

Supplementary Materials and Methods

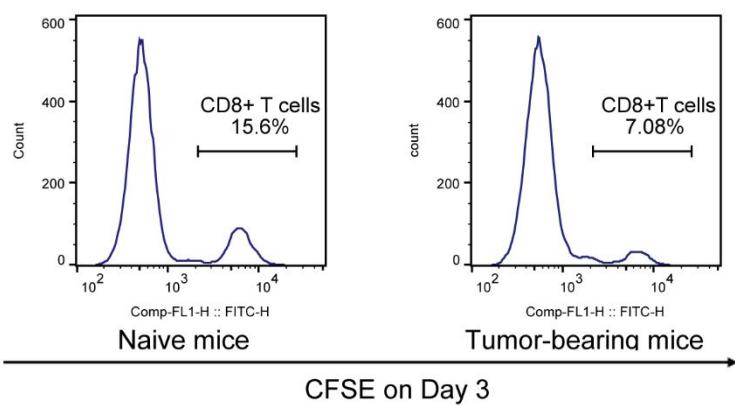
Gene expression analysis of IL-2, TNF- α , and IFN- γ

A sensiFAST™ Probe NO-ROX Kit (Bioline, USA) was used to conduct RT-qPCR reactions. Primers of murine IL-2, TNF- α , IFN- γ , and internal control gene β -actin were: IL-2: 5'-ACATTGACACTTGTGCTCCGTGTC-3' (forward) and 5'-TTGAGGGCTTGTGAGATGATGCT-3' (reverse); TNF- α : 5'-GCCTCTTCTCATTCTGCTTGTGG-3' (forward) and 5'-CCCGTTATCTCCCCTCATCTTCC-3' (reverse); IFN- γ : 5'-TGAGACAATGAACGCTACAC-3' (forward) and 5'-GGAGCCCTTAGGCTAGCAG-3' (reverse); β -actin: 5'-AGGGAAATCGTGCCTGACAT-3' (forward) and 5'-CTTCCACATCTATGCCACT-3' (reverse). RT-PCR reaction conditions were: 95° C for 2 min, followed by 40 cycles at 95° C for 10 sec, 58° C for 10 sec, then 95° C for 10 sec. The qPCR results were analyzed using 2- $\Delta\Delta Ct$ method [47].

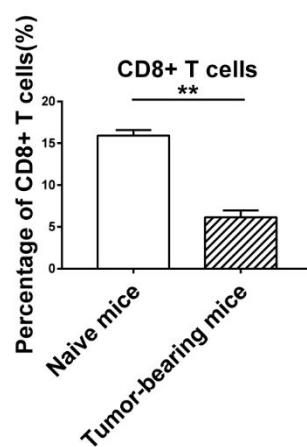
Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Figure 1

A



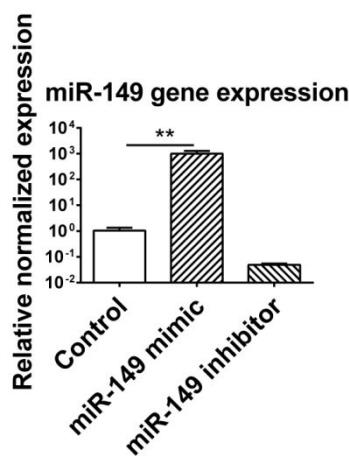
B



Supplementary Figure S1. Percentages of splenic CD8+ T cells in naive and tumor-bearing mice. Spleen cells were collected from naive mice and tumor-bearing mice on day 18 after tumor cell injection. Flow cytometry was performed after FITC anti-mouse CD8 staining (A, B). Data are representative of three independent experiments. Unpaired Student *t*-tests were performed to determine statistical significance (** *p* < 0.01).

Supplementary Figure 2

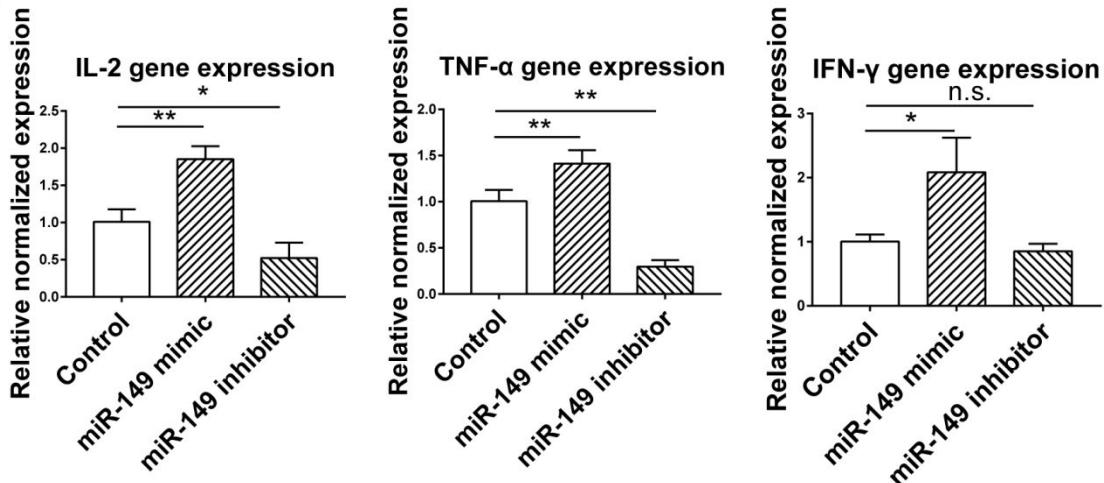
A



Supplementary Figure S2. Detection of miR-149-3p level after miRNA transfection. CD8+ T cells were purified from the tumor-bearing mice using Miltenyi magnetically-labeled beads and transfected with control miRNA, miR-149-3p mimics, and miR-149-3p inhibitors for 48 hrs. After transfection, miRNeasy Mini Kit and miScript II Reverse Transcriptase Kit were used for miRNA isolation and cDNA synthesis. miR-149-3p levels were detected by RT-qPCR using miScript Primer Assay. Data are representative of three independent experiments. Unpaired Student's t-tests were performed to determine statistical significance (** $p < 0.01$).

Supplementary Figure 3

A



Supplementary Figure S3. miR-149-3p restored activity-associated cytokine levels in exhausted CD8+ T cells. (A) Detection of cytokine IL-2, TNF- α and IFN- γ levels by RT-qPCR. Spleen cells collected from tumor-bearing mice were respectively transfected with control miRNA, miR-149-3p mimics and miR-149-3p inhibitors for 48 hrs. After transfection, CD8+ T cells were purified from the collected splenocytes using Miltenyi magnetically-labeled beads. Detection of cytokine IL-2, TNF- α , and IFN- γ levels on CD8+ T cells by qPCR were performed using CD8+ T cells mRNA. Data are representative of three independent experiments. Unpaired Student's t-tests were performed to determine statistical significance (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$).

Supplementary Table 1. miRNA that are differential expressed in CD8+PD-1+ vs. CD8+PD-1- T cells

| miRNA | Fold Change | P value |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| mmu-miR-877-3p | -4.63246 | 0.0481926 |
| mmu-miR-122-5p | -7.04076 | 0.00461435 |
| mmu-miR-182-5p | -6.84349 | 0.00217941 |
| mmu-miR-31-5p | -7.74298 | 0.000429221 |
| mmu-miR-183-5p | -4.86247 | 0.0064926 |
| mmu-miR-493-3p | -4.19264 | 0.0127347 |
| mmu-miR-146b-5p | -5.57134 | 0.0016485 |
| mmu-miR-2182 | -3.64419 | 0.0181424 |
| mmu-miR-146a-5p | -7.13698 | 1.56E-05 |
| mmu-miR-132-3p | -4.45666 | 0.00360028 |
| mmu-miR-451a | -3.88719 | 0.0072596 |
| mmu-miR-3100-5p | -3.89221 | 0.00588115 |
| mmu-miR-3090-5p | -3.03999 | 0.0314833 |
| mmu-miR-301a-3p | -4.46581 | 0.00124239 |
| mmu-miR-721 | -2.98771 | 0.0285459 |
| mmu-miR-1897-5p | -2.94036 | 0.0309768 |
| mmu-miR-31-3p | -3.47111 | 0.00803287 |
| mmu-miR-1249-5p | -3.13886 | 0.014691 |
| mmu-miR-1946b | -2.7138 | 0.038924 |
| mmu-miR-5133 | -2.70771 | 0.0275184 |
| mmu-miR-3107 | -2.48916 | 0.0428741 |
| mmu-miR-208a-5p | -4.61288 | 5.23E-06 |
| mmu-miR-155-5p | -4.37146 | 1.47E-05 |
| mmu-miR-503-5p | -3.21989 | 0.00124764 |
| mmu-miR-770-3p | -2.23397 | 0.0381449 |
| mmu-miR-1188-5p | -2.18363 | 0.0440008 |
| mmu-miR-1892 | -2.33103 | 0.0215127 |
| mmu-miR-148a-3p | -2.20839 | 0.027217 |
| mmu-miR-22-3p | -2.4741 | 0.00771092 |
| mmu-mir-122-5p | -2.34245 | 0.0134414 |
| mmu-miR-705 | -2.17581 | 0.0248352 |
| mmu-miR-762 | -2.50612 | 0.00406305 |
| mmu-miR-301b-3p | -2.65939 | 0.00168337 |
| mmu-miR-323-5p | -2.05377 | 0.0194033 |
| mmu-miR-2137 | -2.09987 | 0.0127005 |
| mmu-miR-1982-5p | -2.48098 | 0.00121774 |
| mmu-miR-3113-3p | -1.90555 | 0.0346454 |
| mmu-miR-486a-5p | -1.88165 | 0.0387998 |
| mmu-miR-711 | -2.25475 | 0.00422179 |
| mmu-miR-16-1-3p | -1.86254 | 0.0369852 |
| mmu-miR-683 | -1.85419 | 0.0380149 |
| mmu-miR-328-5p | -1.93832 | 0.022855 |
| mmu-miR-667-3p | -2.13814 | 0.00525438 |
| mmu-miR-760-3p | -1.97621 | 0.0136702 |
| mmu-miR-21-5p | -2.19774 | 0.00265697 |
| mmu-miR-1306-3p | -1.76458 | 0.044537 |
| mmu-miR-152-3p | -1.99323 | 0.00625333 |
| mmu-miR-2861 | -2.07494 | 0.00201641 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| mmu-miR-135a-1-3p | -1.7819 | 0.0178396 |
| mmu-miR-3077-5p | -1.97432 | 0.00307048 |
| mmu-miR-1956 | -1.78871 | 0.0125691 |
| mmu-miR-3092-3p | -1.67789 | 0.0272706 |
| mmu-miR-3103-5p | -1.65124 | 0.0311412 |
| mmu-miR-3473b | -1.69738 | 0.0199922 |
| mmu-miR-211-3p | -1.58515 | 0.0459556 |
| mmu-miR-338-5p | -1.59045 | 0.0411785 |
| mmu-miR-5120 | -1.58318 | 0.0389385 |
| mmu-miR-486a-3p | -1.63727 | 0.0193264 |
| mmu-miR-3473b | -1.83411 | 0.00209965 |
| mmu-miR-3073-3p | -1.61321 | 0.0181186 |
| mmu-miR-5112 | -1.53973 | 0.0361025 |
| mmu-miR-692-1 | -1.67981 | 0.00788799 |
| mmu-miR-5122 | -1.65328 | 0.0100303 |
| mmu-miR-149-3p | -1.70489 | 0.00502392 |
| mmu-miR-5126 | -1.80542 | 0.00136424 |
| mmu-mir-181a-5p | -1.62387 | 0.0100198 |
| mmu-miR-199b-3p | -1.79818 | 0.000266562 |
| mmu-miR-3960 | -1.69573 | 0.00150044 |
| mmu-miR-329-3p | -1.5802 | 0.00692929 |
| mmu-miR-495-3p | -1.54442 | 0.00847919 |
| mmu-miR-671-5p | -1.61961 | 0.000532439 |
| mmu-miR-195-5p | 1.74101 | 0.049403 |
| mmu-miR-7a-5p | 1.59813 | 0.0427475 |
| mmu-miR-592-5p | 1.68996 | 0.0427483 |
| mmu-miR-141-3p | 1.50047 | 0.0328156 |
| mmu-miR-713 | 1.69498 | 0.0362003 |
| mmu-miR-710 | 1.57297 | 0.0334074 |
| mmu-miR-30a-5p | 1.72269 | 0.0307059 |
| mmu-miR-674-5p | 1.63209 | 0.0281633 |
| mmu-miR-532-5p | 1.74271 | 0.0292923 |
| mmu-miR-200b-3p | 2.16848 | 0.0333822 |
| mmu-miR-26b-5p | 1.73628 | 0.0214963 |
| mmu-miR-466c-3p | 1.51466 | 0.00872042 |
| mmu-miR-101a-5p | 1.52329 | 0.00838995 |
| mmu-miR-17-3p | 1.50002 | 0.00687202 |
| mmu-miR-466e-3p | 1.62942 | 0.0107894 |
| mmu-miR-466b-3p | 1.52605 | 0.0074928 |
| mmu-miR-29c-3p | 1.76927 | 0.0142901 |
| mmu-miR-466a-3p | 1.70988 | 0.0122977 |
| mmu-miR-320-3p | 1.59862 | 0.00844204 |
| mmu-miR-140-3p | 1.52482 | 0.00383394 |
| mmu-miR-361-5p | 1.56647 | 0.00352102 |
| mmu-miR-466p-3p | 1.64667 | 0.00500277 |
| mmu-miR-3096-5p | 2.13493 | 0.0136412 |
| mmu-miR-7a-1-3p | 1.85244 | 0.00810395 |
| mmu-miR-342-5p | 1.8386 | 0.00478512 |
| mmu-miR-203-3p | 2.25974 | 0.0106265 |
| mmu-miR-1839-5p | 1.70537 | 0.00224937 |

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-------------|
| mmu-miR-361-5p | 1.59818 | 0.000822977 |
| mmu-miR-30b-5p | 1.69095 | 0.00110493 |
| mmu-miR-30d-5p | 1.90078 | 0.00284284 |
| mmu-miR-200a-3p | 3.64187 | 0.0172061 |
| mmu-miR-192-5p | 1.78536 | 0.000934273 |
| mmu-miR-101b-3p | 2.21944 | 0.00469913 |
| mmu-miR-3096b | 2.45362 | 0.00633874 |
| mmu-miR-467e-5p | 1.67609 | 9.49E-05 |
| mmu-miR-194-5p | 1.9913 | 0.00172014 |
| mmu-miR-151-3p | 3.69674 | 0.0132786 |
| mmu-miR-28-3p | 2.30235 | 0.00328795 |
| mmu-miR-29b-3p | 2.33633 | 0.00306258 |
| mmu-miR-378a-3p | 2.12837 | 0.00126477 |
| mmu-miR-5121 | 2.07712 | 0.000632864 |
| mmu-miR-378b | 2.06945 | 0.000207061 |
| mmu-miR-3096-3p | 3.12294 | 0.00369122 |
| mmu-miR-139-5p | 2.77285 | 0.00103898 |
| mmu-miR-3096b-3p | 4.00412 | 0.00490373 |
| mmu-miR-151-5p | 3.85989 | 0.00069181 |