Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Biomaterials Science. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2023

## Supplemental data:

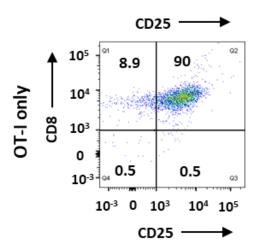


Figure S1: OT-I Transwell assays without tumour cells show passive T cell escape. Representative flow cytometry of OT-I in lower transwells at Day 3 for gel-encapsulated OT-I, displaying CD8 and CD25 expression. OT-I cells are CD8<sup>+</sup> and CD25 indicates cell activation.

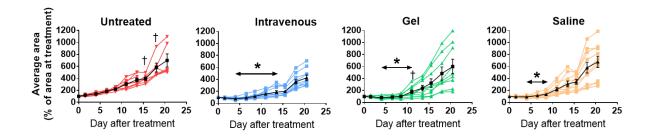


Figure S2: Tumour growth curves in MC38-OVA mouse tumour model are shown up to 21 days after treatment in subcutaneous tumours (mean  $\pm$  SEM in black). \* p < 0.05 based on two-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test, arrows indicate duration of significantly lower growth compared to untreated mice. OT-I stimulated for 72h. Pooled data of two experiments (n = 8-10).

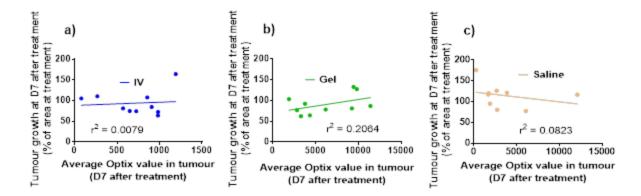


Figure S3: Correlation between Optix signal in the tumor at Day7 and tumour growth at D7 in MC38-OVA/OT-I model for a) IV-treatment. b) Gel-treatment; c) OT-I in saline-treatment. (n = 10 each).