

Supplementary Data and Materials

The glucose sensor NSUN2-m⁵C modification regulates tumor-immune glucose metabolism reprogramming to drive hepatocellular carcinoma evolution

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Fig. S1

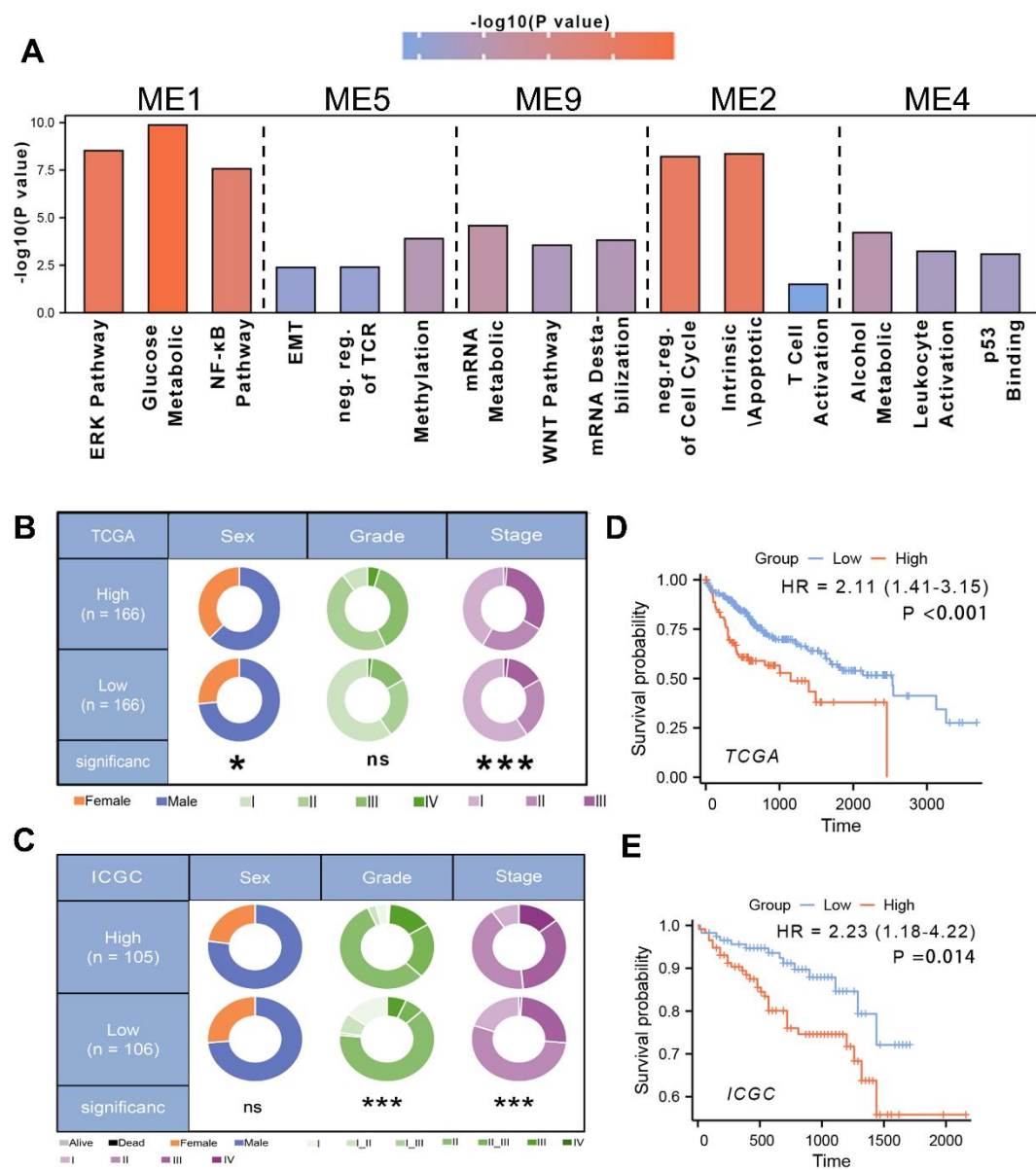


Fig. S1. Identification of evolutionary core genes in the murine tumor evolution model (TEM), related to Fig. 1.

A. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of WGCNA modules showing stepwise expression changes in the murine TEM: upregulated modules ME1, ME5, and ME9, and downregulated modules ME2 and ME4.

B and C. Pie charts visually representing the associations between clinicopathological factors and the expression of evolutionary core genes (clusters C1 and C4) in the TCGA-LIHC (**B**) and ICGC (**C**) cohort. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$, ns, non-significant by Chi-square test.

D and E. Kaplan-Meier survival curves comparing high- and low-expression groups of evolutionary core genes (clusters C1 and C4), with hazard ratios (HR) and p-values calculated using Cox proportional hazards regression analysis in the TCGA-LIHC (**D**) and ICGC (**E**) cohorts.

Fig. S2

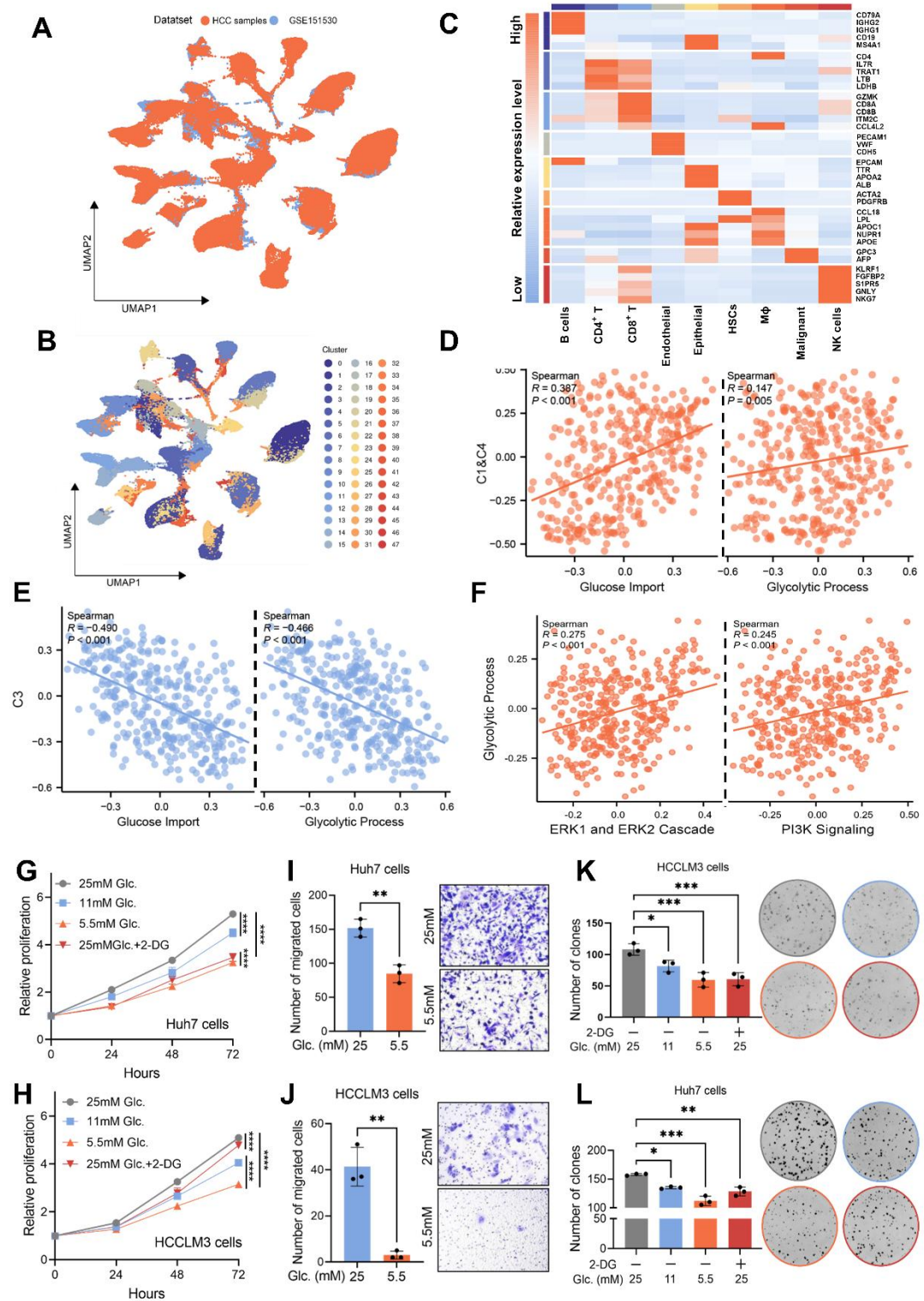


Fig. S2. Glucose metabolic reprogramming is a crucial event during HCC evolution, related to Fig. 2.

A. UMAP plot showing the batch-correction results of single-nucleus RNA sequencing (snRNA-seq) data from 10 HCC patient samples integrated with external GEO dataset GSE151530 (n = 11) using the LIGER algorithm.

B. UMAP plot displaying the results of dimensionality reduction and unsupervised clustering of single-cell data.

C. Heatmap showing the scaled average expression levels of characteristic marker genes for each cell type.

D and E. Correlation between GSVA enrichment scores for glucose import and glycolytic process pathways with temporal Mfuzz clusters in the TCGA-LIHC cohort: clusters C1 and C4 (**D**), and cluster C3 (**E**).

F. Correlation between GSVA enrichment scores for tumor malignancy-associated pathways, including the ERK1/2 cascade and PI3K signaling pathway, with glycolytic process GSVA enrichment scores in the TCGA-LIHC cohort.

G and H. Proliferation of Huh7 cells (**G**) and HCCLM3 cells (**H**) treated with 25 mM, 11 mM or 5.5 mM glucose, or 5.5 mM 2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose), measured by CCK-8 assay (n = 3 biological replicates).

I and J. Transwell migration assays evaluating the migratory capacity of Huh7 cells (**I**) and HCCLM3 cells (**J**) treated with 25 mM glucose or 5.5 mM glucose (n = 3 biological replicates).

K and L. Colony formation assays of Huh7 cells (**K**) and HCCLM3 cells (**L**) treated with 25

mM glucose, 11 mM glucose, 5.5 mM glucose, or 5.5 mM 2-DG (n = 3 biological replicates).

Data are mean \pm SD. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001, ns, non-significant Student's t test (I and J) or by two-way ANOVA (G-H and K-L).

Fig. S3

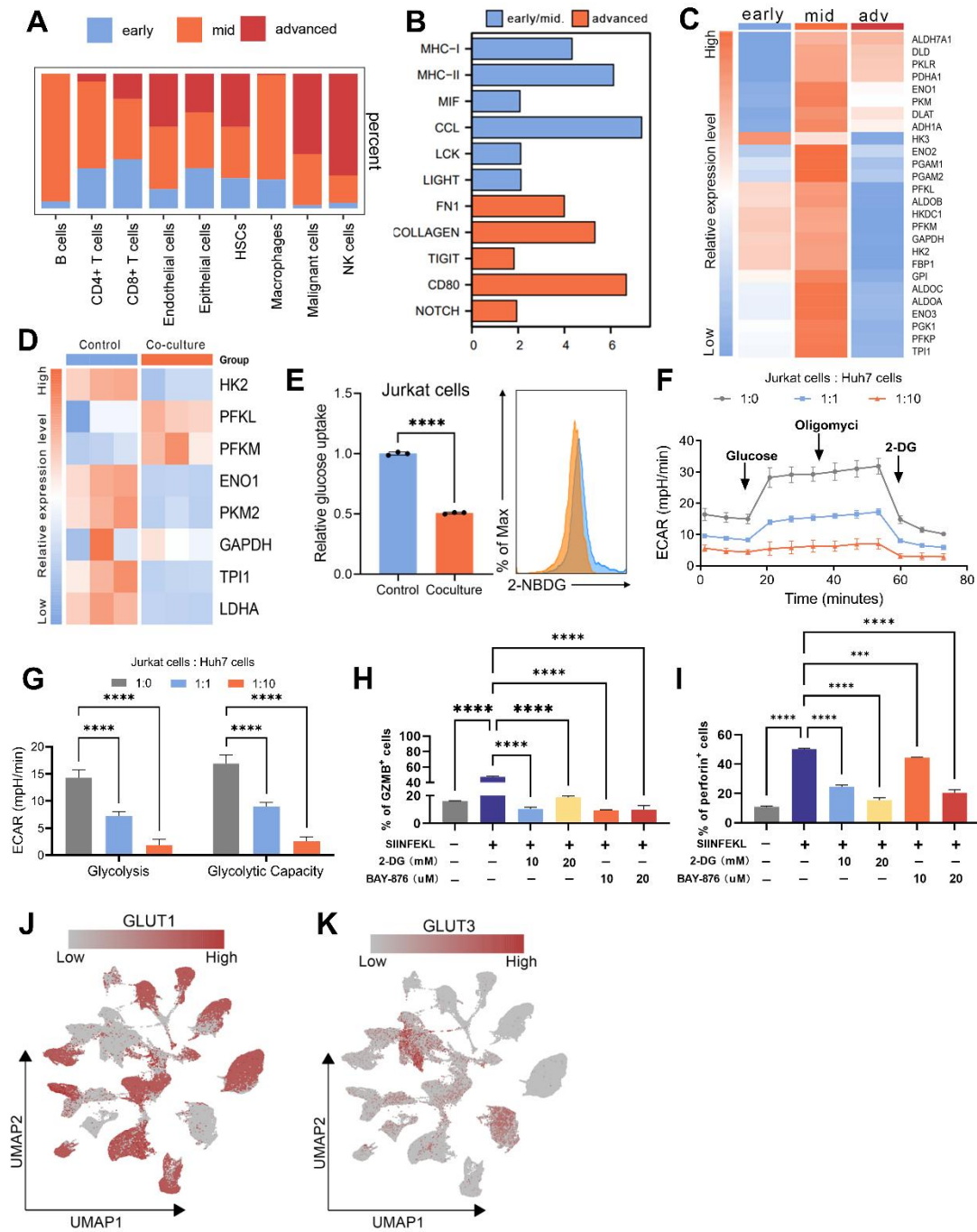


Fig. S3. Malignant cells suppress CD8⁺ T Cell glucose metabolism to promote immune evasion, related to Fig. 3.

A. Average proportion of each cell type in samples from early, mid, and advanced stages in single-cell TEM.

B. Significantly upregulated signaling pathways between malignant cells and CD8⁺ T cells observed in samples from early, mid, and advanced stages of single-cell TEM, as assessed by CellChat analysis.

C. The heatmap illustrates the expression levels of genes involved in the glycolytic pathway of CD8⁺ T cells across early, mid, and advanced samples of single-cell TEM.

D. Expression levels of glycolysis-related genes in Jurkat cells compared between the control group (isolated) and those co-cultured with Huh7 cells at a 1:1 ratio in 5.5 mM glucose medium, with each gene expression level normalized to β -actin.

E. Changes in glucose uptake capacity in Jurkat cells following 48 hours of co-culture with Huh7 cells at a 1:1 ratio in 5.5 mM glucose medium, measured using flow cytometry to detect fluorescence intensity of 2-NBDG.

F and G. Following a co-culture with Huh7 cells at ratios of 1:1 and 1:10 for 48 hours in 5.5 mM glucose medium, the Jurkat cells were assessed for extracellular acidification rate (ECAR). Measurements were recorded over time, with exposure to glucose, oligomycin, and 2-DG for ECAR assessment. ECAR was recorded three times per condition (**F**). Glycolysis (ECAR following glucose addition) and glycolytic capacity (maximal ECAR after subtracting the ECAR following 2-DG exposure) were calculated (**G**).

H and I. OT-1 CD8⁺ T cells were activated with the OVA-derived peptide SIINFEKL for five

days. The culture medium was supplemented with either 10 mM or 20 mM of 2-DG and either 10 μ M or 20 μ M of BAY-876. Expression levels of GZMB and perforin were analyzed by flow cytometry, with percentages of GZMB⁺ (**H**) and perforin⁺ (**I**) cells represented as bar graphs.

J and K. UMAP plot showing the expression levels of GLUT1 (**J**) and GLUT3 (**K**) across various cell types within the TIME.

Data are mean \pm SD. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001, ns, non-significant Student's t test (E) or by two-way ANOVA (G-I).

Fig. S4

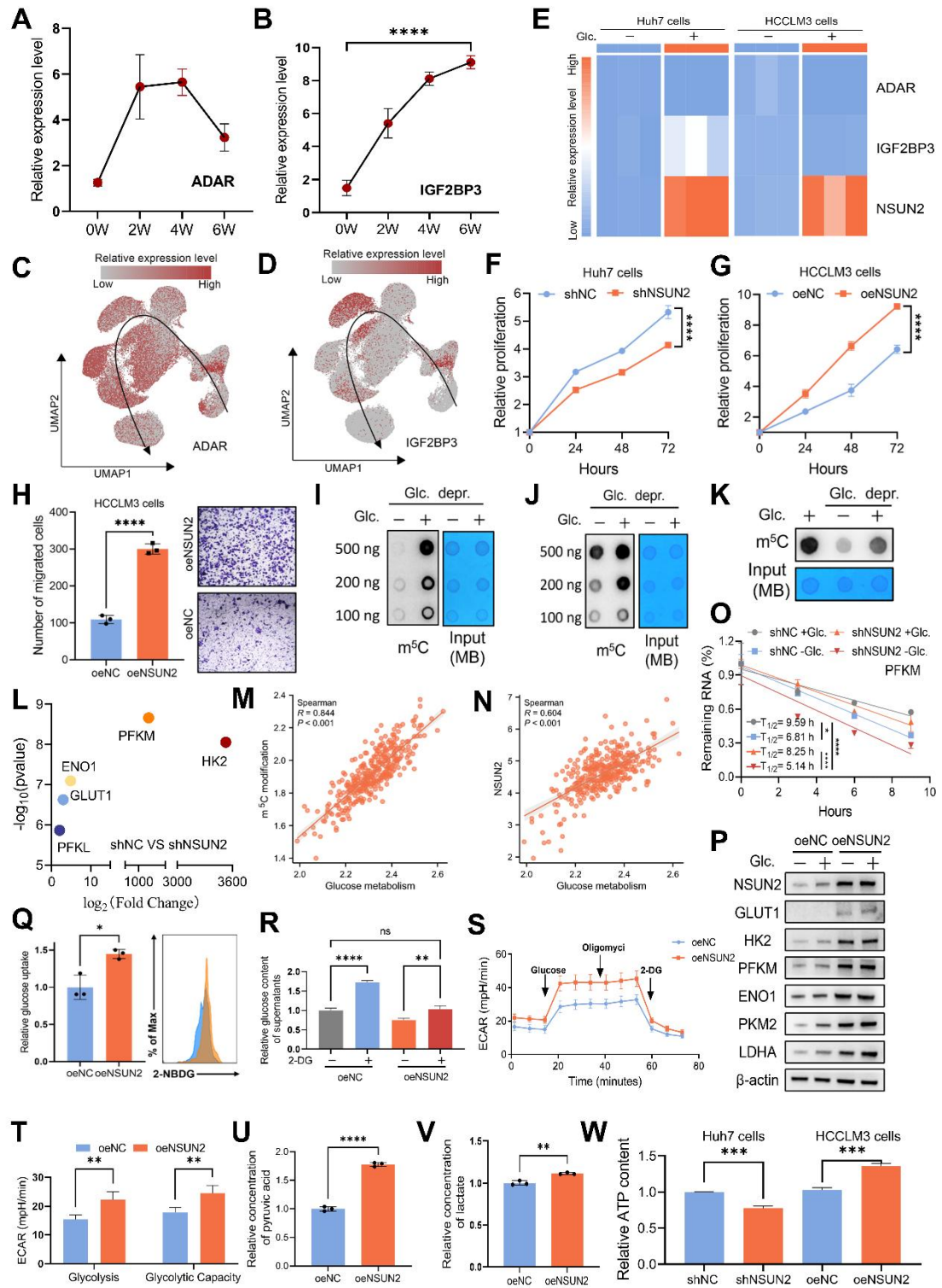


Fig. S4. NSUN2-mediated m⁵C modification regulates metabolic reprogramming in a glucose-dependent manner, related to Fig. 4.

A and B. The expression levels of ADAR (**A**) and IGF2BP3 (**B**) in the murine TEM.

C and D. UMAP plot demonstrating the expression levels of ADAR (**C**) and IGF2BP3 (**D**) in the single-cell TEM.

E. Real-time qPCR analysis of Huh7 and HCCLM3 cells starved with glucose and restored with 5.5 mM glucose (n = 3 biological replicates).

F and G. Proliferation of shNC and shNSUN2 Huh7 cells (**F**), oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 (**G**), evaluated by CCK-8 assay (n = 3 biological replicates).

H. Transwell migration assays assessing the migratory capacity of oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells (n = 3 biological replicates).

I and J. Huh7 (**I**) and HCCLM3 (**J**) cells were glucose starved and restored with glucose, followed by dot blot assay of m⁵C levels (n = 3 biological replicates).

K. HCCLM3 cells without or with glucose starvation for 4 hours and restored with 5.5 mM glucose 2 hours before dot blot assay of m⁵C levels (global RNA) (n = 3 biological replicates).

L. The mRNAs exhibiting differential m⁵C methylation levels ($p < 0.05$, $|\log_2(\text{Fold change})| > 2$) between shNC and shNSUN2 cells.

M and N. Correlation analysis between m⁵C methylation GSVA enrichment scores (**M**), NSUN2 expression levels (**N**), and glucose metabolism GSVA enrichment scores in the TCGA-LIHC cohort.

O. RNA decay assay in shNC and shNSUN2 Huh7 cells treated with actinomycin D (Act.

D, 5 µg/mL), glucose starved and restored with glucose. Real-time qPCR against β-actin was performed to assess the half-life of PFKM mRNA (n = 3 biological replicates).

P. Immunoblotting analysis of oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells after 6 hours of glucose starvation and subsequent 2 hours of restoration with 5.5 mM glucose.

Q. The glucose uptake capacity in oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells, measured using flow cytometry to detect fluorescence intensity of 2-NBDG (n = 3 biological replicates).

R. Glucose content in the supernatant of oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells after 48 hours of treatment with or without 5.5 mM 2-DG.

S and T. Measurements were recorded over time, with exposure to glucose, oligomycin, and 2-DG for ECAR assessment. ECAR in oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells was recorded three times per condition (**S**). Glycolysis (ECAR following glucose addition) and glycolytic capacity (maximal ECAR after subtracting the ECAR following 2-DG exposure) were calculated (**T**).

U and V. Comparison of the relative pyruvic acid (**U**) and lactate (**V**) production between oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells.

W. Comparison of relative ATP content between: shNC vs. shNSUN2 Huh7 cells, oeNC vs. oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells.

Data are mean ± SD. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001, ns, non-significant Student's t test (F-H, Q and T-W) or by two-way ANOVA (A-B, O and R).

Fig. S5

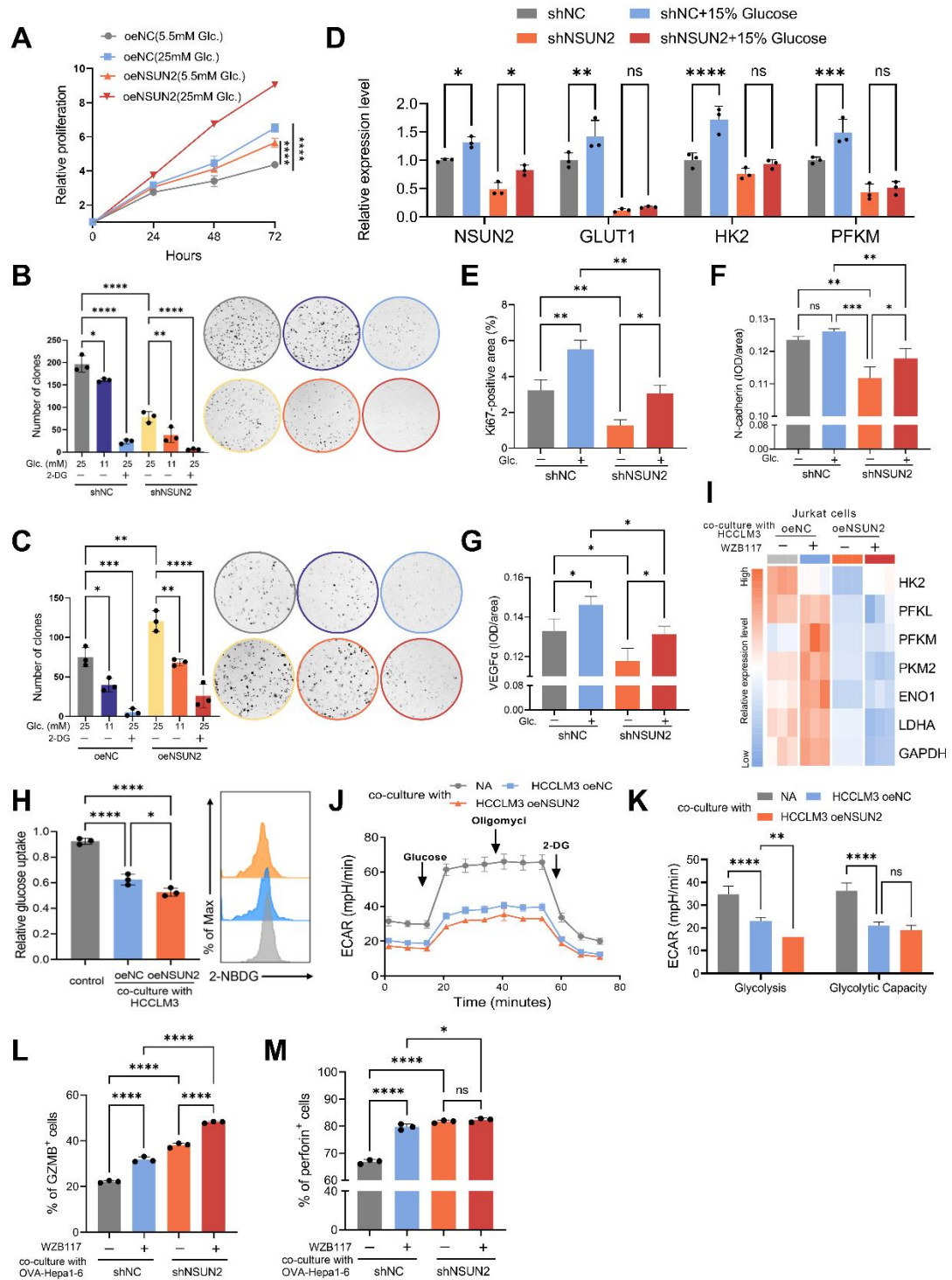


Fig. S5. The glucose-competition/NSUN2 axis drives tumor evolution and CD8⁺ T cell dysfunction, related to Fig. 5.

A. Proliferation of oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells, evaluated by CCK-8 (Cell Counting Kit-8) assay (n = 3 biological replicates). Cells were cultured in media containing 5.5 mM or 25 mM glucose.

B and C. Colony formation assays of shNC and shNSUN2 Huh7 cells (**B**), as well as oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells (**C**), treated with 25 mM glucose, 11 mM glucose, or 5.5 mM 2-DG (n = 3 biological replicates).

D. Quantitative analysis of immunoblot signals for key glycolytic proteins shown in Fig. 5E. Protein levels were normalized to β -actin.

E-G. Quantification of Ki67-positive areas (**E**) was performed on the tumor samples as described in **Fig. 5F**. For N-cadherin (**F**) and VEGF α (**G**), the average optical density (IOD/Area) was measured to evaluate their expression levels.

H. Changes in glucose uptake capacity in Jurkat cells following 48 hours of co-culture with oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells at a 1:1 ratio in 5.5 mM glucose medium. Glucose uptake was measured by flow cytometry based on the fluorescence intensity of 2-NBDG.

I. Following a 48 hours co-culture of Jurkat cells with oeNC or oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells at a 1:1 ratio in 5.5 mM glucose medium, we analyzed the expression levels of glycolysis-related genes within Jurkat cells. Co-culture was performed in medium supplemented with or without 10 μ M WZB117. Gene expression levels were normalized to β -actin.

J and K. Following the co-culture of Jurkat cells with oeNC and oeNSUN2 HCCLM3 cells

at a 1:1 ratio for 48 hours in 5.5 mM glucose medium, we proceeded to measure the extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) of the Jurkat cells. Measurements were recorded over time, with exposure to glucose, oligomycin, and 2-DG for ECAR assessment. ECAR was recorded three times per condition (**J**). Glycolysis (ECAR following glucose addition) and glycolytic capacity (maximal ECAR after subtracting the ECAR following 2-DG exposure) were calculated (**K**).

L and M. OVA-specific TCR transgenic OT-1 CD8⁺ T cells were isolated from the spleens of OT-1 mice and activated with the OVA-derived peptide SIINFEKL for five days. Subsequently, these activated OT-1 CD8⁺ T cells were co-cultured with shNC or shNSUN2 OVA-Hepa1-6 cells at ratios of 1:1 for 48 hours in 5.5 mM glucose medium, in the presence or absence of 10 μ M WZB117. The expression levels of GZMB and perforin in OT-1 CD8⁺ T cells were analyzed by flow cytometry. Percentages of GZMB⁺ (**L**) and perforin⁺ cells (**M**) are shown as bar graphs.

Data are mean \pm SD. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001, ns, non-significant by two-way ANOVA (A-H and J-M).

Supplementary Table 1. Evolutionary core genes (Only genes shared between homo sapiens and mus musculus were retained).

Cluster	Gene
C1 & C4	ABCD2, ABHD17C, AEBP2, AGER, AKAP9, APAF1, APLP2, ASXL1, AUH, BRCA2, BRD1, CAPN2, CAPRIN1, CEBPG, CHD7, CLTC, CRBN, CTNND1, CUEDC1, CYFIP1, DDX11, DGKD, EFCC1, ELF2, EPG5, EZH2, FUT8, GIGYF2, GOLGA2, GSTM5, ITPR1, JAK2, KCNN4, KLF9, KRR1, FAM84B, LTBP3, LTN1, MAN1C1, MSN, MSRB3, MT-RNR2, MYEF2, NAA30, NABP1, NACA, NF1, NNT, NPM2, NSRP1, OSBPL11, PAN3, PCMTD2, PLEKHH1, PPP2R2D, PROSER1, PRRC1, PRRC2A, PRSS22, PTAR1, PTPN3, RAB11FIP2, RAB22A, RALA, SEC24A, SEPT10, SGTB, SIAE, SIPA1L3, SLC16A4, SMCHD1, SMIM10L1, SNX30, SNX6, SPTAN1, SREK1IP1, SRSF3, SSH2, TJP1, TMEM161B, TMEM62, TNFRSF18, TPSB2, TRIM8, TRMT2B, USO1, VRK2, WDR48, WIF1, WIPF2, XPOT, ZFP41
C3	AAR2, ACTR5, BOLA1, LOH12CR1, CAPNS1, CCDC12, CCNF, CCNK, COQ6, DBNDD2, DDX41, DNAJC17, DPH7, EIF4H, ELOF1, EMC4, EPHA2, ESRP2, EXOC7, FBLIM1, FBXL8, FLOT2, GOT2, IRF2BP1, ITGA5, JUND, LHPP, LZIC, MED29, MOSPD3, MPZL3, MRPL32, MVB12A, MVK, MYBBP1A, NDUFA8, NDUFB7, NTMT1, NUDT16L1, NUDT18, NUP133, PES1, PGPEP1, PIAS4, PPM1M, PRPF19, QTRT1, RBBP4, RPS12, UTP23

Supplementary Table 2. Differentially m⁵C-modified sites in GLUT1, HK2 and PFKM

mRNAs: shNC versus shNSUN2 cells.

GeneName	GLUT1	GLUT1	GLUT1	HK2	PFKM
chrom	chr1	chr1	chr1	chr2	chr12
txStart	42958633	42929872	42931201	74833980	48122646
txEnd	42959080	42930035	42931206	74834643	48122859
PeakID	diffreps_	diffreps_	diffreps_	diffreps_	diffreps_
	peak_3815	peak_3810	peak_3813	peak_64782	peak_24630
score	6.625661924	10.89549143	8.671948226	8.053292445	8.65942789
Peak_length	447	163	5	663	213
Foldchange	2.942979767	2448.5	467.8	3529	1075.5
P_value	2.36776E-07	1.27206E-11	2.12839E-09	8.84520E-09	2.19065E-09
FDR	8.37084E-07	3.19678E-10	1.59140E-08	4.42877E-08	1.59140E-08
Regulation	up	up	up	up	up

Supplementary Materials

Antibodies

Name	Supplier	Cat No.
Rabbit anti-Ki-67 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 84432-1-RR
Rabbit anti-N-cadherin antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 22018-1-AP
Rabbit anti-VEGF α antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 19003-1-AP
Rabbit anti-CD8 antibody	Abcam	Cat# ab217344
Rabbit anti-NSUN2 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 20854-1-AP
Rabbit anti-5-Methylcytosine (5-mC) antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 28692
Rabbit anti-GLUT1 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 21829-1-AP
Rabbit anti-HK2 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 22029-1-AP
Rabbit anti-PFKM antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 55028-1-AP
Mouse anti-ENO1 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 11204-1-AP
Rabbit anti-PKM2 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 15822-1-AP
Rabbit anti-LDHA antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 19987-1-AP
Mouse anti- β -actin antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 66009-1-Ig
PE anti-mouse CD45 antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 147712
FITC anti-mouse CD3 antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 100204
Brilliant Violet 510™ anti-mouse CD8a antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 100752
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse TNF- α antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 506322
Brilliant Violet 650™ anti-mouse IFN- γ antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 505832
Pacific Blue™ anti-human/mouse Granzyme B Recombinant antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 372217
APC anti-mouse Perforin antibody	Biolegend	Cat# 154404
Mouse anti-PD-L1 antibody	Proteintech	Cat# 66248-1-Ig

Cell lines

Name	Supplier	Cat No.
Human: Huh7	JCRB	Cat# JCRB0403
Human:	Type Culture Collection of Chinese Academy of	Cat# SCSP-528

HCCLM3	Science	
Human: Jurkat	Type Culture Collection of Chinese Academy of Science	Cat# SCSP-513
Mouse: Hepa1-6	Type Culture Collection of Chinese Academy of Science	Cat# SCSP-512

Primers

Name	Sequence	Supplier
NSUN2 qPCR primer-F	CAAGCTGTTTCGAGCACTACTAC	TsingKe
NSUN2 qPCR primer-R	CTCCCTGAGAGCGTCCATGA	TsingKe
Nsun2 qPCR primer-F	AGGTGGCTATCCCGAGATCG	TsingKe
Nsun2 qPCR primer-R	GACTCCATGAATTGGTCCCATT	TsingKe
HK2 qPCR primer-F	GAGCCACCACTCACCTACT	TsingKe
HK2 qPCR primer-R	CCAGGCATTCGGCAATGTG	TsingKe
PFKL qPCR primer-F	GCTGGGCGGCACTATCATT	TsingKe
PFKL qPCR primer-R	TCAGGTGCGAGTAGGTCCG	TsingKe
PFKM qPCR primer-F	GGTGCCCGTGTCTTCTTTGT	TsingKe
PFKM qPCR primer-R	AAGCATCATCGAAACGCTCTC	TsingKe
ENO1 qPCR primer-F	AAAGCTGGTGCCGTTGAGAA	TsingKe
ENO1 qPCR primer-R	GGTTGTGGTAAACCTCTGCTC	TsingKe
PKM2 qPCR primer-F	ATGTCGAAGCCCCATAGTGAA	TsingKe
PKM2 qPCR primer-R	TGGGTGGTGAATCAATGTCCA	TsingKe
GAPDH qPCR primer-F	TGTGGGCATCAATGGATTTGG	TsingKe
GAPDH qPCR primer-R	ACACCATGTATTCCGGGTCAAT	TsingKe
TPI1 qPCR primer-F	CTCATCGGCACTCTGAACG	TsingKe
TPI1 qPCR primer-R	GCGAAGTCGATATAGGCAGTAGG	TsingKe

LDHA qPCR primer-F	AGGAGAAACACGCCTTGATTTAG	TsingKe
LDHA qPCR primer-R	ACGAGCAGAGTCCAGATTACAA	TsingKe
ACTB qPCR primer-F	ACCGGGCATAGTGGTTGGA	TsingKe
ACTB qPCR primer-R	ATGGTACACGGTTCTCAACATC	TsingKe
Actb qPCR primer-F	GGCTGTATTCCCCTCCATCG	TsingKe
Actb qPCR primer-R	CCAGTTGGTAACAATGCCATGT	TsingKe
Hk2 qPCR primer-F	ATGATCGCCTGCTTATTCACG	TsingKe
Hk2 qPCR primer-R	CGCCTAGAAATCTCCAGAAGGG	TsingKe
Pfkl qPCR primer-F	GGAGGCGAGAACATCAAGCC	TsingKe
Pfkl qPCR primer-R	GCACTGCCAATAATGGTGCC	TsingKe
Pfkm qPCR primer-F	CATCGCCGTGTTGACCTCT	TsingKe
Pfkm qPCR primer-R	CCCGTGAAGATACCAACTCGG	TsingKe
Eno1 qPCR primer-F	TGCGTCCACTGGCATCTAC	TsingKe
Eno1 qPCR primer-R	CAGAGCAGGCGCAATAGTTTTA	TsingKe
Pkm2 qPCR primer-F	CGCCTGGACATTGACTCTG	TsingKe
Pkm2 qPCR primer-R	GAAATTCAGCCGAGCCACATT	TsingKe
Gapdh qPCR primer-F	AATGGATTTGGACGCATTGGT	TsingKe
Gapdh qPCR primer-R	TTTGCACTGGTACGTGTTGAT	TsingKe
Tpi1 qPCR primer-F	GAGAGAGCCGTGCGTTTGTA	TsingKe
Tpi1 qPCR primer-R	CCCCAACGAAGAACTTCCTGG	TsingKe
Ldha qPCR primer-F	GGGCTACAAGCATCTTGAGAG	TsingKe
Ldha qPCR primer-R	GACACGTTGCACCTGACTG	TsingKe

Plasmids

Name	Supplier	Cat No.
pCDH-CMV-MCS-EF1-Puro	Youbio	Cat# VT1480
pCDH-Puro-NSUN2	This paper	NA
pCDH-Puro-Nsun2	This paper	NA
pLVX-Puro	Youbio	Cat# VT1465
pLVX-Puro-OVA	This paper	NA

Biological samples

Description	Source
Human HCC tumor tissue (n=10)	Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Zhejiang University

Reagents and kits

Description	Source	Identifier
EZ-press RNA Purification Kit	EZBioscience	Cat# B0004DP
MagiSort Mouse CD8 ⁺ T cell Isolation Kit	Thermo Fisher	Cat# 8804682274
CellTrace CFSE Cell Proliferation Kit	Thermo Fisher	Cat# C34570
PI/RNase Staining Buffer	BD	Cat# 550825
Recombinant Murine IL-2	Peptotech	Cat# 212-12
Recombinant Human IL-2	Peptotech	Cat# 200-02
Fixable Viability Stain 780	BD	Cat# 565388
Intracellular Staining Perm Wash Buffer (10X)	Biolegend	Cat# 421002
Fixation Buffer	Biolegend	Cat# 420801
Actinomycin D	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-17559
Protein A+G Agarose	Beyotime	Cat# P2055
Seahorse XFe96/XF Pro FluxPak Mini	Anligent	Cat# 103793-100
β - Hydroxybutanol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# M3148-25ML
Cell counting kit (CCK-8)	Yeasen Biotech	Cat# 40203ES60
Endotoxin-free plasmid purification kit	Tiagen	Cat# DP117
D-(+)-Glucose	Beyotime	Cat# ST1228-1kg
2-NBDG	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-116215
2-Deoxy-D-glucose	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-13966
WZB117	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-19331

OVA G4 peptide	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-P1771
BAY-876	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-100017
Methylene Blue Solution, 0.2%	Solarbio	Cat# G1301
L-Lactic Acid (LA) Colorimetric Assay Kit	Elabscience	Cat# E-BC-K044-S
Pyruvic Acid Colorimetric Assay Kit	Elabscience	Cat# E-BC-K130-M
Glucose (GLU) Fluorometric Assay Kit	Elabscience	Cat# E-BC-F037
RNase Inhibitor, recombinant (human placenta)	New England Biolabs	Cat# M0307S
WB/IP lysis buffer	Beyotime	Cat# P0013J
TRizol	TAKARA	Cat# 15596026
Protease inhibitor cocktail	Abcam	Cat# ab65621
Lipofectamine 3000 reagent	Invitrogen	Cat# L3000015
BCA protein assay kit	Invitrogen	Cat# M34152
Anti-Mouse PD-L1/B7-H1 Antibody (10F.9G2)	MedChemExpress	Cat# HY-P99145
ImmunoCult™ Human CD3/CD28 T Cell Activator	STEMCELL	Cat# 100-0784
Dynabeads™ Mouse T-Activator CD3/CD28	Gibco	Cat# 11456D