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Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

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The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Paolo Santambrogio, Sonia Levi, Rosangela Invernizzi.

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:

- Paolo Santambrogio, Benedetta Gaia Erba, Alessandro Campanella, Anna Cozzi were responsible for transfection, transduction, western blot, ROS, iron proteins and iron content.
- Benedetta Gaia Erba, Sonia Levi, Vincenza Causarano, Laura Cremonesi were responsible for RNA preparation and RT-PCR.
- Anna Galli, Matteo Giovanni Della Porta, Rosangela Invernizzi were responsible for isolation of CD34+ cells, immunocytochemistry and Perls' staining.

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:

- Paolo Santambrogio, Benedetta Gaia Erba were responsible for figures 1, 2, 3, 4, S1 and S2.
- Alessandro Campanella, Anna Cozzi were responsible for figures 1 and S1.
- Benedetta Gaia Erba, Vincenza Causarano, Laura Cremonesi were responsible for figure 2.
- Anna Galli, Matteo Giovanni Della Porta, Rosangela Invernizzi were responsible for figure 3 and 4.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:

- Sonia Levi, Paolo Santambrogio, Rosangela Invernizzi were responsible for writing the manuscript.

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