

Silencing Retinoid X Receptor Alpha Expression Enhances Early-stage Hepatitis B Virus Infection In Cell Cultures

Mei Song^{1,2,4}, Yinyan Sun^{2,4}, Ji Tian^{2,3}, Wenhui He², Guangwei Xu², Zhiyi Jing², Wenhui Li^{1,2*}

- ¹ Graduate program in Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, 100730, China
- ² National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, No.7 Science Park Road, ZGC Life Science Park, Changping, Beijing, 102206, China
- ³ Graduate program in the school of life science, Tsinghua University, Haidian District, Beijing 100084, China
- ⁴ These authors contributed equally

*: For correspondence: liwenhui@nibs.ac.cn

Supplementary Figure Legends

Figure S1 RXR α negatively regulates HDV infection.

A-B: Activation of RXR α inhibited early HDV infection in HepG2-NTCP cells. Cells were inoculated with various concentration of Bexarotene, Myr-59 (250 nM) or DMSO for 24 h in the presence of HDV (A) or 24 h post HDV inoculation (B). At 7dpi, the intracellular HDV delta antigen was stained with mouse monoclonal antibody 4G5 (left), and the levels of HDV total RNAs in infected cells were quantified by qRT-PCR (right). C-D: Decreased RXR α expression enhanced HDV infection in HepG2-NTCP and PTHs. siRNAs against hRXR α , tsRXR α and control siRNA were transfected into HepG2-NTCP (C) or PTHs (D), respectively. Three days after transfection, cells were inoculated with

HDV and the intracellular HDV delta antigen was detected at 7 dpi. HDV total RNAs were quantified by qRT-PCR in viral infected HepG2-NTCP cells. E-H: AA biosynthesis/metabolism pathways had little effects on HDV infection. Cells were transfected with siRNAs against hPLA2G2A or control siRNA. 3 d post transfection, cells were incubated with HDV in the presence of 5 μ M of Bexarotene or Indomethacin for 24 h (E). Cells were inoculated with indicated concentrations of AA (F), Indomethacin (Indo), Zileuton, Baicalein, PD146176 (G) or vehicles for 24 h in the presence of HDV. Cells were incubated with HDV in the presence of 5 μ M of Bexarotene or DMSO plus 25 μ M of Indomethacin (Indo) or vehicle for 24 h (H). At 7dpi, the intracellular HDV delta antigen was stained with mouse monoclonal antibody 4G5. (Student's t-test ***P <0.001)

Figure S2 RXR α silencing didn't alter the surface expression of NTCP in HepG2-NTCP cells.

A: Activation of RXR α didn't affect the mRNA expression of NTCP in HepG2-NTCP cells. Cells were incubated with Bexarotene for 24 h, and the mRNA expression of NTCP was evaluated by qRT-PCR. B-D: Silencing of RXR α didn't alter the mRNA and cell surface expression of NTCP in HepG2-NTCP cells. Cells were transfected with siRNA against hRXR α or control siRNA. 3 d post transfection, the mRNA expression of NTCP was evaluated by qRT-PCR (B). For the cell surface expression of NTCP, total surface proteins were biotinylated and pulled down with streptavidin T1 Dynabeads. NTCP surface expression was then detected by western blotting. The expression of tubulin was used as internal control (C). (D) Cells were transfected with siRNA against hRXR α or control siRNA. The cell surface expression of NTCP was examined by FACS with a monoclonal antibody (36#) against human NTCP.

Figure S3 Arachidonic acid biosynthesis was down regulated in RXR α knockdown cells

A: Gene expression in RXR α -stable-knockdown mono-clone cell line (RXR α -stable-knockdown) and wild-type HepG2-NTCP (WT) cells analyzed by RNAseq. Expression profiles of target genes regulated by RXR α and its heterodimers, including PPAR, FXR, LXR, VDR, CAR, PXR and RAR are presented in heatmap. The expression levels of genes (Reads Per Kilobase per Million (RPKM) >0.5, 21,172 genes in total) in RXR α -stable-knockdown and wild-type HepG2-NTCP cells are compared to the average among them. The color-coding in the heat maps represents log₂ fold changes in genes expression levels. B: Cellular level of AA was decreased in RXR α -stable-knockdown cells. RXR α -stable-knockdown cells and wild-type HepG2-NTCP (WT) cells were subjected to LC-MS/MS-based analysis. The relative abundance of AA in both samples was normalized according to the protein concentration that reflects cells numbers.

Figure S4 Prostanoid biosynthesis, but not leukotriene biosynthesis modulated HBV infection in HepG2-NTCP cells

A: Indomethacin treatment during HBV incubation enhanced viral infection in HepG2-NTCP cells. Cells were inoculated with HBV in the presence of drugs or DMSO for 24 h. Culture medium samples were collected at indicated time and HBV viral antigens were measured by ELISA. B-C: PGD₂, PGE₂ or PGD₂ plus PGE₂ treatment during HBV incubation reduce viral infection in HepG2-NTCP cells. Cells were inoculated with HBV in the presence of PGD₂ or PGE₂ or vehicle for 24 h. At 7 dpi, the copy numbers of HBV total RNA and HBV 3.5 kb were measured by qRT-PCR (B). Intracellular HBcAg (green) were stained with 1C10, and nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue) (C). (Student's t-test *P <0.01, ** P <0.01)

Figure S1

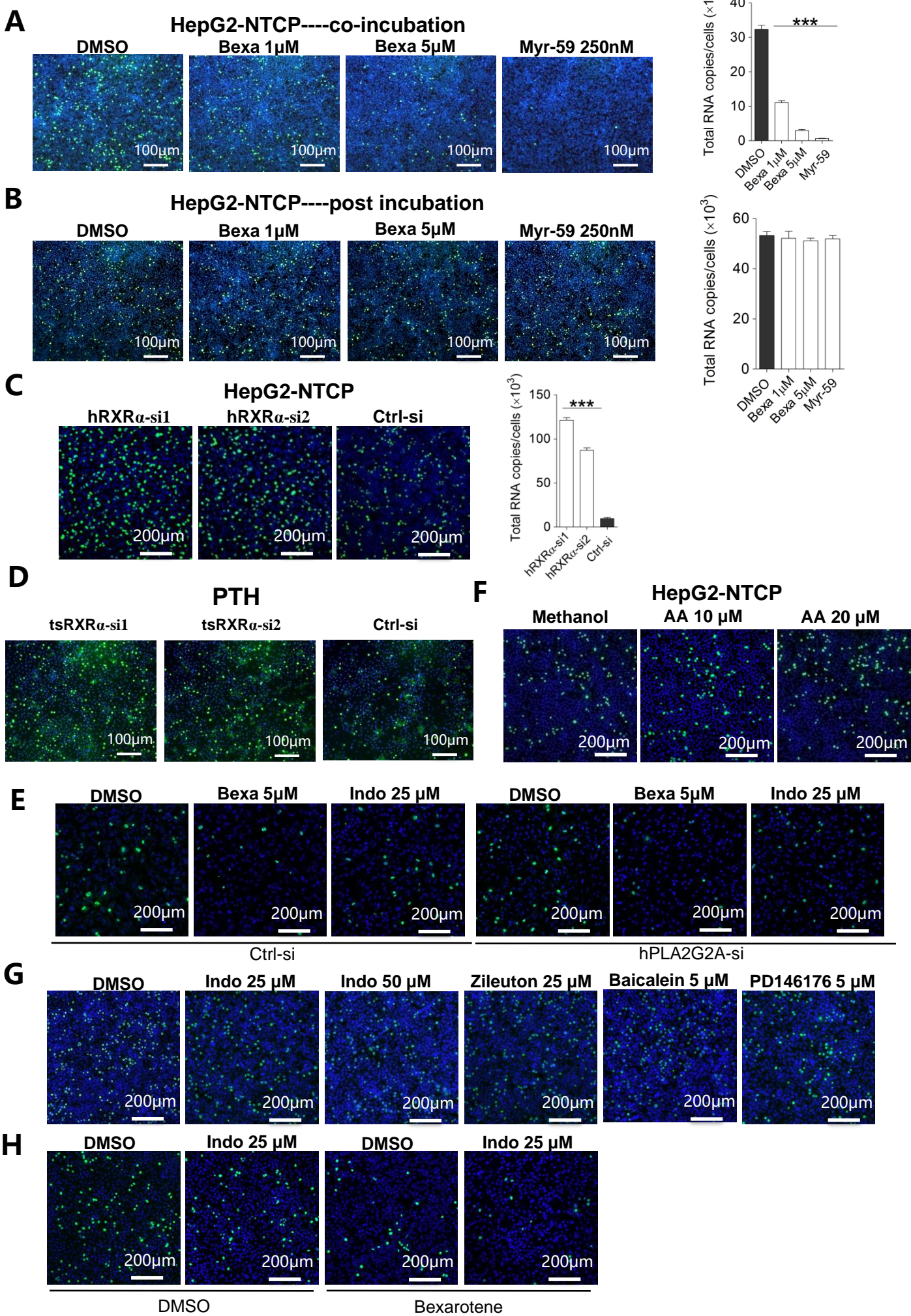


Figure S2

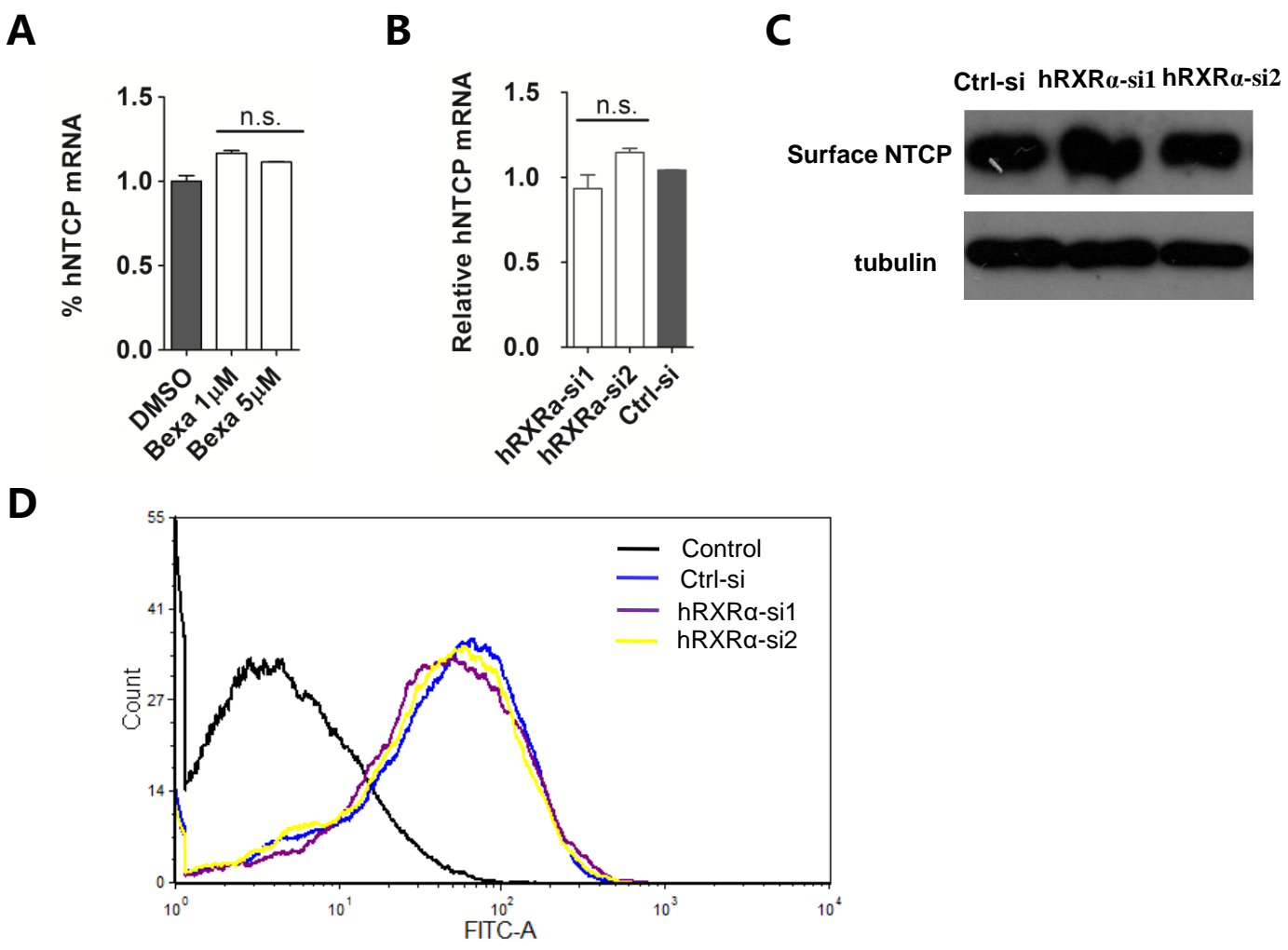


Figure S3

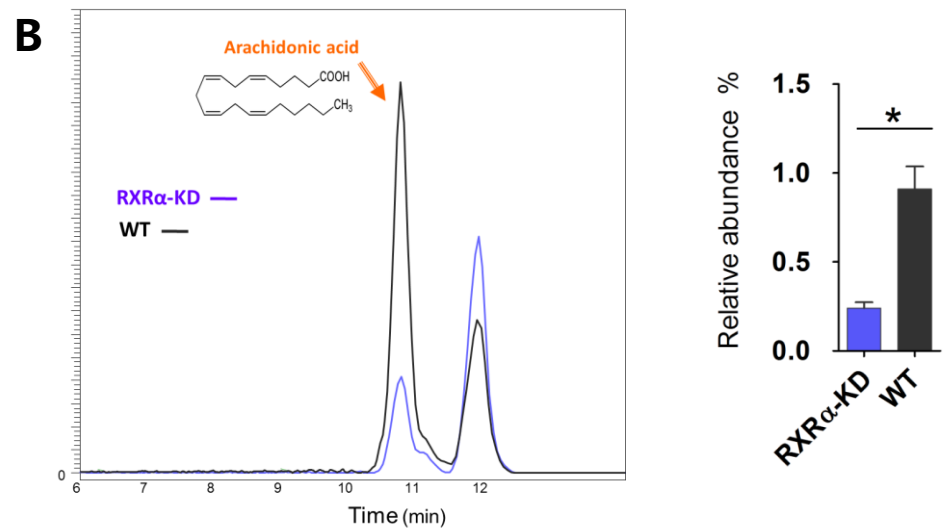
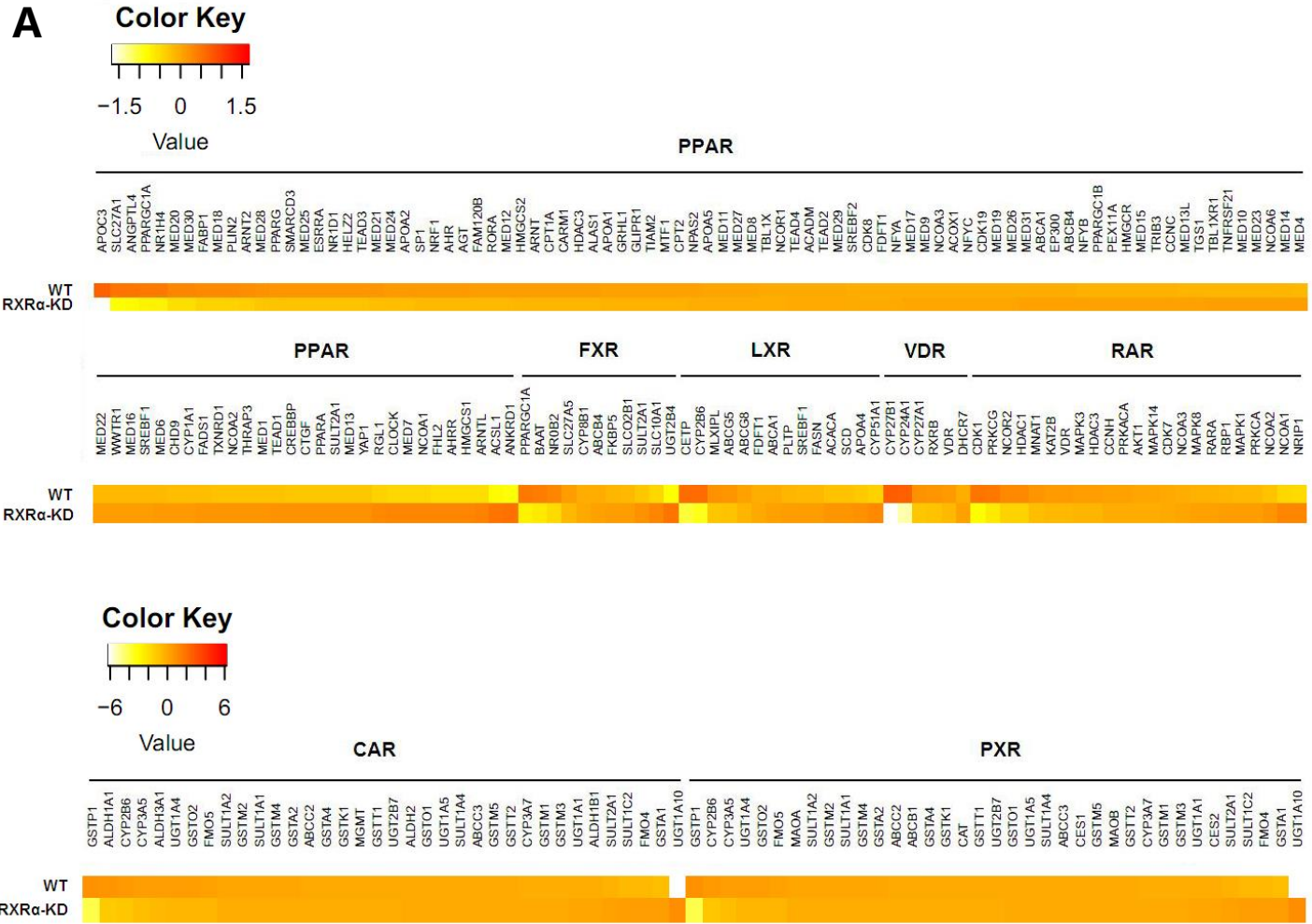
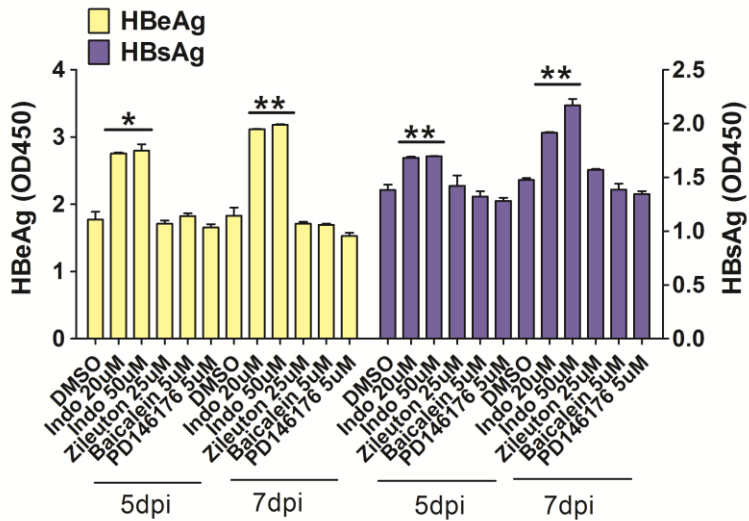
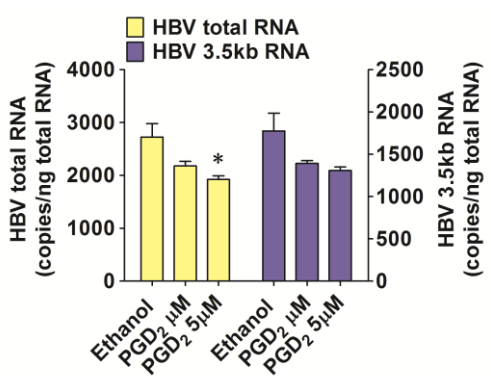


Figure S4

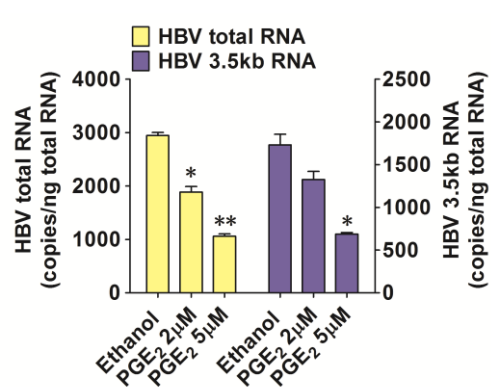
A HepG2-NTCP----co-incubation



B PGD₂-co incubation



PGE₂-co incubation



C co-incubation---HBcAg

