

Supplementary Materials for

**AKR1B10 reprograms neutrophils by histone lactylation to foster immune evasion in KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> mutation  
colorectal cancer liver metastasis**

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## **Material and Methods**

### **RNA sequencing (RNA-seq)**

Tumor and cell samples used for RNA-seq were rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen immediately after harvest. RNA-sequencing and data analysis services were provided by Shanghai Applied Protein Technology Co. Ltd. Gene ontology enrichment analysis was implemented by the DEGseq R package. Gene ontology terms with corrected cutoff value of  $\log_2$  (fold change) > 1 and  $p < 0.05$  were deemed to be significantly enriched by differentially expressed genes.

### **Collecting and processing of the multi-omics sequencing data**

The single cell sequencing data of CRLM was collected from the sequencing database (HRR066493 and HRR066502). The bulk RNA-seq dataset (GSE159216) was got through the GEO database (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>). Further details regarding the methods used are provided in the supplementary information.

### **Cell proliferation assay**

We used Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8, Beyotime, C0038) to measure cell viability. Briefly, cells were inoculated into 96-well plates at a density of 3,000 cells per well, with 5 replicates in each group. Subsequently, the original culture medium was discarded at 24 h, 48 h and 72 h, and then 90  $\mu$ L of empty medium mixed with 10  $\mu$ L CCK-8 was newly added to each well. After the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 1 h, the absorbance was measured using an enzyme marker instrument at 450 nm.

### **Cell migration and invasion assay**

For cell migration assay, the wound-healing assay was employed for evaluation. Cells were inoculated in six-well culture plates. When the cell confluence reaches 90%, a 200- $\mu$ L pipette tip was used to make wounds. The cells were gently washed with PBS to eliminate any dislodged cells and cellular debris. After incubation with serum-free RPMI 1640 medium for 0 and 48 h, the distance of cell migration was recorded using a phase contrast microscopy. Cell invasion assay was assessed using matrigel-coated transwell membranes (8.0  $\mu$ m pores, Corning). The upper chamber membrane was initially coated and incubated with a 1:8 mixture of matrigel and RPMI 1640 medium for 4 h. Subsequently, the upper chamber was inoculated with 50,000 cells in 200  $\mu$ L of serum-free RPMI 1640 medium, while 600  $\mu$ L of medium supplemented with 10% FBS was added to the lower chamber. Following 48 h of incubation, the migrated cells were fixed under 4% formaldehyde for 30 min and subsequently stained with

0.1% crystal violet for 15 min. Then, images were taken with an inverted microscope and the number of infiltrating cells was counted using ImageJ software. Quantitative analysis entailed the acquisition of images from five randomly chosen regions. Each experimental trial was replicated at least three times.

#### **Conditioned medium (CM) preparation**

Upon the cells attaining 90% confluence, substitute the original medium with fresh serum-free RPMI 1640 medium and continue to culture the cells for 24 h. Subsequently, the culture medium was collected and centrifuged at  $2000 \times g$  for 5 min to remove dead cells. The supernatant was filtered through a  $0.22 \mu\text{m}$  filter and stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  for further research.

#### **Isolation of neutrophils and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells**

Mouse neutrophils were isolated from the bone marrow of 8 weeks BALB/c mice. In simple terms, the skin, muscle and fat on the femur and tibia of mice were removed completely. Then, the bone marrow cavity was rinsed with 27 G needle and RPMI 1640 medium to obtain the bone marrow single cell suspension. For human studies, the isolation of human neutrophils was derived from fresh peripheral blood of healthy blood donors. Subsequently, according to the manufacturer's instructions, neutrophils were isolated by density gradient centrifugation using the Mouse Bone Marrow Neutrophil Isolation Solution Kit (Solarbio, P8550) or Human Peripheral Blood Neutrophil Isolation Solution Kit (Solarbio, P9040). For CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, the MojoSort™ Human CD8 T Cell Isolation Kit (BioLegend, 480129) was used to isolation CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in human fresh peripheral blood according to the manufacturer's instructions.

#### **Neutrophil chemotaxis assay**

Neutrophil chemotaxis assay was assessed using transwell membranes with  $3.0 \mu\text{m}$  pores. A total of  $1 \times 10^6$  freshly isolated neutrophils in  $100 \mu\text{L}$  serum-free RPMI 1640 medium were added to the upper chambers, while CM from different tumor cells was added to the lower chambers. Following a 3 h incubation period, the cells that had traversed the membrane were fixed using 4% formaldehyde and subsequently stained with 0.1% crystal violet. The specific steps were the same as those of the cell invasion assay.

#### **Determination of lactate concentration**

Lactate concentration was measured using a Lactate Content Assay Kit (Solarbio, BC2230). Briefly, the tumor tissues and the collected CM were added with lactate extract and lactate assay buffer according to the corresponding steps to prepare the samples for the colorimetric lactate assay. The absorbance was immediately measured at 570 nm by spectrophotometric determination after sample preparation. Background absorbance was

subtracted during the statistical process.

### **Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Data Acquisition and Processing**

All data analysis was performed in R (version4.5.0). Raw reads were imported into the Seurat pipeline (version5.3.0) using the Matrix package (version1.6.5). Low-quality cells were filtered via the dplyr package (version1.1.4). Doublets were removed using scDblFinder (version1.22.0). Quality control metrics were visualized with ggplot2 (version3.4.4), and plots were integrated using patchwork (version1.3.2). The filtered count matrix was normalized using ScaleData. Top 2000 highly variable genes were identified via FindVariableFeatures and used for Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Non-linear dimensionality reduction (UMAP/t-SNE) was conducted and the UMAP/t-SNE plots with cluster annotations were generated in ggplot2. Post-clustering statistics (cell count/proportion per cluster) were computed.

### **Bulk RNA-seq Processing**

The methodology for analyzing immune infiltration from bulk RNA-seq data relies on computational deconvolution. This approach estimates the relative proportions of various immune cell types in a heterogeneous tissue sample based on its bulk gene expression profile.

### **Neutrophil Subclustering and Phenotypic Characterization**

Neutrophil subpopulations were identified through unsupervised clustering and genes signature scoring. Single-cell RNA sequencing data were processed using Seurat. Neutrophils were extracted from the complete dataset based on canonical marker expression and subjected to further subclustering analysis.

Four distinct gene signatures were calculated using the AddModuleScore function in Seurat:

Glycolysis/lactate production signature: *HK2*, *HK3*, *GAPDH*, *PFKP*, *ALDOA*, *PGK1*, *LDHA*, *LDHB*, *PKM*, *ENO1*;

Lactate transport signature: *MCT1* (*SLC16A1*), *MCT4* (*SLC16A3*), *MCT2* (*SLC16A7*);

Immunosuppressive signature: *CD274* (*PD-L1*), *PDCD1LG2* (*PD-L2*), *ARG1*, *IL10*, *TGFB1*;

Inflammatory signature: *IL1B*, *IL6*, *TNF*, *CXCL8*, *S100A8*, *S100A9*.

Neutrophils were subsequently re-clustered using the FindNeighbors and FindClusters functions (resolution = 0.5) based on the top 2000 variable genes identified by FindVariableFeatures. Dimensionality reduction was performed using RunPCA and RunUMAP (dims = 1:10). Neutrophil subtypes were classified based on median expression thresholds of the signature scores.

### Interaction analysis between tumor cells and neutrophils

Cell-cell communication analysis was performed to investigate ligand-receptor interactions between tumor cells (malignant and proliferative epithelial cells) and neutrophil subpopulations using CellChat (v2.1.2). The CellChat object was created using subsetting data containing tumor cells and neutrophils, with cell identities defined by previously annotated clusters. Key ligand-receptor pairs were specifically analyzed, which included: *CXCL8-CXCR2*, *CXCL8-ACKR1*, *CSF3-CSF3R*, *CCL2-CCR2*, *CCL3-CCR1*, *CCL4-CCR5*, *VEGFA-FLT1*, *VEGFA-KDR*, *SPP1-CD44*, *SPP1-ITGAV\_ITGB5* and *MIF-CD74\_CXCR4*.

Communication probability was computed using `computeCommunProb` with default parameters, followed by pathway-level analysis and network aggregation (`aggregateNet`). For *CXCL8*-specific analysis, receptor expression patterns in neutrophil subtypes were examined for:

Primary *CXCL8* receptors: *CXCR1*, *CXCR2*, *ACKR1*, *DPP4*;

Other chemokine receptors: *CCR1*, *CCR2*, *CCR5*, *CX3CR1*, *CXCR4*;

Pattern recognition receptors: *TLR2*, *TLR4*, *TLR8*, *NOD2*, *CLEC4E*;

Cytokine receptors: *IL1R1*, *IL1R2*, *IL6R*, *TNFRSF1A*, *TGFBRI*.

Interaction strength was calculated as the product of *CXCL8* expression in tumor cells and receptor expression in neutrophil subtypes, normalized to generate composite interaction scores. Visualization included network diagrams and bar plots highlighting the strongest *CXCL8*-receptor interactions across neutrophil subtypes.

### Metabolic characterization of neutrophil subpopulations

Comprehensive metabolic profiling was performed by calculating signature scores for four key metabolic processes using the Seurat `AddModuleScore` function:

Lactate uptake: *SLC16A1* (*MCT1*), *SLC16A3* (*MCT4*), *SLC16A7* (*MCT2*), *SLC16A8*;

Glycolytic capacity: *HK2*, *PFKP*, *PKM*, *GAPDH*, *LDHA*, *ALDOA*, *PGK1*, *PGAM1*, *ENO1*;

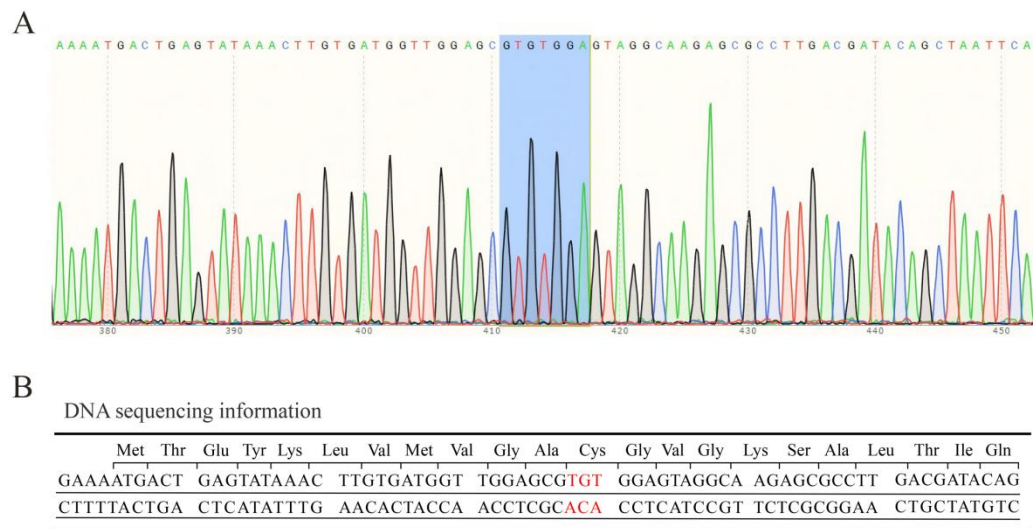
Energy metabolism: *ATP5A1*, *ATP5B*, *COX5A*, *CYCS*, *NDUFA1*, *SDHA*, *UQCRC1*.

### PD-1/PD-L1 axis analysis between CD8<sup>+</sup> T Cells and neutrophils

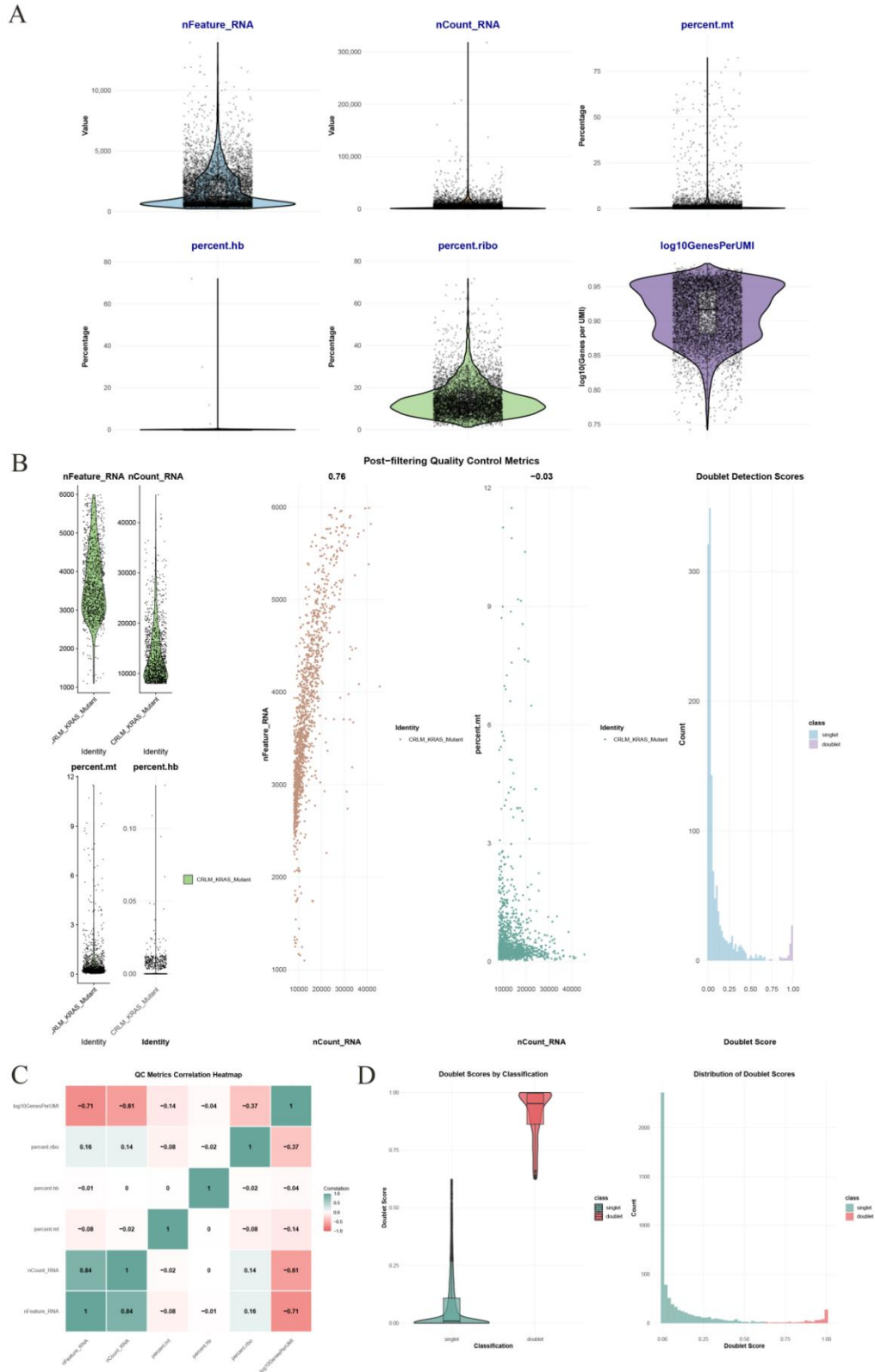
The immunosuppressive potential of neutrophil subpopulations was evaluated through PD-1/PD-L1 axis

analysis with CD8<sup>+</sup> cytotoxic T lymphocytes. CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were identified as "CD8<sup>+</sup> Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes" (cluster 14) based on expression of *CD8A*, *CD8B*, *GZMB*, *PRF1* and so on.

PD-L1 (CD274) expression patterns across neutrophil subpopulations were analyzed. Interaction potential was assessed by creating a PD-1/PD-L1 interaction matrix, with interaction strength calculated as the product of PD-1 expression in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells and PD-L1 expression in neutrophil subpopulations. Network visualization highlighted the PD-1/PD-L1 interactions between CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells and neutrophil subpopulations, with edge weights proportional to interaction strength.



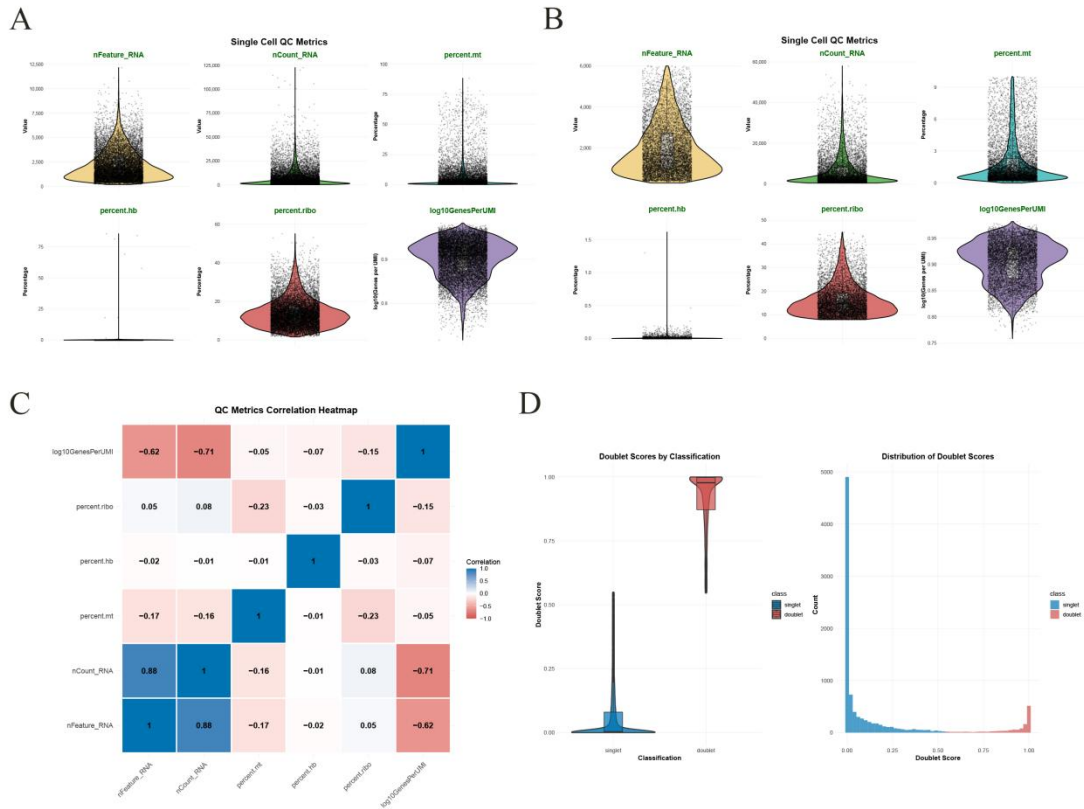
**Figure S1. The sequencing verification successfully obtained the homozygous CT26 cells with KRAS p.G12C mutation.**



**Figure S2. Single-cell data quality control and cell filtration for KRAS mutation CRLM.**

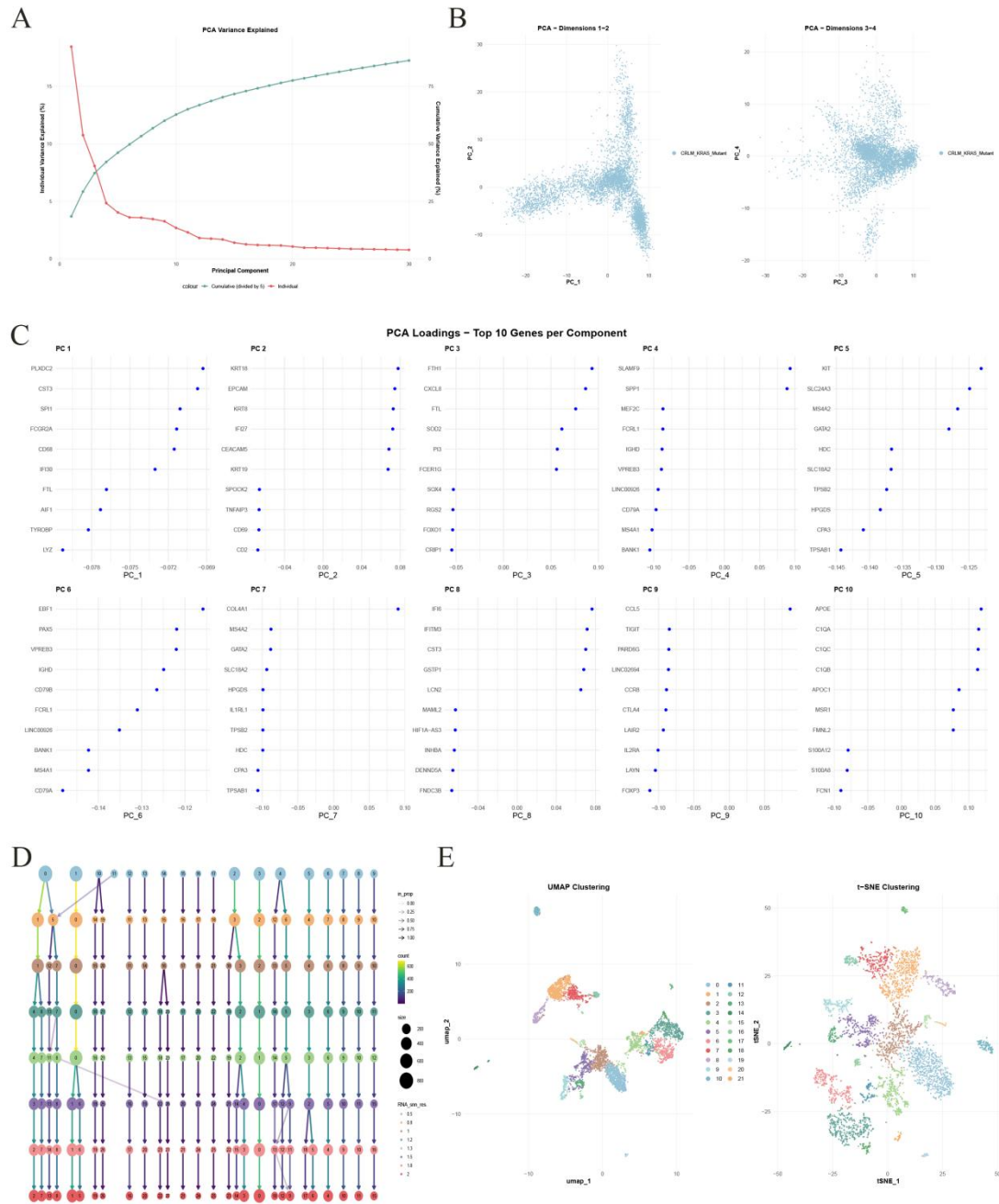
(A) Pre-filtering quality control metrics. (B) Post-filtering quality control metrics. (C) Quality control metrics correlation heatmap. (D) Apply the scDbtFinder to define and identify the dual states of cells and filter out the

unqualified detection parts.



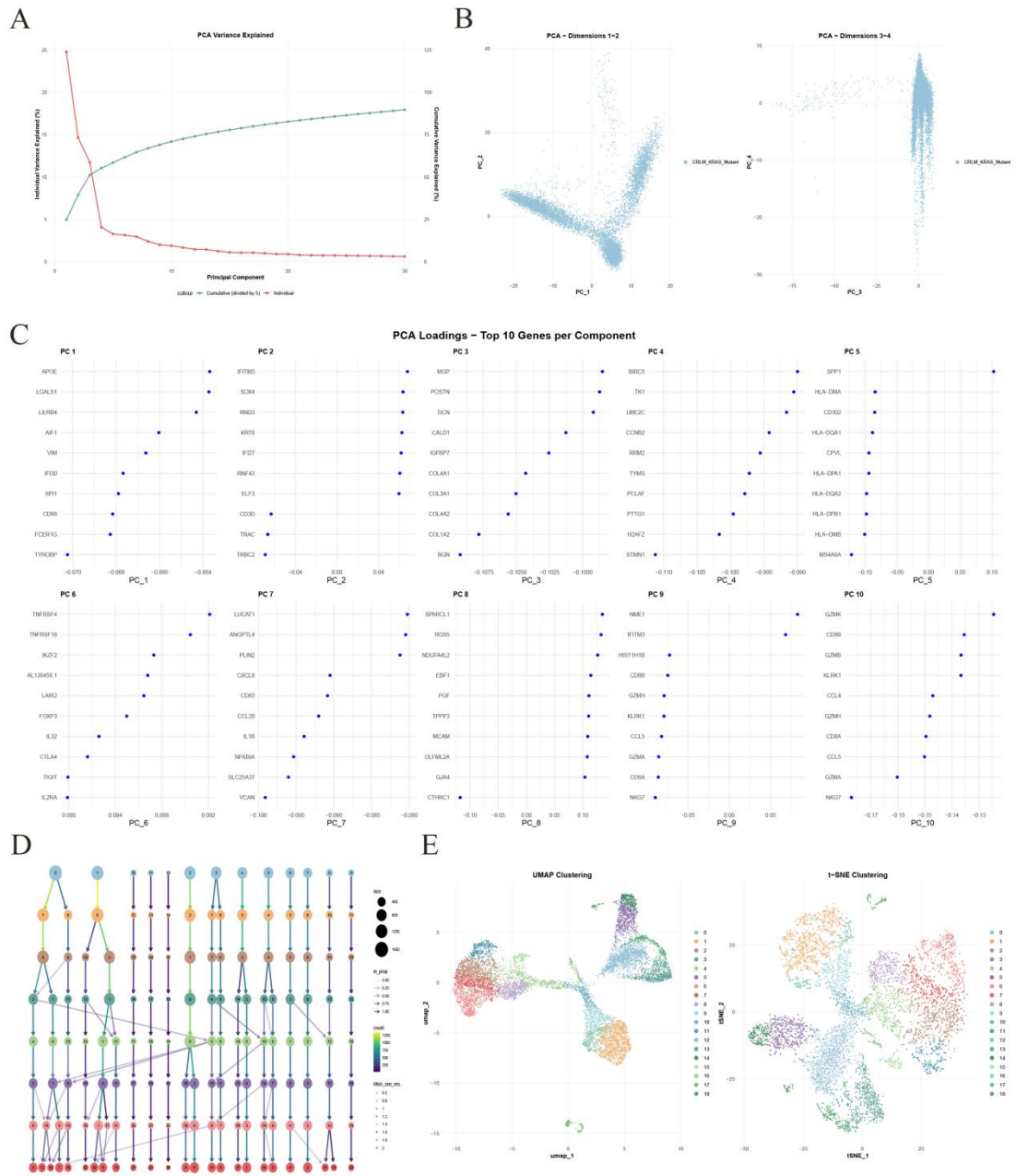
**Figure S3. Single-cell data quality control and cell filtration for wild-type CRLM.**

(A) Pre-filtering quality control metrics. (B) Post-filtering quality control metrics. (C) Quality control metrics correlation heatmap. (D) Apply the scDblFinder to define and identify the dual states of cells and filter out the unqualified detection parts.



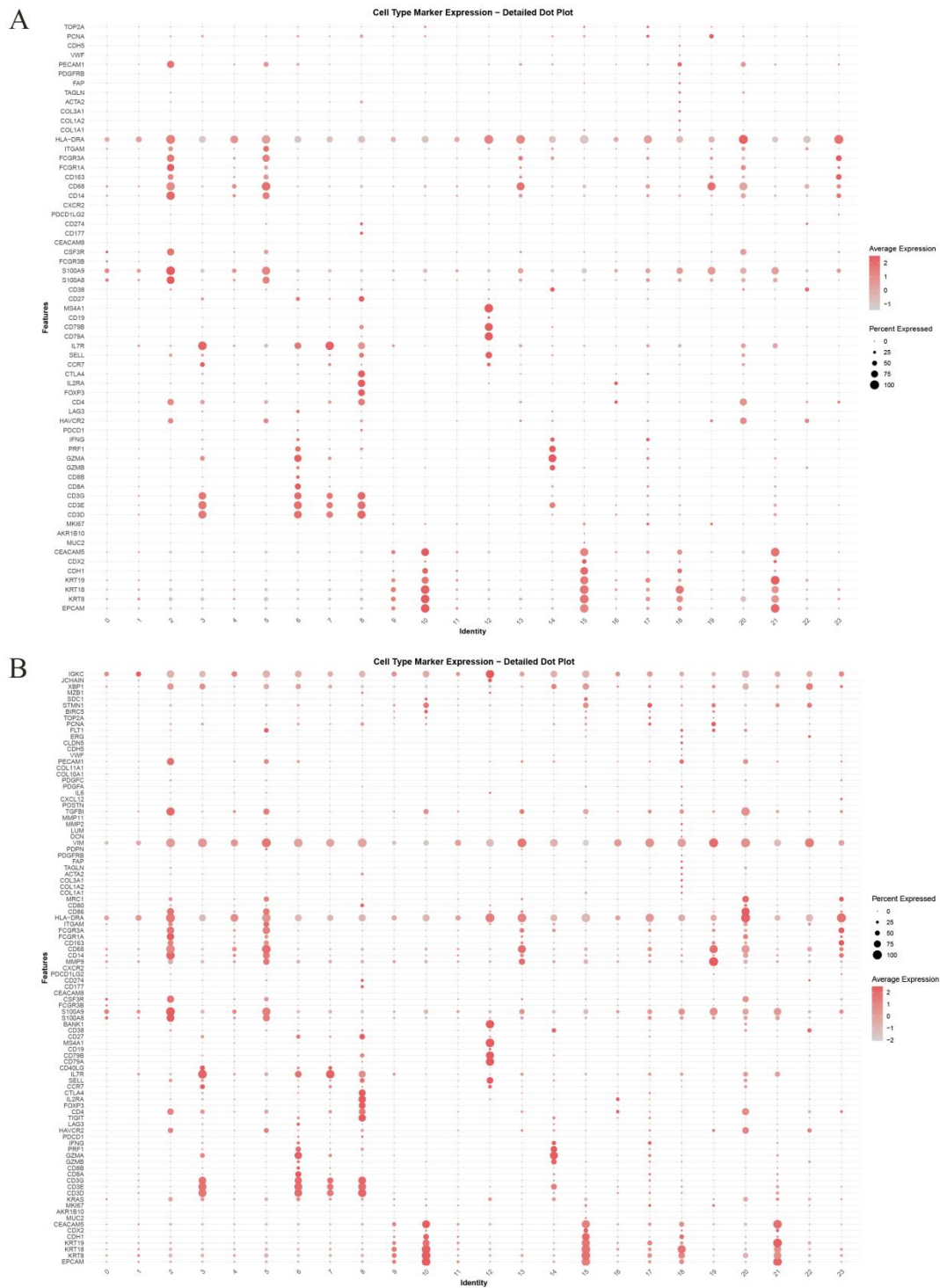
**Figure S4. Cell clustering results based on KRAS mutation CRLM single-cell data.**

(A-C) The results of determining the optimal clustering parameters by applying the principal component analysis (PCA) algorithm. (D) Dynamic clustering tree represented the process of clustering of cell clusters as the resolution changes. (E) UMAP and TSNE illustrated the comparison of the distribution of different cell clusters.

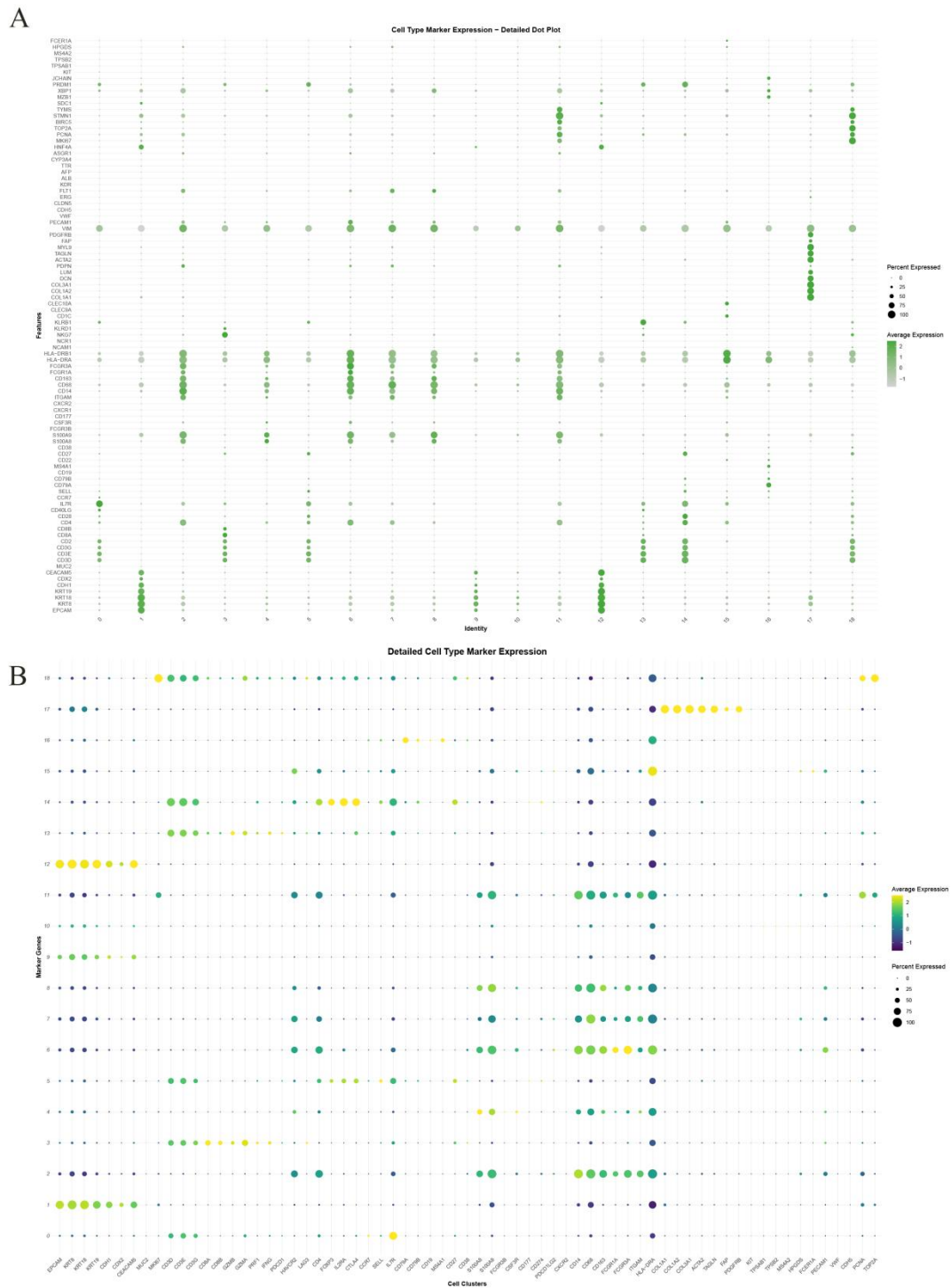


**Figure S5. Cell clustering results based on wild-type CRLM single-cell data.**

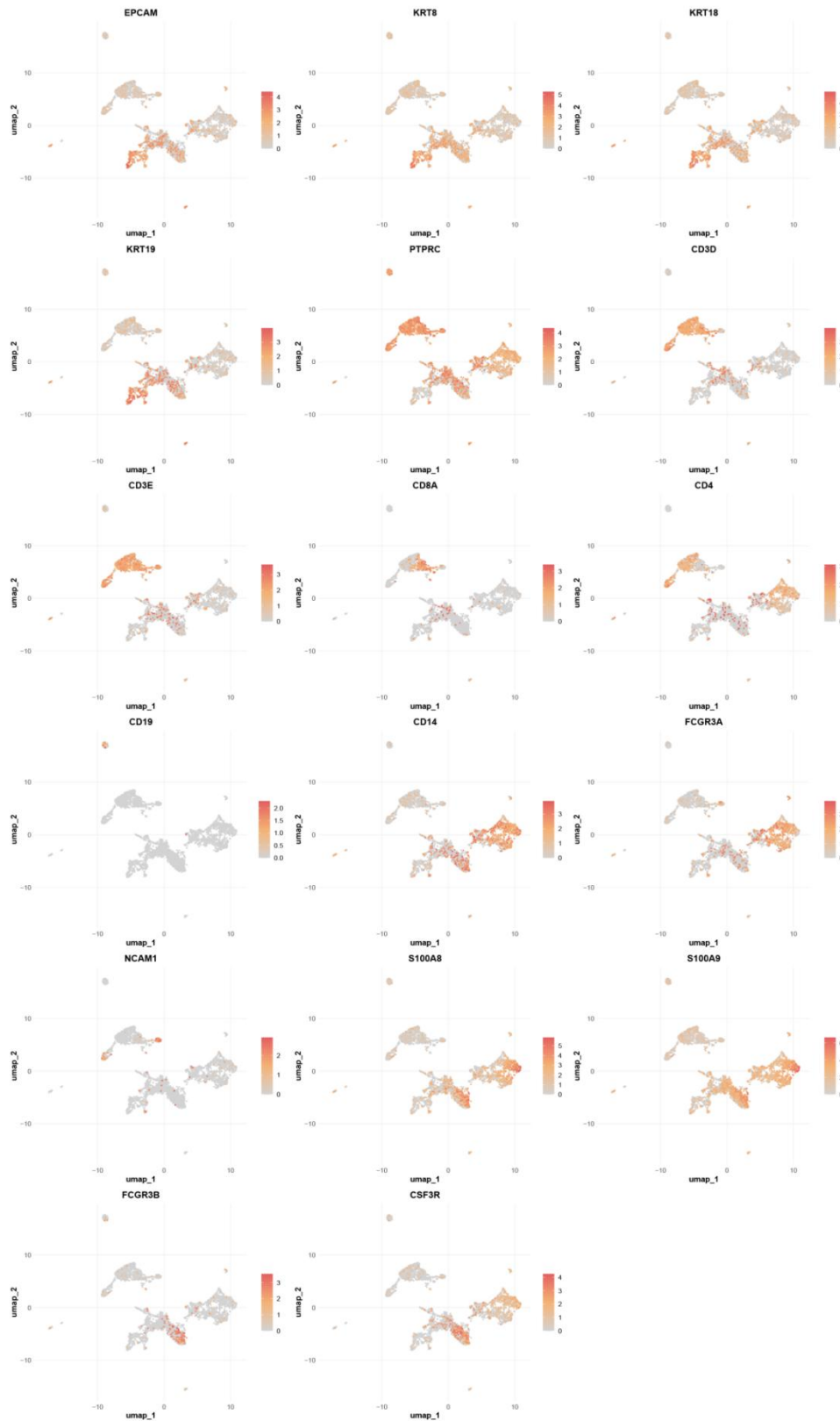
(A-C) The results of determining the optimal clustering parameters by applying the principal component analysis (PCA) algorithm. (D) Dynamic clustering tree represented the process of clustering of cell clusters as the resolution changes. (E) UMAP and TSNE illustrated the comparison of the distribution of different cell clusters.



**Figure S6. Annotation of different cell subtypes from KRAS mutation CRLM predicted by the SingleR algorithm (A) and marker genes (B).**



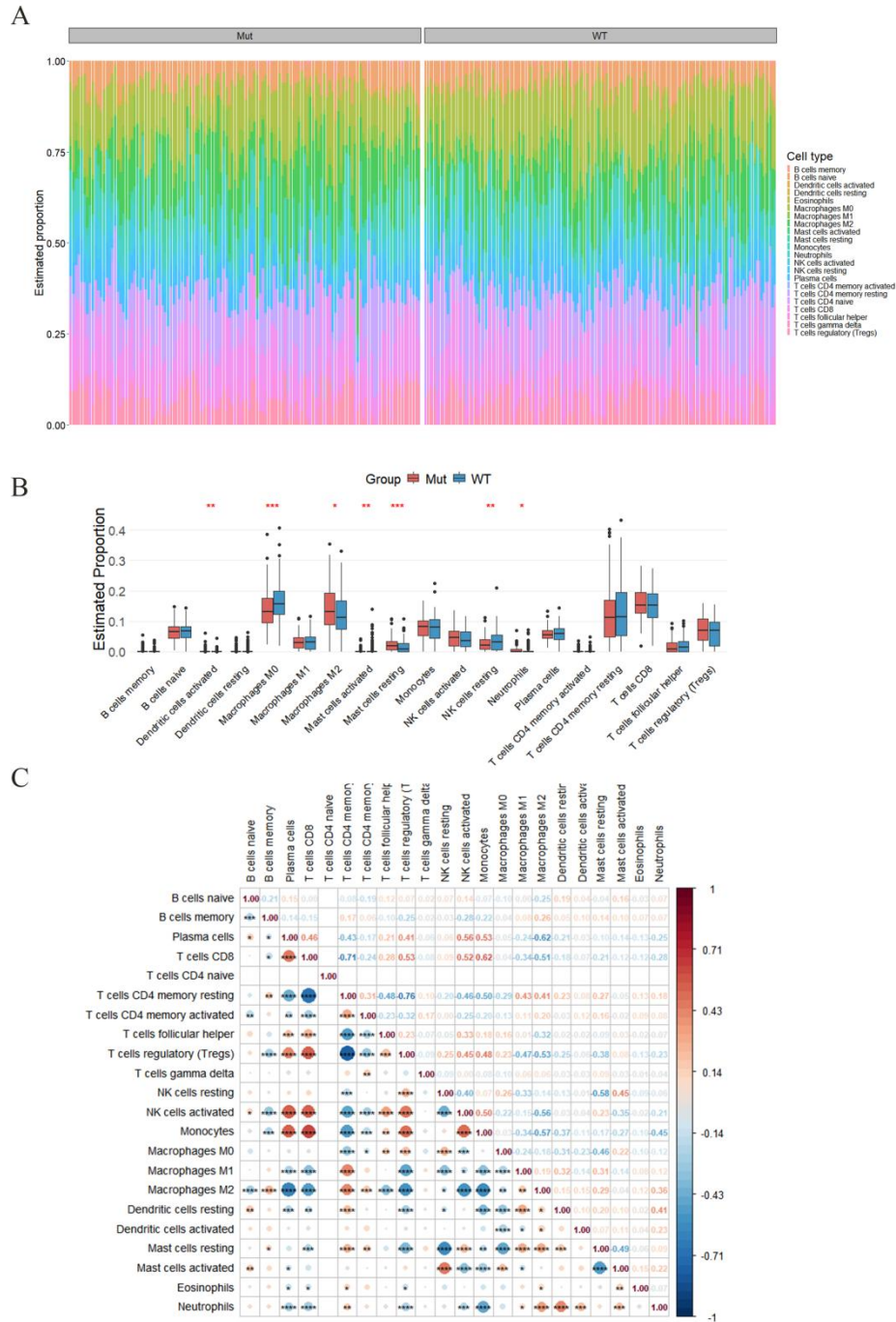
**Figure S7. Annotation of different cell subtypes from wild-type CRLM predicted by the SingleR algorithm (A) and marker genes (B).**



**Figure S8.** Umap showed the expression and distribution of marker genes in each single cell cluster from the **KRAS mutation CRLM sample.**

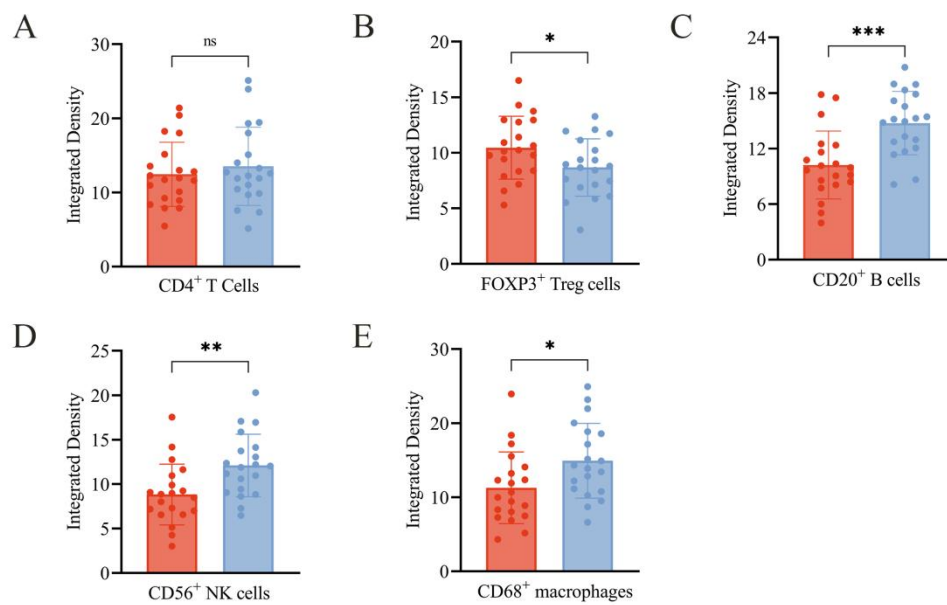


**Figure S9.** Umap showed the expression and distribution of marker genes in each single cell cluster from the wild-type CRLM sample.



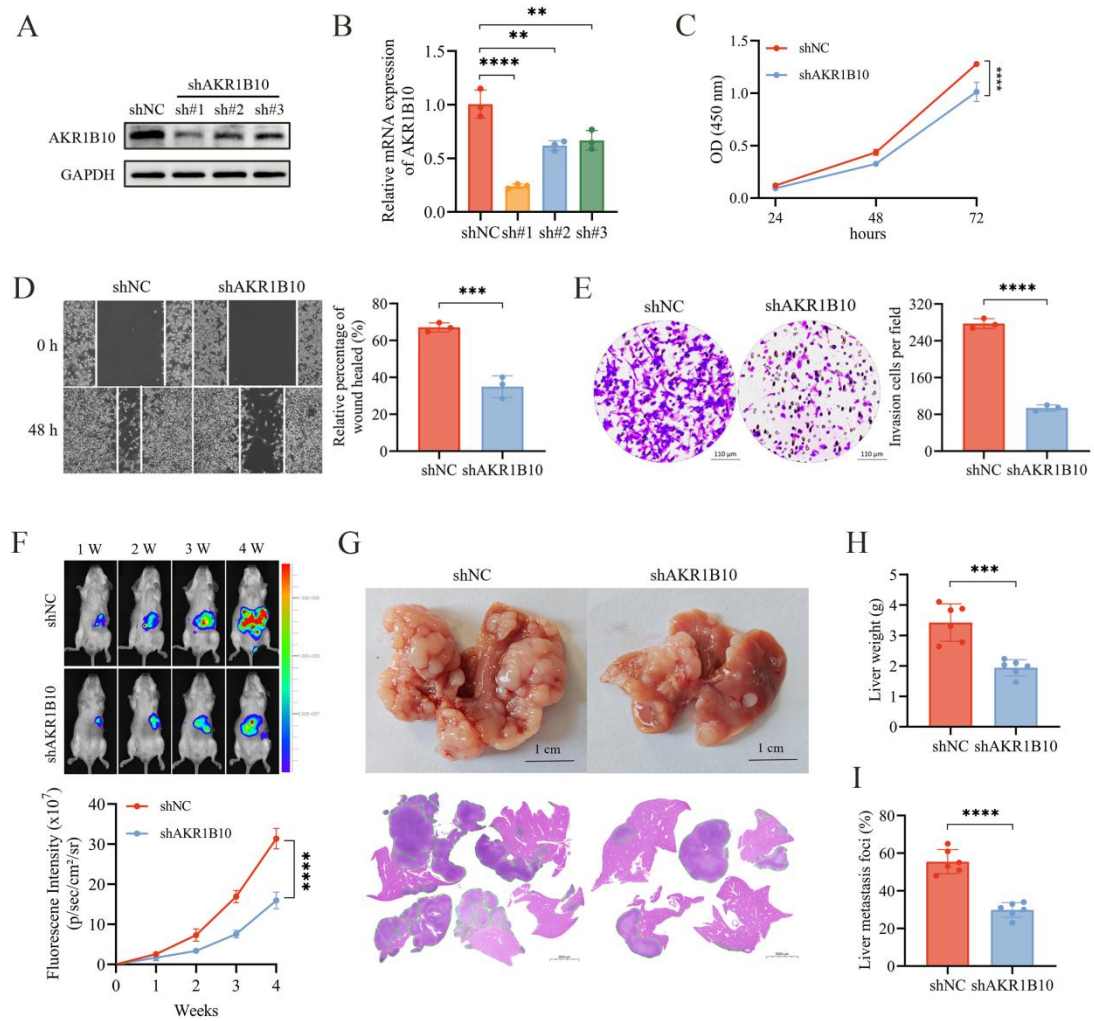
**Figure S10. Comparative analysis of differences in immune infiltration from bulk RNA-seq data.**

(A) The corresponding proportion of the degree of immune cell infiltration within each individual. (B) Comparison of immune infiltration differences between the KRAS mutation group and the wild-type group samples based on Bulk RNA Seq. (C) Pearson correlation analysis among immune cell infiltration scores within the KRAS mutation group samples.



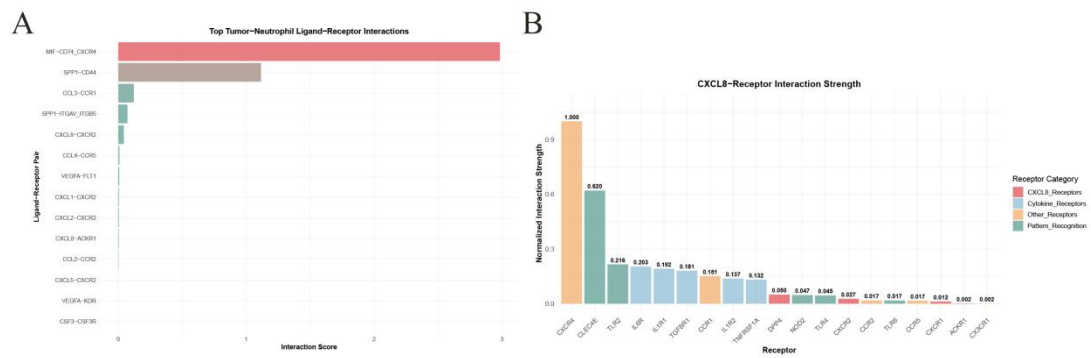
**Figure S11. Quantification of major immune cells density in KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> mutation and wild-type CRLM cases.**

(A-E) Immune cells mainly include CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (A), FOXP3<sup>+</sup> Treg cells (B), CD20<sup>+</sup> B cells (C), CD56<sup>+</sup> NK cells (D) and CD68<sup>+</sup> macrophages (E).



**Figure S12. The knockdown of AKR1B10 alleviated the progression of the KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> mutation CRLM.**

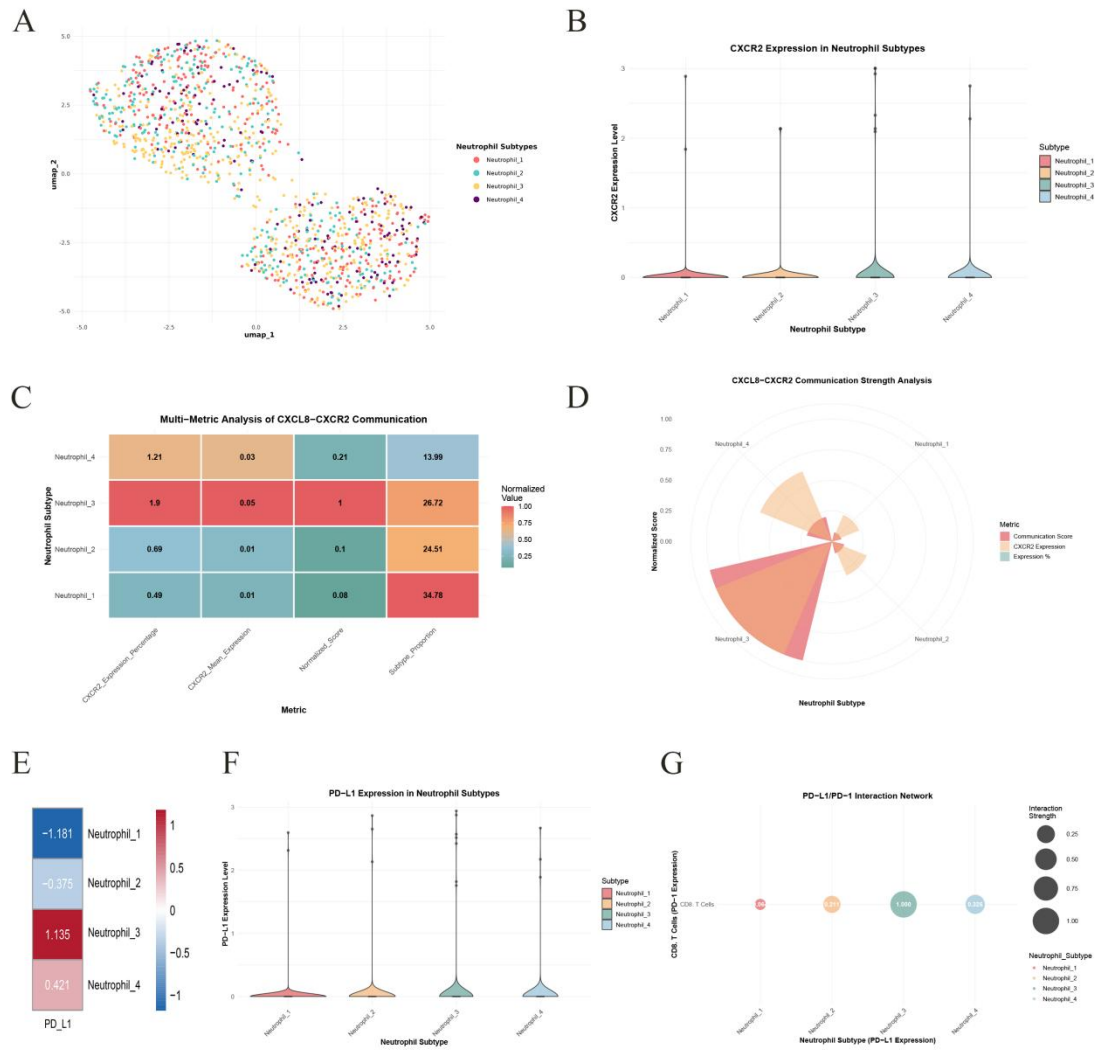
(A, B) The knockdown efficiency of AKR1B10 in CT26K cells was verified at protein and mRNA levels. (C) Cell viability was monitored by CCK-8 assay. (D) Representative images and the rate of wound closure from the wound healing assay with shNC and shAKR1B10 cells. (E) Representative images and number of cells from transwell assays with shNC and shAKR1B10 cells. (F, G) Representative fluorescence images (F), gross images and HE images (G) of liver metastasis in the shNC and shAKR1B10 groups of CRLM models. (H, I) Liver weight (H) and percentage of liver metastasis foci in the liver (I) of shNC and shAKR1B10 groups mice.



**Figure S13. The strength of interaction between tumor cells and neutrophils.**

**(A)** Ranking of the interaction intensity of the classical communication axis between tumor cells and neutrophils.

**(B)** The differences in the interaction strength between multiple types of receptors on neutrophils and CXCL8 expressed in tumor cells.



**Figure S14. Heterogeneity of neutrophils in KRAS mutation CRLM.**

(A) The UMAP showed the spatial distribution of neutrophil subpopulations (neutrophil\_1-4). Each dot represents a single cell. Color represents corresponding cell cluster as indicated. (B) Differential expression of CXCR2 in different neutrophil subpopulations. (C) Heat map of metabolic characteristics multi-metric analysis of CXCL8/CXCR2 communication corresponding to neutrophil subpopulations. (D) The radar chart of the differences in the interaction intensity of the CXCL8/CXCR2 axis among the four neutrophil subpopulations. (E, F) The expression differences of PD-L1 in different neutrophil subpopulations. (G) The differences in the interaction strength between four neutrophil subpopulations and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells through PD-1/PD-L1 axis.

**Table S1. Clinicopathological characteristics of CRLM patients underwent liver resection.**

|                                     | FAH Cohort | HSH Cohort  |         |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| Clinicopathological characteristics | (n=59)     | (n=370)     | P value |
| Gender (%)                          |            |             |         |
| Male                                | 39 (66.1)  | 241 (65.1)  | 0.885   |
| Female                              | 20 (33.9)  | 129 (34.9)  |         |
| Age (%)                             |            |             |         |
| ≤ 55 years                          | 19 (32.2%) | 116 (31.4%) | 0.896   |
| > 55 years                          | 40 (67.8%) | 254 (68.6%) |         |
| Time to metastasis (%)              |            |             |         |
| Metachronous                        | 23 (39.0)  | 118 (31.9)  | 0.282   |
| Synchronous                         | 36 (61.0)  | 252 (68.1)  |         |
| Primary tumor location (%)          |            |             |         |
| left                                | 41 (69.5)  | 290 (78.4)  | 0.248   |
| right                               | 15 (25.4)  | 71 (19.2)   |         |
| Both sides                          | 3 (5.1)    | 9 (2.4)     |         |
| pT stage (%)                        |            |             |         |
| Tis-T2                              | 13 (22.0)  | 58 (15.7)   | 0.222   |
| T3-T4                               | 46 (78.0)  | 312 (84.3)  |         |
| pN stage (%)                        |            |             |         |
| N0                                  | 23 (39.0)  | 135 (36.5)  | 0.712   |
| N1-N2                               | 36 (61.0)  | 235 (63.5)  |         |
| AJCC stage (%)                      |            |             |         |
| I-II                                | 11 (18.6)  | 53 (14.3)   | 0.387   |
| III-IV                              | 48 (81.4)  | 317 (85.7)  |         |
| Tumor grade (%)                     |            |             |         |
| G1-G2                               | 45 (76.3)  | 271 (73.2)  | 0.624   |
| G3                                  | 14 (23.7)  | 99 (26.8)   |         |

|                                      |           |            |               |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Number of liver metastases (%)       |           |            |               |
| Single                               | 33 (55.9) | 138 (37.3) | 0.007         |
| Multiple                             | 26 (44.1) | 232 (62.7) |               |
| Distribution of liver metastases (%) |           |            |               |
| Unilobar                             | 45 (76.3) | 207 (55.9) | <b>0.003*</b> |
| Bilobar                              | 14 (23.7) | 163 (44.1) |               |
| Size of liver metastases (%)         |           |            |               |
| < 5cm                                | 51 (86.4) | 301 (81.4) | 0.344         |
| ≥ 5cm                                | 8 (13.6)  | 69 (18.6)  |               |
| Neoadjuvant chemotherapy (%)         |           |            |               |
| Yes                                  | 32 (54.2) | 153 (41.4) | 0.063         |
| No                                   | 27 (45.8) | 217 (58.6) |               |
| Gene status (%)                      |           |            |               |
| KRAS <sup>G12C</sup> mutation        | 26 (44.1) | 126 (34.1) | 0.135         |
| Wild-type                            | 33 (55.9) | 244 (65.9) |               |

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\*P value <0.05 is marked in bold.

FAH, the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University; HSH, Huashan Hospital Fudan University; CRLM, colorectal cancer liver metastases.

**Table S2. Primer sequences and shRNAs used in this study.**

| Primers for RT-qPCR |                          |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gene                | Forward primer (5'-3')   | Reverse primer (5'-3')  |
| H-β-actin           | CCCTGGAGAAGAGCTACGAG     | GGAAGGAAGGCTGGAAGAGT    |
| H-AKR1B10           | TCAGAATGAACATGAAGTGGGG   | TGGGCCACAACCTTGCTGAC    |
| M-AKR1B10           | CTAGTGCCAAACCAGAGGACC    | TCCTGTATTCGAGAAGGTGTCA  |
| M-β-actin           | GGCTGTATTCCCCTCCATCG     | CCAGTTGGTAACAATGCCATGT  |
| M-CXCL1             | ACTGCACCCAAACCGAAGTC     | TGGGGACACCTTTTAGCATCTT  |
| M-CXCL2             | CCAACCACCAGGCTACAGG      | GCGTCACACTCAAGCTCTG     |
| M-CXCL5             | GTTCCATCTCGCCATTCATGC    | GCGGCTATGACTGAGGAAGG    |
| M-CXCL6             | GTTCCATCTCGCCATTCATGC    | GCGGCTATGACTGAGGAAGG    |
| M-CXCL8             | TCGAGACCATTACTGCAACAG    | CATTGCCGGTGGAAATTCCTT   |
| M-TGFβ              | CCACCTGCAAGACCATCGAC     | CTGGCGAGCCTTAGTTTGGAC   |
| M-LDHA              | CAAAGACTACTGTGTAAC TGCGA | TGGACTGTACTTGACAATGTTGG |
| M-GLUT1             | GCAGTTCGGCTATAACACTGG    | GCGGTGGTTCCATGTTTGATTG  |
| M-HK2               | ATGATCGCCTGCTTATTCACG    | CGCCTAGAAATCTCCAGAAGGG  |
| M-PKM2              | CGCCTGGACATTGACTCTG      | GAAATTCAGCCGAGCCACATT   |
|                     |                          |                         |
| Primers for shRNA   |                          |                         |
| shNC                | TTCTCCGAACGTGTCACGT      |                         |
| shAKR1B10#1         | GGGCATCACCATCACAGCCTA    |                         |
| shAKR1B10#2         | ACCAGAGGACCCCCTATTACT    |                         |
| shAKR1B10#3         | GCACAAGAGGACTGCAGCACA    |                         |
|                     |                          |                         |
| Primers for Chip    |                          |                         |
| Gene                | Forward primer (5'-3')   | Reverse primer (5'-3')  |
| PD-L1               | GCTCCAAAGGACTTGTACGTG    | TGATCTGAAGGGCAGCATTTC   |

**Table S3. Information of the antibodies used in this study.**

| <b>Antibody</b>           | <b>Company</b> | <b>Cat No.</b> | <b>Usage</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| AKR1B10                   | Fine Test      | FNab10610      | WB, IHC      |
| GAPDH                     | Proteintech    | 60004-1-Ig     | WB           |
| CD3                       | Bioss          | bs-10498R      | IF           |
| CD4                       | Abcam          | ab133616       | IF           |
| CD8                       | Abcam          | ab178089       | IF           |
| CD66b                     | Abcam          | Ab300122       | IF           |
| CD68                      | Abcam          | ab213363       | IF           |
| PD-1                      | CST            | 86163S         | IF           |
| PD-L1                     | CST            | 13684S         | IF           |
| FoxP3                     | Abcam          | ab20034        | IF           |
| CD20                      | Dako           | IR604          | IF           |
| CD56                      | Abcam          | ab75813        | IF           |
| Pan-Lactyl-Lysine         | PTM Bio        | PTM-1401RM     | WB, IF       |
| Lactyl-Histone H3 (Lys9)  | PTM Bio        | PTM-1419RM     | WB, IF, Chip |
| Lactyl-Histone H3 (Lys14) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1414RM     | WB           |
| Lactyl-Histone H3 (Lys18) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1427RM     | WB, IF, Chip |
| Lactyl-Histone H3 (Lys23) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1413RM     | WB           |
| Lactyl-Histone H3 (Lys27) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1428       | WB           |
| Lactyl-Histone H4 (Lys8)  | PTM Bio        | PTM-1415RM     | WB           |
| Lactyl-Histone H4 (Lys12) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1411RM     | WB           |
| Lactyl-Histone H4 (Lys16) | PTM Bio        | PTM-1417RM     | WB           |
| Histone H3                | PTM Bio        | PTM-1001RM     | WB           |
| Histone H4                | PTM Bio        | PTM-1015RM     | WB           |

**Table S4. Fluorescent-labeled antibodies used in this study.**

| Marker       | Fluorescence          | Item   | Brand     |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|
| LIVE/DEAD    | BV510                 | 423102 | BioLegend |
| CD45         | FITC                  | 103108 | BioLegend |
| CD3          | APC/Fire™ 750         | 100248 | BioLegend |
| CD4          | Brilliant Violet 605™ | 100548 | BioLegend |
| CD8          | PE/Cyanine 7          | 100722 | BioLegend |
| CD11b        | APC                   | 101212 | BioLegend |
| Ly6G         | PE/Cyanine 7          | 127618 | BioLegend |
| CD69         | PE                    | 104508 | BioLegend |
| PD-1         | Brilliant Violet 421™ | 135218 | BioLegend |
| PD-L1        | PE                    | 124307 | BioLegend |
| TIM-3        | APC                   | 119706 | BioLegend |
| TNF $\alpha$ | PE                    | 506306 | BioLegend |
| IFN $\gamma$ | APC                   | 505810 | BioLegend |

**Table S5. Correlation between clinicopathological features and AKR1B10 expression of CRLM patients.**

| Clinicopathological characteristics | KRAS <sup>G12C</sup> mutation |           |                   | Wild-type  |            |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
|                                     | High                          | Low       | P value           | High       | Low        | P value       |
|                                     | AKR1B10                       | AKR1B10   |                   | AKR1B10    | AKR1B10    |               |
|                                     | (n = 76)                      | (n = 76)  |                   | (n = 138)  | (n = 139)  |               |
| Gender (%)                          |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| Male                                | 40 (52.6)                     | 48 (63.2) | 0.189             | 90 (65.2)  | 48 (73.4)  | 0.141         |
| Female                              | 36 (47.4)                     | 28 (36.8) |                   | 48 (34.8)  | 28 (26.6)  |               |
| Age (%)                             |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| ≤ 55 years                          | 25 (32.9)                     | 22 (28.9) | 0.599             | 52 (37.7)  | 36 (25.9)  | 0.035         |
| > 55 years                          | 51 (67.1)                     | 54 (71.1) |                   | 86 (62.3)  | 103 (74.1) |               |
| Time to metastasis (%)              |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| Metachronous                        | 28 (36.8)                     | 25 (32.9) | 0.610             | 36 (26.1)  | 52 (37.4)  | <b>0.043*</b> |
| Synchronous                         | 48 (63.2)                     | 51 (67.1) |                   | 102 (73.9) | 87 (62.6)  |               |
| Primary tumor location (%)          |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| left                                | 46 (60.5)                     | 52 (68.4) | 0.084             | 115 (83.3) | 118 (84.9) | 0.916         |
| right                               | 30 (39.5)                     | 21 (27.6) |                   | 18 (13.0)  | 17 (12.2)  |               |
| Both sides                          | 0 (0.0)                       | 3 (4.0)   |                   | 5 (3.7)    | 4 (2.9)    |               |
| pT stage (%)                        |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| Tis-T2                              | 9 (11.8)                      | 16 (21.1) | 0.126             | 21 (15.2)  | 31 (22.3)  | 0.131         |
| T3-T4                               | 67(88.2)                      | 62 (81.6) |                   | 117 (84.8) | 108 (77.7) |               |
| pN stage (%)                        |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |
| N0                                  | 15 (19.7)                     | 34 (44.7) | <b>&lt;0.001*</b> | 46 (33.3)  | 63 (45.3)  | <b>0.041*</b> |
| N1-N2                               | 61 (80.3)                     | 42 (55.3) |                   | 92 (66.7)  | 76 (54.7)  |               |
| Tumor grade (%)                     |                               |           |                   |            |            |               |

|                                      |           |           |               |            |            |               |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| G1-G2                                | 48 (63.2) | 63 (82.9) | <b>0.006*</b> | 94 (68.1)  | 111 (79.9) | <b>0.026*</b> |
| G3                                   | 28 (36.8) | 13 (17.1) |               | 44 (31.9)  | 28 (20.1)  |               |
| Number of liver metastases (%)       |           |           |               |            |            |               |
| Single                               | 25 (32.9) | 45 (59.2) | <b>0.001*</b> | 45 (34.2)  | 56 (40.3)  | 0.184         |
| Multiple                             | 45 (59.2) | 31 (40.8) |               | 93 (65.8)  | 83 (59.7)  |               |
| Distribution of liver metastases (%) |           |           |               |            |            |               |
| Unilobar                             | 42 (55.3) | 51 (67.1) | 0.134         | 75 (54.3)  | 84 (60.4)  | 0.306         |
| Bilobar                              | 34 (44.7) | 25 (32.9) |               | 63 (45.7)  | 55 (39.6)  |               |
| Size of liver metastases (%)         |           |           |               |            |            |               |
| < 5 cm                               | 62 (81.6) | 63 (82.9) | 0.832         | 116 (84.1) | 111 (79.9) | 0.363         |
| ≥ 5 cm                               | 14 (18.4) | 13 (17.1) |               | 22 (15.9)  | 28 (20.1)  |               |
| Neoadjuvant chemotherapy (%)         |           |           |               |            |            |               |
| Yes                                  | 44 (57.9) | 28 (36.8) | <b>0.009*</b> | 53 (38.4)  | 60 (43.2)  | 0.420         |
| No                                   | 32 (42.1) | 48 (63.2) |               | 85 (61.6)  | 79 (56.8)  |               |

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\*P value <0.05 is marked in bold.

CRLM, colorectal cancer liver metastases.