



**ESM Fig. 1** **a** *IL6* transgene was expressed predominantly in brain and lung, as shown by RT-PCR analysis of *hIL6* transgene expression. **b–d** C57BL/6J mice were injected i.p. for 3 days with *mIL6* (50 ng, grey bars), *hIL6* (50 ng, white bars) or vehicle (black bars), and average body weights (**b**), fed blood glucose levels before and 150 min after injection (**c**), and fed serum insulin levels 150 min after the injection (**d**) measured. Data are average±SEM for  $n=10$  animals per group; \* $p<0.05$ , \*\* $p<0.01$ . **e** Serum amyloid A expression was significantly induced in *mIL6*-stimulated (black symbols) hepatocytes compared with hepatocytes stimulated by *hIL6* (grey). Mouse primary hepatocytes were stimulated with 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 ng/ml *mIL6* or *hIL6* for 16 h. Quantitative RT-PCR was used to study mRNA expression of *Saa* after *IL6* stimulation. **f** *hIL6*<sup>tg</sup> mice displayed no evidence of inflammatory or immunological disturbances, as seen in histological haematoxylin and eosin staining of kidney, spleen, liver and brown adipose tissue (BAT) isolated from the wild-type (WT) and *hIL6*<sup>tg</sup> mice ( $n=4$  from each genotype)