Supplementary Information: Supplementary Tables, Figures and Legends

Experimental long-term diabetes mellitus alters the transcriptome and biomechanical properties of the rat urinary bladder

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Gene	Tagman Primer		
Grem1	Rn01509832 m1		
Nefl	 Rn00582365 m1		
Nefm	 Rn00566763 m1		
Nefh	Rn00709325 m1		
Prph	 Rn00688569 g1		
TuubIII	 Rn00594933 m1		
Ngb	 Rn00583724 m1		
Bdnf			
Ntrk2	 Rn01441749 m1		
Ngfr	 Rn00561634m1		
Ptn	Rn00567035 m1		
Ntm	Rn01525004 m1		
Actb	Rn00667869 m1		
Ppib	Rn03302274 m1		
Lrp1	Rn01503901 m1		
Mmp2	Rn01538168 m1		
Mmp14	Rn00579172 m1		
Mmp14 Mmp15	Rn01536925 m1		
Mmp19 Mmp16	Rn00490660 m1		
Mmp17	Rn01499864 m1		
Mmp19	Rn01756324 m1		
Mmp23	Rn00585994 m1		
Timp1	Rn01430875 g1		
Timp1	Rn01460081 m1		
Timp3	Rn00441826 m1		
Ctsk	Rn00580723 m1		
Mouse			
Gene	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer	Am
4 - + - 2			Siz
Acta2	GCT ATT CAG GCT GTG CTG TC	GGT AGT CGG TGA GAT CTC GG	16
A			10
3 1	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT	CTT GTT GTC ACT GGT CAG GC	
Aspn	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT ACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GG	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC	20
Aspn Bdnf	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT ACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GG TGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC AC	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT	20 18
Aspn Bdnf Cntf	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT ACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GG TGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC AC CCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CA	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT	200 183 170
Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT ACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GG TGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC AC CCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CA TGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GC	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT GTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CT	200 183 170 169
Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf Cyp1a1	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG AT ACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GG TGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC AC CCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CA TGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GC CCA TGA TGA CCA AGA GCT GC	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT GTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CT TGG CCC TTC TCA AAT GTC CT	200 183 179 169 200
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Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf Cyp1a1 Cyp1b1 Fgf9 Grem1	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG ATACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GGTGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC ACCCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CATGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GCCCA TGA TGA CCA AGA GCT GCGAC GAT GCG GAG TTC CTA GAGAC AGT GGA CTC TAC CTC GGTAG AGG CCA GAA GAA CCA GC	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT GTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CT TGG CCC TTC TCA AAT GTC CT AAG TTG CTG AAG TTG CGG TT CCG TTT AGT CCT GGT CCC TT CAA AGC CAA CTA CAG CCC TG	200 188 177 169 200 166 210 210
Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf Cyp1a1 Cyp1b1 Fgf9 Grem1 Igf2	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG ATACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GGTGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC ACCCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CATGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GCCCA TGA TGA CCA AGA GCT GCGAC GAT GCG GAG TTC CTA GAGAC AGT GGA CTC TAC CTC GGTAG AGG CCA GAA GAA CCA GCGGG ACG TGT CTA CCT CTC AG	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT GTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CT TGG CCC TTC TCA AAT GTC CT AAG TTG CTG AAG TTG CGG TT CCG TTT AGT CCT GGT CCC TT CAA AGC CAA CTA CAG CCC TG ATG ACG TTT GGC CTC TCT GA	200 188 177 166 200 166 210 211 211 19
Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf Cyp1a1 Cyp1b1 Fgf9 Grem1 Igf2 Igfbp3	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG ATACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GGTGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC ACCCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CATGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GCCCA TGA TGA CCA AGA GCT GCGAC GAT GCG GAG TTC CTA GAGAC AGT GGA CTC TAC CTC GGTAG AGG CCA GAA GAA CCA GCGGG ACG TGT CTA CCT CTC AGCGT CCA CAT CCC AAA CTG TG	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CC GTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA AT TCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CT GTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CT TGG CCC TTC TCA AAT GTC CT AAG TTG CTG AAG TTG CGG TT CCG TTT AGT CCT GGT CCC TT CAA AGC CAA CTA CAG CCC TG ATG ACG TTT GGC CTC TCT GA TGA GGC AAT GTA CGT CGT CT	200 188 177 166 200 166 210 211 19 15
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Aspn Bdnf Cntf Ctgf Cyp1a1 Cyp1b1 Fgf9 Grem1 Igf2 Igfbp3 Ihh Itga8 Lyve1 Mcpt1 Mmp14 Mmp17 Mrc1 Nefm Ngb	TTG TGG AAG TAG CCG GTG ATACA ACG GGA TAG AAC CAG GGTGG CTG ACA CTT TTG AGC ACCCA CAG GCA CAA AAT CCA CATGC CAG TGG AGT TCA AAT GCCCA TGA TGA CCA AGA GCT GCGAC GAT GCG GAG TTC AAG GCT GCGAC AGT GGA CTC TAC CTA GAGAC AGT GGA CTC TAC CTC GGTAG AGG CCA GAA GAA CCA GCGGG ACG TGT CTA CTT CTA GACCA TGA TGA CCA GAA GAA CCA GCGGG ACG TGT CTA CCT CTC AGCGT CCA CAT CCC AAA CTG TGAGG ACC GTC TGA ACT CAC TGAGA AAT GAG GGA GAA GGG GCACT TGC AGC TAT GGA TGG GTTAA TTC CCT TGC CTG GTC CCGTG ACG GGA ACT TTG ACA CCAAG GCA CCT ACC CAG AAG TCTGG ATG GAT GGG AGC AAA GTCTA TGC CCA AAT CAC CCG TGCGC CCG GAG TCA GAG CTG AT	GTT GTT TCC AAG ACC CAG CCGTT TGC GGC ATC CAG GTA ATTCC CAG GAA ACA AGT GAG CTGTG TCC CTT ACT TCC TGG CTTGG CCC TTC TCA AAT GTC CTAAG TTG CTG AAG TTG CGG TTCCG TTT AGT CCT GGT CCC TTCAA GC CAA CTA CAG CCC TGATG ACG TTT GGC CTC TCT GATGA GGC AAT GTA CGT CGT CTCAC GGT CTG AGG TGG TGA TACGA GGA ACA GCA AAT CGG AGGAA AAC TCT GTT GCG GGT GTGGA ACT TCC CAC ACA GAC CTTTT GCC ATC CTT CCT CT CTGAG ACC CAC AAT GCT CTC CTGCT GCT GTT ATG TCT CTG GCCTT CTC TTT CAC CGG GGA CTGTT GGT CAC TGC AGC ATC AA	200 188 177 200 169 210 210 199 158 153 211 233 199 179 233 166 200 222 159 201 210 210 210 210 210 210 210
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Supplementary Table 1. Primer details for qRT-PCR

Supplementary Table 2: The ten most altered transcripts (by fold change) in the urinary bladder of diabetic rats compared to control rats. Transcripts (with known gene symbols) were sorted according to fold-change (p<0.0)

	Diabetic vs Control										
		Upregulated	Down regulated								
Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr	p value	Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr	p value
1369113_at	Grem1	gremlin 1	27.9	0.00052 4	1.69E-07	1370269_at	Cyp1a1	cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily a, polypeptide 1	-12.9	0.014215	0.000131
1374683_at	Sgcg	sarcoglycan, gamma (dystrophin-associated glycoprotein)	10.9	1.35E-05	8.70E-10	1370059_at	Nefl	neurofilament, light polypeptide	-8.1	0.000218	2.81E-08
1384035_at	Ildr2	immunoglobulin-like domain containing receptor 2	7.7	0.00048	1.39E-07	1387319_at	Cel11	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 11	-6.3	0.00101	6.29E-07
1368677_at	Bdnf	brain-derived neurotrophic factor	7.4	0.00726 5	3.92E-05	1370355_at	Scd1	stearoyl-Coenzyme A desaturase 1	-4.4	0.002957	7.23E-06
1374166_at	Adprhl1	ADP-ribosylhydrolase like 1	4.9	0.00392 9	1.06E-05	1371260_at	Mcpt2	mast cell protease 2	-3.7	0.213053	0.019379
1381504_at	Aspn	asporin	4.8	0.00147 5	1.08E-06	1369572_at	Mcpt1	mast cell protease 1	-3.1	0.260783	0.029299
1384564_at	Fam159b	family with sequence similarity 159, member B	4.4	0.00173 3	1.70E-06	1387208_at	Ngb	neuroglobin	-3.1	0.000392	7.57E-08
1379022_at	Adamts8	ADAM metallopeptidase with thrombospondin type 1 motif, 8	4.3	0.01939 3	0.000222	1370363_at	Ces1d	carboxylesterase 1D	-3.0	0.027377	0.000411
1390051_at	Mtus2	microtubule associated tumor suppressor candidate 2	3.9	0.00214 9	3.70E-06	1368990_at	Cyp1b1	cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily b, polypeptide 1	-3.0	0.060406	0.001777
1388142_at	Vcan	versican	3.8	0.01112 8	8.27E-05	1384023_at	LOC1009 09485 /// Spin2a	spindlin-2-like /// spindlin family, member 2A	-2.9	0.004483	1.66E-05

Supplementary Table 3: The ten most altered transcripts (by fold change) in the urinary bladder of sucrose-treated rats compared to control rats Transcripts (with known genes) were sorted according to fold-change (p<0.05)

	Sucrose-treated vs Control										
		Upregula		Down regulated							
Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr	p value	Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr	p value
1369113_at	Grem1	gremlin 1	4.2	0.93595	0.011098	1392074_at	Cped1	cadherin-like and PC-esterase domain containing 1	-5.6	0.93595	0.013224
1384035_at	Ildr2	immunoglobulin- like domain containing receptor 2	3.2	0.742008	0.001312	1383117_at	Pxmp4	peroxisomal membrane protein 4	-3.7	0.93595	0.041268
1368290_at	Cyr61	cysteine-rich, angiogenic inducer, 61	3.0	0.93595	0.044878	1387319_at	Cell1	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 11	-3.3	0.697424	0.001068
1367631_at	Ctgf	connective tissue growth factor	2.5	0.93595	0.004885	1376711_at	Cldn11	claudin 11	-3.0	0.20371	1.97E-05
1374353_x_at	Acta2 /// Actc1	actin, alpha 2, smooth muscle, aorta /// actin, alpha, cardiac muscle 1	2.5	0.500296	0.000197	1368990_at	Cyp1b1	cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily b, polypeptide 1	-3.0	0.93595	0.00797
1380866_at	LOC365985	similar to adenylate kinase 5 isoform 1	2.1	0.93595	0.026317	1397684_at	Dkk2	dickkopf WNT signaling pathway inhibitor 2	-2.7	0.93595	0.011909
1387410_at	Nr4a2	nuclear receptor subfamily 4, group A, member 2	2.0	0.93595	0.046111	1388018_at	Sele	selectin E	-2.6	0.93595	0.00805
1368146_at	Dusp1	dual specificity phosphatase 1	2.0	0.93595	0.027788	1393421_at	Pxmp4	peroxisomal membrane protein 4	-2.6	0.93595	0.037052
1370405_at	Mcpt111	mast cell protease 1-like 1	2.0	0.93595	0.026427	1393645_at	Mageb16	melanoma antigen family B, 16	-2.5	0.93595	0.022558
1388056_at	Oas1b	2-5 oligoadenylate synthetase 1B	1.9	0.93595	0.027587	1377086_at	C1qtnf3	C1q and tumor necrosis factor related protein 3	-2.5	0.627551	0.00044875

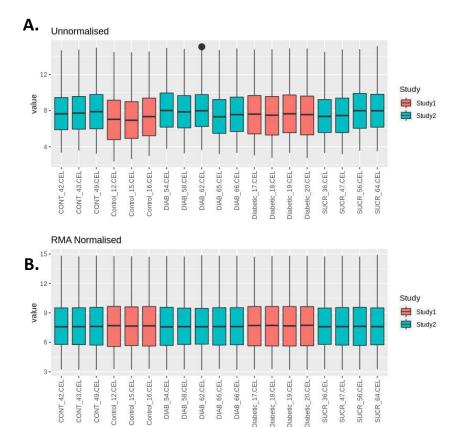
Supplementary Table 4: The ten most altered transcripts (by fold change) in the urinary bladder of sucrose-treated rats compared to diabetic rats Transcripts (with known genes) were sorted according to fold-change (p<0.05)

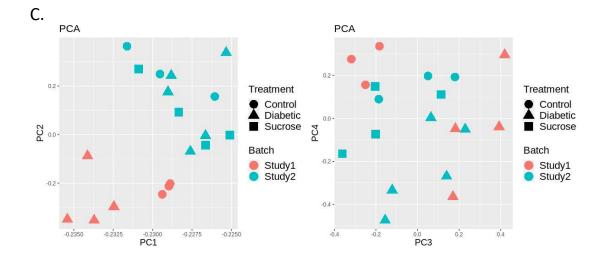
				S	ucrose-tr	eated vs Dia	abetic				-	
	Increased						Decreased					
Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr	p value	Probeset	Gene Symbol	Gene Title	Fold- change	fdr		
		RT1 class Ib, locus						cadherin-like and PC- esterase domain				
1388202_at	RT1-EC2	EC2	6.4	0.418079	0.020582	1392074_at	Cped1	containing 1	-7.1	0.227515		
1370059_at	Nefl	neurofilament, light polypeptide	4.6	0.024615	1.35E-05	1369113_at	Grem1	gremlin 1	-6.7	0.136106		
1370269 at	Cyp1a1	cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily a, polypeptide 1	4.2	0.470809	0.029116	1374683 at	Sgcg	sarcoglycan, gamma (dystrophin-associated glycoprotein)	-6.0	0.005972		
1368290 at	Cyr61	cysteine-rich, angiogenic inducer, 61	4.1	0.298173	0.007669	1371065 at	LOC688090 /// RT1-Bb	similar to RT1 class II histocompatibility antigen, B-1 beta chain precursor (RT1.B-bet	-5.8	0.585529		
1369217 at	Nr4a3	nuclear receptor subfamily 4, group A, member 3	3.8	0.300847	0.007888	1389408 at	LOC100359539 /// Rrm2	ribonucleotide reductase M2 polypeptide /// ribonucleotide reductase M2	-5.3	0.026228		
1370355 at	Scd1	stearoyl-Coenzyme A desaturase 1	3.7	0.055419	0.000122	1372685 at	Cdkn3	cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 3	-4.5	0.055419		
1388203 x at	RT1-CE10 /// RT1-EC2	RT1 class I, locus CE10 /// RT1 class Ib. locus EC2	3.7	0.453545	0.026499	1392053 at	Mmrn1	multimerin 1	-3.9	0.024615	T	
1370150_a_at	Thrsp	thyroid hormone responsive	3.1	0.207612	0.002737	1392035_at	Aspn	asporin	-3.8	0.04268		
1369268_at	Atf3	activating transcription factor 3	3.1	0.491024	0.03272	1368224_at	Serpina3n	serine (or cysteine) peptidase inhibitor, clade A, member 3N	-3.6	0.229877		
 1373759_at	Fosb	FBJ osteosarcoma oncogene B	2.9	0.431716	0.022697	 1376799_a_at	Crlf1	cytokine receptor-like factor 1	-3.4	0.003826		

Supplementary Table 5. Indices of Diabetes. At 16 weeks, *db/db* mice were significantly heavier than their lean controls, hyperglycaemic and polyuric. Statistical analysis was conducted using an unpaired t-test or Mann-Whitney test as appropriate for the dataset (**** p<0.0001)

Experimental details	Terminal me	Terminal measurements (16 weeks)						
Group (n number)	End weight (g)	Albuminuria (μg/16hr)	Blood glucose (mg/dl)					
<i>db/lean</i> mice (16)	30.3 ± 2.0	22.9 ± 10.0	145.8 ± 21.1					
<i>db/db</i> mice (16)	50.4 ± 4.5****	86.4 ± 58.0****	605.2 ± 93.6****					

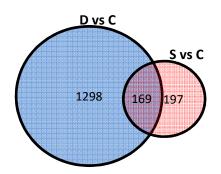
Supplementary Figure 1.



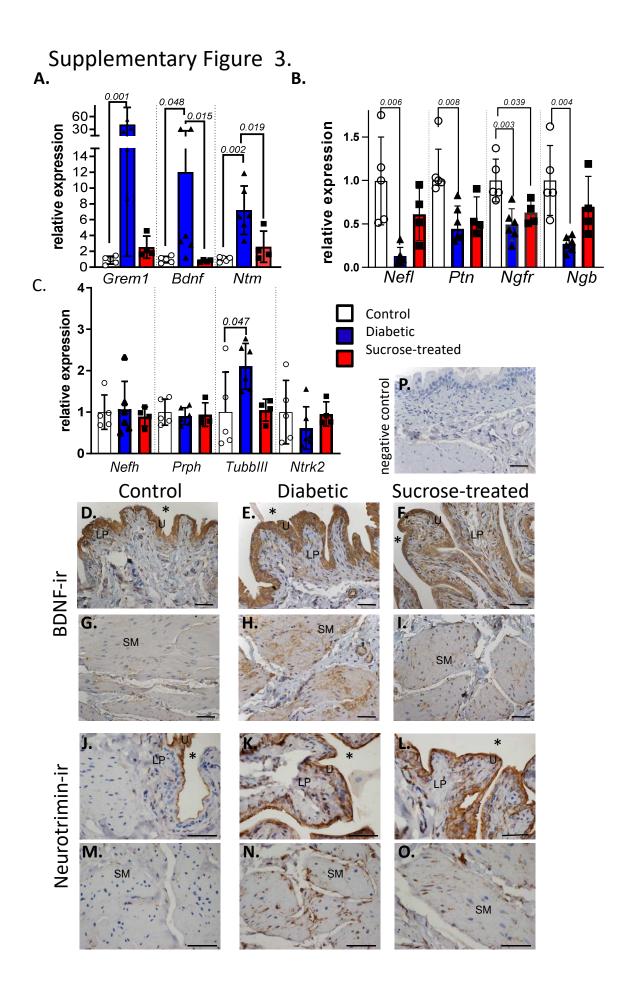


Supplementary Figure 1. Gene normalisation and Principal Component analysis plots for Affymetrix arrays. Gene expression analysis quantile normalisation, and background correction were conducted using RMA in Bioconductor and differential expression was done with limma in Bioconductor (PMID: 15461798). Boxplots show gene expression before (A), and after normalisation (B). Gene lists of differentially expressed genes were controlled for false discovery rate (fdr) errors using the method of QVALUE [24]. (C) Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed with Partek Genomics Suite (Partek Inc., USA.), Study 1: control n=3; diabetic n=4; Study 2: control n=3, diabetic n=5 and sucrose-treated n=4.

Supplementary Figure 2.

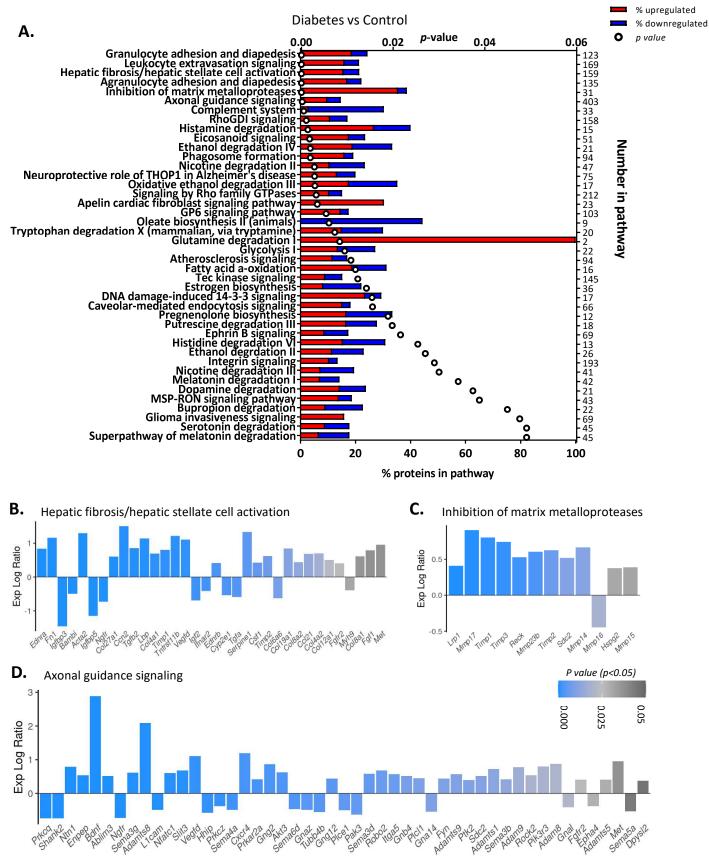


Supplementary Figure 2 GeneVenn analysis of significant transcriptomic changes in diabetic and sucrose-treated rats compared with controls. Differential gene expression was filtered by *P* value<0.05, a fold change > \pm 1.3, transcripts with low threshold expression (<50) in all groups were excluded from analysis. Dysregulation of only 169 transcripts were common to both diabetic and sucrose-treated rats compared with control, highlighting the greater impact of DM, than polyuria alone on the bladder transcriptome after 16 weeks.



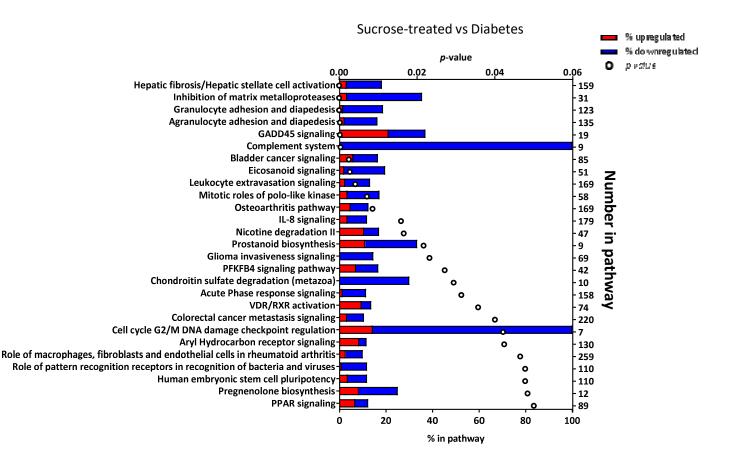
Supplementary Figure 3. Validation of array. Relative expression of selected transcripts (**A**) upregulated in array (diabetic versus control comparison: *p and fdr*<0.05) (**B**) downregulated in array (diabetic versus control comparison: *p and fdr*<0.05) and (**C**) not significantly altered in array (*p and fdr*>0.05) compared to control levels shows good reproducibility (control n=5, diabetic n=6; sucrose-treated n=4; p<0.05, one way ANOVA followed by Tukey's posthoc test, or Kruskal-Wallis and Dunns multiple comparison test, as appropriate for data). (**D-I**) Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)-immunoreactivity (-ir: Abcam AB108319; 1:200) and (**J-O**) Neurotrimin-ir (EMD Millipore, AB2280; 1;250) were both detected in the urothelium (U) of control, DM and sucrose-treated rats. Signals for the two proteins were prominent in the detrusor smooth muscle (SM) layer of diabetic rats but appeared minimal in bladder SM of control rats. Sucrose-treated rats also showed –ir for both BDNF and neurotrimin in the bladder SM but these signals appeared less prominent than those in the diabetic rats. (**P**) negative control (minus primary antibody, diabetic rat tissue section). Scale bar = 50µm; * = bladder lumen; LP = lamina propria.

Supplementary Figure 4.



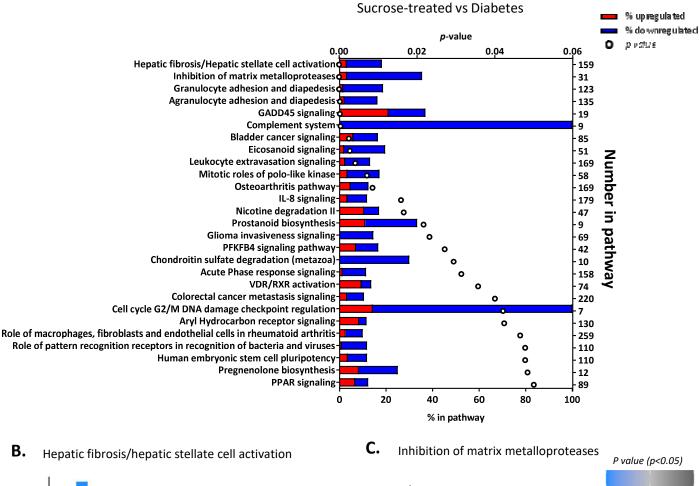
Supplementary Figure 4. Transcriptomic pathway analysis revealed 42 overrepresented pathways in the urinary bladder of diabetic compared to control rats. (**A**) Ingenuity Pathway Analysis characterised the overrepresented canonical pathways, organised by pathway names (left y-axis) and p-value (top x-axis); the bars show the % of differentially expressed transcripts (bottom x-axis; Red: upregulated; Blue: downregulated) and total number of molecules ascribed in each canonical pathway are shown on right-y-axis. The changes in expression of deregulated transcripts in the altered (**B**) *'Hepatic fibrosis/hepatic stellate cell activation'*, (C) *'Inhibition of matrix metalloproteases'* and (D) *'Axonal guidance signalling'* pathways are arranged in order of significance (all p<0.05).

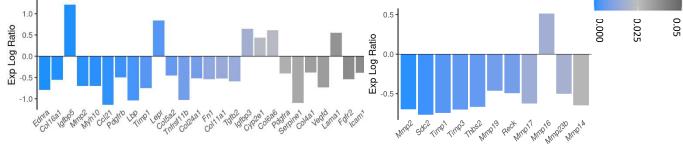
Supplementary Figure 5.



Supplementary Figure 5. Transcriptomic pathway analysis revealed 27 overrepresented pathways in the urinary bladder of sucrose-treated compared to control rats. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis characterised the overrepresented canonical pathways, organised by pathway names (left y-axis) and p-value (top x-axis); the bars show the % of differentially expressed transcripts (bottom x-axis; Red: upregulated; Blue: downregulated) and total number of molecules ascribed in each canonical pathway are shown on right-y-axis.

Supplementary Figure 6.





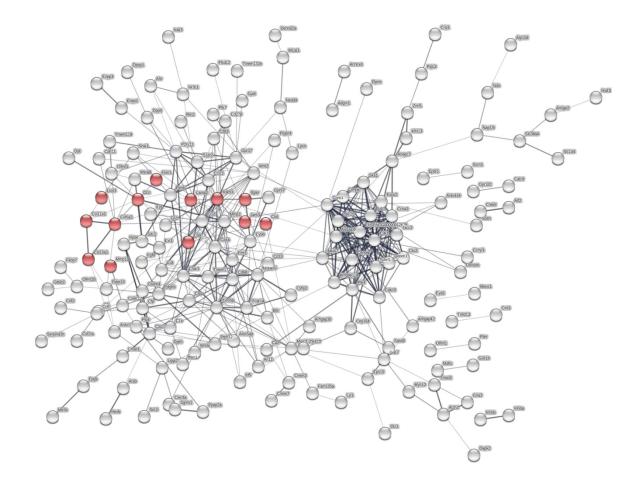
Supplementary Figure 6. Transcriptomic pathway analysis revealed 27 overrepresented pathways in the urinary bladder of sucrose-treated compared to diabetic rats. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis characterised the overrepresented canonical pathways, organised by pathway names (left y-axis) and p-value (top x-axis); the bars show the % of differentially expressed transcripts (bottom x-axis; Red: upregulated; Blue: downregulated) and total number of molecules ascribed in each canonical pathway are shown on right-y-axis. The changes in expression of deregulated transcripts in the altered (**B**) *'Hepatic fibrosis/hepatic stellate cell activation'*, (**C**) *'Inhibition of matrix metalloproteases'* pathways are arranged in order of significance (all p<0.05).

Supplementary Figure 7

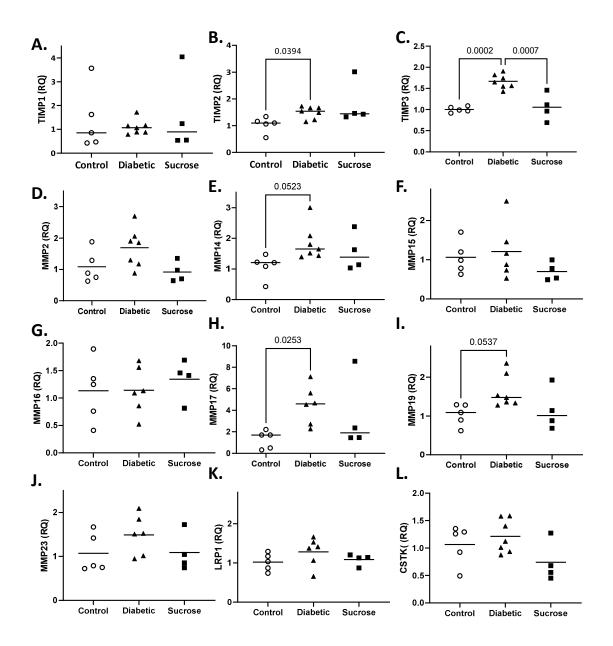


Supplementary Figure 7. Full cluster analysis demonstrates altered pattern of transcript expression in the bladder of control, diabetic and sucrose-treated rats. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering grouped transcripts into eight clusters. Rows are the mean transcript expression levels denoted as the z-score displayed in colourised (High (Red) to Low (Blue)) scale. Columns are data from individual animals (Control n=6; Diabetic n=9; Sucrose-treated n=4), means are expressed in the right-hand columns. Refer to separate supplementary .png file.

Supplementary Figure 8.

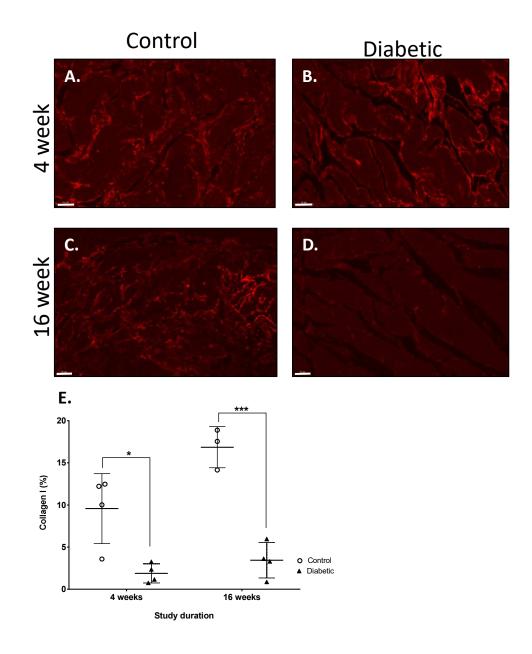


Supplementary Figure 8. STRING network analysis of Cluster 8. Interaction networks of the connected annotated molecules in Cluster 8. The most significant reactome pathway (*'extracellular matrix organisation'*) are highlighted as red coloured nodes.



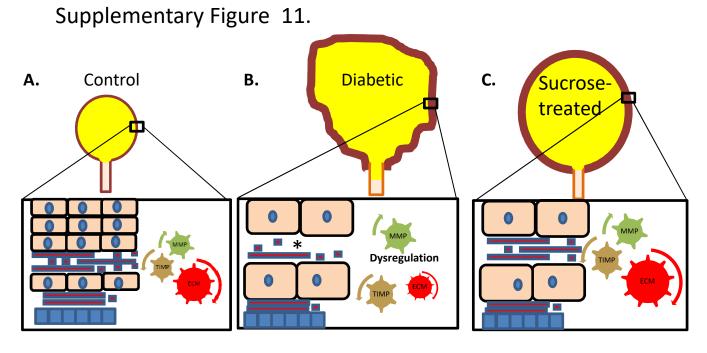
Supplementary Figure 9. qRT-PCR on genes from 'Inhibition of matrix metalloproteinases' pathway IPA pathway and Cluster 8. Relative expression of (A) Timp1, (B) Timp2, (C) Timp3 (D) Mmp2, (E) Mmp14, (F) Mmp15, (G) Mmp16, (H) Mmp17, (I) Mmp19, (J) Mmp23, (K) Lrp1 and (L) Ctsk, normalised to Actb and expressed relative to control group expression. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD or median \pm IQR and analysed by one way ANOVA followed by Tukey's posthoc test, or Kruskal-Wallis and Dunns multiple comparison test, as appropriate for data sets.

Supplementary Figure 10.

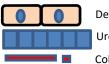


Supplementary Figure 10. Collagen I-immunoreactivity is downregulated in the detrusor muscle of diabetic rats. Urinary bladder transverse sections were immunostained for collagen

I. Bladders from control (**A**, **C**) rats showed collagen I-immunoreactivity around muscle bundles in the detrusor muscle. Collagen I-immunoreactivity decreased in the detrusor muscle (**E**) of rats after 4 (**B**) and 16 weeks (**D**) of diabetes. Scale bar = 100 μ m. Data (**E**) are expressed as mean ± SD, analysed by t-test (*p<0.05, *** p<0.001).



Key:



Detrusor muscle Urothelium

Collagen (fibrillar and non fibrillar)

Supplementary Figure 11. Cartoon schematic of bladder wall changes occurring in DM and polyuria alone. Detrusor muscle hypertrophy occurred similarly in models of STZ-induced DM and rats with polyuria, with an increase in wall-thickness and bladder size. We found specific molecular changes occur in the urinary bladder in experimental DM. Gene array and bioinformatics highlighted dysregulation of ECM regulatory pathways and we found a loss of birefringent collagen fibrils (*) in the detrusor muscle of diabetic rats. AFM revealed a reduction in tissue stiffness in detrusor muscle of rats with DM, compared with control and sucrose-treated rats. Remodelling of the bladder wall, with the DM-associated changes in ECM homeostasis may contribute towards the reduced tissue rigidity. We suggest this may be central to causing the incomplete voiding reported in people who have had long-term bladder damage associated with diabetes mellitus.