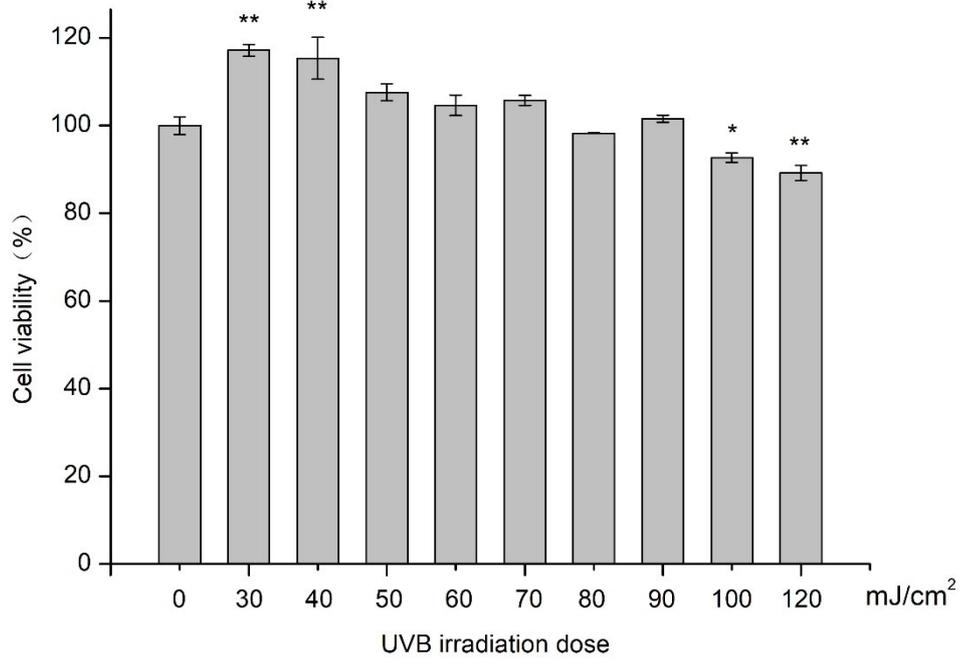
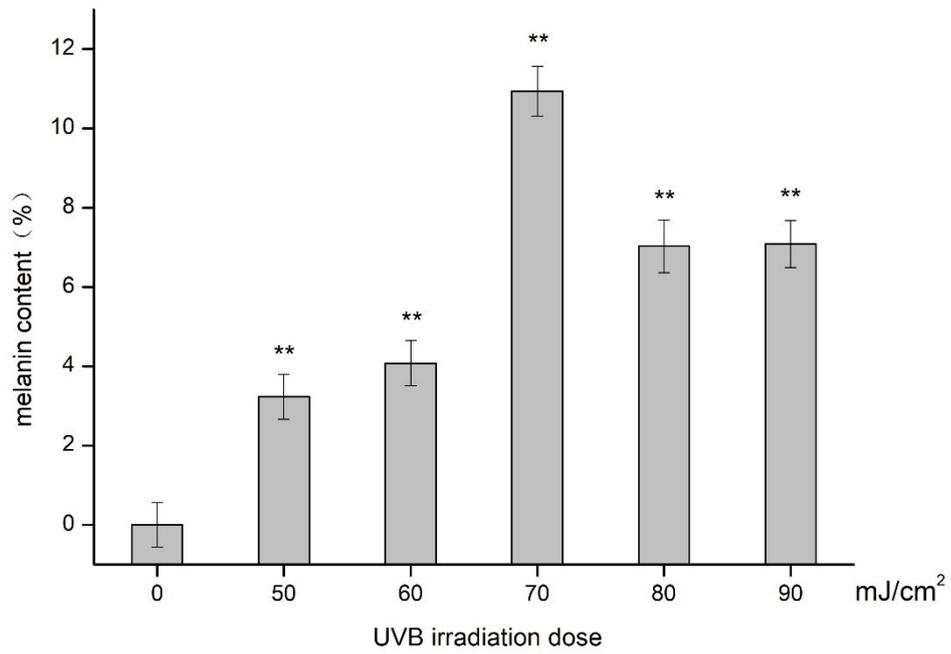


Table 1 Sequences of primers for target genes of amplified fragment

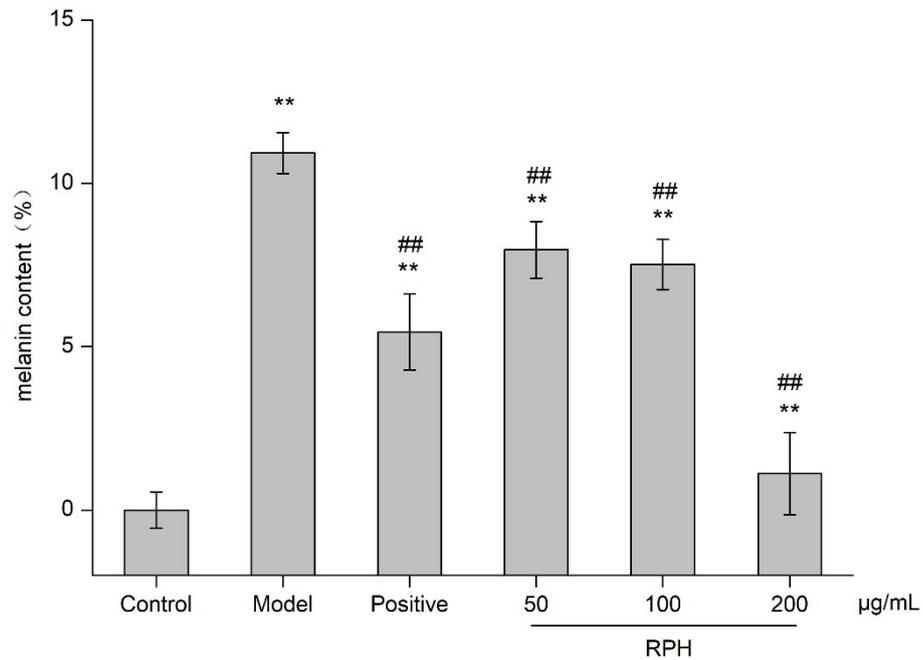
| Gene                   |         | Primer Sequences 5'-3'    |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| TRP-1                  | Forward | CGTTCGACAAGGGTACTAT       |
|                        | Reverse | TCGATTGCCACCAAAAGTGC      |
| TRP-2                  | Forward | CCCTGCATGTGCTGGTTCTT      |
|                        | Reverse | ATTGTGAACCAATAGGGGCCAG    |
| MITF                   | Forward | GGGAGCTCACAGCGTGTATT      |
|                        | Reverse | ATGGTTCCCTTGTTCCAGCG      |
| P65                    | Forward | CTTCCAAGAAGAGCAGCGTG      |
|                        | Reverse | AGTTTCGGTTCACTCGGCAG      |
| I- $\kappa$ B $\alpha$ | Forward | CAAGCACCCGGATACAGCA       |
|                        | Reverse | AGTCATCATAGGGCAGCTCG      |
| $\beta$ -Trecp         | Forward | TGAGAGGTAAGAGAGGGCGG      |
|                        | Reverse | ACCTGGGCATAGAGCACATAA     |
| JNK1                   | Forward | CCGCGTCTCTGTTACTCAGC      |
|                        | Reverse | AATTCACCAAGAAGCCGGCAG     |
| $\beta$ -actin         | Forward | TGGCACCCAGCACAATGAA       |
|                        | Reverse | CTAAGTCATAGTCCGCCTAGAAGCA |



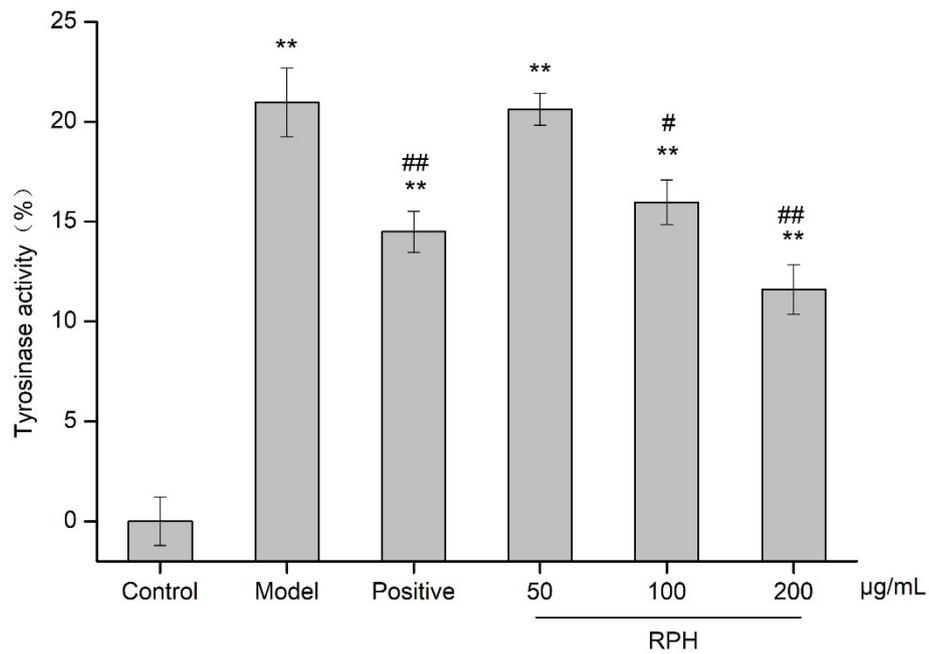
**Fig. 1 The effect of UVB irradiation dose on viability of the PIG1 cells.** Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were exposed to UVB at doses ranging from 0 to 120mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>, and the cell viability was examined at 24h post-irradiation. Values are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SD (n=3). \* $p$ <0.05, \*\* $p$ <0.01, compared with the 0 UVB irradiation dose.



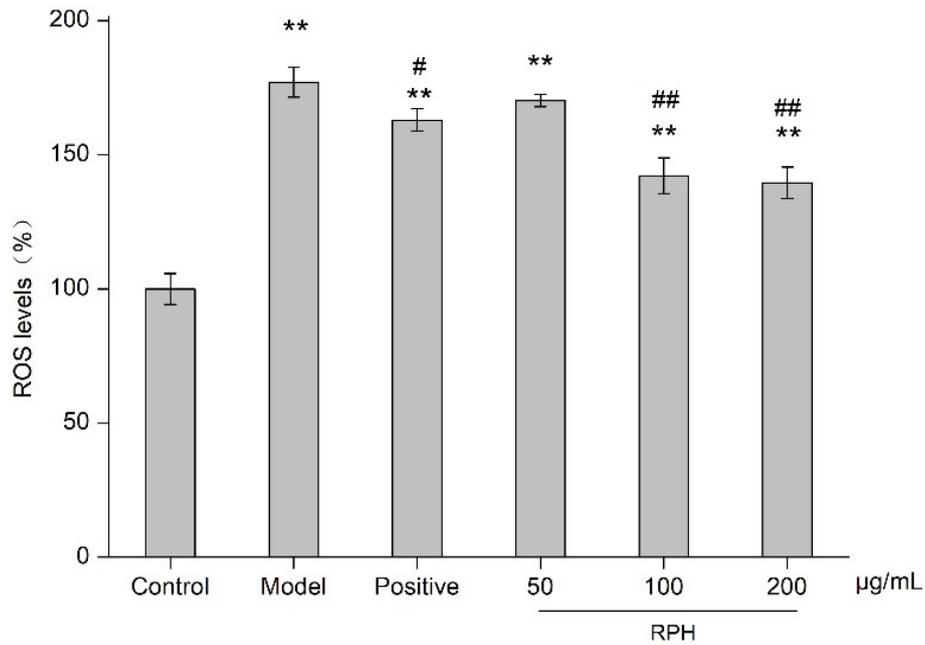
**Fig. 2 The effect of UVB irradiation dose on the melanin content in PIG1 cells.** Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were exposed to UVB at doses ranging from 50 to 90mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> to measure melanin content with the NaOH method. Values are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SD (n=3). \* $p$ <0.05, \*\* $p$ <0.01, compared with the 0 UVB irradiation dose.



**Fig. 3 The effect of RPH on the melanin content in PIG1 cells.** The Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10µg/mLβ-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of Rice Protein Hydrolysate (RPH) at the concentration of 50, 100 or 200 µg/mL. Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, # *p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model.

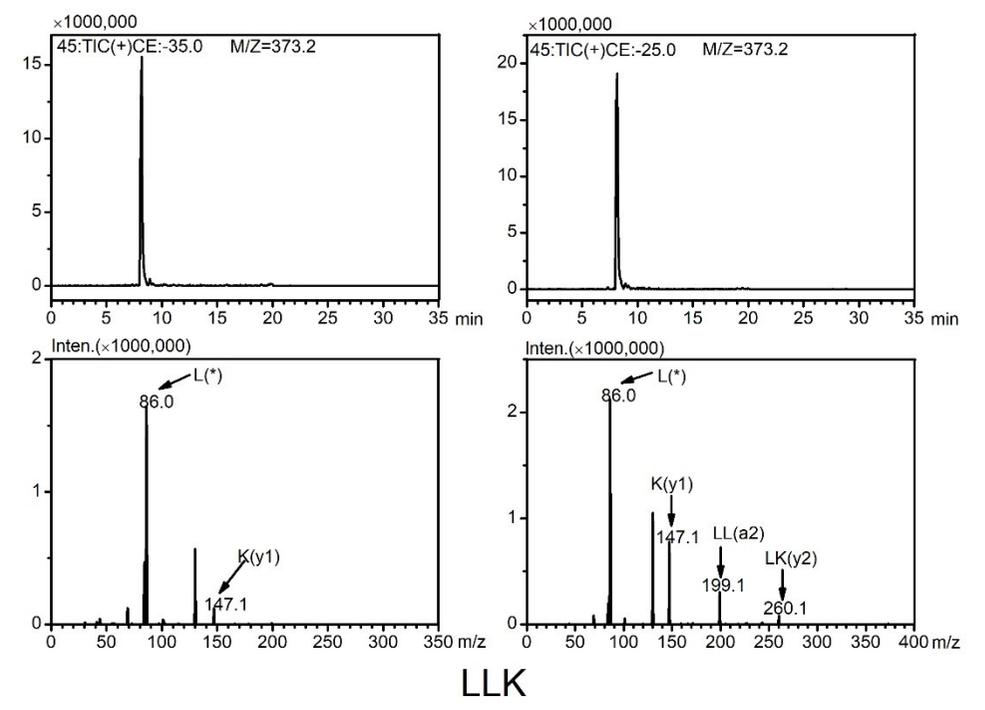
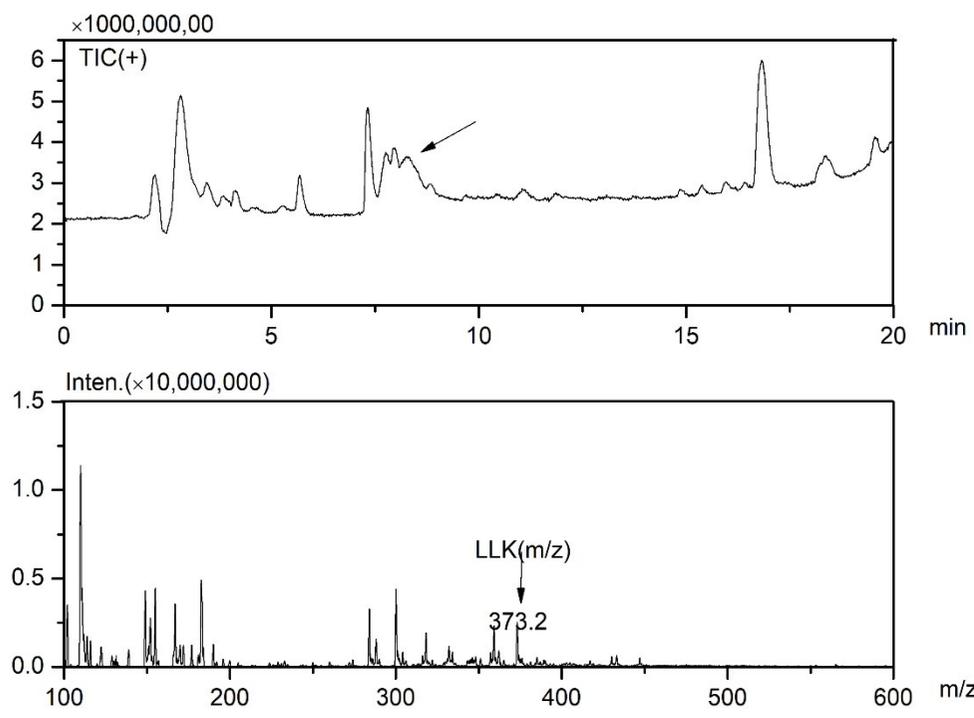


**Fig. 4 The effect of RPH on the tyrosinase activity in PIG1 cells.** The tyrosinase activity of Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells was detected by L-DOPA. The PIG1 cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10µg/mLβ-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of Rice Protein Hydrolysate (RPH) at the concentration of 50, 100 or 200 µg/mL. Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, #*p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model.

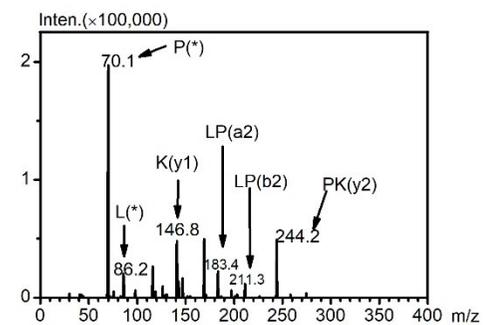
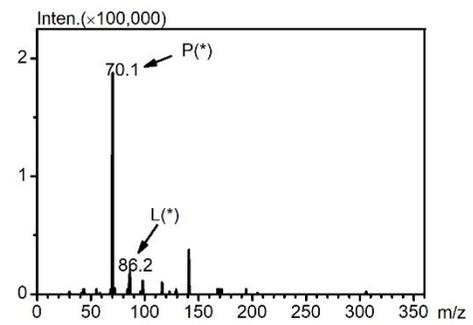
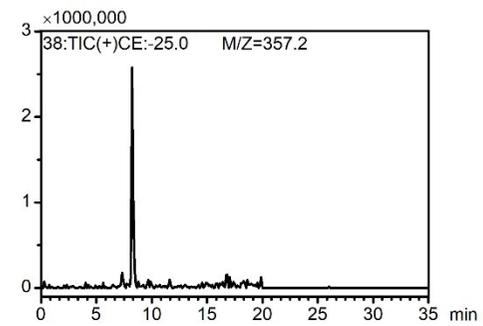
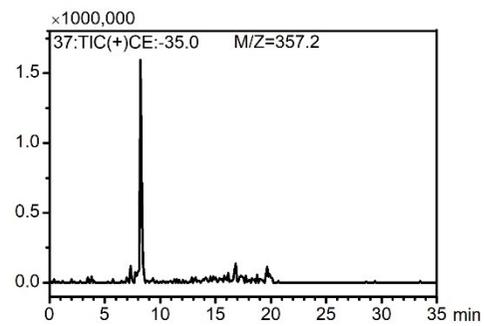
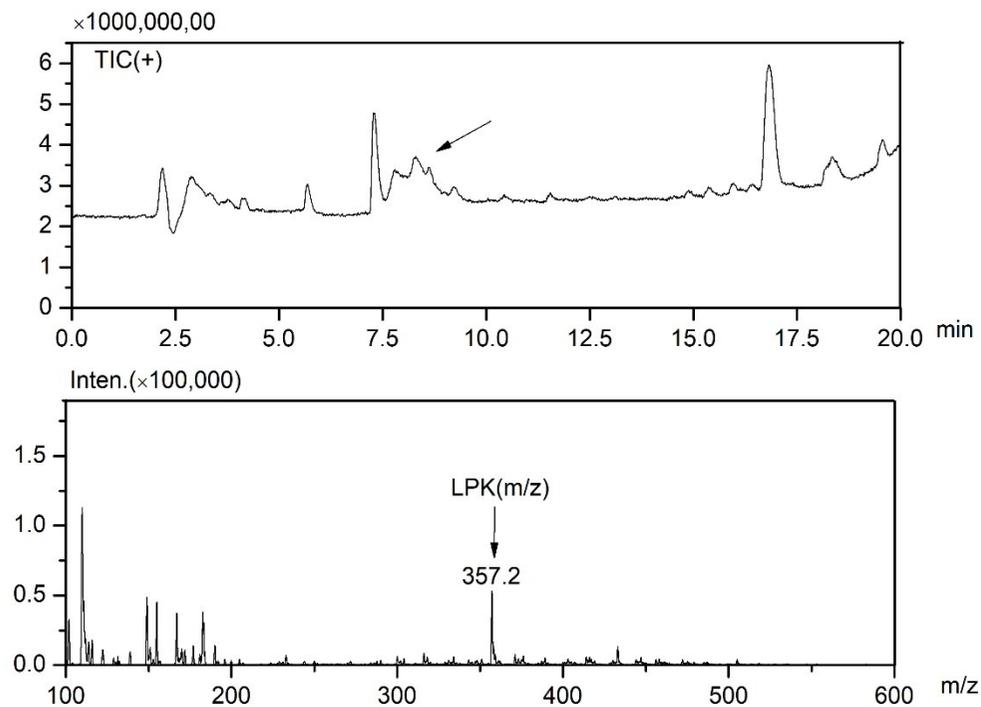


**Fig. 5 The effect of RPH on the ROS levels in PIG1 cells.** Inhibition of intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation in Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells was measured by DCFH-DA assay. The PIG1 cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10µg/mLβ-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of Rice Protein Hydrolysate (RPH) at the concentration of 50, 100 and 200 µg/mL. Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, #*p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model



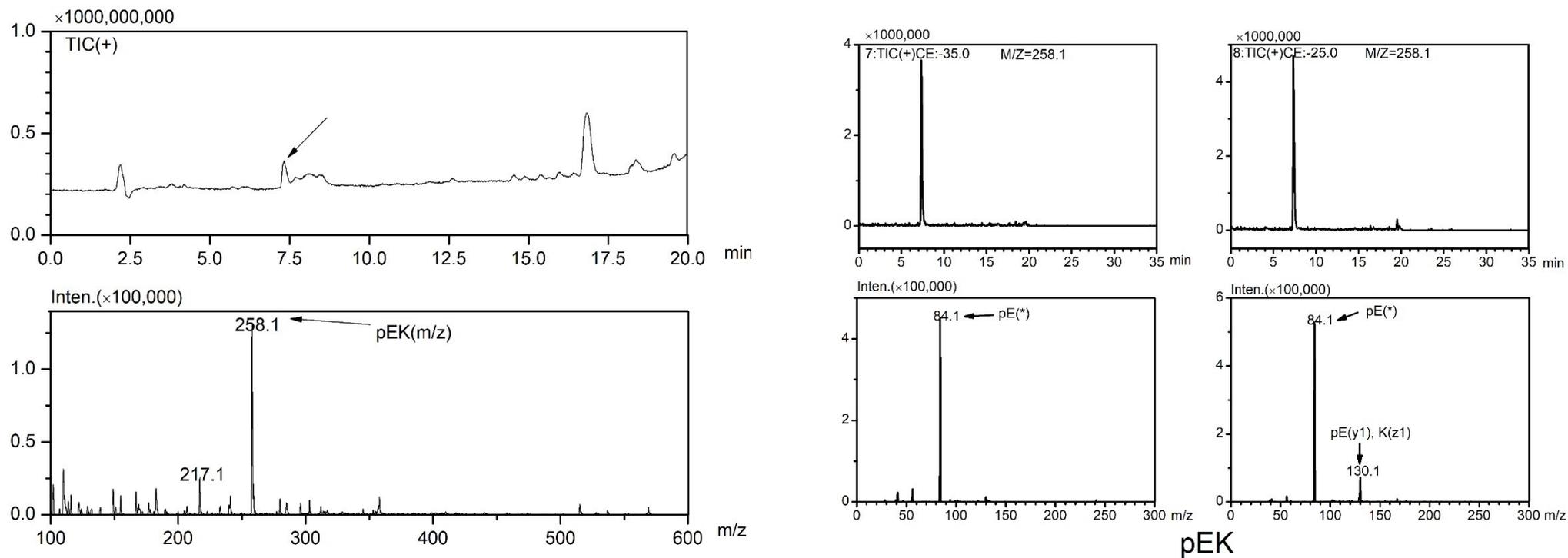


A



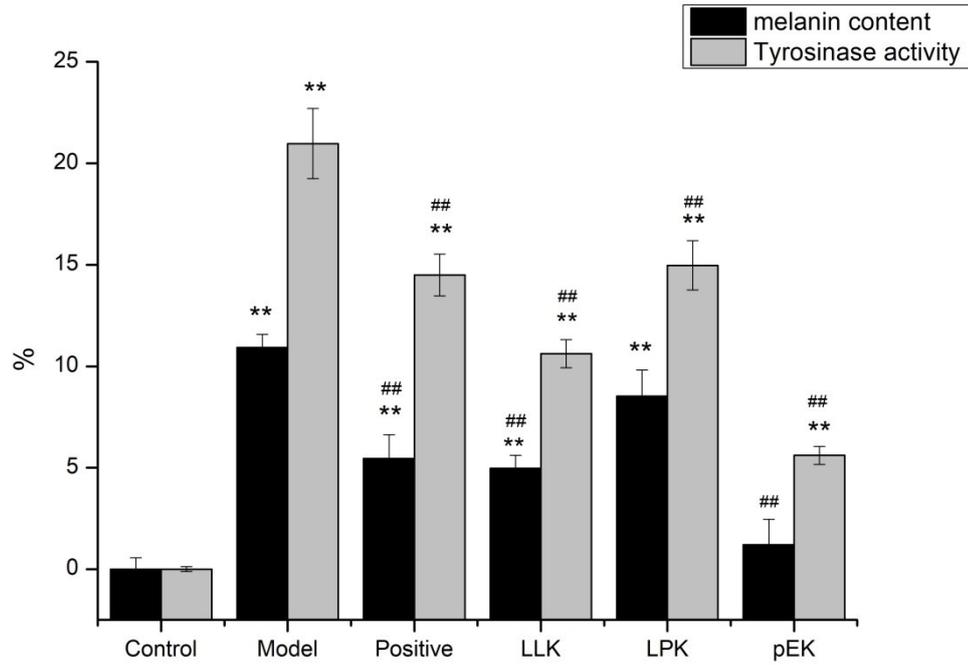
LPK

B

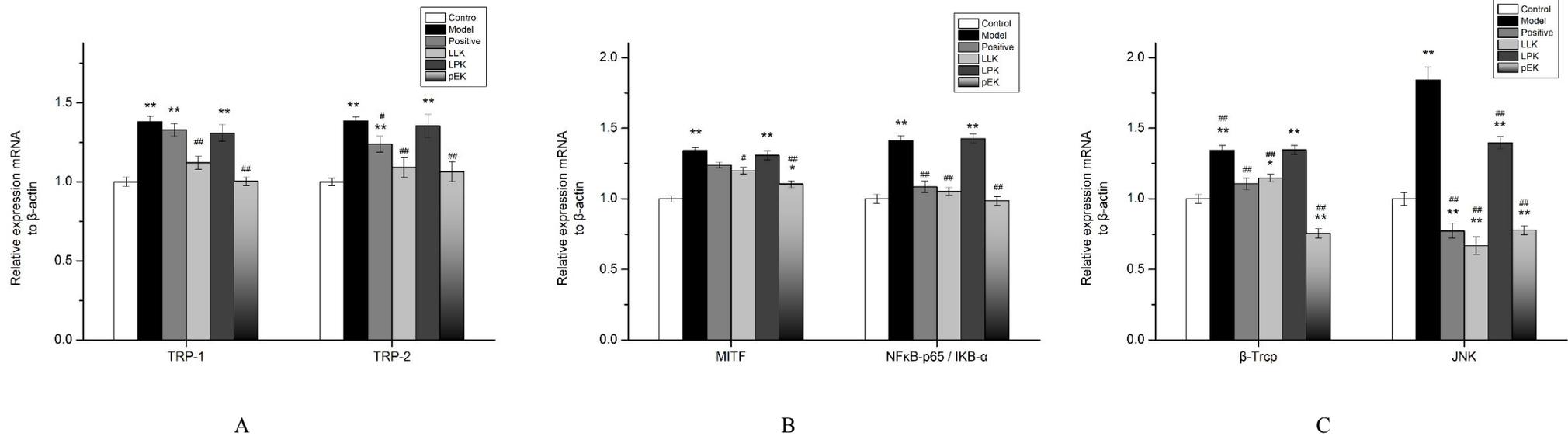


C

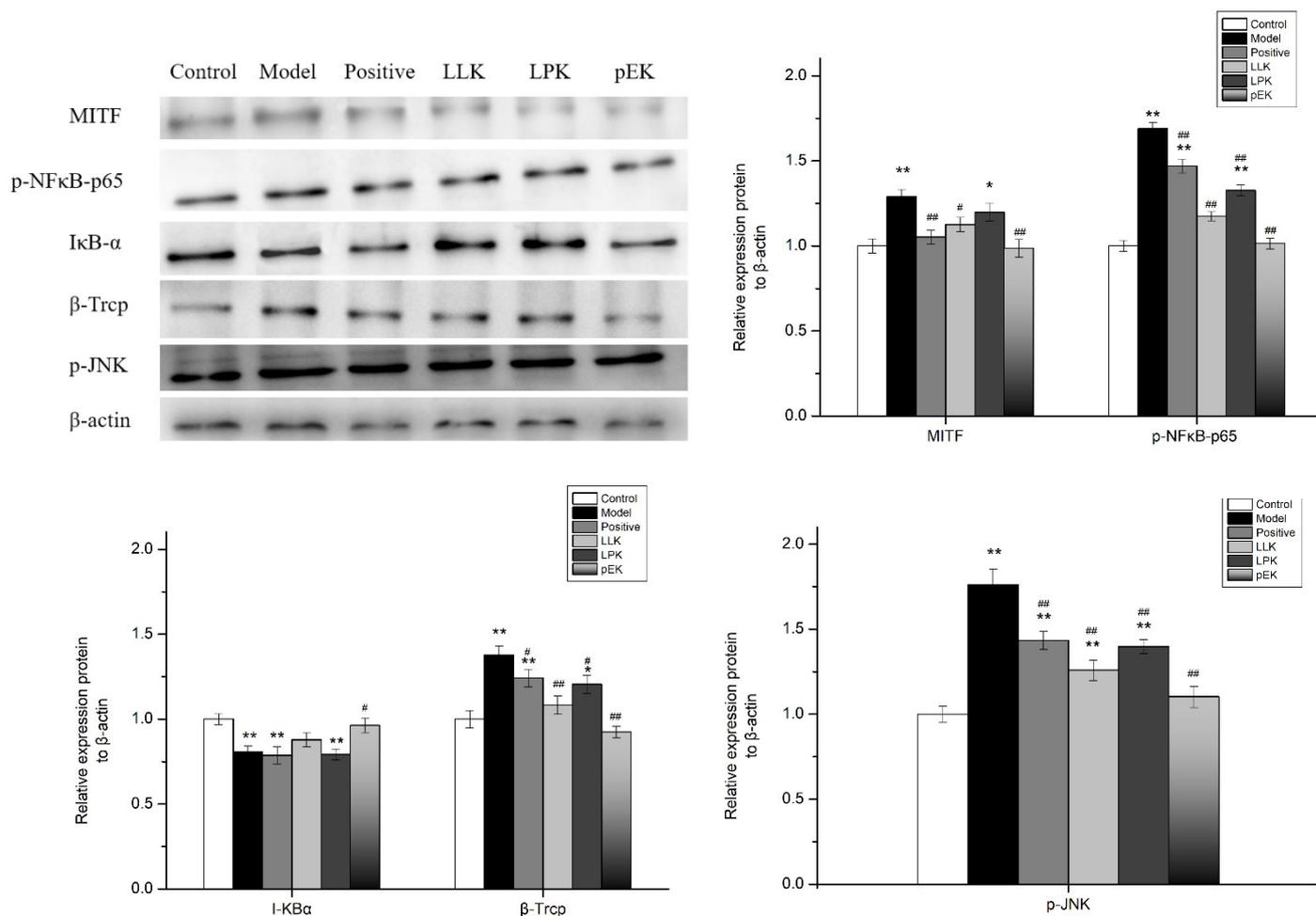
**Fig. 7 HPLC-MS/MS analysis to reveal the structure of RPH with a lysine residue at the C-terminus.** Total ion chromatograms (TIC) and ions intensity (Inten.) of Q3, and product ion scan were showed. (A) the map of sequence Leu-Leu-Lys, (B) the map of sequence Leu-Pro-Lys, (C) the map of sequence pyroGlu-Lys.



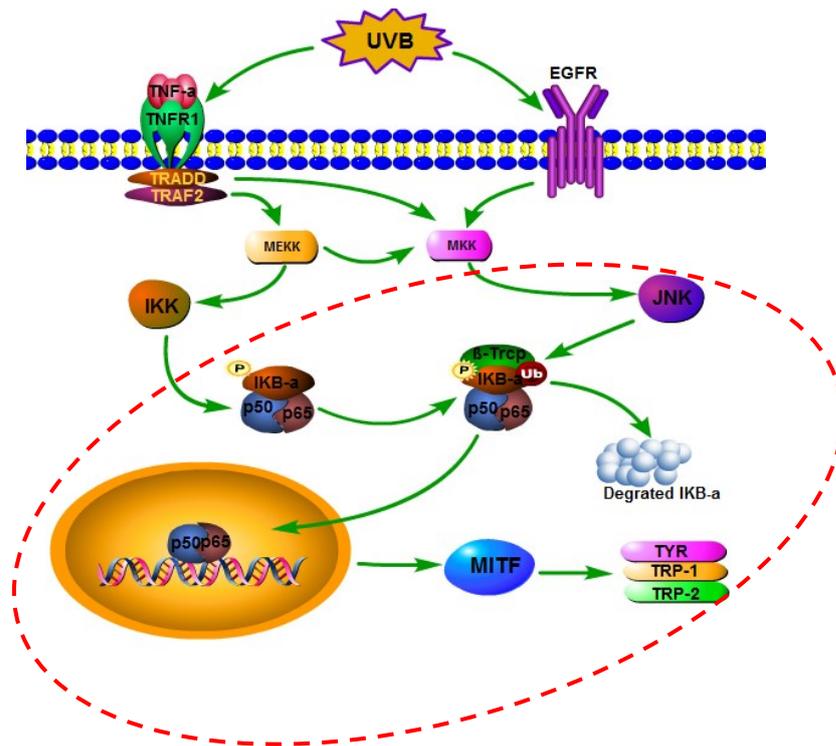
**Fig. 8 The effect of LLK, LPK and pEK on melanin content and tyrosinase activity in PIG1 cells.** The Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10µg/mL β-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10 µg/mL Leu-Leu-Lys (LLK), Leu-Pro-Lys (LPK), and pyroGlu-Lys (pEK). Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, #*p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model



**Fig. 9 Effects of LLK, LPK, and pEK on the mRNA level of UVB-induced PIG1 cells.** The Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10μg/mL β-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10 μg/mL Leu-Leu-Lys (LLK), Leu-Pro-Lys (LPK), and pyroGlu-Lys (pEK). The mRNA expression levels were detected by specific primers for (A) tyrosinase-relatedprotein 1 (TRP-1), tyrosinase-relatedprotein 2 (TRP-2) (B) microphthalmia-associated transcription factor(MITF), nuclear factor kappa-B-p65/ nuclear factor kappa B inhibitor alpha (NFκB-p65/IκB-α) (C) Beta-tansducin repeats containing proteins (β-Trcp), c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) and β-actin as the internal control. Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, # *p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model.



**Fig. 10 Effects of LLK, LPK, and pEK on the protein level of UVB-induced PIG1 cells.** The Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells were treated without UVB (Control), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB (Model), with 70mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10μg/mL β-arbutin (Positive), with 100mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> UVB in the presence of 10 μg/mL Leu-Leu-Lys (LLK), Leu-Pro-Lys (LPK), and pyroGlu-Lys (pEK).The protein expression levels were detected by specific antibodies for microphthalmia-associated transcription factor(MITF), phospho nuclear factor kappa-B-p65 (p-NFκB-p65), nuclear factor -kappa-B inhibitor alpha (IκB-α), Beta-tansducin repeats containing proteins (β-Trcp), phospho c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) and β-actin as the internal control. Values are presented as the mean ± SD (n=3). \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, compared with Control, #*p*<0.05, ##*p*<0.01, compared with Model.



**Fig. 11 Intracellular signaling pathways of the UVB-induced melanin production in Human Epidermal Melanocyte (PIG1) cells (Dotted area).**