**Suppl. Fig. 1.** **Cytometric analysis to determine the percentage of NK cell expressing IFN-γ following K562 stimulation.** PBMC were cultured with medium and K562 cells overnight. The next day, cells were stained for CD56, CD3 and IFN-γ expression and analyzed by flow cytometry. Lymphocytes were gated based on SSC and FSC. NK cells, T cells and NKT cell were determined by CD3 and CD56 differentiation.



**Suppl. Fig. 2.** **Cytometric analysis to determine the percentage of NK cell expressing IFN-γ following HCV protein stimulation.** PBMC were cultured with medium, core and HCV protein cocktail containing core, NS3 and NS4 for 6 hours. Cells were stained for CD56, CD3 and IFN-γ expression and analyzed by flow cytometry. A. Gating strategy indicated. Lymphocytes were gated based on SSC and FSC. NK cells, T cells and NKT cell were determined by CD3 and CD56 differentiation. B. Percentage of NK cells expressing IFN-γ in response culture conditions shown. Significant differences are indicated as \*\*p<0.01 (n=4, *t*-test).



**Suppl. Fig. 3.** **Cytometric analysis to determine the percentage of NK cell expressing PD-1 following HCV protein stimulation.** PBMC were cultured with medium, core and HCV protein cocktail containing core, NS3 and NS4 for 6 hours. Cells were stained for CD56, CD3, IFN-γ (not shown) and PD-1 expression and analyzed by flow cytometry. Lymphocytes were gated based on SSC and FSC. NK cells, T cells and NKT cell were determined by CD3 and CD56 differentiation.



**Suppl. Fig. 4. The percentage of NK cells did not differ between the low and high viral load cohorts.** PBMC were stained for CD56 and CD3. The baseline NK cell percentages were evaluated between low viral load (LVL) and high viral load (HVL) cohorts. Significant differences were evaluated by Mann-Whitney U-test. No significant differences were found.



**Suppl. Fig. 5 HCV proteins induce NKT cell PD-1 expression**. PBMC were cultured with medium, core and HCV protein cocktail containing core, NS3 and NS4 for 6 hours. Cells were stained for CD56, CD3, IFN-γ (not shown) and PD-1 expression and analyzed by flow cytometry. Lymphocytes were gated based on SSC and FSC. NK cells, T cells and NKT cell were determined by CD3 and CD56 differentiation. Percentage of NK cells expressing IFN-γ in response culture conditions shown. Between cohort differences were evaluated by Mann-Whitney U-test. Within cohort differences were evaluated by *t*-test. Significant differences are indicated as \*\*p<0.01 (n=4).