SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

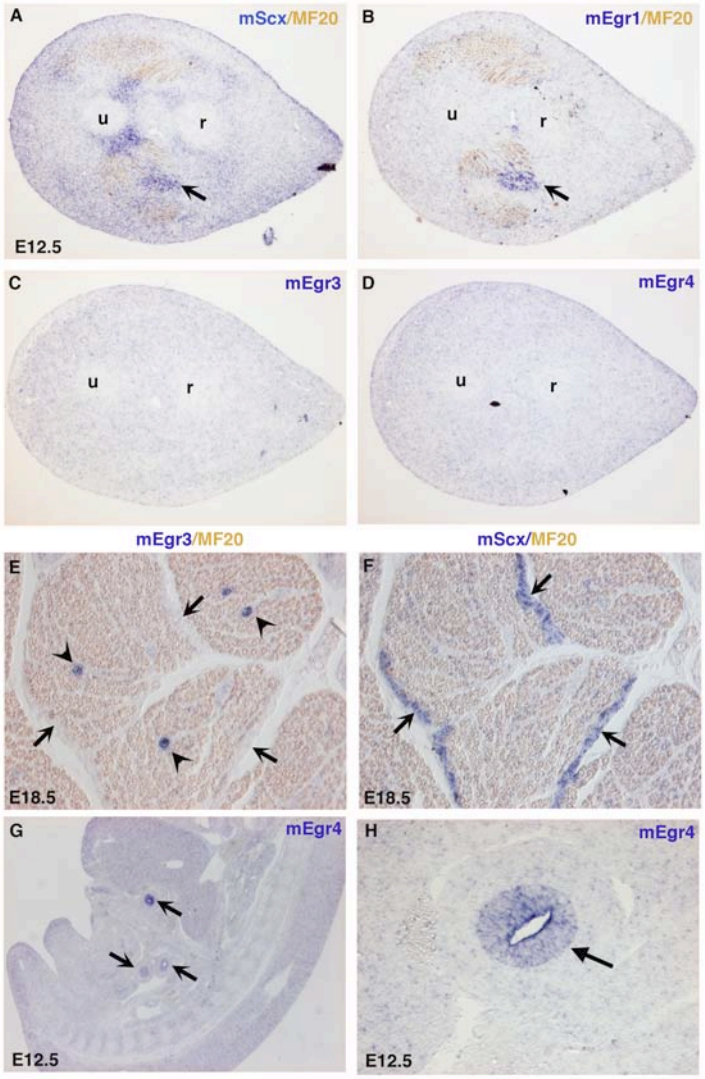

FIGURE S1

Absence of *mEgr3* and *mEgr4* expression in embryonic mouse limb tendons.

Adjacent transverse sections of E12.5 (A-D) or E18.5 (E,F) forelimbs were hybridized with *mScx* (A,F) *mEgr1* (B), *mEgr3* (C,E) and *mEgr4* (D) probes (blue) and then incubated with the MF20 antibody (light brown) in order to visualize muscles (A,B,E,F). (G,H) Sagital sections of E12.5 embryos were hybridized with *mEgr4* probe. *mEgr3* and *mEgr4* transcripts were not detected in E12.5 limbs, while *mEgr1* (B, arrow) was detected in *mScx* expression domains (A, arrow) in forming tendons. In E18.5 limbs, *mEgr3* was expressed in muscle spindles (E) but not in tendons visualized by *mScx* expression on adjacent sections (F), while *mEgr4* was not expressed nor in muscle and tendons at this stage (data not shown). (G,H) *mEgr4* was nevertheless expressed in the epithelium of the digestive track of E12.5 embryos, providing a positive control for *mEgr4* probe. u, ulna, r, radius

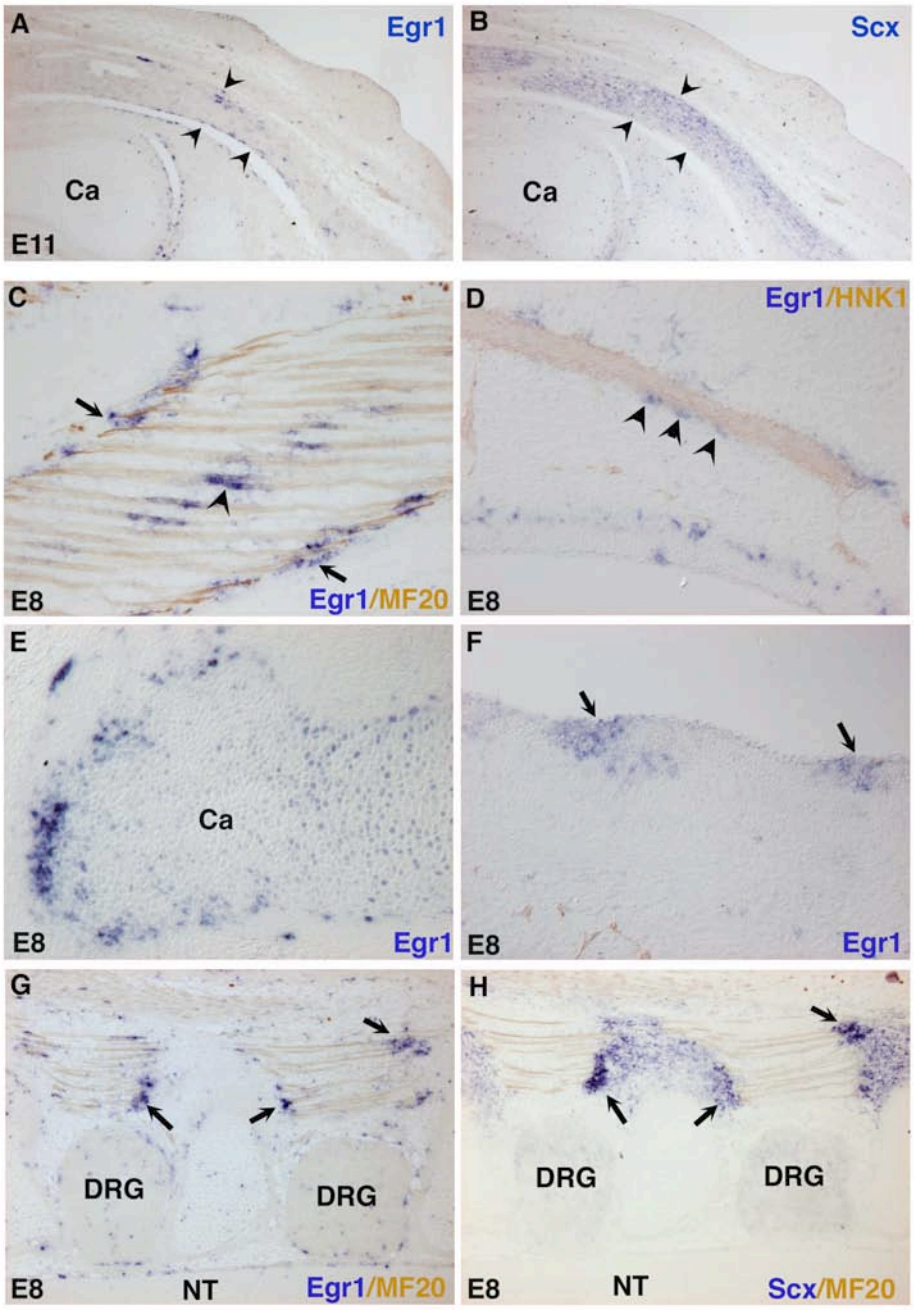

FIGURE S2

Multiple expression sites for *Egr1* in chick embryos.

Wings of E11 (A,B) and E8 (C-F) chick embryos were sectioned longitudinally. (G,H) E8 chick embryos were sectioned laterally along the antero-posterior axis. Sections were hybridized with the DIG-labeled antisense probes (blue) for *Egr1* (A,C-G), or *Scx* (B,H) and then incubated with the MF20 antibody (C,G,H) or with the HNK1 antibody (D) in order to visualize muscles and nerves, respectively. Arrows in A indicate *Egr1* expression along a tendon visualized by *Scx* expression on adjacent sections (B). Arrows in C indicate *Egr1* expression in tendons near the muscles, while the arrowhead point to the *Egr1* expression at the neuromuscular junction. Arrowheads in D indicate *Egr1* expression along the nerves. *Egr1* is also expressed in cartilage cells (E). Arrows in F indicate *Egr1* expression in forming feather buds. In axial regions, *Egr1* transcripts are observed in a sub-region of *Scx*-positive domain, near axial muscles (G,H, arrows). Ca, cartilage, DRG, Dorsal Root Ganglia, NT, neural tube.

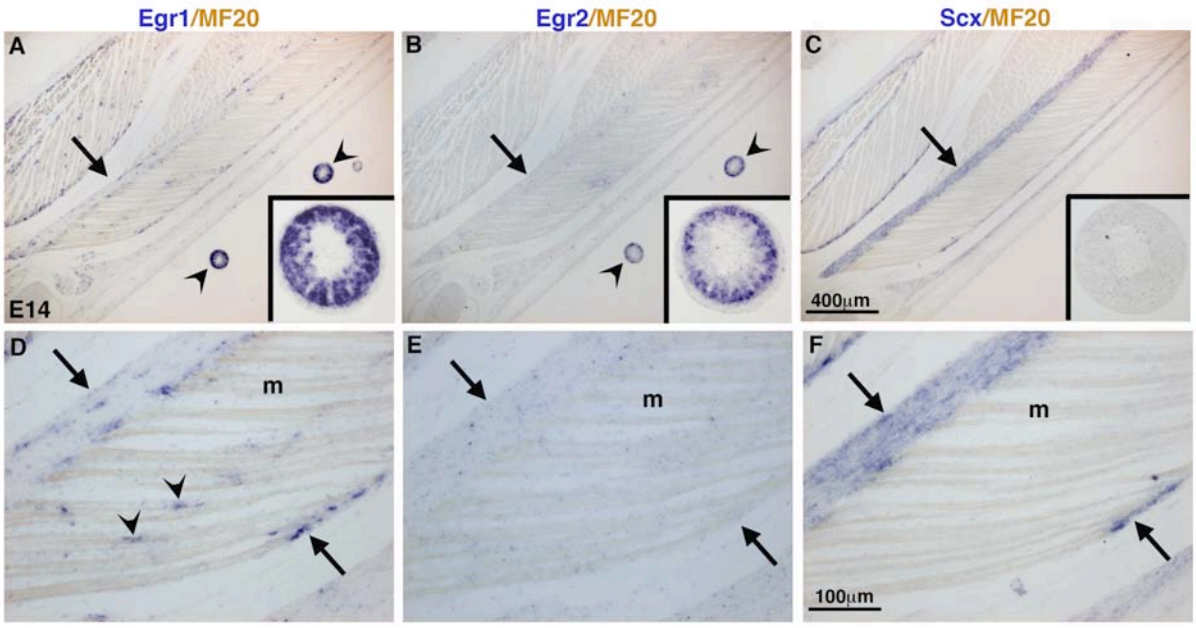

FIGURE S3

Egr2 expression is transient in embryonic chick limb tendons

Chick wings of E14 embryos were sectioned longitudinally. Adjacent sections were hybridized with the DIG-labeled antisense probes (blue) for *Egr1* (A,D), *Egr2* (B,E) or *Scx* (C,F) and then incubated with the MF20 antibody (light brown) in order to visualize muscles. Arrows show the *Egr1* (A,D) expression and the absence of *Egr2* expression (B,E) in tendons labeled with *Scx* (C,F). Arrowheads in A,B indicate feather buds. Insets in A,B,C show enlargements of feather buds at E14 expressing *Egr1* and *Egr2* but not *Scx*. m, muscle.

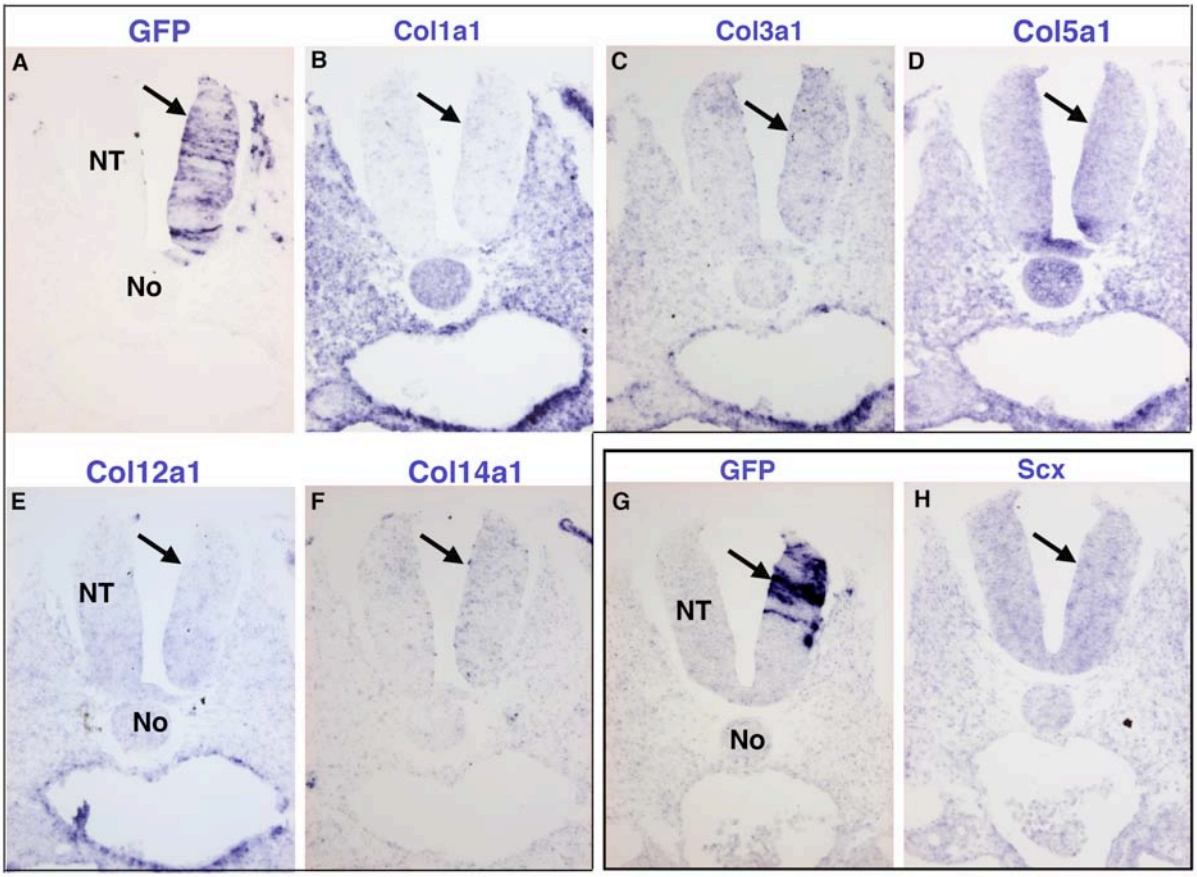

FIGURE S4

Forced-expression of control GPF vector does not activate the expression of tendon genes in neural tubes.

The neural tubes of chick embryos were electroporated with the pCAβ−GFP construct as control. Adjacent transverse sections of different embryos were hybridized with the GFP probe to visualize the ectopic GFP expression, one day after electroporation (A,G, arrows). The corresponding adjacent sections were hybridized with probes for the following tendon-associated markers: *Col1a1* (B), *Col3a1* (C), *Col5a1* (D), *Col12a1* (E), *Col14a1* (F), *Scx* (H). No expression of all these tendon markers was induced after ectopic GFP expression in the right parts of the neural tubes (B-F,H, arrows). The revelation time of *in situ* hybridization was over left. The adjacent sections corresponding to different embryos are grouped accordingly. NT, neural tube, No, Notochord

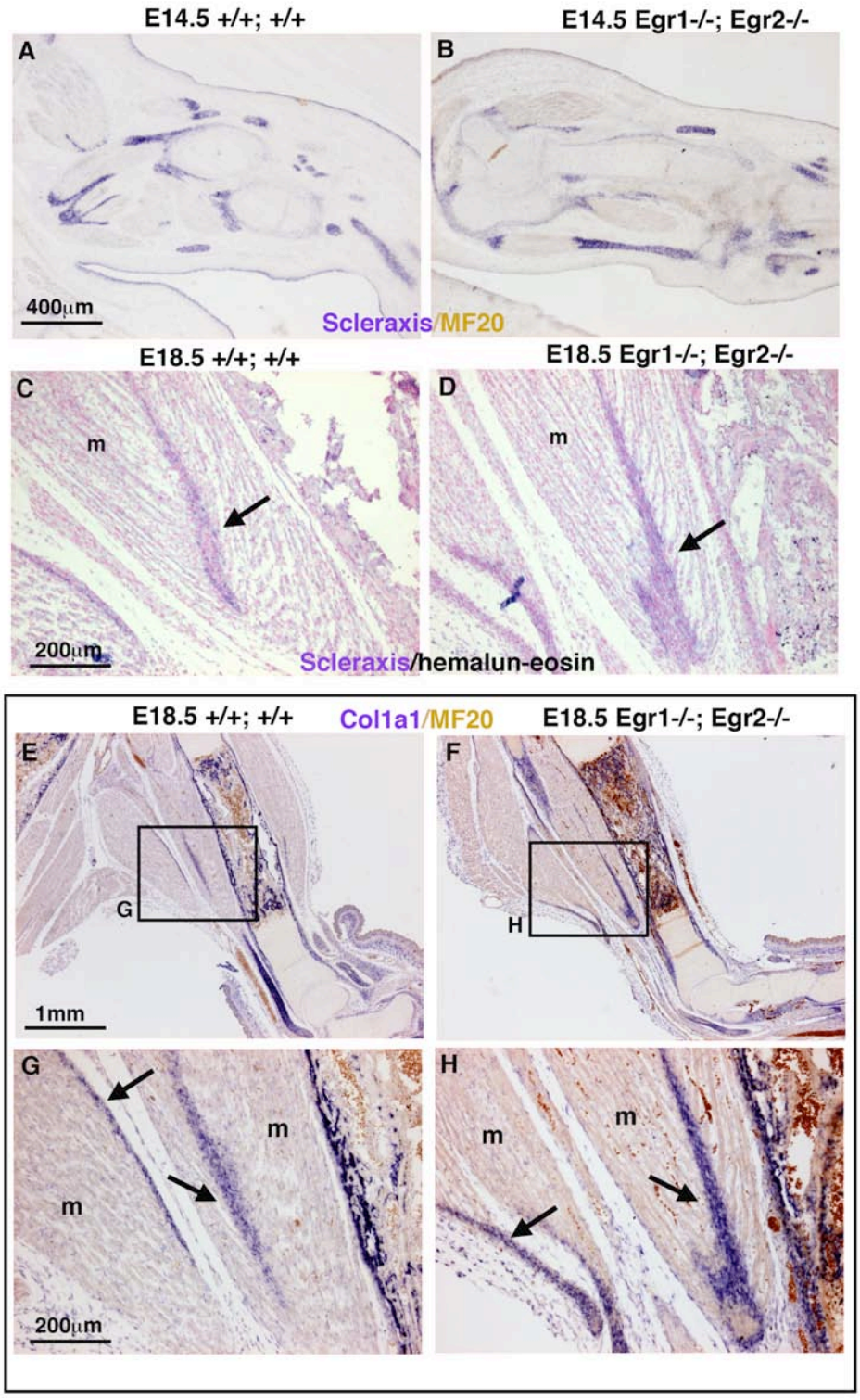

FIGURE S5

***Scx* and *Col1a1* transcripts are observed in limb tendons from double *Egr1*$^{-/-}$ *Egr2*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice by *in situ* hybridization.**

Longitudinal sections of E14.5 (A,B) and E18.5 (C-H) forelimbs from wild-type mice (A,C,E,G) and *Egr1*$^{-/-}$ *Egr2*$^{-/-}$ double mutant mice (B,D,F,H) were hybridized with *mScx* (A-D), *mCol1a1* (E-H) probes (blue) and then incubated with the MF20 antibody (A,B, E-H). (C,D) were colored with Hemalun-eosin. The expression of *mScx* (B,D) and *mCol1a1* (F,H) is observed in tendons of *Egr1*$^{-/-}$ *Egr2*$^{-/-}$ double mutant mice compared to stage-matched control limbs (A,C,E,G). m, muscle. *Col1a1* expressing tendons are arrowed in G and H.