

Micropeptide ASAP encoded by LINC00467 promotes colorectal cancer progression by directly modulating ATP synthase activity

Supplemental Figures

Figure S1. Characterization of the coding potential of LINC00467.

A The GEO dataset GSE37364 indicates LINC00467 expression levels in CRC tissues ($n = 27$) and adjacent normal tissues ($n = 38$). Bounds of box show the 25th and 75th percentiles, and the central lines in the box represent the median value. Whiskers: 10-90 percentile. Outlying value: 8.63, 8.37, 7.87, 6.98, 6.94, 6.70 (N), 9.20, 9.17, 6.99, 6.63 (T). Independent-samples two-sided Student's t -test; $**P < 0.01$.

B and **C** RT-qPCR detection of *LINC00467* expression in cytoplasmic and nuclear fractionations in HCT116 (**B**) and RKO (**C**) cells. *GAPDH* is a mRNA mainly located in the cytoplasm which was used as a cytosolic transcript marker; *XIST* is a lncRNA mainly located in the nucleus which was used as a nuclear transcript marker. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments.

D Indicated constructs were expressed in HCT116 cells, and the Flag signal was detected by Western blot analysis.

E Diagram of the GFP fusion constructs. The start codon of MutGFP was mutated from ATGGTG to ATTGTT. The start codon of MutORF was mutated from ATG to ATT.

F and **G** The GFP signal in indicated cells was observed in microscope (**F**) and detected by Western blot analysis (**G**). Scale bar, 100 μ m.

H The ORF1-Flag fusion protein in Flag-KI HEK293T cells was detected by Western blot analysis.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**D**, **F-H**).

Figure S2. Sequence, 3D structures, conservative analysis of ASAP peptides.

A The amino acid sequences of the ASAP peptide encoded by the LINC00467 ORF1 of *H. sapiens*. The ATG start codon and TGA stop codon are highlighted in red.

B 3D structures of ASAP peptide were modeled by C-I-TASSER algorithm.

C Multi-species alignment of the ASAP using PRALINE algorithm after *in silico* translation of the conserved homologous ORFs in the indicated species.

Figure S3. The establishment of antibody and cell lines used in the study.

A HCT116 cells were transfected with anti-*LINC00467* siRNAs, and *LINC00467* levels were determined by RT-qPCR. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

B HCT116 cells were transfected with anti-*LINC00467* siRNAs, and ASAP levels were detected by Western blot analysis.

C The expression of ASAP peptide in RKO cells was detected by immunofluorescence with prepared anti-ASAP antibody. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

D The expression of ASAP peptide in CRC cells was detected using Western blot analysis.

E ASAP-3 \times Flag construct was transfected into HCT116 and RKO cells. Immune blot using anti-ASAP antibody was performed to detect endogenous ASAP and exogenous Flag-ASAP in the same IB.

F Schematic diagram showing the ASAP KO strategy in CRC cell lines using a CRISPR/Cas9 system.

G The *LINC00467* levels in ASAP KO cells were determined by RT-qPCR. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. Independent-samples two-sided Student's *t*-test.

H The ribosomal *LINC00467* levels in ASAP KO cells were determined by polysome profiling followed by RT-qPCR. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. Independent-samples two-sided Student's *t*-test; *** $P < 0.001$.

I The ASAP levels in ASAP KO cells were determined by Western blot analysis.

J-M The ASAP levels in indicated cells were determined by Western blot analysis.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**B-E, I-M**).

Figure S4. ASAP is localized in mitochondria.

A Line scan of the relative fluorescence intensity of the signal (dotted line in **Figure 2B**) is plotted to show the peak overlapping.

B The immunofluorescence of ASAP (green) and MitoTracker (red) in RKO cells. Nuclei

were stained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar, 10 μ m.

C Line scan of the relative fluorescence intensity of the signal (dotted line in **Figure S4B**) is plotted to show the peak overlapping.

D Immunoblot detection of ASAP in the purified mitochondria from RKO cells with the indicated protein markers to confirm the efficiency of the established isolation method for mitochondria (SDHA and TOM20 for mitochondria and Vinculin and α -Tubulin for the cytosol). Cyto, cytosol; Mito, mitochondria.

E Mitochondria were isolated from RKO cells and subjected to proteinase K (PK) digestion at the indicated concentrations at 37 °C. Mitochondria lysed in RIPA buffer served as a control for the total mitochondrial fraction. Western blots were performed for markers of the OMM (TOM20), IMM (ATP5A), or endogenous ASAP protein.

F Mitochondria were isolated from RKO cells and subjected to PK (10³ ng/mL) proteolysis in the presence or absence of detergent (1% Triton). Western blot analysis was performed using antibodies for ASAP or for the sub-mitochondrial markers ATP5A and TOM20.

G Line scan of the relative fluorescence intensity of the signal (dotted line in **Figure 2F**) was plotted to show the peak overlapping.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**B, D-F**).

Figure S5. ASAP regulates mitochondrial ATP production.

A-C Relative mitochondrial ATP production was detected. Indicated HCT116 and RKO cells were treated with recording buffer (with 5 mM 2-DG and 5 mM pyruvate) to determine ATP generation under mitochondrial ATP synthesis. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

D-G The relative whole cell ATP production of indicated HCT116 and RKO cells was detected. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

H-J Oxygen consumption rate (OCR) profile was monitored in indicated HCT116 and RKO cells with a Seahorse XF24 analyzer for 75 min. The metabolic inhibitors were injected sequentially at different time points as indicated. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments.

Figure S6. ASAP promotes colorectal cancer cell proliferation in vitro.

A and B The colony formation assay was performed on wild-type, ASAP, LINC00467 (Lnc467 for short), or Mut-LINC00467 (Mut-Lnc467 for short)-overexpressing HCT116 (**A**) or RKO (**B**) cells. Representative images from each group (left) and statistical analysis (right) are shown. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; $***P < 0.001$.

C and D The colony formation assay was performed on wild-type, ASAP KO, LINC00467 (Lnc467 for short), or Mut-LINC00467 (Mut-Lnc467 for short)-restored HCT116 (**C**) or RKO (**D**) cells. Representative images (left) from each group and statistical analysis (right) are shown. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; $***P < 0.001$.

Figure S7. ASAP promotes colorectal cancer cell proliferation in vivo.

A and B The weight of tumors from **Figure 3E (A)** and **Figure 3G (B)**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; $***P < 0.001$.

C Representative IHC staining in randomly selected tumors from **Figure 3E** and **Figure 3G** are shown. Scale bar, 200 μ m.

D and E The relative intensities of IHC (**Figure S7C**) were quantified in 10 random fields from 5 tumors in each group by ImageJ software (version 1.51). Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor samples per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; $***P < 0.001$.

F and G The weight of tumors from **Figure 3I (F)** and **Figure 3K (G)**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; $***P < 0.001$.

Figure S8. The expression and biological behavior of ASAP in normal intestinal epithelial cells.

A Immune blot was performed to detect ASAP levels in indicated cell lines.

B Western blot detection of ASAP in the purified mitochondria from NCM460 cells with the indicated protein markers to confirm the efficiency of the established isolation method

for mitochondria (SDHA and TOM20 for mitochondria and Vinculin and α -Tubulin for the cytosol). Cyto, cytosol; Mito, mitochondria.

C The immunofluorescence of ASAP (green) and MitoTracker (red) in NCM460 cells. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

D The CCK-8 assay was used to determine the proliferation rate of indicated cells. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. Two-way ANOVA; *** $P < 0.001$.

E Mitochondrial ATP production was detected. Indicated NCM460 cells were treated with recording buffer (with 5 mM 2-DG and 5 mM pyruvate) to determine ATP generation under mitochondrial ATP synthesis. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. Independent-samples two-sided Student's t -test; *** $P < 0.001$.

F The CCK-8 assay was used to determine the proliferation rate of indicated cells. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. Two-way ANOVA.

G Mitochondrial ATP production was detected. Indicated NCM460 cells were treated with recording buffer (with 5 mM 2-DG and 5 mM pyruvate) to determine ATP generation under mitochondrial ATP synthesis. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. Independent-samples two-sided Student's t -test. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**A-C**).

Figure S9. Identification of interplay between ASAP and candidate proteins.

A-C ATP5B-His (**A**), HADHA-His (**B**), or SLC25A3-His (**C**) were co-overexpressed with SFB-ASAP in HEK293T cells. Co-IP assays were performed to detect the ASAP-ATP5B (**A**), ASAP-HADHA (**B**) and ASAP-SLC25A3 (**C**) interaction.

D Co-IP assays showing the endogenous interaction between ASAP and both ATP5A and ATP5C in NCM460 cells.

E ASAP-His was co-expressed SFB-ATP5A, SFB-ATP5B, SFB-ATP5C, SFB-ATP5D, SFB-ATP5E, respectively. Co-IP assays was performed to detect the interaction between ASAP and ATP synthase F1 domain subunits.

F The protein levels of ATP5A and ATP5C in indicated cells were detected by Western blot analysis.

G and **H** The relative activities of respiratory Complex V (ATP Synthase) were investigated in tumors from **Figure 3E** and **Figure 3G**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor samples per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**A-F**).

Figure S10. Molecular docking indicates key residues of ASAP contribute to interaction between ASAP and ATP synthase.

A Molecular docking analysis of ASAP and ATP synthase (Only one ATP5A and ATP5C are shown).

B Molecular docking shows critical residues contribute to ASAP-ATP5A interaction.

C Molecular docking shows critical residues contribute to ASAP-ATP5C interaction.

D SFB-ATP5A was co-overexpressed with WT or mutant ASAP (D65A) in HEK293T cells. Co-IP assays were performed to detect the ASAP-ATP5A interaction.

E SFB-ATP5C was co-overexpressed with WT or mutant ASAP (K79A) in HEK293T cells. Co-IP assays were performed to detect the ASAP-ATP5C interaction.

F SFB-ATP5A was co-overexpressed with WT or Mut-ASAP (K79A and D65A) in HEK293T cells. Co-IP assays were performed to detect the ASAP-ATP5A interaction.

G SFB-ATP5C was co-overexpressed with WT or Mut-ASAP (K79A and D65A) in HEK293T cells. Co-IP assays were performed to detect the ASAP-ATP5C interaction.

H and **I** Flag-Mut-ASAP constructs were infected in HCT116 (**H**) and RKO (**I**) cells, and Flag signal (green) and markers of the mitochondria (MitoTracker, red) were detected using immunofluorescence staining. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**D-I**).

Figure S11. The interaction between ASAP and ATP synthase is crucial for the function of ASAP.

A and **B** The relative whole cell ATP production of indicated HCT116 (**A**) and RKO (**B**) cells was detected. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

C and **D** The relative activities of respiratory Complex V (ATP Synthase) were investigated in indicated HCT116 (**C**) and RKO (**D**) cells. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test;

*** $P < 0.001$.

E and F Relative mitochondrial ATP production was detected. Wild-type, ASAP KO, ASAP or Mut-ASAP-restored HCT116 (**E**) and RKO (**F**) cells were treated with recording buffer (with 5 mM 2-DG and 5 mM pyruvate) to determine ATP generation under mitochondrial ATP synthesis. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

G and H The relative whole cell ATP production of indicated HCT116 (**G**) and RKO (**H**) cells was detected. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

I and J The CCK-8 assay was used to determine the proliferation rate of indicated HCT116 (**I**) and RKO (**J**) cells. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D., $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. Two-way ANOVA analysis; *** $P < 0.001$.

K The weight of tumors from **Figure 7G**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor samples per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

L The relative activities of respiratory Complex V (ATP Synthase) were investigated in tumors from **Figure 7G**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor samples per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

Figure S12. ASAP regulates CRC growth through mitochondrial ATP synthase

A The weight of tumors from **Figure 7I**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$.

B Xenograft mouse model using EV control or ASAP overexpressing RKO cells with or without the treatment of Oligomycin. In vivo generated tumors are shown.

C Analyses of tumor growth and volume in xenograft mouse model of **Figure S12B** are shown. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ mice per group. Two-way ANOVA analysis; * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$.

D The weight of tumors from **Figure S12B**. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumors per group. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$.

E and F The colony formation assay was performed on wild-type (WT), ASAP Knockout (KO) RKO cells. KO cells were supplied with additional 3 mM ADP or 3 mM ATP. Representative images from each group (**E**) and statistical analysis (**F**) are shown. Data are

presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 3$ biologically independent experiments. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test; *** $P < 0.001$.

Figure S13. Targeting ASAP suppresses the growth of patient derived xenografts.

A and B Analyses of tumor growth and volume in PDX models. Two-way ANOVA analysis; *** $P < 0.001$.

C and D The ASAP levels in tumors from PDX mice were determined by Western blot analysis.

E and F The relative activities of respiratory Complex V (ATP Synthase) were investigated in tumors from PDX model. Data are presented as mean values \pm S.D. from $n = 5$ tumor samples per group. Independent-samples two-sided Student's t -test; *** $P < 0.001$.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**C** and **D**).

Figure S14. The expression of ASAP, ATP5A and ATP5C in colorectal tissues.

A Quantification of ATP5A protein expression by scoring Immunohistochemistry staining in CRC of Cohort 2 ($n = 92$). Bounds of box show the 25th and 75th percentiles, and the central lines in the box represent the median value. Whiskers: 5-95 percentile. Outlying value: 12, 12, 12 (Normal). Paired-samples two-sided Student's t -test; *** $P < 0.001$.

B Quantification of ATP5C protein expression by scoring Immunohistochemistry staining in CRC of Cohort 2 ($n = 92$). Bounds of box show the 25th and 75th percentiles, and the central lines in the box represent the median value. Whiskers: 5-95 percentile. Outlying value: 16, 12, 12, 12 (Normal) and 16, 16, 16 (Tumor). Paired-samples two-sided Student's t -test; *** $P < 0.001$.

C Representative images of ASAP staining on normal colonic tissues. Scale bar, 100 μ m. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**C**).

Figure S15. Recombinant proteins used in the study.

A Coomassie staining of bacterial purified MBP-ATP5A-His protein and MBP-ATP5C-His protein.

B Coomassie staining of bacterial purified ASAP-His protein and GST-ASAP protein.

C Coomassie staining of bacterial purified GST-ATP5A protein and GST-ATP5C protein.

Data are representative of 3 independent experiments (**A-C**).

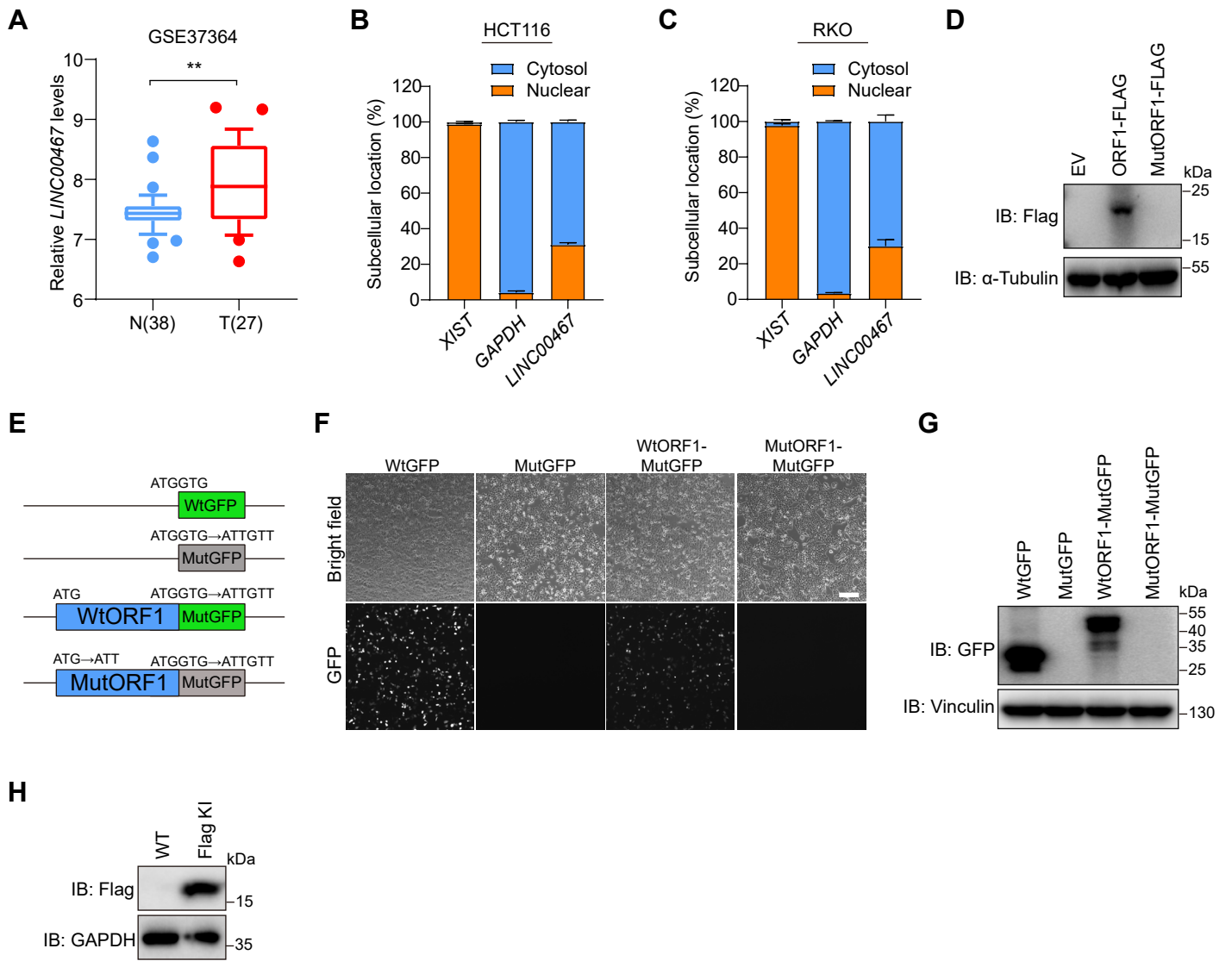


Figure S1

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M D K K S T H R N P E D A R A G K Y
GAA GGT AAA CAC AAA CGA AAG AAA AGA AGA AAG CAA AAC CAA AAC CAG CAC CGA
E G K H K R K K R R K Q N Q N Q H R
TCC CGA CAT AGA TCA GTG ACG TCT TTT TCT TCA GAT GAT CCT ATG TTT CCT TCT TCC
S R H R S V T S F S S D D P M F P S S
TCA TCA TCG TCT TCA GGA AGC CAG ACA GAT TCA AGT ATT GAA GAT GCT GCC AAG
S S S S S G S Q T D S S I E D A A K
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D K I

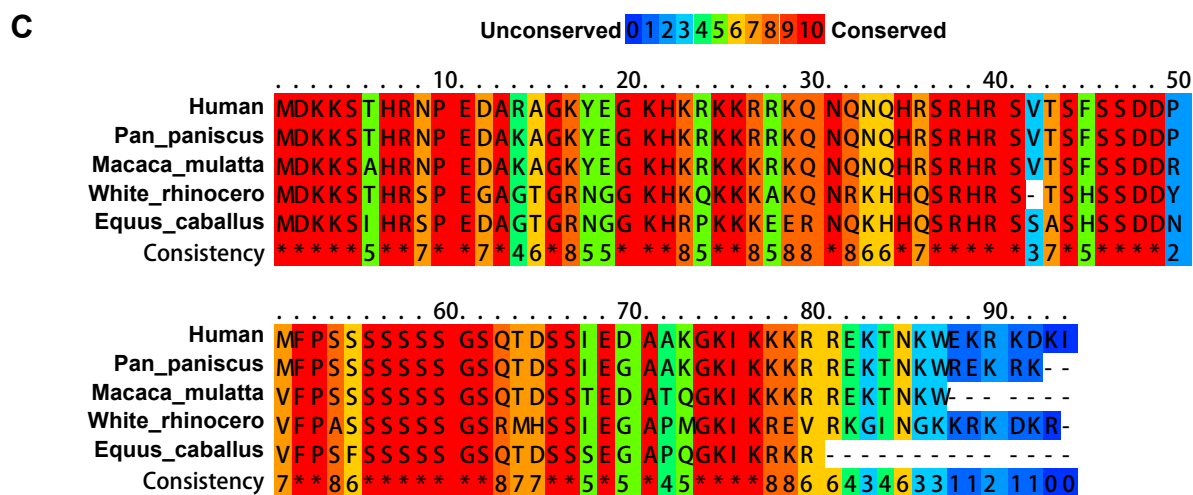
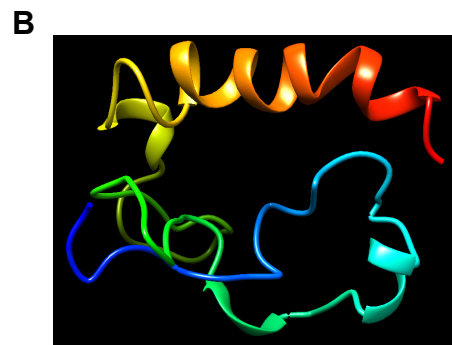


Figure S2

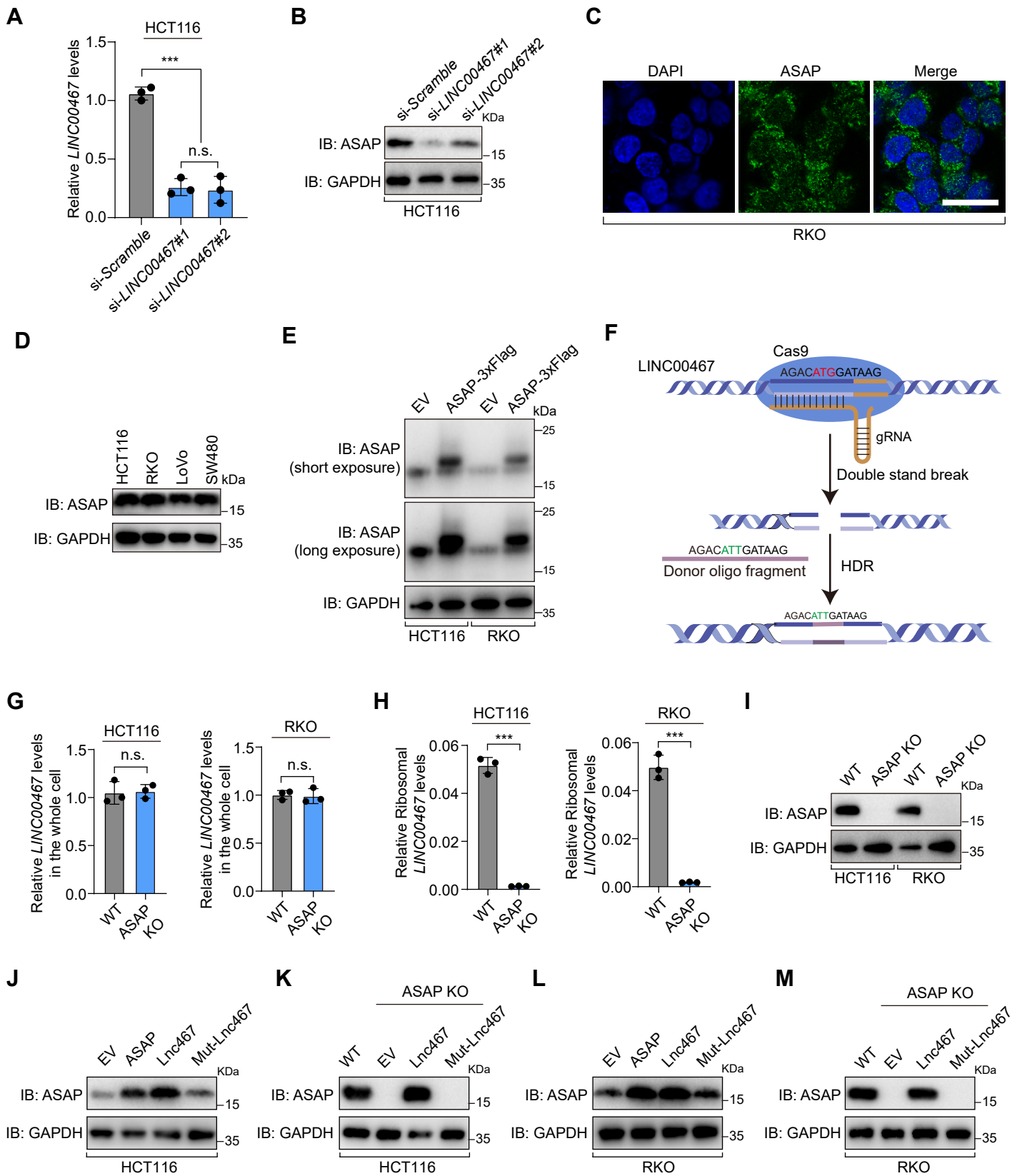


Figure S3

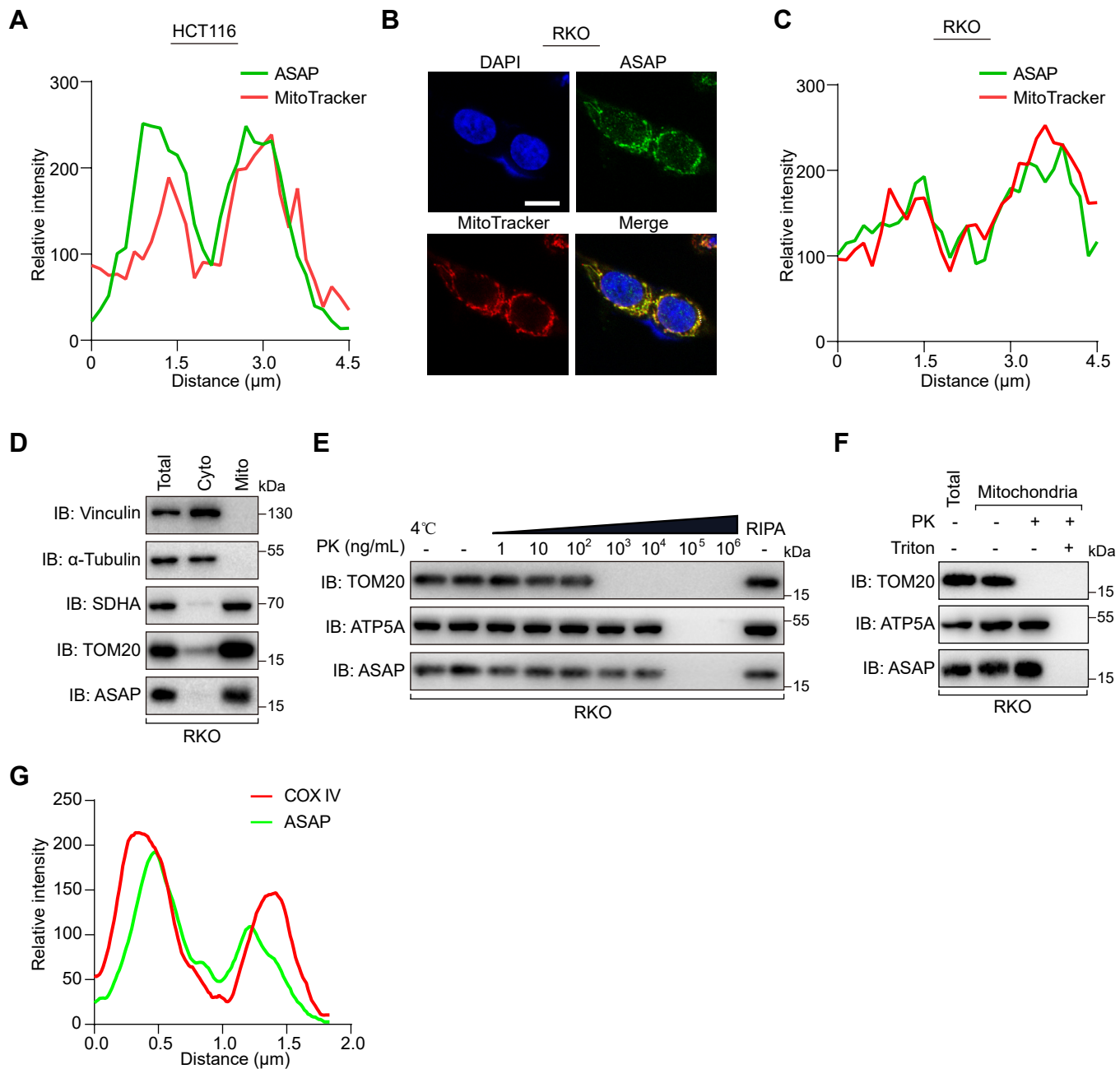


Figure S4

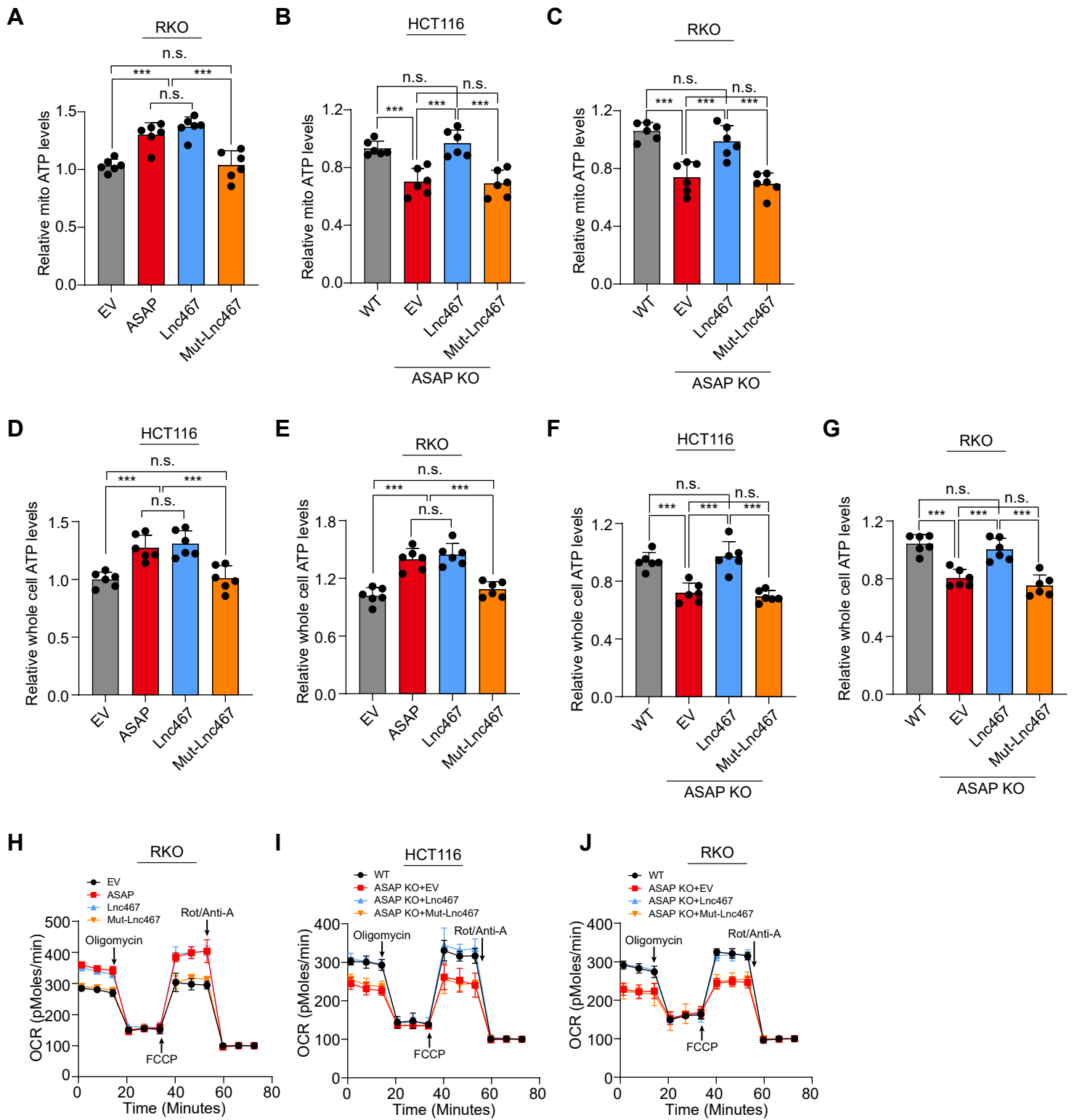


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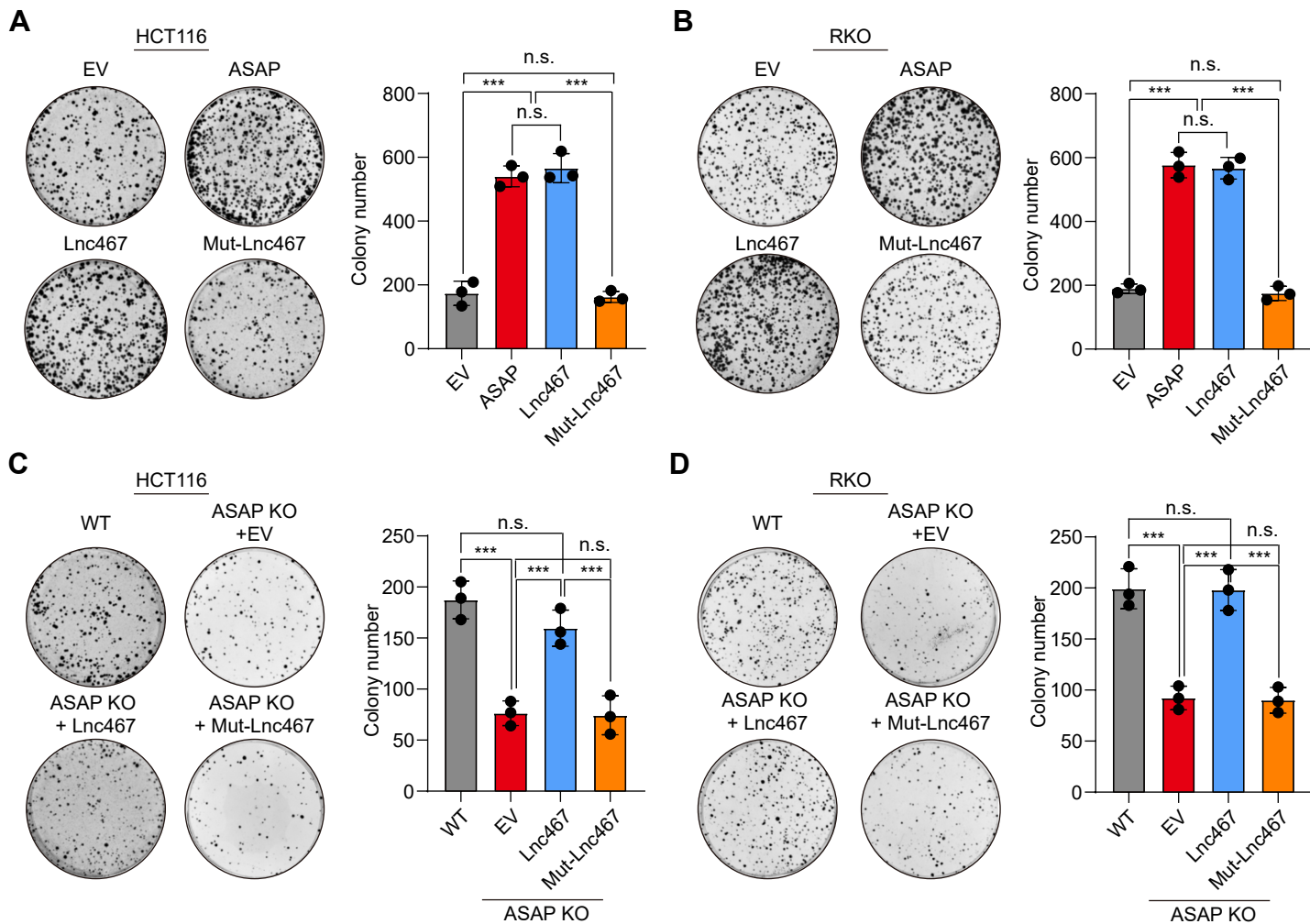


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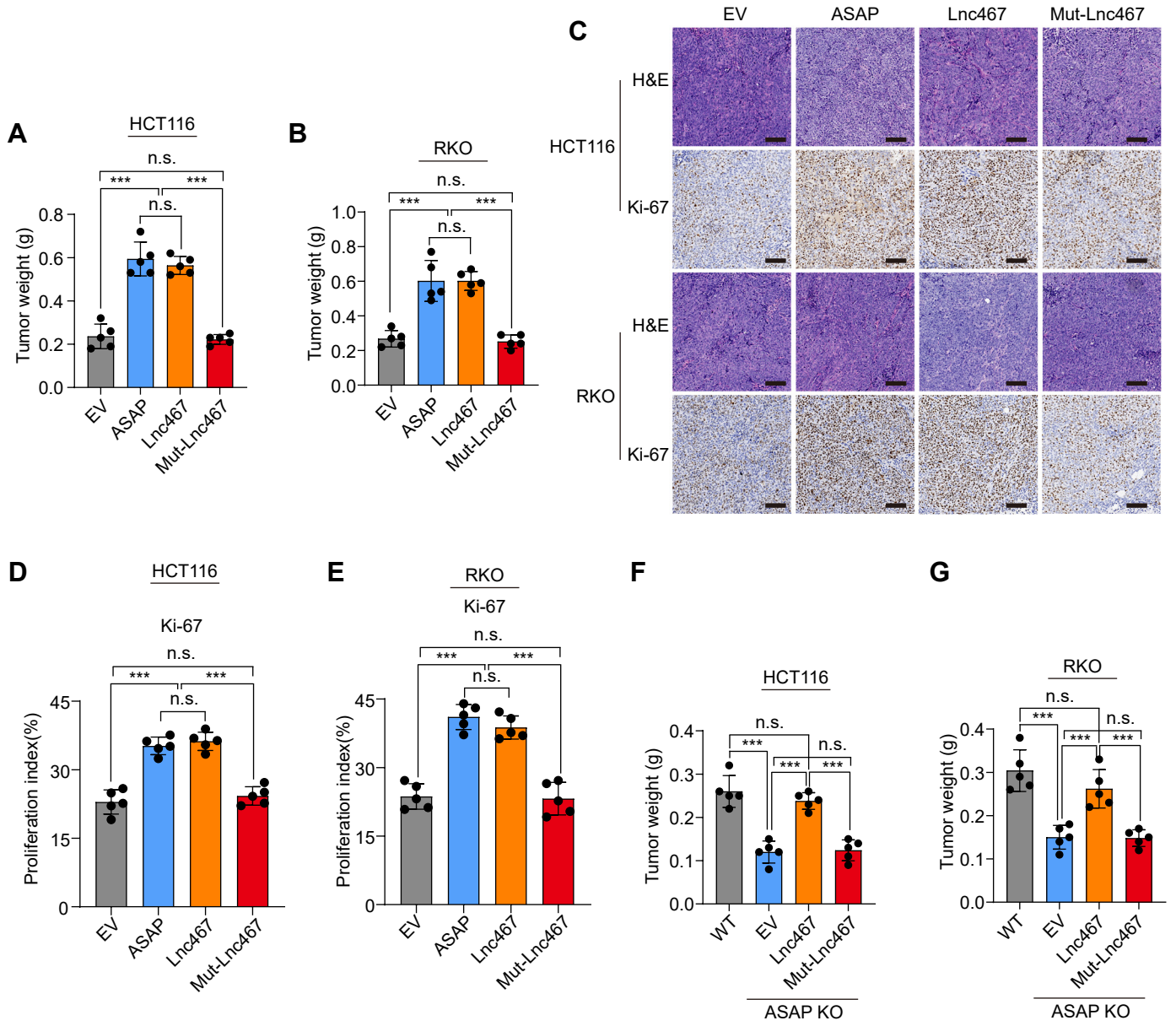


Figure S7

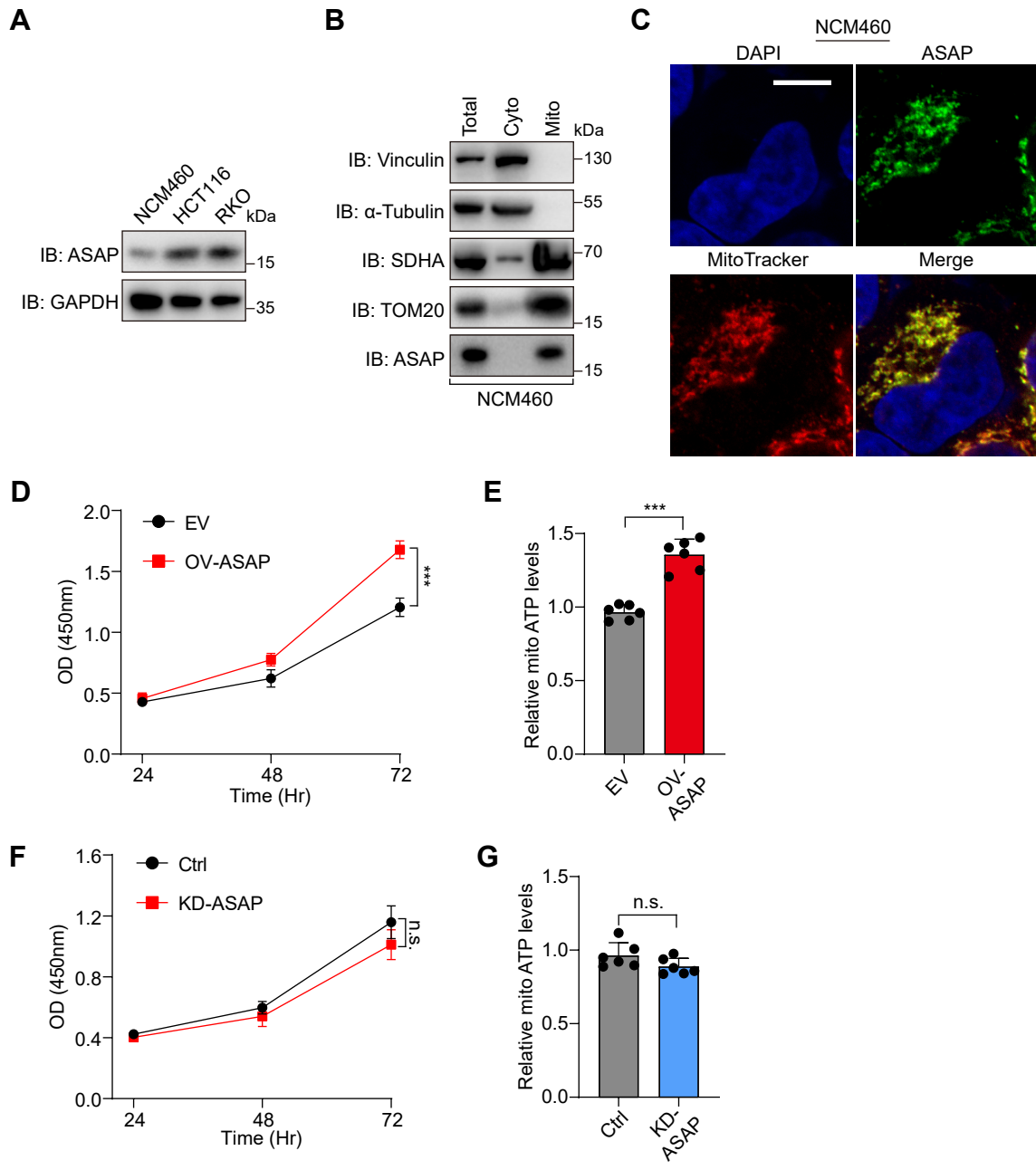


Figure S8

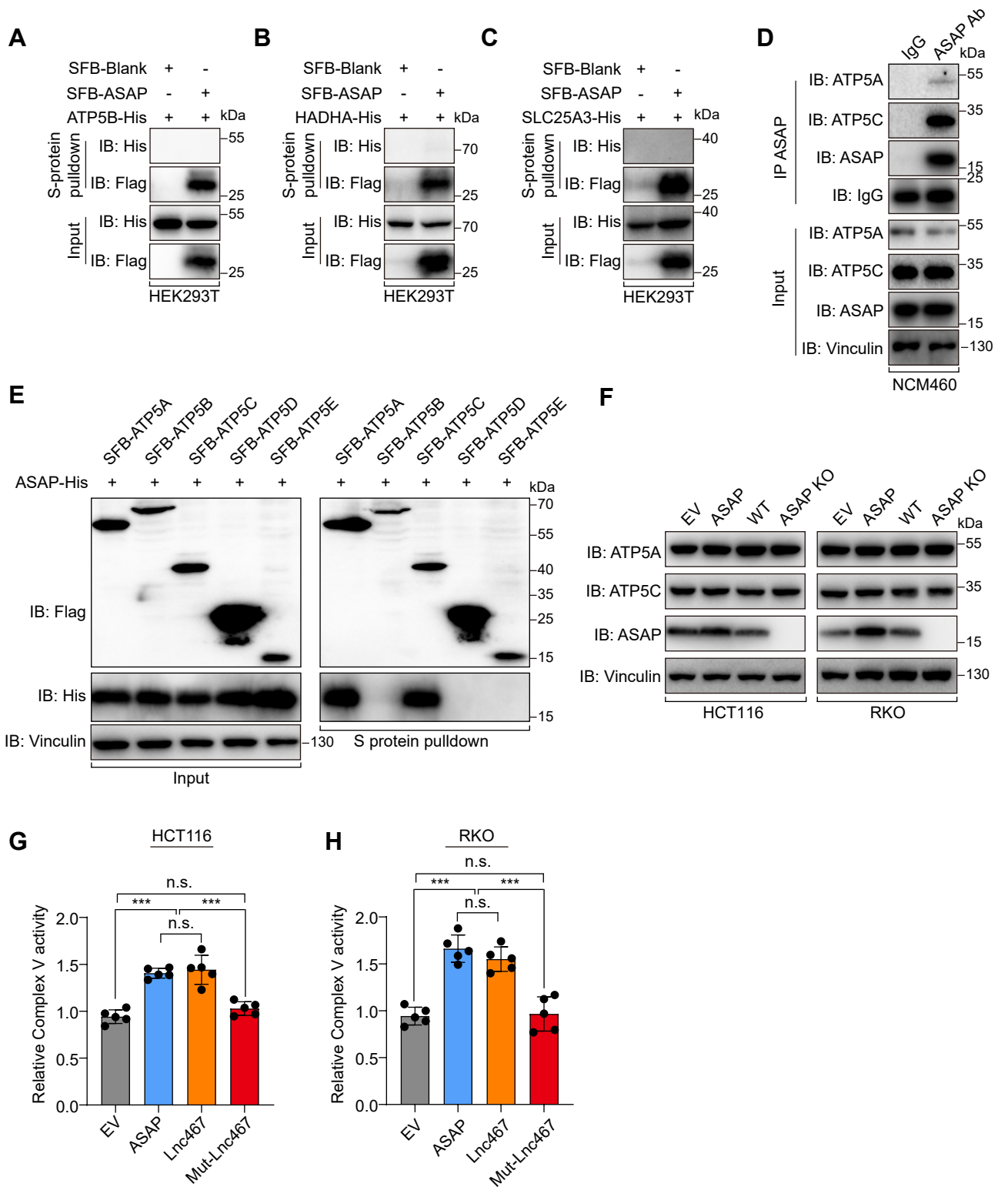


Figure S9

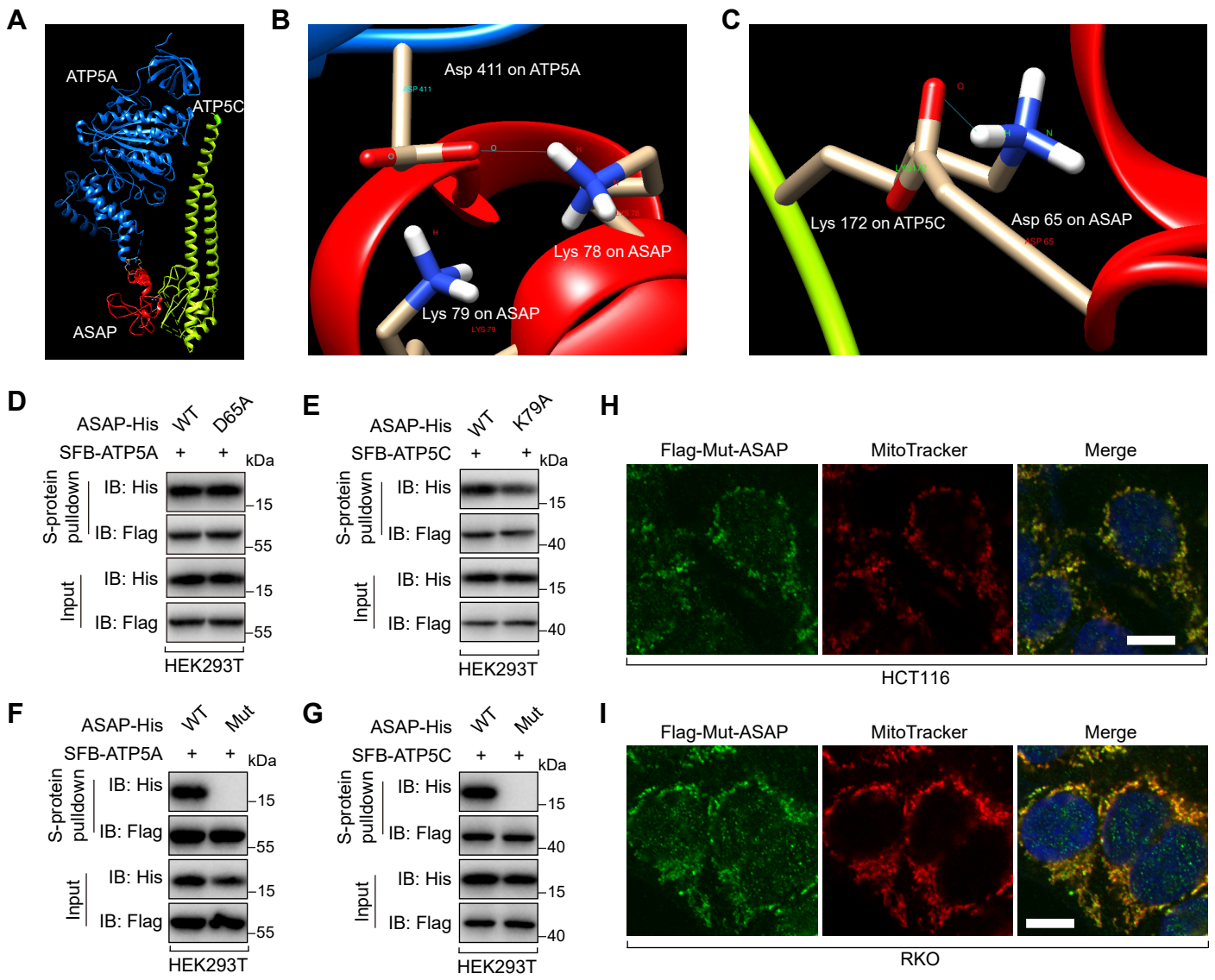


Figure S10

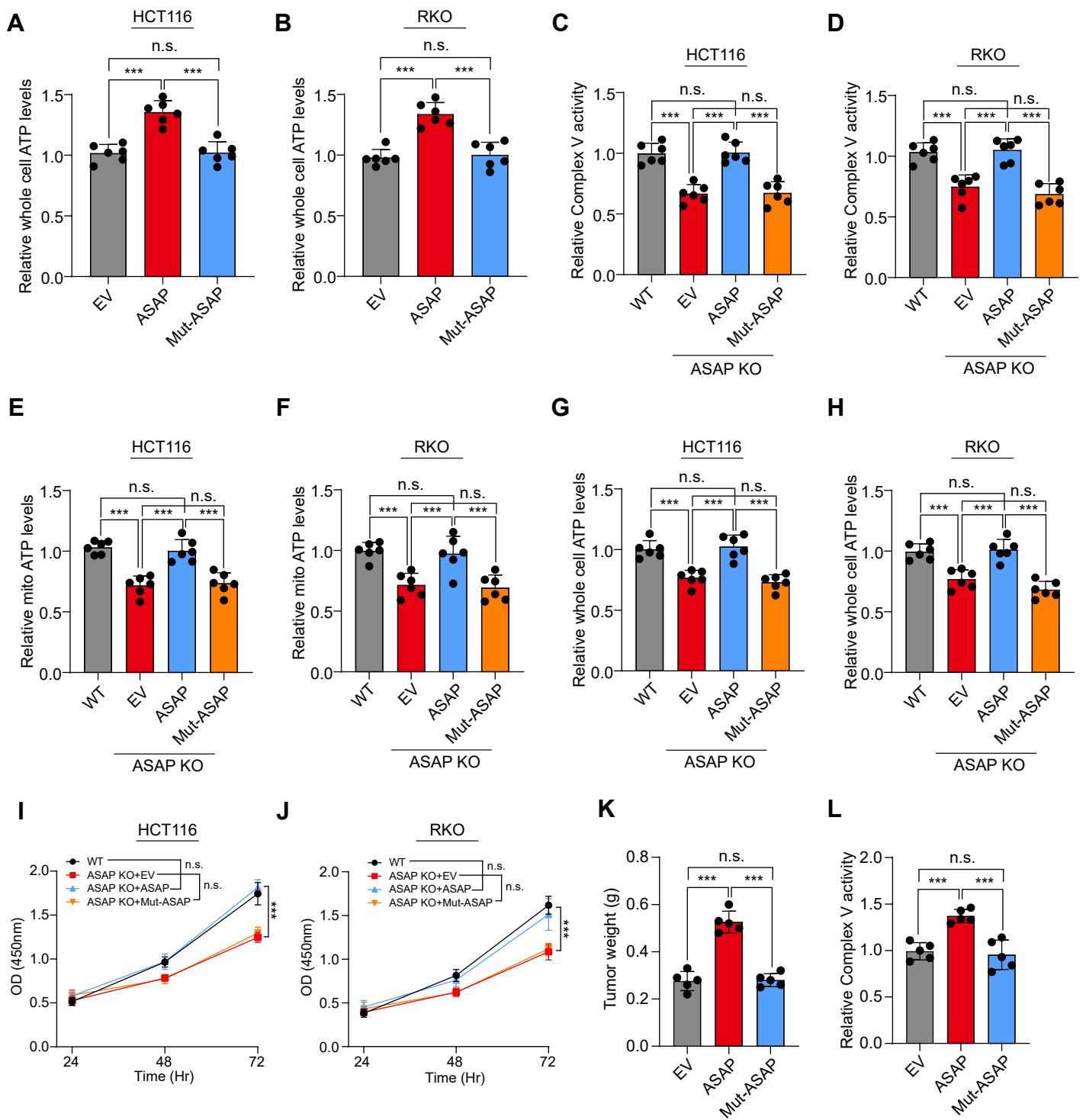


Figure S11

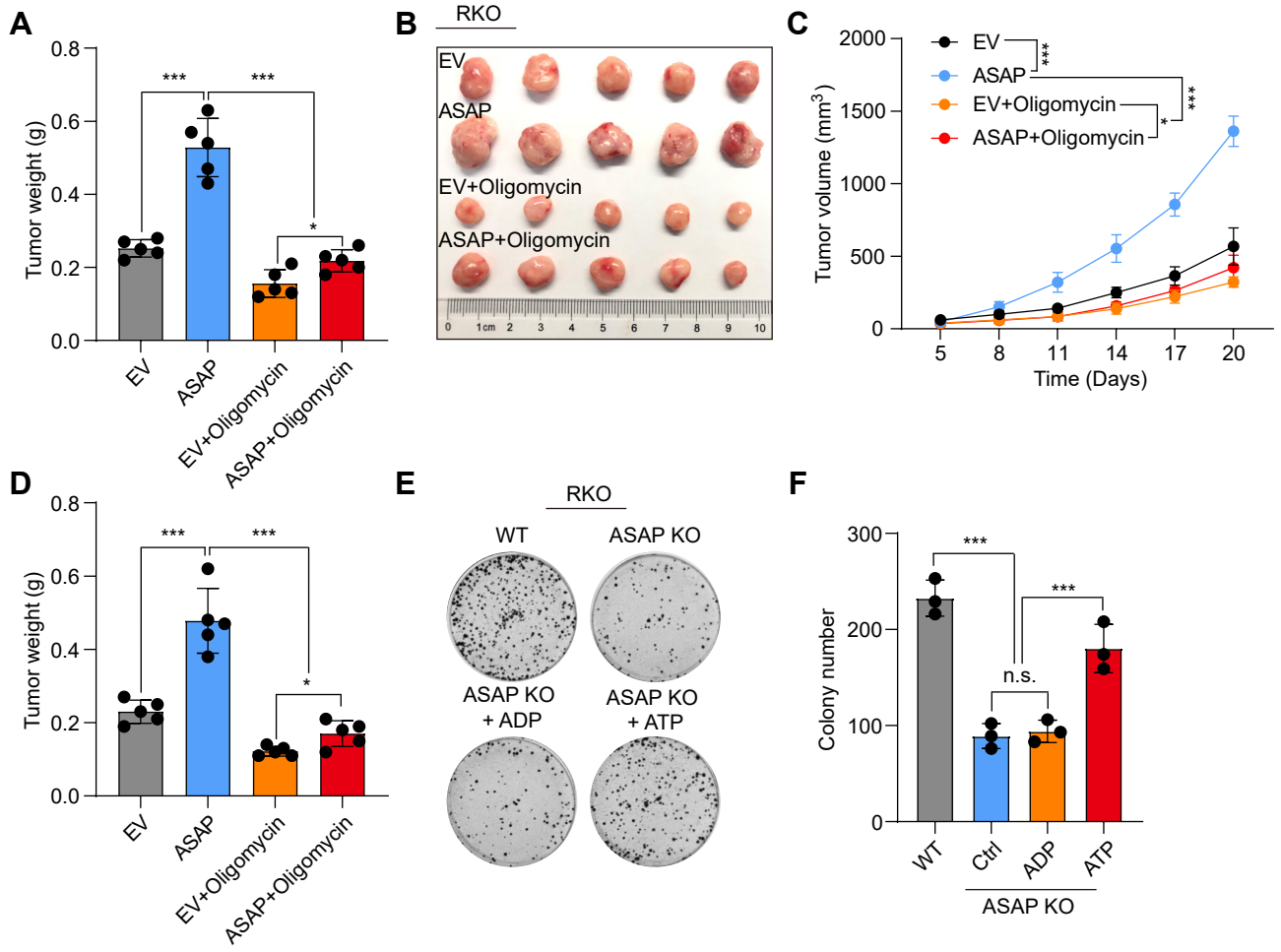


Figure S12

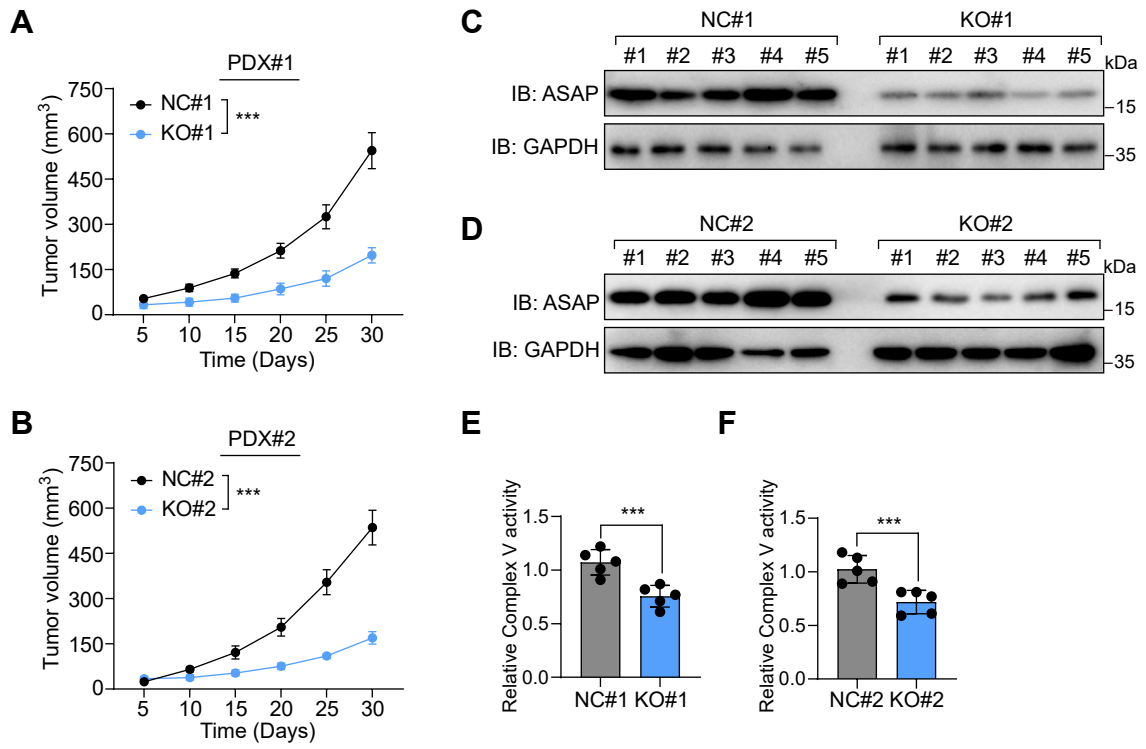


Figure S13

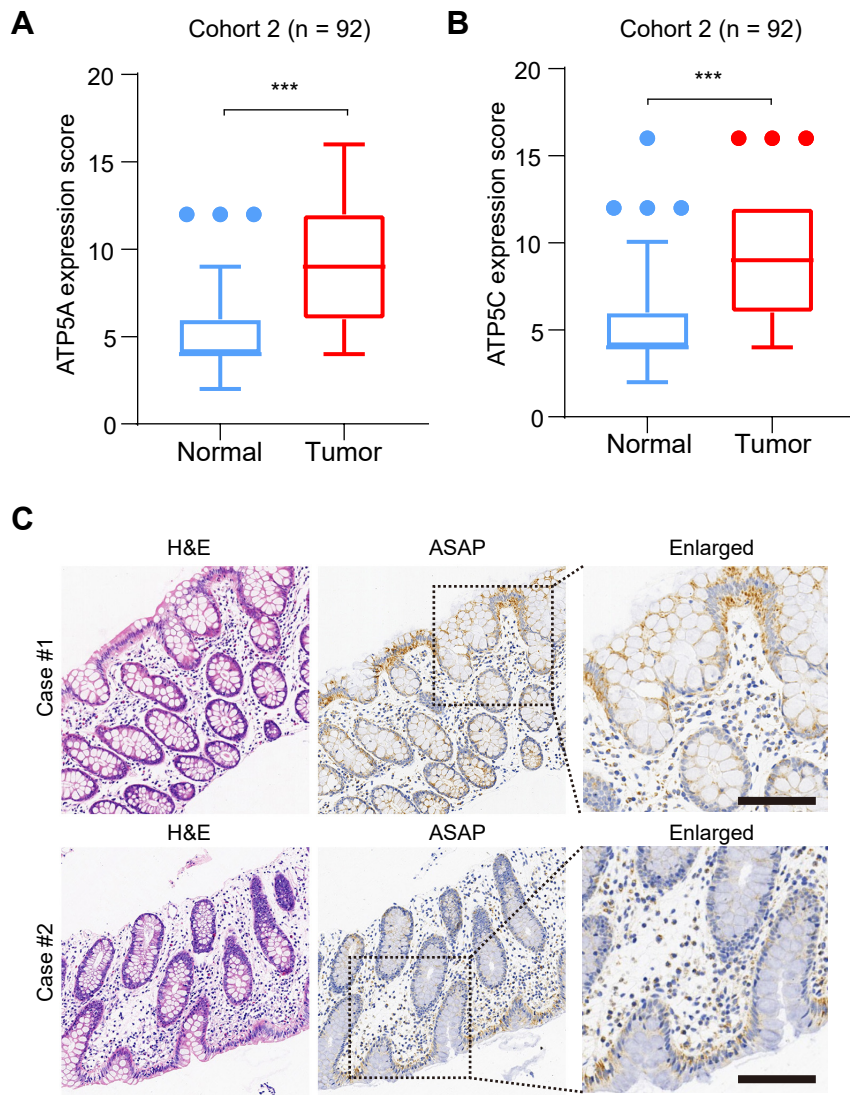


Figure S14

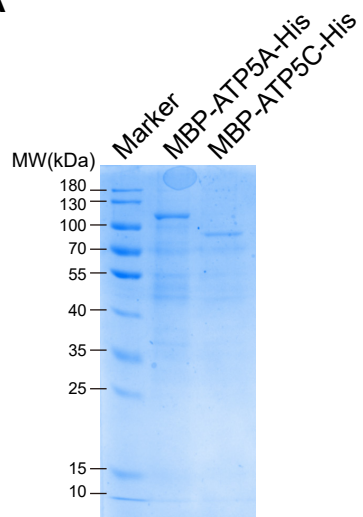
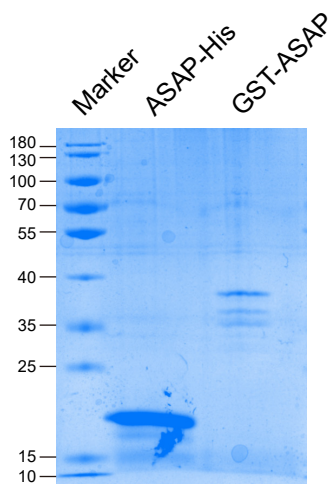
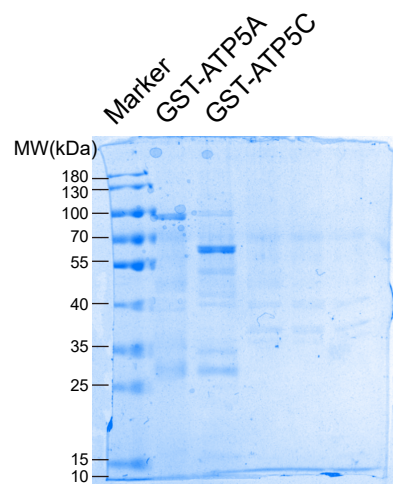
A**B****C****Figure S15**

Table S2. Genomic locations of 5 predicted ORFs of LINC00467.

ORF	Start	Stop	Length (aa)
1	196	480	94
2	230	322	30
3	338	550	70
4	650	796	49
5	453	596	47

Table S4. The sequence of siRNAs, gRNAs, donor oligos and primers used in the study.

The sequence of siRNAs:

Gene name	Sequence (5'-3')
LINC00467	si#1: GCUCUGUAAACCACAUAUUUU
	si#2: GGAUUUGAAUUUGAACAUUU

The sequence of gRNAs and donor oligos:

FLAG knocking in in cell line	
gRNA	ATATGTTTTCTTTTGTTTTAAGG
Donor oligos	TTTATTGAAGCAATCATTAATATGTTTTCTTTTGTTTTAAGGACAAAATAGAT TACAAGGACGACGATGACAAGTGA AACACCAAGAAAAAGAGAAGGAAAA AAGGAGGAAACAACCACATATGTC
ASRPS knocking out in cell line	
gRNA	GCAGGGAGGTTTAATAGACA TGG
Donor oligos	AATGTGTCAATATTTTGGTTTTATAGACATGGCAGGGAGGTTTAATAGACAT TGATAAGAAGTCCACTCACAGAAATCCTGAAGATGCCAGGGCTGGCAAATA
ASRPS knocking out in PDX model	
gRNA	ACAGAAATCCTGAAGATGCCAGG

Primers used for RT-qPCR:

Gene name	Sequence (5'-3')
U6	Forward: CTCGCTTCGGCAGCACA
	Reverse: AACGCTTCACGAATTTGCGT
B2M	Forward: GGCTATCCAGCGTACTCCAA
	Reverse: TGGATGAAACCCAGACACATA
LINC00467	Forward: TTTCCAACATGGCAGGGAGG
	Reverse: GCCCTGGCATCTTCAGGATT
CRNDE	Forward: TATTCAGCCGTTGGTCTTTG
	Reverse: TCTGCGTGACA ACTGAGGATT
SNHG17	Forward: TTTTCCCACGCTGTCTGTCA
	Reverse: CAGTTTCCCCCGATGGTGAG
ATP5A	Forward: CTCGCTTCGTTGCCACTTC
	Reverse: TAGGCGGCTCTATCTCTCGT
ATP5C	Forward: GGCTGTGGCTACCATGTTCT
	Reverse: GTCTCCTGGTGACATTGCGG

Table S5. Clinical correlation between ASAP expression and clinicopathological characteristics in colorectal cancer.

Clinicopathological Characters	Tumor ASAP Expression		χ^2	<i>p</i> Value (Chi-square test)
	High level (55)	Low level (37)		
Age (year)				
<60	19	11	0.23	0.63
≥60	36	26		
Gender				
Male	26	17	0.02	0.90
Female	29	20		
Tumor Size (cm)				
<5.0	19	34	29.78	0.00
≥5.0	36	3		
Invasive Depth				
T1 - T2	0	4	6.21	0.01
T3 - T4	55	33		
Lymph Node Metastasis				
N = 0	20	23	5.91	0.02
N = 1, 2, 3	35	14		
Distal Metastasis				
M = 0	32	25	0.83	0.36
M = 1	23	12		
TNM Stage (AJCC)				
I - II	15	17	3.40	0.06
III - IV	40	20		