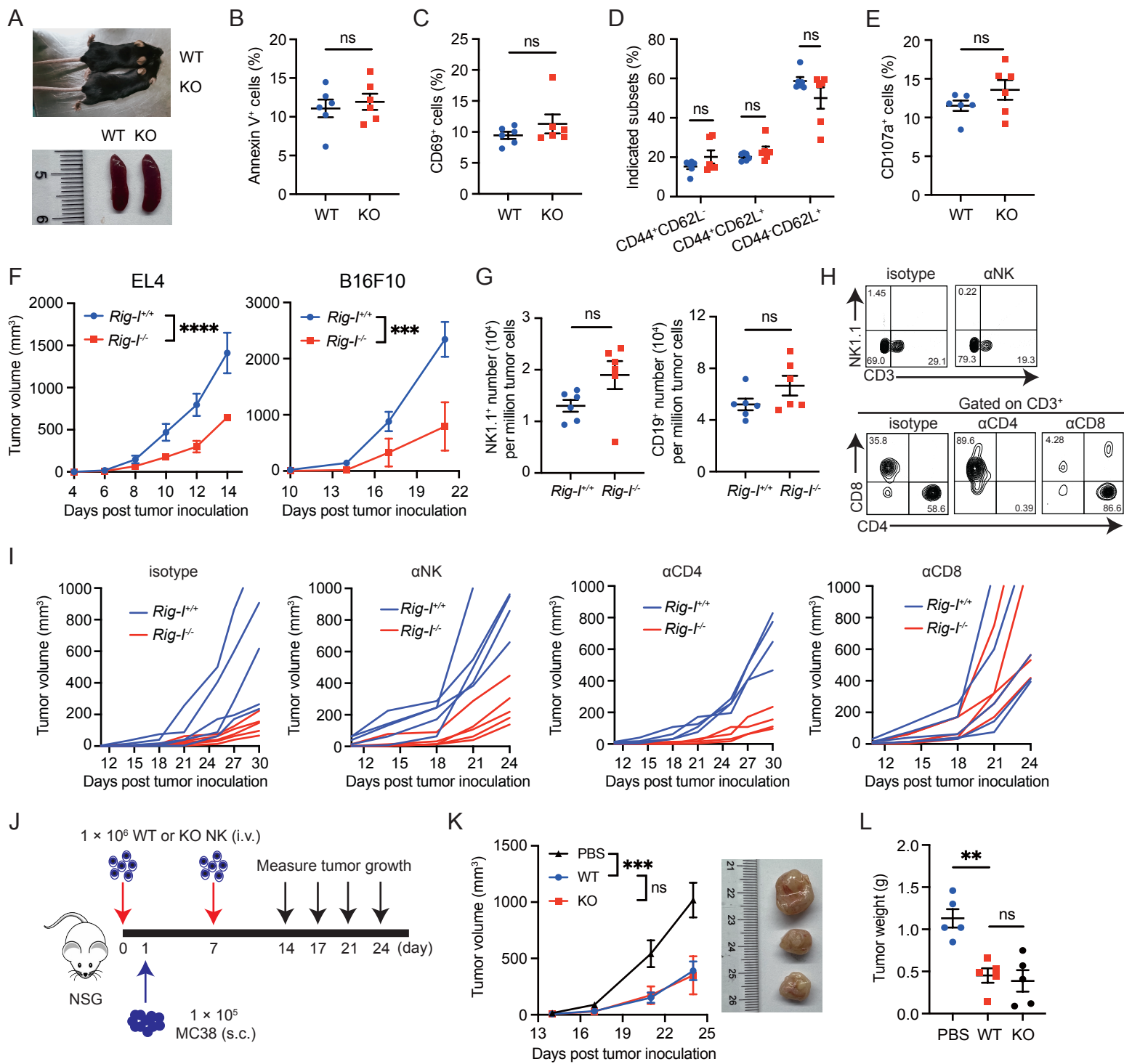


Figure S1



**Figure S1. Tumor inhibitory effect of *Rig-I* knockout is attributed to CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.**

(A) Representative picture of 6-week-old *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> (WT) or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> (KO) mice (upper panel) or spleens of 6-week-old WT or KO mice (bottom panel).

(B-E) The combined plots of flow cytometric analyses of Annexin V (B), CD69 (C), CD44 and CD62L (D) or CD107a (E) levels on splenic CD8<sup>+</sup> cells from WT or KO mice at 6 weeks old.

(F)  $2 \times 10^5$  EL4 (left panel) or B16F10 cells (right panel) were subcutaneously inoculated into 6-week-old *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice and tumor volume was monitored for 2-3 weeks (n = 6 per group).

(G) Quantification of indicated subsets of dissociated MC38 tumor in *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

(H) Representative flow cytometric analyses of indicated proteins in peripheral blood from *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice on day 10.

(I) Tumor growth curve of individual *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse inoculated with MC38 cells and treated with indicated antibody.

(J)  $1 \times 10^6$  NK cells from spleens of *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were intravenously transfused into NSG mice. Saline was used as a vehicle control.  $1 \times 10^5$  MC38 cells were subcutaneously inoculated 1 day post NK cell injection and tumor volume was measured on day 14, 17, 21 and 24 (n = 5 per group).

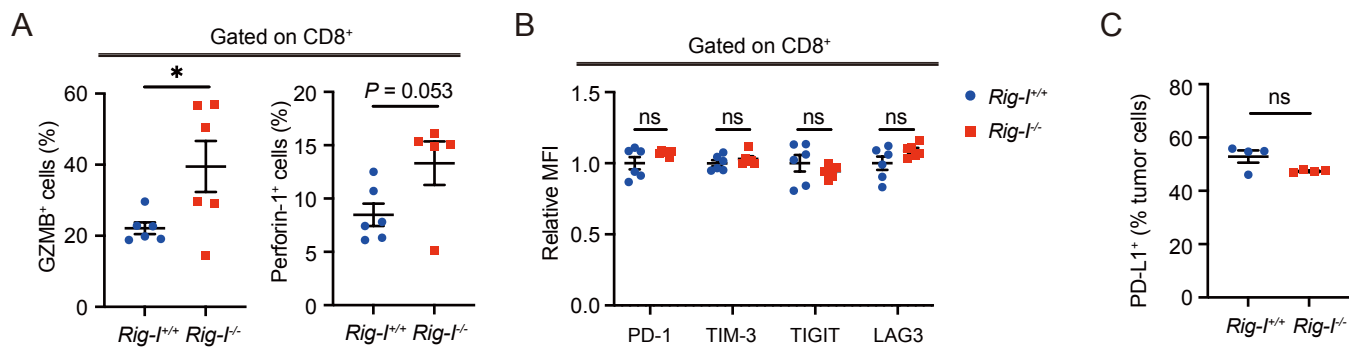


(K) Tumor growth curve (left panel) and representative picture of tumor from each group on day 24 (right panel) are shown

(L) Combined plot of tumor weight on day 24.

Data are representative of two independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$  and \*\*  $P < 0.01$  by unpaired Student's  $t$  test (B-E, L) or 2-way ANOVA (F, K).

Figure S2



**Figure S2. Evaluation of immunophenotype of *Rig-I* ablated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.**

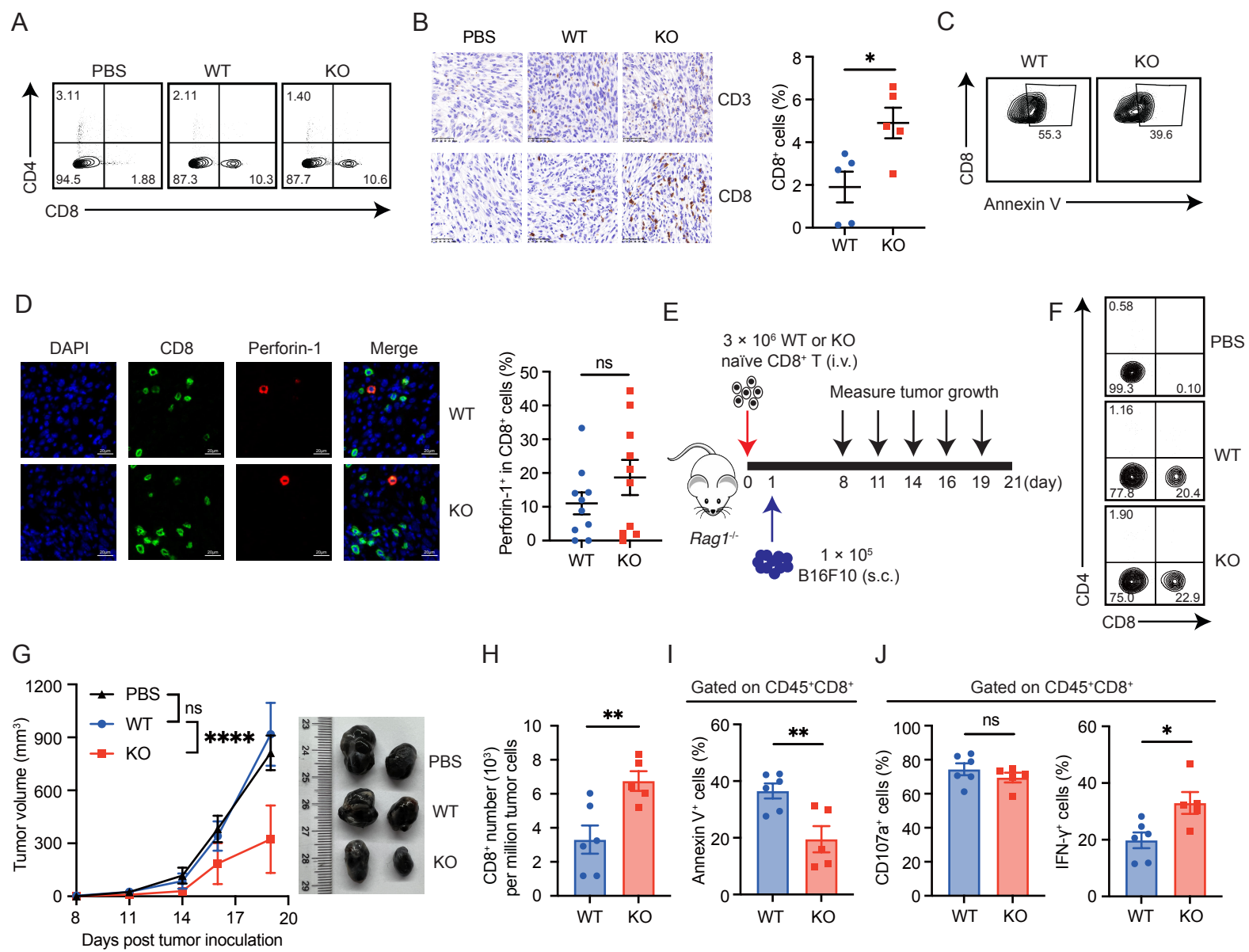
(A) The combined plots of flow cytometric analyses of granzyme B (GZMB) and perforin-1 are shown.

(B) The expression of inhibitory proteins in tumor-infiltrating CD45<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell of *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were detected by flow cytometry and the relative mean fluorescence intensity was calculated.

(C) The proportion of PD-L1<sup>+</sup> cells in MC38 tumor cells of *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice subcutaneously inoculated tumor tissue was detected by flow cytometry.

Data are representative of two independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$  by unpaired Student's *t* test.

Figure S3



**Figure S3. Engraftment, survival and effector function of adoptively transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.**

(A) Representative flow cytometric analyses of CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> cells in spleens of *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice injected with PBS, *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> naïve CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.

(B) Representative IHC staining images of indicated markers in tumor tissue (left panel) and the combined plot illustrating percentages of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells of nucleated cells in one slide are shown (right panel, n = 5 per group).

(C) Representative flow cytometric analyses of Annexin V<sup>+</sup> cells in tumor-infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells are shown.

(D) Immunofluorescence staining of tumor tissue was performed to detect CD8 and perforin-1. 10 random fields for each group were analyzed. Representative images (left panel) and combined plot (right panel) of the percentages of perforin-1<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells are shown.

(E-F)  $3 \times 10^6$  naïve CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from spleens of *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were intravenously transfused into *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Saline was used as a vehicle control.

$1 \times 10^5$  B16F10 cells were subcutaneously inoculated 1 day post T cell injection and tumor volume was measured on day 8, 11, 14, 16 and 19 (n = 6 per group)

(E). Representative flow cytometric analyses of CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> cells in peripheral blood of *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice on day 17 are shown (F).

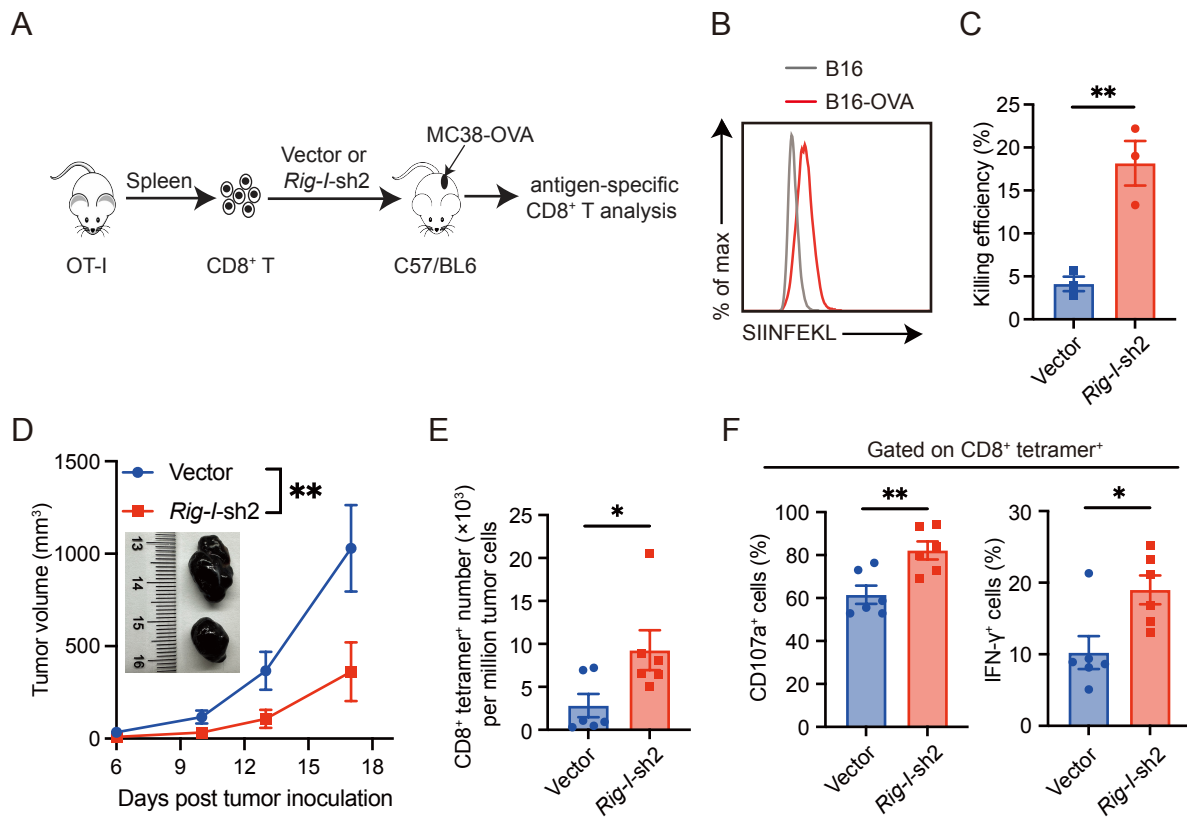
(G) Tumor growth curve of each group (left panel) and representative picture of tumor on day 21 (right panel) are shown.

(H) CD45<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> cell number was counted using flow cytometry.

(I-J) Annexin V, IFN- $\gamma$  and CD107a were detected by flow cytometry. The percentage of Annexin V<sup>+</sup> cells (I) and IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> or CD107a<sup>+</sup> cells (J) in CD45<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> cells are shown.

Data are representative of at least two independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$  and \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , by unpaired Student's  $t$  test (B, D, H-J) or 2-way ANOVA (G).

Figure S4



**Figure S4. RIG-I inhibits survival and effector function of transferred antigen-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.**

(A)  $2 \times 10^5$  MC38-OVA tumor cells were subcutaneously inoculated in WT C57 mice. CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells isolated from the spleens of OT-I mice were retrovirally transfected with vector or *Rig-I*-shRNA-2, and a total of  $2 \times 10^6$  infected OT-I cells were transferred into mice bearing MC38-OVA tumor (n = 5 per group) when the tumor was visible.

(B) The presentation of OVA-derived SIINFEKL peptide by H-2Kb in B16F10 or B16-OVA cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

(C) Vector or *Rig-I*-shRNA-2 transfected CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from spleens of OT-I mice were co-cultured with B16-OVA cells at 1:1 ratio overnight and killing efficiency were analyzed by flow cytometry.

(D)  $3 \times 10^5$  B16-OVA tumor cells were subcutaneously inoculated in WT C57 mice. CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells isolated from the spleens of OT-I mice were retrovirally transfected with vector or *Rig-I*-shRNA-2, and a total of  $3 \times 10^6$  infected OT-I cells were transferred into mice bearing B16-OVA tumor (n = 6 per group) when the tumor was visible. Tumor growth curve and representative picture of tumors retrieved from mice on day 18 are shown.

(E-F) Tumors were extracted 18 days later after tumor inoculation for tumor-infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> tetramer<sup>+</sup> T cell analysis. CD8<sup>+</sup> tetramer<sup>+</sup> T cell number was

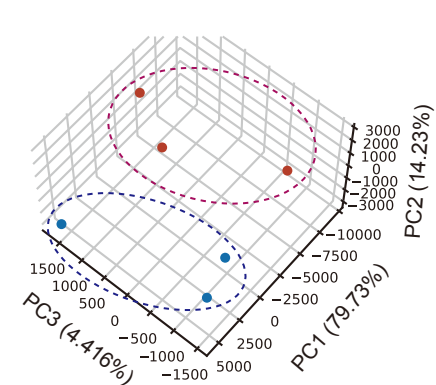


counted (E) and the percentages of IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> or CD107a<sup>+</sup> cells (F) of antigen-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

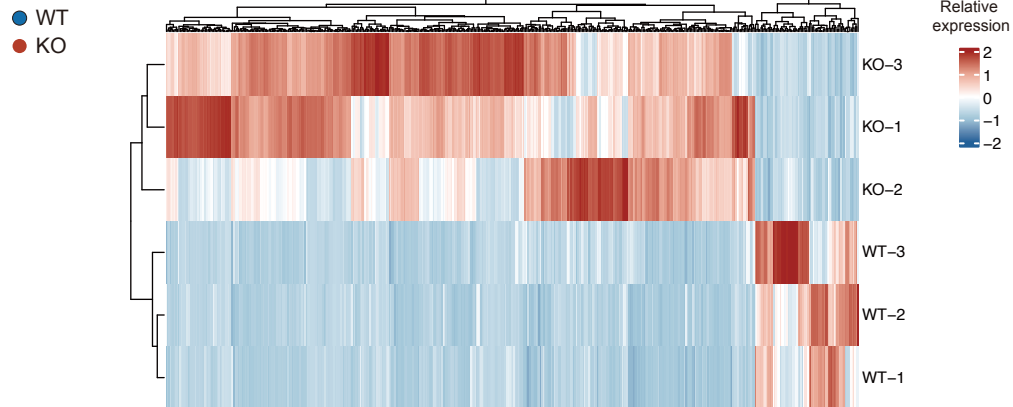
Data are representative of at least two independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$  and \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , by unpaired Student's  $t$  test (C, E, F) or 2-way ANOVA (D).

Figure S5

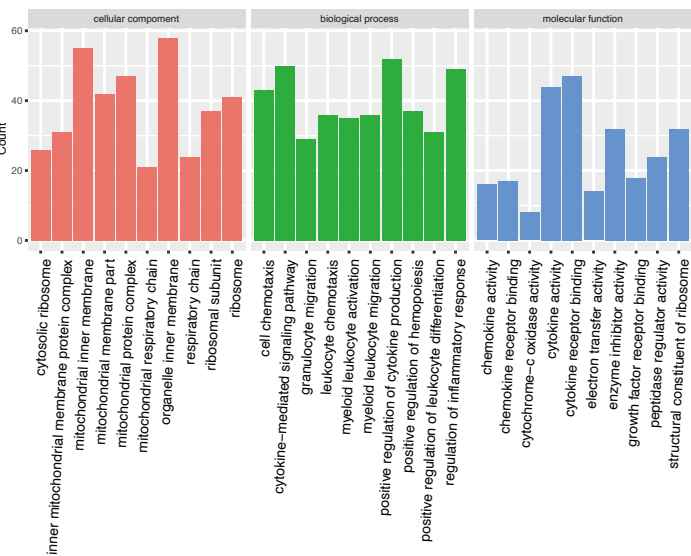
A



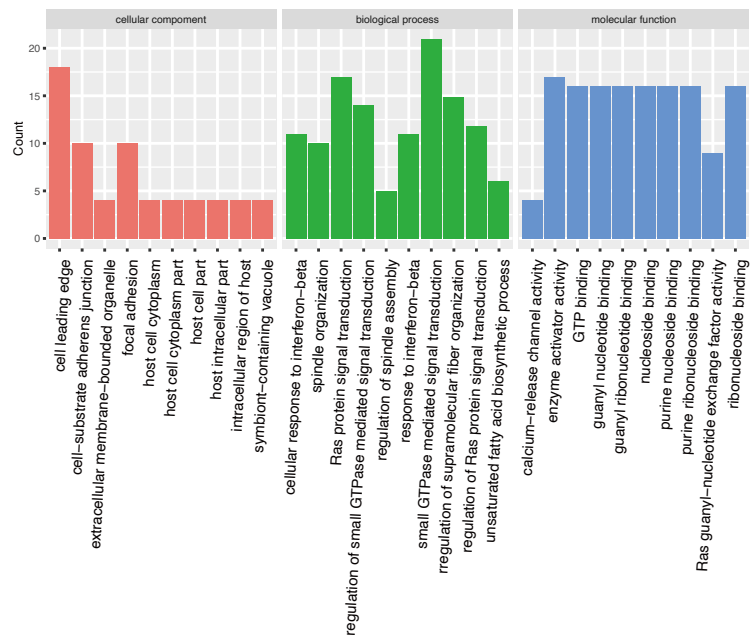
B



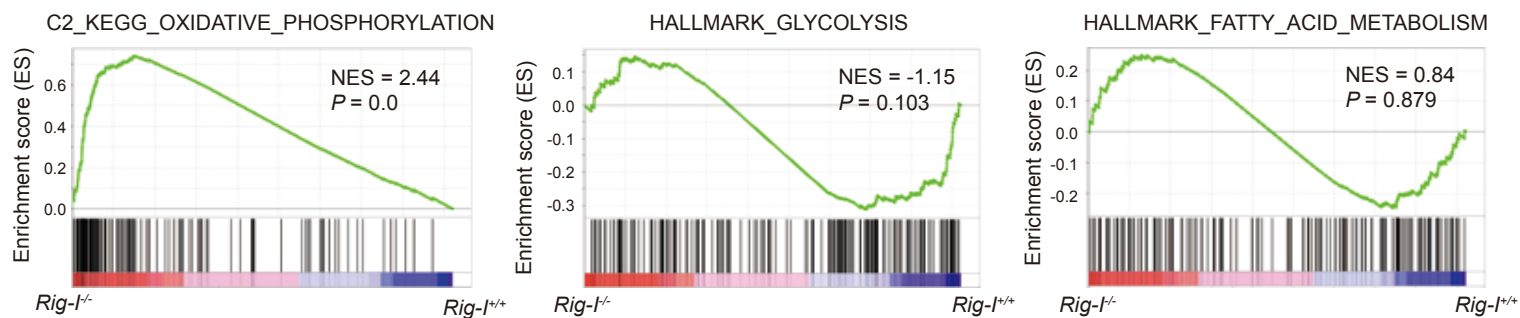
C



D



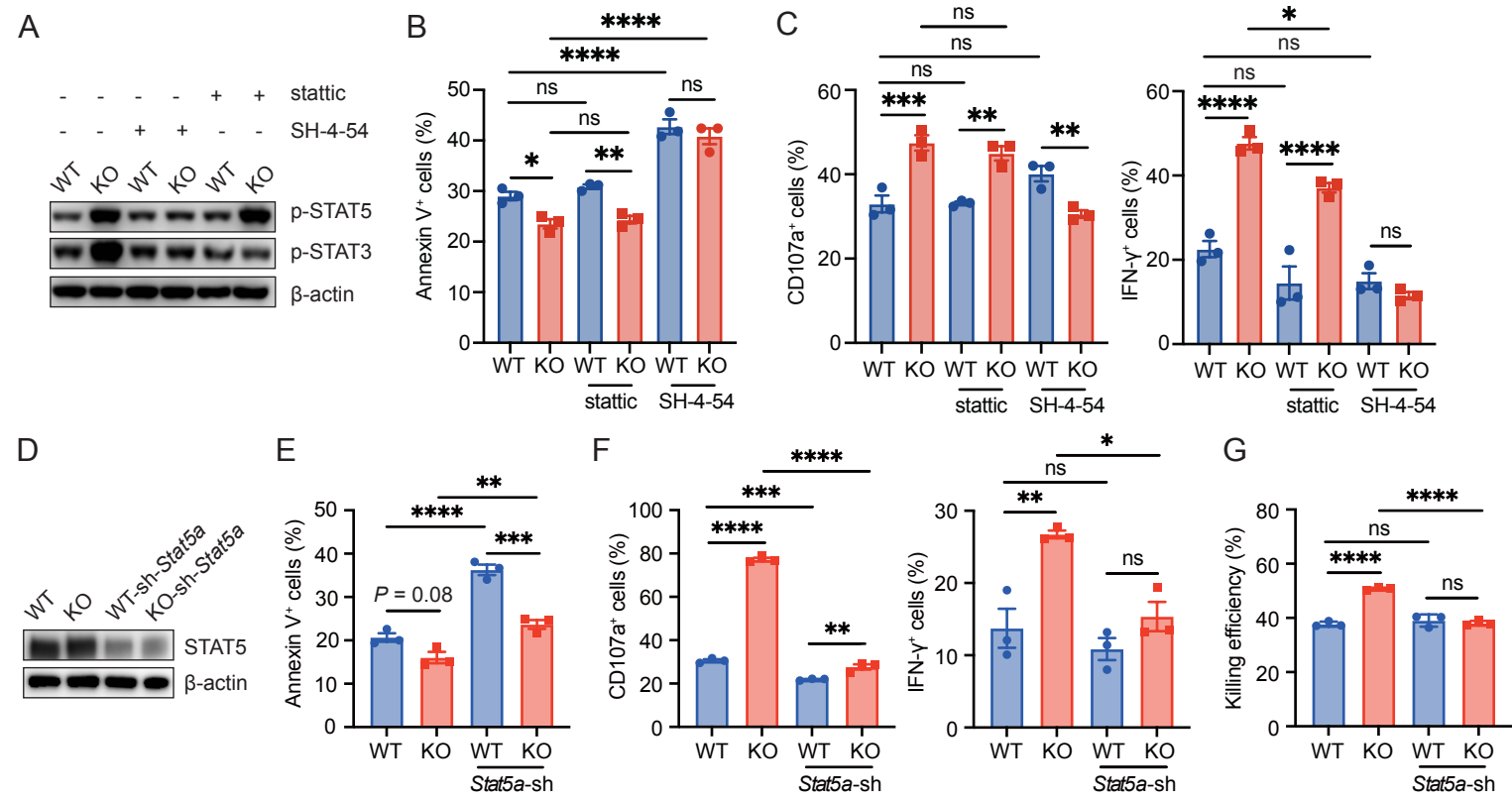
E



**Figure S5. Rig-I ablation broadly reprograms the expressional profiles of activated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.**

(A-E) Naïve *Rig-I<sup>+/+</sup>* or *Rig-I<sup>-/-</sup>* CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were cultured under the stimulation of anti-CD3/CD28 for 48 hours and were submitted for RNA sequencing. Principal component (PC) analysis of genes detected in 3 replicates of *Rig-I<sup>+/+</sup>* or *Rig-I<sup>-/-</sup>* *in vitro* activated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (A). Heatmap showing the top 500 differentially expressed genes from bulk RNA sequencing of *in vitro* activated *Rig-I<sup>+/+</sup>* and *Rig-I<sup>-/-</sup>* CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (B). GO pathways significantly up-regulated (C) or down-regulated (D) in *in vitro* activated *Rig-I<sup>-/-</sup>* CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells compared to *Rig-I<sup>+/+</sup>* counterpart. GSEA analysis of indicated pathways is showed (E).

Figure S6



**Figure S6. RIG-I restrains CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell survival and cytotoxicity by blocking STAT5 activation.**

(A) Western blotting analyses of p-STAT5 (Tyr694) or p-STAT3 (Tyr705) to determine the efficiency of stattic and SH-4-54.

(B-C) Naïve CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from spleens of *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were stimulated by anti-CD3/CD28 for 1 day prior to the treatment of stattic (10 nM) or SH-4-54 (25 nM) for another 2 days. Annexin V, CD107a and IFN- $\gamma$  levels were analyzed by flow cytometry. The percentages of Annexin V<sup>+</sup> cells (B) and CD107a<sup>+</sup> or IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> cells (C) of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells are shown.

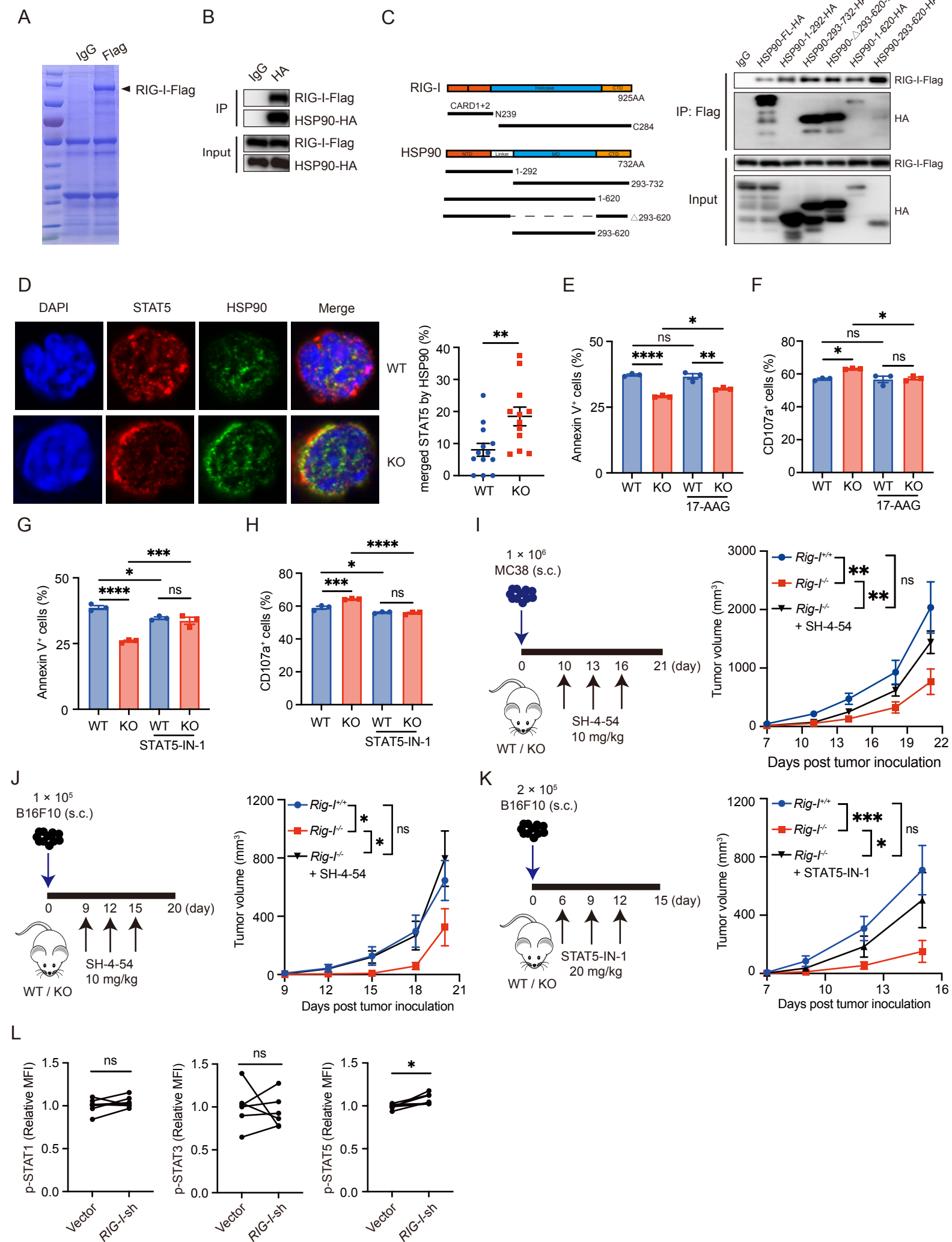
(D) Western blotting analysis of STAT5 protein level to determine the efficiency of *Stat5a*-shRNA.

(E-F) Naïve *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells stimulated by anti-CD3/CD28 for 1 day before retrovirally transfected with control vector or *Stat5a*-shRNA and cultured for another 2 days. Annexin V, CD107a and IFN- $\gamma$  were analyzed by flow cytometry. The percentage of Annexin V<sup>+</sup> cells (E) and CD107a<sup>+</sup> or IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> (F) are shown.

(G) Activated *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells transfected with *Stat5a*-shRNA were co-cultured with MC38 cells at 10:1 ratio for 1 day *in vitro*. Killing efficiency was analyzed by flow cytometry.

Data are representative of three independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $P < 0.0001$ , by 1-way ANOVA.

Figure S7



**Figure S7. RIG-I deficiency inhibits tumor growth by dampening HSP90-mediated protective effect on STAT5.**

(A) Lysates from 293T cells transfected with Flag-tagged RIG-I plasmid were subjected to immunoprecipitation with IgG or Flag antibody. Coomassie blue staining of immunoprecipitated protein is shown.

(B) Immunoblot analysis of RIG-I and HSP90 interactions in 293T cells transfected with RIG-I-Flag and HSP90-HA plasmid.

(C) Schematic of critical domains of full-length RIG-I or HSP90. The constructs of truncated mutants of RIG-I or HSP90 are shown underneath (left panel). Lysates from 293T cells co-transfected with plasmids encoding Flag-tagged RIG-I and the indicated HA-HSP90 mutants were subjected to immunoprecipitation with Flag antibody. IP lysates were then analyzed by western blotting with indicated antibody (right panel).

(D-H) *Rig-I<sup>+/+</sup>* or *Rig-I<sup>-/-</sup>* tumor-infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were isolated from freshly digested MC38 tumor tissue. (D) Isolated cells were co-stained by HSP90 antibody (green) and STAT5 antibody (red). DAPI was used to visualize the nuclei (blue). 12-13 fields and total cells (about 200 cells for each group) were counted. Representative images (left panel) and the proportion of cells with HSP90 merged with STAT5 (right panel) are shown. (E-H) Isolated cells were



cultured with 17-AAG (10 nM) or STAT5-IN-1 (20  $\mu$ M) for 4 hours and Annexin V<sup>+</sup> or CD107a<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were detected by flow cytometry.

(I) *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were subcutaneously inoculated with  $1 \times 10^6$  MC38 cells and were treated with SH-4-54 (10 mg/kg) on day 10, 13 and 16. Schematic diagram (left panel) and tumor growth curve (right panel) are shown.

(J-K) *Rig-I*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Rig-I*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were subcutaneously inoculated with  $1 \times 10^5$  (J) or  $2 \times 10^5$  (K) B16F10 cells and were treated with SH-4-54 (10mg/kg, J) or STAT5-IN-1 (20 mg/kg, K) every 3 days for 3 times when the tumor was visible (n = 5-6 per group). Schematic diagram (left panel) and tumor growth curve (right panel) are shown.

(L) CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells sorted from human PBMCs were stimulated by anti-CD3/CD28 1 day prior to retroviral transfection of NC-GFP (Vector) or *RIG-I*-shRNA-GFP (*RIG-I*-sh) and cultured for 2 more days. Mean fluorescence intensity of p-STAT1, p-STAT3 or p-STAT5 of GFP<sup>+</sup> cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

Data are representative of at least two independent experiments and expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\*  $P < 0.0001$ , by unpaired Student's *t* test (D), 1-way ANOVA (E-H), 2-way ANOVA (I-K) or paired Student's *t* test (L).



**Figure S8. RIG-I level elevates in tumor-infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells compared with CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in normal tissues.**

(A) *RIG-I* expression in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from indicated tissues. Data drawn from GEPIA2021 (<http://gepia2021.cancer-pku.cn>) using CIBERSORT deconvolution tool.

(B) Kaplan-Meier plots depicting progression-free survival of RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> low group or RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> high group are shown.

(C) Kaplan-Meier plots depicting overall survival from RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> low group or RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> high group of stage IV (upper panel) or stage I-III (bottom panel) are shown.

(D) CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells sorted from human PBMCs were stimulated by anti-CD3/CD28 for 2 days (upper panels). CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells sorted from human PBMCs were stimulated by anti-CD3/CD28 1 day prior to retroviral transfection of NC-GFP (Vector) or *RIG-I*-shRNA-GFP (*RIG-I*-sh) and cultured for 2 more days (bottom panels). Relative mean fluorescence intensity of inhibitory proteins (PD-1, TIM-3, TIGIT and LAG3) of GFP<sup>+</sup> cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

(E-F) Slides of tumor tissue from colorectal carcinoma patients were co-stained by TIM-3 or LAG-3, RIG-I and CD8 antibody. DAPI was used to visualize the nuclei. The proportion of TIM-3<sup>+</sup> or LAG-3<sup>+</sup> cells of CD8<sup>+</sup> cells from RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> low group or RIG-I<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> high group are shown.

Data are representative of two independent experiments (D). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM (E, F). \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.0001$ , by log-rank test (B, C), paired (D) or unpaired Student's  $t$  test (E, F).