

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see [Authors & Referees](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Pulmonary function by whole body plethysmography was collected on a Buxco Finepoint system by Data Sciences International. qRT-PCR was collected on a Roche Lightcycler Real Time PCR machine. ELISA data was collected via Biorad 680 microplate reader. All photomicrographs of tissue sections were collected on a Keyence BZX-800 microscope. Luciferase measurements were performed on a Spectramax-M3 plate reader.

Data analysis

All data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel (Office 365, 2018) and Graphpad Prism 8 for Mac.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

Primary data for studies herein are located in a supplemental Excel file.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences Behavioural & social sciences Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	The antiviral efficacy for remdesivir against MERS-CoV had not yet been reported. Almost all of this work, was performed at BSL3 thus limiting the size and scale of these studies. Thus, we used groups of 14-15 mice in prophylactic studies and 7-9 mice in therapeutic efficacy studies.
Data exclusions	If a given mouse unexpectedly did not lose weight after infection and their virus lung titers were more than 2 log ₁₀ lower than the mean of the group, this indicated that infection was inefficient, and all data related to that mouse were censored.
Replication	In vitro antiviral activity studies were performed in sextuplicate/condition, repeated between four and five times and similar data was recorded upon repeat. Interferon beta pharmacodynamic studies were performed twice. Prophylactic efficacy studies with remdesivir were only performed once primarily as a means of setting the stage for therapeutic efficacy studies. Therapeutic efficacy studies comparing remdesivir, and lopinavir/ritonavir/interferon beta were performed twice although therapeutic remdesivir vs. vehicle was performed three times. Note: Male and female mice were used in the initial studies where we confirmed MERS-CoV pathogenesis in the transgenic mice but due to increased variability in disease in male mice, efficacy studies were performed only in female mice.
Randomization	Since mice were often delivered with range in their date of birth, similar numbers of similarly aged mice were randomly assigned to each experimental treatment group.
Blinding	The experiments were not blinded.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Human research participants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data

Methods

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

Antibodies

Antibodies used	Anti-MERS-CoV antisera (1:500) to stain for MERS-CoV antigen in mouse lung sections was generated through vaccination of Balb/c mice. Staining was performed by the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Animal Histopathology Core. Lung tissue sections were stained for cleaved caspase-3 (Cell Signalling #9664) by the Animal Histopathology & Laboratory Medicine Core at UNC. At the UNC Translational Pathology Laboratory (TPL) Core, Cleaved caspase-3 stained slides were scanned on an Aperio ScanScope XT (Leica Biosystems) with a 20X power objective and a camera resolution of 0.4942 microns per pixel.
Validation	Staining was validated in the Core laboratory. Staining controls as well as the staining of mock infected animals was performed with each experiment.

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines](#)

Cell line source(s)	Vero-81 (ATCC CCL-81) were purchased from UNC Lineberger Cancer Center's Tissue Culture Facility (TCF). Calu-3 (2B4 clone) were gifted to us from Dr. Chien Tseng University of Texas Medical Branch.
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Authentication	Quality control histological analysis of cell morphology and Short Terminal Repeat (STR) marker profiling by the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center's Tissue Culture Facility (TCF).
Mycoplasma contamination	Cells were not tested for mycoplasma.
Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register)	Name any commonly misidentified cell lines used in the study and provide a rationale for their use.

Palaeontology

Specimen provenance	Provide provenance information for specimens and describe permits that were obtained for the work (including the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).
Specimen deposition	Indicate where the specimens have been deposited to permit free access by other researchers.
Dating methods	If new dates are provided, describe how they were obtained (e.g. collection, storage, sample pretreatment and measurement), where they were obtained (i.e. lab name), the calibration program and the protocol for quality assurance OR state that no new dates are provided.

Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

Laboratory animals	Ces1c-/- (stock 014096, The Jackson Laboratory) and C57BL/6J Ces1c-/- hDPP4 (The Jackson Laboratory stock number 403188) were used for these studies. Confirmation of MERS-CoV pathogenesis in C57BL/6J Ces1c-/- hDPP4 was performed in 23-24 week old male and female mice. Interferon beta pharmacodynamic studies were performed in 18-20 week-old male and female Ces1c-/- or Ces1c-/- hDPP4 mice. Prophylactic efficacy studies were performed in 9-12 week old male and female Ces1c-/- hDPP4 mice. Therapeutic efficacy studies were performed in 9-12 week old female Ces1c-/- hDPP4.
Wild animals	No wild-animals were used.
Field-collected samples	Field collected samples were not used.
Ethics oversight	All works were conducted under protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at UNC Chapel Hill (protocol #16-284) according to guidelines set by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Human research participants

Policy information about [studies involving human research participants](#)

Population characteristics	Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants (e.g. age, gender, genotypic information, past and current diagnosis and treatment categories). If you filled out the behavioural & social sciences study design questions and have nothing to add here, write "See above."
Recruitment	Describe how participants were recruited. Outline any potential self-selection bias or other biases that may be present and how these are likely to impact results.
Ethics oversight	Identify the organization(s) that approved the study protocol.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

Clinical trial registration	Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.
Study protocol	Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.
Data collection	Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.
Outcomes	Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.

ChIP-seq

Data deposition

- Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links

May remain private before publication.

For "Initial submission" or "Revised version" documents, provide reviewer access links. For your "Final submission" document, provide a link to the deposited data.

Files in database submission

Provide a list of all files available in the database submission.

Genome browser session

(e.g. [UCSC](#))

Provide a link to an anonymized genome browser session for "Initial submission" and "Revised version" documents only, to enable peer review. Write "no longer applicable" for "Final submission" documents.

Methodology

Replicates

Describe the experimental replicates, specifying number, type and replicate agreement.

Sequencing depth

Describe the sequencing depth for each experiment, providing the total number of reads, uniquely mapped reads, length of reads and whether they were paired- or single-end.

Antibodies

Describe the antibodies used for the ChIP-seq experiments; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.

Peak calling parameters

Specify the command line program and parameters used for read mapping and peak calling, including the ChIP, control and index files used.

Data quality

Describe the methods used to ensure data quality in full detail, including how many peaks are at FDR 5% and above 5-fold enrichment.

Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the ChIP-seq data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Flow Cytometry

Plots

Confirm that:

- The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology

Sample preparation

Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.

Instrument

Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.

Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Cell population abundance

Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.

Gating strategy

Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between "positive" and "negative" staining cell populations are defined.

- Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

Magnetic resonance imaging

Experimental design

Design type

Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.

Design specifications *Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.*

Behavioral performance measures *State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).*

Acquisition

Imaging type(s) *Specify: functional, structural, diffusion, perfusion.*

Field strength *Specify in Tesla*

Sequence & imaging parameters *Specify the pulse sequence type (gradient echo, spin echo, etc.), imaging type (EPI, spiral, etc.), field of view, matrix size, slice thickness, orientation and TE/TR/flip angle.*

Area of acquisition *State whether a whole brain scan was used OR define the area of acquisition, describing how the region was determined.*

Diffusion MRI Used Not used

Preprocessing

Preprocessing software *Provide detail on software version and revision number and on specific parameters (model/functions, brain extraction, segmentation, smoothing kernel size, etc.).*

Normalization *If data were normalized/standardized, describe the approach(es): specify linear or non-linear and define image types used for transformation OR indicate that data were not normalized and explain rationale for lack of normalization.*

Normalization template *Describe the template used for normalization/transformation, specifying subject space or group standardized space (e.g. original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152) OR indicate that the data were not normalized.*

Noise and artifact removal *Describe your procedure(s) for artifact and structured noise removal, specifying motion parameters, tissue signals and physiological signals (heart rate, respiration).*

Volume censoring *Define your software and/or method and criteria for volume censoring, and state the extent of such censoring.*

Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings *Specify type (mass univariate, multivariate, RSA, predictive, etc.) and describe essential details of the model at the first and second levels (e.g. fixed, random or mixed effects; drift or auto-correlation).*

Effect(s) tested *Define precise effect in terms of the task or stimulus conditions instead of psychological concepts and indicate whether ANOVA or factorial designs were used.*

Specify type of analysis: Whole brain ROI-based Both

Statistic type for inference (See [Eklund et al. 2016](#)) *Specify voxel-wise or cluster-wise and report all relevant parameters for cluster-wise methods.*

Correction *Describe the type of correction and how it is obtained for multiple comparisons (e.g. FWE, FDR, permutation or Monte Carlo).*

Models & analysis

n/a | Involved in the study

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Graph analysis

Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity *Report the measures of dependence used and the model details (e.g. Pearson correlation, partial correlation, mutual information).*

Graph analysis *Report the dependent variable and connectivity measure, specifying weighted graph or binarized graph, subject- or group-level, and the global and/or node summaries used (e.g. clustering coefficient, efficiency, etc.).*

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis *Specify independent variables, features extraction and dimension reduction, model, training and evaluation metrics.*