



Figure S1. Primer optimization for semi-quantitative RT-PCR of aggrecan (ACAN), *Sox 9*, type II and X collagen. *GAPDH* was used as house-keeping gene. PCRs were performed with cDNA (concentration: 10 ng/μl) from SCP-1 cells and primary chondrocytes in the range of 1, 2 and 4 μl. PCR was performed with 30, 35 and 40 cycles each.