SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Combination suicide gene delivery with an AAV vector encoding inducible caspase-9 and a chemical inducer of dimerization is effective in a xenotransplantation model of hepatocellular carcinoma.

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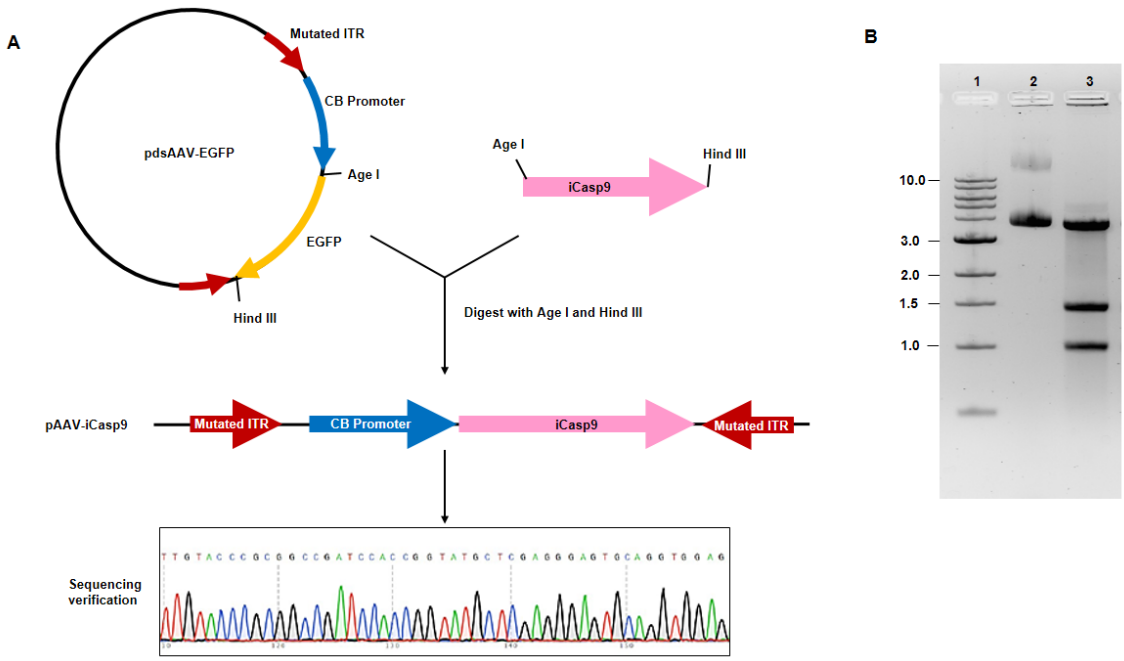

Figure S1: Schematic of the cloning strategy for incorporation of iCasp9 gene into an inverted terminal repeat containing AAV vector. A) Cloning strategy for iCasp9 gene in AAV backbone is illustrated. B) Restriction digestion verification of pAAV-iCasp9 vector. Lane 1: 1 kb DNA ladder (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA); Lane 2: undigested pAAV-iCasp9 vector (6300bp); Lane 3: Cloned construct digested with SmaI enzyme (1039 bp, 1498bp and 3763 bp cleavage products).

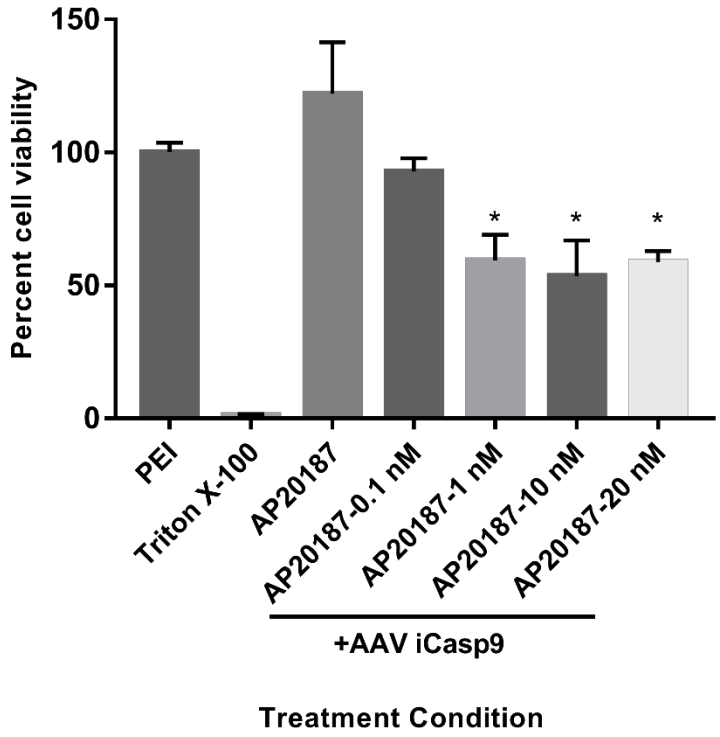

Figure S2: Validation of AAV-iCasp9 plasmid vectors *in vitro*. The hybrid inducible caspase 9 gene was generated as indicated in experimental section. About 0.5 µg of p.AAV-iCasp9 vectors were transiently transfected into HeLa cells. Twenty four hours after transfection, the growth medium was replaced with fresh medium containing different concentrations of AP20187 (0.1 to 20 nM). Two days later, the cytotoxicity of the vectors was assessed by ATP based cell viability assays. The data is presented as mean ± SD and is representative of two independent experiments with three replicate samples in each condition. Triton X 100: positive control for cytotoxic agent; PEI: transfection reagent control; AP20187: vehicle and drug control. *P<0.05 vs PEI treated cells.