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Additional Information

1 **Pharmacological senolysis reduces doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity and**
2 **improves cardiac function in mice**

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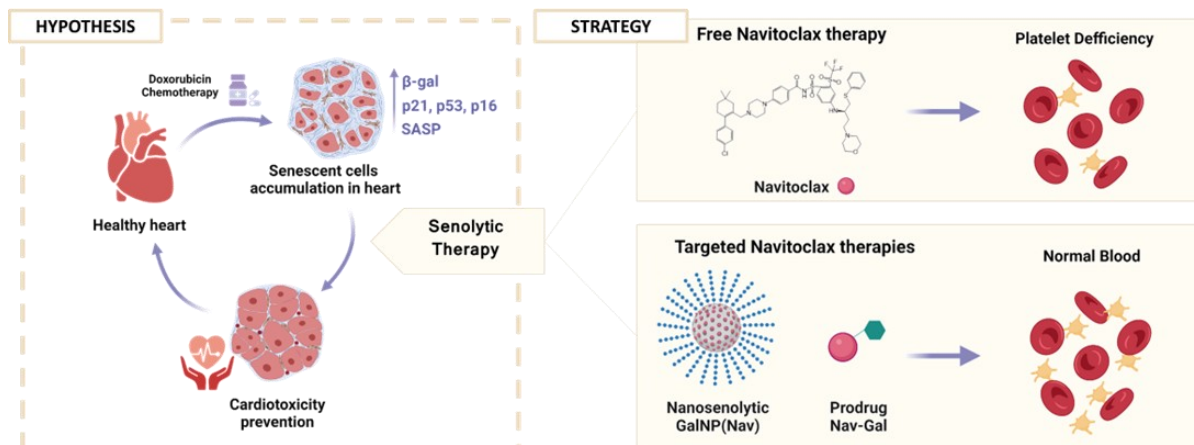
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35 **Graphical Abstract**

36



37

38 **Keywords:** Doxorubicin, cardiac senescence, senolytic, navitoclax, nanoparticles, prodrug

39

40 **Abstract:** Many anticancer agents used in clinics induce premature senescence in healthy
41 tissues generating accelerated aging processes and adverse side-effects in patients.
42 Cardiotoxicity is a well-known limiting factor of anticancer treatment with doxorubicin (DOX),
43 a very effective anthracycline widely used as antitumoral therapy in clinical practice, that leads
44 to long-term morbidity and mortality. DOX exposure severely affects the population of cardiac
45 cells in both mice and human hearts by inducing premature senescence, which may represent
46 the molecular basis of DOX-induced cardiomyopathy. Here, we demonstrate that senescence
47 induction in the heart contributes to impaired cardiac function in mice upon DOX treatment.
48 Concomitant elimination of senescent cells with the senolytic Navitoclax in different
49 formulations produces a significant decrease in senescence and cardiotoxicity markers together
50 with the restoration of the cardiac function in mice followed by echocardiography. These results
51 evidence the potential clinical use of senolytic therapies to alleviate cardiotoxicities induced in
52 chemotherapy-treated patients.

53

54 **1. Introduction**

55

56 Cellular senescence is a mechanism of cell cycle arrest in response to different stimuli which
57 can be related either to normal physiological or pathological conditions [1]. The accumulation
58 of senescent cells contributes to age-related disorders and negatively affects the regenerative
59 capacity of organs and tissues [2]. The presence of senescent cells in the cardiovascular system,
60 including the heart, links with diverse cardiac disorders, such as heart failure and atherosclerotic
61 diseases [3,4]. In addition, the presence of senescent cardiomyocytes has been described during
62 physiological aging in mice and humans, contributing to the progression of cardiac dysfunction
63 [5,6]. Besides many chemotherapy drugs promote therapy-induced senescence (TIS) either as
64 the therapeutic mechanism of action or as a side-effect [7]. This is the case of Doxorubicin
65 (DOX), a very effective anthracycline widely used as antitumoral therapy in clinical practice
66 [8]. One of the main side-effects of DOX is the induction of adverse cardiotoxicity, which can
67 appear in an acute manner or many years after drug administration to cancer patients,
68 representing an important public health concern [8–10]. Despite the mechanism underlying
69 DOX-induced cardiotoxicity remains controversial, some studies indicate that DOX induces
70 significant damage to cardiomyocyte cells that eventually leads to premature senescence
71 [11,12]. Moreover, endothelial cells and fibroblast-like cells in the heart also achieve a

72 senescence phenotype in DOX-treated mice [7]. Besides, it has been reported that DOX
73 treatment in humans and murine models produces an accumulation of senescent cardiac
74 progenitor cells (CPCs) in the heart that correlates with a decline in the regeneration capacity
75 thus causing long-term toxicity in patients [13,14].

76 From another point of view, the selective elimination of senescent cells, known as senolysis,
77 has been validated as a novel therapy to blunt the deleterious and pro-aging associated effects
78 in different disease models and enhance health- and lifespan in old mice [15–17]. Concerning
79 the heart, the genetic depletion of accumulated p16Ink4a-positive senescent cells delays the
80 acquisition of aged phenotypes in the heart in an aging mouse model [18]. Besides, Hoshino *et*
81 *al.*, demonstrated that inhibition of cytosolic p53 may ameliorate heart failure and symptoms
82 of cardiac aging after DOX treatment *in vivo* [19]. These genetically engineered mouse models
83 evidenced new targets to improve the translation of new therapeutic strategies.

84 In an attempt to move toward practical applications, researchers have identified
85 pharmacological compounds that preferentially kill senescent cells, commonly known as
86 senolytics [20,21]. Among them, Dasatinib and Quercetin (D+Q) administered in combination
87 significantly ameliorate age-related heart dysfunction improving left ventricular ejection
88 fraction and fractional shortening [22]. Furthermore, D+Q led to the activation of resident CPCs
89 and increased the number of proliferative cardiomyocytes in old mice, restoring the
90 regenerative capacity of the heart [23]. However, the clinical use of these senolytic treatments
91 correlates with side-effects in patients [24]. Another relevant senolytic drug is the anticancer
92 agent Navitoclax (also known as ABT-263), a potent inhibitor of the anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 family,
93 whose expression is highly increased in senescent cells [22]. Navitoclax delays age-related
94 pathologies in cardiac tissue through the elimination of senescent cardiomyocytes and
95 attenuated cardiac hypertrophy and fibrosis in aged mice [6]. Furthermore, its use ameliorated
96 myocardial remodeling, diastolic function, improved survival rate before myocardial infarction
97 [25], and promoted recovery after ischemia-reperfusion [26]. Nevertheless, the clinical use of
98 Navitoclax is hampered due to its associated hematological toxicity, causing severe
99 thrombocytopenia and neutropenia [27].

100 In this scenario, the elimination of senescent cells could have a therapeutic effect as a
101 protective intervention to combat DOX-induced senescence during chemotherapy regimens.
102 However, in this context, no studies have been carried out on the use of pharmacological
103 senolytics for the elimination of senescent cells in cardiotoxicity induced by chemotherapy
104 models and on the potential therapeutic effects of their elimination. Based on the above, we
105 report herein that DOX treatment induces heart senescence and expression of cardiotoxicity

106 markers in adult mice. Concomitant administration of Navitoclax in different formulations is
107 effective in eliminating senescent cells in the heart, which correlates with the recovery of
108 cardiac function in a mouse model of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity. Free Navitoclax,
109 Navitoclax encapsulated in mesoporous silica nanoparticles and capped with a
110 hexagalactosaccharide (galactan) (**GalNP(Nav)**) and a prodrug obtained by galacto-
111 conjugation with Navitoclax (**Nav-Gal**) are used. Overall, we provide evidence of the use of
112 senolytics to reduce doxorubicin-associated cardiotoxicity, which might help to overcome the
113 clinical limitations of current chemotherapy treatments.

114

115 **2. Results**

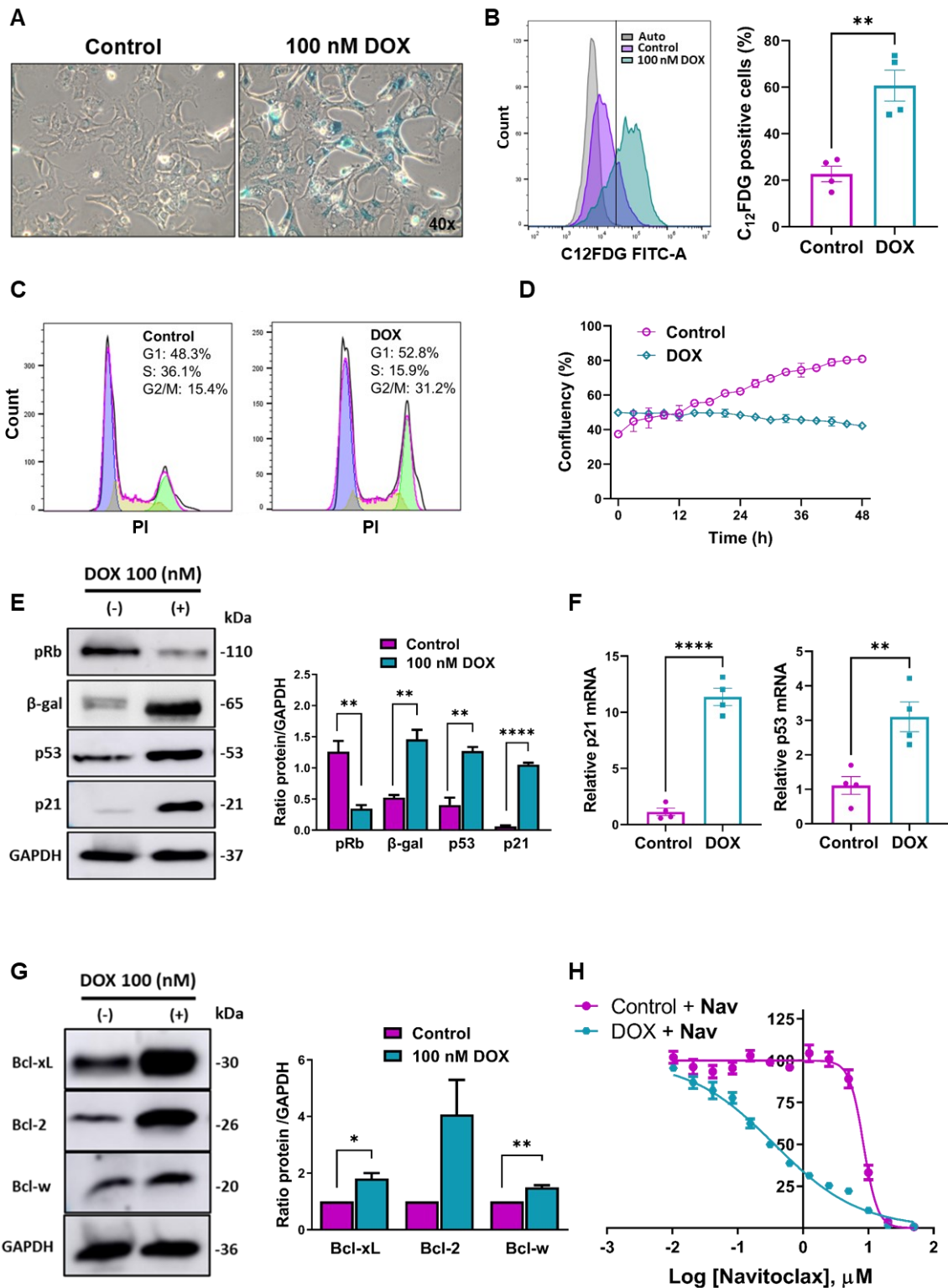
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117 **2.1. DOX induces cell cycle arrest and senescence in HL-1 cardiac myocyte cell line**

118 To validate the use of the proposed senolytic therapeutical strategies in cardiac pathologies
119 associated with DOX, we first carried out *in vitro* studies. As adult mammalian cardiomyocytes
120 are predominantly post-mitotic and cannot be expanded *in vitro*, we selected the proliferating
121 HL-1 cardiac myocyte cell line to validate different therapeutical approaches [28]. These cells,
122 even immortalized, maintain a cardiac-specific phenotype and have been previously used as
123 experimental model for cardiomyocyte-induced senescence [29].

124 First, the induction of senescence by DOX in the HL-1 cardiac myocyte cell line was
125 evaluated. We found that treatment with DOX 100 nM for 72h was enough to induce senescence
126 in HL-1 cells (**Figure 1A-F**) without causing cell death (**Figure S1A**). DOX-treated HL-1 cells
127 showed increased lysosomal β -galactosidase activity, a typical marker of senescence activation,
128 evidenced by the increment in blue-stained cells observed in X-Gal staining assays *versus*
129 untreated cells (**Figure 1A**) [30]. In line with these results, flow cytometry studies using the
130 lipophilic β -galactosidase substrate 5-dodecanoylamino fluorescein di- β -D-galactopyranoside
131 (C_{12} FDG) confirmed the accumulation of senescent population in DOX-treated HL-1
132 cardiomyocytes (3-fold) compared to non-treated cells (**Figure 1B**). Moreover, cell cycle
133 analyses by flow cytometry after DOX treatment for 72h showed that DOX-induced
134 accumulation of cells in the G2/M-phase, a hallmark of the cell cycle effect of DOX treatment
135 [31] (**Figure 1C**), and the time-lapse imaging confirmed the suppression of proliferation in HL-
136 1 cells by 100 nM DOX (**Figure 1D**). Additionally, the proliferation arrest assay by crystal
137 violet staining after one week in culture and the immunostaining of the Ki67 proliferation
138 marker demonstrated the stop of cellular proliferation for DOX-treated HL-1 cells confirming
139 cell cycle arrest (**Figure S1C-D**).

140 It is now well recognized that most stressors that induce cellular senescence activate either
141 or both the p53/p21 or p16Ink4a/retinoblastoma (Rb) protein pathways to prevent entry into the
142 cell cycle [32,33]. Hypo-phosphorylation in retinoblastoma (Rb) protein and upregulation of
143 p53 and p21 were observed in extracts of DOX-treated HL-1 cells, as is expected for a senescent
144 phenotype (**Figure 1E**. Original images in **Figure S2A**). We also demonstrated the induction
145 of β -galactosidase (β -gal) protein expression by western blot. In our regard, the importance of
146 β -galactosidase up-expression is essential for validating our targeted strategies, as the proper
147 performance of both, nanoparticles (**GalNP(Nav)**) and the prodrug (**Nav-Gal**) depends on this
148 activity (*vide infra*). The up-expression of *p21* and *p53* (**Figure 1F**) and the SASP markers
149 *Cxcl1* and *IL6* (**Figure S1B**) were also confirmed at mRNA levels in HL-1 cells in response to
150 DOX exposure. Thus, cell cycle exit, and senescence after DOX exposure are accompanied by
151 the activation of the cell cycle inhibitors p53/p21 and hypo-phosphorylation in retinoblastoma
152 (Rb) protein, β -gal induction, and SASP expression.



153

154 **Figure 1. Doxorubicin (DOX) treatment induces cellular senescence in HL-1 cardiac**

155 **myocytes cells and Navitoclax exhibits senolytic activity in senescent cardiac myocytes.**

156 **(A)** Representative bright-field images of SA-β-gal staining of control and 100 nM DOX-

157 **treated HL-1 cells. Blue staining confirms high β-galactosidase activity at pH 6 upon DOX**

158 **treatment. (B)** Histogram and percentage of C₁₂FDG positive cells indicate β-galactosidase

159 activity in control and DOX-treated cells by flow cytometry. Values are expressed as mean \pm
160 SEM and statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's t-test: ** $p < 0.01$ ($n = 4$).
161 (C) Cell cycle distribution was measured using flow cytometry. Propidium iodide (PI) staining
162 of control and 100 nM DOX-treated HL-1 cells. DOX-treated cells accumulate in cell cycle
163 G2/M after 3 days of treatment. (D) Graphs represent confluency (%) of HL-1 control and
164 DOX-treated cells followed by time-lapse imaging, showing suppression of proliferation in HL-
165 1 cells by 100 nM DOX. (E) (Left) Representative western blot analysis showing the decrease
166 in phospho-retinoblastoma (pRb) expression (110 kDa) and the increment in β -galactosidase
167 (65 kDa), p53 (53 kDa), and p21 (21 kDa) protein expression for DOX-treated HL-1 cells.
168 GAPDH (37 kDa) was included as a loading control. (Right) Quantification of ratio protein
169 expression versus internal reference (GAPDH) in control and DOX-treated cells. Values are
170 expressed as mean \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's
171 t-test: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.0001$ ($n \geq 3$). (F) mRNA expression levels of the senescent
172 makers *p21* and *p53* in HL-1 control and DOX-treated cells. *Actb* was used for input
173 normalization. Bars represent the mean \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed by the
174 two-tailed Student's t-test: ** $p < 0.01$ ($n \geq 3$). (G) (Left) Representative western blot analysis
175 expression of Bcl-2 family protein profile. Increased expression of anti-apoptotic proteins Bcl-
176 xL (30 kDa), Bcl-2 (26 kDa), and Bcl-w (20 kDa) was found in DOX treated HL-1 cells.
177 GAPDH (37 kDa) determination was included as a loading control. (Right) Quantification of
178 ratio anti-apoptotic protein expression versus internal control (GAPDH) in control and DOX-
179 treated cells. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed by
180 the two-tailed Student's t-test: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$ ($n \geq 3$). (H) IC50 curves obtained with
181 increasing concentrations of free Navitoclax (0.01 to 50 μ M) for control and DOX-treated cells
182 measured after 48h of treatment by luminescent ATP detection. Values are expressed as mean
183 \pm SEM ($n = 8$).

184

185 **2.2. Navitoclax in different formulations exhibits senolytic activity in senescent cardiac** 186 **myocytes**

187 Once the induction of cellular senescence in the HL-1 cardiac myocyte cell line upon DOX
188 treatment was demonstrated, we evaluated the effectiveness of the senolytic Navitoclax *in vitro*.
189 As Navitoclax is an inhibitor of the anti-apoptotic proteins Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, and Bcl-w, we first
190 analyzed changes in Bcl-2 family proteins expression upon DOX treatment in HL-1
191 cardiomyocytes. We corroborated the upregulation of these anti-apoptotic proteins (**Figure 1G**.
192 Original images in **Figure S2B**), as well as the pro-apoptotic proteins Bim, Bok, and Bax that

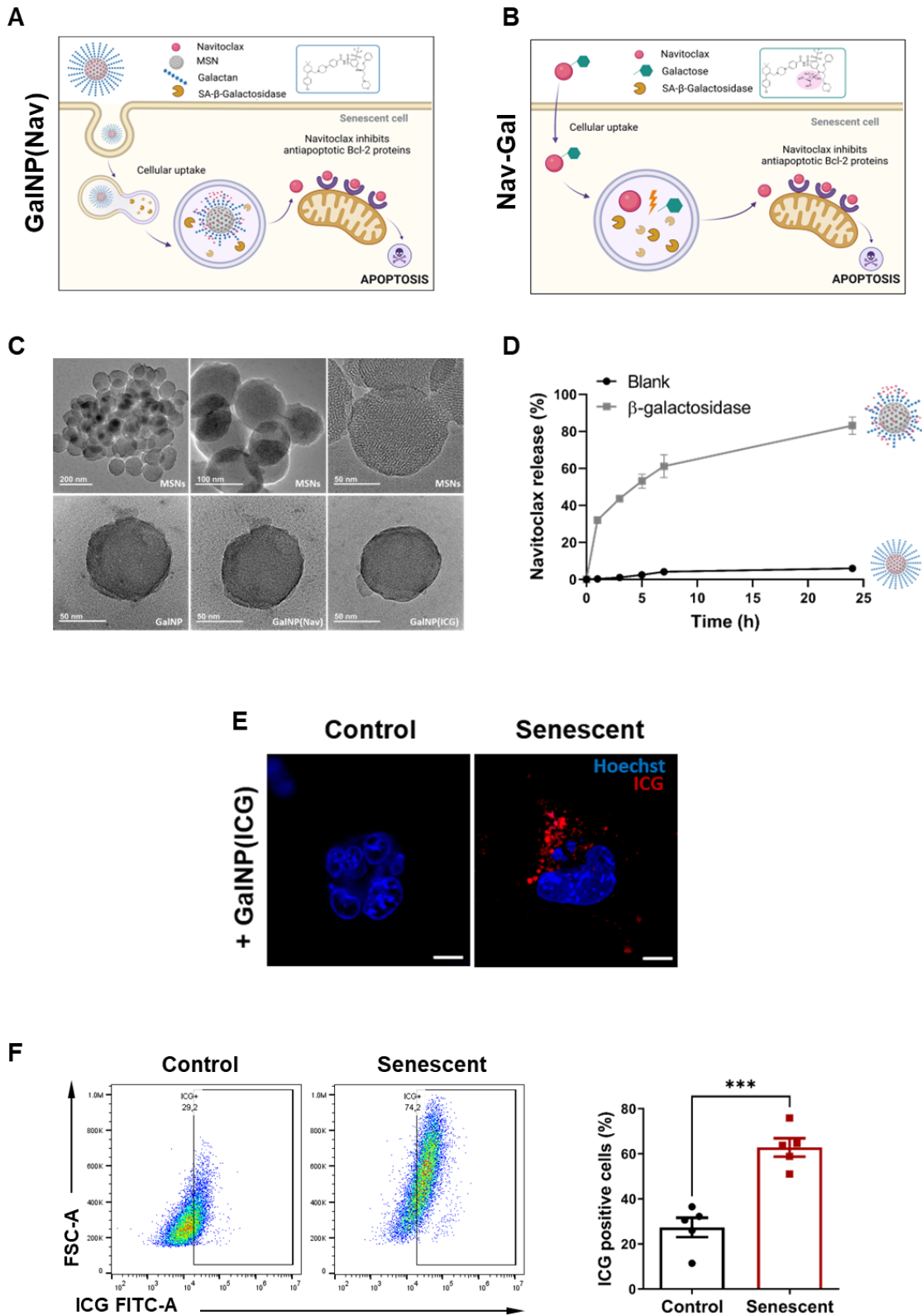
193 were also upregulated in senescent HL-1 cells (**Figure S1E**. Original images in **Figure S2B**).
194 These results indicated dysregulation in apoptosis machinery after DOX exposure with high
195 dependence on anti-apoptotic proteins for survival. Next, we treated control and senescent HL-
196 1 cells with increasing concentrations of Navitoclax for 48h. Navitoclax exhibited senolytic
197 activity by selectively inducing apoptosis on senescent HL-1 cells (**Figure 1H**). The IC₅₀ value
198 was calculated for both control (IC₅₀ = 8.43 μ M) and senescent cells (IC₅₀ = 0.37 μ M),
199 resulting in a senolytic index of 23 (**Figure 3E**). Besides, we performed an X-gal staining
200 including control and DOX-treated cells treated with Navitoclax (IC₅₀ for senescent cells:
201 0.37 μ M) (**Figure S1F**). These results confirm Navitoclax treatment resulted in a reduction in
202 the number of senescent cells but not control, which reinforces the role of Navitoclax as a
203 senolytic therapy.

204 Considering our purpose to overcome the toxicity limitations of Navitoclax (e.g.,
205 hematological toxicities), we took advantage of the high lysosomal β -galactosidase (β -gal)
206 activity present in senescent cells and encapsulate Navitoclax in mesoporous silica
207 nanoparticles capped with a hexagalactosaccharide (galactan) to specifically target senescent
208 cells and avoid cargo leakage. We have previously reported the senolytic potential of these
209 nanoparticles in models of dyskeratosis congenita, chemotherapy-treated xenografts,
210 pulmonary fibrosis, and endothelial-induced senescence [34–37]. The synthesis of the
211 nanoparticles has been reported elsewhere [36]. Briefly, the mesoporous silica nanoparticles
212 (MSNs) are loaded with indocyanine green (ICG, for tracking purposes), or Navitoclax (Nav,
213 for treatment), and coated with galactan (solids **GalNP(ICG)** and **GalNP(Nav)**, respectively).
214 When the galactan-gated nanodevices reach senescent cells, the lysosomal β -galactosidase
215 activity induces the hydrolysis of the cap with the subsequent preferential cargo release into
216 senescent cells (**Figure 2A**) [35]. To evaluate the biocompatibility of the mesoporous silica
217 carrier in HL-1 cardiomyocytes, galactan-capped nanoparticles without cargo were also
218 prepared (**GalNP**).

219 The synthesis of nanoparticles was carefully characterized by standard methods to assure
220 their quality and reproducibility [34,36]. TEM (**Figure 2C**) and Powder X-ray diffraction
221 studies (**Figure S3A**) confirmed the presence of the mesoporous structure of the starting
222 nanoparticles as well as the spherical morphology and size of ca. 100 nm, which are maintained
223 after the loading and functionalization processes. Starting MSNs exhibit a total specific surface
224 area of 1228.80 m² g⁻¹ and a pore size of 3.18 nm (**Figure S3B**, **Table S1**). In contrast, data for
225 functionalized nanoparticles **GalNP** (**Figure S3D**), and **GalNP(ICG)** (**Figure S3C**) showed
226 substantial reduction of specific surface areas, which agrees with partially filled mesopores

227 (Table S1). Zeta potential was -27.1 mV for starting calcined MSNs which changed to -0.06
228 mV and 0.34 mV for final GalNP(ICG) and GalNP(Nav), respectively (Table S2). Besides,
229 the hydrodynamic diameter increased from 153.5 nm for the calcined MSNs to 244.5 nm and
230 284.8 nm for GalNP(ICG) and GalNP(Nav), respectively (Table S2). In all cases, a single
231 population distribution was observed in DLS for all solids suggesting no aggregation. From
232 thermogravimetric and elemental analysis, the amounts of cargo (ICG or Nav) and galactan in
233 final NPs were determined (Table S3). Controlled cargo release of GalNP(Nav) and
234 GalNP(ICG), was also confirmed by delivery studies in the absence and the presence of the
235 enzyme β -galactosidase (Figure 2D and S4B). A clear cargo release was observed in the
236 presence of the enzyme due to β -galactosidase-mediated hydrolysis of galactan and subsequent
237 cargo release. In contrast, in the absence of the enzyme, a flat baseline was observed indicating
238 that cargo remained in the NPs with no release.

239 HL-1 cell viability studies under increasing concentrations of GalNP (0-2 mg/ml, filtered)
240 demonstrated cell survival up to 90% after 72h exposure, even at high concentrations (Figure
241 S4A) confirming that the mesoporous silica carrier is not toxic. Besides, GalNP(ICG) was used
242 to follow the cellular uptake of the nanoparticles by confocal microscopy and flow cytometry.
243 After 4h of incubation, an increase in far-red fluorescence signal inside HL-1 senescent cells
244 was observed, indicative of nanoparticle internalization and fluorophore delivery (Figure 2E).
245 In contrast, control cells showed a negligible emission under similar exposure. Flow cytometry
246 studies also showed a significant fluorescence increase in GalNP(ICG)-treated senescent cells
247 versus control cells (Figure 2F).



248

249 **Figure 2. Characterization of synthesis and functionality of nanoparticulated systems. (A)**

250 Schematic representation of **GaINP(Nav)** based on mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs)

251 loaded with Navitoclax and coated with hexagalactosaccharide (galactan). The cellular uptake

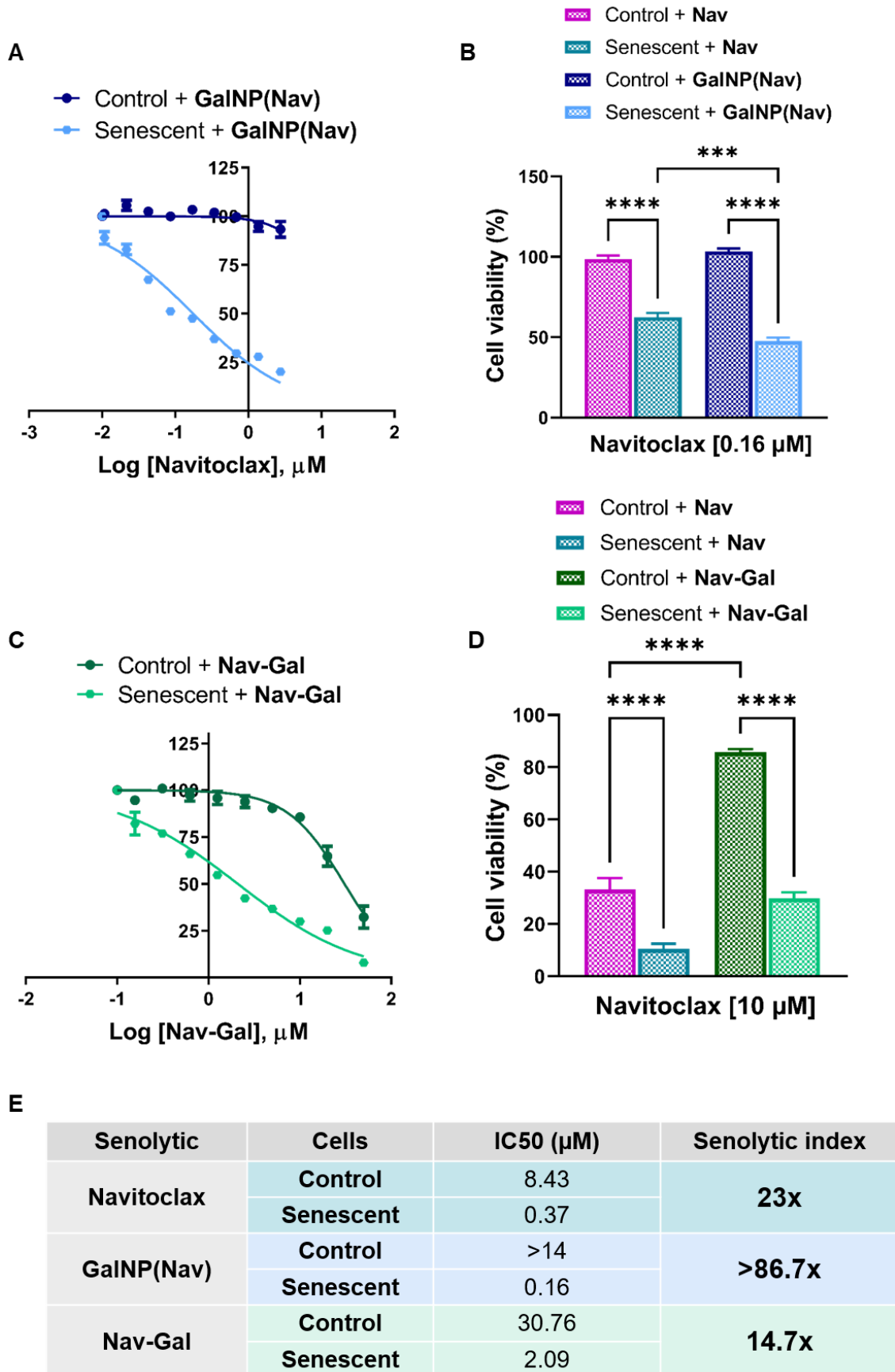
252 is mediated via endocytosis. **(B)** Galacto-conjugation of Navitoclax, **Nav-Gal** is passively taken

253 up by cells. In senescent cells, the high lysosomal β -galactosidase activity (SA- β -gal), allows
254 the hydrolysis of either the cap or the cleavable galactose. Free Navitoclax is released into the
255 cytoplasm and inhibits anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins, which are overexpressed in senescent cells,
256 driving specific apoptosis. **(C)** (Upper panels) TEM analysis of **calcined MSNs** at increasing
257 magnification. (Lower panels) TEM images of **GalNP** (left), **GalNP(Nav)** (central), and
258 **GalNP(ICG)** (right). **(D)** Release profiles of Navitoclax from **GalNP(Nav)** in the absence
259 (blank) or the presence of β -galactosidase from *Aspergillus oryzae* in water at pH 4.5. Data
260 represent the means \pm SEM (n=3). **(E)** Confocal images of control and senescent cells incubated
261 with **GalNP(ICG)** for 4h (1mg/ml, filtered). **GalNP(ICG)** are preferentially internalized by
262 HL-1 senescent cells showing an increment in ICG release (red fluorescence). The nucleus is
263 stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue). Scale bar, 10 μ m. **(F)** (Left) Flow cytometry diagram of
264 control and senescent cells incubated with **GalNP(ICG)** for 4h (1mg/ml, filtered). Increased
265 signal for ICG indicates preferential uptake of nanoparticles in senescent cells. (Right)
266 Percentage values of ICG positive cells obtained by flow cytometry expressed as mean \pm SEM
267 and statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's t-test: ***p<0.001 (n=5).

268

269 Once demonstrated the targeted delivery of the nanoparticles to senescent HL-1 cells, we
270 evaluated the senolytic activity of **GalNP(Nav)**. For this purpose, control and senescent cardiac
271 myocytes were treated with increasing concentrations of **GalNP(Nav)** for 48h (**Figure 3A**). We
272 observed that HL-1 senescent cells treated with **GalNP(Nav)** showed higher sensitivity (IC50
273 of 0.16 μ M), compared with control cells which remained viable in all the concentration range
274 tested (up to 14 μ M). The results confirmed a higher efficiency of the nanosenolytic compared
275 with free Navitoclax (nearly 4-fold), thus resulting in a senolytic index of >86.7 (**Figure 3B,**
276 **3E**). These results show the use of **GalNP(Nav)** improved the therapeutic outcome by reducing
277 the dose of the drug and, consequently, protecting the non-senescent cells from apoptosis.

278



279

280 **Figure 3. GalNP(Nav) and Gal-Nav improve senolytic activity over HL-1 senescent cells.**

281 (A) IC50 curves obtained with increasing concentrations of GalNP(Nav) (correlated to 0.01 to

282 2.7 μM of free Navitoclax) for control and DOX-treated cells measured after 48h of treatment
283 by luminescent ATP detection. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM (n=5). **(B)** Comparison
284 of the cytotoxic effect of free Navitoclax versus **GalNP(Nav)** over control and senescent HL-1
285 cells at corresponding IC50 of senescent cells treated with **GalNP(Nav)**. Data represent means
286 \pm SEM for free Navitoclax treated control and senescent cells (left), and **GalNP(Nav)** treated
287 control and senescent cells (right). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA
288 and Tukey post-test; ***p<0.001; ****p<0.0001 (n \geq 5). **(C)** IC50 curves obtained with
289 increasing concentrations of **Nav-Gal** (0.15 to 50 μM) for control and DOX-treated cells
290 measured after 48h of treatment by luminescent ATP detection. Values are expressed as mean
291 \pm SEM (n=3). **(D)** Comparison of the cytotoxic effect of free Navitoclax and **Nav-Gal** over
292 control and senescent HL-1 cells at 10 μM . Data represent means \pm SEM for free Navitoclax
293 treated control and senescent cells (left), and **Nav-Gal** treated control and senescent (right).
294 Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test;
295 ****p<0.0001 (n \geq 3). **(E)** Table indicating IC50 (μM) values and senolytic index for different
296 Navitoclax-based treatments in HL-1 cells. Senolytic index is obtained as
297 $\text{IC}_{50}^{\text{Control}}/\text{IC}_{50}^{\text{Senescent}}$.

298 As an alternative to targeting Navitoclax to senescent cells, we have previously described
299 the preparation of the prodrug **Nav-Gal** based on the conjugation of Navitoclax with an
300 acetylated galactose (**Figure 2B**) [38]. We determine the presence of acetylated galactose in the
301 structure of **Nav-Gal**, by nuclear magnetic resonance techniques, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, COSY, and high-
302 resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) experiments (**Figure S5**). **Nav-Gal** $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum
303 (**Figure S5A**) shows the presence of 4 singlets that integrate at 3 protons for each signal. The
304 ppm values are 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), respectively. These values
305 are characteristic of protons attached to alpha carbons relative to a carbonyl group. These values
306 correspond with the 4 acetyl groups present on the galactose unit. Using two-dimensional
307 homonuclear correlated spectroscopy (COSY), it is determined that these signals are linked to
308 an adjacent carbon lacking protons (carbonyl carbon of the acetyl groups) so that at these values
309 only signals are observed on the diagonal of the spectrum (**Figure S5B**). Finally, the HRMS
310 spectrum (**Figure S5C**) obtained indicates a charge mass ratio (m/z) in the molecular ion of
311 1304 that correlates with the M+H of the Nav-Gal molecule when galactose has acetyl groups.

312 **Nav-Gal** prodrug was demonstrated to induce apoptosis preferentially in senescent cells, in
313 a wide range of cell lines and models of TIS [38]. In HL-1, **Nav-Gal** showed an IC50 value of
314 2.1 μM for senescent HL-1 cells and 30.8 μM for non-senescent control cells (**Figure 3C, 3E**).
315 Albeit the senolytic index of **Nav-Gal** was slightly lower than that obtained for free Navitoclax,

316 **Nav-Gal** displays higher and remarkable protection on control cells even at high doses. For
317 instance, at Navitoclax concentrations of 10 μ M, over 65% of control HL-1 cells are dead,
318 whereas this value was only 15% for **Nav-Gal (Figure 3D)**. These results evidence the efficacy
319 of the prodrug in limiting the off-target effects derived from Navitoclax and preventing non-
320 senescent HL-1 cells from Navitoclax cytotoxic activity.

321

322 **2.3. Doxorubicin induces senescence accumulation in heart tissue and cardiac dysfunction** 323 **in mice**

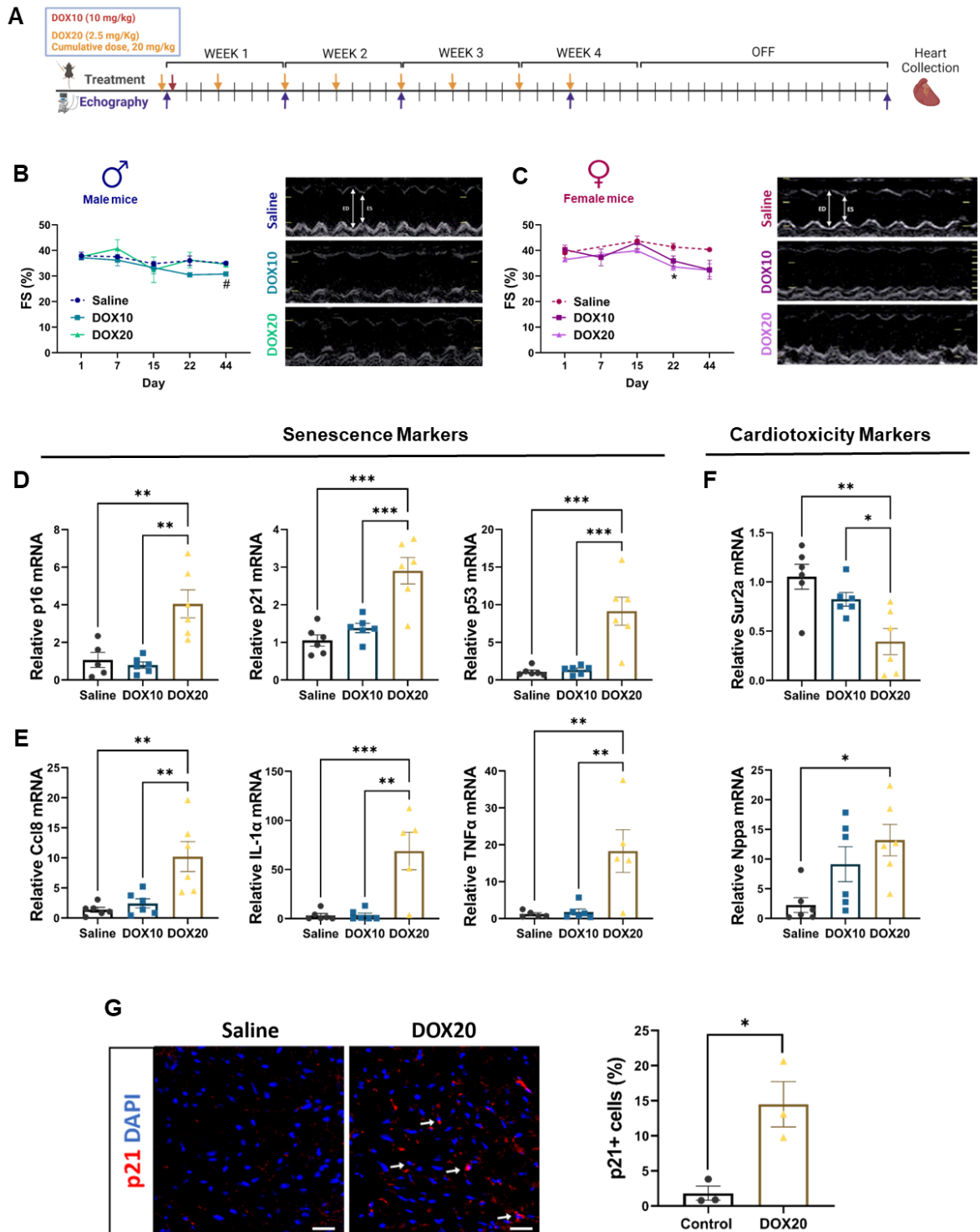
324 Male mice appear to be more susceptible to anthracycline cardiac toxicity than female mice.
325 Furthermore, the mechanism behind this sexual dimorphism is unknown, and the sex-related
326 changes in mice seem to be model-specific [39,40]. Thus, both male and female mice were
327 included in this study. On the other hand, a single dose of 10 mg/kg DOX was previously
328 demonstrated to induce senescence in the heart and correlated with cardiac dysfunction [7].
329 Nevertheless, a chronic treatment would be a more realistic approach considering the
330 administration patterns used for patients [41]. Thus, we examined the effects of either a single
331 dose of DOX (10 mg/kg, i.p.), henceforth referred to as DOX10, or the chronic injection of
332 smaller doses 2 days/week at 2.5 mg/kg (accumulated dose, 20 mg/kg., i.p.), henceforth referred
333 as DOX20, in male and female C57BL/6J mice (10-weeks). After 4 weeks of treatment, all
334 mice were maintained free of treatment until day 44 (**Figure 4A**).

335 The effect of DOX on cardiac function was assessed by echocardiography (Echo). Fractional
336 shortening (FS) indicates the change of left ventricular diameter during systolic contraction,
337 and ejection fraction (EF) stands for the percentage of blood volume pumping capacity [7]. The
338 echocardiographic evaluation revealed a decrease in FS (**Figure 4B and C**) and EF (**Figure**
339 **S6B and C**) in DOX10-treated mice, regardless of sex, observed since day 22. In the case of
340 the chronic regime, the decrease of FS and EF values was found preferentially in female mice,
341 which was observable from the second week after treatment (**Figure 4C and S6B-D**).
342 Importantly, cardiac function remained stable in control mice over the time course of this study.
343 Representative echocardiographic images are shown in **Figures 4B, 4C, and S6D**.

344 To assess the gene expression of senescence and cardiotoxicity markers in this mice model,
345 we collected the hearts of the animals at the end-point. We first evaluated the difference
346 between sexes and found a similar trend expression in these markers in both male and female
347 animals (**Figure SE-J**). Therefore, we consider all the data for statistical analysis (**Figure 4D-**
348 **F**). We evaluated the gene expression of the classical hallmarks of cellular senescence, *p16*,
349 *p21*, and *p53*, and the well-established SASP factors, *Ccl8*, *IL-1 α* , and *TNF α* (**Figure 4**)[42,43].

350 We observed an increased expression of *p16*, *p21*, and *p53* in the heart tissue of DOX20-treated
351 mice, but no significant changes were found in DOX10 compared to controls (**Figure 4D**).
352 Moreover, immunostaining analysis showed an increased expression of p21 in heart tissue of
353 the female DOX20 group compared to controls (**Figure 4G**). The expression profile of the
354 SASP factors markers (*Ccl8*, *IL-1 α* , and *TNF α*) indicated the upregulation in DOX20 group,
355 which strengthens the induction of senescence in this model (**Figure 4E**). We next measured
356 the expression of different cardiac injury markers in the heart. *Sur2a* is a marker of cardiac
357 stress tolerance, which decreases in cardiac aging [18], and high levels of *Nppa*, reflect cardiac
358 hypertrophy and is a marker associated with heart failure [35,44]. In line with this, we observed
359 a significant decrease in *Sur2a* expression in DOX20-treated mice but not in DOX10 group.
360 Significant induction of *Nppa* was observed for DOX20-treated mice (**Figure 4F**). Importantly,
361 DOX did not cause weight loss in female mice in any administration regime. In contrast, a
362 significant decay in weight loss was observed for male mice at both doses (**Figure S6A**). Of
363 note, no animal died during the experiment due to DOX administration. Altogether, the results
364 indicate that both male and female mice treated with chronic administration of DOX expressed
365 senescence and cardiotoxicity markers in heart tissue. Therefore, we did not observe
366 significant sex-differentiation in the DOX-induced senescence phenotype under our
367 administration regimen.

368 Despite no differences observed in senescence and cardiotoxicity markers in heart tissue
369 from both males and females, females were selected for further studies considering the
370 significant differences in cardiac function. Besides, the evaluation of cardiotoxicity in females
371 could be a key point as anthracyclines are the backbone of chemotherapy-based regimens for
372 breast and ovarian neoplasms [45].



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Figure 4. Doxorubicin induces senescence and cardiotoxicity markers expression in heart tissue and cardiac dysfunction in mice. (A) Experimental design: wild-type male and female C57BL/6J mice (10 weeks old) were treated with saline or doxorubicin (i.p) in a unique administration (10 mg/kg body weight, DOX10) or in a chronic regime (cumulative dose, 20 mg/kg body weight, DOX20), 2 injections per week for 4 weeks (n=3). Echocardiography analyses were performed weekly to follow the cardiac dysfunction of mice. Hearts were collected at the end-point of the experiment (day 44). The graphs representing male results are

381 shown in blue colors, and female results are shown in violet colors. **(B)** Fractional shortening
382 (FS) values obtained for male animals during the course of the experiment. A decrease in FS was
383 observed for animals in the DOX10 group versus saline-treated mice at day 44. Data represent
384 independent measurements for each animal (n=3). Statistical significance was determined by
385 one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; #p<0.05 represents significance DOX10 vs Saline-
386 group. **(C)** Fractional shortening (FS) values obtained for female animals during the course of
387 the experiment. A decrease in FS value was observed for animals in both experimental groups,
388 DOX10 and DOX20 versus saline-treated mice. Data represent independent measurements for
389 each animal (n=3). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey
390 post-test; *p<0.05 represents significance DOX20 vs Saline-group. Representative
391 echocardiographic analysis on male and female mice, respectively, in each experimental
392 condition at day 44 (ED = end-diastole, ES = end-systole). After injection with DOX, a decrease
393 in LV contraction is observed. **(D-F)** mRNA expression levels of the senescence makers **(D)**,
394 *p16*, *p21*, and *p53*; SASP markers **(E)**, *Ccl8*, *IL-1 α* , and *TNF α* ; and cardiotoxicity markers **(F)**
395 *Sur2a* and *Nppa*, in heart tissue of mice. *Actb* and *Gapdh* were used for input normalization.
396 Values are relative to control mice and are expressed as mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance
397 was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; *p <0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001
398 (n \geq 5, heart per group). **(G)** Representative confocal images of heart tissue sections from female
399 animals treated with saline or chronic administration of DOX (20 mg/kg). p21 expression (white
400 arrows) is overexpressed in DOX-treated mice (red signal). DAPI (blue signal) counterstained
401 for nucleus. Scale bar, 20 μ m. Quantification of the total number of p21-positive cells. Fields
402 were selected for covering most of the total heart area. Data represent means \pm SEM per animal
403 and statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's t-test: *p<0.05 (n=3, heart
404 per group).

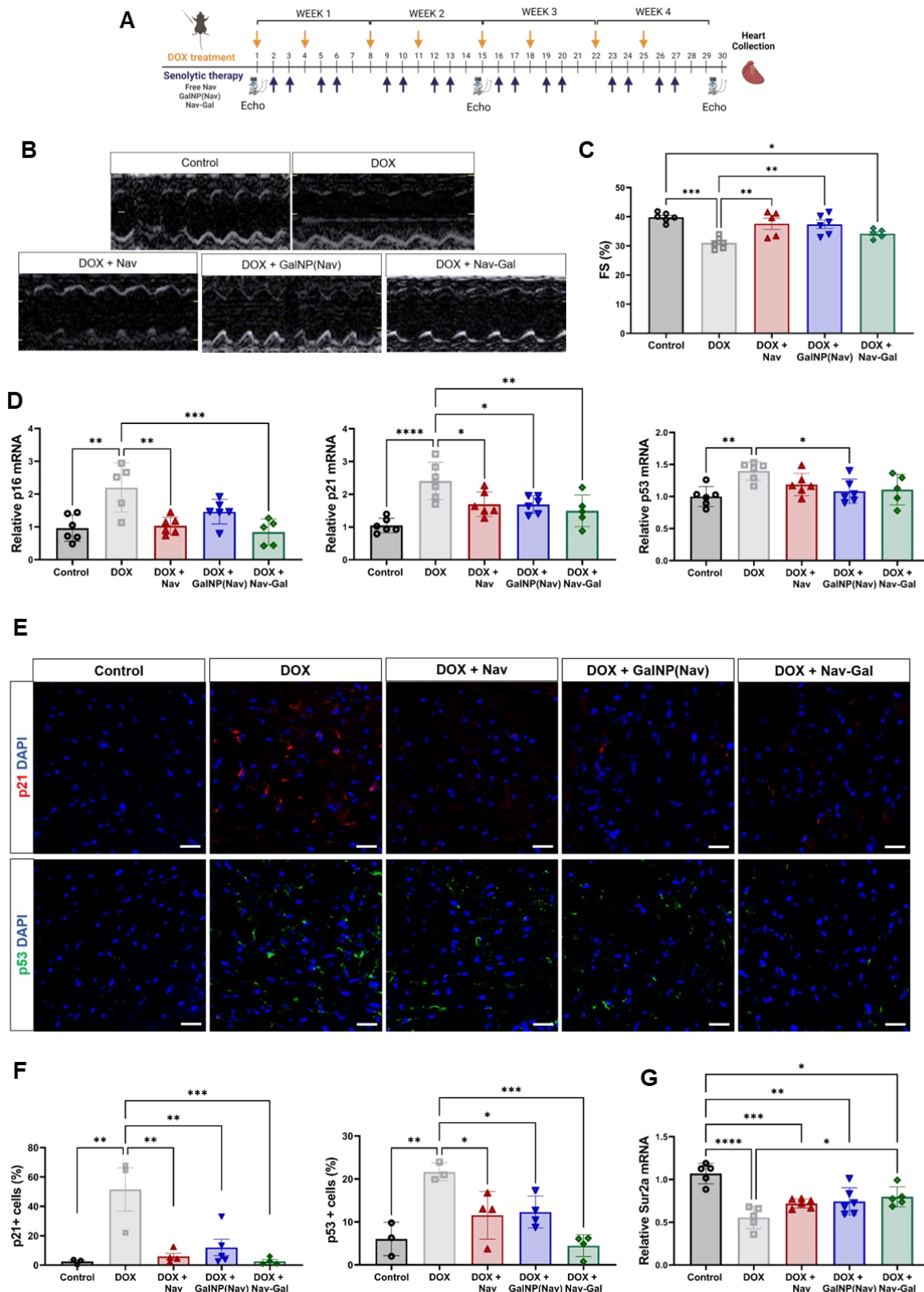
405

406 **2.4. Navitoclax in different formulations restores cardiac function in a doxorubicin-** 407 **induced cardiotoxicity mouse model**

408 Navitoclax in different formulations was tested in the DOX-induced cardiotoxicity model
409 described in the previous section. Female mice were treated with either saline (control) or DOX
410 on days 1 and 4 every week, for 4 weeks (accumulative dose, 20 mg/kg). Senolytic treatment
411 with either free Navitoclax (50 mg/kg/day, o.g) [26], **GalNP(Nav)** (0.025 mg/day, i.p) or **Nav-**
412 **Gal** (67 mg/kg/day, i.p) were administered for 2 consecutive days following DOX
413 administration (**Figure 5A**). According to the results above, we found a decline in cardiac
414 function expressed by a decrease in FS and EF percentages for DOX treated groups during the

415 experimental which were found significant at day 15 (**Figure S7A-D**). At the end-point, while
416 FS and EF progressively declined in DOX-treated mice, a protective effect in cardiac function
417 was observed from all three Navitoclax formulations (**Figure 5C and Figure S7E**). **Figure 5B**
418 shows representative M-mode echocardiography images from the mice groups under study.

419 According to our previous results, the expression of the senescence markers *p16*, *p21*, and
420 *p53* were upregulated in cardiac tissue after DOX treatment compared to control mice.
421 Interestingly, the expression of these senescence markers was alleviated upon senolytic
422 treatment, regardless of the therapeutic strategy used (free Navitoclax, **GalNP(Nav)**, or **Nav-**
423 **Gal**) (**Figure 5D**). These results were further corroborated in heart tissue by p21 and p53
424 immunofluorescence (**Figure 5E**), where it was found that the induction of both markers in
425 heart tissue after DOX treatment was reverted upon senolytic administration. Besides, a
426 decrease in mRNA expression levels of the cardiotoxicity marker *Sur2a* upon DOX treatment
427 was prevented upon senolytic treatment (**Figure 5G**). In addition, no evidence of losing weight,
428 renal or hepatic damage was observed in any of the groups treated with free Navitoclax,
429 **GalNP(Nav)**, or **Nav-Gal**, as evaluated by serum markers (**Figure S7F-H**). These data support
430 the role of senescence in cardiac dysfunction following DOX treatment and demonstrate that
431 senolytic treatment with different formulations of Navitoclax (free, encapsulated, or as a pro-
432 drug) restores cardiac function in mice.



433

434 **Figure 5. Navitoclax-based therapies in a doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity model. (A)**

435 Experimental design: wild-type female C57BL/6J mice (10 weeks old) were treated with

436 doxorubicin (i.p) in a chronic regime (cumulative dose, 20 mg/kg body weight), 2 injections

437 per week for 4 weeks. Senolytic treatment with either free Navitoclax (50 mg/kg/day, o.g.),

438 **GalNP(Nav)** (0.025 mg/day, i.p) or **Nav-Gal** (67 mg/kg/day, i.p) were administered for 2
439 consecutive days following DOX administration. Echocardiography analyses were performed
440 every 15 days to follow the cardiac dysfunction of mice. Hearts were collected at the end-point
441 of the experiment (day 30). C57BL/6J mice in each experimental condition (n=6) as described:
442 Control (black), DOX (grey), DOX + Nav (red), DOX + GalNP(Nav) (blue) or DOX + Nav-
443 Gal (green). **(B)** Representative echocardiographic analysis of mice in each experimental
444 condition displaying changes in left ventricle (LV) systolic function at day 30. After injection
445 with DOX, a decrease in LV contraction is observed which is attenuated upon senolytic
446 treatment. **(C)** Fractional shortening (FS) values were obtained for animals at the experimental
447 end-point (day 30). A decrease in FS values was observed for animals in the DOX group and
448 FS increase upon administration of senolytic treatment. Data represent the means of 3 different
449 independent measures for each animal \pm SEM (n \geq 5). Statistical significance was determined by
450 one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001. **(D)** mRNA
451 expression of the senescence markers *p16*, *p21*, and *p53* in the hearts of mice in each
452 experimental condition. *Actb* and *Gapdh* were used for input normalization. Values are
453 expressed as mean \pm SEM (n \geq 5). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA
454 and Tukey post-test; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; ****p<0.0001. **(E)** Representative
455 images obtained for detection of p21 (red signal) and p53 (green signal) on heart tissue slices.
456 DAPI stains the nucleus (blue). DOX-treatment upregulates the expression of both markers in
457 heart tissue indicating accumulation of senescent cells. Upon administration of senolytic
458 treatment, this upregulation is reverted. Scale bar, 20 μ m. **(F)** The graphs indicate the
459 percentage of p21-positive cells and p53-positive cells in the hearts of animals in different
460 studied groups. Fields for quantification were selected for covering most of the total heart area.
461 Data represent means \pm SEM per animal and statistical significance was determined by one-
462 way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; ****p<0.0001 (n \geq 3 hearts
463 per group). **(G)** mRNA expression levels of the cardiotoxicity marker *Sur2a* maker in the hearts
464 of mice in each experimental condition. *Actb* and *Gapdh* were used for input normalization.
465 Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM (n \geq 5). Statistical significance was determined by one-
466 way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; ****p<0.0001
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472 3. Discussion

473

474 The clinical use of doxorubicin (DOX) is hindered due to the development of irreversible
475 cardiotoxicity and is a growing epidemiologic problem [10]. Although the mechanism of DOX-
476 induced cardiotoxicity stays not fully understood, the main hypothesis suggests that oxidative
477 stress is the primary cause of DOX-induced cardiomyopathy [9,46]. However, protective
478 antioxidant approaches, such as dexrazoxane, only confer some level of cardioprotection in
479 clinically relevant trials suggesting that efficacious therapy may require more specific targeting
480 strategies to provide long-term cardioprotection [47,48]. Previous reports have established that
481 DOX-induced cell senescence in the heart correlates with worse cardiac outcomes in patients
482 [13,14], and the genetic clearance of p16INK4A-expressing senescent cells improved cardiac
483 function in DOX-treated mice [7]. Other studies found that Navitoclax favors the elimination
484 of senescent cells accumulated in the heart in mice models of aging, myocardial infarction, and
485 ischemia-reperfusion, and can reverse pathologic-associated phenotypes [6,25,26]. Considering
486 these findings, it exists a clear potential for using senolytics as a protective strategy for DOX-
487 associated cardiotoxicity. However, such an appealing concept has never been demonstrated.

488 For the *in vitro* study of senescent cardiomyocytes, the primary isolated cardiomyocytes
489 seem to exhibit the best similarity to *in vivo* features [49], nevertheless, their use in culture is
490 limited. Thus, immortalized cell lines as HL-1 cells offer alternative approaches for drug
491 evaluation although animal models continue to be an essential tool for studying cardiac
492 senescence. In this study, we proved that treatment with DOX efficiently induces senescence
493 in the HL-1 myocyte cell line and the heart of C57BL6/J mice treated with a cumulative dose
494 of DOX (20 mg/kg administered in 8 doses of 2.5 mg/kg for 4 weeks, i.p.). DOX induces the
495 expression of classical hallmarks of cellular senescence and well-established senescence-
496 associated secretory phenotype (SASP) factors, in both the *in vitro* and the *in vivo* models
497 [7,12,42]. No sex differences were observed in the gene expression of senescence and
498 cardiotoxicity markers in heart tissue, but we found significant differences in cardiac function
499 when female mice were treated with chronic DOX administration. Therefore, due that DOX
500 being usually administered for the treatment of breast and ovarian human cancers, we selected
501 females for further studies.

502 We next evaluated a senolytic strategy for the elimination of senescent cells based on the
503 use of the senolytic Navitoclax in different formulations. Senolytic therapies are not exempt
504 from off-target toxicities in normal cells, thus, specifically targeting senescent cells remains a
505 considerable challenge. Therefore, we studied not only free Navitoclax administration but also

506 two targeted therapies to overcome undesired side-effects and toxicities of free Navitoclax [27].
507 Both targeted therapies are based on the high level of lysosomal β -galactosidase activity in
508 senescent cells [30]. We previously demonstrated that encapsulated Navitoclax in mesoporous
509 silica nanoparticles (MSNs) capped with galactan effectively releases the cargo within
510 senescent cells [36]. In fact, the treatment of senescent HL-1 cells with **GalNP(Nav)** increases
511 the senolytic index of free Navitoclax, in agreement with previous reports in chemotherapy-
512 induced senescence tumor models [35–37]. Despite these promising results and the emergent
513 interest in nanomedicine applications, the clinical translation of nanotechnologies is still
514 challenging due to an incomplete understanding of nano-bio interactions and scalable
515 manufacturing [50]. As an alternative to nanotechnology, we also functionalized Navitoclax
516 with a cleavable acetylated galactose, obtaining the prodrug **Nav-Gal**. The prodrug had been
517 previously validated in tumor models of chemotherapy-induced senescence and demonstrated
518 an improved selective senolytic activity [38]. The senolytic index of **Nav-Gal** for HL-1 cells
519 was slightly lower than that obtained for free Navitoclax. However, the advantage of **Nav-Gal**
520 relies on the remarkable low toxicity on non-senescent HL-1 cells.

521 Accordingly, mice administered with concomitant treatment of DOX and senolytics (free
522 Navitoclax, galacto-functionalized Navitoclax-loaded MSNs (**GalNP(Nav)**), or as prodrug
523 (**Nav-Gal**)), show a reduced accumulation of senescence in the heart, demonstrated by
524 expression of the senescence markers *p16*, *p21*, and *p53*, and an attenuated cardiac injury shown
525 by the expression of *Sur2a*. Of note, this senescent cell clearance correlates with a preserved
526 cardiac function. Mice treated with DOX exhibit a decrease in cardiac functionality, evidenced
527 by the reduction in fractional shortening and ejection fraction, which were attenuated upon
528 senolytic treatment, making the results obtained from this study particularly relevant [51].
529 Importantly, it is remarkable that Navitoclax dose was 40 times lower when encapsulated in
530 **GalNP(Nav)**, displaying a similar therapeutic effect to free Navitoclax. Of note, previous
531 studies on the use of **GalNP(Nav)** and **Nav-Gal** on senescent cancer mouse models [35,38],
532 demonstrated these strategies protected from a significant reduction in platelet counts
533 associated to free Navitoclax in treated mice and human and murine blood samples. Notably,
534 wild-type C57BL/6J mice treated for 10 consecutive days with **Nav-Gal** resulted in less
535 thrombocytopenia compared to free Navitoclax treatment [38].

536 Observed differences between Navitoclax, **GalNP(Nav)**, and **Nav-Gal** *in vitro* are likely due
537 to the built-in mechanism for the targeted therapy, which requires previous processing and
538 activation by lysosomal β -galactosidase activity, meaning that Navitoclax and its targeted-
539 based therapies might have different pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. It is worth

540 noting that the *in vitro* assays do not always fully recapitulate what happens *in vivo* due to the
541 complexity of living organisms. Thus, regarding the *in vivo* assays, the therapeutic window is
542 comparable for the 3 senolytic alternatives. As the administration of **Nav-Gal** was molar
543 equivalent to Navitoclax, we observed similar therapeutical behavior. Of note, the advantage of
544 using **Nav-Gal** resides in the prevention of the off-target effects associated with the free drug
545 administration. In the case of **GalNP(Nav)**, the use of a nanocarrier increases the bioavailability
546 of the drug in the target organ, reducing doses and, therefore, side-effects. Thus, we observed
547 similar results when compared to its counterparts even when 40x lower dose was administered.
548 In conclusion, the main advantage of both targeted therapies resides in reducing off-target
549 effects and preventing associated side-effects such as thrombocytopenia, which is highly
550 desirable for clinical applications. Nonetheless, because clinical studies might be simpler to
551 conduct, it will be likely for the prodrug formulation to reach clinical applications first.
552 Nevertheless, note that silica nanoparticles have already reached clinical trials evaluation and
553 thus the use of MSNs in clinics could be expected in the near future [52,53].

554 Previous works have shown that senotherapies have the potential to reverse age-related
555 dysfunction in cardiac tissues through the promotion of regenerative capacity [6,23]. We
556 suggest that the therapeutic effect of Navitoclax in our experimental model (regardless of the
557 formulation used) could be explained as follows: i) DOX produces DNA damage and oxidative
558 stress which induces accumulation of damaged cells in the heart and leads to senescence; ii)
559 accumulated senescent cells release SASPs factors promoting a proinflammatory
560 microenvironment and accelerated aging, and lead to myocardial dysfunction; iii) senolysis acts
561 as an adjuvant therapy favoring senescent cells elimination and preventing from the associated
562 cardiotoxicity; iv) the eradication of senescent cells might also mitigate the senescent secretome
563 (SASP), avoiding bystander effect; v) selective elimination of senescent cells with senolytic
564 alleviate cardiac deterioration by doxorubicin and promote the regenerative capacity of the heart.

565 Altogether, we report here the first demonstration that systemic administration of Navitoclax
566 in different formulations is effective in clearing senescent cells in the heart and correlates with
567 the prevention of cardiac dysfunction in a mouse model of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity.
568 These results evidence the potential of using these new senolytic therapies to alleviate cardiac
569 dysfunction, thus limiting the cardiotoxicity induced in DOX-treated patients. Selective
570 elimination of senescent cells with senolytics could become a promising next-generation
571 therapy to address an unmet medical need in cardiac pathologies. The study also supports that
572 the combination of senolytics with anticancer agents used in clinics might reduce accelerated

573 aging processes and adverse side-effects induced by chemotherapy in patients in different
574 tissues and organs.

575

576 **4. Experimental section**

577

578 *1. Synthesis of nanoparticles*

579

580 A typical synthesis of MSNs was carried out using N-cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
581 (CTAB, Sigma, #H6269) and tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS, Sigma, #131903) to prepare the
582 as-synthesized MSNs as described [34]. Briefly, a CTAB solution (1g, 2.74 mmol) was
583 prepared in deionized H₂O and NaOH solution (3.5 mL, 2 M. Sigma, #1310732) was then added.
584 The surfactant solution was stirred at 80°C and TEOS (5 mL, 2.57 x 10⁻² mol) was added
585 dropwise. The mixture continued stirring for 2h to give a white precipitate. The solid was
586 isolated by centrifugation (10,000 rpm, 20 min) and washed with deionized H₂O until neutral
587 pH. The material was dried at 80°C overnight, obtaining de porous scaffold “as made” MSNs.
588 Then, “as made” MSNs were calcined at 550°C in an oxidant atmosphere to remove the CTAB
589 template, obtaining de porous scaffold “calcinated” MSNs.

590 Synthesis of gated MSNs coated with a hexagalactosaccharide (galactan) (Megazyme, #P-
591 GALPOT), composed of six repeating galactose monosaccharides linked through β-1,4
592 glycosidic bonds, and loaded with Navitoclax (Active BioChem, #A1001) or indocyanine green
593 (ICG, Sigma, #I2633) was performed as described previously [37]. For **GalNP(ICG)**, 9.3 mg
594 of ICG were dissolved in 67.5 mL of water at a pH of 7.5 and 200 mg of calcined MSNs were
595 added. The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, and the nanoparticles were filtered
596 and dried under vacuum (**NP(ICG)**). Then, an excess of (3-aminopropyl)triethoxysilane
597 (APTES) (6 mmoles/g solid, 0.28 mL) dissolved in 6 mL of acetonitrile was prepared and the
598 NP(ICG) obtained were added to the solution. After stirring for 5.5 h at room temperature the
599 functionalization of the external surface was completed and the solid (**NP(ICG)-NH₂**) was
600 isolated by filtrations under vacuum. For the synthesis of **GalNP(Nav)**, the nanoparticles were
601 loaded with Navitoclax by the addition of 156 mg of this drug to a suspension of 200 mg of
602 calcined MSNs in 6 mL of anhydrous dichloromethane under argon atmosphere. After 24 h of
603 stirring, 0.28 mL of APTES were added to the suspension and the stirring was kept for further
604 5.5 h under argon atmosphere. Then, the solid was filtered and isolated under vacuum
605 (**NP(Nav)-NH₂**). On the other hand, NP-NH₂ was synthesized by adding 0.28 mL of APTES to
606 a suspension of 200 mg of empty calcined MSNs in 6 mL of anhydrous acetonitrile. After 5.5

607 h, the functionalized solid was isolated by filtration under vacuum. For coating MSNs with
608 galactan, the obtained solids functionalized with amino moieties were added to a solution of
609 383 mg of galactan in 25 mL of water, and stirring was continued at room temperature for 21
610 h. After stirring for 21h at RT, the final product, referred to as **GalNP(ICG)**, **GalNP(Nav)**, and
611 **GalNP(0)**, was filtered, washed with plenty of water and ethanol, and dried under vacuum. All
612 the final nanoparticles were stored in a desiccator at room temperature.

613

614 2. *Characterization of prepared nanoparticles*

615

616 Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD), TEM, N₂ adsorption-desorption, thermogravimetric analysis,
617 dynamic light scattering (DLS), and HPLC measurements were employed to characterize the
618 prepared materials. PXRD was performed on a Seifert 3000TT diffractometer using CuK α
619 radiation at low angles ($1.3 < 2\theta < 8.3$, with steps of 0.04 degrees and 3 seconds for step) and
620 high angles ($35 < 2\theta < 80$, with steps of 0.04 degrees and 1 second for step). For TEM, images
621 were acquired in a Philips CM-10. Samples were deposited on copper grids covered with carbon
622 film provided by Electron Microscopy Sciences to obtain high-resolution images. Micrographs
623 were captured with 200 KV in a JEOL JEM-2100F microscope equipped with an X-ray detector.
624 N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms were recorded on a Micromeritics TriStar II Plus automated
625 analyzer. Samples were previously degassed at 40°C in vacuum overnight and measurements
626 were performed at 77K. The specific surface areas were calculated from the adsorption data in
627 the low pressures range using the BET model. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried
628 out on a TGA/SDTA 851e Mettler Toledo equipment, using an oxidant atmosphere (air, 80
629 mL/min) with a heating program consisting of a heating rate of 10°C/min from 393K to 1273K
630 and an isothermal heating step at this temperature for 30 min. Pore size was determined by
631 following the BJH method. DLS measurements were carried out in a Malvern Zetasizer Nano
632 ZS. UV-visible spectroscopy was carried out with a Lambda 35 UV/Vis spectrometer (Perkin-
633 Elmer Instruments) and fluorescence spectroscopy was performed with a JASCO
634 spectrofluorometer FP-8300.

635

636 3. *Cargo release studies*

637

638 To assess the proper working of the capping ensemble 4 mg of **GalNP(Nav)** were suspended
639 in 10 mL of water at pH 4.5, stirred, and separated into two suspensions of 5 mL. Then, 7 mg
640 of β -galactosidase from *Aspergillus oryzae* were added to one of the aliquots. After a certain

641 time, 200 μ L of each suspension was taken and 300 μ L of ethyl acetate was added to each one,
642 stirred for 1 min and the organic phase was taken, cargo released in the organic phase was
643 measured by UV-visible spectroscopy (Navitoclax absorption band in ethyl acetate at 275 nm).
644 Cargo release studies from **GalNP(ICG)** were obtained following a similar procedure. An
645 aliquot of 300 μ L of the suspension was taken at a determined time and 2 μ L of NaOH (0.15
646 M) was added to the aliquot. The suspension was vigorously stirred for 3 min and centrifuged
647 for removing the solid. Then, release was measured by fluorometric spectroscopy (λ_{exc} (ICG) =
648 775 nm, λ_{em} (ICG) = 805 nm). To acquire a “blank” control, the same approach was carried out
649 without the addition of enzyme onto the other suspension.

650

651 4. *Synthesis of Nav-Gal prodrug*

652

653 **Nav-Gal** was synthesized following the literature procedure [38]. Briefly, 40 mg (0.04 mmol)
654 of Navitoclax (Eurodiagnostico), 25 mg (0.06 mmol) of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- α -D-
655 galactopyranosyl-bromide (Sigma), and 23 mg (0.17 mmol) of K_2CO_3 (Sigma) were mixed,
656 and the solids were purged with argon. Anhydrous acetonitrile 10 mL (Sigma) was added, and
657 the mixture was stirred at 70°C for 3h under an argon atmosphere. The solvent was removed
658 under vacuum pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel
659 (Sigma), from hexane-ethylacetate (3:7 v/v; Scharlab) to hexane-ethylacetate (7:3 v/v) used as
660 eluent. Purified Nav-Gal was obtained as a yellow powder in a 35% yield. For *in vivo* mice
661 experiment, some batches were mixed before to purified by flash column. Characterization of
662 the prodrug was evaluated by 1H -NMR, two-dimensional homonuclear correlated spectroscopy
663 (COSY), and the HRMS spectrum as indicated in the text.

664

665 5. *Cell culture and senescence induction*

666

667 HL-1 Cardiac Muscle Cell Line was obtained from Sigma (SCC065) and was grown, as
668 protocol detailed, in fibronectin (Sigma, F1141) coated flasks containing Claycomb medium
669 (Sigma, 51800C) and supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Sigma, F7524), 2 mM
670 L-glutamine (Sigma, G7513) and 0.1 mM norepinephrine (Sigma, A0937). Cells were
671 incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO_2 and 95% air. For senescence induction, cells
672 were supplemented with a medium containing Doxorubicin (Carbosynth, AD15377) at 100 nM
673 for 3 days. Cells were routinely tested for mycoplasma contamination.

674

675 6. *β-galactosidase activity assay*

676

677 β-galactosidase staining was performed in cells using the Senescence β-galactosidase Staining
678 Kit (Cell Signaling, #9860) following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, cells were fixed
679 at room temperature for 10 min with a solution containing 2% formaldehyde and 0.2%
680 glutaraldehyde in PBS, stained with the X-gal Staining Solution (pH 6.0), and incubated
681 overnight at 37°C without CO₂. Cells were then detected for blue staining under a bright-field
682 microscope.

683

684 7. *C₁₂FDG determination by flow cytometry*

685

686 To quantify β-galactosidase activity by flow cytometry, the fluorogenic substrate C₁₂FDG
687 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., # sc-284621A) was used [54]. Control and senescent HL-1
688 cells were seeded in a 6-well culture plate. The following day, cells were pretreated with 0.1
689 mM bafilomycin A1 for 1h to induce lysosomal alkalization in a fresh culture medium. Cells
690 were washed with PBS and treated with 5-dodecanoylaminofluorescein di-b-D-
691 galactopyranoside (C₁₂FDG) (S.Cruz Biotechnology, #sc-284621A), 33 μM for 3h at 37 °C
692 under 5% CO₂. Next, cells were washed with PBS and harvested by adding 0.5% Trypsin-
693 EDTA (GIBCO). Cells were collected, centrifuged, and resuspended in PBS. Flow cytometry
694 assay was carried out on a CytoFlex S instrument (Beckman Coulter) followed by data analysis
695 using CytoExpert software.

696

697 8. *Cell cycle assay*

698

699 For the cell cycle evaluation assays, control and DOX-treated HL-1 cells (3 days at 100 nM)
700 were fixed and permeabilized with ethanol for 1h at -20 °C. Then, cells were centrifuged and
701 0.5 mL of PI/RNase buffer solution from Immunostep were added to each control or DOX-
702 treated cells (1 x 10⁶ cells) and incubated overnight at 4°C before analysis. Samples were
703 acquired by flow cytometry using the CytoFLEX S Beckman Coulter and analyzed by FlowJo
704 software.

705

706 9. *Cell proliferation*

707

708 Time-lapse images were acquired for control and DOX-treated HL-1 cells (3 days at 100 nM)
709 seeded in p96-multiwell plates at a density of 15.000 using Cytation 5 Cell Imaging Multi-
710 Mode Reader while maintained in BioSpa8 (BioTek, USA). Images were taken every 3 h up
711 to 48 hr and were analyzed for confluence increment using BioTek Gen5 Data Analysis
712 Software.

713 *10. Ki67 immunofluorescence*

714

715 Control and senescent cells were seeded on coverslips and fixed in 4% PFA for 10 min,
716 permeabilized with 0.3% Triton X-100 and blocked with 5% BSA for 1h. Cells were incubated
717 with primary antibody solution (1% BSA, 0.3% Triton X-100) containing anti-Ki67 (D3B5)
718 (1:500, Cell Signaling, #9129) overnight at 4°C. The next day, samples were incubated with
719 Alexa anti-rabbit IgG Fluor Goat 633 (1:100, Fisher, #A21071) for 2h at room temperature in
720 darkness. For image visualization coverslips were mounted on glass slides with mounting
721 Hoechst staining solution and visualized in Leica TCS SP8 HyVolution 2 confocal microscope.

722

723 *11. Clonogenic assay*

724

725 For clonogenic assay, control and senescent cells were seeded at increasing cell densities in a
726 24-well plate and incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air for 1 week. Then,
727 cells were washed with PBS and fixed with 4% PFA for 10 min and stained with 0.05% crystal
728 violet for 45 min, and the excess was washed with deionized water. Images were taken under a
729 bright-field microscope.

730

731 *12. Western blot*

732

733 Both control and DOX-treated cells were scraped-harvested in lysis buffer (25mM Tris-HCl
734 pH 7.4, 1mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA, SDS 1%, and protease and phosphatase inhibitors), passed
735 through a 25G needle, and boiled for 10 min to prepare whole-cell extracts. Protein
736 quantification was performed using a BCA protein assay. An identical amount of whole-cell
737 extracts (70 µg) was resolved in 8-12% SDS-PAGE gels, transferred to nitrocellulose
738 membranes (GE Healthcare, #10600002), and blocked with 5% skimmed milk solution for 1 h.
739 Membranes were incubated at 4°C overnight with primary antibodies (data below). The
740 expression of GAPDH was detected in cell lysates as a reference protein for normalization.
741 Membranes were washed with 0.1% Tween/PBS and incubated with the appropriate secondary

742 antibody conjugated with horseradish peroxidase for 2h at room temperature. Immunoblot
743 signals were detected using GE Healthcare's ECL chemiluminescence detection reagents using
744 the Amersham Imager 600 equipment. *Antibodies*: anti-phospho-Rb (Ser780) (1:1000, Cell
745 Signaling, #9307); anti- β -Galactosidase (E2U2I) (1:1000, Cell Signaling #27198); anti-p21
746 (1:1000, Santa Cruz, #sc-6246); anti-p53 [PAb 240] (1:1000, Abcam, #ab26); anti-Bcl-2 (50Ee)
747 (1:1000, Cell Signaling, #2870); anti-Bcl-xL (1:1000, Cell Signaling, #2764); anti-Bcl-w
748 (31H4) (1:1000, Cell Signaling, #2724); anti-Bim (1:1000, Cell Signaling, #2819); anti-Bok
749 (Abcam, ab186745), anti-GAPDH (14C10), (1:1000, Cell Signaling, #2118). The secondary
750 antibodies used were anti-Rabbit IgG peroxidase antibody (Sigma, #A6154) and peroxidase
751 conjugate-goat anti-Mouse IgG antibody (Sigma, #A4416).

752

753 *13. Cytotoxicity cell studies*

754

755 For DOX dose-response, HL-1 cells were seeded in flat-bottom clear white p96-multiwell
756 plates (PerkinElmer #6005181) at a density of 15,000. The next day, cells were treated with
757 different concentrations of DOX (0.05 – 1 μ M) for 72 h. The cytotoxic effect of free Navitoclax,
758 **GalNP(Nav)**, **Nav-Gal**, and **GalNP(0)** was evaluated for control and senescent HL-1 cells
759 seeded in flat-bottom clear white p96-multiwell plates at a density of 15,000 and 25,000
760 cells/well, respectively. The following day cells were treated with serial dilutions of Navitoclax,
761 **GalNP(Nav)**, **Nav-Gal**, or **GalNP(0)** (0.015-50 μ M for Navitoclax and **Nav-Gal**; 0.015-2
762 mg/mL, which corresponds to 2.7 μ M maximal concentration, for **GalNP(Nav)** and **GalNP(0)**
763 previous filtration in 0.45 μ M and were incubated for 48h. All viability assay was assessed by
764 measuring luminescence with CellTiter-Glo Luminescent Cell Viability Assay (Promega,
765 #G7571) following the manufacturer's instructions in a Wallac Victor2TM plate reader
766 spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer). The number of viable cells was normalized to the internal
767 control of untreated cells (vehicle only), either control or DOX-treated cells for each plate. Non-
768 linear fit log(inhibitor) versus response with a variable slope (four parameters) model was used
769 for IC50 estimation in GraphPad 9.0 software.

770

771 *14. Targeted cellular uptake study*

772

773 The targeting features of the prepared materials were evaluated in control and senescent HL-1
774 cells by confocal microscopy and flow cytometry. For image acquisition by confocal, cells were
775 seeded on a coverslip in a 6-well plate at a concentration of 200,000 cells/well. The next day, a

776 suspension of 1mg/ml **GalNP(IGC)** was resolved in culture medium, previously sonicated,
777 stirred for 45 min, and filtered in a 0.45 µm. The NPs dispersion was added to the cells and
778 incubated for 4h. Medium with NPs was removed, and cells were washed with PBS to eliminate
779 non-internalized NPs. The coverslips were mounted, and Hoechst 33342 was added for nuclei
780 staining. Cells were visualized in Leica TCS SP8 HyVolution 2 confocal microscope. A similar
781 procedure was assessed for flow cytometry quantification. After treatment, cells were collected
782 by adding 0.5% Trypsin-EDTA (GIBCO), centrifuged, and resuspended in PBS. Flow
783 cytometry assay was carried out on a CytoFlex S instrument (Beckman Coulter) followed by
784 data analysis using CytoExpert software. Senescence autofluorescence was also considered (by
785 subtracting it).

786

787 *15. Mouse experiments*

788

789 Animals used in this study were purchased from Charles River Laboratories and maintained in
790 ventilated racks under pathogen-free conditions at Principe Felipe Research Centre (Valencia,
791 Spain), with food and water ad libitum and alternate dark and light cycles. All animals were
792 treated humanely, and experiments were approved by the Ethical Committee for Research and
793 Animal Welfare Generalitat Valenciana, Conselleria d'Àgricultura, Medi ambient, Canvi
794 climàtic i Desenvolupament Rural (2020/VSC/PEA/0217). To establish the mouse model of
795 doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity associated with cardiac senescence wild-type male and
796 female C57BL/6J mice (strain code: 632) (10 weeks old) were used. DOX was administered
797 intraperitoneal (i.p.) once with 10 mg/kg of doxorubicin hydrochloride (Carbosynth, AD15377)
798 in saline (groups DOX10) or eight equal intraperitoneal injections (2.5 mg/kg) for 4 weeks with
799 a total cumulative dosage of 20 mg/kg, (groups DOX20). Control mice were injected with an
800 equal volume of saline following the DOX20 administration regime (eight injections) to discard
801 stress changes due to repeated i.p. administrations. After 4 weeks, mice were led ad-libitum
802 until day 44. Echocardiography analyses were performed every week to follow the cardiac
803 dysfunction of mice. Hearts were collected at the end-point of the experiment (day 44).
804 C57BL/6J mice in each experimental condition (n=3). After settling the best model of study,
805 wild-type female C57BL/6J mice (10 weeks old) were randomly assigned into the following 6
806 groups (n = 6/group): Control, DOX, DOX + Navitoclax, DOX + **GalNP(Nav)**, DOX + **Nav-**
807 **Gal**. Doxorubicin was administered as before, in a chronic regime (cumulative dose, 20 mg/kg,
808 i.p.), in eight equal intraperitoneal injections (2.5 mg/kg) for 4 weeks. Senolytic treatment was
809 administered for 2 consecutive days following DOX administration. Free Navitoclax was

810 formulated in 15% DMSO/ 85% PEG400 (50 mg/kg/day, o.g.) [26], **GalNP(Nav)** was prepared
811 in free-serum DMEM and administered in the maximum tolerated dose (0.8 mg NP/day in 200
812 μ L saline, i.p. equivalent to 0.025 mg Navitoclax/day, i.p), which corresponds with 23x times
813 lower concentration of Navitoclax and **Nav-Gal** was prepared in 10% DMSO/ 90% saline (67
814 mg/kg/day, i.p., molar equivalent to Navitoclax). An off day was every two cycles. At the end
815 of the experiment, animals were euthanized in a CO₂ atmosphere, and hearts were collected via
816 thoracotomy for *ex vivo* evaluations.

817

818 16. Real Time-PCR

819 The frozen heart samples were used for total RNA extraction. Tissue was disrupted with Trizol
820 according to the manufacturer's instructions (Merck, T9424). The quantities of each total RNA
821 sample were determined using NanoDrop™. Samples were treated with *DNase I* (Nzytech,
822 MB19901) to avoid genomic DNA contamination. The retrotranscription reaction was
823 performed using the PrimeScript RT Reagent Kit (Sumilab, RR037A) following the
824 manufacturer's protocol. qRT-PCR reactions were performed using qPCR Green Master Mix
825 (2x) (Nzytech, MB22402) in a Light Cycler® 480 System (Roche) following the
826 manufacturer's protocol. Data were analyzed using the LightCycler 480 relative quantification
827 software. Nucleotide sequences of the primers used for mRNA expression analyses are listed
828 below:

829 **Table 1.** Primer sequences used for qPCR experiments.

Gene	Primer	Sequence (5'→3')	GeneBank Number	Size (bp)
p21	Forward	GCAGATCCACAGCGATATCCA	NM_007669.5	73
	Reverse	AACAGGTCGGACATCACCAG		
p53	Forward	TGCATGGACGATCTGTTGCT	NM_011640.3	161
	Reverse	AAAGATGACAGGGGCCATGG		
p16*	Forward	CCCAACGCCCCGAACT	NM_001040654.1	79
	Reverse	GCAGAAGAGCTGCTACGTGAA		
Ccl8	Forward	TAAGGCTCCAGTCACCTGCT	NM_021443.3	119
	Reverse	TCTGGAAAACCACAGCTTCC		
IL-1 α	Forward	CGTCAGGCAGAAGTTTGTCA	NM_010554.4	102
	Reverse	TGTTGCAGGTCATTTAACCAA		
TNF α	Forward	ACGGCATGGATCTCAAAGAC	NM_013693.3	116
	Reverse	GTGGGTGAGGAGCACGTAGT		
Sur2a	Forward	CCTTCGGCTCTCGACTTCTA	NM_021041.2	181
	Reverse	ACTCGACCCAAGCAAATTGT		
Nppa*	Forward	ATCTGCCCTCTTGAAAAGCA	NM_008725.3	213
	Reverse	ACACACCACAAGGGCTTAGG		
ActinB	Forward	GTCCACACCCGCCACC	NM_007393.5	168
	Reverse	ACCCATTCCCACCATCACAC		
Gapdh	Forward	TTCACCACCATGGAGAAGGC	NM_001289726.1	52
	Reverse	CCCTTTTGCTCCACCCT		

830 *p16 sequence was obtained from [18]. Nppa sequence was obtained from [35].

831

832 *17. Echocardiography*

833

834 Parameters of cardiac function were determined using two-dimensional transthoracic
835 echocardiography using a Vivid 7 Pro imaging system (GE Medical Systems). Mice were
836 lightly anesthetized using 1.5% sevoflurane mixed with 100% O₂ during the time of imaging.
837 Echocardiography was performed serially before and during the experimental period. Left
838 ventricular fractional shortening was determined from the M-mode of the parasternal short-axis
839 view by using Vivid Analysis software. All parameters were averaged from at least 3 cardiac
840 cycles per animal at each time point.

841

842 *18. Immunofluorescence*

843 Collected hearts were washed in PBS, and fixed in 4% PFA for 4h, at room temperature. The
844 fixative was removed and samples were washed in PBS and incubated with 30% sucrose
845 overnight at 4 °C. Fixed tissues were embedded in OCT and frozen completely at -80°C. 7 μm
846 thick heart sections were washed (0.025% Triton X-100 in TBS), then incubated in blocking
847 solution (10% horse serum, 1% BSA, 0.3% Triton X-100, in TBS) for 2 h at room temperature
848 and immunostained following incubation with primary antibody anti-p53 (1:100, Abcam,
849 #ab26) or anti-p21 [HUGO29] (1:75, Abcam, #ab107099) overnight at 4°C (1% BSA, 0.3%
850 Triton X-100, in TBS). Secondary antibodies against mouse or rat conjugated to Alexa Fluor
851 488/568 (Invitrogen) were used at 1:200 dilutions and incubated for 2h at room temperature
852 and dark. Sections were mounted on microscope slides using the Mowiol/DAPI (Sigma) and
853 covered with a glass coverslip and scanned in a Leica Aperio Versa 200 equipment and
854 quantified with Aperio ImageScope software. Representative images were obtained by using a
855 Leica TCS SP8 HyVolution 2 microscope.

856

857 *19. Statistical analysis*

858

859 Statistical analysis of data using GraphPad Prism software 9.0. Comparison of results between
860 groups was made by Student's T-test or One-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey post-test at
861 95% confidence. A p-value below 0.05 was considered statistically significant (*p<0.05;
862 **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; ****p<0.0001). Data are expressed in more detail for every figure.

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1135 Supporting Information

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1137 **Pharmacological senolysis reduces doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity and**
1138 **improves cardiac function in mice**

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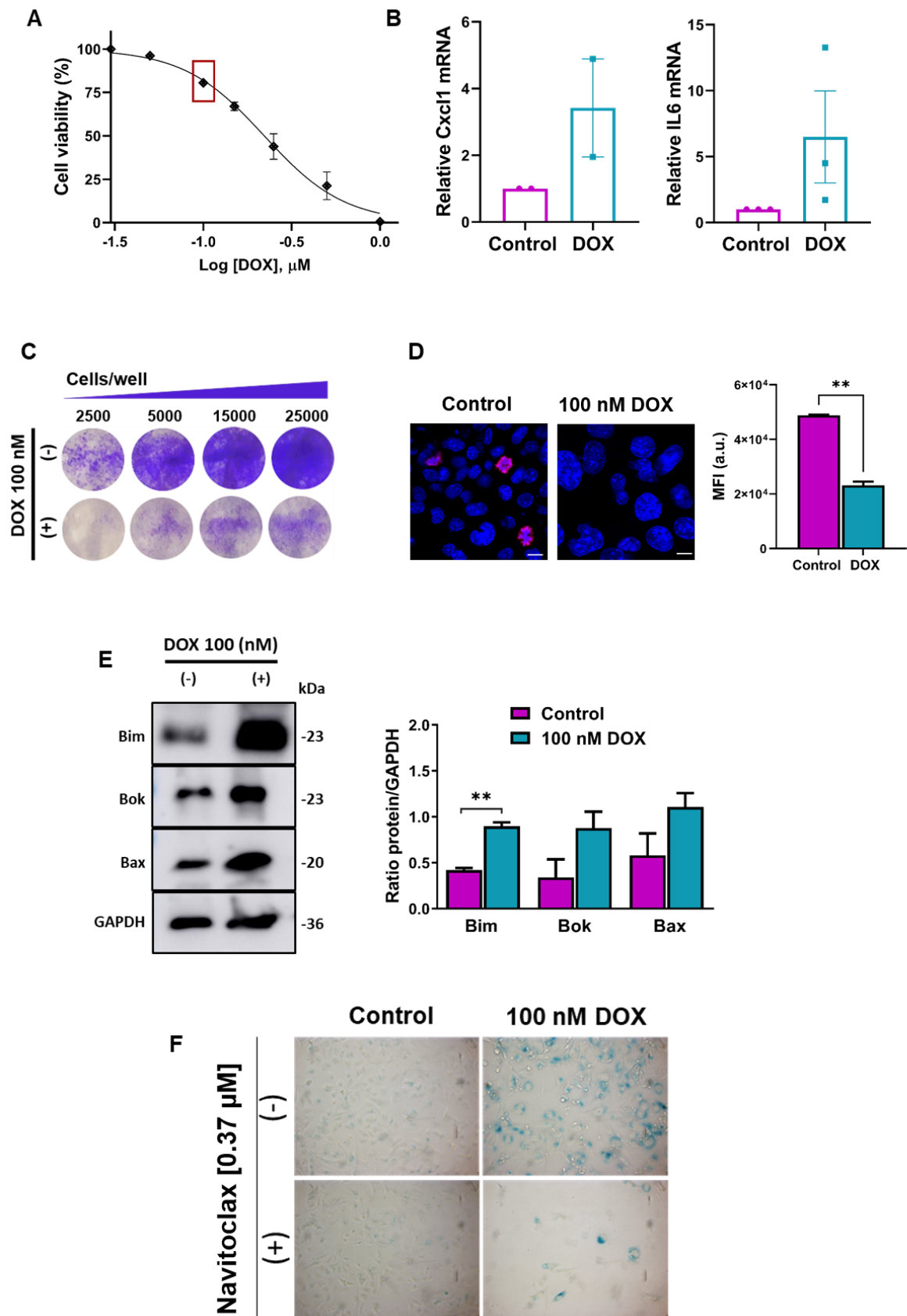
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1164 7 CIBER de Enfermedades Cardiovasculares (CIBERCV).

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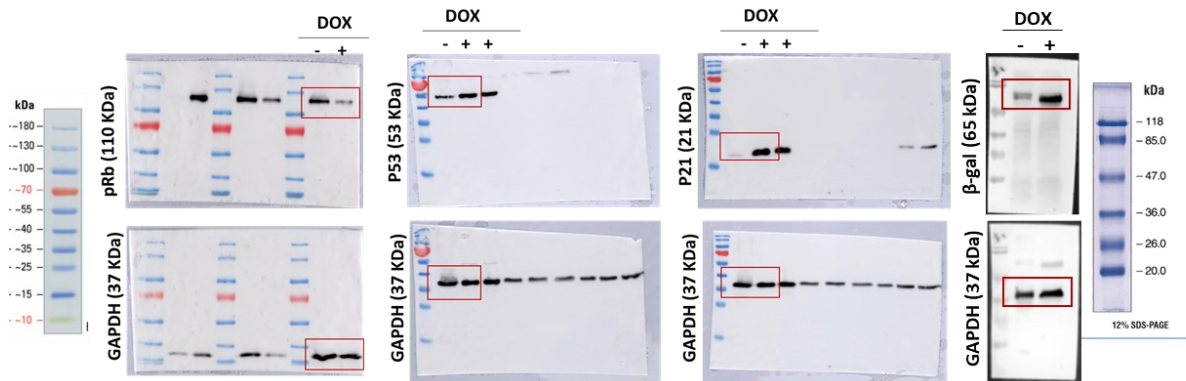
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1170 **Figure S1.** (A) Dose-response curve of DOX in HL-1 cells incubated with the indicated range
1171 of drug concentrations for 3 days (0 to 1 μM). Data shown are mean effect relative to vehicle-

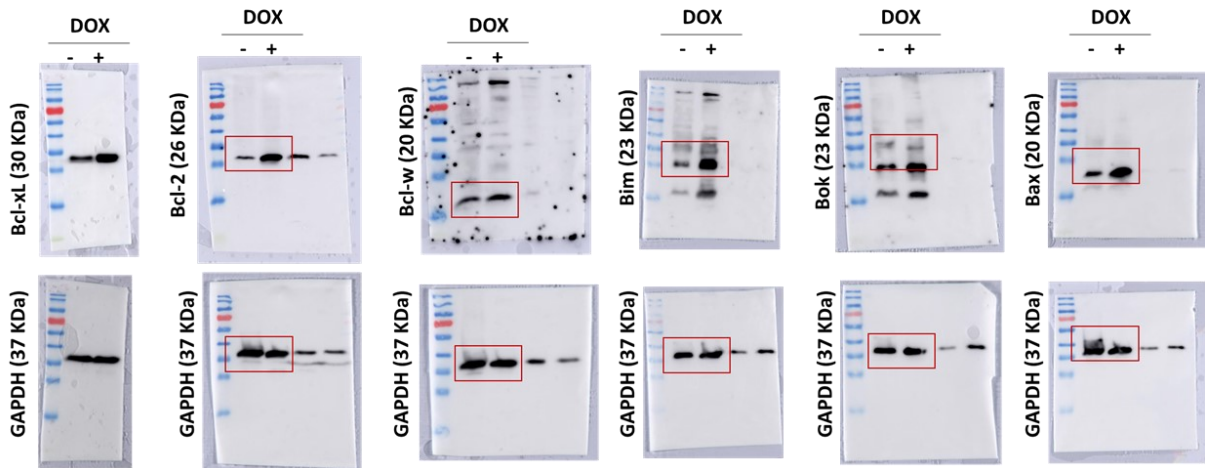
1172 only control wells \pm SEM (n=3). Red square indicates 100 nM DOX. **(B)** mRNA expression
1173 levels of the SASP makers, *Cxcl1* and *IL6*, in control and DOX-treated HL-1 cells. SASP
1174 markers are overexpressed in DOX-treated cells, *Actb* was used for input normalization. Values
1175 are relative to control cells and are expressed as mean \pm SEM (n \geq 2). **(C)** Cell proliferation arrest
1176 assay by crystal violet staining. The same number of control and DOX-treated cells were seeded
1177 increasing cell number (2500; 5000; 15000; 25000) in a 24-well plate and were let to proliferate
1178 for one week. Cell cycle arrest was confirmed by crystal violet staining. **(D)** (Left)
1179 Representative images of immunofluorescence of Ki67 (red fluorescence) in control and DOX-
1180 treated HL-1 cells by confocal microscopy. The nucleus is stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue).
1181 The expression of the cell proliferation marker Ki67 decreases upon senescence induction with
1182 DOX. Scale bar, 10 μ m. (Right) Quantification of mean fluorescence intensity of Ki67 red
1183 signal corresponding to 3 different fields. Bars represent the mean \pm SEM and statistical
1184 significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's t-test: **p <0.01. **(E)** Western blot
1185 analysis expression showing increased expression of pro-apoptotic members Bim (23 kDa),
1186 Bok (23 kDa), and Bax (20 kDa) were found in DOX-treated HL-1 cells. GAPDH (37 kDa)
1187 determination was included as a loading control. (Right) Quantification of the ratio of pro-
1188 apoptotic protein expression versus internal control (GAPDH) in control and DOX-treated cells.
1189 Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed
1190 Student's t-test: **p <0.01 (n=3). **(F)** Representative bright-field images of SA- β -gal staining
1191 of control and 100 nM DOX-treated HL-1 cells non-treated (upper panels) or Navitoclax treated
1192 for 48h (bottom panels) at IC50 concentration for senescent cells (0.37 μ M). Blue staining
1193 confirms high β -galactosidase activity DOX treatment. Navitoclax exposure resulted in a
1194 reduction in the number of senescent cells but not control, which reinforces the role of
1195 Navitoclax as a senolytic therapy.

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A Senescent protein profile

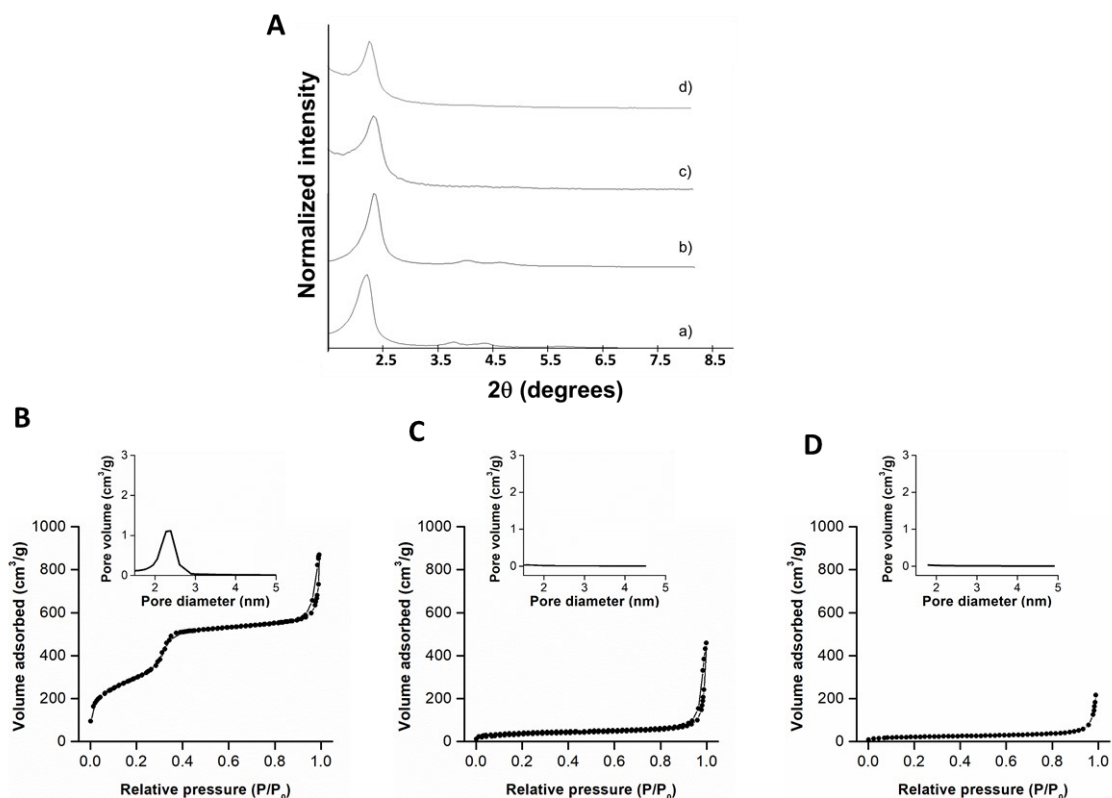


B Bcl2 family protein profile



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Figure S2. Original western blots images. (A) Senescent proteins expression in control and DOX-treated HL-1 cells. (B) Bcl2 family protein profile in control and DOX-treated HL-1 cells. GAPDH (37 kDa) determination was included as a loading control.



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 1204 **Figure S3. Characterization of synthesis of nanoparticulated systems. (A) Powder X-Ray**
 1205 **diffraction patterns at low (left) and high (right) angles of (a) starting MSNs (b) calcined**
 1206 **MSNs, (c) GalNP(ICG), and (d) GalNP. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms for (B) calcined**
 1207 **MSNs, (C) (GalNP(ICG), and (D) GalNP.**

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1222 **Table S1.** BET specific surface values, pore volumes, and pore sizes calculated from N₂
 1223 adsorption-desorption isotherms for indicated solids

Solid	SBET [m²g⁻¹]	Pore Volume [cm³g⁻¹]	Pore Size [nm]
Calcined MSNs	1228.80	0.93	3.18
GalNP	55.82	0.12	--
GalNP(ICG)	101.41	0.05	--

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1226 **Table S2.** Hydrodynamic diameter and zeta potential of indicated solids.

Solid	Hydrodynamic particle diameter (nm)	Zeta Potential (mV)
Calcined MSNs	153.5 ± 4.0	-27.1 ± 0.5
GalNP	273.3 ± 3.9	0.03 ± 0.03
GalNP(ICG)	244.5 ± 4.1	-0.06 ± 0.04
GalNP(Nav)	284.8 ± 2.5	0.34 ± 0.02

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1229 **Table S3.** The organic content of molecular gate oligosaccharide, and cargo for nanodevices
 1230 **GalNP(ICG)** and **GalNP(Nav)** in mg per g of solid.

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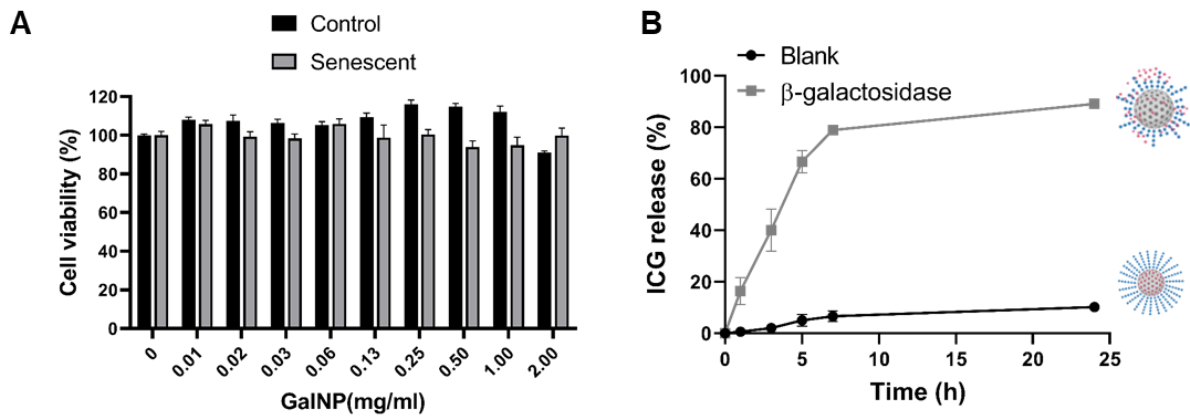
Solid	αoligosaccharide (mg/g solid)	αcargo (mg/g solid)
GalNP(ICG)	100.7	43
GalNP(Nav)	167.7	54

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1237 **Figure S4. (A)** Cell viability of control and senescent HL-1 cells after treatment with **GalNP**

1238 at increasing concentrations (0-2 mg/ml, filtered) for 72h. **(B)** Release profiles of ICG from

1239 **GalNP(ICG)** in the absence (blank) or the presence of β -galactosidase from *Aspergillus oryzae*

1240 in water at pH 4.5. Data represent the means \pm SEM (n=3).

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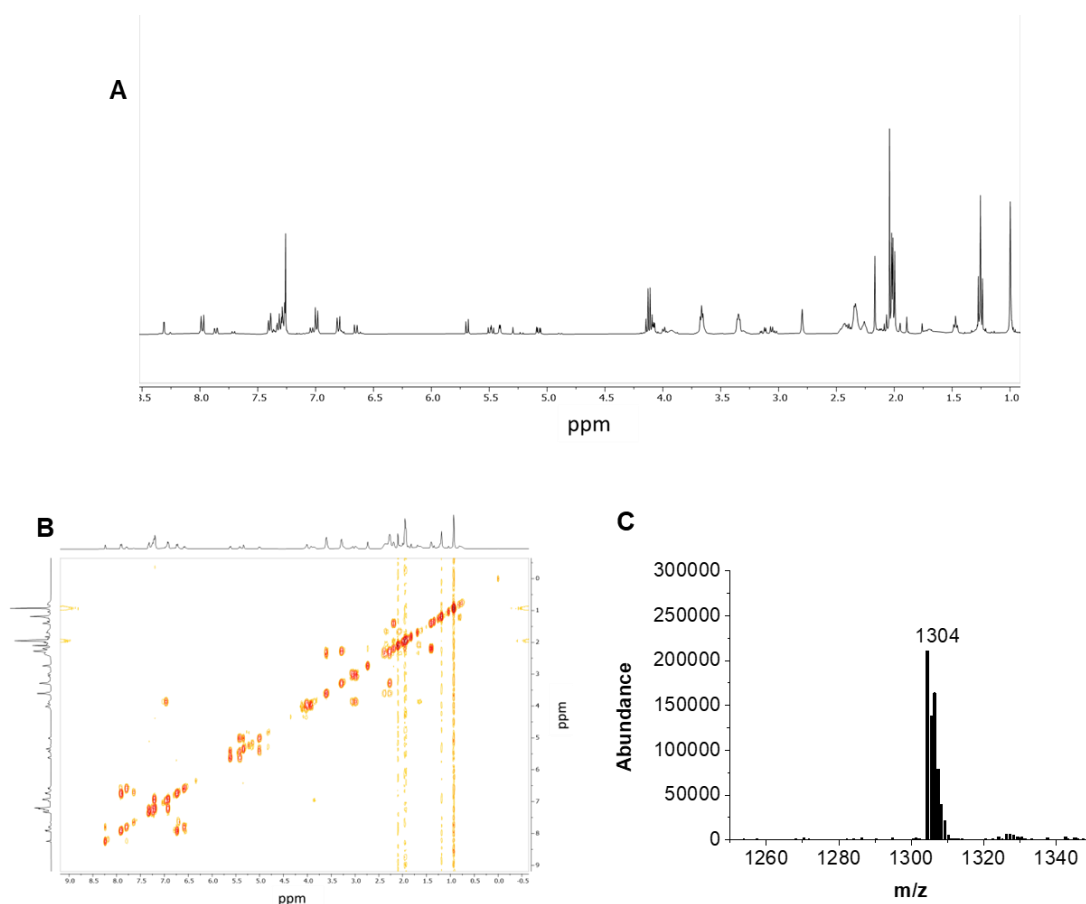
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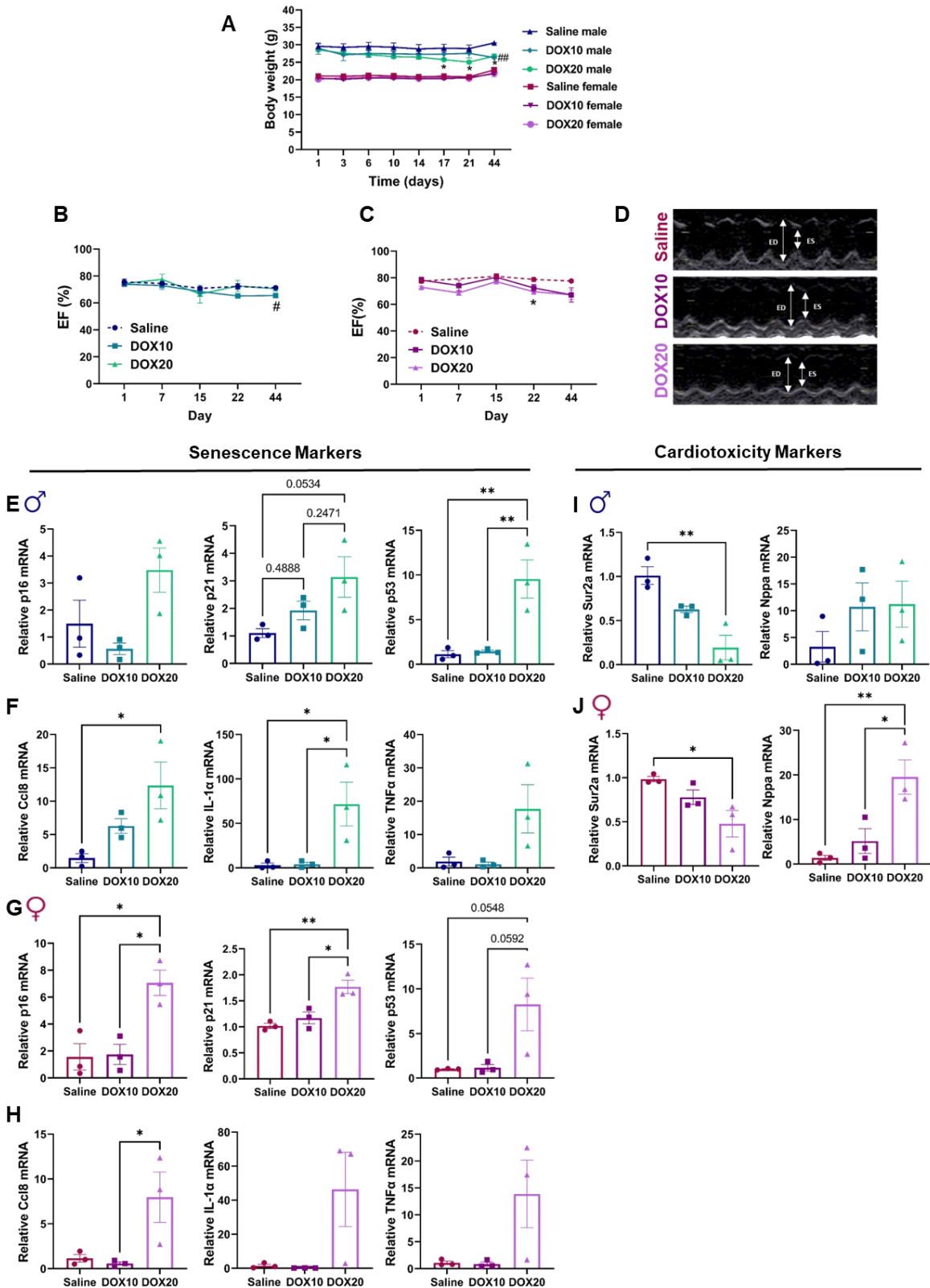
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1256 **Figure S5. Molecular characterisation of Nav-Gal. (A)** Chemical shifts of the signals of
 1257 protons of Nav-Gal ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 9.1
 1258 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (dd, J = 9.1, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.04 6.97 (m, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 9.3
 1259 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (dd, J = 10.4, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.41
 1260 (dd, J = 3.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (dd, J = 10.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, J = 6.7, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 4.00
 1261 (dd, J = 6.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70-3.60 (m, 4H), 3.39-3.32 (m, 4H), 3.19 – 3.00 (m, 3H), 2.80 (bs,
 1262 2H), 2.50-2.22 (m., 12H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.87 (bs, 2H),
 1263 1.77 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.47 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (s, 6H). **(B)** Homonuclear bidimensional
 1264 correlated spectroscopy 1H-1H (2D) COSY NMR (400 MHz, CD₃Cl), signals outside of the
 1265 diagonal arises from the protons that are coupled together in neighboring carbons. **(C)** HRMS
 1266 of Nav-Gal, molecular ion (M) m/z theoretical value calculated 1303, m/z, observed correspond
 1267 with M+H with a m/z value of 1304.

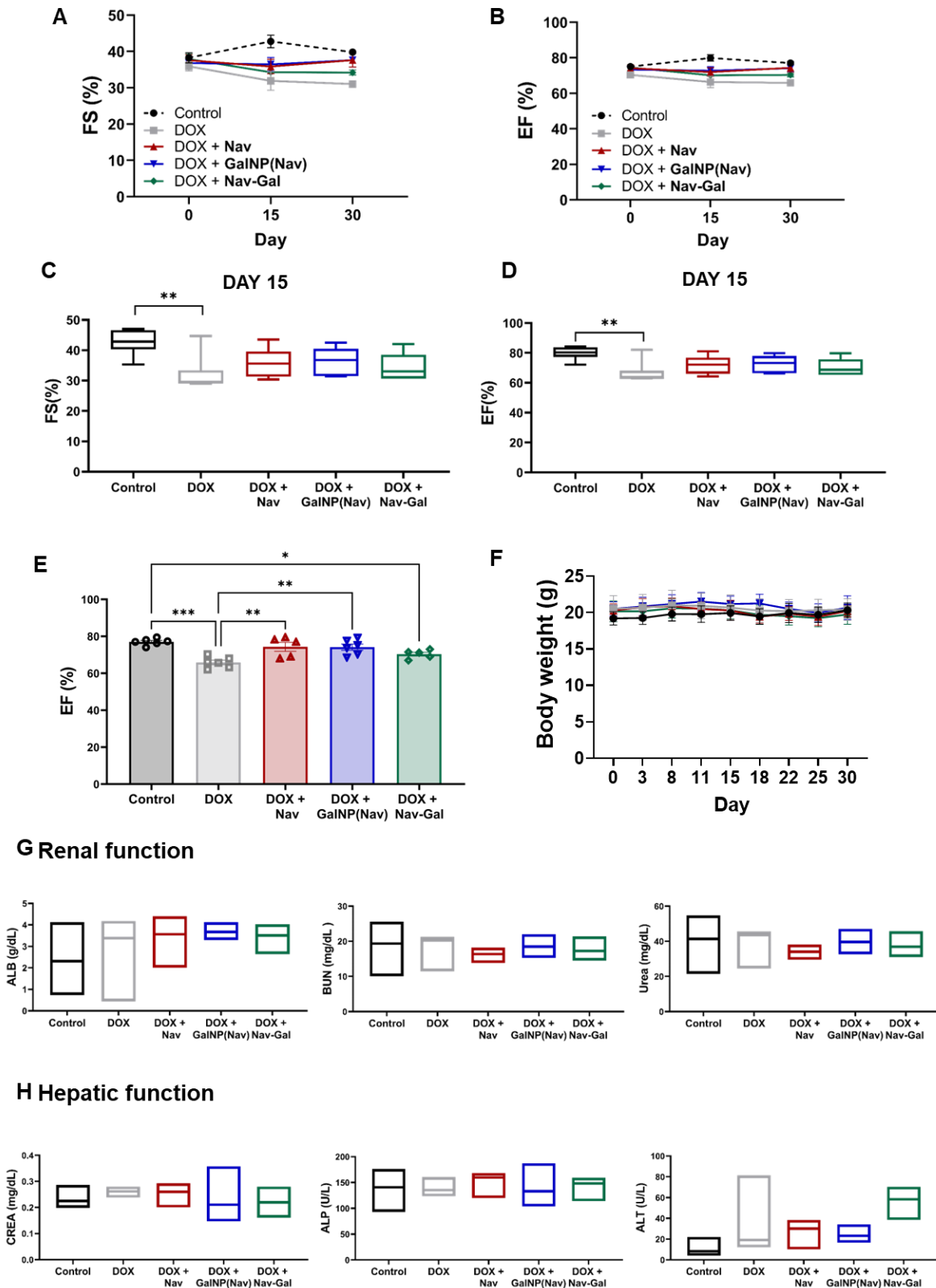
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Figure S6. (A) Body weight of male (blue tones) and female (violet tones) mice during 44 days of the experiment. Loss of weight was observed for males treated with DOX from day 17. Non-changes were observed in female mice. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM (n=3). Statistical significance was assessed by the two-tailed Student's t-test: *p < 0.05 (DOX20 vs saline); ## p

1275 < 0.001 (DOX10 vs saline). **(B-C)** Changes in ejection fraction (EF) in male **(B)** and female
1276 **(C)** mice during the course of the experimental. Data represent means \pm SEM. Mean of 3
1277 different independent measures is represented for each animal (n=3). Statistical significance
1278 was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; #p < 0.05 (DOX10 vs Saline-group,
1279 for male) and *p < 0.05 (DOX20 vs Saline-group, for female). **(D)** Representative
1280 echocardiographic analysis of female mice in each experimental condition displaying changes
1281 in LV fractional shortening at day 22. (ED= end diastole, ES= end systole). After injection with
1282 DOX, a decrease in LV contraction is observed. **(E-J)** mRNA expression levels of the senescent
1283 makers, *p16*, *p21*, and *p53*, and in heart tissue of mice; **(E)** for male, **(G)** for female mice.
1284 mRNA expression levels of the SASP markers, *Ccl8*, *IL-1 α* , and *TNF α* in heart tissue of mice;
1285 **(F)** for male, **(H)** for female mice. mRNA expression levels of cardiotoxicity markers, *Sur2a*
1286 and *Nppa*, in heart tissue of mice; **(I)** for male, **(J)** for female mice. *Actb* and *Gapdh* were used
1287 for input normalization. Values are relative to control mice and are expressed as mean \pm SEM.
1288 Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; *p < 0.05;
1289 **p < 0.01 (n=3, heart per group).



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1291 **Figure S7. (A-B)** Changes in fractional shortening (FS) (A) and ejection fraction (EF) (B) in

1292 mice during the course of the experiment. Data represent means \pm SEM. Mean of 3 different

1293 independent measures is represented for each animal ($n \geq 5$). (C-D) Graphs indicating values of

1294 FS (C) and EF (D) at day 15 for all experimental groups. At this point, a significant decrease

1295 in FS and EF values was observed for DOX-treated mice. **(E)** Ejection fraction (EF) values
1296 obtained for animals at the experimental end-point (day 30). A decrease in EF value was
1297 observed for animals in the DOX group and EF increased upon administration of senolytic
1298 treatment. Data represent means of 3 different independent measures for each animal \pm SEM
1299 ($n \geq 5$). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-test; * $p <$
1300 0.05; ** $p <$ 0.01; *** $p <$ 0.001. **(F)** Bodyweight mice during 30 days of experimental. Non-
1301 changes were observed in any experimental group. **(G-H)** Analysis of renal **(G)** and hepatic
1302 **(H)** function of mice at the end of the treatment. ALB, albumin; BUN, blood urea nitrogen;
1303 Urea; CREA, creatinin; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; ALT, alanine transaminase.