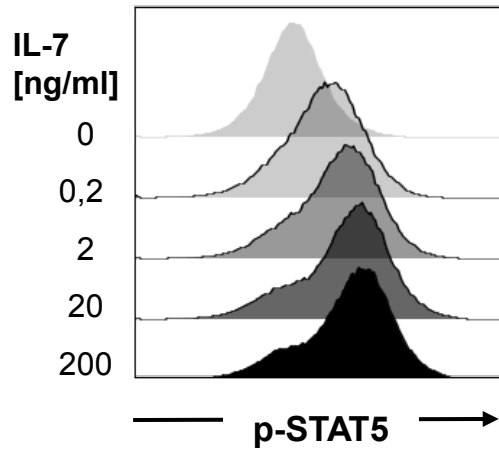
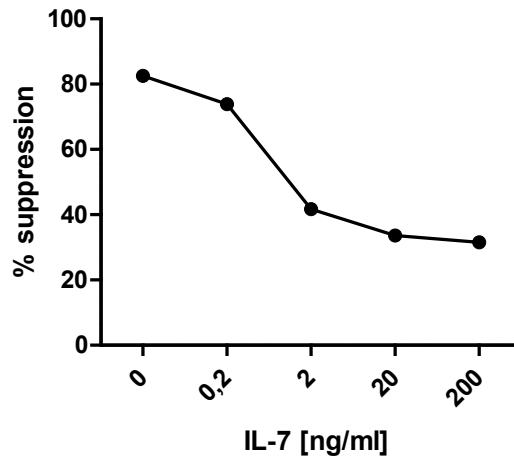
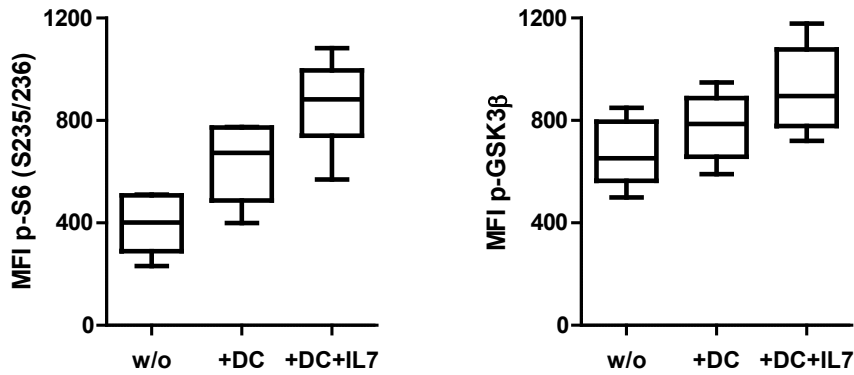
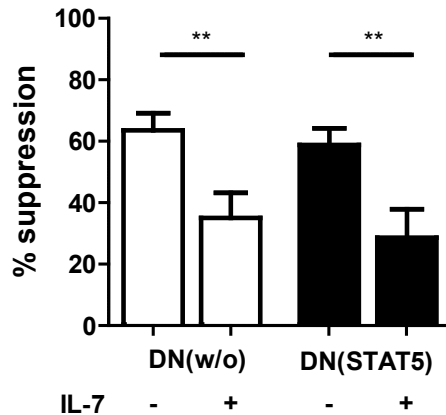


**A****B**

(A) DN T cells were incubated with increasing concentrations of IL-7 for 20min. STAT5 phosphorylation was determined by flow cytometry. One representative histogram of 3 independent experiments is shown. (B) CFSE labelled CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were cultured with DN T cells in the presence of different IL-7 concentrations. The proliferative response of the CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells was determined after 5 days by flow cytometry.

**A****B**

(A) DN T cells were labelled with a proliferation dye and cultured overnight in fresh medium without IL-2. The DN T cells were incubated with DC in the presence or absence of 20 ng/ml IL-7 for 45min. DN T cells were stained with antibodies against phosphorylated S6 (pS235/236) and phosphorylated GSK-3 $\beta$  and analyzed by flow cytometry. Gated on DN T cells the phosphorylation status is illustrated for six different donors. (B) DN T cells pre-incubated with a STAT5-inhibitor were used as suppressor cells. The proliferation of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells was analyzed after 2 days by Ki-67 staining. \* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ .