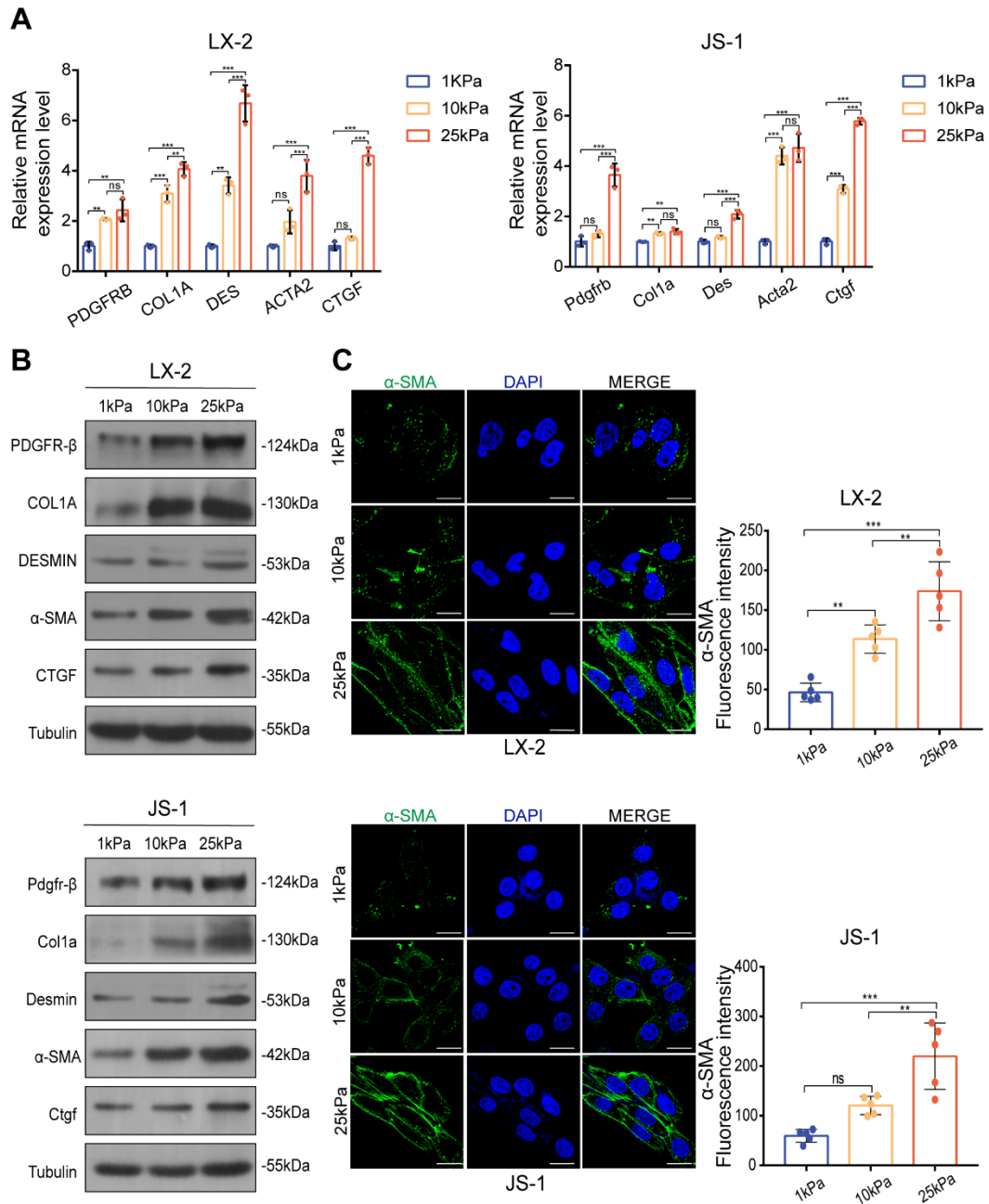


Supplementary Fig. S6



Supplementary Figure. S6 Matrix stiffness induces HSC activation. (A) Relative mRNA levels of *PDGFRB*, *COL1A*, *DES*, *ACTA2* and *CTGF* in LX-2 (left) and JS-1 cells (right) cultured on 1kPa, 10kPa and 25kPa polyacrylamide hydrogels (one-way ANOVA, $n=3$ independent experiments). **(B).** Protein levels of PDGFR- β , COL1A, DESMIN, α -SMA and CTGF in LX-2 (upper) and JS-1 cells (lower) cultured on 1kPa, 10kPa and 25kPa polyacrylamide hydrogels. **(C)** Representative immunofluorescence images (left) and quantification (right) of LX-2 and JS-1 cells cultured on 1kPa, 10kPa and 25kPa polyacrylamide hydrogels show the presence of green-fluorescent α -SMA expression (one-way ANOVA, $n=5$ independent experiments). Data are graphed as the mean \pm SD. ns, not significant, $p>0.05$; * $P<0.05$; ** $P<0.01$; *** $P<0.001$.