, D+3, and
838 D+6 relative to SARS-CoV-2 infection. For monocyte depletion, anti-CCR2 (clone MC-21; 50
839 μ g) (Mack et al., 2001) or an isotype control mAb (BioXCell; clone LTF-2; 50 μ g) was

840 administered to mice by intraperitoneal injection one day before infection and at D+1, D+3, D+5,
841 and D+7 relative to SARS-CoV-2 infection. For NK cell depletion, anti-NK1.1 (clone PK136; 200
842 µg) or an isotype control mAb (BioXCell; clone C1.18.4; 200 µg) was administered to mice by
843 intraperitoneal injection one day before infection and at D+1, D+3, D+5, and D+7 relative to
844 SARS-CoV-2 infection.

845 For analysis of immune cell depletion, peripheral blood was collected on the day of
846 harvest. Erythrocytes were lysed with ACK lysis buffer (Gibco) and resuspended in RPMI
847 supplemented with 10% FBS. For anti-Ly6G or anti-CCR2 depletion, single-cell suspensions
848 were preincubated with Fc Block antibody (BD PharMingen) in PBS + 2% heat-inactivated FBS
849 for 10 min at room temperature and then stained with antibodies against CD45 BUV395, CD11b
850 PE/Dazzle 594, Ly6C Pacific Blue, Ly6B FITC, Ly6G BV650, and fixable viability dye (eFluor
851 506). For NK cell depletions, single cell suspensions were blocked for Fc_yR binding and stained
852 with antibodies against CD45 BUV395, CD19 BV711, CD3 BV711, NK1.1 FITC, and Nkp56
853 Pacific Blue.

854 **Respiratory mechanics.** Mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine (100 mg/kg
855 and 10 mg/kg, i.p., respectively). The trachea was isolated by dissection of the neck area and
856 cannulated using an 18-gauge blunt metal cannula (typical resistance of 0.18 cmH₂O.s/mL),
857 which was secured in place with a nylon suture. The mouse then was connected to the flexiVent
858 computer-controlled piston ventilator (SCIREQ Inc.) via the cannula, which was attached to the
859 FX adaptor Y-tubing. Mechanical ventilation was initiated, and mice were given an additional
860 100 mg/kg of ketamine and 0.1 mg/mouse of the paralytic pancuronium bromide by
861 intraperitoneal route to prevent breathing efforts against the ventilator and during
862 measurements. Mice were ventilated using default settings for mice, which consisted in a
863 positive end expiratory pressure at 3 cm H₂O, a 10 mL/kg tidal volume (V_t), a respiratory rate at
864 150 breaths per minute (bpm), and a fraction of inspired oxygen (F_iO₂) of 0.21 (*i.e.*, room air).
865 Respiratory mechanics were assessed using the forced oscillation technique, as previously

866 described (McGovern et al., 2013), using the latest version of the flexiVent operating software
867 (flexiWare v8.1.3). Pressure-volume loops and measurements of inspiratory capacity also were
868 done.

869 **Neutralization assay.** Serial dilutions of mAbs were incubated with 10² focus-forming
870 units (FFU) of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C. mAb-virus complexes were added to Vero E6 cell
871 monolayers in 96-well plates and incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Subsequently, cells were overlaid
872 with 1% (w/v) methylcellulose in MEM supplemented with 2% FBS. Plates were harvested 30 h
873 later by removing overlays and fixed with 4% PFA in PBS for 20 min at room temperature.
874 Plates were washed and sequentially incubated with 1 µg/mL of a recombinant IgG based on
875 the sequence of CR3022 (Yuan et al., 2020) anti-S antibody and HRP-conjugated goat anti-
876 human IgG in PBS supplemented with 0.1% saponin and 0.1% bovine serum albumin. SARS-
877 CoV-2-infected cell foci were visualized using TrueBlue peroxidase substrate (KPL) and
878 quantitated on an ImmunoSpot microanalyzer (Cellular Technologies).

879 **RNA sequencing.** cDNA libraries were constructed starting with 10 ng of total RNA from
880 lung tissues of each sample that was extracted using the MagMax Mirvana kit per
881 manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was generated using the Seqplex kit (Sigma-Aldrich, St.
882 Louis, MO) with amplification of 20 cycles. Library construction was performed using 100 ng of
883 cDNA undergoing end repair, A-tailing, ligation of universal TruSeq adapters, and 8 cycles of
884 amplification to incorporate unique dual index sequences. Libraries were sequenced on the
885 NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina, San Diego, CA) targeting 40 million read pairs and extending 150
886 cycles with paired end reads. RNA-seq reads were aligned to the mouse Ensembl GRCh38.76
887 primary assembly and SARS-CoV-2 NCBI NC_045512 Wuhan-Hu-1 genome with STAR
888 program (version 2.5.1a) (Dobin et al., 2013). Gene counts were derived from the number of
889 uniquely aligned unambiguous reads by Subread:featureCount (version 1.4.6-p5) (Liao et al.,
890 2014). The ribosomal fraction, known junction saturation, and read distribution over known gene
891 models were quantified with RSeQC (version 2.6.2) (Liao et al., 2014). All gene counts were

892 preprocessed with the R package EdgeR (Robinson et al., 2010) to adjust samples for
893 differences in library size using the trimmed mean of M values (TMM) normalization procedure.
894 Viral and ribosomal genes and genes not expressed in at least five samples (the smallest group
895 size) at a level greater than or equal to 1 count per million reads were excluded, resulting
896 in 12,157 unique genes in further analysis. The R package limma (Ritchie et al., 2015) with
897 voomWithQualityWeights function (Liu et al., 2015) was utilized to calculate the weighted
898 likelihoods for all samples, based on the observed mean-variance relationship of every gene
899 and sample. Differentially expressed genes were defined as those with at least 2-fold difference
900 between two individual groups at the Benjamini-Hochberg false-discovery rate (FDR)
901 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2346101?seq=1>) adjusted *P* value (i.e. q-value < 0.05).

902

903 QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

904 Statistical significance was assigned when *P* values were < 0.05 using Prism version 8
905 (GraphPad). Tests, number of animals (n), median values, and statistical comparison groups
906 are indicated in the Figure legends. Analysis of weight change was determined by two-way
907 ANOVA. Changes in functional parameters or immune parameters were compared to isotype-
908 treated animals and were analyzed by one-way ANOVA or one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test.

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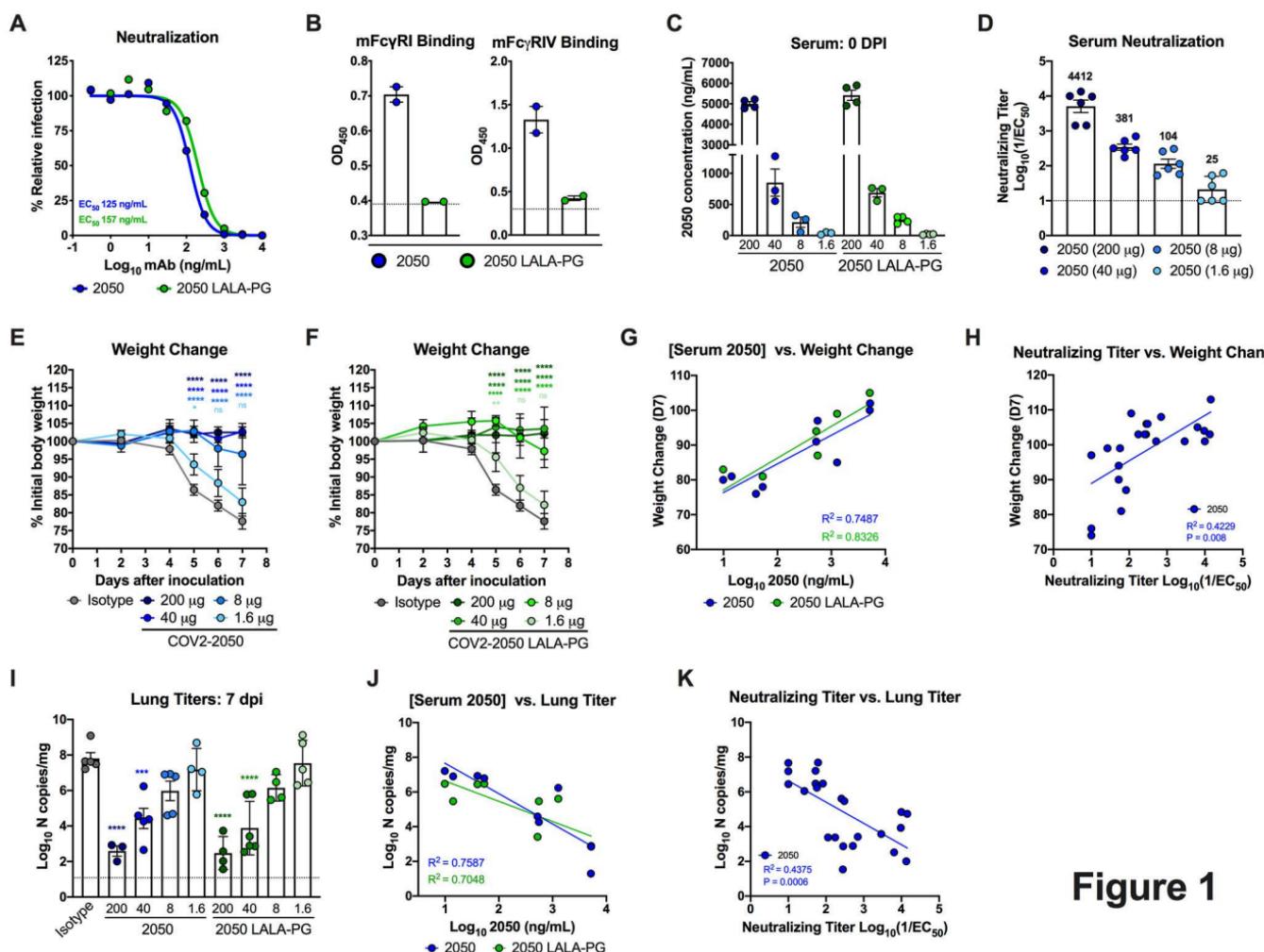


Figure 1

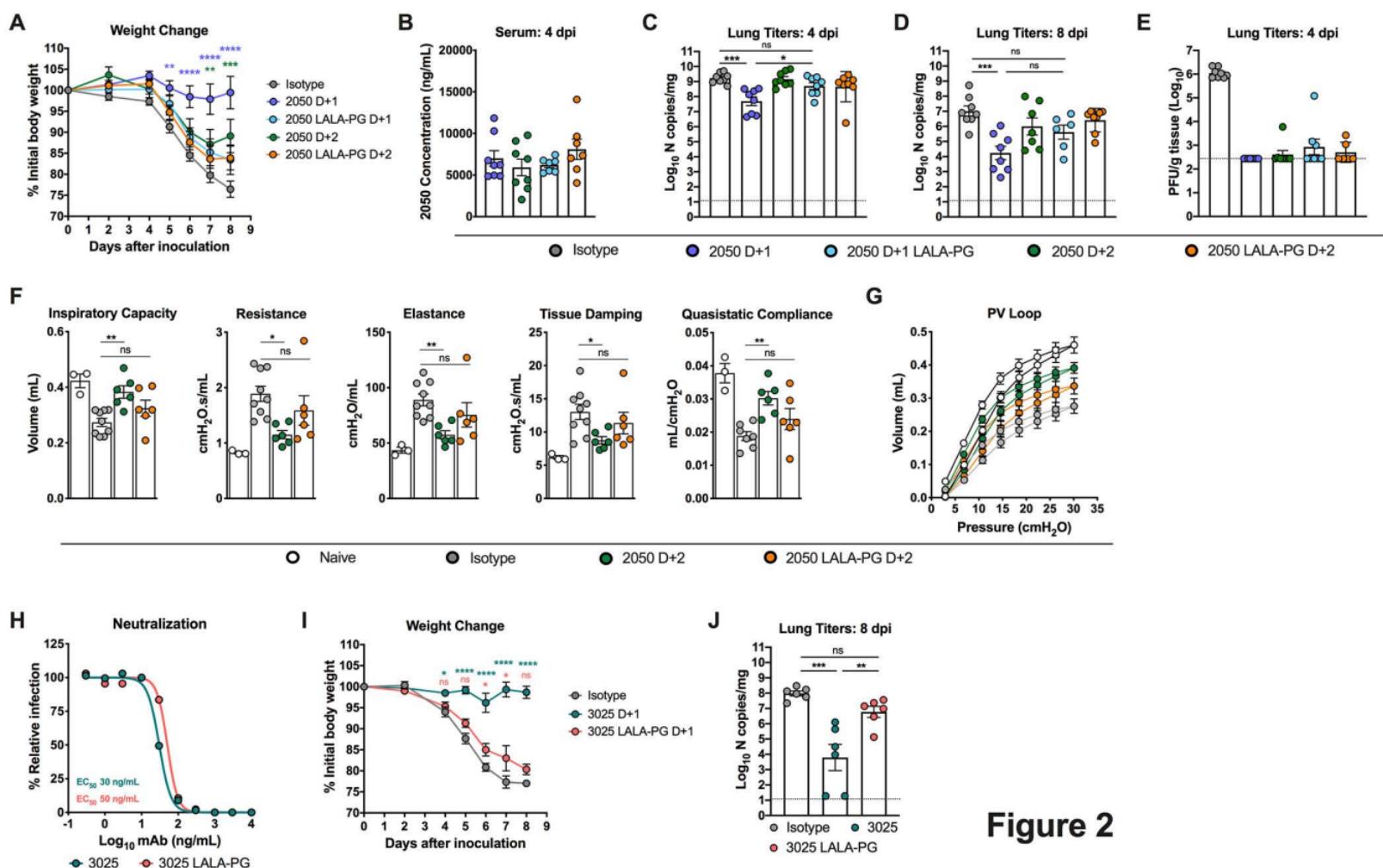


Figure 2

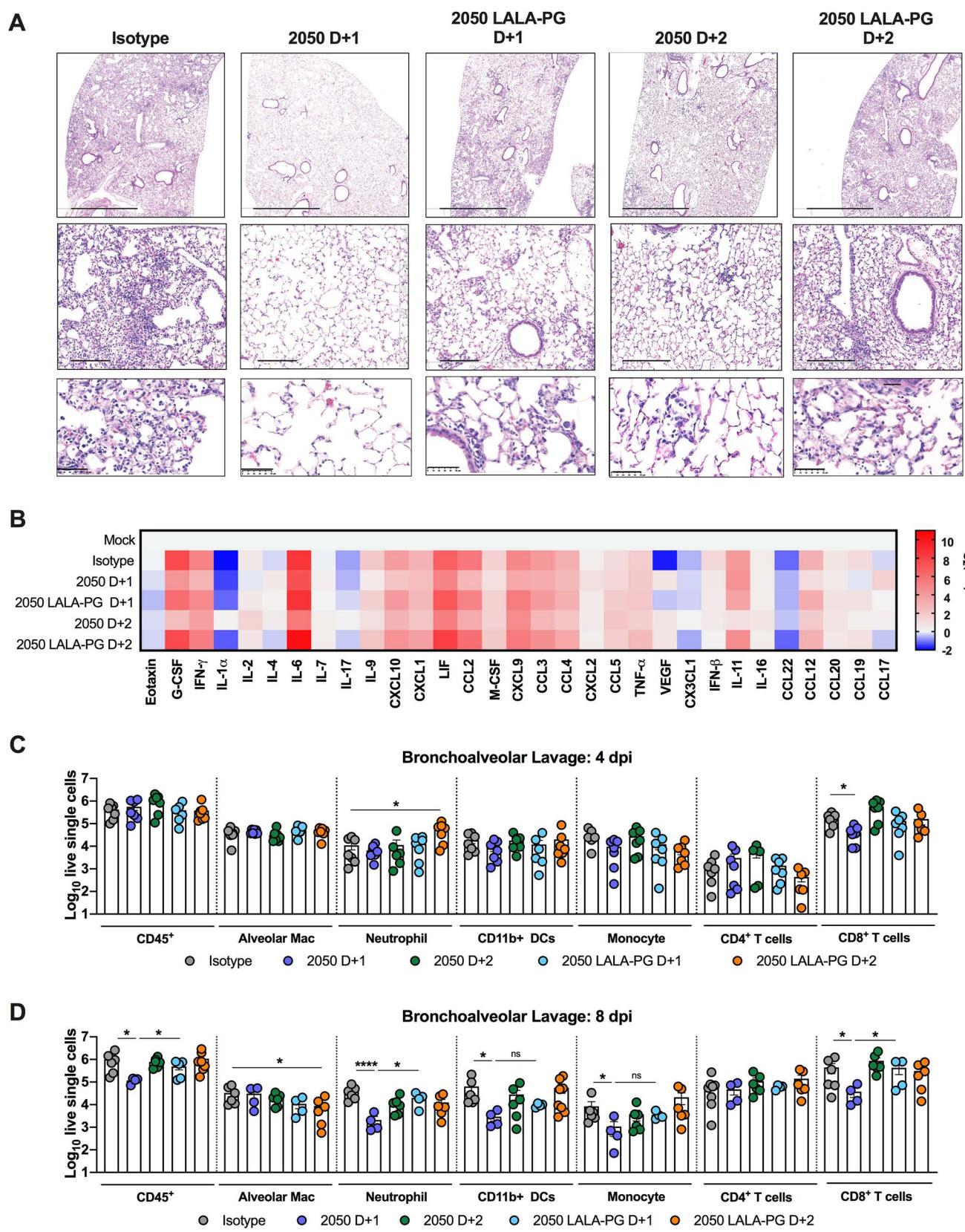


Figure 3

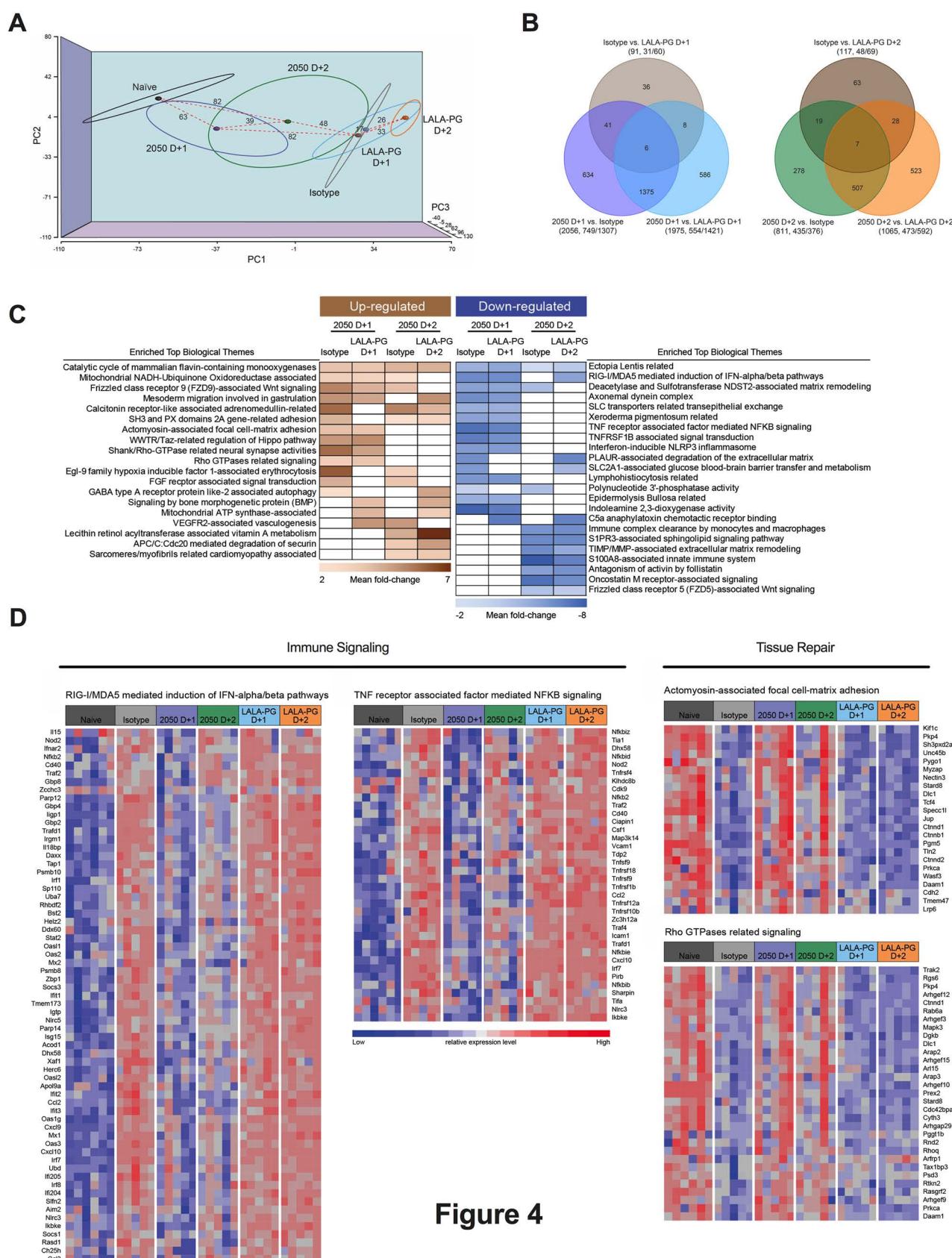


Figure 4

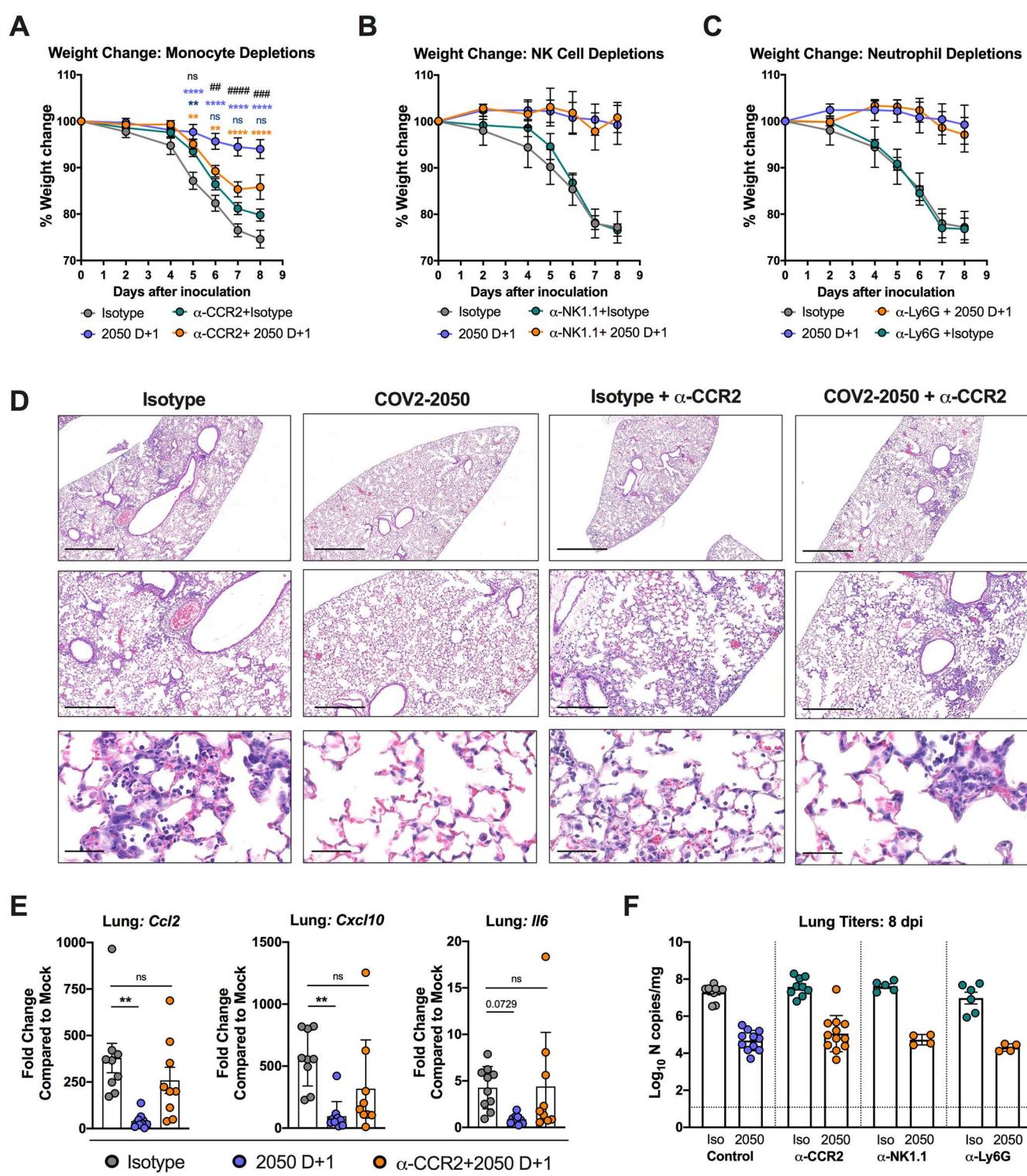


Figure 5

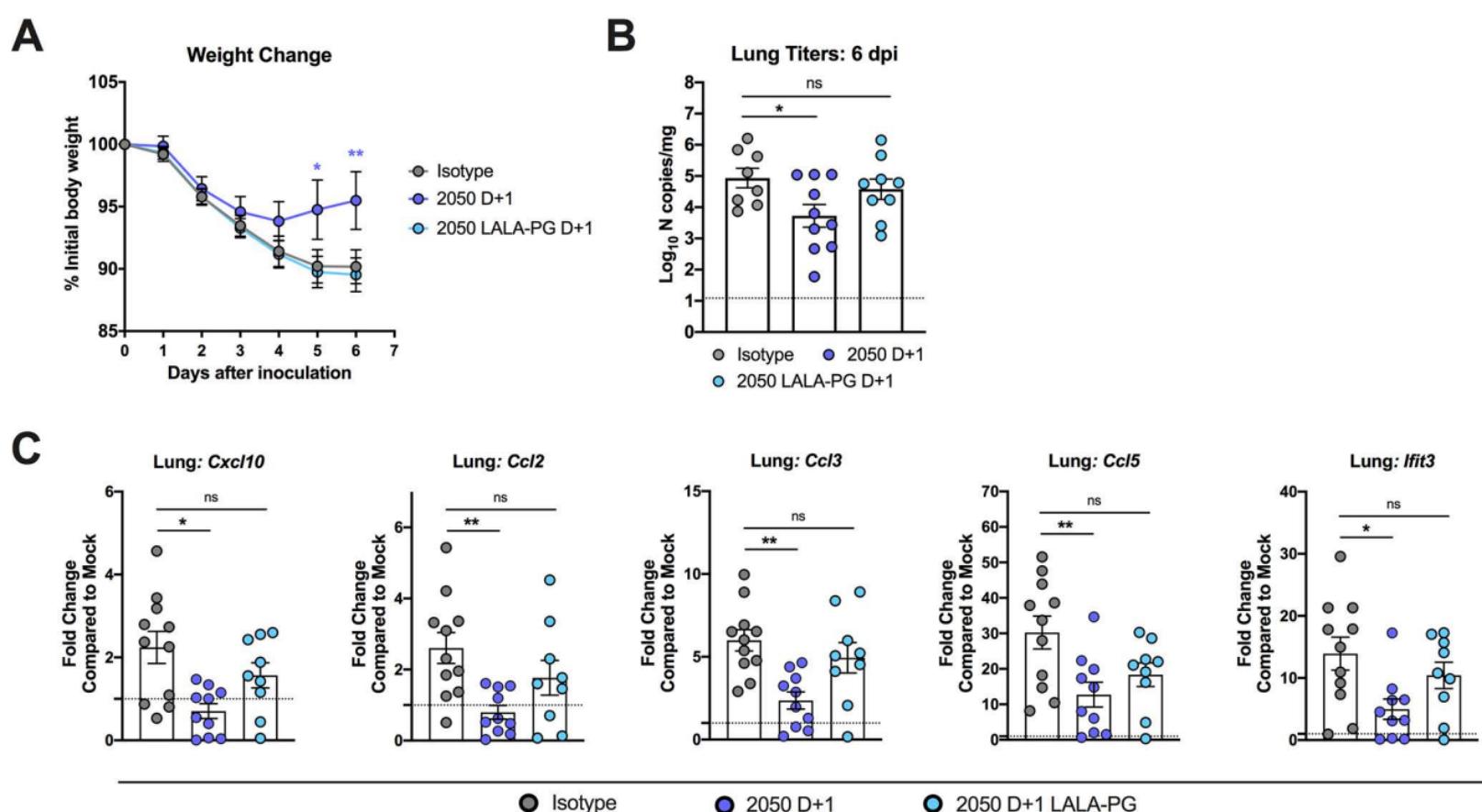


Figure 6