

# HDAC1/2 Inhibitor Therapy Improves Multiple Organ Systems in Aged Mice

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## ABSTRACT

Aging increases the risk of age-related diseases, imposing substantial healthcare and personal costs. Targeting fundamental aging mechanisms pharmacologically can promote healthy aging and reduce this disease susceptibility. In this work, we employed transcriptome-based drug screening to identify compounds emulating transcriptional-signatures of long-lived genetic interventions. We discovered compound 60 (Cmpd60), a selective histone deacetylase 1 and 2 (HDAC1/2) inhibitor, mimicking diverse longevity interventions. In extensive molecular, phenotypic, and bioinformatic assessments using various cell and aged mouse models, we found Cmpd60 treatment to improve age-related phenotypes in multiple organs. Cmpd60 reduces renal epithelial-mesenchymal transition and fibrosis in kidney, diminishes dementia-related gene expression in brain, and enhances cardiac contractility and relaxation for the heart. In sum, our two-week HDAC1/2 inhibitor treatment in aged mice establishes a multi-tissue, healthy aging intervention in mammals, holding promise for therapeutic translation to promote healthy aging in humans.

## 47 INTRODUCTION

48  
49 Increased age in individuals is linked to increased age-related chronic disease<sup>1</sup>. Although aging  
50 was long considered a passive process, it is now recognized that the rate of aging can be regulated  
51 by so-called longevity pathways<sup>2</sup>. These pathways are diverse, and can include modulation of the  
52 insulin-signaling pathway (e.g. targeting insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1)<sup>3</sup>, insulin-like growth  
53 factor 1 receptor (IGF1R)<sup>4</sup>, or insulin receptor substrate 1 (INSR)<sup>5</sup>), by modulation of mitochondrial  
54 biology (e.g. overexpression of sirtuin 6 (SIRT6)<sup>6</sup>), or by improving DNA repair (e.g. overexpression  
55 of the mitotic checkpoint gene BUB1, improving genomic stability<sup>7</sup>). Accordingly, many of these  
56 genetic interventions influence defined hallmarks of aging, including genomic instability, telomere  
57 attrition, epigenetic alterations, a loss of proteostasis, deregulated nutrient sensing, mitochondrial  
58 dysfunction, cellular senescence, and stem cell exhaustion<sup>2,8</sup>.

59  
60 The body of evidence demonstrating genetic interventions that modulate healthy longevity offers  
61 the potential for pharmaceutical development targeting these pathways, with the hopes to improve  
62 health in the elderly. These pharmaceutical interventions, termed geroprotectors, as they protect  
63 the gerontological part of life, are increasingly being uncovered<sup>9-12</sup>. In light of this, a first major  
64 testing of one of these compounds is underway in humans with the diabetes drug metformin and  
65 the 'treating aging with metformin' (TAME) clinical trial<sup>13</sup>, to determine the ability to decrease the  
66 incidence of age-related diseases in the elderly.

67  
68 While there are multiple candidate geroprotectors in line for testing in humans<sup>11</sup>, there is still a great  
69 need for second-generation geroprotectors that are more potent and better recapitulate the  
70 longevity benefits resulting from genetic interventions. To address this need and circumvent the  
71 inherent difficulties of screening for such molecules, which require identifying a proper screening  
72 marker, assay development, and chemical screening, our team has been pioneering transcriptome-  
73 based drug screening for longevity interventions. For example, our approaches have identified  
74 HSP90 inhibitors as proteostasis-inducing longevity interventions<sup>12</sup>, identified longevity compounds  
75 with minimized probabilities of side effects in humans<sup>14</sup>, identified the acetylcholine receptor as a  
76 target to activate the pro-longevity transcription factor FOXO3<sup>15,16</sup>, and the antiretroviral zidovudine  
77 to activate the pro-longevity transcription factor ATF4<sup>17</sup>. In addition to our own work, *in silico* drug  
78 screening has been used to identify a novel treatment for metabolic disorder<sup>18</sup>, identify mimetics  
79 for the calorie restriction longevity intervention<sup>19</sup>, and in general, de-risk early-phase drug  
80 screening<sup>20</sup>.

81  
82 In the current work, we performed multiple *in silico* drug screens using transcriptional profiles of  
83 2837 small molecules testing their ability to mimic known genetic longevity interventions. We  
84 identified one compound that was most commonly found to mimic the transcriptional profile of the  
85 genetic longevity interventions. This benzamide-based small molecule, termed compound 60  
86 (Cmpd60; aka Merck60 or BRD 692), is a selective histone deacetylase 1 and 2 (HDAC1/2) inhibitor.  
87 Cmpd60 was previously shown to repress growth in certain hematologic malignancies *in vitro*<sup>21</sup> and  
88 *in vivo* to cross the blood-brain barrier to reduce anxiety in mice<sup>22</sup>. Here, we used a combination of  
89 molecular, phenotypic, and bioinformatic analyses in multiple disease cell models and mouse  
90 models for age-related disease to establish if Cmpd60 acts as a geroprotector. Indeed, we found  
91 that Cmpd60 treatment attenuates age-associated phenotypes across multiple organ systems,  
92 including the kidney, brain, and heart. This is in line with our finding that Cmpd60's transcriptional  
93 signature mimics diverse longevity interventions, and with other individual accounts of certain (pan  
94 or class-specific) HDAC inhibitors benefiting individual diseases<sup>23</sup>. Our work establishes for the first  
95 time specifically HDAC1/2 inhibition as a healthy aging intervention in mammals, further

96 demonstrates that a single molecule can have pleiotropic beneficial effects for healthy aging on  
97 multiple organ systems, and paves the way for the development of more potent geroprotective  
98 therapeutics in mammals capable of recapitulating the benefits of diverse known genetic longevity  
99 interventions.

## 100 101 102 **RESULTS**

### 103 104 ***In silico* transcriptome screening for pharmaceuticals mimicking genetic longevity** 105 **interventions**

106  
107 In order to identify small molecules that could recapitulate the benefits of multiple genetic longevity  
108 interventions, we consulted the GeneAge database, where we found 75 genetic interventions (i.e.  
109 either knockdown/outs or overexpressions), which have been documented to extend lifespan<sup>24</sup>. We  
110 next turned to the library of integrated network-based cellular signatures (LINCS), an online  
111 database and software suite containing mRNA signatures of both drug-treated and genetically  
112 perturbed human cell lines<sup>25,26</sup>. Cross-referencing our list of 75 genetic longevity interventions with  
113 genetic perturbation cell lines, we found transcriptional signatures were available in the LINCS  
114 database for 25 of these (Figure 1A). These 25 interventions, along with FOXO3 overexpression  
115 as recently described<sup>15</sup>, were used to query the LINCS database consisting of high-certainty  
116 transcriptomes of 2837 small molecules present in 8 core cell lines (PC3, VCAP, A375, HA1E,  
117 HCC515, HT29, MCF7, and HEPG2), and identify those whose transcriptomic signatures were  
118 most similar to at least one of the genetic longevity intervention's transcriptomes (LINCS score >  
119 90). To ensure the highest likelihood that our drug list would indeed benefit the aging process, we  
120 imposed a filter on the query, requiring that a drug's known target must also be included as a  
121 genetic perturbation hit. This resulted in 498 compounds mimicking at least one genetic longevity  
122 intervention (Figure 1A). Finally, drugs were ranked according to the number of genetic longevity  
123 interventions they transcriptionally mimicked, to form a prioritization ranking (Figure 1B).

124  
125 When exploring the ranked list of drugs mimicking the most longevity interventions, we noted many  
126 well studied drugs in the context of aging (Figure S1). For example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking drug, mimicking  
127 10 out of the 25 genetic interventions, was sirolimus, well-known to extend lifespan in diverse model  
128 organisms<sup>27</sup>. Furthermore, ranked 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> included other molecules that extend lifespan in *C.*  
129 *elegans*, including digoxin<sup>28</sup>, taxifolin<sup>29</sup>, genestein<sup>30</sup>, and catechin<sup>31</sup>. Indeed, many top ranked small  
130 molecules from our screen either extend lifespan in model organisms, or have other direct links to  
131 age-related pathways (Figure S1). However, the top ranked compound, which is the only one to  
132 bear transcriptional similarity to 12 out of the 25 genetic longevity interventions, was termed  
133 "compound 60" (Cmpd60, or 'Merck60'), and had not yet been explored in the context of healthy  
134 aging (Figure 1B).

135  
136 Cmpd60 is a benzamide-based small molecule that selectively inhibits histone deacetylase 1 and  
137 2 (HDAC1/2). Interestingly, Cmpd60 mimicked the effects of the metabolic related genetic longevity  
138 interventions including knockdown of AKT (AKT<sup>KD</sup>), and knockdown of multiple components of the  
139 insulin signalling pathway including INSR<sup>KD</sup> and IRS1<sup>KD</sup> (Figure 1B), in line with reports that pan-  
140 HDAC inhibition can prevent insulin resistance and obesity in mice fed a high fat diet<sup>32</sup>. Furthermore,  
141 since HDAC inhibitors as a drug class may harbor some of the most promising geroprotective  
142 compounds<sup>23</sup>, we believed Cmpd60 was an intriguing molecule to further explore in the context of  
143 geroprotection.

### **Cmpd60 in aged mice restores youthful molecular and physiological renal parameters**

In order to investigate Cmpd60's potential protective effects during aging, we first turned to an *in vitro* model of renal fibrosis, a hallmark of age-related kidney disease. During aging, senescent tubular epithelial cells (TECs) accumulate in the kidney<sup>33</sup>, which produce a wide range of profibrotic mediators, such as transforming growth factor-beta (TGF- $\beta$ )<sup>34</sup>. This profibrotic cytokine in turn affects TECs' phenotype, promoting a partial epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), ultimately leading to renal fibrosis<sup>35</sup>. Partial EMT in TECs is marked by an increased expression of the mesenchymal gene Alpha Smooth Muscle actin ( $\alpha$ SMA) and a decrease in Zonula occludens-1 (ZO-1) and E-cadherin<sup>36,37</sup>. Indeed, treating TECs with recombinant TGF $\beta$  was sufficient to significantly increase  $\alpha$ SMA and reduce ZO-1 protein expression (Figure 2A). We then tested if Cmpd60 could prevent EMT in TECs. We used a dose of 1 $\mu$ M Cmpd60, which is a non-toxic dose (Figure S2A) that effectively increases histone acetylation levels at histone H3K18 and H4K8 (Figure S2B-C). Strikingly, Cmpd60 partially prevented EMT upon TGF $\beta$  stimulation, reducing  $\alpha$ SMA and increasing ZO-1 and E-cadherin protein expression (Figure 2A and Figure S2D).

To determine Cmpd60's geroprotective effects on the kidney at the molecular and physiological levels, we proceeded to treat aged male mice (20 months old) via intraperitoneal injection for 14 days with either Cmpd60 (22.5mg/kg) or control (Figure 2B). This dosing regimen was based in part on previous studies with Cmpd60<sup>22</sup>. EchoMRI measurements showed that fat mass, lean mass, and total body weight did not change between treated and untreated mice suggesting that Cmpd60 was tolerated at the dose used (Figure S2E), which matched the observation that blood biochemistry markers for renal and liver toxicity did not differ between the two groups (Figure S2F). Assessing acetylation levels revealed an increase of H4K8 acetylation in Cmpd60 treated kidneys, demonstrating efficacy of the intervention (Figure 2C, Figure S2G).

To assess the molecular effects of Cmpd60 on the kidney, we performed RNAseq transcriptomics on kidneys from the treated and untreated aged mice (Supplemental Table 1). Samples could be readily differentiated using partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) (Figure 2D). Exploring the data further, we calculated differential expression between the groups, where we noted that inhibition of HDAC1/2 with Cmpd60 imparted clear differences on the transcriptional landscape ( $p < 0.01$ , Supplemental Table 1). To better understand what these changes were, we performed gene ontology (GO) term and KEGG pathway analyses on the up and down regulated genes (Figure 2E, Supplemental Table 2). Here we found the top upregulated go term was one often associated to longevity, healthy aging and oxidative stress protection, namely, glutathione metabolic processes<sup>38</sup> (Figure 2E). These genes included Glutathione S-Transferase genes (*Gstm1*, *Gsta3*, and *Gsta4*) (Figure S2H), an important family of detoxifying and cytoprotective enzymes crucial for longevity<sup>39</sup> and as protective mechanism against the development of renal fibrosis healthy aging and oxidative stress protection. Given the decrease in partial EMT observed in the *in vitro* model, we sought to assess how these molecular changes manifest themselves at the physiological level. We performed histological analysis of renal fibrosis by analyzing collagen content detected with picro sirius red. Markedly, we found that the aged Cmpd60 treated mice showed less age-related renal fibrosis than their untreated counterparts (Figure 2F-G). Taken together, these findings suggest Cmpd60 alters the transcriptional landscape in aged kidney cells, shifting it towards a profile protective from oxidative stress and conducive to a reduction of renal EMT and age-related kidney fibrosis.

### **Cmpd60 treatment protects against detrimental brain aging processes**

Having seen clear benefits of Cmpd60 treatment to the aged renal system, and noting prior work of others that demonstrated Cmpd60's ability to cross the blood brain barrier<sup>22</sup>, we inquired the effects of Cmpd60 on the aged brain. Assessing histone modification in the brain revealed increased acetylation levels (Figure 3A, Figure S3A). Establishing this, we proceeded to perform RNAseq transcriptomics on brains of treated and untreated aged mice (Supplemental Table 3). Here, PLS-DA readily separated the two groups (Figure 3B), and we applied the same cutoff as for the kidney to assess differential expression ( $P < 0.01$ , Figure S3B). Interestingly, assessing enriched

201 GO terms and KEGG pathways revealed an alteration in oxidative phosphorylation processes,  
202 down regulated upon treatment (Figure 3C, Supplemental Table 4). Remarkably, the KEGG  
203 pathway of Alzheimer's was also downregulated upon Cmpd60 treatment (Figure 3C). This  
204 included genes also involved in oxidative phosphorylation such as the NADH:Ubiquinone  
205 Oxidoreductase Subunits (NDUFs) (Figure 3D), in line with the finding that decreasing  
206 mitochondrial capacity can reduce amyloid- $\beta$  toxicity<sup>40</sup>.

207  
208 Observing this potential beneficial effect, we next asked if Cmpd60 treatment could help prevent  
209 neurological decline in a dementia model. To address this, we turned to the APPSWE-1349 mouse  
210 model, a transgenic mouse overexpressing an isoform of human Alzheimer beta-amyloid ( $\beta$ A),  
211 which shows clear signs of impaired spatial referencing at 9-10 months of age<sup>41</sup>. We proceeded to  
212 treat APPSWE-1349 mice and control littermates for 14 days with either Cmpd60 (22.5mg/kg) or  
213 control (Figure 3E). We used mice younger than those that show full physiological symptoms, aged  
214 6-7 months, to ensure the greatest chance of intervening in the early, molecular-based processes  
215 that occur and contribute to  $\beta$ A accumulation and neurodegeneration. Likewise we focused on  
216 molecular readouts to assess efficacy. Performing RNAseq transcriptomics on brain of these mice  
217 (Supplemental Table 5) and PLS-DA, revealed a strong separation of the non-treated transgenic  
218 mice, but less separation of the Cmpd60 treated transgenic mice from the control littermate mice  
219 (Figure 3F). This suggested Cmpd60 treatment was shifting the transgenic mouse profile away  
220 from a disease profile towards a non-disease profile. Comparing the differential gene expression  
221 between the treated and untreated transgenic mice (Figure S3C) and performing GO term and  
222 KEGG pathway enrichments (Supplemental Table 6), revealed that Cmpd60 reduced ribosomal  
223 gene expression (Figure S3D), while increasing membrane potential, ion transport, and cognitive  
224 processes (Figure S3E), changes previously reported to be conducive to decreased dementia  
225 risk<sup>42-44</sup>. Taking into account all four groups, namely the transgenic and control mice, both untreated  
226 and treated, allowed for an analysis of gene expression changes that Cmpd60 induced, unique to  
227 the transgenic disease model. Here, relevant for Cmpd60's potential effects in dementia specifically,  
228 we found an up regulation of memory related GO terms (Figure 3G, Supplemental Table 6). Some  
229 of the differentially expressed genes in this category included *Pla2g6*<sup>45</sup>, *Cx3cr1*<sup>46</sup>, *Ncam1*<sup>47,48</sup>,  
230 *Cyfp1*<sup>49</sup> (Figure 3H), genes whose expression have been shown to benefit cognitive processes.

231  
232 Finally, to determine how these transcriptional changes may manifest at the physiological level, we  
233 performed histological analysis of brains from the transgenic mice, either Cmpd60 treated or  
234 untreated. While the mice we studied were younger than the age at which aggregates are clearly  
235 visible, we found suggestive evidence that pre-aggregates were less present in Cmpd60 treated  
236 mice. Specifically, 4 out of 7 untreated mice showed aggregates (57%), while only 2 out of 6  
237 Cmpd60 treated mice showed aggregates (33%) (Figure S3F). Taken together, our findings  
238 suggest Cmpd60 modifies the brain transcriptional landscape in a manner protective against the  
239 brain aging changes and counter to dementia related processes.

### 240 241 **Cmpd60 treatment improves cardiac function**

242  
243 Having noted Cmpd60's beneficial effects on the aged kidney and brain, with relevance for two  
244 serious and under-treated age-related dysfunctions of renal failure and dementia, we next inquired  
245 as to the effects of Cmpd60 on one of the organs most contributing to age-related death: the heart.  
246 Our initial analysis did not reveal significant acetylation changes in histone H3 or H4 (Figure SF4A-  
247 C). Nonetheless, to further explore Cmpd60's cardiac-related effects more deeply, we performed  
248 RNAseq transcriptomics on hearts from aged treated and untreated mice (Supplemental Table 7).  
249 Here we again observed samples to be readily distinguishable upon PLS-DA (Figure 4A).

250  
251 Upon evaluating differential expression in the Cmpd60 treated versus untreated heart samples, we  
252 noted far greater transcriptional changes following Cmpd60 treatment in the heart compared to  
253 either the kidney or brain. Accordingly, we applied a stricter cut-off to assess differential expression  
254 (adjusted p-value < 0.05) (Figure 4B). Although we found fewer GO enrichments and KEGG  
255 pathways related to altered oxidative phosphorylation processes, strikingly, we found the top  
256 enriched GO terms were related to heart valve development, suggesting profound changes

257 influencing heart function may be occurring upon Cmpd60 treatment (Figure 4C, Supplemental  
258 Table 8). This upregulation included genes such as SMAD Family Member 6 (*Smad6*), ADAM  
259 Metallopeptidase With Thrombospondin Type 1 Motif 9 (*Adamts9*), and Elastin Microfibril Interfacer  
260 1 (*Emilin1*), members of gene families who have all been linked to cardiovascular outcomes, with  
261 either deficiency proving detrimental or abundance proving beneficial<sup>50-52</sup> (Figure 4D).

262  
263 Spurred by these promising findings, we turned to an *in vitro* assay of cardiac functioning. Here,  
264 we assessed contraction (percentage of sarcomere shortening) and relaxation (return velocity) in  
265 adult rat ventricular cardiomyocytes. Remarkably, and in line with our *in vivo* findings at the  
266 transcriptional level, we found Cmpd60 treated ventricular cardiomyocytes showed both an  
267 improved contraction and relaxation parameters (Figure 4E-F). Taken together, this suggests  
268 Cmpd60 treatment modifies the cardiac transcriptional level and manifests itself at the functional  
269 level to improve age-related cardiac outcomes.

### 270 271 272 **A consensus model of Cmpd60's effects**

273  
274 Having identified tissue-specific benefits of Cmpd60, we next inquired whether a conserved  
275 expression profile existed amongst the different tissues of the treated mice. To accomplish this, we  
276 assessed the overlap of differentially expressed genes in the kidney (p-value<0.05), brain (p-  
277 value<0.05), or heart (adjusted p-value<0.05). We identified 41 genes upregulated (Figure 5A) and  
278 30 genes downregulated (Figure 5B) in common between the three tissues following Cmpd60  
279 treatment. Amongst these 71 genes, for example, were genes including upregulated *Mapk3*, *Tgm2*,  
280 and *Spns2*, and downregulated *Mrps28* and *Fzd8* (Figure 5C). Transcription factor analysis  
281 querying diverse motif databases revealed six motifs (transfac-pro-M00797, cisbp-M6275,  
282 swissregulon-hs-HIF1A.p2, transfac-pro-M00466, transfac-pro-M07043, homer-TACGTGCV-HIF-  
283 1a) associated with *Hif1a* target genes (Figure 5D), suggesting Cmpd60 treatment increases  
284 oxidative stress resistance, an observation in line with the main transcriptional changes observed  
285 in the kidney and brain. Taken together, our work suggests both tissue specific effects of Cmp60  
286 treatment, such as *Gsta2/3/4* and *Gstp1/3* in the kidney, *Wnt5a* in the brain, and *Scx* and *Emilin1*  
287 in the heart, as well as common transcriptional changes shared between tissues, oriented around  
288 *Hif1a* target gene expression. Together, the cumulated effects of these molecular changes may  
289 result in the age-reversing qualities we observed following Cmpd60 treatment in old mice.

### 290 291 **DISCUSSION**

292  
293 In this work, we used an *in silico* drug screening platform and identified a single molecule, the  
294 HDAC1 and HDAC2 inhibitor Cmpd60, which possessed transcriptional signatures mimicking  
295 diverse genetic longevity interventions. In line with this, Cmpd60 demonstrated distinct effects  
296 across multiple organ systems where it was able to attenuate age-related phenotypes. In the kidney,  
297 Cmpd60 treatment increased protective gene expression related to oxidative stress regulation and  
298 reduced fibrosis possibly via reduced partial EMT detected in *in vitro* studies. This is in line with  
299 several studies supporting the link between decreased oxidative stress and amelioration of renal  
300 fibrosis<sup>53,54</sup>. In the brain, Cmpd60 treatment showed transcriptional changes conducive to improved  
301 cognitive functioning and molecular indications of neuroprotection in both naturally aged brain and  
302 a dementia mouse model brain. In the heart, Cmpd60 resulted in cardiac remodeling related  
303 transcriptional changes and benefitted cardiomyocyte functioning.

304  
305 With Cmpd60 demonstrating such diverse age-related benefits across multiple organs, a question  
306 remains as to how these effects are mediated. HDAC inhibition has previously been suggested to  
307 benefit health through a plethora of mechanisms, including FOXO3 activation<sup>55</sup>, *Klotho*  
308 upregulation<sup>56</sup>, or reversing age-related acetylation changes, amongst others<sup>23</sup>. Notably, these  
309 have all been explored in diverse models and organs. The likeliest answer therefore is that HDAC  
310 inhibition modifies a tissue-specific epigenetic landscape, creating beneficial tissue specific  
311 responses (Figure 5E). Since aging is accompanied by alterations in histone acetylation patterns  
312 and global loss of transcriptional control<sup>57</sup>, one tantalizing possibility is that Cmpd60 reverses these

313 acetylation changes and attenuates the aging phenotype in a tissue specific manner. Our findings  
314 at the transcriptional level, including an upregulation of oxidative stress protection and alterations  
315 in metabolic gene expression, catered to each organ, support this idea. It remains to be seen how  
316 each organ achieved such benefits, and how these findings can further translate to benefit human  
317 health.

318  
319 One remarkable occurrence we noted is the beneficial effects of Cmpd60 treatment in cardiac tissue,  
320 despite the fact that no changes in histone acetylation levels were observed in this system. This  
321 suggests that Cmpd60's HDAC-targeting effects may not be responsible for the changes observed  
322 in the heart, and rather, that the effects of Cmpd60 in the heart may be either (i) indirect, e.g.  
323 systemic effects from another body system that cross talk with the heart, or (ii) affecting acetylation  
324 levels of proteins other than HDACs. This seems to be different compared to the changes we have  
325 observed in the kidney and brain where histone acetylation changes were clearly observed. Indeed,  
326 HDAC inhibitors in general have been hypothesized to benefit the aging process by targeting non-  
327 histone related proteins (as well as histones)<sup>23</sup>, and Cmpd60 may also act through multiple  
328 mechanisms, again in a tissue specific manner. The heart may be an example of this in our study.

329  
330 Further exploring the link between Cmpd60 and *Hif1a* would be of great interest. This is especially  
331 the case considering past studies that have demonstrated HDACs to activate *Hif1a*, which therefore  
332 implies that a general suppression of *Hif1a* results upon treatment with HDAC inhibitors<sup>58</sup>. Different  
333 HDACs and HDAC inhibitors may have different regulatory effects on *Hif1a*, depending on dose  
334 and cell line used<sup>59</sup>. Here, it should be noted that while our RNAseq and bioinformatic analyses  
335 have revealed a clear link between *Hif1a* and Cmpd60, further *in vitro* studies co-treating cells with  
336 Cmpd60 and an *Hif1a* inhibitor would be required to formalize this relationship. In our kidney cell  
337 model, we observed a rescue of markers associated with pEMT following treatment with both TGF-  
338  $\beta$  and Cmpd60. This restoration is likely facilitated by the modulation of Hif-1 $\alpha$ . Indeed previous  
339 research has illustrated a time-dependent increase in Hif-1 $\alpha$  levels in proximal tubular epithelial  
340 cells exposed to TGF- $\beta$ . Moreover, inhibiting Hif-1 $\alpha$  effectively inhibits TGF- $\beta$ -induced EMT and  
341 attenuates kidney fibrosis, which aligns with our findings<sup>53,60</sup>. Therefore, the connection between  
342 *Hif1a* and Cmpd60 should be seen as a candidate mechanism, requiring formal validation, and it is  
343 likely that Cmpd60 may work through other means as well. Indeed, while our *Hif1a* analyses  
344 showed suppression of *Hif1a* related genes, it also demonstrated activation of other *Hif1a* regulated  
345 genes.

### 346 Limitations

347  
348  
349 Several limitations should be considered with our study. For example, our study design involved  
350 treating aged animals and assessing a final time-point after the treatment period for molecular and  
351 physiological changes. With this design, we did not assess aged mice before treatment, and we  
352 cannot discern whether or not Cmpd60 acted to (i) rejuvenate the aged animals or (ii) attenuate  
353 age related changes that developed during the treatment period. Because the treatment period was  
354 relatively short, it can be expected that most changes observed after the treatment were the result  
355 of a reversal of aging phenotypes. However, a follow up study where histology and RNAseq of  
356 aged animals prior to treatment are collected would be required to address this fully, as well as  
357 young control animals for comparisons. Furthermore, another limitation of our work may be that our  
358 initial drug screen using datasets from the Broad Institute included many cancerous cell lines<sup>26</sup>.  
359 While this approach has been used before—by ourselves and others—identifying compounds  
360 benefiting health through diverse mechanisms not related to cancer<sup>18,61,62</sup>, it could theoretically  
361 produce a confounding factor. It would be interesting to see what other compounds may emerge  
362 from similar screens when cancerous cell lines are excluded. Nonetheless, our current screen  
363 performed in this study has functioned to identify Cmpd60 as a candidate compound capable of  
364 addressing multiple aging phenotypes, meriting further investigation in-of-itself.

### 365 Conclusion

366  
367  
368 As most studies on HDAC inhibitors focus on one specific tissue, our study is unique in that it looks

369 at the effects of HDAC inhibition in three different organs; kidney, brain and heart. This enabled us  
370 to recognize an overlapping gene expression profile in all three tissues; associated with *Hif1a* target  
371 genes. Although we identified tissue-specific benefits of Cmpd60, it should be noted that HDAC  
372 inhibitors are also known for their undesirable side effects<sup>63</sup>. Despite of, or thanks to, their many  
373 diverse on- and off- target effects, HDAC inhibitors nonetheless benefit a range of preclinical age-  
374 related disease models<sup>23</sup>. We therefore recommend future research to assess dose-dependent  
375 effects of HDAC1/HDAC2 inhibitors in multiple organs.

Journal Pre-proof

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### Author Contributions

A.T., E.G.D., R.H.H. and G.E.J. conceived and designed the project. E.G.D. K.R., K.J.M. and R.I.A. organized and performed animal husbandry and Cmpd60 treatment and physiological animal measures. A.T. and L.M.B. performed kidney in vitro studies and with R.K. performed all biochemical analyses. A.T., E.A. and J.J.T.H.R. performed pathology analyses. A.J. and G.V. performed bioinformatics analyses. I.M.H. performed mouse transcriptomic analyses. K.C.H. R.P.J. and R.A.B. designed cardiac experiments and interpretations. A.T., E.G.D., R.H.H. and G.E.J. wrote the manuscript with contributions from all authors.

### STAR methods

### Key resource table

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<i>Antibodies</i>		
Rabbit polyclonal anti-acetylated Histone H3 (Lys 18)	Cell Signaling	#9675
Rabbit polyclonal anti-total Histone 3	Cell Signaling	#9715
Rabbit polyclonal anti-acetylated Histone H4 (Lys8)	Cell Signaling	#2594
Rabbit polyclonal anti-total Histone H4	Cell Signaling	#2592
Mouse monoclonal anti- $\alpha$ SMA	Dako	#M085101
Rabbit polyclonal anti-ZO-1	Invitrogen	#617300
Mouse monoclonal anti- $\beta$ -actin	Millipore	#MABT825
Rabbit monoclonal anti-GAPDH	Cell Signaling	#2118
Goat polyclonal anti rabbit-HRP	Dako	#P0448
Goat polyclonal anti mslgG2a-HRP	Southern Biotech	#1080-05
Goat polyclonal anti mslgG1-HRP	Southern Biotech	#1070-05
<i>Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins</i>		
Cmpd60, also known as Merck60. Broad Institute ID number BRD6929 and CAS No.: 849234-64-6	ChemShuttle	# 151025
TGF- $\beta$ human recombinant	Prospec	#CYT-716
MTT	Sigma Aldrich	#M2128
<i>Critical Commercial Assays</i>		
RNeasy Mini Kit	Qiagen	#69504
<i>Deposited Data</i>		
RNA sequencing murine kidney, brain and heart	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/</a>	#GSE247457
<i>Experimental Models: Cell Lines</i>		
Murine Immortalized proximal tubular epithelial cells (TECs)	Laboratory of Sandrine Florquin	N/A
<i>Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains</i>		
Aged BL6J males (age 78 weeks on arrival)	The Jackson Laboratory	<a href="https://www.jax.org/">Aged C57BL/6J Mice   The Jackson Laboratory (jax.org)</a>

Male APPSWE-1349-RDI (Tg2756) tg/wt mice	Taconic	Model 1349
Male wistar rats	Charles River	NA
<i>Software and Algorithms</i>		
Image J	National Institute of health	<a href="https://imagej.nih.gov">https://imagej.nih.gov</a>
GraphPad Prism (version 9.5.1)	GraphPad	<a href="https://www.graphpad.com">https://www.graphpad.com</a>
R (version 4.1.1)	R Foundation for statistical computing	<a href="https://www.r-project.org">https://www.r-project.org</a>

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**Resource availability**

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**Lead Contact:**

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Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Georges E. Janssens ([g.e.janssens@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:g.e.janssens@amsterdamumc.nl))

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**Materials availability**

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All unique/stable reagents generated in this study are available from the Lead Contact with a completed Materials Transfer Agreement.

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**Data and code availability**

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- Data generated from the bulk RNA-sequencing were uploaded to GEO and can be accessed with accession number GSE247457.

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- This paper does not report original code

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- Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact upon request

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**Experimental model and study participant details**

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**Mice**

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Animal studies were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Veterinary Services from uOttawa, permit No. 2727.

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Aged mice: Natural aged, approx. 20 months old, male BL6 mice were acquired from Taconic and single housed under a 12:12-hour light-dark cycle in a room set to 23°C (+/- 0.2°C). All animals were fed a regular chow diet. Mice received daily i.p. injections with either Cmpd60 (n=6) or vehicle (n=7) for 14 days total. Body weight was monitored every 5 days to adjust i.p. volumes to body weight. Cmpd60 treated animals received a dose of 22.5 mg/kg with an i.p. volume of 7.5 ml/kg. Cmpd60 was dissolved in 2% DMSO, 49% PEG400, and 49% saline solution (= vehicle) resulting in a 3 mg/ml concentration.

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APPSWE-1349 mice: The APPSWE-1349 mice<sup>64</sup> (BL6 background) were acquired from Taconic. The transgenic mice possess a transgene coding for the 695-amino acid isoform of human Alzheimer  $\beta$ -amyloid (A $\beta$ ) precursor protein carrying the Swedish mutation. Animals (~6-7 months old) were single housed under a 12:12-hour light-dark cycle in a room set to 23°C (+/- 0.2°C). All animals were fed a regular chow diet. Mice received daily i.p. injections with either Cmpd60 (n=12) or vehicle (n=12) for 14 days total. Body weight was monitored every 5 days to adjust i.p. volumes to body weight. Cmpd60 treated animals received a dose of 22.5 mg/kg with an i.p. volume of 7.5 ml/kg. Cmpd60 was dissolved in 2% DMSO, 49% PEG400, and 49% saline solution (= vehicle) resulting in a 3 mg/ml concentration. On day 15, following 14 days of Cmpd60 treatment, mice (total body mass) were weighed and loaded into the Echo-MRI (EchoMRI-700 Analyzer) using an A100 antenna insert and then whole-body fat and lean mass were measured. Mice then underwent an

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444 overnight fast (10 hours) and then were euthanized using CO<sub>2</sub>, total body weight was determined,  
445 followed by exsanguination through cardiac puncture. Blood (600-1000ml) was collected by cardiac  
446 puncture into a heparin-coated syringes. Blood samples were centrifuged for 20 min at 4°C and the  
447 separated plasma was stored at -80°C for further analysis. Tissues and organs were collected,  
448 weighed and either snap frozen in liquid nitrogen or submerged in O.C.T. (Fisher Scientific) and  
449 stored at -80°C.

450  
451 For the plasma biochemical analysis, renal, liver and body toxicity were determined by measuring  
452 plasma levels of urea, creatinine, Aspartate aminotransferase (ASAT), Alanine transaminase  
453 (ALAT) and Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH). These parameters were determined by enzyme  
454 reactions using standard autoanalyzer methods by our hospital research services.

455

456

## 457 **Method Details**

458

### 459 *In silico compound screen*

460 The online library of integrated network-based cellular signatures (LINCS)<sup>25,26</sup> was accessed in  
461 September 2017 through the cloud-based software platform CLUE (<https://clue.io/>). The  
462 'touchstone' core dataset consisting of transcriptome signatures of eight cell lines (PC3, VCAP,  
463 A375, HA1E, HCC515, HT29, MCF7, HEPG2) of 2837 different small molecule treatments, 3799  
464 different gene knock-downs, and 2160 different gene overexpressions was used. From the gene  
465 knock-downs or overexpression datasets, those genetic longevity interventions known to confer  
466 lifespan extension in mouse models were used, (accessed in 2017 from GeneAge, filtering for  
467 significant, positive lifespan effects in mice<sup>24</sup>). Individual queries were performed for each genetic  
468 longevity intervention, producing lists of compounds with similar transcriptional signatures.  
469 Compound lists were ranked and included a summary score consolidating cell line data, ranging  
470 from -100 (opposing the genetic longevity signature) to 100 (mimicking the genetic longevity  
471 signature). These were downloaded as .gct files (version 1.3). A cutoff was applied to the ranked  
472 list such that compounds with a score > 90 were considered to match the transcriptional signature  
473 of a longevity intervention. Drug lists were further filtered, such that a drug was only included as a  
474 hit, if its drug target (i.e. the knockdown of the drug target) also passed a summary score cutoff >90  
475 for the genetic longevity intervention in question. The final ranking was producing by tallying the  
476 total number of genetic longevity interventions a compound could mimic (theoretical total 25), where  
477 more than one compound could reach the same rank. Only one compound reached the top rank  
478 (12 out of 25), Cmpd60.

479 Cmpd60, also known as Merck60 with Broad Institute ID number BRD6929 and CAS No.: 849234-  
480 64-6 was acquired from ChemShuttle (USA, China), Catalog No.: 151025.

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### 483 *RNA sequencing: Isolation of mRNA, library preparation and read mapping*

484 Mouse tissues were homogenized with a 5 mm steel bead using a TissueLyser II (QIAGEN) for 5  
485 min at frequency of 30 times/second. RNA was extracted according to the instructions of the  
486 RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Contaminating genomic DNA was removed using RNase-Free DNase  
487 (QIAGEN). RNA was quantified with a NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific;  
488 Breda, The Netherlands) and stored at -80°C until use.

489 RNA libraries were prepared and sequenced with the Illumina platform by Genome Scan (Leiden,  
490 The Netherlands). The NEBNext Ultra II Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina was used to  
491 process the sample(s). The sample preparation was performed according to the protocol "NEBNext  
492 Ultra II Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina" (NEB #E7760S/L). Briefly, mRNA was isolated  
493 from total RNA using the oligo-dT magnetic beads. After fragmentation of the mRNA, cDNA  
494 synthesis was performed. This was used for ligation with the sequencing adapters and PCR  
495 amplification of the resulting product. The quality and yield after sample preparation was measured  
496 with the Fragment Analyzer. The size of the resulting products was consistent with the expected  
497 size distribution (a broad peak between 300-500 bp). Clustering and DNA sequencing using the  
498 NovaSeq6000 was performed according to manufacturer's protocols. A concentration of 1.1 nM of  
499 DNA was used. NovaSeq control software NCS v1.6 was used.

500 Reads were subjected to quality control FastQC<sup>65</sup> trimmed using Trimmomatic v0.32 (Bolger et al.,  
501 2014) and aligned using HISAT2 v2.1.0 (Kim et al., 2015). Counts were obtained using HTSeq  
502 (v0.11.0, default parameters) (Anders et al., 2015) using the corresponding GTF taking into account  
503 the directions of the reads.

#### 504 505 *Transcriptome analysis and visualization*

506 Data processing was performed using R version 4.1.1. Genes were reannotated using the Ensembl  
507 genome database and the biomaRt package<sup>69</sup>. Resulting p-values were corrected for multiple  
508 testing using the Benjamini–Hochberg false discovery rate where applicable. Biological process  
509 (BP) overrepresentation analysis was performed using ClusterProfiler 4.0.5<sup>70</sup> and org.Mm.eg.db  
510 (version 3.13.0). Gene selection (for figures 2E, 3C, 3G, 4C, supplementary figure 3D, 3E) was  
511 done based on p-value less than 0.01, and log Fold change larger than 0 for up-regulated genes,  
512 smaller than 0 for down-regulated genes. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) was  
513 performed on normalized cpm value (genes with zero expression were filtered out) using MixOmics  
514 version 6.16.3<sup>71</sup>. Upset plots were generated using UpsetR version 1.4.0<sup>72</sup>. For transcription factor  
515 (TF) binding motif over-representation, analysis was performed using RcisTarget 1.14.0<sup>73</sup>. Shared  
516 up-regulated genes (pvalue < 0.05, log Fold change larger than 0 ) between brain, kidney and heart  
517 were used as input gene list. The same was performed for shared down-regulated genes. The  
518 following file (mm9-500bp-upstream-7species.mc9nr.feather) was used to specify the gene-motif  
519 rankings. “motifAnnotations\_mgi\_v9 ” was used for motif annotation to transcription factors.  
520 Additionally, the pheatmap (1.0.12), igraph (1.30) and ggplot2 (version 3.4.2) packages were used  
521 to generate heatmaps and various visualizations using colors from RcolorBrewer<sup>74–76</sup>.

#### 522 523 *Histology and Immunostaining*

524 Paraffin-embedded kidney and brain tissues were processed for (immuno)histological analysis. To  
525 quantify the percentage of interstitial fibrosis, Picro Sirius red histological staining was performed  
526 to detect collagen content. Kidney tissue slides were incubated with 0.2% Picro Sirius Red (PSR)  
527 solution (pH 2.0) for 1h followed by incubation with 0.01M HCl. The amount of PSR-positive staining  
528 per high power field (20x magnification) was quantified by Image J software. Beta amyloid plaques  
529 in brain slides were identified with beta Amyloid (1-42) antibody (Genetex: GTX134510).  
530 Quantification of the percentage of amyloid plaques was performed by the neuropathologist in a  
531 blinded manner

#### 532 533 *In vitro experiments*

534 Murine immortalized proximal tubular epithelial cells (TECs) were generated in Sandrine Florquin’s  
535 lab and cultured in DMEM/HAM F12 (Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum,  
536 penicillin/streptomycin, 2mM L-glutamin (Invitrogen), 5µg/ml insulin (Gibco), 5µg/ml transferrin  
537 (Gibco), 5ng/ml selenite (Gibco), 40pg/ml Tri-iodo-thyronine (Sigma), 36ng/ml hydrocortisone  
538 (Sigma) and 20ng/ml EGF (Sigma). TECs were maintained in culture at 33°C in medium  
539 supplemented with 10ng/ml IFNγ (Prospec) to maintain SV40 expression. One week before  
540 experiments were performed, TECs were differentiated at 37°C for 7 days in presence of complete  
541 medium without IFNγ. TECs were stimulated with 20ng/ml murine recombinant TGFβ (Prospec) for  
542 72 hours in DMEM/F12 supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, penicillin/streptomycin and 2mM  
543 L-glutamin. Cmpd60 was added either together with TGFβ for 72 hours or added in the last 6 hours  
544 of the experiment. After 72hrs cells were washed with PBS and processed for protein isolation.

#### 545 546 *Cell and tissue lysates and immunoblot*

547 Cell lysates: RIPA lysis buffer (50mM Tris pH7.5, 0,15M NaCl 2mM EDTA, 1% deoxycholic acid,  
548 1% nonidet P40, 0,1% SDS supplemented with 4mM Na3VO4, 0,5mM NaF and protease inhibitors  
549 (Sigma)) was added to the cells at the end of the experiment. Cells lysates were centrifuged and  
550 protein concentration was measured using a BCA assay kit (Thermo Scientific).

551  
552 Tissue lysates: Freeze dried tissues (kidney, brain and heart) were homogenized in lysisbuffer  
553 (120mM Tris pH 6.8, 4% SDS, 20% glycerol supplemented with protease inhibitors) and stored  
554 overnight at -20C. The next day the homogenates were passed through a 21G needle and protein  
555 was measured using a BCA kit (Thermo Scientific).

556  
557 Twenty µg of protein was loaded onto a 4-12% Bis-Tris gradient gel (Invitrogen) and separated  
558 proteins were transferred on PVDF membrane (Millipore). After blocking aspecific signal,  
559 membranes were incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies listed in KRT. The following  
560 day membranes were incubated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary  
561 antibodies for 1 hour at RT. Detection was done by ECL western blotting substrate (Thermo  
562 Scientific) and images were obtained on a LAS 4000 (ImageQuant). Band intensity was quantified  
563 through ImageJ.  
564

#### 565 *Adult rat ventricular cardiomyocyte isolation and contractility measurement.*

566 The animal experiments were performed in accordance with the guidelines from the Directive  
567 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes  
568 and approved by the ethics committees of Amsterdam University Medical Centers, VUMC location,  
569 Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Adult rat left ventricular cardiomyocytes (CMs) were isolated as  
570 described previously<sup>77,78</sup>. Briefly, adult wild-type Wistar rats were terminated under anesthesia,  
571 followed by chest opening and heart extraction. The heart was cannulated through the aorta and  
572 perfused on a Langendorf perfusion set-up with liberase enzyme solution until the tissue was  
573 sufficiently digested. The atria and right ventricle were removed and the left ventricle was minced  
574 into small pieces and triturated. Subsequently, the cell suspension was filtered and re-suspended  
575 in CaCl<sub>2</sub> buffers of increasing Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations to reach a final concentration of 1mM. The  
576 isolated adult CMs were finally re-suspended in plating medium containing Medium 199 (Lonza,  
577 BE12-117F), 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Lonza, DE17-602DE) and 5% fetal bovine serum (PAA,  
578 A15-101), and seeded on 1% laminin (L2020-1MG, Sigma)-coated plates (24-well format Costar  
579 culture plate, Corning, 3524). One hour after plating, the medium was refreshed with maintenance  
580 medium containing Medium 199, 1% penicillin/streptomycin and Insulin-Transferrin-Sodium  
581 Selenite Supplement (Sigma-Aldrich; insulin, 10 mg l<sup>-1</sup>; transferrin, 5.5 mg l<sup>-1</sup>; and selenium  
582 5µg l<sup>-1</sup>). Subsequently, the cells were stimulated with 5µM Cmpd60 (or corresponding vehicle,  
583 DMSO) for 2 hours at 37°C in humidified air with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After the stimulation, the contraction and  
584 relaxation of the CMs were measured with the MultiCell microscope system (CytoCypher,  
585 Amsterdam, the Netherlands) coupled to the Ionoptix high-speed sarcomere length measuring  
586 software (Ionoptix LLC, Westwood, Massachusetts). Unloaded intact rat CMs were monitored  
587 following field stimulation, and sarcomere shortening was measured and analyzed with the  
588 automated, batch analysis software transient analysis tools (Cytosolver, CytoCypher) to determine  
589 the contraction and relaxation profiles of the cells.  
590

#### 591 **Quantification and Statistical analysis**

##### 592 *RNA seq*

593 Statistical analyses were performed using the edgeR v3.26.8 (Robinson et al., 2010) and  
594 limma/voom v 3.40.6<sup>80</sup> R packages. All genes with more than 2 counts in at least 3 of the samples  
595 were kept. Count data were transformed to log<sub>2</sub>-counts per million (logCPM), normalized by  
596 applying the trimmed mean of M-values method<sup>79</sup> and precision weighted using voom (Law et. al.,  
597 2014). Differential expression was assessed using an empirical Bayes moderated t test within  
598 limma's linear model framework including the precision weights estimated by voom<sup>80,81</sup>. Resulting  
599 *p* values were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate.  
600 Data processing was performed using R v3.6.1 and Bioconductor v3.9. Partial least-squares  
601 discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) was performed using mixomics (Rohart et al., 2017) setting a  
602 variable of importance (VIP) score of greater than 1 as significant. Resulting *p* values (where  
603 applicable) were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate.  
604 Genes were re-annotated using biomaRt using the Ensembl genome databases (v91).  
605  
606

##### 607 *In vivo and in vitro assays*

608 Statistical analyses were performed using PRISM (9.5.1) and specific tests and corrections for  
609 multiple hypothesis testing are listed in either each experiment's figure legend or corresponding  
610 methods section.

611 **Figure legends**

612

613 **Figure 1 | Compound screen strategy and results to identify geroprotectors mimicking**  
 614 **genetic longevity interventions.** A) General outline of screening strategy. GeneAge database  
 615 was consulted for listing of genetic interventions, which were cross referenced against the LINCS  
 616 transcriptome database of cellular perturbations. Compounds best matching a genetic longevity  
 617 intervention at the transcriptional level were selected for further evaluation, and only those whose  
 618 drug targets were also present in knockdowns in the screen were included. This resulted in 498  
 619 compounds which were ranked based on how many different genetic longevity interventions their  
 620 transcriptional profiles could recapitulate. B) The top drugs ranked first (top, Cmpd60 as top-ranked  
 621 small molecule), to last (bottom) according to how many genetic interventions they mimic (blue  
 622 indicates a positive hit).

623

624 **Figure 2 | Influence of Cmpd60 on aging kidney**

625 A) Representative western blot of Tubular epithelial cells (TECs) treated with 20ng/ml of  
 626 recombinant TGF $\beta$  and with and without Cmpd60 (1  $\mu$ M) for 72hrs. Protein lysates of TECs blotted  
 627 for anti-ZO-1, anti-E-cadherin, anti- $\alpha$ SMA and  $\beta$ -actin. Cmpd60 suppresses markers for partial EMT,  
 628 a hallmark of age-related renal fibrosis (n=3)/group. B) Schematic of aged mouse treatment  
 629 regimen with Cmpd60 and analyses. C) Relative Histone H4 acetylation levels (H4K8Ac) assessed  
 630 by western blot in renal tissue of aged mice with and without Cmpd60 treatment. Protein expression  
 631 was normalized against H4 total and expressed as mean  $\pm$ SEM. Mann Whitney test was used to  
 632 determine statistical differences, \*\*P<0.01. (n=5-6)/group. D) PLS-DA analysis of aged mice  
 633 treated with and without Cmpd60 (n=5-6)/group. E) Top GO terms of upregulated processes in  
 634 aged mice treated with Cmpd60 (see also Supplemental Table 2). F) Representative histological  
 635 images of Picro Sirius Red staining in kidney of aged mice with and without Cmp60. (n=5-6)/group.  
 636 G) Quantification of interstitial fibrosis determined by the percentage of positive Picro Sirius Red  
 637 staining/high power field, in mice treated with and without Cmpd60. Percentage of positive staining  
 638 was assessed with Image J software. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$ SEM and the Mann Whitney  
 639 test was used to determine statistical significance, \*P<0.05, (n=5-6)/group

640

641 **Figure 3 | Cmpd60 treatment supports healthy brain aging**

642 A) Relative expression of Histone H4 acetylation levels (H4k8Ac) assessed by western blot in brain  
 643 tissue of aged mice treated with control and Cmpd60. Protein expression was normalized against  
 644 H4 total and expressed as mean  $\pm$ SEM. Mann Whitney t-test was used to determine statistical  
 645 differences, \*\*P<0.01. n=5-6/group. B) PLS-DA of RNA-seq transcriptome comparing Cmpd60  
 646 treated and untreated brain, n = 6 per group. C) Downregulated KEGG terms resulting from  
 647 Cmpd60 treatment. D) Boxplot of counts per million (CPM) expression values of genes in Cmpd60  
 648 treated mouse brain from the GO term enrichment of Alzheimer Disease. Fill represents condition,  
 649 grey for control and blue for Cmpd60. E) Schematic of dementia mouse model and treatment. F)  
 650 PLS-DA of RNA-seq transcriptome comparing dementia mice, controls, treated and untreated. G)  
 651 Up Go terms of interaction between the 4 groups, revealing altered cognitive processes. H) Boxplot  
 652 of CPM expression values of genes from the GO term enrichment of cognition in (E). Fill represents  
 653 condition, grey for control and blue for Cmpd60.

654

655 **Figure 4 | Cmpd60 treatment benefits cardiac tissues.**

656 A) PLS-DA of RNAseq, aged heart, treated vs untreated (n = 5-6/group). B) Volcano plot of RNAseq  
 657 differential expression, aged heart, treated vs untreated (n = 5-6/group). Genes with p-value < 0.01  
 658 were colored (red: up-regulated, blue: down-regulated). C) Top GO Terms from upregulated genes.  
 659 D) Boxplot of CPM expression values of genes in Cmpd60 treated mouse heart from the GO term  
 660 enrichment of Heart Valve Development. E) Treatment of cardiomyocytes with Cmpd60 increased  
 661 contraction, as shown by increased % sarcomere shortening. F) Treatment of cardiomyocytes with  
 662 Cmpd60 improved relaxation, as assessed by higher return velocity (n=4, corresponding to 4  
 663 independent experiments; 30-40 CMs were measured per condition per experiment; data are  
 664 represented as mean  $\pm$  SD, p<0.05, unpaired t-test).

665

666 **Figure 5 | A consensus model of Cmpd60's effects**

667 A) Comparison of the unique and shared upregulated genes in the three tissues; kidney, heart and  
 668 brain. 41 genes are commonly upregulated in the three tissues (highlighted in blue) B) Comparison  
 669 of the unique and shared downregulated genes in the three tissues. 30 genes are commonly  
 670 downregulated in the three tissues (highlighted in blue) C) Heatmap of the log fold change of genes  
 671 with shared regulation in three tissues (for visualization purposes, log fold changes exceeding 2  
 672 were capped at 2, while values below -2 were capped at -2). D) Network for transcription factor  
 673 Hif1a, one of the top predicted TFs based on motif overrepresentation of the commonly changed  
 674 genes among the three tissues. Squares represents different motifs annotated to Hif1a. Edges  
 675 connect each motifs to the genes contributing to its enrichment. E) Model of Cmpd60's  
 676 geroprotective effects, which are due to both tissue specific and conserved transcriptional changes,  
 677 producing net aging-protective effects.  
 678

#### 679 Declaration of interests

680 The authors declare no competing interests.

#### 682 Inclusion and Diversity

683 We support inclusive, diverse and equitable conduct of research  
 684  
 685

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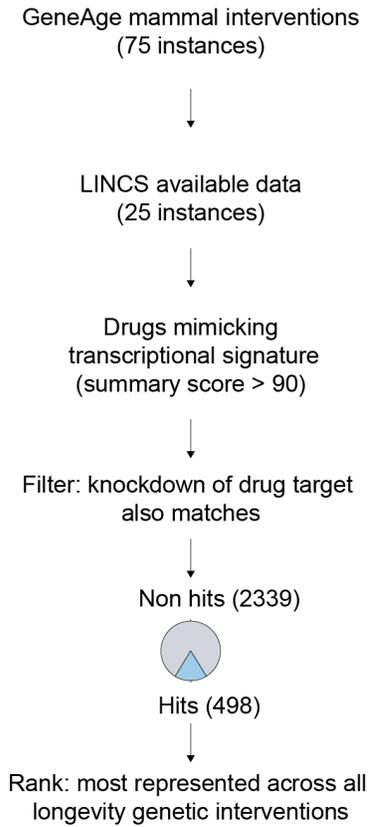
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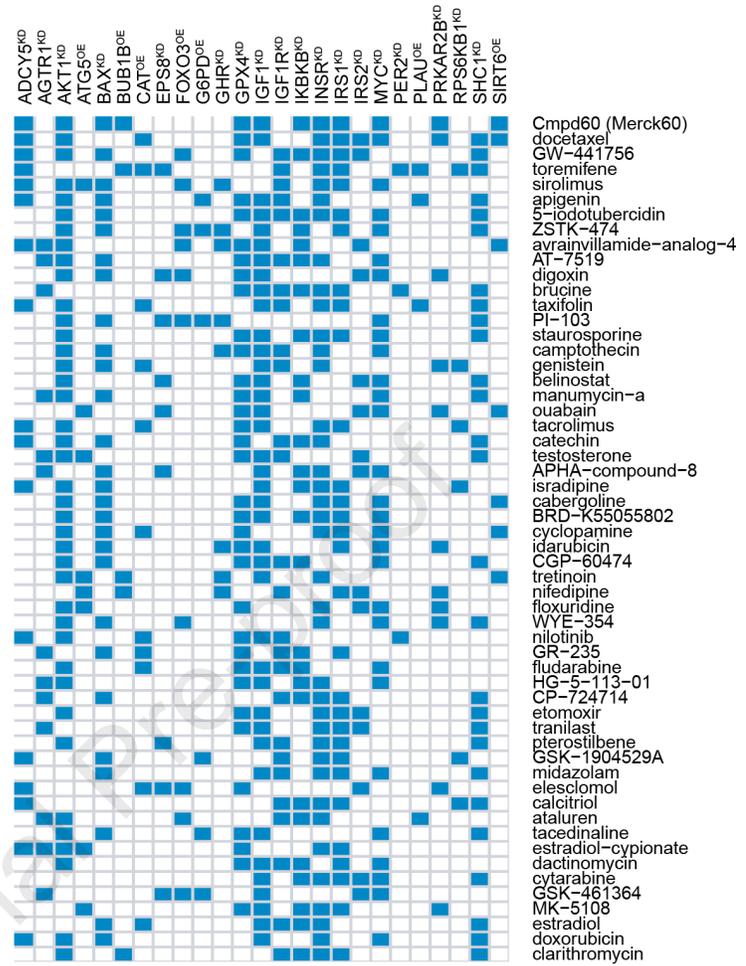
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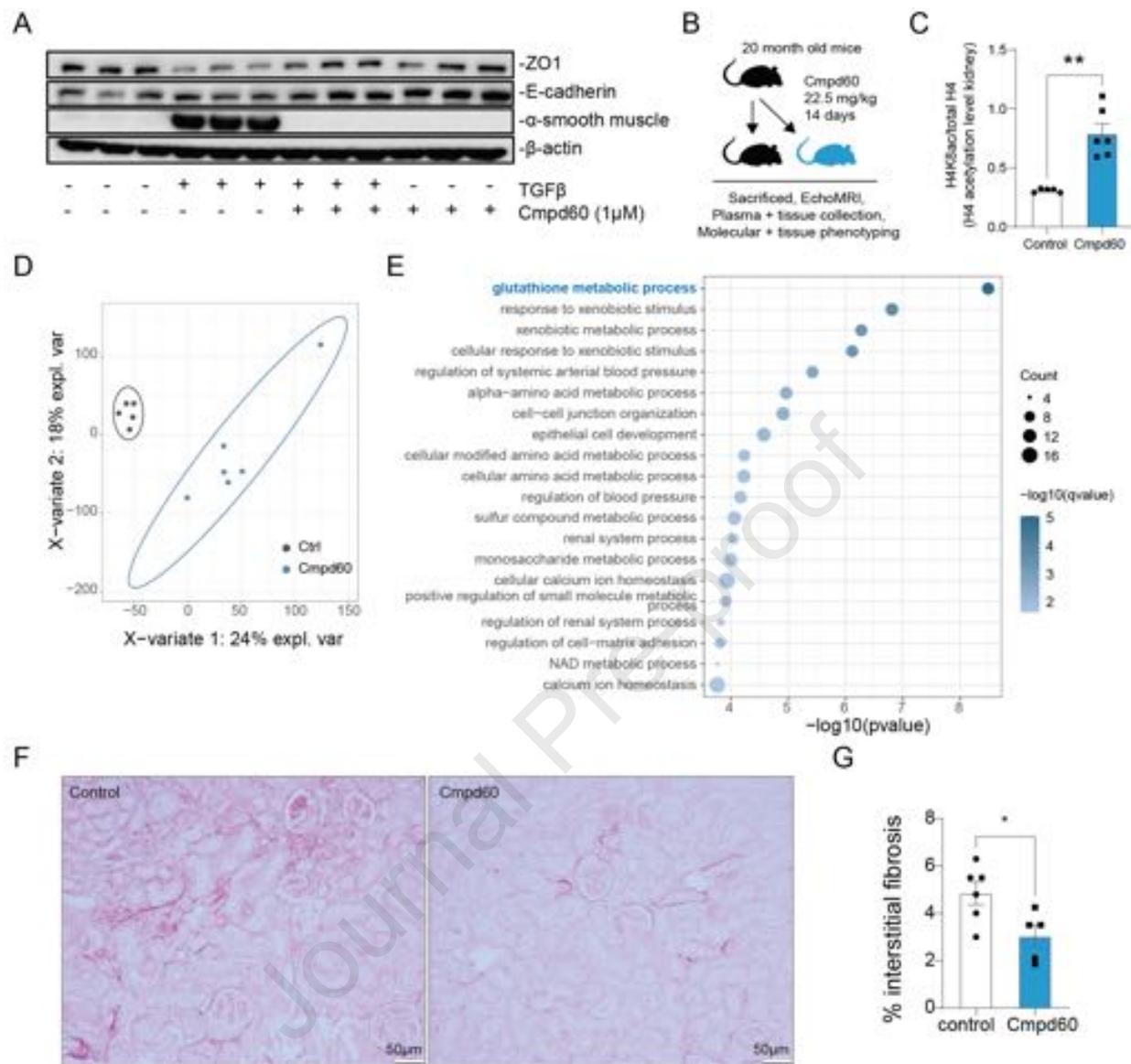
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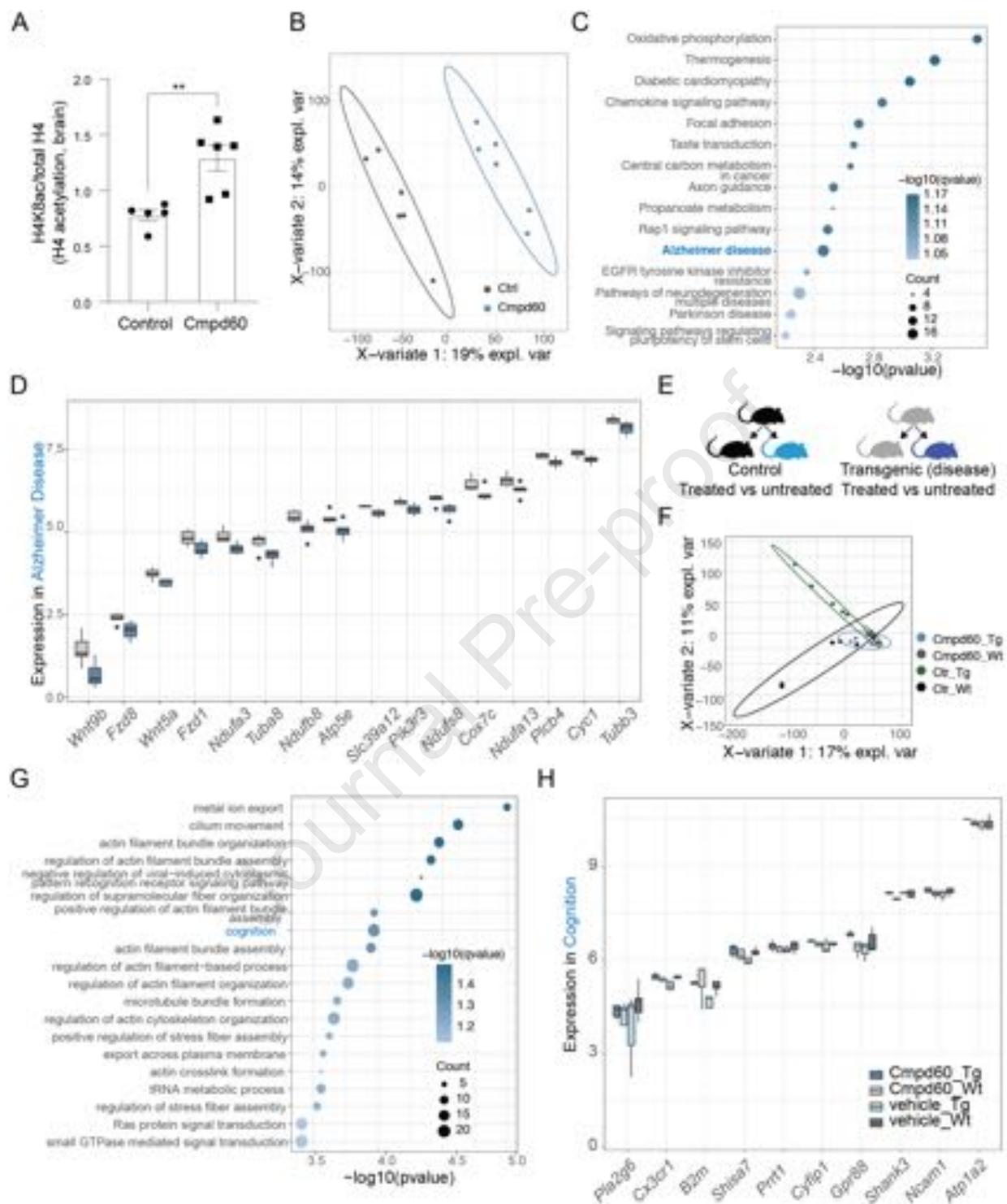
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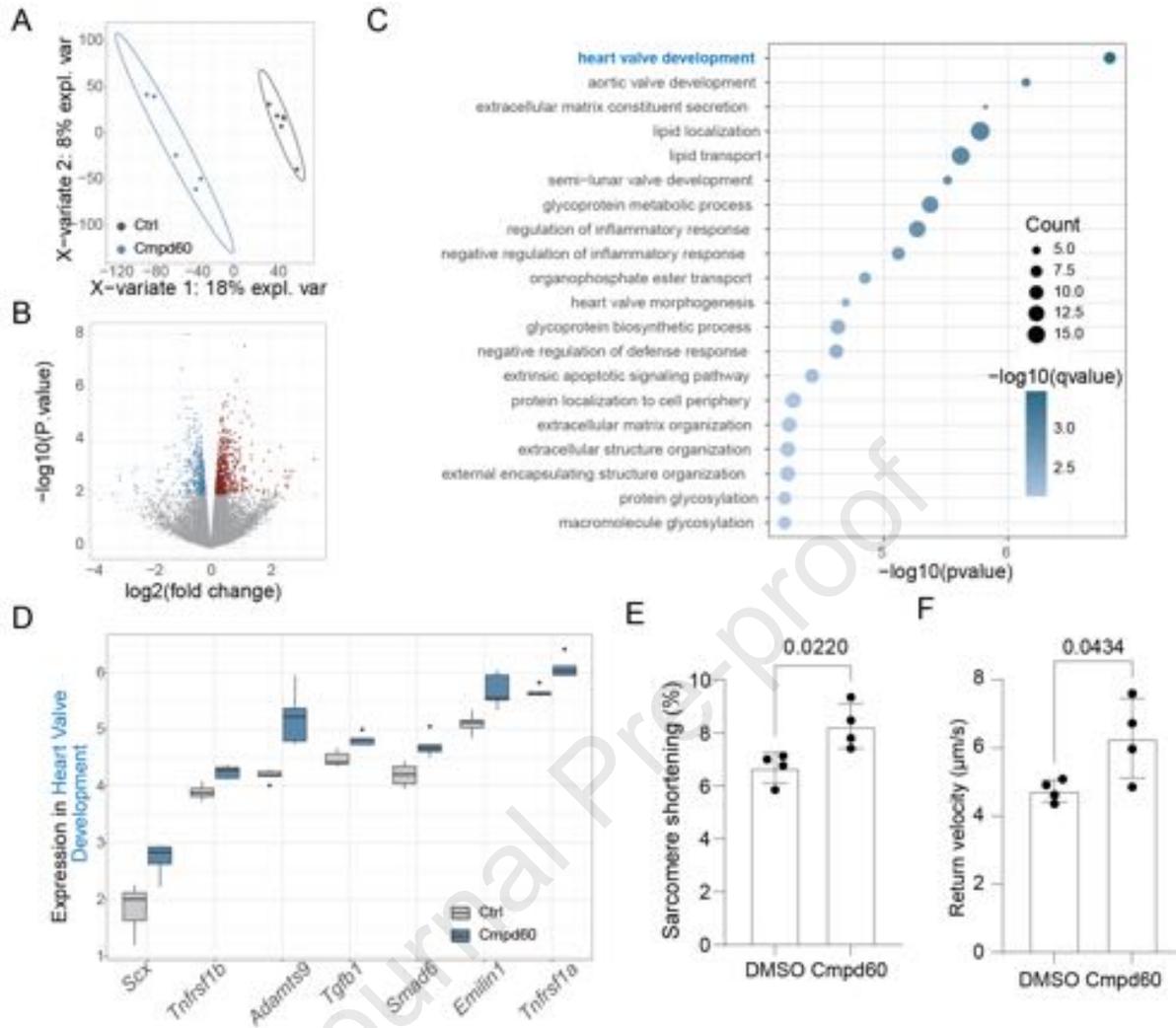


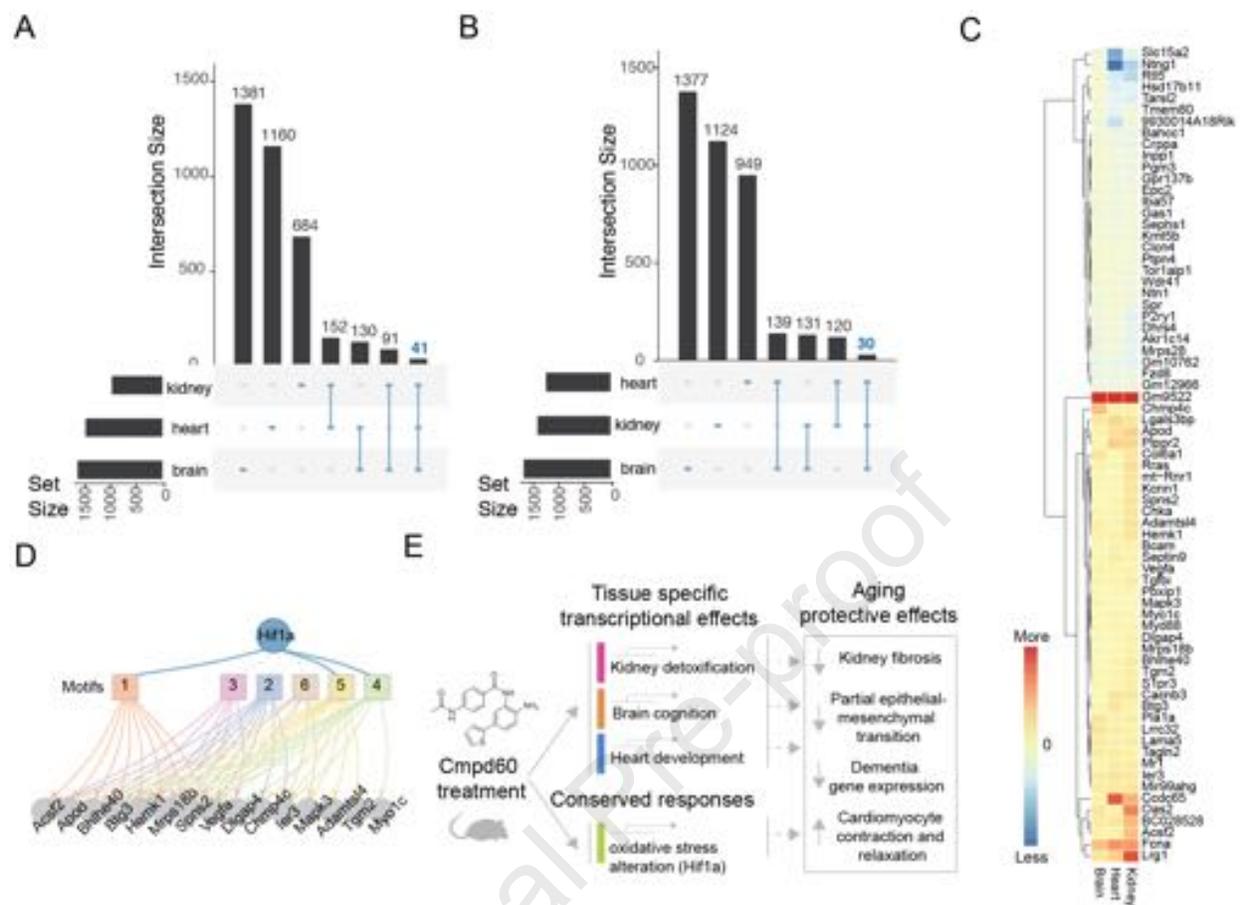
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### Highlights

- Transcriptome-based drug discovery finds compounds mimicking longevity interventions. Top candidate Cmpd60 reduces age-related phenotypes in multiple organs in mice.
- Renal aging: Cmpd60 curtails epithelial-mesenchymal transition and fibrosis.
- Brain aging: Cmpd60 diminishes dementia-related gene expression.
- Cardiac aging: Cmpd60 enhances ventricular contractility.

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