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TFEB induces mitochondrial itaconate synthesis to suppress bacterial growth in macrophages

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Successful elimination of bacteria in phagocytes occurs in the phago-lysosomal system, but also depends on mitochondrial pathways. Yet, how these two organelle systems communicate is largely unknown. Here we identify the lysosomal biogenesis factor transcription factor EB (TFEB) as regulator for phago-lysosome-mitochondria crosstalk in macrophages. By combining cellular imaging and metabolic profiling, we find that TFEB activation, in response to bacterial stimuli, promotes the transcription of aconitate decarboxylase (Acod1, Irg1) and synthesis of its product itaconate, a mitochondrial metabolite with antimicrobial activity. Activation of the TFEB-Irg1-itaconate signalling axis reduces the survival of the intravacuolar pathogen Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium. TFEB-driven itaconate is subsequently transferred via the Irg1-Rab32-BLOC3 system into the Salmonella-containing vacuole, thereby exposing the pathogen to elevated itaconate levels. By activating itaconate production, TFEB selectively restricts proliferating Salmonella, a bacterial subpopulation that normally escapes macrophage pathogen degradation. Together, our data define a TFEB-driven metabolic pathway between phago-lysosomes and mitochondria that restrains Salmonella Typhimurium burden in macrophages in vitro and in vivo.

Lysosomes are critical organelles with degradative and recycling functions and roles in membrane repair, metabolism and signalling11. In macrophages, the phago-lysosomal compartment has evolved several functions to act as first-line organelle in the defence against foreign invaders; it harbours toll-like receptors and contributes acidic hydrolases and reactive oxygen species-producing membrane complexes to sense, kill and digest sequestered microbes3–6. Efficient bacterial detection and elimination also depends on other organelle systems. Mitochondria have emerged as key cellular hubs for the integration of metabolism and phagocyte effector functions7. Recent evidence shows a key function of metabolites derived from the mitochondrial tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle in modulating inflammatory circuits and microbial control12–14. Although it is known that mitochondria can act synergistically and even interact physically with lysosomes in some cell types15,16, it remains largely unknown how these two organelle systems communicate or integrate their functions to control bacterial challenges17,18.

To identify pathways for potential inter-organelle communication between phago-lysosomes and mitochondria in macrophages, we began our study by modulating TFEB12,19. Previous work showed that TFEB is activated upon bacterial uptake via phago-lysosomal calcium release, and benefits bacterial clearance12. While TFEB is best known as regulator of lysosomal biogenesis19, it is emerging to control pleiotropic processes. The underlying mechanisms for its antimicrobial control remain largely unexplored12,19.

We confirmed that bacterial signals induce the nuclear translocation of TFEB in bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs), including heat-killed Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Fig. 1a and Extended Data Fig. 1a), living Salmonella Typhimurium (Fig. 1b and Extended Data Fig. 1a), or the combined stimulation with lipopolysaccharides (LPS) and interferon-γ (IFNγ) (Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1a). To identify TFEB-transcriptional targets in BMDMs, we used a retrovirally controlled TFEB-GFP overexpression system, which resulted in a twofold increase of cellular and nuclear TFEB levels relative to green-fluorescent protein- (GFP-) expressing controls (Extended Data Fig. 1a). To identify pathways for potential inter-organellar communication, we used a retroviral control TFEB-GFP overexpression system, which resulted in a twofold increase of cellular and nuclear TFEB levels relative to green-fluorescent protein- (GFP-) expressing control BMDMs (Extended Data Fig. 1b). Our observed nuclear TFEB increase was comparable to ranges reported for endogenous TFEB upon bacterial stimulation20. Using this activation mimic, we performed RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) and assessed the biological processes enriched in unregulated genes (Fig. 1d,e). As expected, the top hit referred to changes in lysosomal biology (Fig. 1d and Extended Data Fig. 1c), which was reflected in increased total lysosomal mass (Extended Data Fig. 1d). Ten out of the following 11 enriched gene categories were related to metabolic processes (Fig. 1d). In particular, we found genes relevant for cellular and mitochondrial glucose fuelling (Fig. 1e). This included genes

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encoding glucose transporters (Slc2a1, Slc2a6) and glycolytic enzymes (Aldoa, Hk1, Pfkl) (Fig. 1e, left panel), transcriptomic signatures that correlated with mildly elevated glycolysis in macrophages (Extended Data Fig. 1e)21. Most surprising, however, was the regulation of enzymes that fuel mitochondria with pyruvate (Pdha, Pcx) and genes that indicated a biosynthetically active TCA cycle (Slc25a1, Irg1, Idh3a) (Fig. 1e, right panel), a key process in activated macrophages22.

To analyse the mitochondrial TCA cycle in more detail, we followed the fate of mitochondria-imported carbon from glucose by metabolic labelling of macrophages with 13C-glucose. TFEB-activated macrophages incorporated 1.8-times more
Fig. 2 | TFEB is a novel regulator of itaconate production. a–c, Intracellular itaconate levels quantified by LC–MS on the basis of the area under the curve. a.u., arbitrary units. Itaconate was measured in naïve BMDMs (a) transduced with the indicated constructs or treated for 24 h with 5 mM TFEBa (b) or 100 nM Bafilomycin A1 (Baf) (c). Bars show mean ± s.d. of n = 9 (a) and n = 3 (b, c) independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. For b, c, nuclear TFEB translocation was confirmed by immunofluorescence staining. Images are representative for n = 2 independent experiments. See Extended Data Fig. 2a for quantification. Scale bars, 10 μm. Dotted lines in the images outline nuclei on the basis of DAPI signals. d, Intracellular itaconate levels in naïve and 6 h LPS/IFN-γ-treated BMDMs. The red rectangle highlights comparable itaconate levels in naïve TFEB-GFP-expressing and LPS/IFN-γ-treated GFP-expressing control BMDMs. Bars show mean ± s.d., of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. For cuff in Fig. 2f, nuclear TFEB translocation was confirmed by immunofluorescence staining. Images are representative for n = 2 independent experiments. See Extended Data Fig. 1g for quantification. Scale bars, 10 μm. 

g, Images depicting TFEB localization (g) and quantification of nuclear TFEB levels (h) at 1 h post-infection (p.i.) of n = 3 independent experiments. Scale bar, 10 μm. Graph shows a mean of n = 52, 38 (Souris+/– with, without Hk Mt) and n = 52, 34 (Souris−/– with, without Hk Mt) cells examined over n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post hoc. i, Ratio of intracellular itaconate measured by LC–MS in 24 h heat-killed Mt treated Souris+/– versus Souris+/– BMDMs. Bar graph shows a mean ± s.d. of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test.

13C-glucose-derived carbon into citrate than control cells (Fig. 1f and Extended Data Fig. 1g). In contrast, TCA-cycle fuelling with 13C-palmitate or 13C-glutamine was not or less strongly increased upon TFEB activation (Extended Data Fig. 1g). The elevated 13C-glucose label was not retained throughout the full TCA cycle (Fig. 1f, g) to fuel mitochondrial respiration (Extended Data Fig. 1f). Instead, a large portion of 13C-label did not reach glutamate (a proxy for α-ketoglutarate) and further downstream metabolites (Fig. 1f, g). Citrate is a pivotal TCA-cycle intermediate and functions as precursor for the de novo synthesis of fatty acids and the TCA-accessory metabolite itaconate (Fig. 1f). When we followed the fate of glucose-derived carbon downstream of citrate, we found that TFEB activation routed carbon flux primarily into itaconate, an integral metabolite of the pro-inflammatory macrophage response, but not palmitate (Fig. 1h). With this itaconate-fuelling response, TFEB promotes a TCA-cycle state
that is normally engaged in macrophages upon bacterial stimulation (Extended Data Fig. 1h). Thus, our data reveal a previously unappreciated link between TFEB and a biosynthetic TCA-cycle state in macrophages.

TFEB’s altered carbon funnelling resulted in substantially elevated cellular itaconate levels (Fig. 2a), as measured by liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry (LC–MS). Similar to the genetic model, the activation of endogenous TFEB by the TFEB activator (TFEBa) 2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin enhanced glucose-derived carbon fuelling of itaconate and increased itaconate levels (Fig. 2b and Extended Data Fig. 2a,b). Itaconate production was also induced by TFEB activation after lysosomal inhibition via the V-ATPase inhibitor bafilomycin A1 (Baf) (Fig. 2c and Extended Data Fig. 2a). Thus, TFEB activation alone is sufficient to produce itaconate without additional need for a pro-inflammatory macrophage signal.

Next, we examined the functional relationship between TFEB activation and itaconate production in macrophages challenged with bacterial stimuli. In control BMDMs, LPS/IFNγ stimulation caused peak levels of itaconate within the first 6 h of macrophage activation (Extended Data Fig. 2c). These peak levels were comparable to TFEB-induced itaconate levels in naïve macrophages (Fig. 2d, red rectangle). Additional activation of TFEB by LPS/IFNγ treatment or LPS signalling alone further augmented itaconate levels (Fig. 2d and Extended Data Fig. 2d), without affecting iNOS expression, a negative regulator of itaconate synthesis in activated BMDMs (Extended Data Fig. 2e,f). Conversely to TFEB-activated cells, BMDMs that were genetically depleted of TFEB (Tfec−/−) (Extended Data Fig. 2g) were significantly impaired in itaconate synthesis in response to several heat-killed bacteria, including Staphylococcus aureus, Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium (Fig. 2e) and to LPS/IFNγ treatment (Fig. 2f). Thus, our data identify TFEB as a new driver of itaconate production during bacterial stimulation.

We also investigated the TFEB–itaconate pathway in macrophages from a murine model of the human immunodeficiency Chediak Higashi Syndrome (Souris). In this disorder, a key step for TFEB activation upon bacterial uptake, the maturation of the phago-lysosome, is disturbed (Supplementary Table 1). Accordingly, we found that nuclear TFEB translocation and itaconate synthesis were reduced relative to healthy macrophages (Extended Data Fig. 2h) 22. Thus, our data reveal a previously unappreciated link between TFEB and the control of the mitochondrial metabolite itaconate.

Irg1 expression. Indeed, stimulation through wild-type (WT) TFEB expression, but not its ΔNLS-mutant (Extended Data Fig. 3a,b,c), induced Irg1 on the mRNA and protein level (Fig. 3a,b left panel). Similarly, pharmacological activation of endogenous TFEB induced Irg1 mRNA levels (Fig. 3c). In contrast, Irg1 levels were significantly reduced in Tfeb−/− macrophages (Fig. 3b, right panel and Extended Data Fig. 3d). Thus, TFEB activity controls Irg1 expression.

Two mechanisms were recently shown to promote Irg1 expression: type I interferon signalling and interferon regulatory factor 1 (IRF1) activation16,25. However, their roles for TFEB-driven Irg1 expression are unclear (Fig. 3d). We demonstrate that TFEB activation neither induced the expression of interferon β, nor did the loss of the interferon receptor (IFNAR1) suppress TFEB-driven Irg1 transcription (Fig. 3e,f). Similarly, TFEB was able to elevate Irg1 expression in BMDMs lacking IRF1, albeit total Irg1 mRNA levels were reduced (Fig. 3g). Thus, our data show that TFEB contains an inherent ability to increase Irg1 mRNA levels, which is additionally modulated by previously described type I interferon elements16,27.

Beyond that, glycolysis34, mitochondrial pyruvate-import and the TFEB-target autophagy49 (Extended Data Fig. 3e,f) were dispensable for Irg1 expression.

To address the possibility that TFEB directly engages Irg1 expression, we examined chromatin accessibility changes by assay for transposable-accessible chromatin with high-throughput sequencing (ATAC-seq). Comparing our ATAC- and RNA-seq data showed that changes in chromatin accessibility correlated significantly with changes in gene expression (Extended Data Fig. 3g). Overall, we found 16,000 more accessible chromatin sites in TFEB-activated macrophages, including two sites in the promoter region of the Irg1 gene (Fig. 3h,i blue squares). Motif analysis in open Irg1 regions revealed, amongst others (Supplementary Table 1), TFEB-consensus sites (Fig. 3i, lower panel), suggesting that TFEB may directly target Irg1 transcription. Supporting this, chromatin immunoprecipitation–quantitative PCR (ChIP–qPCR) showed that TFEB binds to the Irg1 promoter at an element 800 bp upstream of the transcriptional start site (Extended Data Fig. 3h). This region, containing the TFEB-consensus motif, was also essential for nuclear TFEB-driven expression of the Irg1 promoter, as assayed by a luciferase-Irg1-promoter system (Extended Data Fig. 3i). Thus, our data support a model whereby TFEB directly induces Irg1 expression to enhance the production of the antimicrobial metabolite itaconate.

TFEB activation and itaconate synthesis have both individually been suggested to restrict the survival of several intracellular bacteria15,28 (Extended Data Fig. 4a). However, these two cellular processes have only been viewed as separate pathways and were never functionally linked as part of a concerted antibacterial response. To address the functional role of the TFEB–Irg1–itaconate pathway for the survival of an intracellular bacterium, we infected macrophages with the food-borne facultative intracellular pathogen, S. enterica serovar Typhimurium. This itaconate-sensitive pathogen23 was shown to escape TFEB control by inactivating the transcription factor shortly after infection28, which we confirmed by measurements of reduced cellular and nuclear TFEB levels (Fig. 4a,b). Supporting that Salmonella efficiently restrict TFEB activity, itaconate levels were only mildly reduced in infected Tfeb−/− BMDMs (Extended Data Fig. 4b) and bacterial loads were comparable between WT and Tfeb-deficient macrophages in vitro and in vivo (Fig. 4c and Extended Data Fig. 4c). In contrast, the TFEBs were able to overcome bacteria-induced TFEB repression: it raised cellular itaconate levels (Extended Data Fig. 4b) and lowered bacterial loads in macrophages in vitro and in vivo (Fig. 4c,d), corroborating beneficial effects of this treatment in Salmonella-infected mice.

To understand in detail how the TFEB–itaconate pathway targets intracellular Salmonella survival, we made use of an established Salmonella fluorescence dilution system. This experimental system allows the distinction between different macrophage control mechanisms: the ability of the macrophage to (1) kill the pathogen and (2) restrict its escape into proliferating states38. For this, we infected macrophages with Salmonella that carried the fluorescence dilution-plasmid with constitutively expressed mCherry and conditionally expressed GFP, whose synthesis is terminated at the onset of infection (Fig. 4e). Proliferating bacteria display high mCherry to GFP signal intensity (Fig. 4e and Extended Data Fig. 4d growing, red gate) and can be distinguished from non-proliferating bacteria (constant mCherry and GFP signals) (Fig. 4e and Extended Data Fig. 4d, non-growing, black gate), early host-killed bacteria (mCherry-positive, but low GFP signal) (Fig. 4e and Extended Data Fig. 4d host-killed, dashed gate) and later degradation stages that lose all fluorescence.

Using this fluorescence dilution assay, we found that pharmacological TFEB activation led to a specific and marked reduction of the proliferating Salmonella population (Fig. 4f and Extended
**Fig. 3 | TFEB activation induces transcription of Irg1.** a, Relative Irg1 mRNA expression determined by real-time qPCR in naïve or 6 h LPS/IFNγ-treated TFEB-GFP- or GFP-expressing BMDMs. Bars show mean ± s.d. of n = 4 (left) n = 3 (right) independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. b, Images of endogenous Irg1 visualized by immunofluorescence and treated without or with LPS/IFNγ for 6 h in (left) WT BMDMs expressing GFP- or TFEB-GFP, or (right) Tfeb−/− and control BMDMs. Images are representative of n = 3 independent biological experiments. Scale bar, 10 μm. c, Irg1 mRNA expression in BMDMs treated with 5 mM TFEBa or 100 nM Baf for 6 h. **d**, Schematic of potential mechanisms of TFEB-driven Irg1 expression. **e**, Quantification of secreted IFNγ protein from naïve TFEB-GFP and GFP-expressing BMDMs. LPS/IFNγ-treated, GFP-expressing BMDMs served as positive control. Bars show mean ± s.d. of n = 1 independent experiments. **f**, Relative Irg1 mRNA expression in naïve WT, Ifnar1−/− (f) or Irf1−/− (g) BMDMs, expressing TFEB-GFP or GFP. Bars show mean ± s.d. of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA, with Tukey’s post hoc. h, Heatmap depicting differentially accessible regions in GFP- and TFEB-GFP-expressing BMDMs, using a window of ±3 kb from the centre of the peak (CoP). Three clusters are represented denoting the commonly (common) accessible sites and the regions that loose or gain accessibility upon TFEB expression (lost and gained, respectively). **i**, Representative gene tracks from ATAC-seq data of the Irg1 gene region. Blue boxes indicate significantly gained peaks in TFEB-GFP relative to GFP-expressing BMDMs. The y axis represents the reads per kilobase of transcript per million of mapped reads. Potential TFEB binding sites, derived from motif analysis are highlighted. Data show n = 1 experiment with n = 2 technical repeats.

Data Fig. 4d), with milder or non-significant effects on the other two bacteria subsets (Extended Data Fig. 4d,e). A direct effect of TFEBa on *Salmonella* proliferation and survival could be ruled out, as this treatment did not reduce the in vitro growth of bacteria when cultured in complete or a minimal bacterial growth medium that mimics the vacuolar environment of macrophages** (Extended Data Fig. 4f). Also, the activation of the *Salmonella* pathogenicity island 2 (SPI-2) virulence programme, which is essential for
Fig. 4 | TFEB-driven itaconate production reduces intracellular *Salmonella* growth in infected macrophages. **a**, Indirect immunofluorescence against endogenous TFEB. Scale bar, 15 µm. **b**, Quantification of nuclear TFEB levels from **a**. Graph shows nuclear TFEB mean fluorescence intensity from *n* = 170 cells examined over *n* = 3 independent experiments. *P* values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Dunnnett’s post hoc. **c**, Ratio of CFUs of TFEBa to WT or TFEBa relative to vehicle-treated BMDMs from *n* = 3 (TFEBa) or *n* = 6 (TFEBa) independent experiments. *P* values were calculated using two-tailed one-sample *t*-test, *NS* *P* > 0.05. **d**, Ratio of infected splenic macrophages treated with TFEBa or PBS. Bars show mean from *n* = 4 mice and *P* values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s *t*-test. **e**, Strategy to identify different *Salmonella* subpopulations inside macrophages. Scale bar, 10 µm. **f**, Percentage of cells containing growing *Salmonella* in WT or *Irg1<sup>−/−</sup>* BMDMs treated or not with TFEBa and analysed by flow cytometry. Bars show mean from *n* = 6 independent experiments. *P* values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post hoc. **g**, Percentage of infected splenic macrophages treated with TFEBa or PBS. Bars show mean from *n* = 3 mice. *P* values were calculated using one-way Welch’s ANOVA, with Dunnnett’s post hoc test. **h**, Strategies to identify different *Salmonella* subpopulations inside macrophages. Scale bar, 10 µm. **i**, Luciferase measurements from NanoLuc-ITA-*Salmonella*-infected BMDMs (normalized to fold-change CFU) (i) and as ratio of TFEBa to vehicle-treated BMDMs (j). Graphs show mean of *n* = 3 independent biological experiments. *P* values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post hoc test (i) and unpaired, two-sided Student’s *t*-test (j). **k**, Ratio of cells containing growing bacteria in TFEBa and vehicle-treated WT or *Hps4<sup>−/−</sup>* BMDMs (based on Extended Data Fig. 5g). Bars show mean of *n* = 3 independent experiments. *P* values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s *t*-test. **l**, CFUs of infected BMDMs (based on Extended Data Fig. 5g). Scale bar, 10 µm.
intracellular bacterial proliferation, was grossly unaffected by TFEBa treatment (Extended Data Fig. 4g). Instead, we found that the antiproliferative and bacterial load-reducing effect in macrophages upon TFEB re-activation was dependent on Irg1-driven itaconate synthesis, as shown by experiments in Irg1+/− BMDMs and mice (Fig. 4f,g and Extended Data Fig. 4h). Moreover, ectopic Irg1 expression (Extended Data Fig. 4i) and extracellular addition of itaconate to infected macrophages (Extended Data Fig. 4j) both reduced the growing bacterial subset, corroborating the repressive effect of itaconate on Salmonella proliferation. Bacterial repression by the TFEB-itaconate axis was largely independent of autophagy, another TFEB-induced pathway, as assessed in autophagy-deficient Atg7−/− BMDMs (Extended Data Fig. 4k).

To assess whether TFEB-driven itaconate was successfully transferred into the vacuole in a Rab32−/− cells, we used an Atg7-independent TFEB-executor, selectively controlling the virulent subset of proliferating Salmonella.

Itaconate can be transferred from mitochondria into the pathogen-containing vacuole via Irg1-Rab32–BLOC3-driven organelle interactions and directly inhibit Salmonella growth (Extended Data Fig. 4a). To assess whether vacuolar itaconate mediates the growth suppressive TFEB-effect, we infected macrophages with Salmonella carrying previously described sensor plasmids (GFP-ITA or NanoLuc-ITA) that allow the visualization and measurement of vacuolar itaconate (Fig. 4h and Extended Data Fig. 5a). Although, Salmonella Typhimurium can partially counteract vacuolar itaconate transport by cleaving Rab32 (ref. 7), we found that TFEB activation increased the percentage of itaconate-exposed pathogens (Fig. 4i) and raised vacuolar itaconate levels by 2.6-fold in comparison to control cells (Fig. 4j). TFEB activation was accompanied by a mild, Irg1-dependent reduction in Rab32 cleavage and slightly increased mitochondria-pathogen colocalization (Extended Data Figs. 5b–e), supporting that Irg1 is part of the Rab32–BLOC3 itaconate-transfer system, as reported previously. Genetic inactivation of the Rab32–BLOC3 transfer system (Hps4−/− BMDMs) repressed TFEB's ability to elevate vacuolar itaconate and decreased itaconate to similar levels found in Hps4−/− control cells (Fig. 4j). This supports that TFEB depends on active Rab32–BLOC3 sites to increase vacuolar itaconate levels.

To assess in depth the influence of vacuolar itaconate transfer on bacterial proliferation in macrophage populations, we quantified the bacterial load per cell by single cell imaging (Extended Data Fig. 5f,g). TFEB-itaconate activation in WT BMDMs specifically targeted macrophages with high bacterial burden and lowered the number of proliferating bacteria in these cells (Fig. 4k and Extended Data Fig. 5g). In striking contrast, TFEB activation in Hps4−/− cells failed to restrain bacterial proliferation (Fig. 4k and Extended Data Fig. 5g), which was also mirrored by an increase in bacterial colony-forming units (CFUs) (Fig. 4l). Thus, our data indicate that TFEB elevates itaconate synthesis upon which the metabolite is transferred into the vacuole in a Rab32 or Hps4-dependent manner to inhibit pathogen proliferation.

Modulating vacuolar itaconate levels downstream of TFEB activation, our imaging analysis revealed gradual effects on bacterial growth and division: (1) unperturbed bacterial proliferation (growth and division) occurred in the absence of itaconate (Irg1−/−) (Fig. 4f, Extended Fig. 5h), (2) restriction of bacterial proliferation when TFEB-driven itaconate was successfully transferred into the vacuole (WT) (Fig. 4h,m) and (3) pathogens formed filaments, a state in which the microbe grew, but ceased to divide, when vacuolar itaconate was substantially lowered (Hps4−/−, and TFEB escapees) (Fig. 4m,n and Extended Data Fig. 5i,j). This bacterial filamentation may contribute to the partially lowered numbers of CFUs in TFEBa-treated Hps4−/− cells (Fig. 4l). Thus, our data support a role for TFEB-driven vacuolar itaconate in blocking intra-macrophage proliferation of Salmonella.

Our findings expand the function of TFEB beyond its established regulatory roles for lysosome biology and autophagy. While TFEB has been linked to the control of metabolic functions in non-immune cells, the TFEB–Irg1–itaconate pathway has remained undetected, probably due to the restricted expression of Irg1 by only few cell types. In primary macrophages, our results identify the TFEB-driven Irg1–itaconate axis as a lysosome-to-mitochondria communication pathway that controls a cell-autonomous antibacterial defence mechanism to protect the phagolysosomal compartment from being exploited as bacterial proliferation niche. Our data indicate that the TFEB–Irg1–itaconate pathway exerts its antimicrobial function primarily in the vacuole: (1) restriction of bacterial proliferation during acute and chronic infections, given the reported reduced itaconate synthesis in human macrophages, (2) remains to be determined whether the TFEB–Irg1–itaconate pathway also holds promise to target virulent infections with Salmonella Typhimurium, or other itaconate-sensitive microbes such as Salmonella Typhi and Mycobacterium spp. in humans. Beyond its antimicrobial activity itaconate is also known as an immunomodulatory metabolite. Thus, one could speculate that some of TFEB's reported anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects may act through control of itaconate.
Tfeb<sup>fl/fl</sup> littermates were used as control for experiments with TFB-deficient cells, since tested biological responses were unaffected by the presence or absence of Cre.

In vivo infection studies of 12–25-week-old female and male mice (Fig. 4d,g and Extended Data Fig. 4c–d) were infected intra-peritoneally with 5 × 10<sup>5</sup> CFU per mouse of S. Typhimurium SL1344 with arabinose-induced pFCGcI-Cb. Animals were kept for 3 days and TFBEα (0017; Acacinet, Sigma Aldrich) dissolved in PBS (20 mg/kg<sup>−1</sup>, sonicated for 5 min) or relevant solvent (PBS) was injected daily. For Tfeb-deletion studies, mice with macrophage-specific Tfeb knockout were used (Tfeb<sup>−/−</sup> LysCre), annotated as Tfeb<sup>−/−−</sup>. Mice were euthanized by CO<sub>2</sub> and cervical dislocation and spleens were harvested. Cell suspensions were obtained by homogenizing the spleens using 70-μm cell strainers. Erythrocyte lysis (ACK lysis buffer, Gibco A1049201) was performed and unspecific binding was blocked with anti-CD16/32 for 15 min before cells were stained for F4/80 (1:200, BM8, BioLegend, 123137), CD11b (1:500, M1/70, eBioscience, 50-0112-82) and live/dead<sup>−</sup> (1:200, eBioscience, 65-0866-14) in cold PBS (Gibco) for 1 h. Cells were fixed for 15 min using the Fixp3 transcription factor binding buffer set (eBioscience, 00-5532-00). Data was acquired on a LSR Fortessa (BD) and analysed with FlowJo software (BD, v.10). During analysis, doublets were excluded. For the gating strategy, please see Supplementary Fig. 1.

BMDM culture. Bone marrow was isolated from femur, tibia and pelvis of 8–12-week-old male and female mice. BMDMs were differentiated in BMDM medium (RPMI 1640, 10% FCS, 100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin) containing 20 ng/ml macrophage colony stimulating factor at 37 °C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> (known for 5 days and 25 °C (30 min ‘ON’ and 30 s OFF, setting high)). For most experiments, BMDMs were plated in Medium. For Salmonella infection assays, BMDMs were plated in MDM infection medium (DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% L929 supernatant, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 4 mM glutamate).

Retrovirus. pBMN-TFEB-GFP and ΔNLS-TFEB-GFP plasmids were kind gifts from R. Youle and S. Ferguson, respectively<sup>34,35</sup>. The pBMN-1Lg-1 GFP plasmid was generated by replacing the Tfeb gene in pBMN-TFEB-GFP plasmid with Irg1<sup>−/−</sup> sequence from the pCMV6-Entry Irg1-Mye-DDK-tagged plasmid purchased from Origene and the GFP was replaced by the blue fluorescent protein (BFP) sequence. New plasmids were generated using the CloneAmp HiFi PCR Premix and Origene and the GFP was replaced by the blue fluorescent protein (BFP) sequence. For production of viral particles, 2.5 × 10<sup>5</sup> PlatE cells were plated and the following day transfection with pBMN-plasmid DNA using Lipofectamine 3000 according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Viral supernatant was collected every 24 h for 4 days.

BMDM transduction and sorting. For BMDM transduction, viral particles (diluted 1:5 in BMDM medium) were added to the bone marrow culture on day 2 of BMDM differentiation. After 18 h, transduction medium was removed and cells were cultured for three additional days. Where necessary, virus-targeted BMDMs were sorted using the BD FACSAria III cell sorter FACSDiva (BD, v.8.0.1).

RNA-seq. RNA isolation was performed using the RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Complementary DNA libraries were prepared by the Deep Sequencing facility at the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics using the TrueSeq stranded mRNA protocol (Illumina) and sequenced on an Illumina Hiseq 3000. We obtained around 16 million reads per sample. Sequencing data were analysed using the Galaxy platform provided by the Bioinformatics Core Facility of the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics and the University of Freiburg. The STAR aligner<sup>36</sup> was used for trimming and mapping, GRCm38 as the reference genome. Quantification of the mapped reads was performed with featureCounts<sup>37</sup> (https://ccb.jhu.edu/software/featurecounts v.1.5.2) and differential gene expression determined using the DESeq2 algorithm<sup>38</sup> (https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html) and the reference genome from the mouse genome browser (http://www.mousegenome.org/). For each experiment, the expression levels were normalized to β-actin and β<sub>2</sub>-microglobulin mRNA expression levels were calculated using the 2<sup>−</sup>(ΔΔCT) method and normalized to the transcription start site of Acdol (Irg1). Enrichment of TFEB binding was calculated as ChIP-DNA relative to input-DNA PCR signal for each primer pair and normalized to a control region (non-accessible heterochromatin region).

Lysosomal mass measurements. BMDMs were incubated with 75 nM LysoTracker Red for 30 min at 37 °C in BMDM medium. Cells were washed three times with prewarmed BMDM culture medium, gathered with 20 mM EDTA and incubated for 1 min on ice with Live Dead Fixable Viability eFluor 780 (1:1,000) in PBS. Samples were measured on the BD LSR Fortessa cell analyser (BD Biosciences). Data were analysed and graphs generated in FlowJo v.10.

Real-time qPCR. BMDMs were gathered in 250 μl TrisReagent per well and RNA was isolated by phenol-chloroform extraction. cDNA synthesis was performed with the QuantiTect Reverse Transcription Kit according to the manufacturer’s instructions. As template, 200 ng of RNA were used. The reverse transcription reaction was performed for 30 min at 42 °C. Measurement of Irg1, β<sub>2</sub>-actin and β<sub>2</sub>-microglobulin mRNA expression was carried out in a 96-well plate using the Thermo Scientific Absolute Blue QPCR SYBR Green Low ROX Mix according to the manufacturer’s instructions using 1 μl of cDNA and 22 ng of the respective primers. Samples were measured in the 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR System (Applied Bioscience) and analysed via StepOne Software (AB, v.2.0). To quantify relative Irg1 mRNA expression, Irg1 mRNA levels were normalized to the expression of the housekeeping genes β-actin and β<sub>2</sub>-microglobulin. Relative mRNA expression values were calculated using the 2<sup>−</sup>(ΔΔCT) method and normalized to unstimulated control samples. For Fig. 3g and Extended Fig. 3d (2-DG treatment), Irg1 expression levels were normalized to Tfeb expression levels per sample because the genotype of the cells or the treatment affected Tfeb expression levels.

Seahorse flux analysis. Extracellular acidification rate and oxygen consumption rate were determined with a Seahorse Flux Analysers XFP96 (Agilent Technologies) from GFP- or TFB-GFP-expressing BMDMs. Seahorse XF base medium was supplemented with 25 mM glucose, 1 mM glutamine, 1 μM insulin, and 1% FCS. Seahorse measurements were normalized to protein content, determined with the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit or cell numbers by using in situ Hoechst staining of nuclei. Nuclear stainings were acquired with the BioTek Cytation 1/5. Nuclei counting was performed with the Seahorse XF and Cell Counting Software and the Wave v.2.6 Software (Agilent Technologies). Oxygen consumption rate data were calculated as area under the curve and values were plotted using GraphPad Prism v8.2.1.

Metabolic tracing. Metabolic tracing with 13C<sub>6</sub>-glucose, 13C<sub>3</sub>-glutamine and 13C-palmitate was performed with gas chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry at the Max Planck Institute. For gluteon and glucose tracing, BMDMs were incubated for 6 h in glucose- or glutamine-free BMDM medium supplemented with 11 mM 13C<sub>6</sub>-glucose or 4 mM 13C<sub>3</sub>-glutamine, respectively. For palmitate tracing, full BMDM medium containing 20μM BSA-conjugated 13C<sub>3</sub>-palmitic acid was used, as BMDMs were dying in lipid-deprived medium. To extract metabolites, BMDMs were washed once with ice-cold 0.9% NaCl in MilliQ H<sub>2</sub>O.
Intracellular itaconate measurements. Polar metabolome quantifications were performed with LC–MS. BMDMs were stimulated as indicated. For metabolite extraction, cells were washed once with ice-cold 3% glycerol in MilliQ-H2O, followed by 5 min incubation on ice in prechilled 80% methanol. Metanol supernatants were collected and cell debris was removed by centrifugation for 5 min at 15,000g and 4°C. Metabolite solutions were dried in a Genevac EZ-2 (SP Scientific) and subsequently resuspended in 15 µl of 90% acetonitrile containing 1°C-yeast-standard (ISOtopic Solutions) as loading control. Suspensions were centrifuged for 10 min at 3,300g and 4°C and 10 µl of each sample were transferred to a fresh container and used for mass spectrometry. Targeted metabolite quantification and identification were carried out using an Agilent 1290 Infinity II UHPLC in line with an Agilent 6495 triple quadrupole–MS operating in MRM mode. MRM settings were optimized separately for all compounds using pure standards. LC separation was on a Phenomenex Luna propylamine column (50 x 2 mm, 3 µm particles), with a solvent gradient of 100% buffer B (5 mM ammonium carbonate in 90% acetonitrile) to 90% buffer A (10 mM NH4OH, in water). Flow rate was from 1.000 to 80 µl/min; Analytical temperature was 25°C. The values represent the area of the metabolite peaks from mass spectrometry as arbitrary units.

Western blotting. BMDMs were collected in ice-cold PBS with a cell lifter and pelleted by centrifugation for 5 min at 500g and 4°C. Cell pellets were lysed for 15 min on ice with lysis buffer (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X 100, pH 7.4) with 1X Halt Protease Inhibitor Cocktail and 1X Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail and sheared with a 26 G insulin syringe. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 16,000g and 4°C for 15 min. Then 25 to 35 µg of total protein was loaded on a 10 or 12% polyacrylamide gel. Protein transfer to a polyvinyl difluoride-membrane (Merck Millipore) was performed in a semidry blotting chamber for 90 min at 10 V. Membranes were blocked for 1 h in 5% milk in tris-buffered saline (TBS) with 0.1% Tween (TBST) at room temperature. Incubation with primary antibodies was performed overnight at 4°C in buffers suggested for the specific antibody or in TBST containing 2% BSA. Incubation with secondary antibodies was performed for 1 h at room temperature in 5% milk in TBST. For signal detection, Amersham ECL Prime Western Blotting Detection Reagent was used and signals were acquired with the ChemiDoc Touch Gel Imaging System (Bio-Rad). Images were prepared for publication with the Image Lab v5.2 TM Touch Software (Bio-Rad, v.1.0.0.15).

Immunofluorescence. BMDMs were plated in tissue culture treated 24-well plates containing fibronectin-coated 12 mm glass coverslips. To visualize TEFER, HSP60 or Salmoella, BMDMs were fixed for 15 min at room temperature in 4% paraformaldehyde, prewarmed to 37 °C, followed by permeabilization in 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS. To visualize endogenous Irg1, BMDMs were fixed and permeabilized in ice-cold 100% methanol for 15 min at −20 °C. In both cases, unspackaging binding sites were blocked afterwards for 1 h at room temperature in blocking buffer (0.1% Tween20, 5% FCS in PBS). Cells were incubated at 4°C for 16h with primary antibodies in blocking buffer. Secondary antibody stainings were performed in blocking buffer for 1 h at room temperature. BMDMs were mounted in Fluoromount-G with DAPI (Molecular Probes). Confocal microscopy and image processing. Z-stacks were acquired with an inverted LSM880 or LSM780 Zeiss confocal microscope and ZEISS software black edition (Carl Zeiss Microscopy, v.2.6). Brightness and contrast were adjusted and images prepared using Fiji ImageJ. 3D-renders of mitochondria-pathogen interactions were generated using the surface tool of Imaris v9.5.1 (Bitplane). For better visualization of differences in expression levels, Irg1 and Salmonella-mCherry fluorescent signals in Fig. 3b and Extended Fig. 4j were pseudocolored in ImageJ using the look-up table ‘red hot’.

Image analysis. To quantify nuclear TEFER-signals 3D nuclear masks generated from DAPI signal were generated, using the Imaris v9.4.1 (Bitplane) surface tool (smoothing 0.51, signal intensities were set manually for each image). To quantify cellular TEFER levels in TEFER-GFP- or GFP-expressing BMDMs, cellular masks were generated on the basis of ectopically expressed GFP signals, as described for nuclear TEFER levels.

Mitochondria-pathogen interactions were determined from single slice images using the Pearson’s Coefficient ImageJ Jacob colocalization software tool (https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/plugins/tracking/jacop.html). Colocalized pixels were selected in individual slices using the ImageJ colocalization tool (channel cut-off 50%). To determine the bacterial load of individual macrophages by imaging (Extended Data Figure 5g), maximum intensity projections of images taken from Salmonella-mCherry infected BMDMs were transformed to binary images and signal per cell were measured using the ImageJ analysis tool. Measured signals were presented as frequency distributions in Extended Data Fig. 5g. Data were normalized for bacterial signals in TFEBa relative to vehicle-treated BMDMs for each independent experiment. The proliferating Salmonella subpopulation was determined on the basis of signal representing >15 bacteria per cell. Signals containing the growing Salmonella subpopulation (from bins 10–14) were summarized for vehicle and TFEBa-treated BMDMs for each genotype and depicted as ratio TFEBa/vehicle-treated in Fig. 4k.

Salmonella infection of BMDMs. S. enterica serovar Typhimurium strain SL1344, harboured the pFCcGi plasmid, was cultured for 16h at 37°C in a minimum medium (170 mM MES, 7.5 mM (NH4)2SO4, 0.5 mM KSO4, 1 mM KHPO4, 8 µM MgCl2, 38 mM glycerol, 0.1% casamino acid, pH 5.8, 100 µg/ml ampicillin) supplemented with with 0.2% (w/v) l-arabinose and 100 µg/ml carbenicillin. Before infection of BMDMs, bacteria were opsonized for 20 min with 10% mouse serum in BMDM infection medium. BMDMs were pretreated or not with D-luciferin (3 h before infection) or killed Salmonella were added. BMDMs were infected at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 5 for all experiments and incubated for 18.5 h postinfection. Host–bacteria interactions were synchronized by centrifugation for 10 min at 300g and room temperature. After 30 min, extracellular bacteria were killed by addition of gentamycin (100 µg/ml) containing BMDM infection medium. After 30 min, gentamycin concentration was increased to 0.1 µg/ml. Values were added to BMDMs and cells were incubated or incubated for further 18h.

Analysis of Salmonella subpopulations by flow cytometry. To determine intracellular Salmonella subpopulations (growing, non-growing, host-killed) infected BMDMs were washed once with cold PBS and then collected on ice with a cell lifter in PBS. After centrifugation for 15 min at 4°C, the cells were washed once with cold PBS and immediately lyzed in 1 ml of PBS with 0.1% Triton X-100. Serial dilutions (1:10, 0:1:00, 1:1,000) were plated on Luria–Bertani (LB) agar plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 37°C for 16h to allow Salmonella regrowth. CFUs were counted manually.

Luciferase assays. NanoLuc-ITA-Salmonella-infected BMDMs were lysed 18.5h post-infection in Passive Lysis Buffer (E1941, Promega) and luciferase activity was determined using the Nano–Glo-Luciferase Assay System (N1110, Promega) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The proliferation of Salmonella was assessed on a LB 963 Microplate Luminometer (Berthold). In parallel, CFUs were determined and luminescence values were normalized to the ratio of CFUs between TFEBa-treated and control BMDMs. For Irg1-promoter luciferase measurements, mouse embryonic fibroblasts (ATCC CRL-2907) were cotransfected with the indicated Irg1-promoter–firefly luciferase constructs and GFP as control or the indicated TFE Ba–GFP constructs. Then 24 h after transfection, cells were treated with medium or hSImt (100 µg particles per ml) for 3h and luciferase expression was measured using the Glo–Luciferase Kit (Promega) according to the manufacturer’s instructions on a Centro LB 963 Microplate Luminometer (Berthold). Luciferase-expression levels were quantified as fold increase relative to Irg1-promoter-luciferase/GFP-coexpressing control cells.

Bacterial SPI-2 expression measurements. BMDMs were infected with TEFER Salmonella Typhimurium strain SL1344 carrying the Pslow-gfp plasmid, encoding a GFP reporter gene under the control of the bona fide SPI-2 promoter of the sosG gene. Bacteria were grown over night in LB medium containing 50 µg/ml chloramphenicol. Opsinization and BMDM infection were described as being performed on ice. The proliferating Salmonella subpopulation was determined by assessing GFP expression. To assess SPI-2 GFP-reporter expression, BMDMs infected for 18.5h were fixed at room temperature for 15 min in 4% paraformaldehyde before being measured on a BD LSR Fortessa cell analyser (BD Biosciences), with FACSDiva (BD, v.8.0.1). Control gates were set on the basis of there being uninected or 30-min infected BMDMs (Extended Data Fig. 4d).

Plating assay to assess intra-macrophage bacterial survival rates. BMDMs infected for 18.5h were washed once with cold PBS and immediately lyzed in 1 ml of PBS with 0.1% Triton X-100. Serial dilutions (1:10, 0:1:00, 1:1,000) were plated on Luria–Bertani (LB) agar plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 37°C for 16h to allow Salmonella regrowth. CFUs were counted manually.
casamino acid, pH 5.8, 100 µg ml⁻¹ ampicillin). Bacterial cultures were incubated with TFEBS (5 mM) and bacterial growth/survival were inferred from CFUs.

**Quantification and statistical analysis.** (Statistical analysis and data representation). Graphs were generated and statistical analysis was carried out with GraphPad Prism v8.2.1. To determine statistical significance, different tests were used as indicated in the figure legends. The number of experimental repeats is indicated in the figure legends. Proportional Venn diagrams for overlapping genes were generated with BioVenn72. Statistical significance of the overlap between the two groups of genes was calculated with a hypergeometric statistical test. Heatmaps were generated with Morpheus (Broad Institute) and schematics and figures with Adobe Illustrator CS5 (Adobe). Gene tracks of the Irg1 and Itoac loci were generated with the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV)39.

**Materials availability.** No new, unique reagents, plasmids or mice were generated in this study. A Material Transfer Agreement exists for the use of Tfeblow mice. These mice can only be shared via A.Ballabio.

**Reporting summary.** Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this article.

**Data availability**

RNA- and ATAC-seq data generated in this study have been deposited at Sequence Read Archive with the accession code PRJNA647627. The authors declare that all other data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper and supplementary information files. Source data are provided with this paper.

Received: 23 April 2022; Accepted: 13 June 2022; Published online: 21 July 2022

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Acknowledgements

We thank T. Börsig and S. Reichardt for technical assistance. We are grateful to J. Galan, S. Helaine for providing the Salmo nella itaconate sensor and *Salmonella* fluorescence dilution system, S. Ferguson, R. Youle and R. Goede for providing the ΔNLS-TFEB, WT-TFEB and luciferase-reporter plasmids, respectively. We thank P. Staheli, P. Aichele and K. Simon for sharing mice or bones for BMDM cultures. We thank A. Akhtar for access to the Seahorse Flux Analyzer. Artwork was created with BioRender.com. We thank T. Lämmertmann, T. Boehm, E.L. and E.J. Pearce for critically reading the manuscript. This work was supported by the Max Planck Society (to A.S.R. and N.C.-W.), BMBF (to A.S.R.), IMPRS-MCB PhD programme (to E.-M.S., M.W.E. and J.A.Z.), grant no. ERC-StG-2017 VIHASTEM, 759206 (to N.C.-W.), German Research Foundation, grant nos. 322979397/GRK2344 (to E.T. and A.P.) and GZ TR 1478/2-1 (to E.T.), the grant no. FRM AE102010012488 (to E.T.), the Labex Chair of excellence (to E.T.), Italian Telethon Foundation grant no. ‘TGM16CB6’ (to A.B.), grant no. MIUR ‘PRIN 2017ELS5P3’ (to A.B.), European Research Council grant no. H2020 AdG ‘LYSOSOMICS 694282’ (to A.B.), US National Institutes of Health grant no. ‘R01-NS07082’ (to A.B.), Huffington Foundation (to A.B.), European Regional Development Fund—POR Campania grant no. FESR 2014/2020 (to A.B.), Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro A.I.R.C. grant no. ‘IG-22103’ and ‘5x1000-2105’ (to A.B.).

Author contributions

E.-M.S., M.W.E., K.M.G., M.M., A. Bremer, K.L., J.A.Z., N.O., A.J.W and A.S.R. performed and designed experiments. E.-M.S., M.W.E., K.M.G., J.A.Z., K.L., A. Bremer, A.P., E.T., J.M.B., N.C.-W. and A.S.R. analysed data. A. Ballabio provided mice. J.V. provided *Salmonella* strains. A.S.R. designed the research and wrote the paper.

All authors discussed the results and reviewed the manuscript.

Funding

Open access funding provided by Max Planck Society.

Competing interests

A.B. is a cofounder of CASMA Therapeutics. All other authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Extended data are available for this paper at https://doi.org/10.1038/s42255-022-00605-w.

Supplementary information

The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1038/s42255-022-00605-w.

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Peer review information *Nature Metabolism* thanks Karsten Hiller and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work. Primary Handling Editor: Christoph Schmitt, in collaboration with the Nature Metabolism team.

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Extended Data Fig. 1 | TFEB activation induces the expression of lysosomal and metabolic genes. a, Quantification of nuclear TFEB levels from BMDMs treated or not for 30 min with heat-killed Mycobacterium tuberculosis (hk Mt, 10 µg/mL), living Salmonella Typhimurium (SmT, MOI 5), or LPS/IFNγ (15 min), related to Fig. 1a–c. Quantification represents (a) N = 101, 117 (b) N = 56, 115, (c) N = 109, 99 cells examined over n = 2 independent experiments. Red lines indicate the mean and p-values were determined using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. b, Quantification of cellular and nuclear TFEB induction in the TFEB activation mimic and GFP-expressing control cells, quantified from images of cells immune-stained against endogenous TFEB. Scale bar: 10 µm. Box plots (box: 25–75 percentile, middle line: median, whiskers: 5–95 percentile) of N = 52 (GFP), N = 41 (TFEB) cells examined over of n = 2 independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. c, Heatmaps of lysosomal genes from RNA-seq analysis in: (left panel) naïve versus 24 h LPS/IFNγ treated, GFP-expressing BMDMs; (right panel) naïve BMDMs expressing TFEB-GFP or GFP. d, Quantification of LysoTracker fluorescence in TFEB-GFP- and GFP-expressing BMDMs by flow cytometry. Bars represent mean ± s.d. from n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using two-tailed one-sample t-test. MI: median fluorescent intensity. e,f, Metabolic measurements from TFEB-GFP- or GFP-expressing BMDMs, showing (e) extracellular acidification rates (ECAR) and (f) oxygen consumption rates (OCR). Bars show mean ± s.d. from n = 7 independent biological replicates. Statistics derived from two-sided, unpaired Student’s t-tests. n.s. for P > 0.05. g,h, TCA cycle fueling determined by metabolic labelling of TFEB-GFP- and GFP-expressing BMDMs with 13C-glucose, or 13C-glutamine, or 13C-palmitate in the presence or absence of LPS/IFNγ. Results are based on GC-MS/MS measurements. (g) Bar graphs present fractional label of 13C-glucose in citrate, 13C-glutamine in succinate, and 13C-palmitate in citrate. Bars show mean ± s.d. from (left and middle panel) n = 6 and (right panel) n = 5 (GFP) and n = 6 (TFEB) biologically independent samples. (h) Itaconate-fueling from 13C-labelled glucose, glutamine and palmitate in 6 h LPS/IFNγ-treated BMDMs relative to naïve BMDMs. Bars show mean ± s.d. from n = 3 biologically independent samples.
Extended Data Fig. 2 | TFEB activation induces itaconate synthesis. a, Quantification of nuclear TFEB levels upon TFEB activation with TFEBa- or Baf-treatment in naïve BMDMs. Related to images in Fig. 2b,c. Graph shows nuclear TFEB levels of \(N = 240/207\) (veh/TFEBa) and \(N = 326/315\) (veh/Baf) individual cells examined over \(n = 2\) independent experiments. \(P\) values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s \(t\)-test. b, TCA cycle and itaconate fueling determined by metabolic labelling of TFEBa- and vehicle-treated BMDMs with \(^{13}\)C-glucose. Results are based on GC-MS/MS measurements. Bars show mean ± s.d. of \(n = 3\) biologically independent samples. \(P\) values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post hoc. c, Intracellular itaconate levels measured by LC-MS in BMDMs treated with LPS/IFNγ for the indicated time frames. Line graph shows mean ± s.e.m. of \(n = 5\) biologically independent samples. d, Intracellular itaconate levels in naïve and 6h LPS-treated GFP- or TFEB-GFP-expressing BMDMs. Bar graph shows mean ± s.d. of \(n = 4\) biologically independent samples. \(P\) values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. e, iNOS expression determined by flow cytometry, in TFEB- and GFP-expressing BMDMs treated or not with LPS/IFNγ for 24h. Bars represent mean ± s.d. of \(n = 3\) independent experiments. \(P\) values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc, n.s. with \(P > 0.05\). f, Itonate levels measured by LC/MS from 24h LPS/IFNγ-treated GFP- or TFEB-expressing cells, treated or not with the iNOS inhibitor 1400W. Bars represent mean ± s.d. of \(n = 3\) biologically independent samples. \(P\) values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. g, Western Blot against endogenous TFEB in TFEB-deficient (\(Tfeb^{-/-}\)) and respective control BMDMs.
Extended Data Fig. 3 | See next page for caption.
Extended Data Fig. 3 | TFEB activation drives Irg1 expression independent of its metabolic targets and autophagy. a, Temporal correlation of Irg1 mRNA expression from qRT-PCR (red) and nuclear TFEB levels from immunofluorescence imaging (blue) in BMDMs stimulated with LPS/IFNγ. Line curves show mean of n = 1 independent experiment. b, Irg1 mRNA expression in naïve Tfeb−/− BMDMs, expressing TFEB-GFP, GFP or ΔNLS-TFEB-GFP. Graph shows mean ± s.d. of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc, n.s. P > 0.05. c, Itaconate levels measured by LC-MS in GFP- or ΔNLS-TFEB-GFP-expressing BMDMs. Bar shows mean of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. n.s. for P > 0.05. d, Irg1 mRNA expression in Tfeb−/− and WT BMDMs treated for 6 h with LPS/IFNγ. Graphs show mean ± s.d. of n = 5 independent experiments. P values were calculated using two-tailed, one-sample t-test. e,f, Irg1 mRNA expression in naïve TFEB-GFP-expressing BMDMs treated with vehicle, (e) 4 μM UK5099, 10 mM 2-DG, or (f) 10 mM 3-MA for 24 h. Graphs show mean ± s.d. of n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using (e) one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc and (f) two-tailed, one-sample t-test. n.s. for P > 0.05. g, Venn diagram depicting differentially expressed genes (p ≤ 0.01) from RNA-seq analysis (blue) from Fig. 1d, or genes annotated to differentially accessible chromatin regions from ATAC-seq (green) n = 1 independent experiment with N = 2 replicates and the intersections of these data sets in naïve TFEB-GFP versus GFP-expressing BMDMs. Significance of overlap was calculated with hypergeometric statistical test. h, ChIP-qPCR of iBMDMs stably expressing human TFEB-GFP treated with or without heat-killed SmT (10⁵ particles / mL) for 90 min. Bars show mean ± s.e.m. from n = 4 independent biological experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. n.s. for P > 0.05. i, Mouse embryonic fibroblast expressing the indicated TFEB and Irg1-promoter-Luciferase constructs were incubated with medium or heat-killed SmT (10⁵ particles / mL) for 3 h and fold induction of firefly luciferase levels (RLU) was determined in TFEB/Irg1-promoter vs. GFP/Irg1-promoter expressing cells. Bar shows mean ± s.e.m. of n = 5 independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way Welch’s ANOVA with Dunnett’s post hoc. n.s. for P > 0.05.
Extended Data Fig. 4 | See next page for caption.
Extended Data Fig. 4 | TFEB drives itaconate synthesis in infected macrophages to restrain intracellular Salmonella proliferation. a, Salmonella growth measured in OD600 in the presence of increasing itaconate concentration. Data show mean ± s.e.m. from n = 3 independent biological experiments. P values of the 8 h time points were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett’s post-hoc. b, Ratios of cellular itaconate of Tfeb−/− to WT or TFEBa- to vehicle-treated BMDMs. Bars show mean of n = 3 independent biological experiments. P values were calculated using two-tailed one-sample t-test, n.s. P > 0.05. c, Percentage of infected macrophages in spleens of TfebΔMac or control mice, three days after i.p. Salmonella infection. Bar shows mean of n = 4 mice. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Student’s t-test. n.s. with P > 0.05. d,e, Flow cytometry analysis of Salmonella subpopulations upon TFEBa- or vehicle- treatment for 18.5 h in WT or Irg1−/− BMDMs. (e) Quantification of (d). Graphs show mean from n = 6 independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. n.s. for P > 0.05. f, CFUs of Salmonella grown in vitro in LB or minimal medium for 18.5 h with or without TFEBa. CFUs are shown as ratio of TFEBa- to vehicle-treated control samples. Bar graphs show mean ± s.d. of n = 5 (LB) and n = 3 (minimal) independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. n.s. for P > 0.05. g, SPI-2-activation assayed by flow cytometry. BMDMs infected with Salmonella carrying a SPI-2-GFP-reporter and treated with or without TFEBa. Bar graphs show mean percentage of GFP-positive BMDMs from n = 5 independent biological repeats. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc. n.s. for P > 0.05. h, Flow cytometry of Salmonella-mCherry-containing splenic macrophages of WT or Irg1−/− mice i.p. infected and treated with TFEBa or PBS. Plots are representative of n = 3 mice. i, Ratios of Salmonella subpopulations in Irg1-BFP- relative to BFP-expressing BMDMs. Bars show mean from n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using two-tailed one-sample t-test, n.s. for P > 0.05. j, Bacterial load in Salmonella-infected BMDMs treated with exogenous itaconate for 18.5 h. Images are representative of n = 3 independent experiments. Scale bar: 50 µm. k,l, Percentage of BMDMs containing (k) growing or (l) early host-killed Salmonella in WT and autophagy-deficient Atg7−/− BMDMs, treated with TFEBa or vehicle. Data represent mean of n = 6 (veh) and n = 5 (TFEBa) independent experiments. P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc, n.s. for P > 0.05.
Extended Data Fig. 5 | TFEB increases vacuolar itaconate levels by modulating Rab32/BLOC3 transfer system. a, Vacuolar itaconate levels in WT or Irg1−/− BMDMs infected with Salmonella carrying a NanoLuc-itaconate sensor and treated with TFEBa or vehicle for 18 h. Graphs show mean of n = 4 (WT) independent experiments or n = 2 biologically independent samples (Irg1−/−). P values were calculated using one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc test. b, Levels of Rab32 cleavage in WT or Irg1−/− BMDMs infected with Salmonella (SmT) and treated or not with TFEBa. (b) Representative Western Blots and (c) quantification of Rab32 cleavage in infected TFEBa- relative to vehicle-treated WT and Irg1−/− BMDMs. Bars show mean ± s.d. from n = 3 independent experiments. P values were calculated using unpaired, two-sided Students t-test. (d) Representative images from (d). Inserts show 3D-rendered surfaces of mitochondria and Salmonella. Scale bars: 5 µm and insert 1 µm. f, Images of bacterial load in mCherry-Salmonella–infected WT and Hps4−/− BMDMs, treated or not with TFEBa. (f) Representative images of n = 3 independent experiments. Scale bar: 40 µm, dashed lines indicate cellular outlines. (g) Frequency distribution of (f) shown as ratio of TFEBa- to vehicle-treated BMDMs. Bars represent mean ± s.e.m. from n = 3 independent experiments. Red box shows bins containing BMDMs with growing Salmonella populations. h,i, Images of BMDMs containing Salmonella with filamented morphology. Specified BMDMs were treated with the TFEBa or vehicle for 18.5 h. j, Analysis of (h,i). Percentage of BMDMs with filamented (long) and short Salmonella. Data show mean ± s.e.m. of n = 5 (Irg1−/−) and n = 3 (Hps4−/−) independent experiments.
Reporting Summary

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Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

☐ The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement

☐ A statement of whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly

☐ The statistical test(s) used and whether they are one- or two-sided

☐ Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section

☐ A description of all covariates tested

☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons

☐ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient), variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)

☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted

☐ Give 95% confidence interval where appropriate

☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings

☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes

☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen’s d, Pearson’s r), including how they were calculated

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection

For imaging data collection: Zen 2 (Carl Zeiss Microscopy, v2.6)

For FACS data collection: FACSSuite (BD, v10.0.1), EDI TACSAria III cell sorter, LSRFortessa cell analyzer (BD Biosciences)

For qPCR data collection: StepOne software (AB, v2.0)

For Western blot data collection: Image Lab 5.2 TVI Touch Software (Bio-Rad, v1.0.0.15)

For RNA seq collection: HISat 3000 (Illumina), PANTHER classification system version 13

For ATAC-seq collection: HISat2000 (Illumina)

Data analysis

For imaging data analysis: maris (Bitplane, v9.3.1, v9.4.1), Fiji (v2.0.0-rc-43/1.51a)

For FACS data analysis: FlowJo (v10.5.3)

For qPCR data analysis: Excel (Microsoft, v14.7.3)

For statistical data analysis and generation of graphs: Graphpad Prism (v8.2.1)

For RNA-Seq analysis: featureCounts (https://bitbucket.org/sigga/biobambam/wiki/featureCounts), DESeq2 algorithm (https://bioinformatics.github.io/deseq2/), R, Rcpp, Biostrings (Bioconductor)

For PANTHER classification system version 13, http://www.pantherdb.org

For gene list analysis (statistical overrepresentation test, Annotation Data Set: PANTHER GO Slim Biological Process, Reference List: Default Mus musculus genes)

For ATAC-seq analysis: BEDTools 2.25.0, DeepTools 2.13 v3.5.0, HOMER 4.12, Cmap software with “findMotifsGenome.pl” command, TMO 15 from the MEME suite v3.3.3

For statistical data analysis and generation of graphs: Graphpad Prism (v8.2.1)

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are not widely available, a methodology section documenting the algorithm/software is essential. For example, include programming language, libraries used, data models, and the_repo_url where the code can be accessed.

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Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:
- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our policy

RNA sequencing and ATAC sequencing data generated in this study have been deposited to SRA. SRA accession code: PRJNA647627. The authors declare that all other data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper (and its source data and supplementary information files).

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

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For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size

Sample sizes were determined on the basis of previous experience in previous experiments. For infections studies 3-5 independent experiments with BMDMs or mice (based on Saliba et al., 2016 Nat. Microbiol, Chen et al., Science 2019), for vacuolar itaconate measurements of 3 independent experiments (based on Chen et al., Science 2019) were sufficient to detect meaningful biological differences with good reproducibility. For metabolomics, qPCR measurements, imaging experiments we used at least 3-4 independent experiments. This number of independent experiments is a standard sample size to accurately detect differences in cell biology experiments (such as Michelucci et al., PNAS 2013, Napolitano et al., Nature 2020. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2444-0). Western Blots and images are shown as representative images. However, they were reproduced in a least three independent experiments or with at least 3 biologically independent samples.

Data exclusions

For metabolomics analysis: data sets were excluded when control cells (e.g. LPS/IFNg-treatment) failed to upregulate itaconate. For image analysis: Cells were excluded when poor staining qualities did not allow image acquisition or analysis. Also cells that overlapped with one another were excluded.

For FACS analysis: In cases where control conditions did not show growing Salmonella populations, or where bacterial loads of splenic macrophages did not exceed levels found in non-infected control animals, these data sets were not used for further analysis.

Replication

Reproducibility of the experimental findings was verified using biological replicates and independent experiments. The numbers are indicated in the respective figures (individual data points). In addition, the majority of our Salmonella-infected studies were performed in two labs (Alexander Westermann and Rambold lab), and thus have been replicated by independent laboratories.

Randomization

For experiments performed on cells, mice were randomly assigned. Animals ordered from the breeding facility were assigned to cages by the facility staff without knowledge of the experimental setup for which the mice were intended. The cages were randomly assigned to treatments. Experimental groups are defined by the genotype or treatments.

Blinding

Experimentalists were blinded regarding BMDMs genotype. Mouse numbers were used as identifiers. Image acquisition and FACS analysis and metabolic measurements and analysis were performed blinded.

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description

Briefly describe the study type including whether data are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods (e.g. qualitative cross-sectional, quantitative experimental, mixed-methods case study).

Research sample

State the research sample (e.g. Harvard university undergraduates, villagers in rural India) and provide relevant demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and indicate whether the sample is representative. Provide a rationale for the study sample chosen. For studies involving existing datasets, please describe the dataset and source.

Sampling strategy

Describe the sampling procedure (e.g. random, snowball, stratified, convenience). Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. For qualitative data, please indicate whether data saturation was considered, and what criteria were used to decide that no further sampling was needed.

Data collection

Provide details about the data collection procedure, including the instruments or devices used to record the data (e.g. pen and paper, computer, eye tracker, video or audio equipment) whether anyone was present besides the participant(s) and the researcher, and
Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

### Study description
Briefly describe the study. For quantitative data include treatment factors and interactions, design structure (e.g. factorial, nested, hierarchical), nature and number of experimental units and replicates.

### Research sample
Describe the research sample (e.g. a group of tagged Passer domesticus, all Stenocereus thurberi within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument), and provide a rationale for the sample choice. When relevant, describe the organism taxa, source, sex, age range and any manipulations. State what population the sample is meant to represent when applicable. For studies involving existing datasets, describe the data and its source.

### Sampling strategy
Note the sampling procedure. Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient.

### Data collection
Describe the data collection procedure, including who recorded the data and how.

### Timing and spatial scale
Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection, noting the frequency and periodicity of sampling and providing a rationale for these choices. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort. Specify the spatial scale from which the data are taken.

### Data exclusions
If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, describe the exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.

### Reproducibility
Describe the measures taken to verify the reproducibility of experimental findings. For each experiment, note whether any attempts to repeat the experiment failed OR state that all attempts to repeat the experiment were successful.

### Randomization
Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into groups. If allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled. If this is not relevant to your study, explain why.

### Blinding
Describe the extent of blinding used during data acquisition and analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why blinding was not relevant to your study.

### Field work, collection and transport

#### Field conditions
Describe the study conditions for field work, providing relevant parameters (e.g. temperature, rainfall).

#### Location
State the location of the sampling or experiment, providing relevant parameters (e.g. latitude and longitude, elevation, water depth).

#### Access & import/export
Describe the efforts you have made to access habitats and to collect and import/export your samples in a responsible manner and in compliance with local, national and international laws, noting any permits that were obtained (give the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).

#### Disturbance
Describe any disturbance caused by the study and how it was minimized.

### Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.
Materials & experimental systems

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑   | Antibodies            |
| ☑   | Eukaryotic cell lines |
|      | Palaeontology and archaeology |
| ☑   | Animals and other organisms |
|      | Human research participants |
|      | Clinical data         |
|      | Dual use research of concern |

Methods

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑   | ChIP-seq              |
|       | Flow cytometry        |
|       | MRI-based neuroimaging |

Antibodies

The following primary antibodies were used:
- anti-IRG1 (IF 1:100; Abcam, ab222411),
- anti-HSP60 (IF 1:1,000; CST, D6F1),
- anti-TFEB (WB: 1:3,000; IF: 1:1,000; Bethyl Laboratories, A303-673A),
- anti-TFEB (ChIP; (D2O7D) Rabbit mAb #37785, Cell Signaling, 1:50),
- anti-Salmonella Typhimurium control serum (IF 1:10,000 T51624, Sifin),
- anti-Rab32 (WB 1:2000; LS C204248, LSBio),
- anti-actin (WB 1:500; SantaCruz, sc-47778),
- anti-rabbit HRP-linked (WB 1:8,000; CST, 7074),
- anti-goat HRP-linked (WB 1:8,000; ThermoFisher, 31402),
- anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated (IF, 1:500; ThermoFisher, A-21244),
- anti-rabbit Cy3-conjugated (IF, 1:1,000; Jackson Immuno Research Laboratories, 111-165-144).

Validation

All commercial antibodies, validation on company websites:
- https://www.abcam.com/irg1-antibody-epr22066-ab222411.html
- https://www.thermofisher.com/antibody/product/HS60-Antibody-clone-3GB-Monoclonal/MAS5-15836
- https://www.bethyl.com/product/A303-673A/TFEB+Antibody, https://www.cellsignal.com/products/primary-antibodies/tfeb-d2o7d-rabbit-mab/37785
- https://www.sifin.de/produkte/bakteriologische-testreagenzien/salmonella-diagnostik/kontrollieren-fuer-die-salmonella-o-und-oh-testantigene/
- https://www.isbio.com/antibodies/rab32-antibody-c-terminus-if-immunofluorescence-wb-western-ls-c204248/212504
- https://www.scbt.com/de/p/actin-antibody-i-19
- https://www.thermofisher.com/antibody/product/Goat-anti-Rabbit-IgG-H-L-Cross-Adsorbed-Secondary-Antibody-Polyclonal/31402
- https://www.jacksonimmuno.com/catalog/products/111-165-144

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about cell lines

Cell line source(s) immortalized mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) were sourced from ATCC (CRL-2907™), PlatE were sourced from R. Grosschedl (MPI-IE Freiburg), immortalized BMDMs were sourced from T. Lämmertmann (MPI-IE, Freiburg).

Authentication MEFs were authenticated by ATCC, no additional authentication was performed. PlatE cells were not authenticated. iBMDMs were generated from primary BMDMs, no additional authentication was performed.

Mycoplasma contamination Cell lines are regularly checked for being negative for Mycoplasma infection.

Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register) No commonly misidentified cell lines were used in this study.

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about studies involving animals, ARRIVE guidelines, recommended for reporting animal research

Laboratory animals C57BL/6 mice (RRID: IMSR_JAX:000644), Tbefbfl/fl mice with Vav-iCre transgenicor Tbefbfl/fl or Lyz2-cre mice, Irg1−/− mice (strain C57BL/6N-Acoc1em1(MPci)/j), Irg1−/− mice (B6.129-S2-Irg1tm1(Kmak)/J), Irg1−/− mice (B6.129S2-Irg1tm1Neo(Agt), Souris-/- mice (strain C57BL/6-Lystbg-Bthr/Mmuuc), Alg7fl/fl Vav-iCre mice. 8-25 weeks old male and female mice were used in this study. Mice were housed under controlled conditions, namely 20–21°C, 55–65% relative humidity, and 12:12-light-dark cycle. Food was available ad libitum for all animals. Mice were maintained, infected and euthanized under protocols approved by the animal care committee of the Regierungspräsidium Freiburg, Germany, in compliance with all relevant ethical regulations. Animals were euthanized by carbon dioxide asphyxiation followed by cervical dislocation, and bone marrow or spleens were harvested post mortem.
Flow Cytometry

Plots
- Confirm that:
  - The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g., CD4-FITC).
  - The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a group is an analysis of identical markers).
  - All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
  - A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology

Sample preparation
To determine intracellular Salmonella subpopulations (growing, non-growing, host-killed), infected BMDMs were washed once with cold PBS and then harvested once with a cell lifter in PBS. Per condition, 3 technical replicates were pooled. To assess Salmonella subpopulations based on GFP and mCherry signals, samples were measured on a BD FACSAria III cell sorter. Splenoic infected mice were isolated, and cell suspensions were obtained by homogenizing the spleens using 70μm cell strainers. Erythrocyte lysis (ACK buffer) was performed and specific binding was blocked with anti-CD16/32 for 15 min before cells were stained for F4/80, CD11b and live/dead in cold PBS. For 2 h, Cells were fixed for 15 min using the FixP3 transcription factor staining buffer set (BD Biosciences, BD-5523-00). Data was acquired on a LS Fortessa (BD) and analyzed with FlowJo software (BD, version 10.3). During analysis, doublets were excluded.

Instrument
- FACSAria III cell sorter (BD Biosciences), BD LS Fortessa (BD Biosciences)

Software
- BD FACSDiva 3.0.1 for data collection, FlowJo (BD Biosciences, v10.5.3) for data analysis.

Cell population abundance
N/A

Gating strategy
The gating strategy is incorporated in the figure. The Salmonella-treated BMDM population was gated on single cells according to FSC-A/FSC-H. Salmonella sub-populations inside BMDMs were identified based on the relative GFP and mCherry signals. Uninfected and 30-min infected BMDMs were used as controls, as shown in Figure 4. Splenic cells from Salmonella-infected and non-infected control mice were gated on single cells, according to FSC-A/FSC-H, or living cells based on staining with a live/dead marker. Macrophage populations were identified by CD11b/F4/80+ staining. Salmonella-mCherry-infected cells were identified in the macrophage population (Extended Data Figure 1g).

Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.