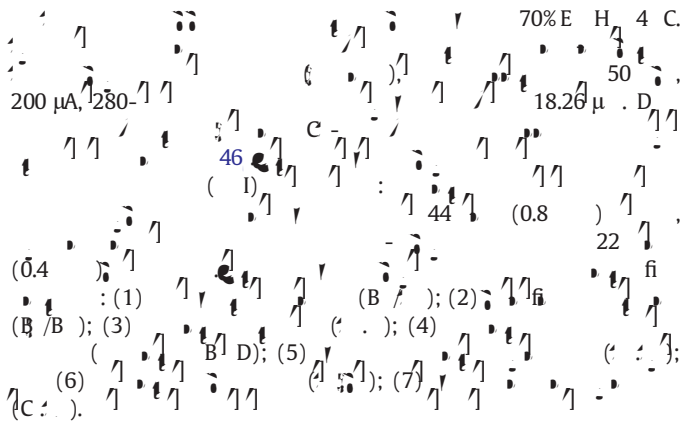
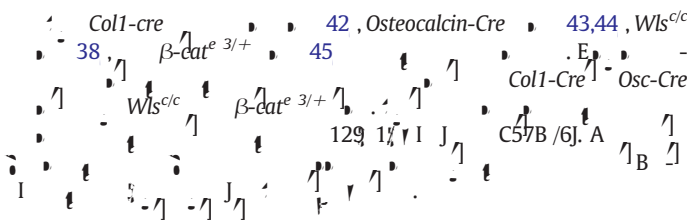


Microcomputed tomograph ( $\mu$ CT)

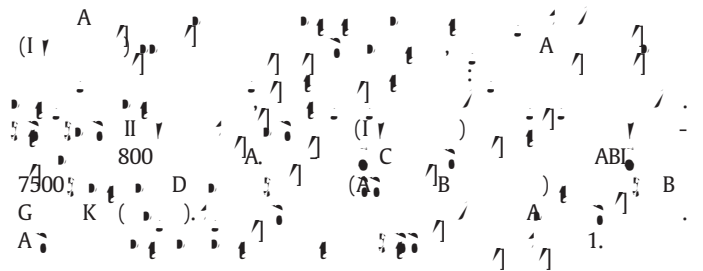


**Materials and methods**

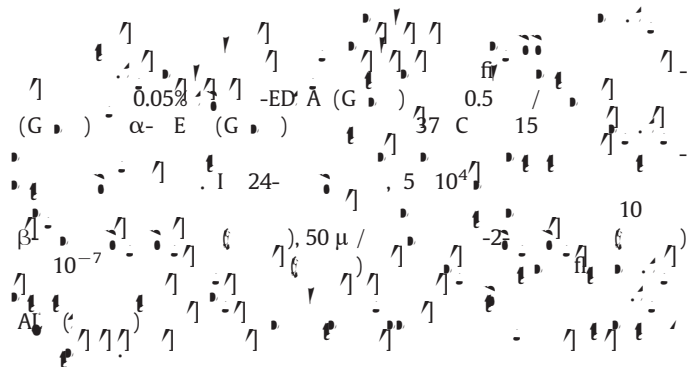
*Mice*



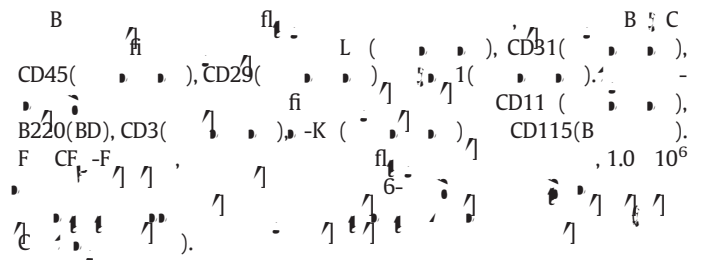
*RNA extraction and quantitative real-time PCR*



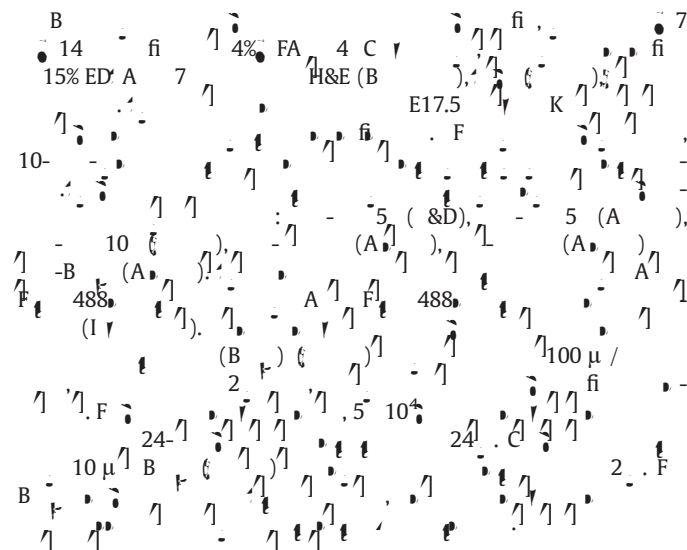
*Calvarial cell culture and ALP staining*



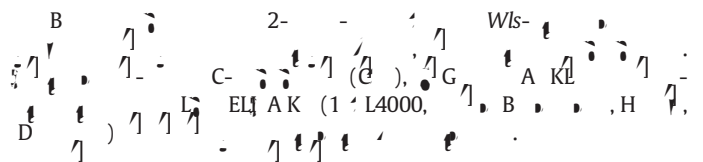
*Flow cytometric assay and CFU-F assays*



*Immunohistological and histomorphometric analyses*



*Serology*



*BMMs isolation and coculture experiment*

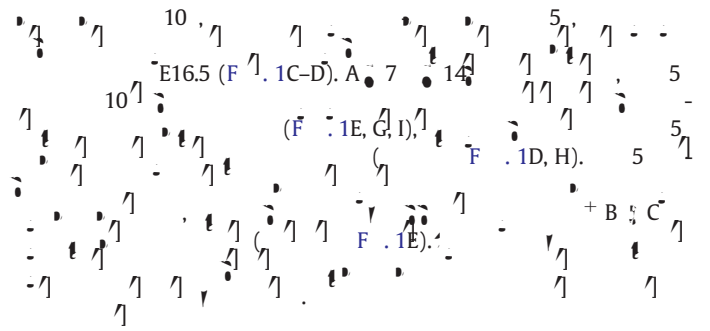
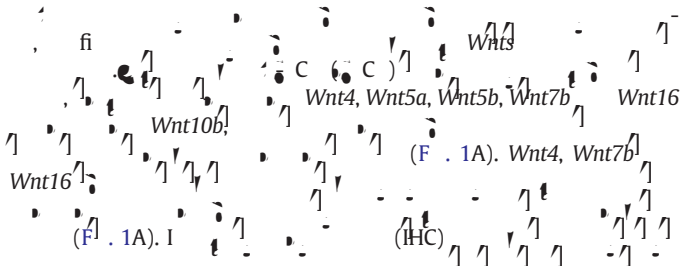


Statistical analysis

\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.005$

Results

Multiple Wnt proteins are dynamically expressed in differentiating osteoblasts



Depletion of osteoblastic Wls results in osteopenia

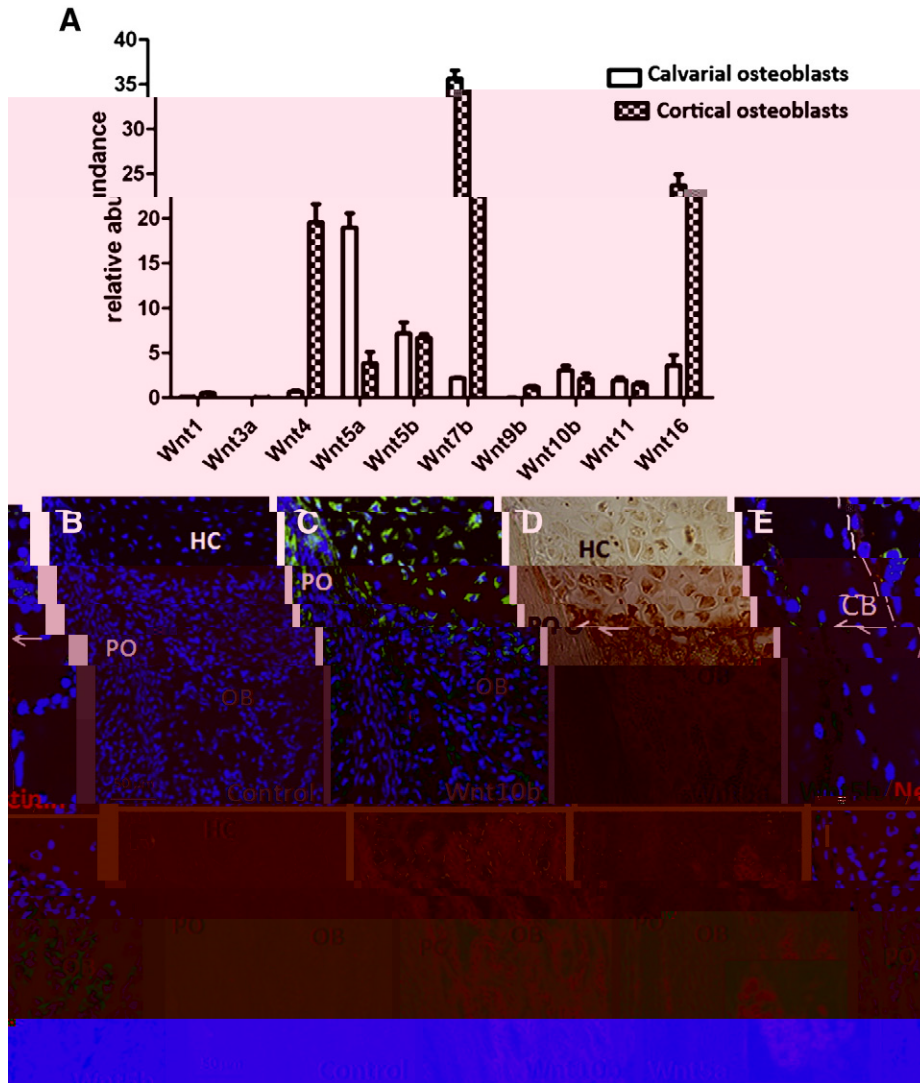
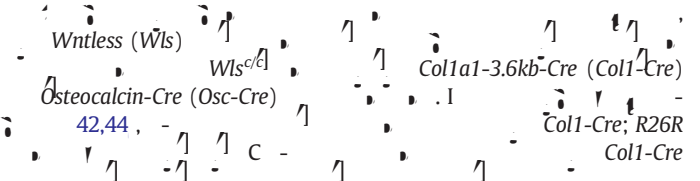
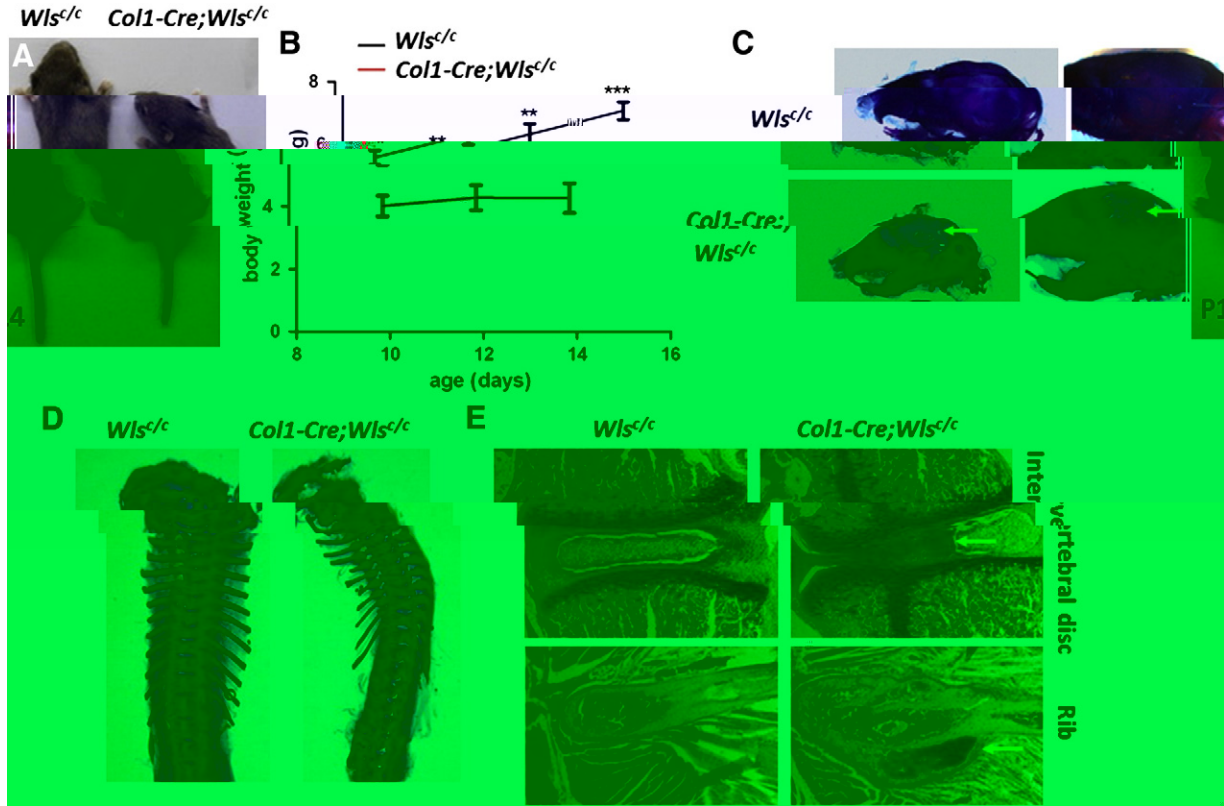
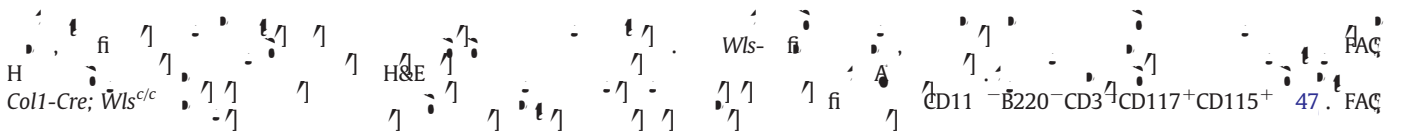
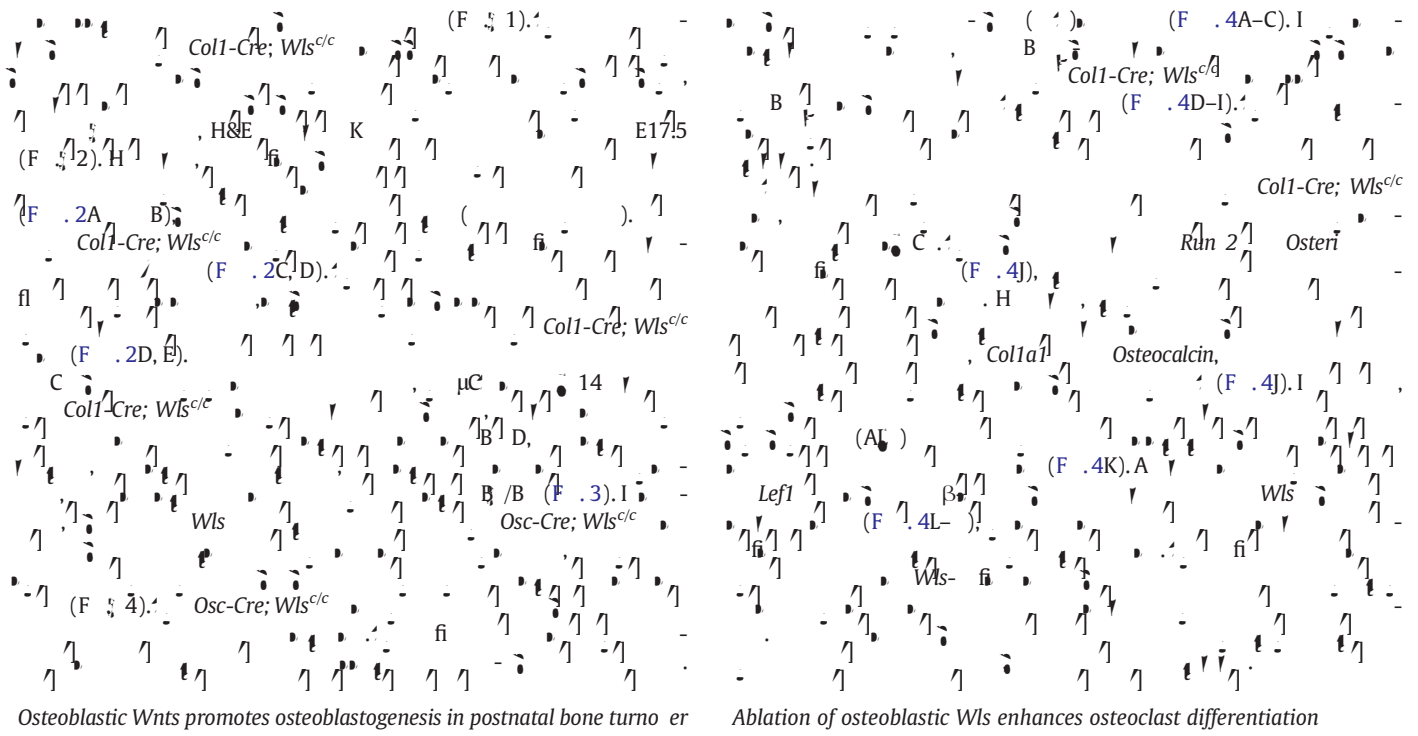
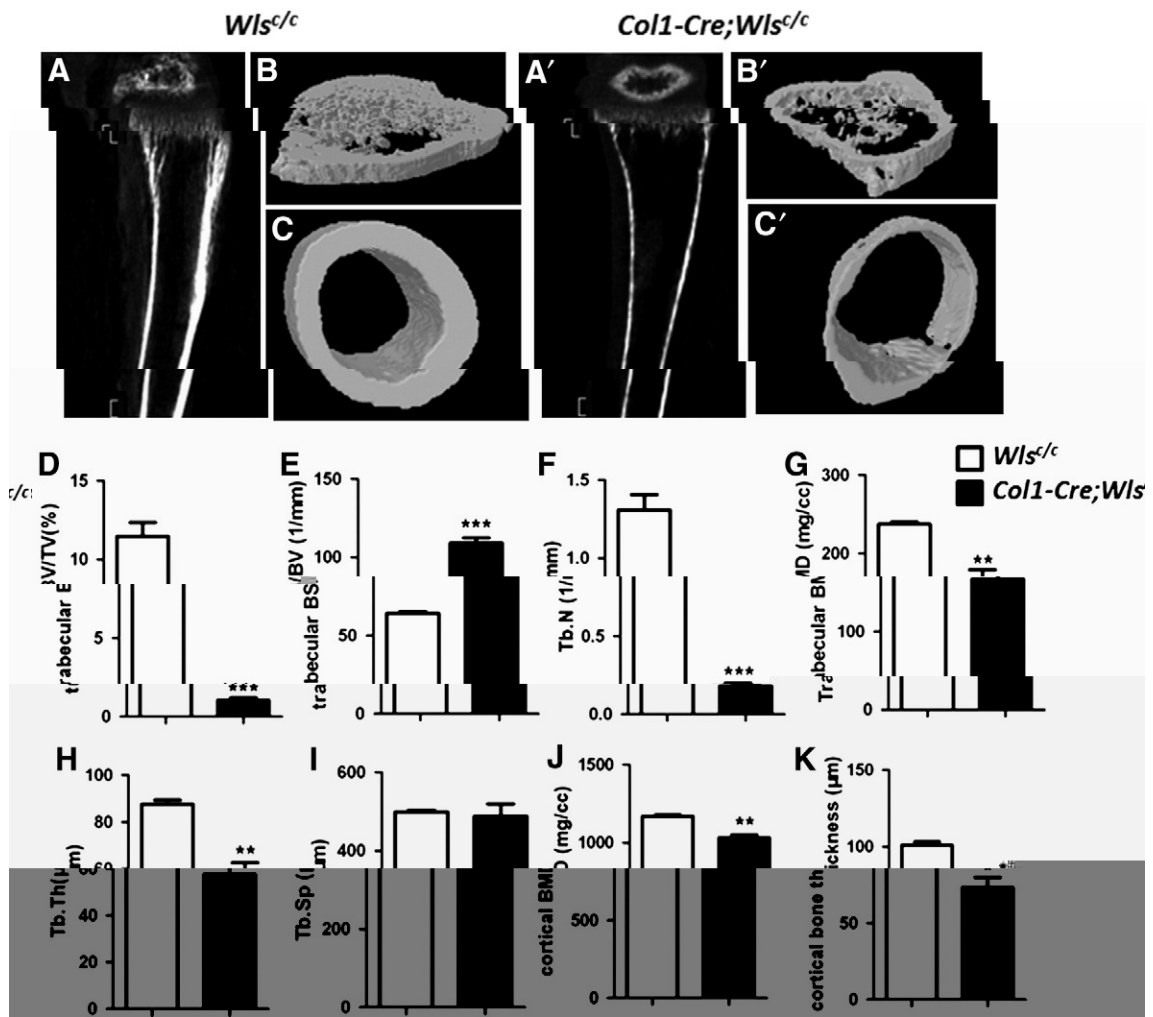


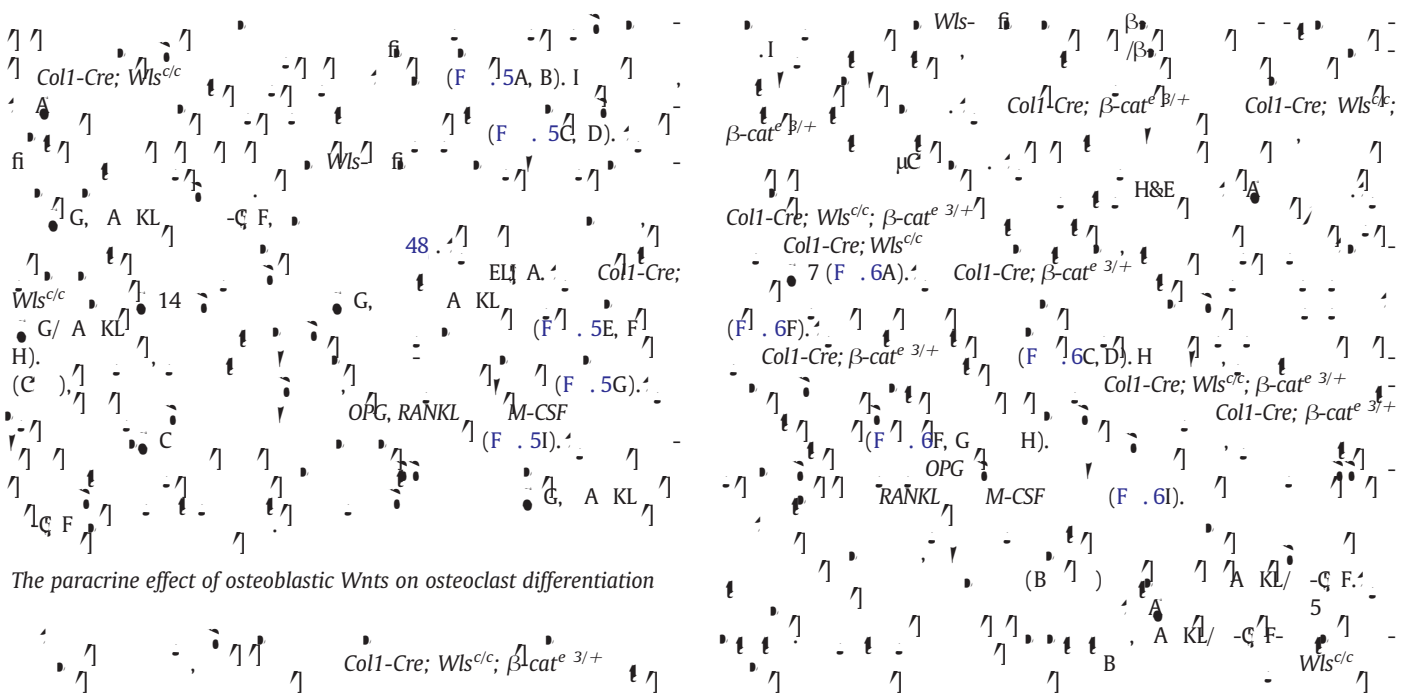
Fig. 1. Multiple Wnt proteins are dynamically expressed in differentiating osteoblasts. (A) Relative abundance of Wnt proteins in calvarial and cortical osteoblasts. (B-E) Immunofluorescence images of bone sections stained for Wnt proteins (Wnt4, Wnt5a, Wnt5b, Wnt7b, Wnt10b) and nuclei (DAPI). HC, Hypocleidal layer; PO, Periosteum; CB, Cortical bone.



**Fig. 2.** A. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> B. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> C. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> D. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> E. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> F. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> G. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> H. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> I. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> J. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> K. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> L. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> M. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> N. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> O. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> P. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Q. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> R. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> S. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> T. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> U. 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Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 76. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 77. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 78. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 79. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 80. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 81. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 82. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 83. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 84. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 85. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 86. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 87. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 88. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 89. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 90. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 91. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 92. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 93. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 94. Wls<sup>c/c</sup> Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup> 95. 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**Fig. 3.** μCT analysis of bone structure in *Wls<sup>c/c</sup>* and *Col1-Cre;Wls<sup>c/c</sup>* mice. (A, A') μCT images of femurs. (B, B') μCT images of bone cross-sections. (C, C') μCT images of bone cross-sections. (D-K) Quantitative parameters of bone structure. Data are mean ± SEM. \*\*\* p < 0.001, \*\* p < 0.01, ns = not significant.

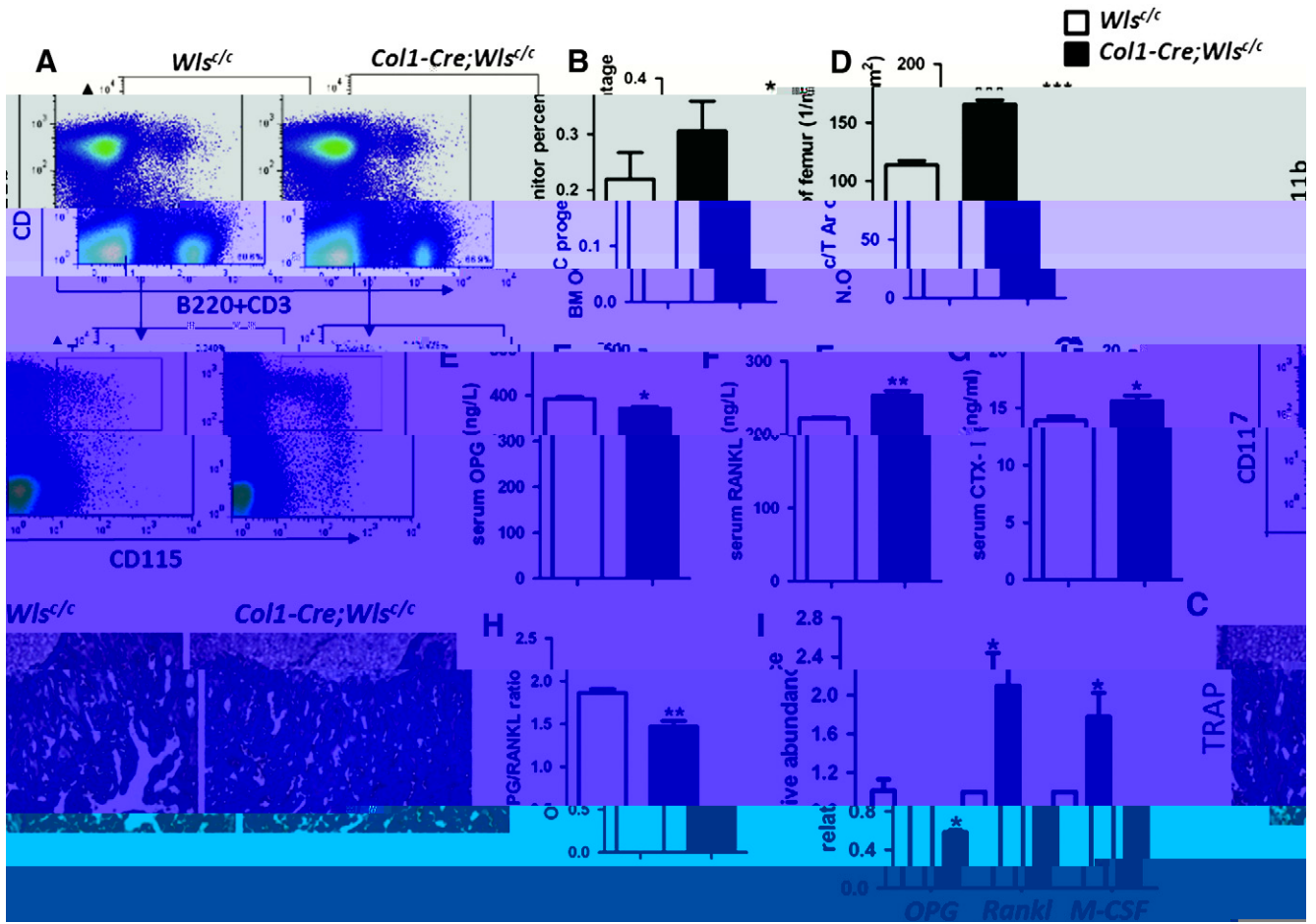


**The paracrine effect of osteoblastic Wnts on osteoclast differentiation**

*Col1-Cre;Wls<sup>c/c</sup>;β-catenin<sup>3/+</sup>* mice show significantly increased expression of OPG, RANKL, and M-CSF compared to *Col1-Cre;Wls<sup>c/c</sup>* mice. (A, B) H&E stained sections of bone. (C, D) Immunofluorescence staining for OPG, RANKL, and M-CSF. (E, F) Quantitative analysis of OPG, RANKL, and M-CSF expression. Data are mean ± SEM. \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001, ns = not significant.



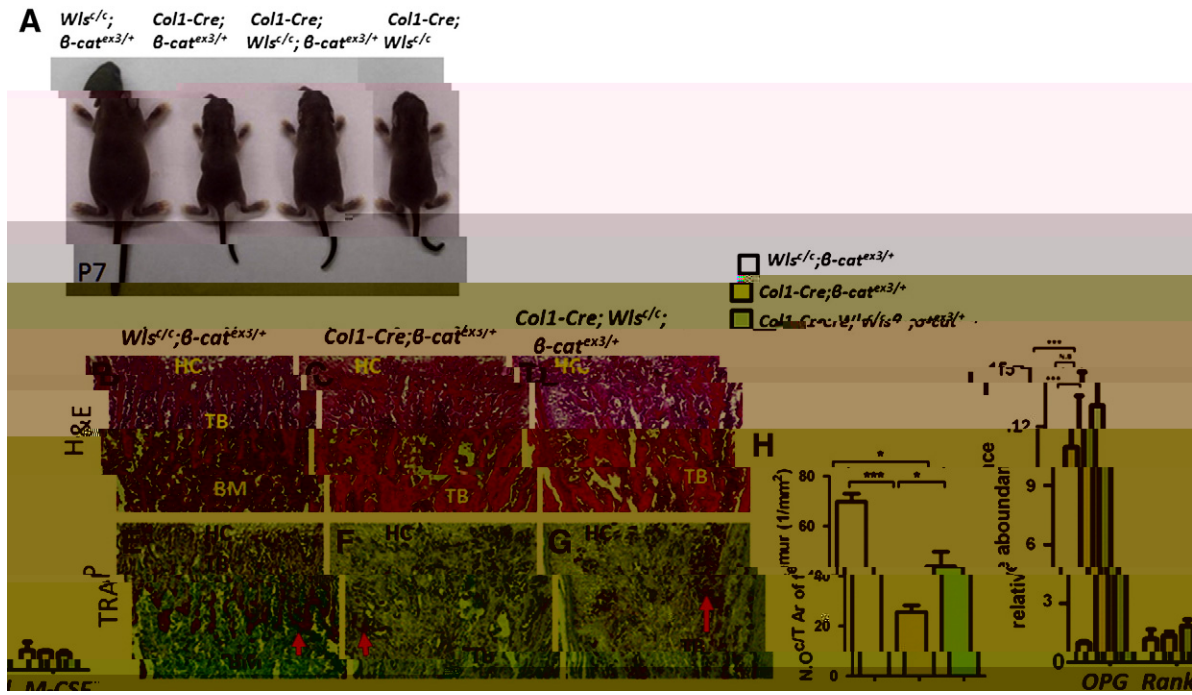




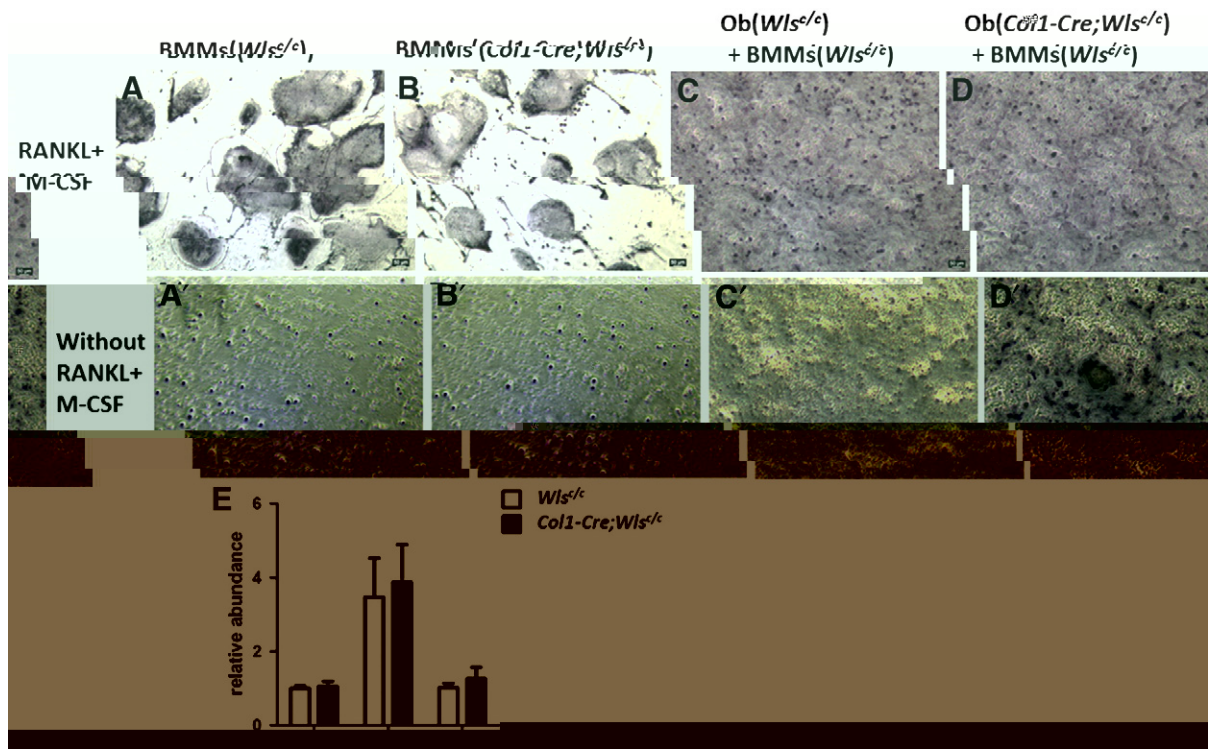
**Fig. 5.** Analysis of osteoclast progenitors and bone resorption in *Wls*-deficient mice. (A) Flow cytometry plots showing CD11b<sup>+</sup> progenitors in *Wls<sup>c/c</sup>* and *Col1-Cre;Wls<sup>c/c</sup>* mice. (B) Bar graph showing the percentage of CD11b<sup>+</sup> progenitors. (C) Bar graph showing bone mineral density (BMD) in the femur. (D) Bar graph showing the number of osteoclasts (N.Oc) per trabecular area (T.Ar). (E-G) Bar graphs showing serum levels of OPG, RANKL, and CTX-I. (H) Bar graph showing the PG/RANKL ratio. (I) Bar graph showing the relative abundance of OPG, Rankl, and M-CSF. (A-I) Data are mean ± SEM. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. Scale bars: (E, F) 100 μm; (G) 20 μm; (H) 50 μm.

**Discussion**

*Wls* is a member of the *Wnt* family of proteins and is expressed in osteoclast progenitors. In this study, we demonstrated that *Wls* deficiency leads to increased osteoclast progenitor numbers, increased bone mineral density, and increased bone resorption. This is consistent with the role of *Wnt* signaling in osteoclast development and function. The increased bone resorption observed in *Wls*-deficient mice is likely due to the increased number of osteoclasts and the increased activity of these cells. The increased activity of osteoclasts is supported by the increased levels of OPG, RANKL, and CTX-I in the serum. The increased levels of OPG and RANKL in the serum suggest that the osteoclasts are producing more of these factors, which are known to be involved in bone resorption. The increased levels of CTX-I in the serum suggest that the osteoclasts are resorbing more bone. The increased activity of osteoclasts is also supported by the increased levels of PG/RANKL ratio and the relative abundance of OPG, Rankl, and M-CSF. The increased levels of OPG, Rankl, and M-CSF suggest that the osteoclasts are producing more of these factors, which are known to be involved in bone resorption. The increased activity of osteoclasts is also supported by the increased levels of OPG, Rankl, and M-CSF. The increased levels of OPG, Rankl, and M-CSF suggest that the osteoclasts are producing more of these factors, which are known to be involved in bone resorption.



**Fig. 6.** *Wls<sup>c/c</sup>; β-cat<sup>ex3/+</sup>* *Col1-Cre; β-cat<sup>ex3/+</sup>* *Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup>; β-cat<sup>ex3/+</sup>* *Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*. A. P7 mice. B-D. H&E (B-D). E-G. TRAP (E-G). H. N.OcT Ar of marrow (1/mm<sup>2</sup>) and relative abundance of OPG and Rankl. (n = 3).



**Fig. 7.** A. RMMs (*Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*) and RMMs (*Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*). B. Ob (*Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*) + BMMs (*Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*) and Ob (*Col1-Cre; Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*) + BMMs (*Wls<sup>c/c</sup>*). C. RANKL+ M-CSF+ cells (A-D). D. Without RANKL+ M-CSF (A'-D'). E. Relative abundance of RANKL+ M-CSF+ cells. (n = 3).





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