1	Combining multi-omics and drug perturbation profiles to identify muscle-specific
2	treatments for spinal muscular atrophy
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ABSTRACT

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a neuromuscular disorder caused by loss of survival motor neuron (SMN) protein. While SMN restoration therapies are beneficial, they are not a cure. We aimed to identify novel treatments to alleviate muscle pathology combining transcriptomics, proteomics and perturbational datasets. This revealed potential drug candidates for repurposing in SMA. One of the candidates, harmine, was further investigated in cell and animal models, improving multiple disease phenotypes, including lifespan, weight and key molecular networks in skeletal muscle. Our work highlights the potential of multiple and parallel data driven approaches for the development of novel treatments for use in combination with SMN restoration therapies.

91 **INTRODUCTION**

92 Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is an autosomal recessive neuromuscular disorder (1) and the 93 leading genetic cause of infant mortality (2). The major pathological components of the disease 94 are the selective loss of spinal cord alpha motor neurons, progressive muscle denervation (3) and 95 skeletal muscle atrophy (4). SMA is caused by mutations in the survival motor neuron 1 (SMN1) 96 gene (5). SMN protein is ubiquitously expressed and complete loss is lethal (6). However, humans 97 have a near-identical centromeric copy of the SMN1 gene, termed SMN2, in which a single 98 nucleotide change (C to T) in exon 7 (7) results in the exclusion of exon 7 from ~90% of the 99 mature transcript (8). The resulting protein is unstable and gets rapidly degraded (9). Patients can 100 have a varying number of SMN2 copies, which correlates with disease severity as each SMN2 101 copy retains the ability to produce $\sim 10\%$ of functional full-length (FL) protein (10, 11).

102 The first SMN restoration treatments, Spinraza[™], Zolgensma[™] and Evrysdi[™] have recently 103 been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency 104 (EMA). Spinraza[™] (12) is an antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) that promotes SMN2 exon 7 105 inclusion (13) and is administered by lumbar puncture, Zolgensma[™] delivers SMN1 cDNA via an 106 adeno-associated virus 9 (14) and is administered intravenously and Evrysdi[™] is a small 107 molecule that increases SMN2 exon 7 inclusion and is administered orally (15). While these 108 treatments have changed the SMA therapeutic landscape, they unfortunately fall short of 109 representing a cure (16–18). There is therefore a present need for SMN-independent therapies 110 that could be used in combination with SMN restoration treatments to provide a longer-lasting and 111 more effective therapeutic management of SMA pathology in patients (16–18).

Skeletal muscle pathology is a clear contributor to SMA disease manifestation and progression and improving muscle health could have significant benefits for patients (19). Here, we used an in-depth and parallel approach combining proteomics, transcriptomics and the drug pertubational dataset Connectivity Map (CMap) (20, 21) to identify differentially expressed (DE) transcripts and proteins in skeletal muscle of the severe Taiwanese *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* SMA mice (22) that could

117	potentially be restored by known and available pharmacological compounds. This strategy
118	uncovered several potential therapeutic candidates, including harmine, which was further
119	evaluated in cell and animal models, showing an ability to restore molecular networks and improve
120	several disease phenotypes, including lifespan and weight. Our study highlights the tremendous
121	potential of intersecting disease multi-omics with drug perturbational responses to identify
122	therapeutic compounds capable of modulating dysfunctional cellular and molecular networks to
123	ameliorate SMA phenotypes.
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143 **RESULTS**

144 Early restoration of SMN in SMA mice restores muscle protein and transcript expression. 145 We first set out to determine the effect of early SMN restoration on the proteomic and 146 transcriptomic profiles of SMA skeletal muscle, with the intent to design therapeutic strategies 147 against the genes and proteins that remained unchanged. To do so, the severe Taiwanese 148 Smn^{-1} : SMN2 SMA mouse model (22) received a facial intravenous (IV) injection at post-natal day 149 (P) 0 and P2 of the previously described Pip6a-PMO or Pip6a-scrambled pharmacological 150 compounds (10 μ g/g) (23, 24). Pip6a is a cell-penetrating peptide (CPP) conjugated either to an 151 SMN2 exon 7 inclusion-promoting ASO (PMO) or a scrambled ASO (23, 24). We have previously 152 reported that administration of Pip6a-PMO to newborn Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice led to increased SMN 153 protein levels in numerous tissues, including skeletal muscle, and a concomitant 40-fold increase 154 in survival (23). We harvested the tibialis anterior (TA) from P2 (pre-symptomatic) untreated 155 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and wild type (WT) mice, P7 (symptomatic) untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and WT mice 156 and P7 Pip6a-scrambled- and Pip6a-PMO-treated Smn^{-/-}:SMN2 mice. TAs were then cut in two, 157 whereby one half was used for transcriptomics (whole-transcript array assay) and the other for 158 proteomics (liquid chromatography mass spectrometry). gPCR analysis of the ratio of FL SMN2 159 over total SMN2 confirms a significant increase in FL SMN2 expression in P7 Pip6a-PMO-treated 160 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice compared to age-matched untreated and Pip6a-scrambled-treated 161 *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN*2 mice (Figure 1A).

Despite differences between the transcriptomic and proteomic methodologies, highlighted by hierarchical clustering and combined Principal Component Analysis (PCA) (Supplemental Figure 1), we were able to find clear separation of experimental groups and agreement between transcriptomic and proteomic profiles once the variance attributed to the differences in methodologies was removed (Figure 1B). At P7, we observed a clear separation of *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* and WT samples, where only Pip6a-PMO-treated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice clustered with WT (Figure 1B, Supplemental Figure 2). We also found that P2 *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* and WT samples

169 clustered together (Figure 1B, Supplemental Figure 2), suggesting that overt disease cannot be 170 detected in omics readouts at this early stage. In the PCA of P7 samples only (Figure 1C for 171 transcriptomics and Figure 1D for proteomics), we noted clustering of P7 Pip6a-PMO-treated 172 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice with untreated P7 WT animals, suggesting a significant restoration of both 173 transcriptomic and proteomic expression profiles. Surprisingly, we also detected segregation of 174 Pip6a-scrambled-treated samples at both transcriptomics and proteomics levels, revealing that 175 presence of the CPP itself impacted transcription and translation (Figure 1, C and D and 176 Supplemental Table 1). Importantly, both the combined and separate analysis of transcriptomic 177 and proteomic data allowed us to identify a robust SMA disease signature in muscle and a Pip6a-178 PMO treatment efficacy signature. Indeed, identification of DE genes and proteins revealed that 179 early induction of FL SMN expression by Pip6a-PMO normalized the expression of all transcripts 180 and all but 11 proteins in the TA of Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (Tables 1 and 2). Of note, one of the 181 proteins that remained significantly downregulated is SMN itself (Table 2), which is in contrast 182 with the complete normalisation of FL SMN2 transcript levels (Figure 1A) and perhaps due to 183 distinct regulation of SMN RNA and protein stability (25, 26) that might be impacted differently 184 during development, in this case prior to Pip6a-PMO-mediated SMN restoration. Nevertheless, 185 this increase is sufficient to rescue the disease phenotype, which is aligned with previous reports 186 of an SMN threshold, whereby a normal phenotype has been observed in mice with as little as 187 30% SMN protein compared to WT levels (27).

Our in-depth molecular profiling thus demonstrates for the first time that increasing FL *SMN2* in neonatal SMA mice almost completely normalizes muscle transcripts and proteins, highlighting at the molecular level the potential treatment benefits arising from early intervention.

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192 CMap perturbational profiles identify potential novel non-SMN treatments

193 We used the transcriptomic and proteomic profiles of the Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice treated with Pip6a-

194 PMO to find drugs that induced similar transcriptional patterns using the Connectivity Map (CMap)

195 resource (20, 28). Briefly, CMap is a database where gene expression profiles of human cell lines 196 treated with different drugs are collected, therefore providing a resource for drug repurposing 197 studies. Specifically, by selecting drugs that induce gene expression profiles that are inverse (or 198 anti-correlated) to disease-associated gene expression profiles, it is possible to identify new 199 candidate therapeutics with the potential to counteract the disease effects under investigation. 200 Thus, we firstly generated a filtered and reversed disease signature for both transcriptomics and 201 proteomics data by excluding the transcripts and proteins restored by Pip6a-scrambled (Pip6a-202 scrambled-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 vs untreated WT) from the overlap between disease (untreated 203 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 vs untreated WT) and Pip6a-PMO (Pip6a-PMO treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 vs untreated 204 $Smn^{-/-}$:SMN2) (Figure 2A). These filtered sets of transcripts and proteins show a significant 205 overlap between different data types (Supplemental Figure 3) and a greater similarity at the level 206 of enriched pathways when compared to non-filtered sets (Figure 2B). A complete list of enriched 207 gene ontology (GO) biological processes across all tested comparisons (transcripts and proteins) 208 is compiled in Supplemental Table 2.

The top 10 pharmacological compounds from CMap that showed a reversed pattern of expression for the disease signature and a similar expression pattern to that observed with Pip6a-PMO treatment are listed in Table 3. Importantly, a subset of these drugs, namely salbutamol (29) and alsterpaullone (30), have already been considered for SMA treatment, highlighting the capability of this analytic approach to identify relevant therapeutic options for SMA.

Our bioinformatic analysis therefore revealed that the Pip6a peptide itself led to several molecular changes in skeletal muscle, underscoring the importance of including such controls to avoid erroneous interpretations. Here, the generation of filtered data sets that excluded proteins and transcripts modulated by the Pip6a peptide only, allowed us to confidently identify transcripts, proteins and biological pathways selectively restored by increased SMN levels and relevant candidate drugs predicted to have similar activities. Thus, our strategy of combining

transcriptomics, proteomics and drug perturbational datasets has resulted in the generation of a
list of several pharmacological compounds with the potential to restore muscle health in SMA.

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Harmine displays predicted activity on candidate reporter genes in a cell- and dose dependent manner

To further validate our combined bioinformatics and drug repurposing approach, we chose to evaluate the potential of harmine (chemically akin to harmol), a drug identified by its CMap profile but not previously evaluated for SMA, and present in several proteomic and transcriptomic signatures (Table 3). Harmine is an alkaloid isolated from the seeds of Peganum harmala, traditionally used for ritual and medicinal preparations (31, 32). Harmine has also demonstrated therapeutic benefits (33) in animal models of the motor neuron disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) (34) and the muscle disorder myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1) (35).

232 We firstly evaluated the mRNA expression of the transcripts and proteins predicted to be 233 dysregulated by the transcriptomics and proteomics data and to be normalized by harmine 234 through the CMap analysis. We indeed confirmed by qPCR analysis that the genes small nuclear 235 ribonucleoprotein U4/U6.U5 subunit 27 (Snrnp27), glutaminase (G/s), assembly factor for spindle 236 microtubules (Aspm) and minichromosome maintenance complex component 2 (Mcm2) are 237 significantly downregulated (Figure 3A) while caseinolytic mitochondrial matrix peptidase 238 chaperone subunit X (Clpx), protein phosphatase, Mg2+/Mn2+ dependent 1B (Ppm1b), 239 transducer of ERBB2, 2 (Tob2) and cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor 1A (Cdkn1a) are 240 significantly upregulated (Figure 3B) in the TA of P7 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice compared to WT animals. 241 We then evaluated the ability of harmine to impact the expression of these genes by treating 242 C2C12 myoblasts, NSC-34 neuronal-like cells, SMA patient fibroblasts and control fibroblasts with 243 25, 35 and 50 µM of the drug for 48 hours. Our bioinformatic analysis predicted that harmine 244 would increase the expression Snrnp27, Gls, Aspm and Mcm2 and we observed an increased 245 expression of these genes, albeit in a cell- and dose-dependent manner (Figure 4, A-D). Indeed,

246 some cell types displayed a decreased expression of the candidate reporter genes (e.g. Aspm in 247 SMA patient fibroblasts (Figure 4C) and some cell types demonstrated an increased expression 248 only at a specific concentration of the drug (e.g. Gls in NSC-34s (Figure 4B). Similar results were 249 obtained when evaluating the expression of Clpx, Ppm1b, Tob2 and Cdkn1a, genes predicted to 250 be downregulated by harmine (Figure 5, A-D). For the most part, harmine decreased the 251 expression of these genes, with some exceptions where expression was in fact increased (e.g. 252 Cdkn1a in C2C12s (Figure 5D) or decreased only at certain doses (e.g. Tob2 in SMA patient 253 fibroblasts (Figure 5D). Our observed cell- and dose-dependent pharmacological activity of 254 harmine most likely reflects that the CMap resource is based on data from human cancer cell 255 lines (20, 28). In addition, harmine displayed inhibitory effects on proliferation and viability at the 256 higher doses in C2C12s and NSC-34s (Supplemental Figure 4), which perhaps influenced the 257 differential effects of low and high concentrations in some cell types.

We were thus able to demonstrate the strength of our combined bioinformatics and drug repurposing approach by selecting harmine for additional proof-of-concept investigations. Indeed, we confirmed the predicted dysregulation of several candidate reporter genes in skeletal muscle of symptomatic SMA mice and observed a cell- and concentration-dependent modulation of their expression by harmine.

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Administration of harmine to SMA mice ameliorates disease phenotypes

To further evaluate the potential therapeutic effects of harmine *in vivo*, we administered it daily to $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice and $Smn^{+/-};SMN2$ control littermates by gavage (10 mg/kg diluted in 0.9% saline) starting at P0. The 10 mg/kg dose was chosen based on its previous demonstrations of activity and safety in rodents (36). We first evaluated the effects of harmine on the expression of the candidate reporter genes predicted to be restored by harmine. Of the genes predicted to be upregulated by harmine (*Snrnp27*, *Gls*, *Aspm* and *Mcm2*), daily harmine administration increased the expression of *Snrnp27* in both *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* SMA mice and *Smn*^{+/-};*SMN2* control littermates 272 and of Aspm and Mcm2 in SMA muscle only, compared to untreated cohorts (Figure 6A). Of the genes predicted to be downregulated by harmine (*Clpx*, *Ppm1b*, *Cdkn1a* and *Tob2*), harmine only 273 274 reduced the expression of Tob2 in SMA mice compared to untreated animals (Figure 6B). Of 275 note, while the Smn^{+/-};SMN2 mice are healthy littermates in terms of lifespan and reproductive 276 abilities, they nevertheless have reduced levels of Smn, which in itself has been demonstrated to 277 impact certain phenotypic features (e.g. tail and ear necrosis, metabolism, gene expression) (22, 278 37). As such, comparisons were performed between untreated and harmine-treated animals of 279 the same genotype, allowing us to determine if the effects were SMA-dependent or -independent, 280 without the addition of a potential compounding factor.

281 We next assessed the effect of harmine on disease progression and found a significant increase 282 in survival of harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice compared to untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 animals 283 (Figure 7A). Harmine administration also improved weights of treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice 284 compared to untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 animals (Figure 7B) while it did not impact the weights of 285 Smn^{+/-};SMN2 control littermates (Figure 7C). An intermediate SMA mouse model, termed Smn^{2B/-} (27), was also treated with harmine. Harmine administration to Smn^{2B/-} mice similarly resulted in 286 a significant increase in survival compared to untreated Smn^{2B/-} animals (Figure 7D), albeit to a 287 lesser extent, most likely due to the fact that the treated animals developed tremors and needed 288 289 to be culled. Tremors have indeed been reported in animal studies of long-term harmine 290 administration (38-40). Nevertheless, harmine significantly increased the weights of treated $Smn^{2B'-}$ mice compared to untreated $Smn^{2B'-}$ animals (Figure 7E). Interestingly, harmine also had 291 a small but significant impact on the weights of treated Smn^{2B/+} control littermates compared to 292 293 untreated $Smn^{2B/+}$ animals (Figure 7F).

Given that harmine was chosen to target molecular effectors in muscle, we measured the myofiber size in the TAs from P7 untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ and $Smn^{+/-};SMN2$ mice. We observe an increased proportion of larger myofibers in harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice compared to untreated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ animals (Figure 8A. 4i).

Harmine has also been been reported to increase the expression of the neuroprotective glutamate transporter 1 (GLT-1) (41, 42) and thus, we assessed GLT-1 protein levels in P7 spinal cords from untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ and $Smn^{+/-};SMN2$ mice. We found that harmine administration significantly increased GLT-1 expression in treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice compared to untreated animals, whilst having no impact in $Smn^{+/-};SMN2$ healthy controls (Figure 8B, Supplemental Figure 5), suggesting an SMA-dependent effect.

Finally, given the reported neuroprotective activities of harmine (43), we proceeded to evaluate motor neuron loss in lumbar spinal cords of untreated and harmine-treated P7 $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ animals (Figure 8C). We observed that daily harmine administration significantly increased the number of motor neurons per ventral horn area in SMA mice, restoring it to the average number found in untreated and treated $Smn^{+/-};SMN2$ healthy littermates (Figure 8C), further supporting a CNS-dependent effect of harmine.

310 We thus demonstrate that treating SMA mice with harmine significantly improves multiple 311 molecular and pathological phenotypes in both skeletal muscle and the spinal cord.

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313 Harmine administration restores gene expression in muscle of SMA mice

314 To systematically explore the effects of harmine in SMA muscle and further validate our combined 315 bioinformatics and drug repurposing approach, we performed RNA-sequencing (RNA-Seg) on 316 TAs from P7 untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and WT mice. A total of 15,523 protein 317 coding genes were identified across all samples. We found that harmine significantly reversed 318 1256 genes that are DE between Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and WT animals (Figure 9A). Interestingly, 319 harmine treatment in WT animals influenced the expression of significantly fewer genes than in 320 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (Figure 9B) showing a high specificity towards pathways dysregulated in Smn⁻ 321 ^{//};SMN2 mice such as muscle phenotypes, lipid metabolism and glucose metabolism (44–46) 322 (Figure 9C). In agreement with the incomplete rescue of disease phenotypes in SMA mice, harmine treatment did not restore all DE genes (Figure 9B) or pathways (Figure 9C) such as 323

muscle cell development and angiogenesis (47, 48). A complete list of enriched GO biological
 processes for the DE genes in each comparison is provided in Supplemental Table 3.

Considering the role of SMN in regulating RNA splicing (49), we examined whether harmine restored splicing alterations observed following loss of *Smn*. From a total of 81,011 distinct transcripts, 84 were found to be dysregulated in the disease model (*Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* vs WT), of which only 1 was found to be reversed by harmine treatment (namely DNA methyltransferase 3 beta (*Dnmt3b*)).

Thus, our RNA-Seq analysis demonstrates that harmine reverses a large number of molecular pathologies in skeletal muscle of SMA mice beyond the selected candidate reporter genes, with a more prominent effect on overall expression than alternative splicing.

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Harmine restores multiple, but not all, molecular networks disturbed in muscle of *Smn^{-/-} ;SMN2* mice

337 To further assess the restorative effects of harmine at a molecular level, we built a gene functional 338 network from the top 500 DE genes using functional relationships defined by a phenotypic linkage 339 network that links genes together that are likely to influence similar phenotypes (50). Louvain 340 clustering of this network identified six modules of interconnected genes disturbed in muscle of 341 Smn^{-} ; SMN2 mice (Supplemental Figure 6), of which three (M1, M2, and M5) were fully restored 342 and one (M4) was partially restored by harmine treatment (Figure 10A). Enrichment analysis in 343 mouse phenotypes highlighted several pathways known to be involved in SMA such as lipid and 344 glucose metabolism (44, 46) as well as muscle fiber morphology and contraction (45, 47) (Figure 345 10B), providing potential molecular explanations for the improved phenotypes in harmine-treated 346 SMA mice and a similarity to the pathways associated with Pip6a-PMO treatment (Figure 2C). A 347 tissue enrichment analysis on GTEx gene expression data confirmed the effect of harmine upon 348 muscle-specific genes (Supplemental Figure 7). Through Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA), we 349 identified upstream regulators of the six modules of interconnected genes disturbed in muscle of 350 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (Figure 10C). A complete list of upstream regulators and their downstream
 351 targets is provided in Supplemental Table 4.

352 Our large network analyses therefore suggest that additional mechanistic investigations of 353 functional biological pathways are required to better understand the specific and direct benefits 354 of harmine in SMA muscle. Importantly, our bioinformatic analyses have uncovered several 355 interesting molecular networks restored by harmine in SMA muscle that could have further 356 implications for future development of muscle-specific therapies for SMA.

358 **DISCUSSION**

359 Despite the tremendous recent advances in SMA gene therapy, this neuromuscular disorder 360 remains incurable and there is an urgent need for the development of second-generation 361 treatments that can be used in combination with SMN-dependent therapies (16–18). In this study, 362 we therefore evaluated and validated a strategy combining transcriptomics, proteomics and drug 363 repositioning to identify novel therapeutic compounds that have the potential to improve muscle 364 pathology in SMA. An in-depth investigation of one of these drugs, harmine, further supports our 365 approach as harmine restored several molecular, behavioural and histological disease 366 phenotypes in both cellular and animal models of the disease.

Of major importance, and to our surprise, we demonstrated that early SMN restoration via Pip6a-367 368 PMO corrects most, if not all, of the transcriptomic and proteomic dysregulations in SMA muscle, 369 highlighting the need for and likely benefit from early treatment intervention in SMA. It is important 370 to note however that the Pip6a-PMO dose delivered to mice was very high and most likely higher 371 than what would be expected in patients. Our pathway analyses revealed that many molecular 372 functions that are dysregulated in SMA mice compared to WT mice and recovered by Pip6a-PMO 373 have previously been implicated in the pathology of SMA, including RNA metabolism and splicing, 374 circadian regulation of gene expression, ubiquitin pathways, regulation of Rho protein signal 375 transduction and actin binding pathways (51–54). Their normalization following SMN restoration 376 further supports their involvement in SMA pathology.

Using the DE genes and proteins in SMA muscle compared to WT, we used a CMap pertubational dataset to provide a list of candidate drugs that could improve SMA pathology, some of which had previously been evaluated in SMA such as salbutamol (55). CMap analysis has been used to identify new potential therapeutics for a range of different conditions such as skeletal muscle atrophy (56), osteoarthritic pain (57), lung adenocarcinoma (58) and kidney disease (59). CMap can also help establish prediction models for different adverse drug reactions and evaluate drug safety (60).

384 In this study, we chose to provide a more in-depth assessment of harmine, a drug predicted to 385 restore DE genes and proteins in SMA muscle. Harmine is a β -carboline alkaloid and has various 386 vasorelaxant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, analgesic, anti-oxidative, anti-mutagenic, anti-387 tumor, anti-depressive, anti-addictive and neuroprotective therapeutic effects (33, 61, 62). The 388 pharmacological mechanisms involve several molecular targets including monoamine oxidase (MAO), serotonin 5-HT2A/C receptors, imidazoline I1/2 receptors, reactive oxygen species 389 390 (ROS), dual specificity tyrosine phosphorylation regulated kinase 1A (DYRK1A), GLT-1 and 391 neurotrophic factors (33, 61, 62). In our study, one of the genes downregulated in SMA muscle 392 compared to WT animals and increased by harmine was Snrnp27, a small nuclear RNP (snRNP) 393 involved in pre-mRNA splicing (63) and SMN plays a canonical role in the assembly of snRNPs 394 (64). Of note, whilst the observed change in Snrnp27 levels were small and further investigations 395 are required to fully determine its biological significance, it was nevertheless observed in both 396 SMA mice and healthy littermates, suggesting a potential direct and beneficial effect of harmine 397 administration on Snrnp27 expression. Cdkn1a (or p21) was also identified as a potential 398 molecular target of harmine. This mediator of cell cycle and DNA repair is reported to be 399 upregulated in various SMA models (65-69). While we validated an upregulated expression of 400 Cdkn1a in skeletal muscle of symptomatic SMA mice, harmine administration did not lead to its 401 predicted downregulation in vivo. Moreover, in our in vitro experiments, harmine actually 402 increased Cdkn1a expression in certain cell types and at certain doses, further highlighting the 403 importance of validating in situ predictions in relevant cell and animal models. Indeed, harmine 404 did not demonstrate a predicted activity on all selected candidate reporter genes and any 405 observed activity varied between cell types and tissues. Given that the CMap analysis is primarily 406 based on data from human cancer cell lines (MCF7, PC3 and HL60), distinct effects across cell 407 types and tissues are to be expected. Whilst harmine influenced a subset of the selected 408 candidate reporter genes in the predicted direction, our RNA-Seq analysis demonstrated that 409 harmine does in fact normalise the expression of a large number of additional genes in skeletal

410 muscle of SMA mice that are implicated in key muscle processes such as muscle structure 411 development, muscle contraction, muscle system process and muscle cell differentiation. Thus, 412 our combined transcriptomics, proteomics and CMap approach has not only identified genes that 413 have previously been implicated in SMA pathology but has also provided an extensive list of novel 414 and relevant molecular targets for further mechanistic investigations and therapeutic 415 development.

416 Harmine can cross the blood-brain barrier and has well characterized neuroprotective properties, 417 including its ability to upregulate the expression of GLT-1 in several neurodegenerative models 418 (41, 42). We indeed showed that GLT-1 expression is significantly upregulated in the spinal cord 419 of SMA mice following harmine administration, which could potentially counteract the reduced 420 glutamate transporter activity that has previously been reported throughout the CNS of SMA 421 patients (70). In addition, we found that harmine significantly increased the number of motor 422 neurons in the spinal cord of SMA animals. However, it is unclear whether this prevention of motor 423 neuron loss is a cause or a consequence of the improved weight and lifespan, simply reflects a 424 delayed neurodegenerative process and/or is associated with functional improvements. Given 425 that the extent of motor neuron loss is guite similar between SMA mouse models of varying 426 severities, motor neuron health and function are most likely better correlated with disease 427 progression than absolute number (71). Nevertheless, the fact that harmine exerted muscle and 428 CNS effects makes it an interesting therapeutic option for SMA. However, it is important to note 429 that harmine can also exert adverse effects such as the onset of tremors (38-40), which we observed when dosing the intermediate Smn^{2B/-} mouse model over a longer period of time. 430

431 Notably, the diverse phenotypic changes observed in SMA mice occurred in spite of harmine's 432 short half-life of 1-3 hours (72), suggesting that the observed restoration of gene networks was 433 sustained either through regulatory cascades and/or a self-reinforcement. Performing time-series 434 or pseudotemporal analyses of the responding regulatory gene networks could elucidate the key 435 reinforcing drivers. Although SMN protein levels were not increased and harmine treatment did

436 not rescue the entire perturbed gene networks, the specificity of harmine treatment in skeletal 437 muscle is remarkable with very few affected genes outside of the perturbed gene networks. It is 438 important to also consider that the benefits of harmine in SMA mice may be due to direct effects 439 in the target muscle tissue and/or indirect effects via improved phenotypes in the spinal cord and 440 in additional pathologically affected peripheral tissues (e.g. heart, liver, pancreas (73)) previously demonstrated to be functionally modulated by harmine (74-76) and not evaluated in the current 441 442 study. Thus, while harmine itself might not be the ideal SMA treatment due to its range of 443 pharmacological and adverse side effects (77), replicating harmine's tissue-specific activities with 444 more targeted compounds may prove an effective strategy for SMA therapeutic development.

To our knowledge, this is the first in-depth validation of this combinatorial approach in SMA. We were able to show the strength and potential of combining multi-omics and drug repositioning to uncover novel therapeutic entities, which in this case was aimed at improving muscle health in SMA. Our work thus provides an invaluable list of pharmacological compounds, upstream regulators and molecular targets that can be evaluated for treatment of SMA muscle pathology as well as strong support for the use of this combined multi-omics and bioinformatic strategy.

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462 **METHODS**

463 <u>Animals and animal procedures</u>

464 Wild-type mice (FVB/N (78) and C57BL/6J (79)) were obtained from Jackson Laboratories. The severe Smn^{-/-};SMN2^{+/-} mouse model (22) was also obtained from Jackson Laboratories (FVB.Cg-465 *Smn1tm1Hung Tg(SMN2)2Hung/J*). The moderate *Smn^{2B/-}* mouse model (27, 80) was generously 466 467 provided by Dr. Lyndsay M Murray (Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences, University of Edinburgh, 468 Edinburgh, UK). All experiments with live animals were performed at the Biomedical Services 469 Building, University of Oxford. For all experiments, litters were randomly assigned at birth and 470 whole litters composed of both sexes were used. Sample sizes were determined based on similar 471 studies with SMA mice. For survival curves, the following humane endpoints, as defined in our 472 Home Office Project Licence, were used: 1) For the Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice, animals were killed when 473 they demonstrated either of the following clinical signs: hindlimb paralysis, immobility, inability to 474 right (greater than 30s) and greater than 15% weight loss, 2) For the Smn²B/- mice, animals were 475 killed when they demonstrated either of the following clinical signs: hindlimb paralysis, immobility, 476 inability to right (greater than 30s) and greater than 18% weight loss.

477 The Pip6a-PMO and Pip6a-scrambled conjugates were both separately prepared in 0.9% saline 478 solution and administered at a dose of 10 μ g/g via an intravenous facial vein injection at P0 and 479 P2.

Harmine hydrochloride (sc-295136, Insight Biotechnology Ltd, Sante Cruz) was dissolved in 0.9%
saline and administered daily (10 mg/kg) by gavage.

482

483 Synthesis of Pip6a peptide-PMO conjugates

The PMO sequence targeting ISS-N1 intron 7 (-10-27) (5'-ATTCACTTTCATAATGCTGG-3') and scrambled PMO (5'-TAC GTT ATA TCT CGT GAT AC-3') were purchased from Gene Tools LLC (Corvallis). The Pip6a Ac-(RXRRBRRXRYQFLIRXRBRXRB)-COOH peptide was manufactured by standard 9-fluorenylmethoxy carbonyl chemistry, purified to >90% purity by reverse-phase highperformance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and conjugated to the 3' end of the PMO through an amide linkage. The conjugate was purified by cation exchange HPLC, desalted and analyzed by mass spectrometry. Pip6a peptide-PMO conjugates were dissolved in sterile water and filtered through a 0.22 µm cellulose acetate membrane before use.

493

494 Laminin staining of skeletal muscle

495 Tibialis anterior (TA) muscles were fixed in 4% PFA overnight. Tissues were sectioned (13 µm) 496 and incubated in blocking buffer for 2 hours (0.3% Triton-X, 20% FBS and 20% normal goat serum 497 in PBS). After blocking, tissues were stained overnight at 4 °C with rat anti-laminin (1:1000, L0663, 498 Sigma Aldrich) in blocking buffer. The next day, tissues were washed in PBS and probed using 499 goat-anti-rat IgG 488 secondary antibodies (1:500, AlexaFluor 488, ThermoFisher Scientific) for 500 one hour. PBS-washed tissues were mounted in Fluoromount-G (Southern Biotech). Images were 501 taken with a DM IRB microscope (Leica). Quantitative assays were performed blinded on 3-5 502 mice for each group and five sections per mouse. The area of muscle fiber within designated 503 regions of the TA muscle sections was measured using Fiji (81).

504

505 Nissl staining of spinal cord

506 Whole spinal cords were fixed in 4% PFA overnight and subsequently placed in a 30% sucrose 507 solution (PBS). The lumbar areas of the spinal cords were then flash-frozen in a 50:50 mixture of 508 optimal cutting temperature compound (OCT):30% sucrose and 20 µm sections were cut. 509 Sections were first rehydrated 40 minutes in PBS followed by a 10-minute permeabilization step 510 in 0.1% Triton X. Sections were washed in PBS and stained with Neurotrace 500/525 green 511 fluorescent Nissl (1:500, N21480, ThermoFisher Scientific). Sections were then washed in PBS, 512 counterstained with DAPI and mounted in Fluoromount-G (Southern Biotech). Images for 513 quantification were taken with a DM IRB microscope (Leica). Motor neuron cell body counts in 514 the ventral horn area of the spinal cord were performed blindly on 3–5 mice per experimental 515 group and five sections per mouse using Fiji (81). Representative images were taken with an 516 Olympus Fluoview FV1000 confocal microscope and processed with Fiji (81).

- 517
- 518 <u>qPCR</u>

519 RNA was extracted from tissues and cells by either a RNeasy kit from Qiagen or by guanidinium 520 thiocyantate-acid-phenol-chloroform extraction using TRIzol Reagent (Life Technologies) as per 521 manufacturer's instructions. The same RNA extraction method was employed for similar 522 experiments and equal RNA amounts were used between samples within the same experiments. 523 cDNA was prepared with the High Capacity cDNA Kit (Life Technologies) according to the 524 manufacturer's instructions. The cDNA template was amplified on a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR 525 Thermocycler (Life Technologies) with SYBR Green Mastermix from Applied Biosystems. gPCR 526 data was analyzed using the StepOne Software v2.3 (Applied Biosystems). Primers used for 527 qPCR were obtained from IDT and sequences for primers were either self-designed or ready-528 made (Supplemental Table 5). Relative gene expression was quantified using the Pfaffl method 529 (82) and primer efficiencies were calculated with the LinRegPCR software. We normalized relative 530 expression level of all tested genes in mouse tissue and cells to RNA polymerase II polypeptide 531 J (PolJ) (83). For human cells, we ran a GeNorm kit (Primer Design) to identify ribosomal protein 532 L13a (RPL13A) as a reference/housekeeping gene. Primers for RPL13A were from IDT 533 (209604333).

534

535 <u>Cell culture</u>

536 Both C2C12 (ATCC #CRL-1772) (84) and NSC-34 (generously provided by Professor Peter 537 Claus, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany) (85) cell lines were maintained in growth 538 media consisting of Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Media (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal

539 bovine serum (FBS) and 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin (all Life Technologies). The cells were 540 cultured at 37°C with 5% CO₂. C2C12 myoblasts were differentiated in DMEM containing 2% 541 horse serum (HS) for 7 days to form multinucleated myotubes.

542 Human fibroblasts were obtained from Coriell Institue (SMA GM03813, control AG02261) and 543 cultured in DMEM, supplemented with 1% antibiotics/antimycotics and 20% FBS.

544

545 MTS assays

546 Cell viability and proliferation of C2C12 and NSC-34 cells treated with harmine (sc-202644, Insight 547 Biotechnology Ltd, Sante Cruz) dissolved in DMSO (final concentration 0.03%) were evaluated 548 with a 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium 549 (MTS) assay kit (Colorimetric). The measurements were made according to manufacturer's 550 instructions. Briefly, 10 µl of MTS reagent was added directly to the wells and cell plates were 551 incubated at 37°C for a minimum of 1 hour. Absorbance was measured at 490 nm on a 552 CLARIOstar® plate reader (BMG LABTECH). Background absorbance was first subtracted using 553 a set of wells containing medium only, then normalized to and expressed as a relative percentage 554 of the plate-averaged untreated control. To chemically induce apoptosis, cells were treated with 555 10 µM Staurosporine (Abcam, Cambridge, UK).

556

557 <u>Western blot</u>

558 Freshly prepared radioimmunoprecipitation (RIPA) buffer was used to homogenize tissue and 559 cells, consisting of 50 mM Tris pH 8.8, 150mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 0.5% Sodium Deoxycholate, 560 0.1% SDS and complete mini-proteinase inhibitors (1 tablet per 10 ml extraction solution, Roche). 561 Equal amounts of total protein were loaded, as measured by Bradford Assay. Protein samples 562 were first diluted 1:1 with Laemmli sample buffer (Bio-Rad, Hemel Hempstead, UK) containing 563 5% β-mercaptoethanol (Sigma) and heated at 100°C for 10 minutes. Next, samples were loaded 564 on freshly made 1.5 mm 12% polyacrylamide separating and 5% stacking gel and electrophoresis 565 was performed at 120 V for ~1.5h in running buffer. Subsequently, proteins were transferred from 566 the gel onto to a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane (Merck Millipore) via electroblotting at 567 120 V for 60 minutes in transfer buffer containing 20% methanol. Membranes were then incubated 568 for 2h in Odyssey Blocking Buffer (Licor). The membrane was then probed overnight at 4°C with 569 primary antibodies (rabbit anti-GLT-1, 1:1000, Abcam #ab41621; mouse anti-vinculin, 1:200.000, 570 Sigma-Aldrich #V9131) in Odyssey Blocking Buffer and 0.1% Tween-20. The next day, after three 571 10-minute washing steps with PBS, the membrane was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature 572 with secondary antibodies conjugated to infrared dyes (goat anti-rabbit IgG (H + L), IRDye 573 800CW, LI-COR Biosciences #827-08365; goat anti-mouse IgG (H + L), IRDye 680RD, LI-COR 574 Biosciences #926-68070). Lastly, the membrane was washed again three times 10 minutes in 575 PBS and visualized by scanning 700 nm and 800 nm channels on the LI-COR Odyssey CLx 576 infrared imaging system (LI-COR) for 2.5 minutes per channel. The background was subtracted 577 and signal of protein of interest was divided by signal of the housekeeping protein or total protein, 578 per sample.

579

580 Proteomic analysis

Proteomic analyses were performed using a liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS)based method. High-resolution isoelectric focusing (HiRIEF) was used at the peptide level in the 3.7–5.0 pH range. Two tandem mass tags (TMTs, chemical labels) were used for mass spectrometry (MS)-based quantification and identification of proteins. The data was median normalized based on peptide ratio. Amongst a total of 9798 potentially detectable proteins, most (8152) were identified in all samples/groups.

587 The limma R package was used for differential expression analysis, whereby differentially 588 expressed proteins were defined by FDR <0.05. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of 589 proteomic data was executed using topGO R function and adjusted p values for multiple testing

590 following a Benjamini-Hochberg correction. For principal component analysis, we used the 591 prcomp R function on the normalized expression data.

592

593 Microarray analysis

594RNA was extracted by guanidinium thiocyantate-acid-phenol-chloroform extraction using TRIzol595Reagent (Life Technologies) as per manufacturer's instructions. GeneChip Mouse Transcriptome596Assay 1.0 arrays were used (Affymetrix core facility, Karolinska Institute) with 100 ng of RNA per597sample. Annotations for the Mouse Transcript Array 1.0 at the transcript level were obtained from598theAffymetrixwebsite

599 (http://www.affymetrix.com/products_services/arrays/specific/mo_trans_assay.

600 affx#1 4). We performed background correction and RMA normalization at the probe level using 601 oligo R package. We summarized the data in ensemble transcript IDs using the average. The 602 total number of ensemble transcript IDs was 93,594, corresponding to 37,450 genes. For 603 differential expression analysis, we used limma R package and considered a transcript 604 differentially expressed if their FDR <0.05. A gene was considered differentially expressed if at 605 least one of the associated transcripts was differentially expressed. Gene Ontology (GO) 606 enrichment analysis was performed in R using the topGO function as described for proteomic 607 data. For principal component analysis we used the prcomp R function on the RMA normalized 608 gene expression data at the gene level (for comparison with proteomic data).

609

610 Combined analysis of proteomic and transcriptomic data

To measure the similarity between gene expression profiles, we used the Ward hierarchical clustering on the Euclidean distance of 1–r (where r is the Pearson correlation between samples). To compare the two omics readouts, proteomic and transcriptomic data were scaled (transformed to z-score values), followed by a PCA analysis showing that PC1 divides the data at the transcript and protein level. Using the kill.pc function in the swamp R package, we extracted a new 616 expression matrix where the variance given by PC1 has been removed. Finally, we performed617 hierarchical clustering analysis on the new expression matrix.

618

619 RNA-Sequencing analysis

620 RNA was extracted using a RNeasy Microarray Tissue Mini Kit from Qiagen. Lysis and 621 homogenization were performed using QIAzol Lysis Reagent. cDNA synthesis and RNA-Seq 622 library construction were performed at the Oxford Genomics Centre (Oxford, United Kingdom) 623 using poly(A) enrichment of the mRNA (mRNA-Seq) and HiSeq 4000 Systems for sequencing. All samples passed quality control. For differential expression analysis, we used DESeq2 on 624 625 genes expressed across all samples (15523 genes) after removal of one outlier (Harmine-treated 626 Smn^{-1} ; SMN2 sample 1). We considered a gene differentially expressed at FDR < 0.05. For Gene 627 Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis, we used topGO R function and adjusted p values for multiple 628 testing following a Benjamini-Hochberg correction. For mouse phenotype enrichment analysis, 629 we downloaded phenotypes from the Mouse Genome Database, Mouse Genome Informatics, 630 The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine (URL: http://www.informatics.jax.org) (June, 2018) 631 and used in-house script to correct for the background set of expressed genes.

632

633 Differential isoform expression analysis

Transcript counts were first obtained using Salmon software v.0.11.2 (86). Differential isoform
usage was then analysed using edgeR R package (87), considering an isoform as differentially
expressed when the adjusted p-value in the comparison between samples was below 0.05.

637

638 Gene functional network and clustering method

639 A gene functional network was built by extracting interactions from a phenotypic linkage network

640 (50) for the top 500 most differentially expressed (DE) genes in $Smn^{-/-}$; SMN2 mice vs WT mice.

641 To identify modules of highly interconnected genes in the network, we employed "cluster_louvain"

function in "igraph" R package (88). This function implements the multi-level modularity
optimization algorithm (89, 90) where at each step genes are re-assigned to modules in a greedy
way and the process stops when the modularity does not increase in a successive step.

645

646 Upstream regulators

Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (www.qiagenbioinformatics.com) was used to identify the top 50 upstream regulators for the top 500 most differentially expressed (DE) genes in *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice vs WT mice. A reduced list of regulators was identified based on enrichment of their target genes within the four modules in the network that are restored upon harmine treatment.

651

652 GTEx tissue enrichment analysis

GTEx V7 tissue gene expression profiles were downloaded from gtexportal.org. For each tissue, we averaged the gene expression profiles across individuals and we then identified tissue-specific genes as those with a fold change >+5 calculated for the expression in one tissue compared to all other tissues. Gene enrichment *p*-values (hypergeometric test) were computed for the overlap between the identified tissue-specific gene sets and our sets of differentially expressed genes.

658

659 <u>CMap analysis</u>

660 Ensembl transcript ids from mice were mapped to human probe IDs (HG-U133A) using biomaRt 661 (Ensembl transcript id mus musculus \rightarrow Ensembl gene id mus musculus \rightarrow ortholog one2one \rightarrow 662 Ensembl gene id homo sapiens \rightarrow HG-U133A id). We compared the identified disease and Pip6a-663 PMO signatures (top 500 up-regulated and top 500 down-regulated transcripts/proteins) to 6100 664 contained at Connectivity (CMap) (Build 02, drug instances Map 665 http://www.broadinstitute.org/cmap). Each instance corresponds to a drug response (treatment 666 vs vehicle control) in a particular cell line and covers up to 1230 drugs across mainly 3 human 667 cell lines (MCF7 = 3095, PC3 = 1741, HL60 = 1229, ssMCF7 = 18 and SKMEL5 = 17 instances).

We used the proven CMap algorithm (note: although some improvements have been proposed, they have not been systematically evaluated (91)). Briefly, each subset of up- and downregulated genes is compared to each instance by taking into account the ranked differences using a nonparametric rank test (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic). For each instance, a connectivity score (ranging from +1 to -1) represents the relative strength in which a drug induced (+ 1) or reversed (-1) a given gene signature, while zero indicates a random distribution of up- and downregulated genes in the ranked response of a drug.

- 675
- 676 <u>Statistics</u>

All non-bioinformatic statistical analyses were done with the most Graphpad Prism software (version 8.4.2). When appropriate, a Student's unpaired two-tail *t*-test, a one-way ANOVA or a two-way ANOVA was used. *Post-hoc* analyses used are specified in Figure Legends. Outliers were identified via the Grubbs' test. For the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis, the log-rank test was used and survival curves were considered significantly different at p<0.05.

682

683 Study approval

Experimental procedures were authorized and approved by the University of Oxford ethics
 committee and UK Home Office (current project license PDFEDC6F0, previous project license
 30/2907) in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

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689 DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

- 690 The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are included in this 691 published article (and its supplementary information files).
- 692 The expression data discussed in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene
- 693 Expression Omnibus (92) and are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE150510
- 694 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE150510) and GSE150517
- 695 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE150517) for RNA-Seq and microarray
- 696 data, respectively.
- 697 Associated raw data for the proteomics analysis can be found in the Proteomics Source Data file.
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704 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

705 Figure 1. Restoration of protein and transcript expression in skeletal muscle of SMA mice 706 following early SMN restoration treatment. Smn⁺;SMN2 mice received a facial intravenous 707 injection at postnatal day (P) 0 and P2 of Pip6a-scrambled or Pip6a-PMO (10 µg/g). The tibialis 708 anterior was harvested from P2 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and WT mice, P7 untreated, Pip6a-709 scrambled-treated and Pip6a-PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and P7 untreated WT mice. (A) 710 Comparison of the ratio of full length (FL) SMN2 over total SMN2 quantified by qPCR between 711 P7 untreated Pip6a-scrambled- and Pip6a-PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice. Data are scatter plot 712 and mean \pm SEM. n = 4 animals per experimental group, one-way ANOVA followed by a Dunnett's 713 multiple comparisons test, F = 34.88, df = 11, ns = not significant, ***p<0.001. (**B**) Heatmap of the 714 transcriptomic and proteomic expression profiles measured by the Pearson correlation between 715 each pair of samples (after the removal of the first principal component). (C) First two principal 716 components based on transcriptomic profiles of P7 untreated WT mice, untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice, Pip6a-PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and Pip6a-scrambled Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice. (**D**) First 717 718 two principal components based on proteomic profiles of P7 untreated WT mice, untreated Smn⁻ 719 [/];SMN2 mice, Pip6a-PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and Pip6a-scrambled Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice.

720

721 Figure 2. Identification of disease signal reversed by treatment with Pip6a-PMO by 722 removing the effect of Pip6a-scrambled at transcriptomic and proteomic levels. (A) Venn 723 diagrams show the number of transcripts (top) and proteins (bottom) differentially expressed (DE) 724 between untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and untreated WT mice, reversed by treatment with Pip6a-PMO 725 and not DE between Pip6a-scrambled-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and untreated WT animals. 726 Filtered signatures were named according to the increase (up) or decrease (down) expression in 727 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice compared to untreated WT animals and are highlighted in the green 728 area of the Venn diagrams. (B) Set of enriched gene ontology (GO) biological processes that 729 show similarity across comparisons. GO enrichment analysis was performed separately for

transcripts and proteins that were DE between untreated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ and untreated WT mice (blue), DE between Pip6a-PMO-treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ and untreated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice (purple) and part of the filtered signatures described in panel **A** (green).

733

734 Figure 3. Harmine target genes, as predicted by CMap analyses, are aberrantly expressed 735 in SMA muscle. (A) gPCR analysis of genes predicted to be significantly downregulated 736 (Snrnp27, Gls, Aspm and Mcm2) in the TA of untreated P7 SMA Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and WT mice. Data 737 are scatter plot and mean \pm SEM, n = 4 animals per experimental group, unpaired t test, df = 6 738 for all, p = 0.041 (Snrnp27), p = 0.0019 (Gls), p = 0.0001 (Aspm), p < 0.0001 (Mcm2). (B) qPCR 739 analysis of genes predicted to be upregulated (Clpx, Ppm1b, Tob2 and Cdkn1a) in the TA of 740 untreated P7 SMA Smn^{-/-}; SMN2 and WT mice. Data are scatter plot and mean \pm SEM, n = 4 741 animals per experimental group, unpaired t test, df = 6 for all except *Ppm1b* where df = 5, 742 p < 0.0001 (*Clpx*), p = 0.0076 (*Ppm1b*), p = 0.0012 (*Tob2*), p < 0.0001 (*Cdkn1a*).

743

744 Figure 4. Harmine, as predicted by CMap analyses, is able to reverse the expression of 745 genes significantly downregulated in SMA muscle in several cellular models. (A-D) 746 C2C12s, NSC-34s, SMA patient fibroblasts and control fibroblasts were treated with 25, 35 of 50 747 µM of harmine for 48 hours. Expression of Snrnp27 (A), G/s (B), Aspm (C) and Mcm2 (D) was 748 assessed by qPCR and compared to untreated cells. Data are scatter plot and mean \pm SEM, n = 749 3 independent wells, two-way ANOVA followed by Uncorrected Fisher's LSD, F = 20.20 750 (Snrnp27), F = 90.95 (Gls), F = 14.16 (Aspm), F = 42.61 (Mcm2), df = 32 for all, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, 751 ****p*<0.001, *****p*<0.0001.

752

Figure 5. Harmine, as predicted by CMap analyses, is able to reverse the expression of
 genes significantly upregulated in SMA muscle in several cellular models. (A-D) C2C12s,
 NSC-34s, SMA patient fibroblasts and control fibroblasts were treated with 25, 35 of 50 µM of

harmine for 48 hours. Expression of Clpx (**A**), Ppm1b (**B**), Tob2 (**C**) and Cdkn1a (**D**) was assessed by qPCR and compared to untreated cells. Data are scatter plot and mean \pm SEM, n = 3 independent wells, two-way ANOVA followed by Uncorrected Fisher's LSD, F = 182 (*Clpx*), F = 38.49 (*Ppm1b*), F = 78.17 (*Tob2*), F = 18.36 (*Cdkn1a*), df = 32 for all, **p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01, ****p*<0.001, *****p*<0.0001.

761

762 Figure 6. Administration of harmine to SMA mice partially restores the expression of target 763 genes, as predicted by CMap analyses. All treated animals received a daily dose of harmine 764 (10 mg/kg, diluted in 0.9% saline) by gavage starting at postnatal day (P) 0. (A) gPCR analysis of 765 Snrnp27, Gls, Aspm and Mcm2 in triceps of P7 untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 SMA 766 mice and $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 control littermates. Data are scatter plot and mean ± SEM, n = 4 animals 767 per experimental group except for harmine-treated $Smn^{+/2}$; SMN2 where n = 3, two-way ANOVA 768 followed by a Sidak's multiple comparisons test, F = 25.77 (Snrnp27), F = 1.103 (Gls), F = 0.5143769 (Aspm), F = 0.3992 (Mcm2), df = 11 for all, *p<0.05, **p<0.01. (**B**) qPCR analysis of Clpx, Ppm1b, 770 Tob2 and Cdkn1a in triceps of P7 untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 SMA mice and 771 $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 control littermates. Data are scatter plot and mean \pm s.d., n = 4 animals per 772 experimental group except for harmine-treated $Smn^{+/2}$; SMN2 where n = 3, two-way ANOVA 773 followed by a Sidak's multiple comparisons test, F = 0.4275 (*Clpx*), F = 0.006960 (*Ppm1b*), F = 0.006960774 8.167 (*Tob2*), F = 1.195 (*Cdkn1a*), df = 11 for all ***p*<0.01.

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Figure 7. Administration of harmine to SMA mice improves weight and survival. All treated animals received a daily dose of harmine (10 mg/kg, diluted in 0.9% saline) by gavage starting at postnatal day (P) 0. (**A**) Survival curves of untreated and harmine-treated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice. Data are Kaplan Meier survival curve, n = 10 for untreated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice, n = 11 for harminetreated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice, Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test, *p = 0.0211. (**B**) Daily weights of untreated and harmine-treated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2* mice. Data are mean ± SEM, n = 10 for untreated *Smn*^{-/-};*SMN2*

782 mice, n = 11 for harmine-treated Smn^{-1} :SMN2 mice, two-way ANOVA followed by a Sidak's 783 multiple comparisons test, F = 95.70, df = 202, **p<0.01, ****p<0.0001. (**C**) Daily weights of 784 untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{+/-};SMN2 mice. Data are mean \pm SEM, n = 13 for untreated 785 $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice, n = 15 for harmine-treated $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice, two-way ANOVA followed by 786 a Sidak's multiple comparisons test, F = 2.897, df = 398. (D) Survival curves of untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{2B/2}$ mice. Data are Kaplan Meier survival curve, n = 9 for untreated $Smn^{2B/2}$ 787 788 mice, n = 7 for harmine-treated Smn^{2B/-} mice, Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test, *p = 0.0221. (E) Daily weights of untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{2B/-}$ mice. Data are mean \pm SEM, n = 9 for untreated 789 $Smn^{2B'-}$ mice, n = 7 for harmine-treated $Smn^{2B'-}$ mice, two-way ANOVA followed by a Sidak's 790 791 multiple comparisons test, F = 96.25, df = 287, **p<0.01, ****p<0.0001. (F). Daily weights of 792 untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{2B+-} mice. Data are mean ± SEM, n = 13 for untreated Smn^{2B+-} 793 mice, n = 8 for harmine-treated Smn^{2B+-} mice, two-way ANOVA followed by a Sidak's multiple 794 comparisons test, F = 206.3, df = 399, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, ***p<0.0001.

795

796 Figure 8. Administration of harmine to SMA mice improves neuromuscular phenotypes. All 797 treated animals received a daily dose of harmine (10 mg/kg, diluted in 0.9% saline) by gavage 798 starting at postnatal day (P) 0. (A) Relative frequency of myofiber sizes in P7 untreated and 799 harmine-treated $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 and $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice. Data are percentages, n = 3 animals per 800 experimental group and >400 myofibers per experimental group. (B). Western blot and 801 guantification of GLT-1/vinculin expression in the spinal cord of P7 untreated and harmine-treated 802 $Smn^{-/-}$; SMN2 and $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice. Data are scatter plot and mean ± SEM, n = 3 for untreated 803 and harmine-treated $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice, n = 4 for untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-}$; SMN2 804 mice, two-way ANOVA followed by a Sidak's multiple comparisons test, F = 35.01, df = 10, 805 ****p<0.0001. (C). Number of motor neuron cell bodies per ventral horn area in the spinal cord of 806 P7 untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-}$; SMN2 and $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice. Data are mean ± SEM, n = 3 for untreated $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 mice, n = 4 for harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-}$; SMN2 and $Smn^{+/-}$; SMN2 807

mice, n = 5 for untreated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice, two-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's multiple comparisons test, F = 4.617, df = 12, **p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01. Images are representative spinal cord ventral horn areas of untreated and harmine-treated $Smn^{-/-};SMN2$ mice.

811

812 Figure 9. RNA sequencing and pathway analysis reveals full rescue of 20% of dysregulated 813 genes in SMA muscle following harmine administration. All treated animals received a daily 814 dose of harmine (10 mg/kg, diluted in 0.9% saline) by gavage starting at postnatal day (P) 0. TAs 815 were harvested at P7 from untreated and harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and WT animals 816 and processed for RNA sequencing. (A) Venn diagram representation of the differentially 817 expressed (DE) genes based on the negative binomial distribution (DESeg2) in untreated Smn^{-/-} 818 ;SMN2 mice vs untreated WT mice (blue), harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated Smn⁻ 819 [/];SMN2 mice (purple) and untreated WT mice vs harmine-treated WT mice (orange). (B) Venn 820 diagram representation of the DE genes based on the negative binomial distribution (DESeq2) in 821 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated WT mice (blue), harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs 822 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (purple) and harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated WT 823 mice (green). (C). Gene Ontology (GO) Biological Processes enriched in genes DE in untreated 824 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated WT mice (blue), in harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs 825 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (purple), in untreated WT mice vs harmine-treated WT mice (orange) and in harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated WT (green).-log(p-values) for the 826 827 enrichment are reported.

828

Figure 10. Identification of molecular effectors involved in harmine activity in SMA muscle. (A) A gene functional network was built extracting gene interactions from a Phenotypic Linkage Network (ref 45) for the top 500 most differentially expressed (DE) genes (ordered by adjusted *p*value) in untreated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2* mice vs untreated WT mice. Genes are represented as nodes and are colored by direction expression change in untreated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2* mice vs untreated WT 834 mice (left) and by direction of expression change in harmine-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs 835 untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice (right). Gray nodes correspond to genes that are DE in the disease 836 model (untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice vs untreated WT) mice but have not been restored by 837 harmine treatment. (B). Top MGI enriched phenotypes for the four identified modules in the 838 network (shown in panel A) that show reversed expression profile after harmine treatment. -log(p-839 values) for the enrichment are reported. (C). Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) tool was used to 840 identify upstream regulators of the top 500 most differentially expressed genes in untreated Smn⁻ 841 [/];SMN2 mice vs untreated WT mice (shown in panel A). For each of the top 50 most significant 842 upstream regulators shown (ordered on enrichment *p*-values from left - most significant - to right 843 - less significant), we calculated the proportions of target genes within each of the six modules 844 that are predicted to be regulated by the corresponding upstream regulator. Represented is a 845 selected reduced list of regulators based on high proportion of target genes from Module 1 846 (muscle phenotypes) and Module 2 (glucose and lipid metabolism).

847

849 **TABLES**

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Table 1. Number of differentially expressed (DE) transcripts and proteins between experimental
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851 groups.

Upregulated	P7WT vs P7SMA	P7SMA vs P7Pip6a	P7SMA vs P7Scrambled	P7WT vs P7Scrambled	P7WT vs P7Pip6a	P7Scrambled vs P7Pip6a	P2SMA vs P7SMA	P2WT vs P7WT	P2 SMA vs P2 WT
Transcripts	5698	4959	4539	1225	0	702	4986	2473	0
Proteins	715	2694	1606	258	0	430	902	367	0
Intersect	253	1213	653	87	0	137	397	214	0
Jaccard-Index	4.11%	18.84%	11.89%	6.23%	0%	13.77%	7.2%	8.15%	0%
DE-Transcript- only	88.39%	58.17%	70.76%	81.52%	0%	56.78%	83.6%	86.02%	0%
DE-Protein-only	7.50%	23.00%	17.35%	12.25%	0%	29.45%	9.2%	5.83%	0%
Down regulated	P7WT vs P7SMA	P7SMA vs P7Pip6a	P7SMA vs P7Scrambled	P7WT vs P7Scrambled	P7WT vs P7Pip6a	P7Scrambled vs P7Pip6a	P2SMA vs P7SMA	P2WT vs P7WT	P2 SMA vs P2 WT
Transcripts	5343	4755	3627	787	0	1166	4956	1688	0
Proteins	2659	640	402	509	11	178	4400	883	0
Intersect	1302	247	144	155	0	60	1604	252	0
Jaccard-Index	19.43%	4.80%	3.71%	13.58%	0%	4.67%	20.7%	10.87%	0%
DE-Transcript- only	60.31%	87.57%	89.65%	55.39%	0%	86.14%	43.2%	61.92%	0%
DE-Protein-only	20.25%	7.63%	6.64%	31.03%	0%	9.19%	36.1%	27.21%	0%

852

A false discovery rate (FDR) of <0.05 was used for both protein and transcript data. Transcripts and proteins were considered differentially expressed (DE) if at least one of their corresponding transcripts/proteins had an FDR <0.05. The percentages are relative to the total of both DE transcripts and proteins per experimental group. P7WT = P7 untreated WT; P7SMA = P7 untreated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2*; P7Pip6a = P7 Pip6a-PMO-treated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2*; P7Scrambled = P7 Pip6a-scrambled-treated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2*; P2 SMA = P2 untreated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2*; P2 WT = P2 untreated WT.

Table 2. Proteins downregulated in P7 Pip6a-PMO-treated *Smn^{-/-};SMN2* mice compared to P7

862 untreated WT mice.

Proteins downregulated in Pip6a-PMO-treated <i>Smn^{-/-};SMN2</i> mice vs WT mice	FDR
Immunoglobulin kappa variable 4-53	0.00045048
Immunoglobulin heavy variable 3-5	0.002948104
Immunoglobulin kappa variable 8-28	0.003677276
TAP binding protein	0.020730142
Immunoglobulin kappa constant	0.022371166
Survival Motor Neuron	0.022371166
Immunoglobulin heavy variable 1-81	0.023766096
Immunoglobulin kappa variable 10-95	0.026434314
Immunoglobulin kappa variable 8-19	0.02731649
Tap1 transporter 1, ATP-binding cassette, sub-family B	0.02731649
Immunoglobulin heavy constant gamma 1	0.045336254
863	
* Proteins were considered downregulated if false discovery rate (FDR) <0.05.
865 866	
867	
868	

876 Table 3. Top 10 pharmacological compounds identified by CMap analysis based on three

	SIGNATURE 1* (CMap drugs)	SIGNATURE 2** (CMap drugs)	SIGNATURE 3*** (CMap drugs)
TRANSCRIPTOMICS	Monocrotaline	Troglitazone	Methoxsalen
	Salbutamol	Harmine	Vinburnine
	Disulfiram	Sulfamethizole	Paclitaxel
	Indoprofen	Metilmicin	Ramipril
	Zardaverine	Pha-00846566e	Etodolac
	Oxamniquine	Harmol	PHA-00846566E
	Harmine	Zaprinast	Chenodeoxycholic acid
	Guanabenz	Zardaverine	Dizocilpine
	Hydrochlorothiazide	Sb-203580	Mifepristone
	Aciclovir	Vinpocetine	Harmol
PROTEOMICS	Harmol	Acacetin	Camptothecin
	Irinotecan	estriol	Irinotecan
	Digitoxigenin	methylprednisolone	0175029-0000
	Harmol	etamsylate	Mitoxantrone
	Oxybenzone	alsterpaullone	Alsterpaullone
	Harmine	luteolin	Irinotecan
	Meropenem	fluorocurarine	Doxorubicin
	Tanespimycin	dexpanthenol	Gw-8510
	Monorden	5213008	0175029-0000
	Digitoxigenin	pirenzepine	Daunorubicin

877 expression signatures for both the transcriptomic data and proteomic data.

*Signature 1: Differently expressed between untreated P7 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 and WT mice

**Signature 2: Differentially expressed between untreated P7 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and Pip6a PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice.

***Signature 3: Differentially expressed between untreated P7 Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and Pip6a-

882 PMO-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice, except those genes differentially expressed between P7-

scrambled-treated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice and untreated Smn^{-/-};SMN2 mice.

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896

897 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

None to be declared.

899

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Smit. SMN2

N'

1.5-

1.0-

0.5-

0.0

N.



**

Tob2





Relative expression normalized to PolJ

1.5

1.0

0.5

0.0















Β

Δ











(Harmine 10 mg/kg)







Β

С



