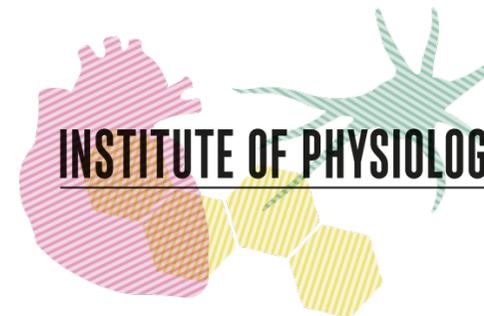


# HIF-1 $\alpha$ and mitochondria in cardioprotection induced by adaptation to chronic hypoxia

Petra Alanova, PhD.

Laboratory of Developmental Cardiology  
Institute of Physiology CAS  
Prague, Czech Republic



# Chronic hypoxia (CH)



The extent of I/R injury depends on:

- intensity and duration of ischemic insult
- myocardial tolerance to oxygen deprivation

Disproportion between oxygen supply and demand at tissue level

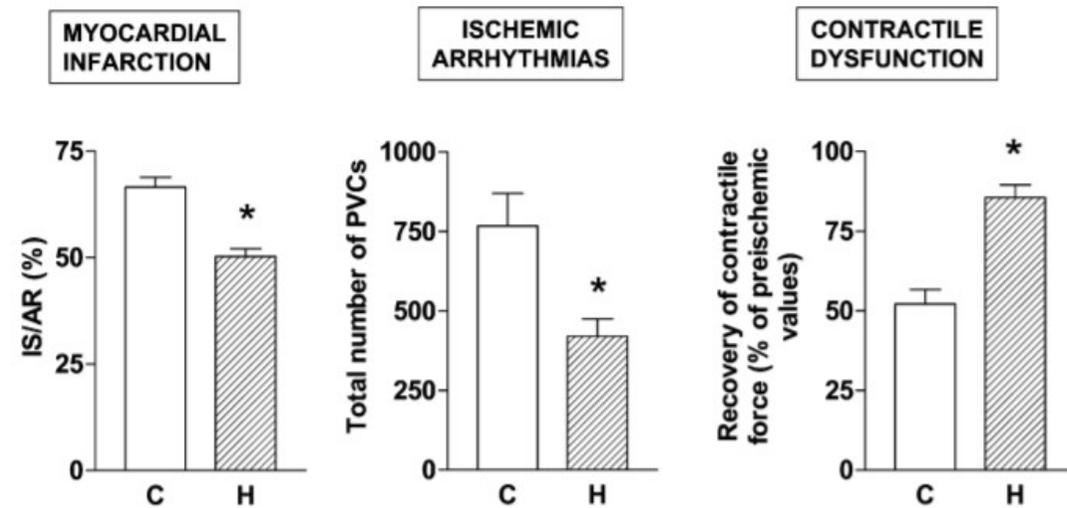
Adaptation to CH increases myocardial tolerance to acute I/R injury

myocardial infarct size

ischemic and reperfusion arrhythmias

postischemic contractile dysfunction

Long-lasting protection



# Hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1)

Transcription factor regulating body's response to hypoxia

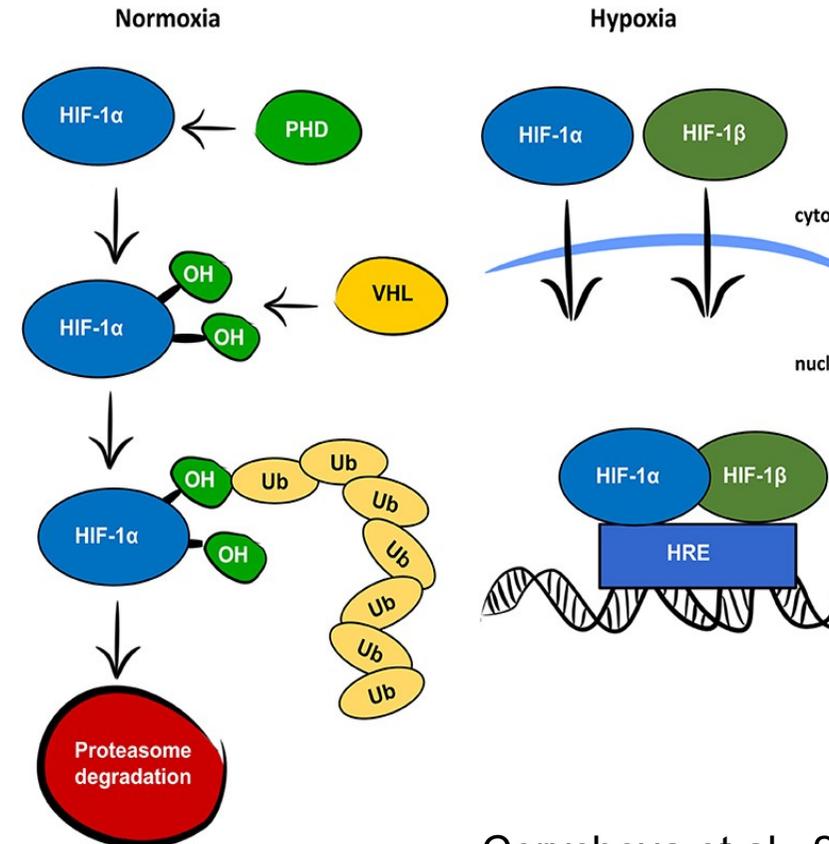
>1000 target genes associated with angiogenesis, erythropoiesis, metabolism, cell survival, ...

Heterodimer:

- HIF-1 $\alpha$
- HIF-1 $\beta$

Both subunits are continuously expressed

$\alpha$ -subunit is fastly degraded in an oxygen-dependent manner

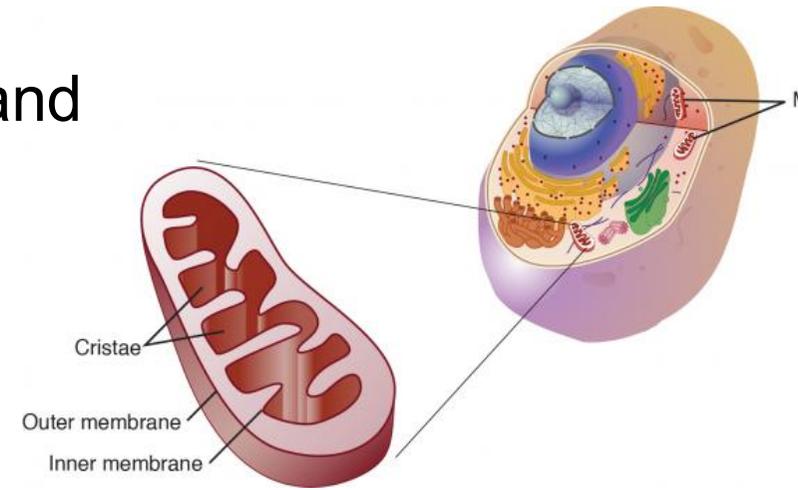


Cerychova et al., 2002

# Mitochondria in the heart

Heart is enriched in mt due to its high energy demand

- ATP production
- Calcium and oxygen handling
- Cell signaling
- ROS production



Mitochondrial quality control is crucial for cardiomyocyte homeostasis and survival

CH alters mt components

- $\uparrow$  ROS production
- $mK_{ATP}$  channels
- $BK_{Ca}$  channels
- Mitochondrial dynamics and degradation

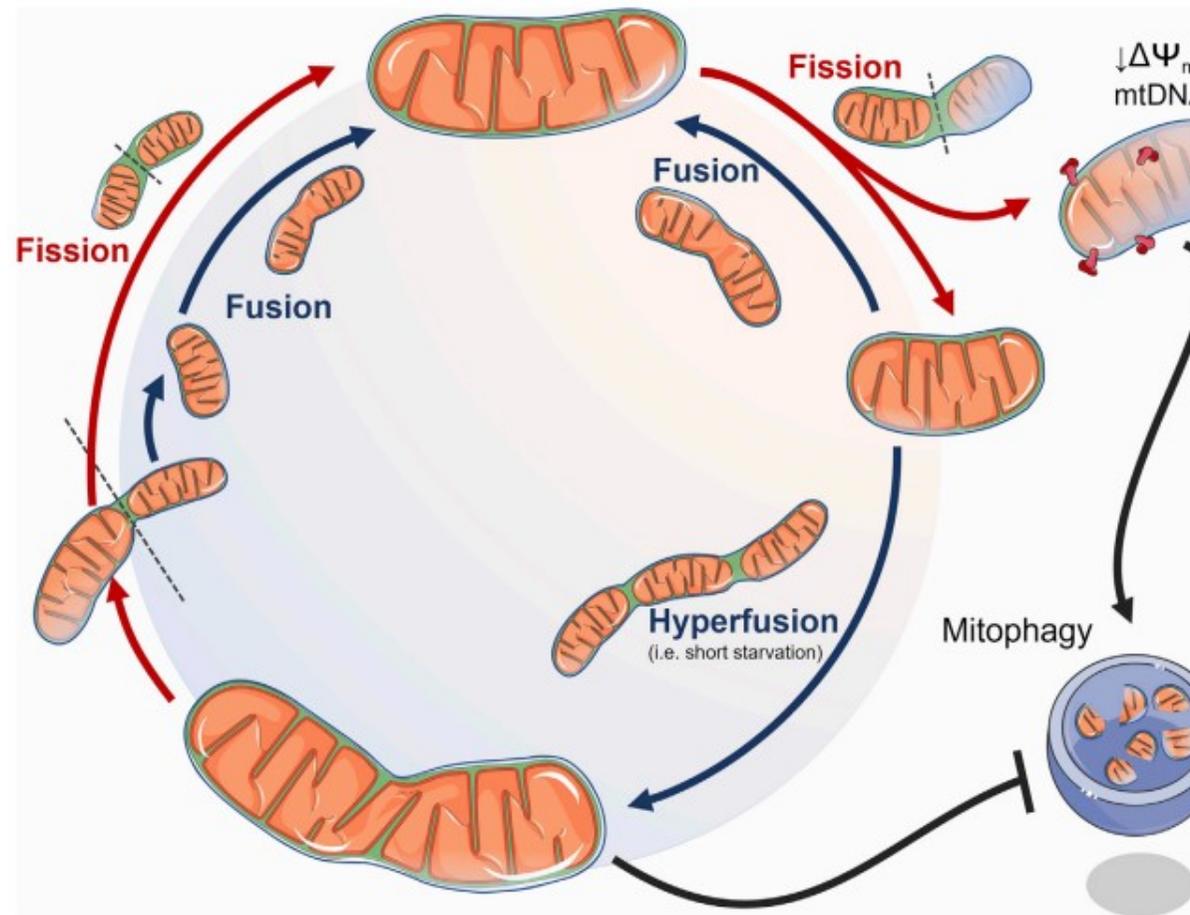
# Mitochondrial dynamics

Dynamic networks

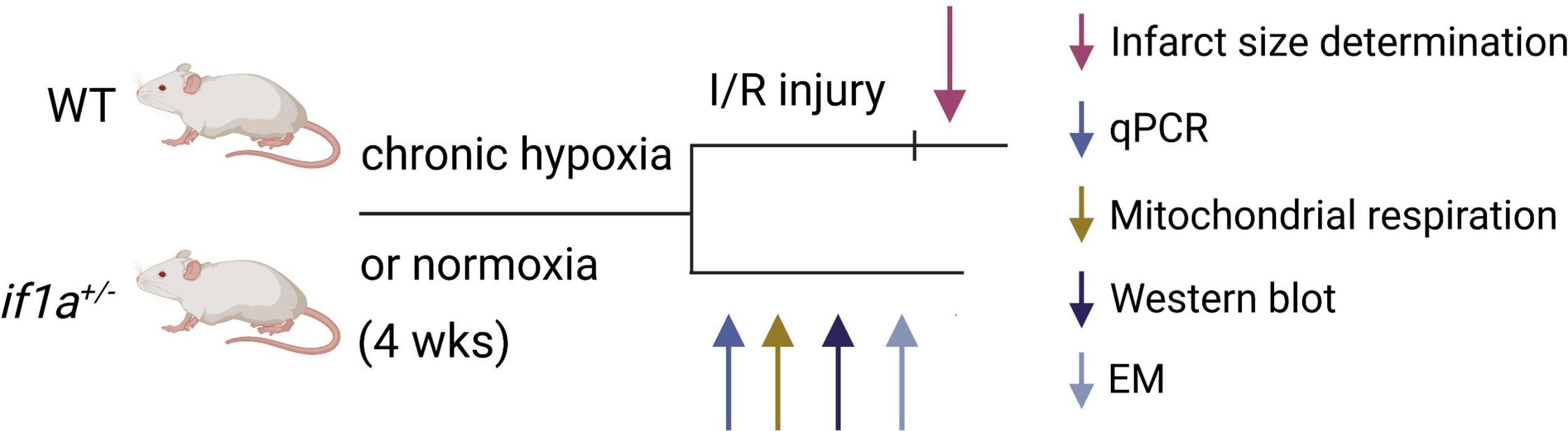
Fusion and fission  
mitochondria-shaping proteins  
(Mfn1, Mfn2, Opa1, Drp1)

fusion: exchange of genetic material

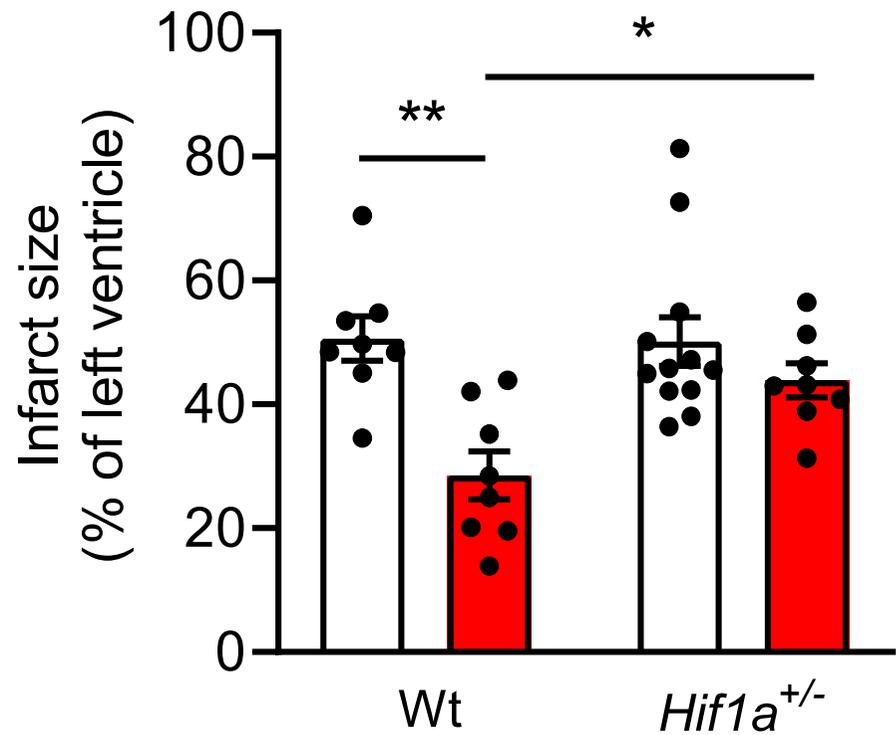
fission: division, mitophagy



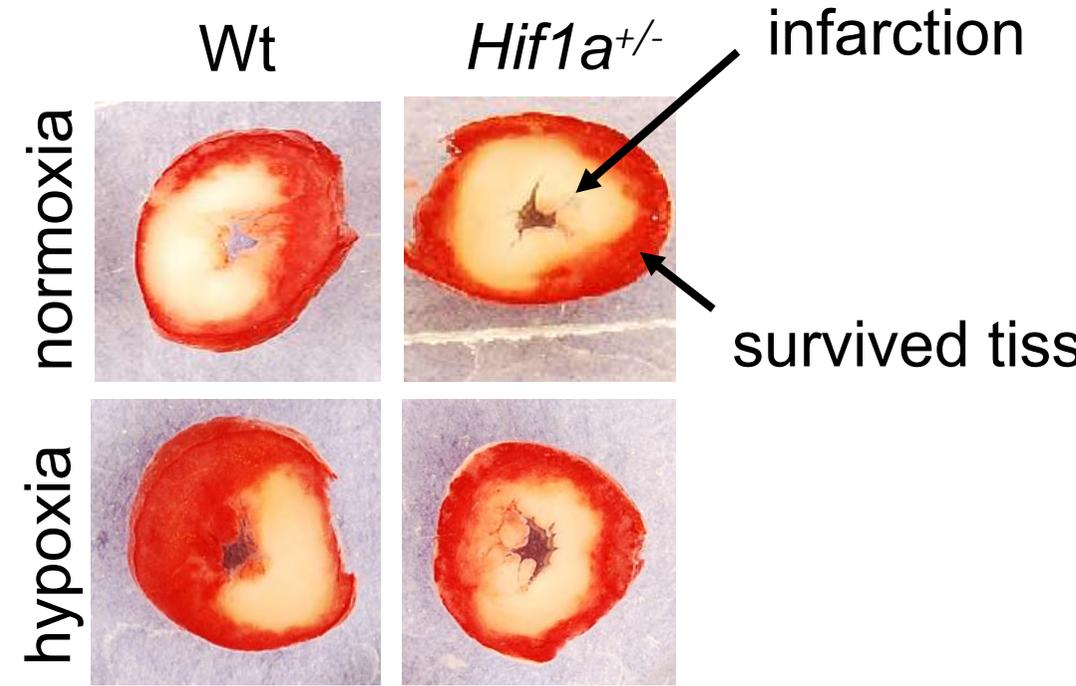
# ethodology



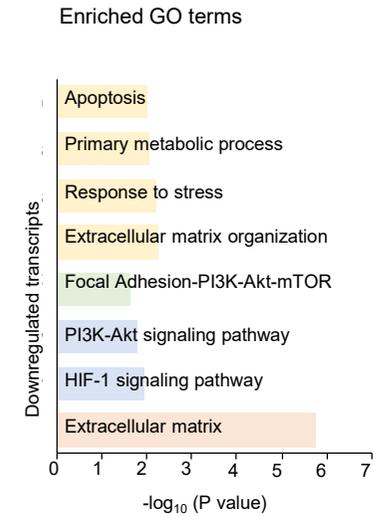
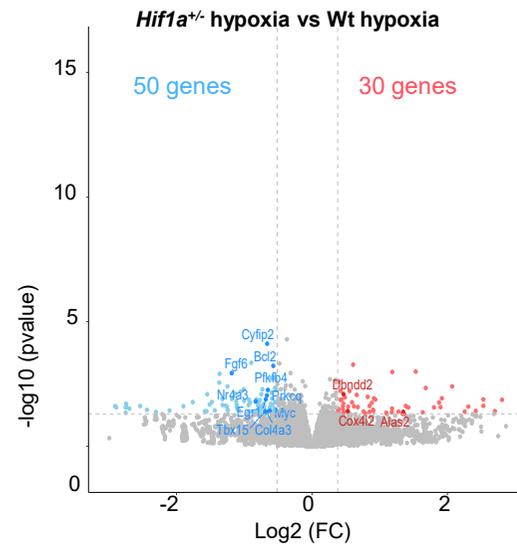
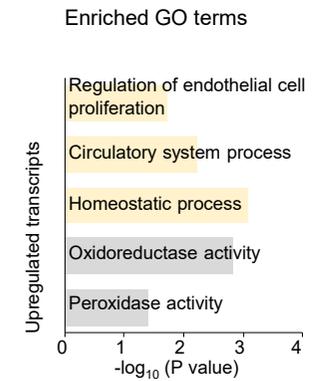
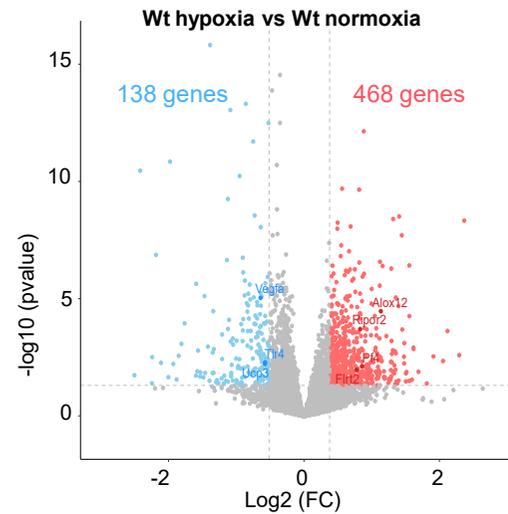
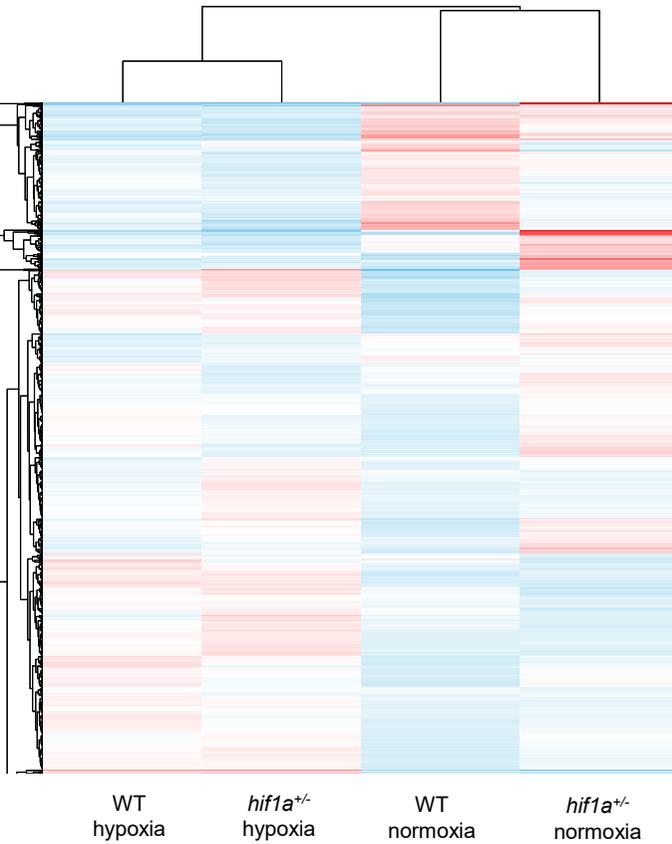
# Myocardial *Hif1a* deficiency inhibited CH-induced cardioprotection



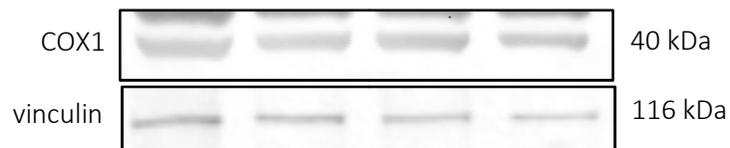
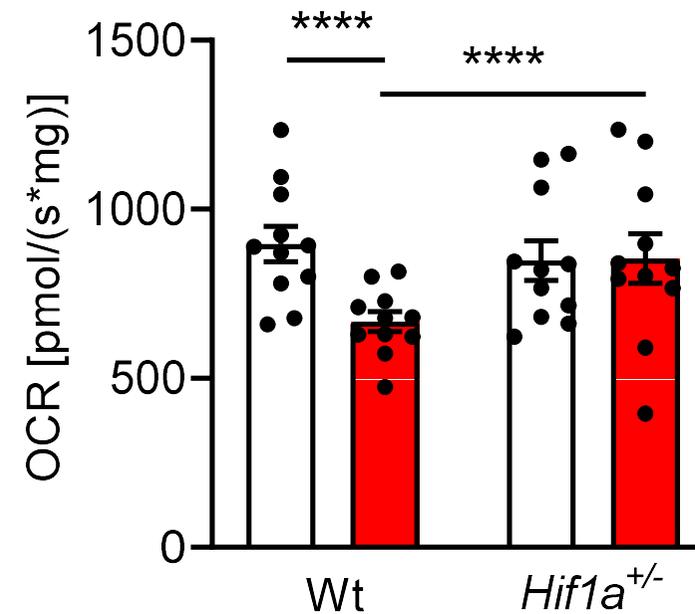
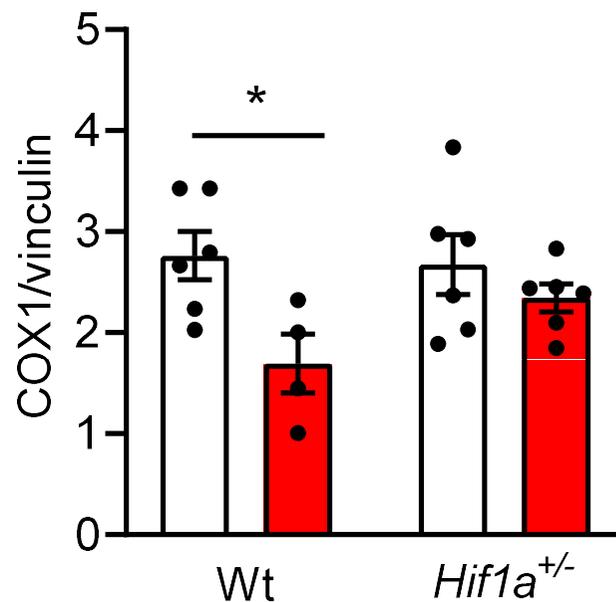
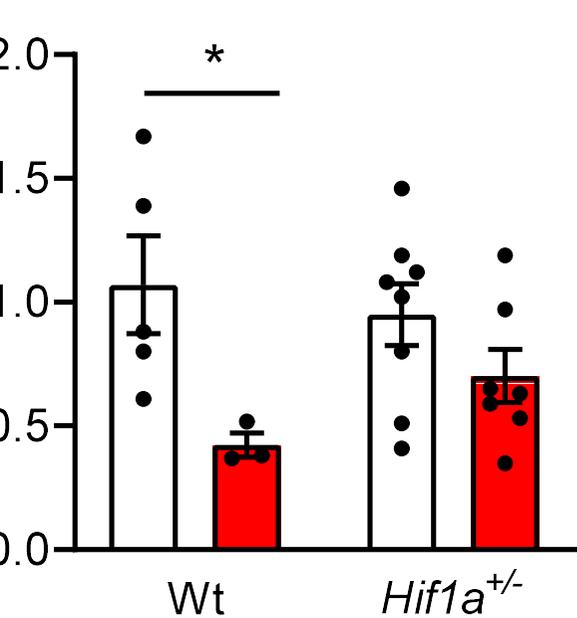
□ normoxia  
■ hypoxia



# H induced changes in the transcriptome of cardiomyocytes



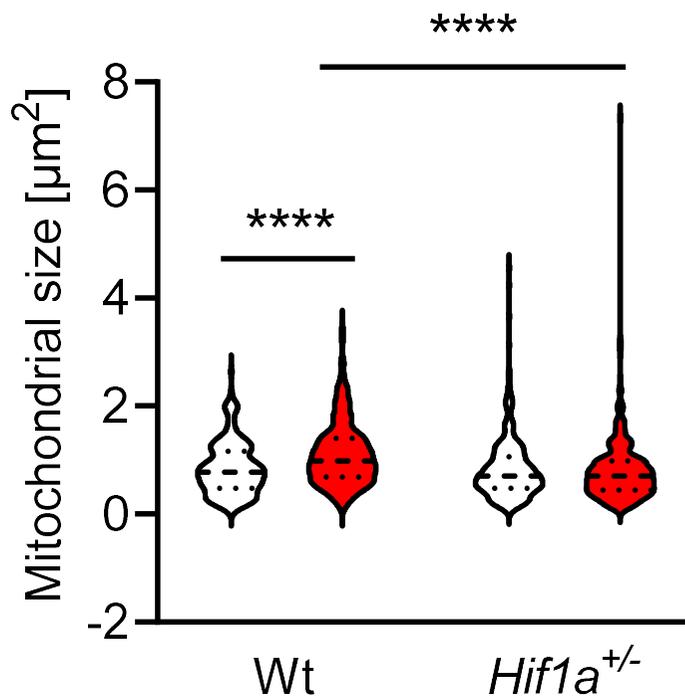
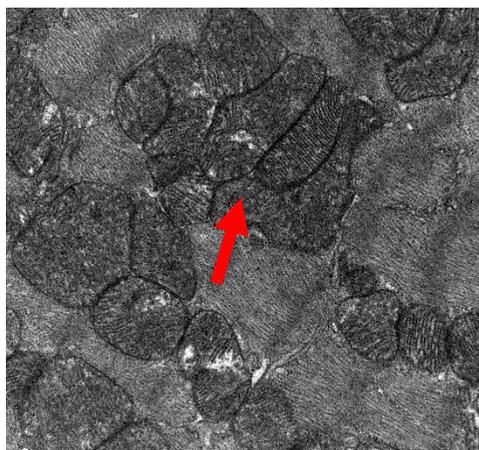
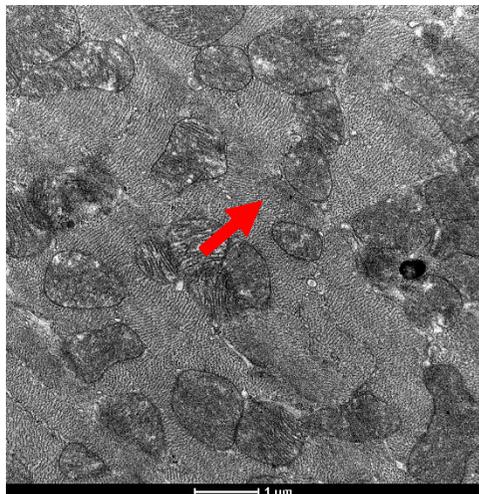
# Hif1 reduced mitochondrial content and altered its function



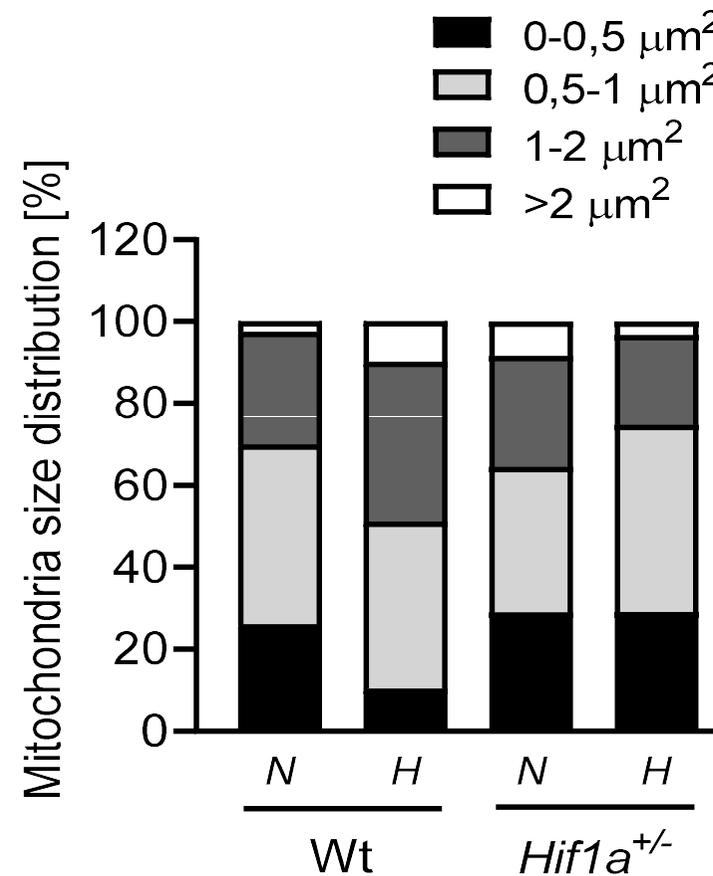
normoxia  
hypoxia

# H altered mitochondrial ultrastructure

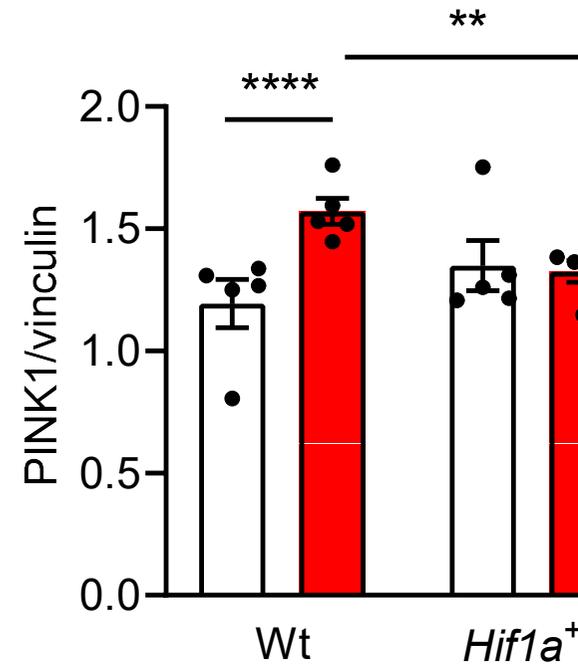
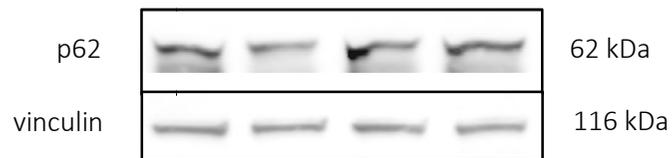
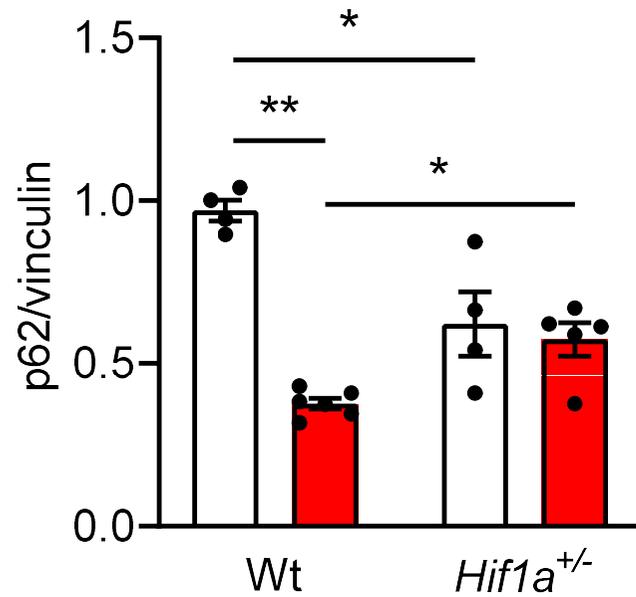
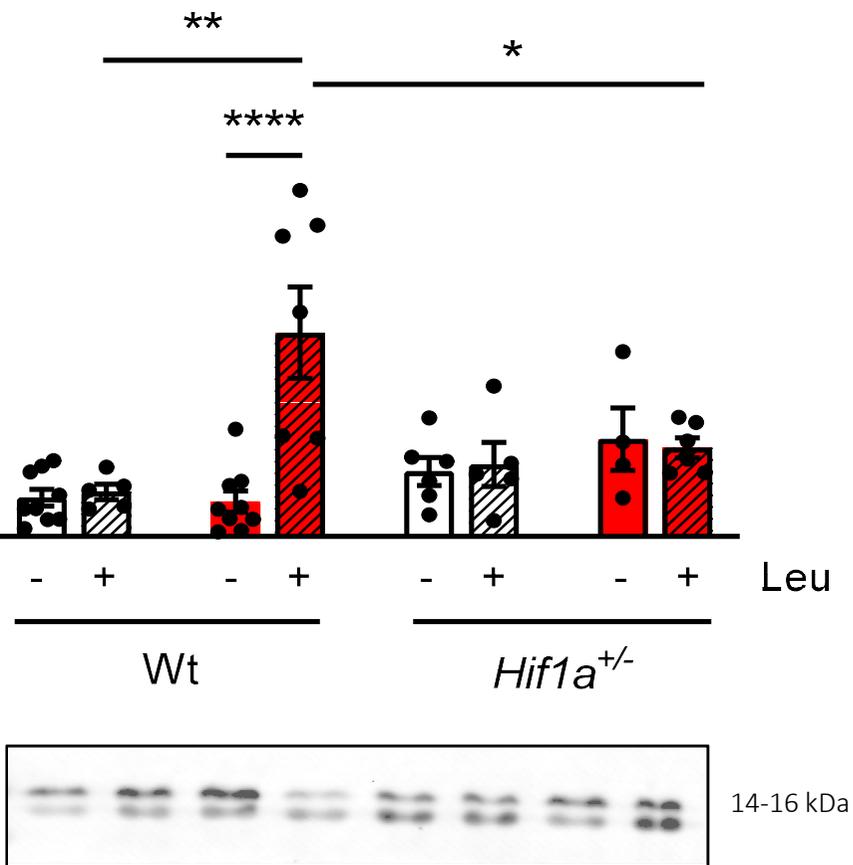
Wt



□ normoxia  
■ hypoxia

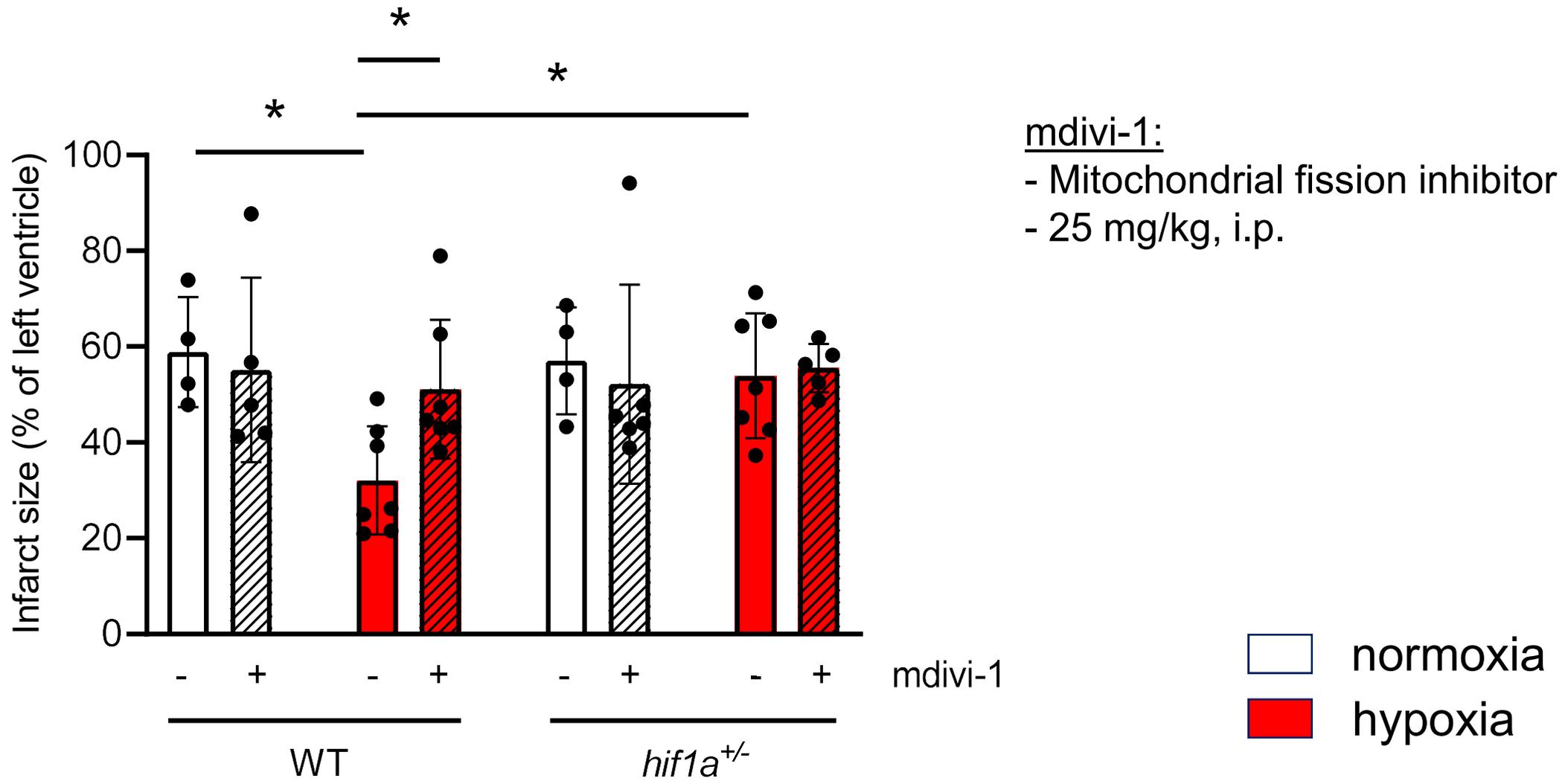


# H induced autophagic flux

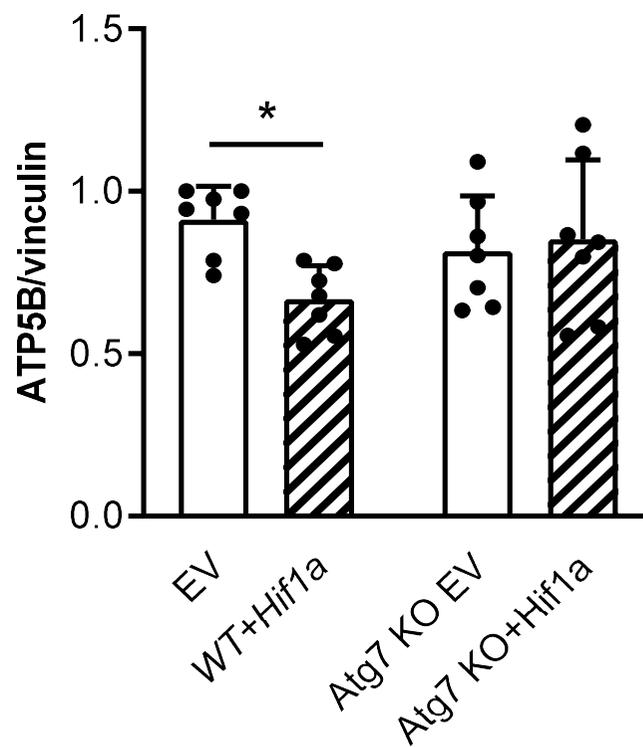
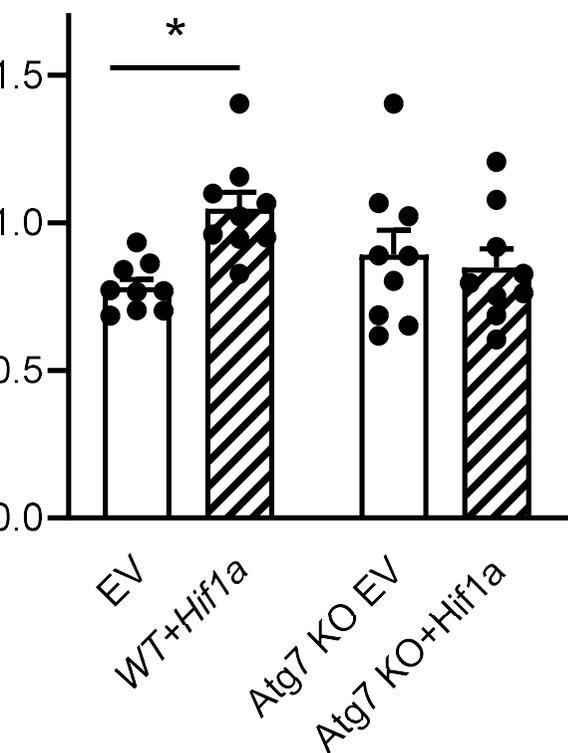


□ normoxie  
 ■ hypoxie

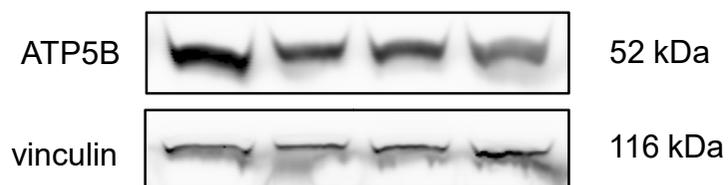
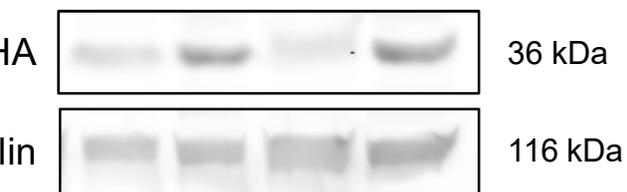
# F-1 $\alpha$ -activated mitophagy was necessary for CH-induced cardioprotection



# mechanism verified *in vitro*



- AC16 cell line
- CRISPR-Cas9 → *Atg7* knock out (KO)
- ATG7 - key autophagy protein
- Transfection
  - empty vector (EV)
  - *Hif1a* plasmid (resistant to prolyl-hydroxylases degradation)



# Conclusion

HIF-1 $\alpha$  enhances degradation of possibly harmful mitochondria by activating mitophagy and thus, boosts the development of the cardioprotective phenotype

Received: 30 October 2023

Revised: 24 May 2024

Accepted: 4 July 2024

DOI: 10.1111/apha.14202

RESEARCH PAPER

ACTA PHYSIOLOGICA

## **HIF-1 $\alpha$ limits myocardial infarction by promoting mitophagy in mouse hearts adapted to chronic hypoxia**

Petra Alanova<sup>1</sup>  | Lukas Alan<sup>2,3</sup> | Barbora Opletalova<sup>1,4</sup> | Romana Bohuslavova<sup>5</sup> | Pavel Abaffy<sup>6</sup> | Katerina Matejkova<sup>5</sup> | Kristyna Holzerova<sup>1</sup> | Daniel Benak<sup>1</sup> | Nina Kaludercic<sup>7,8,9</sup> | Roberta Menabo<sup>8</sup> | Fabio Di Lisa<sup>7,8</sup> | Bohuslav Ostadal<sup>1</sup> | Frantisek Kolar<sup>1</sup> | Gabriela Pavlinkova<sup>5</sup>

# Acknowledgement



Institute of Physiology CAS:  
Laboratory of Developmental Cardiology  
Laboratory of Bioenergetics



Institute of Biotechnology CAS:  
BIOCEV:  
Gabriela Pavlinkova  
Romana Bohuslavova



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

University of Padova:  
Dept. of Biomedical Science:  
Fabio Di Lisa  
Nina Kaludercic  
Roberta Menabo

Dept. of Biology:  
Elena Ziviani  
Greta Bernardo



Institute for Heart Research:  
Miroslav Ferko  
Natalia Andelova  
David Janko

## Thank you for your attention.

Research was supported by Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, grant nr. NU20J-02-00035; the project National Institute for Research of Metabolic and Vascular Diseases (Programme EXCELES, ID Project No. LX22NPO5104) - Funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU.