

# Anti-SIRP $\alpha$ antibodies as a potential new tool for cancer immunotherapy

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Tumor cells are thought to evade immune surveillance through interaction with immune cells. Much recent attention has focused on the modification of immune responses as a basis for new cancer treatments. SIRP $\alpha$  is an Ig superfamily protein that inhibits phagocytosis in macrophages upon interaction with its ligand CD47 expressed on the surface of target cells. Here, we show that SIRP $\alpha$  is highly expressed in human renal cell carcinoma and melanoma. Furthermore, an anti-SIRP $\alpha$  Ab that blocks the interaction with CD47 markedly suppressed tumor formation by renal cell carcinoma or melanoma cells in immunocompetent syngeneic mice. This inhibitory effect of the Ab appeared to be mediated by dual mechanisms: direct induction of Ab-dependent cellular phagocytosis of tumor cells by macrophages and blockade of CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  signaling that negatively regulates such phagocytosis. The antitumor effect of the Ab was greatly attenuated by selective depletion not only of macrophages but also of NK cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells. In addition, the anti-SIRP $\alpha$  Ab also enhances the inhibitory effects of Abs against CD20 and programmed cell death 1 (PD-1) on tumor formation in mice injected with SIRP $\alpha$ -nonexpressing tumor cells. Anti-SIRP $\alpha$  Abs thus warrant further study as a potential new therapy for a broad range of cancers.

## Introduction

The tumor microenvironment consists of a variety of stromal cell types including fibroblasts, immune cells, and endothelial cells, as well as soluble and insoluble factors such as cytokines, chemokines, and extracellular matrix (1, 2). This microenvironment plays an important role in the regulation of tumor progression by promoting tumor cell survival, invasion, and metastasis as well as angiogenesis (1–3). Crosstalk between tumor and immune cells in the tumor microenvironment is also thought to contribute to the evasion of tumor cells from immune surveillance. For instance, binding of programmed cell death 1 (PD-1) on cytotoxic T lymphocytes to its ligand PD-L1 on tumor cells prevents killing of the latter cells by the former (4). Indeed, Abs against PD-1 are now in clinical use for the treatment of cancers including advanced melanoma, renal cell carcinoma, and non-small-cell lung cancer (5). Moreover, the binding of tumor-derived soluble MHC class I-related chain A (MICA) to its receptor NKG2D on NK cells and T cells results in the downregulation of NKG2D and impairs the responsiveness of such cells specific for tumor antigens (6, 7). Molecules that participate in negative regulation of the antitumor response of immune cells are thus promising targets for cancer therapy.

Signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$  (SIRP $\alpha$ ) is a transmembrane protein with an extracellular region comprising three Ig-like domains and a cytoplasmic region containing immunoreceptor tyrosine-based inhibition motifs that mediate binding of the protein tyrosine phosphatases SHP1 and SHP2 (8, 9). Tyrosine phosphorylation of SIRP $\alpha$  is regulated by various growth factors and cytokines as well as by integrin-mediated

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cell adhesion to extracellular matrix proteins. SIRP $\alpha$  is especially abundant in myeloid cells such as macrophages and DCs, whereas it is expressed at only low levels in T, B, NK, and NKT cells (10–13). The extracellular region of SIRP $\alpha$  interacts with its ligand CD47, which is expressed in most cell types (14) and is also a member of the Ig superfamily (8, 9, 14).

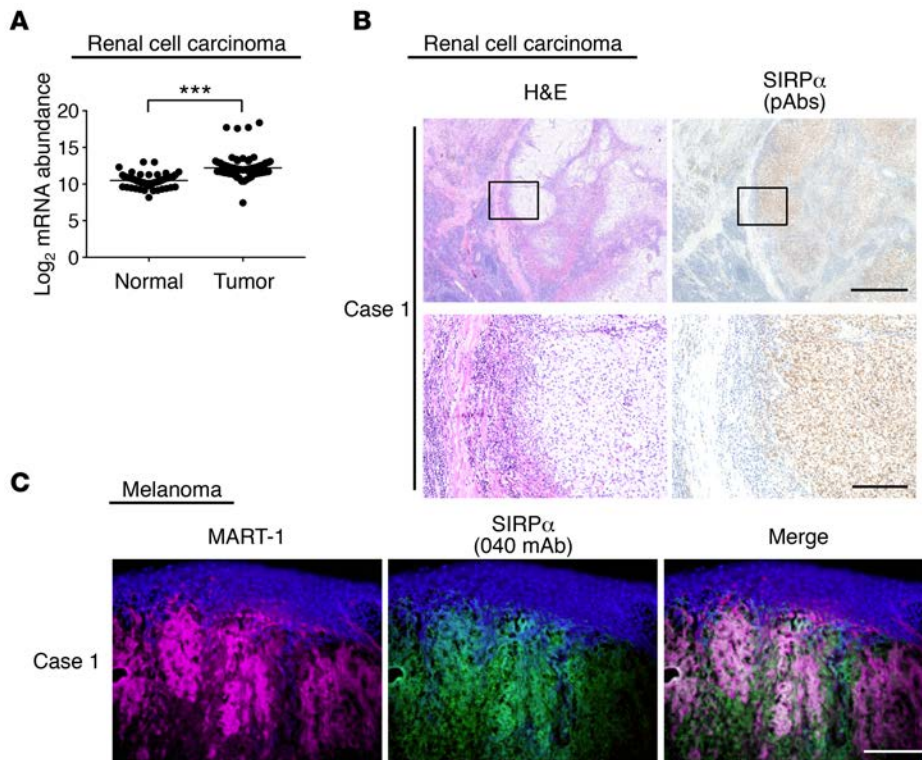
The interaction of SIRP $\alpha$  on macrophages with CD47 on rbc prevents phagocytosis of Ig-opsonized rbc by macrophages in vitro (15) and in vivo (16). Such negative regulation of macrophages is thought to be mediated by the binding of SHP1 to the cytoplasmic region of SIRP $\alpha$  (15). We previously showed that prevention of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction with an Ab against SIRP $\alpha$  in vitro enhanced the killing by phagocytes of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2–positive (HER2-positive) breast cancer cells opsonized with the HER2-specific mAb trastuzumab (17), suggesting that such blockade of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction is a promising new approach to cancer treatment. An Ab against CD47 that blocks the binding of CD47 to SIRP $\alpha$  was shown to promote both Ab-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) of human non-Hodgkin lymphoma cells by macrophages in vitro and eradication of xenografts of these cancer cells induced by the CD20-specific mAb rituximab in immunodeficient mice (18). Moreover, the same Ab against CD47 was found to inhibit the growth of various human tumor xenografts including solid tumors (19). However, given that CD47 is ubiquitously expressed at a high level in normal tissues, efficient targeting of CD47 specifically on cancer cells is problematic. Moreover, Abs against CD47 might trigger Ab-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) in healthy cells, such as rbc, which is not a desirable response (20).

To further explore the potential of cancer therapy based on Abs against SIRP $\alpha$ , we first examined which types of human cancers express this protein at a high level. We then tested the effect of such Abs on the growth of renal cell carcinoma and melanoma, both of which were found to express SIRP $\alpha$  at a high level. Finally, we investigated whether the combination of an Ab against SIRP $\alpha$  and other anticancer Abs, such as those specific for CD20 or PD-1, might suppress tumor growth in vivo in a synergistic manner.

## Results

*Human renal cell carcinoma and melanoma express SIRP $\alpha$  at a high level.* To investigate the potential antitumor effect of Abs against SIRP $\alpha$ , we first examined which types of human cancer or cancer cell lines express this protein at a high level by consulting a human protein atlas (21) and The Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia (22). Database searches indicated that SIRP $\alpha$  mRNA or protein might be moderately or highly abundant in human renal cell carcinoma and melanoma. Microarray analysis performed previously (23) indeed revealed that the levels of *SIRPA* mRNA in clear cell renal cell carcinoma ( $n = 95$  patients) was markedly higher than those in matched normal kidney tissue (Figure 1A). Immunohistochemical staining with polyclonal Abs (pAbs) against human SIRP $\alpha$  — the specificity of which was confirmed by immunofluorescence and immunoblot analyses (Supplemental Figure 1, A–C; supplemental material available online with this article; doi:10.1172/jci.insight.89140DS1) — also showed that SIRP $\alpha$  protein was expressed at a high level in tumor sections from 4 patients randomly selected from the 95 patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma (Figure 1B, Supplemental Figure 1D, and Table 1). In addition, SIRP $\alpha$  immunoreactivity, which was determined by a mAb against human SIRP $\alpha$  (040 mAb), was detected at a high level in sections of melanoma from 4 of 8 patients and at a moderate or low level in the remaining 4 patients, with such staining corresponding well to that of the melanoma marker melanoma antigen recognized by T cells 1 (MART-1) (24) (Figure 1C, Supplemental Figure 2A, and Table 2). Although the 040 mAb could react with SIRP $\alpha$  as well as the SIRP family members SIRP $\beta$ 1 or SIRP $\gamma$  (25) (Supplemental Figure 3), the immunoreactivity of SIRP $\beta$ 1 or of SIRP $\gamma$  in human melanoma was undetectable (Supplemental Figure 2B). It is thus likely that the expression of SIRP $\alpha$  is specifically increased in these melanoma samples. Consistent with these results, SIRP $\alpha$  was found to be abundant in human renal cell carcinoma (ACHN, 786-O, A498, Caki-1) and melanoma (WM239a, SK-MEL-28, SK-MEL-5) cell lines, although it was present at only a low level in A375 melanoma cells (Supplemental Figure 4). Taken together, these results thus suggested that SIRP $\alpha$  is highly expressed in human renal cell carcinoma and melanoma.

*Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  attenuate the growth of tumors formed by SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing renal cell carcinoma or melanoma cells in syngeneic mice.* We next investigated the effects of 2 different mAbs against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  — MY-1 (rat IgG2a) (26) and P84 (rat IgG1) (27, 28) — on the growth of tumors formed by mouse renal cell carcinoma or melanoma cells implanted into syngeneic mice. MY-1 binds to the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal Ig-V–like domain of SIRP $\alpha$  and thereby blocks the interaction with CD47, whereas P84 has little effect on the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction



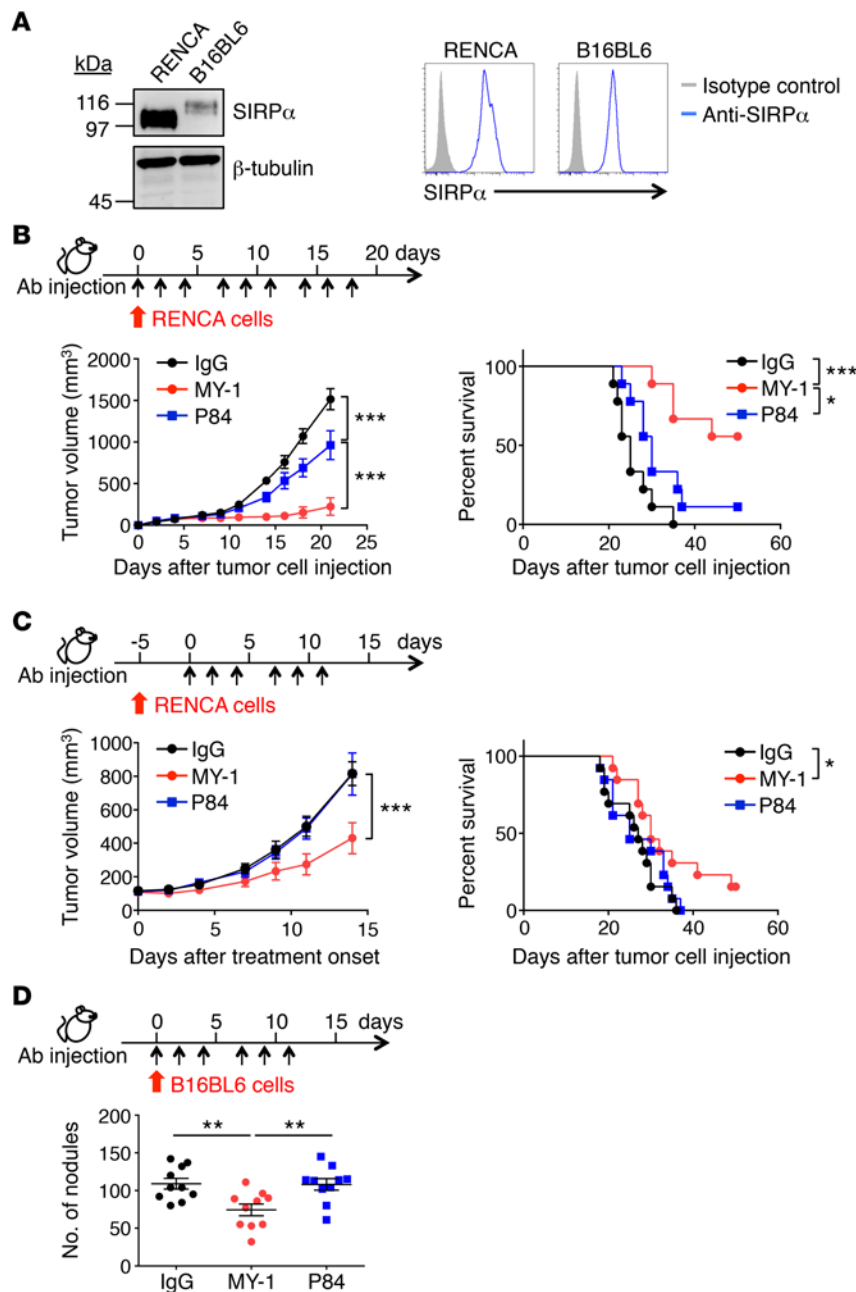
**Figure 1. High level of SIRP $\alpha$  expression in human renal cell carcinoma and melanoma.** (A) Microarray analysis of signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$  (*SIRPA*) mRNA abundance in tumor and adjacent normal tissue from patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma. Individual values ( $n = 95$ ) are shown. Bars indicate the median values. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , by 2-tailed Student's  $t$  test. (B) Paraffin-embedded tumor sections prepared from a patient with clear cell renal cell carcinoma (case 1) were subjected to H&E staining as well as immunohistochemical staining (brown) with polyclonal Abs (pAbs) against human SIRP $\alpha$  and counterstaining with hematoxylin. Boxed regions in the top panels are shown at higher magnification in the bottom panels. Scale bars: 500  $\mu\text{m}$  (top panel) and 100  $\mu\text{m}$  (bottom panel). (C) Fresh-frozen tumor sections from a patient with melanoma (case 1) were subjected to immunofluorescence staining with mAbs against melanoma antigen recognized by T cells 1 (MART-1) (magenta) and human SIRP $\alpha$  (040 mAb) (green). Nuclei were also stained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar: 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

(a detailed characterization of these two mAbs is provided in Supplemental Figures 5 and 6). In addition, MY-1 reacted with SIRP $\alpha$  or the SIRP family member SIRP $\beta$  (29) overexpressed in HEK293A cells, whereas P84 only reacted with SIRP $\alpha$  (Supplemental Figure 5B). Immunoblot and flow cytometric analyses showed that mouse RENCA renal cell carcinoma and B16BL6 melanoma cells express SIRP $\alpha$  at a high level on the cell surface (Figure 2A). In contrast, flow cytometric analysis also revealed that expression of SIRP $\beta$  was minimal on the cell surface of both cell lines (Supplemental Figure 7), suggesting that immunoreactivity for MY-1 or P84 on these tumor cells is attributable to SIRP $\alpha$  expression on their cell surface. Syngeneic BALB/c mice at 8 weeks of age were injected s.c. with RENCA cells and then i.p. with either normal rat IgG (control), MY-1, or P84 three times a week (Figure 2B). Treatment with MY-1 resulted in marked attenuation of tumor formation by RENCA cells compared with that seen in mice treated with control IgG, whereas P84 manifested a smaller but still significant inhibitory effect on tumor growth (Figure 2B). Consistent with these findings, mice treated with MY-1 exhibited prolonged survival compared with those treated with either control IgG or P84 when the treatment was discontinued after 3 weekly cycles (Figure 2B). Moreover, the inhibitory effect of MY-1 on tumor growth as well as its beneficial effect on survival rates were also apparent when treatment was delayed until the tumor volume had achieved an average size of 100 mm<sup>3</sup> (Figure 2C). By contrast, such delayed treatment with P84 had no significant effect on either tumor growth or survival compared with the effect observed with control IgG (Figure 2C). We then examined the effects of the Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  on metastatic tumor formation by B16BL6 cells in C57BL/6J mice.

**Table 1. Characteristics of the 4 patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma**

Case	Age (yr)	Sex	Source	TNM	Stage
1	50	Male	Kidney	T1bN0M0	I
2	56	Female	Kidney	T3aN0M0	III
3	43	Male	Kidney	T3aN0M0	III
4	70	Male	Kidney	T3bN0M0	III

TNM, tumor, node, metastasis system.



**Figure 2. Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  attenuate the growth of tumors formed by SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing renal cell carcinoma or melanoma cells in syngeneic mice. (A)**

Whole lysates of RENCA or B16BL6 cells were subjected to immunoblot analysis with mAbs against mouse signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$  (SIRP $\alpha$ ) (P84) and against  $\beta$ -tubulin as a loading control (left panel). RENCA and B16BL6 cells were also subjected to flow cytometric analysis of SIRP $\alpha$  expression on the surface of viable cells after staining with propidium iodide (PI), a biotin-conjugated mAb against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  (P84) (or isotype control), and allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) streptavidin (right panel). Data are representative of 3 separate experiments. (B and C) Tumor volume (left panels) and survival curves (right panels) for BALB/c mice injected s.c. with RENCA cells and treated i.p. with control IgG or mAbs against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  (MY-1 or P84) according to the indicated schedule, beginning either immediately after injection of tumor cells (B) or after tumor volume had achieved an average size of 100 mm<sup>3</sup> (C). (D) Number of tumor nodules in the lungs of C57BL/6 mice 14 days after i.v. injection of B16BL6 cells and the onset of i.p. administration of control IgG or mAbs against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  (MY-1 or P84) according to the indicated schedule. Data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM for *n* = 8 (B), *n* = 11 (C), or *n* = 10 (D) mice per group examined in 2 separate experiments. \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, and \*\*\**P* < 0.001, by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's test (left panels in B and C) or log-rank test (right panels in B and C), or by 1-way ANOVA with Tukey's test (D).

B16BL6 cells were injected i.v. into 8-week-old mice, which were then treated with either control IgG, MY-1, or P84 three times a week. MY-1 significantly reduced the number of metastatic nodules formed in the lungs compared with either control IgG or P84 (Figure 2D). Together, these results thus suggested that Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  that block the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction markedly attenuate tumor formation by SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing cancer cells in vivo.

We also examined possible adverse effects of treatment with MY-1 in mice. Hematologic and blood biochemical analyses showed that treatment of C57BL/6J mice with MY-1 result-

ed in a small increase in the number of reticulocytes in the blood, but no other adverse effects (including anemia), compared with treatment with vehicle or control IgG (Supplemental Table 1).

*Importance of macrophages for the antitumor effect of MY-1 in vivo.* We next investigated whether macrophages contribute to the inhibitory effect of MY-1 on tumor formation by SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing cancer cells. We depleted mice of macrophages by administering clodronate liposomes beginning before injection of cancer cells. Effective depletion of F4/80<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> macrophages in the spleen was apparent as early as 3 days after the first i.v. injection of clodronate liposomes (Figure 3A). Such macrophage depletion was associated with a marked attenuation of the inhibitory effect of MY-1 on the growth of tumors formed by RENCA cells (Figure 3B), suggesting that macrophages indeed contribute, at least in part, to the antitumor effect of MY-1.

Given that SIRP $\alpha$  is expressed at a high level in RENCA and B16BL6 cells, it appeared likely that MY-1 inhibited tumor formation by these cells in vivo at least in part by directly promoting ADCP of tumor cells by macrophages. Indeed, compared with control IgG, MY-1 markedly promoted the phagocytosis of CFSE-labeled RENCA cells by BM-derived macrophages (BMDMs) (Figure 3, C and D). In addition, the



**Table 2. Expression of SIRP $\alpha$  in tumor samples from patients with malignant melanoma**

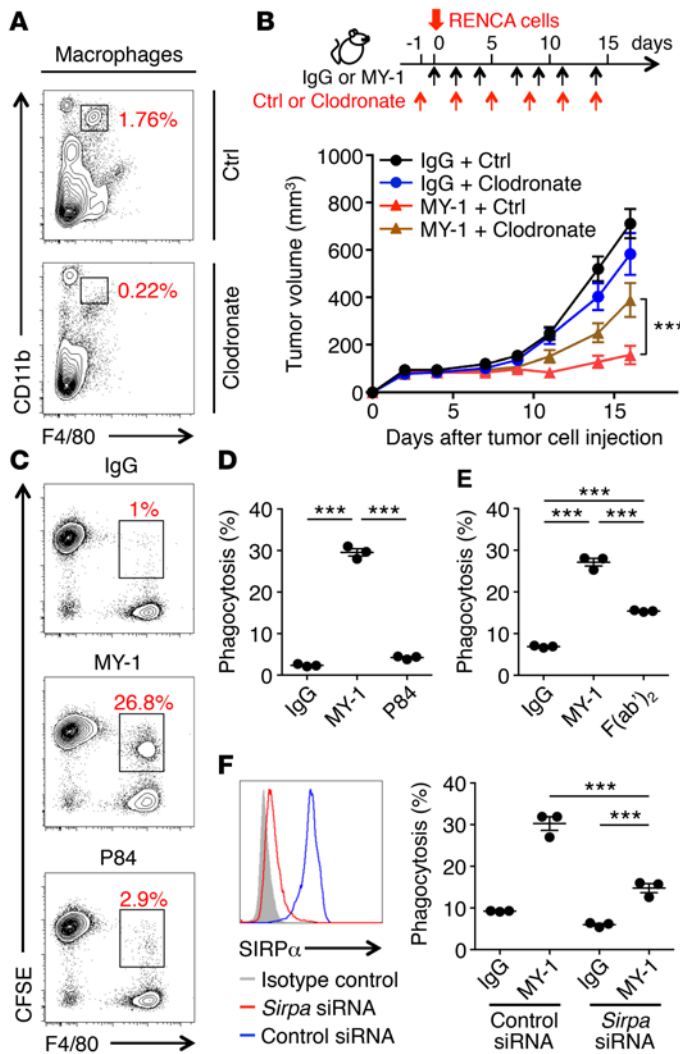
Case	Age (yr)	Sex	Source	TNM	Stage	Type	SIRP $\alpha$ expression
1	55	F	Right upper arm	T4aN1M0	IIIA	NM	++
2	76	M	Right sole	T2aN0M0	IB	ALM	±
3	80	M	Toe of left foot	T3bN0M0	IIB	NM	++
4	55	M	Left upper arm	T4bN0M0	IIC	NM	++
5	39	F	Head	T4bN3M0	IIIC	SSM	±
6	49	F	Right lower back	T4bN3M0	IIIC	NM	+
7	67	M	Abdomen	T4bN0M0	IIC	NM	+
8	66	M	Left heel	T2aN0M0	IB	NM	++

M, male; F, female; ALM, acral lentiginous melanoma; NM, nodular melanoma; SSM, superficial spreading melanoma; SIRP $\alpha$ , signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$ ; TNM, tumor, node, metastasis system; ++, high; +, moderate; ±, low.

stimulatory effect of F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1 on such phagocytosis was significantly smaller than that of the intact Ab (Figure 3E). Knockdown of SIRP $\alpha$  in CFSE-labeled RENCA cells markedly attenuated the MY-1-promoted phagocytosis by BMDMs (Figure 3F). Moreover, coculture of CFSE-labeled RENCA cells with BMDMs preincubated with either intact MY-1 or F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1 failed to stimulate the phagocytosis of the tumor cells by BMDMs (Supplemental Figure 8A), suggesting that opsonization of RENCA cells by intact MY-1 contributes to the promotion of macrophage-mediated ADCP. On the other hand, the effect of MY-1 on phagocytosis was much greater than that of P84 (Figure 3, C and D). Moreover, F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1 retained the inhibitory effect of the intact Ab on the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction (Supplemental Figure 6C) and had a significant stimulatory effect on phagocytosis compared with control IgG (Figure 3E). By contrast, incubation of BMDMs with CFSE-labeled RENCA cells preincubated with either intact MY-1 or F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1 did not promote phagocytosis of the tumor cells by BMDMs (Supplemental Figure 8B). These results thus suggested that blockade of the inhibitory signal provided by the interaction of CD47 (on cancer cells) with SIRP $\alpha$  (on macrophages) also contributes to the promotion of phagocytosis in macrophages by MY-1. In contrast, treatment of RENCA cells with MY-1 did not influence cell viability (Supplemental Figure 9).

Macrophages are broadly classified into M1 and M2 types, which are thought to have antitumorigenic and protumorigenic functions, respectively (30, 31). We found that the frequency of macrophages in tumors formed by RENCA cells 14 days after cell injection did not differ between mice treated with MY-1 or control IgG (Figure 4A). However, the ratio of M1 to M2 macrophages in the tumors of MY-1-treated mice was significantly higher than that in the tumors of control IgG-treated mice (Figure 4A), suggesting that MY-1 treatment does not affect the number of macrophages in tumors but rather increases the M1/M2 ratio.

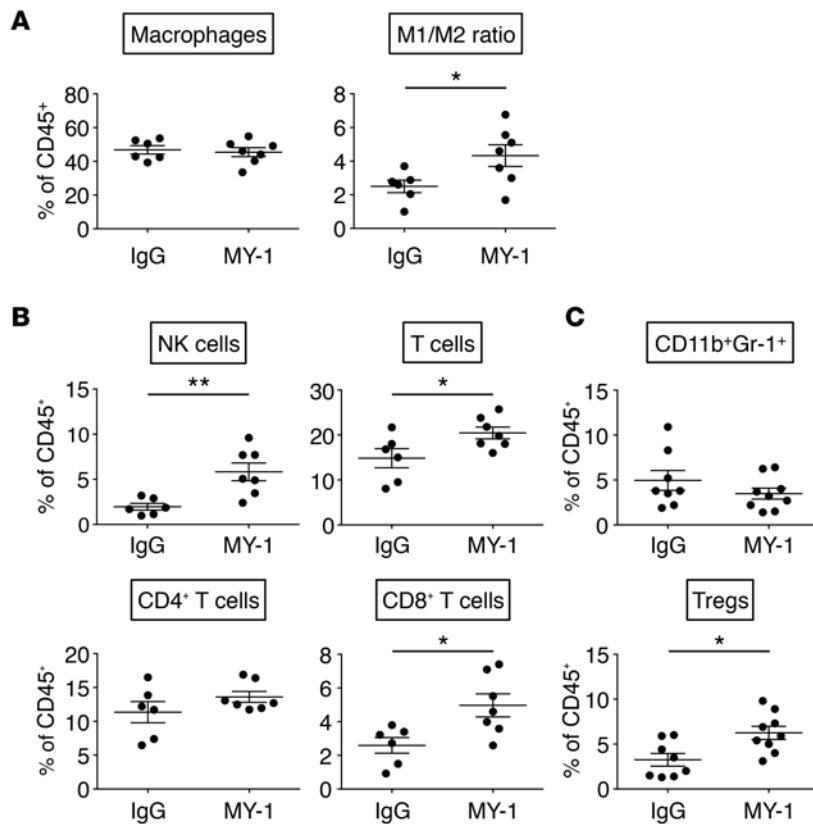
*Contribution of NK cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells to MY-1-induced inhibition of tumor growth.* To investigate whether other types of immune cells participate in the inhibition of tumor growth by MY-1 in vivo, we first examined the effect of MY-1 on the population of immune cells in tumors formed by implanted RENCA cells. Fourteen days after tumor cell injection, the numbers of both NK cells and T cells in the tumors were markedly increased in mice treated with MY-1 compared with those treated with control IgG (Figure 4B). In particular, the number of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, but not that of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, was significantly increased in the tumors of MY-1-treated mice (Figure 4B). By contrast, the number of CD11b<sup>+</sup>Gr-1<sup>+</sup> cells including tumor-associated neutrophils, which possess protumorigenic or antitumor activity (32), in the tumors of MY-1-treated mice was similar to that in the tumors of mice treated with control IgG (Figure 4C). Moreover, CD3<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>Foxp3<sup>+</sup> Tregs, which are thought to suppress tumor immunosurveillance (33), in the tumors of MY-1-treated mice were increased compared with those in the tumors of mice treated with control IgG (Figure 4C). We therefore next examined whether NK cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells contribute to the inhibition of tumor growth by MY-1. Treatment of BALB/c mice with Abs against asialoganglioside GM1 (asialo-GM1) (34) effectively depleted NK cells from the spleen as well as markedly attenuated the antitumor effect of MY-1 for RENCA cells (Figure 5A). In addition, treatment with a mAb against CD8 $\alpha$  (2.43) (35) eliminated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from the spleen as well as inhibited the antitumor effect of MY-1 (Figure 5B). By contrast, depletion of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells with a mAb against CD4 failed to influence the inhibitory effect of



**Figure 3. Importance of macrophages for the antitumor effect of the MY-1 mAb against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  in vivo.** (A) BALB/c mice were injected i.v. with either PBS liposomes as a control (Ctrl) or clodronate liposomes (Clodronate). Splenocytes isolated from the mice 3 days later were stained with propidium iodide (PI), a brilliant violet (BV) 510-conjugated mAb against CD45, a BV 421-conjugated mAb against CD11b, and a phycoerythrin-conjugated (PE-conjugated) mAb against F4/80 for analysis by flow cytometry. The relative number of F4/80<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells (macrophages) is expressed as a percentage of all viable CD45<sup>+</sup> cells on each plot. (B) BALB/c mice were injected with PBS liposomes or clodronate liposomes, RENCA cells, and either MY-1 or control IgG according to the indicated schedule. Tumor volume was measured at the indicated time points. (C and D) CFSE-labeled RENCA cells were incubated for 4 hours with BALB/c mouse BM-derived macrophages (BMDMs) in the presence of the indicated Abs, after which cells were harvested, stained with a biotin-conjugated mAb against F4/80 and allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) streptavidin as well as with PI, and analyzed by flow cytometry. The relative number of CFSE<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup> BMDMs (BMDMs that had phagocytosed CFSE-labeled RENCA cells) is expressed as a percentage of all viable F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells in the representative plots (C) as well as for a representative experiment (D). (E) CFSE-labeled RENCA cells were incubated for 4 hours with BMDMs in the presence of control IgG or of intact or F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1. The percentage of CFSE<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup> BMDMs among viable F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells was then determined as in C. (F) RENCA cells were transfected with signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$  (*Sirpa*) or control siRNAs, after which cells were labeled with CFSE and stained with PI, a biotin-conjugated mAb against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  (P84) (or isotype control), and APC-conjugated streptavidin for analysis by flow cytometry (left panel). The CFSE-labeled RENCA cells were also incubated for 4 hours with BMDMs in the presence of the indicated Abs. The percentage of CFSE<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup> BMDMs among viable F4/80<sup>+</sup> cells was then determined as in C (right panel). Data are representative of 3 separate experiments (A and C-F); the mean  $\pm$  SEM of triplicate determinations ( $n = 3$ ) (D, E, and right panel in F), or the mean  $\pm$  SEM for  $n = 8$  mice per group in 2 separate experiments (B). \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , by 2-way (B) or 1-way (D, E, and right panel in F) ANOVA with Tukey's test.

MY-1 on tumor formation by RENCA cells (Supplemental Figure 10). We also found that treatment of BALB/c mice bearing established RENCA tumors with Abs against asialo-GM1 or a mAb against CD8 $\alpha$  effectively depleted NK cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from the spleen and tumors as well as markedly reduced the antitumor effect of MY-1 (Supplemental Figure 11). Together, these results thus suggested that both NK cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, but not CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, participate in the suppressive effect of MY-1 on tumor formation and growth by SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing cancer cells in vivo.

*Enhancement by MY-1 of rituximab-induced inhibition of tumor formation by Burkitt's lymphoma (Raji) cells.* Given that Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  were previously shown to enhance the killing of trastuzumab-opsonized HER2-positive breast cancer cells by phagocytes in vitro (17), we next examined the effects of mAbs against SIRP $\alpha$  on ADCP-dependent inhibition of tumor growth in vivo. Human CD47 was shown to bind to SIRP $\alpha$  from NOD mice but not to that from other mouse strains such as C57BL/6 (36). CD47 expressed on Raji cells, a human Burkitt's lymphoma cell line that does not express SIRP $\alpha$ , would thus be expected to bind to SIRP $\alpha$  on NOD mouse macrophages. We therefore transplanted Raji cells s.c. into 6-week-old NOD/SCID mice. Beginning 1 week after cell injection, the animals were treated i.p. twice a week with the anti-CD20 mAb rituximab (37) either alone or together with MY-1 or P84. Treatment with MY-1 alone had little effect on the growth of tumors formed by Raji cells (Supplemental Figure 12), whereas the combination of MY-1 with a suboptimal dose of rituximab greatly attenuated tumor growth compared with the effect of rituximab alone (Figure 6A). In addition, this potentiating effect of MY-1 was markedly greater than that of P84 (Figure 6A), suggesting that disruption of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction is



**Figure 4. Impact of MY-1 on the proportion of immune cells in RENCA tumors.** (A–C) BALB/c mice were injected s.c. with RENCA cells and treated with control IgG or MY-1 as in Figure 2B. Tumors were harvested 14 days after cell injection for isolation of infiltrating cells. The isolated cells were stained with propidium iodide (PI) and a brilliant violet (BV) 510-conjugated mAb against CD45 as well as with either a phycoerythrin-conjugated (PE-conjugated) mAb against F4/80 and an allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) mAb against Ly6C (A, left panel), a PE-conjugated mAb against F4/80, an APC-conjugated mAb against Ly6C, an FITC-conjugated mAb against mouse CD206, a biotin-conjugated mAb against MHC class II, and PE- and Cy7-conjugated streptavidin (A, right panel), a PE-conjugated mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$  and an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD49b (B, left top panel), an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$  (B, right top panel), an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$ , an APC-conjugated mAb against CD4, and a PE-conjugated mAb against CD8 $\alpha$  (B, bottom panels), a BV 421-conjugated mAb against CD11b and a PE-conjugated mAb against Ly6G/Ly6C (C, top panel), or an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$ , an APC-conjugated mAb against CD4, and a PE-conjugated mAb against Foxp3 (C, bottom panel). The cells were then subjected to flow cytometry for determination of the frequencies of F4/80<sup>+</sup>Ly6C<sup>lo</sup> cells (Macrophages) (A, left panel), CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD49b<sup>+</sup> (NK) cells, CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup> (T) cells, CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>CD8 $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> (CD4<sup>+</sup> T) cells, and CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>CD8 $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> (CD8<sup>+</sup> T) cells (B), or of CD11b<sup>+</sup>Gr-1<sup>+</sup> cells and CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>Foxp3<sup>+</sup> cells (Tregs) (C), as well as the ratio of F4/80<sup>+</sup>Ly6C<sup>lo</sup>MHC II<sup>hi</sup>CD206<sup>lo</sup> cells (M1 macrophages) to F4/80<sup>+</sup>Ly6C<sup>lo</sup>MHC II<sup>lo</sup>CD206<sup>hi</sup> cells (M2 macrophages) (A, right panel), among all viable CD45<sup>+</sup> cells. Data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM for  $n = 6$  (IgG) or  $n = 7$  (MY-1) mice in 2 separate experiments (A and B); or for  $n = 8$  (IgG) or  $n = 9$  (MY-1) mice in 2 separate experiments (C). \* $P < 0.05$  and \*\* $P < 0.01$ , by 2-tailed Student's  $t$  test.

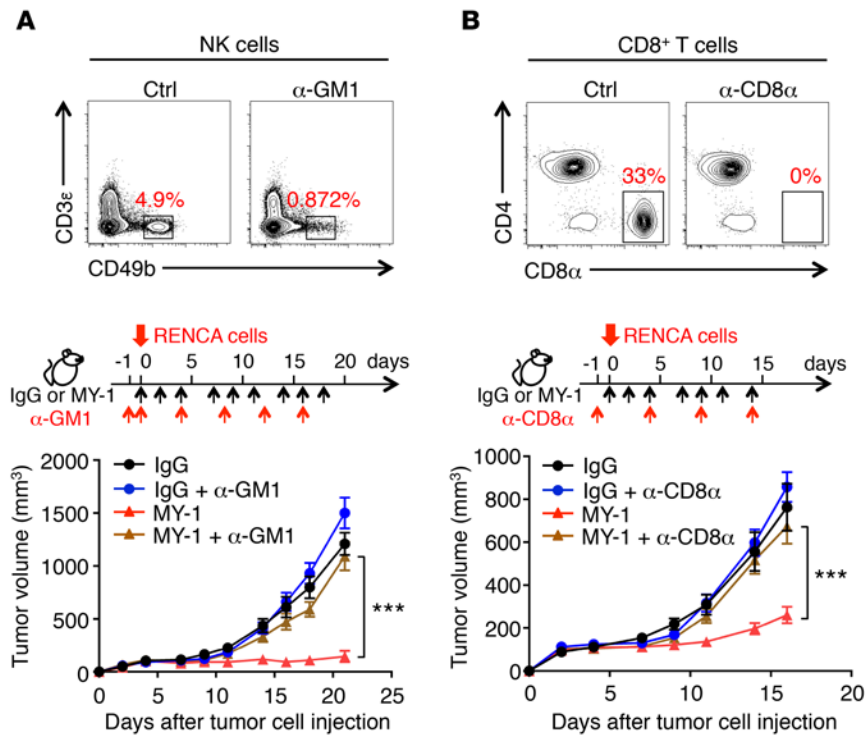
likely important for this effect of MY-1. MY-1 also enhanced the inhibitory effect of rituximab on tumor growth when treatment was delayed, until tumors had achieved an average size of 150 to 200 mm<sup>3</sup> (Figure 6B). Furthermore, rituximab promoted the phagocytosis of CFSE-labeled Raji cells by BMDMs from NOD mice, and MY-1 markedly enhanced this effect of rituximab (Supplemental Figure 13). P84 also enhanced such rituximab-induced phagocytosis, albeit to a lesser extent than did MY-1 (Supplemental Figure 13).

*Impact of combination therapy with MY-1 and a mAb against PD-1 on tumor growth in vivo.* Immunotherapy with Abs against PD-1 that block the inhibitory PD-1/PD-L1 axis has recently been found to provide substantial clinical benefit in patients with a wide range of cancer types (5). Such Abs also exert antitumor activity in immunocompetent mice implanted with various types of mouse cancer cells including colon cancer cells (38, 39). We therefore examined the impact of combination therapy with MY-1 and an Ab against PD-1 (4H2) that blocks the PD-1–PD-L1 interaction (39) on the growth of tumors formed by mouse CT26 colon cancer cells in BALB/c mice. Flow cytometry with a mAb against PD-L1 revealed that CT26 cells express PD-L1 on the cell surface, whereas flow cytometry with either P84 or MY-1 revealed that these cells do not express SIRP $\alpha$  (Figure 6C). The expression level of SIRP $\alpha$  on tumors in mice transplanted with CT26 cells was also minimal (data not shown). Whereas MY-1 alone had no effect on the growth of tumors formed by CT26 cells, it markedly enhanced the suppressive effect of the Ab against PD-1 on tumor growth (Figure 6D).

## Discussion

Both renal cell carcinoma and advanced or metastatic melanoma have a poor prognosis (40–42). Immunotherapy with either IFN- $\alpha$  or IL-2 or chemotherapy with dacarbazine is thus largely ineffective for patients with these cancers, and these therapies are also associated with serious adverse effects (42–44). In contrast, immunotherapy with ipilimumab (a mAb against CTLA-4) or nivolumab (a mAb against PD-1), both of which are thought to abrogate the inhibitory checkpoint for cytotoxic T cell activity, has recently been approved as a promising treatment for both advanced melanoma and renal cell carcinoma (42–44). Effective immunotherapy with Abs that target tumor-specific antigens on the cell surface of these carcinomas and thereby kill the cancer cells (by ADCC or ADCP) has yet to be developed.

We have now shown that the amount of *SIRPA* mRNA in tumor tissue from patients with renal cell carcinoma was significantly increased compared with that in matched normal tissue. The expression of SIRP $\alpha$  protein was also prominent in the tumor tissue from patients with renal cell carcinoma or melanoma as well as in corresponding cancer cell lines. Treatment with the MY-1 mAb against SIRP $\alpha$ , which blocks the binding of CD47 to SIRP $\alpha$ , resulted in a marked reduction in the tumor burden of immunocompetent mice injected



**Figure 5. Contribution of NK cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells to inhibition of tumor growth by MY-1. (A)** BALB/c mice were injected with either vehicle (Ctrl) or polyclonal Abs (pAbs) against asialoganglioside GM1 (asialo-GM1) ( $\alpha$ -GM1), 4 days after which splenocytes were isolated from the mice, subjected to staining with a brilliant violet (BV) 510-conjugated mAb against CD45, a phycoerythrin-conjugated (PE-conjugated) mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$ , and an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD49b, as well as staining with propidium iodide (PI), and analyzed by flow cytometry. The relative number of NK cells is expressed as a percentage of all viable CD45<sup>+</sup> splenocytes on each plot (top panel). BALB/c mice were also treated with either vehicle or pAbs against asialo-GM1, injected with RENCA cells, and treated with MY-1 or control IgG according to the indicated schedule for measurement of tumor volume at the indicated time points (bottom panel). **(B)** BALB/c mice were treated with either vehicle (Ctrl) or a mAb against CD8 $\alpha$  ( $\alpha$ -CD8 $\alpha$ ), 4 days after which splenocytes were isolated from the mice, subjected to staining with a BV 510-conjugated mAb against CD45, an FITC-conjugated mAb against CD3 $\epsilon$ , an allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) mAb against CD4, and a PE-conjugated mAb against CD8 $\alpha$  as well as staining with PI, and analyzed by flow cytometry. The relative number of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells is expressed as a percentage of all viable CD45<sup>+</sup>CD3 $\epsilon$ <sup>+</sup> splenocytes on each plot (top panel). BALB/c mice were also treated with either vehicle or a mAb against CD8 $\alpha$ , injected with RENCA cells, and treated with MY-1 or control IgG according to the indicated schedule for measurement of tumor volume at the indicated time points (bottom panel). Data are representative of 3 separate experiments (**A** and **B**, top panels) or represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM for  $n = 10$  mice per group in 2 separate experiments (**A**, bottom panel); or for  $n = 10$  (IgG, MY-1, or MY-1 +  $\alpha$ -CD8 $\alpha$ ) or  $n = 9$  (IgG +  $\alpha$ -CD8 $\alpha$ ) mice in 2 separate experiments (**B**, bottom panel). \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's test.

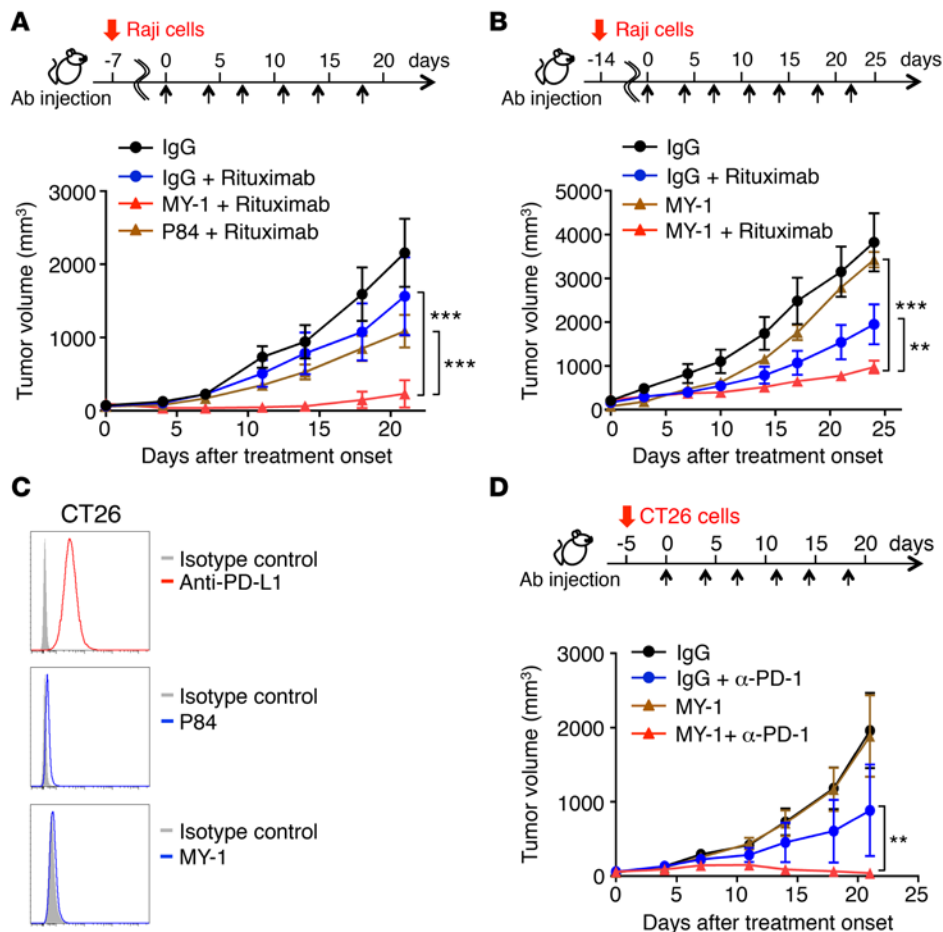
with syngeneic renal cell carcinoma (RENCA) or melanoma (B16BL6) cells. In addition, depletion of macrophages by injection of clodronate liposomes attenuated the antitumor effect of MY-1. We also found that intact MY-1 greatly enhanced the phagocytosis of SIRP $\alpha$ -expressing tumor cells by macrophages in vitro, whereas the enhancing effect of F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments of MY-1 was less pronounced. In addition, knockdown of SIRP $\alpha$  in RENCA cells resulted in the attenuation of MY-1-induced phagocytosis by macrophages, suggesting that the anti-SIRP $\alpha$  Ab prevents tumor formation in part by promoting ADCP of cancer cells by macrophages. In contrast, treatment of mice injected with RENCA or B16BL6 cells with a mAb against SIRP $\alpha$  (P84) that does not block the interaction of CD47 with SIRP $\alpha$  failed to prevent tumor growth, suggesting that blockage of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction is also important for the inhibitory effect of MY-1 on tumor growth. Targeting of SIRP $\alpha$  by Abs such as MY-1 may therefore constitute a potential new immunotherapeutic approach to the treatment of cancers such as renal cell carcinoma and melanoma that express SIRP $\alpha$  at a high level, with the antitumor effect of such Abs being dependent on a dual mechanism of action.

We also investigated the effect of MY-1 on the immune microenvironment of tumors formed by RENCA cells in syngeneic mice. Whereas treatment with MY-1 did not affect the number of macrophages in the tumors, it resulted in a significant increase in the proportion of M1 macrophages. Macrophages in human malignant tumors are thought to differentiate predominantly into those of the M2 type, which possess protumorigenic activity and are implicated both in the abrogation of antitumor immunity and in tumor progression (30, 45). The suppression of tumor growth by MY-1 is thus also likely achieved in part

through regulation of the M1-versus-M2 differentiation of tumor-associated macrophages. Indeed, knockdown of SIRP $\alpha$  in macrophages cocultured with hepatoma cells was found to result in increased proinflammatory cytokine production through activation of the NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway (46), a phenotype consistent with that of M1 macrophages (45), suggesting that SIRP $\alpha$  regulates a switch in macrophage phenotype in the tumor microenvironment. In contrast, it remains unknown whether such an effect of MY-1 on the M1/M2 ratio is relevant to the antitumor effect of MY-1. Indeed, Leidi et al. showed that M2 macrophages exhibited higher phagocytic activity toward B-chronic lymphocytic leukemia or lymphoma opsonized with an Ab against CD20 than did M1 macrophages in vitro (47).

We found that treatment of mice bearing RENCA cell tumors with MY-1 also increased the frequency of NK cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in the tumors. Moreover, depletion of either of these cell types resulted in marked attenuation of the antitumor effect of MY-1, implicating these immune cells in this effect. It has recently been demonstrated that the efficacy of CD47 blockage against tumors required





**Figure 6. Impact of combination therapy with MY-1 and either rituximab or a mAb against PD-1 on tumor growth in vivo.** (A and B) NOD/SCID mice were injected s.c. with Raji cells and then treated with the indicated combinations of Abs according to the indicated schedule, beginning either when the tumors became palpable (on day 7) (A) or when they had achieved an average size of 150 to 200 mm<sup>3</sup> (B). (C) CT26 cells were incubated with a biotin-conjugated mAb against PD-L1 (anti-PD-L1) (or isotype control) or with mAbs against mouse signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$  (SIRP $\alpha$ ) (P84 or MY-1) (or an isotype control). The cells were then stained with propidium iodide (PI) and with either allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) streptavidin or Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated polyclonal Abs (pAbs) against rat IgG for determination of cell-surface expression of PD-L1 and SIRP $\alpha$  by flow cytometry. (D) Tumor volume for BALB/c mice injected s.c. with CT26 cells and treated with control IgG, MY-1, or a mAb against PD-1 ( $\alpha$ -PD-1), beginning after tumors had achieved an average size of 100 mm<sup>3</sup>. Data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM for  $n = 5$  (A and B) or  $n = 6$  (D) mice per group or are representative of 3 separate experiments (C). \*\* $P < 0.01$  and \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's test.

adaptive immune responses in immunocompetent mouse tumor models (48–50). The inhibition of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction by SIRP $\alpha$  or CD47 blockage is thus probably important for enhancing T cell-mediated destruction of tumors. The mechanism by which treatment with MY-1 promotes the antitumor immune response mediated by NK cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells remains unclear, however. We found that MY-1 did not promote NK cell-mediated cytotoxic activity toward RENCA cells in vitro (Supplemental Figure 14). Given that macrophages are likely the primary effector cells for the antitumor activity of MY-1, it is possible that they participate in the promotion of NK cell-dependent killing of tumor cells by the Ab. Indeed, NK cells are thought to be primed by interaction with activated M1 macrophages or DCs mediated either directly through cell-cell contact or indirectly by cytokines, and the primed cells are then thought to contribute to the eradication of tumor cells (51, 52). Macrophages or DCs also recognize *N*-glycan structures on tumor cells through the innate immune receptor Dectin 1, resulting in enhancement of NK cell-mediated killing of tumor cells (53). In addition, macrophages engulf tumor cells and then cross-present tumor antigens to CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells via the MHC class I route, thereby enhancing the activity of tumor antigen-specific T cells toward tumor cells. CD169<sup>+</sup> macrophages were thus shown to engulf dead tumor cells and

to cross-present tumor antigens to CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, thereby inducing antitumor immunity (54). Moreover, CD47 blockage enhanced the cross-priming of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell responses by DCs, but not by macrophages, and thereby contributed to tumor control in mice injected with syngeneic tumor cells (48). DCs might participate in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell-mediated antitumor effects of Abs against SIRP $\alpha$ .

Our study has shown that Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  in combination with other anticancer Abs may be effective even for the treatment of tumors that do not express SIRP $\alpha$ . We thus found that MY-1, but not P84, markedly enhanced the suppressive effect of rituximab on the growth of tumors formed by human Burkitt's lymphoma Raji cells in immunodeficient mice. Consistent with this finding, MY-1 also enhanced the phagocytosis of rituximab-opsonized Raji cells by macrophages, suggesting that disruption of the CD47-SIRP $\alpha$  interaction by MY-1 promotes rituximab-induced ADCP, resulting in enhanced inhibition of tumor growth. We also found that the combination of MY-1 with an Ab against PD-1 yielded a synergistic antitumor effect against SIRP $\alpha$ -negative mouse colon cancer cells in vivo. In addition, such antitumor activity induced by the combination of MY-1 with an Ab against PD-1 was not affected by the

depletion of macrophages in mice bearing CT26 cell tumors (data not shown), suggesting that MY-1 synergizes the efficacy of the PD-1 Ab without the promotion of macrophage-mediated ADCP toward SIRP $\alpha$ -nonexpressing tumor cells. Interestingly, it was recently demonstrated that CD47 blockage synergized with PD-L1 antagonism to potentiate the attenuation of tumor growth in immunocompetent mice injected s.c. with syngeneic B16F10 melanoma cells, whereas CD47 blockage alone or in combination with a tumor-specific Ab failed to prevent the tumor formation (49). Together, these findings suggest that targeting both the CD47/SIRP $\alpha$  and PD-1/PD-L1 axes provides a new approach to immunotherapy for a broad range of cancers. Further investigation is warranted to elucidate the mechanism underlying these antitumor effects of the anti-SIRP $\alpha$  Ab, however.

Finally, we confirmed that MY-1 had no marked adverse effects on hematologic or blood biochemical parameters in mice. Although Abs against CD47 are thought to hold promise for the treatment of various types of cancer (55), they have also been shown to have undesired effects such as a marked reduction in the number of rbc (anemia), probably as a result of their triggering of ADCC or ADCP directed toward rbc, which express CD47 at a high level (56). With regard to adverse effects, therefore, Abs against SIRP $\alpha$  may be a better choice for the development of anticancer drugs that target the CD47/SIRP $\alpha$  axis.

## Methods

Additional details on methods can be found in the supplemental methods and figures.

**Abs and reagents.** Rat mAbs against mouse SIRP $\alpha$  (MY-1 [rat IgG2a] and P84 [rat IgG1]); provided by Carl F. Lagenaur, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA) and against mouse SIRP $\beta$  were generated and purified as described previously (26–29). A mouse mAb against the Myc epitope tag (clone 9E10) was from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc. Rituximab (mAb against human CD20) was obtained from Chugai Pharmaceutical. A mAb against mouse PD-1 (4H2, a chimeric rat Ab with a murine IgG1 constant region) was from Ono Pharmaceutical. A rabbit mAb against MART-1 (clone EP1422Y) and rabbit pAbs against SIRP $\alpha$  (ab53721 and ab139698), which were generated against the cytoplasmic region of human SIRP $\alpha$ , were from Abcam. An FITC-conjugated mAb against mouse CD8 $\alpha$  (clone 53-6.7), a phycoerythrin-conjugated (PE-conjugated) mAb against mouse CD3 $\epsilon$  (clone 145-2C11), an allophycocyanin-conjugated (APC-conjugated) mAb against mouse CD4 (clone RM4-5), and a biotin-conjugated rat IgG2b $\kappa$  isotype control (clone A95-1) were from BD Biosciences. A PE-conjugated mAb against F4/80 (clone BM8), a rat mAb against mouse CD16/CD32 (clone 93), a biotin-conjugated mAb against MHC class II (clone M5/114.15.2), a biotin-conjugated mAb against SIRP $\alpha$  (clone P84), an APC-conjugated mAb against human CD47 (clone B6H12), and an APC-conjugated mouse IgG1 $\kappa$  isotype control (clone P3.6.2.8.1) were from eBioscience. APC-conjugated streptavidin, FITC-conjugated streptavidin, an FITC-conjugated mAb against mouse CD49b (clone DX5), an FITC-conjugated mAb against SIRP $\alpha$  (clone P84), PE- and Cy7-conjugated streptavidin, a brilliant violet 421-conjugated mAb against mouse CD11b (clone M1/70), a brilliant violet 510-conjugated mAb against mouse CD45 (clone 30-F11), an Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated mAb against mouse CD3 $\epsilon$  (clone 145-2C11), a PE-conjugated mAb against mouse CD8 $\alpha$  (clone 53-6.7), an FITC-conjugated mAb against mouse CD206 (clone C068C2), a biotin-conjugated mAb against F4/80 (clone BM8), a biotin-conjugated mAb against PD-L1 (clone 10F9G2), an APC-conjugated mAb against mouse Ly6C (clone HK1.4), a PE-conjugated mAb against Ly6G/Ly6C (clone RB6-8C5), a PE-conjugated mAb against mouse Foxp3 (clone 150D), a mAb against human CD172b (SIRP $\beta$ , clone B4B6), a mAb against CD172g (SIRP $\gamma$ , clone LSB2.20), a PE- and Cy7-conjugated mouse IgG1 $\kappa$  isotype control (clone MOPC-21), and a biotin-conjugated rat IgG1 $\kappa$  isotype control (clone RTK-2071) were from BioLegend. HRP-conjugated goat pAbs against rabbit, mouse, or rat IgG; Cy3-conjugated goat pAbs against rabbit, rat, or mouse IgG, as well as normal rat or mouse IgG were from Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories. A mouse IgG1 isotype control (clone G3A1) was from Cell Signaling Technology. Rat IgG1 (clone 43414) and IgG2 (clone 54447) isotype controls were from R&D Systems. A mouse mAb against  $\beta$ -tubulin and propidium iodide (PI) were from Sigma-Aldrich. Rat mAbs against mouse CD8 $\alpha$  (clone 2.43) and against CD4 (clone GK1.5) were from Bio X cell. Rabbit pAbs against mouse asialo-GM1 were from Wako. Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated goat pAbs against rat, mouse, or rabbit IgG and Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated goat pAbs against rat IgG as well as CFSE were from Thermo Fisher Scientific.

**Animals.** NOD, NOD/ShiLtJ-Prkdc<sup>scid</sup> (NOD/SCID), C57BL/6J, and BALB/c mice, which were obtained from Charles River Laboratories Japan, Japan SLC (Shizuoka, Japan), or CLEA Japan (Tokyo, Japan), were maintained in the Institute for Experimental Animals at the Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine under specific pathogen-free conditions.

*Patients and tissue samples.* Paired tumor and noncancerous renal cortex tissue specimens were obtained from material surgically resected from 95 patients with primary clear cell renal cell carcinoma at the National Cancer Center Hospital (Tokyo, Japan). Noncancerous renal cortex tissue consisted mostly of proximal tubules, which are the origin of clear cell renal cell carcinoma. Tissue specimens were provided by the National Cancer Center Biobank (Tokyo, Japan). Human melanoma tissue was obtained during surgical resection from 8 patients treated at the Department of Dermatology, Gunma University Hospital (Gunma, Japan).

*Analysis of SIRPA mRNA abundance in human clear cell renal cell carcinoma.* Total RNA was isolated from paired cancerous tissue and noncancerous renal cortex specimens from 95 patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma using TRIzol reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and was subjected to expression microarray analysis as described previously (23). In brief, fluorescent complementary RNA (cRNA) was produced from the total RNA (200 ng) and subjected to hybridization with a SurePrint G3 Human Gene Expression 8 × 60 K microarray (Agilent Technologies). The signal for the probe corresponding to *SIRPA* (ID: A\_23\_P210708) was extracted with the use of Feature Extraction software (Agilent Technologies). Microarray analysis data were deposited in the publicly available Integrative Disease Omics Database ([http://gemdbj.ncc.go.jp/omics/biomart/martform/#!/Analysis/summary\\_mRNA\\_array?datasets=cancer\\_kidney](http://gemdbj.ncc.go.jp/omics/biomart/martform/#!/Analysis/summary_mRNA_array?datasets=cancer_kidney)), as previously described (23).

*Generation of mouse mAbs against human SIRPα.* BALB/c mice were injected with a fusion protein consisting of the extracellular portion of human SIRPα fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1, and hybridomas were selected on the basis of positive staining by the released Abs of human neutrophils, monocytes, or THP-1 or U937 cells as detected by flow cytometry (57). The mAbs were purified from serum-free culture supernatants of the selected hybridoma cells by column chromatography with protein G Sepharose 4 Fast Flow (GE Healthcare). The 040 mAb thus generated was used in the present study.

*H&E staining and immunostaining.* Tumor tissue from patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma was fixed with formalin, embedded in paraffin, sectioned at a thickness of 3 μm, and stained with H&E. Paraffin-embedded sections were also subjected to immunohistochemical staining with the use of EnVision+ System-HRP (Agilent Technologies). In brief, sections were depleted of paraffin, rehydrated, immersed in 10 mM citrate buffer (pH 6.0), and heated in a pressure cooker for 3 minutes to facilitate antigen retrieval. They were then washed with TBS-T (20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 0.01% Tween-20), treated for 5 minutes with Peroxidase Block (EnVision+ System-HRP) to quench endogenous peroxidase activity, exposed for 30 minutes to TBS-T containing 1% BSA, and incubated for 30 minutes with primary Abs diluted in TBS-T. The sections were again washed with TBS-T, incubated for 30 minutes with peroxidase-labeled polymer conjugated to goat Abs against rabbit IgG (EnVision+ System-HRP), and washed further with TBS-T, after which immune complexes were detected by exposure to 3,3'-diaminobenzidine chromogen solution (EnVision+ System-HRP). The sections were finally counterstained with Mayer's hematoxylin before observation with a BX51 microscope (Olympus).

Fresh-frozen sections (4 μm thickness) prepared from human melanoma tissue were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, exposed for 1 hour to PBS containing 3% nonfat dried milk and 5% normal goat serum, and then incubated overnight with primary Abs. The sections were then washed with PBS, incubated for 1 hour with corresponding Cy3- or Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated secondary Abs, and stained with DAPI. Fluorescence images were acquired with a BX51 fluorescence microscope (Olympus). For immunofluorescence staining of cultured cells, the cells were fixed for 10 minutes with 4% paraformaldehyde, incubated for 30 minutes with buffer G (PBS containing 5% goat serum and 0.1% Triton X-100), and stained with primary Abs in the same buffer. Immune complexes were detected with dye-labeled secondary Abs in buffer G, and the cells were then examined with an Olympus BX51 fluorescence microscope.

*Cell culture.* A human Burkitt's lymphoma cell line (Raji), human melanoma cell lines (A375, SK-MEL-5, and SK-MEL-28), human renal cell carcinoma cell lines (ACHN, 786-O, A498, and Caki-1), a mouse renal carcinoma cell line (RENCA), and a mouse colon cancer cell line (CT26) were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). HEK293A and FreeStyle 293-F cells were obtained from Thermo Fisher Scientific. The human melanoma cell line WM239a and the mouse melanoma cell line B16BL6 were provided by Meenhard Herlyn (The Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA) and Kazuyoshi Takeda and Ko Okumura (Juntendo University, Tokyo, Japan), respectively. Raji, 786-O, RENCA, CT26, and B16BL6 cells were maintained in RPMI 1640 medium (Wako) supplemented with 10% FBS. A375 cells were cultured in DMEM (Wako) supplemented with 10% FBS. SK-MEL-5, SK-MEL-28,



ACHN, and A498 cells were maintained in Eagle's minimum essential medium (Wako) supplemented with 10% FBS. Caki-1 cells were cultured in McCoy's 5A medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS. WM239a cells were maintained in medium W489, a 4:1 (v/v) mixture of MCD153 (Sigma-Aldrich), and L15 (Thermo Fisher Scientific), supplemented with 2 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 2% FBS, and bovine insulin (5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ). CHO cells stably expressing an active form of H-Ras (CHO-Ras cells) were provided by Sanetake Shirahata (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan), and CHO-Ras cells stably expressing mouse SIRP $\alpha$ , mouse CD47, or human SIRP $\alpha$  were provided by Nakayuki Honma (Kyowa Hakko Kirin, Tokyo, Japan) (58, 59). CHO-Ras cells and their derivatives were cultured in  $\alpha$ -modified minimum essential medium (Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine, 10 mM HEPES-NaOH (pH 7.4), and 10% FBS.

*Immunoblot analysis.* Cells were washed with ice-cold PBS and then homogenized in a solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, and 1% SDS. The lysates were heated at 95°C for 5 minutes and then centrifuged at 17,500  $g$  for 30 minutes at room temperature, and the resulting supernatants were subjected to immunoblot analysis as previously described (59).

*Cell preparation and flow cytometry.* For isolation of tumor-infiltrating cells, tumors were harvested, minced with forceps, and then digested with HBSS containing collagenase (400 U/ml; Wako), trypsin inhibitor (50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ; Wako), and DNase I (40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ; Roche). The undigested material was removed by filtration through a 70- $\mu\text{m}$  cell strainer (BD Biosciences), and the remaining cells were washed twice with PBS, suspended in 6.4 ml of DMEM containing 46% OptiPrep (Alere Technologies) and 3% FBS, and then overlaid consecutively with 3 ml DMEM containing 26% OptiPrep and 7.4% FBS and with 500  $\mu\text{l}$  DMEM containing 10% FBS. The resulting gradient was centrifuged at 800  $g$  for 25 minutes at 20°C, after which cells at the interface of the top 2 layers were collected, washed twice with PBS, and subjected to flow cytometric analysis. For isolation of splenocytes, mouse spleen was ground gently with autoclaved frosted-glass slides in PBS, fibrous material was removed by filtration through a 70- $\mu\text{m}$  cell strainer, and rbc in the filtrate were lysed with BD Pharm Lyse (BD Biosciences). The remaining cells were washed twice with PBS and then subjected to flow cytometric analysis.

For flow cytometric analysis, cells were first incubated with a mAb specific for mouse CD16/CD32 to prevent nonspecific binding of labeled mAbs against Fc $\gamma$ R and were then labeled with specific mAbs. For staining of Foxp3, cells were labeled with a PE-conjugated mAb against mouse Foxp3 with the use of a Transcription Factor Staining Kit (TONBO Biosciences). Labeled cells were analyzed by flow cytometry using a FACSVerse instrument (BD Biosciences), and all data were analyzed with FlowJo 9.9.3 software (Tree Star).

For determination of the expression of SIRP $\alpha$  on mouse cancer cell lines, cells were incubated with a mAb against mouse CD16/CD32, washed with PBS, and then incubated first with a biotin-conjugated mAb against SIRP $\alpha$  (P84) or isotype control and then with APC-conjugated streptavidin and PI. Alternatively, mouse cancer cells were treated with a mAb against mouse CD16/CD32 and then stained with PI as well as with the MY-1 mAb (or an isotype control) followed by dye-labeled secondary Abs. Stained cells were subjected to flow cytometry, and data were analyzed with FlowJo software.

*Tumor cell engraftment and treatment.* RENCA cells ( $5 \times 10^5$  in 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of PBS) were mixed with an equal volume of Matrigel (Corning) and injected s.c. into the flanks of 8-week-old female BALB/c mice. Mice were injected i.p. with normal rat IgG, MY-1, or P84 (each at 200  $\mu\text{g}$ ) 3 times a week beginning immediately after tumor cell injection or with these same Abs (each at 400  $\mu\text{g}$ ) 3 times a week beginning when the tumor volume had achieved an average of 100  $\text{mm}^3$ . Raji cells ( $3 \times 10^6$  in 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of PBS) were mixed with an equal volume of Matrigel and injected s.c. into the flanks of 6-week-old female NOD/SCID mice. The mice were injected i.p. with normal rat IgG (100  $\mu\text{g}$ ), MY-1 (100  $\mu\text{g}$ ), or P84 (100  $\mu\text{g}$ ), each with or without rituximab (40  $\mu\text{g}$ ), twice a week beginning when the tumors became palpable (on day 7), or with normal rat IgG (200  $\mu\text{g}$ ) or MY-1 (200  $\mu\text{g}$ ), each with or without rituximab (150  $\mu\text{g}$ ), twice a week beginning after tumor volume had achieved an average of 150 to 200  $\text{mm}^3$ . CT26 cells ( $5 \times 10^5$  in 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of PBS) were injected s.c. into the flanks of 8-week-old female BALB/c mice. The mice were injected i.p. with normal rat IgG (200  $\mu\text{g}$ ) or MY-1 (200  $\mu\text{g}$ ), each with or without anti-PD-1 Ab (100  $\mu\text{g}$ ), twice a week beginning when tumors had achieved an average size of 100  $\text{mm}^3$ . Tumors were measured with digital calipers, and tumor volume was calculated as:  $a \times b^2/2$ , where  $a$  is the largest diameter and  $b$  the smallest diameter. For the B16BL6 model, female C57BL/6J mice at 8 weeks of age were injected i.v. with B16BL6 cells ( $5 \times 10^4$  in 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of PBS) as described previously (12) and then injected i.p. with normal rat IgG, MY-1, or P84 (each at 200  $\mu\text{g}$ ) 3 times a week. Mice were sacrificed on day 14, and the number of tumor colonies formed in the lungs was counted with the use of a dissection microscope (MZ9.5; Leica).



*Hematologic and blood biochemical analyses.* Female C57BL/6J mice at 8 weeks of age were injected i.p. with PBS or with normal rat IgG or MY-1 (each at 100 µg) 3 times a week. On day 14, hematologic and blood biochemical parameters were analyzed with an ADVIA 2120 Hematology Analyzer (Siemens) or an Auto Analyzer 7070 (Hitachi), respectively.

*ADCP assay.* For preparation of BMDMs, BM cells were isolated from the femur and tibia of mice using a syringe fitted with a 27-gauge needle as described previously (13), with slight modifications. The cells ( $1 \times 10^6$ /ml) were seeded on culture plates in Iscove's modified Dulbecco's medium (Nacalai Tesque) supplemented with recombinant murine macrophage CSF (10 ng/ml; PeproTech) and 10% FBS in order to obtain BMDMs. For ADCP assays, BMDMs were plated at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$  per well in 6-well plates and allowed to adhere overnight. Target cells ( $4 \times 10^5$  RENCA cells) were labeled with CFSE, added to the BMDMs (effector cells), and incubated for 4 hours in the presence of Abs (10 µg/ml). Alternatively, CFSE-labeled target cells and effector cells, both of which had been preincubated with either Abs (10 µg/ml) or F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments (10 µg/ml) for 30 minutes, were washed with PBS and mixed with effector cells and CFSE-labeled target cells, respectively, and incubated for 4 hours. Cells were then harvested, stained for F4/80 as well as PI, and analyzed by flow cytometry. The percentage of phagocytosis by BMDMs was calculated as:  $100 \times \text{F4/80}^+\text{CFSE}^+\text{PI}^- \text{ cells} / \text{F4/80}^+\text{CFSE}^+\text{PI}^- \text{ cells} + \text{F4/80}^+\text{CFSE}^-\text{PI}^- \text{ cells}$ .

*RNAi.* RNAi for endogenous mouse SIRPα was performed with the siRNA sequence 5'-CAAGCAU-UGAGACAGGCAATT-3' (*Sirpa* siRNA). The MISSION siRNA universal negative control (Sigma-Aldrich) was also used. RENCA cells were transfected with siRNAs using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

*Depletion of macrophages, NK cells, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in vivo.* Depletion of macrophages in 8-week-old female BALB/c mice was performed as described previously (60), with minor modifications. In brief, mice were injected i.v. with 200 µl of either clodronate liposomes or PBS liposomes (Formu Max) 1 day before injection of tumor cells as well as with 100 µl of the respective liposomes every 3 days thereafter. For NK cell depletion, 8-week-old female BALB/c mice were injected i.p. with pAbs against asialo-GM1 (50 µl) 1 day before and on the day of tumor cell injection and then every 4 days thereafter. For depletion of CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, 8-week-old female BALB/c mice were injected i.p. with a mAb against CD4 (GK1.5, 400 µg) or against CD8α (2.43, 400 µg) 1 day before injection of tumor cells and then every 5 days thereafter. For depletion of NK cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in mice with established tumors, 8-week-old female BALB/c mice were injected i.p. with pAbs against asialo-GM1 (50 µl) and a mAb against CD8α (400 µg) 3 days after injection of tumor cells and then every 4 and 5 days thereafter, respectively. The effectiveness of macrophage, NK cell, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell, or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell depletion was determined by flow cytometric analysis of CD45<sup>+</sup>F4/80<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup>, CD45<sup>+</sup>CD3ε<sup>-</sup>CD49b<sup>+</sup>, CD45<sup>+</sup>CD3ε<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>, or CD45<sup>+</sup>CD3ε<sup>+</sup>CD8α<sup>+</sup> cells among splenocytes or tumor-infiltrating cells from the treated animals.

*Statistics.* Data are presented as the mean ± SEM and were analyzed by a 2-tailed Student's *t* test, ANOVA followed by Tukey's test, or a long-rank test. A *P* value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 6.0 (GraphPad Software).

*Study approval.* All animal experiments were performed according to the guidelines of the Animal Care and Experimentation Committee of Kobe University. All patients included in this study provided informed consent. The study was also approved by the IRB of Gunma University and the Ethics Committee of the National Cancer Center and was performed in accordance with the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

## Author contributions

TY, YM, and TM designed research studies. TY, YM, DT, SM, DH, and EA conducted experiments, acquired data, and analyzed data. EWD, KW, and NVG performed research studies. YS, T. Kotani, HO, MM, YK, PAO, OI, T. Komori, and TM analyzed data. TY, YM, and TM wrote the manuscript.

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