

Online resources (Acta Neuropathologica)

SEIZURE-MEDIATED IRON ACCUMULATION AND DYSREGULATED IRON METABOLISM AFTER STATUS EPILEPTICUS AND IN TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY

Till S. Zimmer¹, Bastian David², Diede W.M. Broekaart¹, Martin Schidlowski^{2,3}, Gabriele Ruffolo⁴, Anatoly Korotkov¹, Nicole N. van der Wel^{5,6}, Peter C. van Rijen⁷, Angelika Mühlebner^{1,8}, Wim van Hecke⁸, Johannes C. Baayen⁹, Sander Idema⁹, Liesbeth François¹⁰, Jonathan van Eyll¹⁰, Stefanie Dedeurwaerdere¹⁰, Helmut W. Kessels¹¹, Rainer Surges², Theodor Rüber², Jan A. Gorter¹¹, James D. Mills^{1,12,13}, Erwin A. van Vliet^{1,11,*}, Eleonora Aronica^{1,14,*}

¹Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Department of (Neuro)Pathology, Amsterdam Neuroscience, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

²Department of Epileptology, University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany

³German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Bonn, Germany

⁴Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, laboratory affiliated to Istituto Pasteur Italia, University of Rome Sapienza, Rome, Italy

⁵Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Department Cell Biology and Histology, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

⁶Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Department Electron Microscopy Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

⁷University Medical Center Utrecht, Brain Centre, Rudolf Magnus Institute for Neuroscience, Department of Neurosurgery, Utrecht, the Netherlands

⁸University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Pathology, Utrecht, the Netherlands

⁹Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Department of Neurosurgery, Amsterdam Neuroscience, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

¹⁰Neurosciences Therapeutic Area, UCB Pharma, Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium

¹¹University of Amsterdam, Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences, Center for Neuroscience, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

¹²Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, UCL, London, United Kingdom

¹³Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy, Chalfont St Peter, United Kingdom

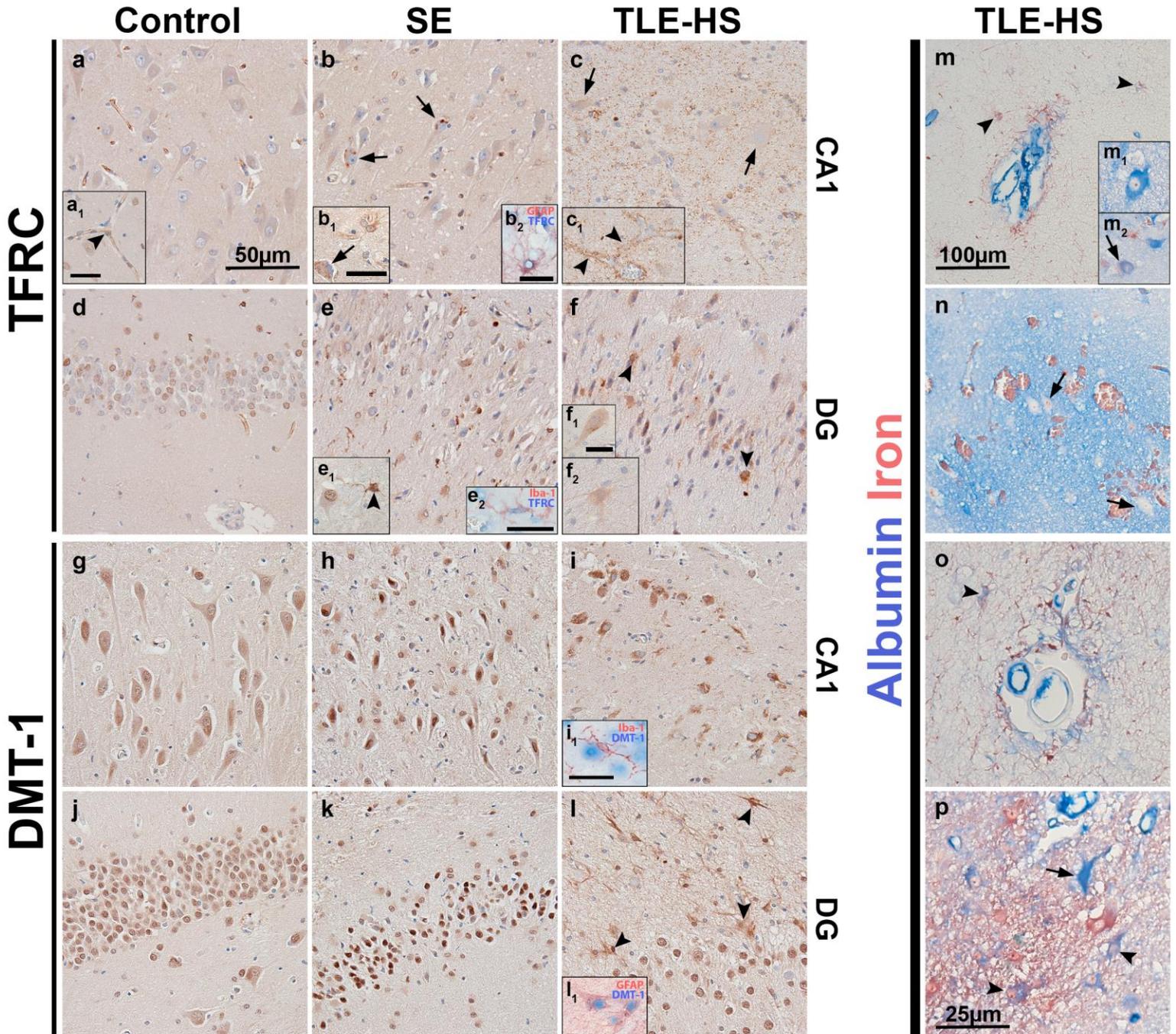
¹⁴Stichting Epilepsie Instellingen Nederland (SEIN), Heemstede, the Netherlands

* these authors are joint senior author

Running title: Iron metabolism in epilepsy

Corresponding author: Dr. E. Aronica
Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam,
Dept. (Neuro)Pathology,
Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Phone: + 31 20 5664369
Email: e.aronica@amsterdamumc.nl

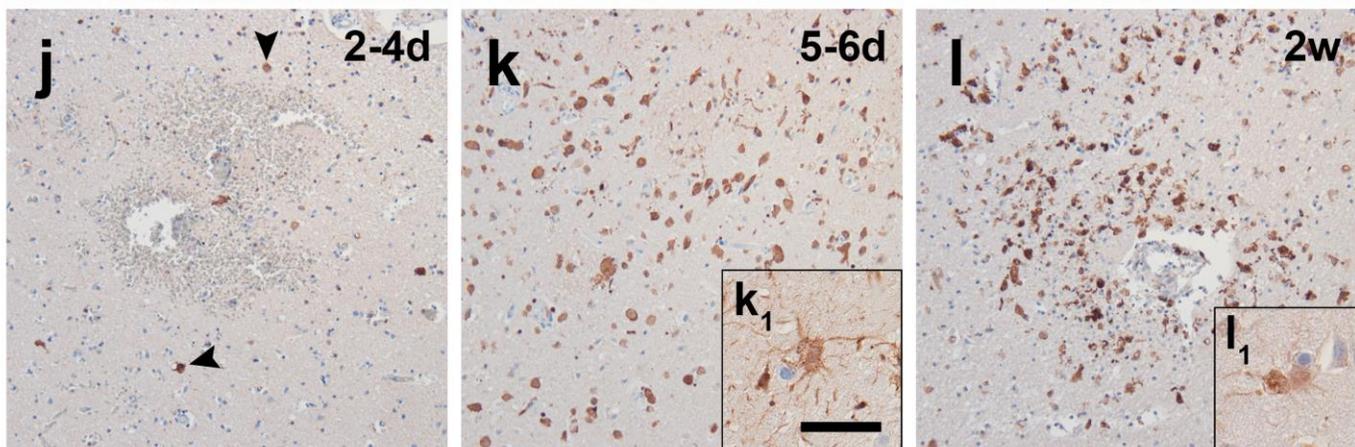
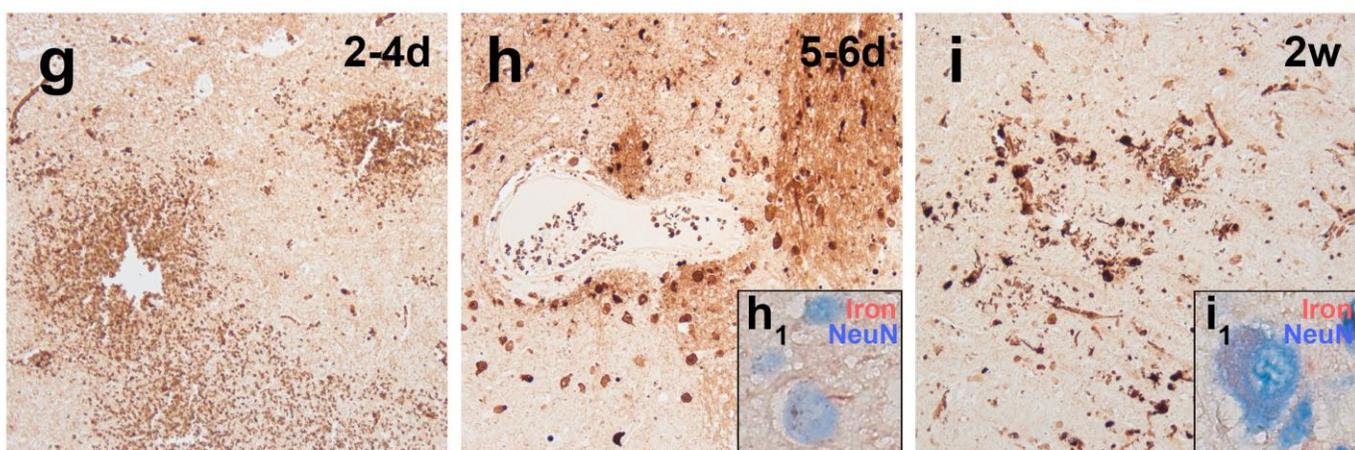
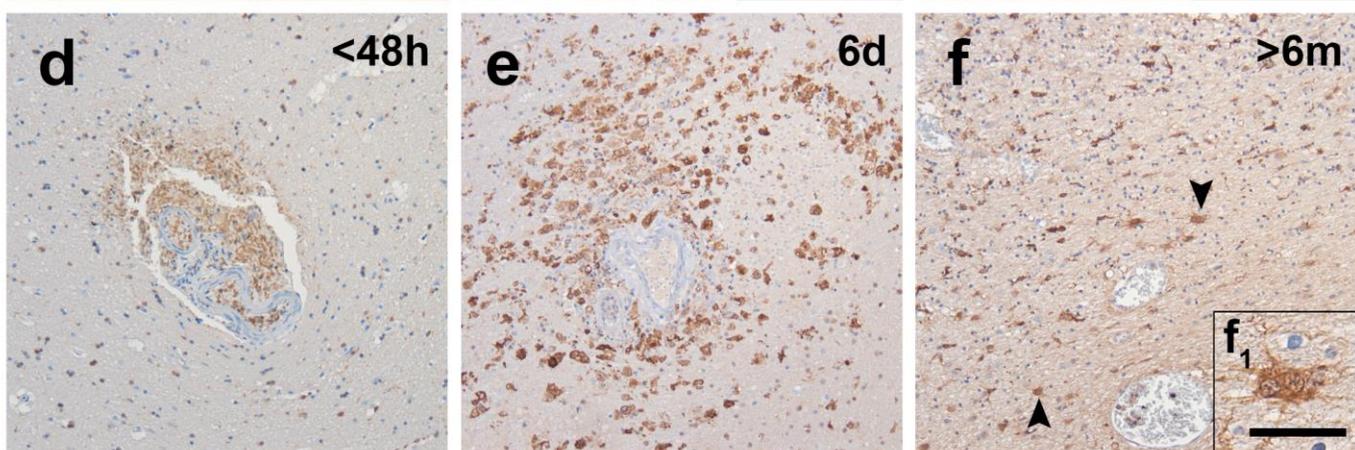
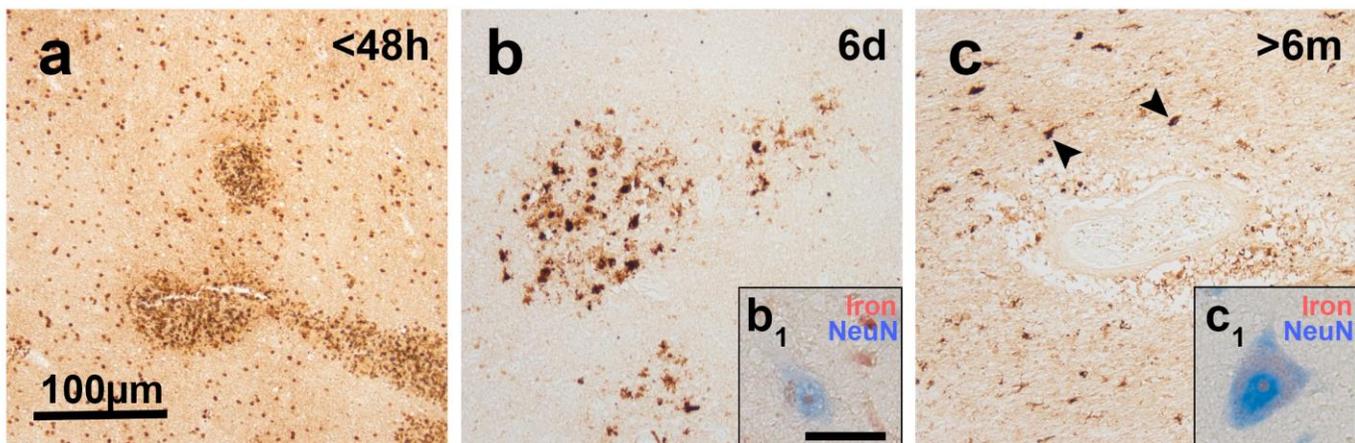
Online resource 1 Low power overview iron, ferritin, 4-HNE and HO-1 immunohistochemistry in autopsy control, autopsy SE and surgical TLE-HS hippocampi (a-l) Representative low power micrographs from autopsy control, autopsy SE and surgical TLE-HS tissue. Iron staining in autopsy control hippocampus was most prominent in white matter-rich strata (*stratum oriens/stratum radiatum/stratum lacunosum moleculare*) and accumulated in oligodendrocytes. The cell-rich subfields cornu ammonis (CA), dentate gyrus (DG) and hilus (HL) hardly contained iron. In contrast, the hilus revealed more iron in the hilus in SE tissue, while TLE-HS hippocampi revealed additional iron accumulation in the CA1/CA2 region. Ferritin expression was seen predominantly in microglia and oligodendrocytes in control tissue, but was highly expressed in astrocytes in SE and TLE-HS tissue. 4-HNE and HO-1 expression was markedly elevated in CA1/CA2 neurons in SE and TLE-HS tissue as compared to autopsy control. **(m)** Low power overview of iron distribution in the whole hippocampus of an autopsy control case. **(n)** Comparison of iron staining in formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue versus fresh frozen tissue of the same autopsy control case revealed lower intensity, but similar localization of iron. **(o)** Ferritin expression in the EC could be detected in fine astrocytic processes in control tissue, while SE and TLE-HS tissue displayed stronger ferritin expression in astrocytes. Sections d-l, o were counterstained with hematoxylin. Scale bars: 500 μm in m, 250 μm in a-l & n, 15 μm in o; arrowheads = glia.



Online resource 2 Representative micrographs of TFRC, DMT-1 and iron/albumin immunohistochemistry in human autopsy control, autopsy SE and surgical TLE-HS hippocampus (a, d) TFRC staining in autopsy control tissue could be detected

predominantly in endothelial cells (a₁, arrowhead) and perinuclear in DG neurons. **(b, e)** SE tissue revealed TFRC positive inclusions in some CA1 (b, b₁, arrows) and some DG neurons (e). In addition, strong TFRC expression could be detected in microglia (e₂) and astrocytes (b₂, b₁, arrowhead). **(c, f)** TFRC expression in TLE-HS hippocampi revealed strong neuronal expression in CA1 and DG, especially in pyknotic cells (c, arrow, f₁). Astrocytes (c, arrowhead; f₂) and other glia (f, arrowheads) as well as astrocytic endfeet around microvessels (c₁, arrowheads) also displayed higher TFRC reactivity. **(g, j)** DMT-1 expression in autopsy control tissue was detected in neurons and glia, predominantly perinuclear but also in intracellular inclusions and the cell membrane. **(h, k)** SE tissue revealed stronger perinuclear staining in neurons, while glial staining was similar to control tissue. **(i, l)** TLE-HS tissue revealed strong DMT-1 reactivity in cell membranes of CA1 neurons while DG neurons appeared similar to control. Additionally, a markedly stronger expression could be detected in astrocytes (l, l₁, arrowheads) but not microglia (i₁). **(m-p)** Co-labeling of iron and albumin revealed co-localization of perivascular iron deposits with albumin in glial processes and neurons (m, m₁, m₂, o, p, arrowheads). Albumin reactivity was found in the neuropil (n) and occasionally inside neurons and glia (p). Sections a-l were counterstained with hematoxylin. Scale bars: 100 μm in m, 50 μm in a (representative for a-l, n, o), 25 μm in p, e₂, 20 μm in a₁ (representative for c₁), 15 μm in b₂ and i₁ (representative for l₁) and 10 μm in b₁ (representative for e₁, f₂, m₁, m₂); arrows = neurons, arrowheads = glia.

TBI



Stroke

Iron

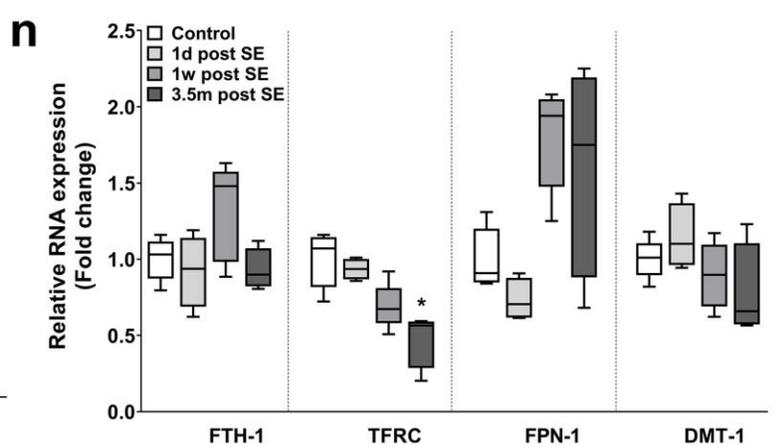
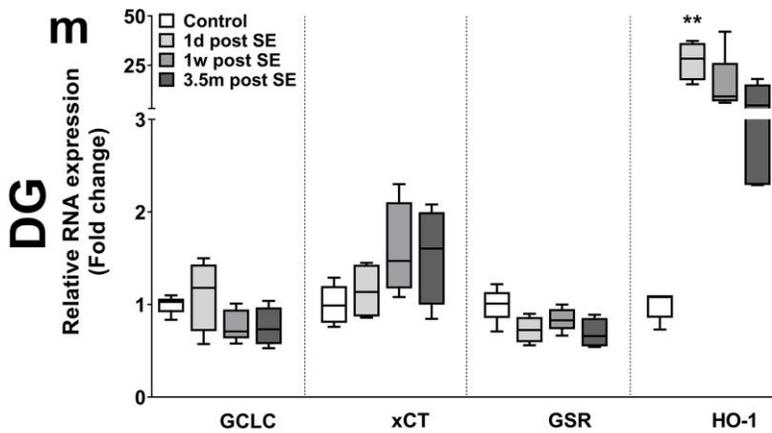
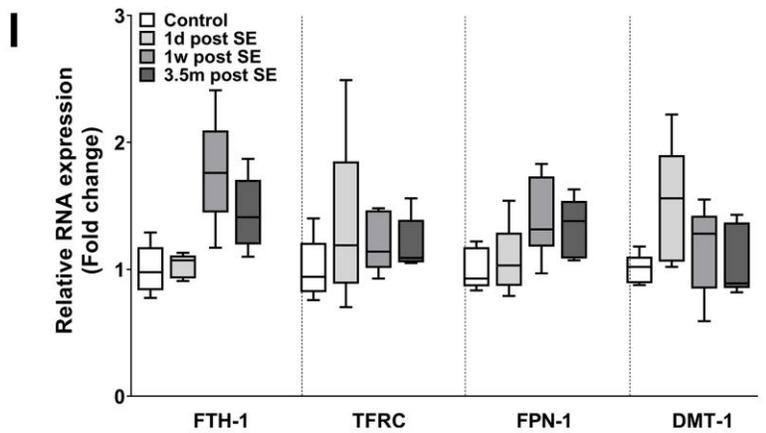
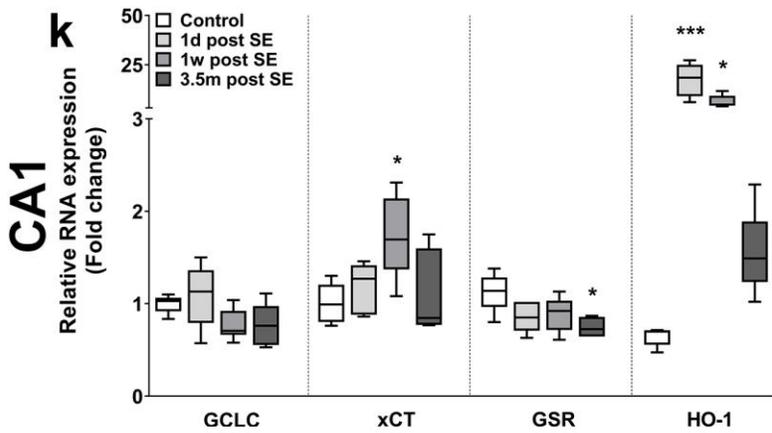
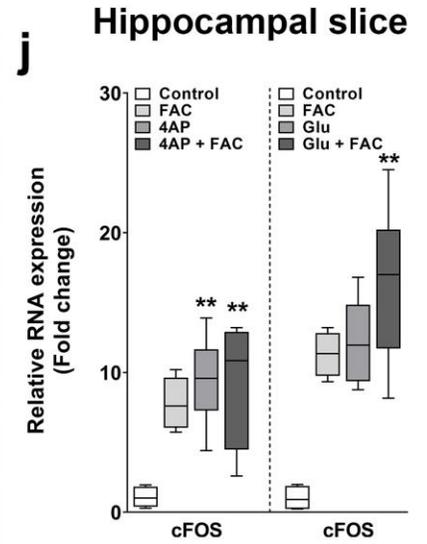
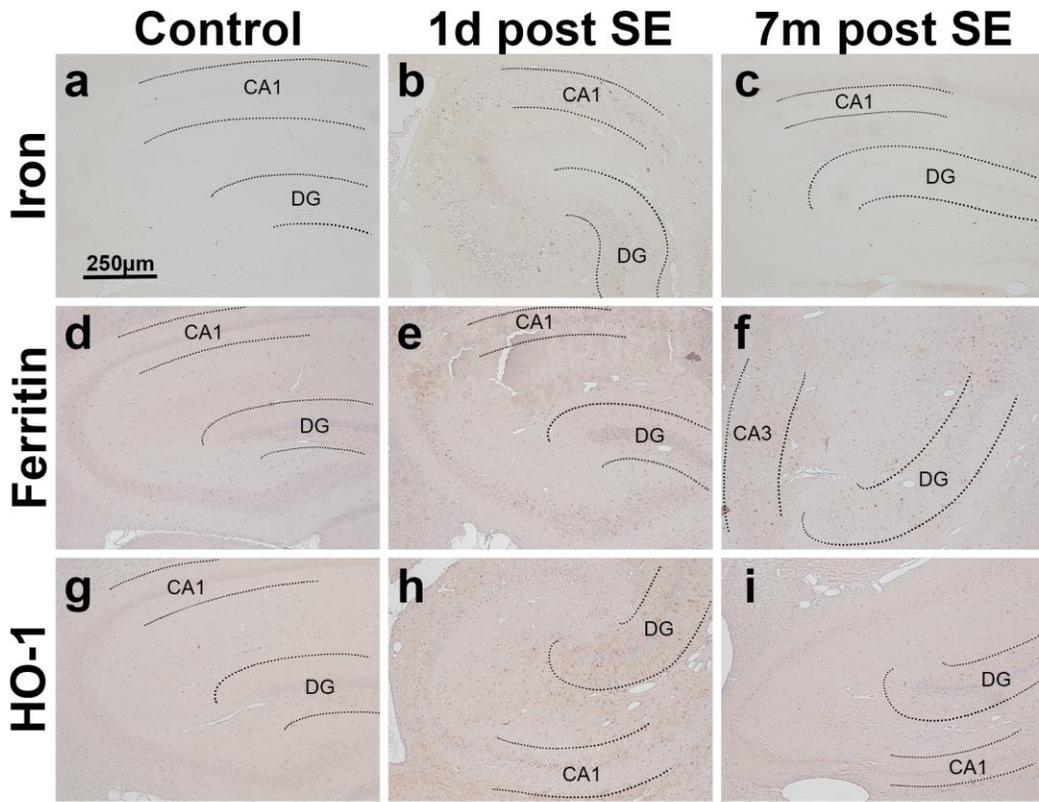
Ferritin

Iron

Ferritin

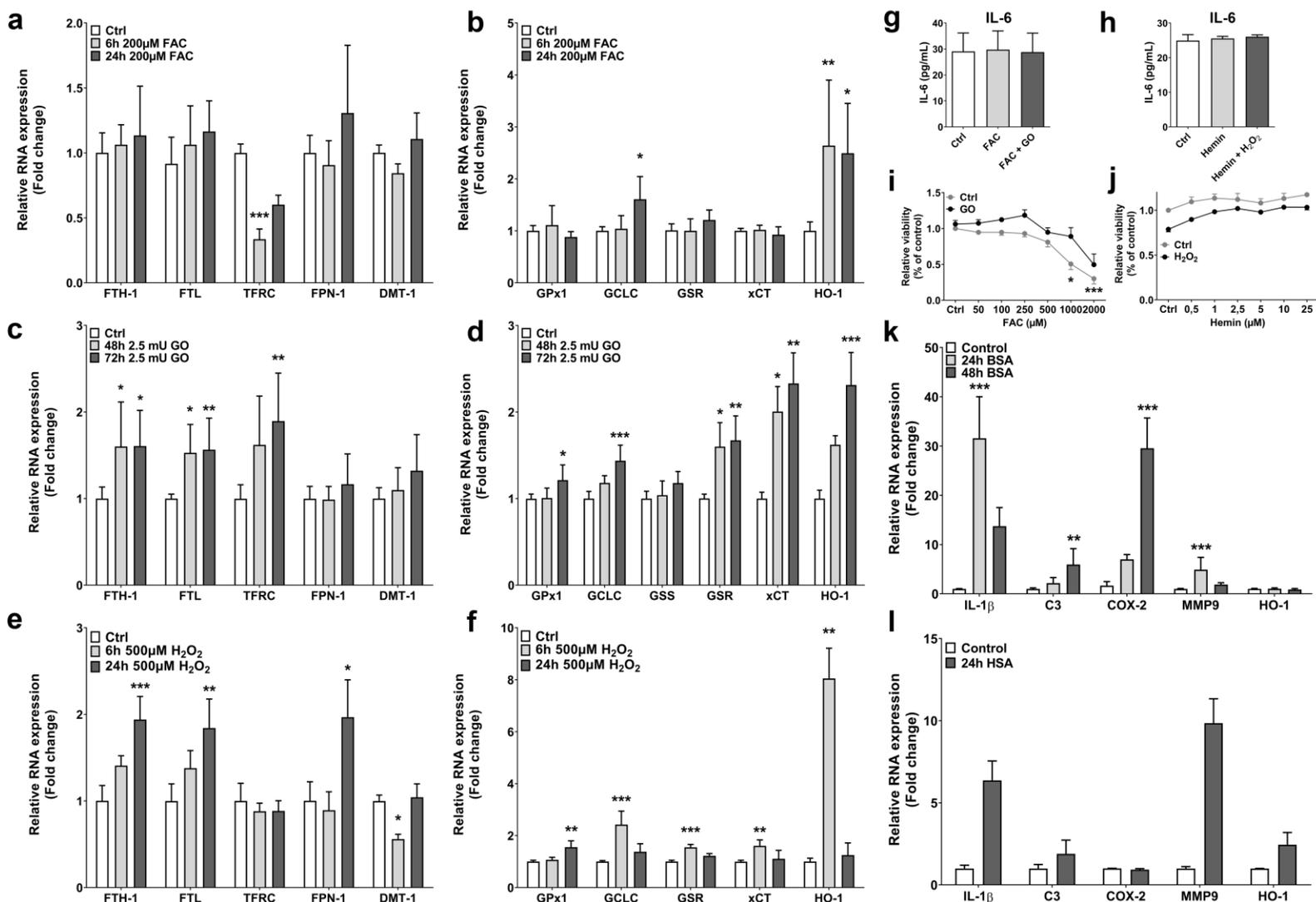
Online resource 3 After trauma or stroke extravasation of iron from blood vessels and time-dependent iron accumulation in neurons and glia as well as astrocytic ferritin expression is evident (a, d)

Acute lesions (<48 h *ante mortem*) due to brain trauma displayed leakage of iron-laden erythrocytes and enrichment of ferritin expressing cells around ruptured vessels. **(b, e)** Slightly older lesions (6 days *ante mortem*) revealed iron sequestration in glia and macrophages, iron accumulation in nucleolus and cytoplasm of peri-lesional neurons (b_1), as well as strong ferritin expression around damaged vessels. **(c, f)** Older lesions (>6 months *ante mortem*) from patients who developed epilepsy after TBI revealed overall higher iron accumulation (but more diffuse than in b) and ferritin expression around lesions. Moreover, peri-lesional neurons displayed iron accumulation (c_1) while ferritin expression could be detected in astrocytes (f_1 , arrowheads). **(g, j)** Brain tissue from patients after acute strokes (2-4 days *ante mortem*) displayed extensive bleeding (g) and occasional ferritin expression by macrophages (j, arrowheads). **(h, i, k, l)** Older lesions (5 days-2 weeks *ante mortem*) displayed iron sequestration in reactive glia and macrophages as well as elevated ferritin expression around damaged vessels. Moreover, similar to TBI, older lesions displayed iron accumulation in peri-lesional neurons (h_1, i_1) and ferritin expression in astrocytes (k_1, l_1). Sections d-f, j-l were counterstained with hematoxylin. Scale bars: 100 μm in a (representative for a-l), 20 μm in f_1 and k_1 (representative for l_1), 10 μm in b_1 (representative for c_1, h_1, i_1). TBI: n = 2 (<48 h, 6 days) or 3 (>6 months with chronic epilepsy); Stroke: n = 3 (5-6 days, 2 weeks) or 4 (2-4 days).



Online resource 4 Low power micrographs and RNA expression in hippocampal subregions of post-SE rat tissue reveals changes in glutathione and iron metabolism during the latent stage while acute hippocampal slice cultures upregulate cFOS RNA expression upon co-stimulation with ictogenic substances and iron (a-i)

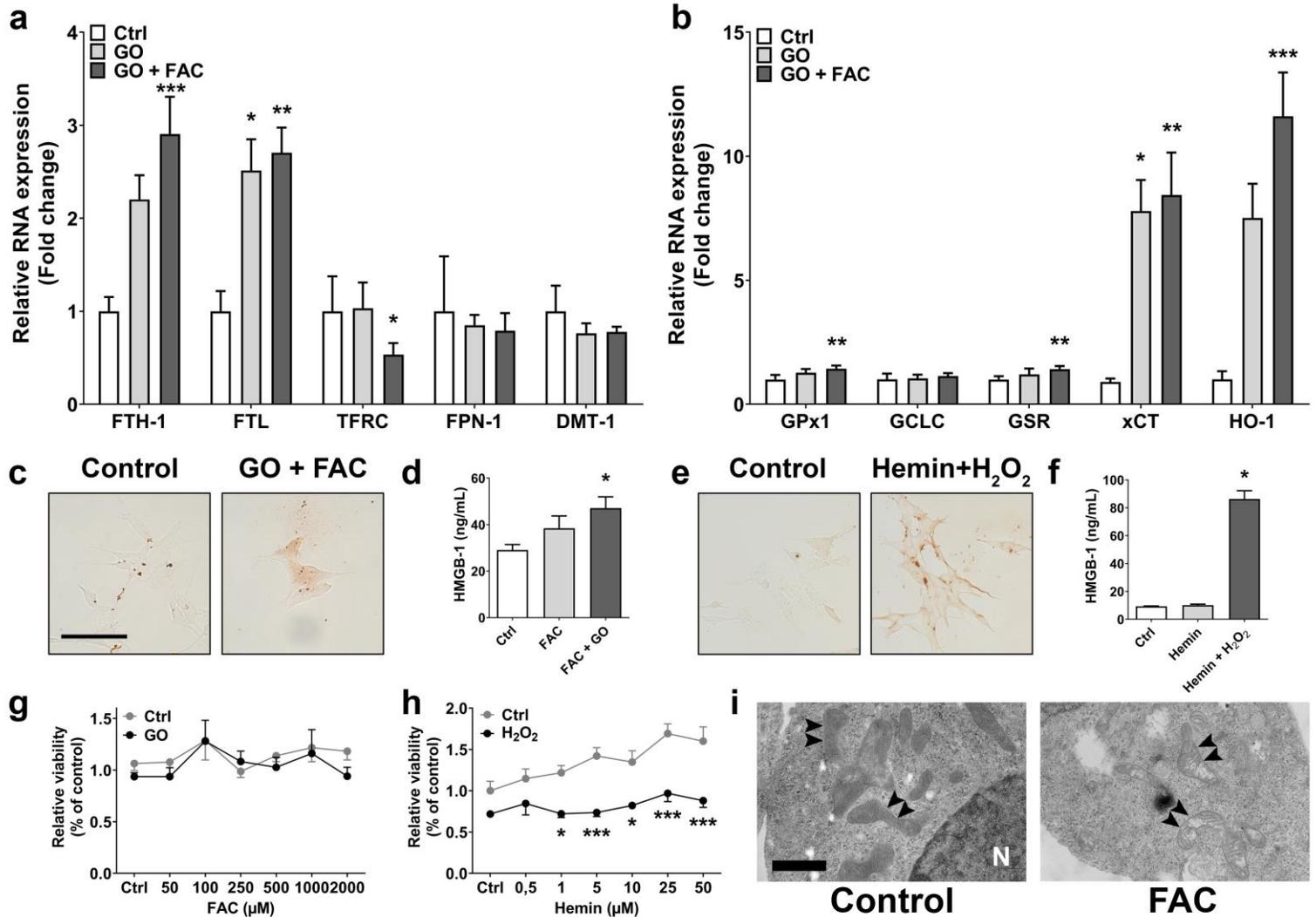
Low power micrographs of the hippocampus of post-SE rats stained for iron, ferritin and HO-1. Low iron accumulation, ferritin expression in microglia and low HO-1 expression in neurons could be found in control animals. 1 day post-SE iron strongly accumulated, while ferritin expression was detected in activated microglia and HO-1 in activated astrocytes. 7 months post-SE iron accumulated in glia and the neuropil, ferritin was expressed in microglia and astrocytes and HO-1 in neurons **(j)** RNA expression of cFOS in hippocampal brain slice preparations was elevated after 4-AP, 4-AP/FAC and Glu/FAC treatment. **(k, l)** RNA expression of HO-1 was strongly upregulated during the acute stage (1 day post-SE). In addition, HO-1 and xCT were upregulated during the latent stage (1 week post-SE), while GSR expression was reduced during the chronic stage (3.5 months post-SE). In contrast, iron metabolism genes were not different. **(m, n)** In the DG HO-1 was upregulated during the acute stage. Moreover, TFRC expression was downregulated during the chronic stage. Sections d-i were counterstained with hematoxylin. Scale bar: 250 μ m in a (representative for a-i). j-n Kruskal-Wallis test followed by post-hoc Dunn's test. Data are expressed relative to expression observed in controls and displayed as Tukey box plot with whiskers representing range; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. j: n = 6-7 slices from 3-4 animals per condition; k, l: n = 5 (control, 1 day post-SE, 3.5 months post-SE) or n = 6 (1 week post-SE) animals; m, n: n = 4 (1 day post-SE, 3.5 months post-SE) or n = 5 (control, 1 week post-SE) animals.



Online resource 5 Fetal astrocyte RNA expression, cytokine secretion and viability

(a, b) Fetal astrocytes exposed to 200 µM FAC showed lower expression of TFRC and higher expression of HO-1 after 6h and higher expression of GCLC and HO-1 after 24h incubation. **(c, d)** Stimulation of fetal astrocytes with chronic OS via 2.5 mU GO induced expression of GSR, xCT, FTH-1 and FTL after 48h. After 72h the same genes plus GPx1, GCLC, HO-1 and TFRC were induced. **(e, f)** Exposure to acute OS via 500 µM H₂O₂ induced antioxidant genes GCLC, GSR, xCT and

HO-1 and lowered DMT-1 expression after 6h, while after 24h GPx1, FTH-1, FTL and FPN-1 were elevated. **(g, h)** Secretion of IL-6 was not different in fetal astrocytes treated with FAC, GO, 10 μ M hemin or a combination. **(k)** Stimulation of human fetal astrocytes with 300 μ M BSA induced the expression of IL-1 β and MMP9 after 24 h and C3 and COX-2 after 48 h. HO-1 expression was not changed. **(l)** Stimulation of fetal astrocytes with HSA for 24 h induced the expression of IL-1 β and MMP9. Kruskal-Wallis test followed by post-hoc Dunn's test (a-h) or Two-way ANOVA followed by post-hoc Bonferroni's test (i, j). Data are expressed relative to expression observed in controls with SD (a-h) or SEM (i, j); *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. n = 3 independent cultures in duplicates (a-f, k), n = 5 independent cultures (g, h), n = 2 independent cultures in quadruplicates (i), n = 2 independent cultures in triplicates (j), n = 2 cultures (l).



Online resource 6 SHSY5Y neuroblastoma cell RNA expression, iron accumulation, HMGB-1 secretion, viability and mitochondrial morphology upon exposure to FAC, GO or hemin (a, b) SHSY5Y neuroblastoma cells exposed to 2.5 mU GO for 48h display upregulation of xCT and FTL. Co-stimulation of SHSY5Y cells with GO plus 200 μM FAC induced the expression of GPx1, GSR, xCT, HO-1, FTH-1, FTL and reduced the expression of TFRC. **(c, d, g)** Small iron inclusions could be detected in untreated SHSY5Y cells while stimulation with FAC and GO for 24 h led to more cytoplasmic iron

accumulation (c). In addition, GO/FAC co-treatment induced secretion of HMGB-1 (d) while not affecting viability (g). **(e, f, h)** Stimulation of SHSY5Y cells with 10 μM hemin combined with 100 μM H_2O_2 induced iron uptake (e) and elevated HMGB-1 secretion into cell culture supernatant (f). Hemin treatment increased SHSY5Y cell viability, while co-treatment with H_2O_2 reduced viability. **(i)** Stimulation of SHSY5Y cells with FAC for 24h induced mitochondrial stress as indicated by reduced electron density (double arrowheads depict mitochondria; N = nucleus). Scale bar = 50 μm in c, 1 μm in i. Kruskal-Wallis test followed by post-hoc Dunn's test (a, b) or Two-way ANOVA followed by post-hoc Bonferroni's test (g, h). Data are expressed relative to expression observed in controls with SD (a, b) or SEM (g, h); * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. $n = 3$ independent cultures in duplicates (a, b), $n = 4$ independent cultures (d, f), $n = 2$ independent cultures in quadruplicates (g) or $n = 2$ independent cultures in triplicates (h).

Online resource 7 Summary of clinical information of TBI and stroke cases

Pathology	Age	Gender	Area	Duration (injury to death)	Classification
TBI	75	m	SSC	<48 h	-
TBI	32	m	T	<48 h	-
TBI	34	m	F	6 days	-
TBI	65	f	F	6 days	-
TBI/epilepsy	35	m	-	6 months	-
TBI/epilepsy	52	m	EC	38 years	-
TBI/epilepsy	80	m	-	54 years	-
Stroke	81	f	EC	2 days	TACS
Stroke	52	f	F	2 days	TACS
Stroke	87	f	F	3 days	TACS
Stroke	42	f	P	3 days	TACS
Stroke	79	f	PUT	5 days	POCS + TACS
Stroke	85	f	PM	5 days	TACS
Stroke	55	m	O	6 days	TACS
Stroke	68	m	F	13 days	PACS
Stroke	78	f	P	14 days	TACS
Stroke	90	f	O	14 days	TACS

TBI, traumatic brain injury; m, male; f, female; SSC, somatosensory cortex; T, temporal; F, frontal; P, parietal; O, occipital; EC, entorhinal cortex; HC, hippocampus; PUT, putamen; PM, primary motor cortex; TACS, total anterior circulation infarct; PACS, partial anterior circulation infarct; POCS, posterior circulation infarct; h, hour

Online resource 8 Primer sequences used for quantitative real-time PCR

Species	Gene	Forward primer	Reverse primer
human	GPx1	TTCCCGTGCAACCAGTTT	GGACGTACTIONTGGAGGAATTCTG
	GCLC	AGTTGAGGCCAACATGCGAA	GTGAACCCAGGACAGCCTAA
	GSR	CGTGGAGGTGCTGAAAGTTCTC	ATGGTCATGACTGGTAGCCT
	xCT	TGACTGGAGTCCCTGCGTAT	TCTTCTTCTGGTACAACCTCCAGT
	HO-1	GGCCAGCAACAAAGTGCAAG	AGTGTAAGGACCCATCGGAGA
	FTH-1	GTGCGCCAGAACTACCACCA	ACATCATCGCGGTCAAAGTAGT
	FTL	CTGGAGAAAAAGCTGAACCAG	TCCAGGAAGTCACAGAGATGG
	TFRC	GCGGCTGCAGGTTCTTCT	CATCTACTTGCCGAGCCAGG
	FPN-1	GTGGATCCTTGGCCGACTAC	AAGTGCCACATCCGATCTCC
	DMT-1	AGCTGGCATTGGGAAAGTCA	GGTGGATACCTGAGTGGCTG
	IL-1 β	GCATCCAGCTACGAATCTCC	GAACCAGCATCTTCCTCAGC
	IL-6	CTCAGCCCTGAGAAAGGAGA	TTTCAGCCATCTTTGGAAGG
	C3	CCTGAAGATAGAGGGTGACCA	CCACCACGTCCCAGATCTTA
	MMP9	GAACCAATCTCACCGACAGG	GCCACCCGAGTGTAAACCATA
	C1ORF43	GATTTCCCTGGGTTTCCAGT	ATTGACTCTCCAGGGTTCA
Rat	EF1 α	ATCCACCTTTGGGTCGCTTT	CCGCAACTGTCTGTCTCATATCAC
	GCLC	TTTGCACGATAACTTCATTTCC	CGTCTGGAAAGAAGAGGGACT
	xCT	TGTAACAGCTGTGGGCATCA	GGAAAATCTGGATCCGGGCA
	GSR	TTCTCATGAGAACCAGATCC	CTGAAAGAACCCATCACTGGT
	HO-1	CAACCCACCAAGTTCAAACA	AGGCGGTCTTAGCCTCCTCTG
	FTH-1	CGCCAGATCAACCTGGAGTT	GCAAAGTTCTTCAGGGCCAC
	TFRC	GTGCTTCAGAGTGCTCCCTTG	TCTCCATCTACTTGCCGAGC
	FPN-1	AGCCATCATTGGTGACTIONGGG	TCAGGATGATCCCGCAGAGA
	DMT-1	GCAGTGGTTAGCGTGGCTTA	TCTTCGCTCAGCAGGACTTT
	CycA	CCCACCGTGTCTTCGACAT	AAACAGCTCGAAGCAGACGC
Mouse	GAPDH	ATGACTCTACCCACGGCAAG	TACTCAGCACCAGCATCACC
	FTH-1	CAGAACTACCACCAGGACGC	AGCCACATCATCTCGGTCAA
	FTL	CAGCCGCCTTTACAAGTCTC	TAGGAGCTAACCGCCAAGAG
	TFRC	GAGGCGCTTCCTAGTACTCC	CTTGCCGAGCAAGGCTAAAC
	HO-1	CCTCACAGATGGCGTCACTT	GCTGATCTGGGGTTTCCCTC
	IL-1 β	TGAAGTTGACGGACCCAAA	TGATGTGCTGCTGCGAGATT
	IL-6	GTTCTCTGGGAAATCGTGGA	TGTACTIONCAGGTAGCTATGG
	cFOS	CAGCCTTTCCTACTACCATTCC	ACAGATCTGCGCAAAAGTCC
	TBP	GGAGAATCATGGACCAGAACA	GATGGGAATTCCAGGAGTCA
	HPRT	TCCTCCTCAGACCGCTTTT	CCTGGTTCATCATCGCTAATC