

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Standard Protocol Approvals, Registrations, and Patient Consents

Informed consent was obtained from MS patients and controls in accordance with institutional guidelines and experiments were approved by the ethical board of the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM research ethic committee approval number BH07.001, 20.332).

### Data Availability

The data is freely shared via two interactive R shiny applications available at [https://pratlab.shinyapps.io/EAEbrain\\_10X](https://pratlab.shinyapps.io/EAEbrain_10X) (total cells) and [https://pratlab.shinyapps.io/EAEbrain\\_CD31](https://pratlab.shinyapps.io/EAEbrain_CD31) (CD31-selected cells). ScRNA-seq raw data (FASTQ files) are available to investigators via the GEO accession number GSE199460.

### EAE induction and scoring

All animal procedures were approved by the Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montreal (CRCHUM) Animal Care committee and followed guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

MOG35-55 EAE was induced as previously described (7, 8). Female C57BL/6J mice (the Jackson Laboratory) aged 6 to 10 weeks old were immunized subcutaneously **in the regions above the flanks** with 200 µg of MOG35-55 (MEVGWYRSPFSRVVHLYRNGK; Alpha Diagnostic) in a 100 µl emulsion of incomplete Freund's adjuvant supplemented with 4 mg/ml Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Fisher Scientific). Pertussis toxin (400 ng, Cedarlane List Biological labs) was injected intraperitoneally 48 hours after EAE induction.

Clinical score: Mice were examined daily for clinical signs of EAE and were scored as followed: 0, unaffected; 1, limp tail; 2, slow righting-reflex; 3, partial hindlimb paralysis; 4, complete hindlimb paralysis; and 5, moribund/death. **Animals were sacrificed 14 days after induction; one mouse at a clinical score of 3 and two mice at a clinical score of 4.**

Deeply anesthetized mice were transcardially perfused with cold PBS and their brains were recovered and processed for cell isolation.

#### **Tissue dissociation for single-cell RNA-seq**

Brain tissue from mice were dissociated into single-cell suspensions by using the Adult Brain Dissociation Kit (Miltenyi Biotec). First, brains were washed in cold PBS and cut in small pieces. The tissues were dissociated into single-cell suspensions by combining 30 minutes of mechanical dissociation at 37°C (using the gentleMACS™ Octo Dissociators) with enzymatic degradation. After the dissociation, the Debris Removal Solution was used to remove the debris. The red blood cell removal step was not performed because the mice were perfused prior to brain removal. Cells were then counted and processed using the Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 5' Library & Gel Bead Kit v1.1 (10X Genomics).

#### **Endothelial cell enrichment**

Brain endothelial cells were isolated using the CD31 MicroBead Kit and MACS isolation columns (positive selection) according to the manufacturer's protocol (Miltenyi Biotec). Endothelial cells were counted and similarly processed using the Chromium Next GEM single cell 5' library and gel bead kit v1.1 (10X Genomics).

#### **scRNA-seq amplification, library preparation and sequencing**

Single cell libraries were generated using the Chromium Next GEM single cell 5' library and gel bead kit v1.1 according to the manufacturer's protocol (10X genomics). Briefly, the samples containing 10.000 cells were partitioned into nanoliter-scale Gel Beads-in-emulsion (GEMs) using the Chromium Controller. Then, single cell GEMs underwent reverse transcription. Each GEM contains a unique barcode meaning that after the RT reaction, all the cDNA from each individual cells share a common barcode. Barcoded cDNA was amplified via PCR with primers against common 5' and 3' ends added during

the RT. Libraries were sequenced and the barcodes were used to separately index each cell's transcriptome.

## **Data analysis**

### Preprocessing

Single-cell fastqs files were processed with cellranger and filtered matrices were imported in R with the *Seurat*<sup>33</sup> package. All statistical and further analysis were conducted in R. scRNA-seq data was normalized with the SCTransform method (*Seurat*) and clustered with the Louvain algorithm. 15 principal components were used for the UMAP reduction. Batch-correction was needed since samples were sequenced in two distinct batches on the flowcells. Therefore, samples from the same flowcell were concatenated using the merge function in *Seurat*. The two batches were then integrated using *Seurat*'s SCT anchoring workflow.

### Marker Identification and cell-type proportions

Molecular markers were identified with the *MAST* method, and clusters were merged into a cell-type when deemed biologically relevant. For cell-types found in both EAE and CTL mice, the *FindConservedMarkers* function (*Seurat*<sup>33</sup>) was used. This allowed to compare fold-changes and p-values across both conditions. For the immune cells (which were predominantly found in EAE animals), the standard *FindAllMarkers* function (*Seurat*) was applied. Only positive fold-changes with adjusted p-value<0.01 were identified as cell markers. In all cases, the sequencing batch was added as a latent variable to alleviate any batch effect in the identification of markers. The extensive lists of cell-type markers can be explored on the shiny apps and are provided as supplementary tables. The relative ratios for each cell-type were calculated by first finding the proportion of each population for every sample. Secondly, the sample ratios for a given cell-type are normalized by the sum, to compare the relative importance of the population between samples.

### Differential Expression Analysis

Since immune subsets were mostly absent from the control samples, differential expression analysis was only conducted within the CNS-resident clusters (ie; microglia, ECs, MOLs, astrocytes, ependymal cells, choroid plexus cells, pericytes, fibroblast, neuroblast, and neurons). Using the batch as a latent variable, the DESeq2 method<sup>34</sup> was used to generate average fold-changes and adjusted p-values. Genes were considered differentially expressed (DEGs) when  $\log_2(\text{FC}) > .5$  and  $\text{FDR} < 0.05$ . The extensive lists of differentially expressed genes by across cell-types can be explored on the shiny apps and are provided as supplementary tables. Gene set enrichments were conducted using *enrichR* available databases and a fisher test approach using detected genes as background. Since Gene Ontology and KEGG are amongst the most used, we focused on these for the main results. *ClueGO*<sup>35</sup>, a *Cytoscape* plugin, was used to present a network view of the enriched ontologies.

### Pseudotime

To identify the continuous arteriovenous architecture in the CD31 selected single-cell data, we used the integration workflow at the sample level. This allowed to use *slingshot*<sup>36</sup>, a R package that provide means to perform pseudotime analysis. Using arterial ECs as a root, this produced 2 continuous trajectories (1) going from arterial ECs to venous ECs going through the capillaries and (2) from arterial ECs to venous ECs going through interferon ECs. We then used a random forest algorithm on the top 300 highly variable genes (implemented in the *tidyverse*<sup>37</sup> R package). This allowed to identify genes associated with the pseudotime trajectory. We reported the top 5% of the tested genes contributing the most to the outcome as supplementary material.



### Identifying Potential Interactions

Immune subsets were characterized by identifying common transcriptional signatures, and further characterizing the specific expression profiles of each cell population. To further investigate possible interactions between immune subsets and endothelial cells, we used *CellChat*<sup>32</sup>, a tool to infer possible ligand-receptors interactions in single-cell data. This allowed analyses of ubiquitous and cell-type specific potential of infiltration through interaction with the cellular lining of the BBB.

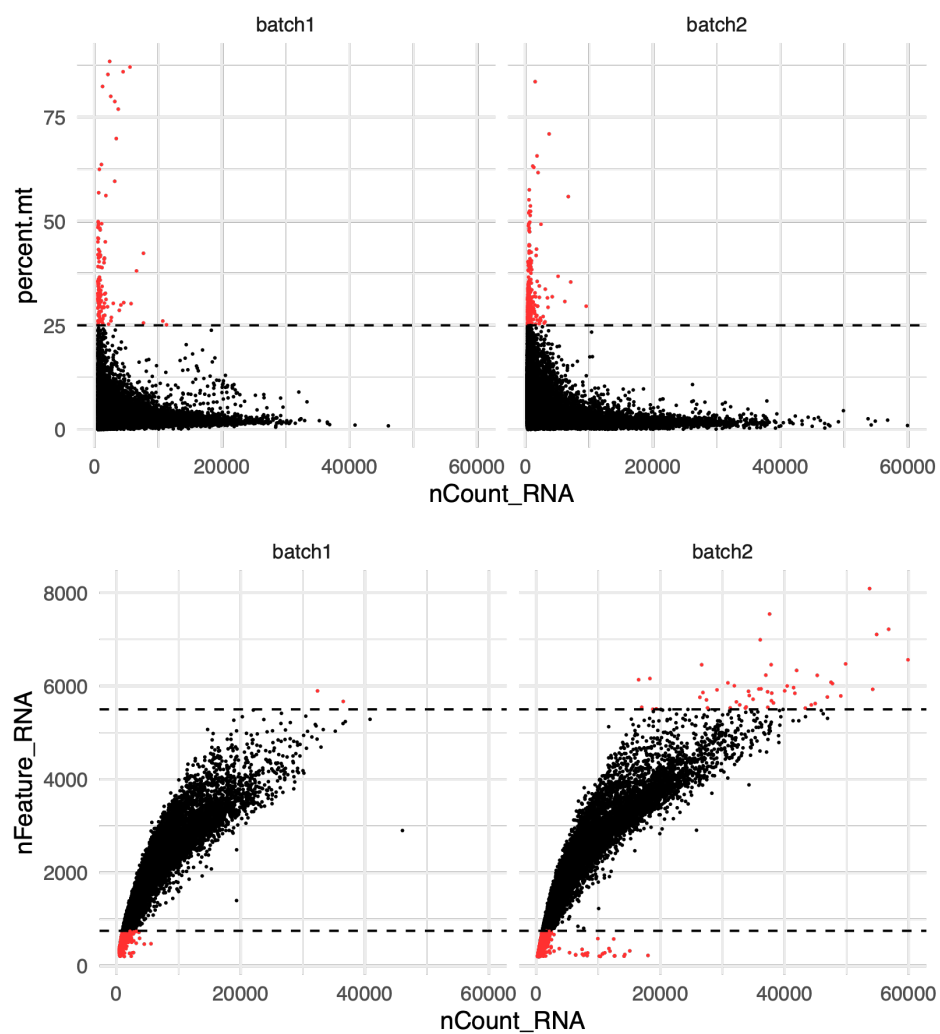
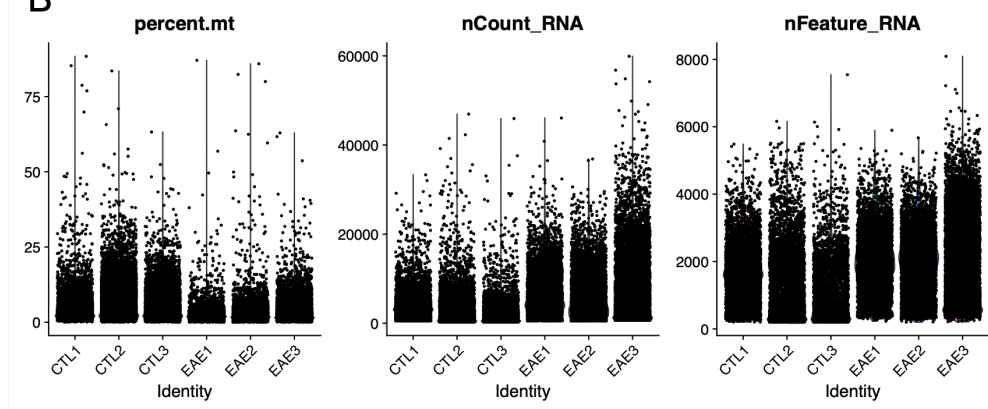
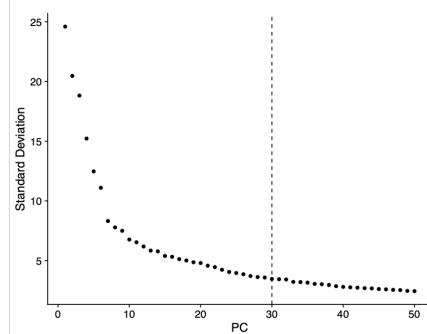
### **Immunofluorescence staining**

Human brain tissue was obtained from patients diagnosed with clinical and neuropathological MS diagnosis according to the revised 2010 McDonald's criteria (CHUM research ethic committee approval number BH07.001, 20.332). Tissue samples were collected from 3 control donors (42- , 67-year-old males; 34-years-old female) and 3 MS patients (33- and 44-years old females with relapsing-remitting MS; 61-years old male with secondary progressive MS) with full ethical approval and informed consent as approved by the local ethics committee. Frozen brain tissues were sectioned into slices (7 µm) and lesion identification was performed using Luxol Fast Blue/Haematoxylin & Eosin staining and Oil Red O staining as previously published<sup>38–40</sup>.

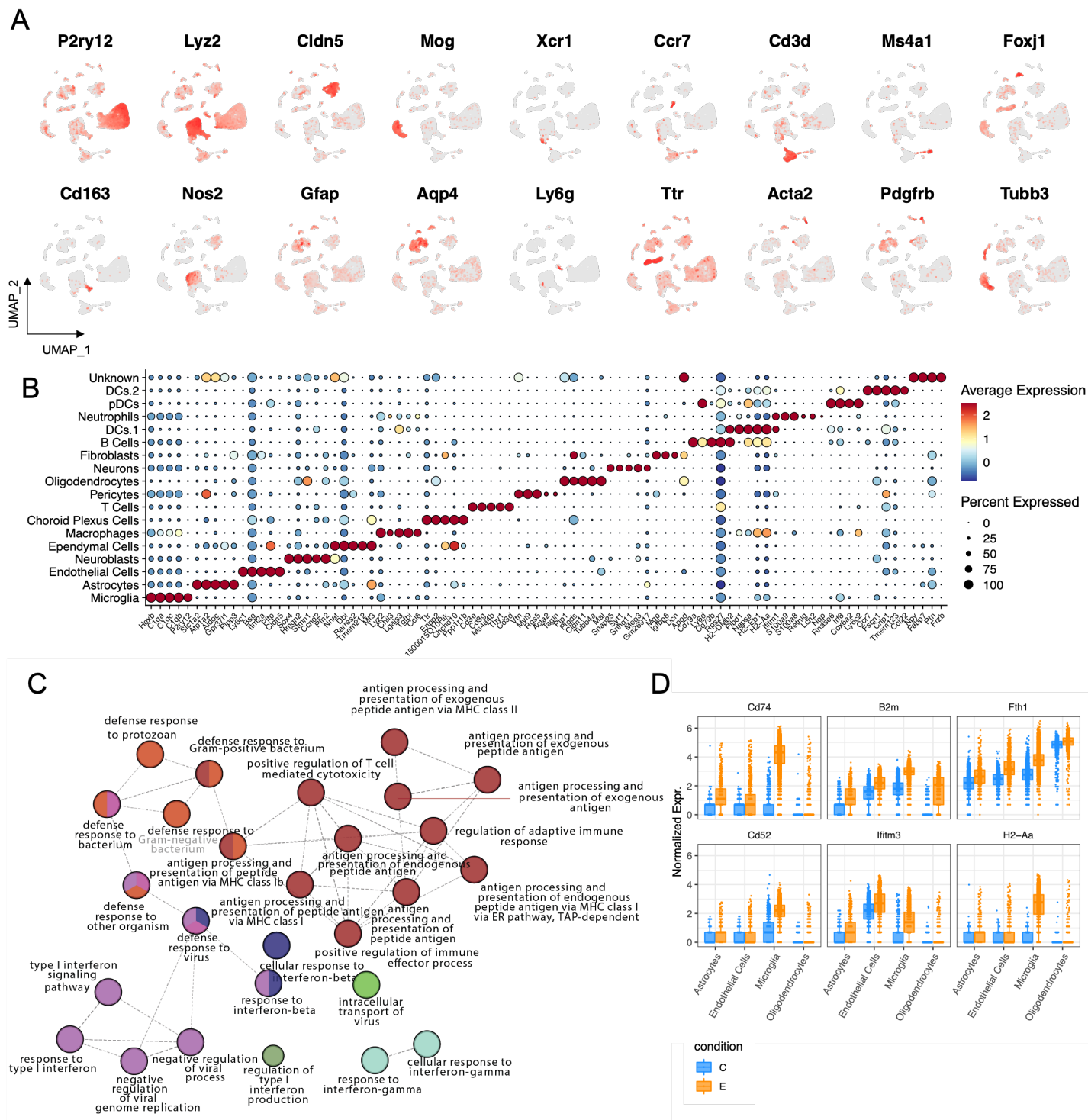
Slides were fixed in acetone for 10 min, transferred to ethanol for 5 min, hydrated in PBS, and blocked with 10% species-specific serum of the secondary antibody hosts. Sections were incubated for 1h at room temperature with primary antibodies diluted in 3% species-specific serum. Primary antibodies were revealed by using secondary antibodies linked to AF488 or Cy3 (Jackson ImmunoResearch, dilution 1/600, incubated 40 min at room temperature). Sections were then mounted using Mowiol reagent containing TO-PRO<sup>®</sup>3 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 1:400). The following primary antibodies were used: mouse anti-human DARC (1/30; R&D Systems), goat anti-human lipocalin-2 (1/20, R&D Systems), rabbit anti-human caveolin-1 (1/250; abcam).

**A**

Total Cells QC: Removed = 13,828 cells (34%)

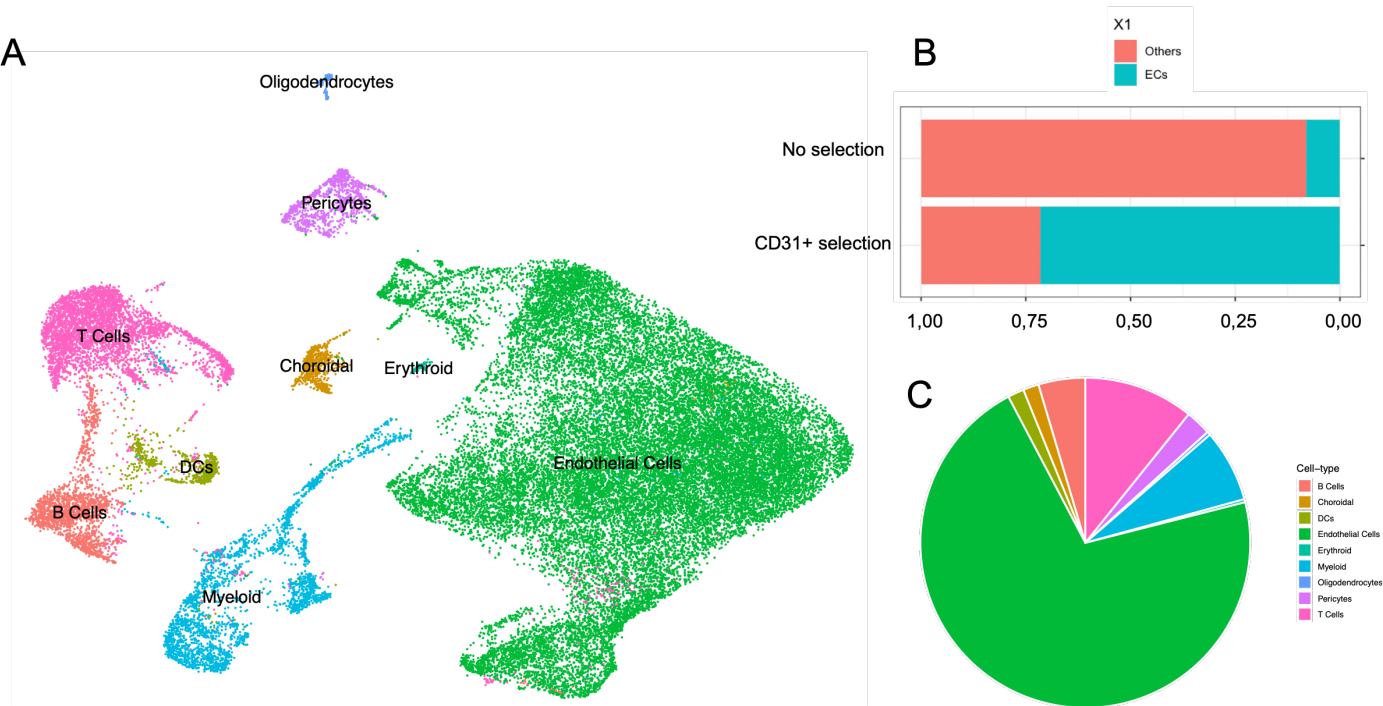
**B****C**

eFigure 1

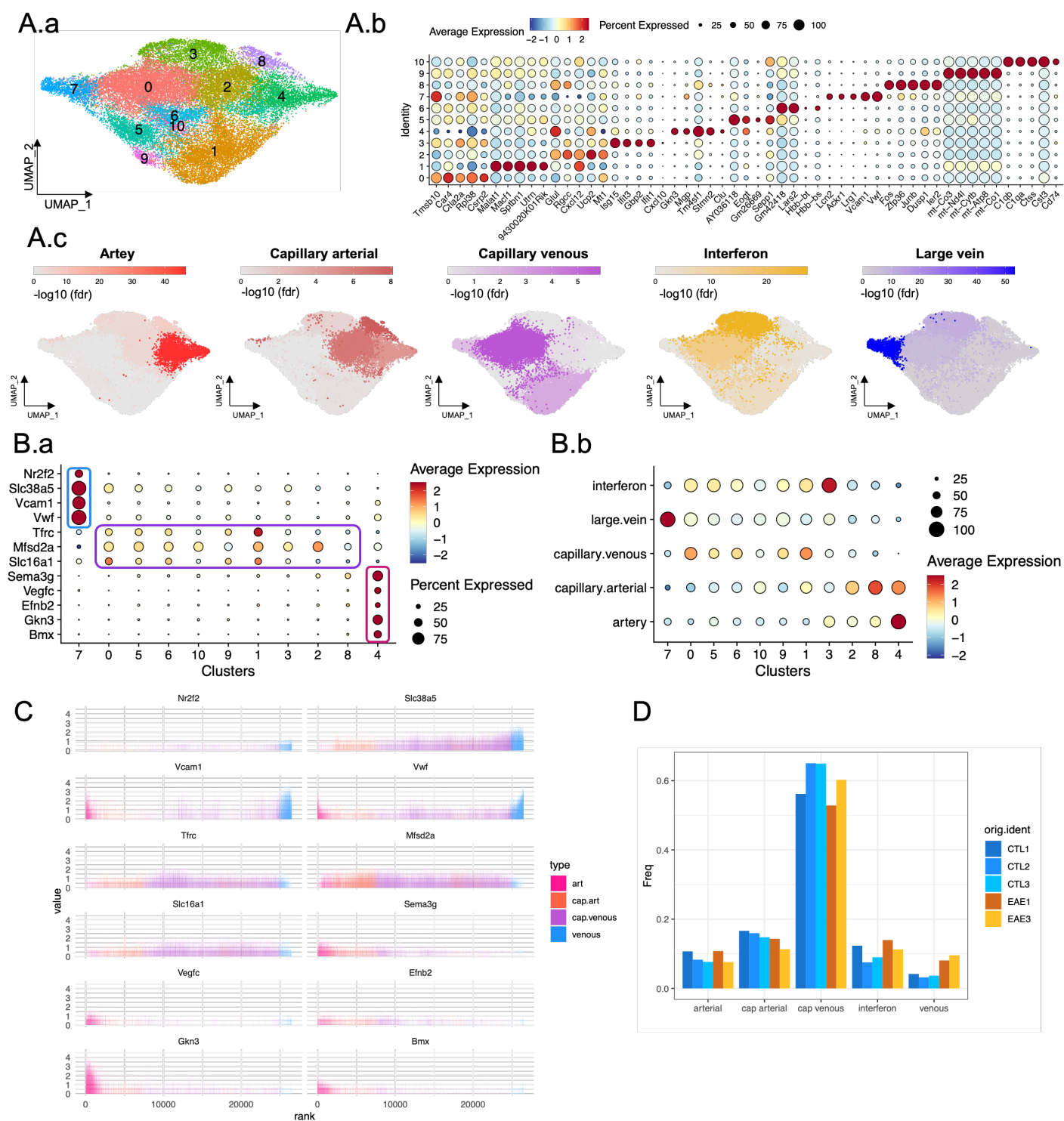


eFigure 2

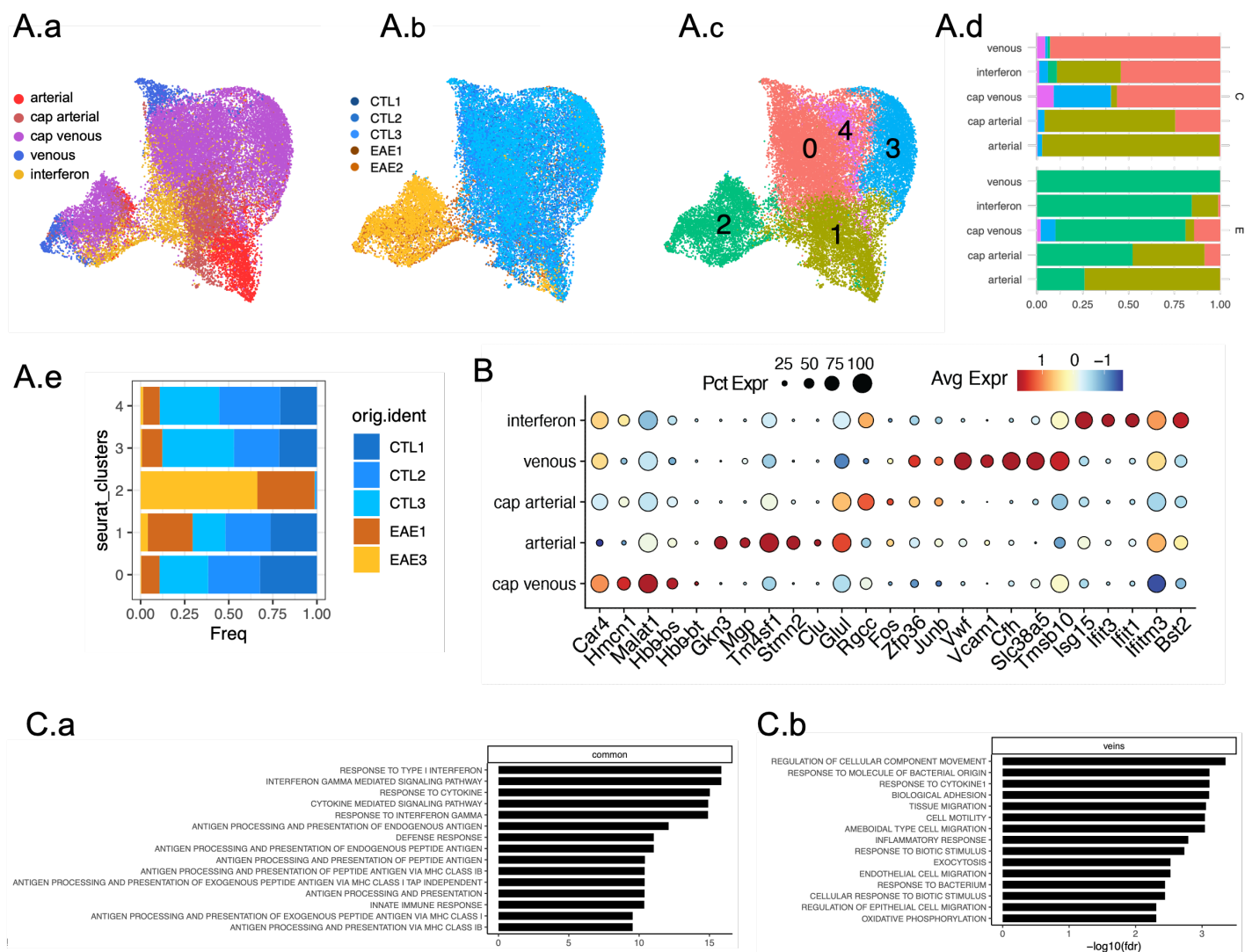




eFigure 4

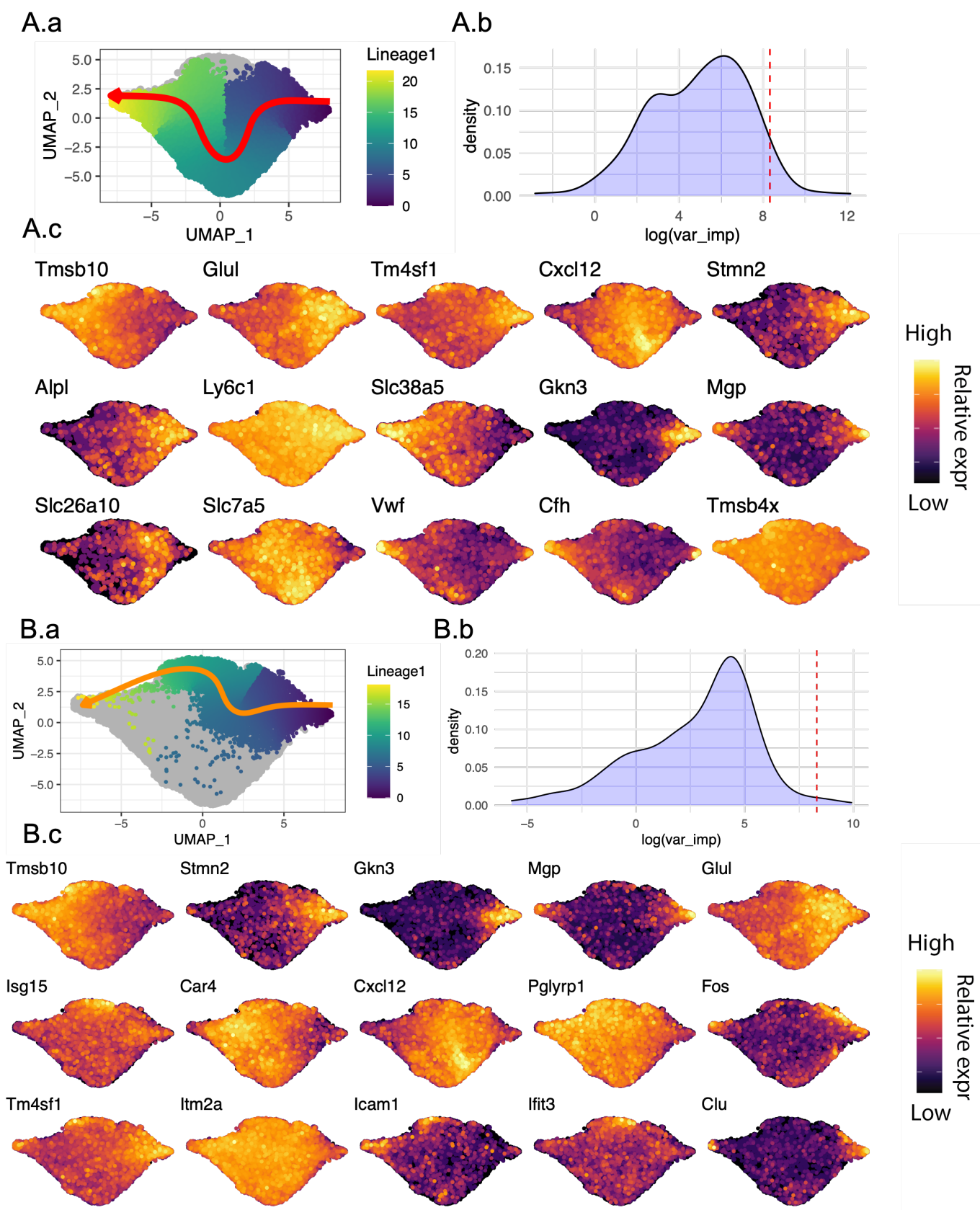


eFigure 5



eFigure 6

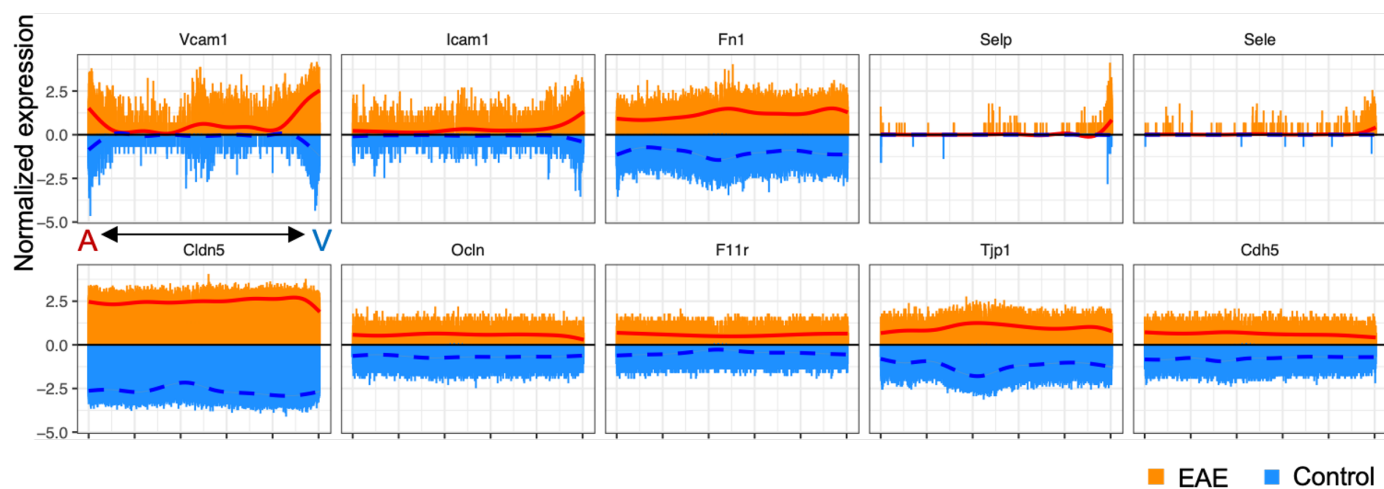




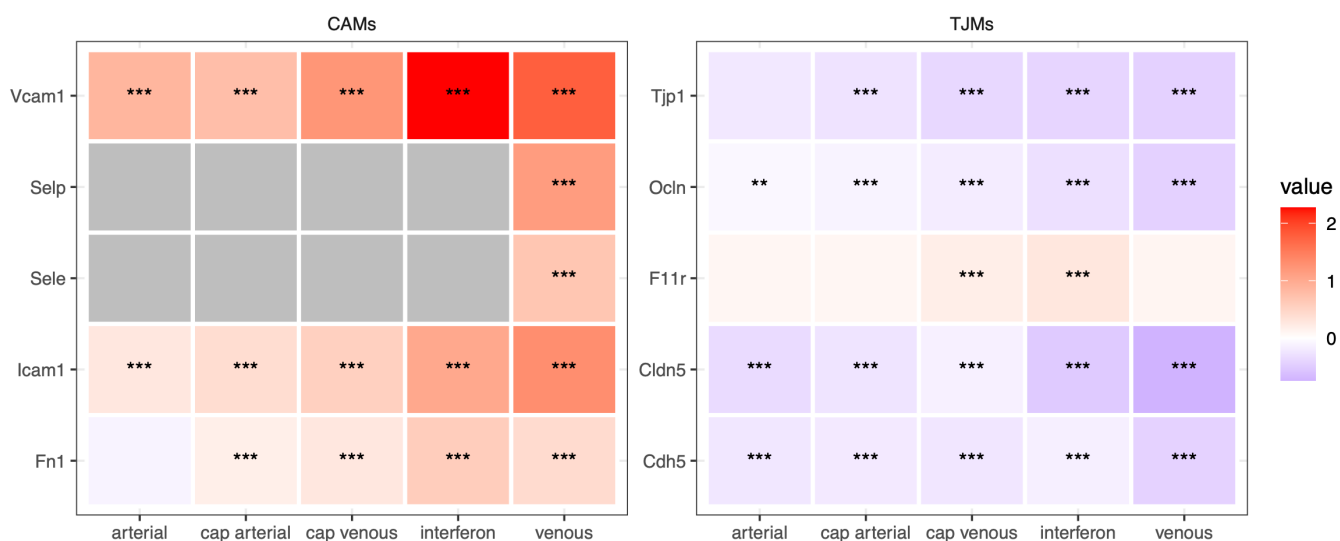
eFigure 7



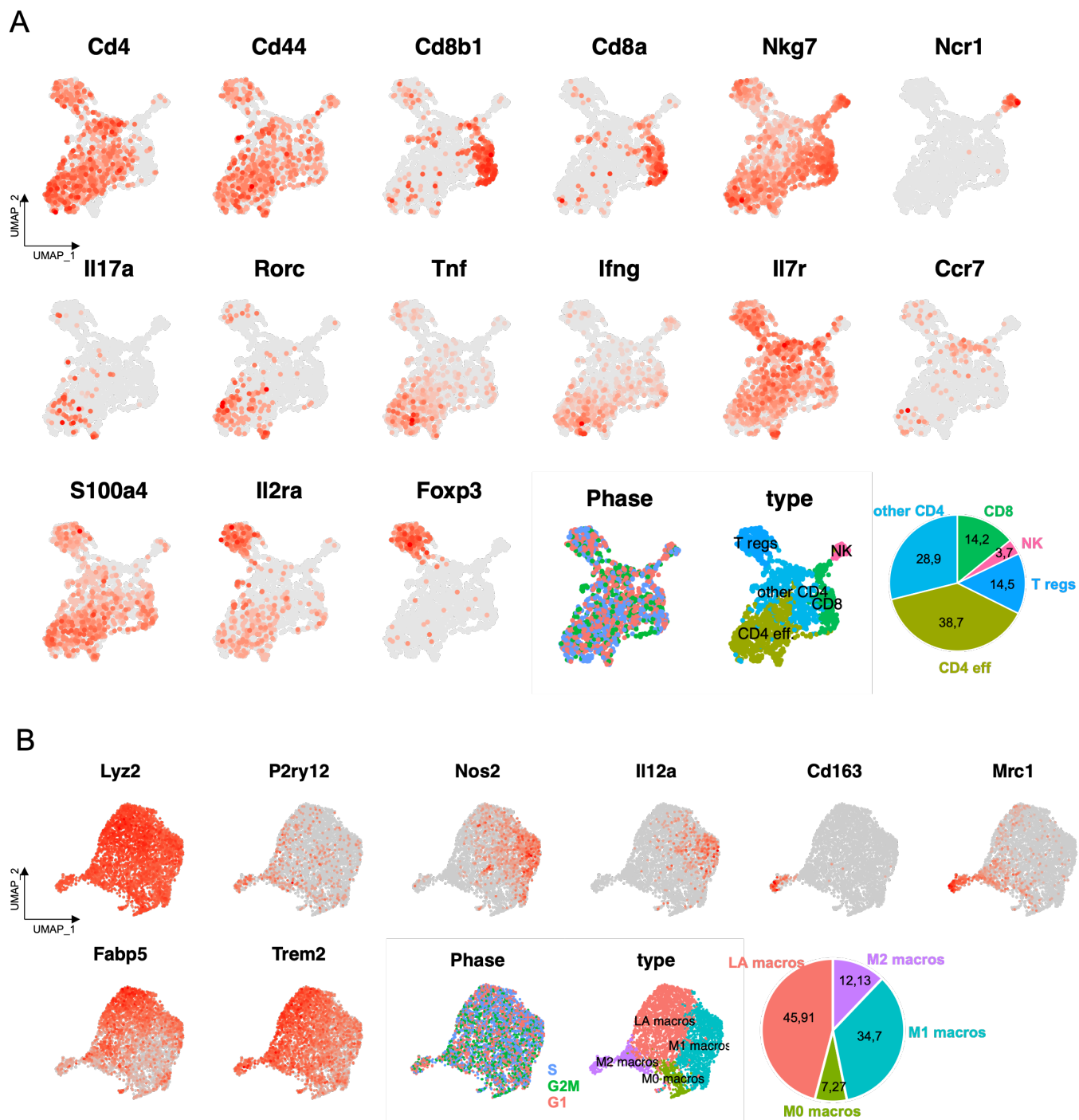
A



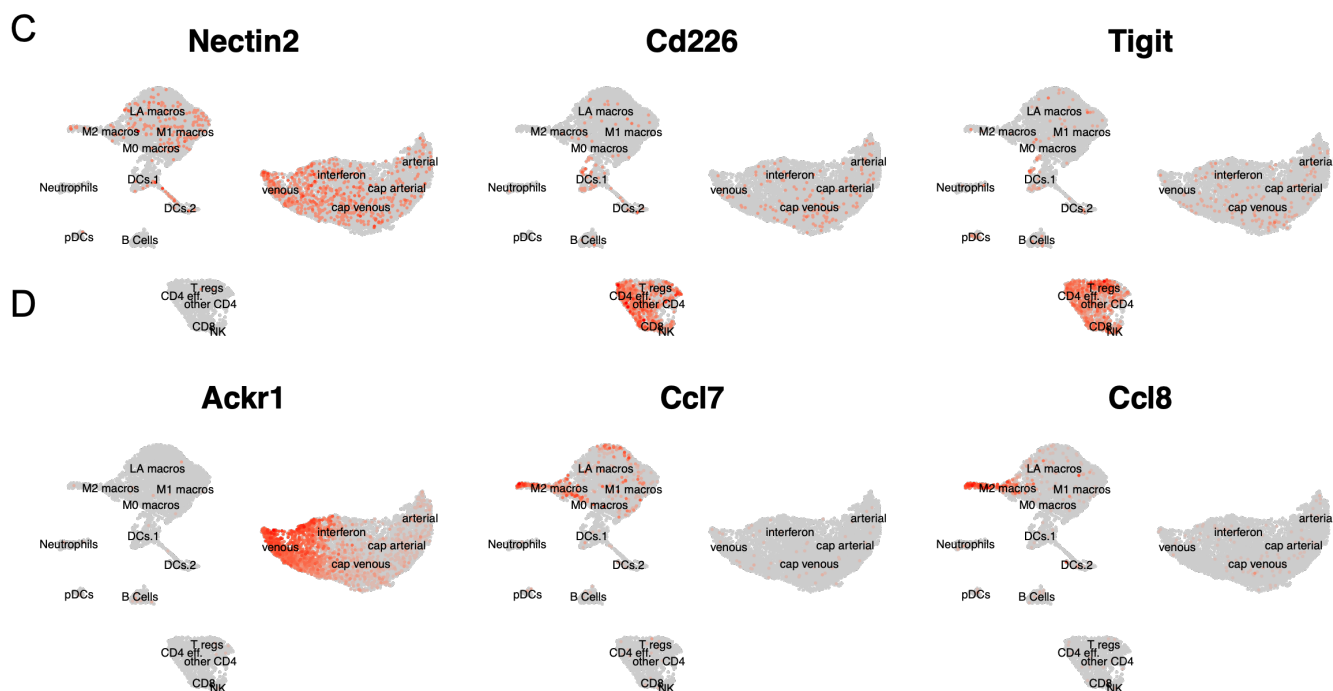
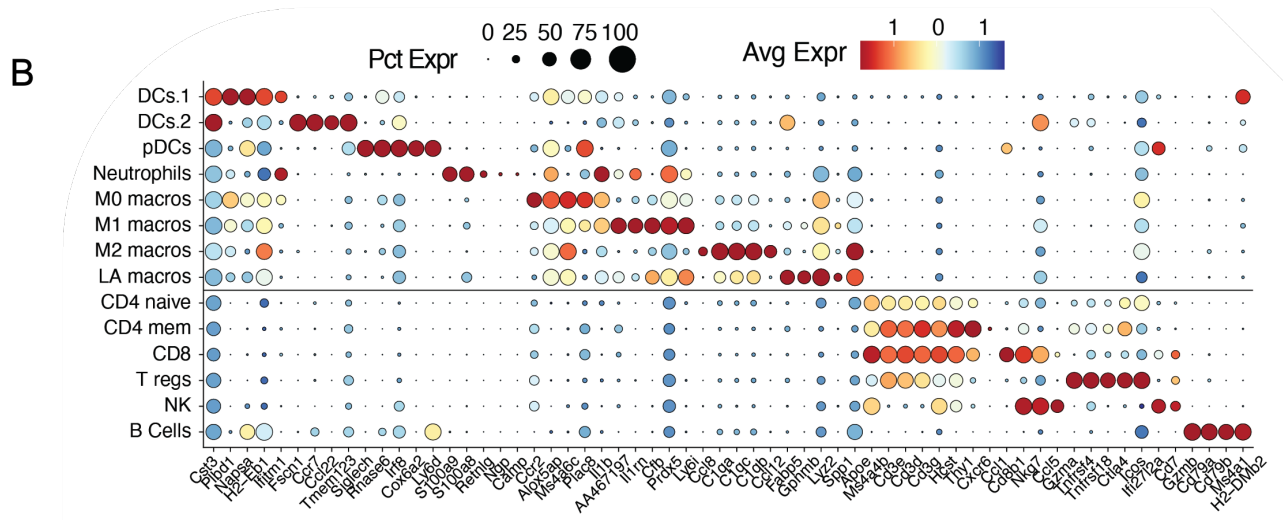
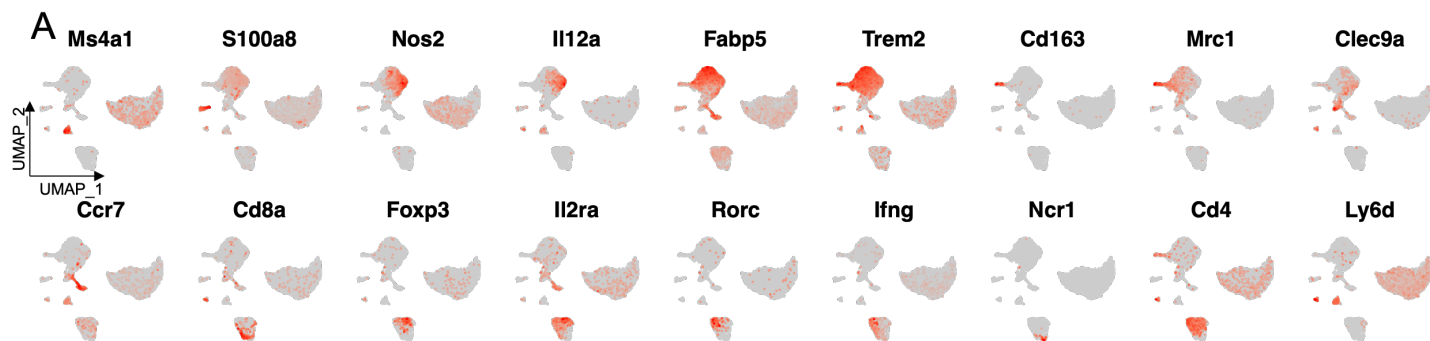
B



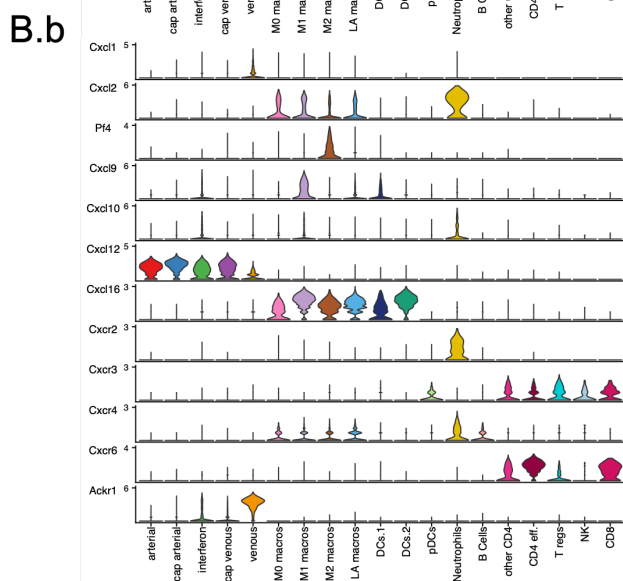
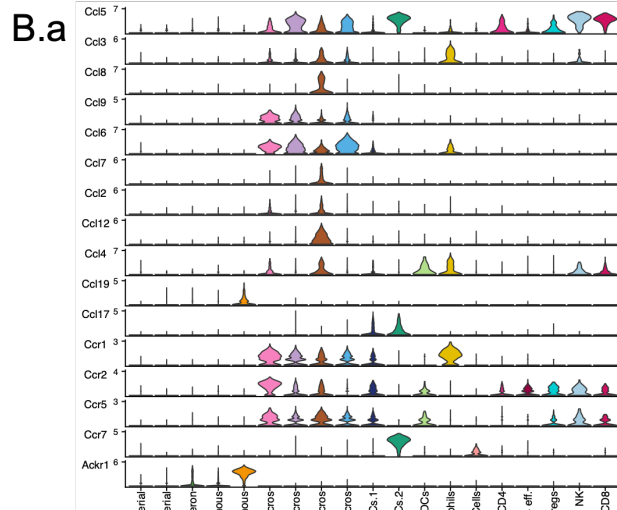
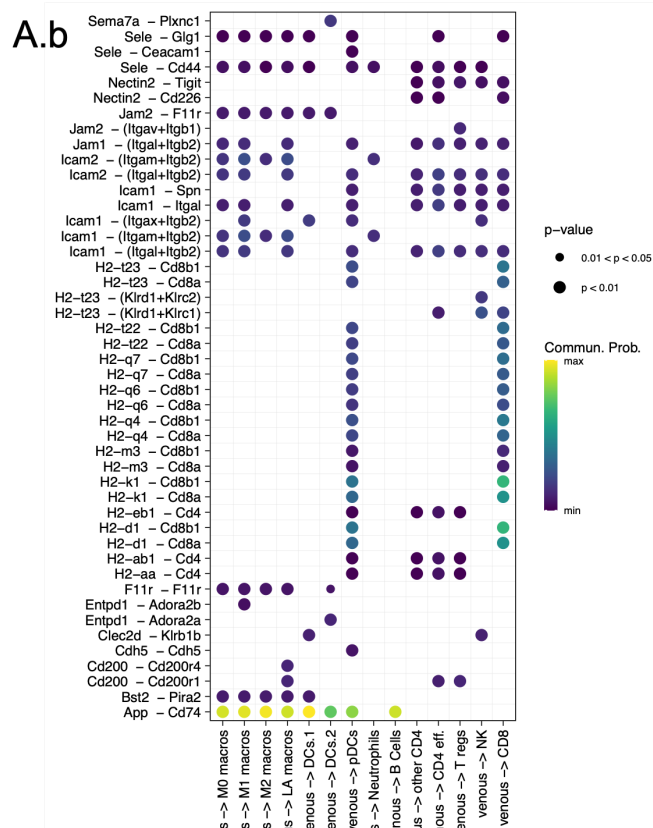
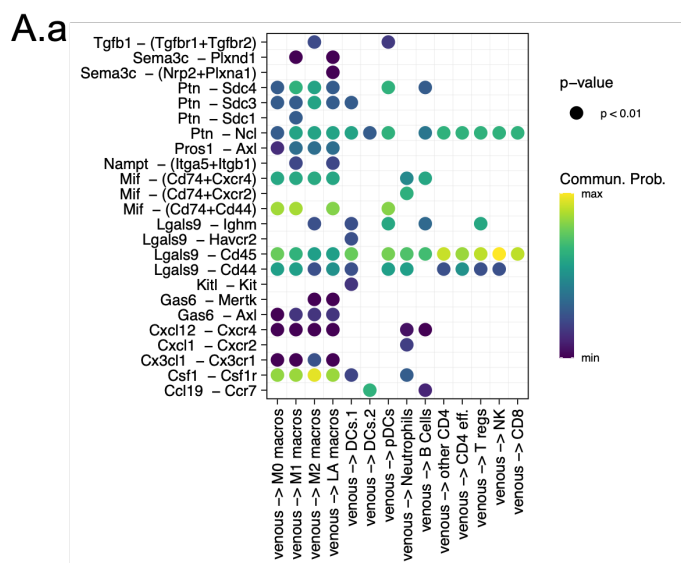
eFigure 8



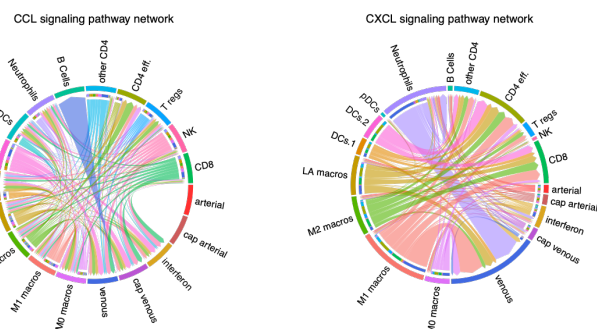
eFigure 9



eFigure 10

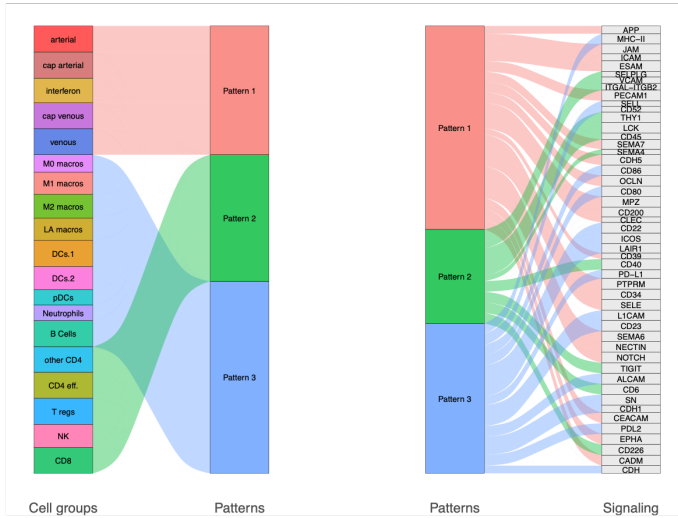


**C**

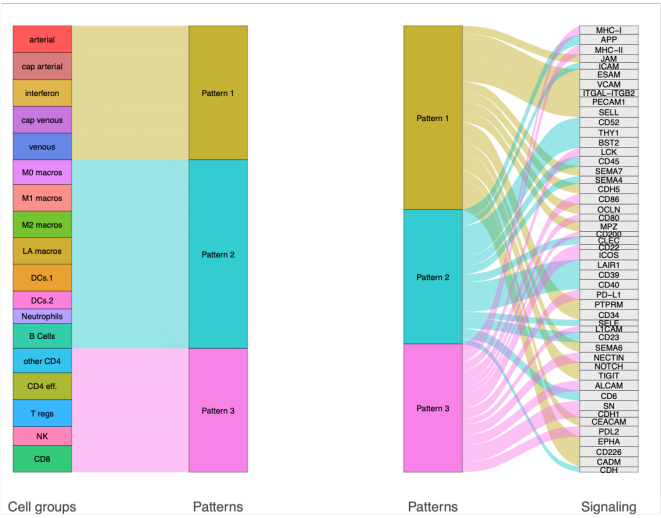


eFigure 11

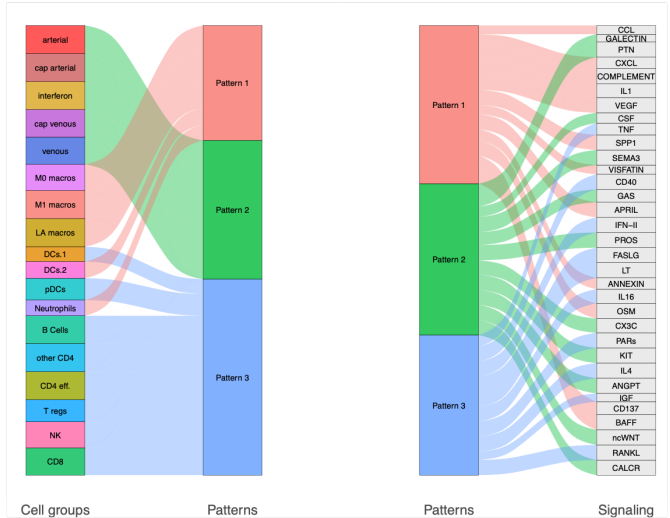
Outgoing communication patterns of secreting cells



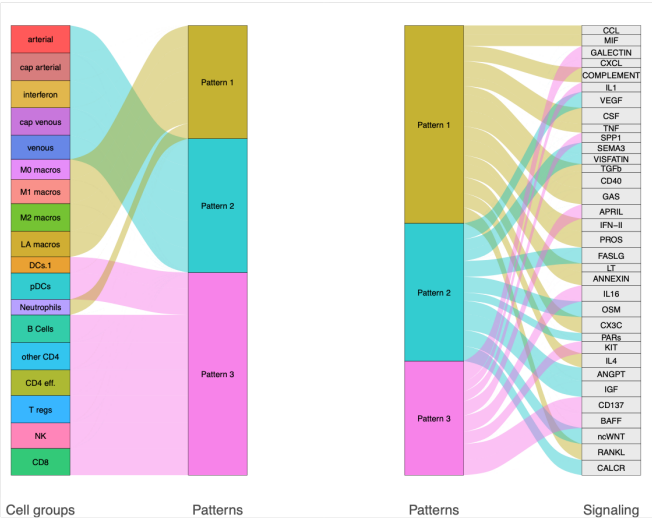
Incoming communication patterns of target cells



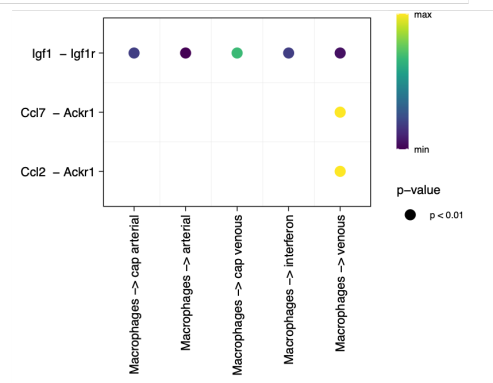
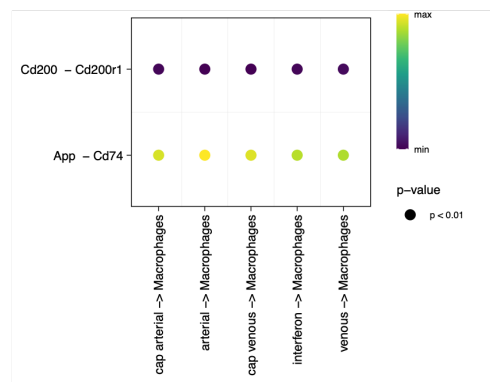
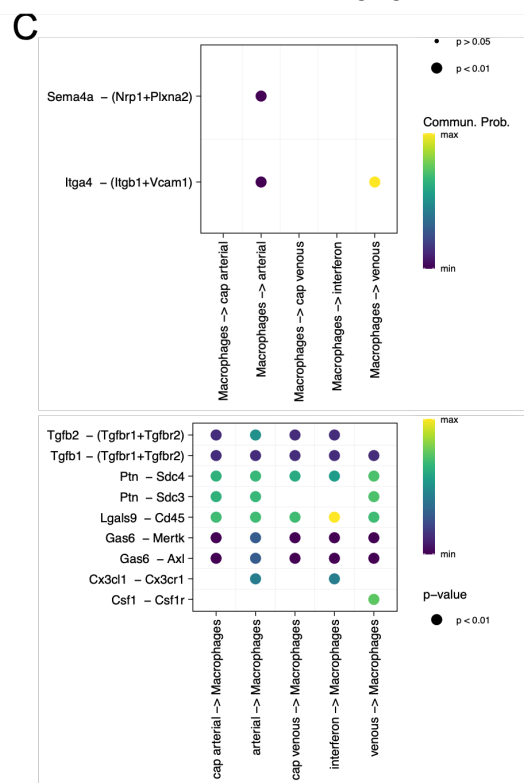
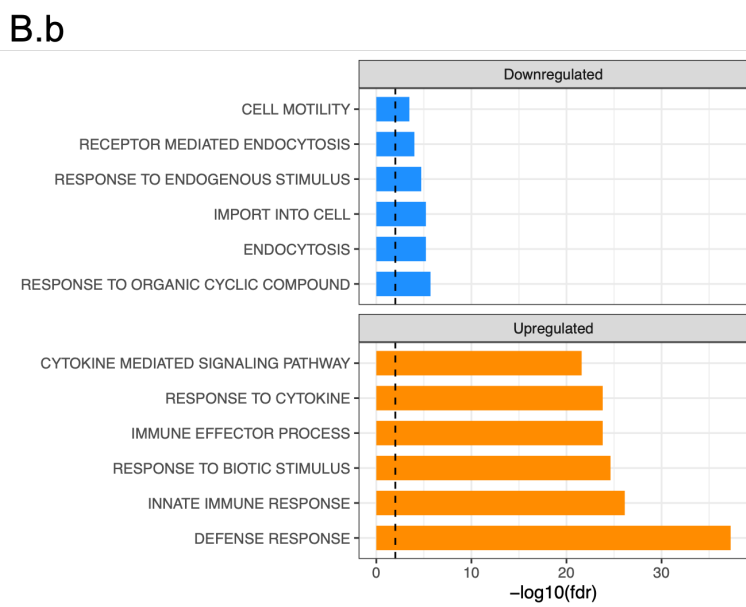
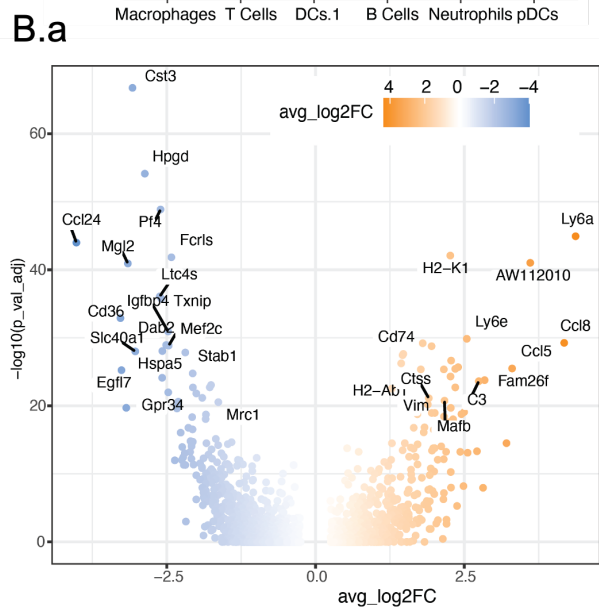
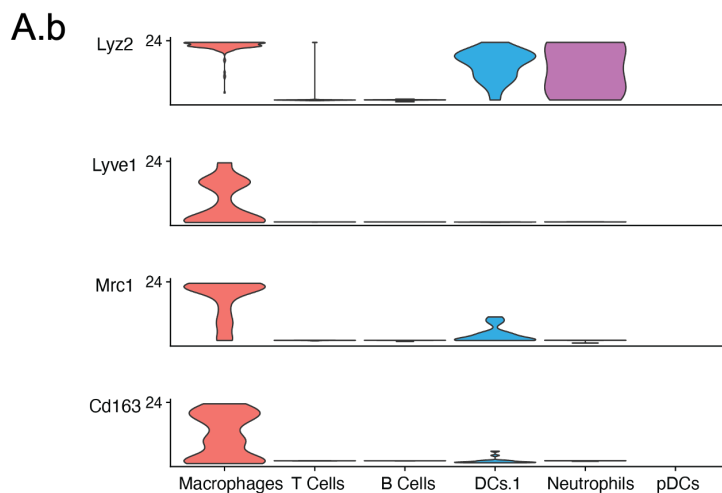
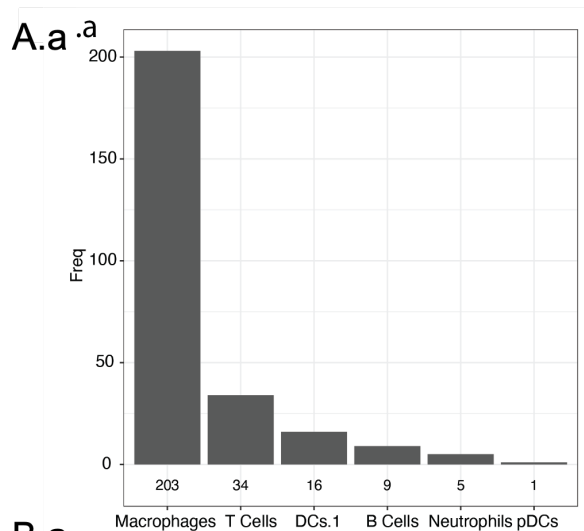
Outgoing communication patterns of secreting cells



Incoming communication patterns of target cells



eFigure 12



eFigure 13

## eFIGURE LEGENDS:

**eFigure 1. A)** Distribution of QC metrics: Coverage (nCount\_RNA), percentage of mitochondrial genes (percent.mt) and total number of genes (nFeature\_RNA). Cells that were removed based on these values are colored in red. **B)** Comparison of QC across individual samples. **C)** Elbow plot showing the standard deviation of each PC from the total set dataset. This was used to decide how many PC dimensions were included for UMAP projection.

**eFigure 2. A)** Mapping of normalized expression for known different cell-type markers onto UMAP. **B)** Dot-plot of the top 5 genes with highest fold-changes when comparing a given cell-type to all other cells. Color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots show the percentage of cells from the cell-type of interest in which the gene is detected. DCs= dendritic cells; pDCs= plasmacytoid dendritic cells. **C)** Gene set enrichment network of the (41) shared up-regulated genes between endothelial cells, microglia, mature oligodendrocytes and astrocytes. **D)** Boxplot of the significantly upregulated genes shared by ECs, microglia, mature oligodendrocytes and astrocytes that showed the highest fold-changes in at least one of the four cell-types.

**eFigure 3. A.a)** UMAP and unsupervised cluster identity of microglia subpopulations. **A.b)** Proportions of microglia subpopulations across controls and EAE mice. **A.c)** Dot-plot of the top 5 genes identified as microglial subpopulation markers. The color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots shows the percentage of cells in which the gene is detected. **B.a)** UMAP and unsupervised cluster identity of mature oligodendrocytes. **B.b)** Proportions of each identified mature oligodendrocyte subpopulations across controls and EAE mice. **B.c)** Dot-plot of the top 5 genes identified as oligodendrocyte subpopulations markers. The color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots shows the

percentage of cells in which the gene is detected. **C.a)** UMAP and unsupervised cluster identity of astrocytes. **C.b)** Proportions of astrocyte subpopulations across controls and EAE mice. **C.c)** Dot-plot of the top 5 genes identified as astrocyte subpopulation markers. The color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots shows the percentage of cells in which the gene is detected.

**eFigure 4. A)** UMAP showing the cell clusters on CD31 selected cells. Cell-types were annotated with the 2021 Panglao cell-types gene sets from enrichR. **B)** Proportion of ECs with and without the CD31+ selection. **C)** Pie chart of the proportions of each identified cell population in the CD31+ selected samples.

**eFigure 5. A.a)** UMAP visualization of ECs clusters after integrating across both batch and condition to allow overlay of homologous structures despite condition-wise transcriptional differences. **A.b)** Dot-plot of the top 5 markers with highest fold-change when comparing each cluster with all other clusters. The color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots shows the percentage of cells in which the gene is detected. **A.c)** UMAP visualization of the enrichment for the genes associated with each ECs subtype using a cluster-level analysis. Each cluster is colored with the  $-\log_{10}(\text{FDR})$  of its enrichment for a given geneset, as calculated by a fisher-test. **B.a)** Dot-plot of known arteriovenous zonation markers across ECs clusters. **B.b)** Dot plot of the mean value for calculated module scores for each cluster. **C)** Expression of arteriovenous zonation markers along pseudotime ranking. Each bar represents a cell. **D)** Proportion of ECs subtypes in EAE and control mice.

**eFigure 6: A.a)** UMAP projection of ECs from control and EAE mice colored by subtypes. **A.b)** UMAP visualization of ECs from CD31-selected cells, colored by disease condition (control vs EAE). **A.c)** UMAP visualization of ECs colored by clustering identity. **A.d)** Proportion of the different clusters among EC subpopulations. C= control; E=EAE. **A.e)** Relative proportion of each cluster across samples. Identifies cluster 2 as disease-specific.



**B)** Dot-plot of the top 5 genes identified as EC subpopulation markers. Color gradient corresponds to mean normalized expression and the size of the dots shows the percentage of cells in which the gene is detected. **C.a)** Gene set enrichment analysis of the biological pathways represented by the transcriptional changes shared by all ECs. **C.b)** Gene set enrichment analysis of the biological pathways represented by the specific transcriptional changes of venous ECs.

**eFigure 7. A.a)** Pseudotime of first lineage mapped on integrated UMAP. Arrow shows trajectory. **A.b)** Distribution of the relative importance of each gene in the random forest model with first pseudotime as outcome. Red vertical line shows threshold (top 5%) used to select genes displayed in C. **A.c)** UMAP colored by the expression of the genes associated with the first pseudotime trajectory. **B.a)** Pseudotime of second lineage mapped on integrated UMAP. Arrow shows trajectory. **B.b)** Distribution of the relative importance of each gene in the random forest model with second pseudotime as outcome. Red vertical line shows threshold (top 5%) used to select genes displayed in F. **B.c)** UMAP colored by the expression of the genes associated with the second pseudotime trajectory.

**eFigure 8: A)** mRNA expression of adhesion molecules and tight junction proteins along pseudotime ranking, separated by condition. Each bar represents a cell, and subtype identity is color-coded on the x-axis. **B)** Heatmap of log2 fold-changes for genes with known roles in BBB function and immune cell infiltration. Non-significant genes are displayed as grey tiles. (\* $p < 0,05$  ; \*\* $p < 0,01$  ; \*\*\* $p < 0,001$ ).

**eFigure 9. A)** Expression of genes allowing lymphocyte subset identification mapped onto UMAP. Also, cell-cycle phase prediction and identified cell-type on the two last plots. Pie chart of the proportions of each identified lymphocyte population. **B)** Expression of genes allowing macrophage subset discrimination mapped onto UMAP, along with cell-cycle

phase prediction and identified cell-type on the two last plots. Pie chart of the proportions of each identified macrophage population.

**eFigure 10: A)** Expression of genes allowing immune subset identification onto UMAP. **B)** Dot-plot of the top 4 markers with highest fold-change when comparing each cell-type with all other cells. **C)** UMAP colored with the expression of Nectin2, CD226 and Tigit. **D)** UMAP colored with the expression of Ackr1, Ccl7 and Ccl8.

**eFigure 11. A.a)** Dot-plot summarizing probability of interactions between venous ECs and immune subsets through secreted signaling. **A.b)** Dot-plot summarizing probability of interactions between venous ECs and immune subsets through cell-cell contact. **B.a)** Violin plots showing the expression of CCLs involved in potential interactions across all cell-types. **B.b)** Violin plots of CXCLs expression across cell types. **C)** Circos plot showing interaction pathways involving CCLs and CXCLs cytokines secreted by immune subsets and receptors expressed by ECs.

**eFigure 12.** Grouping of cell-types based on their patterns of outgoing and incoming interactions. As suggested by *CellChat*, the total number of patterns was determined by inspecting the Cophenetic and Silhouette values.

**eFigure 13. A.a)** Number of cells across immune cell-types in control mice. **A.b)** Violin plots showing the expression of known markers of resident macrophages. **B.a)** Volcano plots showing differential expression testing for all genes between resident macrophages from EAE and control mice. **B.b)** Gene set enrichment analysis of the biological pathways represented by the transcriptional changes between resident macrophages in control and EAE mice. **C)** Dot-plot summarizing probability of interactions between ECs and resident macrophages in control mice.

