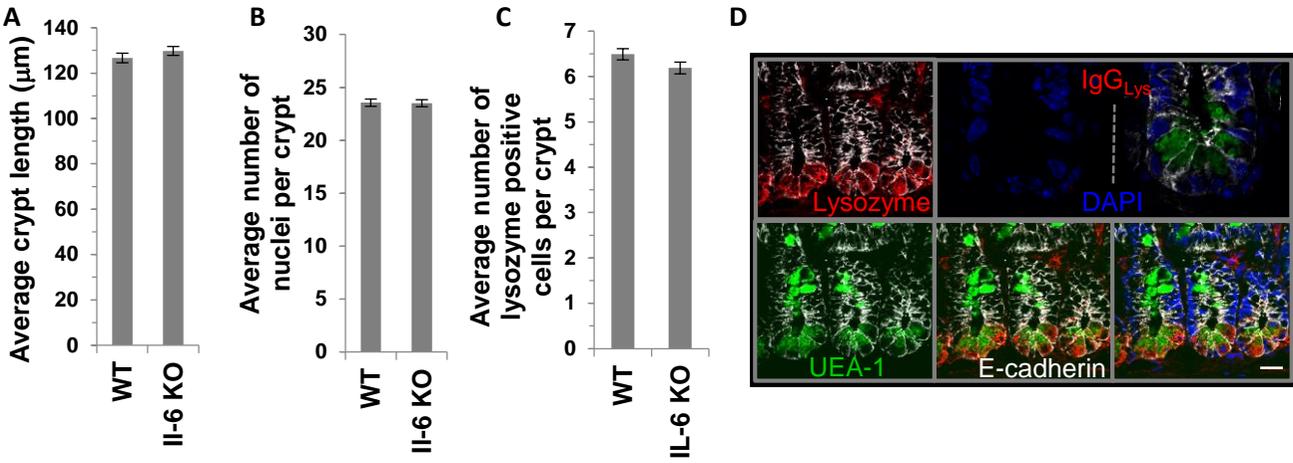
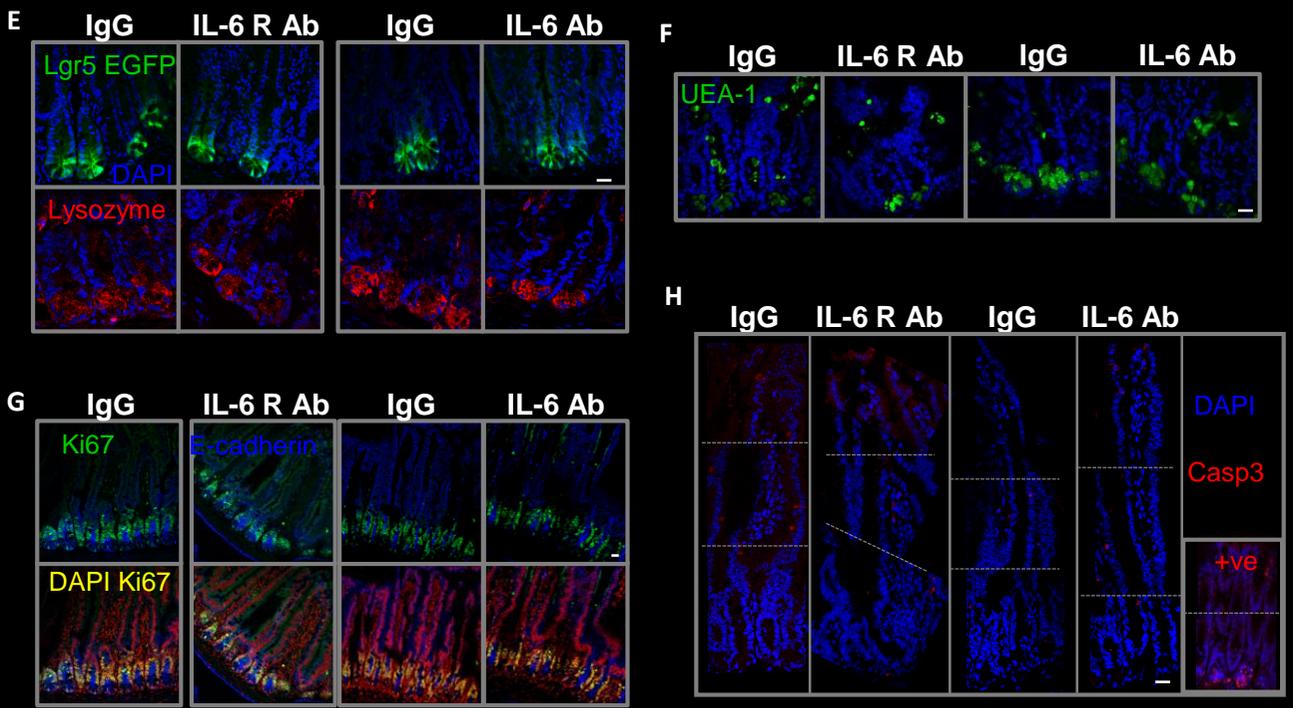


**Supplemental Figure 1. Modulation of the STAT3-IL-6 signalling-axis in small intestinal organoids.**

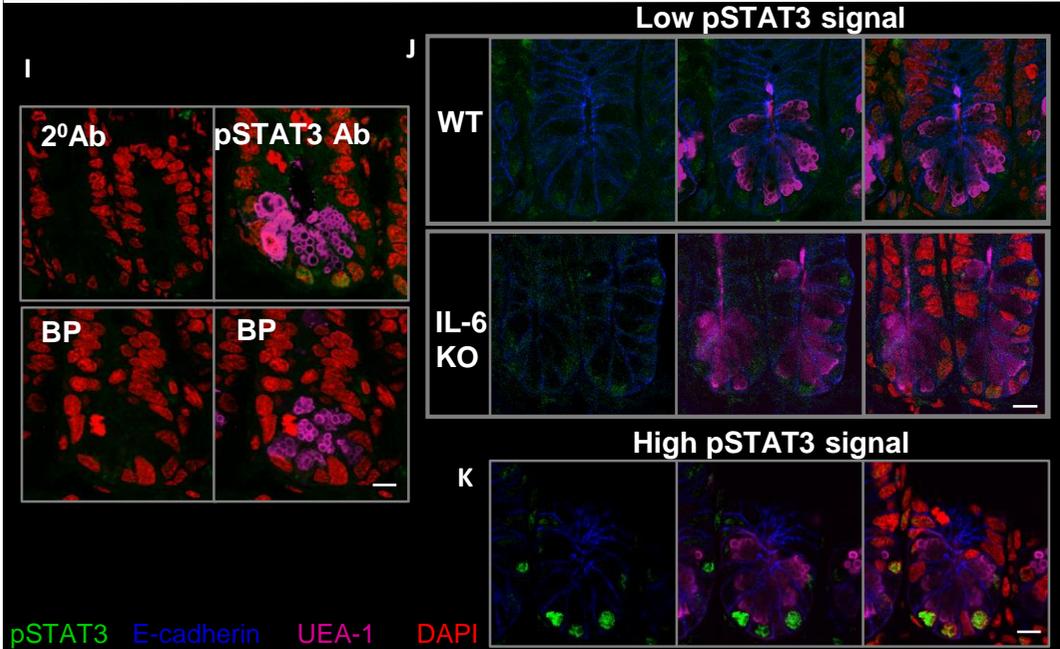
(A) Histogram showing a significant reduction in the percentage of BrdU positive nuclei in small intestinal organoids following 48 hour culture with STATTIC (20 $\mu$ M) in full growth factor media compared to control organoids (n=3, \*\*\*P<0.001). (B) Histogram showing a significant increase in BrdU incorporation following exposure to IL-6 (100ng / ml) for 5 days, media was changed every 2 days. BrdU was added for the last 18 hours of culture (n=3, \*\*P<0.01) (C) Representative confocal images showing labelling of lysozyme (green) with a primary mouse anti-lysozyme antibody followed by a secondary donkey anti-mouse Alexafluor 568 antibody and absence of labelling with the mouse IgG antibody control. E-cadherin white. (D-E) Histograms showing a significant reduction in the percentage of BrdU positive nuclei in small intestinal organoids treated for 18 hours with IL-6 (100 ng / ml) in the presence of (D) an IL-6 receptor blocking (n=4, \*\*P<0.01) or (E) an IL-6 neutralising antibody compared to respective IgG + IL-6 treated crypts (n=3, \*\*\*P<0.01). (F) Histogram showing the percentage of caspase 3 positive cells in organoids following culture with an IL-6 receptor antibody or a (G) IL-6 neutralising antibody compared to respective IgG controls (n=3). Histograms showing the organoid survival after treatment with (H) an IL-6 receptor antibody or (I) IL-6 neutralising antibody compared to respective IgG controls (n=3) (J) Representative confocal images showing abrogation of IL-6-induced pSTAT3 labelling (green) in the nucleus (DAPI-red) of UEA-1 positive cells (pink) in organoids treated with an IL-6 receptor blocking antibody compared to IL-6 + IgG treated crypts. E-cadherin white. (n=3). (K) Histogram showing a significant reduction in IL-6-induced pSTAT3 fluorescence intensity (a.u.) in organoids treated with an IL-6 receptor blocking antibody compared to IL-6 + IgG treated crypts. Fluorescence intensity was normalised to control (n=3, \*\*\*p<0.001). (L) Representative confocal images showing abrogation of IL-6-induced pSTAT3 labelling (green) in the nucleus (DAPI-red) of UEA-1 positive cells (pink) in organoids treated with an IL-6 neutralising antibody compared to IL-6 + IgG treated crypts. E-cadherin white. (n=3). (M) Histogram showing a significant reduction in IL-6-induced pSTAT3 fluorescence intensity (a.u.) in organoids treated with an IL-6 neutralising antibody compared to IgG + IL-6 treated crypts. Fluorescence intensity was normalised to control (n=3, \*\*\*p<0.001). Data are represented as mean +/- SEM. Scale bar 10 $\mu$ m.



**In vivo IL-6 neutralising and IL-6R blocking antibody studies**

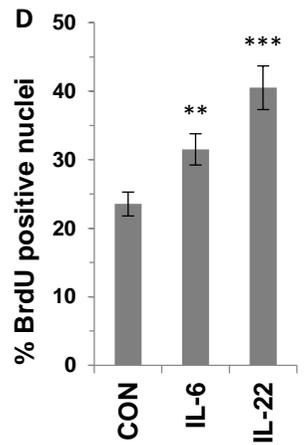
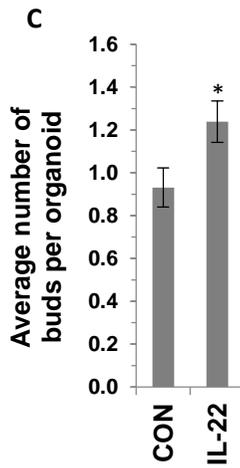
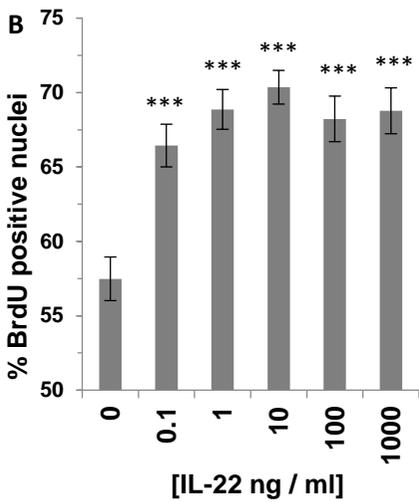
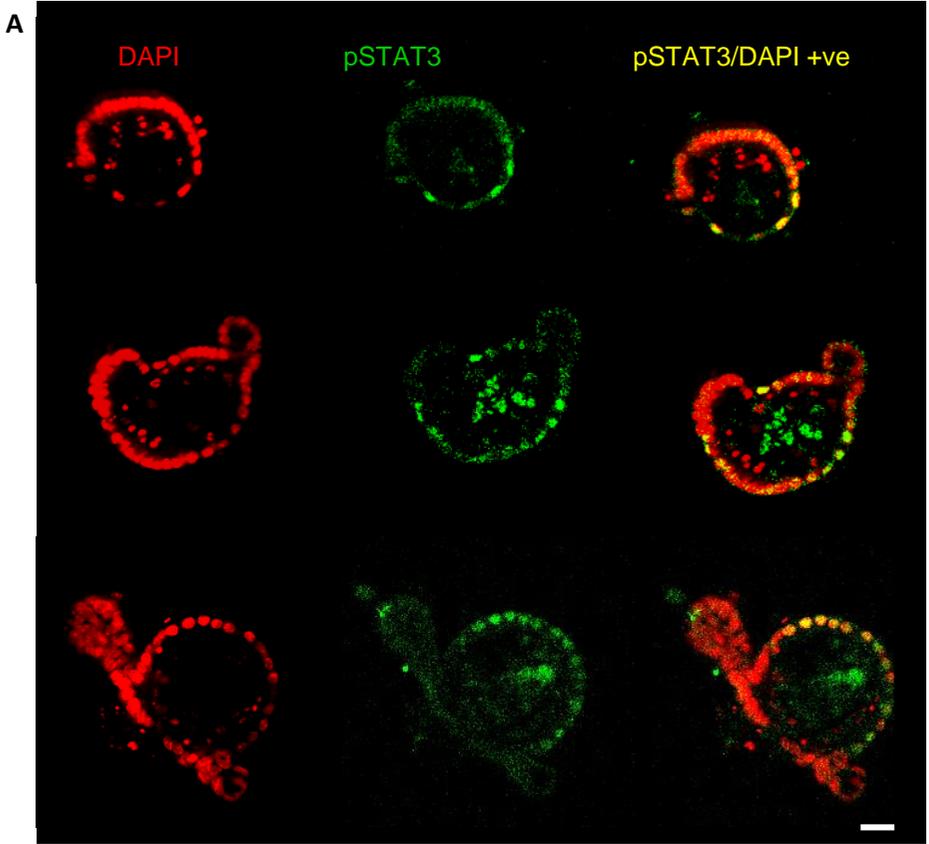


**In vivo STAT3 signal**



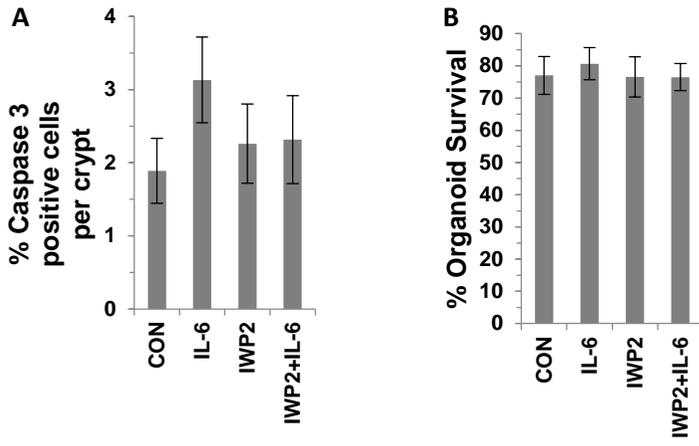
**Supplemental Figure 2. Crypt morphology and pSTAT3 labelling of IL6KO tissue is the same as WT. IL-6 receptor blocking or neutralising antibodies alter crypt stem cell and Paneth cell status.**

Histogram showing (A) the average crypt length (B) the average number of crypt nuclei and (C) the average number of lysozyme positive cells per crypt in the small intestine of IL-6 knockout mice and WT (n=3). Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. (D) Representative confocal images demonstrating *in vivo* labelling of lysozyme (red) and absence of labelling with a corresponding IgG to the mouse lysozyme antibody followed by a secondary anti-mouse IgG Alexafluor 568 antibody (red). Lysozyme positive cells (red) were also UEA-1 positive (green). E-cadherin; white and DAPI / nuclei blue. (E-H) Sections from IL-6 neutralising antibody, IL-6 receptor antibody and IgG treated mice. Representative confocal images showing a decrease in (E) Lgr5EGFP (green), lysozyme (red) and (F) UEA-1 (green) positive cells in antibody treated mice compared to IgG controls. (G) Representative confocal images of Ki67 labelling (green). DAPI / nuclei-red, E-cadherin-blue. (H) Caspase 3 (red) labelling (+ve; caspase 3 positive control tissue) DAPI / nuclei-blue. (I-K) Representative confocal images of *in vivo* WT and IL-6KO small intestine. (I) A blocking peptide (BP) to pSTAT3 pre-incubated with the pSTAT3 antibody abrogated the pSTAT3 labelling in the nucleus of UEA-1 positive cells (pink) compared to tissue treated with pSTAT3 antibody (green) alone. No nuclear labelling was observed utilizing the secondary antibody ( $2^0$ Ab) alone. (J) Representative confocal images demonstrating low level pSTAT3 (green) labelling in UEA-1 (pink) positive cells of both WT and IL-6 KO mice. Images are projections of several focal planes formed using image analysis software. (K) Representative confocal image of high pSTAT3 fluorescent labelling observed in the mouse small intestine. Experiments were repeated on three different mice. Scale bar 10µm.



**Supplemental Figure 3. IL-22 induces global nuclear pSTAT3 activation, BrdU incorporation and crypt budding in small intestinal organoids. IL-6 and IL-22 induces BrdU incorporation in colonic organoids.**

(A) Representative confocal images showing the presence of pSTAT3 immunofluorescent labelling (green) in the nuclei (red) of crypt organoids following 1 hour IL-22 (100 ng / ml) stimulation. Scale bar 50  $\mu$ m. (B) Histogram showing the percentage of BrdU positive nuclei in small intestinal organoids following 24 hours stimulation with IL-22 (0.1- 1000 ng / ml) compared to control (n=3, \*\*\*P<0.001). (C) Histogram showing the average number buds per small intestinal organoid following IL-22 (10 ng / ml) treatment (n=3, \*P<0.05) compared to control. (D) Histogram showing the percentage of BrdU positive nuclei in colonic organoids following 24 hours stimulation with IL-6 (100 ng / ml) or IL-22 (100 ng / ml) compared to control (n=3, \*\*P<0.01; \*\*\*P<0.001).



**Supplemental Figure 4. IWP2 has no effect on cell death and survival of small intestinal organoids.**

Histogram showing no change in (A) the percentage of caspase 3 positive cells per crypt or (B) the percentage survival of organoids, following 17h culture with IWP2 (5 $\mu$ M) +/- IL-6 (100 ng / ml) compared to control (DMSO).