



## Supplemental Fig. 1

### WMPCs lack telomerase activity

Second passage spheres maintained in culture for three months were assessed for their telomerase activity using the TRAP assay. Lane 2 shows telomerase activity by 293 cells used as a positive control. Lanes 7, 9 and 11 show the absence of telomerase activity by matched WMPCs. Lanes 1, 6, 8 and 10 are heat inactivated controls of each sample. Lanes 3 and 4 are positive primer template controls, at concentrations of 0.1 M and 0.3 M.

Methods: Telomerase activity was determined using the TRAP assay<sup>23,24</sup>. Cells were solubilized in 100  $\mu$ l of CHAPS lysis buffer, and 500 ng of protein assayed. For controls, cell lysates were preincubated at 85°C for 10 min to inactivate telomerase. The samples were added to a mixture of TRAP buffer, dNTP, Taq polymerase (Promega), <sup>32</sup>P-end-labeled TS primer (5'-AATCCGTCGAGCAGAGTT-3'), reverse primer (Intergen, Gaithersburg, MD), and T4 gene-32 protein (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis). To test assay specificity, 0.5  $\mu$ g/50  $\mu$ l DNase-free RNase A (Promega), heat-inactivated at 65°C for 20 min, was added to the reaction mixture. After a 30 min incubation at 30°C for telomerase-mediated extension of TS primer, the samples were amplified by PCR, and the products run on a 12.5% non-denaturing PAGE gel, then autoradiographed.