Figure S1. The primer specific and amplification efficiency of 12 candidate reference genes, including (A) melting curves and (B) standard curves.

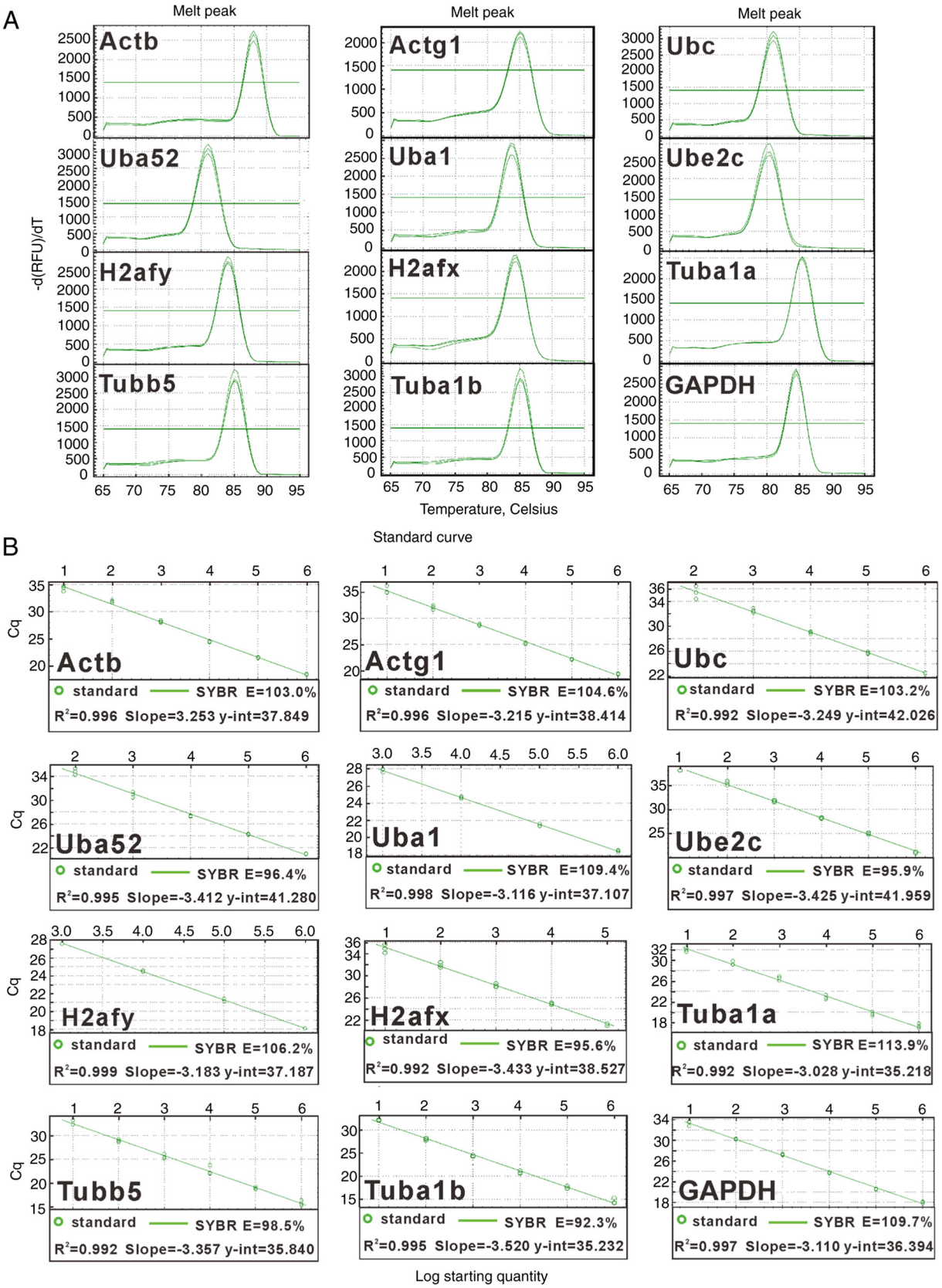

Figure S2. Hematoxylin and eosin staining of the SMG following main secretory duct ligation and de-ligation. The contralateral control (sham operation) indicates a typical appearance of the acinus, striated duct, intercalated ducts, granular ducts and intact structures. As compared to the contralateral control, 5-day ligation revealed gland hyperemia and swelling (black arrowhead), the loss of acinar cells (black asterisk), massive inflammatory cell infiltration (black circle), and duct luminal dilation (black triangle). The 7-day ligation revealed that most of the acinar cells disappeared (red asterisk), inflammatory cell infiltration increased (red circle), and duct luminal was clearly dilated (red triangle). After the de-ligation treatment revealed acinar cell atrophy, immune cell infiltration, and duct luminal dilatation following SMG ductal ligation was reversed. Images are representative of results from at least three independent experiments. The magnification of the top row images as compared to bottom row images is x16. Scale bars, 50 $\mu$m. SMG, submandibular gland; L, ligation; DL, de-ligation; d, day.

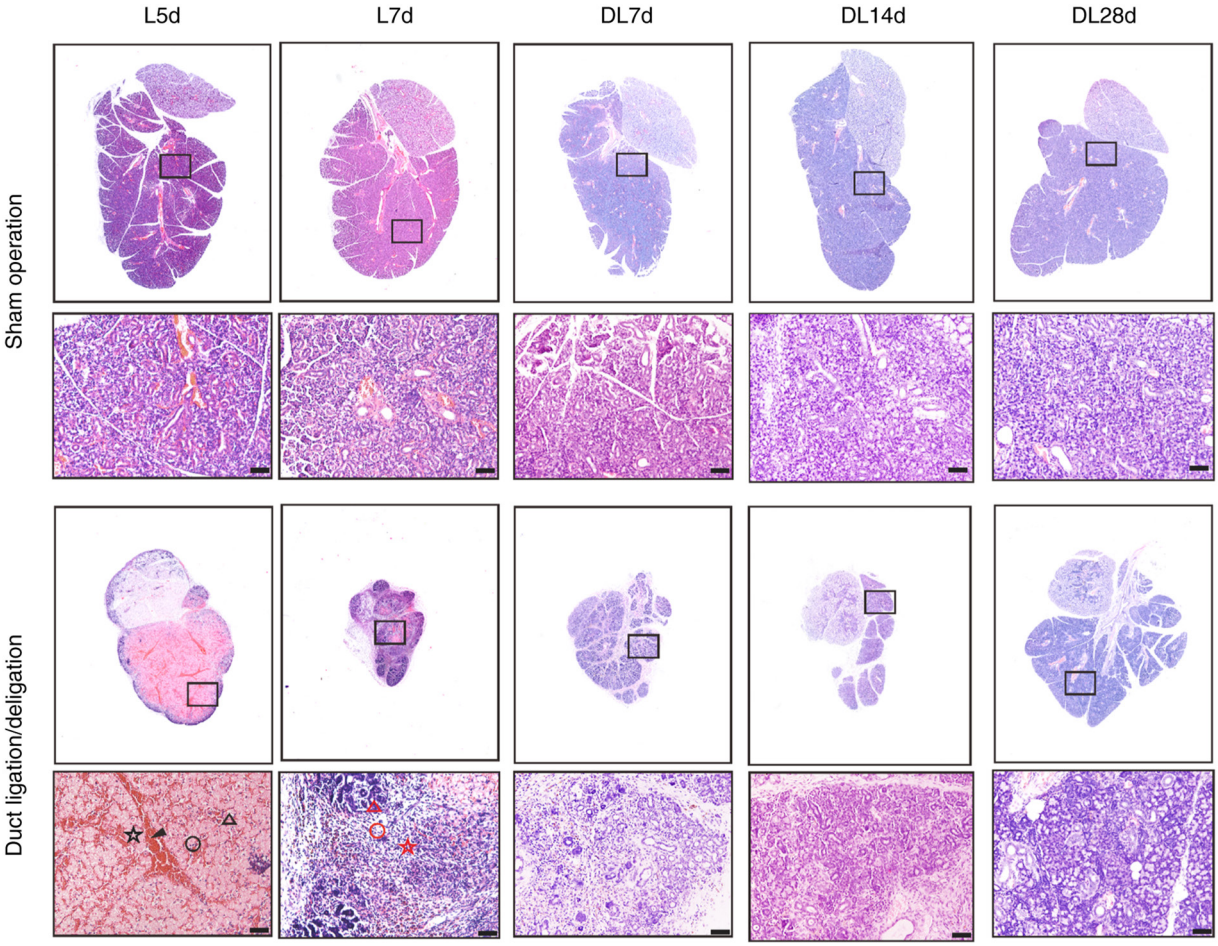

Figure S3. Periodic acid Schiff and Alcian blue staining of the submandibular gland following main secretory duct ligation and de-ligation. Contralateral control gland indicates the typical appearance of acinar and duct cells. As compared to the control, the ligated gland showed a loss of cellular secretory granules and material in the lumen of the ducts (arrow). Following de-ligation, some acini recovered their glycoproteins content (arrowheads). Images are representative of results from at least three independent experiments. The magnification of the top row images as compared to bottom row images is x16. Scale bars, 50 $\mu$m. L, ligation; DL, de-ligation; d, day.