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Lineage-Specific Effector Signatures of Invariant NKT Cells Are Shared amongst $\gamma\delta$ T, Innate Lymphoid, and Th Cells

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Invariant NKT cells differentiate into three predominant effector lineages in the steady state. To understand these lineages, we sorted undifferentiated invariant NK T progenitor cells and each effector population and analyzed their transcriptional profiles by RNAseq. Bioinformatic comparisons were made to effector subsets among other lymphocytes, specifically Th cells, innate lymphoid cells (ILC), and $\gamma\delta$ T cells. Myc-associated signature genes were enriched in NKT progenitors, like in other hematopoietic progenitors. Only NKT1 cells, but not NKT2 and NKT17 cells, had transcriptome similarity to NK cells and were also similar to other IFN- γ -producing lineages such as Th1, ILC1, and intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells. NKT2 and NKT17 cells were similar to their analogous subsets of $\gamma\delta$ T cells and ILCs, but surprisingly, not to Th2 and Th17 cells. We identified a set of genes common to each effector lineage regardless of Ag receptor specificity, suggesting the use of conserved regulatory cores for effector function. *The Journal of Immunology*, 2016, 197: 000–000.

Invariant NKT (iNKT) cells are canonical T cells recognizing lipid Ags in the context of CD1d molecules (1). They are positively selected in the thymic cortex at the CD24^{hi} stage 0 (2) and differentiate into mature CD24^{low} effector subsets that produce IFN- γ , IL-4, or IL-17 in the thymic medulla (3, 4). These subsets were designated as NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells, respectively, and their lineage properties are determined by key transcriptional factors including PLZF, TBET, GATA3, and retinoic acid–related orphan receptor γ t (ROR γ t) (3, 4). Our previous data suggest that a CD24^{lo}, but uncommitted, NKT progenitor (NKTp) can give rise to each differentiated subset, and such progenitors were defined as cells negative for IL-17RB and human CD2 (huCD2) among total PLZF^{hi} NKT2 cells in KN2 IL-4 reporter mice (3, 5). In adoptive transfer assays, a fraction of IL-17RB⁺huCD2⁻ NKT2 cells differentiated into NKT1 cells, whereas IL-17RB⁺huCD2⁺ NKT2 cells did not. In localization analysis, IL-4–producing huCD2⁺ NKT2 cells were mostly in the thymic medulla, whereas huCD2⁻ NKTp cells were relatively enriched in the cortex, consistent with their developing ontogeny (6). These results indicated there are four different iNKT subsets including a progenitor and three differentiated subsets.

It is increasingly appreciated that these iNKT subsets are analogous to conventional Th cell subsets (4). Not only iNKT cells, but also innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) and $\gamma\delta$ T cells, have subsets with distinct effector programs similar to Th cells (7–9). A previous report concluded that iNKT cells share an extensive transcriptional program with NK cells and that this program also operates constitutively in intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells, activated CD8 T cells, and developing thymocytes (8). However, these analyses were based on an outdated staging model of iNKT cell development and thereby analyzed cells that predominantly contained NKT1 cells because of the background mouse strain used. Furthermore, it has not been addressed how the transcriptional nature of innate lymphoid and innate-like T cells and conventional Th cells are correlated with each other.

To address these issues, we performed RNAseq analysis of iNKT subsets, including NKTp, NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells. Importantly, we found only NKT1 cells, but not NKT2 and NKT17 cells, shared a transcriptional program with NK (8), activated CD8 T, and intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells. We also identified that NKTp signature genes were shared among differentiating or proliferating hematopoietic cells including developing thymocytes, which were associated with an upstream regulator Myc protein. Using previously published data sets, we measured the transcriptional similarity of iNKT subsets to those of analogous $\gamma\delta$ T cells, ILC, and Th cells (7, 9, 10). Signature genes of NKT1 cells were defined and found to be highly shared with ILC1 and Th1 cells, indicating profound similarity between the transcriptional programs of all IFN- γ -producing cells. NKT2 cells were most similar to thymic CD24^{low}V δ 6⁺ $\gamma\delta$ T cells, both of which expressed high levels of PLZF, followed by ILC2. NKT17 cells were similar to thymic CD24^{low}V γ 2⁺ $\gamma\delta$ T cells and ILC3 cells. Although Th2 and Th17 cells shared a small core of effector signature genes with the analogous subsets of ILC, $\gamma\delta$ T, and iNKT cells, their overall transcriptional profiles were more distinct. These findings indicate that the transcriptional nature of ILC or innate-like T cells is distinguished from conventional Th cells.

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Abbreviations used in this article: ETP, early thymic precursor; FDR, false discovery rate; huCD2, human CD2; ILC, innate lymphoid cell; iNKT, invariant NKT cell; IPA, Ingenuity Pathway Analysis; MAIT, mucosal-associated invariant T; NES, normalized enrichment score; NKTp, NKT progenitor; ROR γ t, retinoic acid–related orphan receptor γ t.

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performed under protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Minnesota.

Flow cytometry

Biotinylated PBS-57 loaded or unloaded CD1d monomers were obtained from the tetramer facility of the National Institutes of Health. For intracellular staining, single-cell suspensions were surface stained, fixed, and permeabilized with the eBioscience Foxp3 staining buffer set. All Abs were from eBioscience, BD Biosciences, or BioLegend, unless indicated. Cells were analyzed on an LSR II (BD Biosciences), and data were processed with FlowJo software (Tree Star).

Cell isolation and RNA preparation

Thymocytes were isolated from two to three mice per sample from BALB/c *Tbx21^{gfp}* *KN2^{+/-}* mice, and iNKT cells were enriched by CD1d tetramer pulldown. Briefly, cells stained with PE-conjugated CD1d tetramer were enriched using anti-PE microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec) according to the manufacturer's instruction. $\text{TCR}\beta^+\text{CD1d tetramer}^+\text{CD8}^-\text{CD24}^-$ thymic iNKT cells were separated into four subsets and sorted with an FACSaria

(BD Biosciences). An RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, Redwood City, CA) was used to isolate RNA obtained from each sample.

RNA sequencing

RNA sequencing was done at the University of Minnesota Genomics Center. Total RNA was quantified using a fluorimetric RiboGreen assay, and RNA quality was assessed using capillary electrophoresis and the Agilent RNA Integrity Number (Agilent Technologies). All samples that were submitted for library creation had an RNA Integrity Number of eight or greater. Library creation was performed using Illumina's Truseq RNA Sample Preparation Kit (catalog number RS-122-2001; Illumina). Final library size distribution was validated using capillary electrophoresis and quantified using fluorimetry (PicoGreen) and via quantitative PCR. Indexed libraries are then normalized, pooled, and size selected to 320 bp \pm 5% using Caliper's XT instrument (Caliper Life Sciences). Truseq libraries were hybridized to a paired end flow cell, amplified on the Illumina cBot, and subsequently run on the HiSeq 2000 (Illumina). Raw data are available at the National Center for Biotechnology Information under accession number PRJNA318017.

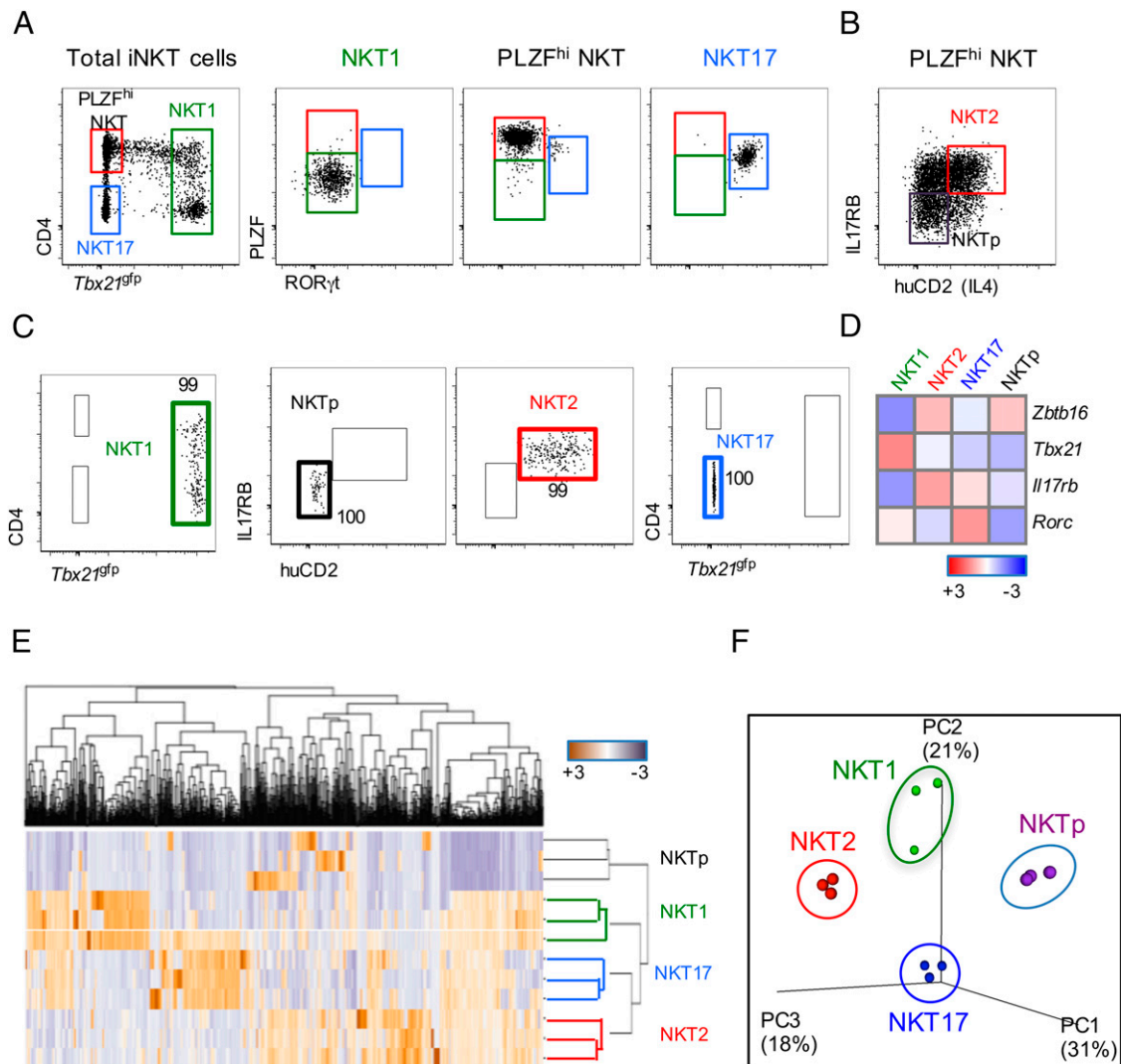


FIGURE 1. iNKT subsets have unique transcriptional profiles. **(A)** Sorting strategy of iNKT subsets using surface markers. Total thymocytes from BALB/c *Tbx21^{gfp}* *KN2^{+/-}* mice were stained with CD1d tetramer and indicated surface markers and analyzed by their transcription factor profiles. Each subset was designated as NKT1, PLZF^{hi} NKT, and NKT17 cells. **(B)** PLZF^{hi} NKT cells were further separated by expression levels of IL-17RB and human CD2 (huCD2) and designated as NKTp and NKT2 cells. **(C)** Postsort purities of each subset are shown. **(D)** Four different subsets of thymic iNKT cells were sorted as triplicates from cells pooled from two to three mice each and analyzed for their RNA transcripts. Heat map was generated using mean fragments per kb of transcript per million values of triplicates to show their differential expression patterns of PLZF (encoded by *Zbtb16*), TBET (encoded by *Tbx21*), IL-17RB (encoded by *Il17rb*), and RORγt (encoded by *Rorc*). **(E)** Hierarchical clustering of iNKT subsets is shown using the 1000 genes that are most differentially expressed. **(F)** Principal component analysis of gene expression is shown for each iNKT subset. Numbers along axes indicate relative scaling of the principal variables.

Data analysis

We obtained an average of 20 million reads per replicate for triplicates of four different cell types with technical duplicates (total 24 reads). RNAseq reads were aligned to the mouse reference genome (mm10) and most recent transcript annotations using TopHat (v2.0.13) (11). Expression levels of all transcripts were quantified using Cuffquant (12), and differentially expressed genes were determined by Cuffdiff (12). Hierarchical clustering and principal component analysis were performed based on the raw read counts from the top 1000 genes ranked by the variance of their expression values across samples. Volcano plots were generated using Multiplot Studio (Gene Pattern), and heat maps were generated with Gene-E (Broad Institute). For heat map generation, if not otherwise indicated, data were log₂-transformed and visualized by relative expression per row with the row mean subtracted and divided by row SD. Rows were grouped by the Pearson correlation coefficient via hierarchical clustering. Gene set enrichment analysis was performed to calculate normalized enrichment score (NES) (13). Prism (GraphPad Software) was used for data plotting, and Venny (<http://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/venny>) was used to visualize Venn diagrams. Cytoscape was used to generate network analysis (14). Upstream regulators and canonical pathway analysis were identified using Qiagen's Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA; Qiagen). We used RNAseq of Th cells from Array Express with the access code E-MTAB-2582 and microarray data

from Gene Expression Omnibus with access code GSE37448 for ILC and other cell types including $\gamma\delta$ T cells with access code GSE15907.

Results

iNKT subsets have unique genetic profiles with characteristic transcripts

We sorted thymic iNKT subsets from BALB/c Tbet/IL-4 reporter mice (*Tbx21*^{stfp} KN2^{+/-}) mice, in which NKT1 cells are CD4⁺GFP⁺, NKT17 cells are CD4⁻GFP⁻CD44^{hi}, and PLZF^{hi} NKT2/p cells are CD4⁺GFP⁻, among total CD1d tetramer-positive cells (Fig. 1A, left panel). These marker combinations had ~97% overlap with subsets directly defined by transcription factor staining (Fig. 1A, right three panels). PLZF^{hi} NKT cells were further divided into NKT2 and NKTp cells (Fig. 1B), as we previously showed that IL-17RB and huCD2-expressing cells represent terminally differentiated IL-4-secreting NKT2 cells, and IL-17RB and huCD2-negative cells contained progenitors that can give rise to differentiated subsets (3). For efficient cell sorting, we performed CD1d tetramer enrichment and sorted populations that had >99% purity (Fig. 1C). We isolated

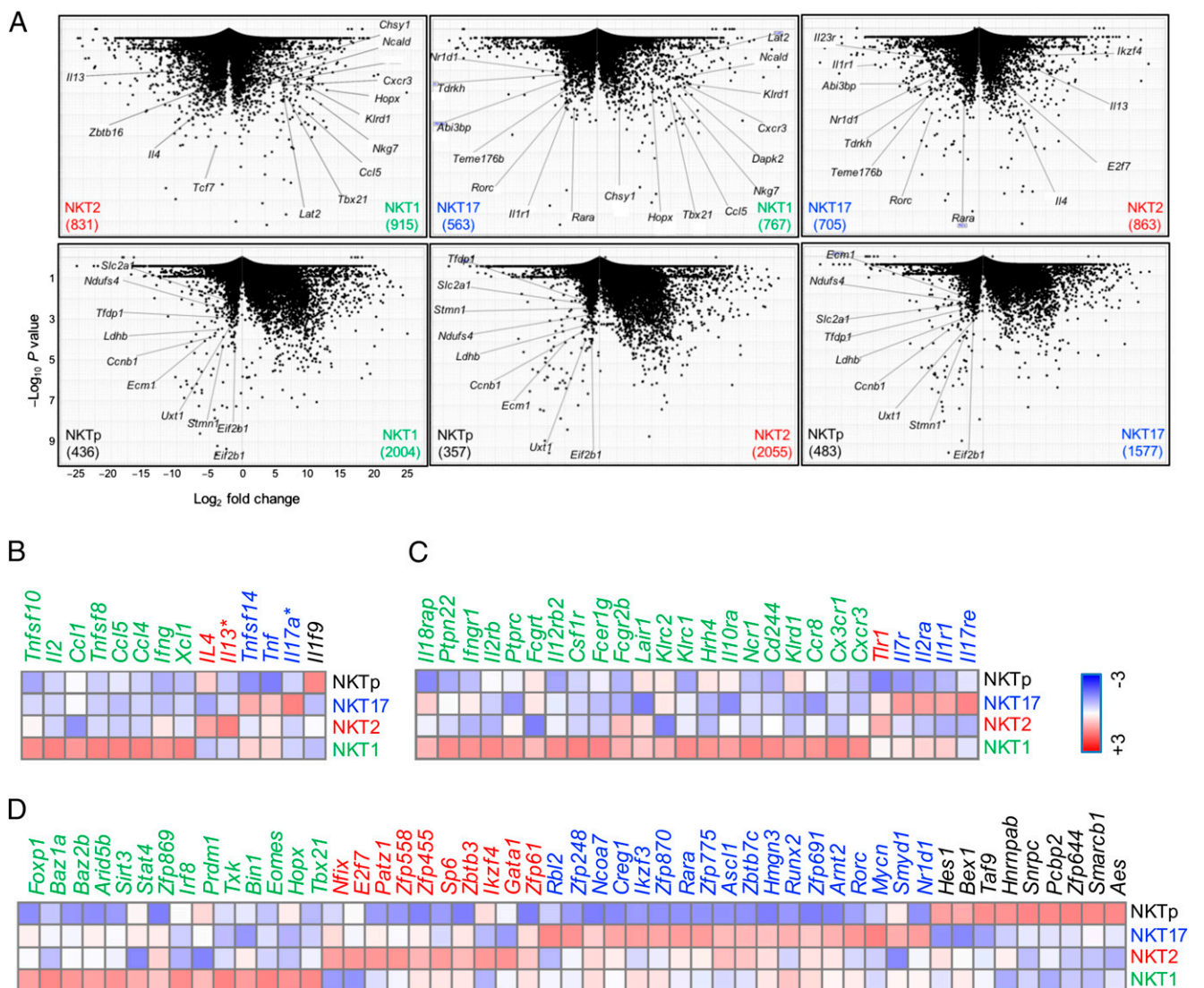


FIGURE 2. Characteristic transcripts of each iNKT subset. (A) Volcano plots were generated after pairwise comparisons between two subsets, and numbers in parentheses indicate numbers of genes upregulated at least 2-fold in each subset with *p* values <0.05. Each symbol represents a single gene. Heat maps show cytokines (B), receptors (C), and transcription factors (D) uniquely expressed in one subset at least 2-fold higher than the other three subsets with significant *p* values (<0.05). Color coding indicates genes highly expressed in NKT1 (green), NKT2 (red), NKT17 (blue), and NKTp (black) cells. *These two genes had insignificant *p* values (>0.05) in at least one of three comparisons.

four different subsets in triplicate, prepared RNA, and performed RNAseq analysis. A heat map generated after RNAseq analysis showed each subset was positive for the expected transcription factors (Fig. 1D). Hierarchical clustering analysis, using the 1000 most variable genes among the four subsets, showed that NKTp cells are indeed a unique population that had the least similarity with the other three subsets (Fig. 1E). Principal component analysis confirmed these subsets have distinct transcriptional profiles (Fig. 1F).

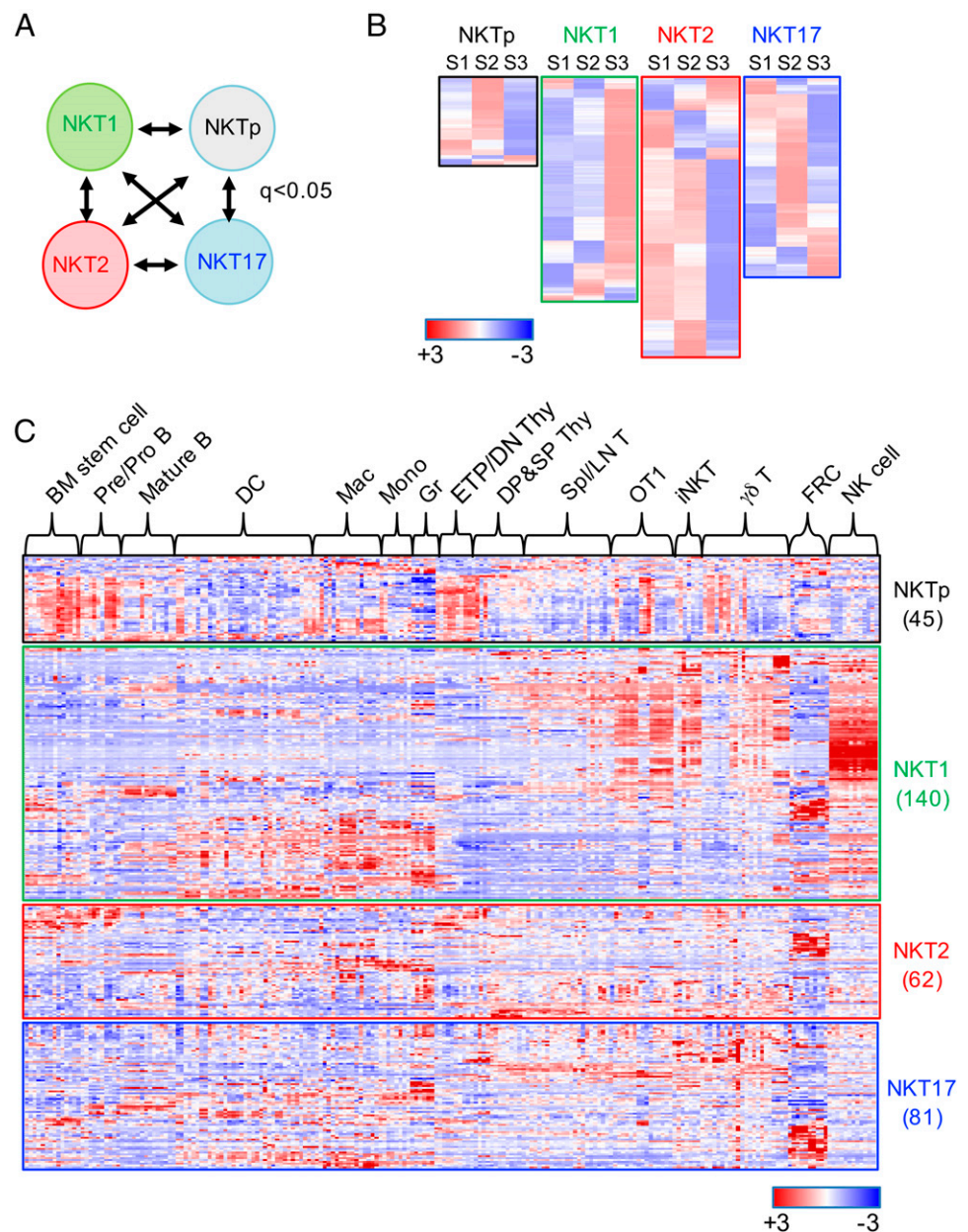
Next, we analyzed genes differentially expressed between subsets of iNKT cells. Pairwise comparison of NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells generated three volcano plots showing 563–915 genes at least 2-fold upregulated in each subset with p values <0.05 (Fig. 2A, top panels). NKTp cells showed 3.2- to 5.6-fold fewer significantly upregulated genes compared with the three differentiated subsets, indicating they are transcriptionally less active (Fig. 2A, bottom panels). Using these data, we generated heat maps showing a selected list of genes that are uniquely upregulated in one subset compared with the other three subsets in three different categories, including cytokines (Fig. 2B), receptors (Fig. 2C), and transcription

factors (Fig. 2D). *Tbx21* and *Ifng* were highly upregulated in NKT1 cells, and *Il4* and *Rorc* were specific to NKT2 and NKT17 cells, respectively. *Il13* and *Il17a* transcripts were highest in NKT2 and NKT17 cells, respectively, although p values were >0.05 in at least one comparison. GATA3 was not detected as a unique gene of NKT2 cells, as NKT17 cells also expressed it at a similar level (3). NKTp cells had few signature cytokine or receptor transcripts but uniquely upregulated several transcription factors, including transcriptional regulators (*Hes1*, *Taf9*, *Smad3*, *Zfp644*, and *Aes*) and ribonuclear proteins (*Hnrnpab* and *Snrpc*), suggesting they have distinctive nuclear protein activity (Fig. 2D).

iNKT subsets have unique signature genes

To further elucidate the transcriptional nature of each iNKT subset, we generated a list of signature genes that were uniquely expressed in each subset, with q values <0.05 compared with the other three subsets as depicted in Fig. 3A and shown in Supplemental Table I. We first looked at how these genes were expressed at different stages of thymic NKT cells, as defined by data from the ImmGen

FIGURE 3. Only NKT1 cells share a transcriptional program with NK cells. (A) Schematic figure showing a comparison method to generate signature genes based on q values. (B) Expression pattern of signature genes of each iNKT subset was determined in each stage using ImmGen data set. (C) Expression profiles of signature genes of each iNKT subset were analyzed in hematopoietic cells using an Immunological Genome Project data set (accession number GSE15907), which encompassed 214 different hematopoietic lineages. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of signature genes of each iNKT subset and detailed ImmGen cell type description is shown in Supplemental Fig. 1. BM, bone marrow; DC, dendritic cell; DN, double-negative; DP, double-positive; ETP, early thymic precursor; FRC, fibroblastic reticular cells; Gr, granulocyte; LN, lymph node; Mac, macrophage; Mono, monocyte; SP, single-positive; Spl, spleen; Thy, thymocytes.



consortium (8) (Fig. 3B). NKT1 signature genes were most highly expressed on stage 3 cells, NKTp and NKT17 signature genes were mainly on stage 2 cells, and NKT2 signature genes were present in both stage 1 and stage 2 cells. These features are consistent with previous reconciliation between conventional stages and functional subsets of iNKT cells in C57BL/6NCr mice (3, 4) and highlight that CD44 and NK1.1 are not accurate markers of developmental progression, but include mixed populations with developmental progenitor and terminal effector properties, particularly for stage 2. Next, we analyzed expression patterns of iNKT signature genes among various hematopoietic cells using ImmGen data that encompass 214 different cell types (Fig. 3C, detailed map in Supplemental Fig. 1). Previously, NKT cells were suggested to strongly share a transcriptional program with NK cells and that this core effector program was also shared with activated OT-1 CD8 T cells, intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells, and early thymic precursors (ETP) (8). Our NKT1 signature genes were highly expressed in these cells too, except ETP (Fig. 3C). Instead, NKTp signature genes were enriched in ETP and other developing thymocytes and also highly shared among bone marrow stem cells, pre/pro-B cells, germinal center B cells, thymic dendritic cells, bone marrow macrophages, monocytes, OT-1 T cells within 48 h of activation, and CD24^{hi} or fetal thymic $\gamma\delta$ T cells (Supplemental Fig. 1). Thus, the extent to which the previous analysis showed iNKT similarity to ETP might have reflected the contamination of their population with progenitor cells. We reasoned that NKTp cells are often proliferating, and IPA showed *Myc*-associated genes were significantly enriched in NKTp cells ($p = 5.12 \times 10^{-6}$), followed by E2F, TP53, and RB1 (Table I). Because *Myc* regulates gene expression via complex means (15), we wanted to determine if the *Myc*-associated genes in NKTp were directly regulated by *Myc*. Thus, we analyzed a previous *Myc*-Chip seq dataset of activated mouse CD4 T cells (GSE37229) (16). Among the NKTp unique *Myc*-associated genes (Table I), EIF4A1, SLC2A1, and TFDPI were within 1 kb of a direct *Myc* binding site, suggesting *Myc* directly regulate these genes. UTX was 12 Mbp away from the nearest *Myc* binding site, and the other six genes were from 20 to 500 kb apart. As *Myc* binds to promoters rather than enhancers (15, 16), these seven genes are more likely to be regulated indirectly by *Myc*. iNKT cell phenotype in the absence of *Myc* protein was analyzed previously, and indeed, the frequency of iNKT cells was greatly reduced (17, 18). In *Myc*-deficient mice, the number of CD24^{hi} stage 0 NKT cells was normal, but development of iNKT cells was arrested at stage 1 or 2, indicating that positive selection from DP thymocytes was not affected. Thus, our findings are consistent with *Myc*-dependent cellular proliferation being a critical process for the development iNKT cells.

A second important observation is that only NKT1, but not NKTp, NKT2, or NKT17, cells showed transcriptional similarity to NK cells (Fig. 3C). Therefore, the previous conclusion that NKT cells have a hybrid nature between T cells and NK cells (8) is not correct, in that it only applies to a subset of NKT cells, albeit one that is particularly prominent in the C57BL/6 strain of mice. With the current ImmGen data set, we could not specify a type of lymphoid or myeloid cell overtly sharing transcripts with NKT2 and NKT17 cells (Fig. 3C). Overall, these results indicate that NKTp cells, as well as NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells, are unique cells having distinctive transcriptional natures.

iNKT cells, Th CD4 cells, ILC, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells share key transcripts

Not only iNKT cells, but also ILCs and $\gamma\delta$ T cells, have effector subsets producing distinct effector cytokine analogous to conventional Th cells (9, 19, 20). However, it has not been addressed if these effector subsets share a common transcriptional nature or not, and to address this issue, we compared our dataset with published ones (7, 9, 10). The transcriptional nature of Th cells was analyzed using RNAseq of in vitro-differentiated naive CD4 T cells stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 and cytokines (10), and ILC and $\gamma\delta$ T cells were analyzed by microarray in previous ImmGen projects using cells that were sorted immediately ex vivo (7, 9). These four different datasets, however, used different analysis platforms, and it was not possible to make direct comparisons with each other. Thus, to gain insight into potential common effector programs, we first defined a short list of genes uniquely expressed in each iNKT subset and analyzed their expression patterns in Th cells, ILCs, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells (Fig. 4A). These genes were enriched in each analogous subset of Th cells and ILCs, and NK cells, which were largely indistinguishable from ILC1s (7), were like NKT1 cells. Among various $\gamma\delta$ T subsets, V gene usage correlates with distinct effector programs (9, 20). Based on published analysis (9), we identified V5 (intraepithelial V γ 5⁺), V6 (thymic CD24^{low} V δ 6⁺), and V2 (thymic CD24^{low} V γ 2⁺) $\gamma\delta$ T cells as sharing key effector genes with NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells, respectively (Fig. 4A). Interestingly, CD24^{hi} or fetal-derived $\gamma\delta$ T subsets shared NKTp signature genes (Fig. 4B), suggesting that they may be a functional counterpart of NKTp cells. Overall, these features show iNKT and $\gamma\delta$ T cells share effector differentiation programs and signature genes with analogous ILC and Th cells.

Overlapping signature genes define core transcriptional elements

Next, we identified signature genes of 13 different cell types from four different types of lymphoid cells as depicted in Fig. 4C by

Table I. List of upstream regulators of NKTp

Upstream Regulator	<i>p</i> Value of Overlap	Target Molecules in Dataset
MYC	5.12E-06	CCNB1, ECM1, EIF2B1, EIF4A1, LDHB, NDUFS4, SLC2A1, STMN1, TFDPI, UXT
E2F4	3.50E-05	GMNN, PTTG1, RPA3, STMN1, UXT
E2f	5.68E-05	CCNB1, GMNN, RPA3, UXT
E2F1	8.10E-05	CCNB1, GMNN, RPA3, STMN1, TAF9, UXT
NDUFA13	2.15E-04	CCNB1, TFDPI
CD 437	3.85E-04	EIF4A1, HMG2, LSM3, UXT
TP53	4.20E-04	CCNB1, EIF2B1, GMNN, HMG2, PTTG1, SLC2A1, SPC25, STMN1, TFDPI
NRAS	4.31E-04	CCNB1, SLC2A1, SPC25
RBL2	5.92E-04	CCNB1, STMN1, XT
AMPK	8.09E-04	CCNB1, LDHB, SLC2A1
MAPT	8.50E-04	ARF5, CCNB1, NDUFS4, STMN1
RB1	9.28E-04	CCNB1, GMNN, TFDPI, UXT

Upstream regulators of NKTp cells were generated using IPA, and list shows those with *p* value <0.0001.

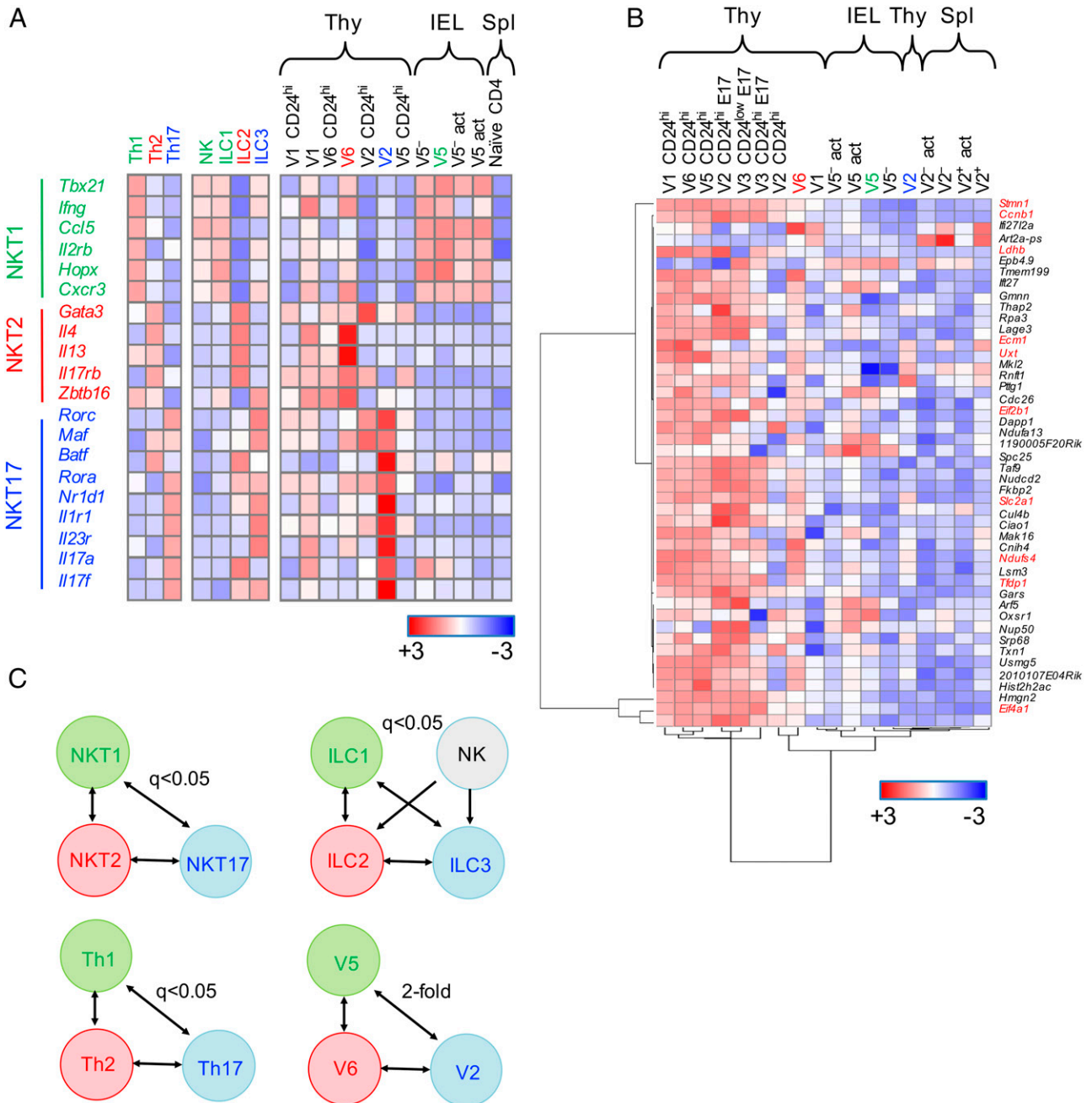


FIGURE 4. iNKT cells, Th cells, ILCs, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells share key transcripts for each subset. **(A)** Genes highly expressed on NKT1 (green), NKT2 (red), and NKT17 (blue) cells were analyzed for their expression patterns in other analogous lymphoid lineages. **(B)** NKTp unique genes were analyzed for their expression pattern in various $\gamma\delta$ T cell subsets. *Myc*-associated genes among NKTp signatures are highlighted in red. **(C)** Schematic figures show comparison methods of defining signature genes in each lineage. V1 (V γ 1⁺), V2 (V γ 2⁺), V3 (V γ 3⁺), V5 (V γ 5⁺), and V6 (V δ 6⁺) represent $\gamma\delta$ T cells. act, activated (CD44^{hi}); E17, embryonic day 17; IEL, intraepithelial lymphocytes, Spl, spleen; Thy, thymus.

doing intragroup differential gene expression comparison (Supplemental Table 1). Then, we grouped IFN- γ -, IL-4-, and IL-17-secreting effector subsets cells, referring to them as L1, L2, and L3, respectively, and calculated the number of signature genes overlapping with each other (Fig. 5A). In the L1 group, we found 12 signature genes commonly shared among all subsets and 3 and 9 genes in the L2 and L3 groups, respectively. The L1 group was marked by effector cytokines or chemokines such as RANTES (encoded by *Ccl5*), granzyme B (encoded by *Gzmb*), and Perforin 1 (encoded by *Prf1*). IL-4 (encoded by *Il4*) and the IL-25R (encoded by *Il17rb*) were shared by all L2 subsets, suggesting a central role for IL-25 signaling. Consistent with this, development and/or expansion

of IL-4-producing NKT2 cells and ILC2s were dependent on IL-25 (21, 22). We identified membrane-bound O-acetyltransferase1 (*Mboat1* encoded by *Mboat1*), an enzyme involved in fatty acid metabolism (23), as a novel candidate for L2 function. L3 subsets shared ROR γ t (encoded by *Rorc*) and its known target molecules such as IL-1R1 (encoded by *Il1r1*) and IL-23R (encoded by *Il23r*) (24). Rev-Erb (encoded by *Nr1d1*) is a previously identified upstream molecule of ROR γ t, which mediates circadian rhythm (25). Syndecan-1 (encoded by *Sdc1*) is a known regulator of NKT17 cells (26), and IL-17RE (encoded by *Il17re*) is a receptor for IL-17C and important for Th17 cell activation (27). *Tmem176b* was previously detected as a putative ROR γ t binding partner (24), and we identified

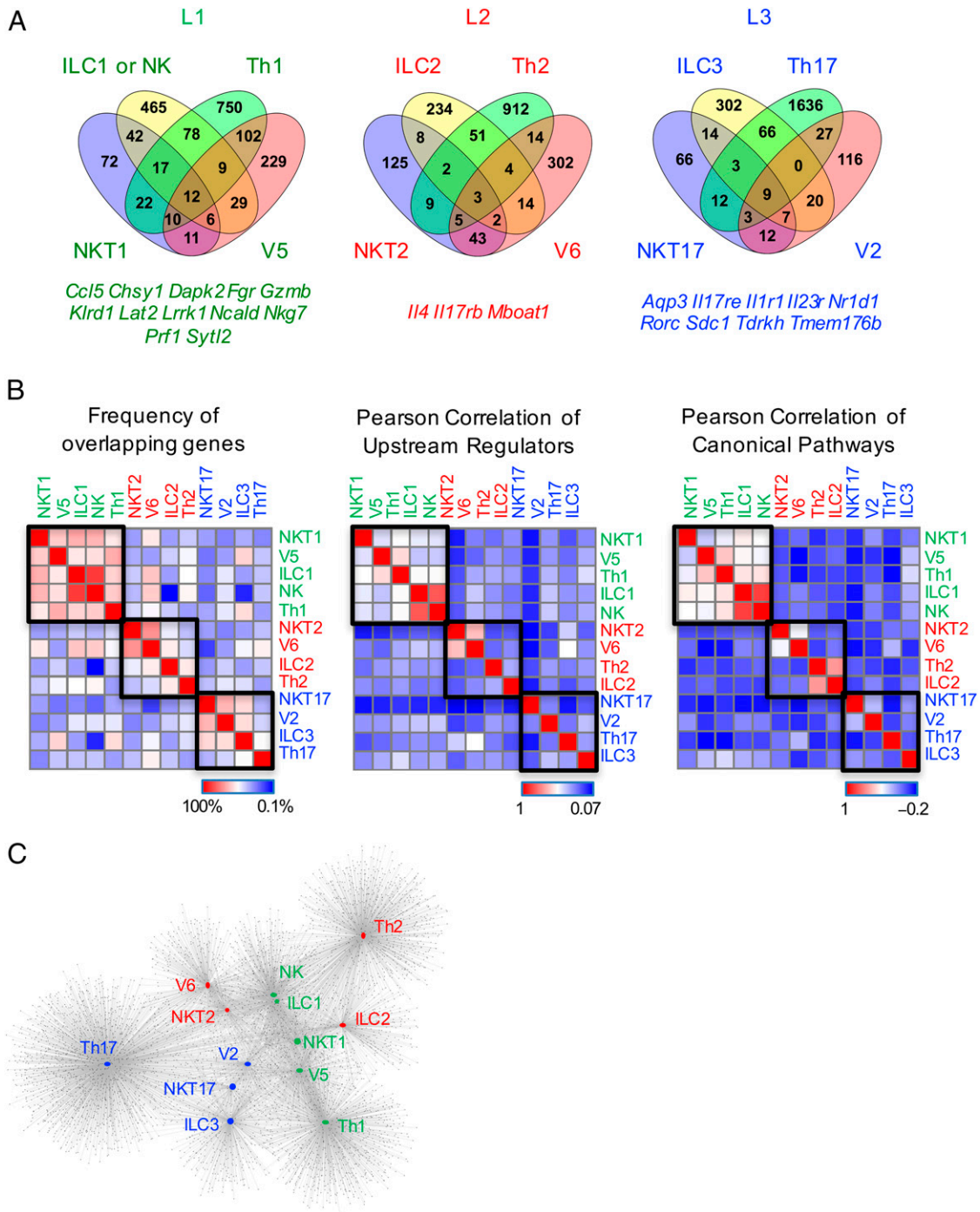


FIGURE 5. Overlapping signature genes define core transcriptional elements. **(A)** Venn diagrams show number of overlapping signature genes between subsets in each group. Genes shared by all subsets in each group are listed below each diagram. **(B)** Heat map shows frequency of overlapping genes and Pearson correlation of enrichment scores of upstream regulators and canonical pathways between two subsets. Data were log₂-transformed and visualized by global expression. **(C)** Network analysis of signature genes. Each dot represents a single gene connected to subsets expressing them. V2 (V γ 2⁺) and V6 (V δ 6⁺) are thymic CD24^{low} γ δ T cells, and V5 (V γ 5⁺) is intraepithelial γ δ T cells. Green: IFN- γ -producing cells; red: IL-4-producing cells; blue: IL-17-producing cells.

two additional candidates common to all L3 subsets; Aquaporin 3 (encoded by *Aqp3*), which is a water channel transporting hydrogen peroxide and required for T cell migration and IL-23-dependent skin inflammation (28, 29), and tudor and KH domain containing (encoded by *Tdrkh*), which is essential for spermatogenesis and piwi-interacting RNA biosynthesis (30). *Tbx21* and *Ifng* were not detected as shared signatures of L1 lineage because some ILC3s are derived from ILC1 (31), and these genes remain transcriptionally active in them (Fig. 4A). As GATA3 was highly expressed in both NKT2 and NKT17 cells, and L3 subsets were not transcriptionally active for

IL-17 at steady state, these two genes were not identified as common lineage signatures.

Next, we sought to visualize the relatedness of the transcriptomes of different subsets. After pairwise comparison within groups, we generated a heat map showing the frequencies of overlapping signature genes between any two cell types among all 13 different subsets. Whereas L1 subsets highly shared their signature genes with each other, Th2 in L2 and Th17 in L3 groups had less sharing among signature genes (Fig. 5B, left panel). This feature was also visualized in network analysis (Fig. 5C), in which each

Table II. NES and FDR of gene set enrichment analysis

Category	NKT1 > NKT2		NKT1 > NKT17		NKT2 > NKT17		Correlation
	NES	FDR	NES	FDR	NES	FDR	
iNKT							
NKT1	7.36	0	6.95	0	0	NA	NKT1
NKT2	-8.03	0	0	NA	7.19	0	NKT2
NKT17	0	NA	-8.2	0	-7.5	0	NKT17
CD4 T							
Th1	4.2	0	3.15	0	1.4	0.1	NKT1
Th2	-0.7	0.83	0.79	0.75	-1.29	0.15	No correlation
Th17	-2.89	0	-2.4	0	-1.5	0.06	NKT17 > NKT2 > NKT1
NK and ILC							
NK	4.43	0	4.67	0	1.29	0.17	NKT1
ILC1	4.4	0	4.18	0	2.1	0.002	NKT1 > NKT2 > NKT17
ILC2	-2.9	0	-1.1	0.29	1.5	0.08	NKT2 > NKT17 > NKT1
ILC3	1.5	0.07	-3.6	0	-4.6	0	NKT17
$\gamma\delta$ T							
V5	4.27	0	4.0	0	-0.73	.82	NKT1
V6	-4.68	0	2.22	0.004	5.05	0	NKT2 > NKT1 > NKT17
V2	2.28	0	-4.59	0	-5.28	0	NKT17 > NKT1 > NKT2
V1	1.79	0.01	1.58	0.04	-1.1	0.33	NKT1

V1 ($V\gamma 1^+V\delta 6^-$), V2 ($V\gamma 2^+$), and V6 ($V\delta 6^+$) are thymic $CD24^{low}$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells and V5 ($V\gamma 5^+$) is intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells. NA, not applicable.

dot indicates a single gene with a line connecting to cells expressing them, and the distance between subsets is proportional to the number of interconnected overlapping genes. In this analysis, L1 subsets were all grouped together, whereas L2 and L3 subsets were more separated. V2, NKT17, and ILC3 cells were closely grouped, but equidistant between Th1 and Th17 cells, indicating Th17 cells do not share more genes in common with other L3 subsets than Th1 cells share with them (Fig. 5C). NKT2 and V6 were close, but they were grouped closer to Th17 than Th2 cells.

The tighter clustering of L1 subsets compared with L2 or L3 subsets was also reflected in upstream regulators and canonical pathway enrichment analysis (Supplemental Table II). We generated heat maps showing Pearson correlation of enrichment score of each upstream regulator and canonical pathway, in which the L1 group shared more common components than L2 and L3 groups (Fig. 5B, middle and right panels). Among canonical pathways, L1 shared 22, including the strongly enriched NK cell signaling pathway. L2 and L3 did not share a single common one, though we listed the pathways shared among three out of four subsets of L2 and L3 groups (Supplemental Table II). Of interest, the pathways cAMP and protein kinase A signaling were shared among L2 cell types, perhaps suggesting an important role for adenosine. Other pathways such as airway inflammation in asthma were shared among L2 cell types except Th2, and type 1 diabetes mellitus signaling was shared among L3 cell types except V2. Collectively, these features indicate each lymphoid lineage (L1, L2, and L3) shares key cytokines, transcriptional elements, canonical pathways, and upstream regulators, but the overall signature genes of innate lymphoid or innate-like T cells are less shared with the analogous Th cells, especially Th2 and Th17 cells.

iNKT subsets are more closely related to innate lymphocytes than to conventional Th cells

The analysis of overlapping signature genes (Fig. 5B, 5C) indicated that there is substantial heterogeneity among subsets within each lymphoid lineage. To quantify the transcriptional similarities of iNKT subsets with other lymphoid lineages, we performed multiple rounds of gene set enrichment analysis (Supplemental Fig. 2). In this analysis, the differentially expressed genes of each subset of Th cells, ILCs, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells were aligned on lists of genes differentially expressed between iNKT subsets. By measuring NES, we

quantitatively determined how significantly one subset shares a transcriptome with one of the iNKT subsets. For example, NK signature genes were highly enriched in NKT1 compared with both NKT2 and NKT17 cells (Supplemental Fig. 2B). Table II shows NES scores and false discovery rate (FDR) of all comparisons and the abbreviated interpretation (correlation column). As a result, signature genes of Th1, ILC1, NK, and V5 were all highly enriched in NKT1 cells compared with NKT2 and NKT17 cells, indicating L1 lymphoid cells are transcriptionally similar. Unexpectedly, Th2 signature genes had no skewing toward any of the iNKT subsets, whereas ILC2 and V6 signature genes were enriched in NKT2 cells (Supplemental Fig. 2). Similarly, Th17 signature genes were not strongly enriched in NKT17 cells, unlike ILC3 and V2 cells. Again, to visualize these trends, we plotted NES scores as x, y, and z coordinates, respectively (Table II), plotted them into three different two-dimensional coordinates, and grouped together cells having NKT1 (green), NKT2 (red), or NKT17 (blue) nature (Fig. 6A). We used the NES value of each iNKT subset signatures as a positive control and finally measured distance from the positive control to each cell type to measure relative distance (Fig. 6B). All L1 subgroups were closer to NKT1 cells than NKT2 and NKT17 cells, but NKT2 and NKT17 cells were more likely to be analogous to $\gamma\delta$ or ILC subsets than Th subsets. Th2 signature genes had similar distance from all three subsets of iNKT cells, and Th17 signature genes marginally separated NKT17 cells from NKT2 cells. These features quantitatively show that the transcriptional profiles of iNKT subsets are most closely related to $\gamma\delta$ T cells and ILCs, whereas CD4 Th cells had the least similarities.

Discussion

In this report, we describe the transcriptional nature of iNKT subsets using RNA sequencing. Our analysis revealed that NKTp cells have a dramatically distinct transcriptional program compared with all other iNKT effector subsets, even NKT2 cells (which are largely phenotypically indistinguishable from NKTp). This progenitor program was enriched in *Myc*-regulated genes, consistent with rapid proliferation, which is known to characterize NKT development, and does not occur with conventional T cells at the analogous stage of development (17, 18). These data should allow for the identification of better markers to experimentally distinguish NKTp from mature NKT effector cells, a matter that we are currently investigating.

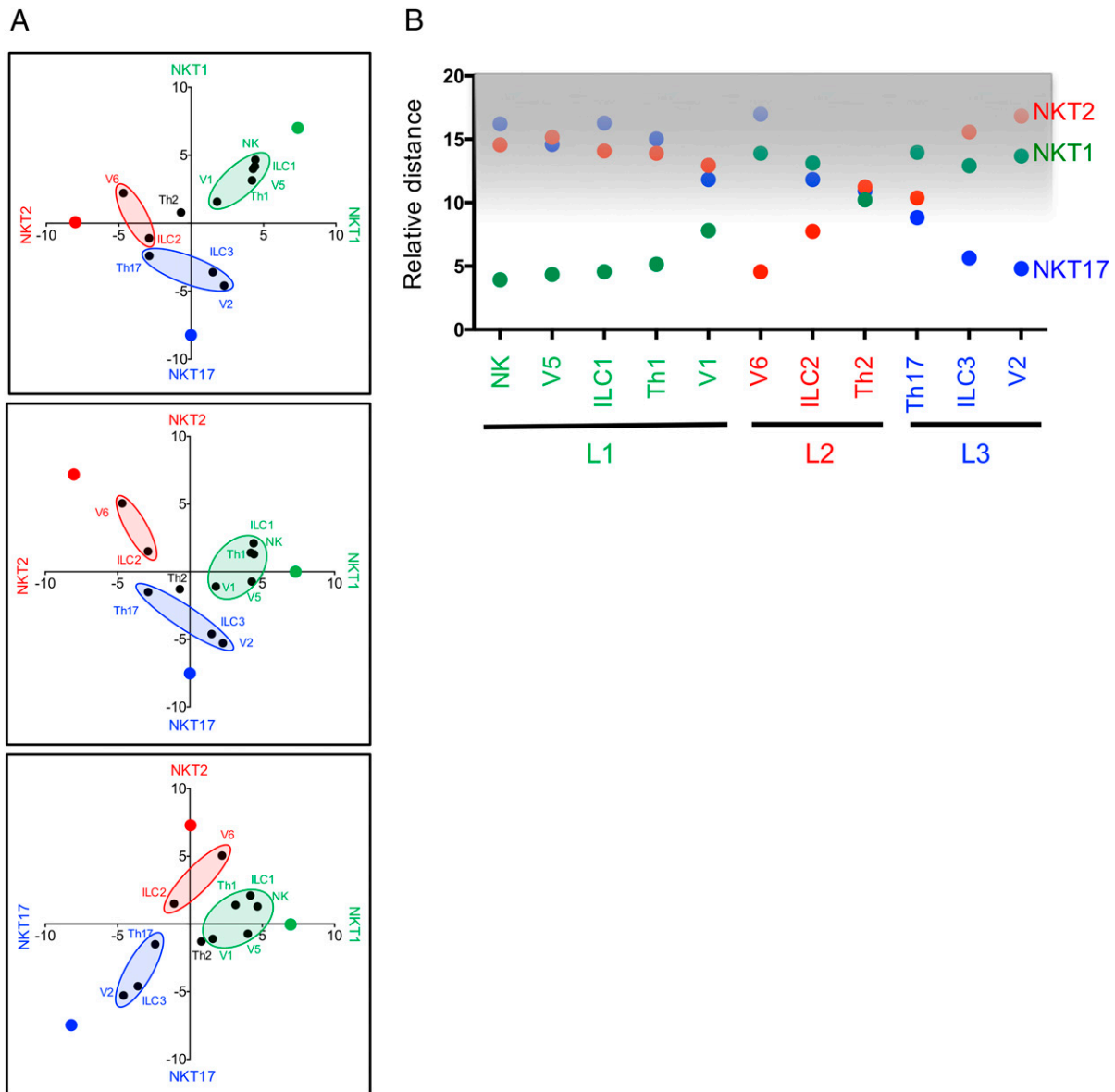


FIGURE 6. iNKT subsets are more closely related to innate lymphocytes than to conventional Th cells. **(A)** NES values (Table I) were regarded as x, y, and z coordinates and plotted in three different axis combinations. Each dot represents labeled population, and green, red, and blue dots without label represent NES of NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 signature genes, respectively. **(B)** Relative distance was defined as an arbitrary length between two populations from (A). V2 ($V\gamma 2^+$) and V6 ($V\delta 6^+$) are thymic $CD24^{\text{low}}$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells, and V5 ($V\gamma 5^+$) is intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

We also compared our data to published data sets including Th cells, ILCs, and $\gamma\delta$ T cells and showed that the transcriptional nature of NKT subsets are most like the analogous subsets of $\gamma\delta$ T cells, followed by ILCs. Th1 CD4 T cells were similar to NKT1 cells, but Th2 and Th17 cells did not show high similarity to other L2 and L3 subsets. Overall, this study indicates that innate or innate-like T cells share a common transcriptional nature distinct from adaptive Th cells. PLZF is a transcription factor directing innate function of iNKT cells (32, 33), and 50–70% of ILCs were derived from bone marrow stem cells that once expressed PLZF (34). Previous reports showed that V6 and V2 cells express PLZF, and we also found V5 cells express more abundant PLZF transcripts than naive splenic CD4 T cells (Fig. 4A). In conventional Th cells, however, PLZF expression was stably suppressed and not induced by TCR signaling or inflammatory milieu (35). Therefore, PLZF may be one of key transcriptional elements regulating the common nature of ILC and innate-like T cells. One caveat to the interpretation of these data is that the Th cells were in vitro

generated, whereas other cells were directly isolated from in vivo (10). Furthermore, it is unclear whether the differences between gene expression profiles of some Th subsets and their innate counterparts is a consequence of the fact that conventional T cells are analyzed relatively soon after polarization, whereas the innate immune populations may have been in their functional differentiation states for longer. Two recently published papers came to a similar conclusion as ours, showing directly isolated human ILC and Th subsets are transcriptionally distinct (36), and mouse in vivo Th2 cells acquired part of, but not all of, ILC2 regulomes upon infection (37). In contrast, the striking similarities between Th1 and IFN- γ -producing innate immune cells indicate that gene expression by in vitro Th1 polarization closely matches that of in vivo-differentiated NKT1, NK, V5, and ILC1 populations.

A previous report showed there are three functionally distinct $\gamma\delta$ T cell subsets that develop in the thymus; V1, V6, and V2 cells (9, 20). In our analysis, however, V1 cells were not clearly categorized as similar to one or more of the iNKT subsets (Fig. 4A),

although they had a weak NKT1 nature (Fig. 6, Table II). Instead, we showed intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells corresponded strongly to NKT1 cells and used V5 as a representative among four different subsets (Fig. 4A). As a result, we found V5, V6, and V2 cells were analogous to NKT1, NKT2, and NKT17 cells, respectively. Abundance of PLZF transcripts in $\gamma\delta$ T cell subsets was also analogous to iNKT subsets—high in V6, intermediate in V2 and low in V5 (Fig. 4A). In the absence of PLZF, V6 and $V\gamma 4^+$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells, which are similar to V2 cells, failed to produce cytokines upon stimulation (38, 39), suggesting PLZF is required for functional maturation of these cells. Further study is required to clarify how Ag receptor specificity and transcription factors direct functional heterogeneity of $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

Mucosal-associated invariant T (MAIT) cells are a specialized type of T cells recognizing riboflavin (vitamin B2) metabolites in the context of MR1 (40). They have limited T cell diversity in both mice and humans, and a recent report using MR1 tetramers showed that they all express PLZF and are dependent on it for development (41). In addition, MAITs had subsets expressing TBET and ROR γ t among the MR1 tetramer-positive cells (41), suggesting the possibility that effector differentiation profiles of MAITs might also be analogous to iNKT cells. Future studies will be required to analyze their genetic nature in a subset-dependent manner.

In summary, we showed that the four different subsets of iNKT cells are transcriptionally unique and identified NKTp as a distinct entity regulated by the Myc-dependent signaling. With comprehensive comparison analyses, we found the developmental profiles of iNKT subsets were more similar to those of $\gamma\delta$ T cells or ILCs than to conventional Th cells and identified core genes showing highest association with each lymphoid effector lineage.

Disclosures

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

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A

Input
Th1
>Th2 and Th17

Th2
>Th1 and Th17

Th17
>Th1 and Th2

NKT1 > NKT2 NKT1 > NKT17 NKT2 > NKT17



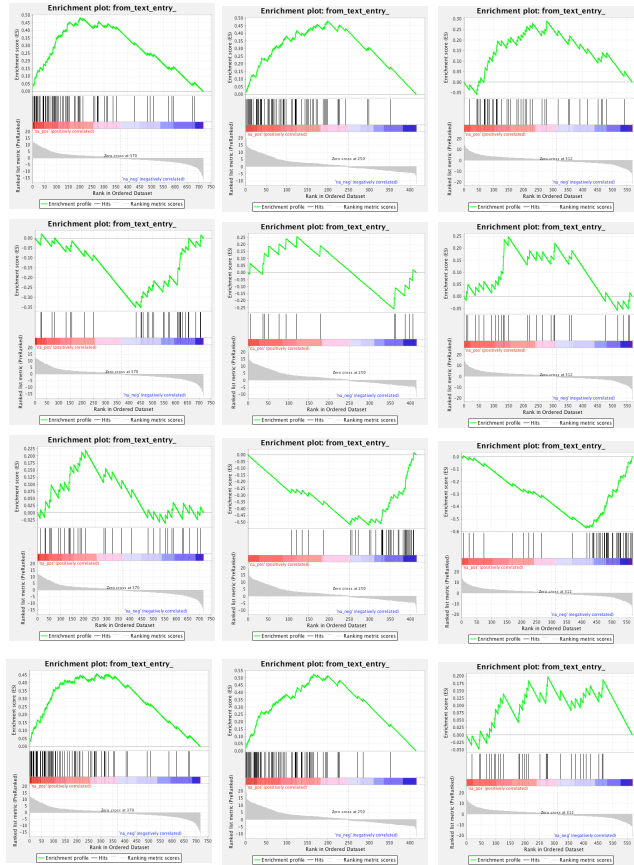
B

ILC1
>ILC2 and ILC3

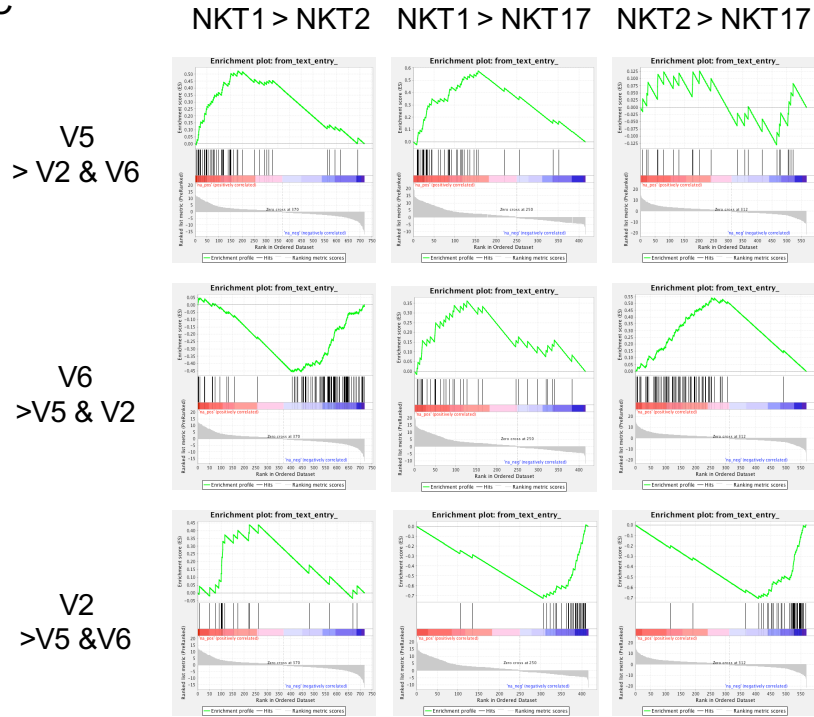
ILC2
>ILC1 and ILC3

ILC3
>ILC1 and ILC2

NK
>ILC2 and ILC3



C



Supplemental Figure 2. Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). Signature genes of T helper cells (a), innate lymphoid cells (ILC) (b) and $\gamma\delta$ T cells (c) were probed on genes differentially expressed between iNKT subsets. Subset signature genes were listed in Supplementary Table 1. V2 (V γ 2+) and V6 (V δ 6+) are thymic CD24^{low} cells $\gamma\delta$ T cells and V5 (V γ 5+) is intraepithelial $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

TADA1	IL34	KLK8	DTL
TAF1B	IL6ST	KPNA4	DTYMK
TBC1D10C	IMP2A	KRBA1	DUS4L
TBC1D2B	IMP2D1	KREMB2	DUSP4
TIGIT	INFP1	KRT18	DYRK3
TIRAP	INSIG1	KRT80	DYRK4
TLR4	INSL5	LIGAM	DZP3
TM6SF1	IPCEF1	LAIR1	E130308A19RIK
TM6SF2	IQGAP1	LAMP1	E2F3
TMEM163	IQSEC1	LAPTM4B	E2F6
TMEM165	IRF2	LCM11	E2F8
TMEM171	IRF8	LDB1	E330020D12RIK
TMEM37	IRGM1	LEFTY1	EBF1
TM6SB15A	IRGM2	LEM22	EBNA1BP2
TNFRSF5B	ISG15	LEPROT	EEA1
TRAF3IP3	ITGA2	LGALS7	EFCAB5
TRAF5	ITGA8	LGMN	EFCAB7
TREM2	ITGAL	LHFP	EFTUD2
TRIM21	ITGAM	LIMD1	EGR2
TRIM27	ITGAV	LLGL2	EGR3
TRMT11	ITGB5	LMBR1L	EBHP1
TSC22D1	ITIH5	LMBR1	EHD4
TSPAN5	JARID2	LPAR2	EIF2AK4
TSTD2	JUN	LPAR5	EIF2B3
TTBK2	KATNAL1	LPCAT4	EIF3B
TTG3BC	KATNB1	LRRC32	EIF4A1
TWF2	KCNAB3	LRRC8A	EIF4G1
TXNP	KCNC1	LSM1	EIF5A
TYROBP	KCNJ8	LSP1	ELK3
UBA3	KCNK7	LUM	ELP4
UBLCP1	KCTD7	LY6G5B	EML4
UBXN2B	KDEL2	LYNX1	EMP1
UCG	KHDRBS1	LYPLA2	ENDOD1
UTP23	KIF14	LYRM5	ENO2
VEGFC	KIF1A	LYRM7	ENPP2
VTIB	KIF2A	MAN1C1	ENY2
WIPF1	KIF3C	MAN2B1	EPB4.1L2
WTAP	KIF9	MANSC1	EPN2
XAF1	KIT	MAP1LC3B	EPRS
XRN2	KITL	MAP3K6	ERG1
YWHAQ	KLFB	MAP3K15	ERH
ZBTB8A	KLFB	MAP3K2	ERMAB
ZDHHC15	KLHL25	MAP3K9	ERV3
ZEB2	KLHL4	MAPK2	ESF1
ZFP105	KLHL6	MAPK11P1	ETV1
ZFP128	KLRF1F	MAPRE2	EVPL
ZFP157	KLRC1	MAST3	EXO1
ZFP160	KLRD1	MAST4	EXOC8B
ZFP235	KLRK1	MATK	EXOSC2
ZFP251	LAG3	MBOAT1	EXOSC7
ZFP260	LAMA5	MCL1	EXOSC8
ZFP273	LAMB3	MCTP1	EXT1
ZFP277	LAMC1	MCTS2	EZH2
ZFP300	LASP1	MDP1	F3
ZFP382	LAT2	MEI26	F730043M19RIK
ZFP418	LBH	MEPCE	FABP4
ZFP456	LCA5	METRNL	FABP5
ZFP512	LCN4	METTL8	FAM107A
ZFP54	LDLR	MFNG	FAM124B
ZFP563	LFNG	MGAT3	FAM128B
ZFP595	LG4	MGMT	FAM131B
ZFP597	LILRB4	MICALL1	FAM135B
ZFP637	LIMS1	MICALL2	FAM135A
ZFP7	LINC7	MIDN	FAM161B
ZFP708	LIPA	MIRLET7B	FAM184B
ZFP709	LITAF	MULL3	FAM185A
ZFP719	LNPEP	MLYCD	FAM20C
ZFP748	LPIN1	MOSPD3	FAM53B
ZFP759	LPIN2	MOXD1	FAM57A
ZFP760	LRMP	MPL	FAM73B
ZFP763	LRP12	MRPL35	FAM83D
ZFP780B	LRRC3B	MRPL55	FAM83E
ZFP825	LRRC3B	MRR512	FAM88A
ZFP85-RS1	LRRC8C	MRPS24	FANCA
ZFP87	LRRK1	MITG1	FANCB
ZFP973	LSR	MTRR10	FANCG
ZKSCAN3	LSS	MUC19	FANCI
ZKSCAN6	LT4AH	MXD4	FANCM
ZYX	LTB4R1	MYOV2	FARS8
	LTX	MYO5	FASTKD3
	LY6A	MYO9B	FBL
	LY6C1	N6AMT1	FBXL12
	LY6C2	NAB1	FBXL19
	LY6E	NAGA	FBXO2
	LY75	NBEAL2	FBXO5
	LYN	NCEH1	FBXW7
	LYPK8B	NCKAP5L	FCRL1
	LYRM1	NCLN	FEN1
	LYSMD2	NCOA3	FERMT1
	LYZ2	NCOA7	FGD1
	LZT31	NFRP1	FGF13
	MAML3	NDUFA6	FGF2
	MAN1A	NEU1	FGFR1OP
	MAN2B2	NFE2	FIGLN1
	MAP1LC3A	NFIA	FIP1L1
	MAP2K5	NFIL3	FJX1
	MAP3K5	NFX1	FKBP1A
	MAP3K8	NFKL1	FKBP1B
	MAP4K5	NPM3	FKTN
	MAPK3	NPTN	FLNB
	MAPRE1	NR1D2	FNBP1L
	MAPRE3	NRBP2	FNDC3B
	MATN2	NRGN	FNIP2
	MBNL1	NRIP1	FOXD2
	MCTP2	NRP2	FOXF2
	MEF2A	NSMCE1	FOXO3
	METTL9	NTRK3	FPGS
	MFSDB	NUDT19	FRMD4A
	MGAM	NUFP2	FRMD5
	MGST2	OAS1B	FRMD6
	MID1IP1	OAS1C	FSCN1
	MLKL	OAS2	FSD1L
	MORF4	OLFR60	FSTL4
	MOSPD2	ORA2	FTSJ3

MPP1	ORC4	FTSJD2
MPZL2	OSBPL7	FUBP1
MPZL3	OTUD1	FUS
MRV11	OXCT1	FUT10
MS44A8	P2RX4	FUT7
MS44A4C	P2RX7	FXR2
MS44A4D	P2RY1	FZD7
MS44A6D	P2RY10	GABARAPL1
MSH5	PAD14	GABRR2
MSMB	PANX1	GAD2
MT1	PARD6B	GADD45A
MT3	PAX9	GALM
MTHFD2	PCF11	GALNT14
MTHFR6	PCCF2	GAN
MUC13	PCCD2	GAP43
MVD	PDCD4	GAR1
MVK	PDE4A	GART
MXD1	FOLM2	GASS
MXRA8	PDLIM4	GATAD2B
MYADM	PDXK	GATM
MYCN	PDZRN3	GCLM
MYO88	PERO	GCNT2
MYO1E	PEX19	GCSH
MYO1F	PFDN5	GDF6
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NACC2	NACCC2	GFM1
NAPRT1	PIGM	GFOD1
NCALD	PIM3	GFPT2
NCAPH2	PIPSK1B	GGA2
NCF1	PIP9K1C	GIN51
NDN	PISD-PS1	GIN53
NDRG1	PJA1	GJA3
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NDRG3	PLA2G6	GKS
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NEIL1	PLCL1	GLCE
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NICN1	PLXDC2	GLS2
NIP41	PLXNA1	GM10033
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NLRP1A	PNPLA7	GM13034
NLRP1B	PNPO	GM3002
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NMNAT2	PNRC2	GM5177
NOG1	PODNL1	GM527
NOXO1	POGZ	GM5434
NPFH4	POLR4	GM5643
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NRM	POLR1A	GM6642
NRN1	PON3	GM6682
NSDHL	PORCN	GM7102
NSG2	POT1B	GM8994
NUAK2	POU4F1	GMNN
NUC21	PPARG	GNA12
NUCKS1	PPCS	GNL2
NUDT21	PPP1R11	GNL3
NUDT4	PPP1R15A	GOLGA1
NURBL	PPP1R9B	GOLGA4
NXNL2	PPP2R3A	GOLM4
NXT2	PPP2R5A	GOLM1
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OASL2	POCC1	GPD2
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OLF11	PRKCC	GPR152
OSBP18	PRKD2	GPR65
OTUD7B	PRKD3	GPRASP2
P2RX3	PRKDC	GPS1
P2RY14	PRODH	GRHL1
P4HA1	PROS1	GRIA3
P4HA2	PRR13	GRK1
PAD2	PRR14	GRK4
PAK6	PRSS32	GRWD1
PAOX	PSEN2	GSG1L
PAPSS1	PTGER2	GSG2
PAQR7	PTGIR	GSP11
PARD6A	PTPN13	GTF2F2
PARP12	PTPN18	GTF2H5
PARP14	PTPN7	GTF2R1D1
PARP6	PTPRCAP	GTSE1
PARVG	PYCARD	H19
PBX4	PYGM	HAP1
PCBF4	QPRT	HARS
PCCA	ORFP	HAS3
PCYT1A	RAB19	HAUS1
PDE2A	RAB20	HAU54
PDE5A	RAB32	HAU55
PEA15B	RAB37	HAU56
PGM2	RAB3A	HAX1
PHF11	RAB4A	HCFC1
PHLPP1	RABAC1	HCFC2
PHYH	RAMP3	HCN3
PHKB	RANBP6	HDAC2
PICALM	RAP1B	HEATR3
PIGZ	RAP1GAP	HECW2
PIK3AP1	RAP1GAP2	HELLS
PIK3R5	RAP2B	HELQ
PIH2	RAPGEF5	HIC2
PKD1L2	RAPSN	HIRA
PKIB	RARA	HIRIP3
PKIG	RASA3	HIST1H3E
PLAC8	RASAL3	HIST1HK
PLAT	RASGRP1	HIST2H2B
PLCQ2	RASGRP2	HIST2H4
PLC12	RASGRP4	HIVEF3
PLD2	RASSF5	HMBOX1
PLD4	RASSF8	HMGB1-RS17
PLEKHH3	RBK1	HMGB3
PLEKHM3	RBM12B	HIGN1
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PPM1J	RGS1	HNRNPH1
PPP1R12A	RGS14	HNRNPL
PPP1R3B	RHBDL1	HNRNPM
PRCP	RING1	HOOK1
PRDM1	RLTPR	HOOK2
PRDX4	RNF111	HSF2
PRELID1	RNF123	HSF2BP
PRELID2	RNF128	HSP90AA1
PRF1	RNF144A	HSPA4L
PRKCA	RNF152	HSPA9
PRKCE	RNF167	HSD01
PRNP	RNF196	HSPH1
PRPF18	RNF217	HTRA2
PRPH	ROM1	HTT
PRR5	RPL12	HUS1
PRR7	RPL13A	HYOU1
PRRC1	RPL14	IARS
PRRG4	RPL17	ISTK
PRSS16	RPL18	ICA1
PRSS35	RPL19	ID1
PSG17	RPL22	IDC
PSMB8	RPL2L1	ID2
PSMB9	RPL27	IFRD2
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PTEN	RPL32	IGF1R
PTGER3	RPL34	IGLON5
PTMS	RPL36	IGSF3
PTPN14	RPL36AL	IKZF3
PTPN22	RPL37A	IKZF4
PTPN5	RPL38	IL17RC
PTPRE	RPL39	IL17RE
PVR	RPL9	IL1F9
PXMP4	RPLP1	IL1R1
PXT1	RPLP2	IL1RN
PYGL	RPS10	IL21
PYH1M1	RPS12	IL23R
QARS	RPS13	IL2RA
RAB27B	RPS14	IL9
RAB28	RPS15A	ILTIFB
RAB31	RPS18	INPC2
RAB3D	RPS19	INPP5F
RAP2A	RPS21	INTS10
RAP80F4	RPS23	INTS2
RAS4A	RPS24	INTS4
RASGRF2	RPS27A	INTS7
RASL11A	RPS27L	INTU
RASSF3	RPS28	IPMK
RASSF4	RPS3	IPO4
RBMS2	RPS6KA5	IPO5
RBPMS	RPS6KL1	IPO9
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RCN1	RREB1	IRAK1BP1
RCN2	RTF1	IRF4
RDH11	RTN4RL1	IRGQ
RDH1	RUNX1	ISCA2
RECK	RUSC1	ITGA3
RELL1	RXR8	ITGA5
RET	RYR3	ITPA
RFK	S100A1	ITPR3
RFX2	S100A13	IVNS1ABP
RGAC4	S100A6	IWS1
RGS3	S1PR1	JAK3
RHOB	S1PR4	JMJD1C
RHOC	SAG	JMJD6
RILPL2	SAMD9L	JMY
RIMS2	SARS2	JPH4
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RIOK1	SAV1	KANK3
RNF130	SBF1	KATS
RNF141	SCAI	KCNC3
RNF157	SCAND1	KCNH5
RNF28	SDF2	KCNIP2
ROPN1L	SEC16B	KCNMB4
RPA1	SEC81B	KCTD11
RPGRIPL	SELM	KCTD14
RRAS	SEMA4B	KDEL1
RRAS2	SEMA4F	KOM2B
RSPH1	SEMA6C	KIF1B
RSPH9	SEPP1	KIF20B
RTBN	SERPINF1	KIF3B
RTN3	SEZ6L2	KIF4
RTP4	SFT2D2	KIF5C
RUFY4	SGCE	KIFAP3
RUNX3	SGMS1	KIFC3
RYR1	SGSH	KLC1
S100A11	SH3TC1	KLHL12
S100A4	SIGIRR	KLHL23
SAMHD1	SIKE1	KLHL8
SAP30L	SIPA1L3	KLRC2
SCARB2	SIRT5	KLRC3
SCD1	SIRT7	KLRC2
SCD2	SIT1	KNG2
SCLY	SLA	KPNA2
SCOPE1	SLC11A3	KRT6B
SCRN3	SLC12A5	KTN1
SCRT1	SLC12A9	L2HGDD
SDC3	SLC16A2	L7RN6
SDOFP2	SLC17A6	LAMC2
SELL	SLC17A9	LAMP3
SEMA3B	SLC25A37	LAP3
SEMA3F	SLC25A45	LARP1
SEMA4A	SLC25A11	LARF7
SEMA4G	SLC27A1	LARS2
SEPN1	SLC29A4	LAS1L
SERPINB5	SLC29A6	LBP
SERPINB6A	SLC35B4	LDHB
SERPINB6B	SLC35C1	LDLRAD3
SERPINB9	SLC35C2	LENG8
SERPINE2	SLC36A1	LED1
SETD7	SLC37A1	LEPRE1

SGIP1	SLC37A3	LGR4
SH3BP2	SLC38A9	LHX6
SH3BP5	SLC38A11	LIF
SHKLB1	SLC39A6	LIG1
SHF	SLC39A7	LIPG
SHISA2	SLC41A2	LIP2T
SHAH3	SLC41A3	LIMN
SIPAT1L1	SLC44A	LMNA
SKAP2	SLC44A7	LMO4
SLAMF1	SLC8A3	LCC380994
SLAMF7	SLC9A6	LONF1
SLC11A2	SLC9A8	LONF2
SLC12A8	SLC04A1	LONRF3
SLC16A1	SLFN2	LXL2
SLC20A1	SLFN5	LPGA1
SLC25A1	SMAD5	LPXN
SLC25A23	SMG7	LRFN4
SLC25A24	SNAP47	LRRG1
SLC25A30	SNAPC4	LRP1
SLC30A4	SNRPG	LRP2BP
SLC39F5	SNX33	LRPPRC
SLC46A3	SOC51	LRRG4B
SLC7A3	SORBS3	LRRC58
SLC7A5	SP6	LRRC59
SMACP	SPATC1	LRRC7
SMCHD1	SPATS2L	LRRK2
SMPDL3A	SPCS3	LSM14B
SNAI3	SPINT2	LSM3
SND1	SFR	LTA
SNTB1	SPSB1	LTV1
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SNX10	SRGN	LUM
SNX18	SRPK1	LUTZP1
SNX9	SSR4	LY6K
SORCS2	ST3GAL1	LYAR
SORD	ST3GALS5	LYRM4
SOS2	ST6GAL1	LZIC
SP100	ST6GALNAC1	LZTS2
SP110	STSSA4	MAD1L1
SP140	STSSA6	MAF1
SPARC	STBD1	MAGED1
SPATA13	STC1	MAGED2
SPATA6	STK11P	MAG3
SPRED2	STK38	MAGOH
SPRY2	STX1A	MALAT1
SPRYD4	SUFU	MALT1
SPT1	SUN1	MAML2
SPTY2D1	SUPT3H	MACA
SQLE	SUV420H1	MAP2K3
SSBP2	SV2C	MAP3K7
SSR1	SVAL1	MAPK8
SSRP1	SYPL	MAPKAPK3
ST14	SYS1	MAPKAPK5
ST3GAL4	SZT2	MAPKBP1
ST3GAL6	TAFC	MARKKL1
STSSIA1	TANC2	MARVELD1
STAP1	TAZ	MAST2
STARD4	TBC1D10A	MAT2A
STAT1	TBC1D2	MC2R
STIM2	TBCD	MCM10
STK17B	TBRG1	MCM2
STK24	TBR6	MCM3
STK32C	TCIRG1	MCM4
STK39	TCTN3	MCM5
STON2	TGDF1	MCM6
STXBPS	TRKH	MCM8
STYK1	TEP1	MDFC
SUGT1	TESC	MDN1
SULF2	TET2	ME2
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SWAP70	THY1	MED14
SYNE2	TIGIT	MED18
SYTL1	TIMM10	MEGF11
SYTL2	TJP3	MEGF8
SYTL3	TK2	METAPHD
TAGLN2	TKTL1	METTL1
TANC1	TLR1	METTL13
TAP1	TM2D1	MEX3A
TAX1BP1	TM2D3	MEX3C
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TBC1D28	TMEM141	MFSO2B
TBC1D30	TMEM160	MFSO7B
TBKBP1	TMEM161B	MFSO7C
TBL1X	TMEM185B	MGAT5
TBX21	TMEM191C	MGST3
TCP11L1	TMEM205	MIB1
TET1	TMEM221	MICAL2
TGM1	TMEM223	MICAL3
TGTP1	TMEM41B	MID1
THEMIS	TMEM50A	MID2
THRA	TMEM60	MIF4GD
THRB	TMEM63A	MIR17HG
TIFAB	TMEM64	MIR615
TIRAP	TMEM81	MK167
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TMED10	TMUB1	MMP11
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TMEM105A	TNFSF13B	MORF4L2
TMEM107	TNFSF8	MOV10
TMEM108	TNP2	MPHOSPH10
TMEM143	TOB1	MPHOSPH6
TMEM151B	TOMM20	MPZL1
TMEM158	TOMM34	MRPL37
TMEM159	TPP1	MRPL38
TMEM163	TPRGL	MRPL42
TMEM170B	TRAF5	MRPL45
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TMEM205	TRAP1	MRPS10
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TNKS1BP1	TUG1	MTBP
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TRAF1	ULK3	MTO1
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TREX1	UNC5A	MTSS1
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TRIM12A	USE1	MTX2
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TRIM14	UVRAG	MURC
TRIM30A	VAMP5	MYB
TRIM36	VAMP8	MYBBP1A
TRIM46	VILL	MYBL2
TRIM59	VKORC1	MYEF2
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TSPAN31	VPS33B	MYO19
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TUBA1C	WFKKN2	NABP3
TUBA8	WNT9A	NAA15
TUBB5	XLR3B	NAA16
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TULP4	XLR4C	NAA35
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TXK	XOD1	NAF1
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UBAC2	YTHDF3	NASP
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USP18	ZFP280B	NDUFA2
USP3	ZFP316	NDUFA5
VARS	ZFP317	NDUFA2
VAV2	ZFP36	NDUFAF4
VCAN	ZFP362	NDUFC1
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VPS8	ZFP456	NEK9
VWASA	ZFP467	NELF
WBP6	ZFP472	NETO2
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WNK2	ZFP677	NFKBID
WRN	ZFP68	NFKBIZ
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PTRRS
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RBMX2
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RECQL4
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RELB
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ROCK2
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RPLUSD2
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RRAGD
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RRP15
RRP18
RRP9
RSAD1
RSL1D1
RSRC2
RTEL1
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RUFY1
RUFY3
RUVBL1
RUVBL2
RYBP
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SAP30
SARNP
SASS6
SBK1
SCARNA17
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SCN1B
SCN4B
SCRIB
SDAD1
SDC1
SDC2
SDHAF1
SEC1
SEC24A
SEC61A2
SELP
SEMA3D
SEMA6D
SEMA7A
SERP1
SERINC5
SERP2
SERPINE1
SERTAD4
SET

SETD6
SF3A3
SFPQ
SFRP2
SGK1
SGOL1
SH3BGRL2
SH3BP4
SH3PXD2B
SH3RF1
SHB
SHMT1
SHMT2
SHQ1
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SIAH1B
SIGMAR1
SIM2
SKI
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SKP2
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SLC16A4
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SLC1A4
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SLFN10-PS
SLMO2
SLTM
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SMARCC1
SMARCE1
SMG5
SMGC
SMN1
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SNX16
SNX27
SOC22
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SOX12
SOX4
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SPATA5
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SPPRE1
SPON1
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SRM
SRRT
SRRT
SRP10
SSB
SSBP1
SSX2IP
ST13
ST6GAL3
ST5
ST6GALNAC3
ST6GALNAC4
ST7
STARD13
STARD7
STAT3
STAT5A

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STX12
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STXBPA
STXBPA
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SUV39L1
SUV39H1
SUV39H2
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SYDE2
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SYNGR2
SYP
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TBC1D30
TBCE
TBL3
TCEA2
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TCF19
TCF7L1
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TECPR2
TEFR2
TFDP1
TFDP2
TFF1
TFRG
TGFBI
TGFBI
TGF1
TGM2
TGS1
THGL
THOP1
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TIMD2
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TLN2
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TMEM55B
TMEM63B
TMEM66B
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TMT4
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TNFRSF23
TNFRSF25
TNFRSF8
TNFSF4
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TNIP2
TNIP3
TNK1
TNPO3
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TOP1MT
TOPBP1
TOX
TPD2L2
TPM1
TRAZA

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TRAF3IP1
TRAF6
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TRAP1
TRERF1
TRIM2
TRIM3
TRIM44
TRIP13
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TRMT6
TRP63
TRPS1
TRUB1
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TSFM
TSKU
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TSPAN6
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TTL
TTL4
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TUBB6
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TXNRD1
TXNRD3
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TYRO3
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UBQLN4
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UBR4
UBR5
UBTD2
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UCHL5
UHRF1
UHRF1BP1
UIMG1
UMPS
UNG
UPF2
UPF3B
UPP1
URB2
USP1
USP10
USP11
USP22
USP27X
USP31
USP33
USP40
USP46
USP49
USPENL
UST
UTP14A
UTP18
UTP20
UTR5
VAC14
VANGL2
VAX2
VCL
VDR
VKORC1L1
VMN1R5B
VMN2R96
VWA1
WDF4
WDHD1
WDR3
WDR35
WDR36
WDR43
WDR47
WDR80
WDR61
WDR62
WDR75
WDR92
WDYHV1
WFDC16
WHRN
WNT2B
WRB
WWC2
XRX
XRD5
XRCC1

XRCC2
XYLB
XYLT2
YARS2
YBX2
YDJC
YEATS2
YLM1
YLM1
ZADH2
ZB1B17
ZB1B46
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ZC3H12C
ZC3H12D
ZC3H8
ZCCHC14
ZCRB1
ZDHHC13
ZDHHC14
ZDHHC6
ZFC3H1
ZFH3
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ZFP318
ZFP382
ZFP410
ZFP428
ZFP440
ZFP451
ZFP488
ZFP518B
ZFP52
ZFP609
ZFP687
ZFP85-RS1
ZFP870
ZFP9
ZFP90
ZFYVE26
ZFYVE9
ZGPAT
ZIK1
ZMAT3
ZMYM1
ZMND19
ZNHIT6
ZSCAN21
ZSCAN22
ZWILG1
ZZZ3

Supplementary Table 2. List of shared upstream regulators and canonical pathways in each group. Numbers indicate $-\log P$ values of an enrichment score of each upstream regulator or canonical pathways. The list shows ones highly significant to all subsets in each group ($-\log P > 3$ or $P < 0.001$ for upstream regulators and $-\log P > 1.3$ or $P < 0.05$ for canonical pathways). For L2 and L3 groups, canonical pathways significantly shared by three out of four subsets are shown.

Group	Upstream Regulator	NKT1	ILC1	V5	Th1	NK
	ITK	30.10	12.31	10.66	13.83	11.15
	IL2	18.61	9.79	13.85	14.82	11.72
	IL12 (complex)	18.16	7.51	7.83	21.00	8.73
	IL21	14.90	12.67	12.60	8.84	10.31
	IL15	14.23	8.58	12.37	12.91	8.36
	IFNG	12.96	8.35	14.35	29.79	9.73
	TCR	11.53	5.25	9.68	17.82	6.68
	IL4	11.16	11.71	11.25	15.19	6.69
	IL10	10.34	4.90	6.25	10.44	6.69
	TGFB1	9.29	11.09	10.18	23.16	12.61
	TNF	9.24	6.64	12.47	20.31	7.01
	CSF2	8.74	5.16	5.73	7.30	4.99
	CD28	8.70	3.47	6.57	9.39	3.14
	FAS	8.17	5.23	5.95	10.38	4.15
	CD3	7.99	5.29	10.75	7.65	5.24
	IL5	7.79	6.92	7.85	15.14	8.45
	STAT3	7.50	3.77	7.73	20.16	3.65
	IL1B	7.40	4.07	4.69	9.28	4.57
L1	ESR1	7.33	5.60	8.50	12.79	3.74
	TLR4	7.24	4.35	9.20	9.16	3.46
	CREBBP	7.08	6.83	9.60	11.52	7.29
	ID2	7.04	4.45	8.90	11.03	5.80
	Interferon alpha	6.73	6.23	4.58	20.54	4.50
	IFN alpha/beta	6.30	3.04	3.68	6.68	3.39
	SATB1	6.13	8.71	5.78	4.84	6.76
	ID3	5.85	4.29	9.51	10.59	5.60
	ERBB2	5.78	6.80	3.42	15.57	5.67
	ETS1	5.32	5.05	6.08	5.45	5.51
	IgG	5.15	4.62	3.62	5.44	3.89
	IRF3	5.13	4.60	3.54	12.98	3.24
	IFNA2	5.10	5.46	3.80	24.48	3.36
	CD40LG	4.69	3.41	7.58	13.93	3.96
	IRF7	4.21	7.03	3.67	17.35	4.59
	CSF3	4.18	4.60	6.57	4.84	6.76
	FOXO1	3.69	4.00	3.61	5.85	3.63
	PI3K (complex)	3.53	6.96	5.15	3.45	7.79
	CD38	3.43	5.60	3.82	12.86	5.52
	CCL5	3.04	4.18	3.97	3.52	4.55
	EP300	3.04	9.57	3.64	8.79	6.66
		NKT2	ILC2	V6	Th2	
	TP53	12.31	6.72	23.02	7.46	
	CSF2	11.46	8.29	25.52	5.93	
	ID2	7.60	12.20	13.82	5.95	
	ID3	7.42	12.96	14.51	5.66	
	RRP1B	6.39	7.88	8.03	4.17	
L2	TGFB1	5.84	6.31	15.00	6.31	
	ESR1	5.77	5.35	6.73	3.83	
	CD3	5.15	9.98	11.15	4.43	
	ERBB2	4.51	6.17	13.15	3.77	
	TCR	3.72	6.73	12.59	5.88	
	MYC	3.27	3.85	10.69	3.13	
		NKT17	ILC3	V2	Th17	
L3	ID3	5.76	6.11	7.11	4.75	
	ID2	4.84	7.12	7.28	3.78	
	BCL6	3.35	3.51	4.16	4.90	
	EP300	3.19	6.25	16.43	5.53	
	IL4	3.06	4.92	6.00	7.43	

Group	Canonical Pathway	NKT1	ILC1	V5	Th1	NK
	Natural Killer Cell Signaling	10.86	8.52	6.27	5.43	9.39
	Pathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis	4.65	2.10	3.44	2.34	1.95
	Crosstalk between Dendritic Cells and Natural Killer Cells	3.50	2.56	1.75	4.19	2.18
	Production of Nitric Oxide and Reactive Oxygen Species in Macrophages	2.84	1.58	4.12	4.16	1.64
	Integrin Signaling	2.60	7.54	6.31	6.47	9.46
	Germ Cell-Sertoli Cell Junction Signaling	2.35	2.99	4.00	3.96	1.95
	Type I Diabetes Mellitus Signaling	2.21	3.47	1.41	5.00	1.76
	PKC θ Signaling in T Lymphocytes	2.07	3.20	4.39	3.38	1.58
	Erythropoietin Signaling	1.96	1.63	2.95	3.31	1.39
	Leukocyte Extravasation Signaling	1.95	2.87	2.62	1.72	2.81
L1	CCR5 Signaling in Macrophages	1.89	4.72	5.40	3.12	2.60
	Chemokine Signaling	1.88	1.54	3.58	3.07	1.89
	TREM1 Signaling	1.86	3.76	3.55	3.64	3.28
	Reelin Signaling in Neurons	1.82	3.65	3.44	2.89	2.46
	Ceramide Signaling	1.75	2.71	4.94	2.17	3.02
	Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte-mediated Apoptosis of Target Cells	1.73	5.07	3.75	3.62	2.56
	Virus Entry via Endocytic Pathways	1.61	4.78	2.28	4.56	5.82
	NF- κ B Signaling	1.57	1.75	2.60	1.64	1.38
	Paxillin Signaling	1.54	5.42	5.11	4.26	5.56
	Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Signaling	1.47	2.17	1.45	1.51	1.30
	Role of Pattern Recognition Receptors in Recognition of Bacteria and Viruses	1.31	2.47	2.29	3.79	1.54
	p70S6K Signaling	1.31	1.88	5.07	3.79	2.63
		NKT2	ILC2	V6	Th2	
	cAMP-mediated signaling	2.24	3.46	0.00	1.86	
	Protein Kinase A Signaling	2.07	2.09	0.66	3.35	
L2	G-Protein Coupled Receptor Signaling	1.90	3.48	0.00	1.53	
	T Helper Cell Differentiation	1.81	3.68	2.42	0.51	
	Altered T Cell and B Cell Signaling in Rheumatoid Arthritis	1.58	3.20	2.77	0.35	
	Airway Inflammation in Asthma	1.45	4.79	2.70	0.75	
		NKT17	ILC3	V2	Th17	
L3	Inhibition of Matrix Metalloproteases	1.77	1.53	3.57	1.18	
	Type I Diabetes Mellitus Signaling	1.75	1.95	1.25	1.85	