Material and methods

Study of the STAT2 variants

Genetic sequencing

STAT2 mutations were identified by targeted Sanger sequencing in kindred I (P1-6) and by whole exome sequencing (WES)/targeted panel sequencing in all other patients. Additional variants are presented in supplemental Table S3.

Plasmids

The codon-optimized coding sequence for *STAT2* (NM_005419.4) was cloned into an untagged pCMV6 vector (Origene). Site-directed mutagenesis (NEB) was performed to obtain the indicated variant/mutant constructs. All constructs were re-sequenced (LCG Genomics) to ensure that no adventitious mutations were generated during cloning.

Transfection

HEK293T cells or STAT2 deficient fibrosarcoma cells (U6A) were transfected with either empty pCMV6 vector or with pCMV6-*STAT2* WT/mutant variants (100 ng/10⁵ cells) in the presence of Lipofectamine 2000 reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Evaluation of STAT1, STAT2 *and* USP18 *expression and STAT1 and STAT2 phosphorylation by immunoblotting*

EBV-transformed LCLs were generated according to standard protocols (1), from patients harboring the following genetic variants: for IFNAR1 deficiency: V225fs/W261X; for IFNAR2 deficiency: L79X/L79X; for STAT1 deficiency: c.1928insA/c.1928insA; for STAT2 deficiency: R510X/c.1576G>A (P10); for TYK2 deficiency: L767X/L767X, and for IRF9 deficiency: c.991G>A/c.991G>A.

For each set of conditions, $2*10⁶$ LCLs, with or without IFN- α 2A pretreatment (10,000 U/mL, 1-6-24-48 hours, Miltenyi Biotec), were lysed in RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 8, 1% Triton X-100, 0.5% C24H39NaO4, 0.1% SDS) supplemented with Pierce phosphatase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and complete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche).

Transfected HEK293T cells, with or without IFN-α2A pretreatment (10,000 U/mL, 30 min, Miltenyi Biotec), were lysed in RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 8, 1% Triton X 100, 0.5% C₂₄H₃₉NaO₄, 0.1% SDS) supplemented with Pierce phosphatase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and complete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche).

Protein lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE and the resulting bands were transferred to a polyvinylidene fluoride membrane, which was probed with unconjugated primary antibodies [STAT1 (9167S, Cell Signaling Technology, 1/400), pSTAT1 (9167S (Tyr701), Cell Signaling Technology, 1/400), STAT2 (sc-514193, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, 1/200), pSTAT2 P-Y690 (AF2890 (Tyr689), R&D Systems, 1/200), and USP18 (4813S, Cell Signaling Technology, 1/500)] and HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies [goat anti-mouse (71045-3, Merck Life Science, 1/10,000) and mouse anti-rabbit (sc-2357, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, 1/10,000)]. An anti-β actin antibody (Sigma Aldrich, 1/9,000) was used as a loading control. SuperSignal West Pico Plus chemiluminescent substrate (STAT2, pSTAT2, USP18) and Pierce ECL western blotting substrate (STAT1, pSTAT1, β actin) (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were used to visualize HRP activity. Chemiluminescent signals were detected with a BioRad Imager and Image Lab 6.0.1 software was used for analysis.

Primary EBV-LCLs were generated from the cells of P19 according to standard protocols (1) . 10^6 EBV-LCLs were stimulated with 1000 IU/ml IFN-α2B (Intron-A, Schering-Plough) for up to 24 hours and were then lysed [50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 1% Nonidet P-40, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 100 mM dithiothreitol (Sigma-Aldrich), 1× complete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Basel, Switzerland), 1x PhosSTOP phosphatase inhibitors (Roche), 1× NuPAGE Loading Buffer (Life Technologies)]. Lysates were run on 4 -12% Tris-glycine polyacrylamide gels (Novex, Life Technologies) in 1× SDS NuPAGE MOPS Running Buffer (Life Technologies) with Prestained Plus Protein Ladder (Thermo Fisher Scientific) molecular weight markers. Proteins were transferred to polyvinyl difluoride membranes with 0.45 μm pores (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in NuPAGE Tris-glycine transfer buffer. The membranes were blocked by incubation in 5% bovine serum albumin (BSA) in Tris-buffered saline supplemented with 0.1% Tween (TBS-T), and were washed several times before immunostaining by standard methods (incubation of the membranes with primary antibodies diluted in Tris-buffered saline 5% BSA overnight at 4°C, followed by several washings and incubation with secondary antibodies diluted in Tris-buffered saline 5% BSA for 1 hour at room temperature). Primary antibodies against the following proteins were used, with HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies (7074 and 7076, both from Cell Signaling Technology): STAT2 (sc-1668, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, 1/2,000), pSTAT2 (8841, Cell Signaling Technology, 1/2,000), USP18 (4813, Cell Signaling Technology, 1/1,000), and α-tubulin (3873, Cell Signaling Technology, 1/10,000). Membranes were developed with Immobilon Western Chemiluminescent HRP substrate (Millipore) and imaged on an LI-COR Odyssey Fc (LI-COR) imaging system.

RT-qPCR

Transfected U6A cells, with or without IFN-α2A pretreatment (10,000U/mL, 6 h, Miltenyi Biotec), were collected in Trizol Reagent (Ambion). RNA was extracted with the PureLink RNA mini kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and cDNA was generated with the SuperScript VILO cDNA synthesis kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to manufacturers' protocols. We then performed qPCR for *STAT2*, *IFIT1*, *IFI27,* and *RSAD2* in SsoAdvanced Universal SYBR Green Supermix (BioRad) and ran the samples on a QuantStudio 3 system (Applied Biosystems). The results are expressed according to the ΔCt method, with GAPDH as the housekeeping gene, and data are normalized with respect to wild-type unstimulated conditions.

For each set of conditions, we collected $0.5*10⁶$ LCLs, with or without IFN- α 2A (10,000 U/mL, 1-6-24-48 hours, Miltenyi Biotec), or IFN-γ (1000 U/mL, 1-6-24-48 hours, R&D Systems) pretreatment, in Trizol Reagent (Ambion). RNA was extracted with the PureLink RNA mini kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and cDNA was generated with the SuperScript VILO cDNA synthesis kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific), according to manufacturers' protocols. We then performed qPCR for *STAT2*, *IFIT1*, *IFI27*, *RSAD2*, *IRF1*, *ICAM1, CIITA, SOCS1* and *SOCS3* in SsoAdvanced Universal SYBR Green Supermix (BioRad) and ran the samples on a QuantStudio 3 system (Applied Biosystems). The results are expressed according to the ΔCt method, with GAPDH as the housekeeping gene, and data are normalized with respect to the healthy control unstimulated conditions.

RNA was extracted from primary EBV-LCLs from P19 with the ReliaPrep RNA Cell Miniprep System (Promega) and reverse-transcribed with the Superscript III polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The resulting cDNA templates were subjected to qPCR with TaqMan™ Gene Expression Master Mix (Applied Biosystems), according to manufacturer's instructions. Primers and related probes were designed by Roche Universal Probe Library System Assay Design (Roche, Basel, Switzerland). Plates were run on an AriaMx Real-time PCR System (Agilent Technologies). The results are expressed according to the ΔCt method, with the 18S rRNA gene as the housekeeping gene.

In vitro *susceptibility to viral infection*

SV40 fibroblasts were derived from dermal biopsy samples and immortalized by transformation with a plasmid-containing SV40 large T antigen according to standard protocols(2) from patients harboring the following genetic variants: IFNAR1 deficiency: Y481_insIHCGICFPVX/Y481_insIHCGICFPVX (3); STAT1 deficiency: c.1928insA/c.1928insA (4); STAT2 deficiency: R510X/c.1576G>A (P10) (5); IRF9 deficiency: c.991G>A/c.991G>A (6). We used $5*10⁴$ SV40 fibroblasts per well to seed 48-well plates. The cells were infected, 16 hours later, with HSV-1 (KOS strain, ATCC), at a MOI of 0.001, in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS. The cells were incubated in 250 μ L of medium. For IFN- α 2b pretreatment, the cells were incubated with 1000 IU/mL IFN- α 2b for 16 hours before infection, and IFN- α 2b was maintained in the medium throughout the entire course of HSV-1 infection. Cells and supernatants were collected at various time points after HSV-1 infection (12 h, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h) and analyzed by virus titration. HSV-1 titers were determined by calculating the 50% end point (TCID₅₀), as described by Reed and Muench (7), after the inoculation of Vero cell cultures.

Analysis of inflammatory responses in the patients

Cytokine levels

Serum was obtained, by centrifugation, from fresh whole-blood samples from a STAT2-deficient patient (P10) 6 months before COVID-19, on day 4 of COVID-19 and 5 months post-COVID-19, and eight healthy controls. The V-PLEX Proinflammatory panel 1 human kit (Meso Scale Discory) was used to measure the concentration of the following pro-inflammatory cytokines: IFN-γ, IL-1β, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12p70, IL-13, TNF-α.

Bulk RNA sequencing

We performed mRNA sequencing with an Illumina NextSeq550, with a read length of 75 bp and a read depth of 170 M. All FASTQ sequences passed quality control and were aligned with the GRCh38 reference genome with STAR (2.6.1d). BAM files were converted to a raw count expression matrix with featurecount. Raw count data were normalized with DEseq2. The ensemble IDs targeting multiple genes were collapsed (averaged), and a final data matrix gene was generated for downstream analysis. Geneset enrichment analysis (GSEA) was conducted based on the fold-change ranking against the hallmark gene sets (http://www.gsea-msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/genesets.jsp?collection=H). Immune system-related pathways are shown on a volcano plot. Three immune-related pathways are represented on heatmaps of RNA-seq-quantified gene expression (*z*-score-scaled log₂ normalized counts) for the inflammatory response, TNF signaling via NF-κB and IL6-JAK-STAT3 signaling hallmark gene sets. Absolute cell-type deconvolution analysis was performed with published software (8). The absolute cell-type enrichment scores are presented as dot plots produced with library ggplot2 [\(https://cran.r](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html)[project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html\)](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html). The raw data generated from this study are deposited in the NCBI database under the NCBI-SRA BioProject ID PRJNA936917.

Single-cell RNA-sequencing analysis of leukocytes in the basal state and with IFN treatment

Single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNASeq) analysis was performed on cryopreserved PBMCs, as previously described (9). Thawed PBMCs (filtered through a MACS SmartStrainer with 70-μm pores to remove large debris) were either directly analyzed or were incubated for six hours at 37°C, with or without recombinant human IFN-α2B (1000 IU/ml), before analysis. Libraries were prepared with the Chromium Single-Cell Reagent Kit (v3 Chemistry) and sequenced with an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 sequencer. Sequences were preprocessed with CellRanger. Approximately 10,000 cells were sequenced per sample. Data were filtered manually on the basis of common quality-control metrics and integrated with Harmony (10). Two sequential graph-based clustering analyses were performed. The first round of clustering identified general leukocyte subsets, and the second round identified memory and effector T-lymphocyte subsets and NK lymphocytes with a sufficiently high resolution. Clusters were identified with the SingleR pipeline (11) guided by the normalized RNA-Seq dataset generated by Monaco et al. (8) together with manual inspection for cell type-specific marker genes. For baseline analysis, the CITE-Seq datasets obtained from the 10X Genomics web portal were also integrated to facilitate cluster identification. Raw data generated from this study are deposited in the NCBI database under the following NCBI-SRA projects: BioProject ID PRJNA818002, samples C229, C239, C427, C312; BioProject ID PRJNA856671, samples scRNASeq_Baseline_CTLJLC441_R1, scRNASeq_Baseline_CTLJLC441_R2, scRNASeq_Baseline_MB9159; BioProject ID PRJNA898284, samples SC3, SC4, SC5; BioProject ID PRJNA924565, samples scRNASeq_PBMC_CTLJLC441_Baseline_R3, scRNASeq_PBMC_CTLJLC368_Baseline; BioProject ID PRJNA856671, samples scRNASeq_CTLJLC368_NS_6h, scRNASeq_CTLJLC368_IFNa2_6h, scRNASeq_CTLJLC406_NS_6h, scRNASeq_CTLJLC406_IFNa2_6h, scRNASeq_MB30030_NS_6h, scRNASeq_MB30030_IFNa2_6h (9). The 10X datasets were then excluded from subsequent analyses. Gene expression was quantified at the single-cell level with Seurat (12). Pseudobulk analysis was performed by aggregating all reads from cells assigned to a given cluster, as previously described (13). We performed PCA on the read counts normalized through variance-stabilizing transformation with batch correction, using the removeBatchEffect function implemented in limma (14). Differential expression analysis was performed with DESeq2 (15). GSEA was conducted with the fgsea package, by projecting the fold-change ranking onto various MSigDB gene sets [\(http://www.gsea](http://www.gsea-msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/genesets.jsp)[msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/genesets.jsp\)](http://www.gsea-msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/genesets.jsp). Intercellular communication analysis was performed with

CellChat (16). WGCNA was performed in R (17). All analyses were performed in R v4 [\(http://www.R](http://www.r-project.org/)[project.org/\)](http://www.r-project.org/).

Mass cytometry

Blood leukocyte subpopulation analysis was performed on 200 µL of fresh blood by deep immunophenotyping with mass cytometry (CyTOF), for a STAT2-deficient patient and a healthy control. CyTOF was performed on whole blood with an in-house panel (Supplemental Table S4), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were frozen at −80°C after overnight iridium staining, and acquisition was performed on a Helios machine (Fluidigm). The samples were processed within 24 hours of sampling. Data analysis was performed with OMIQ software.

Supplemental figures

Supplemental Fig. S1. A) A human proinflammatory cytokine panel was used to measure the concentration of IFN-γ, IL-1β, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12p70, IL-13, and TNF-α in serum samples from a STAT2 deficient patient (P10) in a state of well-being (Pre-COVID: at basal state; Post-COVID: 5 months after the infection) and during mild COVID-19 (n=1, 4 days from onset of symptoms) and from 8 healthy controls (HC). B) Immunophenotyping was performed on PBMCs derived from a STAT2 deficient patient (P10) aged 17 years. Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) plots demonstrating the immunophenotype of PBMCs as determined by mass cytometry in a healthy control and the STAT2 deficient patient.

Supplemental Fig. S2. Deconvolution of inferred intercellular communications between leukocyte subsets with CellChat (Jin et al. Inference and analysis of cell-cell communication using CellChat. Nat Commun. 2021 Feb 17;12:1088.). Single-cell RNA sequencing data of PBMCs at baseline from healthy adult and pediatric controls, the STAT2 deficient patient (P10), and a patient with IFNAR2 deficiency were analyzed. A) Predicted interaction strength for communications outgoing from classical monocytes (left) or incoming to CD8 effector memory (EM) T cells (right). B) Differential pathway usage analysis. Pediatric controls and the STAT2 deficient patient were compared. C) Predicted outgoing signals involving the galectin pathway from classical monocytes. D) Predicted incoming signals involving the MHC class I pathway toward CD8 EM T cells.

Supplemental Fig. S3. A) SV40 fibroblasts derived from either healthy controls or a patient with complete IFNAR1, STAT1, STAT2 or IRF9 deficiency were infected *in vitro* with HSV-1 at a MOI of 0.001, either without or with pre-treatment with 1,000 U/mL IFN-α2B for 16 hours before infection. The graph shows the viral titer in the different conditions 12, 24, 48 and 72 hours after infection. Viral titer was determined by calculation of the 50% end point (TCID50) after inoculation in Vero cell cultures. B) Immunoblot of phosphorylated STAT2, STAT2 and USP18 in primary EBV-LCL cells from a healthy control and P19, either in basal conditions (0) or after pretreatment with 1,000 U/mL IFN-α2B for 1, 6 or 24 hours, as indicated. One representative blot from three experiments is shown. C) Transcription levels of USP18, MX1 and RSAD2 assessed by RT-qPCR on primary EBV-LCL cells from healthy controls and P19, in basal conditions (0) or after pretreatment with 1,000 U/mL IFN- α 2B for 1, 24 or 48 hours, as indicated. The mean (n = 3 or 4) and SEM are shown. Results are normalized relative to HC unstimulated conditions. D-E) Transcription levels for IRF1 and ICAM1 assessed by RT-qPCR on EBV-LCLs derived from either a healthy control (HC) or a patient with complete IFNAR1, IFNAR2, STAT1, STAT2 or IRF9 deficiency, after pretreatment with 10,000 U/mL IFN- α 2A (D) or 1,000 U/mL IFN- γ (E) for 1, 6, 24 or 48 hours. HC: healthy control. The mean (n = 3) and SEM are shown. Results are normalized relative to HC unstimulated conditions.

Supplemental Fig. S4. Bulk RNASeq of whole-blood leukocytes from a STAT2 deficient patient (P10) 4 days after the onset of symptoms due to acute SARS-CoV-2 infection (STAT2 COVID-19), the same STAT2 deficient patient outside infectious/inflammatory episodes (STAT2), and a healthy control (HC). A) Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was conducted based on the fold-change of STAT2 COVID-19 or STAT2 versus HC, ranking against the Hallmark gene sets (http://www.gseamsigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/genesets.jsp?collection=H). NES: normalized enrichment score. Three immunerelated pathways are represented by heatmaps of RNAseq quantified gene expression (z-score scaled log2 normalized counts) for the Inflammatory response, TNF signaling via NF-kB and IL6-JAK-STAT3 signaling Hallmark gene sets. B) Absolute cell type deconvolution analysis was determined by using a published software (Monaco et al., Cell Rep. 2019 Feb 5;26(6):1627-1640.e7). The absolute cell type enrichment scores are presented by dot plot using library ggplot2 [\(https://cran.r](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html)[project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html\)](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/index.html). COVID-19: during acute mild COVID-19 (D4 after onset); at basal state: 5 months after COVID-19.

Supplemental Table S1. VirScan results for P10 and P12: X represents a positive result of serological tests for the viruses in the first column.

Supplemental Table S2. Immunologic results of 11 STAT2 deficient individuals.

*during Ig supplementation. = normal, \downarrow reduced. HBV: hepatitis B.

Reference ranges by age are given in brackets (18–20).

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Supplemental Table S3. Additional genetic results from the index patients of kindreds III to X. Analysis pipeline for exome results after quality control: 1) variants in known or predicted PID-related genes and de novo, compound heterozygous or homozygous variants in any gene are included; 2) variants with population frequency >2% are excluded; 3) only stoploss, stopgain, startloss, frameshift, inframe and non-synonymous variants are included; 4) synonymous variants excluded from step 3 are included in the analysis if they are exonic; 5) splice site variants excluded from step 3 and 4 are included in the analysis if they lie within 20 bp from a splice site; 6) all variants excluded so far are checked in The Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD) and are included for analysis if present.

AD: autosomal dominant; AR: autosomal recessive; CADD: combined annotation-dependent depletion; CDG: Congenital disorder of glycosylation; CID: combined immunodeficiency; CMC: chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis; comp het: compound heterozygous; CVID: common variable immunodeficiency; het: heterozygous; hom: homozygous; IBD: inflammatory bowel disease; MSC: mutation significance cutoff; NA: not applicable; PCD: primary ciliary dyskinesia; PID: primary immunodeficiency; SCID: severe combined immune deficiency; SIFT: sorting intolerant from tolerant; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; TTP: thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura; XL: X linked.

Table S4. Antibodies used for mass cytometry (CyTOF) on fresh whole blood.

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