

# Bioengineering IV

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**The University of Hong Kong**

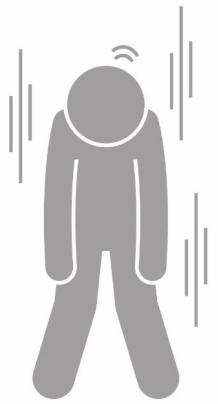
Catalyzing Therapeutic Breakthroughs:  
Engineering Targeted Extracellular Vesicles for  
Liver Fibrosis Treatment



INTEGRATING  
**Delivery Science**  
ACROSS DISCIPLINES



# UNMET NEED



Weakness



Losing Appetite



Nausea



Jaundice



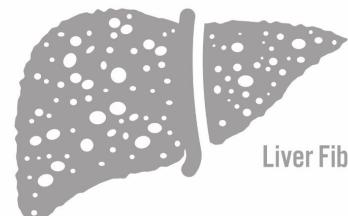
White Stools



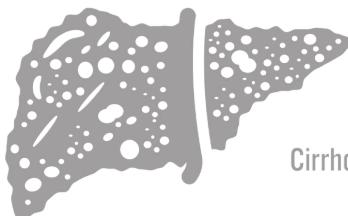
Upper Abdominal Pain



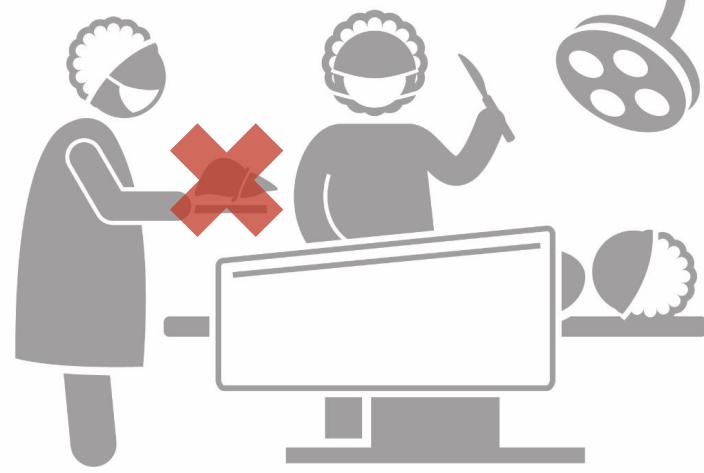
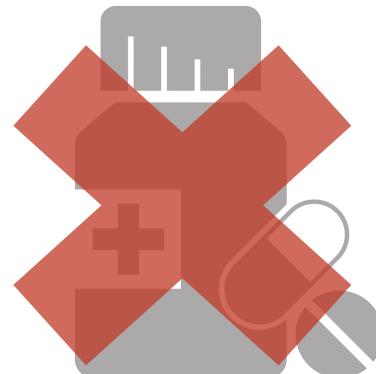
Fatty Liver



Liver Fibrosis



Cirrhosis

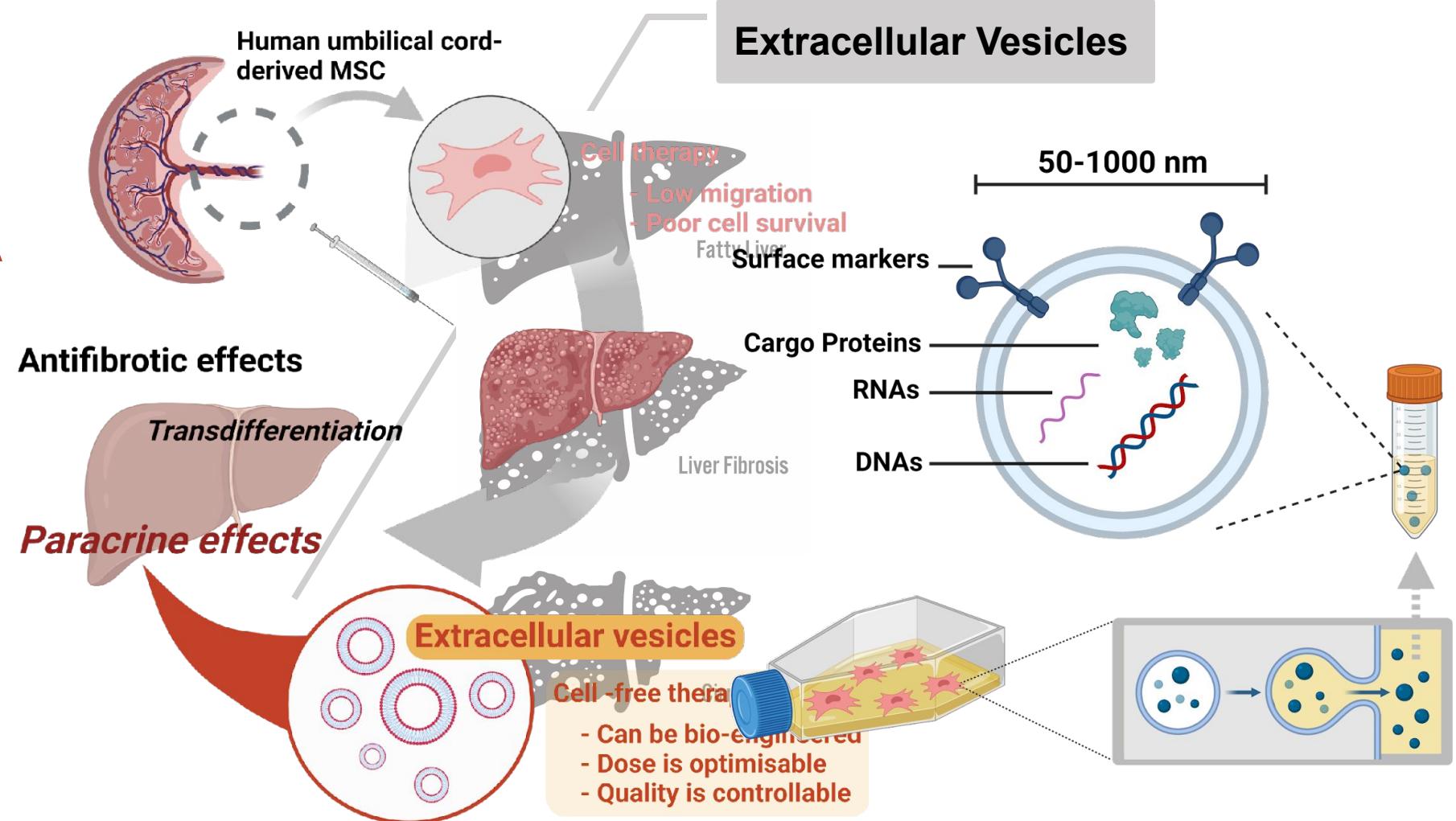


Liver Transplant

# Promising solutions



Healthy Liver



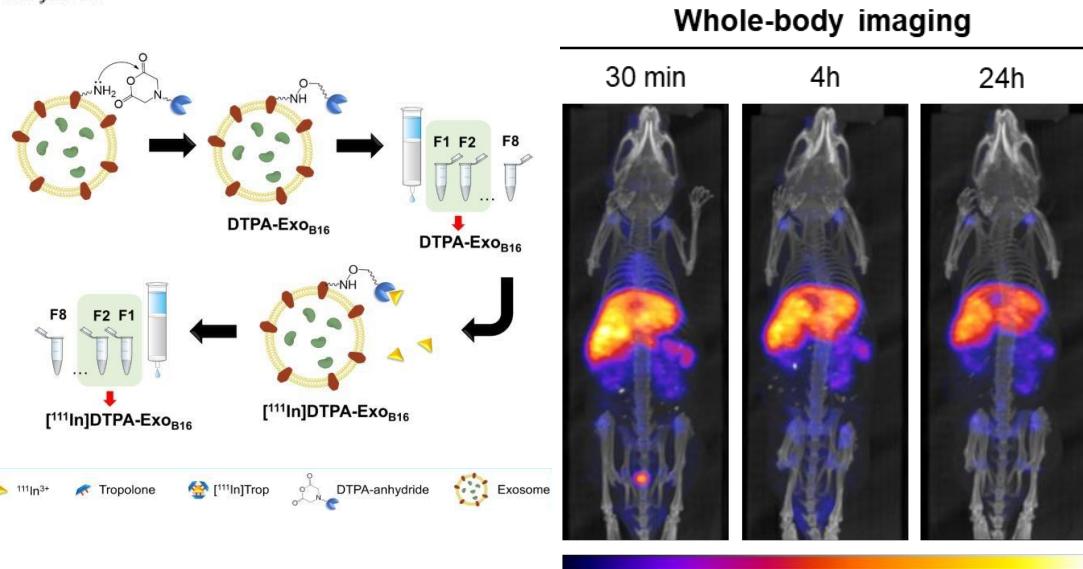
# Why EVs are ideal for targeted liver delivery



Research Paper

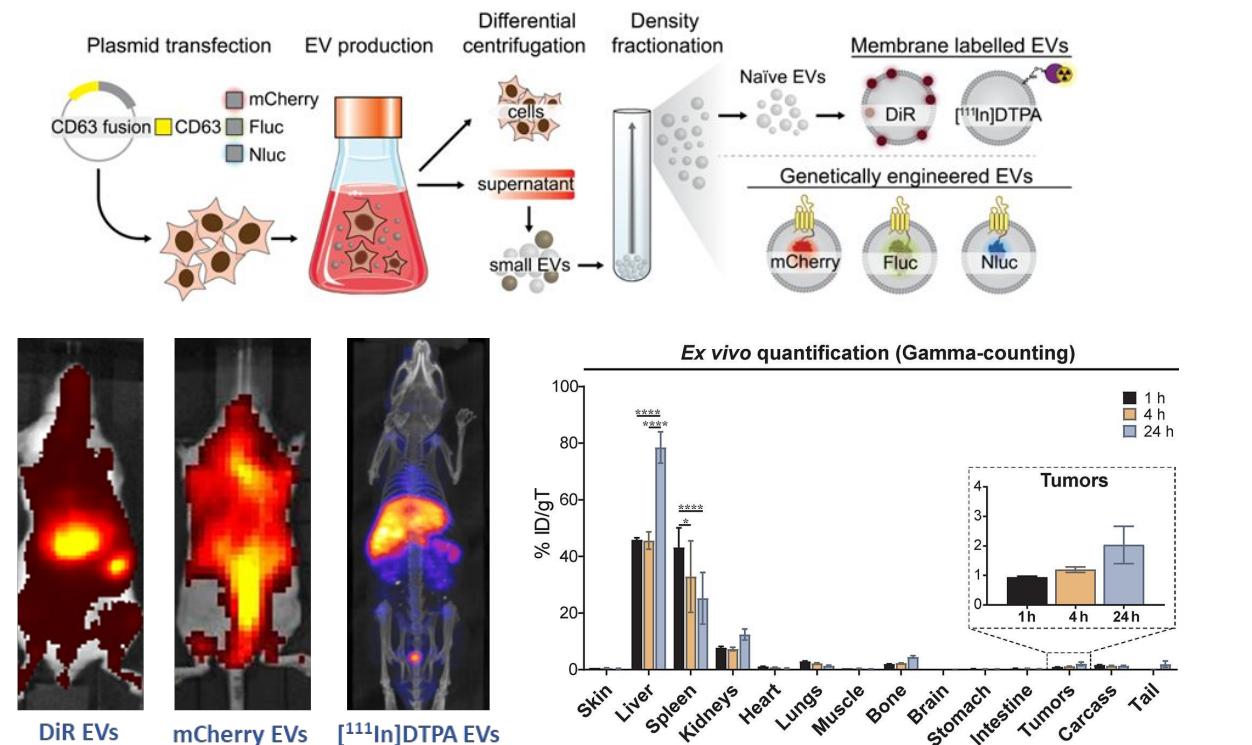
## Membrane Radiolabelling of Exosomes for Comparative Biodistribution Analysis in Immunocompetent and Immunodeficient Mice – A Novel and Universal Approach

Farid N. Faruqu<sup>1</sup>, Julie Tzu-Wen Wang<sup>1</sup>, Lizhou Xu<sup>1</sup>, Luke McNickle<sup>1</sup>, Eden Ming-Yiu Chong<sup>1</sup>, Adam Walters<sup>1</sup>, Mark Gurney<sup>2</sup>, Aled Clayton<sup>2</sup>, Lesley A. Smyth<sup>3</sup>, Robert Hider<sup>1</sup>, Jane Sosabowski<sup>4</sup>, Khuloud T. Al-Jamal<sup>1</sup>



## Selection of Fluorescent, Bioluminescent, and Radioactive Tracers to Accurately Reflect Extracellular Vesicle Biodistribution *in Vivo*

Elisa Lázaro-Ibáñez,<sup>\*#</sup> Farid N. Faruqu,<sup>#</sup> Amer F. Saleh, Andreia M. Silva, Julie Tzu-Wen Wang, Janusz Rak, Khuloud T. Al-Jamal,<sup>\*</sup> and Niek Dekker<sup>\*</sup>



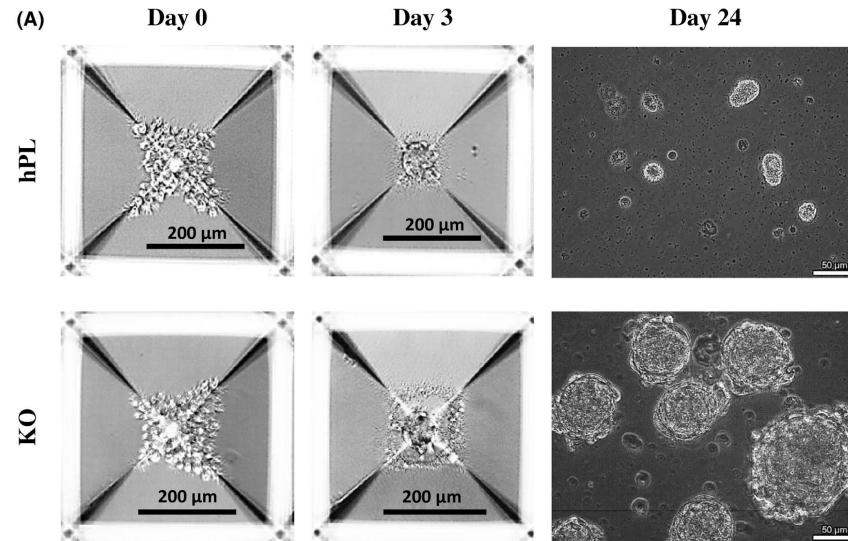
# MSC-derived EVs as powerful agents for regeneration

RESEARCH ARTICLE

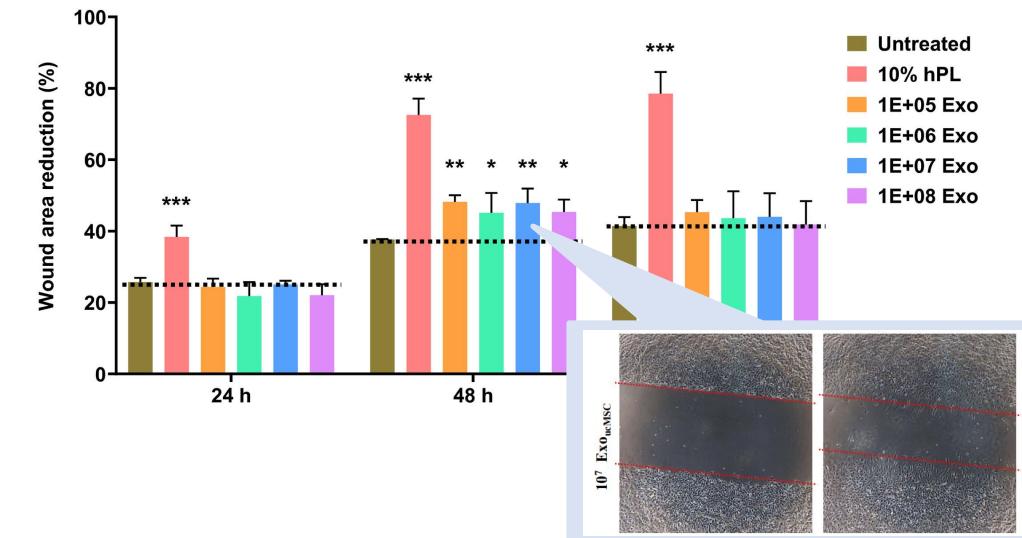
FASEB JOURNAL  
The American Society for Experimental Biology

## Defined serum-free three-dimensional culture of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells yields exosomes that promote fibroblast proliferation and migration in vitro

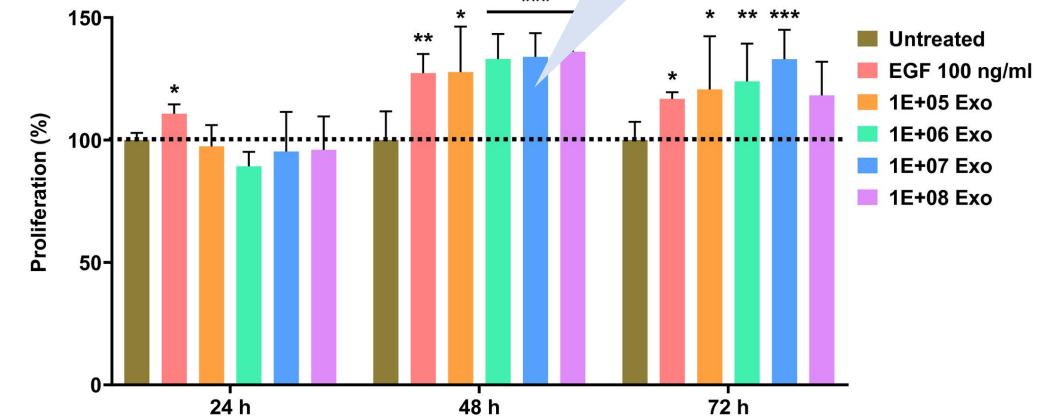
Farid N. Faruqu  | Revadee Liam-Or | Shuai Zhou | Rebecca Nip | Khuloud T. Al-Jamal 



### Fibroblast migration tested by scratch wound healing assay



### Stimulation of fibroblast proliferation by MSC-derived EVs



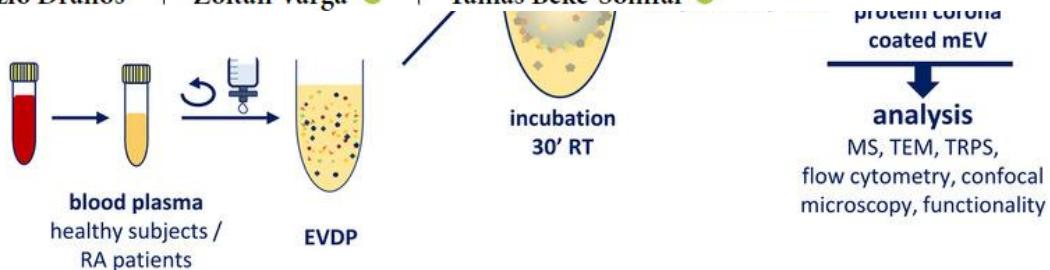
## Formation of a protein corona on the surface of extracellular vesicles in blood plasma

## Removal and identification of external protein corona members from RBC-derived extracellular vesicles by surface manipulating antimicrobial peptides

Priyanka Singh<sup>1,2</sup>  | Imola Cs. Szigyártó<sup>1</sup>  | Maria Ricci<sup>1</sup>  | Anikó Gaál<sup>3</sup>  |

Mayra Maritza Quemé-Peña<sup>1,2</sup>  | Diána Kitka<sup>2,3</sup>  | Lívia Fülöp<sup>4</sup>  | Lilla Turiák<sup>5</sup>  |

László Drahos<sup>5</sup> | Zoltán Varga<sup>3</sup>  | Tamás Beke-Somfai<sup>1</sup>  |



Toth *et al.*, 2021

## A functional corona around extracellular vesicles enhances angiogenesis, skin regeneration and immunomodulation

Martin Wolf  | Rodolphe W. Poupartin<sup>1</sup> | Patricia Ebner-Peking<sup>1</sup> |  
André Cronemberger Andrade<sup>1</sup> | Constantin Blöchl<sup>2</sup> | Astrid Obermayer<sup>2</sup> |  
Fausto Gueths Gomes<sup>1,3</sup> | Balazs Vari<sup>1</sup> | Nicole Maeding<sup>1</sup> | Essi Eminger<sup>1</sup> |  
Heide-Marie Binder<sup>1</sup> | Anna M. Raninger<sup>1</sup> | Sarah Hochmann<sup>1</sup> | Gabriele Bracht<sup>1</sup> |



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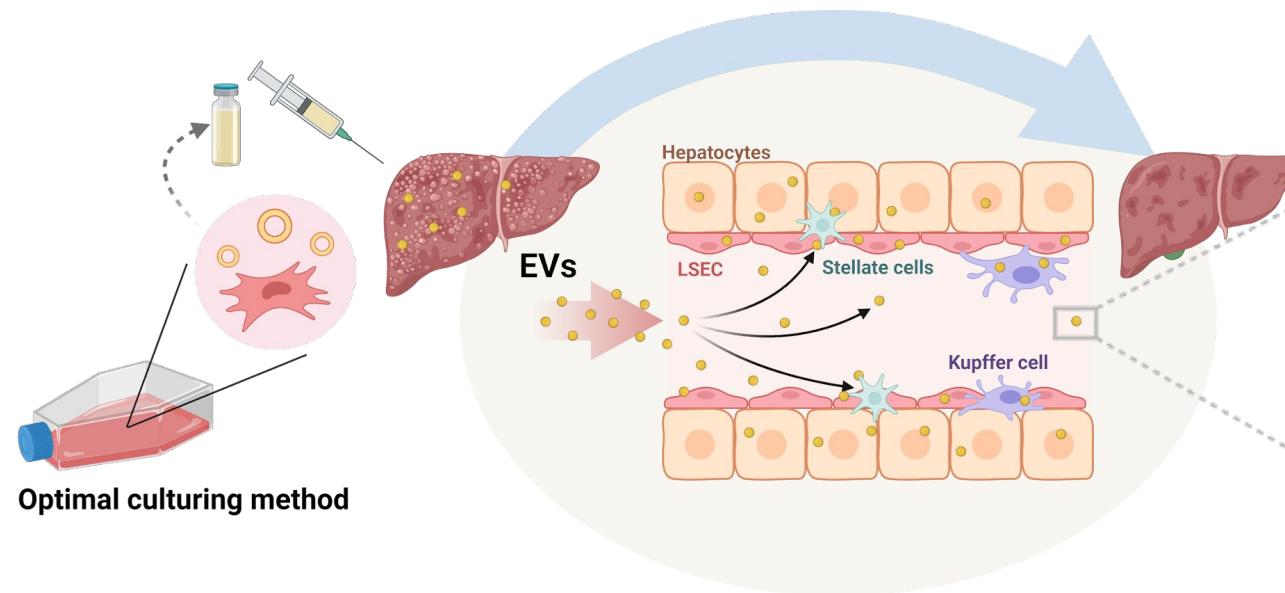
## Surface functionalization of extracellular vesicle nanoparticles with antibodies: a first study on the protein corona "variable"†

Angelo Musicò,<sup>a,b</sup> Rossella Zenatelli,<sup>b</sup>  Miriam Romano,<sup>ab</sup> Andrea Zendrini,<sup>ab</sup> Silvia Alacqua,<sup>ab</sup> Selene Tassoni,<sup>a</sup> Lucia Paolini,<sup>bc</sup> Chiara Urbiniati,<sup>a</sup> Marco Rusnati,<sup>a</sup> Paolo Bergese,<sup>b</sup>  Giuseppe Pomarico<sup>b</sup>  and Annalisa Radeghieri<sup>b</sup> 

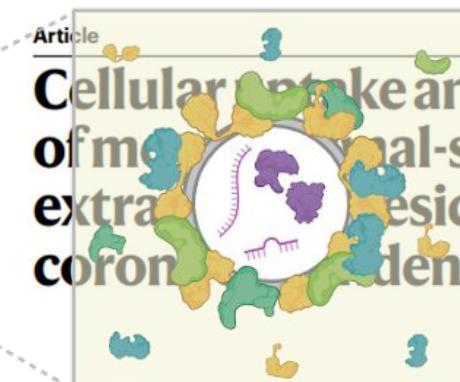


Wolf *et al.*, 2021

# Revolutionizing liver fibrosis treatment with MSC EVs



nature nanotechnology



<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41565-023-01585-y>

Received: 8 November 2022

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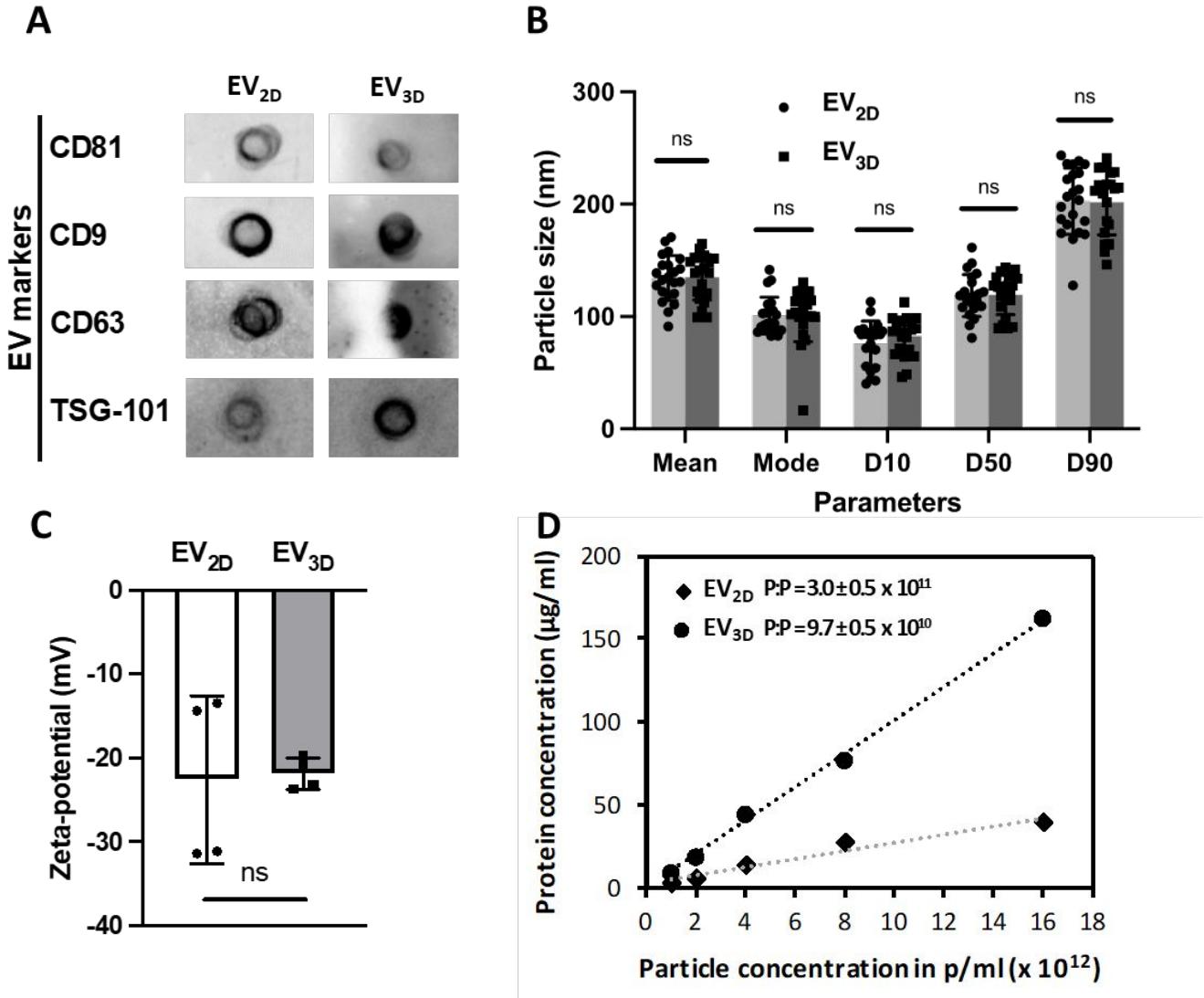
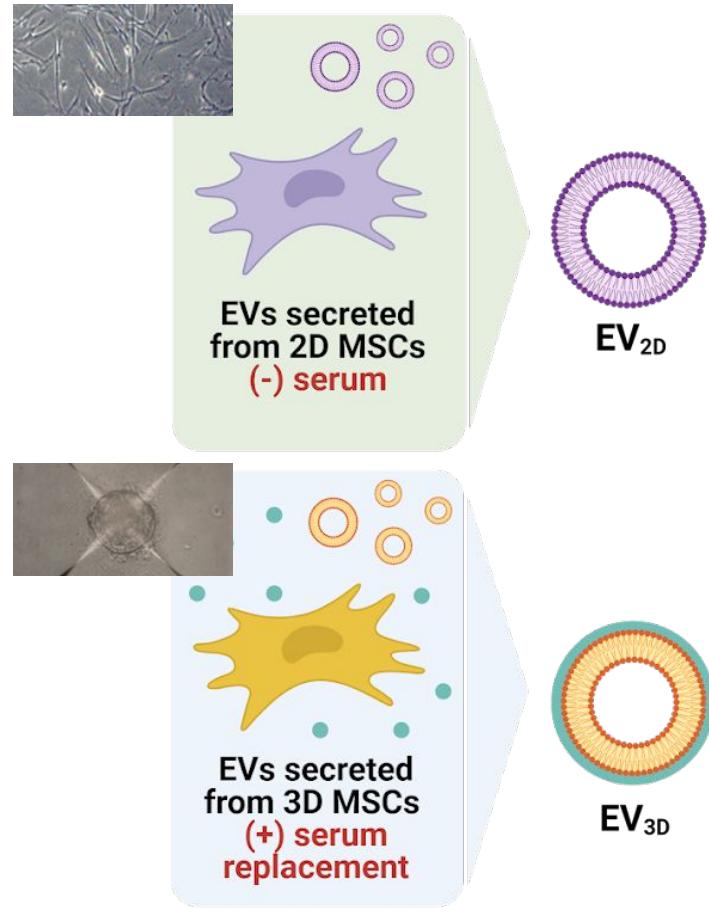
Published online: 16 February 2024

Revadee Liam-Or<sup>1</sup>, Farid N. Faruqu<sup>1,2</sup>, Adam Walters<sup>1</sup>, Shuping Han<sup>1</sup>,  
Lizhou Xu<sup>1</sup>, Julie Tzu-Wen Wang<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Oberlaender<sup>3,4</sup>,  
Alberto Sanchez-Fueyo<sup>5</sup>, Giovanna Lombardi<sup>6</sup>, Francesco Dazzi<sup>7</sup>,  
Volker Mailaender<sup>1,3,4</sup> & Khuloud T. Al-Jamal<sup>1</sup>✉

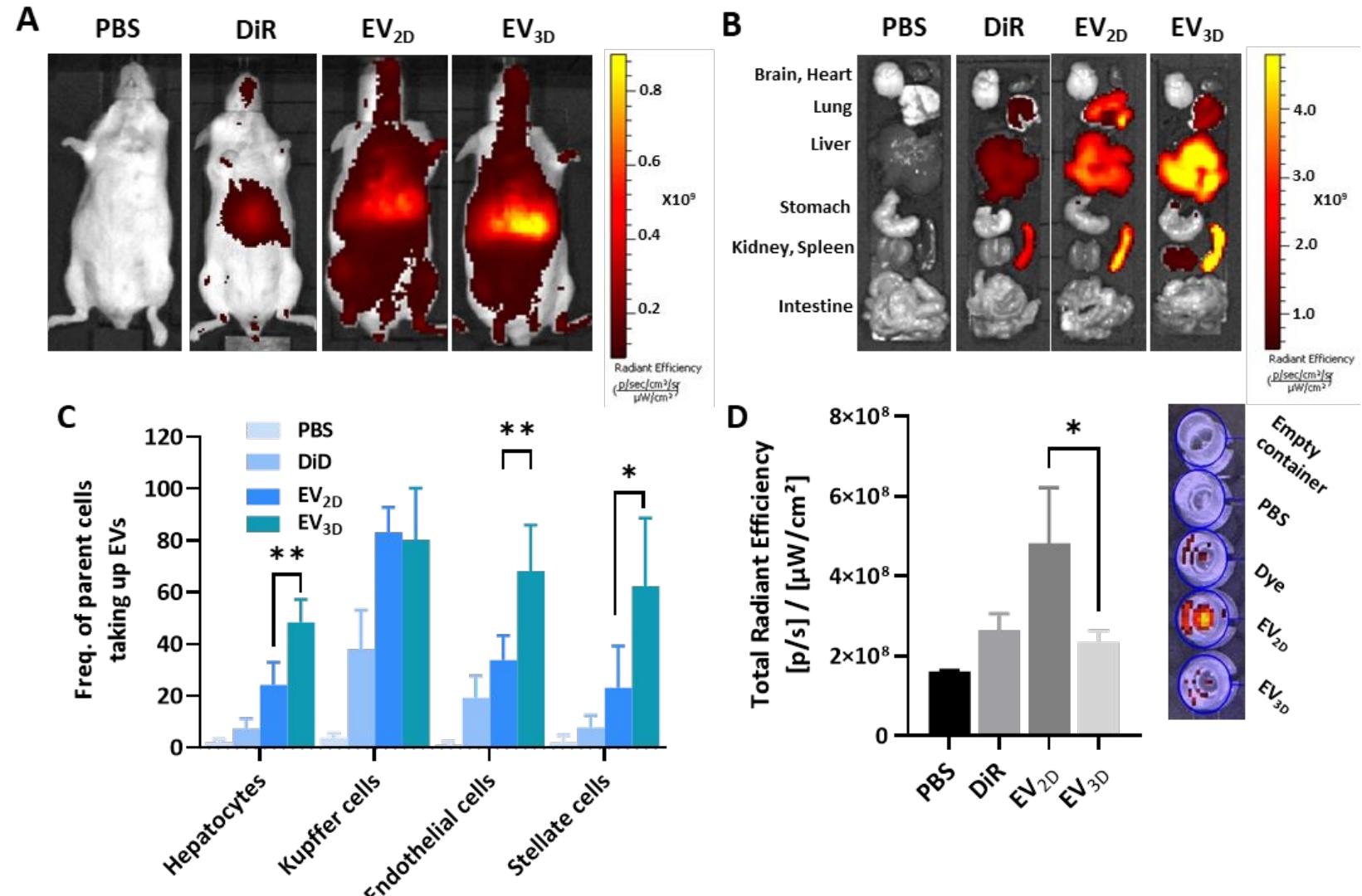
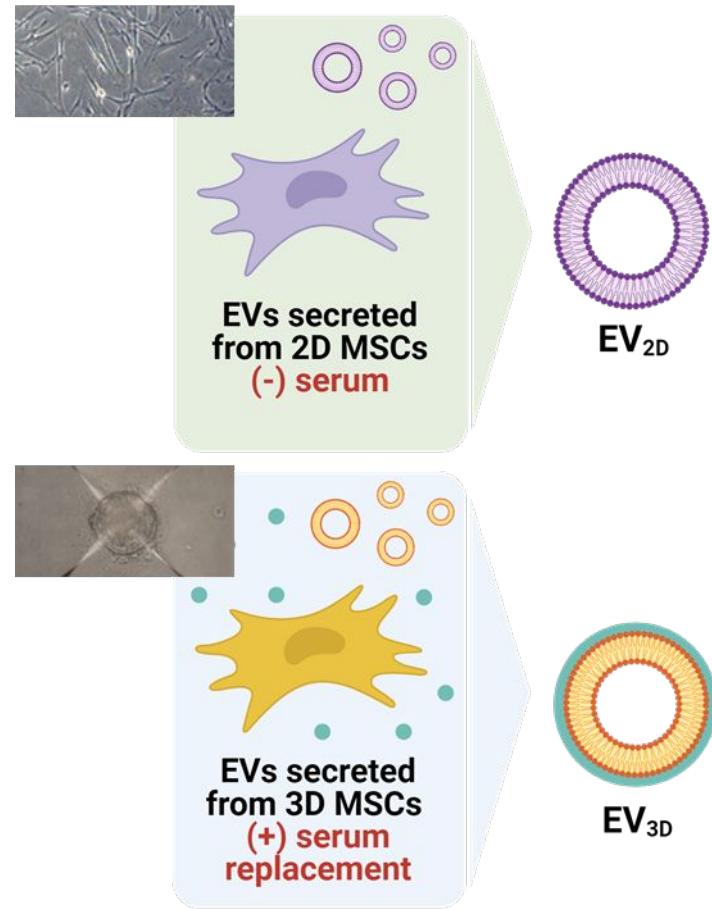
To prepare EVs derived from MSCs with favourable liver delivery properties and anti-fibrotic effects.



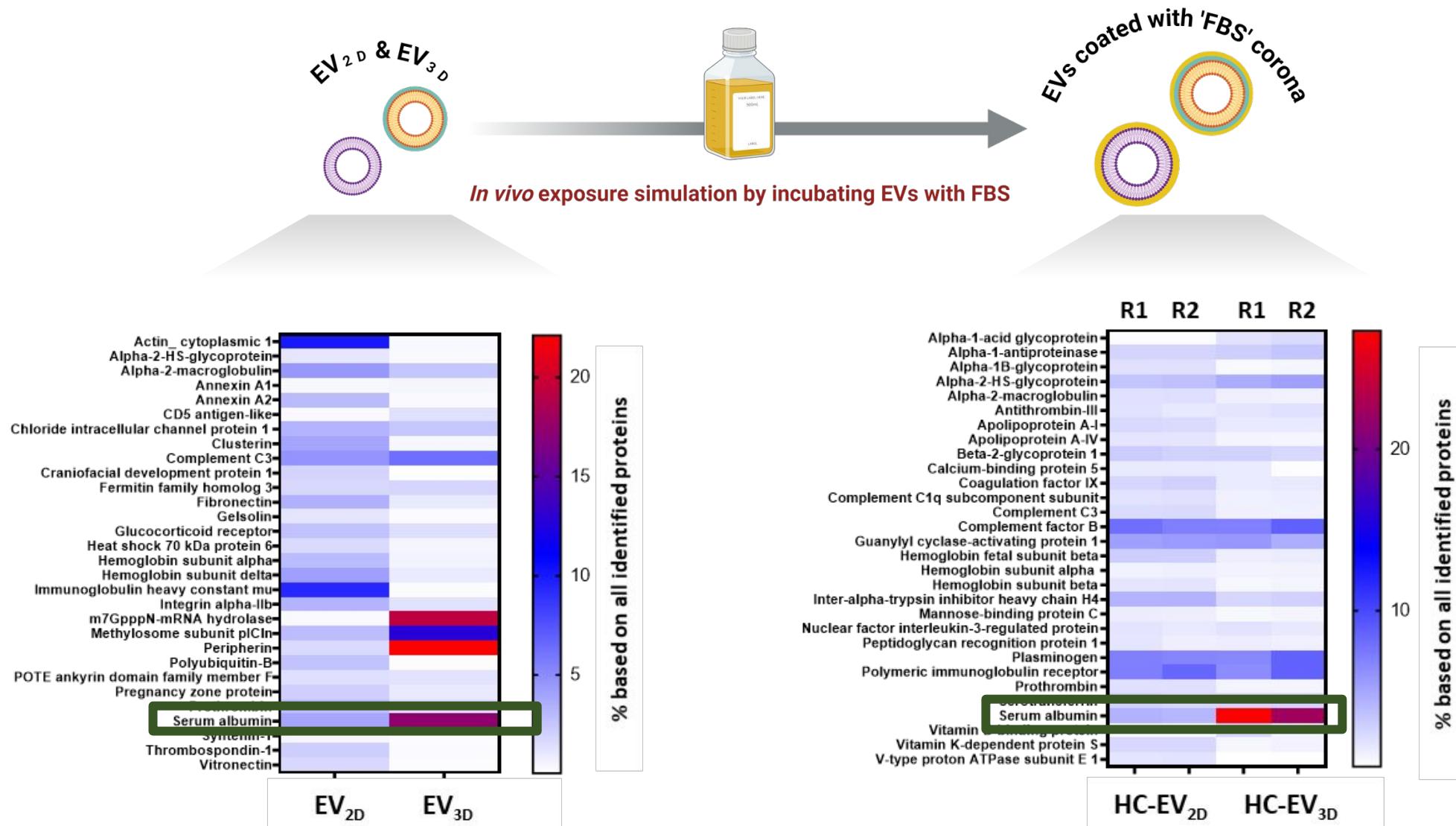
# Unveiling the physicochemical and biochemical traits of EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub>



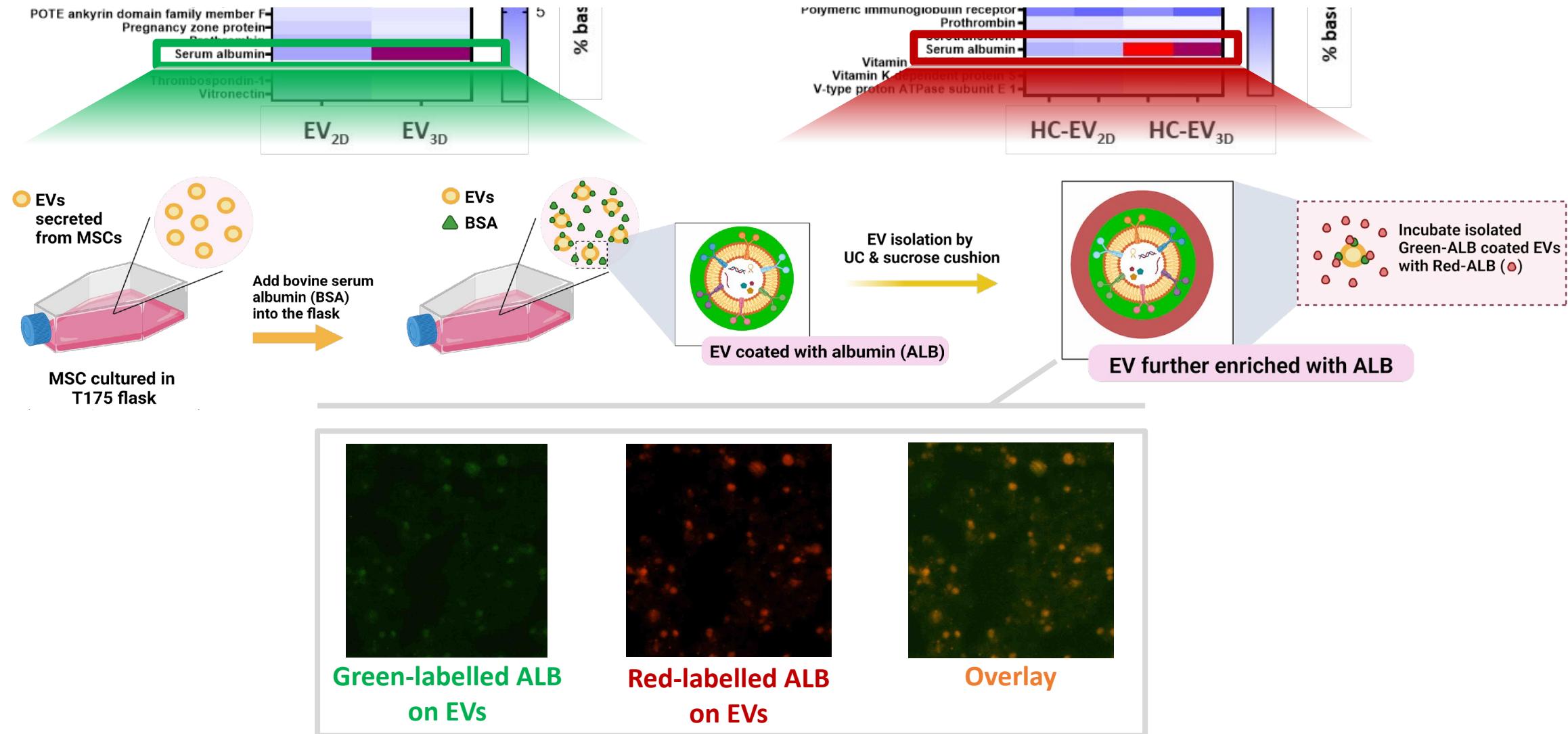
# *In vivo* behaviour and cellular uptake of EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub>



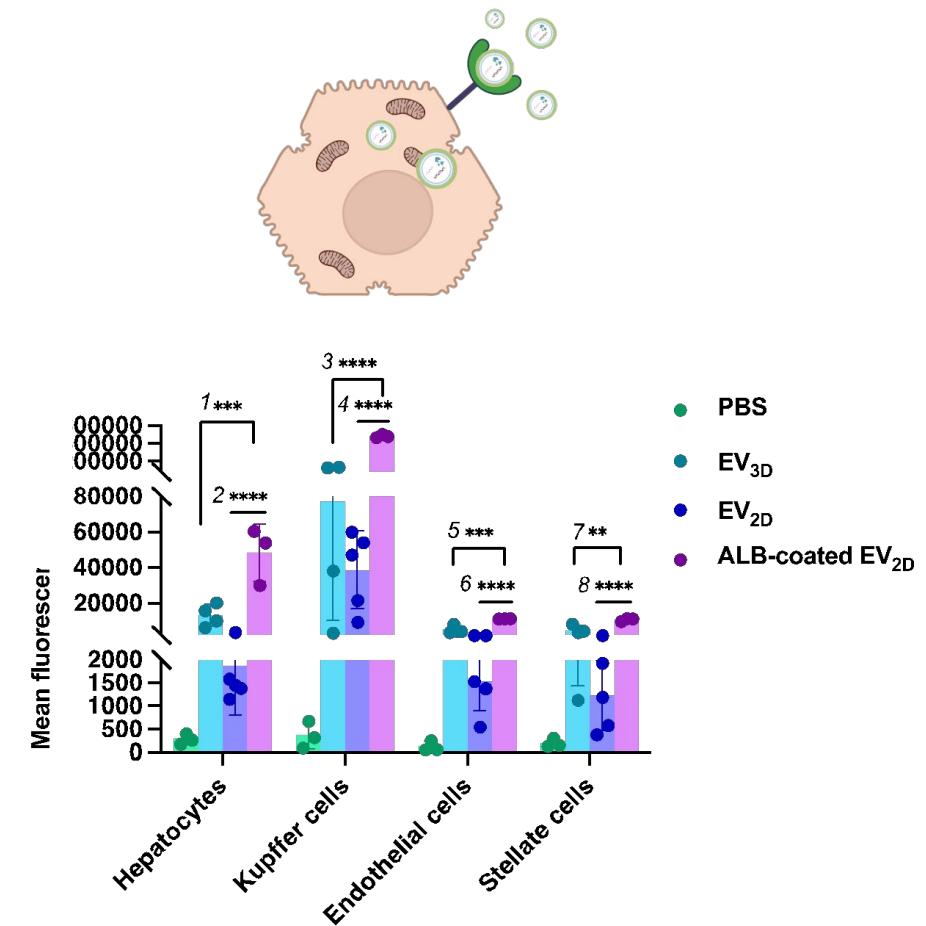
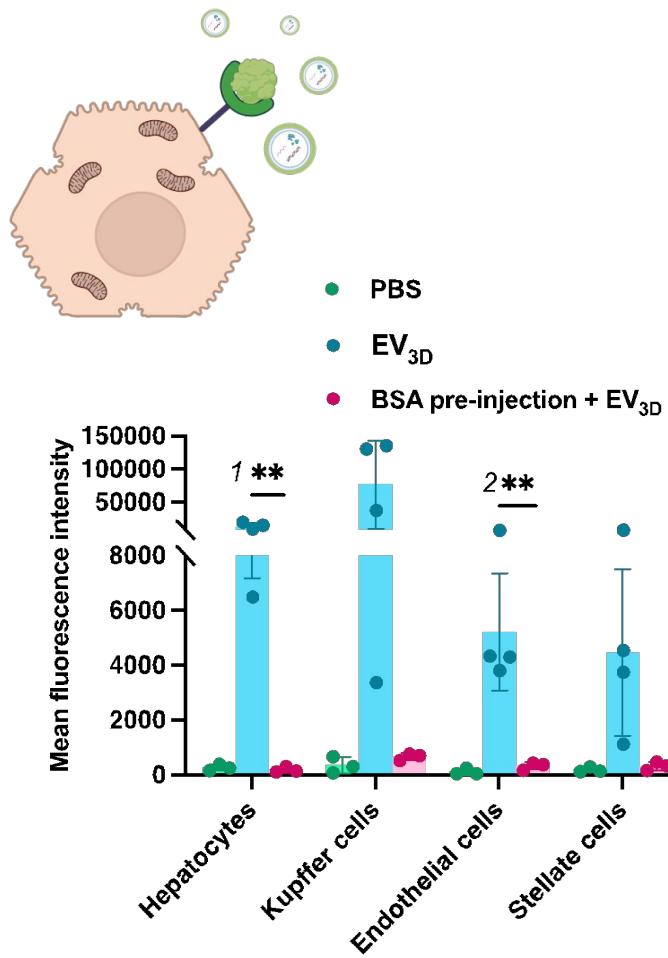
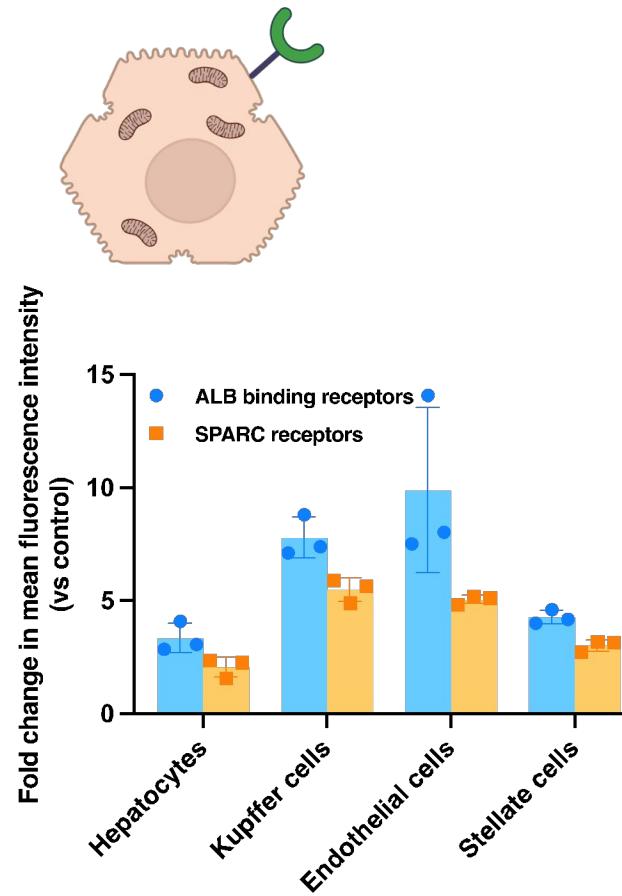
# Proteomic insights from *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments



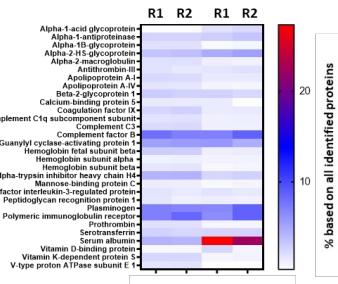
# Confirming dual protein corona formation in EVs



# *In vivo* proof-of-concept study confirming the contribution of ALB-enriched corona

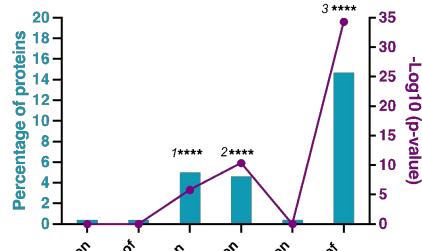
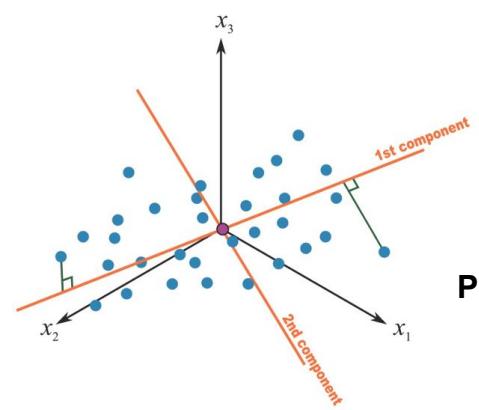


# Corona analysis reveals differential protein enrichment in EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub>

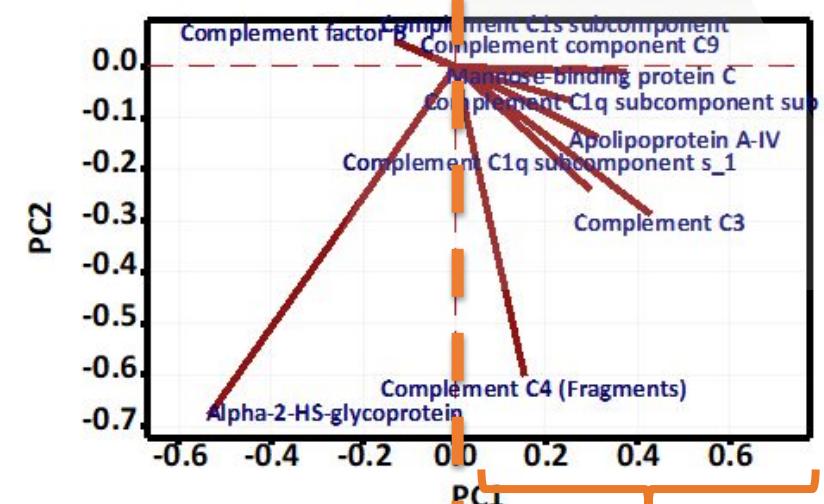
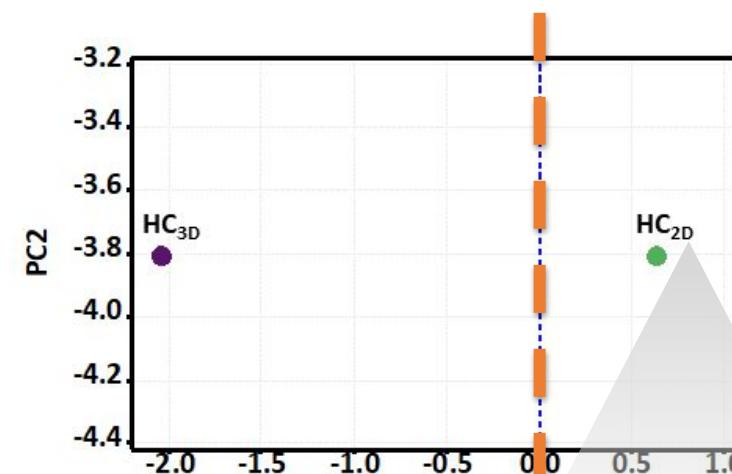


2<sup>nd</sup> corona

## Gene ontology enrichment analysis

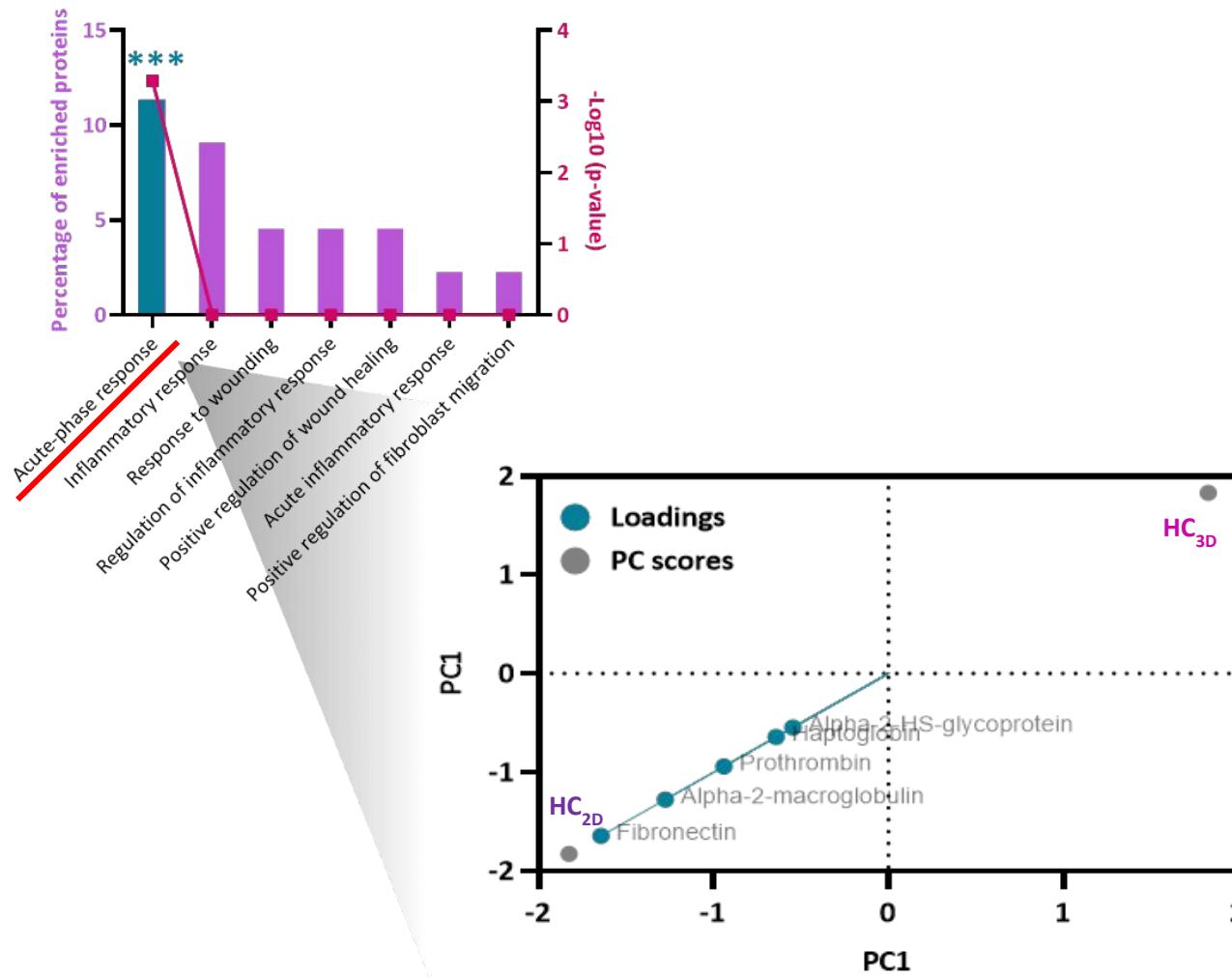


Principle component analysis (PCA)

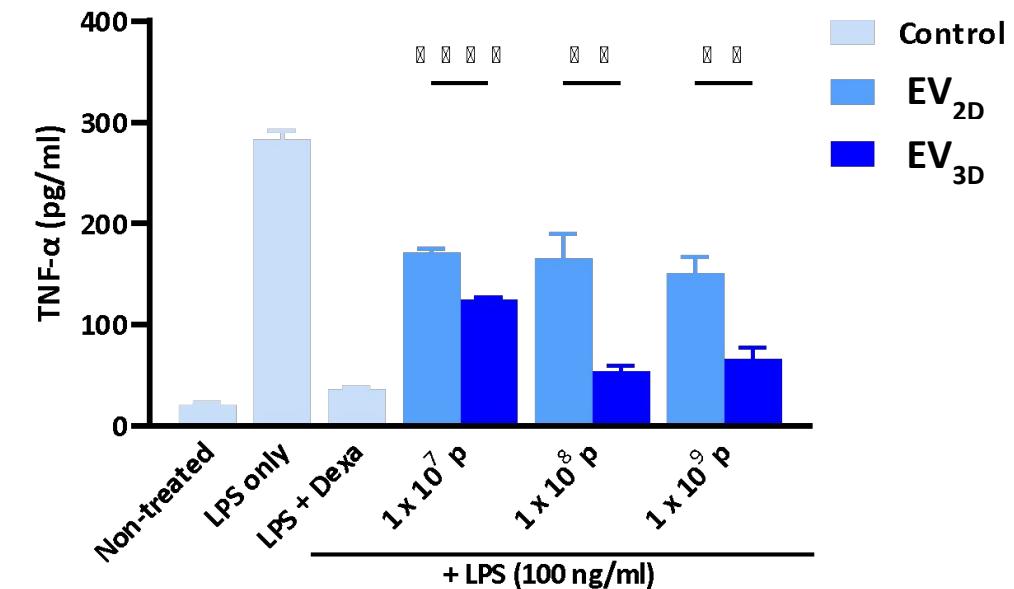


Enrichment of complements on EV<sub>2D</sub>

# Comparative therapeutic effects of EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub> in inflammation and liver fibrosis

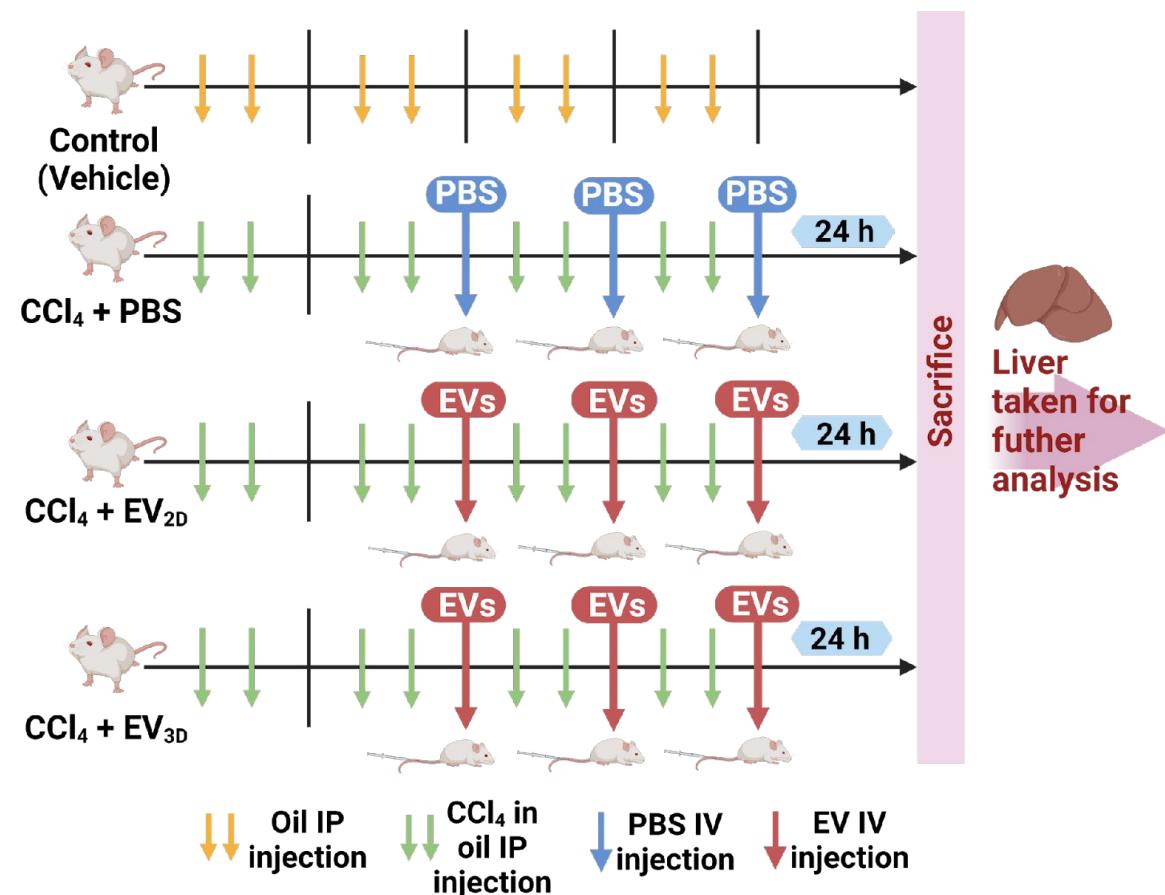


## Anti-inflammatory effects on human monocyte-derived macrophages mediated by EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub> *in vitro*

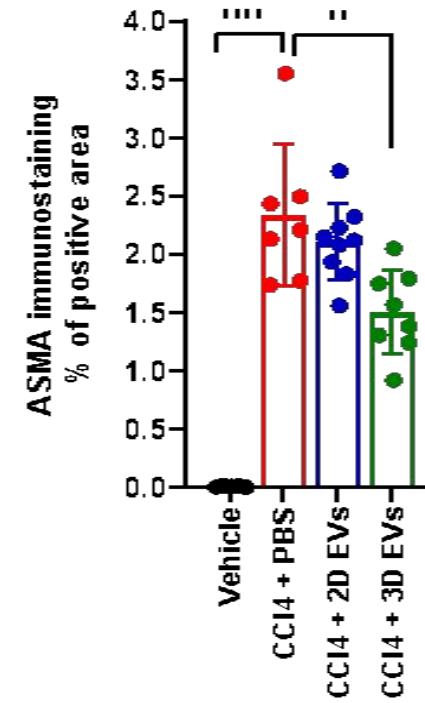
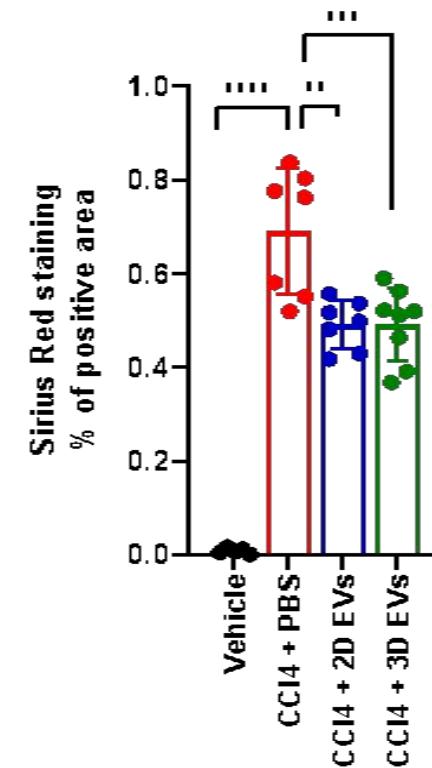


Liam-Or, Najimi & Al-Jamal et al, unpublished

# Comparative therapeutic effects of EV<sub>2D</sub> and EV<sub>3D</sub> in inflammation and liver fibrosis

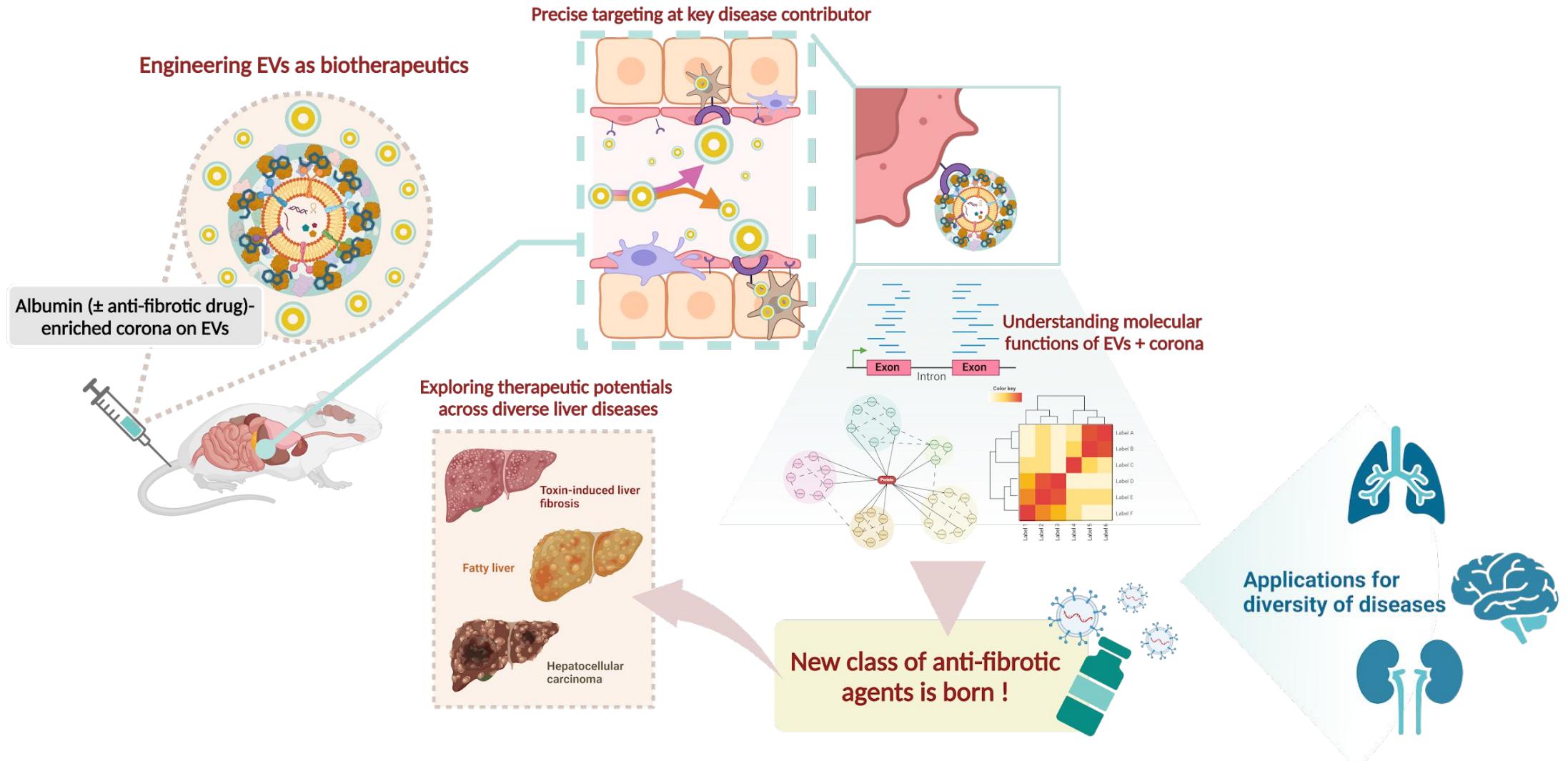


## Anti-fibrotic effects in the CCl<sub>4</sub>-liver fibrosis model



Liam-Or, Najimi & Al-Jamal et al, unpublished

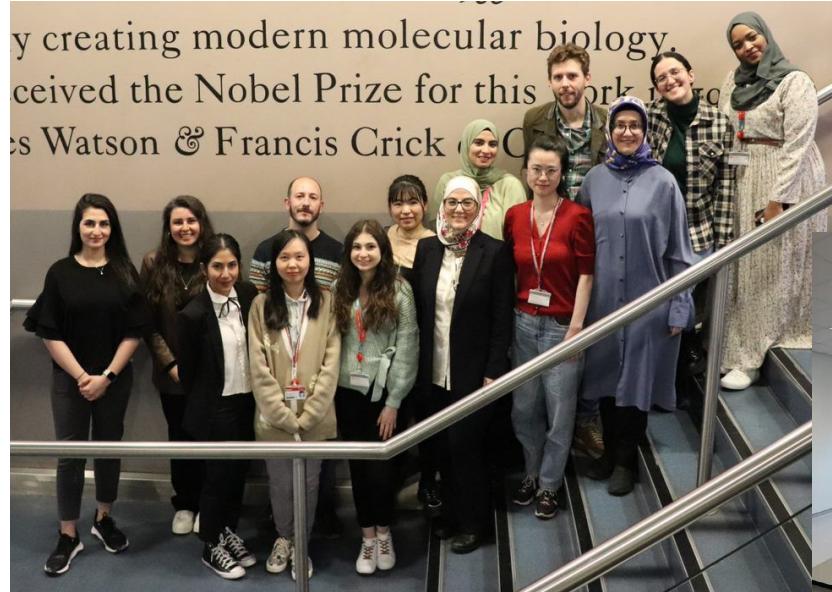
# Cultivating EVs for enhanced therapeutic applications and beyond



# Acknowledgement



**Prof Khuloud Al-Jamal**  
**Prof Giovanna Lombardi**  
**Prof Francesco Dazzi**  
**Prof Alberto Sanchez Fueyo**  
**Dr Farid Faruqu**  
**Dr Julie Tzu-Wen Wang**  
**Dr Adam Walters**  
**& KAJ group members**



**Prof Volker Mailaender**  
**Dr Jennifer Oberlaender**



**Dr Mustapha Najimi**

**King's International PGR Scholarship**

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