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Nuclear S-nitrosylation impacts tissue regeneration in zebrafish

Citation for published version:

Matrone, G, Jung, SY, Choi, JM, Jain, A, Eastwood Leung, H-C, Rajapakshe, K, Coarfa, C, Rodor, J, Denvir, MA, Baker, AH & Cooke, JP 2021, 'Nuclear S-nitrosylation impacts tissue regeneration in zebrafish', Nature Communications. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26621-0

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

10.1038/s41467-021-26621-0

Link:

Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

Document Version: Peer reviewed version

Published In: Nature Communications

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1 Title: Nuclear S-nitrosylation impacts tissue regeneration in zebrafish

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23 Abstract

Despite the importance of nitric oxide signaling in multiple biological processes, its role in tissue regeneration remains largely unexplored. Here, we provide evidence that inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNos) translocates to the nucleus during zebrafish tailfin regeneration and is associated with alterations in the nuclear S-nitrosylated proteome. iNos inhibitors or nitric oxide scavengers reduce protein S-nitrosylation and impair tailfin regeneration. Liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry reveals an increase of up to 11-fold in the number of S-nitrosylated proteins during regeneration. Among these, Kdm1a, a well-known epigenetic modifier, is S-nitrosylated on Cys334. This alters Kdm1a binding to the CoRest complex, thus impairing its H3K4 demethylase activity, which is a response specific to the endothelial compartment. Rescue experiments show S-nitrosylation is essential for tailfin regeneration, and we identify downstream endothelial targets of Kdm1a S-nitrosylation. In this work, we define S-nitrosylation as an essential post-translational modification in tissue regeneration.

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48 Introduction

Complete regrowth of functional tissue is a highly desirable, but mostly unachieved,
therapeutic target in the tissue loss associated with many human diseases. Innate immune
activation is an early response to tissue stress and injury ¹. In lower vertebrates this is
typically followed by functional tissue regeneration while in higher vertebrates there is
normally fibrous scar formation ². Although several molecular pathways have been
implicated in tissue regeneration, the mechanisms underlying this process are still not clearly
understood ³.

56 The interaction between pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) and damage-associated 57 molecular patterns (DAMPs) during and after an injury activates molecular pathways and transcriptional factors that regulate the expression of a plethora of genes. We have previously 58 59 shown that this inflammatory signaling causes global changes in the expression and posttranslational modifications (PTM) of epigenetic modifiers favoring an open chromatin 60 configuration and cellular plasticity^{4,5}. It was also found that inducible nitric oxide synthase 61 62 (iNos) translocates to the nucleus to bind and S-nitrosylate the polycomb and NuRD complexes during trans-differentiation of fibroblasts into endothelial cells ⁶. The effect of cell 63 autonomous innate immune signaling to increase DNA accessibility and thereby to facilitate 64 nuclear reprogramming of cell fate is termed transflammation⁷. The role of this phenomenon 65 66 in tissue regeneration remains unexplored.

Accordingly, here we investigated the role of the innate immune effector iNos and Snitrosylation of nuclear proteins in zebrafish tailfin regeneration, an ideal model to study appendage regeneration ⁸. We found that *inos* translocates from the cytoplasm to the nucleus in the regenerating tailfin and this is associated with an increase in S-nitrosylation of over 500 different nuclear proteins. Of these, we demonstrated a strong link between Kdm1a S-

nitrosylation and histone demethylase activity during tailfin regeneration, specifically in
endothelial cells, the main target where S-nitrosylation mostly occurs and where the Snitrosylated form of Kdm1a promotes the expression of proangiogenic genes. Here, we show
the essential role of the S-nitrosylation of nuclear proteins in tissue regeneration.

76

77 **Results**

Nos2 translocates from the cytoplasm to the nucleus and triggers protein S-nitrosylation
 during tailfin regeneration.

80 Compared to mammals that have three *nos* genes (neuronal, or *nos1*; inducible, or *nos2*; and 81 endothelial, or nos3), the zebrafish genome has only nos1 and two nos2 genes (nos2a and 82 nos2b). Activation of the innate immune system transcription factor Nf-kb following injury 83 triggers the translocation of the kB subunit into the nucleus which in turn promotes activation of a panoply of genes, including *inos*⁹. The activation of Nf-kb after tailfin amputation was 84 measured as GFP signal in the $Tg(nfkb:EGFP)^{ncl}$ zebrafish (Fig. S1A-B). Real time PCR for 85 nos genes measured in the adult zebrafish (Danio rerio) tailfin uninjured (baseline) and at 3, 86 5 and 10 days post-amputation (dpa) revealed a significant increase of *nos2b* expression and 87 a slight increase in *nos1* at 3 and 5 dpa (Fig. 1A). Increased *nos2* expression during 88 regeneration was confirmed by western blotting (WB) (Fig. 1B). To confirm the role of Nf-89 90 kb on the upregulation of *nos2*, adult zebrafish were injected with the Nf-kb inhibitor Bay11-7082 30 mM, which resulted in a reduced expression of *nos2b* in the injured tailfin (Fig. 91 92 **S1C**) at 3 and 5 dpa compared to injured control. While iNos has been considered 93 predominantly cytosolic, it has also been localized to other cellular compartments, including the nucleus ⁶. Analysis of Nos2 compartmentalization in the uninjured tailfin confirmed a 94 95 predominantly cytoplasmic distribution of this protein (Fig. 1C). However, at 3 dpa Nos2

was predominantly in the nucleus, with equal distribution between nucleus and cytoplasm at
5 dpa, returning predominantly to the cytoplasm by 10 dpa, similar to uninjured controls.
Thus, immediately after injury, Nos2 translocates to the nucleus and, during later stages of
repair, shifts back to the cytoplasm. This key series of observations gave rise to our principal
hypothesis, namely, that changes in the distribution of Nos2 during regeneration mirror and
drive changes in S-nitrosylation of nuclear proteins.

102 To address this, we collected newly formed tissue at the wound edge for extraction of nuclear protein after amputation of adult zebrafish tailfins. Separation of nuclear proteins was 103 104 confirmed by western blotting to detect nuclear and cytoplasmic markers (Fig. S1D). The 105 nuclear fractions were treated with iodoacetyl Tandem Mass Tags (iodoTMT) to label S-106 nitrosylated proteins, and were subsequently identified using an anti-TMT antibody. Western 107 blotting revealed an increase in the number and intensity of protein bands in the regenerating 108 tissue compared to control tissue, suggesting an S-nitrosylation switch in nuclear proteins 109 (Fig. 1D). When zebrafish were injected in the retro-orbital vein with increasing 110 concentrations of the Nos inhibitor $N(\omega)$ -nitro-L-arginine methyl ester (L-NAME) or the NO 111 scavenger 2-Phenyl-4,4,5,5-tetramethylimidazoline-1-oxyl 3-oxide (PTIO), the levels of 112 protein S-nitrosylation were reduced (Fig. 1E), whereas treatment with increasing 113 concentrations of the NO donor S-Nitroso-N-acetyl-DL-penicillamine (SNAP) increased 114 protein S-nitrosylation (Fig. 1E). L-NAME and PTIO significantly reduced tailfin 115 regeneration compared to control or SNAP treated groups at 3 and 7 dpa (Fig. 1F and S2A). 116 As L-NAME inhibits all Nos isoenzymes, in order to assess the specific role of iNos we treated the tailfin regeneration model with the iNos selective inhibitor 1400W¹⁰. Treatment 117 118 with 1400W 50 mM reduced tailfin regeneration in a manner similar to L-NAME, suggesting 119 that Nos2 is the main Nos isoenzyme involved in the effect observed by L-NAME (Fig.

S2A). Overall, these results indicate that Nos2 and NO are necessary for tailfin regeneration
and that protein S-nitrosylation plays a key role in this process.

122

Analysis and screening of S-nitroso-proteome revealed an increase in S-nitrosylated nuclear
 proteins during tailfin regeneration.

125 To identify nuclear proteins that were S-nitrosylated during regeneration, we performed liquid chromatography and tandem mass-spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) (Fig. 2A) on protein 126 127 extracts from the tailfin wound edge, excised at 3, 5 and 10 dpa. Hierarchical clustering 128 showed a striking increase in the number of nuclear S-nitrosylated proteins during 129 regeneration, in particular at 5 dpa (Figs. 2B and S3). We found that the number of nuclear 130 S-nitrosylated proteins increased from 31 in uninjured to 199, 351 and 264 at 3, 5 and 10 dpa, 131 respectively (Fig. 2C). Taking account of the fact that some proteins changed their S-132 nitrosylation state on more than one cysteine residue of that protein, the actual total number 133 of S-nitrosylated peptides increased from 31 in uninjured to 332, 566 and 450 at 3, 5 and 10 134 dpa, respectively (Fig. S3A). While a few proteins were S-nitrosylated throughout these time-135 points, suggesting constitutive S-nitrosylation, the analysis revealed that the majority of the 136 proteins were modified uniquely at a specific time-point. These data strongly suggest a 137 dynamic choreography of S-nitrosylation throughout the regeneration process. Indeed, an 138 analysis of differential enrichment revealed that proteins of many different pathways are S-139 nitrosylated specifically during regeneration (**Fig. 2D**). Some of these are known to be 140 implicated in developmental and wound healing processes, such as the epithelialmesenchymal transition (EMT) pathway¹¹ and the Hedgehog pathway¹². From the protein 141 142 list (Dataset S1), we selected 31 candidates, encompassing epigenetic modifiers and 143 transcription factors for which transient S-nitrosylation have not been previously reported and

144	that have a human	ortholog (T	able S1). W	Ve proceeded to	analyse these l	by deep mass-
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spectrometry, focusing initially on Kdm1A, also known as Lsd1, Kiaa061 or Aof2

146 (UniProtKB - F6NIA2).

147

148	S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a is associated with a reduced binding to the CoREST complex and
149	impaired demethylase activity on H3K4 during tailfin regeneration.

150	Kdm1a was the first histone lysine-demethylase to be described ¹³ , where an amine oxidase
151	domain mediates its FAD-dependent demethylase activity ¹⁴ . Kdm1a participates in gene
152	repression as part of the CoREST (co-repressor for element-1-silencing transcription factor) ¹⁵
153	and NuRD (nucleosome remodeling and histone deacetylation) ¹⁶ co-repressor complexes
154	mediating the demethylation of H3K4me1/me2. It also participates in gene activation in
155	androgen receptor (Ar)-driven expression programs through demethylation of repressor
156	marks H3K9me1/me2 1718 . More recently, it has been demonstrated that Kdm1a is also able
157	to demethylate lysine residues at several non-histone substrates, such as p53 ¹⁹ , Dnmt1 (DNA
158	(cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1) 20 and E2F1 21 .
159	Mass-spec revealed that Kdm1a, although detectable in the nucleus at all three time-points,

becomes S-nitrosylated on Cysteine 334 (Cys334) at 3 and 5 dpa (**Fig. 3A-B**). The increase

161 of Kdm1a S-nitrosylation (S-NO) during tailfin regeneration was confirmed by western

162 blotting for S-NO on samples previously immunoprecipitated for Kdm1a (Fig. 3C). Zebrafish

- Kdm1a protein has 85% identity with the corresponding human gene with the Cys334
- 164 corresponding to Cys360 in the human ortholog (**Fig. S4A**). Intriguingly, the sequence of 60
- amino acids (aa) from 50 upstream to 9 downstream of the Cys334 retains 100% identity with
- the human ortholog. Human KDM1a crystal structure, obtained from Protein Data Bank
- 167 deposited by Tan *et al.*²², is shown in **Fig. S4B.**

168	The selectivity of Kdm1a for its main targets, H3K4 and H3K9, depends on its interaction
169	with specific protein co-factors, including CoREST, NuRD, and Ar. PTM can modulate these
170	interactions. Therefore, first we analysed these co-factors and their complexes in injured and
171	uninjured tailfins. Expression of CoREST and NuRD were unchanged in injured and
172	uninjured tailfin (Fig. S5). The expression of <i>ar</i> was extremely low and was not different in
173	injured versus uninjured tailfin (Fig. S5). Having established the patterns of expression of
174	these co-factors, and since ar is associated with the modulation of H3K9, we decided to focus
175	on H3K4 which is known to be linked to CoREST and NuRD.
176	Hence, focusing on NuRD and CoREST, we tested the hypothesis that S-nitrosylation of
177	Cys334 affects Kdm1a binding affinity to these complexes. To do this, we performed co-
178	immunoprecipitation with Kdm1a antibody (Fig. 3D), followed by WB for the members of
179	the CoREST (Rcor1 and Hdac1) (Fig. 3E) and NuRD (Rbbp4 and Chd4) (Fig. 3F)
180	complexes. While the binding of NuRD complex was similar during regeneration compared
181	to control, the binding to the CoREST complex was reduced.
182	To further assess the role of Kdm1a in the adult zebrafish, knockdown (KD) was achieved by
183	injection of morpholino (vivo-Mo) in the retro-orbital vein. The KD efficiency as well as
184	delivery to the tailfin was assessed by western blotting for Kdm1a (Fig. 4A). We saw clear
185	evidence that kdm1a KD by vivo-Mo injection impaired tailfin regeneration compared to
186	controls (Fig. 4B-C). A dynamic and choreographed regulation of <i>kdm1a</i> expression and
187	activity therefore appears to be essential for tissue regeneration. These data support the role
188	of Kdm1a as a key regulator of regeneration, likely through modulation of chromatin
189	modifications.

During tailfin regeneration we observed a significantly reduced demethylase activity of
Kdm1a in the regenerating tailfin associated with increased levels of Kdm1a S-nitrosylation

(Fig. 3B). This reduced Kdm1a activity was similar to that observed in zebrafish *kdm1a* KD
(Fig. S6).

194 Indeed, at the same time that Kdm1a activity was reduced, there was a corresponding 195 reduction in unmethylated H3K4 (Fig. 4D-E). By contrast, there was an increase in 196 H3K4me1/me2, normally associated with active gene transcription (Fig. 4D-E). H3K4me3 197 showed a pattern similar to H3K4me2. However, it is known that Kdm1a is unable to 198 demethylate H3K4me3, according to the chemical nature of the amine oxidation reaction catalyzed by flavin-containing amine oxidases, thus precluding H3K4me3 as a substrate ¹³. 199 200 In regenerating tailfins, the blastema, a pool of proliferative progenitor cells, is located at the 201 distal region of the tailfin while cells in the proximal region undergo differentiation. To 202 localise the region in which Kdm1a S-nitrosylation is most important, we analysed the 203 expression of *kdm1a* gene in the distal (blastema) and proximal regions (differentiating zone) 204 of regenerating tailfins at 3 and 5 dpa. Compared to uninjured tailfins, kdm1a expression was significantly lower in the blastema and only slightly reduced in the proximal differentiating 205 206 zone (Fig. S7A). We also took advantage of a publicly available single cell(sc) RNA-seq dataset obtained in the regenerating tailfin 23 in which kdm1a expression was detected, at low 207 208 levels, with a distinct expression pattern observed in specific cell types (Fig. S7B). For 209 example, compared to preinjury, the *kdm1a* expression was reduced in mucosal-like cells at 1 210 and 2 dpa followed by an increase at 4 dpa, it was increased in mesenchymal cells and it was 211 not expressed in hematopoietic cells during the regeneration. Overall, this data provides 212 further evidence that modulation of S-nitrosylation, as well as modulation of gene expression, is a key mechanism regulating the functionality of Kdm1a during tailfin regeneration. 213

Kdm1a is S-nitrosylated preferentially in the endothelial cells of the regenerating tailfin.

216	Next, we identified S-nitrosylation associated with specific cell type. The formation of new
217	blood vessels is a crucial process during wound healing and tissue repair, similar to
218	embryogenesis and early growth. During tailfin regeneration, endothelial cells within the
219	growing blood vessels sprout and invade adjacent avascular areas. By using the
220	$Tg(fli1:EGFP)^{y1}$ zebrafish line, where endothelial cells (EC) fluoresce green (GFP ⁺ cells), we
221	detected the formation of new blood vessels in the regenerating tailfin at 2 dpa that become a
222	dense vascular plexus by 3 dpa (Fig. 5A) consistent with previous observations 24 . We
223	isolated EC from these tailfins and performed FACS analysis. We found an increase in the
224	percentage of EC (GFP+) from 4.3 \pm 0.3 % to 6.1 \pm 0.4 %, in the uninjured versus injured
225	tailfin, respectively (Fig. 5B-C and S7C). We FACS purified GFP ⁺ (EC) and GFP ⁻ (non-EC)
226	from injured and uninjured tailfins, extracted RNA and performed real time PCR. For kdm1a,
227	we found no difference in gene expression between groups (Fig. S8A). We also analysed the
228	expression of CoREST (rcor1 and hdac1) and NuRD (rbbp4 and chd4) factors and did not
229	detect significant differences between groups (Fig. S8B-E). In response to stress or injury,
230	EC upregulate <i>inos</i> , with consequent NO production ²⁵ . We found an upregulation of <i>nos2b</i>
231	compared to nos2A and nos1 genes in the EC of injured tailfins compared to uninjured (Fig.
232	S8F-H). Therefore, we investigated if S-nitrosylation, more specifically of Kdm1a, occurs in
233	EC during tailfin regeneration. We observed an overall increase in S-nitrosylated proteins in
234	the EC of regenerating tissue compared to EC from uninjured tissue (Fig. 5D), with no
235	change in S-nitrosylated proteins in GFP ⁻ cells from injured versus uninjured tailfins. Then,
236	we specifically analysed S-nitrosylated Kdm1a in EC cells from injured and uninjured tailfins
237	at 5 dpa, including an injured group treated with the nitric oxide (NO) scavenger PTIO.
238	While the expression of total kdm1a did not change in the three groups, S-nitrosylated
239	Kdm1a was detectable in EC from regenerating tailfin only (Fig. 5E), while it was abolished

240 i	in the group treated with PTIO. The increased S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a in EC of the
241 1	regenerating tailfin was associated with a significant increase in vessel density compared to
242 t	the other two groups (Fig. 5F).

S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a is associated with increased H3K4me2 marks for endothelial genes
during tailfin regeneration.

As shown in Fig. 4D-E, H3K4me2, a target of Kdm1a, is increased during regeneration 246 247 associated with the reduced demethylase activity of the S-nitrosylated form of Kdm1a. 248 Methylated H3K4 is associated with active gene transcription. Accordingly, we reasoned that 249 an increased occupancy of H3K4me2 would result in increased levels of proangiogenic 250 factors. To address this hypothesis, and investigate whether the increased vessel density observed during regeneration was correlated to S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a, we performed 251 2.52 Chromatin Immunoprecipitation using a ChIP-grade antibody specific for H3K4me2, 253 followed by PCR for 10 well-known proangiogenic factors, including kdr, vegfaa, fgf2, 254 angpt2, tek, tie1, cdh5, cd31, mmp2 and tbx20. ChIP-PCR showed that the occupancy of 255 H3K4me2 on *vegfaa* and *tek* in endothelial cells from injured tailfins was significantly higher 256 compared to injured tailfins treated with PTIO and higher than uninjured tailfins (Fig. 5G). 257 Furthermore, real time PCR showed that expression of 7 out of 10 proangiogenic factors, 258 including *vegfaa* and *tek*, were significantly increased during regeneration (Fig. 5H), whereas 259 they were unchanged following treatment with PTIO, again suggesting that nitric oxide was 260 driving or facilitating angiogenesis via a mechanism involving S-nitrosylation. 261 Overall, these findings show that endothelial cells of the regenerating tissue are a key cell 262 target for protein S-nitrosylation after injury and that Kdm1a is specifically S-nitrosylated in

these cells. S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a reduces Kdm1a demethylase activity and, as a

consequence, more H3K4me2 will accumulate in the genome. In particular, we found

increased occupancy of H3K4me2 on *vegfaa* and *tek*.

This does not exclude, however, that other S-nitrosylated proteins among those arising from the mass-spec dataset could be implicated in endothelial cells and vascular regrowth as well as in other cell types.

Next, to investigate the effects of the absence of the Kdm1a C334 S-nitrosylation site on

tailfin regeneration we synthesized, by site-directed mutagenesis, a mutant variant of Kdm1a

271 mRNA where the cysteine 334 was substituted with alanine (C334A), that cannot be S-

272 nitrosylated (Fig. 6A). These experiments assessed the ability of this mutated Kdm1a mRNA

to rescue the morpholino (Mo) phenotype compared to wild-type mRNA. However, contrary

to the MO oligo that is a stable molecule, not degraded by the nucleases, the mRNA is prone

to degradation by nucleases, well before reaching the tailfin, *i.e.* the tissue under study.

276 Therefore, we decided to perform these studies in the zebrafish embryos where the

277 cytoplasmic bridges connecting the early embryonic cells allow rapid diffusion of mRNA

into the cells, resulting in fast and ubiquitous delivery 26 .

279 Before the morpholino (Mo) studies, real time PCR analysis confirmed kdm1a expression 280 during development, with a slight reduction from 24 to 120 hpf (Fig. S9A). This finding was 281 also useful to optimise the dose of Mo to inject. Mo experiments were conducted according to the guidelines 2627 using several controls to assess morpholino specificity for *kdm1a*. First, 282 283 we injected kdm1a-targeted Mo or the mismatch (control), using an optimized dose of 0.8 ng 284 per egg. The effective *kdm1a* KD was confirmed by western blotting (**Fig. 6B**). The survival 285 rate of kdm1a KD embryos at 120 hpf was approximately 80 % compared to 90 % in controls 286 (Fig. S9C). Kdm1a KD embryos did not show gross abnormalities compared to control (Fig. **S9D**), however we found reduced blood flow velocity (Fig. S9E) and reduced expression of 287

gatal (Fig. S9F), a red blood cell marker, consistent with a previous report 28 . To confirm 288 these effects and to exclude sequence-specific off-target effects we used a second Mo with 289 290 non-overlapping sequence to compare phenotypes with the first Mo. Indeed, both Mo 291 injections induced *kdm1a* knockdown and produced a comparable phenotype. To further 292 confirm the specificity, we co-injected half-doses of each Mo, such that the phenotype was 293 only just apparent with each Mo alone, but with clear additive effects on phenotype when co-294 injected. Specifically, the two kdm1a -targeted antisense Mo were co-injected each at 1/2 dose (0.4 ng per egg). While the phenotype was apparently unaffected with 1/2 dose of each 295 296 oligo injected alone, the co-injection of half doses together produced phenotypic effects 297 similar to those produced by a single oligo at full dose (0.8 ng per egg) (Figs. 6B and S9). 298 These additive effects of low doses of two antisense oligos strongly supports a kdm1a -299 specific effect. We did not find an increase in expression of *tp53*, well-known off-target 300 effect, at the dose of Mo used in this study, therefore we did not co-inject *tp53*-Mo for *tp53* 301 gene silencing (**Fig. S9B**). We observed that the regeneration of the tailfin was significantly 302 reduced in *kdm1a* KD embryos compared to control (**Fig. 6C-D**), with a phenotype 303 penetrance of >70%. The phenotype of kdm1a morphants was rescued by co-injecting kdm1a 304 mRNA indicating that the observed effects were specific for kdm1a. This also clearly shows a key role of kdm1a in tailfin regeneration. However, kdm1a mRNA C334A did not rescue 305 306 tailfin regeneration (Fig. 6C-D and Fig. S9). This further confirmed the crucial role of Snitrosylation of this specific cysteine residue on Kdm1a in modulating tailfin regeneration. 307

308

309 Discussion

310 Following stress or injury, *inos* is activated within local somatic cells ²⁹, leading to protein S-

nitrosylation, the covalent attachment of a NO group to the thiol side chain of the cysteine.

312 This mechanism has emerged as a dynamic, post-translational regulatory mechanism for many classes of proteins ³⁰. We found increased expression of *inos* in the nuclei of the 313 regenerating tailfin of the zebrafish, and over 500 nuclear proteins that became S-nitrosylated 314 315 during regeneration. Of these, we identified a key role for Kdm1a. We demonstrated a strong 316 link between Kdm1a S-nitrosylation and its role in histone demethylation and ultimately in regeneration of the zebrafish tailfin. Endothelial cells, where inos expression increases after 317 318 stress or injury, seems to be the main cell target where S-nitrosylation, including of Kdm1a, mostly occurs. The essential role of Kdm1a in hematopoiesis has been shown in vitro ³¹³² and 319 in vivo ^{33,34}. As such, understanding the molecular mechanisms underpinning the action of 320 321 Kdm1a are currently being investigated to find specific inhibitors that could be harnessed as a therapeutic strategy in cancer³⁵. According to our bioinformatic analysis of single cell-322 323 RNAseq, *kdm1a* was not detected in hematopoietic cells of the zebrafish regenerating tailfin. 324 Nonetheless, given the role of the Kdm1a in hematopoiesis we cannot exclude the possibility 325 that impaired fin regeneration in kdm1a knockdown zebrafish could, at least partially, derive 326 from systemic effects associated with altered immune cell function. 327 In our study, the S-nitrosylated form of Kdm1a has a reduced demethylase activity on H3K4 328 that results in a corresponding increase in H3K4me2 that, by turn, promotes the expression of proangiogenic genes. This is the first study to show the importance of the S-nitrosylation of 329 330 nuclear proteins in tissue regeneration and potentially opens up new therapeutic avenues (Fig. 331 **6E**). 332 While many interesting candidate S-nitrosylated nuclear proteins were identified (Dataset S1 333 and Table S1), we focused on Kdm1a. However, we predict that it is likely that Kdm1a is 334 not the only rate limiting factor. It is likely that modulating the expression and S-nitrosylation 335 of other candidates could result in similar effects on regeneration, possibly by acting via the

same cells and pathways identified here but possibly on other cell types and pathways. This

337 would depend on the effects that S-nitrosylation has on molecular networking of each protein candidate. For example, S-nitrosylation of Hexim1 (hexamethylene bisacetamide inducible 338 protein 1) could affect its binding in the P-TEFB complex ³⁶ and potentially inhibits the Cdk9 339 kinase activity and the transcription of genes specific to regeneration. 340 341 Aberrant levels of protein S-nitrosylation have been implicated in a number of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, neurological disorders, chronic degenerative 342 diseases, and inflammatory disorders (reviewed in ³⁷), regeneration. Furthermore, very little 343 is known about two important aspects of this process, firstly the extent and the dynamics of 344 S-nitrosylation of *nuclear* proteins in human disease and secondly the role of S-nitrosylation 345 of nuclear proteins during tissue repair and regeneration ³⁸. Our paper is the first to examine 346 347 the mechanisms and potential role of S-nitrosylation of nuclear proteins during tissue 348 regeneration in vivo and provides several important observations that implicate S-349 nitrosylation of nuclear proteins in regeneration.

350 Methods

351 Ethical approval

352 This work complied with all relevant ethical regulations for animal testing and research.

353 Animals were housed and all experiments were carried out in accordance with the

recommendations of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the Houston

355 Methodist Research Institute, and with the United Kingdom Animals (Scientific Procedures)

356 Act 1986 at the Queens Medical Research Institute research facilities.

357

358 Zebrafish aquaculture and husbandry

Adult zebrafish – wild-type *Wik* and $Tg(nfkb:EGFP)^{ncl}$ strains – were maintained according

to standard procedures. Fish were kept at 28 °C under a 14/10 h light/dark cycle and fed with

361	dry meal (Gemma Micro, Westbrook, ME) twice per day. Embryos were obtained by natural
362	mating and kept in E3 embryo medium at 28.5 °C. Surgical procedures were performed under
363	anaesthesia with Tricaine (also named MS-222, Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. E10521)
364	0.02 mg/ml on embryos and 0.05 mg/mL in adult zebrafish.

366 Zebrafish tailfin amputation and regeneration

Caudal tailfin amputation surgeries were performed as previously described ³⁹. Briefly, fish 367 were anaesthetized and amputations were made by using a sterile razor blade, removing half 368 of the tailfin. At day 3, 5 and 10 post-amputation (dpa) (uninjured tailfin was used as control) 369 370 the regrown tissue was carefully resected and immediately processed for nuclear protein extraction. Total regeneration was measured as previously described ⁴⁰. Briefly, fin images 371 372 were collected before amputation and time points after amputation. The new tissue area (in 373 pixels) of the caudal fin from the new distal fin edge to the amputation plane was quantified 374 in each fish using Image J software. The percentage of regeneration for each fin at each time point was defined as percentage of regeneration = 100 x (regenerated tissue area/original fin 375 area amputated). The collection of the distal (blastema) and proximal (regenerating) regions 376 377 of the tailfin tissue for PCR analysis was performed under a fluorescence stereomicroscope 378 Leica M205. The Tg(fli1:EGFP) zebrafish was used and the distal ends of the newly forming 379 (GFP^+) vessel branches was used as boundary to separate by dissection the two regions. 380 Then, we placed the tissues in an Eppendorf tube and immediately extracted RNA that was 381 used for PCR analysis.

382

383 Blood vessel density

At 5 dpa, the adult Tg(fli1:EGFP) zebrafish were anesthetized. Then, fish were transferred on a wet sponge, previously soaked in tank water, to keep the zebrafish skin moist during imaging. Images of the caudal fin including the regenerated tissue were captured under a fluorescence stereomicroscope Leica M205 equipped with a camera. The images were collected with a Leica LAS X software and analysed by Image J software. The second and third rays from the dorsal edge of the fin were used for measurement of vessel area and reported as mm².

391

392 Protein Extraction

393 Extraction of nuclear proteins - Nuclear proteins were extracted from the caudal fin tissue 394 using the NE-PER Extraction Reagents kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 395 78833) according to the manufacturer's instructions, supplemented with protease inhibitor 396 cocktail. In brief, regenerating tailfin tissue was resected, cut into small pieces and placed in 397 a microcentrifuge tube. Then, tissue was washed three times with chilled PBS, centrifuged at 398 500g for 1 min and supernatant discarded. Using a motor-driven pestle (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. Z359971), tissue was homogenized in solution CER I, that breaks plasma 399 400 membrane but not nuclei, added with protease/phosphatase inhibitors cocktail (1:100, Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 78442). The tube was vigorously vortexed for 401 402 30 s and put on ice for 10 min. Then, chilled CER II was added to the tube, vortexed for 10 s and incubated on ice for 1 min. The tube was centrifuged for 5 min at 16,000g and the 403 404 supernatant, containing cytoplasmic proteins, was transferred to a clean pre-chilled tube and 405 stored at -80°C. The pellet, containing nuclei, was resuspended in chilled NER solution, 406 vortexed on the highest setting for 15 s. The sample was placed on ice for 45 min, vortexed

407	for 20 s every 10 min. Then, the tube was centrifuged at 16,000g for 10 min and the
408	supernatant, containing nuclear extract, immediately transferred to a clean pre-chilled tube.
409	Extraction of total proteins - Zebrafish embryos were euthanised with an overdose of
410	tricaine, washed three times in PBS and homogenized with a motor-driven pestle (Sigma-
411	Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. Z359971) in 100 mL RIPA buffer (25 mmol/L Tris-HCl pH 7.6,
412	150 mmol/L NaCl, 1% NP-40, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS), supplemented with
413	protease/phosphatase inhibitors. The lysate was kept on ice for 40 min. Then, the tube was
414	centrifuged at 3000g for 5 min and the supernatant transferred to a clean pre-chilled tube.
415	In both nuclear and total proteins extraction, bicinchoninic acid (BCA) protein assay (Thermo
416	Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 23225) was used to measure protein concentration.

418 Labelling of protein S-nitrosothiols

419 Labelling of S-nitrosothiols in nuclear proteins was achieved using Iodoacetyl Tandem Mass 420 Tag (iodoTMT) kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 90103). First, nuclear 421 protein extracts were acetone-precipitated at -20°C for 2 h, then centrifuged at 15000g for 10 422 min and the pellet solubilized in 500 mL HENS buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, 423 CA, cat. 90106) at a protein concentration of 1 mg/ml. Equal amounts of nuclear protein from 424 each sample were iodoTMT-labelled. To generate a positive control sample, an aliquot of 425 protein from control was added with 200µM S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO, Sigma-Aldrich, St 426 Louis, MO, cat. N4148) for 30 min at room temperature (RT). Experimental samples were 427 incubated for 30 min at RT after adding MMTS (10µL of 1 M) to block free cysteine thiols. 428 Then, proteins were precipitated with pre-chilled acetone (1 ml per sample) at -20°C for 2 h 429 to remove MMTS. Samples were centrifuged at 10,000g for 10 min at 4°C, the pellet resuspended in 500 ml of HENS buffer and to each was added 5 ml of iodoTMT reagent, 430

431	previously dissolved in liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS)-grade methanol,
432	and 10μ L of 1M sodium ascorbate (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. A4034). As a negative
433	control, $10\mu L$ of ultrapure water instead of sodium ascorbate was added in a protein sample.
434	All samples were incubated for 1 h at 37°C, protected from light. The reaction was quenched
435	by adding 20 μL of 0.5M DTT and incubated for 15 min at 37°C, protected from light. All
436	experimental samples labelled with iodoTMT sixplex were combined, added with six
437	volumes of pre-chilled acetone and incubated at -20°C overnight. The sample was
438	centrifuged at 10,000g for 10 min at 4°C and the pellet dissolved in 3 ml HENS buffer. Then,
439	$100 \mu L$ of 0.5 M iodoacetamide were added and the sample incubated at 37°C for 1 h
440	protected from light. Sample was precipitated with pre-chilled acetone and the pellet allowed
441	to dry for 10 min.

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443 Protein digestion for mass-spec analysis

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- The pellet was dissolved in 50mM ammonium bicarbonate (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO,
- 445 cat. 09830) and digested using trypsin enzyme (GenDepot, cat. T9600) at 37°C overnight.
- 446 The peptide mixture was acidified using 10% formic acid and dried using a vacuum
- 447 concentrator (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. SPD120).

- 449 Enrichment of iodoTMT-labeled S-nitrosopeptides
- 450 The anti-TMT Antibody Resin (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 90076) was
- 451 washed three times with Tris Buffered Saline (TBS) (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA,
- 452 cat. 28358). Previous labeled and lyophilized peptides were resuspended in TBS (a small
- 453 portion of unfractionated sample was stored for direct analysis of the non-enriched samples).
- 454 Then, peptides were added to the anti-TMT resin (100µL of settled resin for every 1 mg of

iodoTMT Reagent-labeled peptides) and incubated at RT for 4 h. Finally, the resin was
washed three times (5 min per wash) with TBS and then three times with water. The sample
was eluted with TMT Elution Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 90104).
The eluate was frozen and lyophilized, using a vacuum concentrator and then the sample
resuspended in a solution of 5% methanol/0.1% formic acid. Then, 1-5µL of sample were
injected directly onto an LC-MS/MS system.

461

462 LC/MS-MS

463 The mass spectrometry analysis of S-nitrosopeptides was carried out on a nano-LC 1200 464 system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) coupled to Orbitrap Fusion[™] Lumos ETD 465 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) mass spectrometer. The peptides were loaded onto 466 a Reprosil-Pur Basic C18 (1.9 µm, Dr. Maisch GmbH, Germany) pre-column of 2 cm X 100 467 μ m and in-lined an in-housed 5 cm x 150 μ m analytical column packed with Reprosil-Pur 468 Basic C18 beads. The peptides were separated using a 75 min discontinuous gradient of 5-469 28% acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid at a flow rate of 750nl/min. The eluted peptides were directly electro-sprayed into the mass spectrometer. The instrument used the multi-notch 470 471 MS3-based TMT method. The full MS scan was performed in Orbitrap in the range of 375-472 1500m/z at 120000 resolution followed by ion trap CID-MS2 fragmentation at precursor 473 isolation width of 0.7 m/z, AGC of 1X104, maximum ion accumulation time of 50ms. The 474 top ten fragment ions from MS2 was selected for HCD-MS3 with isolation width of 2 m/z, 475 AGC 5X104, collision energy 65%, maximum injection time of 54ms. The RAW file from 476 mass spectrometer was processed with Proteome Discoverer 2.1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 477 San Jose, CA) using Mascot 2.4 (Matrix Science) with percolator against Zebrafish Uniprot database. The precursor ion tolerance and product ion tolerance were set to 20 ppm and 478

479 0.5Da respectively. Variable modifications of oxidation on Methionine (+15.995Da) and

480 iodoTMT tag (+329.2266Da) on cysteine residues was used. The general quantification in

481 consensus workflow used unique and razor peptides with top 3 peptides for area calculation,

482 while reporter quantification used co-isolation threshold of 50 and average reporter S/N

threshold of 10. The assigned peptides and PSMs were filtered at 1% FDR.

484

485 Bioinformatic analysis

486 The computational detection strategy identifies peptides exhibiting iodoTMT tag

487 modifications. Proteome Discoverer software (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) was

used to search MS/MS spectra against the Zebrafish UniProt database (Danio rerio;

489 UP000000437) using Mascot 2.3 search engine. The iodoTMTsixplex quantification method

490 within Proteome Discoverer software was used to calculate the reporter ratios with a mass

491 tolerance ± 10 ppm. Search algorithms, including MS-Fragger was also used in the analysis.

492 Hierarchical clustering of S-nitrosylated protein expression heatmap was conducted using

493 MEV based on Pearson correlation distance metric and the average linkage method.

494 Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA, Ingenuity systems Qiagen, Redwood City, CA) was used to

495 assess Gene Ontology (GO) and IPA analysis to explore the function of differential S-

496 nitrosylated proteins. Enrichment Q values of S-nitrosylated protein pathways were defined

497 based on EdgeR FDR cutoff 1e-5. The GO category was classified by Fisher's exact test, and

the p-value was corrected by the false discovery rate (FDR) calculation.

499 The scRNA-seq of the regenerative caudal fin was analysed following the methods described

- in the manuscript 23 . The matrix count from cell ranger were obtained on GEO database
- accession GSE137971. Downstream analysis was performed on R using the package Seurat.
- 502 Clustering analysis was performed on the integrated dataset and we found 6 clusters. These

503 clusters were annotated as Superficial/intermediate/basal epithelial, mucosal-like,

⁵⁰⁴ hematopoietic and mesenchymal based on markers described in Hou et al. ²³. Differential

⁵⁰⁵ gene expression between the different time points compared to pre-injury was done using the

506 function FindMarkers from Seurat (based on Wilcoxon test followed by Bonferroni

507 correction). Violin Plot of *kdm1a* expression was obtained using the Vln Plot function of

508 Seurat.

509

510 Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)-PCR assay

511 ChIP assay was performed following the manufacturer's instructions (Cell Signalling

512 Technology, Beverly, MA). Briefly, 15 tailfins of adult zebrafish per group were

disaggregated in single cells as described above. DNA and protein were crosslinked by 1%

formaldehyde. Chromatin was isolated and digested with Micrococcal Nuclease. Then, the

515 DNA-protein complex was precipitated with control IgG or antibody against H3K4me2

516 (rabbit polyclonal, ChIP grade) overnight at 4°C and protein A/G conjugated magnetic beads

517 for 1 hr. Cross-links were reversed. The extracted DNA was used as template for PCR

amplification of the targeted promoter region. The extracted DNA from unprecipitated DNA-

519 protein complex was used as input. The promoter regions of 10 genes known to be involved

520 in neoangiogenesis (kdr, vegfaa, cdh5, tek, tie2, tbx20, fgf2, angpt2, mmp2, cd31) were

identified in ENSEMBL. The gene sequence up to 600 bp upstream of the TSS was validated

522 this sequence on genome.ucsc.edu to confirm it was upstream of our gene of interest. We also

523 looked for the presence of CpG islands and TATA box. Hence, we designed four couples of

524 primers using Primer Blast for each gene that matched in this region and around the TSS, and

that could generate amplicons which size was no more than 120-130 bp to allow both primers

526 to find their target on one fragment of ChIP DNA, if present. In-silico PCR (UCSC) was used

527 to confirm that primers matched our region of interest and the amplicon size, and then

528 primers were further validated by PCR using genomic DNA.

529

530 Quantification of Kdm1a demethylase activity

531 Kdm1 Activity Colorimetric Kit (Abcam, Cambridge, UK, cat. ab113459) was used to quantify Kdm1 activity. Nuclear proteins were extracted from the regenerating caudal fin as 532 shown above and an input of 10µg per sample was used for the enzymatic analysis. The 533 534 experiment was run in triplicate. A standard curve was prepared with Kdm1a assay buffer and assay standard solution, containing demethylated histore H3K4, diluted at concentration 535 536 between 0.2 and 5 ng/µl. Sample wells were added with Kdm1a assay buffer, Kdm1a 537 substrate (containing di-methylated histone H3K4) and 10µg of nuclear extract. No nuclear 538 extract was added in blank wells. The strip-well microplate was covered with adhesive film 539 to avoid evaporation, and incubate at 37°C for 2 h. At this stage, active Kdm1a binds to the 540 substrate and removes methyl groups from the substrate. Then, the reaction solution was 541 removed and each well washed three times with wash buffer. Capture antibody, that recognizes Kdm1a-demethylated products, was added to each well, the strip-well was 542 543 covered with aluminum foil to protect from light and incubated at RT for 60 min. Antibody solution was removed and each well washed three times with wash buffer. Then, detection 544 545 antibody was added to each well, covered again with aluminum foil and incubated at RT for 30 min. Detection antibody solution was removed and each well was washed four times with 546 547 wash buffer. Developer solution was added and the microplate incubated at RT for 10 min 548 protected from light. In presence of methylated DNA, the solution will turn blue. At this 549 point, stop solution was added to each well to quench the enzymatic reaction. Absorbance was read on a microplate reader Infinite M1000 (Tecan, Männedorf, Switzerland) at a 550

- wavelength at 450 nm with an optional reference wavelength of 655 nm. The activity of
- 552 Kdm1a enzyme is proportional to the optical density (OD) intensity measured. Accordingly,
- 553 Kdm1a activity was calculated using the following formula:
- 554 Kdm1a activity (OD/min/mg) = Sample OD Blank OD/(Protein Amount (μ g) x min).
- 555

556 *Kdm1a* suppression

- 557 The knockdown (KD) of *kdm1a* gene (NM_001242995.1) in zebrafish was achieved by
- 558 injection of antisense morpholino (Mo) (Gene Tools, Philomath, Oregon) oligo targeting the
- 559 mRNA AUG translational start site (sequence 5'-TTGGACAACATCACAGATGACAGAG-
- 3'). A 5-base pair mismatch Mo (sequence 5'-TTGcAgAACATgACAcATcACAGAG-3')
- 561 was used as control to detect possible off-target effects. A second antisense oligo targeting
- ⁵⁶² i3e4 splice junction of *kdm1a*, sequence 5'- CTACACCTGAGAAACCCAACATTTC-3' was
- used to corroborate data obtained with MOs that block translation.
- 564 Using a standard microinjector (IM300 Microinjector; Narishige, Tokyo, Japan), an
- optimized dose of 0.4 ng (0.5nL bolus) of morpholino placed in a pulled glass capillary was

injected in each embryo at 1-2 cell stage, just beneath the blastoderm.

- 567 For KD of *kdm1a* in adult zebrafish, a vivo-Mo version was used, where the standard Mo is
- bound to a synthetic scaffold containing guanidinium groups as a delivery moiety in adult
- tissues. An antisense vivo-Mo that targets human b-globin intron mutation 5'-
- 570 CCTCTTACCTCATTACAATTTATA-3' was used as negative control (Gene Tools LLC,
- 571 Philomath, Oregon). Adult zebrafish were anesthetized in tricaine 0.05 mg/mL, and 2 µL of
- 572 0.1 mmol/L vivo-Mo solution, previously loaded in a glass capillary, was injected into the
- retro-orbital vein, as previously described ⁴¹, on days 10, 8, 6, 4, 2 and 0 before tailfin
- 574 amputation.

<i>a</i> construct

576 A construct with <i>kdm1a</i> gene	of Danio rerio		001242993.11	was diedaled to generate
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577 *kdm1a* modified (m) mRNA and was assembled from synthetic oligonucleotides.

- 578 Modifications in the triplet code (n=7 silent mutations) were inserted in the sequence
- 579 corresponding to the mRNA AUG translational start site (*i.e.* Mo binding site) to prevent Mo
- recognition in rescue experiments. The fragment was inserted in the pMA (GeneArt,
- 581 Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) cloning vector and cloned in transformed *Escherichia coli* bacteria
- 582 (strain K12/DH10B, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and then purified. The final construct was
- verified by sequencing and the sequence identity within the insertion site was 100%.

584

585 Site-Directed Mutagenesis

- 586 Site-directed mutagenesis of Kdm1a was carried out with Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit
- 587 (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, cat. E0554) according to manufacturers' instructions.
- 588 Standard primers for *kdm1a* were used for exponential amplification of the plasmid DNA (F

589 5'-GACAGCCAGTCGAGGAGAAC-3' and R 5'-TGCGACGTACGAGTATGAGC-3'),

- and mutagenic primers to create substitution of Cys334-to-Ala (C334A) in the plasmid were
- 591 designed with the software NEBase Changer (F 5'-AAAACAGAAGGCTCCCCTCTATGA
- 592 GGC-3' and R 5'-ATCTTAGCCAGCTCCATATTG-3').
- 593

594 In vitro transcription of kdm1a

595 Wild type and mutated *kdm1a* mRNA (C334A), with 7-methyl guanosine cap structure at the

596 5'end and poly(A) tail at the 3'end, was transcribed from the constructs using HiScribe T7

- 597 ARCA mRNA Kit (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, cat. E2060) following
- 598 manufacturers' instructions.

- 599 Rescue of *kdm1a* knockdown by Kdm1a mRNA
- To determine whether the effects of the *kdm1a* KD on zebrafish embryos phenotype and
- tailfin regeneration were specifically due to loss of *kdm1a*, we co-injected *kdm1a* Mo with
- 602 *kdm1a* mRNA wild-type as a rescue. A bolus of 1 nl of solution containing 0.5 ng of *kdm1a*-
- Mo a and 1 ng of Kdm1a RNA wild-type was injected into each egg.

- 605 Rescue of *kdm1a* knockdown by kdm1a mRNA C334A
- 606 Co-injection of *kdm1a* -Mo and *kdm1a* mRNA C334A was performed to assess whether the
- absence of the S-nitrosylated cysteine affected the ability of the mRNA to rescue phenotype
- and tailfin regeneration associated with kdm1a KD. A bolus of 1 nl of solution containing 0.5

ng of *kdm1a* -Mo and 1 ng of *kdm1a* mRNA C334A was injected into each egg.

- 611 Pharmacological modulation of S-nitrosylation
- Adult zebrafish were anesthetized in tricaine 0.05 mg/mL. A solution of 2 μ L of iNos
- 613 inhibitor $N(\omega)$ -nitro-L-arginine methyl ester (L-NAME, Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat.
- N5751) 10 or 50 mM diluted in sterile PBS (from stock solution of 250 mM), or of nitric
- oxide (NO) scavenger Phenyl-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl imidazoline-1-oxyl 3-oxide (PTIO, Sigma-
- Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. P5084) 3 or 10 mM diluted in sterile PBS (from stock solution of
- 100 mM), or of NO donor S-Nitroso-N-acetyl-DL-penicillamine (SNAP, Sigma-Aldrich, St
- Louis, MO, cat. N3398) 10 or 30 mM diluted in DMSO (from stock solution of 100 mM), or
- 619 PBS as control, was loaded on a glass capillary, prepared in advance with a micropipette
- 620 puller (Narishige, Inc., PC-10) and connected to a microinjector (IM300 Microinjector;

Narishige, Tokyo, Japan) and was injected into the retro-orbital vein as previously described
 ⁴¹ on days 6, 4, 2 and 0 before tailfin amputation.

The concentration of the Nos inhibitors, L-NAME and 1400W, were adopted after a pilot study with doses up to 250 mM. The survival was recorded and fish were monitored for any physical or behavioral abnormalities at a range of doses. For both compounds at a dose of 250 nM, survival after 4 injections was approximately 40%, and lethargy and reduced swim were observed. At 150 mM the survival increased to 65% with no evident abnormal behaviour; whereas at 50mM, the dose e adopted for the study, the survival was 85% and no evident defects were observed (**Fig. S2B**).

630

631 Optimisation of the injection procedure

In our pilot studies, injection of physiological solutions every other day and alternating the

eye at each injection reduced fish mortality. In this way, the effect of a drug on fish

634 survival/mortality and phenotype can be better evaluated. Therefore, all the solutions of drugs

were injected in the retro-orbital veins every other day and alternating the eyes, so that each

eye was injected only twice at a distance of four days.

637

638 Defining the zebrafish phenotype

Whole embryo phenotype following Mo and mRNA treatments were described on the basis of the following morphologic features observed under bright-field microscopy: reduced body length, curved body, reduced swimming, chorionated larvae at 4 dpf, oedema. The phenotype was assessed using a simple six points scoring system, according to the severity of that feature and where one point was normal. At least four different clutches of larvae were assessed under each of the treatment groups. Data were reported graphically as divided in two

groups: normal, *i.e.* embryos not showing any abnormal features, and abnormal, *i.e.* embryosshowing one or more of the features described above.

647

648 Cardinal vein blood velocity

649 Blood velocity was estimated in the posterior cardinal vein ⁴² by assessing frame by frame

motion of single blood cells determined from video images captured in the zebrafish tail at

the level of the cloaca. Four erythrocytes per fish (at least 5 embryos per group) over 10

frames at video frame-rate of 30 frames per second (fps) were analyzed using ImageJ to

653 determine mean blood cell velocity ($\mu m \cdot s^{-1}$).

654

655 Kaplan-Meier analysis of survival

656 Kaplan-Meier analysis was used to measure the survival of adult zebrafish or larvae

657 following each defined treatment, using PRISM 7 software.

658

659 Immunoprecipitation

660 Immunoprecipitation experiments were performed using the Pierce Classic Magnetic IP/Co-

661 IP Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. MAN0011737), according to

662 manufacturer's instructions.

663

664 RNA extraction and quantitative PCR

mRNA was extracted from embryos using column purification (RNeasy Mini Kit, Qiagen,

666 Hilden, Germany, cat. 74104) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Working surfaces

667	were cleaned with RNase Zap (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. AM9780) to
668	deactivate environmental RNase. Efficient disruption and homogenization of tissue was done
669	using sterile RNase-free disposable pestles (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 12-
670	141-368) mounted on a cordless motor for 30 s and then passing the lysate 5-10 times
671	through the needle (18-21 gauge) mounted on a RNAse free syringe. RNA integrity was
672	assessed on basis of 18S and 28S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) bands. mRNA was reverse
673	transcribed into cDNA using qScript cDNA Synthesis Kit (Quanta Bio, Beverly, MA, cat.
674	95047), Primers (IDT Technologies, Coralville, Iowa) targeting genes of interest (see table
675	S2) and SYBR Green PCR kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) were used for real-time qPCR, that
676	was performed with the QuantStudio 12 k Flex system (Applied Biosystems, Foster City,
677	CA) following the manufacturer's instructions. Gene expression was expressed as relative
678	fold changes using the ΔCt method of analysis and normalized to β -actin.

680 Western blotting

681	Lysates containing $20\mu g$ of protein each were added with Laemmli buffer (4X) and deionised
682	water to reach a final volume of 20μ l. A sample containing pre-stained protein standard
683	(BioRad, Hertfordshire, UK, cat. 1610375) was used to assess molecular mass of protein
684	bands. Samples were heated at 95°C for 5 min and loaded on a polyacrylamide gel (4-15%
685	gradient) (BioRad, Hertfordshire, UK, cat. 4561083). Electrophoresis was performed for 30
686	min at a voltage of 100V and then for 60 min at 150V. Gels were transferred on PVDF
687	membranes (Amersham Hybond, Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, cat. GE10600023) for 2 h at
688	100V. Membranes were blocked with non-fat milk 5% in PBST (PBS+0.1% Tween) for 1h at
689	RT and probed with primary antibody overnight at 4°C. Antibodies used were: Kdm1a rabbit
690	polyclonal (1:200, Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. PA1-41697); anti-iNos

691	mouse monoclonal (1:200, BD Transduction Laboratories, San Jose, CA, cat. 610432); anti-
692	β -tubulin rabbit polyclonal (1:500, Abcam, Cambridge, UK, cat. ab6046), Anti-Histone H3
693	nuclear marker, rabbit polyclonal (1:500, Abcam, Cambridge, UK, cat. ab1791); anti-Histone
694	H3 (1:500, unmodified Lys4), mouse monoclonal (1:500, Merck Millipore, Massachusetts,
695	USA, cat. 05-1341); anti-monomethyl-Histone H3 (Lys4), rabbit polyclonal (1:500, Merck
696	Millipore, Massachusetts, USA, cat. 07-436); anti-dimethyl-Histone H3 (Lys4), rabbit
697	monoclonal (1:500, Merck Millipore, Massachusetts, USA, cat. 04-790); anti-monomethyl-
698	Histone H3 (Lys9), rabbit polyclonal (1:500, Merck Millipore, Massachusetts, USA, cat.
699	ABE101); anti-dimethyl-Histone H3 (Lys9) rabbit polyclonal (1:500, Merck Millipore,
700	Massachusetts, USA, cat. 07-212); anti-Rcor1 rabbit polyclonal (1:200, Invitrogen, Carlsbad,
701	CA, cat. PA5-41564); anti-Hdac1 rabbit polyclonal (1:200, Abcam, Cambridge, UK, cat.
702	ab33278); anti-Rbbp4 rabbit polyclonal (1:200, Biorbyt, Cat. orb583248); anti-Chd4 rabbit
703	polyclonal (1:200, Biorbyt, Cambridge, UK, cat. orb575051); anti-TMT mouse monoclonal
704	(1:200, Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, cat. 90075). Membranes were washed three
705	times (5 min per wash) with PBS and incubated with HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse
706	(1:2000, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, USA, SC-2005) or anti-rabbit (1:2000, Santa
707	Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, USA, SC-2004) antibodies for 1 h at RT. Then, membranes
708	were washed again three times with PBS (5 min per wash). Antigen-antibody complexes
709	were detected by incubation for 5 min to the enhanced chemiluminescence solution (ECL,
710	Amersham) followed by exposure to a photographic film (BioMax XAR Film Kodak, Sigma-
711	Aldrich, St Louis, MO). The film was developed and band density was quantified by
712	densitometry using ImageJ. β -tubulin and Histone H3 were used as loading control for
713	cytoplasmic and nuclear protein, respectively.
714	

- 716 Sequence and structural analysis of Kdm1a protein
- 717 Similarities of zebrafish and human Kdm1a proteins were assessed using Protein Blast

718 (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi). Kdm1a crystal structure was obtained from the

- 719 Protein Data bank (<u>https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/pdb/6nqm</u>).
- 720
- 721 Enzymatic isolation of endothelial cells from zebrafish tailfin
- 722 Cells were isolated according to ⁴³ with some modifications. In brief, amputated tailfin from
- adult Tg(fli1:EGFP)^{y1} zebrafish were placed in chilled PBS, washed with calcium-free
- Ringer solution (116 mM NaCl, 2.6 mM KCl, and 5 mM Hepes, pH 7.0), and replaced with 1
- mL solution of trypsin 0.25% (Gibco) added with 50 µg collagenase P (Roche) and 1 mM
- EDTA. Tissue was disaggregated first using fine scissors and then by pipetting the solution
- with a 200- μ L pipette tip every 5 min for about 30 min. Cell suspensions were filtered
- through a 40-µm cell strainer (BD Biosciences) into FACS tubes.
- 729
- Flow cytometry characterization of $flil^+$ cells from zebrafish.
- 731 Cell samples were run on a BD FACS Aria (BD Biosciences). FSC-H and FSC-A were used
- to select cell singlets; 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) to select viable single cells;
- wild-type (Wik) zebrafish were used to set the gate between GFP⁻ (*i.e.*, $flil^{-}$) and GFP⁺ (*i.e.*,
- $fli1^+$) cells. At least 10,000 of $fli1^-$ and $fli1^+$ cells (excitation [Ex]: 488 nm; emission [Em]:
- 530 nm) were sorted into chilled PBS and 10% fetal bovine serum for further analysis.
- FlowJo 10 (Becton and Dickinson) was used to analyse data.
- 737

738 Statistical analysis

739	Results were expressed as the mean \pm SEM. Each experiment was performed 3 times
740	(biological replicates). The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to confirm the null hypothesis that the
741	data follow a normal distribution. Statistical comparisons between two groups or multiple
742	groups were then performed, respectively, via Student t-test or ANOVA test using PRISM 7
743	software followed by Bonferroni post hoc test. Log-rank test and Gehan-Breslow-Wilcoxon
744	test were used for statistical analysis of the Kaplan-Meier curves. A P value <0.05 was
745	considered significant.

747 Reporting summary

Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research ReportingSummary linked to this article.

750

751 Data availability

752 TMT-labelled S-nitrosylated protein analysis mass spectrometry data have been deposited to

the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the MASSIVE repository (MSV000085055) with the

dataset identifier PXD017883[https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/archive/projects/PXD17883] and

are freely available. Furthermore, a full list of the S-nitrosylated proteins derived from the

mass-spec is included in this manuscript as Dataset S1. Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)

757 database, accession

758 GSE137971[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE137971] was used for

single cell sequencing analysis. All other relevant data supporting the key findings of this

study are available within the article supplementary files, and Source Data file.

762 763		
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863 Acknowledgements

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and

- innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement n. 797304 (to
- 66 G.M.). This work was also supported by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) CoRE Award
- (RE/13/3/30183) and Transition Fellowship (RE/18/5/34216) (to G.M.); the BHF Chair of
- 868 Translational Cardiovascular Sciences (CH/11/2/28733) and Centre for Regenerative
- Medicine (RM/17/3/33381) (to A.H.B.); the Cullen Trust for Health Care (to J.P.C. and
- 6.M.); and the National Institutes of Health R01 Grants HL 148338 and HL133254 (to
- J.P.C.). Furthermore, we are grateful to David E. Newby, supported by the British Heart
- Foundation awards CH/09/002, RG/16/10/32375, RE/18/5/34216) and the Wellcome Trust
- award WT103782AIA, for providing additional funding support. We thank John F. Rawls lab
- 874 (Duke University School of Medicine) for providing $Tg(nfkb:EGFP)^{ncl}$ zebrafish.

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- 876 Author contributions
- 6.M. is the senior author of this work and is primarily responsible for the conception, design
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- contributed resources, advised on experimental design and contributed to manuscript editing
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883 Ethics declarations

- 884 Competing interests
- 885 The authors declare no competing interests.

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887 Legends

Figure 1 – Modulation of Nos and nuclear protein S-nitrosylation during tailfin

regeneration in adult zebrafish. A. Real time PCR for *nos1*, *nos2a* and *nos2b* in tailfin at 3,

5, 10 dpa. **B.** Western blot (WB) analysis of Nos2 in tailfins at 3, 5 and 10 dpa and semi-

quantitative analysis of bands. C. WB analysis of Nos2 in nucleus and cytoplasm of tailfins at

892 3, 5 and 10 dpa. Semi-quantitative analysis of bands shows nuclear to cytoplasmic protein

ratio. **D.** WB analysis of S-nitrosylated nuclear proteins in the regenerating tailfin. S-

nitrosothiols were specifically labelled with TMT. An anti-TMT antibody was used to detect

895 S-nitrosylated proteins. Neg and Pos are respectively the negative (without ascorbic acid) and

896 positive (with S-nitrosoglutathione) controls. E-F. WB analysis of S-nitrosylated nuclear

proteins in tailfin following treatment with L-NAME 10 or 50 mM, 2-Phenyl-4,4,5,5-

tetramethyl imidazoline-1-oxyl 3-oxide (PTIO) 3 or 10 mM, S-Nitroso-N-acetyl-DL-

penicillamine (SNAP) 10 or 30 mM, or PBS (control). The dot plot shows changes in tailfin

900 regeneration rate, here shown at 7 dpa, following drug treatments compared to control. β -

901 tubulin was used as loading control for total or cytoplasmic proteins. Histone H3 was used as

902 loading control for nuclear proteins. Dpa – days post-amputation. N=3 biological replicates,

one way ANOVA test followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test was used to

904 compare the means, p values shown are vs uninjured or control, all other comparisons are not

significant. Data are presented as mean values +/- SEM.

906 **Figure 2 – Bioinformatic analysis of the S-nitrosylome in zebrafish tailfin regeneration.**

907 A. Workflow for the analysis of the S-nitrosylome. Tailfins of zebrafish (6 months old) were

amputated; regrown tissue was collected in uninjured and at 3, 5 and 10 dpa (dash red lines

⁹⁰⁹ represent the edge of the amputation); nuclear proteins were extracted and labelled with

910 iodoTMT, digested with trypsin, and S-nitroso-peptides enriched through anti-TMT antibody

911 containing resin and followed by LC-MS-MS. B-C. Hierarchical clustering heat map and

Venn diagram showing the dynamic changes in the number of S-nitrosylated nuclear proteins
during the regeneration compared to uninjured. **D.** Hallmark pathways enrichment by the
differentially expressed S-nitrosylated proteins during regeneration compared to uninjured.
The significant pathways are displayed along the x-axis. Dpa - day post-amputation. N=2
biological replicates, followed by bioinformatic analysis.

biological replicates, followed by bioinformatic analysis.

917 Figure 3 – Role of S-nitrosylation of Kdm1a in tailfin regeneration in adult zebrafish. A.

918 MS/MS fragmentation spectrum for the Cys334-containing peptide of Kdm1a. Peptide

sequence is shown at the top left of the spectrum, with the annotation of the identified

matched amino terminus-containing ions (b ions) in black and the carboxyl terminus-

921 containing ions (y ions) in red. The spectrum confirms the identity of the peptides CPLYEAN

and the labeled C as S-nitrosylated cysteine. **B.** Line graph reporting the quantification of

923 Kdm1a S-nitrosylation (normalized by total Kdm1a) and Kdm1a activity during tailfin

regeneration. C. Western blotting (WB) for S-nitrosylated Kdm1a in uninjured and at 3, 5

and 10 dpa. Samples were previously immunoprecipitated (IP) for Kdm1a. IP with IgG and

⁹²⁶ input were used as controls. **D-E-F.** WB for Kdm1a, CoRest and NuRD complexes

927 components following IP with Kdm1a antibody in tailfin uninjured or injured at 5 dpa. Dpa –

928 days post-amputation. N=3 biological replicates.

929 **Figure 4 – Effects of** *kdm1a* **knockdown in adult zebrafish. A**. Western blotting (WB)

analysis of Kdm1a control and morpholino KD. Dot plot shows semiquantitative analysis of

bands. Two-tailed t-test. **B.** Effects of *Kdm1a* KD on tailfin regeneration. Dashed red line

- represents the edge of the resection. Scale bar indicates 2 mm. C. Line graph showing
- changes in tailfin regeneration rate following *kdm1a* KD. Two-way ANOVA followed by
- Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. **D-E.** WB for H3K4unme (unmethylated), H3K4me1,
- 935 H3K4me2 and H3K4me3 in control uninjured, injured and injured + kdm1a KD at at 5 dpa.

- 936 Dot plot shows semi-quantitative analysis of bands. Histone H3 was used as loading control.
- 937 Dpa days post-amputation. Two-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's multiple
- 938 comparisons test, p values indicate comparisons of uninjured vs other groups. N=3 biological
- replicates. Data are presented as mean values +/- SEM.
- 940 Figure 5 Analysis of S-nitrosylation in endothelial cells during tailfin regeneration. A.
- 941 Brightfield and fluorescence images of $Tg(fli1:EGFP)^{v1}$ zebrafish tailfin at 3 days post-
- amputation (dpa) showing formation of new vessel branches (GFP signal). Scale bar
- measures 500 μ m. **B.** FACS plot of GFP⁺ and GFP⁻ cells in the tailfin in control and during
- regeneration were separated by FACS. C. Quantification of GFP+ cells as shown in FACS
- 945 plots. Two-tailed t-test. **D.** Western blotting (WB) of total S-nitrosylated proteins in zebrafish
- tailfin endothelial (GFP+) cells. E. WB of Kdm1a and S-nitrosylated Kdm1a in endothelial
- 947 (GFP+) cells control, injury and injury + PTIO (NO scavenger) 10 mM. Dot plot shows semi-
- quantitative analysis. p values vs 5 dpa group. **F.** Vessel density analysis in $Tg(fli1:EGFP)^{vl}$
- 249 zebrafish tailfin uninjured, injured and injured + PTIO 10 mM, measured as total length of
- vessels. **G.** ChIP-PCR analysis in GFP⁺ cells isolated from the regenerating tailfin showing
- 951 H3K4me2-binding complex with *vegfaa* and *tek* promoters. Rabbit IgG were used as a
- negative control. **H.** Real time PCR analysis for endothelial genes in GFP+ cells from
- 253 zebrafish control, injury and injury + PTIO 10 mM. Histone H3 was used as loading control.
- 954 One-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test, p values indicate
- 955 comparisons vs uninjured. N=3 biological replicates. Data are presented as mean values +/-
- 956 SEM.

957 Figure 6. Modulation of Kdm1a S-nitrosylation during tailfin regeneration. A. *Kdm1a*

mRNA C334A was generated by site-directed mutagenesis, replacing the aa Cys334 with

Ala. B-D. Zebrafish embryos injected with *kdm1a* morpholino (Mo), or co-injected with

960	<i>kdm1a</i> Mo with	<i>kdm1a</i> mRNA	C334A o	r wild type. B.	Western blotting and	l semi-

- 961 quantitative analysis showed the effective knockdown and rescue of *kdm1a* following the
- 962 different treatments. β-tubulin was used as loading control. **C-D.** Images and dot plot of
- tailfin regeneration following *kdm1a* modulation (P values vs control). Scale bar measures
- ⁹⁶⁴ 100 μm. **E.** Working model. Tissue injury promotes the S-nitrosylation of the Cys334 of
- Kdm1a. S-nitrosylated Kdm1a detaches from the CoRest complex and loses its demethylase
- activity on H3K4. One-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test, p
- 967 values indicate comparisons vs control. N=3 biological replicates. Data are presented as mean
- 968 values +/- SEM.















