

## Supplementary materials

### Figure S1

**Hierarchical clustering of regulated genes from microarray data and GO analysis of differentially expressed genes.** (A) Hierarchical clustering of regulated genes between each time was performed using Partek Genomics Suite. Data were clustered using the Euclidean algorithm. Red to blue in the heatmap indicated high to low expression levels. (B) Examples of GO terms with over 50 genes. The number of regulated genes included in the GO term was indicated in brackets. The x-axis showed the percentage of the total number of differentially expressed genes, for a particular GO term, in tendon progenitor cells at E11.5 (green lines) or in differentiated tendon cells at E14.5 (red lines).

### Figure S2

**Regulated genes between E14.5 tendon differentiated cells versus E11.5 tendon progenitors in the TGF-beta KEGG pathway N°4350.** Up-regulated and down-regulated genes in limb tendon cells (E14.5 vs E11.5) were coloured in red and green, respectively, in the map of the KEGG TGF-beta pathway N°4350. Two genes, known to be transcriptionally activated by TGF- $\beta$  ligand, the secreted factor, *Tgfb1* and the transcription factor, *Zeb2* and the TGF- $\beta$  Receptor 3 (*Tgfb3* or *Betaglycan*) were added to the pathway in brackets. These 3 genes were up-regulated in E14.5 tendon differentiated cells versus E11.5 tendon progenitors. All the extracellular components of the classical TGF-beta pathway were up-regulated in E14.5 cells versus E11.5 tendon progenitors.

### Figure S3

**Regulated genes between E14.5 tendon differentiated cells versus E11.5 tendon progenitors in MAPK KEGG pathway N°4010.** Up-regulated and down-regulated genes in limb tendon cells (E14.5 vs E11.5) were coloured in red and green, respectively, in the map of the KEGG MAPK pathway N°4010. It has to be noted that the number of genes classified in the MAPK pathway (KEGG N°04010) is high (259) and the MAPK pathway includes TGF- $\beta$  pathway members.

### Figure S4

#### **RT-q-PCR analyses for tendon markers in E9.5, E10.5 and E12.5 mouse limbs.**

(A) The relative mRNA levels of *Scx*, *Colla1* and *Colla2* were determined in E9.5, E10.5 and E12.5 mouse limbs. The *Scx* mRNA levels, at E9.5 were arbitrary established at 1. All the relative mRNA levels were calculated and compared to the *Scx* mRNA levels at E9.5. Based on the average number of RT-q-PCR cycles for *Scx*, we observed that *Scx* was already expressed in E9.5 limbs (ct: 26,77) and E10.5 (ct: 26,07). Both *Colla* genes were highly expressed at E9.5, E10.5 and E12.5 (green bars) compared to *Scx* expression (purple bars). In addition, the *Colla1* and *Colla2* mRNA expression levels significantly increased between E10.5 and E12.5. (B) The relative mRNA levels of the differentiation tendon marker *Tnmd*, and the tendon genes identified in the transcriptome, *Aqp1*, *Thbs2* and *Thbs4* were determined at E9.5, E10.5 and E12.5 and compared to that of *Scx* at E9.5 mouse limbs. The *Scx* mRNA levels, at E9.5 were arbitrary established at 1. Based on the average number of RT-q-PCR cycles, we observed that *Tnmd* and *Aqp1* mRNA levels were not detectable in E9.5 and E10.5 limbs (above 31 cycle numbers). The mRNA levels of *Thbs2* (29 cycle numbers) and *Thbs4*

(30 cycle numbers) mRNA levels were very low in E9.5 and E10.5 limbs. However, the *Tnmd*, *Aqp1*, *Thbs2* and *Thbs4* mRNA expression levels were significantly increased at E12.5 compared to those at E9.5/E10.5. The mRNA expression levels of *Tnmd* (0,44), *Aqp1* (0,40), *Thbs2* (0,75) and *Thbs4* (1,15) genes at E12.5 were comparable to those of *Scx* at E9.5 (1), E10.5 (1,73) and E12.5 (1,15). The significant increase of late tendon gene expression highlighted the initiation of the tendon differentiation process at E12.5. (C) The relative mRNA levels of *Tgfb1*, *Tgfb2*, *Tgfb3* were determined and compared to that of *Scx* in E9.5 mouse limb explants. The *Scx* mRNA levels were arbitrary established at 1. Since all *Tgfb* mRNA levels were established to the same reference (*Scx* at E9.5), mRNA levels were comparable between *Tgfb* genes and stages. *Tgfb2* displayed the highest expression levels compared to those of other *Tgfb* genes at all stages, E9.5, E10.5 and E12.5. It has to be noted that *Tgfb3* expression levels significantly increased at E12.5 versus E9.5 or E10.5. The error bars represent standard deviation (SD). The asterisks in histograms indicate p-values, \* $<0.05$ , \*\* $<0.01$  in unpaired student's t-test.

### Figure S5

Schematic and simplified representation of the TGF $\beta$ /SMAD2/3 and FGF/ERK signalling pathways and their intracellular cross-talks. TGF- $\beta$  ligands signal via the serine/threonine kinase type I Receptor (TGF $\beta$ -RI or other named ALK5) and its activator type II Receptor (TGF $\beta$ -RII). The TGF- $\beta$  canonical intracellular pathway is the SMAD2/3, which regulates transcription in a cell context dependent manner. *Smad7* is considered as a common target gene of the TGF $\beta$ /SMAD2/3 pathway. FGF ligands signal via tyrosine kinase receptors. One main intracellular pathway downstream of FGF is the ERK MAPK pathway. *Pea3*, *Spry2* and *Dusp6* are considered as transcriptional readouts of active FGF/ERK pathway.

Positive and negative cross talks between the TGF $\beta$ /SMAD2/3 and FGF/ERK pathways are indicated with green and red dashed lines, respectively. TGF- $\beta$  receptors can activate the ERK MAPK pathway (green dashed line). Conversely, the ERK MAPK pathway blocks the SMAD2/3 pathway by modulating SMAD3 function (red dashed line).

In our gain and loss-of-function experiments, we targeted both pathways at different levels. Protein recombinants were used to activate the TGF- $\beta$  and FGF pathways. Specific inhibitors were used to block the TGF- $\beta$  pathway at the level of the receptors (SB43) or at the level of the SMAD2/3 pathway (SIS3). PD18 blocks the ERK pathway.

### Figure S6

Quantitative real-time PCR analyses of mRNA levels of tendon genes in E10.5 mouse limb explants (A) or in E12.5 mouse limb explants (B), cultured for 24 hours with FGF or the PD18 ERK inhibitor. For each gene, the mRNA levels of control limbs were normalized to 1. (A) In E10.5 mouse limb explants, FGF did not modify the relative mRNA expression levels of tendon genes, while PD18 increased *Colla1* and *Thbs2* expression, but not that of *Scx*. PD18 inhibitor dramatically decreased the expression levels of *Pea3* and *Spry2* genes. (B) In E12.5 mouse limb explants, FGF did not modify the relative mRNA expression levels of *Scx*, *Colla1*, *Thbs2*, *Tnmd* and *Aqp1*, while increasing *Colla2* and *Thbs4* expression. PD18 inhibitor significantly decreased the expression of *Colla2*, *Pea3* and *Spry2* genes, in E12.5 mouse limbs. The error bars represent standard error (SEM). The asterisks in histograms indicate p values, \* $<0.05$ , \*\* $<0.01$ , \*\*\* $<0.001$  in unpaired student's t-test.

## Table S1

**Global list of genes regulated in mouse limb tendon cells during development.** List of all significantly regulated genes in the microarray with no filter of probe expression. Column A correspond to the probe references in the Affymetrix microarray. Columns B, C and D correspond to gene symbol, gene title and transcript ID, respectively. Columns E, F, G correspond to the signal in Arbitrary Unit (AU) in the microarray for one probe at E11.5, E12.5 and E14.5, respectively. The mean of the signal has been established with the three biological replicates at each time point. Numbers below 500 (AU) are considered as reflecting low level of gene expression. Numbers above 8000 (AU) are considered as reflecting very high level of gene expression. Columns H, I and J correspond to fold-changes between E12.5 vs E11.5 (muscle-independent phase), E14.5 vs E12.5 (muscle-dependent phase) and E14.5 vs E11.5 (tendon differentiated cells vs tendon progenitors), respectively. Column K, L and M correspond to Gene Ontology Biological Process, Gene Ontology Cellular Component, Gene Ontology Molecular Function, respectively. In table S1, genes have been ordered according to the fold-enrichment of gene expression (from high to low levels) in E14.5 versus E11.5.

## Table S2

**List of up-regulated and down-regulated genes of the KEGG pathway N°4350 (TGF-beta) in limb tendon cells at different stages of development.** Up-regulated and down-regulated genes are indicated in red and green, respectively. The TGF-beta pathways has been divided into sub-pathways as indicated in the KEGG pathway N°4350. Significant Fold-changes (superior to 1.5) are indicated in bold and in brackets. Underlined genes are not

identified as being part of the KEGG pathway N°4350 but have been manually added as being part of the TGF-beta signalling pathway.

### **Table S3**

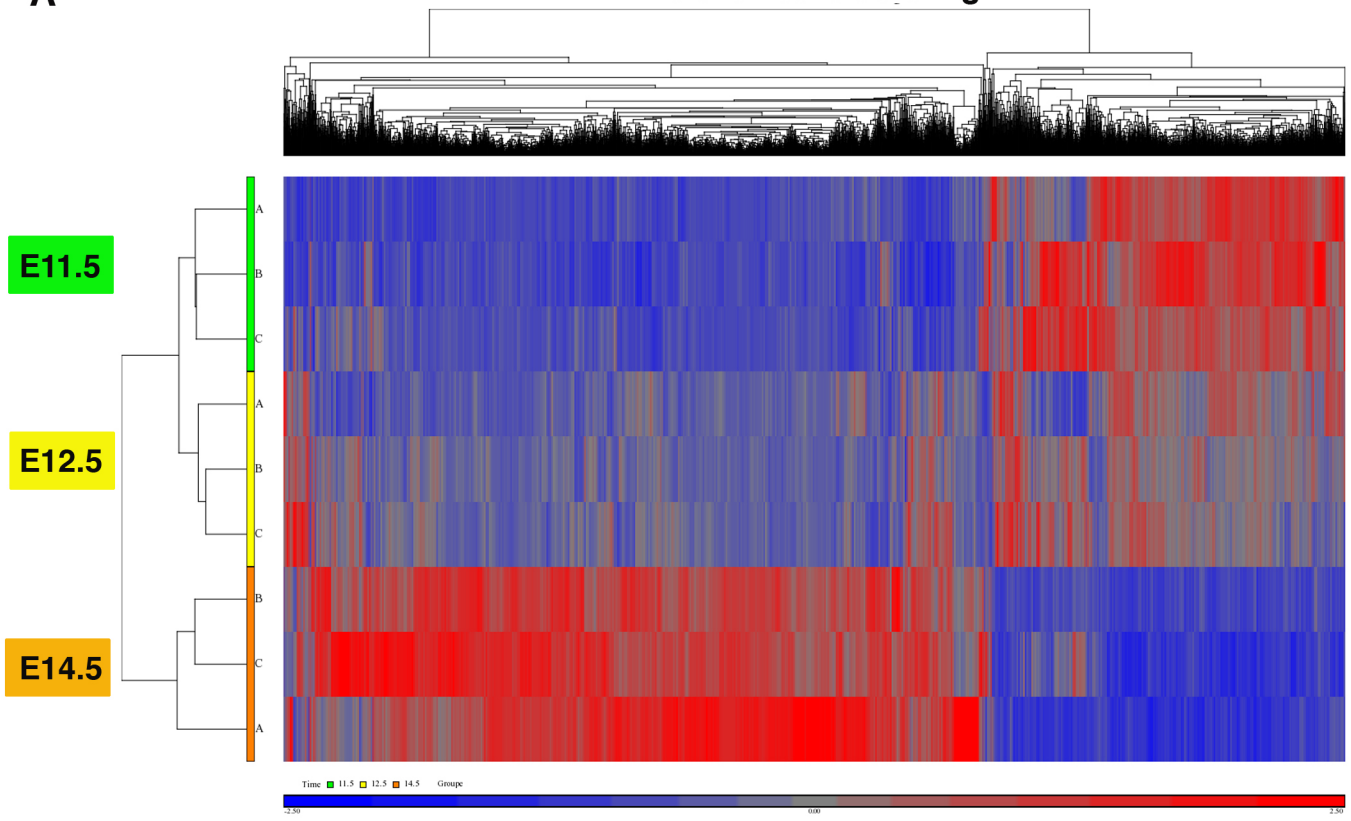
**List of up-regulated and down-regulated genes of the KEGG pathway N°4010 (MAPK) in limb tendon cells at different stages of development.** Up-regulated and down-regulated genes are indicated in red and green, respectively.

### **Table S4**

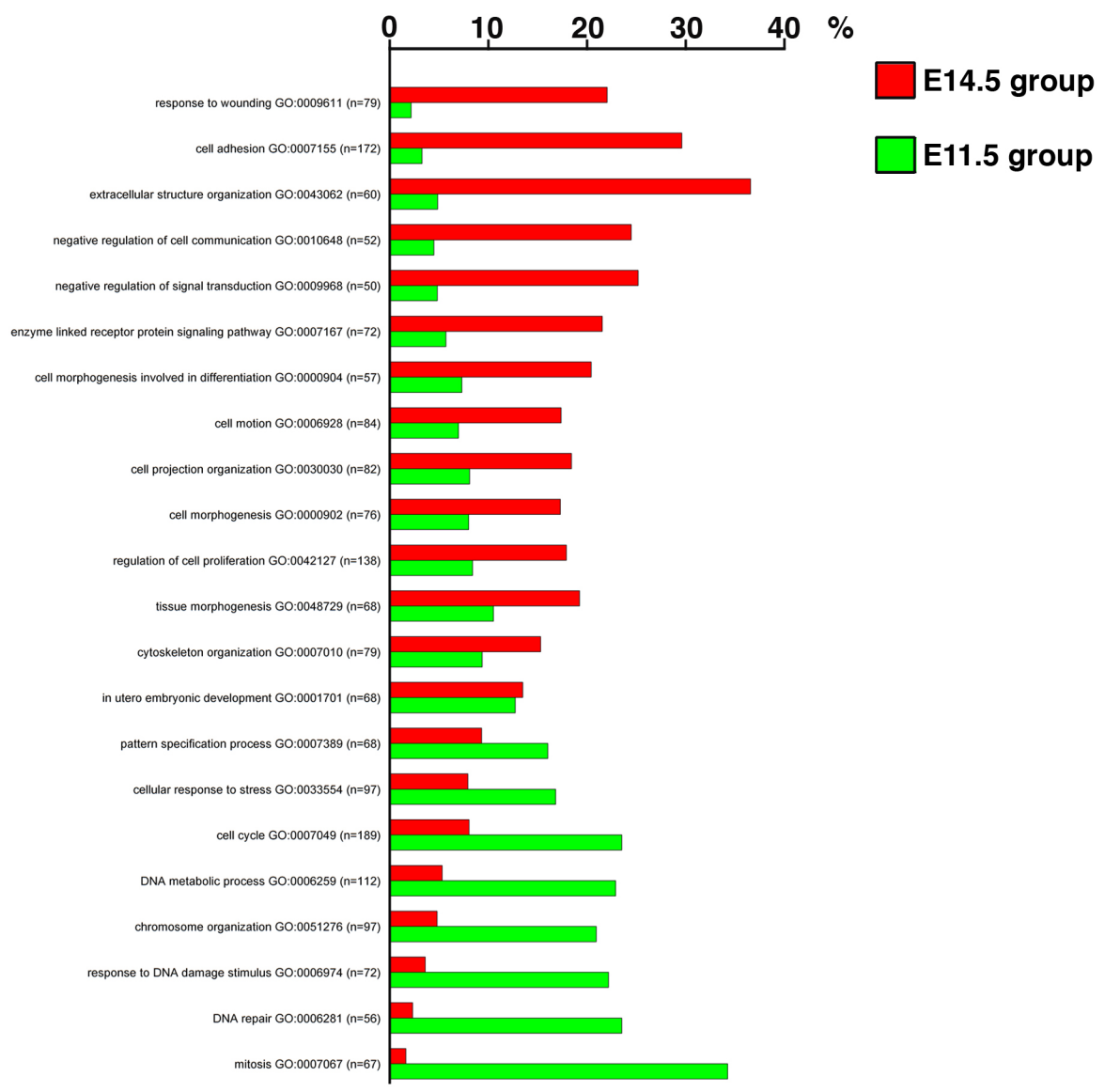
List of primers used for RT-q-PCR analyses

**A**

**Hierarchical clustering**



**B**



TGF-BETA SIGNALING PATHWAY

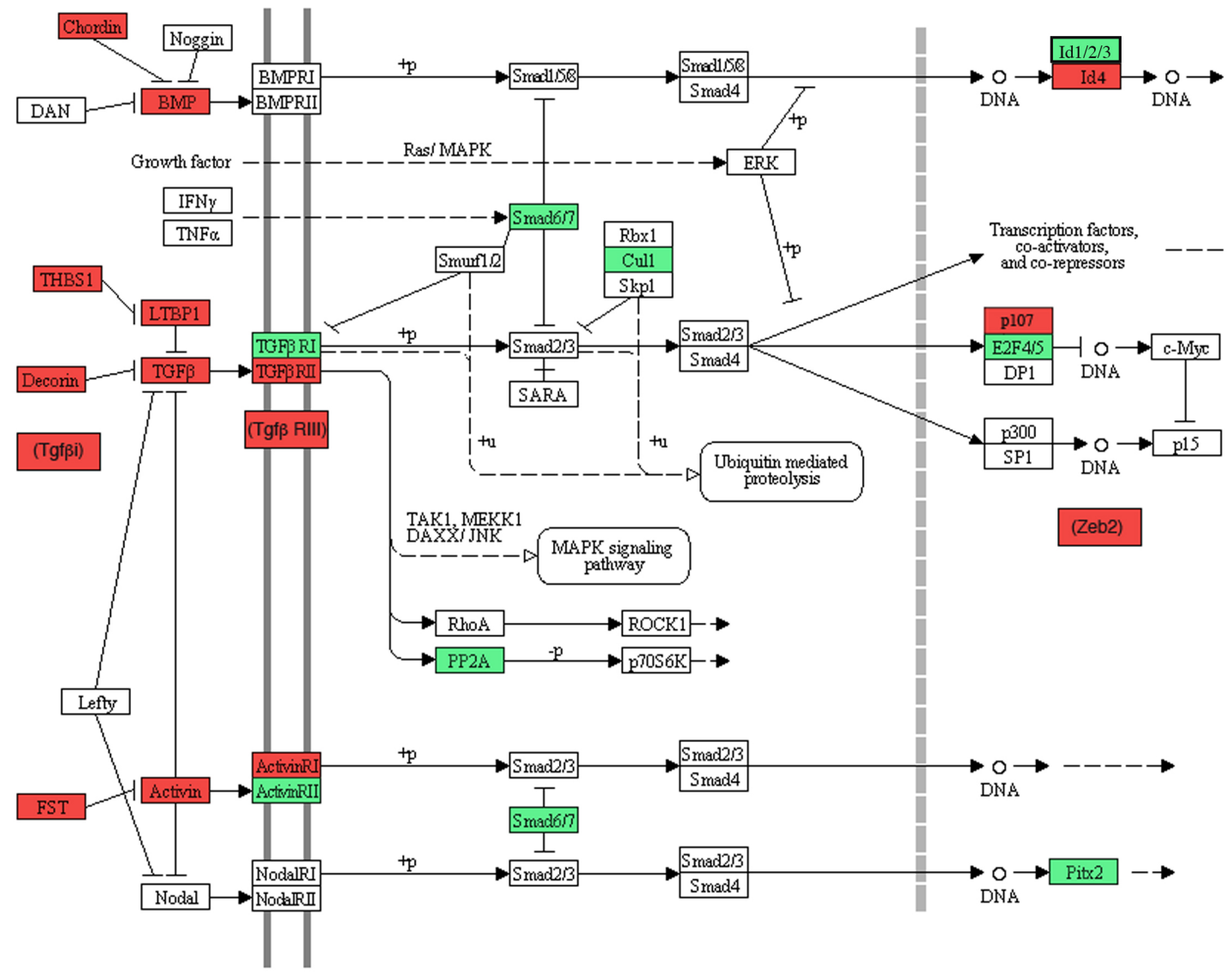
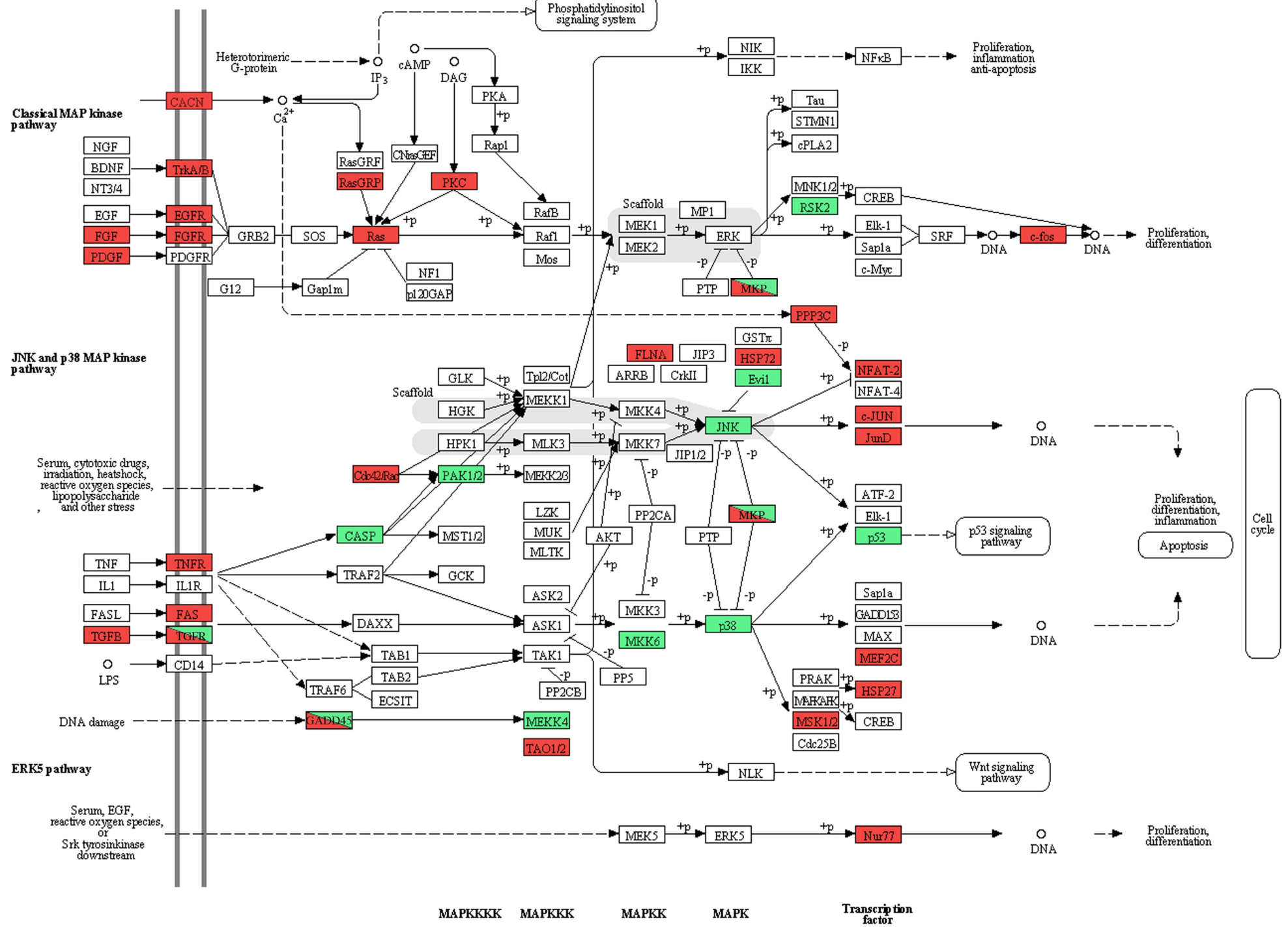


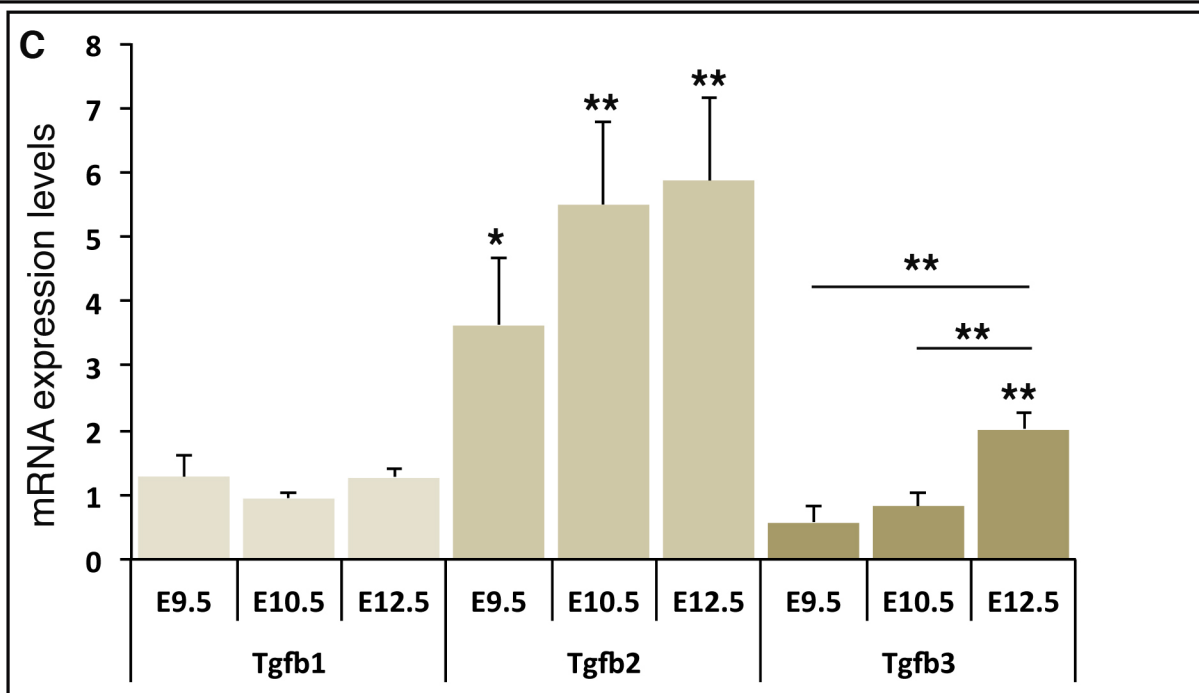
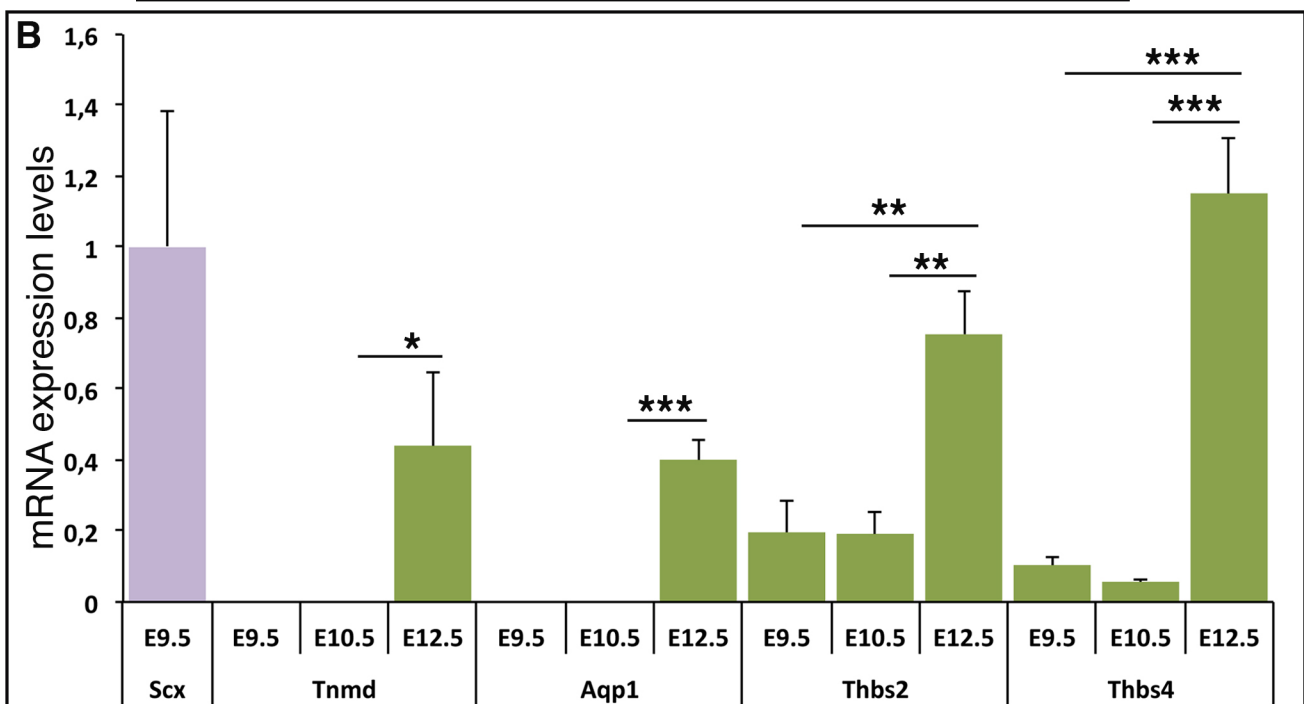
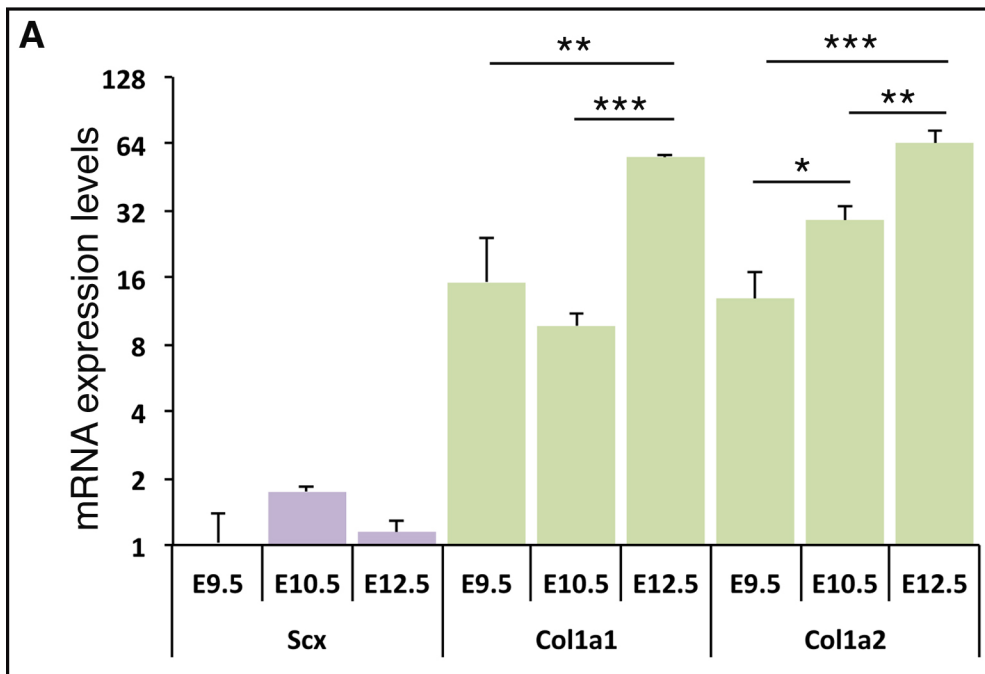
Figure S2



**MAPK SIGNALING PATHWAY**



MAPKKKK    MAPKKK    MAPKK    MAPK    Transcription factor



**Figure S4**

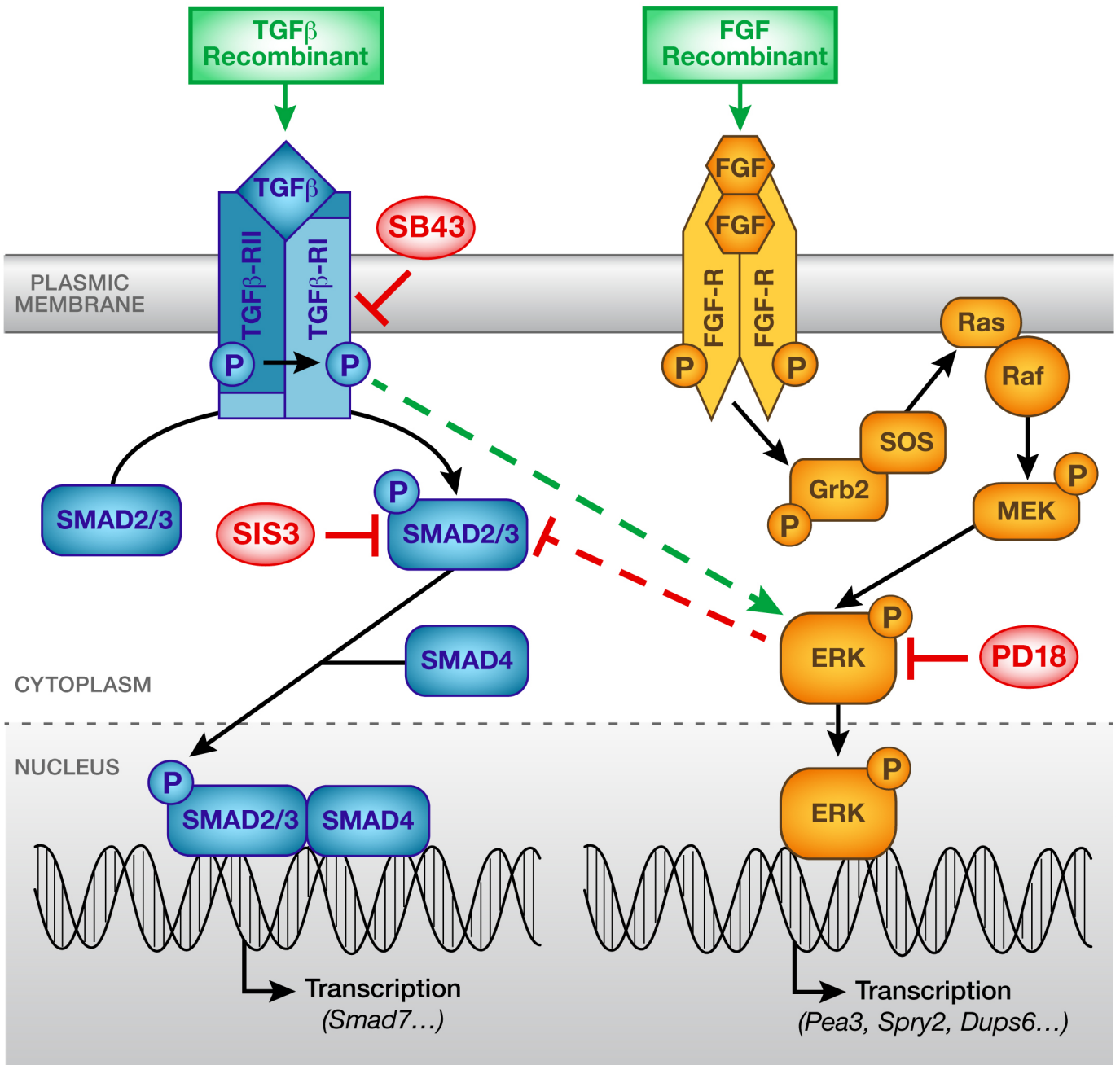


Figure S5



[Download Table S1](#)

**Table S2. List of upregulated and downregulated genes of the KEGG pathway N°4350 (TGF-BETA) in limb tendon cells at different stages of development.**

			List of <b>upregulated</b> and <b>downregulated</b> genes in tendon cells during development, identified as being part of the TGF-β signalling pathway KEGG N°04350 (x) Fold-changes		
Stages of development (Number of regulated genes / total number of genes in the pathway)	p-values	Sub-pathways	Extracellular components	Receptors	Intracellular components
E11.5 vs E12.5  (11 +1 genes / 85)	2.8 E-3	BMP	<b>Bmp6 (4,89)</b>		
		TGF-β	<b>Dcn (4,75), Gdf5 (3,29), Tgfb2 (1,75), Tgfbi (1,84), Thbs1 (1,76), Thbs2 (2,11), Comp/Thbs5 (2,62),</b>	<b>TgfbR2 (2,34)</b>	
		Activin/Nodal	<b>Fst (2,47), Inhba (2,33),</b>		<b>Pitx2 (-1,99)</b>
E12.5 vs E14.5  (17 +2 genes / 85)	2.2 E-2	BMP	<b>Chrd (2,22)</b>		<b>Id1 (-1,9), Id2 (-2,1), Id4 (2,12)</b>
		TGF-β	<b>Dcn (7,70), Ltpb1 (2,22), Tgfb3 (2,69), Thbs1 (2,09), Thbs2 (15,43), Thbs3 (2,65), Thbs4 (13,02)</b>	<b>TgfbR2 (2,93), TgfbR3 (2,20)</b>	<b>Zeb2 (4,18)</b>
		Activin/Nodal	<b>Fst (2,18), Inhba (2,11), Inhbb (4,26)</b>	<b>Acvr2b (-2,89)</b>	<b>Pitx2 (-2,78)</b>
E11.5 vs E14.5  (27 +2 genes / 85)	5.1 E-3	BMP	<b>Chrd (2,72), Bmp5 (2,47), Bmp6 (9,12),</b>		<b>Id4 (2,80)</b>
		TGF-β	<b>Dcn (36,57), Ltpb1 (2,78), Tgfb2 (2,14), Tgfb3 (3,52), Tgfbi (2,80), Thbs1 (3,69), Thbs2 (32,20), Thbs3 (3,42), Thbs4 (22,54), Comp/Thbs5 (29,05)</b>	<b>TgfbR1/Alk5 (-1,93), TgfbR2 (6,87), TgfbR3 (3,53)</b>	<b>Cul1 (-2,17), E2f5 (-2,17), Ppp2r1b (-1,81), p107/rbl2 (3,34), Smad7 (-2,06), Zeb2 (5,49)</b>
		Activin/Nodal	<b>Fst (5,49), Inhba (4,93), Inhbb (7,44)</b>	<b>Acvr1/Alk1 (2,23), Acvr1/Alk2 (1,74), Acvr2b (-4,96)</b>	<b>Pitx2 (-4,7)</b>

**Table S3. List of upregulated and downregulated genes of the KEGG pathway N°4010 (MAPK) in limb tendon cells at different stages of development.**

List of <b>upregulated</b> and <b>downregulated</b> genes in tendon cells during development, identified as being part of the MAPK signaling pathway KEGG N°4010				
Stages of development (number of regulated genes / total number of genes in the pathway)	p-values	Ligands	Receptors	Intra-cellular components
E11.5 vs E12.5  (17 genes / 259)	9.21 E-2	Fgf1, Fgf12, Tgfb2	Cacna1d, Cacna2d3, Egfr, TgfbR2	Rac3, Gadd45b, Mapk8ip2 Kinases: Pkca, Pkcb, Rps6ka3/RSK2, Rps6ka4/MSK2 MAPKK: Map2k6 MAPK: Mapk12/p38 DNA-binding proteins: Mef2c
E12.5 vs E14.5  (34 genes / 259)	1.77 E-1 (NS)	Fgf7, Fgf11, Fgf12, Pdgfa, Tgfb3	Fas, Cacna2d3, Cacnb4, Cacna1h Traf6, Egfr, Ntrk2, TgfbR2	Rasgrp2, Gadd45a, Gadd45b, Flnc Kinases: Taok3, Rps6ka2, Rps6ka4/MSK2, Rps6ka6 MAPKK: Map2k6 MAPK: Mapk10, Mapk8ip2, Mapk12/p38 MAP Kinase Phosphatases: Dusp3, Dusp6, Dusp8, Dusp9, Dusp10 DNA-binding proteins: Mecom/Evi1, Mef2c, Nfatc2, Nur77/Nr4a1
E11.5 vs E14.5  (57 genes / 259)	5.6 E-2	Fgf7, Fgf11, Fgf12, Fgf13, Fgf16, Pdgfa, Pdgfb, Tgfb2, Tgfb3	Cacna1d, Cacna2d1 Cacna2d2, Cacna2d3, Cacnb1, Cacnb4, Cacng4, Egfr, Fgfr4, Ntrk2, Fas, TgfbR1, TgfbR2, Tnfr/Tnfrsf1a	Rac3, Rras, Rasgrp2, Casp3, Ppp3cb, Gadd45a, Gadd45b, Flnc Kinases: Pak1, Prkca, Rps6ka4/MSK2, Taok3 MAPKKK: Map3k4 MAPKK: Map2k6 MAPK: Mapk8/Jnk, Mapk12/p38 MAP Kinase Phosphatases: Dusp1, Dusp3, Dusp6, Dusp8, Dusp9, Dusp10, Dusp16 DNA-binding proteins: c-Fos, c-Jun, Jund, Hspa1b, Hspa2, Hspb1, Nfatc2, Mecom/Evi1, Mef2c, Nur77/Nr4a1, Trp53

### Primers used for quantitative RT-PCR

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Acvrl1.....Fwd 5' TCCTTCTGCAACCACAACGTGTCT  
Rev 5' ATCAGAGGCAGATGGGCATCAACT

Avcr2b.....Fwd 5' GCTCATGAACGACTTTGTGGCTGT  
Rev 5' ACTGCTTGTCTGAAGTGGGAAGA

Aqp1.....Fwd 5' CAATTCACCTGGCCGCAATGACCT  
Rev 5' TACCAGCTGCAGAGTGCCAATGAT

BmpR1a.....Fwd 5' TGGGAGTGGATCTGGATTGCCTTT  
Rev 5' TACCAACCTGCCGAACCATCTGAA

Col1a1.....Fwd 5' TGGAGAGAGCATGACCGATG  
Rev 5' GAGCCCTCGCTTCCGTACT

Col1a2.....Fwd 5' CCAGCGAAGAATCATAACAGC  
Rev 5' GGACACCCCTTCTACGTTGT

Col2a1.....Fwd 5' TTCCACTTCAGCTATGGCGA  
Rev 5' GACGTTAGCGGTGTTGGGAG

Gapdh.....Fwd 5' TTGTGGAAGGGCTCATGACC  
Rev 5' TCTTCTGGGTGGCAGTGATG

Hprt .....Fwd 5' AGGGCATATCCAACAACAACTT  
Rev 5' GTTAAGCAGTACAGCCCCAAA

Id1.....Fwd 5' TGAACGGCGAGATCAGTGCCTT  
Rev 5' AAGATGCGATCGTCGGCTGGAA

Id2.....Fwd 5' ATCACCAGAGACCTGGACAGAACC  
Rev 5' ATTCAGATGCCTGCAAGGACAGGA

Id3.....Fwd 5' CATCTCCCGATCCAGACAGCTGAG  
Rev 5' AGCTCCTCTTGTCTTGGAGATCA

Id4.....Fwd 5' ACTCACCGCGCTCAACACT  
Rev 5' AATGCTGTCACCCTGCTTGTTTAC

Pea3.....Fwd 5' TCCCCTACCACCATGGAGAG  
Rev 5' GGGAGTCATAGGCACTGGAGTAAA

Scx.....Fwd 5' CCTTCTGCCTCAGCAACCAG  
Rev 5' GGTCCAAAGTGGGGCTCTCCGTGACT

Smad7.....Fwd 5' CCCTCCTCCTTACTCCAGATACCCAAT

Sox9.....Rev 5' ATCTGGACAGCCTGCAGTTGGTTT  
 Fwd 5' AGTACCCGCATCTGCACAAC  
 Spry2.....Rev 5' CCTCCACGAAGGGTCTCTTCT  
 Fwd 5' TGCACATCGCTGGAAGAAGAGGAT  
 Tgfb1.....Rev 5' CCAGCAGGCTTAGAACACATCTGA  
 Fwd 5' TTTGGAGCCTGGACACACAGTACA  
 Tgfb2 .....Rev5' TGTGTTGGTTGTAGAGGGCAAGGA  
 Fwd 5' GAATAAAAGCGAAGAGCTCGAGG  
 Tgfb3.....Rev 5' GAGGTGCCATCAATACCTGCA  
 Fwd 5' CGGAGCACAATGAACTGGC  
 TgfbI.....Rev 5' AAACCTTAGAGGTAATTCCTTTGGG  
 Fwd 5' GCCCTTGAAATCTTCAAACAGGCGTC  
 TgfbR1.....Rev 5' TCCTCTCCAGTAACCGCTGATAGACA  
 Fwd 5' ACAACATCAGGGTCTGGATCAGGT  
 TgfbR2.....Rev 5' CCAAACCGACCTTTGCCAATGCTT  
 Fwd 5' AAATTCCCAGCTTCTGGCTCAACC  
 TgfbR3.....Rev 5' AGCACTCGGTCAAAGTCTCACACA  
 Fwd 5' CAGAAGCTGCCAAAGTGTGTGACT  
 Thbs2.....Rev 5' ATCATGGTCCAGATCATGGTGGCA  
 Fwd 5' AGGTGCATCTCGAGAGAGTCACT  
 Thbs4.....Rev 5' CTGCAAACACGAGATGGACATTC  
 Fwd 5' AGGGTGTCTGGGATCAACTTTGCTA  
 Tnmd.....Rev 5' ACACACGCTCCATTCTGACACTCA  
 Fwd 5' AACACTTCTGGCCCGAGGTAT  
 Zeb2.....Rev 5' AAGTGTGCTCCATGTCATAGGTTTT  
 Fwd 5' AGCACCACCTGAAAGAACACCTGA  
 18S.....Rev 5' AGGACCCAGAATGAGAGAAGCGTT  
 Fwd 5' GGCGACGACCCATTCC  
 Rev 5' ACCCGTGGTCACCATGGTA