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1 3D type I collagen environment leads up to a  
2 reassessment of the classification of human  
3 macrophage polarizations

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30 Abstract

31 Macrophages have multiple roles in development, tissue homeostasis and repair and  
32 present a high degree of phenotypic plasticity embodied in the concept of  
33 polarization. One goal of macrophage biology field is to characterize these  
34 polarizations at the molecular level. To achieve this task, it is necessary to integrate  
35 how physical environment signals are interpreted by macrophages under immune  
36 stimulation. In this work, we study how a 3D scaffold obtained from polymerized  
37 fibrillar rat type I collagen modulates the polarizations of human macrophages and  
38 reveal that some traditionally used markers should be reassessed. We demonstrate  
39 that integrin  $\beta_2$  is a regulator of STAT1 phosphorylation in response to IFN $\gamma$ /LPS as  
40 well as responsible for the inhibition of ALOX15 expression in response to IL-4/IL-13  
41 in 3D. Meanwhile, we also find that the CCL19/CCL20 ratio is reverted in 3D under  
42 IFN $\gamma$ /LPS stimulation. 3D also induces the priming of the NLRP3 inflammasome  
43 resulting in an increased IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-6 secretion. These results give the molecular  
44 basis for assessing collagen induced immunomodulation of human macrophages in  
45 various physiological and pathological contexts such as cancer.

46

47 Keywords: Macrophages, Polarization, 3D culture, Collagen, Inflammation, Integrins,  
48 Inflammasome

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54 1.Introduction

55 Macrophages are innate immune cells present in every tissues playing a critical role in  
56 homeostasis. As first line defenders, these cells are prone to modify their phenotype in  
57 response to their surrounding environment, sensing various signals and displaying a large  
58 panel of activation states in order to cope with various pathogens [1]. Even if it is now  
59 accepted that the spectrum of activation states of these cells is better viewed as a  
60 continuum, it is still interesting to understand how the environment is able to favour a pro-  
61 inflammatory (M1) or an anti-inflammatory (M2) phenotype which could represent the  
62 extremes of this spectrum [2]. M1 macrophages are specialized in the removal of pathogens  
63 and are classically obtained *in vitro* using a combination of IFN- $\gamma$  and a Toll-like receptor  
64 (TLR) agonist like LPS (Lipopolysaccharide). M1 macrophages are associated with the  
65 production of reactive oxygen species and pro-inflammatory cytokines secretion like TNF- $\alpha$ ,  
66 IL-6 or chemokines like CCL-20 [3,4]. M2 macrophages are obtained using a stimulation with  
67 IL-4 (that could be combined to IL-13) and are also called alternatively activated  
68 macrophages [5]. These cells are described as anti-inflammatory and seem to participate to  
69 wound healing. This polarization is notably associated with the membrane expression of the  
70 mannose receptor also named CD206 [5]. Modifying the polarization of macrophages has  
71 emerged as a new therapeutical approach in inflammatory diseases and in cancer [2]. This  
72 goal, in order to be attained, needs that macrophage polarizations are properly defined and  
73 the influence of their cellular environment clarified. Even if it is possible to modify the  
74 activation state of macrophages using various chemical signals, it has been recently  
75 recognized that macrophages are also sensitive to their physical environment [6]. The  
76 growing interest of biomaterials in the medical field has revealed that these tools will interact  
77 mechanically and chemically with the host in various ways in a time dependent manner. The  
78 field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine is devoted to the understanding of how  
79 physico-chemical characteristics of biomaterials will influence the success of their  
80 implantation. Macrophages are involved during all phases of host response toward

81 biomaterials, so their ability to adapt to this new environment is of outstanding interest. The  
82 understanding of how macrophages respond to biomaterials opens the way to design of  
83 materials that specifically target these cells, and obtain by the way a scaffold-induced  
84 immunomodulation [7,8]. This approach is particularly promising in the field of regenerative  
85 medicine [9]. More generally the question of how a three dimensional environment impacts  
86 immune cell functions has been recently recognized as a key element in our understanding  
87 of the tumour microenvironment. In this context, biomaterials offer a clear opportunity to  
88 decipher molecular and cellular processes involved in the macrophage-extracellular matrix-  
89 cancerous cells interactions [10].

90 In order to address that question, it is mandatory to understand how the three dimensional  
91 environment could modify the molecular signature of macrophages polarizations. Previous  
92 studies have demonstrated that macrophages are able to sense their physical environment.  
93 Patterned substrates modifying the elongation of mice macrophages was able to regulate  
94 the expression of arginase-1 and iNOS in M2 and M1 bone marrow derived macrophages  
95 respectively [11]. The elasticity of a substrate is another physical parameter that has been  
96 studied. Notably two dimensional functionalized gels of varying stiffness have revealed that  
97 macrophage present a mechanically controlled response to TLR agonists [12–15]. Other  
98 works have tried to understand how extracellular matrix properties impact macrophages  
99 polarization. A surface of collagen I functionalized with sulphated hyaluronan was associated  
100 with a downregulation of pro-inflammatory cytokines produced by GM-CSF differentiated  
101 human macrophages [16]. In order to mimic more closely the cellular environment, 3D  
102 scaffolds are used to reconstitute a structure similar to the extracellular matrix found *in vivo*.  
103 When 3D collagen networks functionalized by glycosaminoglycan are used the IL-  
104 10/IL12p40 ratio could be modified in human macrophages compared to 2D [17]. 3D fibrillary  
105 matrices from naturally derived collagen based networks are particularly interesting as they  
106 reconstitute the microstructure of the *in vivo* extracellular matrix [18]. We use in this study  
107 3D collagen gels compared to 2D collagen coated surfaces to perform a differentiation of

108 human monocytes toward macrophages and secondarily polarize these macrophages  
109 toward a M1 (LPS+IFN- $\gamma$ ) and a M2 (IL-4+IL-13) phenotype. In order to obtain the molecular  
110 signature of these macrophages we used a whole transcriptome shotgun sequencing  
111 (RNAseq) analysis and a label-free quantification of protein expression to highlight genes  
112 and proteins specifically modulated by the 3D environment leading to a reappraisal of the  
113 M1/M2 dichotomy in human macrophages.

## 114 2. Materials and Methods

### 115 *2.1 Ethical statements*

116 Human blood samples from healthy de-identified donors are obtained from EFS (French  
117 national blood service) as part of an authorized protocol (CODECOH DC-2018–3114).  
118 Donors gave signed consent for use of their blood in this exploratory study.

### 119 *2.2 Cell culture*

120 Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) are obtained from whole blood (leukocyte  
121 reduction system cones) by density gradient centrifugation (Histopaque 1077, Merck  
122 Millipore, Burlington, Massachusetts, USA). Monocytes are isolated from PBMCs using  
123 CD14 magnetic beads (Miltenyi Biotec, Paris, France) according to the manufacturer's  
124 instructions. Purity is assessed by flow cytometry for CD14<sup>hi</sup>CD45<sup>hi</sup> cells and found to be >  
125 96%. Monocytes are cultured in RPMI-Glutamax (Life Technologies, Courtaboeuf, France)  
126 supplemented with 10% human serum AB (Merck Millipore) and differentiation is induced by  
127 M-CSF (25 ng/ml) over 6 days at 10<sup>6</sup> cells per well in 12 wells culture plates. 3D conditions  
128 were obtained by seeding the monocytes on the top of gels which invade the gel during  
129 differentiation. Polarization is subsequently obtained using the same concentration of M-CSF  
130 and adding specific stimulations for a total of 48 h. Polarization states are induced as  
131 follows: M1 macrophages IFN $\gamma$  10 ng/ml + LPS 1 ng/ml and M2 macrophages IL-4 20 ng/ml  
132 + IL-13 20 ng/ml. Cells are counted in a Malassez chamber, using trypan blue exclusion to  
133 identify live cells. All cytokines and growth factors are purchased from Miltenyi Biotec,

134 France. LPS serogroup 0111 B4 is purchased from Calbiochem (Merck Millipore). The  
135 NLRP3 specific inhibitor MCC950 and ATP are purchased from Invivogen (Toulouse,  
136 France).

### 137 *2.3 Collagen scaffold*

138 3D scaffolds are generated with Collagen I from Rat tail (Life technologies). Gelation is  
139 performed according to manufacturer recommendations. Briefly, collagen is diluted to 2  
140 mg/mL in PBS (Life Technologies) and pH at 7.0 is obtained using sterile NaOH (Merck  
141 Millipore). Collagen is then incubated at 37°C in a humidified incubator for 40 minutes. Gels  
142 are gently rinsed with culture medium for 15 minutes before cell seeding. 2D coating is  
143 obtained using a solution of collagen at 50 µg/mL in 20 mM acetic acid (Merck Millipore) and  
144 incubated at room temperature for one hour. The resulting surface concentration of collagen  
145 is 5 µg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Cells were harvested from collagen scaffold using collagenase (Life  
146 Technologies) in HBSS containing calcium and magnesium (Life Technologies).

### 147 *2.4 Chemokine arrays and ELISA*

148 Chemokines are analysed using a Human Chemokine assay kit (R&D systems, Lille,  
149 France) according to manufacturer recommendations. Signals from membranes are  
150 analysed with a ChemiDoc Analysis System (BioRad, Marnes la coquette, France). Data are  
151 quantified using the Fiji Software (1.51n, National Institutes of Health, USA). Human TNF $\alpha$ ,  
152 IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$  and CCL19 ELISA are purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, California, USA).  
153 Human CCL20 ELISA is purchased from ThermoScientific Pierce (Life Technologies). The  
154 assays are performed according to manufacturer instructions.

### 155 *2.5 RNA sequencing*

156 RNA is isolated from 10<sup>6</sup> cells for each polarization using the MirVana isolation kit™  
157 (Ambion, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California, USA). Long RNA and small RNA  
158 (<200 bp) are collected separately. RNA quality and quantity are assessed by performing an  
159 Agilent Eukaryote Total RNA Nano assay in a 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies,

160 Santa Clara, California, USA). Libraries are prepared with TruSeq Stranded mRNA kit  
161 protocol according to supplier recommendations. Briefly the key stages of this protocol are  
162 successively, the purification of PolyA containing mRNA molecules using poly-T oligo  
163 attached to magnetic beads from 1µg total RNA, a fragmentation using divalent cations  
164 under elevated temperature to obtain approximately 300bp pieces, double strand cDNA  
165 synthesis and finally Illumina adapters ligation and cDNA library amplification by PCR for  
166 sequencing. Sequencing is then carried out on paired-end 75 bp of Illumina HiSeq4000.  
167 Quality of reads is assessed for each sample using FastQC  
168 (<http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). Fastq files are aligned to the  
169 reference human genome hg19/GRCh37 with tophat2 (-p 16 -r 150 -g 2 --library-type fr-  
170 firststrand) [19]. We remove reads mapping to multiple locations. We use HTSeq [20] to  
171 obtain the number of reads associated to each gene in the Gencode v24lift37. We use the  
172 Bioconductor *DESeq* package [21] to import raw HTSeq counts for each sample into R  
173 statistical software and extract the count matrix. After normalizing for library size factors, we  
174 normalize the count matrix by the coding length of genes to compute FPKM scores (number  
175 of fragments per kilobase of exon model and millions of mapped reads). Bigwig visualization  
176 files are generated using the bam2wig python script [22]. FPKM data were further analyzed  
177 using JMP software (v.13.0.0, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina, USA).

## 178 *2.6 Proteomics*

179 Cells are directly lysed in Laemmli buffer and prepared and analysed as previously  
180 described [23]. Briefly, the protein equivalent of 300 000 cells for each sample is loaded on  
181 NuPAGE Bis-Tris 4–12% acrylamide gels (Life Technologies). Electrophoretic migration is  
182 controlled to allow each protein sample to be split into six gel bands. Gels are stained with  
183 R-250 Coomassie blue (Bio-Rad) before excising protein bands. Gel slices are washed then  
184 dehydrated with 100% acetonitrile (Merck Millipore), incubated with 10 mM DTT  
185 (Dithiothreitol, Merck Millipore) in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate (Merck Millipore) for 45 min  
186 at 56 °C, followed by 55 mM iodoacetamide (Merck Millipore) in 25 mM ammonium



187 bicarbonate for 35 min in the dark. Alkylation is stopped by adding 10 mM DTT in 25 mM  
188 ammonium bicarbonate. Proteins are digested overnight at 37 °C with Trypsin/Lys-C Mix  
189 (Promega, Charbonnières, France) according to manufacturer's instructions. After extraction  
190 fractions are pooled, dried and stored at -80 °C until further analysis. The dried extracted  
191 peptides are resuspended and analyzed by online nano-LC (Ultimate 3000, Thermo  
192 Scientific) directly linked to an impact IITM Hybrid Quadrupole Timeof- Flight (QTOF)  
193 instrument fitted with a CaptiveSpray ion source (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany). All  
194 data are analyzed using Max- Quant software (version 1.5.2.8) and the Andromeda search  
195 engine [24,25]. The false discovery rate (FDR) is set to 1% for both proteins and peptides,  
196 and a minimum length of seven amino acids was set. MaxQuant scores peptide  
197 identifications based on a search with an initial permissible mass deviation for the precursor  
198 ion of up to 0.07 Da after time-dependent recalibration of the precursor masses. Fragment  
199 mass deviation is allowed up to 40 ppm. The Andromeda search engine is used to match  
200 MS/MS spectra against the Uniprot human database (<https://www.uniprot.org/>). Enzyme  
201 specificity is set as C-terminal to Arg and Lys, cleavage at proline bonds and a maximum of  
202 two missed cleavages are allowed. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine is selected as a fixed  
203 modification, whereas N-terminal protein acetylation and methionine oxidation are selected  
204 as variable modifications. The "match between runs" feature of MaxQuant is used to transfer  
205 identification information to other LC-MS/MS runs based on ion masses and retention times  
206 (maximum deviation 0.7 min); this feature is also used in quantification experiments.  
207 Quantifications are performed using the label-free algorithms [24]. A minimum peptide ratio  
208 counts of two and at least one "razor peptide" are required for quantification. The LFQ metric  
209 is used to perform relative quantification between proteins identified in different biological  
210 conditions, protein intensities are normalized based on the MaxQuant "protein group.txt"  
211 output (reflecting a normalized protein quantity deduced from all peptide intensity values).  
212 Potential contaminants and reverse proteins are strictly excluded from further analysis.  
213 Three analytical replicates from two independent biological samples (donors) are analyzed  
214 for each polarization in the 2D and 3D conditions. Missing values are deduced from a normal

215 distribution (width: 0.3; down shift: 1.8) using the Perseus (version 1.5.5.3) post data  
216 acquisition package contained in MaxQuant (www.maxquant.org). Data are further analyzed  
217 using JMP software (v.13.0.0, SAS Institute Inc.). Proteins are classed according to the  
218 paired Welch *t* test difference (difference between the mean value for triplicate MS/MS  
219 analyses for the two conditions compared), and the median fold-change between the two  
220 conditions compared.

## 221 *2.7 Atomic Force Microscopy*

222 Atomic force microscopy is performed in PBS at room temperature in indentation-force  
223 volume mode using a Flex-ANA system on fresh samples (Nanosurf, Liestal, Switzerland).  
224 Borosilicate beads (radius 5µm) mounted on QP-SCONT cantilevers (NanoAndMore,  
225 Wetzlar, Germany) are used. The spring constant is determined by thermal tuning [26]. The  
226 force setpoint is fixed at 3 nN. Each sample is mapped with at least 3 maps with 20x20 force  
227 volume curves. Elasticity is determined from the retraction curve using the AtomicJ software  
228 [27]. We use a Hertz-model to relate the force and the indentation as adhesion is negligible  
229 compared to our force setpoint and indentation far less than our tip radius. In this model, the  
230 force *F* is related to the indentation  $\delta$  and the Young's modulus *E* by the following relation

$$231 \quad F = \frac{4\sqrt{R} E}{3(1 - \nu^2)} \delta^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

232 Where *R* is the radius of the tip and  $\nu$  the Poisson ratio taken at 0.5 here.

## 233 *2.8 Immunoblots*

234 Cell lysates from HMDM are prepared in RIPA with protease inhibitors (PMSF, Pepstatine A,  
235 Leupeptin) and phosphatase inhibitors (Orthovanadate, Betaglycerophosphate, NaF), all  
236 products purchased from Merck Millipore. Total amount of proteins is determined by BCA  
237 Protein Assay kit (Pierce-Life Technologies). A volume corresponding to 15 µg is deposited  
238 and run on SDS-polyacrylamide gels according to standard SDS-PAGE protocols. The  
239 primary antibodies used are anti-TGM2 (MA5-12739; ThermoFischer, Rockford, Illinois,

240 USA), anti-ALOX15 (ab119774; Abcam, Cambridge, UK), anti-STAT1 $\alpha/\beta$  (sc-464; Santa  
241 Cruz, Dallas, Texas, USA), anti-pSTAT1ser727 (sc-16570, Santa Cruz), anti-STAT6 (PA5-  
242 34814, Life Technologies), anti-pSTAT6Tyr647 (sc-136019, Santa Cruz), anti-CD206 (sc-  
243 376232, Santa Cruz), anti-CASP1(MAB6215, R&D systems) and anti  $\beta$ -actin (A2228, Merck  
244 Millipore) as loading control. Signal is detected by chemoluminescence (Chemi-Doc Imaging  
245 System, Bio-Rad) after incubation with horseradish peroxide-conjugated secondary antibody  
246 (Jackson Immunoresearch, Ely, UK).

### 247 *2.9 Integrin receptor blocking*

248 Human monocytes are incubated with 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  of various anti-integrin antibodies: anti  
249 CD11a (ITGAL; clone HI111 BioLegend, London, UK), anti CD11b (ITGAM; clone ICRF44  
250 BioLegend), anti CD11c (ITGAX; clone 3.9 BioLegend), anti CD18 (ITGB2 integrin  $\beta_2$ ; clone  
251 TS1/18 BioLegend), anti CD29 (ITGB1 integrin  $\beta_1$ ; clone P4C1 Merck Millipore), anti-integrin  
252  $\beta_3$  (ITGB3; clone 2C9 Invitrogen) and integrin  $\alpha_2$ (ITGA2; clone P1E Merck Millipore) for 6  
253 days. The same antibodies are added again during polarisation for the next 48h.

### 254 *2.10 Confocal imaging of 3D macrophages*

255 Macrophages in 3D gels were fixed with paraformaldehyde 4% for 15 minutes. Cells were  
256 permeabilized by Triton X-100 at 0.5% for 5 minutes. Then actin cytoskeleton was stained  
257 using phalloidin-alexa 488 (Invitrogen) and nucleus stained with Hoechst (Life  
258 Technologies). Confocal imaging experiments were performed using a LSM710 NLO (Carl  
259 Zeiss) laser scanning microscope based on the inverted motorized stand (AxioObserver).  
260 The Hoechst and Alexa488 excitations were provided by 405 nm DPSS and 488 nm Ar  
261 lasers and descanned detection was in the ranges 410-490 and 500–550 nm respectively.  
262 The pinhole was closed to 1 Airy Unit. The long working distance water immersion objective  
263 40x/1.0 W LD Apochromat was used to image cells at > 700  $\mu\text{m}$  depth. The absence of  
264 correction for the coverslip thickness was responsible for the pronounced spherical

265 aberration that reduced the sensitivity and axial resolution. Z-stack over 350  $\mu\text{m}$  was imaged  
266 with the step of 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , the lateral pixel size was 413 nm.

### 267 *2.11 Statistical Analysis*

268 All statistical tests are done using GraphPad Prism (v7 GraphPad Prism Software, Inc, San  
269 Diego, California, USA). Multiple comparisons have been done using a paired Tukey's  
270 multiple comparison test when all conditions were compared or a paired Dunnett's multiple  
271 comparison test when comparisons are performed toward a control condition. Proteomic and  
272 transcriptomic analyses have been performed with two paired conditions using a Welch t  
273 test. We have indicated in each figure legend the appropriate test used. The threshold for  
274 statistical significance is set to a  $p$  value  $< 0.05$ .

## 275 3. Results

### 276 *3.1 The human macrophage M1/M2 dichotomy is impacted by the physical environment*

277 We use two different polarizations named subsequently M1 and M2 corresponding to  
278 stimulation with IFN $\gamma$ /LPS and IL4/IL13 respectively after a differentiation with M-CSF from  
279 human circulating monocytes. In order to study the influence of the physical environment on  
280 the assessment of the differences between these two polarisations states, we conduct the  
281 differentiation process on 2D collagen coated surfaces and 3D collagen gels (Figure 1A). On  
282 2D collagen coated surfaces macrophages do not present significant morphological  
283 differences between the two polarizations (Figure 1B). In 3D cells are typically smaller even  
284 if some M1 still present an elongated phenotype (Figure 1B) and are distributed in a depth of  
285 350  $\mu\text{m}$  in the gel (Supplemental Figure 1). In order to determine the impact of the  
286 environment on human macrophage polarisation states, we used a transcriptomic approach.  
287 The principal component analysis (PCA) of RNAseq data reveals that, as expected, the M1  
288 and M2 activation states in 2D and in 3D can be clearly separated with a first principal  
289 component covering 43.8% of variations (Figure 1C). Furthermore, each polarization under a  
290 3D environment is distinguishable from its 2D counterpart, associated with the second

291 principal component covering 21.5% of variations (Figure 1C). In order to describe what are  
292 the differentially expressed genes associated with each polarization, we compared the  
293 expression of genes involved in the M1/M2 dichotomy in the context of a 2D and a 3D  
294 environment (Figure 1D). Using a fold change (FC) greater or equal to 2, we find 552  
295 upregulated genes in M1 and 335 genes upregulated in M2 for the 2D environment. For the  
296 3D environment, we find 501 and 310 upregulated genes for M1 and M2 respectively. Our  
297 analysis reveals that 548 genes are differentially expressed in M1 macrophages in both  
298 environments, we also find 327 of common genes for M2 macrophages (Supplemental Table  
299 1 & 2). Even if the categorization as M1 and M2 is mainly valid in the transfer from 2D to 3D  
300 as it is illustrated by the large number of genes upregulated in a particular polarization  
301 shared between 2D and 3D, we are able to obtain specific molecular signatures for each  
302 conditions (Supplemental Figure 2 A & B). We then study the consequences of these  
303 differences and the molecular pathways implicated.

### 304 *3.2 The 3D environment amplifies the macrophage response to IFN $\gamma$ mediated by the* 305 *phosphorylation of the transcription factor STAT1 in an integrin $\beta$ 2 dependant mechanism*

306 STAT1 is the main transcription factor involved in IFN $\gamma$  response in macrophages [2,4],  
307 which through its phosphorylation is relocated to the nucleus in order to control the  
308 expression of IFN $\gamma$  dependent genes [28]. We have found that STAT1 isoforms  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are  
309 mainly present in M1 macrophages, confirming our previous published results that STAT1  
310 expression is regulated under stimulation in addition to the control of its phosphorylation [23]  
311 contrary to what is generally found for other STAT molecules for which the main level of  
312 control concerns phosphorylation alone [29]. Meanwhile, we found a significant increase of  
313 the level of phosphorylation at serine 727 (S727) for macrophages in 3D (Figure 2A). We  
314 then seek to understand if this activation is related to a direct integrin-mediated interaction  
315 with collagen fibers. We cultivate our macrophages with various blocking antibodies against  
316 known expressed integrins at the human macrophage membrane: integrin  $\alpha_L$  (CD11a,  
317 ITGAL), integrin  $\alpha_M$  (CD11b, ITGAM), integrin  $\alpha_X$  (CD11c, ITGAX), integrin  $\beta_2$  (CD18,

318 ITGB2), integrin  $\beta_1$  (CD29, ITGB1), integrin  $\alpha_2$  (ITGA2) and anti-integrin  $\beta_3$  (ITGB3). These  
319 integrins are found to be expressed in every conditions without modulation according to the  
320 2D/3D environment except for integrin  $\beta_3$  which was found to be mainly expressed in 3D M1  
321 macrophages (Supplemental Figure 3). Indeed, we found that the blocking of integrin  $\beta_2$  was  
322 able to decrease significantly the expression of pSTAT1<sup>ser727</sup> (Figure 2B upper panel) without  
323 affecting the level of expression of STAT1 $\alpha/\beta$  (Figure 2B, lower panel). Recently the role of  
324 integrins in the phosphorylation of STAT1 has been similarly reported in IFN $\gamma$  activated T  
325 lymphocytes [30].

### 326 *3.3 IL-4/IL-13 stimulation is associated with an enhancement of the phosphorylation of* 327 *STAT6 and a downregulation of ALOX15 through integrin $\beta_2$ mediated signalling in 3D*

328 IL-4/IL-13 stimulation leads to the phosphorylation of the transcription factor STAT6 [2]. We  
329 found that the phosphorylation of tyrosine 641 (Y641) site is significantly increased in 3D M2  
330 macrophages (Figure 3A). To determine if this increase in STAT transcription factors  
331 phosphorylation in collagen scaffolds is functionally relevant, we performed a label free  
332 quantification proteomic approach to find differential expression of specific proteins in  
333 macrophages in 2D and 3D. We found that two known specific M2 markers, the  
334 arachidonate lipo-oxygenase (ALOX15) and the transglutaminase 2 (TGM2) were  
335 differentially expressed between 2D and 3D (Supplemental Figure 4). We confirm this  
336 pattern of expression by immunoblots. ALOX15 expression is downregulated in 3D contrary  
337 to TGM2 which presents an up-regulation (Figure 3B). The downregulation of ALOX15 is  
338 found to be transcriptionally controlled as it is demonstrated by its reduced mRNA level in 3D  
339 compared to 2D (Figure 3C), despite the fact that pSTAT6 is one of the transcription factor  
340 that control its expression [31]. To explain this pSTAT6 independent regulation, we then  
341 study if integrins are implicated in this expression and find that integrin  $\beta_2$  when blocked by a  
342 specific antibody restores ALOX15 level comparable to 2D controls (Figure 3D). Other M2  
343 expressed proteins like CD206 or TGM2 are not significantly modulated by the blocking of  
344 integrins. We also find that the increase of phosphorylation of STAT6 is not mediated by

345 integrins  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_3$ ,  $\alpha_L$ ,  $\alpha_M$ ,  $\alpha_X$  or  $\alpha_2$  (Supplemental Figure 4). The activation of integrin  $\beta_2$  has  
346 been reported in monocytes as a potent inhibitor of the expression of ALOX15 under IL-4 or  
347 IL-13 stimulation [32].

#### 348 *3.4 The 3D environment abrogates the differential expression of class II histocompatibility* 349 *complex proteins between M1 and M2 macrophages*

350 The Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of genes characterizing M2 macrophages reveals specific  
351 GO-Terms differentiating 2D and 3D environment. We find that numerous genes implicated  
352 in the processing and presentation of antigen via the major histocompatibility complex II are  
353 specific to M2 macrophages in a 2D environment (Figure 4A). We consequently analyse the  
354 expression of class I and class II HLA molecules and find that M1 macrophages, irrespective  
355 of their 2D or 3D condition, are associated with an overexpression of class I HLA genes  
356 (*HLA-A*, *HLA-B*, *HLA-C*, *HLA-E*, *HLA-F*) (Figure 4B). We obtain the same pattern at the  
357 protein level using our proteomic quantification approach which shows that HLA-A, B and C  
358 are upregulated in M1 macrophages irrespective of the 2D or 3D environment (Figure 4C).  
359 Following the GO-term analysis, we find that class II HLA molecules do not follow that  
360 pattern of expression and are found upregulated in M2 macrophages in 2D. Interestingly,  
361 this differential expression of genes (Figure 4B) and proteins (Figure 4C) of the class II HLA  
362 system is no longer found in 3D.

#### 363 *3.5 The secretome of IFN $\gamma$ /LPS stimulated macrophages in 3D is characterized by a IL-6* 364 *integrin dependent increased release and an inversed CCL19/CCL20 ratio*

365 The secretome of macrophages is a powerful tool used to distinguish M1 and M2 in humans.  
366 Using our RNAseq analysis we find various cytokines and chemokines genes that are  
367 regulated according to a peculiar polarization (Figure 5A). We find that *CCL2*, *CCL3*, *CCL7*,  
368 *CCL8*, *CCL15*, *CXCL2*, *CXCL3*, *CXCL5*, *CXCL8*, *CXCL9* and TNF- $\alpha$  are M1 specific  
369 markers and *CCL13*, *CCL18* and *CCL26* M2 markers. These markers reach the following  
370 selection criteria fold change >4 and p-adjusted value <0.05 in 2D and 3D (Figure 5A).

371 Meanwhile, we find cytokines, chemokines and some receptors which are significantly  
372 differentially expressed but only in one physical environment. This is notably the case for  
373 *CCL19* and *CCL20*. We find that these two M1 chemokines present an inverted expression  
374 in 2D and 3D environment. *CCL19* appears downregulated transcriptionally in 3D, and we  
375 effectively confirm that the protein is significantly more secreted in 2D macrophages when  
376 stimulated by IFN $\gamma$ /LPS (Figure 5A, 5B and 5C, Supplemental Figure 6A). This regulation of  
377 the expression of *CCL19* is followed by its receptor *CCR7* (Figure 5A). We then find that  
378 *CCL20* presents the exact opposite behaviour (Figure 5A, 5B and 5C, Supplemental Figure  
379 6A). The *CCL19* downregulation is not related to an integrin dependent mechanism  
380 (Supplemental Figure 6B), as the specific blocking of integrins does not restore its level of  
381 secretion found in 2D. In contrast, the IL-6 cytokine is increasingly released in M1 3D  
382 macrophages and this secretion could be blocked by targeting specifically integrins  $\beta_2$  but  
383 also  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_3$  (Figure 5D). The TNF- $\alpha$  secretion is, by contrast, not modulated by the 3D  
384 environment and blocking antibodies against integrins do not modulate its release (Figure  
385 5E). Even if integrin  $\beta_3$  is not believed to interact with collagen, it has been shown to be an  
386 agonistic receptor for IL-1 $\beta$  signalling [33] and IL-1 $\beta$  is known to induce the secretion of IL-6  
387 [34]. As M1 3D macrophages are associated specifically with an increased IL-1 $\beta$  secretion  
388 (Figure 5A, Figure 6A ,6B, 6C), we propose that integrin  $\beta_3$  is involved in IL-6 secretion in 3D  
389 through its interaction with IL-1 $\beta$ .

### 390 *3.6 The NLRP3 inflammasome is pre-activated in 3D and IFN $\gamma$ /LPS polarized macrophages* 391 *in 3D present an increased IL-1 $\beta$ secretion*

392 Analysis of the specific cytokines of M1 in 3D reveals a IL-1 type cytokine signature. Indeed,  
393 the mRNA of *CASP1* and *IL1B* are increased in 3D under the IFN $\gamma$ /LPS stimulation (Figure  
394 6A). We confirm that M1 3D macrophage do secrete more functional IL-1 $\beta$  than their 2D  
395 counterpart (Figure 6B). 3D macrophages prior to polarization do not secrete significantly  
396 detectable levels of IL-1 $\beta$  (data not shown). We also find that expression of pro-CASP1 at  
397 the protein level in 3D IFN $\gamma$ /LPS stimulated macrophages is strongly increased compared to



398 2D by immunoblotting (Figure 6C). Because IL-1 $\beta$  secretion is mainly obtained by  
399 conversion of pro-CASP1 in CASP1 by the NLRP3 inflammasome molecular complex and  
400 secondarily the cleavage of pro-IL-1 $\beta$  by the activated CASP1, we hypothesize that IL-1 $\beta$   
401 secretion in 3D M1 macrophages is NLRP3-mediated. Using a specific inhibitor (MCC950) of  
402 the NLRP3 inflammasome, we demonstrate the implication of this inflammasome in the  
403 specific M1 3D secretome signature (Figure 6D). To demonstrate that the NLRP3  
404 inflammasome of macrophages is prone to present a stronger activation in 3D, we used LPS  
405 exposed macrophages secondarily stimulated by ATP (a potent driver of intracellular entry of  
406 K<sup>+</sup>) and we demonstrate that the NLRP3 inflammasome is strongly activated in 3D compared  
407 to 2D (Figure 6E). This NLRP3 inflammasome activation phenotype in 3D is not under the  
408 control of an integrin-dependent mechanism as blocking of the integrins by specific  
409 antibodies does not modify the IL-1 $\beta$  secretion (Figure 6F).

#### 410 4. Discussion

411 Macrophage polarizations, which are also referred to as activation states, have emerged as  
412 fundamental criteria to characterize innate immune responses in various pathological  
413 contexts [35]. Recently a joint effort has been made by macrophage's biologists to clarify the  
414 nomenclature and the understanding of polarization states [4]. As polarizations translate the  
415 fact that macrophages are able to display a large panel of phenotypes depending on the  
416 various signals they encounter, this task is notoriously difficult. The recognition that  
417 polarization is related to the activation of these cells at a particular point in space and time,  
418 has led to the recognition of the importance of cellular response to growth factors, cytokines  
419 or TLR agonists [35]. But macrophages are also able to sense other extracellular signals and  
420 it is now recognized that these cells present a strong sensitivity to their physical and  
421 mechanical environment [6]. We have designed the present study to answer the question of  
422 how polarizations in human macrophages are modulated by a 3D collagen scaffold. We use  
423 a high throughput transcriptomic and proteomic approach to obtain a molecular signature of  
424 two polarizations (M1 and M2) in a 3D context compare to its 2D counterpart. We find that in

425 order to properly characterize these polarizations, we need to know in which physical context  
426 the cells are (Figure 1). We first study how transcription factors associated with these two  
427 polarisations are impacted and find that their response (phosphorylation state) is increased.  
428 For IFN $\gamma$ /LPS stimulated macrophages (M1) we find that the phosphorylation of the  
429 transcription factor STAT1 is mediated by integrin  $\beta_2$  in a 3D collagen gel. Indeed, a blocking  
430 antibody directed against this integrin is able to normalized the response of pSTAT1<sup>ser727</sup>  
431 compared to what is observed in 2D (Figure 2). Previous works have reported that  
432 macrophages seem to interact with collagen through integrin  $\beta_1$  but denatured collagen was  
433 used as adhesion substratum [36]. THP1 monocytic cell line is also believed to interact with  
434 fibronectin [37] or gelatin methacryloyl [38] through integrin  $\beta_1$ . Despite these results, when  
435 native collagen is used human monocytes interact with collagen mainly using integrin  $\beta_2$  [39].  
436 STAT6 transcription factor is phosphorylated under IL-4 or IL-13 stimulation. We find that 3D  
437 macrophages present an increased response to IL-4/IL-13 as demonstrated by the  
438 phosphorylation of tyrosine 641 (Y641). This response does not seem to be related to  
439 integrins signalling (Supplemental Figure 5). We then find that known M2 markers seem to  
440 present differential expression in 2D and 3D. ALOX15 which is a lipoxygenase has its  
441 expression abolished in 3D despite the fact that IL-4/IL-13 are strong inducers of its  
442 expression in 2D. We find that integrin  $\beta_2$  is the main molecular culprit of this downregulation  
443 of ALOX15 expression (Figure 3). Because ALOX15 is involved in many inflammatory  
444 response of macrophages such as production of arachidonic acid catabolites, resolvins,  
445 protectins and clearance of apoptotic cells [40], the 3D environment appears as a potent  
446 immune-modulator. ALOX15 is also believed to be a specific M2 marker [4] which could be  
447 dampened by integrin  $\beta_2$  activation even if respective to their pSTAT6, CD206 and TGM2  
448 [41] status these macrophages are classified as M2 (Figure 3D). These modifications could  
449 also impact other immune functions of macrophages, we find that the expression of class II  
450 HLA molecules that are used to characterize the state of activation present a different  
451 expression pattern in 2D and 3D. These molecules are found to be differentially expressed in

452 2D notably in response to LPS and we confirm that IL4/IL13 macrophages present a  
453 stronger expression of these molecules. This differential expression is not conserved in 3D  
454 where M1 and M2 macrophages are indistinguishable according to HLA class II expression  
455 levels. That is not the case for class I HLA molecules that conserve in 3D the differential  
456 expression of these molecules in M1 macrophages expressing a higher level than their M2  
457 counterparts (Figure 4).

458 The secretome of macrophages is largely used to assess their polarization. It has been  
459 reported that physical parameters of the physical environment, like elasticity, could influence  
460 the response of macrophages to TLR agonist. Human GM-CSF differentiated macrophages  
461 in 3D fibrillar matrices of collagen and glycosaminoglycan display a lower response to LPS  
462 concerning their ability to secrete IL-10, IL-12 and TNF- $\alpha$  compared to 2D macrophages  
463 [17]. Mechanical elasticity has been mainly studied in 2D systems with functionalized  
464 polyacrylamide gels and contradictory results have been reported due to variety of chemistry  
465 used [42] and the variety of monocytic cell lines used. RAW and U937 cultured on polylysine  
466 functionalized 2D gels are prone to increase TNF- $\alpha$  secretion in response to LPS in softer  
467 gels [14] whereas mice bone marrow derived macrophage gave the opposite result on  
468 collagen coated gels [15]. PEG functionalized gels were even associated with a bimodal  
469 secretion pattern of IL-8 in THP1 cells [13]. Despite the variety of systems used, the main  
470 conclusion that could be drawn from these studies is the necessity to take into account the  
471 physical environment in order to appreciate macrophage response to TLR agonists. These  
472 studies also revealed the role of elasticity in macrophage response to immune stimuli like  
473 TLR agonists but it should be stressed that in order to obtain a differing response a large  
474 range of values of Young's modulus was required.

475 Because M1 macrophages are associated with the expression of metallo-proteinases like  
476 *MMP9*, *MMP14*, *MMP25* (Supplemental Table 1) which could degrade the extracellular  
477 matrix, especially collagen through their activation of MMP2 and correspondingly because  
478 M2 macrophages are associated with the expression of TGM2 (Supplemental Table 2) which

479 is able to crosslink collagen fibres [43], we verified if our human M1 or M2 macrophages are  
480 prone to modify the elasticity of their surrounding environment in 3D. We used an indentation  
481 type atomic force microscopy analysis to measure Young modulus of collagen gels  
482 containing M1 and M2 macrophages. We find no significant differences between the two  
483 types of macrophages advocating that in our setting the differences between M1 and M2 in  
484 3D are not related to a differential elasticity between the two surrounding physical  
485 environments (Supplemental Figure 7).

486 In our study, we find that the response of macrophages to IFN $\gamma$ /LPS is more complex than  
487 previously thought. We notably find that no general inflammatory or anti-inflammatory pattern  
488 could be drawn when 2D and 3D are compared. Some studied chemokines present an  
489 unmodified secretion in 3D (CCL2, CCL3) others are increased (CCL20) or others even  
490 strongly reduced (CCL19) compared to 2D (Supplemental Figure 5A). We also find that  
491 TNF- $\alpha$  is not modulated contrary to IL-6 and we demonstrate that integrins  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$  but also  $\beta_3$   
492 are involved in this increased expression in 3D. The implication of integrin  $\beta_3$  is particularly  
493 interesting as it is known to be an IL-1 $\beta$  receptor [33]. Accordingly, we find an IL-1 $\beta$   
494 signature in 3D macrophages in response to IFN $\gamma$ /LPS (Figure 6B). We then demonstrate  
495 that this IL-1 $\beta$  signature is under the control of the NLRP3 inflammasome in an integrin  
496 independent mechanism (Figure 6 D, 6E, 6F). As the growing field of biomaterial research is  
497 progressively moving from biocompatible “immunoevasive” materials to “immune-  
498 modulating” materials, the implication of inflammasome in macrophage response to  
499 biomaterials is of outstanding interest [44]. As we have demonstrated the 3D collagen  
500 environment is able to prime macrophages NLRP3 inflammasome and increase the sensitivity  
501 of these cells to a second signal driving the secretion of huge amount of IL-1 $\beta$ . The  
502 mechanism by which the inflammasome of macrophages is primed in 3D is not known but  
503 we have shown that the direct implication of integrin activation through the extracellular  
504 matrix is unlikely.

505 We focus our attention on collagen induced immuno-modulation of macrophages, as  
506 collagen is the most abundant extracellular matrix (ECM) component in humans. Collagen  
507 has also been involved in various pathological contexts. During cancer progression, the  
508 ECM is constantly remodelled mainly due to collagen degradation, deposition or cross-  
509 linking leading to the stiffening of the tissue [45]. In that particular context, collagen appears  
510 as a regulator for tumor associated immune cells such as macrophages. Type I collagen has  
511 been reported as being able to reduce macrophage cytotoxicity against cancerous cells [46].  
512 The usual understanding of this result being that collagen is able to inhibit M1 polarization.  
513 Our results moderate and complete this interpretation, as in 3D collagen type I environment  
514 we found that the M1 driven signalling molecular pathway was responsive and we observe  
515 no collagen type I induced inhibition of human monocyte commitment to differentiate toward  
516 M1 macrophages. Meanwhile, we found an increase secretion of IL-6 associated with the 3D  
517 collagen scaffold. IL-6 has been demonstrated to inhibit maturation of dendritic cells and by  
518 the way to inhibit the anti-tumor immune response [47,48]. We also found that IL-1 $\beta$  is  
519 increased in 3D collagen setting and this cytokine has been implied in tumor angiogenesis  
520 [49]. Along with the demonstration that class II HLA molecules are not differentially  
521 expressed in 3D, our study highlights the reappraisal of the immunomodulation induced in  
522 3D by collagen, revealing that it is not related to a global inhibition of the commitment to  
523 produce M1 macrophages. These results shade lights on the complexity of the macrophages  
524 involvement around tumor nests where they are able to promote or inhibit tumor progression  
525 depending on the cellular environment context taking into account the ECM composition  
526 [50].

## 527 5. Conclusions

528 In this study we demonstrate that in a 3D collagen type I context, some markers, used in the  
529 classification of macrophage polarizations, should be reassessed. The resulting list of  
530 markers could be organized according to a functional subdivision and used to complete our  
531 present knowledge of macrophage's biology (Figure 7). These results are of a particular

532 interest in the field of immune-oncology where the macrophage involvement and targeting  
533 need a thoughtful understanding of cellular environmental clues leading to various activation  
534 states.

535

536 Author contributions

537 MC, MM, AM performed experiments and analyzed data. AM conceived the project,  
538 designed experiments, supervised the study, raised funding and wrote the paper.

539 Competing interest

540 The authors declare no financial and non-financial competing interests

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550 Data availability

551 The raw data required to reproduce these findings are available to download from  
552 [www.proteomexchange.org/](http://www.proteomexchange.org/) and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo>. The processed data  
553 required to reproduce these findings are available to download from  
554 [www.proteomexchange.org/](http://www.proteomexchange.org/) and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo>. The mass spectrometry  
555 proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE

556 partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD012147. RNA sequencing data are  
557 deposited in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus under accession number: GSE124738.

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713

## 714 Figure Legends

715 Figure 1 Transcriptomic analysis of human macrophages in 2D and 3D environment.

716 (A) Human monocytes are directly differentiated with M-CSF in their respective 2D or 3D  
717 environment for 6 days prior to polarisation toward M1 (IFN $\gamma$ /LPS) or M2 (IL-4/IL-13). (B)  
718 Phase contrast imaging of M1 and M2 macrophages on collagen coated surfaces (2D) and  
719 in collagen gels (3D). Scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m. (C) Quantification of the size of cells using their  
720 major axis based on phase contrast imaging. Aspect ratio defined by the ratio between major  
721 axis (a) and minor axis (b) is also quantified. Tukey's multiple comparison test was used.  
722 (ns=non significant, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ). (D) Principal  
723 component analysis of gene expression (RNAseq) in macrophages showing that the first  
724 component (43.8%) resolves the M1 and M2 dichotomy and the second (21.5%) the 2D/3D  
725 one. (E) Volcano-plot representation of M1/M2 differential gene expression in 2D (left panel)  
726 and 3D (right panel). Fold change threshold was set at 2 and p-value is calculated using a

727 paired Welch t test with Benjamini-Hochberg correction, the threshold is set at 0.05. 9141  
728 genes are analysed in 2D and 9733 in 3D using a filter for FPKM >0.5.

729 Figure 2 STAT1 phosphorylation under IFN $\gamma$ /LPS polarisation is increased in 3D under an  
730 integrin  $\beta_2$  mechanism.

731 (A) Human macrophages express significant level of STAT1 $\alpha/\beta$  when stimulated by  
732 IFN $\gamma$ /LPS as revealed by western blotting. The serine 727 phosphorylation is significantly  
733 increased in 3D M1 macrophages. (Tukey's multiple comparison test, three independent  
734 experiments, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\*\*p<0.001). (B) STAT1 serine 727 phosphorylation and STAT1 $\alpha/\beta$   
735 expression in 3D M1 macrophages exposed to various blocking antibodies targeting  
736 integrins. Blocking of integrin  $\beta_2$  decrease significantly the level of phosphorylation of STAT1  
737 without modifying the level of the protein expression. (Dunnett's multiple comparison test  
738 toward the control condition, three independent experiments, \*\* p<0.01). All level proteins  
739 expression are normalized to  $\beta$ -actin level. Values in all panels are mean +/- SEM.

740 Figure 3 ALOX15 expression is repressed by an integrin  $\beta_2$  mechanism in 3D M2  
741 macrophages associated with an increase of STAT6 phosphorylation and upregulation of  
742 transglutaminase 2.

743 (A) Immunoblotting of STAT6 and pSTAT6<sup>tyr641</sup> demonstrating the increase of  
744 phosphorylation in 3D under the IL4/IL13 stimulation. Normalisation is performed with  $\beta$ -actin  
745 (Tukey's multiple comparison test, three independent experiments, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01). (B)  
746 Immunoblotting of ALOX15 and TGM2 showing the downregulation of ALOX15 in 3D and  
747 the increase of expression of TGM2. Normalisation is performed toward  $\beta$ -actin (Tukey's  
748 multiple comparison test, three independent experiments, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001). (C) RNA  
749 level expression of ALOX15 and TGM2 from RNAseq analysis expressed in FPKM  
750 (Fragment per per kilobase of exon model per million reads mapped; Tukey's multiple  
751 comparison test, three independent experiments, \* <0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001, \*\*\*\*  
752 p<0.0001). (D) Immunoblotting of CD206, ALOX15, STAT6, TGM2 and  $\beta$ -actin on M2

753 macrophages in 2D and 3D. Blocking antibodies against integrins  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are added to 3D  
754 macrophages. Representative results from three independent experiments. Values in all  
755 panels are mean +/- SEM.

756 Figure 4 Class II HLA expression is no longer a key element of the M1/M2 dichotomy in 3D.

757 (A) Gene Ontology (GO) of Biological Processes (BP) analysis for up-regulated mRNA in  
758 M2 human macrophages compared to their M1 counterpart in 2D and in 3D. p-value was  
759 adjusted using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure (B) Cell plot representation of the  
760 expression of all HLA genes found in our RNAseq analysis. We have separated these  
761 molecules according to major histocompatibility complex class. Color scale represents z-  
762 score of FPKM reads. (C) Cell plot representation of the expression of all HLA proteins  
763 identified and quantified in our proteomic study. We have separated these molecules  
764 according the major histocompatibility complex class. Color scale represents z-score of LFQ  
765 intensity. UniProt knowledgebase entries are indicated.

766 Figure 5 Macrophages secretome is modulated by 3D. M1 are prone to secrete more IL-6 in  
767 an integrin dependent mechanism and present an inverted CCL19/CCL20 ratio.

768 (A) Cell plot representation of the expression of cytokines, chemokines and receptors found  
769 in our RNAseq analysis. We have performed M1/M2 ratio and set the threshold for fold  
770 change at 4, the statistical significance was assessed by a paired Welch t test with a  
771 Benjamini-Hochberg correction. Genes were classified according their shared pattern in 2D  
772 and 3D. (B) Supernatant of M1 macrophages were collected and analysed on chemokine  
773 array membranes which confirm at the protein level the inverse regulation of CCL19 and  
774 CCL20 between 2D and 3D. Upper panel 2D and lower panel 3D. Result representative of  
775 three independent experiments. (C) ELISA quantification of CCL19 and CCL20 in  
776 supernatants of M1 macrophages confirming the inversion of the CCL19/CCL20 ratio  
777 between the 2D and 3D environment. (Tukey's multiple comparison test, four independent  
778 experiments, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ). (D) ELISA quantification of IL-6 secretion of M1

779 macrophages showing the increase in 3D (Left panel, Paired t-test, four independent  
780 experiments, \*  $p < 0.05$ ). Blocking antibodies against integrins demonstrate that  $\beta_2$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  
781  $\beta_3$  are involved in this process (Dunnett's multiple comparison test toward the control  
782 condition, four independent experiments, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ). (E) ELISA quantification of  
783 TNF- $\alpha$  secretion of M1 macrophages showing no difference between 2D and 3D (Left panel,  
784 Paired t-test, four independent experiments). Blocking antibodies against integrins show no  
785 modulation of TNF- $\alpha$  secretion (Dunnett's multiple comparison test toward the control  
786 condition, four independent experiments). Values in all panels are mean  $\pm$  SEM.

787 Figure 6 The 3D environment drives an IL-1 $\beta$  secretion in response to IFN $\gamma$ /LPS in a NLRP3  
788 inflammasome dependent pathway in an integrin-independent mechanism.

789 (A) mRNA levels of CASP1 genes expression predominantly expressed in M1 and IL1B  
790 expression predominantly expressed in M1 3D macrophages (mRNA levels are expressed in  
791 FPKM=Fragment per per kilobase of exon model per million reads mapped). (B) ELISA  
792 quantification of IL-1 $\beta$  secretion confirming the specific expression in M1 3D human  
793 macrophages. (Tukey's multiple comparison test, five independent experiments, \* $p < 0.05$ ).  
794 (C) Immunoblotting of pro-CASP1 in macrophages in 2D and 3D exposed to IFN $\gamma$  and LPS  
795 in medium without serum during 3 hours. Representative result from three independent  
796 experiments.  $\beta$ -actin is used as control loading. (D) ELISA quantification of IL-1 $\beta$  secretion  
797 showing the inhibitory effect of MCC950, a specific inhibitor of NLRP3 inflammasome, in M1  
798 macrophages (Tukey's multiple comparison test, five independent experiments, \*\*\*  
799  $p < 0.001$ ). (E) ELISA quantification of IL-1 $\beta$  secretion after 1 hour of ATP stimulation on  
800 previously primed macrophages by LPS at 1 ng/mL during 16 hours (Tukey's multiple  
801 comparison test, four independent experiments, \*  $p < 0.05$ ). (F) ELISA quantification of IL-1 $\beta$   
802 secretion in M1 3D macrophages under the blocking of various integrins showing no  
803 inhibition of the release (Dunnett's multiple comparison test toward the control condition, five  
804 independent experiments, no statistical significant differences were found). Values in all  
805 panels are mean  $\pm$  SEM.

806 Figure 7 Reassessment of specific markers of human macrophages polarization in 3D.

807 We have represented specific markers for human macrophage polarisations. Markers that  
808 were already known (Murray et al, 2014) and confirmed in our study are represented in  
809 black. New markers that are able to distinguish M1 and M2 in a 2D or a 3D environment that  
810 have been found in our study are represented in red. Capital letters represent protein and  
811 italic capital letters genes. When genes and proteins are identified, we represent proteins  
812 alone.

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819 Supplementary Data

820 Supplemental Figure 1 Differentiated human macrophages are distributed in 3D in collagen  
821 gel.

822 Confocal imaging experiments were performed using a LSM710 NLO (Carl Zeiss) laser  
823 scanning. Macrophages were stained with Hoechst (nucleus staining) and Phalloidin  
824 Alexa488 (actin staining). Z-stack over 350  $\mu\text{m}$  was imaged with the step of 2  $\mu\text{m}$   
825 demonstrating the 3D distribution of macrophages.

826 Supplemental Figure 2 Gene signature of M1/M2 macrophages in 2D and 3D environment.

827 (A) Cell plot representation of specifically expressed genes in M1 macrophages for 2D and  
828 3D conditions. Genes were grouped according functional annotation. (B) Cell plot  
829 representation of specifically expressed genes in M2 macrophages for 2D and 3D

830 conditions. Genes are grouped according functional annotation. Quantification is performed  
831 using the z-score of the FPKM reads. Genes are selected if the fold change is greater than 2  
832 in one condition and not the other (Statistical significance was evaluated with Welch paired t  
833 test with Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple comparison; p-adjusted-value <0.05).  
834 Results are obtained from three independent experiments.

835 Supplemental Figure 3 Integrin expression in human macrophages

836 mRNA expression level of ITGB1 (Integrin  $\beta_1$ ), ITGB2 (Integrin  $\beta_2$ ), ITGB3 (Integrin  $\beta_3$ ),  
837 ITGAL (integrin CD11a), ITGAM (Integrin CD11b) and ITGAX (Integrin CD11c) from the  
838 RNAseq analysis. Results from three independent experiments. mRNA levels are expressed  
839 in FPKM (Fragment per per kilobase of exon model per million reads mapped).

840 Supplemental Figure 4 Protein signature of M1/M2 macrophages in 2D and 3D environment

841 (A) Cell plot representation of specifically expressed proteins in M1 macrophages for 2D and  
842 3D conditions. Proteins were grouped according functional annotation. (B) Cell plot  
843 representation of specifically expressed proteins in M2 macrophages for 2D and 3D  
844 conditions. Proteins are grouped according functional annotation. Quantification is performed  
845 using the z-score of the LFQ. Proteins are selected if the fold change is greater than 2 in one  
846 condition and not the other (Statistical significance was evaluated with Welch paired t test  
847 with Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple comparison; p-adjusted-value <0.05).  
848 Results are obtained from two independent experiments with three analytical replicates.

849 Supplemental Figure 5 STAT6 phosphorylation in 3D is integrin independent

850 Immunoblotting of pSTAT6<sup>Tyr641</sup> is done on M2 macrophages in 2D and 3D with blocking  
851 antibodies against integrins.  $\beta$ -Actin is used as a control loading.

852 Supplemental Figure 6 Secretome of M1 macrophages display an inversed CCL19/CCL20  
853 ratio in 3D in an integrin independent mechanism.

854 (A) Supernatant of M1 macrophages are collected and analyzed on chemokine array  
855 membranes which confirm at the protein level the inverse regulation of CCL19 and CCL20  
856 between 2D and 3D. Upper panel 2D and lower panel 3D. This essay also confirms the  
857 specificity of this ratio as other chemokines are not significantly modulated. (Paired t-test,  
858  $n=3$ , \*\*  $p<0.01$ , \*  $p<0.05$  ). (B) ELISA quantification of CCL19 demonstrate that 3D secretion  
859 in M1 macrophages is not modulated by blocking antibodies directed against integrins.  
860 (Dunnett's multiple comparison test toward the control condition, four independent  
861 experiments).

862 Supplemental Figure 7 Macrophages do not significantly modify the elasticity of their  
863 surrounding physical environment.

864 Elasticity of collagen gels containing M1 and M2 macrophages, as well as empty gels, are  
865 analyzed with an indentation force-volume measurement with an atomic force microscope.  
866 Young modulus of empty gels was found at  $235.9 \pm 74.1$  Pa (mean  $\pm$  SD). Gels  
867 containing M1 and M2 gels were measured at  $281.7 \pm 162.5$  Pa and  $307.7 \pm 112$  Pa  
868 respectively.

869

870 Supplemental Table1: Over expressed genes in M1 macrophages shared by 2D and 3D  
871 conditions

872 Supplemental Table 2: Over expressed genes in M2 macrophages shared by 2D and 3D  
873 conditions

874 Supplemental Table 3: Over expressed proteins in M1 macrophages shared by 2D and 3D  
875 conditions

876 Supplemental Table 4: Over expressed proteins in M2 macrophages shared by 2D and 3D  
877 conditions

878



Figure 1

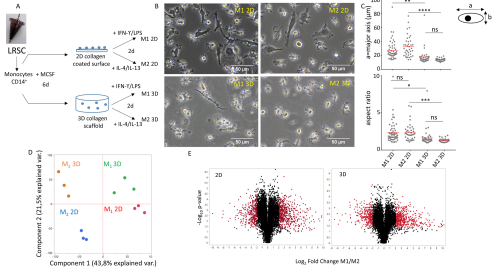
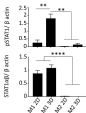
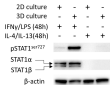


Figure 2

A



B

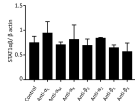
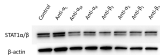
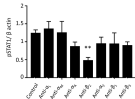
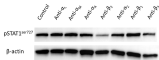


Figure 3

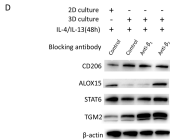
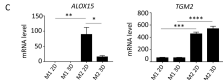
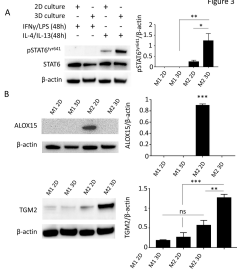
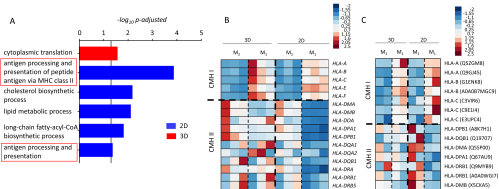


Figure 4



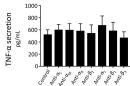
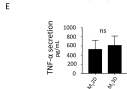
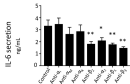
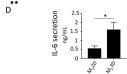
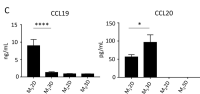
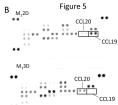
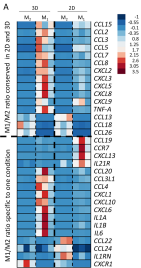


Figure 6

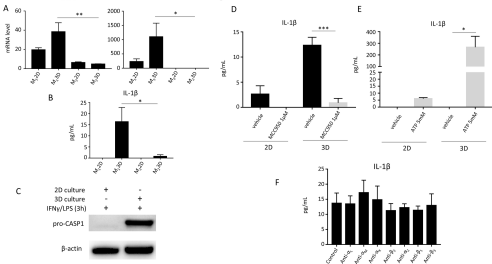
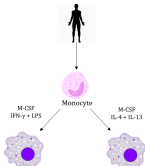


Figure 7



|  | 2D                                    | 3D                                     | 2D                                 | 3D                                 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Transcription factors<br>SOCS proteins | STAT1<br>IRF1<br>pSTAT1               | STAT1<br>IRF1<br>pSTAT1++              | SOCS1<br>pSTAT6                    | SOCS1<br>pSTAT6 ++                 |
| Cytokines                              | TNF- $\alpha$<br>IL-6                 | TNF- $\alpha$<br>IL-6++<br>IL1 $\beta$ |                                    |                                    |
| Chemokines                             | CCL5 CXCL8<br>CXCL9 CXCL10<br>CCL19++ | CCL5 CXCL8<br>CXCL9 CXCL10<br>CCL20    | CCL20                              | CCL20                              |
| Scavenger<br>Receptors                 |                                       |  | MRC1                               | MRC1                               |
| Matrix                                 | MMP9                                  | MMP9                                   | FN1<br>P13A1                       | FN1<br>P13A1                       |
| Amino acid<br>metabolism               | IDO1<br>KYNU                          | IDO1<br>KYNU                           |                                    |                                    |
| Others                                 | CD40<br>GPR1                          | CD40<br>GPR1                           | CD200R<br>IL17RB<br>TGM2<br>ALOX15 | CD200R<br>IL17RB<br>TGM2<br>ALOX15 |
|  | MHC I<br>CCR7                         | MHC I<br>ITGB3                         | MHC II<br>ALOX15                   | TGM2                               |