



# Enhanced inflammation and suppressed adaptive immunity in COVID-19 with prolonged RNA shedding

Rui Sun 孙瑞

Laboratory of Proteomics and Big Data

蛋白质组大数据实验室

[www.guomics.com](http://www.guomics.com)

**WESTLAKE  
UNIVERSITY**



# Cell Discovery

Explore content ▾ About the journal ▾ Publish with us ▾

[nature](#) > [cell discovery](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)

Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 25 July 2022](#)

## Enhanced inflammation and suppressed adaptive immunity in COVID-19 with prolonged RNA shedding

[Xiaohua Tang](#), [Rui Sun](#), [Weigang Ge](#), [Tingting Mao](#), [Liujia Qian](#), [Chongquan Huang](#), [Zhouyang Kang](#), [Qi Xiao](#), [Meng Luo](#), [Qiushi Zhang](#), [Sainan Li](#), [Hao Chen](#), [Wei Liu](#), [Bingjie Wang](#), [Shufei Li](#), [Xiaoling Lin](#), [Xueqin Xu](#), [Huanzheng Li](#), [Lianpeng Wu](#), [Jianyi Dai](#), [Huanhuan Gao](#), [Lu Li](#), [Tian Lu](#), [Xiao Liang](#), [Xue Cai](#), [Guan Ruan](#), [Fei Xu](#), [Yan Li](#), [Yi Zhu](#) ✉, [Ziqing Kong](#) ✉, [Jianping Huang](#) ✉ & [Tiannan Guo](#) ✉ Show fewer authors

[Cell Discovery](#) **8**, Article number: 70 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

1 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

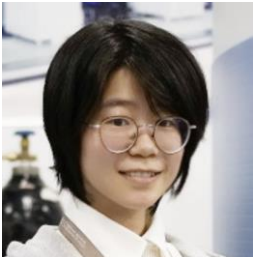
### 西湖大学



郭天南



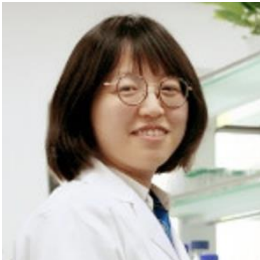
朱怡



孙瑞



葛伟刚

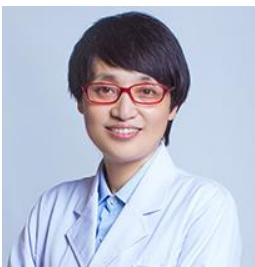


钱鏐佳

### 温州中心医院



黄建平



唐少华

### 迪安诊断

孔子清  
康洲阳

毛婷婷, 黄重庆

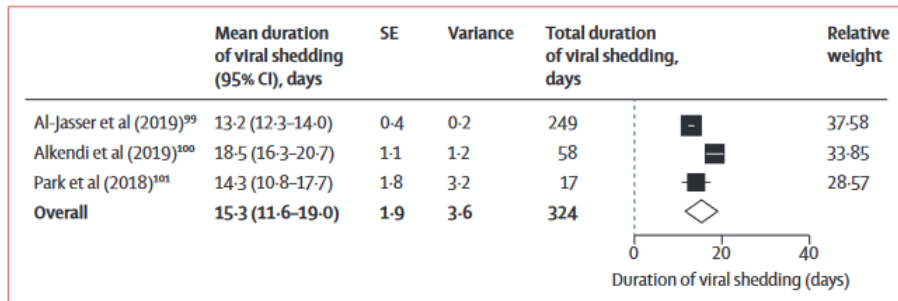


# OUTLINE

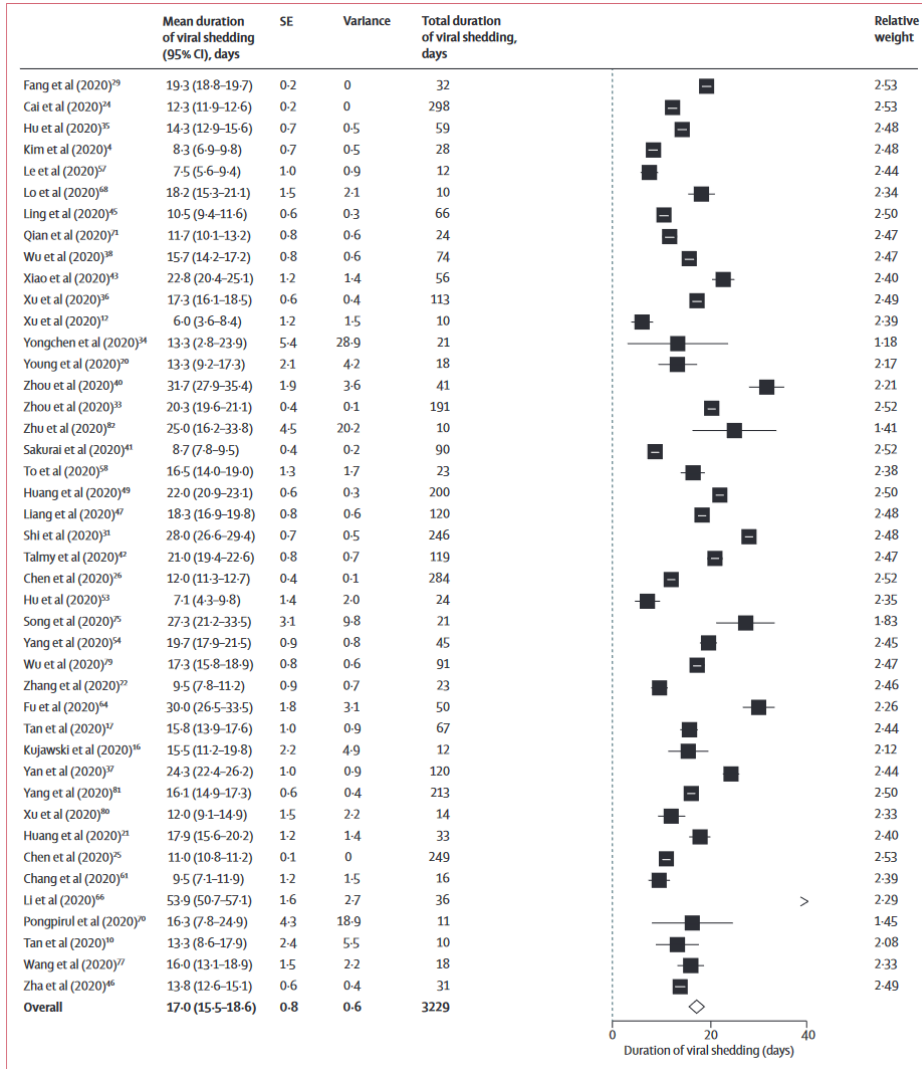
- Background and research gap
- Overview of clinical patients, samples and study design
- Immunological analysis between the LC and SC groups
- Differentially expressed proteomes and metabolomes between the LC and SC groups
- Integration of proteomic and metabolomic data
- Risk factors for COVID-19 prognosis

# BACKGROUND

## The duration of viral RNA shedding



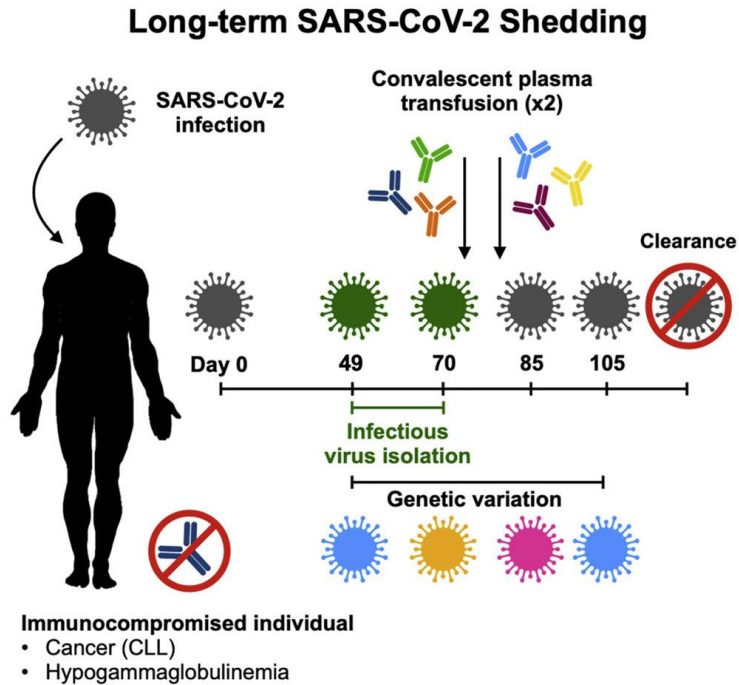
The mean duration of MERS-CoV shedding is less than **20** days



The mean duration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA shedding is usually from **10-25** days.

# BACKGROUND

## The relationship between the phenotype and viral RNA shedding



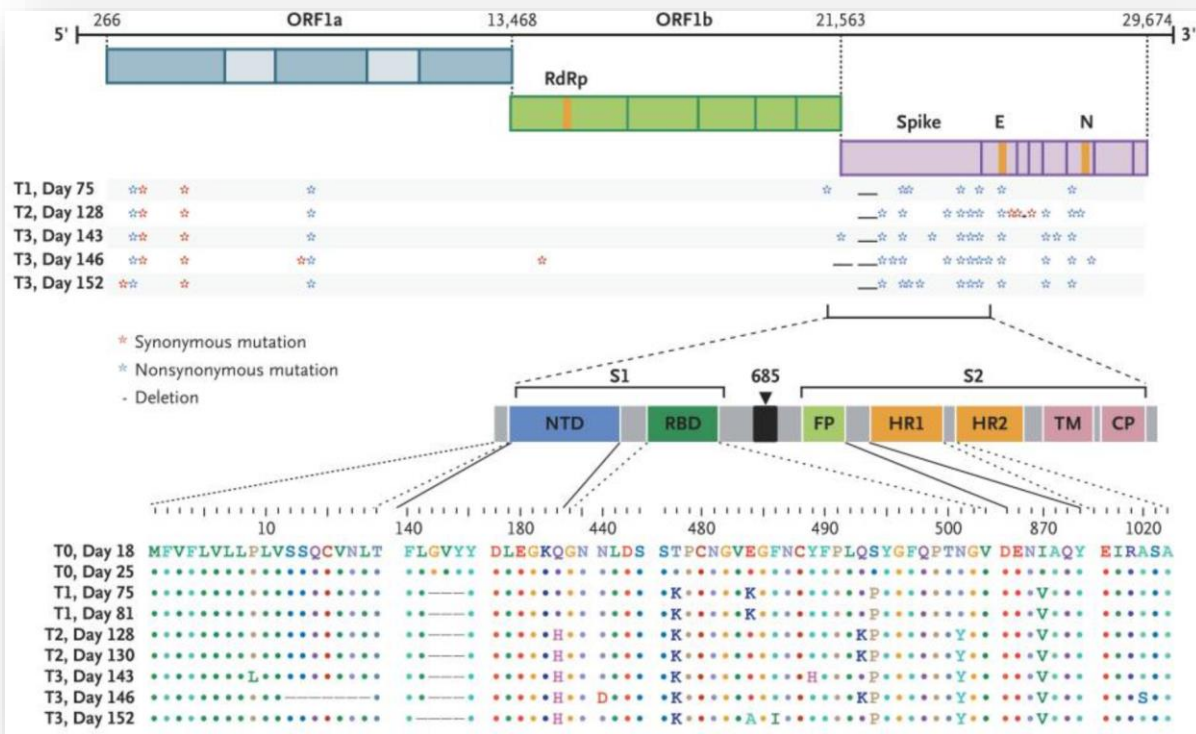
Avanzato, et al. *Cell*. 2020

**Table 1.**  
Comparison of Clinical Characteristics and Treatment Responses Between Groups With Different Shedding Durations

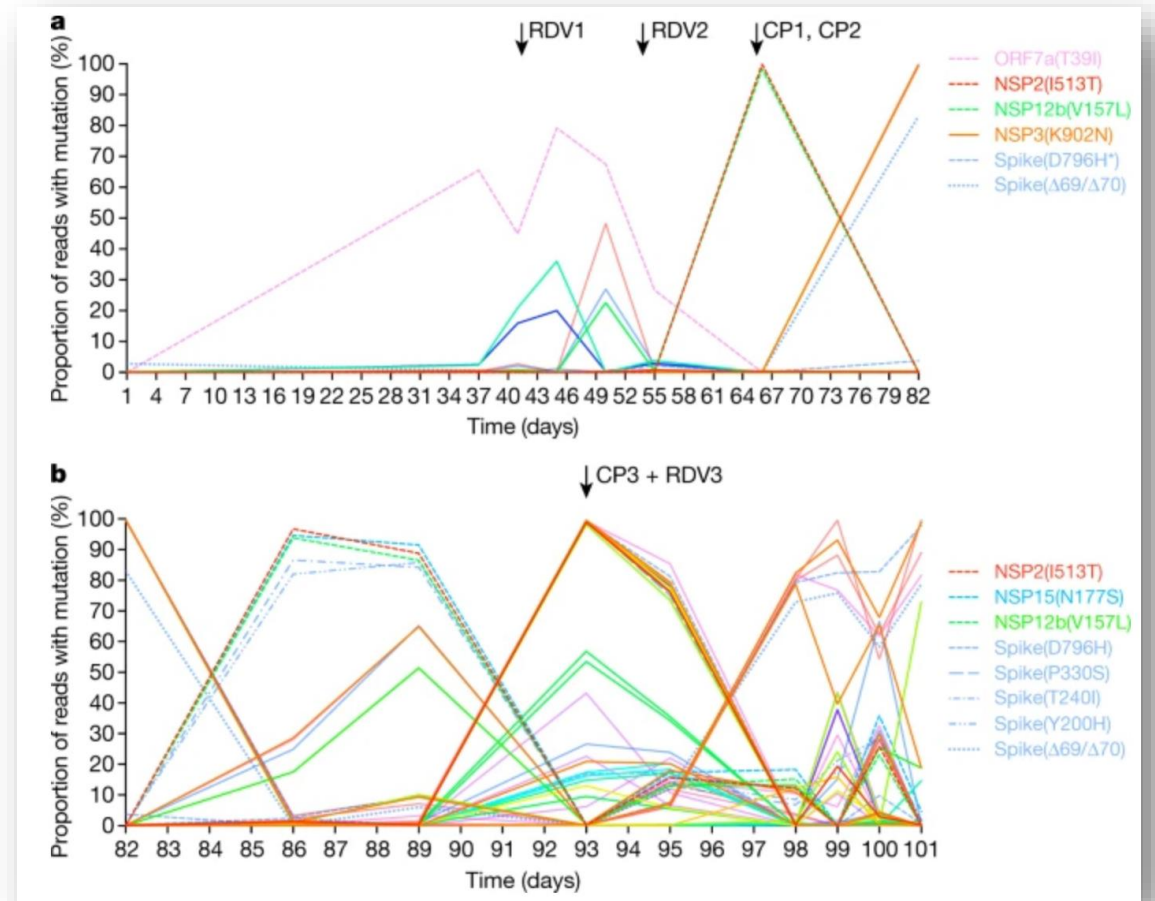
	All Patients (N = 113)		Viral Shedding Duration After Illness Onset		P <sup>a</sup>		
	n	Values	n	<15 Days (n = 37)		≥15 Days (n = 76)	
Age, years, median (IQR range)	113	52 (43, 63)	37	48 (34, 61)	76	54.5 (45, 63)	.033
Male sex, % (n)	113	58.4 (66)	37	40.5 (15)	76	67.1 (51)	.009
Exposure history in Hubei, % (n)	113	62.8 (71)	37	67.6 (25)	76	60.5 (46)	.467
Exposure history to confirmed patients, % (n)	113	40.7 (46)	37	51.4 (19)	76	35.5 (27)	.108
Duration from illness onset to hospital admission, median (IQR), days	113	5 (3, 8)	37	4 (2, 6)	76	6 (4, 9)	.001
Patients with severe disease at admission, % (n)	113	28.3 (32)	37	16.2 (6)	76	34.2 (26)	.049
Comorbidity, % (n)							
Hypertension	113	23.0 (26)	37	8.1 (3)	76	30.3 (23)	.009
Diabetes	113	8.0 (9)	37	5.4 (2)	76	9.2 (7)	.715
Coronary heart disease	113	5.3 (6)	37	5.4 (2)	76	5.3 (4)	1
Current smoker	113	7.1 (8)	37	8.1 (3)	76	6.6 (5)	.715
Treatment, % (n)							
Corticosteroid	113	56.6 (64)	37	40.5 (15)	76	64.5 (49)	.025
Umifenovir	113	48.7 (55)	37	43.2 (16)	76	51.3 (39)	.420
Ribavirin	113	16.8 (19)	37	8.1 (3)	76	21.1 (16)	.084
Invasive mechanical ventilation	113	15.9 (18)	37	2.7 (1)	76	22.4 (17)	.006

Xu, et al. *Clinical infectious diseases*. 2020

# The relationship between the viral RNA shedding prolonged and evolution



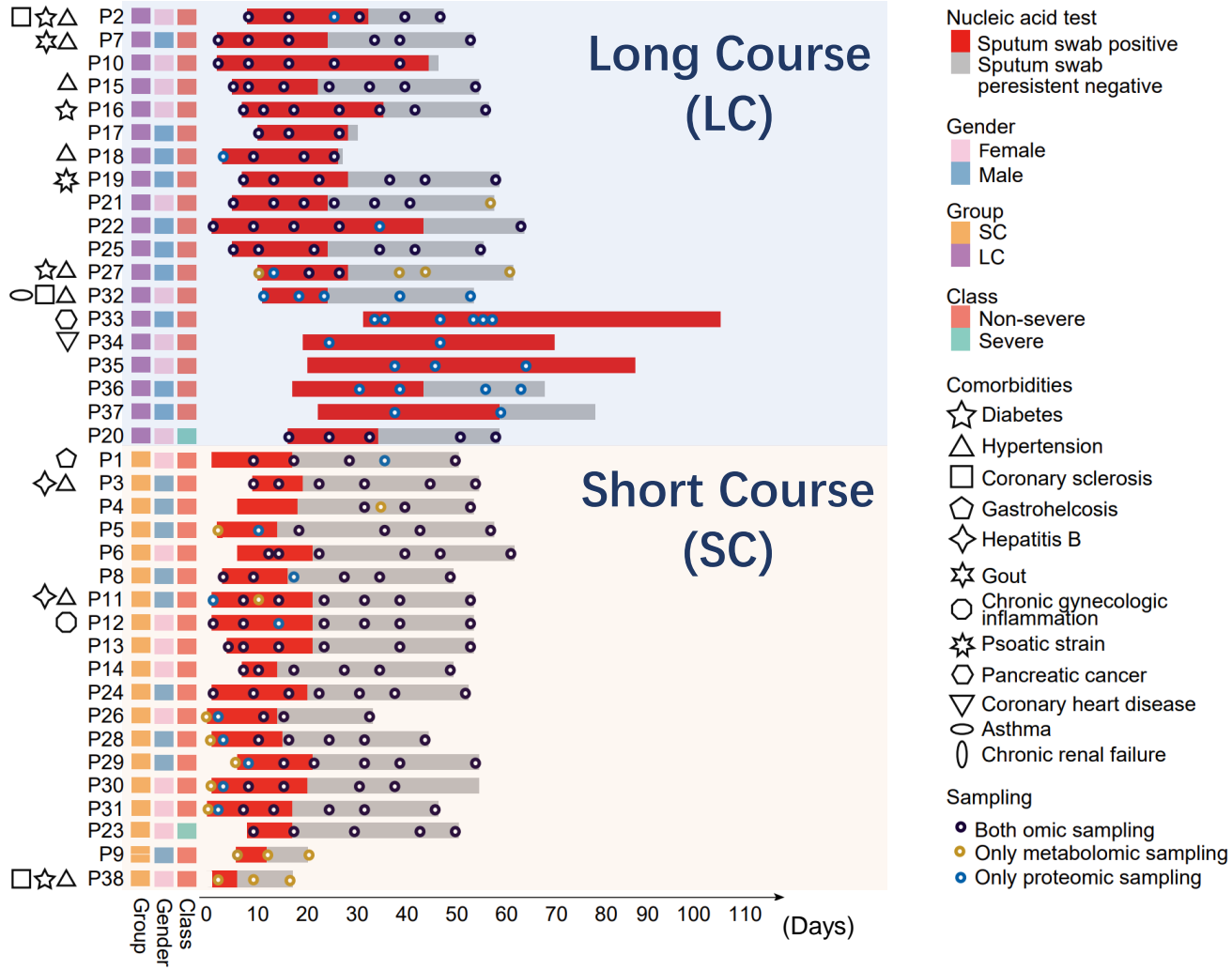
Bina, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020



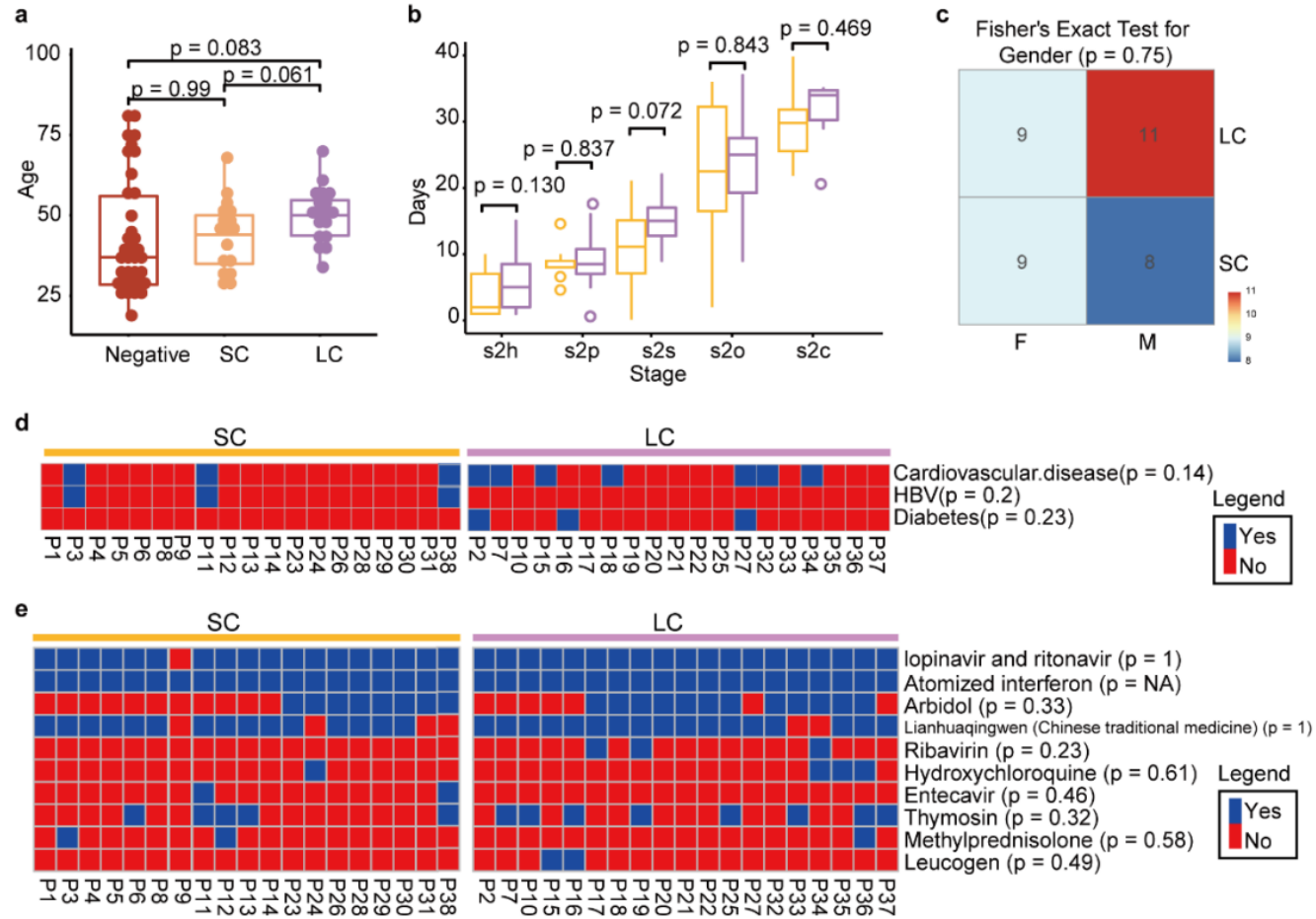
Kemp, et al. *Nature.* 2021

Few studies have characterized **host responses of patients with long viral RNA shedding at the molecular level.**

# THE OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL PATIENTS

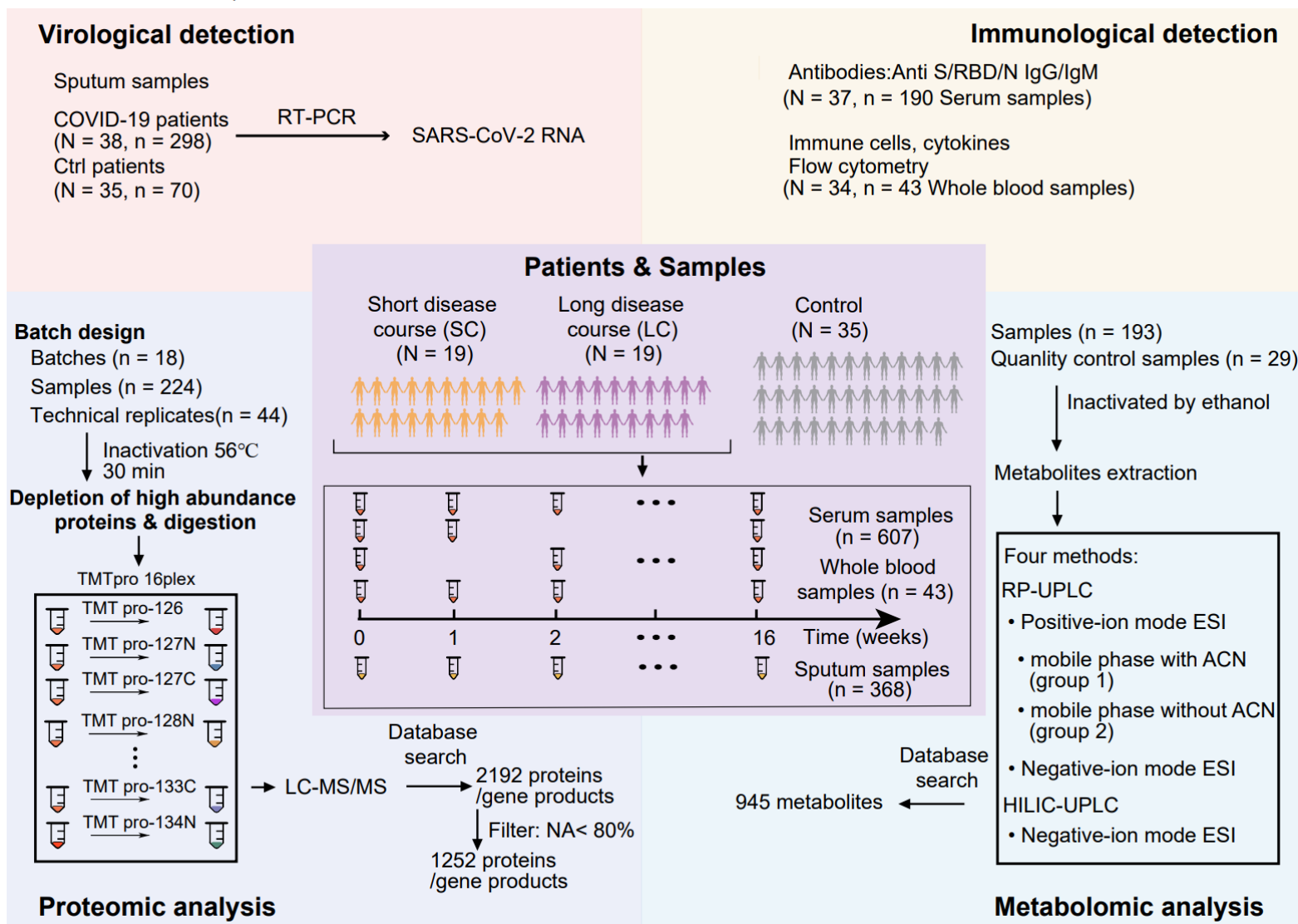


# NO SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL DIFFERENCES

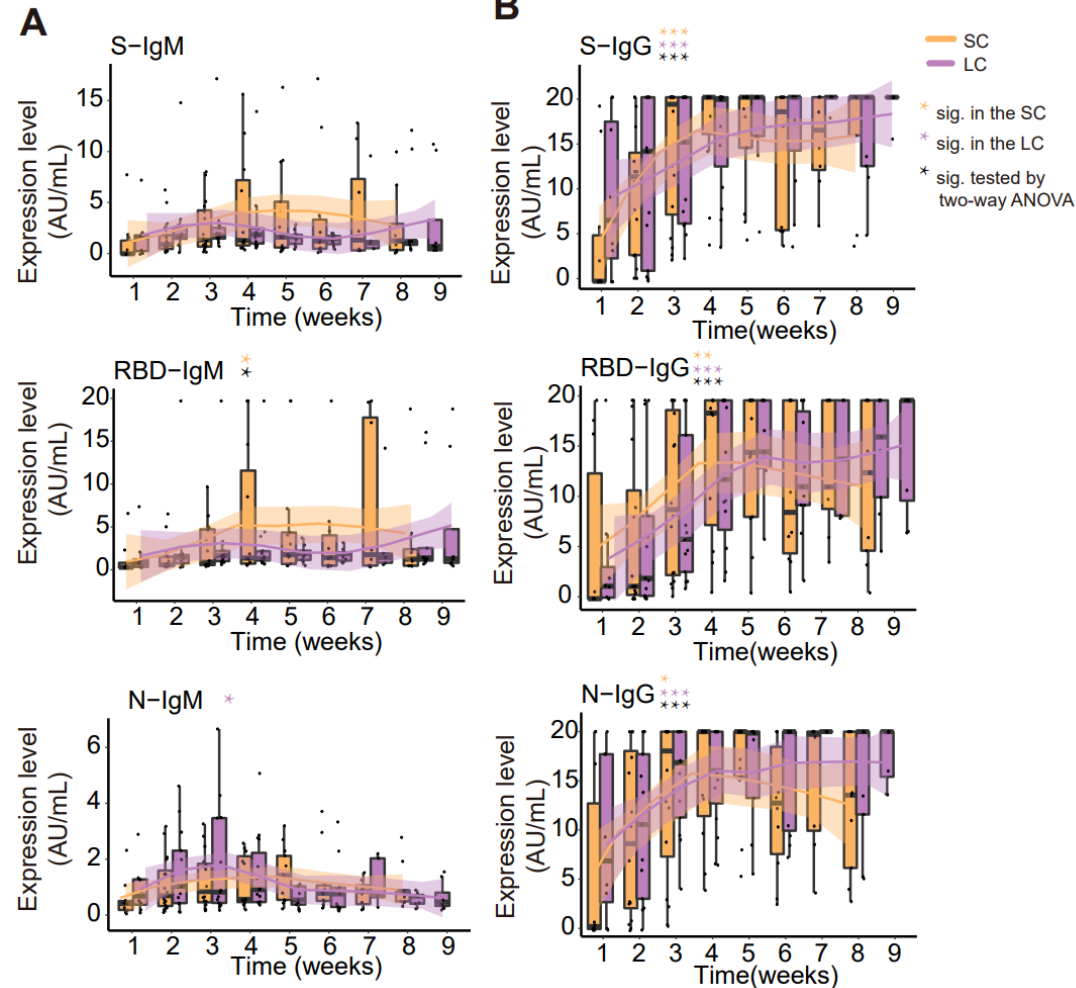




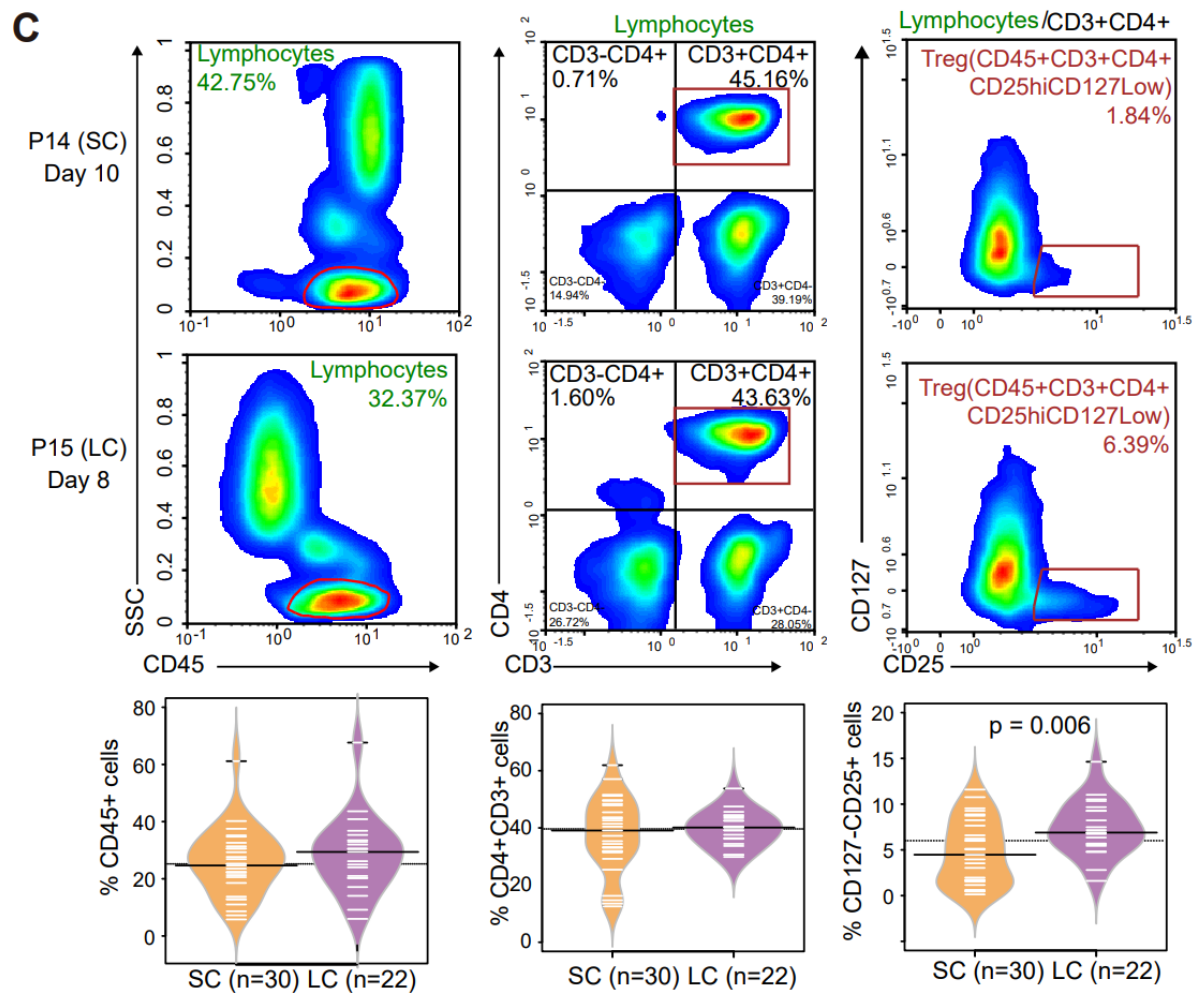
# STUDY DESIGN



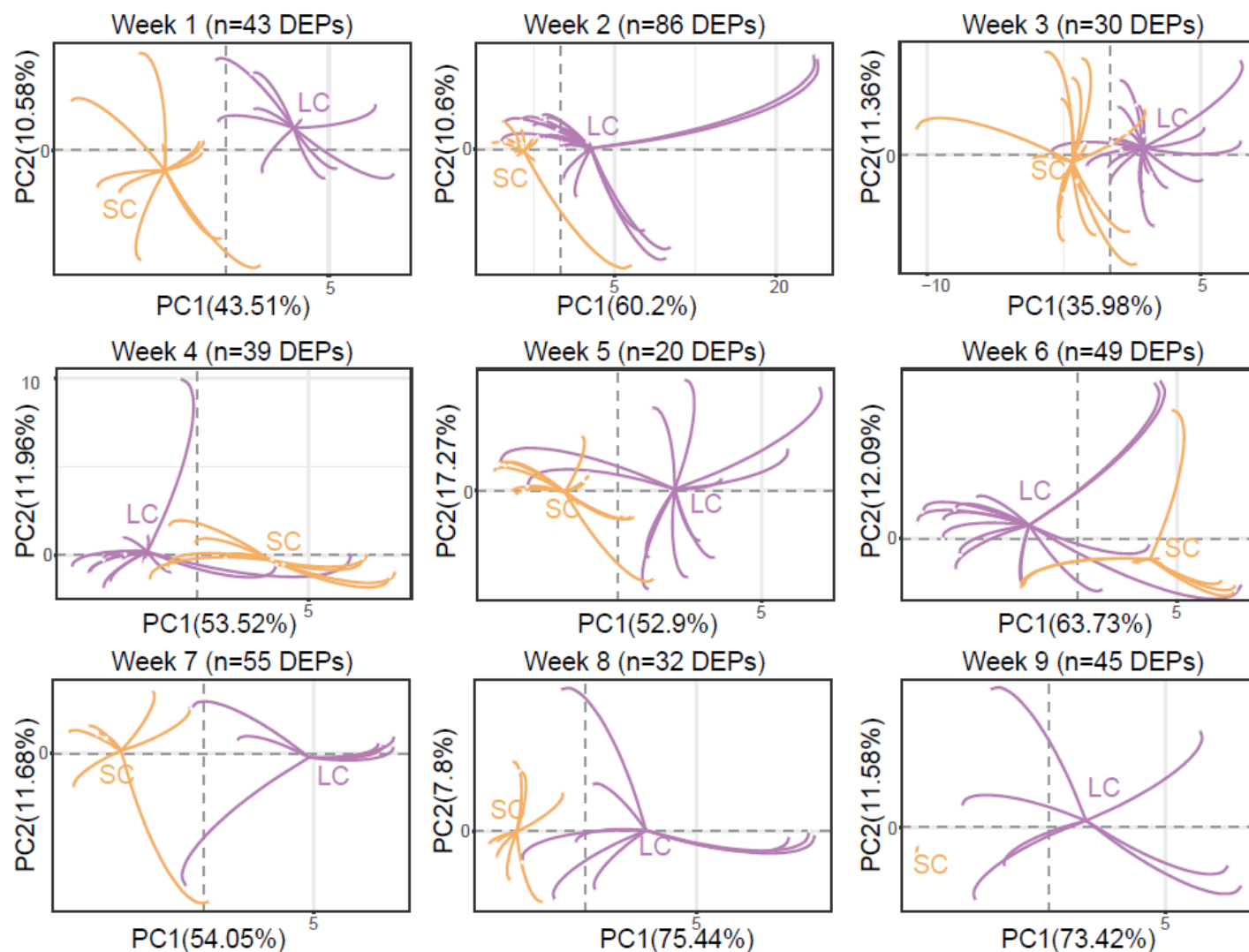
# THE TIME-SERIES IMMUNOLOGICAL DETECTION



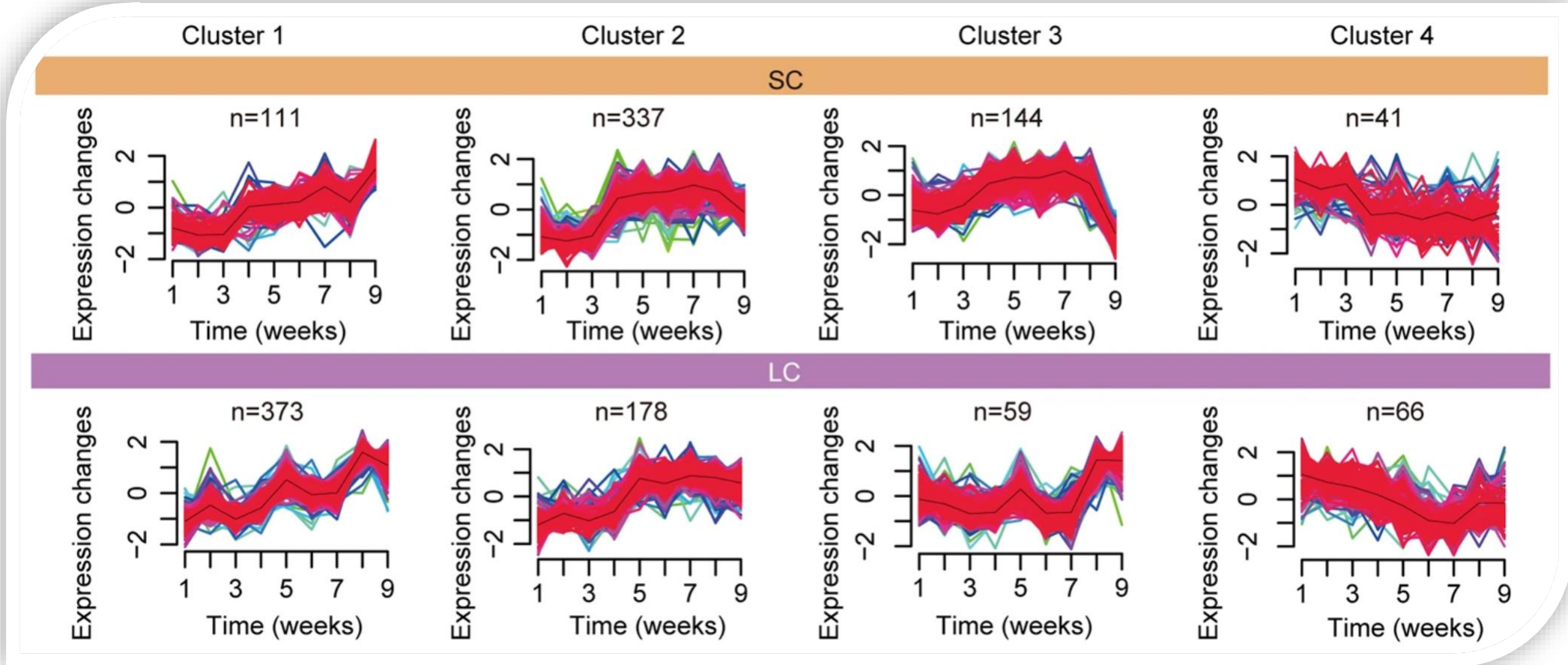
# DOWNREGULATION OF TREG CELLS



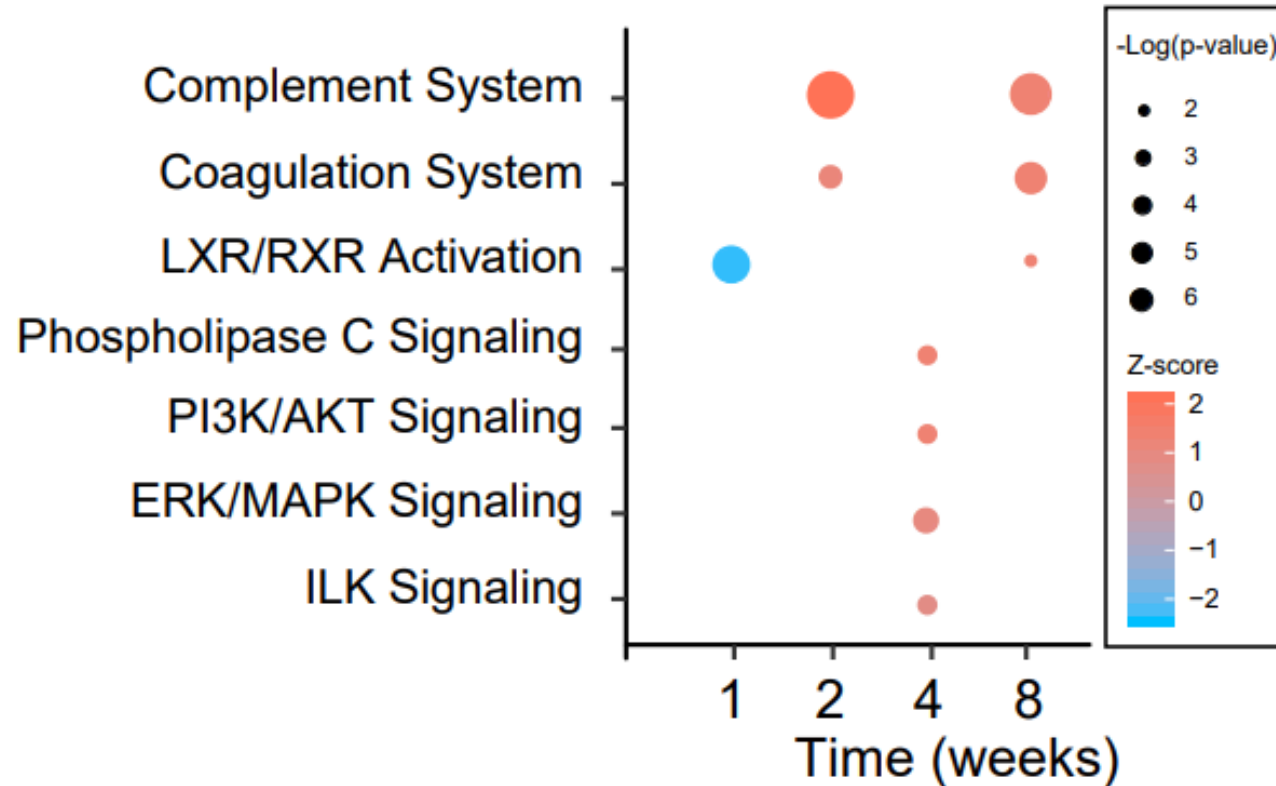
# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LC AND SC



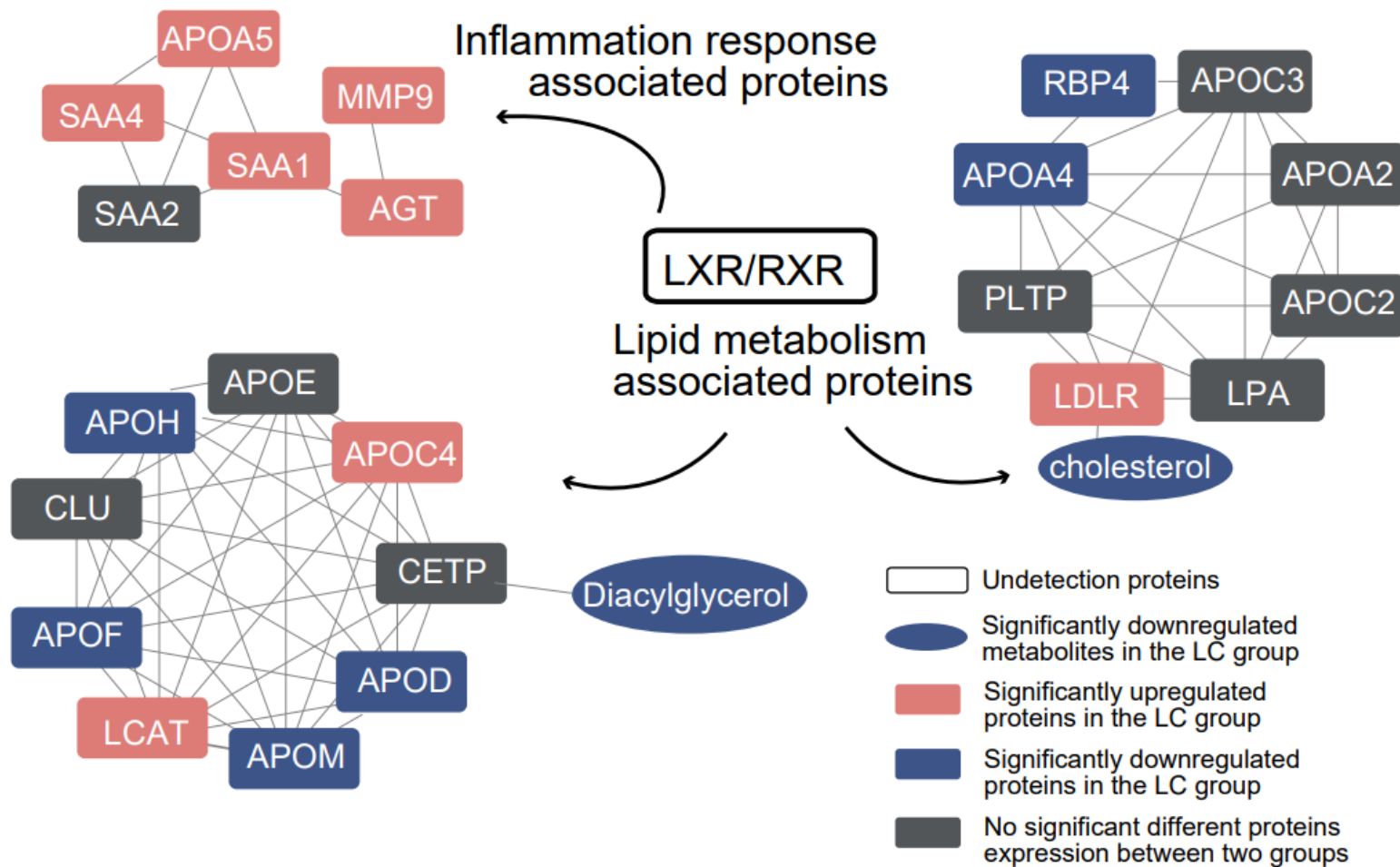
# DELAYED IMMUNE RESPONSE IN THE LC GROUP



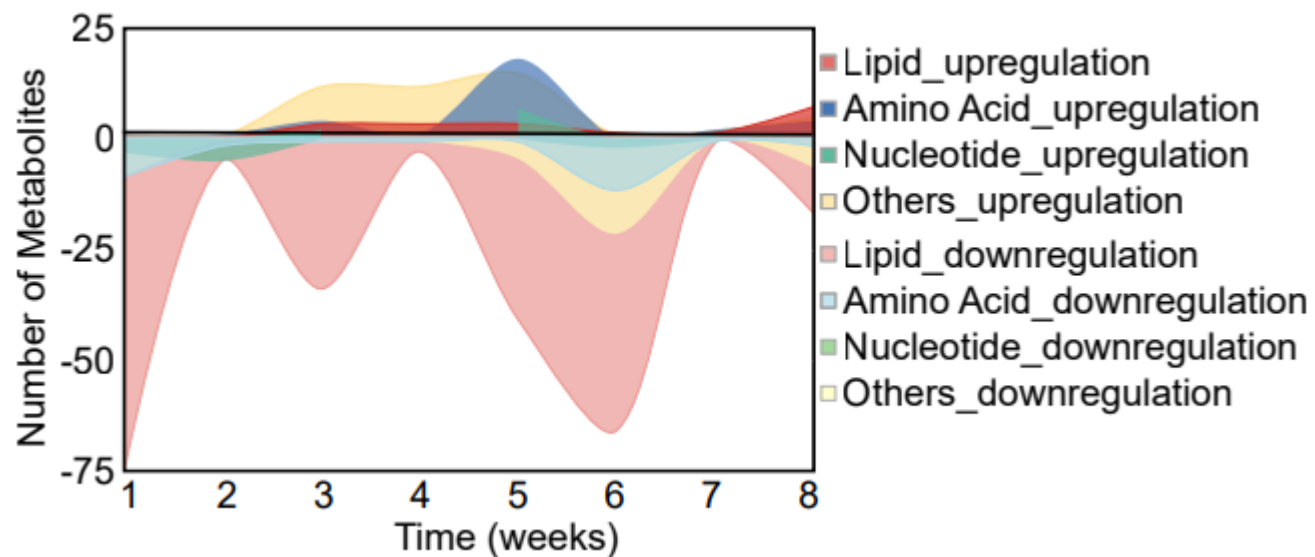
## LXR/RXR WAS INHIBITED IN THE LC GROUP



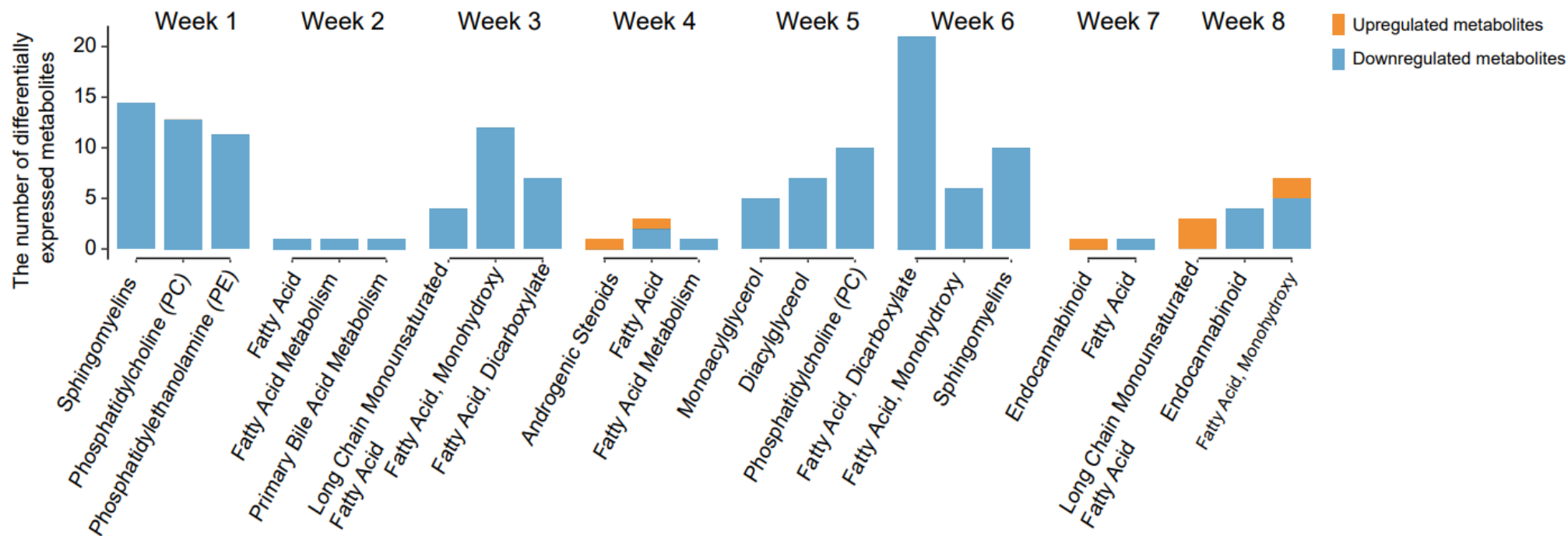
# LXR/RXR MEDIATED LIPID REGULATION AND IMMUNITY IN THE LC GROUP



## DOWNREGULATED LIPID IN THE LC GROUP

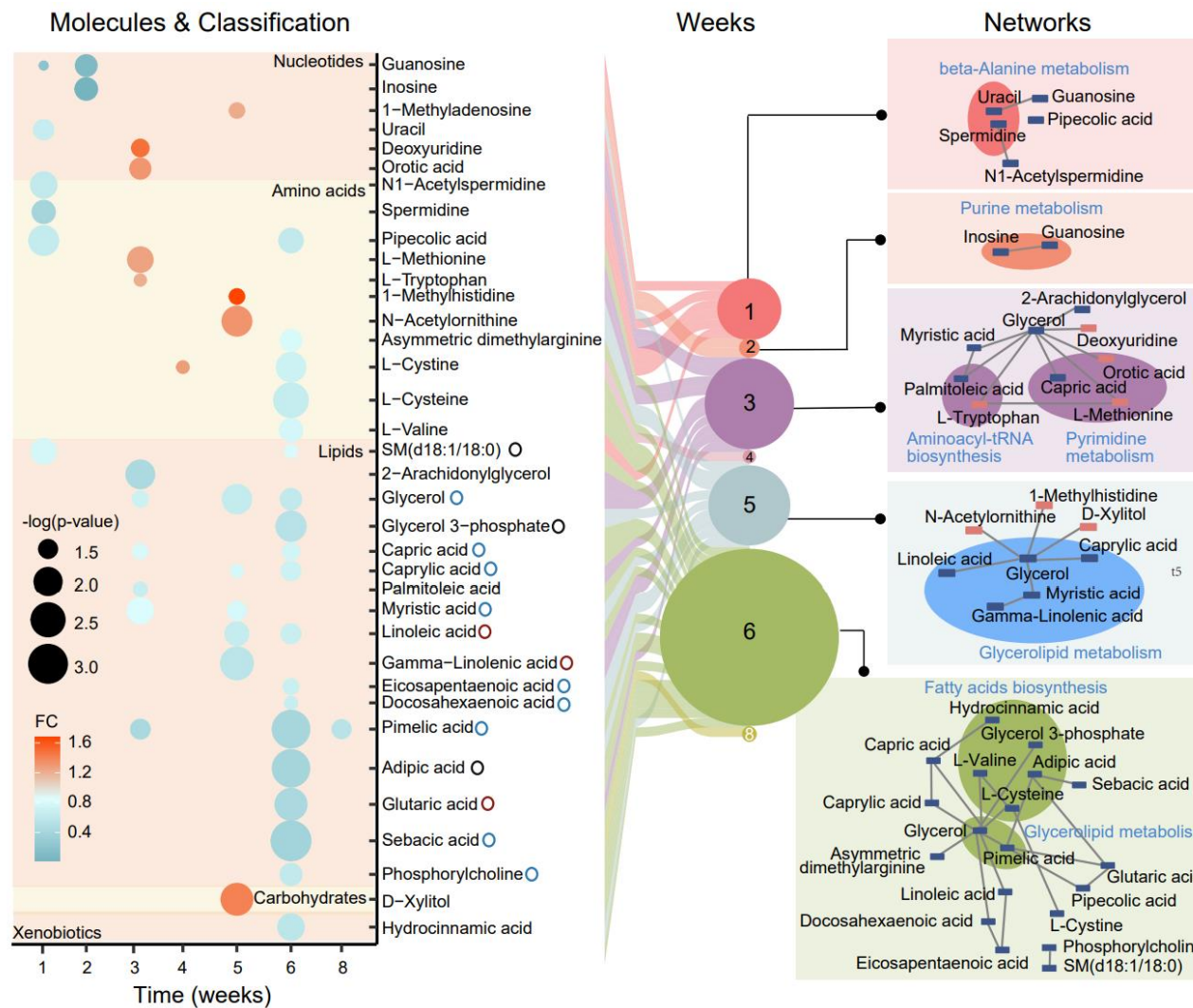






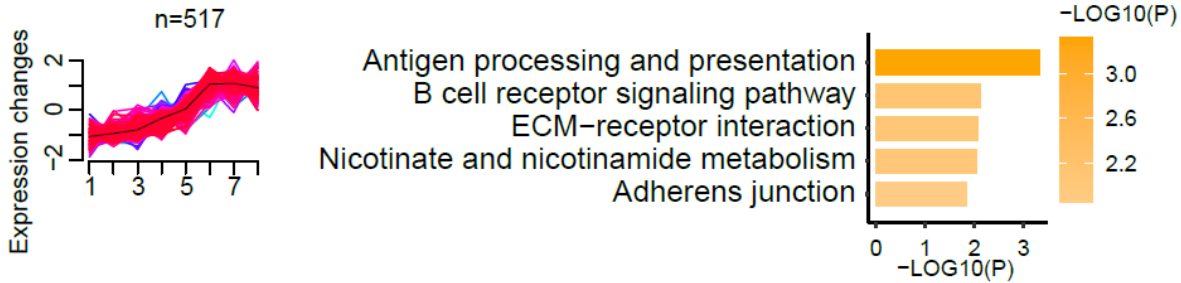
The most significantly downregulated lipids in the LC group are sphingomyelins, **phosphatidylcholine (PC)**, and PC is a well-known as a kind of **anti-inflammation factor**.

# DOWNREGULATED ANTI-INFLAMMATORY LIPIDS IN THE LC GROUP

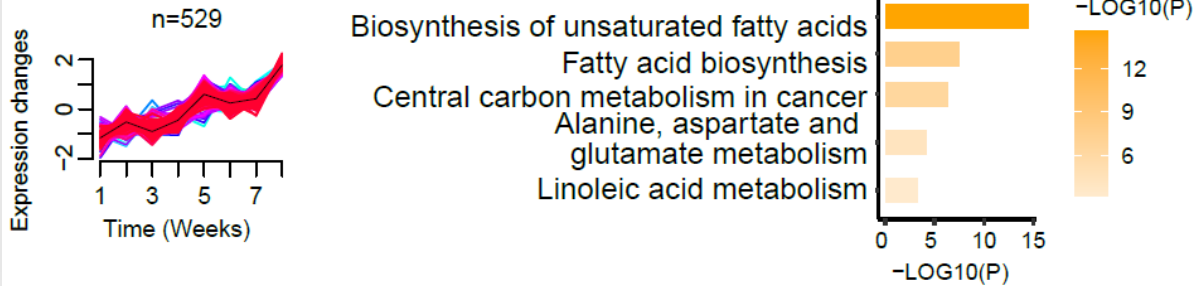


# PROTEOMICS AND METABOLOMICS INTEGRATION

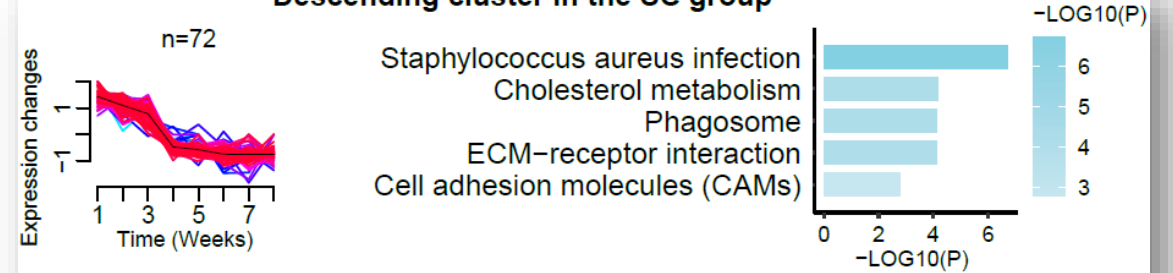
## Ascending cluster in the SC group



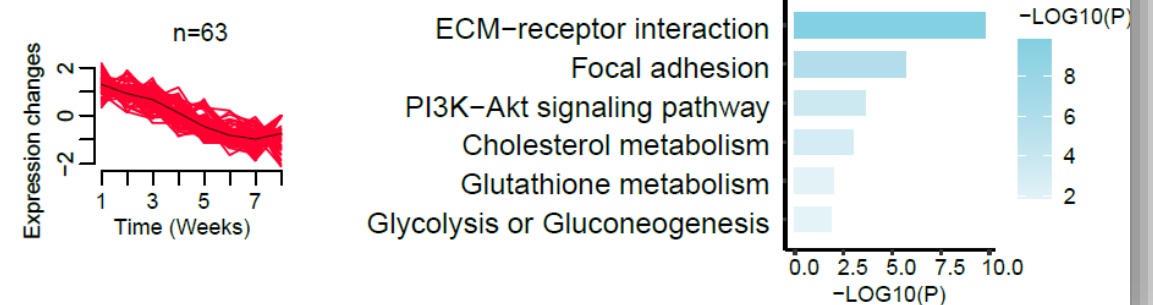
## Ascending cluster in the LC group



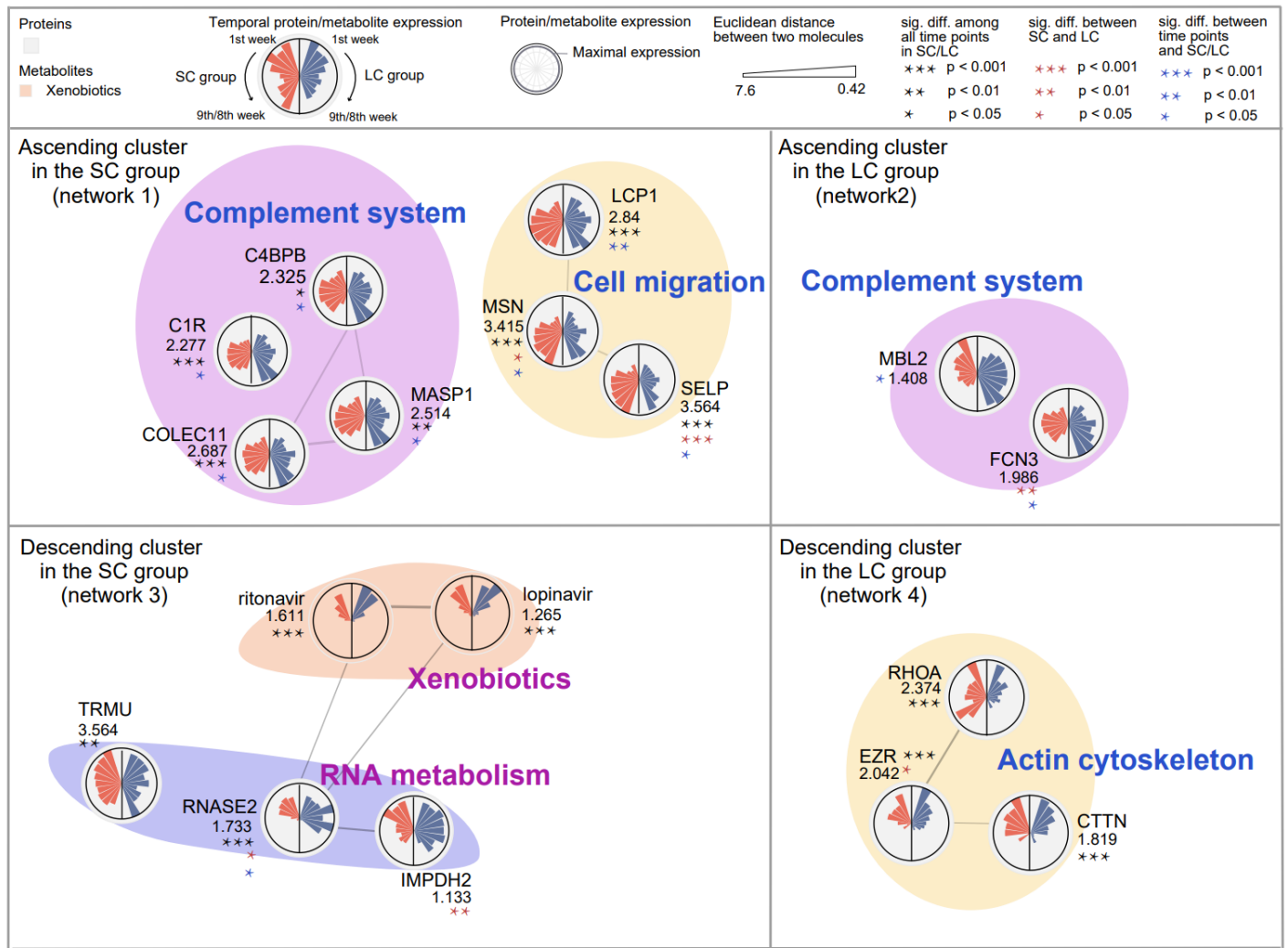
## Descending cluster in the SC group



## Descending cluster in the LC group

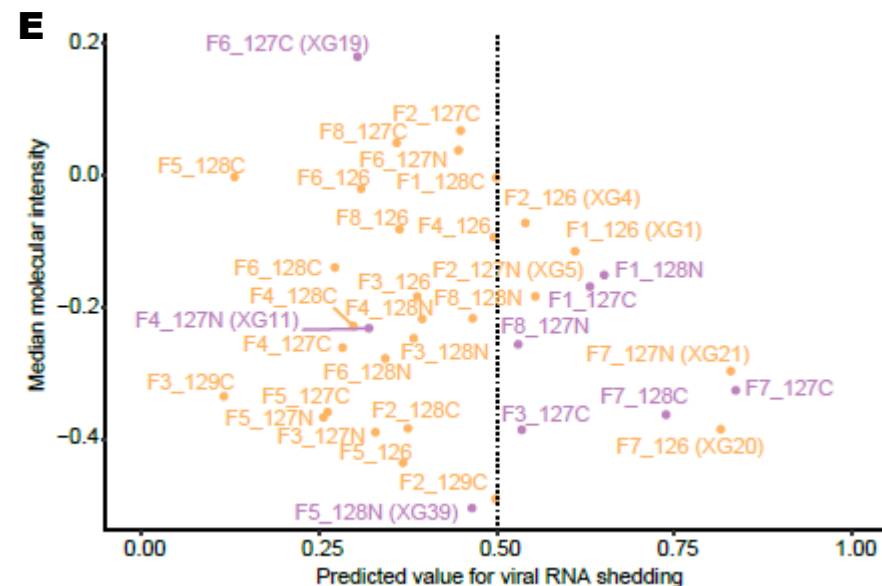
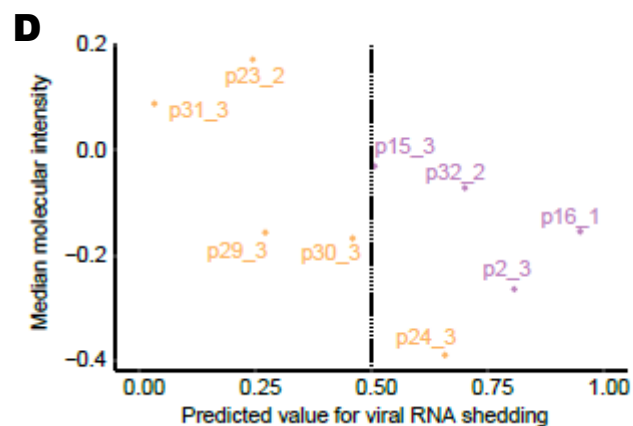
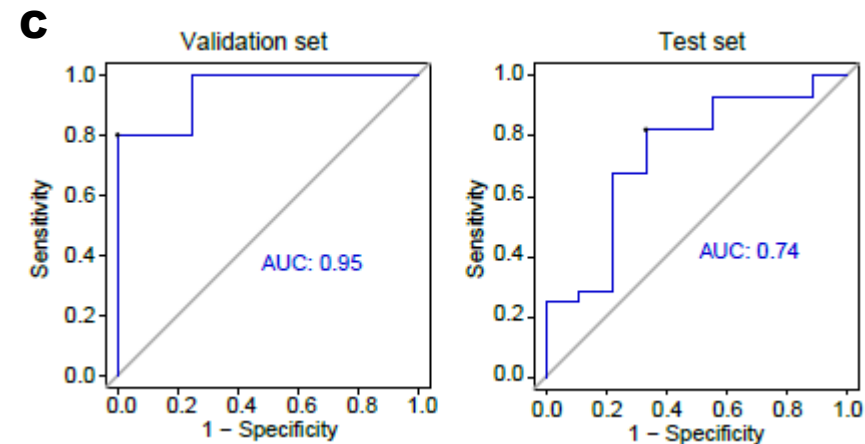
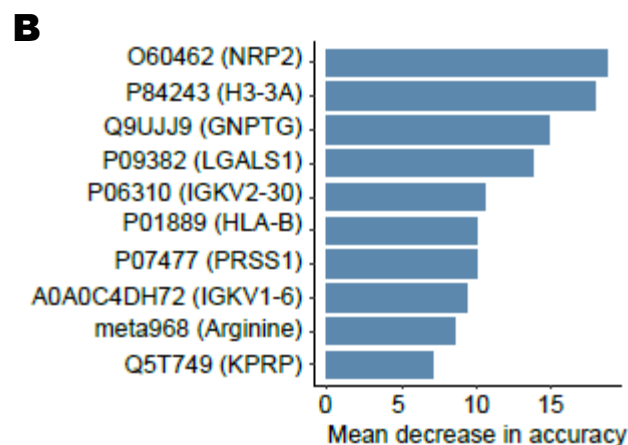
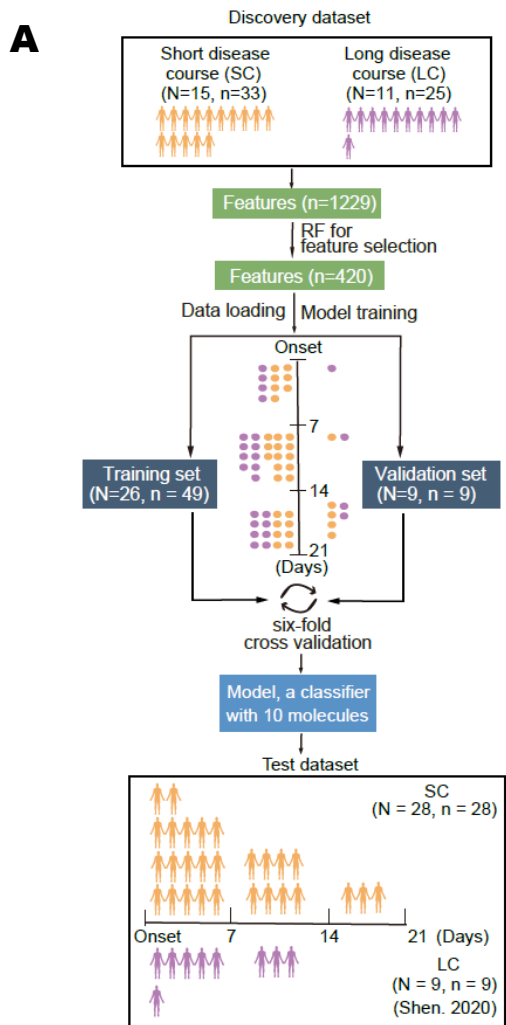


# KNN-BASED NETWORK ANALYSIS



Activated lectin pathway, suppressed cell migration, and enhanced viral replication plausibly contribute to prolonged RNA shedding.

# MOLECULAR RISK FACTORS FOR PROLONGED VIRAL RNA SHEDDING PERIOD





# CONCLUSION

- To understand the molecular mechanisms underlying prolonged viral RNA shedding in COVID-19 patients, we profiled a deep and time-resolved landscape of their plasma proteome and metabolome.
- These patients exhibited prolonged inflammation and suppressed adaptive immunity.
- Prolonged viral RNA shedding was associated with ten potential risk factors, including NRP2, H3-3A, GNPTG, LGALS1, IGKV2-30, HLA-B, PRSS1, IGKV1-6, KPRP, and arginine.