

**Recovery of systemic hyperinflammation in patients with severe SARS-CoV-2 infection**

Carolin Langnau<sup>1</sup>, Henrik Janing<sup>1</sup>, Hüseyin Kocaman<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Gekeler<sup>1</sup>, Manina Günter<sup>2,3</sup>, Álvaro Petersen-Urbe<sup>1</sup>, Philippa Jaeger<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Koch<sup>1</sup>, Klaus-Peter Kreisselmeier<sup>1</sup>, MD, Tatsiana Castor<sup>1</sup>, PhD, Dominik Rath<sup>1</sup>, MD, Meinrad Paul Gawaz<sup>1</sup>, MD, Stella E. Autenrieth<sup>2,3</sup>, PhD, Karin Anne Lydia Mueller<sup>1\*</sup>, MD

<sup>1</sup>University Hospital Tuebingen, Department of Cardiology and Angiology, Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany

<sup>2</sup>University Hospital Tuebingen, Department of Hematology, Oncology, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany

<sup>3</sup>German Cancer Research Centre, Department of Dendritic Cells in Infection and Cancer, Heidelberg, Germany

**\*Corresponding author**

Karin Anne Lydia Mueller, MD

Department of Cardiology and Angiology

University Hospital of the Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen

Otfried-Müller-Str. 10, 72076 Tuebingen, Germany

E-Mail: k.mueller@med.uni-tuebingen.de

1 Tel: +49-7071-29-83688

2 Fax: +49-7071-29-5749

3

4 **Word count: 5550**

5

**Supplemental Table S1. Baseline characteristics of patient population at study entry**

| Parameters                          | All Patients (n=23) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Clinical characteristics            |                     |
| Age, y                              | 69 (55-79)          |
| Male                                | 12 (52.2)           |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )            | 27 (25.7-31.5)      |
| ARDS                                |                     |
| - mild                              | 15 (65.2)           |
| - moderate                          | 2 (8.7)             |
| - severe                            | 4 (17.4)            |
| Horovitz Index (HI)                 |                     |
| - HI > 300 mmHg                     | 12 (52.2)           |
| - HI 201 - 300 mmHg                 | 6 (26.1)            |
| - HI 101 - 200 mmHg                 | 4 (17.4)            |
| - HI ≤ 100 mmHg                     | 1 (4.3)             |
| High flow O <sub>2</sub> Therapy    | 4 (17.4)            |
| Mechanical ventilation              | 5 (21.7)            |
| Vasopressor                         | 4 (17.4)            |
| Lymphocyte count at Nadir (1000/μl) | 0.7 (0.6-1)         |
| Bacterial Co-Infection              | 10 (43.5)           |
| Dialysis                            | 1 (4.3)             |
| Acute hepatic injury                | 2 (8.7)             |
| Cardiovascular risk factors         |                     |
| Arterial hypertension               | 17 (73.9)           |
| Dyslipidemia                        | 11 (47.8)           |
| Diabetes mellitus                   | 7 (30.4)            |
| Current smokers                     | 4 (17.4)            |
| Obesity                             | 9 (39.1)            |
| Atrial fibrillation                 | 3 (13)              |
| CAD                                 | 6 (26.1)            |
| - 1 vessel                          | 1 (4.3)             |
| - 2 vessels                         | 2 (8.7)             |
| - 3 vessels                         | 3 (13)              |
| Chronic kidney disease              | 1 (4.3)             |
| Asthma                              | 3 (13)              |
| COPD                                | 1 (4.3)             |
| Congestive heart failure            | 1 (4.3)             |
| Malignoma                           | 1 (4.3)             |
| Liver disease                       | 1 (4.3)             |
| Prior IS                            | 4 (17.4)            |

| Concomitant cardiac medication at study entry        |           |
|--|-----------|
| Oral anticoagulation                                 | 4 (17.4)  |
| ACE-I or ARB   | 9 (39.1)  |
| MRA  | 4 (17.4)  |
| Diuretics  | 4 (17.4)  |
| Calcium channel blockers                             | 4 (17.4)  |
| Beta blockers  | 13 (56.5) |
| Statins  | 10 (43.5) |
| ASA  | 8 (34.8)  |
| P2Y12 inhibitors                                     | 2 (8.7)   |
| Concomitant cardiac medication at hospital discharge |           |
| Oral anticoagulation                                 | 1 (4.3)   |
| ACE-I or ARB   | 12 (52.2) |
| MRA  | 2 (8.7)   |
| Diuretics  | 4 (17.4)  |
| Calcium channel blockers                             | 3 (13)    |
| Beta blockers  | 10 (43.5) |
| Statins  | 11 (47.8) |
| ASA  | 9 (39.1)  |
| P2Y12 inhibitors                                     | 1 (4.3)   |

Values are n (%) or are given as median and interquartile range (IQR). ACE - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme. Afib – atrial fibrillation. ALT – alanine amino-transferase. ARB – Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers. ARDS – Acute respiratory distress syndrome. ASA – Acetylsalicylic acid. AST – aspartate-aminotransferase. BMI – body mass index. CAD – coronary artery disease. CK – creatinine kinase. CRP – C-reactive protein. GFR-MDRD – glomerular filtration rate. Hb – hemoglobin. hs TNI – high sensitive Troponin I. HI – Horowitz ratio (P/F ratio). INR – international normalized ratio. LDH – lactate dehydrogenase. MRA - mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists. NT-pro-BNP – N-terminal pro- brain natriuretic peptide. Pap Sys – pulmonary arterial pressure systolic. PCT – procalcitonin. PTT – partial thromboplastin time. SARS-CoV-2 – severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2

**Supplemental Table S2. Adverse events during follow up**

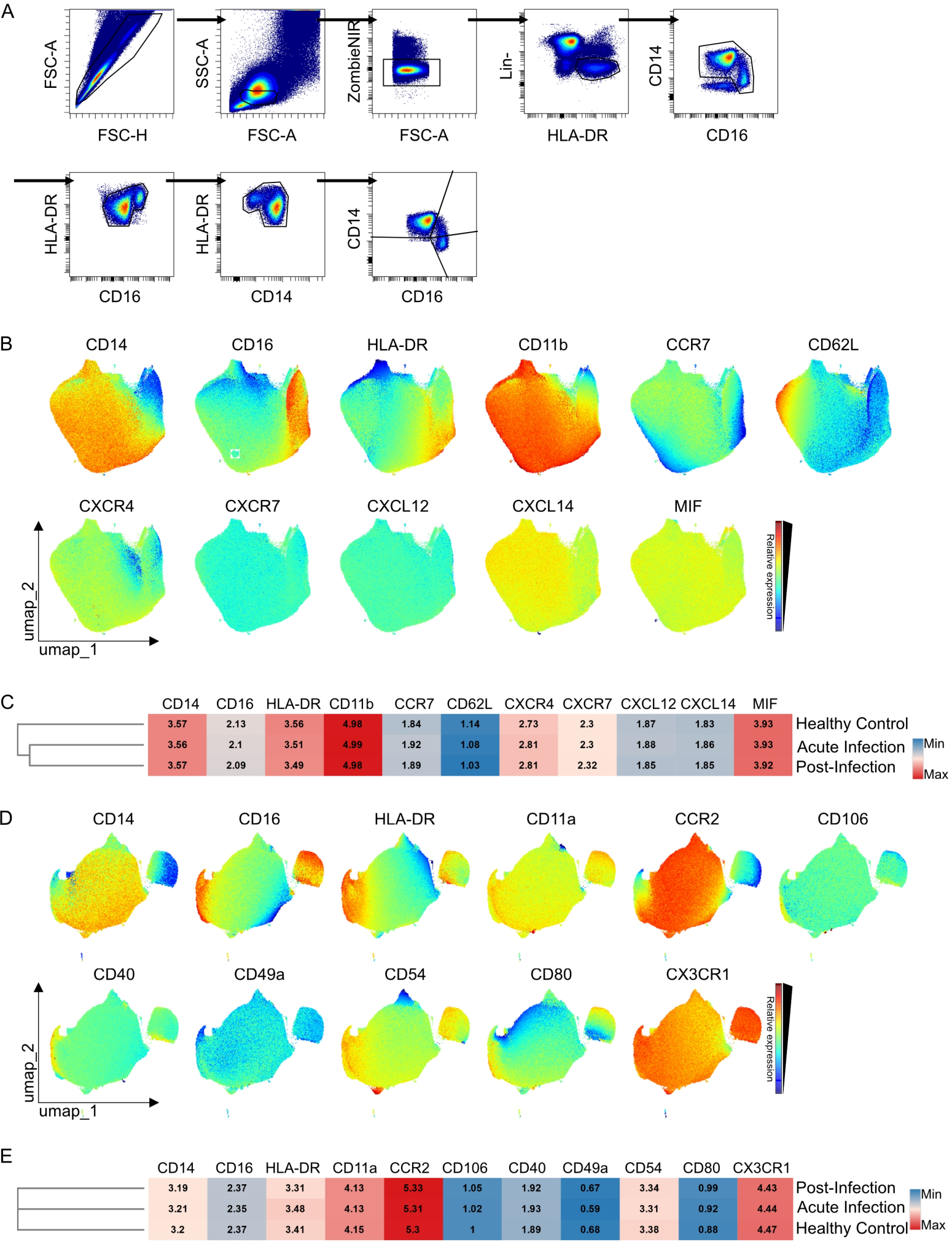
| Parameters              | All Patients, N=23 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Adverse events          |                    |
| - Death                 | 0 (0)              |
| - Myocardial infarction | 1 (4.3)            |
| - ECLS/ECMO             | 0 (0)              |
| - Stroke                | 0 (0)              |
| - Thromboembolism       | 0 (0)              |
| - Bleeding              | 0 (0)              |
| - Re-hospitalization    | 0 (0)              |

Values are n (%) or are given as median and interquartile range (IQR). ACE – Angiotensin Converting Enzyme. Afib – atrial fibrillation. ALT – alanine amino-transferase. ARB - Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers. ASA – Acetylsalicylic acid. AST – aspartate-aminotransferase. BMI – body mass index. CAD – coronary artery disease. CK – creatinine kinase. CRP – C-reactive protein. GFR-MDRD – glomerular filtration rate. Hb – hemoglobin. hs TNI – high sensitive Troponin I. INR – international normalized ratio. LDH – lactate dehydrogenase. NT-pro-BNP – N-terminal pro- brain natriuretic peptide. Pap Sys – pulmonary arterial pressure systolic. PCT – procalcitonin. PTT – partial thromboplastin time. SARS-CoV-2 – severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2

**Supplemental Table S3. Inflammatory cytokines and chemokines**

| LEGENDPlex<br>Inflammation Panel 1               | Function   | Source                         |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| IL-1 $\beta$                                     | Immune activation; induces an inflammatory response  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IFN- $\alpha$ 2                                  | Immune activation and modulation   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IFN- $\gamma$                                    | Immune activation and modulation   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| TNF- $\alpha$                                    | Stimulated generalized immune activation as well as tumor necrosis   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| CCL2   | Attracts monocytes and memory T cells to inflammatory sites  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IL-6   | Promotes B cell growth and antibody production, induces acute phase response   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IL-8   | Chemoattractant  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IL-10  | Inhibits the production of IFN- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , and stops antigen presentation                                  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IL-12p70   | Augments T helper 1 responses and induces IFN- $\gamma$  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| IL-18  | Recruits monocytes and T lymphocytes. Synergist with IL-12 in the induction of IFN- $\gamma$ production and inhibition of angiogenesis | (Arend <i>et al.</i> 2008)     |
| IL-23  | Differentiation and stabilization of T helper cells 17   | (Schinocca <i>et al.</i> 2021) |
| IL-33  | Traditional cytokine and as a nuclear factor regulating gene transcription, induces Th2 cytokine production                            | (Miller 2011)                  |
| LEGENDPlex<br>Proinflammatory<br>Chemokine Panel | Function   | Source                         |
| CCL2   | Attracts monocytes and memory T cells to inflammatory sites  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| CCL5   | Attracts monocytes, T cells, and eosinophils   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| CXCL10   | Chemotaxis, induction of apoptosis, regulation of cell growth and mediation of angiostatic effects                                     | (Liu <i>et al.</i> 2011)       |
| CCL11  | Eosinophil and basophil migration  | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CCL17  | Th2 responses, Th2 cell migration, Treg, lung and skin homing  | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CCL3   | Attracts monocytes and T cells   | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| CCL4   | Attracts monocytes and CD8+ T cells  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |
| CXCL9  | Th1 response; Th1, CD8, NK trafficking   | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CCL20  | Th17 responses; B cell and DC homing to gut-associated lymphoid tissue   | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CXCL5  | Neutrophil trafficking   | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CXCL1  | Neutrophil trafficking   | (Griffith <i>et al.</i> 2014)  |
| CXCL11   | Linage development of T-regulatory-1 cells   | (Karin 2020)                   |
| CXCL8  | Attracts neutrophils, naive T cells  | (Parkin and Cohen 2001)        |

Supplemental Figure S1



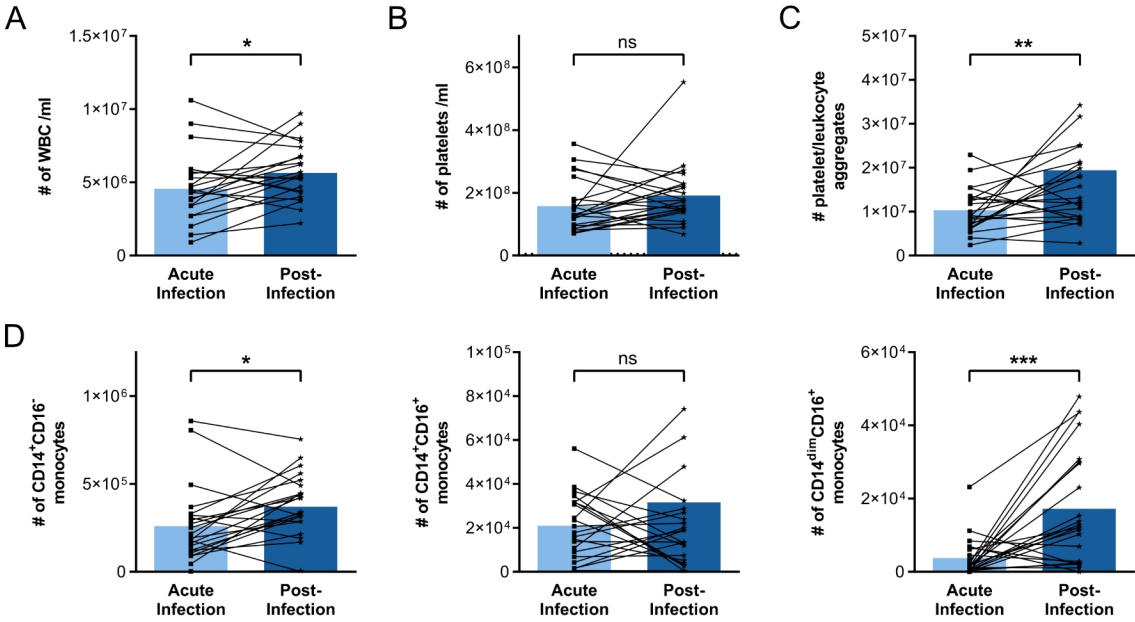
**Supplemental Figure S1: Gating strategy of human monocytes and UMAP analysis of surface marker expression.**

**(A)** One representative gating strategy of human monocytes is shown. Gating strategy was used for both monocyte flow cytometry panel. All samples were gated as follows: singlets/ leukocytes/ CD14CD16 cells/ HLA-DR+CD16/ HLA-DR+CD14/ CD14CD16. Classical monocytes were characterized as CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>-</sup>, intermediate as CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup> and non-classical as CD14<sup>dim</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup>.

**(B)** Blots representing median marker expression of monocyte flow cytometry panel 1 as overlay of all patient samples. UMAP analysis was performed. **(C)** Heatmap of median expression of analyzed markers of monocyte flow cytometry panel 1. Patients are clustered into healthy control, acute infection and post-infection. **(D)** Blots representing median marker expression of monocyte flow cytometry panel 2 as overlay of all patient samples. UMAP analysis was performed. **(E)** Heatmap of median expression of analyzed markers of monocyte flow cytometry panel 2. Patients are clustered into healthy control, acute infection and post-infection. **(A-E)** Plots were generated using OMIQ data analysis software.



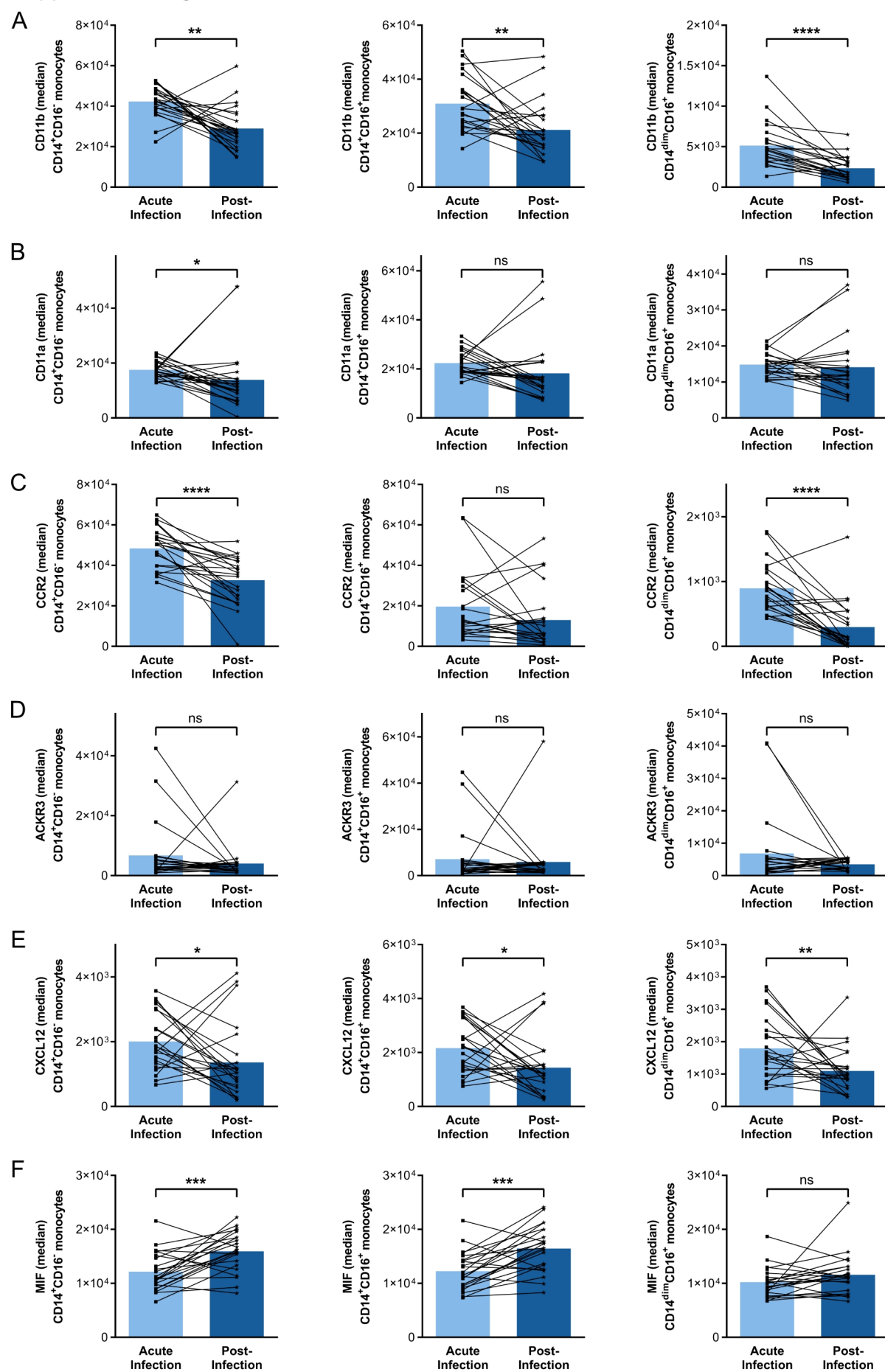
Supplemental Figure S2



**Supplemental Figure S2: Cell count of monocytes, platelets and platelet/leukocyte aggregates in comparison of acute and post SARS-CoV-2 infection.**

Flow cytometry analysis of 23 SARS-CoV-2 infected patients at acute stage and 3 months post-infection was performed in whole blood for phenotyping of systemic monocytes, platelets and platelet/leukocyte aggregates. Lines represent coherent patients. Following cell counts were measured: **(A)** WBC/ml **(B)** platelets/ml **(C)** platelet/leukocyte aggregates and **(D)** CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>-</sup>, CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup> and CD14<sup>dim</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup> monocytes. Plotted: Median with interquartile range (IQR); Statistics: Mann-Whitney U test. For this analysis a p-value  $\leq 0.050$  was considered significant, indicated by \*, p-value  $\leq 0.010$  indicated by \*\*, p-value  $\leq 0.001$  indicated by \*\*\* and p-value  $\leq 0.0001$  indicated by \*\*\*\*.

# Supplemental Figure S3



**Supplemental Figure S3: Activation and migration surface marker on monocyte subsets comparing acute and post SARS-CoV-2 infection.**

23 SARS-CoV-2 infected patients at acute stage and 3 months post-infection were analyzed by flow cytometry staining in whole blood. Lines represent coherent patients. Plots representing surface marker expression of CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>-</sup>, CD14<sup>+</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup> and CD14<sup>dim</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup> monocytes: **(A)** median of CD11b **(B)** median of CD11a **(C)** median of CCR2 and **(D)** median of ACKR3. Following marker were stained intracellularly: **(E)** median of CXCL12 **(F)** median of MIF. Plotted: Median with interquartile range (IQR); Statistics: Mann-Whitney U test. For this analysis a p-value  $\leq 0.050$  was considered significant, indicated by \*, p-value  $\leq 0.010$  indicated by \*\*, p-value  $\leq 0.001$  indicated by \*\*\* and p-value  $\leq 0.0001$  indicated by \*\*\*\*.