

Main manuscript file

Vanneste et al.

1 **Title**

2 **MafB is a conserved transcriptional regulator**

3 **of macrophage development and functional**

4 **identity across tissues and species**

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35 **SUMMARY**

36 Homeostatic resident tissue macrophages (RTMs) exhibit diversity across tissues but also
37 share common features that are driven by conserved transcriptional programs. While the
38 transcription factor MafB is highly expressed in macrophages, its role in establishing RTM
39 identity and functions remains unclear. Here we show that MafB was required for the
40 development of bone-marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) and most RTMs *in vivo*. MafB
41 deficiency retained RTM in a CD52^{high} immature stage and disrupted global and tissue-specific
42 identities and functions, impairing phagocytosis, splenic iron recycling, and lung, kidney and
43 gut physiology. Epigenetic profiling revealed that MafB directly regulated key RTM genes in
44 mouse and humans, including *Csf1r*, *Mertk*, *Fcgr1*, *Cd163* and *Zeb2*. *In silico* analyses further
45 demonstrated strong evolutionary conservation of MafB binding sites across vertebrates.
46 Together, these findings establish MafB as a crucial regulator of RTM development and
47 functional identity, linking MafB-dependent transcriptional programs with defining features
48 of RTMs and tissue homeostasis.

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 Macrophages (Macs) are integral parts of most mammalian tissues and exhibit an extensive
51 functional diversity.¹⁻⁴ Homeostatic tissue macrophage populations present at steady-state,
52 called resident tissue macrophages (RTMs) hereafter, act as professional phagocytes and are
53 gatekeepers of homeostasis by deploying important functions, including clearance of cells and
54 foreign bodies and defense against pathogens, as well as context-specific duties inherent of
55 their tissue of residence.⁵⁻⁷ While most RTM populations seed tissues before the
56 establishment of definitive hematopoiesis and are long-lived⁸⁻¹¹, bone marrow(BM)-derived
57 monocytes can also contribute to RTM maintenance throughout adult life.^{1,12-14}

58 RTM developmental and functional heterogeneity has been a subject of intense
59 investigations, which has led to the discovery of tissue-specific niche-instructive signals and
60 transcriptional programs dictating such diversity^{1,2,13,15-18}. However, macs represent above all,
61 a distinct cell lineage that is defined by common characteristics, including expression of
62 receptors, such as the Csf1 receptor (Csf1r)^{19,20} and the high affinity receptor for the
63 immunoglobulin gamma Fc region 1 (Fcgr1)^{21,22}, and mac-defining transcription factors (TF),
64 such as the Ets family TF PU.1^{23,24} and Zinc finger E box binding homeobox 2 (Zeb2).²⁵
65 Additional conserved factors arguably contribute to RTM identity and regulate shared and
66 tissue-specific transcriptional programs across RTM populations.

67 First discovered in 1994²⁶, Maf basic leucine zipper transcription factor B (MafB) has been
68 found to be highly expressed in myelomonocytic cells, including macs, and contributes to
69 monocytic differentiation.²⁷⁻³⁰ Of note, MafB overexpression can induce mac differentiation
70 from chick myeloblasts²⁸, suggesting a link between MafB and mac development. Subsequent
71 genome-wide and lineage-tracing studies support elevated MafB expression in RTMs,
72 distinguishing them from dendritic cells (DCs) and monocytes.^{3,22,31}

73 Initial studies investigating MafB contributions to mac development *in vivo* have used
74 *Mafb*^{-/-} mice³⁰ or mice reconstituted with MafB-deficient hematopoietic cells^{32,33} and have
75 found no marked defects in mac numbers.^{30,32,33} *In vitro*, MafB-deficient macs retain
76 phagocytic and nitric oxide-producing capacities, but display enhanced actin remodeling and
77 membrane protrusions upon macrophage Csf1 stimulation.³² When both MafB and c-Maf are
78 deleted, differentiated macs remain phenotypically and functionally intact yet acquire an
79 unusual capacity for self-renewal, driven by Klf4- and c-Myc-dependent pathways.³³
80 Additional analyses of MafB-deficient mice reveal context-specific roles of MafB in the
81 regulation of F4/80³⁰ and complement components C1q³⁴, the suppression of antiviral
82 responses in microglia (MG)³⁵, the regulation of brown adipose tissue thermogenesis³⁶ or the
83 restriction of lung monocyte proliferation prior to interstitial mac (IM) differentiation³⁷.
84 Nevertheless, the potentially conserved role of MafB in governing RTM development and
85 identities across tissues and species remains elusive.

86 Here, we addressed this question using *in vivo* conditional *Mafb* targeting³⁷, *ex vivo* mac
87 cultures and *in silico* analyses combined with flow cytometry, microscopy, RNA-sequencing
88 (RNA-seq), functional assays as well as epigenetic profiling of MafB binding sites. We found
89 that MafB was highly expressed and active in all tested RTM populations, at the exception of
90 alveolar macs (AMs). Myeloid-restricted MafB deficiency profoundly impaired the full
91 development and the identities of mature RTM across mouse tissues, with important
92 consequences for RTM functions and tissue homeostasis. Among more than conserved 4,000
93 MafB binding sites identified, we found that MafB directly regulated key differentiation and
94 identity genes, including *Csf1r* and *Fcgr1*, both in mice and humans. Finally, we provided
95 evidence that MafB-dependent regulation of mac identity was highly conserved across

96 species, thereby revealing MafB as a critical and evolutionarily conserved regulator of RTM

97 development and identity.

98 **RESULTS**99 **Elevated MafB expression and activity are conserved in mouse RTMs**

100 To identify transcriptional regulators of mac identity, we analyzed ImmGen microarray data
101 from monocyte, DC, and RTMs.³⁸ Core mac genes, such as *Csf1r*, *C1q* and *Mertk*, as well as the
102 gene encoding *Mafb* TF, ranked among the top genes upregulated in RTMs *versus* DCs and
103 monocytes (Figure 1A). *Mafb* expression was low in AMs, consistent with previous
104 findings.^{37,39} Using the Tabula Muris Senis scRNA-seq dataset⁴⁰, we found high MafB
105 expression and predicted TF activity based on the co-expression of target genes⁴¹ in brain MG,
106 liver Kupffer cells (KCs), lung IM and other tissue macs, but not in AMs (Figures 1B–1F).
107 Intracellular flow cytometry confirmed higher MafB protein expression in RTM populations
108 from C57BL/6 wild-type (WT) mice, except in AM, compared with blood monocytes and DCs
109 from the same tissues (Figures 1G, 1H, and S1). In the colon, where colonic macs (CMs) are
110 continuously renewed through the “monocyte waterfall”⁴², MafB expression gradually
111 increased along this trajectory (Figures 1I and 1J). A similar pattern was observed in the
112 peritoneal cavity, where Ly6C⁺ monocytes progressively differentiate into F4/80⁺ large
113 peritoneal macs (LPMs) via F4/80^{lo} small peritoneal macs (SPMs)⁴³ (Figures 1K and 1L). Hence,
114 MafB is highly and exclusively expressed in RTM populations across tissues and its expression
115 is upregulated during mac differentiation from monocytes.

116

117

118 **MafB deficiency impedes the full differentiation of macs *in vitro***

119 To examine the role of MafB in mac differentiation *ex vivo*, BM monocytes (BMMos) from
120 myeloid-intrinsic MafB-deficient (i.e., *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*³⁷) or control (*Mafb^{fl/fl}*) mice were
121 cultured with Csf1 to generate BM-derived macs (BMDMs) (Figure 2A). Although BMMos from
122 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and control mice both produced CD11b^{hi}F4/80^{hi} cells (Figure S2A), MafB-
123 deficient BMDMs did not adopt a typical amoeboid spindle-like cell shape with distinct
124 lamellipodia and remained smaller, spherical and with few filopodia (Figures 2B, 2C, and S2B;
125 Videos S1 and S2), suggesting impaired differentiation. Bulk RNA-seq analyses identified 808
126 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) (\log_2 fold change > 1 or < -1 , adjusted *P* value $< 5 \times 10^{-2}$)
127 between control and MafB-deficient BMDM (Figures 2D and 2E; Table S1), with reduced *Mafb*
128 and prototypical mac genes, such as *Mertk* and C1q complement genes (*C1qa*, *C1qb* and *C1qc*),
129 and increased monocyte genes (*Ly6c*, *Ccr2*) in MafB-deficient BMDMs compared to control
130 BMDMs (Figure 2D). We generated monocyte and mac signature scores by comparing
131 monocytes and RTMs in the ImmGen database (Table S2) and found, using Gene Set
132 Enrichment Analysis (GSEA), that the monocyte signature was significantly enriched in MafB-
133 deficient BMDMs, while the mac signature was enriched in control BMDMs (Figure 2F). In
134 addition, BMDMs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice exhibited significantly higher protein expression
135 of the classical monocyte markers Ly6C, CD62L and CD11a and lower protein expression of the
136 mac markers MerTK, C1qA and FR- β compared to those from control mice (Figures 2G and
137 S2C). Gene ontology (GO) analyses revealed an enrichment of developmental processes (e.g.,
138 differentiation, development) in control BMDMs, and of stimulus response (e.g.,
139 communication, activation) in MafB-deficient BMDMs (Figures S2D and S2E), reminiscent of a
140 plastic monocyte phenotype. These findings indicate that MafB regulates Csf1-dependent mac
141 differentiation *ex vivo*.

142

143 **MafB controls RTM development and transcriptional identity *in vivo***

144 Next, to assess whether MafB could also mediate monocyte-to-RTM development *in vivo*, we
145 generated BM competitive chimeras in which CD45.1.2 mice were irradiated and
146 reconstituted with a 1:1 BM cell mix from congenic CD45.1 WT and CD45.2 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*
147 mice (Figure 3A). At week 5 after transfer, the ratio of WT donor chimerism over total donor
148 chimerism of blood neutrophils and monocytes, as well as of SPMs, was between 20 and 45%,
149 while in all other RTMs, such ratio was between 80 and 100% (Figures 3B and 3C),
150 demonstrating that, in this competitive setting, myeloid-restricted MafB deficiency impaired
151 the ability of monocytes to differentiate in RTMs, at the exception of SPMs.

152 Next, we asked whether MafB deficiency altered the transcriptional identity of RTMs. Live
153 peritoneal lavage CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺ cells, liver
154 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b^{int/+}F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells, colon CD45⁺Lin⁻CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells and
155 brain CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells were isolated from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Mafb^{fl/fl}*
156 littermate controls, were hashtag-barcoded and subjected to single cell (sc)RNA-seq (Figure
157 3D). Curated data were integrated with previously published scRNA-seq data containing
158 CD45⁺SSC^{lo}CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ lung IMs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and *Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate
159 controls³⁷ and were projected in UMAP plots (Figures 3E and S3A). Based on the expression of
160 hashtag barcodes and known RTM-specific genes, we identified mac populations
161 corresponding to SPMs (*Cd226*, *Retnla*) and LPMs (*Gata6*, *Icam2*) in the peritoneal lavage; KCs
162 (*Clec4f*, *Cdh5*) in the liver; IMs (*Mgl2*, *Ccl2*) in the lung; and MG (*Tmem119*, *Sall1*) in the brain
163 (Figure 3F). In the colon, we identified two clusters of CMs characterized by high expression
164 of *Plac8* and *Ly6c2* or of *Cd4* and *H2-M2*, respectively (Figure 3F). Signature scoring based on

165 DEGs between Ly6C⁺ cells and MHC-II⁺ cells from the monocyte waterfall (Table S2)⁴⁴ revealed
166 that these clusters corresponded to Ly6C⁺ CMs and MHC-II⁺ CMs, respectively (Figure S3B).

167 *Mafb* mRNA was not detected in SPMs, LPMs, KCs, IMs and CMs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice,
168 while *Mafb* depletion was only partial in MG from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (Figure S3C). Next, we
169 conducted differential gene expression analysis between RTMs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and
170 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate controls and identified 92 DEGs in SPMs, 535 DEGs in LPMs, 262 DEGs in
171 KCs, 287 DEGs in IMs, 723 DEGs in Ly6C⁺ CMs, 150 DEGs in MHC-II⁺ CMs and 299 DEGs in MG
172 (Figures S3D–S3J; Table S3). Of note, RTM-specific identity genes such as *Retnla* for SPMs,
173 *Vsig4* for LPMs, *Cd163* for KCs, and *Fcrls* for MG were significantly lower expressed in MafB-
174 deficient cells. Next, we created RTM subset-specific scores based on the DEGs of each control
175 RTM subset compared to other RTMs in our scRNA-seq data and found that each RTM subsets
176 from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, except for IMs, exhibited a significantly lower score for RTM-subset
177 specific signatures as compared to their respective controls (Figure 3G; Table S2). To examine
178 whether MafB deficiency also affected global mac differentiation, we mapped previously
179 identified signatures of erythro-myeloid progenitors (EMP), pre-mac and mac comprising
180 different stages of mac differentiation (Table S2).⁴⁵ EMP signatures were low in all subsets
181 similar between MafB-deficient and control RTMs (Figure 3H). All MafB-deficient RTMs
182 exhibited a significantly higher pre-mac score as compared to control RTMs (Figure 3H).
183 Moreover, global mac signature scores were all significantly lower in MafB-deficient RTMs as
184 compared to their WT counterparts (Figure 3H). To explore this further, we built a macrophage
185 differentiation atlas from published scRNA-seq data containing CD11b^{low/+} fetal liver cells at
186 embryonic developmental day E14.5 (Figures 3I and S3K).⁴⁶ Using Slingshot pseudotime, we
187 identified *Cd52* as highly expressed in pre-mac but downregulated at the pre-mac to mac
188 transition, coinciding with increased *Mafb* expression (Figures 3J and S3L). Of note, *Cd52* was

189 higher expressed in most MafB-deficient RTMs as compared to their WT counterparts, with
190 the exception of Ly6C⁺ CMs (Figure 3K), and surface expression of CD52 was elevated in SPMs,
191 LPMs, IMs and KCs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice as compared to controls (Figure 3L). Together,
192 these findings show that MafB mediates RTM differentiation and identity across
193 embryonically-derived and monocyte-derived RTMs, and its absence leads to incomplete
194 differentiation with a persistent CD52^{high} immature signature and loss of subset-specific
195 programs.

196

197 **Loss of MafB profoundly alters RTM phenotype across tissues**

198 Next, we assessed how MafB deficiency affected RTM abundance and phenotype. MafB
199 deficiency did not alter blood monocyte numbers or proportions, CD62L expression on
200 classical monocytes (cMos), nor the proportion of GMP- or MDP-derived cMos (Figures S4A–
201 S4D).⁴⁷ In peritoneal lavages, *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice displayed higher proportion and numbers of
202 LPMs (Figures 4A and 4B). MafB-deficient SPMs expressed lower MHC-II and Relm α , while
203 LPMs had reduced F4/80, MerTK and Vsig4 expression (Figures 4C and 4D). In livers of
204 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, KC proportions decreased while F4/80^{lo}CD11b^{hi} monocyte-macrophage
205 intermediate cells (Mo-Macs) increased (Figures 4E and 4F). In addition, KC markers FR- β ,
206 Tim4, Vsig4, CD163 were reduced in KCs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice as compared to controls
207 (Figure 4G). Similar decreases in Tim4, Vsig4, CD163 expression were seen in KCs from
208 *Clec4f^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice as compared to controls (Figure S5A). Of note, confocal
209 microscopy analyses revealed that KCs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and from *Clec4f^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}*
210 mice displayed a less stellate morphology and lower Tim4 expression compared to control KCs
211 (Figures S5B–S5E). In lungs, as reported³⁷, *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice showed an imbalance between
212 CD64⁺ monocytes and IMs with fewer IMs (Figures S4E and S4F). MafB-deficient IMs expressed

213 more CD11b but less F4/80, MHC-II and CD206, while IM subset proportions were unchanged
214 (Figures S4G–S4I). In the colons of *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, Ly6C⁺ CMs increased while Ly6C⁺MHC-
215 II⁺ CMs decreased (Figures S4J and S4K). MHC-II⁺ CM numbers were unchanged, but MafB-
216 deficient MHC-II⁺ CMs expressed more CD11b and less CD163 (Figure S4L). CD163 expression
217 in MHC-II⁺ CMs has been proposed to distinguish CD163⁻ colonic lamina propria macs (C LPMs)
218 and CD163⁺ muscularis macs (MMs)⁴⁸. Nevertheless, the proportions and counts of C-LPMs
219 and MMs were unaffected in *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (Figures S4M and S4N). In *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*
220 brains, MG and border-associated mac (BAM) numbers were unchanged (Figures 4H and 4I),
221 but MG showed reduced P2ry12 and Fcrls expression (Figure 4J). Lower MG-intrinsic P2ry12
222 expression was also observed in tamoxifen-treated *Tmem119^{CreERT2}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice compared to
223 controls (Figure S5F). Higher percentage and numbers of MHC-II⁺ BAMs were also found in the
224 brains of *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (Figures 4K and 4L). In *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* spleen, red pulp macs
225 (RPMs) tended to decrease while CD11b⁺ mac increased, and RPMs showed decreased Cd163
226 expression, similar to KCs (Figures 4O–4Q). In kidneys of *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, kidney resident
227 mac (KRM) proportions decreased among CD11b⁺ cells, with reduced F4/80 and increased
228 Ly6C expression (Figures S4N–S4P). These results support that MafB deficiency profoundly
229 disrupts RTM abundance and phenotype across tissues.

230

231 **MafB mediates key RTM phagocytic and homeostatic functions**

232 Next, we examined the functional consequences of MafB loss on RTMs. First, we focused on
233 the core function of macs, phagocytosis. Upon intraperitoneal injection of *S. aureus* pHrodo-
234 Red particles, both the proportion of positive LPMs and the particle load per cell were
235 significantly reduced in *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice compared to controls (Figures 5A and 5B). KC
236 phagocytosis was even more impaired after intravenous (i.v.) injection (Figures 5C and 5D).

237 Given the key role of splenic RPMs in erythrocyte recycling and iron homeostasis⁴⁹, we injected
238 PKH26-labeled senescent red blood cells (sRBCs) i.v. and found that MafB-deficient RPMs
239 showed reduced erythrophagocytosis (Figures 5E and 5F). These observations were also
240 reflected at the tissue level without sRBC injection, with *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice suffering from
241 splenomegaly and abnormal iron accumulation in the spleen red pulp, as revealed by Perl's
242 Prussian blue staining (Figures 5G and 5H). Since IMs and CMs have been shown to support
243 lung mechanics⁵⁰ and gut motility⁵¹, respectively, we measured these functions in
244 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice. We observed increased lung compliance and decreased elastance
245 (Figures 5I and 5J), along with delayed whole gut transit time (WGTT) and increased colon
246 length (Figures 5K–5M), consistent with impaired mucosal RTM functions. Finally, given the
247 role of KRM in preventing kidney stone formation⁵², we tested this function using sodium
248 oxalate injections and found abnormal oxalate crystal accumulation within the renal medulla
249 of *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as revealed by Alizarin Red S stain (Figures 5N and 5O). Altogether, our
250 data support that MafB deficiency disrupts RTM phenotypes across multiple tissues and leads
251 to impaired phagocytosis, defective tissue clearance functions, and compromised RTM-
252 mediated homeostatic functions.

253

254 **MafB directly regulates mac differentiation and identity through cis-regulatory elements**

255 Although our data so far position MafB as a key regulator of mac functional identity, its direct
256 targets and the underlying mechanisms remain unclear. To address this, we performed
257 cleavage under targets and release using nuclease (CUT&RUN) for MafB on BMDMs from
258 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice. We identified 7,242 reproducible MafB binding sites in WT
259 BMDMs, whereas MafB-deficient BMDMs yielded only 14 sites (Figures 6A, 6B, and S6A–S6C;
260 Table S4). These sites were distributed across introns (33%), promoters or transcription start

261 sites (TSS) (31%), intergenic regions (26%), exons (6%), and transcription termination sites
262 (TTS) (2%) (Figure 6C). To connect MafB binding with transcriptional activity, we also
263 performed CUT&RUN for histone H3 lysine 27 acetylation (H3K27ac), a histone mark of active
264 enhancers and promoters. MafB-deficient BMDMs showed reduced H3K27ac tag counts at
265 MafB binding sites compared with controls, supporting that MafB promotes transcriptional
266 activation from these regions (Figures 6D and 6E).

267 By linking MafB binding sites to genes within ± 2 kbp of TSSs, we identified 3,511 MafB targets
268 in BMDMs, including 303 core mac signature genes (Table S2). These included known targets
269 (*C1qa*, *C1qb*, *C1qc*) and key mac markers (*Csf1r*, *Fcgr1*, *Mertk*) (Figures 6F and 6G). MafB also
270 bound regulatory regions for TFs central to mac differentiation and identity, such as *Zeb2*,
271 *Mafb* itself, *Maf*, *Spi1* (PU.1), and *Cebpb*^{53–55} (Figures 6G and S6D), as well as *Cd163*, consistent
272 with its reduced expression in KCs, RPMs and MHC-II⁺ CMs. To test whether MafB regulated
273 mac signature genes, we performed GSEA and found significant enrichment of MafB target
274 genes in control BMDMs compared to MafB-deficient BMDMs (Figure 6H). Consistently, RTMs
275 from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice showed reduced MafB target scores (Figure S6E).

276 Next, to assess whether MafB also regulates mac identity in primary RTMs, we performed
277 CUT&RUN for MafB on LPMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice. We identified 10,858
278 reproducible binding sites in WT LPMs, whereas MafB-deficient LPMs yielded fewer than 150
279 sites (Figures 6I, 6J, and S6F–S6H; Table S4). MafB sites were largely intronic, intergenic, or at
280 promoters (Figure 6K), and ~70% sites and target genes overlapped between BMDMs and
281 LPMs, including core mac identity genes, supporting a conserved MafB program (Figure 6N).
282 In addition, MafB bound LPM-specific genes such as *Pf4* and *Vsig4*, suggesting that MafB also
283 contributes to tissue-specific mac specialization (Figure 6O).

284 Given the importance of *Csf1r* signaling to RTM biology^{56–58}, we assessed its regulation and
285 found *Csf1r* and surface CD115 reduced in multiple RTMs, but not blood monocytes, from
286 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice as compared to controls (Figures S6I and S6J). Altogether, these data
287 suggest that MafB directly imprints mac differentiation and identity through regulation of
288 enhancer and promoter programs.

289

290 **MafB-driven mac programs are conserved from mouse to human and across vertebrates**

291 To assess whether MafB directly controls conserved *cis*-regulatory elements underlying
292 macrophage identity across species, we first examined the evolutionarily conserved FIRE
293 enhancer in the second intron of *Csf1r*, which regulates mac-specific *Csf1r* transcription.^{59–61}
294 MafB bound FIRE (Figure 7A), consistent with predictions of conserved MafB occupancy⁶² and
295 with studies showing that FIRE deletion impairs *Csf1r* expression and RTM development.⁵⁸
296 Genome-wide, 91% of MafB binding sites overlapped with *cis*-regulatory elements (cREs) that
297 together represent only 3% of the mouse genome (Figures 7B and 7C). Conservation analysis
298 across 60 vertebrates revealed elevated phastCons and phyloP scores at FIRE (Figures 7A and
299 S7A) and broadly at MafB sites (Figures 7D and 7E), which were more conserved than those of
300 PU.1 (Figures 7D and 7E).

301 To extend these findings to humans, we performed CUT&RUN for MafB on monocyte-
302 derived macs (MDMs). We identified 24,577 reproducible binding sites, which, similar to
303 mouse BMDMs and LPMs, were predominantly located in introns, intergenic regions, and
304 promoters/TSS (Figures 7F–7H and S7B–S7D; Table S4). Importantly, MafB binding sites and
305 target genes in human MDMs overlapped with 55% of those identified in mouse BMDMs,
306 including at core mac identity genes such as *C1Qs*, *CSF1R*, *FCGR1*, *MERTK*, *CD163*, and *ZEB2*,

307 indicating a conserved MafB-driven regulatory program between mouse and human (Figures
308 7I–7K).

309 Finally, across diverse vertebrate single-cell atlases, Mafb expression positively correlated
310 with both mac signature genes and conserved MafB target genes (Figures 7L–7N and S7E–
311 S7J), supporting a deeply conserved role for MafB in mac development and the establishment
312 of a core mac identity program.

313 **DISCUSSION**

314 Our study identifies MafB as a pivotal and evolutionarily conserved transcriptional regulator
315 of RTM development, identity and function across diverse tissues. Using conditional gene
316 targeting combined with epigenetic, transcriptomic, phenotypic and functional analyses, we
317 have shown that MafB deficiency disrupted RTM-specific transcriptional programs, altered
318 RTM phenotypes and functions, and impaired tissue homeostasis in mice. Mechanistically, we
319 have shown that MafB directly controlled pivotal mac differentiation and identity genes
320 through *cis*-regulatory elements, establishing a core mac regulatory network preserved across
321 vertebrates.

322 In the first part of the work, we showed that MafB-deficient BMDMs exhibited impaired
323 differentiation, as reflected by altered morphology together with an immature transcriptomic
324 profile and phenotype. A previous study reports that MafB-deficient macs display increased
325 membrane protrusions³², a phenotype opposite to our observations. This discrepancy may
326 arise from differences in experimental models, as that study used *in vitro*-derived macs from
327 fetal liver cells of globally MafB-deficient mice, whereas we analyzed BMDMs from
328 conditionally targeted mice. Of note, in our study, MafB-deficient KCs *in vivo* also showed
329 reduced pseudopods, validating the phenotype observed in BMDMs.

330 In BMDMs, MafB is activated downstream of Csf1 receptor signaling to orchestrate
331 transcriptional programs critical for mac differentiation and functional identity, as
332 reported.^{63,64} A major contribution of this work is the delineation of MafB's direct regulatory
333 network. By identifying over 4,000 MafB binding sites in BMDMs, we provided direct evidence
334 that MafB activated critical mac genes through enhancer and promoter elements, including
335 the evolutionarily conserved FIRE enhancer within the *Csf1r* locus.⁵⁹⁻⁶¹ Of note, MafB's
336 binding sites exhibit greater evolutionary conservation across vertebrates than those of PU.1,

337 revealing an unappreciated central role in mac biology and suggesting that MafB integrates
338 tissue-specific cues and translates them into core transcriptional programs define RTM
339 identity across diverse tissues and species. Beyond Csf1, the tissue-specific effects of MafB
340 deficiency and the identification of additional MafB target genes in primary LPMs suggest that
341 additional niche-derived factors may modulate MafB activity *in vivo*. Identifying such
342 upstream regulators will clarify how MafB integrates tissue-specific cues to tailor mac
343 phenotypes to their environment. Finally, the extensive dataset of MafB binding sites in
344 mouse BMDMs, LPMs and human MDMs provides a valuable resource for exploring the
345 therapeutic potential of targeting MafB in mac-mediated processes.

346 Previous studies using transplants from MafB constitutive deficient mice or conditional
347 targeting reported no defects in global mac numbers.^{34–36} Using a recently published *Mafb*
348 floxed construct³⁷, we examined RTMs across tissues and found profound disruptions in
349 transcriptomic profiles, maturity phenotypes and monocyte-to-RTM development in the
350 absence of MafB. Our data are consistent with the idea that, in the absence of MafB, RTMs
351 fail to fully mature and persist in an immature state, irrespective of embryonic or postnatal
352 origin. First, both embryonic RTMs (i.e., MG) and postnatal monocyte-derived RTMs (i.e., CMs)
353 were affected by MafB targeting. Second, immaturity was supported by reduced expression
354 of maturity markers, including Tim4, Vsig4 and CD163 in KCs, Vsig4 in LPMs, P2RY12 in MG, or
355 CD163 in RPMs and in MHC-II⁺ CMs, while the pre-mac markers CD52 remained elevated.
356 Third, downregulation of RTM maturity markers in MG and KCs upon MafB deletion with cell
357 type-specific Cre drivers (Tmem119 for MG, Clec4f for KCs) supported MafB's dual role in both
358 RTM development and maintenance of identity *in vivo*. Finally, our findings are also consistent
359 with the idea that MafB-deficient RTMs fail to adapt to their niches or occupy alternative
360 spatial niches, subsequently leading to phenotypical and functional deficits. Advanced imaging

361 techniques and spatial proteogenomic approaches will be instrumental in clarifying how RTMs
362 interact with their microenvironment in specific tissues and to what extent such interactions
363 are modulated by MafB.

364 Our study has demonstrated that MafB deficiency profoundly impairs RTM functions *in vivo*,
365 including phagocytosis, tissue clearance, and multiple homeostatic processes across organs.
366 While the list of functions tested is not exhaustive, the extent of defects observed supports
367 MafB's essential role in sustaining RTM activity and tissue homeostasis. These impairments
368 are likely to have even greater consequences with aging or under environmental,
369 inflammatory, or metabolic stressors, raising the possibility that MafB deficiency predisposes
370 RTMs to dysfunction under challenge. Notably, whereas previous studies report normal mac
371 functionality in the absence of MafB *ex vivo*^{32,33}, our *in vivo* analyses challenge this notion and
372 reveal clear defects in RTM phagocytosis and clearance functions, highlighting the importance
373 of assessing mac biology in tissue contexts. How MafB integrates stress responses and
374 environmental cues to safeguard RTM functions over the lifespan represents exciting
375 perspectives for future research.

376 In conclusion, our study has explored MafB's pivotal role in shaping RTM populations and
377 revealed its indispensable function in orchestrating global and subset-specific RTM
378 transcriptional programs, phenotypes and functions via direct regulation of conserved cis-
379 regulatory elements essential for mac core identity.

380

381 **Limitations**

382 First, the mouse experiments were conducted in a single syngeneic mouse background, using
383 relatively young mice raised under SPF conditions, and focused primarily on prominent RTM
384 populations. Caution is therefore when extrapolating these findings to other genetic

385 backgrounds, age groups, health conditions, or less well-characterized RTM subsets. Second,
386 while *in silico* analyses suggest conservation of MafB functions across species, most
387 experiments were conducted in mice. Although we provide epigenetic profiling of human
388 MDMs, supporting conservation of MafB-driven programs across species, additional loss-of-
389 function studies will be required to validate MafB's role in regulating human mac maturation
390 and function. Third, while epigenetic analyses of mouse BMDMs and one primary RTM subset
391 (LPMs) revealed tissue-specific effects, expanding such analyses to a broader range of RTMs
392 will be necessary to fully capture the diversity of MafB regulatory programs, despite the
393 technical challenges posed by these rare populations. Finally, future studies employing
394 CRISPRi-mediated perturbation of MafB-bound regulatory elements will be necessary to
395 functionally validate the regulatory role of these sites in controlling target gene expression.

396 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

397 **Lead contact**

398 Reagent and resource requests should be addressed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact,
399 Thomas Marichal (t.marichal@uliege.be).

400 **Materials availability**

401 This study did not generate new unique reagents.

402 **Data and code availability**

403 Bulk RNA-Seq, single-cell RNA-Seq and CUT&RUN data have been deposited at GEO and are
404 publicly available under accession GSE287347.

405 All codes for analysis of sequencing data have been deposited at GitHub and are publicly
406 available at: https://github.com/dovnneste/MafB_Mac.

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423 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

424 T.M. and D.V. conceived the project and designed the experiments. D.V. did most of the
425 experiments, compiled the data and prepared the figures. W.P. helped with *in vivo*-related
426 experiments. Z.L. and C.L.S. performed confocal microscopy experiments and analyzed KC-
427 specific Maf/MafB-deficient mice. M.H. prepared MDM. R.L.R. analyzed KC morphology. J.A.
428 and DV performed all the bioinformatic analyses. A.B. and B.M. helped with isolation and
429 analysis of CM. F.P. and D.C. performed the invasive measurements of lung function. A.H.
430 analyzed BMDM morphology. P.C. performed electron microscopy experiments. F.B.
431 generated myeloid-restricted MafB-deficient mice and F.B. and C.R. helped with the initial
432 characterization of those mice. T.M. and D.V. wrote the manuscript. All authors provided
433 feedback on the manuscript. T.M. supervised and secured funding for the project.

434 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

435 The authors declare no competing interests.

436 **Figure legends**437 **Figure 1. Elevated MafB expression and activity define mature RTMs in mice**

438 (A) Heatmap showing the top 50 genes upregulated in macs compared with monocytes (Mo)
439 and DCs, inferred from microarray data on the Gene Expression Commons platform.

440 (B) UMAP of myeloid cell transcriptional identity from the Tabula Muris Senis (TMS) dataset.

441 (C) Feature plot of *Mafb* expression, as in B.

442 (D) Violin plot of *Mafb* expression across myeloid cell clusters, as in C (height, expression;
443 width, cell abundance).

444 (E) Feature plot of MafB activity inferred with decoupleR, as in B.

445 (F) Violin plot of MafB activity across myeloid cell clusters, as in E.

446 (G) Bar graphs of MafB expression in blood Mo (blue) and RTM (red) populations, measured
447 byflow cytometry (n = 4).

448 (H) Bar graphs of MafB expression in DC and RTM populations from indicated organs,
449 measured by flow cytometry (n = 4).

450 (I) Scatter plot of Ly6C and MHC-II expression in colon CD45⁺Lin⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells colored by
451 Wanderlust pseudotime (merged from 4 mice).

452 (J) MafB expression along pseudotime, as in I.

453 (K) Scatter plot of Ly6C and F4/80 expression in CD45⁺Lin⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺ peritoneal cells
454 colored by Wanderlust pseudotime (merged from 4 mice).

455 (L) MafB expression along pseudotime, as in K.

456

457 Data are mean ± SEM (G and H). *P* values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey's
458 post hoc test (G), two-tailed Student's *t* test (H, spleen, kidney, and colon), or one-way ANOVA
459 with Dunnett's post hoc test (H and other organs). *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ***, *P* < 0.001;

460 ****, $P < 0.0001$. cDC, conventional DC; C LPM, colonic lamina propria macs; cMoP, common
461 Mo progenitors; DM, dermal macs; GMP, granulocyte–monocyte progenitors; LC, Langerhans
462 cells; LCM, liver capsular macs; LN, lymph node; MFI, mean fluorescence intensity; MLN,
463 mesenteric lymph nodes; Neu, neutrophils; pDC, plasmacytoid DC; pMo, patrolling Mo; RM,
464 resident mac; SI LPM, small intestinal lamina propria macs; SI MM, small intestinal muscularis
465 macs; SLN, skin-draining lymph nodes.

466

467 See also Figure S1.

468 **Figure 2. MafB deficiency impedes monocyte-to-mac development and mac functional**
469 **identity *ex vivo*.**

470 (A) Experimental outline.

471 (B) Representative phase-contrast images of BMDM (n = 3). Scale bar, 100 μ m.

472 (C) Representative scanning electron microscopy images of BMDM, as in B (n = 3). Scale bar,
473 20 μ m.

474 (D) Volcano plot of DEGs between BMDM from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 4
475 mice/group). Transcripts enriched in *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* BMDM are shown in blue and
476 red, respectively (\log_2 fold change > 1 or < -1; adjusted $P < 0.05$).

477 (E) Heatmap of DEGs, as in D.

478 (F) GSEA of Mo and Mac signature genes in DEGs, as in D.

479 (G) Bar graphs of mRNA and protein expression of Mo and Mac markers (n = 4–7).

480

481 Data are mean \pm SEM, pooled from two independent experiments (G). P values were
482 calculated using a Wald test with Benjamini–Hochberg correction (D and G [mRNA]) or a two-
483 tailed Student's t test (G [protein]). **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$. FDR, false
484 discovery rate; NES, normalized enrichment score; TPM, transcripts per kilobase million.

485

486 See also Figure S2 and Tables S1 and S2.

487 **Figure 3. Global and subset-specific RTM signatures are disrupted upon myeloid-intrinsic**
488 **MafB depletion *in vivo*.**

489 (A) Experimental outline.

490 (B) Bar graphs of donor WT, donor *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*, and host chimerism in blood Neu, Mo, and
491 RTM populations, as in A (n = 5–8).

492 (C) Heatmap of the percentage of WT donor cells relative to total donor chimerism, as in B.

493 (D) Experimental outline.

494 (E) UMAP plot of RTM transcriptional identity from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.

495 (F) Dot plot of average expression and percentage of cells expressing the indicated genes
496 within RTM populations, as in E.

497 (G) Violin plots of RTM subset-specific signature scores in *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* RTMs
498 (height, score; width, abundance).

499 (H) Violin plots of EMP, pre-Mac, and Mac signature scores in RTM populations from *Mafb^{fl/fl}*
500 and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.

501 (I) UMAP of transcriptional identity (top) and pseudotime trajectory (bottom) of fetal liver
502 EMP, pre-Mac, and Mac at embryonic day E14.5.

503 (J) Gene expression of *Cd52* (top) and *Mafb* (bottom) along pseudotime, as in I.

504 (K) Violin plot of *Cd52* expression across RTM populations of *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice
505 (height, expression; width, abundance).

506 (L) Bar graphs of CD52 expression in SPM, LPM, KC, and IM, assessed by flow cytometry in
507 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 5).

508

509 Data are mean ± SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments (B and L). *P* values

510 were calculated using a one-way ANOVA with Sidak's post hoc test (C), a Wilcoxon rank-sum

511 test (G, H, and K) or a two-tailed Student's t test (L). *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$;

512 ****, $P < 0.0001$.

513

514 See also Figure S3 and Tables S2 and S3.

515 **Figure 4. Myeloid-specific MafB-deficient mice exhibit drastic changes in the proportion and**
516 **phenotype of tissue RTMs.**

517 (A) Representative contour plots of MHC-II and F4/80 expression in peritoneal
518 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺ cells from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (left) and
519 percentages of SPM and LPM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 7–9). All subsequent
520 panels compare *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.

521 (B) Absolute numbers of SPM and LPM, as in A.

522 (C) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of MHC-II and RELM α expression in SPM, as in
523 A.

524 (D) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of F4/80, MerTK, Tim4, and Vsig4 expression in
525 LPM, as in A.

526 (E) Representative contour plots of F4/80 and CD11b expression in liver CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻ cells
527 (left) and percentages of F4/80⁻CD11b^{lo} cells, CD11b^{hi} Mo-Macs, and KCs, as gated on the
528 contour plots (right) (n = 8).

529 (F) Absolute numbers of CD11b^{hi} Mo-Macs and KCs, as in E.

530 (G) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of MerTK, Clec4F, Tim4, Vsig4, FR- β , and CD163
531 expression in KCs, as in E.

532 (H) Representative contour plots of CD206 and MHC-II expression in brain
533 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells (left) and percentages of MG and BAM, as gated on the
534 contour plots (right) (n = 6–8).

535 (I) Absolute numbers of MG and BAM, as in H.

536 (J) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of P2RY12 and FCRL5 expression in MG, as in H.

537 (K) Representative contour plots of CD206 and MHC-II expression in BAM (left) and
538 percentages of MHC-II⁻ and MHC-II⁺ BAM, as gated on the contour plot (right) (n = 6–8).

539 (L) Absolute numbers of MHC-II⁻ and MHC-II⁺ BAM, as in K.

540 (M) Representative contour plots of CD206 and CD11b expression in spleen
541 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells (left) and percentages of RPM and CD11b⁺ mac, as gated on
542 the contour plots (right) (n = 6–7).

543 (N) Absolute numbers of RPM and CD11b⁺ macs, as in M.

544 (O) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of CD163 expression in RPM, as in M.

545

546 Data are mean ± SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments. *P* values were
547 calculated using a two-tailed Student's *t* test. *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ***, *P* < 0.001; ****, *P*
548 < 0.0001. ns, not significant.

549

550 See also Figures S4 and S5.

551 **Figure 5. MafB deficiency impacts essential core and tissue-specific RTM functions.**

552 (A) Experimental outline.

553 (B) Representative histograms (left) and bar graphs (middle, right) of *S. aureus* pHrodo-Red

554 Bioparticle uptake in LPMs, depicting the percentage of pHrodo⁺ cells (middle) and MFI (right),

555 as in A (n = 6–7).

556 (C) Experimental outline.

557 (D) Representative histograms (left) and bar graphs (middle, right) of *S. aureus* pHrodo-Red

558 Bioparticle uptake in KCs, depicting the percentage of pHrodo⁺ cells (middle) and MFI (right),

559 as in C (n = 5).

560 (E) Experimental outline.

561 (F) Representative histograms (left) and bar graphs (middle, right) of sRBC-PKH26 uptake in

562 RPMs, depicting the percentage of PKH26⁺ cells (middle) and MFI (right), as in E (n = 5–6).

563 (G) Representative images (top) and bar graphs of spleen weight (bottom) from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and

564 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 6). Scale bar, 0.5 cm.

565 (H) Representative images of spleens from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice stained with Perl's

566 Prussian blue to examine iron deposition (left; overview, scale bars 1 mm; bottom, magnified

567 views, scale bars 200 μm) and bar graphs of Prussian blue⁺ area (right) (n = 6).

568 (I) Experimental outline.

569 (J) Bar graphs of lung compliance (left) and elastance (right) from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*

570 mice measured by FlexiVent assay, as in I (n = 5–9).

571 (K) Experimental outline.

572 (L) Bar graphs of WGTT, as in K (n = 3–4).

573 (M) Representative images (left) and bar graphs of colon length (right) from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and

574 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 6–8). Scale bar, 2 cm.

575 (N) Experimental outline.

576 (O) Representative images of kidneys from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice stained with
577 Alizarin Red S to examine CaOx crystal deposition (left; overview, scale bars 1 mm; inset,
578 magnified views, scale bars 500 μ m) and bar graphs of Alizarin Red S⁺ area (right), as in N (n =
579 4–6).

580

581 Data are mean \pm SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments. *P* values were
582 calculated using a two-tailed Student's *t* test. *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ****, *P* < 0.0001.

583 **Figure 6. MafB binds to cis-regulatory elements to promote transcription of key mac**
584 **differentiation and identity genes.**

585 (A and B) Histograms (left) and heatmaps (right) (A) and scatterplot (B) of normalized tag
586 counts at MafB peaks in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as quantified by
587 CUT&RUN.

588 (C) Genomic distribution of MafB binding sites in BMDMs.

589 (D and E) Histograms (D) and scatterplot (E) of normalized H3K27ac tag counts at MafB binding
590 sites in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as quantified by CUT&RUN.

591 (F) Venn diagram showing the overlap between mac signature genes and MafB target genes
592 in BMDMs.

593 (G) CUT&RUN tracks depicting MafB binding around representative mac signature genes in
594 BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, visualized with the integrative genome viewer
595 (IGV). Horizontal red bars, MafB binding sites in BMDMs.

596 (H) GSEA of mac-specific MafB target genes using bulk RNA-seq data from BMDMs of *Mafb^{fl/fl}*
597 and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.

598 (I and J) Histograms (left) and heatmaps (right) (I) and scatterplot (J) of normalized tag counts
599 at MafB peaks in LPMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as quantified by CUT&RUN.

600 (K) Genomic distribution of MafB binding sites in LPMs.

601 (L and M) Venn diagrams showing the overlap between MafB binding sites (L) and target genes
602 (M) in LPMs and BMDMs.

603 (N and O) CUT&RUN tracks depicting MafB binding around indicated mac (N) and LPMs (O)
604 signature genes in LPMs, visualized with IGV. Horizontal green bars, MafB binding sites in
605 LPMs.

606

607 *P* values were calculated using a Wilcoxon signed rank test (E) or a permutation test (H).

608

609 See also Figure S6 and Table S4.

610 **Figure 7. MafB binding sites and MafB-dependent regulation of mac identity are highly**
611 **conserved across species.**

612 (A) CUT&RUN tracks depicting MafB binding at the FIRE enhancer within the second intron of
613 the *Csf1r* gene in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (top), and phastCons and
614 phyloP conservation scoring tracks around the FIRE enhancer (bottom), visualized with IGV.
615 Horizontal red bars, MafB binding sites in BMDMs; horizontal blue bar, FIRE enhancer.

616 (B) Genomic distribution of cREs in mice.

617 (C) Overlap between MafB binding sites in BMDMs and cREs.

618 (D and E) Distribution of mean phastCons (D) and phyloP (E) scores around PU.1 and MafB
619 binding sites (−500 to +500 bp from peak center).

620 (F and G) Histograms (left) and heatmaps (right) (F) and scatterplot (G) of normalized tag
621 counts at MafB peaks in MDMs, as quantified by CUT&RUN.

622 (H) Pie chart showing the genomic distribution of MafB binding sites in MDMs.

623 (I and J) Venn diagrams showing the overlap between MafB binding sites (I) and target genes
624 (J) in human MDMs and mouse BMDMs.

625 (K) CUT&RUN tracks depicting MafB binding around representative mac signature genes in
626 MDMs, visualized with IGV. Horizontal purple bars, MafB binding sites in MDMs; horizontal
627 red bars, conserved MafB binding sites in human MDMs and mouse BMDMs, as in I.

628 (L) Overview of cross-species single-cell RNA-seq datasets from mouse (TMS), human (TS),
629 mouse lemur (TM), pig (PCA), clawed frog (XCL), and zebrafish (ZCL), used to calculate
630 correlations of *Mafb* expression with mac and conserved MafB target gene signature scores,
631 as in Figure S7E–J.

632 (M and N) Heatmaps of Pearson correlations between *Mafb* expression and either mac (M) or
633 conserved MafB target gene (N) signature scores across species, as in L.

634

635 *P* values were calculated using a pairwise Wilcoxon signed-rank test with Benjamini–Hochberg

636 correction (D and E) or a Wilcoxon signed rank exact test (M and N). **, *P* < 0.01;

637 *****P* < 0.0001.

638

639 See also Figure S7 and Table S4

640 **STAR ★ Methods**641 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS**642 **In vivo animal studies**

643 The following mice on the C57BL/6 background were used: CD45.2 WT C57BL/6J (The Jackson
644 Laboratory), CD45.1 WT C57BL/6J (The Jackson Laboratory, 002014), *Maf*^{fl/fl65}, *Mafb*^{fl/fl37},
645 *Lyz2*^{Cre 66} (The Jackson Laboratory, 004781), *Clec4f*^{Cre53}, and *Tmem119*^{CreERT267} (The Jackson
646 Laboratory, 031820). Myeloid-restricted *Mafb* depletion was achieved by crossing *Mafb*^{fl/fl}
647 mice with *Lyz2*^{Cre} mice. The corresponding littermate control mice were *Mafb*^{fl/fl} mice. KC-
648 specific Maf/MafB-deficient mice were generated by crossing *Maf*^{fl/fl}*Mafb*^{fl/fl} mice with
649 *Clec4f*^{Cre} mice, with *Maf*^{fl/fl}*Mafb*^{fl/fl} littermates serving as controls. MG-specific MafB-deficient
650 mice were obtained by crossing *Tmem119*^{CreERT2} mice with *Mafb*^{fl/fl} mice, with recombination
651 induced by oral gavage of tamoxifen (5 mg/day for 5 consecutive days); corn oil-treated
652 littermates were used as controls. CD45.1.2 mice were generated by crossing CD45.1 with
653 CD45.2 mice.

654 No differences between sexes were observed in pilot experiments. Each experiment
655 included both male and female mice aged 6 to 10 weeks, except for chimera experiments,
656 which used mice aged 11 to 15 weeks. The mice were bred and housed under specific-
657 pathogen-free conditions at the GIGA Institute (Liège University, Belgium), maintained on a
658 12-hour light-dark cycle, with access to standard chow and water *ad libitum*. Mice were
659 identified by genotype, and all experiments were conducted using age- and sex-matched
660 littermates. Investigators were not blinded during data collection and analysis.

661 All animals and experimental procedures, except experiments involving
662 *Clec4f*^{Cre}*Maf*^{fl/fl}*Mafb*^{fl/fl} mice were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and
663 Use Committee of the University of Liège (ethical approval no. 1956 & 2462).

664 *Clec4f^{Cre}Maf^{fl/fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were bred and maintained at the VIB (Belgium) in accordance
665 with the ethical committee of the Faculty of Science, UGent and VIB (ethical approval no.
666 LN1691). The study adhered to the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” from
667 the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council, published by the
668 National Academy Press, as well as relevant European and local legislation. Temperature and
669 relative humidity were maintained at 21°C and 45–60%, respectively.

670

671 **METHOD DETAILS**

672 **Isolation of blood, bone marrow and tissue leukocytes**

673 Blood was collected through retro-orbital plexus bleeding from terminally anesthetized mice.
674 Red blood cells were lysed in ACK lysis buffer (155 mM NH₄Cl [VWR, 21235.297], 10 mM KHCO₃
675 [Sigma-Aldrich, 60338], 0.1 mM EDTA [Merck Millipore, 1084181000]). Mice were then
676 sacrificed by cervical dislocation. Peritoneal lavage was obtained by injecting 10 ml PBS
677 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 14190094) containing 10 mM EDTA into the peritoneal cavity and
678 collecting the washout. Mice were then perfused with 20 ml PBS through the left ventricle, and
679 liver, kidney, lung, small intestine, colon and brain were dissected.

680 For BM cell preparation, femurs and tibiae were dissected and cleaned of muscle tissue.
681 Bones were opened at the knee joint with a razor blade, and BM was spun out by
682 centrifugation. Cell pellets were resuspended in ice-cold PBS containing 10 mM EDTA and cell
683 suspensions were filtered using a cell strainer (70 µm, Corning, 352350) to obtain a single-cell
684 suspension.

685 Spleen leukocytes were isolated by crushing the spleen through a 70 µm cell strainer with a
686 syringe plunger. Red blood cells were lysed in ACK lysis buffer.

687 Liver, kidney, lung and brain were diced into small pieces with razor blades, and digested for
688 1 h at 37 °C in RPMI (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 21875034) containing 10% vol/vol FBS (Thermo
689 Fisher Scientific, A3160802), 1 mg/ml collagenase IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 17104019) and
690 0.05 mg/ml DNase I (Sigma-Aldrich, 11284932001). After 45 min of digestion, the suspension
691 was homogenized using an 18-gauge needle. Ice-cold PBS containing 10 mM EDTA was added
692 to stop the digestion process and cell suspensions were filtered using a 70 µm cell strainer.
693 Red blood cells were lysed in ACK lysis buffer. Lung mononuclear leukocytes were enriched by
694 Percoll (GE Healthcare) density gradient centrifugation and collecting cells from the
695 1.080:1.038 g/ml interface. Brain leukocytes were enriched by Percoll density centrifugation
696 and harvesting cells at the 80%:40% interface.

697 For gut leukocyte collection, small intestine and colon were washed in ice-cold PBS and
698 remaining fat tissue and Peyer's patches were removed. The intestines were opened
699 longitudinally, cut into segments of 3–4 mm and washed in ice-cold HBSS (Thermo Fisher
700 Scientific, 14025-050) with 2% FBS. To remove mucus and epithelial cells, intestines were
701 incubated with HBSS containing 2 mM EDTA and 1 mM 1,4-Dithiothreitol (DTT) (Sigma-Aldrich,
702 10708984001) at 37°C with agitation for 20 min followed by an incubation in HBSS
703 supplemented with 2 mM EDTA at 37°C with agitation for 40 min. The remaining tissue was
704 washed in ice-cold PBS and digested for 1 h at 37 °C with agitation in RPMI containing 5% FBS,
705 1 mg/ml collagenase VIII (Sigma-Aldrich, C2139) and 0.05 mg/ml DNase I. Ice-cold PBS
706 containing 2 mM EDTA was added to stop the digestion process and cell suspensions were
707 filtered using a 70 µm cell strainer.

708 For skin preparation, ears were dissected, separated in dorsal and ventral sections, and
709 digested for 90 min at 37 °C in HBSS supplemented with 5 U/ml Dispase (Sigma-Aldrich,
710 D4693). Dorsal and ventral sections were cut into small pieces using scissors, and further

711 digested for 1 h at 37°C in RPMI containing 10% FBS, 1 mg/ml collagenase IV and 0.05 mg/ml
712 DNase I. After 45 min of digestion, the suspension was homogenized using an 18-gauge
713 needle. Ice-cold PBS containing 10 mM EDTA was added to stop the digestion process and cell
714 suspensions were filtered using a 70 µm cell strainer.

715

716 **Flow cytometry and cell sorting**

717 Cells ($0.5\text{--}5 \times 10^6$) were pre-incubated for 10 min at 4 °C with Mouse BD Fc Block (BD
718 Biosciences, 553142) to block unspecific binding to Fc receptors. Cells were then stained with
719 fluorophore-conjugated antibodies for 30 min at 4°C. Lineage markers used RTM analysis
720 included CD3e, CD19, CD49b, Ly6G and SiglecF. For MafB staining, extracellular-stained cells
721 were permeabilized using FoxP3 Transcription Factor Staining Kit (eBioscience™, 00-5523-00),
722 stained with anti-MafB antibody (Bethyl, A700-046) and secondary AF488 Goat anti-Rabbit
723 IgG (H+L) (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A11008) or AF647 Donkey anti-rabbit IgG (Biolegend,
724 406414). Stained cell suspensions were maintained at 4 °C and analyzed with an LSR Fortessa
725 (BD Biosciences). For scRNA-seq, RTM were sorted using a MA900 (Sony). Dead cells were
726 excluded using by LIVE/DEAD Fixable Near-IR (775) stain (Thermo Fisher Scientific, L34976).
727 The full list of antibodies used for flow cytometry can be found in the Key Resources Table.
728 Flow cytometry data were analyzed using FlowJo software (TreeStar).

729

730 **Wanderlust pseudotime**

731 On flow cytometry data, CD45⁺Lin⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺ colon cells and CD45⁺Lin⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺
732 peritoneal cells were gated, down sampled (1×10^4 cells/ sample) and concatenated using
733 FlowJo. Wanderlust pseudotime⁶⁸ was calculated on concatenated flow cytometry data based

734 on Ly6C and MHC-II expression or Ly6C and F4/80 expression for colon and peritoneal cells,
735 respectively.

736

737 **Bone marrow-derived macrophage differentiation**

738 BMMos were isolated from BM using Monocyte Isolation Kit (BM) (Miltenyi Biotec,
739 130100629) and were seeded in tissue culture-treated plates and cultured for 4 days in RPMI
740 supplemented with 10% FBS, 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 11360070), 1X
741 Minimum Essential Medium Non-Essential Amino Acids (MEM NEAA; Thermo Fisher Scientific,
742 11140050), 50 μ M β -mercaptoethanol (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 31350010) and 40 ng/ml Csf-
743 1 (Peprotech, 31502) to differentiate them into BMDMs.

744

745 **Scanning electron microscopy**

746 Fifty thousand BMMos from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were isolated, seeded on discoid
747 coverslips in tissue culture-treated 24-well plates (Greiner, 662160) and differentiated into
748 BMDMs, as described above. After 4 days, the cells were washed with PBS and fixed for 2
749 hours in 2.5% glutaraldehyde prepared in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.2). Following
750 fixation, the cells were rinsed in 0.2 M cacodylate buffer and MilliQ water, then post-fixed for
751 1 hour in aqueous 1% osmium tetroxide. The cells were washed three times with MilliQ water
752 and subsequently dehydrated through a graded ethanol series (30%, 50%, 70%, 90%, and
753 100%). After three rinses in absolute ethanol, the glass coverslips containing the cells were
754 dried with CO₂ using a critical point dryer (Leica EM CPD300). The dried coverslips were fixed
755 to glass slides using double-sided carbon tape and coated with a 20 nm layer of gold using a
756 Balzers SCD 004 sputter coater (Balzers). Imaging was performed using a Tescan Clara FEG-

757 SEM (Tescan) equipped with an Everhart-Thornley secondary electron detector under an
758 accelerating voltage of 15 kV.

759

760 **Cell morphology**

761 Fifty thousand BMMos from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were isolated, seeded in a
762 CELLview™ Advanced TC™ petri dish (Greiner, 627975) and differentiated into BMDMs, as
763 described above. After 4 days, differential interference contrast (DIC) images of BMDM cells
764 were acquired using a Zeiss Axio Observer microscope equipped with a 25×/0.8 DIC oil
765 immersion objective and an AxioCam 506 monochromatic camera. For cell segmentation in
766 DIC images, the pre-trained LC2 model of Cellpose 2.0 was retrained with a set of annotated
767 images to enhance its performance and better capture the morphological characteristics of
768 the cells. Predictions were automated using FIJI (1.54) with an ImageJ macro and the BIOP
769 plugin. Morphological characteristics of the segmented cells, including area, perimeter,
770 circularity, roundness, solidity and Feret diameter, were extracted from the masks generated
771 by Cellpose 2.0. One hundred cells were analyzed per biological replicate and three biological
772 replicates were analyzed per group.

773

774 **Bulk RNA sequencing library preparation**

775 Two hundred fifty thousand BMMos from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were isolated,
776 seeded in tissue culture-treated 6-well plates (Greiner, 657160) and differentiated into
777 BMDMs, as described above. After 4 days, non-adherent cells were washed off with ice-cold
778 PBS and total RNA was isolated with the standard TRIzol (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 15596018)
779 RNA extraction protocol. Total RNA was further purified and concentrated using a RNA Clean
780 & Concentrator Kit (Zymo Research, R1013) according to manufacturer's instructions. RNA

781 quality and quantity were evaluated using a 5200 Fragment Analyzer (Agilent). Samples with
782 a RIN > 9.9 were selected for sequencing. One hundred nanograms of RNA was used to
783 generate the libraries using the TruSeq Stranded mRNA kit (Illumina, 20020594). These
784 libraries were sequenced on an NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina) sequencer on an S4 flow cell.

785

786 **Bulk RNA sequencing analysis**

787 Preprocessing, alignment to the mouse genome (GRCm38/mm10), sequence counting, and
788 quality control of the bulk RNA-Seq data were carried out with the *nf-core/rnaseq* pipeline.
789 RNA-Seq data were further analyzed using R Bioconductor (4.2.3) and the DESeq2 package
790 (1.38.3)⁶⁹. DEGs were calculated using the DESeq function. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment
791 analyses on DEGs was performed using the *dag_enrich_on_genes* function from the *simona*
792 package .

793

794 **Gene Set Enrichment Analysis**

795 For bulk RNA-Seq, GSEA was performed using GSEA software (4.1.0). In brief, genes from gene
796 sets were ranked according to their expression in *Mafb^{fl/fl}* BMDM and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* BMDMs
797 using the *Signal2Noise* method. The Normalized Enrichment Score (NES), False Discovery Rate
798 (FDR), and nominal *P*-values were determined through 1000 sample permutations across
799 different phenotypes.

800 Monocyte signature genes and mac signature genes were retrieved by comparing gene
801 expression between monocytes and macs in the ImmGen database using the ImmGen
802 Population Comparison data browser.

803

804 **Bone marrow chimeras**

805 For mixed bone marrow competitive chimeras, CD45.1.2 mice received two doses of 5.5 Gy
806 lethal irradiation, 15 minutes apart, and were reconstituted by intravenous injection of 10^7
807 bone marrow cells, consisting of a 1:1 mix of cells from CD45.1 WT and CD45.2 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}*
808 mice. Starting from the day of irradiation, mice were treated with enrofloxacin (0.05 mg/ml;
809 Baytril, Bayer) in their drinking water for 4 weeks. Four weeks after irradiation, blood
810 chimerism was evaluated by flow cytometry.

811

812 **Single-cell RNA sequencing library preparation**

813 Two independent scRNA-seq experiments were performed. In the first experiment, peritoneal
814 macrophages and liver macrophages were isolated. In the second experiment, colonic and
815 brain macrophages were isolated. For each experiment, cells were FACS-sorted from
816 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and *Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate controls.

817 Specifically, in the first experiment we sorted 5×10^4 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺ live
818 cells from the peritoneal lavage and 5×10^4 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b^{int/+}F4/80⁺CD64⁺ live cells
819 from the liver. In the second experiment we sorted 5×10^4 CD45⁺Lin⁻CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ live
820 cells from the colon and 5×10^4 CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ live cells from the brain.

821 Sorting was performed in PBS with 5% FBS. Sorted cells were barcoded with TotalSeq™-B anti-
822 mouse Hashtag antibodies (Biolegend). Hashtag barcoded cells were washed, pooled per
823 genotype, spun down and resuspended in PBS with 0.04% UltraPure™ BSA (Thermo Fisher

824 Scientific, AM2616) at an estimated final concentration of 1000 cells/μl. Cell suspensions were
825 loaded into the Chromium iX (10x Genomics) at a target recovery of 2×10^3 cell per sorted
826 population and single-cell RNA-Seq libraries were prepared using Chromium Single Cell 3'
827 GEM, Library & Gel Bead Kit v3.1 (10x Genomics, 1000128) according to demonstrated 10x
828 Genomics protocol "Next GEM Single Cell 3' Reagent Kits v3.1 with Feature Barcoding

829 technology for Cell Surface Protein” (CG000206 Rev D). In brief, single-cell Gene Expression
830 Matrices (GEMs) were generated by combining barcoded Single Cell 3’ v3.1 Gel Beads, a
831 Master Mix, and hashtag-labeled cells with Partitioning Oil on a Chromium Chip G (10x
832 Genomics). Reverse transcription was performed using a Veriti Thermocycler (Thermo Fisher
833 Scientific) at 53°C for 45 minutes, 85°C for 5 minutes, and holding at 4°C. Next, GEMs were
834 disrupted, and pooled fractions were purified using DynaBeads MyOne Silane Beads (10x
835 Genomics, No. 2000048). Full-length cell-barcoded cDNA and hashtag were amplified via PCR
836 with a 12-cycle reaction module at 98°C for 3 minutes, 11 cycles at 98°C for 15 seconds, 63°C
837 for 20 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minute, followed by a final extension at 72°C for 1 minute.
838 Feature cDNA Primer 2 (PN2000097, 10x Genomics) was used to amplify both cDNA and
839 hashtag. The cDNA reaction was purified and size-selected for library preparation using SPRI
840 Beads (Beckman Coulter). The supernatant, containing Cell barcoded hashtag amplicons, was
841 separated and purified again for hashtag library preparation. For 3’ Gene Expression library
842 construction, amplified cDNA was fragmented and size-selected. Adaptors (read 2 sequences)
843 were added through End Repair, A-tailing, and partial Adaptor Ligation. Libraries were then
844 amplified by PCR (indexing PCR) using different dual index primers per sample (PN-3000431
845 Dual Index Plate TT Set A). Purified hashtag amplicons were processed in an indexing PCR using
846 Feature SI Primers 2 (PN2000099, 10x Genomics) with single index primers (PN-2000240 Single
847 Index Plate T Set A, 10x Genomics). Both the 3’ Gene Expression and hashtag libraries were
848 quality-checked on QIAxel and quantified by qPCR using Kapa SyberFast (Roche). Libraries
849 were sequenced on an NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina) using an S4 flow cell for paired-end 150 cycles,
850 but demultiplexed with read 1: 28 cycles; read 2: 91 cycles; index i7: 10 cycles; index i5:10
851 cycles, with a sequencing depth of 20,000 reads per cell for cDNA and 5,000 reads per cell for
852 hashtag libraries.

853

854 **Single-cell RNA sequencing analysis**

855 Demultiplexing, alignment to the mouse genome (GRCm38/mm10), filtering, unique
856 molecular identifier counting and construction of gene-barcode matrices of the single-cell
857 RNA-Seq data were performed using Cell Ranger (7.1.0). Single-cell RNA-Seq data were further
858 analyzed using R Bioconductor (4.2.3) and the Seurat package (4.3.0). Filtered matrices
859 containing cell IDs and feature names for each sample were used to construct a Seurat object.
860 Datasets from both experiments were merged and integrated with previously published
861 single-cell RNA-seq data containing CD45⁺SSC^{lo}CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺ lung IM cells of
862 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and *Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate controls (GSE193891). Quality control was
863 performed by excluding cells with fewer than 200 detected genes, genes detected in fewer
864 than three cells, and cells with more than 10% mitochondrial gene content. Gene counts for
865 each sample were normalized using the default *LogNormalize* method, with a scale factor of
866 10,000 followed by log transformation. The top 2,000 highly variable features were identified
867 using the *vst* method. Contaminating and actively proliferating cells were removed based on
868 the expression of specific genes. Cells were clustered using the *FindClusters* function and the
869 macrophage subsets were identified based on the expression of Hashtag barcodes and known
870 macrophage subset specific genes. DEGs between macrophages subsets from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and
871 *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were determined using the *FindMarkers* method.

872

873 **Signature scoring**

874 For scRNA-seq, gene set signature scores were calculated using the *AddModuleScore* function
875 (Seurat). The scores were saved within a Seurat object and visualized using the Seurat

876 package. Differences in gene set signature scores between macrophages subsets from *Mafb^{fl/fl}*
877 and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were determined using a Wilcoxon rank sum test.

878 Mac subset-specific signature scores were calculated using the scRNA-seq data of RTMs from
879 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice by comparing each RTM subset to all other subsets in the dataset using the
880 *FindAllMarker* function (Seurat).

881 EMP, preMac and Mac signature genes have been previously described.⁴⁵

882

883 **Confocal microscopy**

884 Confocal microscopy was performed as described previously.⁷¹ Immediately after euthanizing
885 mice with CO₂, the inferior vena cava was cannulated, and the liver was perfused with
886 Antigenfix (Diapath, P0014) at 5 ml/min for 5 min at room temperature. Liver slices (2–3 mm)
887 were then fixed by immersion in Antigenfix for 1 h at 4 °C, washed in PBS, cryoprotected
888 overnight in 34% sucrose, and embedded in Tissue-Tek OCT compound (Sakura Finetek).
889 Cryosections (20 µm) were cut using a Microm HM 560 cryostat (Thermo Fisher Scientific),
890 rehydrated in PBS for 5 min, permeabilized with 0.5% saponin (Sigma-Aldrich, 4521), and
891 blocked for 30 min with 2% bovine serum albumin, 1% fetal calf serum, and 1% donkey serum
892 (Abcam, ab7475). Sections were incubated overnight at 4 °C with primary antibodies, followed
893 by incubation with DAPI (Thermo Fisher Scientific, D3571) and secondary antibodies for 1 h at
894 room temperature. Slides were mounted with ProLong Diamond (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
895 P36970), imaged on a Zeiss LSM980 confocal microscope equipped with a spectral detector
896 using spectral unmixing. For image analysis, Z-stacks were converted to single-plane, per-
897 channel images by mean projection along the Z axis. The projected 2D images were imported
898 into QuPath (0.5.1), where a pixel classifier was first trained and then applied to all images
899 and class-specific binary masks were exported. Each mask was cleaned in scikit-image (0.20.0)

900 using binary opening (disk radius = 2 px), filling of small holes (< 64 px), and removal of very
901 small objects (< 100 px). Masks were resized with nearest-neighbor interpolation to match the
902 measurement-image resolution and converted to labeled objects via connected components
903 (skimage.measure.label; connectivity = 2). A final size filter retained objects with area $\geq 1,500$
904 px for analysis. For each labeled object (cell), solidity and Tim4 expression were quantified
905 using scikit-image (skimage.measure; regionprops/regionprops_table): solidity was defined as
906 the ratio of the object area to the area of its convex hull, and Tim4 expression was measured
907 as the mean intensity of the Tim4 channel within the object mask.

908

909 ***In vivo* phagocytosis assay**

910 pHrodo™ Red S. aureus Bioparticles (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A10010) were prepared in PBS
911 according to the manufacturer's instructions. *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice received 50 μ g
912 Bioparticles either intraperitoneally (i.p.) to assess uptake by LPMs or intravenously (i.v.) to
913 assess uptake by KCs. Mice were sacrificed 20 min (i.p.) or 30 min (i.v.) post-injection, followed
914 by collection of peritoneal lavage or dissection of the liver, respectively. As a negative control,
915 one mouse was sacrificed immediately after injection. Bioparticle uptake by LPMs and KCs was
916 analyzed by FACS.

917

918 ***In vivo* erythrophagocytosis assay**

919 C57BL/6J wild-type mice were terminally anesthetized and perfused via the left ventricle with
920 20 ml PBS containing 10 mM EDTA. Perfusate was collected via a small incision in the right
921 atrium using fine scissors, and cells were pelleted by centrifugation at $800 \times g$ for 10 min.
922 CD45⁺ immune cells were depleted using MACS with CD45 MicroBeads (Miltenyi Biotec,

923 130052301), the flowthrough containing red blood cells (RBCs) was recovered and centrifuged
924 at 800 × g for 10 min.

925 Senescent RBCs (sRBCs) were generated by mild heat treatment for 20 min at 48 °C under
926 continuous agitation. For labeling, a total of 1×10^{10} sRBCs were resuspended in 1 ml Diluent
927 C and incubated with an equal volume of Diluent C containing 4 μM PKH26 (Sigma-Aldrich,
928 MIDI26) for 5 min at room temperature in the dark. The reaction was quenched with 10 ml
929 PBS supplemented with 0.5% BSA and 2% FCS, followed by two washes with PBS. PKH26-
930 labeled sRBCs were resuspended in PBS at a final concentration of 1×10^{10} cells/ml.

931 For the erythrophagocytosis assay, *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were injected i.v. with $1 \times$
932 10^9 PKH26-labeled sRBCs. After 30 min, mice were sacrificed, spleens were harvested, and
933 RPM uptake of PKH26-sRBCs was analyzed by flow cytometry.

934

935 **Iron stain**

936 Spleens from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were dissected, weighed, fixed overnight in 4%
937 formaldehyde (Fisher, BP531500) in PBS, paraffin-embedded, cut into 5-μm sections, stained
938 with Perl's Prussian blue solution and counterstained with Nuclear Fast Red. Images were
939 acquired on a Axioscan 7 (Zeiss) and analyzed by QuPath (0.5.1).

940

941 **Lung function measurements**

942 Mice were anesthetized via i.p. administration of 50 mg/kg sodium pentobarbital (Nembutal).
943 Following a midline incision in the neck, the trachea was exposed and intubated with an 18-
944 gauge blunt metal cannula with a resistance of 0.18 cmH₂O·s/ml. The cannula was secured in
945 place using nylon suture and connected to a computer-controlled small animal ventilator
946 (flexiVent, SCIREQ) through FX adaptor Y-tubing. Ventilator settings were adjusted to standard

947 murine parameters: tidal volume of 10 ml/kg, respiratory rate of 150 breaths/min, positive
948 end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) of 3 cmH₂O, and a fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO₂) of 0.21
949 (room air). Respiratory system mechanics were then quantified using the forced oscillation
950 technique (FOT) with flexiWare software (8.1.3).

951

952 **Whole gut transit time assay**

953 Whole-gut transit time was measured using carmine red gavage. After an overnight fast,
954 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were orally gavaged with a 6% (w/v) solution of carmine red
955 (Sigma-Aldrich, C1022) prepared in sterile 0.5% methyl cellulose (Sigma-Aldrich, 423181) and
956 subsequently single-housed. Animals were observed at 15-minute intervals, and the time from
957 gavage to the appearance of the first red-colored fecal pellet was recorded as the total whole-
958 gut transit time.

959

960 **Kidney stone model**

961 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice were injected i.p. with sodium oxalate (NaOx, Sigma-Aldrich,
962 223433) at 40 mg/kg daily for 7 days. Twenty-four hours after the final injection, mice were
963 sacrificed and perfused with cold PBS followed by 4% formaldehyde in PBS. Kidneys were
964 dissected fixed overnight in 4% formaldehyde, paraffin-embedded, sectioned at 5 μm, and
965 stained with 0.2% Alizarin Red S (pH 6.8) for 10 min at 37 °C. Images were acquired on a
966 Axioscan 7 (Zeiss) and analyzed by QuPath (0.5.1).

967

968 **Human monocyte-derived macrophages differentiation**

969 Buffy coats from healthy volunteers were obtained through the Belgian Red Cross. Peripheral
970 blood mononuclear cells were isolated by density gradient centrifugation on Lymphoprep

971 (1.077 g/ml; StemCell Technologies). Classical monocytes were negatively selected using the
972 Classical Monocyte Isolation Kit (Miltenyi Biotec, 130117337) according to the manufacturer's
973 instructions. Monocytes were seeded in Petri dishes (10×10^6 cells/dish) in RPMI
974 supplemented with 10% FBS, 1× MEM NEAA (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 11140050), 50 μ M β -
975 mercaptoethanol, and 50 ng/ml recombinant human CSF-1 (Immunotools, 11343115). Fresh
976 differentiation medium was added on day 3. On day 7, monocyte-derived macrophages
977 (MDMs) were detached using cold PBS containing 0.25 mM EDTA.

978

979 **CUT&RUN library preparation**

980 CUT&RUN was performed using the CUTANA ChIC/CUT&RUN Kit (EpiCypher, 141048)
981 according to the manufacturer's instructions, with minor modifications. BMDMs or LPMs from
982 *Mafb^{fl/fl}* or *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as well as human MDMs from healthy donors, were washed
983 with ice-cold PBS and fixed with 0.1% formaldehyde in PBS for 2 min at room temperature.
984 Fixation was quenched with 0.125 M glycine (Merck, 104691000). For each CUT&RUN sample,
985 0.5×10^6 fixed cells were incubated with 0.5 μ g antibody. The following antibodies were used:
986 anti-MafB (Cell Signaling Technology, 41019), anti-H3K27ac (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA5-
987 23516), and IgG negative control (EpiCypher, 13-0042). CUT&RUN libraries were prepared
988 using the CUTANA CUT&RUN Library Prep Kit (EpiCypher, 141001) following the
989 manufacturer's instructions and sequenced on a NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina) with an S4 flow cell
990 at a depth of 10 million reads per sample.

991

992 **CUT&RUN analysis**

993 Raw reads were processed using the *nf-core/cutandrun* pipeline for adapter trimming,
994 alignment to the mouse reference genome (GRCm38/mm10), and quality control. For MafB

995 CUT&RUN, peaks were called using SEACR (Sparse Enrichment Analysis for CUT&RUN) in
996 stringent mode.⁷² Normalized tag counts were calculated with the *annotatePeaks.pl* function
997 from HOMER. MafB binding sites were defined as peaks with higher normalized tag counts in
998 wild-type compared with MafB-deficient cells. MafB binding sites were assigned to target
999 genes based on proximity to transcription start sites (± 2 kb) using HOMER. CUT&RUN signal
1000 tracks were visualized with the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV).

1001

1002 **Evolutionary conservation scoring**

1003 Multiple alignments of 60 vertebrate species to the mouse genome (mm10) and
1004 measurements of evolutionary conservation based on the alignment (*phastCons* and *phyloP*)
1005 were retrieved from the UCSC Genome Browser. A phylogenetic tree from the multiple
1006 genome alignment was constructed using ETE Toolkit (3.1.3). Evolutionary conservation at
1007 MafB and PU.1 binding sites was quantified by calculating the mean *phastCons* and *phyloP*
1008 score around -500 to $+500$ bp from peak center. Global evolutionary conservation was
1009 quantified by subdividing the mouse genome in fragments of 1 kbp and calculating the mean
1010 *phastCons* and *phyloP* score of each fragment.

1011

1012 **Analysis of published scRNA-seq data**

1013 To create a single-cell transcriptomic myeloid cell atlas, we selected myeloid cell clusters from
1014 the Tabula Muris Senis atlas⁴⁰, based on the combined expression of *Ptpnc1* (CD45) and *Lyz2*.
1015 Cells were reclustered using the *FindClusters* function from the Seurat package (4.3.0).
1016 Clusters of contaminating and actively proliferating cells were removed and myeloid cells
1017 clusters were identified based on the expression of specific genes. To infer TF activity, we ran
1018 a Univariate Linear Model using the decoupleR package (2.10.0).⁴¹ Briefly, for each TF, a linear

1019 model is fitted, which predicts the observed gene expression based TF -target gene interaction
1020 weights. The t-value of the slope from the fitted linear model is extracted as TF enrichment
1021 score. A TF with a positive score is interpreted as active, while a TF with a negative score is
1022 considered inactive.

1023 To generate a single-cell transcriptomic map of macrophage differentiation, we selected
1024 clusters of mac and mac progenitors from recently published scRNA-seq data of FACS-sorted
1025 CD11b^{low/+} fetal liver cells at embryonic day of development E14.5⁴⁶, based on the expression
1026 EMP, preMac and Mac signature genes (Table S2).⁴⁵ Cells were reclustered using the
1027 *FindClusters* function from the Seurat package (4.3.0). To evaluate trajectory-based
1028 pseudotime analysis, we used the Slingshot package (2.14.0) with EPM as starting cluster and
1029 mac as ending cluster.

1030 To quantify the correlation between Mafb expression and the expression of mac signature
1031 genes or MafB target genes in single-cell atlases across different species, genes were
1032 converted into species-specific orthologs using g:Profiler. Mac signature genes or MafB target
1033 genes scores were calculated using the *AddModuleScore* function from the Seurat package.
1034 Correlation between Mafb expression and the expression of mac signature genes or MafB
1035 target genes was calculated using Pearson correlation.

1036

1037 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

1038 Data was visualized with Prism 9 (GraphPad) and R Bioconductor (4.2.3) using packages
1039 *ggplot2* and *ComplexHeatmap*. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM unless stated otherwise.

1040 Sample sizes were not pre-determined by statistical methods but are consistent with those
1041 used in previous publications.^{37,73–75} Data were assumed to follow a normal distribution for

1042 parametric tests, though this was not formally tested. Results from independent experiments

1043 were combined for analysis in each panel, unless otherwise specified, and no data were
1044 excluded. Investigators were not blinded during data collection and analysis. Statistical
1045 analyses were carried out using Prism 9 (GraphPad), and R Bioconductor (4.2.3) with DESeq2
1046 (1.38.3) for bulk RNA-seq and Seurat (4.3.0) for scRNA-seq data. Detailed statistical methods
1047 for each experiment are provided in the figure legends. A *P*-value of less than 0.05 was
1048 considered statistically significant (*, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$;
1049 ns, not significant).

1050 **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1051 **Document S1. Figures S1–S7.**

1052 **Table S1. Differentially expressed genes between BMDM from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and**
1053 ***Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate controls, related to Figure 2.**

1054 **Table S2. Table S2. Gene signatures used for GSEA and signature scoring analyses, related**
1055 **to Figures 2 and 3.**

1056 **Table S3. Differentially expressed genes between RTMs from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice and**
1057 ***Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate controls, related to Figure 3.**

1058 **Table S4. MafB binding sites in BMDM, LPM and MDM, related to Figures 6 and 7.**

1059 **Video S1. *Ex vivo* differentiation of BMMo from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* littermate control mice, related to**
1060 **Figure 2.**

1061 **Video S2. *Ex vivo* differentiation of BMMo from *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, related to Figure 2.**

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1 KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Anti-mouse C1qA Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone JL-1), biotin conjugated	Novus	Cat#NBP1-51140B; RRID: AB_11014205
Anti-mouse CD3e Monoclonal Antibody (Armenian Hamster, clone 145-2C11), PE conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#553064; RRID: AB_394597
Anti-mouse CD11b Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M1/70), BUV395 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#563553; RRID: AB_2738276
Anti-mouse CD11b Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M1/70), FITC conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#557396; RRID: AB_396679
Anti-mouse CD11b Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M1/70), BV605 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#563015; RRID: AB_2737951
Anti-mouse CD11b Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M1/70), PE-Cy7 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#552850; RRID: AB_394491
Anti-mouse CD11c Monoclonal Antibody (Armenian Hamster, clone N418), eFluor 450 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#48-0114-82; RRID: AB_1548654
Anti-mouse CD11c Monoclonal Antibody (Hamster, clone HL3), BV786 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#563735; RRID: AB_2738394
Anti-mouse CD16/32 (Mouse BD Fc Block™) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 2.4G2), unconjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#553142; RRID: AB_394657
Anti-mouse CD19 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 1D3), PE conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#553786; RRID: AB_395050
Anti-mouse CD19 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 1D3), RB780 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#755522; RRID: AB_3676664
Anti-mouse CD24 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone M1/69), biotin conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#101803; RRID: AB_312836
Anti-mouse CD31 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 390), BV785 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#102435; RRID: AB_2810334
Anti-mouse CD43 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone S7), RY586 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#753416
Anti-mouse CD45 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 30-F11), AF700 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 56-0451-82, RRID: AB_891454
Anti-mouse CD45.1 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone A20), BUV395 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#565212; RRID: AB_2722493
Anti-mouse CD45.1 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone A20), APC conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#558701; RRID: AB_1645214
Anti-mouse CD45.2 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone 104), BUV395 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#564616; RRID: AB_2738867
Anti-mouse CD45.2 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone 104), FITC conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#561874; RRID: AB_10894189
Anti-mouse CD45.2 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone 104), PE-Cy7 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#560696; RRID: AB_1727494
Anti-mouse CD45.2 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone 104), PerCP-Cy5.5 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#552950; RRID: AB_394528
Anti-mouse CD45.2 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone 104), V500 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#562129; RRID: AB_10897142
Anti-mouse CD49b Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone DX5), PE conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#108907; RRID: AB_313414
Anti-mouse CD52 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone S20005A), PE conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#165705; RRID: AB_3662205

Anti-mouse CD62L Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone MEL-14), BV421 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#562910; RRID: AB_2737885
Anti-mouse CD64 Monoclonal Antibody (Rabbit, clone O27), unconjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#MA5-29706; RRID: AB_2785530
Anti-mouse CD64 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone X54-5/7.1), BV421 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#139309; RRID: AB_2562694
Anti-mouse CD64 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone X54-5/7.1), PE-Dazzle594 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#139320; RRID: AB_2566559
Anti-mouse CD115 (CSF1R) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone AFS98), AF488 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#135511; RRID: AB_11218605
Anti-mouse CD115 (CSF1R) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone AFS98), BV605 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#135517; RRID: AB_2562760
Anti-mouse CD115 (CSF1R) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone AFS98), APC conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17-1152-82; RRID: AB_1210789
Anti-mouse CD115 (CSF1R) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone AFS98), PerCP-Cy5.5 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#135526; RRID: AB_2566462
Anti-mouse CD163 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone TNKUPJ), APC conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17-1631-80; RRID: AB_2784645
Anti-mouse CD163 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone TNKUPJ), PE-eF610 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#61-1631-80; RRID: AB_2848497
Anti-mouse CD170 (SiglecF) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone S17007L), FITC conjugated	BioLegend	Cat# 155504; RRID: AB_2750233
Anti-mouse CD170 (SiglecF) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone E50-2440), PE conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#552126; RRID: AB_394341
Anti-mouse CD170 (SiglecF) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone E50-2440), PE-CF594 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#562757; RRID: AB_2687994
Anti-mouse CD170 (SiglecF) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone E50-2440), BV750 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#747316; RRID: AB_2872024
Anti-mouse CD177 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone Y127), AF647 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#566599; RRID: AB_2869790
Anti-mouse CD206 (MMR) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone C068C2), AF647 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#141712; RRID: AB_10900420
Anti-mouse CD206 (MMR) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone C068C2), PE-Cy7 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#141719; RRID: AB_2562247
Anti-mouse CD319 (CRACC) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 4G2), BV711 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#747994; RRID: AB_2872455
Anti-mouse Clec-2 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 17D9), PE conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#146104; RRID: AB_2562383
Anti-mouse Clec4f Polyclonal Antibody (Goat), unconjugated	R&D Systems	Cat# AF2784; RRID: AB_2081339

Anti-mouse F4/80 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, BM8), FITC conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#123108; RRID: AB_893502
Anti-mouse F4/80 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, BM8), PE conjugated	Sony Biotechnology	Cat#1215550
Anti-mouse F4/80 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, BM8), BV650 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#123149; RRID: AB_2564589
Anti-mouse F4/80 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, BM8), BV785 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#123141; RRID: AB_2563667
Anti-mouse F4/80 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, BM8), APC-eFluor 780 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 47-4801-82; RRID: AB_2735036
Anti-mouse FCRL5 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, 4G11), AF647 conjugated	Butovsky Lab, validated in ⁷⁶	N/A
Anti-mouse FR- β Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, 10/FR2), APC conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#153305; RRID: AB_2721312
Anti-H3K27ac Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse), unconjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#MA5-23516; RRID: AB_2608307
Anti-mouse I-A/I-E (MHC-II) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M5/114.15.2), BV421 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#107632; RRID: AB_10900075
Anti-mouse I-A/I-E (MHC-II) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M5/114.15.2), PerCP-Cy5.5 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#107625; RRID: AB_2191072
Anti-mouse I-A/I-E (MHC-II) Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone M5/114.15.2), AF700 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#56-5321-80; RRID: AB_494010
Anti-goat IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Polyclonal Antibody (Donkey), AF555 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#A-21432; RRID: AB_2535853
Anti-rat IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Polyclonal Antibody (Donkey), AF488 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#A-21208; RRID: AB_141709
Anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Polyclonal Antibody (Goat), AF488 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#A-11008; RRID: AB_143165
Anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Polyclonal Antibody (Goat), AF647 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#A-31573; RRID: AB_2536183
Anti-rabbit IgG (minimal x-reactivity) Secondary Polyclonal Antibody (Donkey), AF647 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#406414, RRID: AB_2563202
Anti-mouse Ly6C Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone AL-21), PE-CF594 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#562728; RRID: AB_2737749
Anti-mouse Ly6C Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone HK1.4), BV570 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#128030; RRID: AB_2562617
Anti-mouse Ly6C Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone HK1.4), AF700 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#128024; RRID: AB_10643270
Anti-mouse Ly6G Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 1A8), PE conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#551461; RRID: AB_394208
Anti-mouse Ly6G Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 1A8), BV650 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#740554; RRID: AB_2740255
Anti-mouse Ly6G Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone 1A8), PE-Cy7 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#560601; RRID: AB_1727562
Anti-mouse MafB Recombinant Monoclonal Antibody (Rabbit, clone BLR046F), unconjugated	Bethyl	Cat#A700-046; RRID: AB_2891845

Anti-human MAFB Polyclonal Antibody (Rabbit), unconjugated	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#41019; RRID: AB_2799192
Anti-mouse MerTK Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone DS5MMER), PerCP-eF710 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#46-5751-82; RRID: AB_2688094
Anti-mouse MerTK Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone DS5MMER), PE-Cy7 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#25-5751-80; RRID: AB_2573465
Anti-mouse NK1.1 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone PK136), AF660 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#606-5941-82; RRID: AB_2896296
Anti-mouse P2ry12 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone S16007D), AF488 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#848015; RRID: AB_2936702
Anti-mouse RELM α Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone DS8RELM), APC conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17-5441-82; RRID: AB_2762696
Anti-mouse Tim4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone RMT4-54), unconjugated	BioLegend	Cat# 130002; RRID: AB_1227802
Anti-mouse Tim4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone RMT4-54), AF647 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#130007; RRID: AB_2201842
Anti-mouse Tim4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone RMT4-54), PE-Cy7 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#130009; RRID: AB_2565718
Anti-mouse Vsig4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone NLA14), APC conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17-5752-80; RRID: AB_2637428
Anti-mouse Vsig4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone NLA14), SB600 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#63-5752-82; RRID: AB_2802437
Anti-mouse Vsig4 Monoclonal Antibody (Rat, clone NLA14), PE-Cy7 conjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#25-5752-82; RRID: AB_2637431
Anti-mouse XCR1 Monoclonal Antibody (Mouse, clone ZET), BV510 conjugated	BioLegend	Cat#148218; RRID: AB_2565231
Rabbit IgG Isotype Control Antibody (Rabbit, polyclonal), unconjugated	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#31235; RRID: AB_243593
Rabbit IgG CUT&RUN Negative Control Antibody (Rabbit, polyclonal)	EpiCypher	Cat#13-0042; RRID: AB_2923178
TotalSeq™-B0301 anti-mouse Hashtag 1 Antibody	BioLegend	Cat#155831; RRID: AB_2814067
TotalSeq™-B0302 anti-mouse Hashtag 2 Antibody	BioLegend	Cat#155833; RRID: AB_2814068
TotalSeq™-B0303 anti-mouse Hashtag 3 Antibody	BioLegend	Cat#155835; RRID: AB_2814069
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
1,4-Dithiothreitol (DTT)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#10197777001
2-Mercaptoethanol	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#31350010
Antigenfix	Diapath	Cat#P0014
Alizarin Red S	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#400480250
Baytrill (enrofloxacin)	Bayer	Cat#616300
Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A7906
Brilliant Stain Buffer	BD Biosciences	Cat#563794
Collagenase A, from <i>Clostridium histolyticum</i>	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#11088793001
Collagenase IV, from <i>Clostridium histolyticum</i>	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17104019
Collagenase VIII, from <i>Clostridium histolyticum</i>	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#C2139
cComplete™ Protease Inhibitor Cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#11697498001
cComplete™ EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#11873580001
DAPI	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#D3571
Dispase II	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#D4693
Donkey Serum	Abcam	Cat#ab7475
DNase I	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#11284932001
DPBS	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#14190094
EDTA	Merck Millipore	Cat#1084181000

Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#10270098
Glycine	Merck	Cat#104691000
Glycerol	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#158920025
GlycoBlue™ Coprecipitant	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#AM9515
HBSS without Phenol Red	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 14025050
HBSS with Phenol Red	Lonza	Cat#BE10-508F
IsoFlo (Isoflurane)	Zoetis	Cat#B506
MEM Non-Essential Amino Acids Solution	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 11140050
Mouse M-CSF Recombinant Protein	PeproTech	Cat#315-02
Nimatek (Ketamine)	Dechra	Cat#804132
Nonidet P 40 Substitute	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#74385
Formaldehyde	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#BP531-500
Percoll	GE Healthcare	Cat#17089101
PKH26	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#MIDI26
ProLong™ Diamond Antifade Mountant	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#P36970
Rompun (Xylazine)	Bayer	Cat#0076901
RPMI 1640 Medium	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#21875034
Saponin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#4521
Sodium Pyruvate	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#11360070
Streptavidin, PE-CF594 conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#562318; RRID: AB_11154218
Streptavidin, APC conjugated	BD Biosciences	Cat#554067; RRID: AB_10050396)
SYTOX™ Blue	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#S11348
Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane	Merck Millipore	Cat#108382
TRIZOL Reagent	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#10296010
Triton X-100	Merck	Cat#648466
Tween-20	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#233360010
UltraPure BSA	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#AM2616
Critical commercial assays		
Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3' GEM, Library & Gel Bead Kit v3.1	10X Genomics	Cat#1000128
Chromium Next GEM Chip G Single Cell Kit	10X Genomics	Cat#1000120
Classical Monocyte Isolation Kit, human	Miltenyi Biotec	Cat#130-117-337
CUTANA™ ChIC/CUT&RUN Kit	EpiCypher	Cat#14-1048
CUTANA™ CUT&RUN Library Prep Kit	EpiCypher	Cat#14-1001
FoxP3 Transcription Factor Staining Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#00-5523-00
LIVE/DEAD™ Fixable Near-IR Dead Cell Stain Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#L34976
Monocyte Isolation Kit (BM), mouse	Miltenyi Biotec	Cat#130-100-629
NovaSeq 6000 S4 Reagent Kit v1.5 (300 cycles)	Illumina	Cat#20028312
pHrodo™ Red <i>S. aureus</i> BioParticles™ Conjugate for Phagocytosis	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#A10010
RNA Clean & Concentrator Kit	Zymo Research	Cat#R1013
TruSeq Stranded mRNA kit	Illumina	Cat#20020594
Deposited data		
Microarray data	ImmGen	https://www.immgen.org/ ; RRID: SCR_021792
Tabula Muris Senis	The Tabula Muris Consortium ⁴⁰	https://registry.opendata.aws/tabula-muris-senis/ ; GEO: GSE132042
RNA-Seq of BMDM from <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> and <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice	This paper	GEO: GSE286897

scRNA-Seq of RTM from <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> and <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice	This paper	GEO: GSE287347
scRNA-Seq of lung IM from <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> and <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice	Vanneste et al. ³⁷	GEO: GSE193891
MafB CUT&RUN of BMDM from <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> and <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice	This paper	GEO: GSE287346
H3K27ac CUT&RUN of BMDM from <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice and <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> littermate controls	This paper	GEO: GSE287476
MafB CUT&RUN of LPM from <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> and <i>Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> mice	This paper	GEO: GSE287346
MafB CUT&RUN of MDM	This paper	GEO: GSE287346
PU.1 ChIP-Seq data	Soucie et al. ³⁹ ChIP-Atlas	http://chip-atlas.org/ ; RRID: SCR_015511; GEO: GSM1964736
Tabula Sapiens	The Tabula Sapiens Consortium ⁷⁷	https://registry.opendata.aws/tabula-sapiens/ ; GEO: GSE201333
Tabula Microcebus	The Tabula Microcebus Consortium ⁷⁸	https://figshare.com/projects/Tabula_Microcebus/112227
Pig Cell Atlas	Wang et al. ⁷⁹	https://dreamapp.biomed.au.dk/pigatlas/ ; GEO: GSE196055, GSE193975
Xenopus Cell Landscape	Liao et al. ⁸⁰	https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19152839 ; GEO: GSE195790
Zebrafish Cell Landscape	Wang et al. ⁸¹	https://figshare.com/s/1ab3c6d7648d12247eb2 ; GEO: GSE198571, GSE178150
Experimental models: Organisms/strains		
Mouse: C57BL/6J	The Jackson Laboratory	N/A
Mouse: C57BL/6J CD45.1: B6.SJL- <i>Ptprc^a</i> <i>Pepc^b</i> /BoyJ	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#002014; RRID: IMSR_JAX:002014
Mouse: <i>Lyz2^{Cre}</i> : B6.129P2- <i>Lyz2^{tm1(cre)lfo}</i> /J	Clausen et al. ⁶⁶ The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#004781; RRID: IMSR_JAX:004781
Mouse: <i>Clec4f^{Cre}</i> : <i>Clec4f^{tm2.1(cre)Ciphe}</i>	Scott et al. ²⁵	N/A
Mouse: <i>Tmem119^{CreERT2}</i> : C57BL/6- <i>Tmem119^{em1(cre/ERT2)Gfng}</i> /J	Kaiser et al. ⁶⁷ The Jackson Laboratory	Cat#031820; RRID: IMSR_JAX:031820
Mouse: <i>Maf^{fl/fl}</i> : <i>Maf^{tm2.1Cbm}</i>	Wende et al. ⁶⁵	N/A
Mouse: <i>Mafb^{fl/fl}</i> : <i>Mafb^{tm1.1Mari}</i>	Vanneste et al. ³⁷	N/A
Software and algorithms		
BioRender	BioRender	https://www.biorender.com/ ; RRID: SCR_018361
Cell Ranger	10X Genomics	RRID: SCR_023221
Code for analysis sequencing data	This paper	https://github.com/dovnneste/MafB_Mac
ETE Toolkit	Huerta-Cepas et al. ⁸²	https://etetoolkit.org/
FIJI (ImageJ)	Schindelin et al. ⁸³	https://imagej.net/Fiji ; RRID: SCR_003070
FlowJo	TreeStar	https://www.flowjo.com/ ; RRID: SCR_008520
Gene Set Enrichment Analysis	Subramanian et al. ⁸⁴	http://www.broadinstitute.org/gsea/ ; RRID: SCR_003199
g:Profiler	Kolberg et al. ⁸⁵	http://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler/ ; RRID: SCR_006809

GraphPad Prism	GraphPad Software	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/ ; RRID: SCR_002798
HOMER	Heinz et al. ⁸⁶	http://homer.ucsd.edu/ ; RRID: SCR_010881
Illustrator	Adobe	https://www.adobe.com/ ; RRID: SCR_010279
Integrative Genomic Viewer	Robinson et al. ⁸⁷	https://igv.org ; RRID: SCR_011793
nf-core	Ewels et al. ⁸⁸	https://nf-co.re/
QuPath	Bankhead et al. ⁸⁹	https://qupath.github.io/ ; RRID: SCR_018257
R Project for Statistical Computing	The R Foundation	http://www.r-project.org/ ; RRID: SCR_001905
SEACR	Meers et al. ⁷²	https://seacr.fredhutch.org/
scikit-image	van der Walt et al. ⁹⁰	https://scikit-image.org/ ; RRID: SCR_021142
UCSC Genome Browser	Perez et al. ⁹¹	http://genome.ucsc.edu/ ; RRID: SCR_005780
Other		
Axioscan 7	Zeiss	N/A
Chromium iX	10X Genomics	N/A
LSM 980	Zeiss	N/A
LSRFortessa™ Cell Analyzer	BD Biosciences	N/A
MA900 Multi-Application Cell Sorter	Sony Biotechnology	N/A
NovaSeq 6000	Illumina	N/A

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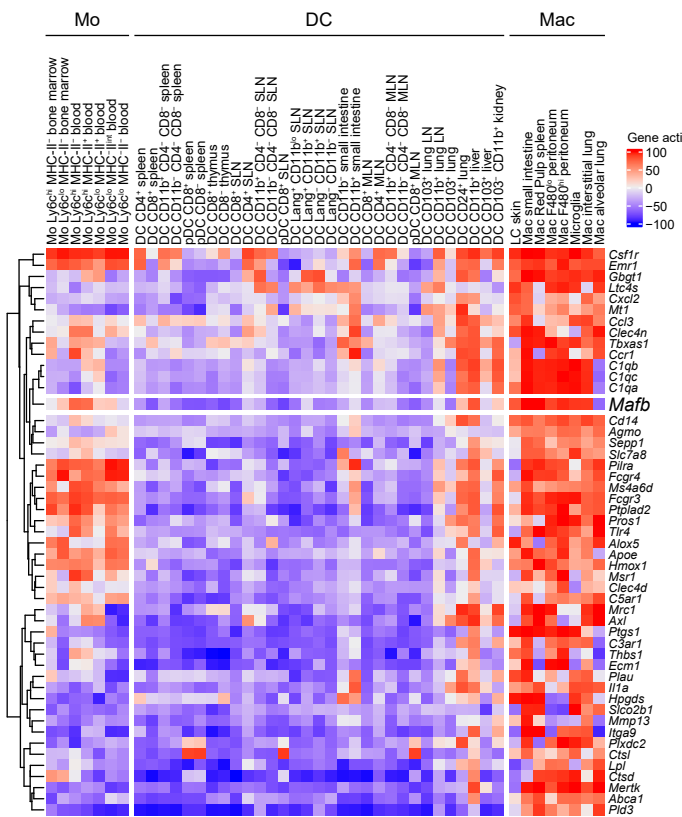
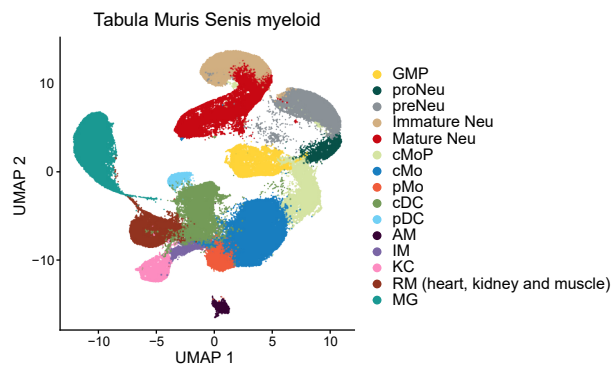
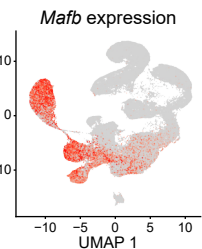
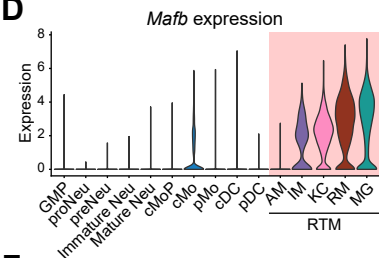
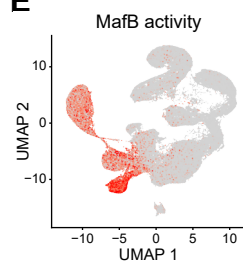
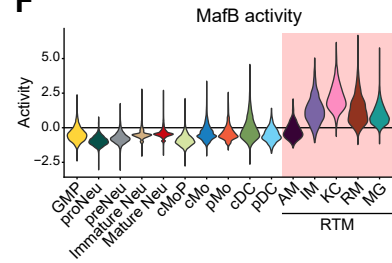
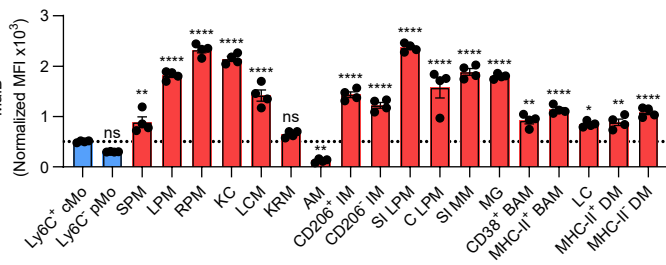
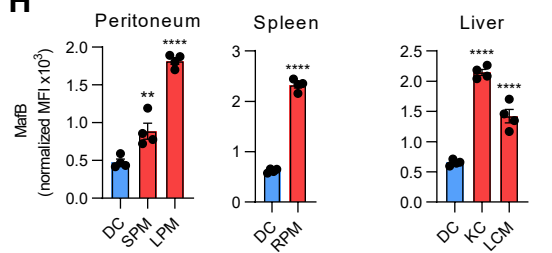
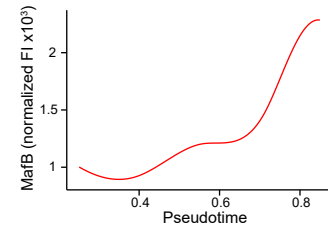
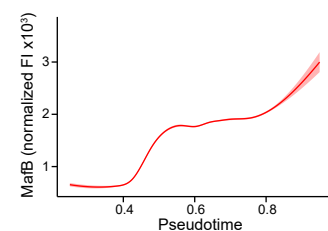
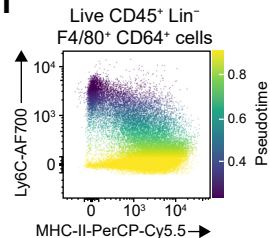
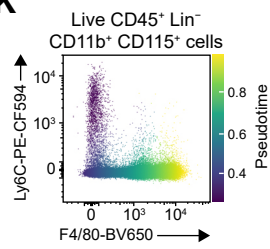
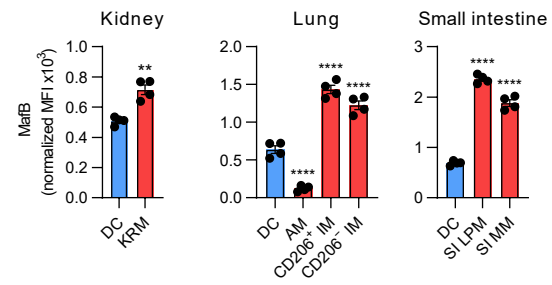
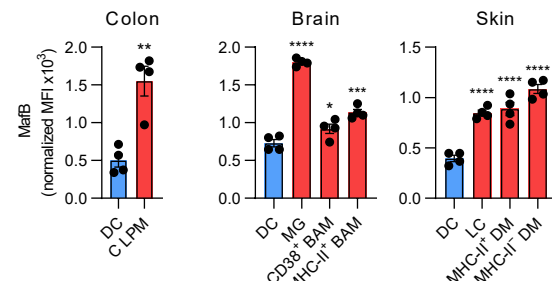
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Figure 2

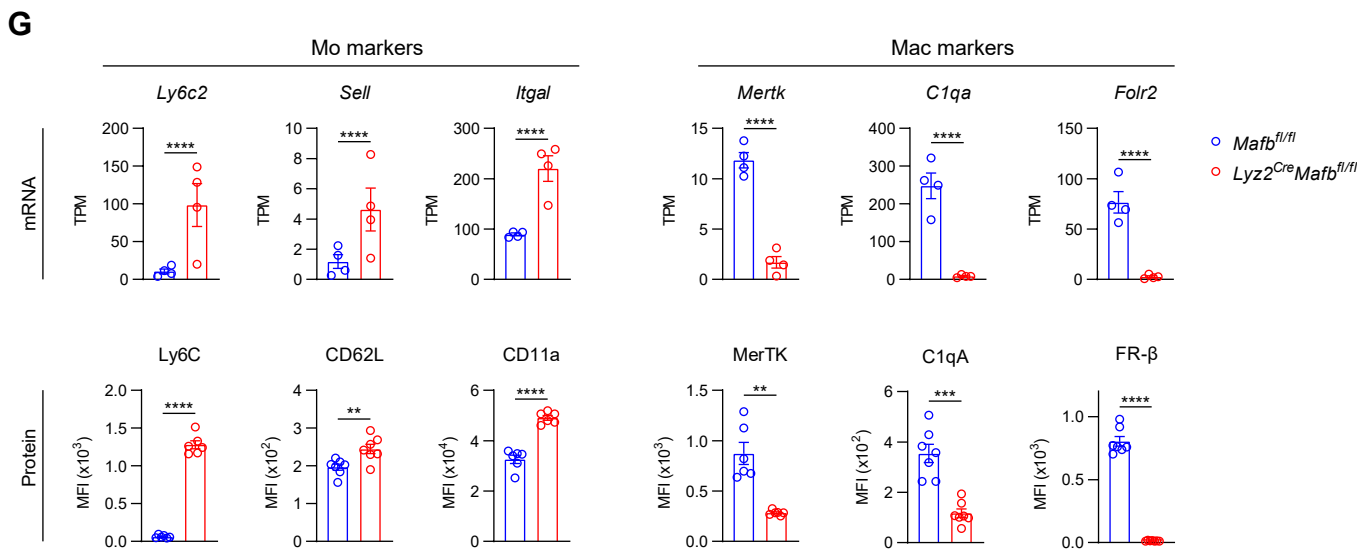
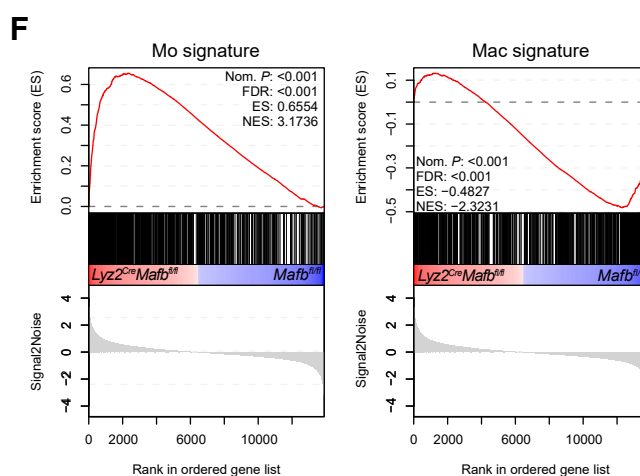
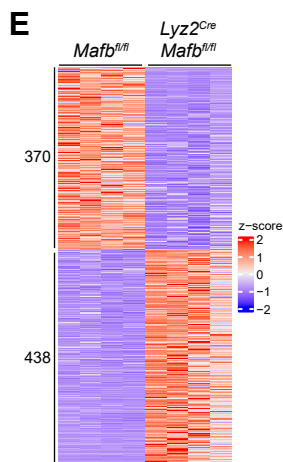
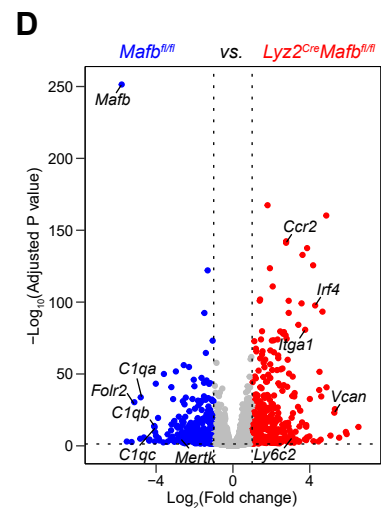
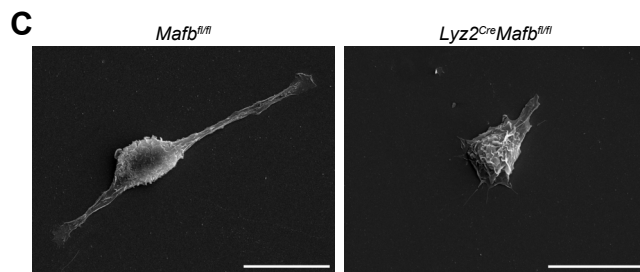
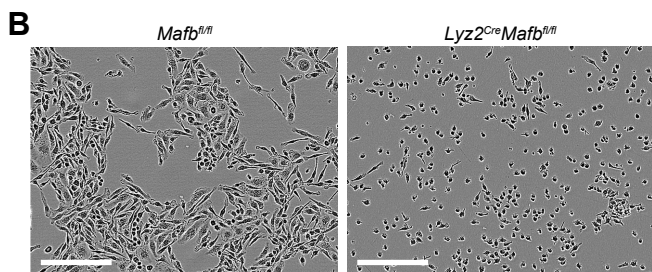
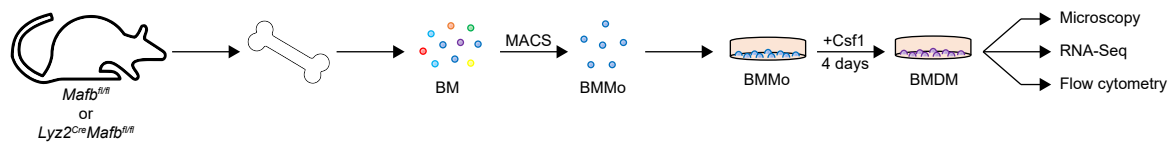
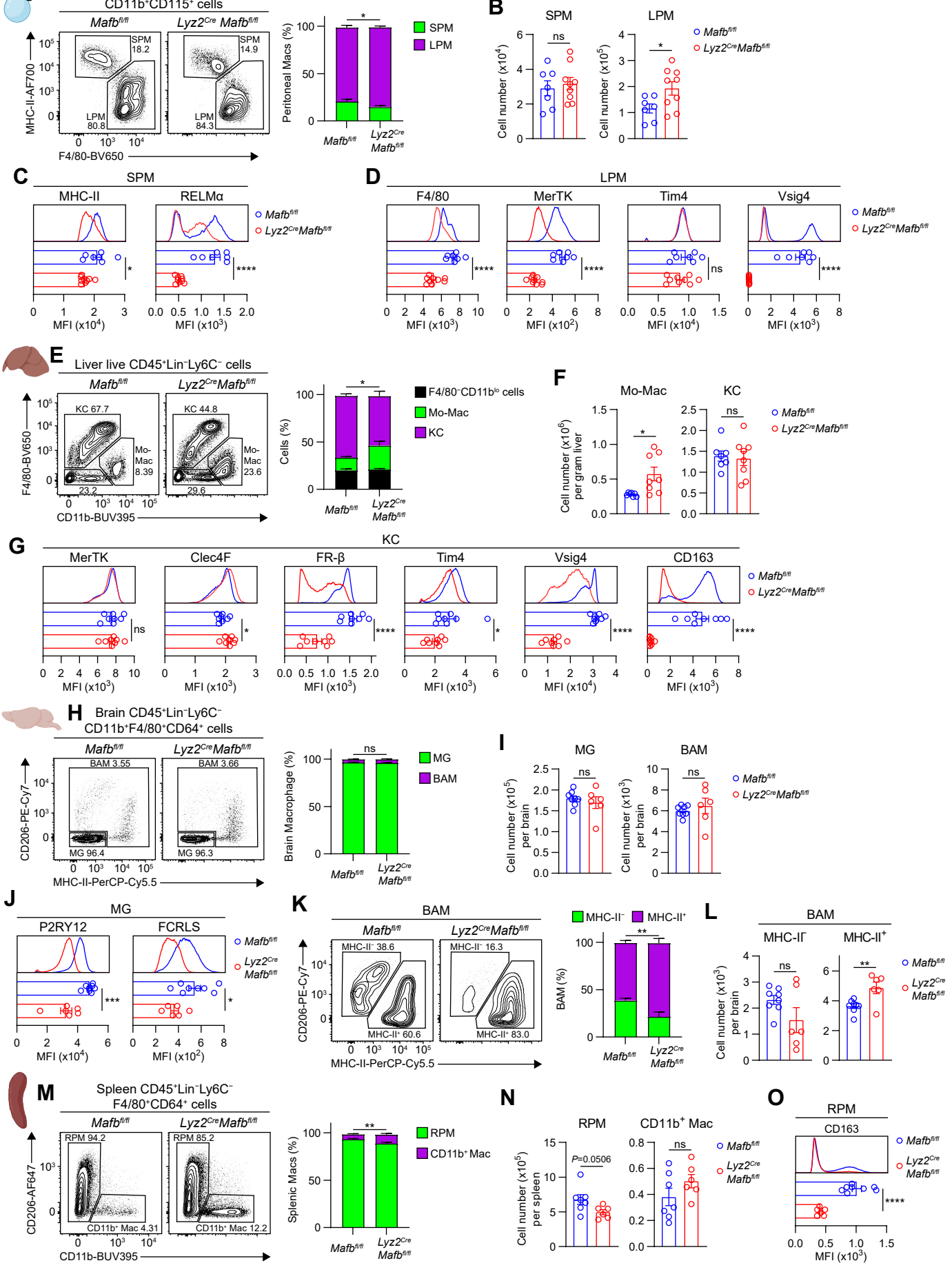
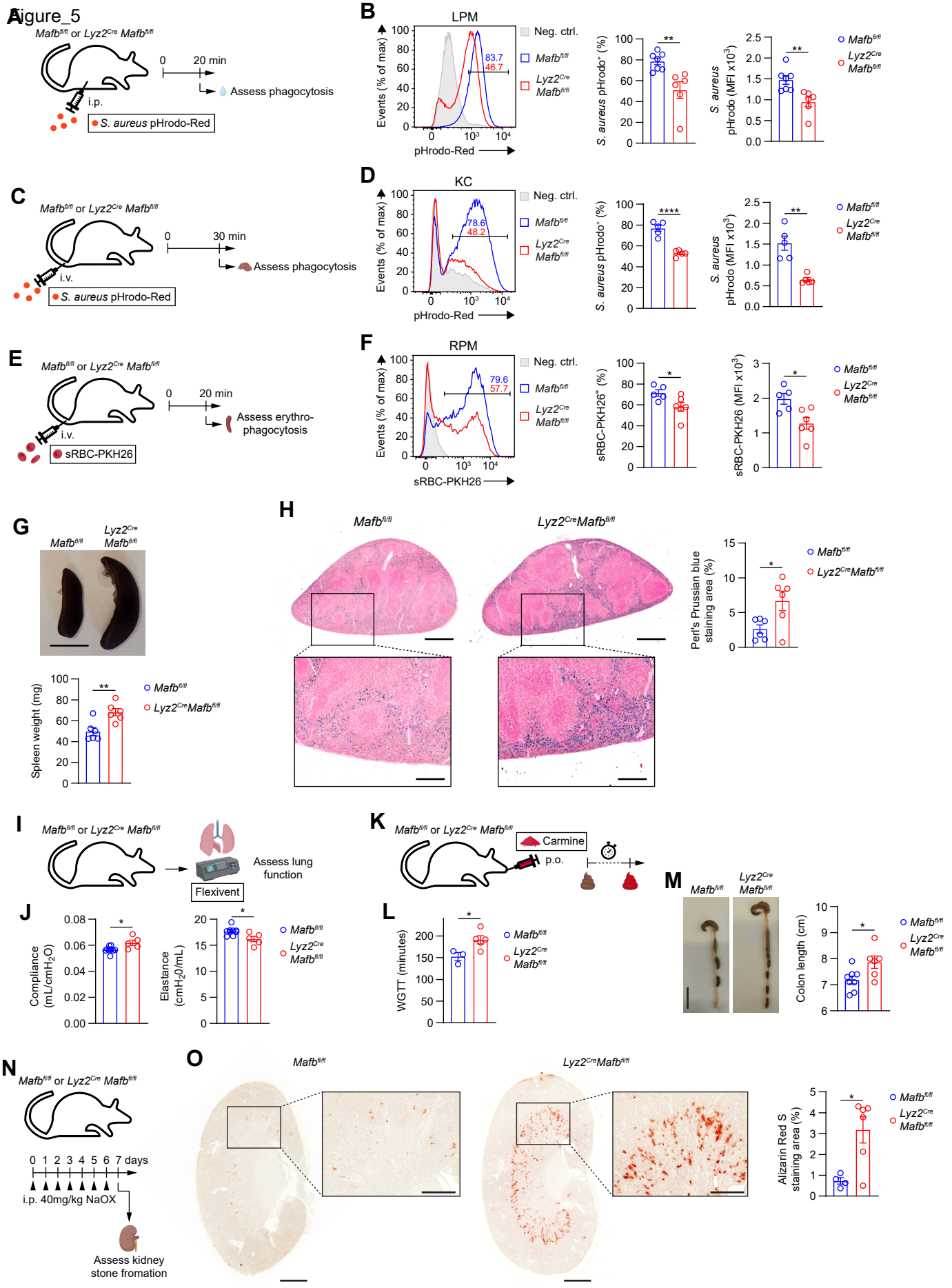
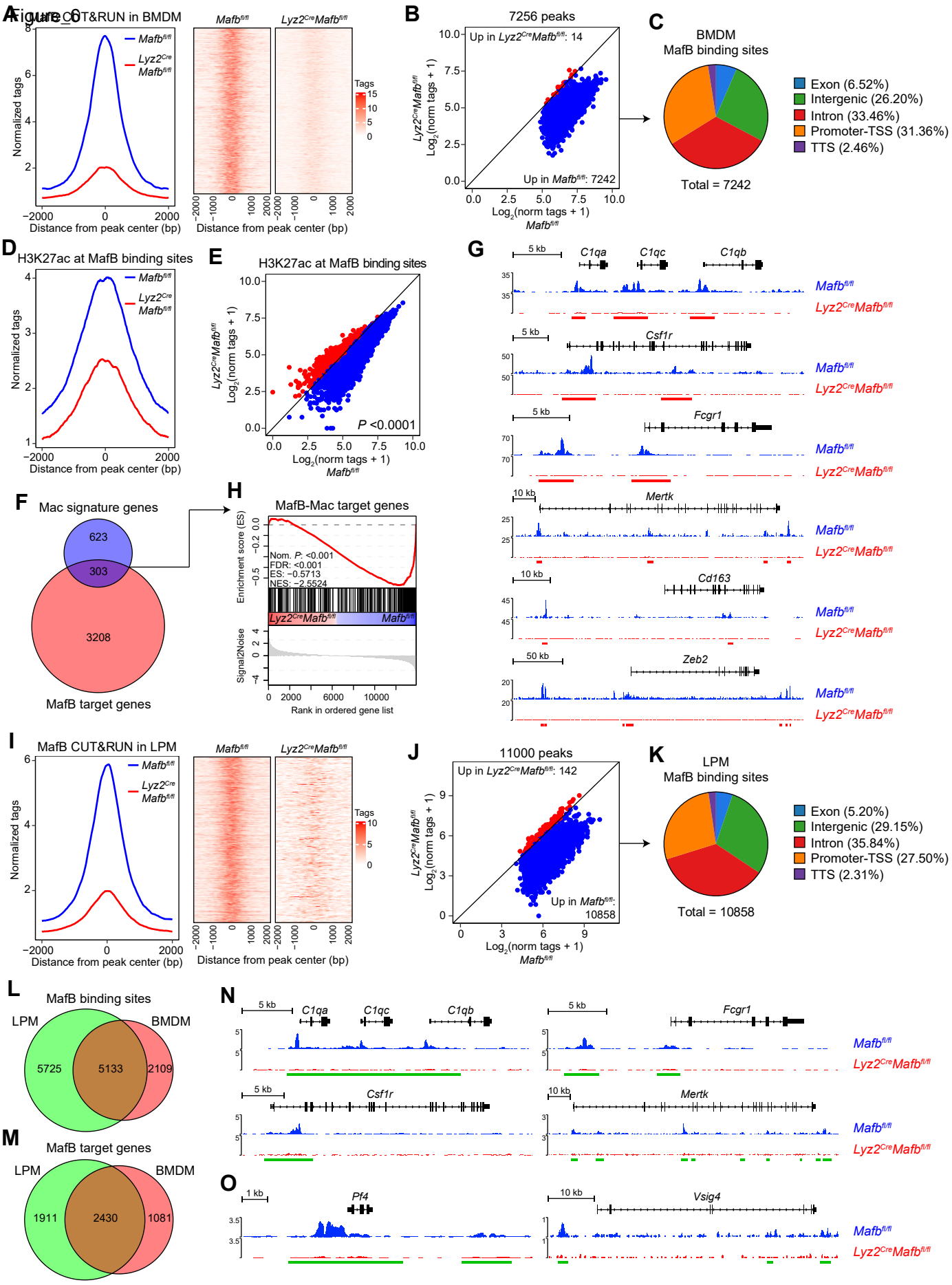
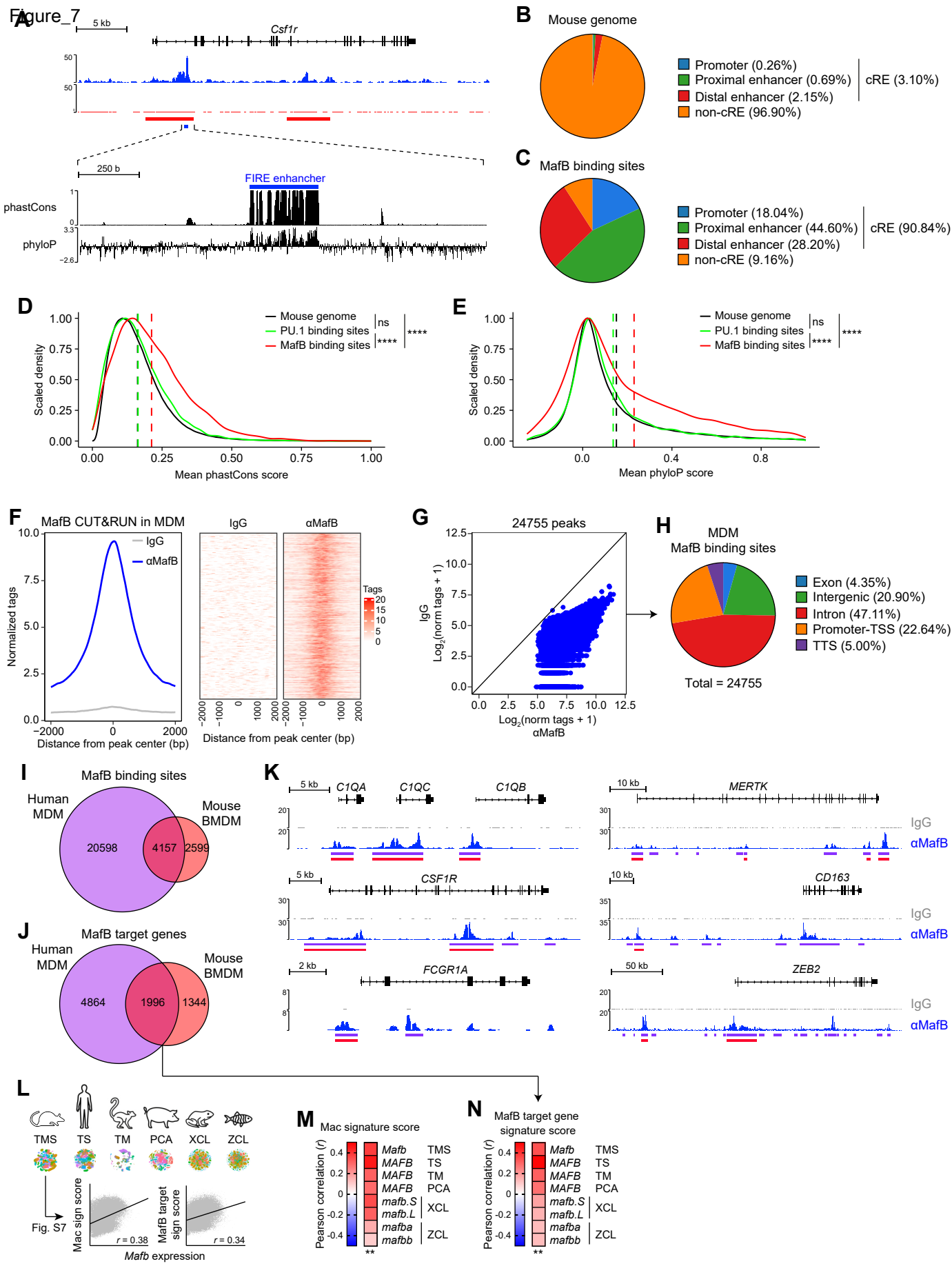


Figure 4 Peritoneal live CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻ CD11b⁺CD115⁺ cells









Supplemental information

Vanneste et al.

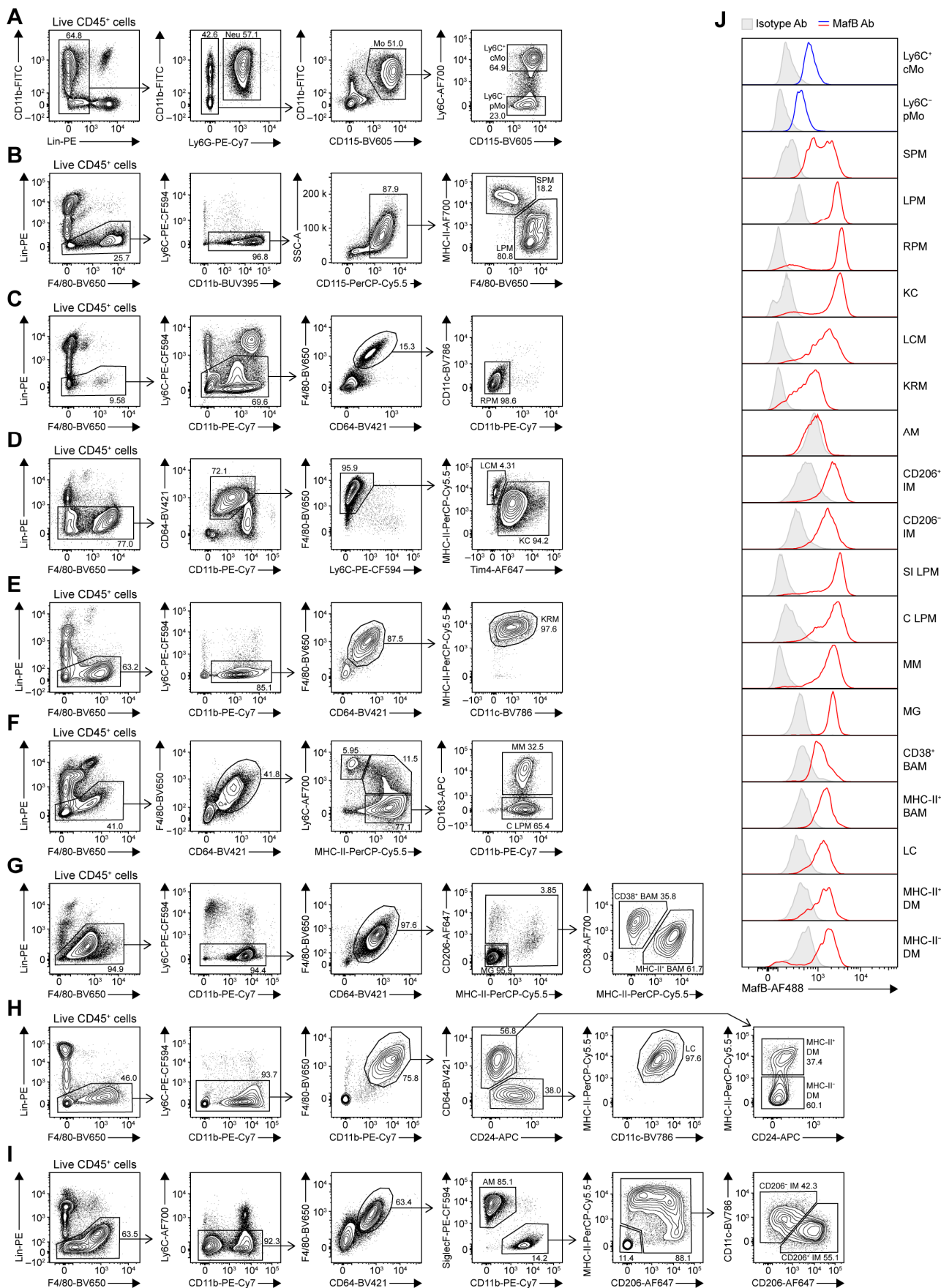
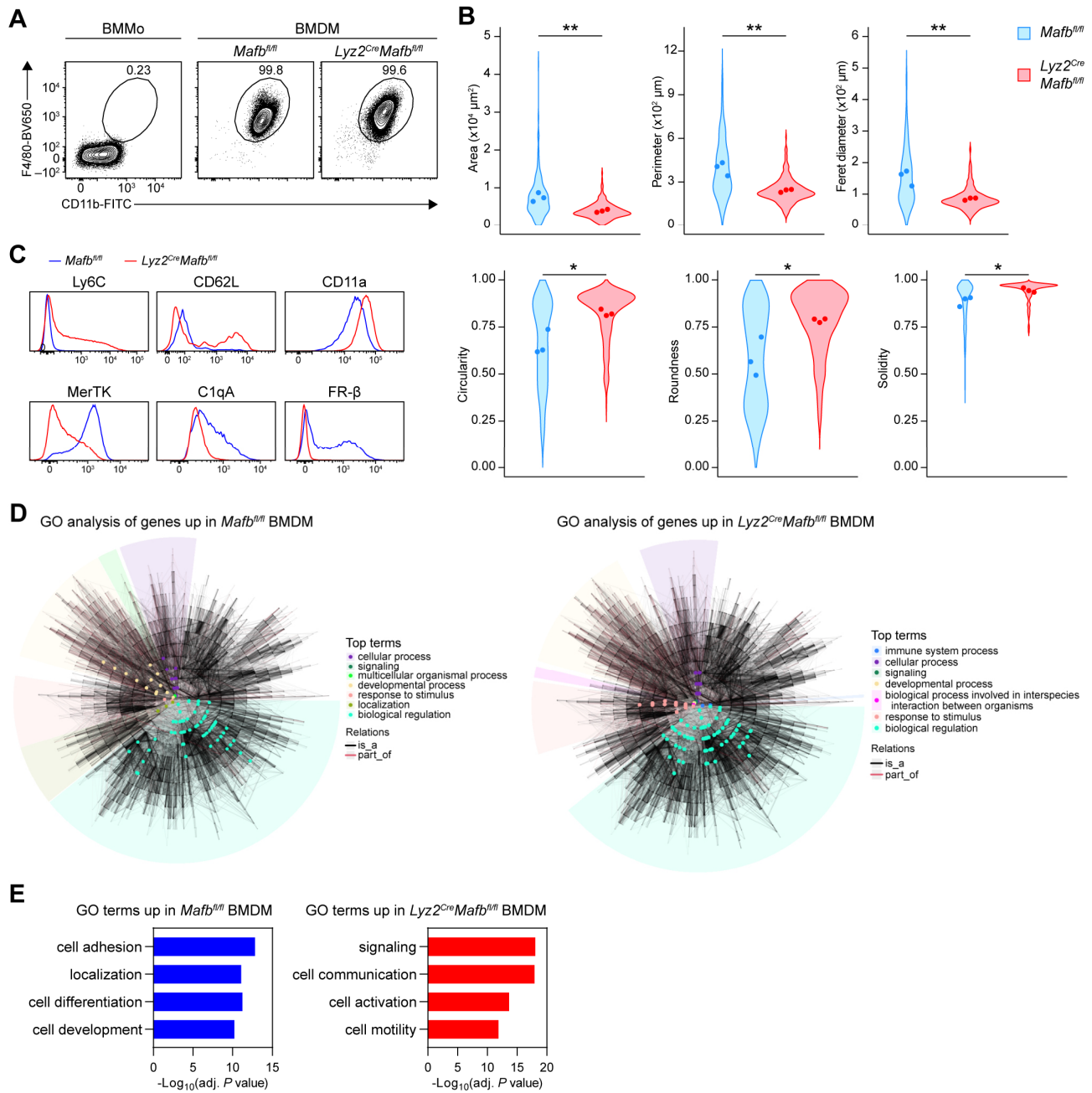


Figure S1. Flow cytometry gating strategies to delineate RTM and blood monocytes, related to Figure 1.

(A–I) Flow cytometry gating strategy used to delineate blood CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6G⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺Ly6C⁺ classical monocytes (Ly6C⁺ cMo) or Ly6C⁻ patrolling monocytes (Ly6C⁻ pMo) (A), CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺MHC-II⁺F4/80⁻ small peritoneal macs (SPM) and CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺CD115⁺MHC-II⁻F4/80⁺ large peritoneal macs (LPM) (B), spleen CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺CD11c⁻CD11b⁻ red pulp macs (RPM) (C), liver CD45⁺Lin⁻CD64⁺CD11b^{int}F4/80⁺Ly6C⁻MHC-II^{lo}Tim4⁺ Kupffer cells (KC) and CD45⁺Lin⁻CD64⁺CD11b^{int}F4/80⁺Ly6C⁻MHC-II^{hi}Tim4⁻ liver capsular macs (LCM) (D), CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻CD11b⁺F4/80⁺CD64⁺MHC-II⁺CD11c^{int} kidney resident macs (KRM) (E), CD45⁺Lin⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺Ly6C⁻MHC-II⁺CD163⁻ colonic lamina propria macs (C LMP) or CD163⁺ muscularis macs (MM) (F), brain CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺CD206⁻MHC-II⁻ microglia (MG), CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺MHC-II⁻CD38⁺ border associated macs (CD38⁺ BAM) and CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺MHC-II⁺CD38⁻ border associated macs (MHC-II⁺ BAM) (G), skin CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺CD24⁺MHC-II⁺CD11c⁺ Langerhans cells (LC), CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺MHC-II⁺ dermal macs (MHC-II⁺ DM) or MHC-II⁻ DM (H), lung CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺SiglecF⁺CD11b⁻ alveolar macs (AM), CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺SiglecF⁻CD11b⁺CD206⁺ interstitial macs (CD206⁺ IM) or CD206⁻ IM (I). (J) Representative histograms of intracellular MafB expression in the indicated blood monocyte (Mo) and resident tissue mac (RTM) populations from wild-type (WT) mice, as in A–I (n = 4).



differentially expressed genes (DEGs) upregulated in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* (left) and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* (right) mice are highlighted as colored nodes.

(E) Bar graphs of the top enriched GO terms on DEGs upregulated in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* (left) and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* (right) mice, as in D.

P values were calculated using a two-tailed Student's *t* test (B). **P* < 0.05; ***P* < 0.01.

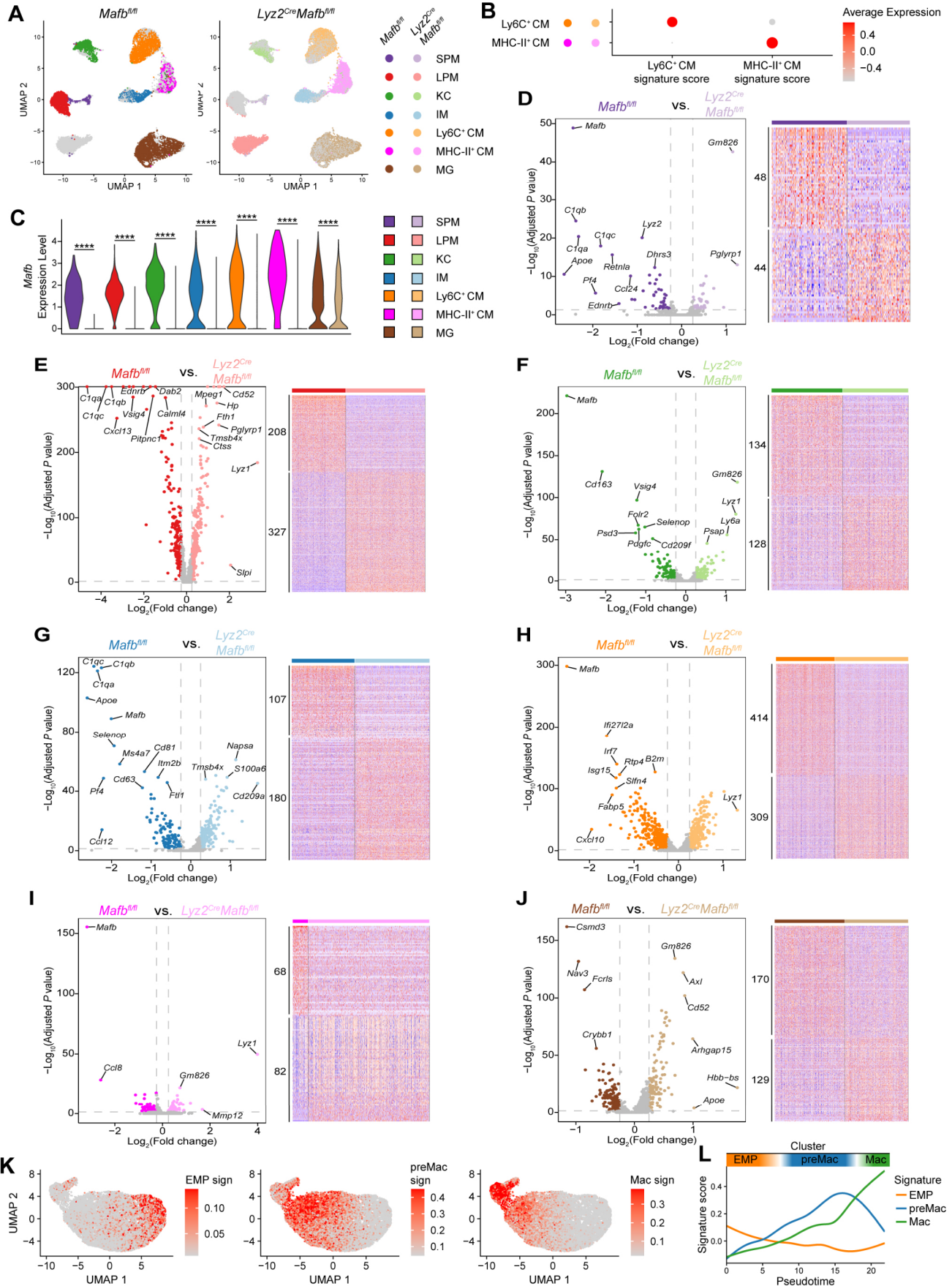


Figure S3. Transcriptional identity differential gene expression across RTM subsets in myeloid-restricted MafB-deficient mice, related to Figure 3.

- (A) UMAP of RTM populations from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* (left) and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* (right) mice.
- (B) Dot plots of Ly6C⁺ colonic mac (CM) and MHC-II⁺ CM signature scores within each CM subset from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.
- (C) Violin plots of *Mafb* expression within RTM populations from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as in A (height: expression; width: abundance of cells).
- (D–J) Volcano plots and heatmaps of DEGs between *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* RTMs, shown for SPM (D), LPM (E), KC (F), IM (G), Ly6C⁺ CM (H), MHC-II⁺ CM (I), and MG (J). Transcripts significantly upregulated in RTM from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice are shown in bold and light colors, respectively (\log_2 fold change > 0.25 or < -0.25; adjusted $P < 0.05$).
- (K) Feature plots of EMP (left), preMac (middle) and Mac (right) signature scores, as in Figure 3I.
- (L) EMP, preMac and Mac signature scores along pseudotime, as in Figure 3I.

P values were calculated using a Wilcoxon rank-sum test (C and D–J).

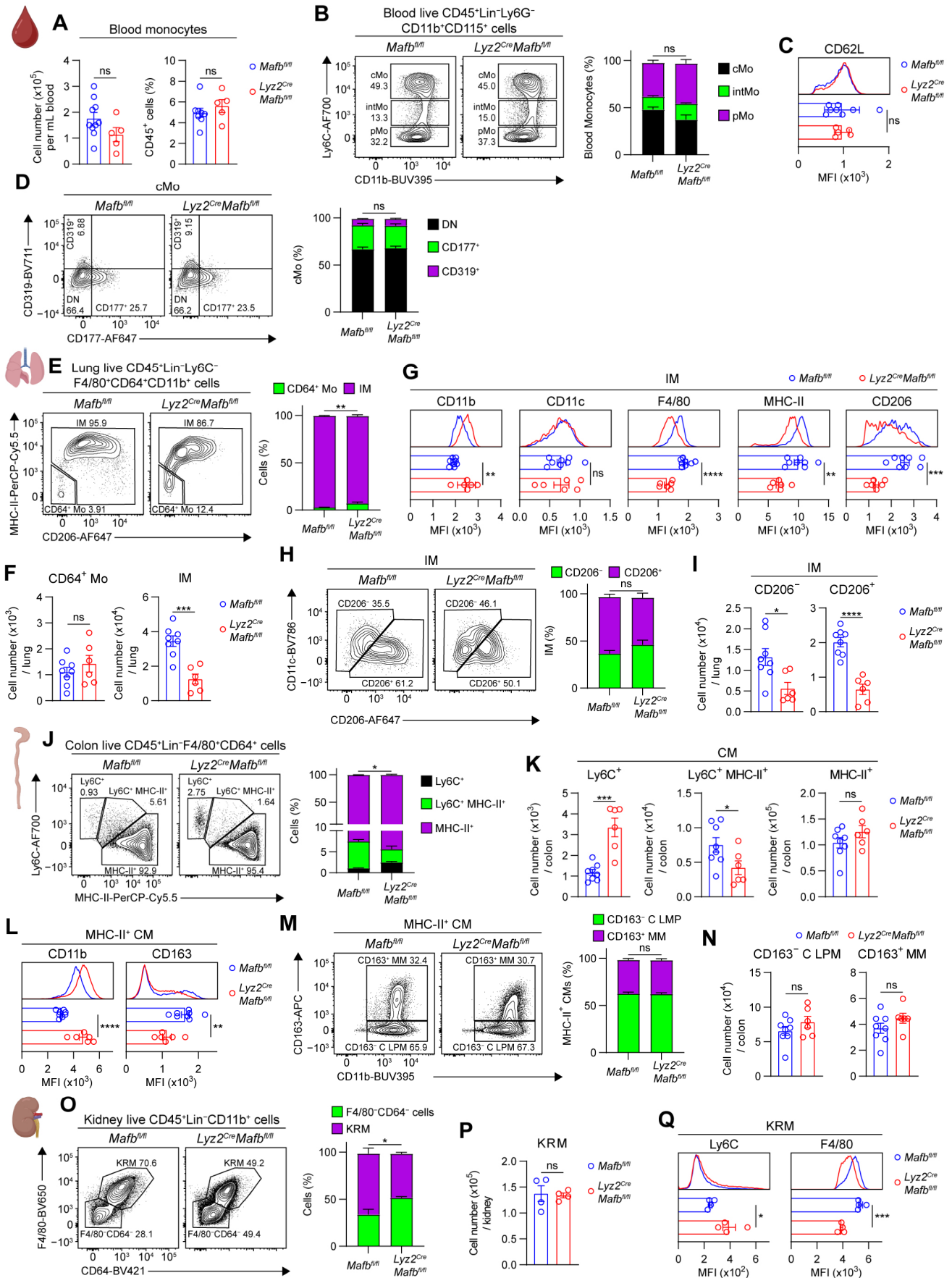


Figure S4. Impact of MafB deficiency on blood monocytes and lung, colon and kidney RTM subsets, related to Figure 4.

(A) Bar graphs of blood Mo shown as absolute number per mL of blood (left) and percentage of live CD45⁺ cells (right) from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 5–10). All subsequent panels compare *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice.

(B) Representative contour plots of Ly6C and CD11b expression within blood live CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6G⁻CD115⁺CD11b⁺ cells (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of cMo, intermediate Mo (intMo), and pMo, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 5–8).

(C) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of CD62L expression in cMo, as in B.

(D) Representative contour plots of CD319 and CD177 expression within cMo (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of double negative (DN), CD177⁺, and CD319⁺ cMo, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 5–8).

(E) Representative contour plots of MHC-II and CD206 expression within lung live CD45⁺Lin⁻Ly6C⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺CD11b⁺ cells (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of CD64⁺ Mo and IM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 6–8).

(F) Bar graphs of absolute numbers of CD64⁺ Mo and IM, as in E.

(G) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of CD11b, CD11c, F4/80, MHC-II, and CD206 expression in IM, as in E.

(H) Representative contour plots of CD11c and CD206 expression within IM (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of CD206⁻ and CD206⁺ IM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 6–8).

(I) Bar graphs of absolute numbers of CD206⁻ and CD206⁺ IM, as in H.

(J) Representative contour plots of Ly6C and MHC-II expression within colon live CD45⁺Lin⁻F4/80⁺CD64⁺ cells (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of Ly6C⁺, Ly6C⁺MHC-II⁺, and MHC-II⁺ CM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 6–8).

(K) Bar graphs of absolute numbers of Ly6C⁺, Ly6C⁺MHC-II⁺, and MHC-II⁺ CM, as in J.

(L) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of CD11b and CD163 expression in MHC-II⁺ CM, as in J.

(M) Representative contour plots of CD163 and CD11b expression within MHC-II⁺ CM (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of CD163⁻ C LPM and CD163⁺ MM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 6–8).

(N) Bar graphs of absolute numbers of CD163⁻ C LPM and CD163⁺ MM, as in M.

(O) Representative contour plots of F4/80 and CD64 expression within kidney live CD45⁺Lin⁻CD11b⁺ cells (left) and bar graphs of the percentage of F4/80⁻CD64⁻ cells and KRM, as gated on the contour plots (right) (n = 4).

(P) Bar graphs of absolute numbers of KRM, as in O.

(Q) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of F4/80 and Ly6C expression in KRM, as in O.

Data are mean ± SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments. *P* values were calculated using a two-tailed Student's *t* test. *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ***, *P* < 0.001; ****, *P* < 0.0001. MFI, mean fluorescence intensity; ns, not significant.

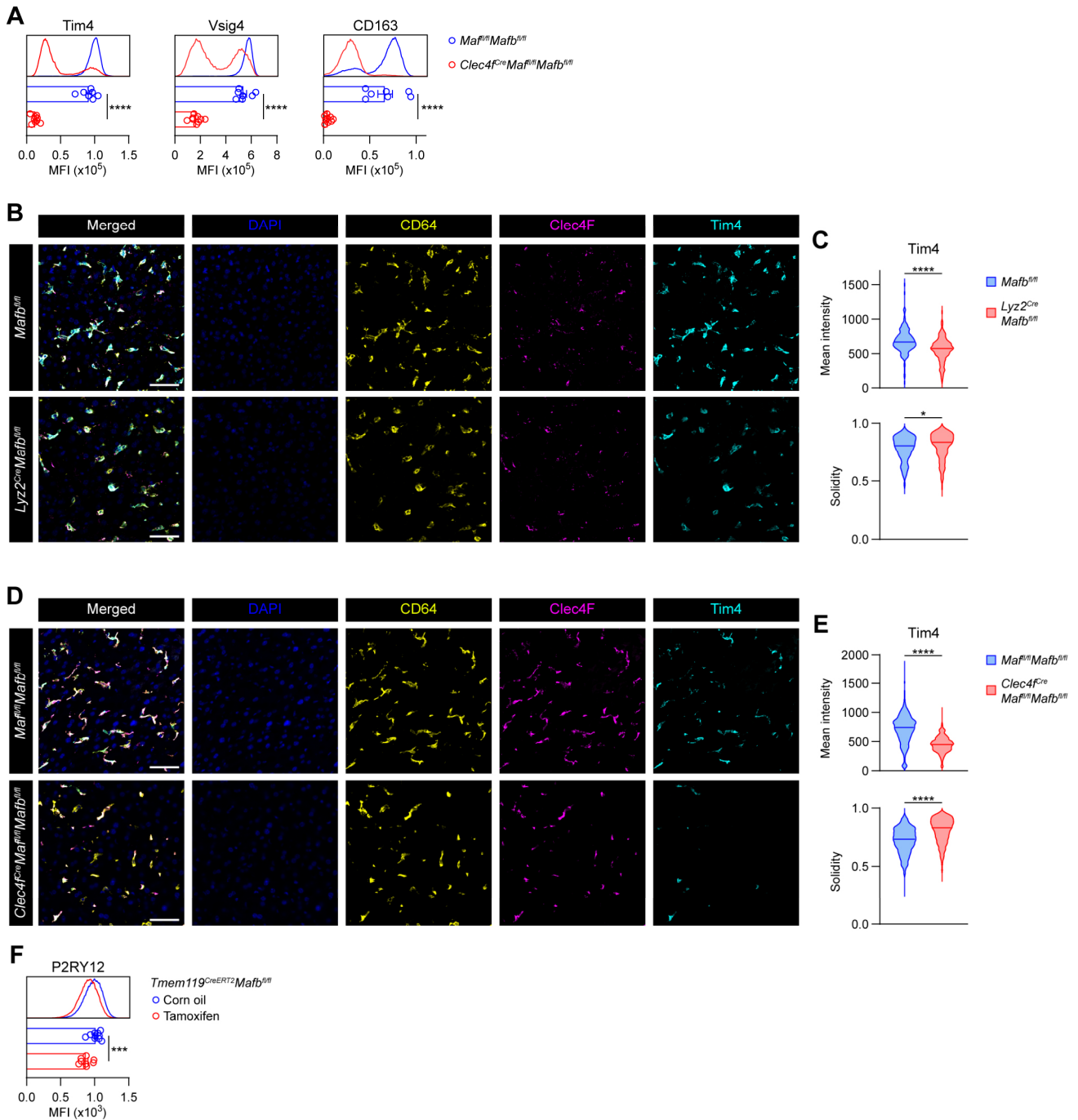


Figure S5. Impact of RTM-specific MafB deficiency on Kupffer cell and microglia phenotypes, related to Figure 4.

(A) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of Tim4, Vsig4, and CD163 expression in KCs from *Mafl^{fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Clec4f^{Cre}Mafl^{fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 7–9).

(B) Representative confocal images of KCs from *Mafl^{fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafl^{fl}* mice (n = 3). Scale bar, 50 μ m.

(C) Violin plots of Tim4 expression (top) and solidity (bottom) in CD64⁺ KCs from *Mafl^{fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafl^{fl}* mice, as in B.

(D) Representative confocal images of KCs from *Mafl^{fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Clec4f^{Cre}Mafl^{fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 3). Scale bar, 50 μ m.

(E) Violin plots of Tim4 expression (top) and solidity (bottom) in CD64⁺ KCs from *Maf^{fl/fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Clec4f^{Cre}Maf^{fl/fl}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as in D.

(F) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of P2RY12 expression in MG from *Tmem119^{CreERT2}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice orally gavaged with 5 mg tamoxifen or corn oil (control) for 5 days and analyzed 2 months after the last dose (n = 9–10).

Data are mean \pm SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments (A and F). *P* values were calculated using a two-tailed Student's *t* test (A, C[Tim4 expression] and E[Tim4 expression], F) or a two-tailed Mann–Whitney test (C[Solidity] and E[Solidity]). *, *P* < 0.05; ***, *P* < 0.001; ****, *P* < 0.0001.

(A–C) Quality control of MafB CUT&RUN peak calling in BMDMs. (A) Histograms of normalized tag counts at MafB peaks for two replicates, with corresponding numbers of called peaks and false discovery rates (FDRs) indicated. (B) Bar graphs of the fraction of reads in peaks (FRiP) for each replicate. (C) Scatterplot of normalized tag counts at overlapping MafB peaks in both replicates.

(D) CUT&RUN tracks depicting MafB binding around representative transcriptional regulators of mac differentiation in BMDMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, visualized with the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV). Horizontal red bars, MafB binding sites in BMDMs.

(E) Violin plots of mac-specific MafB target gene signature scores in RTMs from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as in Figure 3 (height, score; width, abundance).

(F–H) Quality control of MafB CUT&RUN peak calling in LPMs. (F) Histograms of normalized tag counts at MafB peaks for two replicates, with corresponding numbers of called peaks and FDRs indicated. (G) Bar graphs of FRiP for each replicate. (H) Scatterplot of normalized tag counts at overlapping MafB peaks in both replicates.

(I) Violin plots of *Csf1r* expression within RTM populations from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice, as in Figure 3 (height, expression; width, abundance of cells).

(J) Histograms (top) and bar graphs (bottom) of CD115 expression in blood Mo (left) and peritoneal macs (right) from *Mafb^{fl/fl}* and *Lyz2^{Cre}Mafb^{fl/fl}* mice (n = 5–9).

Data are mean \pm SEM and are pooled from two independent experiments (J). *P* values were calculated using a Wilcoxon rank-sum test (E and I) or a two-tailed Student's *t* test (J). **P* < 0.05; ****P* < 0.001; *****P* < 0.0001.

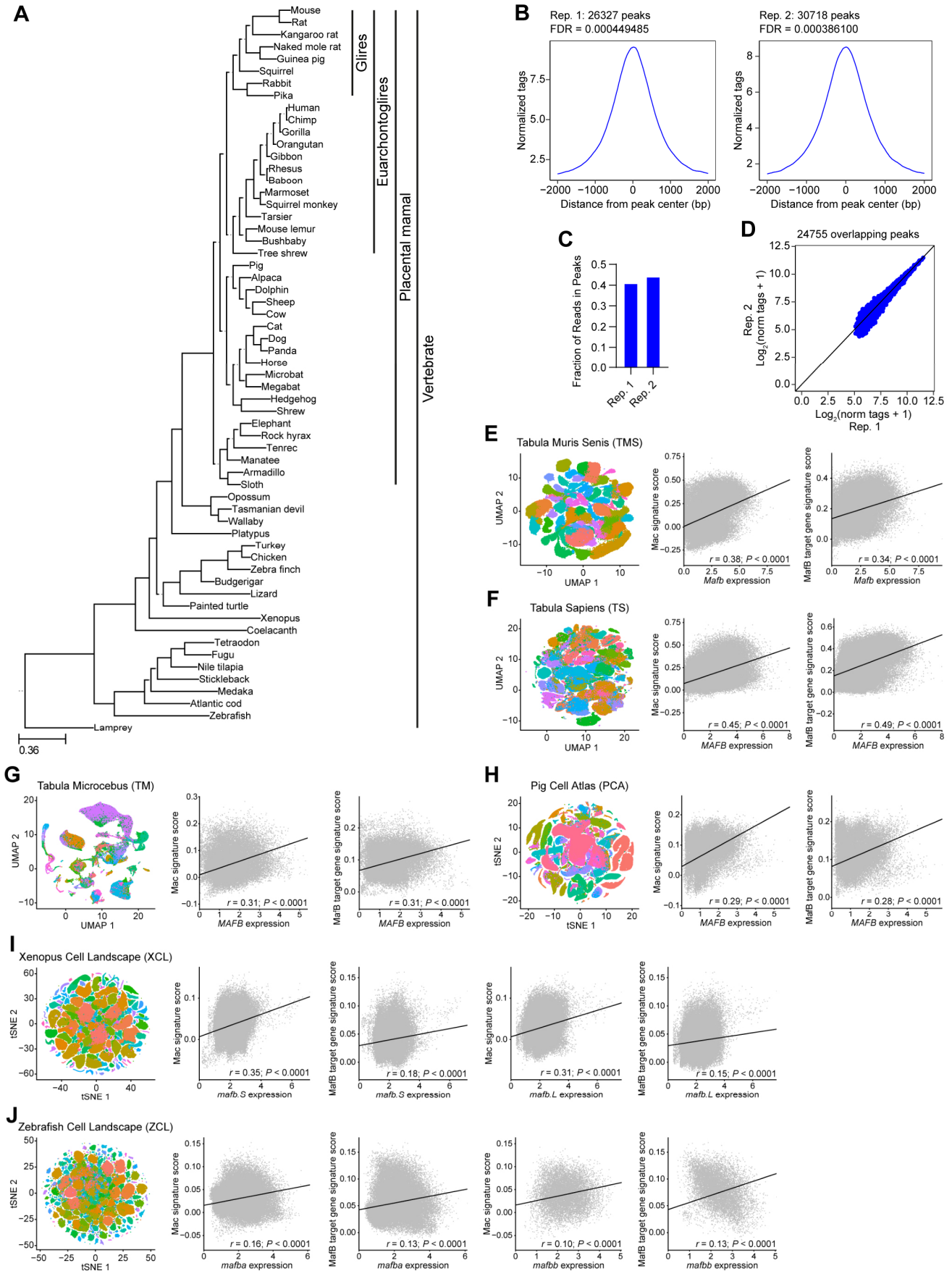


Figure S7. MafB binding site conservation across species, related to figure 7.

(A) Phylogenetic tree derived from the multiple sequence alignment of 60 vertebrate genomes with mouse as the reference genome.

(B–D) Quality control of MafB CUT&RUN peak calling in human monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs). (B) Histograms of normalized tag counts at MafB peaks for two replicates, with corresponding numbers of called peaks and FDRs indicated. (C) Bar graphs of FRiP for each replicate. (D) Scatterplot of normalized tag counts at overlapping MafB peaks in both replicates.

(E–J) Correlations between *Mafb* expression and either mac or conserved MafB target gene signature scores across species, as in Figure 7J, using the Tabula Muris Senis (E), Tabula Sapiens (F), Tabula Microcebus (G), Pig Cell Atlas (H), Xenopus Cell Landscape (I), and Zebrafish Cell Landscape (J) datasets.

P values were calculated using a Pearson correlation test.