

Supplementary Materials

Single-Cell Re-Mining Identifies a Pathogenic Fibroblast Subpopulation and Nominates Exploratory Therapeutic Hypotheses in Human Bone Nonunion

Hang Chen ^{1,2}, Chang Lei ^{2,3}, Xiao Liu ⁴, Xiaobo Chen ⁵, Shufang Luo ⁵ and Chun Xu ^{1,2,6,*}

¹ Sydney Dental School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

² Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW 2006, Australia

³ School of Medical Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

⁴ Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, Innovation Campus, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia

⁵ Stomatological Hospital of Xiamen Medical College, Xiamen Key Laboratory of Stomatological Disease Diagnosis and Treatment, Xiamen 361000, China

⁶ Sydney Nano Institute, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

* Correspondence: chun.xu@sydney.edu.au

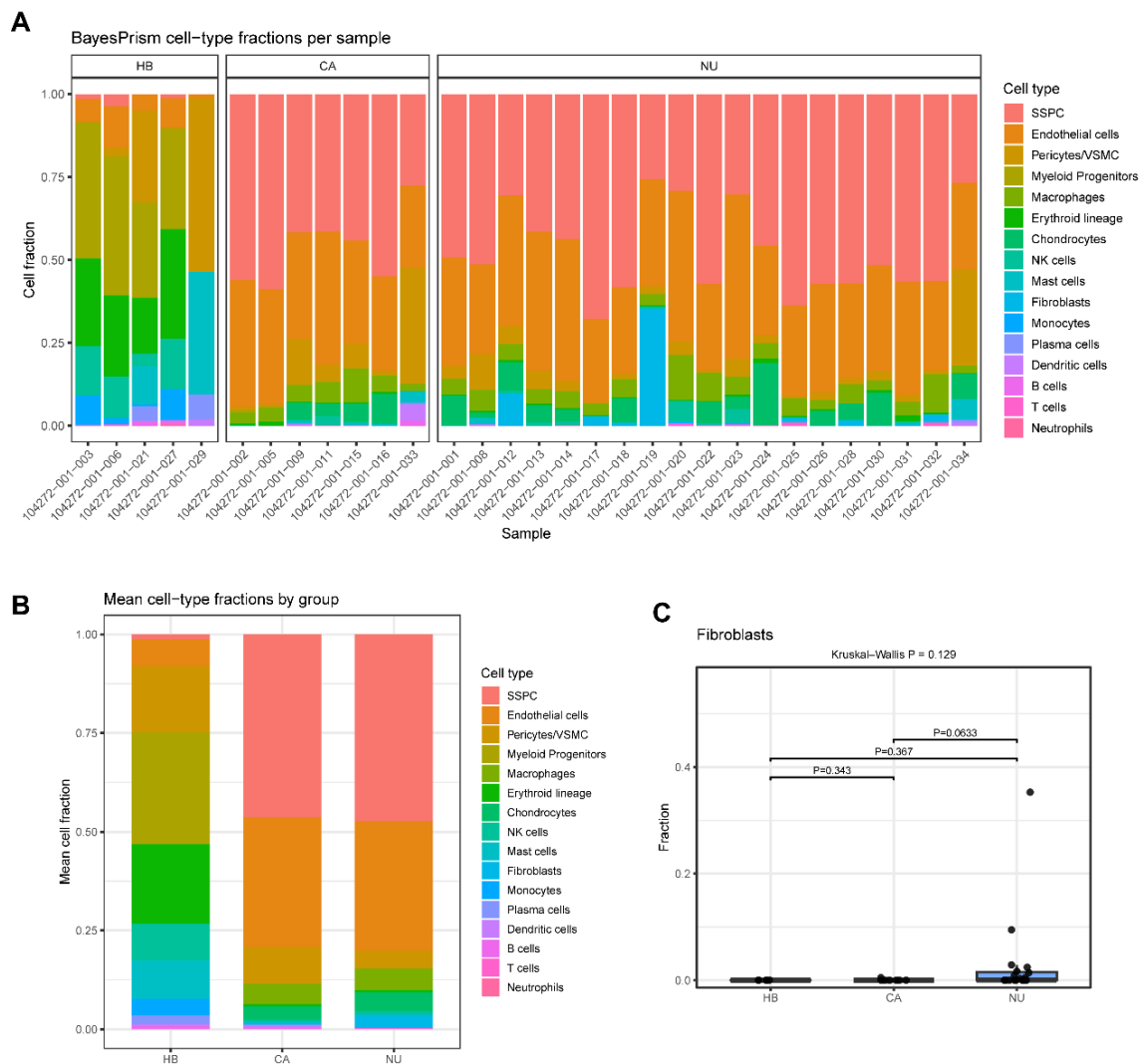


Figure S1. External comparison with the published GSE226568/GSE226566 bulk RNA-seq cohort using reference-guided deconvolution. **(A)** Sample-level inferred cell-type fractions for the external bulk RNA-seq cohort. **(B)** Group-averaged inferred cell-type composition across healthy bone (HB), fracture callus (CA), and nonunion (NU) samples. **(C)** Sample-level inferred fibroblast fractions across groups. Points indicate individual samples. *p* values shown correspond to the Kruskal–Wallis test and pairwise Wilcoxon rank-sum tests.

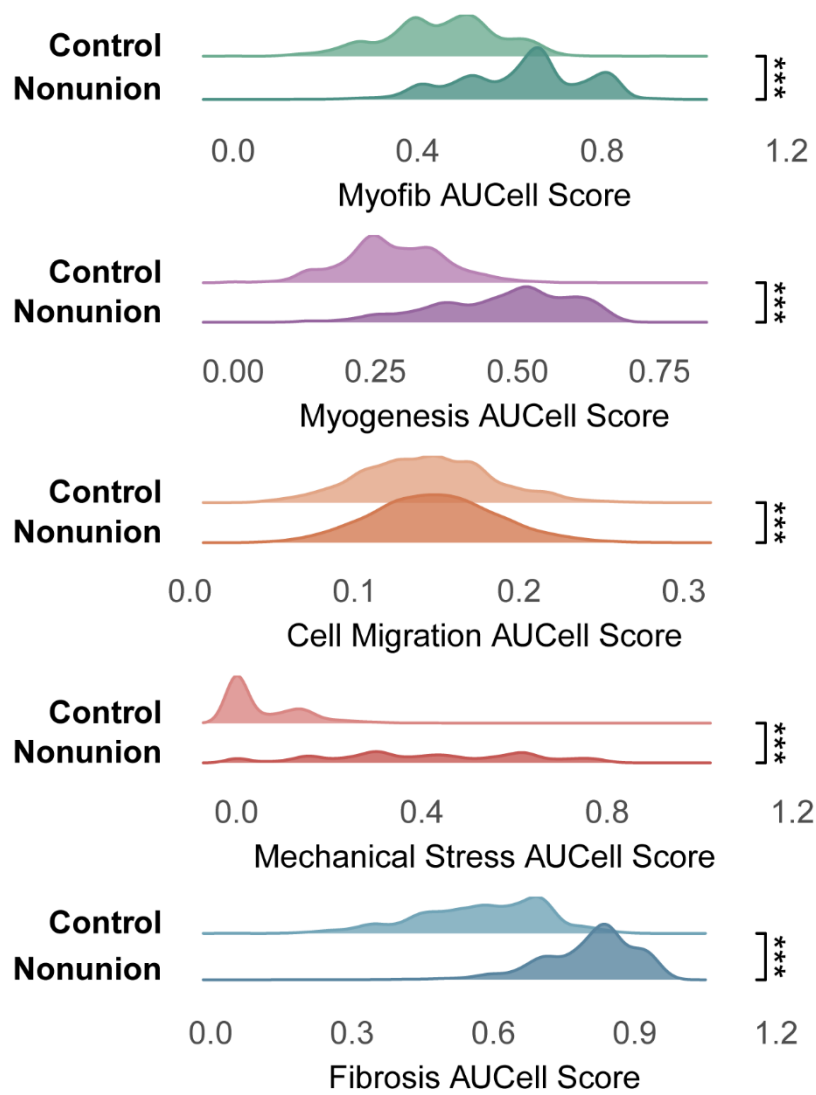
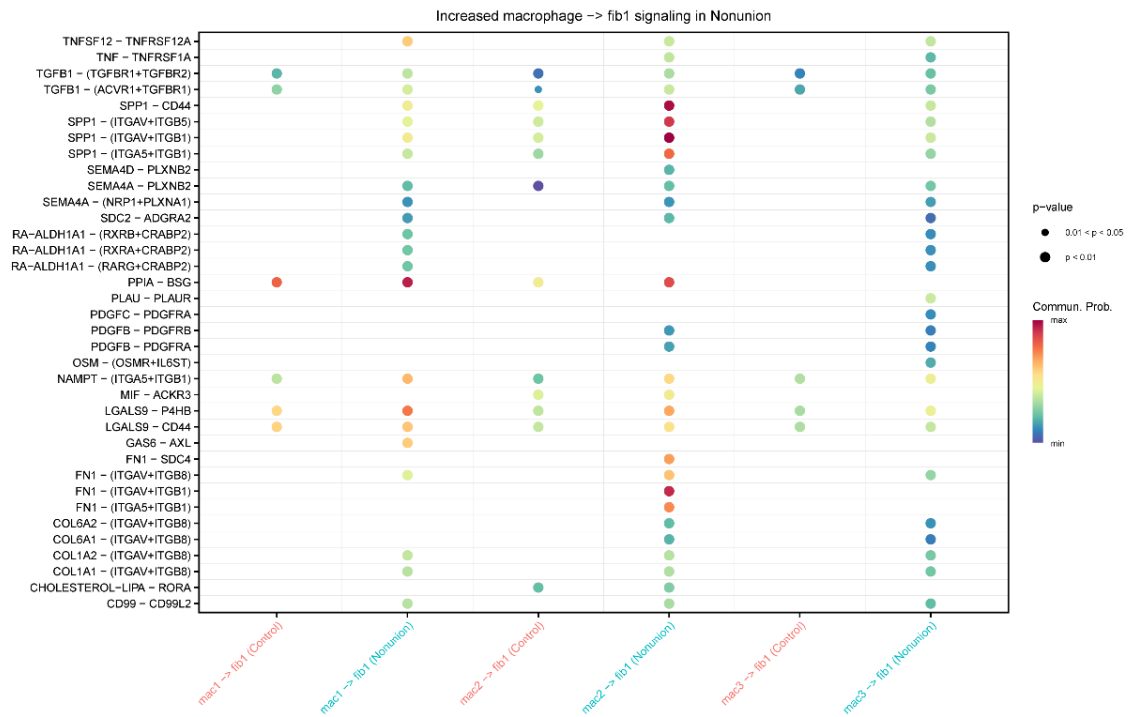


Figure S2. Ridge plots comparing functional pathway scores (Migration, Mechanical, Fibrosis, Myofib, and Myogenesis) between control and Nonunion fibroblasts using “AUCell”.

A



B

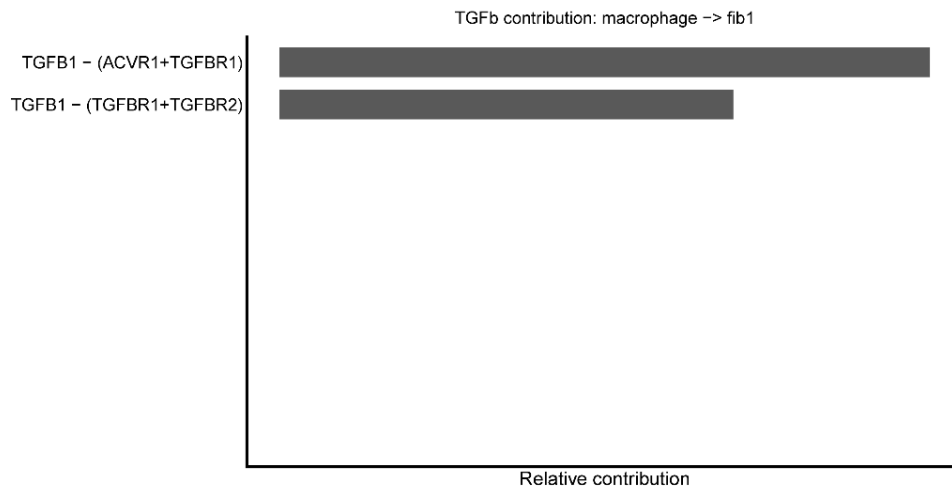


Figure S3. Subtype-resolved macrophage-to-Fib1 communication in nonunion. **(A)** Bubble plot showing ligand–receptor interactions increased in nonunion for macrophage-subtype-to-Fib1 communication, directly extracted from the subtype-resolved CellChat analysis after fibroblast/macrophage subclustering. **(B)** Contribution analysis of the TGF- β pathway in nonunion, highlighting TGF- β as a representative signaling route within the macrophage-to-Fib1 axis.

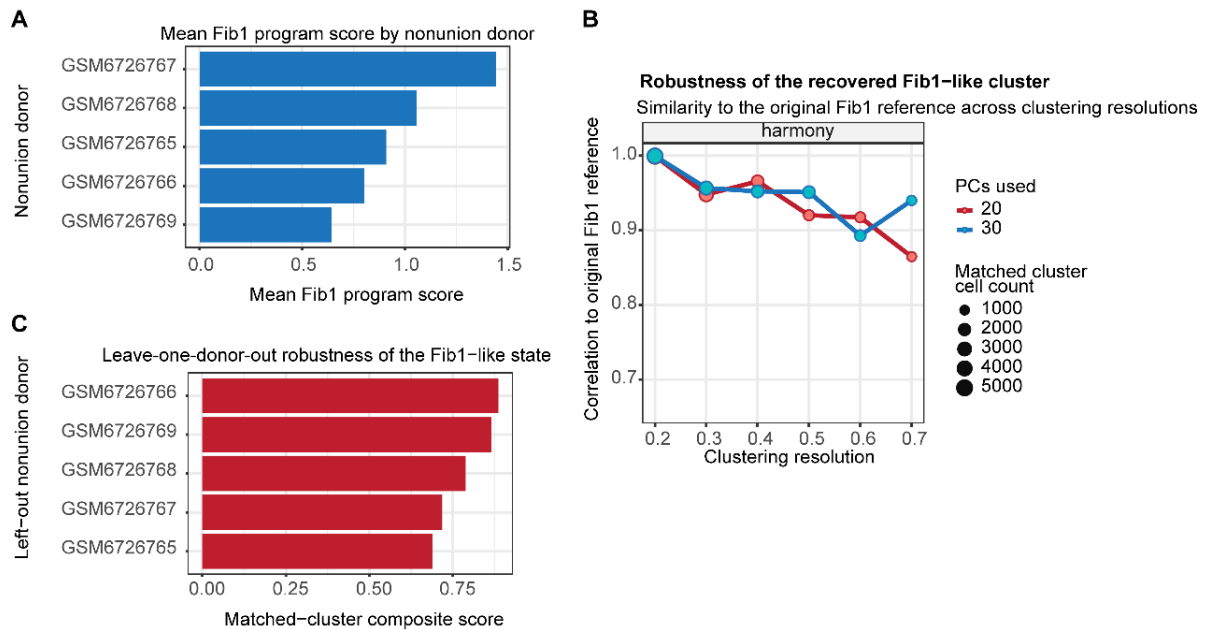


Figure S4. Reproducibility and robustness of the Fib1-like fibroblast state in nonunion. (A) Donor-level summary of Fib1 program activity across nonunion donors, shown as mean Fib1 program score for each donor. (B) Robustness of the recovered Fib1-like cluster across alternative clustering resolutions and dimensional settings, shown as similarity to the original Fib1 reference program; point size indicates the size of the matched cluster. (C) Leave-one-donor-out analysis showing that a Fib1-like state remained recoverable after sequential exclusion of each nonunion donor, summarized by matched-cluster composite score.

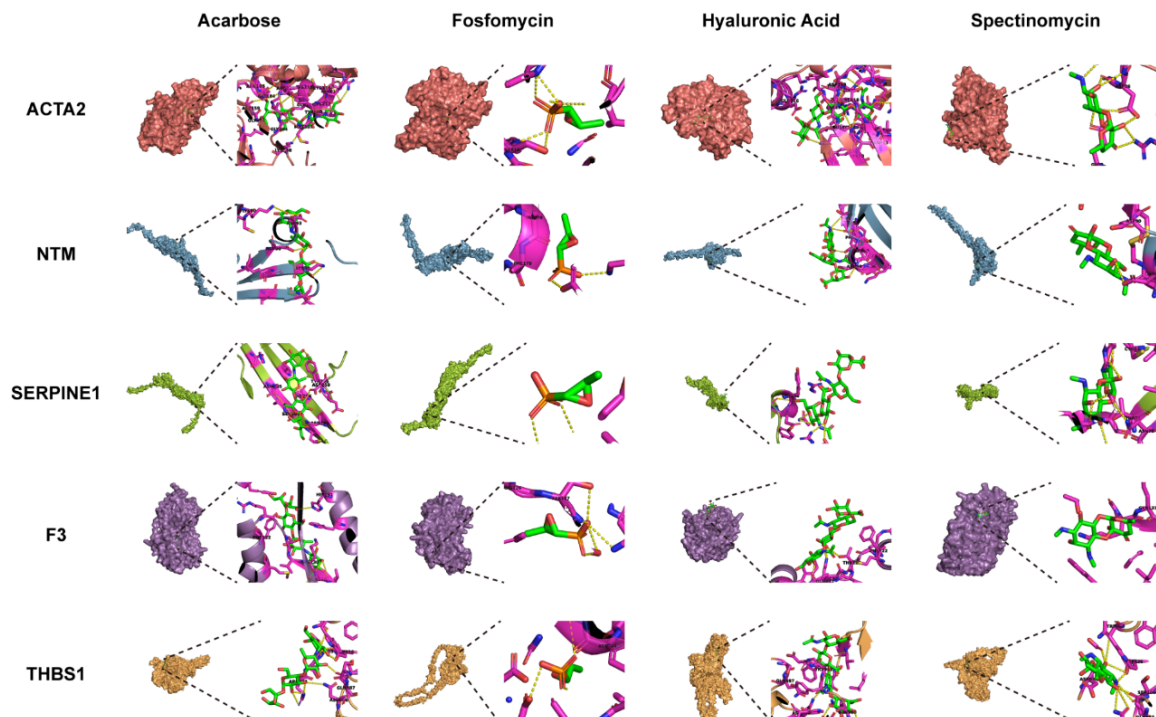


Figure S5. Predicted binding mode of Fib1 target proteins with potential candidate drugs generated by Boltz2.