

Appendix

Single cell transcriptomic landscapes of human liver organoids stratify models of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease

Anja Hess^{1,#}, Stefan D. Gentile^{1,3}, Amel Ben Saad¹, Raza-Ur Rahman¹, Tim Habboub¹, Daniel S. Pratt^{1,5} and Alan C. Mullen^{1,2,3,4*}

1. Division of Gastroenterology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

2. Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Cambridge, MA, USA

3. Klarman Cell Observatory, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA

4. Center for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

5. Autoimmune and Cholestatic Liver Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

Current Address: Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Department of Genome Regulation, Berlin, Germany

* Corresponding author. Current address: 304 Lazare Research Building, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA 01605, USA. (508) 856-4005. Email: alan.mullen@umassmed.edu

Abbreviations: HLOs, Human liver organoids; OS, Orbital shaker; ULA, Ultra-low attachment plate; D21, Day 21 of differentiation; D25, Day 25 of differentiation; OA, Oleic acid at 500 μ M; PA, Palmitic acid at 500 μ M; TGF- β 1, TGF- β 1 at 10 ng/ μ l

Table of contents:

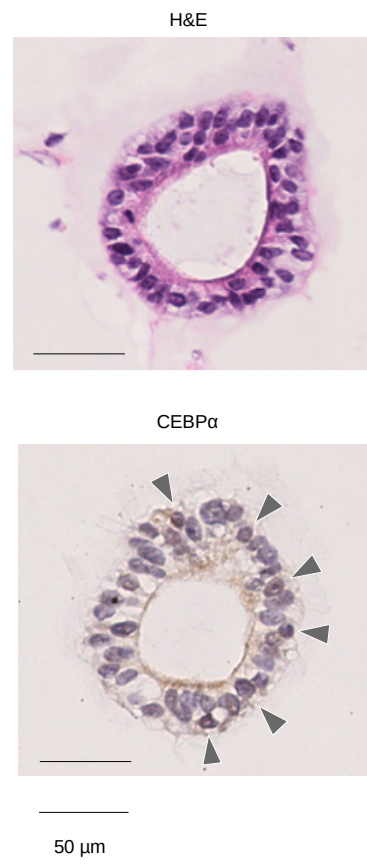
Appendix Fig. S1 Representative images of fixed HLOs. Corresponding to Figure 1c.....	p. 2
Appendix Fig. S2 Replicate distribution, marker gene expression, annotation for 10X scRNA-seq data of day 21 ULA-HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 1d.....	p. 4
Appendix Fig. S3 Induction of fibrotic phenotypes (morphology, qPCR, Sirius red staining) in HLOs treated with OA, PA, and TGF- β 1. Corresponding to Fig. 3.....	p. 6
Appendix Fig. S4 Marker gene expression and replicate distribution in cells from control and injured HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 4b.....	p. 8
Appendix Fig. S5 Pathway enrichment analysis, cell-type resolved. Corresponding to Fig. 4f.....	p. 11
Appendix Fig. S6 Differential cell-cell interactions in OS-HLOs upon OA, PA, and TGF- β 1 treatment. Corresponding to Fig. 5.....	p. 14
Appendix Fig. S7 Comparison of normalized expression and imputed expression for two major terminal states in OS-HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 6g.....	p. 18
Appendix Fig. S8 Cell type-resolved expression of genes predicting fibrosis stages. Corresponding to Fig. 7c.....	p. 20
References	p. 22

Fig. S1

a.



b.

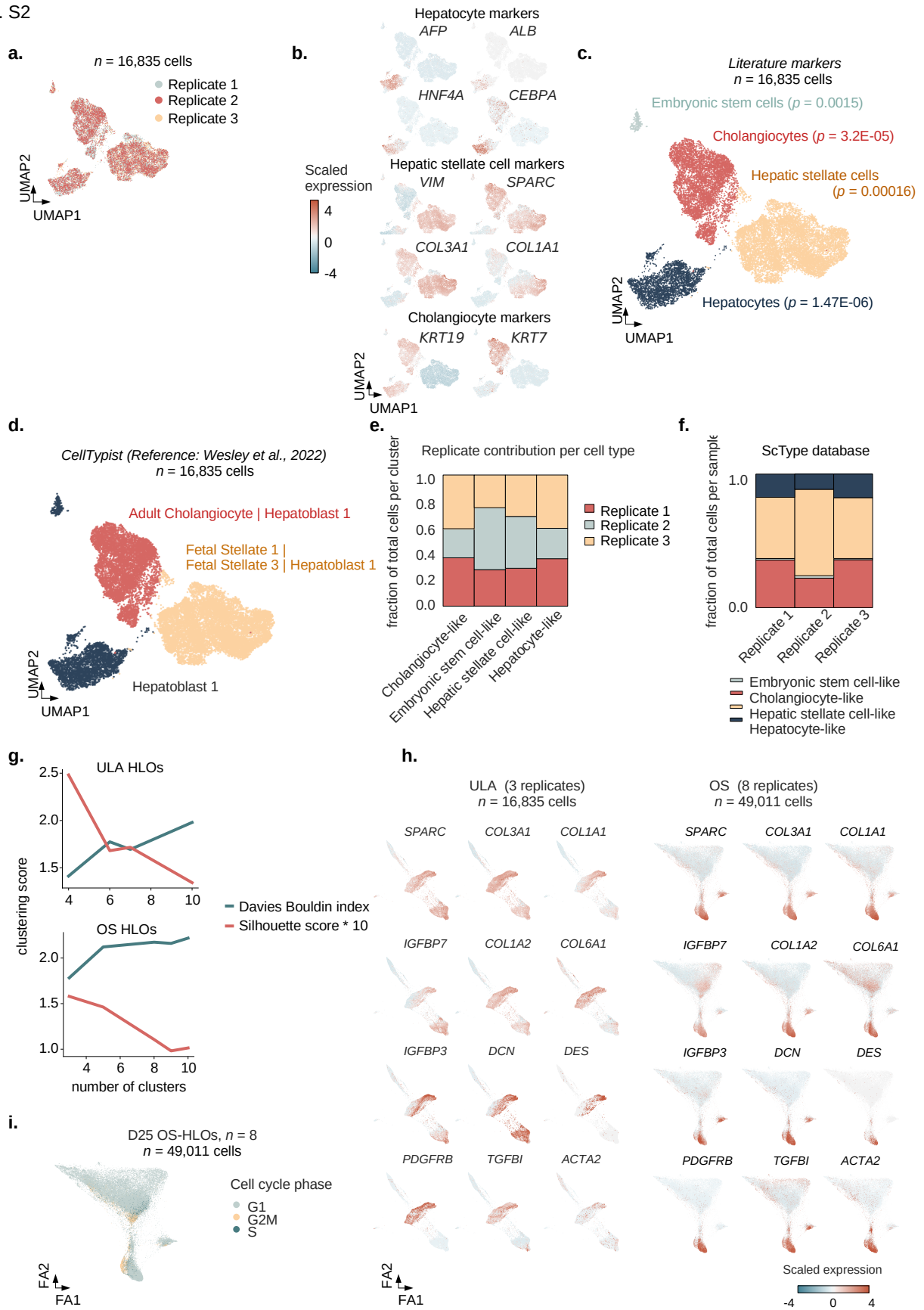


Appendix Figure S1. Representative images of fixed HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 1c.

a. Panels showing individual HLOs from left to right: H&E, secondary antibody only (Control), anti-CEBP α (nuclear staining indicated by arrowheads). Scale bars 100 μ m.

b. Two HLOs from a., increased magnification for representative indication of nuclear CEBP α staining (arrowheads). Scale bars 50 μ m.

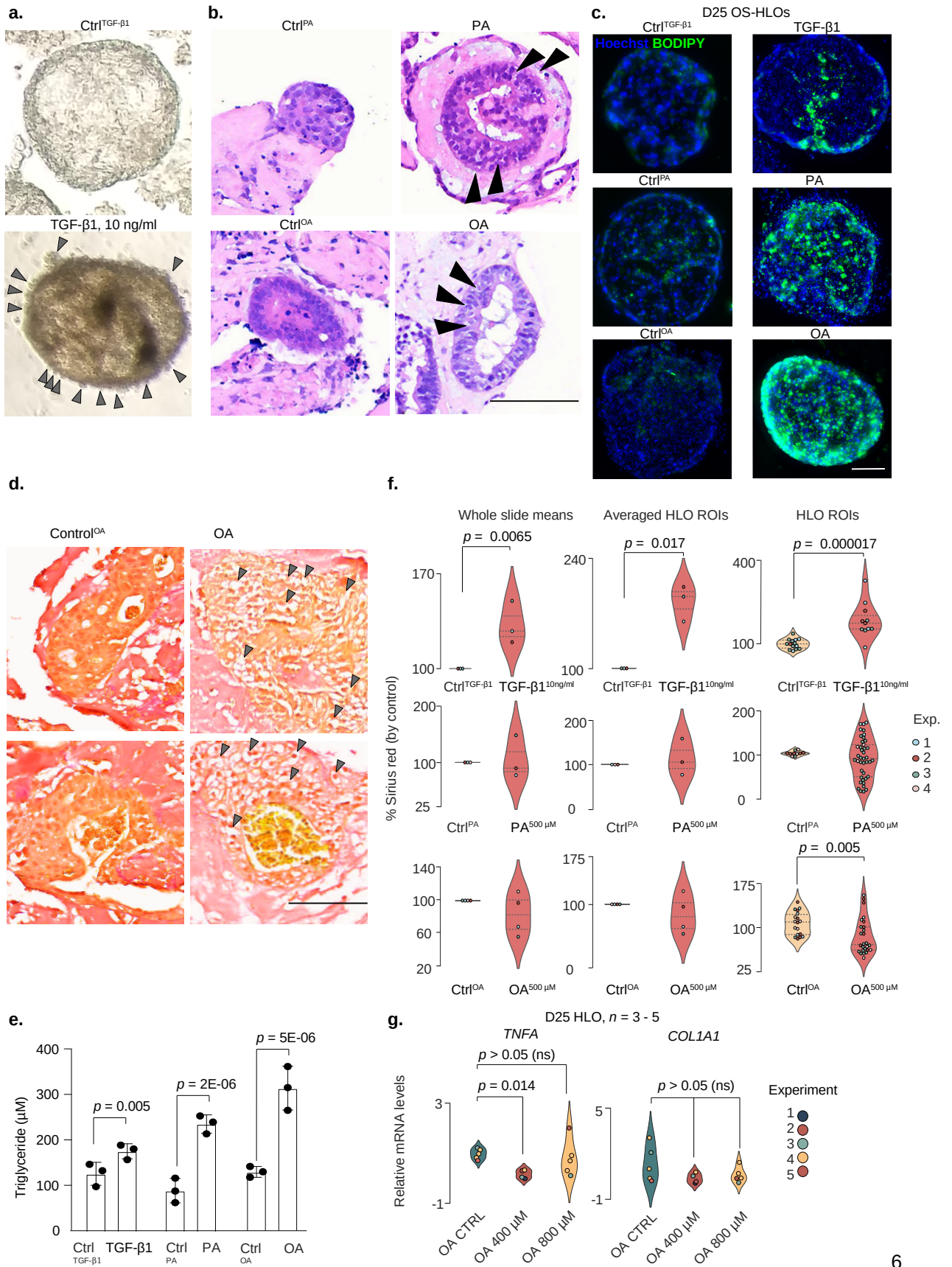
Fig. S2



Appendix Figure S2. Replicate distribution, marker gene expression, and additional annotation for 10X scRNA-seq data of day 21 ULA-HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 1d and 2d.

- a.** UMAP plot mapping single cells from day 21 ULA-HLOs, colored by replicate.
- b.** UMAP plot from a., showing the scaled expression of liver cell type marker genes.
- c.** UMAP plot from a., showing the cell type annotations generated by literature-based annotation (Methods).
- d.** UMAP plot from a., showing the cell type annotations generated by the CellTypist¹ classifier. CellTypist was trained on cells from human liver scRNA-seq data². Most probable matches for each cell type are displayed in the legend, if more than one cell type matches the query sample, alternate labels are separated by the “|” symbol.
- e.** Barplot indicating the replicate distribution as the proportion of total cells per cluster calculated with the Leiden algorithm at resolution 0.1 and ScType³ database.
- f.** Barplots showing cell type distributions across replicates as the proportion of each cell type per total cells per sample. Annotation performed with ScType³ database followed by statistical enrichment with GSEA-py enrichr⁴.
- g.** Lineplots showing cluster robustness metrics (Davies Bouldin index and Silhouette score) in dependence to number of clusters generated through increasing Leiden resolutions (0.1 – 1) for OS- and ULA-HLO scRNAseq data. Leiden resolution 0.1 generating four clusters in each context was chosen for subsequent analysis. Silhouette score multiplied by 10 for joint visualization.
- h.** ForceAtlas2 representations of the cells from OS- and ULA-HLOs, colored by the mean scaled expression of HSC marker genes, corresponding to Fig. 2d.
- i.** ForceAtlas2 plot mapping cells from OS-HLOs ($n = 8$) colored by cell cycle phase.

Fig. S3



Appendix Figure S3. Induction of fibrotic phenotypes in OS-cultured HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 3.

a. Enlarged representative brightfield images from Fig. 3, showing day 25 OS-HLOs (control, top) and treated with TGF- β 1 (10 ng/ml, bottom). Arrowheads indicate areas of surface roughening.

b. OS-HLOs acquire intracellular vacuoles consistent with steatosis after the exposure to FFAs. H&E stainings of day 25 OS-HLOs treated with PA or OA for four days. Arrowheads indicate vacuoles. Scale bar, 100 μ m.

c. Representative BODIPY immunofluorescence images of day 25 OS-HLOs derived from an additional PSC line (iPSC4) treated TGF- β 1, PA, and OA (right) or the control conditions(left). BODIPY staining (green), nuclear staining with Hoechst (blue). Scale bar, 50 μ m. Images are representative of two experiments performed with HLOs differentiated from iPSC4 cells.

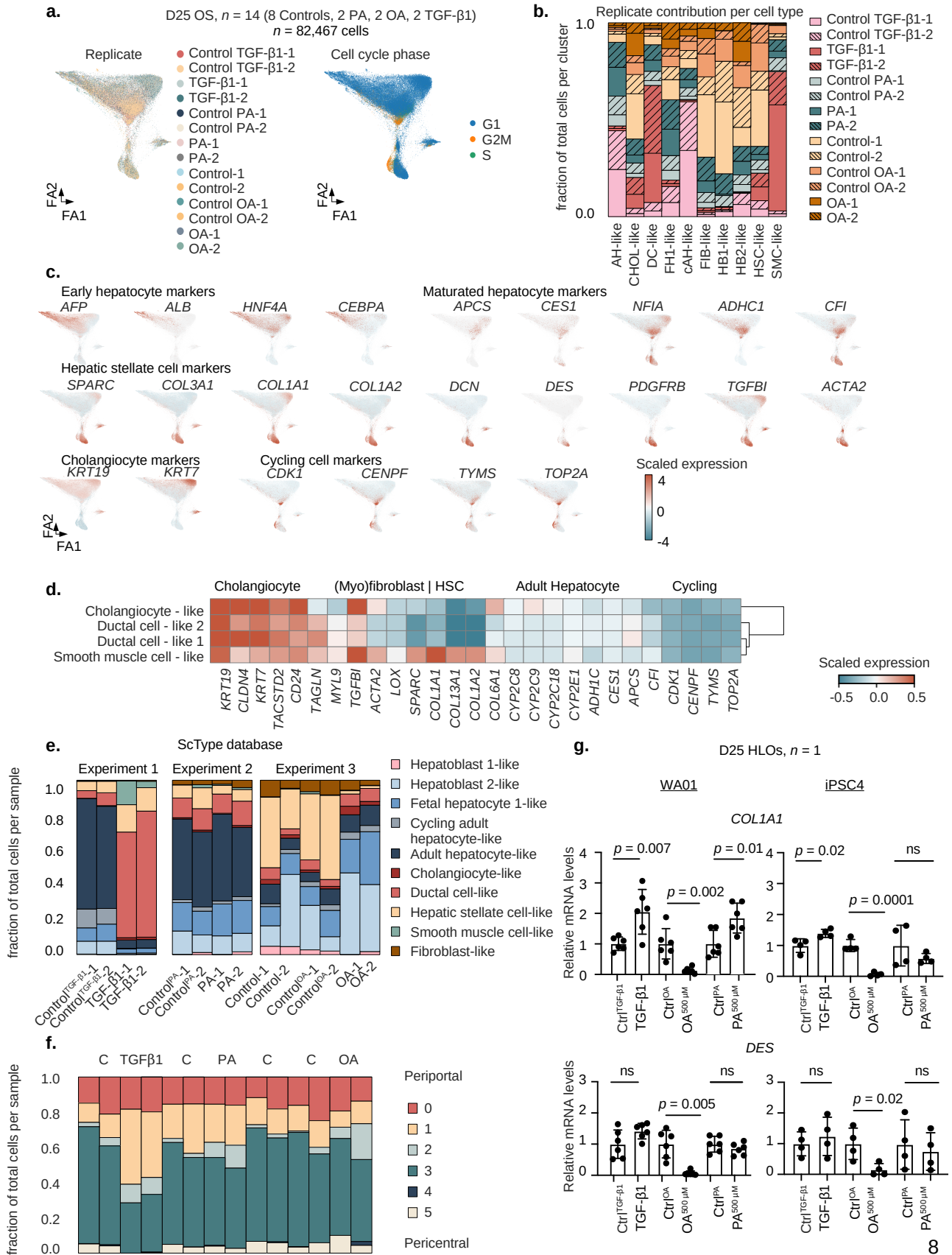
d. Sirius red stainings of day 25 OS-HLOs treated with the OA-Control (left) and OA (right), showing collagen staining reduction and vacuole deposition in OA-treated HLOs. Arrowheads indicate vacuoles. Scale bar 100 μ m. $N = 3$ experiments.

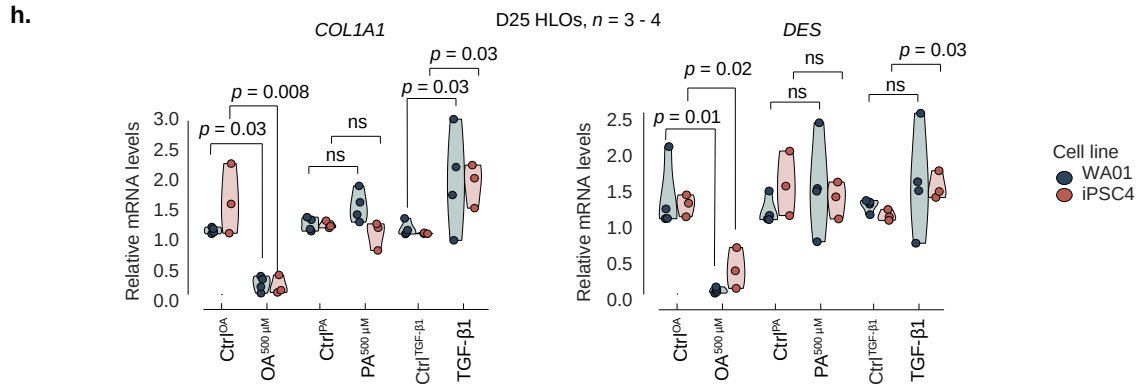
e. Triglyceride (TAG) content is increased in OS-HLOs treated with TGF- β 1, PA, and OA for four days derived from iPSC4 cells. Bar plots display the total TAG concentration in μ M for a representative experiment where each dot represents one well of HLOs. Kruskal-Wallis test (two-tailed) followed by a post hoc Conover's test. P -values as indicated in the figure. Data are shown for one experiment and are representative of four experiments performed on HLOs differentiated from iPSC4 cells.

f. Sirius red quantification in HLOs treated with TGF- β 1, PA, and OA. Shown is the percentage of Sirius red positive tissue by total tissue (normalized by the mean of the respective control HLOs in each experiment). Quantification based on the whole slide Sirius red percentage mean (left), mean of averaged 200 x 200 μ m regions of interest (ROIs) around single HLOs (center), or Sirius red percentage per tissue for each HLO ROI (right). Kruskal-Wallis test (two-tailed) followed by a post hoc Conover's test with Bonferroni correction. $N \geq 4$ HLOs from one individual experiment (organoid ROIs), $n = 3-4$ individual experiments (all other plots).

g. qRT-PCR results for *COL1A1* and *TNFA* in day 25 OS-HLOs treated with 400 and 800 μ M OA. Shown are relative mRNA levels normalized to *GAPDH* ($2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$). Kruskal Wallis test (two-tailed) followed by Conover's post hoc test with Bonferroni correction. Ns, not significant. $N = 3-4$ individual experiments.

Fig. S4





Appendix Figure S4. Marker gene expression and replicate distribution in cells from control and injured HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 4.

a. ForceAtlas2 plots mapping cells from OS-HLOs treated with OA (500 μ M, $n = 2$), PA (500 μ M, $n = 2$), TGF- β 1 (10 ng/ml, $n = 2$), and their respective controls ($n = 8$) colored by replicate (left) and cell cycle phase (right).

b. Barplot indicating the replicate distribution as the proportion of total cells per cluster for each cluster. Cell clusters are colored in the order of their appearance. AH - adult hepatocyte-like, CHOL – cholangiocyte-like, DCs – ductal cell-like, FH1 – fetal hepatocyte 1-like, cAH – cycling adult hepatocyte-like, FIB – fibroblast-like, HB1 – hepatoblast 1-like, HB2 – hepatoblast 2-like, HSCs – hepatic stellate cell-like, SMCs – smooth muscle cell-like.

c. ForceAtlas2 plots from a., showing the scaled expression of canonical marker genes.

d. Matrixplot shows the scaled mean expression for marker genes in cholangiocyte sub-clusters. Canonical marker genes (bottom) are sorted by cell type (top). Hierarchical clustering is represented by the dendrogram on the right.

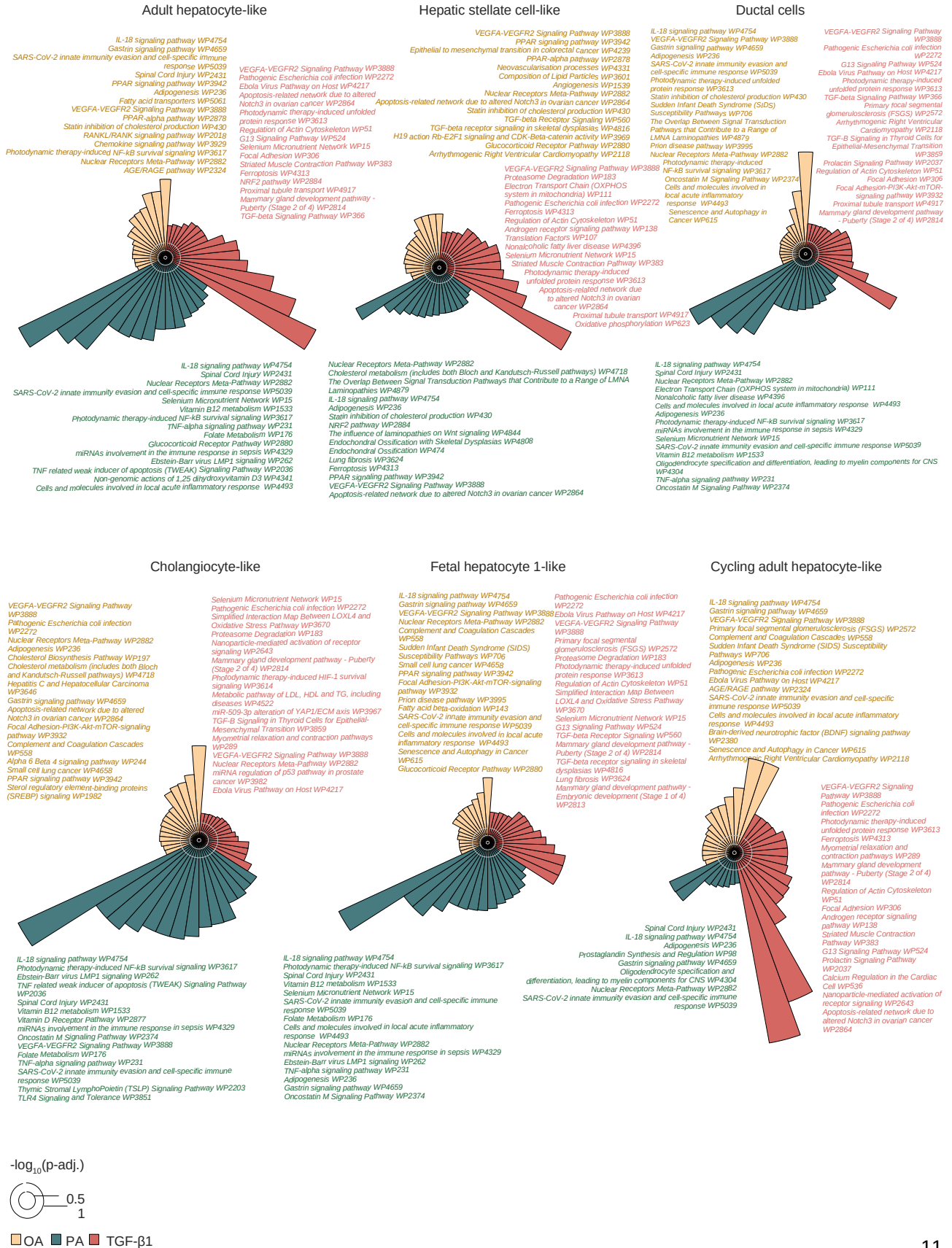
e. Barplots showing cell type distributions across replicates as the proportion of each cell type per total cells per sample. Cell clusters are colored in the order of their appearance.

f. Barplots showing zonal distributions (Methods) across replicates as the proportion of each cell type per total cells per sample for adult-hepatocyte like cells. Zonation categories are colored in the order of their appearance.

g. Representative qRT-PCR results for *COL1A1* and *DES* in two PSC lines. Shown are relative mRNA levels normalized to *ACTB* (2^{-ddCt}). T-test (two-tailed), p -values as indicated in the figure, ns, not significant. Data are shown for one experiment where each dot represents one well of HLOs. Data are representative for 3 - 4 experiments performed on HLOs differentiated from each PSC line.

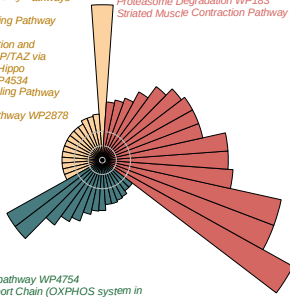
h. Summary of all qRT-PCR experiments for *COL1A1* and *DES* in two PSC lines. Shown are relative mRNA levels normalized to *ACTB* ($2^{-\text{ddCt}}$). Kruskal Wallis test (two-tailed) followed by Conover's post hoc test. $P < 0.05$ (*), $p < 0.01$ (**), $p < 0.001$ (***), ns, not significant. $N = 3 - 4$ experiments.

Fig. S5



Fibroblast-like

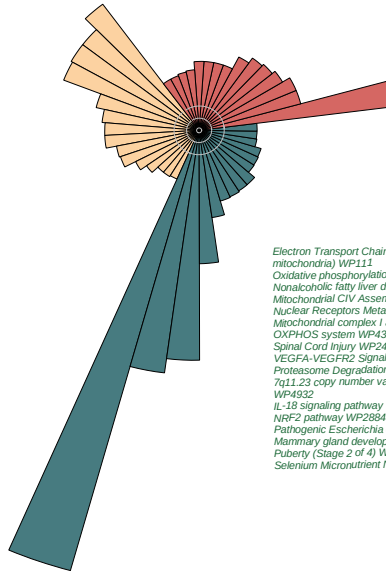
VEGFA-VEGFR2 Signaling Pathway WP3888
 Apoptosis-related network due to altered Notch3 in ovarian cancer WP2864
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272
 Regulation of Actin Cytoskeleton WP51
 Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy WP2118
 Focal Adhesion WP306
 Ebola Virus Pathway on Host WP4217
 TGF-beta Signaling Pathway WP366
 Primary focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) WP2572
 Ciliary landscape WP4352
 TGF-B Signaling in Thyroid Cells for Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition WP3959
 Senescence and Autophagy in Cancer WP615
 Focal Adhesion PI3K-Akt-mTOR-signaling pathway WP3932
 Proteasome Degradation WP183
 Striated Muscle Contraction Pathway WP383



IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Electron Transport Chain (OXPHOS system in mitochondria) WP111
 Vitamin D Receptor Pathway WP2877
 Adipogenesis WP236
 Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway WP2882
 Mitochondrial complex I assembly model OXPHOS system WP4324
 Mitochondrial CIV Assembly WP4922
 Oncostatin M Signaling Pathway WP2374
 Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease WP4396
 Circadian rhythm related genes WP3994
 Spinal Cord Injury WP2431
 let-7 inhibition of ES cell reprogramming WP2999
 The Overlap Between Signal Transduction Pathways that Contribute to a Range of LMNA Laminopathies WP4879
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272

Hepatoblast 1-like

PPAR signaling pathway WP3942
 Statin inhibition of cholesterol production WP430
 Fatty acid transporters WP5061
 Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway WP2882
 Composition of Lipid Particles WP3601
 Selenium Micronutrient Network WP15
 PPAR-alpha pathway WP2878
 Prostaglandin Synthesis and Regulation WP98
 Metabolic pathway of LDL, HDL and TG, including diseases WP4522
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Folate Metabolism WP176
 Vitamin B12 metabolism WP1533
 Adipogenesis WP236
 Oxidative Stress WP408
 Mitochondrial CIV Assembly WP4922

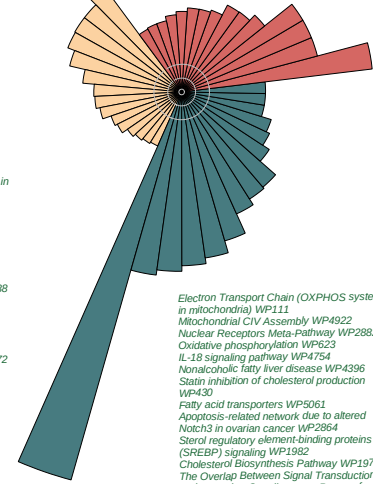


VEGFA-VEGFR2 Signaling Pathway WP3888
 Ebola Virus Pathway on Host WP4217
 Focal Adhesion WP306
 miRNA targets in ECM and membrane receptors WP2911
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Small cell lung cancer WP4658
 Matrix Metalloproteinases WP129
 RAC1/PAK1/p38/MMP2 Pathway WP3303
 Focal Adhesion-PI3K-Akt-mTOR-signaling pathway WP3932
 ACE/RAGE pathway WP2324
 TGF-beta Signaling Pathway WP366
 Photodynamic therapy-induced unfolded protein response WP3613
 PI3K-Akt signaling pathway WP4172
 Inflammatory Response Pathway WP453
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272

Electron Transport Chain (OXPHOS system in mitochondria) WP111
 Oxidative phosphorylation WP623
 Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease WP4396
 Mitochondrial CIV Assembly WP4922
 Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway WP2882
 Mitochondrial complex I assembly model OXPHOS system WP4324
 Spinal Cord Injury WP2431
 VEGFA-VEGFR2 Signaling Pathway WP3888
 Proteasome Degradation WP183
 7q11.23 copy number variation syndrome WP4932
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 NR2F2 pathway WP2884
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272
 Mammary gland development pathway - Puberty (Stage 2 of 4) WP2814
 Selenium Micronutrient Network WP15

Hepatoblast 2-like

Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway WP2882
 PPAR Signaling pathway WP3942
 Statin inhibition of cholesterol production WP430
 Small cell lung cancer WP4658
 Composition of Lipid Particles WP3601
 PPAR-alpha pathway WP2878
 Metabolic pathway of LDL, HDL and TG, including diseases WP4522
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Selenium Micronutrient Network WP15
 Glucocorticoid Receptor Pathway WP2880
 Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy WP2118
 Focal Adhesion WP306
 Focal Adhesion-PI3K-Akt-mTOR-signaling pathway WP3932
 Alpha 6 Beta 4 signaling pathway WP244
 Cholesterol Biosynthesis Pathway WP197

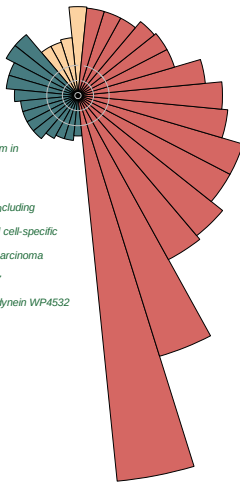


VEGFA-VEGFR2 Signaling Pathway WP3888
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272
 G13 Signaling Pathway WP524
 Ferroptosis WP4313
 Proteasome Degradation WP183
 Ebola Virus Pathway on Host WP4217
 TGF-beta Signaling Pathway WP366
 Airway smooth muscle cell contraction WP4962
 Myometrial relaxation and contraction pathways WP289
 Focal Adhesion WP306
 PDGF Pathway WP2526
 Ciliary landscape WP4352
 Physiological and pathological hypertrophy of the heart WP1528
 Proctactin Signaling Pathway WP2037
 Regulation of Actin Cytoskeleton WP51

Electron Transport Chain (OXPHOS system in mitochondria) WP111
 Mitochondrial CIV Assembly WP4922
 Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway WP2882
 Oxidative phosphorylation WP623
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease WP4396
 Statin inhibition of cholesterol production WP430
 Fatty acid transporters WP5061
 Apoptosis-related network due to altered Notch3 in ovarian cancer WP2864
 Sterol regulatory element-binding proteins (SREBP) signaling WP1382
 Cholesterol Biosynthesis Pathway WP197
 The Overlap Between Signal Transduction Pathways that Contribute to a Range of LMNA Laminopathies WP4879
 Oncostatin M Signaling Pathway WP2374
 Adipogenesis WP236
 HIF1A and PPARG regulation of glycolysis WP2456

Smooth muscle cell-like

IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Composition of Lipid Particles WP3601
 Spinal Cord Injury WP2431
 Statin inhibition of cholesterol production WP430



Ciliary landscape WP4352
 IL-18 signaling pathway WP4754
 Composition of Lipid Particles WP3601
 Electron Transport Chain (OXPHOS system in mitochondria) WP111
 Spinal Cord Injury WP2431
 Mitochondrial CIV Assembly WP4922
 Type II interferon signaling (IFN2) WP619
 Metabolic pathway of LDL, HDL and TG, including diseases WP4522
 SARS-CoV-2 innate immunity evasion and cell-specific immune response WP5039
 Hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma pathway WP4206
 Immune response to tuberculosis WP4197
 Vitamin B12 metabolism WP1533
 Intracellular transport proteins binding to dynein WP4532

VEGFA-VEGFR2 Signaling Pathway WP3888
 Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection WP2272
 Ebola Virus Pathway on Host WP4217
 Focal Adhesion WP306
 Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy WP2118
 Myometrial relaxation and contraction pathways WP289
 Regulation of Actin Cytoskeleton WP51
 Primary focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) WP2572
 G13 Signaling Pathway WP524
 Calcium Regulation in the Cardiac Cell WP536
 miR-509-3p alteration of YAP1/ECM axis WP3967
 TGF-B Signaling in Thyroid Cells for Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition WP3859
 Common Pathways Underlying Drug Addiction WP2636
 RAC1/PAK1/p38/MMP2 Pathway WP3303
 TGF-beta Signaling Pathway WP366

$-\log_{10}(p\text{-adj.})$



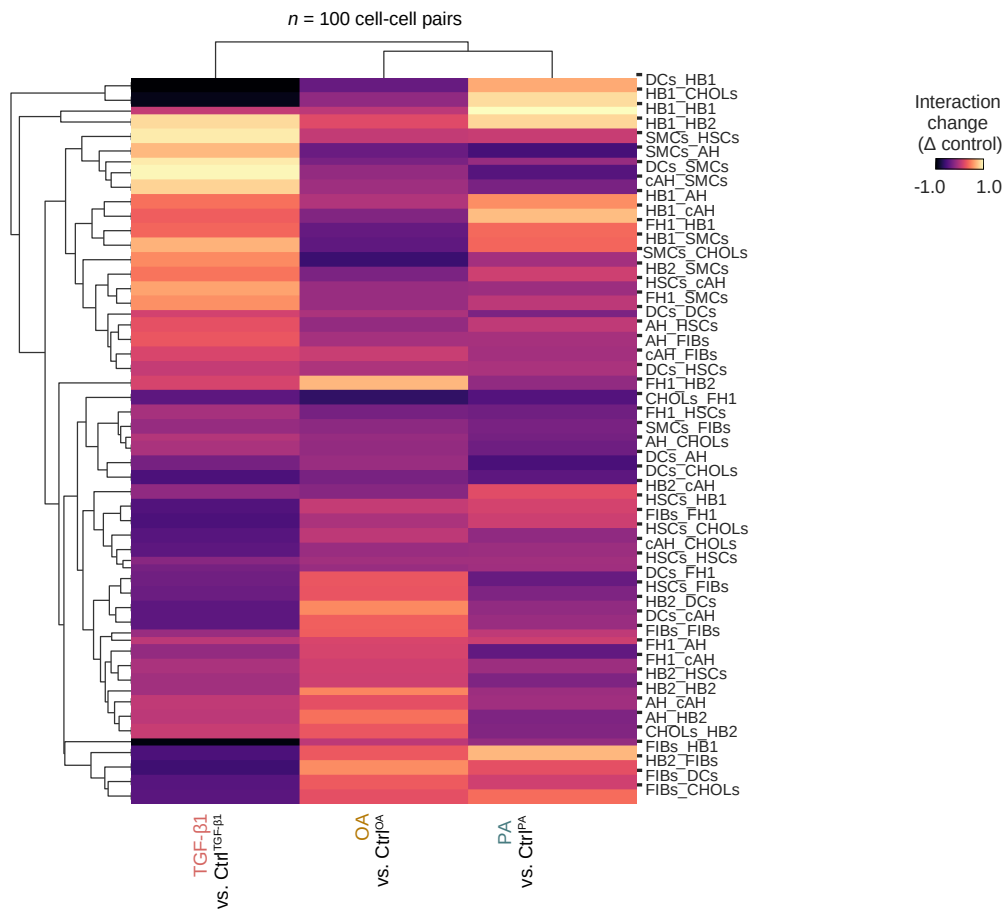
OA PA TGF-β1

Appendix Figure S5. WikiPathways⁵ enrichment analysis across cell clusters. Corresponding to Fig. 4f.

Circular barplots display the negative decadic logarithm of adjusted p -values for WikiPathways⁵ terms enriched among differential genes for each condition per cell cluster. Cut-off for plots is an adjusted p -value below 0.05.

Fig. S6

a.



b.

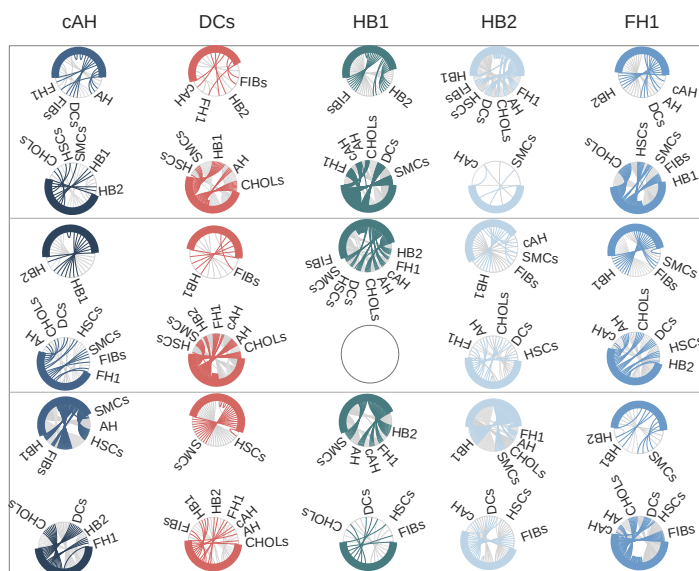


Fig. S6 continued

c.

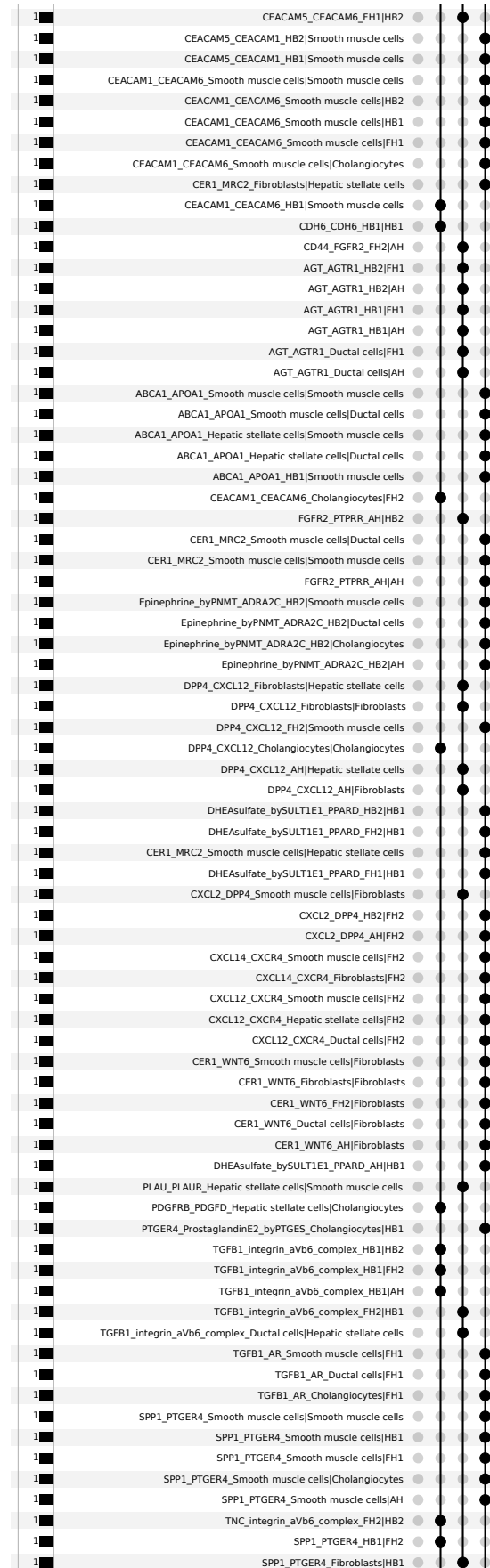
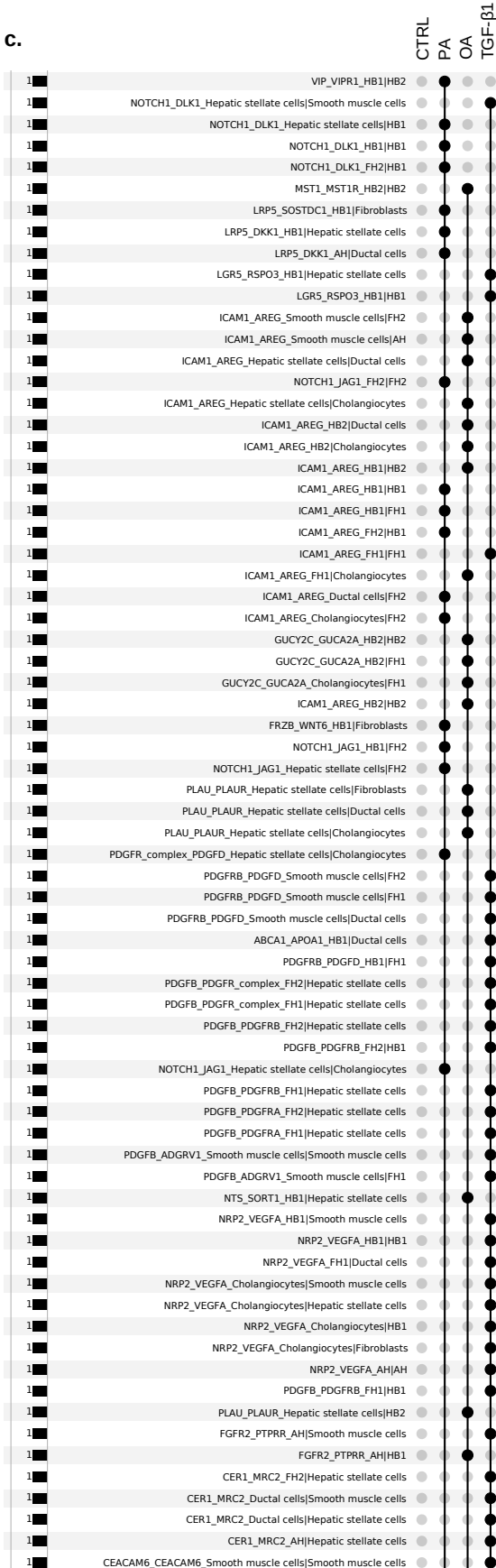
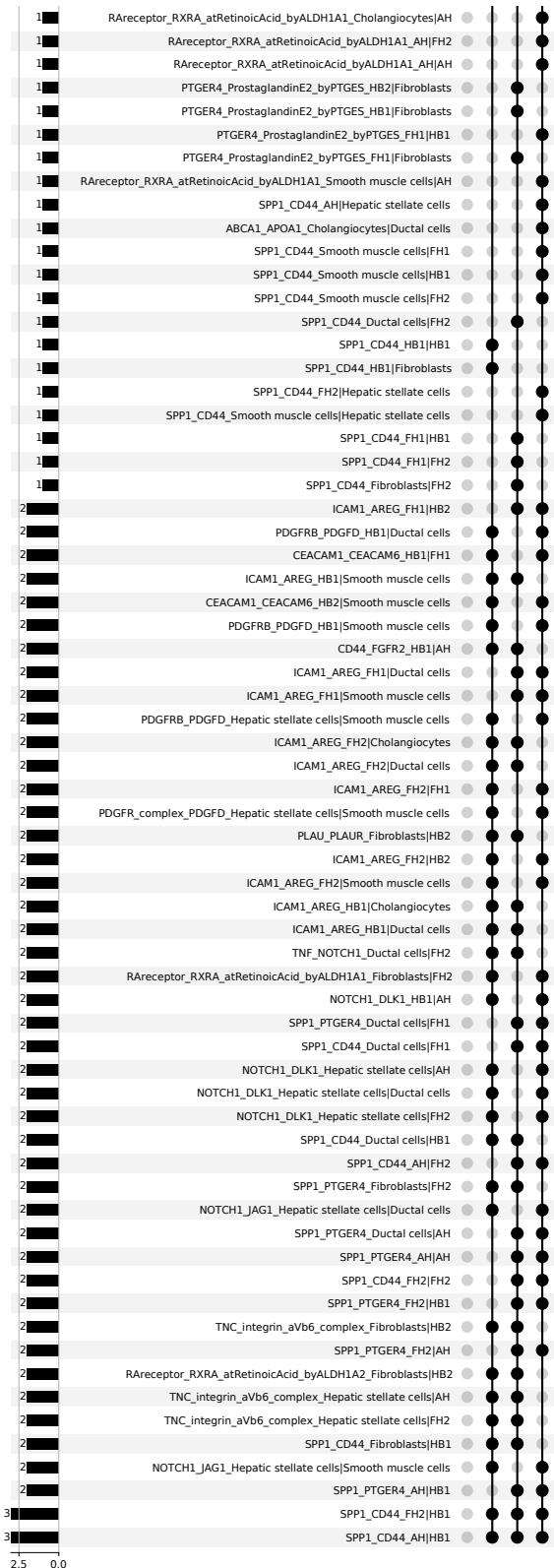


Fig. S6 continued

c.



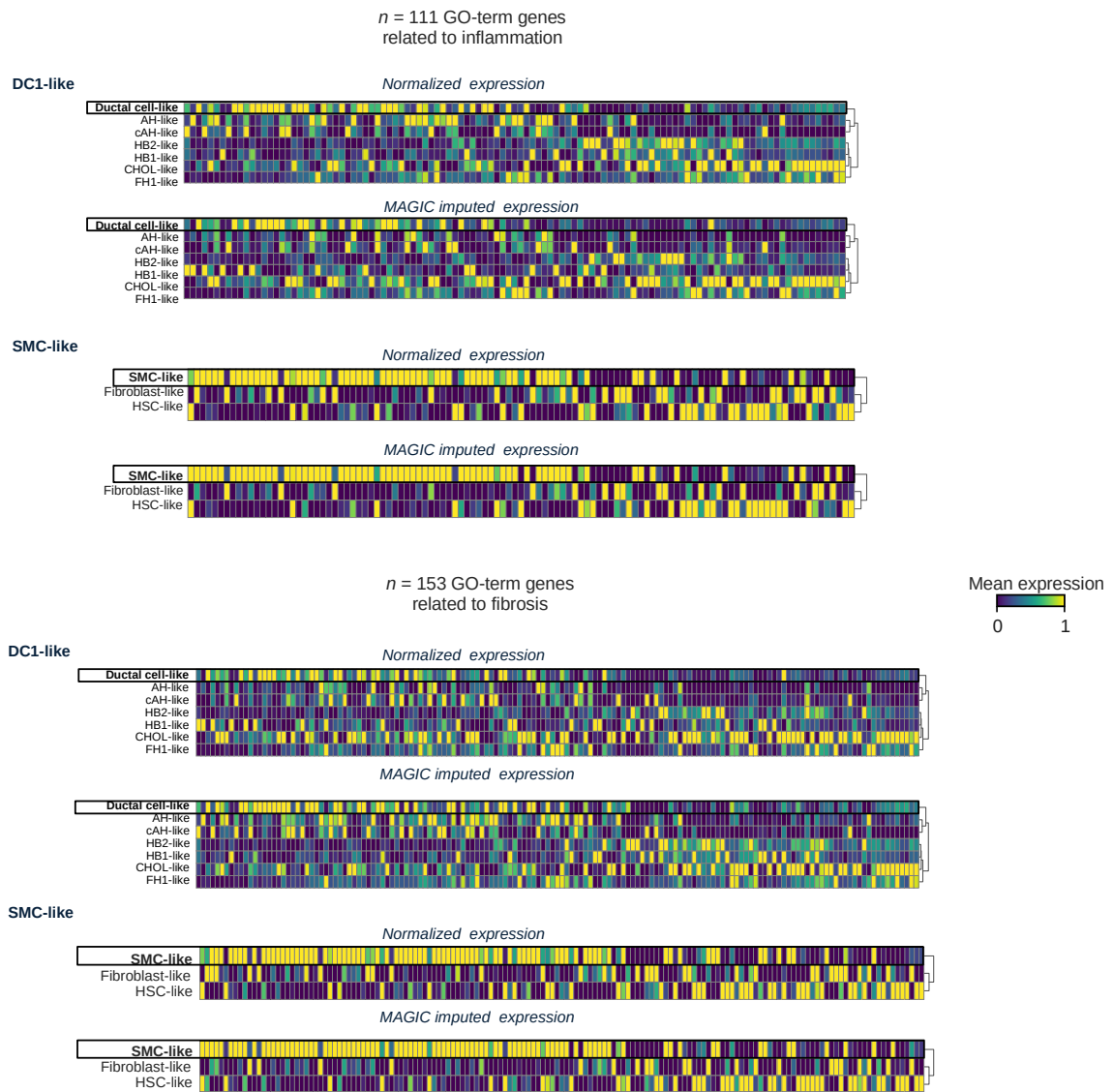
Appendix Figure S6. Overview of differential cell-cell interactions in OS-HLOs upon OA, PA, and TGF- β 1 treatment. Corresponding to Fig. 5.

a. Clustered heatmap shows the difference in the fraction of total interactions between each treatment and its control group. Dendrograms show the hierarchical clustering by condition (top) and cell-cell interaction (left, every second interaction is labeled). $N = 100$ possible cell-cell interactions, $n = 2$ replicates per condition, $n = 6$ controls.

b. Chord diagrams showing the fraction of total interactions per source cell with its respective target cells in HLOs treated with OA, PA, or TGF- β 1. Chord diagrams are divided by interactions that have i) a higher fraction of total interactions in treatment conditions compared to their corresponding control (“enforced”), and ii) interactions with a lower fraction of total interactions (“reduced”). Colored lines indicate interactions initiated by the source cell in each column, grey lines indicate interactions of other cell types targeting the source cell presented in each chord diagram.

c. Upset plot⁶ showing overlapping and specific significant ($p < 0.05$) cell-cell interactions as identified through CellPhoneDB⁷ analysis in HLO injury conditions (OA, PA, TGF- β 1). Interactions that were also significant in both control and treatment conditions are not displayed. Black dot indicates presence of the significant cell-cell interaction in the condition.

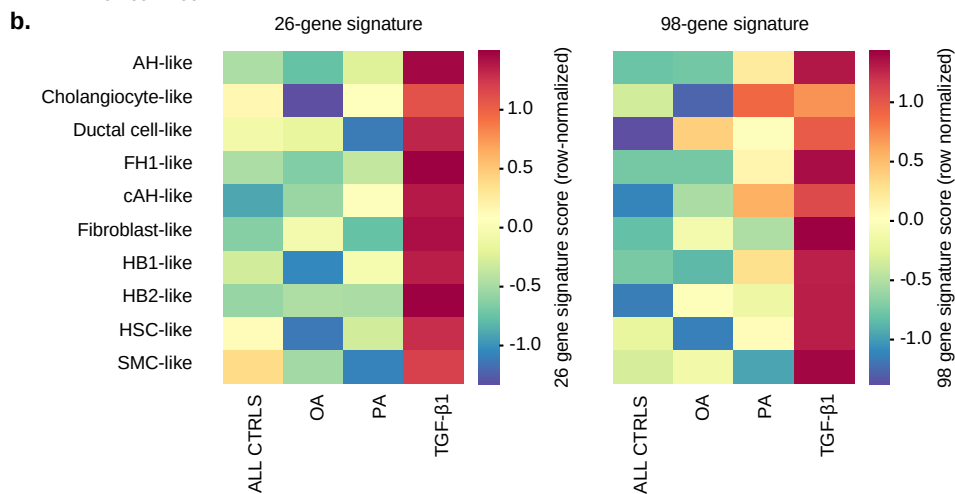
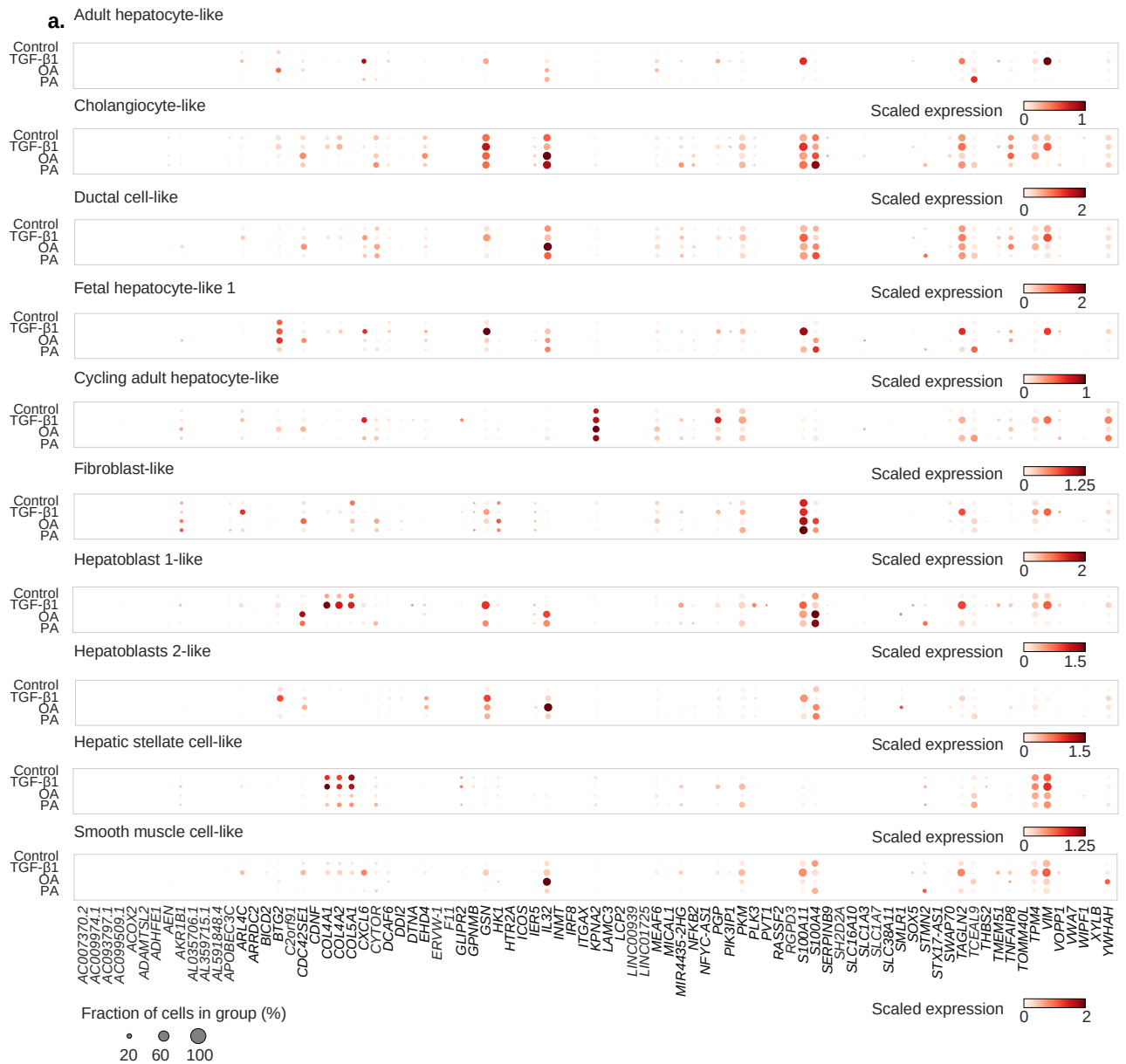
Fig. S7



Appendix Figure S7. Comparison of normalized expression and imputed expression for two major terminal states in OS-HLOs.

- a.** Projection of the top 100 terminal branch cells (sorted by branch probabilities) for two terminal states identified by Palantir on the ForceAtlas2 representation (top). Corresponding barplots below displaying the relative distribution of treatment conditions among the top 100 terminal branch cells for each terminal state.
- b.** Heatmaps showing the imputed gene expression over Palantir pseudotime for GO-term-derived inflammation (left) and fibrosis (right)-related genes sorted by their imputed expression level at each terminal state (indicated on top of each heatmap). Imputed expression levels are indicated by color, y-axes correspond to genes, and x-axes display the pseudotime. Ranked gene lists are provided in Dataset EV8.
- c.** Matrix plots displaying standard normalized mean expression (top) along with imputed gene expression (MAGIC, bottom) for genes identified to enrich towards pseudotime for the DC1- and SMC-like terminal states (genes on the x-axis are the same as in y-axis of b). Categorical ordering by cell type. Dendrogram on the right displaying hierarchical clustering.

Fig. S8



Appendix Figure S8. Expression of cell type- and injury-specific candidate genes composing signatures predicting fibrosis stages in MASLD⁸ gradually change from healthy to OA-, to PA-, to TGF- β 1-treated HLOs. Corresponding to Fig. 7c.

a. Dot plots showing scaled expression values for genes from the 98-gene signature to predict fibrosis stages in a cohort of 143 patients across different stages of MASLD⁸. Each panel shows an individual cell type. List has been reduced to genes present among all replicates ($n = 8$ controls, $n = 2$ OA, $n = 2$ PA, $n = 2$ TGF- β 1). Dot size corresponds to the fraction of cells in a group expressing the respective gene, and color indicates the scaled expression level.

b. Heatmaps showing the row-normalized 26- and 98-gene signature scores from a. per cell type and treatment condition.

References

1. Domínguez Conde, C. et al. Cross-tissue immune cell analysis reveals tissue-specific features in humans. *Science* 376, eabl5197 (2022).
2. Wesley, B. T. et al. Single-cell atlas of human liver development reveals pathways directing hepatic cell fates. *Nat Cell Biol* 1–12 (2022) doi:10.1038/s41556-022-00989-7.
3. Ianevski, A., Giri, A.K., and Aittokallio, T. (2022). Fully-automated and ultra-fast cell-type identification using specific marker combinations from single-cell transcriptomic data. *Nat Commun* 13, 1246. 10.1038/s41467-022-28803-w.
4. Kuleshov, M.V., Jones, M.R., Rouillard, A.D., Fernandez, N.F., Duan, Q., Wang, Z., Koplev, S., Jenkins, S.L., Jagodnik, K.M., Lachmann, A., et al. (2016). Enrichr: a comprehensive gene set enrichment analysis web server 2016 update. *Nucleic acids research* 44, W90–W97. 10.1093/nar/gkw377
5. Martens, M., Ammar, A., Riutta, A., Waagmeester, A., Slenter, D.N., Hanspers, K., A. Miller, R., Digles, D., Lopes, E.N., Ehrhart, F., et al. (2021). WikiPathways: connecting communities. *Nucleic Acids Research* 49, D613–D621. 10.1093/nar/gkaa1024.
6. Lex, A., Gehlenborg, N., Strobel, H., Vuillemot, R. & Pfister, H. UpSet: Visualization of Intersecting Sets. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics* 20, 1983–1992 (2014).
7. Efremova, M., Vento-Tormo, M., Teichmann, S. A. & Vento-Tormo, R. CellPhoneDB: inferring cell–cell communication from combined expression of multi-subunit ligand–receptor complexes. *Nature Protocols* 15, 1484–1506 (2020).
8. Pantano, L., Agyapong, G., Shen, Y., Zhuo, Z., Fernandez-Albert, F., Rust, W., Knebel, D., Hill, J., Boustany-Kari, C.M., Doerner, J.F., et al. (2021). Molecular characterization and cell type composition deconvolution of fibrosis in NAFLD. *Scientific Reports* 11, 1–14. 10.1038/s41598-021-96966-5.