

1 **Figure legends**

2

3 **Figure 1. circRNAs profiling in HSCs from vehicle, HF and HF recovery mice. (A)**

4 The procedure of mouse acute toxic liver injury model, HF model and HF recovery

5 model used for animal. **(B)** Pathology observation of H&E and sirius red staining of

6 liver tissues, scale bar, 100 μ M; immunohistochemistry staining for α -SMA in liver

7 tissues, scale bar, 100 μ M; immunofluorescence staining of α -SMA and collagens I in

8 liver tissues, nuclei were stained with DAPI, scale bar, 200 μ M. The positive staining

9 areas were measured by Ipwin32 software. **(C)** Protein expression of α -SMA and

10 collagens I in HSCs detected by western blot. **(D)** mRNA levels of α -SMA, PDGF,

11 TIMP-1 and collagens I in HSCs detected by qRT-PCR. **(E)** A heatmap showed

12 differentially expressed circRNAs with same expression pattern in vehicle and HF

13 recovery mice, which opposite to HF mice. **(F)** circRNA composition in terms of

14 genes distribution. **(G, H)** The coverage and distribution of differentially expressed

15 circRNAs on the mouse chromosomes. Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=8).

16 * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05, ### p <0.01 versus CCl₄.

17

18 **Figure 2. Expression of circFBXW4 decreased in HF and rescued in HF recovery**

19 **mice. (A)** Eight differentially expressed circRNAs confirmed by qRT-PCR in HSCs

20 (n=10-12). **(B)** Pathology observation of H&E staining from acute toxic liver injury

21 tissue, scale bar, 100 μ M; immunohistochemistry staining for α -SMA, scale bar, 100

22 μ M. The positive staining areas were measured by Ipwin32 software. **(C)** mRNA level

23 of TGF- β 1 and **(D)** relative expression of circFBXW4 in HSCs (n=6). **(E)** Relative
24 expression of circFBXW4 in HSCs and **(F)** in serum. **(G)** mRNA level of FBXW4 in
25 HSCs. **(H)** Expression pattern of circFBXW4 in HF progression and regression stages.
26 **(I)** Pathology observation of H&E and masson staining of human liver tissue, scale
27 bar, 100 μ M; immunohistochemistry staining for α -SMA, scale bar, 100 μ M. The
28 positive staining areas were measured by Ipwin32 software. **(J)** Relative expression of
29 circFBXW4, α -SMA, TIMP-1 and collagens I in human liver tissue detected by
30 qRT-PCR (Control, n=10; Fibrosis, n=14). Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m. * p <0.05,
31 ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄; & p <0.05, && p <0.01 versus
32 Control.

33

34 **Figure 3. Characterizations of circFBXW4.** **(A)** Schematic diagram showed the
35 genomic location and back-splicing pattern of circFBXW4. **(B)** Sanger sequencing of
36 circFBXW4, the arrow represents the “head-to-tail” splicing site. **(C)** Divergent
37 primers amplified circFBXW4 from cDNA by PCR and an agarose gel electrophoresis,
38 rather than from gDNA, GAPDH was used as a linear control (n=3). **(D)** circFBXW4,
39 rather than linear FBXW4 or GAPDH, resisted to Rnase R digestion (n=6). **(E)**
40 circFBXW4 from cDNA was detected with divergent primers even exposed to Rnase
41 R digestion, the opposite result showed from gDNA (n=3). **(F)** Relative expression of
42 circFBXW4 and linear FBXW4 in HSCs treated with ActD+ (actinomycin D) at the
43 indicated time points (n=6). **(G)** Cytoplasmic and nuclear fractionation assay revealed
44 that circFBXW4 mainly localized in the cytoplasm (n=4). Data represent the mean \pm

45 s.e.m. $^{\&}p<0.05$, $^{\&\&}p<0.01$ versus Rnase R- group; $^*p<0.05$, $^{**}p<0.01$ versus time 0.

46

47 **Figure 4. Effects of circFBXW4 overexpression on the activation, proliferation**
48 **and apoptosis of LX-2 cells. (A)** Stable overexpression efficiency of circFBXW4,
49 and mRNA levels of FBXW4, TGF- β 1, TIMP-1, α -SMA and collagens I detected by
50 qRT-PCR. **(B)** Protein expression of α -SMA and collagens I in LX-2 cells (n=4). **(C)**
51 Immunofluorescence staining for α -SMA, nuclei were stained with DAPI, scale bar,
52 50 μ M. **(D)** Effect of circFBXW4 overexpression on the proliferation of LX-2 cells
53 detected by CCK8 assay at the indicated time points (n=6). **(E)** Assessment of DNA
54 synthesis using Edu assay in LX-2 cells, nuclei were stained with Hoechst33342,
55 scale bar, 200 μ M. **(F)** Flow cytometry showed the cell cycle distribution in G₀/G₁
56 phase increased following overexpression of circFBXW4. **(G)** Overexpression of
57 circFBXW4 induced apoptosis of LX-2 cells with indicated treatment. Data represent
58 the mean \pm s.e.m. $^*p<0.05$, $^{**}p<0.01$ versus Control; $^{\#}p<0.05$, $^{\#\#}p<0.01$ versus
59 LV-vector.

60

61 **Figure 5. Anti-fibrotic effects of circFBXW4 in HF mice. (A)** Mouse *in vivo*
62 imaging analysis showed luciferase-labelled pHBAAV-circFBXW4 was specific
63 located in mouse liver tissue. **(B)** Overexpression efficiency of circFBXW4 in HSCs
64 from mice following pHBAAV-circFBXW4 administration. **(C)** Pathology
65 observation of H&E staining, sirius red staining and immunohistochemistry staining
66 for α -SMA in liver tissue, scale bar, 100 μ M. The positive staining areas were

67 measured by Ipwin32 software. **(D)** Protein expression of α -SMA and collagens I in
68 HSCs from mice after circFBXW4 overexpression. **(E, F)** Test of HYP in mouse liver
69 tissue and ALT in serum. **(G)** mRNA levels of TGF- β 1, α -SMA, collagens I and
70 TIMP-1 in HSCs from mice following pHBAAV-circFBXW4 treatment. Data
71 represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=8). $^{\$}p<0.05$, $^{\$\$}p<0.01$ versus Saline; $^*p<0.05$, $^{**}p<0.01$
72 versus Oil; $^{\#}p<0.05$, $^{\#\#}p<0.01$ versus CCl₄.

73

74 **Figure 6. Anti-inflammation of circFBXW4 in HF mice.** **(A)** Expression pattern of
75 circFBXW4 in liver macrophages from vehicle and HF mice. **(B)**
76 pHBAAV-circFBXW4 successful elevated circFBXW4 level in liver macrophages. **(C)**
77 Levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF- α and IL-1 β in serum detected by ELISA.
78 **(D)** mRNA levels of CCL2 and CCL9 in liver macrophages (n=8). **(E)** The up panel is
79 a schematic representation of mouse inflammation antibody array containing 40
80 inflammation antibodies, positive control, negative control and blank spots with
81 duplicates. Array showed the expression of inflammatory factors in mouse liver
82 lysates, fold changes of differentially expressed 5 inflammatory factors (CCL2,
83 CD153, IL-12 p70, TNF-RII, CCL9) were showed in the down panel. **(F)**
84 Immunohistochemistry staining for F4/80 in liver tissue, scale bar, 50 μ M. The
85 positive staining areas were measured by Ipwin32 software. **(G)** Flow cytometric
86 analysis showed the reduction of F4/80⁺CD11b⁺ liver macrophages in HF mice with
87 pHBAAV-circFBXW4 treatment (n=4). Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m. $^{\$}p<0.05$,
88 $^{\$\$}p<0.01$ versus Saline; $^*p<0.05$, $^{**}p<0.01$ versus Oil; $^{\#}p<0.05$, $^{\#\#}p<0.01$ versus CCl₄.

89

90 **Figure 7. Microarray analysis of HSCs and circFBXW4 binds miR-18b-3p. (A)**

91 Heatmap of differentially expressed miRNAs in HSCs from vehicle, HF and HF

92 recovery mice. **(B)** circRNA-miRNA network showed differentially expressed

93 miRNAs with their circRNA targets. **(C)** Differentially expressed miRNAs combine

94 with circFBXW4 predicted miRNA targets, and a schematic showed the binding sites

95 of miRNAs bind to circFBXW4. **(D)** The renilla luciferase activity analysis of wild

96 type or mutant circFBXW4 and miRNAs mimics or negative control co-transfected

97 into HEK-293T cells, respectively. Data are presented as the ratio of renilla luciferase

98 activity to firefly activity (n=3). **(E)** Biotinylated circFBXW4 probe could capture 3

99 miRNA candidates by RNA pull-down analysis (n=4). **(F)** Schematic of miR-18b-3p

100 sites in circFBXW4 based on complementary sequences. **(G)** Co-localization of

101 circFBXW4 with miR-18b-3p was determined in mouse liver tissue by FISH, nuclei

102 were stained with DAPI, scale bar, 200 μ M and 100 μ M. **(H)** Level of miR-18b-3p

103 was suppressed in HSCs following circFBXW4 overexpression (n=7). Data represent

104 the mean \pm s.e.m. * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 versus Negative mimics+circFBXW4-wt;

105 # p <0.05, ### p <0.01 versus miRNA-mimics+circFBXW4-wt; & p <0.05, && p <0.01 versus

106 circFBXW4 probe; \$ p <0.05, \$\$ p <0.01 versus Oil; @ p <0.05, @@ p <0.01 versus CCl₄.

107

108 **Figure 8. Identification of circFBXW4/miR-18b-3p/FBXW7 axis. (A)** Scatter plots

109 showed differentially expressed mRNAs in HSCs. **(B)**

110 circRNAs-micorRNAs-mRNAs interaction network showed negative regulatory

111 relationships combine the differentially expressed miRNAs with their differentially
112 expressed circRNAs and mRNAs targets. **(C, D)** GO and KEGG enrichment analysis
113 of differentially expressed genes in HSCs. **(E)** Binding sites of miR-18b-3p and
114 3'UTR of FBXW7. **(F)** Overexpression efficiency of miR-18b-3p in HSCs with
115 miR-18b-3p-Up-agomir treatment. **(G)** Immunohistochemistry staining for FBXW7
116 and Yap1 in liver tissue, scale bar, 50 μ M; Double-immunofluorescence staining
117 showed co-localization of FBXW7 with α -SMA in liver tissue, nuclei were stained
118 with DAPI, scale bar, 200 μ M and 100 μ M (up). **(H, I)** Protein expression and mRNA
119 levels of FBXW7 and Yap1 in HSCs following circFBXW4 overexpression and
120 miR-18b-3p-Up-agomir treatment. Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=6). $^{\$}p<0.05$,
121 $^{\$\$}p<0.01$ versus Control; $^*p<0.05$, $^{**}p<0.01$ versus Oil; $^{\#}p<0.05$, $^{\#\#}p<0.01$ versus
122 CCl_4 ; $^{\&}p<0.05$, $^{\&\&}p<0.01$ versus CCl_4 +pHBAAV-circFBXW4.

123

124 **Supplementary Figure legends**

125

126 **Supplementary Figure. 1. (A)** Test of ALT, AST, ALP and HA in serum from vehicle,
127 HF and HF recovery mice (n=10). **(B)** circFBXW4 was downregulated in the 6-weeks
128 CCl_4 intoxication HF mice compared to vehicle (n=12). **(C)** Pathology observation of
129 H&E and sirius red staining of liver tissues, scale bar, 50 μ M; The positive staining
130 areas were measured by Ipwin32 software. **(D)** circFBXW4 was attenuated in the
131 BDL-operated mice for 15 days compared to sham mice. **(E)** Test of ALT and AST in
132 serum. **(F)** mRNA levels of α -SMA, collagens I, TGF- β 1, PDGF and TIMP-1 in

133 HSCs detected by qRT-PCR. **(G)** Protein expression of FBXW7 in HSCs detected by
134 western blot (n=12). Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m. * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 versus Oil;
135 # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄; \$ p <0.05, \$\$ p <0.01 versus sham mice.

136

137 **Supplementary Figure. 2. Effects of circFBXW4 knockdown on the activation**
138 **and proliferation of LX-2 cells. (A)** Head-to-tail splicing of circFBXW4 in RT-PCR
139 products of LX-2 cells detected by sanger sequencing, the arrow showed the junction
140 site of circFBXW4. **(B, D)** circFBXW4 was resisted to Rnase R digestion and showed
141 stability feature in response to ActD+ treatment in LX-2 cells. **(C)** FISH assay showed
142 the localization of circFBXW4 in cytoplasmic, U6 and β -actin were used as positive
143 control for nuclear and cytoplasmic fractions, respectively, scale bar, 20 μ M. **(E)**
144 Schematic illustration of 2 siRNAs of circFBXW4 was designed specially targets the
145 back-splicing site of circFBXW4. **(F)** Knockdown efficiency of siRNAs on
146 circFBXW4, and mRNA levels of FBXW4, α -SMA and TGF- β 1 in si-circFBXW4
147 treated LX-2 cells. **(G)** Protein expression of α -SMA and collagens I in LX-2 cells
148 with circFBXW4 knockdown. **(H)** Effect of circFBXW4 knockdown on the
149 proliferation of LX-2 cells detected by CCK8 assay at the indicated time points. **(I)**
150 Flow cytometry showed the cell cycle distribution in G₀/G₁ phase decreased following
151 circFBXW4 knockdown (n=3). Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m. & p <0.05, && p <0.01
152 versus Rnase R- group; γ p <0.05, $\gamma\gamma$ p <0.01 versus time 0; * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 si#1
153 versus Control; # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 si#2 versus Control; @ p <0.05, @@ p <0.01 si#1
154 versus si-NC; \$ p <0.05, \$\$ p <0.01 si#2 versus si-NC.

155

156 **Supplementary Figure. 3. (A-D)** Overexpression efficiency of circFBXW4 in liver
157 tissues, hepatocytes (HEP), hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) and macrophages (M ϕ)
158 isolated from livers. **(E)** Protein expression of Bax, Bcl-2, c-Myc and CyclinD1 in
159 HSCs detected by western blot. Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=8). * p <0.05,
160 ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄.

161

162 **Supplementary Figure. 4. circFBXW4 induces M2 macrophage phenotype in HF.**

163 **(A)** Double-immunofluorescence staining of M2 macrophages (F4/80⁺/CD206⁺),
164 nuclei were stained with DAPI, scale bar, 100 μ M. **(B)** mRNA level of IL-10 in liver
165 macrophages and **(C)** circulating level of IL-10 in serum. **(D)** Level of IL-10R in
166 HSCs. **(E)** mRNA levels of TGF- β 1, α -SMA and TIMP-1 in HSCs with IL-10
167 stimulation detected by qRT-PCR. Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=6). * p <0.05,
168 ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄.

169

170 **Supplementary Figure. 5. (A)** Level of circFBXW4 was detected in different organs
171 (heart, spleen, lung and kidney). **(B)** Quantification of positive staining areas in
172 immunohistochemistry staining of α -SMA for Figure 5C, measured by ipwin32
173 software. **(C)** Quantification of positive staining areas in immunohistochemistry
174 staining of F4/80 for Figure 6F, measured by ipwin32 software. **(D)** Effects of
175 liver-specific circFBXW4 overexpression on pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-8 level
176 and anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 level in heart tissue. **(E)** Effects of

177 liver-specific circFBXW4 overexpression on pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 β level
178 and IL-6 level in spleen tissue. **(F)** Effects of liver-specific circFBXW4
179 overexpression on pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF- α , IL-1 β level and
180 anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 level in lung tissue. **(G)** Effects of liver-specific
181 circFBXW4 overexpression on pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-6 level in kidney tissue.
182 Data represent the mean \pm s.e.m (n=6). * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05,
183 ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄.

184

185 **Supplementary Figure. 6. (A, B)** Protein expression and mRNA level of FBXW7 in
186 LX-2 cells treated with FBXW7 siRNA transfection. **(C)** mRNA levels of PDGF and
187 Fibronectin detected by qRT-PCR. **(D, E)** Protein expression and mRNA level of
188 FBXW7 in LX-2 cells with FBXW7 plasmid transfection. **(F)** mRNA levels of PDGF
189 and Fibronectin detected by qRT-PCR (n=4). **(G)** Levels of α -SMA, PDGF and
190 TIMP-1 in HSCs following miR-18b-3p upregulation (n=6). **(H)** Protein expression of
191 cyclinE1, c-Myc, TIMP1, MMP2 and p21 in HSCs with circFBXW4 overexpression
192 and exposed to miR-18b-3p upregulation (n=6). **(I)** mRNA level of p21 in HSCs
193 detected by qRT-PCR. @ p <0.05, @@ p <0.01 versus siRNA-NC; % p <0.05, %% p <0.01
194 versus plasmid-NC; \$ p <0.05, \$\$ p <0.01 versus Ago-control; Data represent the mean \pm
195 s.e.m. * p <0.05, ** p <0.01 versus Oil; # p <0.05, ## p <0.01 versus CCl₄; & p <0.05,
196 && p <0.01 versus CCl₄+pHBAAV-circFBXW4.

197

198 **Supplementary Figure. 7.** Quantification of bands in western blot analysis, measured

199 by Image J software.

200

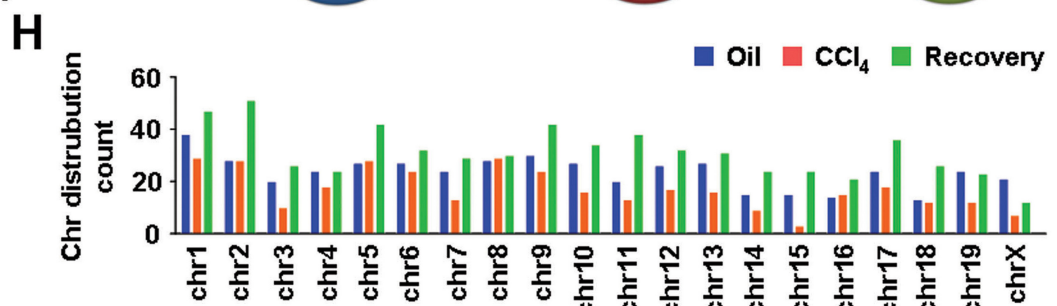
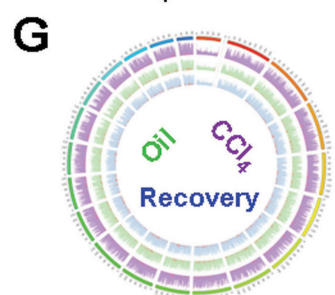
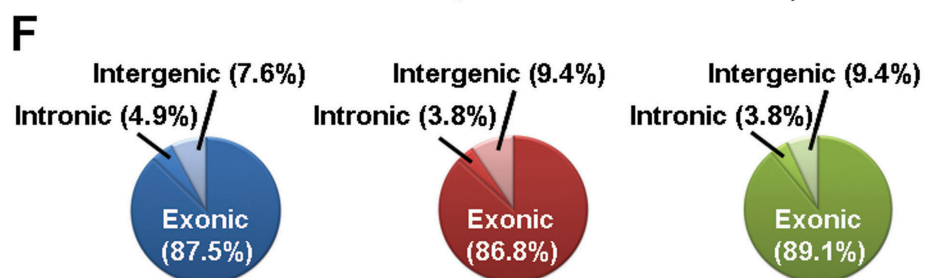
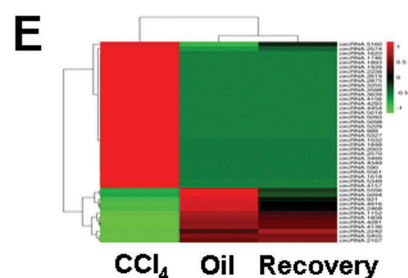
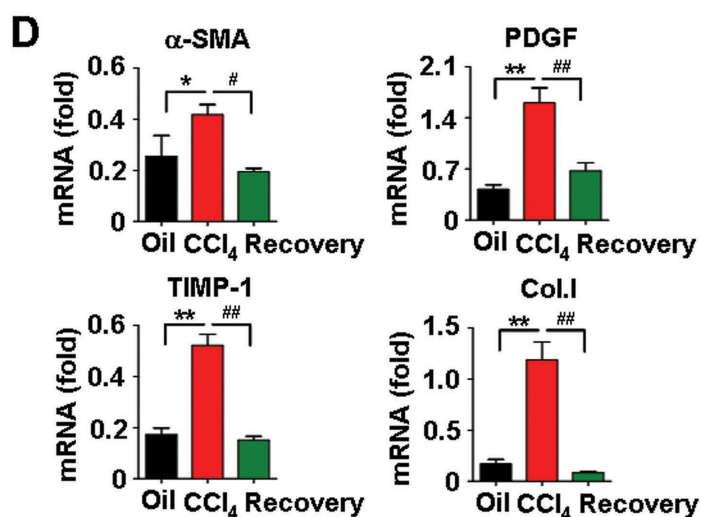
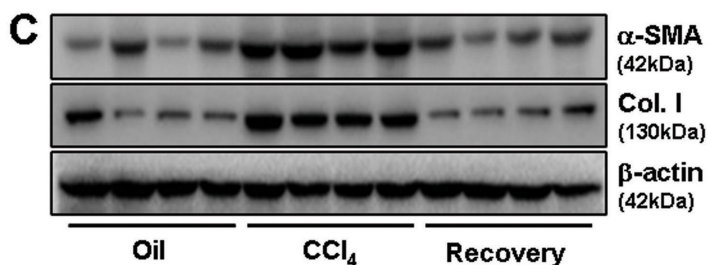
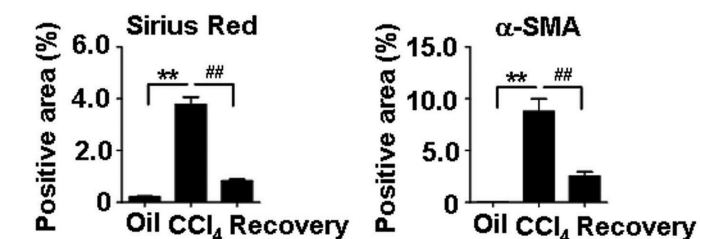
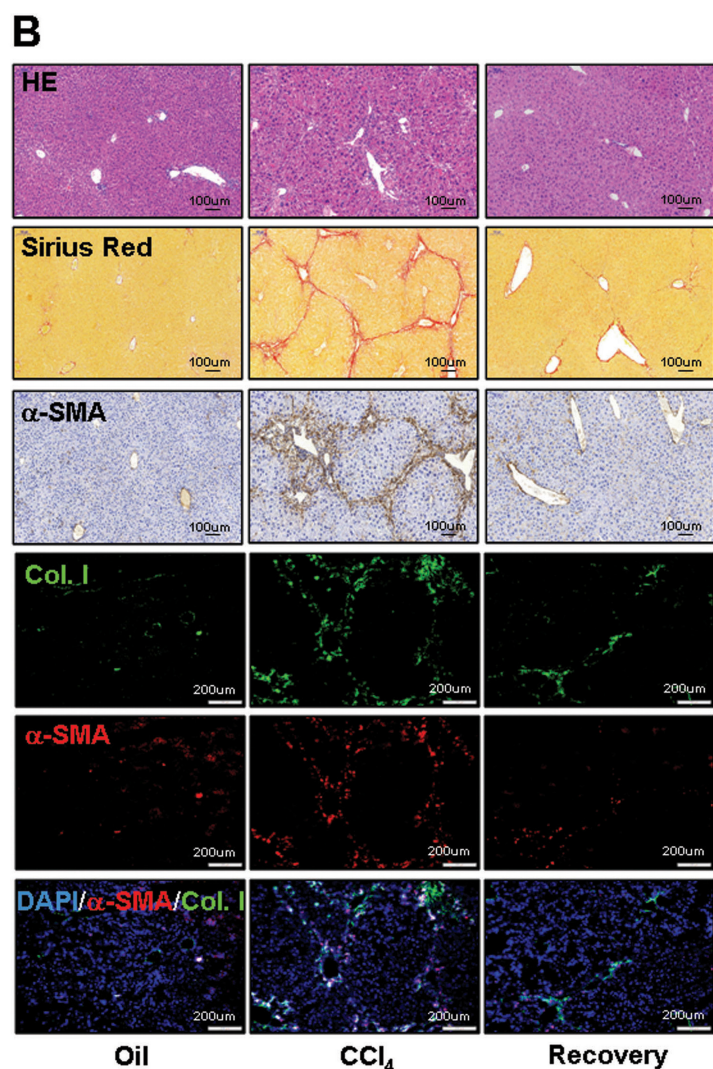
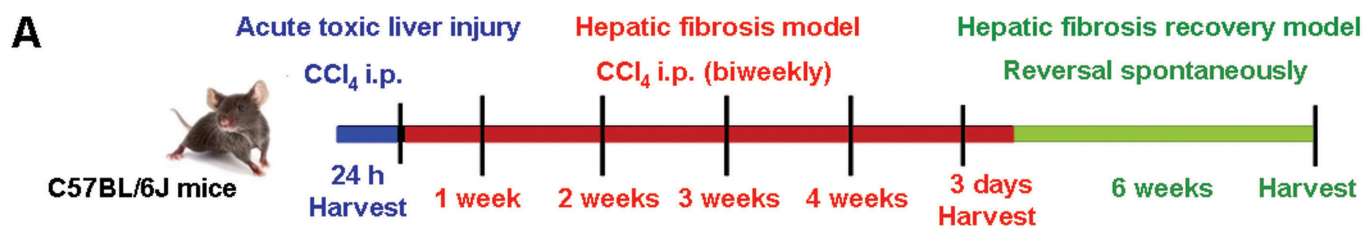
201 **Supplementary Figure. 8.** Construction of a circRNA-miRNA-mRNA network in

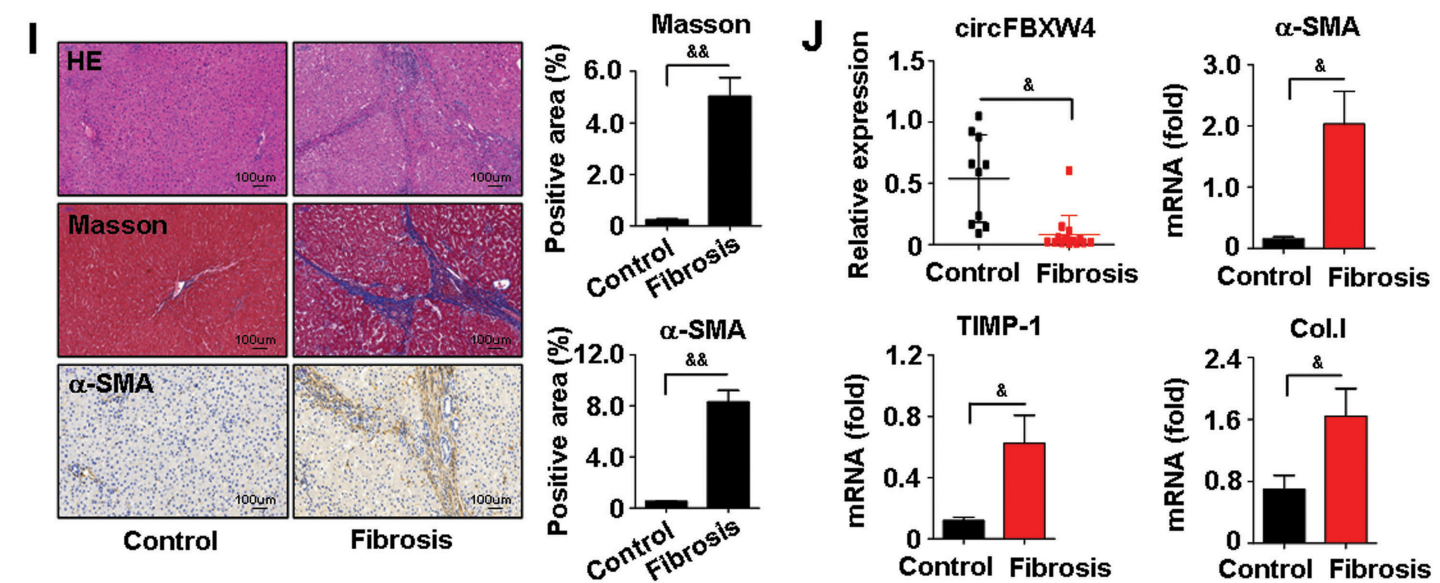
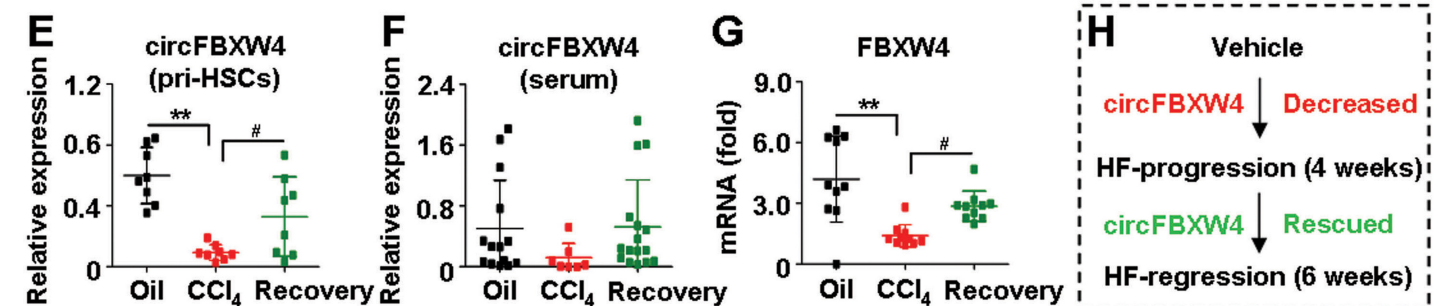
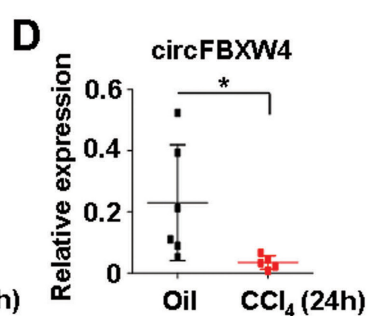
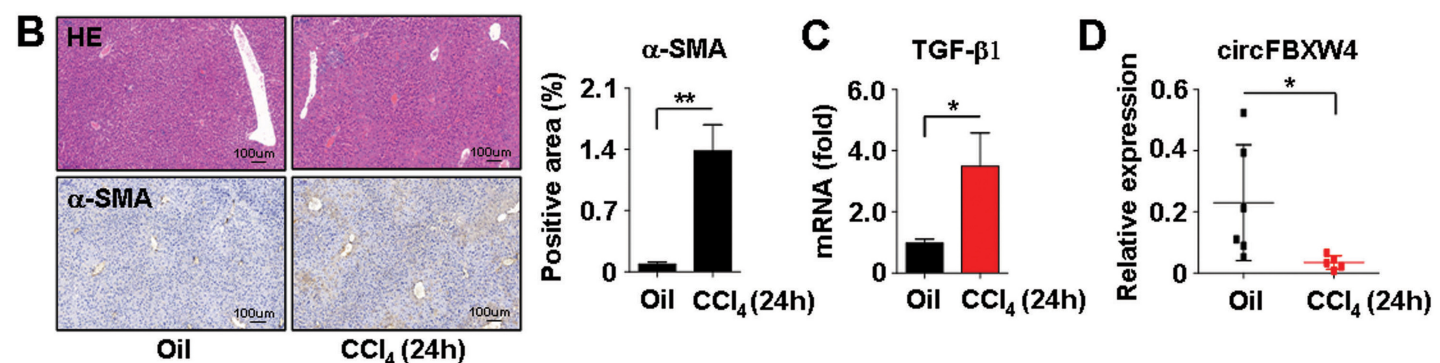
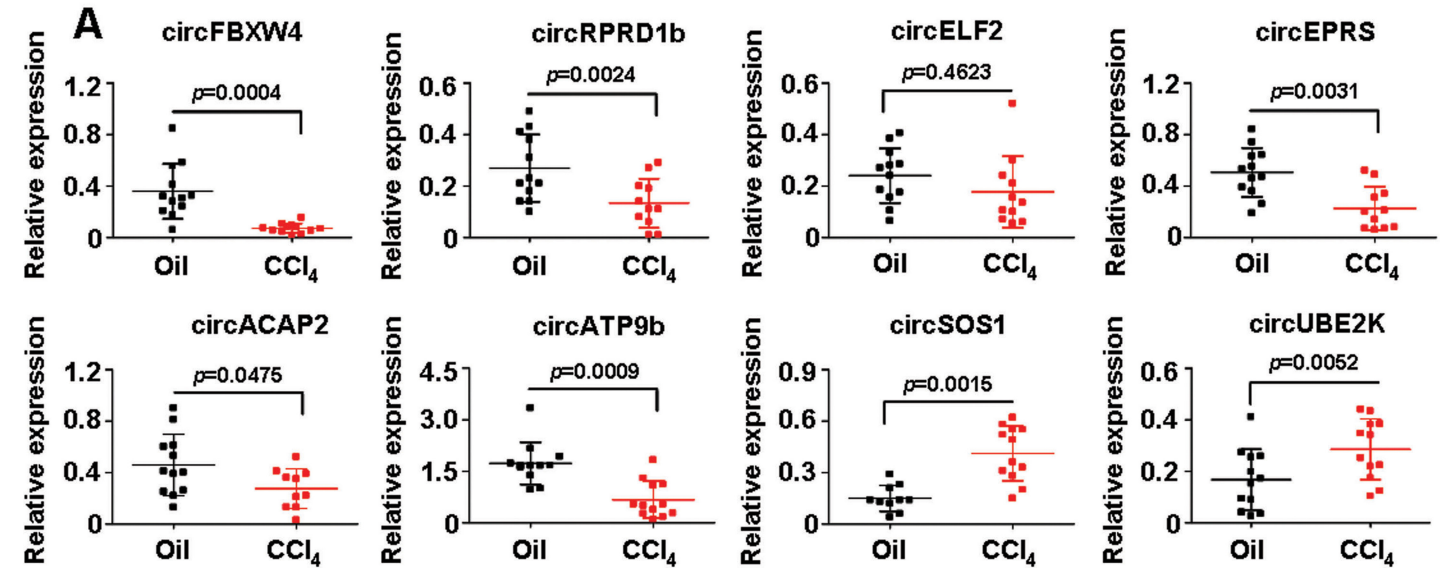
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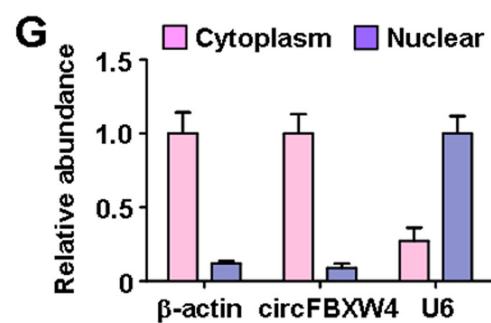
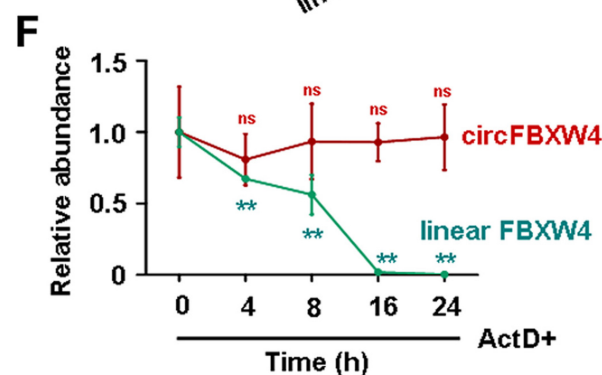
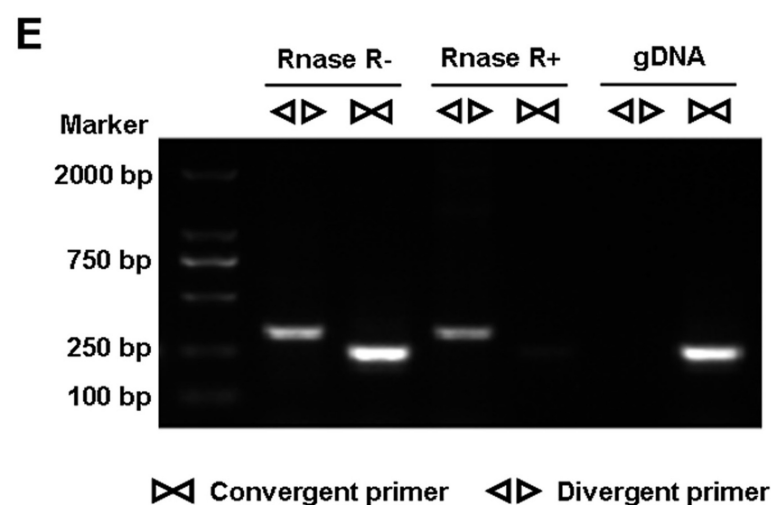
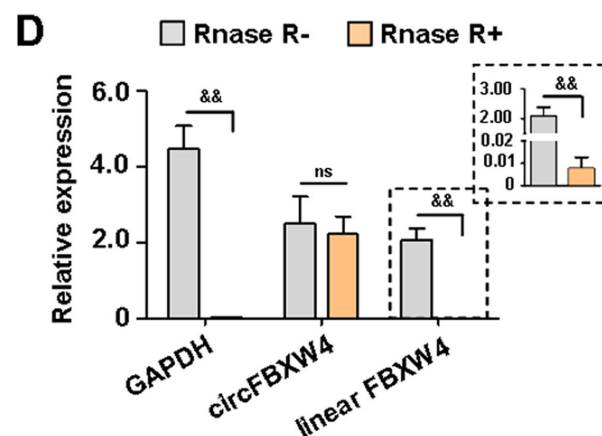
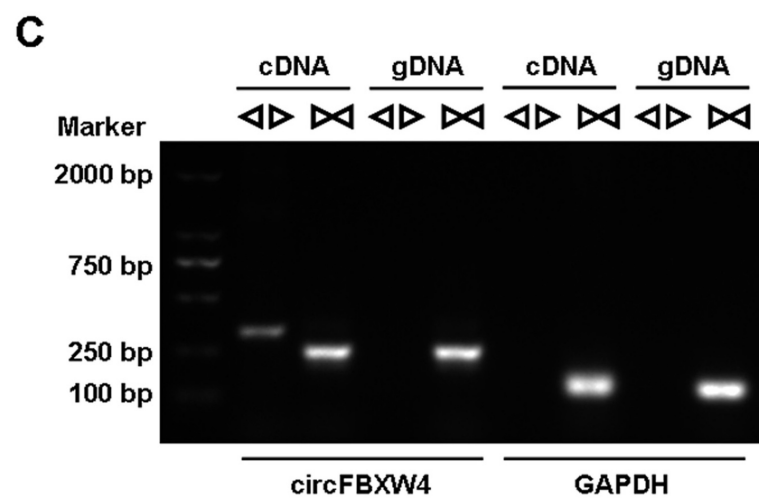
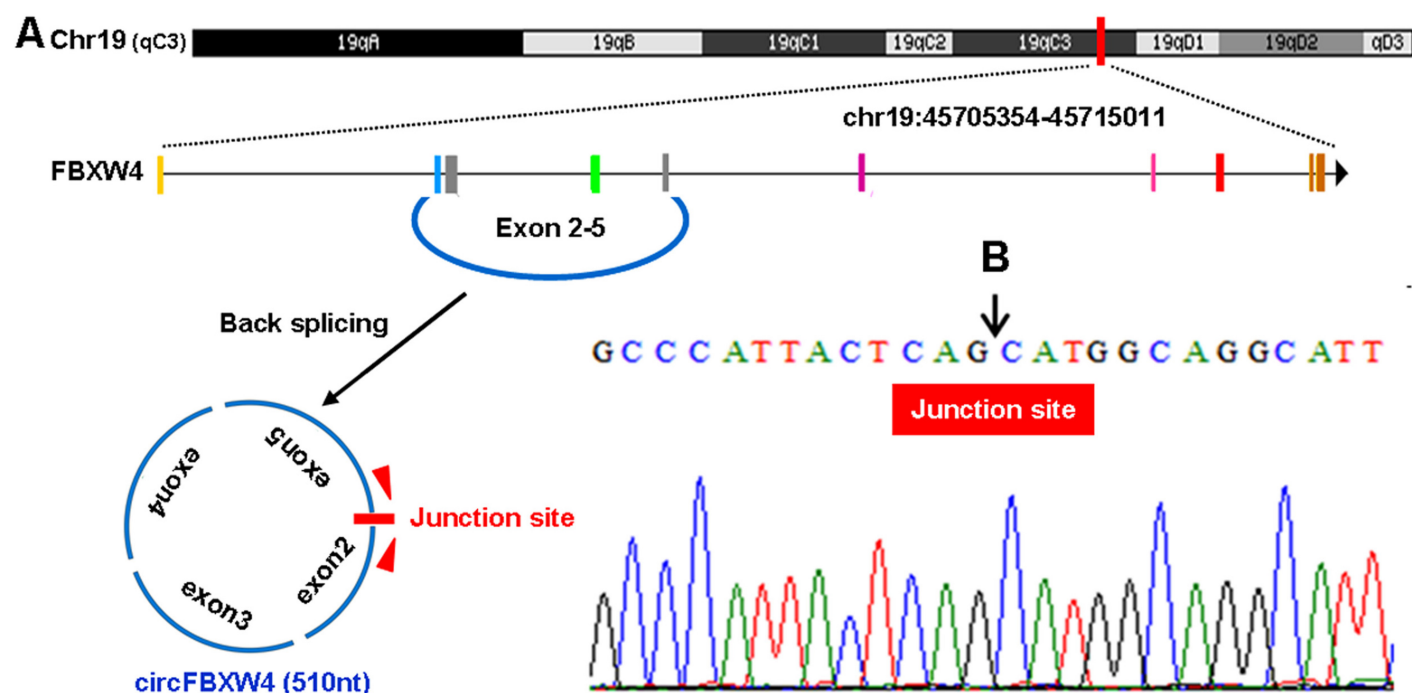
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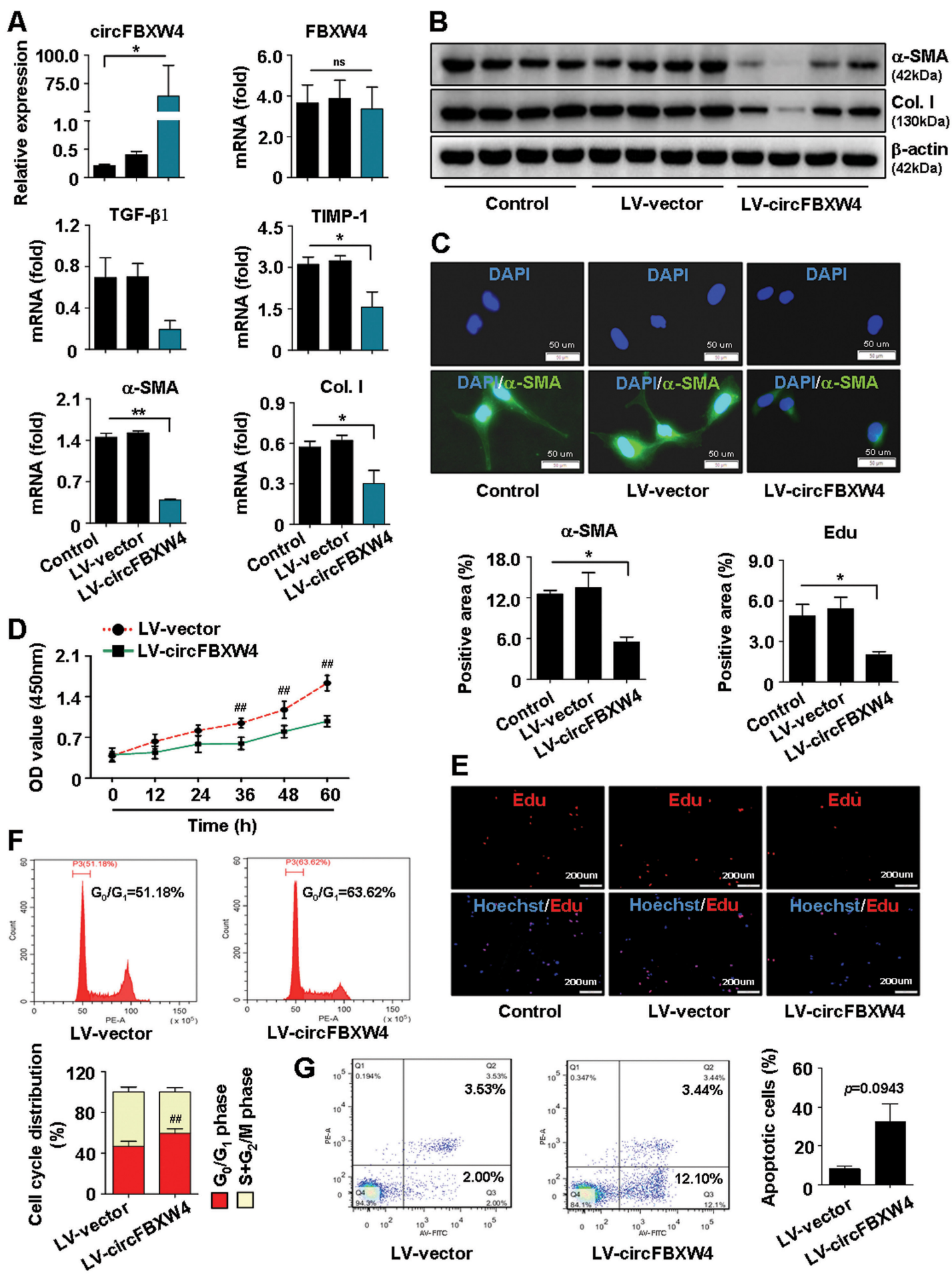
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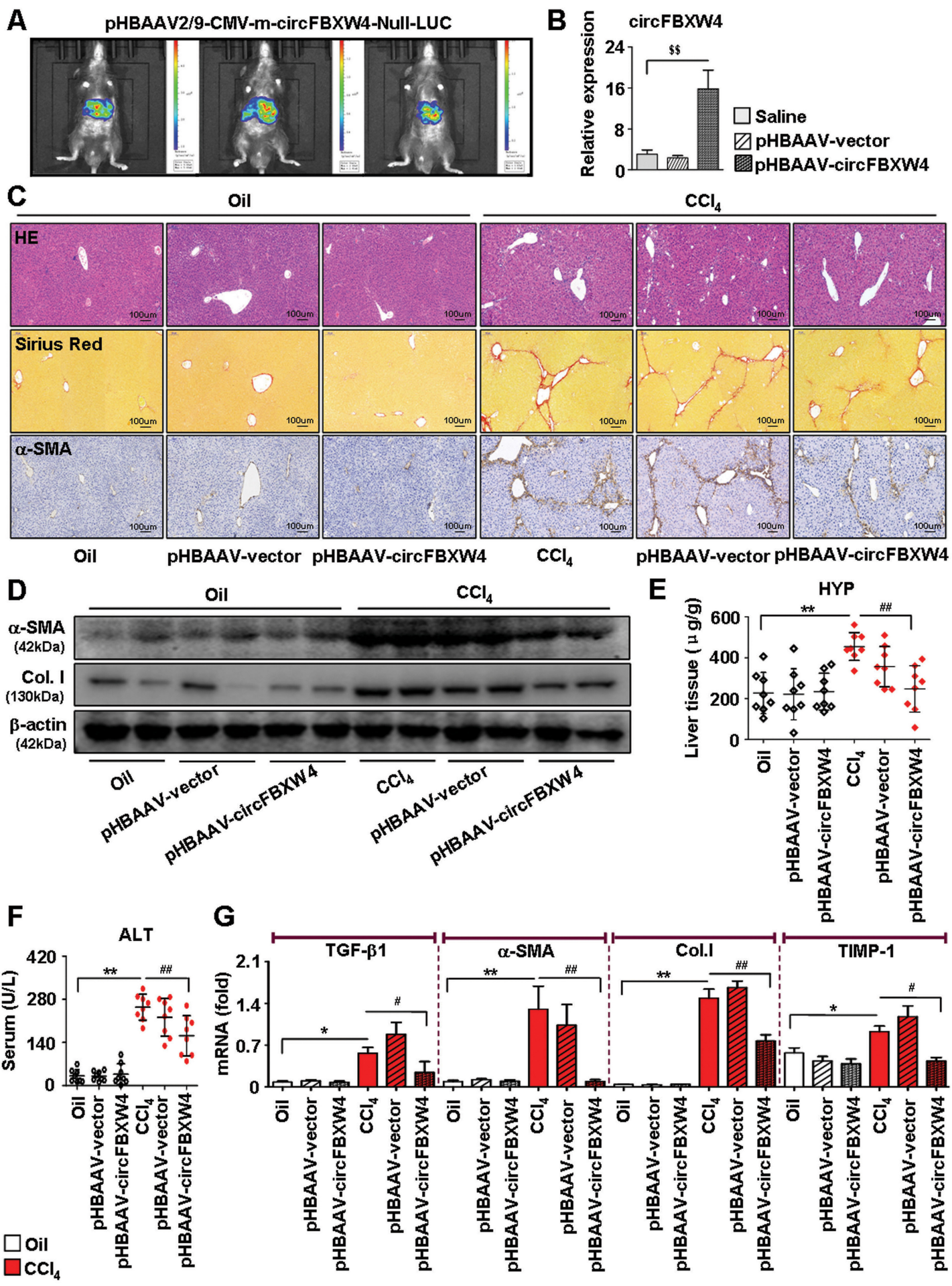
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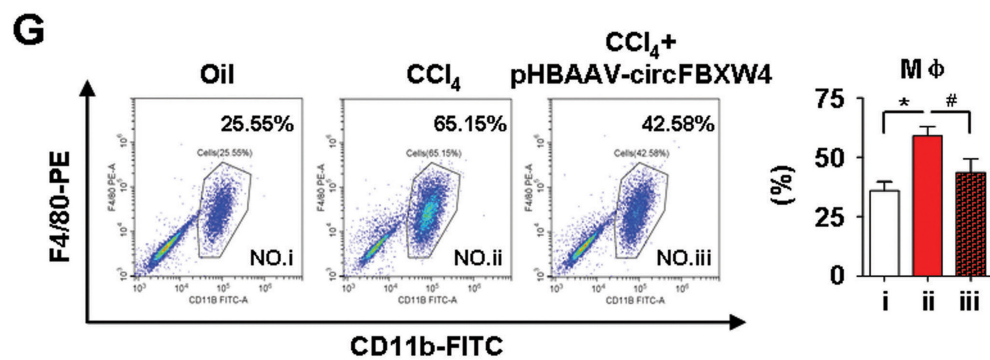
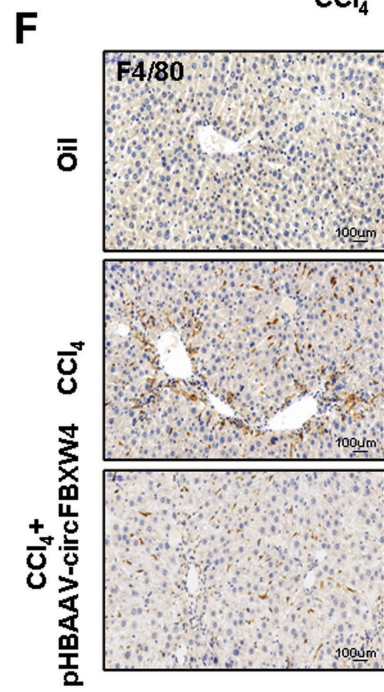
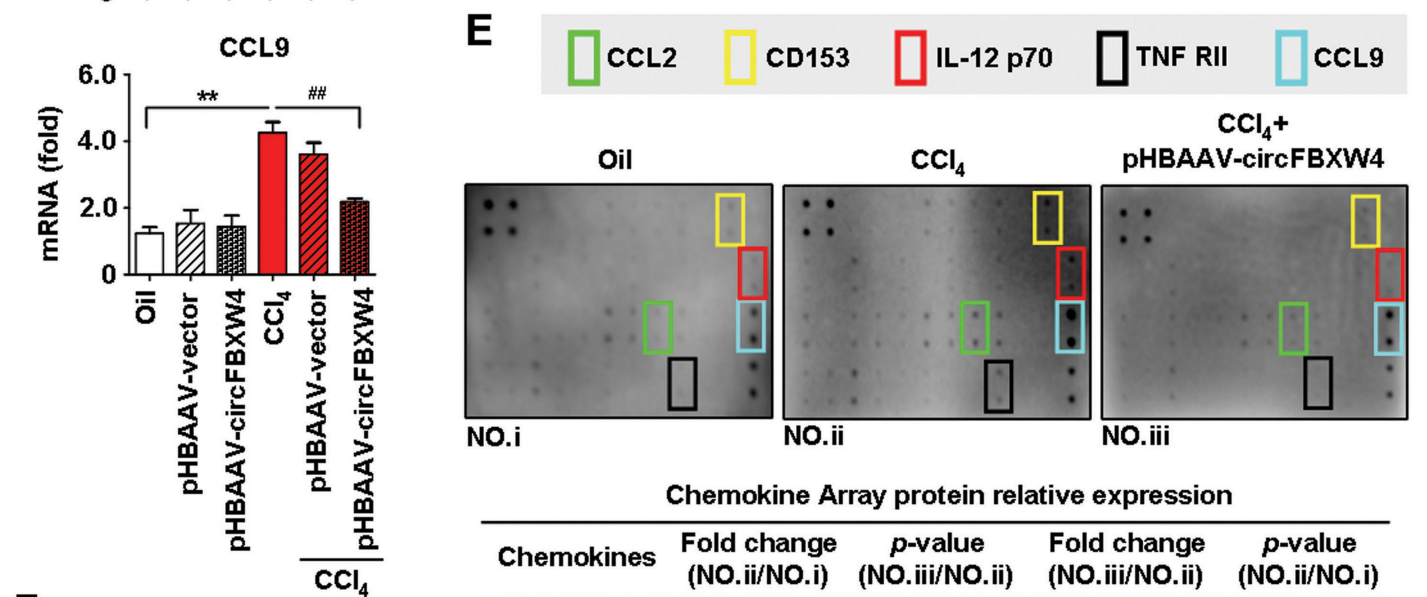
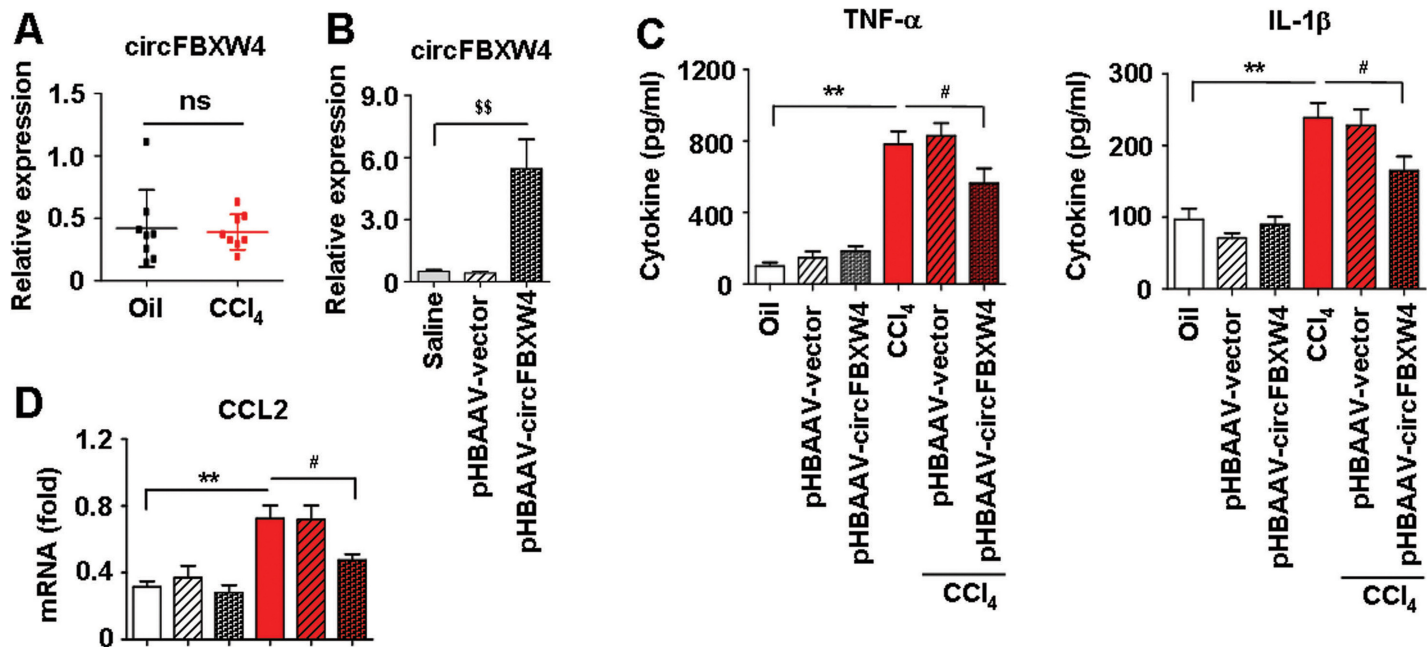


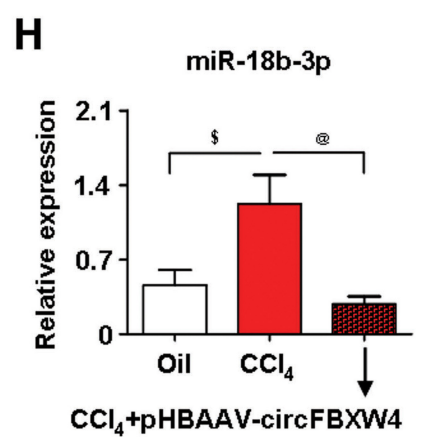
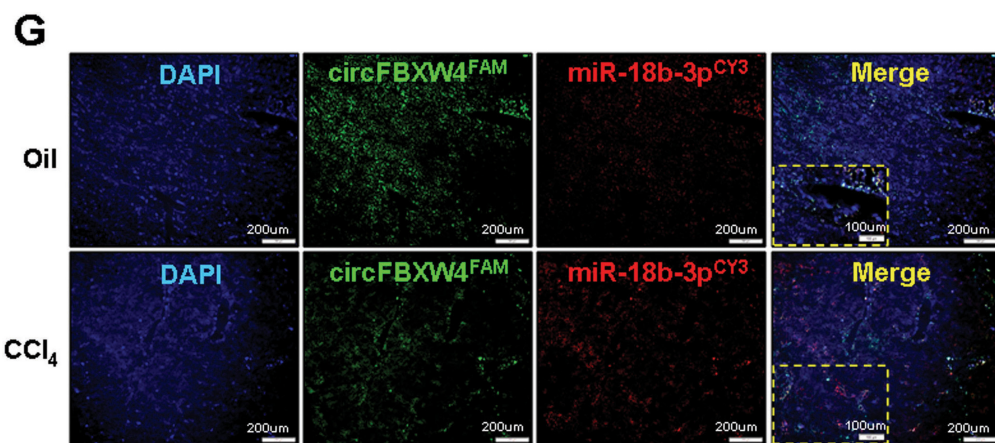
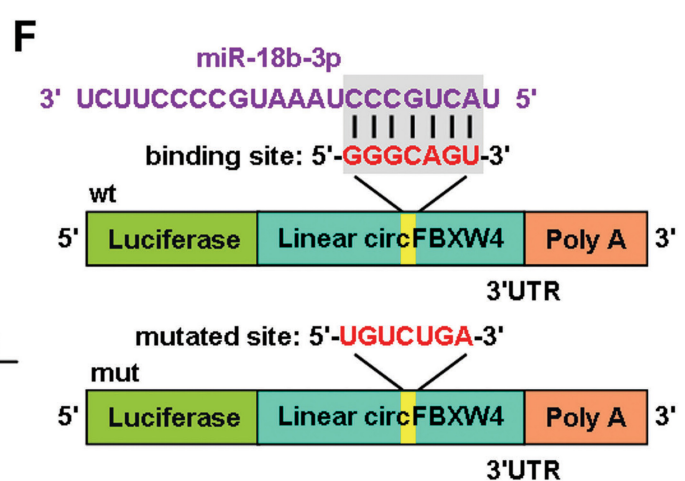
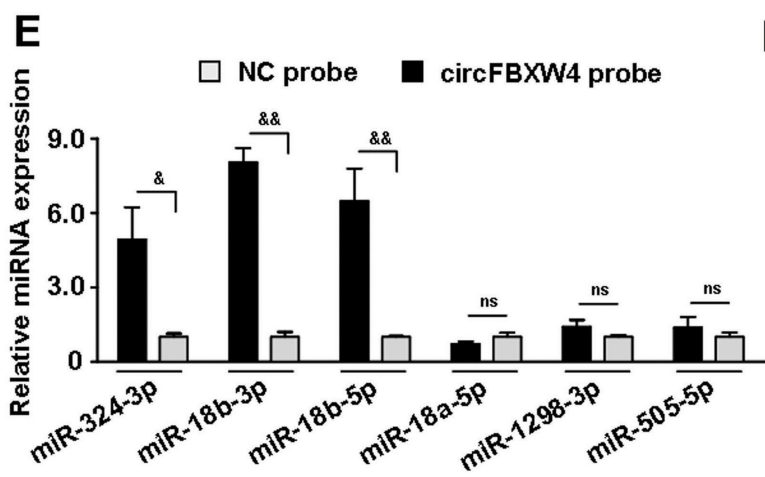
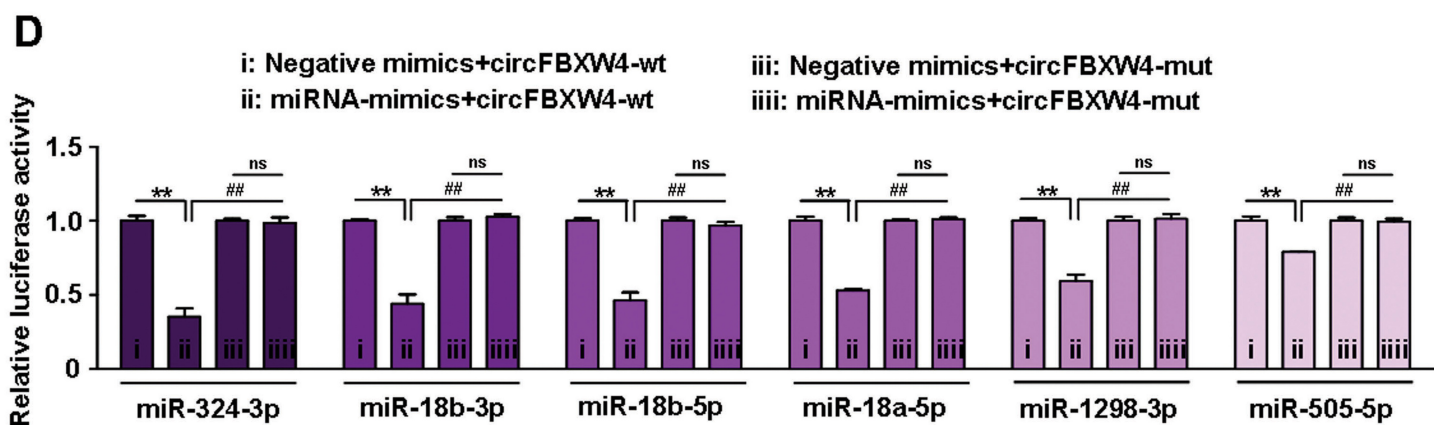
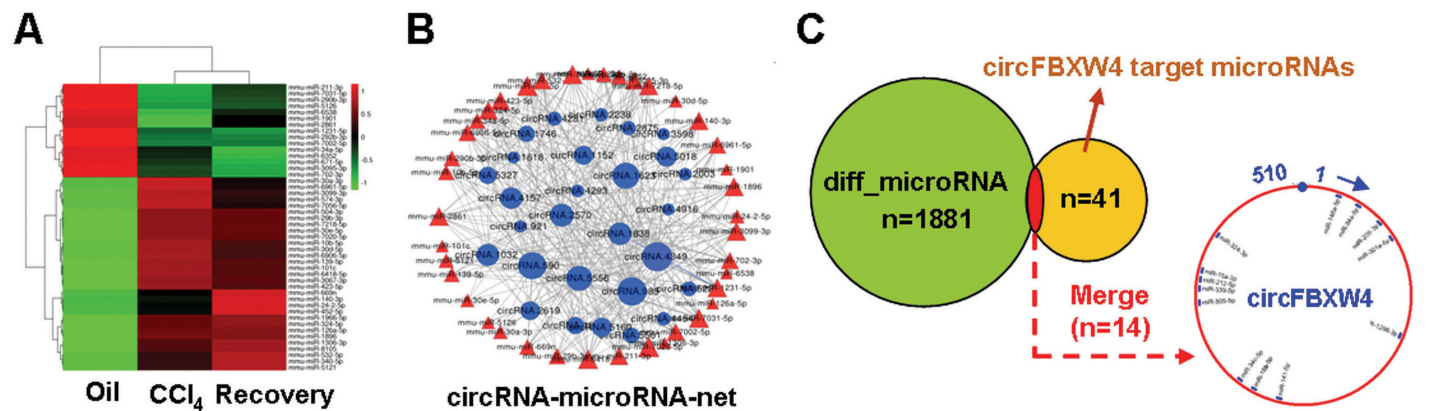


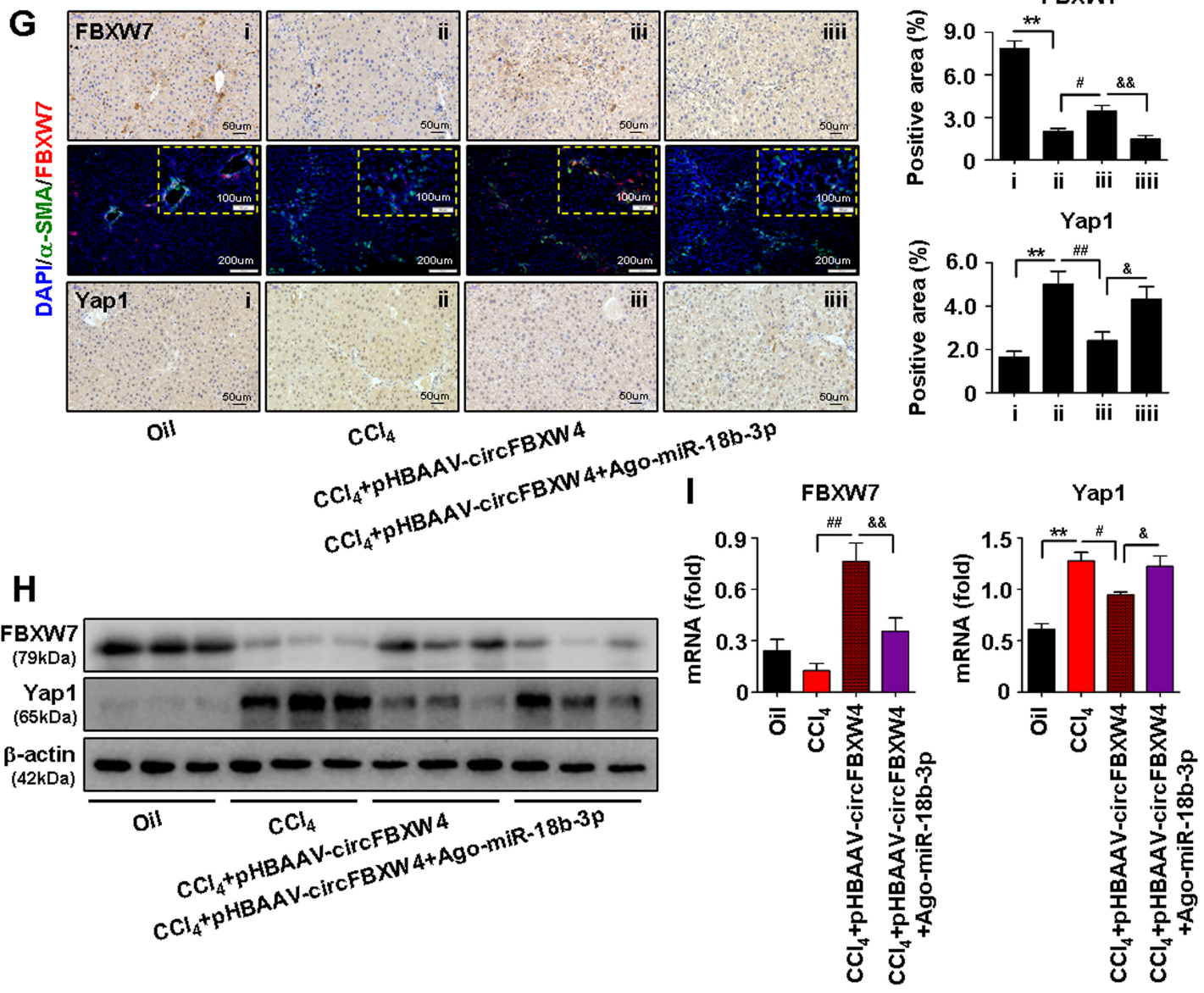
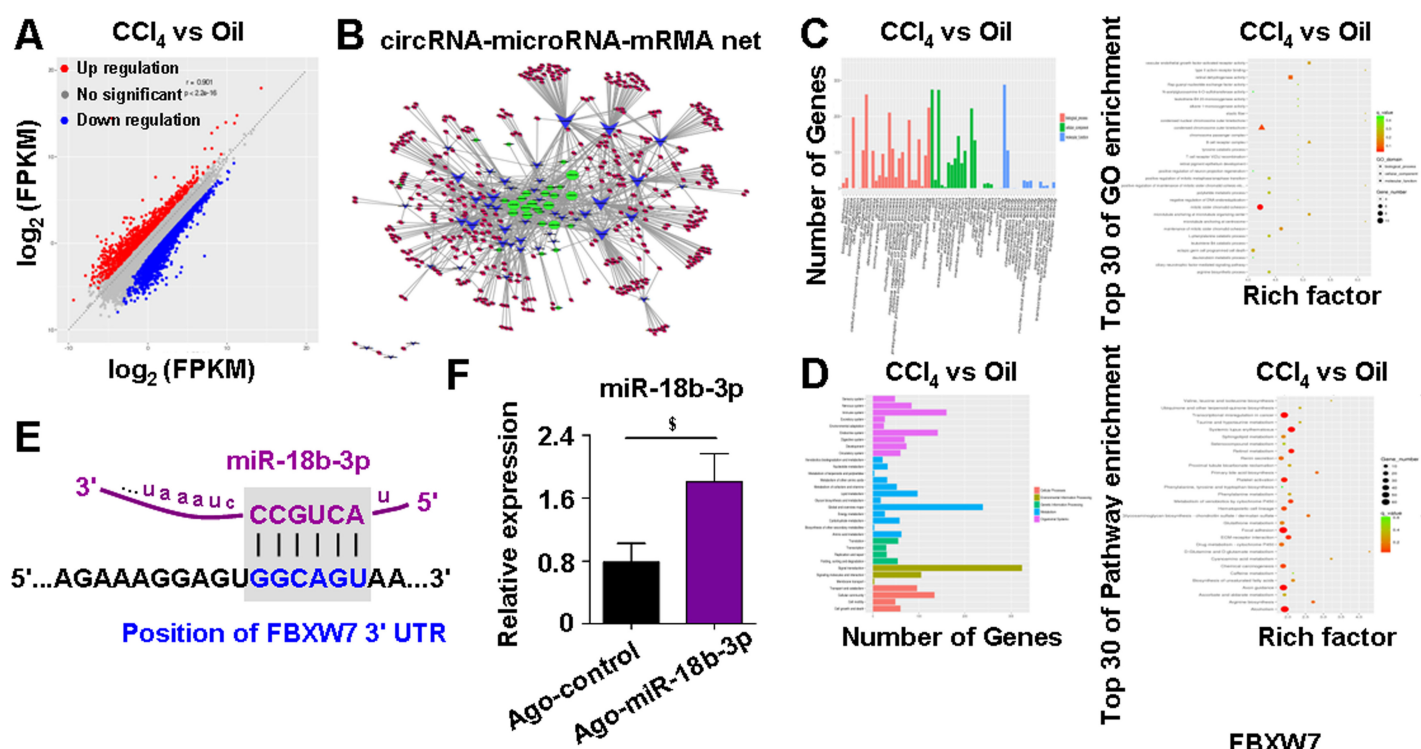


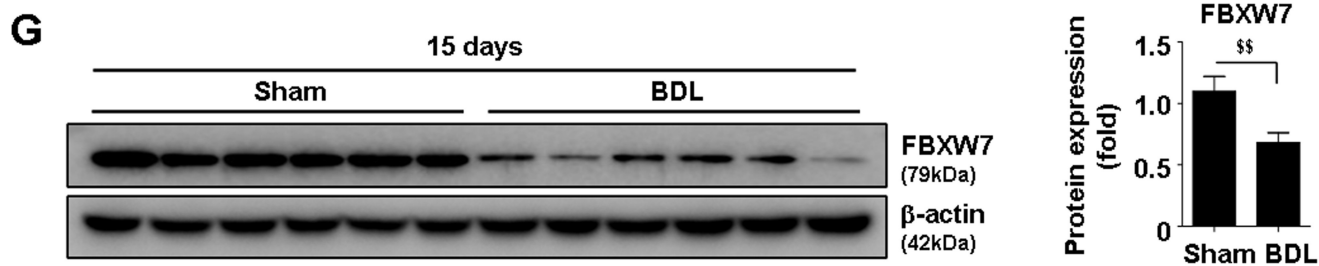
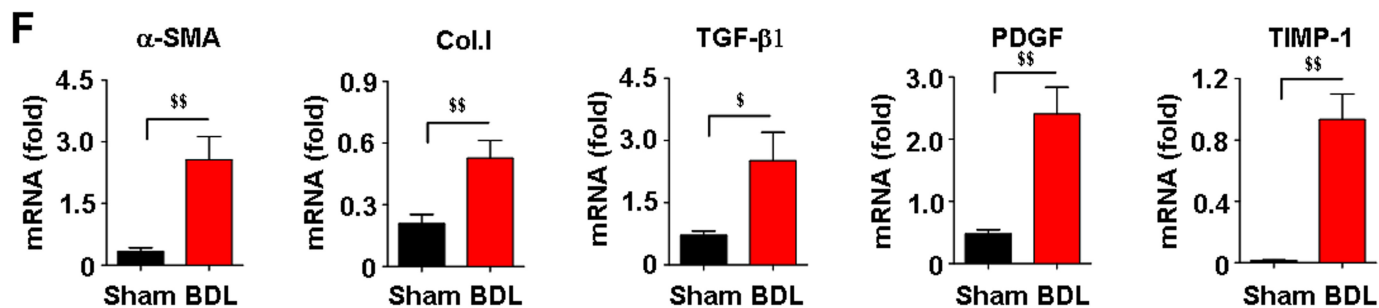
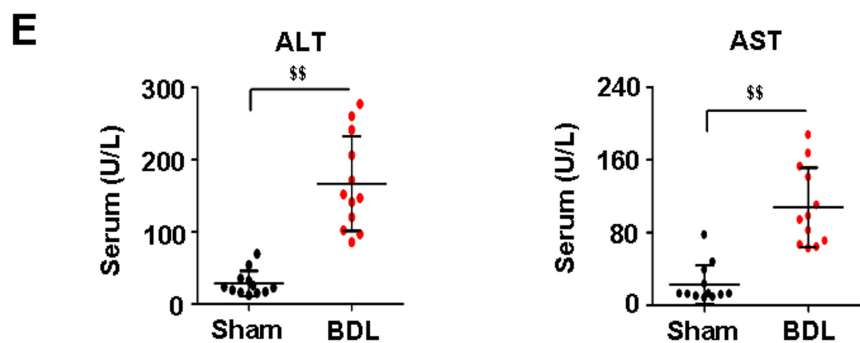
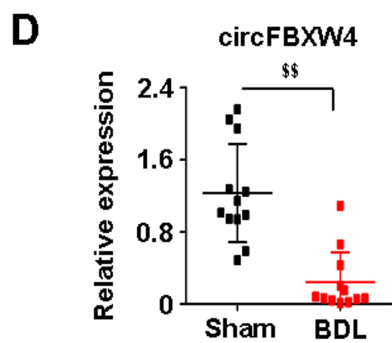
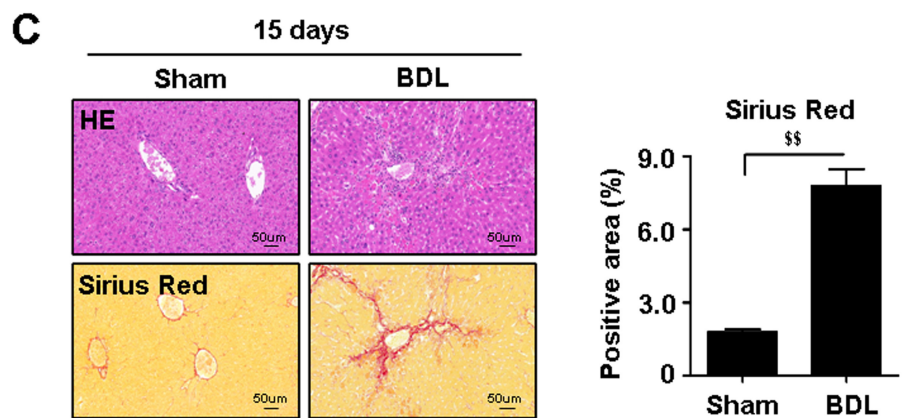
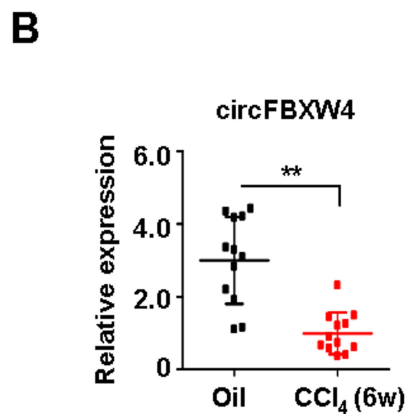
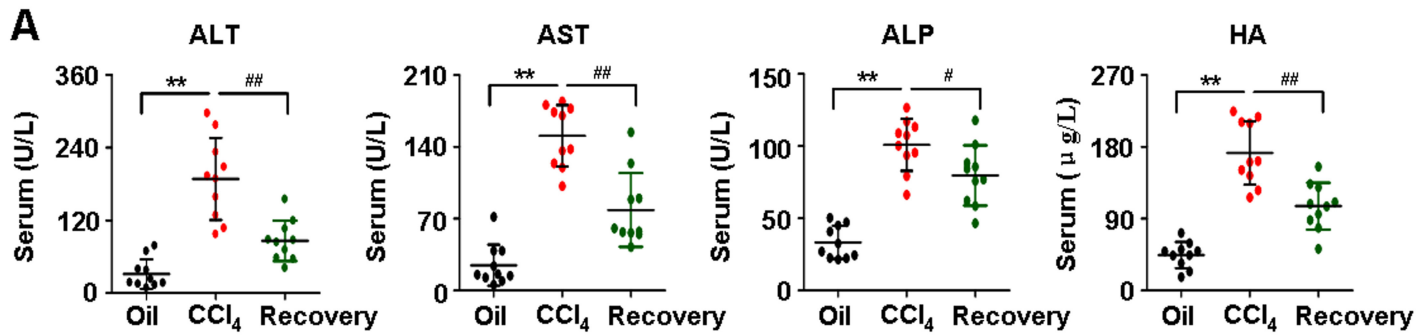


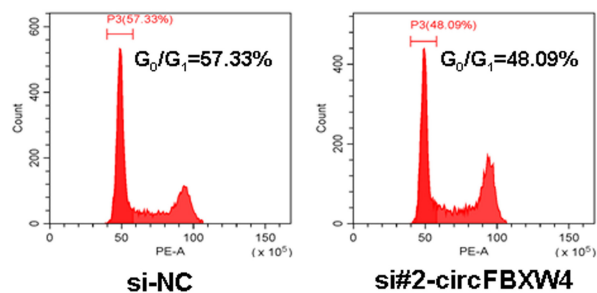
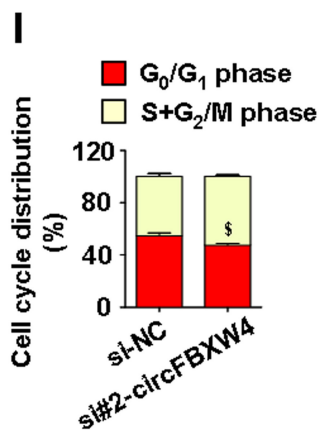
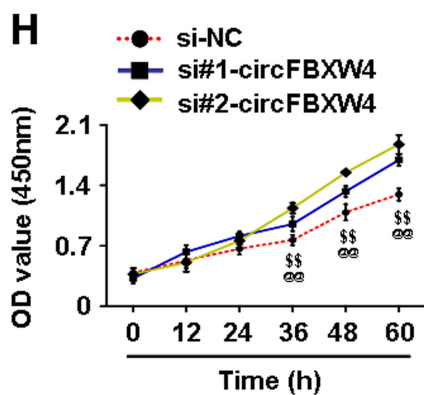
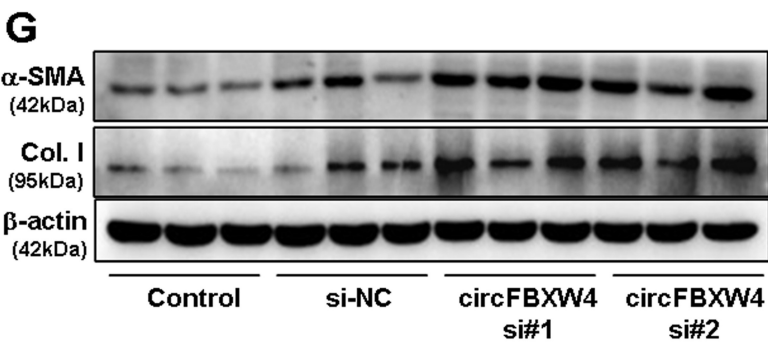
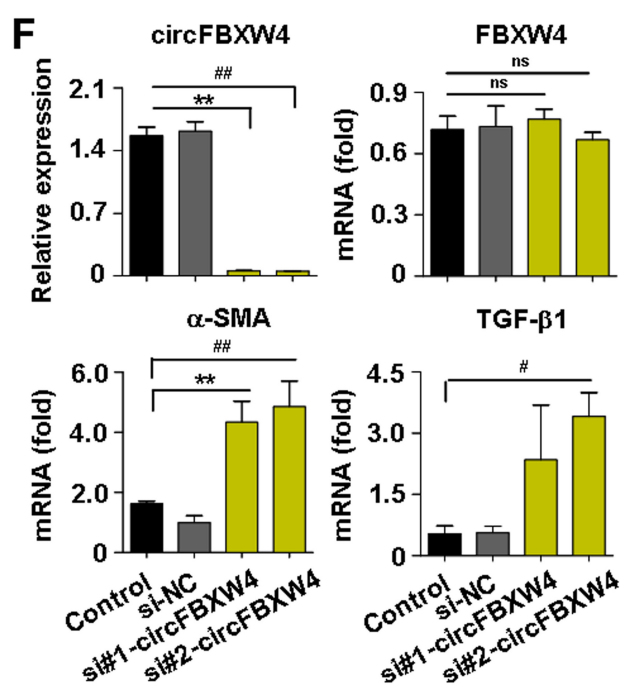
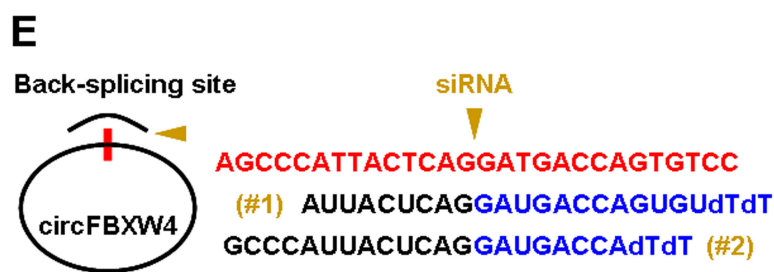
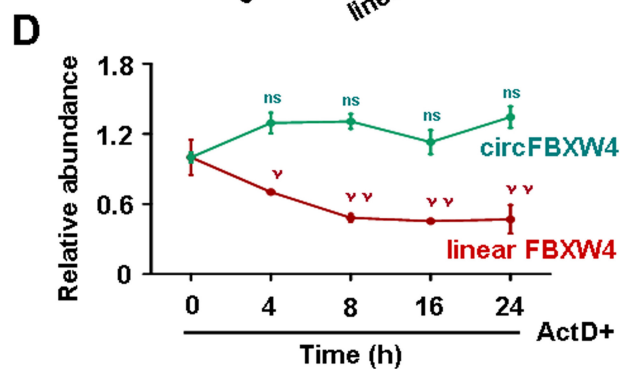
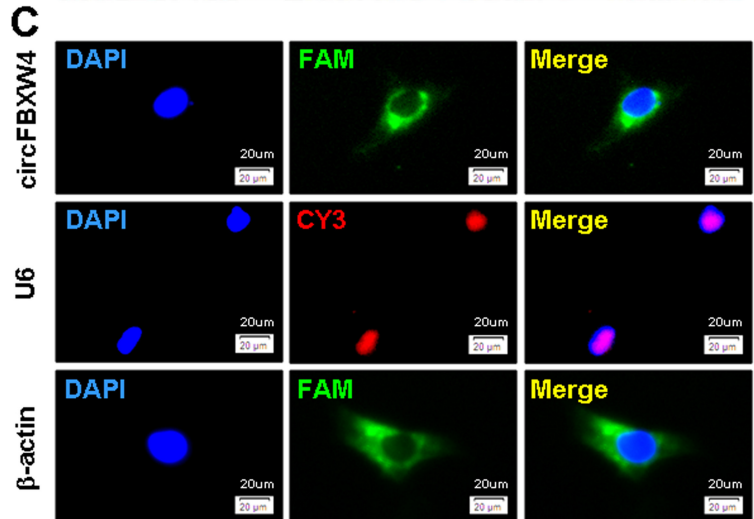
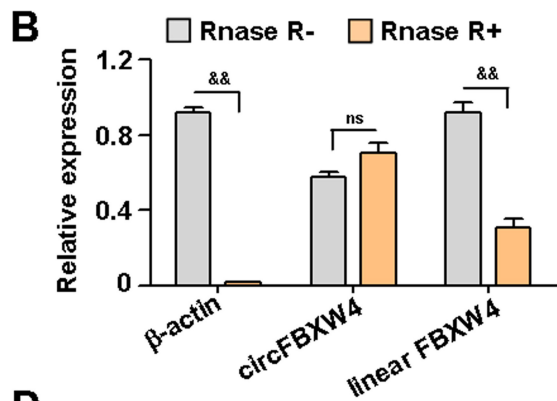
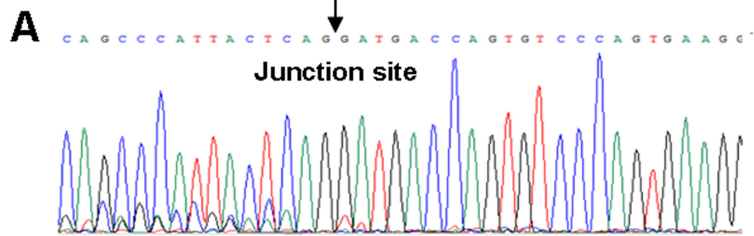


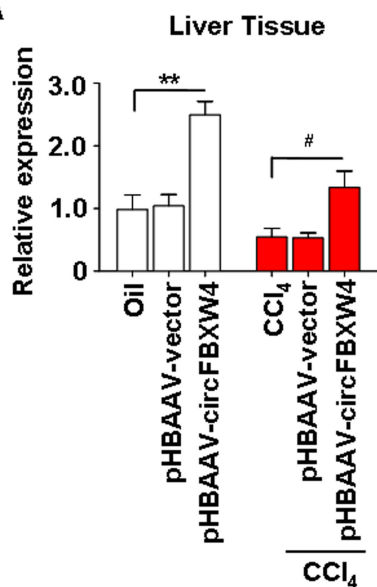
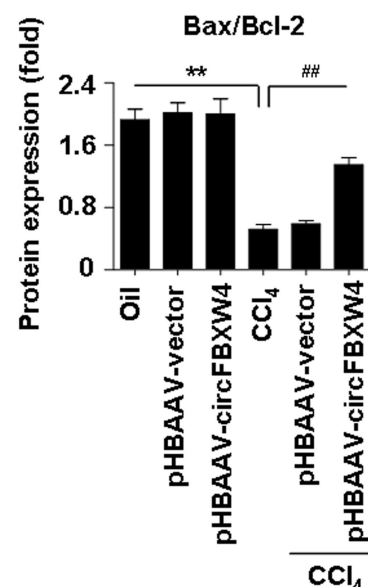
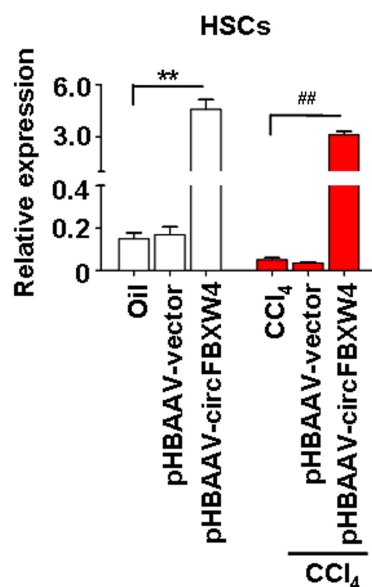
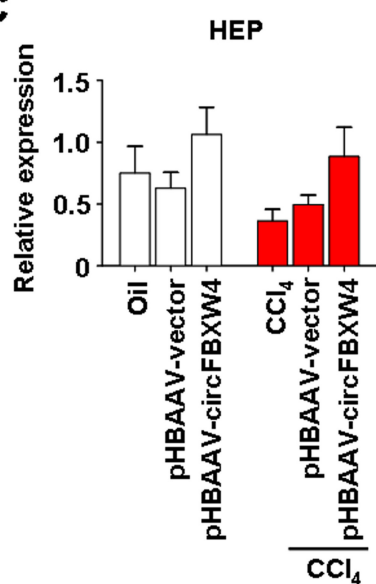
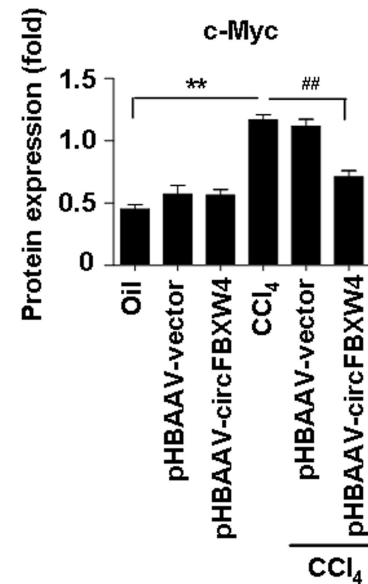
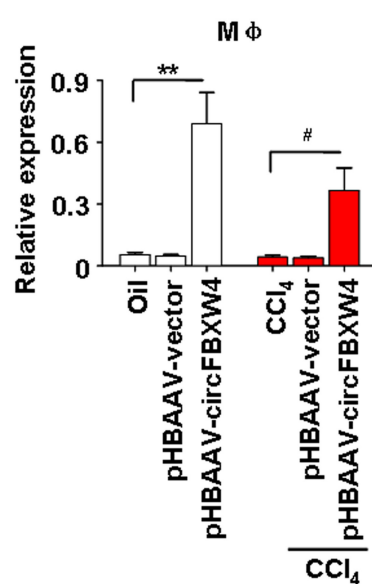
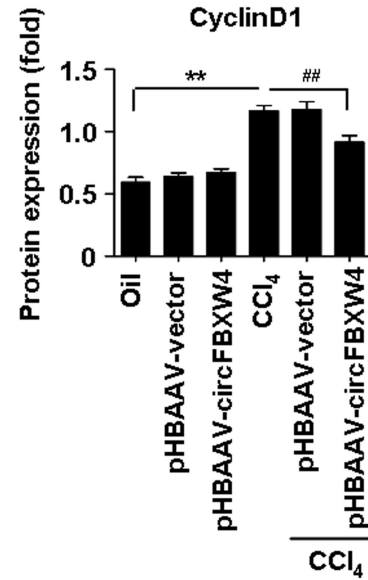
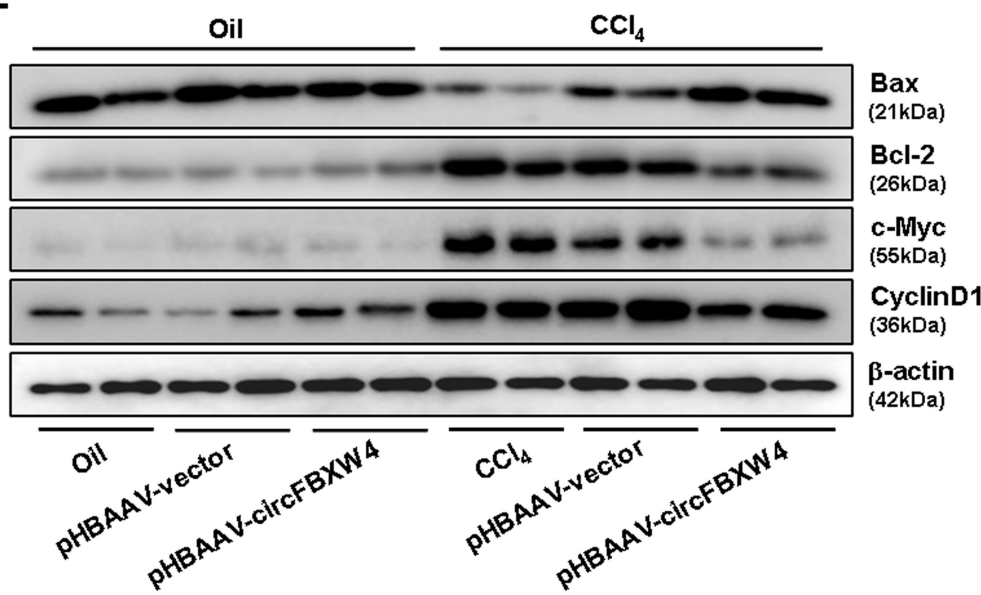


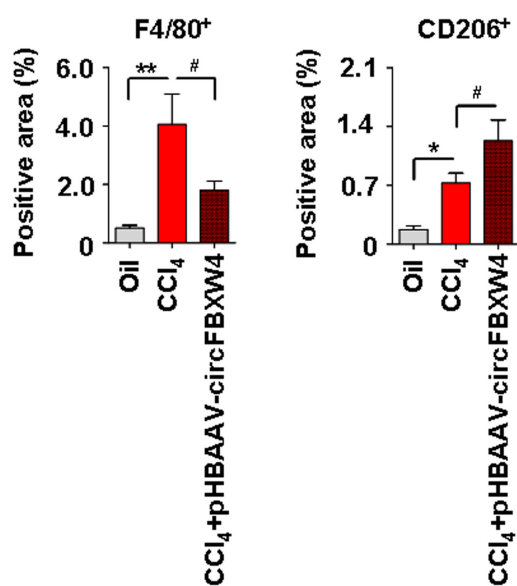
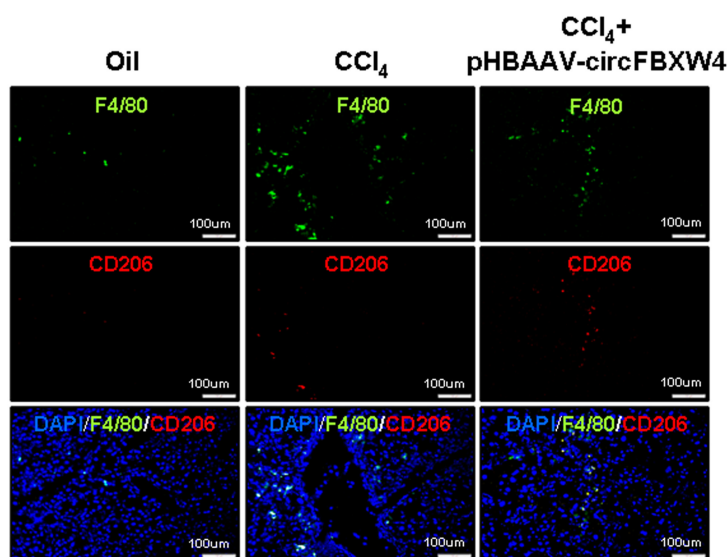
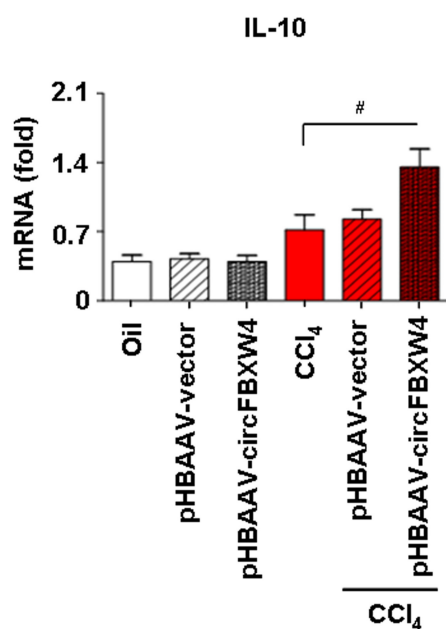
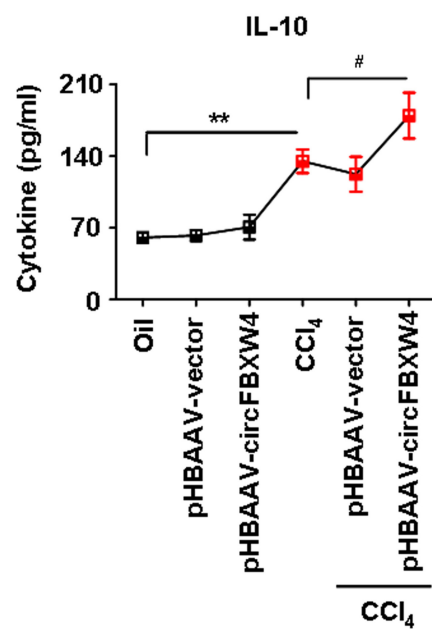
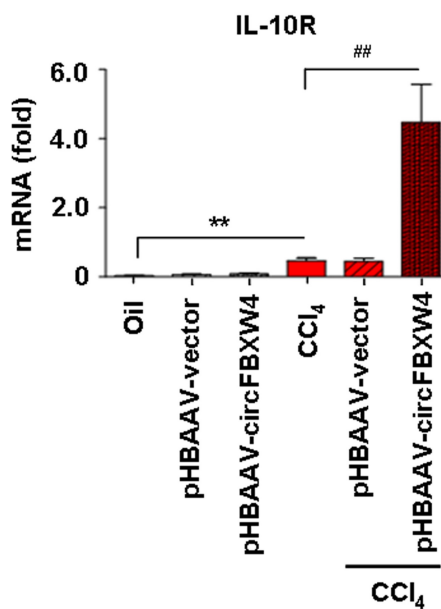
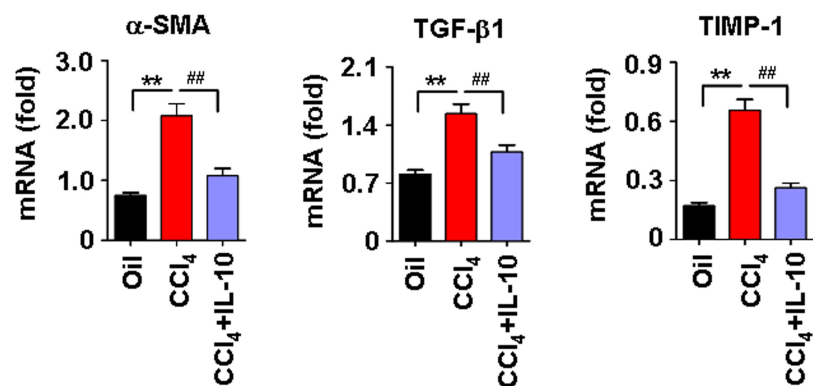


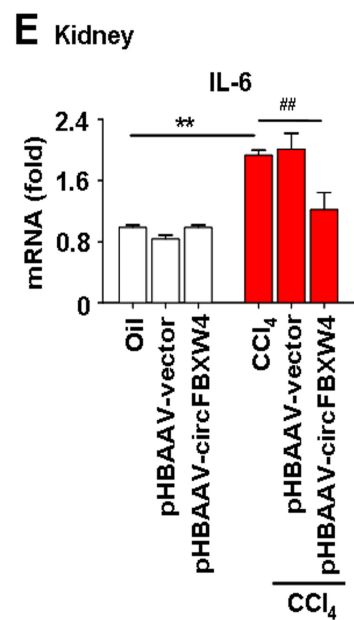
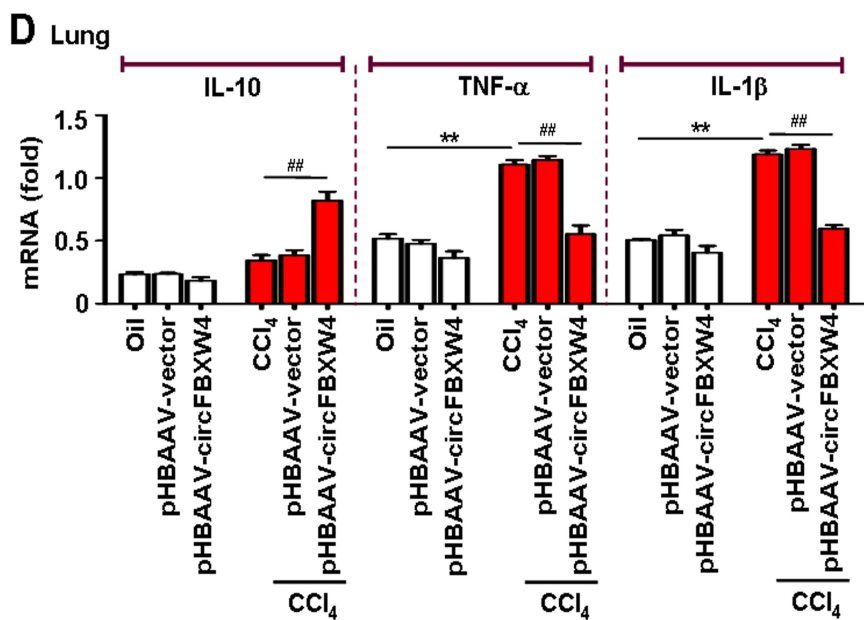
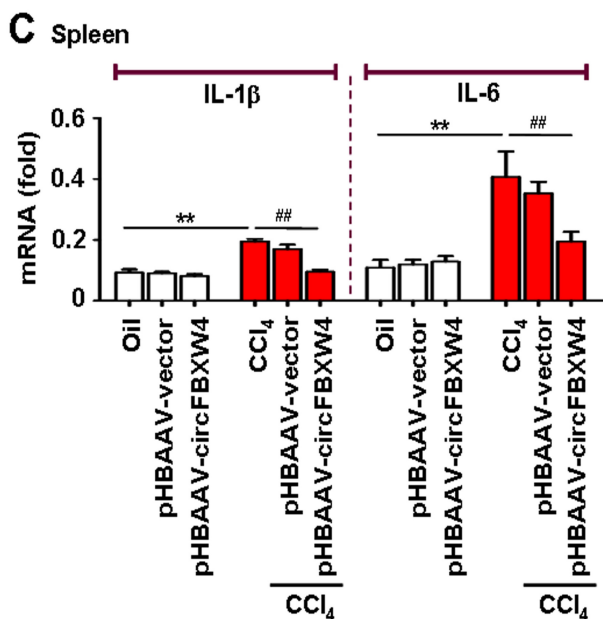
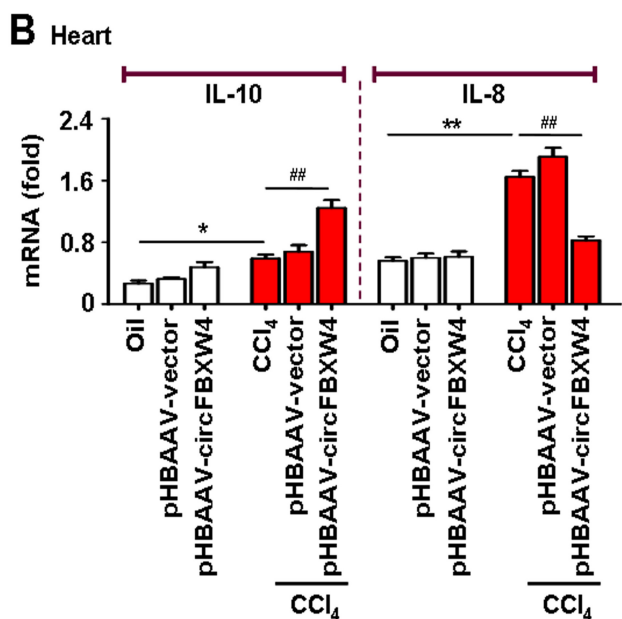
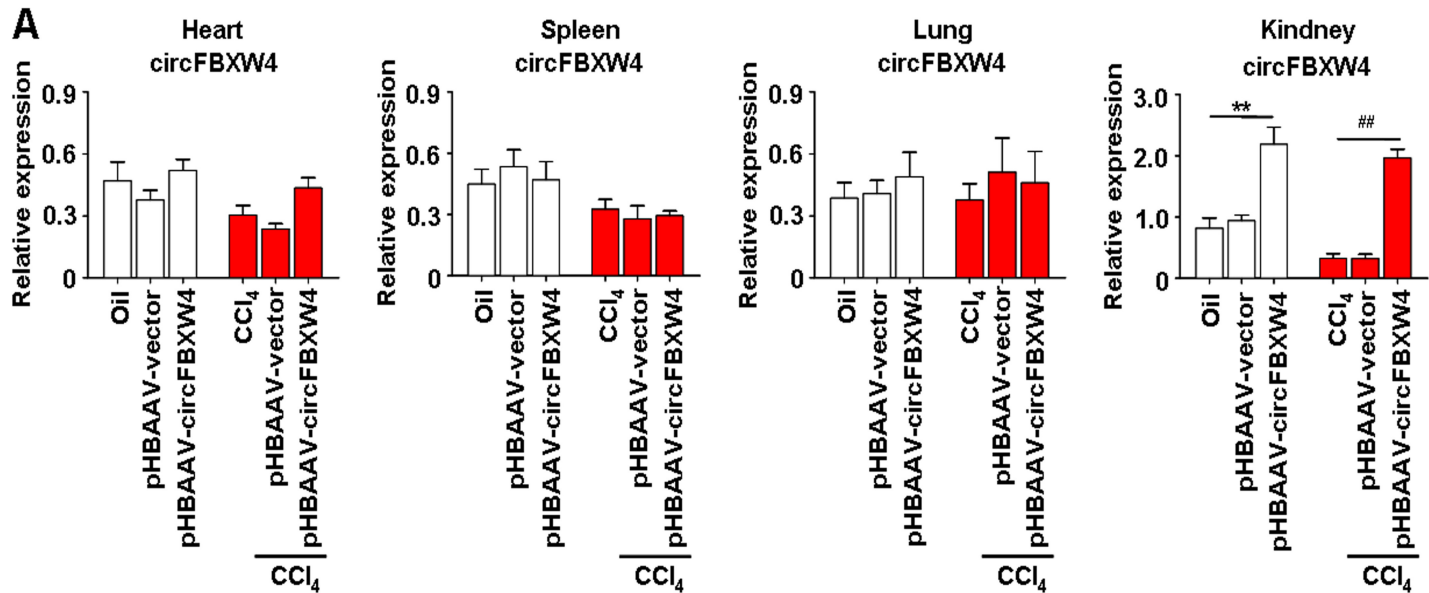






A**B****C****D****E**

A**B****C****D****E**



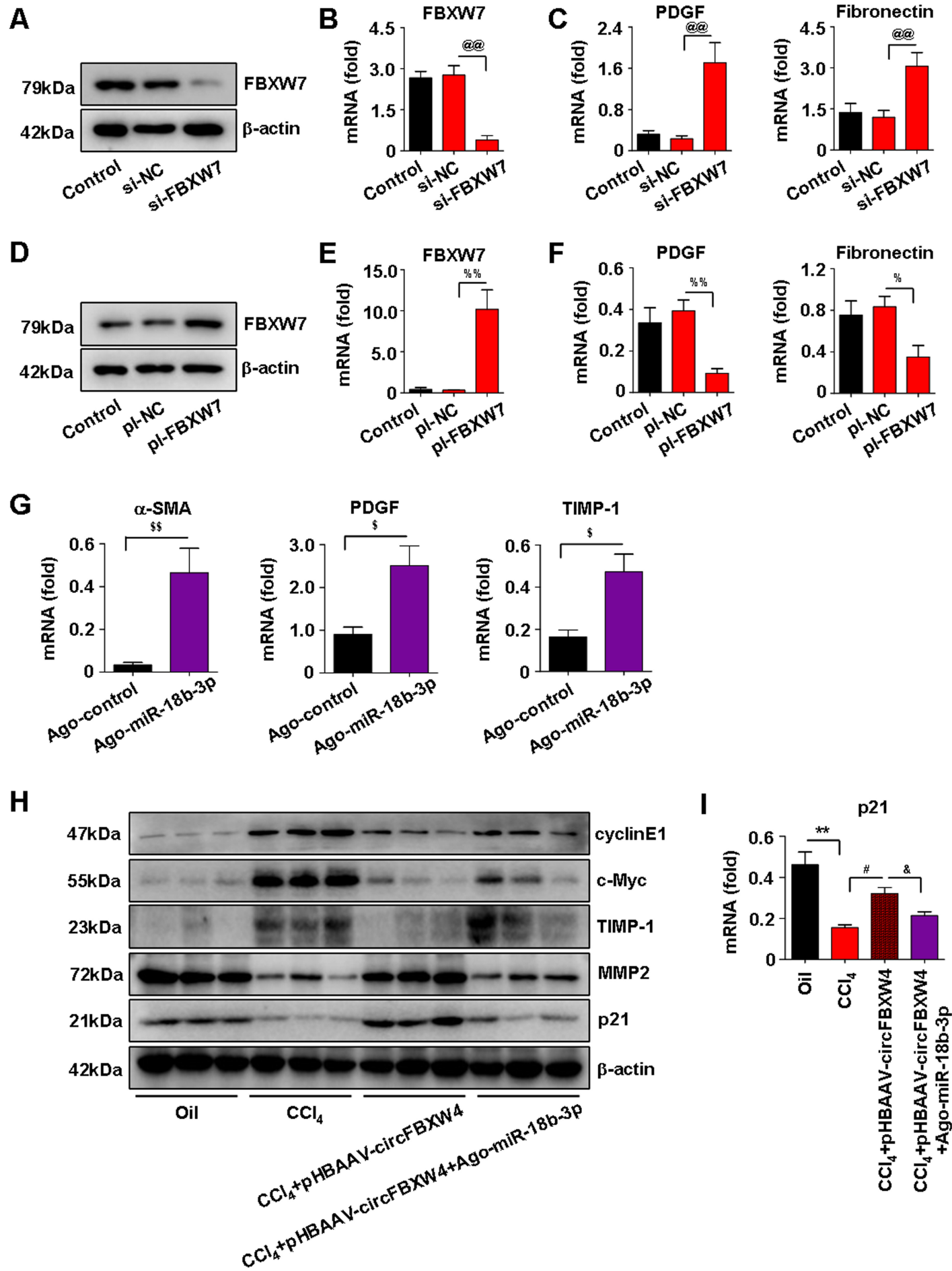


Fig. 1C

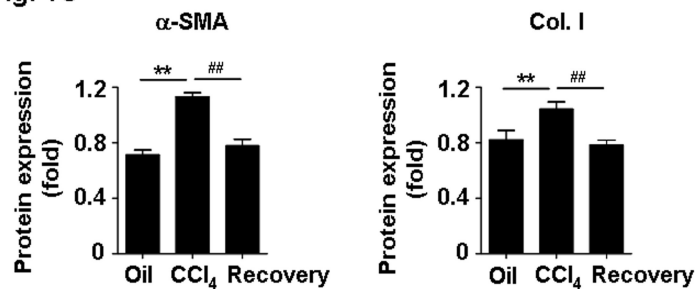


Fig. 4B

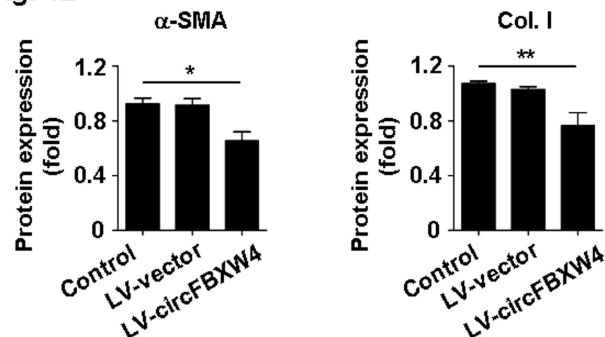


Fig. 5D

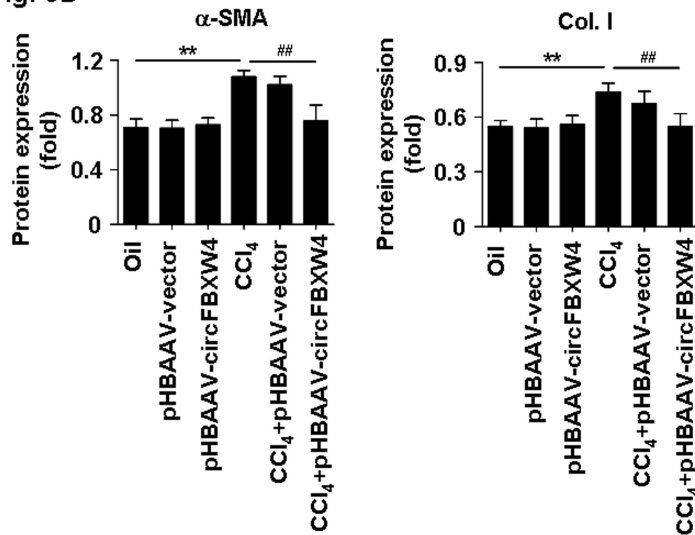
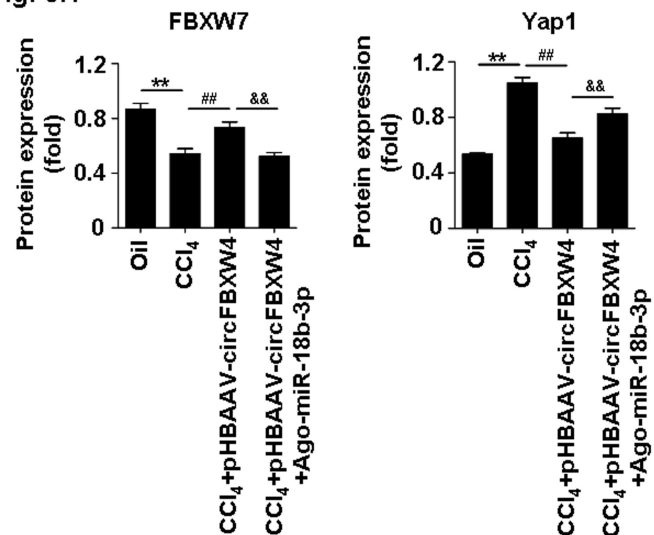
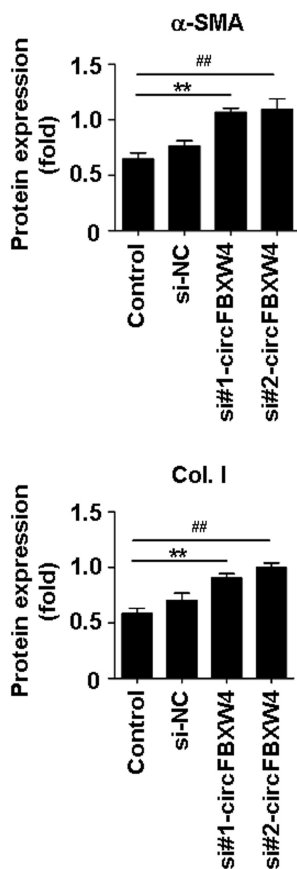


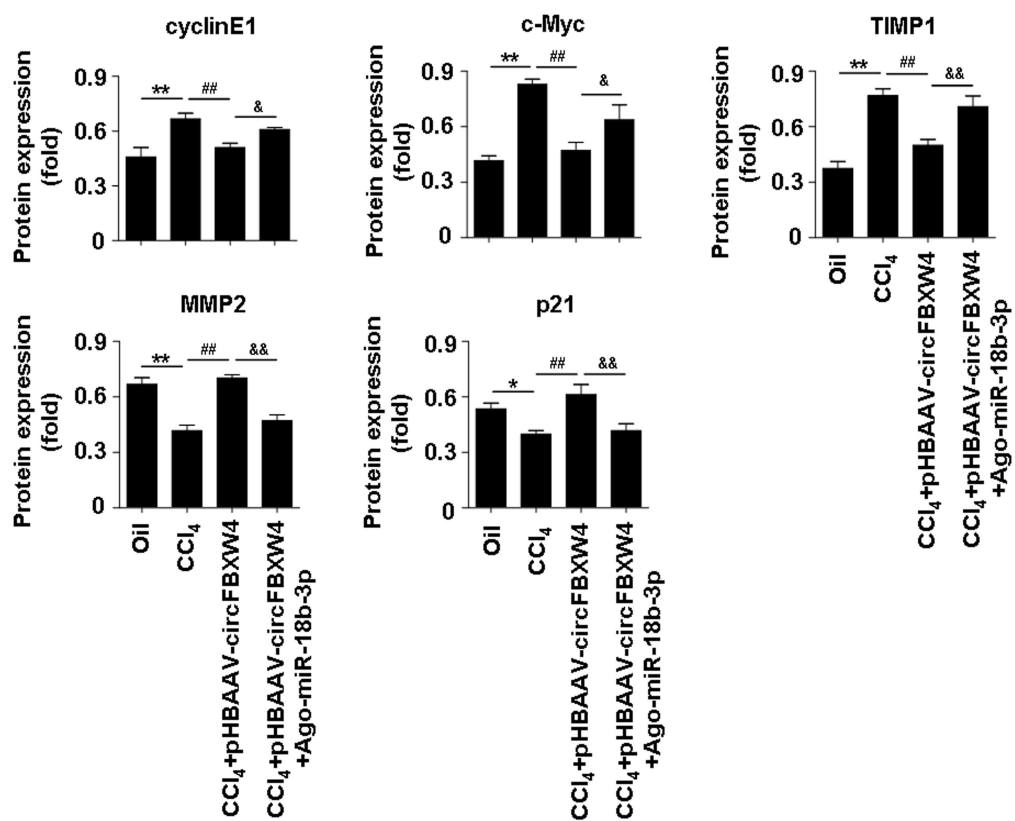
Fig. 8H

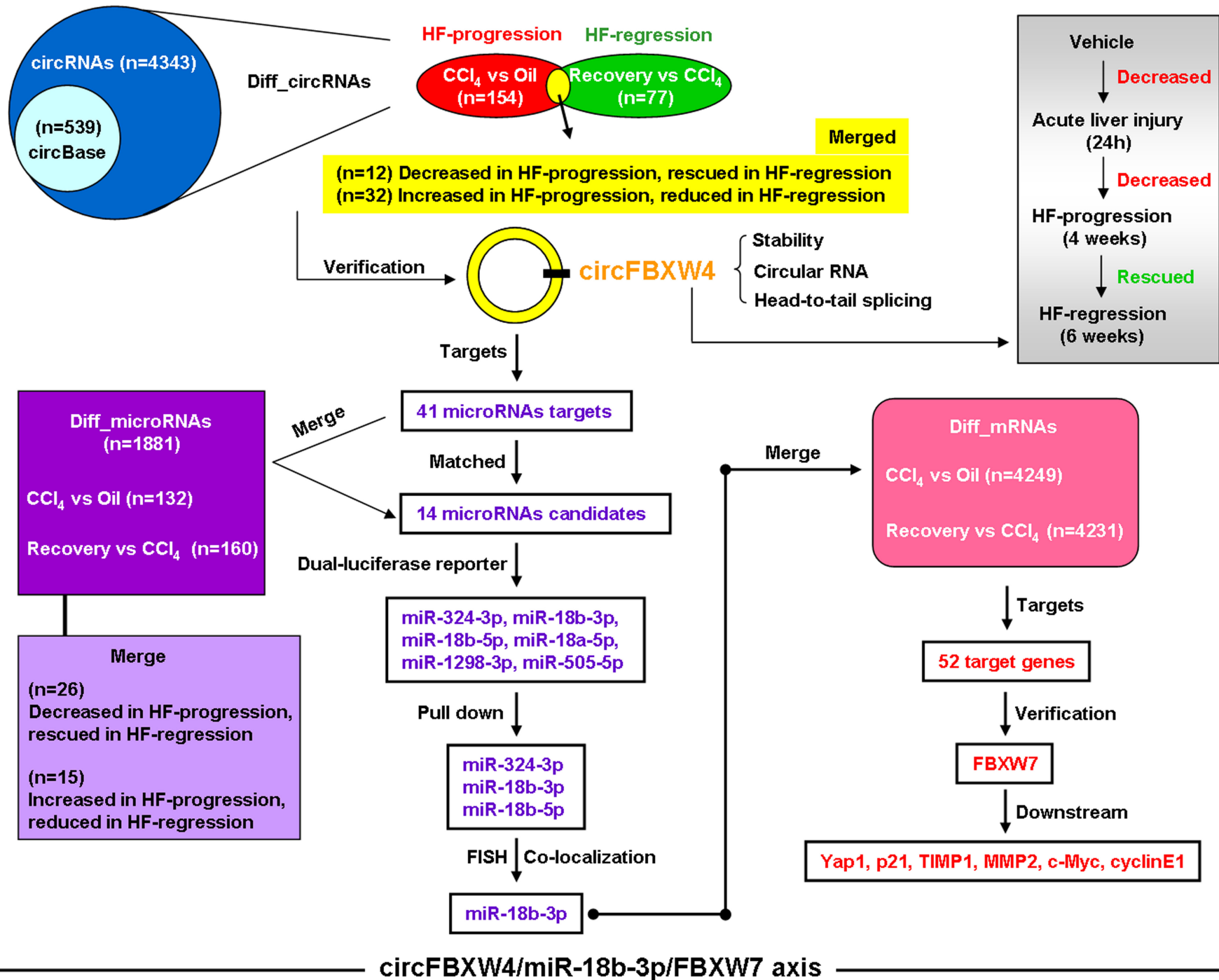


Supplementary Fig. 2G



Supplementary Fig. 6D





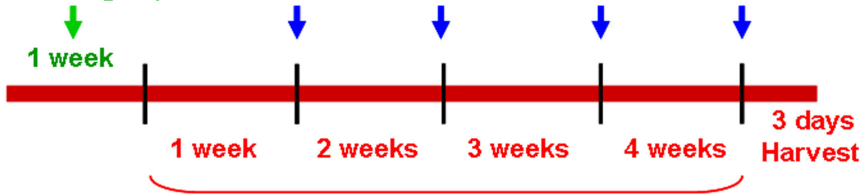
pHBAAV-circFBXW4
(1×10^{12} vg/ml)

1 week

miR-18b-3p agomir
(10mmol/kg, 4 times tail vein injection)



C57BL/6J mice



Model of hepatic fibrosis

CCl₄ i.p. (biweekly)

Supplementary Table S1. Dysregulated circRNAs in liver fibrogenesis.

circRNAs	Locus	Type	Host Gene	Regulation
mm9_circ_001729	Chr9	Exon	Rasa2	Down
mm9_circ_006286	Chr3	Exon	Elf2	Down
mm9_circ_014796	Chr5	Exon	Ep400	Down
mm9_circ_010464	Chr6	Exon	Ezh2	Down
mm9_circ_017500	Chr8	Exon	Irf2	Down
mm9_circ_005864	Chr13	Exon	Cdk13	Down
mm9_circ_003709	Chr14	Exon	Kat6b	Down
mm9_circ_018395	Chr16	Exon	Acap2	Down
mm9_circ_012897	Chr18	Exon	Atp9b	Down
mm9_circ_000338	Chr19	Exon	Fbxw4	Down
mm9_circ_005659	Chr1	Exon	Eprs	Down
mm9_circ_016411	Chr2	Exon	Rprd1b	Down
mm9_circ_014393	Chr5	Exon	Zfp644	Down
mm9_circ_004990	Chr5	Exon	Srpk2	Down
mm9_circ_018254	Chr9	Exon	Armc8	Down
mm9_circ_009396	Chr6	Exon	Mkln1	Down
mm9_circ_002457	Chr5	Exon	Ube2k	Up
mm9_circ_013054	Chr1	Exon	Hecw2	Up
mm9_circ_005799	Chr11	Exon	Fxr2	Up
mm9_circ_003298	Chr5	Exon	Rbm33	Up
mm9_circ_004870	Chr9	Exon	Rasa2	Up
mm9_circ_016460	Chr17	Exon	Sos1	Up
mm9_circ_007735	Chr19	Exon	Fam160b1	Up
mm9_circ_008117	Chr7	Exon	Mettl9	Up
mm9_circ_017115	Chr11	Exon	Nmt1	Up
mm9_circ_007736	Chr4	Exon	Teme245	Up

mm9_circ_006238

Chr8

Exon

Psd3

Up

Supplementary Table S2. Primers, RNA and probes sequences used in this study.

1. Primers for qRT-PCR (mouse)

Terms	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
mm9_circ_002457	GGAGCACCAGTTTCTAGTCCA	CTGGAGGTCCTGCTATTCTCC
mm9_circ_013054	TGCCAGAAACCACTCACTCA	CTGCCACGTTGTGGTTCTGT
mm9_circ_005799	CAGGACTGTCATGGACGGAG	GAACCCTCACCACACCAGAC
mm9_circ_004870	GGTTTTCACTGCAGCCGATT	TTCAACAACCTGGGTGCGA
mm9_circ_016460	TGTGTACCACTGTCTGCATT	TAGACTCAAGAGTAGGGTGAAC
mm9_circ_007735	TGAAACCGTGGAGGCAGTT	TGACCTTTTGGGCCATCCTC
mm9_circ_008117	ATCCTGGCATTGGTTTTGCC	CACAAACATGGAGCCTCTTCC
mm9_circ_017115	CCGATTCGACTATTCCCAGA	GTCCTGACCACTGAGAAC
mm9_circ_007736	GGTGAACAATACGGCTGTGA	GGGTGATTTGCTAGAGTTTCGT
mm9_circ_003298	GTGGGACCCCAAAGATTTC	CGTCCCTGTTTATGCTGTCGT
mm9_circ_006238	CAAGGAGTAAATGAAGTGGGGA	GTTTTCCCTCAGCAAAGCA
mm9_circ_001729	ACAGAGAATGGAACCGTGTG	ACAATCGCGCATTTTGTGG
mm9_circ_006286	GAGCCAGAAGGAAGACAATGC	TCACTGTTTTCACAACCTCCAA
mm9_circ_014796	CAGCTTCCGCCAAATGTTTCT	TGGTGCATTATCACCTCCCTT
mm9_circ_010464	GAGAGTGTGACCCTGACCTC	AACAAACCGGTCCCTTCTCA
mm9_circ_017500	TGAGTATGCGGTCTGACTT	CGCATTGCGATCCGTTC
mm9_circ_005864	GCAGATTTTGGACTTGCTCGTT	GGCTTCTGCTTCGGGATTTG
mm9_circ_003709	GATCATGCCCCAGCACCAA	AGTCACGAGCTCCTGTTTCC
mm9_circ_018395	ATCTGTTCAAACGAGCCAGCA	GGGCCTTAATTGATCTCTGGGT
mm9_circ_012897	TCTGGTAGTGCCTGCTCACA	TGGCATTTCATCCAAATGGGC
mm9_circ_000338	CATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAG	CCGCCAGTCTGAGACAGTT
mm9_circ_016411	GGTGAATACACCCAGAACCA	CTCAGGTCCTTTCCTTTACTGTT
mm9_circ_004990	AATCCAACATCAAGGCCTCCC	AAGGAGCTTCTGTTGAGGCT
mm9_circ_014393	TCCGTTGATCTATCAGCCACA	GCACCAGTAATGTCCGGTGGT
mm9_circ_005659	AGTGCTGGGAAAAGATGAGGA	ACGAACTGTAGGAAACCGTGG

mm9_circ_018254	CCTGCATCGTGGTTCCAGTA	AACCGCACCTTGACACTAGA
mm9_circ_009396	TGCTTGCGAGGAGTTGATTGA	CTTGGGGAGGATAGTTGCTCT
FBXW4	CCGGACAGAAAGAGATGCAGT	ATAGCAGGACTGAGGAACAGC
FBXW7	TAGCCAAGGTCCAAGAAGTAGC	CACCCACAAGTTCACCATTCC
α -SMA	CGGGCTTTGCTGGTGATG	CCCTCGATGGATGGGAAA
Collagens I	GCTCCTCTTAGGGGCCACT	CCACGCTCACCATTGGGG
TIMP-1	GCAACTCGGACCTGGTCATAA	CGGCCCGTGATGAGAACT
PDGF	CATCCGCTCCTTTGATGATCTT	GTGCTCGGGTCATGTTCAAGT
TGF- β 1	CTCCCGTGGCTTCTAGTGC	GCCTTAGTTTGGACAGGATCTG
Yap1	GAGGGACTCCGAATGCAG	CGAGAGTGATAGGTGCCACTG
p21	CAAAGTGTGCCGTTGTCTCTT	TCAAAGTTCACCGTTCTCG
TNF- α	CACCACCATCAAGGACTCAA	AGGCAACCTGACCACTCTCC
IL-1 β	CTTTGAAGTTGACGGACCC	TGAGTGATACTGCCTGCCTG
IL-6	GAGGATACCACTCCCAACAGACC	AAGTGCATCATCGTTGTTCCATACA
IL-8	GGTCTTCTGCTTGAATGGCTTGA	GCGGTGTCCTGATTATCGTCCTC
IL-10	GCCTTGCAGAAAAGAGAGCT	AAAGAAAGTCTTCCACCTGGC
IL-10R	AGGCAGAGGCAGCAGGCCAGCAGAATGCT	TGGAGCCTGGCTAGCTGGTCACAGTAGGTCT
CCL2	GGGCCTGCTGTTACAGTT	CCAGCCTACTCATTGGGAT
CCL9	CCCTCTCCTTCTCATTCTTACA	AGTCTTGAAAGCCCATGTGAAA
GAPDH	GGACCTCATGGCCTACATGG	TAGGCCTCTCTTGCTCAGT

2. Primers for qRT-PCR (human)

Terms	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
hsa_circ_0008362	ACTCACAATGATGCCCCCTT	CGAGAGGGGATTCTGCTGAA
FBXW4	GCATCTCTATGCTGCCCTGT	AAGCCTCTAGTGCAAGGTGC
α -SMA	GTGTTGCCCTGAAGAGCAT	GCTGGGACATTGAAAGTCTCA
Collagens I	CCCGGGTTTCAGAGACAACCTTC	TCCACATGCTTTATTCCAGCAATC
TIMP-1	CTTCTGCAATCCGACCTCGT	ACGCTGGTATAAGGTGGTCTG
TGF- β 1	GGCCAGATCCTGTCCAAGC	GTGGGTTTCCACCATTAGCAC
p21	TGCCCAAGCTCTACCTTCC	CAGGTCCACATGGTCTTCTCT

β-actin

GCCAACACAGTGCTGTCTGG

CTCAGGAGGAGCAATGATCTTG

3. Primers for PCR

circFBXW4	Sense (5'-3')	Antisense (5'-3')
Divergent primers	TGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCA	TGGTAGGCCAGGATGAAATTAGC
Convergent primers	ATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAG	GAAGGTGCTGTGGATCTTGTGAA

4. siRNA sequences used for circFBXW4 knockdown.

siRNA	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
si-circFBXW4#1	GCCCAUUACUCAGGAUGACCAdTdT	UGGUCAUCCUGAGUAAUGGGCdTdT
si-circFBXW4#2	AUUACUCAGGAUGACCAGUGUdTdT	ACACUGGUCAUCCUGAGUAAUdTdT
Negative control (NC)	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGUdTdT	ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAAdTdT

5. siRNA sequences used for FBXW7 knockdown.

siRNA	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
si-FBXW7	CCAUGUUCAGCAACACCAAdTdT	UUGGUGUUGCUGAACAUGGdTdT
Negative control (NC)	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGUdTdT	ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAAdTdT

6. Probes sequences used for FISH.

Probes	(5'-3')
circFBXW4 (FAM)	GCTCCTTTACTGGAATGCCTGCCATGCTGAGTAATGGGCTG
miR-18b-3p (CY3)	AGAAGGGGCATTTAGGGCAGTA

7. Probes sequences used for pull-down.

Probes	(5'-3')
circFBXW4	GCTCCTTTACTGGAATGCCTGCCATGCTGAGTAATGGGCTG

8. RNA oligo sequences.

Agomir	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
miR-18b-3p agomir	UACUGCCCUAAAUGCCCUUCU	AAGGGGCAUUUAGGGCAGUAUU
NC agomir	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGUTT	ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAATT

9. Sequences for luciferase reporter.

Group	Terms	Sequences
-	CircFBXW4-wt	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACCAGTCCGCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGG CCCTTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGTCTGTCACTTTGTGCTG GCCAACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTC CAAGATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGG TGAAGTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGAC AGGACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGGGGCAGTGCTT ACACACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATT ACTCAG
	miR-NC mimics sense	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGUdTdT
	miR-NC mimics antisense	ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAAdTdT
1	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACCAGTCCGCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGG CCCTTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGaCaGTgAgTTTGGaTGa CAACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCACA AGATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGGTG AACTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGACAG GACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGGGGCAGTGCTTAC ACACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTAC TCAG
	miR-18a-5p mimics sense	UAAGGUGCAUCUAGUGCAGAUAG
	miR-18a-5p mimics antisense	AUCUGCACUAGAUGCACCUAAUU
2	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG

		ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACCAGTTCGCCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGG CCCTTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGCTGTGCACTTTGTGCTG GCCAACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCA CAAGATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGG TGAAGTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGAC AGGACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGtGtCtGaGCTTAC ACACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTAC TCAG
	miR-18b-3p mimics sense	UACUGCCCUAAAUGCCCUUCU
	miR-18b-3p mimics antisense	AAGGGCAUUUAGGGCAGUAUU
3	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGaAtCtCaGtAaGaTTCTCTGTcCaTATCACAGGCTAATTTCA TCCTGGCCTACCAGTTCGCCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGGCCC TTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGCTGTGCACTTTGTGCTGGCC AACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCA GATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGGTGA ACTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGACAGG ACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGGGGCAGTGCTTACA CACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTACT CAG
	miR-18b-5p mimics sense	UAAGGUGCAUCUAGUGCUGUUAG
	miR-18b-5p mimics antisense	AACAGCACUAGAUGCACCUAAUU
4	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACCAGTTCGCCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGG CCCTTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGCTGTGCACTTTGTGCTG GCCAACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCA CAAGATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGG TGAAGTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCATCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGAC AGGACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGtCCTCGGtCaGgAcTcGtGAcTcTTACAC ACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTACT AG
	miR-324-3p mimics sense	CCACUGCCCCAGGUGCUGCU
	miR-324-3p mimics antisense	CAGCACCUGGGGCAGUGGUU
5	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACCAGTTCGCCCCGGATGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGG CCCTTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGCTGTGCACTTTGTGCTG GCCAACTCCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCA

		CAAGATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGG TGAAGTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGaAgCcTTGaGAGaGtCaCaCGGGACAG GACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGGGGCAGTGCTTAC ACACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTAC TCAG
	miR-505-5p mimics sense	GGGAGCCAGGAAGUAUUGAUGUU
	miR-505-5p mimics antisense	CAUCAAUACUUCUGGCUCUU
6	CircFBXW4-mut	CATGGCAGGCATTCCAGTAAAGGAGCGCGTGAAACTGTCTCAGAACTGGC GGCTGGGGCGCTGCCGAGATCGGATTCTGCTGAAGTGGAGATATAGTCAG ATGCCTTGGATGCAGCTACAGGATGCTTCTGTACCTATCACAGGCTAATT TCATCCTGGCCTACgAcTaCcCaCGtAaGGTGCAAGCTTGAACCGACGGCCC TTCAGAGTCTTCTCTGGGCATGATGAGGACGTCTGTCACTTTGTGCTGGCC AACTCCACATCGTCAGTGCAGGAGGAGACGGGAAGATCGGTGTTCACAA GATCCACAGCACCTTCACTGTCAAGTACTCGGCTCACGAGCAGGAGGTGA ACTGTGTGGACTGTAAAGGTGGCAtCATTGTGAGTGGCTCCCGGGACAGG ACAGCCAAGGTATGGCCTCTGGCCTCGGGCCGGCTGGGGCAGTGCTTACA CACCATCCAGACCGAAGACCGAGTCTGGTCCATTGCTATCAGCCCATTACT CAG
	miR-1298-3p mimics sense	CAUCUGGGCAACUGAUUGAACU
	miR-1298-3p mimics antisense	UUCAAUCAGUUGCCAGAUUGUU

Supplementary Table S3. Characteristics of the subjects enrolled in this study.

Parameter	Patients	
Number, <i>n</i>	14	
Gender, <i>n</i> (%)	Male	8 (57.1%)
	Female	6 (42.9%)
Age (yr)*	47.57 ± 9.25	
BMI > 25, <i>n</i> (%)	3 (21.4%)	
ALT (U/L)*	76.79 ± 40.35	
AST (U/L)*	46.07 ± 26.67	
Albumin (g/L)*	35.45 ± 4.59	
Prothrombin time (%)*	89.21 ± 15.71	
Platelet count (×10 ⁹ /L)*	164.29 ± 29.72	
Hyaluronic acid (µg/L)*	185.35 ± 66.35	

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate transaminase. *Mean ± SD.