

Hegde et. al., *In vivo* gene silencing following non-invasive siRNA delivery into the skin using a novel topical formulation.

## **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

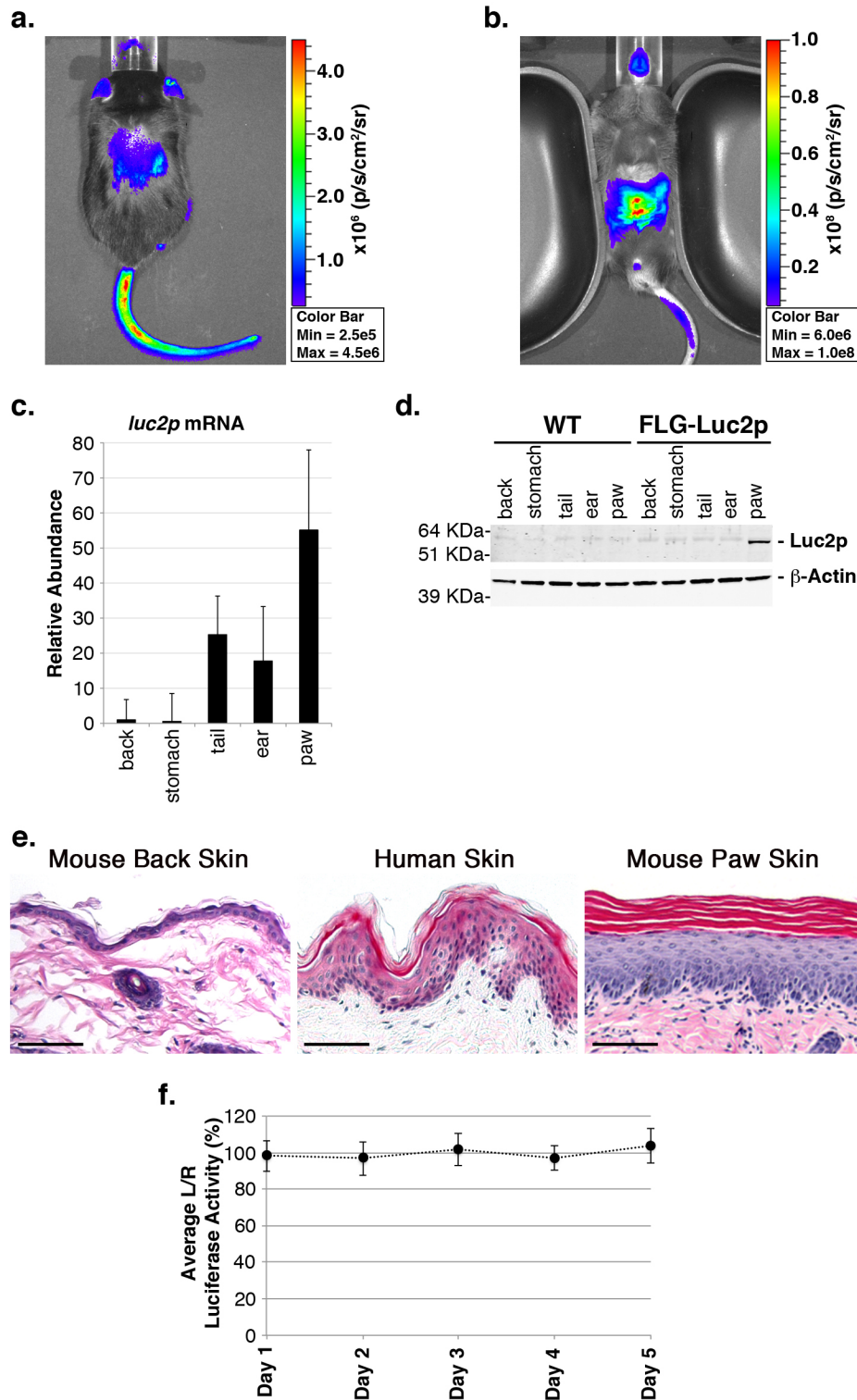
### **Recombineering of *FLG*-10k human filaggrin promoter fragment**

The *FLG*-10k human filaggrin promoter fragment was assembled from bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clone RP1-14N1 via a two-step recombineering process. A 10.1 kb fragment containing a 5' *Xho*I restriction site, ~10 kb upstream of the transcription *FLG* start site, exon 1 (partial 5'UTR), the first 18-bp of intron 1, and a 3' *Mlu*I restriction site was amplified from the BAC clone using primers mentioned in Supplementary Table 1. A second, 483-bp fragment containing a 5' *Mlu*I restriction site, the last 459-bp of intron 1, the start of exon 2 encompassing the remainder of the 5'UTR and a 3' *Hin*DIII restriction site was amplified from the same BAC clone. Fragments were sequence-verified and ligated via their *Mlu*I sites, generating the 10.6 kb hFLG-10k human filaggrin promoter fragment.

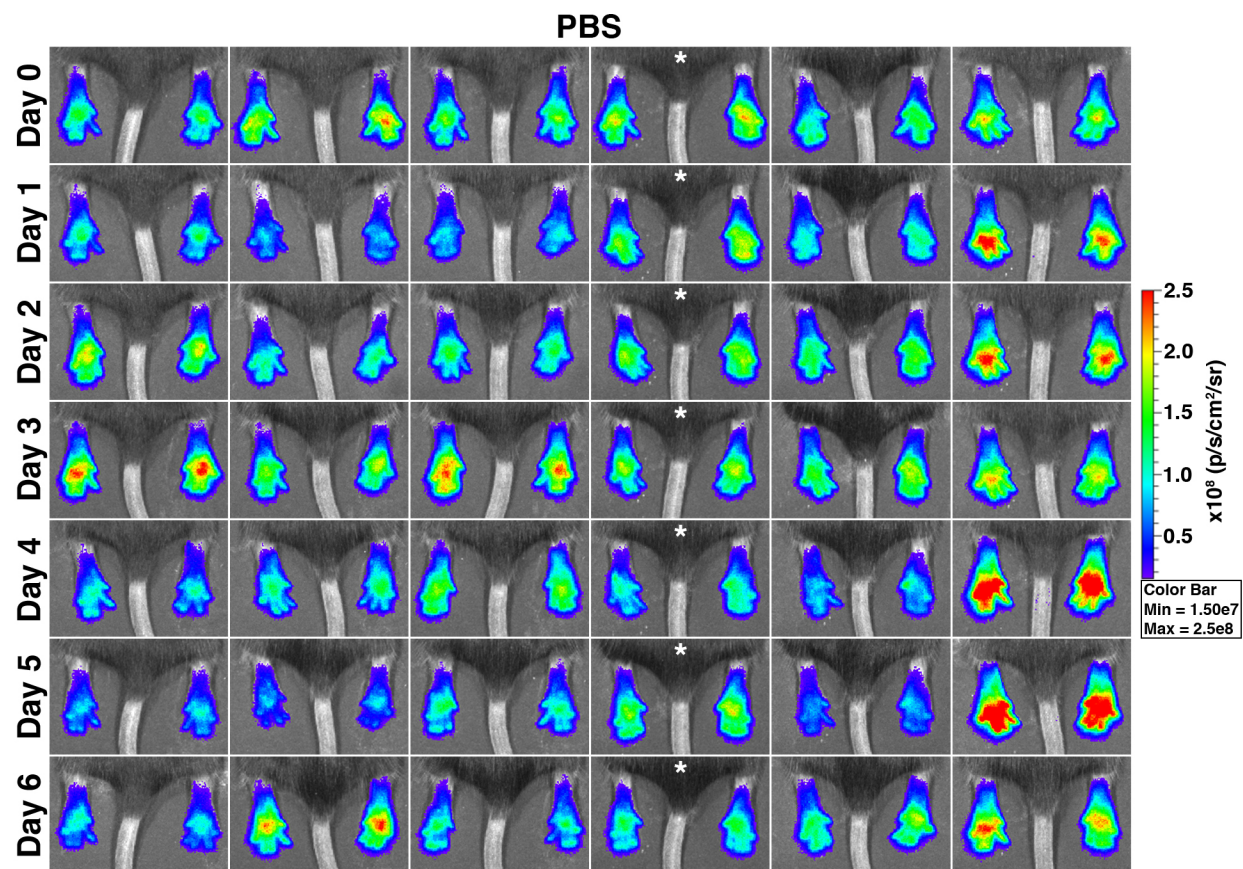
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**Supplementary Table 1: Cloning primers**

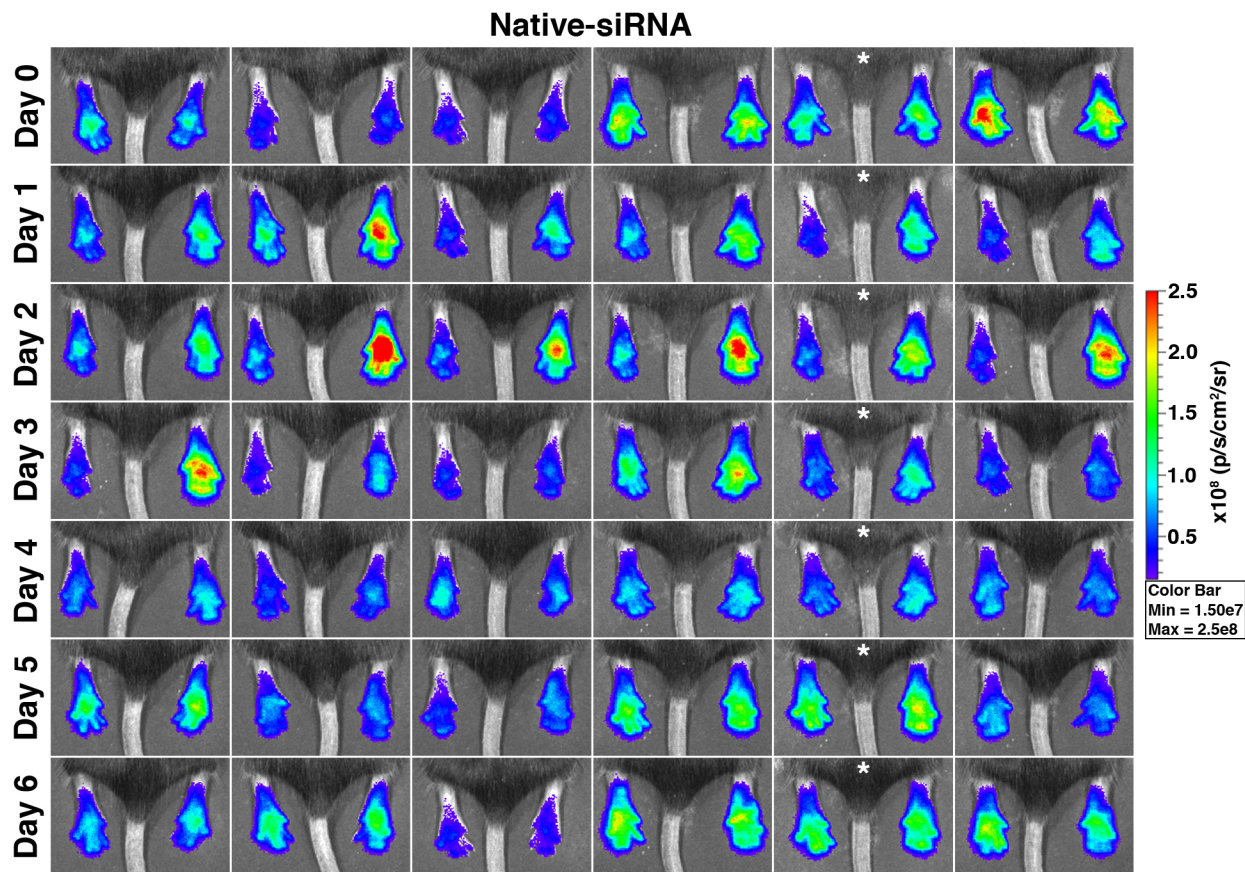
	<b>Sequence</b>
Right arm: Human Genome Build 18 (hg18), chromosome 1	5' – GGT AAG CAA TAT GAA AAC AAT TTG TAG CTC ATT CAC TGC CAG ACA CTG ACT CGA GAC AAC TTA TAT CGT ATG GGG C – 3'
Left arm: Human Genome Build 18 (hg18), chromosome 1	5' – TCC TTC AGG CTA CAT TCT ATT TGC TCT TTT GGT GAA CAA GGT AAG AAG GAA TAC GCG TTA CGC CCC GCC CTG CCA C – 3'
FLG homology <i>MluI</i>	5' – AGG TAA GTC ACG CGT ATC TTG TCA TAT GGC TAA CTG G – 3'
FLG homology <i>HinDIII</i>	5' – TCA AGC TTT TGG CAA TAA ATG TGA ACC – 3'



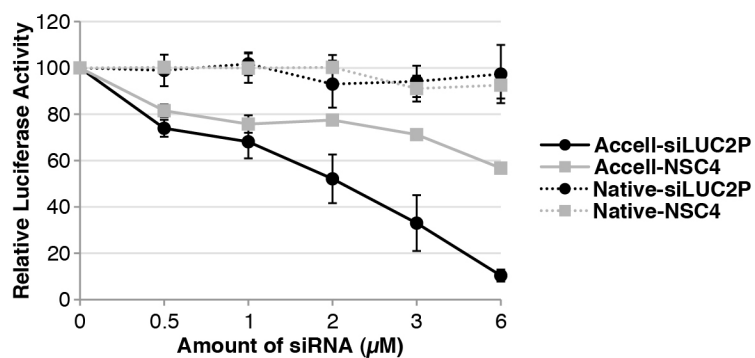
**Supplementary Figure 1: Further characterization of the FLG-luc2p<sup>+/-</sup> mouse model.** (a-b) Luciferin was administered to FLG-luc2p<sup>+/-</sup> mice via intraperitoneal injection and imaged for 1 min, 10 min post-injection using the IVIS Lumina. Moderate luciferase bioluminescence activity was detected in the tail, shaved back and stomach, ears, perioral and perianal regions under these conditions. (c) Taqman-based qRT-PCR analysis demonstrated that luc2p mRNA was more abundant in FLG-luc2p<sup>+/-</sup> paw tissues relative to back, stomach, ear and tail epidermal tissues. (d) Firefly luciferase protein was only detectable by western blotting in FLG-luc2p<sup>+/-</sup> paw tissues. Membranes were simultaneously probed with anti- $\beta$ -actin antibodies as a loading control. (e) H&E-stained cross-sections of wild-type mouse back skin (left panel), human skin (middle panel) and wild-type mouse paw skin (right panel). Mouse back skin generally comprises only three cell layers and has a very thin stratum corneum layer, in contrast both human epidermis and mouse paw epidermis are made up of 6–10 keratinocyte cell layers and a well-defined stratum corneum barrier. Scale Bar = 100  $\mu$ m. (f) Graph depicts the average %L/R ratio (n=12) at each timepoint over a 5-day baseline *in vivo* imaging time-course and the error bars represent standard deviation of the mean.



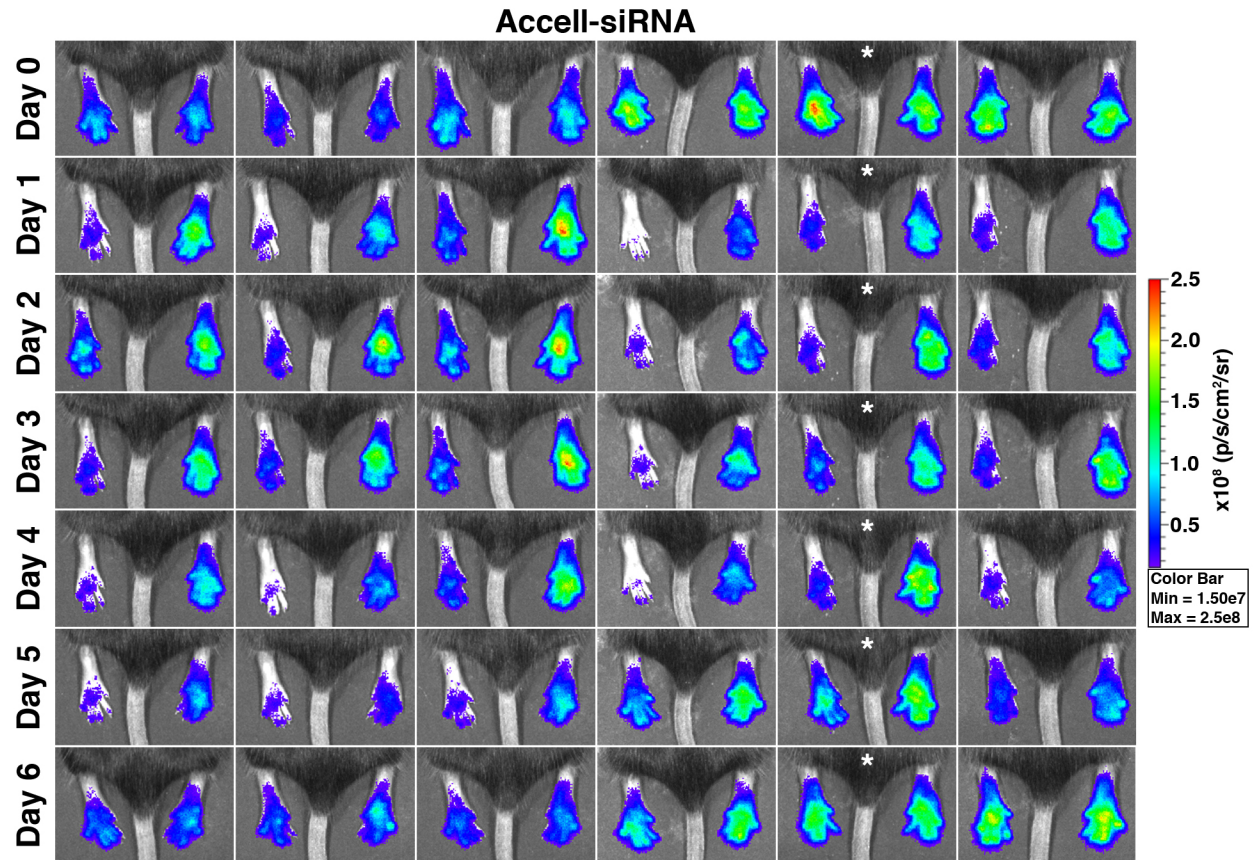
**Supplementary Figure 2:** Full experimental dataset for PBS control treatments from native- and Accell-siRNA *in vivo* study presented in Fig. 2. *In vivo* images depicting the LLEs of all PBS control group animals from the intradermal injection native- and Accell-siRNA study. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 2a.



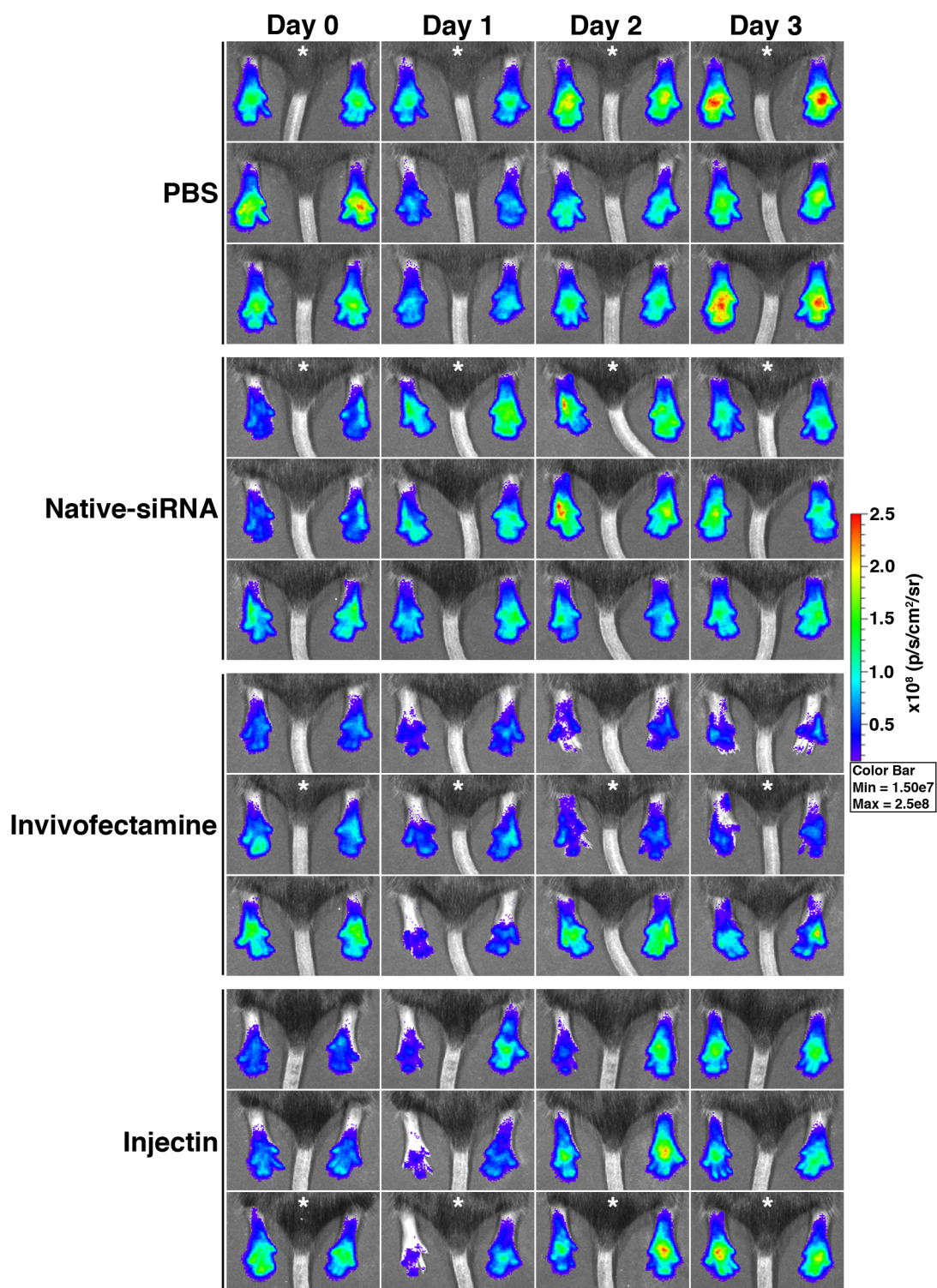
**Supplementary Figure 3:** Full experimental dataset for native-siRNA treatments from native- and Accell-siRNA *in vivo* study presented in Fig. 2. *In vivo* images depicting the LLEs of all native-siRNA treated animals from the intradermal injection native- and Accell-siRNA study. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 2a.



**Supplementary Figure 4:** *In vitro* validation of self-delivery siRNA. *pK6a-Luc2p-HACAT* cells were treated with increasing concentrations of native or self-delivery modified siLUC2P-2 or NSC4 siRNAs. Cell viability assays (resazurin metabolism) and firefly luciferase activities were measured 48 hours after treatment. Resazurin normalized firefly luciferase activities are expressed as percentages of activity at 0 µM. Error bars indicate standard deviations of the mean for biological replicate experiments (n = 3). Native-siRNAs had no knockdown effect on Luc2p activities *in vitro*. In contrast, Accell-siLUC2P-2 siRNAs specifically inhibited Luc2p activity at concentrations >2 µM.

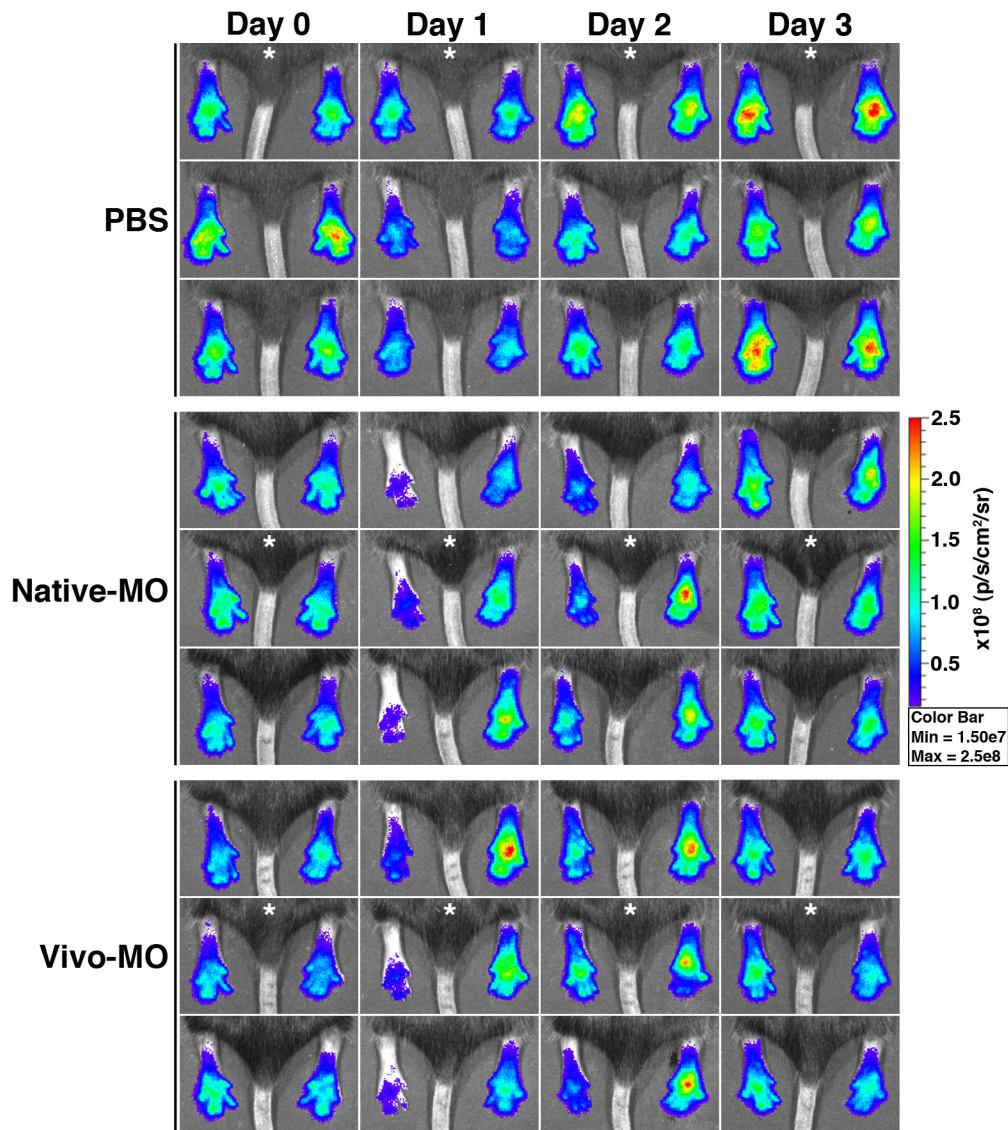


**Supplementary Figure 5:** Full experimental dataset for Accell-siRNA treatments from native- and Accell-siRNA *in vivo* study presented in Fig. 2. *In vivo* images depicting the LLEs of all Accell-siRNA treated animals from the intradermal injection native- and Accell-siRNA study. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 2a.

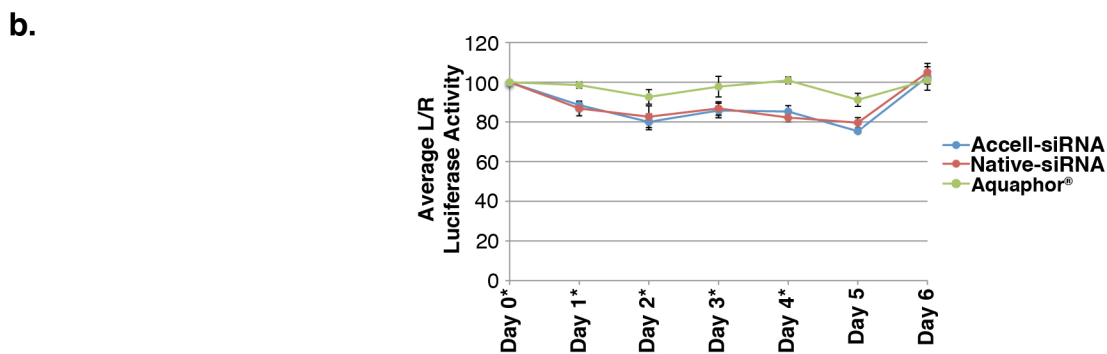
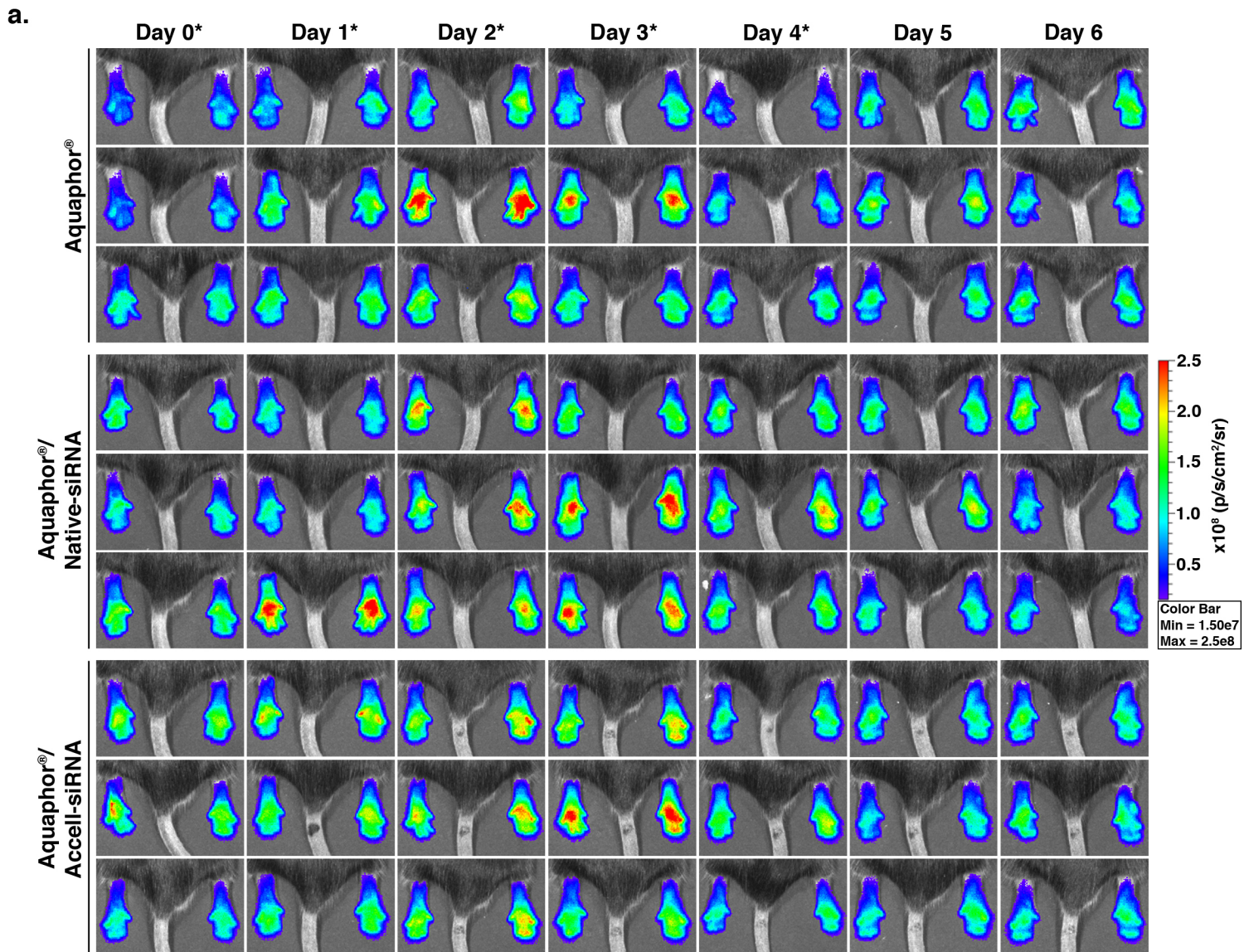


**Supplementary Figure 6:** Full experimental dataset for native-siRNA, Invivofectamine 2.0 and Injectin intradermal injection in vivo study presented in Fig. 3. In vivo images depicting the LLEs of all animals intradermally injected with PBS, native-siRNA, Invivofectamine 2.0-complexed native-siRNA or Injectin-complexed native-siRNA. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 3a.

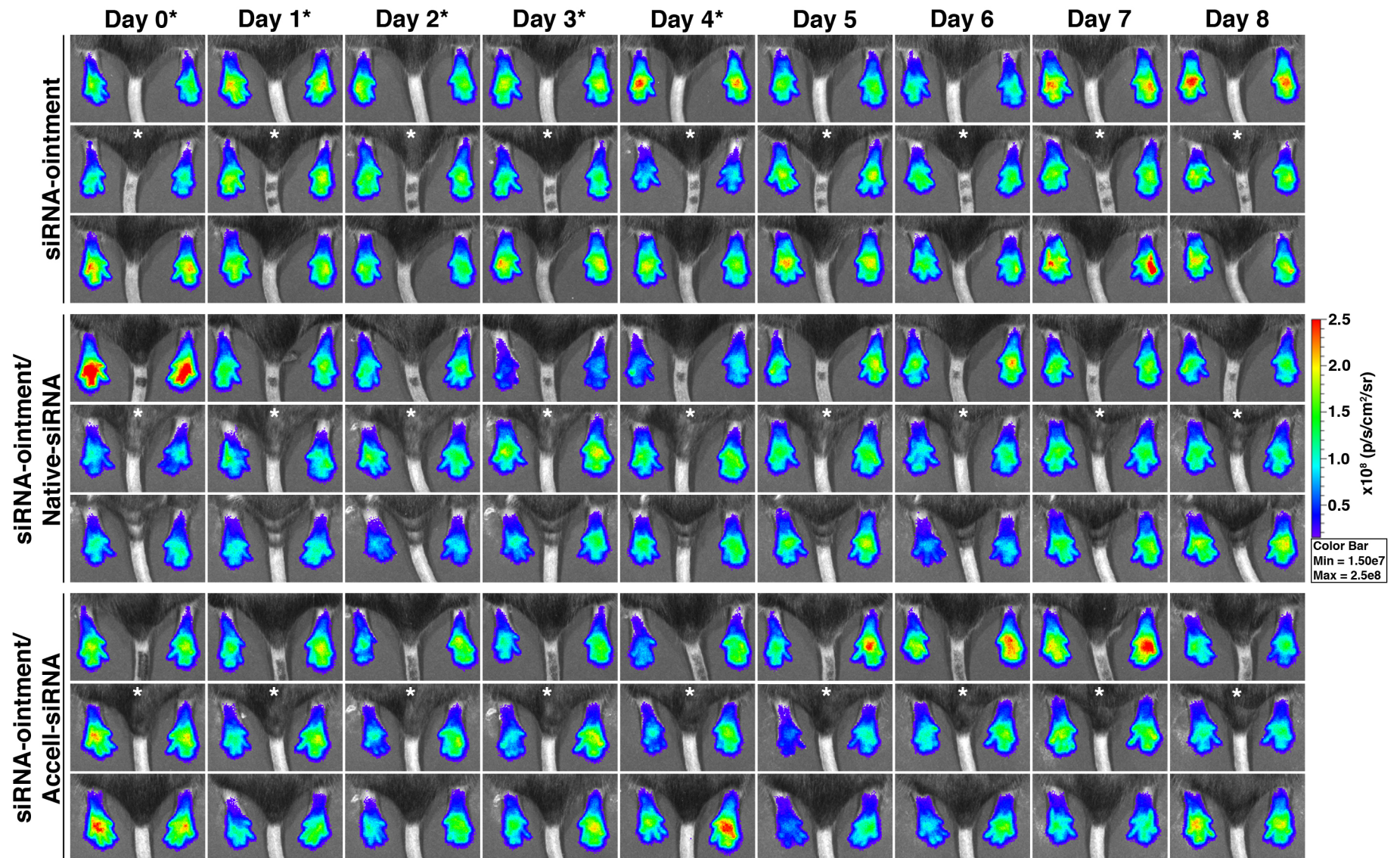




**Supplementary Figure 7:** Full experimental dataset for native and self-delivery modified MO in vivo study presented in Fig. 4. In vivo images depicting the LLEs of all animals intradermally injected with PBS, native-MOs, or Vivo-MO. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 4a.



**Supplementary Figure 8: Inhibition of luciferase activity achieved via topical delivery of siRNAs using Aquaphor® Healing Ointment.** (a) Aquaphor® Healing Ointment containing native- or Accell-siRNAs was topically applied to the footpads of anesthetized *FLG-luc2p<sup>+/+</sup>* mice (3/group) for 50 min; treatments were repeated every 24 h for 5 days (Days 0-4). Left paws were treated with siLUC2P-2 (300 pmol) and right paws with NSC4 (300 pmol). Control group received Aquaphor® ointment on the left paw and no treatment on the right paw. Luciferase activity was monitored at 24 h intervals until signals returned to baseline (%L/R ratio  $\approx$  100; Day 6). (b) Graph depicts the average %L/R ratio for each treatment group over the 7-day time-course and the error bars represent standard deviation of the mean.



**Supplementary Figure 9:** Full experimental dataset for the siRNA-ointment formulation in vivo study presented in Fig. 5. In vivo images depicting the LLEs of all animals treated with the Aquaphor®-PG alone or with 300 pmol native- or Accell-modified siRNAs. Images denoted by \* represent the subject presented in Fig. 5a.