

Supplementary Information

Modulating mitofusins to control mitochondrial function and signaling

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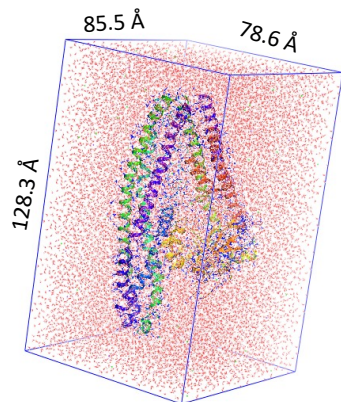
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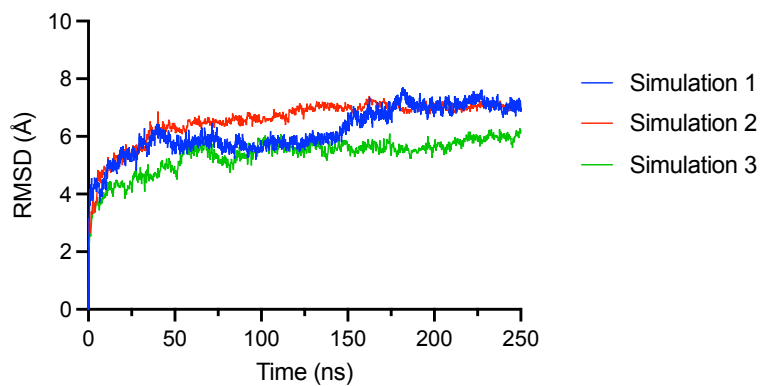
Supplementary Tables 1-3

a



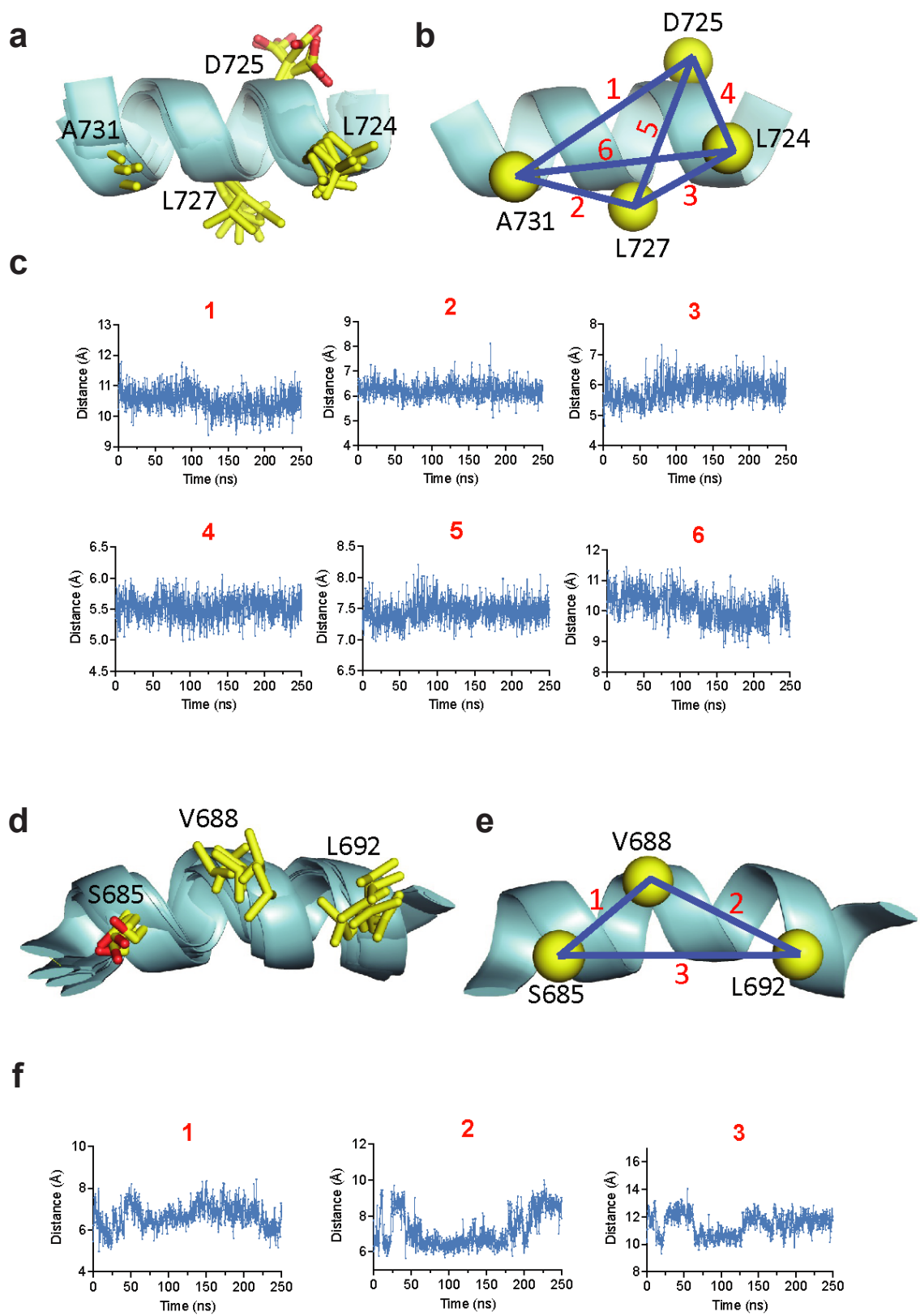
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Solvent (water) atoms: 68031
Ions (Na+, Cl-): 173
Total atoms: 80382

b



Supplementary Fig. 1. Molecular dynamics simulations of MFN2.

a, Solvated (TIP3P waters) orthorhombic box used in molecular dynamics simulations of MFN2. The full-length MFN2 model is shown in cartoons. The number of atoms used in the simulations is also shown. **b**, RMSD plot of protein C α atoms from three independent 250 ns molecular dynamics simulations of the MFN2 system indicating convergence. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

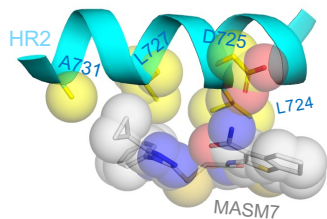
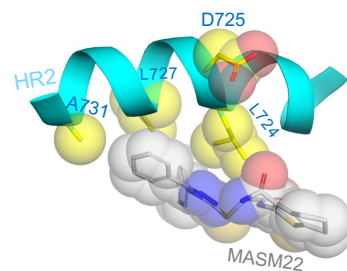
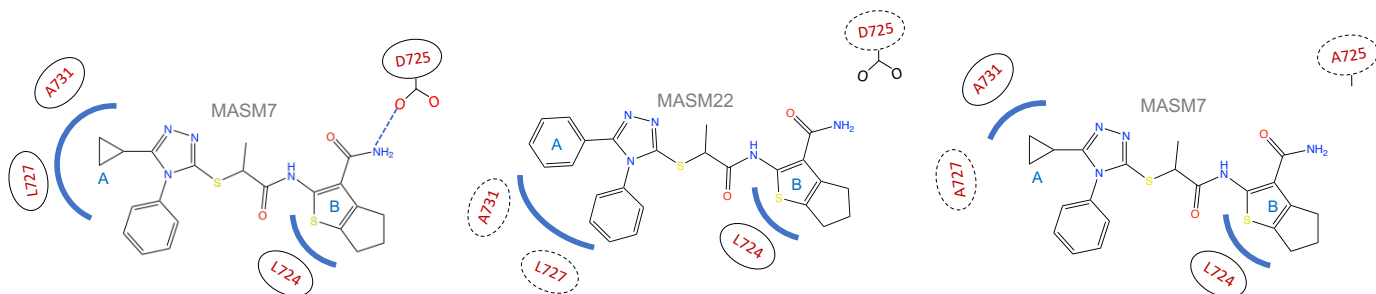
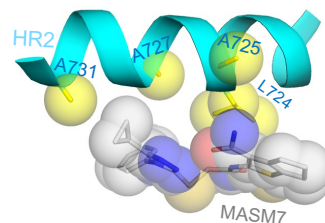
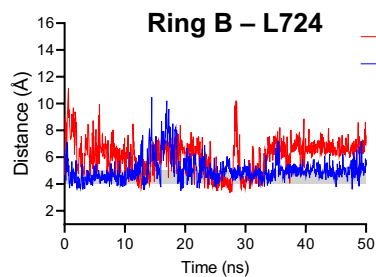
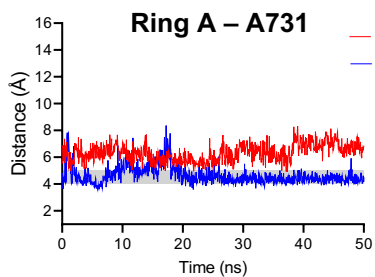
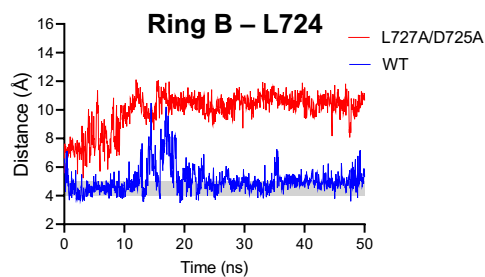
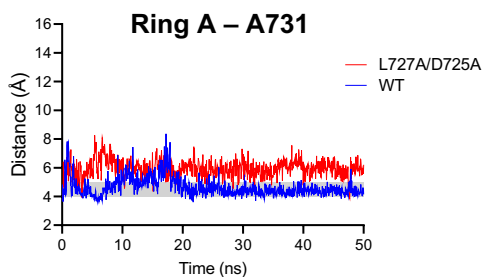
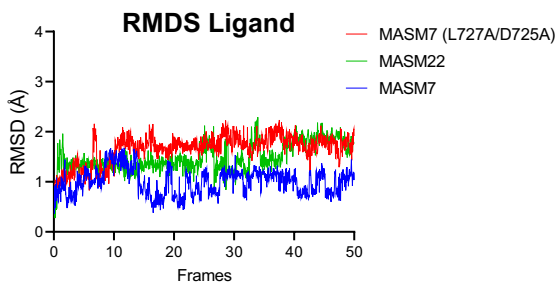


Supplementary Fig. 2. Molecular dynamics simulations show weak fluctuations of the HR2 binding zones used in pharmacophore-based in silico screens.

a, Overlaid snapshots of the HR2 binding zone calculated from molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of full-length MFN2 structural model representing 0, 50, 150, 200 and 250 ns from a representative MD simulation showing conformational dynamics of L724, D725, L727 and A731 binding residues in yellow sticks. **b**, C β atoms of L724, D725, L727 and A731 binding residues are shown in spheres. Distances between C β atoms are numbered. **c**, Plots of C β -C β distances shown in **b**, over the course of the 250 ns MD simulation demonstrating spatial rigidity of the binding site residues. **d**, Overlaid snapshots of the HR2 binding zone calculated from molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of intact MFN2 structural model representing 0, 50, 150, 200 and 250 ns from a representative MD simulation showing conformational dynamics of S685, V688 and L692 binding residues in yellow sticks. **e**, C β atoms of S685, V688 and L692 binding residues are shown in spheres. Distances between C β atoms are numbered. **f**, Plots of C β -C β distances shown in **e**, over the course of the 250 ns MD simulation demonstrating spatial rigidity of the binding site residues. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

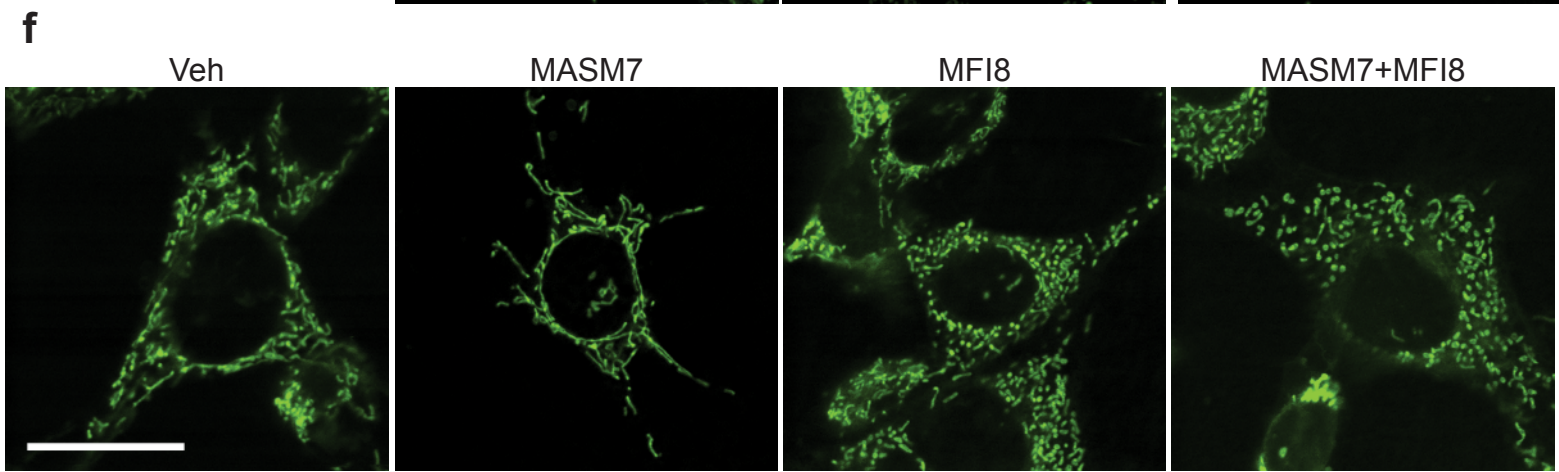
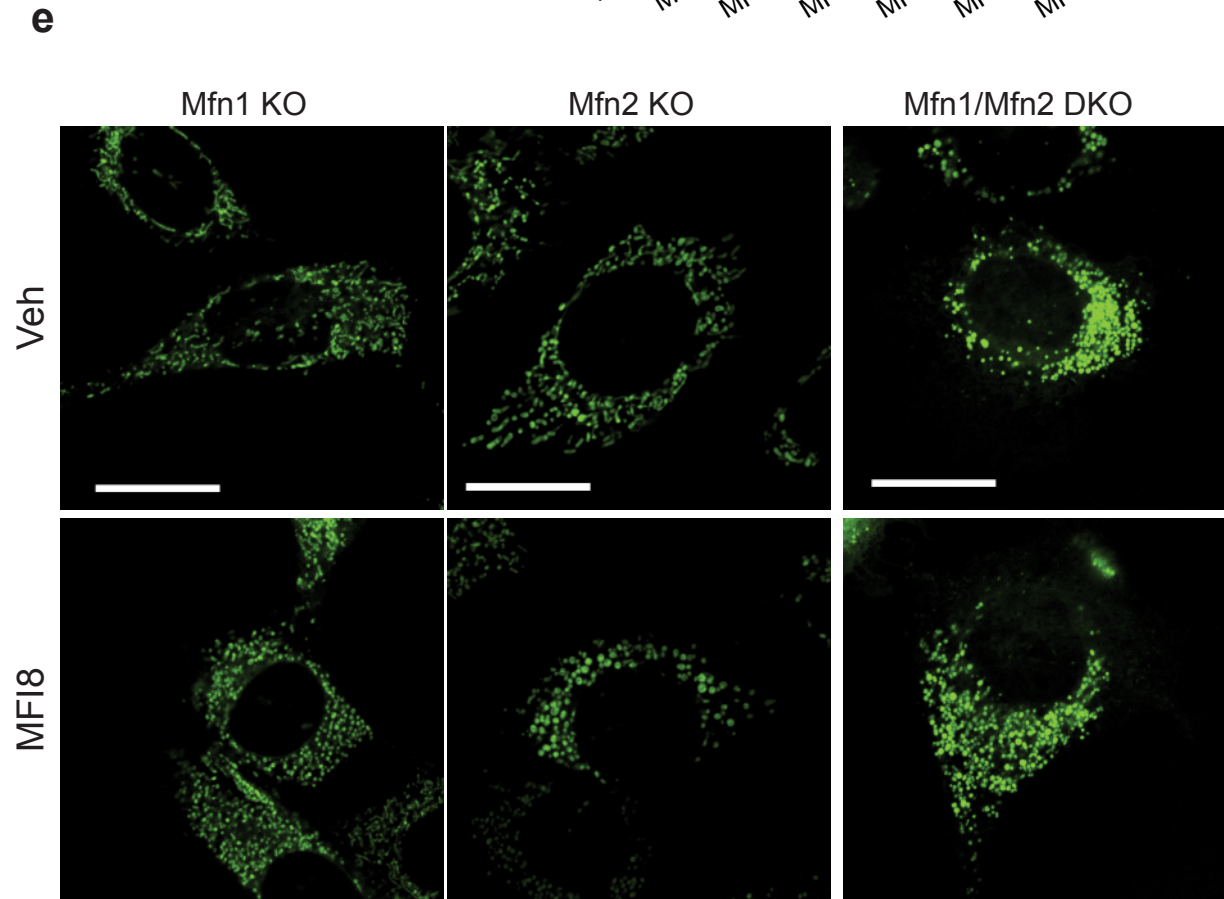
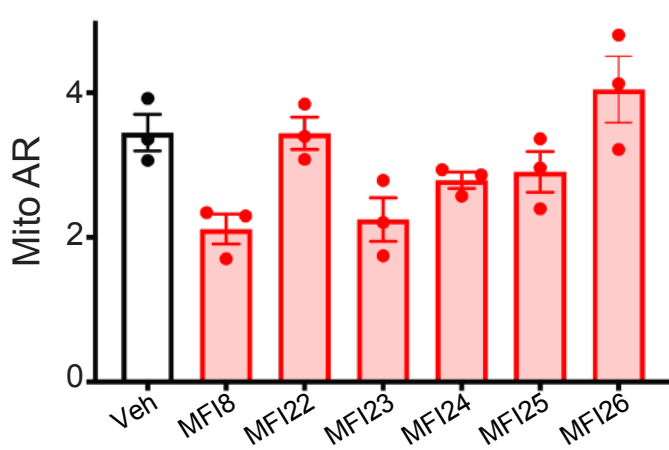
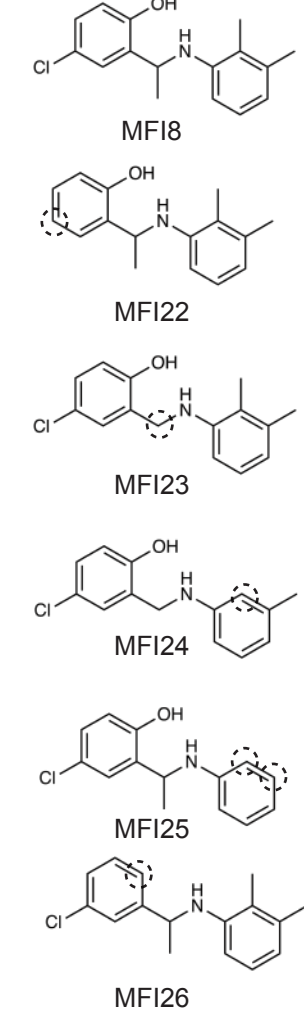
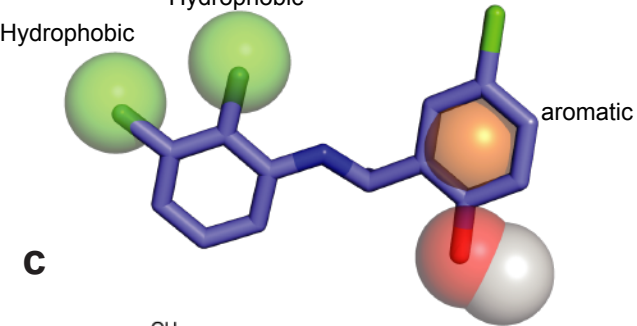
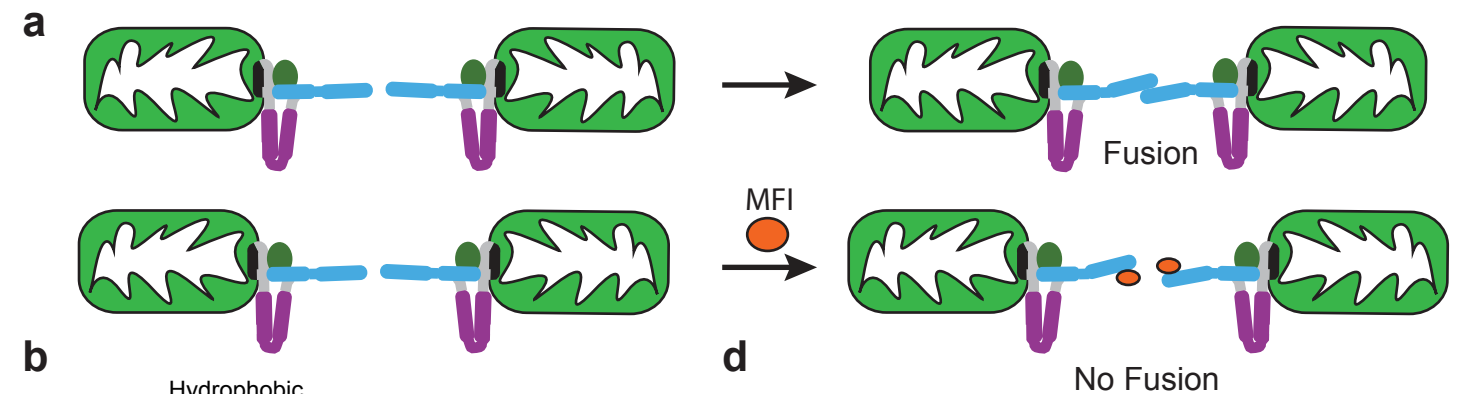
Supplementary Fig. 3. Pharmacophore-based discovery of mitofusin activators and lead MASM7.

a, Domain model of MFN2 showing GTPase (green), transmembrane region (black), HR1 (purple) and HR2 (blue). Sequences of MFN1 and MFN2 share high sequence homology between human, mouse and rat. HR1 and HR2 residues used in the pharmacophore hypothesis for the discovery of MASM7 and MFI8 demonstrate high sequence homology as highlighted in green and magenta, respectively. **b**, Schematic representation of the in silico-based screening strategy for the discovery of putative MASMs. **c**, MASM7 chemical structure fits the pharmacophore model criteria. **d**, Chemical structures of MASM7 analogues provide structure activity relationships. **e**, Quantification of Mito AR in MEFs. Cells were treated with MASM7 and analogues from **d** (1 μ M, 2 h). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **f**, Confocal micrographs of *Mfn1* KO, *Mfn2* KO, *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 2 h). Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker green. Scale bar 20 μ m. Each micrograph is representative of n=3 independent experiments. **g**, Quantification of Mito AR of *Drp1*^{FLOX/FLOX} MEFs. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 2 h). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. Statistics were obtained using two-tailed unpaired t-test: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.0001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

a**b****c****d****e**

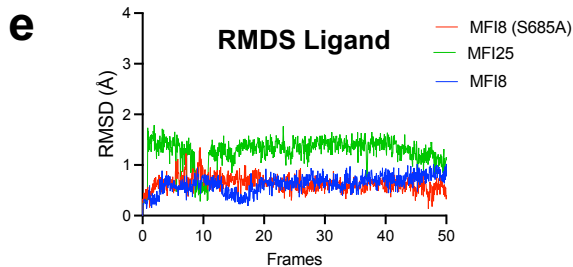
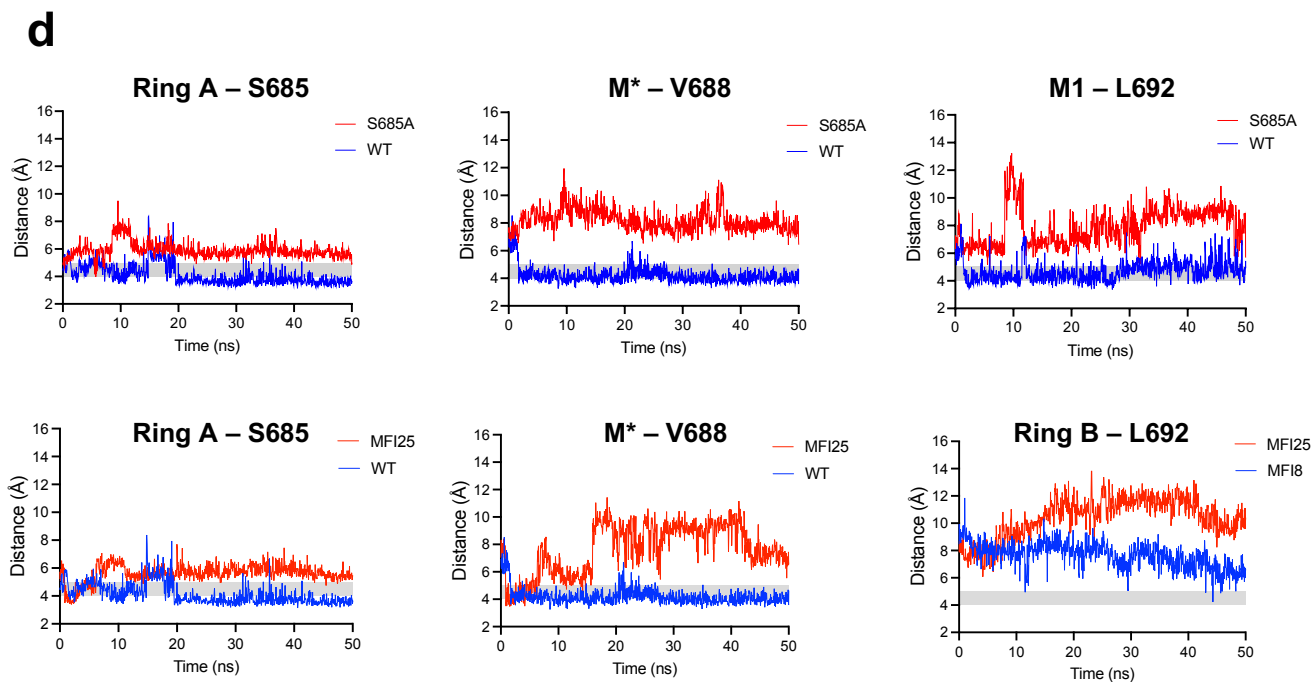
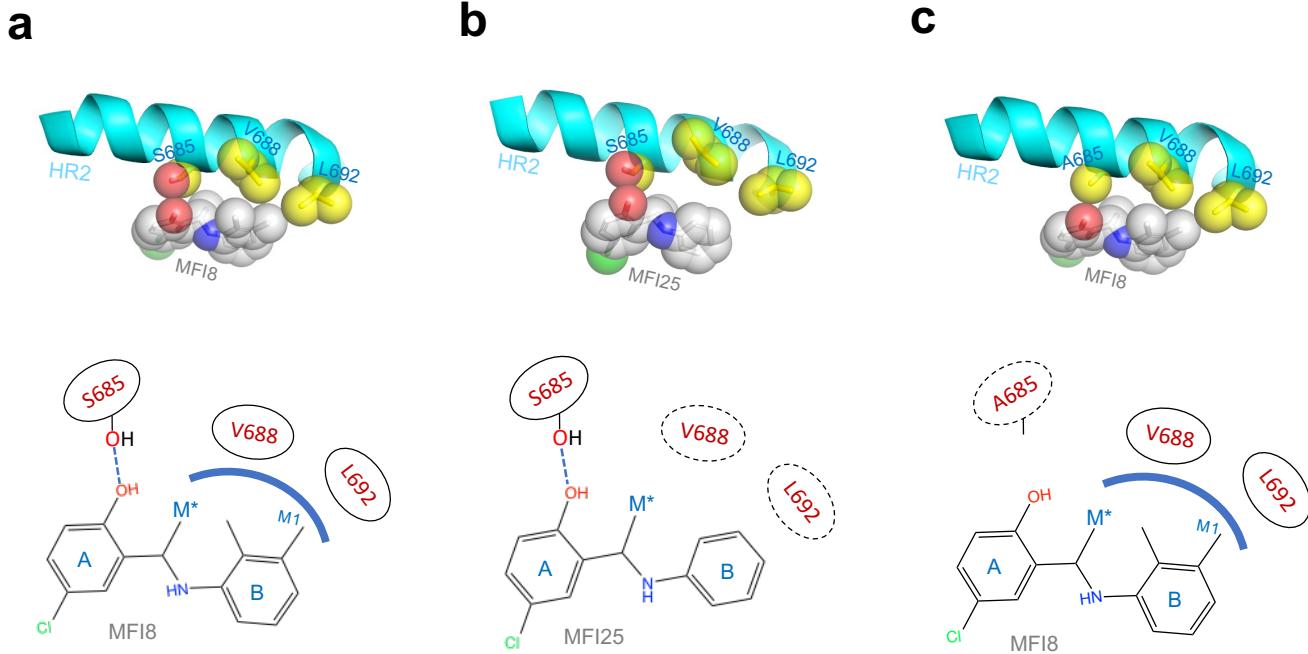
Supplementary Fig. 4. Characterization of MASM7-MFN2 interaction using molecular docking and molecular dynamics.

a, Docked structure of MASM7 to MFN2-HR2. MASM7 and MFN2-HR2 interacting residues shown in spheres (top) and schematic of interaction (bottom), depicting hydrogen bond between D725 and MASM7 and several van der Waals contacts (blue line) with hydrophobic residues A731, L727 and L724. **b**, Docked structure of MASM22 (upper) and schematic of MASM22-HR2 residue interactions, showing disruption of interactions with D725, A731 and L727 (dashed lines). **c**, Docked structure of MASM7 to mutated MFN2-HR2L725A/L727A (upper) and schematic (bottom), showing loss of interaction with L725 and L727. **d**, Dynamics of interactions between MASM7/MASM22 and HR2-WT/HR2-L725A/L727A after MD simulations starting from the docking poses shown in a, b, c. The plots demonstrate in all cases loss of contacts between MASM22 and MFN2-HR2 or between MASM7 and mutated MFN2-HR2L725A/L727A (in red) compared to MASM7 or MFN2-HR2 WT (in blue), respectively. Ring distances shown are calculated from the geometric centers of MASM7 rings depicted in a to C β carbon of A731 or closest side-chain carbon of L724, respectively. **e**, RMSD of ligands during the MD simulation. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 5. Pharmacophore-based discovery of mitofusin inhibitors and lead MF18.

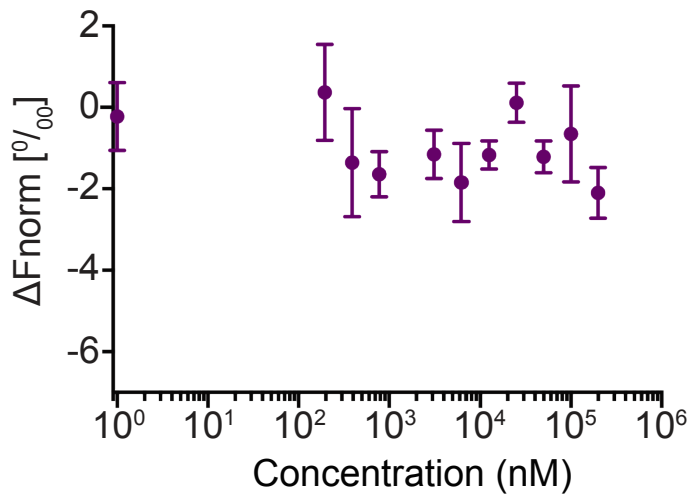
a, Cartoon depiction of the MFNs-mediated tethering of the outer mitochondrial membrane. Mitochondrial fusion inhibitor (MFI) potentially acts as protein-protein interaction inhibitor of MFNs targeting specific amino acids of HR2-HR2 interaction in the pro-tethering conformation to prevent mitochondrial fusion. **b**, MF18 chemical structure fits pharmacophore model criteria. **c**, Chemical structures of MF18 analogues provide structure activity relationships. **d**, Quantification of Mito AR of MEFs that were treated with MF18 analogues (20 μ M, 6 h). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **e**, Confocal micrographs of *Mfn1* KO, *Mfn2* KO, *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs. Cells were treated with MF18 (20 μ M, 6 h). Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker green. Scale bar 20 μ m. Each micrograph is representative of n=3 independent experiments. **f**, Confocal micrographs of MEFs that were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M), MF18 (20 μ M) or both for 6 h. Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker green. Scale bar 20 μ m. Each micrograph is representative of n=3 independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



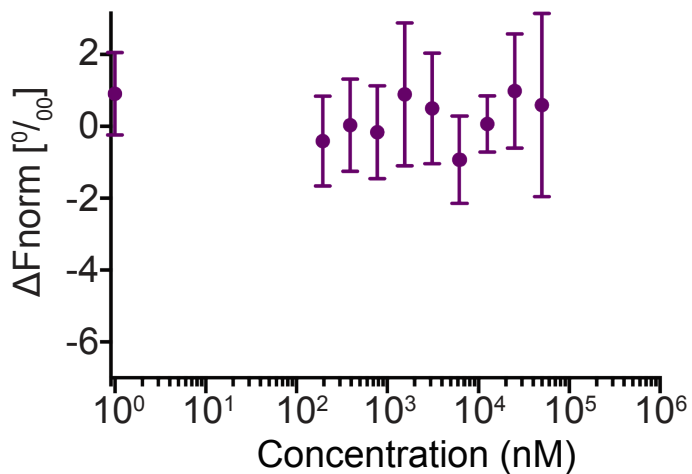
Supplementary Fig. 6. Characterization of MF18-MFN2 interaction using molecular docking and molecular dynamics.

a, Docked structure of MF18 to MFN2-HR2. MF18 and MFN2-HR2 interacting residues are shown in spheres (top) and schematic of the interaction (bottom), depicting hydrogen bond between MF18 hydroxyl and S685 and van der Waals interactions (blue line) with hydrophobic residues V688 and L692. **b**, Docked structure of MF125 to MFN2-HR2 (upper) and schematic of MF125-HR2 residue interactions, showing disruption of van der Waals contacts to residues V688 and L692 (dashed lines). **c**, Docked structure of MF18 to mutant MFN2-HR2S685A (upper) and schematic (bottom), showing disruption of hydrogen bond of MF18 to S685. **d**, Dynamics of interactions between MF18/MF125 and HR2-WT/HR2-S685A after MD simulations starting from the docking poses shown in a, b, c. The plots demonstrate in all cases loss of contacts between MF125 and MFN2-HR2 or between MF18 and mutated MFN2-HR2S685A (in red) compared to MF18 or MFN2-HR2WT (in blue), respectively. Atomic distances to S685 are to the C β carbon. Distance from MF18 atoms M* and M1 are to the closest side-chain carbon of V688 or L692, respectively. Ring distances shown are calculated from the geometric centers of MF18 rings depicted in a. **e**, RMSD of ligands during the MD simulation. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

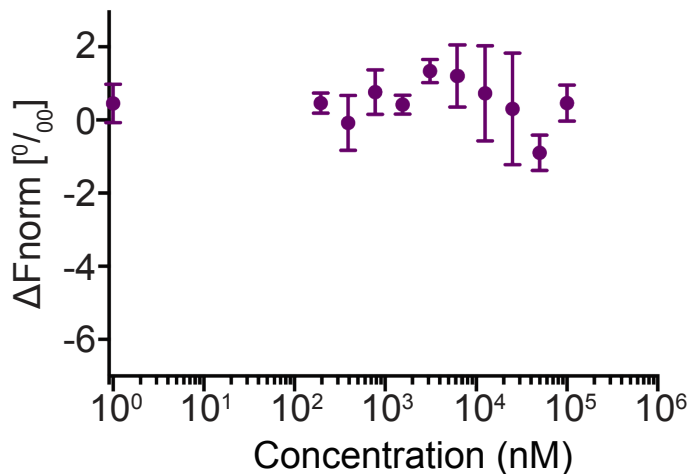
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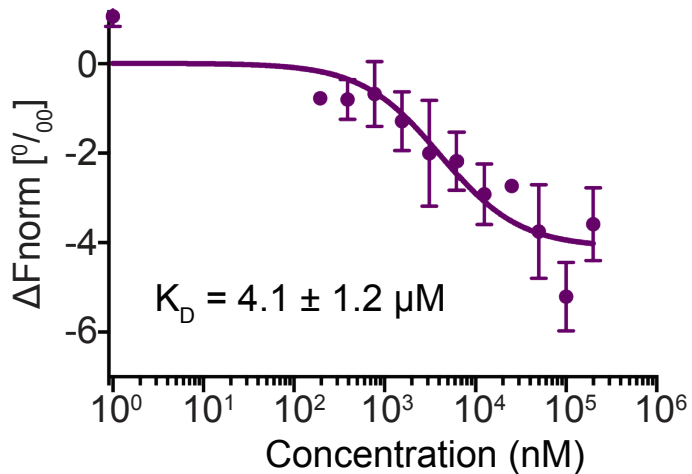
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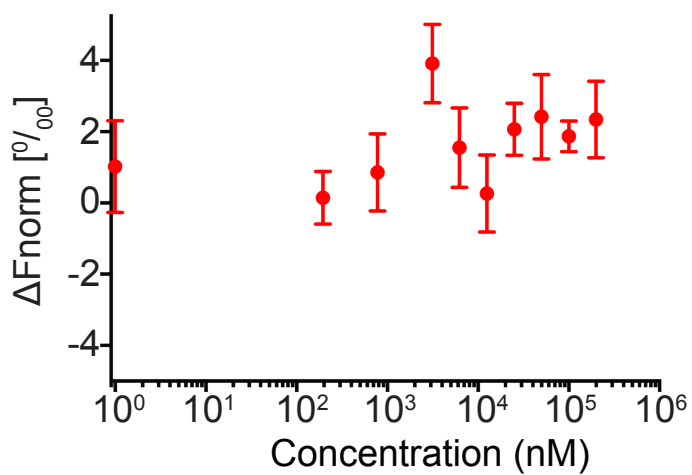
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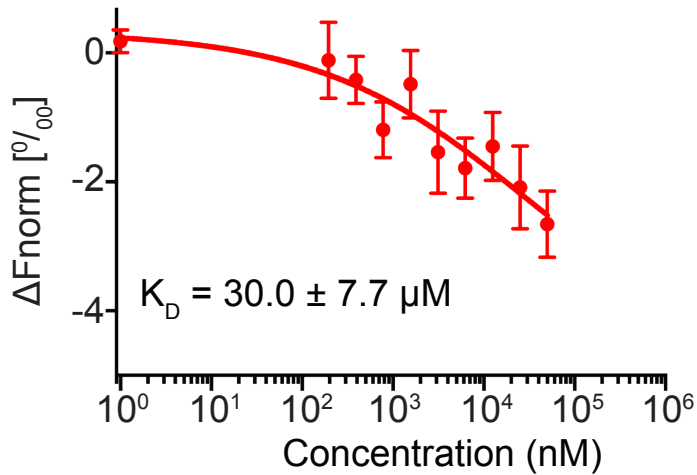
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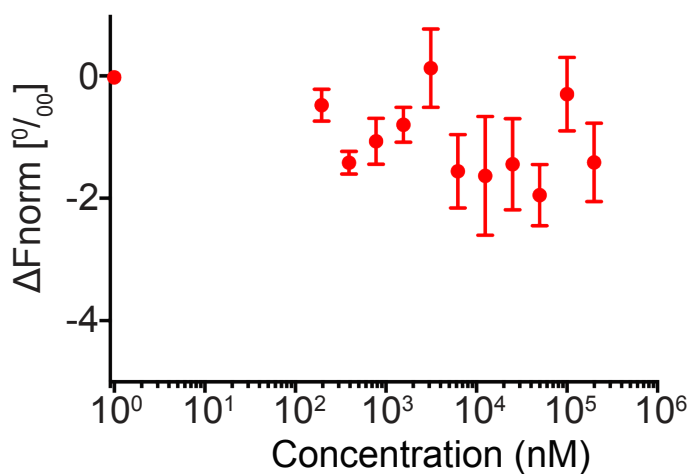
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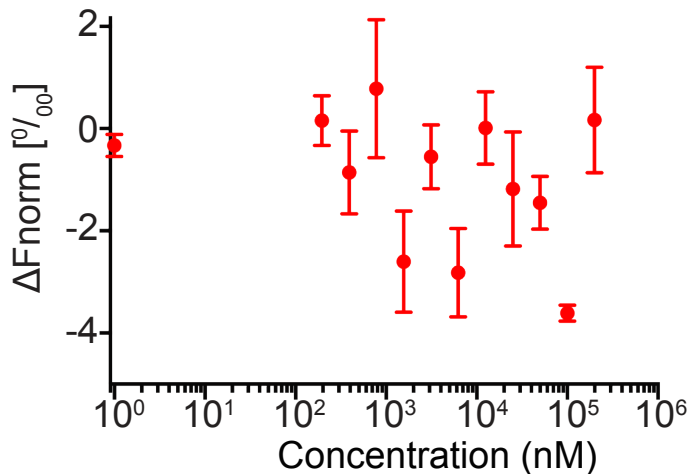
MFI23



MFI25

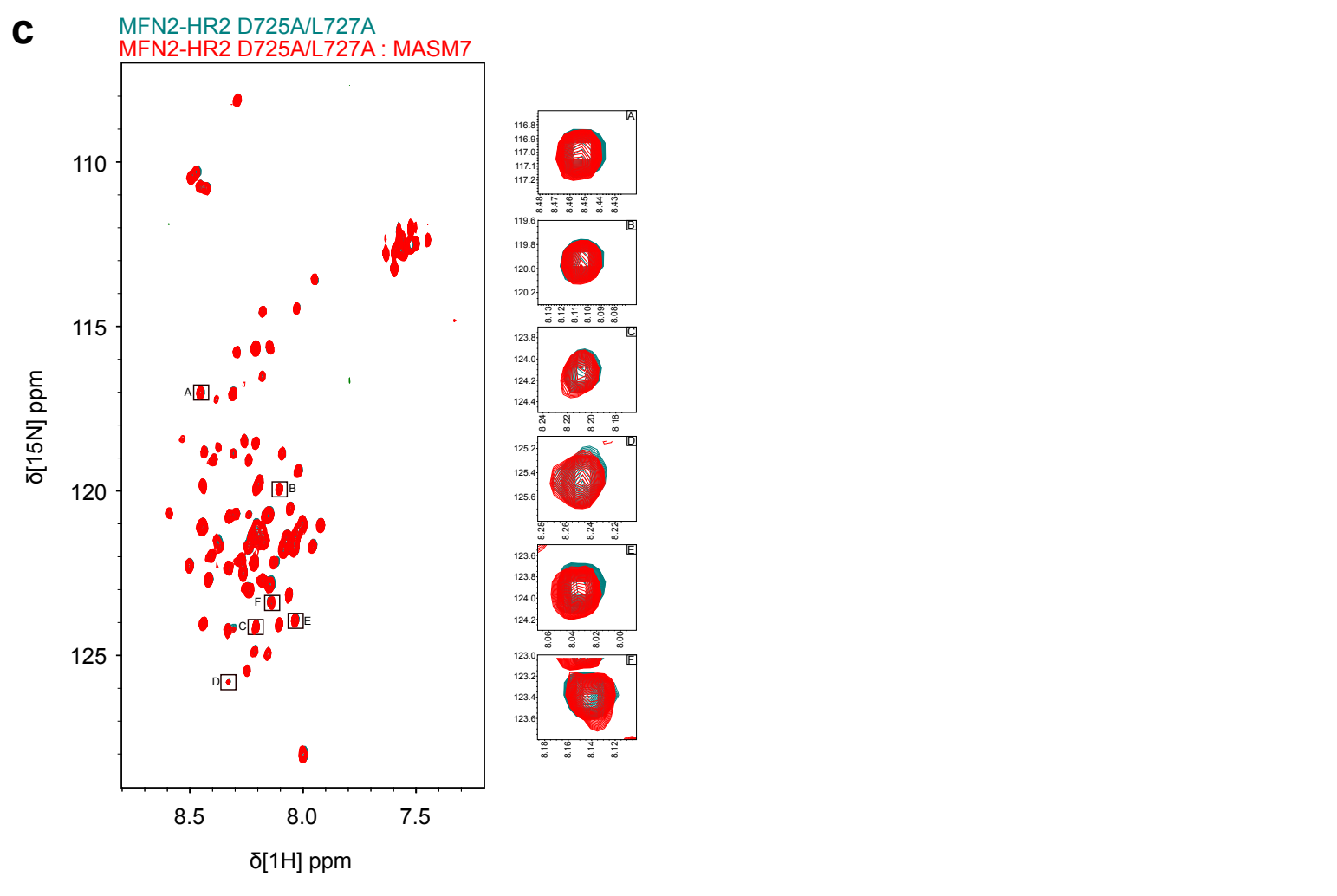
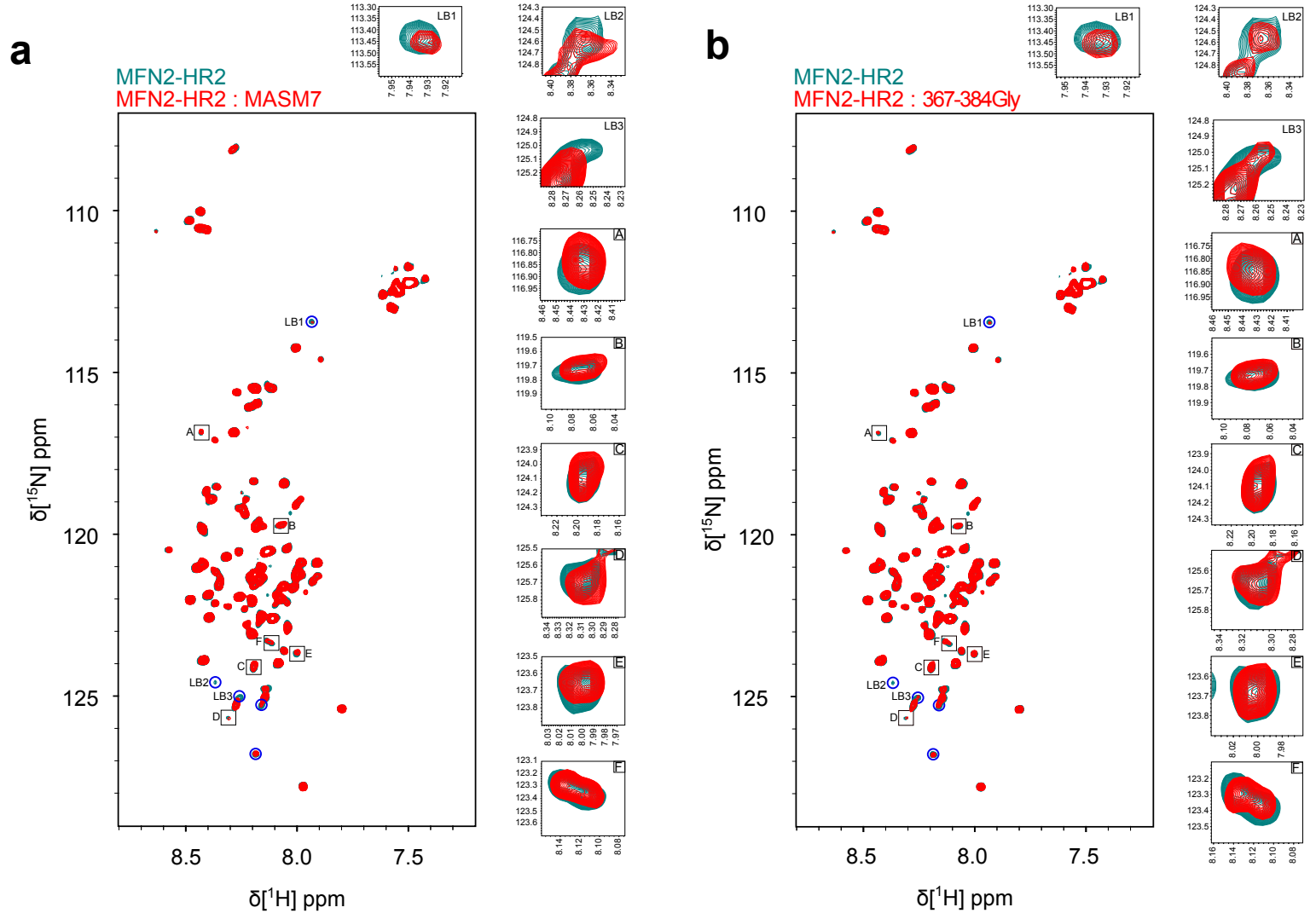


MFI26



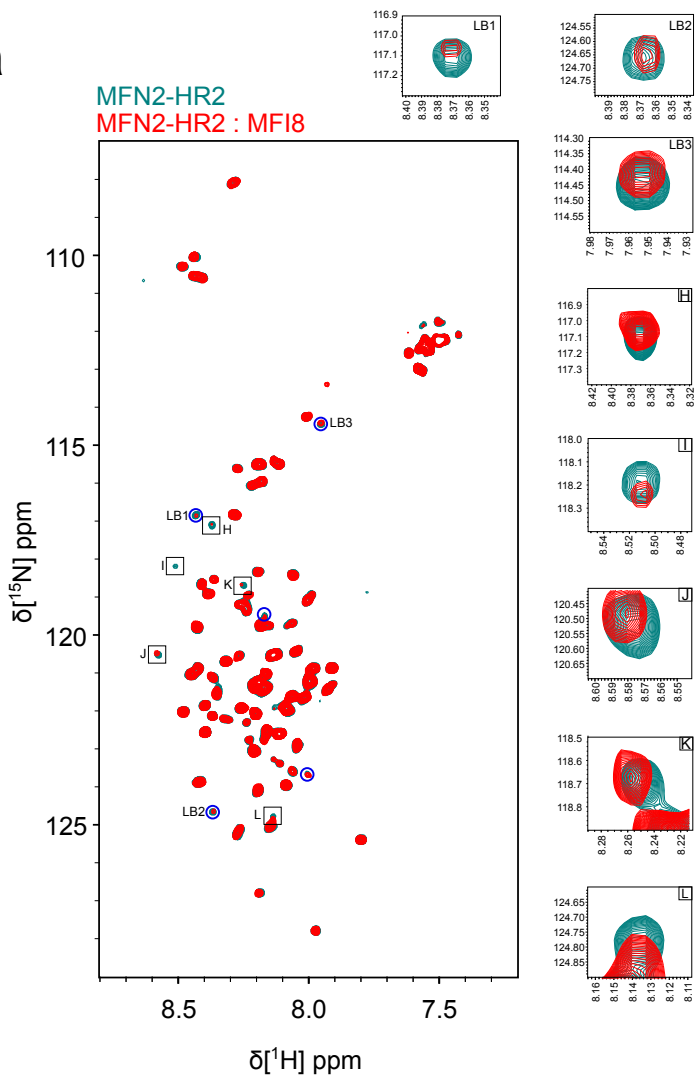
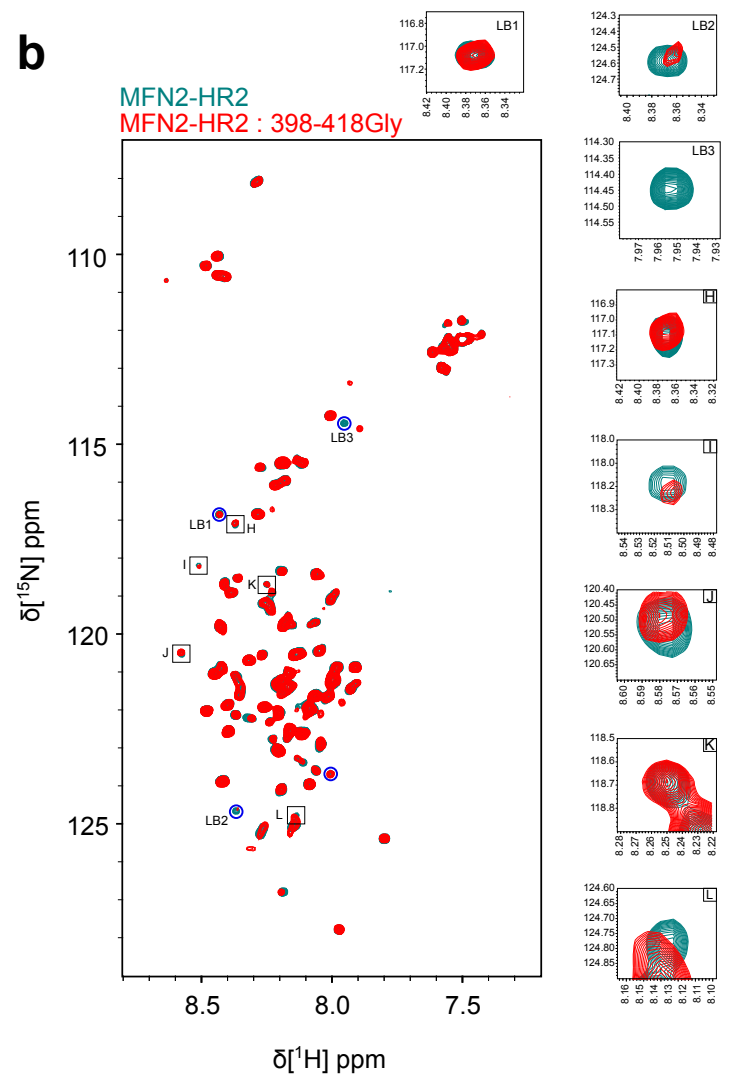
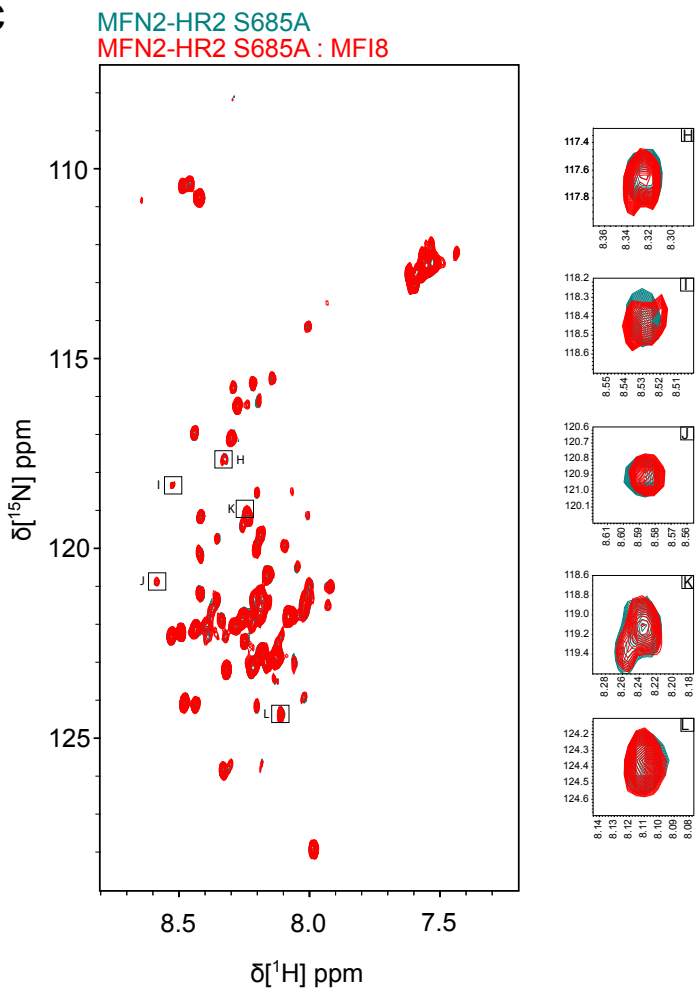
Supplementary Fig. 7. Microscale thermophoresis to determine direct interaction of MASM7 and MFI8 analogues to the MFN2-HR2 domain.

Plots of mean corrected normalized fluorescence (ΔF_{norm} : $F_{\text{norm}} \text{ bound} - F_{\text{norm}} \text{ unbound}$) from MST signal analysis of titrations of MFN2-HR2 with indicated compounds. K_d values were obtained when possible from non-linear regression fits of normalized data to a three or four parameter logistic curve, using GraphPad Prism 8. Data represent mean \pm SEM from three replicate experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



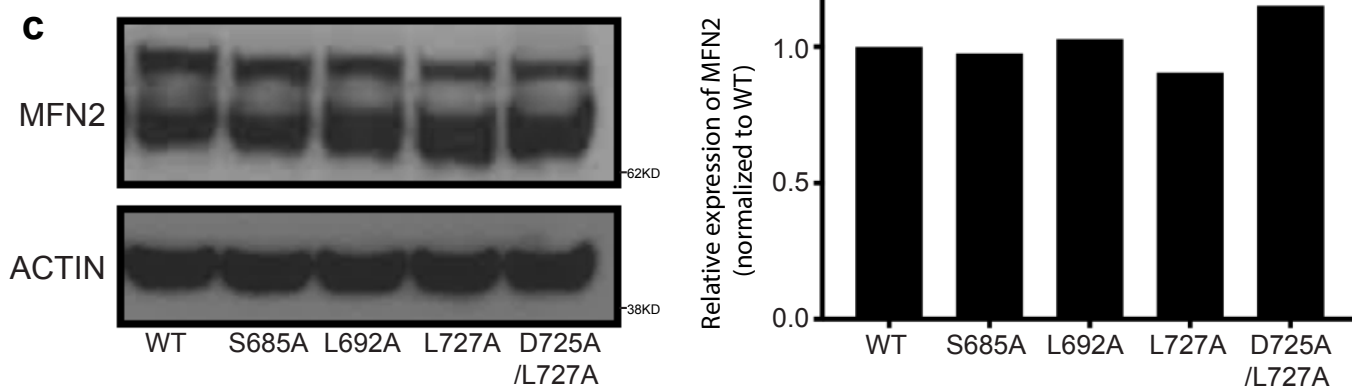
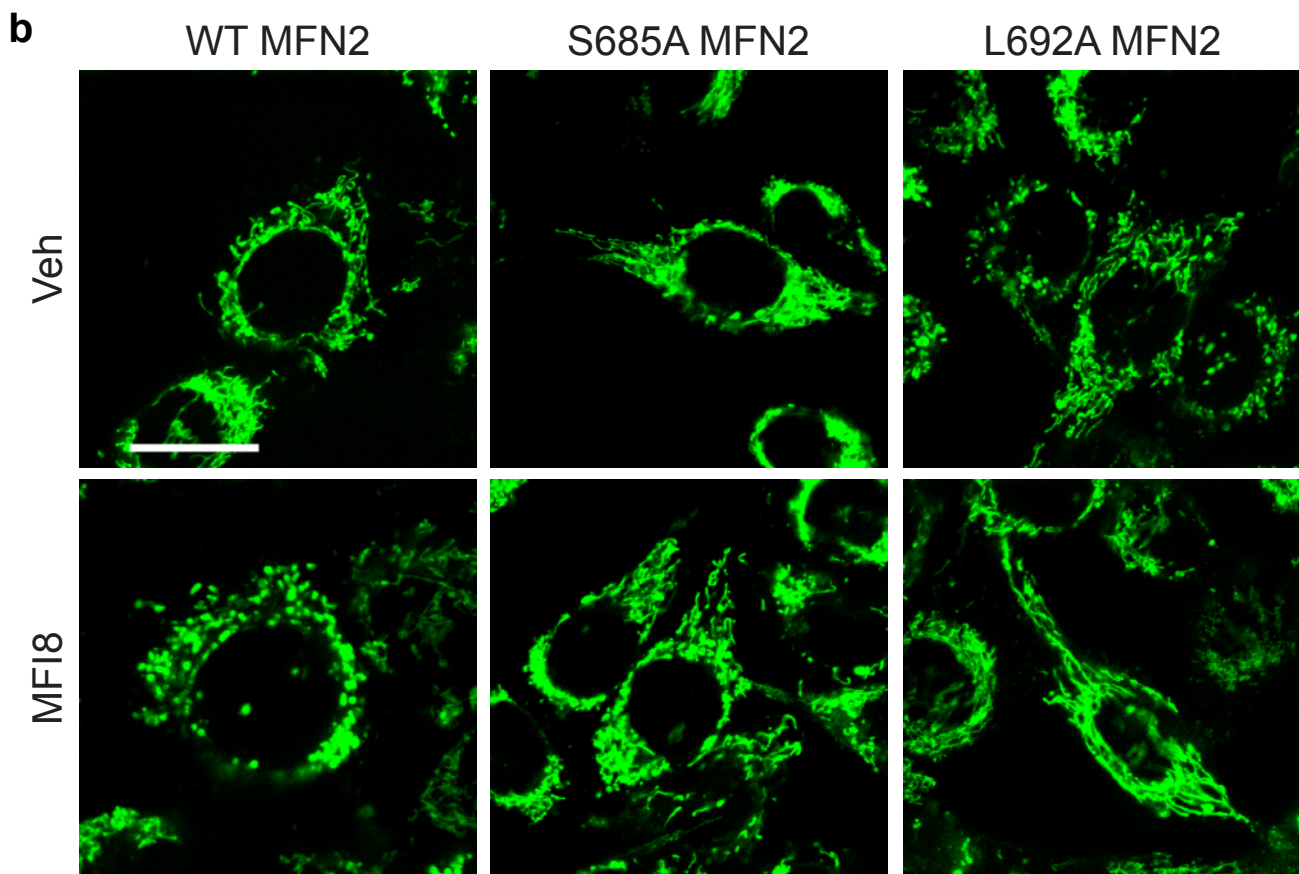
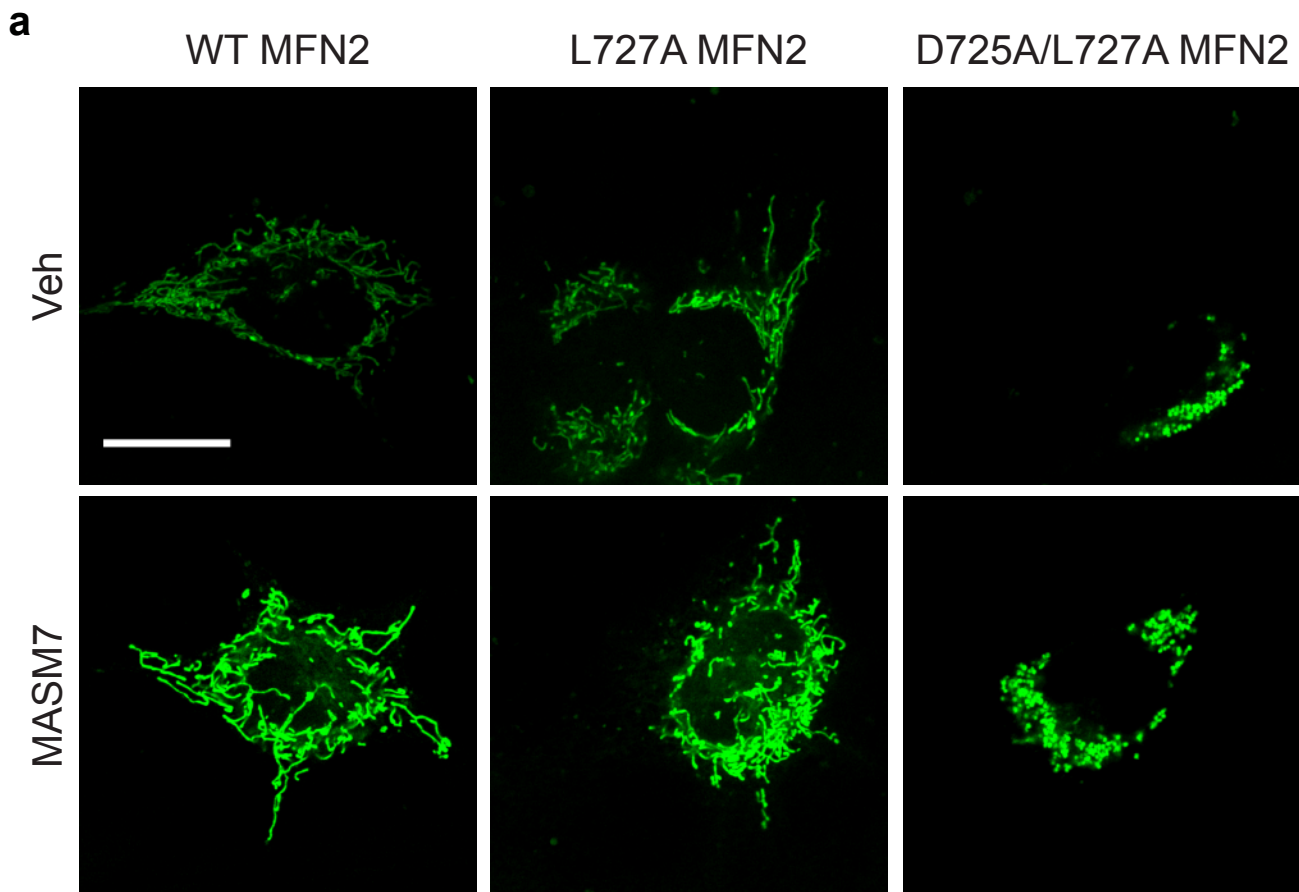
Supplementary Fig. 8. MASM7 interacts specifically with the HR2 domain of MFN2.

a, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) MASM7 (200 μM). Examples of the observed peak broadening and shifting upon addition of MASM7 are highlighted. **b**, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) 367-384Gly peptide (200 μM). Same cross peaks as shown in (a) are highlighted. **c**, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 D725A/L727A mutant (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) MASM7 (200 μM). Same cross peaks as shown in (a) are highlighted. Data are representative of two independent biological replicates.

a**b****c**

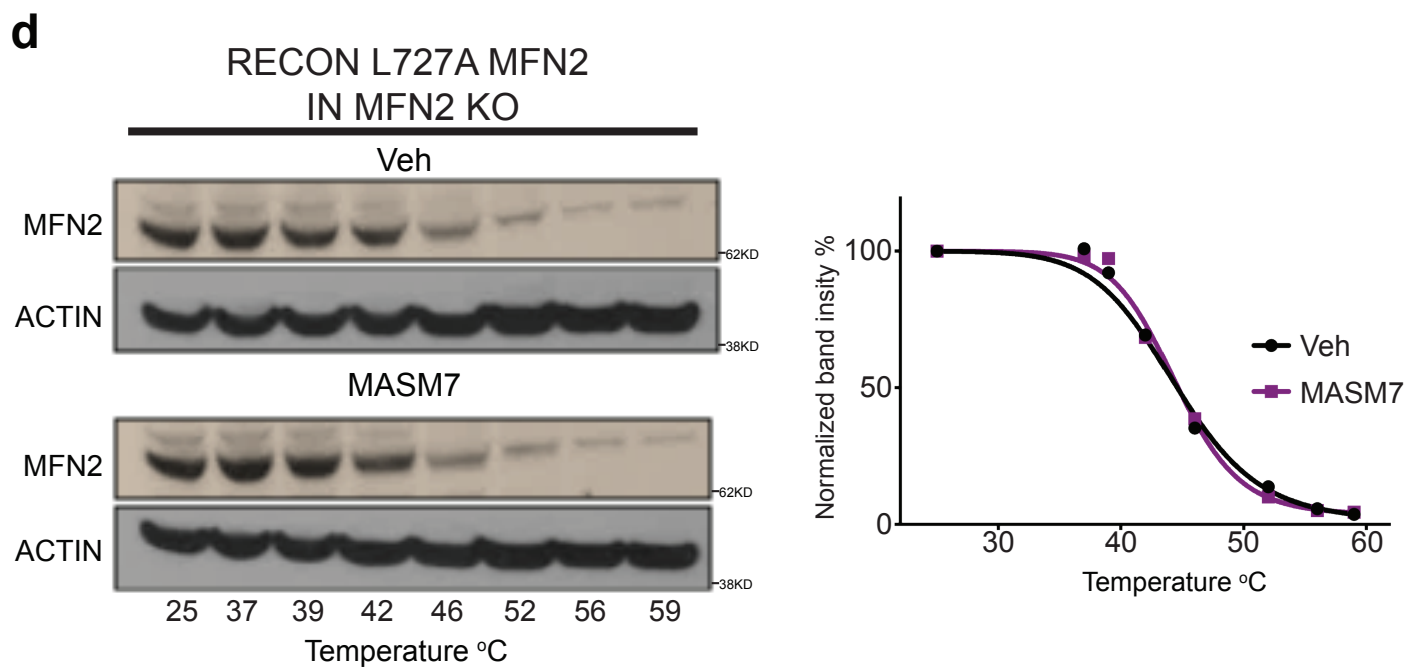
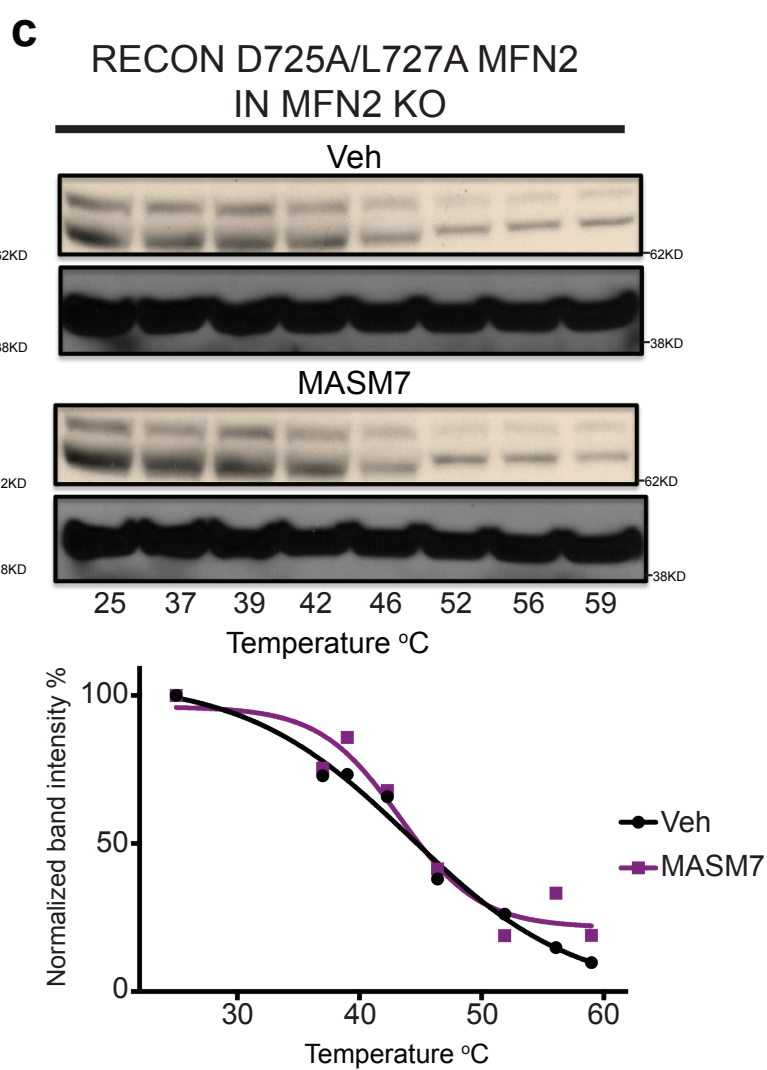
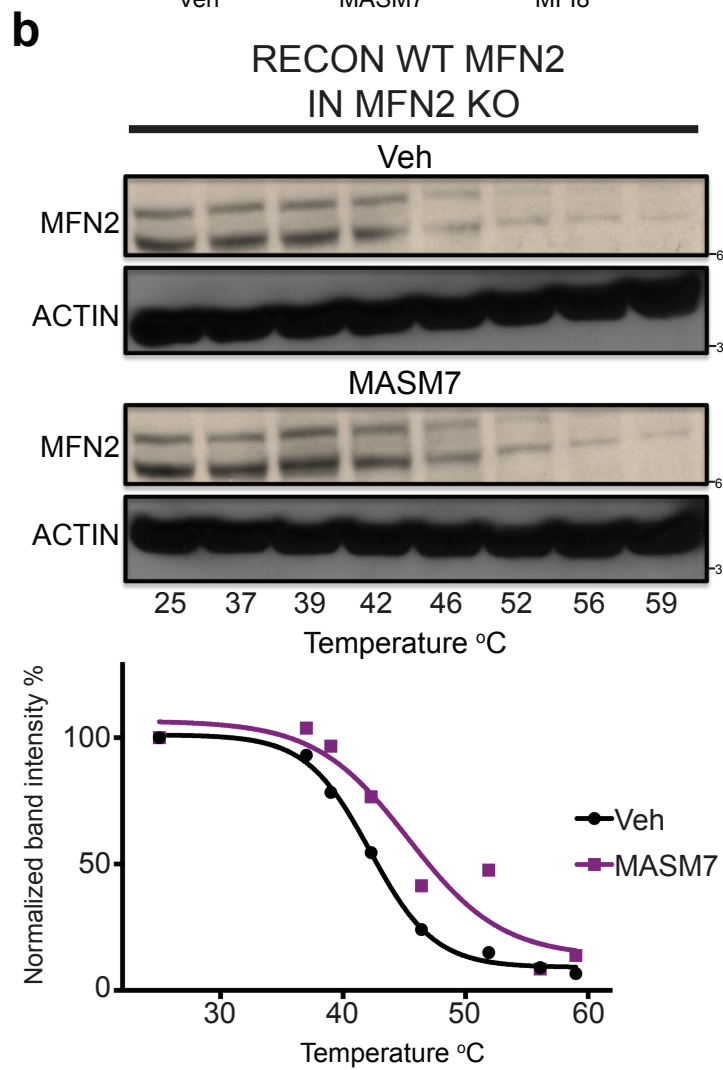
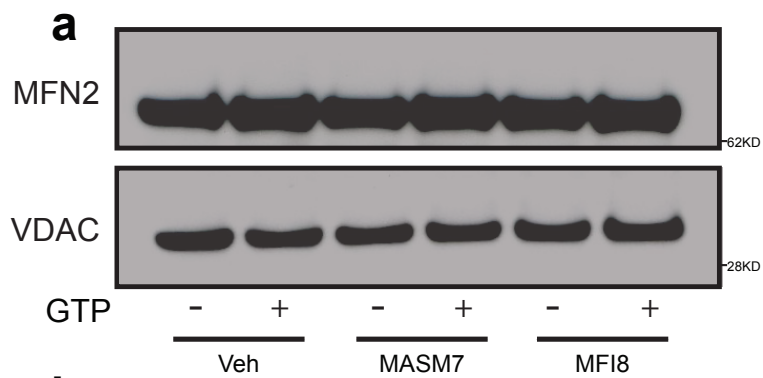
Supplementary Fig. 9. MFI8 interacts specifically with the HR2 domain of MFN2.

a, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) MFI8 (200 μM). Examples of the observed peak broadening and shifting upon addition of MFI8 are highlighted. **b**, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) 398-418Gly peptide (200 μM). Same cross peaks as shown in (a) are highlighted. **c**, Comparison of the ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectra of MFN2-HR2 S685A mutant (50 μM) with (red cross-peaks) and without (teal cross-peaks) MFI8 (200 μM). Same cross peaks as shown in (a) are highlighted. Data are representative of two independent biological replicates.



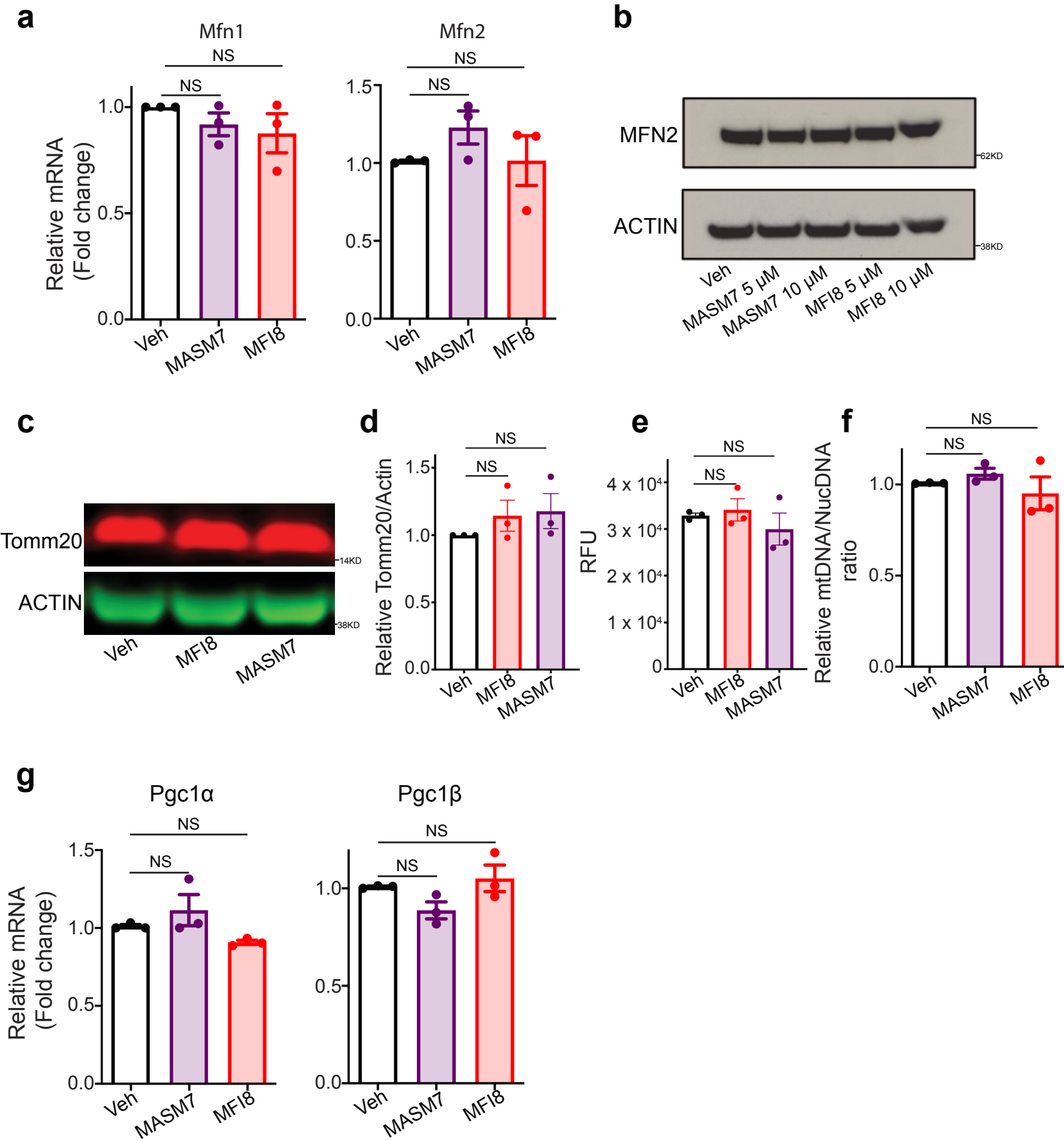
Supplementary Fig. 10. Confocal micrographs of cells that were reconstituted with MFN2 mutants.

a, Confocal micrographs of *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs reconstituted with WT, L727A and D725A/L727A mutants of *Mfn2*. Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker green. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 6 h). Scale bar 20 μ m. Each micrograph is representative of n=3 independent experiments. **b**, Confocal micrographs of *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs reconstituted with WT, S685A and L692A *Mfn2*. Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker green. Cells were treated with MF18 (20 μ M, 6 h). Scale bar 20 μ m. Each micrograph is representative of n=3 independent experiments. **c**, Western blot analysis of expression levels of alanine-substituted MFN2 mutants that were used in a and b (left) and quantification of alanine-substituted MFN2 mutants in relation to the reconstituted WT *Mfn2* (right). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



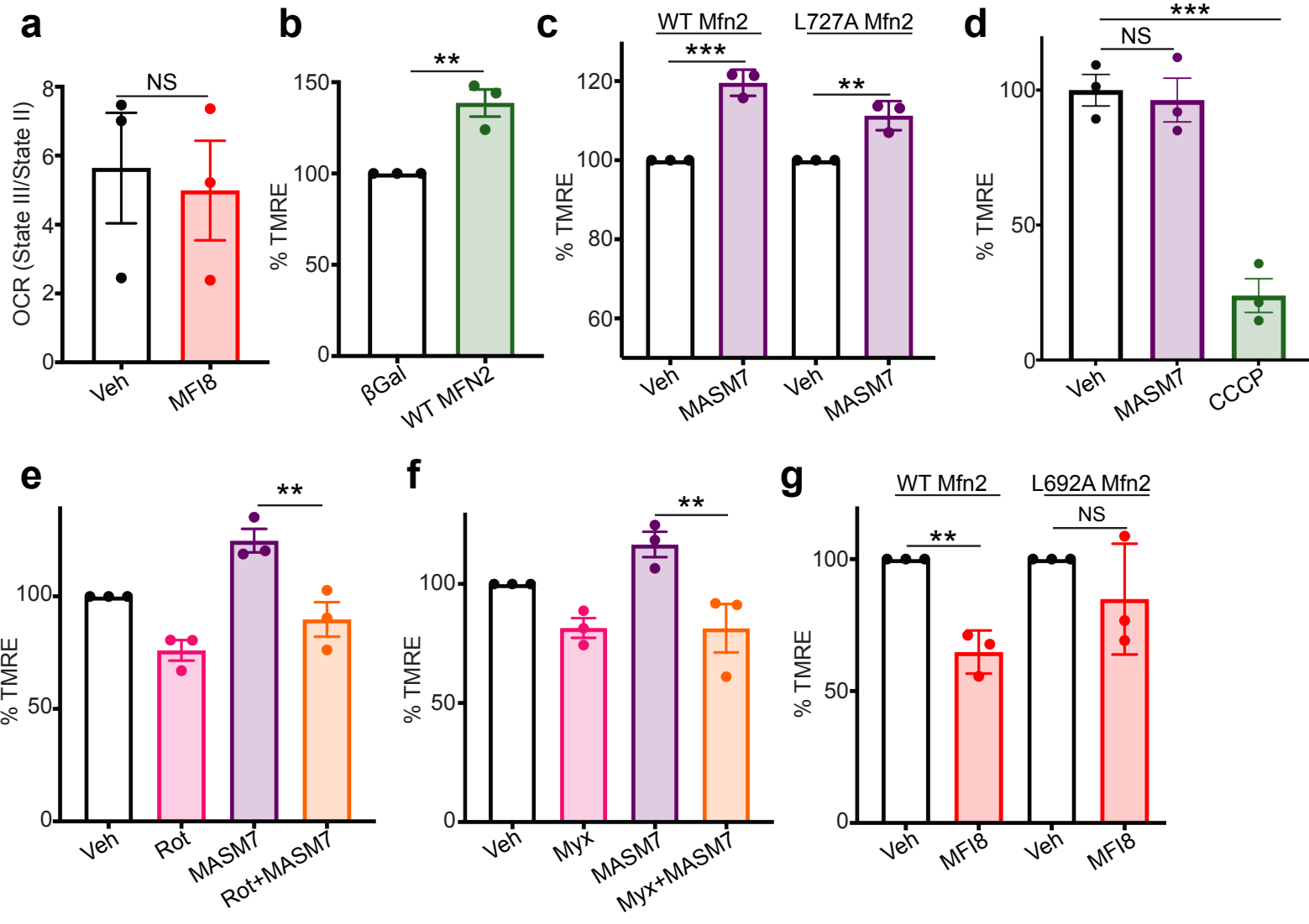
Supplementary Fig. 11. MASM7 engages MFN2 in cells.

a, Western blot of MFN2. Isolated mitochondria were treated with GTP, MASM7 and MFI8 for 30 min. VDAC was used a loading control for the mitochondrial fraction. Blot is representative of n=2 independent experiments. **b**, Cellular engagement (CETSA) of MFN2 by MASM7 in *Mfn2* KO MEFs reconstituted with WT *Mfn2*. A representative blot from two independent experiments is shown (top). Quantification of temperature-dependent normalized MFN2 levels obtained by densitometry with corresponding fitted curves. Data represent mean \pm SEM of two independent biological replicates (bottom). **c**, Cellular engagement (CETSA) of MFN2 by MASM7 in *Mfn2* KO MEFs reconstituted with D725A/L727A *Mfn2*. A representative blot from two independent experiments is shown (top). Quantification of temperature-dependent normalized MFN2 levels obtained by densitometry with corresponding fitted curves. Data represent mean \pm SEM of two independent biological replicates (bottom). **d**, Cellular engagement (CETSA) of MFN2 by MASM7 in *Mfn2* KO MEFs reconstituted with L727A *Mfn2*. A representative blot from two independent experiments is shown (left). Quantification of temperature-dependent normalized MFN2 levels obtained by densitometry with corresponding fitted curves. Data represent mean \pm SEM of two independent biological replicates (right). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



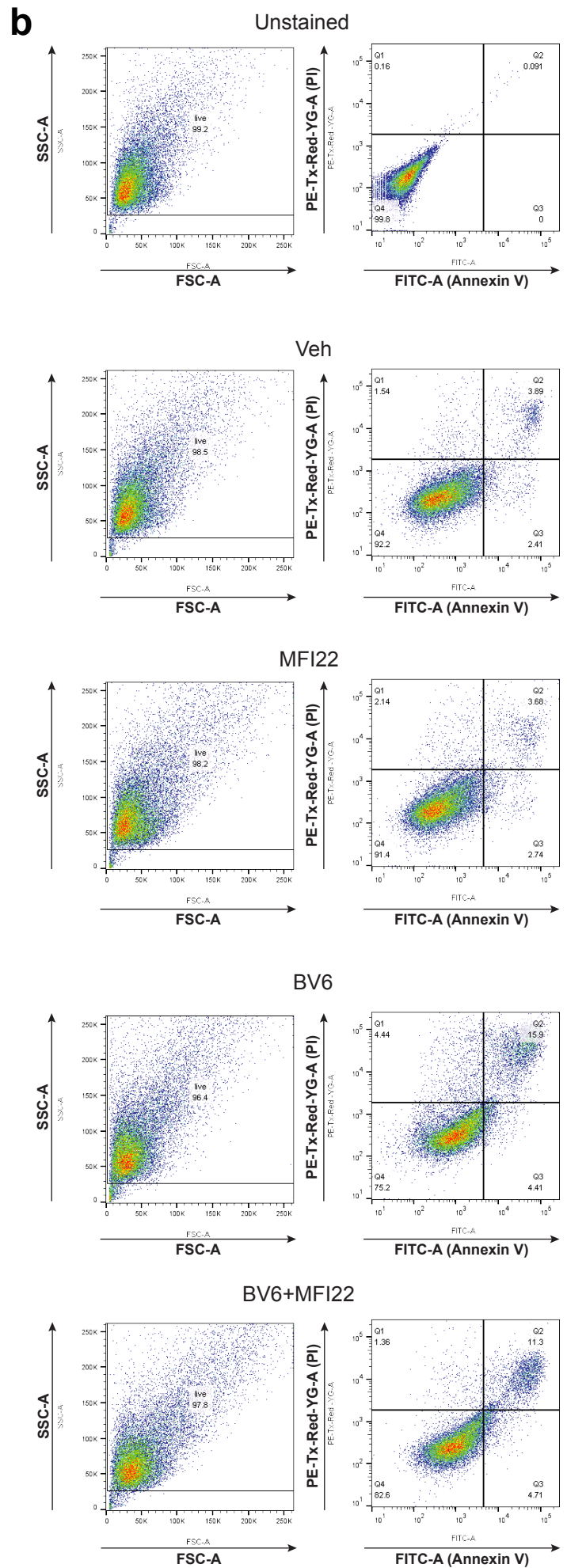
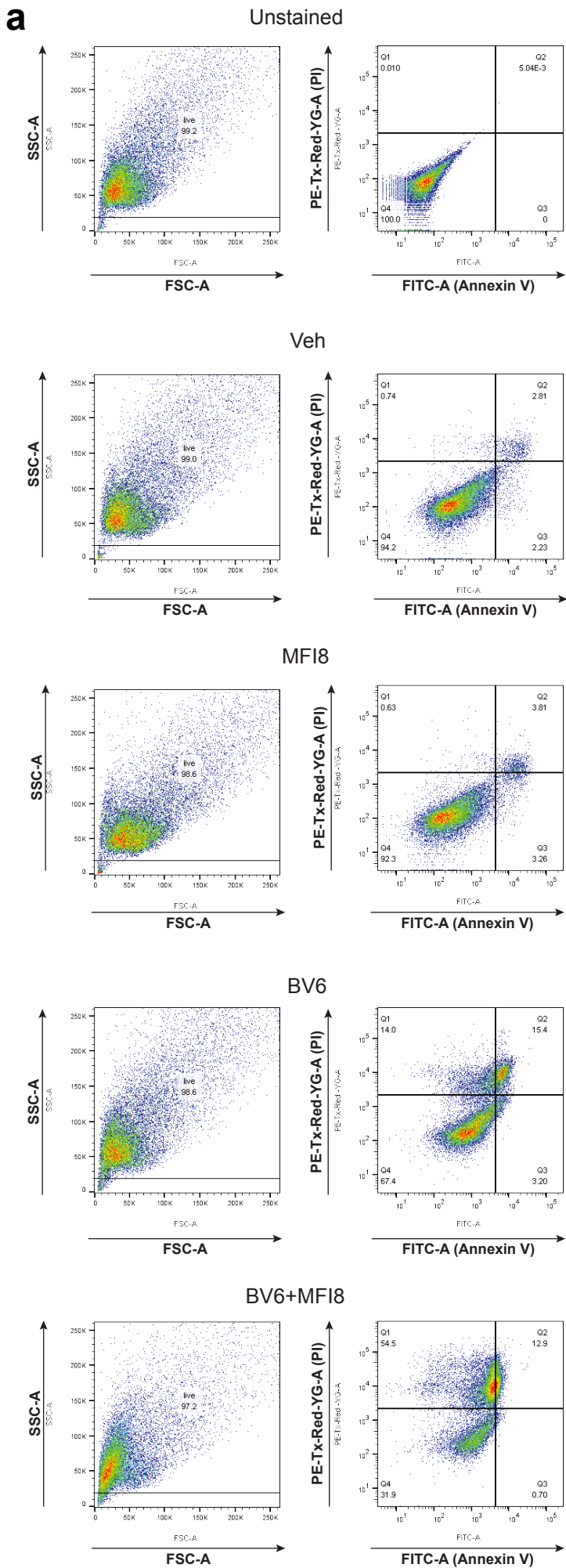
Supplementary Fig. 12. MASM7 and MFI8 do not change Mfn1 and Mfn2 gene expression or mitochondrial biogenesis.

a, Gene expression analysis of *Mfn1* and *Mfn2* genes. MEFs treated with MASM7 (1 μ M) or MFI8 (20 μ M) for 6 h. Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **b**, Western blot of MFN2. MEFs treated with MASM7 or MFI8 at the indicated concentrations for 6 h. **c**, Western blot of Tomm20. MEFs treated with MASM7 (1 μ M) or MFI8 (20 μ M) for 6 h. **d**, Quantification of (c). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **e**, Quantification of fluorescent intensity of mitotracker green. MEFs treated with MASM7 (1 μ M) or MFI8 (20 μ M) for 6 h. Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **f**, Relative mitochondrial (mt) DNA levels. MEFs treated with MASM7 (1 μ M) or MFI8 (20 μ M) for 6 h. Data represent \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **g**, Gene expression analysis of *Pgc1 α* and *Pgc1 β* genes. MEFs treated with MASM7 (1 μ M) or MFI8 (20 μ M) for 6 h. Data represent \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 13. MASM7 and MFI8 alter mitochondrial functionality.

a, OCR ratio (state III/state II) in isolated mitochondria from murine cardiomyocytes. Mitochondria were treated with MFI8 (20 μ M, 30 min). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **b**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in MEFs using TMRE as a readout. *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs were reconstituted with WT MFN2 or β Gal. Data represent \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **c**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in MEFs using TMRE as a readout. *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs were reconstituted with WT *Mfn2* or L727A *Mfn2*. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 6 h). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **d**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in isolated mitochondria from murine cardiomyocytes. Mitochondria were treated with MASM7 (10 μ M, 30 min) or CCCP (30 μ M, 30 min). CCCP was used a positive control. Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **e**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in MEFs using TMRE as a readout. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 6 h) and rotenone (Rot; 10 μ M, 30 min). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **f**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in MEFs using TMRE as a readout. Cells were treated with MASM7 (1 μ M, 6 h) and myxothiazol (Myx; 10 μ M, 30 min). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. **g**, Mitochondrial membrane potential assay in MEFs using TMRE as a readout. *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs were reconstituted with WT *Mfn2* or L692A *Mfn2*. Cells were treated with MFI8 (20 μ M, 6 h). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three independent biological replicates. Statistics were obtained using two-tailed unpaired t-test for panels b, c, g or one way ANOVA for panels d, e, f: * p <0.05, ** p <0.01, *** p <0.001, **** p <0.0001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

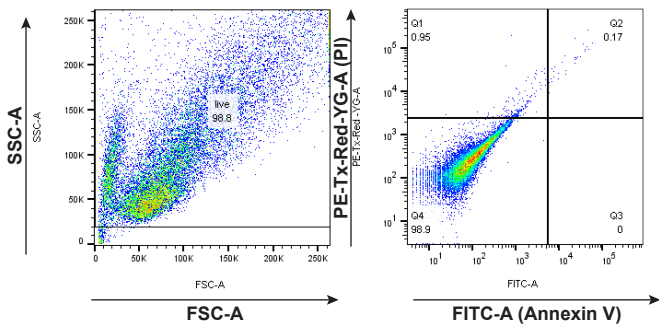


Supplementary Fig. 14. Gating strategy used for Annexin V/PI FACS experiments. a, b, Staining of WT MEFs. The right plots demonstrate the gating for FSC-A/SSC-A, while the left plots show Annexin V and propidium iodide (PI) positive cells according to the described treatments.

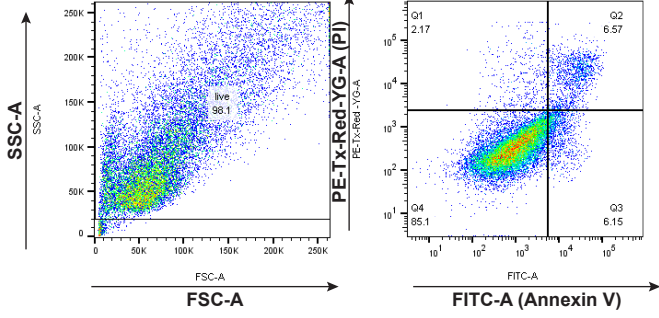
a

Mfn1/2 DKO

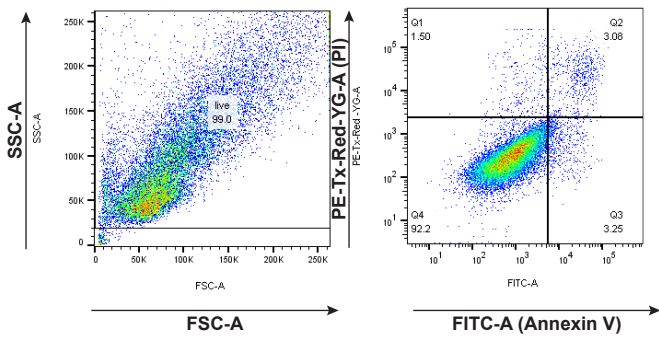
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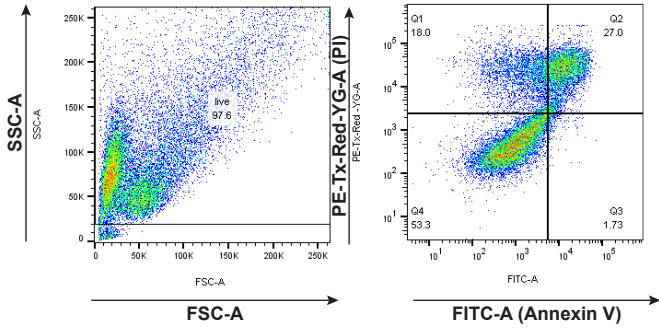
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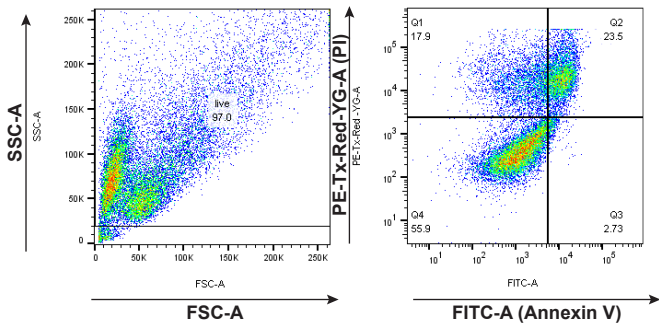
MFI8



BV6

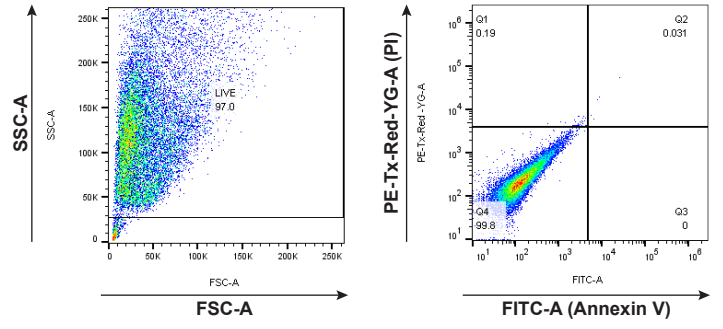


BV6+MFI8

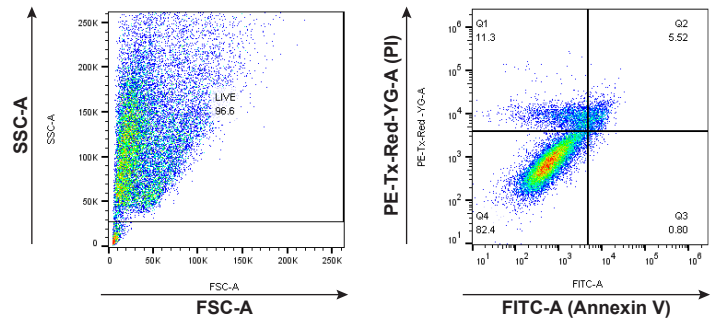
**b**

Apaf-1 KO

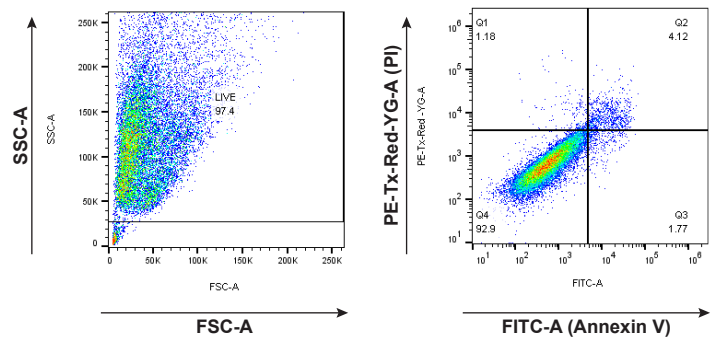
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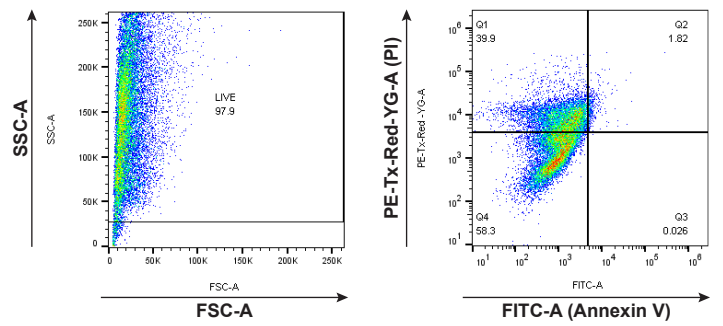
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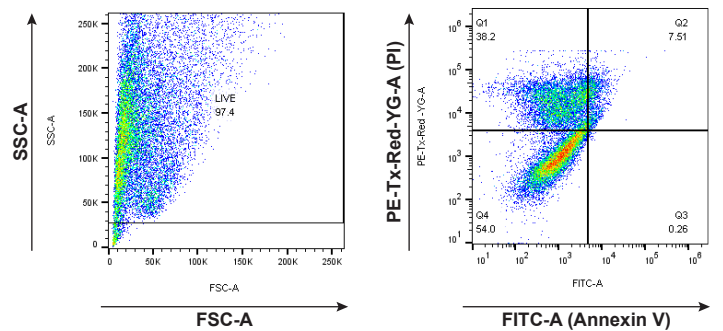
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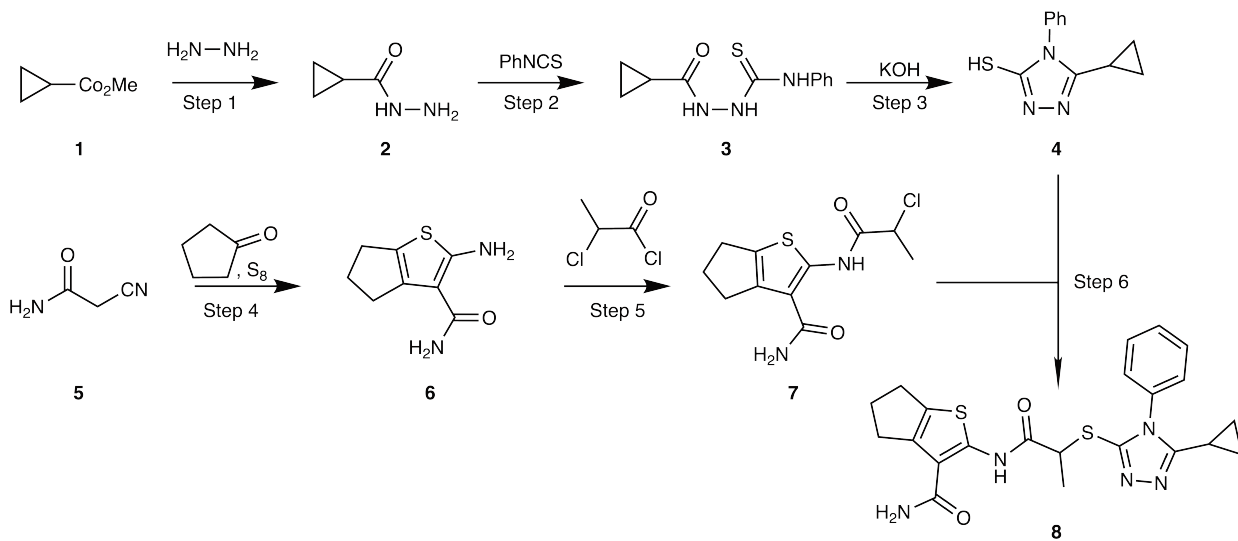
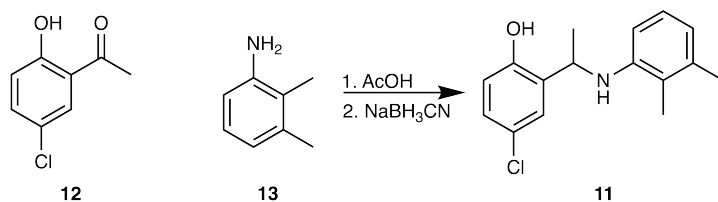
BV6



BV6+MFI8



Supplementary Fig. 15. Gating strategy used for Annexin V/PI FACS experiments. a, Staining of *Mfn1/Mfn2* DKO MEFs. **b,** Staining of *Apaf-1* KO MEFs. The right plots demonstrate the gating for FSC-A/SSC-A, while left plots show Annexin V and propidium iodide (PI) positive cells according to the described treatments.

a**b**

Supplementary Fig. 16. Synthetic schemes for MASM7 (a) and MFI8(b).

Supplementary Table 1. Primers used for the mutagenesis studies.

S685A (adeno)	5'-CTGGCTCCAACCTGCGCCCACCAAGTCCAGC-3
L692A (adeno)	5'-CCAAGTCCAGCAGGAAGCGTCTGGGACCTTTGC-3'
S685A (NMR)	5'-TGGGTAGCAACTGCGCCCACCAGGTGCAGC-3'
L692A (NMR)	5'-AGGTGCAGCAAGAGGCGAGCGGCACCTTCG-3'
D725A/L727A	5'-AAGAAAATTGAAGTTCTGGCCAGCGCGCAAAGCAAGGCGAAACTG-3'
L727A	5'-AATTGAAGTTCTGGACAGCGCGCAAAGCAAGGCGAAACT-3'

Supplementary Table 2. Primers used for the mitochondrial biogenesis studies.

Gene	Forward	Reverse
<i>Rpl139</i>	CAAAATCGCCCTATTCCTCA	AGACCCAGCTTCGTTCTCCT
<i>MFN1</i>	GACCGAAGGGTCAGATGAAA	TCCAGCTCTGTGGTGACATC
<i>MFN2</i>	CCTGGATGCTGATGTGTTTG	CCAGCTCATCCACCAGAAAG
<i>Ppargc1a</i>	TGATGTGAATGACTTGGATACAGACA	GCTCATTGTTGTACTIONGGTTGGATATG
<i>Ppargc1b</i>	GGGAAAGGGACCAGACATAATC	GCGGAAGCAGATGGTAAGATAA

Supplementary Table 3. Primers used for the determination of mtDNA and genomic DNA.

Gene	Forward	Reverse
mt DNA (<i>Nd2</i>)	CCTATCACCCCTTGCCATCAT	GAGGCTGTTGCTTGTGTGAC
gn DNA (<i>Pecam1</i>)	ATGGAAAGCCTTGCCATCATG	TCCTTGTGTTTCAGCATCAC