

Figure S1. Inflammatory signaling in ME-CSCs is not mediated via TLR2. (A) qPCR analysis revealed no significant changes in the expression of TLR2 between ME-CSCs and ACSCs (mean of the relative expression levels from ME-CSCs and ACSCs, $n=3$, $ns>0.05$, Mann Whitney test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%) (B) Expression levels of IL-1 β and IL-8 in ME-CSCs and ACSCs were not affected by exposure to heat killed *S. aureus* (HKB) (mean of the relative expression levels from ME-CSCs and ACSCs, $n=3$, $****\leq 0.0001$, $***\leq 0.001$, $**\leq 0.01$, $ns>0.05$, unpaired t-test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%).

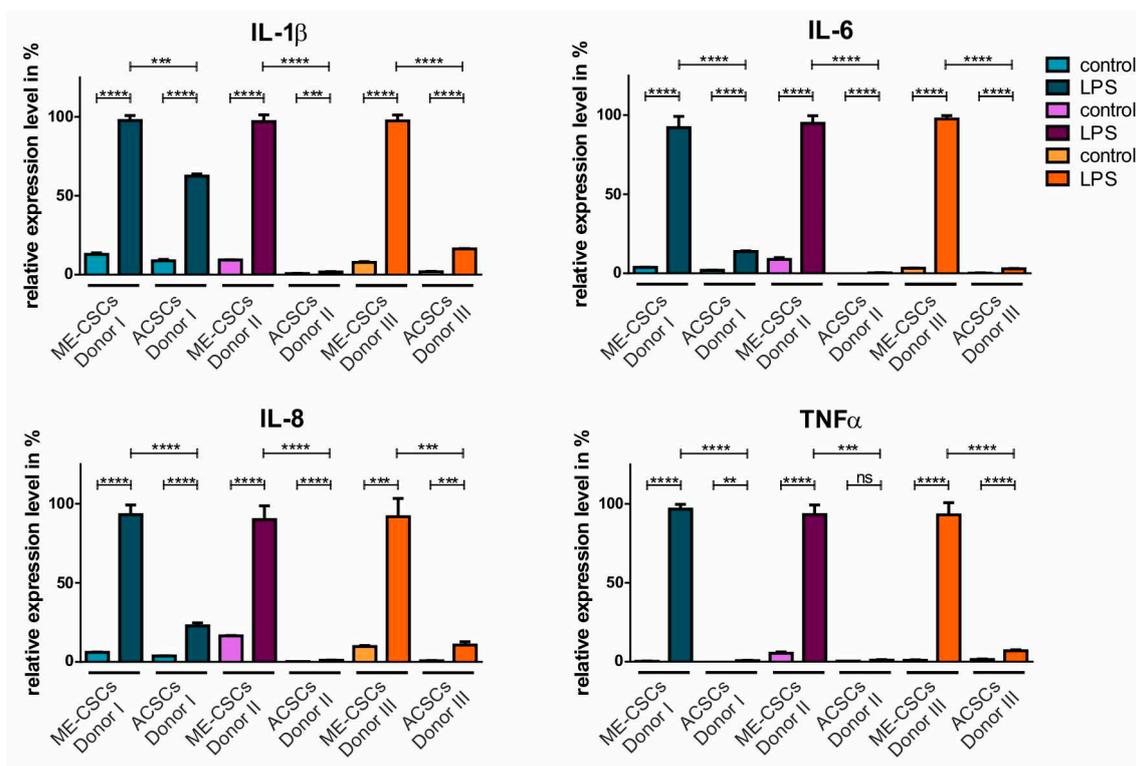


Figure S2. Expression levels of pro-inflammatory genes in ME-CSCs and ACSCs upon LPS-stimulation on single-donor level. Pro-inflammatory mediators IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8 and TNF α were strongly and significantly increased in all ME-CSCs populations derived from three donors after treatment with LPS from *S. enterica* compared to untreated control and LPS-treated ACSCs ($****\leq 0.0001$, $***\leq 0.001$, $ns>0.05$, unpaired t-test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%).

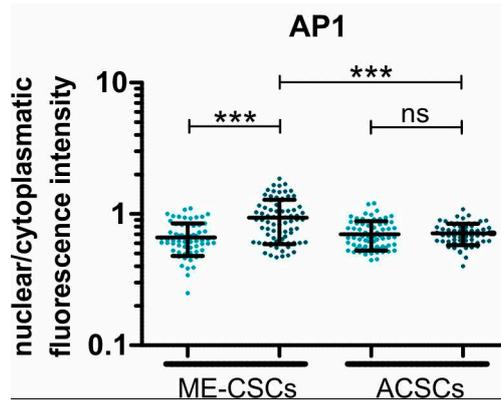


Figure S3. Significant translocation of AP1 protein in ME-CSCs upon LPS-treatment. Quantification of nuclear/cytoplasmic fluorescence intensity of immunocytochemical stainings revealed significantly increased nuclear protein amounts of AP-1 in LPS-treated ME-CSCs compared to control and ACSCs exposed to LPS (LPS from *S. enterica*, $***\leq 0.001$, $ns > 0.05$, Mann Whitney test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%).

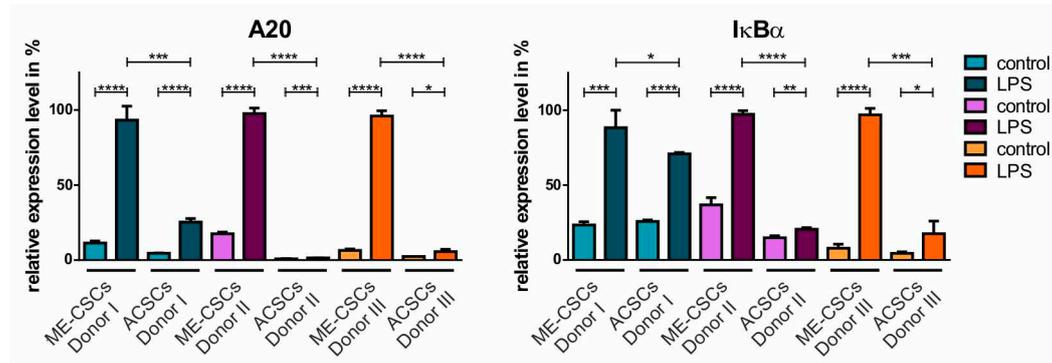


Figure S4. Expression levels of NF-κB target genes A20 and IκBα in ME-CSCs and ACSCs upon LPS-stimulation on single-donor level. NF-κB target genes A20 and IκBα were strongly and significantly increased in all ME-CSCs populations derived from three donors after treatment with LPS from compared to untreated control and LPS-treated ACSCs ($****\leq 0.0001$, $***\leq 0.001$, $**\leq 0.01$, $*\leq 0.05$, unpaired t-test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%).

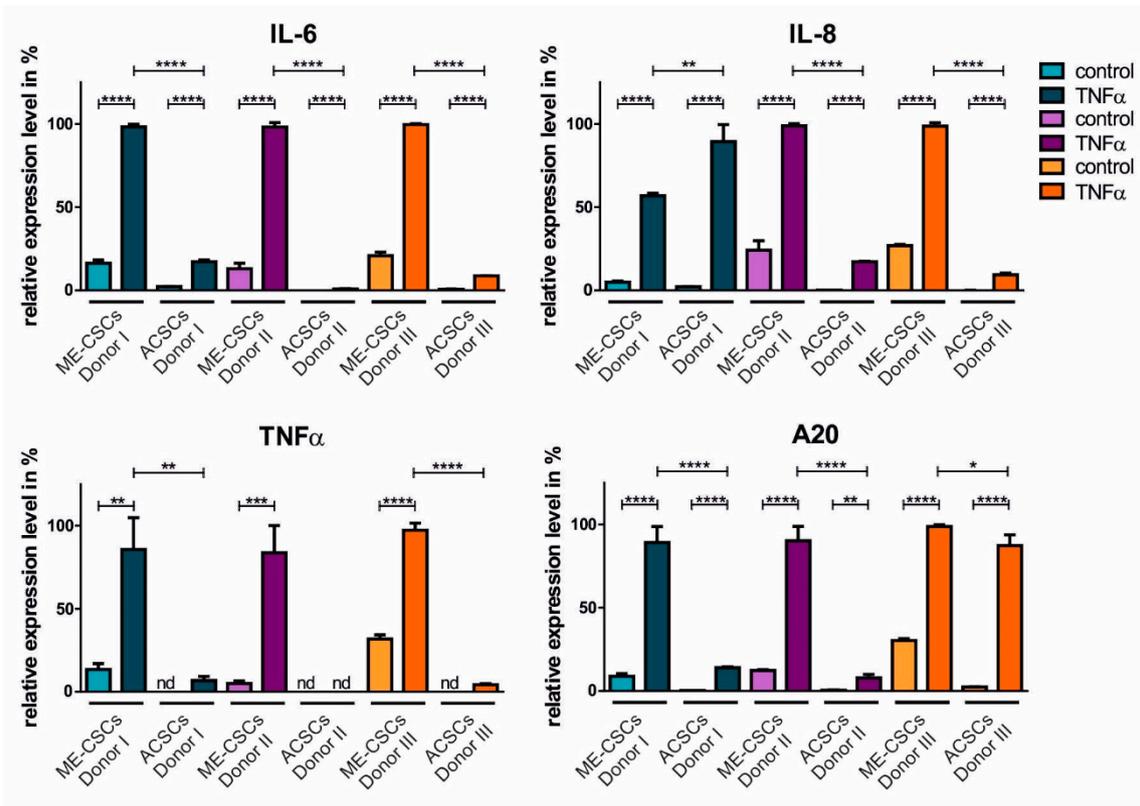


Figure S5. ME-CSCs show a TNF α -mediated feed-forward-loop of pro-inflammatory NF- κ B target gene expression on single-donor level. qPCR analysis revealed a significant increase in the expression levels of IL-6, IL-8, TNF α and A20 in ME-CSCs stimulated with TNF α compared to control and TNF α -stimulated ACSCs (**** \leq 0.0001, *** \leq 0.001, ** \leq 0.01, * \leq 0.05, unpaired t-test, one-tailed, confidence interval: 95%, nd: not detectable).