

# The network interplay of interferon and toll-like receptor signaling pathways in the anti-Candida immune response

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## Research Article

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1 **The network interplay of interferon and toll-like receptor signaling pathways in the anti-**  
2 **Candida immune response**

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42 **ABSTRACT**

43 Fungal infections represent a major global health problem that affects over a billion people  
44 and kills more than 1.5 million individuals annually. Here we employed an integrative  
45 approach to unravel the landscape of the human immune responses to *Candida spp.* (*C.*  
46 *albicans* and *C. auris*) by performing a meta-analysis of microarray, bulk, and single-cell RNA-  
47 sequencing (RNASeq) of blood transcriptome data. We identified that *C. albicans* activates a  
48 network interplay of signaling molecules commonly involved in both toll-like receptor (TLR)  
49 and interferon (IFN) signaling cascades. These molecules form a highly interconnected  
50 interferome network, which contains an immune overlap with the anti-viral responses.  
51 scRNAseq data confirmed that genes commonly identified by the three transcriptomic  
52 methods present a consistent upregulation pattern across innate immune and adaptive cells  
53 (CD4+, CD8+, and CD19+ lymphocytes). Thus, our results shed new lights on the molecular  
54 basis of immune response to *Candida spp.*

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## 69 INTRODUCTION

70 Fungal infections, including the emergence of new fungal pathogens highly resistant to  
71 antifungal drugs, represent a major global health issue<sup>1-5</sup>. Fungal infections affect over a  
72 billion people worldwide and kill more than 1.5 million individuals annually. This mortality  
73 rate is similar to that of tuberculosis and 3-fold higher than that of malaria<sup>6,7</sup>. Invasive  
74 candidiasis (IC) is the most common fungal disease, affecting approximately 250,000 people  
75 annually and causing more than 50,000 deaths<sup>8,9</sup>. The increasing number of patients with  
76 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, malignancies, inborn errors of immunity  
77 (IEI), autoimmune diseases (receiving immunosuppressive treatment), and hematopoietic  
78 stem cell or organ transplant recipients contributes to this high frequency of individuals  
79 susceptible to life-threatening fungal pathogens<sup>10,11</sup>. The severity of fungal infections in  
80 healthy subjects ranges from asymptomatic or mild mucocutaneous manifestations to life-  
81 threatening systemic infections. These data reinforce the critical role of interactions between  
82 the microbial and host immune system in the outcome of infection<sup>7,12</sup>, which needs to be  
83 further investigated to find new therapies to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by  
84 *Candida* infections<sup>13,14</sup>.

85         Linear and mechanistic approaches have elegantly demonstrated that the anti-fungal  
86 immune response involves the appropriate recognition of pathogen-associated molecular  
87 patterns (PAMPs) by different pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) expressed on the cell  
88 membrane such as C-type lectin receptors (CLRs: dectin-1, dectin-2, and CD209), scavenger  
89 receptors (CD36), and toll-like receptors (TLRs: e.g., TLR2 and 4). Intracellular PRRs  
90 including RIG-I-like receptors (RLRs: melanoma differentiation-associated protein 5 or  
91 MDA5), TLRs (e.g., TLR3 and TLR9), and NOD-like receptors (NLRs: nucleotide-binding

92 oligomerization domain-containing protein or NOD1/2, NOD-, LRR- and pyrin domain-  
93 containing 3 or NLRP3) are also relevant and expressed by antigen-presenting cells and  
94 phagocytes, which bind to well-known ligands<sup>15-17</sup>. Activation of PRRs induces several  
95 signaling events such as the canonical Nuclear factor (NF)- $\kappa$ B pathway<sup>18</sup> that trigger effector  
96 anti-fungal mechanisms such as phagocytosis, production of reactive oxygen species (ROS)<sup>19</sup>,  
97 degranulation, and neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs)<sup>20,21</sup>. Simultaneously, PRRs promote  
98 the production of key inflammatory cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- $\alpha$ ,  
99 Interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, IL-17, type I Interferons (IFNs [IFN- $\alpha/\beta$ ]), and the IL-12/IFN- $\gamma$   
100 axis<sup>17,22-24</sup>, which shape and instruct immune cells<sup>25</sup>.

101         However, the landscape of anti-fungal molecules in a holistic and integrative way  
102 remains to be provided. To reach this goal, we performed a meta-analysis of blood  
103 transcriptome data of microarray, bulk, and single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNAseq) to  
104 unravel the landscape of the human immune responses to *Candida spp.* (*C. albicans* and *C.*  
105 *auris*). This integrative approach revealed a previous unnoted network interplay of type 1  
106 interferon and toll-like receptor signaling in the anti-candida immune response.

107

108 **RESULTS**

109 ***C. albicans* activates signaling molecules commonly involved in both toll-like receptor**  
110 **and interferon signaling cascades.**

111 We surveyed published RNAseq datasets and found a total of 8 datasets related to the  
112 human immune response to *Candida spp.*, being 5 of microarray, 2 bulk RNAseq, and one  
113 scRNAseq (further details in Methods section). We explored the scRNAseq by performing  
114 over representation analysis (ORA) of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) from innate  
115 immune (monocytes, natural killer, and plasmacytoid dendritic cells) and adaptive cells  
116 (CD4+, CD8+, and CD19+ lymphocytes), which were assigned to clusters as previously  
117 described (**Fig. 1a**). TCD4+ cells were most prevalent in the peripheral blood mononuclear  
118 cells (PBMCs). We found similar distribution pattern when assigning these cell types to  
119 clusters in resting and after *C. albicans* activation (**Fig. 1b-c**). A total of 6722 DEGs (**Suppl.**  
120 **Table 1**) were present in these clusters when comparing *C. albicans*-activated to resting cells.  
121 Enriched pathways associated with the immune response to *C. albicans* are shown in **Fig. 1d**  
122 while all enriched categories are present in **Suppl. Table 2**. Among them are 72 and 99 DEGs  
123 belonging to TLR and IFN (both type I and type II) signaling cascades, suggesting an interplay  
124 previously noted only in response to lipopolysaccharide (LPS)<sup>26</sup>. Across these DEGs there  
125 were 7 in common between both pathways. We also searched in literature and found more  
126 55 DEGs involved in both TLR and IFN signaling cascades (**Suppl. Table 3**); totaling, thus 62  
127 associated DEGs, six of them illustrated in **Fig. 1e-f**.

128

129 **Modular gene co-expression analysis reveals an interplay of TLR- and IFN-associated**  
130 **genes**

131 We next performed modular gene co-expression analysis<sup>27</sup>, to better understand the  
132 interplay between TLR and IFN signaling cascades. For this analysis, we used the microarray  
133 dataset from Smeekens et al. (GSE42606)<sup>28</sup>, the unique public dataset available containing  
134 more than 15 samples per group (30 resting and 24 *C. albicans*-activated samples), which is  
135 required to obtain biologically meaningful modular networks<sup>29</sup>. Modular gene co-expression  
136 analysis using CEMiTool<sup>30</sup> identified thirteen enriched co-expression modules from the total  
137 expressed genes by PBMCs (which contain lymphocyte subpopulations, monocytes, and  
138 dendritic cells). Among these modules, 12 were significantly enriched (9 downregulated and  
139 3 upregulated) in response to *C. albicans* infection (**Fig. 2a**). Of note, modules M1 and M2  
140 indicate gene co-expression and upregulation of IFN and interleukin signaling with TLR  
141 cascades (**Fig. 2b-e**).

142 Based on the results obtained by the modular co-expression analysis, we dissected the  
143 significantly enriched pathways from differentially expressed genes (DEGs) induced by *C.*  
144 *albicans*<sup>28</sup>. In agreement with the topological results obtained using CEMiTool, ORA of DEGs  
145 using the ClusterProfiler tool<sup>31</sup> pinpointed different clusters related to the activation of the  
146 TLR and IFN signaling cascades (**Suppl. Fig 1a-b**). IFN signaling was the most enriched  
147 pathway modulated by *C. albicans*. The relationship between the 30 most enriched pathways  
148 and their associated genes is shown in a network view (**Suppl. Fig 1c**) while the entire list of  
149 all enriched pathways is summarized in **Suppl. Table 4**. *C. albicans* activation significantly  
150 enriched several TLR signaling events such as TLR4, TLR3, TLR7/8, and TLR9 as well as  
151 MyD88/TIR-domain-containing adapter-inducing interferon- $\beta$  (TRIF)/TIR Domain  
152 Containing Adaptor Protein (TIRAP) cascades, and TRAF6-mediated NF- $\kappa$ B activation. ORA  
153 also indicated that *C. albicans* activates chemokine (G protein-coupled receptors [GPCR]

154 ligand binding) and cytokine signaling pathways (IL-10, IL-3 and IL4), IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  signaling,  
155 Interferon-stimulated gene 15 (ISG15) antiviral mechanism, TNF Receptor Associated Factor  
156 3 (TRAF3)-dependent IRF activation, DExD/H-Box Helicase 58 (DDX58)/Interferon Induced  
157 with Helicase C Domain 1 (IFIH1)-mediated induction of IFN- $\alpha/\beta$ , and regulation of type I  
158 and II IFN among the IFN signaling events (**Suppl. Fig 1a and c; Suppl. Table 4**).

159

### 160 ***C. albicans* infection activates common TLR- and IFN-associated genes in peripheral** 161 **blood leukocytes**

162 We further investigated which DEGs and signaling pathways are consistently  
163 activated by *C. albicans* in peripheral blood leukocytes such as PBMCs (datasets GSE42606  
164 and GSE154911) and peripheral white blood cells (WBCs, datasets GSE65088 and  
165 GSE114180) throughout all publicly available datasets. WBCs contain PBMCs (lymphocytes  
166 20-45% and monocytes 2-10%) and granulocytes (neutrophils: 50-70%; basophils: 0-1%;  
167 and eosinophils: 1-5%)<sup>32</sup>. A meta-analysis of WBCs and PBMCs gene expression datasets  
168 using P-value combination method revealed among the meta-significant genes 44 commonly  
169 activated DEGs (40 upregulated and 4 downregulated) (**Fig 3a, Suppl. Table 5**). According  
170 to the cell population, these DEGs form well-defined hierarchical clusters, i.e., PBMCs datasets  
171 present a closer expression pattern among them as well as the WBCs datasets, when we  
172 compare both regulation and significance (**Fig 3b**). Enrichment analyses using EnrichR of  
173 these 44 genes revealed 87 significantly affected pathways (**Suppl. Table 6**), including TLR  
174 and IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  signaling pathways (**Fig. 3c**). Furthermore, these 44 DEGs also enrich other  
175 related interleukin signaling pathways such as JAK-STAT, IL-12, IL-17, IL-23, TNF, and  
176 chemokines (GPCR ligand binding) and PRRs, including RIG-I like receptor and NOD

177 signaling. Multi-study Factor Analysis of eligible<sup>33</sup> datasets (WBCs: GSE65088 and PBMCs:  
178 GSE42606; those with minimal number of samples required for this analyses) identified two  
179 common latent factors with high loadings, while specific latent factors showed low loadings  
180 across these studies. Thus, strengthening the biological relevance of these 44 common genes  
181 **(Fig. 3d, Suppl. Table 7)**.

182

### 183 ***C. albicans* activates common TLR and IFN signaling pathways across different layers of** 184 **immunity**

185 Subsequently, we added monocyte-derived dendritic cells (moDCs) datasets  
186 (GSE77969, E-MTAB-135, E-MTAB-751) into our integrative analysis. moDCs are known to  
187 be essential players of anti-fungal immunity, bridging the immune system's innate and  
188 adaptive arms. We searched for genes commonly regulated by *C. albicans* in transcriptomes  
189 of WBCs, PBMCs, and moDCs, in resting or *C. albicans* activation conditions. Intersection  
190 analyses performed according to cell population identified 123, 223, and 57 common DEGs  
191 among WBCs, PBMCs, and moDCs datasets, respectively (**Fig. 4a-c**). However, only 2 common  
192 DEGs were present across all seven datasets (**Fig. 4d**), which by themselves do not  
193 significantly enrich signaling pathways. We then asked if DEGs from each dataset enrich  
194 common signaling biological processes among all studies. Gene Ontology (GO) analysis using  
195 ClusterProfiler analysis revealed 173 common biological processes (**Suppl. Table 8**). We  
196 found several molecules/pathways essential for the anti-fungal immune response<sup>34</sup>. Among  
197 them, there is a cluster of IFN- $\gamma$ , and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling, and a previously described overlap with  
198 the immune response to virus (IFN- $\alpha/\beta$ )<sup>24</sup> (**Fig. 4e**). Additional ORA of DEGs involved in this  
199 cluster found significant enrichment of signaling cascades of single TLRs (TLR2, TLR3, TLR4,

200 TLR5, TLR9, TLR9, and TLR10), TLR heterodimers (TLR1/TLR2, TLR2/TLR6, TLR7/8), and  
201 TLR adapter molecules (MyD88/TIRAP, TRAF6, TRIF) as well as several interleukin signaling  
202 pathways such as IL-1, IL-4/IL-13, IL-6, IL-10, IL-17, and IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  (**Fig. 4f**). We found 1096  
203 DEGs (**Suppl. Table 10**) affecting common biological processes among WBCs, PBMCs and  
204 moDCs. **Fig. 4g** shows the interactome obtained from some of these 1096 DEGs and enriched  
205 signaling cascades (**Suppl. Table 11**), thus highlighting the association of TLR- and IFN-  
206 signaling cascades, which were consistently enriched during our analyses. These 1096 DEGs  
207 also enrich other PRR and Interleukin signaling pathways such as CLRs (dectin-1), NLRs  
208 (NOD1/2), pro- (IL-1, IL6, IL-17, IL-12), anti-inflammatory (IL-10), and T helper 2 (IL-4 and  
209 IL-13) cytokines. This immunological balance between a pro-and anti-inflammatory event is  
210 crucial for the proper control of fungal infections while maintaining immune  
211 homeostasis<sup>35,36</sup>.

212

### 213 ***C. albicans* infection increases the correlation between TLR- and IFN-associated genes**

214 After verifying TLR and type I and II IFN signaling cascades' consistency, we assessed  
215 the degree of association between these two variables during the immune response to *C.*  
216 *albicans*. Due to minimum sample size requirement<sup>37</sup>, we selected TLR and IFN-associated  
217 genes present in the PBMCs transcriptome data from Smeekens et al. (GSE42606)<sup>28</sup>. This  
218 dataset contains 45 and 14 TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs modulated by *C. albicans* when  
219 compared to the resting group. *C. albicans* infection increased mainly positive correlations  
220 between TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs (**Fig. 5a-b**). We performed Canonical Correlation  
221 Analysis (CCA) to further assess the association's strength between TLR and IFN DEGs. CCA  
222 is a generic parametric model used to quantify relationships between two groups of

223 interrelated and interdependent variables<sup>38</sup>. This approach unveiled a pair of canonical  
224 variates (x-CV1 and y-CV1) highlighting the strong association between most of TLR - and  
225 IFN -associated DEGs in both resting and *C. albicans*-infected PBMCs (**Fig. 5c**), although, they  
226 are able to stratify these conditions (**Fig. 5d-e**).

227

### 228 **The multidrug-resistant *C. auris* also induces the interplay between TLR and IFN** 229 **signaling pathways**

230 We asked if only *C. albicans* induces the association between TLR- and IFN-associated  
231 genes or also the multidrug-resistant *C. auris*<sup>39,40</sup>. We used the unique publicly available  
232 dataset analyzing the immune response to *C. auris* and *C. albicans* (GSE154911). Similar to *C.*  
233 *albicans* activation, ORA of DEGs induced by *C. auris* included TLR and IFN signaling cascades  
234 among the 30 most enriched pathways (**Fig. 6a-b**). *C. albicans* and *C. auris* similarly  
235 modulated DEGs' levels involved in TLR signaling, including NF- $\kappa$ B1, NF- $\kappa$ B2, JUN, and  
236 DUSP4, as well as IFN signaling such as IRFs, GBPs, SOCS1, ISG20, TRIM, and IFIT3 (**Fig. 6c**).  
237 When we compared the DEGs induced by *C. auris* with those enriching common pathways  
238 among all datasets (1096 DEGs, **Suppl. Table 10**) assessing the immune response to *C.*  
239 *albicans*, we identified 237 common DEGs (**Fig. 6d**). ORA of these common DEGs indicates  
240 that the interplay between TLR and IFN signaling cascades is a consistent immunologic  
241 feature in response to these two *Candida* species (**Fig. 6e**).

242

### 243 **Inborn errors of immunity (IEI) corroborate the interplay between TLR and IFN** 244 **signaling cascades**

245 Finally, we aimed to evaluate the potential clinical and translational relevance of the  
246 TLR- and IFN-associated genes and molecular pathways consistently modulated by Candida.  
247 Therefore, we searched for IEI associated genes that are known to increase human  
248 susceptibility to fungal infections. So far, mutations in 100 genes have been associated with  
249 IEI that cause increased susceptibility to candidiasis and often other clinical manifestations.  
250 We compared them with the 1096 genes (**Suppl. Table 10**, i.e., those enriching the common  
251 biological processes activated by Candida (**Fig. 4e**). These 1096 genes encode molecules  
252 present in different cellular compartments such as extracellular regions, organelles, and  
253 nuclei and those forming macromolecular complexes. Together, they form a highly  
254 interconnected physical protein-protein interaction network (**Fig. 7a**), which contains  
255 several hubs<sup>41</sup> (**Fig. 7b**), here defined as those having more than or equal to 200 interaction  
256 partners. Of note, 34 genes associated with IEI are also present across the studies. Meanwhile,  
257 although 66 genes associated with IEI are not identified in the datasets, these genes are highly  
258 connected with the other DEGs in this network. Furthermore, the 1096 DEGs mostly contain  
259 Type I and II IFN- associated genes, being 868 in total (**Fig. 7c, Suppl. Table 12**).

260 The 34 IEI associated genes present in this network underly 7 groups of IEI including  
261 congenital defects of phagocytes, defects of intrinsic and innate immunity, predominantly  
262 antibody deficiencies, and diseases of immune dysregulation, as defined by the International  
263 Union of Immunological Societies Expert Committee(IUIS)<sup>42</sup> (**Suppl. Fig. 2a**). Notably, among  
264 the hubs are *STAT1*, *STAT3*, *NFKBIA* (*IκBa*), and *NFKB1*, which are well known to be  
265 associated with TLR and IFN signaling pathways<sup>43-48</sup>. ORA of these 34 genes indicates that in  
266 addition to dectin-1<sup>49</sup> and NLRs signaling, they mostly enrich both type I and II IFN and

267 several TLR signaling pathways (TLR1/2, TLR2/6, MyD88, and TRAF6-mediated NF- $\kappa$ B  
268 activation) (**Suppl. Fig. 2b-c**).

269

### 270 **Common TLR-and IFN-associated DEGs and signaling pathways across microarray,** 271 **bulk, and single-cell RNA-seq datasets**

272 Finally, we revisited the scRNAseq data and found that 11 TLR- and 23 IFN-associated DEGs  
273 are also among those WBCs, PBMCs and moDCs DEGs identified by microarray and bulk  
274 RNAseq datasets (**Suppl. Table 13**). Thus, indicating that the network interplay of TLR- and  
275 IFN-associated DEGs are not a particular feature of a specific leukocyte cell population since  
276 *C. albicans* systemically activated this network throughout the different innate (monocytes,  
277 natural killer, and plasmacytoid dendritic cells) and adaptive cells (CD4+, CD8+, and CD19+  
278 lymphocytes) identified by the scRNAseq dataset. **Fig. 8a-b** illustrate these 34 common genes  
279 across the leukocytes subpopulations and those present in the WBCs, PBMCs, and moDCs  
280 datasets (**Fig. 3a-c**). Hierarchical clustering of common enriched pathways across the cell  
281 subpopulations identified by scRNAseq showed a similar up-regulation pattern of TLR- and  
282 IFN-associated signaling pathways, forming clusters (**Fig. 8c**), as seen by microarray and bulk  
283 RNAseq.

284

## 285 **DISCUSSION**

286 The association between PRR activation and cytokine production by immune cells is  
287 important for an adequate immune response against pathogens and has been abundantly  
288 investigated by linear approaches or strategies designed to identify the anti-fungal

289 transcriptomic signature<sup>12,24,39,50</sup>. For instance, several immunologic molecules and  
290 pathways such as those triggered by TLR and IFN, which induce the generation of T cell  
291 subpopulations (e.g., T helper 1 [Th1], Th17, and T regulatory [T reg] cells) have been  
292 successfully characterized by individual studies and mechanistic approaches<sup>17</sup>. However,  
293 until now, there was no system immunology study to holistically understand the anti-fungal  
294 immune responses. Our approach integrates dispersed transcriptomic datasets that  
295 investigated the immune response against *C. albicans* and *C. auris*, indicating that the anti-  
296 candida immune responses are marked by a previously uncharacterized intricate  
297 interferome chain, interconnecting PRR (e.g., CLRs, TLRs, and NLRs) and interleukin (e.g.,  
298 IFN, TNF, and IL-10) cascades. This immune network is hallmarked by dynamic and  
299 consistent crosstalks between the network interplay of TLR and IFN signaling pathways.  
300 Besides, we show that there is a consistent overlap between the antiviral and antifungal  
301 immune responses, which supports the previously reported pivotal role of IFN type I in the  
302 immune response against *C. albicans*<sup>24</sup>. Notably, this immunologic overlap might be not  
303 restricted to viral infection. For instance, studies need to be performed to investigate its  
304 extension to the anti-*Mycobacteria tuberculosis* immune responses. The host's protection  
305 against this intracellular bacterium relies not only on an IFN- $\gamma$  centered phenomenon but also  
306 requires the synergism of type I IFNs and other cytokines such as IL-17<sup>51</sup>. Thus, our results  
307 strongly suggest that the immune system employs a multitude of molecules, working as a  
308 "social" network, in which cells effectively collaborate and communicate to maintain  
309 immunologic homeostasis<sup>52,53</sup>.

310 Our integrative and systems immunology approach provides a transcriptomic  
311 landscape of the anti-candida defenses that will contribute to better understand the host

312 immunological dynamics initiated against these fungal pathogens. Since we currently are  
313 confronted with increasing numbers of invasive fungal infections, in part due to the  
314 emergence of anti-fungal drug resistance, it is imperative to address this global health  
315 problem<sup>2,40,54</sup>. Diseases caused by viruses and bacteria have been recognized as important  
316 public health issues for centuries, while fungal infections have historically been neglected<sup>55</sup>.  
317 Numerous transcriptomic, epigenomic, and proteomic data are available that investigate the  
318 immune response against viruses and bacteria using public databases<sup>56-58</sup>. However, most  
319 investigations addressing the anti-fungal immune response employ linear and mechanistic  
320 approaches<sup>15</sup> and there are very limited numbers of publicly available transcriptomic  
321 datasets of human immune responses to fungal infections. Most of these studies focus on the  
322 transcriptomic response of human immune cells activated with *C. albicans* but only one  
323 dataset explores the immune response to *C. auris*, one of the most critical emerging fungal  
324 pathogen<sup>39</sup>. The integrative approach we employed was designed to obtain a comprehensive  
325 understanding of the anti-fungal immune response.

326         The results of our study provide complementary arguments for linear and mechanistic  
327 strategies that confirm a dynamic interplay between TLR and type I and II IFN-associated  
328 molecules<sup>59</sup>. It has been suggested that different TLRs synergistically activate immune cells  
329 to, for instance, induce the expression of several proinflammatory molecules through the  
330 cooperation of NF- $\kappa$ B, IRF, STAT, MAPK, ITAM, and PI3K signaling pathways<sup>60-62</sup>. On the one  
331 hand, TLR-induced NF- $\kappa$ B signaling promotes the production of several key cytokines  
332 including IFNs that activate STAT1-mediated signaling pathway<sup>63</sup>. On the other hand, IFN- $\gamma$   
333 increases the expression of genes encoding TLRs<sup>64-67</sup>. IFNs also potentialize TLR-induced  
334 gene transcription by creating a primed chromatin environment by histone acetylation that

335 allows sustained occupancy of transcription factors STAT1 and IRF-1 at promoters and  
336 enhancers at the *TNF*, *IL-6*, and *IL12B* loci<sup>68</sup>. Thus, our phenomenological study confirms  
337 these previously reported mechanistic studies and provides new insights into the molecular  
338 network of TLR and IFN signaling pathways in anti-Candida immune response. These  
339 networks also need to be investigated in other mycoses (paracoccidioidomycosis,  
340 histoplasmosis, and cryptococcosis) and other neglected diseases (Dengue, Zika,  
341 leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease) occurring in developing countries<sup>55</sup>. The TLR and IFN  
342 interactome involve more complex events than previously thought, demanding further  
343 bottom-up and top-down systems immunology investigations.

344 Our conclusions are based on the integration of publicly available human  
345 transcriptomes that identified common DEGs, as well as biological processes and signaling  
346 pathways consistently modulated across several leukocyte subpopulations in response to  
347 fungal pathogens (*C. albicans* and *C. auris*). Among these DEGs, we highlight those involved  
348 in IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  (e.g., ISGs, IRFs, SOCS, and GBPs), TLR3,4,7/8,9, and TRAF-mediated NF- $\kappa$ B  
349 signaling cascades. The correlation levels of DEGs involved in these signature clusters  
350 increased upon stimulation with *C. albicans*. Of note, among the consistently identified DEGs  
351 are those previously associated with IEI that increase the host susceptibility to fungal  
352 infections such as those causing chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis. Besides, these DEGs are  
353 also involved with immunological pathways related to the development of IEI phenocopies  
354 such as those targeted by anti-IL-17 or anti-IL17RA autoantibodies that result in increased  
355 susceptibility to *Candida* spp. infections. Because the outcome of fungal infections depends  
356 primarily on the host immune response, it is most relevant to review those IEIs that  
357 predispose to *Candida* infections<sup>25,72</sup>. IEIs represent an essential research field that

358 investigates natural human susceptibility models to infection, often revealing the non-  
359 redundant role of genes involved in immunologic homeostasis<sup>73-75</sup>. Of the 416 molecular  
360 defined IEI recently summarized by the expert committee of the IUIS, more than 20  
361 syndromes were recognized to be associated with susceptibility to fungal infections<sup>42</sup>. This  
362 list of genes associated with increased risk of fungal infections includes genes regulating  
363 signaling via the IL-2 receptor, via NF-kB activation, IFN induced signaling, activation of  
364 STATs, and TLR signaling. Thus, these observations support the relevance of the interactome  
365 and interplay events characterized by our analysis increasing the understanding of  
366 consistent immunologic pathways essential for the immune response to *Candida* infections.

367 All in all, our work provides a systems immunology view of the interactome of anti-  
368 fungal molecules, revealing a consistent network interplay between TLR and IFN signaling  
369 pathways in response to *C. albicans* and *C. auris*. This study also indicates new biomarkers  
370 and provides novel insights into the systemic immunological mechanism against fungal  
371 infections. Future works dissecting this interplay will pave the way for new immunotherapy  
372 approaches to reduce the high mortality rate caused by fungal infections. Also, our study  
373 indicates that the exploration of functional genomic approaches by applying systems  
374 immunology methods to investigate IEI will provide new opportunities to further understand  
375 the immune system *in natura*.

376

## 377 **ONLINE METHODS**

### 378 **METHODS**

#### 379 **Datasets and curation**

380 We performed an integrative analysis by searching on NCBI GEO database<sup>76</sup> and  
381 ArrayExpress database<sup>77</sup>, to identify publicly available gene expression data of infection by  
382 *C. albicans* and *C. auris* in whole blood, PBMCs, and moDCs. This search comprised studies  
383 published between March 2010 and July 2020. Since transcriptome datasets from patients  
384 with candidiasis were not publicly available we consider as criteria for inclusion: (1) gene  
385 expression data of whole blood, PBMCs, and moDCs of in vitro infection with *C. albicans*; (2)  
386 studies composed of at least 2 samples per group; (3) the inclusion of control groups for  
387 comparison; (4) all gene expression analysis platforms were considered; and (5) only studies  
388 that have provided the transcriptome data were included for the integrative analyses. Our  
389 exclusion criteria were (1) non-human samples, (2) treatment before molecular genetic  
390 analysis, and (3) review studies. RNAseq and MicroArray studies were included in our  
391 integrative analysis, five studies were retrieved from the NCBI GEO database<sup>76</sup> (GSE65088  
392 and GSE114180, GSE42606, GSE154911, and GSE77969) and two from ArrayExpress  
393 database<sup>77</sup> (E-MTAB-135, E-MTAB-751). Also, a single-cell RNAseq study was included<sup>78</sup>!

394

### 395 **Single-cell RNASeq analysis**

396 We obtained the Seurat Object containing the scRNAseq data from De Vries et al. (2020),  
397 which was deposited in the single-cell eQTLGen Consortium database  
398 (<https://eqtlgen.org/candida.html>). We followed the default Seurat pipeline  
399 ([https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k\\_tutorial.html](https://satijalab.org/seurat/articles/pbmc3k_tutorial.html)) as previously described by  
400 Stuart et al.<sup>78</sup> to perform differential expression analysis and data visualization (UMAP,  
401 dotplot, and heatmap).

402

### 403 **Differential Expression Analysis of bulk RNAseq and microarray data**

404 To characterize the immunological signature from the global transcriptional profiles in  
405 infection by *C. albicans*, read counts of each RNAseq study were transformed (log2 count per  
406 million), and NetworkAnalyst 3.0 webtool (<https://www.networkanalyst.ca/>)<sup>79</sup> was used to  
407 perform differential expression analysis, applying DESeq2 pipeline. The microarray studies  
408 were analyzed through GEO2R web application<sup>80</sup>, available at  
409 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/geo2r/>, using limma-voom pipeline<sup>81</sup>. To select the up  
410 and downregulated genes between *C. albicans* infection and the normal group, we used the  
411 statistical cutoffs of log2 fold-change > 1 (upregulated) or < -1 (downregulated) and adjusted  
412 p-value < 0.05.

413

### 414 **Analysis of Gene Co-Expression Modules**

415 We selected the dataset GSE42606 to analyze the gene co-expression modules with the R-  
416 package CEMiTool 1.12.2 using default parameters<sup>30</sup>.

417

### 418 **Enrichment Analysis and Data Visualization**

419 We used the differentially expressed genes (DEGs) to identify enriched ontology terms. The  
420 pathways and the biological processes were identified through an Over-representation  
421 Analysis (ORA) and EnrichR<sup>82</sup>, and the significant enriched immunological terms were  
422 generated according to adjusted p-value < 0.05. The Upset and Venn Graphs demonstrating  
423 the intersections and comparisons between common DEGs among the datasets were  
424 generated through the webtool Intervene<sup>83</sup> and Bioinformatics & Evolutionary Genomics

425 (<http://bioinformatics.psb.ugent.be/webtools/Venn/>). We plotted the set of genes shared  
426 between the dataset in bubble-based heat maps, applying One minus cosine similarity  
427 through the webtool Morpheus (<https://software.broadinstitute.org/morpheus/>)<sup>84</sup>. We  
428 used ClusterProfiler<sup>85</sup> to obtain dot plots of enriched terms associated with *C. albicans* and *C.*  
429 *auris* infections. ClusterProfiler and ORA, were performed on R software version 4.0.2  
430 (<https://www.r-project.org/index.html>), through the packages DOSE, enrichplot,  
431 reactomePA, and clusterprofiler<sup>85</sup>. The GOplot was plotted using the R packages unkn,  
432 circlize, and GOplot<sup>86</sup>. The statistical graphs were constructed using the functionalities of the  
433 ggplot2 package<sup>87</sup>. We represented the shared DEGs between different fungal infections (*C.*  
434 *albicans* and *C. auris*) through circular heatmaps, using the R packages circlize and  
435 ComplexHeatmap<sup>88</sup>.

436

### 437 **Correlation Analysis**

438 We used the GSE42606 dataset to perform the correlation analysis between genes associated  
439 with TLRs as well as Type I and II IFN signaling cascades. The correlation matrices were  
440 generated with the webtool Intervene<sup>83</sup>  
441 (<https://intervene.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>), using Pearson coefficient. The  
442 Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA)<sup>89</sup> was applied to investigate patterns of association  
443 between IFN and TLR genes from the same dataset. The CCA was performed on R software  
444 version 4.0.2 (<https://www.r-project.org/index.html>), through the packages CCA, and  
445 whitening<sup>89</sup>. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) analysis was built using R functions  
446 prcomp and princomp, through factoextra package.

447

## 448 **Molecular Network**

449 Networks of related pathways to fungal infection immune responses and physical protein-  
450 protein interaction (PPI) networks of DEGs found across all datasets were annotated,  
451 analyzed and visualized using NAViGaTOR 3.0,<sup>1490</sup>. Node color represents Gene Ontology  
452 cellular component as per legend. DEGs were used as input into Integrated Interactions  
453 Database (IID version 2020-05; <http://ophid.utoronto.ca/iid>)<sup>91,92</sup> to identify direct physical  
454 protein interactions. Networks were exported in SVG file format, and finalized in Adobe  
455 Illustrator 2021.

456

## 457 **Multi-study Factor Analysis (MSFA)**

458 MSFA is a generalized version of factor analysis that allows for the joint analysis of multiple  
459 studies. MSFA estimates shared factors common to all studies, as well as factors specific to  
460 individual studies. Estimation of parameters for the MSFA model can be computed using  
461 either a frequentist or a Bayesian approach. Compared with the frequentist analysis, the  
462 Bayesian offers two major advantages: 1- it provides a better defined factors, and 2- it  
463 chooses the dimension of the common and study-specific factors through a practical and  
464 useful approach. We adopt the Bayesian multi-study, for the inferential analysis to identify -  
465 common and study-specific factors<sup>25,33,93</sup> shared by GSE65088 and GSE42606. The Bayesian  
466 MSFA considers all data at once in an integrated approach, estimating parameters by  
467 maximum-likelihood analysis<sup>94</sup>.

468

## 469 **Interferome Analysis**

470 The identification of interferome genes was performed with Interferome V2.01  
471 (<http://www.interferome.org/interferome/home.jsp>).

472

### 473 **Single-cell RNA-seq differential expression analysis**

474 Seurat package was used to obtain the DEGs between the different cell types under the  
475 conditions of infection by *C. albicans* and resting cells. Enrichment of DEGs by cell group and  
476 by total DEGs was done according to the described for ClusterProfiler package.

477

### 478 **Code Availability**

479 R codes used in this work are available  
480 at [https://github.com/ranieri131/SalgadoRC\\_CANDIDA\\_IMMUNE\\_RESPONSE\\_2021](https://github.com/ranieri131/SalgadoRC_CANDIDA_IMMUNE_RESPONSE_2021)

481

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491

### 492 **Author Contributions**

493 RCS, PPF, OCM co-wrote the manuscript; RCS, DLMF, TTF, PPF, NOSC, VLGC, LFS, OCM  
494 provided scientific insights; RCS, DLMF, AHCM, SMSN, KTA, CASP, GCB, DRP, ISF, RV, IJ, and  
495 OCM performed bioinformatics analyses; RCS, DLMF, and OCM conceived and designed the  
496 study; RCS, TTF, LFS, PPF, NOSC, VLGC, HDO, LFS, IJ, ACN, and OCM revised and edited the  
497 final manuscript; ACN and OCM supervised the project.

498

#### 499 **Competing interest statement**

500 The authors declare no competing financial and/or non-financial interests concerning the  
501 work described.

502

#### 503 **Data availability**

504 The published transcriptome datasets can be found in the GEO and Array Express databases  
505 (IDs. GSE65088, GSE114180, GSE42606, GSE154911, GSE77969, E-MTAB-135, E-MTAB-  
506 751). Single-cell data is available as Seurat Object on [doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1008408](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1008408).

507

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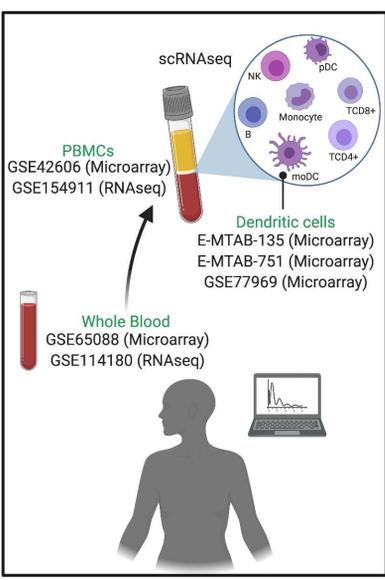
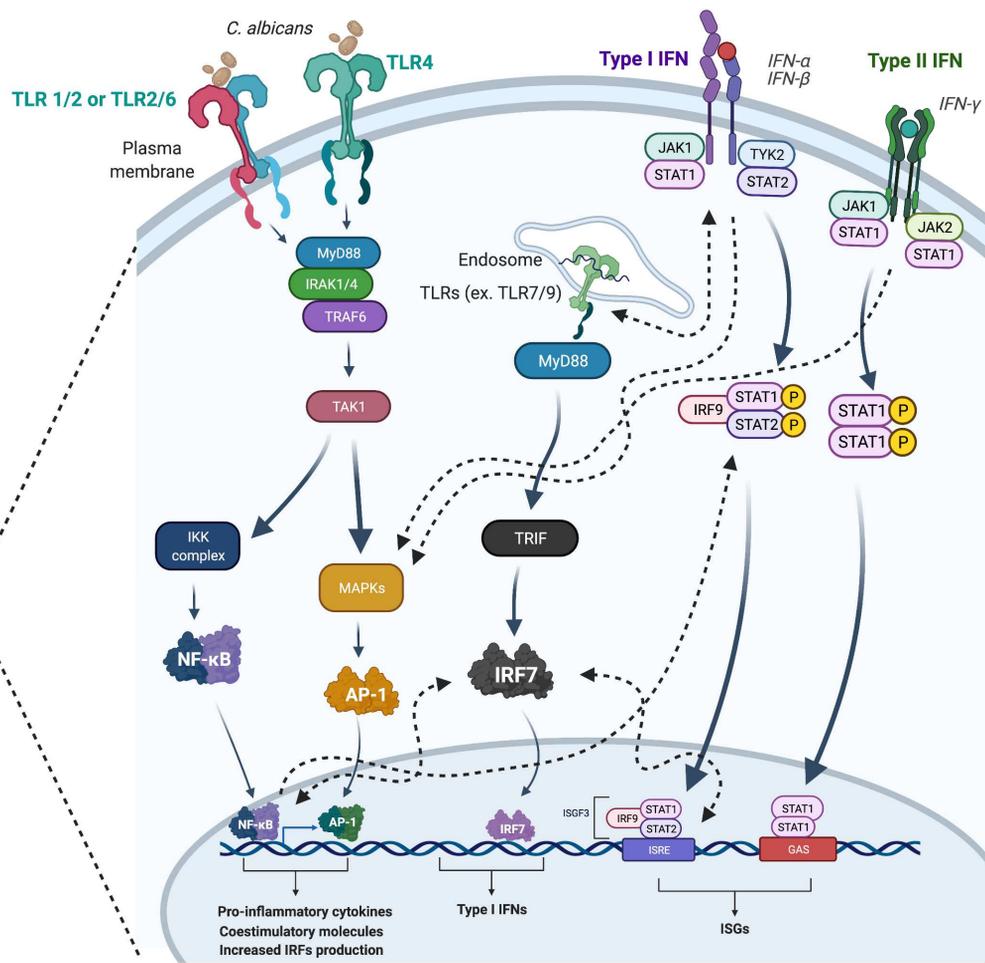
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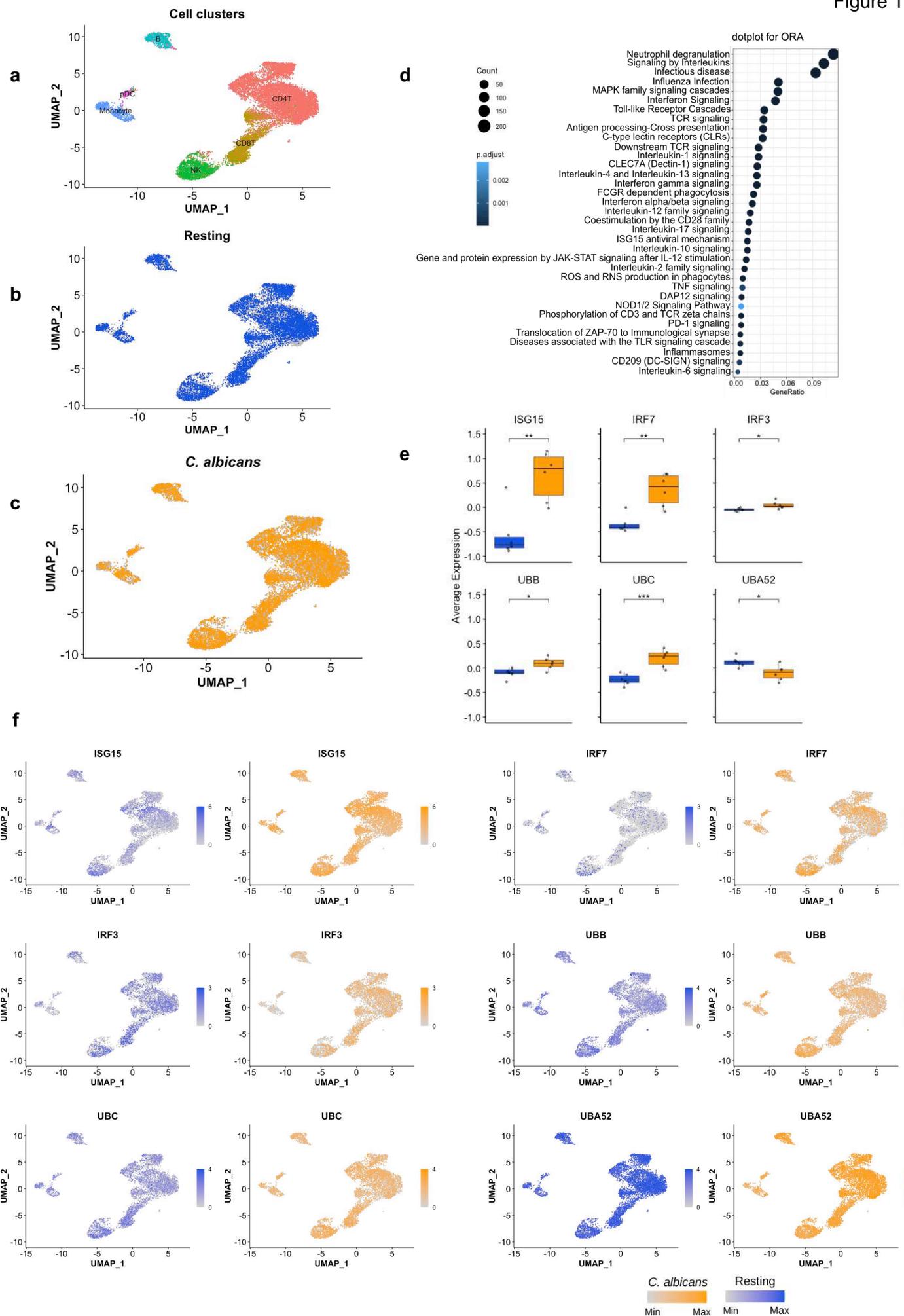
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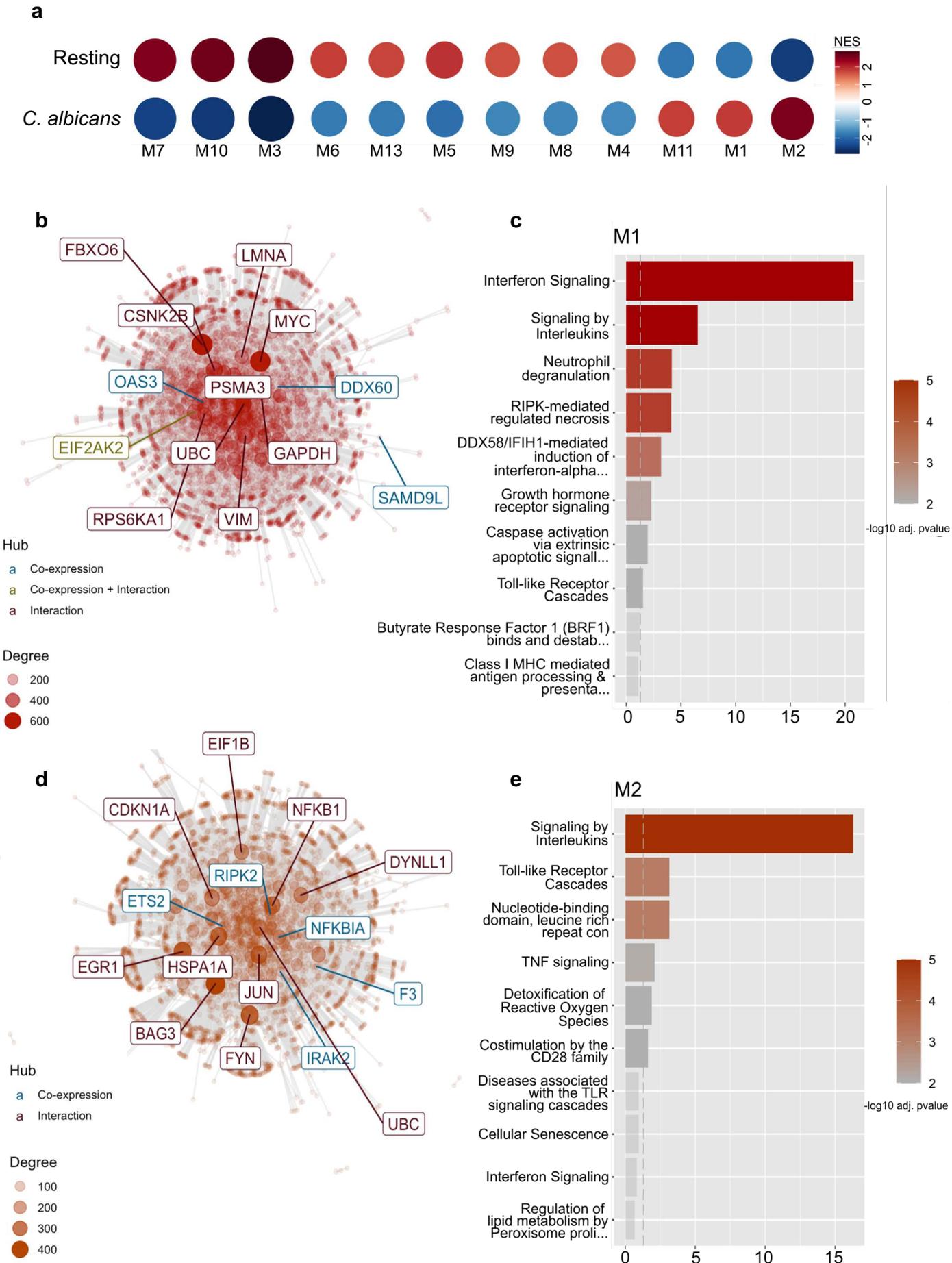
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**Graphic abstract.** Schematic view summarizing datasets and the interplay between TLR and IFN signaling pathways (based on references <sup>48,95-101</sup>) in the immune response to *C. albicans* (created using BioRender.com). *IFN*, Interferon; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor.

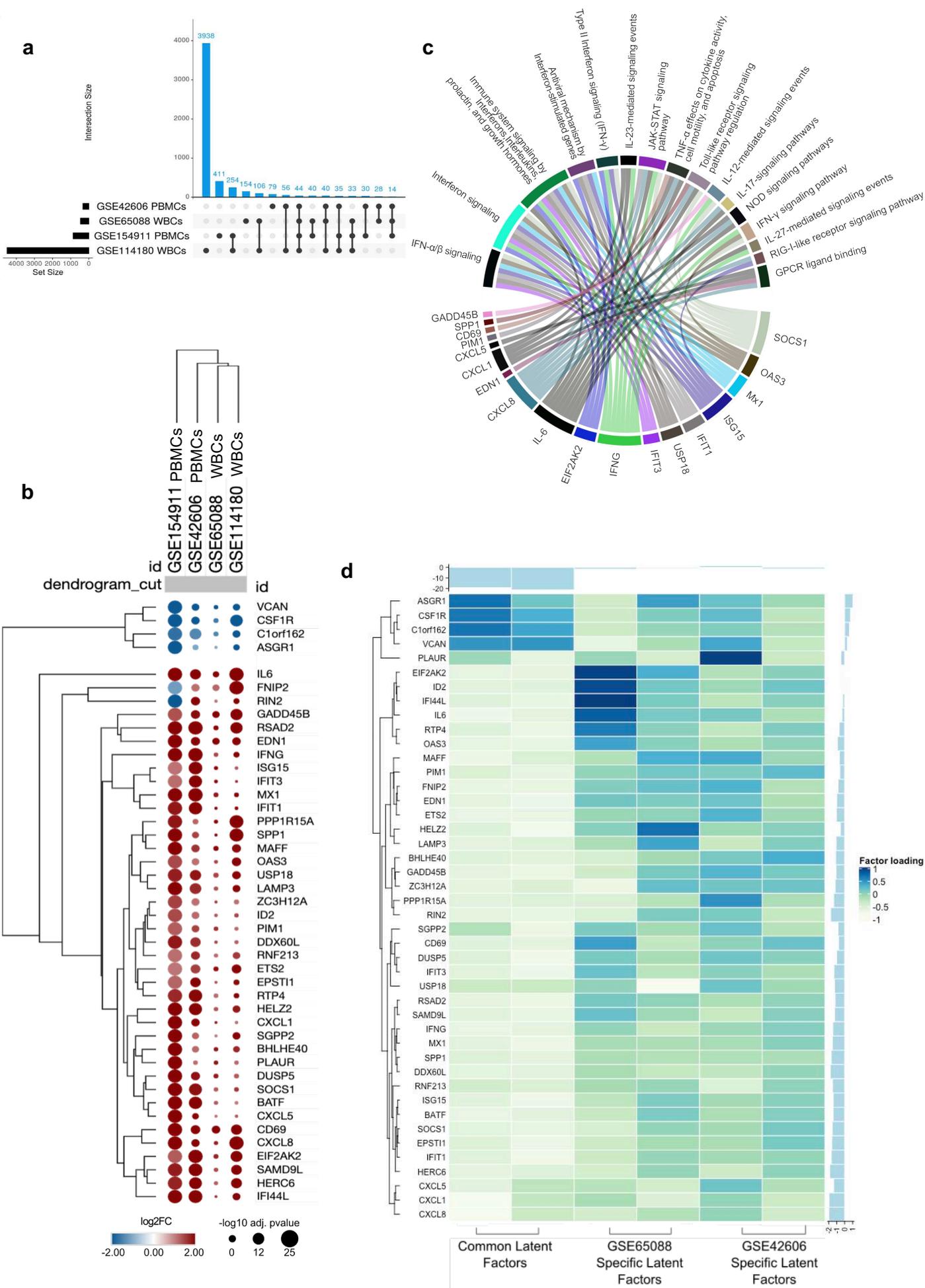


**Fig. 1. scRNAseq revealed common activation of TLR and IFN signaling pathways.** **a**, UMAP visualization of scRNAseq profiles colored according to cell clusters. **b, c**, UMAP of resting and *C. albicans*-activated cells groups. **d**, Dot plot showing pathways associated with immune response to *C. albicans*, obtained by ORA of DEGs. **e**, Boxplot and **f**, UMAP of DEGs associated with both TLR and IFN signaling pathways, additional DEGs associated with these two pathways are described in **Suppl. Table 3**. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *IFN*, Interferon; *ORA*, Over representation analysis; *scRNAseq*, single-cell RNA sequencing; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor; *UMAP*, Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection.



**Fig. 2. Modular gene co-expression analysis and the association of TLR and IFN signaling pathways.** **a**, Co-expression modules significantly enriched (M1-M11, and M13) in PBMCs (resting n= 30; *C. albicans* infected n= 24; dataset GSE42606). **b** and **d** Network representation of M1 and M2 with hubs (most connected genes) colored based on co-expression (blue color), co-expressed and interactions (green color), or only interactions (dark-red color). **c** and **e**, Enrichment representation obtained by modular genes co-expression in M1 and M2 showing significantly (-Log10 transformed adjusted p-value) enriched signaling pathways. *IFN*, Interferon; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor.

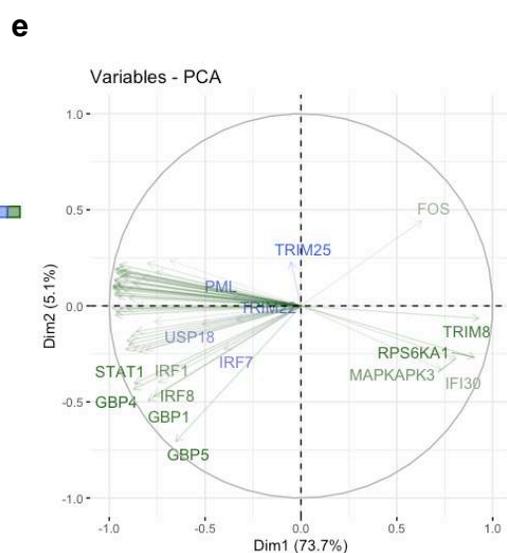
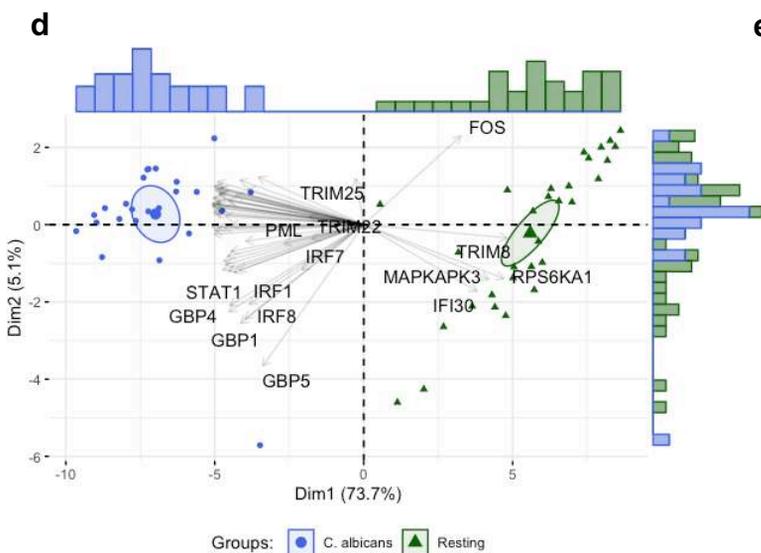
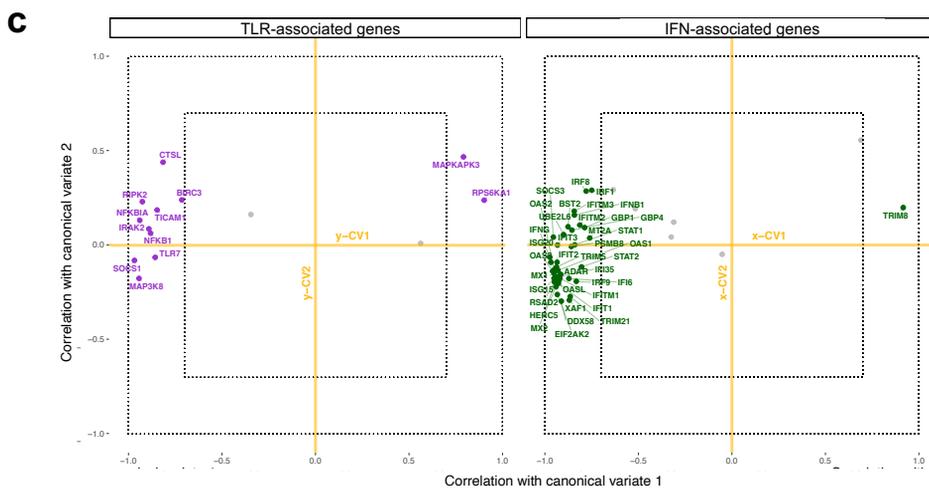
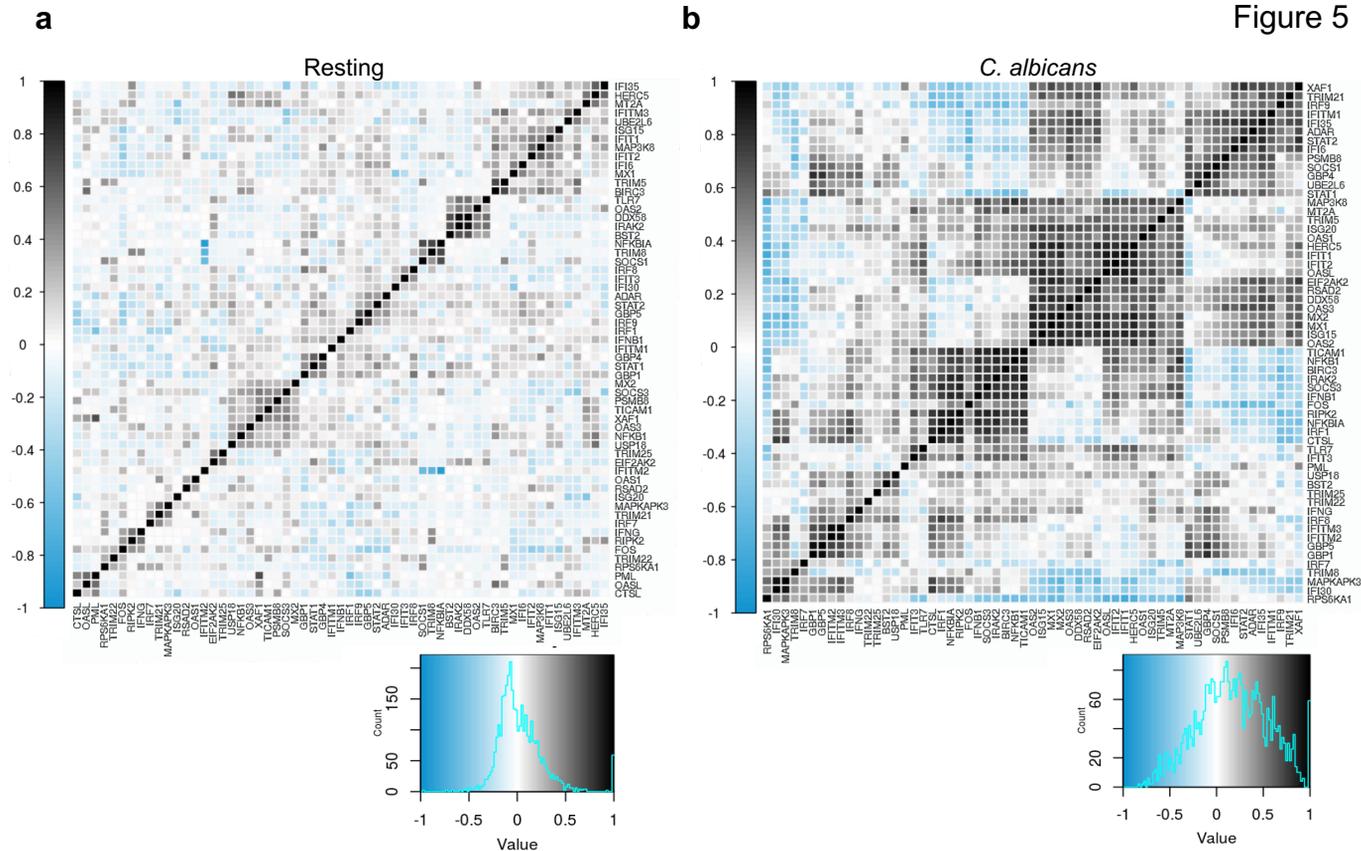
Figure 3



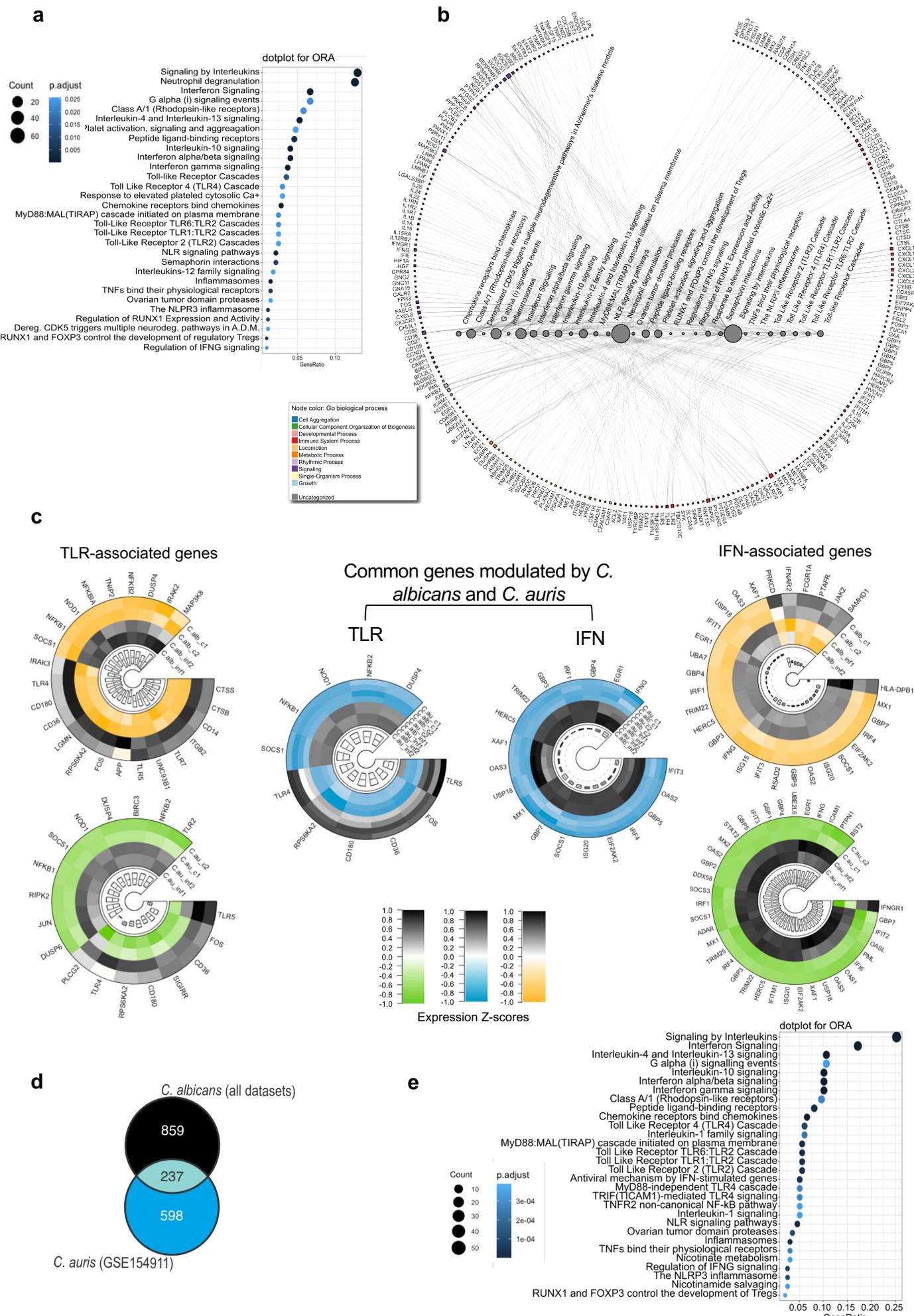
**Fig. 3. *C. albicans* activates common TLR- and IFN-associated genes in peripheral blood leukocytes.** **a**, The upset plot displays the number (set size) of DEGs present in each dataset (y-axis: WBCs, GSE65088, and GSE114180; PBMCs: GSE42606 and GSE154911) and their intersections. Black bubbles, present in the rows, mark the dataset which refers to the amount present in the blue columns, with intersections between two or more groups being shown. **b**, Hierarchical clustering of the 44 common DEGs demonstrating gene expression patterns across the different studies. The size and color of circles correspond to  $-\text{Log}_{10}$  transformed adjusted p-value and  $\text{Log}_2$  fold change ( $\text{Log}_2\text{FC}$ ), respectively. Blue represents downregulated and red indicates up-regulated DEGs. The cut-off applied to identify the down-/upregulated genes was  $\text{Log}_2\text{FC} < -1 / > 1$  and adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$ . Rows and columns were clustered based on cosine similarity between  $\text{Log}_2\text{FC}$  values. **c**, GOplot of selected immunological pathways and associated gene. **d**, Heatmap of common and specific latent factors across the studies. Heatmaps contain genes presenting positive and negative loadings ranging from -1 to 1. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *PBMCs*, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; *WBCs*, White Blood Cells.



**Fig. 4. *C. albicans* activate common TLR and IFN signaling pathways across different layers of immunity.** **a-c**, Venn diagrams displaying the number of DEGs present in each dataset grouped by cell type and their intersections: datasets of WBCs (a), PBMCs (b), and moDCs (c). **d**, The intersection plot highlights the number of common DEGs across different cell groups. **e**, Hierarchical clustering exhibiting the pathways enriching common biological processes across the studies (**Suppl. Table 9**). **f**, Further analysis of TLR- and IFN-associated pathways. In both heatmaps the size of circles corresponds to adjusted p-value transformed into  $-\log_{10}$  and color intensity indicates the number of genes in each biological process and pathway across the studies, respectively. **g**, Network demonstrating the interactions between TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs/signaling pathways with other molecules and signaling cascades classically associated with the antifungal immune responses. Enrichment analysis was performed using Reactome. Circular nodes represent pathways and their size denote the number of genes enriching the pathways. Colored squares represent the cellular location of genes. The interaction network was build using the NAViGaTOR software. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *moDCs*, Monocyte-Derived Dendritic Cells; *IFN*, Interferon; *PBMCs*, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor; *WBCs*, White Blood Cells.



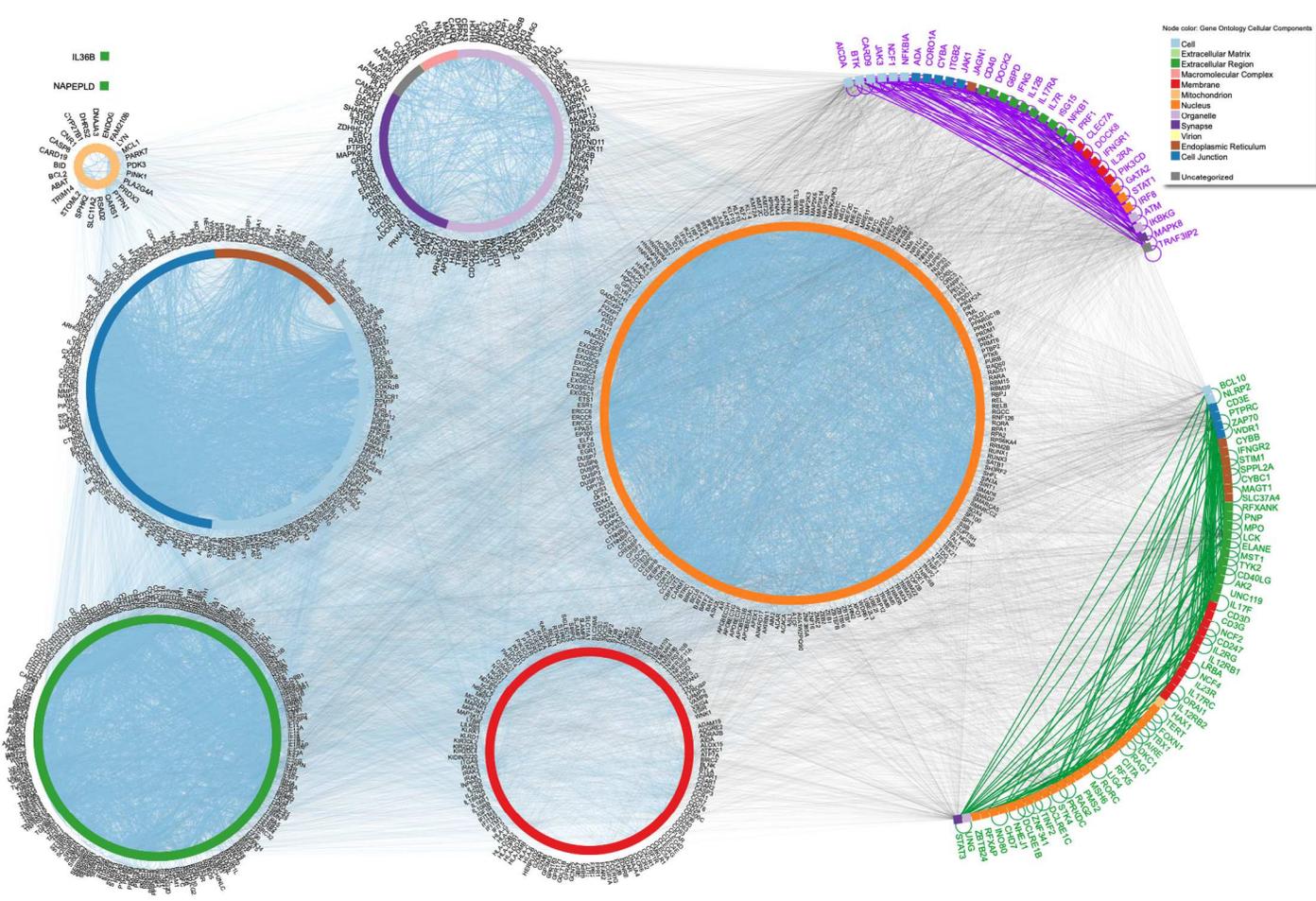
**Fig. 5. Relationship between molecules associated with TLR and IFN signaling cascades.** **a,b**, Correloplot of DEGs associated with TLR and IFN signaling cascades in PBMCs (GSE42606) in the **a**, absence or **b**, presence of *C. albicans*. Histograms of Pearson's correlation coefficient, containing negative and positive correlation from 1 to -1, respectively. **c**, Estimated correlations of TLR - and IFN -associated DEGs versus their corresponding first 2 canonical variates (x-CV1 and x-CV2, for IFN- associated genes; y-CV1 and y-CV2 for TLR-associated genes). Grey colored variables (with names omitted) are those with correlation coefficient  $\leq 0.7$  in its two corresponding canonical variates. Inner dotted lines limit the canonical correlation coefficient between -0.7 and 0.7, while outer dotted lines between -1 and 1. **d, e**, PCA was used for stratification analysis of resting and *C. albicans* infected PBMCs based on TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs. **d**, Of note, individuals with similar expression values for these DEGs are grouped together; **e**, Variables with positive correlation are pointing to same side of the plot, contrasting with negative correlated variables, which point to opposite sides. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *IFN*, Interferon; *PBMCs*, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor.



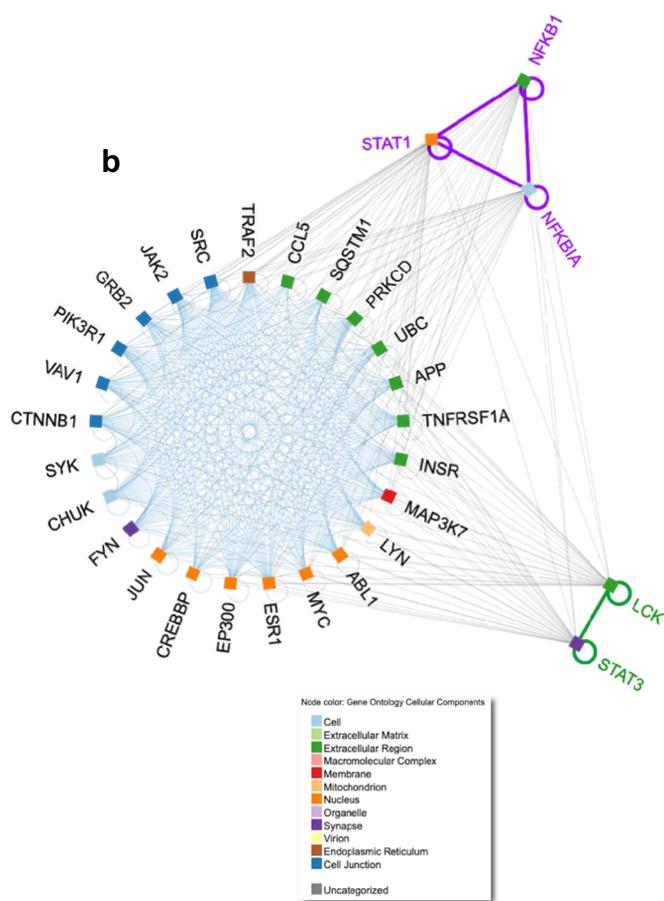
**Fig. 6. Induction of the interplay between TLR and IFN signaling pathways by the multidrug-resistant *C. auris*.** **a**, Dot plot showing the 30 most enriched signaling pathways obtained by ORA of DEGs using ClusterProfiler. Y-axis contains enriched pathways while the size of circles represents the number of genes (count) enriching each category and color (from blue to black) indicating how significantly enriched (when p-value <0.05) is the pathway. **b**, Network demonstrating interactions between pathways and their associated genes revealed by ORA. Circular nodes represent pathways, circle size is associated with the number of genes enriching each pathway, while colored squares represent the cell location of genes. The interaction network was built using the NAViGaTOR software. **c**, Circular heatmaps of RNAseq expression z-scores computed for log2 transformed DEGs (p-value adj < 0.05, fold change > 1 and < -1) compares the expression of TLR- (left panels) and IFN- (right panels) signaling pathways induced by *C. albicans* (green/grey heatmaps) or *C. auris* (yellow/grey heatmaps) all from GSE154911. Small circular heatmaps (blue/grey) demonstrate common DEGs modulated by *C. albicans* and *C. auris*. **d**, Venn diagram showing the transcriptional overlap (an intersection containing 237 shared DEGs) induced by *C. auris* and *C. albicans* (those 1096 genes found across all studies: **Suppl. Table 10**). **e**, Dotplot of enriched pathways by the 237 shared DEGs. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *IFN*, Interferon; *ORA*, Over representation analysis; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor.

Figure 7

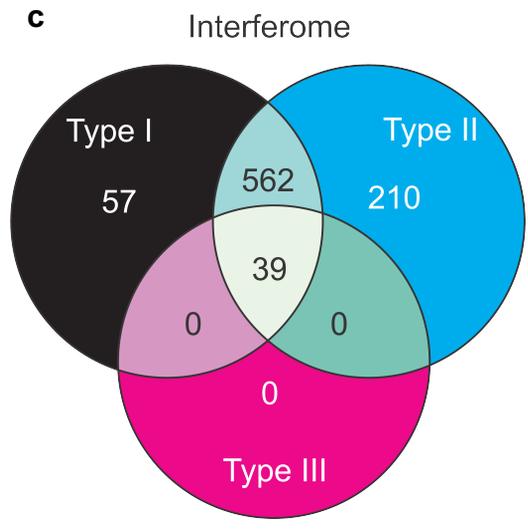
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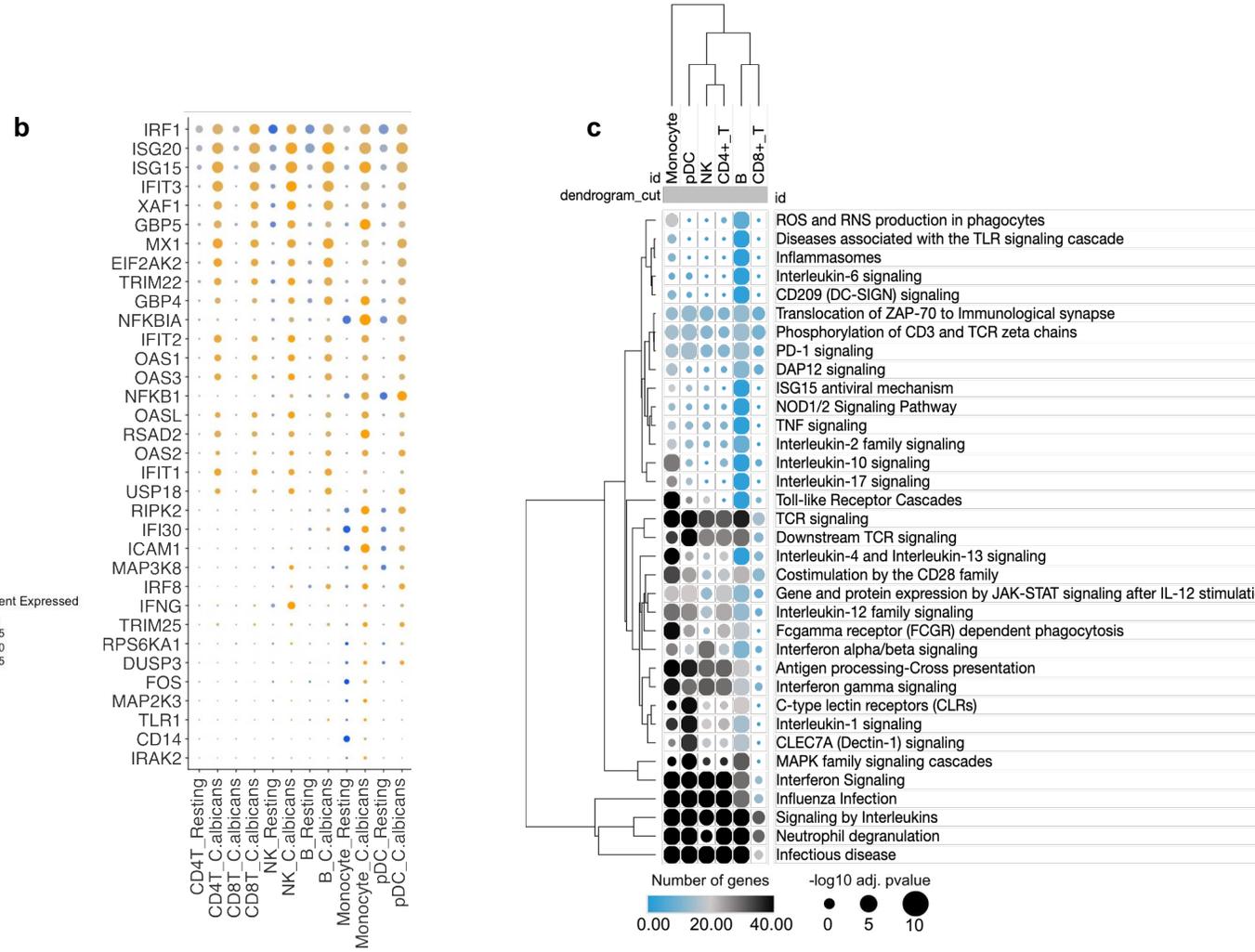
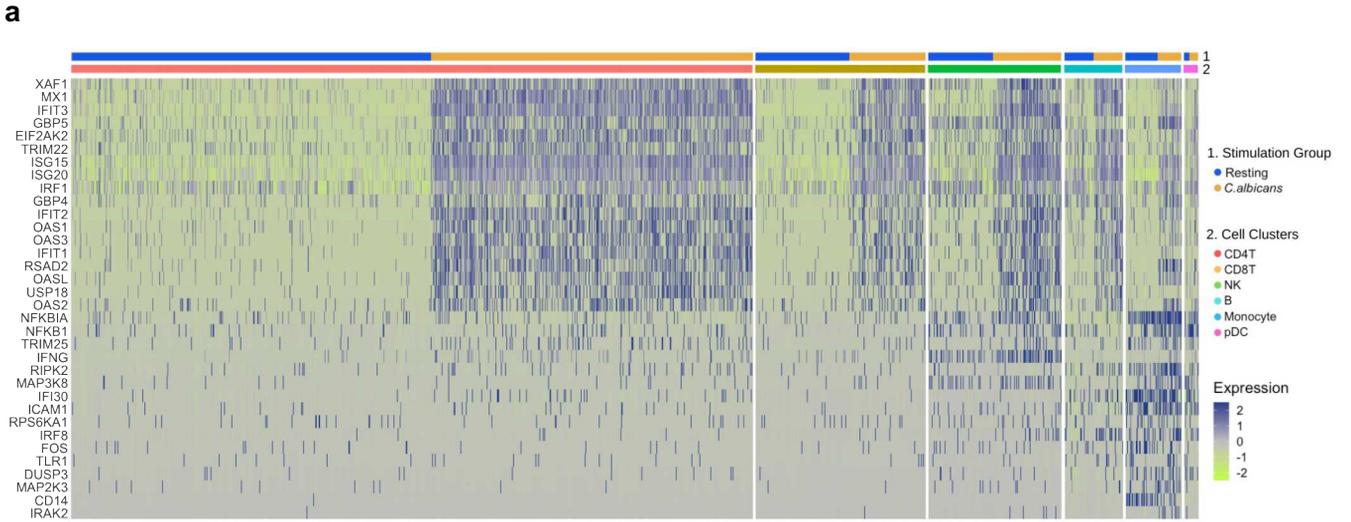
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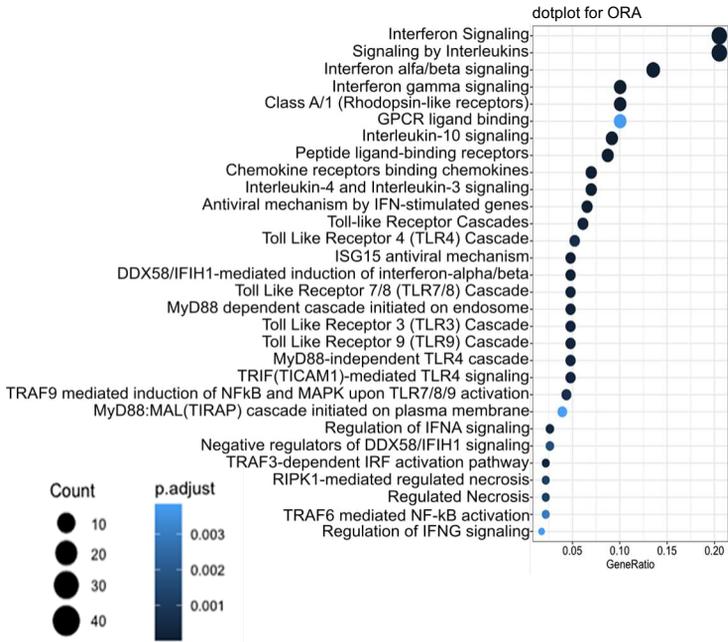


**Fig. 7. The interactome of DEGs enriching signaling pathways involved in the anti-candida immune response and its association with inborn errors of immunity. a,** Relationships (edges) among the 1096 DEGs (nodes) found across all studies (**Suppl. Table 10**). Subnetworks (semicircles) represent genes associated with IEI causing increased susceptibility to candidiasis, being 34 purple nodes genes shared with the group of 1096 DEGs, while 66 green nodes represent those not found in the Candida datasets. Colored squares and circles represent the cell location of genes. The interaction network was build using the NAViGaTOR software. **b,** Network of hubs present in **a**. **c,** Venn diagram of interferon types associated with the group of 1096 DEGs. Interferome analysis revealed 868 IFN-regulated genes modulated either by IFN type I, II, and III, as in the Venn Diagram. *DEGs, Differentially Expressed Genes; IFN, Interferon; IEI, Inborn Errors of Immunity; TLR, Toll-like Receptor.*

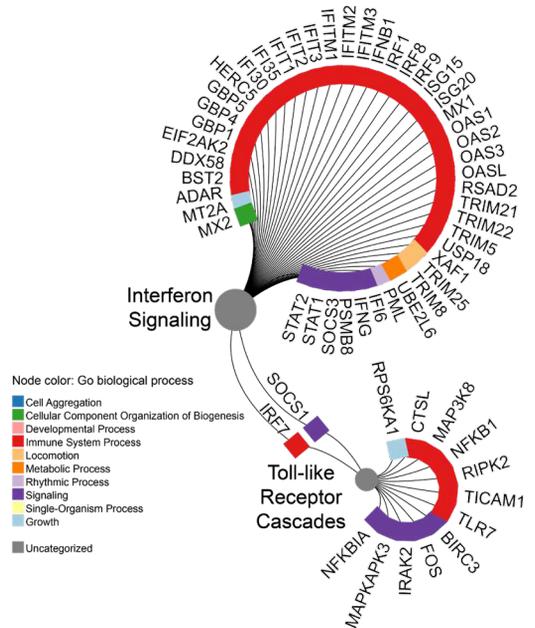


**Fig. 8. Common TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs and signaling pathways across microarray, bulk, and single-cell RNA-seq datasets.** **a**, Heatmap using expression value from scRNAseq of DEGs also present in microarray and bulk studies; cell condition and group are indicated by different colors. **b**, Hierarchical clustering of average expression comparing resting and *C. albicans*-activated cells. **c**, Hierarchical clustering showing common pathways selected from Fig. 1d, across the cell groups; the size of circles corresponds to adjusted p-value transformed into -Log10 and color intensity indicates the number of genes in each pathway across the cell groups, respectively. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *IFN*, Interferon; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor; *scRNAseq*, single-cell RNA sequencing.

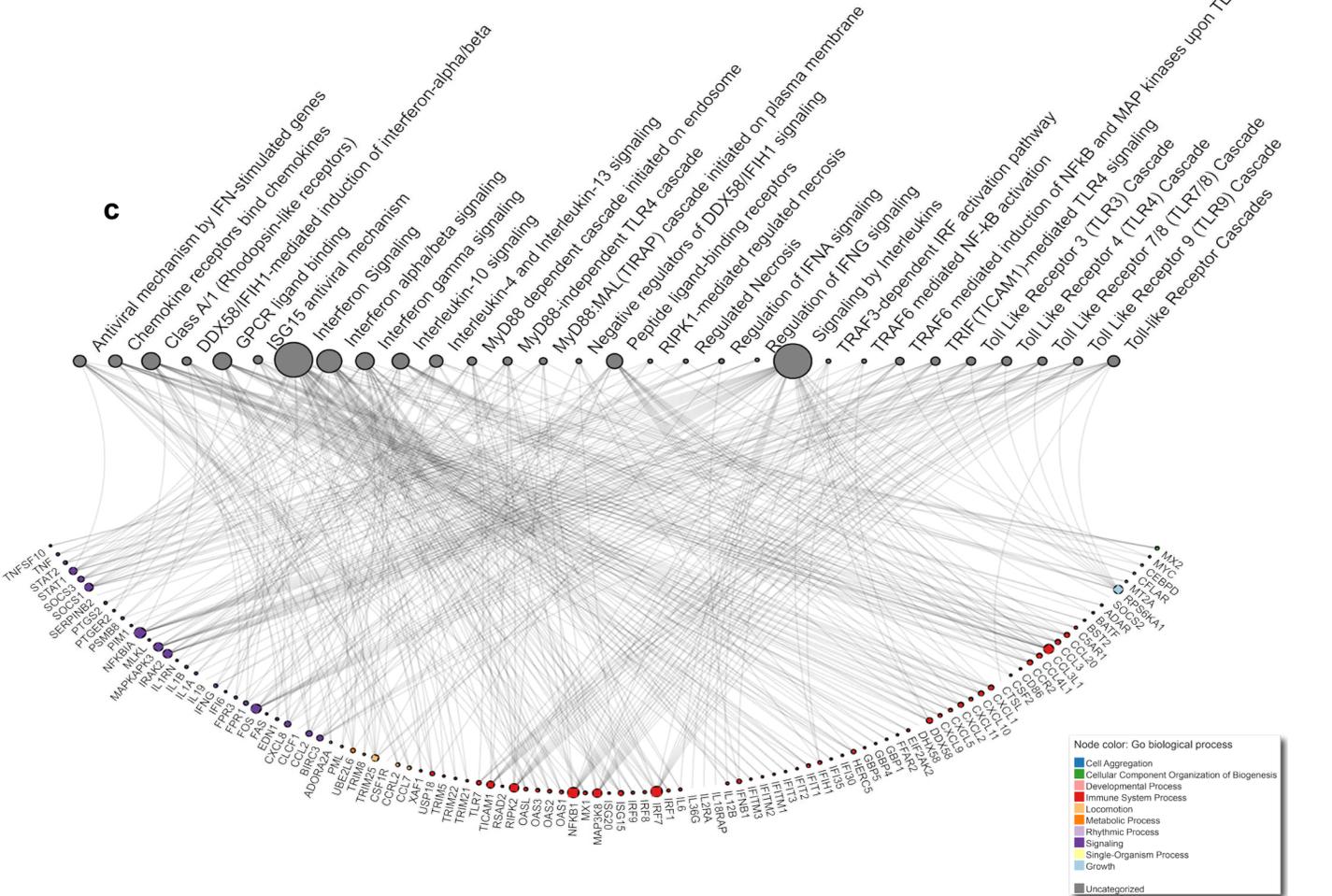
**a**



**b**



**c**



**Suppl. Fig. 1. Functional clustering of DEGs associates TLR and IFN signaling pathways.** **a**, Dot plot showing the 30 most enriched signaling pathways obtained by ORA of DEGs (dataset GSE42606) using ClusterProfiler. Y-axis contains enriched pathways while the size of circles represents the number of genes (count) enriching each category and color (from blue to black) indicates how significant (when p-value < 0.05) enriched is the pathway. **b**, Network of TLR- and IFN-associated genes enriching signaling pathways showed in the dot plot (a). The network includes genes upregulated and downregulated (**Suppl. Table 4**) when comparing resting with *C. albicans*-infected PBMCs. The size of circles represents the number (counts) of genes that enrich the pathway, and colored squares represent the cell location of genes. **c**, Network demonstrating interactions between pathways and their associated genes revealed by ORA. Circular nodes represent pathways and the circle size is associated with the number of genes that enrich each pathway, while colored squares represent the cell location of genes. The interaction network was build using the NAViGaTOR software. *DEGs*, *Differentially Expressed Genes*; *IFN*, *Interferon*; *ORA*, *Over-representation Analysis*; *TLR*, *Toll-like Receptor*.



**Suppl. Fig. 2. Inborn errors of immunity confirm the interplay of TLR- and IFN-associated genes.** **a**, Overview (created using BioRender.com) of genes associated with inborn errors of immunity that are also found among the DEGs across the 7 datasets of WBCs, PBMCs, and moDCs (**Suppl. Table 14**). **b**, Dot plot showing the 30 most enriched signaling pathways obtained by ORA of DEGs seen in (**a**). Y-axis contains enriched pathways while the size of circles represents the number of genes (count) enriching each category and color (from blue to black) indicates how significantly enriched (when p-value <0.05) is each pathway. **c**, GOPlot displaying genes causing inborn errors of immunity and enriched pathways. *DEGs*, Differentially Expressed Genes; *moDCs*, Monocyte-Derived Dendritic Cells; *IFN*, Interferon; *ORA*, Over-representation Analysis; *PBMCs*, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; *TLR*, Toll-like Receptor; *WBCs*, White Blood Cells.

# Figures

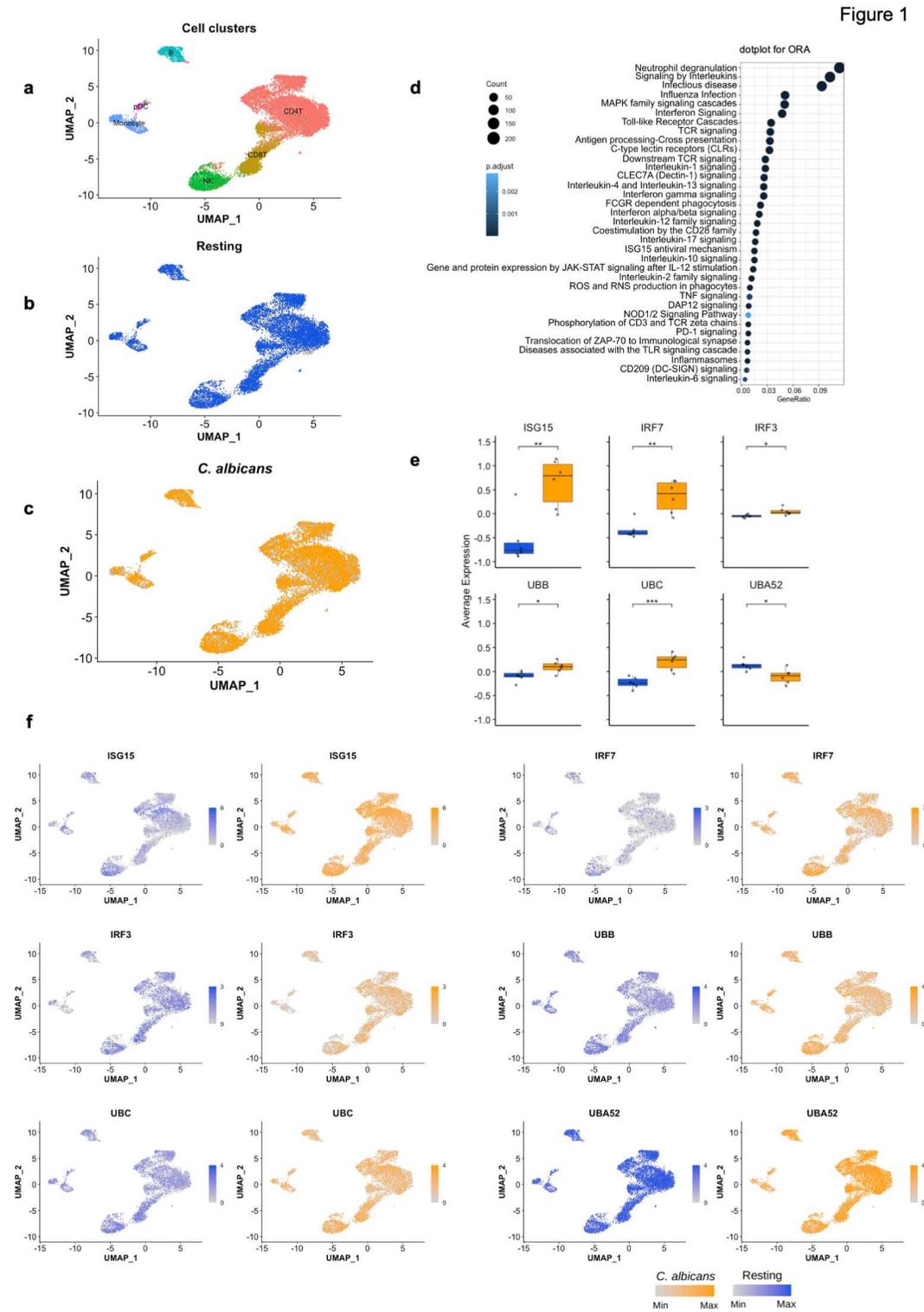


Figure 1

Figure 1

scRNAseq revealed common activation of TLR and IFN signaling pathways. a, UMAP visualization of scRNAseq profiles colored according to cell clusters. b, c, UMAP of resting and *C. albicans*-activated cells groups. d, Dot plot showing pathways associated with immune response to *C. albicans*, obtained by ORA

of DEGs. e, Boxplot and f, UMAP of DEGs associated with both TLR and IFN signaling pathways, additional DEGs associated with these two pathways are described in Suppl. Table 3. DEGs, Differentially Expressed Genes; IFN, Interferon; ORA, Over representation analysis; scRNAseq, single-cell RNA sequencing; TLR, Toll-like Receptor; UMAP, Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection.

Figure 2

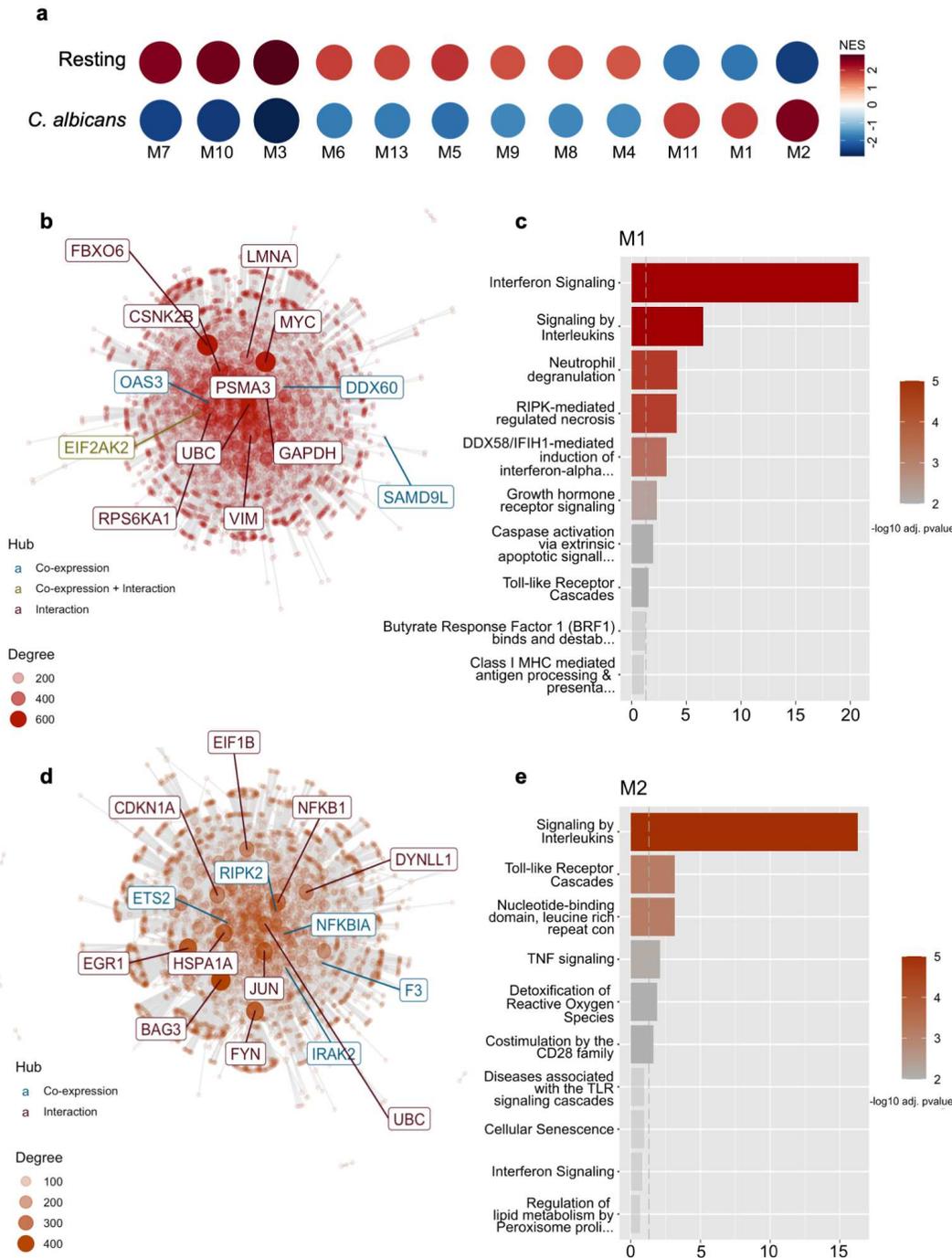
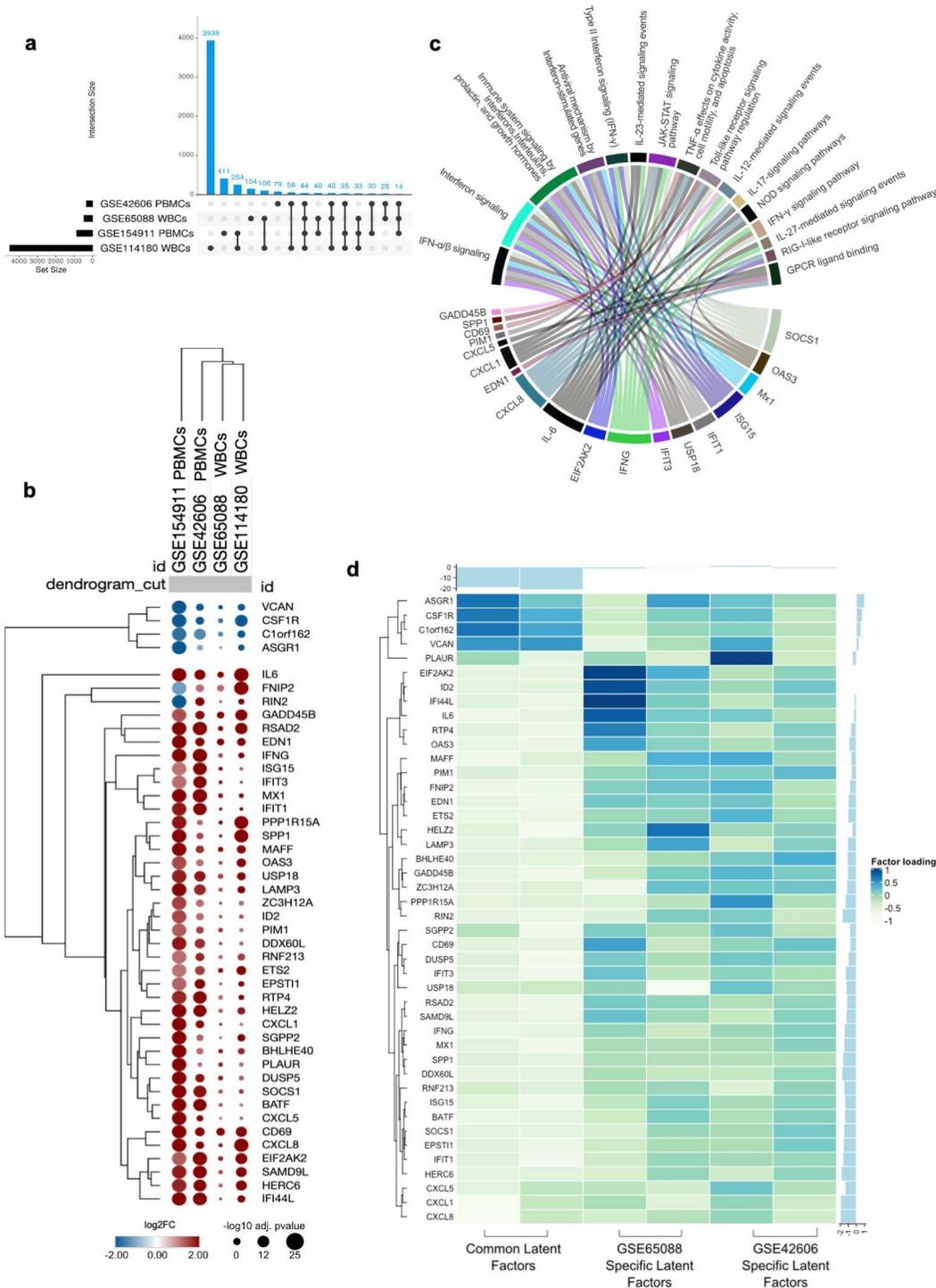


Figure 2

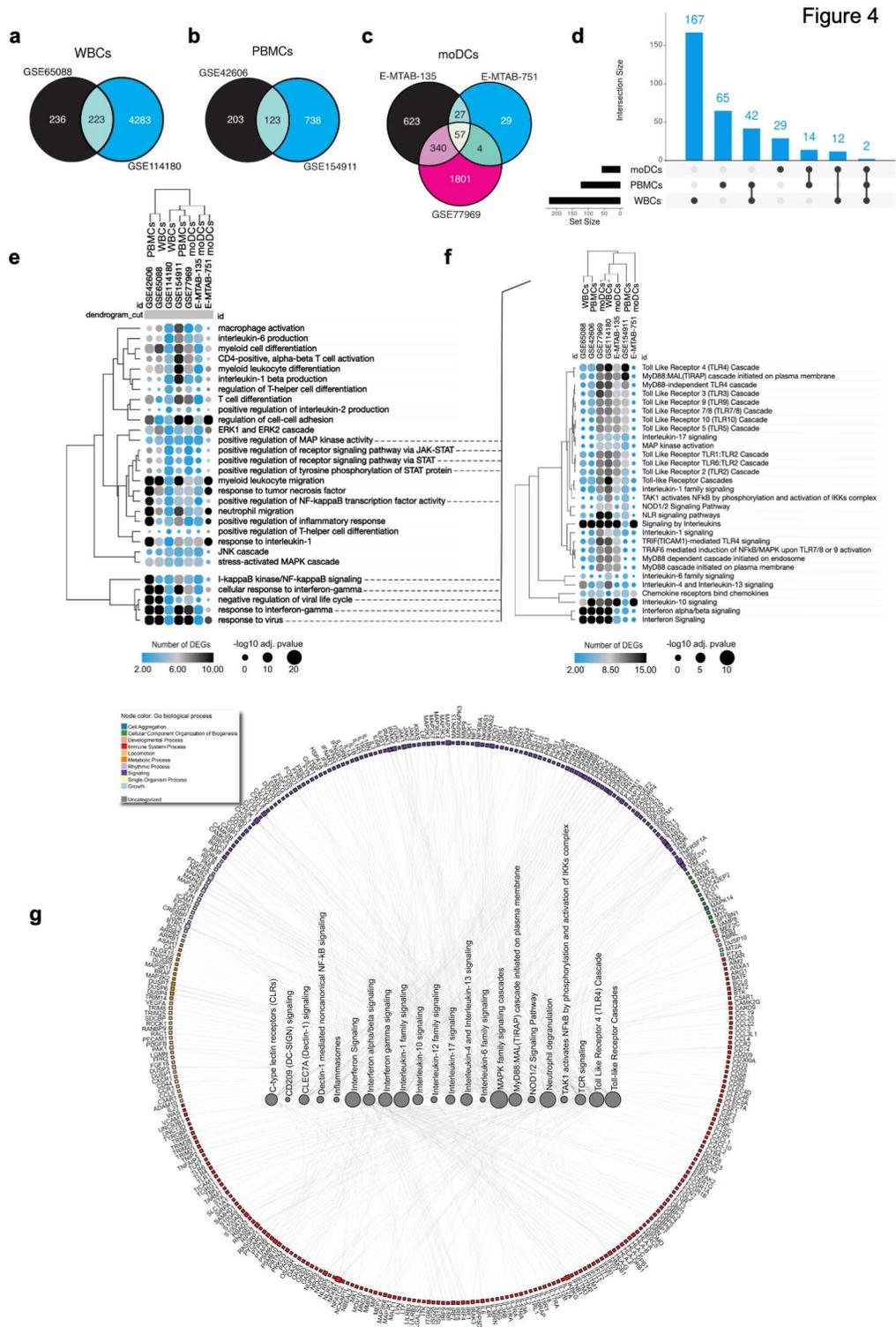
Modular gene co-expression analysis and the association of TLR and IFN signaling pathways. a, Co-expression modules significantly enriched (M1-M11, and M13) in PBMCs (resting n= 30; *C. albicans* infected n= 24; dataset GSE42606). b and d Network representation of M1 and M2 with hubs (most connected genes) colored based on coexpression (blue color), co-expressed and interactions (green color), or only interactions (dark-red color). c and e, Enrichment representation obtained by modular genes coexpression in M1 and M2 showing significantly ( $-\text{Log}_{10}$  transformed adjusted p-value) enriched signaling pathways. IFN, Interferon; TLR, Toll-like Receptor.

Figure 3



### Figure 3

*C. albicans* activates common TLR- and IFN-associated genes in peripheral blood leukocytes. a, The upset plot displays the number (set size) of DEGs present in each dataset (y-axis: WBCs, GSE65088, and GSE114180; PBMCs: GSE42606 and GSE154911) and their intersections. Black bubbles, present in the rows, mark the dataset which refers to the amount present in the blue columns, with intersections between two or more groups being shown. b, Hierarchical clustering of the 44 common DEGs demonstrating gene expression patterns across the different studies. The size and color of circles correspond to  $-\text{Log}_{10}$  transformed adjusted p-value and  $\text{Log}_2$  fold change ( $\text{Log}_2\text{FC}$ ), respectively. Blue represents downregulated and red indicates up-regulated DEGs. The cut-off applied to identify the down-/upregulated genes was  $\text{Log}_2\text{FC} < -1 / > 1$  and adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$ . Rows and columns were clustered based on cosine similarity between  $\text{Log}_2\text{FC}$  values. c, GOplot of selected immunological pathways and associated gene. d, Heatmap of common and specific latent factors across the studies. Heatmaps contain genes presenting positive and negative loadings ranging from -1 to 1. DEGs, Differentially Expressed Genes; PBMCs, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; WBCs, White Blood Cells.



**Figure 4**

C. albicans activate common TLR and IFN signaling pathways across different layers of immunity. a-c, Venn diagrams displaying the number of DEGs present in each dataset grouped by cell type and their intersections: datasets of WBCs (a), PBMCs (b), and moDCs (c). d, The intersection plot highlights the number of common DEGs across different cell groups. e, Hierarchical clustering exhibiting the pathways enriching common biological processes across the studies (Suppl. Table 9). f, Further analysis of TLR-

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Figure 5

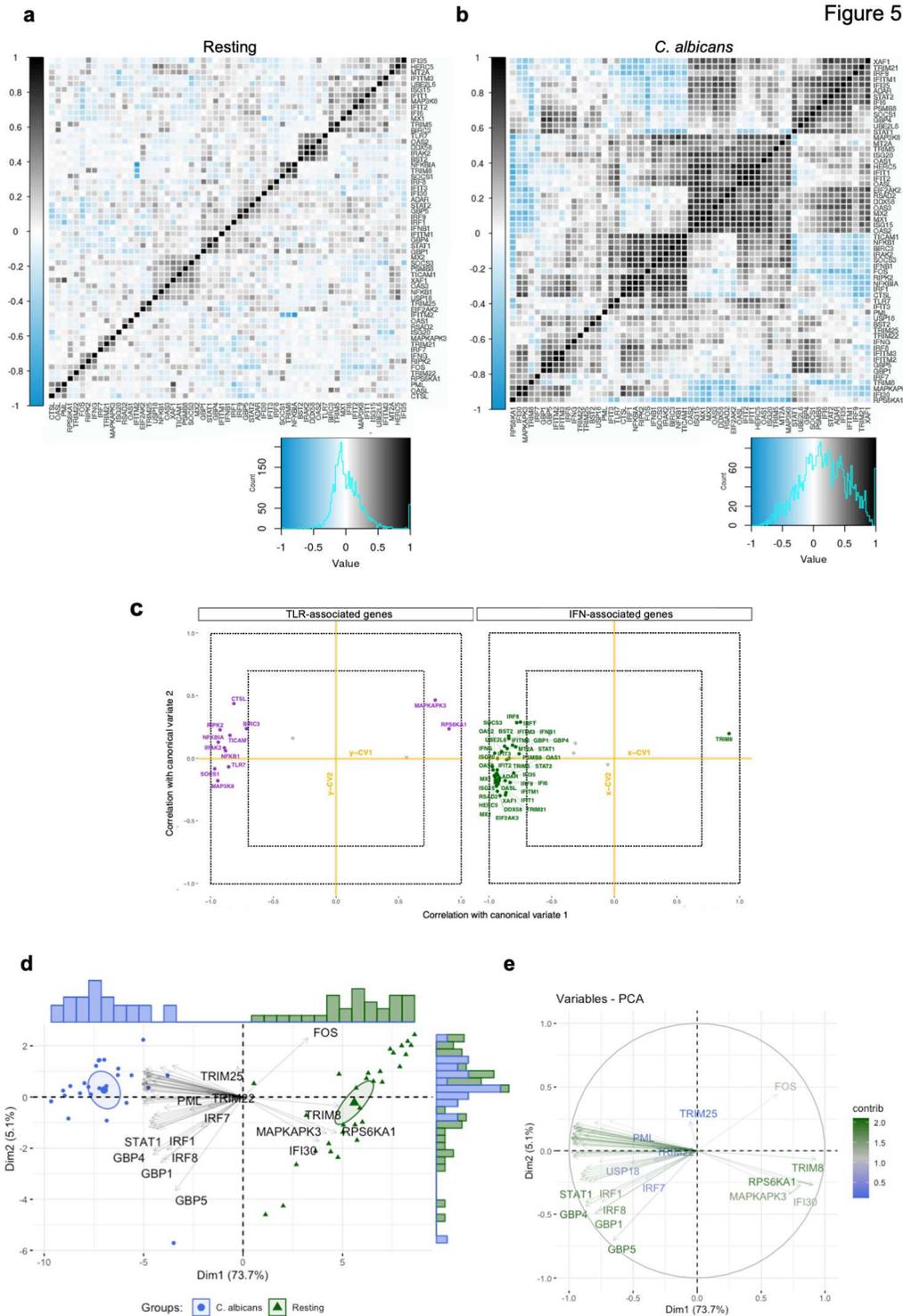


Figure 5

Relationship between molecules associated with TLR and IFN signaling cascades. a,b, Correloplot of DEGs associated with TLR and IFN signaling cascades in PBMCs (GSE42606) in the a, absence or b, presence of *C. albicans*. Histograms of Pearson's correlation coefficient, containing negative and positive correlation from 1 to -1, respectively. c, Estimated correlations of TLR - and IFN - associated DEGs versus their corresponding first 2 canonical variates (x-CV1 and x-CV2, for IFN- associated genes; y-CV1 and y-

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Figure 6

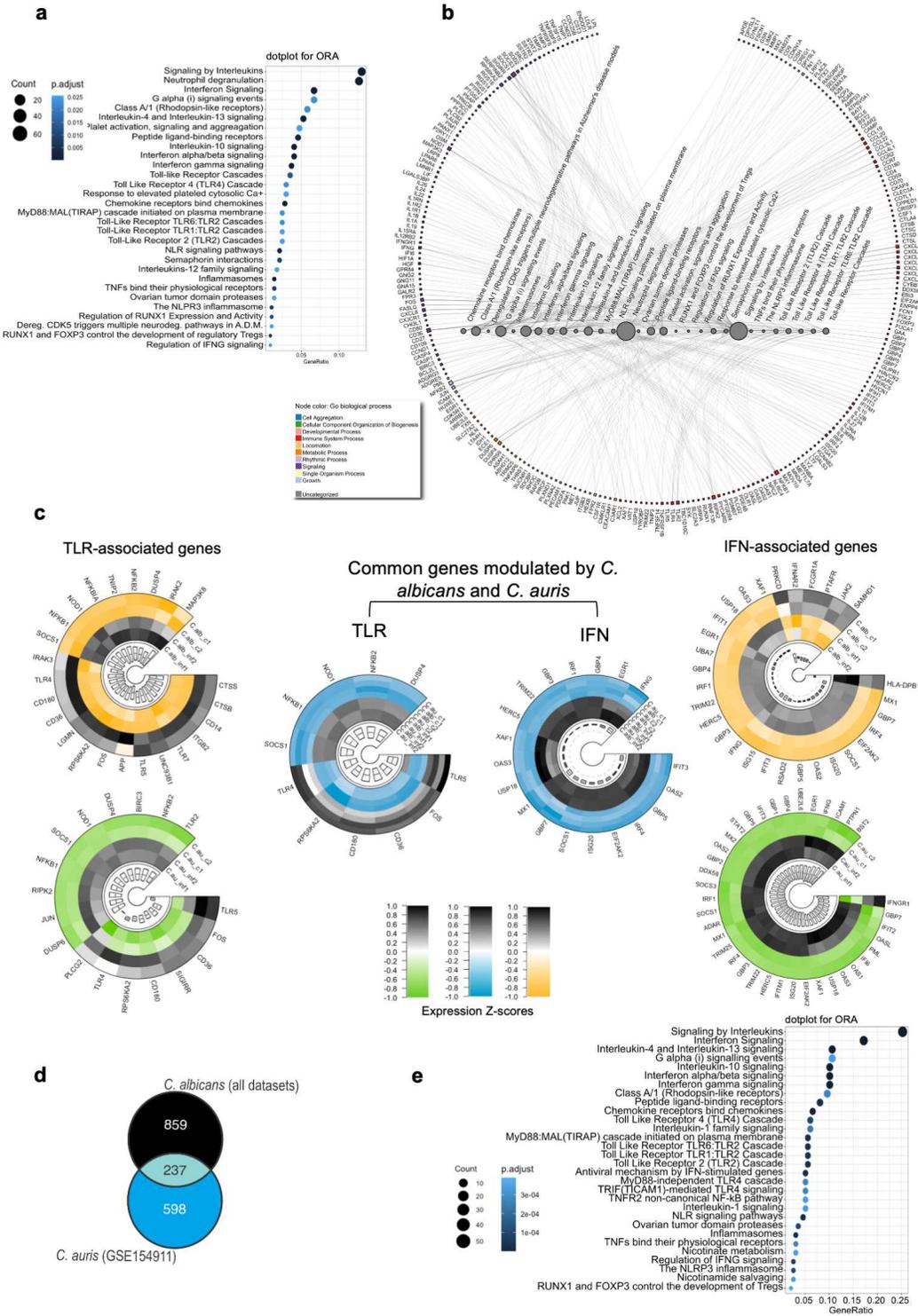


Figure 6

Induction of the interplay between TLR and IFN signaling pathways by the multidrug-resistant *C. auris*. a, Dot plot showing the 30 most enriched signaling pathways obtained by ORA of DEGs using ClusterProfiler. Y-axis contains enriched pathways while the size of circles represents the number of genes (count) enriching each category and color (from blue to black) indicating how significantly enriched (when p-value < 0.05) is the pathway. b, Network demonstrating interactions between pathways

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Figure 7

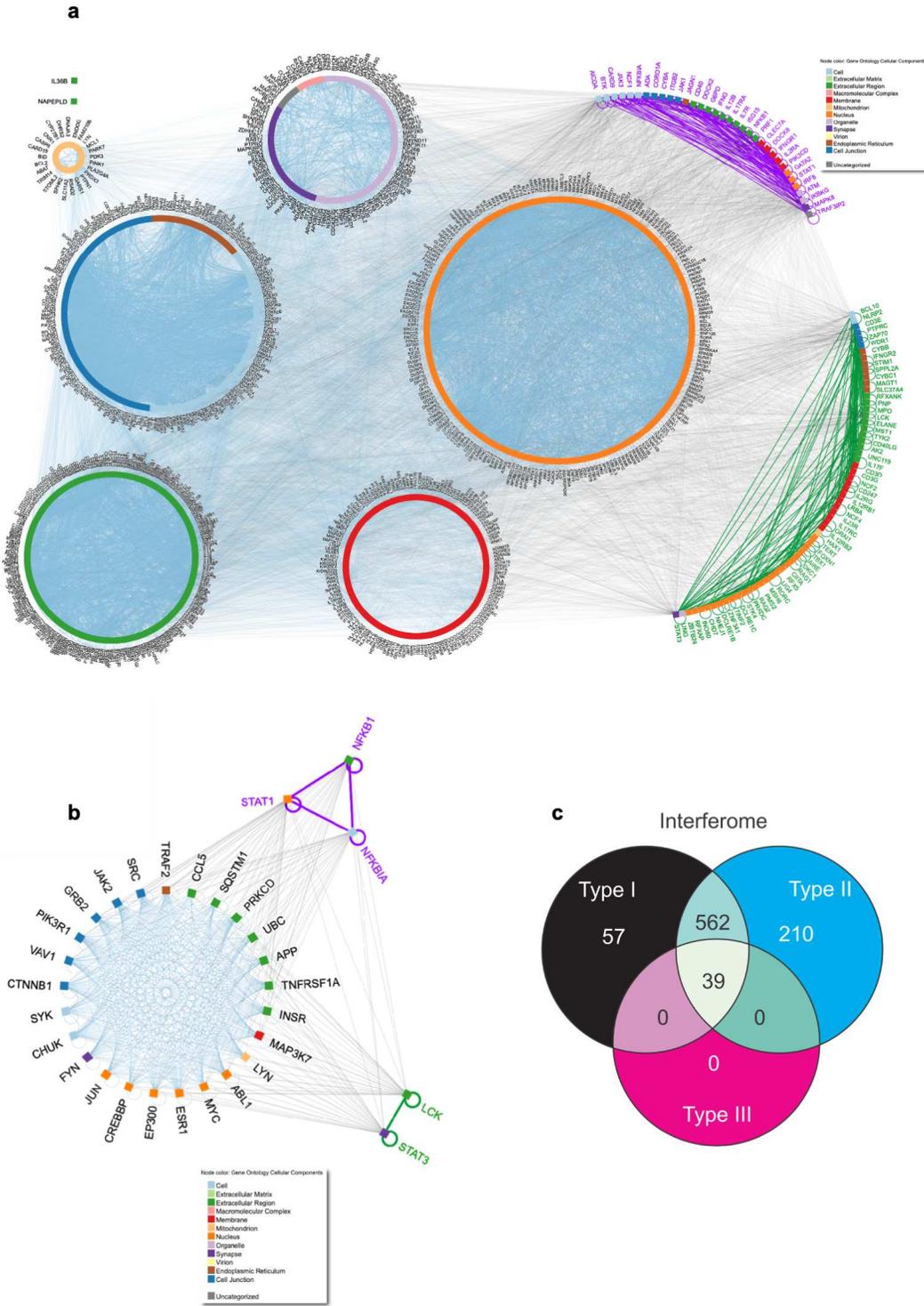


Figure 7

The interactome of DEGs enriching signaling pathways involved in the anticandida immune response and its association with inborn errors of immunity. a, Relationships (edges) among the 1096 DEGs (nodes) found across all studies (Suppl. Table 10). Subnetworks (semicircles) represent genes associated with IEL causing increased susceptibility to candidiasis, being 34 purple nodes genes shared with the group of 1096 DEGs, while 66 green nodes represent those not found in the Candida datasets. Colored

squares and circles represent the cell location of genes. The interaction network was built using the NAViGaTOR software. b, Network of hubs present in a. c, Venn diagram of interferon types associated with the group of 1096 DEGs. Interferome analysis revealed 868 IFN-regulated genes modulated either by IFN type I, II, and III, as in the Venn Diagram. DEGs, Differentially Expressed Genes; IFN, Interferon; IEI, Inborn Errors of Immunity; TLR, Toll-like Receptor.

Figure 8

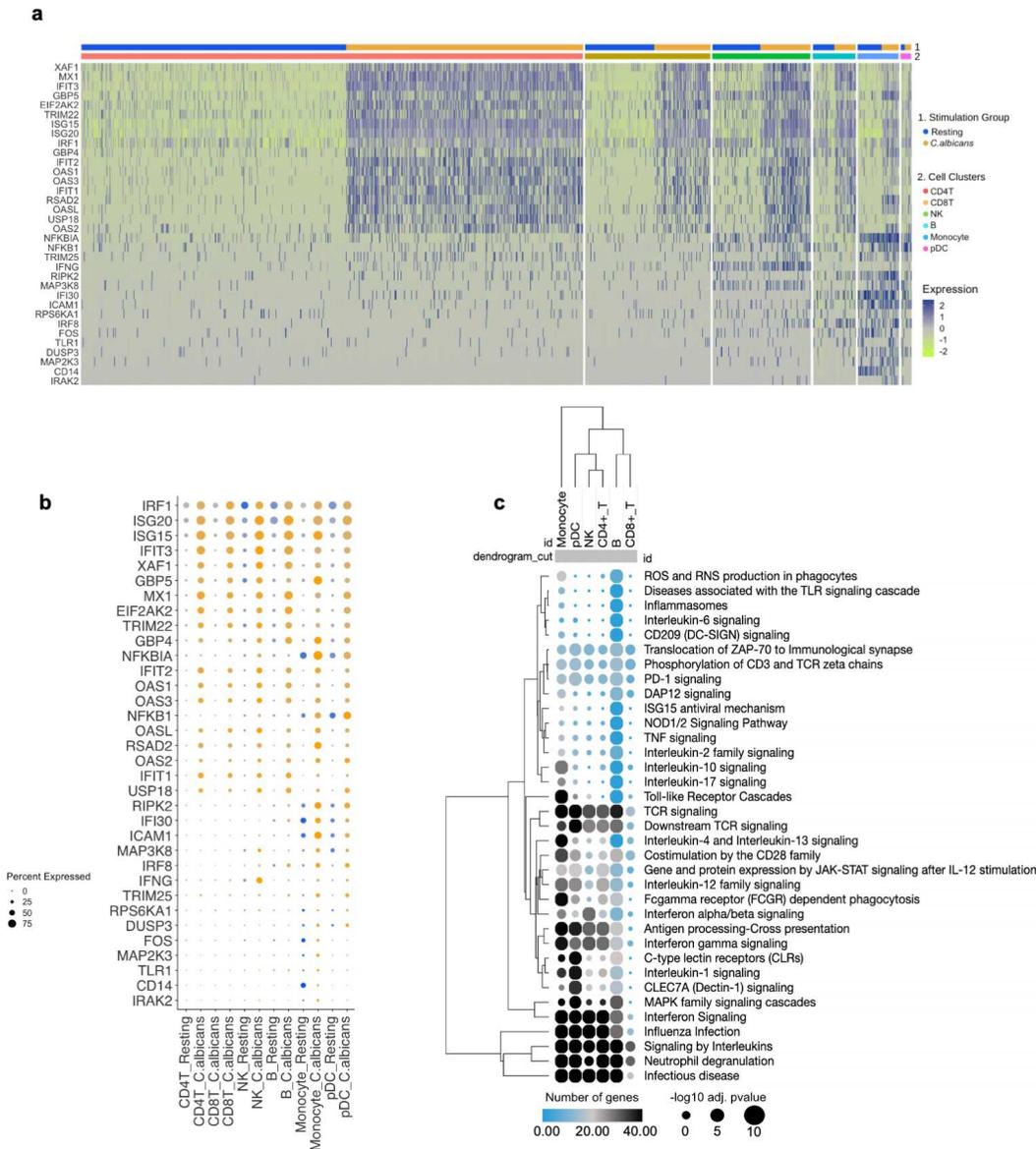


Figure 8

Common TLR- and IFN-associated DEGs and signaling pathways across microarray, bulk, and single-cell RNA-seq datasets. a, Heatmap using expression value from scRNAseq of DEGs also present in microarray and bulk studies; cell condition and group are indicated by different colors. b, Hierarchical clustering of average expression comparing resting and *C. albicans*-activated cells. c, Hierarchical clustering showing common pathways selected from Fig. 1d, across the cell groups; the size of circles corresponds to adjusted p-value transformed into  $-\text{Log}_{10}$  and color intensity indicates the number of genes in each pathway across the cell groups, respectively. DEGs, Differentially Expressed Genes; IFN, Interferon; TLR, Toll-like Receptor; scRNAseq, single-cell RNA sequencing.

## Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [SupplementaryTablesS1S14.xlsx](#)
- [Graphicabstract.tiff](#)
- [Suppl.Figure1.tiff](#)
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