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1 RESEARCH ARTICLE

2 **Hypoxia and HIF-1 trigger Marek's Disease Virus reactivation in lymphomas-derived**
3 **latently-infected T lymphocytes**

4

5 Corentin Mallet¹, Jade Cochard², Sébastien Leclercq¹, Laetitia Trapp-Fragnet¹, Philippe
6 Chouteau², Caroline Denesvre^{1*}

7

8 ¹ ISP, INRAE, Université de Tours, 37380 Nouzilly, France

9 ² INSERM U1259, Université de Tours and CHRU de Tours, France.

10

11 * Corresponding author : Mailing address : Laboratoire de Biologie des Virus Aviaires, INRAE-
12 Université de Tours, UMR1282 ISP, Centre INRAE Val de Loire, 37380 Nouzilly, France.

13 Phone : (+33) 2 47 42 76 19

14 E-mail: caroline.denesvre@inrae.fr

15

16 Running head : Hypoxia triggers MDV reactivation

17 Abstract : 249 words; Importance: 149 words; 10 figures, 3 tables

18

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 Latency is a hallmark of herpesviruses, allowing them to persist into their host without
21 virions production. Acute exposure to hypoxia (below 3% O₂) was identified as a trigger of
22 latent-to-lytic switch (reactivation) for human oncogenic gamma-herpesviruses (KSHV and
23 EBV). Therefore, we hypothesized that hypoxia could also induce reactivation of Marek's
24 disease virus (MDV), sharing biological properties with EBV and KSHV (notably oncogenic
25 properties), into lymphocytes. Acute exposure to hypoxia (1% O₂) of two MDV-latently
26 infected cell lines derived from MD tumors (3867K and MSB-1) induced MDV reactivation. A
27 bioinformatic analysis of the RB-1B MDV genome revealed 214 putative hypoxia-response
28 element consensus sequences on 119 open reading frames. RT-qPCR analysis showed five
29 MDV genes strongly upregulated early after hypoxia. In 3867K cells under normoxia,
30 pharmacological agents mimicking hypoxia (MLN4924 and CoCl₂) increased MDV
31 reactivation, but to a lower level than real hypoxia. Overexpression of wild-type or stabilized
32 human hypoxia inducible factor-1 α (HIF-1 α) in MSB-1 cells in normoxia also promoted MDV
33 reactivation. In such conditions, lytic cycle was detected in cells with a sustainable HIF-1 α
34 expression, but also in HIF-1 α negative cells, indicating that MDV reactivation is mediated by
35 HIF-1, in a direct and/or indirect manner. Lastly, we demonstrated by a reporter assay that
36 HIF-1 α overexpression induced the transactivation of two viral promoters, shown
37 upregulated in hypoxia. These results suggest that hypoxia may play a crucial role in the late
38 lytic replication phase observed *in vivo* in MDV-infected chickens exhibiting tumors, since a
39 hypoxic microenvironment is a hallmark of most solid tumors.
40

41 **IMPORTANCE**

42 Latent-to-lytic switch of herpesviruses (aka reactivation) is responsible for pathology
43 recurrences and/or viral shedding. Studying physiological triggers of reactivation is therefore
44 important for health to limit lesions and viral transmission. Marek's disease virus (MDV) is a
45 potent oncogenic alpha-herpesvirus establishing latency in T-lymphocytes and causing lethal
46 T-lymphomas in chickens. *In vivo*, a second lytic phase is observed during tumoral stage.
47 Hypoxia being a hallmark of tumors, we wondered whether hypoxia induces MDV
48 reactivation in latently-infected T-lymphocytes, like previously shown for EBV and KSHV in B-
49 lymphocytes. In this study, we demonstrated that acute hypoxia (1% O₂) triggers MDV
50 reactivation in two MDV transformed T-cell lines. We provide some molecular basis of this
51 reactivation by showing that hypoxia inducible factor (HIF-1) overexpression induces MDV
52 reactivation to a similar extent than hypoxia after 24 hours. Hypoxia is therefore a
53 reactivation stimulus shared by mammalian and avian oncogenic herpesviruses of different
54 genus.

55

56 **KEYWORDS:** Marek's disease virus, reactivation, hypoxia, lymphocytes, HIF-1.

57

58 Herpesviruses are large DNA viruses causing various types of pathologies, in clinical signs and
59 severity, including recurrent local infections and cancers. Such pathologies are associated
60 with the persistence of the virus in the host after infection and its biphasic life cycle, either
61 latent or lytic. The latent cycle consists of a state in which the viral genome persists into the
62 host cell nucleus, with no infectious virions production and a limited number of viral
63 products (either RNA and/or proteins), avoiding detection by the immune system [1]. In
64 contrast, the lytic cycle leads to virions production, cell death, and virus shedding. Each virus
65 species establishes latency in a unique cell type and in a limited number of cells. The
66 identification of the factors and molecular mechanisms governing the switch from latent-to-
67 lytic cycle, named reactivation, is of major importance to limit the recurrence of lesions and
68 viral shedding. Various environmental factors have been identified as triggering reactivation:
69 fever or UV light for herpes simplex virus (HSV-1, aka human herpesvirus 1) [2], and immune
70 system aging for human cytomegalovirus (CMV, aka human herpesvirus type 5) and Epstein-
71 Barr virus (EBV, aka human herpesvirus type 4) [3]. Recently, low oxygen level or hypoxia (\leq
72 3%) was identified as a potent reactivation factor for gamma-herpesviruses. Initially
73 demonstrated for the Kaposi sarcoma-associated virus (KSHV, aka human herpesvirus type
74 8) in B cells [4], hypoxia was also shown to induce the reactivation of two other gamma-
75 herpesviruses in B-cells, EBV and the murine herpesvirus type 4 (MHV-4) [5, 6]. For these
76 three viruses, the hypoxia inducible factor 1 (HIF-1) was shown as a molecular determinant
77 triggering reactivation, by turning-on the expression of at least one critical gene in the
78 initiation of the lytic cycle: BZLF-1 for EBV [5, 7], ORF50-rta for KSHV [8, 9] and MHV-4 [6].
79 HIF-1 is a transcription factor whose activity is tightly regulated by oxygen [10]. HIF-1 is a
80 heterodimer constituted of two sub-units, HIF-1 α and HIF-1 β , found in the entire animal
81 kingdom [11]. HIF-1 protein regulation is based on HIF-1 α degradation or stabilization,

82 depending on the percentage of oxygen. In normal oxygen conditions (normoxia; 21%, v/v),
83 HIF-1 α is quickly degraded by the proteasome after hydroxylation of three amino acids
84 (Pro402, Pro564, Asn803), Von Hippel Lindau (VHL) binding, and ubiquitinylation (reviewed
85 in [10, 12]). In normoxia, HIF-1 α half-life is below 5 minutes [13]. In hypoxia, the prolyl-4-
86 hydroxylases modifying HIF-1 α are non-functional [14] and HIF-1 α is stabilized [15].
87 Stabilized HIF-1 α is subsequently translocated into the nucleus, where it dimerizes with the
88 constitutively expressed HIF-1 β subunit leading to an active HIF-1. The HIF-1 heterodimer
89 then binds to hypoxia response element sequences (HREs) located within the promoter of
90 target genes, leading to their transcription. HIF-1 target genes are involved in metabolism
91 (lipids, carbohydrates), angiogenesis, erythropoiesis, and their expression allows an adaption
92 to low oxygen conditions at cell, tissue, or organism level [10].

93 Marek's disease virus (MDV, aka Gallid herpesvirus type 2), is an alpha-herpesvirus from the
94 Mardivirus genus that causes immunosuppression and lethal T- lymphomas in chickens.
95 After entry through the respiratory tract, MDV infects B- and T-lymphocytes causing an early
96 cytolytic infection, between 3 and 7 days post-infection (dpi) [16, 17]. At about 7 dpi, MDV
97 establishes latency in a subset of T-lymphocytes, mostly CD4-positive [18], and its genome
98 integrates into the host's genome telomeres [19-21]. During latent infection, a few MDV
99 products are expressed: the Meq oncoprotein [22], several non-coding latency associated
100 transcripts (LATs) [23, 24] as well as several micro RNAs (miRNAs) [25, 26]. Latent infection
101 in T-cell is considered necessary for MDV transformation, which occurs 3 to 4 weeks post-
102 infection. According to Calnek's model [18], a second lytic cycle called 'late cytolytic
103 infection' occurs in lymphoid organs at a later time post-infection, when tumorigenesis is
104 already established. MD tumors have been shown to contain 0.1% of CD4+ T-cells in lytic
105 cycle [27], probably due to the reactivation of MDV. The stimuli triggering MDV reactivation

106 in lymphoid organs and tumors *in vivo* are still poorly known [28]. Hypoxia has been
107 depicted as a common feature in solid tumors' microenvironment [29], notably when
108 tumors cells rapidly proliferate, resulting in poor oxygen supply in the center of the tumor
109 due to a lack of vascularization [30, 31]. Although hypoxia has not been demonstrated in
110 Marek's disease (MD) T-lymphomas yet, we assumed that hypoxia exists in MD tumors due
111 to their extremely rapid growth in chickens. By analogy with what has been reported for
112 gamma-herpesviruses, we wondered whether hypoxia may contribute to MDV reactivation
113 in MD lymphomas. In this study, our aim was to explore whether hypoxia can induce MDV
114 reactivation in latently-infected T-cells. To this end, we used two well characterized cell lines
115 established from MD lymphomas, MSB-1 [32, 33] and 3867K [34]. We show for the first time
116 that hypoxia (1% O₂) induces MDV reactivation in T-cell lines *in vitro*. Using overexpression
117 of HIF-1 α in normoxia, we show that this transcription factor plays a crucial role in MDV
118 reactivation. Altogether these findings provide new insights on MDV reactivation
119 mechanisms.

120

121 **RESULTS**

122 ***Hypoxia increases the proportion of 3867K cells in lytic cycle.***

123 To determine whether hypoxia can induce MDV reactivation, we used a T- lymphoid cell line
124 latently-infected with the very virulent recombinant RB-1B 47eGFP, the 3867K cell line [34].
125 When virus reactivates, the lytic pUL47eGFP tegument protein is expressed, allowing the
126 detection of GFP-positive cells [34, 35]. To start, 3867K cells were cultivated either in
127 normoxia (at 21% O₂) or in hypoxia (at 1% O₂) for 72 hours (h). Viral reactivation was
128 measured by flow cytometry by determining the percentage of GFP-positive cells in live cells.
129 Under normoxic condition, the live GFP-positive cells represented 0.85% of the total cells

130 (Fig. 1A, left panel), corresponding to spontaneous reactivation. In hypoxia, live GFP-positive
131 cells increased to 4%, i.e. 4.7-fold compared to normoxic conditions (Figure 1A, right panel).
132 In both conditions, EGP-positive cells mean fluorescence was relatively low (about 70 in
133 arbitrary units) (vs 5 to 10 arbitrary units in latently-infected cells), consistent with the low
134 expression of pUL47eGFP during the lytic cycle in lymphocytes. In addition, the cellular
135 mortality increased upon hypoxia (eFluor 780-positive cells), with dead cells representing
136 51.8 % of the total cells in hypoxia compared to 12.5% in normoxia (Figure 1A).
137 To confirm that the expression of pUL47eGFP reflected the switch to lytic cycle and not just
138 a transcriptional activation of *UL47eGFP* expression under hypoxia, we verified by
139 fluorescence microscopy the expression of two other late viral proteins essential for MDV
140 infectivity: the major tegument protein VP22 and glycoprotein B (gB). Both VP22 and gB
141 were expressed in nucleated GFP-positive cells, with similar localization in normoxia and
142 hypoxia, consistent with the fact that pUL47eGFP-positive cells underwent a lytic cycle in
143 both conditions (Figure 1B). In hypoxia, we noticed numerous cells emitting a low green
144 fluorescence signal devoid of nucleus (Hoechst-negative), cells which were not stained for
145 VP22 or gB (Figure 1B). Such cells were absent when viable cells (eFluor 780-negative) were
146 cell-sorted by flow cytometry before VP22 antibody staining (Figure 1C and below).
147 Therefore, these enucleated green cells correspond most likely to a subpopulation of dead
148 cells with an increased autofluorescence intensity and not to viral reactivation prior to cell
149 death.

150 We next determined whether MDV reactivation was time-dependent under hypoxia. To this
151 end, 3867K cells were cultivated in normoxia or hypoxia for 96 h and the percentage of
152 reactivation was estimated every 24 h through pUL47eGFP expression by flow cytometry.
153 While the percentage of live GFP-positive cells among live cells remained low in normoxia at

154 every time points ($\leq 2\%$), it increased progressively approximately 4-fold in hypoxia, from
155 2.5% to 9.5% between 24 and 96 h (Figure 1D). Cell mortality was between 12% and 25% in
156 normoxia and between 32% and 66% in hypoxia (Table 1).

157 To further confirm that cells reactivating MDV under hypoxia are fully MDV productive, we
158 determined the number of MDV genome copies per cell by quantitative PCR (qPCR) under
159 normoxic and hypoxic conditions during 96 h (Figure 1E). In normoxia, the MDV genome
160 copy number was below 5×10^7 per 10^6 cells at all time points tested, corresponding mostly
161 to viral genomes integrated into the host genome. In hypoxia, MDV genome copy number
162 per 10^6 cells increased progressively approximately 4-fold. Such increase demonstrates
163 that MDV reactivation in hypoxic cells is associated with an increased production of MDV
164 genomes in these cells.

165

166 **Hypoxia increases viral lytic genes expression in 3867K T-cell line, notably *ICP4*, *ICP27*,**
167 ***UL39*, *UL41* and *UL49*.**

168 In order to study the effect of hypoxia on viral genes expression, we next performed a bio-
169 informatic analysis on the complete RB-1B genome to locate and enumerate all putative
170 HREs in the promoter area of each identified open reading frame (ORF) (incl. hypothetical
171 ones). In total, we identified 214 putative HREs on 119 ORFs (140 ORFs having been
172 estimated on this genome [36]). The number of predicted HREs per promoter varied from 1
173 to 5, at the most. Note that *UL47*, *UL49* encoding VP22, and *UL27* encoding gB showed 1, 3,
174 and no HRE respectively. Among MDV genes we selected sixteen lytic genes, thirteen with
175 putative HREs and three without (Figure 2A): two immediate early (IE) genes (*ICP4* and
176 *ICP27*), five early (E) genes (including *UL39* encoding the ribonucleotide reductase large sub-
177 unit (RR1) and *UL41* encoding the viral host shutoff protein (VHS)) and nine late (L) genes

178 (including *UL47*, *UL49*, and *UL27*). *UL13*, *UL27*, and *UL48* are devoid of HRE in the promoter
179 area analyzed.

180 We assessed the effect of hypoxia on the expression of these sixteen viral transcripts
181 encoding lytic proteins by reverse transcriptase qPCR (RT-qPCR) over a 72-h period. The
182 expression of *Meq*, which is expressed in both latent and lytic phases was also quantified. Of
183 these seventeen genes, eleven (including *UL47*) were slightly upregulated (3- to 7-fold) 24 h
184 after hypoxia compared to normoxia, while five were greatly upregulated: the two IE genes,
185 *ICP4* and *ICP27* were upregulated 18- and 16-fold, respectively; two E genes, *UL39* and *UL41*
186 were upregulated 28- and 12-fold, respectively; and one L gene, *UL49*, was upregulated 17-
187 fold (Figure 2B). The high expression of *UL49* at that time point was striking. At 48 h of
188 hypoxia, all sixteen lytic genes (IE, E, and L) showed a mRNA expression at least 10-fold
189 higher (between 11- and 31-fold) than in normoxic conditions. At 72 h of hypoxia, the
190 expression of all lytic genes was still high, between 11- and 60-fold that of normoxia. At that
191 time, *ICP4*, *ICP27*, *UL39*, *UL41*, and *UL49* were still the most upregulated genes (> 40-fold),
192 like at 24 h. At 48 and 72h of hypoxia, *US7* encoding gI was also found highly upregulated.
193 The six most upregulated genes contain at least one HRE upstream (-) or downstream (+) of
194 their starting codon, which are strictly conserved in Md5 genome, another very virulent
195 MDV strain: *ICP4* (+49), *ICP27* (-165), *UL39* (-396, -654), *UL41* (-106, -356), *UL49* (-136, -285, -
196 301), and *US7* (-15, -90, -105). Note that *meq* expression was increased but less than all lytic
197 genes at 48 and 72h. All together, these results show that hypoxia induced the expression of
198 all viral lytic genes assessed, with a few genes upregulated, most likely via HRE.

199

200 ***MDV reactivation induced by hypoxia is not restricted to a cell line or a MDV genotype.***

201 To investigate whether hypoxia-induced reactivation is restricted to the 3867K cell line
202 and/or to the RB-1B virus, we examined the effect of hypoxia on the most frequently used
203 MD derived-cell line (MSB-1) obtained with the virulent BC-1 MDV strain, and whose
204 reactivation is not traceable with a fluorescent gene. Therefore, to monitor MDV
205 reactivation, we first quantified MDV genome copy numbers under normoxic and hypoxic
206 conditions over a 96-h period (Figure 3A). The number of MDV genome copies per million
207 cells was below 5×10^7 at all time points under normoxia. It increased from 4.6×10^7 at 24 h
208 to 2.7×10^8 at 96 h under hypoxia. The fold-changes between hypoxia and normoxia
209 increased over time, except for an inflection point at 72 h (which is probably due to a high
210 mortality recorded in hypoxia starting at 48 h) (Table 1). This tumoral cell line also exhibited
211 a high rate of mortality, even in normoxic condition (between 25% and 44%) (Table 1).
212 Reactivation was next verified by examining the expression of VP22 after antibody staining
213 by fluorescence microscopy (Figure 3B). A strong VP22 signal was visible in the cytoplasm of
214 cells, much more frequently in hypoxia than in normoxia at 24 and 48 h. Numerous
215 apoptotic nuclei were visible in normoxia and hypoxia, in accordance with the high mortality
216 (as reported above). By counting VP22-positive cells among all cells exhibiting non-apoptotic
217 nucleus by fluorescence microscopy, we estimated the % of MSB-1 reactivation at 3.2% and
218 7.3% after 24 h and 48 h of hypoxia, respectively, compared to < 1% in normoxia at both
219 time points.

220 To confirm that viral reactivation was indeed induced by hypoxia in MSB-1, we quantified
221 mRNA expression of sixteen lytic genes as well as *meq* by RT-qPCR as performed earlier for
222 3867K. The fold-changes between hypoxic and normoxic conditions are shown in Figure 3C.
223 At 24 h of hypoxia, only *UL39* and *UL49* were upregulated > 10-fold compared to normoxia,
224 while the other genes were upregulated 2- to 5-fold. At 48 h of hypoxia, all genes were

225 expressed > 10-fold (between 14 and 74-fold), with *ICP4*, *UL39*, *UL41*, *UL49*, and *US7* being
226 the most upregulated (≥ 35 -fold). This was similar to that observed in 3867K cells except that
227 the fold-changes were globally higher at that time point (48 h) in MSB-1 than in 3867K. At 72
228 h of hypoxia, a gene expression for all genes was lower than at 48 h, as observed for DNA
229 genome copies.

230 Therefore, acute hypoxia induced MDV reactivation in both MSB-1 and 3867K cell lines alike,
231 although MSB-1 cells showed a higher viral gene expression and mortality compared to
232 3867K.

233

234 ***Hypoxia induces MDV reactivation in HIF-1 α -positive cells and activates the expression of***
235 ***HIF-1 cellular target genes.***

236 Among HIFs, HIF-1 α is the major cell regulator in hypoxia and the most ubiquitous. HIF-1 α
237 has been shown to trigger viral reactivation in hypoxic conditions in three gamma-
238 herpesvirus [4-6]. To investigate the role of HIF-1 α in MDV reactivation during hypoxia, we
239 first studied the expression of HIF-1 α in 3867K and MSB-1 grown under hypoxia compared
240 to normoxia by fluorescence microscopy. To this end, both cell lines were grown in both
241 conditions for 48 h and live cells were sorted by flow cytometry before staining. The chicken
242 HIF-1 α protein was detected by immunofluorescence, whereas virus reactivation was
243 detected with pUL47eGFP expression for the 3867K cell line and after VP22 immunostaining
244 for MSB-1 cells. Note that in these conditions, all 3867K cells emitting green fluorescence
245 have a nucleus (Figure 4). In normoxia, HIF-1 α was almost undetectable in both 3867K and
246 MSB-1, indicating that HIF-1 α was not stabilized in these transformed T-cells (Figure 4A-B,
247 upper panels). In contrast, in hypoxia, almost all 3867K and MSB-1 cells were HIF-1 α -positive
248 as expected when this protein is stabilized (Figure 4A-B, lower panels). The quantification of

249 the HIF-1 α signal per cell confirmed that the fluorescence intensity was significantly higher
250 in hypoxia than in normoxia in both cell lines, although weak notably in 3867K (Figure 4 C-D).
251 These results indicated that HIF-1 α was indeed stabilized in both cell lines cultivated under
252 hypoxia. In hypoxia, among HIF-1 α -positive cells, only a fraction of the live cells was
253 expressing lytic viral proteins as earlier.

254 To verify that HIF-1 α stabilization under hypoxia was functional in MDV T-cell lines, we
255 examined HIF-1 transcriptional activity by measuring the expression of three HIF-1 cellular
256 target genes identified for mammals [10]: *GLUT1*, the glucose transporter 1; *LDHA*, the
257 pyruvate dehydrogenase A which mediates the conversion of pyruvate in lactate; and *iNOS*,
258 the inducible nitric oxide synthetase. Cells (3867K and MSB-1) were cultivated under hypoxia
259 or normoxia for 72 or 96 h and the mRNA levels of *GLUT1*, *LDAH*, and *iNOS* were measured
260 by RT-qPCR every 24 h. In 3867K cells, all three genes were upregulated under hypoxia
261 compared to normoxia at all time points (Figure 5A). Most fold-changes ranged between 5
262 and 15. We also verified in the same manner, that HIF-1 was functional in MSB-1 cells
263 cultivated in hypoxia (Figure 5B). Taken together, we demonstrated that HIF-1 α was
264 stabilized under hypoxia exposure in both 3867K and MSB-1 cell lines and that HIF-1 was
265 functional.

266

267 ***Hypoxia-mimicking pharmacological agents CoCl₂ and MLN4924 induce MDV reactivation***
268 ***in 3867K cells.***

269 To study the specific role of HIF-1 α stabilization in MDV reactivation, we tested two
270 pharmacological agents, MLN4924 and CoCl₂, known to stabilize HIF-1 α in mammalian cells
271 in normoxia by reducing its degradation. 3867K cells were cultivated in the presence of each
272 drug at different concentrations for 24 h in normoxia (two independent experiments). MDV

273 reactivation and cell mortality were assessed by flow cytometry as described earlier. Both
274 drugs increased MDV reactivation in a dose-dependent manner compared to mock-treated
275 cells as negative control (Figure 6A). The mortality observed with MLN4924 and CoCl₂ at the
276 upper doses was 22.85% and 14.1%, respectively. Cells were treated with sodium butyrate
277 (0.5 mM for 48 h), an inhibitor of histone deacetylases, as positive control of reactivation,
278 leading to a 5.3-fold increase of reactivated live cells (with a mortality of 18.6% of total
279 cells). CoCl₂ treatment (250 μM) led to a 2.3-fold increase of reactivated live cells compared
280 to control. MLN4924 treatment at 1 and 2.5 μM induced a greater reactivation, with 3.7-
281 and 4.2-fold increase, respectively. MLN4924's effect was time-dependent since no
282 reactivation was observed with 1 μM after 8 h of treatment compare to control. MDV
283 reactivation being milder with CoCl₂ than with MLN4924 treatment, subsequent analyses
284 were only performed with MLN4924. We next examined HIF-1α and MDV lytic antigens
285 expression by fluorescence microscopy on 3867K cells treated with 1 μM MLN4924 for 24 h.
286 HIF-1α was detected in most MLN4924-treated cells including reactivating MDV cells but not
287 in DMSO-treated cells (control) (Figure 6B). To confirm reactivation, the RNA expression of
288 four lytic genes (*ICP4*, *UL39*, *UL49*, and *UL13*) was measured by RT-qPCR and compared to
289 DMSO-treated cells. The expression of all four viral genes increased as expected in two
290 independent experiments (Figure 6C). Next, we examined the activity of HIF-1 by measuring
291 the mRNA expression of two cellular HIF-1 targets (*LDAH* and *GLUT-1*). Surprisingly the
292 expression of these two genes did not change compared to the DMSO control. All together,
293 these results showed that MLN4927 induces MDV reactivation in 3867K cells, but the role of
294 HIF-1α stabilization in that process could not be clearly demonstrated. The way by which
295 MLN4924 may induce MDV reactivation herein is discussed later.

296

297 ***Human HIF-1 α is functional in chicken cells.***

298 To further clarify the role of HIF-1 α in MDV reactivation and in absence of validated chicken
299 HIF-1 α tools, we verified the functionality of the human HIF-1 α (hHIF-1 α) in chicken cells
300 after transient transfection with expressing vectors. Lymphocytes are cells known to be
301 extremely difficult to transfect with plasmids. Therefore, we first optimized the transfection
302 efficiency by using the Neon[®] nucleofector technology, a technology which allows high
303 transfection efficiency with human lymphocytes. An orange fluorescent reporter plasmid
304 (pPB tdTomato) of large size (8.67kb) was used for that purpose. At 24 h post-transfection,
305 transfection efficacy was 6.7% in 3867K cells and 24.7% in MSB-1 cells, based on Tomato-
306 fluorescence using flow cytometry.

307 We next studied the functionality of hHIF-1 α in MSB-1 cells, which gave the higher rate of
308 transfection. To this end, we used two hHIF-1 α : the hHIF-1 α WT or a stabilized mutant
309 (hHIF-1 α mut). This mutant has three amino-acids mutated to prevent its hydroxylation and
310 subsequent degradation in the presence of a high-rate of oxygen (*ie*, 21%). It is therefore
311 stabilized in normoxia in contrast to the WT which is degraded by the proteasome. Using
312 Neon[®] technology, MSB-1 cells were transfected with the pHRE-d2EGFP reporter plasmid
313 and a vector expressing hHIF-1 α (mut or WT). When HIF-1 α is expressed at a sufficient level,
314 the eGFP reporter gene is expressed. The pHRE-d2EGFP plasmid encodes a destabilized
315 eGFP, with a short half-life of 2 h, under the control of a minimal promoter containing 5 HRE
316 sequences. Due to its destabilization, the eGFP visualized in cells is therefore the result of
317 recently synthesized proteins and not the result of accumulated proteins overtime. The eGFP
318 expression was monitored by fluorescence microscopy at 8, 24, and 48 h post-transfection
319 (Figure 7). In hHIF-1 α mut-expressing cells, the percentage of GFP-positive cells was at the
320 highest (28.5 %) at 24 h post-transfection (Figure 7A). Note that this percentage is consistent

321 with the % of transfection that we measured with the pPB tdTomato. The % of GFP-positive
322 cells decreased at 48 h (13.1%), probably due to the resuming of cell division and the
323 increase of non-transfected cells. In the absence of hHIF-1 α mut (pHRE-d2EGFP only), the
324 percentage of GFP-positive cells was < 4.2% at all time points. These data indicate that hHIF-
325 1 α mut transactivates a minimal promoter harboring (5 x) HRE in MSB-1. With the hHIF-1
326 WT, the percentage of GFP-positive cells was of 7.1% at 24 h post-transfection (Figure 7B),
327 which is much less than with hHIF α mut as expected. This indicates that, when
328 overexpressed, hHIF-1 α WT is also capable of transactivating a promoter with HREs, but to a
329 lesser extent than the hHIF-1 α mut. Altogether, these data show that the human HIF-1 α (WT
330 or stabilized) is functional in chicken T-cells, indicating that it can dimerize with the avian
331 HIF-1 β . Additionally, we demonstrated for the first time that the Neon technology provides
332 good transfection rates in an avian lymphoid cell line.

333

334 ***HIF-1 α overexpression triggers MDV reactivation in MSB-1 cells.***

335 To determine whether HIF-1 α could play a role in MDV reactivation, hHIF-1 α (mut or WT)
336 was overexpressed in MSB-1 cells cultured in normoxia. To this end, MSB-1 cells were
337 transfected with either expression vector and were examined 24 h post-transfection by
338 fluorescence microscopy after immunostaining for HIF-1 α and MDV lytic antigens. The
339 percentage of HIF-1 α -positive cells was 13% and 3.8% with hHIF-1 α mut and WT,
340 respectively (Figure 8A). This suggested a “mild” stabilization of HIF-1 α in the cells
341 transfected with hHIF-1 α WT and a greater stabilization in the cells transfected with hHIF-1 α
342 mut, as previously observed in Fig. 7. Note that the detection of HIF-1 α by
343 immunofluorescence is less sensitive of 13 to 21% at detecting HIF-1 α expression than with
344 the reporter gene assay. Therefore, the percentage of HIF-1 α -positive cells may be slightly

345 underestimated herein. The percentage of MDV reactivation was then evaluated by counting
346 the relative number of ICP4/VP22-positive cells. The percentage of reactivated cells was
347 about 3% with both hHIF-1 α WT and mut and < 1% with the empty pcDNA3 (0.5%) and non-
348 transfected cells (0.7%) (Figure 8B). This indicates that not all cells expressing HIF-1 α
349 reactivated, as observed earlier in hypoxic condition.

350 We next examined whether MDV reactivation occurs only in cells in which HIF-1 α is
351 detectable. To this end, the percentage of cells expressing both HIF-1 α and MDV antigens
352 (VP22/ICP4) were counted by fluorescence microscopy (Figure 8C and D). The % of double-
353 labelled cells was 0.9% with HIF-1 α mut and of 0.2% with HIF-1 α WT (Figure 8C). Therefore
354 surprisingly > 2% of reactivated cells were *not* HIF-1 α -positive. These results demonstrate
355 that HIF-1 α mutant and WT expression triggers MDV reactivation. They also suggest a direct
356 and/or indirect effect of HIF-1 α on MDV reactivation, discussed below.

357

358 ***HIF-1 α over-expression activates MDV UL39 and UL49 viral promoters.***

359 To further explore the molecular mechanism by which hypoxia induces MDV reactivation,
360 we examined if the stabilized hHIF-1 α can transactivate the promoters of the five MDV lytic
361 genes, that we found upregulated in hypoxia (ICP4, ICP27, UL39, UL41 and UL49) (Figure 2A).
362 For that, we cloned the five HRE-containing promoter regions of these genes upstream of a
363 destabilized firefly luciferase (fLuc), as well as two MDV promoters (UL36, UL45) devoid of
364 HRE as controls. The promoter constructs were transfected in ESCDL-1 chicken cells in
365 normoxia, with or without the stabilized hHIF-1 α vector. A Renilla Luciferase plasmid (pRL)
366 was also co-transfected to standardize the transfection efficiency. At 24 h post-transfection,
367 the expression of the stabilized hHIF-1 α was verified (Figure 9A) and the relative luciferase
368 activity (ratio of the fLuc/RL) was calculated (Figure 9B). In absence of the stabilized hHIF-1 α ,

369 the basal activity of each promoter was low (relative luciferase activity <0.5). The ectopic
370 expression of the stabilized hHIF-1 α induced a significant increase of the transcriptional
371 activity for all promoters. Despite this increase, the promoter activity of ICP4, ICP27 and
372 UL41 remained low (0.13, 0.03, 0.16, respectively) at a level similar to the negative control
373 promoters (0.27 and 0.15 for UL36 and UL45, respectively). In contrast, the promoter activity
374 of UL39 and UL49 reached high levels (3.5 and 5, respectively). These results indicate that
375 the ectopic overexpression of HIF-1 α is sufficient to transactivate UL39 and UL49 promoters
376 and to induce a strong expression of a reporter gene, but insufficient to efficiently
377 transactivate ICP4, ICP27 and UL41 promoters.

378

379 ***Caspase 3/7-mediated apoptosis observed in hypoxia does not promote MDV reactivation.***

380 HIF-1 was involved in the regulation of apoptosis pathways [37] and caspase activities was
381 shown to promote latent-to-lytic switch and/or viral replication [38]. Therefore, we next
382 explored whether the apoptosis induced under hypoxia could favor MDV reactivation
383 indirectly through caspases activation. We focused on caspase 3, a final effector in apoptotic
384 death. First, we validated Z-DEVD-FMK as a caspase 3 inhibitor on 3867K cells, showing
385 “physiological” apoptosis in normoxia (Table 1), using the luminescent Caspase-Glo[®] 3/7
386 assay. 3867K cells treated with 50 μ M of Z-DEVD-FMK for 24 h in normoxia showed a caspase
387 3/7 activity significantly reduced of 92.5-fold compared to in its absence (Figure 10A). Next,
388 3867K cells were cultivated in hypoxia for 72 h in presence or absence of Z-DEVD-FMK
389 (50 μ M), with Z-DEVD-FMK renewal every 24 h. After 48 h and 72 h, caspase 3/7 activity was
390 assayed in parallel to cell mortality and MDV reactivation by flow cytometry as previously
391 used. In the presence of Z-DEVD-FMK under hypoxia, the caspase 3/7 activity was
392 significantly reduced of 135-fold at 48 h and of 421-fold at 72h (Figure 10B). At 48h,

393 reactivated cells (GFP-positive cells) represented 4.1% of the live cells treated with Z-DEVD-
394 FMK, close to the 3.4% measured for Z-DEVD-FMK-untreated cells (Figure 10B, left panel). At
395 72 h, the percentage of GFP-positive cells raised up to 6.4% with Z-DEVD-FMK, a rate
396 comparable to the 5.4% observed without Z-DEVD-FMK (Figure 10B, right panel). The results
397 thus indicate that MDV reactivation upon hypoxia is not promoted by caspase 3/7 activity in
398 the 3867K cell line.

399

400 **DISCUSSION**

401 This is the first study showing that acute hypoxia launches MDV lytic cycle from
402 latently infected T-lymphocytes derived from MD-lymphomas. Previous studies
403 had shown a reactivation effect of hypoxia on gamma-herpesviruses from latently
404 infected B-cells [4-6]. Here we showed the reactivation of an alpha-herpesvirus,
405 indicating that hypoxia may be a reactivation stimulus shared by several
406 herpesvirus subfamilies. As for most herpesviruses, EBV, KSHV, and MHV-4 persist
407 as episome in latency [39], whereas MDV integrates in the cellular genome,
408 preferentially in the telomeres [19-21]. Therefore, having a latent episomal form is
409 not a condition necessary for herpesvirus reactivation by hypoxia. In this study, we
410 detected reactivation only in a subset of the cells exposed to hypoxia or treated
411 with chemicals stabilizing HIF-1 α in normoxia. This result is consistent with
412 previous reports on gamma-herpesviruses. Indeed, Davis et al. reported less than
413 3% KSHV-reactivating cells among BC-3 and BCBL-1 exposed to 1% O₂ during 48 to
414 72 h [4]. Polcicova et al. reported a much higher reactivation rate (52%) for MHV-4
415 from NB-78 cells exposed to 2% O₂ for 72 h [6]. However, these cells also exhibited
416 an unusual spontaneous reactivation level of 7%. Kraus et al. also reported EBV

417 reactivation in a subset of HIF-1 α -positive cells treated with deferoxamine (DFO),
418 an agent mimicking hypoxia like MLN4924 [7]. In addition, this feature of partial
419 reactivation was also observed when MD derived T-cells were treated *in vitro* with
420 pharmacological agents acting through different mechanisms, for instance
421 modifications of the chromatin structure (*eg*, with sodium butyrate) [40],
422 alterations of DNA integrity, or replication (*eg*, with etoposide, 5-
423 iododexoxyuridine) [41, 42]. Why all the cells in a “clonal” population do not
424 reactivate after exposure to a reactivation stimulus is currently unknown. Single-
425 cell RNA sequencing may enable answer this question.

426 Herein, virus reactivation was detected based on viral lytic genes expression and
427 viral DNA quantification, as always performed for MDV. Because MDV replication
428 in culture results only in 0.1% intracellular mature virions in 3867 K [34] with no
429 extracellular virions detectable, we could not measure whether reactivation in
430 hypoxia led to a productive cycle with mature virions.

431 Besides reactivation, hypoxia was associated with high cell mortality, particularly with
432 MSB-1 cells. Such mortality levels were unexpected because hypoxia is a hallmark of most
433 human solid tumors [29], including lymphomas [43]. Depending on the cell type, hypoxia
434 can have opposing effects on cell death, especially apoptosis [44]. While numerous cells
435 establish apoptosis protection mechanisms when exposed to hypoxia [45], some remain
436 sensitive to apoptosis. For example, hypoxia induces apoptosis in the human oral
437 squamous cell carcinoma cell line (OSC-4) [46] and in primary rat fibroblasts transformed
438 by Ras and Myc oncogenes [47]. Therefore, one can wonder if the phenotype observed
439 herein with MSB-1 and 3867K cell lines is peculiar to these cell lines or a common feature
440 of MD-lymphomas derived cells. In our study, four possible mechanisms may have

441 contributed to cell death in hypoxia: first, hypoxia may have caused a global metabolic
442 and oxidative cellular stress due to a lack of ATP, mitochondria damages, or reactive
443 oxygen species [ROS] production. Hypoxia triggers HIF-1 stabilization, which is known to
444 activate NOX and iNOS genes [48], potentially leading to apoptosis [49]. Second, hypoxia
445 may have caused a glucose/nutrient shortage, which is highly toxic for cells [50]. Because
446 the medium was not renewed during the 72-96 h of hypoxia, we cannot rule out that cells
447 had consumed most of the glucose/nutrients, and had lacked glucose/nutrients in
448 addition to O₂ at some time points. Third, hypoxia may have caused the premature
449 expression of a viral cytotoxic protein. Indeed, UL49, considered a 'late' viral gene was
450 upregulated after only 24 h of hypoxia. UL49 encodes VP22, a tegument protein essential
451 for MDV replication that triggers DNA damage in proliferating cells when ectopically
452 expressed [51]. Fourth, the lytic cycle itself could have led to cell death, notably at 72 and
453 96 h. This last hypothesis is the less probable as sorted-dead cells did not express lytic
454 antigens after 48h in hypoxia as shown in figure 1C.

455 We observed MDV reactivation in normoxia in 3867K cells with CoCl₂ and MLN4924, two
456 molecules known to mimic hypoxia in numerous mammalian cells by stabilizing HIF-1 α .
457 Treatment with these chemicals for 24 h induced 2- to 4-fold MDV reactivation compared
458 to mock-treated cells. This is comparable to the level of KSHV reactivation (5-fold, based
459 on gpK8.1 lytic protein expression) in BCBL-1 treated with 100 mM CoCl₂ for 72 h [4]. EBV
460 reactivation into lytic infection and HIF-1 α stabilization has been reported with various
461 hypoxia mimicking molecules, including MLN4924, in the EBV+ GV-derived cell lines [7].
462 Although HIF-1 α was detected (albeit at a low level) in all MLN4924-treated cells, it
463 remains unclear whether MDV reactivation was due to HIF-1 stabilization. Indeed, we did
464 not observe an upregulation of the HIF-1 glycolytic target genes, suggesting that HIF-1

465 may not be sufficiently expressed or was missing a cofactor (for *e.g.* p300/CBP) to be fully
466 functional [52]. Thus we suspect that the reactivation observed with MLN4924 could also
467 be independent of HIF-1 α . MLN4924 is known to induce deregulation of the S-phase DNA
468 synthesis in tumoral cells with rapid cell division [53] and induce DNA double-strand
469 breaks (DSBs) [54]. As we have previously shown that induction of DNA DSBs triggers
470 reactivation in 3867K cells [42], we suspected that the reactivation with MLN4924 could
471 also be due to this molecular mechanism.

472 We demonstrated that hHIF-1 α is functional in two chicken cell lines when overexpressed.
473 Our result therefore indirectly indicates that the hHIF-1 α can dimerize with the chicken HIF-
474 1 β . Nevertheless, despite the HRE conservation in vertebrates and the high amino acid
475 identity of 79% between the chicken and human HIF-1 α proteins [55], it cannot be certified
476 that hHIF-1 α is fully as efficient as its chicken counterpart for MDV reactivation.

477 Although we clearly demonstrated that HIF-1 α expression triggers MDV reactivation in
478 MSB-1 cells, the molecular pathway initiating MDV reactivation remains puzzling. Ectopic
479 expression of hHIF-1 α (WT and stabilized) led to reactivation of 3.25% of the cells 24 h
480 post-transfection, which is consistent with the percentage of MSB-1 cells reactivated after
481 24 h under hypoxia (3.16%). However, the fact that HIF-1 α WT led to the same
482 reactivation efficacy than the stabilized HIF-1 α mutant is surprising, because HIF-1 α WT
483 was less effective than the stabilized HIF-1 α at transactivating the reporter gene (EGFP
484 destabilized protein). One possible explanation is a 'hit-and-run' mechanism, whereby WT
485 HIF-1 is expressed, triggering the lytic cycle in some cells, but its too transient expression
486 makes it undetectable at the time of cell fixation. A similar observation was made in EBV+
487 GC derived-cells treated with DFO for 24 h; after DFO removal, cells had lost HIF-1 α

488 expression but were still in lytic cycle [7]. Another unexpected result was that only 0.9%
489 and 0.2% of the reactivated cells were HIF-1 α -positive by immunofluorescence after
490 transfection with stabilized or WT HIF-1 α , respectively. Although these percentages are
491 possibly slightly underestimated (immunofluorescence being less sensitive at detecting
492 HIF-1 α expression than the reporter assay), this result indicates that the effect of HIF-1 on
493 reactivation may be direct and/or indirect. If here again a hit and run mechanism can be
494 possible, another plausible hypothesis is an indirect effect of HIF-1. Indeed, HIF-1 is known
495 to activate more than 100 cellular genes in mammals [56], including secreted proteins and
496 adhesion molecules. In addition, hypoxia and HIF-1 stimulate the production of cellular
497 exosomes and modify their contents [57]. Therefore, one or several cellular components
498 released in the extracellular environment during hypoxia may play a “pro-reactivation”
499 role on the neighboring cells.

500 During hypoxia, MDV reactivation was accompanied by an increased transcription of all
501 sixteen lytic genes monitored, some of which exhibiting putative HREs in their promoter
502 regions. Among these sixteen lytic genes, six were overexpressed both in 3867K and MSB-
503 1 under hypoxia, which makes them susceptible to be targeted by HIF-1. The presence of
504 1 to 3 HREs in the promoter region of these six genes in RB-1B and Md5 is consistent with
505 this interpretation. The fact that only a few genes harboring one or several HREs are
506 overexpressed in hypoxia is not surprising. Indeed, in mammalian cells, only 1% of the
507 cellular HREs were found to bind HIF-1 by chip assay after hypoxia exposure [56].

508 In gamma-herpesviruses, a single IE gene regulates the latent-to-lytic switch: ORF50-rtA
509 for KSHV and MHV-4 and BZLF1 for EBV. These genes are transcriptionally activated by
510 HIF-1 [6-9]. We reasoned that this molecular mechanism could also trigger MDV
511 reactivation in hypoxia. In that perspective, *ICP4* is of particular interest as it is considered

512 as a potential initiator of the lytic cycle, although this has not been demonstrated. Our
513 data from the promoter assay showed that the overexpression of the stabilized hHIF-1 α in
514 normoxia increases the basal activity of the ICP4 promoter, but which remained low, close
515 to the basal activity of promoters lacking HRE. This result suggests that the upregulation
516 of ICP4 observed in hypoxia is independent of the HRE present in its promoter and might
517 rely on other cellular or viral factors induced upon hypoxic conditions. Interestingly the
518 promoter assay showed a clear upregulation of UL39 and UL49 promoters activity by HIF-
519 1, which is in accordance with the transcripts expression after 24h of hypoxia in both cell
520 lines. How UL39 expression could contribute to MDV reactivation is unclear. As previously
521 reported for HSV-1, we can speculate that the large ribonucleotide reductase subunit
522 encoded by UL39 might contribute to the lytic switch of MDV as an auxiliary factor in the
523 viral DNA replication machinery [58]. Moreover, it was shown that UL39 mutants are
524 severely impaired for replication, establishment of latency and reactivation in murine
525 models of HSV-1 [59]. About UL49, its role in MDV reactivation under hypoxia is very
526 plausible. Indeed, we demonstrated earlier that MDV VP22 triggers DNA damages in
527 proliferating cells [51] and that induction of DNA damages with chemicals triggers MDV
528 reactivation in 3867K cells [42]. Further studies are needed to explore the role of UL49 in
529 this process, for example by mutating HREs in UL49 promoter or by ChiP assay to
530 demonstrate the binding of HIF-1 to UL49 promoter in hypoxia.

531 For some herpesviruses, caspase activities were shown to promote latent-to-lytic switch
532 and/or viral replication [38]. For example, caspase-mediated cleavage of PIAS1
533 contributes to EBV reactivation from B-cells [60]. HIF-1 being involved in the regulation of
534 apoptosis pathways [37], and a high cell death of MDV-latently infected T-cells having
535 been observed herein under hypoxia, a role of caspases in MDV reactivation was possible,

536 although never been explored before. We found that inhibition of caspase 3/7 activity
537 does not impact MDV reactivation in 3867K cultured for 48/72 h in hypoxia. This result
538 suggests that MDV reactivation triggered in hypoxia is independent of the caspase 3/7
539 activation and more likely relies on other mechanisms, discussed above.
540 Taken together, we demonstrate for the first time that hypoxia can trigger MDV
541 reactivation from transformed latently infected T-cells. With late immunodepression,
542 hypoxia is a physiological trigger of reactivation, which could explain the second lytic
543 phase observed during the Marek's disease *in vivo*. We also demonstrated that
544 overexpression of HIF1 α (WT or an oxygen insensitive mutant) is sufficient to induce MDV
545 reactivation in normoxia. Thus, hypoxia and HIF-1 α are new triggers of MDV reactivation.

546

547 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

548 ***Cells.***

549 Two MDV-transformed lymphoblastoid T-cell lines were used: the 3867K cell line, derived
550 from a kidney lymphoma induced by the very virulent mutant rRB-1B UL47eGFP [34] ; the
551 MSB-1 cell line, derived from a spleen lymphoma induced by a virulent strain of BC1 GaHV-2
552 strain [32, 33]. The MSB-1 has been used extensively for the analysis of MDV latency and
553 latent-to-lytic switch [61]. 3867K cells were cultured and maintained as previously described
554 [34]. MSB-1 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 2 mM of glutamine and
555 10% fetal bovine serum. In normoxia, both cell lines were grown at 41°C in a standard
556 incubator in atmospheric O₂ (21% O₂ v/v), with 5% CO₂.
557 ESCDL-1 cell line used for promoter transactivation assays was cultivated as previously
558 described [62].

559

560 **Antibodies.**

561 Anti-HIF-1 α (rabbit polyclonal) was obtained from Novus Biologicals (NB 100-449) and used
562 at 1:100e in immunostaining. Mouse monoclonal antibodies directed against MDV lytic
563 antigens gB (clone K11; 1:1000e), VP22 (clone B17; 1:300e) and ICP4 (clone E21; 1:1000e)
564 were previously described [63, 64] and used at dilution indicated above. As secondary
565 antibodies, goat anti-rabbit (GAR) Alexa Fluor 594 or 488 (ThermoFisher Scientific) and goat
566 anti-mouse (GAM) Alexa Fluor 555 or 594 or 488 (ThermoFisher Scientific) were used.

567

568 **Plasmids.**

569 The pPB tdTomato, a kind gift from Bertrand Pain, is a modified PiggyBac vector (obtained
570 from Austin Smith laboratory, Cambridge, UK) expressing the tdTomato fluorescent gene
571 driven by a CAG promoter. This vector was used for measuring transfection efficiencies. The
572 pHRE-d2EGFP, a kind gift of Martin Brown and Thomas Foster, is a hypoxia reporter plasmid,
573 encoding the destabilized Enhanced Green Fluorescent Protein (EGFP) under the control of
574 hCMV minimal promoter, located downstream of five HRE from *vEGF* gene (vascular
575 Endothelial Growth Factor) (Addgene plasmid# 46926, <http://n2t.net/addgene:46926> ;
576 RRID:Addgene_46926) [65]. The pHRE-d2EGFP was used as a reporter gene of HIF-1 activity.
577 The HA-HIF1 α WT- pcDNA3, a kind gift from William Kaelin (Addgene plasmid # 18949 ;
578 <http://n2t.net/addgene:18949> ; RRID:Addgene_18949) is a CMV promoter-driven vector
579 expressing the human wild-type (WT) form of HIF-1 α [66]. The HA-HIF1 α
580 P402A/P564A/N803A-pcDNA3, a kind gift from William Kaelin (Addgene plasmid # 87261 ;
581 <http://n2t.net/addgene:87261> ; RRID:Addgene_87261) is a CMV promoter-driven vector
582 expressing a stabilized HIF-1 α in which the three amino acids targeted by hydroxylation
583 were mutated [67]. The mutant protein is O₂ insensitive and thus resistant to proteasomal-

584 specific degradation under normoxic conditions. The HA-HIF1 α WT- pcDNA3 and the HIF1 α
585 P402A/P564A/N803A-pcDNA3 plasmids were used for HIF-1 α overpression in normoxia.

586

587 ***Cell culture in hypoxia.***

588 Cells were seeded at 2×10^6 cells per mL in normoxia. One hour after division, cells were
589 placed in a hypoxia workstation (HypoxyLab, Oxford Optronix, Abingdon, UK) at 1 % O₂ v/v
590 and 5 % CO₂ (hypoxia conditions) at 41°C, and incubated during 24 to 96 h. At the time of
591 introduction in the hypoxia chamber, the cell medium contained O₂ in order to permit a
592 progressive deprivation of O₂ over the first 24 h. Due to the rapid degradation of HIF- α at
593 21% O₂, all experimental steps until cell fixation or lysis were performed within the
594 hypoxia chamber.

595

596 ***Flow cytometry analyses and cell-sorting.***

597 For 3867K cells, MDV reactivation was detected directly with UL47eGFP fluorescence by flow
598 cytometry. For live/dead analyses or live cell-sorting, cells were stained with the Fixable
599 Viability Dye eFluor 780 (ThermoFisher Scientific) according to standard procedure before
600 fixation using 1% paraformaldehyde (PFA). Flow cytometry analyses were performed either
601 with a MoFlo Astrios^{EQ} flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA) or with a FACS LSR
602 Fortessa cytometer (Becton Dickinson, Heidelberg, Germany). For the FACS LSR Fortessa
603 cytometer, acquisition was performed with BD FACSDiva software and analyzed with FlowJo
604 software (FlowJo LLC, Ashland, USA).

605 After Fixable Viability Dye eFluor 780 staining and 1% PFA fixation, “live cells” were sort-
606 purified by FACS gating on eFluor 780 negative with a MoFlo Astrios^{EQ} flow cytometer
607 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA), whereas “dead cells” (eFluor 780-positive) were removed.

608

609 ***Immunostaining and fluorescence microscopy.***

610 Total cells or “live” sort-purified cells fixed in PFA were plated by centrifugation at low speed
611 (500 × g; 800rpm) for 5 min on 0.17µm-thick- glass coverslips using a Cytospin 4
612 (ThermoFisher Scientific). For MDV antigens and HIF-1α detection, the immunostainings
613 were performed for 1h in PBS, 0.1% Triton X-100, 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA). After
614 washes, the cells were incubated for 45 min with an appropriate secondary antibody(ies)
615 coupled to Alexa Fluor 488 or 555 or 594. Lastly, the nuclei were counterstained with
616 Hoechst 33342 dye (1:2000e) (Invitrogen) and the coverslips were mounted with Mowiol
617 (Merck). Such a procedure was used for cells cultivated in hypoxia, normoxia, treated with
618 pharmacological agents, as well as cells transfected with vectors expressing hHIF-1α.
619 Microscopic observations were performed using an Axiovert 200 M inverted epifluorescence
620 microscope equipped with an Apotome imaging system (Zeiss). Images were captured with
621 an AxioCam MRm charge-coupled-device camera (Zeiss) by using Axiovision software (Zeiss).
622 In several experiments, various subsets of cells were counted using Axiovision software on
623 captured images.

624

625 ***Fluorescence quantification***

626 The quantification of HIF-1 fluorescence was performed on high magnification digital
627 microscopy images using FIJI free software. First, images (HIF-1α red channel) were adjusted
628 in brightness/contrast with the Auto mode. A filter (median) was applied to all images. The
629 threshold of each image was applied with the default mode in order to visualize the cells
630 exhibiting a HIF-1α signal. The HIF-1α-positive fluorescent cells were selected with the
631 “analyze particles” tool, (small objects under 5µm were excluded). The mean grey value of

632 all selected cells was next measured (fluorescence measurement) and reported in an excel
633 table. For images, on which cells were touching each other, after the threshold setting and
634 before fluorescence measurement, cells were segmented one from the other by the “binary
635 watershed” process.

636

637 ***Sequence analysis for HREs detection in MDV complete genome.***

638 The putative HREs were identified in the MDV RB-1B complete genome (GenBank :
639 EF523390) by using a bioinformatic approach with the "dreg" tool of EMBOSS 6.6.0.0
640 software (REF:[10.1016/s0168-9525\(00\)02024-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0168-9525(00)02024-2)). The command line "dreg" was used to
641 locate in the entire genome all HREs on both strands by using the pattern “RCGTG”, where
642 'R' was either an A or a G nucleotide. A local python script (available on demand) was then
643 used to compare positions of all identified HREs and positions of each known Coding DNA
644 Sequence (CDS). Thus, HREs located within a range of -700 nt and +70 nt (assuming to
645 encompass the promoter region) from the +1 of each CDS (+1 being the ‘A’ of the
646 transcriptional starting codon) were retained and numerated.

647

648 ***Quantification of MDV genome copy number by real-time PCR (qPCR).***

649 DNA was extracted from 10^7 cells (3867K or MSB-1) by using QIAmp DNA mini kit according
650 to the manufacturer’s instructions (Qiagen). MDV genome was quantified using TaqMan
651 technology, as previously described [27]. Briefly, for each sample, copy number of the viral
652 *ICP4* gene and the cellular *iNOS* gene were quantified independently in triplicates, in parallel
653 to standards. The positive cut-off points corresponded to 23 copies for *ICP4* and 57 copies
654 for *iNOS*. For each sample, the number of MDV genome copies are given per 10^6 cells.

655

656 ***RNA isolation and reverse transcription qPCR (RT-qPCR).***

657 RNAs were extracted from cells (3867K or MSB-1) by using the RNeasy mini kit (#74104,
658 Qiagen), according to the manufacturer's recommendations. RNAs were treated with RNase-
659 free RQ1 DNase (#M6101, Promega) and RNAs concentrations were measured with a
660 Nanodrop spectrophotometer (ThermoFisher Scientific). Five hundred ng of total RNA was
661 reverse-transcribed by using 50µg/ml oligo(dT) primers (#C110A, Promega), dNTP (#U151A,
662 Promega) and Moloney MLV reverse-transcriptase (#M1701, Promega). The expression of
663 genes of interest was measured by real-time qPCR with iQ Supermix SYBR green (#1708882,
664 Bio-Rad) in triplicate on a C1000 Touch CFX96 Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad).
665 The primer used for the qPCRs (viral and cellular genes) were synthesized by Eurogentec and
666 are listed in table 2. The chicken ribosomal protein S17 gene (RPS17) was used as the
667 reference cellular housekeeping gene. The qPCR program consisted of a 5 min activation
668 step at 95°C, followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 20 sec and 60°C for 35 sec. The relative
669 changes in gene expression were calculated relatively to the expression of the RPS17 and
670 determined by the 2^{-DDct} threshold cycle (C_T) method.

671

672 ***Cell treatment with pharmacological agents.***

673 Two hypoxia-mimicking pharmacological agents were used: MLN4924, a Nedd8-Activating
674 Enzyme Inhibitor (Pevodistat #11260, AdooQ Bioscience) and CoCl₂, an iron chelator which
675 prevents hydroxylases activity and the hydroxylation of HIF α subunit (#C8661, Sigma). The
676 stock solutions were diluted at 2.5 mM in DMSO and 50 mM in water, respectively. 3867K
677 cells (10^6 cells/mL) were incubated with various concentrations of MLN4924 or CoCl₂ for 24
678 h. Cells were next stained for live/dead and fixed for subsequent analyses by flow cytometry
679 analyses or fluorescence microscopy. Sodium butyrate, an inhibitor of histone deacetylases

680 was used as a positive control of reactivation. The sodium butyrate stock solution was
681 prepared at 100 mM in water and the cells treated with 0.5mM for 48 h.

682

683 ***Transient transfection and transactivation assay to monitor hHIF-1 α functionality in MSB-***
684 ***1.***

685 Cells (3867K and MSB-1) were transiently transfected by using a Neon[®] electroporation
686 device system and the Neon transfection system 10 μ L kit, according to manufacturer's
687 instructions (ThermoFisher Scientific). For each transfection, 5x10⁵ cells were mixed with
688 1 μ g of plasmid in 10 μ L of re-suspension buffer. When two plasmids were co-transfected 1 μ g
689 of each was used. Cells were electroporated with the conditions optimized for the PB
690 tdTomato, according to manufacturer's instructions. Cells transfected with an empty plasmid
691 served as a negative control as well as mock-transfected cells (no plasmid). After
692 electroporation, the cells were seeded in 48-well plates containing 250 μ L of culture medium.
693 The cells were cultured for 24 h and subsequently proceeded for analysis.

694 In order to test the functionality of hHIF-1 α (WT and mutant), MSB-1 were co-transfected as
695 above with a hHIF-1 α vector and the pHRE-d2EGFP plasmid. The cells were then fixed,
696 plated on coverslips and counted to determine the percentage of GFP cells, as GFP
697 expression is dependent on HIF-1 α functionality.

698

699 ***Caspase 3 inhibitor treatment and Caspase-Glo[®] 3/7 assay.***

700 3867K (2x10⁶ cells/mL) were cultivated in hypoxia (1%) for 72 h, with or without 50 μ M of Z-
701 DEVD-FMK caspase 3 inhibitor (FMK004, R&D systems) in a 6-well plate. The Z-DEVD-FMK
702 stock solution was diluted in DMSO at 20mM. The Z-DEVD-FMK treatment (50 μ M) was
703 renewed every 24 h as well as DMSO, in the mock-treated cells. As controls, we also used

704 cells in normoxia, treated and non-treated with Z-DEVD-FMK. At 48 h and 72 h of culture,
705 luminescent caspase 3/7 activation assay was performed according to the manufacturer's
706 instructions (Caspase-Glo® 3/7 assay, Promega). Briefly, 50µl of cells treated or not (in
707 duplicate) were transferred in a white opaque 96-well plate, lysed and incubated at room
708 temperature for 1 h with Caspase-Glo® reagent. It should be noted that the cells maintained
709 in hypoxia were lysed in the hypoxia chamber, then taken out of the chamber for the room
710 temperature incubation. The luciferase activity related to the enzymatic activity of caspase-
711 3/7 was next measured using a GloMax-Multi Detection System (Promega).

712

713 ***Promoters cloning and promoter activity after HIF-1α over-expression in normoxia.***

714 The promoter regions of ICP4, ICP27, UL39, UL41, UL49 as well as UL36 and UL45 were
715 amplified by PCR from the RB-1B BAC using the Phusion Taq (NEB) and the primers depicted
716 in Table 3. UL36 and UL45 promoters lacking HRE on both DNA strands were used as MDV
717 negative control promoters. The amplified sequences were inserted into the XhoI/HindIII
718 sites upstream of a destabilized firefly luciferase gene in the pGL4.11 [*luc2P*] vector (#E666A;
719 Promega). ESCDL-1 cells were seeded on a 96-well plate (2.5×10^4 cells/well) 20 h before
720 transfection. Cells were co-transfected with 200ng of each pGL4.11 promoter construct and
721 10 ng of a pTK Renilla Luc (pRL). For the condition where HIF1α is overexpressed, 200ng of
722 the HA-HIF1α P402A/P564A/N803A-pcDNA3 vector was co-transfected together with the
723 reporter plasmid and pRL. Each condition was performed in quintuplicate, in two
724 independent experiments. At 24 h post-transfection, Renilla and Firefly luciferases activities
725 were measured using the dual luciferase reporter assay system (#E1910, Promega) following
726 the manufacturers' instructions and the GloMax-Multi Detection System (Promega). Firefly
727 luciferase activities were normalized with respect to Renilla luciferase activity.

728

729 **Statistical analysis.**

730 Comparison of two groups was performed by a Mann-Whitney test. Comparison of
731 proportions were performed by the Chi2 test or by the Fisher exact test, when the Chi2 test
732 was not applicable due to limited number of individuals. GraphPad prism version 7, Anastats
733 free softwares (<https://www.anastats.fr/telechargements/>) or the R software version 3.6.0
734 were used for plots and computing.

735

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743

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- 937
- 938

939 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

940 **Figure 1. Hypoxia induces MDV reactivation in 3867K, a T-cell line latently infected with**
941 **RB-1B UL47eGFP.** (A) Viral reactivation and mortality. 3867K cells were cultivated for 72 h in
942 normoxia or hypoxia (1% O₂). Viral reactivation and mortality were analyzed by flow
943 cytometry. Reactivation was measured directly through the UL47eGFP signal, a protein
944 expressed in lytic cycle, whereas mortality was visualized with the fixable viability dye
945 eFluor780. The percentage of cells in lytic cycle and of dead cells (eFluor780-positive) is
946 given in hypoxia and normoxia relatively to the total cell number. The mean of green
947 fluorescence for latently-infected cells and cells in lytic cycle is also shown in green on the
948 bottom of both diagrams in arbitrary unit. (B) Images of 3867K cultivated in normoxia and
949 hypoxia for 72 h observed by fluorescence microscopy. The cells were stained with an
950 antibody recognizing VP22 or gB lytic proteins (red), in addition to UL47eGFP (green) and
951 Hoechst 33342 for DNA (blue). Bar, 20µm. (C) Two cell populations (live/green; dead/green)
952 were sorted by flow cytometry after 48 h in hypoxia and normoxia. Cells were labeled with
953 an antibody directed against the VP22 lytic protein and observed by fluorescence
954 microscopy. The VP22 signal (Red) was clearly visible in some live green cells, but never in
955 dead green cells. Bar, 20µm. (D) Kinetic of viral reactivation upon cultivation in hypoxia.
956 3867K were cultivated in normoxia (Nx, dashes grey line) and hypoxia (Hx, plain black line)
957 for 96 h and the viral reactivation measured every 24 h based on UL47eGFP signal by flow
958 cytometry. The % of GFP-positive cells was calculated among live cells. The graph is the
959 result of two independent experiments, with each dot of the curve being the median. (E) The
960 MDV genome copy number upon hypoxia cultivation. 3867K were cultivated in normoxia
961 (Nx, dashes grey line) and hypoxia (Hx, plain black line) for 96 h and the genome copy

962 number per million cells was measured every 24 h by absolute qPCR. The graph is the result
963 of two independent experiments, with each dot of the curve corresponding to the median.

964

965 **Figure 2. MDV lytic genes expression is upregulated during hypoxia.** (A) Schematic diagram
966 of RB-1B genome (Genbank #EF523390) with 16 selected lytic genes. The number of putative
967 HREs identified in the promoter region is given in brackets after each gene name. (B) Heat
968 map showing the differential genes expression of 16 lytic genes as well a *meq* oncogene
969 upon cultivation in hypoxia relatively to normoxia over 72 h. The gene expression was
970 quantified every 24 h and the results are given in fold-changes (scale with colors on the
971 right). This heat-map is representative of two independent experiments.

972

973 **Figure 3. Hypoxia induces MDV reactivation in MSB-1, a T-cell line latently infected with**
974 **the BC-1 strain.** (A) Viral reactivation assessed by genome copy number measurement. MSB-
975 1 cells were cultivated in normoxia (Nx, dashes grey line) and hypoxia (Hx, plain black line)
976 for 96 h and the genome copy number per million cells was measured every 24 h by absolute
977 qPCR. (B) Images of MSB-1 cultivated in normoxia and hypoxia for 24 and 48 h observed by
978 fluorescence microscopy. The cells were stained with an antibody recognizing the VP22 lytic
979 protein (red) and with Hoechst 33342 for nuclei (blue). Bar, 20 μ m. The % of reactivation
980 determined by counting the VP22-positive cells relatively to the cells harboring a non-
981 fragmented nucleus (given as n) is shown on each picture. (C) Heat map showing the
982 differential genes expression of 16 lytic genes as well a *meq* oncogene upon MSB-1
983 cultivation in hypoxia relatively to normoxia at three time points (24, 48 and 72 h). The
984 results are given in fold-changes (scale with colors on the right).

985

986 **Figure 4. Hypoxia induces MDV reactivation in a subset of HIF-1 α -positive cells.** 3867K (A)
987 and MSB-1 (B) were cultivated in normoxia and hypoxia for 48 h. After fixation, “live cells”
988 (eFluor780-negative) were cell-sorted by flow cytometry, stained with an antibody
989 recognizing HIF-1 α (in red) and Hoechst 33342 for DNA (blue). (A) For 3867K, reactivation
990 was detected directly with UL47eGFP (green). (B) For MSB-1, reactivation was detected after
991 staining with an antibody against the lytic VP22 protein (green). For each cell line, single
992 channel and overlay images are shown. Bar, 20 μ m. 3867K and MSB-1 showed a low HIF-1 α
993 signal in hypoxia and not in normoxia. A small subset of HIF-1 α -positive cells were in
994 reactivation. The fluorescence intensity of HIF-1 α per cell was quantified in normoxia and
995 hypoxia in 3867K (C) and MSB-1 (D) cells.

996
997 **Figure 5. Hypoxia enhances expression of HIF-1-responsive cellular genes in MDV latently**
998 **infected-T cells.** 3867K (A) and MSB-1 (B) cells were cultivated in normoxia or in hypoxia for
999 72 or 96 h. The mRNA levels of three HIF-1 regulated cellular genes were quantified by RT-
1000 qPCR every 24 h and normalized to the RPS-17 gene. mRNA levels are expressed as fold-
1001 change in hypoxia relative to normoxia, from one (MSB-1) or two (3867K) independent
1002 experiments. The dots correspond to the fold-change of two independent samples, with
1003 three technical qPCR repeats each. The median is shown as a long horizontal bar.

1004
1005 **Figure 6. HIF1 α stabilizers induce MDV reactivation in normoxia in MDV latently infected-T**
1006 **cells.** 3867K cultivated in normoxia were treated with different concentrations of CoCl₂ or
1007 MLN4924 for 24 h. A. Percentage of reactivation (GFP-positive cells) measured on live cells
1008 on two independent experiments. After each treatment, cells were stained with the fixable
1009 viability dye eFluor780 and analyzed by flow cytometry, for GFP and eFluor780 fluorescence.

1010 The fold changes were calculated relatively to mock-treated cells (Ctrl) (water for CoCl₂ and
1011 DMSO for MLN4924). A positive reactivation control was performed with 0.5mM sodium
1012 butyrate (NaBu) for 48 h (n=3 for each condition). B. Expression of HIF-1 α and MDV antigens
1013 in 3867K treated with 1 μ M MLN4924 for 24 h observed by fluorescent microscopy. After
1014 treatment, cells were fixed, centrifuged at low speed on coverslips and stained with
1015 VP22/ICP4 antibodies cocktail (green), HIF-1 α antibody (red) and Hoechst 33342 for DNA
1016 (blue). Bar, 20 μ m. C. The mRNA levels of four viral lytic genes and two HIF-1 regulated
1017 cellular genes were quantified by RT-qPCR after 1 μ M MLN4924 treatment for 24 h. mRNA
1018 levels are expressed as fold-change relative to RPS-17, from two independent experiments
1019 (with technical triplicates). Each dot corresponds to a single measure. The median is shown
1020 as a long horizontal bar.

1021

1022 **Figure 7. Human HIF-1 α is functional in chicken T-cells.** hHIF-1 α activity was monitored with
1023 a transactivation assay in normoxia. MSB-1 were transiently co-transfected with pHRE-
1024 d2EGFP reporter plasmid with or without a pCDNA vector expressing HIF-1 α , either the
1025 stabilized mutant (P402A/P564A/N803A) (A) or the WT (B). The % of GFP cells was
1026 enumerated by fluorescence microscopy. At least 900 cells were counted in each condition.
1027 For each condition, an image of the cells at 24 h post-transfection is shown. The difference in
1028 GFP-positive cells proportion was significant at each time post-transfection, for both HIF-1
1029 (WT and mutant) (p-value <0.0001, ***; Chi2 test). Bar, 20 μ m.

1030

1031 **Figure 8. HIF-1 α overexpression induces MDV reactivation in MSB-1 in normoxia.** MSB-1
1032 were transfected with the pCDNA vector expressing hHIF-1 α mutant or WT, an empty
1033 pCDNA vector or mock-transfected. At 24 h post-transfection, the cells were fixed,

1034 centrifuged at low speed on coverslips, and stained with MDV antigens (VP22/ICP4)
1035 antibodies cocktail (green), HIF-1 α antibody (red) and Hoechst 33342 for DNA (blue). (A) The
1036 percentage of HIF-1 α -positive cells in each condition. The difference in HIF-1 α -positive cells
1037 proportion was significant between WT and mutant and between mutant and pcDNA3
1038 control (adjusted p-value <0.0001, ***; Fisher exact test with a Holm correction for multiple
1039 comparison). (B) The percentage of reactivated cells based on MDV antigens-positive cells in
1040 each condition. The difference in EGFP-positive cells proportion was significant when HIF-1 α
1041 (WT or mutant) was present vs pcDNA3 (adjusted p-value <0.0001, ***; Fisher exact test
1042 with a Holm correction for multiple comparison). (C) The percentage of HIF-1 α -positive cells
1043 which were also MDV antigens-positive (reactivated) in each condition. The differences were
1044 not significant (adjusted p-value >0.05; Fisher exact test with a Holm correction for multiple
1045 comparison) (D). Images of MSB-1 transfected with HIF-1 α mut or WT, which were
1046 reactivated and HIF-1 α positive (green and red; left panel) as well as reactivated and HIF-1 α
1047 negative (green only; right panel). Bar, 20 μ m.

1048

1049 **Figure 9. HIF-1 α over-expression activates MDV UL39 and UL49 promoters.** A. The
1050 expression of hHIF-1 α was validated in ESCDL-1, after transient transfection with the hHIF α
1051 mut expression vector. The hHIF-1 α (red) was detected by fluorescence microscopy as
1052 previously. Two cells showed a strong nuclear expression. B. ESCDL-1 cells were co-
1053 transfected with a MDV promoter cloned in 5' of a destabilized fLuc gene in pGL4 vector, a
1054 TK renilla luciferase (RL) vector for transfection efficacy normalization, with or without the
1055 hHIF α mut expression vector. The promoters from seven MDV genes were tested, 5 with
1056 HRE (ICP4, ICP27, UL39, UL41 and UL49) and 2 without HRE (UL36, UL45). An empty pGL4
1057 was also assayed as control. Twenty-four hours post-transfection the fluc and RL activities

1058 were measured and the fLuc activity normalized with the RL activity. Each circle represents
1059 independent transfection, with hHIF-1 α (black circle) or without hHIF-1 α (white circle). The
1060 horizontal bars represent the median of the quintuplicate. This experiment is representative
1061 of at least 2 independent experiments. The differences were significant between with and
1062 without hHIF α mut (Mann-Whitney test, p-value <0.01, **). UL39 and UL49 promoters had a
1063 strong relative luciferase activity in presence of hHIF α mut, compared to the other
1064 promoters tested (with or without HRE).

1065

1066 **Figure 10. Apoptosis mediated by caspase 3 in hypoxia is not promoting MDV reactivation.**

1067 A. 3867K cultivated in normoxia were treated or not with 50 μ M of Z-DEVD-FMK for 24 h, and
1068 the caspase 3/7 activity was next measured with the luminescent Caspase 3/7-Glo[®] assay.

1069 The difference was significant between cells treated and non-treated with Z-DEVD-FMK
1070 (Mann-Whitney test, p-value =0.0022, **). B. 3867K were cultivated in hypoxia with or

1071 without 50 μ M of Z-DEVD-FMK. The caspase 3/7 activity (black dots, replicates from two
1072 independent experiments) was measured at 48 h and 72 h. At both timepoints, the

1073 differences were significant (Mann-Whitney test, p-value <0.01, **). In parallel, the

1074 percentage of reactivated cells among live cells (green squares) from two independent

1075 experiments was measured based on UL47eGFP signal and cell mortality quantified by flow
1076 cytometry.

1077

1078

1079 **Table 1.** Percentage of dead cells in 3867K and MSB-1 during hypoxia or normoxia
1080 cultivation
1081

	24 h		48 h		7 2h		96 h	
	Normoxia	Hypoxia	Normoxia	Hypoxia	Normoxia	Hypoxia	Normoxia	Hypoxia
3867K								
Expt#1	20.63	32.35	13.15	44.11	12.52	51.79	14.35	52.36
Expt#2	21.93	39.92	19.00	48.66	20.99	59.34	25.22	66.42
MSB-1	25.85	57.96	28.80	79.22	34.10	85.07	44.31	85.61

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1083

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1085 **Table 2.** Viral and cellular primers used in this study for RT-qPCR

Gene name	Forward primer sequence (5' to 3')	Reverse primer sequence (5' to 3')	NCBI Reference sequence
MDV			EF523390
ICP4	TTTCTAGCAAGGAGCGACGC	CGTACTTGCGCTTACGGGAA	
ICP27	CTCGCGAGTCCGATGACATG	G TTCCTGCGTACACGGTGGC	
UL39	ACGGGGGTAGCAAATTGGAG	CAGCTCGCAGTAGAGGTTCC	
UL42	TTAGCGACGACGGACTGATG	CCCGCGCCATTCATATTCAC	
UL30	CTGTTGGGGACACTATGCGT	CCGATTCCGCTTCGTATCGT	
UL41	CCCGGGGTGTTTCTCTTAC	TTCTGGGCGACTACATGCAC	
pp38	TTGCATTCTCTGACTCCACGG	GCTGGCCGAAAGACAAAACC	
UL31	GCTCTGTGTTTTCGTCCCAA	GAGGCGGTTGCGGATAACT	
UL34	CGATGAAACGCACAGAAGTGG	ATCGTCGTACACATTCGCC	
UL13	GGGATTAGGACCCTCGGTGA	TCTCGCAAAGCAGTTGTGT	
UL47	GTATCACTACCGCGACGACC	CGATACGCTAGAGGAGAGCG	
UL48	CAGGAGCAGTCAAACACGC	CTTTCTACCACGCGGGATGT	
UL49-VP22	TGCTCGCAGACCATCAACAC	GAAACGTCTCCGATACGGC	
UL27-gB	GTCCGATAGAACGGCGGTAG	TGAGTTGCATGGCGAGGAAT	
UL44-gC	GCCGCATTCCAGTATGGGAC	CTTCATCGAAGGGGTAGCC	
US7-gl	CCTCTTTCGAGGCATCTGGT	AATCCGCAGAACGCAACAAG	
<i>meq</i>	GTCCCCCTCGATCTTTCTC	CGTCTGCTTCCTGCGTCTTC	
<i>Gallus gallus</i>			
GLUT1	GAGAGCGGCAGCAAGATGAC	CTTCTGCGGGCGATTGATGA	NM_205209
LDHA	TTAACTTGGCCAACGCAACGTCA AT	TCCA CTGGGTTTGAGACAATC AG	NM_205284
iNOS	TACTGCGTGTCTTTCAACG	CCCATTCTTCTTCCAACCTC	NM_204961
RPS17	ACACCCGTCTGGGCAACGAC	CCCCTGGATGCGCTTCATC	NM_204217

1086

1087

1088 **Table 3.** Primers used in this study for MDV promoters cloning

Gene name	Primer sequence (5' to 3')*	Amplicon length (bp)
UL39XhoI	GTC CTCGAG CTTCATCATCTCTATACCTTGTG	712
UL39HindIII	CTG AAGCTT AGCAGATTTTTAGTCGCAGAGTG	
UL41XhoI	CTG CTCGAG ATAATTGCAATGCGCATGTTCTA	512
UL41HindIII	CTG AAGCTT GATGACCCTCGCAGTTTTTAAATAT	
UL49XhoI	CTG CTCGAG ATTGCAGACGCCAGGGAAGTGT	512
UL49HindIII	CTG AAGCTT GATAACTAAGATATAATATTTAAA	
ICP4XhoI	CTG CTCGAG CCTGATACCGCACTTTG	452
ICP4HindIII	CTG AAGCTT AATCCCCACGTCTTCGTCAAAGC	
ICP27XhoI	CTG CTCGAG CTATCGATGTATTTTGTACCATG	536
ICP27HindIII	CTG AAGCTT GCGAGAGAATGCATCTACAGACA	
UL36XhoI	CTG CTCGAG CGGTGAAATAGAATTTGCCG	512
UL36HindIII	CTG AAGCTT TTTACACTCAATTTATATGA	
UL45XhoI	CTG CTCGAG TTTGTGCATGGAGATATCGTC	512
UL45HindIII	CTG AAGCTT TCTTATACGATCATGTCTAT	

1089 * restriction sites in bold

1090

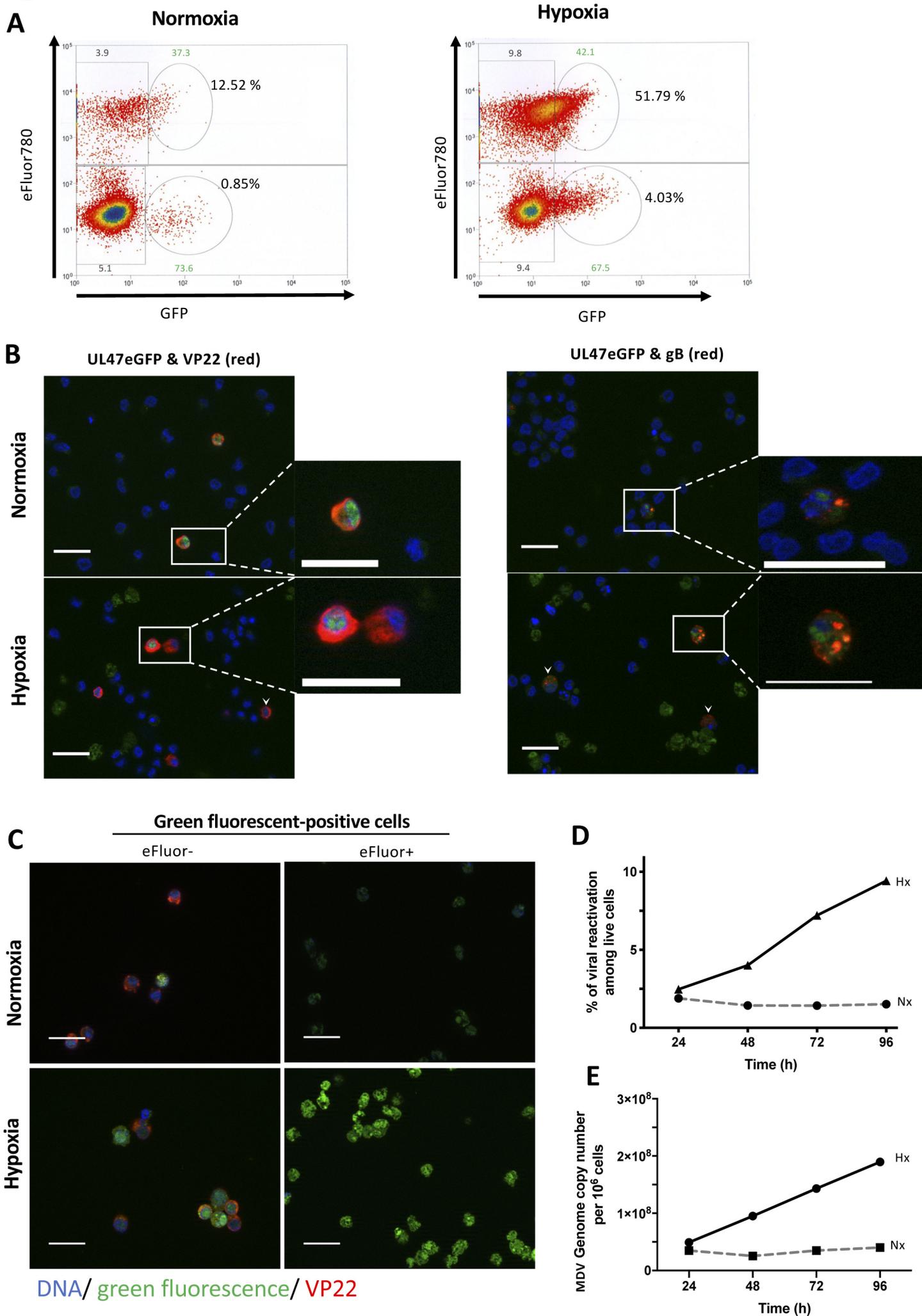
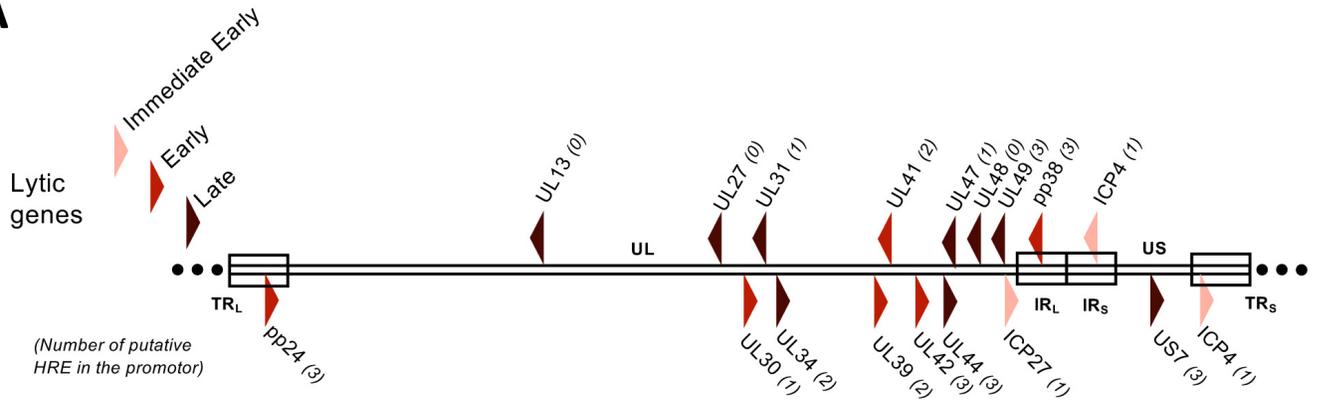
Figure 1

Figure 2

A



B

3867K cells

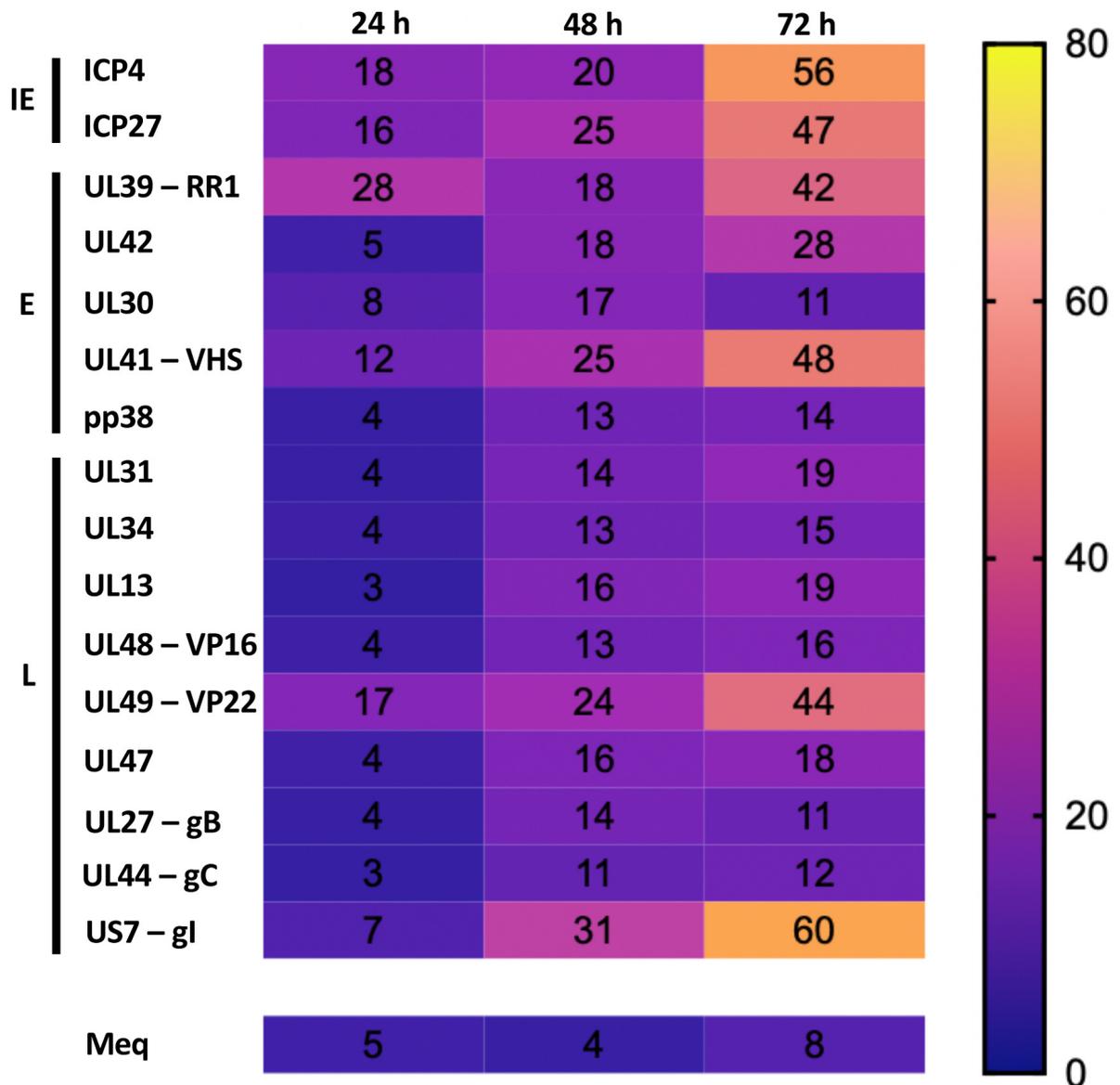
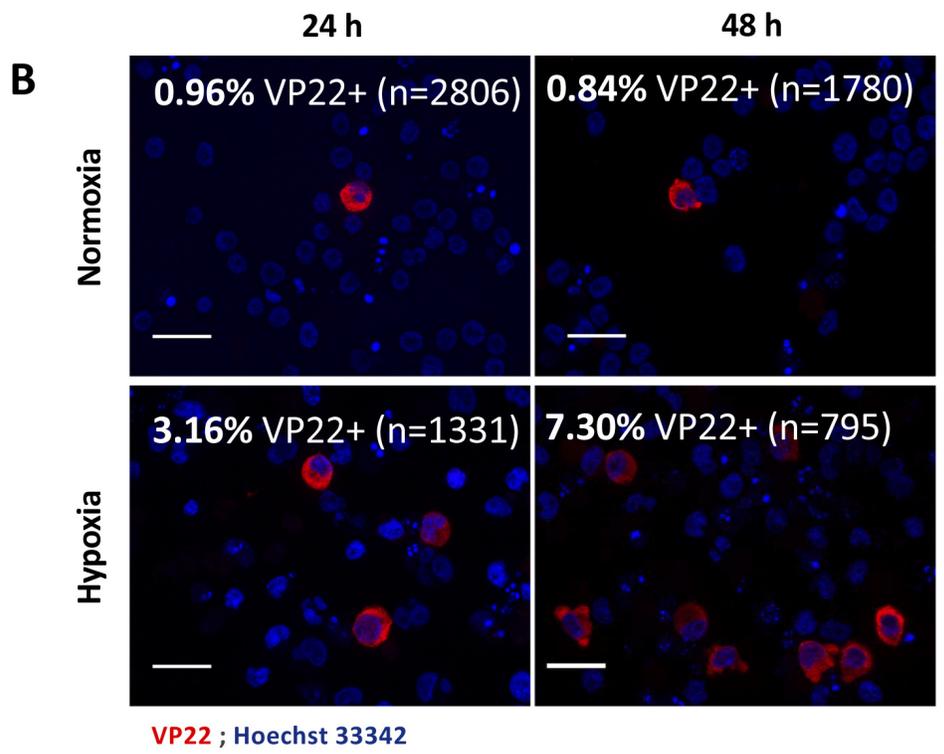
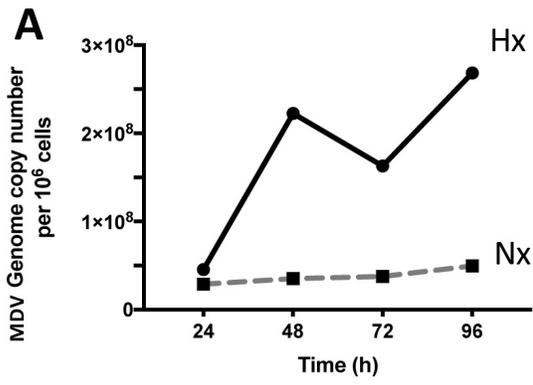


Figure 3



C

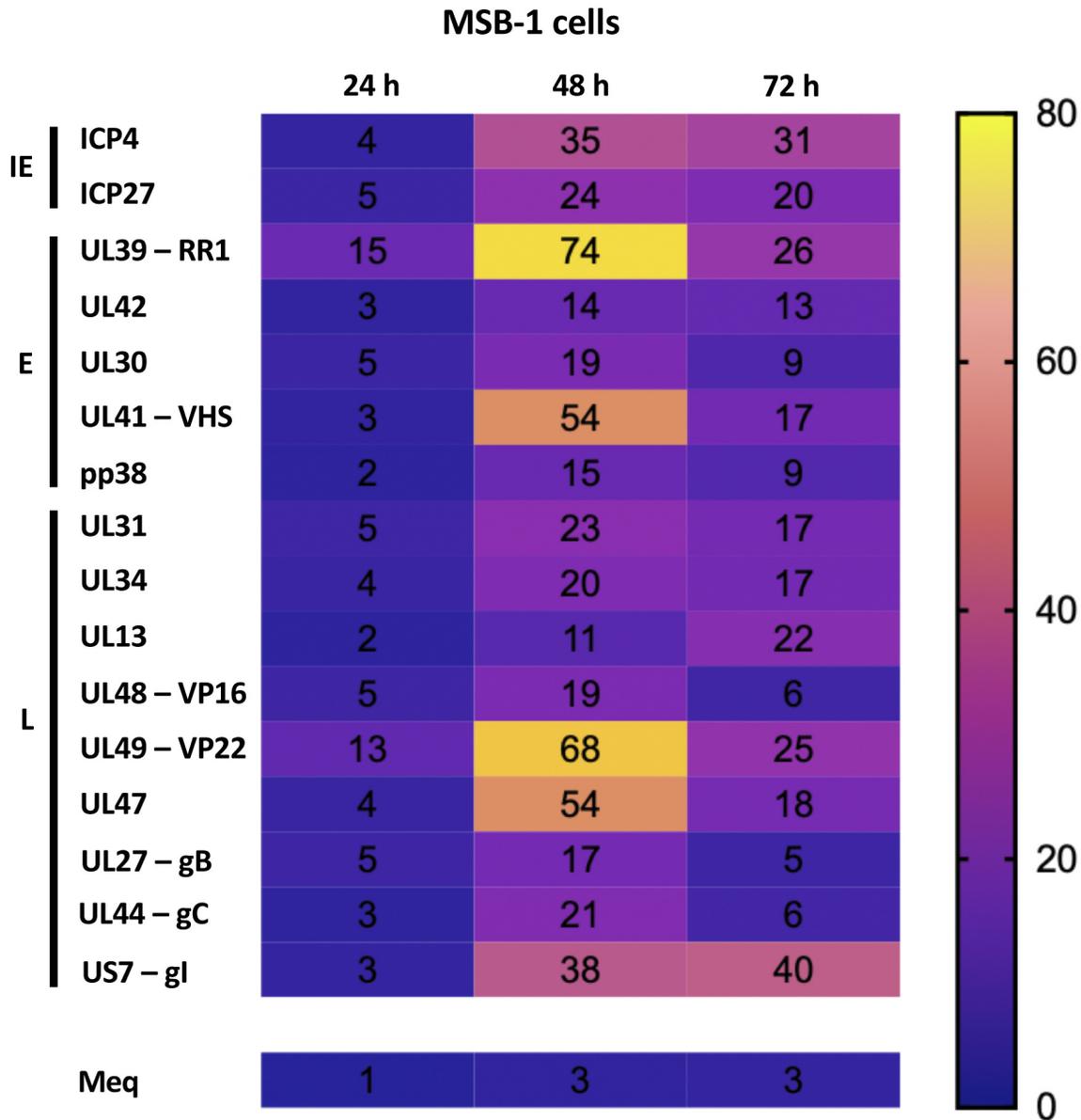


Figure 4

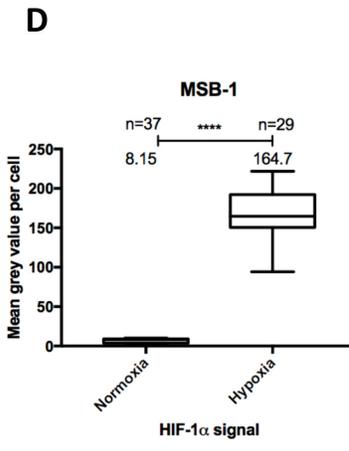
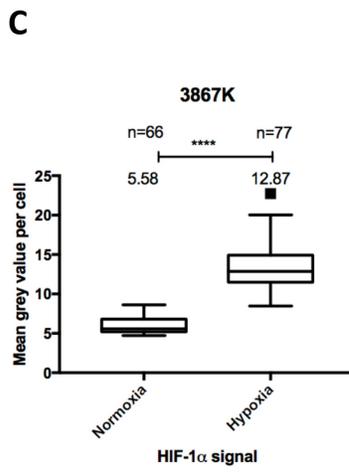
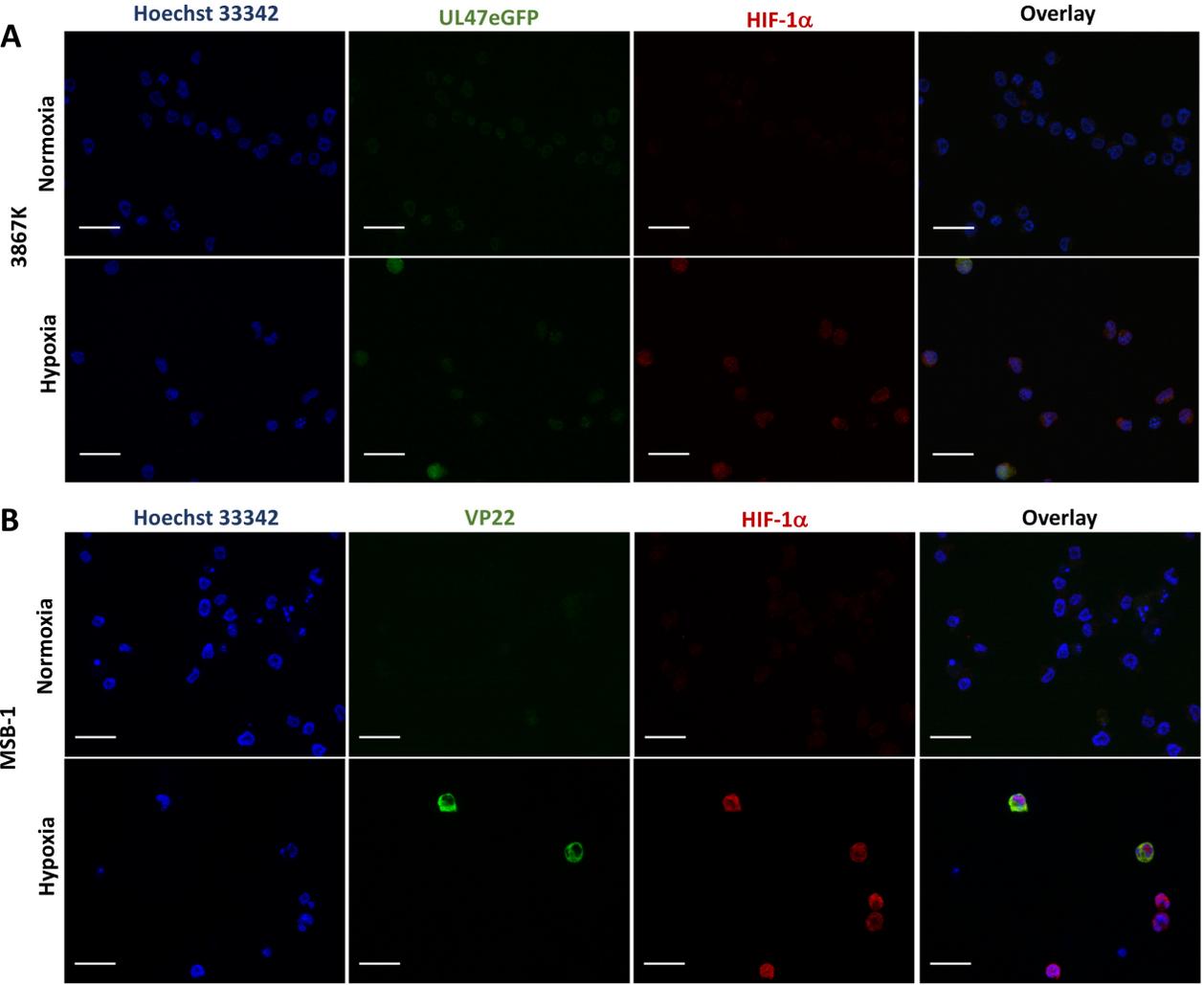
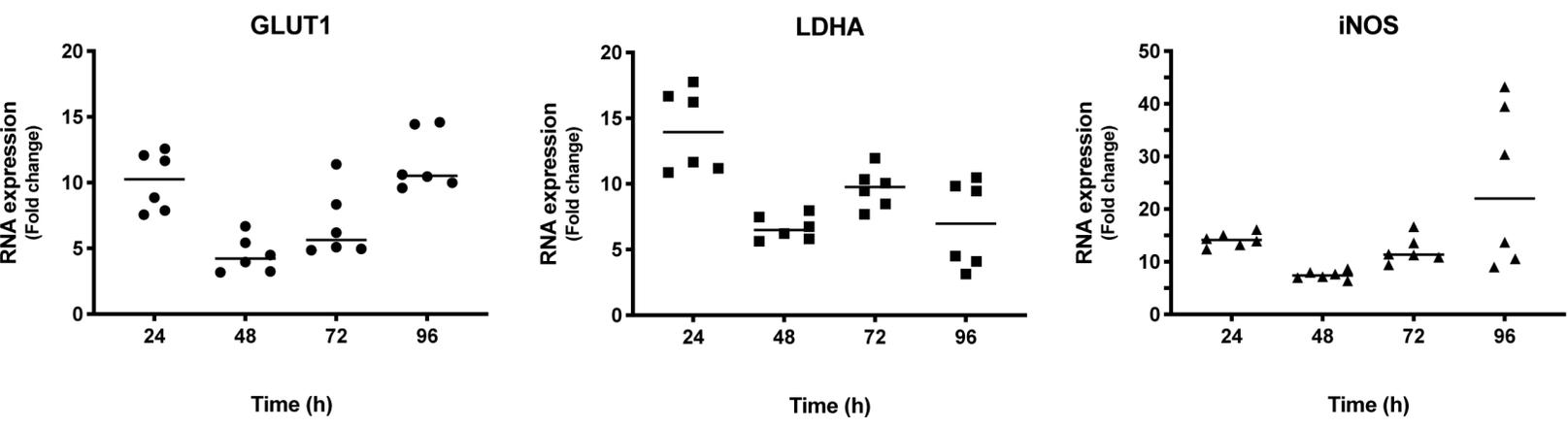


Figure 5

A 3867K



B MSB-1

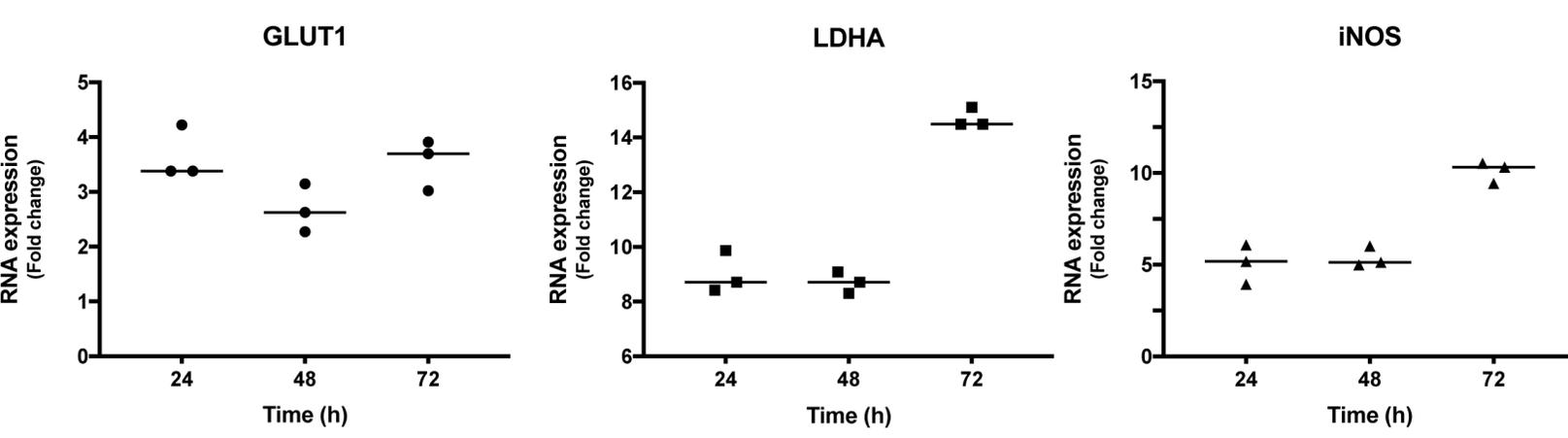


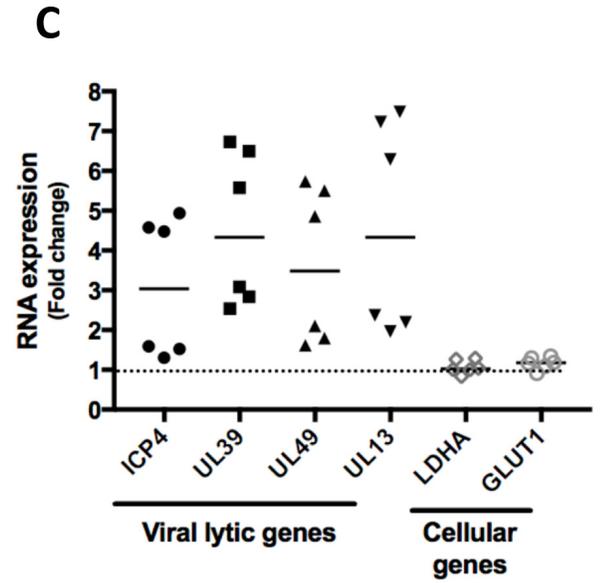
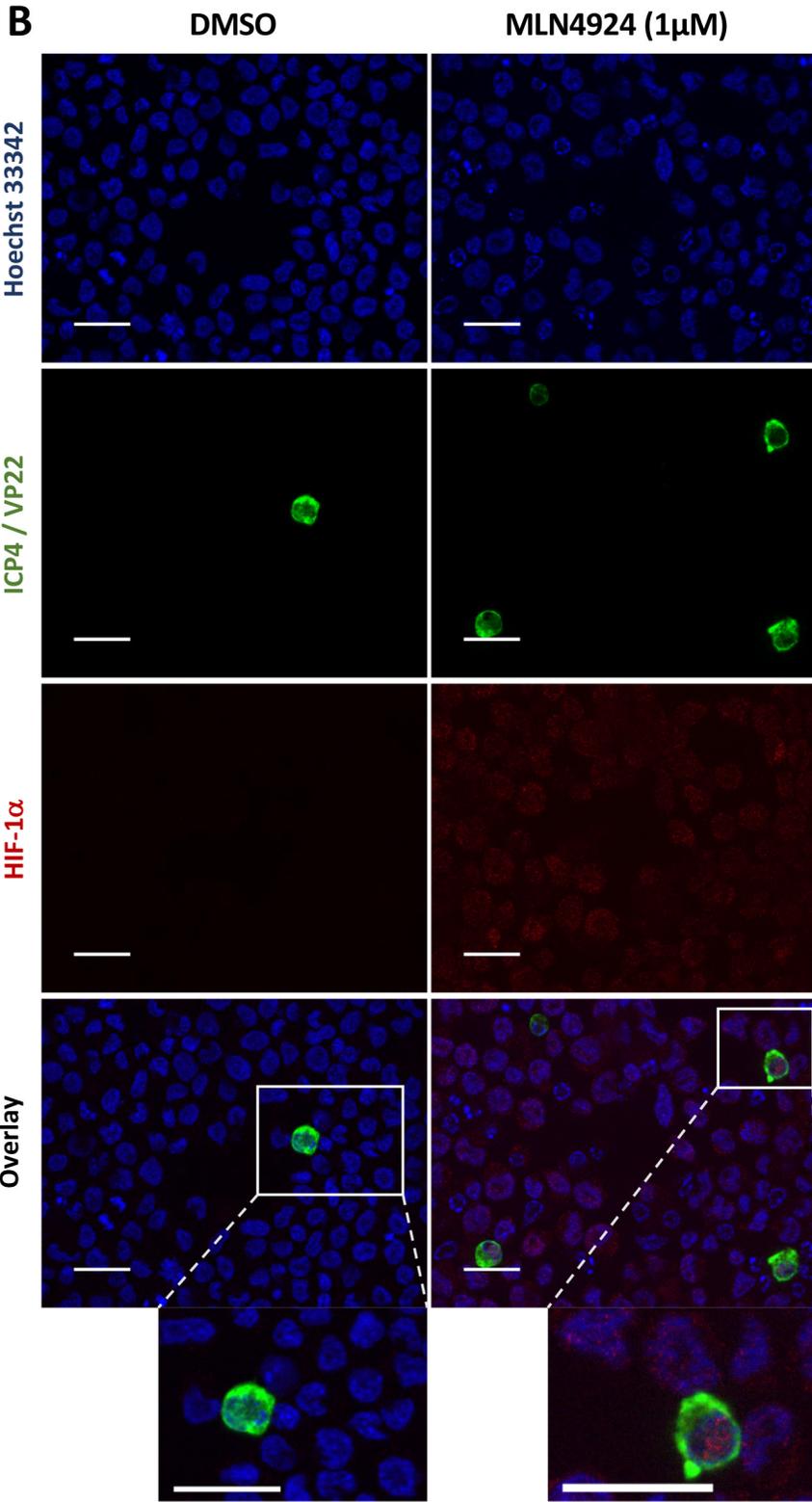
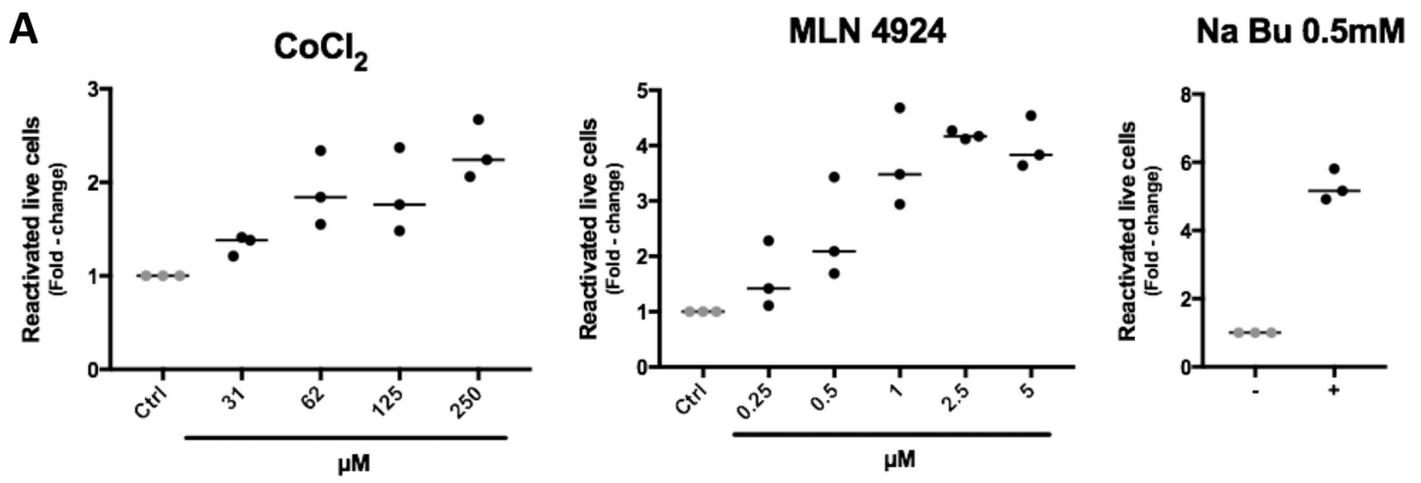
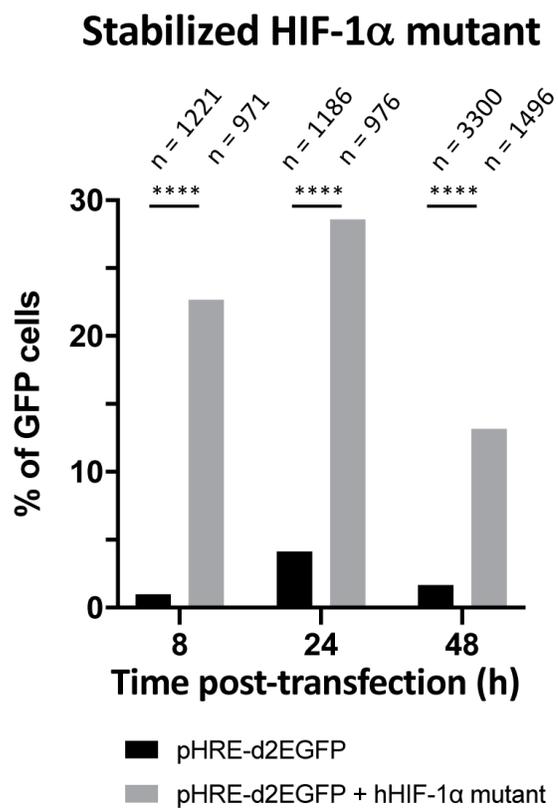
Figure 6

Figure 7

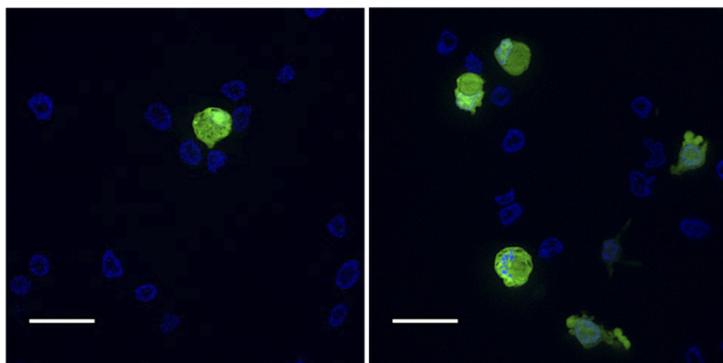
A



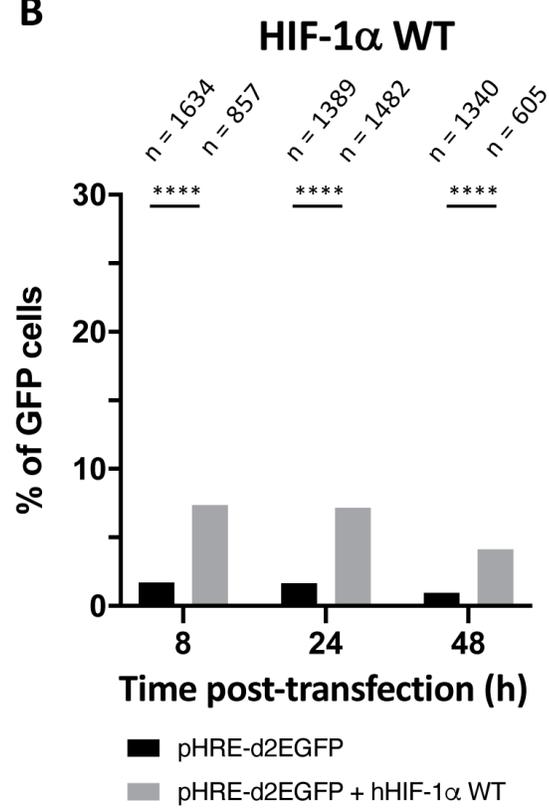
24 h post-transfection

None

HIF-1 α mutant



B



24 h post-transfection

None

HIF-1 α WT

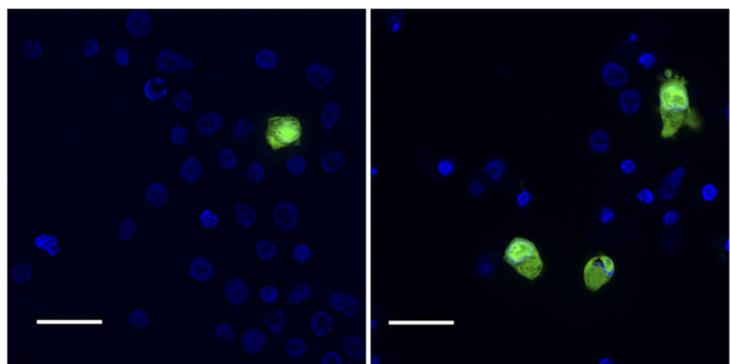
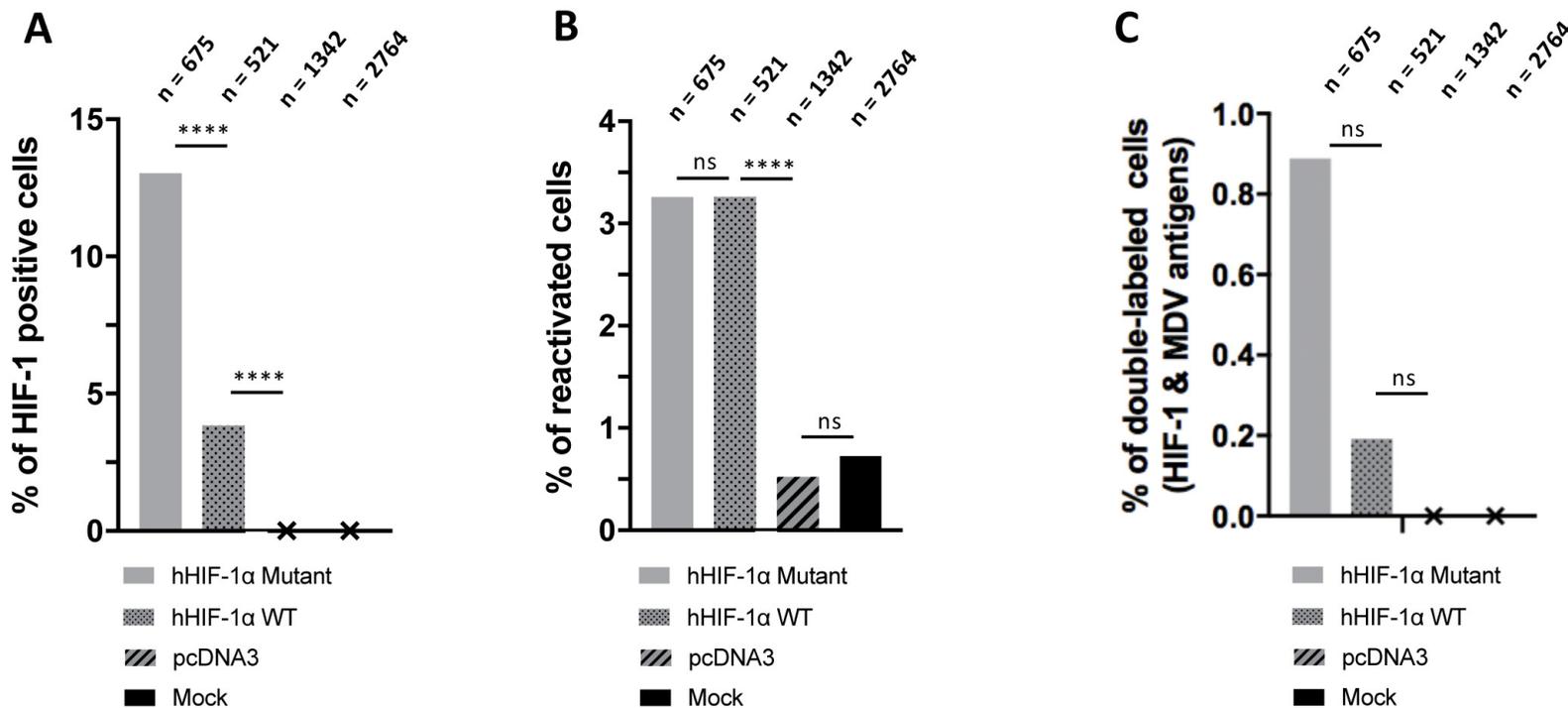
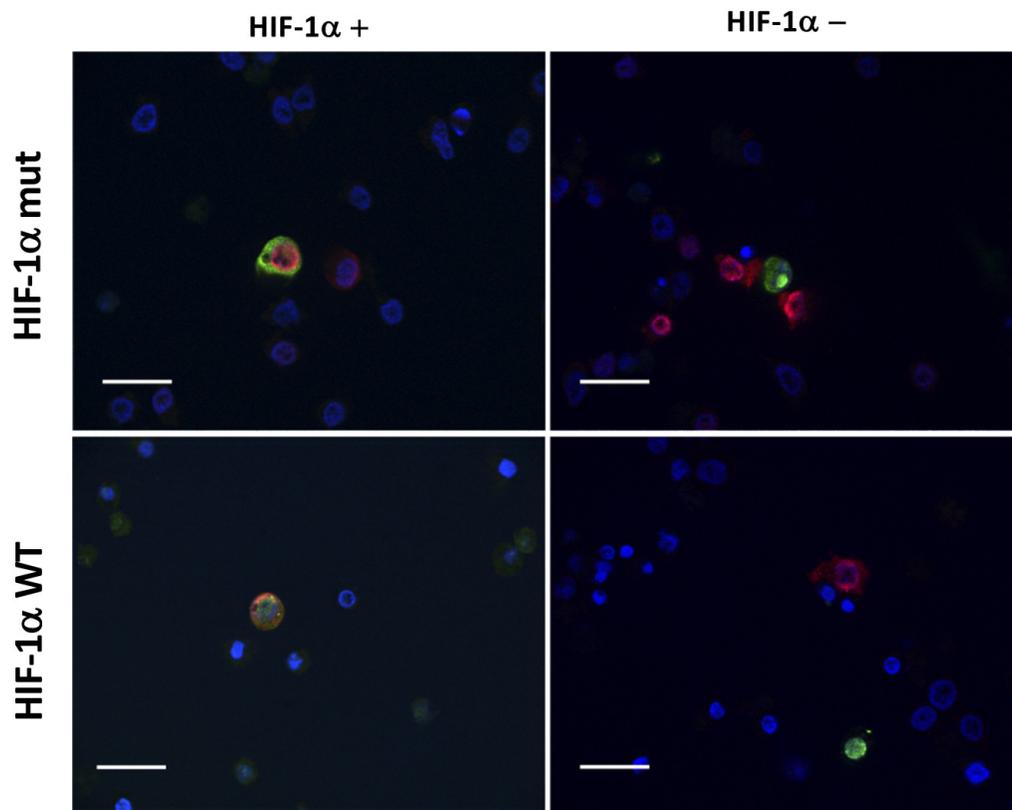


Figure 8



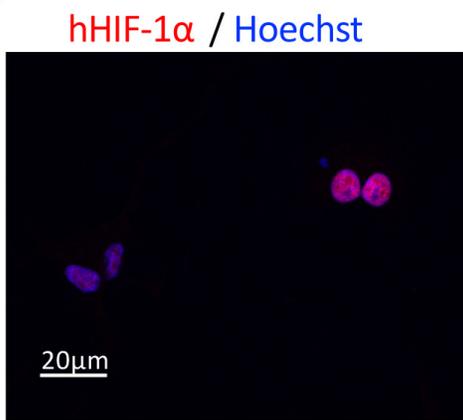
D Reactivated cells



HIF-1α ; ICP4 - VP22 ; Hoechst 33342

Figure 9

A



B

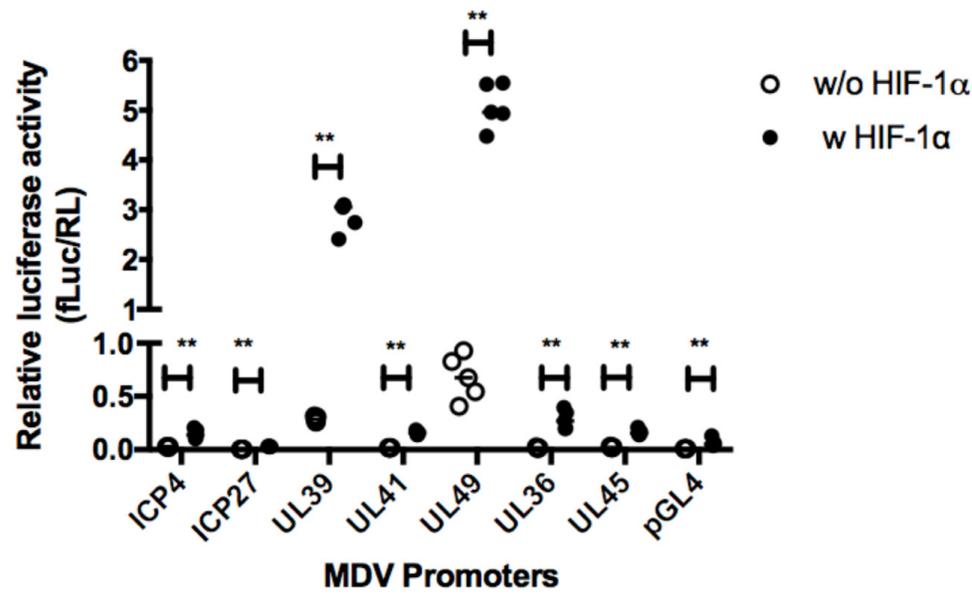
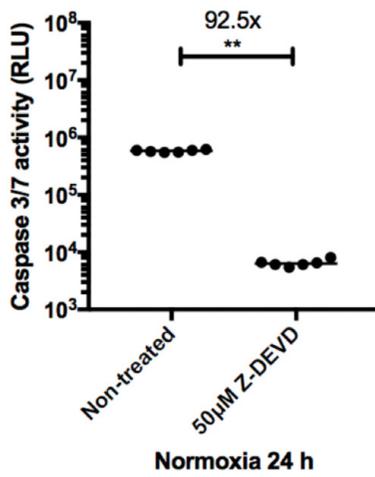


Figure 10

A



B

