Study: Treatment of pulmonary fibrosis should focus on the telomeres of the cells that regenerate the lungs
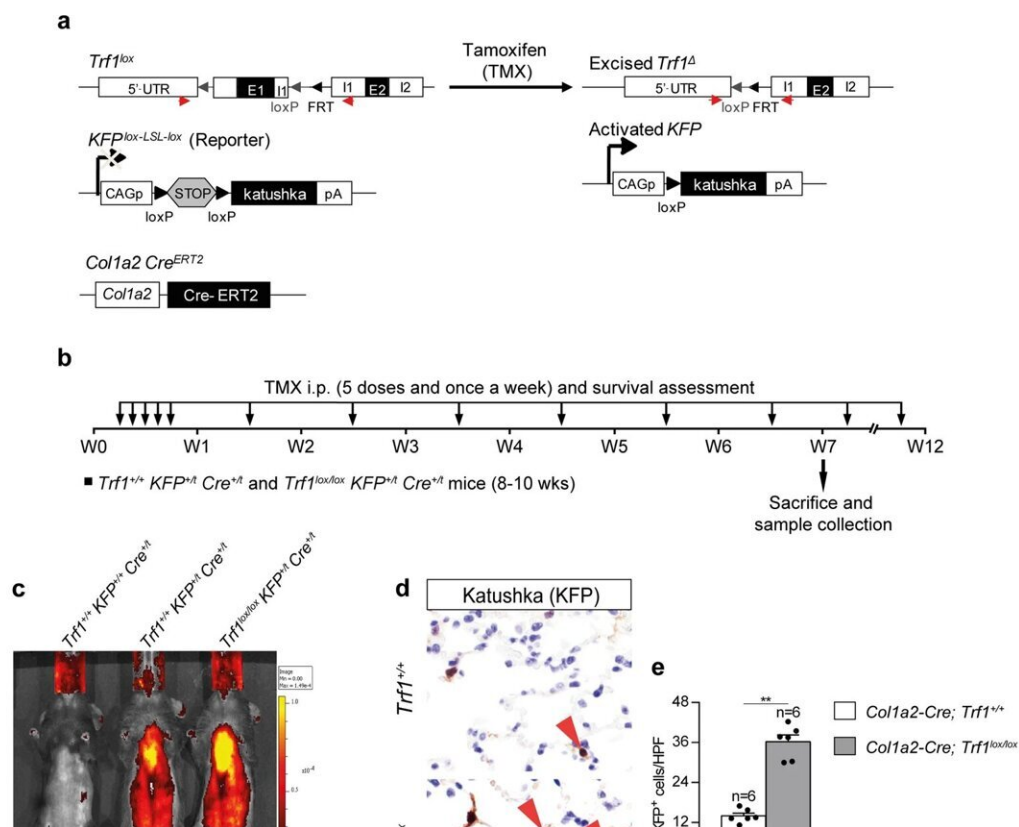
October 6 2022

Efficient Trf1 deletion in lung fibroblasts upon tamoxifen administration. **a** Generation of the conditional knockout mouse model in which *Trf1* was deleted in fibroblasts using the Cre recombinase driven by the *Col1a2* promoter. $Trf1^{lox}$, $KFP^{Lox-LSL-Lox}$, and $Col1a2-Cre^{ERT2}$ alleles are depicted before and after Cre-mediated excision. **b** Tamoxifen (TMX) treatment, survival rate assessment and sample collection. Eight-to 10-week-old male $Trf1^{+/+} KFP^{+/t} Cre^{+/t}$ (*Col1a2-Cre;*

$Trf1^{+/+}$) and $Trf1^{lox/lox}$ $KFP^{+/t}$ $Cre^{+/t}$ (*Col1a2-Cre; Trf1*$^{lox/lox}$) mice were i.p. injected with TMX for five consecutive days during the first week and once a week until the sacrifice and sample collection on week (W) 7, and during the follow-up of survival until W12. **c** Representative images of fluorescence intensity of katushka fluorescent protein (KFP) in $Trf1^{+/+}$ $KFP^{+/+}$ $Cre^{+/t}$, $Trf1^{+/+}$ $KFP^{+/t}$ $Cre^{+/t}$ and $Trf1^{lox/lox}$ $KFP^{+/t}$ $Cre^{+/t}$ mice. Representative immunostainings for KFP (**d**), and quantification of KFP positive cells per 40X high-power field (HPF) (**e**) in lung sections from $Trf1^{+/+}$ $KFP^{+/t}$ $Cre^{+/t}$ and $Trf1^{lox/lox}$ $KFP^{+/t}$ $Cre^{+/t}$ mice. **f** Kaplan–Meier survival curves of *Col1a2-Cre; Trf1*$^{+/+}$ (*Trf1*$^{+/+}$, controls) and *Col1a2-Cre; Trf1*$^{\Delta/\Delta}$ (*Trf1*$^{\Delta/\Delta}$) mice upon TMX treatment. **g** Representative immunofluorescence stainings for COL1A2 (green) and TRF1 (red) (white arrowheads indicate COL1A2$^+$ fibroblasts with deletion of TRF1), and immune-telomere-Q-FISH in COL1A2$^+$ fibroblasts (Cy3Tel probe (red), COL1A2$^+$ cells (green), and nuclei stained with DAPI (blue)) in lung sections from $Trf1^{+/+}$ and $Trf1^{\Delta/\Delta}$ mice. Quantification of the proportion of double COL1A2$^+$-TRF1$^+$ fibroblasts (**h**) and mean telomere spot intensity (**i**) and average number of telomeres (**j**) in COL1A2$^+$ cells from $Trf1^{+/+}$ and $Trf1^{\Delta/\Delta}$ mice. Data are expressed as mean ± SEM (the number of mice is indicated in each case). **p

Citation: Study: Treatment of pulmonary fibrosis should focus on the telomeres of the cells that regenerate the lungs (2022, October 6) retrieved 25 April 2024 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-10-treatment-pulmonary-fibrosis-focus-telomeres.html