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How to cite

WILLIAMS, Nathalia, SILVA, Filo, SCHMOLKE, Mirco. Harnessing host enhancers of SARS-CoV-2 entry as novel targets for antiviral therapy. In: Antiviral research, 2024, vol. 228, p. 105951. doi: 10.1016/j.antiviral.2024.105951

This publication URL: <https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:178648>

Publication DOI: [10.1016/j.antiviral.2024.105951](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2024.105951)

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Journal Pre-proof

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PII: S0166-3542(24)00160-8

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2024.105951>

Reference: AVR 105951

To appear in: *Antiviral Research*

Received Date: 26 January 2024

Revised Date: 18 June 2024

Accepted Date: 26 June 2024

Please cite this article as: Williams, N., Silva, F., Schmolke, M., Harnessing host enhancers of SARS-CoV-2 entry as novel targets for antiviral therapy, *Antiviral Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2024.105951>.

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1 **Harnessing host enhancers of SARS-CoV-2 entry as novel targets for antiviral therapy**

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12 **Key words: SARS-CoV-2, Coronavirus, Covid-19, virus entry, receptor, antiviral**

13 **Short title: Novel host targets for antiviral therapy against SARS-CoV-2**

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22 Abstract

23

24 The WHO declared the official end of the SARS-CoV-2 caused public health emergency on May
25 5th, 2023, after two years in which the virus infected approximately 750 Mio individuals
26 causing estimated up to 7 Mio deaths. Likely, the virus will continue to evolve in the human
27 population as a seasonal respiratory pathogen. To now prevent severe infection outcomes in
28 vulnerable individuals, effective antivirals are urgently needed to complement the protection
29 provided by vaccines. SARS-CoV-2 enters its host cell via ACE2 mediated membrane fusion,
30 either at the plasma membrane, if the protease TMPRSS2 is present or via the endosome, in
31 a cathepsin dependent fashion. A small number of positive regulators of viral uptake were
32 described in the literature, which are potentially useful targets for host directed antiviral
33 therapy or biomarkers indicating increased or diminished susceptibility to infection. We
34 identified here by cell surface proximity ligation novel proteins, required for efficient virion
35 uptake. Importantly, chemical inhibition of one of these factors, SLC3A2, resulted in robust
36 reduction of viral replication, to that achieved with a TMPRSS2 inhibitor. Our screen identified
37 new host dependency factors for SARS-CoV-2 entry, which could be targeted by novel antiviral
38 therapies.

39

40 Introduction

41

42 At the end of 2019 a novel SARS Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) entered the human population¹,
43 presumably after a zoonotic transfer from a yet to be identified animal source. The virus
44 quickly spread globally, infected more than 750 Mio people and is responsible for at almost 7
45 million deaths (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int>, Dec 2023). SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the upper

46 and occasionally lower respiratory tract of humans. Infections can remain asymptomatic;
47 symptomatic infections manifest in a wide range: from cold-like symptoms to acute respiratory
48 distress syndrome and respiratory failure².

49 SARS-CoV-2 virions attach to heparan sulfates on the cell surface and rely primarily on
50 angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) to enter the host cell³. The entry process requires
51 proteolytic activation of the SARS-CoV-2 spike⁴ (S) and either occurs at the cell surface, when
52 the serin protease TMPRSS2 is expressed by the host cell or by endosomal uptake³. In the
53 latter case endosomal cathepsins are responsible for the cleavage of SARS-CoV-2 S protein,
54 initiating fusion of viral and endosomal membrane⁵.

55 *In vivo*, expression of hACE2 suffices to make mice susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. Additional entry
56 factors such as neuropilin 1 were identified, which support ACE2 dependent entry⁶. However,
57 ACE2 independent entry was shown, e.g., in H522 cells. Here ACE2 knockout did not affect
58 the entry process, suggesting that additional proteins could substitute the default receptor⁷.
59 Along these lines, S protein mutations found in variants of concern, which lead to enhanced
60 viral entry, do not augment ACE2 binding⁸. This points to additional host dependency factors
61 permitting or supporting the entry process of SARS-CoV-2.

62 To identify such host factors, we here used cell surface proximity ligation (CSPL⁹) to
63 identify host plasma membrane proteins in the vicinity of attached viral spike proteins. Hits
64 were validated with subsequent gain of function and loss of function approaches using VLP
65 entry assays. Using chemical inhibitors of a subset of entry factors in virus infection assays we
66 ultimately demonstrate that these host surface proteins could serve as future drug targets in
67 antiviral therapy.

68

69

70 **Results**

71

72 We previously applied cell surface proximity ligation (CSPL) to biotin-label host plasma
73 membrane protein in the vicinity of attached trimeric viral ligands⁹. Coupled to mass
74 spectrometry this strategy successfully identified TfR1 as a host entry factor for influenza A
75 viruses⁹. Here, we performed CSPL on A549 cells overexpressing ACE2 and TMPRSS2 (A549
76 A2T2 (Fig.S1A and B)). As molecular bait we used a stabilized trimeric SARS-CoV-2 S protein¹⁰
77 and fused it C-terminally to HRP. These proteins were produced in insect cell culture using a
78 baculovirus expression system (Fig. S1C). When incubating A549 A2T2 cells with this bait and
79 applying its substrate biotin phenol we achieved biotin ligation to numerous host proteins,
80 which were pulled down with streptavidin beads and analysed by mass spectrometry (Fig.1A).
81 Data from three independent CSPL/MS experiments were filtered against the cell surface
82 proteome atlas¹¹ and cross-referenced with the CRAPome library¹² for contaminants
83 frequently found in pulldown-MS experiments. As comparator we used pulldown data from
84 cells incubated with trimeric HRP only. We also considered hits that were found in at least two
85 out of three experiments (n=55) (Fig.1B and Table S1). Among these were known host entry
86 factors of SARS-CoV-2, such as neuropilin 1 (NRP1)⁶. The *bona fide* host entry receptor for
87 SARS-CoV-2, ACE2, was only found enriched in one out of three experiments. Encouragingly,
88 from the short list of 55 proteins about half were grouped into the GO cluster *viral entry into*
89 *host cells* (GO:0046718, red), *virus life cycle* (GO: 0019058, green) and *virus receptor activity*
90 (GO:0001618, blue) Fig 1C) with false discovery rates of 7.08×10^{-19} , 1.02×10^{-17} and $5.32 \times 10^{-$
91 ¹⁸, respectively. In contrast proteins that did not fulfill our bioinformatics selection criteria
92 grouped into virus receptor activity (GO:0001618) with an FDR of 0.0067, the other two
93 biological processes were not associated with this group of proteins (Fig. S2). We continued

94 with a hand-picked selection of ten candidates indicated by a black circle in Fig 1C (five
95 assigned to GO:0046718 and or GO:0001618, and five without such assignment). We next
96 depleted all ten proteins with at least two gRNAs using CRISPR/Cas9 and subsequent single
97 cell cloning in A549 A2T2 cells. Successful knockouts were confirmed by western blot (WB)
98 and whenever possible we continued with two clones, one from each gRNA approach (Fig. S3,
99 selected clones are marked with an asterisk). As positive control we used ACE2 knockout A549
100 cells (based on A549 A2T2). To assess the functional consequences of genetic depletion of
101 surface proteins on SARS-CoV-2 entry we infected knockout and control cells with SARS-CoV-
102 2 S pseudotyped replication incompetent HIV based VLP encoding a Gaussia luciferase
103 reporter¹³. To assess specificity, we used in parallel VSV G pseudotyped VLP. Since the two VLP
104 differ only in the surface protein, distinct effects of knockout are most probably related to
105 early steps of viral replication (attachment, entry, fusion). The infectious dose was harmonized
106 between SARS-CoV-2 S and VSV G pseudotyped VLP, as measured by the absolute luciferase
107 activity. We also made sure that both VLP dilutions resulted in comparable absolute light units
108 in the luciferase assay (Fig.S4). Genetic depletion of five out of ten proteins resulted in robust
109 reduction of SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP entry (Fig. 2A and Z-score in 2C). Amongst these,
110 knockout of three target genes (ATP1B1, ADAM10 and SLC3A2) resulted in comparable loss of
111 infection as knockout of ACE2 (Fig. 2A), suggesting an important effect on VLP entry. In
112 contrast, none of the ten clones had a significant effect on the entry of VSV G pseudotyped
113 VLP (Fig. 2B and and Z-score in 2D). Of note, we excluded those of the 10 candidates (Table
114 S1) for which knockout results (Fig. S3) and entry assay (Fig. S5) gave inconsistent results (e.g.
115 when two gRNA resulted in robust knockout but only one in a functional reduction of entry).
116 To assess the function of the remaining five proteins in a less artificial overexpression cell
117 system, we turned to Calu3 cells, which express both ACE2 and the serine protease

118 TMPRSS2¹⁴. Since these cells divide poorly in cell culture, we applied a bulk knockout approach
119 using lentiviral expressed CRISPR/Cas9 followed by puromycin selection. Knockout efficacy
120 was confirmed by WB. Only those cell populations with at least 50% reduction in protein levels
121 in the bulk population were used for functional assays (Fig. S6, A) WB and B) quantification).
122 Of note, the endogenous levels of the six candidates differed between A549 A2T2 and Calu3
123 cells (Fig. S6C), notably ADAM10 and ATP1B1 were substantially lower in A549 A2T2, while
124 SLC3A2 levels were slightly higher. Knockout of all candidates except ATP1B1 resulted in
125 significantly reduced entry of SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP in Calu3 cells (Fig. 3), while VSV
126 G pseudotyped VLP entry was not significantly affected. Notably, the knockout of EGFR, which
127 only reduced the entry into A549 A2T2 cells by about 50% (with a rather weak Z score) had a
128 much stronger effect in Calu3 cells, potentially in consequence of the generally lower levels of
129 endogenously expressed ACE2 (Fig. S1B), which could make entry less efficient in Calu3 cells.
130 Overall, we found a large overlap of candidate knockouts that significantly affected SARS-CoV-
131 2 VLP entry in the two different cell lines. It should however be noted that the extent, to which
132 each of these knockouts affects VLP entry differed between the two cell lines. This could be a
133 consequence of the higher or lower ACE2 and TMPRSS2 density (Fig. S1). We next asked
134 whether increasing the endogenous levels of the identified entry factor candidates in host
135 cells would positively affect VLP entry. Since A549 A2T2 are already highly infectable, we
136 decided to use parental A549 cells and A549 cells solely overexpressing ACE2 (A549 A2) (Fig.
137 S1B). Additionally, we overexpressed the candidate cDNAs in Calu3 cells. However, in contrast
138 to the clear affects achieved by knockout approaches, overexpression of the respective cDNAs
139 by lentiviral transduction into either A549, A549-ACE2 or Calu3 cells did not enhance VLP
140 infection, potentially due to sufficient endogenous amounts of entry factors (Fig. S7-9).
141 Overexpression of entry factors was confirmed by specific WB (Fig. S10).

142 Some viruses downregulate their own entry receptors in infected host cells to avoid
143 reinfection of the same cell during the exit process¹⁵⁻¹⁷. We reasoned that a downregulation
144 of proviral entry factors could prevent SARS-CoV-2 reinfection of the same cell. Protein levels
145 for the factors described here were analyzed by WB 24 h post infection. Both entry factors
146 that supported SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP entry in Calu3 cells, EGFR, ADAM10 and
147 SLC3A2, were downregulated during SARS-CoV-2 infection. Importantly, this downregulation
148 was specific since alternative host surface proteins (PLXNB2 and ATP1B1) remained unaffected
149 by virus infection (Fig. 4).

150

151 While multiple vaccine platforms were successfully implemented and saved millions of lives
152 in the Covid-19 pandemic, successful antiviral therapy options are still limited. ADAM10 was
153 recently identified as an alternative protease cleaving SARS-CoV-2 S¹⁸. For the here identified
154 most potent host entry factors ADAM10, ATP1B1 and SLC3A2 (identified in A549 A2T2) small
155 molecule inhibitors are commercially available (Table S2)^{19,20,45,47}. The TMPRSS2 inhibitor
156 Camostat was included as a positive control. Using a Cell titer glo viability assay we determined
157 the highest non-toxic concentration when applying it on Calu3 cells (Fig. S11 A-D). Cells were
158 pretreated for 2 h with 100 μ M of Camostat, 100 μ M or 500 μ M of KYT0353 (LAT1-SLC3A2
159 inhibitor also known as JPH203) or 100 μ M of ouabain (ATP1B1 inhibitor) and 4 h with 100
160 μ M of GI254023X (ADAM10 inhibitor). The incubation time for the chemical compounds was
161 determined using published data^{19,20,45,47}. After the incubation with the chemical compounds,
162 cells were washed and infected with MOI 1 of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1. Viral RNA copies of
163 subgenomic E RNA were determined by qRT-PCR 24 h post infection (Fig.5A-C). Treatment with
164 KYT0353 at both 100 μ M and 500 μ M reduced the viral charge robustly (Fig.5A and B),
165 performing comparably to the TMPRSS2 inhibitor Camostat (Fig.5C). Of note, while the the

166 higher concentration of KYT0353 reduced viral replication below the limit of detection at 24h
167 we also observed a reduction cell viability to 80% (Fig. S11B), suggesting a certain degree of
168 toxicity. In contrast chemical inhibition of ADAM10 or ATP1B1 had little or no effect,
169 respectively (Fig.5A and C).

170 In summary our data show that CSPL-identified host surface proteins can serve as novel
171 antiviral drug targets for the inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 entry.

172 **Discussion**

173 Over the past three years, several host factors have been described, which enhance SARS-CoV-
174 2 entry. Amongst these are ADAM10 and ADAM17¹⁸, MMP2 and MMP9²¹ and TMPRSS13²².
175 None of these replaces ACE2 as main receptor for virion entry²³. Instead, these host factors
176 promote cleavage of SARS-CoV-2 S (ADAM17) or act through a yet unknown but ACE2
177 dependent entry mechanism. TMEM106B in contrast was recently shown to allow ACE2
178 independent entry into cells²⁴, suggesting that SARS-CoV-2 is more flexible in its entry
179 mechanism than initially thought.

180 We here describe the identification of five host entry factors of SARS-CoV-2: ATP1B1, SLC3A2,
181 ADAM10, PLXNB2 and EGFR using an unbiased approach via cell surface proximity ligation.
182 Our data hence confirm independently the role of ADAM10 in virus entry¹⁸.

183 Importantly three of the remaining four factors were already implicated in the entry of other
184 human viruses. SLC3A2 was described to support entry of another positive strand RNA virus,
185 HCV²⁵, without affecting other steps of virus replication. ATP1B1 interacts with influenza A
186 and B virus M2 protein, which is essential for acidification of the virion during entry. Knockout
187 of the ATP1B1 gene in MDCK cells reduced replication of influenza A viruses, suggesting this
188 host factor is required for virus entry²⁶. It was further proposed to act positively on cell to cell
189 spread of HCMV²⁷ by an unknown mechanism. Conversely, ATP1B1 induction was shown to
190 upregulate innate antiviral responses via TRAF3 and TRAF6²⁸.

191 EGFR was proposed as a proviral entry factor or entry receptor of a number of human viruses:
192 influenza A viruses^{29,30}, HBV³¹, HCV³², HEV³³, HPV³⁴, ZIV³⁵ or TGEV³⁶. Only for plexin B2 we did
193 not find a known direct implication in the entry process or the replication of other viruses. It
194 should be pointed out, that in our hands plexin B2 did not play a significant role in entry of
195 SARS-CoV-2 into Calu3 cells.

196

197 This suggests that diverse viruses evolved convergent entry strategies relying of overlapping
198 host surface proteins to overcome the host plasma membrane. In consequence some of these
199 proteins might be excellent targets for broad-spectrum antiviral therapies.

200 We previously used CSPL to identify host proteins involved in influenza A virus entry⁹. Our data
201 here show that this technique could have broader implications for other viruses to identify
202 host entry factors or potentially host restriction factors of entry. We also noticed that CSPL
203 was substantially more reproducible using SARS-CoV-2 S as compared to the previously used
204 influenza virus HA. Potentially this is a consequence of a more selective protein receptor use
205 by SARS-CoV-2 to enter cells, while IAV tends to show rather promiscuous receptor use³⁷.
206 Consequently, we speculate that the protein environment at the point of entry is more defined
207 for SARS-CoV-2 than for IAV.

208 Curiously we found that SARS-CoV-2 infection diminishes the levels of some proviral entry
209 factors found here, e.g. SLC3A2 and ADAM10, while increasing the levels of the *bona fide* entry
210 receptor ACE2. In contrast plexin B2 levels remained stable during infection. This might
211 suggest that the virus selectively targets a certain group of cell surface proteins. The
212 mechanisms leading to these reduced protein levels need to be addressed in future studies,
213 but they could be linked to virus induced shutoff by nsp1. We postulate that this reduction of
214 host surface proteins enhancing viral entry, would be beneficial for the virus when exiting
215 infected cells to avoid reinfection.

216 Our data might also contribute to the ongoing search for host factors contributing to enhanced
217 or reduced susceptibility of human patients^{38,39}. Expression levels and sequence variations in
218 the here identified entry supporting factors might explain why some patients are more
219 sensitive to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

220 Direct antivirals against SARS-CoV-2 approved for clinical use include ritonavir-boosted
221 nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid), remdesivir and molnupiravir. Host directed therapies aim mostly at a
222 dampened inflammatory response to limit immune pathology⁴⁰. Currently there are no
223 antiviral strategies approved that target host dependency factors, but few are in clinical
224 trials^{41,42}.

225 Knockout of SLC3A2 resulted in comparable reduction of VLP entry as ACE2 knockout.
226 Importantly chemical targeting of SLC3A2 diminished replication of recent SARS-CoV-2 strain
227 to similar extent as that of the TMPRSS2 inhibitor Camostat. In complex with LAT1 SLC3A2
228 forms a well characterized heterodimeric transporter at the plasma membrane for large
229 neutral amino acids⁴³. It remains to be elucidated if the inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 entry via
230 chemical blocking of SLC3A2 relies on the presence of LAT1 or occurs in an independent
231 fashion.

232

233 Concluding, our data suggest that targeting of SLC3A2 might provide a new avenue of host
234 directed antiviral therapy against SARS-CoV-2, either alone or in combination with other
235 antivirals. These therapies are urgently needed to complement the successful vaccine
236 approaches in place.

237 **Limitations of our study:** The compounds used in Fig. 5 are not approved antivirals. The aim
238 of our study was to demonstrate that a surface proximity ligation approach can be used to
239 identify druggable surface proteins for novel antiviral therapies. At the same time a lack of
240 antiviral effect of some of these compounds does not exclude that other inhibitors or blocking
241 antibodies against the identified HDF could be exploited for antiviral therapy. We can further
242 not rule out that the untested 45 surface proteins identified by CSPL contain additional HDF
243 with druggable potential. Future studies will have to clarify this point.

244

245 Materials and Methods**246 Cell lines**

247 HEK293T (human embryonic kidney, ATCC) were cultured in DMEM (Dulbecco's modified
248 eagle medium, Gibco 10566016) A549 (adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells,
249 ATCC), A549 A2 and A459 A2T2 cell lines and all derived cell lines including the knockout and
250 over expression cell lines, were grown in DMEM/F12 + GlutaMAX (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle
251 Medium/Nutrient Mixture F-12, Gibco #10565018). For the A549 and A549 A2 over expression
252 cell lines, the culture medium was supplemented with 2 µg/ml of puromycin and 6 µg/ml of
253 blasticidin. Calu3 (lung epithelial adenocarcinoma cells, ATCC) and Calu3 derived knockout and
254 over expression cell lines were grown in MEM + GlutaMAX (Gibco #41090-28) + 1x MEM non-
255 essential amino acids 100X (Gibco #11140-035) + 10 mM HEPES (Gibco #15630-056) + 1mM
256 sodium pyruvate (Gibco #11360-039). Cell culture media were supplemented with 10 % (v/v)
257 heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum (Gibco #10270-106. Lot: 2307592) and pen-strep
258 antibiotics (100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin, Sigma-Aldrich #P0781). For Calu3
259 knockout and over expression cell lines, the growth medium was supplemented with either
260 puromycin at 4ug/ml or with blasticidin at 2 µg/ml. All cells were maintained in low passage
261 at 37 °C with 5 % CO₂ and 90 % humidity, absence of mycoplasma was routinely confirmed by
262 PCR.

263

264 SDS- PAGE and Western Blot

265 For western blot analysis, the cells were lysed in protein lysis buffer (tris Hcl 1 M pH 6.8,
266 glycerol, SDS 20 %, H₂O and DTT), sonicated 10X (30 secs on and 30 secs off) at 4°C and boiled
267 at 95°C for 5 min . The samples were separated on a 7% SDS-PAGE gel and the transfer was

268 performed to nitrocellulose filter membranes 0.45 μ M at 120V for 2 h. The membranes were
 269 blocked by 5 % skim milk, blotted with primary antibodies followed by incubation with
 270 horseradish peroxidase HRP conjugated secondary antibodies and visualised using enhanced
 271 chemiluminescent reagent (#K12049-D50) from Advansta.

272

273 **Plasmids**

274 pLVX-IRES-Puro was purchased from Clontech (#632183). pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP (PX458) was a
 275 gift from Feng Zhang (Addgene #48138) and pMD2.G and psPAX2 were a gift from Didier Trono
 276 (Addgene #12259 and #12260).

277

278 **Oligonucleotides for gRNA cloning and PCR primers**

279 All oligonucleotides were purchased from Microsynth (France). Guide RNAs were designed
 280 using CRISPick and cloned into LentiCRISPR v2 (Addgene #52961) for Calu3 cells and into
 281 pSpCas9 (BB)-2A-GFP for A549 A2T2 cells (Addgene #48138). Two gRNAs were chosen to
 282 target each gene hence the nomenclature gRNA1 and gRNA2.

283

Guide RNA (gRNA)	Sequences 5'-3'
ACE2_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGTCCTGTGCAGATATTACACA
ACE2_gRNA1_rev	AAACTGTGTAATATCTGCACAGGAC
ACE2_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGCAGGATCCTTATGTGCACAA
ACE2_gRNA2_rev	AAACTTGTGCACATAAGGATCCTGC
ALCAM_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGTGTGTGCATGCTAGTAACTG
ALCAM_gRNA1_rev	AAACCAGTTACTAGCATGCACACAC
ALCAM_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGCTTACACACTGACGGATGTG

ALCAM_gRNA2_rev	AAACCACATCCGTCAGTGTGTAAGC
ATP1B1_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGGGAGACTTTAATCATGAACG
ATP1B1_gRNA1_rev	AAACCGTTCATGATTAAAGTCTCCC
ATP1B1_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGTCCAAGGACTCATTCTTGGG
ATP1B1_gRNA2_rev	AAACCCCAAGAATGAGTCCTTGGAC
CD44_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGCTTGATGACCTCGTCCCATG
CD44_gRNA1_rev	AAACCATGGGACGAGGTCATCAAGC
CD44_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGGCAATATGTGTCATACTGGG
CD44_gRNA2_rev	AAACCCCAAGTATGACACATATTGCC
EGFR_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGTGTCAACACATAATTACCTG
EGFR_gRNA1_rev	AAACCAGGTAATTATGTGGTGACAC
EGFR_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGTCTTGCCGGAATGTCAGCCG
EGFR_gRNA2_rev	AAACCGGCTGACATCCGGCAAGAC
EPHA2_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGCAAGTTGCCAGATCCCTCCG
EPHA2_gRNA1_rev	AAACCGGAGGGATCTGGCAACTTGC
EPHA2_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGCGAGGTCACCTACCGCAAGA
EPHA2_gRNA2_rev	AAACTCTTGCGGTAAGTGACCTCGC
ITGAV_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGGGAATTGATAGCGTATCTGC
ITGAV_gRNA1_rev	AAACGCAGATACGCTATCAATTCCC
ITGAV_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGAGGCAATAGAGATTATGCCA
ITGAV_gRNA2_rev	AAACTGGCATAATCTCTATTGCCTC
ITGB4_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGCTGCGAGATCAACTACTCGG
ITGB4_gRNA1_rev	AAACCCGAGTAGTTGATCTCGCAGC
ITGB4_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGCTACTCCTATAGCTACTACG
ITGB4_gRNA2_rev	AAACCGTAGTAGCTATAGGAGTAGC

SLC3A2_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGCAGGCCCCGTGAACTTAGCCG
SLC3A2_gRNA1_rev	AAACCGGCTAAGTTCACGGGCCTGC
SLC3A2_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGGCGCAGAAGTGGTGGCACAC
SLC3A2_gRNA2_rev	AAACGTGTGCCACCACTTCTGCGCC
ADAM10_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGCCCATAAATACGGTCCTCAG
ADAM10_gRNA1_rev	AAACCTGAGGACCGTATTTATGGGC
ADAM10_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGGAAGGATTCATCCAGACTCG
ADAM10_gRNA2_rev	AAACCGAGTCTGGATGAATCCTTCC
PLXNB2_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGTTCCACGGCGATATCCAGTG
PLXNB2_gRNA1_rev	AAACCACTGGATATCGCCGTGGAAC
PLXNB2_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGCACCTGGCAAAGCTTCGTAG
PLXNB2_gRNA2_rev	AAACCTACGAAGCTTTGCCAGGTGC
NECTIN2_gRNA1_fwd	CACCGGCGAGTTCAAGTGCTACCCG
NECTIN2_gRNA1_rev	AAACCGGGTAGCACTTGAACCTCGCC
NECTIN2_gRNA2_fwd	CACCGACACTCACAGCGTACAGAGA
NECTIN2_gRNA2_rev	AAACTCTGTACGCTGTGAGTGTC

284

285

286 PCR primers used for cloning to make over expression plasmids are indicated below.

Primer	Sequence 5'-3'
EPHA2_fwd	GGCGCTCGAGACCATGGAGCTCCAGGCAGC
EPHA2_rev	GGCGTCTAGACTAGATGGGGATCCCCACA
NECTIN2_fwd	GCGGGAATTCATGGCCCCGGGC
NECTIN2_rev	GCGGGGATCCTCACACATACATGGCC
ITGAV_fwd	GCGGGAATTCACCATGGCTTTTCCGCCGCGC

ITGAV_rev	GCGGGGATCCTTAAGTTTCTGAGTTT
ADAM10_fwd	GCGGACCTCGAGATGGTGTGCTGAG
ADAM10_rev	GCGGGCGGCCGCTTA

287

288

289 **Antibodies**

290 Mouse monoclonal against actin antibody (#ab49900), rabbit monoclonal against Adam10
291 antibody (#ab124695, epr5622) and rabbit monoclonal against ACE2 antibody (#ab272500,
292 epr24705-45) were purchased from Abcam. Mouse monoclonal anti-FLAG HRP antibody
293 (#A8592), goat polyclonal anti-rabbit IgG HRP antibody (#A8275) and goat polyclonal anti-
294 mouse IgG HRP antibody (#A5278) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. The streptavidin-HRP
295 (#S-911) was purchased from ThermoFisher. Rabbit polyclonal against ITGB4 (#21738-1-AP),
296 mouse monoclonal against ALCAM (#67768-1-Ig), rabbit polyclonal against PLXNB2 (#10602-
297 1-AP), rabbit polyclonal against SLC3A2 (#15193-1-A), mouse monoclonal EGFR (#66455-1-Ig),
298 mouse monoclonal EPHA2 (#66736-1-Ig), rabbit polyclonal ITGAV (#27096-1-AP) and rabbit
299 polyclonal anti-goat IgG HRP antibody (#SA00001-4) were purchased from Proteintech. Rabbit
300 polyclonal anti-ATP1B1 antibody (#HAP012911) was purchased from Atlas antibodies. Goat
301 polyclonal against NECTIN2 antibody (#AF2229) was purchased from R&D Systems. Mouse
302 monoclonal against CD44 antibody (#156-3C11) was purchased from Cell Signaling
303 Technology.

304

305 **Inhibitors**

306 TMPRSS2 specific inhibitor Camostat mesylate (#SML0057) were purchased from Sigma-
307 Aldrich. Ouabain (#1076) an ATPase inhibitor, KYT0353 (#5026) an inhibitor of LAT1/SLC3A2

308 were purchased from Tocris. GI254023X targeting ADAM10 (#SML0789) were purchased
309 from Sigma-Aldrich.

310

311 **Recombinant proteins**

312 Trimeric Spike was previously described¹⁰. Based on this sequence (GenBank accession no.
313 MN908947.3 for the original sequence), we added the coding sequence for HRP on the 3' end
314 of the T4foldon, connected via a GSGSG-linker and followed by a His10-tag. A trimerized HRP
315 control was designed with the same T4foldon and His10 tag. The recombinant proteins were
316 expressed and purified at the Protein core facility (CMU, University of Geneva) using the
317 baculovirus (Sf9 insect cells) expression system. Baculovirus were generated using a modified
318 pFastBac vector encoding C-terminally tagged i) Wuhan Spike, ii) no protein. The proteins had
319 a C-terminal tag composed of fused Wuhan Spike - HRP and a 10-histidine tag. The media
320 containing the proteins was centrifuged at 4000 x g for 15 min at 4°C and filtered using 0.22
321 µm filters. The media was concentrated and adjusted to 10mM imidazole and applied on to a
322 5 ml His-trap FF column (Cytiva). 100ml of PBS supplemented with 1M NaCl and 10mM
323 Imidazole was used to wash the column and the column was eluted with 15ml of elution buffer
324 (1 x PBS, 200 mM NaCl, 450 mM imidazole). Proteins eluted were concentrated to 1ml using
325 AMICON 30 MWCO concentrators and loaded on a Size Exclusion Chromatography Superdex
326 200 10/300 column equilibrated in PBS at 4 °C. Pure protein fractions were pooled,
327 concentrated and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

328

329 **Cell surface proximity ligation assay**

330 A549, A549 A2, A549 A2T2 and Calu3 cells were grown in 6-well format and incubated with
331 100 µg of recombinant Spike-HRP or HRP alone for 60 min. Biotin phenol and H₂O₂ were added

332 for 10 min to allow proximity ligation of biotin. Cells were quenched and lysed with lysis buffer
333 (0.4 % SDS, 500mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 % Triton-X100, 1 mM DTT,
334 protease inhibitor). Biotinylated proteins were precipitated with streptavidin-agarose beads
335 (ThermoFisher #11205D) and prepared for mass spectrometry by on bead trypsin digest.

336

337 **Mass spectrometry**

338 On bead trypsin digestion was done to digest the proteins and peptides were analysed by
339 nanoLC-MSMS using an easynLC1000 (Thermo Fisher) coupled to a Qexactive Plus mass
340 spectrometer (Thermo Fisher). Data were analysed with Scaffold (Proteome Software) with 1
341 % of protein FDR with a 0.1 % of peptide FDR. Cell surface protein atlas was used to cross
342 reference the proteins. For identification of host surface proteins enriched in the proximity of
343 the Wuhan spike-HRP, the following cutoffs were applied: 1) 2-fold enrichment of Wuhan spike
344 HRP over control HRP, 2) atleast 2 unique peptide per protein, 3) proteins present in less than
345 200 experiments out of 716 streptavidin dependent pulldowns in the CRAPome database.

346

347 **Generation of a KO cell line using CRISPR/Cas9 with lentiviral transduction for Calu3**

348 Subconfluent HEK293T cells in 6-well plates were transfected at a ratio of 1:3:4 with the
349 following plasmids pMD2.G (vesicular stomatitis virus G protein (VSV G)), psPAX2 (HIV gag-
350 pol) were a gift from Didier Trono (Addgene plasmid # 12259 and #12260) and lentiCRISPRv2,
351 a gift from Feng Zhang (Addgene plasmid # 52961)⁴⁴ containing the specific gRNA (see above)
352 with 2 µg/µl of Trans-IT LT1 (Mirus). After 24 h, HEK293T medium was replaced with target
353 cell medium. Calu3 cells were seeded in 6-well plates at a density of 50 %. The HEK293T
354 supernatants containing lentiviruses to knockout the target protein was harvested 48h post
355 transfection with a syringe and was passed through a sterile filter of 0.45µM and

356 complemented with polybrene at 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. The supernatant-polybrene mix was added to
357 Calu3 cells after washing the cells 1X with PBS. The supernatant containing lentiviruses were
358 removed from Calu3 cells after 4 h and replaced with respective growth medium. At 48 h post
359 transduction, Calu3 cells were split and selected with puromycin at 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. The knockout
360 efficiency was assessed using western blot.

361

362 **Generation of a KO cell line using CRISPR/Cas9 for A549 A2T2**

363 Subconfluent levels of A549 A2T2 in 6-well plates were transfected with 2 μg of the target
364 protein knockout plasmids (vector backbone pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP from Addgene #48138)⁴⁵
365 using FuGENE HD transfection reagent (Promega #E2311). 4 h post transfection, the medium
366 was removed from A549 A2T2 cells and replaced with growth medium. 48 h post transfection,
367 green fluorescent protein (GFP)-positive cells were sorted using Beckman Coulter MoFlo
368 Astrios individually into 96-well plates. The efficiency of knockout was verified by western
369 blotting. The cell lines transfected with an empty plasmid pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP are indicated
370 as Cas9 empty.

371

372 **Generation of overexpressing cell lines with lentiviral transduction systems**

373 HEK293T cells in 6-well plates, at sub confluency, were transfected at a ratio of 1:3:4 with the
374 following plasmids pMD2.G (vesicular stomatitis virus G protein (VSV G)), psPAX2 (HIV gag-
375 pol) and over expression plasmids using 2 $\mu\text{l}/\mu\text{g}$ of Trans-IT LT1 (Mirus). 24 h post transfection,
376 293T medium was replaced with target cell medium. Target cells (A549, A549 A2 and Calu3)
377 were seeded in 6-well plates. The HEK293T supernatants containing lentiviruses were
378 harvested 48h post transfection with a syringe and were passed through a 0.45 μm sterile
379 filter. These lentiviruses were complemented with 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of polybrene. Target cells were

380 washed 1X with PBS following transduction with 2 ml of lentivirus-polybrene mix. 4 h after
381 transduction, lentiviruses were removed from target cells and replaced with respective
382 growth medium. 48 h post transduction, target cells were split and selected using puromycin
383 at 2 µg/ml for A549 and A549 A2, 4 µg/ml for Calu3 and blasticidin at 6 µg/ml for A549 and
384 A549 A2 and 2 µg/ml for Calu3. The efficiency of over expression was verified by western blot.
385

386 **SARS-CoV-2 Virus-Like Particles (VLP) production**

387 To generate replication incompetent, luciferase expressing VLP, subconfluent 100 mm dish
388 293T cells were transfected with: 10 µg of psPAX, 5 µg of pCG1 SARS-CoV-2 Spike⁴⁶ or 2.5 µg
389 of pMD2.G and 15 µg of CD510B Gluc (vector backbone pCDH-CMV-MCS-EF1-Puro from
390 Sanbio, Netherlands #CD510B-1) kindly provided by Fabien Abdul, University of Geneva, using
391 Trans IT-LT1 transfection reagent (Mirus) according to manufacturer's instructions. The
392 supernatant containing SARS-CoV-2 Spike and VSV G pseudotyped VLP were harvested 48 h
393 and 72 h post transfection, respectively. The supernatants were cleared from cell debris by
394 centrifugation (2000 x g, 10 min, 4°C) and were passed through a 0.45 µm filter attached to a
395 syringe to remove cell debris. Aliquots were stored at -80 °C. VLP stocks were titered on target
396 cells to achieve comparable infection rates within the linear range of the luciferase assay.
397

398 **Titration of SARS-CoV-2 and VSV G VLPs on Cas9 empty and ACE2KO cells**

399 Subconfluent Calu3 Cas9 empty, Calu3 ACE2KO and Calu3 ACE2*KO in 96-well plates were
400 transduced with different volumes of the both SARS-CoV-2 and VSV G VLPs. 6 h post
401 transfection, the VLPs were removed from the cells, washed 2X with 300ul of PBS per well and
402 replaced with appropriate growth medium. The supernatant was collected every 24 h until 96
403 h, washed 2X with PBS and replaced with growth medium. After the harvest, the supernatants

404 were centrifuged at 1500 x g for 7 min. 5 µl of the supernatant was then mixed with 50 µl of
405 coelenterazine (Biosynth #EC175526) on white plates and the luciferase activity was measured
406 using the Dual Glo protocol on the Glomax 96-well microplate luminometer.

407

408 **Infection with SARS-CoV-2 VLP**

409 Calu3, A549, A549 A2 and A549 A2T2 were seeded to achieve subconfluency in 96-well plates
410 pre-coated with poly-L-lysine. The cells were washed once with PBS and infected with 100 µl
411 of SARS-CoV-2 Spike or VSV G pseudotyped VLP per well. 6 h post-infection, the VLP were
412 removed, the cells were washed twice with PBS and 100 µl of fresh medium (MEM +
413 GlutaMAX (Gibco #41090-28) + 1x MEM non-essential amino acids 100X (Gibco #11140-035)
414 + 10mM HEPES (Gibco #315630-056) + 1mM sodium pyruvate (Gibco #11360-039) + 10 %
415 (v/v) heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum (Gibco #10270-106. Lot: 2307592) + pen-strep
416 antibiotics (100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin, Sigma-Aldrich #P0781)) was
417 added to each well. 96 h post-infection, the supernatants were collected and subjected to
418 centrifugation. The Gaussia luciferase activity was measured by adding 5 µL of the supernatant
419 with 50 µL of coelenterazine (Biosynth #EC175526) on white plates using the Glomax 96-well
420 microplate luminometer Promega. DualGlo protocol in the Glomax software was used for the
421 measurement which was at a rate of 1 s per well.

422

423 **SARS-CoV-2 virus production**

424 Calu3 cells were grown in 100 mm dish at sub-confluency. The cells were infected with an MOI
425 of 0.01 of Omicron and pre-VOC B.1 (kindly provided by Prof. Isabella Eckerle) viruses for 1 h
426 at 37 °C in MEM + GlutaMAX (Gibco #41090-28) + 1x MEM non-essential amino acids 100X
427 (Gibco #11140-035) + 10mM HEPES (Gibco #15630-056) + 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Gibco

428 #311360-039) + pen-strep antibiotics (100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin, Sigma-
429 Aldrich #P0781) + 2% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (Gibco #10270-106. Lot:
430 2307592). The inoculum was removed after 1 h and fresh medium was added. The viral
431 supernatants were recovered 48 h and 96 h post-infection for Omicron and Wuhan,
432 respectively. The supernatants were centrifuged at 450 x g for 5 min and stored at -70 °C.

433

434 **Plaque assay to determine viral titers.**

435 Vero E6 TMPRSS2 cells were grown to form a monolayer in 24-well plates. The cells were
436 infected with 200 µl of serially diluted viruses. Viruses were diluted in serum free DMEM
437 medium (Gibco #10566016). 1 h post infection, the inoculum was removed and 2.4 % Avicel
438 overlay (Dupont) was added to the cells. Cells were incubated for 96h for both viruses at 37
439 °C. The overlay was removed, then cells were fixed in 4 % formaldehyde and the cell
440 monolayer was stained with a solution of crystal violet. Plaques were counted and multiplied
441 with the dilution and volume factor to determine viral titers (pfu/ml).

442

443 **Cell Titer Glo cell viability assay**

444 Calu3 cells were seeded in 96-well plates, at sub confluent levels, the cells were washed 1X
445 with PBS and the different chemical inhibitors Camostat mesylate (100 µM), GI254023X (100
446 µM), Ouabain (10 nM) and KYT0353 (100 µM and 500 µM) were added to the cells in
447 medium with 2 % fetal bovine serum (FBS). The cells were pre-incubated with Camostat
448 mesylate, Ouabain and KYT0353 individually for 2 h and with GI254023X for 4 h according to
449 published data^{19,20,45,47}. The chemical compounds were removed every (2 h or 4 h) + 24 h for
450 4 days. Cells were washed and lysed by agitation using cell titer glo reagent at 450 rpm for 5
451 min using an orbital shaker. After 10 min incubation of the plate at room temperature, 180

452 μ l of the mix was transferred to a luminometer-compatible, 96-well white plate. The
453 luminescence signal was recorded on GloMax luminometer with preset Cell titer Glo
454 protocol.

455

456 **SARS-CoV-2 infection after pre-treatment with chemical inhibitors**

457 Calu3 cells at subconfluency in 24-well plates were pre-incubated with different chemical
458 compounds. 2 h incubation was performed for Camostat mesylate (100 μ M), Ouabain (10 nM)
459 and KYT0353 (100 or 500 μ M) and 4 h incubation was performed for GI254023X (100 μ M)
460 according to published data^{19,20,45,47}. At the end of the incubation time, the chemical inhibitors
461 were removed and cells were washed 1X with PBS and were infected with Omicron
462 (BA.1: EPI_ISL_7605546) SARS-CoV-2 virus at a MOI of 1. After 45 min of incubation with the
463 virus, the inoculum was removed, the cells were washed 1X with PBS and was replaced by
464 respective growth medium with 2 % FBS + 1 % P/S. For the higher concentration of KYT0353
465 (500 μ M), after removal of virus inoculum, cells were washed with PBS and replaced by
466 respective growth medium with 2 % FBS + 1 % P/S containing 500 μ M of KYT0353. 24 h post
467 infection, the cells were washed 1X with PBS and lysed in TRK lysis buffer (OmegaBiotek
468 #R6834) for RT qPCR analysis. Samples were inactivated for 10 min at 70°C and exported from
469 the BSL3 laboratory.

470

471 **SARS-CoV-2 infection in Calu3 cells to determine expression of target proteins.**

472 Calu3 cells were seeded in 12 well plates to achieve subconfluency. They were infected with
473 pre-Voc (B.1: EPI_ISL_414019) and Omicron (BA.1: EPI_ISL_7605546) SARS-CoV-2 virus at a
474 MOI of 1. After 45 mins of incubation with the virus, the inoculum was removed, the cells
475 were washed 1X with PBS. The wells were replaced by respective growth medium with 2 %

476 FBS + 1 % P/S. 24 h post infection, cells were washed and lysed with protein lysis buffer (tris
477 Hcl 1 M pH 6.8, glycerol, SDS 20 %, H₂O and DTT), sonicated 10X (30 secs on and 30 secs off)
478 at 4°C and boiled at 95°C for 5 min for western blot analysis.

479

480 **Reverse Transcription quantitative PCR**

481 For extraction of total RNA from cells, EZNA total RNA kit I (OmegaBiotek #R6834) was used
482 according to manufacturers' instructions. Either probe based or SYBR green based assays were
483 used to detect the different RNAs. The probe-based assay was used to detect subgenomic E
484 (sgE) and RNaseP. For quantitative RT-PCR, a 25 µl reaction with 5ul of RNA was done with the
485 Superscript III 1-step reverse transcriptase-PCR system (Invitrogen) with the Platinum Taq DNA
486 polymerase according to the manufacturers' protocol. Probes contained a 5' YY-520 reporter
487 dye and MGB 3' quencher for subgenomic E (sgE) and 5' FAM-520 reporter dye and MGB 3'
488 quencher for RNase P (Hs04930436, #4331182), both purchased from Microsynth. To
489 determine the early virus replication, a quantitative RT-PCR targeting the subgenomic RNA
490 encoding the envelope (sgE) was performed. The RT-PCR was performed using a
491 thermocycling protocol with reverse transcription for 15 min at 50 °C and a denaturation step
492 for 2 min at 95 °C to restore Taq DNA polymerase activity, followed by PCR amplification by 45
493 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s and 60 °C for 30 s. Fluorescence signal was detected after the elongation
494 step of each cycle. RT-PCR was done with the following primers and probe: nCoV sgE Fwd: 5'-
495 CCAACCAACTTTTCGATCTCTTGT-3', nCoV sgE Rev: 5'- CGTACCTGTCTCTTCCGAAACG-3' and nCoV
496 sgE prb: 5'YY/ TCTCTAAACGAACTTATGTACTC/ 3'MGB – Q530. 18S and GAPDH were detected
497 using SYBR green system. RT was performed with 100ng of RNA samples for all conditions.
498 The qPCR was performed using 1ul of cDNA mixed with 10ul of 2X KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR
499 Master Mix-universal (KAPA Biosystems, USA). 0.5ul of each of the forward and reverse

500 primers (10 μ M) were added to the mix to make a final volume of 20ul with RNase, DNase
501 water. qPCR was performed following a thermocycling protocol of an initial denaturation step
502 at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C for 30 s and
503 annealing/extension at 60 °C for 60 s. The following primers were used 18S Fwd:
504 GTAACCCGTTGAACCCATT, 18S Rev: CCATCCAATCGGTAGTAGCG, GAPDH Fwd:
505 GCAAATTTCCATGGCACCGT and GAPDH Rev: GCCCACTTGATTTTGGAGG. The normalized
506 change in relative subgenomic E (sgE) gene expression was calculated by delta-delta CT
507 method and by using average expression of 3 housekeeping genes, RNaseP, 18S and GAPDH.

508

509 **Statistics**

510 Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 9. Statistical tests applied are
511 indicated in each respective figure legend.

512

513 **Funding sources**

514 This work was funded by the SNSF31CA30_196330 granted to MS.

515

516 **Acknowledgements**

517 We are thankful for the professional support from the following core facilities: Protein core
518 facility, Proteomics, FACS, BSL3 at the CMU. We thank the group of Prof. Isabella Eckerle for
519 providing us with the SARS-CoV-2 isolates and the group of KH Krause, especially Fabien Abdul
520 for the HIV-VLP system and A549 A2T2 cells.

521

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728

729 **Figure legends**

730

731 **Figure 1: Cell surface proximity ligation. A)** Pulldown of biotinylated host cell proteins on

732 A549 A2T2 cells with streptavidin post cell surface proximity ligation. Streptavidin-HRP was

733 used to probe biotinylated proteins. **B)** Venn diagram indicating number of proteins found in

734 the three mass spectrometry experiments and their overlap in A549 A2T2 cells. 6 proteins

735 that overlapped between the 3 experiments are: ADAM10, CD109, CD44, ITGA3, ITGA6 and

736 ITGAV. **C)** Half of the hits found in two out of three experiments were grouped into the GO

737 cluster for viral entry into host cells and virus receptor activity. Black circle indicates the hand-

738 picked candidates.

739

740 **Figure 2: SARS-CoV-2 S and VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry into A549 A2T2 KO cells. A)** SARS-

741 CoV-2 pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 A2T2 cells transduced with lentiviral CRISPR/Cas9 guide

742 RNAs (2 per target). ACE2 is used as a positive control. The results are shown in relative light

743 units to mock, Cas9 empty. The results of the 2 guide RNAs are pooled together. One-way

744 ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was done. **B)** VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in

745 A549 A2T2 cells transduced with lentiviral CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNAs (2 per target). ACE2 is used

746 as a positive control. The results are shown in relative light units to mock, Cas9 empty. The

747 results of the 2 guide RNAs are pooled together. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and

748 Welch test was done. **C)** Z-score analysis depicting the effect of the knockout of 5 out of 10

749 candidates on SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP entry. The dotted lines at -3 and +3 are

750 thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard deviation. **D)** Z-score showing the effect

751 of the knockout of 5 out of 10 protein candidates on VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry. The dotted

752 lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard deviation.

753

754 **Figure 3: SARS-CoV-2 S and VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry into Calu3 KO cells. A)** SARS-CoV-
755 2 pseudotyped VLP entry in Calu3 cells transduced with lentiviral CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNAs (2
756 per target). ACE2 is used as a positive control. The results are shown in relative light units to
757 mock, Cas9 empty. The results of the 2 guide RNAs are pooled together. One-way ANOVA with
758 Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was done. **B)** VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in Calu3 cells
759 transduced with lentiviral CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNAs (2 per target). ACE2 is used as a positive
760 control. The results are shown in relative light units to mock, Cas9 empty. The results of the 2
761 guide RNAs are pooled together. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was
762 done. **C)** Z-score analysis depicting the effect of the knockout of the proteins on SARS-CoV-2 S
763 pseudotyped VLP entry. The dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3
764 times the standard deviation. **D)** Z-score showing the effect of the knockout of the proteins on
765 VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3
766 times the standard deviation.

767

768 **Figure 4: SARS-CoV-2 regulates the expression of some of the target proteins. A)** Cell lysates
769 were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot depicting the expression of target
770 proteins and SARS-CoV-2 N, 24 h post infection with pre-VOC B.1 and Omicron BA.1 at MOI 1.
771 A representative blot of three independent experiments is shown. Equal loading was
772 confirmed by probing for beta actin. **B-G)** Quantification of three independent infection
773 experiments as shown in (A) for ACE2, ATP1B1, SLC3A2, ADAM10, EGFR, PLNKB2 across B to
774 G, respectively. Statistical significance was determined with a one-way ANOVA test.

775

776 **Figure 5: SARS-CoV-2 replication post-treatment with chemical inhibitors of ADAM10,**
777 **SLC3A2, TMPRSS2 and ATP1B1 A)** Treatment of Calu3 cells with KYT0353 (100 μ M) for 2h or

778 GI254023X (100 μ M) for 4 h. Post incubation with inhibitor, cells were washed and infected
779 with MOI 1 of Omicron BA.1. RT-qPCR was performed after RNA extraction from cell lysates
780 collected 24 h post infection to assess for subgenomic E gene. Each dot represents a biological
781 replicate indicated as relative expression to the average of the housekeeping genes, RNaseP,
782 18S and GAPDH. Ordinary one-way ANOVA was performed as a statistical test. **B)** Treatment
783 of Calu3 cells with KYT0353 at a concentration of 500 μ M for 2 h. The cells were washed to
784 remove the compound and infected with Omicron BA.1 at a MOI of 1. After removal of the
785 virus inoculum, cells were washed and replaced with growth medium containing KYT0353
786 (500 μ M). RT-qPCR was done to assess subgenomic E gene from cell lysates 2 h + 24 h post
787 incubation. Each dot represents a biological replicate shown as relative expression to the
788 average of RNaseP, 18S and GAPDH. A paired T-test was performed to analyze the statistical
789 significance between the Mock and chemical inhibition. **C)** Treatment of Calu3 cells with
790 Camostat mesylate (100 μ M) and Ouabain (10 nM) for 2 h. Post incubation, the chemical
791 compounds were removed, cells were washed and infected with MOI 1 of Omicron BA.1. RT-
792 qPCR was performed after RNA extraction from cell lysates collected 2 h + 24 h post incubation
793 to assess for subgenomic E gene. Each dot represents a biological replicate indicated as
794 relative expression to the average of the housekeeping genes, RNaseP, 18S and GAPDH.
795 Ordinary one-way ANOVA was performed as a statistical test.

796

797 **Figure S1: A)** Summary of CSPL technique generated with BioRender.com. B) Cell lysates with
798 40 μ g of proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and analysed by western blot depicting the
799 expression of ACE2 in different cell lines (A549, A549 A2, A549T2, A549 A2T2, H522 and Calu3
800 WT). Both short and long exposures have been shown to visualize the ACE2 bands in the
801 different cell lines. Beta-actin was used as a loading control. **C)** Representative SDS-PAGE of

802 insect cell expresses Wuhan-spike HRP. Purified protein containing fractions were loaded onto
803 an SDS-polyacrylamide gel and stained with Coomassie Blue.

804

805 **Figure S2:** String network of the 55 proteins found in mass spectrometry in the three
806 independent experiments in A549 A2T2 cells, according to gene ontology classification and
807 sorted from lowest to highest false discovery rate (FDR).

808

809 **Figure S3:** Total cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot to
810 confirm knockouts of target proteins in A549 A2T2 cells. ACE2 knockout in A549 A2T2 cells
811 was done as a positive control. Equal loading was verified by probing for beta-actin. The
812 asterisk refers to the single-cell knockout clones that were used for the experiments for each
813 gRNA and for each target.

814

815 **Figure S4:** Absolute luciferase values after infection of Calu3 control (Cas9 empty) or ACE2 KO
816 cells 96h post infection. VLPs were pseudotyped with SARS-CoV-2 S (**A**) or VSV-G (**B**) and diluted
817 to achieve a comparable absolute infection efficacy. Each dot represents a technical replicate
818 in one biological experiment.

819

820 **Figure S5: A)** SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 A2T2 knockout cells (Fig S3). The
821 asterisk represents the knockout of the target proteins using a 2nd gRNA. The results are shown
822 in relative light units to mock, Cas9 empty. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch
823 test was done. **B)** VSV-G VLP entry in A549 A2T2 cells knockout for the candidates. The asterisk
824 indicates knockout using a 2nd gRNA. The results are shown in relative light units to mock, Cas9
825 empty. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was done. **C)** Z-score analysis

826 showing the excluded candidate proteins and the absence of any effect on SARS-CoV-2 S
827 pseudotyped VLP entry. The dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3
828 times the standard deviation. The asterisk represents knockout of A549 A2T2 cells using a 2nd
829 gRNA. **D)** Z-score depicting the absence of any effect of the excluded proteins on VSV-G
830 pseudotyped VLP entry. The dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3
831 times the standard deviation. The asterisk represents knockout of target proteins in A549
832 A2T2 cells with a 2nd gRNA.

833

834 **Figure S6: A)** Total cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot to
835 verify the knockout of target proteins in Calu3 cells. ACE2 knockouts were performed as a
836 positive control. Equal loading was verified by probing for beta-actin. **B)** Quantification of
837 target proteins as shown in (A) in Calu3 cells post knockout using lentiviral gRNAs. The
838 knockouts with 2 gRNAs have been pooled together. The black circle indicates the knockout
839 using gRNA1 and the black squares indicate the knockouts made using gRNA2. One-Way
840 ANOVA statistical test was performed to compare the Calu3 control cells with the knockouts
841 of the target proteins. **C)** Total cell lysates of A549 A2T2 and Calu3 cells were separated by
842 SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot to verify the endogenous levels of the six target
843 proteins. Beta-actin was used as a loading control.

844

845 **Figure S7: A)** SARS-CoV-2 pseudotyped VLP entry is indicated in relative light units to ctrl in
846 A549 cells transduced with lentiviral cDNAs of target proteins. One-way ANOVA with Brown-
847 Forsythe and Welch test was done. **B)** VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 cells
848 overexpressed with cDNAs of target proteins is depicted in relative light units to mock, ctrl.
849 One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was done. **C)** Z-score analysis of the

850 SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP entry into A549 cells overexpressed with respective cDNAs.
851 Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard deviation. **D)**
852 Z-score of VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 cells overexpressed with target proteins by
853 lentiviral transduction. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3 times the
854 standard deviation.

855

856 **Figure S8: SARS-CoV-2 S and VSV-G pseudotyped entry into A549 A2 OE cells. A)** SARS-CoV-
857 2 pseudotyped VLP entry is indicated in relative light units to ctrl in A549 A2 cells transduced
858 with lentiviral cDNAs of target proteins. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test
859 was done. **B)** VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 A2 cells overexpressed with cDNAs of
860 target proteins is depicted in relative light units to mock, ctrl. One-way ANOVA with Brown-
861 Forsythe and Welch test was done. **C)** Z-score analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 S pseudotyped VLP
862 entry into A549 A2 cells overexpressed with respective cDNAs. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are
863 thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard deviation. **D)** Z-score of VSV-G
864 pseudotyped VLP entry in A549 A2 cells overexpressed with target proteins by lentiviral
865 transduction. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard
866 deviation.

867

868 **Figure S9: SARS-CoV-2 S and VSV-G pseudotyped entry into Calu3 cells. A)** SARS-CoV-2
869 pseudotyped VLP entry is indicated in relative light units to ctrl in Calu3 cells transduced with
870 lentiviral cDNAs of target proteins. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe and Welch test was
871 done. **B)** VSV-G pseudotyped VLP entry in Calu3 cells overexpressed with cDNAs of target
872 proteins is depicted in relative light units to mock, ctrl. One-way ANOVA with Brown-Forsythe
873 and Welch test was done. **C)** Z-score analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 S entry into Calu3 cells
874 overexpressed with respective cDNAs. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are thresholds that

875 correspond to 3 times the standard deviation. **D)** Z-score of VSV-G entry in Calu3 cells
876 overexpressed with target proteins by lentiviral transduction. Dotted lines at -3 and +3 are
877 thresholds that correspond to 3 times the standard deviation.

878

879 **Figure S10: A)** Total cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot to
880 check for over expression of target proteins in A549 cells. Over expression of ACE2 in A549
881 cells was done as a positive control **B)** Total cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and
882 analyzed by western blot to check for over expression of target proteins in A549 A2 cells. **C)**
883 Total cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by western blot to check for over
884 expression of target proteins in Calu3 cells.

885

886 **Figure S11: A)** Calu3 cells were treated with KYT0353 (100 μ M) for 2 h and intracellular ATP
887 levels were measured at 2 h+ 24 h, 48 h, 72 h and 96 h post pretreatment. Three technical
888 repeats from one experiment are shown. DMSO was used as a solvent control. Two-way
889 ANOVA was performed as a statistical test. **B)** Calu3 cells were treated with KYT0353 (500 μ M)
890 for 2 h and intracellular ATP levels were measured at 2 h+ 24 h, 48 h, 72 h and 96 h post
891 pretreatment. Three technical repeats from one experiment are shown. DMSO was used as a
892 solvent control. Two-way ANOVA was performed as a statistical test. **C)** Calu3 cells were
893 pretreated with GI254023X 100 μ M for 4 h and intracellular ATP levels were measured at 4 h+
894 24 h, 48 h, 72 h and 96 h post pretreatment. Three technical repeats from one experiment are
895 shown. DMSO was used as a solvent control for GI254023X. Two-way ANOVA was performed
896 as statistical test **D)** Intracellular ATP levels were measured after 2 h+ 24 h, 48 h, 72 h and 96
897 h of Camostat mesylate at 100 μ M and Ouabain treatment at 10 nM in Calu3 cells, three
898 technical repeats from one experiment are shown. H₂O was used as a solvent control for

899 Camostat mesylate and Ouabain treatment. Two-way ANOVA was performed as statistical
900 test.

901

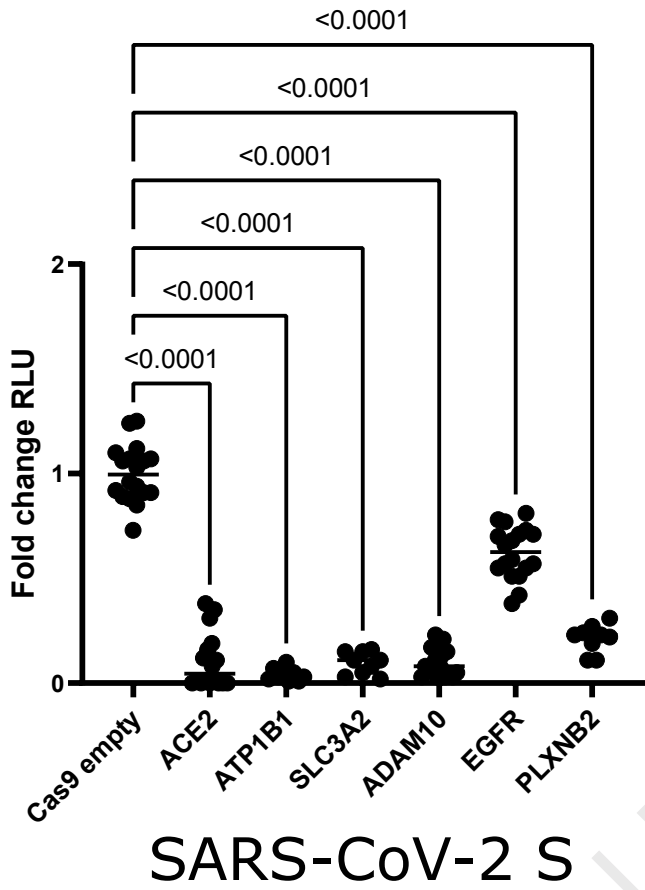
902 **Table S1:** List of proteins present in all 3 or 2 out of the 3 mass spectrometry experiments. The
903 six proteins highlighted in red were selected as target proteins for follow-up experiments.
904 These target proteins are involved in the entry mechanisms of other viruses. The name of the
905 virus along with the corresponding reference is shown in the table.

906

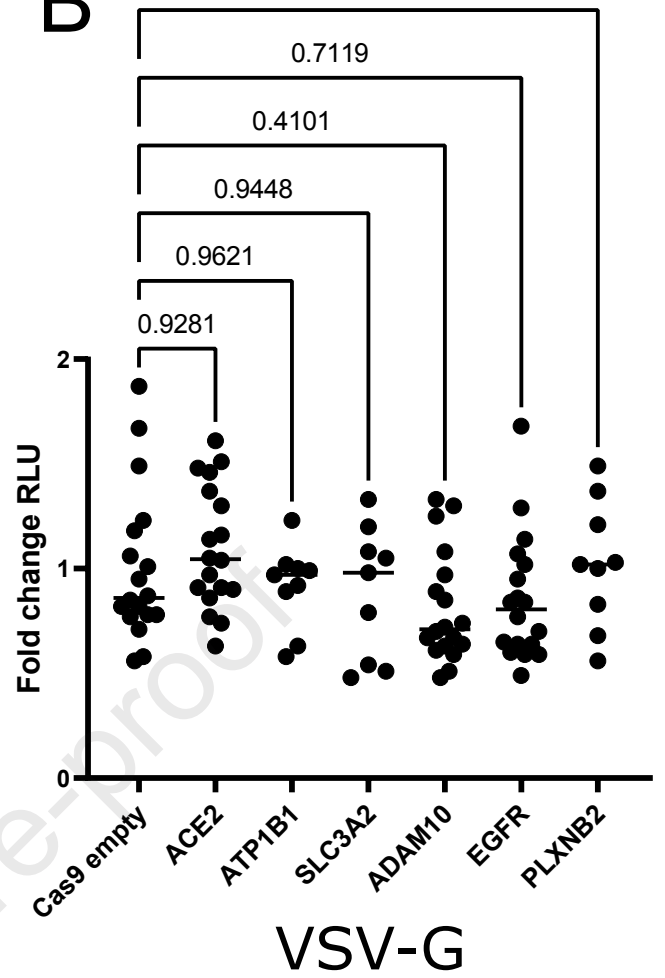
907 **Table S2:** IC50 concentrations according to literature for GI254023X, KYT0353, Ouabain and
908 Camostat mesylate are indicated.

909

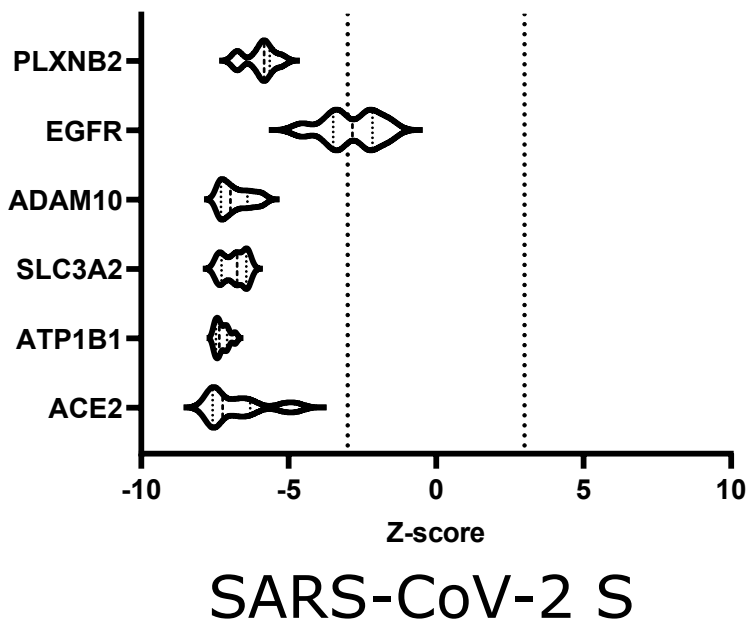
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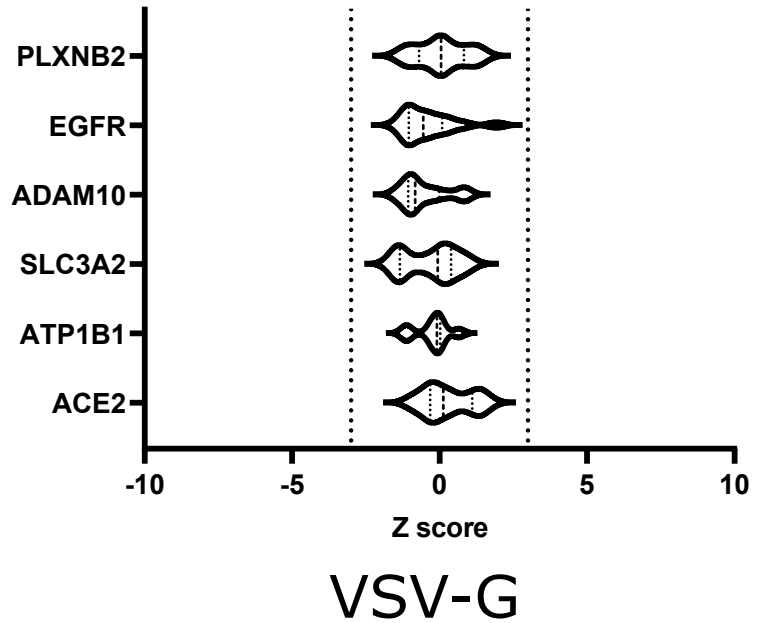
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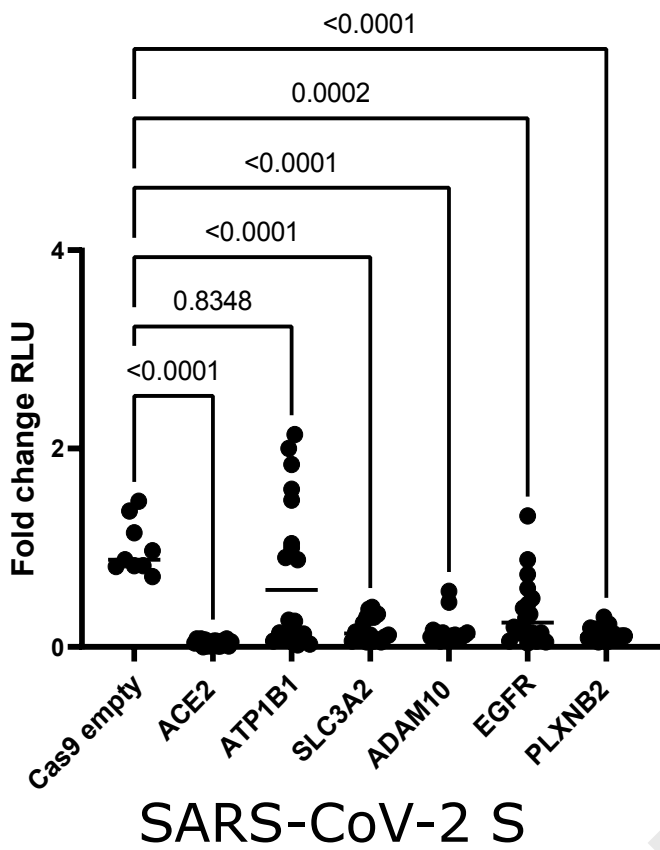
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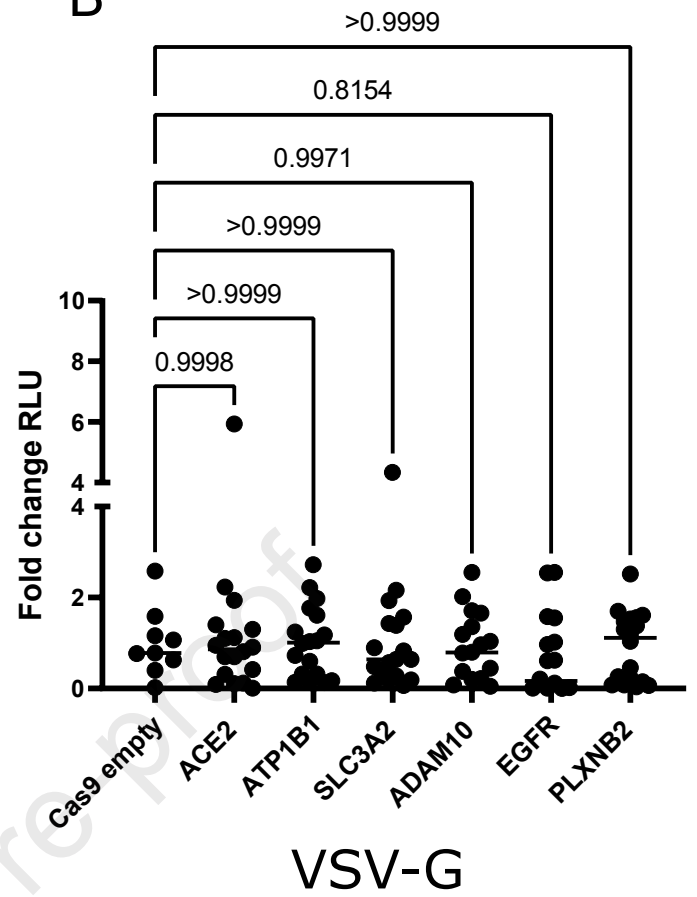
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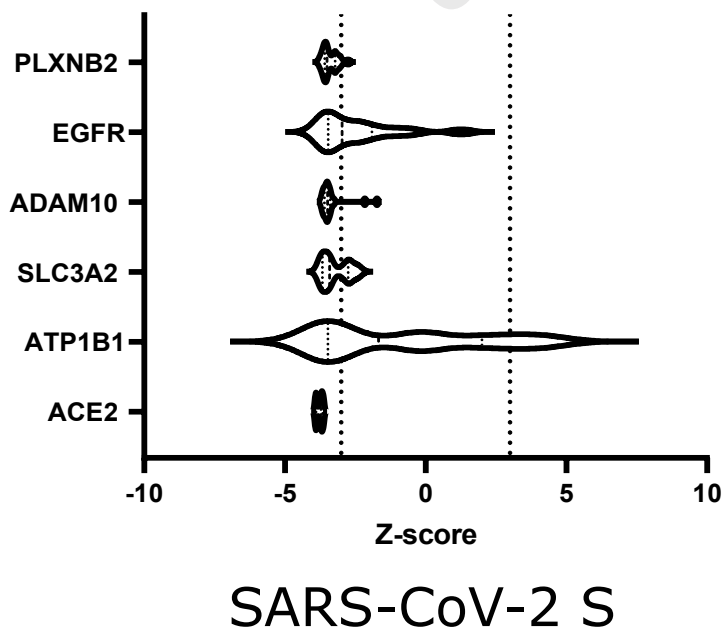
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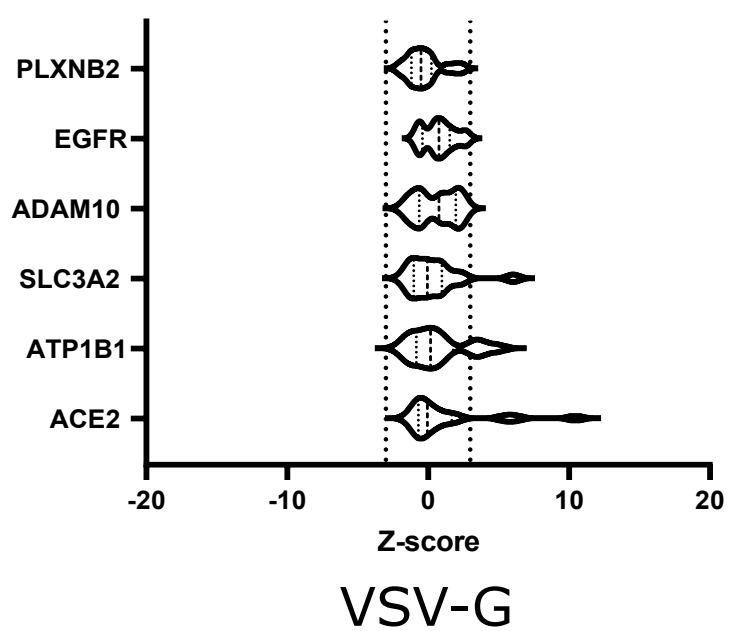
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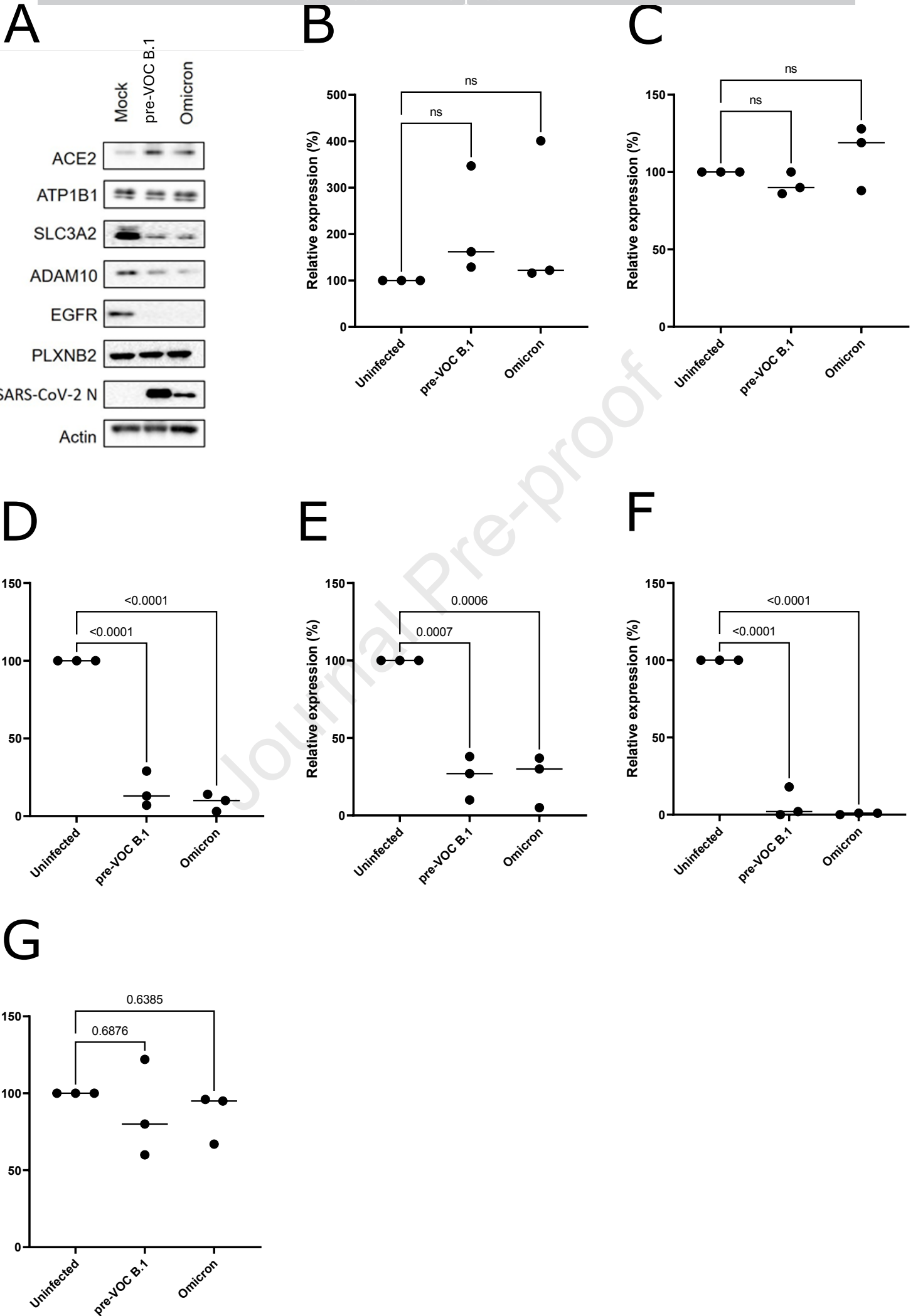


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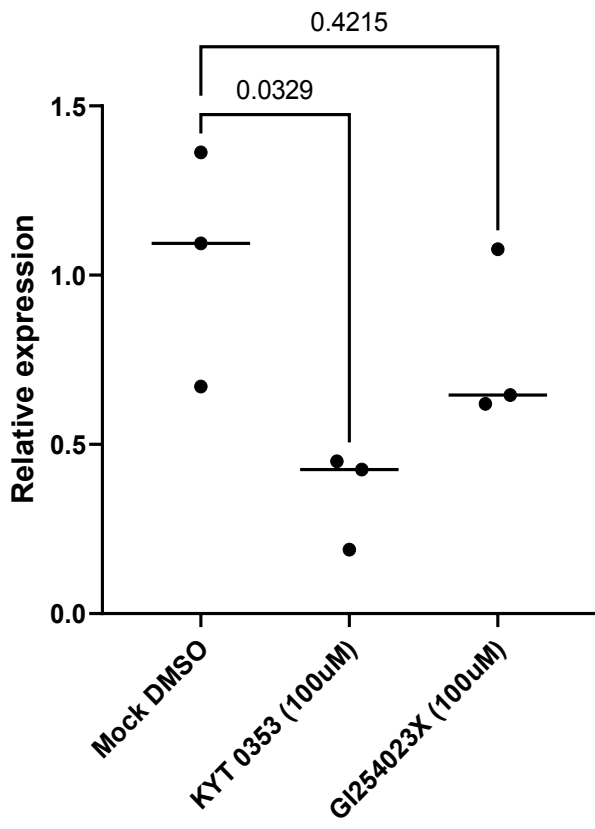


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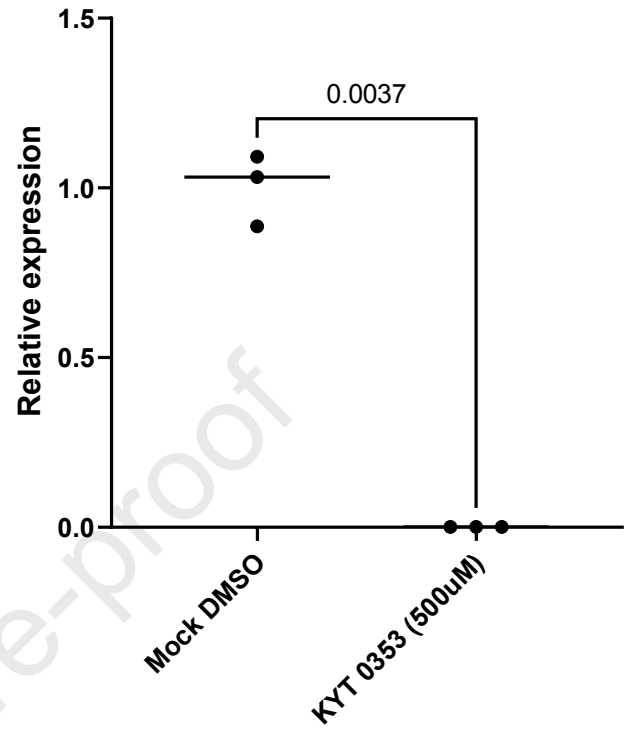




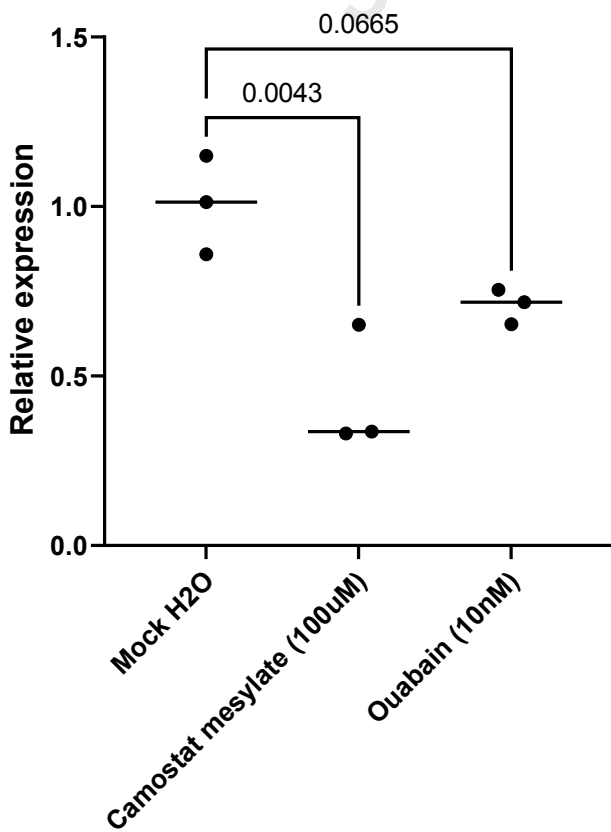
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C



Highlights

- SLC3A2 and ADAM10 are host dependency factors for SARS-CoV-2 entry
- SLC3A2 can be targeted with available inhibitors to diminish SARS-CoV-2 entry
- Cell surface proximity ligation identifies antiviral targets

Journal Pre-proof

Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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