1   *Tissue microenvironment dictates the state of human induced pluripotent stem*

2   *cell-derived endothelial cells of distinct developmental origin in 3D cardiac*

3   *microtissues*

4

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18

19   **ABSTRACT**

20

21   Each tissue and organ in the body has its own type of vasculature. Here we

22   demonstrate that organotypic vasculature for the heart can be recreated in a three-

23   dimensional cardiac microtissue (MT) model composed of human induced pluripotent

24   stem cell (hiPSC)-derived cardiomyocytes (CMs), cardiac fibroblasts (CFs) and

25   endothelial cells (ECs). ECs in cardiac MTs upregulated expression of markers

26   enriched in human intramyocardial ECs (iECs), such as *CD36, CLDN5, APLNR,*

27   *NOTCH4, IGFBP3, ARHGAP18,* which were previously identified in the single-cell

28   RNA-seq dataset from the human fetal heart (6.5-7 weeks post coitum). We further

29   show that the local microenvironment largely dictates the organ-specific identity of

30   hiPSC-derived ECs: we compared ECs of different developmental origins derived from

31   two distinct mesoderm subtypes (cardiac and paraxial mesoderm) and found that

32   independent of whether the ECs were cardiac or paraxial mesoderm derived, they

33   acquired similar identities upon integration into cardiac microtissues. This was

34 confirmed by single-cell RNA-seq. Overall, the results indicated that whilst the initial

35 gene profile of ECs was dictated by developmental origin, this could be modified by

36 the local tissue environment such that the original identity was lost and the organotypic

37 identity acquired through local environmental signals. This developmental "plasticity"

38 in ECs has implications for multiple pathological and disease states.

39

40 **INTRODUCTION**

41

42 Development of the vascular system is one of the earliest events in organogenesis

43 and defects in this process often result in embryonic and postnatal lethality.

44 Endothelial cells (ECs) that form the inner lining of blood and lymphatic vessels are

45 specialized cells that adapt to local microenvironmental cues to support the function

46 of various organs. The heart is a prime example of the importance that interplay

47 between the vasculature and the myocardium has in organ growth, remodeling, and

48 function. ECs in the heart originate from several developmental lineages that later

49 converge to similar states depending on their location. Structurally and functionally,

50 ECs in the heart can be divided into the endocardium, intramyocardial capillary ECs,

51 coronary arteries/veins and lymphatic ECs. During development, heart ECs

52 predominantly originate in the lateral plate mesoderm that includes both pre-cardiac

53 and cardiac mesoderm (Milgrom-Hoffman et al., 2011). Endocardium and *sinus*

54 *venosus* are the two major sources on intramyocardial and coronary ECs (He and

55 Zhou, 2018; Sharma et al., 2017a, 2017b; Tian and Zhou, 2022). Furthermore, genetic

56 ablation of the *sinus venosus* EC lineage results in compensation from the endocardial

57 EC lineage (Sharma et al., 2017b). Endocardium- and *sinus venosus*-derived EC

58 progenitors, converge to an increasingly similar state that is dictated by the local

59 microenvironment, despite being initially transcriptionally distinct (Phansalkar et al.,

60 2021). In addition, recent studies showed that cardiac lymphatic ECs predominately

61 originate from two lineages, namely Isl1+ second heart field and Pax3+ paraxial

62 mesoderm (PM) (Lioux et al., 2020; Stone and Stainier, 2019), which further increases

63 the spectrum of developmental origins of ECs in the heart.

64

65 Endothelial cells in the intramyocardial capillaries, or iECs, constitute a specialized

66 barrier between the blood and the myocardium. They deliver oxygen and essential

67   nutrients, specifically fatty acids, to the cardiomyocytes to fulfill high energy demands

68   of the working myocardium (Brutsaert, 2003). Endocardial ECs (eECs) form the lining

69   of the inner surface in the ventricles and atria and play important roles during the

70   development of working myocardium, such as formation of trabeculae network and

71   compaction of the myocardium (Qu et al., 2022). Analysis of developing mouse heart

72   identified markers that distinguish eECs and iECs (Iso et al., 2018; Zhang et al.,

73   2016a). Recent single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) studies of the human fetal

74   heart confirmed that some of the markers identified in mouse are conserved in human,

75   including *CD36* and *FABP5* for iECs and *NPR3* and *CDH11* for eECs, among others

76   (McCracken et al., 2022; Miao et al., 2020).

77

78   Human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) represent a valuable *in vitro* model to study

79   early stages of human development, including the heart (Hofbauer et al., 2021a). Over

80   the past several years, protocols to differentiate cardiac cell types from hPSCs, such

81   as different sub-types of cardiomyocytes, epicardial cells, cardiac fibroblasts and ECs

82   were developed (Thomas et al., 2022). Engineered multicellular cardiac tissues can

83   be generated by combining these different cell types (Campostrini et al., 2021). These

84   have proved useful to investigate the contribution of non-cardiac cell types to

85   cardiomyocyte cell maturation and disease (Giacomelli et al, 2020a). In addition,

86   methods to create multicellular cardioids from hPSCs have been developed to model

87   embryonic stages from self-organized cardiac and foregut structures to early

88   morphogenesis during heart tube formation (Drakhlis et al., 2021; Hofbauer et al.,

89   2021b; Lewis-Israeli et al., 2021; Silva et al., 2021). Recent studies showed that by

90   following a specialized developmental program, hPSCs can be differentiated into ECs

91   from several developmental lineages, such as extra- and intraembryonic hemogenic

92   ECs (Ditadi et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2016; Uenishi et al., 2014), endocardial ECs

93   (Mikryukov et al., 2021) and liver sinusoidal ECs (Gage et al., 2020). We previously

94   developed a method to co-differentiate cardiomyocytes and ECs from hPSCs from

95   cardiac mesoderm (Giacomelli et al., 2017). These hPSC-derived ECs expressed a

96   number of cardiac specific genes like *MEOX2*, *GATA4*, *GATA6* and *ISL1*, while tissue

97   specific endocardial or intramyocardial markers were still absent, likely because of the

98   lack of local microenvironmental cues.

99

100 Recently, we established a three-dimensional (3D) cardiac microtissue (MT) model
101 composed of ECs, cardiomyocytes and cardiac fibroblasts, all derived from hiPSCs
102 (Giacomelli et al., 2020). We showed that hPSC-derived cardiomyocytes in cardiac 3D
103 MTs showed enhanced functional and structural maturation via interaction with ECs
104 and cardiac fibroblasts. We further showed that developmental origin of the fibroblasts
105 was critical in this model, as cardiac-, but not skin-, fibroblasts supported
106 cardiomyocyte maturation in 3D MTs.

107

108 However, whether 3D cardiac MTs actually induce organ-specific characteristics and
109 to a what extent the developmental origin of ECs plays a role has not been investigated.
110 We therefore aimed here to address these questions by comparing ECs derived from
111 two distinct mesoderm sub-types: MESP1+ cardiac mesoderm and PAX3+ paraxial
112 mesoderm. To do this, we utilized our earlier protocol to differentiate cardiac
113 mesoderm-derived ECs (Giacomelli et al., 2017) and developed a new protocol to
114 differentiate ECs from paraxial mesoderm. Cardiac MTs were then generated using
115 these two sources of ECs. Although newly differentiated ECs from the two origins
116 showed distinct identities, they strikingly became more similar after extended culture
117 in cardiac MTs. Furthermore, based on eEC- and iEC-specific signatures extracted
118 from a published scRNA-seq dataset of human fetal heart (Asp et al., 2019), we
119 observed an iEC rather than an eEC identity for both developmental origins after MT
120 culture. In summary, this study shows that although certain characteristics are
121 inherited from progenitors, ECs are "plastic" and efficiently adapt to the
122 microenvironment to acquire new tissue-specific signatures. Our results provide new
123 insights into how organ/tissue-specific cell identities are acquired; this will inform the
124 preparation of hiPSC -derived, organ specific ECs for disease modeling and drug
125 development but as importantly, will provide a platform for understanding how EC
126 plasticity might be regulated by microenvironmental context.

127

128 **RESULTS**

129

130 **Differentiation of endothelial cells from cardiac and paraxial mesoderm**

131

132   We set out to derive ECs from human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) via both

133   cardiac and paraxial mesoderm intermediates. To obtain ECs from cardiac mesoderm

134   (CMECs), we used a protocol established previously in our group (Giacomelli et al.,

135   2017) (Figure 1A). Briefly, BMP4 (20 ng/ml), Activin A (ACTA, 20 ng/ml) and

136   CHIR99021 (CHIR, 1.5 µM) were used to induce cardiac mesoderm from day 0 till day

137   3. XAV-939 (XAV, 5 µM) and VEGF (50 ng/ml) were used to induce CMECs and early

138   cardiomyocytes (CMs) from day 3 to day 6. For paraxial mesoderm-ECs (PMECs), we

139   adapted a protocol developed by Loh et al. (Loh et al., 2016)(Figure 1B). Briefly, high

140   CHIR (8 µM) was used for the first two days followed by XAV (5 µM) for one day to

141   induce posterior presomitic mesoderm (pPSM) on day 3 and low CHIR (1.5 µM) was

142   used to induce anterior presomitic mesoderm (aPSM) from day 3 to day 5. VEGF was

143   added to induce PMECs from day 5 to day 6. In order to characterize paraxial

144   mesoderm differentiation and the PMEC lineage we established a double fluorescent

145   hiPSC reporter line (NCRM1 PAX3^{Venus}MSGN1^{mCherry}) (Figure S1A). CRISPR/Cas9

146   assisted gene editing was used to target the fluorescent protein Venus to the PAX3

147   locus leading to transcriptional control by the endogenous PAX3 regulatory elements.

148   The MSGN1^{mCherry} reporter was generated using a BAC construct integrated into the

149   cells using the piggyBac transposon system. Flow cytometry analysis at different

150   stages of paraxial mesoderm differentiation showed efficient induction of pPSM

151   (MSGN-mCherry positive cells) and aPSM (PAX3-Venus positive cells) on day 2-3

152   and day 5, respectively (Figure S1B). Using our paraxial mesoderm protocol, more

153   than 70% of cells acquired MSGN1-mCherry expression on day 2-3 (Figure S1C) and

154   more than 50% of cells acquired PAX3-Venus on day 6 (Figure S1D). We next

155   confirmed induction of endogenous PAX3 protein expression by immunostaining with

156   a PAX3-specific antibody (Figure S1E). Notably, more than 90% of cells were positive

157   for PAX3 on day 5; this could be because of relatively weak endogenous expression

158   of Venus that could not be detected in PAX3^{low} cells.

159

160   Gene expression analysis further confirmed comparable expression of pan-mesoderm

161   markers *TBXT* and *MIXL1* in both cardiac and paraxial mesoderm differentiation

162   conditions. On the other hand, expression of cardiac genes (*MESP1*, *GATA4* and

163   *NKX2-5*) was restricted to cardiac mesoderm differentiation conditions and expression

164   of paraxial mesoderm genes (*MSGN1*, *TBX6*, *PAX3*) was restricted to paraxial

165   mesoderm differentiation conditions (Figure S1F).

166

167   Both cardiac and paraxial mesoderm differentiation conditions resulted in comparable

168   percentages of CD144+CD140a- ECs on day 6 and day 8 of differentiation (Figure

169   1C-D). CD144+CD140a- ECs were sorted on day 6 and day 8 of differentiation from

170   both cardiac and paraxial mesoderm conditions and underwent RNA sequencing

171   (RNA-seq). Principle component analysis (PCA) showed that CMECs and PMECs

172   clustered separately along PC1, and day 6 and day 8 were separated along PC2

173   (Figure 1E). On day 6, 3307 and 2592 genes were significantly differentially

174   upregulated (FDR<0.05, fold-change>2) in CMECs and PMECs respectively (Table

175   S1). Gene ontology (GO) analysis showed that cardiac related genes were specifically

176   upregulated in day 6 CMECs (CMEC_D6), while genes related to skeletal system

177   development and function were specifically upregulated in day 6 PMECs (PMEC_D6)

178   (Figure 1F, Table S2). Genes involved in heart development, like *GATA4*, *GATA5*,

179   *TBX3*, *ISL1* and *MYH6*, were highly expressed in day 6 and day 8 CMECs. *TBX3*,

180   *ISL1* and *MYH6* were upregulated from day 6 to day 8 in CMECs (Figure 1G).

181   Essential genes for skeletal muscle development like *PAX3*, *TBX1*, *FOXC1*, *EYA1* and

182   *MEOX1* were largely expressed in day 6 and day 8 PMECs. *FOXC1* and *EYA1* were

183   upregulated from day 6 to day 8, while *TBX1* and *MEOX1* were downregulated (Figure

184   1G). In summary, unbiased expression analysis by bulk RNA-seq showed differential

185   gene expression signatures of cardiac and paraxial mesoderm derived ECs that

186   corresponded to their known expression profiles *in vivo*.

187

188   **Reconstruction of the differentiation trajectories of ECs by single-cell RNA-seq**

189

190   Having demonstrated that the two differentiation protocols result in ECs with distinct

191   characteristics, we undertook an unbiased analysis of the complete cell population

192   and reconstructed the EC differentiation trajectories. To this end, we performed

193   scRNA-seq on day 6 of CMEC and PMEC differentiation from two independent

194   biological replicates (Figure 2A-B, Figure S2A-B). The replicates appeared highly

195   similar in a low-dimensional representation (Figure S2C) and were therefore combined

196   for further analysis. Any remaining, undifferentiated hiPSCs were excluded from

197 further analysis (Figure S2D-E). In the CMEC differentiation data set, cells were
198 grouped into 3 clusters (cardiac mesoderm, cardiomyocytes and CMECs), as
199 established previously (Cao et al., 2022) (Figure 2C). The three cell types were
200 identified by known marker genes (Figure 2D, S3A-B, Table S3). The cardiac
201 mesoderm cluster was characterized by mesoderm and early cardiac genes, such as
202 *MESP1, SMARCD3, ABLIM1, TMEM88, ISL1, MYL5,* as well as the cell cycle-related
203 genes *CDK6* and *NEK2*. The CMEC cluster was characterized by EC markers (*CDH5,*
204 *CD34, KDR, HEY2, TEK, TIE1, ACVRL1, SOX17, ENG, ICAM2, PECAM1)*.
205 Cardiomyocytes were identified by expression of cardiomyocyte-associated genes,
206 including *MYL4, TNNI1, MYL7, ACTA2, TNNT2, HAND2* and *NKX2-5*. To reveal the
207 differentiation trajectories of the cells, we calculated the diffusion pseudotime using a
208 cardiac cell mesoderm cell as root (Figure 2E). Pseudotime increased towards
209 CMECs and cardiomyocytes, suggesting that both cell types differentiated from a
210 common cardiac mesoderm progenitor.
211
212 In the PMEC differentiation data set, all cells were divided into 3 clusters (Figure 2F),
213 which were interpreted as being paraxial mesoderm, PMECs and mixed lateral plate
214 mesoderm (LPM)/sclerotome using marker gene analysis (Figure S3C, D, Table S4).
215 The paraxial mesoderm cluster was characterized by expression of aPSM and
216 dermomyotome genes, such as *MEOX1, PDGFRB, SIX1, CRABP2, NR2F1, EYA1,*
217 *FOXC1 and PAX3*. PMECs were characterized by EC markers, like *ETV2, CDH5,*
218 *CD34, KDR, ENG, SOX17, PLVAP, APLN, NRP1*. The mixed LPM/sclerotome cluster
219 was characterized by LPM and sclerotome specific genes, such as *TMEM88*, *HAND1,*
220 *TNNI1, PRRX1, ACTA2, DES, FOXH1, LEF1* and *JAG1* (Figure 2G, S3C-D). Diffusion
221 pseudotime rooted in the paraxial mesoderm increased towards both PMECs and
222 LPM/Sclerotome (Figure 2H). Both cell types therefore likely differentiated from a
223 common paraxial mesoderm progenitor.
224
225 **Acquisition of an organ-specific identity in cardiac microtissues**
226
227 Being able to produce ECs with properties corresponding to their mesodermal origins
228 enabled us to test in how far the cellular microenvironment can either reinforce or
229 reverse this specification i.e. how "plastic" the ECs are. Specifically, we set out to

230   mimic the cardiac microenvironment *in vitro* using a protocol for creating cardiac MTs,

231   published previously by our group (Giacomelli et al., 2020). Briefly, CD34+ CMECs or

232   PMECs were sorted on day 6 and combined with hiPSC-derived cardiomyocytes

233   (hiPSC-CMs) and hiPSC-derived fibroblasts (hiPSC-CFs) in a ratio of 15:70:15 to form

234   MTs. MTs made from CMECs (CM_MTs) and PMECs (PM_MTs) were collected after

235   21 days from two independent biological replicates by scRNA-seq (Figure 3A, Figure

236   S2A-B). The replicates appeared highly similar in a low-dimensional representation

237   (Figure S2C) and were therefore combined for further analysis. Any remaining,

238   undifferentiated hiPSCs were excluded from further analysis (Figure S2F-G). Both

239   CM_MTs and PM_MTs datasets were divided into three clusters that correspond to

240   hiPSC-CFs, hiPSC-CMs and hiPSC-ECs (Figure 3B). Marker genes identified for each

241   cluster, confirmed the cluster identities (Table S6).

242

243   In order to assess to what extent ECs in MTs acquired an organ-specific identity, we

244   compared their expression profiles to primary ECs in a published data set of the

245   human fetal heart (Asp et al., 2019) (Figure S4A). In this data set, we reannotated the

246   original endothelium/pericytes/adventia cluster (cluster 10) as intramyocardial ECs,

247   based on differentially expressed markers such as *A2M, CD36, APLNR, ARHGAP18,*

248   *IGFBP3, CLDN5, FABP4* and *FABP5* (Figure S4B, Table S5). The cluster annotated

249   as capillary endothelium (cluster 0) in the original publication was reannotated as

250   endocardium, due to the presence of differentially expressed markers like *NPR3,*

251   *ALDH2, CDH11, ECE1, TMEM100, FOXC1* and *EDN1* (Figure S4B, Table S5).

252   Supporting the differential expression test, UMAP visualization of representative intra-

253   myocardial and endocardial markers showed specific expression in the respective

254   clusters (Figure S4C-D).

255

256   We next compared CMECs and PMECs on day 6 of differentiation (CMECs_day 6 and

257   PMECs_day 6) with the CMECs and PMECs in MTs (CMECs_MT and PMECs_MTs)

258   respectively. CMECs in MTs upregulated expression of intramyocardial makers, such

259   as *CLDN5, GMFG, APLNR, CD36, NOTCH4, OIT3, IGFBP3, ARHGAP18, A2M* and

260   *BCAM*, but not *FABP5*, compared to CMECs isolated on day 6 of differentiation (Figure

261   3C,D, Table S7). PMECs in MTs upregulated expression of a few intramyocardial

262   markers, such as *CLDN5, GMFG, NOTCH4, IGFBP3, ARHGAP18, A2M* and *BCAM*,

263   but not *APLNR, CD36, OIT3* and *FABP5* compared to PMECs isolated on day 6 of
264   differentiation (Figure 3C,E, Table S7). We also found some endocardial markers
265   upregulated in both CMECs and PMECs in MTs (*TFPI2, EDN1, ECE1, FOXP1*)(S5A-
266   B, Table S7). However, the differences in endocardial marker expression were smaller
267   compared to intramyocardial markers. Notably, the expression of several
268   intramyocardial markers, especially *APLNR, CD36, OIT3, ARHGAP18, A2M, BCAM*
269   and *FABP5* was higher in CMECs in MTs compared to PMECs in MTs (Figure 3F,
270   Table S8). Although the expression of endocardial markers was also higher in CMECs
271   in MTs compared to PMECs in MTs, their average expression levels were lower in
272   general when compared to intramyocardial markers (Figure S5C, Table S8).
273   Importantly, endocardial makers, including *CDH11, FOXC1, FZD6, TMEM100* and
274   *NPR3,* were barely expressed in either CMECs or PMECs in MTs (Figure S5C).
275   Overall, intramyocardial EC identify was acquired by all hiPSC-ECs in the cardiac MT
276   environment.

277

278   **Distinct cell identities are preserved in cardiac microtissues composed of either**
279   **cardiac or paraxial mesoderm-derived ECs**

280

281   To obtain a clearer view of the similarities between ECs in MTs and primary fetal heart
282   ECs, we merged the CM_MT and PM_MT datasets with the human fetal heart dataset
283   (Asp et al., 2019) (Figure 4A-B). In the case of both the CM_MT and the PM_MT
284   dataset, we found that CFs in MTs (CF_MT) clustered together with fetal heart
285   fibroblast-like cells and CMs in MTs (CM_MT) clustered together with fetal heart
286   ventricular CMs. Notably, both CMECs in MTs (CMECs_MT) and PMECs in MTs
287   (PMECs_MT) clustered together with fetal heart intramyocardial ECs and not
288   endocardium (Figure 4A-D). To quantify our observation, we calculated the distances
289   (in expression space) between each cell in MTs and the fetal heart dataset. This
290   calculation showed that CF_MT cells are closest to fibroblast-like cells *in vivo* (related
291   to cardiac skeleton connective tissue), CM_MT cells are closest to ventricular
292   cardiomyocytes and CMECs_MT as well as PMECs_MT are closest to intramyocardial
293   ECs in human fetal heart (Figure 4E). Annotating the *in vitro* cells based on the closest
294   *in vivo* neighbors revealed that cell type identities were very similar in CM_MTs and
295   PM_MTs (Figure 4E).

296

297 Correspondingly, the set of markers of the EC cluster in CM_MTs and the PM_MTs,

298 CM_MTs (ECs) and PM_MT (ECs) respectively, showed a high overlap (Jaccard

299 similarity) with the markers of intra-myocardial ECs we extracted from the *in vivo* data

300 set (Figure 4F). The gene set upregulated in CMECs_MT compared to CMECs_day 6

301 (Up in CMECs_MTs) had a higher overlap with intramyocardial EC markers than the

302 set of genes upregulated in PMECs_MTs compared to PMECs_day 6 (Up in

303 PMECs_MTs) (Figure 4F). For comparison, we also profiled CMECs that were

304 cultured for two additional passages in monoculture. Genes that were upregulated in

305 these cells compared to CMECs_day 6 (Up in P2 CMECs) overlapped the least with

306 intra-myocardial EC markers (Figure 4F). This result excludes the possibility that the

307 effects observed in MTs are simply due to environment-independent differentiation

308 progression over time. CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT thus both resembled

309 intramyocardial ECs but a difference between the two differentiation methods

310 remained. To quantify this difference directly, we used differential gene expression

311 analysis. On day 6 of differentiation, 1446 genes were differentially expressed

312 between CMECs and PMECs (Table S9), while only 332 genes were differentially

313 expressed between CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT (Table S8). 81 genes were shared

314 between the two sets and 251 genes were differentially expressed only between

315 CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT (Figure 4G). Intramyocardial marker genes (*CD36*, *OIT3*,

316 *A2M*, *CLDN5*, *APLNR*, *FABP5*) were among these 251 genes that were differentially

317 expressed between the CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT. This is also in line with our

318 observations that expression of some intramyocardial marker genes were higher in

319 CMECs in MTs compared to PMECs in MTs. Next, all EC clusters from bulk and single

320 cell RNA-seq datasets were combined and visualized using principal component

321 analysis (PCA) (Figure 4H). CMECs_day 6 and PMECs_day 6 clustered far apart,

322 while CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT clustered closely together. Bulk and single cell

323 RNA-seq samples clustered together for both CMECs and PMECs. CMECs_MT and

324 PMECs_MT were found closer to fetal heart intramyocardial ECs and fetal heart ECs

325 (Figure 4H) sequenced in our previous study (Giacomelli et al., 2020). Altogether,

326 analysis of the *in vitro* and *in vivo* data sets demonstrated that the cardiac tissue

327 microenvironment resulted in hiPSC-ECs acquiring an intramyocardial EC identity

328   independent of their developmental origin and, further, gene expression differences

329   due to distinct mesodermal origins were partially removed.

330

331   **DISCUSSION**

332   In the present study we derived ECs from hiPSCs from two mesoderm lineages

333   namely LPM and PM, as previous lineage tracing studies have shown that LPM and

334   PM serve as a major source of ECs in the developing embryo (Lagha et al., 2009;

335   Mayeuf-Louchart et al., 2016; Pardanaud et al., 1996). We showed that ECs isolated

336   on day 6 and day 8 of differentiation retained their developmental lineage history.

337   Transcription factors involved in the heart and skeletal muscle development were

338   highly expressed in CMECs and PMECs, respectively. Additional approaches,

339   including scRNA-seq, showed lineage diversification from a common cardiac and

340   paraxial mesoderm progenitor during differentiation of CMECs and PMECs,

341   respectively. At the same time, an organ-specific EC signature was absent in ECs

342   differentiated either from cardiac or paraxial mesoderm on day 6 and day 8 of

343   differentiation, or upon extended culture.

344

345   Local microenvironmental cues result in acquisition of organ-specific characteristics in

346   ECs (Aird, 2012). To model the influence of cell-extrinsic factors, we took advantage

347   of our cardiac MT model which mimics the heart-specific microenvironment, as it

348   integrates CMs, CFs and ECs (Giacomelli et al., 2020). Although both CMECs and

349   PMECs acquired an iEC identity after incorporation into MTs, several intramyocardial

350   EC markers *(APLNR, CD36, OIT3, ARHGAP18, A2M, BCAM* and *FABP5)* were more

351   strongly upregulated in CMECs compared to PMECs in cardiac MTs. A recent study

352   in mouse embryos showed that transcriptional heterogeneity in the sinus venosus (SV)

353   and endocardium-derived iECs declines over time (Phansalkar et al., 2021).

354   Therefore, it would be interesting to investigate whether PMECs require longer culture

355   in cardiac MTs to acquire comparable expression of intramyocardial EC markers as in

356   CMECs. On the other hand, endocardial markers were not detected in either CMECs

357   or PMECs in cardiac MTs. This is in line with previous evidence that the cardiac MTs

358   microenvironment recapitulates myocardial and not endocardial layers of the heart.

359   Importantly, CFs and CMs in both CM_MT and PM_MT datasets were highly similar

360   and clustered together with fetal heart fibroblast-like cells and fetal heart ventricular

361   CMs respectively. This showed that developmental origin of ECs does not influence

362   CF or CM identities in cardiac MTs.

363

364   Among EC lineages, PM serves a source of lymphatic ECs in the heart, skin and lymph

365   node (Lenti et al., 2022; Lupu et al., 2022; Stone and Stainier, 2019). PMECs showed

366   increased expression of genes important for the development of lymphatic vasculature,

367   such as *TBX1, FOXC1, LYVE1, VEGFC.* At the same time*,* expression of the master

368   regulator of lymphatic EC differentiation (*PROX1*) was not detected in PMECs either

369   at day 6 or in cardiac MTs. It would be interesting to explore whether addition of known

370   lymphatic EC growth factors promotes *PROX1* expression in PMECs.

371

372   Genetic lineage tracing in mice has identified a variety of developmental origins for

373   organ-specific ECs in different tissues. However, whether developmental origin is a

374   prerequisite- or simply a default developmental route remains an open question. On

375   the other hand, the present and previous studies demonstrate that local

376   microenvironmental cues might play a bigger role in not only the acquisition but also

377   the maintenance of the organ-specific characteristics. This is also in line with recent

378   study on sinusoidal ECs of the liver (Gómez-Salinero et al., 2022). Earlier studies have

379   demonstrated the importance of the *Gata4* transcription factor in the differentiation of

380   liver ECs and the acquisition of sinusoidal-like identity (Géraud et al., 2017; Zhang et

381   al., 2016b). However, scRNA-seq analysis of liver ECs showed that *Gata4* is not

382   restricted to sinusoidal ECs but it is expressed by all ECs in the liver (Gómez-Salinero

383   et al., 2022). Instead, the *c-Maf* transcription factor was restricted to sinusoidal liver

384   ECs and was regulated by BMP9 that is highly expressed by hepatic stellate cells

385   (HSC) (Breitkopf-Heinlein et al., 2017). Furthermore, overexpression of c-Maf was

386   sufficient to induce sinusoidal-like characteristics in human umbilical vein ECs

387   (HUVECs). The same is true for heart ECs that are derived from multiple

388   developmental pools of EC progenitors that converge to a similar state over time

389   (Milgrom-Hoffman et al., 2011; Phansalkar et al., 2021; Sharma et al., 2017b).

390

391   In summary, we demonstrated that ECs, derived from two distinct mesoderm lineages

392   namely LPM and PM, acquire organ-specific characteristics upon incorporation into

393   the cardiac MT environment which includes CMs and CFs. We expect that our findings

394   will guide the derivation of organ-specific ECs from hiPSCs in the future and lay the

395   foundation for various biomedical applications, from creating of disease models to

396   transplantation therapies.

397

398   **Materials and Methods**

399   **hiPSC culture**

400   hiPSC lines LUMC0020iCTRL-06 and NCRM1 (NIH Center for Regenerative Medicine

401   NIH CRM, obtained from RUDCR Infinite Biologics at Rutgers University) were

402   cultured in in TeSR-E8 on Vitronectin XF and were routinely passaged once a week

403   using Gentle Cell Dissociation Reagent (all from Stem Cell Technologies, Vancouver,

404   Canada).

405

406   **Generation of PAX3^{Venus}MSGN1^{mCherry} hiPSC dual reporter line**

407   Prior to targeting, NCRM1 hiPSCs were passaged as a bulk on feeders in hESC-

408   medium (Costa et al., 2007). RevitaCell (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) was

409   added to the medium (1:200) after every passage to enhance viability after single cell

410   passaging with TrypLE (Life technologies). PAX3^{Venus} was generated by

411   CRISPR/Cas9 as follow: NCRM1 hiPSCs were passaged with ratio 1:3 into 60 mm

412   dishes to reach 60-70% confluency the next day for transfection. Cells were

413   transfected with pCas9-GFP (Addgene plasmid #44719), pBR322-U6-hPAX3-gRNA-

414   S1 containing sgRNA CCGGCCAGCGTGGTCATCCT and repair template p15A-cm-

415   hPAX3-Venus-neo-1kb containing a Venus-neo cassette with 1 kb hPAX3 homology

416   arms. The antibiotic selection marker is flanked by FRT sites for Flp-mediated

417   excision. 20 μl lipofectamine (Invitrogen, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA), 8 μg of

418   pCas9-GFP, 8 μg of sgRNA plasmid and 8 μg of linearized repair template were

419   diluted in 600 μl of Opti-MEM and added to each 60 mm dish. After 18 hours the

420   medium was changed to hESC medium. After another 6 hours G-418 (50 μg/ml)

421   selection was started and was kept for 1 week. Surviving cells were cultured in hESC

422   medium, passaged and transferred into 6-well plates for the transfection of Flp

423   recombinase expression vector to remove the neomycin cassette. 300 μl of Opti-MEM

424   containing 10 μl lipofectamine and 4 μg CAGGs-Flpo-IRES-puro plasmid was added

425   per well for 18 hours. Puromycin (0,5 μg/ml) selection was started 24 hours post

426   transfection and lasted for 2 days. Once recovered, cells were passage into 96-well

427   format for clonal expansion via limited dilution. Targeted clones were identified by PCR

428   and Sanger sequencing (BaseClear, Leiden, Netherlands). The MSGN1^{mCherry} reporter

429   line was generated by Transposon mediated BAC transgenesis using protocols

430   described by (Rostovskaya et al., 2012). In brief, a human BAC (RP11-12L16) with

431   piggyBac transposon repeats flanking the bacterial backbone and with mCherry

432   inserted directly after the initiating Methionine of MSGN1 was transfected together with

433   a piggyBac Transposase into NCRM1 hiPSCs.

434

435   **Differentiation of ECs from cardiac and paraxial mesoderm**

436   ECs from cardiac mesoderm were differentiated as previously described (Giacomelli

437   et al., 2017). ECs from paraxial mesoderm were differentiated using a modified Loh et

438   al. protocol (Loh et al., 2016). Briefly, 5×10^4 cells per cm^2 were seeded on plates

439   coated with 75 µg/mL Matrigel (growth factor reduced) (Corning) the day before

440   differentiation (day -1). At day 0, paraxial mesoderm was induced by changing TeSR-

441   E8 to BPEL (Bovine Serum Albumin [BSA], Polyvinyl alcohol, Essential Lipids)

442   medium (Ng et al., 2008), supplemented with 8 µM CHIR99021. At day 2, cells were

443   refreshed with BPEL supplemented with 5 µM XAV939. At day 3, cells were refreshed

444   with BPEL supplemented with 4 µM CHIR99021. From day 5 onwards, cells were

445   refreshed every 3 days with BPEL medium supplemented with 50 ng/ml VEGF.

446

447   **Fluorescence-activated cell sorting**

448   Cells were dissociated with TrypLE on day 6 and 8 of CMEC and PMEC protocol and

449   stained with VE-Cadherin PE-conjugated Antibody (R&D Systems). Then VEC+ cells

450   were sorted using FACSAria III. Total RNA was extracted right after sorting using the

451   NucleoSpin® RNA kit (Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany).

452

453   **Generation of 3D Cardiac Microtissues (MTs)**

454   Cardiac MTs were generated from hiPSC-derived ECs, CFs and CMs as previously

455   described (Giacomelli et al., 2020). Briefly, on day 6 of CMEC and PMEC

456   differentiation, CD34$^+$ ECs were isolated using a Human cord blood CD34 Positive

457   selection kit II (StemCell Technologies) following the manufacturer's instructions. On

458   the day of MT formation, freshly isolated hiPSC-ECs and cultured hiPSCs-CFs and

459   hiPSC-CMs were combined together to 5000 cells (70% cardiomyocytes, 15%

460   endothelial cells and 15% cardiac fibroblasts) per 50μl BPEL medium supplemented

461   with VEGF (50 ng/ml) and FGF2 (5 ng/ml). Cell suspensions were seeded on V-bottom

462   96 well microplates (Greiner bio-one, Kremsmünster, Austria) and centrifuged for 10

463   min at 1100 rpm. MTs were incubated at 37°C, 5% CO_2 for 21 days with media

464   refreshed every 3-4 days. scRNAseq analysis of MTs was performed after 21 days.

465

Fluorescence-activated cell sorting

467   Cells were detached using TrypLE for 5 min at 37°C and washed once with FACS

468   buffer (PBS containing 0.5% BSA and 2 mM EDTA). Primary antibodies CD144 (1:50,

469   eBioscience), CD140a (1:20, BD Bioscience) were added for 1 hr at 4°C. Samples

470   were measured on MACSQuant VYB (Miltenyi Biotech) equipped with a violet (405

471   nm), blue (488 nm) and yellow (561 nm) laser. The results were analyzed using Flowjo

472   v10 (FlowJo, LLC). For FACS sorting on day 6 and day 8 of the CMEC and PMEC

473   protocol, CD144+CD140a- cells were sorted using FACSAria III (BD-Biosciences).

474

Quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR)

476   Total RNA was extracted using the NucleoSpin® RNA kit according to the

477   manufacturer's protocol. cDNA was synthesized using an iScript-cDNA Synthesis kit

478   (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). iTaq Universal SYBR Green Supermixes (Bio-Rad)

479   and Bio-Rad CFX384 real-time system were used for the PCR reaction and detection.

480   Relative gene expression was determined according to the standard ΔCT calculation

481   and normalized to the housekeeping gene RPL37A.

482

Bulk RNA sequencing and analysis

484   Bulk RNAseq of passage two CMECs (CMECs P2) and human fetal heart ECs at

485   gestation age Week(W)12.5, W15 and W21 were performed in our previous study

486   (Giacomelli et al., 2020) and obtained from GEO accession number GSE116464.

487   Bulk RNAseq of day 6 and 8 of CMEC and PMEC differentiation were performed at

488   BGI (Shenzhen, China) using the Illumina Hiseq4000 (100bp paired end reads). Raw

489   data   was   processed   using   the   LUMC   BIOPET   Gentrap   pipeline

490   (https://github.com/biopet/biopet), which comprises FASTQ preprocessing, alignment

491   and   read   quantification.   Sickle   (v1.2)   was   used   to   trim   low-quality   read   ends

492   (https://github.com/najoshi/sickle).   Cutadapt   (v1.1)   was   used   for   adapter   clipping

493   (Martin, 2011), reads were aligned to the human reference genome GRCh38 using

494   GSNAP (gmap-2014-12-23) (Wu and Nacu, 2010; Wu and Watanabe, 2005) and gene

495   read quantification with htseq-count (v0.6.1p1) against the Ensembl v87 annotation

496   (Yates et al., 2015). Gene length and GC content bias were normalized using the R

497   package cqn (v1.28.1) (Hansen et al., 2012).Genes were excluded if the number of

498   reads was below 5 reads in ≥90% of the samples.

499

500   Differentially expressed genes were identified using generalized linear models as

501   implemented in edgeR (3.24.3) (Robinson et al., 2009). P-values were adjusted using

502   the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure and FDR ≤ 0.05 was considered significant.

503   Analyses were performed using R (version 3.5.2). PCA plot was generated with the

504   built-in R functions prcomp using transposed normalized RPKM matrix. Correlation

505   among samples was calculated using cor function with spearman method and the

506   correlation heatmap was generated with aheatmap function (NMF package). Gene

507   ontology enrichment was performed using compareCluster function of clusterProfiler

508   package (v3.10.1) (Yu et al., 2012) and q ≤ 0.05 was considered significant.

509

510   **Single-cell RNA sequencing and analysis**

511   **Library preparation and sequencing**

512   Library preparation was performed as previously described (Giacomelli et al., 2020).

513   Briefly, single cells were loaded into the 10X Chromium Controller for library

514   construction using the Single-Cell 3' Library Kit, Version 2 Chemistry (10x Genomics,

515   Pleasanton, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Next, indexed cDNA

516   libraries were sequenced on the HiSeq4000 platform. Single-cell expression was

517   quantified using unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) by 10x Genomics' "Cell Ranger"

518   software.

519

520   The mean reads per cell for all eight data sets: CMEC (R1): 28,499; CMEC (R2):

521   29,388; PMEC (R1): 31,860; PMEC (R2): 38,415; CM_MT (R1): 39,319; CM_MT (R2):

522   29,741; PM_MT (R1): 36,726; PM_MT (R2): 26,421.

523

524   **Single-cell RNAseq data pruning and normalization**

525   For data pruning and normalization, the two replicates of each of the 4 conditions
526   (CMEC, PMEC, CM_MT and PM_MT) were combined without batch correction. Then,
527   cells with a low number of genes per cell (1200 [CMEC], 1200 [PMEC], 900 [CM_MT],
528   750 [PM_MT], see Fig. S2A-B) were removed. Genes expressed in less than 2 of the
529   remaining cells with a count of at most 1 were excluded from further analysis. Each
530   combined data set was normalized using the R package scran (V 1.14.6) (Lun et al.,
531   2016). Highly variable genes (HVGs) were calculated (improvedCV2 from the scran
532   package) for each replicate of the combined data sets after excluding ribosomal genes
533   [Ribosomal Protein Gene Database], stress markers (Brink et al., 2017) and
534   mitochondrial genes. For downstream analysis the top 5% HVGs were used after
535   excluding proliferation (Whitfield et al., 2006) and cell cycle (Giotti et al., 2017) related
536   genes.

537

538   **Cell cycle analysis and batch correction**
539   For each combined data set, cell cycle analysis was performed with the scran package
540   using the cyclone function (Scialdone et al., 2015) on normalized counts (Figure S2H).
541   Cells with a G2/M score higher than 0.2 were considered to be in G2/M phase.
542   Otherwise, they were classified as G1/S. Using this binary classifier as predictor, we
543   regressed out cell cycle effects with the R package limma (V 3.42.2) (Ritchie et al.,
544   2015) applied to log-transformed normalized counts. Then, for each combined data
545   set, the two replicates were batch corrected with fast mutual nearest neighbors
546   correction method (MNN) (Haghverdi et al., 2016) on the cell cycle corrected counts,
547   using the 30 first principal components and 20 nearest-neighbors (Figure S2C).

548

549   **Clustering**
550   For each combined data set, batch-corrected counts were standardized per gene and
551   then used to create a shared nearest neighbour (SNN) graph with the *scran* R package
552   (d = 30, k = 2). Louvain clustering was applied to the SNN graph using the *igraph*
553   python package (V 0.7.1) with these resolution parameters: 0.4 [CMEC], 0.4 [CM_MT],
554   0.3 [PMEC], 0.1 [PM_MT]. For the CMEC data set, this resulted in 5 clusters (Figure
555   S2D). Two of these 5 clusters were excluded from further analysis based on the
556   expression of pluripotency markers (Figure S2E). For the PMEC data set, this resulted
557   in 3 clusters (Figure 2F). For CM_MT and PM_MT, clustering resulted in 4 clusters

558 (Figure S2F and S2G), where one cluster was excluded from further analysis, because
559 it was mainly present in one of the two replicates. Additionally, the attempt to map this
560 cluster to in vivo data, resulted in mostly unassigned cell types (plot not shown). For
561 PMEC, clustering resulted in 3 clusters.

562

563 **Dimensionality reduction and pseudotime**
564 Dimensionality reduction was performed using the python *scanpy* pipeline (V 1.4.6).
565 For both data sets, CMEC and PMEC, a 20 nearest-neighbors (knn, k=20) graph was
566 created from diffusion components of the batch corrected data sets. Diffusion
567 components are the eigenvectors of the diffusion operator which is calculated from
568 Euclidean distances and a gaussian kernel. The aim is to find a lower dimensional
569 embedding which considers the cellular progression. Both graphs were projected into
570 two dimensions with the default force-directed graph layout and starting positions
571 obtained from the partition-based graph abstraction (PAGA) output (Wolf et al., 2019).
572 PAGA estimates connectivities between partitions and performs an improved version
573 of diffusion pseudotime. Diffusion pseudotime (Haghverdi et al., 2016; Wolf et al.,
574 2019) was calculated on these graphs with root cells selected based on the graph
575 layout from the "Cardiac Mesoderm" cluster in CMEC, and the "Paraxial Mesoderm"
576 cluster in PMEC.

577

578 For CM_MT and PM_MT, the knn graphs (k=50 for PM_MT, k=100 for CM_MT) were
579 created from the first 30 principal components of the batch corrected data sets. These
580 graphs were projected into two dimensions with the default force-directed graph layout
581 and starting positions from the PAGA output.

582

583 ***In vivo* data analysis and mapping**
584 The *in vivo* data set, downloaded from https://www.spatialresearch.org/resources-
585 published-datasets/doi-10-1016-j-cell-2019-11-025/, contains a 6.5 PCW human
586 embryonic cardiac tissue sample. The clusters and cluster annotations were obtained
587 from the original publication (Asp et al., 2019). The data set was normalized with the
588 scran R package and HVGs were calculated as described in section "Single-cell RNA-
589 seq data pruning and normalization". Dimensionality reduction was performed with the

590 R package *umap* (V 0.2.5.0) using 20 nearest-neighbors, min_dist = 0.7 and Euclidean

591 distance.

592

593 **Differential expression analysis**

594 All differential expression tests were performed with edgeR (V 3.28.1) (Robinson et

595 al., 2009) using a negative binomial regression and raw counts. The predictors in the

596 regression were: cluster and replicate (both discrete variables), as well as the total

597 number of counts per cell.

598

599 For marker gene analysis (Figures S3A and S3C), p-values were obtained for a

600 contrast between the cluster of interest and all other clusters using regression

601 coefficients averaged over the replicates. For tests between different data sets (Figure

602 3C), the corresponding endothelial cell cluster was extracted from each data set. Then,

603 a contrast between MT and day 6 was calculated by averaging over the predictors of

604 both replicates. For the *in vivo* test (Figure S4B), intra-myocardial EC and

605 endocardium clusters were extracted from the data set to calculate the contrast

606 between them. P-values were adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing with the

607 Benjamini-Hochberg method.

608

609 **Comparison to the *in vivo* data set**

610 CM_MT and PM_MT data sets were mapped on the *in vivo* data set using the MNN

611 method (d = 30 principal components, k = 100 nearest neighbors). First, *in vitro*

612 replicates were mapped to each other, then the *in vivo* data was mapped on the

613 combined *in vitro* data, using normalized, log- transformed counts and the 10% top

614 HVGs of the *in vivo* data set. Dimensionality reduction was performed with the R

615 package *umap* using 100 nearest-neighbors, min_dist = 0.3 and Euclidean distance.

616 K-nearest-neighbour (KNN) assignment was performed in the batch corrected,

617 principal component space (30 PCs). The 100 nearest-neighbors in the *in vivo* data

618 set based on Euclidean distances were calculated for each *in vitro* cell. The *in vitro*

619 cell was ascribed the cell type most abundant among the 100 *in vivo* neighbors. Each

620 such assignment received a confidence score, which is the number of *in vivo*

621 neighbors with that cell type divided by the number of all nearest neighbors (=100). A

622 cell was not ascribed a cell type if either the average distance to its nearest neighbour

623   exceeded a certain threshold (determined by the long tail of the histogram of average

624   distances: 0.35), or the assignment had a confidence score less than 0.5. In addition,

625   clusters containing less than 10 cells were not ascribed a cell type.

626

627   For the Jaccard similarity measure, marker genes of each differential expression test

628   were selected with adjusted p-value < 0.05. The remaining genes were ranked by log2

629   fold change and the first 478 genes were selected for analysis. Then, the Jaccard

630   distances were calculated between the marker genes of intra-myocardial endothelial

631   cells and each of the other gene sets.

632

633   For principal component analysis (Figure 4H), human fetal bulk samples and in vitro

634   bulk samples (Giacomelli et al., 2020) were combined with the single cell data sets.

635   For each single-cell data set, the endothelial cells were extracted and the sum per

636   gene over all cells was calculated. Then, bulk and single cell samples were log-

637   transformed and combined into one data set. Principal component analysis was

638   applied on the gene-wise standardized data set, using marker genes of the intra-

639   myocardial endothelial cells from the *in vivo* data set.

640

641   **Data Availability Statement**

642   The accession numbers for the bulk and single cell RNA sequencing datasets reported

643   in this paper are https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/geo/ GEO: GSE151427 (day 6 and day

644   8 CMEC and PMEC (bulk); day 6 PMEC (single cell); PM_MT (single cell));

645   GSE202901 (day 6 CMEC (single cell)); GSE147694 (CM_MT (single cell)).

646

647   **Statistics**

648   Statistical analysis was conducted with GraphPad Prism 7 software (San Diego, CA,

649   USA). Data are represented as mean± SD.

650

651   **Acknowledgements**

655 the Netherlands (024.003.001); the European Union's Horizon 2020 and innovation

656 program under a Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 707404. We thank

657 Elisa Giacomelli and Milena Bellin for generation of cardiac microtissues; S.L. Kloet

658 and E.de Meijer (Leiden Genome Technology Center) for help with 10X Genomics

659 experiments (cell encapsulation, library preparation, single-cell sequencing, pri-mary

660 data mapping, and quality control); the LUMC Flow Cytometry Core Facility, and the

661 LUMC Light and Electron Microscopy Facility. Illustrations were created with

662 BioRender.

663

Author contributions

665 X.C., M.M., S.S., V.V.O. designed the research, analyzed and interpreted results,

666 wrote the manuscript; X.C., F.E.vdH, V.V.O. performed experiments; M.M., S.S.

667 performed scRNA-Seq analysis; K.N. generated MSGN1^{mCherry} hiPSC reporter line;

668 K.A. generated gene targeting constructs for reporter hiPSC lines; X.C., H.M.

669 performed bulk RNA-seq analysis; C.L.M. designed the research and edited the

670 manuscript.

671

Competing interests

673 C.L.M. is co-founder of Ncardia bv. The other authors indicated no potential conflicts

674 of interest.

675

676

677

Figure Legends

679

Figure 1. Characterization of ECs differentiated from hiPSCs using CMEC and PMEC protocols

682 (**A-B**) Schematic overview of CMEC (**A**) and PMEC (**B**) differentiation protocols.

683 Endothelial cell (CD144+CD140a-) were FACS sorted on days 6 and day 8 for bulk

684 RNA-seq. ACTA: activin-A. CHIR: CHIR99021. pPSM/aPSM: posterior/anterior

685 presomitic mesoderm. LPM: lateral plate mesoderm. (**C**) Flow cytometry analysis of

686 CD140a and CD144 expression on day 6 and day 8 of CMEC and PMEC

687 differentiation. (**D**) Quantification of VEC (CD144)+CD140a- cells on day 6 and day 8

688   of CMEC and PMEC differentiation. Error bars represented standard deviations

689   calculated from five to six independent differentiations. (**E**) PCA analysis of ECs sorted

690   on day 6 and 8 of the CMEC or PMEC protocol. (**F**) GO term enrichment analysis for

691   DEGs between CMECs and PMECs on day 6 of differentiation. Complete list of GO

692   terms can be found in Table S2. Color represents the $p_{adjusted}$ of enrichment analysis

693   and dot size represents the count of genes mapped to the GO term. (**G**) Normalized

694   gene expression levels (RPKM) of cardiac and skeletal related genes in CMECs and

695   PMECs on day 6 and 8.

696

697   **Figure 2. Single-cell RNA sequencing analysis of ECs differentiated from**

698   **cardiac and paraxial mesoderm**

699   (**A-B**) Schematic overview of CMEC (**A**) and PMEC (**B**) differentiation protocols until

700   day 6. Cells were collected for scRNA-seq on day 6. ACTA: activin-A. CHIR:

701   CHIR99021. pPSM/aPSM: posterior/anterior presomitic mesoderm. LPM: lateral plate

702   mesoderm. (**C**) scRNA-seq of CMEC differentiation on day 6 (PAGA plot). Three

703   clusters of cells, indicated by color, were identified. (**D**) PAGA plots show expression

704   of *MESP1, ISL1, SMARCD3, CDH5, MYL4* on day 6 of CMEC differentiation. Color

705   represents log transformed expression. (**E**) Diffusion pseudotime analysis of CMEC

706   differentiation on day 6. (**F**) scRNA-seq of PMEC differentiation on day 6 (PAGA plot).

707   Three clusters of cells, indicated by color, were identified. (**G**) PAGA plots show

708   expression *PAX3, EYA1, FOXC1, CDH5, PPRX1* on day 6 of CMEC differentiation.

709   Color represents log transformed expression. (**H**) Diffusion pseudotime analysis of

710   PMEC differentiation on day 6.

711

712   **Figure 3. hiPSC-ECs acquired organ-specific signatures in a cardiac**

713   **microenvironment**

714   (**A**) Generation of cardiac MTs from hiPSC-CMs, hiPSC-CFs and hiPSC-ECs. CMECs

715   and PMECs were used for CM_MTs and PM_MTs respectively. MTs were collected

716   after 21 days for scRNAseq. (**B**) scRNAseq data of CM_MTs (left) and PM_MTs (right)

717   were visualized using PAGA. Three clusters of cells were identified in both datasets.

718   (**C**) Volcano plot showing fold changes and p-values of differential expression tests

719   between CMECs_day 6 and CMECs_MTs (left), or PMECs_day 6 and PMECs_MTs

720   (right). Representative intra-myocardial and endocardial markers that are differentially

721   expressed ($p_{adjusted}$<0.05) are highlighted in red and green, respectively. (**D-F**) Violin

722   plots of gene expression in PMECs_ day 6, CMECs_day6, CMECs_MT and

723   PMECs_MT for representative Intra-myocardial EC markers. Asterisks indicate

724   significance level of differential gene expression tests between the respective

725   populations. ns: p>0.05; * p <= 0.05; ** p<= 1e-10; *** p<= 1e-100; **** p<= 1e-200.

726   The clusters with higher expression value were labeled. ne: not expressed (0 counts)

727   in >85% of cells in both groups.

728

729   **Figure 4. CMECs and PMECs acquired intramyocardial identity in cardiac**

730   **microenvironment**

731   (**A-B**) Low-dimensional representation (UMAP) of the human fetal heart data set (Asp

732   et al., 2019) integrated with the CM_MTs (**A, C**) or PM_MTs (**B, D**) dataset. EC clusters

733   are marked with squares. Cell clusters are indicated by color. Cells in fetal heart

734   dataset are presented with dots and cells in MTs datasets are presented with contour

735   lines. (**C-D**) Zoom-ins of the EC clusters marked in (**A-B**). (**E**) Annotation of CM_MT

736   and PM_MT cells based on nearest neighbors in the *in vivo* dataset. Cells from

737   CM_MTs and PM_MTs are outlined with a green or violet contour, respectively. (**F**)

738   Jaccard similarity to intramyocardial ECs from the human fetal heart dataset was

739   calculated for each indicated group of genes. CM_MTs (ECs): specific markers of

740   cluster CMECs within the CM_MT dataset; PM_MTs (ECs): specific markers of cluster

741   PMECs within the PM_MT dataset; Up in CMECs_MT: DEGs that are higher in

742   CMECs_MT compared to CMECs_day 6; Up in PMECs_MT: DEGs that are higher in

743   PMECs_MT compared to PMECs_day 6; Up in P2 CMECs: DEGs that are higher in

744   passage two CMECs compared to CMECs_day 6. (**G**) Venn diagram shows numbers

745   and overlap of DEGs ($p_{adjusted}$<0.05 and fold-change > 1.5) between CMECs and

746   PMECs from day 6 (in red) and MTs (in blue). (**H**) PCA plot of different EC populations

747   in scRNAseq (triangle and diamond) and bulk RNA-seq (circle) datasets. Average

748   expression values of all cells in the cluster were used for the scRNA-seq data.

749

750   **Figure S1. Characterization of PMEC differentiation using**

751   **MSGN1^mCherry^PAX3^Venus^ dual reporter line**

752   (**A**) Targeting constructs used to generate PAX3-Venus and MSGN1-mCherry hiPSC

753   reporter line. (**B**) Flow cytometry analysis of PAX3^Venus^ and MSGN1^mCherry^ expression

754   on day 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 of PMEC differentiation. (**C-D**) Quantification of mCherry+ (**C**)

755   and Venus+ (**D**) cells in the total population by flow cytometry on day 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8.

756   (**E**) Representative fluorescence image of PAX3^{Venus} expression on day 5 of PMEC

757   differentiation. Scale bar: 200 μm. (**F**) Quantification of *TBXT, MIXL1, MESP1,*

758   *GATA4, NKX2-5, MSGN1, TBX6* and *PAX3* expression by qPCR on day 0, 2, 5 and 8

759   of CMEC (green) and PMEC (purple) differentiation.

760

761   **Figure S2. Quality control of scRNAseq datasets**

762   (**A-B**) Distribution of the number of detected genes (**A**) and total expression (**B**) in

763   each cell of the scRNAseq datasets. The dotted blue lines indicate quality control

764   thresholds. Two different batches are labelled with different colors. (**C**) Two different

765   batches of cells collected for each scRNAseq dataset were visualized with PAGA.

766   (**D**) scRNAseq data of CMECs on day 6 is visualized using PAGA. Five cell clusters

767   were identified and labelled with different colors. (**E**) Expression of pluripotency genes

768   *POU5F1* and *NANOG* in the CMECa dataset on day 6 is shown in PAGA plot. Color

769   represents log transformed expression. (**F-G**) scRNAseq data of CM_MTs (**F**) and

770   PM_MTs (**G**) were visualized using PAGA. Four cell clusters were identified. Clusters

771   labelled with "Other" were excluded from downstream analysis. (**H**) Boxplot of G2M

772   phase-score in individual clusters of each dataset.

773

774   **Figure S3. scRNAseq analysis of CMEC and PMEC datasets on day 6**

775   (**A**) Volcano plots showing fold changes and p-values of differential expression tests

776   between individual CMEC clusters and all other cells. Representative significantly up-

777   regulated genes (p$_{adjusted}$ < 0.05 & fold-change > 1.2) are labelled in red. (**B**) *MESP1,*

778   *SMARCD3*, *KDR*, *CDH5*, *MYL4* and *NKX2-5* expression (log transformed) in three

779   clusters of the CMEC dataset on day 6. (**C**) Volcano plots showing fold-changes and

780   p-values of differential expression tests between individual PMEC clusters and all

781   other cells. Representative significantly up-regulated genes (p$_{adjusted}$<0.05 & fold

782   change > 1.2) are labelled in red. (**D**) *PAX3*, *MEOX1*, *CD34*, *CDH5*, *HAND1* and

783   *PRRX1* expression (log transformed) in three clusters of PMEC dataset on day 6.

784

785   **Figure S4. Re-analysis of a published scRNAseq dataset to identify organ**

786   **specific signatures of human fetal heart ECs**

787   (**A**) Low-dimensional representation (UMAP) of scRNAseq of the human fetal heart

788   (Asp et al., 2019). 14 cell clusters were identified and named based on the original

789   publication, except for two EC clusters: intramyocardial ECs and endocardium. (**B**)

790   Volcano plot showing fold changes and p-values for differential expression tests

791   between intra-myocardial ECs and endocardium in the data set shown in (**A**).

792   Representative differentially expressed genes ($p_{adjusted}$<0.05) that are known as

793   intramyocardial and endocardial markers are labelled in red and green respectively.

794   (**C-D**) Low-dimensional representation (UMAP) of scRNAseq of the human fetal heart

795   (Asp et al., 2019). Log-transformed expression of representative intramyocardial EC

796   markers (**C**) and endocardium markers (**D**) is indicated by color.

797

798   **Figure S5. Comparison of organ-specific signatures of hiPSC-ECs on day 6 with**

799   **ECs in MTs**

800   (**A-C**) Differential expression test between clusters CMECs_day 6 and CMECs_MT

801   (**A**), PMECs_ day 6 and PMECs_MT (**B**), CMECs_MT and PMECs_MT (**C**) for

802   representative endocardial EC markers. ns: p>0.05; * p <=0.05; ** p<= 1e-10; *** p<=

803   1e-100; **** p<= 1e-200. Clusters with higher expression value were indicated with

804   stars. ne: not expressed (0 counts) in >85% of cells in both groups.

805

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Figure 1.
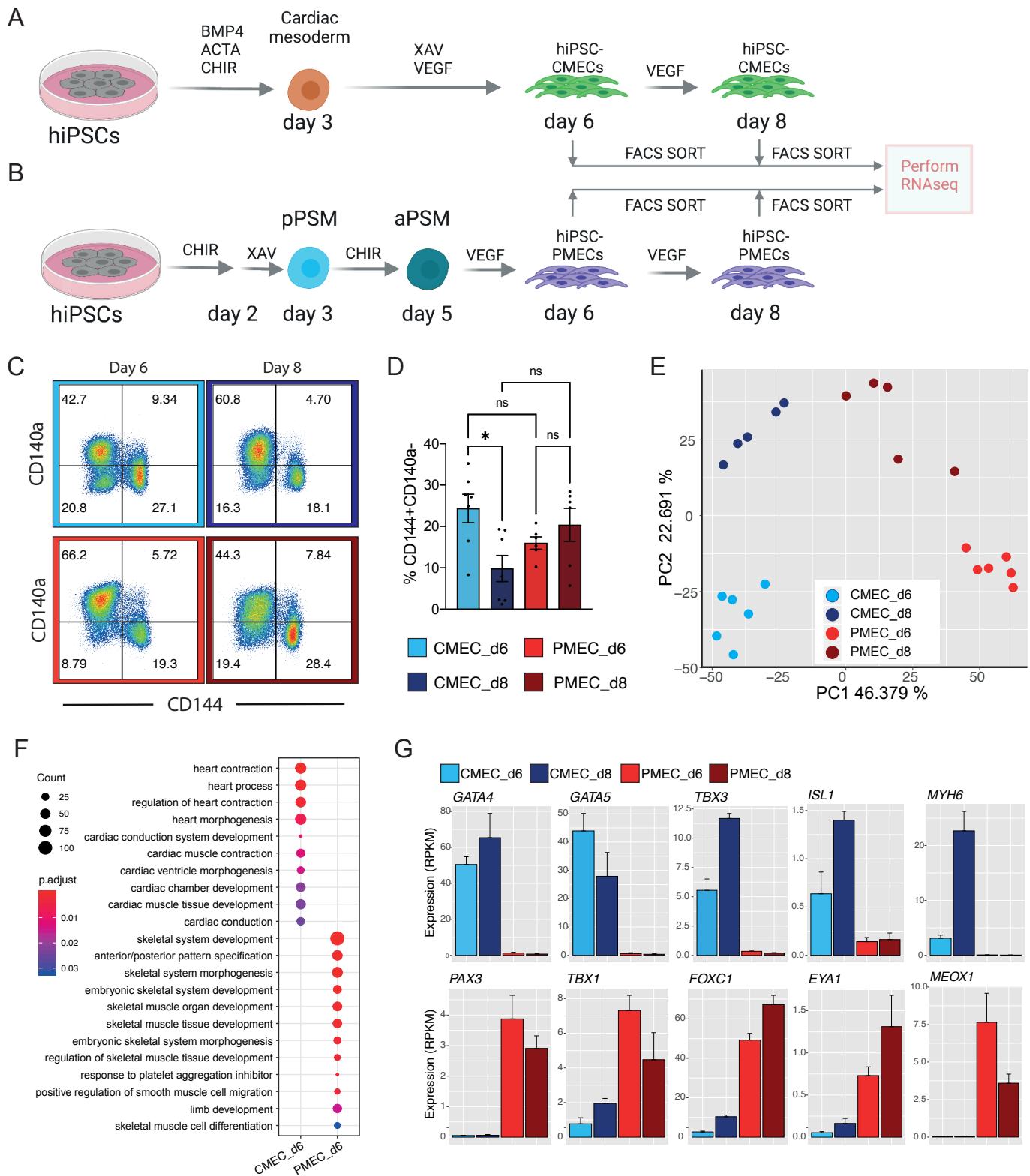
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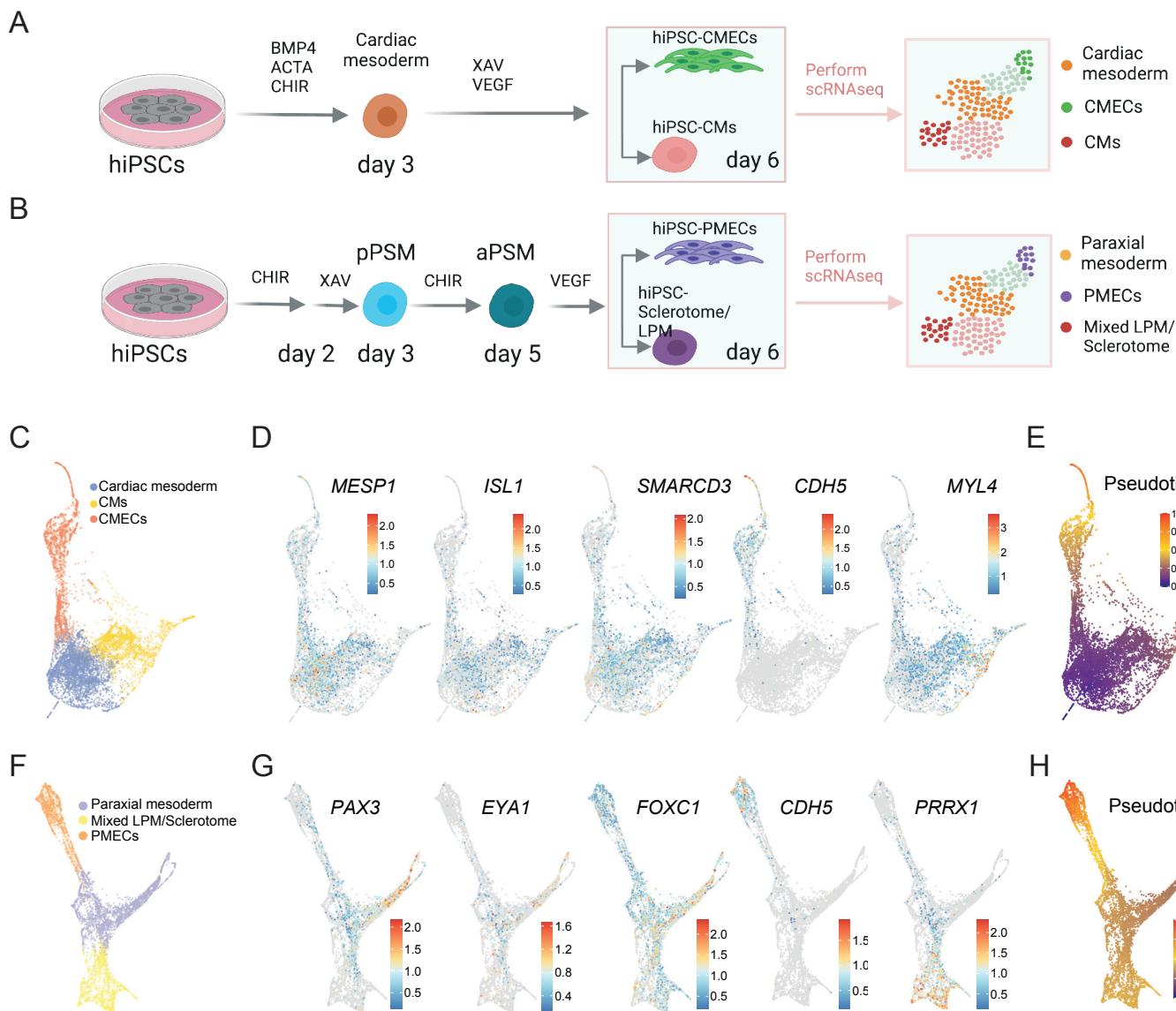
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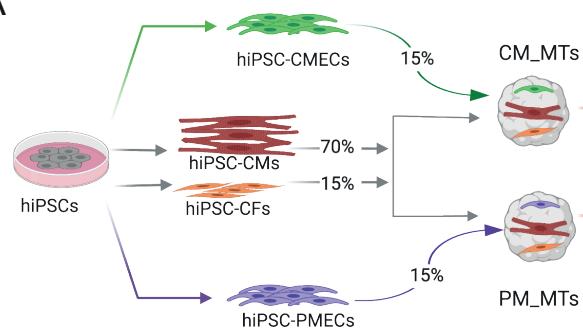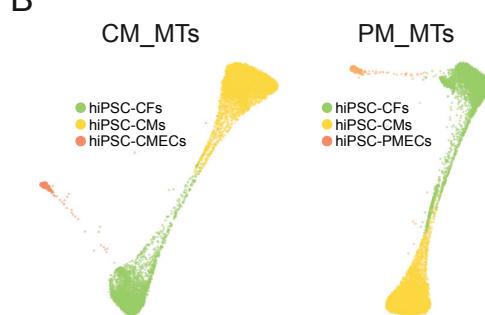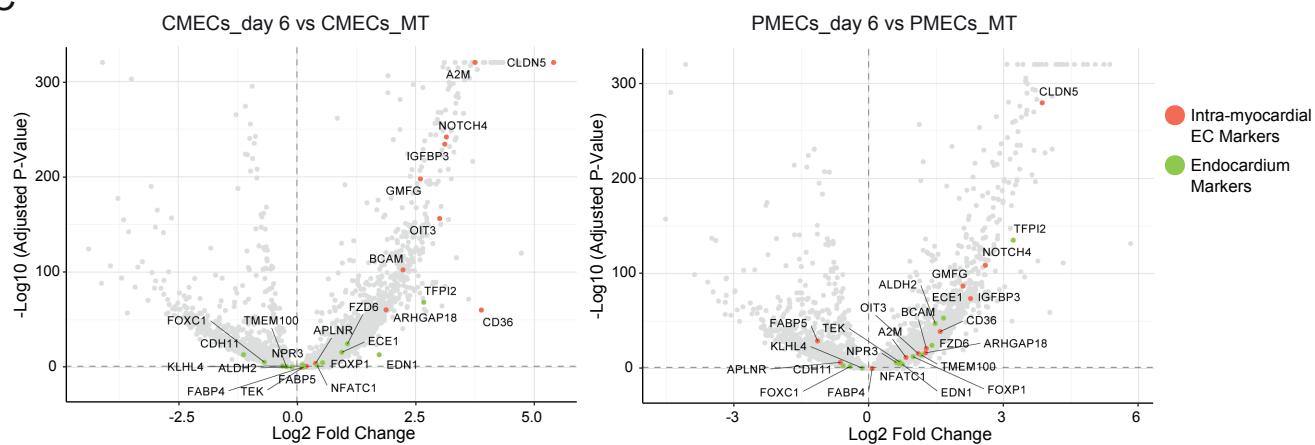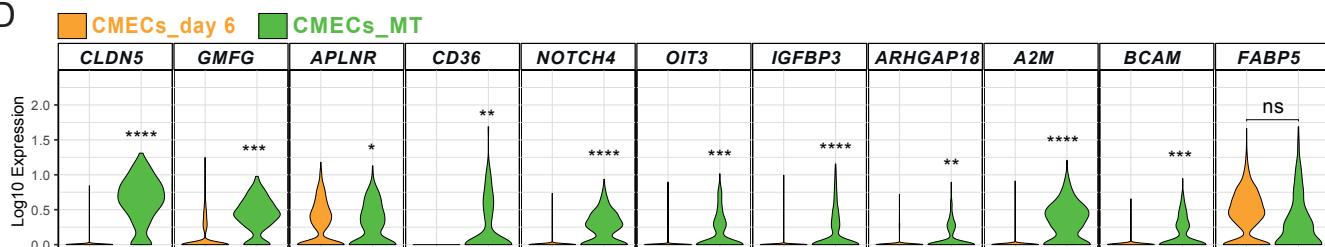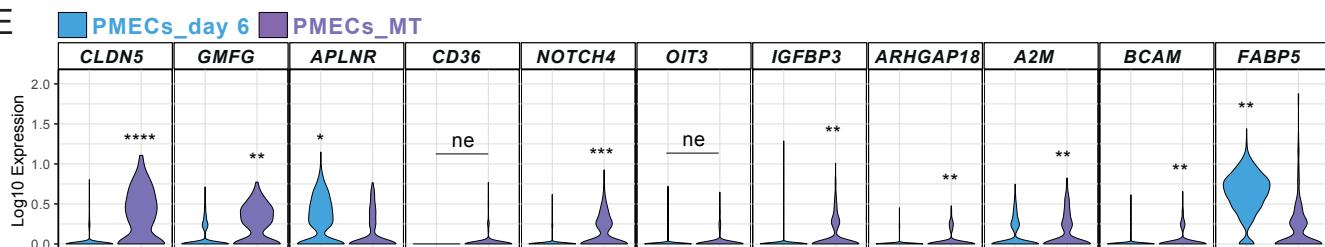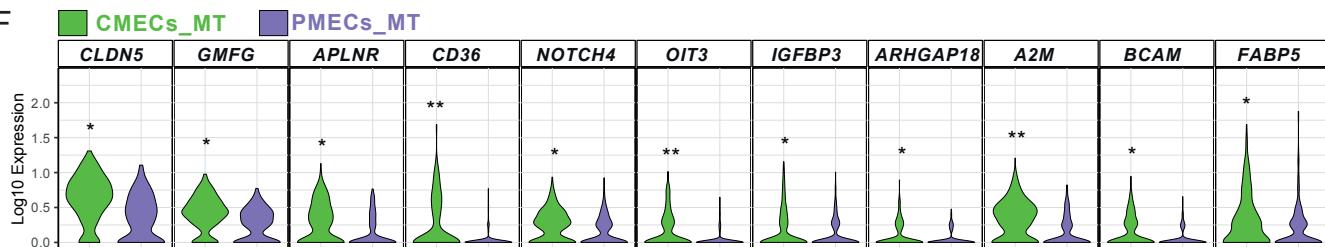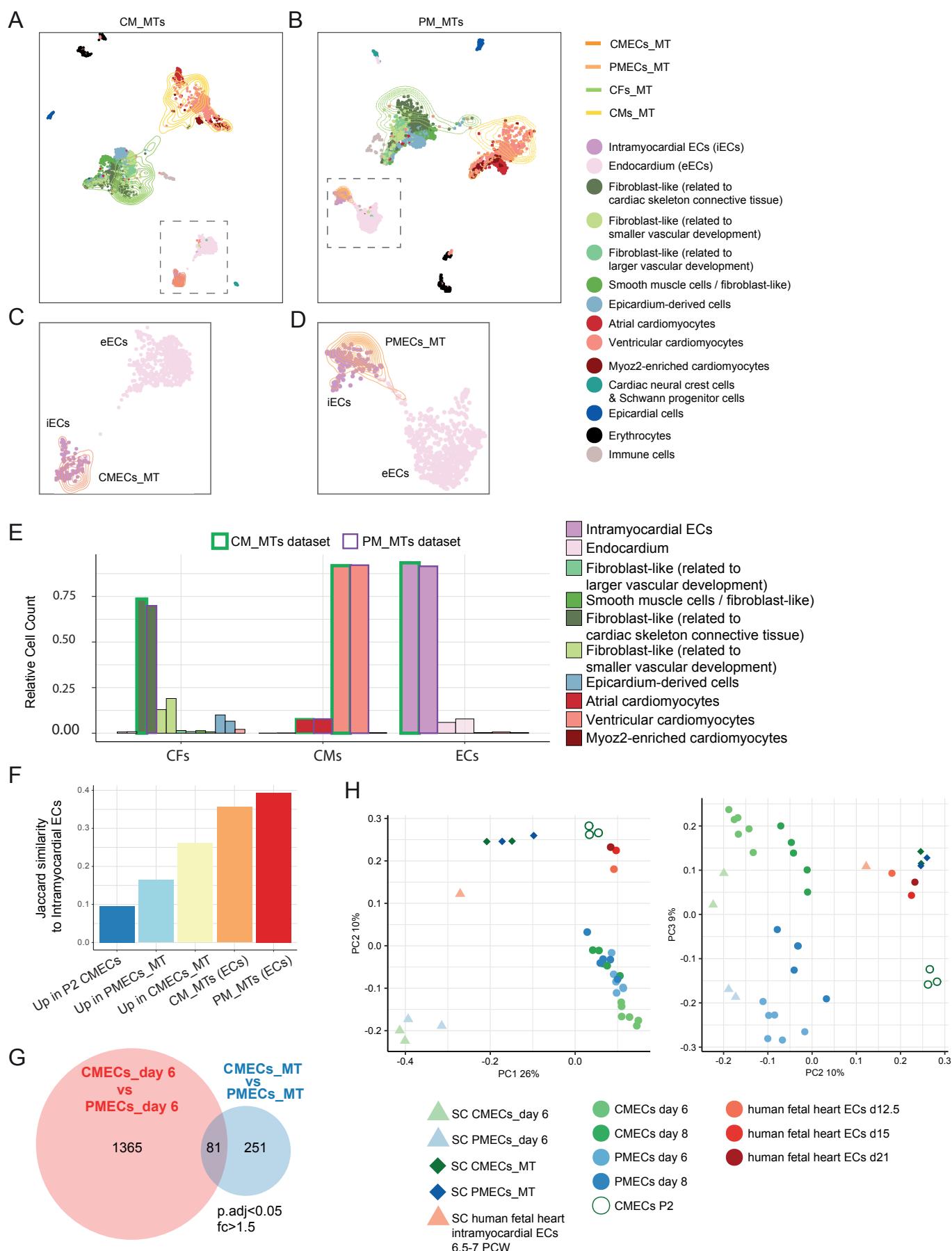
Figure 4.

Figure S1.

Figure S2.

Figure S3.

Figure S4.

Figure S5.