

Supplemental Information

Competent immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 variants in older adults following two doses of mRNA vaccination

Mladen Jergović^{*1,2}, Jennifer L. Uhrlaub^{*1,2}, Makiko Watanabe^{1,2}, Christine M. Bradshaw^{1,2}, Lisa M. White³, Bonnie J. LaFleur³, Taylor Edwards⁴, Ryan Sprissler^{4,5}, Michael Worobey⁶, Deepta Bhattacharya^{1,3}, Janko Nikolich-Žugich^{1,2,3,#}

1- Department of Immunobiology, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ, USA

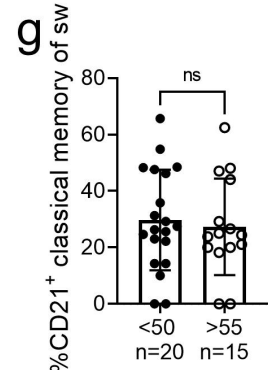
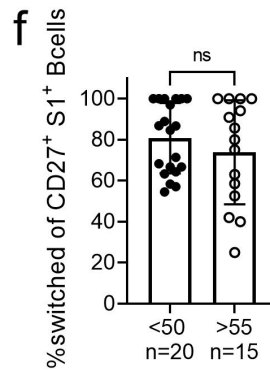
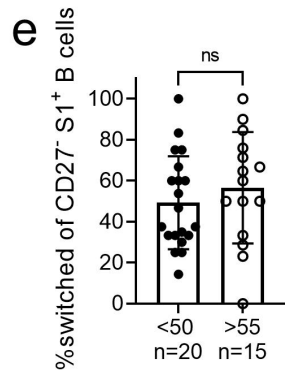
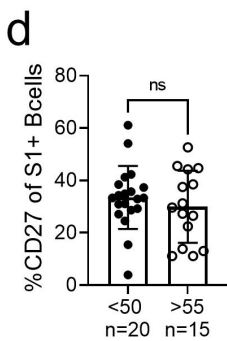
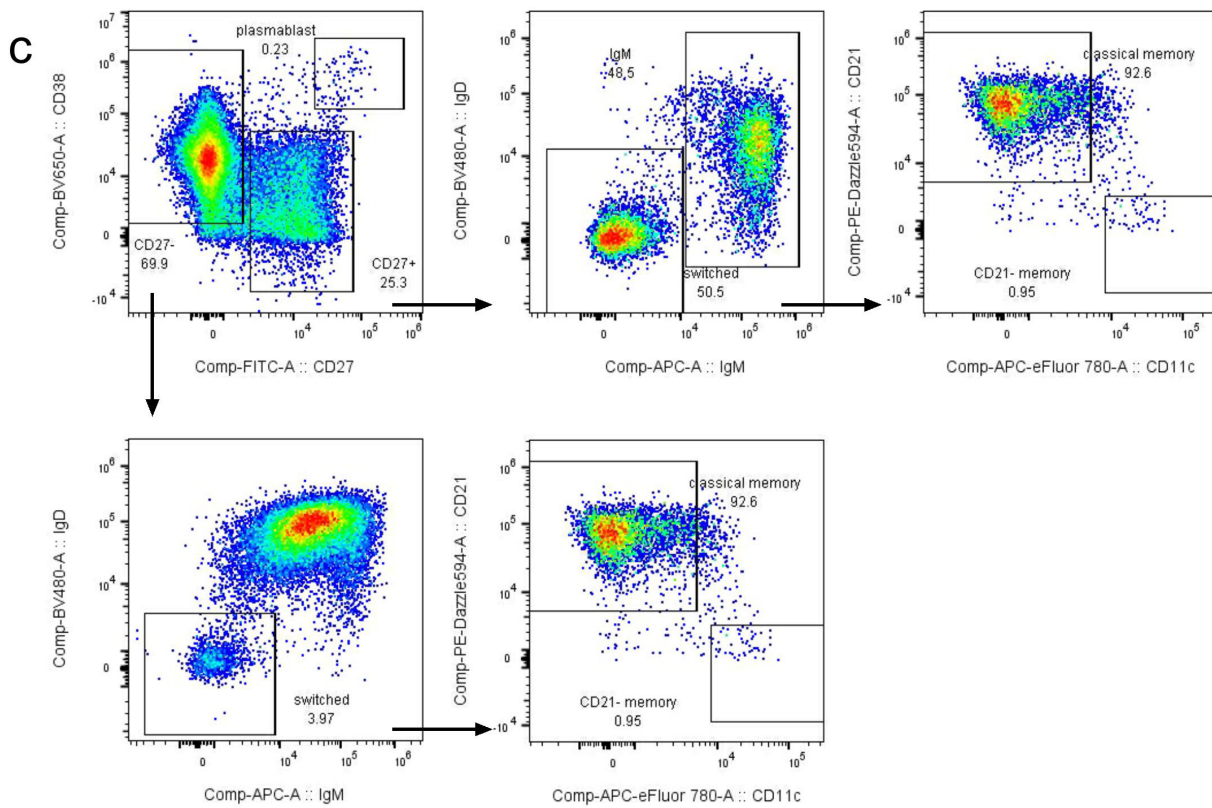
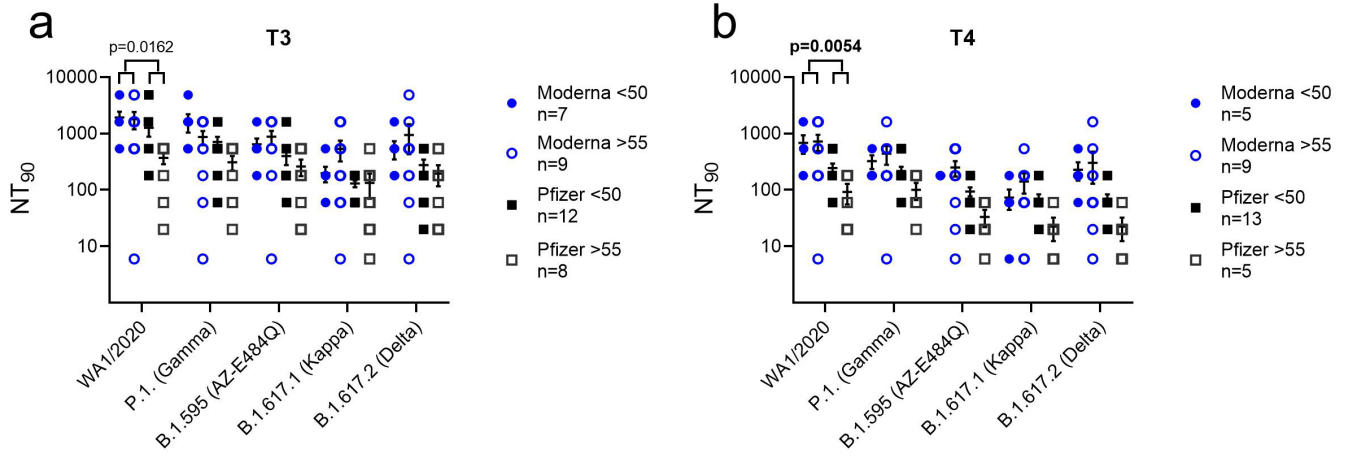
2- University of Arizona Center on Aging, University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Tucson, Tucson, AZ, USA;

3- BIO5 Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

4- University of Arizona Genetics Core, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

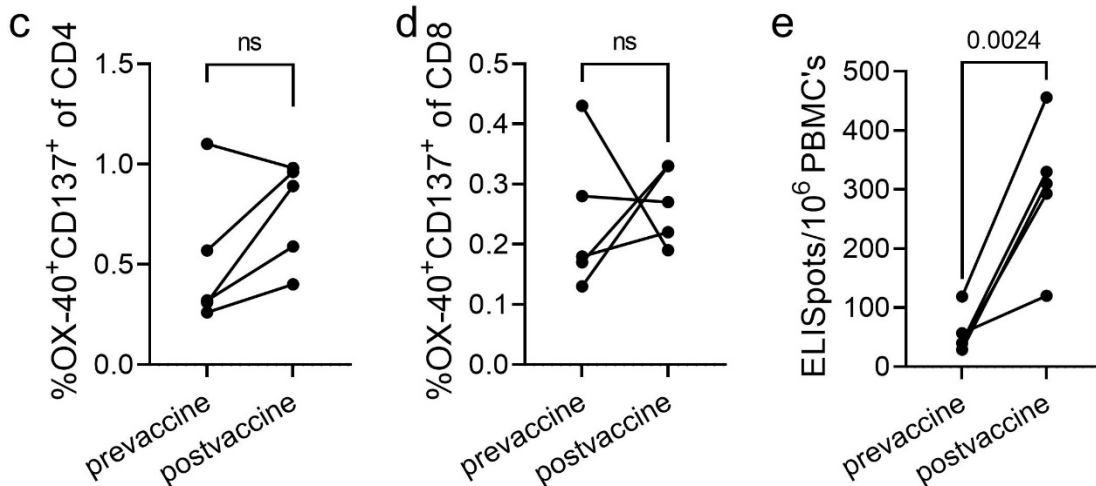
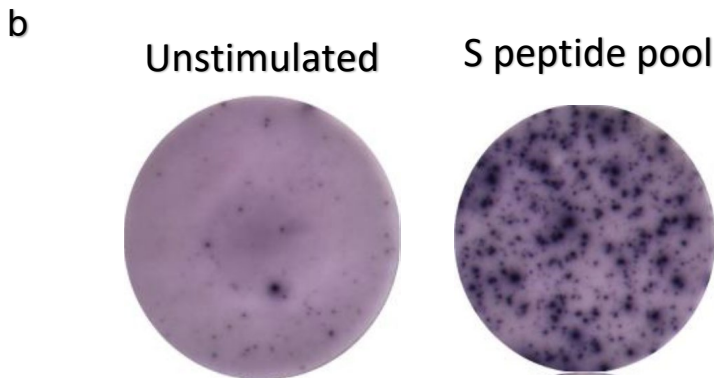
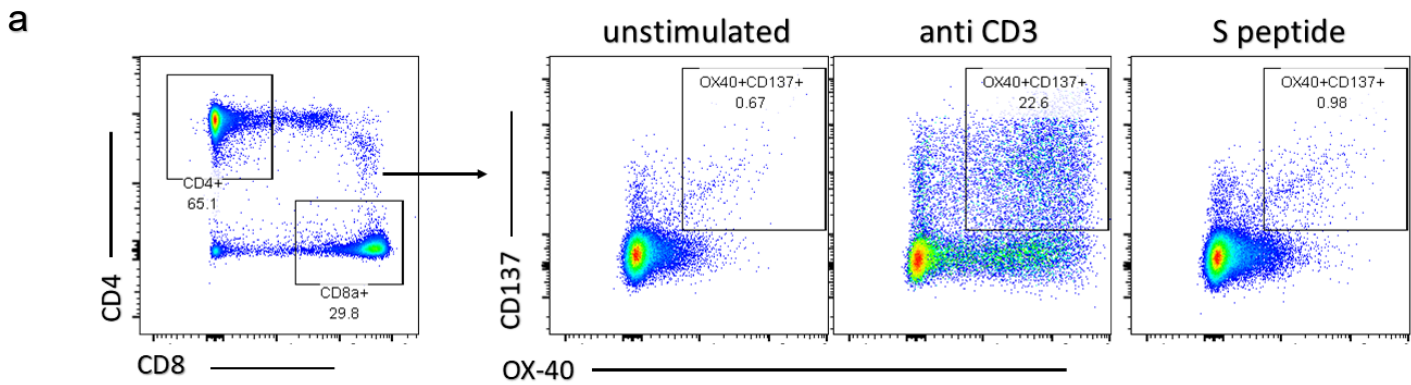
5- Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

6-Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA.



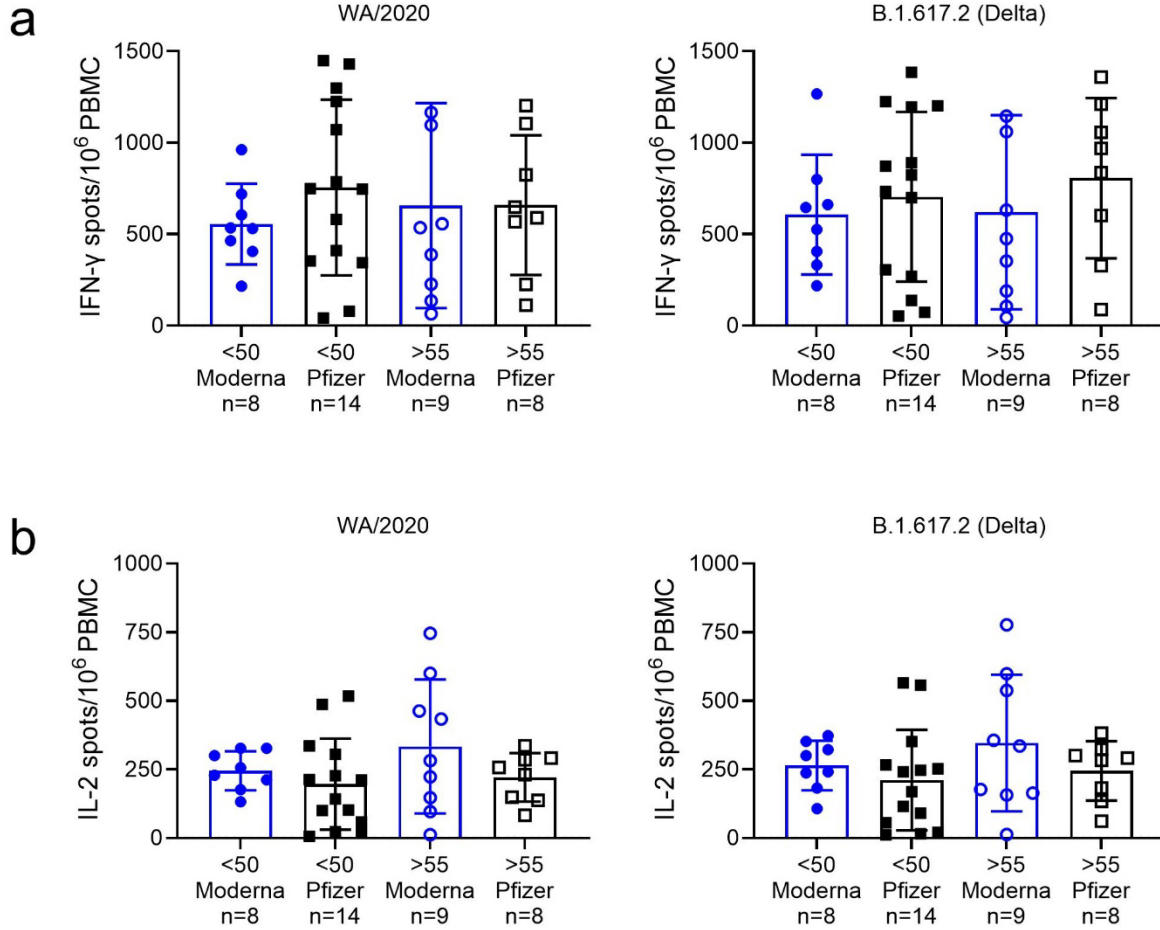
Supplementary Fig 1. SARS-CoV-2 specific memory B cells differentiate equally in <50 and >55 cohorts.

Lower neutralization titers in recipients of Pfizer's mRNA vaccine at T3 (a) and T4 (b). c) B cells gated as in Figure 3A and then as illustrated to examine B cell differentiation of tetramer positive gates. d) Percentage of CD27 expressing B cells among tetramer positive cells was equal between cohorts. e & f) Equal percentage of SARS-CoV-2 specific B cells were class switched among CD27 positive and negative cells between <50 and >55 cohorts. g) Expression of CD21 (Classical memory) was also equal between <50 and >55 cohorts. All data presented as mean values +/- SEM. Two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test.



Supplementary Fig 2. ELISpot is more specific method for enumeration of SARS-CoV-2 specific T cells.

a) Representative flow cytometric gating for identifying CD137⁺OX-40⁺ double positive CD4 and CD8 T cells. Singlet live cells were previously gated as in Figure 3A. **b)** Representative unstimulated and Spike protein peptide pool stimulated ELISpot wells. PBMCs from 5 participants were stimulated overnight with USA-WA1/2020 spike peptide pool. SARS-CoV-2 specific T cells were enumerated by either flow cytometry (**c,d**) or ELISpot (**e**). ELISpot proved to be a more sensitive method with statistically significant difference before and after vaccination with N=5. All data presented as mean values +/- SEM. Two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test, for all statistical differences **p<0.01.



Supplementary Fig 3. Vaccine brand did not differentially impact T cell responses in these cohorts. Number of IFN- γ ELISpots (a) or IL-2 ELISpots (b) was not statistically different between recipients of Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines at the T4 time point. Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-hoc correction. All data presented as mean values +/- SEM.

Supplemental Table 1. List of antibodies used for flow cytometry analysis.

Antigen	Fluorochrome	Ab. clone	Manufacturer	Cat.No.	Dilution
CD19	Spark NIR™ 685	HIB19	Biolegend	302270	1/50
CD27	FITC	0323	Biolegend	302806	1/50
CD38	BV650	HB-7	Biolegend	356620	1/50
IgD	BV480	11-26C.1	Becton Dickinson	566138	1/50
IgM	APC	MHM-88	Biolegend	314510	1/50
CD11c	APCe780	3.9	ThermoFisher	47-0116-42	1/25
CD3	BV510	OKT3	Biolegend	317332	1/50
CD21	Pedazzle594	Bu32	Biolegend	354922	1/50
CD4	SparkBlue550	SK3	Biolegend	344656	1/100
CD13	PECy7	WM15	Biolegend	301712	1/50
CD8	BUV395	RPA-T8	Becton Dickinson	563795	1/50
CD137	PE-Cy5	4B4-1	Biolegend	309808	1/50