Supplementary Information File

Validation of airway porcine epithelial cells as an alternative to human *in vitro* preclinical studies

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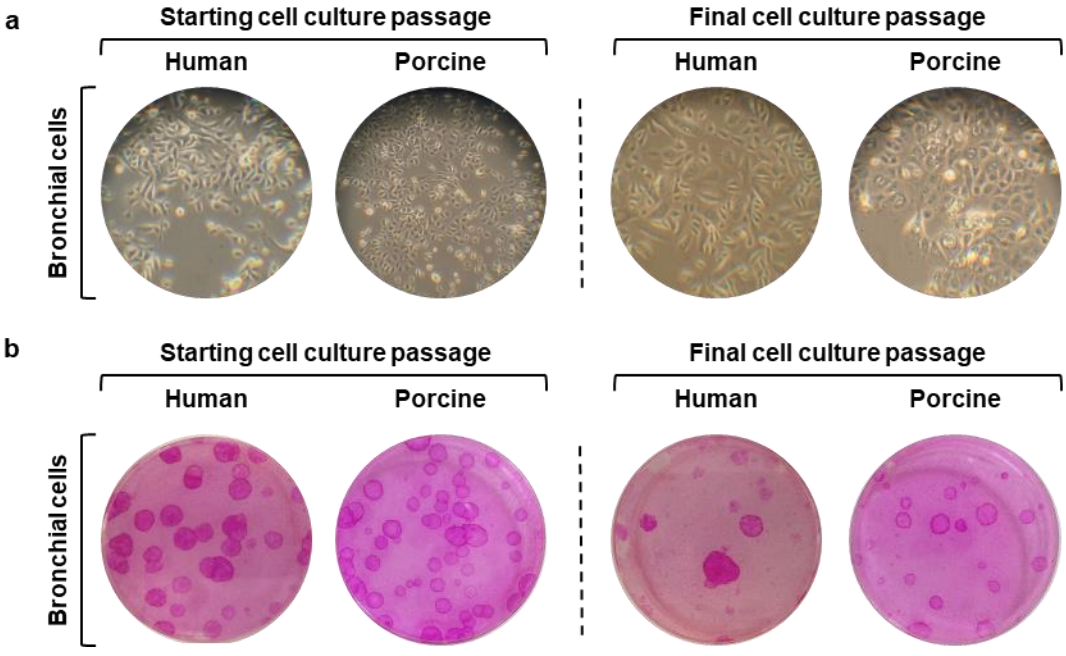
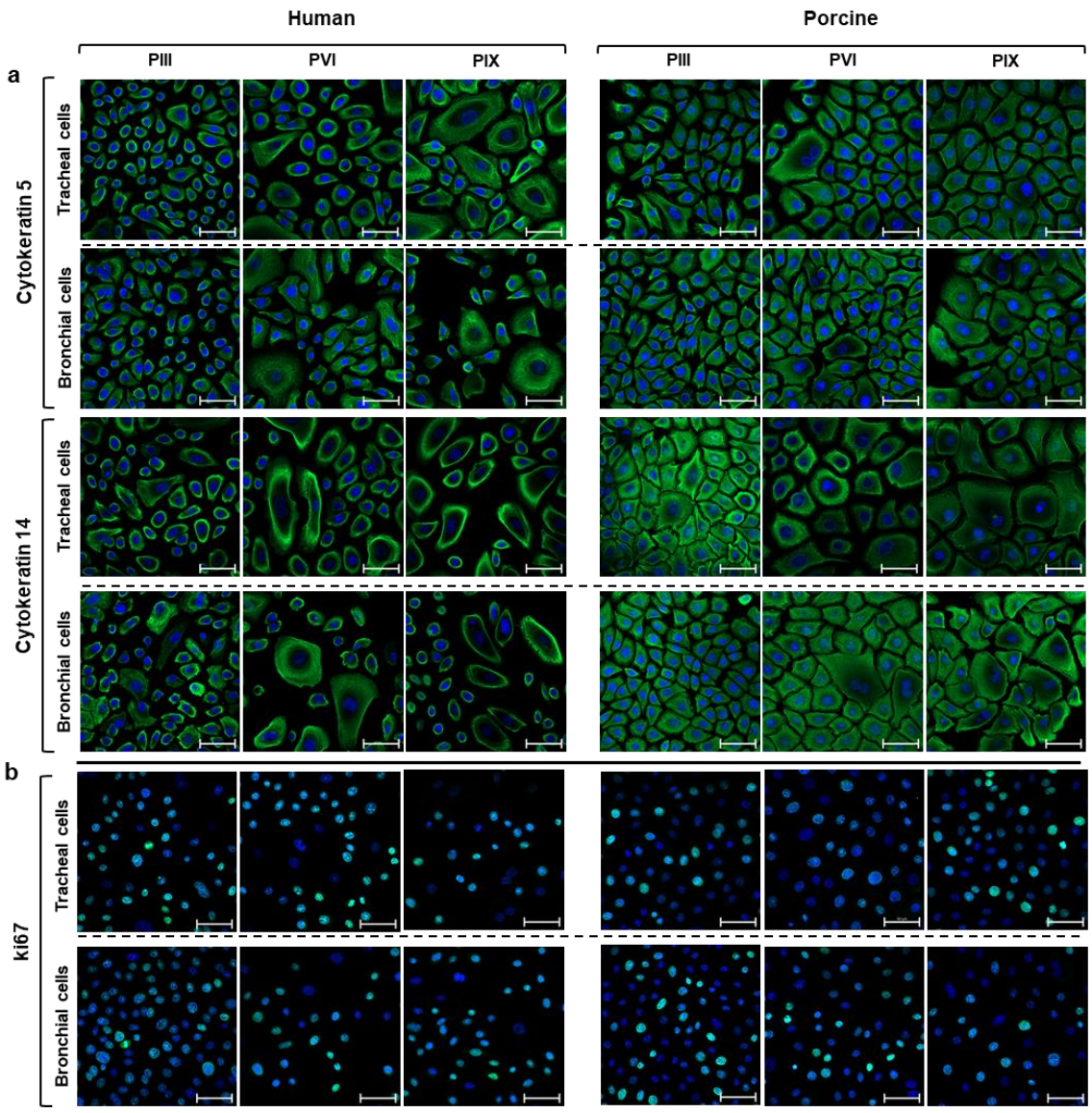


Supplementary Figure S1. Cell morphology and clonogenic potential evaluation of primary airway epithelial cells. (a) Representative images of human and porcine bronchial epithelial cell cultures at starting (pII) and final (pIX) analysed passages. (b) CFE assay performed to evaluate the number of clonogenic and aborted colonies at starting and final sub-cultures.



Supplementary Figure S2. Analysis of cytokeratins and proliferative cell marker expression in *in vitro* cultured airway epithelial cells. (a) Human and porcine tracheal and bronchial epithelial cells at the starting (pIII), middle (pVI), and late (pIX) cell culture passages were stained for epithelial-specific cell markers, namely cytokeratins. Basal CK5 and CK14 (green) expression was comparable in all the analysed samples. (b) Human and porcine airway epithelial cells showed a similar ki67 (green) expression throughout the serial passages, suggesting a comparable proliferative potential between the two species. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI, scale bar = 50µm. p = passage