

*Article*

# Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor-Dependent and -Independent Pathways Mediate Curcumin Anti-Aging Effects

Vanessa Brinkmann <sup>1,2,†</sup>, Margherita Romeo <sup>1,2,†</sup>, Lucie Larigot <sup>3</sup>, Anne Hemmers <sup>2</sup>, Lisa Tschage <sup>2</sup>, Jennifer Kleinjohann <sup>2</sup>, Alfonso Schiavi <sup>1,2</sup>, Swantje Steinwachs <sup>2</sup>, Charlotte Esser <sup>2</sup>, Ralph Menzel <sup>4</sup>, Sara Giani Tagliabue <sup>5</sup>, Laura Bonati <sup>5</sup>, Fiona Cox <sup>1,6</sup>, Niloofar Ale-Agha <sup>1</sup>, Philipp Jakobs <sup>1</sup>, Joachim Altschmied <sup>1,2</sup>, Judith Haendeler <sup>1</sup>, Xavier Coumoul <sup>3</sup> and Natascia Ventura <sup>1,2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Diagnostic, Medical Faculty, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Moorenstr 5, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany; vanessa.brinkmann@uni-duesseldorf.de (V.B.); margherita.romeo@iuf-duesseldorf.de (M.R.); alfonso.schiavi@uni-duesseldorf.de (A.S.); ficox100@uni-duesseldorf.de (F.C.); Niloofar.ALE-AGHA@uni-duesseldorf.de (N.A.-A.); philipp.jakobs@hhu.de (P.J.); joalt001@hhu.de (J.A.); juhae001@hhu.de (J.H.)

<sup>2</sup> IUF – Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Auf'm Hennekamp 50, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany; anne.hemmers@hhu.de (A.H.); tschage@em.uni-frankfurt.de (L.T.); jenny.kleinjohann@web.de (J.K.); swantje.steinwachs@iuf-duesseldorf.de (S.S.); charlotte.esser@uni-duesseldorf.de (C.E.)

<sup>3</sup> Faculté des Sciences Fondamentales et Biomédicales, Université de Paris, 45 rue des Saints-Pères, F-75006 Paris, France; luciole271@gmail.com (L.L.); xavier.coumoul@parisdescartes.fr (X.C.)

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Biology, Humboldt-University Berlin, Philippstr. 13, 10115 Berlin, Germany; ralph.menzel@biologie.hu-berlin.de

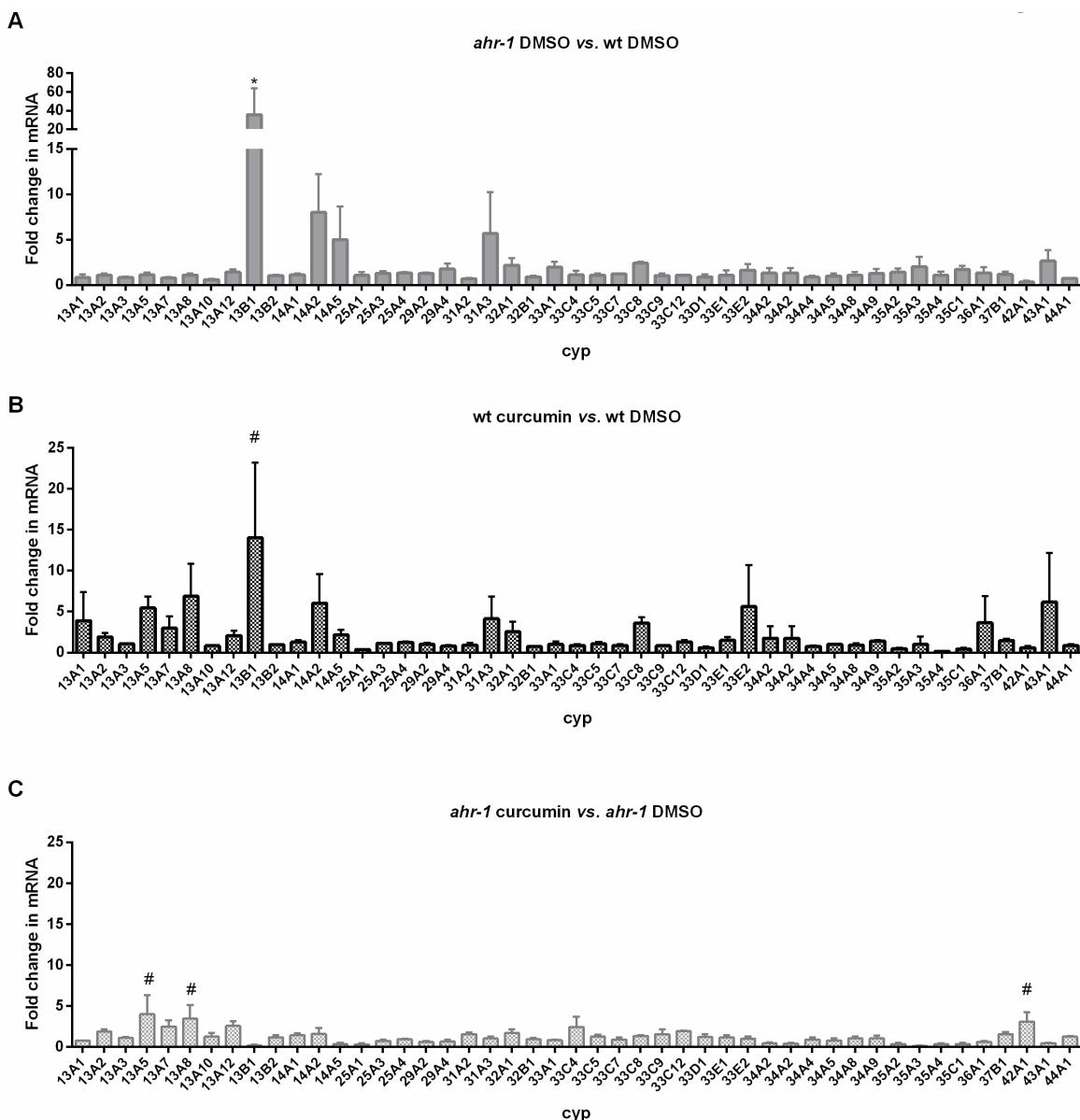
<sup>5</sup> Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Piazza della Scienza 1, 20126 Milano, Italy; s.gianitagliabue@gmail.com (S.G.T.); laura.bonati@unimib.it (L.B.)

<sup>6</sup> Institute of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacology, Medical Faculty, University Hospital and Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Moorenstr 5, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany

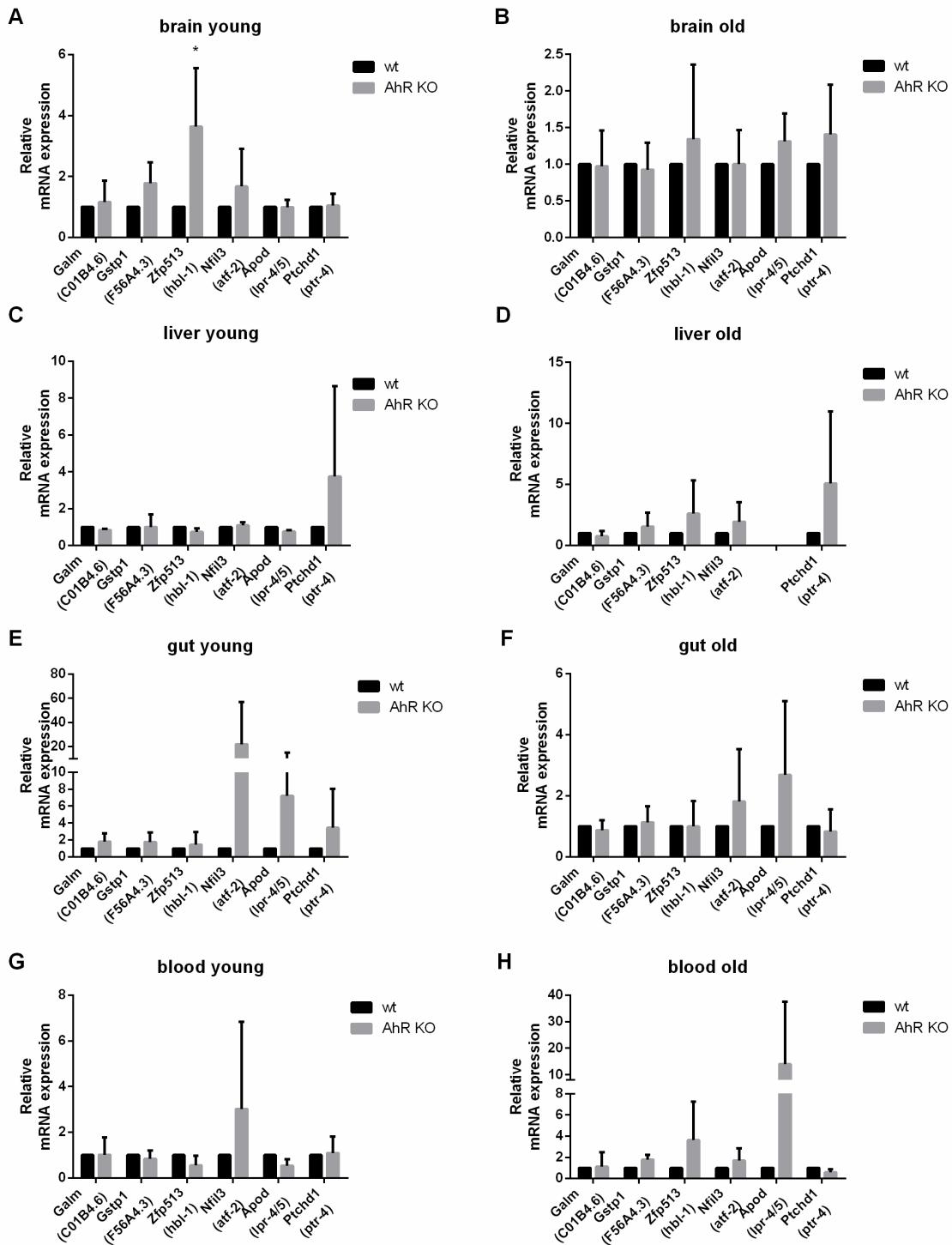
\* Correspondence: natascia.ventura@uni-duesseldorf.de, +49-211-3389203

† These authors contributed equally to this work.

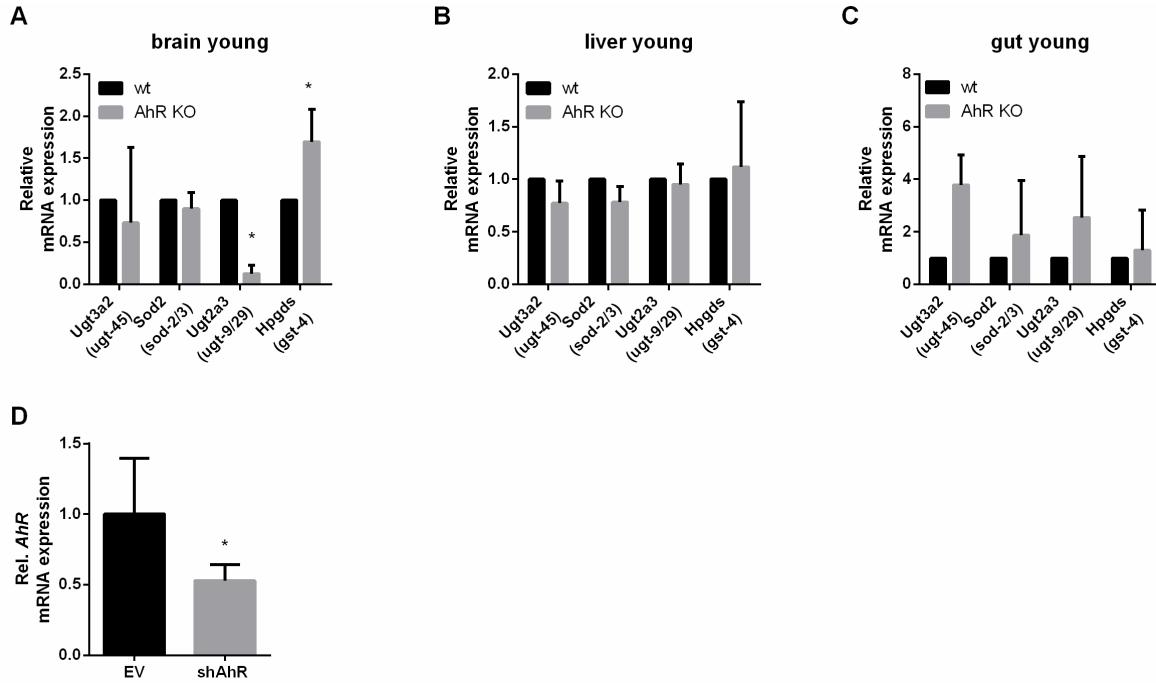
## Supplementary figures and tables



**Figure S1.** *Cyp-13B1* expression is increased by curcumin in an *ahr-1*-dependent manner. **A)** *cyp* gene expression in DMSO-treated *ahr-1(ju145)* relative to DMSO-treated wild-type. **B)** *cyp* gene expression in curcumin-treated wild-type relative to DMSO-treated wild-type. **C)** *cyp* gene expression in curcumin-treated *ahr-1* mutants relative to DMSO-treated *ahr-1* mutants. Mean + SEM of pooled data from 3 replicates is shown in all panels. \* p-value < 0.05 vs. wt, # p-value < 0.05 vs. DMSO, statistical test: 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test.



**Figure S2. Tissue-specific gene expression changes in mice.** Expression levels of homologs of some of the strongest differentially expressed genes between wt and *ahr-1* *C. elegans* in the brain (A-B), liver (C-D), gut (E-F), and blood (G-H) of young (8-12 weeks old) or old (18 months old) mice was assessed by qPCR. The *C. elegans* homolog names are indicated in brackets. Mean + SD of 3 mice is shown. Statistical test: 2-way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparisons test, \* p-value < 0.05 vs. wt.



**Figure S3.** Genes coding for detoxification enzymes are differentially expressed in a tissue-specific manner in mice. qPCR analysis of Ugt3A2, Sod2, Ugt2A3, and Hpdgs expression in the brain (A), liver (B), and gut (C) young (8-12 weeks old) or old (18 months old) mice. Mean + SD of pooled data from 3 mice are shown. Statistical test: 2-way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparisons test, \* p-value < 0.05 vs. wt. D) Human primary EC were transfected with an empty vector (EV) or an expression vector for an shRNA targeting the human AhR transcript (shAhR). Relative AhR expression was assessed by qPCR, mean expression in the EV transfected cells was set to 1. Data are shown as mean + SD from 7 experiments. #p<0.05 vs. EV.

**Table S1.** Primer pairs used for qPCR with *C. elegans* samples. Gene names are sorted alphabetically.

Gene name	Forward Primer sequence (5' – 3')	Reverse Primer sequence (5' – 3')	Efficiency (%) <sup>a</sup>	RefSeq mRNA ID
act-1	GCTCTTGCCCCATCAACCAT	CACTTGGCGGTGAACGATGGA	94.8-100.4	NM_073418
atf-2	CGAAGGAACAATGAAGCCGC	CCAAGAGCTGAACTCGTCGT	98.1	NM_063460
C01B4.6	TGGCGATGCGAAAATTGATGTAA	ATCTCCAGAAAAGTGCCTCGGC	83.9	NM_071283
C01B4.7	GTITTGGAATCAGACGCCGG	CAGTGGGGTCCGTCAAGIT	106.6	NM_071282
cdc-42	ATTACGCCGTACAGTAATG	ATCCCCTGAGATCGACTTGAG	80.8-107.2	NM_063197
clec-209	TGCTCGGGAAACAACCAAAA	TTGGCTACGAACGATTGATGC	88.4	NM_071249
cyp-13A1	GTACAACCTACACAAATCGC	TGAATCTCTGGATGAGITGC	91.2	NM_001383923
cyp-13A2	GTGGACAAAGAAATATGGCAA	ACAAGTGAACTCGTTGTTCT	97.6	NM_063708
cyp-13A3	GCCTGAAAGATGGGATCTG	TGCCAGAACCATCTTTCTT	100.5	NM_063709
cyp-13A5	TGGACAAAAGAATAACGGACC	CGTAGGTGATGACAGAGITC	86.7	NM_063711
cyp-13A7	GACAAAGAAATACGGACCTG	TGCAGTTAATTTCTCCCGT	93.2	NM_063713
cyp-13A8	AGCTCAAGGTTTAGATGGA	CATAAGCTCCTGTGCTAT	94	NM_063714
cyp-13A10	AAGACAGTGGATGGAATT	TCTCCGAATATCGCTCTGA	103.7	NM_063684
cyp-13A12	CTGGGAGCTTAGCAAATT	TCTCCTGATTCCCATCTTTC	105.8	NM_067304
cyp-13B1	GGGCTGTTCCAGTGTAGTC	AACATCGAACCTGCTTTA	96.2	NM_077832
cyp-13B2	TGAGAATGTATCCAGTTGCC	GATTGAGGCCATCTTCTGG	98.7	NM_077968
cyp-14A1	TTCACCAGTCCCTCCAGAC	AGAACGGTGAGCTCGGTAAG	94.4	NM_077802
cyp-14A2	AGTCCGGAAGGAAATACTTG	CATCTCGTTGTATGAGTC	102.3	NM_077803
cyp-14A5	ATAGGCACGGCGAGACTACC	CAAGTACAGTCTTGTCAAC	100.1	NM_072034
cyp-25A1	TGGCTCTCCTGATTTAACG	AAGTTTCCCTGCGTTCTG	84.7	NM_065374

<i>cyp-25A2</i>	CTCTTCTGATTCTCACCTCAA	TTTTCTTCCGGTCAACGA	93.1	NM_065375
<i>cyp-25A3</i>	AGCACTCTTCCTTTCCC	TAAACATCTGCAAGTCCCTC	109.2	NM_001047385
<i>cyp-25A4</i>	CCAGTGTCTTGATACTTCC	ACCCTCTCCAGCACGTCTC	106.4	NM_065378
<i>cyp-29A2</i>	TGCCATAATTCTGGCATATC	AGGACCAGGTAGTTACTTC	90.3	NM_073446
<i>cyp-29A4</i>	TTCCAGTGGCTTGCAATTG	CATCTTCCTCCA-TAAATCCAG	107.4	NM_073089
<i>cyp-31A2</i>	CCGCTGTACTTCTCGCTATG	TTCTTCATCTGCTCCGAGGC	84.3	NM_069751
<i>cyp-31A3</i>	TACTCCGCCGATCTCGTG	TTCTCCTCTGCTCCGAGGG	81.8	NM_068236
<i>cyp-32A1</i>	TCCTAGCTGATGCAGTCGAG	CCGTTCTGGATGACCTTC	94.6	NM_072608
<i>cyp-32B1</i>	AGTTTTGCATGTTCGGAAG	ACCATAACCTCAACACACCA	97.8	NM_071197
<i>cyp-33A1</i>	GAAGTTAATATTCAAGAACAT	TACCGGAAGTAGACACGAAG	100.6	NM_072587
<i>cyp-33C4</i>	AAAATCTCCCAGACCCCT	GAAGACGGTGAGATCTT-GTATCTA	107.2	NM_071211
<i>cyp-33C5</i>	GTTTGTGTTGTCCTGTTCCA	CATATGGAATGTTGCCCATC	92.4	NM_071215
<i>cyp-33C7</i>	GAAGATTGATGAAAGACTGGA	CAGAGGTCCAAGCAAGTATT	97.3	NM_071217
<i>cyp-33C8</i>	GATGATGTGCTCAACTACTG	CTTGAGCCTTGTCTCTTC	111.6	NM_071650
<i>cyp-33C9</i>	ATTTCAGGCCGGAGAGATT	CGGAACAAACCCGTATCTAT	111	NM_071445
<i>cyp-33C12</i>	ATATTGTCCCCGATCAACCAG	TGGGTCTGGGAAAACCTTAT	102.1	NM_071198
<i>cyp-33D1</i>	CGTTTGCAACAAACAACTC	CCAATGACTCTGTCTAGCTC	106.1	NM_074675
<i>cyp-33E1</i>	CAATGCAACTGTTAATGAATCT	TCAGGGAATATCTCTGGATC	103.6	NM_069079
<i>cyp-33E2</i>	ATGAATCACACGTCTGCC	TCAGGGAAGATTCTGGATT	100.2	NM_069069
<i>cyp-34A2</i>	TGTGCGTGTCTCTCAATAA	TTGGACTTCACTAACACGG	86.4	NM_074387
<i>cyp-34A4</i>	TGAACGATTGAACACAGGTG	TTCTCTGCACATTCTTGC	81.4	NM_071696
<i>cyp-34A5</i>	AGTTGTAGAGAAGCTGAGGA	GAACCTCATTAAACAACCGCA	98.9	NM_071698
<i>cyp-34A8</i>	AGCTGTTTGATAACCGGAA	GGAGCAAATGGAGTAGTTGT	109.3	NM_071701
<i>cyp-34A9</i>	GGCGCAACTATCAATGAAATCC	TCAGCTCTAGCCAGTGATT	87.6	NM_001047606
<i>cyp-35A2</i>	TTCTGTGCTTGGATACC	TATTACCGTACCTCTTCTA	79.6	NM_072479
<i>cyp-35A3</i>	CGCTGCGTGTAAAGTTGGC	TGTTGCCGTATTCTTCTG	85.6	NM_071720
<i>cyp-35A4</i>	TCGGCAATTGAGTTGGT	TGTTGCCATATCTCTTCTA	107.7	NM_071723
<i>cyp-35C1</i>	GAGCCGAGCTGTATTAATC	ATGTCGAAGGCTTCGCATCT	97.4	NM_171550
<i>cyp-36A1</i>	GATCGATTCTGAATAGTCGTG	TCGTGATGCTCGGACTGTAA	79.8	NM_059866
<i>cyp-37B1</i>	ATGTTGAAGGCCACGACAC	TCCGGGTTGACTGATTGG	89.8	NM_074708
<i>cyp-42A1</i>	TCTACAACAGGCACCGAAGG	TGTGTCGTGGCCTCAAATG	122.2	NM_075287
<i>cyp-43A1</i>	AGTCTGCTCGGATTCTTTT	GTGCCGTAATTCTCATAG	82.5	NM_076560
<i>cyp-44A1</i>	ATCGGGAACATTGGGTATT	CAGTTGAACATCAGCAGGA	81.5	NM_062651
<i>dyf-7</i>	GTCTGCGTTCCGTACAAG	CGGGGAAGCAACAAGTTCTG	124.8	NM_001392826
<i>egl-46</i>	CACCTCAACCGCTTTCCAAG	ATTTCACATCCGCCTCCTCC	85.1	NM_072293
<i>F56A4.3</i>	ACGAGGGGAATGAATGGCAA	CCATAGGGACCAA-TATCCATGAACCT	101.4	NM_071272
<i>K04H4.2</i>	ACGCCGGAATCTGTTGTTCT	CGTTCATTT-GGAAAGGAGGCAT	95.3	NM_001382959
<i>ptr-4</i>	TCCTACCAAGACGCGCAATC	GCAACCCATACTGACGGAGT	79.5	NM_076612
<i>T20F5.4</i>	TCATCTACCGAGCAGCCAAC	GAGATGCTCGGTCTCACTGC	94.5	NM_058862
<i>ugt-9</i>	ATGTTGCCAATAATTGCT	TGGTTGGAAGACTGTAACAT	100.2	NM_071911
<i>ugt-29</i>	GATGGTGACTAAGGAAATCAAC	CCGATTTCACCAGTGATCCA	102.8	NM_001383270
<i>ugt-45</i>	GAAATTGGGTTCAAGTCACA	TTAATAGCGTCGGTAGTCGG	88	NM_068009
<i>ugt-57</i>	CCTTGTCCGTGAGAAAGTTA	TCCGTCAATCCTCCGTAT	101.1	NM_076781

<sup>a</sup> Primer efficiency is defined as how many copies of PCR product are produced per cycle. In ideal conditions, the primer efficiency is 100%, meaning that the amount of PCR product is doubled with each cycle. The primer efficiency was used for the calculation of the expression levels.



**Table S2.** Primer pairs used for qPCR with mouse samples.

Gene name	Forward Primer sequence (5' – 3')	Reverse Primer sequence (5' – 3')	Efficiency (%) <sup>a</sup>	RefSeq mRNA ID
<i>Ugt3a2</i>	GTGTGTCGCAAGTTCTTCAT	TGATGTTGGACCTGCCATA	94.7	NM_144845.3
<i>Hpgds</i>	CAGCGTTGGAGCAATGTCAA	CTGCCAGGTTACATAATTGC	109.9	NM_019455.4
<i>Ugt2a3</i>	TATAGACCCTGTCGTCCCTGT	TTGTGGCCTCCTAGGGTT	92.6	NM_028094.3
<i>Sod2</i>	AACGCCACCGAGGAGAAGTA	TCCAGCAACTCTCCTTGGGT	102.2	NM_013671.3
<i>Galm</i>	AAGGAACTGCCTCGACCTG	GACGCACCCTGCACAAAAC	111.0	NM_176963.4
<i>Gstp1</i>	TGAGTACCCCTCTGTCTACGC	AGCTGCCCATACAGA- CAAGTG	96.4	NM_013541.1
<i>Zfp513</i>	GGGAGGGAGATTCCACAAGC	CCCCTGAGAGTCTCCTTCAGA	146.9	NM_001177901.1
<i>Nfil3</i>	CAGGGAGCAGAACCAACGATAAC	CCTCGTCCTACAGACCGGAT	89.9	NM_017373.3
<i>Apod</i>	ATCTGAGAGAAACTGACAG- TGAGC	GAGACGGCATTCCCAAGA	108.8	NM_007470.4
<i>Ptchd1</i>	CCCTTCGTACATGCTAGGTCA	GCCGAAGGTGACCAAGTACA	123.2	NM_001093750.1

<sup>a</sup> Primer efficiency is defined as how many copies of PCR product are produced per cycle. In ideal conditions, the primer efficiency is 100%, meaning that the amount of PCR product is doubled with each cycle.