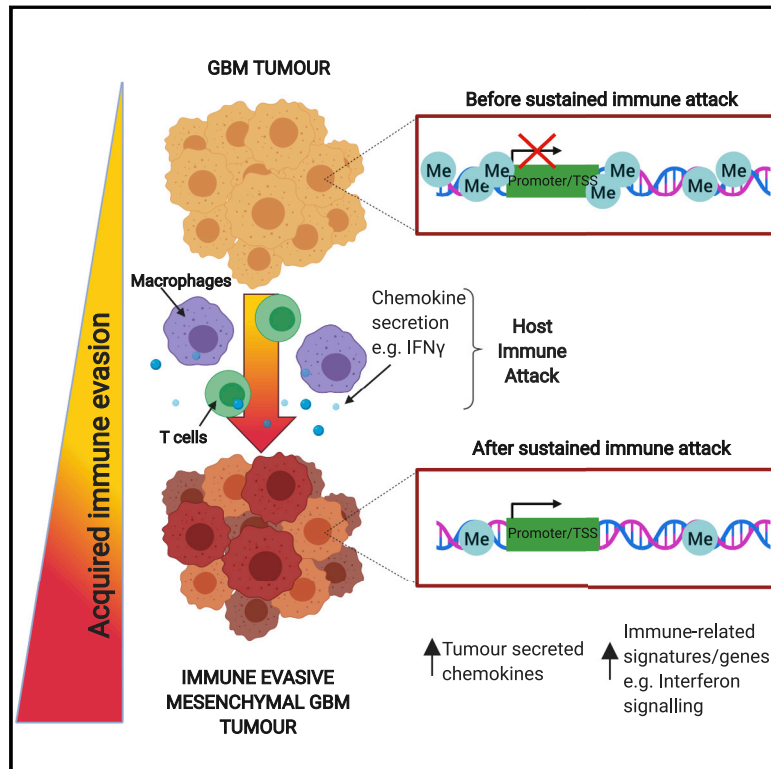


Glioblastomas acquire myeloid-affiliated transcriptional programs via epigenetic immunoediting to elicit immune evasion

Graphical abstract



Authors

Ester Gangoso, Benjamin Southgate, Leanne Bradley, ..., Margaret C. Frame, Alan Serrels, Steven M. Pollard

Correspondence

steven.pollard@ed.ac.uk

In brief

Glioblastoma stem cells deploy a myeloid mimicry program through epigenetic immunoediting, rather than subclonal selection, to drive a myeloid-enriched tumor microenvironment, thereby enabling immune evasion and tumor progression.

Highlights

- Disease-relevant TME is recapitulated in immunocompetent GBM mouse models
- Stable reconfiguration of the transcriptome occurs in GSCs following immune attack
- Immune evasive GSCs deploy “myeloid mimicry” to establish a myeloid-enriched TME
- Acquired transcriptional changes consistent with a process of epigenetic immunoediting



Article

Glioblastomas acquire myeloid-affiliated transcriptional programs via epigenetic immunoediting to elicit immune evasion

Ester Gangoso,^{1,2,11} Benjamin Southgate,^{1,2,11} Leanne Bradley,^{1,2,11} Stefanie Rus,^{1,2} Felipe Galvez-Cancino,³ Niamh McGivern,² Esra Güç,⁷ Chantriont-Andreas Kapourani,^{1,2} Adam Byron,² Kirsty M. Ferguson,^{1,2} Neza Alfazema,^{1,2} Gillian Morrison,^{1,2} Vivien Grant,^{1,2} Carla Blin,^{1,2} IengFong Sou,^{1,2} Maria Angeles Marques-Torrejon,^{1,2} Lucia Conde,⁴ Simona Parrinello,⁵ Javier Herrero,⁴ Stephan Beck,⁶ Sebastian Brandner,⁸ Paul M. Brennan,^{1,2} Paul Bertone,⁹ Jeffrey W. Pollard,⁷ Sergio A. Quezada,³ Duncan Sproul,² Margaret C. Frame,² Alan Serrels,¹⁰ and Steven M. Pollard^{1,2,12,*}

¹Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Institute for Regeneration and Repair, University of Edinburgh, 5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh EH16 4UU, UK

²CRUK Edinburgh Centre, Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, Crewe Road South, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH42XR, UK

³Cancer Immunology Unit, Research Department of Haematology, University College London Cancer Institute, London WC1E 6BT, UK

⁴Bill Lyons Informatics Centre, Department of Cancer Biology, University College London Cancer Institute, London WC1E 6BT

⁵Samantha Dickson Brain Cancer Unit, Department of Cancer Biology, University College London Cancer Institute, London WC1E 6BT, UK

⁶Medical Genomics Research Group, Department of Cancer Biology, University College London Cancer Institute, London, WC1E 6BT

⁷Centre for Reproductive Health, The University of Edinburgh, The Queen's Medical Research Institute, Edinburgh Little France Crescent, Edinburgh EH16 4TJ, UK

⁸Division of Neuropathology and Department of Neurodegenerative Disease, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UCL, London, UK

⁹Department of Medicine, Alpert Medical School, Brown University, Providence, RI 02903, USA

¹⁰Centre for Inflammation Research, The University of Edinburgh, The Queen's Medical Research Institute, Edinburgh Little France Crescent, Edinburgh EH16 4TJ, UK

¹¹These authors contributed equally

¹²Lead contact

*Correspondence: steven.pollard@ed.ac.uk

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SUMMARY

Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is an aggressive brain tumor for which current immunotherapy approaches have been unsuccessful. Here, we explore the mechanisms underlying immune evasion in GBM. By serially transplanting GBM stem cells (GSCs) into immunocompetent hosts, we uncover an acquired capability of GSCs to escape immune clearance by establishing an enhanced immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment. Mechanistically, this is not elicited via genetic selection of tumor subclones, but through an epigenetic immunoediting process wherein stable transcriptional and epigenetic changes in GSCs are enforced following immune attack. These changes launch a myeloid-affiliated transcriptional program, which leads to increased recruitment of tumor-associated macrophages. Furthermore, we identify similar epigenetic and transcriptional signatures in human mesenchymal subtype GSCs. We conclude that epigenetic immunoediting may drive an acquired immune evasion program in the most aggressive mesenchymal GBM subtype by reshaping the tumor immune microenvironment.

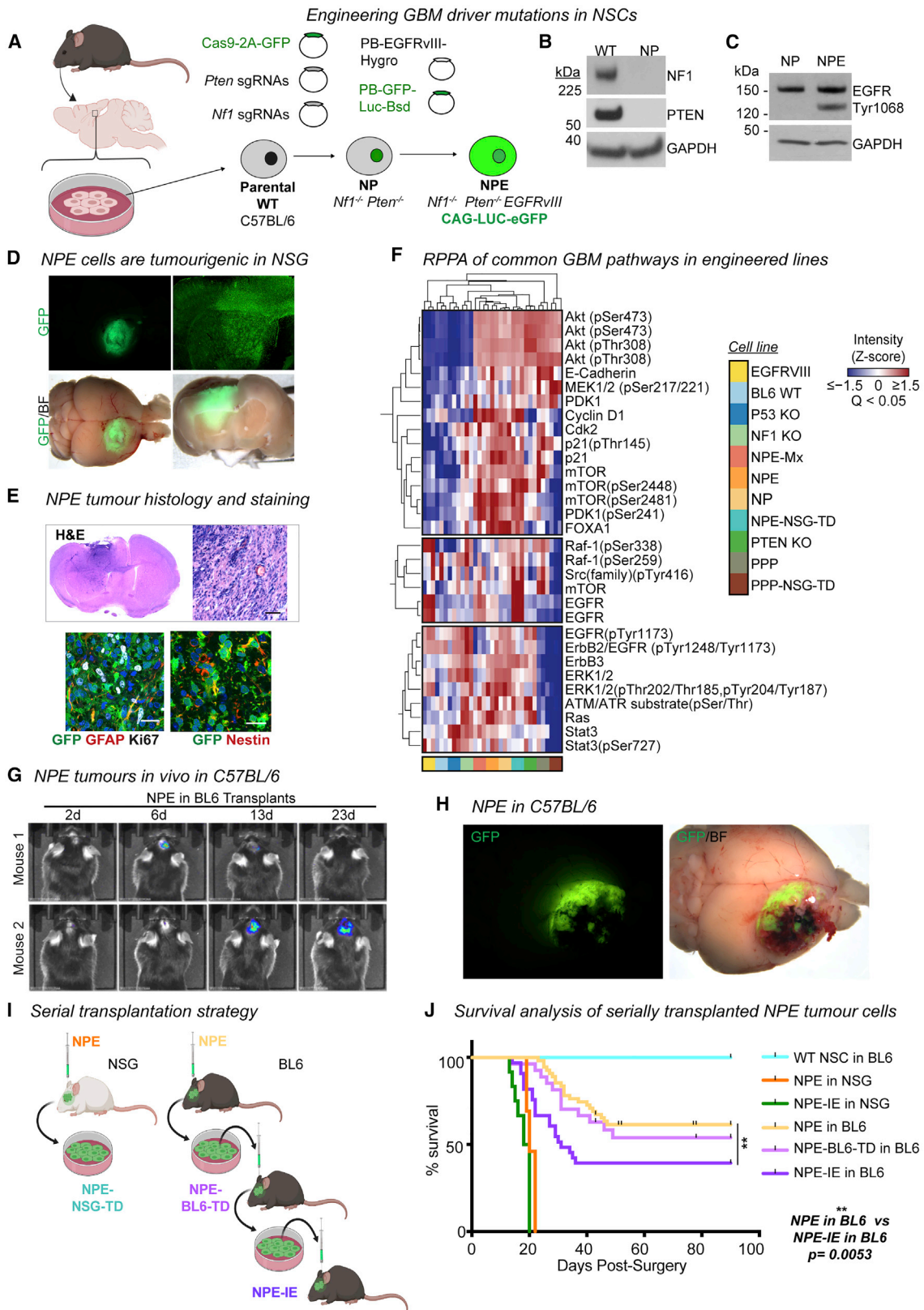
INTRODUCTION

Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is an incurable form of adult brain cancer with a dismal patient prognosis. Limited therapeutic options are available for GBMs as they are often detected late, they are highly infiltrative, and they display significant inter- and intra-tumoral genetic heterogeneity (Aldape et al., 2019). Many GBM driver mutations have been identified following genome-wide sequencing. The PI3K- and mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK)-associated signaling pathways are frequently co-activated in GBM through activation or amplifica-

tion of *EGFR* or *PDGFRA* and are often accompanied by mutation of the tumor suppressors *NF1*, *TP53*, and/or *PTEN* (Brennan et al., 2013).

GBMs also display heterogeneity in their transcriptional circuits and epigenetic landscapes. Three major transcriptional signatures of GBM have been reported: proneural (PN), classical (CL), and mesenchymal (MES) (Verhaak et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2017). However, individual GBM tumors contain mixtures of cells with each of these subtype signatures, and the proportion of cells with each subtype can shift upon disease relapse following therapy (Brennan et al., 2013; Nefitel et al., 2019; Patel





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et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2017). Single-cell RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) and lineage tracing studies have indicated that GBM cells can display plasticity and transit between cell states, suggesting that the tumor microenvironment (TME), as well as genetic and neurodevelopmental programs, may influence these transcriptional signatures (Nefitel et al., 2019). GBM subtypes should not, therefore, be viewed as stable, distinct disease entities; rather, they reflect different proportions of various cell states that can shift throughout tumor development.

Nefitel et al. (2019) have proposed four distinct tumor cell states in GBM: three of these—neural stem cell-like, oligodendrocyte progenitor cell-like, and astrocyte-like—mirror cell types within a neurodevelopmental differentiation hierarchy. However, a fourth cell state, termed “mesenchymal-like,” does not seem to correspond to a specific cell type. The mesenchymal GBM subtype has the poorest survival rates and displays increased immune infiltration within the TME, relative to other subtypes (Wang et al., 2017). This increased immune infiltrate correlates with loss of *NF1*; however, this is neither necessary nor sufficient to explain the emergence of a mesenchymal signature (Verhaak et al., 2010), suggesting additional processes must contribute to the development of an immunosuppressive TME. Understanding the etiology of the GBM mesenchymal-like cell state and the origins of its associated transcriptional subtype will be important for elucidating mechanisms of immune evasion (Lim et al., 2018).

Mechanisms underpinning the establishment of a pro-tumorigenic immune microenvironment in GBM remain unclear. To date, a lack of tractable and immunocompetent models of GBM have hampered efforts to dissect the relationship between GBM and the TME and the relative contribution of genetic, epigenetic, and environmental perturbations in directing tumor cell states. Here, we address the origins and mechanisms of immune evasion phenotypes in mesenchymal GBM by engineering a set of isogenic mouse GBM-initiating cells. Serial transplantation of transformed cells through syngeneic, immunocompetent hosts allowed us to monitor and dissect the progressive transcriptional and epigenetic changes that occur as GBM cells acquire immune evasion capabilities.

Our findings reveal a mechanism involving epigenetic immunomodulation, in which exposure to immune attack leads to stable changes in transcriptional circuits, including critical myeloid-affiliated transcription factors and other immune-related pathways, in GBM cells. This occurs in the absence of clonal genetic

selection and is likely enforced by sustained signaling from recruited tumor associated macrophages (TAMs). These acquired transcriptional circuits are stabilized by epigenetic changes and, therefore, persist in tumor cell descendants. We demonstrate that this leads to remodeling of the TME and the establishment of a protumorigenic microenvironment.

RESULTS

Engineered GSCs acquire immune evasion capabilities upon serial transplantation through immunocompetent hosts

GBM is driven by cells with neural stem cell (NSC) characteristics (Lathia et al., 2015). Genetically engineered mouse models and genome analysis of patient samples indicates that endogenous NSCs can be a cell-of-origin for GBM (Alcantara Llaguno et al., 2016; Lee et al., 2018). We, therefore, engineered a set of isogenic GBM stem cells (GSCs) from NSCs isolated from C57BL/6 J (BL6) mice, by introducing one of five well established genetic GBM driver mutations: EGFRvIII or PDGFRA overexpression or CRISPR/Cas-mediated ablation of *Nf1*, *Pten*, or *Trp53* (Figures 1A and S1A–S1G; Table S1; Bressan et al., 2017; Conti et al., 2005; Robertson et al., 2019). These “single hit” knockout GSCs expressed typical NSC markers (NESTIN and SOX2) and maintained the ability to differentiate into neurons and astrocytes (Figure S1H).

Next, we generated combinations of mutations to model the mesenchymal subtype. First, we created double mutant NSCs, via co-deletion of *Nf1* and *Pten* (“NP” cells) (Figures 1A and 1B). These mutations occur together frequently in human mesenchymal GBM. Orthotopic transplantation of GFP⁺ NP cells into immunocompromised (NOD-scid-gamma [NSG]) mice led to the formation of small, benign growths (Figure S1I). Only when further engineered with EGFRvIII overexpression—forming a triple mutant cell line termed “NPE” (Figures 1A and 1C)—did we observe extremely aggressive tumor growth and infiltration *in vivo* (Figure 1D) with the expected hallmarks of GBM (Figure 1E). Concomitant mutation of *Nf1* and *Pten* alongside EGFRvIII overexpression (termed NPE-Multiplex [NPE-Mx]) in an independent BL6 NSC line confirmed the requirement of this triple combination for tumor formation (Figures S1J–S1L). We also generated a tumor-initiating cell line corresponding to the proneural subtype, termed “PPP,” with PDGFRA overexpression alongside *Trp53* and *Pten* mutations (Figures S1M–S1O). PPP

Figure 1. Engineered GSCs acquire immune evasion capabilities upon serial transplantation through immunocompetent hosts

- (A) NSC isolation from BL6 mice and engineering of GBM driver mutations.
 (B) Immunoblots showing NF1 and PTEN expression in NP cells versus wild-type BL6 NSCs.
 (C) Immunoblot confirming overexpression of EGFRvIII in NPE cells.
 (D) Representative stereomicroscope images of GFP⁺ NPE tumors in NSG mice (whole brain live imaging; top, GFP; bottom, GFP/bright field [BF] overlay, n = 15).
 (E) H&E staining of NPE tumors in NSG (upper panel), scale bar, 50 μm; immunofluorescence of common NSC (GFAP/Nestin) and proliferation (Ki67) markers in NPE tumors (lower panel), scale bar, 20 μm.
 (F) Reverse-phase protein array (RPPA) analysis of common cancer driver pathways in wild-type BL6 NSCs versus mutant cell lines.
 (G) Representative bioluminescent imaging of NPE tumor progression *in vivo* in BL6 recipients. Number of days post-surgery noted above images.
 (H) Representative stereomicroscope images of GFP⁺ NPE tumors in BL6 hosts (whole brain live imaging; top, GFP; bottom, GFP/bright field [BF] overlay).
 (I) Experimental design for tumor cell derivation and serial transplantation of NPE cells in NSG and BL6 mice.
 (J) Survival curves following orthotopic transplantation of: wild-type NSCs into BL6 mice (n = 4, turquoise curve); NPE (n = 15, orange curve), or NPE-IE (n = 12, green curve) into NSG mice; NPE (n = 19, yellow curve), NPE-BL6-TD (n = 27, light purple curve), or NPE-IE (n = 33, dark purple curve) into BL6 mice. See also Figure S1.

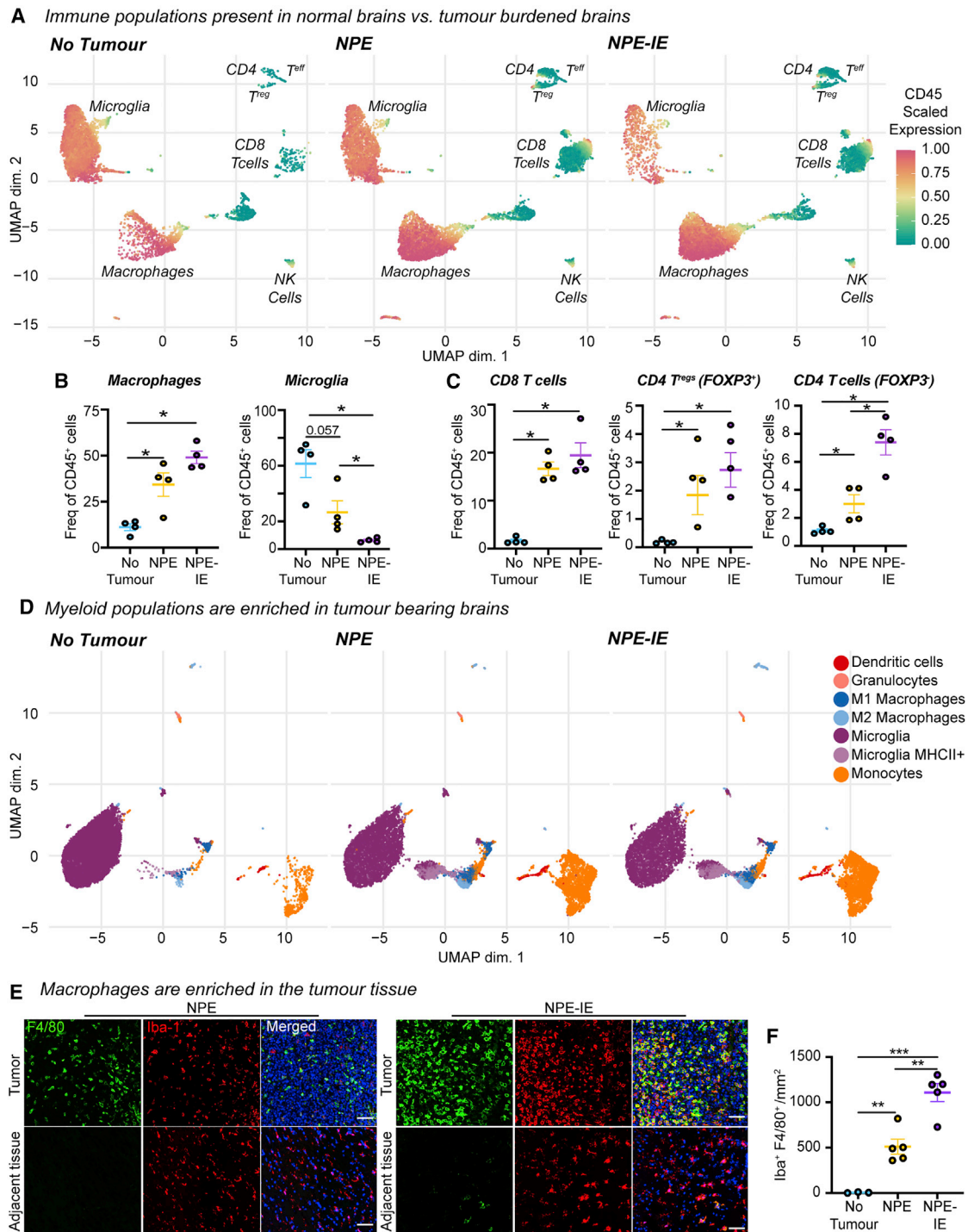


Figure 2. Whole brain immune population profiling reveals recapitulation of human GBM

(A) Multi-parametric flow cytometry uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) of immune cell populations (CD45⁺) in whole brains of non-transplanted BL6 mice versus those with NPE or NPE-IE tumors; n = 4 brains per condition.

(B) Quantification of macrophage (left) and microglia (right) populations in (A).

(C) Quantification of CD8 T cell (left), CD4 T^{reg} (center), and FOXP3⁻ CD4 T cell populations in (A).

(D) Multi-parametric flow cytometry UMAP of myeloid populations (CD45⁺/CD11b⁺) in whole brains of non-transplanted BL6 mice versus those with NPE or NPE-IE tumors; n = 4 per condition.

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tumor models were much less aggressive than their NPE counterparts (Figures S1P and S1Q).

Reverse-phase protein array (RPPA) analysis confirmed the expected activation of both RTK and PI3K signaling pathways in mutant NSCs, including elevated ERK, Ras, Raf, mTor, Akt, and Src expression (Figure 1F). We noted differences between NPE and PPP cells, with EGFRvIII overexpression stimulating increased pERK and STAT3 expression in the NPE mesenchymal model, consistent with previous reports in human tumors (Carro et al., 2010). The proneural subtype of GBM is known to have a reduced immune infiltrate and a less immunosuppressive TME (Wang et al., 2017). Given this, and the much more aggressive nature of NPE cells and their correspondence to the most immune evasive mesenchymal GBM subtype, we decided to focus on the NPE model to explore immune evasion mechanisms.

We confirmed that NPE cells are tumorigenic in immunocompetent, syngeneic BL6 hosts (Figures 1G and 1H), allowing us to model interactions between GBM cells and the immune TME. Tumors formed in parallel in immunocompromised NSG mice served as an important reference control (Figure 1I). Indeed, in contrast to the ~3-week survival observed in all NSG hosts, NPE tumors arose in BL6 mice at a slower rate than in NSG mice (25–50 days versus 15–20 days, respectively) (Figure 1J, yellow curve versus orange curve), and the majority of BL6 hosts survived long-term, with no detectable tumor (Figures 1G). These data are consistent with the BL6 host immune system responding to NPE cells and constraining their tumor formation.

We reasoned that cells with acquired immune evasion capabilities may be enriched by deriving primary GSC cultures from tumors that evade immune surveillance in BL6 mice following serial transplantation of these through fresh hosts. We therefore established fresh cultures from the NPE tumors of BL6 mice (termed NPE-BL6-TD [tumor-derived]) (Figure 1I). NPE-BL6-TD cells *in vitro* retained expression of NSC markers and contained no contaminating CD45⁺ immune cell populations (Figure S1R). NPE-BL6-TD cells were transplanted into fresh, secondary BL6 recipients (Figure 1I) and formed tumors with increased frequency (Figures 1J, light purple curve, and S1S). GSC cultures re-derived from these secondary tumors (herein termed NPE-IE [immune evasive]) were then transplanted into fresh BL6 hosts (tertiary recipients) (Figure 1I). BL6 mice transplanted with NPE-IE cells displayed increased tumor formation with significantly worse survival than previously transplanted lines (Figures 1J, dark purple curve, and S1S). However, NPE and NPE-IE cells showed similar tumorigenicity when transplanted in control NSG mice, and we detected no proliferative advantage for NPE-IE cells *in vitro* or evident genomic instability (Figures 1J, green curve versus orange curve, S1T, and S1U). Together, these results indicate that NPE-IE cells have acquired immune evasion capabilities, which accounts for their increased tumor formation in BL6 recipients. This is consistent with a form of immunoediting (Schreiber et al., 2011), whereby sustained immune

attack leads to the emergence of cells with increased ability to evade immune surveillance.

Immune evasive NPE-IE tumors possess a highly immunosuppressive microenvironment

To confirm if the NPE-IE tumors were more aggressive due to an ability to escape from T cell clearance, we depleted CD8 T cell populations in BL6 mice with NPE, NPE-BL6-TD, and NPE-IE tumors (Figure S2A). In all cases, we observed accelerated tumor growth and a progressive increase in tumor penetrance. This confirms that tumors generated from the NPE line and its derivatives do not undergo antigen loss, and they remain under considerable pressure from CD8 T cell-mediated clearance, from which they are actively escaping.

Next, using flow cytometry, we characterized and compared immune cell types present in non-tumor bearing brains versus those harboring NPE or NPE-IE tumors. In tumor-bearing brains, we observed major changes in the total brain immune cell repertoire (Figures 2A–2D, S2B, and S2C), including a significant increase in macrophages and CD8/CD4 T cells, markers of both M1- and M2-like macrophages, and an apparent decrease in microglia. Further, we observed lymphoid populations in tumor-bearing brains display markers of dysfunction, such as PD-1 and TIM3 expression (Figure S2D). Importantly, fluorescent immunohistochemistry of tumor and adjacent tissue suggested that the dominating macrophage populations (F4/80⁺Iba1⁺) are localized to the tumor mass and are not generally increased throughout the brain (Figures 2E, 2F, S2E, and S2F).

We directly isolated the tumor mass to further characterize the tumor immune microenvironment. Multiparametric flow cytometry data revealed increased immune cell infiltration in NPE-IE tumors relative to NPE tumors (Figures 3A, 3B, S3A, and S3B). Importantly, there was a significant increase in monocytic-myeloid derived suppressor cells (M-MDSCs) and macrophages in NPE-IE tumors (Figures 3C and 3D), with tumor-infiltrating macrophages expressing significantly higher levels of PD-L1 than microglia (Figures 3E and S3C). We did not observe evidence of a phenotypic macrophage switch in NPE-IE tumors when compared with NPE tumors; rather, macrophages in each case displayed classical phagocytic and antigen presenting phenotypes (i.e., CD86⁺ and CD11c⁺, Figure S3D), alongside the immunosuppressive marker PD-L1 (Figures 3E and S3E). There were no major changes noted in natural killer (NK) or dendritic cell populations (Figures S3F–S3H).

Blockade of CSF-1R signaling diminishes the capacity for immune evasion in NPE-IE cells

Previous reports have identified the macrophage colony stimulating factor 1 receptor (CSF-1R) as a potentially promising target for the treatment of gliomas (Pyonteck et al., 2013). To determine whether the increased macrophages recruited to NPE-IE tumors support immune evasion, we next depleted these cells in BL6 mice using a blocking antibody targeting

(E) Representative fluorescent IHC of macrophage populations (F4/80⁺, Iba1⁺) in NPE or NPE-IE tumors/adjacent tissue; (n = 3–5 per condition), scale bar, 200 μ m.

(F) Quantification of Iba1⁺ F4/80⁺ populations in (E) shown as frequency per mm². One-way ANOVA, n = 3–5 brains from each condition analyzed. See also Figure S2.

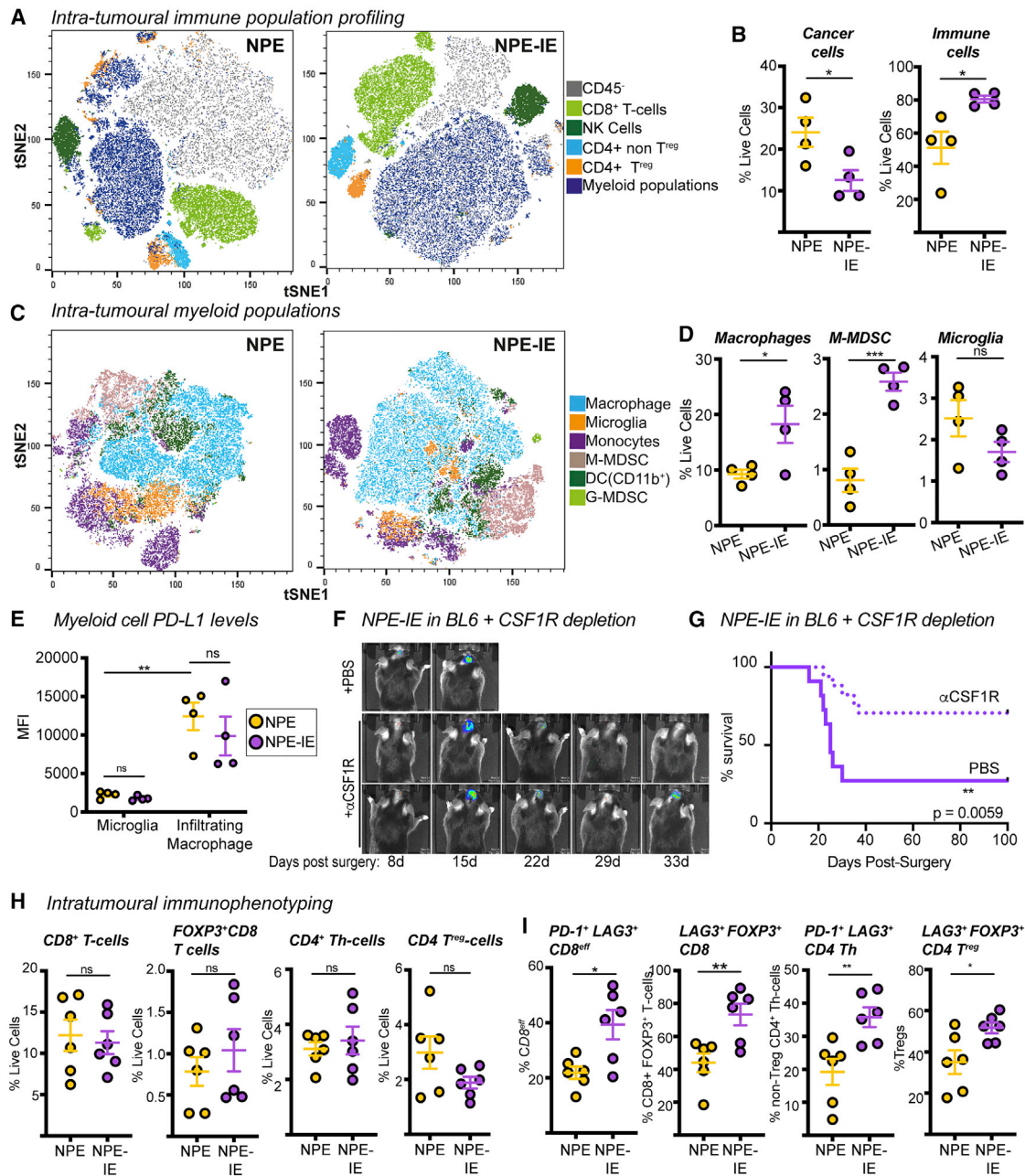


Figure 3. Immune evasive NPE-IE tumors possess a highly immunosuppressive microenvironment

(A) Fast interpolation-based t-distributed stochastic neighborhood embedding (Fit-SNE) maps of cell populations in NPE and NPE-IE tumors.
 (B) Quantification of cell population frequencies in (A) as proportion of total live cell population (n = 4 per condition).
 (C) Fit-SNE maps of myeloid (CD11b⁺) cells in NPE and NPE-IE tumors.
 (D) Quantification of macrophage, M-MDSCs, and microglia frequency in (C) as proportion of total live cell population (n = 4 per condition).
 (E) PD-L1 median fluorescent intensity (MFI) quantification on microglia and macrophages in NPE and NPE-IE tumors (n = 4 per condition).
 (F) Bioluminescent imaging of NPE-IE tumor progression in BL6 *in vivo* following intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of α CSF-1R or PBS.
 (G) Survival analysis of BL6 mice orthotopically injected with NPE-IE cells and subjected to i.p. injection of α CSF-1R (n = 17) or PBS (n = 11).
 (H) Quantification of CD8⁺/CD4⁺ T cell population frequencies in NPE and NPE-IE tumors as a proportion of total live cell population in (A) (n = 6 per condition).
 (I) Phenotypic marker expression of CD8⁺/CD4⁺ T cell subsets from (A) (n = 6 per condition).

For Fit-SNE plots, data were generated from 150,000 live cells randomly sampled from 3 tumors per condition (50,000 live events shown per tumor).

See also Figure S3.

CSF-1R. This resulted in increased survival and even clearance of large, well-established NPE-IE tumors (Figures 3F and 3G). There was no significant impact of this treatment in immunocompromised NSG transplanted controls (Figure S3I). Thus, tumor-associated macrophages play a key role in sustaining the growth and immune evasive qualities of NPE-IE tumors in BL6 mice.

Although there was no significant difference in the frequency of various T cell populations within NPE-IE tumors (Figure 3H), we did identify an increase in both CD8 and CD4 T cell populations positive for the markers PD-1 and LAG3 (Figure 3I). This indicates that the NPE-IE TME exhibits an elevated state of T cell dysfunction and enhanced immunosuppressive functions (Burugu et al., 2018). As mentioned, macrophages in both tumor types were highly positive for expression of the PD-1 ligand, PD-L1 (Figure 3E), and we found microglia were positive for expression of the LAG3 ligand, MHC-II (Figure 2D), suggesting the presence of additional immunosuppressive pathways beyond TAM recruitment. Our analyses highlight the utility of these GBM models, which reflect the features and immune repertoire of human mesenchymal GBM. We find that NPE-derived tumors can progressively escape CD8 T cell clearance and establish an increasingly myeloid-enriched and pro-tumorigenic TME, with accompanying T cell exhaustion.

Immune evasive cells undergo significant transcriptional reconfiguration following immune attack

To uncover the mechanism of acquired immune evasion observed in NPE-IE cells, we characterized their genome, transcriptome, and epigenome. Importantly, both karyotyping (Figure S1U) and whole genome sequencing (WGS) of the NPE and NPE-IE cells revealed no significant genetic disruptions—either ploidy, structural, or point mutations—when compared to parental, wild-type NSCs (Figure S4A). This suggests that it is not clonal evolution or classic genetic immunoediting processes that explain the acquired immune evasion properties observed in NPE-IE tumors. We reasoned that NPE-IE cells may have acquired other cell-intrinsic and stable changes in gene expression that support immune evasion.

We performed mRNA-seq analysis on our panel of cells, including single mutant lines and those derived from NSG tumors (a reference control for *in vivo* microenvironment exposure, without immune attack). Strikingly, of the single mutant lines, *Nf1* loss stood out as having a transcriptome closest to the fully transformed NPE mutants (Figure S4B). *Nf1* loss alone revealed enrichment of several gene signatures relevant to GBM, including notable activation of angiogenic and cell migration pathways (Figure S4C; Table S2). This is consistent with increased angiogenic signatures observed in the mesenchymal subtype (Verhaak et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2017) and suggests that loss of *Nf1* may “prime” cells for malignant transformation.

Importantly, however, the immune evasive lines (NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE) acquired significantly different transcriptional patterns that were not explained by *Nf1* loss alone; these included many immune-associated genes and Gene Ontology (GO) terms (Figures 4A–4C). We noted upregulation of several chemokines in NPE-IE cells (Figures 4D–4G; Table S3), particularly *Ccl9*, which has been previously linked to the establishment of pro-

tumorigenic microenvironments (Kortlever et al., 2017) and could explain the increased myeloid cell content of NPE-IE tumors. Another interesting candidate upregulated in cells derived from immunocompetent hosts was *Irf8* (interferon regulatory factor 8) (Figure 4B). Activation of *Irf8* expression was surprising, because this is a myeloid-specific master transcription factor that is typically exclusively expressed in hematopoietic cells (Driggers et al., 1990) and has known roles in myeloid lineage specification and macrophage differentiation (Holtschke et al., 1996; Tamura et al., 2000). *Irf8* is normally silent in NSCs, thus, following immune attack, NPE cells can inappropriately “hijack” expression of a myeloid master regulatory transcription factor. Together, these findings demonstrate that the *in vivo* immune attack triggers significant transcriptional changes in NPE cells.

Immune evasion in NPE-IE lines is underpinned by epigenetic immunoediting

Given that the transcriptional changes induced following *in vivo* immune attack are stably retained following *ex vivo* expansion, we reasoned that epigenetic changes may have occurred. We profiled genome-wide DNA methylation patterns using reduced representation bisulfite sequencing (RRBS). Principal-component analysis (PCA) analysis revealed three distinct groups (Figure 5A), and we identified striking hypomethylation in cells transplanted *in vivo* (Figures 5B and S4D). The NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE lines clustered particularly closely by PCA (Figure 5A) and demonstrated widespread hypomethylation in comparison to NPE cells (Figure 5C). Consistent with mRNA-seq data, we found many differentially demethylated genes in immune evasive cells were related to immune processes (Figures 5D and S4E).

One of the most significant differentially methylated regions occurred within the *Irf8* promoter region and gene body, with methylation progressively erased in the NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE lines, consistent with increased transcriptional activation (Figures 5D, 5E, and S4F). These changes in DNA methylation patterns suggest a process of “epigenetic immunoediting,” in which transcriptional changes imposed by immune attack are stabilized and selected for in those cells with increased immune evasive qualities. This would lead to highly immune evasive and transcriptionally altered descendants. Interestingly, we identified methylation loss at other well-known immune evasion regulators, including *Nt5e* (CD73), and *Cd274* (PDL1) (Figure S4F), in line with these genes being primed for reactivation *in vivo*. Indeed, we see transcriptional activation of *Nt5e* in the NPE-IE tumor cells (Figure S4G), which has been recently identified as a critical GBM immunotherapy target that is elevated in TAMs (Goswami et al., 2020).

Irf8 is responsive to interferon gamma and TAMs in NPE cells *in vitro* and is important for immune evasion

Irf8 is known to be induced in macrophages via interferon gamma (IFN γ)-induced STAT1 signaling (Contursi et al., 2000). “Response to IFN γ ” was an enriched GO term in the NPE-IE lines (Figure 6A), so we postulated that chronic IFN γ signals from the immune TME (Mojic et al., 2017) may stimulate activation of *Irf8* expression in NPE cells. We tested this directly *in vitro* by exposing immune-naïve NPE cells to IFN γ . *Irf8* transcription was indeed activated in these cells, and we found

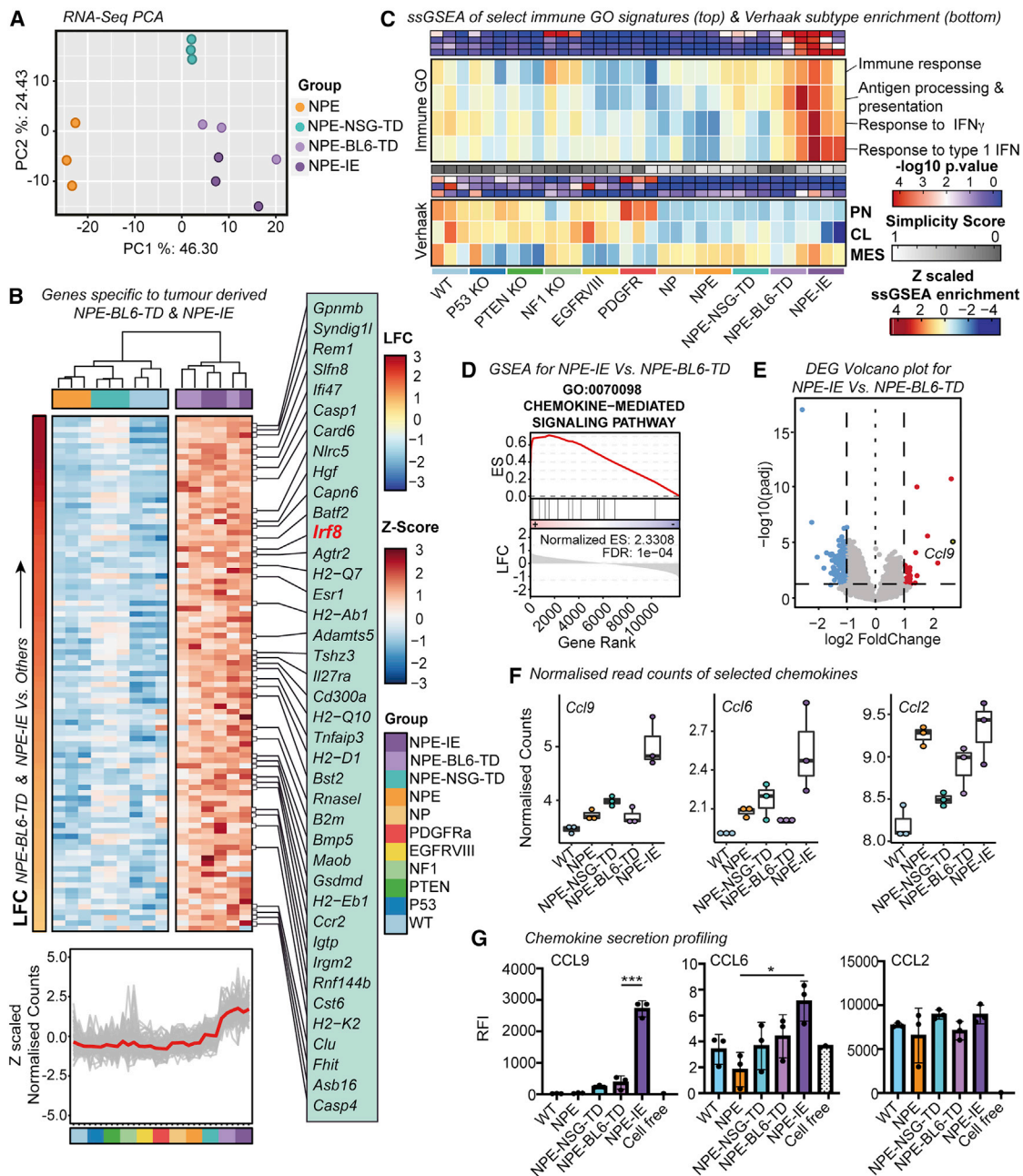


Figure 4. Immune evasive cells undergo significant transcriptional reconfiguration following immune attack

(A) PCA (principal component analysis) of mRNA-seq data (top 500 most variable genes) from NPE cells and derivative lines

(B) Heatmap of Z scaled normalized counts for genes specific to NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE lines ordered by log₂ fold change (NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE versus all others) (top). Z scaled normalized counts of specific genes shown in (B) across all mutants (red trend line indicates mean Z scaled expression) (bottom).

(C) Heatmap of ssGSEA enrichment for select immune associated GO signatures across cell lines (top panel) and ssGSEA enrichment for Verhaak subtypes (proneural [PN], classical [CL], mesenchymal [MES]) (bottom) (-log₁₀ p values (red/blue), simplicity scores (white/gray), and ssGSEA enrichment (red/yellow/blue) reported).

(D) Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) plot of chemokine-mediated signaling pathway for genes differentially expressed between NPE-IE and NPE-BL6-TD samples (enrichment score [ES] and false discovery rate [FDR] reported).

(E) Volcano plot of differentially expressed genes between NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE. *Ccl9* highlighted as gene with highest log₂ fold change.

(F) Normalized read counts of selected chemokines (*Ccl9*, *Ccl6*, and *Ccl2*).

(G) Forward phase protein array analysis of selected chemokines (CCL9, CCL6, and CCL2).

See also [Figure S4](#) and [Tables S2](#) and [S3](#).

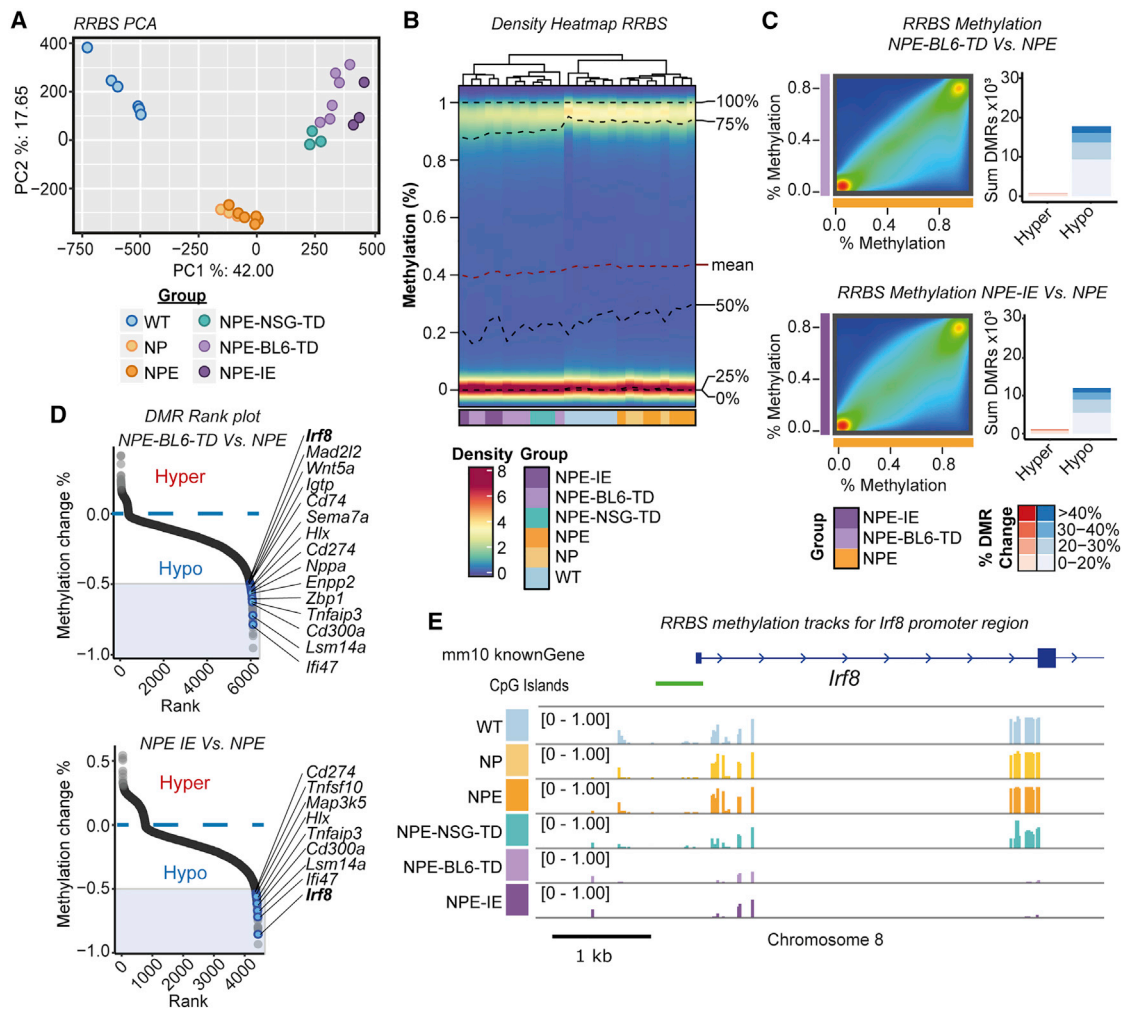


Figure 5. Immune evasion in NPE-IE lines is underpinned by epigenetic immunoeediting

(A) PCA of RRBS CpG methylation (top 25% most variable CpG sites).

(B) Density heatmap of CpG methylation (%) across lines.

(C) Density scatterplots of CpG methylation (%) (left) and differentially methylated region (DMR) bar plots (right) (red, hypermethylated DMRs; blue, hypomethylated DMRs) in NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE lines versus NPE (% DMR methylation change reported).

(D) Rank plots of promoter DMRs (± 2 kb TSS) displaying hypomethylation in NPE-BL6-TD (top) and NPE-IE (bottom) versus NPE samples (DMRs with $>50\%$ methylation loss, overlapping genes within immune and interferon GO terms are highlighted in blue).

(E) Mean CpG methylation (%) tracks for profiled samples around *Irf8* transcriptional start site.

See also Figure S4.

that *Irf8* can be stimulated more quickly and to higher levels in NPE-BL6-TD or NPE-IE cells following $\text{IFN}\gamma$ treatment (Figures 6B, 6C, and S5A). This is consistent with priming for rapid transcriptional activation following DNA methylation loss at the *Irf8* locus. Type I IFN signaling (induced by $\text{IFN}\alpha/\beta$ treatment) was not capable of inducing expression of *Irf8* to the same extent as $\text{IFN}\gamma$ in immune-naïve NPE cells *in vitro* (Figure S5B). Furthermore, the JAK/STAT inhibitor, tofacitinib, reversed expression of IRF8 in NPE cells but not in NPE-IE cells, suggesting a JAK/STAT-independent mechanism is operating in NPE-IE cells to sustain high *Irf8* expression (Figure 6D). Using an mCherry knockin reporter line for *Irf8* expression, we confirmed that *Irf8* transcription can be induced broadly in NPE cells following

$\text{IFN}\gamma$ treatment (Figures S5C and S5D). Moreover, profiling of directly isolated GFP^+ NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-NSG-TD tumor cells confirmed activation of key genes occurs prior to *in vitro* expansion (e.g., *Irf8*, *H2-Ab1*) (Figures 6E, S5E, and S5F). Exposure of NPE cells to an immunocompetent *in vivo* environment is, therefore, sufficient to induce these observed transcriptional changes.

To determine the immune cell types within the TME of NPE-IE tumors that might be driving this transcriptional reconfiguration, we isolated immune cells from NPE tumors and co-cultured these with parental NPE cells *in vitro* (Figures 6F and S5E). Strikingly, our data revealed that infiltrating macrophage populations (F4/80^+ , CD45^{hi}) can stimulate similar transcriptional changes in

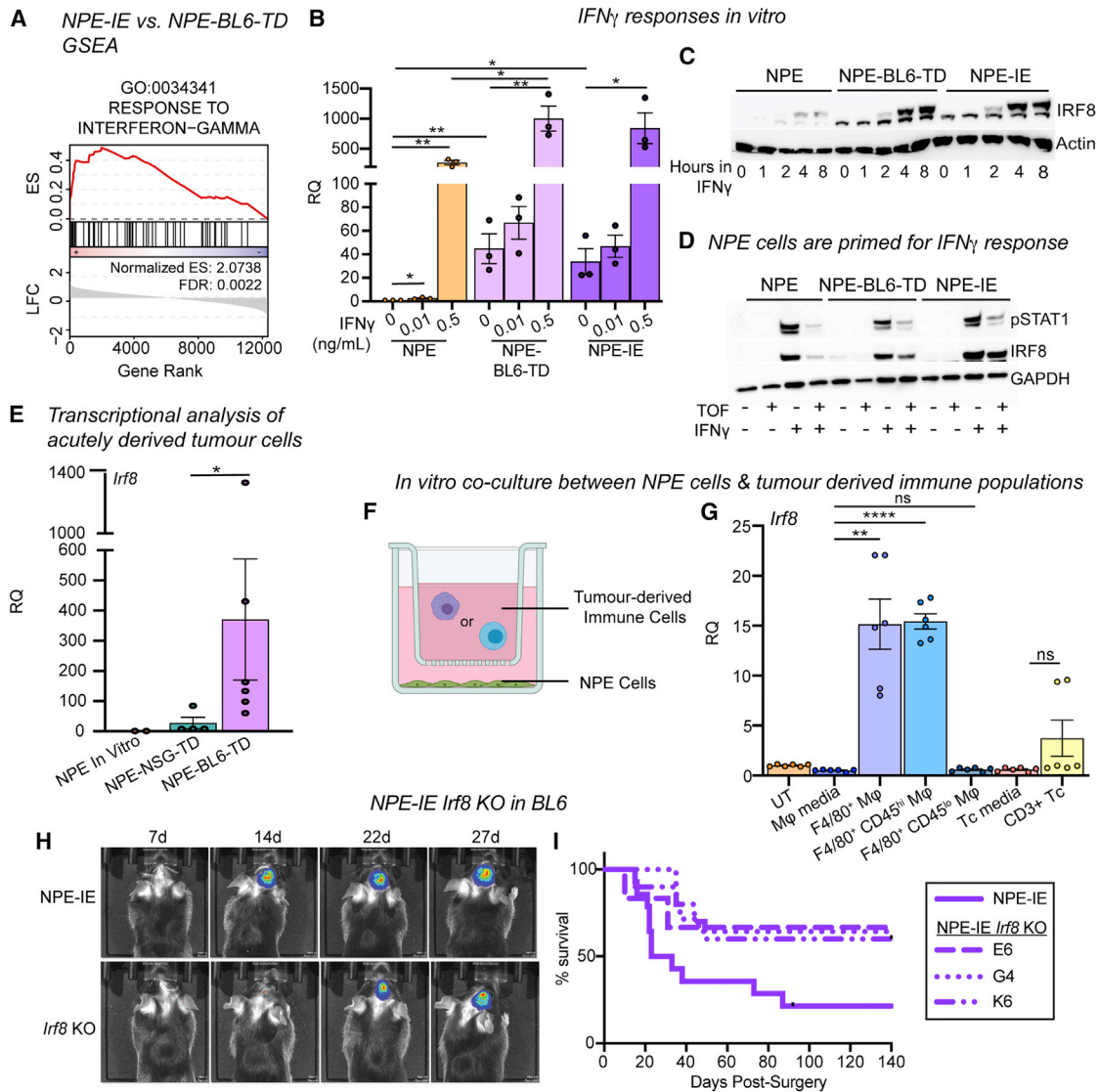


Figure 6. *Irf8* is responsive to $IFN\gamma$ and TAMs in NPE cells *in vitro* and is important for immune evasion

(A) GSEA of $IFN\gamma$ response signature in NPE-IE cells (enrichment score [ES] and FDR reported).
 (B) RT-qPCR analysis of *Irf8* expression in NPE, NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE cells *in vitro* \pm $IFN\gamma$ treatment.
 (C) Representative immunoblot of IRF8 expression in NPE cell panel \pm $IFN\gamma$ time series treatment *in vitro* (n = 3).
 (D) Representative immunoblot of IRF8 and pSTAT1 expression in NPE cell panel with $IFN\gamma$ /Tofacitinib treatment *in vitro* (n = 3).
 (E) qRT-PCR analysis of *Irf8* expression in NPE cells *in vitro* versus GFP⁺ cells derived directly from NPE tumors in NSG/BL6 hosts. Points represent technical duplicates of cells isolated from individual animals.
 (F) Schematic of NPE cells co-culture with immune populations derived from NPE tumors.
 (G) RT-qPCR analysis of *Irf8* expression in NPE cells co-cultured as in (F) (paired t test).
 (H) Representative bioluminescent imaging of NPE-IE/NPE-IE-*Irf8*^{KO} tumor progression in BL6 *in vivo* (*Irf8*^{KO} clone G4 shown).
 (I) Survival of BL6 mice orthotopically transplanted with NPE-IE cells versus clonally derived NPE-IE-*Irf8*^{KO} lines (NPE-IE, n = 12; NPE-IE *Irf8*^{KO} G4, n = 15; NPE-IE *Irf8*^{KO} K6, n = 10; NPE-IE *Irf8*^{KO} E6, n = 6). p values for survival of each *Irf8*^{KO} line versus parental NPE-IE: **parental versus *Irf8*^{KO} G4, p = 0.0047; *parental versus *Irf8*^{KO} K6, p = 0.0323; parental versus *Irf8*^{KO} E6, p = 0.0857.
 RT-qPCR data representative of at least 3 biological replicates performed in technical duplicates; relative quantification (RQ) to NPE untreated sample. See also Figure S5.

immune naive NPE cells to those observed in NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE cells (Figures 6G and S5G). This suggests that infiltrating macrophages could be the source of signals *in vivo*, such as $IFN\gamma$, driving this response. Further, although the proneural

PPP cells did not generate tumors efficiently *in vivo* or display immune evasion capabilities, we reasoned that PPP cells may still respond to the NPE tumor-derived immune cell co-culture, as in patient tumors the proneural subtype can shift to mesenchymal.

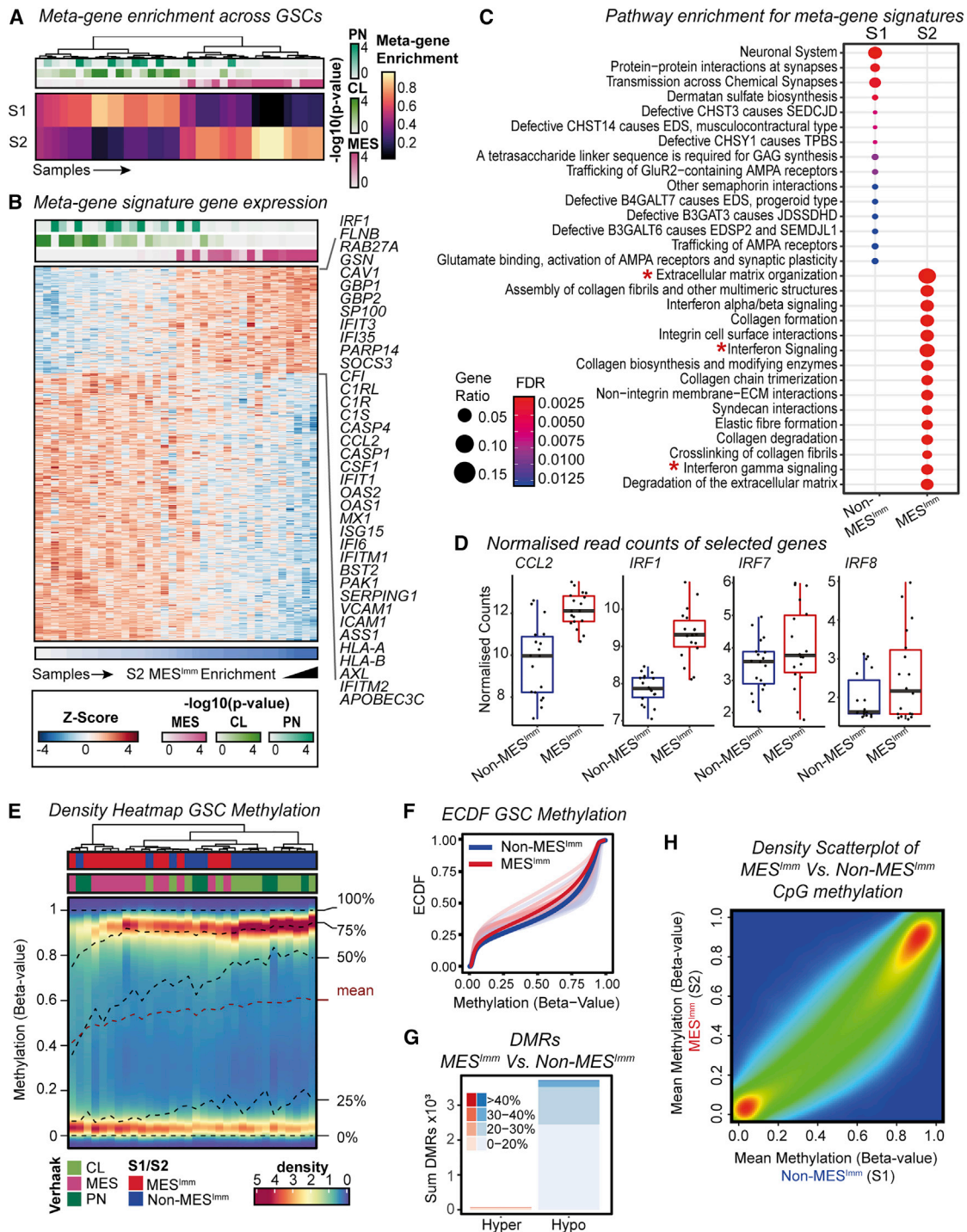


Figure 7. Human GSCs display two predominant major transcriptional subtypes, one of which is defined by IFN signaling and hypomethylation and is similar to the mesenchymal subtype from Verhaak et al., 2010

(A) Metagene (S1 Non-MES^{Imm} and S2 MES^{Imm}) enrichment and Verhaak subtype classification (PN/CL/MES, ssGSEA -log₁₀ p values reported) across human GSCs.

(B) Heatmap of Z-scored normalized counts for genes specific to metagene modules (S1 Non-MES^{Imm}/S2 MES^{Imm}). IFN associated genes specific to S2 MES^{Imm} module highlighted.

(C) Pathways enriched within S1 Non-MES^{Imm}/S2 MES^{Imm} signatures (*terms of interest).

(D) Expression of candidate genes of interest (*CCL2*, *IRF1*, *IRF7*, and *IRF8*) in human Non-MES^{Imm} versus MES^{Imm} GSCs.

(E) Density heatmap of CpG methylation levels (beta values) in human GSCs.

(legend continued on next page)

In vitro co-culture of PPP cells with immune cells isolated from NPE tumors suggested that similar transcriptional programs can be activated in proneural models (Figure S5H), consistent with plasticity of subtype signatures reported by Neftel et al., (2019).

We next generated NPE-IE *Irf8* knockout cell lines. These showed a less aggressive phenotype, and tumors emerged with similar kinetics to mice transplanted with immune-naive NPE cells (Figures 6H, 6I, S5I, and S5J). Taken together, our data suggest that activation of *Irf8* in our model is an important contributor to immune evasion in NPE-IE cells and may occur via IFN γ -mediated activation *in vivo*.

Human GSCs display two predominant transcriptional subtypes and mesenchymal GSCs are defined by IFN signaling

To assess whether our findings have relevance to human disease, we performed RNA-seq and molecular subtyping of 36 low passage, patient-derived GSC cultures, using non-negative matrix factorization (NNMF) to identify key transcriptional meta-gene modules that distinguish them (Gaujoux and Seoighe, 2010; Figures S6A and S6B). By profiling GSCs expanded *in vitro*, we can define potential immune-induced gene expression changes without the confounding contamination of immune cells within fresh tumor samples. Two distinct subtypes were identified: S1, which we termed the non-mesenchymal immune signature (Non-MES^{Imm}), and S2, which we termed the mesenchymal-immune signature (MES^{Imm}) (Figure 7A). Enrichment of these meta-gene modules were associated with published signatures by Wang et al. (2017), based on whole tumor transcriptomes (Figure 7A, top panel). A distinct transcriptional profile was associated with the MES^{Imm} subtype that included GO terms associated with IFN signaling as a dominant feature (Figures 7B and 7C; Table S4).

Notably, we saw upregulation of several interferon regulatory factor family members in MES^{Imm}-enriched GSCs, including *IRF8* and *IRF7*; however, a more striking association was seen for *IRF1* (Figure 7D). Human *IRF1* is also an IFN γ -responsive transcription factor that has been reported to function alongside *hIRF8* in the development of myeloid cells (Langlais et al., 2016). Furthermore, we also identify increased expression of *CCL2* in the MES^{Imm} signature, which may account for increased immune populations observed in mesenchymal GBM (Figures 7B and 7D; Qian et al., 2011). Finally, we confirmed enrichment of this MES^{Imm} signature in our engineered NPE cells, which increased as the cell lines acquired immune evasion capabilities (i.e., NPE-IE cells) (Figure S6C). Thus, related signatures to those uncovered in our mouse models are also observed in MES^{Imm} human GBMs. Importantly, these transcriptional signatures are stable and heritable in long term culture, in the absence of IFN signals; this is consistent with epigenetic events underlying a stable change to the transcriptome.

We validated our MES^{Imm} and Non-MES^{Imm} subtypes by comparing our findings with an analysis of independent, publicly available single-cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) data (Neftel et al., 2019). Similarly to human patient-derived GSC cultures, these GBM cells could be defined along a single axis of variation, separating MES^{Imm} and Non-MES^{Imm} cells. This axis was marked by expression of well-known mesenchymal genes such as *CD44*, *CHI3L1*, and *VIM*, as well as IFN-associated genes defined in the MES^{Imm} signature (Figure S6D). MES^{Imm} cells were enriched for IFN GO terms, IFN associated genes, and IRF family members, and the MES^{Imm} signature was consistent with previously defined mesenchymal transcriptional subtypes (Figures S6E–S6G and S7A; Wang et al., 2017, 2019; Neftel et al., 2019). This confirms that interferon-driven signatures are present within mesenchymal patient tumors.

Human MES^{Imm} GBMs display similar DNA methylation changes to NPE-IE cells

To assess if human GBMs enriched for the MES^{Imm} module may also have DNA methylation changes reflective of the mouse models, we profiled DNA methylation patterns in patient-derived GSCs and observed a decreased level of DNA methylation in the MES^{Imm} subtype (Figures 7E–7H). Furthermore, single-sample gene set enrichment analysis (ssGSEA) of our patient-derived GSCs demonstrated that low levels of DNA methylation observed in the MES^{Imm} subtype correlated with previously published mesenchymal signatures, as well as the signatures reported here, and could be associated with activation of relevant immune-related pathways such as IFN γ response (Figure S7B). Notably, in the MES^{Imm} samples, we identified a loss of methylation specifically at CpG islands associated with those genes and pathways identified in our mouse models, including *IRF1*, *CCL2*, and *IRF8* (Figures S7C and S7D). These findings are consistent with human GBM cells having undergone a similar process of transcriptional reconfiguration and epigenetic changes to those observed in the mouse models. Human GBMs may, therefore, also undergo epigenetic immunoeediting to stabilize this immune evasive state, using similar mechanisms to those identified in the NPE-IE mouse cells.

DISCUSSION

The specific combination of genetic, epigenetic, and microenvironmental cues that confers the varied transcriptional states observed in GBM cells remains poorly understood. Here, we have shown that a key component of the previously reported “mesenchymal” signature is a transcriptional module acquired in GBM cells following immune attack that is functionally important in facilitating immune evasion. Reconfigured transcription factor expression profiles and altered transcriptional circuits lead to the creation of an enhanced myeloid-enriched, immunosuppressive microenvironment, which is a feature of the most

(F) Empirical cumulative distribution function (ECDF) for DNA methylation levels (beta values) across GSCs (red, MES^{Imm}; blue, Non-MES^{Imm}).

(G) Bar plot of DMRs between MES^{Imm} and Non-MES^{Imm} GSCs (red, hypermethylated DMRs; blue, hypomethylated DMRs, DMR methylation % change reported).

(H) Density scatterplot of CpG methylation (beta values) between MES^{Imm} and Non-MES^{Imm} GSCs.

See also Figures S6 and S7 and Table S4.

aggressive mesenchymal GBM subtype. This is accompanied by DNA methylation changes, and our results suggest a form of epigenetic immunoediting—rather than sub-clonal genetic diversification and selection—can support a striking gain in immune evasion capabilities. Similar transcriptional and DNA methylation changes are observed in human GBM cells of the mesenchymal subtype, suggesting this process of epigenetic immunoediting may occur in patients.

To date, there has been a lack of preclinical mouse models to explore mechanisms of immune evasion in GBM (Robertson et al., 2019). The set of isogenic cells we report here enables rapid production of tumors that recapitulate hallmarks of human GBM, most notably the immune landscape, in syngeneic, immunocompetent mouse models. A range of immune evasion pathways that we identified in the mouse NPE models are relevant to human disease, primarily the recruitment of pro-tumorigenic myeloid cells, including tumor cell activation of CD73 (Goswami et al., 2020) and markers of T cell exhaustion such as PD-1 and LAG3 (Mohme and Neidert, 2020). Using these models, we have been able to dissect the transcriptional and epigenetic changes that result from immune attack and identify mechanisms that then underpin acquired immune evasion. This has not been previously possible using human xenografts, primary tumor profiling, or existing syngeneic mouse models. NPE-IE cells are a renewable and easily shared primary cell line. The GFP-luciferase reporter enables tracking of tumor cells in live animals and facile recovery of tumor cells. This should be a useful model for the research community to deeply dissect GBM immune biology and support translational studies of immunotherapies.

We observed increased infiltration of macrophages with various phenotypes, which is consistent with recent reports that macrophages mount a multifaceted response in human GBM (Klemm et al., 2020). Enrichment of M-MDSCs was evident in our NPE-IE model, and this myeloid progenitor population has been implicated in glioma progression and is known to be highly immunosuppressive (Mi et al., 2020). Furthermore, we observed a phenotypic shift in the microglia populations present in tumor burdened brains, with MHC-II expression indicative of microglial activation. GBM is regarded as a relatively immunologically “cold” tumor, with its low mutational burden resulting in limited availability of neoantigens to support T cell recognition and effective anti-tumor immunity. Consistent with human disease, the presence of NPE and NPE-IE tumors in mice leads to increased infiltration of both CD4⁺ immunosuppressive T^{reg} cells and CD8⁺ T cells into the brain, providing a unique opportunity to explore these populations in GBM. We find that T cell populations display elevated co-expression of markers associated with exhaustion (PD-1, LAG3) and regulatory function (FOXP3, LAG3) in NPE-IE tumors, which is complimented by increased expression of PD-L1 and MHC-II (PD-1 and LAG3 ligands) on macrophages and microglia, respectively. These inhibitory pathways likely contribute to immune escape of NPE-IE tumors and may represent potential therapeutic targets either alone or in combination.

Our engineered GSCs were found to upregulate *Irf8*. Because *Irf8* is normally restricted to myeloid cells, our findings demonstrate the ability of GSCs to hijack myeloid-related transcrip-

tional modules for immune evasion and chemokine expression. The acquired ability of GSCs to secrete chemokines following extensive immune attack may explain the increased presence of immunosuppressive cells in the NPE-IE models as well as the MES^{lmm} GBM subtype, with both CCL2 and CCL9 previously implicated in the recruitment of inflammatory monocytes (Qian et al., 2011; Kortlever et al., 2017).

Because the engineered NPE lines remained genetically stable (we deliberately avoided mutation of *Trp53*), it is unlikely that genetic events, clonal selection, or classic genetic immunoediting can explain our observations. Instead, our data indicate the existence of a process of epigenetic immunoediting, whereby following exposure to an *in vivo* environment and subsequently, immune attack, GSCs undergo site-specific DNA methylation changes alongside concomitant transcriptional changes that lead to activation of several immune-related signatures. The extent of these changes may vary across the tumor population, with selective pressures then enabling those with increased chemokine secretion to survive immune clearance following macrophage recruitment. The resulting reconfigured transcriptional circuits and modules are stabilized by DNA methylation changes, enhancing immune evasion.

Wang et al. (2017) previously demonstrated the mesenchymal signatures of bulk tumors are tumor cell intrinsic and not simply a feature of contaminating immune cells or associated endothelial cells. However, it remained unclear how this signature is acquired, because, unlike other GBM subtypes, mesenchymal GBM does not reflect a normal neurodevelopmental state and is not precisely defined by specific genetic events—although it clearly correlates with *NF1* loss. Our findings do not diminish the importance of *NF1* loss or related pathways in contributing to the mesenchymal subtype signature. Indeed, our *Nf1*^{-/-} NSCs clearly show profound transcriptional changes and upregulation of angiogenesis related pathways. Such GBM driver mutations are a prerequisite for tumorigenesis and help establish the TME. However, we clearly demonstrate using unbiased functional and mechanistic studies that immune attack itself is driving a major component of the changes required for effective immune evasion, and contributing key modules to the mesenchymal signature. Interestingly, we uncover a potential self-reinforcing feedback loop, wherein immune attack drives tumor cells to recruit myeloid cells, which in turn expose cells to even further increased IFN γ . This ultimately results in stable epigenetic changes that are propagated in the expanding tumor population. These transcriptional changes are a functionally important component of immune evasion signatures in mesenchymal GBM cells. Further mechanistic dissection of this relationship, in particular the signals provided by the macrophages that drive this phenotype, may provide a framework to support development of TAM-targeting GBM therapies.

Therefore, we propose that *Nf1* loss is a key mutation that primes NPE cells and facilitates the acquired transcriptional and epigenetic changes that occur in response to immune attack. This is supported by recent findings that *Nf1*^{-/-} neurons stimulate downstream T cell and microglial activation that is essential for low-grade glioma growth (Guo et al., 2020). The specific downstream events of *Nf1* loss, and whether these effects are due to excessive MAPK signaling or other effector

pathways, remain unknown. Our initial observations for wild-type NSCs suggests these cannot tolerate chronic IFN γ and will fail to expand in culture, whereas mutation of *Nf1* can overcome this, suggesting it provides a key step in tolerating the subsequent transcriptional changes imposed by immune attack and associated epigenetic reconfigurations.

Based on our data, the specific signals that trigger the observed transcriptional signatures are likely to include IFN. IFN signaling has a well-recognized role in orchestrating anti-tumor responses (Dunn et al., 2006). However, our data support a model in which prolonged exposure to IFN γ may be subverted to the benefit of the tumor cells by facilitating the acquisition of a pro-tumorigenic TME. We show that IFN γ can drive similar transcriptional changes in NPE cells *in vitro*, and many of the genes enriched in the NPE-IE cells are downstream effectors of this signaling pathway. However, we cannot rule out that there are contributions from other cytokines *in vivo*, such as TNF α (Bhat et al., 2013).

Our data suggest that recruited TAMs may be a source of a sustained IFN γ signal; however, other immune cells are known to produce IFN γ and may also contribute. Interestingly, two recent studies have shown that IFN γ can diffuse over long-ranges, indicating that tumor cells may be exposed to IFN γ throughout the TME (Hoekstra et al., 2020; Thibaut et al., 2020). Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated the ability of *in vitro* IFN γ exposure to lead to epigenome changes at the chromatin level (Benci et al., 2016). It is likely that IFN γ is, therefore, a major inducer of the acquired immune evasive properties of NPE-IE cells. However, further studies will be needed to fully define the source, timing, and action of signals responsible for transcriptional changes imposed in tumor cells with the MES^{lmm} signature.

Overall, our findings suggest the observed gradient, or continuum, of subtype identities in GBM tumors can be explained by the extent to which the tumor immune microenvironment has eroded their epigenetic landscape and altered transcription factor regulatory networks. This may explain the detection of “hybrid” states by Neftel et al. (2019) that might represent partially edited states. It is also noteworthy that ECM and wound healing-associated gene sets correlate with the interferon signaling signatures in our MES^{lmm} subtype (data not shown), which is consistent with recent reports (Richards et al., 2021). Activation of wound-healing signatures may relate to physiologically relevant transcriptional changes that occur in regeneration and repair, such as is seen in reactive astrocytosis. Taken together, this implies that the activation of wound healing or injury response programs may accompany the activation of immune/interferon-related pathways; however, whether these programs are related or co-dependent in the establishment of a mesenchymal phenotype remains unclear.

We conclude that transcriptional and epigenetic reconfiguration and the co-opting of myeloid lineage-specific transcription factors and transcriptional modules is a tumor cell-intrinsic response that occurs following immune attack in the TME. We propose this is exploited in GBM to avoid immune detection and clearance. It will be of great interest to determine if similar epigenetic immunoeediting processes that we have identified here in GBM also operate in other brain tumors or carcinomas.

Limitations of study

We acknowledge that WGS of more NPE-IE lines would allow us to more definitively rule out the effects of point mutations in driving the immune evasion response reported here. It will also be interesting to further dissect the contributions of different components of the TME on the plasticity of GBM cells using *in vivo* and *in vitro* assays. In particular, exploring the relative contribution of macrophage recruitment, retention, and polarization, as well as the roles of other immune cell populations, requires extensive further studies. Although our analysis of the human signatures is consistent with our conclusions, further direct testing of the influence of the immune cells or cytokines on their transcriptional state is necessary. Deeper characterization and testing of our proneural (PPP) model will be needed to determine how specific the pathways we identify here are to the mesenchymal subtype. Finally, our data strongly indicate a role for IFN γ in mediating the emergence of the mesenchymal-like signatures reported throughout our study, however, it will be necessary to confirm the effects of this cytokine and potentially others *in vivo* and *in vitro*.

STAR★METHODS

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.03.023>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, E. Gangoso, L.B., B.S., A.S., and S.M.P.; Methodology, L.B., E. Gangoso, B.S., N.A., and S.M.P.; Formal Analysis, B.S., C.-A.K., L.C., and J.H.; Investigation, L.B., E. Gangoso, S.R., F.G.C., N.M., A.B., E. Güç, K.M.F., N.A., V.G., C.B., M.A.M.-T., and I.F.S.; Resources, G.M., P.M.B., P.B., S. Beck, S. Brandner, S.P., S.A.Q., and J.W.P.; Data Curation, B.S. and C.-A.K.; Writing – Original Draft, L.B., E. Gangoso, and S.M.P.; Writing – Review and Editing, L.B., B.S., and S.M.P.; Visualization, L.B., B.S., and S.M.P.; Supervision, J.W.P., S.A.Q., D.S., M.F., A.S., and S.M.P.; Project Administration, S.M.P.; Funding Acquisition, J.W.P., S.A.Q., D.S., M.F., A.S., and S.M.P.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

S.M.P. is a co-founder and shareholder of Cellinta, a biotechnology start-up that is developing cancer therapeutics, including for glioblastoma, and acts as an advisor to the company. J.W.P. is a co-founder and shareholder of Ma-

comics. S.A.Q. is co-founder and shareholder and Chief Scientific Officer for Achilles Therapeutics. The other authors declare no competing interests.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
FC: 41BBL-BB700 (Clone TKS-1)	BD	Cat#: 550532
FC: CD103-UV395 (Clone M290)	BD	Cat#: 741083
FC: CD11b-BUV661 (Clone M1/70)	BD	Cat#: 565080
FC: CD11b-BV510 (Clone M1/70)	Biolegend	Cat#: 101263
FC: CD11C-BV786 (Clone N418)	Biolegend	Cat#: 117336
FC: CD11c-PE/Dazzle (Clone N418)	Biolegend	Cat#: 117348
FC: CD140a-BV650 (Clone APA5)	Biolegend	Cat#: 740531
FC: CD16/32 Blocking Antibodies (Clone 2.4G2)	BioXCell	Cat#: BE0307
FC: CD19-BUV737 (Clone 1D3)	BD	Cat#: 564296
FC: CD206-BV650 (Clone C068C2)	Biolegend	Cat#: 141723
FC: CD24-BUV496 (Clone M1/69)	BD	Cat#: 564664
FC: CD62L-BUV395 (Clone MEL-14)	Biolegend	Cat#: 740218
FC: CD3-BUV737 (Clone 7A2)	BD	Cat#: 564380
FC: CD3-BV711 (Clone 17A2)	Biolegend	Cat#: 100241
FC: CD31-BV605 (Clone 390)	Biolegend	Cat#: 102427
FC: CD4-BV510 (Clone GK1.5)	Biolegend	Cat#: 100449
FC: CD44-BV650 (Clone 1MF)	Biolegend	Cat#: 103049
FC: CD45-AF700 (Clone 30-F11)	Biolegend	Cat#: 103128
FC: CD45-BUV805 (Clone HI30)	BD	Cat#: 560106
FC: CD68-BV421 (Clone FA-11)	Biolegend	Cat#: 137017
FC: CD8-BUV737 (Clone 53-67)	Biolegend	Cat#: 100241
FC: CD86-FITC (Clone GL1)	Biolegend	Cat#: 11-0862-82
FC: CD86-PE/Cy7 (Clone GL-1)	Biolegend	Cat#: 105014
FC: F4/80-AF700 (Clone BM8)	Biolegend	Cat#: 123130
FC: F4/80-BV421 (Clone BM8)	Biolegend	Cat#: 123130
FC: FOXP3-eFlour 450 (Clone FJK.16 s)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 48-5773-82
FC: FOXP3-BV421 (clone FJK-16S)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 20210613
FC: GITRL-BV510 (Clone MIH44)	BD	Cat#: 563367
FC: ICOSL-PE (HK5.3)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 12-5985-82
FC: LAG3-PE-Cyanine7 (Clone eBioC9B7W)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 25-2231-82
FC: Ly6C (Clone AL-21)	BD	Cat#: 563011
FC: Ly6C-PerCP/Cy5.5 (Clone HK1.4)	Biolegend	Cat#: 128012
FC: Ly6G-BUV395 (Clone 1A8)	Biolegend	Cat#: 583978
FC: Ly6G-BUV563 (Clone IA8)	BD	Cat#: 565707
FC: MHCII-BV711 (Clone M5-114-15-2)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 107643
FC: MMR-PE (Clone C068C2)	Biolegend	Cat#: 128012
FC: NK1.1-PE (Clone PK136)	Biolegend	Cat#: 18970
FC: OX40L-PeCy7 (Clone RM134L)	Biolegend	Cat#: 108813
FC: PD1-BV605 (Clone 29F.1A12)	Biolegend	Cat#: 135220
FC: PDL1-BV711 (Clone 10F.9G2)	Biolegend	Cat#: 124319
FC: PDL1-PECF590 (Clone 10F.9G2)	Biolegend	Cat#: 124324

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
FC: PDL2-APC (Clone TY25)	Biologend	Cat#: 107210
FC: SIRP α -APC (Clone P84)	BD	Cat#: 560106
FC: ST2-APC (Clone RMST2-2)	eBiosciences	Cat#: 17-9335-82
FC: TIM3-PE/Dazzle 594 (Clone B8.2C12)	Biologend	Cat#: 134014
FC: TIM3-BV605 (RMT3-23)	Biologend	Cat#: 119721
FC: $\gamma\delta$ TCR-PerCP/Cy5.5 (CloneGL3)	Biologend	Cat#: 118118
IB: Actin	Santa Cruz	Cat#: sc-1616
IB: GAPDH	Ambion	Cat#: AM4300
IB: IRF8	eBiosciences	Cat#: 14-7888-82
IB: NF1	Santa Cruz	Cat#: sc-67
IB: PDGF Receptor Alpha	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#: 3174
IB: Phospho-EGF Receptor Tyr1068	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#: 3777
IB: Phospho-STAT1	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#: 9167
IB: Rabbit PTEN	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#: 9556
IF: Rat CD45	Novus	Cat#: NB100-77417SS
IF: F4/80	BioRad	Cat#: MCA497GA
IF: GFP	Abcam	Cat#: ab13970
IF: Iba1	Abcam	Cat#: ab178846
IF: GFAP	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: G3893
IF: Nestin	DSHB	Cat#: Rat-401
IF: p53	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat#: 2524
IF: Ki-67	ThermoFisher	Cat#: MA5-14520
IF: Sox2	Abcam	Cat#: ab2492
IF: Tuj1	BioLegend	Cat#: 801202
IN VIVO: CD8 (Clone YTS 169.4)	2BScientific/BioXCell	Cat#: BE0117
IN VIVO: CSF1R	BioXCell	Cat#: BP0213
IN VIVO: IgG2b	2BScientific/BioXCell	Cat#: BE0090

Biological samples

Glioma Tissue and Derived Cells	Glioma Cellular Genetics Resource, CRUK, UK	http://gcgr.org.uk
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Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins

DMEM/HAMS-F12	Sigma	Cat#: D8437
Pen/Strep	GIBCO	Cat#:15140-122
Glucose	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: G8644
MEM-NEAA (100X)	GIBCO	Cat#: 11140-035
BSA Solution	GIBCO	Cat#:15260-037
Beta Mercaptoethanol	GIBCO	Cat#: 31350-010
B27 Supplement (50X)	LifeTech/GIBCO	Cat#: 17504-044
N2 Supplement (100X)	LifeTech/GIBCO	Cat#: 17502-048
Recombinant Mouse EGF	Peptotech	Cat#: 315-09
Recombinant Human FGF	Peptotech	Cat#: 100-18b
Laminin	Cultrex	Cat#: 3446-005-01
Accutase	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: A6964
Glutamine	GIBCO	Cat#: 25030-021
Mouse Recombinant IFN α	R&D Systems	Cat#: 10149-IF
Mouse Recombinant IFN β	R&D Systems	Cat#: 8234-MB
Mouse Recombinant IFN γ	Peptotech	Cat#: 315-05

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Mouse Recombinant BMP4	Peprotech	Cat#: 5020-BP
Colcemid	GIBCO	Cat#: 15210-040
Potassium Chloride	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: P3911
Methanol	Fisher Scientific	Cat#: 13298233
DAPI	Thistle Scientific	Cat#: 30-45-01
SG Cell Line Transfection Kit	Lonza	Cat#: V4XC-3032
Blasticidin	Invivogen	Cat#: ANT-BL-1
Hygromycin B	Life Technologies	Cat#: 10687010
DMSO	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: 276855
dNTPs	Thermo Scientific	Cat#: R0191
LongAMP Taq Polymerase	NEB	Cat#: M0323
Paraformaldehyde Powder 95%	Sigma	Cat#: 158127
Triton X-100	Merck Life Sciences	Cat#: X-100
Goat Serum	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: G6767
Milk Powder	Marvel	N/A
Tween 20	Cambridge Bioscience	Cat#: TW0020
SuperScript III	Invitrogen	Cat#: 18080093
Sodium Azide	Fisher Scientific	Cat#: 12615117
PBS Tablets	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: P4417
Ethanol	VWR	Cat#: 20821-330
FluoroSave Reagent	Calbiochem	Cat#: 345789
Liberase	Roche	Cat#: 05401119001
DNase	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: 101041590001
Percoll	GE Healthcare	Cat#: 17-0891-01
RPMI	GIBCO	Cat#: 11875
Collagenase D	Roche	Cat#: COLLD-RO
Red Blood Cell Lysis Buffer	Abcam	Cat#: ab204733
HBSS	GIBCO	Cat#: 14170120
FBS	GIBCO	Cat#: 10270-106
Zombie NIR	BioLegend	Cat#: 423105
TruStain Fc Block	BioLegend	Cat#: 101319
SuperG Blocking Buffer	Grace Bio Labs	Cat#: 105100
IRDye 800CW Streptavidin	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat#: 926-32230
Taqman Universal PCR Master Mix	Applied Biosystems	Cat#: 4305719
D-Luciferin potassium salt	Cambridge Bioscience	Cat#: CAY14681

Critical commercial assays

DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit	QIAGEN	Cat#: 69506
RNeasy Mini Kit	QIAGEN	Cat#: 74104
CytoFix/Cytoperm kit	BD	Cat#: 554714

Deposited data

Raw and analyzed RNA-seq data (mouse)	This manuscript	GEO: GSE165386
Raw and analyzed RNA-seq data (human)	Glioma Cellular Genetics Resource, CRUK, UK	https://gcgr.org.uk
Raw and analyzed RRBS data (mouse)	This manuscript	GEO: GSE165389
Raw and analyzed EPIC array data (human)	Glioma Cellular Genetics Resource, CRUK, UK	https://gcgr.org.uk
Raw WGS data (mouse)	This manuscript	GEO: GSE165390
Raw and analyzed scRNA-seq (human)	Nefel et al., 2019	GEO: GSM3828672

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Experimental models: cell lines		
C57BL/6 J Neural Stem Cells	Steven Pollard Lab, Edinburgh, UK	N/A
NPE and other BL6 NSC-derived lines	This manuscript	N/A
GCGR Human Glioma Stem Cells	This paper, Glioma Cellular Genetics Resource, CRUK, UK	N/A
Experimental models: organisms/strains		
Mouse: BL6 (C57BL/6 J)	Charles River (original source, colony bred in house)	Cat#: 632C57BL/6J
Mouse: NSG (NOD-scid-gamma)	Charles River (original source, colony bred in house)	Cat#: 614NSG
Oligonucleotides		
sgRNA pairs (see STAR Methods , Table S1)	This manuscript, Integrated DNA Technologies	https://eu.idtdna.com/pages
crRNA: Irf8-p2A-mCherry Reporter (see STAR Methods , Table S1)	This manuscript, Twist Biociences	N/A
Primer pairs (see STAR Methods , Tables S5 and S6)	This manuscript, Sigma	N/A
TaqMan Gene expression assays (see STAR Methods , Table S7)	ThermoFisher	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
pET28a/Cas9-Cys	Addgene	Cat#: 53261
PB-CAG-GFP-LUC-Ires-Bsd	This manuscript	N/A
pU6-(BbsI)_CBh-Cas9-T2A-mCherry	Addgene	Cat#: 64324
PB-PyCAG-EGFRvIII-Hygro	This manuscript	N/A
PyCAG-PDGFRalpha-Ires-Bsd	This manuscript	N/A
pDONR221	Invitrogen	Cat#: 12536017
Software and algorithms		
GraphPad Prism 9.0	GraphPad Software, Inc	https://www.graphpad.com/
FlowJo	FlowJo 10	https://www.flowjo.com/
Fiji/ImageJ	Open Source	https://imagej.net/Fiji
BioRender	BioRender	https://biorender.com/
TrimGalore (version 0.5.0)	Martin, 2011	https://github.com/FelixKrueger/TrimGalore
kallisto (version 0.44.0)	Bray et al., 2016	https://pachterlab.github.io/kallisto/
R Package: tximport (version 1.8.0)	Soneson et al., 2015	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/tximport.html
R Package: DESeq2 (version 1.27.32)	Love et al., 2014	http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html
R Package: clusterProfiler (version 3.15.4)	Yu et al., 2012	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/clusterProfiler.html
R Package: ChIPpeakAnno (version 3.22.0)	Zhu et al., 2010	https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ChIPpeakAnno.html
R Package: NMF (version 0.22.0)	Gaujoux and Seoighe, 2010	https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/NMF/index.html
R Package: ReactomePA (version 1.31.0)	Yu and He, 2016	https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ReactomePA.html
GSEA (version 3.0)	Subramanian et al., 2005	https://www.gsea-msigdb.org/gsea/index.jsp
ssGSEA (version 1.0)	Wang et al., 2017	https://secure.jbs.elsevierhealth.com/action/getSharedSiteSession?redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cell.com%2Fcancer-cell%2Ffulltext%2FS1535-6108%2817%2930253-2&rc=0

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
trimRRBSdiversityAdaptCustomers.py (version 1.11)	NuGEN Technologies	https://github.com/nugentechnologies/NuMetRRBS
nudup.py (version 2.3)	NuGEN Technologies	https://github.com/tecangenomics/nudup
Bismark (version 0.16.3)	Krueger and Andrews, 2011	https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/
R Package: DSS (version 2.36.0)	Park and Wu, 2016	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DSS.html
R Package: minfi (version 1.34.0)	Fortin et al., 2014	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/minfi.html
R Package: DMRcate (version 2.2.3)	Peters et al., 2015	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DMRcate.html
R Package: scan (version 1.16.0)	Lun, McCarthy and Marioni, 2016	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/scan.html
bcbio-nextgen (version 1.2.3)	bcbio	https://github.com/bcbio/bcbio-nextgen
Atropos (version 1.1.25)	Didion, Martin and Collins, 2017	https://github.com/jdidion/atropos
Bowtie2 (version 2.3.5.1)	Langmead and Salzberg, 2012	http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/index.shtml
samblaster (version 0.1.25)	Faust and Hall, 2014	https://github.com/GregoryFaust/samblaster
VarDict (version 1.6)	Lai et al., 2016b	https://github.com/AstraZeneca-NGS/VarDict
Strelka2 (version 2.9.10)	Kim et al., 2018	https://github.com/Illumina/strelka
Mutect2 (gatk version 3.8)	Cibulskis et al., 2013	https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us/articles/360037593851-Mutect2
freebayes (version 1.1.0.46)	Garrison and Marth, 2012	https://github.com/freebayes/freebayes
HaplotypeCaller (gatk version 3.8)	DePristo et al., 2011	https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us/articles/360037225632-HaplotypeCaller
Manta (version 1.6.0)	Chen et al., 2016	https://github.com/Illumina/manta
CNVkit (version 0.9.6)	Talevich et al., 2016	https://cnvkit.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
R Package: VariantAnnotation (version 1.34.0)	Obenchain et al., 2014	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/VariantAnnotation.html
R Package: TxDb.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.knownGene (version 3.4.4)	Team BC, 2016	https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/data/annotation/html/TxDb.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.knownGene.html
R Package: TxDb.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg38.knownGene (version 3.4.0)	Team BC, 2016	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/data/annotation/html/TxDb.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg38.knownGene.html
R Package: BSgenome.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.masked (version 1.3.99)	Team BC, 2016	http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/data/annotation/html/BSgenome.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.masked.html
IGV (version 2.8.2)	Thorvaldsdóttir et al., 2013	http://software.broadinstitute.org/software/igv/
R v4.0.0	The R Project for Statistical Computing	https://www.r-project.org/

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Steven Pollard (steven.pollard@ed.ac.uk)

Materials availability

All reagents generated in this study (including cell lines and plasmids) are available on request from S.M.P.

Data and code availability

The accession numbers for the mouse mRNA-seq, RRBS, and WGS datasets reported in this paper are available to download from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) with the following accession codes: GSE165386, GSE165389 and GSE165390. Human RNA-seq, and EPIC array datasets will be made available for download at <http://gcgr.org.uk>. Additional code is available upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mice and *in vivo* procedures

All treatments and procedures on mice were performed in accordance with protocols approved by Home Office UK guidelines in a designated facility under a project license to S.M.P., (PC0395462) at the University of Edinburgh. Mice were maintained on a regular diet in a pathogen-free facility on a 12-hr light/dark cycle with unlimited access to food and water. Intracranial transplantation of GSCs was performed using a stereotaxic frame to inject 200,000 cells resuspended in 2 μ l of NSC media into 6- to 8-week-old male NOD/SCID/GAMMA (NSG) or C57BL/6 SCRM (BL6) mouse striatum, following administration of isoflurane general anesthesia and Rimadyl analgesic. Coordinates were 0.6mm anterior and 1.5mm lateral to the Bregma and 2.4 mm deep. Cell preparation and procedures were done as previously described in [Pollard et al. \(2009\)](#). Bioluminescent imaging was performed 20 minutes after D-Luciferin (50 mg/kg) subcutaneous injection, using the IVIS Lumina LT Series III instrument (Perkin Elmer). For all antibody blocking experiments, animals were randomly assigned to test and control groups. Blocking antibodies for CD8, CSF1R and IgG2b were administered by intraperitoneal (IP) injection at doses and frequencies described in the method details.

Cell culture

General cell culture

Mouse and human cells were cultured in serum-free basal medium supplemented with N2 and B27 (Life Technologies), laminin (Cultrex, 2 mg/ml) and growth factors EGF and FGF2 (Peprotech, 10 ng/ml). Cells were maintained as previously described in [Pollard et al. \(2009\)](#).

NSC differentiation to astrocytes

Cells were seeded 4×10^3 cells/cm² in NS culture media without EGF or FGF2 and with BMP4 (10 ng/ml). For neuronal differentiation we seeded cells at 8×10^3 cells/cm² or 4×10^3 cells/cm² for the BL6-NP and BL6-NPE in NS basal media without growth factors. Media was replenished every 3-4 days. Immunostaining for differentiation markers was carried out on day 3 for astrocytes, and day 10 for neurons, post-differentiation initiation.

Co-culture of NPE cells with tumor derived immune cells

3×10^4 NPE cells were seeded in NSC culture media in a 12-well plate at least 6 hours prior to introduction of immune cells to allow attachment. F4/80 + and CD3+ immune cells were isolated from tumors and collected by flow (detailed below). F4/80 + cells were resuspended in 'minimal macrophage media' (DMEM high glucose (GIBCO), 10% FBS (GIBCO), 1% pen/strep (GIBCO)) and CD3 cells were resuspended in 'minimal T cell media' (complete RPMI 1640 medium (GIBCO) containing 1% pen/strep (GIBCO), 50 μ M β -mercaptoethanol (GIBCO), and 1% L-glutamine (GIBCO)) before being seeded in a 3.0 μ m pore polycarbonate membrane transwell insert (SLS, #3402) containing the appropriate medium. Co-culture experiments were carried out overnight (16 – 20 hours).

Cell growth analysis

NPE and NPE-IE cells were seeded in NSC culture media in a 24-well plate and growth curves were determined using Incucyte (Essen Bioscience) live cell imaging system.

METHOD DETAILS

Design and construction of CRISPR sgRNAs and PiggyBac plasmids

For gene knockouts, two gRNAs were designed to remove or generate indels, these were introduced to the most disease relevant gene regions in the case of GBM drivers. CRISPR sgRNAs were designed using the Optimized CRISPR Design tool (<https://zlab.bio/guide-design-resources>). Sequences are provided in [Table S1](#). For construction of sgRNA-encoding plasmids, single-stranded oligonucleotides (IDT) containing the guide sequence of the sgRNAs were annealed, phosphorylated and ligated into Bsal site of U6-Bsal-sgRNA backbone (kindly provided by S. Gerety, Sanger Institute) or U6-BbsI-CBh-Cas9-T2A-mCherry backbone (this was a gift from Ralf Kuehn, Addgene plasmid # 64324) ([Chu et al., 2015](#)).

PiggyBac expression vectors were constructed via Gateway cloning apart from the EGFRvIII construct. The LUC-2A-GFP was PCR amplified from existing plasmids (gift from M. Pule, UCL). Human PDGFR α was amplified from cDNA of the G144 cell line ([Pollard et al., 2009](#)), PCR products were cloned into Gateway pDONRTM221 using BP cloning. The cassettes were then delivered into the intermediate targeting vectors via Gateway LR cloning. Plasmids were sequence verified. EGFRvIII was amplified from existing plasmids (gift from A. Medvinsky lab) incorporating BsrGI restriction sites to clone into a PB-CAG-Ires-Hygro (gift from Keisuke Kaji). Primers used for construction are provided in [Table S5](#).

Recombinant Cas9 plasmid and production

pET28a/Cas9-Cys was a gift from Hyongbum Kim (Ramakrishna et al., 2014). BL21(DE3) cells (New England Biolabs, C2527) were transformed with the plasmid pET28a/Cas9-Cys (Addgene, Cambridge, USA, plasmid #53261) using standard protocols. Cas9 protein expression was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG (Isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside) (Fisher, 10715114) and bacterial cells were incubated overnight at 20°C. Bacterial pellets were resuspended in 20 mL of lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, 5 mM imidazole pH 8.0), sonicated and loaded on a HisTrap HP 5 mL column (GE, 17-5248-01). Cas9 protein was collected in elution buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1 mM TCEP, 250 mM imidazole pH 8.0). Fractions containing Cas9 protein were pooled and loaded into a HiPrep 26/10 Desalting Column (GE, 28-4026-52) to equilibrate in Cas9 buffer (20 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 150 mM KCl, 1 mM TCEP). Purified Cas9 protein was further concentrated using Vivaspin columns (Vivaspin20, VS2021) as per the user-guide instructions.

Cell line derivation

Mouse NS cell lines were derived from adult C57BL/6 SCRM subventricular zone as previously described (Conti et al., 2005; Sun et al., 2008). To obtain tumor cell lines, tumors were dissected from mouse brains and a piece of tumor was transferred into a 35 cm² well plate with 2 mL of accutase. Tissue was minced into small pieces with scalpels and incubated 30 min at 37°C. The accutase with the tissue was transferred into a falcon before adding 6 mL of serum-free basal medium. Tissue was dissociated with a glass pipette very gently several times. After centrifugation for 5 min at 500 *rcf.*, the cell pellet was resuspended in complete media and plated in a T25 flask. Cell debris was removed the following day and fresh media was added. Human brain tumor samples were dissociated for cell culture as described by Pollard et al. (2009). Briefly, tumor samples were dissociated into single cells using physical dissociation and accutase incubation for 15 – 20 minutes at 37°C, followed by the addition of serum-free basal medium and centrifugation for 5 min at 500 *rcf.* The cell pellet was resuspended in complete media and plated in a laminin coated flask. Cell debris was removed the following day and fresh media was added.

Cell transfection

NS cells were transfected using the DN 100 program of a 4D nucleofection system (Lonza). 1.5×10^6 cells were resuspended in 100 μ L of SG transfection solution (Lonza) containing a maximum of 3 μ g DNA. For CRISPR targeting, ratios of gRNAs and Cas9 were 1:1:2. For transgene overexpression, piggyBac transposase pBase and PB vectors were used in a 1:1 ratio. For multiplex experiments, ratios were equal and the amount of DNA used was 5 μ g. Media was changed 6 hours after transfection. Cells were incubated for 48 hours post-transfection prior to FACS sorting.

Drug selection and clonal expansion

Cells with stable integration of the PiggyBac plasmids were selected for 5-7 days using 5 μ g/ml blasticidin or 100 μ g/ml hygromycin. For individual TSG knockout experiments, GFP positive cells were enriched by FACS single cell sorting into 96-well plates and collected in tubes (bulk population). The *Irf8* clonal knockout lines were established using the IotaSciences isoCell system. Clones were expanded after 10-15 days post single cell disposition and transferred into 2 \times 96-well replica plates and expanded for cell banking and gDNA extraction. For NPE-Multiplex experiments, GFP and mCherry double positive cells were sorted and collected in tubes. These cells were expanded and maintained for 5 days with hygromycin and 6 days with blasticidin and transplanted in mice without picking colonies. After tumor formation, a cell line was derived, NPE-Mx-TD, and individual colonies were picked into 2 \times 24-well replica plates and expanded for cell banking and gDNA extraction.

Genotyping of knockout clones

Genomic DNA from individual clones was isolated from 24-well plates using DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN). 100-150 ng DNA was used in a 25 μ L PCR reaction. PCR reactions comprised 0.3 μ L DMSO (100% v/v, Sigma), 1 μ L dNTPs (10 mM, Thermo Fisher Scientific), 5 μ L LongAMP buffer (5x NEB), 1 μ L LongAMP Taq (NEB), and 1 μ L of each primer (at 10 μ M concentration). Primer sequences are provided in Table S6. Genotyping primers flanking the targeting site of Cas9 were used to identify potential indels and directly assessed by Sanger sequencing traces from the resulting PCR products.

Immunocytochemistry

Cells were fixed in 4% PFA for 10 min and then blocked in 0.2% Triton X-100 and 3% Goat Serum. Cells were incubated in primary antibodies overnight at 4°C followed by incubation with appropriate secondary antibodies at room temperature for 1 hour. DNA was stained with a final incubation of cells in 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). The specific dilution of primary antibodies used are as follows: mouse Nestin (1:10; DSHB, Rat-401), rabbit Sox2 (1:200; abcam ab2494), mouse GFAP (1:200; Sigma G3893), rabbit Ki-67 (1:200; Thermo Fisher MA5-14520), Tuj1 (1:1000; Biolegend, 801202), mouse p53 (1:500; Cell Signaling Technology 2524).

Immunoblotting

Immunoblotting was performed using standard protocols. Antibodies were diluted in blocking solution (5% milk powder in TBS-T or 3% BSA/1% PVP in TBS-T). Protein detection was performed using peroxidase-coupled secondary antibodies (Invitrogen) and application of homemade ECL before protein detection by exposure to X-ray films or imaging using the ChemiDock system (BioRad).

The following primary antibodies were used: rabbit NF1 (1:500; Santa Cruz sc-67), rabbit PTEN (1:1000; CST 9556), rabbit phospho-EGF Receptor Tyr1068 (1:1000; CST 3777), rabbit PDGFR α (1:1000; CST 3174), mouse GAPDH (1:50000; Ambion, AM4300), mouse IRF8 (1:500; eBiosciences 14-7888-82), ACTIN (1:1000; Santa Cruz sc-1616), rabbit pSTAT1 (1:1000, CST 9167).

RT-qPCR

RT-qPCR was performed using standard protocols. RNA was isolated and gDNA eliminated using the RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN, 74104). cDNA was synthesized using SuperScript III (Invitrogen) and RT-qPCR was performed using the QuantStudio 7 Flex (Applied Biosystems) instrument. Each sample/gene combination was run in duplicate or triplicate. TaqMan assays used are provided in Table S7.

RPPA analysis

Cell lysates were prepared and analyzed as previously described (Teo et al., 2018). Briefly, medium was removed from the plates and cells were rinsed twice with PBS. Cells were lysed on ice for 20 minutes with occasional shaking every 5 minutes. Cell lysates were collected with a scraper and clarified by centrifugation at 18,000 *rcf*. for 10 min at 4°C. Clarified supernatants in biological triplicate were adjusted to 2 mg/mL concentration and printed onto nitrocellulose-coated slides (Grace Bio-Labs) in a dilution series (four serial 2-fold dilutions) in technical triplicate using an Aushon 2470 arrayer (Aushon Biosystems). Slides were blocked, probed with validated primary antibodies and detected with DyLight 800-conjugated secondary antibodies (New England BioLabs). Slides were read using an InnoScan 710-IR scanner (Innopsys) and quantified using Mapix (Innopsys). Relative fluorescence intensities were normalized to respective FastGreen-stained spots (total protein), and data were computationally analyzed as previously described (Byron, 2017; Teo et al., 2018).

In vivo antibody administration

Animals were randomly assigned to test and control groups for all antibody blocking experiments. For CD8 T Cell Blockade, monoclonal anti-CD8a (Clone YTS 169.4, Cat # BE0117) and anti-IgG2b (Clone LTF-2 Cat # BE0090) antibodies were purchased from 2BScientific (BioXCell) and 20 μ g of α CD8/IgG2b resuspended in 200 μ l of PBS was administered via IP injection on alternate days, three times per week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) for three weeks, beginning 3 days post orthotopic transplantation of tumor cells, to ensure continuous CD8+ T cell depletion. Anti-mouse CSF1R (CD115) was a kind gift from Sergio Quezada (BioXCell Cat # BP0213). Mice received three doses of 200 μ g of anti-CSF1R resuspended in 200 μ l of PBS on alternate days, beginning 5 days post-orthotopic transplantation of tumor cells.

Mouse Brain Fixation, Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry

Brains were fixed in 4% PFA overnight at 4°C, then rinsed several times with PBS and stored in PBS +0.05% Sodium Azide. For Histopathology procedures, brains were transferred into 70% Ethanol media and then embedded in paraffin for processing. 10 μ m coronal slices were prepared for hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining. For immunohistochemistry of fixed brain tissue, 20 μ m vibratome slices were transferred into a 24-well plate. Slices were incubated at room temperature for 30 min in blocking solution (0.2% Triton X-100 and 3% Goat Serum). Primary antibodies were incubated overnight at 4°C as follows: nestin (1:10; DSHB, Rat-401), chicken GFAP (1:100, BioLegend 829401), rabbit Ki-67 (1:100 Thermo Fisher MA5-14520), GFP (1:300 Abcam 13970). After three washes with PBS, slices were incubated with appropriate Alexa Fluor secondary antibodies (1:1000, Life technologies) and DAPI (1:2000, Sigma D9542) for 2 hours. Slices were washed three times and were mounted on a slide with FluoroSaveTM Reagent (345789, Calbiochem). Slices were examined with a confocal microscope (Leica TCS SP8).

Multiplex Immunofluorescence

Staining of deparaffinized 5 μ m FFPE sections was performed on automated tissue staining system (Bond-Rx, Leica Microsystems, CA) in the SURF facility at the University of Edinburgh. Primary antibodies; GFP (ab13970, Abcam Cambridge, MA, dilution 1:200); F4/80 (MCA497GA, BioRad, Hercules, CA, dilution 1:100); CD45 (NB100-77417SS, Novus, Manchester, UK, dilution, 1:100); Iba1 (ab178846, Abcam, dilution 1:250) were used to detect tumor cells and macrophages. Cells were labeled by using a tyramide signal amplification kit (Opal 7-color automation kit, NEL797001KT, Akoya BioSci. Menlo Park, CA). Opal 520 (1:150 dilution), Opal 570 (1:300, dilution), Opal 620 (1:150, dilution), Opal 650 (1:300 dilution), reactive fluorophores were used. Slides were counter stained with DAPI (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri) and mounted by Prolong Diamond Antifade Mountant (P36965, ThermoFisher Sci., Waltham, MA). Whole slide brain sections were imaged using the Vectra 3.0 multispectral imaging system (Perkin Elmer) at 20X magnification.

Image quantification

Images are analyzed in Inform Image analysis software (Version 2.9.4). To spectrally unmix emission spectra of each fluorophore, a spectral library and spectral unmixing algorithm was created using by using autofluorescent and single Opal dye-stained images. Background area were segmented from the tissue and removed from the analysis. The tumor regions was identified by using H&E staining and by staining GFP staining and at least 5 randomly selected ROI regions inside the tumor area was analyzed per tissue (20x object lens). Images were processed for nuclear detection (DAPI+ nuclear objects) and cytoplasm detection (2-pixel wide from

nuclear detection). Using built-in machine learning algorithm, cell phenotype in the tumor region was trained by using Iba-1, F4/80 and CD45 markers. At the end of batch processing, the quality of phenotype identification was checked by using processed and component RGB images. Incorrectly classified images and damaged tissues were removed from the analysis. The total number of Iba+ and Iba-1 F4/80+ positive cells per mm² of tissue and total cells was calculated from the sum of the total images used per tissue.

Preparation of brain cell suspension for flow cytometry

For whole brain analysis, brains were dissected from mice and mechanically disaggregated using scissors, followed by enzymatic digestion using liberase (Roche Cat# 05401119001) and DNase (Sigma, Cat: 101041590001). Following enzymatic digestion cells suspension underwent Percoll (GE Healthcare, ref 17-0891-01) gradient separation to obtain cell suspensions enriched on hematopoietic cells. Cell suspensions were incubated 10 minutes with a blocking mixture of mouse, rat and calf serum containing anti-CD16/32 blocking antibodies (Clone 2.4G2, Biotex, Cat: BE0307). Cells were washed with PBS and incubated with a mixture of flow cytometry monoclonal antibodies per 20 minutes. In order to detect intracellular epitopes cells were fixed and permeabilized using the BD CytoFix/Cytoperm kit (BD, Cat: 554714) following the manufacturer protocol. Cells were resuspended in PBS and acquired using the FACSymphony. Flow cytometry data was compensated and down sampled to 5000 events using FlowJo. Data from down-sampled FCS files was then clustered using Cytokit and FlowSom restricted to 20 clusters. Clusters were then visualized using Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP). All data was analyzed using R version 3.6.2. Antibodies for flow cytometry were purchased from Biolegend, BD and ThermoFisher Scientific (eBioscience): CD103-UV395 (Clone M290), CD24-BUV496 (Clone M1/69), Ly6G-BUV563 (Clone IA8), CD11b-BUV661 (Clone M1/70), CD19-BUV737 (Clone 1D3), CD3-BUV737 (Clone 7A2), CD45-BUV805 (Clone HI30), CD68-BV421 (Clone FA-11), GiTRL-BV510 (Clone MIH44), Ly6C (Clone AL-21), CD206-BV650 (Clone C068C2), MHCII-BV711 (Clone M5-114-15-2), CD11C-BV786 (Clone N418), CD86-FITC (Clone GL1), 41BBL-BB700 (Clone TKS-1), ICOSL-PE (HK5.3), PDL1-PECF590 (Clone 10F.9G2), OX40L-PeCy7 (Clone RM134L), SIRP α -APC (Clone P84), F4/80-AF700 (Clone BM8).

For analysis of intra-tumoral immune cell populations, GFP + tumors were dissected from brains and placed in 1 mL RPMI in a 60 mm cell culture dish and mechanically dissociated using a sterile scalpel. 2 mL of DMEM supplemented with 2 mg/ml collagenase D and 10 μ g/mL DNase 1 was added to the tumor sample which was further dissociated by pipetting before transfer to a 50 mL Falcon tube and incubation at 37°C, with shaking at 200 rpm for 30 min. Following enzymatic digestion, 10 mL of PBS was added to the tumor cell suspension before centrifugation. All centrifugation steps were carried out at 500 *rcf*. for 5 min at 4°C unless otherwise stated. The supernatant was discarded, and pelleted tumor cells were resuspended in 10 mL of cold PBS and passed through a cell strainer into a fresh 50 mL Falcon tube, with a further 5 mL cold PBS used to encourage as many remaining cells as possible to pass through the strainer. Cells were then centrifuged and resuspended in 5 mL of 1X Red Blood Cell Lysis Buffer, incubated at room temperature for 5 min and pelleted again. The pellet was then resuspended in 10 mL MACs Buffer (1X HBSS + 2% FBS) and repelleted before decanting MACs Buffer.

To remove myelin, cells were resuspended in remaining residual MACs Buffer and 20 μ l of myelin magnetic beads were added to the cell suspension before a 15 min incubation at 4°C. A further 5 mL of MACs Buffer was added to the cells before centrifugation and resuspension in 1 mL of MACs Buffer before transfer to a 15 mL Falcon tube and myelin removal using a MACs machine. Following this, cells were washed with 5 mL PBS, centrifuged and resuspended in a final volume of 200 μ l before transfer of each sample to an individual well of a 96-well plate. For controls (unstained/viability only), two 20 μ l aliquots were removed from each tumor cell sample and placed in independent wells. The plates were sealed (to prevent cross-contamination) and centrifuged. With exception of the sample to be used as an unstained control, cell pellets were resuspended in 100 μ l of a 1:1000 dilution of Zombie NIR in PBS as a viability stain (unstained sample resuspended in PBS only) and incubated for 20 min at 4°C. Plates were again sealed and centrifuged followed by two washes of samples in FACS buffer. Pelleted samples were then blocked (50 μ l of 1:200 CD16/32 in FACS buffer) at 4°C for 15 min in the dark. Cells were then stained by adding 50 μ l of primary antibody mix to the pre-existing Fc block solution and incubated for 30 min at 4°C in the dark before pelleting and washing in twice in FACS buffer. Samples being stained for myeloid cell populations were then resuspended in FACS buffer and transferred to FACS tubes for analysis. Samples being stained for T cell population markers were permeabilized overnight in fixation/permeabilization buffer at 4°C and washed twice the following morning in 1X permeabilization buffer before incubation in 100 μ l of anti-FOXP3 for 30 min at 4°C in the dark. Finally, these samples were pelleted, washed twice in FACS buffer and resuspended in FACS buffer and transferred to FACS tubes for analysis. To generate tSNE maps, Flow cytometry data was randomly down sampled to 50,000 events per tumor for three independent tumors and the resulting data concatenated into a single dataset using FlowJo. Data from the resulting fcs file was then clustered using the tSNE plugin in FlowJo with the following settings: Auto(opt-SNE), Iterations: 1000, KNN algorithm: Exact (vantage point tree), gradient algorithm: Fit-SNE. To identify clusters on the tSNE map, concatenated data was subject to conventional gating as detailed in [Figure S3](#) and applied to the tSNE map using FlowJo layout editor. All data was analyzed using FlowJo version 10 and R version 4.0.2.

Antibodies for flow cytometry were purchased from Biolegend, BD and ThermoFisher Scientific (eBioscience). CD45-AF700 (Clone 30-F11). For the T cell Panel: CD3-BV711 (Clone 17A2), CD8-BUV737 (Clone 53-67), CD4-BV510 (Clone GK1.5), TIM3-PE/Dazzle 594 (Clone B8.2C12), CD62L-BUV395 (Clone MEL-14), CD44-BV650 (Clone 1MF), ST2-APC (Clone RMST2-2), $\gamma\delta$ TCR-PerCP/Cy5.5 (CloneGL3), FOXP3-eFlour 450 (CloneFJK.16 s), LAG3-PE-Cyanine7 (Clone eBioC9B7W), PD1-BV605 (Clone 29F.1A12),

NK1.1-PE (Clone PK136). For the myeloid cell panel: F4/80-BV421 (Clone BM8), CD11b-BV510 (Clone M1/70), Ly6G-BUV395 (Clone 1A8), CD31-BV605 (Clone 390), PDL1-BV711 (Clone 10F.9G2), Ly6C-PerCP/Cy5.5 (Clone HK1.4), MMR-PE (Clone C068C2), CD11c-PE/Dazzele (Clone N418), CD86-PE/Cy7 (Clone GL-1), PDL2-APC (Clone TY25), CD140a-BV650 (Clone APA5).

To isolate immune cells from tumors for co-culture experiments, GFP + tumors were dissected from brains, placed in bijoux tube with 1 mL accutase and mechanically dissociated with a sterile blade, pipetting and disruption with the IKA Ultra Turrax™ Tube Drive followed by incubation at 37°C for 30 min. Next, 6 ml of wash media was added to the tumor cell suspension before centrifugation (all centrifugation steps were carried out at 500 *rcf.* for 5 min at 4°C unless otherwise stated), the supernatant was discarded, and cells were incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature in RBC lysis buffer (abcam). After centrifugation, the tumor cell suspension was washed once with ice cold PBS + 0.1% BSA and then filtered through a 70 µm cell strainer (Falcon). Tumor suspension was resuspended in cold PBS + 0.1% BSA and Fc block was added at a concentration of 1:100 for 5 minutes at room temperature. The suspension was washed once, before resuspension in 100 µL PBS + 0.1% BSA and suitable antibodies for staining and incubated for 30 minutes, at 4°C in the dark. Tumor suspension was then washed twice and resuspended in FACS buffer for sorting. Antibodies used were: CD45 (1:200, Biolegend), F4/80 (1:100, eBioscience) and CD3 (1:200, Biolegend).

Forward-Phase Protein Arrays (FPPA)

Media was conditioned by cells for 48 hours. Antibody microarrays were printed in-house using an Aushon BioSystems' 2470 array printing platform. Microarrays were blocked for 1 hour with SuperG™ Blocking Buffer (Grace Bio Labs) at room temperature on a rocker. Media from samples were centrifuged at 1000 *rcf.* for 5 minutes at 4°C. Supernatants were added to microarrays for 12 hours at 4°C. Microarrays were washed three times for 5 minutes in TBS-T and blocked for 10 minutes with SuperG™ Blocking Buffer at room temperature on an orbital shaker, then washed again three times for 5 minutes in TBS-T. Detection antibodies (1:500 antibody diluted in 5% BSA/PBST, 1% SuperG™ Blocking Buffer) mixtures were made in plates and 2 µL of each antibody was applied to each well of the microarrays. Microarrays were clamped and 50 µL of each antibody was added to corresponding microarray wells. Microarrays were incubated for 1 hour on a flat surface. Clamps were removed and microarrays were washed three times for 5 minutes in TBS-T. Microarrays were then blocked for 10 minutes with SuperG™ Blocking Buffer at room temperature on a rocker and again washed three times for 5 minutes in PBS-T. 3 mL of IRDye® 800CW Streptavidin (LI-COR Biosciences) diluted 1 in 5000 in PBST supplemented with 5% BSA, 1% SuperG™ Blocking Buffer. Microarrays were covered and incubated on a rocker at room temperature for 45 minutes then washed for 5 minutes, three times in PBS-T followed by three 5 min PBS washes and then washed with distilled water. Microarrays were dried then scanned on the InnoScan 710 high resolution Microarray scanner (Innopsys Life Sciences). Data was normalized for protein concentration and background fluorescence in Microsoft Excel. Graphs were calculated using Prism (Graphpad).

RNA-seq sample preparation

All samples were run in triplicate. RNA was extracted from cells using the QIAGEN RNeasy kit.

For mouse samples, sample concentration and quality was assessed using the Agilent TapeStation and Nanodrop, only samples with a RIN value of 9.6 or above were used. Library prep and mRNA sequencing of mouse samples was performed by University of Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility Genetics Core. Further quality control was performed by the facility using the Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer and the Qubit RNA BR assay. Library prep was performed with 500 ng of starting material using the Illumina TruSeq Stranded mRNA Sample Preparation kit. Briefly, poly-A containing mRNA molecules were purified using poly-T oligo attached magnetic beads. These were fragmented, reverse transcribed and further purified to separate blunt-ended dsDNA for adaptor ligation. Library amplification of 12 cycles was used before purification with AMPure XP beads and quantification with the Qubit dsDNA HS assay and QC using the Agilent Bioanalyzer. Sequencing was performed using the Illumina NextSeq 500/550 High-Output v2 kit on the NextSeq 550 platform. 48 libraries were pooled in equimolar amounts and run across 3 High-Output Flow Cells.

For human samples, RNA samples were run on Bioanalyzer RNA 6000 nano chips to determine RIN values and sample concentrations were measured using Qubit RNA BR assay and 200 ng of starting material was used. RNaseq libraries were prepared using the KAPA mRNA Hyper prep kit with KAPA SeqCap Adapters. Fragmentation was done at 94°C for 6 minutes and library amplification of 12 cycles. Each library was quantified using Qubit dsDNA HS assay and average fragment size was determined using Bioanalyzer DNA 1000 or DNA HS. Molarity of each library was calculated using the Qubit and BioA results and then normalized to ~10 nM and pooled, 24 libraries per pool. Each pool was then quantified using Qubit dsDNA HS assay and average fragment size determined using Bioanalyzer DNA HS. Pooled library molarity was determined using Qubit and BioA. The libraries were sequenced on Illumina HiSeq 2500 instrument. Dilute and denature was done according to manufacturer's instructions for "Dilute and Denature Libraries for cBot Clustering," Standard normalization method. Each 24-library pool was run on two lanes of a HiSeq High Output flow cell. All human GSCs were processed at passage 3 from derivation.

Reduced Representation Bisulphite Sequencing (RRBS) Sample preparation

All samples were run in triplicate. DNA was extracted from cells using the QIAGEN DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit and sample concentration and quality was assessed using the Nanodrop. Samples were confirmed to have appropriate quality by ensuring 260/280 values were 1.84-1.96 and 260/230 values of 1.93-2.21. RRBS was performed by the University of Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility Genetics Core. 200 ng of each sample was processed with the Ovation RRBS Methyl-Seq System 1-16 (Tecan Genomics Inc,

#0353). 0.5ng of unmethylated λ DNA (New England Biolabs, #N3013S) was spiked into each DNA sample to allow assessment of the bisulfite-conversion reaction efficiency. DNA was digested using the methylation-insensitive restriction enzyme, MspI, and fragments were directly ligated to cohesive-ended adapters without the requirement for blunting or A-tailing. Bisulfite-conversion was performed with the Epitect Fast Bisulfite Conversion Kit. Bisulfite-treated adaptor-ligated fragments were then amplified by PCR (9 cycles) before purification using Agencourt RNAClean[®] XP beads. RRBS libraries were quantified using the Qubit 2.0 fluorometer and the Qubit dsDNA HS assay and were assessed for size and quality using the Agilent Bioanalyser with the DNA HS Kit. Sequencing was performed using the NextSeq 500/550 High-Output v2.5 Kit on the NextSeq 550 platform. Libraries were combined in three equimolar pools of five and run on three high output flow cells, with ~1% PhiX Control library

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) sample preparation

Genomic DNA (gDNA) was extracted from cells using the QIAGEN DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit and submitted to Edinburgh Genomics for processing. Genomic DNA was quantified using Quant-iT Picogreen reagent, Lambda Standard DNA and a Molecular Devices, Spectramax XPS Gemini plate reader. Quality of gDNA was evaluated using an AATI Fragment Analyzer and the Standard Sensitivity Genomic DNA Analysis Kit. Genomic DNA samples > 1000ng and a quality score > 5 pass sample QC. Genomic DNA samples were then pre-normalized to fall within 20-100ng/ μ L concentration range required for Illumina SeqLab TruSeq PCR Free library preparation method using the Hamilton MicroLab STAR. Libraries were prepared using Illumina SeqLab specific TruSeq PCR-Free High Throughput library preparation kits in conjunction with the Hamilton MicroLab STAR and Clarity LIMS X Edition according to standard protocols. Genomic DNA was sheared to a 450bp mean insert size using a Covaris LE220 focused-ultrasonicator. Inserts were blunt ended, A-tailed, size selected and had TruSeq adapters ligated onto the ends. Insert size for each library was evaluated using the Caliper GX Touch with a HT DNA 1k/12K/Hi SENS LabChip and HT DNA Hi SENS Reagent Kit to ensure that mean fragment sizes fell between 300 bp and 800 bp. Library concentration was normalized to 1.5nM before being denatured for clustering and sequencing at 300pM using a Hamilton MicroLab STAR with Genologics Clarity LIMS X (4.2) Edition. Libraries were clustered onto a HiSeqX Flow cell v2.5 on cBot2s and the clustered flow cell was transferred to a HiSeqX for sequencing using a HiSeqX Ten Reagent kit v2.5.

Bioinformatics Analysis

RNA-seq data processing and differential expression

RNA sequencing reads were trimmed with TrimGalore (version 0.5.0) and aligned to a reference genome using the pseudo aligner Kallisto with default parameters (version 0.44.0) (Martin, 2011; Bray et al., 2016). For mouse and human samples mm10, and hg38 were used respectively. Read counts were summarized via the R package Tximport (version 1.8.0) (Soneson et al., 2015) and subsequent normalization was completed via DESeq2 (version 1.27.32) (Love et al., 2014). Reported normalized read counts, unless otherwise stated, are as regularised-logarithm transformation (rlog) (Love et al., 2014). Differential expression was completed using DESeq2 with log₂ fold change shrinkage (Love et al., 2014). Genes with less than 1 read count across samples were pre-filtered. Multiple testing was accounted for using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure to calculate false discovery rates (FDRs) (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995). Principal component analysis (PCA) was completed on the top 500 genes with greatest variance across samples. Where heatmaps of normalized expression are clustered this was completed using Ward's method and Euclidean distance (Murtagh and Legendre, 2014).

RNA-seq - Identifying genes specific to tumor derived mutants

Genes specific to NPE tumor derived (NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE), and NF1 mutant samples (NF1, NP, NPE, NPE-BL6-TD, NPE-NSG-TD, NPE-IE) were identified via the *Distal binarization* approach as previously described (Corces et al., 2018). In brief an intra-group median and inter-quartile range (IQR) were calculated for each gene. For each gene, groups were then ranked by median expression across replicates with BL6 WT samples as a baseline. For any gene where the median expression of a group was higher than 1.5 times the IQR than the group preceding it in rank, this gene was labeled specific to this sample group. All samples ranked higher than this group based on gene expression were also labeled as gene specific. Genes were further filtered such that only specific genes that were also differentially expressed (FDR < 0.05, LFC > 1) between relevant comparisons (NPE tumor derived samples Vs. All others, and NF1 mutant samples Vs. All others) were retained (Love et al., 2014).

RNA-seq - Defining human subtypes

Genes with low expression (< 10 counts across all groups, with < 1 count per sample) and low variability of counts per million reads (CPM) across GSC samples, as calculated by DESeq2, were filtered (SD < 5 across groups, and coefficient of variation < 0.25). A final 9291 genes were subsequently used for downstream analysis. The NMF package in R (version 0.22.0) was used to perform the brunet implementation of non-negative matrix factorisation using default parameters (Brunet et al., 2004; Gaujoux and Seoighe, 2010). The highest cophenetic score was used as a criterion to obtain the optimal number of latent factors (Subtypes: S1 Non-MES^{lmm}, S2 ME-S^{lmm}). Two distinct subtypes were consistently obtained when running NMF with different algorithms and returned the most stable consensus clustering when compared with other rank numbers (Lee and Seung, 2001; Brunet et al., 2004; Pascual-Montano et al., 2006). To extract gene features for each subtype the most specific genes were selected (S1 Non- MES^{lmm}: 589, S2 MES^{lmm}: 235 genes) with the Kim and Park method as implemented in the NMF package (Kim and Park, 2007). Subtype enrichment scores

were derived as the column normalized S1/S2 score (%) for each sample from the NMF coefficient matrix. For downstream analysis subtype labels (S1 Non-MES^{lmm}, or S2 MES^{lmm}) were applied to each sample as the subtype with the highest enrichment score.

RNA-seq - Overrepresentation and gene set enrichment analysis

R packages clusterprofiler, (version 3.15.4) and ReactomePA (version 1.31.0) were used to find enriched gene sets for genes specific to tumor derived mouse samples, and human subtypes S1 Non-MES^{lmm}, or S2 MES^{lmm} (Yu et al., 2012; Yu and He, 2016). Where gene ratio is reported this is the number of genes in each pathway or GO term enriched in a gene list of interest (e.g., S1 or S2) divided by the total number of genes in the gene list of interest. Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was completed for differentially expressed gene sets via the Broad institute's GSEA Preranked tool from the GSEA software package 3.0 (Subramanian et al., 2005). For human samples the Gene ontology (GO) database for Biological process, Cellular component and Molecular process, was utilized as a gene set database (Harris et al., 2004). For mouse samples an equivalent GO database was derived (Lai et al., 2016a). Single sample gene set enrichment analysis (ssGSEA), with simplicity scores, was completed using a recent implementation of the ssGSEA algorithm by Wang et al., with selected immune GO terms, and glioma subtype gene sets (Mesenchymal, Classical, and Proneural) (Barbie et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2017).

Reduced representation bisulfite sequencing

Reads were trimmed with TrimGalore (version 0.5.0). NuGen diversity adaptors were removed with a Python script supplied by NuGen "trimRRBSdiversityAdaptCustomers.py" (version 1.11 <https://github.com/nugentechnologies/NuMetRRBS>) (Martin, 2011). Reads were then aligned to the mm10 *in silico* bisulfite transformed genome with the bisulphite sequencing aligner Bismark (version 0.16.3 with Bowtie version 2.2.6 using parameters: -N 0 -L 20) (Krueger and Andrews, 2011). PCR duplicates were then removed using a Python script from NuGen "nudup.py" (version 2.3 <https://github.com/tecangenomics/nudup>). Methylation estimation was completed using the Bismark methylation extractor ignoring the first two bases of read 2 to minimize common methylation call bias at these sites. Initial visualization with PCA was completed on the top 25% of CpGs with the highest variance of percentage methylation. No batch effect was observed following PCA. Identification of differentially methylated loci (DMLs) was completed with the R package DSS (version 2.36.0) in multifactor mode to account for RRBS batch (Park and Wu, 2016). FDR was used to account for multiple testing (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995). Differentially methylated regions (DMRs) were called by merging adjacent statistically significant DMLs within 50bp of one another, and filtering for DMRs with a minimum length of 50bp and with greater than 3 significant CpG sites. CpG island tracks were retrieved from the UCSC table browser service as a BED file (Karolchik et al., 2004). Percentage methylation, DMRs, DMLs, and CpG island tracks were visualized using the IGV genome browser (Thorvaldsdóttir et al., 2013). The annotation of DMRs was completed using the R package ChIPpeakAnno (version 3.22.0) – where DMRs were attributed to nearest gene promoter/transcription start site (TSS) (Zhu et al., 2010). TSS coordinates were defined as ± 2kb of sequence surrounding the start of the first exon. Promoter rank plots were filtered to include DMRs overlapping promoter regions and associated hypomethylated immune genes were highlighted in blue (> 50% methylation loss, overlapping immune and interferon GO terms: GO:0006955, GO:0034341, GO:0034340, GO:0035456, GO:0035455, and GO:0019882). Density heatmaps were produced using the 'densityHeatmap' function from the R package ComplexHeatmap (version 2.4.2), and clustering was completed using Euclidean distance and Ward's method (Murtagh and Legendre, 2014; Gu, Eils and Schlesner, 2016).

Infinium® MethylationEPIC BeadChip

Pre-processing and normalization from idat files to beta values was completed via the R package minfi (version 1.34.0) with combined functional and Noob normalization (Triche et al., 2013; Fortin et al., 2014, 2017). Poor quality probes, and those that could not be mapped to the hg38 genome, were filtered as previously described (Maksimovic et al., 2016; Zhou et al., 2017). Classification of human EPIC array samples were completed via the online portal <https://www.moleculareuropathology.org/mnp>. IDH mutants were removed prior to downstream methylation analysis (Capper et al., 2018). DMLs and DMRs were identified via the R Package DMRCate (version 2.2.3) using limma (version 3.43.11) (Peters et al., 2015; Ritchie et al., 2015). Annotation of DMRs was completed via the R package ChIPpeakAnno by assigning DMRs to nearest TSS (+/- 2kb) (Zhu et al., 2010). Density heatmaps were produced using the 'densityHeatmap' function from the R package 'ComplexHeatmap', and clustering was completed using Euclidean distance with Ward's method (Murtagh and Legendre, 2014; Gu et al., 2016).

Single-cell RNA-seq

Smart-seq2 single cell RNA-seq normalized counts (Transcripts per million, TPM) were downloaded from the Gene Expression Omnibus (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>) (GEO accession: GSM3828672) for 7930 glioma cells, from 28 separate tumors (Nefitel et al., 2019). Contaminating cells (Macrophages, T Cells, and Oligodendrocytes) were filtered as previously described (Nefitel et al., 2019). Paediatric samples were then filtered prior to downstream analysis. PCA was completed on the top 2000 most variable genes. As in the bulk RNA-Seq analysis ssGSEA was completed on each cell for glioma transcriptional subtypes, and immune GO terms. Where subtype labels are applied to individual cells this was completed using ssGSEA - where an S2 MES^{lmm} subtype was applied to cells with a MES^{lmm} p value < 0.05, otherwise a S1 Non-MES^{lmm} label was applied. Differential expression between MES^{lmm} and Non-MES^{lmm} labeled cells was completed using the 'findMarkers' function from the R package scran (version 1.16.0) using default parameters (Lun et al., 2016).

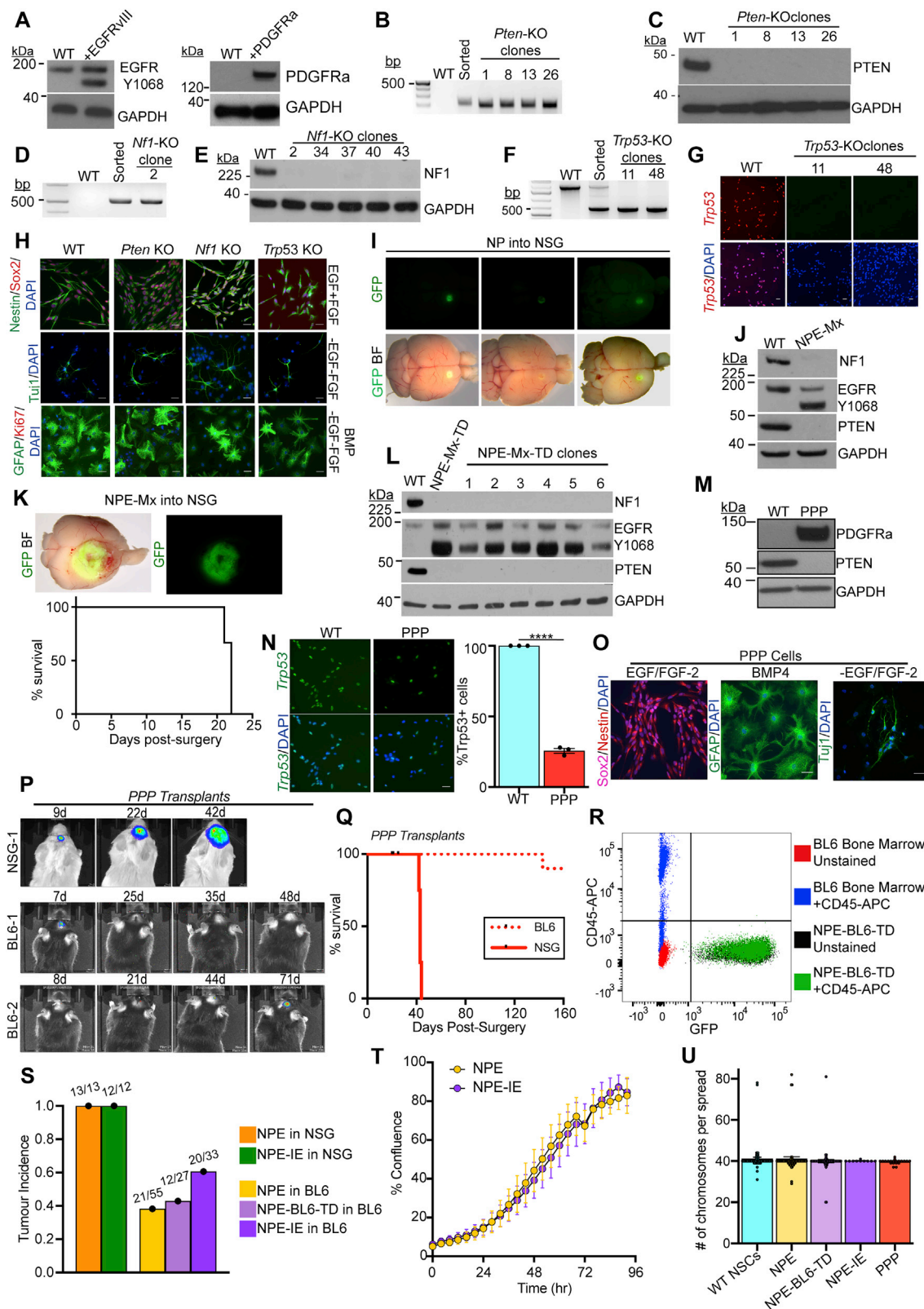
Whole genome sequencing

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) of BL6 WT, NPE and NPE-IE lines was completed using the best practises WGS paired cancer normal pipeline bcbio (bcbio-nextgen version 1.2.3) (<https://github.com/bcbio/bcbio-nextgen>). Adaptors were trimmed with the read trimmer Atropos (version 1.1.25) (Didion et al., 2017), a variant of Cutadapt, and aligned to the mm10 genome using the aligner Bowtie2 (version 2.3.5.1) (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). An additional human EGFRvIII contig was included to capture human reads from the EGFRvIII transgene present in NPE and NPE-IE lines. PCR duplicates were marked with samblaster (version 0.1.25) (Faust and Hall, 2014), and GATK base quality score recalibration was completed on the aligned BAM files (gatk version 3.8) (DePristo et al., 2011). Single nucleotide variant (SNV) calling was completed using an ensemble-based approach using VarDict (version 1.6), Strelka2 (version 2.9.10), and Mutect2 (gatk version 3.8) for somatic calling, and freebayes (version 1.1.0.46), GATK HaplotypeCaller (gatk version 3.8), and Strelka2 (version 2.9.10) for germline calling (DePristo et al., 2011; Garrison and Marth, 2012; Cibulskis et al., 2013; Lai et al., 2016b; Kim et al., 2018). Germline calls were used to filter final somatic calls. Variants were combined and included in the final call if present in 2 out of 3 variant callers (bcbio min_allele_fraction: 2). Variant calls were targeted at exonic regions as defined by the R package TxDb.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.knownGene (version 3.4.4). Structural variants (SVs) were called with Manta (version 1.6.0) (Chen et al., 2016). Structural variants that did not pass default Manta filters were removed. Break-end (BND) calls for NPE and NPE-IE samples were either imprecise and without split read evidence or had less than 5 split reads for the alternative allele, and hence were not considered for further analysis. Copy number variants (CNVs) were assessed with CNVkit (version 0.9.6) (Talevich et al., 2016). To accommodate parameter flexibility, CNVkit was run outside of bcbio using the “wgs” option, targeted at transcript regions as defined by the R package TxDb.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.knownGene. Absolute copy number calls were completed with the “clonal” option to account for known high purity of cell line samples and copy number regions were filtered using confidence interval filtering. SNV and SVs were annotated using the R packages VariantAnnotation (version 1.34.0), TxDb.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.knownGene, and BSgenome.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10.masked (version 1.3.99) (Obenchain et al., 2014). Following annotation SNV calls were filtered again to remove those within noncoding regions, those that were synonymous, as well as those with an allele frequency (AF) < 0.25. Final, filtered, SNV, SV, and CNV calls were overlapped with known cancer driver genes as defined by the COSMIC gene census (<https://cancer.sanger.ac.uk/census>), converted to mouse homologs via MGI batch query (<http://www.informatics.jax.org/batch>) (Sondka et al., 2018; Bult et al., 2019).

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis was performed on GraphPad or using R (version 4.0.0). Numerical data presented in charts is displayed as mean \pm SEM and analyzed using unpaired t tests unless otherwise stated in corresponding legends of the article. Statistical analysis of survival data was performed on GraphPad using the Log Rank (Mantel-Cox) test. Significance is noted in figures or figure legends; p values are denoted as follows: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001, **** < 0.0001, n.s. > 0.05.

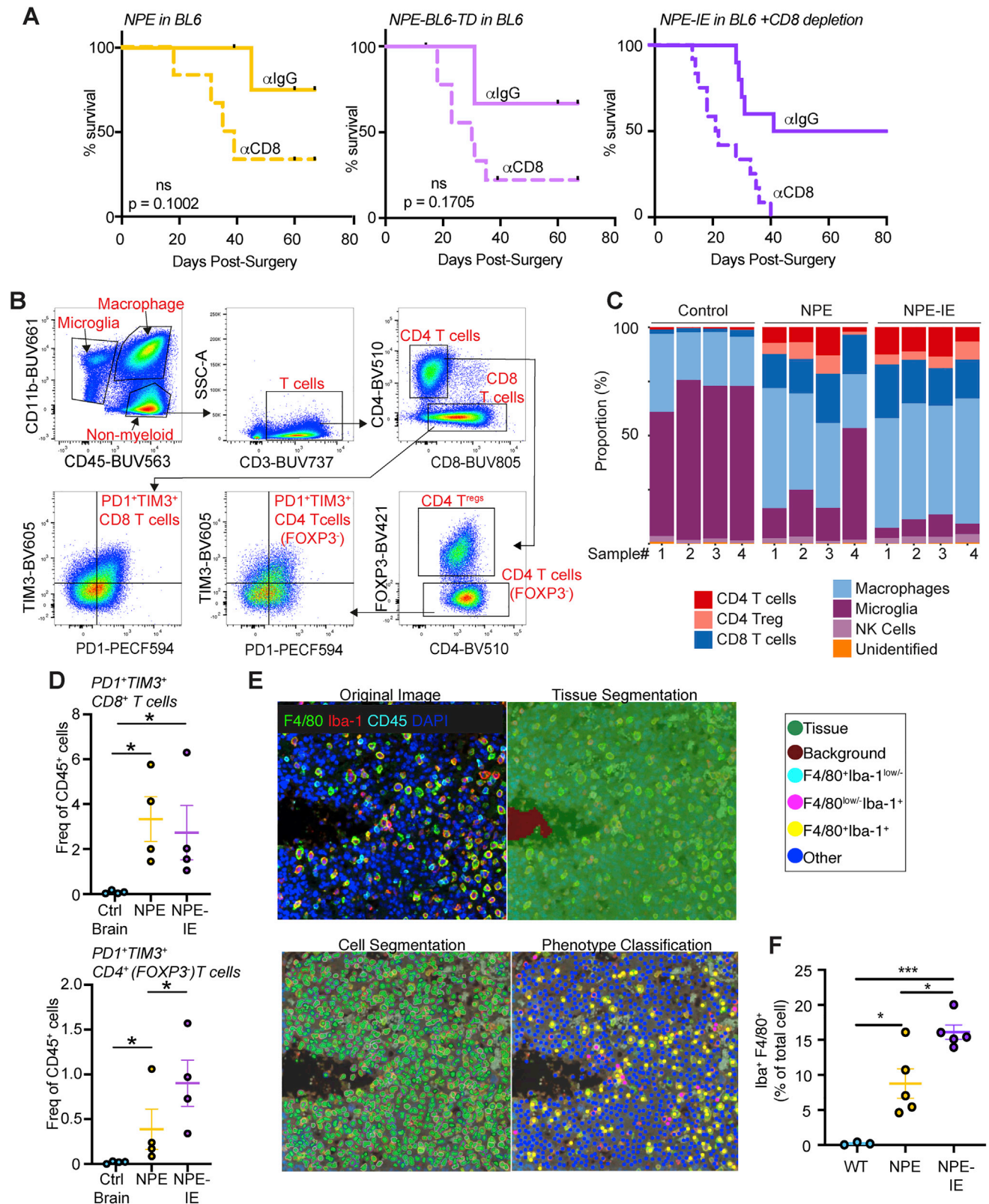
Supplemental figures



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Figure S1. Engineering GBM driver mutations in adult mouse neural stem cells to create GBM initiating cell lines, related to Figure 1 and Table S1

- (A) Immunoblots of EGFRvIII (left panel) and PDGFR α (right panel) overexpression in NSCs following transfection with the PB-Transposon plasmids.
- (B) PCR genotyping of clonal *Pten* Knock-Out (KO) lines to confirm successful gene targeting.
- (C) Immunoblot of *Pten* KO NSC lines confirms loss of PTEN protein expression.
- (D) PCR genotyping of clonal *Nf1* KO lines to confirm successful gene targeting.
- (E) Immunoblot of *Nf1* KO NSC lines confirms loss of NF1 protein expression.
- (F) PCR genotyping of clonal *Trp53* KO lines to confirm successful gene targeting.
- (G) ICC analysis of *Trp53* KO clones confirms loss of TRP53 expression, scale bar = 20 μ m.
- (H) CRISPR KO of *Pten*, *Nf1* and *Trp53* in NSCs does not affect the expression of the common NSC markers Nestin or SOX2, or the ability of NSCs to respond to differentiation cues (growth factor withdrawal and/or BMP addition), scale bar = 20 μ m.
- (I) Orthotopic transplantation of NP cells into NOD-scid-gamma (NSG) mice provides a premalignant model (whole brain live imaging shown; top, GFP; bottom, overlay of GFP and brightfield (BF), representative images of n = 5 mice).
- (J) Immunoblots of the GBM driver mutations (NF1, PTEN and EGFRvIII) in engineered NPE-Mx (multiplex) NSCs.
- (K) *Top*: Orthotopic transplantation of NPE-Mx cells leads to tumour formation in NSG mice (whole brain live imaging shown; top, GFP; bottom, overlay of GFP and brightfield (BF)). *Bottom*: Survival curve of NSG mice orthotopically transplanted with NPE-Mx cells (n = 3 mice).
- (L) Immunoblots of NF1, PTEN, and EGFR expression in NPE-Mx-TD (tumour-derived) polyclonal and clonal lines versus parental NSCs.
- (M) Immunoblot of PDGFR α and PTEN in PPP NSCs.
- (N) ICC confirming reduction of TRP53 expression in PPP cells versus parental NSCs (left panel) and quantification of *Trp53*-expressing cells by ICC (right panel; student's t-test *** p \leq 0.001, error bars represent SEM), scale bar = 20 μ m.
- (O) ICC of PPP mutant NSC lines for NSC markers (Sox2, Nestin) in self-renewing, EGF/FGF containing media and differentiation markers (GFAP, Tuj1) in differentiation conditions (BMP or -EGF/-FGF), scale bar = 20 μ m.
- (P) Bioluminescent IVIS imaging of PPP tumour progression *in vivo* in NSG and BL6 recipients. Number of days post-surgery is noted above each image.
- (Q) Survival curve of NSG (n = 4) and BL6 (n = 15) mice transplanted with PPP cells
- (R) Flow cytometric analysis of the NPE-BL6-TD cells confirms that no CD45+ cells are detectable *in vitro* as compared to unstained NPE-BL6-TD and bone marrow-derived cells.
- (S) Quantification of tumour incidence in NSG and BL6 mice transplanted with NPE, NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE cell lines. Numbers above bars denote actual tumour occurrence in all transplants.
- (T) Confluence analysis of NPE and NPE-IE cells indicates no significant difference in proliferation rates (p = 0.2888).
- (U) Karyotyping of parental subsequently engineered NSCs (>10 cell spreads counted per cell line, bars represent the mean value, error bars represent SEM, dots represent individual counts).



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Figure S2. Immune profiling of NPE and NPE-IE tumors reveals recapitulation of human disease and dynamic immune populations, related to Figure 2

(A) Survival analysis of BL6 mice orthotopically injected with NPE (left), NPE-BL6-TD (center) or NPE-IE (right) cells and subjected to IP injection of anti-CD8 or isotype matched control (IgG2b). NPE: $n = 6$ mice + α CD8, $n = 5$ mice + α IgG2b; $p = 0.1002$. NPE-BL6-TD: $n = 6$ mice + α CD8, $n = 4$ mice + α IgG2b; $p = 0.1705$. NPE-IE: $n = 12$ + α CD8, $n = 10$ + α IgG2b; $p = 0.0171$).

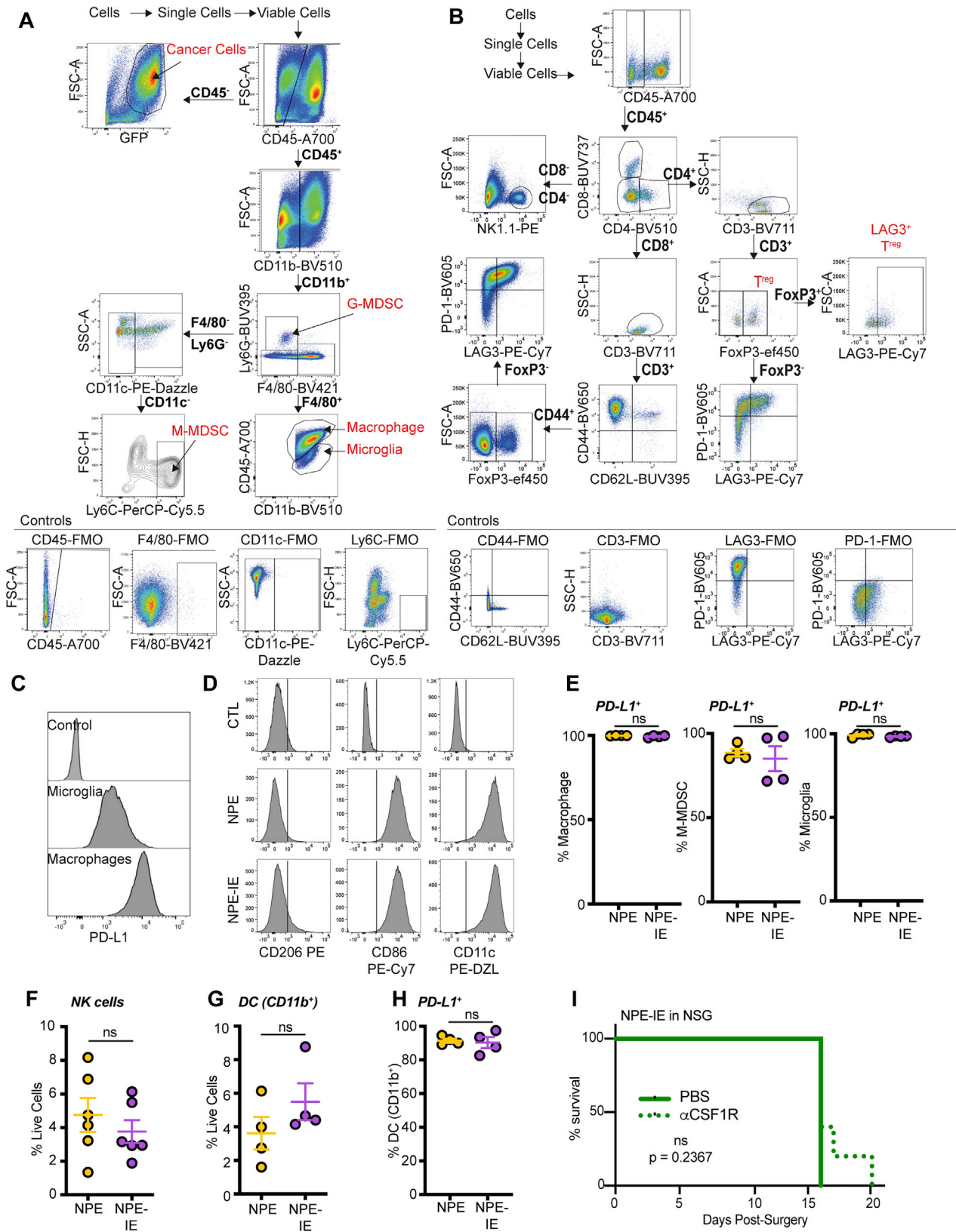
(B) Example gating strategy to determine immune cell populations in normal and tumor-burdened whole brains.

(C) Quantification of the proportions of major immune cell populations in normal whole brains and tumor-burdened brains.

(D) Quantification of PD1⁺ TIM3⁺ CD4 and CD8 T cells in whole brains of non-transplanted BL6 mice versus those with tumors from transplanted NPE or NPE-IE cells; $n = 4$ brains analyzed for each condition.

(E) Representative images of cell classification training used for macrophage quantification in NPE/NPE-IE fluorescent IHC images.

(F) Quantification of Iba1⁺ F4/80⁺ macrophage populations as fraction of the total cell population (right). p values calculated with one-way ANOVA, $n = 3 - 5$ brains from each condition analyzed.



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Figure S3. Immune evasive NPE-IE tumors possess a highly immunosuppressive TME, related to Figure 3

(A) & (B) Gating strategy to define myeloid (A) and lymphoid (B) populations in NPE and NPE-IE tumors.

(C) Representative histograms of PD-L1 expression on microglia and macrophages in NPE-IE tumors (linked to [Figure 3E](#)). Control represents fully stained sample minus anti-PD-L1 antibody.

(D) Representative histograms of CD206, CD86 and CD11c expression on macrophages from NPE and NPE-IE tumors. Data derived from 3 tumors randomly down sampled for 50,000 live cells each. Control represents fully stained sample minus either anti-CD206, anti-CD86 or anti-CD11c antibodies.

(E) Flow cytometry quantification of the frequency of macrophages, M-MDSC and microglia positive for expression of PD-L1

(F) Flow cytometry quantification of the frequency of NK cells as a percentage of live cells.

(G) Flow cytometry quantification of the frequency of CD11b⁺ DCs as a percentage of live cells.

(H) Flow cytometry quantification of CD11b⁺ DCs positive for expression of PD-L1.

(I) Survival analysis of NSG mice orthotopically injected with NPE-IE cells subjected to IP injection of aCSF-1R or PBS (n = 5 mice + aCSF-1R; n = 3 mice + PBS; p = 0.2367).

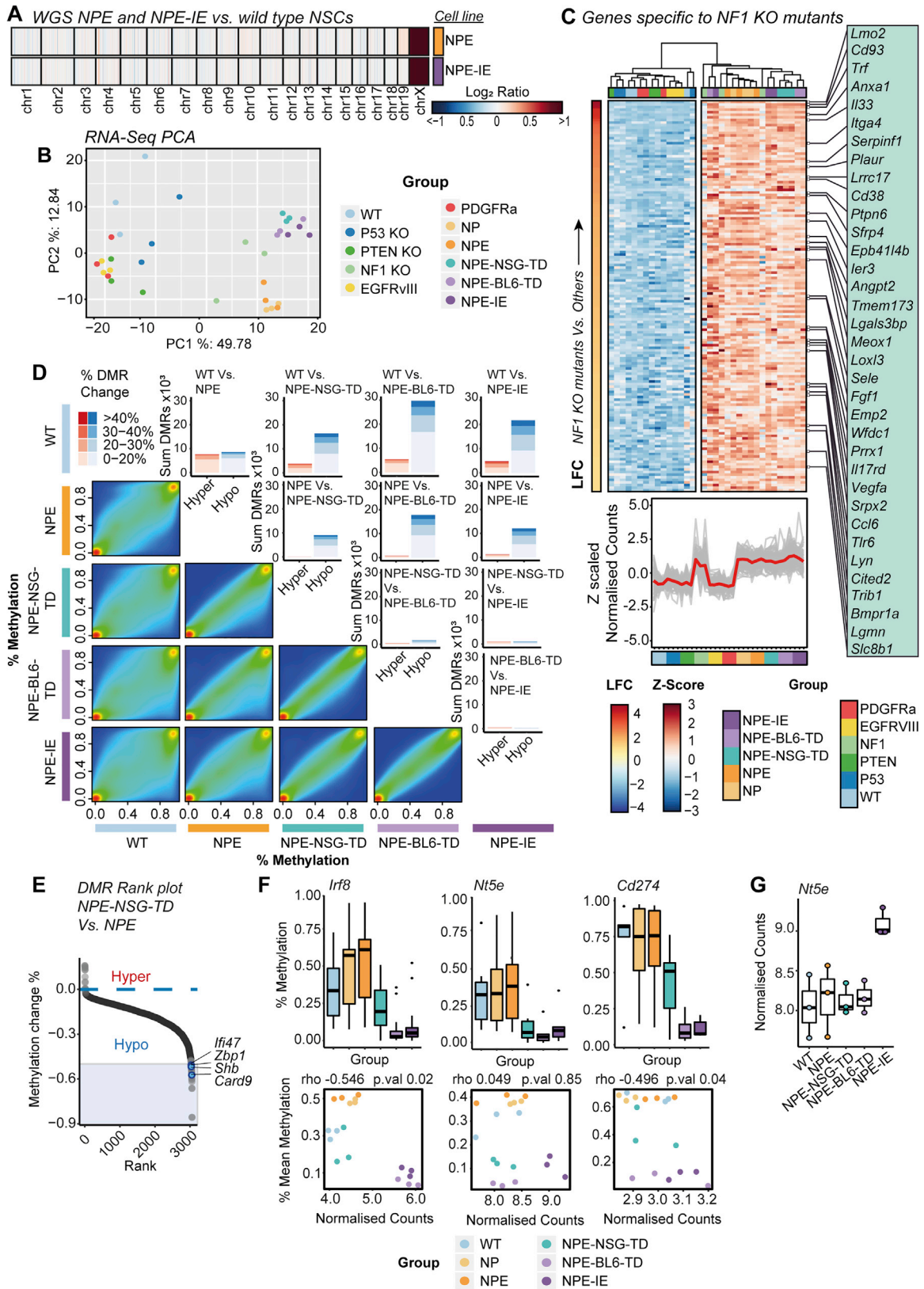


Figure S4. Transcriptional and epigenetic reconfiguration occurs across mouse samples, with DNA hypomethylation occurring at key immune-associated genes, related to Figures 4 and 5

(A) WGS copy number heatmap of \log_2 ratios of coverage for NPE and NPE-IE lines demonstrates genetic stability of mouse lines (gain of chrX evident as CNVs were called against male reference).

(B) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of RNA-seq data (top 500 most variable genes) for all cell line samples.

(C) Heatmap of Z-scaled normalized counts for genes specific to all cell lines engineered with *Nf1* loss ordered by \log_2 fold change (NF1 KO samples Vs. all others) (*top*). Z-scaled normalized counts of specific genes shown in heatmap across all mutants (Red trend line indicates mean Z-scaled expression) (*bottom*).

(D) Pairwise comparisons of CpG methylation changes between lines (excluding NP double mutant) as density scatterplots, and DMR bar plots – highlighting the predominant hypomethylation within tumor derived samples.

(E) Rank plots of promoter DMRs (\pm 2kb TSS) displaying hypomethylation in NPE-NSG-TD lines versus NPE samples (DMRs with > 50% methylation loss, overlapping genes within immune and interferon GO terms are highlighted in blue).

(F) Promoter DMR methylation (%) across lines for *Irf8*, *Nt5e* and *Cd274*, genes (*top*), and correlation with RNA-seq normalized counts (*bottom*) (SCC, and p value reported).

(G) RNA-seq normalized counts of *Nt5e* across analyzed lines.

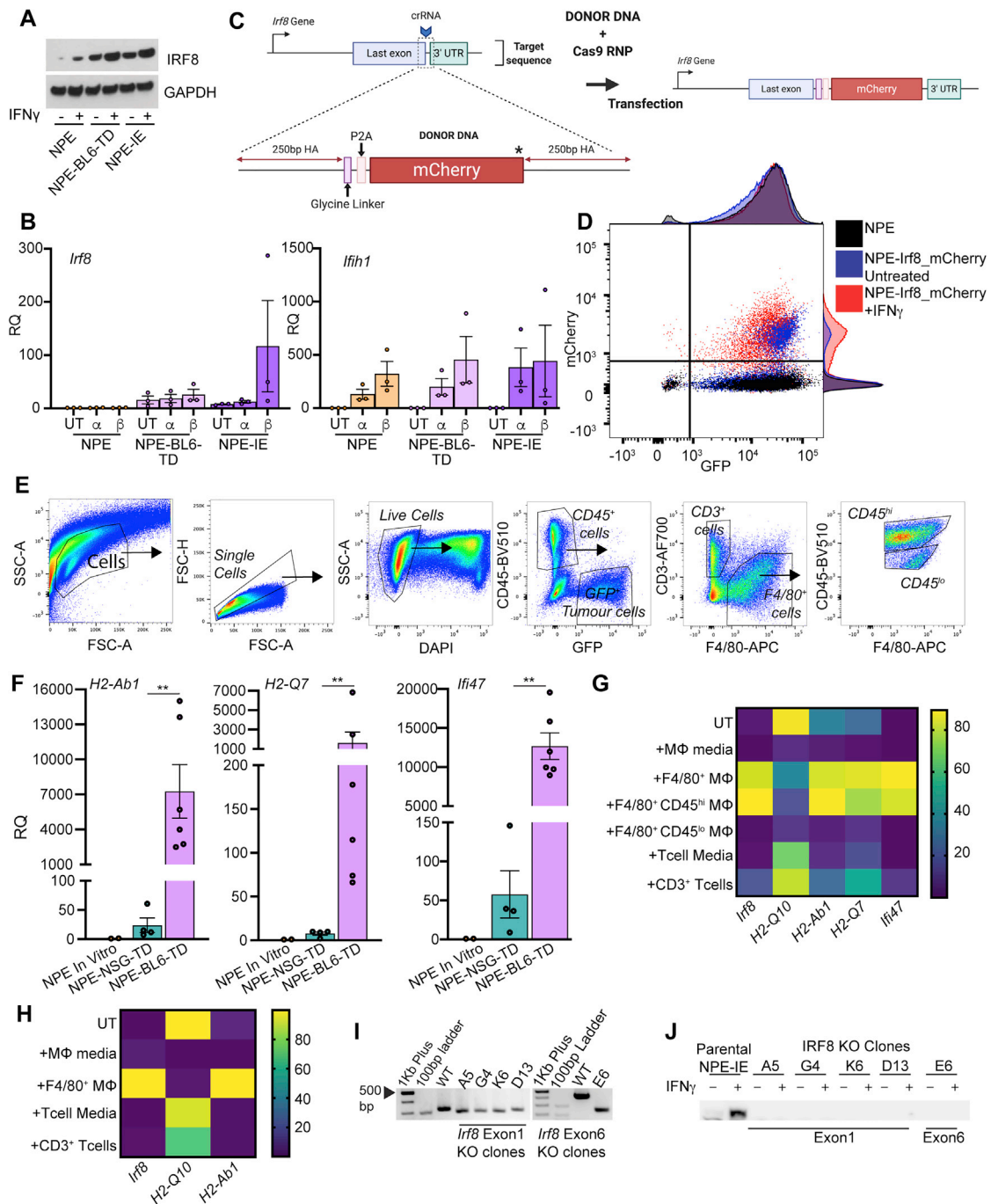


Figure S5. *Irf8* is responsive to IFN γ and TAMs in NPE and PPP cells *in vitro* and is important for immune evasion, related to Figure 6
 (A) Immunoblot analysis of *Irf8* expression in NPE cells and subsequently tumor-derived lines with and without *in vitro* IFN γ treatment (representative of n = 3 experiments).
 (B) RT-qPCR analysis of *Irf8* (left) and *Ifih1* (right, confirms stimulation of IFN signaling) expression in untreated (UT) NPE, NPE-BL6-TD and NPE-IE cells versus *in vitro* treatment with IFN α / β (a, b, respectively). Error bars represent SEM, RQ (relative quantification) relative to NPE untreated conditions.
 (C) Schematic of *Irf8*-mCherry reporter design.
 (D) Flow cytometric analysis of mCherry expression in NPE-Irf8-mCherry reporter lines \pm IFN γ treatment versus Parental NPE lines with adjunct histograms showing population distributions.
 (E) Gating strategy employed to isolate GFP $^{+}$ tumor cells, CD45 $^{+}$ CD3 $^{+}$ T cells and CD45 $^{hi/lo}$ F4/80 $^{+}$ myeloid cells from NPE tumors in NSG or BL6 host mice. Related to Figure 6E.

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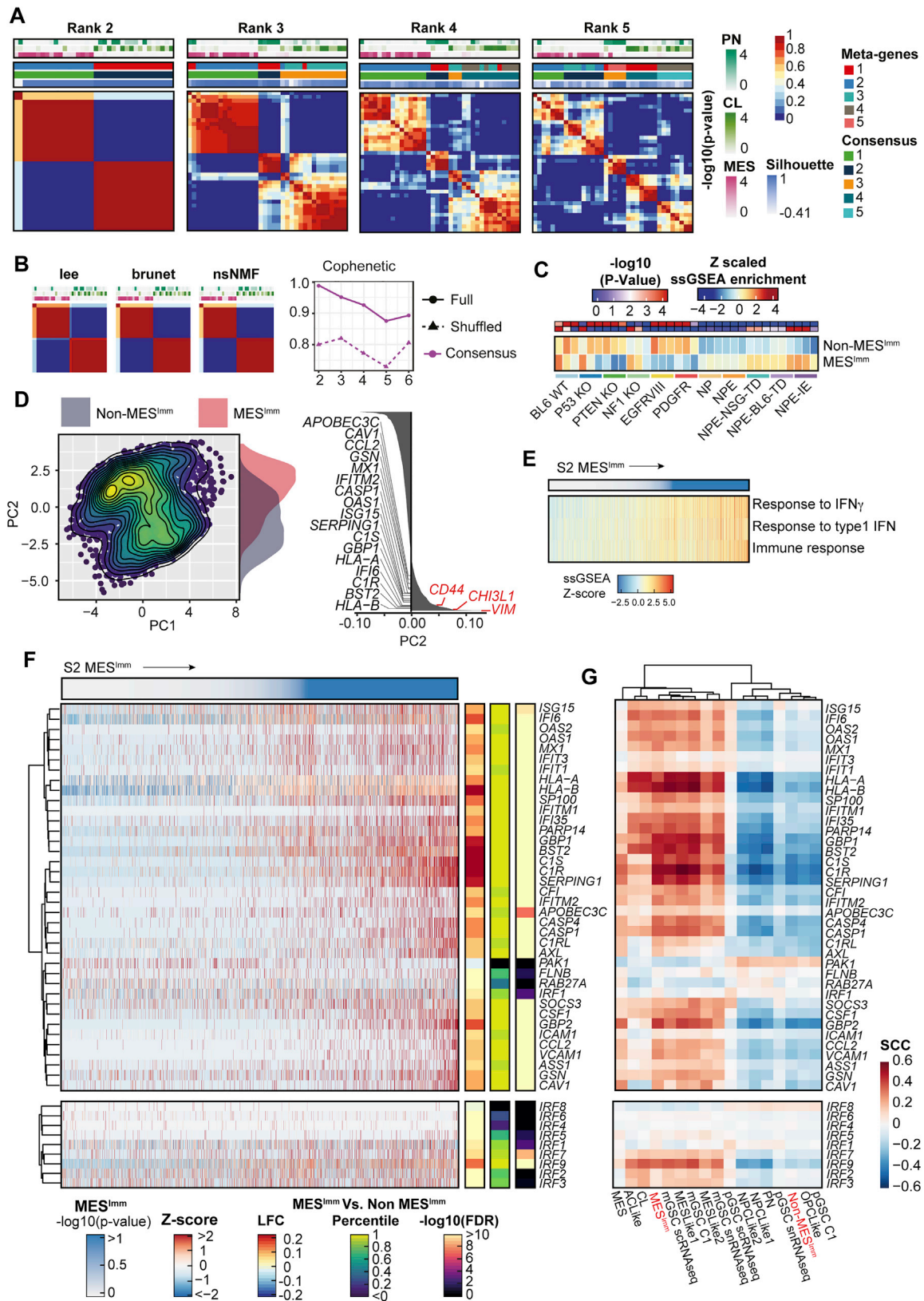
(F) RT-qPCR analysis of selected target gene expression (*H2-Ab1*, *H2-Q7* and *Ifi47*) in 'immune naive' NPE cells *in vitro* compared with cells derived directly from NPE tumors in NSG and BL6 hosts. Each point represents technical duplicates of cells isolated from individual animals. Related to [Figure 6E](#)

(G) Heatmap illustrating expression levels of selected target gene expression (*Irf8*, *H2-Q10*, *H2-Ab1*, *H2-Q7* and *Ifi47*) in untreated NPE cells versus those co-cultured with NPE tumor-derived immune populations *in vitro*. Gene expression was determined by RT-qPCR and is displayed as normalized expression values from technical duplicates of $n = 3$ biological replicates, related to [Figure 6G](#).

(H) Heatmap illustrating expression levels of selected target gene expression (*Irf8*, *H2-Q10* and *H2-Ab1*) in untreated PPP cells versus those co-cultured with NPE tumor-derived immune populations *in vitro*. Gene expression was determined by RT-qPCR and is displayed as normalized expression values from technical duplicates of $n = 3$ biological replicates.

(I) PCR genotyping of *Irf8* locus in NPE-IE lines versus clonally derived NPE-IE *Irf8* KO lines confirms successful gene targeting.

(J) Immunoblot of IRF8 expression in NPE-IE lines in the presence or absence of $\text{IFN}\gamma$ treatment *in vitro*.



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Figure S6. Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF) of bulk RNA-seq in patient-derived GSCs identifies two distinct subtypes, related to Figure 7

(A) NMF of bulk RNA-seq highlights two predominant subgroups within patient-derived GBM GSCs. Consensus matrices for each NMF model across different ranks, or number of considered meta-gene modules (Metagenes, Consensus cluster assignment, Silhouette score to assess cluster quality, $-\log_{10}$ p values for Verhaak subtypes, and average connectivity across runs, are reported).

(B) Consensus matrices for different algorithms of rank 2 highlight stability across approaches (*left*). Cophenetic score computed for each number of considered meta-genes (dotted line represents random data), highlight two subgroups as optimal (*right*).

(C) Heatmap of ssGSEA enrichment for MES^{Imm} signature across engineered mouse cell lines ($-\log_{10}$ p values (Red/Blue), and ssGSEA enrichment (red/yellow/blue) are reported).

(D) PCA of publicly available scRNA-seq data of adult GBM cells (Neftei et al., 2019). Separation along PC2 is associated with IFN signaling genes (highlighted in black), and mesenchymal subtype genes (*CD44*, *CHI3L1*, and *VIM* highlighted in red).

(E) scRNA-seq ssGSEA enrichment for select immune GO terms across adult GBM cells ordered by MES^{Imm} subtype p value.

(F) Heatmap of Z-score TPM scRNA-seq of adult GBM cells for IFN genes highlighted in Figure 7B (*top*), and IRF family members (*bottom*), ordered by MES^{Imm} subtype p value. Differential expression between MES^{Imm} and Non- MES^{Imm} samples \log_2 fold change, percentile of effect size, and adjusted p values are reported.

(G) Heatmap of Spearman's rank correlation coefficient for gene sets from (S6F) with previously published subtypes (Non- MES^{Imm} , MES^{Imm} highlighted in red).

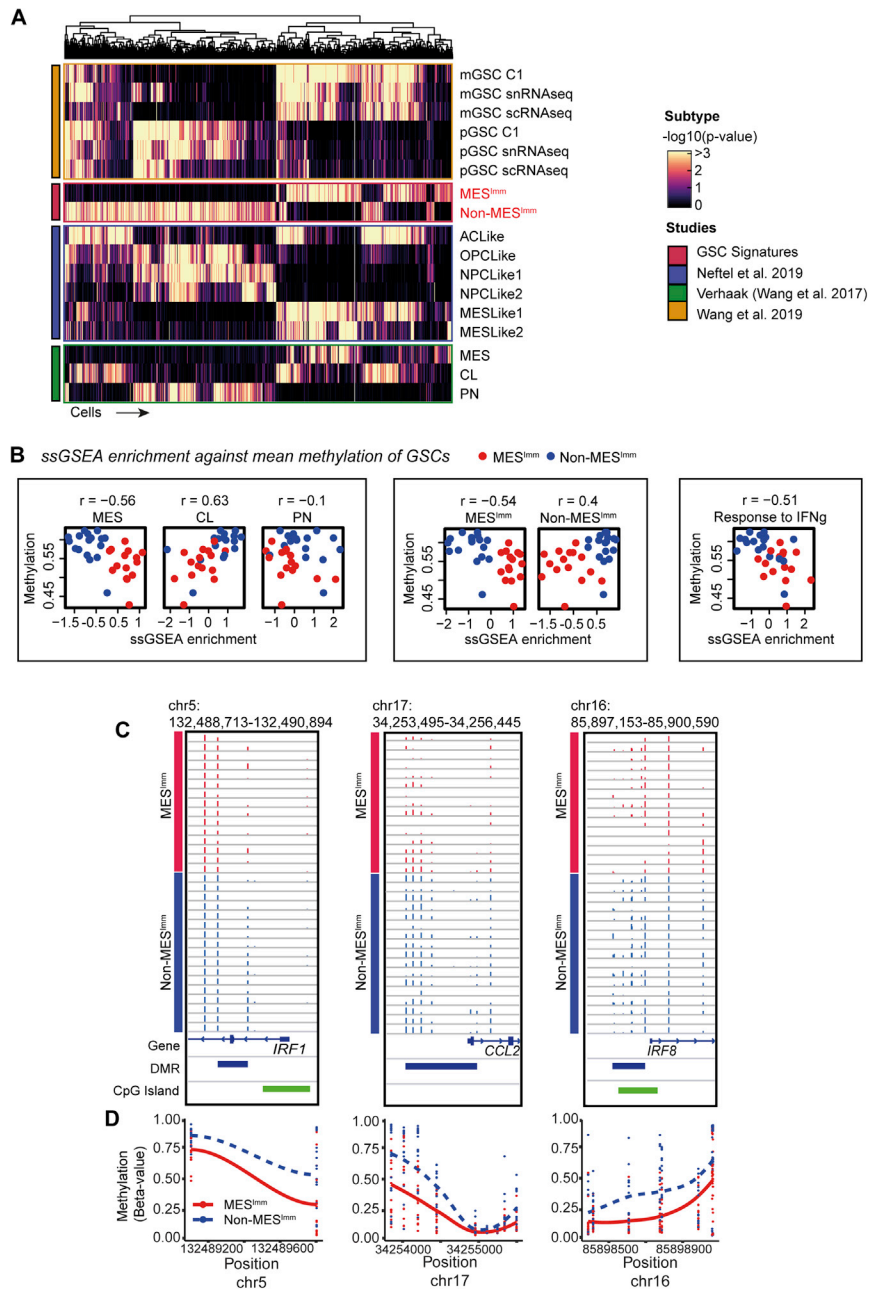


Figure S7. Comparison of the MES^{Imm} subtype with published subtypes across single cell data—with hypomethylation evident in MES^{Imm} samples, related to Figure 7

(A) Heatmap of $-\log_{10}$ ssGSEA p values for subtypes across single cell RNA-seq cohort (Nefel et al., 2019).

(B) Scatterplot of ssGSEA enrichment scores and mean methylation (beta-values) for each sample (red: MES^{Imm} , blue: Non- MES^{Imm}), with correlation coefficients reported.

(C) Genome tracks of key DMRs for *IRF1*, *CCL2*, and *IRF8* (red: MES^{Imm} , blue: Non- MES^{Imm}).

(D) Methylation (beta-value) at each CpG site within each corresponding DMR (trend lines denote LOESS curves).