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# Proteomic-Based Identification of CD4-Interacting Proteins in Human Primary Macrophages

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## Abstract

***Background:*** Human macrophages (Mϕ) express low levels of CD4 glycoprotein, which is constitutively recycled, and 40–50% of its localization is intracellular at steady-state. Although CD4-interacting proteins in lymphoid cells are well characterised, little is known about the CD4 protein interaction-network in human Mϕ, which notably lack LCK, a Src family protein tyrosine kinase believed to stabilise CD4 at the surface of T cells. As CD4 is the main cellular receptor used by HIV-1, knowledge of its molecular interactions is important for the understanding of viral infection strategies.

***Methodology/Principal Findings:*** We performed large-scale anti-CD4 immunoprecipitations in human primary Mϕ followed by high-resolution mass spectrometry analysis to elucidate the protein interaction-network involved in induced CD4 internalization and degradation. Proteomic analysis of CD4 co-immunoisolates in resting Mϕ showed CD4 association with a range of proteins found in the cellular cortex, membrane rafts and components of clathrin-adaptor proteins, whereas in induced internalization and degradation CD4 is associated with components of specific signal transduction, transport and the proteasome.

***Conclusions/Significance:*** This is the first time that the anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitation sub-proteome has been analysed in human primary Mϕ. Our data have identified important Mϕ cell surface CD4-interacting proteins, as well as regulatory proteins involved in internalization and degradation. The data give valuable insights into the molecular pathways involved in the regulation of CD4 expression in Mϕ and provide candidates/targets for further biochemical studies.

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## Introduction

Mass spectrometry (MS)-based identification of the components of purified protein complexes has become one of the most powerful and routinely used technologies for high-throughput detection of protein interactions [1,2]. The study of protein interactions by MS for identification of components of protein complexes gives powerful insights into protein function, binding partners and cellular pathways [3,4]. In most studies, proteins in a given complex are identified via MS analysis of in-gel tryptic digests of electrophoretically separated proteins of particular sub-cellular fractions (membranes, nuclei, intracellular compartments) or in co-immunoprecipitated complexes [5,6,7,8].

CD4 is the main cellular receptor used by human immunodeficiency viruses HIV-1, HIV-2 and simian immunodeficiency virus [9,10,11]. It is a type I transmembrane glycoprotein of 55 kDa expressed on the surface of Regulatory and Helper subsets of T lymphocytes and interacts with MHC class-II carrying cells [12]. CD4 increases the avidity of the low affinity interactions between the peptide-MHC complex on antigen presenting cells and the T cell receptor on the lymphocyte, and its association with the intracellular protein tyrosine kinase LCK modulates signal transduction [13]. In humans and rats CD4 is also expressed on cells of the monocyte/Mϕ lineage, although its function on these cells is poorly understood, and the protein expression levels are 10- to 20-fold less than in T cells [14,15]. In lymphoid cells expressing LCK, 90% of CD4 is restricted to the cell surface and undergoes limited internalization [16]. Endocytosis of CD4 can occur, through clathrin-coated pits, when the cytoplasmic domain becomes serine phosphorylated, leading to its dissociation from LCK [17,18,19]. In myeloid cells, such as Mϕ, which do not express LCK, CD4 is constitutively internalized and 40–50% is intracellular at steady-state [16]. The pathways by which CD4 is removed from the cell surface and the protein-network involved are poorly defined. Cell surface CD4 levels can be down-regulated by exposure to gangliosides [20], soluble HIV-1 gp120 [21], phorbol esters [17,22] and during HIV-1 infection [23,24]. Moreover, down-regulation of viral receptors is a common mechanism used by most retroviruses to avoid superinfection (multiple rounds of infection) and to promote viral release. HIV-1 Nef protein accelerates CD4 internalization and degradation in the lysosomes [25], and at the late stages of HIV-1 infection, CD4

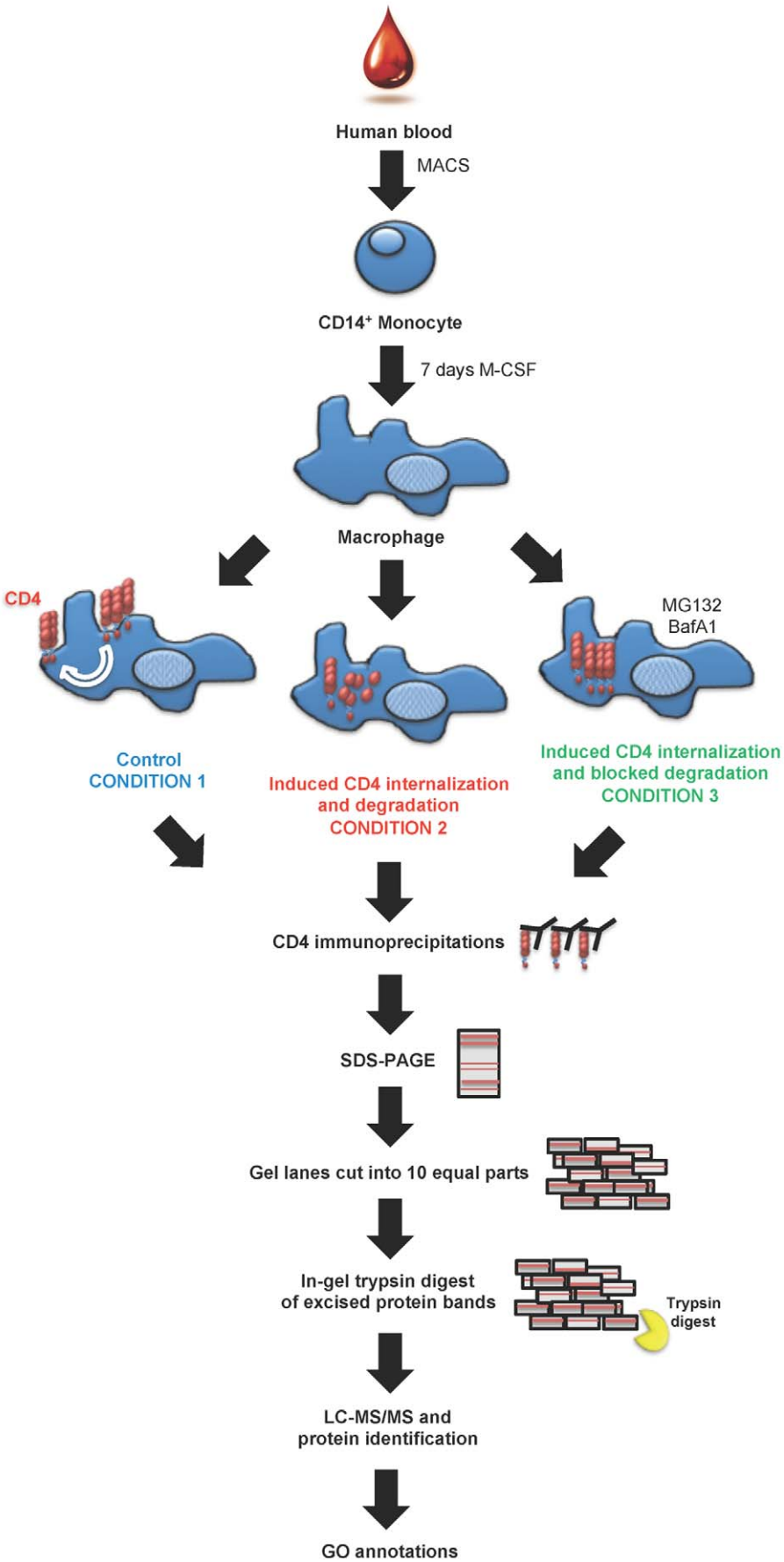
Human blood
MACS
CD14+ Monocyte
7 days M-CSF
Macrophage
CD4
MG132
BafA1
Control
CONDITION 1
Induced CD4 internalization
and degradation
CONDITION 2
Induced CD4 internalization
and blocked degradation
CONDITION 3
CD4 immunoprecipitations
SDS-PAGE
Gel lanes cut into 10 equal parts
In-gel trypsin digest
of excised protein bands
Trypsin
digest
LC-MS/MS and
protein identification
GO annotations

**Figure 1. Strategy for the identification of CD4-complexes in human primary Mϕ.** $CD14^+$ monocytes were isolated from human blood by magnetic cell sorting (MACS) and cultured for 7 days in the presence of M-CSF. One hundred million day 7 fully differentiated Mϕ were left untreated (Condition 1, blue), treated with conditioned media from activated T cells (Induced CD4 internalization and degradation, Condition 2 red) or treated with conditioned media from activated T cells in the presence of the proteasomal inhibitor MG132 and the inhibitor of vacuolar ATPases bafilomycin (BafA1) (Induced CD4 internalization but blocked degradation, Condition 3 green). Eighteen hours later, cells were detached from tissue culture plates, lysed and large-scale anti-CD4 immunoprecipitations (IP) using monoclonal antibody against CD4 (clone QS4120) or isotype control IP were carried out. IP products were loaded onto SDS-PAGE pre-cast gels and electrophoresis were run. Protein gels were coomassie stained, gel lanes were cut into 10 equal pieces and trypsin-digested. Proteins were identified by LC-MS/MS.
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can be targeted for proteasomal degradation by HIV-1 Vpu [26,27,28].

Most reports to date have analysed CD4 interaction complexes in lymphoid cell lines, revealing some of the well-known associating proteins, such as LCK, CD45, transferrin receptor (CD71), CD98, myosins, vimentin, tubulins, actins, annexin II and lymphocyte phosphatase associated phosphoprotein (LPAP) [29,30,31,32]. However, little is known about how CD4 antigen is arranged at the surface of Mϕ, which notably lack LCK expression.

In common with other laboratories we found that the kinetics of HIV-1 replication was modulated by the simultaneous presence of Mϕ and T cells in different ratios and activation states [33,34,35]. Data from our laboratory reported that HIV-1 viral production was typically slower in infected cultures in which Mϕ were co-cultured with activated T cells. More recently, we extended these observations and showed that activated T cells produce soluble factors that selectively induce the internalization and degradation of CD4 in primary Mϕ, thus critically affecting HIV-1 entry in a process sensitive to the vacuolar ATPase inhibitor bafilomycin A1, and the proteasomal inhibitor, MG132 (Saraiva Raposo et al., manuscript under revision).

In this report we perform high-resolution mass spectrometry analysis of CD4 co-immunoisolates in human primary Mϕ, in order to characterise the CD4 containing complexes in steady-state and at different stages of CD4 internalization and degradation. The experimental strategy is shown in Fig. 1.

## Results

### Conditioned media from activated T cells induces CD4 internalization and degradation in Mϕ

In order to effectively demonstrate the induction of CD4 internalization and degradation, we detected the expression of CD4 in Mϕ before and after treatment with conditioned media from activated T cells by flow cytometry. Eighteen hours post-treatment the expression of CD4 levels at the surface of Mϕ was barely detectable (Fig. 2A), and the percentage of Mϕ expressing surface CD4 was significantly reduced by 4-fold (Fig. 2B). In addition, total CD4 expression (surface + intracellular) was diminished by 2-fold (Fig. 2C). Altogether, these data suggest the internalization and degradation of CD4 after treatment with conditioned supernatants from activated T cells.

### Anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitation sub-proteome in control Mϕ

We performed large-scale CD4 immunoprecipitations in normal resting primary human Mϕ, followed by LC-MS/MS. A representative gel of the resolved proteins after CD4 co-immunoisolation is shown in Fig. 3. In control resting Mϕ (condition 1), several cell surface proteins associated with CD4 were identified, including CD9, a tetraspanin-family member involved in cell adhesion, cell motility and IL-16 signalling [36,37,38,39]; CD163, involved in the clearance and endocytosis of hemoglobin/haptoglobin complexes [40,41]; integrin subunit beta (CD18), involved in cell surface adhesion and reported to interact with integrins alpha-M and alpha-X [42]; protein S100, a calcium binding protein known to be involved in phagocyte migration and infiltration at sites of wounding [43]; chemokine receptor 1 (CCR-1), a G protein-coupled receptor [44]; adaptor protein 2 (AP-2), a known adaptor protein which functions in protein transport via transport vesicles in different membrane trafficking pathways [25,45], and HLA class I, involved in antigen presentation [46]. CD4 was also found to be associated with cytoskeleton and actin-modulating proteins, such as gelsolin, tropomyosins and dynein. An unknown and uncharacterised protein, TPP1 was also identified. A summary list of interacting proteins is shown in table 1.

### Anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitation sub-proteome in induced internalization and degradation

Internalization and degradation of CD4 in Mϕ was induced by conditioned media from activated T cells (condition 2) and interacting proteins were identified by CD4 co-immunoprecipitation followed by LC-MS/MS. A representative gel of the resolved proteins after CD4 co-immunoisolation is shown in Fig. 3. Proteins identified included Cdc42, a small GTPase family protein involved in signal transduction and endocytosis [47,48]; proteins associated with late endocytic trafficking, such as LAMP1, a component of the lysosomal membrane [49,50]; RhoB, known to be associated with the late endosome membrane; adaptor protein 1 (AP-1), a subunit of clathrin-associated adaptor protein complex 1 [45,51,52]; Sec23B, a component of coating protein II (COPII) involved in the transport of vesicles from the Golgi apparatus to the endoplasmic reticulum, and Rab10/Rab11B, important components of vesicle recycling and protein turn-over [45,53]. Several cytoplasmic and cytoskeleton-related proteins were also identified, including fascin, myosin and tensin. Annexin A2, a calcium regulated membrane binding protein and flotillin-1, a scaffolding protein associated with caveolar membranes [54] were also identified with more than 5 unique peptides. A complete list of the uniquely identified proteins is shown in table 2.

### Anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitation sub-proteome in induced internalization and blocked degradation

In condition 3, internalization of CD4 in Mϕ was induced by the same conditioned media from activated T cells, as described for condition 2, and cellular degradation was blocked using the proteasome inhibitor MG132 and the vacuolar ATPase inhibitor bafilomycin A1. CD4-interacting proteins were identified by co-immunoprecipitations followed by LC-MS/MS. A representative gel of the resolved proteins after CD4 co-immunoisolation is shown in Fig. 3. CD4 was associated with a large number of proteins related to protein degradation, in particular the proteasome. Proteasome-related proteins such as the 26S regulatory subunit 6B, ubiquitin-like modifier activating enzymes E1 and E3 ubiquitin protein ligase subunit Itch [55,56,57,58] were identified.

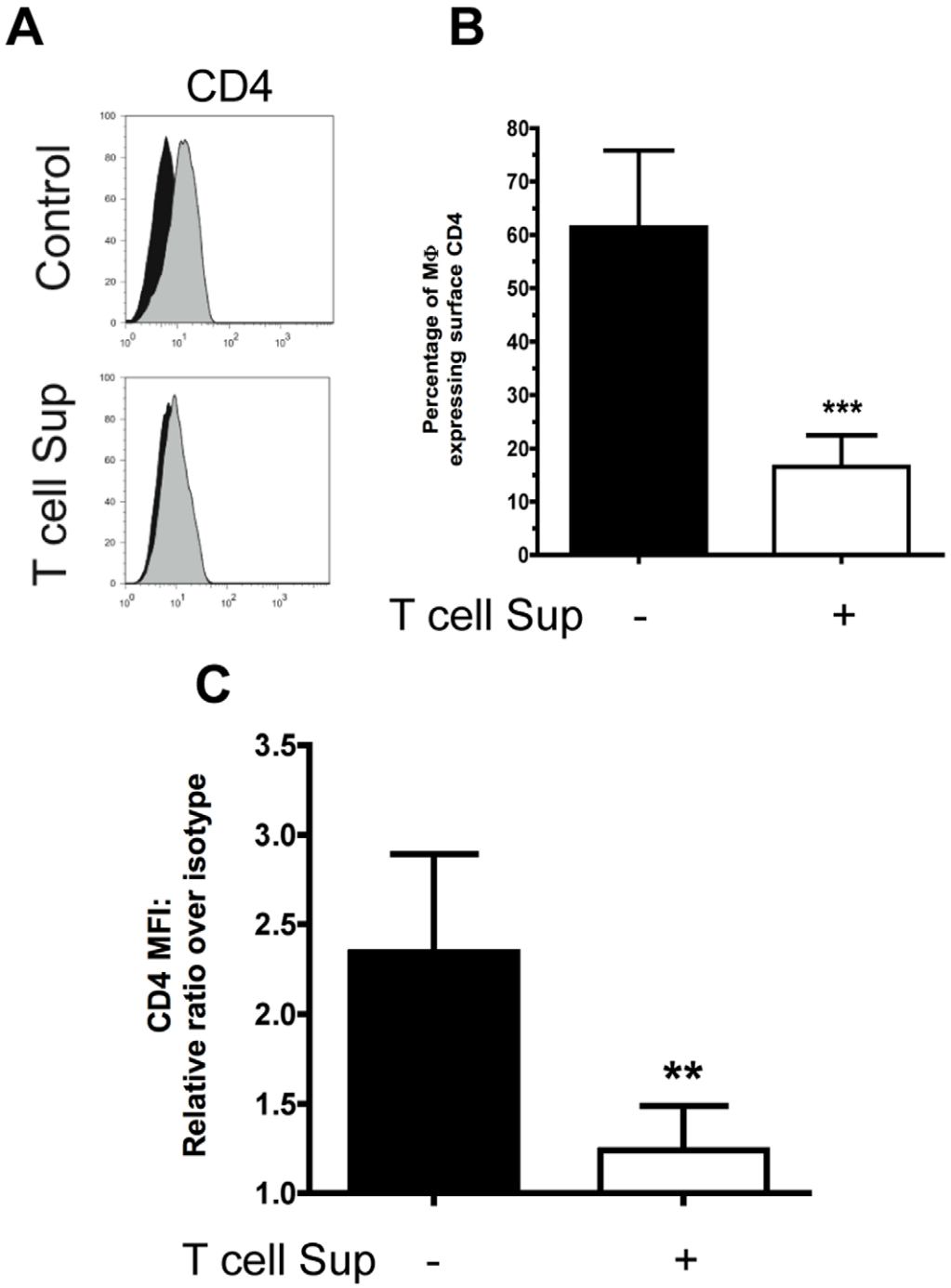


**Figure 2. CD4 is internalized and degraded after treatment with conditioned media from activated T cells.** Mϕ were treated with conditioned media from activated T cells for 18 hours or left untreated, followed by flow cytometry staining with directly conjugated mAb to CD4. **A** Black histogram represents the appropriate isotype control. Histograms show the intensity of the signal on the X-axis with a $\log_{10}$-scale and the percentage of maximum expression on the Y-axis. Representative staining of more than five donors tested (n>5). **B** Bars represent the mean percentage of Mϕ expressing surface CD4 with SD error bars from ten independent donors (n = 10). **C** Total CD4 expression levels (surface + intracellular) were determined by dividing the geometrical MFI of the antibody staining over the MFI of the isotype control. Bars represent the mean values of five independent donors (n = 5) with SD error bars. In **B** and **C**, black bar corresponds to untreated Mϕ and white bar corresponds to conditioned media treated Mϕ (T cell Sup).
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Proteins associated with antigenic presentation and intracellular protein trafficking were also identified, such as MHC-I molecules (HLA-A and HLA-B), ERp29 and ERp1 (endoplasmic reticulum chaperones) [59]. Although identified with one unique peptide, but with high iProphet probability scores, we also detected 7 proteins, including components of vacuolar proton-transporting ATPases, such as V-type proton ATPase subunits D and G1. A complete list of the uniquely identified proteins is shown in table 3.

Table 4 lists the proteins commonly identified in all three conditions.

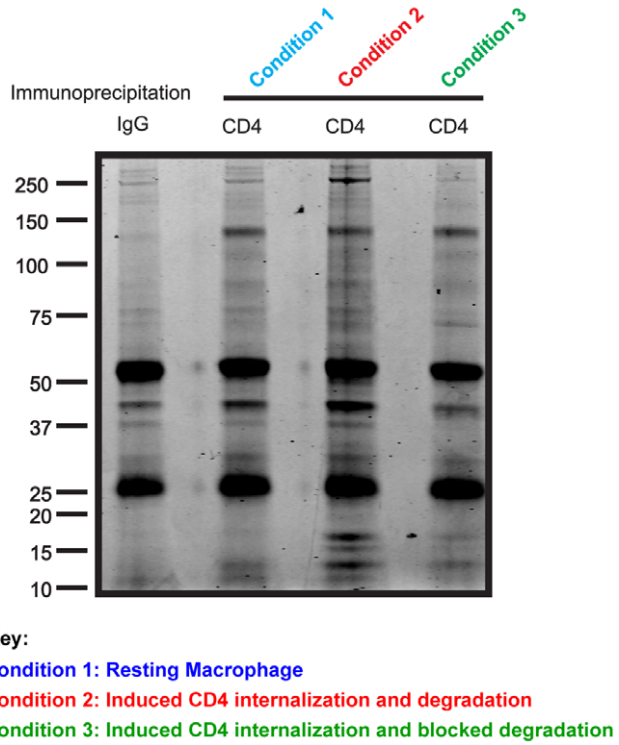


**Figure 3. Representative protein gels of anti-CD4 immunoprecipitations in Mϕ.** Mϕ were left untreated (Condition 1, blue), treated with conditioned media from activated T cells (Condition 2, red) or treated with conditioned media from activated T cells in the presence of 5 μM of MG132 and 100 nM of BafA1 (Condition 3, green). Eighteen hours later, cells were lysed and anti-CD4 immunoprecipitations were carried out. The final immunoisolates were resuspended in Laemmli sample buffer under reducing and denaturing conditions, before loading onto a SDS-PAGE pre-cast gel. Isotype control IgG immunoprecipitations were also performed to show non-specific background binding proteins.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018690.g003

### Western Blotting analysis of CD4 co-immunoprecipitates in Mϕ

Mass spectrometry identifications of CD9, E3 ubiquitin ligase Itch and clathrin heavy chain in CD4 co-immunoisolates were confirmed by western blot analysis. As anticipated, CD4 was identified in all Mϕ sample conditions, but at reduced levels in condition 2. Clathrin heavy chain 1 was co-immunoisolated with CD4 in all three conditions and the E3 ubiquitin ligase subunit Itch was only co-immunoisolated with CD4 when cellular degradation was blocked. CD9 antigen was only co-immunoisolated with CD4 in the control Mϕ. CCR5, reported to interact with CD4 at the surface of Mϕ and T cells [60], was not identified by mass spectrometry in any of the conditions described above and was not detected by western blot analysis of CD4 co-immunoisolates (Fig. 4).

### GO annotations

Uniquely identified protein identifications in all three conditions were exported to ProteinCenter and GO annotations were carried out. In induced CD4 internalization and degradation (condition 2) there is an over-representation of proteins associated with the endosome, vacuole and Golgi, when compared to control Mϕ (condition 1). Moreover, when cellular degradation is blocked (condition 3) the over-represented CD4-associated proteins are related to the proteasome, endoplasmic reticulum, organelle lumen, mitochondrion and cytosol (Fig. 5A). Proteins related to DNA and nucleotide-binding are over-represented in condition 3 and metal binding proteins are over-represented in condition 2. No proteins with structural molecular activities were uniquely identified in condition 3, in contrast to control or condition 2, where 30% and 15%, respectively, of the uniquely identified proteins fall into this category (Fig. 5B). Proteins related to cell organization and biogenesis, cell differentiation, development and transport are greatly over-represented in condition 2 over condition 3. In control Mϕ, proteins related to response to stimulus and defence response are over-represented over the other two. Cell motility-related proteins cluster with CD4 in control Mϕ and in condition 2 (Fig. 5C).

## Discussion

Mass spectrometry analysis of CD4 co-immunoisolates, supplemented with GO annotations provided useful information on the clustering of CD4 molecules in resting Mϕ and elucidated the protein-network involved in the internalization and degradation. CD4 in resting Mϕ showed association with a range of molecules found in the cellular cortex and membrane rafts. Consistent with earlier reports [19,25,61], we also observed CD4 association, and confirmed by western blotting, with components of clathrin-mediated endocytosis, such as clathrin heavy chain 1 and the adaptor protein AP-2, clearly suggesting that in resting Mϕ CD4 undergoes constitutive internalization and recycling [16,18,62]. AP-2 has been reported to be involved in the initial formation of clathrin coated pits at the plasma membrane, and it is an important mediator of receptor internalization and clathrin assembly [63]. We observed CD4 association with the tetraspanin protein CD9, and as both CD4 and CD9 are able to bind IL-16 in mast cells [36,64], this association might in fact be physiologically relevant in Mϕ.

In addition to CD4, HIV-1 requires CXCR4 or CCR5 to enter target cells. Xiao et al., reported a constitutive cell surface association between CD4 and CCR5 [60] and showed that the presence of gp120, leads to the clustering of CD4 and CCR5. However, they stated that it was difficult to co-immunoisolate CD4 and CCR5 in human primary Mϕ and $CD4^+$ T cells in the absence of gp120, arguing that the levels of both receptors were very low and the techniques used were not sensitive enough. Employing high-resolution mass spectrometry analysis on a large sample of primary Mϕ, a more sensitive technique than the one used by Xiao et al., we did not detect CCR5 molecules in CD4 co-immunoisolates. Although a constitutive CD4-CCR5 interaction in the absence of gp120 might still exist, our results do not support this notion.

Many reports to date have shown that in $CD4^+$ T cells LCK binds directly to the cytoplasmic tail of CD4 [13,16,18], providing stability at the cell surface. As we did not identify any Src family protein kinases in CD4 co-immunoisolates in Mϕ, it seems unlikely that this kinase family plays a similarly prominent role in the regulation of CD4 in Mϕ, as it does in T cells. This could also explain the faster turn-over of CD4 in Mϕ compared to T cells.

Data from our laboratory showed that upon treatment with conditioned media from activated T cells, CD4 expression in Mϕ is down-regulated due to induced internalization and degradation (Saraiva Raposo et al., manuscript under revision). Under this condition, CD4 was associated with specific components of signal transduction and transport pathways, including plasma membrane-associated small GTPases, such as Cdc42, Ras-related proteins and RhoB. The small GTPases of the Ras superfamily are well known to have roles in endocytosis [65,66]. RhoB regulates endosomal trafficking, in co-operation with mDia1 and Src kinase [67], and Cdc42, which has also been connected to cell migration and cell polarity, has also been linked to the regulation of

**Table 1.** Uniquely identified proteins in anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitations in control Mϕ (Condition 1).

| PROTEIN NAME | GENE | MOLECULAR WEIGHT | LOCALIZATION | FUNCTION/STRUCTURE | UNIPROT ACCESSION | PROBABILITY | UNIQUE PEPTIDES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gelsolin, isoform 2 | GSN | 80,641 | Cytoskeleton | Actin-modulating protein | P06396 | 1 | 14 |
| Tropomyosin alpha-3 chain, isoform 2 | TPM3 | 29,033 | Cytoskeleton | Actin-modulating protein | P06753 | 1 | 6 |
| Integrin beta 2 | ITGB2 | 84,782 | Membrane | Cell adhesion | P05107 | 1 | 5 |
| Golgi autoantigen (Golgin), subfamily A2 | GOLGA2 | 113,086 | Golgi | cis-Golgi structure | Q08379 | 1 | 4 |
| Tropomyosin alpha 4 chain, isoform 1 | TPM4 | 28,522 | Cytoskeleton | Actin-modulating protein | P67936 | 1 | 4 |
| Putative uncharacterized protein TPP1 | TPP1 | 60,369 | Unknown | Unknown | B5MDC1 | 1 | 4 |
| Coatomer, subunit gamma | COPG | 97,718 | Cytoplasm | Protein transport | Q9Y678 | 1 | 3 |
| Cytoplasmic dynein 1, heavy chain 1 | DYNC1H1 | 532,408 | Microtubules | Motor protein | Q14204 | 1 | 3 |
| Hematopoietic lineage cell-specific protein | HCLS1 | 53,984 | Membrane | Antigen receptor signalling | P14317 | 1 | 3 |
| AP-2 complex subunit beta, isoform 1 | AP2B1 | 104,553 | Membrane | Protein transport | P63010 | 1 | 3 |
| Protein S100-A9 | S100A9 | 13,242 | Membrane | Chemotaxis | P06702 | 1 | 3 |
| Actin-related protein 2/3 complex, subunit 1B | ARPC1B | 40,950 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | O15143 | 1 | 2 |
| Actin-related protein 2/3 complex, subunit 4 | ARPC4 | 19,667 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | P59998 | 1 | 2 |
| F-actin capping protein, subunit beta | CAPZB | 37,482 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | B4DWA6 | 1 | 2 |
| Scavenger receptor (M130) cysteine-rich | CD163 | 125,437 | Membrane | Scavenger-receptor activity | Q86VB7 | 1 | 2 |
| HLA class I histocompatibility antigen | HLA-C | 36,798 | Membrane | Antigen presentation | Q29960 | 0.9998 | 2 |
| Protein S100-A8 | S100A8 | 10,835 | Membrane | Chemotaxis | P05109 | 1 | 2 |
| Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 | RAC2 | 21,429 | Cytoplasm | GTP binding | P15153 | 1 | 2 |
| Tropomyosin 1 alpha chain, isoform 2 | TPM1 | 32,678 | Cytoskeleton | Actin-modulating protein | Q9Y427 | 0.9996 | 2 |
| C-C chemokine receptor type 1 | CCR1 | 41,173 | Membrane | G-protein coupled receptor protein | P32246 | 0.9888 | 2 |
| CD9 antigen | CD9 | 25,416 | Membrane | Signalling | P21926 | 0.9952 | 2 |

Protein and gene names, molecular weight in Daltons, cellular localization, function/structure, Uniprot accession number, protein identification probability from iProphet and unique number of identified peptides for each individual protein are shown.

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endocytosis [68]. We observed an interaction between CD4 and LAMP1, suggesting the intervention of lysosomes in the down-regulation of CD4. This observation correlates with the effect induced by the phorbol ester PMA in the induction of CD4 internalization and degradation [69]. Overall, the over-representation of endosome-related proteins in this condition, clearly clusters CD4 with the endocytic pathways.

When Mϕ are treated with conditioned media from activated T cells in the presence of MG132 and bafilomycin A1, CD4 can still be internalized, but it is not degraded (Saraiva Raposo et al. manuscript under revision). Under this condition, CD4 was associated with several components of the proteasome, such as regulatory and activating subunits involved in the cascade of protein ubiquitination, suggesting the involvement of the proteasomal pathway. We identified the member of the E3 ubiquitin (Ub) ligase family, Itch/AIP4 to be associated with CD4 and confirmed it by western blot. Itch is a member of the HECT domain-containing E3 Ub ligases and has been implicated in the post-translational

**Table 2.** Uniquely identified proteins in anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitations in induced CD4 internalization and degradation in Mϕ (Condition 2).

| PROTEIN NAME | GENE | MOLECULAR WEIGHT | LOCALIZATION | FUNCTION/STRUCTURE | UNIPROT ACCESSION | PROBABILITY | UNIQUE PEPTIDES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Actin, cytoplasmic 2 | ACTG1 | 41,793 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P63261 | 0.9993 | 11 |
| Annexin A2, isoform 1 | ANXA2 | 38,604 | Membrane | Calcium binding | P07355 | 1 | 9 |
| Alpha actinin 4 | ACTN4 | 104,854 | Cytoplasm | Transport | O43707 | 1 | 6 |
| Flotillin 1 | FLOT1 | 47,355 | Membrane | Protein transport | O75955 | 0.99775 | 6 |
| Protein transport protein, Sec23B | SEC23B | 86,479 | COPII Vesicle | Protein transport | Q15437 | 1 | 5 |
| Integrin beta | ITGB2 | 78,345 | Membrane | Cell adhesion | A8MYE6 | 0.99825 | 3 |
| Fascin | FSCN1 | 54,530 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | Q16658 | 1 | 2 |
| Myosin-Va, isoform 1 | MYO5A | 215,405 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | Q9Y4I1 | 1 | 2 |
| Tensin 3, isoform 1 | TNS3 | 155,266 | Cytoplasm | Protein binding | Q68CZ2 | 0.9955 | 2 |
| Cytosolic non-specific dipeptidase, isoform 2 | CNDP2 | 43,833 | Cytoplasm | Proteolysis | Q96KP4 | 1 | 2 |
| Reticulon 4, isoform 2 | RTN4 | 40,318 | Membrane | Protein binding | Q9NQC3 | 1 | 2 |
| Ras-related protein, Rab-10 | RAB10 | 22,541 | Membrane | Protein transport | P61026 | 0.99775 | 2 |
| Ribonuclease inhibitor | RNH1 | 49,973 | Cytoplasm | Protein binding | P13489 | 1 | 2 |
| Cell division control protein 42, Isoform 1 | CDC42 | 21,311 | Cytoplasm/Membrane | GTP binding | P60953 | 0.9955 | 2 |
| AP-1 complex subunit beta 1, Isoform A | AP1B1 | 104,637 | Clathrin Coated Pits | Endocytosis | Q10567 | 0.9955 | 2 |
| Lysosome associated membrane glycoprotein 1 | LAMP1 | 44,882 | Lysosome | Protein degradation | P11279 | 0.9955 | 2 |
| Ras-related protein, Rab-11B | RAB11B | 24,489 | Membrane | Protein transport | Q15907 | 0.9965 | 2 |
| Rho-related GTP-binding protein, RhoB | RHOB | 22,123 | Membrane | Protein transport | P62745 | 0.9876 | 2 |

Protein and gene names, molecular weight in Daltons, cellular localization, function/structure, Uniprot accession number, protein identification probability from iProphet and unique number of identified peptides for each individual protein are shown.
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modification with Ub of CXCR4, followed by desensitization at the cell surface by engagement to its cognate ligand SDF-1α [70].

In the early stages of HIV-1 infection, the viral protein HIV-1 Nef, reported to accelerate CD4 down-regulation, avoiding viral superinfection and promoting efficient viral spread and optimal viral particle production [25], also alters the intracellular trafficking of MHC-I and MHC-II molecules [71]. HIV-1 Nef-dependent reduction of surface MHC-I protects HIV-infected primary T cells from recognition and killing by HIV-specific cytotoxic T cells in vitro [72]. Schaefer et al. reported that HIV-1 Nef targets MHC-I molecules and CD4 for degradation in the lysosomes, by showing co-localization of CD4 and a subset of HLA-A2 proteins in late endosomes and multi-vesicular bodies (MVB) [73]. We showed an interaction between CD4 and components of MHC-I (HLA-A and HLA-B). Although, our system is an HIV-1 Nef-independent system, both induced pathways seem to have some degree of similarity.

Overall in resting macrophages CD4 shows association with a range of proteins found in the cellular cortex, clathrin coated pits and membrane rafts. In induced internalization the spectrum of proteins clustered with the receptor changes and CD4 becomes associated with components of signal transduction and transport. Finally, under conditions where protein degradation pathways are chemically blocked, CD4 associates with components of the proteasome and ubiquitin-modifying proteins.

This is the first co-immunoisolation LC-MS/MS-based identification of CD4 complexes in human primary Mϕ elucidating CD4-interacting proteins and the protein-network involved in its induced internalization and degradation. Due to its importance in the context of HIV-1 infection, revealing the CD4 "interactome" can lead to the discovery of important proteins in the pathogenesis of the virus. In conclusion, our mass spectrometry data contribute to a better understanding of the fate of CD4 molecules in resting Mϕ and in induced internalization and degradation.

**Table 3.** Uniquely identified proteins in anti-CD4 co-immunoprecipitations in induced CD4 internalization and blocked degradation in Mϕ (Condition 3).

| PROTEIN NAME | GENE | MOLECULAR WEIGHT | LOCALIZATION | FUNCTION/STRUCTURE | UNIPROT ACCESSION | PROBABILITY | UNIQUE PEPTIDES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1/2 | HSPA1B | 70,052 | Cytoplasm | Chaperone, protein folding | P08107 | 1 | 19 |
| Coronin 1C | CORO1C | 49,379 | Cytoskeleton | Signal transduction | B4DMH3 | 1 | 3 |
| Heme oxygenase 1 | HMOX1 | 32,819 | ER | Metal-binding | P09601 | 1 | 3 |
| Guanine nucleotide-binding protein G, isoform 2 | GNAI2 | 38,473 | Membrane | GTP Binding, signal Transduction | P04899 | 1 | 3 |
| Annexin IV | ANXA4 | 36,085 | Cytoplasm | Calcium binding | Q6LES2 | 1 | 2 |
| Annexin VI | ANXA6 | 75,277 | Cytoplasm | Calcium binding | A6NN80 | 0.7873 | 2 |
| Endoplasmic reticulum protein, ERp29 | ERP29 | 28,993 | ER lumen | Intracellular protein transport | P30040 | 1 | 2 |
| Guanine nucleotide-binding protein subunit beta 4 | GNB4 | 37,567 | Cytoplasm | Transmembrane signalling | Q9HAV0 | 0.9989 | 2 |
| HLA class I histocompatibility antigen | HLA-A | 40,892 | Membrane | Antigen processing and presentation | P16190 | 1 | 2 |
| Hypoxia up-regulated protein 1 | HYOU1 | 111,335 | ER lumen | Chaperone, protein folding | Q9Y4L1 | 1 | 2 |
| E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase Itchy, isoform 1 | ITCH | 102,803 | Cytoplasm | Protein ubiquitination | Q96J02 | 1 | 2 |
| Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein R | HNRNPR | 70,943 | Cytoplasm | mRNA processing | O43390 | 0.9931 | 2 |
| Ras-related protein Rab-1A | RAB1A | 22,678 | Membrane | Protein transport | P62820 | 0.9898 | 2 |
| Endoplasmic reticulum aminopeptidase 1, isoform 2 | ERAP1 | 107,841 | ER lumen | Antigen processing and presentation | Q9NZ08 | 1 | 2 |
| Ras-related protein, Rab-1B | RAB1B | 22,171 | Membrane | Protein transport | Q9H0U4 | 0.9898 | 2 |
| 26S protease regulatory subunit 6B | PSMC4 | 47,366 | Proteasome Complex | Protein degradation | P43686 | 0.9971 | 2 |
| Proteasome activator complex, subunit 1 | PSME1 | 28,723 | Proteasome Complex | Protein degradation | Q06323 | 0.9971 | 2 |
| Proteasome subunit alpha type 4 | PSMA4 | 29,484 | Proteasome Complex | Protein degradation | P25789 | 0.9971 | 2 |
| Ubiquitin-like modifier-activating enzyme 1 | UBA1 | 117,849 | Cytosol | Ubiquitin conjugation pathway | P22314 | 0.9971 | 2 |
| Antigen peptide transporter 1 | TAP1 | 87,218 | ER lumen | Protein transport | Q03518 | 0.9971 | 1 |
| HLA class I histocompatibility antigen | HLA-B | 40,481 | Membrane | Antigen processing and presentation | P30481 | 0.9971 | 1 |
| Tyrosine-protein phosphatase non-receptor | PTPN6 | 67,561 | Cytoplasm | Signal transduction | P29350 | 0.9778 | 1 |
| Ras-related protein, Rab-14 | RAB14 | 23,897 | Membrane | Protein transport | P61106 | 0.9971 | 1 |
| Transmembrane emp24 domain-containing protein | TMED10 | 24,976 | Golgi apparatus membrane | Vesicular protein trafficking | P49755 | 0.9971 | 1 |
| V-type proton ATPase subunit D | ATP6V1D | 28,263 | Vacuole | Proton-transporting ATPase | Q9Y5K8 | 0.9971 | 1 |
| V-type proton ATPase subunit G1 | ATP6V1G1 | 13,758 | Vacuole | Proton-transporting ATPase | O75348 | 0.9969 | 1 |

Protein and gene names, molecular weight in Daltons, cellular localization, function/structure, Uniprot accession number, protein identification probability from iProphet and unique number of identified peptides for each individual protein are shown.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018690.t003

## Materials and Methods

### Ethics statement

Adult human blood was obtained from anonymous donors through the UK National Blood Service and tested negative for HIV-1, hepatitis B/C, and syphilis. Local IRB approval was sought for this work from Oxford University's Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC), and we were informed that specific ethical approval was unnecessary for this study, in accordance with their guidelines on the use of human blood (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/curec/resrchapp/faqethapp.shtml):

"CUREC does not require an ethics form for laboratory research using buffy coats. However there are occasions when the

**Table 4.** Proteins commonly identified in all conditions.

| PROTEIN NAME | GENE | MOLECULAR WEIGHT | LOCALIZATION | FUNCTION/STRUCTURE | UNIPROT ACCESSION | PROBABILITY | UNIQUE PEPTIDES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Myosin 9, isoform 1 | MYH9 | 226,532 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | P35579 | 1 | 126 |
| Ras GTPase-activating-like protein | IQGAP1 | 189,252 | Membrane | Ras GTPase activator activity | P46940 | 0.99954 | 40 |
| Major vault protein | MVP | 99,327 | Cytoplasm | Protein transport | Q14764 | 1 | 35 |
| Filamin A, isoform 2 | FLNA | 280,018 | Cytoskeleton | Protein binding | P21333 | 1 | 34 |
| Vimentin | VIM | 53,652 | Cytosol | Actin binding | P08670 | 1 | 28 |
| Plastin 2 | LCP1 | 70,289 | Cytoplasm | Actin binding | P13796 | 1 | 22 |
| Clathrin heavy chain 1 | CLTC | 191,615 | Clathrin coated pit | Protein transport | Q00610 | 1 | 20 |
| Protein transport protein, Sec16A | SEC16A | 233,517 | ER/Golgi | Protein transport | O15027 | 0.99478 | 19 |
| Endoplasmin | HSP90B1 | 92,469 | Cytosol | ERAD protein catabolism | P14625 | 0.99998 | 13 |
| Alpha actinin 1 | ACTN1 | 103,058 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P12814 | 1 | 11 |
| Talin 1 | TLN1 | 269,767 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | Q9Y490 | 0.9996 | 11 |
| Moesin | MSN | 67,820 | Cytoskeleton | Cell adhesion | P26038 | 1 | 10 |
| DnaJ subfamily C member 10 | DNAJC10 | 91,080 | ER lumen | Protein folding | Q8IXB1 | 0.9977 | 9 |
| CD4 antigen | CD4 | 51,111 | Membrane | Receptor activity | P01730 | 0.99942 | 9 |
| Protein transport protein, Sec24C | SEC24C | 118,325 | COPII vesicle | ER/Golgi transport | P53992 | 0.95185 | 8 |
| Annexin A5 | ANXA5 | 35,937 | Cytoplasm | Calcium binding | P08758 | 0.9988 | 7 |
| Profilin 1 | PFN1 | 15,054 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P07737 | 0.99954 | 7 |
| Protein disulfide isomerase | P4HB | 57,116 | Membrane | Protein disulfide isomerase | P07237 | 0.99735 | 6 |
| V-type proton ATPase, subunit B | ATP6V1B2 | 56,501 | Cytosol | Proton-transporting ATPase | P21281 | 0.99883 | 6 |
| Calreticulin | CALR | 48,142 | Cytosol | Calcium binding | P27797 | 0.9984 | 5 |
| Cathepsin B | CTSB | 37,822 | Lysosome | Degradation/turn-over of proteins | P07858 | 0.99787 | 5 |
| Coronin 1A | CORO1A | 51,026 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P31146 | 0.99748 | 5 |
| Cofilin 1 | CFL1 | 18,502 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P23528 | 0.9987 | 4 |
| F-actin-capping protein, subunit alpha 2 | CAPZA2 | 32,949 | Cytoskeleton | Actin binding | P47755 | 0.9966 | 4 |
| Protein transport protein, Sec24A | SEC24A | 119,749 | COPII Vesicle | ER/Golgi transport | O95486 | 0.99903 | 4 |
| Myeloid cell nuclear differentiation antigen | MNDA | 45,836 | Cytoplasm | Transcription regulation | P41218 | 0.99806 | 4 |
| Transferrin receptor protein 1 | TFRC | 84,871 | Membrane | Transferrin receptor activity | P02786 | 0.9967 | 4 |
| 14-3-3 protein zeta/delta | YWHAZ | 27,745 | Cytosol | Signal transduction | P63104 | 0.99913 | 3 |
| Integrin alpha M | CD11b | 127,179 | Membrane | Cell adhesion | P11215 | 0.99747 | 3 |
| Protein-glutamine gamma-glutamyltransferase 2 | TGM2 | 77,329 | Membrane | Cell adhesion | P21980 | 0.99808 | 3 |
| Lymphocyte-specific protein 1 | LSP1 | 37,192 | Membrane | Signal transduction | P33241 | 0.99903 | 3 |
| Macrophage-capping protein | CAPG | 38,518 | Cytosol | Actin binding | P40121 | 0.99758 | 3 |
| Ras-related protein, Rap-1b | RAP1B | 20,825 | Membrane | GTPase activity | P61224 | 0.99743 | 3 |
| IgE Fc receptor subunit gamma | FCER1G | 9,667 | Membrane | Receptor activity | P30273 | 0.99773 | 2 |
| Protein S100-A11 | S100A11 | 11,740 | Cytosol | Calcium binding | P31949 | 0.99883 | 2 |

Protein and gene names, molecular weight in daltons, cellular localization, function/structure, Uniprot accession number, protein identification probability from iProphet and unique number of identified peptides for each individual protein are shown.

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National Blood Service donating the buffy coats may require ethical approval from the University. In this instance a checklist completion will suffice. Applicants should answer Question C (8) as a 'NO'. A covering note should be sent to the Secretary of the MSD IDREC with the checklist explaining that the research uses buffy coats and the NBS requires University ethical approval.'' Although not required by NBS, we completed a checklist as indicated and received exemption from MSD IREC.

## Cells and reagents

PBMC were isolated using Ficoll-Plaque Plus (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Europe) density gradient centrifugation from

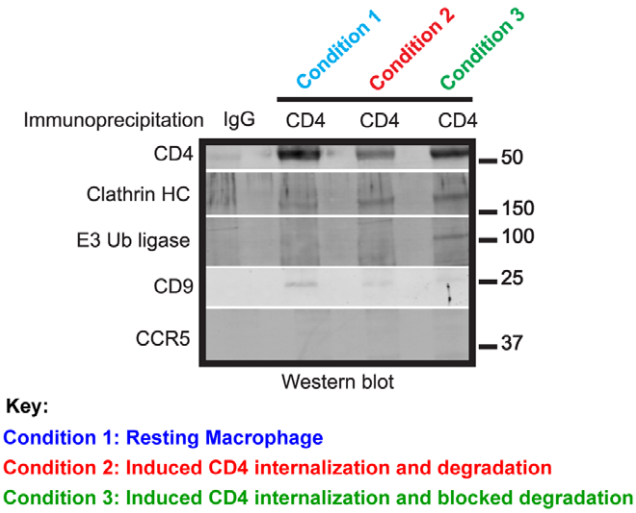


**Figure 4. Western blot analysis of CD4 co-immunoprecipitates in Mϕ.** A total of $1\times10^7$ Mϕ were left untreated (Condition 1, blue), treated for 18 hours with supernatants from activated T cells (Condition 2, red), treated for 18 hours with supernatants from activated T cells in the presence of 5 μM MG132 and 100 nM BafA1 (Condition 3, green), lysed and anti-CD4 immunoprecipitation reactions were carried out. Isotype control immunoprecipitations were also performed to show background protein binding. Immunoisolates were resuspended in Laemmli sample buffer under reducing and denaturing conditions and resolved on a SDS-PAGE gel. Membranes were incubated with antibodies against CD4, clathrin heavy chain (HC) 1, E3 Ubiquitin (Ub) ligase Itch, CD9 and CCR5. Primary antibodies were detected and scanned using the quantitative western blotting imaging Odyssey System. A representative blot of three different blood donors is shown (n = 3).
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heparinized buffy-coats. Monocytes were isolated by CD14-positive selection using anti-CD14 magnetic beads (Miltenyi Biotec, UK), according to the manufacturer's instructions and seeded in complete medium (RPMI 10% FCS (PAA), 2 mM L-glutamine (PAA), 100 U/mL penicillin (PAA) and 100 μg/mL streptomycin (PAA)), supplemented with 50 ng/mL recombinant M-CSF (R&D Systems) for 7 days. MG132 and bafilomycin A1 (BafA1) (Sigma, UK) were resuspended in DMSO (Sigma, UK) and used at final non-toxic concentrations of 5 μM and 100 nM, respectively. $CD4^+$ T Helper cells were isolated from the CD14-negative population of PBMC, by negative selection (Miltenyi Biotec, UK), according to the manufacturer's protocol and activated using anti-biotin MACSiBead particles and biotinylated antibodies against human anti-CD2, CD3 and CD28 (Miltenyi Biotec, UK) in complete medium for 3 days. Cell-free supernatants were collected after 3 days stimulation, filtered (0.45 μm pore-size) and stored until used. Typically, day 7 fully differentiated Mϕ were treated with neat T cell supernatants, in the absent or presence of MG132 and BafA1 for 18 hours, prior to CD4 co-immunoisolation.

## Flow cytometry

CD4 expression levels were detected by direct immunofluorescence. Mϕ in staining buffer (10 μg/mL human IgG (Sigma UK), 1% FCS and 0.01% $NaN_3$) were incubated with 5 μg/mL anti-CD4 specific mAb (clone RPA-T4, Becton Dickinson) or matched isotype control (IgG1κ, Becton Dickinson) on ice for 30–45 min. For intracellular staining, cells were first fixed, then permeabilized with 0.2% saponin (Sigma, UK) and stained. The percentage of positive cells and the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) were analyzed by FACS Calibur (Becton Dickinson) with 15,000–20,000-gated events collected. The data was processed using FlowJo (version 7.2.4). Protein expression levels were determined by dividing the geometrical MFI of the Ab staining over the MFI of the isotype control.

## Western blotting

Adherent Mϕ were washed free of media, detached using ice cold 10 mM EDTA/PBS and cell pellets were lysed in ice-cold lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 1% (v/v) n-Dodecyl β-D-maltoside (Sigma), 1× protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche), phosphatase inhibitor cocktail 2 (Sigma)). n-Dodecyl β-D-maltoside is a water-soluble non-ionic detergent, shown to be a rather gentle detergent able to preserve protein activity and structure better than many commonly used agents, such as Triton X-100, NP-40, CHAPs and octyl-β-glucoside [74,75,76,77]. Lysates were centrifuged for 10 min at 4°C, 13,000×g to separate insoluble material and cleared lysate was resuspended in 1× Laemmli sample buffer (Invitrogen, UK) under reducing conditions and heated for 10 min at 90°C. Lysates were electrophoresed through SDS–PAGE gels and proteins were electroblotted to PVDF transfer membranes. Blocked membranes were incubated with one of the following primary antibodies diluted in 3% (w/v) BSA (Sigma) in 1× PBS-T (1× PBS, 0.1% (v/v) Tween-20) for 2 hours at room temperature or over-night at 4°C: rabbit polyclonal antibody anti-CD4 (clone H-370), rabbit polyclonal antibody anti-CD9 (clone H-110), rabbit polyclonal antibody anti-clathrin heavy chain 1 (clone H-300), rabbit polyclonal antibody anti-E3 Ubiquitin ligase (clone H-110) (all from Santa Cruz) and mouse monoclonal antibody anti-CCR5 (clone CTC5, R&D Systems). Primary antibodies were detected using the matching LI-COR secondary antibodies and membranes were scanned using the quantitative western blotting imaging system Odyssey (LI-COR).

## Immunoisolation analysis

Anti-CD4 immunoisolation reactions consisted of 10 μL of protein G–Sepharose bead slurry (4B Fast Flow, Sigma, UK) per $1\times10^7$ lysed cells and 5–10 μg mouse monoclonal antibody anti-CD4 (clone QS4120, Santa Cruz) was incubated for 2 hours at room temperature to allow binding of the antibody to the beads. Beads were gently spun, cell lysate was added to the mixture of beads/antibody and the reactions were incubated by inversion for 3 hours at 4°C. The immunoisolates were collected by centrifugation for 5 min at 4°C, and washed three times for 5 min with lysis buffer. The final immunoisolates were resuspended in Laemmli sample buffer under reducing conditions and heated for 10 min at 90°C, before loading them onto a gel. Isotype control immunoprecipitations were also performed to identify background binding proteins.

## Mass spectrometry and protein identification

Anti-CD4 or isotype control immunoisolated pellets were reduced in NuPAGE sample reducing agent (Invitrogen, UK), separated on a NuPAGE Novex 4–12% Bis-Tris gel (Invitrogen, UK) and coomassie stained. Gel lanes were excised, cut into 10 equal portions and in-gel digested with trypsin [78]. Briefly, gel bands were diced into cubes and destained in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate in 50:50 water/acetonitrile. Proteins were reduced with 10 mM DTT and alkylated with 55 mM iodoacetamide. Gel bands were then incubated with 3 μg of trypsin (Promega, UK) in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate over-night at 37°C. Peptides were extracted and desalted using home-made C18 tips. Mass spectrometry data were acquired on an Orbitrap mass spectrom-

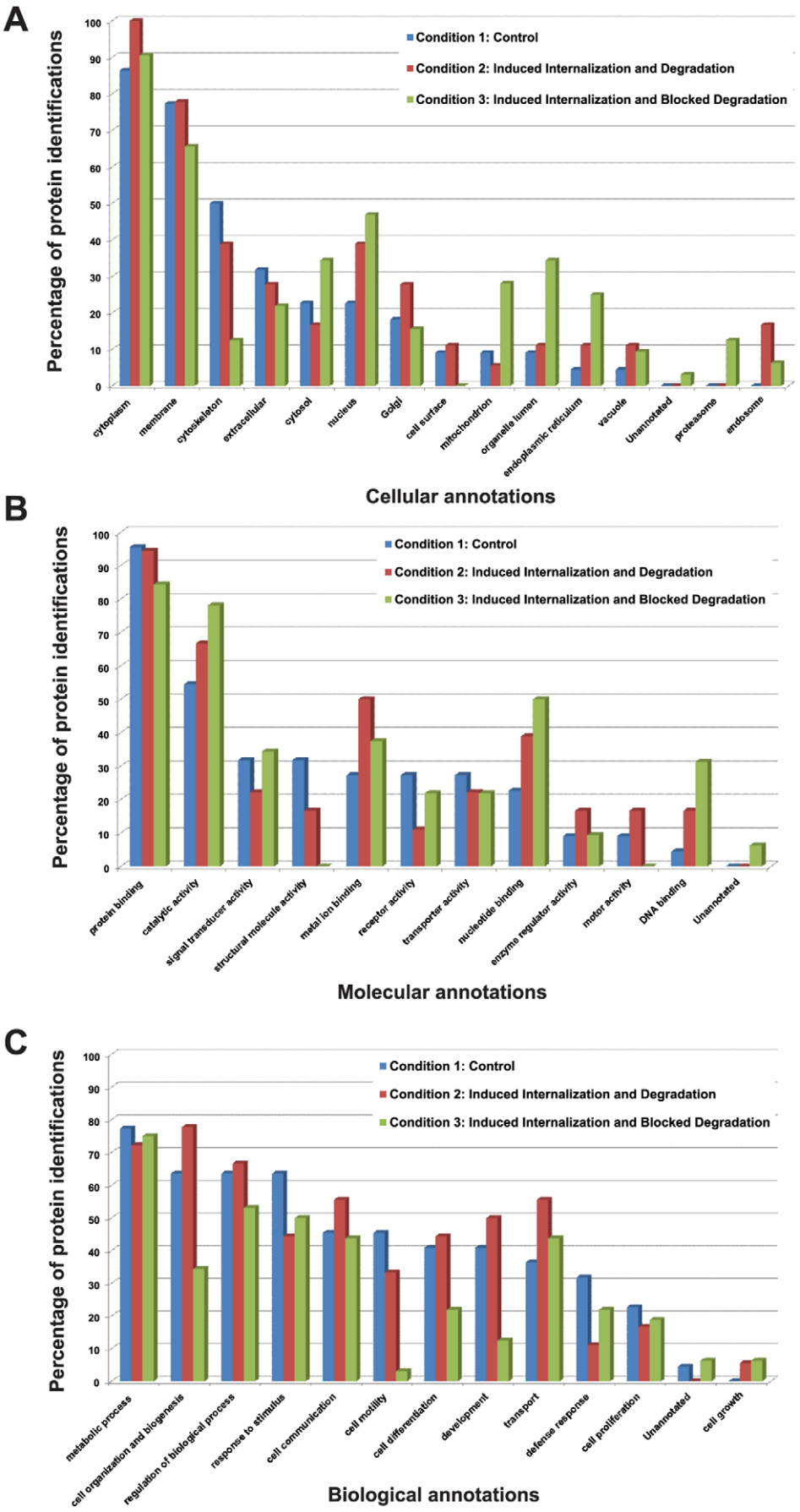
A
Percentage of protein identifications
Condition 1: Control
Condition 2: Induced Internalization and Degradation
Condition 3: Induced Internalization and Blocked Degradation
cytoplasm
membrane
cytoskeleton
extracellular
cytosol
nucleus
Golgi
cell surface
mitochondrion
organelle lumen
endoplasmic reticulum
vacuole
Unannotated
proteasome
endosome
Cellular annotations
B
Percentage of protein identifications
Condition 1: Control
Condition 2: Induced Internalization and Degradation
Condition 3: Induced Internalization and Blocked Degradation
protein binding
catalytic activity
signal transducer activity
structural molecule activity
metal ion binding
receptor activity
transporter activity
nucleotide binding
enzyme regulator activity
motor activity
DNA binding
Unannotated
Molecular annotations
C
Percentage of protein identifications
Condition 1: Control
Condition 2: Induced Internalization and Degradation
Condition 3: Induced Internalization and Blocked Degradation
metabolic process
cell organization and biogenesis
regulation of biological process
response to stimulus
cell communication
cell motility
cell differentiation
development
transport
defense response
cell proliferation
Unannotated
cell growth
Biological annotations

**Figure 5. Gene Ontology (GO) annotations of the uniquely identified proteins in anti-CD4 immunoprecipitations in Mϕ.** Protein identifications from the three different conditions were exported from the in-house developed Central Proteomics Facilities data analysis pipeline (CPFP) and uploaded to ProteinCenter software. **A** illustrates the percentage of protein identifications versus protein cellular localizations (GO cellular annotations); **B** illustrates the percentage of protein identifications versus protein molecular functions (GO molecular annotations) and **C** illustrates the percentage of protein identifications versus protein biological functions (GO biological annotations). Blue bars represent the percentage of unique proteins identified in condition 1 (Resting macrophages); Red bars represent the percentage of unique proteins identified in condition 2 (Induced CD4 internalization and degradation); Green bars represent the percentage of unique proteins identified in condition 3 (Induced CD4 internalization and blocked degradation).
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eter (Thermo) fitted with a nanospray source (Proxeon, Denmark) coupled to a U3000 nano HPLC system (Dionex, UK). The samples were loaded onto a 15 cm long, 100 micron ID, home-packed column manufactured by packing a Picotip emitter (New Objective, USA) with ProntoSIL C18 phase; 120 angstrom pore, 3 micron bead, C18 (Bischoff Chromatography, Germany). HPLC was run in a direct injection configuration. One hundred and twenty minute gradients were used to resolve the peptides. The Orbitrap was run in a data dependent acquisition mode in which the Orbitrap resolution was set at 60,000 and the top 5 multiply charged precursors were selected for MS/MS fragmentation. Samples were typically injected three times in order to increase the number and confidence of identifications. RAW data files were converted to mzXML format using ReAdW (version 4.2.1) and submitted to the in-house developed Central Proteomics Facilities Pipeline (CPFP) [79]. The CPFP is based on the Trans Proteomic Pipeline tools (version 4.2.1) [80] and implements automatic identification of MS/MS spectra using multiple search engines to maximise coverage of a sample. mzXML files were converted to suitable peaklist formats for submission to Mascot (Matrix Science), X!Tandem with k-score plugin [81] and OMSSA [82]. Searches are performed automatically and executed on a compute cluster, using Sun GridEngine, and the resulting peptide identifications from each search engine are validated with PeptideProphet [83]. iProphet is used to combine peptide hits from each three search engines and refines identification probabilities. ProteinProphet infers protein identifications from the resulting combined peptide list and performs grouping of ambiguous hits [84]. Protein identifications were exported from the CPFP and uploaded to ProteinCenter (Proxeon, Denmark) for filtering, annotation, classification, and interpretation. Searches were performed against a concatenated target/decoy human IPI database providing an empirical false discovery rate (FDR) and criteria for protein identification included 1% FDR and two or more unique peptides identified for each individual protein. Proteins that were identified in the isotype control immunoprecipitations were filtered out of the final interpretation. Uniquely identified proteins were only identified in the condition tested and commonly identified proteins were identified in all conditions tested.

### Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed by paired t-test using GraphPad Prism (version 5.01). Stars indicate the p-value: **p = 0.01-0.001; ***p<0.001. Significance refers to difference from the controls, unless otherwise indicated. N refers to the number of blood donors tested.

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## Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: RASR. Performed the experiments: RASR BT GR. Analyzed the data: RASR BT WJ. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: RASR BT GR WJ. Wrote the paper: RASR BT WJ.

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