

1 **Personalized neoantigen vaccine combined with PD-1 blockade**  
2 **increases CD8<sup>+</sup> tissue-resident memory T cell infiltration in**  
3 **preclinical hepatocellular carcinoma models**

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16

17 **Supplementary Methods**

18 **Cell line**

19 Murine HCC cell lines Hepa1-6 cells were obtained from ATCC.  
20 Luciferase-expressing Hepa1-6 (Hepa1-6-luc) cells were established through  
21 transfection of lentivirus expressing luciferase reporter gene (Shanghai Genechem Co.,  
22 Ltd) for 48h. Following lentiviral infection, 2µg/mL of Puromycin was used to screen

23 the stable expressed cells. Hepa1-6 cells and Hepa1-6-luc cells were cultured in  
24 Dulbecco's modified eagle medium (DMEM) medium with 10% FBS at 37°C with 5%  
25 CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### 26 **Neoantigen Identification and immunogenicity validation**

27 DNA and RNA were extracted from Hepa1-6 cells and C57BL/6 mouse tail  
28 tissue were subjected to whole exome sequencing and transcriptomic sequencing  
29 using Genomic DNA kit (Tiangen biotech, China) and EasyPure RNA kit (Transgen  
30 Biotech, China) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Those DNA samples  
31 were subjected to DNA library preparation and whole-exome capture using SureSelect  
32 XT Mouse All Exon Kit and RNA samples were subjected to RNA library preparation  
33 using VAHTS Stranded mRNA-seq Library Prep Kit. Then DNA and RNA library  
34 sequencing were performed by Berry Genomics (Beijing) on illumina Novoseq 6000  
35 (paired end, 150bp).

36 Mutation variants of Hepa1-6 cells were called using VarScan software with  
37 mouse genome mm10 as reference and only mutations with variant allele frequency  
38 (VAF) >10% and depth more than 20× were retained. Remaining variants were  
39 annotated with wANNOVAR to filter nonsynonymous mutations. To acquire high  
40 quality mutations for identifying neoantigen, mutations with less than 20 variant allele  
41 reads were excluded and then mutations with variant allele frequency higher than 60%  
42 were also discarded to filter out possible germline mutations.

43 All mutations were further validated at RNA level by bam2R algorithm from R  
44 package DeepSNV (v1.24.0), and mutations with  $\geq 20\times$  depth as well as VAF  $\geq 10\%$

45 in RNA-seq data and located in genes with adequate expression (TPM>1) were  
46 retained.

47 Immunogenicity of all mutations were evaluated using NetMHCpan binding  
48 affinity predictor, and mutations that produce 9-mer mutant peptides with IC50 <  
49 500nM to H2-K<sup>b</sup> allele were considered as candidate neoantigens. Then these  
50 candidates were assessed in C57BL/6 mouse tail tissues via DeepSNV, and mutations  
51 with a depth more than 20× and no variant allele detected in all three mouse tail  
52 tissues were further included in the downstream study.

### 53 **Neoantigen immunogenicity validation**

54 To identify potential neoantigen peptides, 26 neoantigen mutations from Hepa1-6  
55 cells were selected and 20 long peptides (17 amino acids in length) of them were  
56 successfully synthesized by the standard solid-phase synthetic peptide chemistry (> 95%  
57 purity, Genscript Biotechnology co., Ltd, China). For neoantigen immunogenicity  
58 validation, 20 neoantigen peptides were randomly divided into 2 pools (2μg/peptide)  
59 and then mixed with 50μg Poly(I:C) (Guangdong South China Pharmaceutical. co.,  
60 Ltd) for subcutaneously immunizing of male C57BL/6 mice at the lateral flank on day  
61 0, day 4 and day 8, respectively. Then, the mice were sacrificed on day 14 and the  
62 splenic T cells were freshly harvested by generating a single-cell suspension through  
63 passing the spleen through a 40-μm filter in RPMI-1640 medium (1%  
64 penicillin/streptomycin) and then isolated by Ficoll density gradient centrifugation.  
65 Erythrocytes were removed by 1 mL Red Blood Cell Lysis Solution (Gibco), and the  
66 resulting splenic T cells were washed twice by PBS and counted for ELISPOT assay.

**67 Enzyme-linked immunospot (ELISPOT) assay**

68 IFN- $\gamma$  secretion of mouse splenic T cells were detected by ELISPOT kit  
69 (Mabtech, 3321-4APT-10). Bone marrow derived-DCs (BMDCs) were obtained as  
70 follows: Femurs and tibias from 6-8 weeks old naive C57BL/6 mice were isolated.  
71 After removal of residual soft tissue and epiphyses, the marrow was collected by  
72 flushing the canals with PBS and centrifuged at 800g for 5min at room temperature.  
73 The precipitated cells were lysed with 1mL Red Blood Cell Lysis Solution (Gibco) for  
74 4 minutes, centrifuged at 800g for 5 minutes, and washed twice with PBS. At day 0, 2  
75 million cells/well were added into a 6-well plate and cultured with 2 mL RPMI-1640  
76 medium/well (10 ng/mL IL-4, 404-ML-010/CF and 20 ng/mL mGM-CSF, R&D  
77 systems, 415-ML-020/CF) to obtain BMDCs at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Half volume of  
78 medium was changed at day 3. At day 6, BMDCs were pulsed with neoantigen  
79 peptide pool (4 $\mu$ g in total, 0.55 $\mu$ g per peptide) or each peptide (4 $\mu$ g) for 48h. For  
80 ELISPOT assay, 3 $\times$ 10<sup>4</sup> BMDCs (pulsed with neoantigen peptide as described  
81 previously) were co-incubated with 3 $\times$ 10<sup>5</sup> splenic T cells or 3 $\times$ 10<sup>4</sup> sorted splenic  
82 CD8<sup>+</sup>/CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells in a multiscreen 96-well filtration plate (Mabtech, 3321-4APT-2)  
83 at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for another 48h. The plates were washed and subsequently  
84 incubated with detection antibody (R4-6A2-biotin, 1  $\mu$ g/mL, 100 $\mu$ l/well) for 2 hours at  
85 room temperature. The plates were washed again and then incubated with Streptavidin  
86 ALP (1:1000 dilution, 100 $\mu$ l per well) for 1 hour at room temperature. Subsequently,  
87 3, 3', 5, 5'-T etramethylbenzidine (TMB) substrate solution was added to each well  
88 and incubated for 4-8 min at room temperature before adding deionized water to stop

89 the reaction. Finally, IFN- $\gamma$  spot-forming cells were imaged and analyzed by  
90 ELISPOT Analysis System (AT-Spot-2200, Beijing Antai Yongxin Medical  
91 Technology Co., Ltd).

#### 92 **In vivo antitumor efficacy evaluation**

93 To establish subcutaneous HCC model,  $3 \times 10^6$  Hepa1-6 cells were transplanted  
94 subcutaneously into the armpits of mice for 10 days. The orthotopic HCC mouse  
95 model was established as follows: C57BL/6 mice were intraperitoneally anesthetized  
96 with 50mg/kg of pentobarbital. Then, the skin was prepared aseptically and midline  
97 laparotomy was performed after the abdomen was shaved. Afterwards, liver  
98 subcapsular inoculation with  $3 \times 10^5$  Hepa1-6-luc tumor cells mixed with the matrigel  
99 plugs. Finally, the abdominal muscle and skin were fully-layer sutured.

100 For neoantigen vaccine optimization and combinational treatment, subcutaneous  
101 HCC model and/or the orthotopic HCC model were randomly divided into 4~10  
102 groups (n=5) as indicated and then subcutaneously injected with identified neoantigen  
103 peptides (2 $\mu$ g/peptide) mixed with each adjuvant (Pam3CSK4: 10 $\mu$ g per mouse;  
104 Poly(I:C): 50 $\mu$ g per mouse; Mpl $\alpha$ : 25 $\mu$ g per mouse; Flagellin: 4 $\mu$ g per mouse; R848:  
105 10 $\mu$ g per mouse; CpG ODN: 10 $\mu$ g per mouse) or Poly(I:C) alone in 200 $\mu$ l volume on  
106 day 0, day 4 and day 8, respectively.  $\alpha$ -PD1 (BioLegend, 124328) was injected  
107 intravenously (50 $\mu$ g per mouse). Mice treated with PBS were used as control. Tumor  
108 burden in subcutaneous HCC model was monitored every 3 days by vernier caliper.  
109 Tumor burden in orthotopic HCC model was monitored every 10 days by IVIS  
110 Spectrum animal imaging system (PerkinElmer, USA) after intraperitoneal injection

111 of fluorescent substrates (D-luciferin potassium salt, Xenolight™) about 5 min, then  
112 the mice were exposed for 2s to obtain bioluminescence images.

### 113 **Immunofluorescence.**

114 Tumor isolated from mouse as mentioned above was formalin-fixed and  
115 paraffin-embedded. Sections of 4- $\mu$ m thickness were prepared on slides, and air dried  
116 at room temperature. Following blocking, slides were incubated with primary  
117 antibodies (rabbit anti-mouse CD4 mAb, Servicebio, GB13064-1), rabbit anti-mouse  
118 CD8 mAb (Servicebio, GB13068) overnight at 4°C and secondary antibodies (Wuhan  
119 servicebio technology CO., LTD) for 30min at room temperature. The  
120 immuno-stained slides (5 slides per mouse; 3 mice) were digitized at 10/40  
121 magnification (objective lens) and crop images were collected by fluorescent  
122 microscope (NIKON ECLIPSE C1).

### 123 **Immunohistochemistry.**

124 Tumor of each mouse was formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded. Sections of  
125 4- $\mu$ m thickness were prepared on slides, and air dried at room temperature. Following  
126 blocking, slides were incubated with primary antibody (rabbit anti-mouse PD-L1 mAb,  
127 Cell Signaling Technology, 64988) overnight at 4°C and secondary antibody (Fuzhou  
128 Maixin Biothech CO., Ltd) for 30min at room temperature. The immuno-stained  
129 slides (5 slides/mouse; 3 mice) were digitized at  $\times$ 10/40 magnification (objective lens)  
130 and crop images were collected.

### 131 **HE staining**

132 HE staining was conducted according to routine protocols. Briefly, after

133 deparaffinization and rehydration, organ sections including heart, liver, spleen, lung  
134 and kidney, were stained with hematoxylin solution (Servicebio, G1004) for 5 min  
135 followed by 5 dips in 1% acid ethanol (1% HCl in 75% ethanol) and then rinsed in  
136 distilled water. Then the sections were stained with eosin solution (Servicebio, G1001)  
137 for 3 min and followed by dehydration with graded alcohol and clearing in xylene.  
138 The HE-stained slides (5 slides/mouse; 3 mice) were digitized and crop images were  
139 collected.

#### 140 **Tissue processing for flow cytometry.**

141 Tumor specimens from mice were cut into pieces and then minced with surgical  
142 scissors at day 12 after initial treatment. Minced specimens were digested in 5 mL of  
143 RPMI-1640 medium, containing 1mg/mL collagenase type II (Sigma, C6885) and 2  
144 mg/mL DNase I (Sigma, DN25), at 37 °C for 1h with gentle stirring. After digest, an  
145 equal volume of cold flow buffer (PBS with 5% BSA) was added. Samples were then  
146 filtered through a 40µm cell strainer. The single-cell suspension was centrifuged at  
147 800g for 20 min and resuspended in flow buffer at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells per  
148 1mL. Tissue and mononuclear cells were isolated by using Ficoll density gradient  
149 centrifugation.

150 To isolate spleen cells, the spleens were excised and smashed with a syringe  
151 plunger. Mononuclear cells were isolated by using Ficoll density gradient  
152 centrifugation; afterwards, the single-cell suspension was centrifuged at 800g for 5  
153 min and resuspended in flow buffer at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells per 1mL.

154 For the lymph node lymphocyte isolation, the lymph nodes were mashed on a

155 40µm cell strainer with a syringe plunger. The single-cell suspension was centrifuged  
156 at 800g for 5 min and resuspended in flow buffer at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells per  
157 1mL.

158 **Flow cytometry and tetramer staining.**

159 For flow cytometry analysis, single-cell suspensions from tumor (as described  
160 above), spleen and lymph nodes were stained in PBS (0.5% BSA) for 30 min with  
161 following antibodies for 45 min, rotating in the dark, including anti-mouse  
162 CD69-APC mAb (eBioscience™, 17-0691-82), anti-mouse CD3-APC/FITC mAb  
163 (eBioscience™, 17-0032-82/11-0037-42), anti-mouse CD8-PE/FITC mAb  
164 (eBioscience™, 12-0081-82/11-0081-82), anti-mouse CD62L-PerCP/Cy5.5 mAb  
165 (eBioscience™, 45-0621-82), anti-mouse CD44-PE-Cyanine7 mAb (eBioscience™,  
166 25-0441-82), anti-mouse CD80-PE mAb (eBioscience™, 12-0801-82), anti-mouse  
167 CD86-PE-Cyanine7 mAb (eBioscience™, 25-0862-82), anti-mouse CD11c-APC  
168 mAb (eBioscience™, 17-0114-82), anti-mouse CD137-APC mAb (eBioscience™,  
169 17-1371-82) and anti-mouse CD279-PE-Cyanine7 mAb (eBioscience™, 25-9985-82).  
170 Flow cytometry and the fluorescence minus one (FMO) controls were performed on a  
171 flow cytometer (BD FACSVerser™, USA) and data were analyzed using FlowJo v.10.

172 The anti-mouse peptide-specific tetramer-PE was generated with QuickSwit™  
173 Quant Tetramer Kit (MBL international, TB-7400-K1) according to the  
174 manufacturer's instruction. Briefly, 50µl Tetramer (50µg/mL) was mixed with 1µl  
175 peptide solution (10nM) and 1µl proprietary Peptide Exchange Factor and incubated  
176 for 4 hours at room temperature in dark. The exchanging efficiency was evaluated by

177 a flow cytometer (BD FACSVerser<sup>TM</sup>, USA) as described in the manual and qualified  
178 peptide-MHC I-tetramers were stored at 4°C until use. For tetramer staining,  
179 single-cell suspensions from tumor (as described above) were blocked with mice  
180 Cohn fraction IgG (20µl per sample) for 5 min and then stained with 20µl of  
181 anti-mouse Tetramer-PE for epitopes (Ptpn2376-384 (RWLYWQPTL):H-2K<sup>b</sup>, MBL)  
182 with 30 min at room temperature. After tetramer preincubation, cells were stained  
183 with anti-mouse CD8-FITC mAb (eBioscience<sup>TM</sup>, 12-0081-82) for 20min, rotating in  
184 the dark. Flow cytometry was performed on a flow cytometer (BD FACSVerser<sup>TM</sup>,  
185 USA) and data were analyzed using FlowJo v.10.

#### 186 **Recurrence and metastasis rechallenge experiments**

187 The long-term immune memory efficacy of combinational therapy was studied  
188 by using orthotopic Hepa1-6-luc tumor bearing mice model as described above. Ten  
189 days after cured by NeoVAC plus α-PD1, all mice were injected with 1×10<sup>5</sup> of  
190 Hepa1-6-luc cells orthotopically again (naive mice were included as the control). Fifty  
191 days after the first treatment, all mice were injected with 2×10<sup>6</sup> of Hepa1-6-luc cells  
192 via tail vein. The Hepa1-6-luc tumor burden in C57BL/6 mice was monitored by the  
193 IVIS Spectrum animal imaging system as mentioned above.

#### 194 **Flow cytometric sorting**

195 Single-cell suspensions (as described above) underwent Fc block with  
196 RPMI-1640 containing 5% BSA for 10 min on ice. Samples were then stained with  
197 1:100 dilutions of anti-mouse CD3-FITC mAb, (eBioscience<sup>TM</sup>, 17-0032-82),  
198 anti-mouse CD8-PE mAb (eBioscience<sup>TM</sup>, 12-0081-82) for ELISPOT assay to test

199 which T cell subset was activated by each neoantigen peptide, anti-mouse CD45-APC  
200 mAb, (eBioscience™, 17-0451-82) for single cell RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) and  
201 anti-human/anti-mouse CD3-FITC mAb, (eBioscience™, 11-0037-42/17-0032-82),  
202 anti-human/anti-mouse CD8-PE mAb (eBioscience™, 12-0088-42/12-0081-82) and  
203 anti-human/anti-mouse CD69-APC mAb, (BioLegend/eBioscience™,  
204 310910/17-0691-82) for in vivo T cell cytotoxicity assay and adoptive cell therapy.  
205 Samples were stained in the dark for 30 min on ice, washed twice with flow buffer  
206 and resuspended in PBS with 0.5% BSA. Sorting was performed on a Fusion cell  
207 sorter (BD FACSAria™, USA). Tumor specimens were sorted in their entirety. All  
208 samples from a single mouse were sorted on the day of specimen collection.

209 **Single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) library construction and data analysis.**

210 CD45<sup>+</sup> T cells were sorted from HCC tumor in orthotopic HCC model treated  
211 with Neoantigen and/or  $\alpha$ -PD1 by FACS and subjected to scRNA-seq libraries  
212 preparation by using the 10×Genomics Chromium Single Cell 5' Library & Gel Bead  
213 reagent kit and Chromium Single Cell V(D)J Enrichment Kit. scRNA-seq libraries  
214 were prepared by using the 10×Genomics Chromium single cell 5' v2 reagent kit.  
215 scRNA-seq reads acquired from 10×genomics platform were aligned using Cell  
216 Ranger (v5.0.1, 10×Genomics) to reference genome (mm10) with default parameters.  
217 After mapping, qualified UMI reads and cells were further filtered with Seurat (v4.0.3)  
218 in R (v4.1.0) using following criteria: genes detected in less than 3 cells; cells with  
219 less than 500 genes detected; cells with more than 5000 genes detected; cells with  
220 more than 5% UMI reads mapped to mitochondrial genes; cells with corresponding

221 highest expressed gene count for more than 20% UMI reads.

222 After removing low-quality cells and likely doublets, a total of 5982, 8424, 7351  
223 and 11007 cells were retained for combinational therapy, neoantigen vaccine  
224 treatment alone,  $\alpha$ -PD1 treatment alone and control group respectively. To gain an  
225 intuitive comparison and visualization, 5900 cells of each group was randomly  
226 selected and included for following analysis. Then the gene expression levels were  
227 normalized using the NormalizeData function with the LogNormalize method. The  
228 t-SNE dimensionality reduction was conducted and Seurat functions FindNeighbors  
229 and FindClusters were used for cell clustering. Then cell clusters were annotated by  
230 SingleR package (v1.6.1) using the annotation from combining Immgen data set and  
231 MouseRNAseq data set. To further analyze the heterogeneity of T cells, T cell clusters  
232 (c1 and c2) were extracted and re-clustered using t-SNE algorithm in Seurat.

### 233 **Single-cell V(D)J analysis**

234 T-cell library was analyzed using Cell Ranger (v5.0.1, 10 $\times$  Genomics). The “vdj”  
235 command was used to generate sequence annotations with default parameters using  
236 reference refdata-cellranger-vdj-GRCm38-alt-ensembl-5.0.0 downloaded from  
237 10 $\times$ -genomics website. Then “filtered\_contig\_annotations.csv” of each sample  
238 produced by Cell Ranger was future loaded and reanalyzed by R package  
239 scRepertoire (v1.3.2). **CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell developmental trajectory**

240 The cell lineage trajectory of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell clusters and corresponding trajectory  
241 plot were derived by Monocle2. After extraction of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell clusters, genes with  
242 expression detected in less than 10 cells were removed. Then genes with q-value <

243 0.01 in “differentialGeneTest” function were used to order the cells in pseudotime  
244 analysis.

#### 245 **Cell-cell interaction analysis**

246 To identify potential cell-cell interactions between CD8<sup>+</sup> T<sub>RM</sub>s and other T cell  
247 clusters, we used Cellchat to identify significant ligand-receptor pairs. The  
248 ligand-receptor pairs with  $p < 0.05$  were considered as significantly interacted in two  
249 cell types.

#### 250 **Prognostic assessment using TCGA data**

251 RNA-seq and clinical data of HCC patients in The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)  
252 was downloaded from GDC data portal. 371 patients with available transcriptome  
253 data for tumor samples were included. Patients were stratified into two groups with  
254 median expression level of CD69\_CD8A two-gene signature, which was assessed by  
255 ssGSEA. Survival curves between two groups were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier  
256 method, and the log-rank test was performed to determine the significance.

#### 257 **Bulk RNA-seq data analysis**

258 For RNA-seq data of orthotopic tumor treated as described above, the raw  
259 sequencing reads were first preprocessed with fastp (v0.21.0) to remove unqualified  
260 reads. Remaining reads were aligned to mm10 mouse genome using STAR (v2.7.8a).  
261 To quantify the expression levels for each gene, TPM was calculated by RSEM  
262 (v1.3.0).

#### 263 **In vitro T cell cytotoxicity assay on Hepa1-6 cells.**

264 To assess the tumor-killing ability of CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells in vitro, orthotopic

265 HCC tumor-bearing mice were treated with NeoVAC plus and  $\alpha$ -PD1 as described  
266 above and were sacrificed 12 days after initial treatment. CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T  
267 cells in single-cell were sorted from fresh tumor excisions as described above. And  
268 then, CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells ( $3 \times 10^4$  cells per well) and Hep1-6 cells ( $1 \times 10^4$   
269 cells per well) were incubated for 48 hours in a 96-well plate with IL-2 (10ng/ml,  
270 R&D systems, MX2918061) at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The cells were collected and  
271 co-stained by anti-mouse CD3-APC mAb (eBioscience™, 17-0031-82), annexin V-  
272 FITC and Propidium Iodide at 1.5  $\mu$ g/mL, and detected the apoptosis of CD3-negative  
273 cells by using flow cytometer (BD FACSVerse™, USA). Culture medium were  
274 filtered and collected for ELISA analysis (TNF- $\alpha$ , Boster, EK0527; IFN- $\gamma$ , Boster,  
275 EK0375) according to the manufacturer's instruction.

#### 276 **In vivo T cell therapy experiment**

277 For in vivo T cell therapy experiment, orthotopic HCC model was constructed as  
278 described above and then tumor-bearing mice were treated with FACS sorted  
279 CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup> T cells and CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells ( $2 \times 10^5$  per mouse, mice in control group  
280 were treated with PBS). The T cells were sorted from tumor-bearing mice treated with  
281 combinational therapy (described above). Control mice receiving PBS treatment were  
282 included as the control. All treated animals received daily injections of  $1 \times 10^3$  IU IL-2  
283 infusion for 5 days. All tumor measurements were performed double-blinded by an  
284 independent investigator. The Hepal-6-luc tumor burden in C57BL/6 mice was  
285 monitored by the IVIS Spectrum animal imaging system (PerkinElmer, USA) as  
286 mention above.

287 **In vitro T cell cytotoxicity assay on PDCs.**

288 For PDC culture, fresh tumor excisions of HCC patients were obtained from  
289 surgical resection. The human primary hepatoma cells were isolated by collagenase  
290 perfusion and centrifugation as previously described. Briefly, the HCC tissues were  
291 washed several times in pre-cooled sterile PBS buffer (1% penicillin/streptomycin) to  
292 remove blood and connective tissue; GBSS mixed enzyme solution was used for  
293 digestion. The cells were centrifuged, and the supernatant was discarded. Cells  
294 viability and counting were performed using trypanosoma blue staining with cell  
295 filtrate, and cultured in a 96-well plate containing complete medium heavy suspension  
296 at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After the cell adheres to the wall, the cell morphology was  
297 identified.

298 To assess the tumor-killing ability of CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells on PDCs,  
299 CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells were sorted from fresh tumor excisions of HCC  
300 patients as described above. And then, CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> T cells (3×10<sup>4</sup> cells  
301 per well) and PDCs (1×10<sup>4</sup> cells per well) were incubated for 48 hours in a 96-well  
302 plate with IL-2 (10ng/mL, R&D systems, MX2918061) at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The  
303 cells were collected and co-stained by anti-human CD3-APC mAb (eBioscience™,  
304 17-0031-82), annexin V- FITC and Propidium Iodide at 1.5 μg/mL, and the apoptosis  
305 of CD3-negative cells was detected by using flow cytometer (BD FACSVerse™,  
306 USA)).

307 Institutional review board–approved written, informed consent was obtained  
308 from HCC patients to perform for analysis. All human sample studies were performed

309 in accordance with ethical regulations, and preapproved by the Ethics Review  
310 Committee of Mengchao Hepatobiliary Hospital of Fujian Medical University  
311 (KESHEN 2021\_110\_01).  
312

313 **Supplementary Figure legends :**

314 Figure S1. Flow cytometry gating strategies. A. Representative images of gating  
315 strategy and fluorescence minus one (FMO) controls to assess the percentage of  
316 infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells expressing PD-1 and 4-1BB in subcutaneous HCC model. B.  
317 Representative images of gating strategy and FMO controls to assess the percentage  
318 of matured DCs (CD11c+) in LNs. C. Representative images of gating strategy and  
319 FMO controls to assess the percentage of central memory CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (T<sub>CM</sub>, CD44<sup>+</sup>  
320 and CD62L<sup>+</sup>) in spleen. D. Representative images of gating strategy and FMO  
321 controls to assess the percentage of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells expressing PD-1 and 4-1BB in  
322 EILSPOT assay. E. Representative images of gating strategy and FMO controls to  
323 assess the percentage of infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells expressing PD-1 and 4-1BB in  
324 orthotopic HCC model. F. Representative images of gating strategy and FMO controls  
325 to assess the percentage of Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub> (RWLYWQPTL):H-2K<sup>b</sup> specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in  
326 infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells. G. Representative images of gating strategy and FMO  
327 controls to assess the percentage of Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub>:H-2K<sup>b</sup> specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in blood. H.  
328 Representative images of gating strategy and FMO controls to assess the percentage  
329 of CD8<sup>+</sup> T<sub>RM</sub>s in infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells and the percentage of Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub>:H-2K<sup>b</sup>  
330 specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T<sub>RM</sub>s. I. Representative images of gating  
331 strategy and FMO controls to assess the percentage of apoptotic cells induced by  
332 CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup> TILs. J. Representative images of gating strategy and FMO  
333 controls to assess the percentage of apoptotic cells induced by CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup> or  
334 CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup> TILs in PDCs. The corresponding FMO controls are represented in the

335 curve boxes.

336 **Figure S2. T cell subsets primarily activated by each neoantigen peptide.** A.

337 ELISPOT assay showing neoantigen specific-reactivity of splenic CD8<sup>+</sup> or CD4<sup>+</sup> T

338 cell subset against each neoantigen peptide.

339 **Figure S3. Immune response evaluation for adjuvant optimization.** A. ELISPOT

340 assay showing neoantigen specific-reactivity of splenic T cells from each group

341 treated with neoantigen peptides pulsed with different adjuvants against the pool of 7

342 neoantigen peptides pool. B. ELISPOT assay showing neoantigen specific-reactivity

343 of splenic T cells against 7 neoantigen peptides in mice treated with Poly(I:C) alone.

344 C. Total radiance changes of tumor burden in mice treated as indicated (n=5 for all the

345 groups) by bioluminescence imaging. Data collection of a group stopped when deaths

346 were observed in the group. Neo, neoantigen peptides. The statistical analysis was

347 performed with ANOVA analysis, Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

348 **Figure S4. Antitumor efficacy of each neoantigen peptide in orthotopic HCC**

349 **model.** A. Treatment timeline for each neoantigen peptide pulsed with Poly(I:C)

350 treatment in orthotopic HCC model. B. Tumor burden monitoring of each group (n=5)

351 treated with each single neoantigen peptides (Mapk3\_S284F, Lmf1\_F523V,

352 Samd91\_K752M, Traf7\_C403W, Dtnb\_K40T, Lbr\_A341P, Ptpn2\_I383T) or all 7

353 peptides pulsed with Poly(I:C) by bioluminescence imaging. Data collection of a

354 group stopped when deaths were observed in the group. Neo, neoantigen peptides. C.

355 Total radiance changes as indicated, n=5, The statistical analysis was performed with

356 ANOVA analysis. Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

357 **Figure S5. Exploration of the resistant mechanism to NeoVAC.** A. Flow cytometry  
358 showing the percentage of infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells expressing PD-1. Blue represents  
359 control and red represents TILs from NeoVAC treated mice. B.  
360 Immunohistochemistry showing the expression of PD-L1 in tumor tissues. Scare bars,  
361 100µm (10×), 40µm (40×).

362 **Figure S6. Tumor therapeutic effect of NeoVAC plus α-PD1 treatment in**  
363 **orthotopic HCC model.** A. Tumor burden monitoring of PBS, NeoVAC alone,  
364 α-PD1 alone and NeoVAC plus α-PD1 treated mice by bioluminescence imaging  
365 (n=5). B. Tumor weight of each group treated with PBS, NeoVAC alone, α-PD1 alone  
366 and NeoVAC plus α-PD1 (n=10) at the end of the experiment or the time mice died  
367 spontaneously. Results are shown as mean ± SD. C. The HE staining of tumors from  
368 one of the mice received different treatment as indicated. Scare bars, 20µm (2×),  
369 100µm (20×).

370 **Figure S7. In vivo safety evaluation of NeoVAC plus α-PD1 treatment.** A-M.  
371 Blood plasma analysis for ALB (albumin), TBIL (total bilirubin), ALT (alanine  
372 aminotransferase), AST (aspartate aminotransferase), γ-GGT  
373 (Gamma-glutamyltransferase), AKP (alkaline phosphatase), CK (creatine kinase),  
374 Urea, SCr (serum creatinine), Glu (glucose), TG (triglyceride), TCHO (total  
375 cholesterol) during treatment for all groups (n=5) as indicated, N. HE staining for  
376 organs including heart, liver, spleen, lung and kidney in mice treated with NeoVAC  
377 plus α-PD1, Scare bars, 100µm (10×), 40µm (40×). O. Body weight change during  
378 treatment for all groups (n=10) as indicated. The statistical analysis was performed

379 with ANOVA analysis, Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.

380 **Figure S8. Immune activation by NeoVAC plus  $\alpha$ -PD1 treatment.** A. Flow  
381 cytometry analysis showing the percentage of matured DCs (CD11c+) in LNs after  
382 treated with PBS, NeoVAC alone,  $\alpha$ -PD1 alone and NeoVAC plus  $\alpha$ -PD1 at day 12  
383 after treatment. B. Flow cytometry analysis showing the percentage of central  
384 memory CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (T<sub>CM</sub>, CD44<sup>+</sup> and CD62L<sup>+</sup>) in spleen at day 12 after treatment.  
385 C. The histogram of absolute number of Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub> (RWLYWQPTL):H-2K<sup>b</sup> specific  
386 CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells. The statistical analysis was performed with  
387 ANOVA analysis, n=3 for all the groups. Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.

388 **Figure S9. Long-term immune memory induced by NeoVAC plus  $\alpha$ -PD1**  
389 **treatment.** A. ELISPOT analysis showing the neoantigen specific-reactivity of  
390 splenic T cells against neoantigen pools from combinational therapy treated mice at  
391 the 90th day after treatment. B. The histogram of absolute number of  
392 Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub>:H-2K<sup>b</sup> specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in blood at 2 days after orthotopic recurrence  
393 and metastasis rechallenge. The statistical analysis was performed with ANOVA  
394 analysis, n=3 for all the groups. Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.

395 **Figure S10. Depiction of tumor immune microenvironment via scRNA-seq data.**  
396 A. The group distribution of all CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell (left) and CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell (right) clusters. B.  
397 Single cell gene set enrichment analysis of T13 cluster showing significant  
398 enrichment in genes response to alpha and gamma interferon. C. Scatterplot showing  
399 the correlation between the two gene signatures (Cd69 and Cd8a) and top upregulated  
400 genes from T13 cluster.

401 **Figure S11. The statistical analysis of the number of neoantigen-specific CD8<sup>+</sup>**  
402 **T<sub>RM</sub>s and the antitumor efficacy of CD8<sup>+</sup> T<sub>RM</sub>s.** A. The histograms of absolute  
403 number of Ptpn2<sub>376-384</sub>:H-2K<sup>b</sup> specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in infiltrating CD8<sup>+</sup> T<sub>RM</sub>s (n=5). The  
404 statistical analysis was performed with ANOVA analysis. Results are shown as mean  
405 ± SD. B. Total radiance changes of tumor burden in mice after adoptive CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup>  
406 or CD8<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup> T cells therapy by bioluminescence imaging, n=4. The statistical analysis  
407 was performed with ANOVA analysis. Results are shown as mean ± SEM. \*p<0.05;  
408 \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001; \*\*\*\*p<0.0001.  
409