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1 **SARS-CoV-2 cell entry depends on ACE2 and TMPRSS2 and is blocked by a**  
2 **clinically-proven protease inhibitor**

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48 **SUMMARY**

49 **The recent emergence of the novel, pathogenic SARS-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in**  
50 **China and its rapid national and international spread pose a global health emergency. Cell**  
51 **entry of coronaviruses depends on binding of the viral spike (S) proteins to cellular**  
52 **receptors and on S protein priming by host cell proteases. Unravelling which cellular**  
53 **factors are used by SARS-CoV-2 for entry might provide insights into viral transmission**  
54 **and reveal therapeutic targets. Here, we demonstrate that SARS-CoV-2 uses the SARS-**  
55 **CoV receptor, ACE2, for entry and the serine protease TMPRSS2 for S protein priming. A**  
56 **TMPRSS2 inhibitor approved for clinical use blocked entry and might constitute a**  
57 **treatment option. Finally, we show that the sera from convalescent SARS patients cross-**  
58 **neutralized SARS-2-S-driven entry. Our results reveal important commonalities between**  
59 **SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV infection and identify a potential target for antiviral**  
60 **intervention.**

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72 **INTRODUCTION**

73 Several members of the family *Coronaviridae* constantly circulate in the human population and  
74 usually cause mild respiratory disease (Corman et al., 2019). In contrast, the severe acute  
75 respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome  
76 coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are transmitted from animals to humans and cause severe respiratory  
77 diseases in afflicted individuals, SARS and MERS, respectively (Fehr et al., 2017). SARS  
78 emerged in 2002 in Guangdong province, China, and its subsequent global spread was associated  
79 with 8096 cases and 774 deaths (de Wit et al., 2016; WHO, 2004). Chinese horseshoe bats serve  
80 as natural reservoir hosts for SARS-CoV (Lau et al., 2005; Li et al., 2005a). Human transmission  
81 was facilitated by intermediate hosts like civet cats and raccoon dogs, which are frequently sold  
82 as food sources in Chinese wet markets (Guan et al., 2003). At present, no specific antivirals or  
83 approved vaccines are available to combat SARS, and the SARS pandemic in 2002/2003 was  
84 finally stopped by conventional control measures, including travel restrictions and patient  
85 isolation.

86 In December 2019 a new infectious respiratory disease emerged in Wuhan, Hubei  
87 province, China (Huang et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020). An initial cluster of  
88 infections was linked to Huanan seafood market, potentially due to animal contact. Subsequently,  
89 human-to-human transmission occurred (Chan et al., 2020) and the disease, now termed  
90 coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) rapidly spread within China. A novel coronavirus, SARS-  
91 CoV-2, which is closely related to SARS-CoV, was detected in patients and is believed to be the  
92 etiologic agent of the new lung disease (Zhu et al., 2020). On February 12, 2020, a total of  
93 44,730 laboratory confirmed infections were reported in China, including 8204 severe cases and  
94 1114 deaths (WHO, 2020). Infections were also detected in 24 countries outside China and were  
95 associated with international travel. At present, it is unknown whether the sequence similarities

96 between SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV translate into similar biological properties, including  
97 pandemic potential (Munster et al., 2020).

98         The spike (S) protein of coronaviruses facilitates viral entry into target cells. Entry  
99 depends on binding of the surface unit, S1, of the S protein to a cellular receptor, which facilitates  
100 viral attachment to the surface of target cells. In addition, entry requires S protein priming by  
101 cellular proteases, which entails S protein cleavage at the S1/S2 and the S2' site and allows  
102 fusion of viral and cellular membranes, a process driven by the S2 subunit (Figure 1A). SARS-S  
103 engages angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) as entry receptor (Li et al., 2003) and employs  
104 the cellular serine protease TMPRSS2 for S protein priming (Glowacka et al., 2011; Matsuyama  
105 et al., 2010; Shulla et al., 2011). The SARS-S/ACE2 interface has been elucidated at the atomic  
106 level and the efficiency of ACE2 usage was found to be a key determinant of SARS-CoV  
107 transmissibility (Li et al., 2005a; Li et al., 2005b). SARS-S und SARS-2-S share ~76% amino  
108 acid identity. However, it is unknown whether SARS-2-S like SARS-S employs ACE2 and  
109 TMPRSS2 for host cell entry.

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120 **RESULTS**

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122 **Evidence for efficient proteolytic processing of SARS-2-S**

123 The goal of our study was to obtain insights into how SARS-2-S facilitates viral entry into target  
124 cells and how this process can be blocked. For this, we first asked whether SARS-2-S is robustly  
125 expressed in a human cell line, 293T, commonly used for experimentation due to its high  
126 transfectability. Moreover, we analyzed whether there is evidence for proteolytic processing of  
127 the S protein since certain coronavirus S proteins are cleaved by host cell proteases at the S1/S2  
128 cleavage site in infected cells (Figure 1A). Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells expressing SARS-  
129 2-S protein with a C-terminal antigenic tag revealed a band with a molecular weight expected for  
130 unprocessed S protein (S<sub>0</sub>) (Figure 1B). A band with a size expected for the S2 subunit of the S  
131 protein was also observed in cells and, more prominently, in vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV)  
132 particles bearing SARS-2-S (Figure 1B). In contrast, an S2 signal was largely absent in cells and  
133 particles expressing SARS-S (Figure 1B), as previously documented (Glowacka et al., 2011;  
134 Hofmann et al., 2004b). These results suggest efficient proteolytic processing of SARS-2-S in  
135 human cells, in keeping with the presence of several arginine residues at the S1/S2 cleavage site  
136 of SARS-2-S but not SARS-S (Figure 1A). In contrast, the S2' cleavage site of SARS-2-S was  
137 similar to that of SARS-S.

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139 **SARS-2-S and SARS-S mediate entry into a similar spectrum of cell lines**

140 Replication-defective VSV particles bearing coronavirus S proteins faithfully reflect key aspects  
141 of coronavirus host cell entry (Kleine-Weber et al., 2019). We employed VSV pseudotypes  
142 bearing SARS-2-S to study cell entry of SARS-CoV-2. Both SARS-2-S and SARS-S were  
143 robustly incorporated into VSV particles (Figure 1B), allowing a meaningful side-by-side

144 comparison, although, formally, comparable particle incorporation of the S1 subunit remains to  
145 be demonstrated. We first asked which cell lines were susceptible to SARS-2-S-driven entry,  
146 using a panel of well characterized cell lines of human and animal origin, respectively. All cell  
147 lines were readily susceptible to entry driven by the glycoprotein of the pantropic VSV (VSV-G)  
148 (Figure 1C and Figure S1), as expected. Most human cell lines and the animal cell lines Vero and  
149 MDCKII were also susceptible to entry driven by SARS-S (Figure 1C). Moreover, SARS-2-S  
150 facilitated entry into an identical spectrum of cell lines as SARS-S (Figure 1C), suggesting  
151 similarities in choice of entry receptors.

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### 153 **SARS-CoV-2 employs the SARS-CoV receptor for host cell entry**

154 In order to elucidate why SARS-S and SARS-2-S mediated entry into the same cell lines, we next  
155 determined whether SARS-2-S harbors amino acid residues required for interaction with the  
156 SARS-S entry receptor ACE2. Sequence analysis revealed that SARS-CoV-2 clusters with  
157 SARS-CoV-related viruses from bats (SARSr-CoV), of which some but not all can use ACE2 for  
158 host cell entry (Figure 2A and Figure S2). Analysis of the receptor binding motif (RBM), a  
159 portion of the receptor binding domain (RBD) that makes contact with ACE2 (Li et al., 2005a),  
160 revealed that most amino acid residues essential for ACE2 binding by SARS-S were conserved in  
161 SARS-2-S (Figure 2B). In contrast, most of these residues were absent from S proteins of  
162 SARSr-CoV previously found not to use ACE2 for entry (Figure 2B) (Ge et al., 2013; Hoffmann  
163 et al., 2013; Menachery et al., 2019). In agreement with these findings, directed expression of  
164 human and bat (*Rhinolophus alcyone*) ACE2 but not human DPP4, the entry receptor used by  
165 MERS-CoV (Raj et al., 2013), or human APN, the entry receptor used by HCoV-229E (Yeager et  
166 al., 1992), allowed SARS-2-S- and SARS-S-driven entry into otherwise non-susceptible BHK-21  
167 cells (Figure 3A). Moreover, antiserum raised against human ACE2 blocked SARS-S- and



168 SARS-2-S- but not VSV-G- or MERS-S-driven entry (Figure 3B). Finally, authentic SARS-CoV-  
169 2 infected BHK-21 cells transfected to express ACE2 cells but not parental BHK-21 cells with  
170 high efficiency (Figure 3C), indicating that SARS-2-S, like SARS-S, uses ACE2 for cellular  
171 entry.

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173 **The cellular serine protease TMPRSS2 primes SARS-2-S for entry and a serine protease**  
174 **inhibitor blocks SARS-CoV-2 infection of lung cells**

175 We next investigated protease dependence of SARS-CoV-2 entry. SARS-CoV can use the  
176 endosomal cysteine proteases cathepsin B and L (CatB/L) (Simmons et al., 2005) and the serine  
177 protease TMPRSS2 (Glowacka et al., 2011; Matsuyama et al., 2010; Shulla et al., 2011) for S  
178 protein priming in cell lines, and inhibition of both proteases is required for robust blockade of  
179 viral entry (Kawase et al., 2012). However, only TMPRSS2 activity is essential for viral spread  
180 and pathogenesis in the infected host while CatB/L activity is dispensable (Iwata-Yoshikawa et  
181 al., 2019; Shirato et al., 2017; Shirato et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2015).

182 In order to determine whether SARS-CoV-2 can use CatB/L for cell entry, we initially  
183 employed ammonium chloride, which elevates endosomal pH and thereby blocks CatB/L  
184 activity. 293T cells (TMPRSS2<sup>-</sup>, transfected to express ACE2 for robust S protein-driven entry)  
185 and Caco-2 cells (TMPRSS2<sup>+</sup>) were used as targets. Ammonium chloride blocked VSV-G-  
186 dependent entry into both cell lines while entry driven by Nipah virus F and G proteins was not  
187 affected (Figure S3 panel A and data not shown), in keeping with Nipah virus but not VSV being  
188 able to fuse directly with the plasma membrane (Bossart et al., 2002). Ammonium chloride  
189 treatment strongly inhibited SARS-2-S- and SARS-S-driven entry into TMPRSS2<sup>-</sup> 293T cells  
190 (Figure S3 panel A), suggesting CatB/L dependence. Inhibition of entry into TMPRSS2<sup>+</sup> Caco-2  
191 cells was less efficient as compared to 293T cells (Figure S3 panel A), which would be

192 compatible with SARS-2-S priming by TMPRSS2 in Caco-2 cells. Indeed, the clinically-proven  
193 serine protease inhibitor camostat mesylate, which is active against TMPRSS2 (Kawase et al.,  
194 2012), partially blocked SARS-2-S-driven entry into Caco-2 (Figure S3 panel B) and Vero-  
195 TMPRSS2 cells (Figure 4A). Full inhibition was attained when camostat mesylate and E-64d, an  
196 inhibitor of CatB/L, were added (Figure S3 panel B and Figure 4A), indicating that SARS-2-S  
197 can use both CatB/L as well as TMPRSS2 for priming in these cell lines. In contrast, camostat  
198 mesylate did not interfere with SARS-2-S-driven entry into the TMPRSS2<sup>-</sup> cell lines 293T  
199 (Figure S3 panel B) and Vero (Figure 4A) which was efficiently blocked by E-64d and thus  
200 CatB/L-dependent. Moreover, directed expression of TMPRSS2 rescued SARS-2-S-driven entry  
201 from inhibition by E-64d (Figure 4B), confirming that SARS-2-S can employ TMPRSS2 for S  
202 protein priming.

203 We next analyzed whether TMPRSS2 usage is required for SARS-CoV-2 infection of  
204 lung cells. Indeed, camostat mesylate significantly reduced MERS-S-, SARS-S- and SARS-2-S-  
205 but not VSV-G-driven entry into the lung cell line Calu-3 (Figure 4C) and exerted no unwanted  
206 cytotoxic effects (Figure S3 panel C). Similarly, camostat mesylate treatment significantly  
207 reduced Calu-3 infection with authentic SARS-CoV-2 (Figure 4D). Finally, camostat mesylate  
208 treatment inhibited SARS-S- and SARS-2-S- but not VSV-G-driven entry into primary human  
209 lung cells (Figure 4E). Collectively, SARS-CoV-2 can use TMPRSS2 for S protein priming and  
210 camostat mesylate, an inhibitor of TMPRSS2, blocks SARS-CoV-2 infection of lung cells.

211

## 212 **Evidence that antibodies raised against SARS-CoV will cross-neutralize SARS-CoV-2**

213 Convalescent SARS patients exhibit a neutralizing antibody response directed against the  
214 viral S protein (Liu et al., 2006). We investigated whether such antibodies block SARS-2-S-  
215 driven entry. Four sera obtained from three convalescent SARS patients inhibited SARS-S- but

216 not VSV-G-driven entry in a concentration dependent manner (Figure 5). In addition, these sera  
217 also reduced SARS-2-S-driven entry, although with lower efficiency as compared to SARS-S  
218 (Figure 5). Similarly, rabbit sera raised against the S1 subunit of SARS-S reduced both SARS-S-  
219 and SARS-2-S-driven entry with high efficiency and again inhibition of SARS-S-driven entry  
220 was more efficient. Thus, antibody responses raised against SARS-S during infection or  
221 vaccination might offer some level of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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240 **DISCUSSION**

241 The present study provides evidence that host cell entry of SARS-CoV-2 depends on the SARS-  
242 CoV receptor ACE2 and can be blocked by a clinically-proven inhibitor of the cellular serine  
243 protease TMPRSS2, which is employed by SARS-CoV-2 for S protein priming. Moreover, it  
244 suggests that antibody responses raised against SARS-CoV could at least partially protect against  
245 SARS-CoV-2 infection. These results have important implications for our understanding of  
246 SARS-CoV-2 transmissibility and pathogenesis and reveal a target for therapeutic intervention.

247 The finding that SARS-2-S exploits ACE2 for entry, which was also reported by Zhou  
248 and colleagues (Zhou et al., 2020) while the present manuscript was in revision, suggests that the  
249 virus might target a similar spectrum of cells as SARS-CoV. In the lung, SARS-CoV infects  
250 mainly pneumocytes and macrophages (Shieh et al., 2005). However, ACE2 expression is not  
251 limited to the lung and extrapulmonary spread of SARS-CoV in ACE2<sup>+</sup> tissues was observed  
252 (Ding et al., 2004; Gu et al., 2005; Hamming et al., 2004). The same can be expected for SARS-  
253 CoV-2, although affinity of SARS-S and SARS-2-S for ACE2 remains to be compared. It has  
254 been suggested that the modest ACE2 expression in the upper respiratory tract (Bertram et al.,  
255 2012; Hamming et al., 2004) might limit SARS-CoV transmissibility. In the light of the  
256 potentially increased transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 relative to SARS-CoV one may speculate  
257 that the new virus might exploit cellular attachment-promoting factors with higher efficiency as  
258 SARS-CoV to ensure robust infection of ACE2<sup>+</sup> cells in the upper respiratory tract. This could  
259 comprise binding to cellular glycans, a function ascribed to the S1 domain of certain  
260 coronaviruses (Li et al., 2017; Park et al., 2019). Finally, it should be noted that ACE2 expression  
261 protects from lung injury and is downregulated by SARS-S (Haga et al., 2008; Imai et al., 2005;  
262 Kuba et al., 2005), which might promote SARS. It will thus be interesting to determine whether  
263 SARS-CoV-2 also interferes with ACE2 expression.

264 Priming of coronavirus S proteins by host cell proteases is essential for viral entry into  
265 cells and encompasses S protein cleavage at the S1/S2 and the S2' sites. The S1/S2 cleavage site  
266 of SARS-2-S harbors several arginine residues (multibasic), which indicates high cleavability.  
267 Indeed, SARS-2-S was efficiently cleaved in cells and cleaved S protein was incorporated into  
268 VSV particles. Notably, the cleavage site sequence can determine the zoonotic potential of  
269 coronaviruses (Menachery et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2014; Yang et al., 2015) and a multibasic  
270 cleavage site was not present in RaTG13, the coronavirus most closely related to SARS-CoV-2.  
271 It will thus be interesting to determine whether the presence of a multibasic cleavage site is  
272 required for SARS-CoV-2 entry into human cells and how this cleavage site was acquired.

273 The S proteins of SARS-CoV can use the endosomal cysteine proteases CatB/L for S  
274 protein priming in TMPRSS2<sup>-</sup> cells (Simmons et al., 2005). However, S protein priming by  
275 TMPRSS2 but not CatB/L is essential for viral entry into primary target cells and for viral spread  
276 in the infected host (Iwata-Yoshikawa et al., 2019; Kawase et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2015). The  
277 present study indicates that SARS-CoV-2 spread also depends on TMPRSS2 activity, although  
278 we note that SARS-CoV-S2 infection of Calu-3 cells was inhibited but not abrogated by camostat  
279 mesylate, likely reflecting residual S protein priming by CatB/L. One can speculate that furin-  
280 mediated precleavage at the S1/S2 site in infected cells might promote subsequent TMPRSS2-  
281 dependent entry into target cells, as reported for MERS-CoV (Kleine-Weber et al., 2018; Park et  
282 al., 2016). Collectively, our present findings and previous work highlight TMPRSS2 as a host  
283 cell factor which is critical for spread of several clinically relevant viruses, including influenza A  
284 viruses and coronaviruses (Gierer et al., 2013; Glowacka et al., 2011; Iwata-Yoshikawa et al.,  
285 2019; Kawase et al., 2012; Matsuyama et al., 2010; Shulla et al., 2011; Zhou et al., 2015). In  
286 contrast, TMPRSS2 is dispensable for development and homeostasis (Kim et al., 2006) and thus  
287 constitutes an attractive drug target. In this context, it is noteworthy that the serine protease

288 inhibitor camostat mesylate, which blocks TMPRSS2 activity (Kawase et al., 2012; Zhou et al.,  
289 2015), has been approved in Japan for human use, although for an unrelated indication. This  
290 compound or related ones with potentially increased antiviral activity (Yamamoto et al., 2016)  
291 could thus be considered for off-label treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infected patients.

292           Convalescent SARS patients exhibit a neutralizing antibody response that can be detected  
293 even 24 months after infection (Liu et al., 2006) and that is largely directed against the S protein.  
294 Moreover, experimental SARS vaccines, including recombinant S protein (He et al., 2006) and  
295 inactivated virus (Lin et al., 2007) induce neutralizing antibody responses. Although confirmation  
296 with infectious virus is pending, our results indicate that neutralizing antibody responses raised  
297 against SARS-S could offer some protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection, which may have  
298 implications for outbreak control.

299           In sum, this study provided key insights into the first step of SARS-CoV-2 infection, viral  
300 entry into cells, and defined potential targets for antiviral intervention.

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321

322 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

323 Conceptualization, M.H. and S.P.; Formal analysis, M.H., H.-K.W., M.A.M, S.P.; Investigation,  
324 M.H., H.K.-W, S.S., N.K., T.H., N.-H. W. and M.A.M.; Resources, T.H., S.E., T.S.S., G.H.,  
325 A.N., M.A.M. and C.D.; Writing – Original Draft, M.H. and S.P.; Writing -Review & Editing, all  
326 authors; Funding acquisition, S.P., N.-H.W. and C.D.

327

328 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

329 The authors declare not competing interests

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336 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

337

338 **Figure 1. SARS-2-S and SARS-S facilitate entry into a similar panel of mammalian cell**  
339 **lines**

340 (A) Schematic illustration of SARS-S including functional domains (RBD = receptor binding  
341 domain, RBM = receptor binding motif, TD = transmembrane domain) and proteolytic cleavage  
342 sites (S1/S2, S2'). Amino acid sequences around the two protease recognition sites (red) are  
343 indicated for SARS-S and SARS-2-S (asterisks indicate conserved residues). Arrow heads  
344 indicate the cleavage site.

345 (B) Analysis of SARS-2-S expression (upper panel) and pseudotype incorporation (lower panel)  
346 by Western blot using an antibody directed against the C-terminal HA tag added to the viral S  
347 proteins analyzed. Shown are representative blots from three experiments.  $\beta$ -Actin (cell lysates)  
348 and VSV-M (particles) served as loading controls. Black arrow heads indicate bands  
349 corresponding to uncleaved S proteins (S<sub>0</sub>) while grey arrow heads indicate bands corresponding  
350 to the S2 subunit.

351 (C) Cell lines of human and animal origin were inoculated with pseudotyped VSV harboring  
352 VSV-G, SARS-S or SARS-2-S. At 16 h postinoculation, pseudotype entry was analyzed by  
353 determining luciferase activity in cell lysates. Signals obtained for particles bearing no envelope  
354 protein were used for normalization. The average of three independent experiments is shown.

355 Error bars indicate SEM. Unprocessed data from a single experiment are presented in Figure S1.

356

357 **Figure 2. SARS-2-S harbors amino acid residues critical for ACE2 binding**

358 (A) The S protein of SARS-CoV-2 clusters phylogenetically with S proteins of known bat-  
359 associated betacoronaviruses (see figure S2 for more details).



360 (B) Alignment of the receptor binding motif of SARS-S with corresponding sequences of bat-  
361 associated betacoronavirus S proteins, which are able or unable to use ACE2 as cellular receptor  
362 reveals that SARS-CoV-2 possesses crucial amino acid residues for ACE2 binding.

363

364 **Figure 3. SARS-2-S utilizes ACE2 as cellular receptor**

365 (A) BHK-21 cells transiently expressing ACE2 of human or bat origin, human APN or human  
366 DPP4 were inoculated with pseudotyped VSV harboring VSV-G, SARS-S, SARS-2-S, MERS-S  
367 or 229E-S. At 16 h postinoculation, pseudotype entry was analyzed (normalization against  
368 particles without viral envelope protein).

369 (B) Untreated Vero cells as well as Vero cells pre-incubated with 2 or 20 µg/ml anti-ACE2  
370 antibody or unrelated control antibody (anti-DC-SIGN, 20 µg/ml) were inoculated with  
371 pseudotyped VSV harboring VSV-G, SARS-S, SARS-2-S or MERS-S. At 16 h postinoculation,  
372 pseudotype entry was analyzed (normalization against untreated cells).

373 (C) BHK-21 cells transfected with ACE2-encoding plasmid or control transfected with DsRed  
374 encoding plasmid were infected with SARS-CoV-2, washed and genome equivalents in culture  
375 supernatants determined by quantitative RT-PCR.

376 The average of three independent experiments conducted with triplicate samples is shown in  
377 panels A-C. Error bars indicate SEM. Statistical significance was tested by two-way ANOVA  
378 with Dunnett posttest. Cells transfected with empty vector served as reference in panel A while  
379 cells that were not treated with antibody served as reference in panel B.

380

381 **Figure 4. SARS-2-S employs TMPRSS2 for S protein priming**

382 (A) Importance of activity of CatB/L or TMPRSS2 for host cell entry of SARS-CoV-2 was  
383 evaluated by adding inhibitors to target cells prior to transduction. E-64d and camostat mesylate

384 block the activity of CatB/L and TMPRSS2, respectively (additional data for 293T cells  
385 transiently expressing ACE2 and Caco-2 cell are shown in Figure S3).

386 (B) To analyze whether TMPRSS2 can rescue SARS-2-S-driven entry into cells that have low  
387 CatB/L activity, 293T cells transiently expressing ACE2 alone or in combination with TMPRSS2  
388 were incubated with CatB/L inhibitor E-64d or DMSO as control and inoculated with  
389 pseudotypes bearing the indicated viral surface proteins.

390 (C) Calu-3 cells were preincubated with the indicated concentrations of camostat mesylate and  
391 subsequently inoculated with pseudoparticles harboring the indicated viral glycoproteins.

392 (D) Calu-3 cells were preincubated with camostat mesylate and infected with SARS-CoV-2,  
393 washed and genome equivalents in culture supernatants determined by quantitative RT-PCR.

394 (E) In order to investigate whether serine protease activity is required for SARS-2-S-driven entry  
395 into human lung cells, primary human airway epithelial cells were incubated with camostat  
396 mesylate prior to transduction.

397 The average of three independent experiments conducted with triplicate or quadruplicate samples  
398 is shown in panels A-E. Error bars indicate SEM. Statistical significance was tested by two-way  
399 ANOVA with Dunnett posttest. Cells that did not receive inhibitor served as reference in panels  
400 A, C, D and E while cells transfected with empty vector and not treated with inhibitor served as  
401 reference in panel B.

402

403 **Figure 5. Sera from convalescent SARS patients cross-neutralizes SARS-2-S-driven entry**

404 Pseudotypes harboring the indicated viral surface proteins were incubated with different dilutions  
405 of sera from three convalescent SARS patients or sera from rabbits immunized with the S1-  
406 subunit of SARS-S and subsequently inoculated onto Vero cells in order to evaluate cross-  
407 neutralization potential. The average of three independent experiments performed with triplicate

408 samples is shown. Error bars indicate SEM. Statistical analysis was performed using Dunnetts  
409 posttest. Statistical significance was tested by two-way ANOVA with Dunnett posttest.

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432 **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

433 **Figure S1. Representative experiment included in the average shown in Figure 1C**

434 The indicated cells lines were inoculated with pseudoparticles harboring the indicated viral  
435 glycoprotein or harboring no glycoprotein (no protein) and luciferase activities in cell lysates  
436 were determined at 16 h posttransduction. The experiment was performed with quadruplicate  
437 samples, the average  $\pm$  SD is shown.

438

439 **Figure S2. Extended version of the phylogenetic tree presented in panel B of Figure 2**

440

441 **Figure S3. Protease requirement for SARS-2-S driven entry and absence of unwanted  
442 cytotoxicity of camostat mesylate, Related to Figure 4**

443 Importance of endosomal low pH (A) and activity of CatB/L or TMPRSS2 (B) for host cell entry  
444 of SARS-CoV-2 was evaluated by adding inhibitors to target cells prior to transduction.

445 Ammonium chloride (A) blocks endosomal acidification while E-64d and camostat mesylate (B)  
446 block the activity of CatB/L and TMPRSS2, respectively. Entry into cells not treated with  
447 inhibitor was set as 100 %.

448 (C) Absence of cytotoxic effects of camostat mesylate. Calu-3 cells were treated with camostat  
449 mesylate identically as for infection experiments and cell viability was measured using a  
450 commercially available assay (CellTiter-Glo, Promega).

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456 **STAR METHODS**457 **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<b>Antibodies</b>		
Monoclonal anti-HA antibody produced in mouse	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#: H3663 RRID: AB_262051
Monoclonal anti- $\beta$ -actin antibody produced in mouse	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#: A5441 RRID: AB_476744
Monoclonal anti-VSV-M (23H12) antibody	KeraFast	Cat.#: EB0011 RRID:AB_2734773
Polyclonal anti-ACE2 antibody	R&D Systems	Cat.#: AF933 RRID: AB_355722
Polyclonal anti-DC-SIGN antibody	Santa Cruz	Cat.#: sc-11038 RRID:AB_639038
Monoclonal anti-mouse, peroxidase-coupled	Dianova	Cat.#: 115-035-003 RRID:AB_10015289
Anti-VSV-G antibody (I1, produced from CRL-2700 mouse hybridoma cells)	ATCC	Cat.# CRL-2700 RRID:CVCL_G654
<b>Bacterial and Virus Strains</b>		
VSV* $\Delta$ G-FLuc	(Berger Rentsch and Zimmer, 2011)	N/A
SARS-CoV-2 isolate Munich 929	Laboratory of Christian Drosten	N/A
One Shot™ OmniMAX™ 2 T1R Chemically Competent <i>E. coli</i>	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat.#: C854003
<b>Biological Samples</b>		
Patient serum, CSS-2	Laboratory of Christian Drosten	N/A
Patient serum, CSS-3	Laboratory of Andreas Nitsche	N/A
Patient serum, CSS-4	Laboratory of Andreas Nitsche	N/A
Patient serum, CSS-5	Laboratory of Andreas Nitsche	N/A
Rabbit serum, anti-SARS-S1 rabbit I	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	N/A
Rabbit serum, anti-SARS-S1 rabbit II	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	N/A
<b>Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins</b>		
Camostat mesylate	Sigma-Aldrich	SML0057
E-64d	Sigma-Aldrich	E8640
Ammonium chloride	Carl Roth	Cat.#: 5050.2
<b>Critical Commercial Assays</b>		
Beetle-Juice Kit	PJK	Cat.#: 102511
CellTiter-Glo® Luminescent Cell Viability Assay	Promega	Cat.#: G7570
<b>Deposited Data</b>		
N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Experimental Models: Cell Lines</b>		

A549	Laboratory of Georg Herrler	ATCC Cat# CRM-CCL-185 RRID:CVCL_0023
BEAS-2B	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	ATCC Cat# CRL-9609 RRID:CVCL_0168
Calu-3	Laboratory of Stephan Ludwig	ATCC Cat# HTB-55 RRID:CVCL_0609
NCI-H1299	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	ATCC Cat# CRL-5803 RRID:CVCL_0060
Huh-7	Laboratory of Thomas Pietschmann	JCRB Cat# JCRB0403 RRID:CVCL_0336
Caco-2	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	ATCC Cat# HTB-37 RRID:CVCL_0025
Vero	Laboratory of Andrea Maisner	ATCC Cat# CRL-1586 RRID:CVCL_0574
Vero-TMPRSS2	This paper	N/A
LLC-PK1	Laboratory of Georg Herrler	ATCC Cat# CRL-1392 RRID:CVCL_0391
MDBK	Laboratory of Georg Herrler	ATCC Cat# CCL-22 RRID:CVCL_0421
MDCKII	Laboratory of Georg Herrler	ATCC Cat# CRL-2936 RRID:CVCL_B034
RhiLu/1.1	Laboratory of Christian Drosten, Laboratory of Marcel A. Müller	N/A RRID: CVCL_RX22
MyDauLu/47.1	Laboratory of Christian Drosten, Laboratory of Marcel A. Müller	N/A RRID: CVCL_RX18
BHK-21	Laboratory of Georg Herrler	ATCC Cat# CCL-10 RRID:CVCL_1915
NIH/3T3	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	ATCC Cat# CRL-1658 RRID:CVCL_0594
HAE	HTCR Foundation (Human Tissue and Cell Research)	N/A
293T	DSMZ	Cat.#: ACC-635 RRID: CVCL_0063
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
SARS-2-S (BamHI) F AAGCCGGATCCGCCACCATGTTTCTGCTGACCA CCAAGC	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
SARS-2-S (XbaI) R AAGCCTCTAGATTAGGTGTAGTGCAGTTTCACG	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
SARS-2-S-HA (XbaI) R AAGCCTCTAGATTACGCATAATCCGGCACATCAT ACGGATAGGTGTAGTGCAGTTTCACG	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A

WH-Ssyn 651F CAAGATCTACAGCAAGCACACC	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
WH-Ssyn 1380F GTCGGCGGCAACTACAATTAC	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
WH-Ssyn 1992F CTGTCTGATCGGAGCCGAGCAC	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
WH-Ssyn 2648F TGAGATGATCGCCCAGTACAC	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
WH-Ssyn 3286F GCCATCTGCCACGACGGCAAAG	Sigma-Aldrich	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
Synthetic, codon-optimized (humanized) SARS-2-S	ThermoFisher Scientific (GeneArt)	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-SARS-S	(Hoffmann et al., 2013)	N/A
Plasmid:pCG1-SARS-S-HA	This paper	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-SARS-2-S	This paper	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-SARS-2-S-HA	This paper	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-229E-S	(Hofmann et al., 2005)	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-MERS-S	(Gierer et al., 2013)	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-VSV-G	(Brinkmann et al., 2017)	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-NiV-F	Laboratory of Andrea Maisner	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-NiV-G	Laboratory of Andrea Maisner	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-hACE2	(Hoffmann et al., 2013)	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-batACE2	(Hoffmann et al., 2013)	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1-hAPN	(Hofmann et al., 2004a)	N/A
Plasmid: pQCXIP-DsRed-hDPP4	(Kleine-Weber et al., 2018)	N/A
Plasmid: pQCXIBL-hTMPRSS2	(Kleine-Weber et al., 2018)	N/A
Plasmid: pCG1	Laboratory of Roberto Cattaneo	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-DsRed	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	N/A
Plasmid: pCAGGS-eGFP	Laboratory of Stefan Pöhlmann	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Hidex Sense Microplate Reader Software	Hidex Deutschland Vertrieb GmbH	<a href="https://www.hidex.de/">https://www.hidex.de/</a>
ChemoStar Imager Software (version v.0.3.23)	Intas Science Imaging Instruments GmbH	<a href="https://www.intas.de/">https://www.intas.de/</a>
MEGA 7.0.26	Kumar et al., 2018	<a href="https://www.megasoftware.net">https://www.megasoftware.net</a>
Adobe Photoshop CS5 Extended (version 12.0 x 32)	Adobe	<a href="https://www.adobe.com/">https://www.adobe.com/</a>
GraphPad Prism (version 8.3.0(538))	GraphPad Software	<a href="https://www.graphpad.com/">https://www.graphpad.com/</a>
Microsoft Office Standard 2010 (version 14.0.7232.5000)	Microsoft Corporation	<a href="https://products.office.com/">https://products.office.com/</a>
Other		
N/A	N/A	N/A

458

459 **LEAD CONTACT AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY**

460 Requests for material can be directed to Markus Hoffmann (mhoffmann@dpz.eu) and the lead  
461 contact, Stefan Pöhlmann (spoehlmann@dpz.eu). All materials and reagents will be made  
462 available upon installment of a material transfer agreement (MTA).

463

## 464 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

465

### 466 **Cell cultures, primary cells, viral strains**

467 All cell lines were incubated at 37 °C and 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> in a humidified atmosphere. 293T (human,  
468 kidney), BHK-21 (Syrian hamster, kidney cells), Huh-7 (human, liver), LLC-PK1 (pig, kidney),  
469 MRC-5 (human, lung), MyDauLu/47.1 (Daubenton's bat [*Myotis daubentonii*], lung), NIH/3T3  
470 (Mouse, embryo), RhiLu/1.1 (Halcyon horseshoe bat [*Rhinolophus alcyone*], lung) and Vero  
471 (African green monkey, kidney) cells were incubated in Dulbecco's' modified Eagle medium  
472 (PAN-Biotech). Calu-3 (human, lung), Caco-2 (human, colon), MDBK (cattle, kidney) and  
473 MDCKII (Dog, kidney) cells were incubated in Minimum Essential Medium (ThermoFisher  
474 Scientific). A549 (human, lung), BEAS-2B (human, bronchus) and NCI-H1299 (human, lung)  
475 cells were incubated in DMEM/F-12 Medium with Nutrient Mix (ThermoFisher Scientific). Vero  
476 cells stably expressing human TMPRSS2 were generated by retroviral transduction and  
477 blasticidin-based selection. All media were supplemented with 10 % fetal bovine serum  
478 (Biochrom), 100 U/ml of penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml of streptomycin (PAN-Biotech), 1x non-  
479 essential amino acid solution (10x stock, PAA) and 10 mM sodium pyruvate (ThermoFisher  
480 Scientific). For seeding and subcultivation, cells were first washed with phosphate buffered saline  
481 (PBS) and then incubated in the presence of trypsin/EDTA solution (PAN-Biotech) until cells  
482 detached. Transfection was carried out by calcium-phosphate precipitation. Lung tissue samples



483 were obtained and experimental procedures were performed within the framework of the non-  
484 profit foundation HTCR, including the informed patient's consent.

485 For preparation of human airway epithelial cells, bronchus tissue was derived from  
486 patients undergoing pulmonary resection and was provided by the Biobank of the Department of  
487 General, Visceral, and Transplant Surgery, Ludwig-Maximilians- University Munich. Primary  
488 human airway epithelial cells were subsequently isolated as described (Wu et al., 2016). In brief,  
489 tissue with a length of approximately 10 mm and a diameter of 8mm was collected and incubated  
490 for 24 h at 4°C with DMEM (GIBCO) containing 1 mg/ml protease type XIV and 10 µg/ml  
491 DNase I, 100 units/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 2.5 µg/ml amphotericin B, and 50  
492 µg/ml gentamicin (GIBCO). The epithelial cells were then harvested from the mucosal surface  
493 using the scalpel and were resuspended in growth medium. After incubation at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for  
494 2 h to remove adherent fibroblast cells, non-adherent cells were seeded on a collagen I coated  
495 flask and maintained at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The growth medium was refreshed every 2 days and  
496 consisted of a 1:1 mixture of DMEM (GIBCO) and Airway Epithelial Cell basal medium  
497 (Promocell, Heidelberg, Germany) supplemented with 52 µg/ml bovine pituitary extract, 15  
498 ng/ml retinoic acid, 5µg/ml insulin, 0.5 µg/ml hydrocortisone, 0.5 µg/ml epinephrine, 10 µg/ml  
499 transferrin, 1 ng/ml human epidermal growth factor (Corning), 1.5 ng/ml bovine serum albumin,  
500 100 µg/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin, with or without 5 µM Rho-associated protein  
501 kinase inhibitor (Y-27632), as previously described (Wu et al., 2016). If not stated otherwise all  
502 materials were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

503 For infection experiments with SARS-CoV-2, the SARS-CoV-2 isolate Munich 929 was  
504 propagated in VeroE6 cells (passage 1) after primary isolation from patient material on Vero-  
505 TMPRSS2 cells (passage 0).

506

507 **METHOD DETAILS**

508

509 **Plasmids**

510 Expression plasmids for vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV, serotype Indiana) glycoprotein (VSV-  
511 G), Nipah virus (NiV) fusion (F) and attachment glycoprotein (G), SARS-S (derived from the  
512 Frankfurt-1 isolate) with or without a C-terminal HA epitope tag, HCoV-229E-S, MERS-S,  
513 human and bat angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), human aminopeptidase N (APN),  
514 human dipeptidyl-peptidase 4 (DPP4) and human TMPRSS2 have been described elsewhere  
515 (Bertram et al., 2010; Brinkmann et al., 2017; Gierer et al., 2013; Hoffmann et al., 2013;  
516 Hofmann et al., 2005; Kleine-Weber et al., 2019). For generation of the expression plasmids for  
517 SARS-2-S with or without a C-terminal HA epitope tag we PCR-amplified the coding sequence  
518 of a synthetic, codon-optimized (for human cells) SARS-2-S DNA (GeneArt Gene Synthesis,  
519 ThermoFisher Scientific) based on the publicly available protein sequence in the National Center  
520 for Biotechnology Information database (NCBI Reference Sequence: YP\_009724390.1) and  
521 cloned in into the pCG1 expression vector via BamHI and XbaI restriction sites.

522

523 **Pseudotyping of VSV and transduction experiments**

524 For pseudotyping, VSV pseudotypes were generated according to a published protocol (Berger  
525 Rentsch and Zimmer, 2011). In brief, 293T transfected to express the viral surface glycoprotein  
526 under study were inoculated with a replication-deficient VSV vector that contains expression  
527 cassettes for eGFP (enhanced green fluorescent protein) and firefly luciferase instead of the VSV-  
528 G open reading frame, VSV\*ΔG-fLuc (kindly provided by Gert Zimmer, Institute of Virology  
529 and Immunology, Mittelhäusern/Switzerland). After an incubation period of 1 h at 37 °C, the  
530 inoculum was removed and cells were washed with PBS before medium supplemented with anti-

531 VSV-G antibody (I1, mouse hybridoma supernatant from CRL-2700; ATCC) was added in order  
532 to neutralize residual input virus (no antibody was added to cells expressing VSV-G).  
533 Pseudotyped particles were harvested 16 h postinoculation, clarified from cellular debris by  
534 centrifugation and used for experimentation.

535 For transduction, target cells were grown in 96-well plates until they reached 50-75 %  
536 confluency before they were inoculated with respective pseudotyped VSV. For experiments  
537 addressing receptor usage, cells were transfected with expression plasmids 24 h before  
538 transduction. In order to block ACE2 on the cell surface, cells were pretreated with 2 or 20 µg/ml  
539 anti-ACE2 antibody (R&D Systems, goat, AF933). As control, an unrelated anti-DC-SIGN  
540 antibody (Serotec, goat, 20 µg/ml) was used. For experiments involving ammonium chloride  
541 (final concentration 50 mM) and protease inhibitors (E-64d, 25 µM; camostat mesylate, 1-500  
542 µM), target cells were treated with the respective chemical 2 h before transduction. For  
543 neutralization experiments, pseudotypes were pre-incubated for 30 min at 37 °C with different  
544 serum dilutions. Transduction efficiency was quantified 16 h posttransduction by measuring the  
545 activity of firefly luciferase in cell lysates using a commercial substrate (Beetle-Juice, PJK) and a  
546 Hidex Sense plate luminometer (Hidex).

547

#### 548 **Quantification of cell viability**

549 Cell viability following treatment of Calu-3 cells with camostat mesylate was analyzed using the  
550 CellTiter-Glo® Luminescent Cell Viability Assay (Promega). In brief, Calu-3 cells grown to 50  
551 % confluency in 96-well plates were incubated for 24 h in the absence or presence of different  
552 concentrations (1-500 µM) of camostat mesylate. Next, the culture medium was aspirated and  
553 100 µl of fresh culture medium was added before an identical volume of the assay substrate was  
554 added. Wells containing only culture medium served as a control to determine the assay

555 background. After 2 min of incubation on a rocking platform and additional 10 min without  
556 movement, samples were transferred into white opaque-walled 96-well plates and luminescent  
557 signal were recorded using a Hidex Sense plate luminometer (Hidex).

558

### 559 **Analysis of SARS-2-S expression and particle incorporation**

560 To analyze S protein expression in cells, 293T cells were transfected with expression vectors for  
561 HA-tagged SARS-2-S or SARS-S or empty expression vector (negative control). The culture  
562 medium was replaced at 16 h posttransfection and the cells were incubated for an additional 24 h.  
563 Then, the culture medium was removed and cells were washed once with PBS before 2x SDS-  
564 sample buffer (0.03 M Tris-HCl, 10% glycerol, 2% SDS, 0.2% bromophenol blue, 1 mM EDTA)  
565 was added and cells were incubated for 10 min at room temperature. Next, the samples were  
566 heated for 15 min at 96 °C and subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting.

567 For analysis of S protein incorporation into pseudotyped particles, 1 ml of the respective  
568 VSV pseudotypes were loaded onto a 20 % (w/v) sucrose cushion (volume 50 µl) and subjected  
569 to high-speed centrifugation (25.000 g for 120 min at 4 °C). Thereafter, 1 ml of supernatant was  
570 removed and the residual volume was mixed with 50 µl of 2x SDS-sample buffer, heated for 15  
571 min at 96 °C and subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting. After protein transfer,  
572 nitrocellulose membranes were blocked in 5 % skim milk solution (5 % skim milk dissolved in  
573 PBS containing 0.05 % Tween-20, PBS-T) for 1 h at room temperature and then incubated over  
574 night at 4 °C with the primary antibody (diluted in in skim milk solution)). Following three  
575 washing intervals of 10 min in PBS-T the membranes were incubated for 1 h at room temperature  
576 with the secondary antibody (diluted in in skim milk solution), before the membranes were  
577 washed and imaged using an in in house-prepared enhanced chemiluminescent solution (0.1 M  
578 Tris-HCl [pH 8.6], 250 µg/ml luminol, 1 mg/ml para-hydroxycoumaric acid, 0.3 % H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) and the

579 ChemoCam imaging system along with the ChemoStar Professional software (Intas Science  
580 Imaging Instruments GmbH). The following primary antibodies were used: Mouse anti-HA tag  
581 (Sigma-Aldrich, H3663, 1:2,500), mouse anti- $\beta$ -actin (Sigma-Aldrich, A5441, 1:2,000), mouse  
582 anti-VSV matrix protein (Kerafast, EB0011, 1:2,500). As secondary antibody we used a  
583 peroxidase-coupled goat anti-mouse antibody (Dianova, 115-035-003, 1:10000).

584

### 585 **Infection with authentic SARS-CoV-2**

586 BHK-21 cells ( $1.6 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) were transfected with ACE2 and DsRed as a negative control.  
587 After 24 h, cells were washed with PBS and infected with  $8 \times 10^7$  genome equivalents (GE) per  
588 24-well of SARS-CoV-2 isolate Munich 929 for 1 hour at 37°C. Calu-3 cells ( $5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml)  
589 were mock treated or treated with 100  $\mu$ M camostat mesylate (Sigma Aldrich) 2 h prior to  
590 infection with SARS-CoV-2 isolate Munich 929 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.001 for  
591 1 h at 37°C. After infection, cells were washed three times with PBS before 500  $\mu$ l of DMEM  
592 medium was added. At 16 or 24 h post infection, 50  $\mu$ l culture supernatant was subjected to viral  
593 RNA extraction using a viral RNA kit (Macherey-Nagel) according to the manufacturer's  
594 instructions. GE per ml were detected by real time RT-PCR using a previously reported protocol  
595 (Corman et al., 2020).

596

### 597 **Sera**

598 The convalescent human anti-SARS-CoV sera (CSS-2 to CSS-5) stemmed from the serum  
599 collection of the national consiliary laboratory for coronavirus diagnostics at Charité, Berlin,  
600 Germany or the Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany. All sera were previously tested positive  
601 using a recombinant S-based immunofluorescence test (Buchholz et al., 2013). CSS-2 was taken  
602 from a SARS patient 3.5 years post onset of disease. CSS-3 and CSS-4 originated from a second

603 SARS patient 24 and 36 days post onset of disease. CSS-5 was collected from a third SARS  
604 patient 10 days post onset of disease. Rabbit sera were obtained by immunizing rabbits with  
605 purified SARS-S1 protein fused to the Fc portion of human immunoglobulin.

606

### 607 **Phylogenetic analysis**

608 Phylogenetic analysis (neighbor-joining tree, bootstrap method with 5,000 iterations, Poisson  
609 substitution model, uniform rates among sites, complete deletion of gaps/missing data) was  
610 performed using the MEGA7.0.26 software. Reference sequences were obtained from the  
611 National Center for Biotechnology Information and GISAID (Global Initiative on Sharing All  
612 Influenza Data) databases. Reference numbers are indicated in the figures.

613

### 614 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

615 One-way or two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Dunnett posttest was used to test for  
616 statistical significance. Only p values of 0.05 or lower were considered statistically significant ( $p$   
617  $> 0.05$  [ns, not significant],  $p \leq 0.05$  [\*],  $p \leq 0.01$  [\*\*],  $p \leq 0.001$  [\*\*\*]). For all statistical  
618 analyses, the GraphPad Prism 7 software package was used (GraphPad Software).

619

### 620 **DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY**

621 The study did not generate unique datasets or code.

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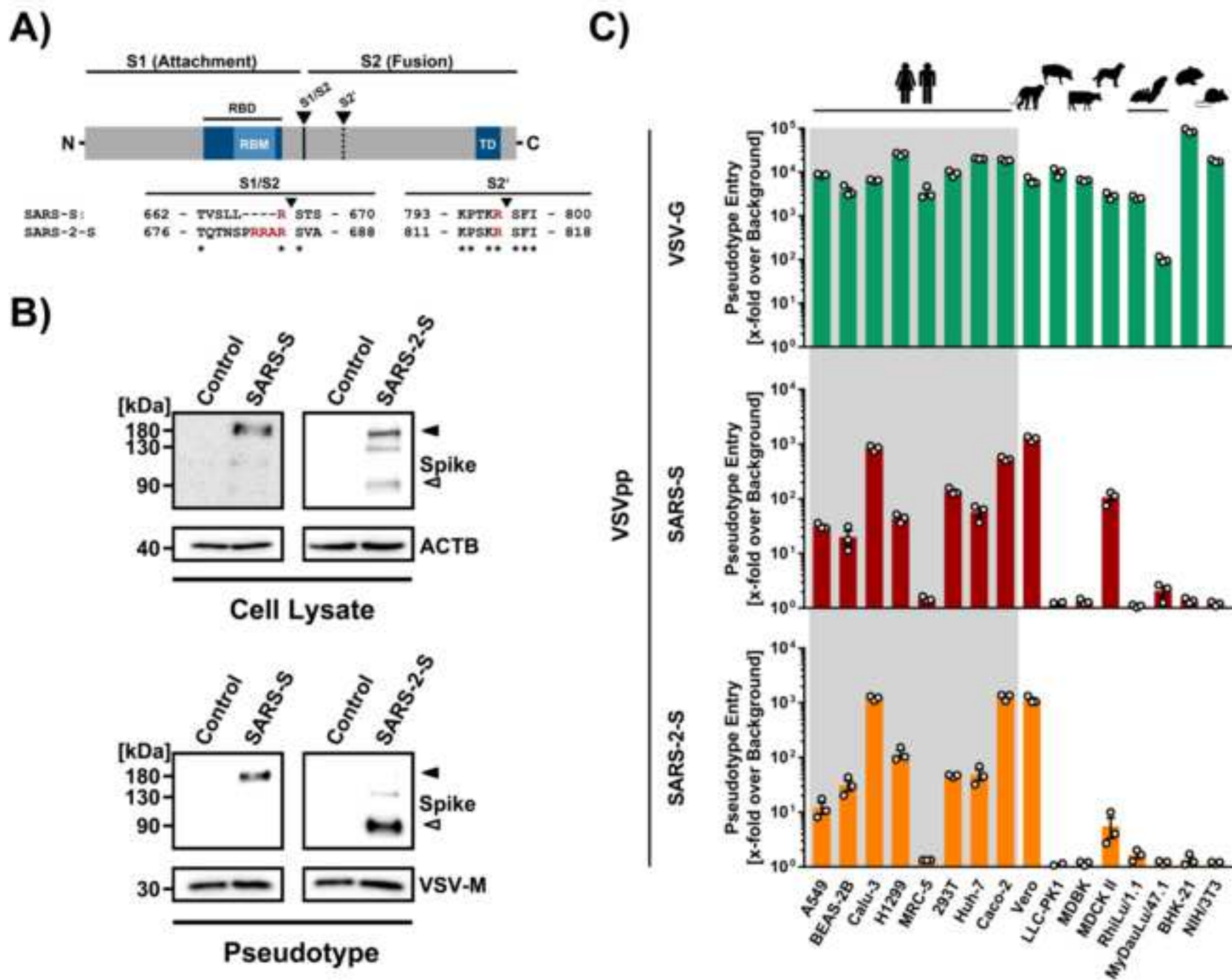
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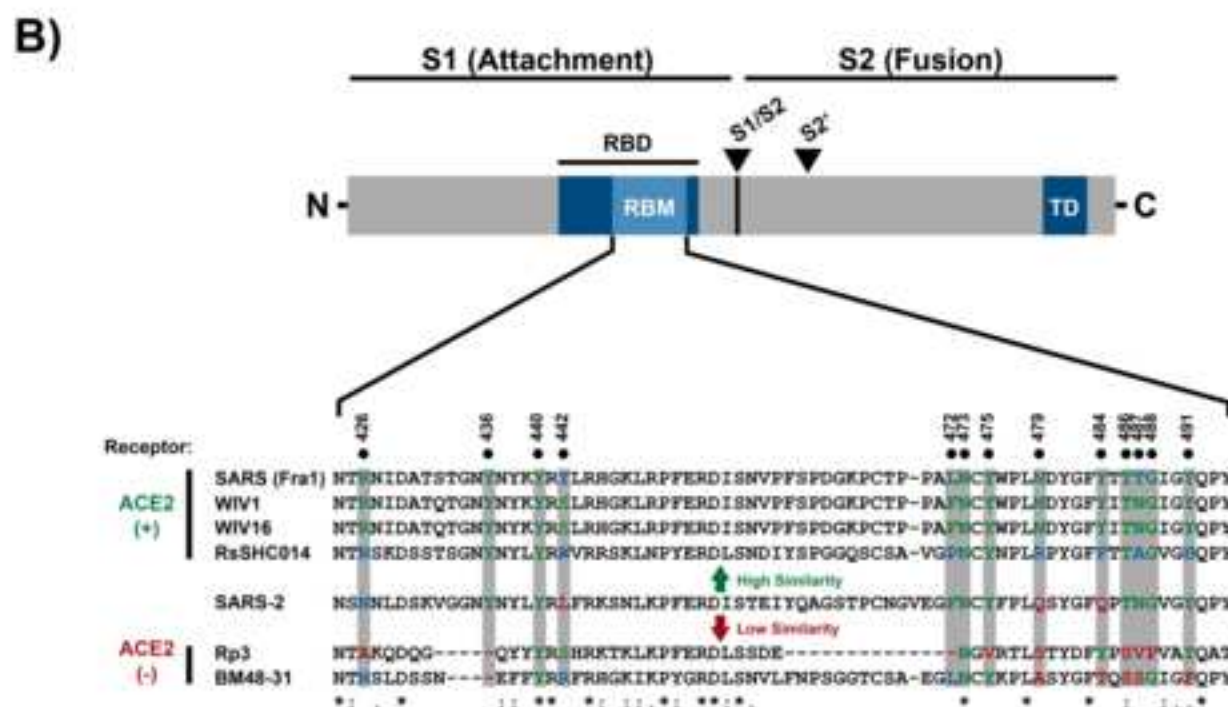
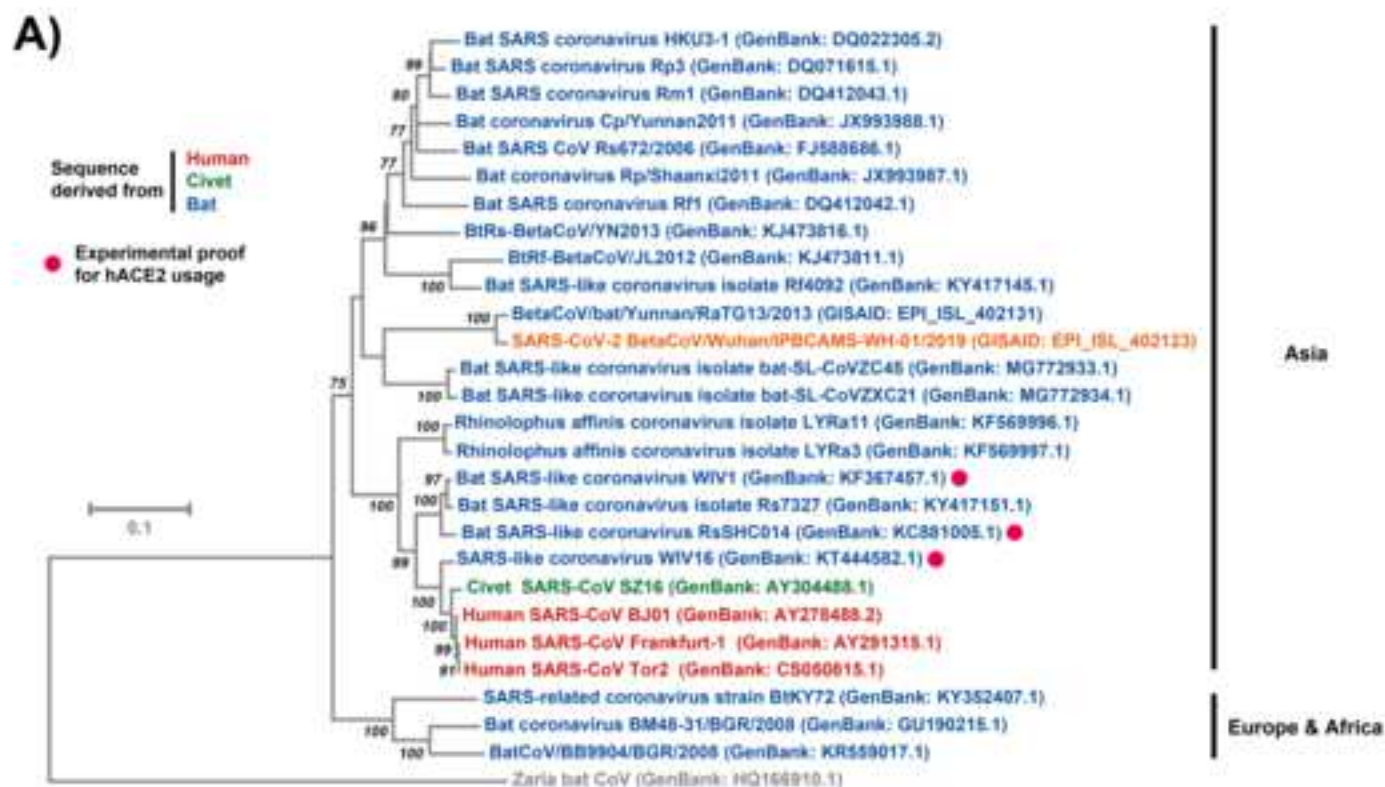
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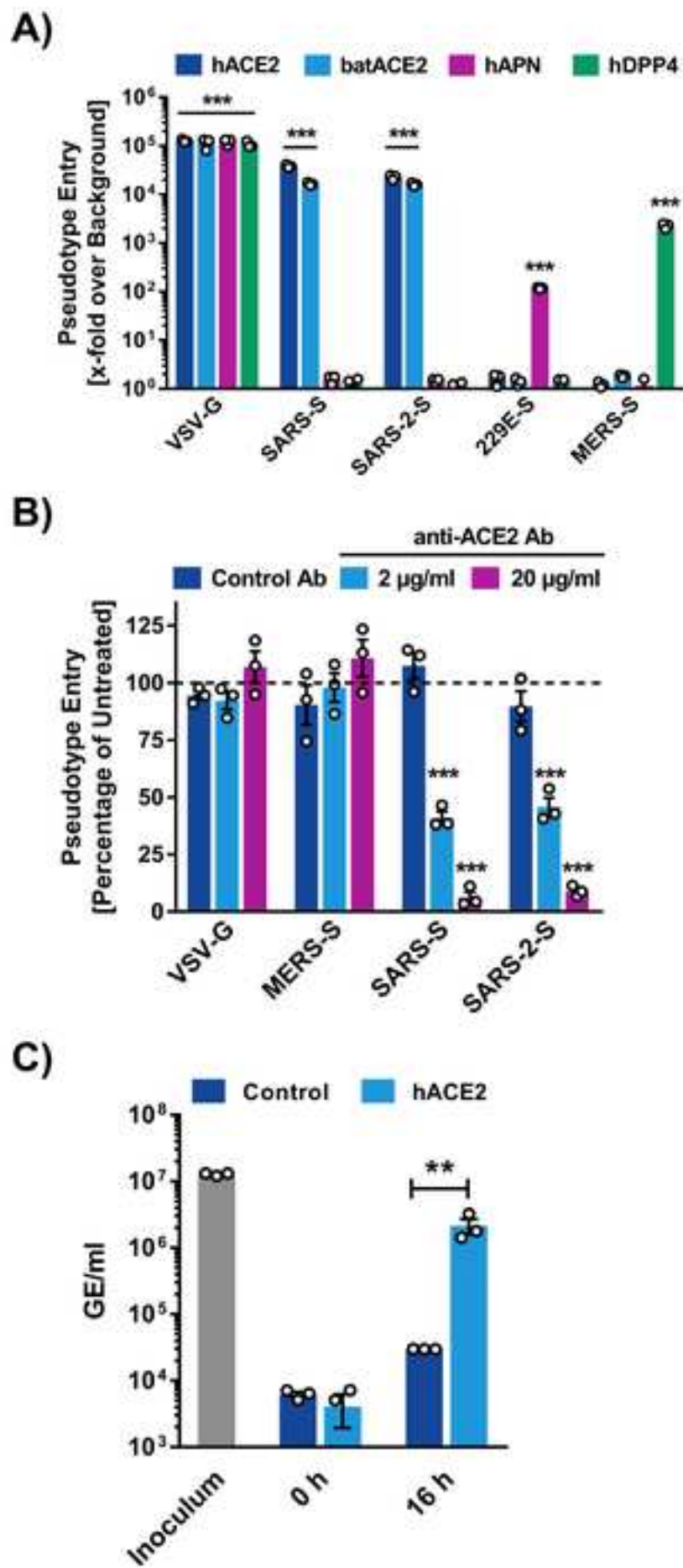
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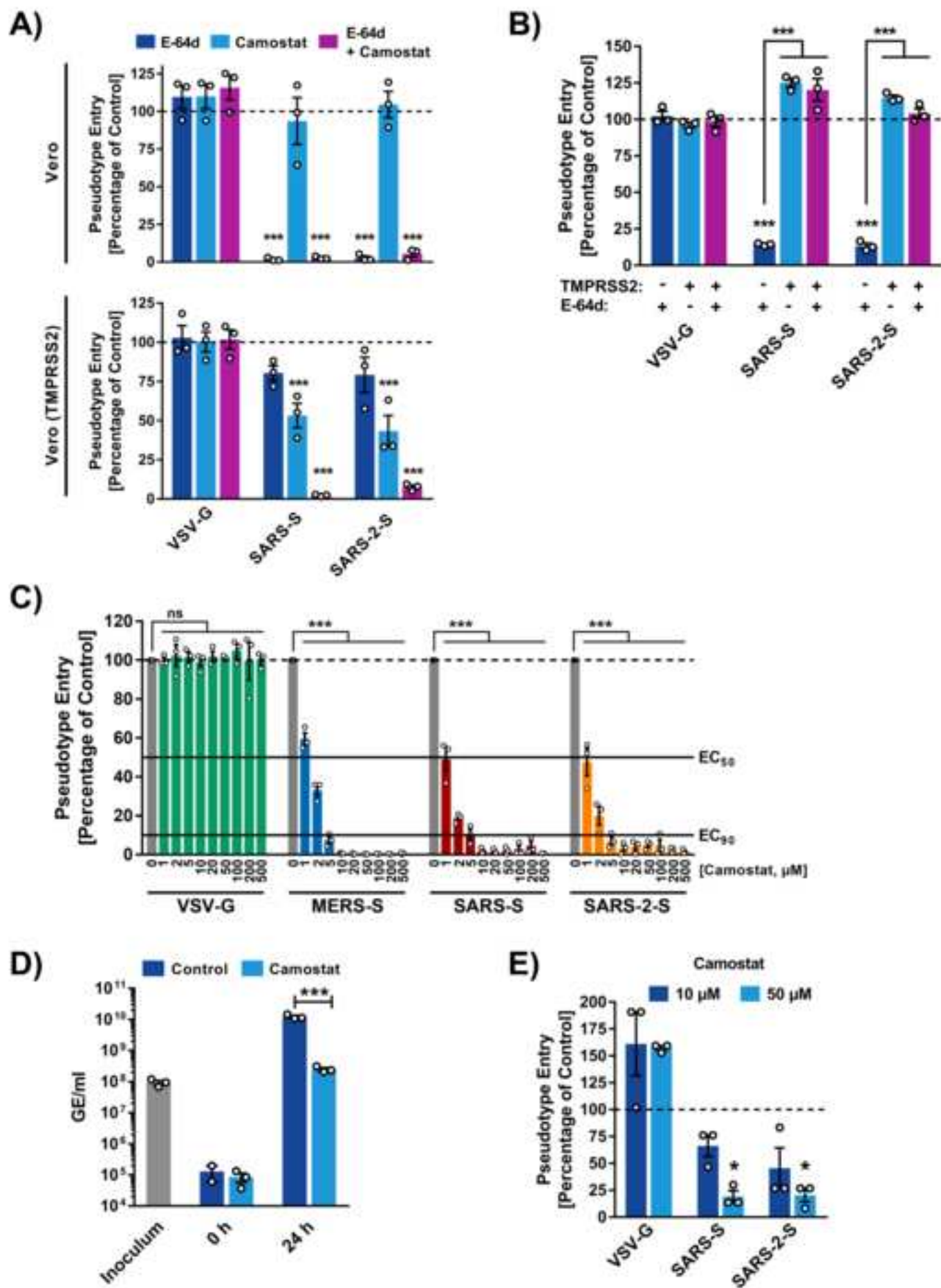
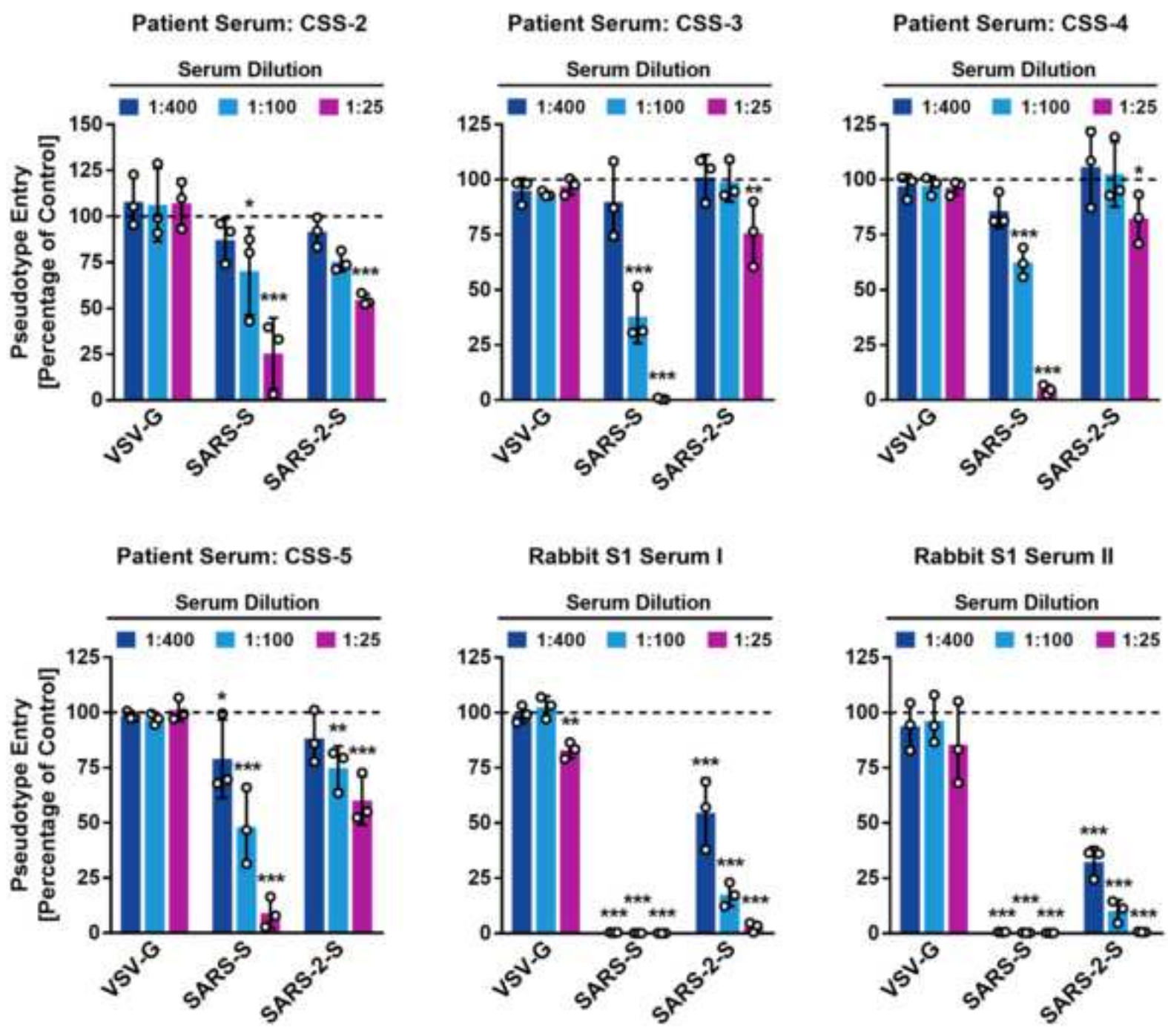
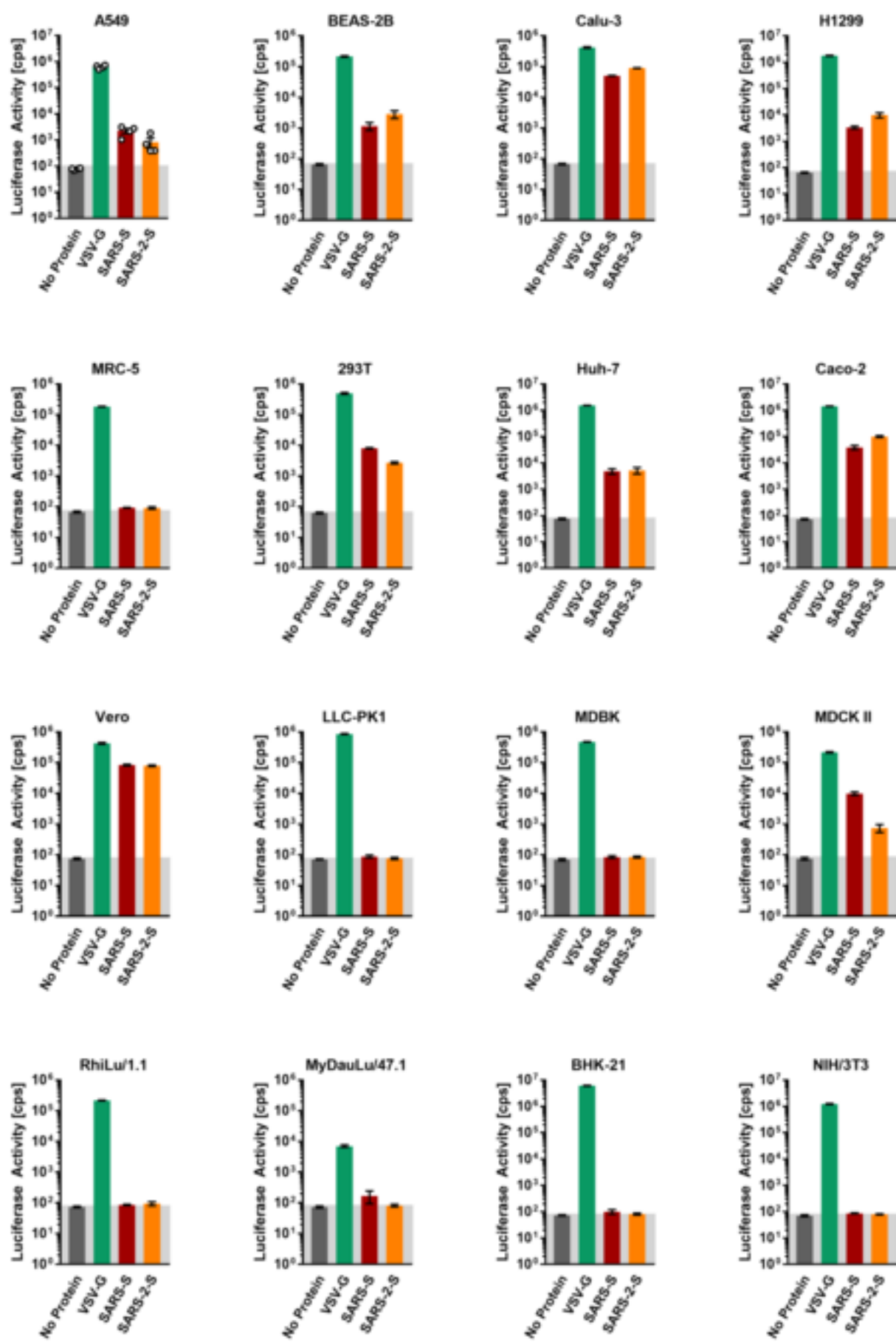


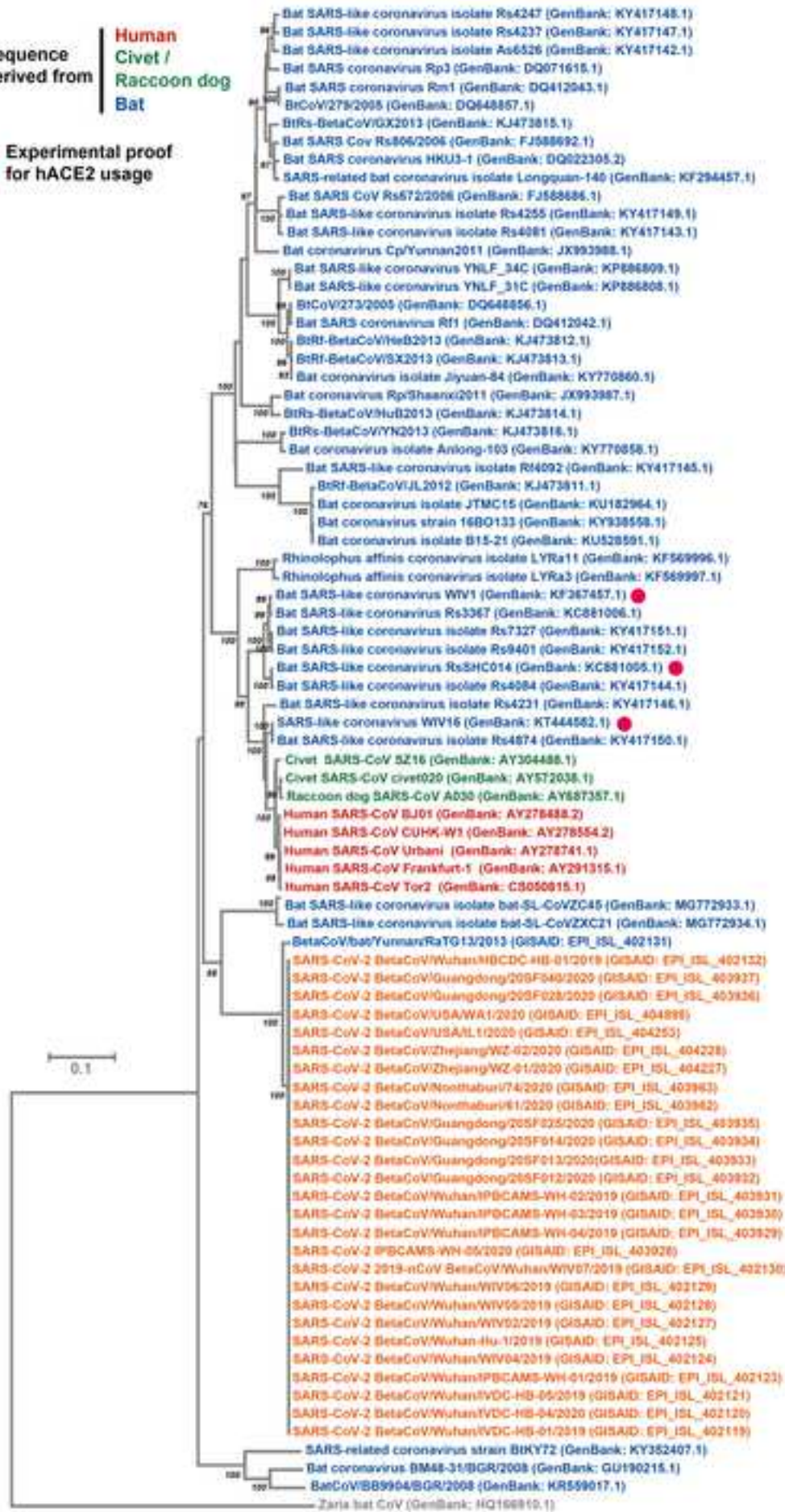
Figure 5





Sequence derived from  
**Human**  
**Civet /**  
**Raccoon dog**  
**Bat**

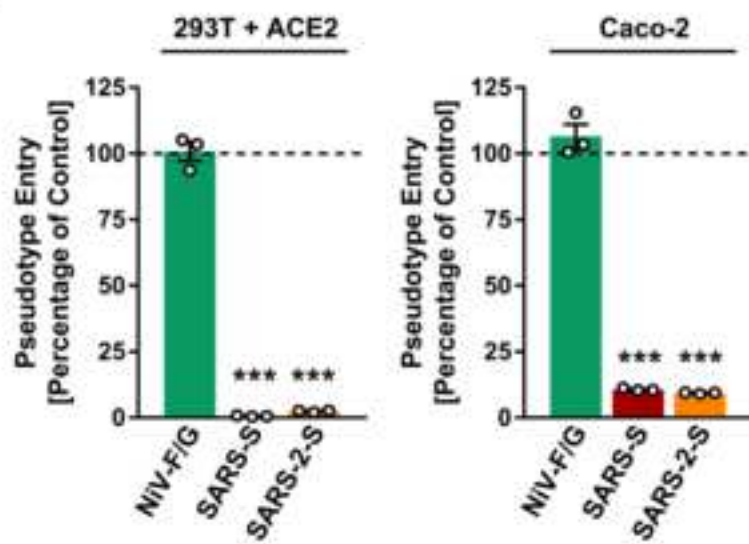
● Experimental proof for hACE2 usage



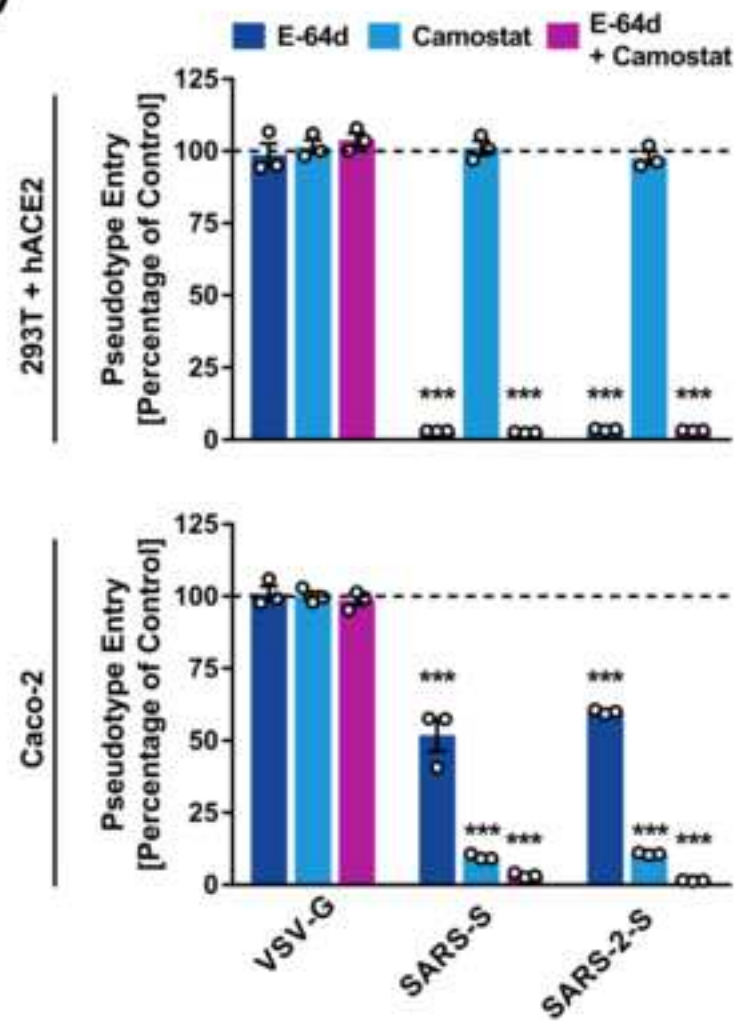
Asia

Europe &amp; Africa

A)



B)



C)

