

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Methods

TaqMan gene expression assays assessed expression of *DMT1* and *HIF1a* which code for proteins involved in iron homeostasis (divalent metal transporter 1 and hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha subunit). RNA was isolated using Trizol, converted to cDNA using RNA polymerase III, and used with appropriate housekeeping genes in triplicate real time PCR experiments (all reagents Fisher Scientific, Loughborough, UK). Results are presented as relative gene expression in the table below, using the comparative C_T method.

Results

Cell type	DMT1 expression ($2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$)	HIF1a expression ($2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$)
Wild type PBECs	0.00026	0.00074
Wild type A549	6.52812	2.77663
Wild type QG56	0.000001	0.0042
IREB2 Knockdown A549	0.01391	0.00322
IREB2 Knockdown QG56	115.76056	83.43033