A pivotal role for Nrf2 in smoking induced endothelial detachment– implications for endothelial erosion of stenotic plaques

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Supplementary Information

Methods

Tissue culture:

Shear stress models - Confluent monolayers of HCAEC were initially cultured for 24 hours under oscillatory $(0±5 \text{ dynes/cm}^2, ±0.5\text{Pa}, 1 \text{ Hz} \text{ OSS})$, normal laminar (15 dynes/cm², 1.5Pa LSS), or elevated laminar shear stress (75 dynes/cm², 7.5Pa ESS) to allow cells to adapt to their shear environment using a parallel plate flow apparatus. Three treatments were administered, 16 hours apart (Figure 1A) of vehicle (control), TNFα (5ng/ml), CSE (10%), or both (T+C). HCAECs were cultured for a total of 72 hours, with 48 hours of treatment.

In addition, the orbital shaker model was also used $\frac{1}{2}$, as this allows analysis of cells that have detached. For this system, cells were seeded on day 1 into 6 well plates, transduced with virus day 2 at a total pfu/cell of 400. Virus was removed on day 3 and the cells exposed to shear stress for 48 hours prior to analysis. 3 ml of MV2 fresh media was added and the plates were placed on an orbital shaker at 210 rpm for 48 hours to generate a defined shear stress pattern across the well, with low shear stress of approximately 4 dyn/cm² in the centre and high shear stress of approximately 13 dyn/cm² in the periphery. Compounds aimed at modulating cell adhesion (Table S1) were added to the HCAECs on commencement of exposure to shear stress.

Table S1 Chemical compounds added during orbital shaker experiment

ELISA

The level of GDF15, HSP70, S100P and IL-8 in patients' serum with OCT-defined plaque rupture or OCTdefined plaque erosion was measured by ELISA kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (CUSABIO, China).

Construction of Adenoviral vectors

OSGIN1 and OSGIN2 were cloned into pCpG-free MCS (Invivogen). The coding regions were amplified by PCR using primers (OSGIN1: F-CCAAGATCTCCACCCACCATGAGCTCCTCCAGAAAGGAC; R-TGGGCTAGCGTTAGGGTGGCTTCCTGGTCTCCTTCC. OSGIN2: F-GTGAGATCTAGAGGCGAAAAGTTAACACCATGCCATTAGTTGAAGAAACTTC; R-GTAAGCTAGCTTTAAGCTATCCCATCTCCTCC) using KOD proofreading DNA-polymerase, introducing a 5' BglII site and 3' NheI site. Once inserted into the respective sites in pC-G-free MCS, the whole expression

cassette was shuttled into pDC511 (Microbix Biosystems, Canada) for adenoviral vector production as previously described².

Construction of lentiviral vectors

Overexpression of KEAP1 was facilitated using lenti-KEAP1. KEAP1 was amplified by PCR using KOD proofreading polymerase and primers SW787F 5' – GCGGATCCTCTAGAACACCATGCAGCCAGATCCC which created BamHI and XbaI sites, and SW788R 5' CCCAGTCGACAAGCTAGCCTCAACAGGTACAGTTCTGCTG, which created NheI and SalI sites post stop codon. This fragment was TA cloned into pGEMTeasy and shuttled into lentiviral overexpression vector 326 under the control of the CMV promoter, replacing GFP (326 expressing GFP was used as a control). shRNAs for OSGIN1 & 2 were designed using splash RNA [\(http://splashrna.mskcc.org/\)](http://splashrna.mskcc.org/)³ and the top 3 designs were used to replace the first 3 miRs in the miR17 cluster with appropriate mismatches to ensure incorporation of target strand into RISC as described by ⁴. Constructs were synthesised by Eurofins and cloned into plentilox3.1 under the control of the U6 promoter. An empty vector (no-shRNA) was used as a control.

Cytotoxicity, viability and apoptosis analysis

Apotox-Glo triplex assay (Promega, Madison, USA) was performed in the HCAECs, according to manufacturer's instructions, and 40 hours after AdOSGIN1 and AdOSGIN2 infection. To this end, cells were plated into 96-well plates at a density of 5 x 10⁴ cells per well. Results were normalized to DMSO treated control cells. Experiments were performed five times with eight replicates per condition. In addition, Caspase-3 activity was measured using a caspase-3 activity assay kit (Promokine kit), fluorescence was measured at λ max = 505 nm after 3 h of incubation with the substrate and normalized by the protein content of each sample. Each treatment had five technical replicates and performed in triplicate.

Cell cycle analysis in HCAECs

Cell cycle analysis was performed by flow cytometry on ethanol-fixed cells stained with 25 μg/ml propidium iodide (PI). Analyses were performed using a FACScan flow cytometer (FACS Calibur, BD Transduction Laboratories) using Modfit software. BrdU analysis was performed as described².

Western blotting of HCAEC lysates

HCAECs were lysed in SDS lysis buffer [2% SDS; 50 mM Tris pH 6.8; 10% glycerol]. Protein concentration in the lysate was quantified using bicinchoninic acid-assay (BCA, Pierce BCA Protein Assay). Between 12 and 20 µg of protein were loaded per lane on denaturing SDS–polyacrylamide gels and blotted onto Nitrocellulose or PVDF membranes. See Table S2 for further information. All experiments were conducted in triplicate.

Table S2. Primary Antibodies, dilutions and methodology used in Western Blotting

Immunocytochemistry of HCAEC

HCAECs were exposed to AdOSGIN1 and AdOSGIN2 infection before being fixed in cold 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 minutes. Cells were permeabilised with 0.1% triton, blocked in 20% goat serum and probed with rabbit anti-OSGIN1 (1:100, Biorbyt) and rabbit anti-OSGIN2 (1:75, Biorbyt) , and rabbit anti-VE-Cadherin (Cell Signaling) followed by goat anti rabbit Alexa Fluor 488 (1/200, Invitrogen). Further staining was carried out with mouse anti-Vinculin (1/400, Sigma), mouse anti-β-catenin (1/200, BD Transduction Laboratories), mouse -mab137 (1/100, Sigma) followed by goat anti mouse Alexa Fluor 594 (1/200, Invitrogen). In combination with the previous staining, anti-Phalloidin (1/250, Sigma), and anti-Tubulin (1/1000, Abcam) were added (antibody titration Table S3).

Secondary Antibody description

Table S3. Primary Antibodies used in Immunocytochemical analysis

Senescent-associated β-galactosidase staining

Paraformaldehyde fixed HCAECs were rinsed with ice-cold PBS pH 6.0 and submerged in senescent-associated β-galactosidase (SA-β-Gal) staining solution [1 mg/ml 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl β-d-galactopyranoside (Xgal), 5 mM K4Fe(CN)6, 5 mM K3Fe(CN)6, 150 mM NaCl² and 2 mM MgCl² titrated with 1M NaH2PO⁴ to pH 6.0] and incubated overnight at 37°C. After staining, HCAECs were rinsed with ice-cold PBS pH 6.0, and micrographs were taken with a Leica M165 FC stereomicroscope.

RNA extraction and reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

Total RNA was extracted from HCAECs using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Norgen) according to the manufacturer's protocol. 250ng RNA were reverse transcribed into cDNA with random primer by reverse transcriptase (RT) (Qiagen). cDNA (relative 1ng RNA) was amplified by standard PCR with Taq DNA polymerase (Sensifast, SybrGreen, LOW-ROX Kit, Bioline) and primers. Primers were designed using NCBI software. For each gene, SYBR Green was used in place of a labelled probe (primers sequences Table S4). GAPDH RNA was used as the

internal control for each gene and the target gene was amplified in duplex in PCR mixtures (10 μl final volume) containing 4 μl Sybr® Green PCR Master Mix, cDNA template 1 μl, optimised primers 2 μl and 3 μl of H2O. PCR thermal cycle parameters were: 5 minutes 95°C 30 seconds between at 65°C to 70°C depending on primers optimisation, 30 seconds at 72°C 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 seconds and 60°C for 1 minute. Reactions were performed, and fluorescence was monitored in an Applied Biosystem detector (Applied Biosystem). Relative mRNA expression level was defined as the ratio of target gene expression level to GAPDH mRNA expression. Primers sequences can be found in Table S4.

Table S4. Primer sequences used for real-time PCR

RNASeq data analysis on HCAEC with OSGIN1&2 overexpression

Strand-specific RNA-seq libraries were prepared using the Illumina workflow with the TruSeq® Stranded mRNA Sample Preparation Kit. Paired-end reads of 65bp were generated from each sample on the Illumina platform of HiSeq4000. The fastq files generated were analysed with FastQC⁵, any low quality reads and contaminated barcodes were trimmed with Trimmomactic⁶. All libraries were aligned to the hg38 assembly of human genome using STAR-2.5.3a⁷ and only the unique alignments were reported for each read. The mapped reads were also counted with STAR at gene level against gencode.v25.annotation.gtf. R was used for all the statistical analysis of data⁸. The counts data were normalized and donor effect removed using the R package RUVSeq⁹. Differentially expressed genes were detected with the R package of DESeq2¹⁰ between groups of experimental data sets. Cluster analysis was carried out on the DE genes identified with DESeq2 using a padj cut off of 0.05 with gplots¹¹. The predicted upstream regulators and altered canonical pathways were generated through the use of IPA (QIAGEN Inc., [https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com/products/ingenuity-pathway-analysis\)](https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com/products/ingenuity-pathway-analysis)¹². The cluster analysis was carried out on the differentially expressed genes identified with DESeq2 using a p-adjusted cut off of 0.05, absolute log2 fold change cut off of 0.5, and base Mean cut off of 50. The Pearson distance was clustered with the hclust function and plotted with an R package of gplots.

Patient study population and blood samples

 Patients presenting with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) underwent primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) at the Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University were prospectively enrolled in this study. The diagnosis of STEMI was made according to the following criteria: detection of cardiac troponin values with at least one value above the upper reference, typical symptoms of acute myocardial ischemia and new ischemic electrocardiogram changes. Thrombus aspiration was performed in all patients before optical coherence tomography (OCT) examination. OCT imaging of culprit lesion were performed after antegrade flow restoration without any intervention. Patients were divided into plaque erosion and plaque rupture group according to OCT image of culprit lesion. The plaque rupture and plaque erosion were defined by OCT based on our previously established definition¹³. OCT-erosion was identified by the presence of attached thrombus overlying an intact and visualized plaque, while OCT-rupture was identified by disruption of fibrous cap and cavity formation in the plaque. The blood samples around the culprit lesion were collected from intracoronary aspirates during the primary PCI. The serum was separated and stored at -80℃ immediately. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients. This study was approved by the institutional research ethics committee of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University and conforms to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki.

Baseline characteristics of ACS patients analysed in this study that experienced either plaque rupture (PR) or plaque erosion (PE)

Immunofluorescence on Mouse Aortas

8µm frozen sections of aortas from mice exposed to air (control mice) or cigarette smoke for 3 months (as described¹⁴) were fixed in ice cold acetone before immunofluorescence was performed using the antibodies described above. The mouse tissue used in this manuscript was not generated for this study, but was surplus to the described study¹⁴, and therefore utilised in this study in line with 3Rs principles. All experimental procedures were carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations and approved by the Ethical Committee of Animal Experiments of the KU Leuven.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

		ESSTC ESSC ESST			ESSTC
	Genes			Genes	ESSC ESST
$\mathbf{1}$	MAFF		50	GSTT2/GSTT2B	
$\overline{2}$	RASD1		49	GSTA2	
$\overline{\mathbf{3}}$	DNAJA4		48	PRKCI	
$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	HMOX1				
5	TXNRD1		47	MAP3K1	
6	GCLM		46	HACD3	
$\boldsymbol{7}$	DNAJB1		45	DNAJC15	
$8\,$			44	SLC35A2	
	FOS		43	DNAJC5G	
9	FOSL1		42	DNAJB11	
10	MAFG		41	PIK3R1	
11	JUNB		40	RALB	
12	HSPB8		39	PRKCH	
13	STIP1		38	MAPK14	
14	SOD ₂		37	DNAJB5	
15	GSTM3		36	MAP3K5	
16	ATF4		35	MAPK1	
17	PRKCD		34	MAPK7	
18	MAP2K3		33	KRAS	
19	RRAS2		32	PIK3C2B	
20	DNAJB2		31	DNAJC9	
21	DNAJA1		30	DNAJB4	
22	NFE2L2		29	PIK3R2	
23	TXN		28	RAP1A	
24	GSK3B		27	SCARB1	
25	SOD1		26		
26	JUND			DNAJC18	
27	KEAP1		25	ACTB	
28	MAPK9		24	PRKD1	
29	DNAJB6		23	AKT1	
30	PIK3CD		22	PIK3CG	
31			21	PRKCE	
	NQO1		20	ACTA2	
32	SQSTM1		19	DNAJC4	
33	DNAJC7		18	AKR1A1	
34	GSR		17	ACTG1	
35	CBR1		16	ERP29	
36	$\rm JUN$		15	GSTK1	
37	UBB		14	PRKCZ	
38	PRDX1		13	AKR7A2	
39	RRAS		12	DNAJC19	
40	EPHX1		11	MRAS	
41	MGST1		10	PPIB	
42	DNAJB12		9	GSTM1	
43	FTH1		8	AKR7A3	
44	DNAJA3		7	GSTM2	
45	MAPK8		6	GSTA4	
46	DNAJC5		5	DNAJC10	
47	CCT7		4	UBE2E3	
48	CDC34		3	ENC1	
49	GSTM4		$\overline{2}$	GSTT1	
50	MAPK3		1	CAT	

Figure S1. Top 50 genes upregulated and downregulated compared to elevated shear stress (ESS) control.

Figure S2: Cell Adhesion of HCAECs exposed to a combination of elevated shear stress, TNFα and CSE together (ESSTC), with additional Z-VAD-FMK treatment (20µM), vs untreated and DMSO controls at ESS for 72 hours. Cell number was quantified using picogreen assay, expressed as mean fold change against control \pm S.E. n=3.

Figure S3: Cell number of HCAECs exposed to a combination of TNFα and CSE together (T+C), with additional GM6001 treatment (10µM), vs untreated and DMSO controls at ESS for 72 hours. Cell number was quantified using picogreen assay, expressed as mean fold change against control \pm S.E. n=3.

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Figure S4: Cell Adhesion of HCAECs exposed to a combination of elevated shear stress, TNFα and CSE together (ESSTC), with additional 3µM Rosuvastatin treatment, vs untreated and DMSO controls at ESS for 72 hours. Cell number was quantified using picogreen assay, expressed as mean fold change against $ESSTC \pm S.E$. n=3.

Figure S5: Cell Adhesion of HCAECs exposed to a combination of elevated shear stress, TNFα and CSE together (ESSTC), with additional 200µM Apocynin treatment, vs untreated and DMSO controls at ESS for 72 hours. Cell number was quantified using picogreen assay, expressed as mean fold change against control \pm S.E. n=3.

Necrostatin-1

Figure S6: Cell Adhesion of HCAECs exposed to a combination of elevated shear stress, TNFα and CSE together (ESSTC), with additional Necrostatin-1 treatment (10µM), vs untreated and DMSO controls at ESS for 72 hours. Cell number was quantified using picogreen assay, expressed as mean fold change against control \pm S.E. n=3.

OSGIN1

Figure S7. OSGIN1 mRNA expression in HCAECs cultured under OSS, LSS or ESS, with TNFα (5ng/ml) or CSE (10%) or both (*P=0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 v LSS CTRL, mean and SEM n=6, two-way ANOVA). Reproduced from reference 17 , under CCL4.0

Figure S7. NRF2 binds and activates OSGIN1 promoter (A, B) UCSC genome browser tracks displaying ChIPseq reads for NRF2 (grey), layered H3K27Ac (shades of blue), H3K4me3 (green), H3K4me1 (light blue), and POLII (grey bars and orange peaks). DNase hypersensitive clusters are in black. Please note higher scale of NRF2 and H3K4me3 at the promoter of OSGIN1, together with the higher levels of H3K4me1 on OSGIN1 compared to OSGIN2. While POLII is bound to promoters of both genes, difference in H3K4 methylation suggests that OSGIN1 is actively transcribed and OSGIN2 is poised for transcription. We found an NRF2 binding site antioxidant response elements (ARE) under the NRF2 binding peak located at 130bp upstream of the transcription start site (TSS) of OSGIN1 (C) and predicted four AREs 4kb upstream of the OSGIN2 TSS. This supports our previously published findings¹⁵.

(adenovirus overexpression of OSGIN1, OSGIN2 and both together) and did not cause a significant decrease in cell viability. Overexpression of OSGIN1, OSGIN2 and both together did not cause a significant increase or decrease in necrosis. Viability and Necrosis were measured using promega Apotox Glo assay kit. **c)** Total Parp antibody in western blotting showed no parp cleavage by caspase-3. No second band was reported in any sample suggesting no apoptosis activity.

Figure S9. A) AdOSGIN1/2 condition resulted in numerous multinucleated cells. B) Number of multi-nucleated cells were counted and compared against AdCtrl. AdOSGIN2 and AdOSGIN1/2 showed up to four times more multi nucleated cells *P<0.05, and ***P<0.001.

Figure S10: 3D cell model was created using Leica software confocal image stack in combination with Image j: image to stack from 50 layers of confocal images. Cell depth was measured with an increment of cell height up to $25\mu m$ (n=3; P<0.001).

Control

AdControl

AdOSGIN1

Figure S11: EC size analysis was evaluated through Image J custom particles analyser and multi cell outliner (ellipse fit correction). Five random pictures were analysed, and each cell area was automatically measured. AdOSGIN2 and AdOSGIN1+2 condition showed an increment in cell size with almost double the size compared to the Ctrl and AdCtrl. **P<0.01 AdOSGIN2 and ***P<0.001 AdOSGIN1+2 vs AdCtrl.

Control

AdControl

AdOSGIN1+2 AdOSGIN2

Figure S12. Senescence-associated beta-galactosidase (SA-β-galactosidase) senescence staining of HAECs transfected with adenoviral (OSGIN1, OSGIN2 and OSGIN1/2). Overexpression by ad of AdOSGIN1 and AdOSGIN2 induces senescent phenotypes in HCAECs. AdOSGIN1/2 overexpression shows green/blue senescence cells (red arrows) detached or in progress of detaching. SA-β-galactosidase assays were performed 40h after adenovirus transfection.

Supplementary Tables S5 Cluster 1, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S6 Cluster 2, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S7 Cluster 3, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S8. Cluster 4, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

PLAGL1

Supplementary Tables S9. Cluster 5, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S10. Cluster 6, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

TCF3 FOXO1 Supplementary Tables S11 Cluster 7, Genes and top 10 canonical pathway

Supplementary Tables S12. Cluster 8, Genes and top 10 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S13. AdOSGIN1 vs AdControl, Genes and top 20 canonical pathways and regulators.

BNC1 FAM129A LRP1 PTPRU UQCRC2
BTN3A3 FBLN2 LRRC16A RAPGEF5 USHBP1 BTN3A3 FBLN2 LRRC16A RAPGEF5 USHBP1

Supplementary Tables S14. AdOSGIN2 vs AdControl, Genes and top 20 canonical pathways and regulators.

Supplementary Tables S15. AdOSGIN1&2 vs AdControl, Genes and top 20 canonical pathways and regulators.

Figure S14. ESSTC and OSGIN1&2 coregulated genes: a) Genes significantly regulated under conditions of ESSTC (compared to ESS >2-fold change, p adj <0.05) and OSGIN1/2 (compared to virus control, >1.5-fold change, p adj < 0.05). B) neighbor network analysis was carried out using cytoscape. ATF3 was observed to be the gene regulator of GDF15 and HSP70 (HSPA1A).

Supplementary Tables S16, Genes significantly regulated under conditions of ESSTC (compared to ESS >2 -fold change, p adj <0.05) and OSGIN1/2 (compared to virus control, >1.5-fold change, p adj < 0.05)

Figure S15, GFD15 regulation. A) Transcriptomic evaluation of GDF15 in HCAECs cultured under oscillatory (OSS), laminar (LSS) and elevated (ESS) shear stress on HCAECs treated with control, 3 doses of 5ng/ml TNF α (T), 3 doses of 10%CSE (C) or the combination of TNF α and CSE (TC), n=3 per condition, as described in Fig 1A. ESSTC significantly increased compared to ESS control (adj $p = 1.2E-06$). B) comparison of the effect of smoking on GDF15 levels in ACS patient serum combining both plaque rupture and plaque erosion patients.

P<0.05, P<0.01 and P<0.001), LAMP1 accumulation around nuclei was reported. b) GABARAPL1 (in AdOSGIN1 and AdOSGIN1+2) and ATG7 (AdOSGIN1+2) gene expression level increased compared to AdCTRL *P<0.05.

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Figure S17. Images of HCAECs treated with chloroquine (150µM), bafilomycin (50nM), or OSGIN1&2 overexpression induced comparable, non-synergistic detachment (mean \pm SD, two-way ANOVA, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 v AdCTRL, n=4) corresponding to the analysis presented in Fig 7C in the main text.

RESCUE EXPERIMENT

Figure S18: Confluent layer of ECs was seeded on a six-well plate. Adenoviral overexpression (AdCTRL, AdOSGIN1+2, and AdNRF2 was carried out. Following adenoviral transfection, EC were flowed on orbital shaker (210rpm, 3ml) in combination with DMSO, Metformin, and VER-155008) for 72hrs. (See quantification Figure 5E main text)

Figure S19. Comparison of different normalisation techniques. Because of the change in cell size, depth (and therefore assumed volume) and increase in number of nuclei per cell (Figures S14c,d; S15; S16), we calculated cell detachment as % coverage (Figure 5E main text). We repeated the analysis of detachment using by A) DNA quantification $^{2, 16, 17}$ or B) protein content of the cell lysate. These gave equivalent result as presented in Figure 5E. OSGIN1+2 or Nrf2-mediated cell detachment was reduced by co-treatment with Ver155008 (15μ M), or Metformin (100μ M); (*P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001, n=3, Two-way ANOVA).

Figure S20. HSP70 quantification in serum of ACS serum. A) No significant differences were observed between patients with OCT-defined plaque rupture (PR) and plaque erosion (PE). B) subgroup analysis of PR and PE in non-smokers (NS) and smokers (S), indicating a significant difference between PR and PE only in smokers. C) comparison between smokers and non-smokers between PR and PE groups didn't observe a significant interaction. D) There was no overall effect of smoking on HSP70 levels in ACS patients.

Total Protein

Figure S21: a) Overexpression of OSGINs was evaluated through western blotting. b) PARP cleavage antibody didn't show any cleave of the PARP protein confirming it was no apoptotic pathway related. c) Total protein (e) quantification was used to determine p62 and HSP70 accumulation

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AdOSG(N)+2

AdCTRL

AdOSGIN142

Address.

Figure S22: Rescue experiment was carried on orbital shaker using Metformin and VER155008. Following orbital shaker experiment ECs were lysate and total protein (d) quantification was used to determine (a)p62, (b)HSP70 and (c)LAMP1(western blotting analysis).

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