

1 **In vitro exposure of leukocytes to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) decreases**  
2 **mitochondrial function and alters gene expression profiles.**

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15 Running Title: PrEP alters immune cell function

16

17 Keywords: pre-exposure prophylaxis, mitochondrial dysfunction, leukocytes, lipids,  
18 inflammation, human immunodeficiency virus

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28 Total Word Count: 4250

29 Total Abstract Count: 250

- 30 Number of Inserts: 7 Figures, 4 Supplemental Figures and Tables
- 31 Number of References: 57

32 **Abstract**

33 **Background:** The use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an  
34 effective strategy for preventing HIV acquisition. The cellular consequences of PrEP exposure,  
35 however, have not been sufficiently explored to determine potential effects on health in  
36 individuals without HIV.

37 **Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from people without HIV were exposed  
38 to tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) or emtricitabine (FTC) overnight. Mitochondrial mass and  
39 function were measured by flow cytometry and Agilent XFp analyzer. Monocyte-derived  
40 macrophages (MDMs) were differentiated in 20% autologous serum for 5 days in the presence  
41 or absence of TDF or FTC, and surface markers, lipid uptake, and efferocytosis were measured  
42 by flow cytometry. MDM gene expression was measured using RNAseq. Plasma lipids were  
43 measured using mass spectrometry.

44 **Results:** PBMCs exposed to TDF or FTC had decreased maximal oxygen consumption rate  
45 (OCR) and reduced mitochondrial mass. Exposure to PrEP also increased reactive oxygen  
46 species (ROS) production from monocyte subsets. Compared to MDMs cultured in medium  
47 alone, cells differentiated in the presence of TDF (829 genes) or FTC (888) genes had  
48 significant changes in gene expression. Further, PrEP-exposed MDMs had decreased  
49 mitochondrial mass, and displayed increased lipid uptake and reduced efferocytosis. Plasma  
50 biomarkers and lipid levels were also altered *in vivo* in individuals receiving a PrEP regimen.

51 **Conclusions:** Exposure of leukocytes to TDF or FTC resulted in decreased mitochondrial  
52 function, and altered functional and transcriptional profiles. These findings may have important  
53 implications for the metabolic and immunologic consequences of PrEP in populations at risk for  
54 HIV acquisition.

55

## 56 Introduction

57 Eradication of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a global priority, and use of pre-  
58 exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to limit acquisition of new infections is an important strategy to  
59 achieve this goal(1). PrEP is effective at preventing HIV transmission(2), but exposure to  
60 antiretroviral therapy (ART) is not without consequences. Few studies, however, have  
61 investigated the potential off-target effects of PrEP use in people without HIV. The main FDA-  
62 approved form of PrEP is co-formulated tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) and emtricitabine  
63 (FTC) (Truvada®) taken once daily. Previous work has demonstrated that ART drugs, including  
64 nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), can decrease mitochondrial function(3, 4).  
65 Newer NRTIs, including TDF and FTC, are likely less toxic to mitochondria than older drugs  
66 (e.g. stavudine, didanosine), but TDF and FTC may also induce mitochondrial dysfunction,  
67 potentially through inhibition of mitochondrial DNA polymerase- $\gamma$  and subsequent decreases in  
68 mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) content and respiratory chain function(4-6). Mitochondrial  
69 dysfunction may result in changes in fatty acid oxidation (FAO)(7) and adipokine levels(8),  
70 thereby contributing to adipose tissue dysfunction and circulating lipid profile disturbances, and  
71 plausibly to increased cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk. Mitochondrial dysfunction may also  
72 contribute to local and systemic inflammation through mechanisms related to reactive oxygen  
73 species (ROS) production, NF $\kappa$ B signaling, and inflammasome activation(9). Many of the  
74 current studies exploring the effects of ART drugs on cellular mitochondrial function or lipid  
75 profiles are performed in people with HIV (PWH), and the inflammatory, immunologic, and  
76 metabolic complications associated with the complex pathophysiologic disturbances of HIV  
77 infection likely complicate the measurement of the direct effects of ART drugs on cellular  
78 function.

79 Here, we explore the potential functional and phenotypic consequences of *in vitro*  
80 exposure of TDF and FTC on peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs). We also evaluated

81 alterations in lipid profiles and plasma inflammatory biomarkers in a convenience cohort of  
82 people initiating PrEP. Our work suggests that exposure of immune cells to PrEP drugs could  
83 have unintended adverse effects on cellular function that may contribute to altered innate  
84 immune responses and, potentially, cardiometabolic risk in some populations. Although the  
85 risk-benefit tradeoff of using PrEP versus acquisition of HIV undoubtedly favors prevention at  
86 the population level, exploring the consequences of PrEP exposure on immune response and  
87 metabolism is important to individualizing care.

88

## 89 **Results**

90

### 91 **PrEP exposure decreases mitochondrial respiration**

92 To assess the effects of PrEP exposure on mitochondrial function, we obtained PBMCs  
93 from people without HIV and incubated these cells overnight with FTC or TDF, and measured  
94 real-time mitochondrial oxygen consumption rate (OCR) in live cells. Subsequent injections of  
95 oligomycin (ATP synthase inhibitor), carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy) phenylhydrazone  
96 (FCCP) (mitochondrial uncoupler), and rotenone/antimycin A (complex I and II inhibitors) were  
97 used to assess mitochondrial basal and maximum respiration, spare respiratory capacity, ATP  
98 production, proton leak, and non-mitochondrial respiration (**Fig. 1A,B**) (10, 11). FCCP-induced  
99 maximal OCR and spare respiratory capacity, an indicator of a cell's ability to respond to  
100 energetic demand, were significantly decreased in PBMCs exposed to FTC and TDF, indicating  
101 mitochondrial dysfunction in PrEP-treated cells (**Fig. 1C**). We did not detect significant  
102 differences in measures of basal respiration, proton leak, or ATP-linked respiration in cells left  
103 unstimulated versus cells exposed to PrEP drugs. Although not significantly different among  
104 treatment groups, cells exposed to FTC and TDF tended to have reduced non-mitochondrial  
105 respiration levels (**Fig. 1C**). Overall, oxygen consumption rate kinetics were decreased in PrEP-  
106 treated PBMCs (**Fig.1B**).

107 We next asked whether PrEP exposure was sufficient to alter mitochondrial mass, as  
108 changes in mitochondrial content may affect cellular respiration(12). PBMCs were stained with  
109 MitoTracker Green, a green-fluorescent stain that localizes to mitochondria in live cells  
110 regardless of mitochondrial membrane potential. Monocytes exposed to TDF, and CD4+ and  
111 CD8+ T cells exposed overnight to FTC and TDF had significantly reduced mitochondrial mass,  
112 as assessed by MitoTracker Green staining (**Fig. 2A,B**). Monocyte-derived macrophages  
113 (MDMs) differentiated for 5 days in the presence of FTC and TDF also had reduced  
114 mitochondrial content compared to untreated cells (**Fig. 2A**). Altered mitochondrial function and  
115 morphology may lead to increased ROS production, further exacerbating oxidative stress(13).  
116 We detected significantly increased levels of intracellular ROS production in monocyte subsets  
117 exposed to FTC and TDF in whole blood directly *ex vivo* (**Fig. 2C**).

118

#### 119 **PrEP exposure increases lipid uptake by MDMs**

120 To examine the consequences of PrEP exposure on macrophage phenotype and  
121 function, MDMs from participants without HIV were differentiated for 5 days in autologous serum  
122 in the presence of FTC and TDF. Intracellular lipid accumulation was increased in MDMs  
123 differentiated in the presence of both FTC and TDF (**Fig. 3A**). Consistent with alterations in lipid  
124 uptake, surface expression of lipid-binding scavenger receptors, CD36 and scavenger receptor-  
125 A (SR-A), was increased on MDMs differentiated in the presence of PrEP drugs.

126 ART use in PWH has been previously linked to dyslipidemia and altered lipid processing  
127 (14), however, the metabolic consequences of using ART for PrEP are unclear. MDMs  
128 obtained from people without HIV and differentiated in serum pooled from people without HIV,  
129 PWH on ART, or ART-naïve PWH displayed different patterns of lipid accumulation. MDMs  
130 differentiated in pooled serum from PWH on ART displayed significantly more intracellular lipid  
131 accumulation than MDMs differentiated in either serum pooled from people without HIV or ART-

132 naïve PWH. These findings may suggest that ART exposure could have adverse metabolic  
133 consequences *in vivo* in people with and without HIV.

134

#### 135 **Transcriptional profiles are altered in MDMs differentiated in the presence of PrEP**

136 When compared to untreated MDMs, MDM differentiation in the presence of FTC and  
137 TDF resulted in distinct transcriptional profiles. We identified 888 differentially expressed genes  
138 (DEGs) in FTC-treated MDMs, and 829 DEGs in TDF-treated MDMs compared to gene  
139 expression in the control group. Additionally, we identified 568 DEGs comparing FTC and TDF  
140 treatment groups, indicating significant divergent effects of each drug on MDM transcript  
141 profiles. The top 50 DEGs for each treatment comparison are visualized as heatmaps in **Figure**  
142 **4**. PrEP exposure altered numerous signaling pathways associated with mitochondrial  
143 dysfunction, inflammatory signaling, and lipid processing (**Supplemental Figure 1**). We  
144 identified differential expression of mitochondrial subunit genes (COX5A/B; COX6A1; NDUF9;  
145 NDUF12) and multiple genes involved in inflammation and immune responses (CCL3; CCR7;  
146 CXCL3; CXCR4; STAT2; MYD88; NLRP3; SOCS6; SOD2; ADORA1; CD48). We also found  
147 altered expression of numerous histone genes (e.g. HIST1H4; HIST2H2A; HIST2H2B;  
148 HIST1H3F; HIST1H1E) and genes involved in chromatin/nucleosome structure (e.g. NDC80;  
149 PRC1; CCNF; CCNB1; NUSAP1). A complete list of significantly altered genes among our  
150 treatment groups is provided in **Supplemental Table 1**. Network analysis revealed highly  
151 interconnected clusters of these histone and chromatin-related genes differentially expressed in  
152 MDMs exposed to PrEP (**Figure 5**).

153 MDMs differentiated in the presence of PrEP also displayed reduced expression of  
154 MERTK, a gene encoding a receptor that mediates engulfment and clearance of apoptotic  
155 cells(15). Clearance of apoptotic cells, or efferocytosis, by macrophages is important to inhibit  
156 inflammation and necrotic core formation in atherosclerotic plaques, and this mechanism is  
157 impaired in advanced atherosclerosis(16, 17). Decreased efferocytosis may also underlie

158 inflammation and tissue damage in other sites when apoptotic cells are inefficiently cleared and  
159 secondary necrosis occurs (18). To determine whether PrEP exposure altered efferocytosis  
160 capacity of MDMs, we incubated MDMs with apoptotic Jurkat cells labeled with a pH-sensitive  
161 fluorescent dye to assess phagocytic uptake by MDMs. MDMs differentiated in the presence of  
162 FTC and TDF displayed significantly less efferocytosis than control MDMs (**Fig. 6A,B**).

163

#### 164 **Lipids and inflammatory plasma biomarker levels are altered in individuals after initiating** 165 **PrEP**

166 To begin exploring *in vivo* consequences of PrEP use, we collected plasma from a  
167 convenience sampling of individuals before and after initiating a PrEP regimen (N=27; median=  
168 7 months PrEP; mean= 9 months PrEP; range= 1.7 months – 2.6 years). Several plasma  
169 biomarkers were altered in the time period following PrEP initiation, including increased  
170 sVCAM1 and adiponectin levels (**Figure 7A**). Additionally, plasma levels of sVCAM1 were  
171 directly associated with adiponectin levels (**Supplemental Figure 2**). We also observed  
172 increased levels of intestinal fatty acid binding protein (I-FABP) that approached statistical  
173 significance. Further, LPS-binding protein (LBP) plasma levels were directly associated with  
174 sCD14, sTNFR1, and sTNFR2, and Zonulin plasma levels were directly associated with OxLDL  
175 in individuals after initiating PrEP (**Supplemental Figure 2**). Duration of PrEP use was directly  
176 associated with plasma CRP levels (**Supplemental Figure 2**). *In vitro* exposure of human  
177 aortic endothelial cells (HAECs) to FTC and TDF resulted in increased levels of VCAM-1  
178 mRNA, supporting our observation of increased plasma VCAM-1 in PrEP users (**Supplemental**  
179 **Figure 3**).

180 ART exposure contributes to altered lipid profiles in PWH, however the consequences of  
181 ART exposure on lipidomes of people without HIV have not been adequately explored.  
182 Lipidomic analyses on plasma samples from a subset individuals before and after PrEP  
183 exposure (N=15) demonstrated significantly increased concentrations of lipid species



184 PC(18:2/22:5), FFA(22:5), LCER(14:0), and DAG(16:1/22:6) following PrEP use ( $p < 0.05$  for all)  
185 (data not shown). We also observed increased total concentration of the hexosylceramide  
186 (HCER) lipid class (**Figure 7B**), and increased levels of the HCER lipid species HCER(16:0),  
187 HCER(20:0), HCER(24:0), and HCER(24:1) in individuals taking PrEP ( $p < 0.05$  for all) (**Figure**  
188 **7C**).

189

## 190 Discussion

191 Much of the current knowledge regarding consequences of ART exposure was gained  
192 from studies in PWH. Suppressive ART significantly increases lifespans of PWH, but ART use  
193 can also alter metabolic profiles(19, 20) and contribute to CVD risk(21-25). ART initiation is  
194 associated with reduced systemic inflammation in PWH, although levels are often not reduced  
195 to levels observed in people without HIV(26). Persistent inflammation in PWH may be driven, at  
196 least in part, by ART's adverse effects on mitochondrial function(9). The immunologic  
197 consequences of ART use for PrEP in people without HIV have not been well characterized,  
198 however, initial studies have reported declines in kidney function and bone mineral density with  
199 long-term PrEP use (27-30). A recent study examining ART-related mitochondrial toxicity in  
200 HIV-exposed individuals prescribed a post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) regimen, demonstrated  
201 mitochondrial toxicity after short-term ART use in the absence of HIV infection. Although PEP  
202 regimens using newer antiretrovirals, such as TDF + FTC, showed less mtDNA depletion than  
203 regimens that included AZT (31).

204 Here, we report several metabolic, transcriptional, and functional changes in immune  
205 cells following exposure to PrEP drugs. Overnight exposure to TDF or FTC resulted in overall  
206 decreased OCR in PBMCs, and significantly reduced maximal respiration and spare respiratory  
207 capacity. Further, exposure to TDF or FTC also resulted in decreased mitochondrial mass in  
208 monocytes and both CD4+ and CD8+ T cells, and increased ROS production from monocyte  
209 subsets. These findings demonstrate that exposure to TDF and FTC alters mitochondrial

210 function, potentially as a consequence of decreased mitochondrial mass. Previous work has  
211 shown that NRTI-mediated inhibition of DNA polymerase- $\gamma$  leads to depletion of mitochondrial  
212 DNA levels and accumulation of mtDNA mutations, and subsequently mitochondrial dysfunction  
213 and altered energy production (32). Previous reports have also demonstrated NRTIs, such as  
214 TDF, FTC, and zidovudine, can alter mitochondrial dNTP pools and impair mitochondrial DNA  
215 replication (33), and also affect mitochondrial function via alterations in cellular metabolism and  
216 oxidative stress. Our current report is supportive of these previous findings, and further study is  
217 warranted to elucidate mechanisms underlying TDF- and FTC-induced mitochondrial  
218 dysfunction observed *in vitro* (34, 35).

219 We specifically explored the effects of PrEP exposure on MDMs, as these cells have key  
220 mitochondrial-dependent effector functions in tissues and are important in the development and  
221 progression of CVD. Monocytes migrate from the blood into tissue sites, where they  
222 differentiate into macrophages exhibiting a broad phenotypic range, driven by stimuli in the  
223 microenvironment (36-40). Here, we demonstrate MDMs differentiated in the presence of TDF  
224 or FTC internalize more lipids and have a decreased capacity to internalize apoptotic cells  
225 (efferocytosis). PrEP exposure also increased expression of the innate/lipid receptors CD36  
226 and SR-A, providing one potential mechanism for enhanced lipid uptake. Interestingly, when  
227 MDMs from people without HIV were differentiated in the presence of serum pooled from PWH  
228 receiving a FTC/TDF/Raltegravir regimen, these cells displayed significantly increased  
229 intracellular lipid accumulation compared to MDMs differentiated in either pooled serum from  
230 people without HIV or pooled serum from ART-naïve PWH, despite the fact that sera from ART-  
231 naïve PWH typically contain high levels of inflammatory cytokines, microbial products, and HIV-  
232 1 itself (41-43). Our data would suggest the possibility that alterations in lipid uptake induced by  
233 factors in serum of PWH were more related to ART exposure than to the circulating pro-  
234 inflammatory cytokines. Further, exposure to TDF or FTC during MDM differentiation resulted  
235 in substantial changes in the transcriptional profiles of these cells. Expression of over 800

236 hundred genes were altered following exposure of MDMs to PrEP. Further, transcriptional  
237 network analyses demonstrated interconnected clusters of differentially expressed genes  
238 involved in mitochondrial dysfunction, immune regulation, and histone/chromatin modification.  
239 We also identified over 500 differentially expressed genes when comparing MDMs differentiated  
240 in either TDF or FTC, suggesting that although from the same class of ART, some of the  
241 mechanisms by which these drugs alter immune cell function are likely different. We did identify  
242 126 genes that were similarly altered among TDF and FTC exposed MDMs, including CCL3,  
243 CCR7, COX5B, RUNX2, and STAT2. These *in vitro* results demonstrate that exposure to PrEP  
244 drugs can alter the transcriptional, metabolic, and functional capacity of immune cells. Future  
245 studies should also examine differential immune response to infection in MDMs exposed to  
246 PrEP, as alterations in immune signaling cascades may have important implications for the  
247 recognition and response to bacterial and viral ligands.

248 We also measured *in vivo* changes in lipid levels in individuals who were initiating PrEP.  
249 Notably, total HCER levels, as well as concentrations of multiple HCER lipid species, were  
250 increased with PrEP use. Ceramides, including HCERs, have been previously linked to  
251 cardiometabolic complications and insulin resistance (44-48). Furthermore, HCERs (22:0; 24:0;  
252 24:1) were previously associated with hepatic inflammation and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in  
253 obese adults (49), and we observed increased concentrations of these HCER species following  
254 PrEP initiation. Further studies exploring the changes in the lipidomes of PrEP users and the  
255 metabolic complications of ART should be considered.

256 Plasma biomarkers were also altered with PrEP use. Levels of VCAM-1, adiponectin,  
257 and I-FABP were increased in plasma samples following PrEP exposure. *In vitro* exposure of  
258 primary human aortic endothelial cells to FTC and TDF similarly resulted in increased  
259 expression of VCAM-1. Increased circulating concentrations of endothelial activation markers,  
260 such as VCAM-1 have been described in PWH, and are linked to chronic immune activation. I-  
261 FABP levels are indicative of gut epithelial barrier integrity, and are linked to mortality in PWH

262 (50, 51), and gastrointestinal side effects associated with PrEP initiation have been described  
263 (52). Unique characteristics, specific to individual PrEP users in this cohort, including lifestyle  
264 factors, underlying comorbidities, and/or coinfections, may influence levels of inflammatory  
265 markers and their changes over time, and we did not have access to detailed medical record  
266 information from this cohort. The need for well-designed trials exploring the immunologic and  
267 metabolic consequences of ART use in people without HIV are underscored by our results and  
268 the recent findings by Korencak et al, which demonstrated that exposure of immune cells to  
269 different classes of ART drugs, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, resulted in changes in metabolic and  
270 functional signatures from these cells (35). Importantly, exposure to integrase inhibitors  
271 (dolutegravir and elvitegravir) resulted in decreased polyfunctionality of CD4+ T cells and  
272 instead promoted stress responses (increased TNF- $\alpha$  and ROS). In ART-treated women with  
273 HIV, monocyte mitochondrial and glycolytic dysfunction was associated with body composition  
274 (34), suggesting that future studies in PrEP users should also explore changes in body  
275 composition and mitochondrial function as well.

276 Exposure of immune cells to ART, as HIV-1 treatment or as PrEP, likely has important  
277 consequences on the metabolic and functional capacity of innate and adaptive immune cells,  
278 and may affect immune responses and cardiometabolic risk in both populations. The risk of  
279 taking PrEP versus the benefit of avoiding HIV acquisition clearly favors prevention, regardless  
280 of the off-target effects of ART exposure on immune cell function; yet, these findings merit  
281 further study to optimize PrEP methods. New PrEP formulations, including FTC and tenofovir  
282 alafenamide (DESCOVY®) and the long acting injectable PrEP cabotegravir are being  
283 administered for HIV prevention; the effects of these drugs on immune cells, the lipidome, and  
284 mitochondrial function should be explored (53). Further studies are needed to adequately  
285 understand the *in vivo* consequences of long-term PrEP exposure on immune cell mitochondrial  
286 function and gene expression, lipid metabolism, and risk for adverse health outcomes that may  
287 alter PrEP risk/benefit considerations.

288

289 **Materials and Methods**

290

291 **Sample collection**

292 Blood samples were collected in EDTA-containing vacutainer tubes (BD Biosciences) for  
293 PBMC isolation and whole blood stimulations. For serum collection, blood was drawn into  
294 serum separating tubes (SST, BD Biosciences) and centrifuged for 15 min at 800 x g. Study  
295 participants initiating PrEP (n=27) were enrolled at Case Western University following written  
296 informed consent. Longitudinal plasma samples were collected before and after initiation of  
297 PrEP (median= 7 months PrEP; mean= 9 months PrEP; range= 1.7 months – 2.6 years).

298

299 **PBMC isolation and cell culture**

300 PBMCs were freshly isolated from donors without HIV by centrifugation over Ficoll-  
301 Hypaque, and cultured in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% autologous serum. For  
302 differentiation of monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs), donor PBMCs ( $2 \times 10^6$ /mL) were  
303 cultured in Teflon wells (Savillex) for 5 days in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 20% autologous  
304 serum. On day 5, cells were removed from Teflon and MDMs were purified by adherence to  
305 plastic for 3 h. For MDM pooled serum experiments, PBMCs were isolated from donors without  
306 HIV (N=7) and differentiated in Teflon wells for 5 days in 20% serum pooled from donors without  
307 HIV, donors with HIV on ART (HIV-1 RNA <40 copies/mL), or ART-naïve donors with HIV.  
308 Human aortic endothelial cells (HAECs) were purchased from PromoCell, and grown in low  
309 serum endothelial cell growth medium with supplement mix (PromoCell).

310 Lyophilized FTC and TDF stocks were obtained from the AIDS-Reagent Repository, and  
311 solubilized in water. For *in vitro* PrEP experiments, PBMCs ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells/well) were exposed to  
312 FTC (1  $\mu$ M) and TDF (1  $\mu$ M) for 24 h, and monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) were  
313 differentiated for 5 days in the presence of FTC (0.1  $\mu$ M) and TDF (0.1  $\mu$ M). MDM morphology

13

314 had a healthier 'fried egg' appearance at the lower concentration of 0.1  $\mu$ M for the longer period  
315 of time (5 days), compared to the higher concentration of 1  $\mu$ M for the shorter period of time (24  
316 h) for PBMC experiments. Clinically relevant concentrations were selected based on initial dose  
317 response assays (54-56). Cells maintained ~100% viability until >1000  $\mu$ M drug exposure (24  
318 h).

319

### 320 **Flow cytometry**

321 Cells harvested from Teflon were washed and blocked in 10% human AB serum (Sigma)  
322 for 60 min. MDMs were then stained for 30 min in the dark on ice, washed, and fixed in 1%  
323 paraformaldehyde. Monocytes and MDMs were identified by granularity, size, and surface  
324 expression of CD14 and CD16 (anti-CD14 pacific blue and anti-CD16 PE, BD Pharmingen).  
325 MDM scavenger receptor expression was measured using anti-CD36 (APC) (BD Pharmingen)  
326 and anti-SR-A (CD204, FITC) (Miltenyi Biotec). T cells were identified by granularity, size, and  
327 surface expression of CD3 (APC), CD4 (pacific blue), and CD8 (PerCP) (BD Pharmingen for  
328 all). For analysis of mitochondrial mass, cells were stained with MitoTracker green (200 nM,  
329 ThermoFisher) for 30 min at 37°C. To evaluate intracellular lipid accumulation, MDMs were  
330 stained with 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL Bodipy 493/503 (Life Technologies) for 20 min in the dark at room  
331 temperature, and then analyzed by flow cytometry. Cells were analyzed using a Miltenyi  
332 MACSQuant Analyzer 10 flow cytometer, and MACSQuant analysis software. Statistical  
333 analysis was performed in GraphPad Prism 6, and paired t tests were used to compare flow  
334 cytometric data obtained from cells exposed to TDF or FTC and no drug controls.

335

### 336 **Measurement of intracellular reactive oxygen species**

337 CellROX Deep Red (ThermoFisher) is a cell permeable probe that exhibits  
338 excitation/emission maxima at ~640/665 upon oxidation by reactive oxygen species (ROS). To

339 measure ROS, whole blood from donors without HIV was exposed to FTC (1  $\mu$ M) or TDF (1  $\mu$ M)  
340 for 3 h, and then incubated with 5 $\mu$ M CellROX Deep Red at 37C for 30 min. Blood samples  
341 were then incubated for 15 min on ice with FACS Lysis buffer (BD Biosciences), and washed  
342 with flow cytometry wash buffer in preparation for flow cytometry analysis.

343

#### 344 **Soluble markers**

345 Levels of the following inflammatory plasma biomarkers were measured by ELISA (R&D  
346 Systems unless stated otherwise): soluble CD14 (sCD14), tumor necrosis factor receptor  
347 (TNFR)-1, TNFR-2, vascular cell adhesion molecule (VCAM)-1, C-reactive protein (CRP), LPS-  
348 binding protein (LBP), intestinal fatty acid binding protein (I-FABP), zonulin (Promokine), and  
349 oxidized low density lipoprotein (OxLDL) (Mercodia). Paired t tests were used to compare  
350 biomarker levels before and after PrEP initiation. Spearman correlations are reported for  
351 relationships among plasma biomarker levels.

352

#### 353 **Metabolic analyses**

354 Mitochondrial oxygen consumption rate (OCR) kinetics were measured on an Agilent  
355 XFp analyzer (N=7) using the Mito Stress Test kit (Agilent Technologies) as per manufacturer's  
356 protocol. Prior to the assay, Agilent XFp cell culture miniplates were coated with Cell-Tak (22.4  
357  $\mu$ g/mL) (Corning). PBMCs were exposed overnight to FTC (1  $\mu$ M) or TDF (1  $\mu$ M), centrifuged  
358 and resuspended in Agilent XF assay medium, and plated (500,000 cells/well) into Cell-Tak  
359 coated miniplates to adhere PBMCs for analysis by XFp analyzer. In this assay, subsequent  
360 injections of oligomycin (ATP synthase inhibitor), carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)  
361 phenylhydrazone (FCCP) (mitochondrial uncoupler), and rotenone/antimycin A (complex I and II  
362 inhibitors) are added to the assay media to assess mitochondrial function. Optimal cell density  
363 and FCCP concentration (1  $\mu$ M) were selected based on initial titration and dose response

364 assays. Statistical and data analysis was performed using Seahorse XF Cell Mito Stress Test  
365 report generator and supported Wave software.

366

### 367 **Efferocytosis assays**

368 MDM efferocytosis activity was measured using apoptotic Jurkat cells labeled with  
369 pHrodo green (ThermoFisher), a pH sensitive dye that only fluoresces in the acidic environment  
370 of phagosomes. Jurkat cells were incubated with dexamethasone (100 uM) overnight, and  
371 induction of apoptosis was verified using the Dead Cell Apoptosis kit (ThermoFisher). Apoptotic  
372 Jurkat cells were washed with PBS and labeled with 20 ng/mL pHrodo green (ThermoFisher) for  
373 30 min at room temperature. Labeled apoptotic cells were resuspended in culture medium and  
374 used immediately.

375 After 5 days of differentiation in the presence of FTC (0.1 uM) or TDF (0.1 uM), MDMs  
376 were plated in 12-well culture plates ( $3 \times 10^5$  MDMs/mL) and purified by adherence to plastic for  
377 3 h. MDMs were re-supplemented with PrEP drugs and incubated overnight. pHrodo green-  
378 labeled apoptotic Jurkats were added to MDMs (4:1 Jurkat to MDM ratio), and incubated at 37C  
379 for 1.5 h. Apoptotic cell uptake was analyzed by flow cytometry and quantified by mean  
380 fluorescence intensity (MFI). For negative controls and background correction, MDMs were  
381 incubated on ice for 1.5 h with pHrodo green-labeled apoptotic Jurkat cells. Final reported  
382 fluorescence intensity was calculated by subtracting intensity of cells incubated at 0°C from cells  
383 incubated at 37°C. Paired t tests were used for statistical comparisons between no drug and  
384 FTC or TDF-exposed cells.

385

### 386 **RNA isolation and transcriptomic analyses**

387 Total MDM RNA was isolated using RNeasy RNA isolation kit (Qiagen). RNA-Seq  
388 libraries were prepared with standard TruSeq Stranded Total RNA (Ribo-Zero) kits (Illumina) or



389 Clontech Smart-Seq Ultra Low kits plus Nextera XT adaptors (Clontech) and sequenced using  
390 an Illumina HiSeq2500 instrument (2 x 125 cycle, 6-plex, 30M+ paired reads/sample), i.e.  
391 beyond the depth plateau necessary to fully characterize the transcriptome and capture  
392 information encoded by rarer alternative transcripts and isoforms. Our Bioconductor 'R' pipeline  
393 is data-type agnostic and was used to demultiplex, QC, align (UCSC Hg38 human reference),  
394 annotate, and count the transcripts. Differential expression analysis was performed using  
395 EdgeR and gene-by-gene contrasts (t- or F-test) between groups. A false discovery rate (FDR)  
396 of 5% was employed to correct for multiple testing. Pathway analyses were performed using  
397 gene set variation analysis (GSVA), gene sets from MSigDB, and Ingenuity Pathway analysis.

398 For HAEC qPCR analysis, iScript cDNA synthesis kit and iQ SYBR Green Supermix  
399 were used (BioRad). Paired t tests were used for statistical calculations. VCAM-1 transcript  
400 levels were analyzed using the following primer set: Forward-

401 TTTGACAGGCTGGAGATAGACT; Reverse- TCAATGTGTAATTTAGCTCGGCA

402

#### 403 **Lipid measurement**

404 Plasma lipids were analyzed using the direct infusion-tandem mass spectrometry (DI-MS/MS)  
405 Lipidizer platform (Sciex, MA, USA) that identifies and quantifies ~1,100 biological lipids  
406 covering 13 lipid classes (i.e. free fatty acids, ceramides, hexosylceramides, diacylglycerols,  
407 triacylglycerols). The Lipidizer platform methodology has been described in detail elsewhere  
408 (57), but briefly, lipids were extracted from 100  $\mu$ L of plasma using a modified Bligh-Dyer  
409 method. Over 50 stable isotope labeled internal standards spanning all 13 lipid classes were  
410 added to each sample prior to extraction for accurate quantitation. Extracts were reconstituted in  
411 dichloromethane/methanol (1:1) and analyzed using DI-MS/MS with DMS separation. A  
412 Shimadzu LC system was used for automated infusion of each plasma extract and for pumping  
413 running and rinse solutions through the lines. Plasma extracts were infused into a 5500 QTRAP

414 MS/MS with SelexION DMS technology (Sciex) and lipid species were targeted and quantitated  
415 using optimized MS/MS transitions. Data were generated using the Lipidomics Workflow  
416 Manager software (Sciex). Data are reported as concentrations ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) and relative fatty acid  
417 composition (mol%) of total lipid classes and individual lipid species. Paired t tests were used  
418 for comparison of plasma lipid concentrations in individuals before and after PrEP initiation. P  
419 values  $<0.05$  were considered statistically significant.

420

#### 421 **Acknowledgements**

422 We thank the Nutrient & Phytochemical Analytic Shared Resource at The Ohio State University  
423 Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH for mass spectrometry services for lipidomics  
424 analyses. Research reported in this publication was supported by The Ohio State University  
425 Comprehensive Cancer Center and the National Institutes of Health under grant number P30  
426 CA016058. Our friend and colleague Benigno Rodriguez M.D. contributed to this work, but  
427 passed away before it could be published.

428

#### 429 **Funding**

430 This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health (R01HL134544 to N.F.)

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#### 437 **Figure Legends**

438

439 **Figure 1. PrEP exposure alters mitochondrial function.** A) Cellular oxygen consumption  
440 rate (OCR) kinetics were measured on an Agilent XFp extracellular flux analyzer. As indicated,  
441 sequential injections of oligomycin (ATP synthase inhibitor), carbonyl cyanide 4-  
442 (trifluoromethoxy) phenylhydrazone (FCCP) (mitochondrial uncoupler), and rotenone/antimycin  
443 A (complex I and II inhibitors) are added to the assay media to assess mitochondrial function.  
444 B) PBMCs were exposed to FTC (1  $\mu$ M) or TDF (1  $\mu$ M) for 24 h, plated into XFp microplates  
445 (500,000 cells/well), and overall OCR kinetics and effects of mitochondrial inhibitors on  
446 respiration are shown (+p,0.05, No Drug v FTC; \*p<0.05, No Drug v TDF; n=6 donors) C)  
447 Basal and maximal respiration, spare respiratory capacity, proton leak, ATP-linked respiration,  
448 and non-mitochondrial respiration values were calculated using the Agilent Mito Stress Test  
449 report generator. (\*p<0.05)

450  
451 **Figure 2. PrEP exposure alters mitochondrial mass measurements in PBMCs.** PBMCs  
452 ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells/well) were cultured overnight in the presence of FTC (1  $\mu$ M) or TDF (1  $\mu$ M).  
453 Mitochondrial mass of A) monocytes and monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) and B) T  
454 cells was analyzed by flow cytometry following staining with MitoTracker green. (\*p<0.05,  
455 \*\*p<0.01) C) Intracellular ROS production of ART-exposed monocyte subsets was analyzed by  
456 flow cytometry following staining with CellROX Deep RED reagent.

457  
458 **Figure 3. MDMs differentiated in the presence of PrEP display increased lipid**  
459 **accumulation and scavenger receptor expression.** A) Intracellular lipid accumulation was  
460 measured by flow cytometry following staining with Bodipy cell permeable dye. B) Scavenger  
461 receptors CD36 and SR-A were measured by flow cytometry (\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01). C) PBMCs  
462 from people without HIV were differentiated in serum pooled from donors without HIV, donors  
463 with HIV on ART (HIV-1 RNA < 40 copies/mL), and ART-naïve donors with HIV. MDM lipid  
464 accumulation was assessed by flow cytometry analysis of Bodipy staining intensity.

465

466 **Figure 4. MDMs exposed to PrEP have altered gene expression profiles.** Transcript  
467 analysis identified differentially expressed genes among MDMs from people without HIV (n=5)  
468 differentiated in the presence of medium alone or medium containing FTC (0.1  $\mu$ M) or TDF (0.1  
469  $\mu$ M). The top 50 significantly differentially expressed genes (DEGs) are visualized as heatmaps,  
470 and the data are arranged by p-value and log fold change (LogFC).

471

472 **Figure 5.** Integrative network analyses of differentially expressed genes ( $p < 0.025$ ) in PrEP-  
473 exposed MDMs. Linkages among DEGs are displayed, and nodes demonstrating the most  
474 highly interconnected pathways are labeled (Pearson correlation coefficients). Red circles  
475 indicate increased gene expression, and blue circles indicated decreased gene expression.

476

477 **Figure 6. PrEP exposure decreases MDM efferocytosis capacity.** MDMs were exposed to  
478 pHrodo green-labeled apoptotic Jurkat cells (4:1 Jurkat to MDM) for 1.5 h at 37C. Apoptotic cell  
479 uptake was analyzed by flow cytometry. A) Representative histogram overlays; red line is  
480 MDMs incubated at 0C under indicated exposure condition. B) Summary data reporting  
481 percentage MDMs that have internalized apoptotic cells. (\* $p < 0.05$ )

482

483 **Figure 7. Plasma inflammatory biomarker levels and lipid concentrations are altered**  
484 **following initiation of PrEP.** Plasma samples were collected from people without HIV before  
485 and after initiating ART as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Levels of plasma biomarkers  
486 including A) VCAM-1 (ng/mL), adiponectin (ng/mL), and I-FABP (ng/mL) were measured by  
487 ELISA at pre- and post-PrEP initiation. The average duration of PrEP use among the subjects  
488 was 9 months. B) To assess lipid content, plasma samples were analyzed using direct infusion-

489 tandem mass spectrometry (DI-MS/MS) Lipidizer platform. Concentrations of total HCER  
490 levels and C) individual HCER species are displayed. (\*p<0.05)

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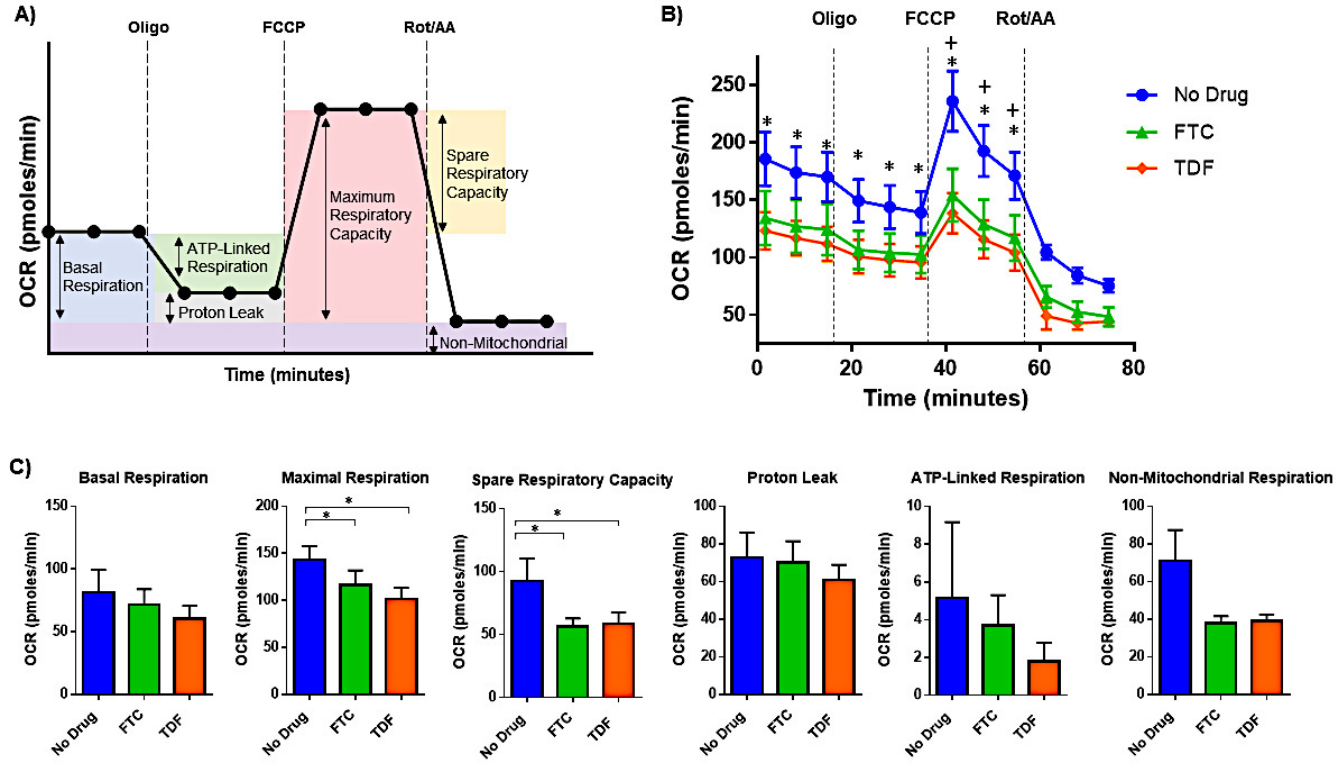
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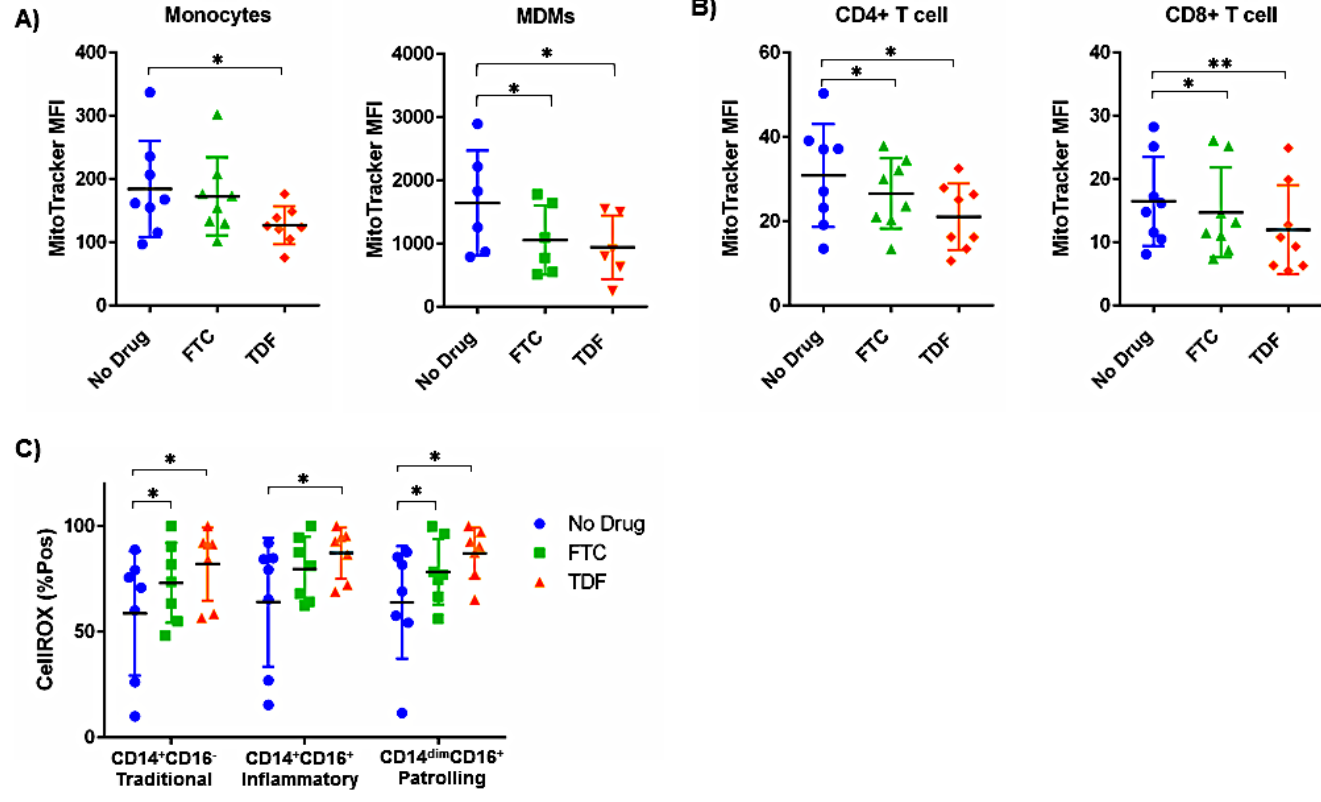
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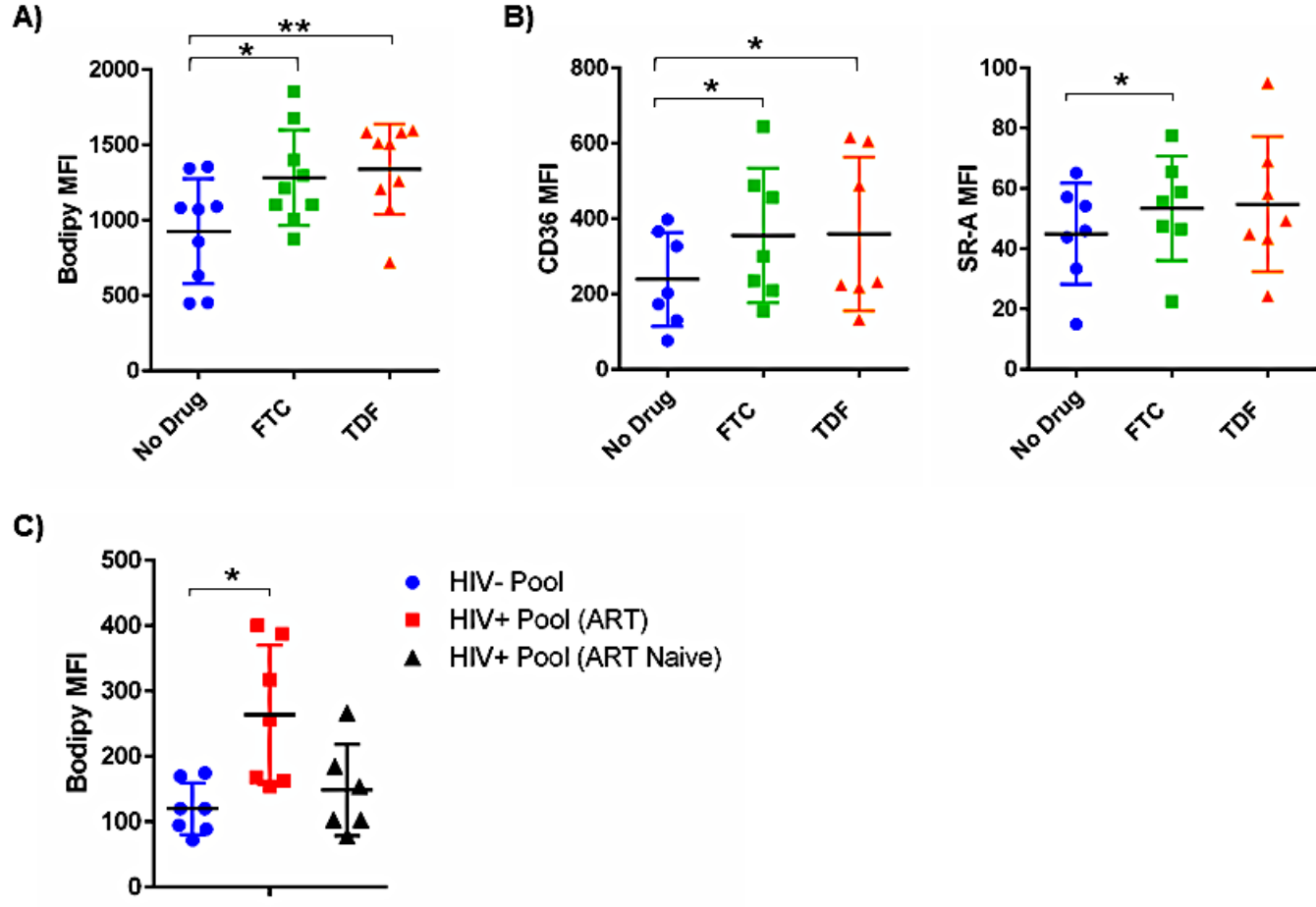
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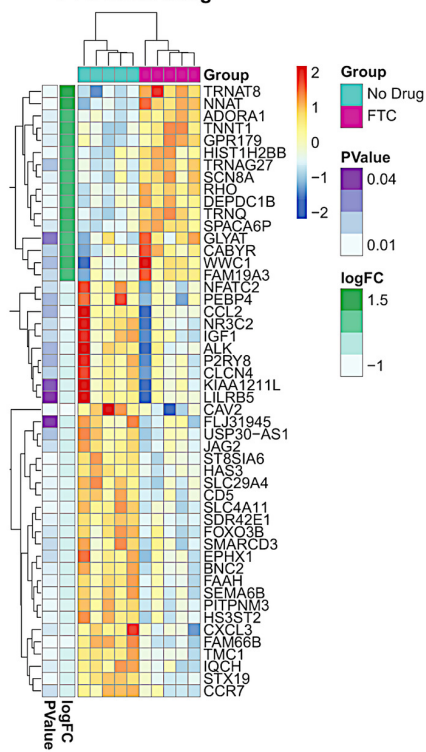




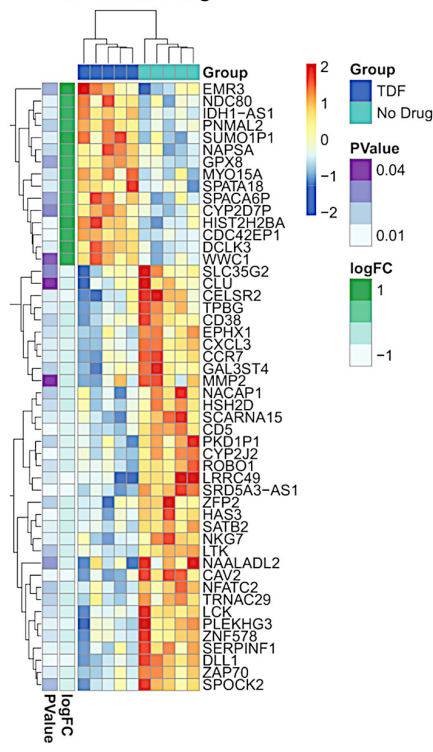




**A) Top 50 DEGs by logFC  
FTC vs No Drug**



**B) Top 50 DEGs by logFC  
TDF vs No Drug**



**C) Top 50 DEGs by logFC  
FTC vs TDF**

