

1 **HBV infection-induced liver cirrhosis development in dual-humanized mice with**
2 **human bone mesenchymal stem cell transplantation**

3

4 **Supplemental Materials List**

5 ● **Supplemental Materials and Methods**

6 ● **Supplemental References**

7 ● **Supplemental Figures and Legends**

8 ● **Supplementary Tables**

9

1 ● **Supplemental Materials and Methods**

2 *Isolation, culture, phenotypic identification and multi-lineage differentiation of*
3 *hBMSCs*

4 The isolation, culture and identification of hBMSCs were performed using the standard
5 procedures described in previous studies [1, 2]. Signed informed consent was obtained,
6 and the protocol was approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the First
7 Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University. BM mononuclear cells were isolated by BM
8 aspiration from the iliac crest of healthy male volunteers and purified by Ficoll-Paque
9 density-gradient centrifugation as previously described [3]. The purified mononuclear
10 cells were allowed to attach in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM,
11 #11995-073, Gibco) supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS, #10270-106,
12 Gibco) overnight at 37°C in 5% CO₂. After two days of incubation, the floating cells
13 were washed out, and all the attached cells were maintained in the same culture medium.
14 To collect a sufficient number of cells for transplantation, the freshly isolated
15 hBMSCs were passaged and cultured in DMEM with 5% FBS *in vitro*. The cultured
16 hBMSCs from passages 3-7 that showed typical stem cell characteristics were used
17 for transplantation. Cryopreserved hBMSCs from the same passages were also used in
18 this study after thawing and culturing for one or two passages. hBMSCs were
19 subjected to phenotypic analyses based on hCD90, hCD29, hCD45 and hCD34 using
20 standard flow cytometry methods (FC500, Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA, USA)
21 prior to transplantation (Figure S1A).

22

23 To induce osteogenic differentiation, the hBMSCs were cultured in a commercially
24 available osteogenic differentiation medium (Cambrex, Walkersville, MD, USA). On
25 day 21, the alkaline phosphatase activity of the cultured cells was assessed as

1 previously described [4]. To induce adipogenic differentiation, the hBMSCs were
2 cultured in a commercially available adipogenic differentiation medium purchased
3 from Cambrex, and on day 21, the cells were stained with Oil red O. Hepatogenic
4 differentiation was performed as previously described [5].

5

6 ***qRT-PCR***

7 Total RNA from tissues or purified cells was extracted using TRIzol reagent
8 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions and was
9 then used for cDNA synthesis with a SuperScript First-Strand Synthesis System
10 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) as previously described [6]. Detailed primer
11 information is presented in ***Table S3***.

12

13 ***Two-step collagenase perfusion for the isolation of total liver cells***

14 Liver cells from hBMSC-FRGS mice were harvested using a standard collagenase
15 perfusion protocol [7]. Briefly, the liver was perfused with calcium- and
16 magnesium-free Earle's balanced salt solution (EBSS) supplemented with 0.5 mM
17 EGTA and 10 mM HEPES for five min. The solution was changed to EBSS
18 supplemented with 0.1 mg/mL collagenase IV (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA)
19 and 0.05 mg/mL DNase I (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) for 10 min. The liver
20 was gently minced in the second solution and filtered sequentially through 70- and
21 40-mm nylon mesh (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA). After centrifugation at 150
22 g for three min, the pellet contained the total population of liver cells, including
23 parenchymal and non-parenchymal cells. To harvest the parenchymal cells (mainly
24 hepatocytes), the pellet was further centrifuged at 50 g for three min. The number and
25 viability of the resulting cells were assessed using the trypan blue exclusion test.

1

2 ***Identifying the chimerism of hBMSC-Heps in hBMSC-FRGS mice***

3 To identify the chimerism of hBMSC-Heps, 3×10^7 liver cells, including parenchymal
4 and non-parenchymal cells, were isolated from the livers of FRGS mice after hBMSC
5 transplantation through collagenase perfusion and centrifugation at 150 g for 3 min
6 [7]. To determine the ratio of HLA⁺ cells in the total population of liver cells and the
7 proportions of hALB⁺, hNTCP⁺ and hCD45⁺ cells in HLA⁺ cells, at least 1×10^5 total
8 liver cells (per mice) were analysed using standard flow cytometry methods using a
9 FACS Aria III (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) according to the instructions
10 provided by the manufacturer. Different fluorescently labelled antibodies were used to
11 characterize the various hBMSC-derived human immune cell lineages (Table S2). The
12 fluorescent dye and protein antibody labelling kits were purchased from Expedeon,
13 and the assays were performed according to the instructions provided by the
14 manufacturer (Table S1). For the detection of intracellular markers, such as hALB,
15 fixation/permeabilization solution (#554714, BD Bioscience) was used. Dead cells
16 were excluded using fixable viability dye (#L23101, eBioscience). To exclude
17 non-specific reactions, background signals and other interferences, a less than 0.5%
18 positive rate in the FACS analysis was recognized as a negative result. The isolated
19 hBMSC-Heps and mouse livers were assessed by IHC, IF and qRT-PCR for human
20 hepatocyte-specific markers and genes. The serum hALB levels were measured by
21 ELISA. The chimeric rates of hBMSC-Heps were evaluated by the linear relationship
22 between the percentages of hALB⁺/hNTCP⁺ cells in perfused liver cells and the serum
23 hALB levels.

24

25 ***Identification of the chimerism of hBMSC-derived immune cell lineages in***

1 ***hBMSC-FRGS mice***

2 To identify the chimerism of hBMSC-derived immune cell lineages, BM, lymph node,
3 peripheral blood, spleen and liver cells were collected and analysed by FACS with
4 human leukocyte markers as previously described [8, 9, 10]. For further FACS analysis
5 of multiple hBMSC-derived immune cell lineages, non-parenchymal cells (including
6 immune cell lineages and other cells) were separated from the parenchymal cells by
7 centrifugation at 50 g for 3 min to pellet the hepatocytes and leave most
8 non-parenchymal cells in suspension. FACS analysis of multiple immune cell lineages
9 was then performed using standard flow cytometry methods according to the
10 instructions provided by the instrument's manufacturer. The gating scheme used in
11 this study, which was adapted from previous studies, was defined by a FACS
12 specialist with 10 years of experience according to the cell lineages and antibodies [8,
13 11]. Different fluorescent labelled antibodies were used to characterize various
14 hBMSC-derived human immune cell lineages (Tables S1-S2): hCD45⁺ for total human
15 immune cells, hCD45⁺hCD3⁺ for T cells, hCD45⁺hCD3⁺hCD4⁺ for helper T (T_H) cells,
16 hCD45⁺hCD3⁺hCD8⁺ for cytotoxic T (T_C) cells, hCD45⁺hCD19⁺ for B cells,
17 hCD45⁺hCD3⁻hNKp46⁺ for NK cells, hCD45⁺hCD3⁻hCD14⁺ for monocytes,
18 hCD45⁺hCD3⁻hCD14⁺hCD68⁺CD86⁺ for M1 macrophages,
19 hCD45⁺hCD3⁻hCD14⁺hCD68⁺CD163⁺ for M2 macrophages, hCD45⁺hCD3⁻
20 hCD14⁻hCD11c⁺HLA-DR⁺ for myeloid DCs and hCD45⁺hCD3⁻hCD14⁻ hCD123⁺
21 HLA-DR⁺ for plasmacytoid DCs.

22

23 ***Isolation and measurement of hBMSC-derived hCD45⁺ cells from peripheral blood,***
24 ***spleen, liver, bone marrow, thymus and mesentery lymph nodes***

25 Hepatic hCD45⁺ cells were directly measured by FACS analysis of the total

1 population of perfused liver cells. As previously described [6], heparinized blood was
2 treated twice with ammonium-chloride-potassium (ACK) lysis buffer to eliminate
3 RBCs. Bone marrow cells were harvested by flushing the diaphysis of femurs and
4 tibias from mice with PBS containing 1% BSA, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL
5 streptomycin. The spleen, thymus and mesentery lymph nodes were gently ground
6 and sequentially filtered through 70- and 40-mm nylon mesh (BD Biosciences, San
7 Jose, CA, USA). Single-cell suspensions of the spleen and bone marrow were treated
8 with ACK lysis buffer, and the amount of hCD45⁺ cells in these single-cell
9 suspensions was assessed by FACS.

10

11 ***Harvest of infection source and establishment of HBV infection***

12 For each genotype inoculation, 1×10^7 DNA copies of HBV dissolved in 200 µL of
13 saline were inoculated into one hBMSC-FRGS mouse with 40~60% chimerism of
14 hBMSC-Heps via intraperitoneal injection (1.5~2.5 mg/mL of the serum hALB
15 levels). These genotypes and amounts of virus have been commonly used [12].
16 Uninfected hBMSC-FRGS mice with similar serum hALB levels were used as controls.
17 The HBV inocula used in this study were harvested from cell culture supernatants of
18 stable HBV-replicating cell lines generated from HepG2 cells. These stable
19 HBV-replicating cell lines, named HepG2-pTSMP-1.3HBV-A, -B, -C and -D, were
20 generated using the 1.3-copy genome of the indicated HBV genotype donated by the
21 Sleeping Beauty transposon-based system [13]. In brief, the infectious inoculums
22 were prepared from freshly collected culture supernatants of the
23 HepG2-pTSMP-1.3HBV cell lines by precipitating the viral particles in the presence
24 of 6% PEG. The pellet was resuspended in PBS, dialyzed three times and finally
25 resuspended in PBS containing 25% FBS and stored at -80°C.

1

2 ***PHA and PMA/ionomycin stimulation in vitro***

3 PHA and PMA/ionomycin stimulation *in vitro* was performed as previously described
4 [10, 14]. The hCD45⁺ leukocytes cells collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice were
5 briefly cultured with PHA (10 µg/mL) or PMA (10 µg/mL) and ionomycin (10 µg/mL)
6 for 24 h and used for measurements of intracellular human cytokines using various
7 ELISA kits. Detailed information for these human cytokine kits is presented in **Table**
8 **SI**.

9

10 ***Detect isotype of HBV antigen specific antibodies***

11 A captured-ELISA method was used to distinguish and measure the Ig isotype of
12 HBV antigen specific antibodies. Firstly, HBsAg or HBcAg (purchased from
13 AOKEBOTAI, Wuhan, China) protein was anchored on the bottom of 96-well plates.
14 Then, mice serum samples were diluted by ten times and incubated in the wells. After
15 that, HRP labelled anti-human IgG (#I5260, Sigma-Aldrich) or anti-human IgM
16 (#ab99737, Abcam) was used to measure the levels of hIgG and hIgM in HBsAb and
17 HBcAb.

18

19 ***Cell fusion detection***

20 To detect the existence or absence of cell fusion between human-derived cells and the
21 recipient mouse liver cells, liver tissues collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice were
22 co-stained for human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) and mouse MHC
23 antibodies through IF staining. FRGS mouse liver tissues were used as controls. The
24 total liver cells collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice by collagenase perfusion were
25 further analysed by FACS using human and murine MHC antibodies. hBMSCs, pig

1 hepatocytes (#M00615, BioreclamationIVT) and FRGS mice liver cells were used as
2 controls.

3

4 ***IF staining***

5 The indicated cells cultured on slides were fixed with paraformaldehyde for 20 min,
6 treated with 0.1 Triton-X100 for 10 min, incubated with goat serum for 30 min and
7 incubated with antibodies. The nuclei were stained with DAPI. The slides were
8 washed three times with PBS between each of these steps. Photomicrographs were
9 obtained with an Axio Imager microscope (Zeiss, Jena, Germany) and a BX51
10 microscope (Olympus, Shinjuku, Japan). Detailed information regarding the
11 antibodies used for IF staining is presented in **Table S2**.

12

13 ***H&E, M&T, SR&FG, V.G. and IHC staining***

14 To observe the rescue of mice from FHF by hBMSC transplantation, liver tissues
15 were collected on days 0, 3 and 7 after transplantation for H&E staining. For
16 observations of hBMSC transdifferentiation, IHC was performed to detect the
17 expression of HLA and human hepatic-specific markers (hALB, hFAH, hNTCP,
18 hCK18, hAAT) in liver tissue from hBMSC-FRGS mice. In a preliminary
19 tumourigenicity assay, H&E staining was performed to observe the liver, heart, spleen,
20 lung, kidney, colon, muscle/bone and brain tissues collected from hBMSC-FRGS
21 mice 60 weeks after hBMSC transplantation. For observations of the HBsAg and
22 HBcAg distribution, IHC assays were performed using liver tissue collected from
23 hBMSC-FRGS mice after HBV infection. To observe the recruitment of Kupffer cells
24 near the HBsAg⁺ hepatocytes, uninfected controls and HBV-infected liver tissues
25 from hBMSC-FRGS mice were collected for frozen sectioning and double immune

1 staining for HBsAg and hCD68⁺. To observe the phenotype of chronic hepatitis,
2 uninfected controls and HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver tissues were
3 collected for H&E staining. To observe the progression of liver cirrhosis, uninfected
4 controls and HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver tissues were collected from
5 weeks 0 to 54 post-infection for M&T staining. To observe the typical phenotype of
6 cirrhosis, serial sections were also analysed by SR&FG, V.G. staining and IHC
7 staining for HLA.

8

9 Mouse tissues were fixed in 4% formaldehyde (pH 7.4) for at least 48 h to obtain
10 paraffin sections, and the sections (4 µm) were applied to poly-L-lysine-coated slides.
11 After the sections were dewaxed, rehydrated and washed, endogenous peroxidases
12 were inactivated with 3% H₂O₂ for 10 min at room temperature. The sections were
13 then incubated overnight with primary antibodies. The sections were subsequently
14 washed three times with PBS and treated with reagents from an UltraSensitive™ SP
15 Kit (Maixin Biotech, Fuzhou, China). After reaction with the DAB chromogen, the
16 sections were rinsed with distilled water and counterstained with haematoxylin.
17 Brown staining indicated positive expression. H&E staining was performed as
18 previously described [1, 2]. M&T, SR&FG and V.G. staining was performed
19 according to recommended protocols (Maixin Biotech, Fuzhou, China and Solarbio
20 LIFE SCIENCE, Beijing, China). Livers were frozen in OCT (Sakura Finetek Europe
21 B.V., Flemingsweg, Netherlands) to obtain frozen sections, and 10-µm cryostat
22 sections were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 min at 20°C (used throughout).
23 The sections were permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 for 10 min and then were
24 incubated in 0.3% H₂O₂ for 5 min, 10% goat serum for 20 min and antibodies. The
25 nuclei were stained with DAPI. The slides were washed three times with PBS

1 between each of the steps. Photomicrographs were obtained with an Axio Imager
2 microscope (Zeiss, Jena, Germany) and a BX51 microscope (Olympus, Shinjuku,
3 Japan). Fields of the whole liver lobes were visualized using a scanning system
4 (NanoZoomer 2.0-RS, Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan) and NDP.scan 2.5
5 software as previously described [1]. Detailed information regarding the antibodies
6 used for the IF staining of frozen sections and the IHC staining of paraffin sections is
7 presented in *Table S2*.

8

9 *Criteria of liver fibrosis and cirrhosis*

10 Fibrosis is defined as the presence of excess collagen due to new fibre formation that
11 causes only minor clinical symptoms or disturbance of liver cell function. Cirrhosis is a
12 diffuse process characterized by fibrosis and the conversion of the normal liver
13 architecture into structurally abnormal nodules that affect the whole organ. Liver
14 cirrhosis is defined by its pathological features on microscopy: (a) presence of
15 parenchymal nodules, (b) differences in liver cell size and appearance, (c)
16 fragmentation of the biopsy specimen, (d) fibre formation, accumulation and septa; and
17 (e) altered architecture and vascular relationships.

18

19 *Serological analysis*

20 Biochemical markers of liver function in mouse serum were detected using various
21 reagents (Wantai, Beijing, China). Serum hALB, human hepatocellular carcinoma
22 (HCC) markers, HBV antigens and antibodies, human cytokines, hIgM, hIgG and
23 liver cirrhosis markers were measured using respective ELISA kits. The total HBV
24 DNA levels in the mouse serum samples were measured using a qRT-PCR assay with
25 Premix Ex Taq™ as described previously [15]. The primer sequences were 5'-GTT

1 CAA GCC TCC AAG CTG TG-3' and 5'-TCA GAA GGC AAA AAA GAG AGT
2 AAC TC-3', and the probe sequence was 5'-Hex- CCT TGG GTG GCT TTG GGG
3 CAT GGA-BHQ-1-3'. The materials and reagents are presented in **Table S1**.

4

5 ***FISH analysis for intracellular HBV DNA***

6 For the analysis of intracellular HBV DNA, liver cells from uninfected controls and
7 HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice were isolated, cultured *in vitro* for 24 h and then
8 co-stained for hALB by IF staining and for HBV DNA using molecular probes. HBV
9 DNA was coupled with a digoxin (Dig)-labelled HBV X-specific probe. The signal
10 was then amplified by a cascade reaction of a biotin-anti-Dig secondary antibody and
11 TRITC-labelled anti-biotin third antibody. Photomicrographs were obtained with an
12 Axio Imager microscope (Zeiss, Jena, Germany).

13

14 ***Detection of the percentage HBV-infected human cells***

15 To detect the percentage of HBV-infected human cells, serial sections of
16 HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice at 0, 4, 8, 16, 32 and 56 w.p.i. were stained with
17 hALB and HBsAg antibodies. At each time point, 10 pairs of images were randomly
18 selected from the full set of scanned images and used to calculate the percentage of
19 HBsAg⁺ or hALB⁺ cells. The results are representative of eight independent samples
20 per time point.

21

22 ***Qualitative and quantitative analysis of intrahepatic HBV cccDNA levels***

23 Liver cells from HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice at 0 to 56 w.p.i. were collected by
24 collagenase perfusion to analyse the intrahepatic HBV cccDNA levels. For qualitative
25 analysis, HBV cccDNA was isolated using the “Hirt” method [16] and measured with

1 the southern blot technique. Southern blot detection was performed according to
2 previously described methods using DIG-labelled DNA fragments from the HBX gene
3 as a probe [12, 15]. For quantitative analysis, the HBV cccDNA levels were measured
4 by qRT-PCR as reported previously [17, 18, 19].

5

1 ● **Supplemental References**

2

3

4 1 Shi D, Zhang J, Zhou Q, Xin J, Jiang J, Jiang L, *et al.* Quantitative evaluation of
5 human bone mesenchymal stem cells rescuing fulminant hepatic failure in pigs. *Gut*
6 2017;**66**:955-64.

7 2 Li J, Zhang L, Xin J, Jiang L, Li J, Zhang T, *et al.* Immediate intraportal
8 transplantation of human bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells prevents death from
9 fulminant hepatic failure in pigs. *Hepatology* 2012;**56**:1044-52.

10 3 Li J, Tao R, Wu W, Cao H, Xin J, Li J, *et al.* 3D PLGA scaffolds improve
11 differentiation and function of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell-derived
12 hepatocytes. *Stem cells and development* 2010;**19**:1427-36.

13 4 Chamberlain J, Yamagami T, Colletti E, Theise ND, Desai J, Frias A, *et al.*
14 Efficient generation of human hepatocytes by the intrahepatic delivery of clonal human
15 mesenchymal stem cells in fetal sheep. *Hepatology* 2007;**46**:1935-45.

16 5 Li J, Tao R, Wu W, Cao H, Xin J, Guo J, *et al.* Transcriptional profiling and
17 hepatogenic potential of acute hepatic failure-derived bone marrow mesenchymal stem
18 cells. *Differentiation; research in biological diversity* 2010;**80**:166-74.

19 6 Rongvaux A, Willinger T, Martinek J, Strowig T, Gearty SV, Teichmann LL, *et al.*
20 Development and function of human innate immune cells in a humanized mouse model.
21 *Nature biotechnology* 2014;**32**:364-72.

22 7 Azuma H, Paulk N, Ranade A, Dorrell C, Al-Dhalimy M, Ellis E, *et al.* Robust
23 expansion of human hepatocytes in *Fah^{-/-}/Rag2^{-/-}/Il2rg^{-/-}* mice. *Nature biotechnology*
24 2007;**25**:903-10.

25 8 Strick-Marchand H, Dusseaux M, Darche S, Huntington ND, Legrand N,
26 Masse-Ranson G, *et al.* A novel mouse model for stable engraftment of a human

1 immune system and human hepatocytes. PloS one 2015;**10**:e0119820.

2 9 Dusseaux M, Masse-Ranson G, Darche S, Ahodantin J, Li Y, Fiquet O, *et al.* Viral
3 Load Affects the Immune Response to HBV in Mice With Humanized Immune System
4 and Liver. Gastroenterology 2017.

5 10 Billerbeck E, Mommersteeg MC, Shlomai A, Xiao JW, Andrus L, Bhatta A, *et al.*
6 Humanized mice efficiently engrafted with fetal hepatoblasts and syngeneic immune
7 cells develop human monocytes and NK cells. Journal of hepatology 2016;**65**:334-43.

8 11 Dusseaux M, Masse-Ranson G, Darche S, Ahodantin J, Li Y, Fiquet O, *et al.* Viral
9 Load Affects the Immune Response to HBV in Mice With Humanized Immune System
10 and Liver. Gastroenterology 2017;**153**:1647-61 e9.

11 12 Yuan L, Liu X, Zhang L, Li X, Zhang Y, Wu K, *et al.* A Chimeric Humanized
12 Mouse Model by Engrafting the Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived
13 Hepatocyte-Like Cell for the Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection. Front Microbiol
14 2018;**9**:908.

15 13 Wu Y, Zhang TY, Fang LL, Chen ZX, Song LW, Cao JL, *et al.* Sleeping Beauty
16 transposon-based system for rapid generation of HBV-replicating stable cell lines.
17 Journal of virological methods 2016;**234**:96-100.

18 14 Bility MT, Cheng L, Zhang Z, Luan Y, Li F, Chi L, *et al.* Hepatitis B virus infection
19 and immunopathogenesis in a humanized mouse model: induction of human-specific
20 liver fibrosis and M2-like macrophages. PLoS Pathog 2014;**10**:e1004032.

21 15 Zhang TY, Yuan Q, Zhao JH, Zhang YL, Yuan LZ, Lan Y, *et al.* Prolonged
22 suppression of HBV in mice by a novel antibody that targets a unique epitope on
23 hepatitis B surface antigen. Gut 2016;**65**:658-71.

24 16 Hirt B. Selective extraction of polyoma DNA from infected mouse cell cultures.
25 Journal of molecular biology 1967;**26**:365-9.

1 17 Wong DK, Yuen MF, Yuan H, Sum SS, Hui CK, Hall J, *et al.* Quantitation of
2 covalently closed circular hepatitis B virus DNA in chronic hepatitis B patients.
3 *Hepatology* 2004;**40**:727-37.

4 18 Lutgehetmann M, Mancke LV, Volz T, Helbig M, Allweiss L, Bornscheuer T, *et al.*
5 Humanized chimeric uPA mouse model for the study of hepatitis B and D virus
6 interactions and preclinical drug evaluation. *Hepatology* 2012;**55**:685-94.

7 19 Singh M, Dicaire A, Wakil AE, Luscombe C, Sacks SL. Quantitation of hepatitis B
8 virus (HBV) covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) in the liver of HBV-infected
9 patients by LightCycler real-time PCR. *Journal of virological methods*
10 2004;**118**:159-67.

11

1 ● **Supplemental Figures and Legends**

2 ***Figure S1. Phenotypes and multi-potential stem cell characteristics of hBMSCs.*** (A)

3 Flow cytometry analysis of hBMSCs and controls for stem cell-related markers,
4 including hCD90, hCD29, hCD45 and hCD34. Most hBMSCs were positive for
5 hCD90 and hCD29 but negative for hCD45 and hCD34. (B) Morphology of
6 undifferentiated hBMSCs and hBMSCs that differentiated into hepatocyte-like cells,
7 adipocytes and osteocytes. Undifferentiated hBMSCs exhibited a fibroblast-like
8 morphology (bar=50 μ m). Differentiated hepatocytes exhibited a polygonal
9 morphology with a low cytoplasm/nucleus ratio under phase-contrast microscopy
10 (bar=100 μ m). Differentiated osteocytes exhibited mineralization (bar=20 μ m).
11 Differentiated adipocytes contained lipid droplets (bar=20 μ m). (C) IF staining of
12 cluttered hBMSC-derived hepatocyte-like cells for the human-specific hepatic markers
13 hALB and hHNF-4A (bar=20 μ m).

14

15 ***Figure S2. Flow cytometry configuration, cell markers, fluorescent dye and protein***

16 ***antibody.*** (A) Violet (407 nm), yellow-green (561 nm), blue (488 nm) and red laser
17 (533 nm) settings were used for flow cytometry. Antibodies and indicated fluorescent
18 dyes for the indicated cell markers used in total liver cell and immune cell lineage
19 analyses of hBMSC-FRGS mice are listed.

20

21 ***Figure S3. Cell fusion detection of human-derived hepatocytes and mouse***

22 ***hepatocytes in the livers of hBMSC-FRGS mice.*** (A) IF staining of frozen sections of
23 FRGS and hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver tissues for the expression of human and mouse
24 MHC. The nuclei were stained with DAPI. No cell fusion was observed between the
25 human MHC-positive cells (red) and the mouse MHC-positive cells (green) (bar=100

1 μm). Representative FACS contour plots of **(B)** pig hepatocytes, **(C)** hBMSCs, **(D)**
2 FRGS mouse liver cells and **(E)** hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver cells for the frequencies of
3 human MHC- or mouse MHC-positive cells. **(B)** The pig hepatocytes were negative for
4 both human and mouse MHC. **(C)** More than 99.5% of hBMSCs were positive for
5 human MHC and negative for mouse MHC. **(D)** More than 99.5% of FRGS mouse liver
6 cells were positive for mouse MHC and negative for human MHC. **(E)** Some of the
7 hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver cells were positive for only human MHC, and the rest were
8 positive for only mouse MHC. No hBMSC-FRGS mouse liver cells were positive for
9 both human and mouse MHC. These results indicated that no cell fusion occurred
10 between hBMSC-derived liver cells and the recipient mouse hepatocytes.

11

12 ***Figure S4. Safety and long-term tumourigenicity assay of hBMSC-FRGS mice.*** **(A)**

13 Detection of human HCC markers, including hAFP, hGPC-3, hCA19-9 and hDCP, in
14 serum of hBMSC-FRGS mice from weeks 0 to 60 after hBMSC transplantation (n=8).

15 **(B)** qRT-PCR results for the expression of human HCC-related genes, including hAFP,
16 hGOLM1, hCEA and hEGFR, in liver tissues collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice from
17 weeks 0 to 60 after hBMSC transplantation (n=8). **(C)** H&E staining of main organs,
18 including the heart, liver, spleen, lung, kidney, colon, muscle & bone (hind leg) and
19 brain, collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice 60 weeks after hBMSC transplantation
20 (bar=200 μm).

21

22 ***Figure S5. Supplementary information of hBMSC-derived human immune cell***

23 ***chimerism in hBMSC-FRGS mice.*** Reconstitution and maintenance of **(A)**

24 hCD3⁺hCD14⁺hCD68⁺ macrophages and **(B)** hCD3⁺hCD14⁺HLA-DR⁺ dendritic cells

25 in the peripheral blood, spleen and livers of hBMSC-FRGS mice from week 3 to 60

1 after transplantation, and proportions of these cells in the total population of hCD45⁺
2 cells (10 different donors, n=3).

3

4 **Figure S6. Supplementary information for HBV infection in hBMSC-FRGS mice.**

5 (A) Serum hALB, HBV DNA, (B) HBsAg and HBeAg levels in hBMSC-FRGS mice
6 without HBV infection (control group) from 0 to 56 w.p.i. (n=8/group).

7

8 **Figure S7. Serological analysis of the hALB, HBV DNA, HBsAg and HBeAg levels**

9 **in individual animals (genotypes A to D).** The serum hALB levels (first line), HBV
10 DNA levels (second line), HBsAg levels (third line) and HBeAg levels (fourth line) in
11 individual animals infected with genotypes A to D from weeks 0 to 56 w.p.i. are shown
12 (n=8/group).

13

14 **Figure S8. Follow-up of HBV-induced immune and inflammatory responses and**

15 **chronic hepatitis.** (A) Plasma samples from uninfected controls and HBV-infected
16 hBMSC-FRGS mice were analysed by ELISA for various human cytokines from week
17 0 to 48 post-infection (n=8/group). (B) qRT-PCR analysis for the expression of human

18 cytokine genes in HLA⁺ liver cells collected from uninfected controls and
19 HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice from weeks 0 to 48 post-infection (n=4/group). (C)

20 The serum hIgM and hIgG concentrations in individual animals from 0 to 48 w.p.i.
21 were measured by ELISA, respectively (n=8/group). (D) The serum HBsAb, HBeAb

22 and HBcAb concentrations in individual animals from 0 to 48 w.p.i. were measured by
23 ELISA (n=8/group). (E) Serum of HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice and uninfected

24 controls were collected at 24 w.p.i. and measured by captured-ELISA method for Ig
25 isotype of HBsAb and HBsAb (n=6/group). (F) Temporal changes in eight typical

1 biochemical markers of liver function from weeks 0 to 48 post-infection (n=8/group)
2 (*NS*, no significant difference; *U.D.*, undetectable; *a*, p<0.05; *b*, p<0.01; *c*, p<0.001).

3

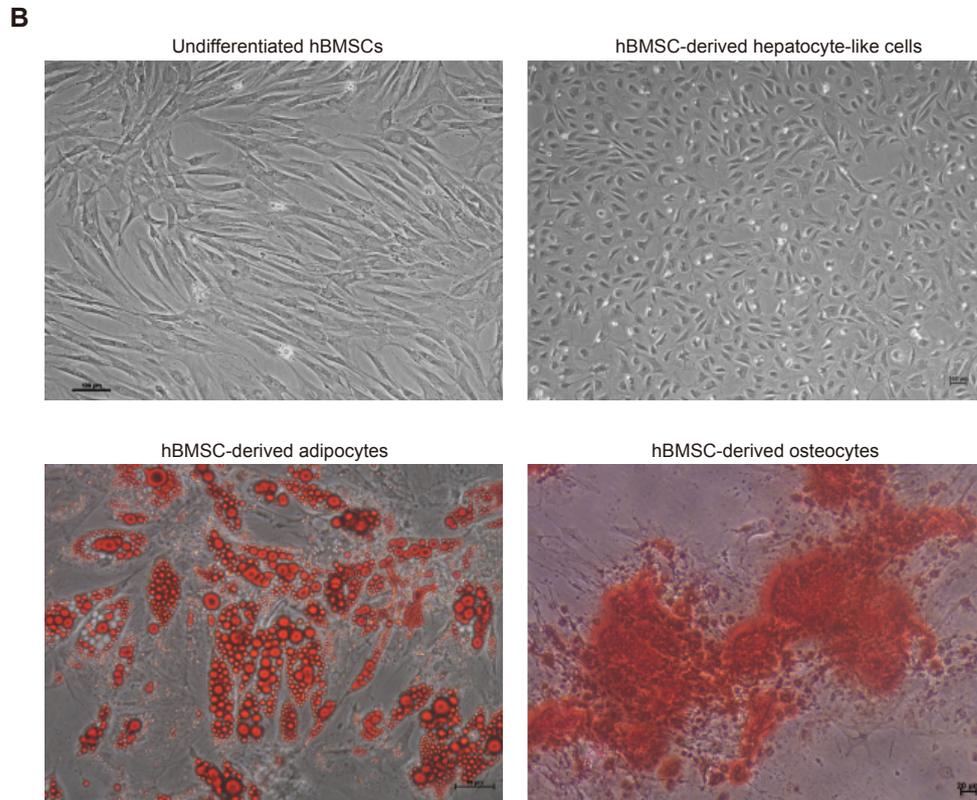
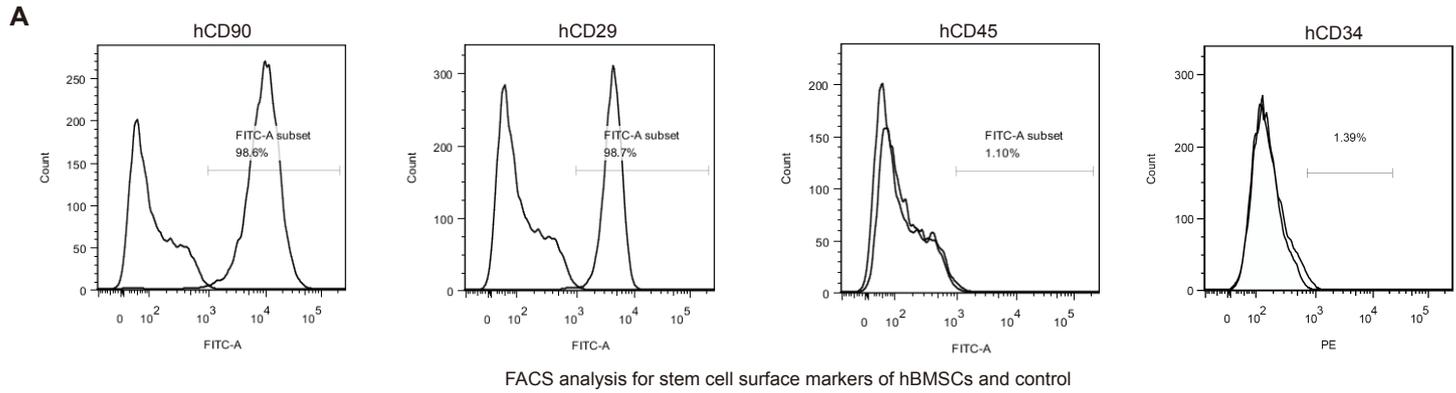
4 ***Figure S9. Supplementary information for liver cirrhosis progression in***

5 ***hBMSC-FRGS mice.*** Different fields of view obtained from M&T-stained liver tissues

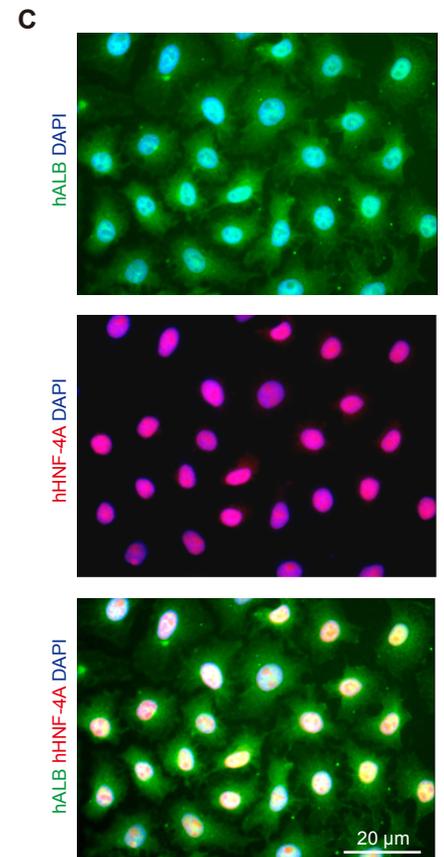
6 collected from uninfected controls and HBV-infected hBMSC-FRGS mice during the

7 progression of HBV-induced liver cirrhosis (bar=500 μ m).

8



Morphology and *in vitro* multi-potential stem cell characteristics of hBMSCs



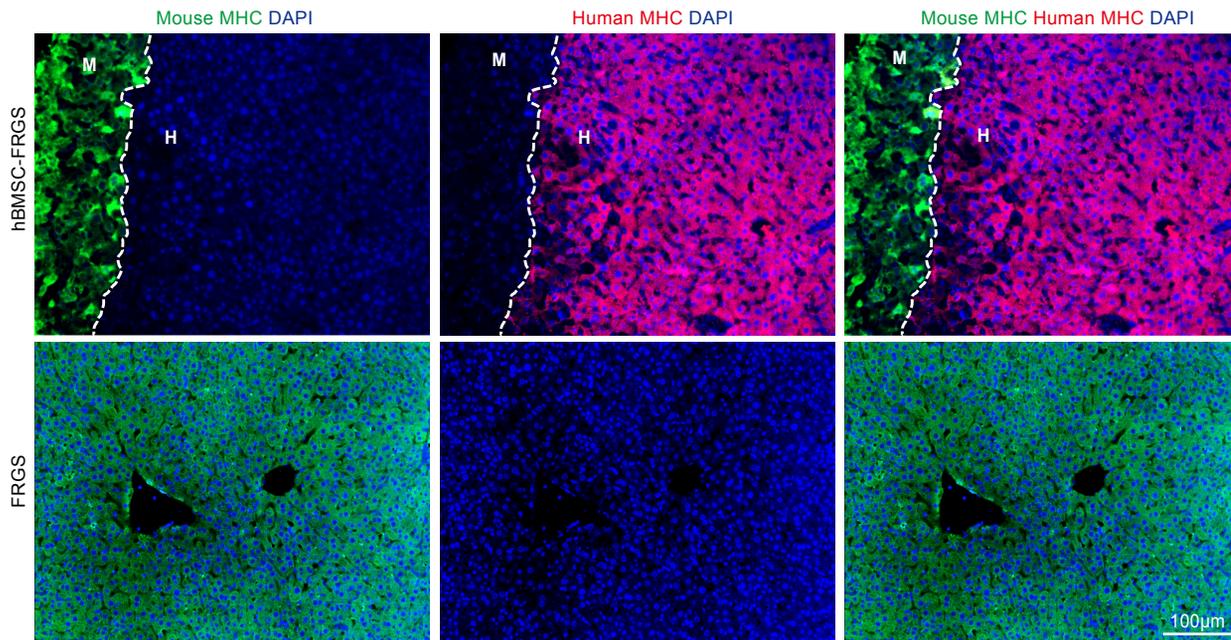
IF staining for hepatic markers of hBMSC-derived hepatocyte-like cells

Supplementary Figure 2

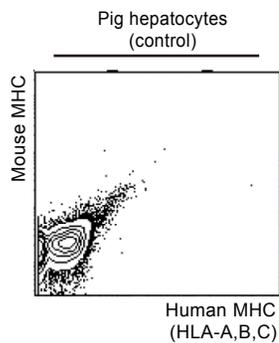
A

| Laser | Filters | Fluorescent dye | Total liver cell analysis | Immune cell lineages analysis |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 407nm | 780/60 735LP | BV786 | hCD45 | hCD45 |
| | 660/20 630LP | BV650 | - | hCD123 |
| | 610/20 595LP | BV605 | - | hNKp46 |
| | 510/50 502LP | BV510 | - | hCD163 |
| | 450/40 | BV421 | - | hCD68 |
| 488nm | 695/40 655LP | PerCP | hALB | hCD3 |
| | 530/30 450LP | BB515 | - | hCD11c |
| | 488/10 | - | - | - |
| 561nm | 780/60 735LP | PE-Cy7 | - | hCD19 |
| | 710/50 685LP | PE-Cy5.5 | - | |
| | 655/20 630LP | PE-Cy5 | hNTCP | hCD86 |
| | 610/20 600LP | PE-CF594 | - | mCD45 |
| | 560/20 545LP | PE | - | HLA-DR |
| 633nm | 780/60 755LP | APC-Cy7 | HLA | hCD14 |
| | 730/45 685LP | AF700 | - | hCD4 |
| | 660/20 | APC | - | hCD8 |

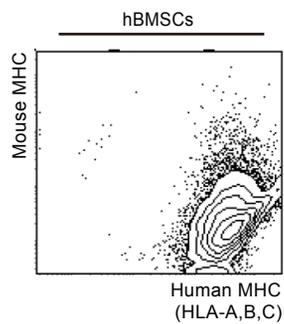
A



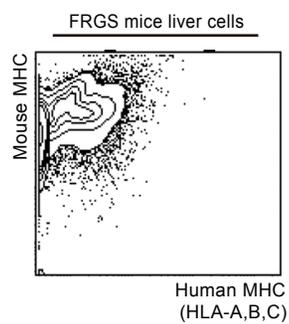
B



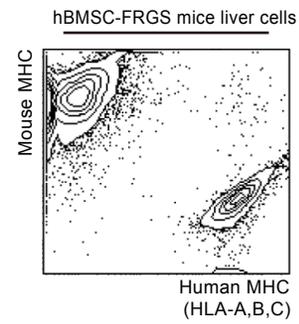
C



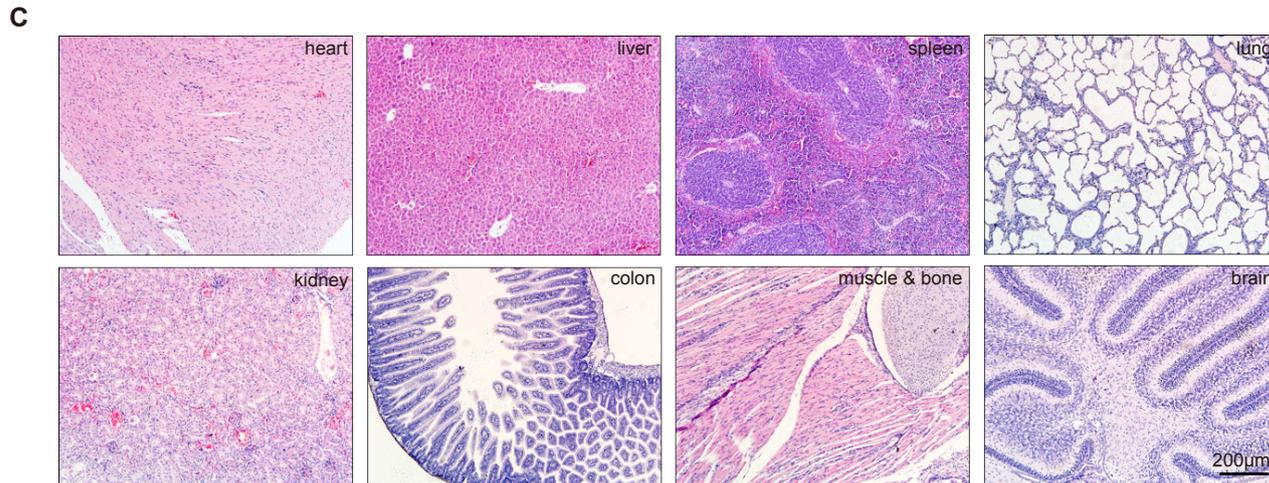
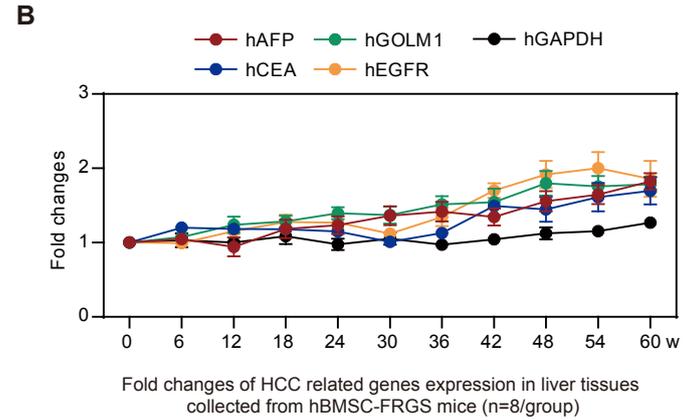
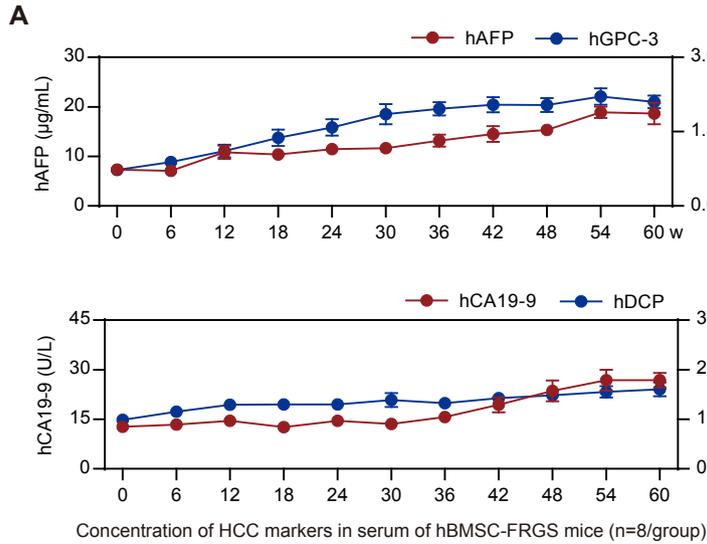
D



E

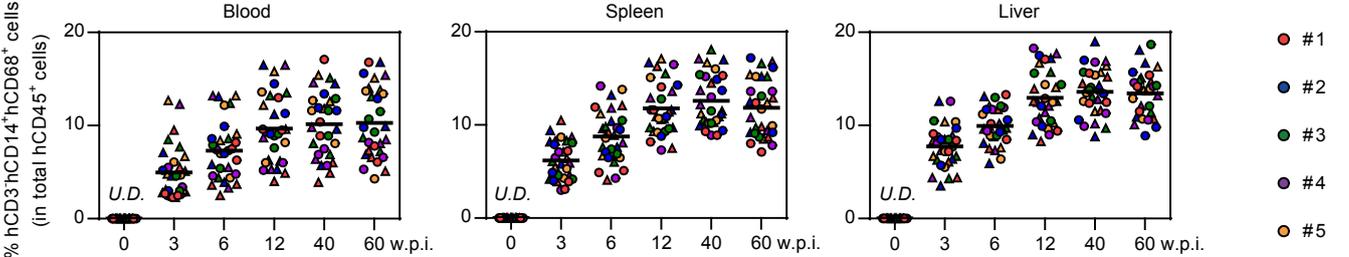


Supplementary Figure 4

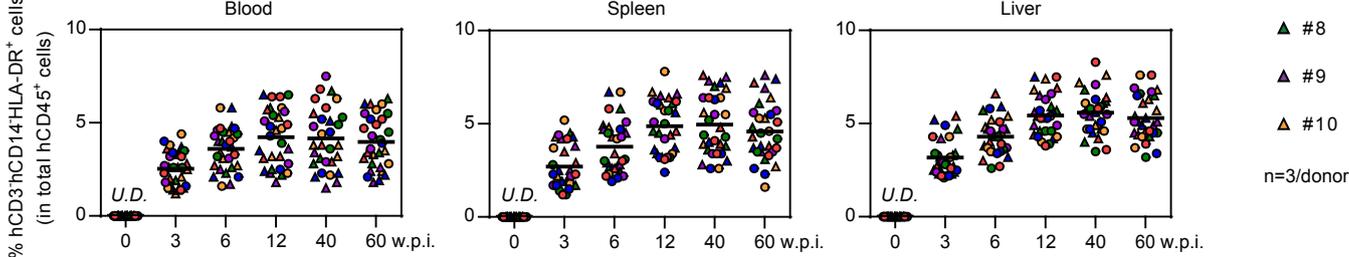


H&E staining of main organs collected from hBMSC-FRGS mice at 60 weeks after hBMSCs transplantation

A

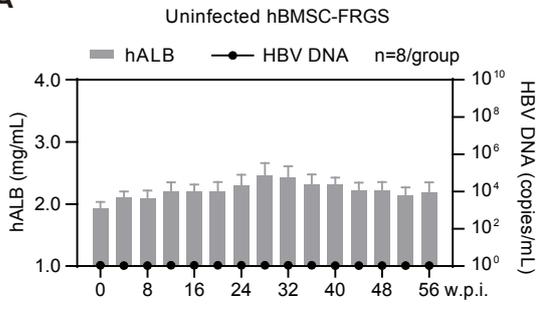


B

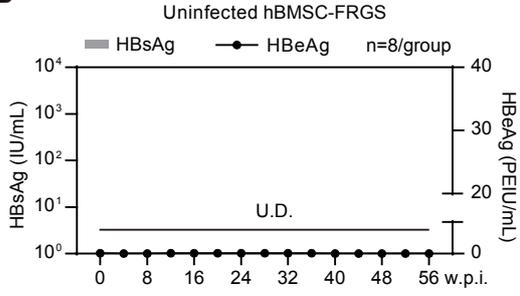


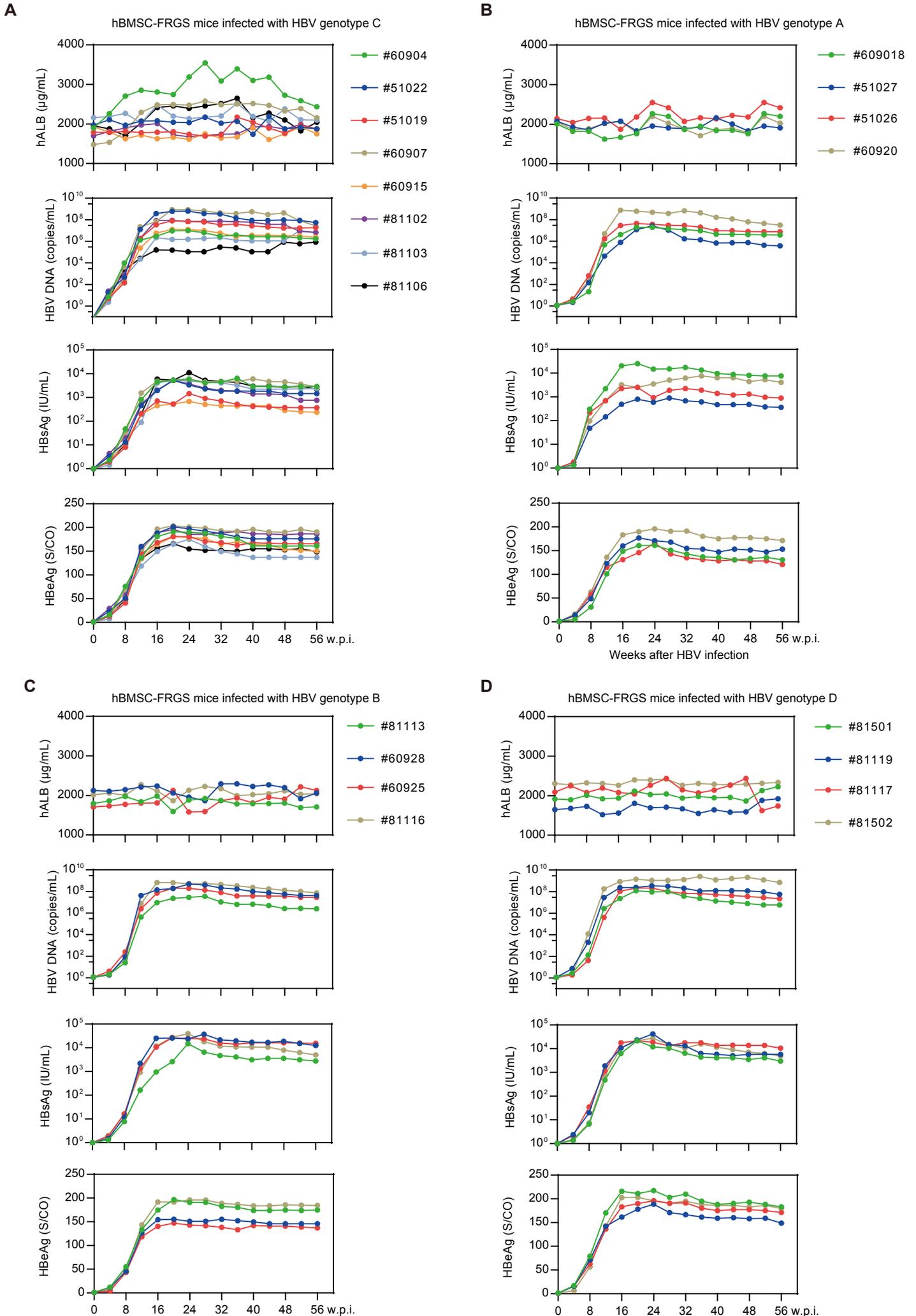
Supplementary Figure 6

A

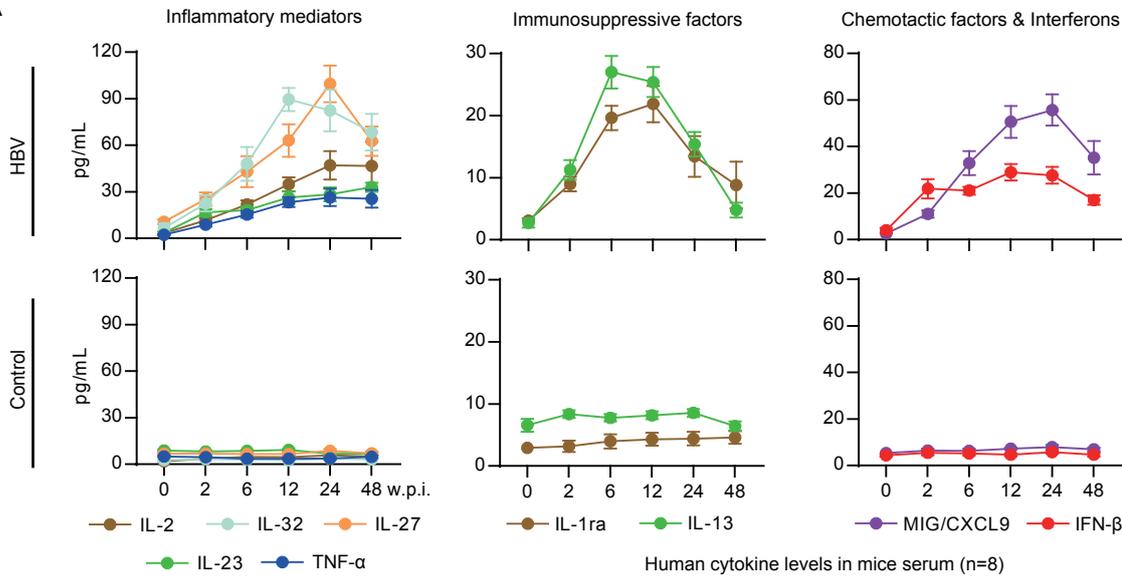


B

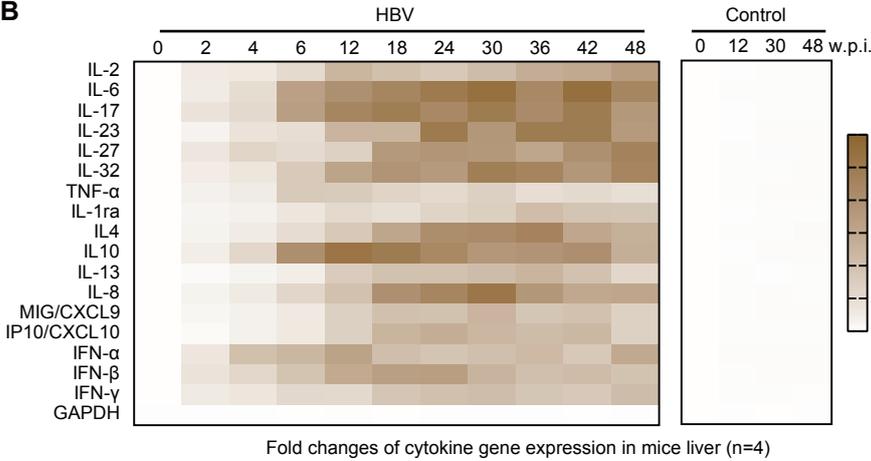




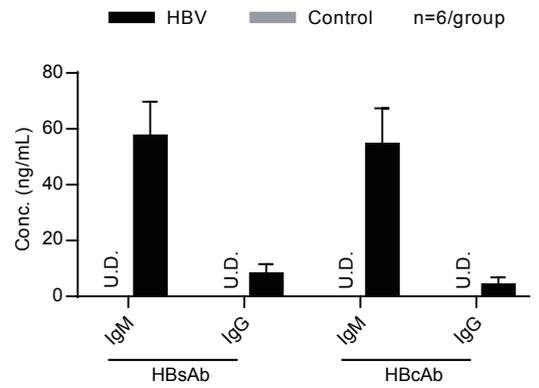
A



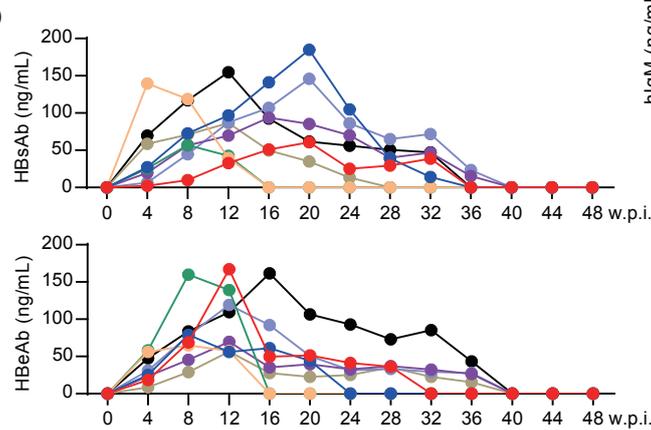
B



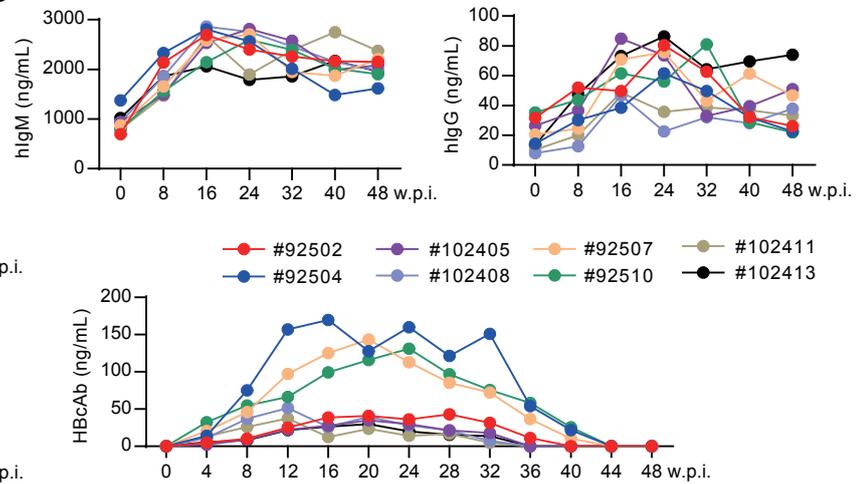
E



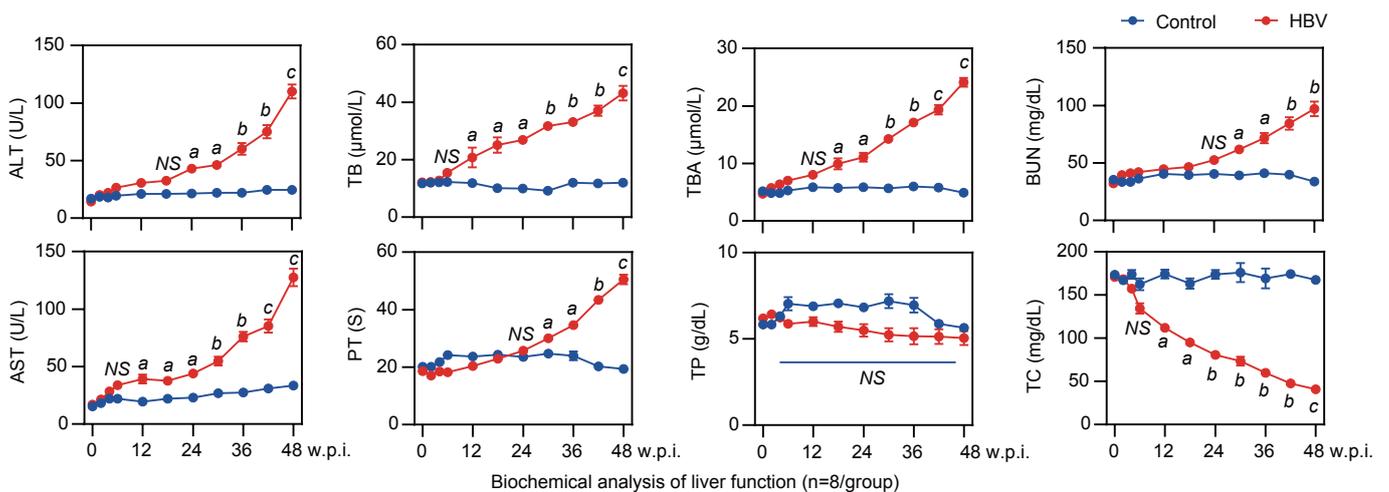
D



C



F

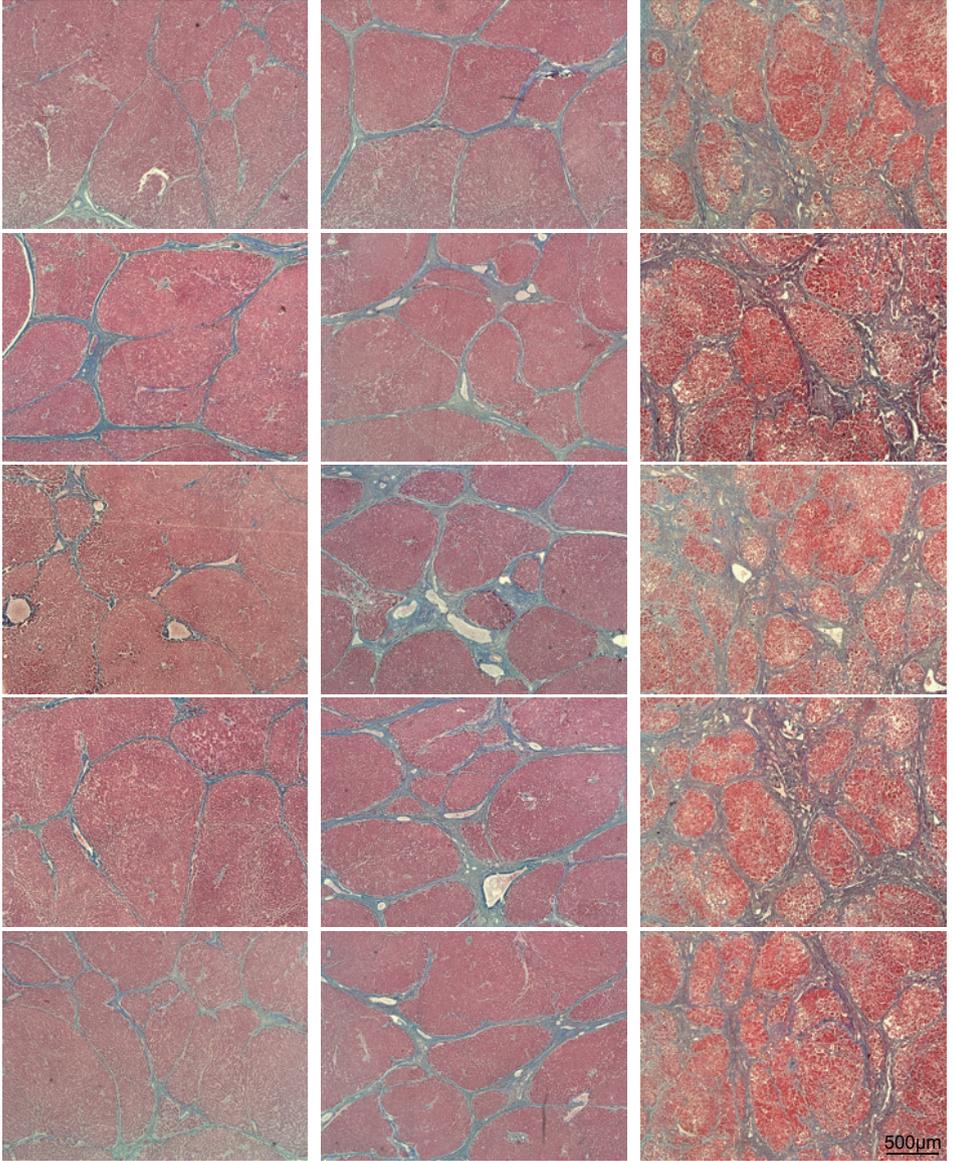


A

24-36 w.p.i.

36-48 w.p.i.

48-56 w.p.i.



Tab. S1 Reagents

| Name | Company | Cat. No. | Speices specific test |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kits for HBV infection marker (antigens and antibodies) assays (HBsAg; HBeAg; HBsAb; HBeAb; HBcAb) | Wantai, Beijing,China | (http://www.bjwtdr.com/index.asp) | - |
| Kits for detection of liver biochemical markers and liver cirrhosis markers (ALT; AST; TB; TBA; TC; TP; PT; BUN; GGT; HA) | | | |
| hALB ELISA Kit | Bethyl, Montgomery, TX, USA | #E88-129 | Passed |
| Human IgM/human IgG | Jackson ImmunoResearch, West Grove, PA, USA | #109-035-043/008 | Passed |
| UltraSensitive™ SP Kit for IHC assay | Maixin Biotech, Fuzhou, China | #KIT-9730 | - |
| Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) | Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA | #D4540 | - |
| Collagenase, Type I/IV, powder | | #C0130-5G/#C5138-5G | - |
| Biotin-11-dUTP | Fermentas (MBI), Hanover, MD, USA | #R0081 | - |
| Ficoll-Paque™ PLUS | GE Healthcare, Fairfield, CT, USA | #17-1440-03 | - |
| Proteinase K | TaKaRa, Kusatsu, Japan | #D9034 | - |
| DIG Easy Hyb™ Granules | Roche, AG, Basel, Switzerland | #11796895001 | - |
| Hepes Buffer Solution | Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA USA | #15630 | - |
| M&T stain Kit | Maixin Biotech, Fuzhou, China | #MST-8004 | - |
| V.G. stain Kit | Maixin Biotech, Fuzhou, China | #MST-8002 | - |
| SR/FG stain Kit | Solarbio LIFE SCIENCE, Beijing, China | #G1470 | - |
| EndoFree Plasmid Giga Kit | Qiagen, Hilden, Germany | #12391 | - |
| Busulfan | Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA | #B2635-25G | - |
| Nitisinone (NTBC) | SOBI, Stockholm, Sweden | #1052201/1042275 | - |
| DNase I (Amplification Grade) | Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA | #AMPD1 | - |
| Williams' Medium E (1X) without Phenol Red | GIBCO, Grand Island, NY, USA | #A12176-01 | - |
| DMEM, High Glucose, Pyruvate | | #11995-073 | - |
| Foetal Bovine Serum, Qualified, Australia Origin | | #10099-141 | - |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------|--------|
| TRIZol | Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, CA, USA | #15596-026 | - |
| Trypsin ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (Trypsin - EDTA) | | #25200-072 | - |
| Human IL-17 Quantikine ELISA Kit | R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA | #D1700 | Passed |
| Human IL-1ra Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #DRA00B | Passed |
| Human IL-6 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D6050 | Passed |
| Human IL-8 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D8000C | Passed |
| Human CXCL10/IP-10 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #DIP100 | Passed |
| Human IL-2 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D2050 | Passed |
| Human IL-4 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D4050 | Passed |
| Human IL-5 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D5000B | Passed |
| Human IL-10 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #D1000B | Passed |
| Human TNF-alpha Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #DTA00C | Passed |
| Human IFN-alpha ELISA Kit | | #41100-1 | Passed |
| Human IFN-beta ELISA Kit | | #41410-1 | Passed |
| Human IFN-gamma Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #DIF50 | Passed |
| Human alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP) Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #DAFP00 | Passed |
| Human IL-27 Quantikine ELISA Kit | Enzyme-linked Biotechnology, Shanghai, China | #ml028587 | Passed |
| Human IL-32 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml027388 | Passed |
| Human IL-16 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml028600 | Passed |
| Human IL-23 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml027404 | Passed |
| Human IL-13 Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml027429 | Passed |
| Human IL-1 α Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml027418 | Passed |
| Human IL-1 β Quantikine ELISA Kit | | #ml027417 | Passed |
| Human IL-17E (IL-25) Quantikine ELISA Kit | Boster Biotechnology, Wuhan, China | #EK0793 | Passed |
| Human DCP ELISA Kit | Abnova, Taipei City, Taiwan, China | #KA0432 | Passed |
| Human CA19-9 ELISA Kit | | #KA0207 | Passed |
| Human GPC3 ELISA Kit | | #KA1175 | Passed |
| Human IL-16 Quantikine ELISA Kit | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | #ab720 | Passed |

Fluorescent dye: BV786, BV650, BV605, BV510, BV421, PerCP, BB515, PE-Cy7, PE-Cy5.5, PE-Cy5, PE-CF594, PE, APC-Cy7, AF700, APC

Expedeon, Cambridge, UK

<https://www.expedeon.com/products/immunoreagents/lightning-link-antibody-labeling-kits/fluorescent-dyes-and-proteins/>

-

Tab. S2 Antibodies

| Antibodies | Company | Cat. No. | Speices specific test |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Purified NA/LE Hamster Anti-Mouse CD95 Clone JO2 | BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA | #554254 | - |
| anti-human albumin | House keeping | #5D2 ¹ | Passed |
| anti-HBsAg | | #83H12 ² | - |
| anti-HBcAg | DAKO, Chattanooga, TN, USA | #B058601 | - |
| anti-HLA (human MHC) | eBioscience, San Diego, CA, USA | #12-9983-80/-41 | Passed |
| anti-mouse MHC | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | #ab25333 | Passed |
| anti-biotin antibody (Texas Red) | | #ab6653 | - |
| anti-biotin antibody (FITC) | | #ab6650 | - |
| anti-human CK18 | | #ab82254 | Passed |
| anti-human AAT | | #ab9399 | Passed |
| anti-human FAH | | #ab47381 | Passed |
| anti-human AFP | | #ab3969 | Passed |
| anti-total CD45 (human+mouse) | | #ab10558 | - |
| anti-mouse CD45 | | #ab25386 | Passed |
| anti-human CD45 | | #ab10559 | Passed |
| anti-human CD68 | | #ab845 | Passed |
| anti-human CD86 | | #ab53004 | Passed |
| anti-human CD19 | | #ab134114 | Passed |
| anti-human CD3 | | #ab828 | Passed |
| anti-human CD4 | | #ab133616 | Passed |
| anti-human CD8 | | #ab17147 | Passed |
| anti-human CD123 | | #ab21562 | Passed |
| anti-human CD163 | | #ab156769 | Passed |
| anti-human Nkp46 | #ab14823 | Passed | |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| anti-human CD11c | | #ab52632 | Passed |
| anti-HLA-DR | | #ab92511 | Passed |
| anti-human NTCP | | #HPA042727 | Passed |
| anti-rabbit IgG (whole molecule)–TRITC | Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA | #T6778 | Passed |
| anti-mouse IgG (whole molecule)–TRITC | | #T5393 | Passed |
| anti-rabbit IgG (whole molecule)–FITC | | #F9887 | Passed |
| anti-mouse IgG (whole molecule)–FITC | | #F9006 | Passed |
| anti-human IgM (μ-chain specific) | | #12386 | Passed |
| anti-human IgG (Fab specific) | | #15260 | Passed |
| anti-human IgG (Fc specific) | | #12136 | Passed |

1.Science Translational Medicine 2016; Vol. 8, 352

2.Journal of Hepatology 2012; Vol. 57, 720-729

Tab. S3 Primers

| Gene | Primer | | Speices specific test | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Human hepatic-specific genes | hALB | F | TTTATGCCCCGGAACTCCTTTT | Passed |
| | | R | ACAGGCAGGCAGCTTTATCAG | Passed |
| | hAAT | F | GCCTATGATGAAGCGTTTAGGC | Passed |
| | | R | TTCCAGTAATGGACAGTTTGGGT | Passed |
| | hHNF-4 α | F | AACGGACAGATGTGTGAGTGG | Passed |
| | | R | CAGGAGCTTATAGGGCTCAGAC | Passed |
| | hHNF-1 α | F | GCCACCTGCTGCCATCCAA | Passed |
| | | R | TGCAGCCCGTAGTTTAAAC | Passed |
| | hFAH | F | CCTACGGCGTCTTCTCGAC | Passed |
| | | R | CTGCAAGAACAACACTCTCGCCT | Passed |
| | hNTCP | F | AAGGACAAGGTGCCCTATAAAGG | Passed |
| | | R | ACGATCCCTATGGTGCAAGGA | Passed |
| | hCK18 | F | TCGCAAATACTGTGGACAATGC | Passed |
| | | R | GCAGTCGTGTGATATTGGTGTC | Passed |
| | hTransferrin | F | TGTCTACATAGCGGGCAAGTG | Passed |
| | | R | GTTCCAGCCAGCGGTTCTG | Passed |
| | hCYP3A4 | F | AAGTCGCCTCGAAGATACACAA | Passed |
| | | R | AAGGAGAGAACACTGCTCGTG | Passed |
| | hCYP2B6 | F | GCACTCCTCACAGGACTCTTG | Passed |
| | | R | CCCAGGTGTACCGTGAAGAC | Passed |
| | hCYP1A2 | F | CTTCGCTACCTGCCTAACCC | Passed |
| | | R | TGACTGTGTCAAATCCTGCTCC | Passed |
| | hASGPR1 | F | ATGACCAAGGAGTATCAAGACCTT | Passed |
| | | R | TGAAGTTGCTGAACGTCTCTCT | Passed |
| | hMRP2 | F | CAGCCATAGAGCTGGCCCT | Passed |
| | | R | GCAAAACCAGGAGCCATGTG | Passed |
| | hTAT | F | TAGCTTCTAGGGGTGCCTCA | Passed |
| | | R | AGCCATTGTGGACAACATGA | Passed |
| | hTTR | F | GGCTCACAACAGATGAGAAA | Passed |
| | | R | TGTGGTGGAGTAAGAGTAGG | Passed |
| | hCYP7A1 | F | CAAGAACCTGTACATGAGGGA | Passed |
| | | R | CACTTCTTCAGAGGCTGCTTT | Passed |
| | hHNF1 β | F | CTACAACCAGCAGGGAAAC | Passed |
| | | R | CCATCAGGTGAGAGGAGAT | Passed |
| | hCDH1 | F | CAGGTCTCCTCTTGGCTCTG | Passed |
| | | R | ACTTTGAATCGGGTGTGCGAG | Passed |
| hBSEP | F | TTGGCTGATGTTTGTGGGAAG | Passed | |
| | R | CCAAAAATGAGTAGCACGCCT | Passed | |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------|--------|
| Human cytokine genes | hIL-1ra | F | GCTCATTGCTGGGTA CTTACAA | Passed |
| | | R | CCAGACTTGGCACAAGACAGG | Passed |
| | hIL-6 | F | ATGGATGCTTCCAATCTG | Passed |
| | | R | CTGGCTTGTTCCCTACTAC | Passed |
| | hIL-8 | F | TGCTAAAGAACTTAGATGTCAGTG | Passed |
| | | R | TGGTCCACTCTCAATCACTCTCA | Passed |
| | hIL-10 | F | AAAAGAAGGCATGCACAGCTCAG | Passed |
| | | R | GTGGGTGCAGCTGTTCTCAGACT | Passed |
| | hIL-2 | F | TGCAACTCCTGTCTTGCATT | Passed |
| | | R | TCAGTTCTGTGGCCTTCTTG | Passed |
| | hIL-4 | F | ACTGCACAGCAGTTCCACAG | Passed |
| | | R | CTCTGGTTGGCTTCCTTCAC | Passed |
| | hIL-5 | F | ACTCTGATGATAGCCAATGAGA | Passed |
| | | R | TCCAGTGTGCCTATTCCCTGA | Passed |
| | hIL-17A | F | TCAACCCGATTGTCCACCAT | Passed |
| | | R | GAGTTTAGTCCGAAATGAGGCTG | Passed |
| | hIL-23 | F | AGAAGCTCTGCACACTGGC | Passed |
| | | R | CCACACTGGATATGGGGAAC | Passed |
| | hIL-32 | F | GAAGGTCCTCTCTGATGACA | Passed |
| | | R | AAGTAGAGGAGTGAGCTCTG | Passed |
| | hTNF- α | F | CAGCCTCTTCTCCTTCCTGAT | Passed |
| | | R | GCCAGAGGGCTGATTAGAGA | Passed |
| | hIFN- α | F | CCCATTCAACCAGTCTAGCAG | Passed |
| | | R | TGTGGGTTTGAGGCAGATC | Passed |
| | hIFN- β | F | GACGCCGCATTGACCATCTA | Passed |
| | | R | CCTTAGGATTTCCACTCTGACT | Passed |
| | hIFN- γ | F | TCGGTAACTGACTTGAATGTCCA | Passed |
| | | R | TCGCTTCCCTGTTTTAGCTGC | Passed |
| Human fibrosis genes | hCOL1A1 | F | GATGGACTCAACGGTCTCC | Passed |
| | | R | CCTTGGGGTTCTTGCTGATG | Passed |
| | hTIMP-1 | F | CTGTGTCCCACCCACC | Passed |
| | | R | GAACTTGCCCTGATGACGA | Passed |
| | hMMP-2 | F | ACCCAGATGTGGCCA ACTAC | Passed |
| | | R | TCATGATGTCTGCCTCTCCA | Passed |
| | hCOL1A2 | F | GGCCCTCAAGGTTTCCAAGG | Passed |
| | | R | CACCCTGTGGTCCAACA ACTC | Passed |
| Control | hGAPDH | F | GGAGTCAACGGATTTGGTCGT | Passed |
| | | R | CACTTGATTTTGGAGGGATCTCG | Passed |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------|
| Human HCC marker genes | hGLOM1 | F | TGGCCTGCATCATCGTCTTG | Passed |
| | | R | CCCTGGA ACTCGTTCTTCTTCA | Passed |
| | hEGFR | F | AGGCACGAGTAACAAGCTCAC | Passed |
| | | R | ATGAGGACATAACCAGCCACC | Passed |
| | hHGF | F | GCTATCGGGGTAAAGACCTACA | Passed |
| | | R | CGTAGCGTACCTCTGGATTGC | Passed |
| | hAFP | F | CTTGCACACAAAAGCCCACT | Passed |
| | | R | GGGATGCCTTCTTGCTATCTCAT | Passed |