

**Figure S1**

PLS-DA analysis score scatter plot on proteins identified in the Phase 1 exploratory study after global proteome analysis.

CRC, colorectal cancer

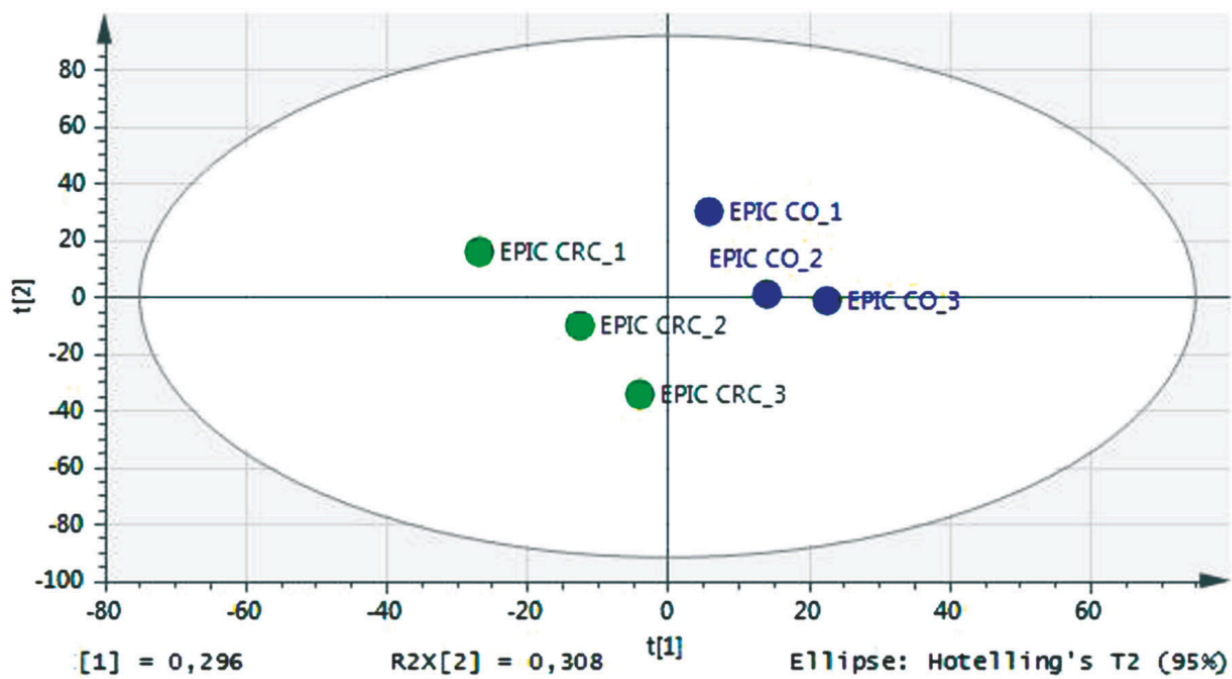
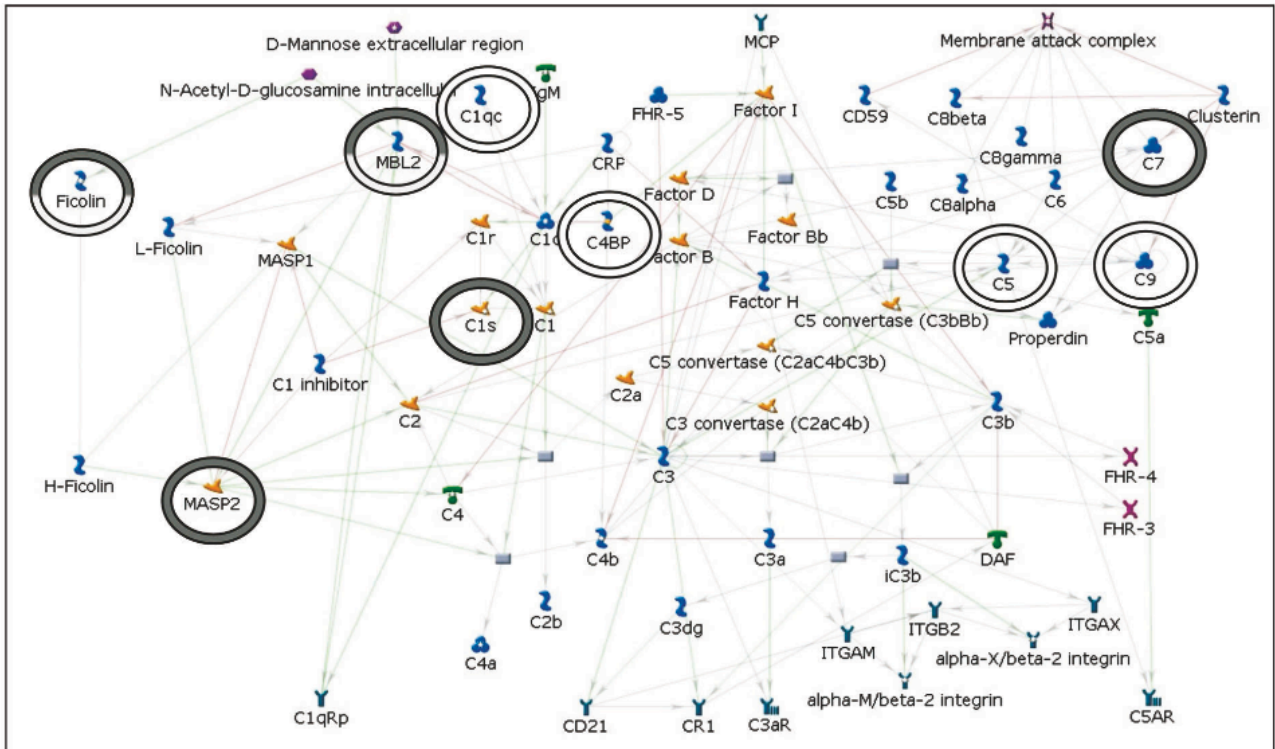


Figure S2

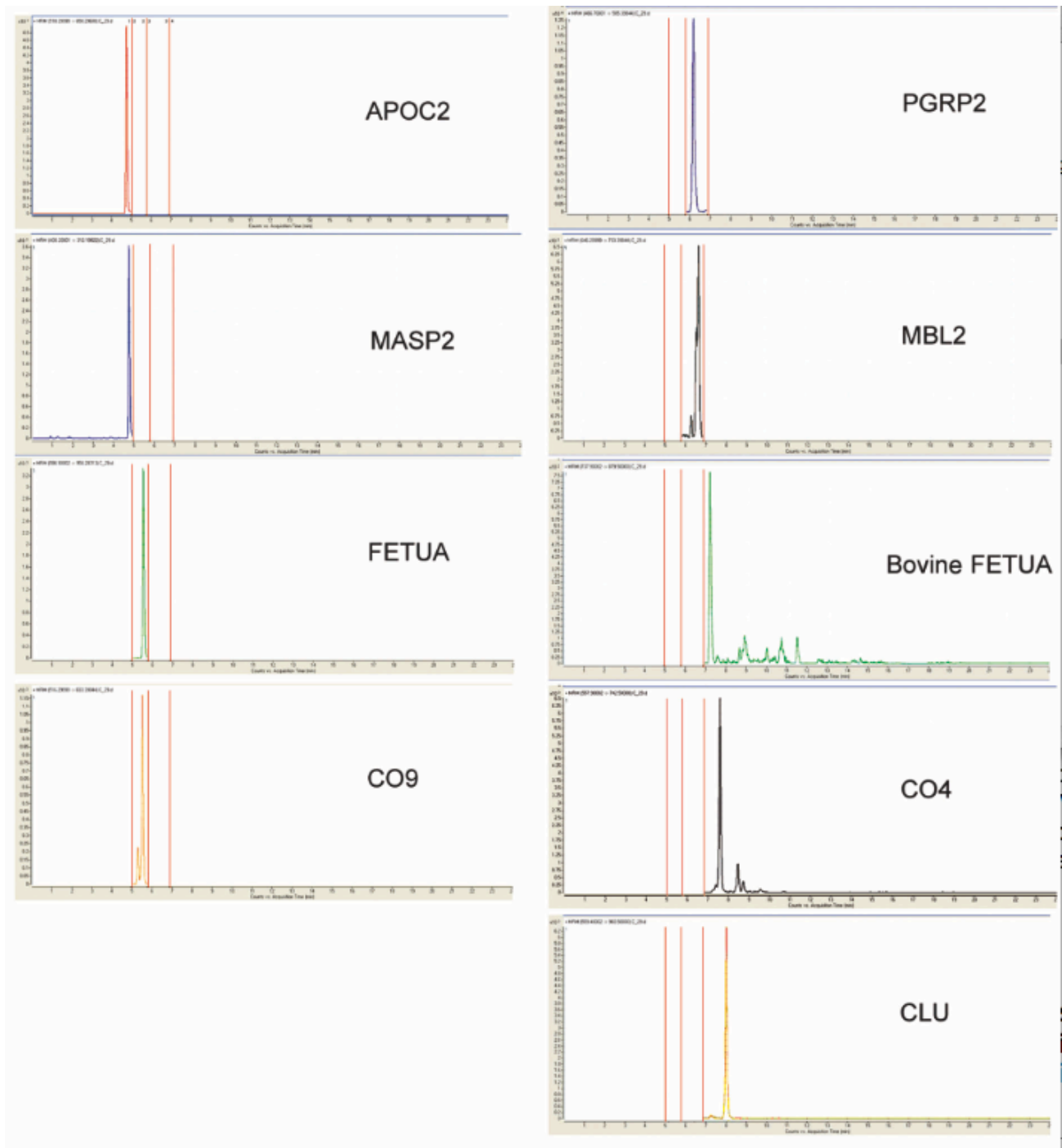
PLS-DA analysis score scatter plot on proteins identified in the Phase 2 EPIC study after global proteome analysis.

CRC, colorectal cancer  
 CO, controls



**Figure S3**

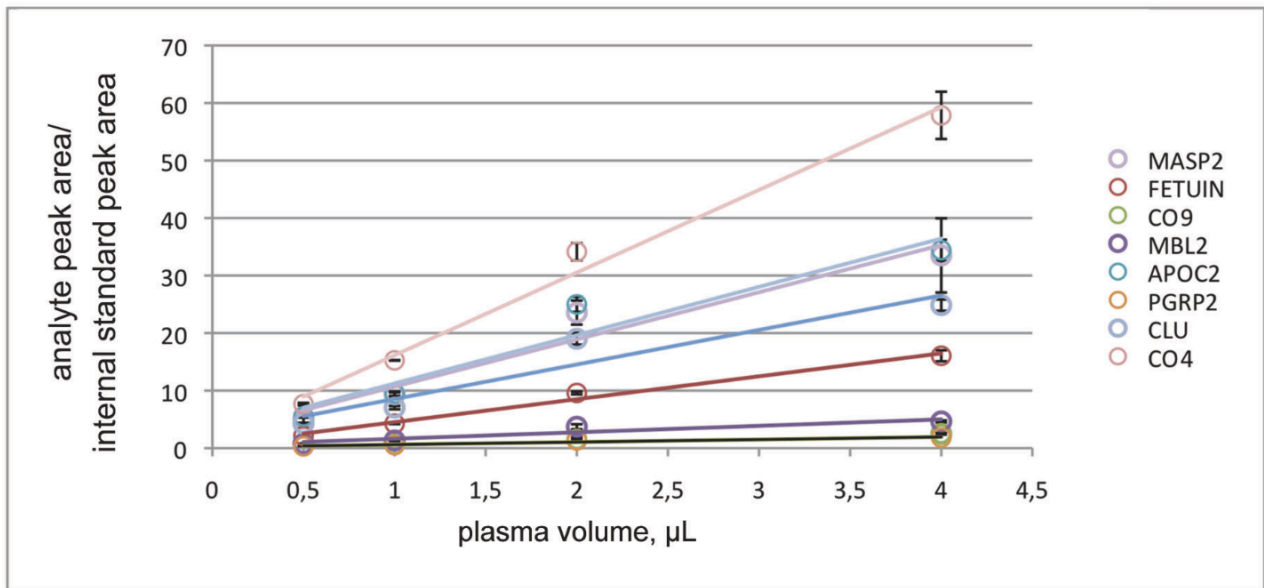
Complement cascade: MetaCore “Network Enrichment analysis” on proteins with altered plasma levels ( $FC \geq 1.5$  or  $\leq -1.5$ ). Individual proteins are represented as nodes of different shapes, according to their functional class. Lines between nodes indicate direct protein-protein interactions, the arrowheads indicating the direction of the interaction. Circled nodes denote proteins identified in this study (Phase 1 and Phase 2). White circles mark proteins identified only in the Phase 1 exploratory study; gray circles mark proteins identified only in the Phase 2 EPIC study; gray and white circles mark proteins identified both in the Phase 1 exploratory and Phase 2 EPIC studies.



**Figure S4**

SRM transition traces showing the separation of the selected peptides for the eight candidate biomarkers and the internal standard bovine FETUA. Only the transitions used for relative quantitation are reported. Starting/ending points of the time segments are shown as red vertical lines.

APOC2, apolipoprotein C-II; MASP2, mannan-binding lectin serine protease 2; FETUA, alpha-2-HS-glycoprotein; CO9, complement component C9; PGRP2, N-acetylmuramoyl-L-alanine amidase; MBL2, mannose-binding protein C; Bovine FETUA, bovine alpha-2-HS-glycoprotein (internal standard); CO4, complement C4-B; CLU, clusterin.



**Figure S5**

Response linearity for the selected proteins after LC-SRM-MS analysis of increasing volumes of plasma.

MASP2, mannan-binding lectin serine protease 2; FETUIN, alpha-2-HS-glycoprotein; CO9, complement component C9; MBL2, mannose-binding protein C; APOC2, apolipoprotein C-II; PGRP2, N-acetylmuramoyl-L-alanine amidase; CLU, clusterin; CO4, complement C4-B.