

Viral and host transcriptomes in SARS-CoV-2 infected human lung cells

Xuefeng Wang^{a,§}, Yudong Zhao^{a,b,§}, Feihu Yan^{a,§}, Tiecheng Wang^a, Weiyang Sun^a, Na Feng^a, Wenqi Wang^{a,c}, Hongmei Wang^c, Hongbin He^c, Songtao Yang^a, Xianzhu Xia^a and Yuwei Gao^{a,*}

^aInstitute of Military Veterinary Medicine, Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Changchun, 130122, P. R. China

^bSchool of Life Sciences, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, 130024, P. R. China

^cKey Laboratory of Animal Resistant Biology of Shandong, College of Life Sciences, Shandong Normal University, Jinan, 250014, P. R. China

*Address correspondence to Yuwei Gao, yuwei0901@outlook.com

§These authors contributed equally to this work.

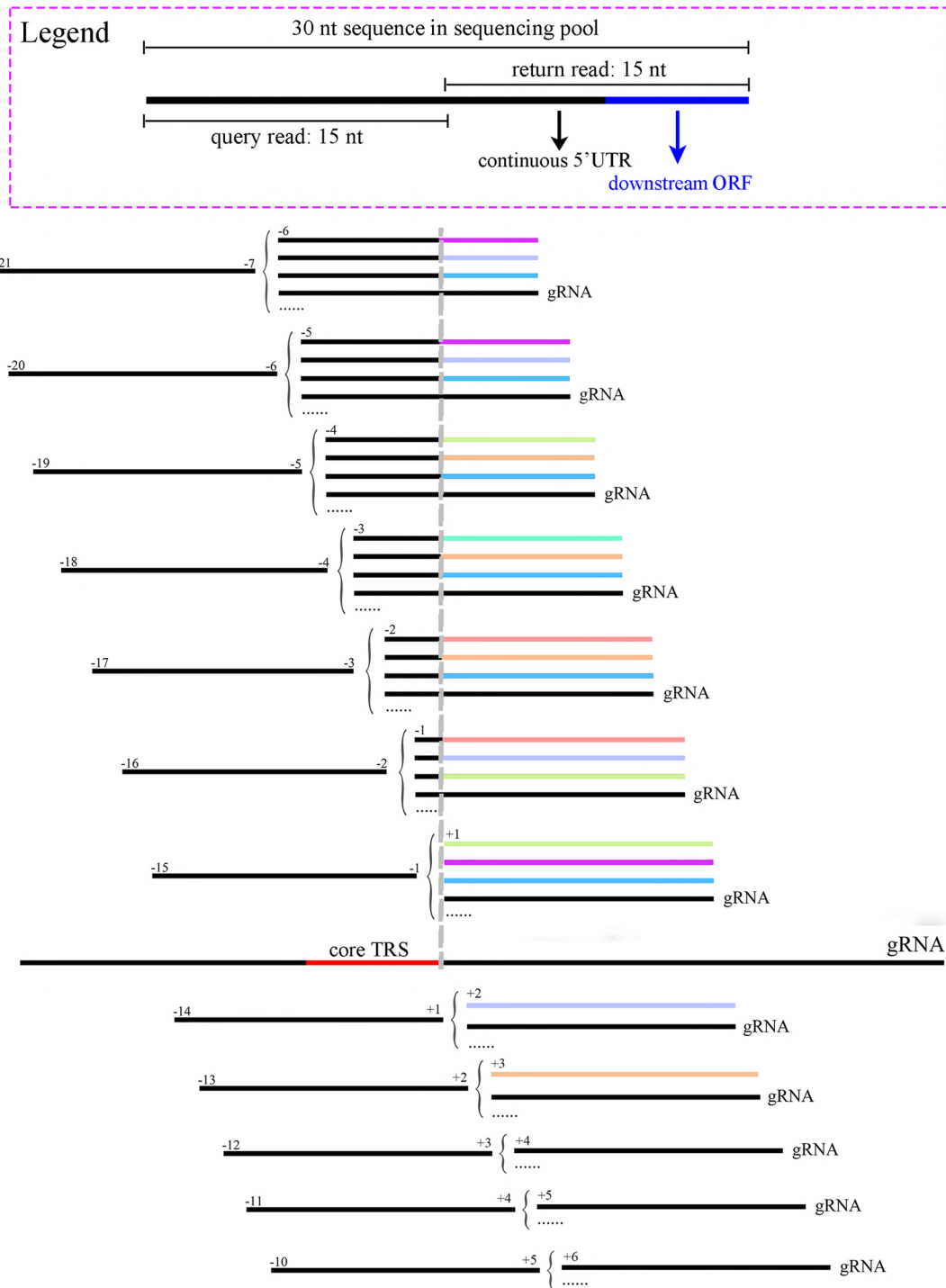


Figure S1. Core TRS identification using query reads of 15 nt located at the 5' UTR. All 30 nt reads whose 15 nt sequences were identical to query reads were analyzed further. The 15 nt return reads could be totally continuous (black, gRNA) or discontinuous (with colored ORFs). The exact break point of most discontinuous reads was the final site (marked with the gray dashed line) of the core TRS (red in the center of the gRNA).

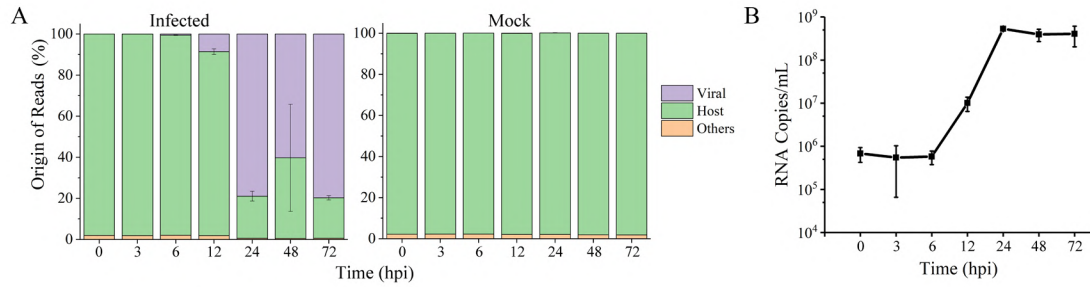


Figure S2. Synthesis of SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

A. Origin of reads from infected (left) and mock-infected (right) transcriptomes at various time points after infection. B. Genomic copy numbers of SARS-CoV-2 in the supernatant after infection.

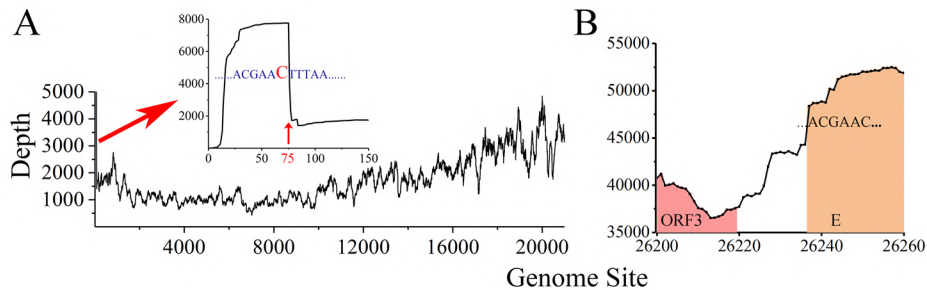


Figure S3. Site-matched sequencing depth of the SARS-CoV-2 genome.

A. Sequencing depth of 1 to 21500 nt including the 5' UTR and the ORF1ab are shown in the main figure. 0 to 150 nt (indicated by a large red arrow) is enlarged, which includes the repeatedly synthesized region. The ending site of the repeated synthesis at +75 is marked in red. B. Sequencing depth of the junction between ORF3 and E. The repeatedly synthesized beginning site of E is indicated.

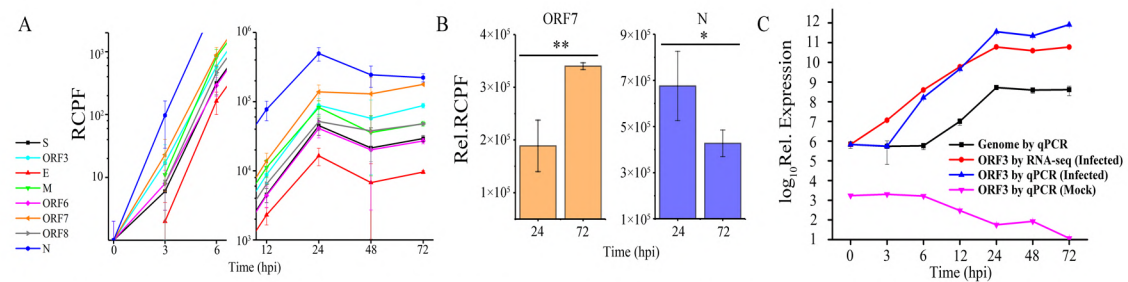


Figure S4. Expression changes of 8 SARS-CoV-2 genes over time.

A. The expression levels of the 8 genes are shown separately during early infection (left) and late infection (right). B. Relative (Rel.) expression levels of ORF7 and N at 24 hpi and 72 hpi. Significant differences are determined using Student's t-test and marked by asterisks; * $P < 0.05$ and ** $P < 0.01$. C. Relative (Rel.) expression of ORF3 sgRNA and genome replication by qPCR and/or RNA-Seq.

Transcription of noncanonical sgRNAs

A previous study (1) supposed that the leader UTR sequences of canonical ORF3 sgRNA

were different from the genome sequences upstream of the leader TRS. Nevertheless, its expression was only 2% of the canonical ORF3 sgmRNA in our results (ORF3_1 in Table S5). Another RNA-Seq study (2) reported a sgmRNA coding ORF6 with mutant ORF sequences beginning with “GCTTCT”, rather than “GCTTTC” as it should be. However, the expression of the mutant sgmRNA coding ORF6 was still negligible (ORF6_2) and could be regarded as a sequencing error.

Kim and coworkers discovered several sgmRNAs that were not in line with the standard core TRS identified by us (1). Two of the N sgmRNAs that were reported to be highly expressed were checked in our work. The most highly expressed sgmRNA in their study contained only the first two nt of the standard core TRS. Though this sgmRNA was also identified in our study (N1 in Table S5, also see N1 in Figure 2), the expression was only 0.5% of the canonical N sgmRNA. The other sgmRNA (referred to as N_3) were reported to contain a fragmented ORF; however, we observed even lower expression for that sgmRNA. Taiaroa and coworkers (2) reported that the canonical sgmRNA of ORF7 contained genomic sequences upstream of its body TRS (ORF7_2). Another two published sgmRNAs of M and ORF6 were also regarded as “standard” sgmRNAs; however, they contained mutant sequences compared to the corresponding canonical sgmRNAs. Unfortunately, all their expressions were nearly undetectable in our results.

Some of the sgmRNAs listed above had mutant TRS or did not use TRS-adjacent sequences as flanking sequence in their sgmRNA synthesis, and thus they could not be revealed in Figure 2. They usually contained ORFs that were to be translated in full-length, however, had either a mutant TRS or a mutant leader UTR. Using query reads located at the beginning of ORFs, both continuous and discontinuous upstream sequences were analyzed (Table S6) to investigate whether a gene-specific or mutant TRS existed. In our results, all discontinuous return reads originated from sgmRNAs, while the continuous return reads could be either from the gRNA or sgmRNAs coding upstream ORFs (for example: continuous return reads of ORF6 query reads stem from gRNA and sgmRNAs coding S, ORF3, M, and E). To simplify, all continuous sequences were described as “gRNA” in Table S6 and in the content below in this paragraph. It was obvious that both of the top two return reads were from standard sgmRNAs (discontinuous) and gRNA (continuous), indicating that mutant leader UTRs and TRSs are hardly ever present. The count of the third highest return read fell below 2% of the highest. Therefore, only the top 5 sequences were recorded and analyzed. Except for return reads from canonical sgmRNAs and the correct gRNA sequence, most others were identified to be from gRNAs with single-site mutations. A small portion of the sequences were discontinuous sgmRNAs with a mutant TRS or mutant leader UTR. In our results, probable noncanonical sgmRNAs coding S, ORF3, ORF6, ORF7 and N were identified. They could be classified into two groups, sgmRNAs with truncated TRSs and sgmRNAs with 5' elongated ORFs. To identify whether the noncanonical sgmRNAs were synthesized by the viral RNA synthase or produced during library construction (as a sequencing error), the read count ratios of the noncanonical sequences to the corresponding gRNA/canonical sgmRNAs sequences were calculated. The combined single-site mutation ratio (including sequencing/library construction mutations and viral RNA synthesis mutations) could reach up to 0.371% (in TRS query reads of ORF7). We used the ratio of single-site mutations as a metric. In other words, a sequence was not regarded as a noncanonical sgmRNA that was synthesized by the virus unless the ratio was higher than that of mutant gRNA. Based on this principle, the noncanonical sgmRNAs of ORF3_1, ORF6_1, and N1 were further selected, with percentages of

2.1%, 0.82%, and 0.70%, respectively. Furthermore, the counts of both noncanonical sgmRNA reads of ORF_3 and N1 were higher than 10000; however, that of ORF6_1 (2202) was much lower and thus too close to the number of gRNA mutations in a similar genome position (1913), thereby reducing the credibility. In addition, noncanonical sgmRNAs were completely divergent from sequences with mutations in their ratio fluctuation. The former was rather stable at different time points, while the latter appeared to drastically change and exhibited a poor repeatability (Figure S6). Therefore, the transcription of noncanonical sgmRNAs synchronized with the corresponding canonical sgmRNAs after infection, though their counts were much lower. Finally, only noncanonical sgmRNAs of ORF3_1 and N1 were consolidated.

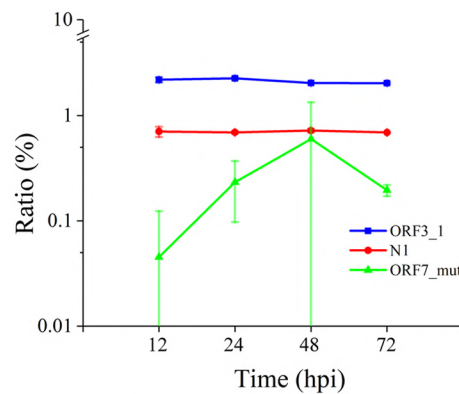


Figure S5. Ratios of canonical sgmRNA and mutant gRNA sequences at various time points, including two noncanonical sgmRNAs coding ORF3 gene (ORF3_1) and N gene (N1), and a mutant genomic sequence located at the beginning site of ORF7 (ORF7_mut).

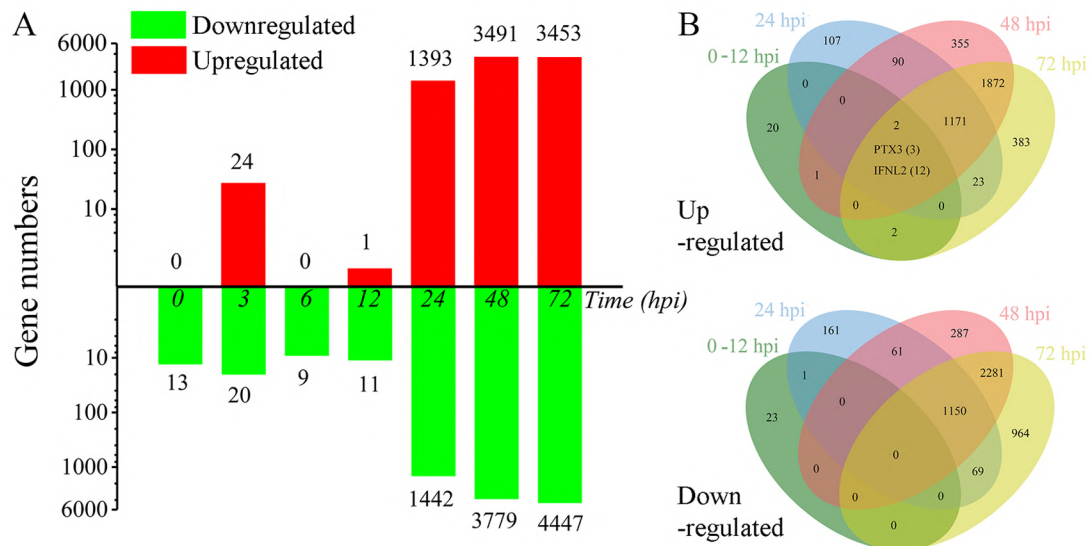


Figure S6. Host cell transcriptome changes after infection.

A. The numbers of upregulated and downregulated genes are shown in red and green, respectively, at various time points post infection (0 to 72 hours, italic). B. Intersections of upregulated and downregulated genes at various time points post infection, of which one set is the combination of early infection (0 to 12 hpi). The intersection of upregulated genes, including PTX3 and IFNL2, can be observed. In early infection, high expression of PTX3 and IFNL2 emerges at 3 hpi and 12

hpi, respectively (hpi marked in brackets beside the genes).

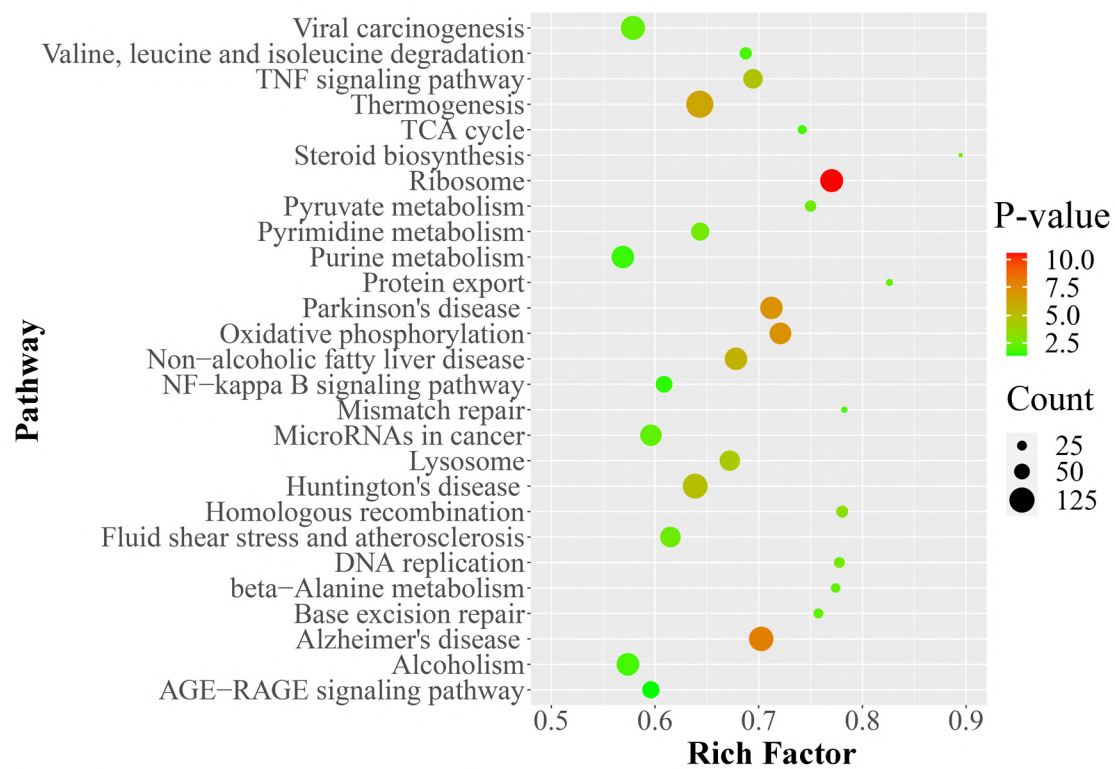


Figure S7. Pathways enriched among differentially expressed genes (48 hpi).

Table S1. Primers used in qPCR experiments.

Gene	Description	Sequence	Accession No.
BCKDHB	branched chain keto acid dehydrogenase E1 subunit beta	GGCAGGTGGCTCATTTTACTTT	NM_183050.4
		GATTCATTTTCTGAGTTTGCCCGTA	
HADH	hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase	CTTCGTCACCAGGCAGTTCA	NM_005327.7
		CTGCAGCAACCTGGGCAA	
HSD17B4	hydroxysteroid 17-beta dehydrogenase 4	GGAAAAGCAGTGGCCAACTATG	NM_001199292.2
		CGATCCCTCAGAATTCAGCA	
SIRT1	sirtuin 1	AAGGCCACGGATAGGTCCA	NM_012238.5
		TGCCACAGTGTTCATATCATCCA	
HIST1H2BF	histone cluster 1 H2B family member f	AACGACATCTTCGAGCGCAT	NM_021063.4
		TCTCCCTGGAGGTGATGGTC	
FOXO1	forkhead box O1	CAAGAGCGTGCCCTACTTCA	NM_002015.4
		GCACACGAATGAACTTGCTGT	
AGTRAP	angiotensin II receptor associated protein	TCCTGGTCCCACTGGTTTC	NM_020350.5
		GCCTCTGCTGAGTCAATCGT	
ACE	angiotensin I converting enzyme	CATCACCACAGAGACCAGCA	NM_000789.4
		CCGTACTTCAGGGTGTGGTT	
ACAT2	acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase 2	GCGGACCATCATAGGTTTCCTT	NM_005891.3
		TGCTGCCAAGACATGTCCAA	
DHCR24	24-dehydrocholesterol reductase	GGCATCGAGTCATCATCCCA	NM_014762.4
		TCTGAGTTTTTCGGACGGAGTG	
EIF2A	eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2A	CCGCTCTTGACAGTCCGA	NM_032025.5

		TTTGCAATTCTTCCCAGATTCCC	
EEF1A1	eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1 alpha 1	AATTGGCTACAACCCCGACA TGAACCAAGGCATGTTAGCAC	NM_001402.6
RPL34	ribosomal protein L34	CAGACTTCGAGGGGTTCGTG AGCACACATGGAACCACCAT	NM_001319236.1
IL6	interleukin 6	AGTTCCTGCAGAAAAAGGCAAAG CAGGCTGGCATTGTGGTTG	NM_000600.5
IL1A	interleukin 1 alpha	AAGACCAACCAGTGCTGCTG TGGATGGGCAACTGATGTGAA	NM_000575.5
CCL5	C-C motif chemokine ligand 5	CGTGCCACATCAAGGAGTA TCGGGTGACAAAGACGACTG	NM_002985.3
LTA	lymphotoxin alpha	CCGTCAGCACCCCAAGATG GCTGGGGTCTCCAATGAGG	NM_000595.4
TNF	tumor necrosis factor	TAGCCCATGTTGTAGCAAACCC GGACCTGGGAGTAGATGAGGT	NM_000594.4
IFNL2	interferon lambda 2	CCTTCACACCCTGCACCATA CAGCCAGGGGACTCCTTTTT	NM_172138.2
IFNB1	interferon beta 1	GACGCCGCATTGACCATCTA GTCTCATTCCAGCCAGTGCTA	NM_002176.4
IFNGR2	interferon gamma receptor 2	AACAATGGCAGATGCCTCCA GCACCGACAGCAACGAAAAT	NM_005534.4
NDUFS6	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 13 kDa-A subunit	GGTCGTGAGAAAGAGGTGAATGA CGCCATCGCACGCTATCA	NM_004553.6
ATP5PF	ATP synthase peripheral stalk subunit F6	TTGCGGAGGAACATTGGTGT CCTCCAGATGTCTGTGCTT	NM_001003703.2

ACE2	angiotensin I converting enzyme 2	TCATGCCTATGTGAGGGCAA	NM_001371415.1
		ACCCACATATCACCAAGCAA	
NFKB2	nuclear factor kappa B subunit 2	ATTCCAAACAGTTCACCTATTACCC	NM_001322934.2
		CCCAGAGCCTCCACCCAT	
NFKBIA	NFKB inhibitor alpha	CCCTACACCTTGCCTGTGAG	NM_020529.3
		TAGACACGTGTGGCCATTGT	
TMPRSS2	transmembrane serine protease 2	AGACCAGGAGTGTACGGGAA	NM_005656.4
		TTAGCCGTCTGCCCTCATT	
TNFAIP3	TNF alpha induced protein 3	CTGGGACCATGGCACAACCTC	NM_001270508.2
		CCCTGCTCGCTGTTTTCT	
TNFRSF9	TNF receptor superfamily member 9	TGCGAGAGAGCCAGGACA	NM_001561.1
		GAAACGGAGCGTGAGGAAGA	
GAPDH	glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	ACAGTCAGCCGCATCTTCTT	NM_002046.7
		CCCAATACGACCAAATCCGTTG	
B2M	beta-2-microglobulin	TCTCGCTCCGTGGCCTT	NM_004048.4
		CTGAATCTTTGGAGTACGCTGGA	
ORF3	ORF3 sgmRNA of SARS-CoV-2	CCAACCAACTTTCGATCTCTTGT	Not applied
		CCTTGCTTCAAAGTTACAGTTCCA	

References

1. Kim D, Lee J-Y, Yang J-S, Kim JW, Kim VN, Chang H. 2020. The Architecture of SARS-CoV-2 Transcriptome. *Cell* 181:914-921.e10.
2. Taiaroa G, Rawlinson D, Featherstone L, Pitt M, Caly L, Druce J, Purcell D, Harty L, Tran T, Roberts J, Scott N, Catton M, Williamson D, Coin L, Duchene S. 2020. Direct RNA sequencing and early evolution of SARS-CoV-2. *bioRxiv* doi:10.1101/2020.03.05.976167:2020.03.05.976167.