

## Supplementary Information

### The serine proteases dipeptidyl-peptidase 4 and urokinase are key molecules in human and mouse scar formation

Vera Vorstandlechner<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Maria Laggner<sup>1,2</sup>, Dragan Copic<sup>1,2</sup>, Katharina Klas<sup>1,2</sup>, Martin Direder<sup>1,2</sup>, Yiyang Chen<sup>4,5</sup>, Bahar Golabi<sup>4</sup>, Werner Haslik<sup>3</sup>, Christine Radtke<sup>3</sup>, Erwin Tschachler<sup>4</sup>, Konrad Hötzenecker<sup>6</sup>, Hendrik Jan Ankersmit<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Michael Mildner<sup>4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory for Cardiac and Thoracic Diagnosis, Regeneration and Applied Immunology, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna

<sup>2</sup>Aposcience AG (FN 308089y), Dresdner Straße 87/A21, Vienna, Austria.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

<sup>4</sup>Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

<sup>5</sup>University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien, Vienna, Austria

<sup>6</sup>Department of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

\* contributed equally to this work

corresponding authors:

Michael Mildner, PhD

Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna

Lazarettgasse 14, 1090 Vienna, Austria

e-mail: michael.mildner@meduniwien.ac.at

phone: +43 1-40400-73507

fax: +43-1-40400-73590

	Sex	Ethnicity	Age	Location	Etiology
Skin 1	F	caucasian	30	abdomen	healthy skin
Skin 2	F	caucasian	36	abdomen	healthy skin
Skin 3	F	caucasian	43	abdomen	healthy skin
			<b>Mean 36+/-6,506</b>		
Scar 1	F	caucasian	75	forearm	injury
Scar 2	M	caucasian	24	calf	burn
Scar 3	F	caucasian	54	axilla	surgical scar
			<b>Mean 51±26.6</b>		
			<b>p=0.391</b>		

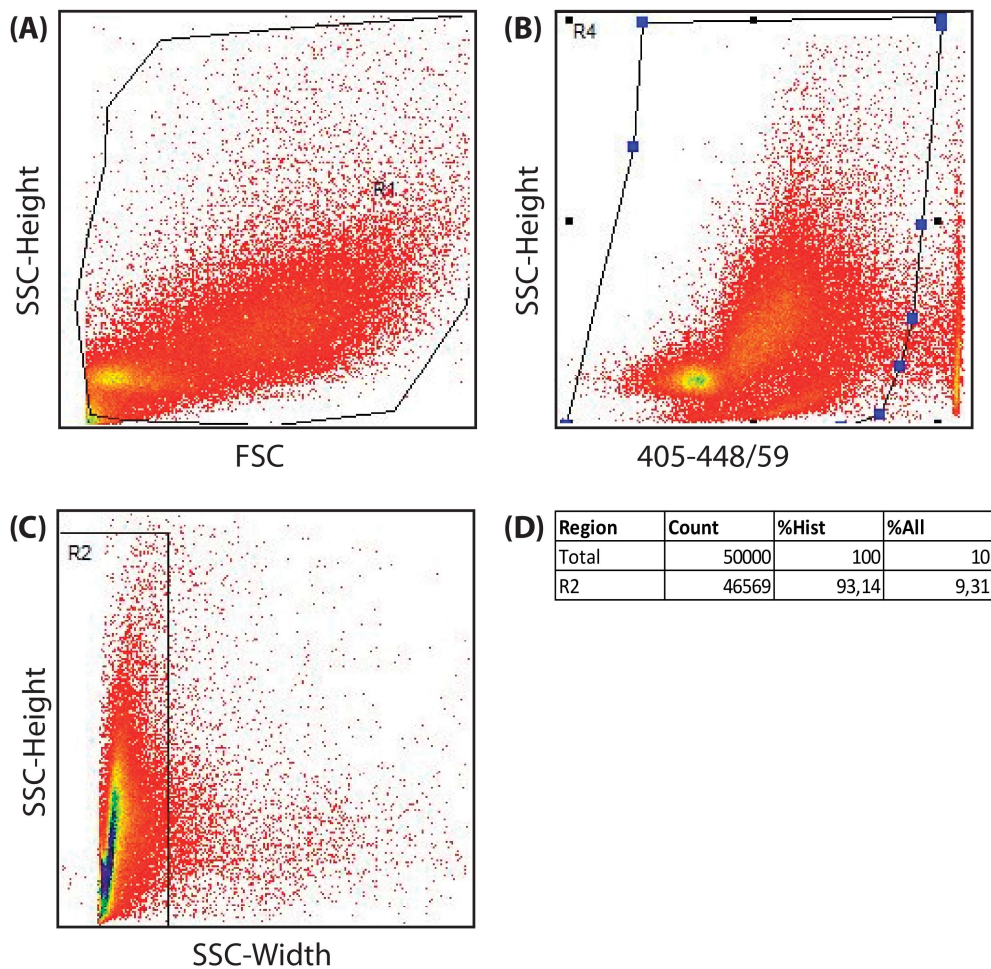
Table S1: Skin and scar donor demographics. Statistical significance of age was calculated using Student-t-test, p-value > 0.05, not significant.

Target	Supplier	Product Nr.	Host species	Dilution	Application
DPP4	abcam	ab215711	rabbit monoclonal	1:1000	IF (FFPE), WB
PLAU	Novus biologicals	NBP2-20819	rabbit polyclonal	1:100	IF (FFPE), WB
αSMA	abcam	ab7817	mouse monoclonal	1:200	WB
Fibronectin	abcam	ab2413	rabbit polyclonal	1:500	IF (FFPE)
COL3a1	abcam	ab7778	rabbit polyclonal	1:200	IF
GAPDH	abcam	ab8245	mouse monoclonal	1:10000	WB
SMAD 2/3	Cell signaling	Rabbit mAb 8685	rabbit monoclonal	1:500	WB
pSMAD2	Cell signaling	mAb 5339	rabbit polyclonal	1:1000	WB
pSMAD1/5/9	Cell signaling	mAb 13820	rabbit polyclonal	1:1000	WB
ERK 1/2	Cell signaling	Rabbit mAb #	rabbit polyclonal	1:1000	WB
pERK1/2	Cell signaling	mAb 4376	rabbit polyclonal	1:1000	WB
Alexa fluor® 546 anti-mouse IgG (H +	Invitrogen	A-11030	goat polyclonal	1:500	IF, 2nd step
Alexa fluor® 546 anti-rabbit IgG (H + L)	Invitrogen	A-11035	goat polyclonal	1:500	IF, 2nd step
Anti-mouse, HRP-conjugated	GE Healthcare	GENX-A931	goat polyclonal	1:10 000	WB, 2nd step
Anti-rabbit, HRP-conjugated	Bio-Rad	#1706515	goat polyclonal	1:10 000	WB, 2nd step

Table S2: Antibodies used in experiments

Gene	Forward primer	Reverse Primer
<i>B2M</i>	5'-GATGAGTATGCCTGCCGTGTG-3'	5'- CAATCCAAATGCGGCATCT-3'
<i>PLAU</i>	5'-UAAUUCUUCUGGAGGAGAGGGGC-3'	5'-GCCCUCCUCUCCUCCAGAAGAAUUA-3'
<i>DPP4</i>	5'GGAAUGCCAGGAGGAAGGAAUCUUU-3'	5'-AAAGAUUCCUCCUCCUGGCAUUC-3'
<i>COL1A1</i>	5'-GTGCTAAAGGTGCCAATGGT-3'	5'-CTCCTCGCTTTCCTTCCTCT-3'
<i>COL3A1</i>	5'-GTCCATGGATGGTGGTTTTTC-3'	5'-CACCTTCATTTGACCCCATC-3'
<i>COL5A1</i>	5'-GTCCATACCCGCTGGAAA-3'	5'-TCCATCAGGCAAGTTGTGAA-3'
<i>FN1</i>	5'-CTGCAGCCACAACCTTCTCTG-3'	5'-AGTTGCCACCAAGTTTGCTT-3'

Table S3: Primers used in PCR analyses



**Figure S1: FACS gating strategy for DAPI-negative cell sorting**

A) Cells from whole human or mouse skin, gated in side scatter (SSC) and forward scatter (FSC) to include all celltypes. B) Gating to exclude DAPI-positive cells C) Exclusion of cell doublets D) percentage and cell count per gating

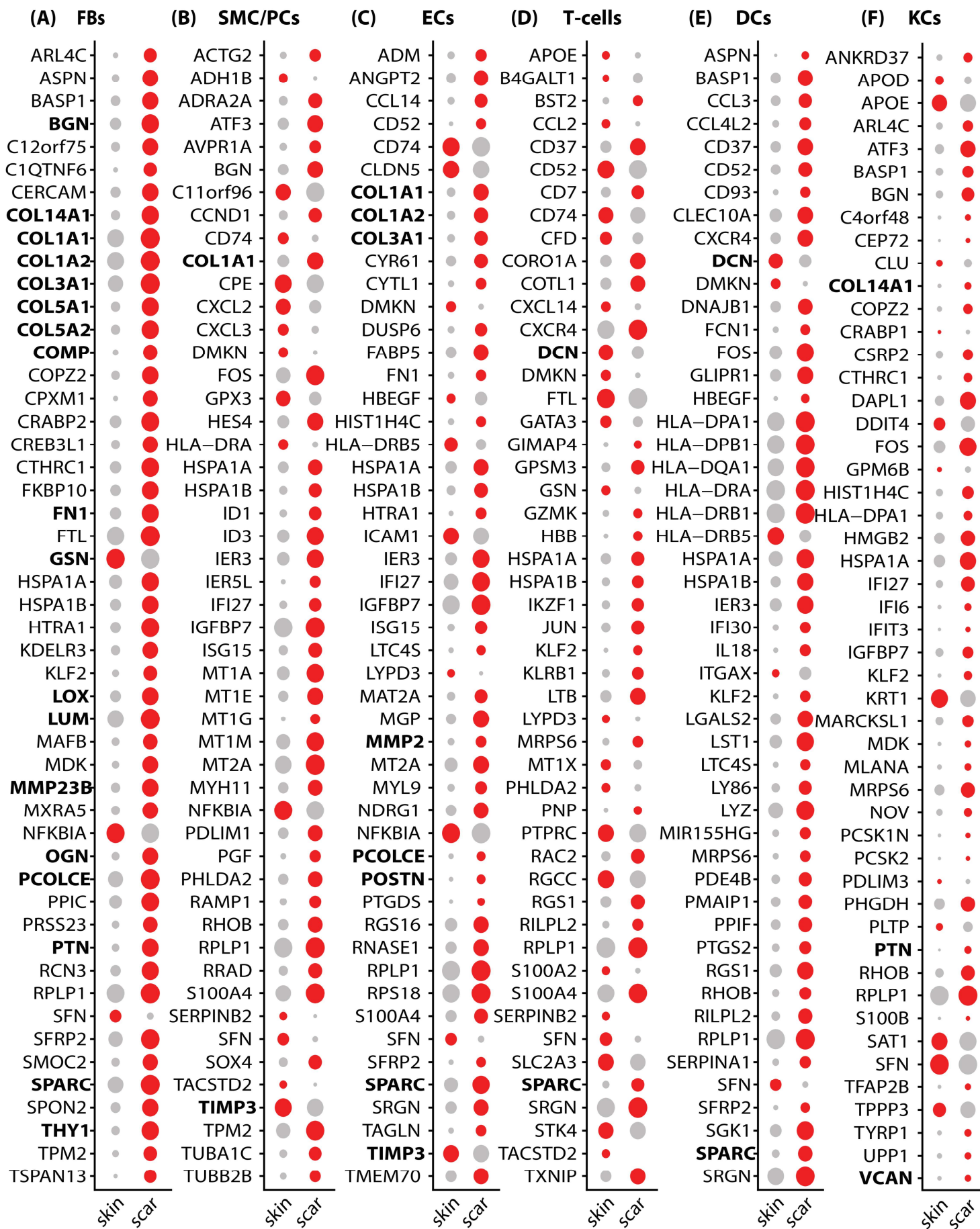






**Figure S2: Identification of cell types by marker genes and marker gene expression patterns in human skin and scar.**

A) Feature Plots of cluster markers *KRT1* (Keratin1) for spinous and granular keratinocytes (KCs), *KRT5* (Keratin 5) for basal KCs, *COL1A1* (collagen I alpha 1) for fibroblasts (FBs), *ACTA2* (smooth muscle actin) for smooth muscle cells and myofibroblasts, *RGS5* (Regulator Of G Protein Signaling 5) for pericytes, *SELE* (E-selectin) for endothelial cells, *LYVE1* (Lymphatic Vessel Endothelial Hyaluronan Receptor 1) for lymphatic endothelial cells, *CD3D* (cluster of differentiation 3D) for Tcells, *ITGAX* (Integrin Subunit Alpha X, CD11C) and *CD1A* for dendritic cells, *AIF1* (Allograft Inflammatory Factor 1) for macrophages, and *MLANA* (Melan-A) for melanocytes. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot. B) Heatmap of top 10 clustermarker (upregulated genes of each cluster compared to the rest of the dataset). Heatmap shows scaled expression values for genes, rows represent genes, columns represent individual cells. DEGs were calculated per cluster comparing scar versus skin using Wilcoxon rank sum test, including genes with average logarithmic fold change (avglogFC) of  $> 0.1$  or  $< -0.1$  and Bonferroni-adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$ . Feature plot shows projection of nDEG onto the UMAP-plot, color intensity represents nDEG. UMAP, uniform manifold approximation and projection.



Percent Expressed      Average Expression

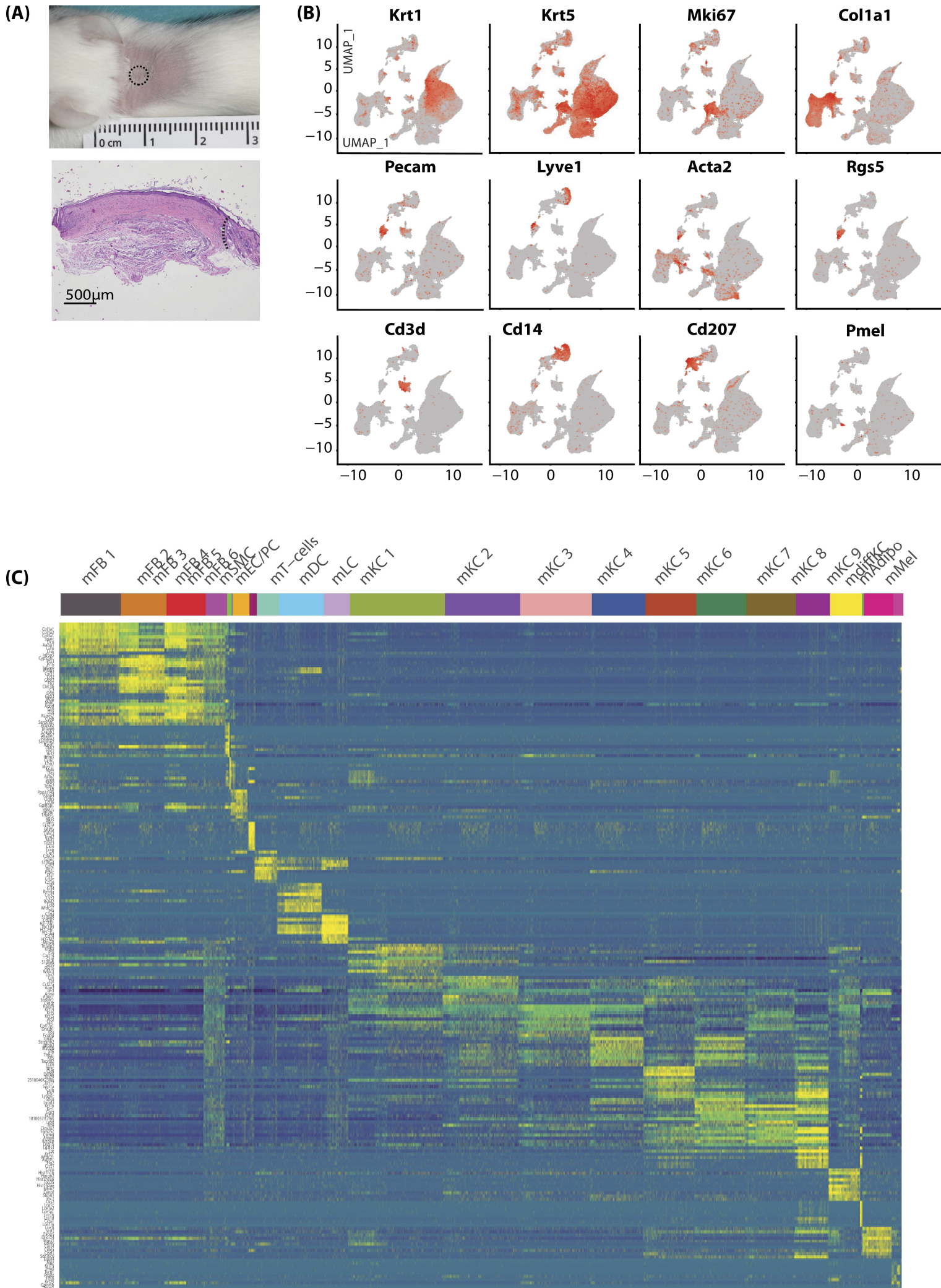


### **Figure S3: Top 50 regulated genes per cell group in scar compared to skin.**

In cell groups, i.e. A) Fibroblasts (FBs), B) smooth muscle cells and pericytes (SMC/PCs), C) endothelial cells (ECs), D) T-cells, E) dendritic cells (DCs), and keratinocytes (KCs), differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were calculated comparing scar versus skin using Wilcoxon rank sum test, including genes with average logarithmic fold change (avglogFC) of  $> 0.1$  or  $< -0.1$  and Bonferroni-adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$ . For each cell group, top 50 DEGs according to lowest adjusted p-value are displayed, split by skin and scar. ECM-related genes are in bold font. Dot size represents percent of cells expressing the respective gene, color correlates with average expression.

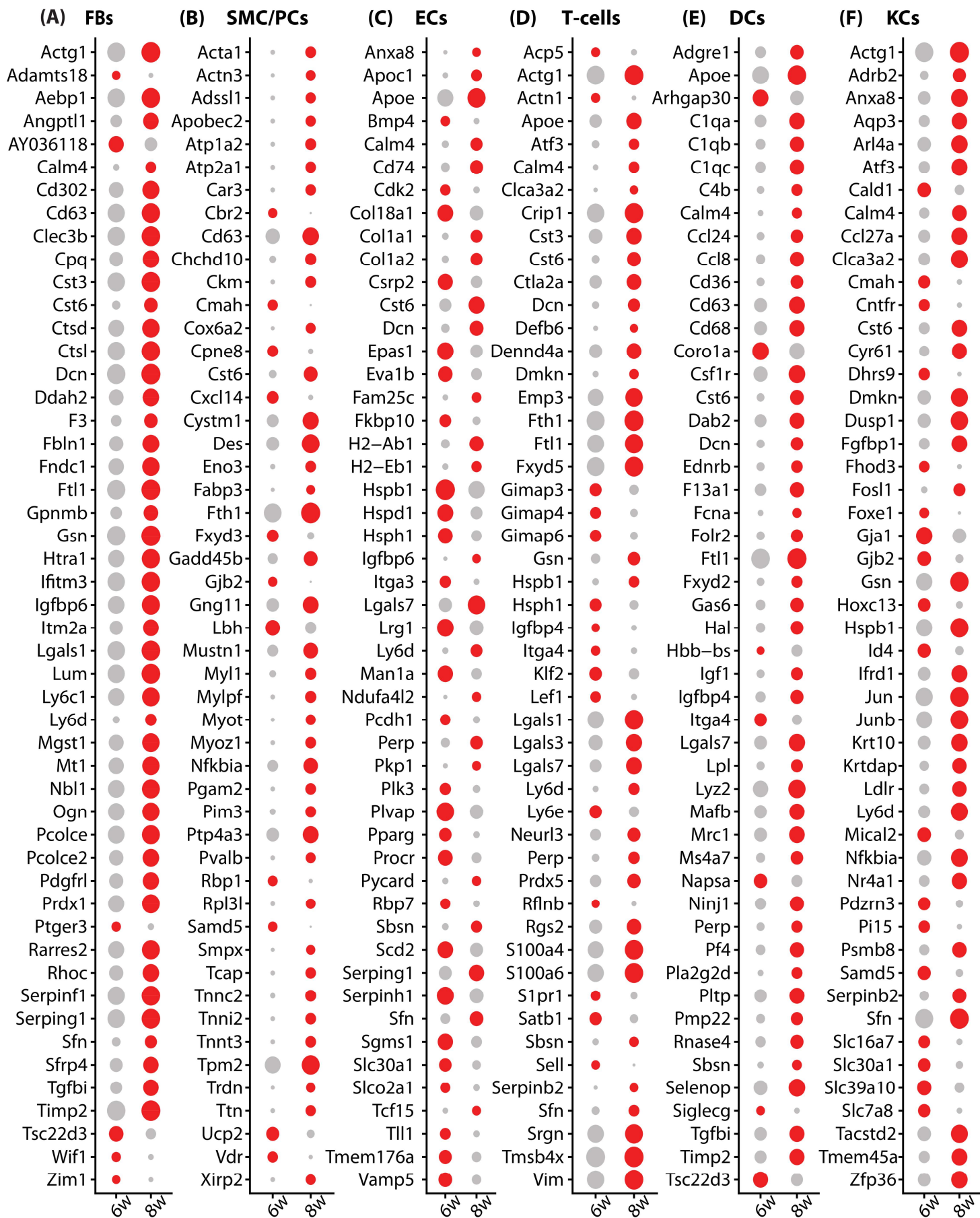


Figure S3

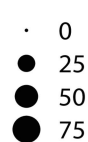


**Figure S4: Identification of cell types by marker genes and gene expression patterns in mouse scars.**

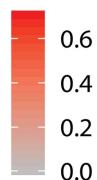
A) Macroscopic image and 4x microscopic image illustrating scar size relations. Dotted circle and dotted lines indicate scar tissue. B) Feature Plots of cluster markers *Krt1* (Keratin1) for spinous and granular keratinocytes (KCs), *Krt5* (Keratin 5) for basal KCs, *Mki67* (Marker Of Proliferation Ki-67) for proliferating cells, *Col1a1* (collagen I alpha 1) for fibroblasts, *Pecam* (Platelet And Endothelial Cell Adhesion Molecule 1) for endothelial cells, *Lyve1* (Lymphatic Vessel Endothelial Hyaluronan Receptor 1) for lymphatic endothelial cells, *Acta2* (smooth muscle actin) for smooth muscle cells and myofibroblasts, *Rgs5* (Regulator Of G Protein Signaling 5) for pericytes, *Cd3d* (cluster of differentiation 3D) for T-cells, *Cd14* for dendritic cells, *Cd207* (Langerin) for Langerhans cells, and *Pmel* (Premelanosome Protein) for melanocytes. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot. C) heatmap of top 10 upregulated clustermarker (differentially expressed genes of each cluster compared to the rest of the dataset). Heatmap showing scaled expression values for genes, rows represent genes, columns represent individual cells.



Percent Expressed



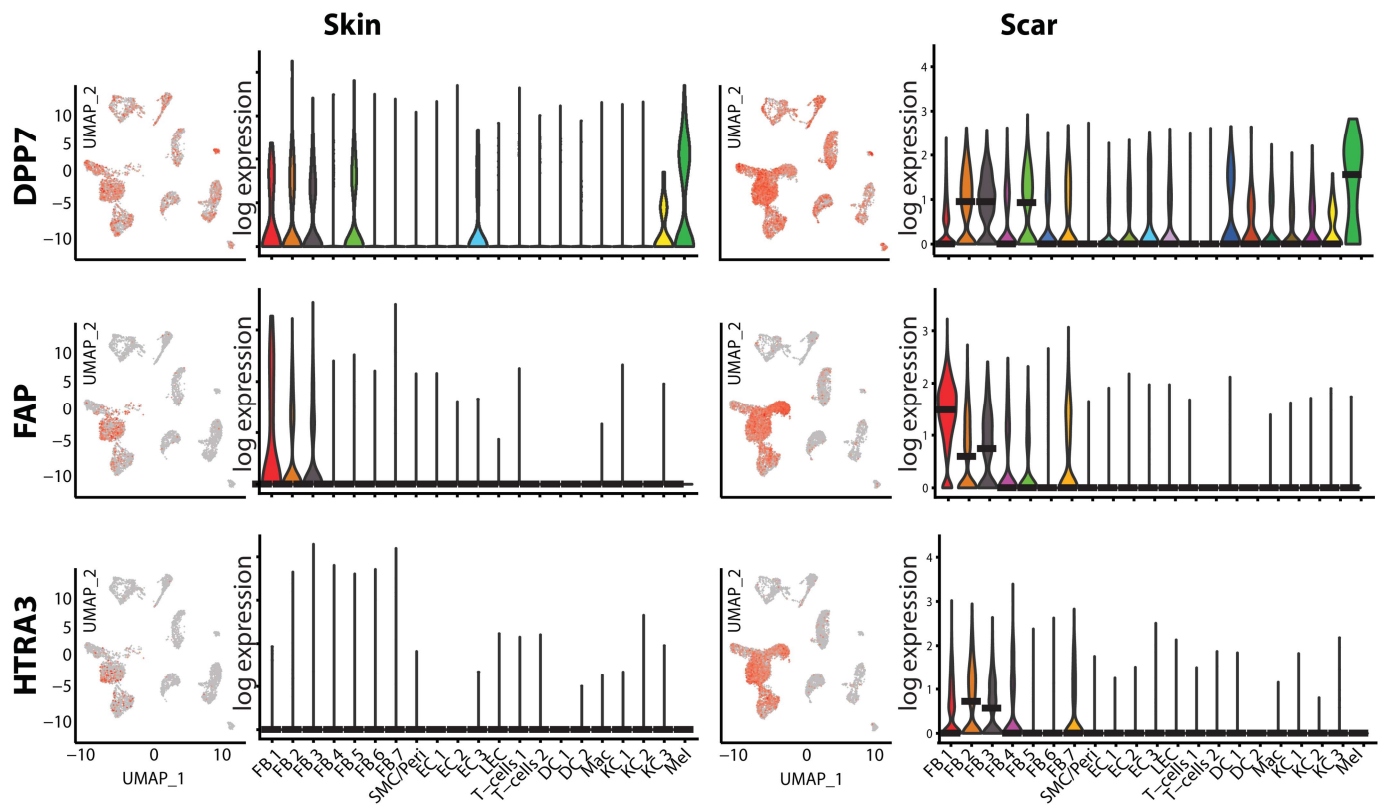
Average Expression





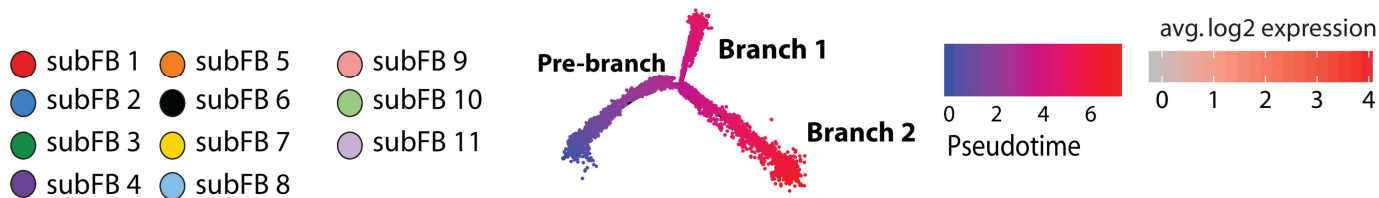
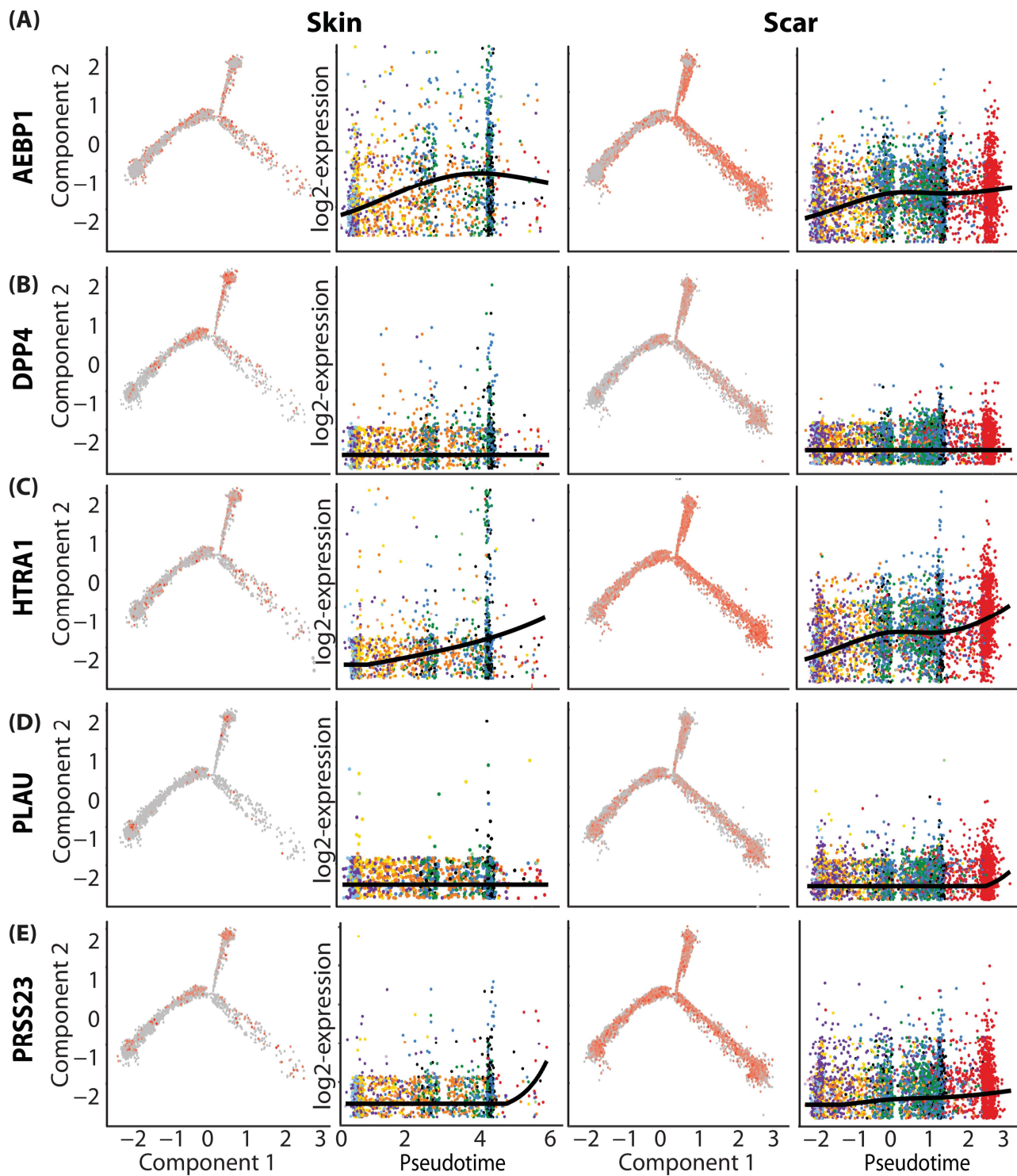
**Figure S5: Top 50 regulated genes per cell group in 6 weeks and 8 weeks old murine scars.**

In A) Fibroblasts (FBs), B) smooth muscle cells and pericytes (SMC/PCs), C) endothelial cells (ECs), D) T-cells, E) dendritic cells (DCs), and keratinocytes (KCs), differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were calculated comparing 8 weeks versus 6 weeks old mouse scars using Wilcoxon rank sum test, including genes with average logarithmic fold change (avg\_logFC) of  $>0.1$  or  $<-0.1$  and Bonferroni-adjusted p-value  $<0.05$ . For each cell group, top 50 DEGs according to lowest adjusted p-value are displayed, split by timepoint. Dot size represents percent of cells expressing the respective gene, color correlates with average expression.



**Figure S6: Feature Plots and Violin plots of serine proteases.**

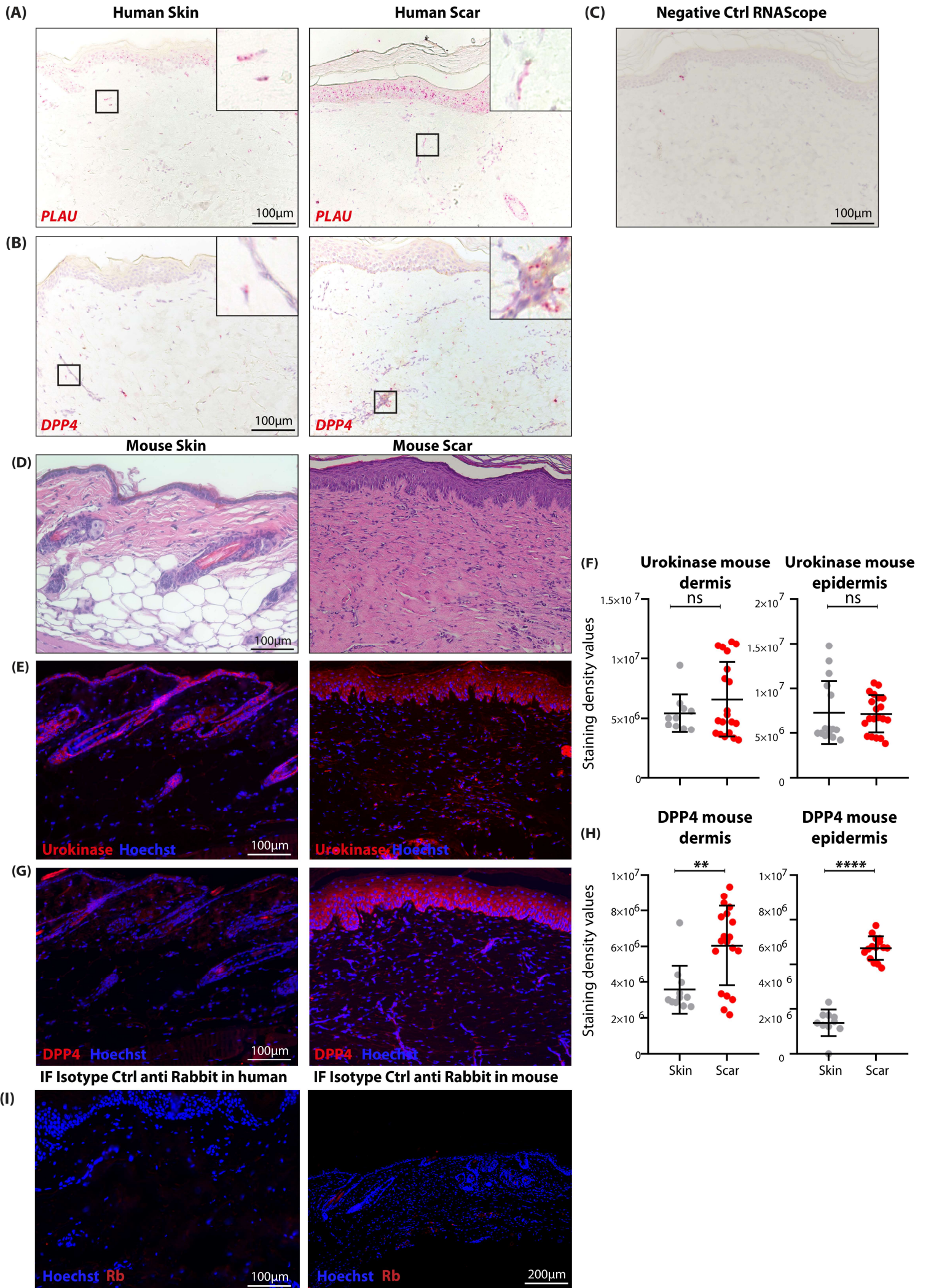
A-C) Feature plots and violin plots of serine proteases in human skin and scar. *DPP7* (dipeptidylpeptidase 7), *FAP* (Fibroblast Activation Protein Alpha), *HTRA3* (High-Temperature Requirement A Serine Peptidase 3). In violin plots, dots represent individual cells, y-axis represents log<sub>2</sub> fold change of the normalized genes and log-transformed single cell expression. Vertical lines in violin plots represent maximum expression, shape of each violin represents all results, and width of each violin represents frequency of respective expression level. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot. Color intensity indicates level of gene expressions. UMAP, uniform manifold approximation and projection





**Figure S7: Pseudotime analysis corroborates the putative role of serine proteases as drivers of scar maturation.**

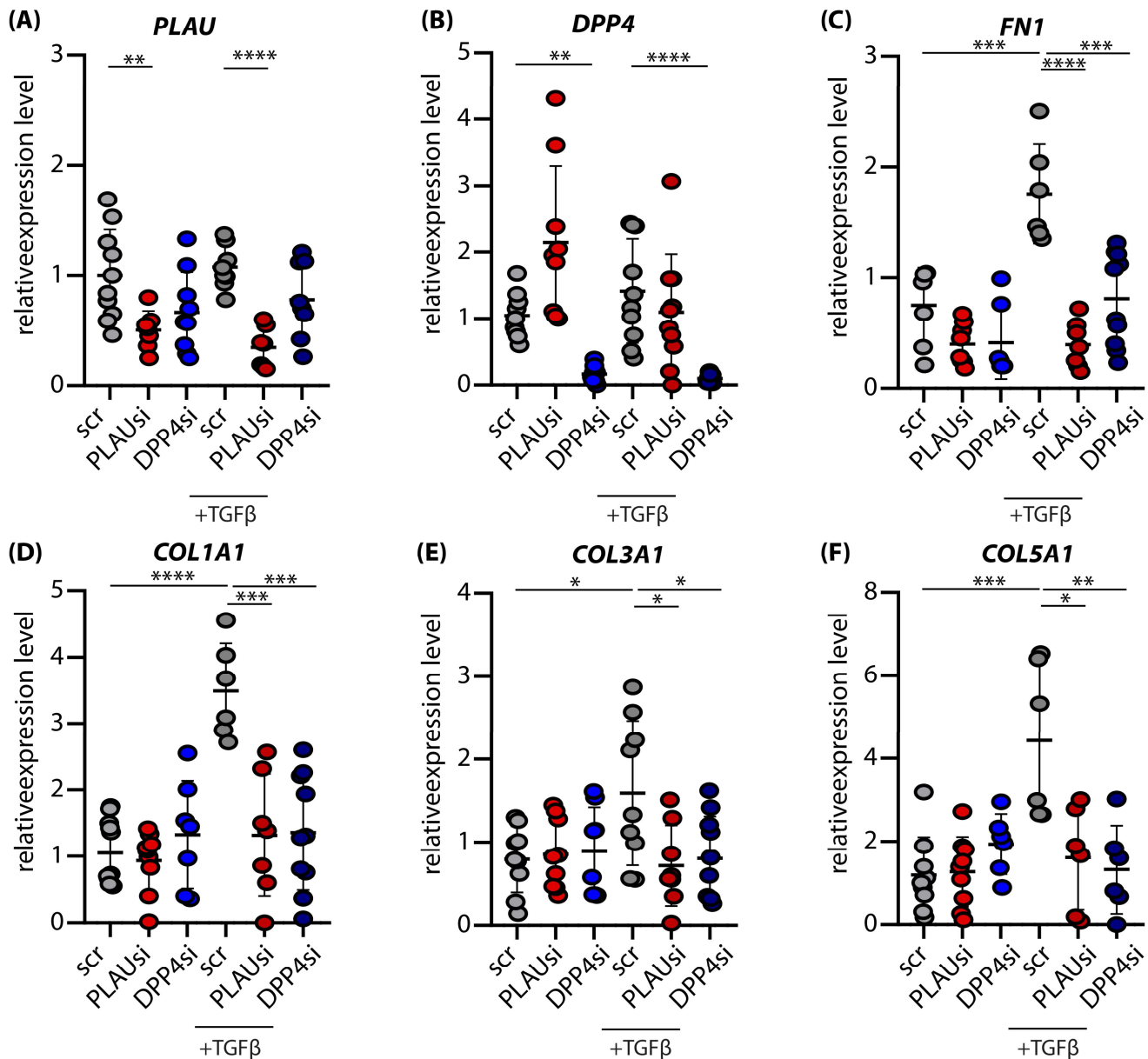
A-E) Trajectory plots and pseudotime plots of Serine proteases in skin and scar FBs. *AEBP1* (adipocyte enhancer binding protein 1), *DPP4* (dipeptidyl-peptidase 4), *HTRA1* (High-Temperature Requirement A Serine Peptidase 1), *PLAU* (urokinase), *PRSS23* (Serine protease 23). In trajectory plots, normalized log expressions are plotted on the trajectories, split by skin and scar. In pseudotime plots, normalized log expressions are plotted against the pseudotime axis, and a spline curve represents expression dynamics over pseudotime. Y-axis, normalized log expression of respective gene, x-axis, pseudotime.



**Figure S8: In-situ hybridization of *PLAU* and *DPP4* in human skin and scar.**

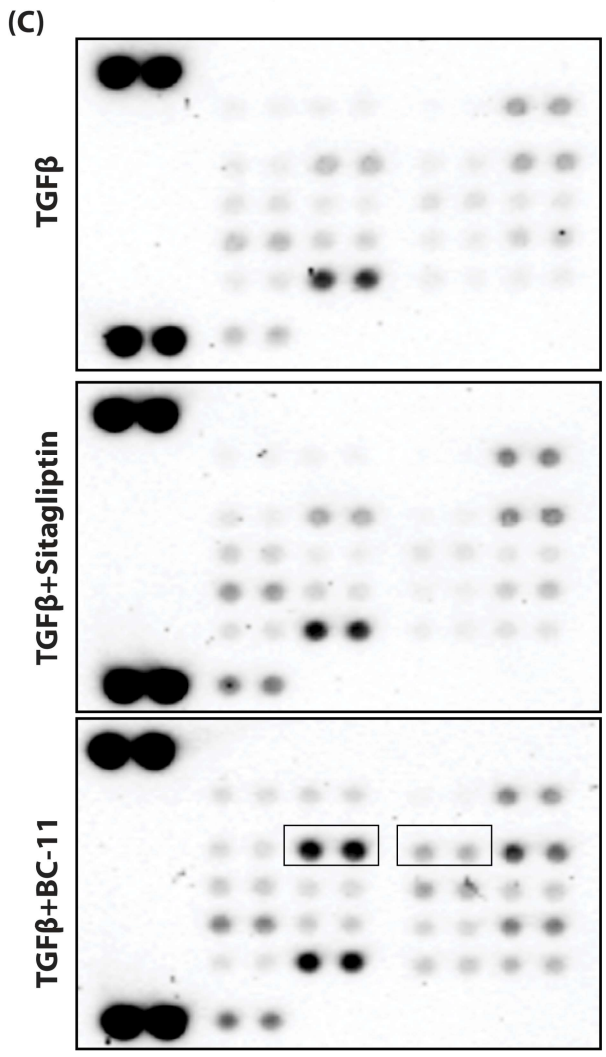
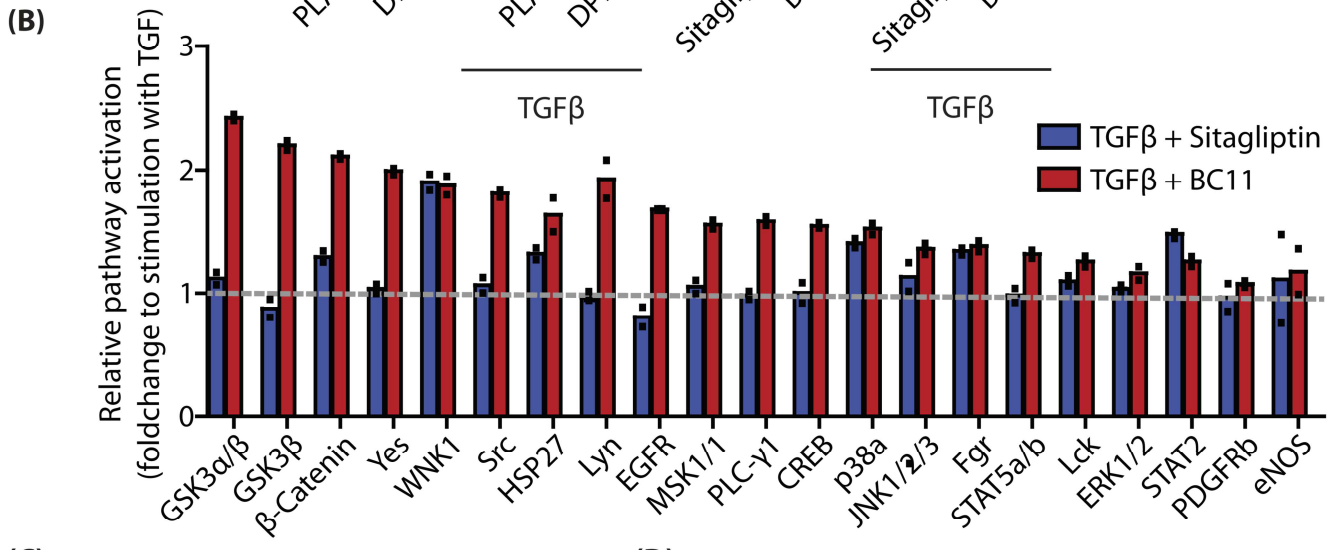
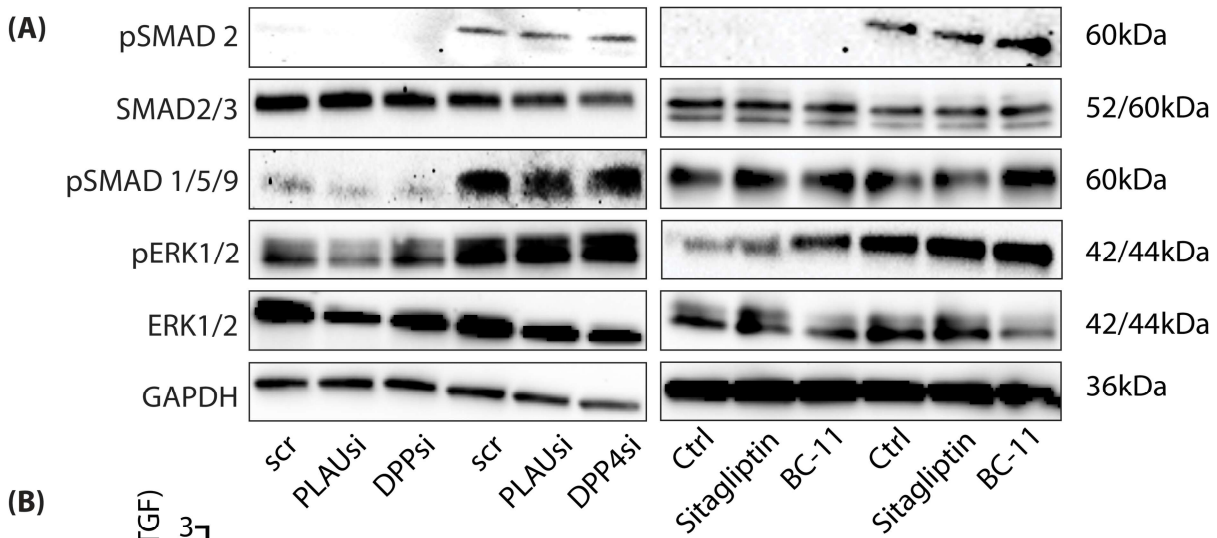
A, B) RNAScope in-hybridization of skin and scar tissue with *PLAU*- and *DPP4*-probes. Red dots indicate single mRNA molecules. Inserts show high magnification micrographs. C) Negative control image of RNAScope experiments. Universal negative control with probes targeting the *DapB* gene (accession # EF191515) from the *Bacillus subtilis* strain SMY was used. D) H&E images from mouse skin and scar. E, G) Immunofluorescence stainings from E) urokinase and G) *DPP4* in mouse skin and scars. F,H) Quantification of staining intensity from urokinase and *DPP4* in skin and scar, analyzed separately for epidermis and dermis. Urokinase mouse dermis  $p=0.2813$ ; Urokinase mouse epidermis  $p=0.8915$ ; *DPP4* mouse dermis  $p=0.0025$ ; *DPP4* mouse epidermis  $p<0.0001$  I) Isotype ctrl images of Rb IgG in human and mouse samples.  $n=3$  biologically independent samples of healthy mouse skin and  $n=4$  samples of mouse scars were analyzed. Lines and error bars represent mean and standard deviation. From each sample, five regions of interest per sample were quantified. For ELISA, analysis was performed in duplicates for three donors each. Statistical significance was tested using two-tailed unpaired Student t-test. NS  $p>0.05$ , \* $p<0.05$ , \*\* $p<0.01$ , \*\*\* $p<0.001$ .





**Figure S9: PCR analysis of serine protease and ECM genes after knockdown.**

PCR analysis of *PLAU*, *DPP4*, *FN1*, *COL1A1*, *COL3A1* and *COL5A1* expression in primary FBs after stimulation with scrambled (scr) RNA, small interfering (si) RNA targeting *PLAU* or *DPP4*, and upon stimulation with or without TGF<sub>1</sub>. Y-axis represents fold expression as calculated in reference to housekeeping gene *B2M*. A) scr vs PLAUsi p=0.0249, scr vs PLAUsi + TGFβ1 p= p>0.001; B) scr + TGFβ1 vs DPP4si p=0.0012, scr + TGFβ1 vs DPP4si + TGFβ1 p= p<0.0001 C) scr vs scr+ TGFβ1 p=0.0008, scr + TGFβ1 vs PLAUsi + TGFβ1 p<0.0001; scr + TGFβ1 vs DPP4si + TGFβ1=0.0008 D) scr vs scr+ TGFβ1 p= 0.0001, scr + TGFβ1 vs PLAUsi + TGFβ1 p= 0.0232; scr+ TGFβ1 vs DPPsi+ TGFβ1 p=0.0039 E) scr vs scr + TGFβ1 p= 0.242, scr vs PLAUsi+ TGFβ1 p=0.010, scr vs DPP4si+ TGFβ1 p=0.0291; F) scr vs scr+ TGFβ1 p= 0.0051, scr + TGFβ1 vs PLAUsi + TGFβ1 p= 0.0144; scr+ TGFβ1 vs DPPsi+ TGFβ1 p=0.040 n=6 biologically independent samples were analyzed in technical duplicates. Lines and error bars represent mean with standard deviation. Statistical significance was tested using one-way ANOVA with Tukey post-test. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001.

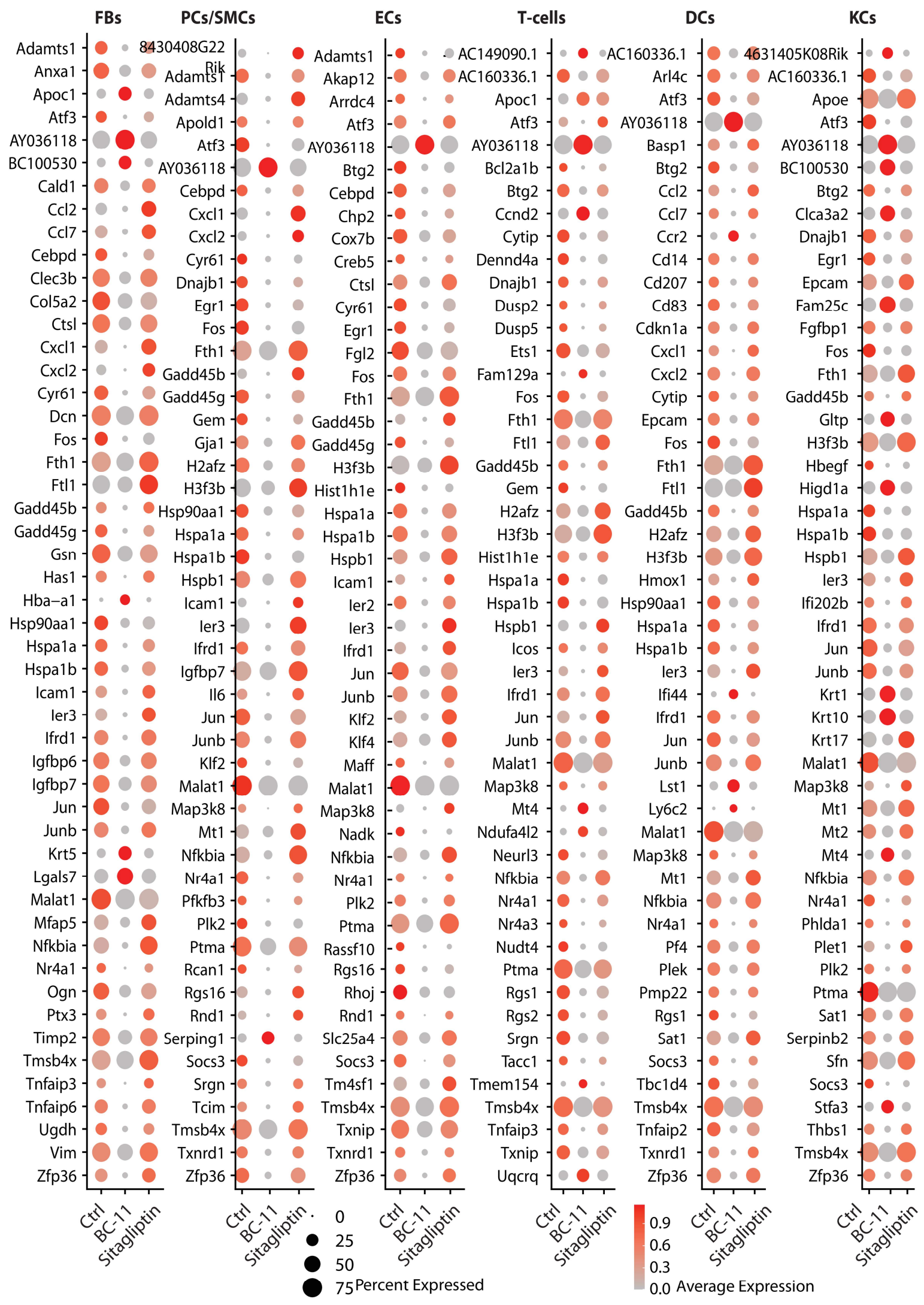


**(D)**

A1,2	A3,4	A5,6	A7,8	A9,10
Reference spots				
B1,2	B3,4	B5,6	B7,8	B9,10
	CREB	EGFR	eNOS	ERK1/2
C1,2	C3,4	C5,6	C7,8	C9,10
	Fgr	GSK3α/β	GSK3β	HSP27
D1,2	D3,4	D5,6	D7,8	D9,10
	JNK1/2/3	Lck	Lyn	MSK1/2
E1,2	E3,4	E5,6	E7,8	E9,10
	p38a	PDGF β	1 γ C	Src P
F1,2	F3,4	F5,6	F7,8	F9,10
	STAT2	STAT5a/b	WNK1	Yes
G1,2	G3,4	G5,6	G7,8	G9,10
Reference spots				Negative control (PBS)

**Figure S10: Signaling pathway activation after TGF $\beta$ -stimulation and DPP4/PLAU inhibition.**

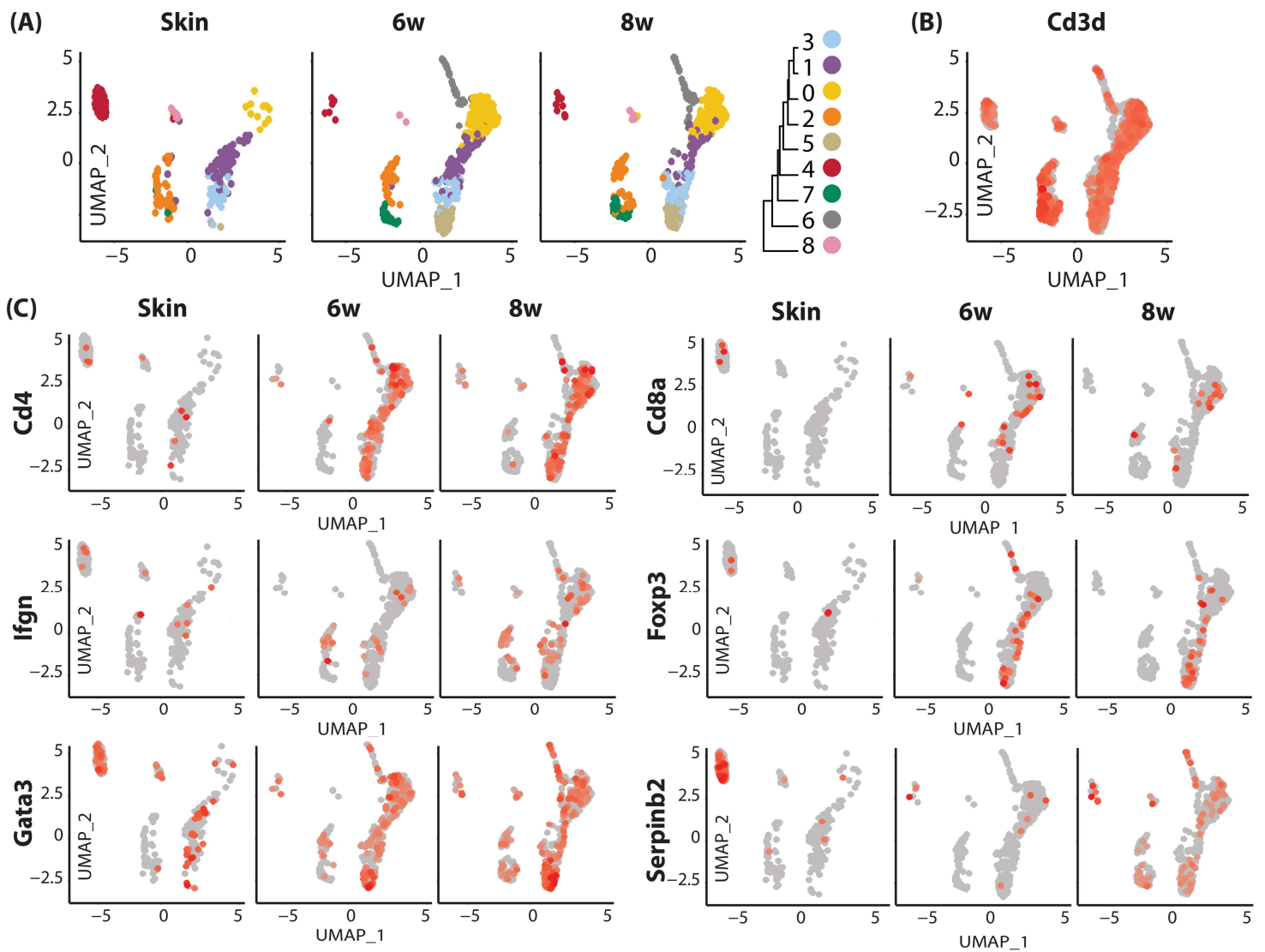
A) Western blot of primary FB lysates stimulated with active TGF $\beta$ 1 for 1h and analysis of canonical TGF $\beta$ 1 signaling pathways. B) Analysis of non-canonical TGF $\beta$ 1 signaling pathways and kinase pathways detected by proteome profiler from lysates of primary FBs after 1h stimulation with TGF $\beta$ 1 alone, TGF $\beta$ 1 with sitagliptin, and TGF $\beta$ 1 with BC-11. Bars represent fold change compared to stimulation with TGF $\beta$ 1 only, marked by dotted line. Proteome profiler analysis of signaling pathways of primary human skin FBs stimulated with TGF $\beta$  and inhibitors. Values show technical duplicates of pooled samples from n=3 biologically independent donors. C) TGF $\beta$ 1, B) TGF $\beta$ 1 and DPP4-inhibitor Sitagliptin, and TGF $\beta$ 1 and PLAU-inhibitor BC-11. GSK3 $\alpha$ / $\beta$  and GSK3 $\beta$  are marked by squares in the BC-11 treated blot. D) Legend table for proteome profiler data points.





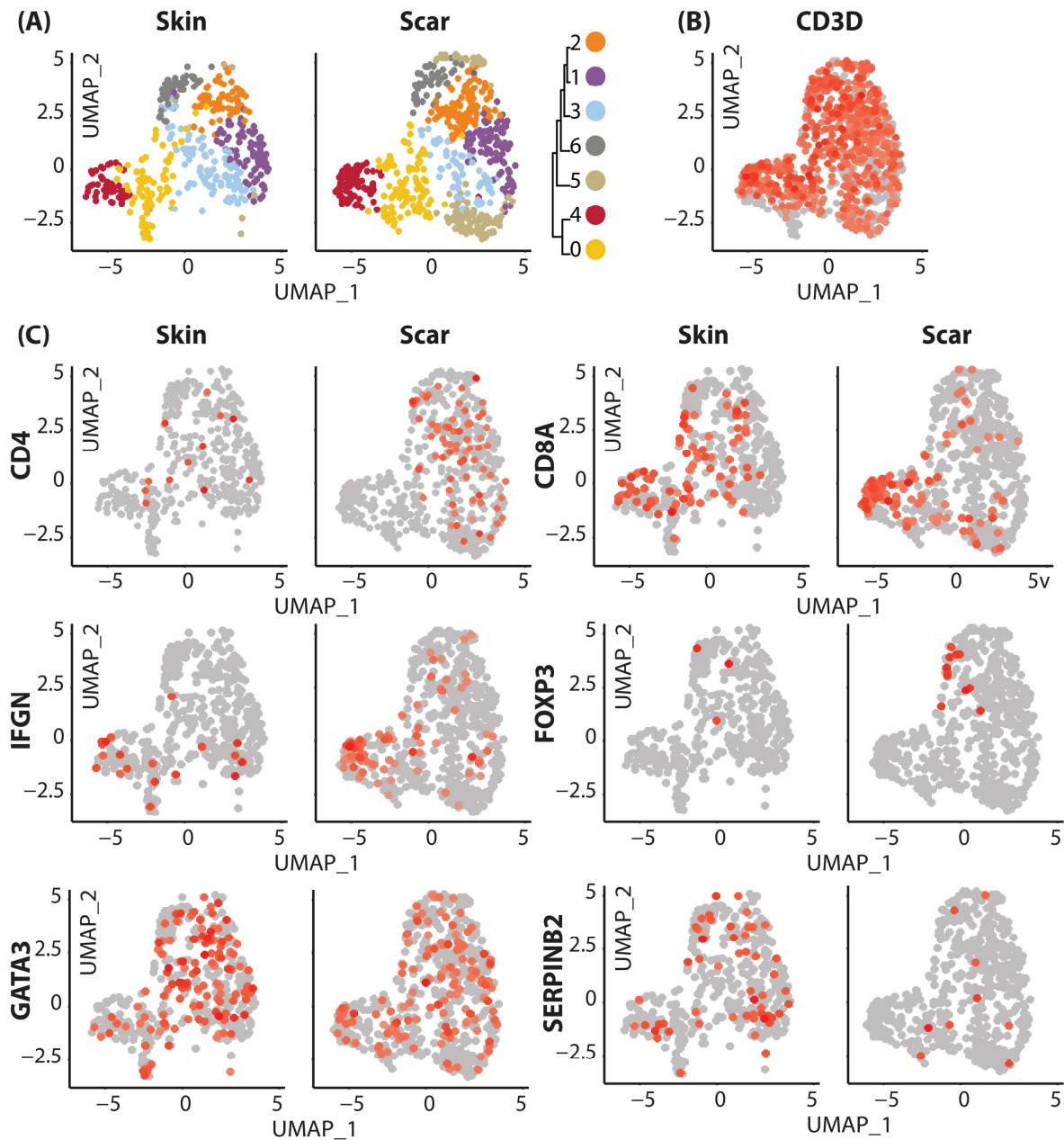
**Figure S11: Top 50 regulated genes per cell group in protease-inhibitor stimulated murine scars.**

In A) fibroblasts (FBs), B) smooth muscle cells and pericytes (SMC/PCs), C) endothelial cells (ECs), D) T-cells, E) dendritic cells (DCs), and keratinocytes (KCs), differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were calculated comparing BC-11 and Sitagliptin-treated scars with Ctrl scars using Wilcoxon rank sum test, including genes with average logarithmic fold change (avglogFC) of  $> 0.1$  or  $< -0.1$  and Bonferroni-adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$ . For each cell group, top 50 DEGs according to lowest adjusted p-value are displayed, split by timepoint. Dot size represents percent of cells expressing the respective gene, color correlates with average expression.



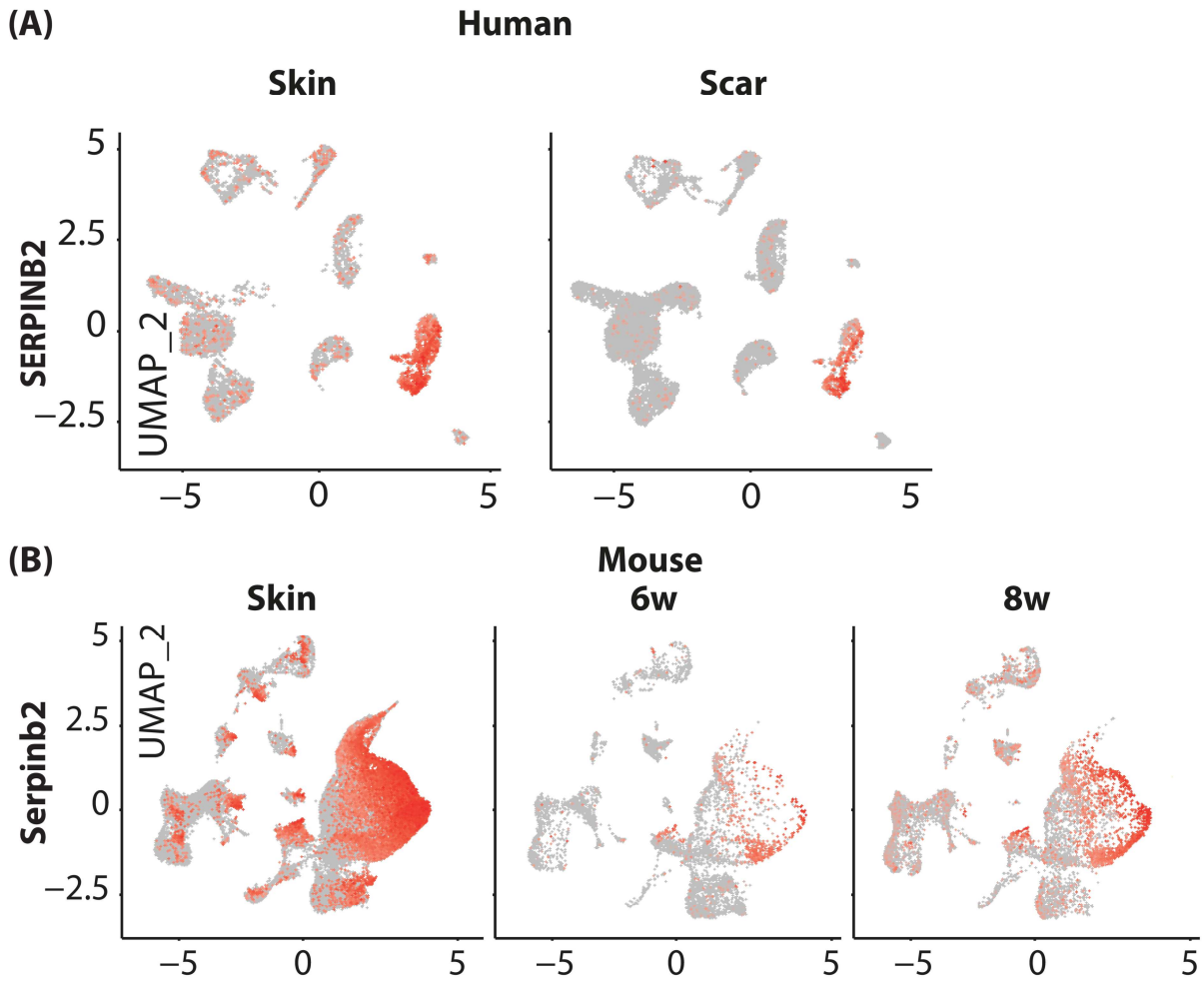
**Figure S12: T-cell analysis in mouse scars**

A) Subset of t-cells in mouse scar by unsupervised UMAP-clustering, split by timepoint. B) Feature plot of Cd3d in mouse t-cell subset. C) Feature plots of *Cd4* (cluster of differentiation 4), *Cd8a* (cluster of differentiation 4), *Ifgn* (interferon gamma), *Foxp3* (forkhead box P3), *Gata3* (GATA Binding Protein 3) and *Serpinb2* (Serpin Family B Member 2), split by timepoint. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot.



**Figure S13: T-cell analysis in human scars.**

A) Subset of t-cells in human scar by unsupervised UMAP-clustering, split by tissue. B) Feature plots of *CD3D* in human t-cell subset. C) Feature plots of *CD4* (cluster of differentiation 4), *CD8A* (cluster of differentiation 4), *IFGN* (interferon gamma), *FOXP3* (forkhead box P3), *GATA3* (GATA Binding Protein 3) and *SERPINB2* (Serpin Family B Member 2), split by tissue. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot.



**Figure S14: SERPINB2-expression in human and mouse.**

Feature plots of *SERPINB2* (Serpin Family B Member 2) in A) human hypertrophic scar and skin and, split by tissue. B) mouse skin, 6 and 8 weeks old scars, split by timepoint. In feature plots, normalized log expression of the respective gene is mapped onto the UMAP-plot.