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## Comparative proteomic analysis of the aging soleus and extensor digitorum longus rat muscles using TMT labeling and mass spectrometry

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### Abstract

Sarcopenia describes an age-related decline in skeletal muscle mass, strength, and function that ultimately impairs metabolism, leads to poor balance, frequent falling, limited mobility, and a reduction in quality of life. Here we investigate the pathogenesis of sarcopenia through a proteomic shotgun approach. Briefly, we employed tandem mass tags (TMT) to quantitate and compare the protein profiles obtained from young versus old rat slow-twitch type of muscle (soleus) and a fast-twitch type of muscle (extensor digitorum longus, EDL). Our results disclose 3452 and 1848 proteins identified from soleus and EDL muscles samples of which 78 and 174 were found to be differentially expressed, respectively. In general, most of the proteins were structural related, involved in energy metabolism, oxidative stress, detoxification, or transport. Aging affected soleus and EDL muscles differently and several proteins were regulated in opposite ways. For example, pyruvate kinase had its expression and activity different in both soleus and EDL muscles. We were able to verify with existing literature many of our differentially expressed proteins as candidate aging biomarkers, and most importantly, disclose several new candidate biomarkers such as the glioblastoma amplified sequence (GAS), zero beta-globin, and prolargin.

### Keywords

Aging; EDL; proteome; rat; sarcopenia; soleus; TMT

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## INTRODUCTION

Sarcopenia describes an age-related decline in skeletal muscle mass, strength and function<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> that ultimately results in impaired metabolism, poor balance, frequent falling, limited mobility and reduction in quality of life<sup>5,6</sup>. Therefore, the identification of new disease markers will aid in understanding the biology of this disease, and therefore pave the way to more effective diagnostic methods and treatments to stop or at least delay age-related muscle wasting.

Sarcopenia is a multi-factorial disease that is highly correlated with aging. Alterations in cells have been found to occur such as increased oxidative stress, increased apoptosis, metabolic abnormalities, alterations in hormone response, decreased protein synthesis of myofibrillar components, and impaired signal transduction<sup>3,7,8,9,10</sup>. Although contractile proteins are lost during atrophy, alterations can occur in non-contractile proteins, increasing the complexity of such alterations.

Aging affects the metabolic capacity of skeletal muscle and changes the activity of specific enzymes. In general, there is a decline in the oxidative capacity of skeletal muscles of aged rats as well as a decline in energy-rich molecules such as ATP and creatine phosphate (CrP)<sup>11,12</sup>. However, the effect on enzyme activity and expression cannot be generalized since data suggests that distinct muscles may respond differently to aging.

During aging there is a progressive loss of skeletal muscle proteins. Fractional synthesis rates of myofibrillar proteins are reduced in the elderly indicating that the old muscles have reduced capacity to synthesize new proteins. Furthermore, decline in mitochondrial proteins has also been reported (reviewed by CARMELI et al.<sup>13</sup>).

Oxidative stress appears to be a key component of sarcopenia, and it has been suggested that the deleterious effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS) are at least in part responsible for the aging process<sup>14</sup>. Free radicals are also responsible for dysfunctional mitochondria, which play a major role in muscle function decline. Alterations in mitochondrial volume, increased oxidative stress, reduced oxidative capacity, and an increase in mitochondrially mediated apoptosis have been described (reviewed by PETERSON et al.<sup>15</sup>).

Thirty-month old wistar rats represent an established animal model of skeletal muscle aging and a variety of studies have been performed using this animal strain<sup>16,17,18</sup>. Over the last decade several muscle proteomic studies, following such biological model, have been completed using different techniques such as two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2DE)<sup>19,20,21</sup> and shotgun based proteomics<sup>18,22,23,24</sup> to catalogue muscle skeletal proteins. And within the 2DE universe, we note that several staining methods have been evaluated; such as Coomassie blue<sup>22</sup>, fluorescent Deep Purple labeling<sup>23</sup> and fluorescent difference in-gel electrophoresis (DIGE)<sup>24</sup>. Taken together, these results describe various differentially expressed proteins related to structure, metabolic enzymes, or involved in ion homeostasis and stress response<sup>25</sup>. Previous reports have also investigated post-translational modifications such as phosphorylation<sup>26,27</sup>, glycosylation<sup>28,29,30</sup>, carbonylation<sup>31</sup>, and nitrosylation<sup>17</sup>.

Because soleus and extensor digitorum longus (EDL) muscles have different fiber composition, function and metabolic features, we argue that an in-depth proteomic analysis of these tissues could unveil complementary aspects in the biology of aging. Skeletal muscle is composed of two major types of muscle fibers, the slow- and the fast-twitch fibers, which can be distinguished by the enzymatic characteristics of myosin ATPase and species of myosin heavy chain isoforms. Slow twitch fibers express type I while type II predominate in the fast-twitch fibres<sup>32</sup>. Among skeletal muscles in the rat hind limb, the soleus muscle is a

typical muscle composed mainly of slow-twitch fibers (more than 90% of type I fibers) which allow them prolonged, steady contractions. The EDL muscle is composed mainly of fast-twitch fibers (more than 90% of type II fibers), which ensures rapid and delicate movements<sup>33</sup>.

Therefore, the aim of our study was to evaluate the effect of aging in the protein expression patterns of soleus and EDL muscles. To accomplish this, we employed state of the art proteomic techniques such as multi-dimensional protein identification technology (MudPIT)<sup>34</sup>, high resolution mass spectrometry with an Orbitrap Velos (Thermo, San José), and an isobaric labeling quantitation approach using the tandem mass tags (TMT)<sup>35</sup>.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

### Animals

This research was approved by the Local Ethical Committee and the experiments were conducted in accordance with the National Research Council's Guidelines for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Male Wistar rats were housed under controlled environmental conditions (temperature, 22°C; 12h dark period starting at 6:00 p.m.). Young rats had an average weight of 0.370kg ± 0.01 g (3 months of age) and old rats had an average weight of 0.500kg ± 0.08 g (24 months of age).

### Serum and muscle oxidative stress

Serum oxidative stress was determined using ferrous oxidation-xylenol orange (FOX) assay as previously described<sup>36</sup>.

### Creatine kinase and pyruvate kinase enzyme activity

Samples were homogenized in extraction buffer (0.05 M Imidazole-HCl, 0.12 M KCl, and 0.062 M MgSO<sub>4</sub>; pH 7.6) at 1:10 dilution (w/v). Homogenates were centrifuged at 7000 g for 10 minutes, at 4°C, and the supernatants used for the further assays. An aliquot of each homogenate was used for determining total protein content, using BSA a standard (Bradford et al., 1979), which was used for normalization of the results. Evaluation of CK and PK activities was performed by the methodologies described by Ainsworth and MacFarlane<sup>37</sup> and Dinovo et al.<sup>38</sup>, respectively. Results are shown as μmol/min/mg protein.

### Histological analysis

Muscles were embedded in tissue tek, cooled in isopentane, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and sectioned with a cryostat. The resulting 10-μm transverse sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE) for morphological analysis and NADH-TR. Fibers from soleus muscle were classified as slow-oxidative (SO) and fast-oxidative-glycolytic (FOG); fibers from EDL muscle were classified as SO, FOG, and fast-glycolytic (FG). Cross-sectional areas (CSAs) of ~400 muscle fibers of a muscle from each rat were measured using the Image Pro-Plus software.

### Trypsin digestion

One hundred micrograms of protein were precipitated using the methanol/chloroform precipitation method. Briefly, 4 volumes of methanol and 1 volume of chloroform was added, the samples were mixed, centrifuged and then washed once with 4 volumes of methanol. The samples were then dissolved in 45 μL of TEAB 200 mM pH 8.0, 5 μL of 2% SDS and ultra-pure water was added to complete 100 μL. Reduction was performed with 10 μL TCEP 200mM for 60 min at 55 °C followed by 5 μL of 375 mM iodoacetamide for 30 min in the dark at RT. The sample was precipitated in cold acetone (1:6), at -20 °C

overnight and dissolved in 45  $\mu$ L of TEAB 200 mM pH 8.0; 2.5  $\mu$ L of SDS 2% and ultra-pure water. Trypsin digestion was carried out overnight at 37 °C with 2.5  $\mu$ g of enzyme.

### TMT labeling

Six-plex TMT labeling (Thermo Scientific) was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions to isobarically label primary amino groups and thus allow to simultaneously compare six samples. Briefly, each tube (0.8 mg) was reconstituted with 41  $\mu$ L of anhydrous acetonitrile at RT and the reagents were dissolved by vortexing for 5 min. Each sample was labeled by adding 10  $\mu$ L of tag, followed by incubation for 1 h at RT. The reaction was quenched with the addition of 5% hydroxylamine for 15 min incubation at RT. Samples were then pooled and stored at -80 °C until further analysis. Young muscle samples were labeled with 126, 127 and 128 while old muscle samples were labeled with 129, 130 and 131.

### Multidimensional Protein Identification Technology Analysis (MudPIT)

Analysis was performed on an LTQ Orbitrap Velos (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA) interfaced with a quaternary HP 1100 series HPLC pump (Agilent Technology, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The analytical column was a 100  $\mu$ m diameter fused-silica capillary (JW Scientific, Agilent Technology, Santa Clara, CA, USA), pulled with a P-2000 laser (Sutter Instrument Co., Novato, CA, USA) and packed with 12 cm of 5  $\mu$ m C18 resin (Aqua, Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA). The biphasic microcapillary trapping column (5 cm of 250  $\mu$ m diameter) consisted of a fritted capillary with Kasil 1624, packed with 2.5 cm reversed-phase C18 (Aqua, Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA) and 2.5 cm of strong cation exchange (5  $\mu$ m Partisphere, Whatman, Maidstone, Kent, UK) packing material. The biphasic column was loaded offline with sample using a pressure pump at approximately 800 psi.

An automated 11-step chromatographic run was performed on each sample using three mobile phases consisting of buffer A (5% acetonitrile (ACN); 0.1% acid formic (FA), buffer B (80% ACN, 0.1% FA), and buffer C (500 mM ammonium acetate, 5% ACN, 0.1% FA). Step one consisted of a linear gradient from 0 to 100% buffer B (120min). Steps 2–9 had the following profile: 1 min 100% buffer A; 4 min (100 - X)% buffer A, X% buffer C; 80 min from 100% buffer A to 50% buffer A and 50% buffer B; 10 min from 50% to 100% buffer B; 1 min from 100% buffer B to 100% A; 10 min at 100% buffer A. For buffer C, X% was, respectively, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, and 100%. Steps 10 and 11 had the following profile: 2 min 100% buffer A; 4 min 10% buffer B, 90% buffer C; 45 min from 100% buffer A to 50% buffer A and 50% buffer B; 10 min from 50% to 100% buffer B; 1 min from 100% buffer B to 100% A; 10 min at 100% buffer A.

The application of the distal voltage of 2.5 kV electrosprayed the eluted peptides directly into LTQ Orbitrap Velos (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA). A cycle of one full scan was applied (300–2000 m/z, resolution 30 000) followed by 10 data dependent HCD dual MS/MS and repeated continuously through each MudPIT step. Full scans and higher energy collisional activated dissociation (HCD) scans were in Orbitrap, at resolutions of 30 000 and 7500, respectively. The normalized collision energy in the HCD was of 45% in HCD. The following parameters for dynamic exclusion were applied: 1 repeat count, 30 s repeat duration, 180 exclusion list size, 60 s exclusion duration, and a dynamic exclusion list of 60 seconds and an HCD fragmentation energy of 45. The number of microscans for ms1 and ms2 was 1 and a 2m/z isolation window. The mass spectrometer and HPLC were controlled by the Xcalibur data system (Thermo, San Jose, CA).

## Database searching

Tandem mass spectra were extracted from the raw files using RawExtract 1.9.3<sup>39</sup>. Database searching for protein identification was performed using the ProLuCID algorithm v.1.3.1<sup>40</sup>, with the following parameters: carbamidomethylation of cysteines (57.021464 C) and TMT-labeled in the primary amino group (229.1629K) as static modifications; trypsin as enzyme (KR) allowing for semi-specific peptides; tolerance of 50 ppm and the ProLuCID isotopic peaks parameter was set to 3<sup>41</sup>. The search was performed against the all *Rattus* sequences available for download from Uniprot on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013; these comprised 41,772 sequences plus other 127 sequences that we added as they are known to be common mass spectrometry contaminants. For each sequence, a reversed decoy sequence was included, doubling the number of sequences in the final database.

## Assessment of PSMs

The validity of the Peptide Sequence Matches (PSMs) was assessed using the Search Engine Processor (SEPro). Briefly, identifications were grouped by charge state (+2 and +3) and then by tryptic status (fully tryptic, semi-tryptic), resulting in four distinct subgroups. For each group, the ProLuCID XCorr, DeltaCN, delta ppm, number of peaks matched, and ZScore values were used to generate a Bayesian discriminator. The identifications were sorted in a non-decreasing order according to the discriminator score. A cutoff score was established to accept a false-discovery rate (FDR) of 1% based on the number of decoys. This procedure was independently performed on each data subset, resulting in a false-positive rate that was independent of tryptic status or charge state. Additionally, a minimum sequence length of six amino acid residues was required. Results were post-processed to only accept PSMs with less than 8 ppm.

## Quantitation and pinpointing differentially expressed proteins

The quantitation of confident identifications was assessed using SEPro's quantitation module SEProQ41 which is another module from PatternLab for proteomics suite. Briefly, this module reads the intensity corresponding to each of the six TMT reporter ions (i.e., 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, and 131) of which the first three and the last three correspond to samples from different biological conditions. The data treatment options selected for this analysis were signal normalization by channel sum and impurity correction. For the later, we included the impurity and isotopic overlap information provided together with the TMT kit. SEProQ uses a peptide centric approach to pinpoint differentially expressed proteins. For this, it relies on the paired Student's t-test to pinpoint differentially expressed proteins by considering, for each mass spectrum associated to a given protein, the differences in average of the reporter ions associated to each biological state. Finally, after associating a differential expression p-value to each protein, SEProQ applies the Benjamini-Hochberg<sup>43</sup> to control the theoretical FDR to  $q < 0.05$ .

# RESULTS

## Animal characteristics

The body weight, soleus muscle wet weight, EDL muscle wet weight, and the muscle wet weight to body ratio (sarcopenia index) is shown in Table 1. The mean body weight for the young animals was  $0.369\text{kg} \pm 0.00574$  and for the old group,  $0.502\text{kg} \pm 0.0250$  ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Despite differences in body weight, soleus wet weight ( $0.196\text{g} \pm 0.00599$  and  $0.210\text{g} \pm 0.0158$ ;  $p = 0.415$  for young and old respectively) and EDL wet weight ( $0.168\text{g} \pm 0.00409$  and  $0.193\text{g} \pm 0.0187$ ;  $p = 0.2243$  for young and old respectively) were not statistically different between the groups.

The sarcopenia index (SI) is defined as the relation between body weight and muscle weight<sup>25</sup> and was calculated for both soleus and EDL muscles. For young and old soleus, the SI's were  $0.532 \pm 0.0117$  and  $0.4044 \pm 0.0189$ , respectively, with  $p < 0.0001$ . For EDL, the young and old SI's were  $0.458 \pm 0.00117$  and  $0.384 \pm 0.031$ , respectively with  $p < 0.04$  (Figure 1). A drop in the sarcopenia index, as observed for both muscles, but more significantly in soleus, indicates muscle wasting.

### Histological analysis

In soleus muscles, both slow-oxidative (SO) and fast oxidative glycolytic (FOG) fiber areas were significantly reduced in the old group when compared with the young group (Supplementary figure 1A;  $1418 \pm 334.7$  vs.  $115.2 \pm 7.4$  mm<sup>2</sup> of SO fibers and  $1719 \pm 310.2$  vs.  $136.0 \pm 2.7$  mm<sup>2</sup> of FOG fiber in young and old groups, respectively;  $p = 0.0065$  and  $p = 0.0013$ ). Furthermore, soleus cross sectional area (CSA) was significantly decreased in the old group when compared with the young group (Supplementary figure 1C;  $3137 \pm 640.2$  vs.  $251.2 \pm 9.0$  mm<sup>2</sup> in young and old groups, respectively;  $p = 0.0028$ ). Additionally, soleus muscles presented an increased number of centrally located nuclei, extensive variability in diameter and increased connective tissue (Supplementary figure 2B).

In contrast with soleus, EDL muscles presented no significant differences in fiber areas (Supplementary figure 1B;  $890.4 \pm 150.9$  vs.  $642.2 \pm 185.3$  mm<sup>2</sup> of SO fibers,  $1595 \pm 281.1$  vs.  $1015 \pm 303.3$  mm<sup>2</sup> of FOG fibers, and  $2605 \pm 533.9$  vs.  $1489 \pm 458.3$  mm<sup>2</sup> of FG fibers in young and old groups, respectively;  $p > 0.05$ ) and in CSA area (Supplementary figure 1C;  $5091 \pm 959.9$  vs.  $3146 \pm 932.7$  mm<sup>2</sup> in young and old groups, respectively;  $p > 0.05$ ). Likewise, EDL muscles presented an increased number of centrally located nuclei, extensive variability in diameter and increased connective tissue (Supplementary Figure 2A).

### Differentially expressed proteins

Our soleus muscle shotgun proteomic analysis identified 3452 proteins (FDR at protein level = 0.98%) and a total of 6756 peptides (FDR at peptide level = 0.33%). PatternLab for proteomics<sup>41,44</sup> provides an additional report indicating that these 3452 proteins can be reduced to 2027 when applying the bi-partite maximum parsimony algorithm to converge to a maximum parsimony protein list<sup>45</sup> (i.e., a reduced list of proteins that explains all identified peptides). We note that 1006 of these proteins had at least one unique peptide. In our EDL muscle analysis, we identified 1848 proteins (FDR = 0.97%, 1075 with maximum parsimony of which 523 had at least one unique peptide) and a total of 4255 peptides (FDR at peptide level = 0.19%). To determine which proteins were differentially regulated we used a fold change cutoff of 1.3 and a q-value of 0.05 (*viz.*, for the experiment at hand, a corrected p-value cutoff of 0.03). Overall, 78 proteins had a change in abundance in soleus muscles, of which 57 were down regulated in old muscles and 21 up-regulated (considering maximum parsimony) (Table 2). Accordingly, for EDL muscles, the number of up and down-regulated proteins in the old muscles were 145 and 29, respectively, totaling 174 (Table 3).

Most of the differentially expressed proteins are involved in metabolism (glycolysis, oxidative metabolism and cellular processes), contractile apparatus, cellular stress response and detoxification.

### Energy metabolism

Most of the differentially expressed proteins in soleus muscles were down-regulated in the old tissue (Table 2). Glycolytic enzymes such as beta-enolase, phosphoglycerate kinase and pyruvate kinase (PK) were down-regulated during aging. PK mediates one of the rate-limiting steps catalyzing the final stage of the glycolytic pathway. Decreased expression of

PK during aging were previously described<sup>23,46</sup>; however, some authors have found increased levels of this protein with aging<sup>47,48</sup>. Proteins involved in oxidative metabolism, such as ATP synthase (subunit alpha), electron transfer flavoprotein and mitochondrial cytochrome complex subunits 1 and 2 were also down-regulated.

Among the up-regulated proteins were protein-arginine deiminase type-2, L-lactate dehydrogenase chain (LDH), and mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein.

The glioblastoma amplified sequence (GBAS), also known as NIPSNAP2, is most abundant in brain, heart and skeletal muscle<sup>49,50</sup>. Interestingly, this protein was one of the most down-regulated proteins in our study ( $-\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $-22.10$ ) and it may be at least partly responsible for the reduction in oxidative capacity that is found in sedentary elderly adults<sup>51</sup>. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of altered levels of this protein with aging and its specific role in the process requires further studies.

Most of the differentially regulated proteins identified in EDL muscles are metabolic enzymes and in contrast to what was observed in soleus muscles, the majority of the proteins (56) were up-regulated in the aged muscle, while only 10 proteins were down-regulated in this condition (Table 3). Glycolytic enzymes such as beta-enolase, alpha enolase, gamma-enolase, pyruvate kinase, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, fructose-biphosphate aldolase, phosphoglycerate kinase and phosphoglycerate mutase were up-regulated during aging. Several proteins involved in oxidative metabolism were also up-regulated in the old EDL muscles. Among them were subunits of ATP synthase (subunit alpha, b, beta and delta), NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase, malate dehydrogenase, isocitrate dehydrogenase and citrate synthase. Increased levels of the mitochondrial enzymes such as ATP synthase, malate dehydrogenase and isocitrate dehydrogenase have also been found during the aging of rat gastrocnemius muscles<sup>46,48,52,53</sup>.

### Structural proteins

Several structural proteins were up-regulated in old soleus muscles (Table 2). Among them were troponin I, several isoforms of myosin heavy chain (4, 6, 7, and 13), and prolargin. We hypothesize that Troponin may be strongly correlated with scarponia. Recently, ZHANG et al.<sup>54</sup> have demonstrated a role for troponin in nuclear imbalance and muscle aging and overexpression of TnT fragments resulted in defects in nuclear shape and caused high levels of apoptosis.

Among the down-regulated proteins were actin, myosin regulatory light chain, Actn2, Col6a2, Fln C, and different chains of tropomyosin (alpha-1, alpha-3 and alpha-4). Other proteins that are involved in myofibrils assembly such as PDZ and LIM domain protein 5 were also down-regulated.

In EDL muscles, among the up-regulated proteins were two alpha chains of type VI collagen (Col6a2 and Col6a3), FlnC (filamin C), myosin-binding protein C, alpha-actinin 1, tropomyosin beta chain, Actn2 (actinin, alpha 2), and several chains of myosin regulatory light chain (light chain 1/3, light chain 2 and light chain 4) (Table 3).

Collagen proteins play a role in maintaining the integrity of various tissues. Age-related studies of collagen indicate that collagen content varies with age and type of muscle and a 40% increase in total collagen has been found in fast-twitch type of muscles<sup>55</sup>. Col6a2 along with prolargin were the two proteins with the greatest increase in expression ( $-\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $+23.10$  and  $+23.5$ , respectively).

The down-regulated group of proteins contained myosin heavy chain (chains 4, 7, and 8), cytoskeletal type II keratin, collagen alpha, and vimentin. Vimentin is a constituent of cytoskeletal filaments and in gastrocnemius rat muscle it is increased with age<sup>47</sup>.

### Oxidative stress, detoxification and degradation

In the up-regulated proteins of the soleus muscle, we identified two isoforms of glutathione S-transferase and ferritin (Table 2). Increased levels of glutathione S-transferase suggests increased detoxification of cytotoxic products, while higher levels of ferritin indicate an altered iron metabolism.

On the other hand, some heat shock proteins such as Hsp90, heat shock 71kDa protein, Hspb6, endoplasmic and chaperonin subunit 8 were down regulated. Deficits in chaperon function have been reported in several age-related diseases and literature also supports that synthesis of heat shock proteins is impaired in aging<sup>57, 58</sup>. The DNA damage-binding protein 1 is responsible for repair of UV-damaged DNA<sup>59</sup>; therefore, reduced levels of this protein may leave the DNA more susceptible to damage.

In EDL muscles, proteins involved in scavenging of reactive oxygen species, as well as enzymes involved in the detoxification of cytotoxic products were found to be up-regulated in old muscles (Table 3). Among them were several isoforms of glutathione-S-transferase (GSTs), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), heat shock proteins (71kDa protein and HSP 90-beta) and the antioxidant enzymes superoxide dismutase [Cu/Zn] and superoxide dismutase [Mn]. The up-regulation of glutathione transferase suggests increased detoxification of cytotoxic products while the up-regulation of glutathione peroxidase may be a counterbalance for increased levels of oxidative stress. Higher levels of chaperones may be needed to fold an increased number of misfolded proteins in aged muscles.

### Transport and catabolism

In the transport and catabolism class, all of the identified proteins were down-regulated in aged soleus muscles (Table 2). These proteins are clathrin heavy chain 1, complement component 4, the EH domain-containing protein 2, serum albumin and zero beta-globin.

The complement component 4 (C4) is involved in classical complement activation and there is evidence in the literature suggesting that the immune system deteriorates with age, rendering old animals less able to mount an immune response<sup>61</sup>. C4 prevents early stage autoimmune diseases<sup>62</sup> and mice with a disrupted C4 locus show impaired immune response<sup>63</sup>.

In EDL muscles an ADP/ATP translocase 1, BSA, carboxymethylenebutenolidase, kelch repeat and BTB domain-containing protein, protein Bgg-b1, serum albumin and serotransferrin were up-regulated with aging while transthyretin was down-regulated (Table 3).

Serum albumin was found to be increased, suggesting a shift to more aerobic-oxidative metabolism in aged fibres<sup>23</sup>. Serum albumin plays a crucial role in maintaining the osmotic blood pressure and apparently also plays a role as radical and heme scavenger<sup>64</sup>. Serotransferrin was also increased and it is involved in the control of stress and iron levels by increasing iron uptake.

### Additional differentially expressed proteins

In soleus muscles (Table 2), among the up-regulated proteins present were putative uncharacterized proteins, T-kininogen 2, alpha-1-macroglobulin, NAD(P)H-hydrate



epimerase and Obg-like ATPase 1. T-kininogen's (T-KG) expression has been shown to be considerably increased during aging in the liver of Sprague-Dawley rats<sup>65</sup> and serum of Fisher rats. Some authors<sup>66,67</sup> have suggested that T-KG may be a reliable biomarker for senescence in rats<sup>66,67</sup>. This protein may be involved in the deterioration of the immune system that occurs with aging. On the other hand, annexin, cadherin 13, alpha-1-inhibitor 3, N(G),N(G)-dimethylarginine dimethylaminohydrolase 1, basic leucine zipper, W2 domain-containing protein 2, glioblastoma amplified sequence, and two uncharacterized proteins were present at reduced levels.

Several proteins were up-regulated in old EDL muscles (Table 3). Among them, T-kininogen was also up-regulated in soleus muscles, presented a greater increase in EDL ( $-\text{Log}_2$  fold change = 1.8 and 3.9 for soleus and EDL, respectively). Calsequestrin and parvalbumin (PV) are  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding proteins that were up-regulated in old EDL muscles.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  translocation from the myofibril to the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) is facilitated by parvalbumin in the fast-twitch skeletal muscle. The energy-dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake into the SR is mediated by the SR ATPase, that is regulated by both  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  - and CaM-dependent phosphorylation. The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  cycle is completed by binding of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to the high-capacity, low-affinity  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  -binding protein calsequestrin. Therefore, altered levels of both parvalbumin and calsequestrin may be related to the age-related impairment of intrinsic SR function and influence the speed of contraction in old fast-twitch motor units<sup>68</sup>.

A voltage-dependent calcium channel (Q9ERS3) was also up-regulated in old muscles. Up-regulation of anion-selective channel proteins in aging has already been reported<sup>47</sup> and it may be a way to facilitate the access of kinases to ATP, therefore bypassing the restriction exerted by the mitochondrial outer membrane on the permeability for metabolites<sup>69</sup>.

Carbonic anhydrase III (CAIII) is a cytosolic zinc-containing enzyme which facilitates the transport of  $\text{CO}_2$  in skeletal muscle by catalyzing the reversible hydration of  $\text{CO}_2$ . This activity is probably involved in the maintenance of ionic balance and acid-base homeostasis within the muscle tissue. This enzyme is detected in large amounts in red slow-twitch muscles such as soleus<sup>70,71</sup>, but is virtually absent from adult white fast-twitch muscle, such as rodent anterior tibialis (AT) and EDL<sup>70</sup>. The age-dependent expression of this protein is still controversial in the literature. While some authors have demonstrated down regulation of CA3 in slow-type muscles such as gastrocnemius<sup>24,46,60</sup>, others have shown up-regulation<sup>47,72</sup> in the same muscle type.

### Oxidative stress in plasma and muscle

Taking in consideration the increased levels of antioxidant and enzymes involved in detoxification such as glutathione S-transferase, superoxide dismutase [Mn], and superoxide dismutase [Cu/Zn] that were up-regulated in both soleus and EDL muscles we decided to verify whether there were increased levels of oxidative stress in plasma and muscle of the old animals.

We determined oxidative stress levels in plasma and muscle of young and old animals using the FOX assay<sup>36</sup>. For the experiment at hand, we were unable to show statistical differences in the plasma of young versus old animals ( $1.08 \pm 0.10 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$  and  $1.12 \pm 0.07 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$ ,  $p = 0.33$ , respectively). However muscle oxidative stress was higher in old animals for both soleus and EDL muscles ( $17.71 \pm 1.42 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$  and  $110.69 \pm 16.21 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ , for young and old soleus, respectively, and  $16.54 \pm 1.13 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$  and  $131.89 \pm 26.06 \text{ mmol.mg}^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for young and old EDL, respectively) (Figure 2).

## Creatine kinase and pyruvate kinase activity

Creatine kinase catalyzes the reversible transfer of phosphate between ATP and creatine. The effect of aging on the levels of muscle CK has been controversial. We found that creatine kinase was up-regulated in old EDL muscles while there were no changes in expression for soleus muscles. Capitanio et al.<sup>47</sup> and O'Connell et al.<sup>23</sup> found decreased levels of this enzyme in gastrocnemius muscles while Doran et al.<sup>46</sup> found a two-fold increase in the same muscle type and Donogue et al.<sup>48</sup> reported differential effects of CK in 2D-gels of gastrocnemius muscles.

Therefore we evaluated CK activity to investigate whether an altered expression also resulted in different activities. When comparing the different muscles we found that CK activity was higher in EDL muscles, for both young and old ( $506.88 \pm 145.62$  and  $159.74 \pm 63.22$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for young EDL and young soleus respectively and  $347.52 \pm 194.31$  and  $128.52 \pm 78.52$ ,  $p = 0.0022$  for old EDL and old soleus muscles respectively) (Figure 3).

When we compared young versus old soleus muscles we found that CK activity was not different ( $159.74 \pm 63.22$  and  $128.52 \pm 78.52$ ,  $p = 0.25$  for young old muscles respectively) (Figure 3). On the other hand, CK's activity was lower in old EDL muscles ( $506.88 \pm 145.62$  and  $347.52 \pm 194.31$ ,  $p = 0.01$  for young and old muscles respectively) (Figure 3). Therefore, increased levels of CK may be a physiological response to counterbalance the reduced activity of this enzyme with aging. An age-related decline in this enzyme's activity has been shown to occur in humans and rodents<sup>73,74</sup>.

Pyruvate kinase (PK), a key enzyme in the glycolytic pathway, was differentially regulated in both soleus and EDL muscles. In EDL, it was up-regulated in the old muscles while in soleus muscles the result was the opposite. We evaluated PK activity and found that it was higher for EDL when compared to soleus ( $7.43 \pm 1.09$  and  $3.30 \pm 0.42$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for young EDL and young soleus muscles respectively and  $16.55 \pm 9.25$  and  $2.47 \pm 0.79$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for old EDL and old soleus respectively) (Figure4). Furthermore, in EDL old muscles there was an increased activity for this enzyme ( $7.43 \pm 1.09$  and  $16.55 \pm 9.25$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  for young and old, respectively) (Figure4), while for soleus muscles, PK activity decreased with age ( $3.30 \pm 0.42$  and  $2.47 \pm 0.79$ ,  $p = 0.0018$  for young and old, respectively) (Figure4).

## DISCUSSION

Over the last few years several proteomic studies have investigated changes in the protein complement of aging skeletal muscles in humans and animal considered as aging models (reviewed by DORAN et al.<sup>24</sup>). Most of these studies used two-dimensional electrophoresis and mass spectrometry as the main tool to identify differentially regulated proteins (reviewed by DORAN et al.<sup>24</sup>).

As far as we know, the use of TMT coupled with LC/LC/MS/MS mass spectrometry based proteomics allowed us to identify and quantify a larger number of proteins from both soleus and EDL muscles than any preceding report (total of 5300 proteins, out of which 252 were differentially regulated in aging).

We chose to analyze two different muscles, one in which fast-twitch type II fibers predominate (EDL) and the other in which the type I, slow-twitch fibers are more abundant (soleus) in order to have a comprehensive overview of the effects of aging on different types of muscles. Our investigation revealed many differences in the protein expression pattern of young versus old muscles, and there were considerable differences between soleus and EDL muscles as well.

Histological analysis of soleus and EDL showed striking features of aged muscles which include extensive variability in fiber diameter, a higher frequency of longitudinal splitting, an increased number of centrally located nuclei and thickening of the endomysium<sup>25, 75</sup> which indicate that the old rats used in this study (24 months old) did show signs of sarcopenia.

Furthermore, the sarcopenia index, which indicates the degree of muscle wasting was decreased for both muscles, and the decrease was more pronounced in the soleus than in the EDL muscle. Although sarcopenia is widely considered to preferentially impact fast twitch muscles<sup>76</sup> this notion may not be applied at more advanced ages. Hagen et al.<sup>77</sup> have shown that the relative protection of the slow twitch soleus muscle from age-related atrophy is present only until middle age with a great degree of atrophy present thereafter.

Our results are in agreement with those of Carter et al.<sup>78</sup> which have shown that slow twitch soleus muscles undergo large phenotypic alterations in very old age and also that, for several measures, it is of greater magnitude than fast twitch muscle. Furthermore, there are several reports of atrophy, force decline, altered MHC expression and myofiber loss in aged rat soleus muscles<sup>77,79,80</sup>.

The identification of several metabolic enzymes among the differentially regulated proteins suggests perturbations in the energy metabolism of old skeletal muscles. Only one enzyme, L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) was up-regulated in both soleus and EDL muscles. The effect of aging in the expression levels of this enzyme is still controversial in the literature. While Doran et al.<sup>46</sup> and Donogue et al.<sup>48</sup> found LDH to be one of the most drastically up-regulated proteins in old gastrocnemius muscle, Capitanio et al.<sup>47</sup> showed decreased levels of this enzyme in the same muscle type.

The mitochondria is the major cellular site for ATP production. During aging, the respiratory chain function (RCF) falls considerably in humans between ages 17 and 90 accompanied by an impaired function of cytochrome c oxidase in old muscles<sup>81</sup>.

Down-regulation of several components of the respiratory chain was observed for soleus muscles, while this trend was not true for EDL muscles, in which some components were up while others were down-regulated. Soleus muscles may be more susceptible to oxidative stress that plays a role in mitochondrial dysfunction and may therefore contribute to decreased expression of mitochondrial enzymes.

Interestingly, 11 metabolic enzymes were regulated in opposite ways in both muscles (down-regulated in soleus and up-regulated in EDL) (Table 4). These enzymes are involved in amino acid metabolism (aspartate aminotransferase, both the cytoplasmic and mitochondrial isoforms), glycolysis/gluconeogenesis (beta-enolase, phosphoglycerate kinase, phosphoglycerate mutase and pyruvate kinase) and oxidative metabolism (ATP synthase subunit beta, cytochrome c oxidase and electron transfer flavoprotein).

The glioblastoma amplified sequence (GAS), according to our quantitative strategy, showed to be the most down-regulated protein ( $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $-22.1$ ), along with a yet uncharacterized protein (D3ZH98,  $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $-21.1$ ). Zero beta-globin, a protein that participates in oxygen transport, was also drastically decreased ( $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $-16.9$ ). Therefore, the down-regulation of both GAS and zero beta-globin may contribute for the reduction of oxidative capacity in the elderly.

In muscle, the interaction between myosin and actin filaments is responsible for force production and several of the differentially expressed proteins belong to the myosin-actin complex, suggesting that force production may be compromised in old rats due to a more

disorganized structure (some of the components were down and other components were up-regulated). In soleus muscles, the structural proteins tropomyosin (alpha and beta chains) were among the most down-regulated proteins ( $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $-18.4$  and  $-18.2$ , respectively) while troponin I was among the most up-regulated ( $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $17.8$ ).

The thin filament regulatory proteins troponin (Tn) and tropomyosin (Tm) are essential for contraction of striated muscle (skeletal and cardiac), which is regulated by the concentration of intracellular calcium<sup>82,83</sup>. Such a drastic decrease in tropomyosin proteins may be responsible for a lower force contraction and muscle velocity in the elderly. The up-regulated of troponin confirms previous studies which have described this protein as a potential new biomarker for sarcopenia<sup>45</sup>.

During aging there is an increase in the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) due to the functional deterioration of mitochondria, and the increase in free radicals generation may contribute to several age-related pathologies<sup>84,85,86</sup>. Enhanced ROS production may contribute to an accumulation of mtDNA damage and increased apoptosis of muscles fibers, which may represent a key mechanism underlying sarcopenia<sup>87</sup>. Glutathione S-transferase (GSTs) was up-regulated in both muscles while two of the main antioxidant enzymes, glutathione peroxidase (GPx), which controls the levels of hydrogen peroxide and superoxide dismutase (SOD) were up-regulated only in EDL muscles. In EDL muscles, GPx was among the most up-regulated ( $\text{Log}_2$  fold change =  $26.8$ ). Up-regulation of GPx has been reported in Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a progressive muscle wasting disorder that impairs muscle function and ultimately results in muscle degeneration and death<sup>88</sup>. Therefore, an increase in GPx expression is most likely a compensatory attempt to counterbalance increased levels of oxidative stress.

We also performed an assay (FOX) to determine the levels of oxidative stress in plasma and muscles. We confirmed that old muscles had significantly higher oxidative stress than young muscles, which suggests that a higher level of antioxidant enzymes may be an attempt to counterbalance oxidative stress. However, we were unable to find a convincing statistical difference between soleus and EDL. Nevertheless, we encourage future studies to consider complementary features such as the activity of specific antioxidant enzymes, or the content of reduced glutathione to further investigate the difference between these muscles. The soleus muscle is known to be more susceptible to oxidative stress than EDL due to its higher oxidative potential when compared to a fast-twitch muscle<sup>89</sup>.

There is still controversy in the literature to whether aging increases or decreases the enzymatic antioxidant defenses in the cell. Studies conducted in both humans and rats have indicated that although the antioxidant system undergoes significant changes, both up, down-regulation or no change of the antioxidant enzymes may occur, suggesting that the results may be dependent of muscle fiber composition and other factors such as age and sex<sup>48,60,87,90</sup>.

Our results show that aging affects slow-twitch and fast-twitch muscles in different ways and that the most significant differences were found for metabolic enzymes. Furthermore, EDL muscles had a higher number of differentially expressed proteins (16.2% of the total identified proteins had a change in abundance against 3.8% of the total proteins for soleus muscles), suggesting that aging affects protein expression more drastically in a fast-twitch type of muscle.

Compared to previous age-related muscle proteome studies<sup>24</sup> we identified novel muscle proteins with a change in abundance during aging. Among these were the glioblastoma amplified sequence (GAS), with a marked down-regulated in old soleus muscles, the uncharacterized protein D3ZH98, zero beta-globin and prolargin.

Therefore, the confirmation of many already identified proteins involved with aging and the identification of new candidate biomarkers will help in the establishment of a more comprehensive database for the study of sarcopenia and aid in the development of new diagnostic methods and treatment for age-associated muscular disorders.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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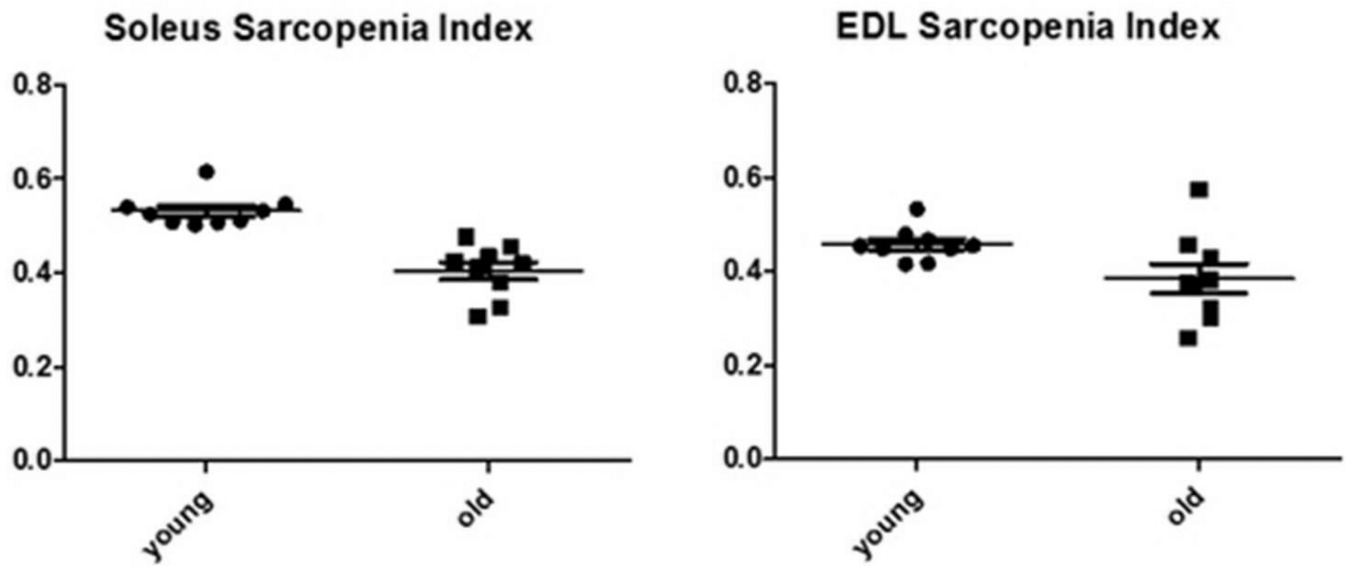
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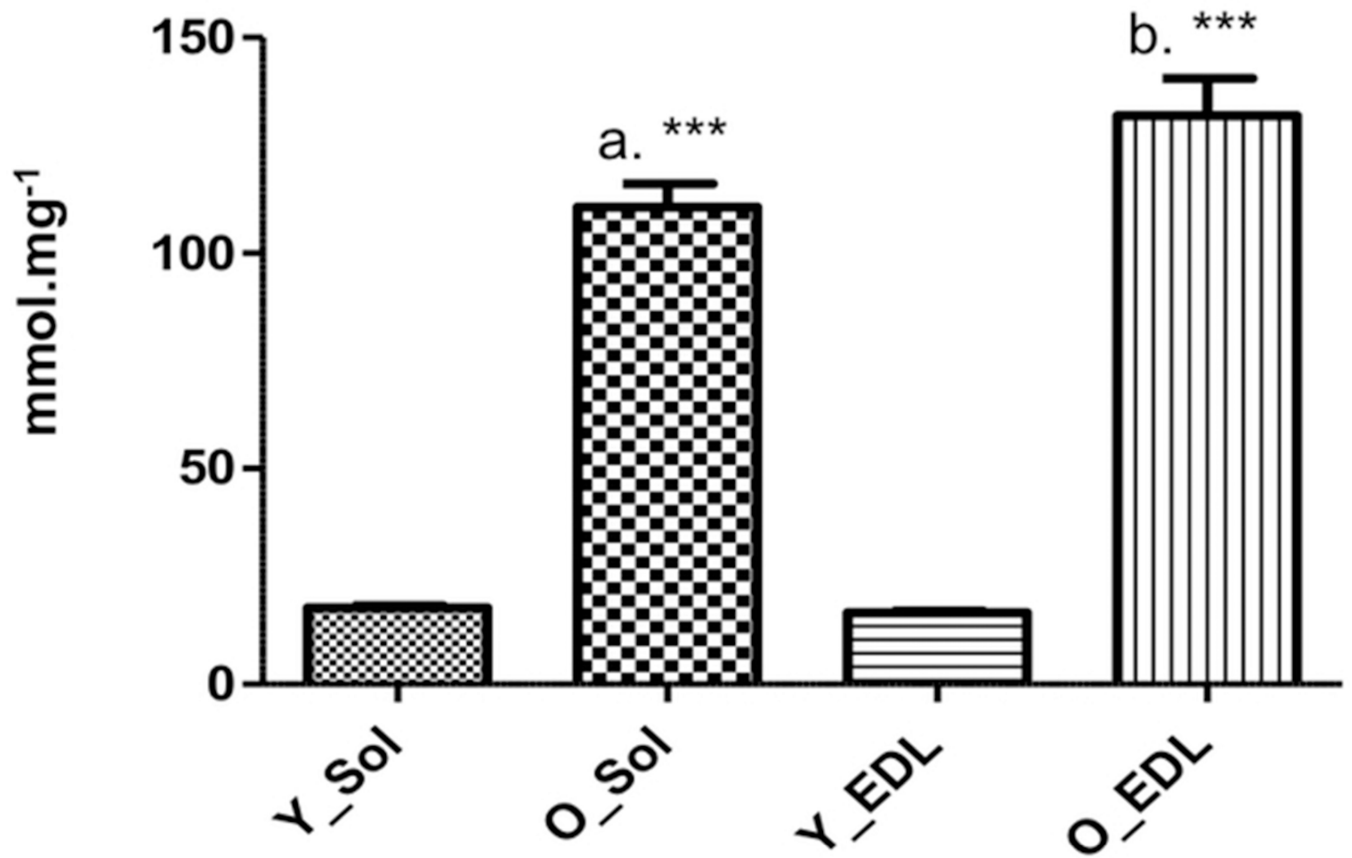
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**Figure 1.**

The relation between body weight and soleus and EDL muscles is shown as the sarcopenia index (SI, muscle wet weight over whole body weight). In aged animals there is a loss of muscle weight, which results in a drop in the sarcopenia index. A: young soleus SI ( $0.5323 \pm 0.01169$ ) versus old ( $0.4044 \pm 0.01892$ )  $p < 0.0001$ ; B: young EDL SI ( $0.4576 \pm 0.001169$ ) versus old ( $0.3845 \pm 0.03129$ )  $p < 0.04$ .

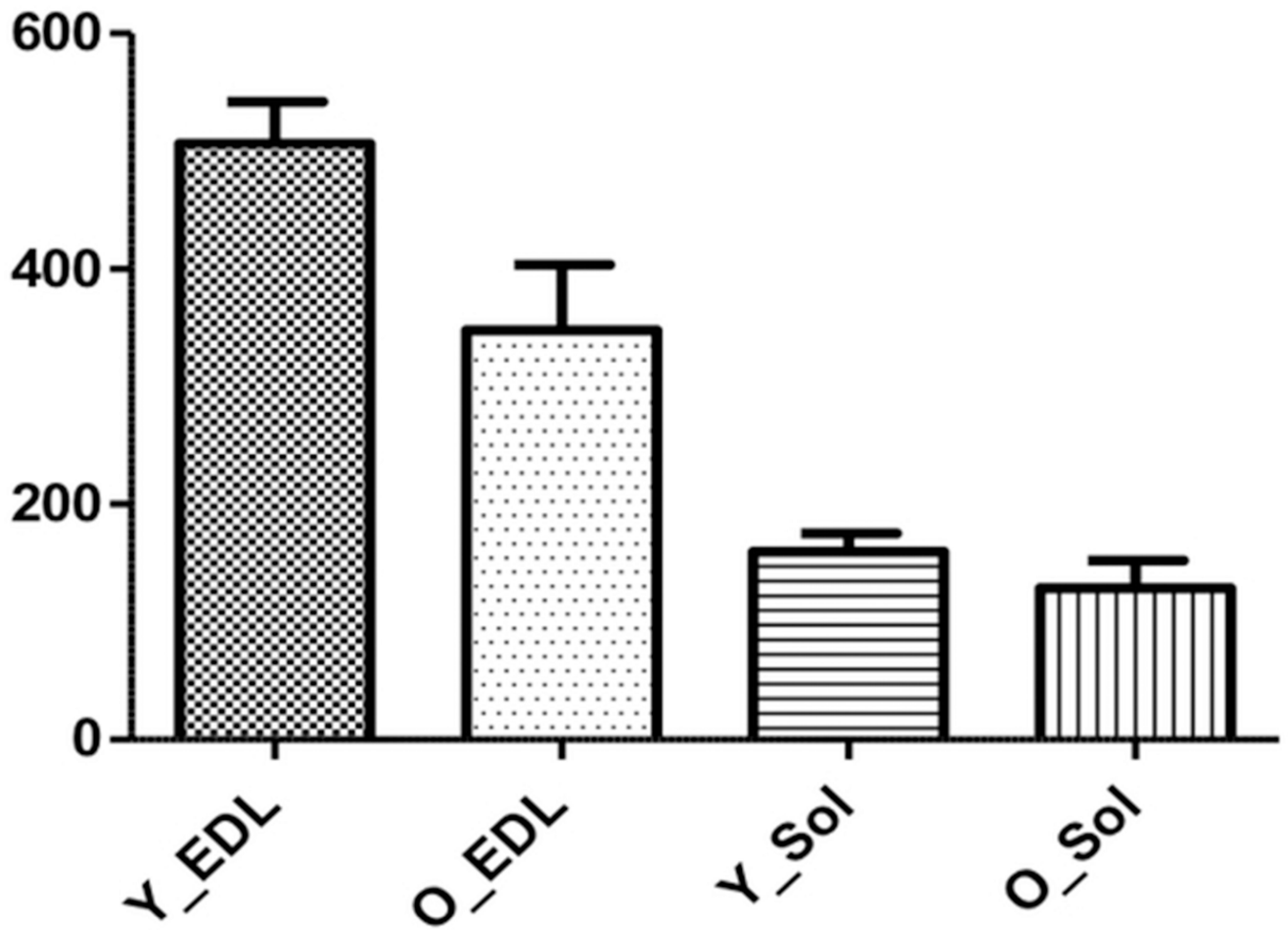
## Muscle oxidative stress



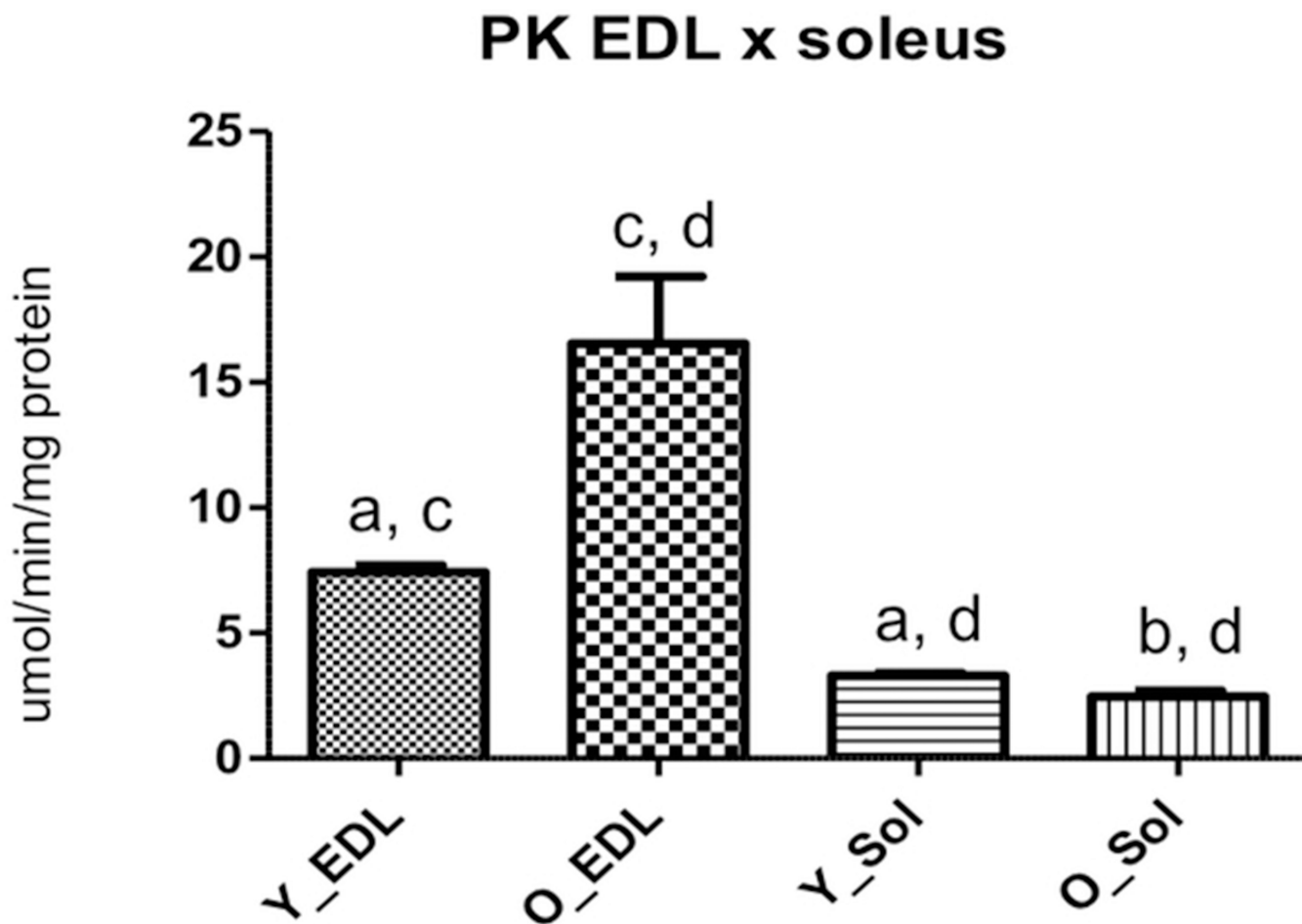
**Figure 2.**

Soleus and EDL FOX values in the young and old group. Y\_Sol = young group, soleus; O\_Sol = old group, soleus; Y\_EDL = young group, EDL; O\_EDL = old group, EDL. a =  $p < 0,0001$  vs. Y\_Sol; b =  $p < 0,0001$  vs. Y\_EDL; c =  $p < 0,0001$  vs. YH. No statistical differences were found between O\_Sol  $\times$  O\_EDL and Y\_Sol  $\times$  Y\_EDL.

## CK soleus x EDL



**Figure 3.** Soleus and EDL creatine kinase (CK) activity in the young and old group. Y\_Sol = young group, soleus; O\_Sol = old group, soleus; Y\_EDL = young group, EDL; O\_EDL = old group, EDL. a. Young EDL  $\times$  young soleus,  $p < 0.0001$ ; b. old EDL  $\times$  old soleus,  $p = 0.0022$ ; c. young EDL  $\times$  old EDL,  $p = 0.01$ .



**Figure 4.** Soleus and EDL pyruvate kinase (PK) activity in the young and old group. Y\_Sol = young group, soleus; O\_Sol = old group, soleus; Y\_EDL = young group, EDL; O\_EDL = old group, EDL. a. Young EDL  $\times$  young soleus,  $p < 0.0001$ ; b. old EDL  $\times$  old soleus,  $p < 0.0001$ ; c. young EDL  $\times$  old EDL,  $p < 0.0001$ ; d. young soleus  $\times$  old soleus,  $p = 0.0018$ .

**Table 1**

## Animal characteristics

	Rat	Body weight (g)	Soleus weight (g)	EDL weight (g)	SI (soleus) <sup>a</sup>	SI (EDL) <sup>b</sup>
young	1	0.37	0.23	0.17	0.62	0.45
	2	0.36	0.20	0.17	0.55	0.47
	3	0.37	0.20	0.17	0.54	0.45
	4	0.39	0.21	0.18	0.53	0.45
	5	0.38	0.20	0.16	0.52	0.42
	6	0.33	0.17	0.16	0.51	0.48
	7	0.37	0.18	0.16	0.51	0.45
	8	0.36	0.18	0.15	0.51	0.42
	9	0.36	0.18	0.19	0.50	0.53
<i>MEAN ± SEM</i>	<i>0.369 ± 0.00574</i>	<i>0.196 ± 0.00599</i>	<i>0.168 ± 0.00409</i>	<i>0.532 ± 0.0117</i>	<i>0.458 ± 0.0117</i>	
old	1	0.52	0.16	0.19	0.31	0.37
	2	0.41	0.13	0.10	0.33	0.26
	3	0.55	0.25	0.23	0.46	0.43
	4	0.52	0.22	0.15	0.43	0.30
	5	0.54	0.23	0.31	0.44	0.57
	6	0.61	0.29	0.19	0.48	0.32
	7	0.35	0.20	0.16	0.42	0.46
	8	0.49	0.18	0.18	0.38	0.38
	9	0.51	0.21	0.19	0.41	0.37
<i>MEAN ± SEM</i>	<i>0.502 ± 0.0250</i>	<i>0.210 ± 0.0158</i>	<i>0.193 ± 0.0187</i>	<i>0.404 ± 0.0189</i>	<i>0.384 ± 0.0313</i>	

<sup>a</sup>SI = sarcopenia index = soleus weight/body weight;

<sup>b</sup>SI = EDL weight/body weight

**Table 2**

Differentially expressed proteins in soleus muscles

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
<b>Energy metabolism</b>			
Q6IMX3	0.017	-0.8	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short chain, isoform CRA_a
P13221	< 0.001	-0.8	Aspartate aminotransferase, cytoplasmic
P13221	0.001	-1.1	Aspartate aminotransferase, mitochondrial
F1LP05	< 0.001	-0.9	ATP synthase subunit alpha
P15429	< 0.001	-0.6	Beta-enolase
Q68FY0	0.003	-0.7	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 1, mitochondrial
P32551	< 0.001	-0.7	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 2, mitochondrial
P10888	< 0.001	-1.3	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1, mitochondrial
Q68FU3	0.005	-1.0	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta
Q66HF3	0.019	-0.4	Electron transfer flavoprotein-ubiquinone oxidoreductase, mitochondrial
P42123	< 0.001	0.6	L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain
G3V6H5	0.001	0.4	Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein
P04636	< 0.001	-1.2	Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein
P16617	< 0.001	-0.9	Phosphoglycerate kinase 1
P25113	< 0.001	-1.4	Phosphoglycerate mutase 1
F1LPA6	0.001	3.7	Protein-arginine deiminase type-2 (Fragment)
Q6P7S0	0.001	-0.9	Pyruvate kinase
P15651	0.017	-0.8	Short-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial
Q5RK08	0.010	-22.1	Glioblastoma amplified sequence
Q64428	0.005	-0.7	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, mitochondrial
<b>Structure and cell motility</b>			
F1LYK7	0.001	0.4	Protein Cfl2 (cofilin 2)
P85972	0.002	-0.5	Vinculin
F1LMC6	0.016	17.8	Troponin I, slow skeletal muscle (Fragment)
G3V885	< 0.001	1.0	Myosin-6 (Myh6)
G3V8B0	< 0.001	1.0	Myosin-7 (Myh7)
Q9EQP5	0.018	1.0	Prolargin
F1LRV9	0.006	0.9	Myosin-4 (Myh4)
F1M789	< 0.001	0.7	Protein Myh13 (Fragment)
G3V6E1	0.002	0.6	Myosin-4 (Myh4)
Q62920	0.015	-0.4	PDZ and LIM domain protein 5
F1LNH3	0.001	-0.5	Protein Col6a2 (Fragment)
D3ZCV0	< 0.001	-0.7	Protein Actn2
D3ZHA0	< 0.001	-0.8	Protein Flnc

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
F2Z3T2	0.003	-0.9	Tropomyosin alpha-3 chain
P08733	< 0.001	-0.9	Myosin regulatory light chain 2, ventricular/cardiac muscle isoform
P68136	0.004	-0.9	Actin, alpha skeletal muscle
Q63781	0.002	-1.0	Myosin regulatory light chain
Q8K551	0.003	-1.1	Truncated alpha-actinin
P04466	0.009	-1.5	Myosin regulatory light chain 2, skeletal muscle isoform
P04692	< 0.001	-2.0	Tropomyosin alpha-1 chain
P58775	< 0.001	-18.2	Tropomyosin beta chain
P09495	< 0.001	-18.4	Tropomyosin alpha-4 chain
<b>Oxidative stress, detoxification and degradation</b>			
Q2TA66	0.018	2.6	Ferritin (Fragment) GN=Fth1 PE=2 SV=1
F1LVC6	0.002	1.2	Glutathione S-transferase (Fragment)
B6DYQ2	0.011	1.1	Glutathione S-transferase mu 2
P63018	< 0.001	-0.4	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein
Q66HD0	0.003	-1.5	Endoplasmic
P97541	< 0.001	-2.8	Heat shock protein beta-6
P35565	0.010	-0.5	Calnexin
D4ACB8	0.013	-0.7	Chaperonin subunit 8 (Theta) (Predicted), isoform CRA_a
P11598	0.003	-0.7	Protein disulfide-isomerase A3 GN=Pdia3 PE=1 SV=2
G3V8T4	0.011	-1.1	DNA damage-binding protein 1 GN=Ddb1 PE=4 SV=1
P0CC09	0.018	-1.2	Histone H2A type 2-A
<b>Transport and catabolism</b>			
P02770	< 0.001	-1.0	Serum albumin
Q63011	0.006	-16.9	Zero beta-globin (Fragment)
Q6MG90	0.013	-0.4	Complement component 4, gene 2
P11442	0.004	-0.4	Clathrin heavy chain 1
Q4V8H8	0.014	-0.9	EH domain-containing protein 2
<b>Additional differentially expressed proteins</b>			
Q5M7V3	0.013	1.8	LOC367586 protein
P08932	0.002	1.4	T-kininogen 2
F1LPQ6	< 0.001	0.9	Uncharacterized protein (Fragment)
B2RZB2	0.005	0.7	Putative uncharacterized protein
Q63041	< 0.001	0.6	Alpha-1-macroglobulin
B0BNM1	0.013	0.6	NAD(P)H-hydrate epimerase
A0JPJ7	0.001	0.4	Obg-like ATPase 1
O08557	0.002	-0.4	N(G),N(G)-dimethylarginine dimethylaminohydrolase 1
Q8R490	0.015	-0.5	Cadherin 13
D4ABR6	0.002	-0.5	Annexin



Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
P14046	0.017	-0.9	Alpha-1-inhibitor 3
Q9WTT7	0.015	-1.1	Basic leucine zipper and W2 domain-containing protein 2
D3ZHA7	0.001	-1.2	Protein LOC100359980
D3ZC19	< 0.001	-1.5	Uncharacterized protein
D3ZH98	< 0.001	-21.1	Uncharacterized protein
P05197	< 0.001	-0.9	Elongation factor 2
P11762	< 0.001	-1.1	Galectin-1 GN=Lgals1 PE=1 SV=2
Q62881	0.003	-1.2	Nucleolar protein 3
Q7TP38	0.016	-1.3	Ab2-371
O35814	0.003	-1.0	Stress-induced-phosphoprotein 1

<sup>a</sup>fold change = young/old

**Table 3**

Differentially expressed proteins in EDL muscles

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
<b>Energy metabolism</b>			
Q52KS1	<0.001	0.6	6-phosphofructokinase
G3V796	0.005	-0.4	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, medium chain
Q9ER34	0.014	0.9	Aconitate hydratase, mitochondrial
P10760	0.009	1.4	Adenosylhomocysteinase
FILN88	< 0.001	1.6	Aldehyde dehydrogenase, mitochondrial
Q63041	< 0.001	0.8	Alpha-1-macroglobulin
P04764	< 0.001	1.1	Alpha-enolase
D4AEH9	< 0.001	0.6	Amylo-1, 6-glucosidase, 4-alpha-glucanotransferase, isoform CRA_a
P13221	< 0.001	1.3	Aspartate aminotransferase, cytoplasmic
P00507	< 0.001	1.1	Aspartate aminotransferase, mitochondrial
P15999	< 0.001	0.8	ATP synthase subunit alpha, mitochondrial
P19511	< 0.001	0.7	ATP synthase subunit b, mitochondrial
P10719	< 0.001	0.9	ATP synthase subunit beta, mitochondrial
G3V7Y3	0.001	0.6	ATP synthase subunit delta, mitochondrial
Q06647	< 0.001	-0.4	ATP synthase subunit O, mitochondrial
Q7TP35	0.002	0.7	ATPase family AAA domain-containing protein 1
B4F7E5	< 0.001	-0.4	ATPase, Ca <sup>++</sup> transporting, cardiac muscle, fast twitch 1
P15429	< 0.001	1.2	Beta-enolase
G3V936	< 0.001	1.3	Citrate synthase
BOBNC0	< 0.001	0.7	Ckmt2 protein (creatine kinase, mitochondrial)
P32551	< 0.001	0.7	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 2, mitochondrial
P10888	< 0.001	0.7	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1, mitochondrial
P11951	< 0.001	-0.5	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6C-2
P62898	0.003	0.8	Cytochrome c, somatic
D3ZFQ8	0.011	-0.6	Cytochrome c-1 (Predicted), isoform CRA_c
P11348	0.002	-26.4	Dihydropteridine reductase
Q68FU3	< 0.001	0.4	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta
D3ZJT8	0.007	1.0	Enolase
Q5BJ93	< 0.001	1.1	Enolase 1, (Alpha)
G3V900	< 0.001	0.7	Fructose-bisphosphate aldolase
P09117	0.004	1.0	Fructose-bisphosphate aldolase C
Q5M964	< 0.001	0.7	Fumarate hydratase 1
P07323	< 0.001	1.0	Gamma-enolase
Q6P6V0	< 0.001	0.7	Glucose-6-phosphate isomerase

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
D4A6J7	< 0.001	0.8	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
D4A3W5	< 0.001	0.6	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
P04797	< 0.001	0.5	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
O35077	< 0.001	0.5	Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase [NAD(+)], cytoplasmic
P41565	< 0.001	-0.4	Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] subunit gamma 1, mitochondrial
P56574	< 0.001	0.5	Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NADP], mitochondrial
P04642	< 0.001	1.9	L-lactate dehydrogenase A chain
P42123	< 0.001	0.8	L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain
P15650	< 0.001	1.3	Long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial
O88989	< 0.001	1.5	Malate dehydrogenase, cytoplasmic
P04636	< 0.001	1.0	Malate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial
P08503	0.005	-0.4	Medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial
Q02253	0.007	0.5	Methylmalonate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase [acylating], mitochondrial
G3V6H5	< 0.001	-0.6	Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein
Q5RJN0	< 0.001	-0.4	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 7
B0BNE6	0.002	0.7	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 8 (Predicted), isoform CRA_a
Q641Y2	0.006	1.6	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 2, mitochondrial
Q66HF1	0.013	1.2	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75 kDa subunit, mitochondrial
A1A5L2	< 0.001	1.2	Pgm1 protein (Fragment)
Q499Q4	< 0.001	1.2	Phosphoglucomutase 1
P16617	< 0.001	0.8	Phosphoglycerate kinase 1
P25113	< 0.001	0.8	Phosphoglycerate mutase 1
P16290	< 0.001	0.7	Phosphoglycerate mutase 2
D3ZAP9	0.004	0.7	Protein Gpd1l (glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase 1-like)
D4ADX5	< 0.001	-0.4	Protein Ndufs7(NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone)Fe-S protein 7)
P49432	0.001	5.3	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 component subunit beta, mitochondrial
Q6P7S0	< 0.001	0.8	Pyruvate kinase
P11980	< 0.001	0.8	Pyruvate kinase isozymes M1/M2
F8WG21	< 0.001	1.3	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit, mitochondrial
Q64428	< 0.001	1.0	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, mitochondrial
Q60587	0.009	0.7	Trifunctional enzyme subunit beta, mitochondrial
P48500	0.001	1.1	Triosephosphate isomerase
<b>Structure and cell motility</b>			
P51886	< 0.001	1.2	Lumican

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
D4A6M0	0.003	1.1	Mitsugumin 29 (Predicted)
D4A111	< 0.001	1.5	Procollagen, type VI, alpha 3 (Predicted), isoform CRA_a
P45592	0.014	1.2	Cofilin-1
P50609	< 0.001	0.8	Fibromodulin
D3ZVD7	< 0.001	-0.9	Keratocan (Predicted)
D3ZVB7	< 0.001	1.2	Osteoglycin (Predicted)
Q9EQP5	< 0.001	23.5	Prolargin
FILYK7	< 0.001	1.2	Protein Cfl2 (Fragment)
F1M7Q6	< 0.001	-1.9	Protein Myh13 (Fragment) (myosin heavy chain 13)
F2Z3S8	< 0.001	1.2	Protein Tnnc2 (Fragment) (troponin C type 2)
FILNH3	0.003	23.1	Protein Col6a2 (Fragment)
F2Z3T2	0.019	1.6	Tropomyosin alpha-3 chain
D4A115	< 0.001	1.6	Protein Col6a3
D3ZHA0	0.015	1.4	Protein Flnc
D4A2S4	< 0.001	1.3	Myosin-binding protein C, slow-type
Q9Z1P2	0.006	1.2	Alpha-actinin-1
P60711	< 0.001	1.2	Actin, cytoplasmic 1
Q63518	< 0.001	1.2	Myosin-binding protein C, slow-type (Fragment)
P68136	0.013	1.2	Actin, alpha skeletal muscle
D3ZCV0	< 0.001	1.0	Protein Actn2
FILP83	< 0.001	0.6	Tropomyosin beta chain
P27768	< 0.001	0.6	Troponin I, fast skeletal muscle
P17209	< 0.001	0.5	Myosin light chain 4
P04466	< 0.001	0.5	Myosin regulatory light chain 2, skeletal muscle isoform
Q63781	0.001	0.5	Myosin regulatory light chain
Q5FVG5	< 0.001	0.4	Similar to tropomyosin 1, embryonic fibroblast-rat, isoform CRA_c
G3V7K1	< 0.001	0.4	Myomesin 2
P02600	< 0.001	0.4	Myosin light chain 1/3, skeletal muscle isoform
G3V8B0	< 0.001	-0.5	Myosin-7 (Myh7)
G3V6E1	< 0.001	-0.7	Myosin-4 (Myh4)
F1M8F6	< 0.001	-0.7	Myosin-8 (Myh8)
FILRV9	< 0.001	-0.8	Myosin-4 (Myh4)
Q4FZU2	0.010	-0.9	Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 6A
Q6P6Q2	0.014	-1.0	Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 5
P02454	< 0.001	-1.1	Collagen alpha-1(I) chain
P31000	0.006	-1.2	Vimentin
FILMU0	< 0.001	-1.3	Myosin-4 (Myh4)

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
<b>Oxidative stress, detoxification and degradation</b>			
P15865	< 0.001	1.2	Histone H1.4
D3Z8U0	< 0.001	1.7	Histone H2B
Q6PDW8	0.028	26.8	Glutathione peroxidase
P04785	< 0.001	0.7	Protein disulfide-isomerase
P08009	< 0.001	4.2	Glutathione S-transferase Yb-3
P08010	0.001	3.3	Glutathione S-transferase Mu 2
P07895	< 0.001	1.5	Superoxide dismutase [Mn], mitochondrial (SOD 2)
B6DYQ7	< 0.001	1.5	Glutathione S-transferase pi
P63018	< 0.001	1.2	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein
P07632	0.002	0.9	Superoxide dismutase [Cu-Zn] (SOD 1)
P34058	< 0.001	0.7	Heat shock protein HSP 90-beta
<b>Transport and catabolism</b>			
P02770	0.016	2.8	Serum albumin
Q7TP52	0.026	2.7	Carboxymethylglutaminylase homolog
Q62669	< 0.001	1.1	Protein Hbb-b1
Q05962	< 0.001	1.0	ADP/ATP translocase 1
P12346	< 0.001	0.9	Serotransferrin
Q9ER30	< 0.001	0.9	Kelch repeat and BTB domain-containing protein 10
P02767	< 0.001	-0.5	Transthyretin
<b>Additional differentially expressed proteins</b>			
P35213	< 0.001	0.4	14-3-3 protein beta/alpha
P62260	< 0.001	1.0	14-3-3 protein epsilon
P68511	0.018	-1.5	14-3-3 protein ETA
P63102	0.015	22.8	14-3-3 protein zeta/delta
P39069	< 0.001	1.0	Adenylate kinase isoenzyme 1
P14046	< 0.001	1.2	Alpha-1-inhibitor 3
P08461	0.002	2.1	Dihydrodipolyllysine-residue acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, mitochondrial
P06399	0.002	0.8	Fibrinogen alpha chain
P06866	< 0.001	0.7	Haptoglobin
Q510J0	0.004	1.8	Immunoglobulin heavy chain (Gamma polypeptide)
F1MAN9	< 0.001	1.2	Myelin protein P0
P19804	< 0.001	1.2	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase B
P02625	< 0.001	0.7	Parvalbumin alpha
G3V6L9	0.017	-0.4	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase
P49744	0.008	1.1	Thrombospondin-4
Q63581	< 0.001	3.9	Rat T-kininogen (T-KG)

Protein accession no.	P value	-Log <sub>2</sub> fold change <sup>a</sup>	DESCRIPTION
Q63654	< 0.001	2.8	Polyubiquitin (Fragment)
P14141	< 0.001	2.5	Carbonic anhydrase 3
FILPQ6	0.004	1.7	Uncharacterized protein (Fragment)
P08932	< 0.001	1.6	T-kininogen 2
P31044	< 0.001	1.4	Phosphatidylethanolamine-binding protein 1
Q5BJZ2	< 0.001	1.4	LOC367586 protein
P20717	0.005	1.3	Protein-arginine deiminase type-2
P07943	0.001	1.3	Aldose reductase
FILNB5	< 0.001	1.2	Murinoglobulin-2
Q01129	< 0.001	1.2	Decorin
FILX07	0.002	1.2	Protein LOC100360985 (Fragment)
P11517	< 0.001	1.3	Hemoglobin subunit beta-2
P02650	< 0.001	0.6	Apolipoprotein E
P62632	< 0.001	1.0	Elongation factor 1-alpha 2
P05197	0.004	1.0	Elongation factor 2
F8WG42	0.002	-0.4	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 subunit J (Fragment)
Q3T1J1	< 0.001	0.7	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A-1
B1H216	< 0.001	1.3	Hemoglobin alpha, adult chain 2
P02091	< 0.001	1.9	Hemoglobin subunit beta-1
P20059	< 0.001	1.0	Hemopexin
FILNF1	< 0.001	0.7	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins A2/B1 (Fragment)
P85125	0.004	1.3	Polymerase I and transcript release factor
FILWG8	< 0.001	1.1	Uncharacterized protein (Fragment)
P19633	< 0.001	1.0	Calsequestrin-1
D3ZYG6	0.009	0.9	Protein Rtn2 (reticulon 2)
Q6WN19	0.009	0.9	RTN2-B
Q6IMZ3	< 0.001	0.9	Annexin
Q07936	0.004	0.8	Annexin A2
D3ZQT0	< 0.001	0.8	Uncharacterized protein
Q9ERS3	0.030	0.8	Voltage-dependent calcium channel subunit alpha-2/delta-1
P04276	0.004	0.6	Vitamin D-binding protein
D4AAC3	< 0.001	0.6	Protein Sh3bgr
D4A3D2	< 0.001	0.4	Protein Smyd1
Q64649	0.024	-0.5	Phosphorylase b kinase regulatory subunit alpha, skeletal muscle isoform
Q6IRH6	< 0.001	-0.6	Phosphate carrier protein, mitochondrial
D3Z8G0	0.019	-0.6	Phosphorylase b kinase regulatory subunit alpha, skeletal muscle isoform

<sup>a</sup> fold change = young/old

**Table 4**

Metabolic enzymes regulated in opposite ways in soleus and EDL muscles

Protein accession no.	DESCRIPTION	SOLEUS		EDL	
		P value	–LOG2 fold change	P value	–LOG2 fold change
P13221	Aspartate aminotransferase, cytoplasmic	< 0.001	<b>–0.8</b>	< 0.001	<b>1.3</b>
P13221	Aspartate aminotransferase, mitochondrial	0.001	<b>–1.1</b>	< 0.001	<b>1.1</b>
F1LP05	ATP synthase subunit alpha	< 0.001	<b>–0.9</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.8</b>
P15429	Beta-enolase	< 0.001	<b>–0.6</b>	< 0.001	<b>1.2</b>
P10888	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1, mitochondrial	< 0.001	<b>–1.3</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.7</b>
Q68FU3	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta	0.005	<b>–1.0</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.4</b>
P42123	L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain	< 0.001	<b>0.6</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.8</b>
P16617	Phosphoglycerate kinase 1	< 0.001	<b>–0.9</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.8</b>
P25113	Phosphoglycerate mutase 1	< 0.001	<b>–1.4</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.8</b>
Q6P7S0	Pyruvate kinase	0.001	<b>–0.9</b>	< 0.001	<b>0.8</b>
Q64428	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, mitochondrial	0.005	<b>–0.7</b>	< 0.001	<b>1.0</b>