

# HIV-1 and microvesicles from T cells share a common glycome, arguing for a common origin

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**HIV-1 is a master at deceiving the immune system and usurping host biosynthetic machinery. Although HIV-1 is coated with host-derived glycoproteins, only glycosylation of viral gp120 has been described. Here we use lectin microarray technology to analyze the glycome of intact HIV-1 virions. We show that the glycan coat of human T cell line-derived HIV-1 matches that of native immunomodulatory microvesicles. The carbohydrate composition of both virus and microvesicles is cell-line dependent, which suggests a mechanism to rapidly camouflage the virus within the host. In addition, binding of both virus and microvesicles to antiviral lectins is enriched over the host cell, raising concern about targeting these glycans for therapeutics. This work also sheds light on the binding of HIV-1 to galectin-1, an important human immune lectin. Overall, our work strongly supports the theory that HIV-1 co-opts the exocytic pathway of microvesicles, thus potentially explaining why eliciting a protective antiviral immune response is difficult.**

HIV-1 is adept at deceiving the immune system, making vaccine development a difficult challenge that has yet to be met. At the present time, the ability of HIV-1 to evade an effective immune response is not fully understood<sup>1</sup>. HIV-1 takes advantage of host cell machinery to replicate. In T cells, the virus buds from the cell surface, incorporating a variety of cellular proteins into the viral envelope<sup>2</sup>. Whether this process recruits a specific protein subset or whether the proteins are a random sampling from the cell surface is uncertain, although it is clear that some proteins are enriched or excluded<sup>3–5</sup>. Among the enriched proteins are those associated with host-derived particles, designated microvesicles (MVs), that are also known to bud from the plasma membrane of T cells and can contaminate viral preparations<sup>6</sup>.

Microvesicles, which include endosomally derived exosomes, are thought to modulate the immune system. Although their specific functions have yet to be defined, such particles have been found to both stimulate and suppress immune responses<sup>7</sup>. The enrichment of a select panel of protein markers (< 10) in both microvesicles and HIV-1 has led to the hypothesis that these two particles use identical machinery to exit the cell, in essence suggesting that HIV-1 is a pathogenic microvesicle<sup>6,8–10</sup>. In T cells, it has also been shown that microvesicle protein and lipid markers colocalize to discrete microdomains on the plasma membrane with viral gag and are incorporated into virus-like particles, further strengthening the hypothesis<sup>3</sup>. Despite this evidence, whether the two particles share an exit mechanism is still a matter of vigorous debate<sup>11</sup>.

The cell surface is coated with carbohydrates on both glycoproteins and glycolipids. These glycans are involved in the sorting of both proteins and lipids to membrane microdomains<sup>12–14</sup>. Thus, they may act as molecular markers for trafficking pathways. Carbohydrates are

critical to HIV-1 biology, influencing the infectivity of the virus<sup>15</sup>. However, the glycosylation of HIV-1 has only been studied with regard to the viral glycoprotein gp120 (ref. 15), which on average is present in ~20–40 copies per virion<sup>16</sup>. The glycosylation of virion-incorporated host proteins, which coat the virus, has largely been ignored, and no comparison has been made to the glycome of microvesicles or to the native cell membrane from which both particles arise. A recent advance in glycomic technology, lectin microarrays, has made possible the rapid analysis of the carbohydrate composition of complex biological samples<sup>17–19</sup>. Here, we compare the glycomes of HIV-1, microvesicles and the host membranes of the T-cell lines from which they derive. Our work demonstrates a common glycome for HIV-1 and microvesicles that is cell-line dependent and distinct from the host cell membrane, which suggests that the two particles arise from the same microdomain. We also show that both virus and microvesicles bind strongly to antiviral lectins, emphasizing the need for caution in targeting these glycan epitopes for systemic therapeutic applications. In addition, our arrays reveal a potential new binding motif for galectin-1, an important immune lectin, in the context of HIV-1. To our knowledge, this work presents the first glycomic profile of whole HIV-1 virions and microvesicles, adding crucial evidence to support the pathogenic microvesicle theory of HIV-1.

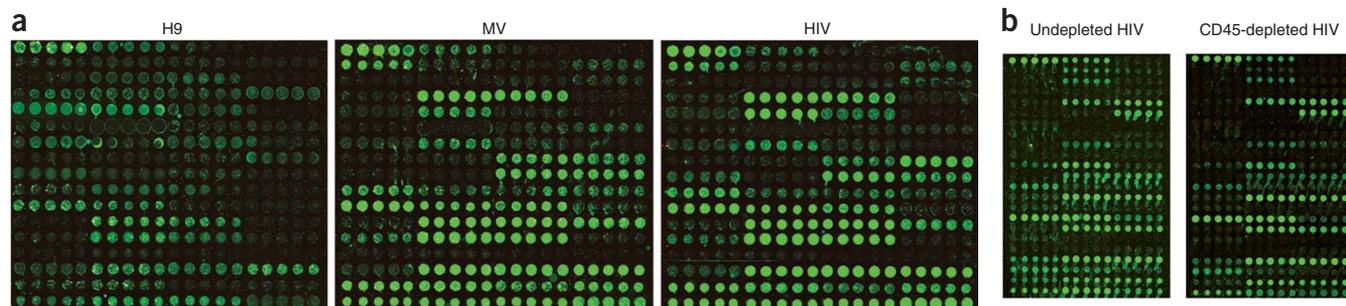
## RESULTS

### Single color comparison of HIV-1 and MV from H9 cells

For our initial experiments we used HIV (HIV-1(MN) CL.4 strain) propagated through the T-cell line H9. HIV-1(MN) CL.4 is a biological clone of HIV-1(MN) that was selected on the basis of high virus yield<sup>20</sup>. We compared the glycomic profiles of MVs and cell

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**Figure 1** Glycomic profiling of HIV and uninfected cell membrane and microvesicles derived from H9 cells. **(a)** Equal amounts of Cy3-labeled sample (1  $\mu$ g, based on protein concentration) were hybridized to the arrays. Cell membrane micellae and MV were derived from uninfected H9 cells. HIV samples were obtained from HIV-1(MN) CL.4 strain-infected H9 cells. Data shown are representative of three independent experiments. **(b)** Cy3-labeled ultrapurified CD45-immunodepleted virus was compared to equivalent amounts (based on p24 levels) of matched undepleted HIV via lectin microarray analysis.

membrane micellae derived from uninfected H9 cells to HIV using lectin microarrays in a single color format (**Fig. 1a** and **Supplementary Fig. 1a** online)<sup>17</sup>. Previous work has shown that cellular micellae, which originate from isolated cell membranes, contain both glycoproteins and glycolipids and are representative of glycans at the cell surface<sup>17</sup>. Our lectin microarrays consisted of  $\sim$ 70 discrete carbohydrate-binding proteins (**Supplementary Table 1** online). Based on the pattern of fluorescent signals and the known glycan-binding properties of the lectins, the carbohydrate composition of the samples was resolved. For safety reasons we chemically inactivated the HIV with 2,2-dithiodipyridine (**1**, aldrithiol-2, AT-2) before labeling and analysis<sup>21</sup>. This procedure eliminates viral infectivity by covalent modification of free cysteine residues on proteins, but does not affect the structure or function of viral glycoproteins on the virion surface<sup>22</sup>. We observed no differences in the glycomic analysis of AT-2 treated and untreated microvesicle preparations, which indicates that, as expected, the inactivation process does not affect the glycome (**Supplementary Fig. 1b**).

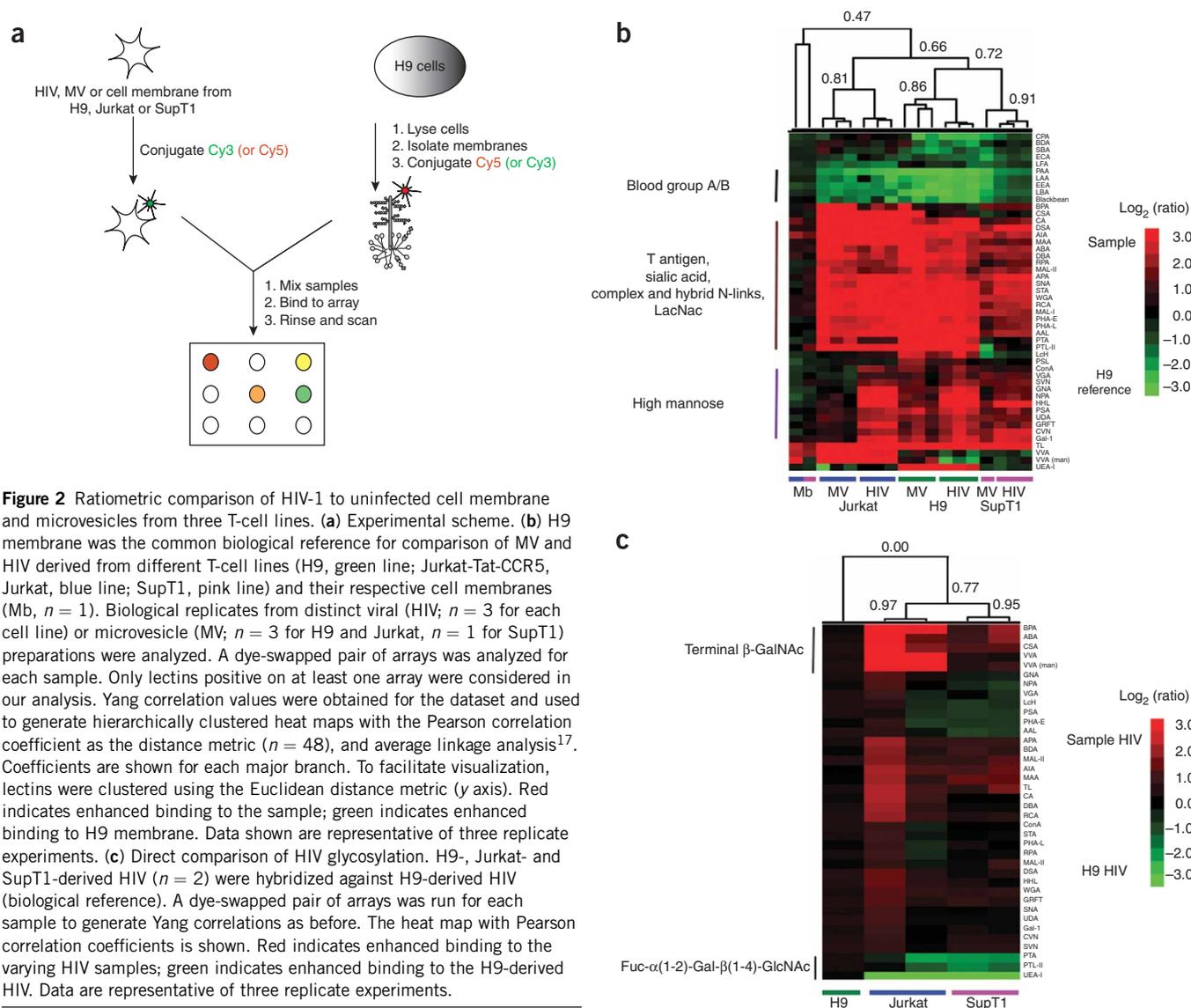
Preliminary examination revealed similar glycopatterns for HIV and MV that varied substantially from that of the host cell membrane (**Fig. 1a** and **Supplementary Fig. 1c,d**). Our viral preparation was  $\sim$ 70–80% pure by both electron microscopy and SDS-PAGE analysis (**Supplementary Fig. 2a,b** online), thus raising concerns that the glycopattern observed might be due to MV contamination. To address this we performed several experiments. First, we tested whether our labeled samples gave signals within the linear range for the majority of lectins at the concentration used in our experiments ( $\sim$ 1  $\mu$ g). Titration experiments confirmed that at the amounts of both HIV and MV used on our arrays, our signals were in the linear signal range (**Supplementary Fig. 2c,d**). This makes it highly unlikely that similar fluorescence would be observed from the  $\sim$ 5-fold dilution of protein, and thus glycans, which would be expected if our signal was derived only from the contaminating MV component of the HIV sample. In addition, we examined the glycopattern of virus further purified via CD45 immunodepletion. Recent work has shown that T cell-derived microvesicles contain CD45, thus immunodepletion provides highly pure virions virtually devoid of MV<sup>11,23</sup>. The glycopattern of this highly purified HIV preparation was identical to that observed for the matched undepleted viral sample, confirming that the pattern derives from the virus and not from contaminating MV (**Fig. 1b**, **Supplementary Fig. 2e** and **Supplementary Methods** online).

Closer examination of the single color comparison between the uninfected H9 membrane sample, MV from matched uninfected cells and HIV revealed several striking glycomic features that were

conserved between HIV and MV from H9 (**Fig. 1a** and **Supplementary Fig. 1d**). Both samples were enriched in high-mannose epitopes in comparison to the cell membrane, as shown by binding to a series of known antiviral lectins including GNA, NPA, HHL, PSA, ConA, cyanovirin-N (CVN)<sup>24</sup>, scytovirin (SVN)<sup>25</sup> and griffithsin (GRFT)<sup>26,27</sup>. In addition, MV and HIV were enriched in complex N-linked glycans (PHA-L, PHA-E), N-acetylglucosamine (LacNAc, lectins: DSA, MAL-I, RCA, STA, WGA), sialic acid (SNA, MAA, MAL-II) and fucosylated (UEA-I, PTL-II, AAL) epitopes. Our lectin microarray data were in concordance with previous studies focused solely on gp120 glycosylation in HIV-1 propagated through the H9 T-cell line, which demonstrate the presence of high mannose, LacNAc, complex N-linked glycans and sialylation on this glycoprotein<sup>28</sup>. In contrast, blood group antigens A/B (EEA, LBA), which were present on the host cell, were excluded from both HIV and MV. We confirmed the specificity of the lectin interactions via inhibition experiments using a small panel of carbohydrates (**Supplementary Fig. 3** online). Our data suggest that MV and HIV-1 share a conserved exocytic pathway in which particles incorporate specific cellular glycoproteins as a consequence of budding from discrete domains of the plasma membrane.

### Two-color study of HIV-1 and MV from different T cells

To extend our initial results, we analyzed uninfected cell membrane micellae, corresponding MVs and HIV virions produced from two other T-cell lines: Jurkat-Tat-CCR5 and SupT1 (**Supplementary Figs. 1b** and **4** online; **Supplementary Table 2** online). To facilitate the direct comparison of these samples to H9-derived samples, we utilized a more sensitive ratiometric two-color approach in which the H9 cell membrane micellae were used as a common biological reference (**Fig. 2a**)<sup>17</sup>. For each of the three cell lines, we analyzed biological replicates consisting of samples from distinct viral (HIV) or cellular (MV) preparations. Both H9- and SupT1-derived virus were the HIV-1(MN) CL.4 strain, whereas Jurkat-Tat-CCR5-derived virus was the parent HIV-1(MN) strain. We observed a conserved meta-pattern for both MV and HIV regardless of the parent T-cell line (**Fig. 2b**,  $R = 0.66$ ,  $n = 48$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). As previously discussed for the single color data, this glycopattern was different from that of the parent cell membranes (**Fig. 2b**,  $R = 0.47$ ,  $P < 0.001$  and data not shown) and included increased LacNAc, sialic acid and complex and hybrid N-linked glycans on the HIV and MV, and excluded blood group A/B antigen binding from these samples. Surprisingly, HIV clustered more closely with MV from the same parent cell line than with virus propagated through another T-cell line (**Fig. 2b**;



**Figure 2** Ratiometric comparison of HIV-1 to uninfected cell membrane and microvesicles from three T-cell lines. **(a)** Experimental scheme. **(b)** H9 membrane was the common biological reference for comparison of MV and HIV derived from different T-cell lines (H9, green line; Jurkat-Tat-CCR5, Jurkat, blue line; SupT1, pink line) and their respective cell membranes (Mb,  $n = 1$ ). Biological replicates from distinct viral (HIV;  $n = 3$  for each cell line) or microvesicle (MV;  $n = 3$  for H9 and Jurkat,  $n = 1$  for SupT1) preparations were analyzed. A dye-swapped pair of arrays was analyzed for each sample. Only lectins positive on at least one array were considered in our analysis. Yang correlation values were obtained for the dataset and used to generate hierarchically clustered heat maps with the Pearson correlation coefficient as the distance metric ( $n = 48$ ), and average linkage analysis<sup>17</sup>. Coefficients are shown for each major branch. To facilitate visualization, lectins were clustered using the Euclidean distance metric ( $y$  axis). Red indicates enhanced binding to the sample; green indicates enhanced binding to H9 membrane. Data shown are representative of three replicate experiments. **(c)** Direct comparison of HIV glycosylation. H9-, Jurkat- and SupT1-derived HIV ( $n = 2$ ) were hybridized against H9-derived HIV (biological reference). A dye-swapped pair of arrays was run for each sample to generate Yang correlations as before. The heat map with Pearson correlation coefficients is shown. Red indicates enhanced binding to the varying HIV samples; green indicates enhanced binding to the H9-derived HIV. Data are representative of three replicate experiments.

Jurkat-Tat-CCR5,  $R = 0.81$ ; H9,  $R = 0.86$ ; SupT1,  $R = 0.91$ ). This clustering could be accounted for by cell line-dependent differences in a select subset of glycans, including  $\beta$ -GalNAc (BPA, CSA, VVA), which was higher in Jurkat-Tat-CCR5-derived HIV and MV, and  $\alpha$ -1,2 fucosylated LacNAc (UEA-I, PTA, PTL-II), which was higher in H9-derived HIV and MV. To directly compare the glycomes of our HIV samples, we used H9-derived HIV as a reference and hybridized the other HIV samples against it (Fig. 2c). These data confirmed the previously observed glycosylation differences between HIV samples. Our observation that cell line-dependent differences in glycosylation were conserved between the MV derived from uninfected cells and the HIV samples reinforces the theory that MV and HIV-1 share a common exocytic pathway.

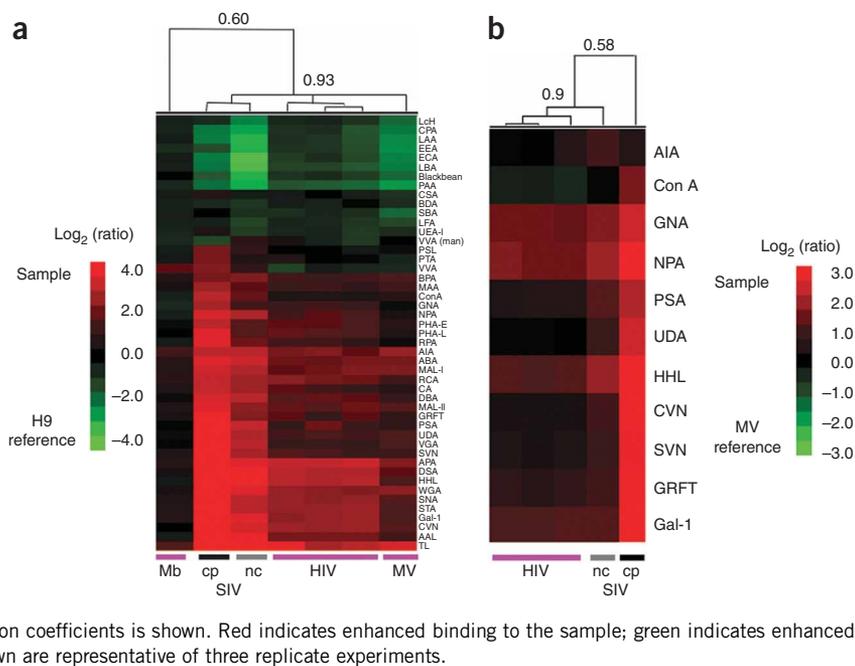
### Gp120 accounts for glycomic differences of MV and HIV-1

We observed that biological replicates of HIV clustered very tightly (Jurkat-Tat-CCR5,  $R = 0.96$ ; H9,  $R = 0.98$ ; SupT1,  $R = 0.97$ ) and were distinguished from MV from the same cell line by increased high mannose levels (ConA, CVN, GNA, GRFT, HHL, NPA, PSA, SVN, UDA; Fig. 2b and Supplementary Fig. 5a online). It should be noted that in the T-cell lines studied, high-mannose epitopes were enriched

in MV compared to the host membranes; thus differences in high mannose between HIV and MV represent a further enrichment in these glycans (Supplementary Fig. 5b). We questioned whether the differences between MV from uninfected cells and HIV could be accounted for simply by the expression of the highly glycosylated viral envelope glycoprotein gp120, which is known for its characteristic high-mannose epitopes<sup>29</sup>. To study this, we took advantage of two variants of simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV): SIVmac-NC, which has  $\sim 20$  molecules of gp120 per virion, and the related SIVmac-CP, which has approximately tenfold higher levels ( $\sim 200$  gp120 molecules per virion)<sup>16,30</sup>. The SIV was obtained from SupT1 host cells; thus first we verified that the SIV samples had a similar glycome to both HIV and MV derived from SupT1 ( $R = 0.93$ ,  $n = 48$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , Fig. 3a). Next, using MV from uninfected SupT1 cells as a standard, we directly compared the two SIV variants. We observed higher binding to the gp120-enriched SIVmac-CP than to SIVmac-NC for lectins that commonly discriminated between MV and HIV. A select subset of these lectins is shown in Figure 3b. In general, for lectins that did not differentiate between MV and SIVmac-NC, we did not observe enhanced binding for the SIVmac-CP samples; thus this effect was not attributable to differences in sample labeling (AIA, Fig. 3b). The

**Figure 3** Gp120 glycosylation may account for the differences observed between MV and HIV. (a) SupT1-derived SIV share glycomic markers with HIV and MV derived from SupT1. Briefly, labeled HIV ( $n = 3$  biological replicates), SIVmac-NC ( $n = 1$ , nc, gray line), SIVmac-CP ( $n = 1$ , cp, black line), MV ( $n = 1$ ) and SupT1 membrane ( $n = 1$ , Mb) samples were hybridized against H9 membrane (biological reference) as before. The hierarchical cluster map with Pearson correlation coefficients at select branches is shown. Red indicates enhanced binding to the sample; green indicates enhanced binding to the reference (H9 membrane). Data are representative of three replicate experiments.

(b) Direct comparison of the glycomes of SIVmac-NC, SIVmac-CP and HIV. Equal amounts of the SupT1-derived HIV and SIV samples from a were hybridized against MV derived from uninfected SupT1 cells (biological reference), with two arrays (dye-swapped pair) run for each sample to generate Yang correlations as before. The hierarchical cluster map of a select group of lectins with Pearson correlation coefficients is shown. Red indicates enhanced binding to the sample; green indicates enhanced binding to the SupT1-derived MV reference. Data shown are representative of three replicate experiments.

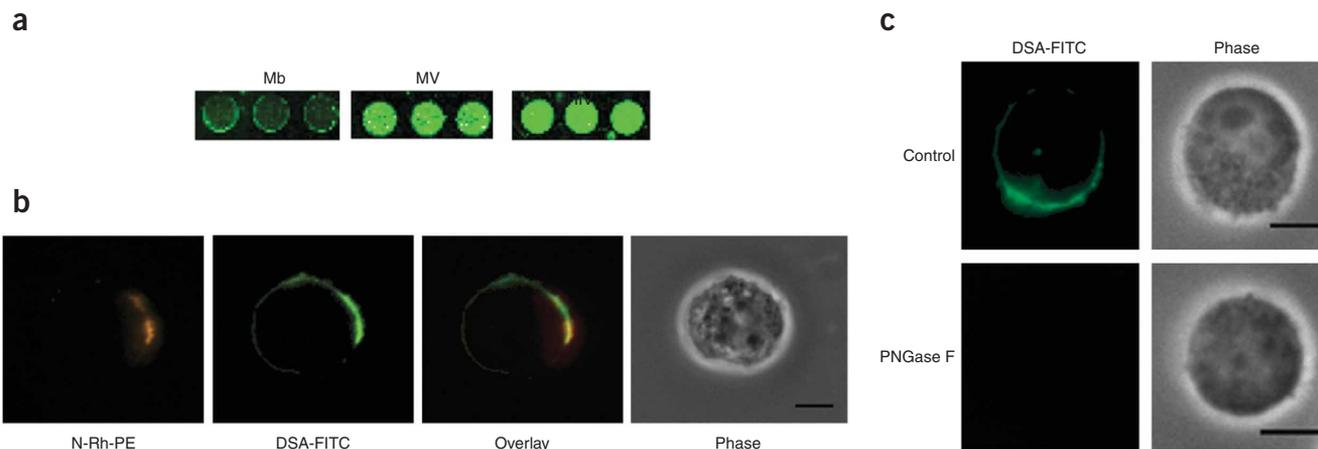


differences between the SIV variants are most likely a direct consequence of the relative levels of gp120 in the preparations and therefore strongly suggest that the glycomic differences observed between HIV and MV from uninfected cells may be accounted for by the viral envelope glycoprotein gp120.

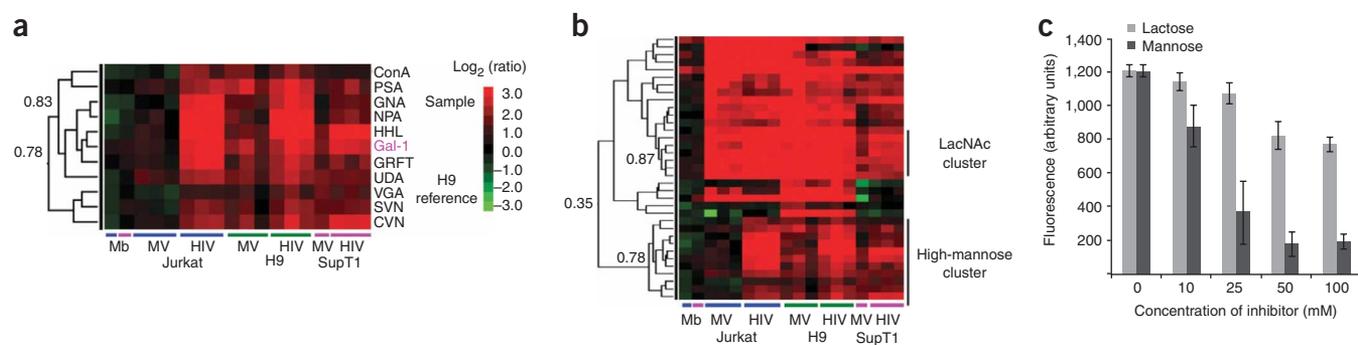
### Glycans on HIV-1 and MV are enriched in cellular microdomains

Our microarray data indicated that HIV-1 and MV bud from discrete membrane microdomains that can be defined by glycan composition. It has been demonstrated in Jurkat cells that N-Rh-PE (1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-*N*-(lissamine rhodamine B sulfonyl) ammonium salt, **2**), a fluorescent lipid, labels both

microvesicles and membrane microdomains enriched in microvesicle protein markers and HIV-1 gag<sup>3</sup>. Therefore we examined whether N-Rh-PE colocalized in microdomains with select fluorescently labeled lectins on the cell surface of our Jurkat-Tat-CCR5 cells. We chose DSA and PHA-L, which bind poly-LacNAc and  $\beta$ -1,6-branched N-linked glycans, respectively, due to their increased binding to HIV and MV when compared to Jurkat-Tat-CCR5 cell membrane by microarray analysis (Fig. 4a and Supplementary Fig. 6a online). As anticipated, both lectins also showed enrichment in specific microdomains on the plasma membrane that colocalized with N-Rh-PE by fluorescence microscopy (Fig. 4b and Supplementary Fig. 6b). Lectin staining was glycan dependent as demonstrated by abrogation of the



**Figure 4** N-Rh-PE-enriched domains colocalize with FITC-labeled lectins on Jurkat-Tat-CCR5 cell surfaces. (a) MV and HIV-1 from Jurkat cells exhibit increased binding to DSA in comparison to the Jurkat cell membrane (Mb). Data shown are representative of three independent experiments. (b) Jurkat cells were labeled with N-Rh-PE at 4 °C for 1 h, followed by 20 h of growth in normal medium at 37 °C. Cells were then fixed, stained with FITC-conjugated DSA and examined using fluorescence microscopy. N-Rh-PE domains (red) colocalized with domains that were enriched in glycans recognized by DSA (green). Data shown are representative of cells observed in three independent experiments. Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (c) Jurkat cells fixed for microscopy were treated with PNGase F to remove N-linked glycans before staining with DSA-FITC. As expected, a loss of DSA-FITC staining was observed, confirming that the lectin is interacting with cell surface carbohydrates. Shown are representative images of the DSA-FITC-stained PNGase F-treated cells and an untreated control from a minimum of 5 fields of view ( $\sim 10$ – $15$  cells per field) per treatment. Images were taken under identical microscopy conditions and are set to the same fluorescence range. Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m.



**Figure 5** Evidence that galectin-1 is a high-mannose binder. **(a)** Galectin-1 (Gal-1, pink) clustered tightly with mannose-binding lectins ( $R = 0.83$ ,  $n = 18$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Data used for the hierarchical clustering were identical to those in **Figure 2b**. Lectins were clustered using the Pearson correlation coefficient as the distance metric and average linkage analysis. A portion of the heat map is displayed with the Pearson correlation coefficients indicated for selected branch points. **(b)** Galectin-1 did not cluster with other LacNAc-binding lectins ( $R = 0.36$ ,  $n = 18$ ,  $P = 0.142$ ). **(c)** Mannose is a better inhibitor than lactose for galectin-1-HIV interactions. Lectin microarrays containing galectin-1 (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> print concentration) were preincubated with varying concentrations of either lactose or mannose, followed by addition of Cy3-labeled H9-derived HIV samples. The graph represents the average background-subtracted median fluorescence (arbitrary units) of four spots from arrays treated with varying concentrations of sugar (lactose, light gray; mannose, dark gray). The final concentration of the carbohydrate inhibitor is shown. Error bars represent the s.d. for the four spots. Data shown are representative of two independent experiments.

signal upon treatment with PNGase F (**Fig. 4c** and **Supplementary Methods**). To confirm the plasma membrane as the site of colocalization, we obtained confocal microscopy images from cells labeled with N-Rh-PE and FITC-conjugated DSA (**Supplementary Fig. 6c**). As previously observed, glycan and lipid markers colocalized at the plasma membrane, again validating our microarray data. Given the high degree of similarity between the glycomes of HIV-1 and microvesicles, our data suggest that the two particles emerge from a specific membrane microdomain that can be defined by glycan epitopes as well as protein and lipid content, thus pointing to glycosylation as a potential sorting determinant for this domain.

#### Bioinformatics implies galectin-1 binds mannose on HIV-1

Galectin-1 is a human immune lectin that binds to LacNAc and has recently been shown to play a role in promoting HIV-1 infectivity in both T cells and macrophages<sup>31,32</sup>. It is thought to aid absorption of the virus to the cells via a bridging interaction mediated by its two identical carbohydrate-binding domains<sup>32</sup>. Closer examination of hierarchical clustering of the lectins in our microarray data revealed galectin-1 at the center of a cluster of lectins that bind to high-mannose epitopes (GNA, NPA, HHL, CVN, SVN, GRFT;  $R = 0.78$ ,  $n = 18$ ,  $P = 0.0001$ ; **Fig. 5a,b**), rather than within the cluster of LacNAc-binding lectins (LacNAc cluster: MAL-I, RCA, WGA, STA, DSA;  $R = 0.87$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ; **Fig. 5b**). This unexpected result suggested that the binding motif recognized by galectin-1 might be context dependent, and in binding HIV-1, galectin-1 may recognize a high-mannose epitope. To further probe whether galectin-1 binds to a high-mannose glycan on HIV, we inhibited the H9-derived HIV-galectin-1 interaction on our array with either mannose (**3**) or the commonly used galectin-1 inhibitor lactose (**4**). We found mannose to be a better inhibitor of galectin-1 binding to HIV (**Fig. 5c**), which again supports the idea of interactions via mannose binding. Although we cannot discount the possibility that the immobilization of galectin-1 may have affected the binding of this lectin to glycan epitopes in the context of our arrays, the interactions of microvesicles with galectin-1 could be almost completely inhibited by high concentrations of lactose (**Supplementary Fig. 7a** online and **Supplementary Methods**), which demonstrated that the galectin-1 on our arrays was active. In contrast, only moderate inhibition by lactose of the HIV-galectin-1 binding

was observed. Mannose, however, was an excellent inhibitor of both HIV and MV binding to galectin-1. This suggests that HIV has a stronger interaction with galectin-1 than MV, and that this interaction may be based on binding to a mannose epitope. Given that gp120 has highly clustered mannose epitopes, galectin-1 may recognize high mannose in a context-dependent manner on HIV in addition to its known LacNAc recognition motif<sup>33</sup>.

The idea that galectin-1 recognizes high mannose on HIV-1 has some precedence in the known interactions of galectin-3 and galectin-10 with mannose-containing epitopes<sup>34,35</sup>, although no such reports exist for galectin-1. Additionally, mannose-based inhibitors have been reported for both galectin-3 and galectin-9N, which indicates that molecular mimicry is possible<sup>36</sup>. Careful examination of publicly available carbohydrate array data for galectin-1 protein binding from the Consortium for Functional Glycomics glycan array ([www.functionalglycomics.org/](http://www.functionalglycomics.org/)) also supports our work, revealing binding of galectin-1 to a high-mannose epitope at low but distinct levels (**Supplementary Fig. 7b**)<sup>33,37</sup>. Taken together, this work suggests that galectin-1 binding to HIV-1 may occur through interactions with the clustered high-mannose ligands present on the viral surface in addition to its known interactions with LacNAc residues. Given the role of galectin-1 as an important immune lectin, further investigation into whether high mannose is a context-dependent galectin-binding motif, as implied by our data, is warranted.

#### DISCUSSION

The components of the host machinery involved in the biogenesis and egress of HIV-1 are yet to be completely unraveled. Several groups have proposed a shared mechanism for microvesicle and HIV-1 exit<sup>8,9,38</sup>. The remarkable similarity of the carbohydrate cloaks of HIV-1 and microvesicles provides the first glycomic evidence for this hypothesis. Glycosylation plays a key role in protein sorting. Our data suggest that the shared glycome of HIV-1 and MV particles from T cells may reflect a glycan-dependent protein sorting mechanism that targets host proteins to microdomains from which both microvesicles and HIV particles emerge (**Fig. 4**). It should be noted, however, that protein trafficking pathways are often cell type dependent, and thus HIV-1 in other cell types may use alternate mechanisms for exit<sup>39</sup>.

Although overall the glycopatterns of microvesicles and viral particles from different T-cell lines display a high similarity, subtle glycomic distinctions exist. As a result of these differences, HIV-1 has a closer glycome to the microvesicles derived from the same cell line than to the same strain of HIV-1 propagated in a different T-cell line (Fig. 2), which again supports the hypothesis that HIV-1 from T cells is, in essence, a pathogenic microvesicle. This may allow HIV-1 to rapidly alter its infectivity by passaging through different cells. Indeed, variations in the glycosylation of whole viral particles have been shown to alter the infectivity of the related virus SIV<sup>40</sup>.

Immune lectins such as DC-SIGN, a dendritic cell surface protein, and MMR (macrophage mannose receptor), are important portals to cell-specific infection for HIV-1 (ref. 41). In addition, recent work has pointed to a role for galectin-1, a soluble innate immune lectin, in HIV-1 pathogenesis. Galectin-1 is thought to aid infectivity of the virus by providing a bridging interaction between the virus and its host cell surface via homodimeric LacNAc binding<sup>31,32</sup>. Our work calls into question the carbohydrate specificity of the galectin-1–HIV-1 interaction, suggesting that high-mannose epitopes may be a significant glycan motif for galectin-1 binding in the context of HIV-1. Our discovery of this phenomenon was a direct consequence of our systems-based approach to glycan analysis. The hierarchical clustering of our lectin data and inhibition with mannose (both experiments that would not have been obvious in a traditional study) revealed this unexpected interaction. Notably, galectin-1 has been found on the surface of HIV-1 virions derived from macrophages<sup>42</sup>. Given that the protein has no transmembrane domain, this suggests that galectin-1 is tightly associated with glycans on the viral surface. If galectin-1 binds to high-mannose epitopes in a context-dependent manner, it would have important implications for the recognition of HIV-1 and other pathogens by this critical immune lectin.

Contrary to our expectation that only HIV-1 would contain significant levels of high-mannose epitopes, both microvesicles and HIV-1 were enriched in these glycans (Supplementary Fig. 5). The enrichment of high mannose in both of these particles is a concern, as this epitope is a potential target for both antiviral lectin-based therapies and vaccine development<sup>27,29</sup>. However, higher levels of high mannose were observed in HIV-1 particles (Supplementary Fig. 5). Our data indicate that gp120 is responsible for the differences in glycosylation observed between the microvesicles and HIV-1. This again suggests that HIV-1 has usurped the microvesicle biogenesis pathway in T cells, hiding from the immune system by wrapping itself in the guise of an immunomodulatory microvesicle. This may contribute to both the dismantling of the immune system by HIV-1 and the difficulties observed in eliciting a protective immune response to the virus through vaccine strategies<sup>8</sup>. Given our lack of knowledge about the role of microvesicles in immune modulation, targeting epitopes (such as high mannose) that functionalize these particles may have unintended negative consequences for the immune system. Our data therefore advocate caution in pursuing this avenue of therapeutic intervention.

## METHODS

**Cell culture.** Cell lines H9 and SupT1 were obtained from the AIDS Vaccine Program at the US National Cancer Institute. The Jurkat-Tat-CCR5 cells were obtained from Q. Sattentau (University of Oxford). Cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 (Hyclone) supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine, 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (Mediatech) and penicillin-streptomycin (Invitrogen) at 37 °C and 5% (v/v) CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Cell membrane preparation.** We prepared labeled cell membrane micellae from uninfected cells as described previously<sup>17</sup>. Briefly, cells were pelleted, washed once in PBS (0.1 M phosphate buffer, 0.15 M NaCl, pH 7.4) and

resuspended in ice-cold PBS. Cells were then sonicated on ice (3 × 5 s, 70% power, Branson sonicator with 1/8" tapered probe tip, Branson) to disrupt cell membranes. We then isolated the membranes by pelleting for 1 h at 50,000 r.p.m. using a TLA 100.3 rotor in a Beckman Optima L-80 ultracentrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The pellet was resuspended in Cy buffer (0.1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, pH 9.3) and homogenized using a 20 gauge needle ~10×. The homogenization was repeated using a 27 gauge needle until complete. We determined the protein concentration using the DC protein assay (Bio-Rad) and subsequently fluorescently labeled the sample with Cy3- or Cy5-NHS dyes (60 µg of dye per mg of protein, 45 min, room temperature (21–25 °C) with gentle rocking, GE Life Sciences). Excess dye was then removed by dialyzing (6,000–8,000 Da MW dialysis tubing) into PBS overnight at 4 °C. We again determined the protein concentration for each sample after dialysis before hybridization on the microarrays.

**Microvesicles and HIV sample preparation.** We collected virus samples from infected cells (H9, HIV-1(MN) CL4 virions; SupT1, HIV-1(MN) CL4, SIVmac-NC and SIVmac-CP virions; Jurkat-Tat-CCR5, HIV-1(MN) virions) as previously described<sup>6</sup>. We isolated microvesicles from matched uninfected cells. All samples were treated with aldrithiol-2 (ref. 21). Samples were resuspended in TNE buffer (0.01 M Tris pH 7.2, 0.1 M NaCl and 1 mM EDTA) and stored at –70 °C before labeling.

For fluorescent labeling, pelleted samples (60,000 r.p.m., 6 min, Beckman TLA-100 centrifuge, TLA100.3 rotor) were resuspended in Cy buffer and then incubated at room temperature for 30 min with Cy3- or Cy5-NHS. Excess free dye was removed from samples by centrifugation through a 20% sucrose pad (25,000 r.p.m., 1 h, 4 °C). The pellet was then resuspended in PBS, pelleted (60,000 r.p.m., 6 min) and diluted in 1 ml of PBS. Labeled samples were stored at –70 °C before hybridization to the lectin microarrays.

**Lectin microarrays.** The lectin microarrays were manufactured as described previously<sup>17,18</sup> with minor modifications (see Supplementary Table 1 for lectin list, print concentrations and print monosaccharides). All lectins were purchased from EY Laboratories, with the following exceptions: AAL, HHL, RCA, MAL-I, MAL-II, PTL-I and PTL-II were obtained from Vector Labs; cyanovirin, scytovirin and griffithsin were gifts from B. O'Keefe (NCI-Frederick); and galectin-1 (ref. 43) was a gift from L. Baum (UCLA Medical School).

**Microarray hybridization.** The microarray slides were fitted to the 16-well FAST frame (Schleicher & Schuell) to create a separate well for each array, resulting in a total of 16 subarrays per slide. For single color experiments, we added 1 µg of labeled sample in a final volume of 100 µl (in PBS with 0.05% (v/v) Tween) to each subarray. Samples were hybridized to the lectin microarrays for 2 h at room temperature with gentle rocking. The individual subarrays were then rinsed with PBST (PBS, 0.5% (v/v) Tween, 5 × 3 min). After a final rinse in PBS, slides were dried before scanning. For ratiometric two-color experiments, we used 1 µg of each orthogonally labeled sample in a total volume of 100 µl. Dye-swapped pairs were hybridized for each sample set using the respective Cy3- and Cy5-labeled pairs. We analyzed slides using a GenePix 4000B fluorescent slide scanner (gain = 400, 5 µm scan, Molecular Devices) with GenePix Pro 5.1 software. For details on data analysis, see Supplementary Methods.

**Fluorescence microscopy.** Jurkat cells were labeled with N-Rh-PE (Avanti Polar Lipids) at a final concentration of 5 µM in cold RPMI medium. Briefly, we made labeling medium by adding the fluorescent lipid to cold medium in a glass culture tube using a Hamilton syringe and mixing by vigorous shaking. Prior to labeling, Jurkat cells were washed in cold RPMI medium. We then mixed the cells with labeling medium and incubated at 4 °C for 1 h. The cells were then washed extensively in cold medium and cultured in regular medium for an additional 20 h at 37 °C (ref. 3). For fluorescence microscopy, we adhered the cells to polylysine-coated glass-bottomed dishes for 5 min at 37 °C and incubated with 5% (w/v) bovine serum albumin in modified PBS (mPBS, 3.8 mM KCl, 1.18 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1.39 mM NaCl, 3.15 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 h at room temperature. The cells were then fixed in 3% (w/v) paraformaldehyde in mPBS for 15 min at room temperature. We then washed the cells with mPBS (3 × 5 min) followed by incubation with FITC-labeled DSA (*Datura stramonium* lectin, EY Labs, 4 µg in 100 µl mPBS + 5% (w/v)

bovine serum albumin) or FITC-labeled PHA-L (phytohemagglutinin-L, EY Labs, 4 µg in 100 µl mPBS + 5% (w/v) bovine serum albumin) for 15 min at room temperature. The cells were subsequently washed with mPBS (3 × 5 min), and images were obtained using an inverted microscope (Nikon Eclipse TE 2000-U; Photometrics CoolSNAP ES monochrome camera) and MetaMorph image analysis software (version 6.2r6; Molecular Devices) with a 60× oil immersion lens (NA 1.4). FITC and rhodamine images were obtained using the same dichroic mirror (86012bs, Chroma Technologies) and separate excitation and emission filters (FITC excitation S501/16, emission S534/30; rhodamine excitation S568/24, emission S610/40).

Note: [Supplementary information and chemical compound information](#) is available on the [Nature Chemical Biology website](#).

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#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

L.K. designed and performed research, analyzed data and aided in the writing of the paper. J.W.B. designed and performed research. A.B.P. designed and performed research. K.N. performed research. L.K.M. designed and performed research, analyzed data and wrote the paper.

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