Senescent cells exhibit features of developmental signaling centres

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ABSTRACT

Cellular senescence is a state that contributes to tissue patterning during development and tissue repair, but which becomes misregulated in ageing and disease. The senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP) mediates many of the context-dependent effects, yet its molecular composition and evolutionary origins remain incompletely understood. Here, we characterize the SASP signature of developmental senescent cells and find that it is enriched for genes encoding major developmental signaling pathways. Integrative analyses of *in vitro* and *in vivo* transcriptomes reveal that human and mouse senescent cells across diverse contexts consistently activate these developmental programs, with key morphogens constituting conserved SASP components. Functionally, we show that the SASP is sufficient to induce the expression of central developmental genes and transcription factors across multiple cell types. These findings show that senescent cells resemble developmental signaling centers and uncover developmental signaling reactivation as an evolutionarily conserved feature of senescence, providing conceptual insight into its physiological functions and its pathological impact during ageing.

INTRODUCTION

Cellular senescence is a state of stable cell cycle arrest accompanied by a robust secretory activity, known as the senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP)[1,2]. Senescence is closely associated with aging and tumor suppression, functioning as a barrier to uncontrolled proliferation.[3,4] Furthermore, the accumulation of senescent cells is implicated in various pathological conditions, including neurodegeneration, fibrosis, and cancer, where their persistent presence exacerbates tissue dysfunction and promotes chronic inflammation[5–7]. In these situations, senescent cells can exert multifaceted effects on neighboring cells, including promoting complex gene-expression and cellular changes.

However, senescence is not exclusively detrimental. The transient appearance of senescent cells plays beneficial roles following tissue injury and wounding, including in the lung, skin and heart [8–10]. Senescent cells can also promote cell plasticity and reprogramming, and contribute to tissue regeneration[11–13]. In addition, they have demonstrated roles during embryonic development, contributing to tissue morphogenesis and fate-instruction[14,15]. These beneficial associations have suggested an evolutionary origin for senescence as initially a beneficial process, that became misregulated during aging and disease[5,16].

During embryogenesis, features of senescence have been identified in some developmental signaling centers, such as the apical ectodermal ridge (AER) in the limb and in the hindbrain roof plate[14]. These structures display hallmark properties of senescence, including SA-β-gal activity, p21 expression, low proliferative index, and a high secretory profile. Indeed the latter is a hallmark feature of developmental signaling centres, or organizers, which by definition are cell populations that direct cell fate specification and tissue morphogenesis via paracrine signaling, contributing to tissue patterning and embryo development[17–19]. Signaling centers orchestrate development through the secretion of conserved morphogens such as BMP's, FGF's, WNT's, IGFBP's and other factors, often in spatial gradients that pattern adjacent tissues.

Recently, we performed RNA sequencing profiling of the p21-positive senescent AER, to identify a gene-expression signature of developmental senescence[20]. From this, we identified that there is a significant overlap in genes expressed in developmental senescence, and senescence in other contexts. Given these associations, this raises an interesting conceptual question: As senescent cells and some signaling centres share many features, including SA-β-gal, p21, and SASP, might senescent cells exhibit additional properties associated with developmental signaling centres?

Here, we characterize the SASP signature of developmental senescent cells and find that they express genes encoding key developmental signaling pathways, including BMP, FGF, IGFBP, and WNT families, among others. Comparison with RNA-sequencing datasets from in vitro and in vivo models reveal that senescent cells across diverse contexts consistently upregulate similar developmental pathways, with core morphogens emerging as common SASP components. Functionally, we show that the SASP from senescent cells can induce the expression of pivotal developmental genes and transcription factors in multiple cell types. Together, these findings uncover that senescent cells exhibit properties of developmental signaling centres and suggest that the reactivation of developmental signaling is a conserved feature of senescence, providing insight into its physiological roles and its pathological consequences when misregulated.

RESULTS

Developmental signaling factors are prominent features of developmental senescence.
Recently we performed RNA sequencing to explore the gene expression signature of developmental senescent cells[20]. Using a newly-generated p21-mCherry-CreERT2 mouse model, we isolated the p21-positive AER, and compared its signature to the adjacent non-senescent ectoderm (Fig. 1a,b). As the entire AER is p21 and SA-β-Gal positive at this developmental stage, this analysis provides a signature of both the AER and developmental senescence – the two definitions refer to the same population of cells. This uncovered a gene-expression signature of developmental senescence that we demonstrated is conserved across many senescent states[20].

Here, we wanted to explore the SASP of developmental senescence and ask if this is also conserved across senescence models. For this, we took the complete list of genes encoding "secreted proteins" from the Human Protein Atlas[21], and overlapped this with the genes increased in the senescent AER, when compared to the non-senescent ectoderm. This identified 390 upregulated and 590 downregulated genes encoding secreted factors (Fig. 1c, Supplementary Table 1). As expected for cells originating from a developmental signaling center, over-representation analysis (ORA) of the upregulated genes showed several developmental pathways were overrepresented. These include terms related to development of multiple tissues and early embryonic processes like *neurogenesis, regionalization, gastrulation*, *primary germ layer formation*, along with *angiogenesis, wound healing*, *cell to cell signaling* and *cell migration* (Fig. 1d). In other contexts, the SASP is typically described as a mix of proteins including cytokines and inflammatory factors, but previous studies of developmental senescence using microarray analysis had noted an absence of these [2,14]. The analysis here with RNA sequencing provides a more detailed developmental SASP profile. Focusing on members of the Ccl, Cxcl and Interleukin (Il) families, we found that the signature from developmental cells does not include classical SASP-associated cytokines including *Il1a*, *1b*, *6* or *Ccl2*, in agreement with previous studies. However, we identified that other molecules are expressed in developmental senescent cells, such as *Ccl4*, *12*, *22*, *Cxcl2*, *11*, *13*, *14* and *Il5*, *11*, *17*, 19 and others (Fig. 1e). We then looked more broadly at the genes encoding all secreted factors, to gain an unbiased profile of the SASP. Here, it was evident that many genes encoding growth factors, extracellular matrix and developmental signaling genes were increased in the senescent population. These included multiple members of the *Adamts, Bmp, Dkk, Fgf, Igfbp, Klk, Mmp, Ntn, Pdgf, Sema* and *Wnt* families, in addition to additional genes associated with early embryonic patterning and limb development, including *CD44, Agrn, Clu, Lefty1, Lif, Nodal* and others (Fig. 1e).

Developmental signaling is a common feature of in vitro senescence.
As this analysis is the study of a major signaling centre that instructs tissue patterning and formation, it is expected that many developmental secreted factors are expressed. However, our interest was to determine if this signature is conserved in others models of senescence. To explore this, we first used publicly available RNA-seq datasets of cellular senescence in

multiple contexts. We collected 18 datasets analyzing senescent cells from various mouse and human cell lines (IMR90, MEF, HAEC, HUVEC, Wi38, PMK, Pan02, HA549) that had been induced by different triggers such as Irradiation (IR), oncogene-expression (OIS), replicative exhaustion (RS), and chemotherapy (TIS) (Extended Data Fig. 1a). This allowed us to generate the differential expression profiles for all 18 senescence models compared to their respective controls (Fig. 2a).

First, we performed gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) on each dataset. The top negatively enriched GO Terms shared between 17 or more senescence datasets were clearly related to senescence, mainly associating with mitosis and the cell cycle, supporting the analytic approach (Extended Data Fig. 1b). Then as we wanted to look for conserved developmental features, we used custom filtering criteria to isolate significant terms related to developmental-associated pathways. This led to the identification of 411 unique terms, with significant overlap across conditions (Fig. 2b). For instance, most datasets have more than 40 unique terms related to developmental processes. Irradiated HAEC cells have the most with 228 distinct GO terms (Dataset 5). In contrast, doxorubicin-treated pancreatic cancer cells (Pan02; dataset 12) only showed 18. To better compare the studies, developmentally related terms present in 7 or more senescence datasets were then represented graphically (Fig. 2c). From this, it is apparent that developmental processes are significantly and positively associated with senescent cells across all contexts, related to many diverse tissues, such as the development of the heart, vasculature, brain, limbs, and skeletal muscle. Additionally, there are more specific terms that were highly enriched, including *gastrulation*, *embryo implantation*, and *growth during development*. Interestingly, *wound healing* and *blood vessel morphogenesis* are among the most enriched terms shared by most datasets, which is in agreement with their previous association with senescent cells. Strikingly, datasets 16,17, and 18, which are A549 lung cancer cells in which senescence was induced by cisplatin, docetaxel, or palbociclib respectively, share the most developmental terms compared to the other datasets, suggesting there may be a link with TIS in cancer cells and developmental reactivation.

To further explore these patterns, over-representation analysis (ORA) was also conducted for each dataset, but using only significant genes (adjusted p-value < 0.05) that were up- and downregulated more than 1.5 $\log_2$ fold compared to their respective controls (Extended Data Fig. 1c). This uncovered largely similar results, and highlighted that the developmental signatures were associated with significantly upregulated genes in the senescent cells. Together, these results demonstrate that senescent cells, regardless of the mode of induction or cell type, show a strong association with developmental gene signatures. This association is driven by the upregulation of developmental genes, indicating that the senescent state entails a reactivation of developmental programs

Our main aim here was to ask if the SASP of these diverse senescence models shares any common signature with developmental senescence. As we wanted to generate a comprehensive picture of the SASP, one that was not just focused on inflammatory factors, we again used the complete list of genes encoding secreted proteins from the Human Protein Atlas, and overlapped this with the significantly upregulated genes with an expression level of more than 1.5- fold in senescent cells in each of the 18 senescence datasets. This resulted in a total of 937 genes encoding secreted proteins that are significantly upregulated in any of the datasets (Supplementary Table 2). It is known that the SASP is very heterogenous, and a primary determinant of SASP composition is the cell type that produces it[22]. However, by comparing the total list of genes for secreted proteins across all studies, interesting and common patterns emerged. It is clear that many typical SASP factors are frequently detected, including immuno-stimulatory factors, such as CCLs, CXCL, interleukins and others, as expected (Extended Data Fig. 1d). For example, Il1A, Il1B, and Il6, among the most frequently used SASP identifiers, are the most increased interleukins, along with Il33, in 9-12 different senescence datasets. For comparison, we also show the expression pattern for non-secreted senescence mediators, including p21 (*CDKN1A*) and p16 (*CDKN2A*), which shows that under

similar parameters, these are also significantly increased in 14 and 10 datasets respectively (Fig. 2d).

However, what was striking from the list of secreted factors is that many genes that are linked to embryonic development are similarly upregulated in senescent cells, across all studies (Supplementary Table 2). This includes many members of the classical developmental pathways, including Fgf's, Bmp's, Wnt's, Igfbp's, and others (Fig. 2e). Interestingly, while there is heterogeneity in the expression of specific factors across all datasets, it is clear that each senescence condition activates members of key developmental families, while the individual factors might differ. For example, out of the 18 senescent contexts, *Fgf2* is significantly increased in 11 and *Fgf18* in 10, while *Bmp2* is increased in 12 and *Bmp8a* in 11. Similar patterns are seen for the larger Wnt and Tgf families, in addition to Igfbp's and others, each of which play key roles in embryo development and organogenesis.

This analysis also shows that various other proteins that instruct development, and antagonists that contribute to fine-tuning the effects of these morphogens, are similarly increased (Fig. 2e). For example, the Growth Differentiation Factors (GDF), which are members of the TGF-β superfamily, are frequently increased in senescent cells. They regulate key aspects of embryonic axis formation, endoderm and mesoderm induction, kidney, pancreas or central nervous system (CNS) development[23]. In addition, Dickkopfs (Dkk) are extracellular modulators of Wnt signaling and play region-specific roles in establishing signaling gradients, with multiple roles in heart, limb, forebrain and muscle patterning[24]. Another relevant group are Netrins. These mostly secreted proteins, while traditionally found to be involved in axon guidance and development, they have also been shown to regulate organ morphogenesis during embryonic development via cell migration, adhesion and stem cell self-renewal[25].

Some of these factors have already been associated with cellular senescence and the SASP in specific contexts, including some BMPs, Wnts, IGFBPs and others [26–28]. Nevertheless, several of these secreted morphogens and growth factors implicated in instructing and regulating different embryonic tissues have not been characterized as integral components of the SASP in as extensive a manner. Collectively, these results imply that senescent cells acquire a strong developmental signaling potential as a core characteristic of the SASP.

Senescent cells in muscle regeneration and aging display developmental signatures.
This link with developmental signaling and senescence next led us to ask whether this is also observed in senescent cells in vivo. To address this, we used data generated from a recent study of muscle injury and aging[29]. Here, Moiseeva et al. provoked injury in muscle through cardiotoxin injection, inducing a transient wave of senescence that is prolonged in aged mice. Then, they sorted the senescent and non-senescent cells from the muscle, 3 (D3) and 7 (D7) days after injury, in both young and old animals, for RNA sequencing (Extended Data Fig. 2a). In this way, they generated a transcriptome map of senescence in vivo, in young and old satellite cells (SCs), fibroadipogenic progenitors (FAPs) and myeloid cells (MCs). We extracted the data for each condition, comparing the senescent to the non-senescent cells in each of these populations, in both young and old mice (Supplementary Table 3). We then performed GSEA analyses using identical metrics and thresholds as in the previous in vitro meta-analysis.

The total count of developmentally related GO terms was determined across all conditions, for each cell type (Extended Data Fig. 2b). We then displayed them by cell type in the young and old conditions, which revealed interesting dynamics (Fig. 3a-c). Indeed, there were many terms linked to development and the formation of muscle, but also blood vessel, brain, heart, lung, kidney and many other tissues. And again, terms related to early development including *gastrulation*, *germ layer formation* and *patterning* were prominent, with interesting dynamics across the stages. For example, satellite cells at D3 and D7 share a common trend of

associated developmental terms in young mice (Fig. 3a). However, in old mice, there are now many more terms at D3 after wounding, but which are not maintained by D7. In FAPs, both young and old cells at D3 share a similar pattern, but, while this decreases somewhat by D7 in young mice, it is completely absent in aged mice, suggesting this property is not properly maintained (Fig. 3b). Curiously, young myeloid cells have a negative association with developmental terms, but which changes in aged animals, where there is a pronounced positive enrichment of these properties at D3 (Fig. 3c). Collectively, the data indicates various points. First, that senescent cells in vivo in these three contexts have a pronounced association with developmental signatures when compared to their non-senescent same-aged counterparts. Second, these developmental signatures appear to be altered in aging mice.

Focusing on the satellite cells, we next examined the SASP, looking again at the full complement of secreted factors. We extracted genes encoding secreted factors that were more than 1.5-fold upregulated in senescent cells compared to their non-senescent controls (Fig 3d, Supplementary Table 4). Although both young and old senescent satellite cells maintain a similar number of shared genes at three- (586 genes, 58.8%) and seven- (464 genes, 51.7%) days post-injury, aged senescent cells have an increased proportion of exclusive genes at D3 compared to young (24.2% vs. 17.1%), but which is then decreased by D7 (18.3% vs. 30.1%). This suggests that while the core number of secreted factors may remain constant over time, the secretory signature of senescent cells becomes altered with age.

We then focused on the expression of all of the upregulated genes for secreted factors at each of the 4 timepoints (Supplementary Table 4). Looking first at known SASP factors including cytokines, chemokines and interleukins, there is a clear upregulation of many of these in the senescent cells compared to their non-senescent counterparts, and with interesting dynamics across the different timepoints (Extended Data Fig. 2c). For example, IL6, a hallmark SASP factor is increased in young SCs at D3 and D7 after injury, but while also induced in old SCs at D3, expression is not maintained at D7. Similarly, Ccl2, another common SASP factor, is also significantly up at all timepoints, except in old cells at D7. When we looked at the list of developmentally-associated factors, again, it was clear that there is a pronounced induction of these factors in senescent cells compared to their non-senescent equivalents (Fig. 3e for selected factors; Extended Data Fig. 3d for extended heatmap). Many belonged to families previously identified in vitro, including *Bmp's*, *Fgf's*, *Gdf's*, Igfbp's, Wnt's, and others. Interestingly, the expression dynamics of these factors differed between young and old tissue. Several signaling molecules—such as *Bmp7*, *Dhh*, *Dkk2*, *Fgf5/7/18*, *Gdf10*, *Igfbp4/6/7*, *Inhba*, *Ngf*, *Sfrp1/4*, and *Wnt2/5a*—were consistently upregulated in senescent cells across all time points and age groups. However, a subset of factors, including *Bmp6*, *Fgf3/10*, *Gdf9*, *Nodal, Ntn4* and *Sema3f*, were specifically enriched in young senescent cells, while conversely, other factors including *Bmp8b, Fgf17/9, Gdf3, Igfbp5, Inhbb, Lefty1, Tgfb1, Vegfc, Wnt10a/2b/4/9a* were uniquely induced in old senescent cells. It is also particularly curious to note again that several genes associated with gastrulation and early embryonic patterning—such as *Inhba*, *Cer1*, *Chrd*, *Dkk1*, *Lefty1*, *Nodal*, *Nog*, and *Wnt3*—were induced in senescent cells at distinct stages. Overall, however, this analysis of the full complement of SASP factors from senescent cells in young and old muscle supports that senescent SCs do indeed reactivate developmental instruction mechanisms, but that this may change with age.

The SASP can activate developmental-fate genes in a dose-dependent manner.

Next, we wanted to functionally test if senescent cells have the potential to instruct developmental fate. We had previously shown that the SASP can induce dedifferentiation and cell plasticity, using oncogene- and irradiation-induced senescence in primary mouse keratinocytes (PMK) (a model similar to dataset number 11 in Fig. 2a)[13]. In particular, we found that transient 2-day exposure to the SASP caused an upregulation of skin stem cell genes, and that the cells receiving this stimulus reprogrammed into functional hair follicle stem cells. However, prolonged SASP exposure for 6 days led to increased expression of skin stem cell

genes, but also caused paracrine senescence, presumably as an intrinsic barrier to increased plasticity.

Following from this, we were interested to explore the extent of SASP-mediated reprogramming, and performed bulk-RNA sequencing on PMK exposed to the SASP from oncogene-induced senescence (OIS) in PMK, for either 2- or 6-days (Fig. 4a, Supplementary Table 5). After 2 days of SASP exposure, there were 615 significantly differentially expressed genes (DEGs), with 334 upregulated and 113 downregulated genes. However, 6 days of exposure to SASP, which led to paracrine senescence, resulted in the differential expression of 7,922 genes in PMK, including 3511 upregulated and 1,684 downregulated more than 1.5-fold (Fig. 4b).

To further explore the DEGs, we performed GSEA analysis on both timepoints. As expected, the top signatures reflected the SASP influence on the cells at both D2 and D6, and included many signature terms related to inflammation, interferons, damage response and senescence (Extended Data Fig. 3a). However, in line with our hypothesis, we noticed a pronounced association of terms related to embryonic development. Indeed, when we selected for terms associated to development, stem cells and regeneration, there was a striking association in the upregulated genes in the SASP treated cells, particularly after prolonged SASP treatment (Extended Data Fig. 3b). Interestingly, most of the few terms associated with 2-day SASP exposure related to blood vessel and wound healing, known features promoted by the SASP. But then, with longer SASP exposure, additional terms related to many developmental processes appeared, including those relating to stem cell development, neuron development, and formation of various tissues including kidney, heart, lung, eye and others. To explore this further, we used ORA analysis to look at all of the significantly different genes with >1.5-fold change, which again showed a striking association with developmental fate in the 6-day SASP-exposed cells (Fig. 4c). In fact, developmental terms associated with uniquely upregulated genes represent 10 terms following 2 day-SASP exposure, but 188 following 6 days of SASP treatment. Focusing on the 6-day SASP exposure, it is striking that the top developmental terms relate to embryonic development of multiple tissues, including blood vessel, muscle, nervous system, kidney, lung and many more. And again, there is a strong association with very early embryonic development, including *gastrulation*, *formation of primary germ layer*, *paraxial mesoderm development* and others. These results uncover that the SASP can indeed activate genes not only associated with angiogenesis and wound repair, but also that prolonged SASP exposure leads to increased expression of genes associated with very early development, and of multiple tissues.

Conversely, when looking at the ORA results for the most significantly changing genes, downregulated genes do not overrepresent developmental terms after a short SASP treatment, and only represent 34 terms after prolonged SASP exposure (Fig. 4c). Interestingly, the signatures associated with the downregulated genes largely relate to skin signatures, ranging from *keratinocyte* and *epidermis differentiation* to *hair follicle* and *keratinocyte-development*, suggesting a repression or loss of original cell identity (Fig. 4d). Overall, this suggests that chronic SASP exposure can alter cell fate, in this case, decreasing skin and ectodermal fate signatures (in keratinocytes), and increasing diverse early developmental signatures of other tissues and germ layers.

A central tenet of embryonic development is the expression of key transcription factors (TFs) that define and instruct key cell populations and fates. To investigate if developmental TFs are induced by the SASP and associated with the developmental signatures, we extracted a complete list of TFs that were increased in the 2-day and 6-day SASP-treated cells. This turned out to be quite extensive, with 74 TFs increased by >1.5-fold in response to 2-day SASP, and 322 in response to 6-day SASP (Fig. 4e, Supplementary Table 6).

329 In agreement with the previous pathway analysis, we found that many TFs that are known to
330 play key roles in various stages of development were increased by the SASP, and that this
331 effect appears to be dose responsive, with longer exposure activating more genes (Fig. 4e).
332 For example, when we looked at the top 50 TFs induced by two-day SASP exposure, this
333 included genes associated with early development and reprogramming such as *Hhex*, *Esrrb*,
334 and *Eomes*, which were increased further with six days exposure. However, many additional
335 TFs were then appreciably induced with prolonged SASP treatment, such as *Foxg1*, *Foxl1*,
336 *Gata2*, *Meox1* and *Sall4*. Initially being undetected or having low expression levels after two
337 days of SASP treatment, these TFs all increased after prolonged exposure (Fig. 4g). Looking
338 at further associations with developmental fate, it was clear that six-day exposure to the SASP
339 induced expression of TFs associated with many and distinct developmental processes: for
340 example, genes associated with neurodevelopment (incl. *Sox2*, *Sox8*, *Sox10*, *Sox11*),
341 epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) (*Snai1*, *Twist1*, *Twist2*, *Zeb1*), iPS reprogramming
342 (*Foxd3*, *Mycl*, *Sall4, KLF2*), cardiac trans-differentiation (*Mef2c*, *Hand2*, *Tbx5*, *Gata4*) and
343 Gastrulation (*Foxh1*, *Gata2*, *Eomes*, *Gsc*) were all increased. Altogether, these results
344 uncover an unexpected and previously undescribed capacity of the SASP to induce
345 expression of a diverse set of developmental genes, including key TFs, that are associated
346 with many stages of embryonic development.
347
348 ***Therapy-induced SASP induces phenotypic changes and developmental genes in***
349 ***cancer cells.***
350 Finally, we wanted to explore our hypothesis using an independent senescence model to
351 those already examined, but which might not undergo paracrine senescence in response to
352 prolonged SASP. In a proof-of-concept experiment, we used doxorubicin to induce
353 senescence in the liver carcinoma cell line Huh7, and examined this by bulk RNA sequencing
354 for developmental SASP factor-expression. Then, we treated proliferating Huh7 cells with the
355 SASP from these cells for 6 days, and checked for developmental gene induction, again by
356 RNA sequencing (Fig. 5a).
357
358 First, we treated Huh7 cells with doxorubicin to induce senescence. Seven days after
359 treatment, the cells exhibited classical features of senescence, including enlarged size, no
360 proliferation and high SA-β-Gal activity (Fig. 5b). These samples were then analyzed by bulk
361 RNA sequencing, which further confirmed the senescent state, revealing elevated expression
362 of key senescence genes including increased p21 (*CDKN1A)* and decreased *LMNB1* (Fig. 5c:
363 Supplementary table 7). In addition, several genes associated with the SASP, including
364 various cytokines and inflammatory factors, were also significantly upregulated.
365
366 As before, we next extracted the list of genes encoding secreted factors, and analyzed those
367 which were significantly increased compared to proliferating controls (Supplementary Table
368 8). In agreement with our hypothesis, the same developmental families including *BMPs, FGFs,*
369 *IGFBPs, WNTs* and others were highly enriched (Fig. 5d). In particular, there is robust
370 activation of many members of the WNT family, such as *WNT6*, *10A*, *5B* and others, or the
371 FGF family, including *FGF21*, *17*, and *8*. And again, there was notable induced expression,
372 although at low levels, of early embryo and gastrulation-associated factors, including *CHRD*,
373 *DKK1*, *INHBA*, *LEFTY1*, *2*, and *NODAL*. These results confirm that senescent cells activate
374 or increase expression of many developmental signaling factors.
375
376 Next, we performed pathway analysis on this list of secreted factors that were increased in
377 senescent cells, selecting as before for developmentally-related terms (Fig. 5d,
378 Supplementary Table 9). This produced a striking association that was increased in the
379 senescent state. Again, these terms did not just relate to the cell-type of origin but reflected
380 broader developmental programs, including *wound healing* and *blood vessel development*,
381 but also *endoderm formation*, *gastrulation* and *neuron development,* as well as development
382 of many tissues including lung, kidney, heart, bone and others.
383

Finally, we asked if this chemotherapy-induced SASP could induce developmentally-associated genes in cells exposed to the SASP. For this, we did as we had with mouse keratinocytes, and exposed Huh7 cells to the SASP for 6 days, before analyzing by bulk RNA sequencing (Supplementary Table 10). Interestingly here, repeated exposure of Huh7 cells to the SASP did not induce paracrine senescence. In agreement with previous findings, the SASP actually increased colony size, but with decreased layering of colonies, and increased cellular heterogeneity and migration (Fig. 6a). Pathway analysis on these cells yielded fewer developmental terms than in the PMK, but did again associate with blood vessel development and wound healing as in the other contexts. This also revealed broader developmental terms including *heart field specification*, *tube morphogenesis*, and *regulation of developmental growth* (Fig. 6b). To look for activation of developmental genes, we again focused on TFs that were significantly induced by the SASP in these cells. While this was also not as robust as with PMK, possibly related to the continued proliferation of the SASP-treated cells, we did identify similar trends, with increased expression of genes related to those seen in PMK, including *KLF4*, *6*, *GATA2*, *MEF2C*, *HAND1*, *TBX2*, *4*, Egr1, numerous Hox genes including *HOXA1*, *13*, *HOXB3*, *9* and others (Fig. 6c, Supplementary Table 11). Overall, these experiments provide functional evidence that senescence induction involves reactivation of developmental signaling properties, that can induce expression of key developmental fate genes.

DISCUSSION

Here we identify that senescent cells across many contexts exhibit features and properties of developmental signaling centres, and make a provocative claim that reactivation of this developmental instructive state is a core feature of senescent cells. This analysis adds significantly to our conceptual understanding of senescence, with far-reaching implications for how its roles in health, development, and disease are interpreted and potentially manipulated.

Developmental signaling centers are defined as transient populations of cells within the embryo that secrete morphogens, such as WNTs, FGFs, BMPs, and SHH to direct cell fate, proliferation, and tissue patterning in surrounding cells [17–19]. Indeed, such functional properties could already be ascribed to senescent cells in many contexts. Classical signaling centers such as the node, the apical ectodermal ridge (AER), the hindbrain roof plate (HRP), and the zone of polarizing activity (ZPA) operate via precisely such mechanisms, establishing spatial gradients of signals that instruct complex tissue morphogenesis. For example, the AER produces a gradient of FGF and WNT signals that instruct limb development and patterning[17].

Previously, we showed that the AER exhibits classical features of senescence such as p21 and p15 expression, low proliferation, high secretion and SA-β-Gal activity[14]. Importantly, these markers are not restricted to a subset of cells within the AER; rather, the entire structure exhibits a uniform senescence-like profile. This raised an intriguing question: does the AER stain positive for senescence markers because it is functionally senescent, or do senescent cells across various contexts activate these markers because they are re-engaging a developmental signaling program? This question challenges conventional definitions of senescence, suggesting that these two phenomena may be more deeply intertwined than previously recognized.

This study builds on our concurrent study using a p21-mCherry-CreERT2 reporter mouse model to isolate and profile the AER[20]. We showed that senescent cells and the AER share a core gene expression signature of genes encoding non-secreted proteins, including *Eda2r*, supporting the idea that senescent cells may recapitulate features of developmental signaling centres. In this current study, we focus on the secretory profile of the AER and find that it includes, as expected, a broad range of classical developmental signaling molecules, such as BMP's, FGF's, IGFBP's, and WNT's. Remarkably however, by comparative analysis, we show many of the same factors expressed in the senescent AER are also consistently upregulated

across diverse senescence models. Indeed, a transcriptome study of eighteen in vitro senescence datasets reveals that these developmental factors are as frequently induced as canonical SASP components like *Il1a*, *Il1b*, and *Il6*, suggesting that family-level activation of morphogen signaling is a conserved feature of the senescence program. As a major challenge in the senescence field is a lack of markers identifying senescent cells, the identification here that they also exhibit signaling overlap, when compared to their non-senescent counterparts, may further help with the identification of these cells, and provide additional SASP factors that can be tested for validation. Indeed, factors such as BMP2, DKK2, FGF2, IGFBP3, INHBB, NTN1, SRPX2, TNFSF15, or WNT9A, which are some of those significantly increased in more than ten out of eighteen senescence studies, may serve as potential SASP markers. Although this analysis does not assess expression levels per se, the repeated involvement of these signaling families points to a structured, conserved SASP that extends beyond inflammatory signaling. Of course, the genes identified here are not restricted to functioning only in developmental contexts, and many also play critical roles in adult tissue homeostasis and disease. We emphasize their developmental functions to underscore the observation that senescent cells share features with developmental signaling centers, thereby providing a framework to reconsider how senescence may contribute to tissue biology.

Importantly, this conservation is observed not only in cultured cells, but also in vivo in regenerative and aging contexts such as seen in muscle after damage, suggesting that senescent cells across diverse physiological and pathological settings engage developmental signaling modules. What is strongly supportive of this hypothesis is that in the muscle, gene-expression comparisons are made within the same cell type and age, directly contrasting senescent and non-senescent subpopulations (e.g., SA-β-Gal–positive versus SA-β-Gal–negative satellite cells) at each timepoint. This unequivocally demonstrates the increased expression of these developmental signaling factors is coupled with senescence markers. Interestingly, senescent satellite cells from young tissue robustly activate these pathways, whereas those from aged tissue show a dampened or dysregulated response. This is also evident for FAPs. Conversely, myeloid cells seem to acquire a developmental-like fate only in aging. This supports that in vivo, senescent cells also utilize developmental instructive mechanisms, but that age-related alterations may impact the fidelity of this developmental reactivation.

Critically, using two separate models, we demonstrate that the developmental signaling activity associated with senescent cells and the SASP is sufficient to induce the expression of developmental genes in other cells. This provides functional evidence that senescent cells can act as signaling centers, capable of influencing cell fate and identity through paracrine mechanisms. While senescent cells are known to accumulate during aging and in various diseases, the precise ways in which they impact surrounding tissue remain confusing. Notably, recent studies have linked aging and disease with the reactivation of developmental pathways and the emergence of alternate or aberrant lineage programs [30–33], yet the cellular sources and mechanisms driving these changes are often unclear. Our findings suggest that senescent cells may play a direct role in this process, by re-initiating developmental signaling cascades. This opens new avenues for investigating how senescence contributes to age-related dysfunction and offers potential strategies to either mitigate or harness these effects therapeutically.

Phenotypic plasticity is also a hallmark of cancer, associated with loss of markers of the cell of origin, or increased expression of genes associated with other tissues[32–36]. In addition, developmental- or onco-fetal-reprogramming is increasingly shown to contribute to tumor progression and recurrence[37–40]. As senescent cells have an intricate relationship with cancer, being present at all stages including in pre-malignant lesions, the tumor microenvironment, and following therapy[41], the finding that they can induce developmental or lineage-inappropriate gene expression in other cells could open new avenues to disrupt cancer progression and recurrence. For example, we show that OIS in mouse keratinocytes, an in

494 vitro model of papilloma, leads to activation via the SASP of a wide variety of stem and
495 developmental genes, many of which have pro-tumorigenic roles, and in a dose responsive
496 manner. We also demonstrate that therapy-induced senescence (TIS) in liver cancer cells
497 can, through the SASP, upregulates genes associated with developmental fate,
498 including *KLF4, MEF2C, GATA2, HAND1*, and multiple *HOX* family members. Notably, many
499 of the transcription factors induced by the SASP are known drivers of tumor growth,
500 heterogeneity, and metastasis. Further, the recurrent association between senescence and
501 genes normally activated during gastrulation is also unexpected and intriguing. Gastrulation
502 represents a critical developmental stage during which germ layer identity is specified, and
503 the reactivation of genes linked with this program in senescent and SASP-treated cells—
504 particularly in the context of cancer and TIS—warrants detailed investigation.
505
506 Overall, our discovery that senescent cells exhibit molecular and functional features of
507 developmental signaling centers redefines the conventional view of cellular senescence as
508 solely a terminal, damage-induced state. Instead, it suggests a broader paradigm in which
509 senescence may represent a conserved, instructive cell state capable of orchestrating tissue
510 architecture and intercellular communication, reminiscent of embryonic patterning hubs, and
511 points towards new ways in which this process may be therapeutically targeted.
512
513 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**
514
515 **Animals**
516 C57Bl/6J (WT), and p21-mCherry-CreERT2[20] mice strains were housed in a temperature- and
517 humidity-controlled environment at the Institut Clinique de la Souris (ICS) animal facility of the
518 IGBMC. The experimental procedures were in full compliance with the institutional guidelines
519 of the accredited IGBMC/ICS animal house. They complied to both French and European
520 Union regulations governing laboratory animal research, and were authorized by the French
521 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for animal experimentation.
522
523 **Isolation and culture of Primary Mouse Keratinocytes**
524 Primary mouse keratinocytes (PMK) were obtained from the skin of C57Bl/6J newborn mice,
525 no older than 24 hours. The euthanasia procedure comprised of one injection per animal (5µL
526 ketamine and 2.5µL xylazine in 12.5µL NaCl 0.9% saline solution) administered
527 intraperitoneally. The skin samples were dissected, washed with PBS and placed epidermis
528 up on PBS with 2.5 mg/mL dispase II, overnight (Sigma 4942078001) at 4°C. The next
529 morning, the dermis was separated from the epidermis. The epidermis was first minced and
530 incubated in DMEM (4,5g/l glucose, Gibco™ 41965) supplemented with 10% FCS (Fetal Calf
531 Serum) and 100 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin for 30 minutes at 37°C and subsequently filtered
532 through a 40µm cell strainer. Isolated cells were plated and subsequently cultured at an initial
533 density of 1 skin for a 20cm^2 surface in collagen coated 6-well plates (Corning® BioCoat™
534 Collagen IV) in keratinocyte media, which included 450 ml EMEM, 40 ml chelated FBS (8%),
535 5 ml penicillin/streptomycin (1%), 250ul EGF 20ug/ml (10 ng/ml), 11,25ul CaCl2 2M (0,05mM).
536 Isolated PMK were cultured at 37°C in 5% CO^2.
537
538 **Viral transduction**
539 Retrovirus was produced by transiently transfecting the Phoenix packaging cell line (G. Nolan,
540 Stanford University, Stanford, CA) with helper virus (gift from Dr. Scott Lowe), and MSCV PIG
541 plasmid (Scott Lowe, Addgene plasmid #18751) or p-Babe HRas^{V12} (Bob Weinberg, Addgene
542 plasmid #1768). Viral vectors were harvested 48h post transfection and the supernatant was
543 filtered with a 0.45 µm PVDF filter (Merck Millipore, SLHV033RB) and used to infect PMK for
544 2 hours first before repeating it for 24h and washing the cells with PBS. 48h post infection cells
545 were split 1:2 into puromycin selection (1 µg/mL) for another 48h.
546
547 **Conditioned media and SASP collection**

548 Conditioned media (CM)/ SASP was collected from PiG or Hras^{V12}-infected PMK 7 days after
549 infection, and was filtered through a PVDF 0.45µm syringe filter. Collected CM was stored at
550 -20°C until subsequent treatment of newly isolated PMK, every 24h for up to 6 days. Regarding
551 Huh7 cells, (donated by T. Baumert, University of Strasbourg), these were grown in DMEM
552 (4,5g/L glucose (Gibco™ 11965092) supplemented with 10% FCS, 1mM PyrNa, non-essential
553 amino acids (Gibco™11140050), and 40ug/mL gentamycin). For senescence induction and
554 SASP production, 1.75 × 10^6 Huh7 cells were seeded in P10 dishes and treated with 200nM
555 of doxorubicin (44583-1MG, Sigma) for 96h. Doxorubicin treatment was repeated after the first
556 48h. Cells were then washed twice and cultured while changing media every 2 days. On day
557 6, medium was replaced and collected 24 h later. For control CM, due to the proliferative
558 nature of the cells, an initial seeding density of 0.328 × 10^6 cells was used and treated with
559 H_2O instead of doxorubicin. Medium was replaced on day 2 and collected 24h later. Both, CM
560 and SASP were filtered with a PVDF 0.45µm syringe filters (Merck Millipore, SLHV033RB),
561 were aliquoted and stored at -80°C prior to use. Regarding treatment with control CM and
562 SASP, 2000 Huh7 cells were seeded in 6-well dishes and treated with fresh aliquots daily for
563 6 days.
564
565 **SA-β-Galactosidase staining and Imaging**
566 Embryos stained for SA- β-Galactosidase (SA-β-gal) activity were initially washed in PBS and
567 then fixed overnight at 4°C using 0.5% glutaraldehyde (Sigma G7651) while agitating gently.
568 The next morning, embryos were washed three times, each 10 minutes in PBS supplemented
569 with 1 mM MgCl2 at a pH of 5.5 and kept at 4°C until further use. The staining process was
570 performed using an X-Gal solution, prepared by dissolving 1 mg/mL X-Gal (Biosynth AG) in
571 PBS (PH 5.5) containing 1 mM MgCl2, along with 5 mM 5 mM K3Fe(CN)6, and 5 mM
572 K4Fe(CN)6 3H2O. The embryos were immersed for 3 to 8 hours until either the AER or the
573 otic vesicles showed positive staining. Embryos were washed again with PBS and then
574 imaged using a Leica MacroFluo Z16 APO macroscope. Regarding Huh7 cells, they were
575 fixed with 0.5% glutaraldehyde for 15 minutes at RT, and washed twice with PBS-$MgCl_2$ buffer
576 at pH 6. SA-β-gal staining was done at PH 6 for 5h at 37°C. Imaging was done with an EVOS
577 XL Core (Invitrogen™, RGB images) or an EVOS M5000 (Invitrogen™, Grayscale images).
578
579 **Huh7 phenotypic counting**
580 Several phase-contrast images of Huh7 for each condition were taken at random locations
581 (n= 3-9). Colony area expressed in µm² was measured using ImageJ. A “layered colony” was
582 visually determined if a colony was composed of more than one cell layer, either partially or
583 entirely.
584
585 **Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting (FACS) isolation of AER cells**
586 Forelimb buds were isolated from WT C57Bl/6J or heterozygous p21-mCherry-CreERT2
587 embryos at E11.5 in cold PBS. Harvested limbs were pooled for enzymatic digestion at 4°C in
588 2% trypsin (Gibco 15090046) while agitating gently for 5 minutes. Limbs were transferred to
589 PBS with 10% FCS and vortexed vigorously until the ectoderm and mesenchyme were
590 separated. Ectodermal jackets were retained and placed in a new petri dish, where they were
591 subjected to further digestion in 0.05% trypsin at room temperature (RT) with continuous
592 agitation. Jackets were manually dissociated every 5 to 10 minutes using a p200 pipette until
593 full tissue dissociation. The enzymatic reaction was stopped by adding PBS with 10% FCS,
594 and then centrifuged for 5 minutes. The pellet was rinsed with PBS and re-centrifuged before
595 being resuspended in Pre-Sort Buffer (BD Biosciences- 563503). The resulting single-cell
596 suspension was filtered through a 50µm nylon mesh filter, kept on ice, and sorted by Flow
597 Cytometry. The gating strategy was established based on mCherry fluorescence levels and
598 negative controls obtained from dissected C57Bl/6J limbs. Sorted cells were collected in Pre-
599 Sort Buffer, centrifuged at 4°C for 5 minutes, rinsed, and re-centrifuged before adding 800 µL
600 TRIzol (Thermofisher scientific 15596026). Cells were subsequently snap-frozen in liquid
601 nitrogen and stored at -80°C until further use.
602

603
604
605 **RNA extraction**
606 For AER samples, cells previously frozen in TRIzol were thawed on ice and homogenized by
607 vortexing. After a 6-minute incubation at RT, 160µL of chloroform was added and samples
608 were vortexed for 15 seconds before being incubated for an additional 3 minutes at RT. To
609 achieve phase separation, a 12000g centrifugation was performed for 15 minutes at 4°C. The
610 aqueous phase was transferred to a new tube containing 160µL of chloroform. The previous
611 steps were repeated before transferring it to a new empty tube. 1µL of glycogen (20 µg/µL;
612 ThermoFisher, R0551) was added to each sample followed by 400µL of isopropanol.
613 Following a 10-minute incubation at RT samples were centrifugation at 12,000g for another
614 10 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellets were washed sequentially
615 with 100% ethanol and twice with 75% ethanol. Regarding Huh7 cells, total RNA was extracted
616 from cells using TRIzol, following the manufacturer's recommendations (Thermofisher
617 scientific, 15596026). Regarding PMK, total RNA was extracted from cells using Direct-zol
618 RNA Miniprep kit (Zymo Research, R2053) and eluted with RNase-free water. For all, after
619 drying the RNA at RT, RNA was resuspended in RNase-free water. RNA concentration was
620 measured using a Nanodrop 2000c spectrophotometer (Thermofisher) and samples were
621 stored at -80°C until further use.
622
623 **Sequencing and Meta-analysis**
624 For AER and Huh7 samples, library preparation was done at the GenomEast facility within the
625 IGBMC, following the guidelines provided in the Illumina Stranded mRNA Prep Ligation -
626 Reference Guide (PN 1000000124518). Libraries for RNA sequencing were prepared in
627 accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines using 40 ng of total RNA, along with the
628 Illumina Stranded mRNA Prep Kit, Ligation Kit, and IDT for Illumina RNA UD Indexes Ligation
629 (all from Illumina, San Diego, USA). Libraries were sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq 2000
630 sequencer, generating single read 50 base reads.
631
632 For AER, PMK and Huh7 samples, preprocessing steps were applied to eliminate adapter
633 sequences, polyA tails, and low-quality reads. Subsequently, reads shorter than 40 bp were
634 eliminated from further analysis. The following preprocessing steps were executed utilizing
635 cutadapt v4.2[42]. Reads were aligned to rRNA sequences from the RefSeq and GenBank
636 databases using bowtie v2.2.8[43], and aligning sequences were eliminated prior to analysis.
637 The remaining reads were then mapped onto the GRCh38 genome assembly for Homo
638 sapiens or the GRCm39 genome assembly for Mus musculus genome via STAR v2.7.10b[44].
639 Gene expression quantification was carried out using htseq-count v0.13.5, using annotations
640 from Ensembl v108 and the "union" mode 3[45]. Only unambiguous reads mapping to a specific
641 gene were used for subsequent analysis. Read counts were standardized among samples
642 employing the median-of-ratios method suggested by Anders and Huber, ensuring
643 comparable results across samples[46]. For the remaining senescence datasets, files were
644 downloaded from publicly available Bulk RNA sequencing data deposited either on Gene
645 Expression Omnibus (GEO) or on the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) as detailed in
646 Extended Data Fig.1a. Regarding datasets extracted from ENA, fastaq files were collected
647 and count files were subsequently generated by the IGBMC sequencing facility using the same
648 pipeline as mentioned above. For datasets published on GEO, available raw count files were
649 used. For each dataset, genes with fewer than 10 raw counts across all samples were
650 excluded from downstream analysis. Normalization was done with DESeq2 version 1.38.1,
651 using Wald test as proposed by Love and Colleagues[47]. Benjamini and Hochberg method was
652 used to adjust P-values for multiple testing.
653
654 **Pathway analysis**
655 Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) was performed using clusterprofiler (version
656 4.7.1.002)[48] with the fast GSEA (fGSEA) algorithm[49]. Over Representation Analysis (ORA)
657 was performed with either clusterprofiler or the gprofiler2 library (version 0.2.3, gprofiler

658 version e113 eg59 p19 f6a03c19)[50]. For each dataset, genes displaying a base mean
659 (average counts across all samples and replicates) of less than 25 bases were excluded prior
660 to analysis. Regarding GSEA, genes were sorted in descending order according to their Wald
661 statistic values, with the top 19,000 genes from the highest to the lowest ranked being used
662 for the analysis. GSEA using fGSEA with a P-value cut-off of 0.05 was performed followed by
663 a Benjamini-Hochberg correction. Minimum and maximum gene set size were limited to
664 between 10 and 2000 genes. Regarding ORA, genes were further filtered, first, using only
665 significant genes with an adjusted P-value below 0.05 and when expressed greater than 1.5
666 log2 fold, and second before analysis when applicable, utilizing significant genes less than 1.5
667 log2 fold. For SASP treated PMK, AER and Huh7 samples a ±1.5-fold change threshold was
668 used instead. A cumulative hypergeometric test (one-sided Fisher's exact test) was used to
669 calculate P-values. P-values were corrected using a BH correction, except for AER and Huh7
670 samples where the gprofiler2 library was used to perform g:SCS[50] for multiple testing
671 corrections. The Gene Ontology (GO) term database was used for pathway analysis.
672 Significant terms were determined if corrected P-value < 0.05. Terms pertinent to
673 developmental-related pathways that were significantly enriched or overrepresented, were
674 identified using custom filtering criteria. These included terms containing specific words like
675 "develop", "regenerate", "embryonic", "fate", "pluripotent", "layer", and others. Any irrelevant
676 terms resulting from this were manually excluded.
677
678 **Secreted Factors and Transcription factors annotations**
679 Secreted proteins were identified using the Human Protein Atlas database (version 24.0)[21].
680 Annotated proteins were downloaded from their webpage (URL:
681 https://www.proteinatlas.org/download/proteinatlas.tsv.zip) and filtered for all the proteins with
682 functions related to secretion. The resulting human secretome was converted when necessary
683 to mouse homologs using a homology table provided by the Mouse Genome Database (MGD),
684 (Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI), The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine. World Wide
685 Web (URL: https://informatics.jax.org/homology.shtml). To minimize ambiguity between both
686 species, we limited the data to one-to-one homologs between human and mouse, where each
687 human gene has exactly one mouse counterpart and the mouse genes also reciprocally only
688 map to the same human gene. This excludes any genes involved in one-to-many or many-to-
689 many relationships. Except for some cases where a gene has a one-to-many homolog
690 relationship but shares a same gene symbol in both human and mouse annotations, in that
691 case the identically named homolog was also retained in the final gene list. Finally, to ensure
692 consistency and facilitate gene symbol usage across species whenever both human and
693 mouse data were presented at the same time, genes from both species were shown using
694 only the HGNC human gene symbols, with the corresponding mouse homologs relabeled
695 accordingly. AnimalTFDB version 4.0491[51] was used to annotate transcription factors for both
696 mouse and human data. Data manipulation was mostly done using R (version 4.2.2 to 4.5.1).
697 Most graphs were generated using ggplot2 (up to version 3.5.2). Transcription factor bar
698 graphs and Huh7 cell counting graphs were created with Prism (GraphPad, version 10.6.0).
699
700 **Data availability**
701 The omics datasets generated during this study (AER, PMK, Huh7) will be deposited in the
702 GEO database and made publicly available before publishing. Remaining data is available in
703 the main text, in the supplementary materials or publicly available as indicated in the methods.
704 Custom R scripts, along with any intermediary files used for data generation, manipulation,
705 and analysis, are freely accessible upon reasonable request.
706
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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1 RNA sequencing of AER-derived p21+ senescent cells shows a significant developmental signaling potential.
(**a**) SA-ß-Gal staining and mCherry visualization of embryonic day (E) 11.5 p21+/mCherry+ forelimbs. (**b**) Schematic of the strategy to isolate mCherry+ and mCherry- forelimb cells. Sorted mCherry+ cells, labeled as apical ectodermal ridge (AER), compared to mCherry- cells (labeled as ectoderm). (**c**) Number of genes encoding secreted factors exhibiting differential expression greater than 1.5-fold. (**d**) Select Gene Ontology (GO) terms from overrepresentation (ORA) analysis on upregulated secreted factors in c. (**e**) Heatmap representing normalized counts of the upregulated secreted factors in AER cells. Significant differentially expressed genes are labelled as follows: * (adjusted P < 0.05), ** (adjusted P < 0.01), and *** (adjusted P < 0.001).

Figure 2 Transcriptome profiling of senescence models reveals signatures of processes and secretion linked to embryonic development.
(**a**) Overview of the differentially expressed genes (DEG) across 18 different datasets comparing senescent cells to their proliferating controls. The DESeq2 workflow was performed to identify DEGs for each dataset separately. Genes averaging 25 counts were filtered out. Significant (adjusted P < 0.05) up- (red, $\log_2$ fold > 0) and down- (blue, $\log_2$ fold < 0) regulated genes in senescent cells were plotted along with the total significant gene count for each category. (**b**) Total number of significantly enriched Gene Ontology (GO) terms identified by GSEA for each dataset, that met our filter requirements for developmentally relevant biological processes. (**c**) Heatmap showing the identified developmental related GO terms if present in at least 7 distinct datasets. The X-axis shows the various datasets, with tiles showing their individual normalized enrichment score (NES) per term. 'μ' represents the average normalized enrichment score across every dataset and was used to sort the terms in a descending order. A positive NES value signifies that the given term is positively enriched in senescent cells. (**d**) Bar graph showing a subset of common senescence genes. X-axis represents the number of senescent datasets in which the selected genes are significantly upregulated (adjusted P < 0.05; >1.5-fold). (**e**) A selection of developmentally related genes coding for secreted proteins. The X-axis shows the number of datasets in which the selected genes are significantly upregulated (adjusted P <0.05; >1.5-fold change) in senescent cells compared to their proliferating controls.

Figure 3 Senescent cells display increased transcriptional profiles related to developmental programs in both young and aged murine skeletal muscles.
(**a, b, c**) GSEA was performed on bulk RNA sequencing data from Moiseeva et al., from (a) Satellite, (b) Fibro-adipogenic progenitor (FAP) and (c) Myeloid cells, three- or seven-days post cardiotoxin injection, from young (3-6 months) or old (28 months) mouse muscles. For each condition senescent cells were compared to their non-senescent counterparts and GO terms related to developmental biological processes were identified. Of these, the 60 most positively enriched terms according to the normalized enrichment score (NES) across all comparisons were selected and plotted separately for each cell type. Y-axis shows one distinct term per line. A positive NES value signifies the term is positively enriched in senescent cells. (**d**) Venn diagram showing the total number of upregulated genes (>1.5-fold) coding for secreted proteins in senescent satellite cells from young and old mice, 3- or 7-days post cardiotoxin injection. Numbers refer to total gene counts or percentages of the total. (**e**) Selected genes for secreted factors were plotted for each condition comparing senescent to non-senescent cells. Significant differently expressed genes are labelled as follows: * (adjusted P < 0.05), ** (adjusted P < 0.01), and *** (adjusted P < 0.001).

Figure 4. SASP exposure induces developmental gene expression in primary mouse keratinocytes.

896 **(a)** Phase-contrast images of primary mouse keratinocytes (PMK) 2- or 6-days after treatment
897 with conditioned media (CM) obtained from either: Puromycin IRES GFP vector- (PiG, Control
898 CM) or Harvey Rat sarcoma virus- (HRAS, SASP CM) plasmid transfected cells. **(b)** RNA
899 sequencing was performed on PMK (n=3) treated with CM or SASP for 2x24h (Day 2) or 6x24h
900 (Day 6). Volcano plot showing differentially expressed genes (DEGs) comparing SASP treated
901 cells against PiG CM treated controls. Genes averaging less than 25 counts were excluded.
902 Significant DEG (adjusted P < 0.05, and >1.5 or < -1.5-fold) are highlighted in color. **(c)**
903 Overrepresentation analysis (ORA) was performed using the Gene Ontology (GO) database
904 for significantly (adjusted P < 0.05) upregulated (>1.5-fold) and downregulated (< -1.5-fold)
905 genes following 2x24h (D2) and 6x24h (D6) PMK treatment with CM/SASP. Overrepresented
906 GO terms associated with developmental processes were selected and visualized;
907 upregulated genes in magenta, downregulated in blue, and yellow if a term was linked to both.
908 **(d)** Skin related GO terms overrepresented among significantly downregulated genes in PMK
909 treated for 6x24h with SASP. For both (c) and (d) P-value was determined significant if
910 adjusted P < 0.05. **(e)** Venn diagram illustrating upregulated transcription factors (TF) (>1.5
911 fold) in PMK upon SASP treatment for either 2 or 6 days. Data is presented as total TF counts
912 or percentages of the total. **(f)** Heatmap with two separate panels, each showing the top 30
913 upregulated TFs following 2 days (left) or 6 days (right) SASP treatment, relative to control
914 CM. For each panel, TFs were ranked by decreasing $\log_2$ fold change relative to the panels
915 respective day and expression is shown for both treatment durations. Significantly upregulated
916 genes are indicated with * (adjusted P < 0.05), ** (adjusted P < 0.01), and *** (adjusted P <
917 0.001). **(g)** Total normalized counts of several TFs associated with distinct biological
918 processes for neurodevelopment, epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT), induced
919 pluripotent stem cells (IPS), cardiac transdifferentiation and gastrulation, in PMK exposed to
920 SASP and control CM following 6 days of exposure. Significant differently expressed genes
921 are marked as follows: * (adjusted P < 0.05), ** (adjusted P < 0.01), and *** (adjusted P <
922 0.001).
923
924 **Figure 5. Therapy-induced senescence in Huh7 liver cancer cells is associated with**
925 **diverse developmental signaling signatures.**
926 (**a**) Schematic representation of the strategy used to generate proliferating and senescent
927 cells, and control conditioned media- (CM) or SASP-treated Huh7 cells, for RNA sequencing
928 analysis. Senescence was induced using 200nM of doxorubicin and the SASP was collected
929 10 days after induction began. The SASP, or control conditioned media (CM) from proliferating
930 cells, was used to treat Huh7 cells for 6 days. RNA from proliferating and senescent, and CM-
931 and SASP-treated Huh7 cells was used to perform bulk RNA sequencing. (n=4 each) (**b**)
932 Phase Contrast and Brightfield images of proliferating and senescent cells, stained for SA-ß-
933 Gal activity (**c**) Heatmap showing z-score adjusted normalized counts for a select set of
934 senescence-and SASP-associated genes (adjusted P < 0.05) from bulk RNA sequencing of
935 proliferating (Prol) and senescent Huh7 cells (Sen) n=4. (**d**) Similar heatmap as in (c) but
936 showing a representative selection of genes known to be secreted and involved in
937 developmental processes (adjusted P < 0.05; upregulated >1.5-fold). (**e**) Overrepresentation
938 analysis (ORA) GO terms using genes coding for secreted factors in senescent Huh7 cells
939 (adjusted P < 0.05; >1.5-fold.)
940
941 **Figure 6. SASP treatment induces phenotypic and transcriptional changes in Huh7**
942 **cells.**
943 (**a**) Phase Contrast images of Huh7 cells treated for 3 or 6 days with control conditioned media
944 or SASP. For each condition, two example images are shown. Images on the right are digital
945 zooms of the area outlined by a white rectangle. Superplots show measurements of colony
946 numbers, colony area and the number of multilayered colonies. An unpaired Mann-Whitney
947 test was used to test statistical significance (*; P < 0.05, ns; not significant). (**b**)
948 Developmentally relevant and significantly enriched terms from GSEA using GO terms,
949 comparing SASP- versus CM- treated Huh7 cells. (**c**) Expression values of a selection of

transcription factors upregulated by the SASP in Huh7 cells (SASP) compared to control CM treated cells (Ctrl).

Extended Data Fig.1 Gene-expression analysis confirms an enrichment of senescence related biological processes, the SASP, and developmental signatures in most senescent datasets.
(**a**) The 18 different senescence models used for comparing bulk RNA sequencing datasets. IR: Irradiation, OIS: Oncogene-induced senescence, RepliSen: Replicative senescence, Doxo: Doxorubicin, NIS: Notch induced senescence, Etop: Etoposide, Cis: Cisplatin, Doce: Docetaxel, Palb: Palbociclib, KRAS: Kirsten rat sarcoma virus, HRAS: Harvey Rat sarcoma virus protein. (**b**) GSEA was performed on every dataset separately, and the top 80 terms that were negatively enriched on average and present in at least 17 datasets were selected and plotted. The X-axis shows the different datasets, with tiles representing their individual normalized enrichment score (NES) per term. 'μ' represents the average NES across every dataset and was used to sort the terms in an ascending order. (**c**) Overrepresentation analysis (ORA) showing significantly overrepresented GO terms related to development, present in 7 or more datasets. Analysis performed using genes that were significantly up- or down-regulated (adjusted $P < 0.05$; >/<1.5 $\log_2$ fold, exceeding 25 normalized counts on average). (**d**) Bar graph showing a subset of Interleukins (ILs), CC Motif Chemokine Ligands (CCLs) and CXC Motif Chemokine Ligands (CXCLs), some of which are known to be differentially expressed in senescence. X-axis represents the number of senescent datasets in which the selected genes are significantly (adjusted $P < 0.05$) upregulated (>1.5-fold) in senescent cells.

Extended Data Fig.2 RNA-seq analysis on senescent cells isolated from muscle.
(**a**) A schematic illustrating the strategy from Moiseeva et al. to select muscle cells for RNA sequencing. The authors collected muscle from 3- to 8-months old (= young) mice and 28 months old (= old) mice, 3- and 7-days post-injury via cardiotoxin injection. Muscle cells were sorted into different cell types, differentiating between SA-ß-Gal negative and positive cells prior to sequencing. (**b**) Total number of significantly enriched Gene Ontology (GO) terms identified by GSEA in the different senescent muscle cells, when compared to their individual non-senescent counterparts, corresponding to developmentally related biological processes. (**c**) Heatmap representing pattern of expression in satellite cells, of genes coding for secreted proteins belonging to the Interleukin (ILs), CC Motif Chemokine Ligands (CCLs) and CXC Motif Chemokine Ligands (CXCLs) families. (**d**) Similar Heatmap as in (c) but with selected secreted factors associated with developmental processes. Significant differently expressed genes are marked as follows: * (adjusted $P < 0.05$), ** (adjusted $P < 0.01$), and *** (adjusted $P < 0.001$).

Extended Data Fig.3 RNA-seq analysis of primary mouse keratinocytes (PMK) exposed to the SASP from OIS in PMK.
(**a**) Gene Ontology (GO) terms significantly ($P < 0.05$) enriched by gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) in Primary Mouse Keratinocytes (PMK) treated with SASP for either 2x24h (Day 2) or 6x 24h (Day 6) compared to control conditioned media (CM). Left bar graphs display the top 30 most negatively enriched GO terms, as indicated by a negative Normalized Enrichment Scores (NES). Graphs on the right illustrate the top 30 most positively enriched GO terms. (**b**) GO terms related to development, that were significantly enriched by GSEA in PMK following treatment with SASP for 2 or 6 days compared to control CM.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1. Upregulated secreted factors in the AER.
Secreted Factors upregulated more than 1.5-fold in the AER compared to Ectoderm cells.

Supplementary Table 2. Secreted factors upregulated in senescence.
Secreted Factors significantly upregulated (>25 normalized counts, adjusted P <0.05; >1.5-fold) across different senescence datasets.

Supplementary Table 3. Muscle transcriptome in senescence.
Differentially expressed genes (>25 normalized counts) in muscle tissue comparing senescent to non-senescent cells under various conditions.

Supplementary Table 4. Upregulated genes coding for secreted proteins in senescent satellite cells.
Significantly upregulated secreted factors (adjusted P < 0.05; >1.5-fold change) in senescent satellite cells post-injury**.**

Supplementary Table 5. SASP-induced gene expression changes in primary mouse keratinocytes.
Differentially expressed genes in primary mouse keratinocytes following treatment with SASP for 2 or 6 days compared to control CM.

Supplementary Table 6. Differentially expressed transcription factors in primary mouse keratinocytes.
Differentially expressed transcription factors in SASP treated primary mouse keratinocytes for 2 or 6 days compared to control CM.

Supplementary Table 7. Gene expression in doxorubicin-induced senescence in Huh-7 cells.
Differentially expressed genes in doxorubicin induced senescence in Huh-7 cells, compared to non-treated proliferating Huh-7 cells.

Supplementary Table 8. Secreted factors in doxorubicin-induced senescence in Huh-7 cells.
Significantly upregulated secreted factors (adjusted-P <0.05; >1.5-fold) in doxorubicin-treated Huh-7 cells.

Supplementary Table 9. GO terms related to development, from analysis of secreted factors in doxorubicin induced senescence. Overrepresented GO terms related to development, from analysis of upregulated secreted factors in doxorubicin induced senescence in Huh-7 cells.

Supplementary Table 10. Gene expression in Huh-7 cells after exposure to the SASP.
Differentially expressed genes in Huh-7 cells following treatment with SASP for 6 days compared to Huh-7 cells treated with control CM.

Supplementary Table 11. Upregulated TFs in SASP-treated Huh-7 cells.
Significantly upregulated (adjusted P <0.05; >0 fold) transcription factors in SASP treated Huh-7 cells.

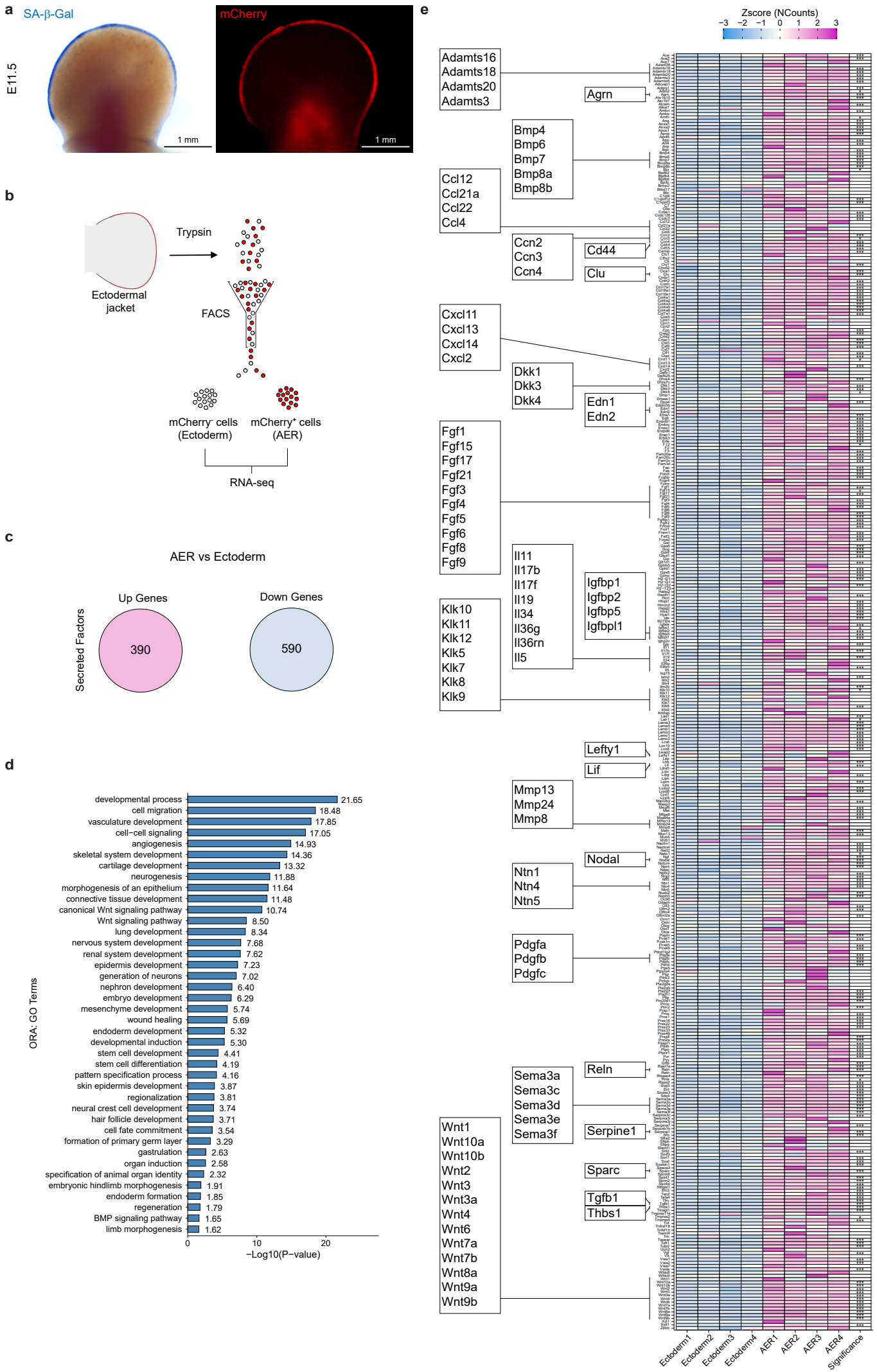

a
SA-β-Gal
mCherry
E11.5
1 mm
1 mm
b
Ectodermal jacket
Trypsin
FACS
mCherry⁻ cells (Ectoderm)
mCherry⁺ cells (AER)
RNA-seq
c
AER vs Ectoderm
Secreted Factors
Up Genes
390
Down Genes
590
d
ORA: GO Terms
developmental process 21.65
cell migration 18.48
vasculature development 17.85
cell−cell signaling 17.05
angiogenesis 14.93
skeletal system development 14.36
cartilage development 13.32
neurogenesis 11.88
morphogenesis of an epithelium 11.64
connective tissue development 11.48
canonical Wnt signaling pathway 10.74
Wnt signaling pathway 8.50
lung development 8.34
nervous system development 7.68
renal system development 7.62
epidermis development 7.23
generation of neurons 7.02
nephron development 6.40
embryo development 6.29
mesenchyme development 5.74
wound healing 5.69
endoderm development 5.32
developmental induction 5.30
stem cell development 4.41
stem cell differentiation 4.19
pattern specification process 4.16
skin epidermis development 3.87
regionalization 3.81
neural crest cell development 3.74
hair follicle development 3.71
cell fate commitment 3.54
formation of primary germ layer 3.29
gastrulation 2.63
organ induction 2.58
specification of animal organ identity 2.32
embryonic hindlimb morphogenesis 1.91
endoderm formation 1.85
regeneration 1.79
BMP signaling pathway 1.65
limb morphogenesis 1.62
0
10
20
−Log10(P−value)
e
Zscore (NCounts)
−3 −2 −1 0 1 2 3
Adamts16
Adamts18
Adamts20
Adamts3
Agrn
Bmp4
Bmp6
Bmp7
Bmp8a
Bmp8b
Ccl12
Ccl21a
Ccl22
Ccl4
Ccn2
Ccn3
Ccn4
Cd44
Clu
Cxcl11
Cxcl13
Cxcl14
Cxcl2
Dkk1
Dkk3
Dkk4
Edn1
Edn2
Fgf1
Fgf15
Fgf17
Fgf21
Fgf3
Fgf4
Fgf5
Fgf6
Fgf8
Fgf9
Il11
Il17b
Il17f
Il19
Il34
Il36g
Il36rn
Il5
Igfbp1
Igfbp2
Igfbp5
Igfbpl1
Klk10
Klk11
Klk12
Klk5
Klk7
Klk8
Klk9
Lefty1
Lif
Mmp13
Mmp24
Mmp8
Nodal
Ntn1
Ntn4
Ntn5
Pdgfa
Pdgfb
Pdgfc
Reln
Sema3a
Sema3c
Sema3d
Sema3e
Sema3f
Serpine1
Sparc
Tgfb1
Thbs1
Wnt1
Wnt10a
Wnt10b
Wnt2
Wnt3
Wnt3a
Wnt4
Wnt6
Wnt7a
Wnt7b
Wnt8a
Wnt9a
Wnt9b
Ectoderm1
Ectoderm2
Ectoderm3
Ectoderm4
AER1
AER2
AER3
AER4
Significance

Figure 1

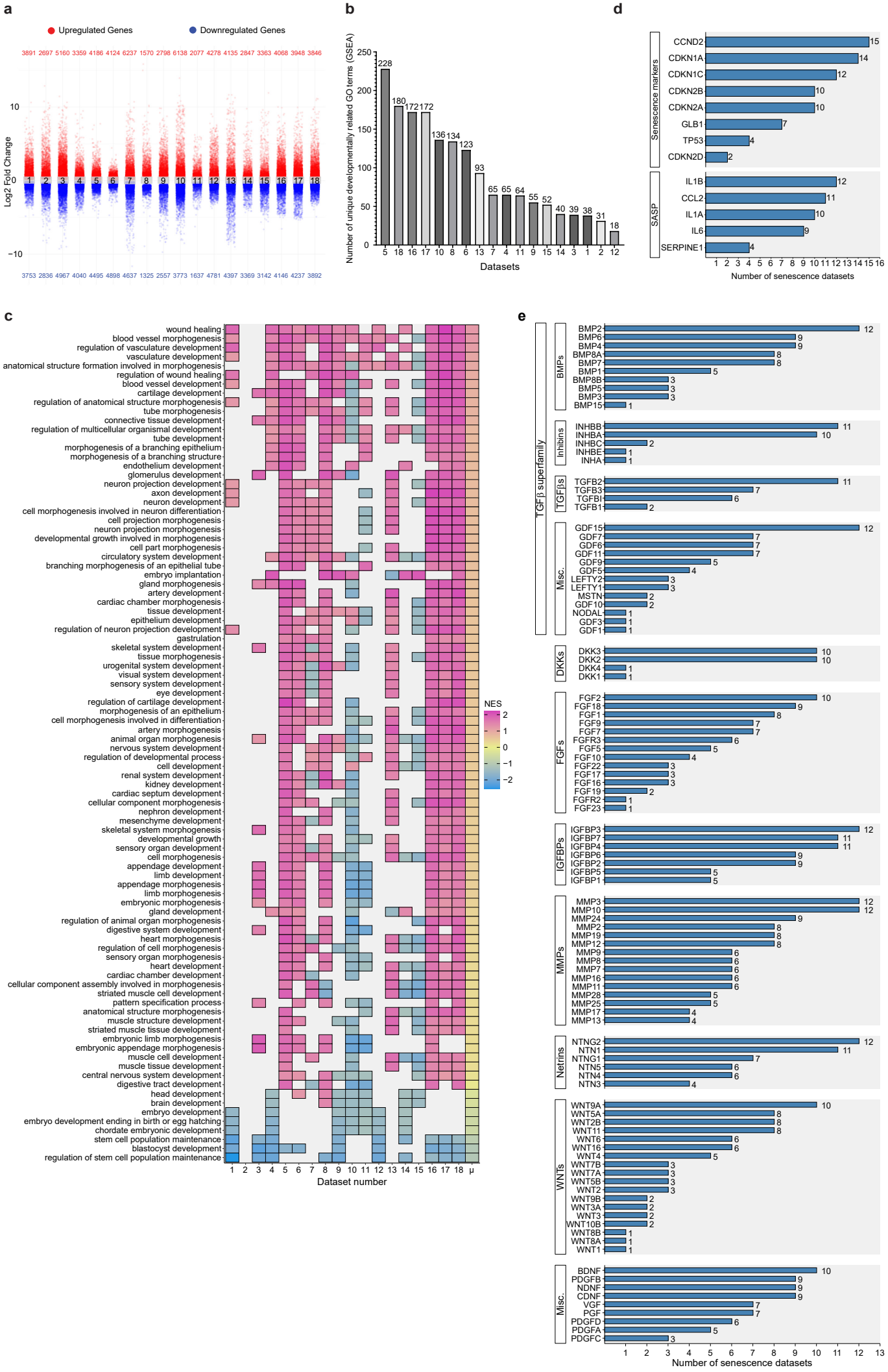

a
Upregulated Genes
Downregulated Genes
Log2 Fold Change
b
Number of unique developmentally related GO terms (GSEA)
Datasets
d
Senescence markers
SASP
Number of senescence datasets
c
wound healing
blood vessel morphogenesis
regulation of vasculature development
vasculature development
anatomical structure formation involved in morphogenesis
regulation of wound healing
blood vessel development
cartilage development
regulation of anatomical structure morphogenesis
tube morphogenesis
connective tissue development
regulation of multicellular organismal development
tube development
morphogenesis of a branching epithelium
morphogenesis of a branching structure
endothelium development
glomerulus development
neuron projection development
axon development
neuron development
cell morphogenesis involved in neuron differentiation
cell projection morphogenesis
neuron projection morphogenesis
developmental growth involved in morphogenesis
cell part morphogenesis
circulatory system development
branching morphogenesis of an epithelial tube
embryo implantation
gland morphogenesis
artery development
cardiac chamber morphogenesis
tissue development
epithelium development
regulation of neuron projection development
gastrulation
skeletal system development
tissue morphogenesis
urogenital system development
visual system development
sensory system development
eye development
regulation of cartilage development
morphogenesis of an epithelium
cell morphogenesis involved in differentiation
artery morphogenesis
animal organ morphogenesis
nervous system development
regulation of developmental process
cell development
renal system development
kidney development
cardiac septum development
cellular component morphogenesis
nephron development
mesenchyme development
skeletal system morphogenesis
developmental growth
sensory organ development
cell morphogenesis
appendage development
limb development
appendage morphogenesis
limb morphogenesis
embryonic morphogenesis
gland development
regulation of animal organ morphogenesis
digestive system development
heart morphogenesis
regulation of cell morphogenesis
sensory organ morphogenesis
heart development
cardiac chamber development
cellular component assembly involved in morphogenesis
striated muscle cell development
pattern specification process
anatomical structure morphogenesis
muscle structure development
striated muscle tissue development
embryonic limb morphogenesis
embryonic appendage morphogenesis
muscle cell development
muscle tissue development
central nervous system development
digestive tract development
head development
brain development
embryo development
embryo development ending in birth or egg hatching
chordate embryonic development
stem cell population maintenance
blastocyst development
regulation of stem cell population maintenance
NES
Dataset number
e
TGFβ superfamily
BMPs
Inhibins
TGFβs
Misc.
DKKs
FGFs
IGFBPs
MMPs
Netrins
WNTs
Misc.
Number of senescence datasets

Figure 2

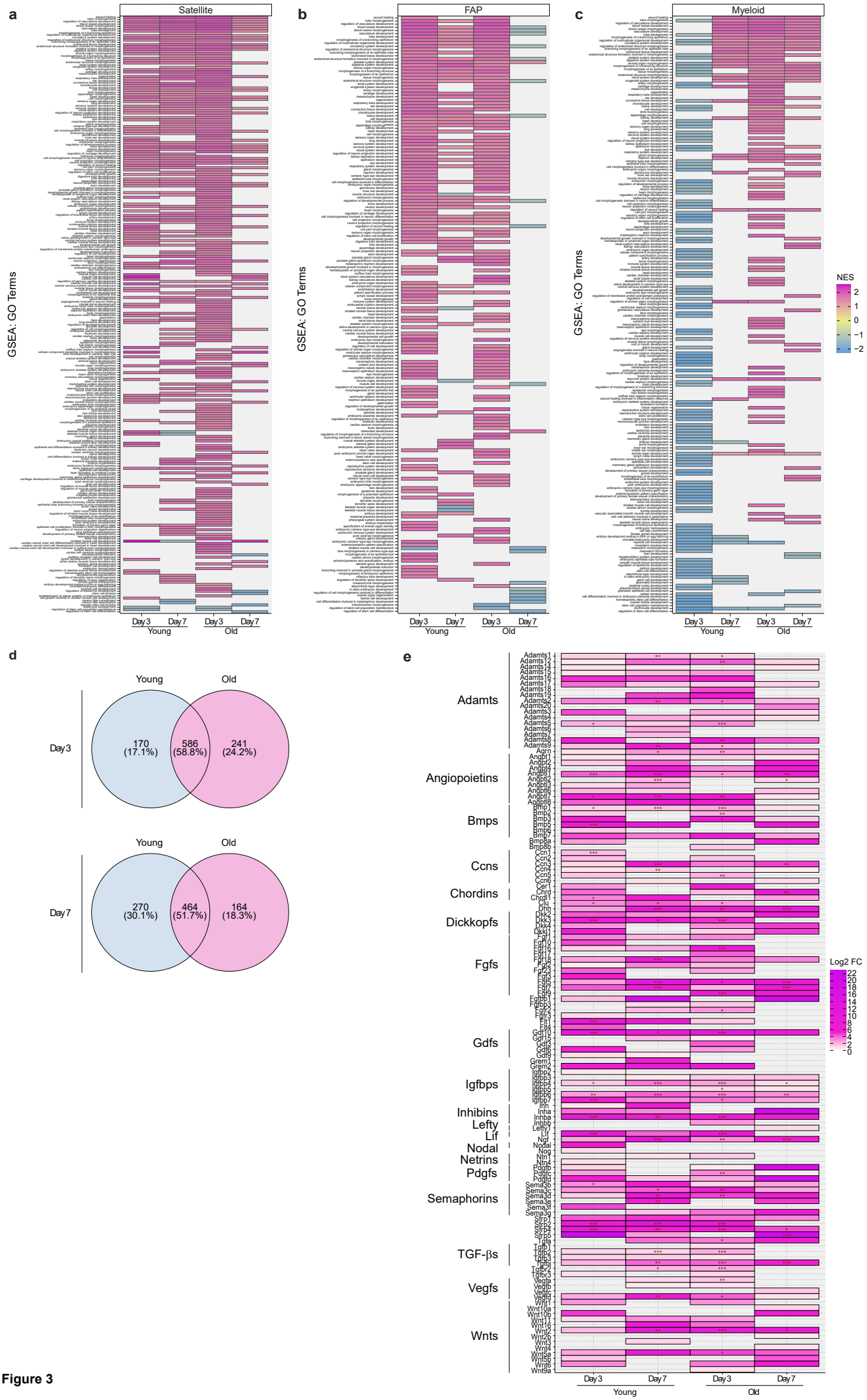

a
Satellite
GSEA: GO Terms
Day 3
Day 7
Young
Old
b
FAP
GSEA: GO Terms
Day 3
Day 7
Young
Old
c
Myeloid
GSEA: GO Terms
Day 3
Day 7
Young
Old
NES
2
1
0
−1
−2
d
Young
Old
Day 3
170
(17.1%)
586
(58.8%)
241
(24.2%)
Young
Old
Day 7
270
(30.1%)
464
(51.7%)
164
(18.3%)
e
Adamts
Angiopoietins
Bmps
Ccns
Chordins
Dickkopfs
Fgfs
Gdfs
Igfbps
Inhibins
Lefty
Lif
Nodal
Netrins
Pdgfs
Semaphorins
TGF-βs
Vegfs
Wnts
Log2 FC
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Day 3
Day 7
Young
Day 3
Day 7
Old

Figure 3

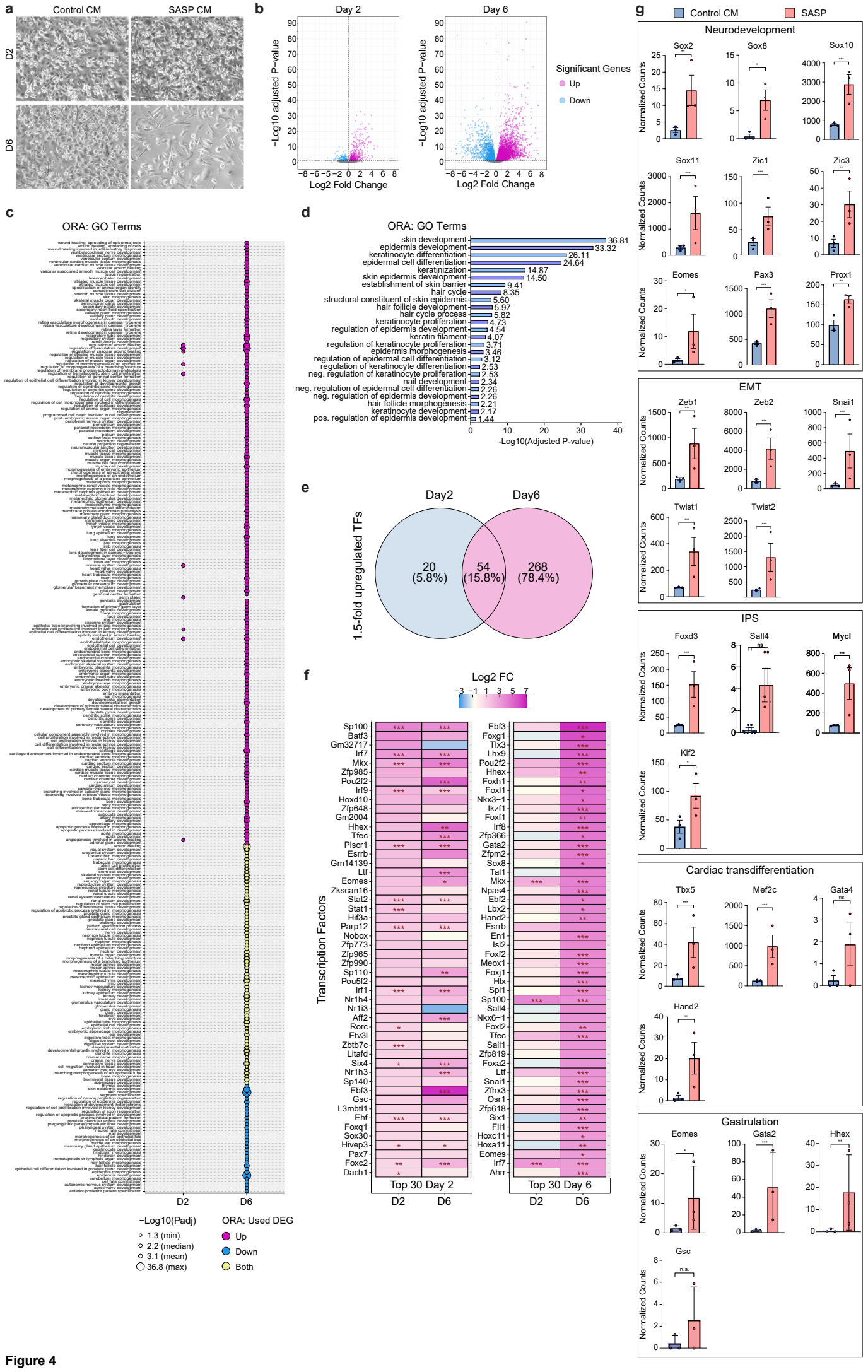

a
Control CM
SASP CM
D2
D6
b
Day 2
Day 6
−Log10 adjusted P−value
Log2 Fold Change
Significant Genes
Up
Down
c
ORA: GO Terms
D2
D6
−Log10(Padj)
1.3 (min)
2.2 (median)
3.1 (mean)
36.8 (max)
ORA: Used DEG
Up
Down
Both
d
ORA: GO Terms
skin development 36.81
epidermis development 33.32
keratinocyte differentiation 26.11
epidermal cell differentiation 24.64
keratinization 14.87
skin epidermis development 14.50
establishment of skin barrier 9.41
hair cycle 8.35
structural constituent of skin epidermis 5.60
hair follicle development 5.97
hair cycle process 5.82
keratinocyte proliferation 4.73
regulation of epidermis development 4.54
keratin filament 4.07
regulation of keratinocyte proliferation 3.71
epidermis morphogenesis 3.46
regulation of epidermal cell differentiation 3.12
regulation of keratinocyte differentiation 2.53
neg. regulation of keratinocyte proliferation 2.53
nail development 2.34
neg. regulation of epidermal cell differentiation 2.26
neg. regulation of epidermis development 2.26
hair follicle morphogenesis 2.21
keratinocyte development 2.17
pos. regulation of epidermis development 1.44
-Log10(Adjusted P-value)
e
Day2
Day6
1.5-fold upregulated TFs
20 (5.8%)
54 (15.8%)
268 (78.4%)
f
Log2 FC
Transcription Factors
Top 30 Day 2
Top 30 Day 6
D2
D6
g
Control CM
SASP
Neurodevelopment
Sox2
Sox8
Sox10
Sox11
Zic1
Zic3
Eomes
Pax3
Prox1
EMT
Zeb1
Zeb2
Snai1
Twist1
Twist2
IPS
Foxd3
Sall4
Mycl
Klf2
Cardiac transdifferentiation
Tbx5
Mef2c
Gata4
Hand2
Gastrulation
Eomes
Gata2
Hhex
Gsc
Normalized Counts

Figure 4

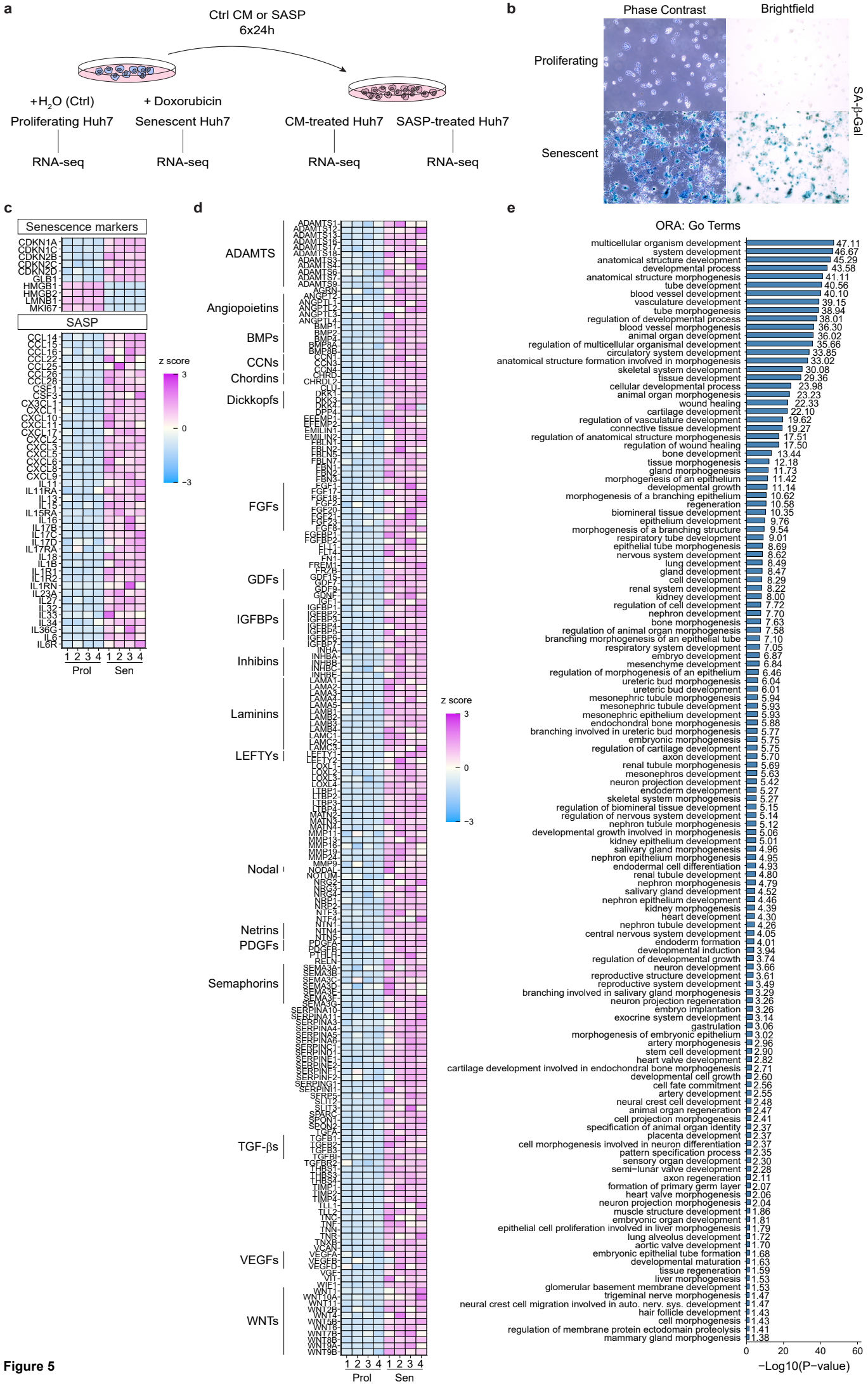

a
Ctrl CM or SASP
6x24h
+H2O (Ctrl)
+ Doxorubicin
Proliferating Huh7
Senescent Huh7
CM-treated Huh7
SASP-treated Huh7
RNA-seq
RNA-seq
RNA-seq
RNA-seq
b
Phase Contrast
Brightfield
Proliferating
Senescent
SA-β-Gal
c
Senescence markers
CDKN1A
CDKN1C
CDKN2B
CDKN2C
CDKN2D
GLB1
HMGB1
HMGB2
LMNB1
MKI67
SASP
CCL14
CCL15
CCL16
CCL22
CCL25
CCL26
CCL28
CSF1
CSF3
CX3CL1
CXCL1
CXCL10
CXCL11
CXCL17
CXCL2
CXCL3
CXCL5
CXCL6
CXCL8
CXCL9
IL11
IL11RA
IL13
IL15
IL15RA
IL16
IL17B
IL17C
IL17D
IL17RA
IL18
IL1B
IL1R1
IL1R2
IL1RN
IL23A
IL27
IL32
IL33
IL34
IL36G
IL6
IL6R
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
Prol Sen
z score
3
0
−3
d
ADAMTS
Angiopoietins
BMPs
CCNs
Chordins
Dickkopfs
FGFs
GDFs
IGFBPs
Inhibins
Laminins
LEFTYs
Nodal
Netrins
PDGFs
Semaphorins
TGF-βs
VEGFs
WNTs
z score
3
0
−3
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
Prol Sen
e
ORA: Go Terms
multicellular organism development 47.11
system development 46.67
anatomical structure development 45.29
developmental process 43.58
anatomical structure morphogenesis 41.11
tube development 40.56
blood vessel development 40.10
vasculature development 39.15
tube morphogenesis 38.94
regulation of developmental process 38.01
blood vessel morphogenesis 36.30
animal organ development 36.02
regulation of multicellular organismal development 35.66
circulatory system development 33.85
anatomical structure formation involved in morphogenesis 33.02
skeletal system development 30.08
tissue development 29.36
cellular developmental process 23.98
animal organ morphogenesis 23.23
wound healing 22.33
cartilage development 22.10
regulation of vasculature development 19.62
connective tissue development 19.27
regulation of anatomical structure morphogenesis 17.51
regulation of wound healing 17.50
bone development 13.44
tissue morphogenesis 12.18
gland morphogenesis 11.73
morphogenesis of an epithelium 11.42
developmental growth 11.14
morphogenesis of a branching epithelium 10.62
regeneration 10.58
biomineral tissue development 10.35
epithelium development 9.76
morphogenesis of a branching structure 9.54
respiratory tube development 9.01
epithelial tube morphogenesis 8.69
nervous system development 8.62
lung development 8.49
gland development 8.47
cell development 8.29
renal system development 8.22
kidney development 8.00
regulation of cell development 7.72
nephron development 7.70
bone morphogenesis 7.63
regulation of animal organ morphogenesis 7.58
branching morphogenesis of an epithelial tube 7.10
respiratory system development 7.05
embryo development 6.87
mesenchyme development 6.84
regulation of morphogenesis of an epithelium 6.46
ureteric bud morphogenesis 6.04
ureteric bud development 6.01
mesonephric tubule morphogenesis 5.94
mesonephric tubule development 5.93
mesonephric epithelium development 5.93
endochondral bone morphogenesis 5.88
branching involved in ureteric bud morphogenesis 5.77
embryonic morphogenesis 5.75
regulation of cartilage development 5.75
axon development 5.70
renal tubule morphogenesis 5.69
mesonephros development 5.63
neuron projection development 5.42
endoderm development 5.27
skeletal system morphogenesis 5.27
regulation of biomineral tissue development 5.15
regulation of nervous system development 5.14
nephron tubule morphogenesis 5.12
developmental growth involved in morphogenesis 5.06
kidney epithelium development 5.01
salivary gland morphogenesis 4.96
nephron epithelium morphogenesis 4.95
endodermal cell differentiation 4.93
renal tubule development 4.80
nephron morphogenesis 4.79
salivary gland development 4.52
nephron epithelium development 4.46
kidney morphogenesis 4.39
heart development 4.30
nephron tubule development 4.26
central nervous system development 4.05
endoderm formation 4.01
developmental induction 3.94
regulation of developmental growth 3.74
neuron development 3.66
reproductive structure development 3.61
reproductive system development 3.49
branching involved in salivary gland morphogenesis 3.29
neuron projection regeneration 3.26
embryo implantation 3.26
exocrine system development 3.14
gastrulation 3.06
morphogenesis of embryonic epithelium 3.02
artery morphogenesis 2.96
stem cell development 2.90
heart valve development 2.82
cartilage development involved in endochondral bone morphogenesis 2.71
developmental cell growth 2.60
cell fate commitment 2.56
artery development 2.55
neural crest cell development 2.48
animal organ regeneration 2.47
cell projection morphogenesis 2.41
specification of animal organ identity 2.37
placenta development 2.37
cell morphogenesis involved in neuron differentiation 2.37
pattern specification process 2.35
sensory organ development 2.30
semi−lunar valve development 2.28
axon regeneration 2.11
formation of primary germ layer 2.07
heart valve morphogenesis 2.06
neuron projection morphogenesis 2.04
muscle structure development 1.86
embryonic organ development 1.81
epithelial cell proliferation involved in liver morphogenesis 1.79
lung alveolus development 1.72
aortic valve development 1.70
embryonic epithelial tube formation 1.68
developmental maturation 1.63
tissue regeneration 1.59
liver morphogenesis 1.53
glomerular basement membrane development 1.53
trigeminal nerve morphogenesis 1.47
neural crest cell migration involved in auto. nerv. sys. development 1.47
hair follicle development 1.43
cell morphogenesis 1.43
regulation of membrane protein ectodomain proteolysis 1.41
mammary gland morphogenesis 1.38
0 20 40 60
−Log10(P−value)

Figure 5

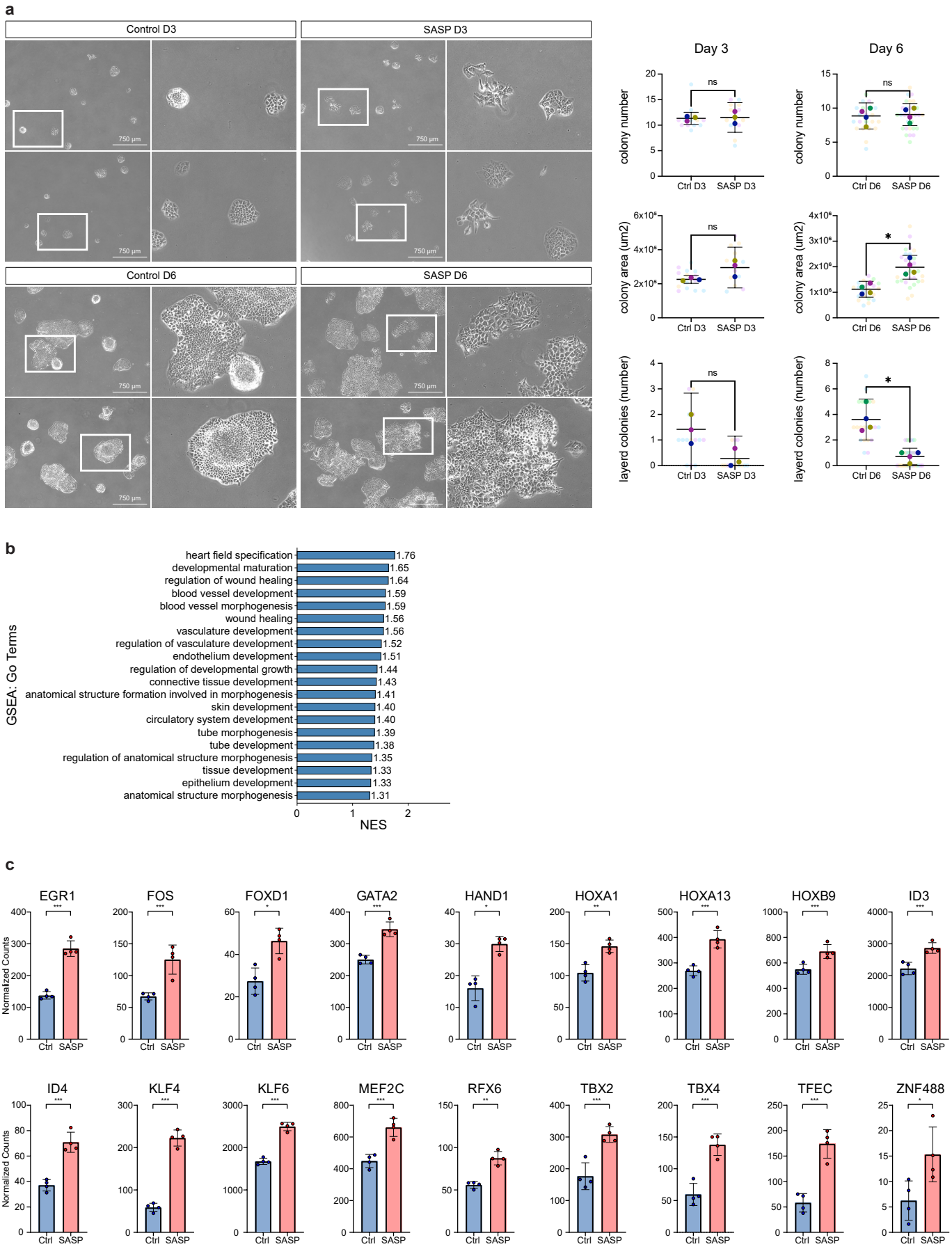
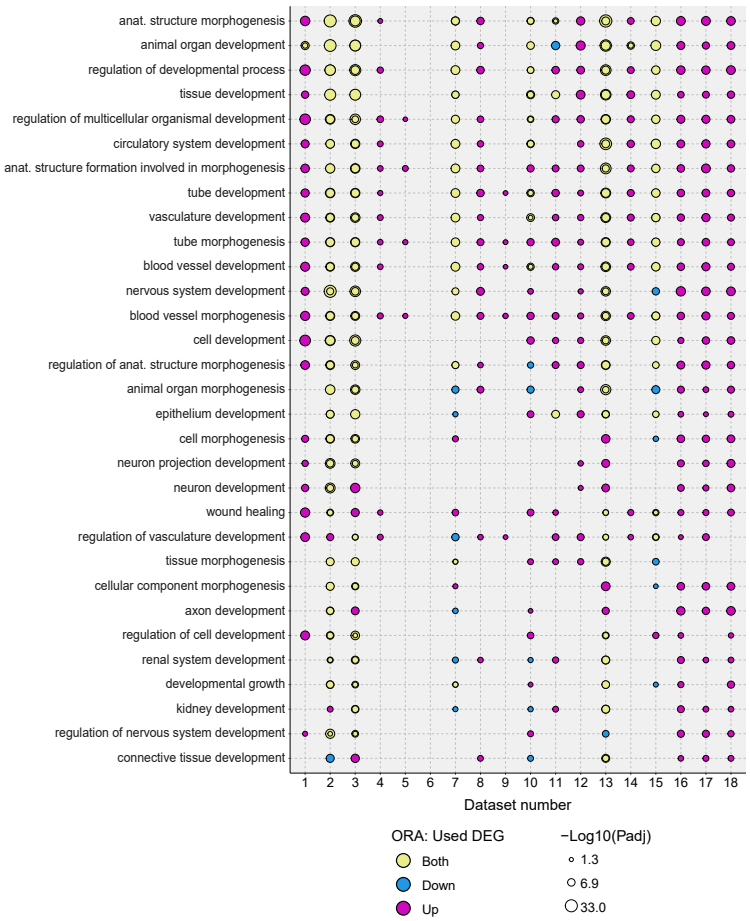

a
Control D3
SASP D3
Control D6
SASP D6
750 µm
Day 3
Day 6
colony number
colony area (um2)
layerd colonies (number)
ns
*
Ctrl D3
SASP D3
Ctrl D6
SASP D6
b
GSEA: Go Terms
heart field specification 1.76
developmental maturation 1.65
regulation of wound healing 1.64
blood vessel development 1.59
blood vessel morphogenesis 1.59
wound healing 1.56
vasculature development 1.56
regulation of vasculature development 1.52
endothelium development 1.51
regulation of developmental growth 1.44
connective tissue development 1.43
anatomical structure formation involved in morphogenesis 1.41
skin development 1.40
circulatory system development 1.40
tube morphogenesis 1.39
tube development 1.38
regulation of anatomical structure morphogenesis 1.35
tissue development 1.33
epithelium development 1.33
anatomical structure morphogenesis 1.31
NES
c
EGR1
FOS
FOXD1
GATA2
HAND1
HOXA1
HOXA13
HOXB9
ID3
ID4
KLF4
KLF6
MEF2C
RFX6
TBX2
TBX4
TFEC
ZNF488
Normalized Counts
Ctrl
SASP

Figure 6

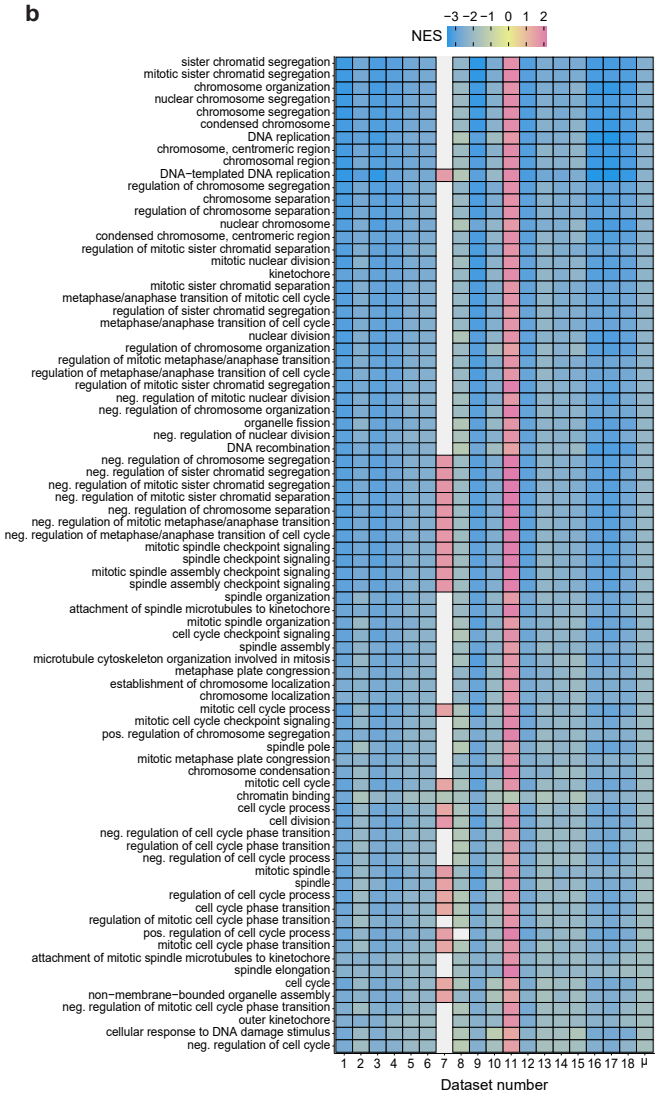
a

Dataset n°	Label	Inducer	Cell Origin	Accession ID
1	MEF IR	IR	Primary M. Embryonic Fibroblasts	GSE117979
2	MEF OIS KRAS	OIS	Primary M. Embryonic Fibroblasts	GSE117979
3	MEF RplicSen	RS	Primary M. Embryonic Fibroblasts	GSE117979
4	IMR90 IR	IR	Primary H. Embryonic Lung Fibroblasts	GSE118583
5	HAEC IR	IR	H. Amniotic Epithelial Cells	GSE130727
6	HUVEC IR	IR	H. Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells	GSE130727
7	IMR90 ReplicSen	RS	Primary H. Embryonic Lung Fibroblasts	GSE130727
8	Wi38 Doxo	TIS	H. Lung Fibroblasts Diploid Cell Line	GSE130727
9	Wi38 IR	IR	H. Lung Fibroblasts Diploid Cell Line	GSE130727
10	Wi38 OIS RAS	OIS	H. Lung Fibroblasts Diploid Cell Line	GSE130727
11	PMK HRAS	OIS	Primary M. Keratinocytes	GSE159999
12	Pan02 Doxo	TIS	M. Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma	GSE210334
13	IMR90 NIS	NIS	Primary H. Embryonic Lung Fibroblasts	GSE72404
14	IMR90 Etop	TIS	Primary H. Embryonic Lung Fibroblasts	GSE72407
15	IMR90 OIS RAS	OIS	Primary H. Embryonic Lung Fibroblasts	GSE72407
16	HA549 Cis	TIS	H. Lung Fibroblasts Carcinoma Epithelial Cells	PRJEB52271
17	HA549 Doce	TIS	H. Lung Fibroblasts Carcinoma Epithelial Cells	PRJEB52271
18	HA549 Palb	TIS	H. Lung Fibroblasts Carcinoma Epithelial Cells	PRJEB52271

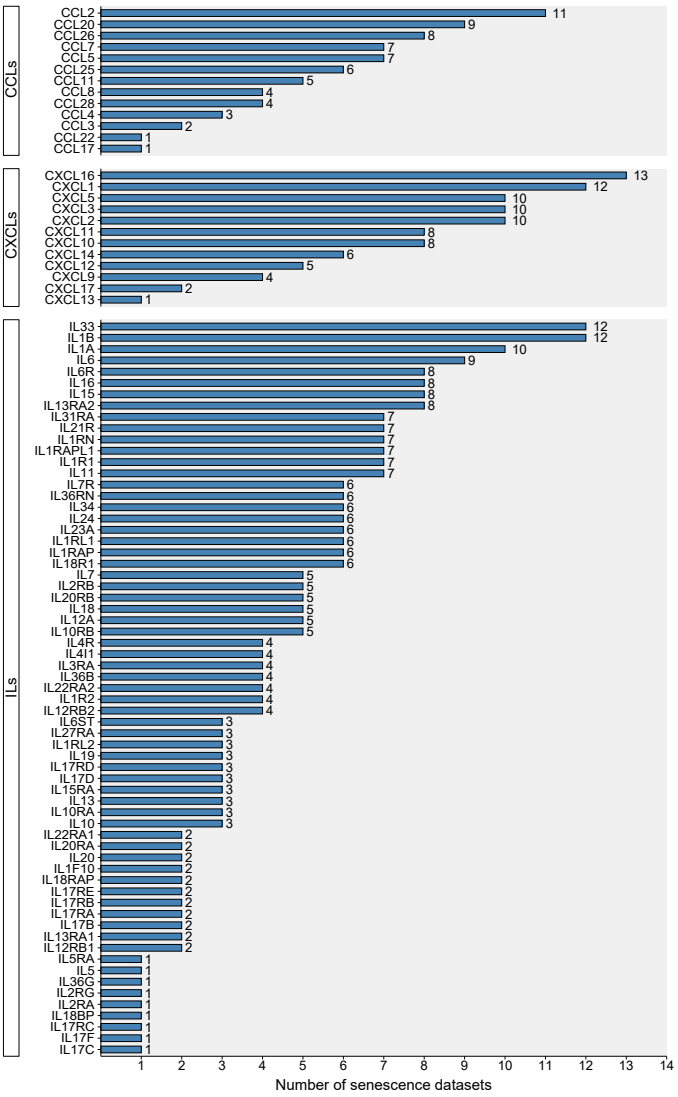
c



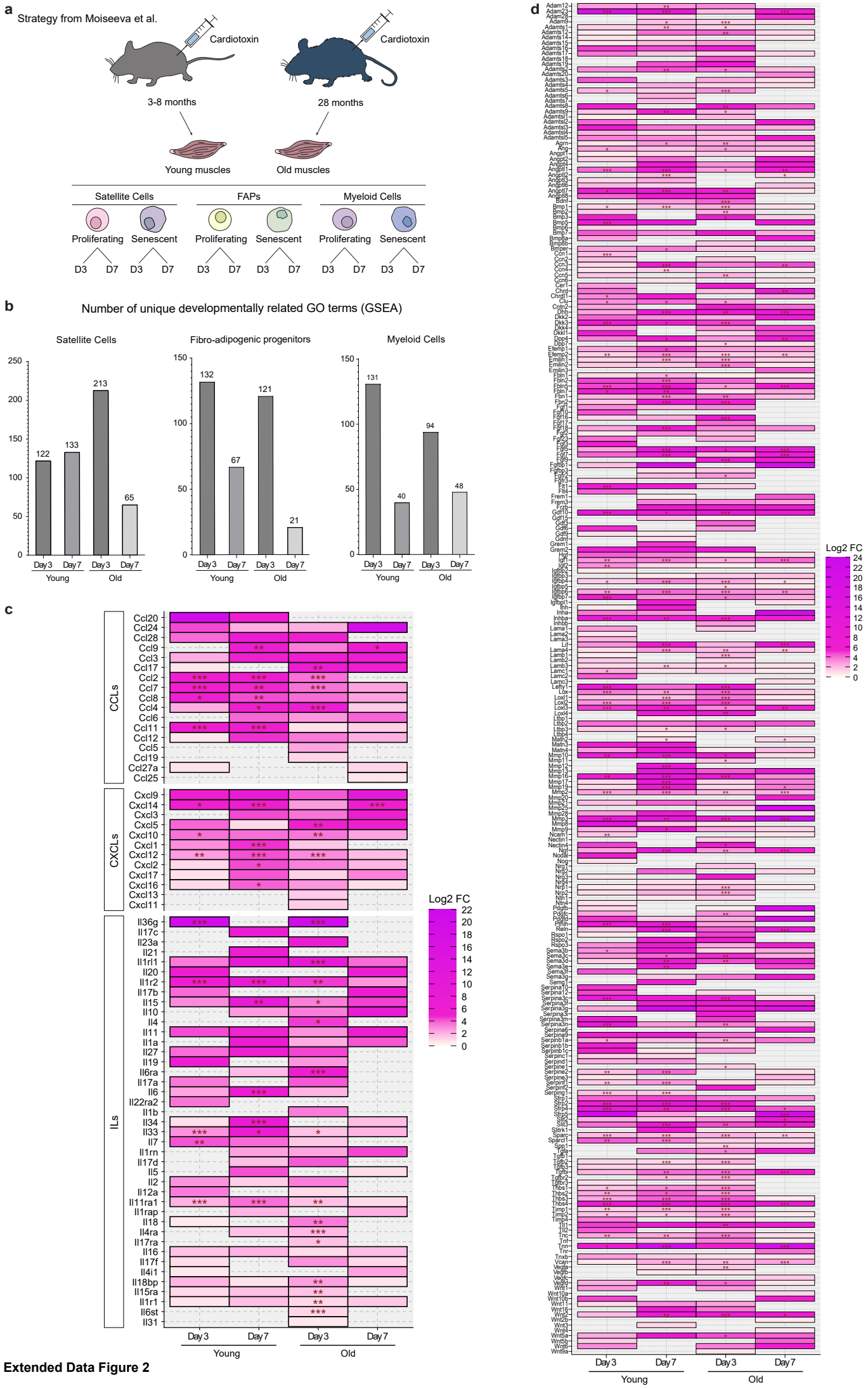
b



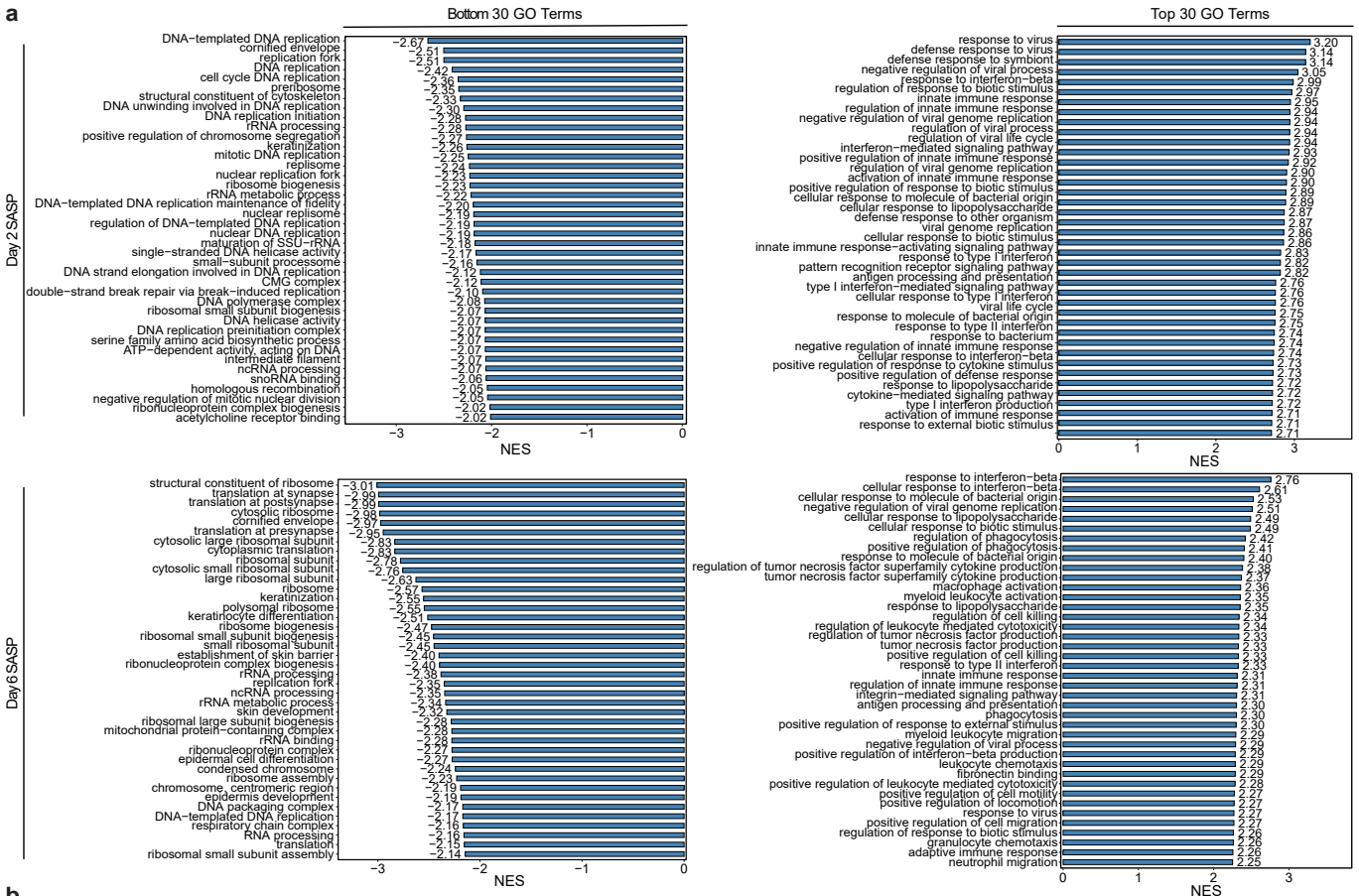
d

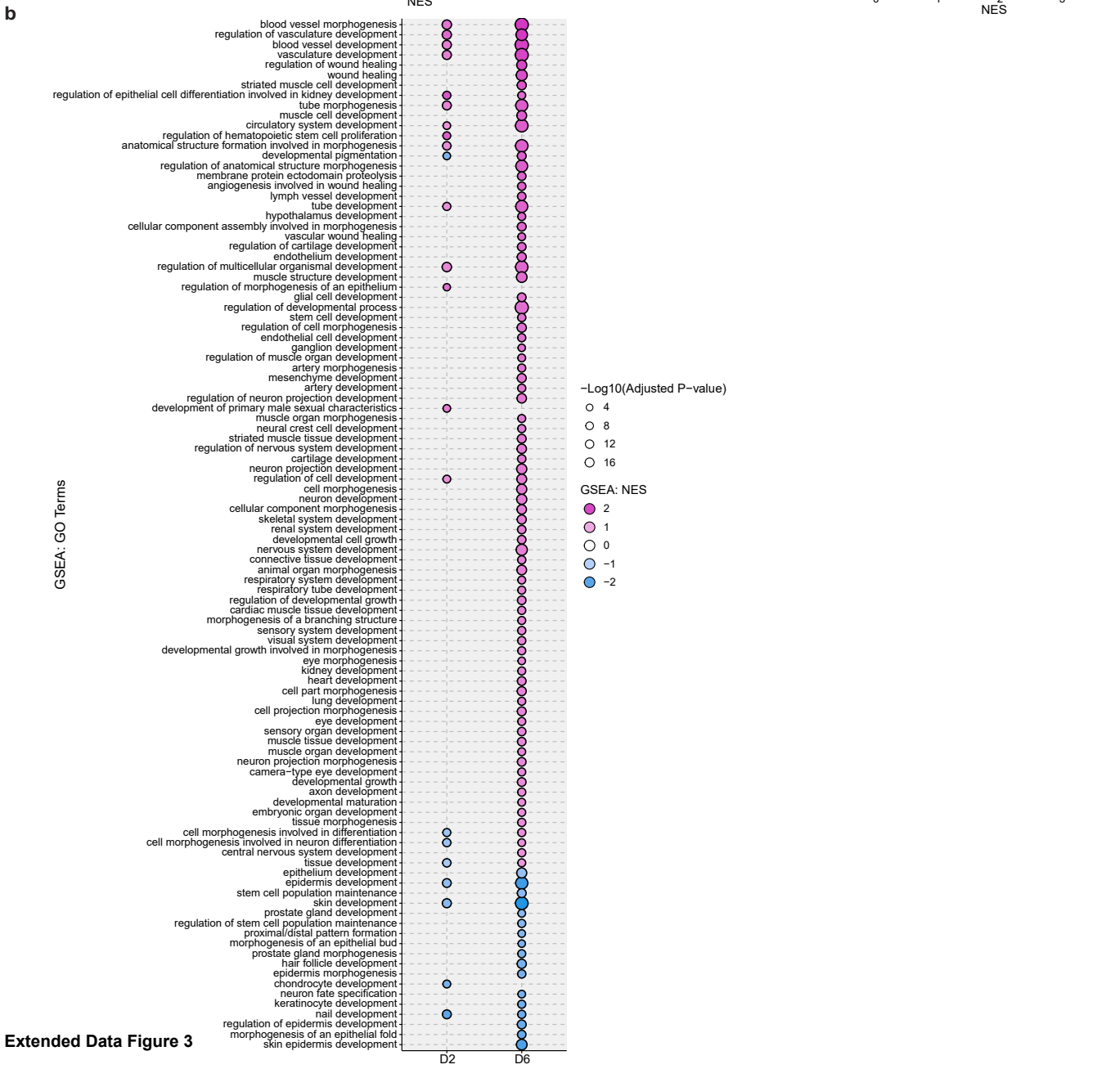


Extended Data Figure 1



Extended Data Figure 2





Extended Data Figure 3