

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## Dibenzocyclooctyne Conjugation Enhances Antigen Cross-Presentation and T cell Killing for Potent Cancer Vaccines

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## 44 Additional Materials and Methods

### 45 Cells and animals

46 B16-F10, B16-OVA and DC2.4 cells were maintained in RPMI-1640  
47 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1%  
48 penicillin-streptomycin (P/S) and cultured at 37 °C in a humidified incubator  
49 with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Female C57BL/6 mice (5-week-old) were obtained from Zhuhai  
50 BesTest Bio-Tech Co., Ltd (China) and housed in the Nanhai Laboratory  
51 Animal Center of Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital. All animals were maintained  
52 under specific pathogen-free (SPF) conditions, with a 12-hour light/dark cycle  
53 at 25 °C, and provided ad libitum access to food and water.

### 54 Preparation and characterization of THDBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS

55 DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-COOH (>98%, CAS: 1537170-85-6) was purchased from  
56 Shanghai Haohong Scientific Co., Ltd. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)  
57 spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz spectrometer.  
58 Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm relative to residual solvent signals  
59 (CDCl<sub>3</sub> :  $\delta$  7.26 for <sup>1</sup>H NMR). Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry  
60 (LC-MS) were recorded on Shimadzu LCMS-8060 system. The synthetic  
61 procedure is illustrated in Scheme S1.

62 Synthesis of 3-[[13,16-dioxo-16-(5,6,11,12-tetrahydrodibenzo[1,2-f:1',2'-  
63 b]azocin-5-yl)-12-aza-3,6,9-trioxahehexadec-1-yl]oxy}propanoic acid (2): To a  
64 solution of DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-COOH (1.0 g, 1.80 mmol) in methanol (MeOH, 20 mL)  
65 was added platinum(IV) oxide (PtO<sub>2</sub>, 409 mg, 1.80 mmol). The mixture was  
66 stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (balloon pressure) at room temperature  
67 for 2 h. Progress of the reaction was monitored by LC-MS. Upon completion,  
68 the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the catalyst, and the filtrate was  
69 concentrated in vacuo to afford compound 2 as a yellow oil (801 mg, 79%  
70 yield). The crude product was used directly in the next step without further  
71 purification. (ESI-MS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 557.5)

72 Synthesis of N-{15-[(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)oxy]-15-oxo-3,6,9,12-tetra-  
73 oxapentadec-1-yl}-4-oxo-4-(5,6,11,12-tetrahydrodibenzo[1,2-f:1',2'-b]azocin-5-  
74 yl)butanamide (3): To a solution of compound 2 (500 mg, 0.90 mmol) in  
75 dichloromethane (DCM, 20 mL) were sequentially added  
76 O-(benzotriazole-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate (TSTU,  
77 352 mg, 1.17 mmol) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIEA, 233 mg, 1.80 mmol)  
78 at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours.  
79 The progress was monitored by LC-MS. The mixture was concentrated in  
80 vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluent:  
81 DCM/MeOH gradient from 0% to 20% MeOH) to afford compound 3 as a  
82 colorless oil (95 mg, 16% yield). ESI-MS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 654.5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  
83 CDCl<sub>3</sub> ) :  $\delta$  7.17-6.99 (m, 8H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 5.73 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, J  
84 = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.77-3.59 (m, 12H), 3.55 (t, J = 5.2 Hz,  
85 2H), 3.48-3.37 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.12 (m, 2H), 2.89 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.88-2.79  
86 (m, 6H), 2.62-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.47-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.26-2.13 (m, 1H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR  
87 spectra of THDBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS is illustrated in Figure S1.

### 88 Preparation and characterization of DBCO-OVA and structural analogs

89 OVA was dissolved in 0.1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/NaHCO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 9.0) and mixed  
90 with DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS at a molar ratio of 1:10. The reaction mixture,  
91 containing 10% DMSO, was stirred at 4 °C in the dark for 8 hours. The reaction  
92 was terminated by the addition of 5 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl to a final concentration of 50 mM.

93 Free DBCO was removed using a 30 kDa-filter ultrafiltration tube, and the  
94 resulting concentrated DBCO-OVA was collected. Final protein concentration  
95 was determined by the BCA assay. DBCO modification was verified via a click  
96 reaction with an azide-functionalized Cy5 probe (N<sub>3</sub>-Cy5). DBCO-OVA was  
97 incubated with 50 μM N<sub>3</sub>-Cy5 for 1 hour, washed with TBST buffer, and  
98 analyzed by SDS-PAGE followed by polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)  
99 membrane transfer. Cy5 fluorescence overlapping the OVA band was  
100 visualized using a fluorescence scanner. Zeta potential was measured using a  
101 Zetasizer Nano system. The degree of DBCO conjugation was characterized  
102 by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

103 BCN-OVA, m-PEG<sub>4</sub>-OVA, and THDBCO-OVA were synthesized in a  
104 similar procedure with BCN-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS, m-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS, and  
105 THDBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS as the starting materials. BCN-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS were  
106 purchased from MACKLIN and m-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS were purchased from  
107 MedChemExpress.

### 108 **Preparation of DBCO-modified tumor cell lysate (DBCO-TCL)**

109 Tumor cells were cultured to confluence, washed with PBS, digested with  
110 0.25% trypsin, and collected after centrifugation at 1200 rpm for 5 min.  
111 Repeated freeze-thaw cycles were performed three times to generate tumor  
112 cell lysates (TCL). The lysates were centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 15 min and  
113 the supernatant was further filtered a 0.22 μm membrane. Total protein  
114 concentration in the supernatant was determined using the BCA assay. The  
115 filtered TCL was aliquoted and stored at -80 °C until use. For DBCO  
116 conjugation, TCL was dissolved in 0.1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/NaHCO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 9.0) to  
117 yield a 2 mg/mL solution. DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS was added at a mass ratio of 6:1  
118 (TCL: DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS), and 10% DMSO was included in the reaction  
119 mixture. The reaction was stirred at 4 °C in the dark for at least 8 hours. The  
120 conjugation was terminated by the addition of 5 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl to a final  
121 concentration of 50 mM. The resulted DBCO-TCL was stored at 4 °C for  
122 subsequent use.

### 123 **Evaluation of antigen uptake by DC2.4 cells using confocal microscopy**

124 DC2.4 cells were detached using 0.25% trypsin, resuspended and seeded  
125 into 24-well plate (CCP06-024, BIOLAND), then incubated overnight at 37 °C  
126 in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. Cells were subsequently incubated with 50 μg/mL  
127 OVA-FITC or DBCO-OVA-FITC, respectively. After 4 hours and 12 hours of  
128 incubation, cells were washed three times with PBS and then incubated with  
129 100 μL of DMEM containing 1× Hoechst dye for 10 minutes in the dark.  
130 Fluorescence images were acquired using a confocal laser scanning  
131 microscope (Olympus FV3000), collecting signals from FITC and Hoechst  
132 channels.

### 133 **Preparation of BMDCs**

134 Bilateral femurs and tibiae were harvested from C57BL/6 mice, the  
135 surrounding muscle tissue was carefully removed and the bones were briefly  
136 disinfected in 70% ethanol before being transferred into sterile PBS. Bone  
137 marrow cavities were flushed with PBS to collect bone marrow cells. After  
138 treatment with red blood cell lysis buffer, the cells were centrifuged again and  
139 resuspended in complete RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10%  
140 heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% P/S. Recombinant murine  
141 GM-CSF (20 ng/mL) and IL-4 (10 ng/mL) were added, and the cells were

142 incubated at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. On days 2  
143 and 4, one-quarter of the culture medium was replaced with fresh medium  
144 containing cytokines. On day 7, non-adherent and loosely adherent cells were  
145 collected for subsequent experiments.

#### 146 **Detection of antigen uptake, presentation, and maturation of BMDCs by** 147 **flow cytometry**

148 BMDCs were seeded in 24-well plates and incubated overnight at 37 °C in  
149 a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. The following day, cells were subsequently incubated  
150 with 50 µg/mL OVA or DBCO-OVA or equivalent volume of PBS for 12 to 48  
151 hours. After incubation, cells were collected and subjected to antibody staining.  
152 For antigen uptake analysis, cells were stained with PE-conjugated anti-mouse  
153 CD11c antibody (BioLegend, N418). For antigen presentation assays, cells  
154 were stained with PE-conjugated anti-CD11c (BioLegend, N418) and  
155 PE-Cy7-conjugated anti-H-2K<sup>b</sup>/SIINFEKL (BioLegend, 25-D1.16) antibodies.  
156 For maturation analysis, BMDCs were stained with a panel of antibodies:  
157 CD11c (PE) (BioLegend, N418), MHC-II (AF700) (BioLegend, M5/114.15.2),  
158 CD80 (FITC) (BioLegend, 16-10A1), CD86 (BV650) (BioLegend, GL-1), and  
159 CD40 (PerCP/Cy5.5) (BioLegend, 3/23). All staining procedures were  
160 performed on ice in the dark for 30 minutes, followed by washing with PBS  
161 twice. DAPI (5 µg/mL) was added immediately before flow cytometry to  
162 distinguish dead cells. All samples were analyzed using a CytoFLEX S flow  
163 cytometer (Beckman CytoFLEX, USA), and data were processed using FlowJo  
164 v10 software.

#### 165 **ELISA detection of cytokine secretion by BMDCs**

166 BMDCs were seeded in a 24-well plate and incubated overnight at 37 °C  
167 in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. The following day, cells were incubated with 50 µg/mL  
168 OVA, DBCO-OVA or equivalent volume of PBS for 48 hours. After incubation,  
169 culture supernatants were collected, and the concentrations of IL-1β and IL-6  
170 were quantified using commercial ELISA kits (CSB-E08054m and  
171 CSB-E04639m, CUSABIO, <https://www.cusabio.com/>), while IL-12p70 and  
172 TNF-α levels were measured with ELISA kits (SEKM-0013 and SEKM-0034,  
173 Solarbio, Shanghai, China), all according to the manufacturers' instructions.

#### 174 **Isolation and cytotoxicity detection of OT-1 T cells**

175 Spleens were harvested from OT-1 mice and processed into single-cell  
176 suspensions. CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were isolated using a commercial magnetic bead  
177 separation kit (BioLegend) according to the manufacturer's instructions.  
178 BMDCs were seeded in a 24-well plate at a density of 5 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells per well  
179 and stimulated with 50 µg/mL OVA or DBCO-OVA or equivalent volume of  
180 PBS for 24 hours. B16-OVA tumor cells were digested, resuspended in  
181 RPMI-1640 supplemented with 5 µM CFSE, at 37 °C for 10 minutes. After  
182 washing with PBS, CFSE-labeled cells were ready for co-culture. Purified  
183 CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, antigen-pulsed BMDCs, and CFSE-labeled B16-OVA cells were  
184 mixed at a ratio of 10:5:1, and co-cultured in a 24-well plate (5 × 10<sup>4</sup> tumor  
185 cells per well) for 24 hours at 37 °C in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. After incubation, cells  
186 were harvested using trypsin digestion, stained with DAPI, and analyzed by  
187 flow cytometry. The number of CFSE<sup>+</sup>DAPI<sup>-</sup> live tumor cells was quantified  
188 using counting beads. Survival rate of tumor cell was calculated as follows:  
189 survival rate (%) = (live tumor cells / bead count in experimental well) ÷ (live  
190 tumor cells / bead count in control well) × 100%. This value was used to

191 evaluate the antigen-specific cytotoxic activity of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.

192 **NF- $\kappa$ B pathway activation analysis via western blot**

193 BMDCs were harvested after antigen stimulation, and total protein was  
194 extracted using lysis buffer (Beyotime, China). Protein concentration was  
195 determined using the BCA assay. Samples were denatured and separated by  
196 SDS-PAGE, followed by transfer onto PVDF membranes. After blocking in 5%  
197 skim milk, membranes were sequentially incubated with primary antibodies  
198 against p-p65(Cell Signaling, 93H1), p65 (Santa Cruz, sc8008), p-I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$   
199 (Selleck, B13N13), I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  (Santa Cruz, sc-1643), and GAPDH (Santa Cruz,  
200 sc-365062), and HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies. Chemiluminescent  
201 substrate (EpiZyme) was applied to visualize protein bands, and signals were  
202 captured using an imaging system (Bio-Rad).

203 **p65 nuclear translocation analysis by western blot**

204 BMDCs were harvested after antigen stimulation, and nuclear proteins  
205 were extracted according to the manufacturer's instructions of a commercial  
206 cell nuclear extraction kit (Beyotime, China). Nuclear protein samples were  
207 subjected to western blot analysis following the same procedure described  
208 above, using primary antibodies against p65 (Santa Cruz, sc-8008), HDAC1  
209 (Proteintech, 10197-1-AP), and GAPDH (Santa Cruz, sc-365062) to assess  
210 p65 nuclear translocation.

211 **Immunofluorescence staining**

212 DC2.4 cells were seeded in a 24-well plate containing sterile glass  
213 coverslips and incubated with the appropriate treatments before fixation.  
214 Permeabilization was performed using 100  $\mu$ L of Triton X-100. Following  
215 blocking, samples were incubated sequentially with primary antibody against  
216 p65 (Santa Cruz, sc8008) and a Cy3-conjugated secondary antibody  
217 (KERONG), with thorough PBS washes between steps. After staining, cells  
218 were mounted using an anti-fade mounting medium containing DAPI and  
219 covered with a coverslip. Fluorescence images were acquired using a confocal  
220 laser scanning microscope (Olympus FV3000) for further analysis.

221 **Detection of antigen uptake and maturation of pulmonary APCs**

222 Mice were intravenously injected with OVA-FITC or DBCO-OVA-FITC (for  
223 uptake analysis), or with OVA or DBCO-OVA (for maturation analysis). After  
224 24 hours, lungs were harvested to prepare single-cell suspensions for staining.  
225 For uptake analysis, cells were stained with Fixable Viability Stain 510 (BD),  
226 PerCP-Cy5.5 anti-mouse CD45 (BioLegend, 30-F11), APC/Fire™ 750  
227 anti-mouse F4/80 (BioLegend, BM8), BV785 anti-mouse CD11b (BioLegend,  
228 M1/70), and BV421 anti-mouse CD11c (BioLegend, N418). For maturation  
229 analysis, cells were stained with Fixable Viability Stain 510 (BD), FITC  
230 anti-mouse CD45 (BioLegend, S18009F), APC/Fire™ 750 anti-mouse F4/80  
231 (BioLegend, BM8), BV421 anti-mouse CD11c (BioLegend, N418), APC  
232 anti-mouse CD80 (BioLegend, 16-10A1), and BV605 anti-mouse CD86  
233 (BioLegend, PO3). All staining procedures were performed on ice. After  
234 staining, cells were washed with PBS and passed through a cell strainer  
235 before analysis. Samples were analyzed using a CytoFLEX S flow cytometer  
236 (Beckman Cytoflex LX).

237 **Quantification of OVA-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell responses Using *in vivo***

238 Mice were i.v. injected with 100  $\mu$ g OVA or DBCO-OVA, or equivalent  
239 volume of PBS as control. On day 7 post-immunization, spleens were  
240 harvested from unimmunized donor mice to prepare single-cell suspensions,

241 followed by red blood cell lysis. Splenocytes were divided into two groups:  
242 pulsed with OVA<sub>257-263</sub> peptide, or untreated, and labeled with different  
243 concentrations of CFSE to distinguish them, CFSE<sup>high</sup> (peptide-pulsed) and  
244 CFSE<sup>low</sup> (unpulsed). After staining, equal numbers of CFSE<sup>high</sup> and CFSE<sup>low</sup>  
245 cells were mixed and co-injected intravenously into the immunized recipient  
246 mice. Sixteen hours later, lungs and spleens were collected to prepare  
247 single-cell suspensions. DAPI staining was performed to exclude dead cells.  
248 Samples were analyzed by flow cytometry, and the ratio of CFSE<sup>high</sup> to  
249 CFSE<sup>low</sup> cells was quantified to evaluate OVA-specific CTL activity *in vivo*.

#### 250 **Tumor model establishment**

251 5-week-old female C57BL/6 mice were used to establish both  
252 subcutaneous solid tumor and lung metastasis models. For the subcutaneous  
253 tumor model, mice were shaved on the dorsal side and injected  
254 subcutaneously with  $5 \times 10^5$  B16-F10 or B16-OVA cells in PBS suspension.  
255 Once tumors became palpable, tumor length and width were measured using  
256 a caliper, and tumor volume was calculated using the formula: volume = length  
257  $\times$  width<sup>2</sup>  $\times$  0.5. When tumors reached approximately 50 mm<sup>3</sup>, mice were  
258 randomly assigned to experimental groups and treated accordingly. For the  
259 lung metastasis model,  $2 \times 10^5$  B16-OVA cells were injected via tail vein to  
260 induce pulmonary metastases. Starting on day 4 post-injection, mice were  
261 assigned to treatment groups, and body weight was monitored every 3-4 days  
262 to assess disease progression.

#### 263 **Flow cytometry analysis**

264 Tumor tissues, spleens, or lungs were harvested and processed into  
265 single-cell suspensions for flow cytometric analysis. Immune cells were  
266 isolated from tumor tissues following enzymatic digestion and Percoll density  
267 gradient centrifugation, followed by red blood cell lysis. For DC maturation  
268 analysis, cells were stained with Fixable Viability Stain 510 (BD), APC/Cy7  
269 anti-mouse CD45 (BioLegend, I3/2.3), PE anti-mouse CD11c (BioLegend,  
270 N418), FITC anti-mouse CD80 (BioLegend, 16-10A1), BV650 anti-mouse  
271 CD86 (BioLegend, GL-1), and AF700 anti-mouse MHC-II (BioLegend,  
272 M5/114.15.2). For T cell quantification, cells were stained with Fixable Viability  
273 Stain 510 (BD), APC/Cy7 anti-mouse CD45 (BioLegend, I3/2.3), BV605  
274 anti-mouse CD3 (BioLegend, 17A2), PerCP-Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse CD4  
275 (BioLegend, RM4-5), and AF700 anti-mouse CD8 (BioLegend, 53-5.8). To  
276 assess T cell effector molecule expression, cells were stained with Fixable  
277 Viability Stain 510 (BD), APC/Cy7 anti-mouse CD45 (BioLegend, I3/2.3),  
278 BV605 anti-mouse CD3 (BioLegend, 17A2), PerCP-Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse  
279 CD4 (BioLegend, RM4-5), AF700 anti-mouse CD8 (BioLegend, 53-5.8), APC  
280 anti-mouse Granzyme B (BioLegend, QA16A02), and PE-Cy7 anti-mouse  
281 IFN- $\gamma$  (BioLegend, XMG1.2). Gating strategies of T cells from tumor tissues or  
282 spleens were shown in **figure S11-S13**.

#### 283 **Molecular docking process**

284 The crystal structure of MHC class I ligand SIINFEKL-PEG<sub>4</sub>-DBCO  
285 (chicken ovalbumin epitope OVA antigenic peptide modified with DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>  
286 at the  $\epsilon$ -N of lysine residue) was generated using ChemDraw and converted  
287 into a 3D structure with Chem3D. The structure was energy-minimized using  
288 the MM2 force field until convergence. The crystal structure of

289 SIINFEKL-bound mouse MHC class I molecule<sup>1</sup> (H2-K<sup>b</sup>, PDB code: 3P9L) was  
290 obtained from the Protein Data Bank (PDB; <http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/>) as the  
291 3D structure of a H2-K<sup>b</sup> in complex with OVA antigenic peptide SIINFEKL.

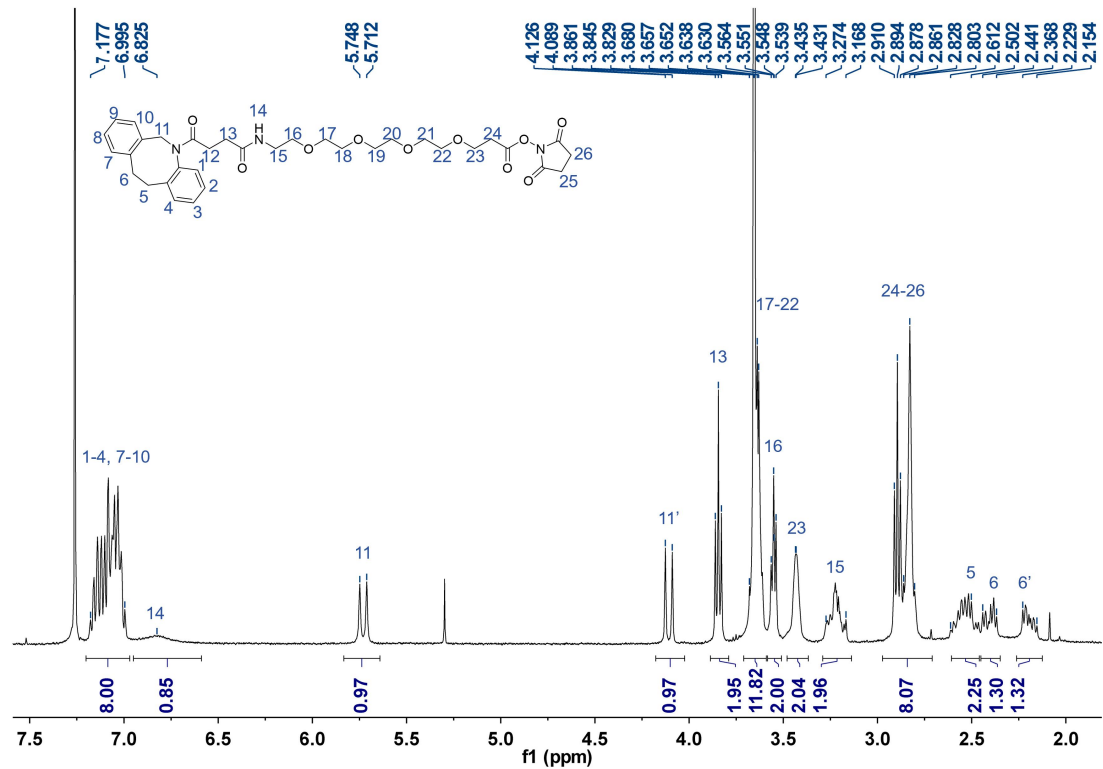
292 Docking studies between SIINFEKL-PEG<sub>4</sub>-DBCO and H2-K<sup>b</sup> ligand  
293 binding domain were carried out by using AutoDock Vina 1.2.5.<sup>2,3</sup> A grid box of  
294 22.5 × 47.25 × 47.25 Å<sup>3</sup> was centered on the original ligand coordinates, with a  
295 grid spacing of 0.375 Å. The exhaustiveness was set to 8, up to 9 binding  
296 modes were generated, and other parameters were set to default values.

297 After docking, nine binding modes as the top-ranked poses were present  
298 for each docked ligand, and the binding mode showed the similar orientation in  
299 accordance with that of SIINFEKL in crystal complex owns the highest  
300 absolute value of affinity (affinity = -7.8 kcal/mol) was chose as the final  
301 binding mode, visualized using PyMOL. Figure S5 showed binding modes  
302 predicted from molecular docking study for SIINFEKL-PEG<sub>4</sub>-DBCO toward  
303 H2-K<sup>b</sup> (3P9L) ligand binding domain.

#### 304 **Data visualization and statistical analysis**

305 Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism v9.4.0. All  
306 figures were generated using GraphPad Prism v9.4.0. Kaplan–Meier survival  
307 curves were analyzed using the log-rank test. One-way ANOVA was used for  
308 comparisons involving more than two groups, while two-way ANOVA was used  
309 to analyze the effects of two independent factors. Results are presented as  
310 mean ± standard deviation (mean ± SD). A *P*-value < 0.05 was considered  
311 statistically significant. In all cases, significance levels are defined as: ns, *P* ≥  
312 0.05, \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001.





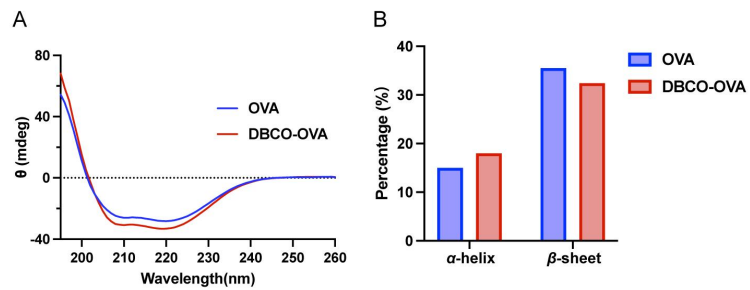
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316 **Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of THDBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS.

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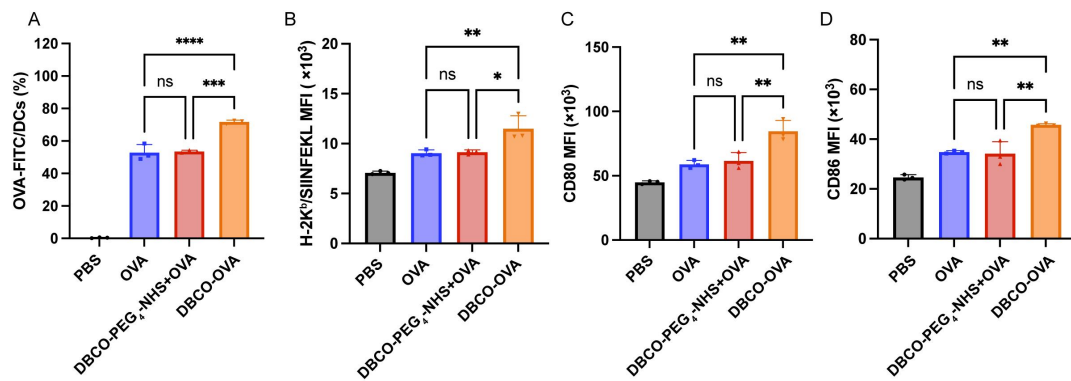
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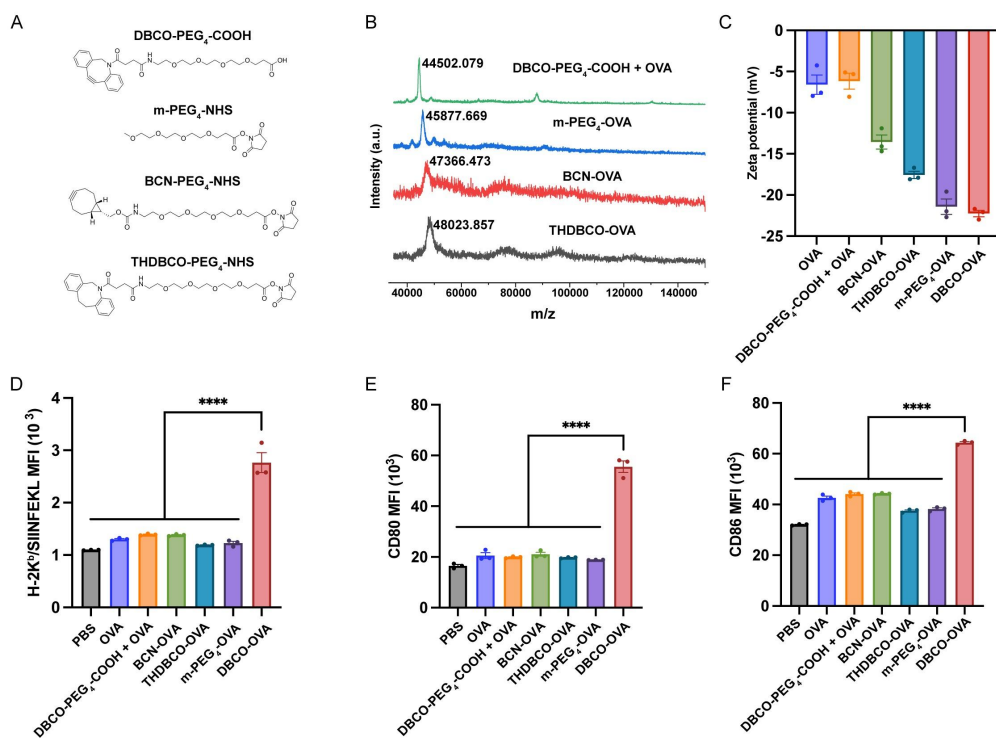
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321 **Figure S2.** CD spectroscopy (A) and quantitative analysis (B) showed that DBCO  
 322 modification does not exhibit a significant effect on the secondary structure of the OVA  
 323 protein.



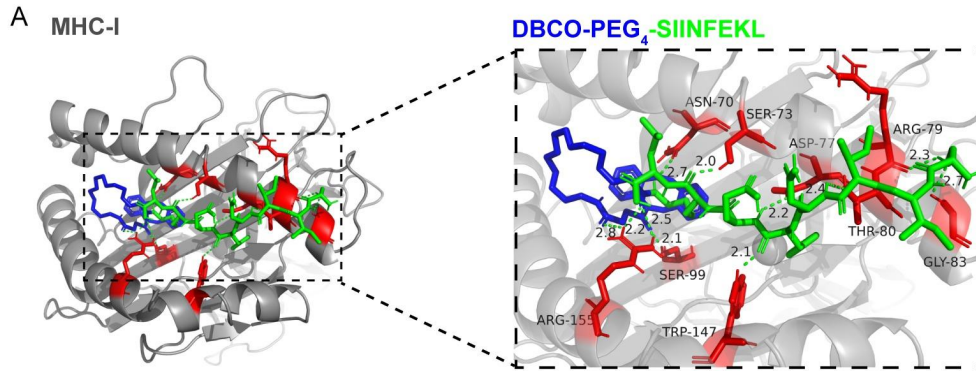
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325 **Figure S3. Addition of OVA and DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS into the cell culture medium does**  
 326 **not enhance antigen presentation by DCs.** Antigen uptake, antigen presentation, and  
 327 DC maturation were detected by flow cytometry. (A) Antigen uptake by BMDCs. BMDCs  
 328 were co-cultured with 50 µg/mL of FITC-labeled OVA, physical mixture of DBCO-NHS and  
 329 OVA, or DBCO-OVA, for 12 hours. (B) H-2K<sup>b</sup>/SIINFEKL presentation on BMDCs detected  
 330 by flow cytometry. BMDCs were co-cultured with 50 µg/mL of OVA, physical mixture of  
 331 DBCO-NHS and OVA, or DBCO-OVA, for 24 hours. (C-D) CD80 and CD86 expression on  
 332 BMDCs. BMDCs were co-cultured for 48 hours. n = 3. Statistical analysis was performed  
 333 using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), and the data are presented as mean ±  
 334 standard deviation (SD). ns, no significance; \**P* < 0.05; \*\**P* < 0.01; \*\*\**P* < 0.001; \*\*\*\**P* <  
 335 0.0001.



336

337 **Figure S4. The immunostimulatory effects of DBCO-OVA are dependent on the**  
 338 **specific chemical functionality of DBCO.** (A) The structure of BCN-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS,  
 339 THDBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS, m-PEG<sub>4</sub>-NHS and DBCO-PEG<sub>4</sub>-COOH. (B) MALDI-TOF mass  
 340 spectra of DBCO-OVA structural analogs. (C) Zeta potential analysis comparing OVA and  
 341 DBCO-OVA structural analogs (n = 3). (D) Flow cytometry analysis of H-2K<sup>b</sup>-SIINFEKL  
 342 presentation on the surface of DC2.4 cells following DBCO-OVA and structural analogs  
 343 treatment. (E and F) Flow cytometry analysis of surface maturation markers (CD80, CD86)  
 344 on DC2.4 following DBCO-OVA and structural analogs treatment, n = 3. Statistical  
 345 analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA, and data are presented as mean ± SD.  
 346 \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001.

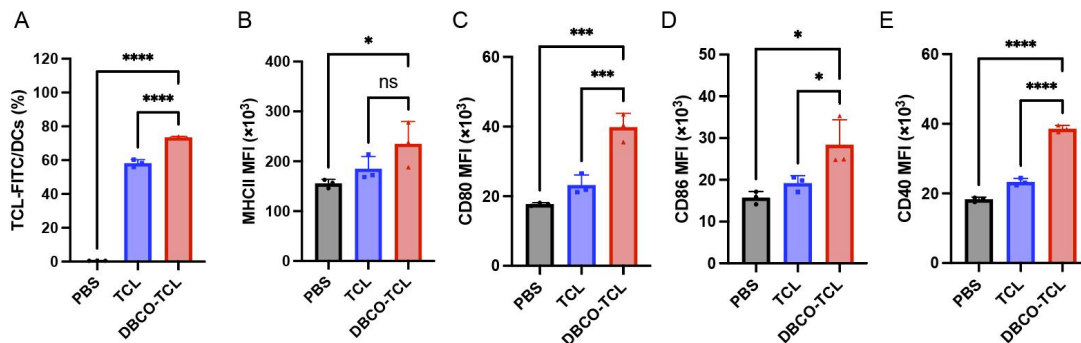


B

Protein-ligand complex	Binding free energy (kcal/mol)
MHC I protein to SIINFEKL	-7.944 ± 0.508
MHC I protein to DBCO-SIINFEKL	-7.444 ± 0.260

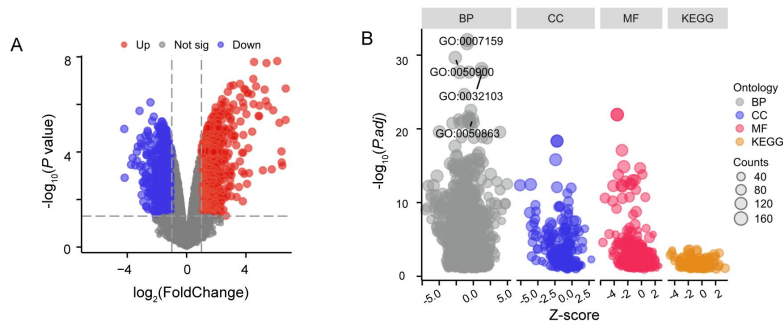
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**Figure S5. DBCO modification did not significantly alter the binding affinity of MHC I to SIINFEKL peptide.** (A) The structural conformations of MHC-I and SIINFEKL peptide after the modification of DBCO. (B) The mean binding free energy (with 9 binding modes) of MHC-I to the SIINFEKL peptide, with and without DBCO modification.



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**Figure S6. Enhanced DBCO-TCL uptake and maturation in BMDCs.** (A) Antigen uptake detected by flow cytometry. BMDCs were co-cultured with 50 µg/mL of TCL or DBCO-TCL for 12 hours, (B-E) Expression of MHC-II, CD80, CD86, and CD40 detected by flow cytometry. BMDCs were co-cultured with 50 µg/mL of TCL or DBCO-TCL for 48 hours. n = 3. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA, and data are presented as mean ± SD. ns, no significance; \**P* < 0.05; \*\**P* < 0.01; \*\*\**P* < 0.001; \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001.



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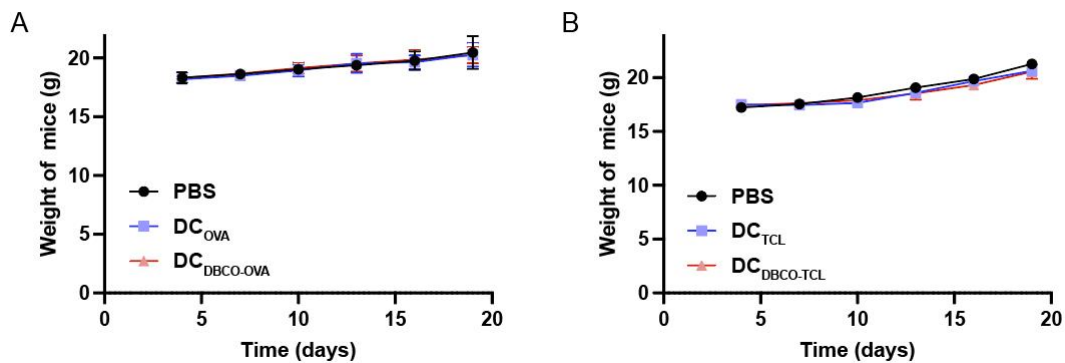
364 **Figure S7. Transcriptomic analysis of BMDCs stimulated with PBS or DBCO-OVA.**

365 (A) Volcano plots showing differentially expressed genes in BMDCs stimulated with PBS  
 366 or DBCO-OVA, where genes with a  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$  and  $|\log_2 \text{fold change}| > 0.58$  are  
 367 considered significantly different. (B) Gene Ontology (GO) and KEGG enrichment  
 368 analysis of differentially expressed genes, where significant terms and pathways were  
 369 identified based on a  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$ .

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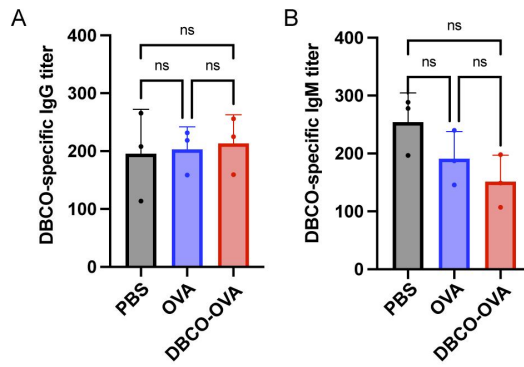
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374 **Figure S8. Body weight changes in mice after DC adoptive transfer. (A)** Body weight

375 monitoring of B16-OVA-bearing mice receiving adoptive transfer of DCs treated with  
 376 DBCO-OVA or OVA alone. (B) Body weight monitoring of B16-F10-bearing mice receiving  
 377 adoptive transfer of DCs treated with DBCO-TCL or TCL.



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**Figure S9. DBCO-OVA does not induce off-target immunity against the chemical**

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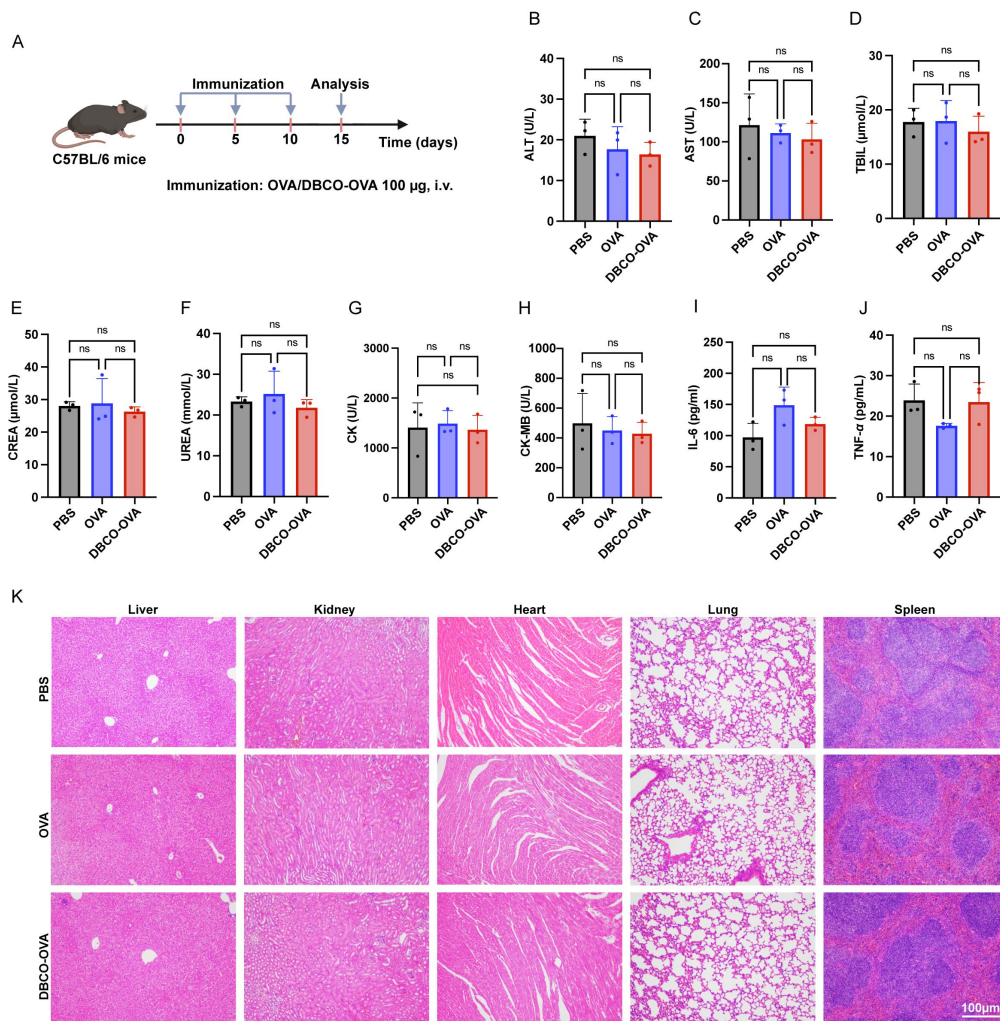
**linker.** The titer of DBCO-specific IgG (A) and IgM (B) in mouse serum (n = 3 mice/group).

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Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA, and data are presented as

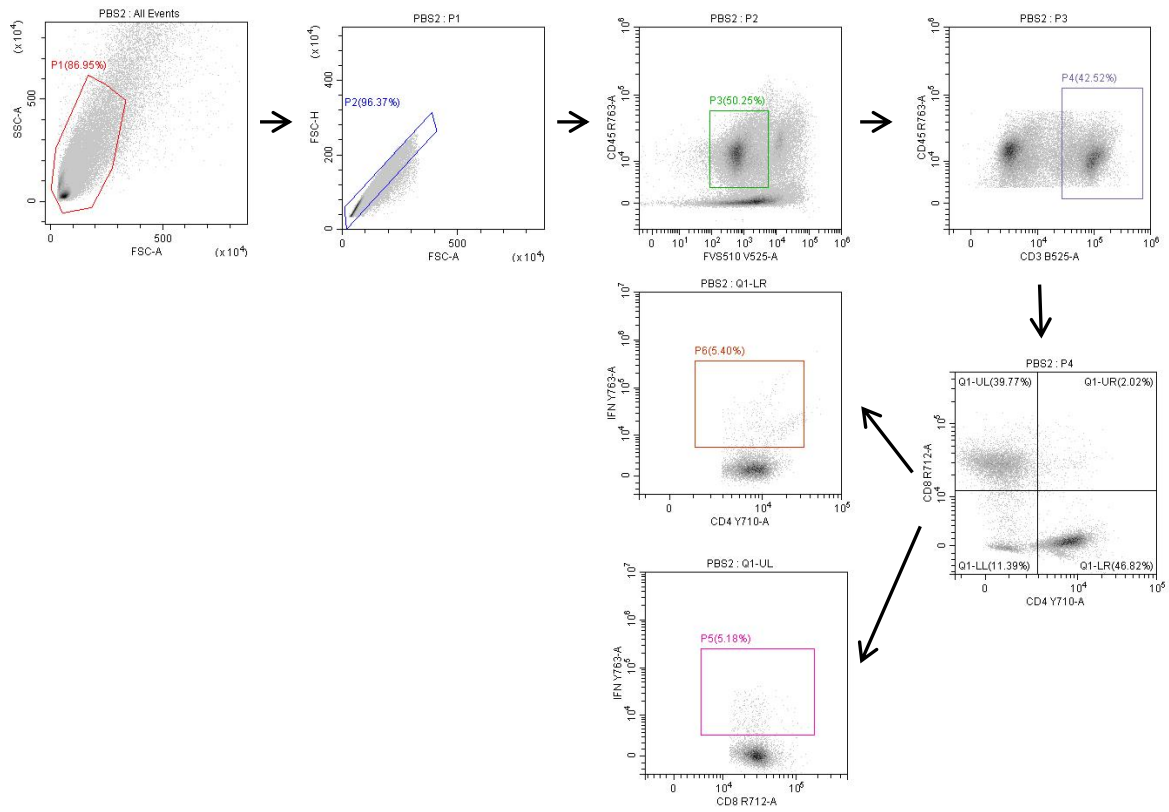
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mean  $\pm$  SD. ns, no significance.



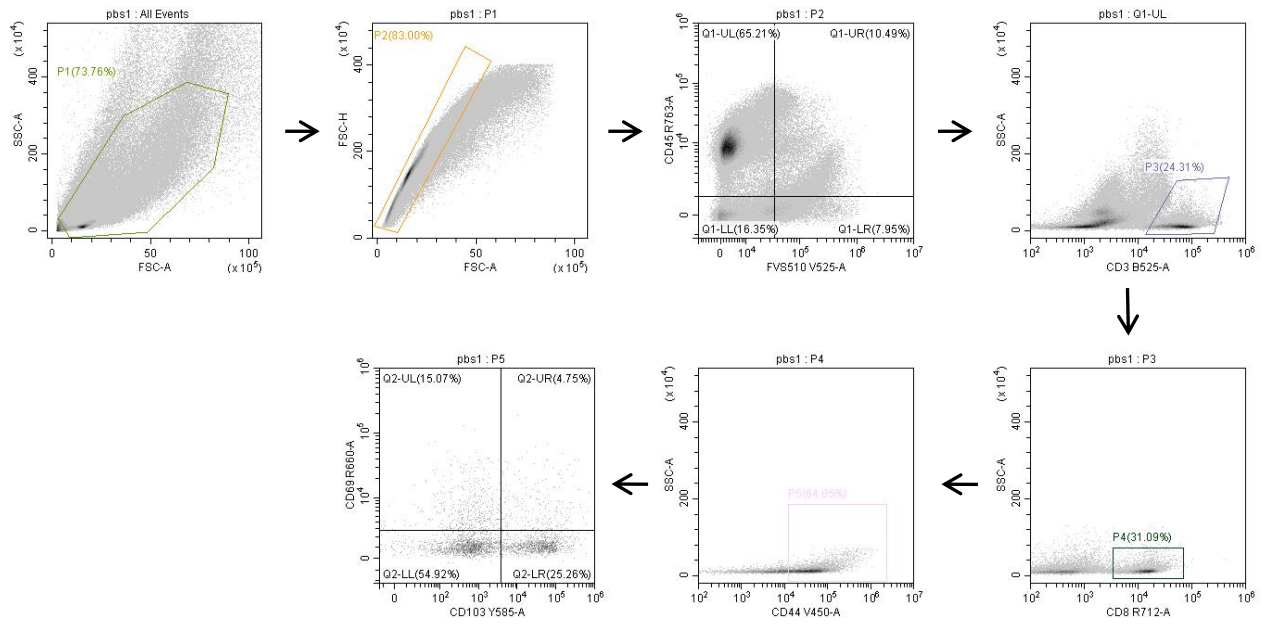
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384 **Figure S10. Biosafety evaluation of DBCO-OVA treatment in C57BL/6 mice.** (A)  
 385 Schematic of the DBCO-OVA treatment protocol. C57BL/6 mice received i.v. OVA or  
 386 DBCO-OVA (100 μg) as indicated on day 0, 5, 10. On day 15, sera were collected for  
 387 biochemical analysis. Liver, kidney, heart, lung and spleen were collected for H&E  
 388 staining. (B-H) Quantification of serum ALT (B), AST (C), TBIL (D), CREA (E), UREA (F),  
 389 CK (G), CK-MB (H). (I and J) Quantification of serum IL-6 (I) and TNF-α (J). (K) H&E  
 390 staining in liver, kidney, heart, lung and spleen were shown, scale bar, 100 μm. n = 3  
 391 mice/group. In K, the representative images from three independent mice were shown.  
 392 Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA, and data are presented as  
 393 mean ± SD. ns, no significance. Panel A created with BioRender.com.



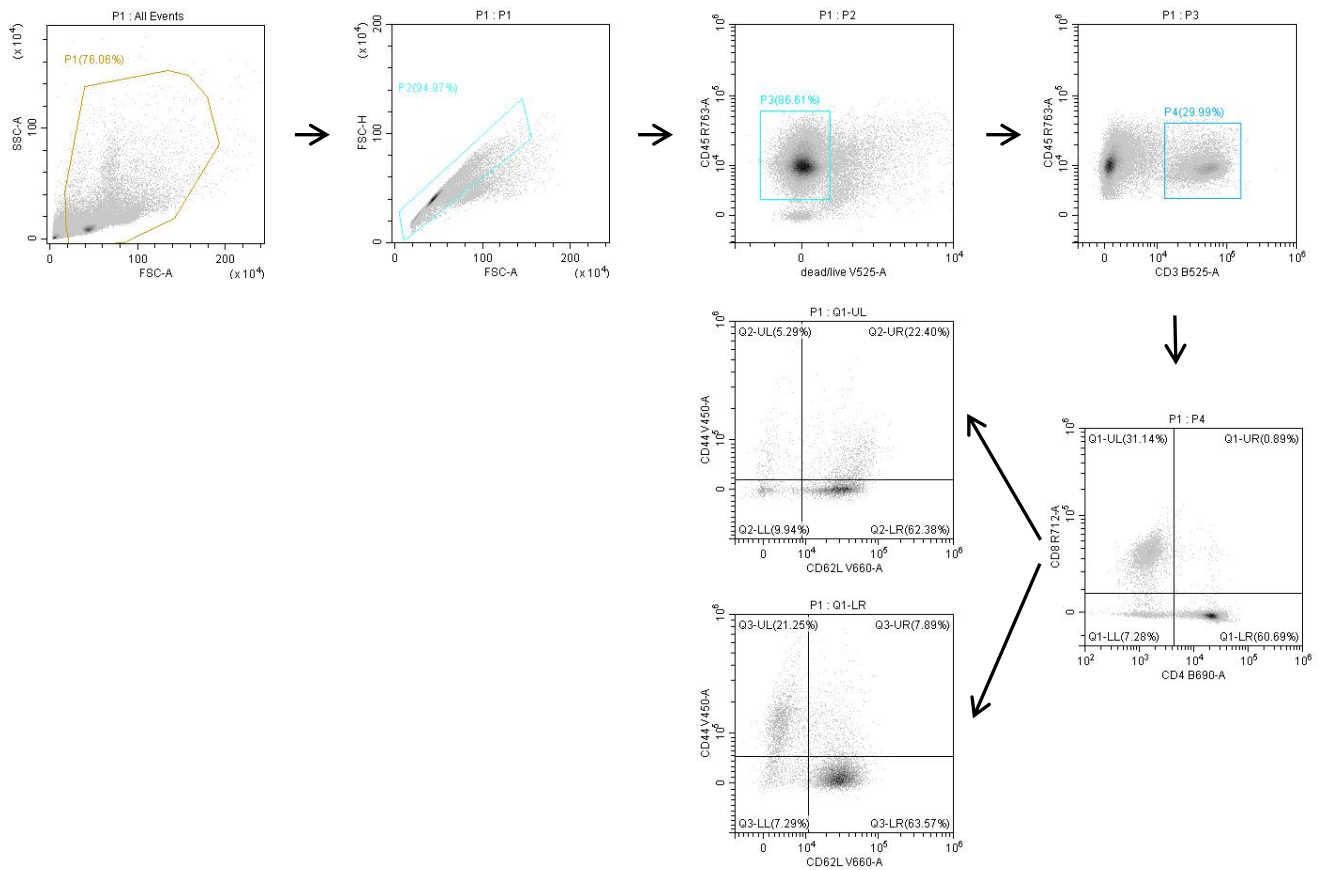
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395 **Figure S11. Gating strategy for IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> T cells in tumor tissues.**



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397 **Figure S12. Gating strategy for tissue-resident memory T cells in tumor tissues.**



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399 **Figure S13. Gating strategy for memory T cells in spleen.**

400 Table S2. Detection of ANA concentration in mouse serum from different treatment  
401 groups by chemiluminescence.

Group	ANA			
	Method	Results	Units	Reference Range
PBS	CL	< 2.00	RU/mL	< 20.00
OVA	CL	< 2.00	RU/mL	< 20.00
DBCO-OVA	CL	< 2.00	RU/mL	< 20.00

402 note: n = 3 mice/group

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405 Table S3. Detection of Anti-Sm antibodies in serum from differently treated mice by  
406 immunofluorescence assay.

Group	anti-Sm antibody		
	Method	Results	Reference Range
PBS	IFA	< 1:80	< 1:80
OVA	IFA	< 1:80	< 1:80
DBCO-OVA	IFA	< 1:80	< 1:80

407 note: n = 3 mice/group

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409 **REFERENCES**

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