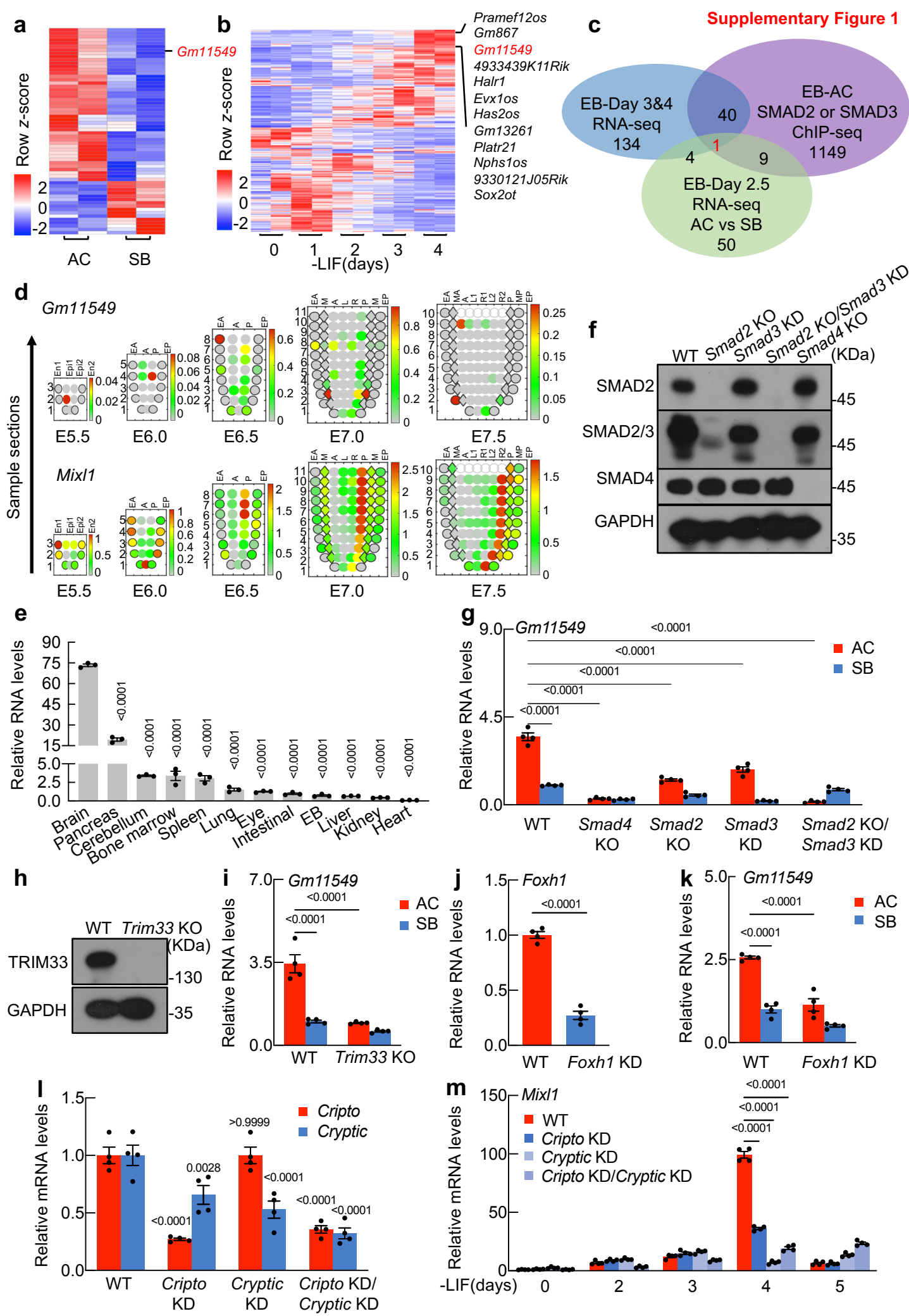


Supplementary Information

Supplementary Information includes nine figures with legends, six tables and one supplementary data (Supplementary Data 1).



Supplementary Fig. 1 related to Fig. 1: *Gm11549* is a direct target gene of Nodal signaling in mesendoderm differentiation of mouse ESCs.

a The heatmap presentation of RNA-seq transcriptomic analysis of day 2.5 EBs with 2 h Activin A (AC) - and SB431532 (SB) - treatment for putative annotated lncRNAs (fold change (AC/SB) > 1.5 or < 0.5). *Gm11549* is indicated (n = 2 biological independent samples).

b The heatmap presentation of RNA-seq transcriptomic analysis of EBs from day 0 to day 4 for putative annotated lncRNAs (GEO: GSE70486) (n = 2 biological independent samples).

c Venn diagram showing numbers of overlapping and non-overlapping lncRNAs that are specifically expressed in day 3 & 4 EBs, have SMAD2 and SMAD3 binding at the promoter region and differentially expressed in day 3 EBs with 2 h Activin A (AC) - and SB431532(SB) - treatment with fold change (AC/SB) > 1.5 or < 0.5, $p < 0.05$ (n = 2 biological independent samples).

d Adapted from (Peng et al., 2019b): corn plots showing the spatial pattern of *Gm11549* and *Mixl1* expression at E5.5 to E7.5 mouse embryo. A, anterior; P, posterior; L, left lateral; R, right lateral; L1, anterior left lateral; R1, anterior right lateral; L2, posterior left lateral; R2, posterior right lateral; Epi1 and Epi2, divided epiblast; M, whole mesoderm; MA, anterior mesoderm; MP, posterior mesoderm; En1 and En2, divided endoderm; EA, anterior endoderm; EP, posterior endoderm.

e qPCR analysis of *Gm11549* expression in the indicated adult tissues of mouse (n = 3 biological independent samples).

f WT, *Smad2* KO, *Smad3* KD, *Smad2* KO/*Smad3* KD, and *Smad4* KO mESCs were verified by immunoblotting analysis using antibody against SMAD4, SMAD2, SMAD2/3, and GAPDH.

g qPCR analysis of *Gm11549* expression in Activin A (AC) - or SB431542 (SB) - treated day 2.5 EBs derived from WT or *Smad2* KO, *Smad3* KD, *Smad2* KO/*Smad3* KD and *Smad4* KO cells for 2 h (n = 4 biological independent samples).

h *Trim33* KO mESCs were verified by immunoblotting analysis using antibody against TRIM33 and GAPDH. Data is representative of three independent experiments.

i qPCR analysis of *Gm11549* expression in Activin A (AC) - or SB431542 (SB) - treated day 2.5 EBs derived from WT or *Trim33* KO cells for 2 h (n = 4 biological independent samples).

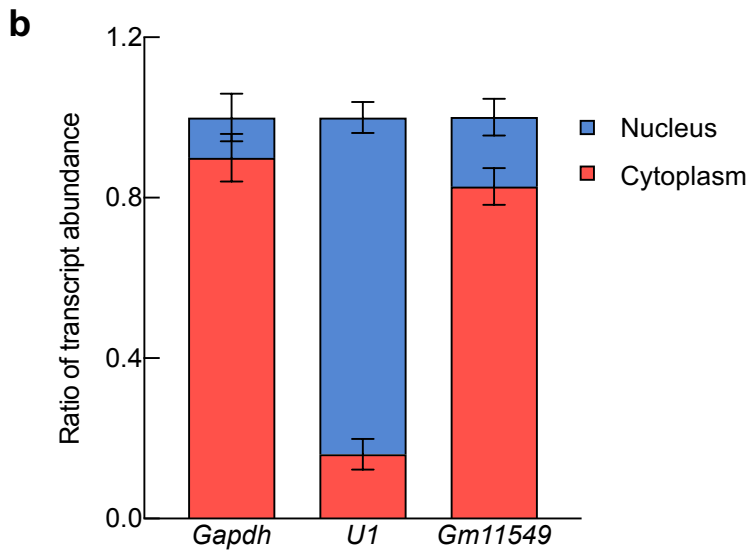
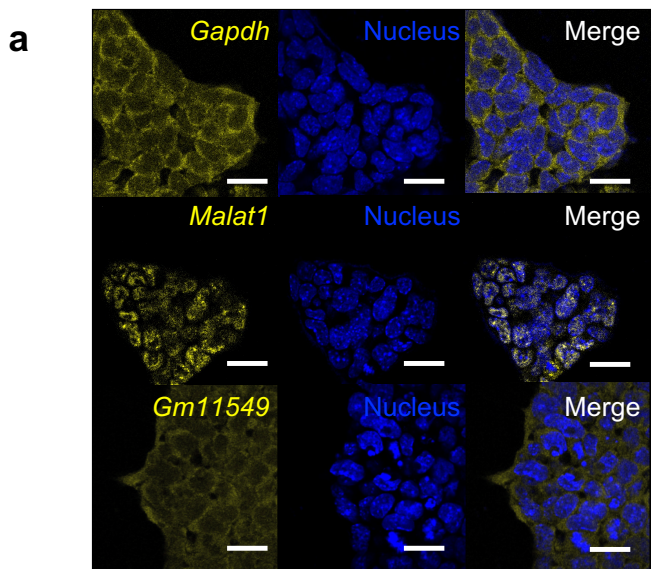
j Validating *Foxh1* expression in WT and *Foxh1* KD mESCs by qPCR analysis (n = 4 biological independent samples).

k qPCR analysis of *Gm11549* expression in Activin A (AC) - or SB431542 (SB) - treated day 2.5 EBs derived from WT or *Foxh1* KD cells for 2 h (n = 4 biological independent samples).

l Validating *Cripto* and *Cryptic* expression in WT, *Cripto* KD, *Cryptic* KD, *Cripto* KD/*Cryptic* KD mESCs by qPCR analysis (n = 4 biological independent samples).

m qPCR analysis of *Mixl1* expression in day 0 to day 5 EBs from in WT, *Cripto* KD, *Cryptic* KD, *Cripto* KD/*Cryptic* KD cells (n = 4 biological independent samples).

Supplementary Figure 1 **e, f, g, i-m** : Data are the mean \pm S.E.M. *P* values were determined by unpaired two-tailed *t*-test (**j**), one-way ANOVA (**e**) with Dunnett's corrections or two-way ANOVA with Sidak's corrections (**g,i,k**) or with Tukey's corrections (**m**) , and data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 2 related to Fig. 2: *Gm11549* transcript is enriched in cytoplasm

a Subcellular localization of *Gm11549* detected by RNA FISH. *Gapdh* and *Malat1* transcripts mark the cytoplasmic, nuclear fractions respectively. Scale bar, 20 μ m. The data is the representative of three independent experiments.

b Subcellular localization of *Gm11549* detected by fractionation assay. RNA was extracted from fractions (nucleus and cytoplasm) of differentiated ESCs at day 3. Subcellular distribution of *Gm11549* and the indicated marker transcripts. All RNA abundance values are absolute quantification. *Gapdh* and *U1* transcripts are the markers for cytoplasmic and nuclear fractions respectively. Data are the mean \pm S.E.M of three biological independent samples, data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

Supplementary Fig. 3 related to Fig. 2: *Gm11549* encodes a transmembrane micropeptide: NEMEP.

a Diagram of the ORF1-FLAG fusion constructs. The start codon ATG of the ORF1(ATG) was mutated to different variants ($\Delta A, \Delta T, \Delta G, \Delta AG, \Delta AT, \Delta TG$, or ΔATG). The indicated constructs were transiently expressed in HEK293T cells, and variant ORF1-FLAG fusion protein levels were determined by immunoblotting analysis using antibody against FLAG and GAPDH.

b Immunofluorescence analysis of transiently expressed ORF1-FLAG and mutant variant in HEK293T. The staining of secondary antibody alone served as negative control. Scale bar, 100 μm .

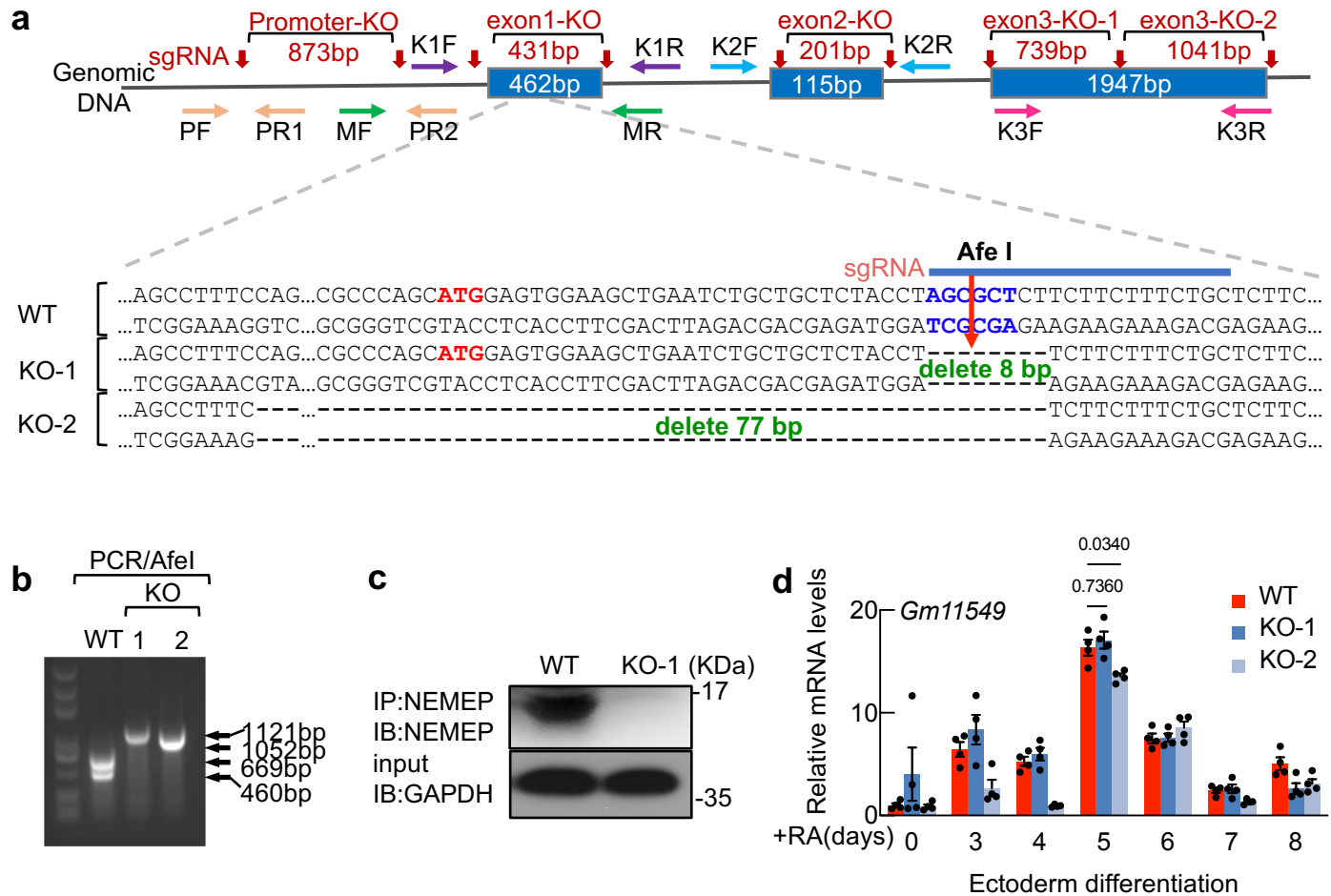
c Left, scheme of generation of ORF1-3xFLAG knock-in mESCs strategy. The 3xFLAG was inserted after the last coding codon (GTG-valine) of ORF1 by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated homologous recombination in mESCs. Right, validating ORF1-3xFLAG knock-in day3 EBs by PCR.

d Predicted ORFs in the *TMEM155* RNA sequence.

e HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with expression vectors for all three of the predicted ORFs, each tagged with a FLAG epitope at their C termini. Immunoblotting analysis for accumulation of proteinaceous gene products from the predicted ORFs, detected with an anti-FLAG antibody.

f, g NEMEP is predicted to be a single-pass transmembrane protein using the TMHMM Server v.2.0 and I-TASSER.

Supplementary Figure 3a-c,e : Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.



Supplementary Fig. 4 related to Fig. 3: Genotyping of variant mutants of NEMEP mESCs generated by CRISPR-Cas9.

a Scheme of gene locus of *Gm11549* and genome editing sites for variant mutants (gRNAs are indicated for indicated mutants in RED). DNA sequence alignments between WT and two frameshift mutants (KO-1 and KO-2) are showed.

b PCR analysis wild-type and CRISPR-Cas9 editing KO mESCs. Primers used are indicated in Supplementary Fig 4a (NEMEP frameshift mutants, promoter KO mutants, exon1 deletion mutant, exon2 deletion mutant, exon3 deletion mutant-1, and exon3 deletion mutant-2). The data is the representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

c Endogenous NEMEP was pull-down using a NEMEP polyclonal antibody raised against a 25-residue region of the NEMEP in WT and *Nemep* KO EBs at day 3. And Immunoblotting analysis of NEMEP revealed NEMEP expression in both cell lines. GAPDH was used as an internal control. The data is the representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

d *Nemep* KO and WT mESCs were induced for ectoderm differentiation for the indicated durations. Total RNA was analyzed by qPCR using primers for *Gm11549*. $n = 4$ biological independent samples. Data represents the mean \pm S.E.M. P values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's corrections. Data is representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Fig. 5 related to Fig. 3: NEMEP is essential for mesendoderm differentiation.

a PCR analysis wild-type and CRISPR-Cas9 editing exon1 deletion mutant, exon2 deletion mutant, exon3 deletion mutant-1, and exon3 deletion mutant-2 mESCs. Primers used are indicated in Supplementary Fig. 4a (NEMEP frameshift mutants, promoter KO mutants, exon1 deletion mutant, exon2 deletion mutant, exon3 deletion mutant-1, and exon3 deletion mutant-2).

b WT and various truncation variants of *Gm11549* mESCs (*i.e.*, variants lacking for exon1, exon2, and exon 3 sequences, etc.) generated by CRISPR/Cas9 system (Supplementary Fig. 3a, e) were induced for EB formation for the indicated durations. Total RNA was analyzed by qPCR using primers for the indicated genes.

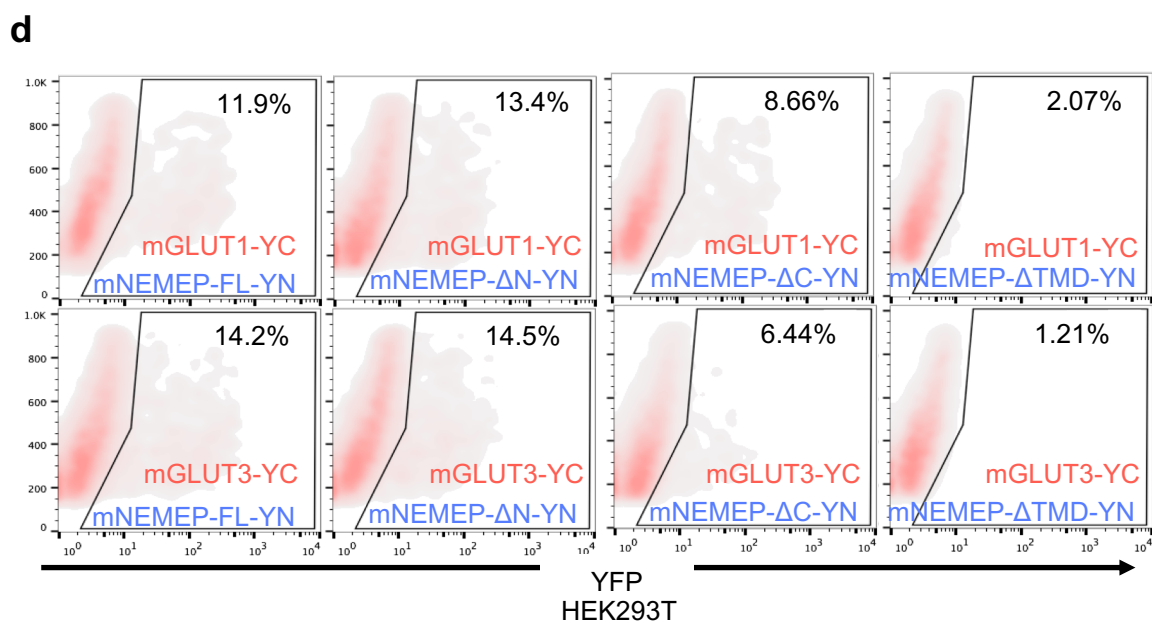
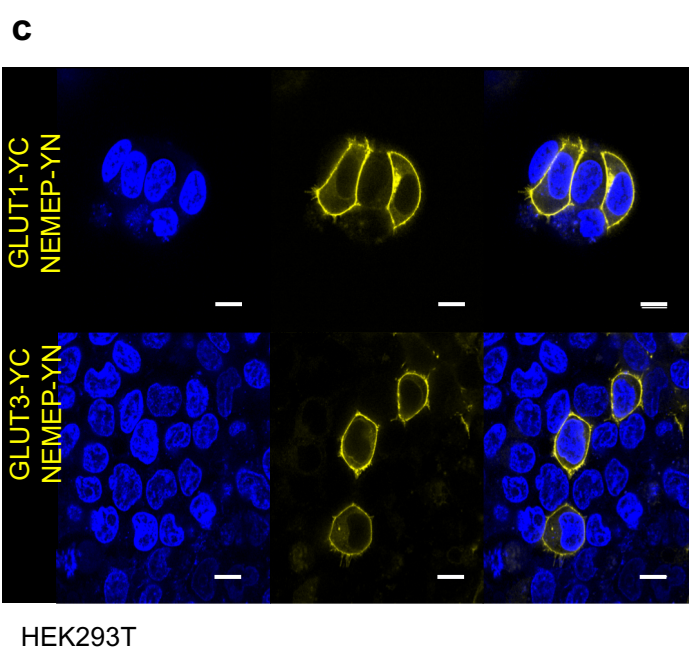
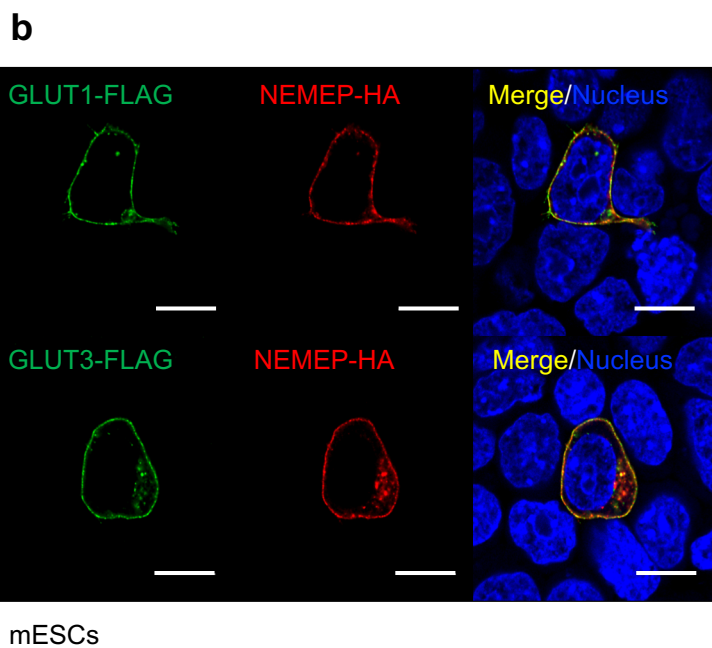
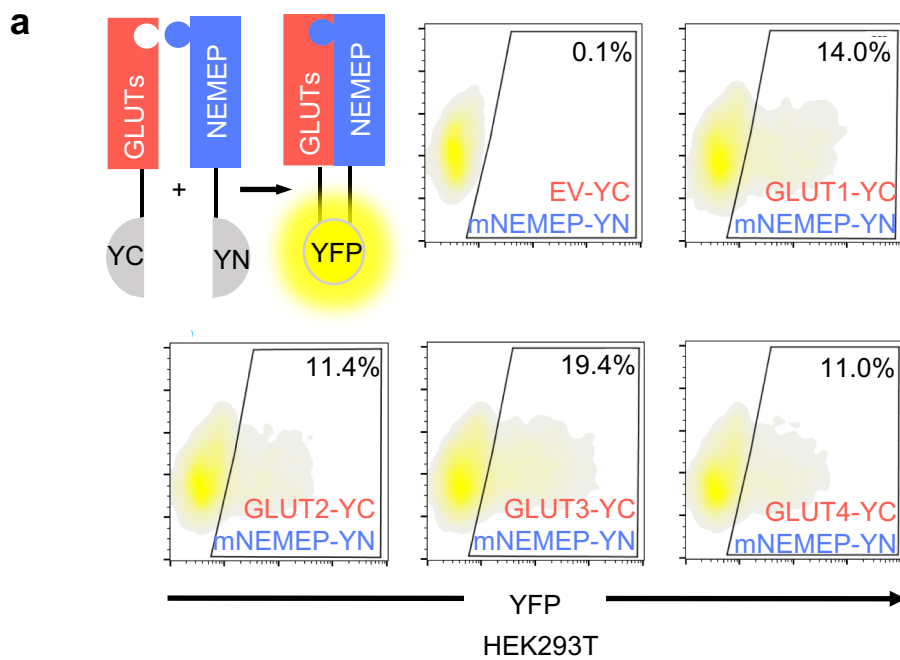
c PCR analysis wild-type and CRISPR-Cas9 editing promoter KO mutants mESCs. Primers used are indicated in Supplementary Fig. 4a.

d qPCR analysis of indicated genes expression in day 0 to day 6 EBs from WT or *Gm11549* KD cells by shRNA.

e qPCR analysis of indicated genes expression in day 0 to day 6 EBs from WT or *Gm11549* KD cells by CRISPRi.

Supplementary Fig. 5 **a-e**: Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results. Supplementary Fig. 5 **b, d** and **e**: Data are the mean \pm S.E.M of four biological independent samples. *P* values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's corrections.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 6 related to Fig. 5: NEMEP interacts with GLUT1 and GLUT3 and colocalizes with GLUT1 and GLUT3 on the cell membrane.

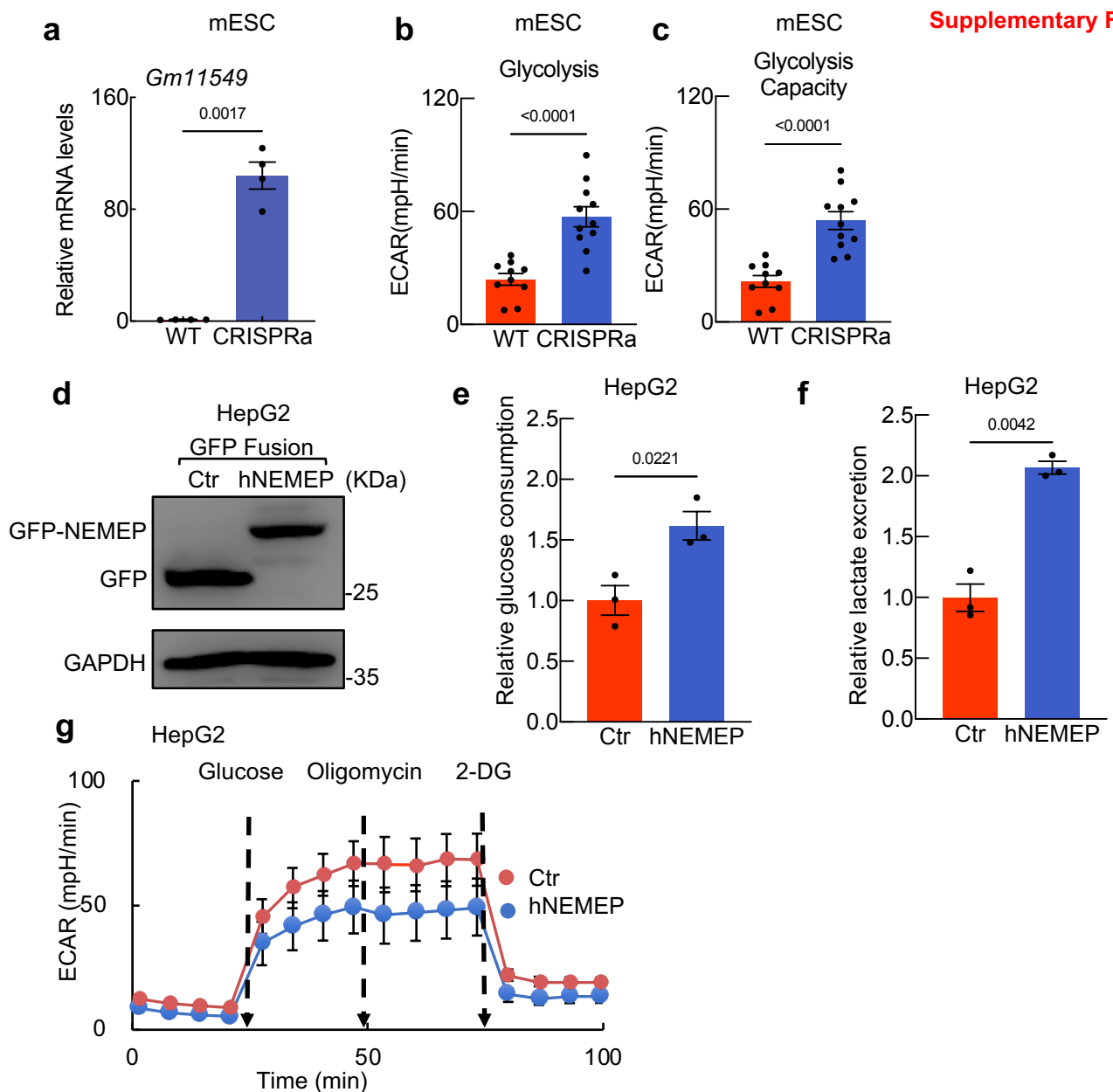
a Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis of GLUTs (1-4)-NEMEP BiFC cells.

b Immunofluorescence detection of NEMEP-HA and GLUT1 and GLUT3-FLAG in mESCs transiently co-transfected with NEMEP-HA and GLUT1 and GLUT 3-FLAG vectors with anti-HA antibody (green) and anti-FLAG antibody (red). Nuclei are stained with Hoechst33342 (blue). Original magnifications, 10 μ m.

c, d Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) and confocal microscope images analysis of GLUT1 and GLUT3-NEMEP BiFC cells. mGLUT1 and mGLUT3 are fused with YC, WT or mutants of mNEMEP are fused with YN. Scale bars, 10 μ m.

Supplementary Fig. 6 **a-d**: Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 7 related to Fig. 5: NEMEP facilitates glucose uptake.

a Validating *Gm11549* expression in WT and *CRISPRa* mediated *Gm11549* overexpressing mESCs by qPCR analysis (*means* \pm S.E.M., *n* = 4 biological independent samples).

b, c WT and CRISPR-dCas9-VP64 (*CRISPRa*) mediated NEMEP overexpressing mESCs were supplied with 25 mM glucose, 2 μ M of oligomycin (ATP synthase inhibitor), and 50 mM 2-DG (a glucose analog that inhibit glycolysis) for ECAR test. Relative glycolysis levels (**b**) and glycolytic capacity (**c**); these values are normalized to the protein concentration (*means* \pm S.E.M., *n* = 10 biological independent samples for WT, *n* = 11 biological independent samples for *CRISPRa*).

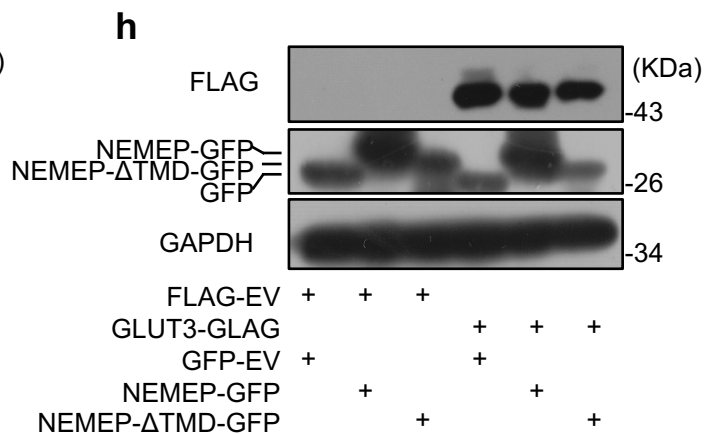
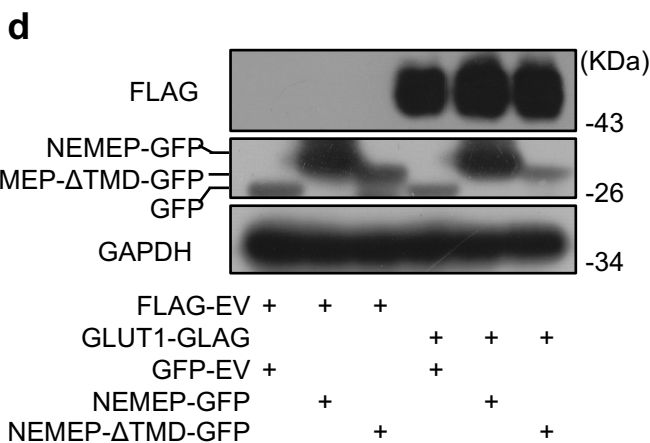
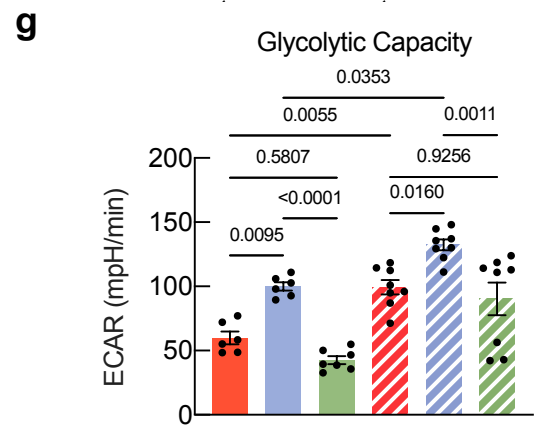
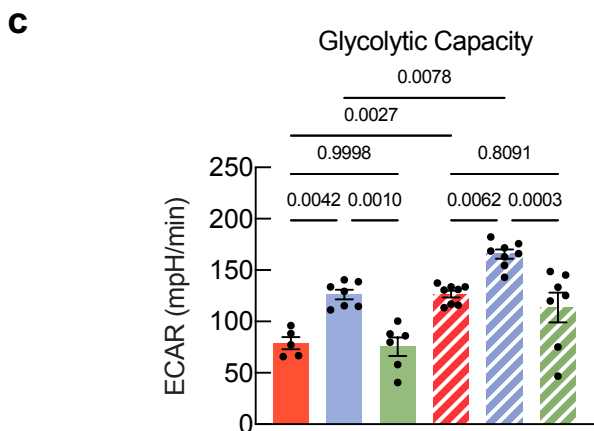
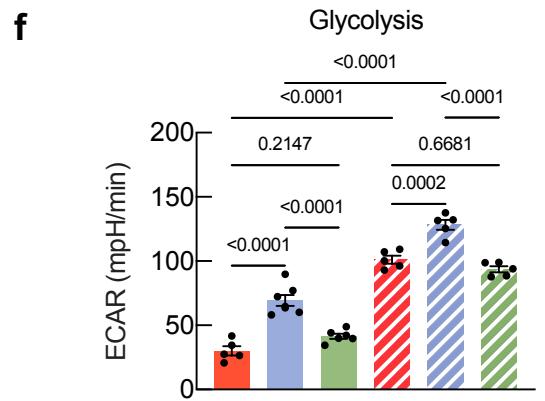
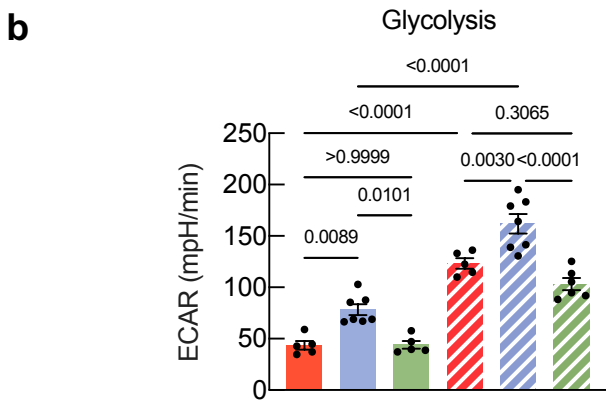
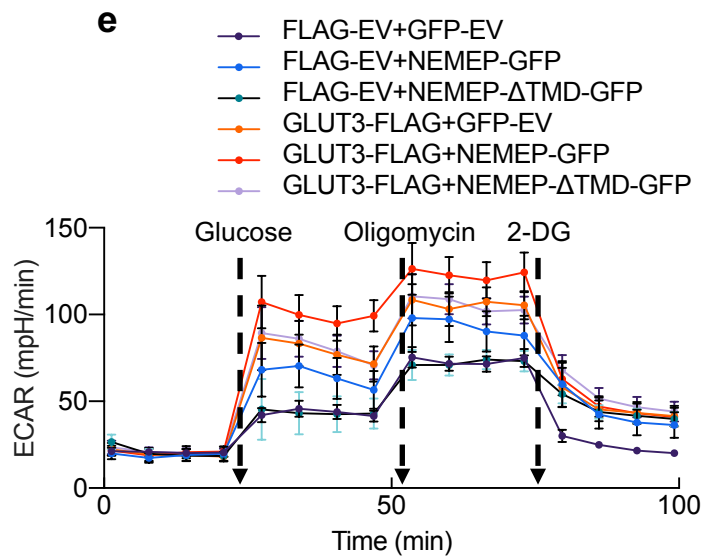
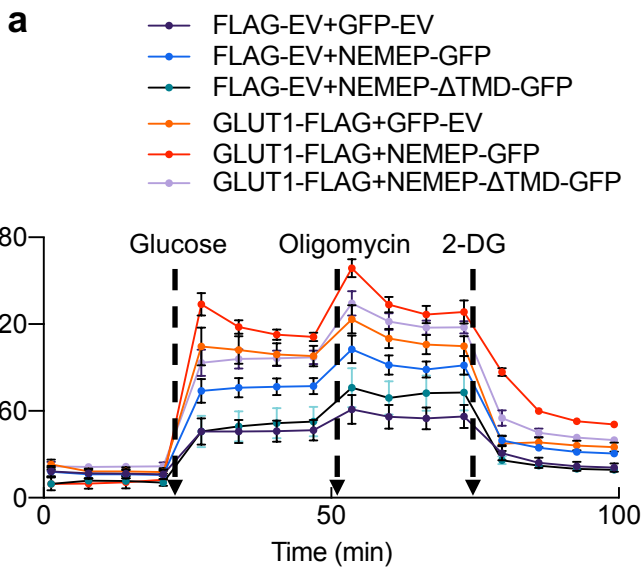
d Western blotting analysis of GFP and hNEMEP-GFP in control and hNEMEP-GFP overexpressing HepG2 cells using antibody against GFP. Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

e, f Glucose consumption (**e**) and lactate excretion (**f**) in control and hNEMEP overexpressing HepG2 cells. (*means* \pm S.E.M., *n* = 3 biological independent samples)

g Control and hNEMEP overexpressing HepG2 cells were supplied with 25 mM glucose, 2 μ M oligomycin, and 50 mM 2-DG at the indicted time. ECAR was examined using Seahorse XFe96 analyzer. Normalized to the protein concentration (*means* \pm S.E.M., *n* = 8 independent samples).

Supplementary Fig. 7 **b, c, e-g**: Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results. *P* values were determined by unpaired two-tailed *t*-test.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

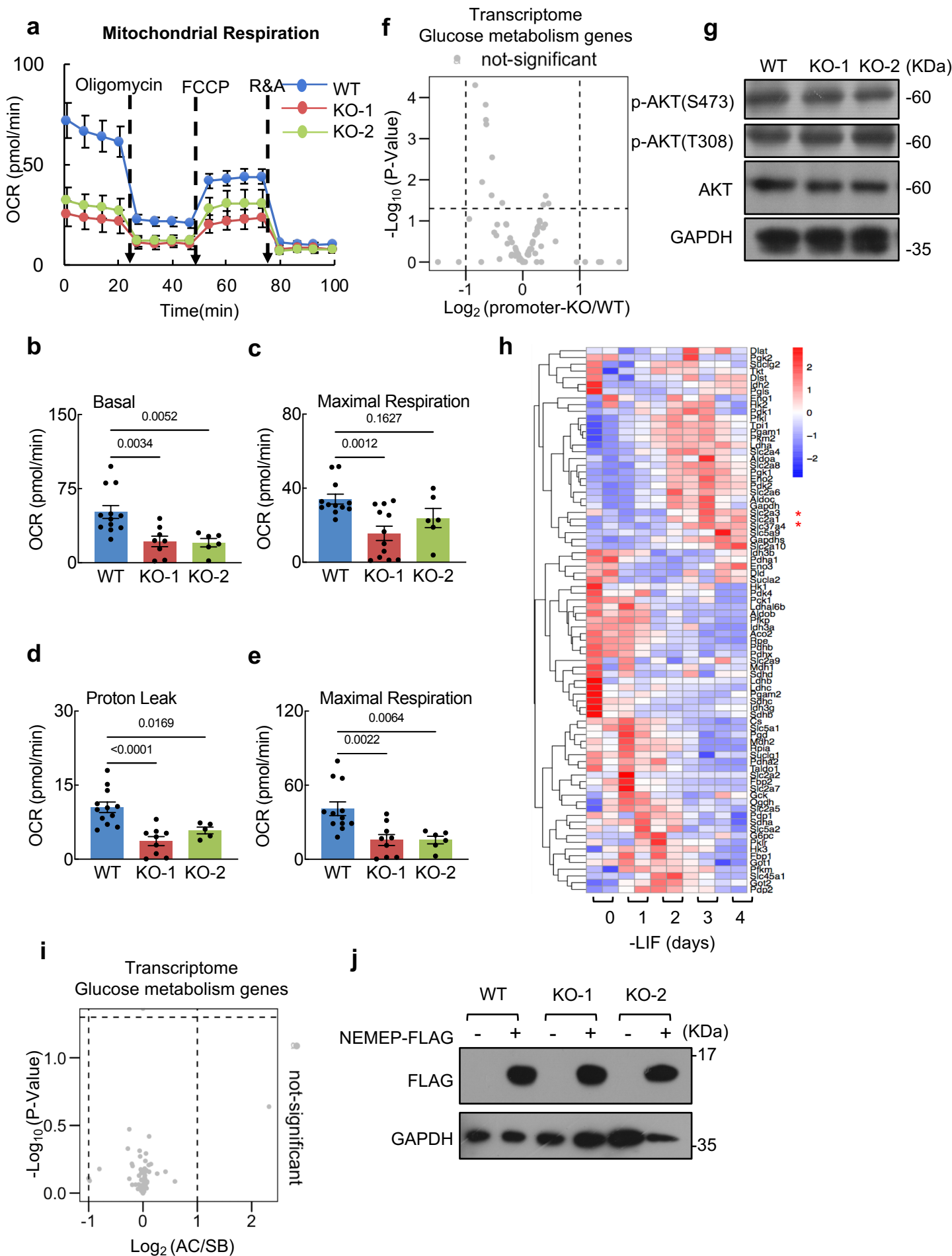


Supplementary Fig. 8 related to Fig. 5: NEMEP interacts with GLUT1/ GLUT3 and facilitates glucose uptake.

a-c, e-g HEK293T cells expressing plasmids for overexpression of the indicated proteins or protein pairs were supplied with 25 mM glucose, 2 μ M oligomycin, and 50 mM 2-DG at the indicated time. ECAR was examined using Seahorse XFe96 analyzer (**a** and **e**). Relative glycolysis levels (**b** and **f**) and glycolytic capacity (**c** and **g**) are normalized to the protein concentration (means \pm S.E.M., at least five biological independent samples per condition). *P* values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Tukey's corrections. Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

d and **h** Lysates from HEK293T cells expressing plasmids for overexpression of the indicated proteins or protein pairs were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies against FLAG, GFP and GAPDH. Data are representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 9 related to Fig. 6 and 7: NEMEP facilitates glucose uptake during mesendoderm differentiation.

a-e WT and *Nemep* KO EBs were supplied with 2 μ M oligomycin, 2 μ M FCCP (mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation uncoupler), and 1 μ M Antimycin A & 1 μ M Rotenone (mitochondrial respiratory chain inhibitors) at the indicated time. OCR was examined using Seahorse XFe96 analyzer (**a**). Relative basal levels (**b**), maximal respiration (**c**), proton leak (**d**), and ATP production (**e**) are normalized to the protein concentration (means \pm S.E.M., at least five biological independent samples per genotype). *P* values were determined by one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's corrections. Data is representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

f Volcano plot of glucose metabolism genes of day 3 EBs of WT and *Gm11549* promoter KO cells ($n = 2$ biological independent samples). Gray, transcripts non-significant changes (\log_2 |fold change| < 1 , $p > 0.05$).

g Immunoblotting analysis of indicated proteins in WT and *Nemep* KO day 3 EBs. GAPDH was used as internal control. Data is representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

h The heatmap presentation of RNA-seq transcriptomic analysis of EBs from day 0 to day 4 for glucose metabolism related genes (GEO: GSE70486).

i Volcano plot of glucose metabolism genes of day 2.5 EBs with Activin A (AC) - and SB431542 (SB) - treatment ($n = 2$ biological independent samples). Gray, transcripts non-significant changes (\log_2 |fold change| < 1 , $p > 0.05$).

j Lysates from NEMEP-FLAG overexpressing in WT and *Nemep* KO mESCs were analyzed by Immunoblotting using anti-FLAG antibody. GAPDH was used as internal control. Data is representative of three independent experiments with similar results.

Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Table 1: RPKM of GLUT1 to GLUT4 in day 3 EBs (GSE157073).

Gene	RPKM	
	EBs day 3 - 1	EBs day 3 - 2
<i>Glut1 (Slc2a1)</i>	482.322	355.795
<i>Glut2 (Slc2a2)</i>	0	0.00832
<i>Glut3 (Slc2a3)</i>	319.229	219.159
<i>Glut4 (Slc2a4)</i>	1.58826	1.58426

Supplementary Table 2: shRNA oligonucleotides used in this study.

Target	NO.	Sequence (5'→3')
<i>Gm11549</i>	1#	CCGGAAGTGTTGATTCACTACATCTCTCGAGAGATGTAGT GAATCAACACTTTTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAAGTGTTGATTCACTACATCTCTCGAGAGAT GTAGTGAATCAACACTT
	2#	CCGGAATATTGTGAATCCCAAGCAATTCTCGAGAATTGCTT GGGATTCACAATATTTTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAATATTGTGAATCCCAAGCAATTCTCGAGAA TTGCTTGGGATTCACAATATT
<i>Glut1</i> (<i>Slc2a1</i>)	1#	CCGGGCTGAGAACTTAACTGCTGAACTCGAGTTCAGCAGT TAAGTTCTCAGCTTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAGCTGAGAACTTAACTGCTGAACTCGAGTTCA GCAGTTAAGTTCTCAGC
	2#	CCGGGTCCTATTCCATGGTTCATTGCTCGAGCAATGAACC ATGGAATAGGACTTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAGTCCTATTCCATGGTTCATTGCTCGAGCAAT GAACCATGGAATAGGAC
<i>Glut3</i> (<i>Slc2a3</i>)	1#	CCGGGCCATGAGCTTTGTCTGTATTCTCGAGAATACAGAC AAAGCTCATGGCTTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAGCCATGAGCTTTGTCTGTATTCTCGAGAATA CAGACAAAGCTCATGGC
	2#	CCGGCTGTTACTAAAGGATGACTATCTCGAGATAGTCATC CTTTAGTAACAGTTTTG
		AATTCAAAAAGCTGTTACTAAAGGATGACTATCTCGAGATAG TCATCCTTTAGTAACAG

Supplementary Table 3: Primers for RACE used in this study.

Name	Description	Sequence (5' →3')
Universal Adapter	universal primer for 5' & 3' RACE PCR	AGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTAC
3RACE-F1	first round for 3' RACE	GAATAACAGTAGTTGTCTCCAGGC
3RACE-F2	second round for 3' RACE	GTCTCCAGGCTCCCAGTTTGTATTG
5RACE-R1	first round for 5' RACE	CCACCGAGTTCTTCAGCTGC
5RACE-R2	second round for 5'RACE	GCGGTGCGCGCTGCGTTTCGCC
Full length-F	forward primer	TCCACACCGGGGAACACTGAACCA
Full length-R	reverse primer	ACAAAACATGGATAAATTA AAAACTTC

Supplementary Table 4: sgRNA oligonucleotides used in this study.

Target gene	Description	sgRNA sequence (5'→3')
<i>Gm11549</i>	promoter KO	GGCCCTCAGAAAGTGGGGCG
	exon1 KO	GGAGAGCTAACTTCAGCGGG
	exon2 KO	GGTCCCGATGACATAGATCT
	exon3 KO-1	GGGGACCAGGACTACGTCAC
	exon3 KO-2	GTGACTAGTAGTTGCCGTAT
	dCas9-VP64-1 (CRISPRa)	GTGAACTACCGACGCATCCA
	dCas9-VP64-2 (CRISPRa)	GAAGGTGCGGTCTGAAGGGT
	dCas9-KRAB-1 (CRISPRi)	GGAGGCCGGGCGGACCACAG
	dCas9-KRAB-2 (CRISPRi)	GGCTCCGCACGCTCGCCCC
	NEMEP frameshift mutant (<i>Nemep</i> KO)	GCAGAAAGAAGAAGAGCGCT
	3xFLAG KI	GAGCTGTGTGACCCAGCTGGC

Supplementary Table 5: Genotyping PCR primers used in this study.

Name	Description	Sequence (5'→3')
PF	promoter KO	TTCAGGTGCCTAGGGAGTGG
PR1		GGAGAGACAACAGGCATTCTTCA
PR2		GCTCGTTATTGAAACCCACG
K1F	exon1 KO	GAGCATCTCCCAACCCTTCA
K1R		GTCCAGGACTAGACTCCTGT
K2F	exon2 KO	GTGGTGCCCAAGAGAAACGA
K2R		GCAGTTTGTCTGTCTGAGA
K3F	exon3 KO	GATTCTTATGTGATCTCCGTGGCT
K3R		AAAAGTTAAACTATACTTCTAGTATGG
MF	NEMEP frameshift mutant (<i>Nemep</i> KO)	CACTTCACAGCTAGGAGCATCTC
MR		AGCGACTCATTCTTCTACTCGC
KIF	3xFLAG KI	ACACAGAAGATCTGCGGCG
KIR		CAGTTCTCTGTGTTATCAGCCT

Supplementary Table 6: qPCR primers used in this study.

Gene	Forward sequence (5' →3')	Reverse sequence (5' →3')
<i>β-actin</i>	GTGACGTTGACATCCGTAAGA	GCCGGACTCATCGTACTCC
<i>Gapdh</i>	CTCCACTCACGGCAAATTCA	CGCTCCTGGAAGATGGTGAT
<i>Foxh1</i>	GACCTGGCCTCAACTTACT	TGTCATGCCGTAGGTATCTCTTC
<i>Gsc</i>	TTGCACAGACAGTCGATGCTACT	TCGTTGCTTTCTCGACCCC
<i>Mixl1</i>	CGGTTCTGGATCATCTCTCACA	TACCGAGAACAAGCCAGCAGT
<i>T/Brachyury</i>	TCCTCCATGTGCTGAGACTTGT	CCAAGAGCCTGCCACTTTG
<i>Fgf5</i>	AAGTAGCGCGACGTTTTCTTC	CTGGAAACTGCTATGTTCCGAG
<i>Foxa2</i>	CCCTACGCCAACATGAACTCG	GTTCTGCCGGTAGAAAGGGA
<i>Eomes</i>	ACCGGCACCAAAGTGA	AAGCTCAAGAAAGGAAACATGC
<i>Sox17</i>	GCCGAGCCAAAGCGG	GTCAACGCCTTCCAAGACTTG
<i>Nkx2-5</i>	GACAAAGCCGAGACGGATGG	CTGTGCTTGCACCTTGTAGC
<i>U1</i>	CTGGCAGGGGAGATACCATG	AGTCGAGTTTCCCGCATTG
<i>H19</i>	GAACAGAAGCATTCTAGGCTGG	TTCTAAGTGAATTACGGTGGTG
<i>Sox1</i>	ATACCGCAATCCCCTCTCAG	ACAACATCCGACTCCTCTTCC
<i>Nestin</i>	CAGGATTGGGAGGAGGGCAGAG	GGAGGCAGGAGACTTCAGGTAG
<i>Pax6</i>	GTTCCCTGTCCTGTGGACTC	ACCGCCCTTGTTAAAGTCT
<i>Tubb3</i>	GGCAACTATGTAGGGGACTCAG	CCTGGGCACATACTTGTGAG
<i>Lefty1</i>	TGTGTGTGCTCTTTGCTTCC	GGGGATTCTGTCTTGGTTT
<i>Lefty2</i>	GGAACAGGTCCTGAGCAGTC	TCGAAAATTCTGGCTGAACC
<i>Glut1(Slc2a1)</i>	CAGTTCGGCTATAAACTGGTG	GCCCCGACAGAGAAGATG
<i>Glut3(Slc2a3)</i>	ATGGGGACAACGAAGGTGAC	GTCTCAGGTGCATTGATGACTC
<i>Gm11549</i>	CTCCTATCACAGCCTAGGAGC	GGAATCAGACAGGCACATTC

Supplementary Data 1: Mass spectrometry analysis of co-purified proteins of GFP-EV and GFP-NEMEP.

See Supplementary Data 1. xls.