Clonal Hematopoiesis Associated with *TP53* Mutation Promotes Tissue Repair in Acute Cardiovascular Diseases

Yi Pan*[1,2], XiaDuo Meng[1,2], Chen Wang[1,2], WenXuan Zhou[1,2], Qin Zhou[1,5,8,9], Jingshu Chi[10], Breton Barrier[4], Luis Martinez-Lemus[1,6,7], De-Pei Li[1,5], Zhenguo Liu[10], XunLei Kang*[1,2,3,11]

1 Center for Precision Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO 65212, USA

2 Ellis Fischel Cancer Center at MU Health Care, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65212, USA

3 Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO 65212, USA

4 Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO 65212, USA

5 Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO 65212, USA,

6 Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

7 Department of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, Missouri

8 Department of Clinical Laboratory, Chengdu Women's and Children's Central Hospital, Chengdu 610091, PR China

9 Department of Cardiology, Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, 400014, P.R. China.

10 Internal Medicine Cardiovascular medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Omaha,NE 68106

11 Lead contact

*Correspondence: X.K.: kangxu@health.missouri.edu; Y.P.: ypvcm@missouri.edu

Abstract

Clonal hematopoiesis (CH), arising from hematopoietic progenitor cells with acquired mutations, resulting in clonal expansion, and displaying functionally altered hematopoietic cells, is traditionally associated with adverse health outcomes of numerous conditions. However, CH may not always be pathological - our study found that CH promotes post-injury tissue regeneration, indicating the positive effects of CH. In mouse models of myocardial infarction, hindlimb ischemia, and muscle injury, we utilized competitive bone marrow transplantation to mimic CH with *Trp53* mutation. Mice with CH demonstrated enhanced tissue repair compared to controls. Single-cell RNA sequencing of recovering tissues and residing hematopoietic cells indicated that mutant macrophages were associated with enhanced pro-angiogenic and phagocytic capability. Macrophages from CH mice showed increased expression of VEGF, contributing to improved tissue repair. Signaling analysis showed that suppressed E2F drives higher expression of *Vegfa*. These results suggest that CH may play a role in promoting recovery following ischemic injury and highlight its potential as a therapeutic strategy for improving outcomes in ischemic disease.

Introduction

Clonal hematopoiesis (CH) occurs when specific mutations arise in hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs), leading to the clonal expansion of the mutated population[1,2]. Mutations frequently associated with CH, such as *DNMT3A*, *TET2*, and *TP53*, have been shown to alter the function and differentiation of hematopoietic cells, thereby affecting other organ systems[3,4]. Traditionally, CH has been linked to adverse outcomes and is recognized as a risk factor for various conditions, including myeloid malignancies, cardiovascular disorders, periodontal disease, osteoporosis, and gout[3,5-8]. Among cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), CH is a well-accepted risk factor for its development[9,10] as well as a driver for worse clinical outcomes[5,11]. However, previous studies assessed outcomes in individuals with chronic CVDs, such as arteriosclerosis and heart

failures[12-14], or pooled both chronic and acute CVDs[12], while the association between CH and acute CVDs is not well-explored.

Acute CVDs often involve ischemic events, such as myocardial infarction (MI) and critical limb ischemia, and remain the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, particularly among elderly populations[15]. While CH increases the risks for MI[10], it does not appear to elevate the risk of MI recurrence[16], suggesting a more complex role of CH in MI. In contrast, the potential involvement of CH in critical limb ischemia remains unexplored.

In the context of MI, *Tet2* mutations have been directly linked to worse outcomes and impaired tissue regeneration in mouse models[17]. However, the impact of CH driven by other mutations, such as *TP53*, remains understudied, underscoring a critical gap in our understanding of CH's broader implications in acute CVDs.

Results

Clonal Expansion Driven by *Trp53* Mutations

To test the role of CH driven by *TP53* in acute cardiovascular injury, we mimicked *TP53*-CH in mice and tested their association with three acute CVD mouse models – MI, hindlimb ischemia (HLI), and cardiotoxin-induced muscle damage. To model CH in a controlled experimental setting and assess its impact on post-ischemia regeneration, we employed a competitive bone marrow transplantation (BMT) approach to generate chimeric mice. These mice carried a small proportion of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) with the *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ (derived from *Trp53*$^{R172H\text{-}wm}$; Scl-CreER^{T} mice) mutations[18]. Lethally irradiated C57/B6 recipients were transplanted with bone marrow (BM) cell suspensions consisting of 10% mutant (*Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$) cells mixed with 90% wild-type (WT) cells (**Fig. 1A**). To distinguish between donor mutant and WT cells, the *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ cells were derived from mice expressing the CD45.2 variant, while WT cells were obtained from CD45.1^{+} mice (*Trp53* CH mice). Control mice received 10% CD45.2^{+} WT cells and 90% CD45.1^{+} WT cells (Ctrl mice). Thirteen weeks post-transplantation, flow cytometry of CD45.2^{+} cells confirmed successful clonal expansion of mutant hematopoietic cells to levels consistent with those observed in human CH (**Fig. 1B**)[1]. Mice were then subjected to injury to evaluate tissue repair in CH and Ctrl mouse models.

CH Enhances Cardiac Repair After MI

We first evaluated whether CH enhances cardiac repair following MI. Adult mice were subjected to permanent ligation of the left anterior descending artery (LAD). Remarkably, CH mice exhibited improved cardiac function post-MI, as evidenced by higher left ventricular ejection fraction and preserved wall thickness (**Fig. 2A to B**). Histological analysis revealed reduced scar formation in CH mice, with significant reductions observed by day 14 post-injury (**Fig. 2C to D**). Furthermore, CH mice demonstrated increased cardiomyocyte cell-cycle re-entry, as indicated by elevated Ki67 and AuroraB expression in the myocardium adjacent to the infarcted region (**Fig. 2E**). Notably, these improvements were accompanied by increased presence of endothelial cells in the myocardium (**Fig. 2F**), suggesting a pro-angiogenic effect.

CH Promotes Vascular Regeneration After HLI

MI is associated with both vascular block and myocardium injury. To understand whether the tissue-repairing effect of *Trp53*-CH specific to the heart vasculature or can be generalized to peripheral vasculatures and muscles, we subjected mice to a vascular injury model (HLI) by femoral artery ligation (FAL). Blood flow recovery in the ischemic limb, compared to the contralateral control limb, was assessed at various time points. The initial reduction in blood flow ratio was not different between CH and control mice. However, CH mice exhibited significantly faster and more complete recovery of blood flow compared to control mice over the same time period (**Fig. 3A**). Corresponding to improved blood flow and limb function, CH mice also demonstrated higher capillary density by day 21 (2.7-fold increase at day 7 and 3.3-fold increases at day 21) (**Fig. 3B**)[19]. Additionally, CH mice exhibited not only increased numbers of arterioles but also significantly larger arterioles compared to controls (**Fig. 3C**).

CH Accelerates Muscle Regeneration in Ischemic and Non-Ischemic Models

Beyond vascular regeneration, CH mice displayed enhanced muscle regeneration in both MI and HLI model, and reduced necrosis in the HLI model (**Fig. 4A and B**). However, the peak of CH mice necrosis is significantly lower than that in the Ctrl mice (**Fig. 4A**), indicating CH mice may have either higher resistance to muscle

necrosis or faster resolution of necrotic tissue. In addition, it is unclear whether the accelerated muscle regeneration was dependent on vascular repair or could occur independently. To investigate this, we used a cardiotoxin (CTX) injury model, which induces rapid muscle damage without affecting the vasculature[20]. After CTX injection, CH mice showed similar peaks but quicker resolution of muscle necrosis (**Fig. 4C and D**) and earlier regeneration of myofibers (**Fig. 4E**). Consistently, both models demonstrated reduced muscle cell death quantified by Caspase-3 in CH mice (**Fig. 4F to G**). Seven days after CTX injection or 14 days post-FAL, CH mice exhibited fewer early-regenerating myofibers (eMyHC$^+$) and more late-regenerating myofibers (eMyHC$^-$) compared to controls, indicating faster muscle regeneration (**Fig. 4H**). CH mice also showed more rapid proliferation and differentiation of satellite cells, as assessed by pH3, Pax7, and Myog, essential for muscle repair[21,22] (**Fig. 4I to L**). Collectively, these data showed that *Trp53*-CH are associated with faster tissue repair after injury.

CH Mice-derived Fibroblasts Are Skewed Toward a Pro-Angiogenic State

To understand how CH drives tissue repair, we performed single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) of hematopoietic (CD45.2$^+$) and non-hematopoietic (CD45$^-$) cells from muscle tissue seven days post-HLI. Unbiased clustering revealed 11 distinct cell populations, including macrophages (*Adgre1*$^+$), fibroblasts (*Pdgfa*$^+$), B cells (*Cd19*$^+$), erythrocytes, neutrophils (*Ly6g*$^+$), T cells (*Cd3e*$^+$), NK cells (*Ncr1*$^+$), mast cells (*Cd200r3*$^+$), myoblasts (*Pax7*$^+$), myocytes (*Myh4*$^+$), endothelial cells (*Pecam1*$^+$), and neural cells (**Fig. 5A**), expressing canonical cell markers as well as gene signatures of unique cellular processes, respectively (**Fig. S1A and B**). In total, we analyzed a total of 21,853 (>6,000 per condition) cells from CH and Ctrl mice (n=6).

We then compared cell-cell crosstalk, including hematopoietic cells and tissue cells, to identify the major effectors of the enhanced tissue repair in CH mice using CellChat[23]. We found fibroblasts and macrophages displayed the strongest communication strength (**Fig. 5B**). We first analyzed the differentially expressed signals between CH and Ctrl mice-derived fibroblasts and found upregulation of pro-regenerative signals, including VEGF, TGF-ß, and IGF, in CH mice-derived fibroblasts (**Fig. S2A**). Indeed, differential gene expression analysis showed that CH mice-derived fibroblasts show reduced expression of pro-fibrotic genes, such as *Col1a1*, *Col1a2*, *Col3a1*, etc. (**Fig. S2B**). This indicates that fibroblasts from CH and Ctrl mice adopt distinct functional roles[24-26], with Ctrl mice-derived fibroblasts favoring fibrosis and CH mice-derived fibroblasts promoting angiogenesis.

To validate our finding, we isolated fibroblasts from the left ventricle of mutant mice 7 days post-infarct[27] and quantified VEGF levels in fibroblast culture medium. We found a higher level of VEGF production by fibroblasts isolated from mutant mice (**Fig. S2C**). To functionally assess the proangiogenic ability of mutant mice derived fibroblasts, we assessed the effect of fibroblast conditioned media (CM) on promoting human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC) proliferation measured by HUVECs assembly into interconnected tubelike structures on a growth factor reduced matrix (vascular assembly), and found mutant mice derived fibroblasts CM increased vascular assembly compared with WT mice derived fibroblasts CM (**Fig. S2D**). Then, we intracardially injected mutant or WT mice-derived fibroblasts into WT CD45.1 mice immediately after LAD ligation to assess the in vivo function of CH-mice-derived fibroblasts. However, we found no functional improvement of LVEF in mice transplanted with mutant mice-derived fibroblasts (**Fig. S2E**).

Mutant Macrophages Exhibit Enhanced Tissue Repair Profile

Another type of cell that displayed strong communication strength is the macrophage (**Fig. 5B**), which is known to be central for tissue repair following injury[28]. We then assessed the transcriptome of mutant macrophages and found *Trp53* mutant macrophages exhibited enhanced wound healing gene signatures (**Fig. 5C**). Higher-resolution analysis of macrophage found *Trp53* mutant macrophages are enriched in clusters distinct from WT macrophages (**Fig. 5D**). We next examined the gene expression (**Fig. 5E**), the developmental relationship between these macrophage clusters using diffusion map analysis (**Fig. 5F**), and hierarchical clustering analysis (**Fig. 5G and H**). Collectively, these approaches classified the macrophages into two subpopulations: MerTK$^+$Trem2^{lo} and MerTK$^-$Trem2^{hi}. The MerTK$^+$Trem2^{lo} macrophages comprise the subpopulations Folr2$^+$Lyve1$^+$, Trem2^{lo}Gdf5$^+$, and Trem2^{lo}Gdf15$^+$. MerTK$^-$Trem2^{hi} macrophages comprise subpopulations cycling macrophages, Vegfa$^+$, and Trem2^{hi}Folr2$^+$ (**Fig. 5H**).

CH mice-derived macrophages are significantly enriched in Folr2$^+$Lyve1$^+$ and Vegfa$^+$ populations, while Ctrl mice-derived macrophages are significantly enriched in cycling, Trem2^{hi}Folr2$^+$, Trem2^{lo}Gdf5$^+$, and Trem2^{lo}Gdf15$^+$ macrophages (**Fig. 5I**). Given the higher proportion of cycling macrophages in Ctrl mice, we

analyzed the cell cycle status of all macrophages and found Ctrl mice-derived macrophages show a significantly higher proportion of macrophages undergoing cell division (**Fig. 5I and K**). To understand whether CH mice-derived macrophages are already after or yet to reach active cell division, we analyzed the pseudotime status and found CH mice-derived macrophages were at a more advanced stage of differentiation (**Fig. 5L and M**), indicating faster expansion of mutant macrophages.

Trp53 Mutant Macrophages Accelerate Tissue Repair

To confirm whether mutant macrophages show faster expansion, we examined macrophage infiltration in MI, HLI, and CTX models. Consistently, CH mice displayed higher macrophage density and faster macrophage expansion at injury sites compared to Ctrl mice (**Fig. 6A to D**). Notably, consistent with our scRNA-seq findings, mutant (CD45.2$^+$) macrophages also show faster expansion than WT (CD45.1$^+$) macrophages, marked by increased chimerism compared with pre-injury (~60% to ~70%). (**Fig. 6E to G**).

To assess whether mutant macrophages show higher VEGF production, we isolated macrophages from the injury site after FAL and found higher production of VEGF by *Trp53* mutant macrophages in vitro, compared with WT macrophages (**Fig. 6H**). In the HUVEC vascular assembly assay, *Trp53* mutant macrophage CM significantly increased vascular assembly (156.3 vs. 98.1 branch points/field of view; $p = 6.2x10^{-9}$; Fig. 6H) compared with WT macrophages.

To functionally validate the role of CH macrophages in tissue repair, we performed bone marrow-derived macrophage (BMDM) transplantation experiments. BMDMs were isolated from *Trp53* mutant or WT 45.2 mice. BMDMs had phenotypic markers (Gr-1$^-$, CD3$^-$, CD19$^-$, F4/80$^+$, CD11b^{hi}, CD11c$^+$, CD14$^+$, CD16/32$^+$, CD64$^+$, CD68$^+$, MHC class II$^+$) of macrophages (**Fig. S3A**). Colony-forming unit assay analysis indicated minimal CFU-GM colonies and no BFU-E or CFU-GEMM colonies (**Fig. S3B**). BMDMs were then injected into WT CD45.1 mice immediately after FAL, CTX injection, or LAD ligation (**Fig. S3C**). Consistent with our CH model, we observed faster tissue repair in mice transplanted with *Trp53* mutant macrophages compared to those receiving WT macrophages (**Fig. 6J to P**).

Trp53 Mutant Macrophages Accelerate Tissue Repair Through E2F Repression

To understand the signaling pathways that drive the increased VEGF production and superior tissue repair function of mutant macrophages, we compared the signaling pathways between mutant and WT macrophages and found reduced E2F signaling (**Fig. 7A**). To validate this, we performed CUT&RUN profiling for E2F motif accessibility. Compared to controls, *Trp53*-mutant macrophages displayed widespread loss of E2F motif accessibility (**Fig. 7B**), including the *Vegfa* locus (**Fig. 7C**), consistent with E2F activity repression. We next examined the repressive histone mark H3K27me3 using CUT&Tag. CH macrophages exhibited broad loss of H3K27me3 compared to controls (**Fig. 7D**), including at the *Vegfa* locus (**Fig. 7E**), suggesting epigenetic de-repression enables sustained VEGFA expression by the E2F pathway suppression. To test whether E2F suppression is functionally required for the enhanced reparative phenotype, we ectopically expressed E2F in mutant macrophages and assessed tissue repair outcomes (**Fig. S4**). We found E2F overexpression significantly reduced the reparative benefit by mutant BMDMs (**Fig. 7F to L**)

Together, these data demonstrate that *Trp53* mutations converge on a shared program of E2F repression in macrophages. This reprogramming facilitates VEGFA expression and promotes improved tissue repair across diverse injury contexts.

Discussion

CH has traditionally been associated with increased risks of various diseases, such as malignancies, cardiovascular disorders, and inflammatory diseases. However, emerging evidences suggest that CH may exhibit positive effects for certain diseases. For instance, Bouzid et al. reported a potential protective role of CH in Alzheimer's disease[29], Kang et al. found CH mutations could preserve CD8 T cell stemness during immunotherapy[30],and Bhattacharya et al, reported *TP53*-related CH were linked to reduced hazard ratios for both all-cause and ischemic stroke[31]. Here, our study presents evidence that *Trp53*-mutant CH promote tissue repair following injury, revealing a previously underappreciated regenerative potential of CH.

Beyond the positive role of CH in acute CVDs, our study underscores a critical aspect of CH biology – its response is likely context-dependent. Even the same CH mutations may exert distinct effects on diseases with subtle differences in pathology. While *Trp53*-mutant CH enhances recovery from acute ischemic injuries, such

as those induced by LAD ligation or FAL, previous studies suggest that it worsens outcomes in chronic disease models, like arteriosclerosis[13]. This is supported by our observation of the pronounced monocytosis of and *Trp53* clones that is not reported by these studies[13]. These divergent outcomes emphasize the importance of considering disease context when evaluating CH's role, as acute and chronic conditions likely engage distinct inflammatory and regenerative pathways. Understanding these context-dependent effects is crucial for developing targeted therapeutic strategies that account for the differential impact of CH mutations across various disease settings.

One potential explanation for the context-dependent roles of mutant hematopoietic cells is their responsiveness to external stimuli. Supporting this notion, several studies have reported stable hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell (LSK) counts in the BM and unchanged PB white blood cell (WBC) or myeloid cell frequencies despite clonal expansion, yet these cells exhibit distinctly altered differentiation trajectories following tissue injury or disease progression[3,8,13,17]. Acute and chronic cardiovascular diseases are known to induce unique cellular signaling environments, characterized by distinct inflammatory cytokine profiles[32], which likely differentially regulate mutant versus wild-type hematopoietic cells. An alternative hypothesis is that mutant hematopoietic cells possess a diminished capacity to resolve inflammation under persistent inflammatory conditions, particularly evident in chronic injury contexts. Indeed, mutations such as those in *TET2* markedly impair inflammation resolution, whereas *TP53* mutations may retain partial anti-inflammatory functionality compared to wild-type cells.

These insights suggest a promising avenue for macrophage-based therapy. Macrophages have long been recognized as key players in tissue repair, yet clinical trials using unengineered macrophage-based therapies have yielded limited success in conditions such as stroke (NCT01845350), anal fissures (NCT00507364), and peripheral artery disease (NCT00468000). Engineering macrophages to mimic the regenerative properties observed in *TP53*-mutant CH could enhance their reparative functions. Techniques, like CAR-M[33], have shown promise in cancer treatment and offer a viable platform for macrophage engineering to treat ischemic diseases. Importantly, as terminally differentiated cells, macrophages are not known to pose the risk of hematological malignancies, providing a favorable safety profile for future clinical use[34].

Methods

Mice

C57BL/6 (CD45.2), B6 CD45.1 mice were purchased from Charles River, Inc. The *Trp53*$^{R172H\text{-}wm}$ mice were gifts from Dr. Guillermina Lozano[18]. The offspring were then crossed with Scl-CreER^{T} mice (stock #037466)[35], to obtain *Trp53*$^{R172H\text{-}wm}$; Scl-CreER^{T} mice. Mice were then induced with tamoxifen and then referred to as *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ mice. Reagents will be made available through a material transfer agreement. Mice were maintained on a 12-h light/dark schedule in a specific pathogen-free animal facility and given food and water ad libitum. The number of mice included in each study is indicated in the figures or the associated legends. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Missouri approved all study procedures.

Competitive bone marrow transplantation

Lethally irradiated CD45.1 recipients were transplanted with suspensions of BM cells containing 10% CD45.2^{+} *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ cells and 90% CD45.1^{+} *Trp53*$^{+/+}$ cells (*Trp53* CH mice), or 10 % CD45.2^{+} *Trp53*$^{+/+}$ cells and 90% CD45.1^{+} *Trp53*$^{+/+}$ cells (Ctrl mice). BM cells were isolated from femurs and tibias of donor mice after euthanasia. Donor CD45.2^{+} cells were obtained from *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ or wild-type littermates. Donor CD45.1^{+} cells were obtained from B6 CD45.1 mice. Recipient B6 CD45.1 mice were irradiated in a pie cage to limit mobility and ensure equal dose of irradiation, and were exposed to two radiation doses of 550 rad three hours apart using an X-RAD 320 Biological Irradiator. After the second irradiation, each recipient mouse was injected with 10^{7} BM cells i.v.. Sterilized caging, food and water were provided during the first 14 days post-transplant and water was supplemented. Mice that did not recover full pre-irradiation body weight 28 days after transplant were excluded from further analysis. Thirteen weeks after BM transplantation, mice were subject to myocardial infarction, hind limb ischemia, or muscle injury. All injury model experiments included $\geqslant$5 mice per group, and key findings were independently replicated in at least two cohorts of transplanted mice. Mice with CD45.2^{+} engraftment falling outside of 50%-60% were excluded to ensure consistency across cohorts.

Myocardial infarction

Left anterior descending coronary artery (LAD) ligation was used to induced myocardial infarction as previously described[36]. Mice were anesthetized with 2% isoflurane inhalation. A small skin cut (1.2 cm) was made over the left chest, and a purse suture was made without tightening. After dissection and retraction of the pectoral major and minor muscle, the fourth intercostal space was exposed. A small hole was made at the fourth intercostal space with a mosquito clamp to open the pleural membrane and pericardium. With the clamp slightly open, the heart was smoothly and gently “popped out” through the hole. The LAD was located, sutured, and ligated at a site ≈3 mm from its origin using a 6-0 silk suture. Visualization of pale anterior wall of the LV was used to confirm successful ligation. After ligation, the heart was immediately placed back into the intrathoracic space followed by manual evacuation of air and closure of muscle and the skin, by tightening the previously placed purse-string suture. The mouse was then allowed to breath room air and monitored during the recovery period, which was generally complete within 3 to 5 minutes. No artificial respiratory aid was required during the recovery time. The sham group underwent the same surgical procedure except that the LAD was not occluded. Hearts were collected before and at day 7, 14, 21, 28 after injury.

Hind limb ischemia

Femoral artery ligation was performed to induce hind limb ischemia in the mice as described[19]. Mice were anesthetized with isofluorane, and the animal’s body temperature was maintained at 37±0.5°C. The left

femoral artery was exposed through a 3-mm incision with minimal retraction and tissue disturbance. A 6.0-ligature was placed distal to the origin of the lateral caudal femoral and superficial epigastric arteries (the latter was also ligated) and proximal to the genu artery. The femoral artery was transected and separated by 1 to 2 mm between the sutures. The incision was cleaned and treated with saline before being closed. Laser Doppler perfusion imaging (LDPI, Moor Instruments) was used to confirm successful ligation. Hind limbs were collected before and at day 3, 7, 14, 21 after injury.

CTX muscle injury

Mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane and 50 µl of 10 µM CTX was injected in the tibialis anterior muscle[20]. Muscles were collected for analysis before and at day 1, 2, 3, 7, 14 after injury.

Echocardiography

For the evaluation of cardiac function, mice were anesthetized with 1% isoflurane, and analyzed with a Vevo 3100 High Resolution Imaging System (Visual Sonics Inc) equipped with a 30-MHz probe (MS550D) (VisualSonics). Echocardiographic parameters were measured under the long-axis M-mode when the heart rate was about 450 bpm. Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) was calculated as previously described (dividing the stroke volume by the end-diastolic volume)[37].

Histology and quantification of area of interest

Mouse heart or muscle tissues were fixed in 4% PFA and sectioned. Samples were dehydrated, paraffin-embedded embedded and sectioned into 5 µm thick slices on a sliding microtome (Leica). For the heart, paraffin sections were cut through the entire ventricle from apex to base into serial sections at 0.4 mm intervals. For the muscle, sections were made transversely. Haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining and Masson’s trichrome staining were performed according to standard procedures and used for the detection of fibrosis, necrosis, and muscle regeneration. Fibrosis size was quantified from at least 3 sections of the heart from ligature to apex and the average scar size for each heart was plotted. Necrotic muscle area was detected by H&E staining as the area that includes necrotic myocytes, inflammatory cells and interstitial cells. Images were captured with a Keyence BZ-X800 microscope with a 20× objective (resulting in approximately 200× magnification) and processed with ImageJ software (NIH).

Immunofluorescence

Mice hearts and muscles were fixed in 4% PFA for immunofluorescence (IF) analysis. Sections of 10 µm were obtained with a cryostat (Leica) and processed, and incubated with primary antibodies diluted in PBS, supplemented with 1% BSA and 1% Triton X-100 overnight at 4°C. After three 10-min washes with PBS, samples were stained for 1 h at room temperature with fluorescent secondary antibodies followed by 5 min of DAPI staining (1µg/mL) for nucleus visualization. Slides were mounted with Immu-mount (Thermo Scientific) and viewed under a fluorescence microscope (Keyence BZ-8000) with a 20× objective, resulting in approximately 200× magnification. In all cell counting experiments, fields of view were randomized to reduce counting bias and 300 cells were considered per mouse. Primary antibodies used include: anti-Ki67 (1:200, ab15580, Abcam), anti-Aurkb (1:100, 611083, BD Transduction Laboratories), anti-cTnT (1:200, ab33589, Abcam), anti-CD31 (1:200, 102402, Biolegend), anti-SMA (1:200, MAB1420, R&D system), anti-caspase3 (1:200, #9662, Cell Signaling Technology), anti-eMyHC (1:20, DSHB), anti-Laminin (1:200, ab11575, Abcam),

anti-Pax7 (1:20, DSHB), anti-pH3 (1:200, #9701, Cell Signaling Technology), anti-F4/80 (1:200, 123102, Biolegend).

Quantitative RT-PCR

RT-PCR was performed on 5 ng total RNA with gene-specific primers (as shown below) and a QIAGEN One Step RT-PCR kit (210210; Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol. β-actin was used as the reference gene to normalize the relative expression for quantitative RT-PCR analysis. RT-qPCR primers used in this study were as follows: Pax7: forward (5'- TCTCCAAGATTCTGTGCCGAT -3') and reverse (5'-CGGGGTTCTCTCTCTTATACTCC-3'), Myog: forward (5'-GAGACATCCCCCTATTTCTACCA-3') and reverse (5'-GCTCAGTCCGCTCATAGCC-3'), *Vegfa*: forward (5'-CTGCCGTCCGATTGAGACC-3') and reverse (5'-CCCCTCCTTGTACCACTGTC-3'), E2f1: forward (5'-CTCGACTCCTCGCAGATCG-3') and reverse (5'-GATCCAGCCTCCGTTTCACC-3').

Virus infection and transfection

pLentiLoxp3.7 (addgene #11795) was used to construct *Vegfa* shRNA expressing lentiviral vectors. The target sequences for sh-*Vegfa*-1, sh-*Vegfa* -2, and sh-*Vegfa* -3 were 5'-GTTAATCGGTCTTTCCGGTGAC-3', 5'-GCAAGATCCGCAGACGTGTAAA-3', and 5'-GCAAGATCCGCAGACGTGTAAA-3', respectively. For the generation of E2F-1–overexpressing cells, BMDMs were transfected by electroporation with an expression vector (pLVX-CMV-IRES-EGFP-Puro) containing a wild-type E2F-1 cDNA insert. For virus packaging, virus constructs were mixed with pSPAX2 and pMD2.G (4:3:1), followed by transfection into 293T cells using PolyJet (SignaGen Laboratories). Virus-containing supernatant was collected 48-72 h post-transfection and used for infection as described previously[37]. For infection, BMDMs were suspended in virus supernatant supplemented with 4 μg/ml polybrene at 10^5/ml and placed in six-well plates for spin infection (2000 rpm, 90 min at 32 °C).

Laser Doppler perfusion imaging

Local blood perfusion in hind limbs was determined using laser Doppler perfusion imaging (LDPI, Moor Instruments) pre-operatively, 30 minutes post-operatively and at day 3, 7, 14, 21, and 28 post-operatively. Before imaging, excess hair was shaved from the limbs of mice, and the animals were placed on a heating pad set to 37 °C to reduce temperature variance. Blood flow in both ligated (left) and unligated (right) limb were monitored. Blood flow recovery was measured using the ratio of left ischemic limb blood flow/right normal limb blood flow.

Flowcytometry

Flow cytometry analysis of mouse PB, BM, and digested muscle, was carried out using BD Accuri C6 or Cytek Aurora. Cells were labelled with the following antibodies from Biolegend unless specifically indicated: Anti-CD3e-PE/Cyanine5 (mouse, #100310, 1:200 dilution), Anti-Ly-6G/Ly-6C (Gr-1)-PE/Cyanine5 (mouse, #108410, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD11b-PE/Cyanine5 (mouse, #101210, 1:200 dilution), Anti-B220-PE/Cyanine5 (mouse, #103210, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD117 (c-Kit)-APC (mouse, #105812, 1:200 dilution), Anti-Sca-1-PE-Cyanine7 (mouse, #108114, 1:200 dilution), Anti-Ki67-FITC (mouse, #652410, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD127(IL-7Rα)-PE/Cyanine5 (mouse, #135016, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD16/32-PE (mouse, #101308, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD45.1-PerCP/Cyanine5.5 (mouse, #110728, 1:200), Anti-CD45-APC (mouse, #103112, 1:200 dilution), Anti-CD45.1-PerCP/Cyanine5.5 (mouse, #110728, 1:200).

Muscle digestion

Tibialis anterior or gracilis muscles were dissected, minced, and digested using collagenase II (200x, HY-E70005B, MCE), Dispase II, (10x, MCE HY-131577), and 20 *μ*g/mL DNase I (Roche, 10104159001) in DMEM for 1.5 h at 37 °C with gentle shaking. The digested tissue was filtered using a 40-μm-pore-sized mesh and cells were centrifuged 5 min at 500*g*. Cells were resuspended in PBS containing 2% FBS for flow cytometry staining or beads-based cell isolation for scRNAseq library preparation.

scRNAseq library preparation

$CD45.2^+$ cells were first enriched from digested muscles from CH or Ctrl mice with MoJoSort mouse CD45 isolation kit (480028, Biolegend). The ScaleBio Single Cell RNA Sequencing Kit v1.1 was used according to the manufacturer's instructions for scRNAseq library preparation[38]. Cells were fixed and loaded into the 96-well Indexed RT Oligo Plate according to the manufacturer's instructions[38]. For each mouse, 3,200 $CD45^-$ and 6,800 $CD45.2^+$ cells were used. Plate to add the RT barcode and UMI onto each transcript during reverse transcription. Each sample was loaded to a distinct set of wells to enable all samples to be processed on the same plate in a single batch. The cells from each well were then collected and pooled using the supplied collection funnel, mixed, and distributed across the 384-well Indexed Ligation Oligo Plate where the Ligation Barcode was added to each UMI-RT barcoded transcript. Then, the cells were once again collected and pooled using another collection funnel and counted with a hemocytometer with Trypan Blue. A total of 10,000 cells were distributed per well of the 96-well Final Distribution Plate. In each well, second strand synthesis was performed followed by a cleanup step. The PCR products were then tagmented followed by an indexing PCR step to add a third barcode to each well. 5ul from each of the 96 libraries were pooled and cleaned using 0.8X SPRIselect beads (B23317, Beckman Coulter). The average fragment size of the final library was quantified using a TapeStation 4200 (Agilent). The library concentration was quantified using the NEBNext Library Quant Kit for Illumina (E7630S, New England Biolands). The libraries were sequenced on a shared 25B flowcell on a NovaSeq X (Illumina) instrument to a target depth of 20,000 reads per cell.

scRNAseq analysis

Base calls were converted to fastq format and demultiplexed by Index1 barcode. Combinatorial barcode demultiplexing, barcode processing, adapter trimming, read mapping to the mm10 reference genome, single-cell counting, and generation of the feature-barcode matrices were done using ScaleBio Single-cell RNA Nextflow Workflow v1.6 (https://github.com/ScaleBio/ScaleRna). The count matrices were brought into Seurat for downstream analyses. For quality control, a UMI-gene cutoff of 500-4000 UMIs and 500 genes was used. The count matrices were log2-normalized, centered, and scaled using a scaling factor of 10,000. The top 2000 most variable genes were identified using dispersion and mean expression thresholds. PCA was then performed followed by dimensionality reduction by UMAP and unsupervised clustering using the Louvain algorithm using the FindClusters function of Seurat. Cluster marker genes were defined by grouping the clusters by genotype, setting logfc.threshold=0.5 and min.pct=0.2, and comparing the fold changes between pct.1 and pct.2 using FindMarkers. Cell type annotations were done referencing literature, cell identity prediction using singleR[39], and single cell GSEA (scGSEA)[23]. Pseudobulk differential expression analysis between conditions within cell types was performed using DESeq2[40]. Pseudotime and trajectory analysis was done using Monocle3[41].

GSEA, leading-edge analysis, and scGSEA

The clusterProfiler in R version 4.4.0[42] was used to perform Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) and leading-edge analysis. Gene sets were obtained from the MSigDB

(http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb/search.jsp). The differentially expressed genes obtained from FindMarkers function of Seurat with logfc.threshold=0.5 and min.pct=0.2 were used for analysis. Only GSEA results that were significant after correction were reported, with $q < 0.05$ being considered statistically significant. scGSEA scores of each cell were calculated using the RunMCA and RunCellHGT function in CellChat[23].

Cell-cell communication analysis

CellChat was used to infer cell-cell communications using the single-cell gene expression data and a database of prior knowledge of the interactions between signaling ligands, receptors, and their cofactors[23]. The CellChat database integrates the signaling molecule interaction information from KEGG and experimental studies. The curated interactions are categorized into 299 signaling pathways. CellChat predicts significant communication between cell groups (clusters) by identifying significantly over-expressed ligands and receptors between the cell groups. Communication probabilities were calculated using a mass action-based model based on the average expression values of a ligand and its cognate receptors from two cell groups. The signaling communication probabilities are modeled based on the proportions of cells in each cell group across all cells, as abundant cell groups are more likely to send stronger signals in comparison to rare groups. In the estimated cell-cell communication network with weights as probabilities, the major signaling roles are identified based on centrality metrics from graph theory. CellChat predicts the key sending and receiving signals between specific cell groups. The top 10% of significant cell-cell communications ($p < 0.05$) were selected across different pathways. The major sending and receiving signaling roles based on context-specific pathways across different cell groups were identified using a cut-off of 0.7 when visualizing the connection. The comparison between the overall information flow from the two study groups (CH versus Ctrl) was performed using the paired Wilcoxon test with the function rankNet from CellChat.

Primary fibroblasts isolation and transplantation

Cardiac fibroblasts were isolated from infarct and peri-infarct regions of mouse hearts 7 days MI using an enzymatic digestion protocol[27]. Briefly, mice were euthanized and hearts perfused with cold PBS to remove blood. The left ventricle was dissected, minced into 1–2 mm pieces, and digested in a solution containing 2.5 mg/mL Collagenase II (Sigma) and 1 mg/mL Dispase II (Sigma) in HBSS supplemented with 20 mM HEPES and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. Tissue was incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes with gentle agitation. Digested tissue was filtered through a 70-μm, followed by a 40-μm cell strainer, centrifuged at 400g for 5 minutes, and red blood cells were lysed using RBC lysis buffer (Abcam). Cells were resuspended in DMEM with 10% FBS and plated for 1 hour. Non-adherent cells were washed away; adherent cells were maintained as fibroblast-enriched cultures. For flow cytometry assisted cell sorting, fibroblasts were defined as $CD45^{-}CD31^{-}PDGFR\alpha^{+}$ cells. For transplantation, immediately after LAD ligation, two doses of a total of 1×10^{5} fibroblasts were injected intramyocardially in the infarct border zone. The animals were placed on a heating pad and carefully observed until they achieved full locomotor behavior.

Bone-marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs)

Bone marrow cells were obtained from WT, *Trp53*$^{R172H/+}$ mice by isolating and flushing tibias and femurs with DMEM (Life Technologies) containing 10% heat-inactivated FBS, 50 U/ml penicillin, and 50 μg/ml streptomycin. After red blood cells were removed with BD Pharm Lyse (BD Biosciences), mononuclear cells were isolated by centrifugation on Ficoll-Paque (GE Healthcare) at room temperature for 30 min, washed, re-suspended in DMEM containing 10% heat-inactivated FBS, 50 U/ml penicillin, and 50 μg/ml streptomycin, 10 ng/ml GM-CSF

(R&D Systems) and 5 ng/ml M-CSF (R&D Systems), seeded into plastic dishes at a density of ~27×10^6 cells per 10 cm dish and cultured overnight at 37 °C in a humidified environment containing 5% CO_2. The next day, non- or weakly-adherent cells were recovered, transferred to a new dish and cultured under the conditions just described to permit differentiation and expansion of macrophages. Firmly adherent cells were discarded. After 2 days the culture medium was changed and after 5 days from seeding, adherent bone-marrow-derived macrophages were gently washed with PBS, harvested by brief exposure to trypsin-EDTA (Life Technologies), washed, and used for experiments. The cell purity was confirmed by analyzing $CD68^+$ and $F4/80^+$ cells with flow cytometry. For BMDM transplantation, immediately after operation (ligation or CTX injection), two doses of a total of 1×10^6 BMDMs were injected intramyocardially in the infarct border zone (MI), intramuscularly in the gracilis muscle (HLI), or intramuscularly in the tibialis anterior muscle (CTX). The animals were placed on a heating pad and carefully observed until they achieved full locomotor behavior.

Colony-forming unit assay

BMDMs or bone marrow cells were seeded into M3434 medium (Stemcell Technologies). After 7 days in culture, colonies were examined morphologically under a microscope to identify and enumerate burst-forming erythroid progenitors (BFU-E), colony-forming myeloid progenitors (CFU-GM) and the multi-potential progenitors (CFU-GEMM).

In vitro vascular assembly assay

Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were purchased from Lonza (C2519A; pooled donor) and were maintained in complete ECM medium (ScienCell). HUVECS (P5) were serum-starved with ECM containing 0.2% FBS overnight. Twenty-four well plates were coated with 150 µl of Matrigel (Corning) for 1 h at 37 °C. Following incubation, 3×10^4 HUVECS were seeded into each well with conditioned media collected from either mutant or WT fibroblasts or macrophages. After 16 h, images (×10) were taken using an EVOS M5000 (Thermo Fisher). Vascular assembly was assessed by counting the number of intersecting branches.

CUT&RUN

CUT&RUN was performed using CUT&RUN Assay Kit (Cell Signaling Technologies, #86652) according to manufacturer’s instruction. Briefly, cells were harvested, washed, and bound to activated Concanavalin A-coated magnetic beads and permeabilized. The bead–cell complex was incubated overnight with the E2F1 (Santa Cruz, # sc-251) and rabbit IgG (Cell Signaling, #2729) antibody at 4°C. Cells were washed three times and resuspended in 100 µl pAG/MNase and incubated for 1 h at room temperature. DNA fragments were isolated by phenol/chloroform extraction followed by ethanol precipitation. CUT&RUN libraries were prepared using the DNA library prep kit for illumina systems (Cell Signaling Technologies, #56795) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Library quality was assessed using a Tapestation 4200 (Agilent). Sequencing was performed on an Illumina NovaSeq platform in 150 bp paired-end mode, with raw sequencing depths of 6 million reads.

CUT&Tag

The CUT&Tag experiments were performed following the CUT&Tag protocol[43]. For each targeted protein, 100,000 cells were used. The following primary antibodies were used at 1:50 dilution: H3K27me3 (Cell Signaling Technologies, #C36B11) and rabbit IgG (Cell Signaling, #2729). We used guinea pig anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) secondary antibody (NBP1- 72763) with 1:50 dilution. pA–Tn5 was bought from EpiCypher (15-1117). Final libraries were sequenced as 150-bp paired-end reads on a platform Novaseq X Plus, with raw sequencing depths of 6 million reads.

CUT&RUN and CUT&Tag data analysis

CUT&RUN sequencing reads were processed using ENCODE ChIP-seq pipeline. Specifically, reads were first trimmed by Trim_ Galore! using the “--paired” option and then aligned to GRCm39 with Bowtie2 (v.2.3.5.1). PCR duplicates were removed using the Picard MarkDuplicates tool with “VALIDATION_STRINGENCY=LENIENT” option. MACS2 (v.2.2.4) was used for peak calling for histone marks and TFs with “-p 1e-2 --nomodel --shift 0 --keep-dup all -B --SPMR” options. Peaks in the ENCODE hg38 blacklist regions (http://mitra.stanford.edu/kundaje/akundaje/release/blacklists/hg38-human/hg38.blacklist.bed.gz) were filtered out. Peaks with MACS2-reported q value < 10^{-5} were retained for downstream analyses. The output was visualized using chipseq and Gviz in R[44].

Statistical analysis

Data are shown as mean ± sd unless otherwise stated. Statistical significance of differences in experiments with two groups and only one variable was assessed by unpaired Student’s t tests (with Welch correction for unequal variance when appropriate) or Mann-Whitney U Tests. Differences in experiments with more than one independent variable were evaluated by two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Sidak’s or Tukey’s multiple comparison tests. All statistical tests were performed using R.

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Author Contributions

Y.P. conceived the project, performed, and designed experiments, analyzed results, and produced the figures. X.M., W.Z., and C.W. performed and analyzed of results. Y.P. performed the bioinformatic and biostatistical analyses. X.M., W.Z., and C.W., conducted in vitro cell culture, infection and transfection RT-PCR, in vivo sample collection, and flowcytometry. Y.P., C.W., and X.M. performed histological experiments and surgical procedures. X.M., C.W., and W.Z. contributed to basic technical support such as cell sorter and flowcytometry. Y.P. prepared NGS library and deep sequencing. W.Z. and Q.Z. conducted echocardiogram. J.C. performed HUVEC assays. C.W performed laser doppler assay. All authors made comments and suggestions on data quality and helped edit the draft of the manuscript. X.K. provided funding. Y.P. and X.K. wrote the original draft. All authors contributed to reviewing and editing. X.K. supervised the project.

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper or supplementary materials. All sequence datasets generated in the current study have been deposited in NCBI SRA database with the bio project ID PRJNA1199521.

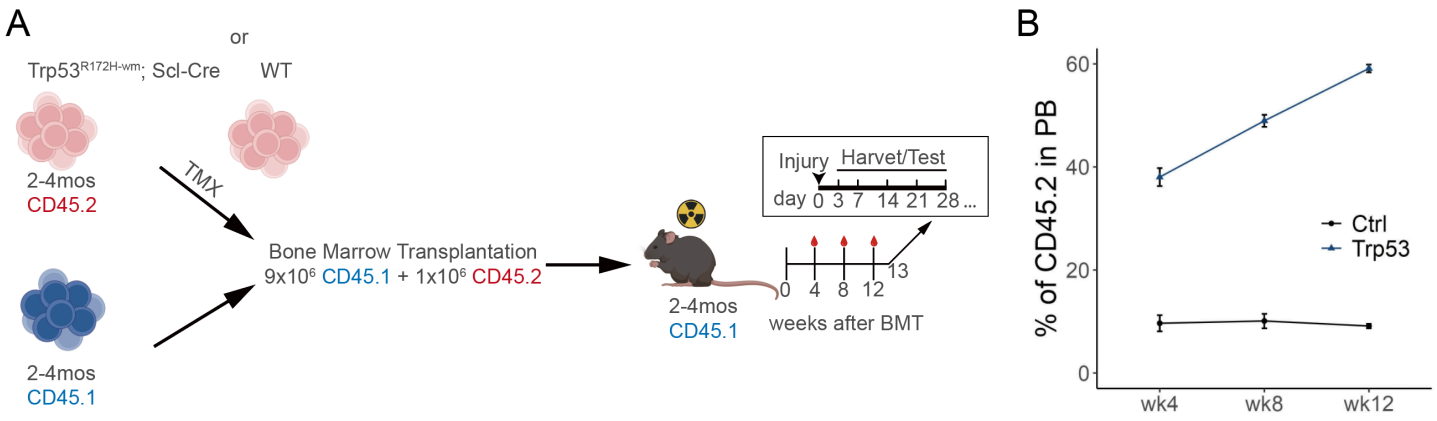


Figure 1. Clonal expansion driven by *Trp53* mutation

A, Schematic diagram for creating the CH and Ctrl mouse model and subsequent injury and data harvest.

B, Flow cytometry shows the fraction of CD45.2^{+} cells after bone marrow transplantation.

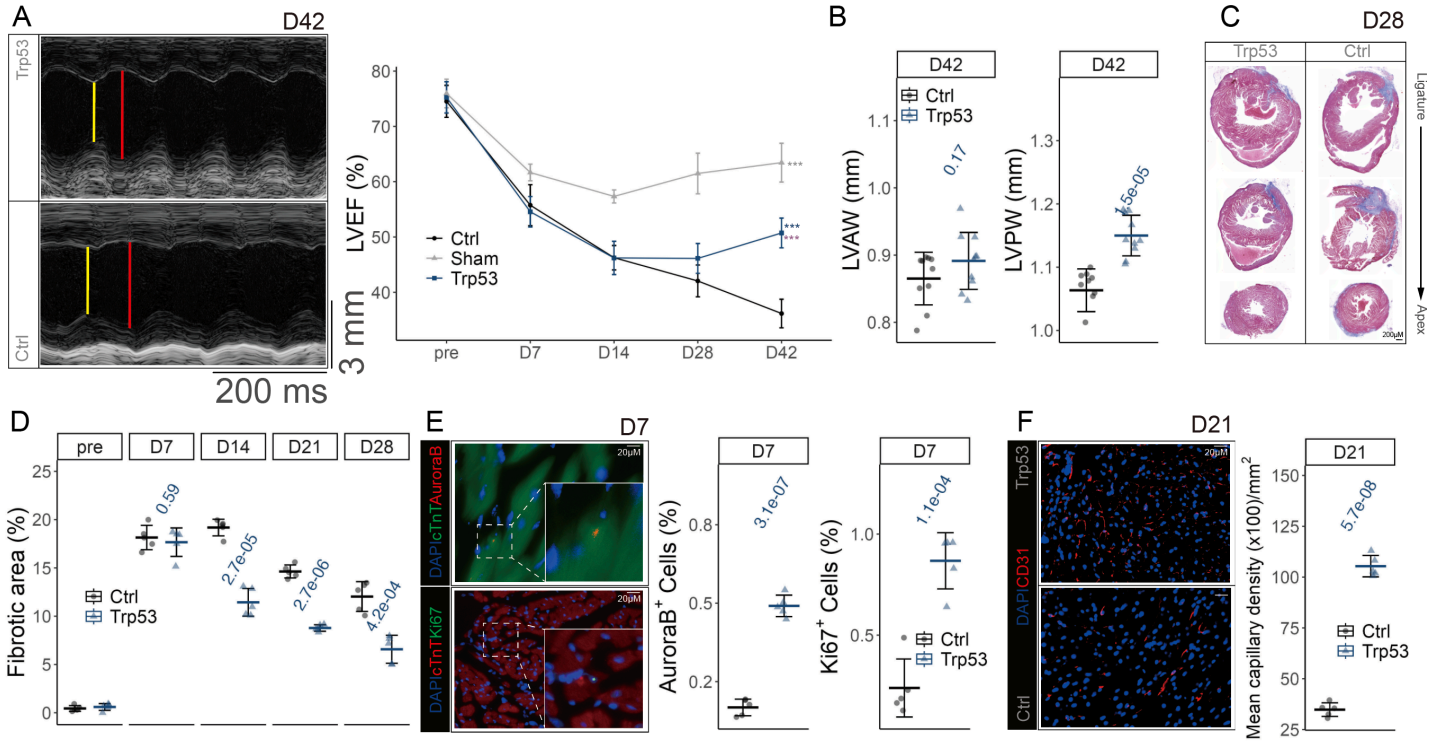


Figure 2. Clonal hematopoiesis enhances cardiac repair after myocardial infarction

A, Representative M-mode echocardiographic images of hearts and quantification of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of CH or Ctrl mice after left anterior descending artery (LAD) ligation (n=10). Yellow and red lines indicate left ventricular end-diastolic diameter and left ventricular end-systolic diameter, respectively. Scale bars, 200 ms, 3 mm. Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests.

B, Quantification of left ventricular anterior wall (LVAW) and left ventricular posterior wall (LVPW) thickness in echocariograph after LAD ligation (n=10).

C and D, Representative images (trichrome) and quantification of fibrotic area from serial sections from ligature to apex after LAD ligation (n=5), Scale bar: 200 μM. pre, pre-ligation.

E, Representative image and quantification of cardiomyocyte cell-cycle re-entry in the peri-infarct region after LAD ligation by AuroraB (n = 2,321 cardiomyocytes from 5 mice) or Ki67 (n = 2,482 cardiomyocytes from 5 mice). Scale bar: 20 μM.

F, Representative image and quantification of myocardium vasculature in the peri-infarct region after LAD ligation by CD31 (n=5). Scale bar: 20 μM. Graphs are mean±sd.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. pre, pre-ligation. Data are compared using Student's t test unless noted.

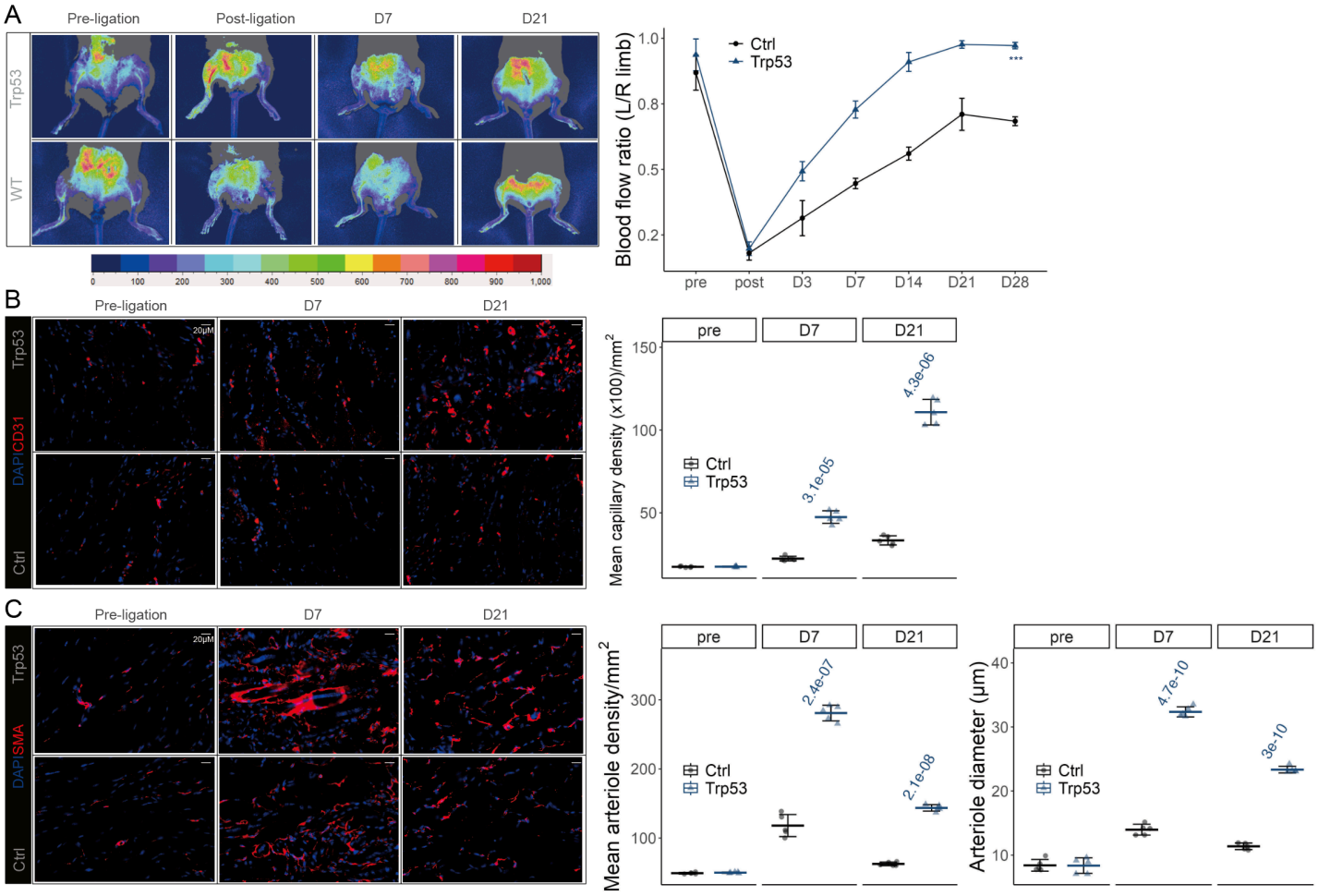


Figure 3. Clonal hematopoiesis promotes vascular regeneration after hind limb ischemia
A, Representative images of mouse hind limb blood flow measured with laser Doppler perfusion imaging before ligation, immediately after ligation, and day 7, 21 after ligation and continuous quantification of the blood flow ratio of left (ligated) versus right (un-ligated) limb (n=5). Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests.

B, Representative images and quantification of CD31 staining to measure the capillary density on ischemic limb muscle (n=5), Scale bar: 20 μM. B, Representative images and quantification of CD31 staining to measure the capillary density on ischemic limb muscle (n=5), Scale bar: 20 μM.

C, Representative images and quantification of smooth muscle α-actin (SMA) staining to measure the arteriole density on ischemic limb muscle (n=5), Scale bar: 20 μM.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. pre, pre-ligation. post, immediately post-ligation. Data are compared using Student's t test unless noted.

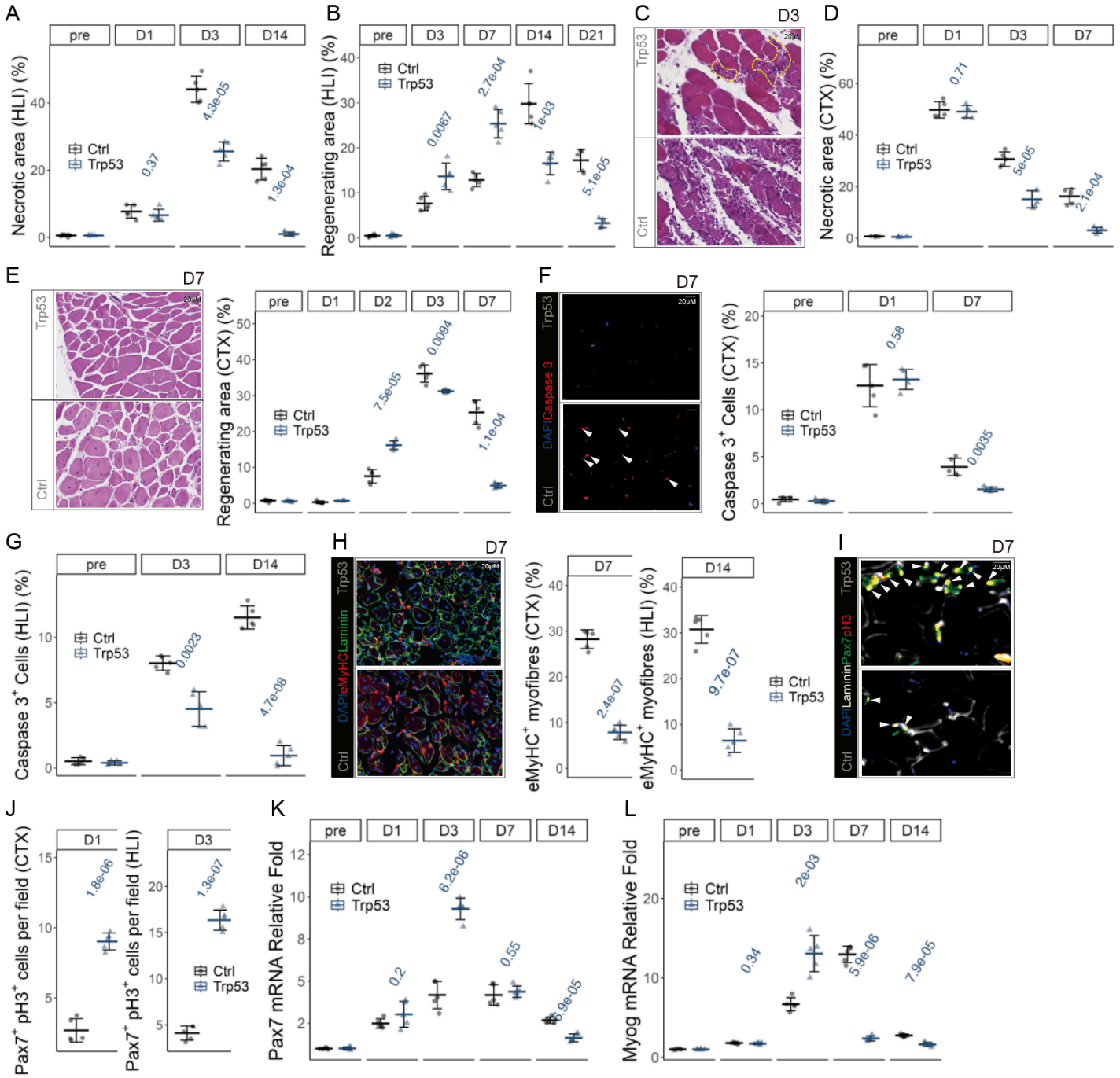


Figure 4. Clonal hematopoiesis accelerates muscle regeneration in ischemic and non-ischemic models

A and B, Quantification of muscle necrosis and regeneration at various time points in HLI model (n=5).

C and D, Representative images (H&E) and quantification of necrosis area in CTX model (n=5), Scale bar: 20 μM.

E, Representative images (H&E) and quantification of the regenerating area in CTX model (n=5), Scale bar: 20 μM.

F and G, Representative images and quantification of Caspase3 staining to measure muscle cell death in CTX and HLI models (n=5). Scale bar: 20 μM.

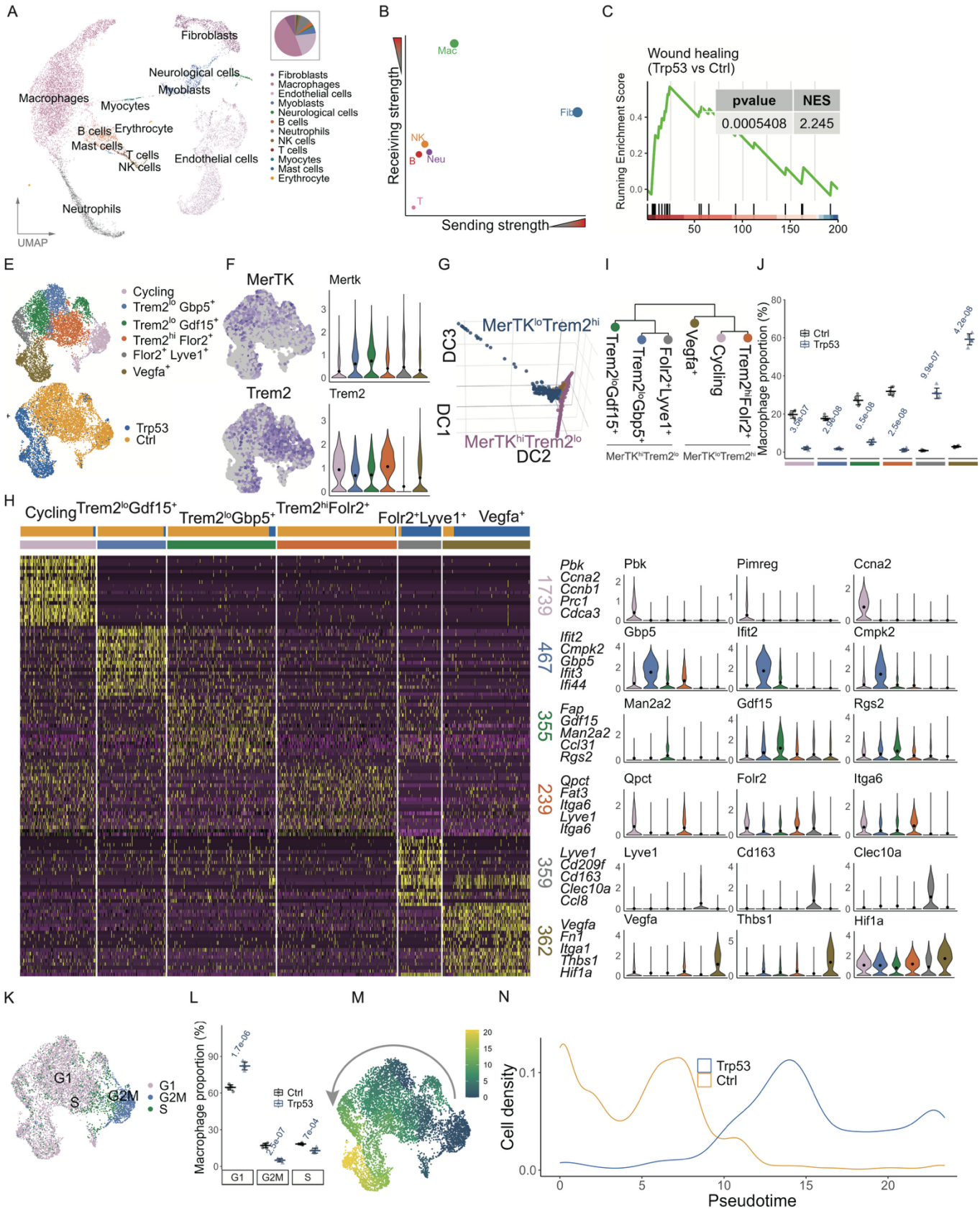
H, Representative images and quantification of eMyHC staining to measure the early and late regenerating muscle fibers in CTX and HLI models (n=5). Scale bar: 20 μM.

I and J, Representative images and quantification of Pax7 and pH3 staining to measure the muscle satellite cells in CTX and HLI models (n=5). Arrowheads, $Pax7^{+}pH3^{+}$ cells. Scale bar: 20 μM.

K and L, qPCR shows the expression of Pax7 and Myog in muscle extracts.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. All representative images are from the CTX model. Data are compared using Student’s t test unless noted.

Fig 5


A
Fibroblasts
Neurological cells
Myoblasts
Macrophages
Myocytes
B cells
Erythrocyte
Mast cells
T cells
NK cells
Endothelial cells
Neutrophils
UMAP
Fibroblasts
Macrophages
Endothelial cells
Myoblasts
Neurological cells
B cells
Neutrophils
NK cells
T cells
Myocytes
Mast cells
Erythrocyte
B
Receiving strength
Mac
Fib
NK
B
Neu
T
Sending strength
C
Wound healing
(Trp53 vs Ctrl)
pvalue
NES
0.0005408
2.245
Running Enrichment Score
0.4
0.2
0.0
50
100
150
200
E
Cycling
Trem2lo Gbp5+
Trem2lo Gdf15+
Trem2hi Flor2+
Flor2+ Lyve1+
Vegfa+
Trp53
Ctrl
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MerTK
Mertk
Trem2
Trem2
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MerTKloTrem2hi
DC3
DC1
MerTKhiTrem2lo
DC2
I
Trem2loGdf15+
Trem2loGbp5+
Folr2+Lyve1+
Vegfa+
Cycling
Trem2hiFolr2+
MerTKhiTrem2lo
MerTKloTrem2hi
J
Macrophage proportion (%)
Ctrl
Trp53
3.3e-07
2.9e-08
6.5e-08
2.5e-08
9.9e-07
4.2e-08
H
Cycling
Trem2loGdf15+
Trem2loGbp5+
Trem2hiFolr2+
Folr2+Lyve1+
Vegfa+
1739
Pbk
Ccna2
Ccnb1
Prc1
Cdca3
467
Ifit2
Cmpk2
Gbp5
Ifit3
Ifi44
355
Fap
Gdf15
Man2a2
Ccl31
Rgs2
239
Qpct
Fat3
Itga6
Lyve1
Itga6
359
Lyve1
Cd209f
Cd163
Clec10a
Ccl8
362
Vegfa
Fn1
Itga1
Thbs1
Hif1a
Pbk
Pimreg
Ccna2
Gbp5
Ifit2
Cmpk2
Man2a2
Gdf15
Rgs2
Qpct
Folr2
Itga6
Lyve1
Cd163
Clec10a
Vegfa
Thbs1
Hif1a
K
G1
S
G2M
G1
G2M
S
L
Macrophage proportion (%)
1.7e-06
2.2e-07
7e-04
Ctrl
Trp53
G1
G2M
S
M
N
Cell density
Trp53
Ctrl
0.1
0.0
0
5
10
15
20
Pseudotime

Figure 5. CH mice-derived macrophages exhibit enhanced tissue repair profile

A, Twelve cell clusters from muscle extracts after FAL in Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) of 21,853 cells (n=6), annotated post hoc and colored by clustering.

B, Communication strength of each type of hematopoietic cells. Mac, macrophages; Endo, endothelial cells; Neu, neutrophils; T, T cells; Fib, fibroblasts; Mc, myocytes; Mb, myoblasts; B, B cells; NK, NK cells; Neuro, neuro system cells; Ery, erythrocytes; Mast, mast cells.

C, GSEA plot of wound healing gene signature in mutant vs. WT macrophages.

D, Six macrophage clusters in UMAP of 8,170 cells annotated post hoc and colored by clustering (top) or by cell origin (bottom).

E, PCA for mutant vs. WT macrophages.

F, MerTK and Trem2 expression in the 6 macrophage clusters.

G, Developmental relationship between clusters marked by MerTK and Trem2 expression.

H, Heatmap of the top 20 DEGs per cluster. Top cluster markers and the total number of genes characterized in each cluster are provided (left). Violin (right) plots representing expression level of macrophage cluster markers; medians marked by black dots and cluster identity by individual coloring.

I, Hierarchical clustering of macrophages.

J, Relative proportion of each clusters among macrophages from CH or Ctrl mice (n = 6). X-axis marks cluster identities individual coloring. mean±sd. P values are annotated. Student's t test.

K, Predicted cell cycle status of macrophages.

L, Relative proportion of each predicted cell cycle status among mutant vs. WT macrophages (n = 6). mean±sd. P values are annotated. Student's t test.

M, UMAP showing the macrophage differentiation trajectory with cells colored by pseudotime score.

N, Density plot showing the distribution of *Trp53*-CH, or Ctrl mice-derived muscle cells through pseudotime.

Fig 6

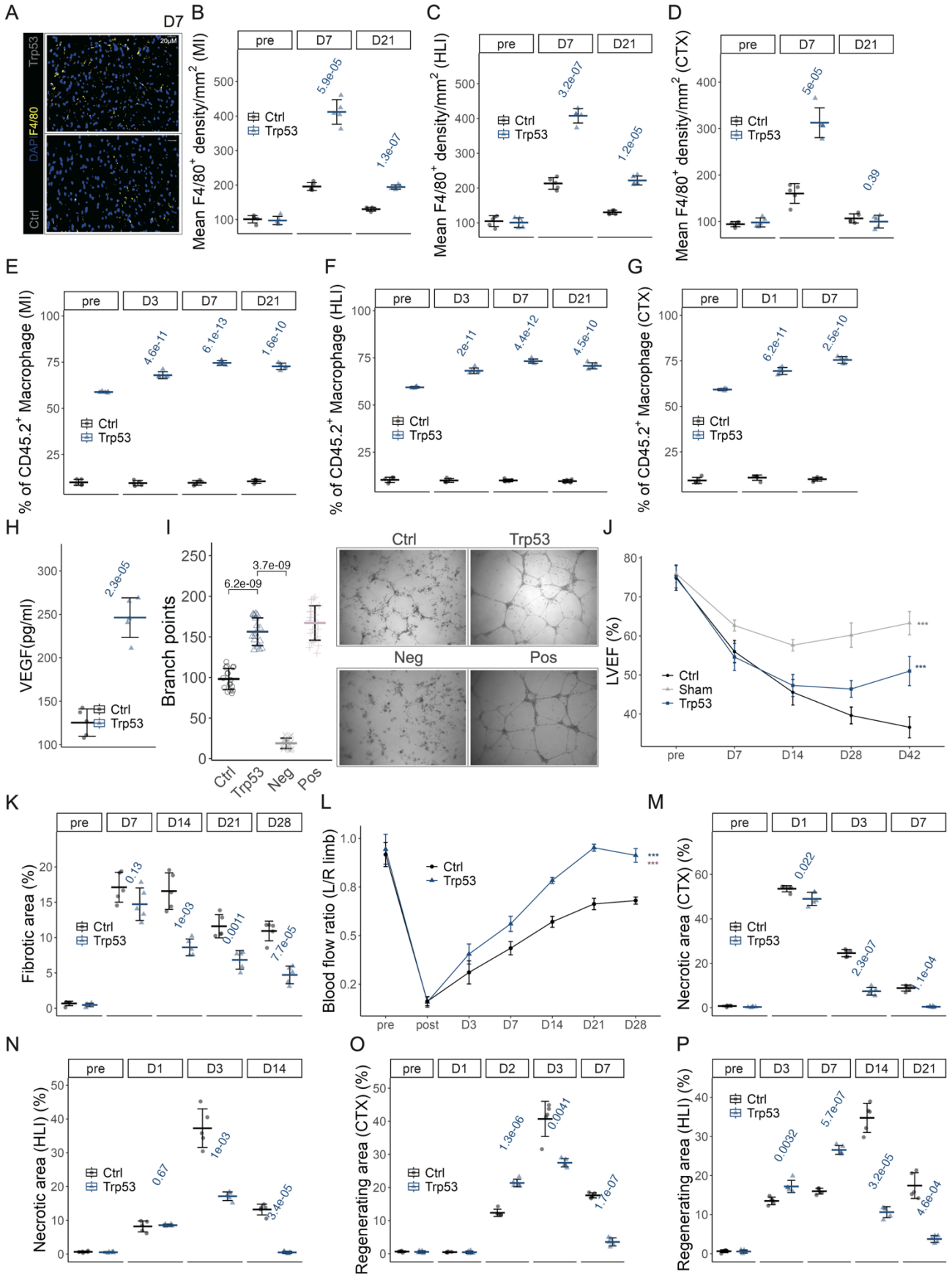
A
D7
Trp53
DAPI F4/80
Ctrl
20μM
B
Mean F4/80+ density/mm2 (MI)
pre
D7
D21
Ctrl
Trp53
5.9e-05
1.3e-07
C
Mean F4/80+ density/mm2 (HLI)
3.2e-07
1.2e-05
D
Mean F4/80+ density/mm2 (CTX)
5e-05
0.39
E
% of CD45.2+ Macrophage (MI)
pre
D3
D7
D21
4.6e-11
6.1e-13
1.6e-10
F
% of CD45.2+ Macrophage (HLI)
2e-11
4.4e-12
4.5e-10
G
% of CD45.2+ Macrophage (CTX)
pre
D1
D7
6.2e-11
2.5e-10
H
VEGF(pg/ml)
2.3e-05
I
Branch points
6.2e-09
3.7e-09
Ctrl
Trp53
Neg
Pos
J
LVEF (%)
Ctrl
Sham
Trp53
pre
D7
D14
D28
D42
K
Fibrotic area (%)
pre
D7
D14
D21
D28
0.13
1e-03
0.0011
7.7e-05
L
Blood flow ratio (L/R limb)
Ctrl
Trp53
pre
post
D3
D7
D14
D21
D28
M
Necrotic area (CTX) (%)
pre
D1
D3
D7
0.022
2.3e-07
1e-04
N
Necrotic area (HLI) (%)
pre
D1
D3
D14
0.67
1e-03
3.4e-05
O
Regenerating area (CTX) (%)
pre
D1
D2
D3
D7
1.3e-06
0.0041
1.7e-07
P
Regenerating area (HLI) (%)
pre
D3
D7
D14
D21
0.0032
5.7e-07
3.2e-05
4.6e-04

Figure 6. *Trp53* mutant macrophages show fast expansion in response to injury and independently improve tissue repair

A, Representative images of macrophage density by F4/80 in the MI model. Scale bar: 20 μM.

B to C, Quantification of macrophage density by F4/80 in MI, HLI, and CTX models (n=5).

E to G, Quantification of mutant ($CD45.2^+$) macrophage fraction in flow cytometry in MI, HLI, and CTX models (n=5).

H, Quantification of VEGF level in the culture medium of macrophages isolated from WT or *Trp53* mutant mice after FAL (n=5).

I, Quantification and representative images from the endothelial cell assembly assay based on the number of intersecting branch points per field of view (×10) using macrophage conditioned medium. Data represent 5 fields of 3 independent replicates per condition (n = 15).

J, Quantification of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of WT mice transplanted with *Trp53* mutant or WT BMDMs after left anterior descending artery (LAD) ligation (n=10). Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests.

K, Quantification of the fibrotic area of WT mouse heart transplanted with *Trp53* mutant or WT BMDMs after LAD ligation (n=5).

L, Quantification of hind limb blood flow of WT mice transplanted with *Trp53* mutant or WT BMDMs measured with laser Doppler perfusion imaging before ligation, immediately after FAL (n=5). pre, pre-ligation. post, immediately post-ligation. Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests.

M and N, Quantification of muscle necrosis of WT mice transplanted with *Trp53* mutant or WT BMDMs in HLI and CTX models (n=5).

O and P, Quantification of regeneration area of WT mice transplanted with *Trp53* mutant or WT BMDMs in HLI and CTX models (n=5).

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. pre, pre-ligation or pre-injection. Data are compared using Student's t test unless noted.

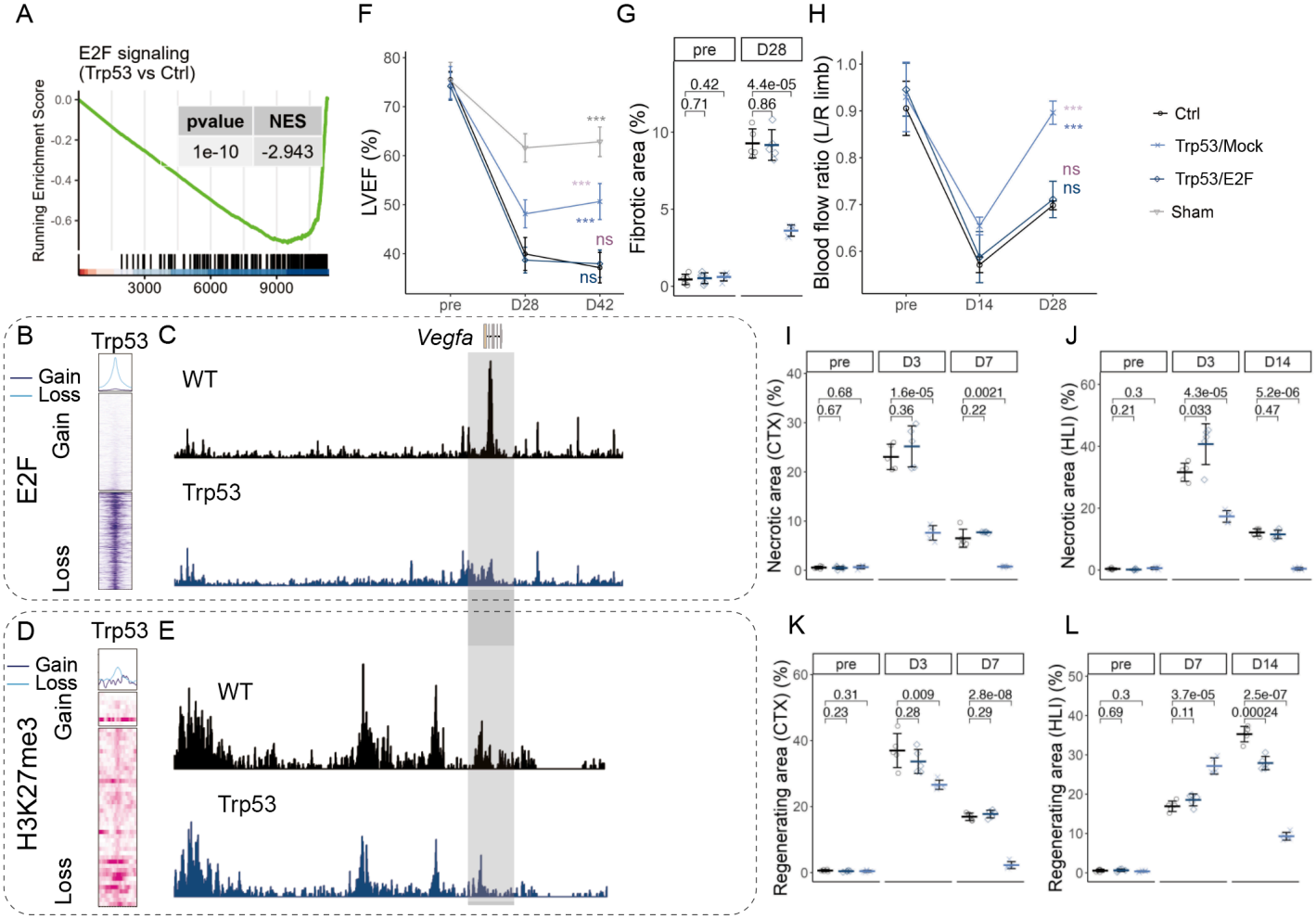

Figure 7. *Trp53* mutant macrophages accelerate tissue repair through E2F repression

A, GSEA plot of E2F signaling gene signature in mutant macrophages compared with WT macrophages.

B to E, Heatmaps and density plots of CUT&RUN profiling for E2F (B) and CUT&Tag for H3K27me3 (D) binding in *Trp53*-mutant macrophages, stratified by genomic regions showing gain or loss of signal relative to WT controls. Genome browser tracks showing E2F (C) and H3K27me3 (D) binding signal at the Vegfa locus in *Trp53*-mutant or WT macrophages.

F to L, Quantification of LVEF (F, n=10, two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests), fibrotic area (G), hind limb blood flow (H, two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests), muscle necrosis (I and J), and muscle regeneration area (K and L) after injury. n=5 unless noted.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. pre, pre-ligation or pre-injection. Data are compared using Student's t test unless noted.

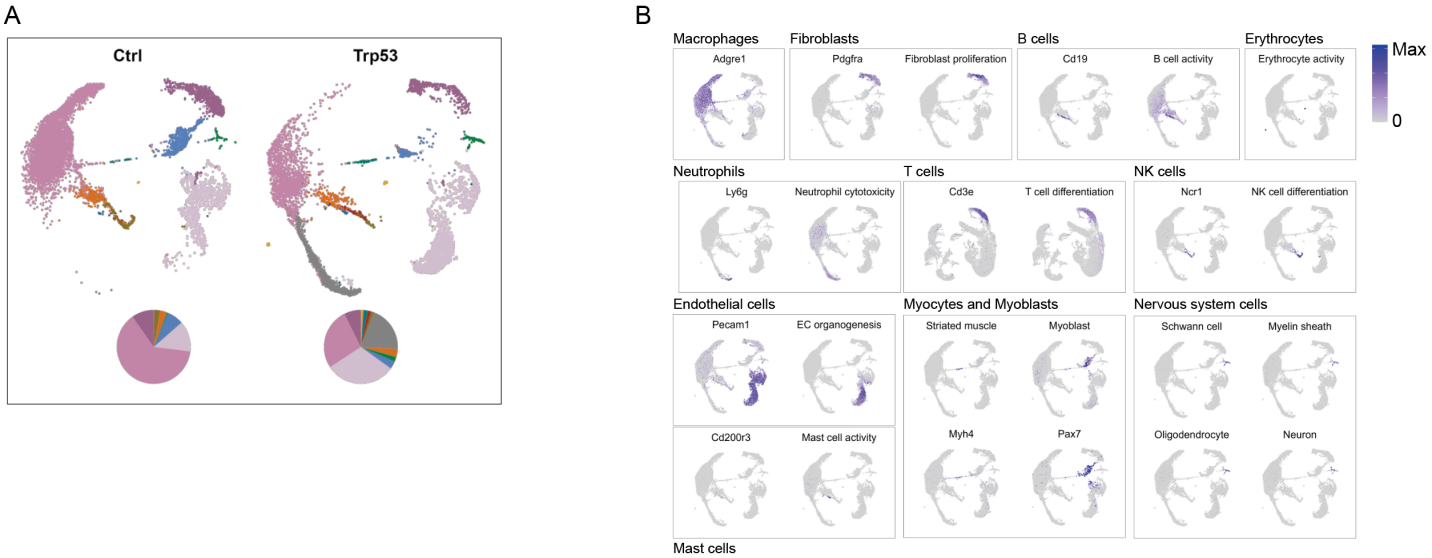

Figure S1. scRNA-seq reveals more differentiated tissue cell populations in CH mice

A, Cell distribution of *Trp53* CH or Ctrl mice-derived cells.

B, Expression (color bar) of key cell-type marker genes and gene signatures.

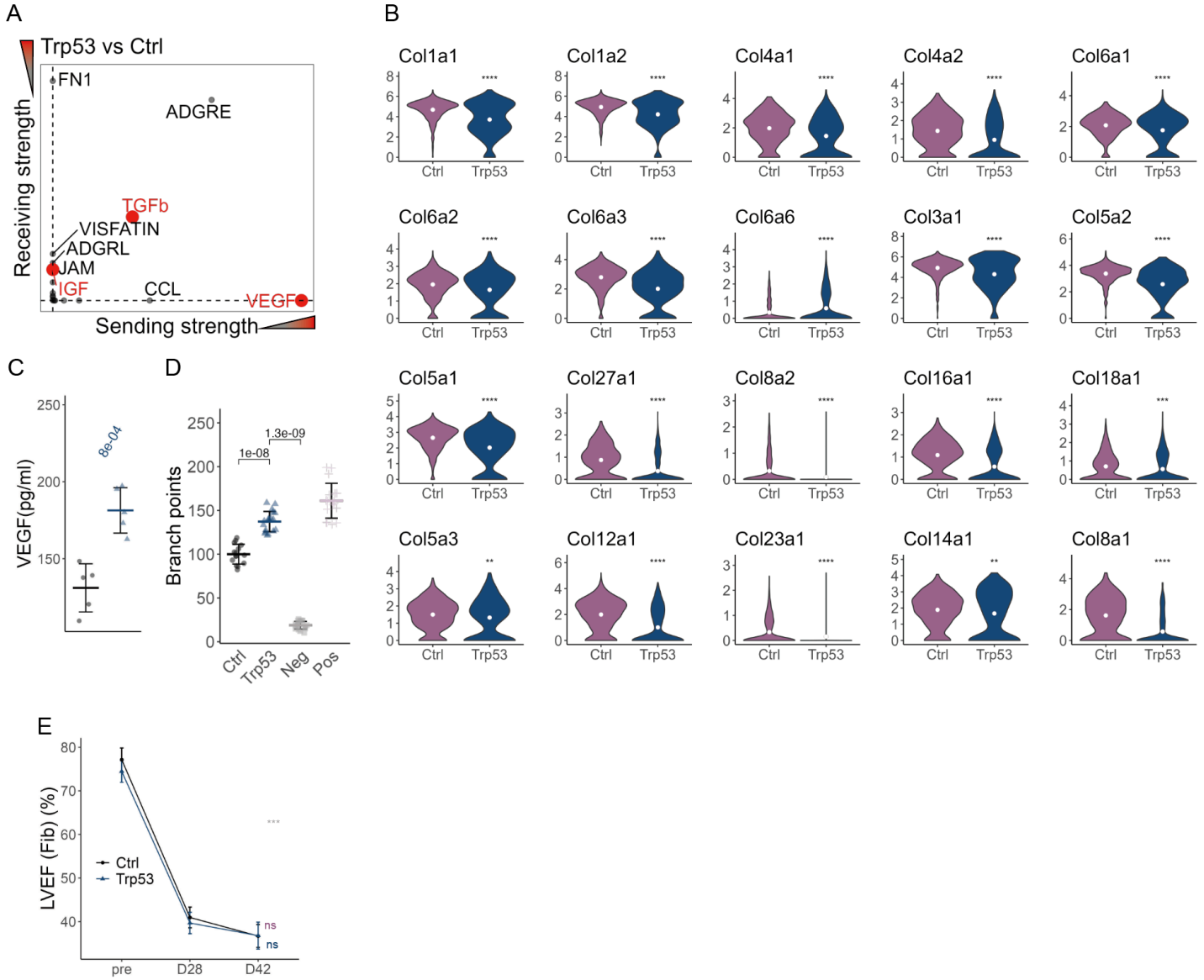

Figure S2. CH mice-derived fibroblasts are skewed toward a pro-angiogenic state

A, Change of signaling strength in CH mice-derived fibroblasts compared with Ctrl mice-derived fibroblasts.

B, Violin plot showing the expression level of pro-fibrotic genes in CH and Ctrl mice-derived fibroblasts.

C, Quantification of VEGF level in the culture medium of fibroblasts isolated from WT or Trp53 mutant mice (n=5).

D, Quantification from the endothelial cell assembly assay based on the number of intersecting branch points per field of view (×10) using fibroblast conditioned medium. Data represent 5 fields of 3 independent replicates per condition (n = 15).

E, Quantification of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of mice after left anterior descending artery (LAD) ligation and transplanted with fibroblasts isolated from WT or *Trp53* mutant mice. Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison tests.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted. P values are annotated. Data are compared using Student's t test unless noted.

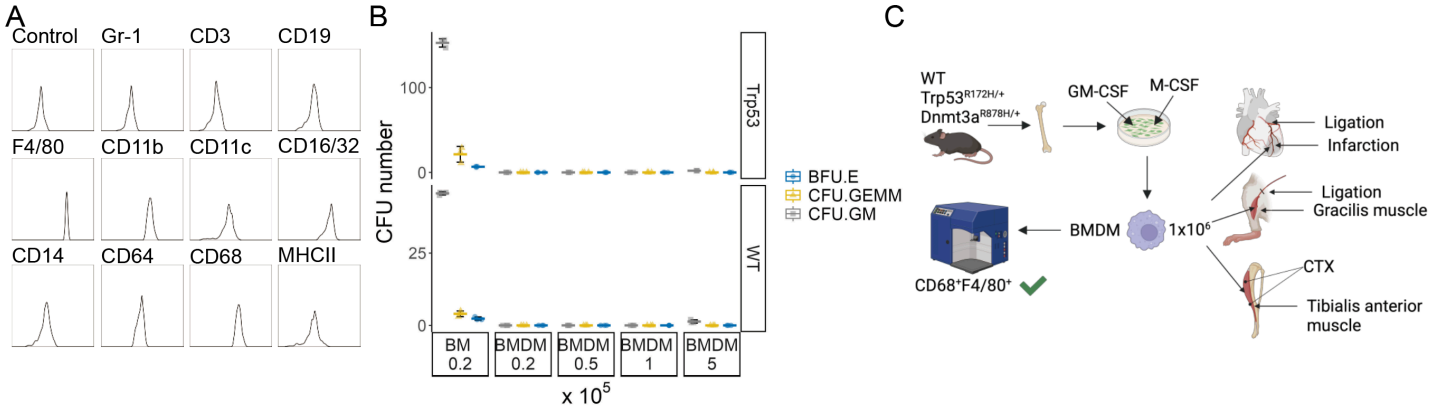

Figure S3. Generation and confirmation of BMDMs

A, Representative image of flow cytometry evaluation of cell-surface phenotypic markers on mutant BMDMs before transplantation.

B, Colony counts of BFU-E, CFU-GEMM and CFU-GM from BMDMs (n = 3).

C, Schematic diagram of BMDM injection.

Graphs are mean±sd. In all figures, n refers to the number of mice unless noted.

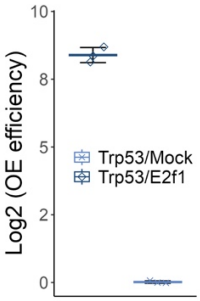

Fig. S4

Overexpression efficiency of E2F in Trp53 mutant macrophages quantified by qRT-PCR and divided by non-infected Trp53 mutant macrophages (n=3).