

Supplementary Materials for
**Nuclear factor κ B overactivation in the intervertebral disc leads to
macrophage recruitment and severe disc degeneration**

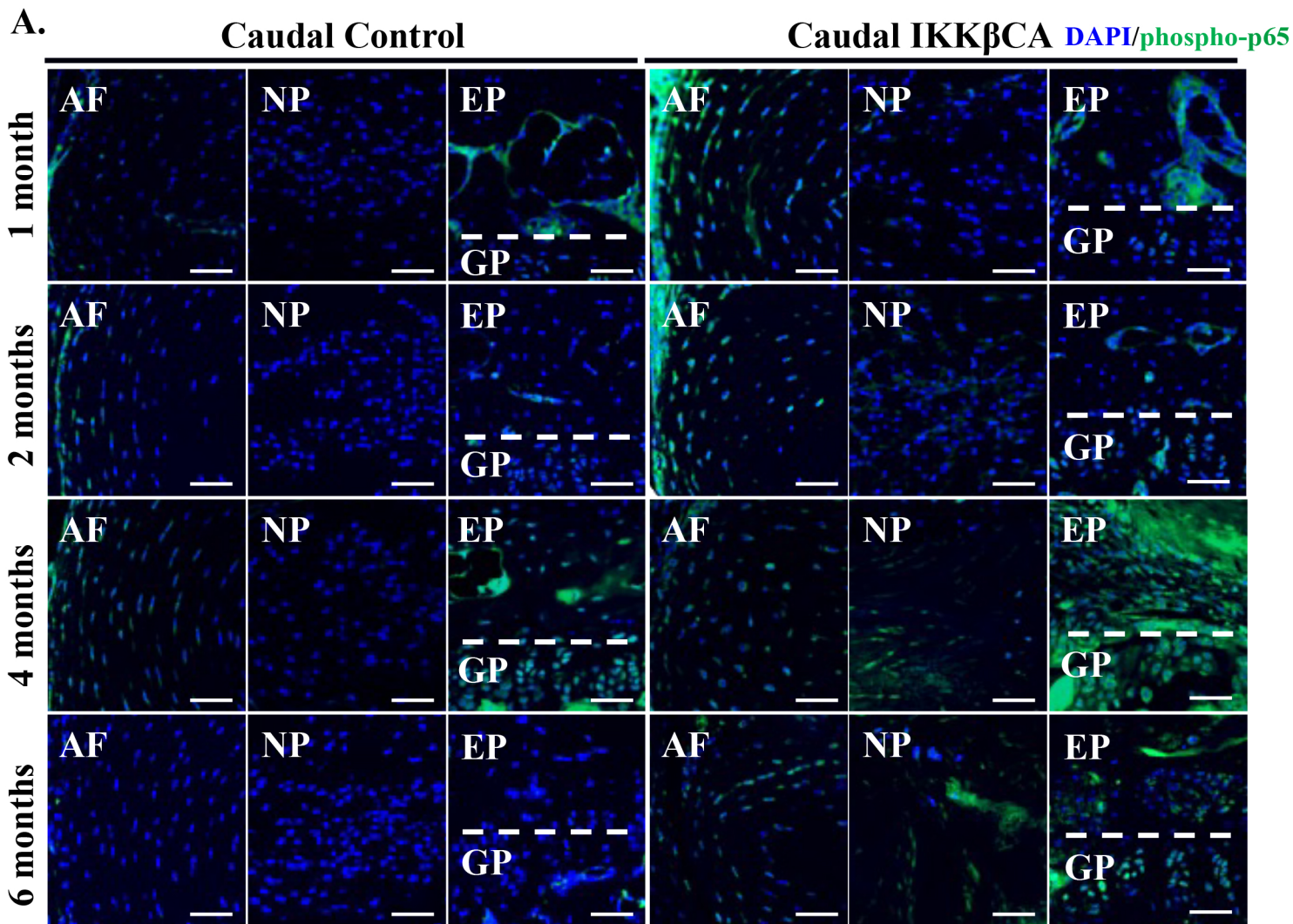
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B. Caudal phospho-p65 expression Control IKK β CA

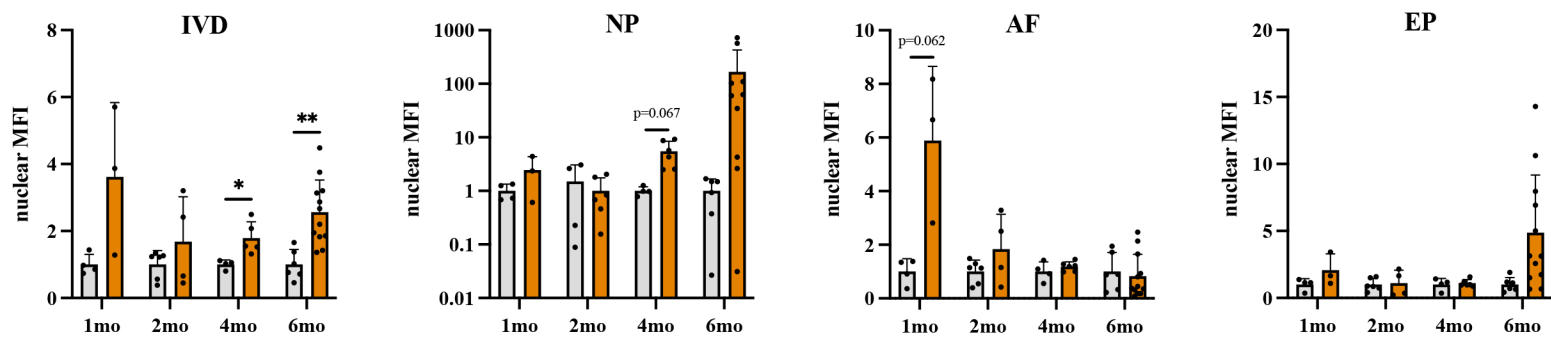


Fig. S1. NF- κ B activation within IKK β CA caudal IVDs. (A) Representative IF staining for phosphorylated p65 (green) within mid sagittal sections of control (*AcanCre^{-/-};Ikk2ca^{fl/fl}*) and IKK β CA caudal IVDs. Scale bar = 50 μ m. (B) Nuclear MFI quantification (normalized to control within time point) of phosphorylated p65. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ ($n = 3-6$ mice/group, 1-2 discs/mouse).

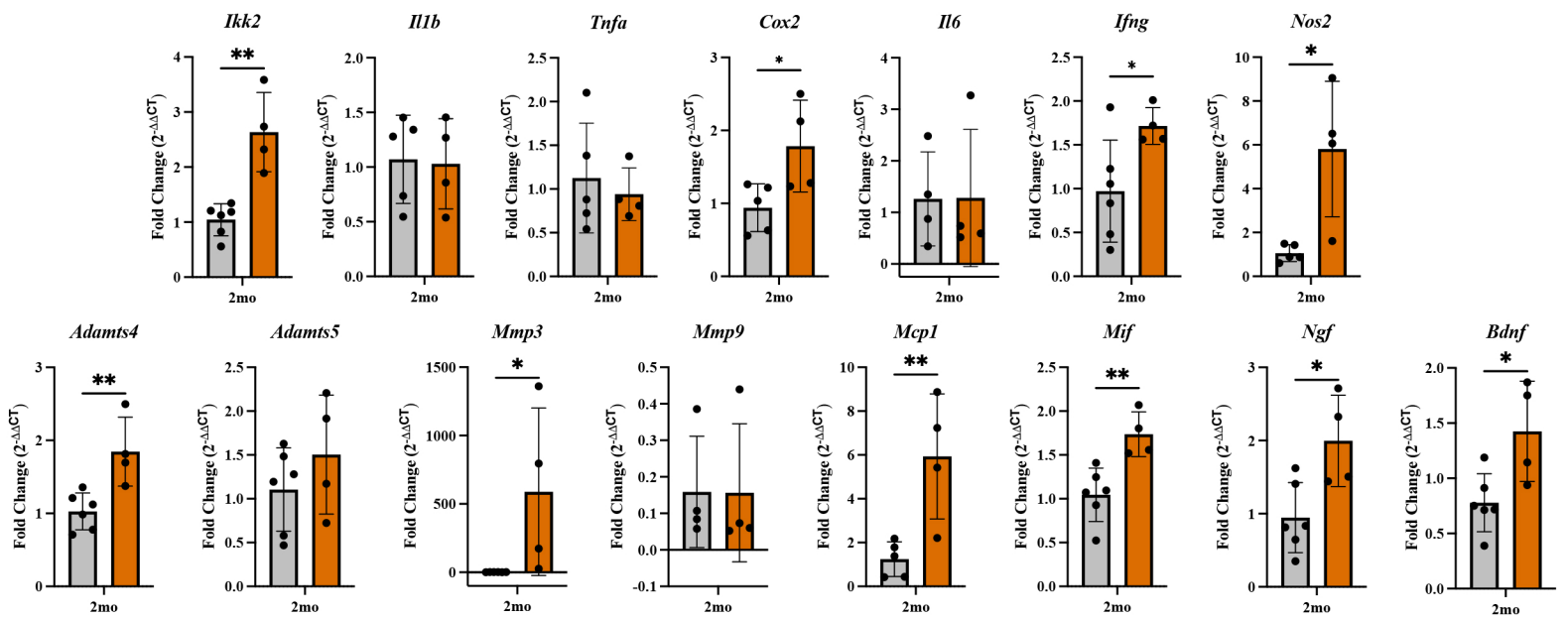


Fig. S2. IKKβ over-expression upregulates caudal IVD inflammatory cytokine, chemokine, catabolic enzyme, and neurotrophic factor gene expression. Gene expression changes (relative to control) from total RNA isolated from control (*AcanCre^{-/-};Ikk2ca^{fl/fl}*) and IKKβCA whole caudal IVDs containing NP, AF, and EP, 2-months post recombination. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. (n=3 mice/genotype per timepoint, 1-2 discs/mouse).

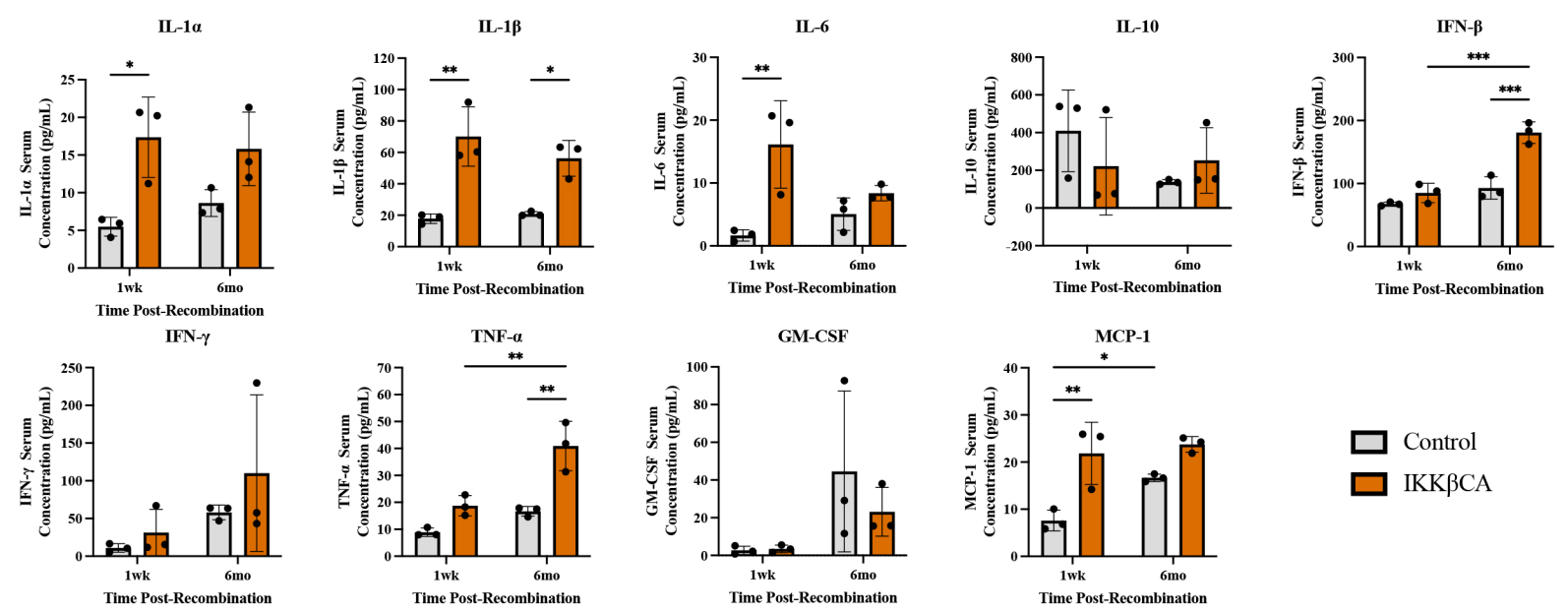


Fig. S3. IKK β over-expression upregulates circulating inflammatory cytokine and chemokines in the serum. Cytokine and chemokine levels within serum isolated from control (*AcanCre^{-/-}Ikk2ca^{fl/fl}*) and IKK β CA mice 1 week and 6 months post recombination. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 (n=3/genotype per timepoint).

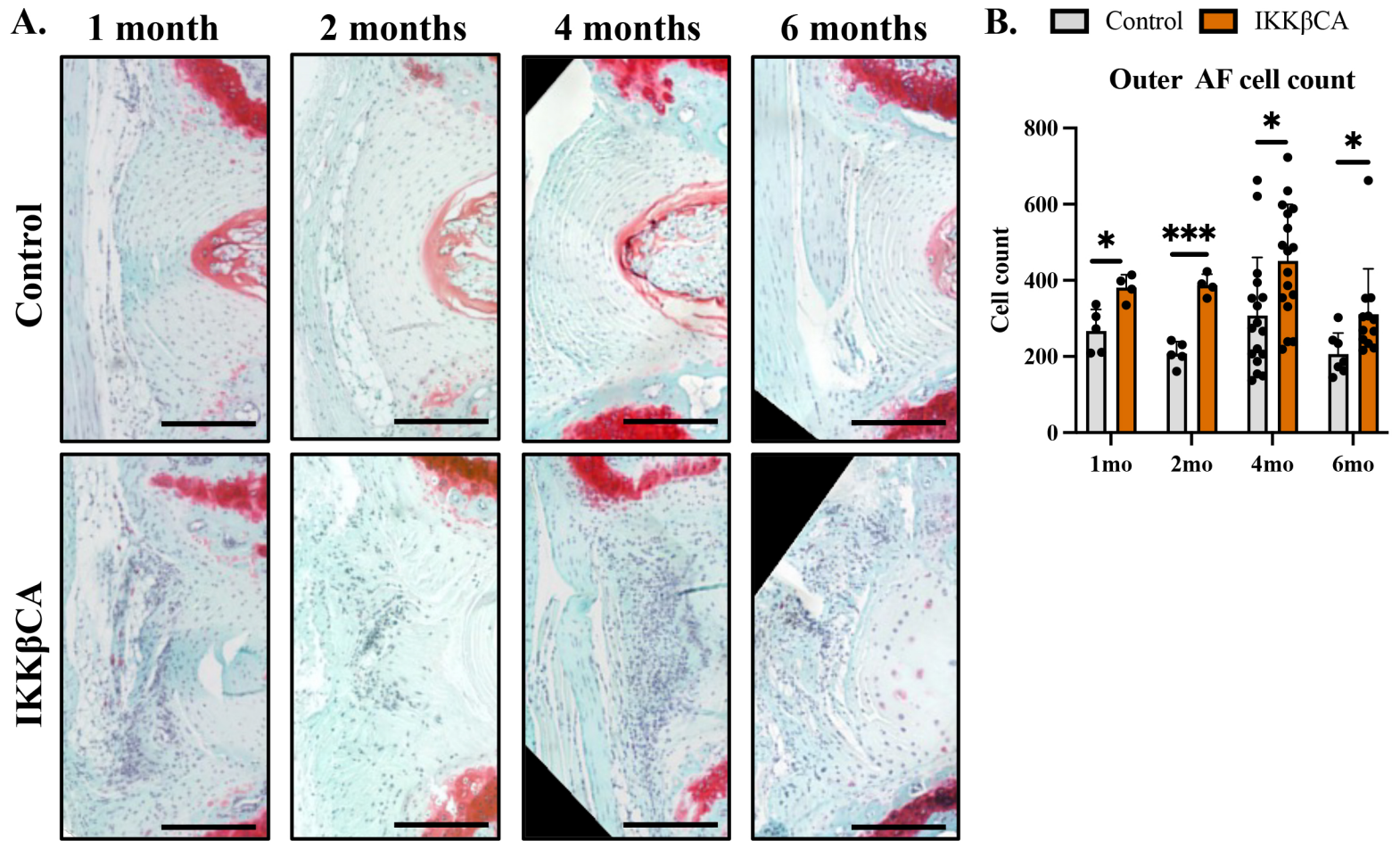


Fig. S4. IKK β over-expression increases cellularity presence within the caudal AF. (A) Representative images of safranin-O stained mid sagittal sections of control (*AcanCre^{-/-};Ikk2ca^{fl/fl}*) and IKK β CA caudal IVDs 1-, 2-, 4-, and 6-months post recombination. Scale bar = 250 μ m. (B) Quantification of outer AF cellularity using haematoxylin nuclear stain (n=4-6 mice/genotype and timepoint, 1-4 IVDs/mouse).

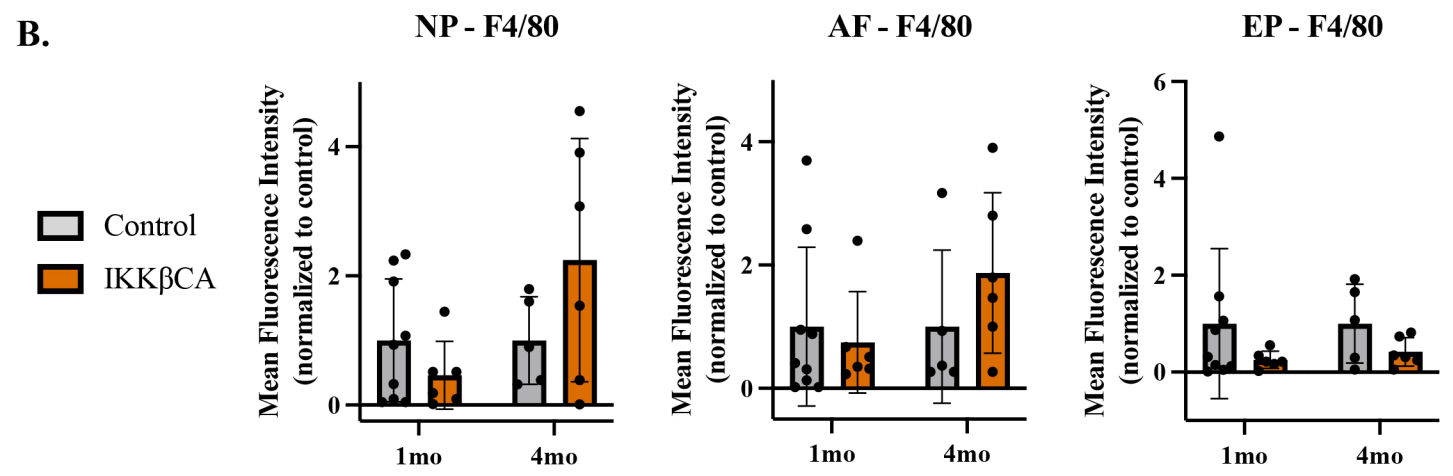
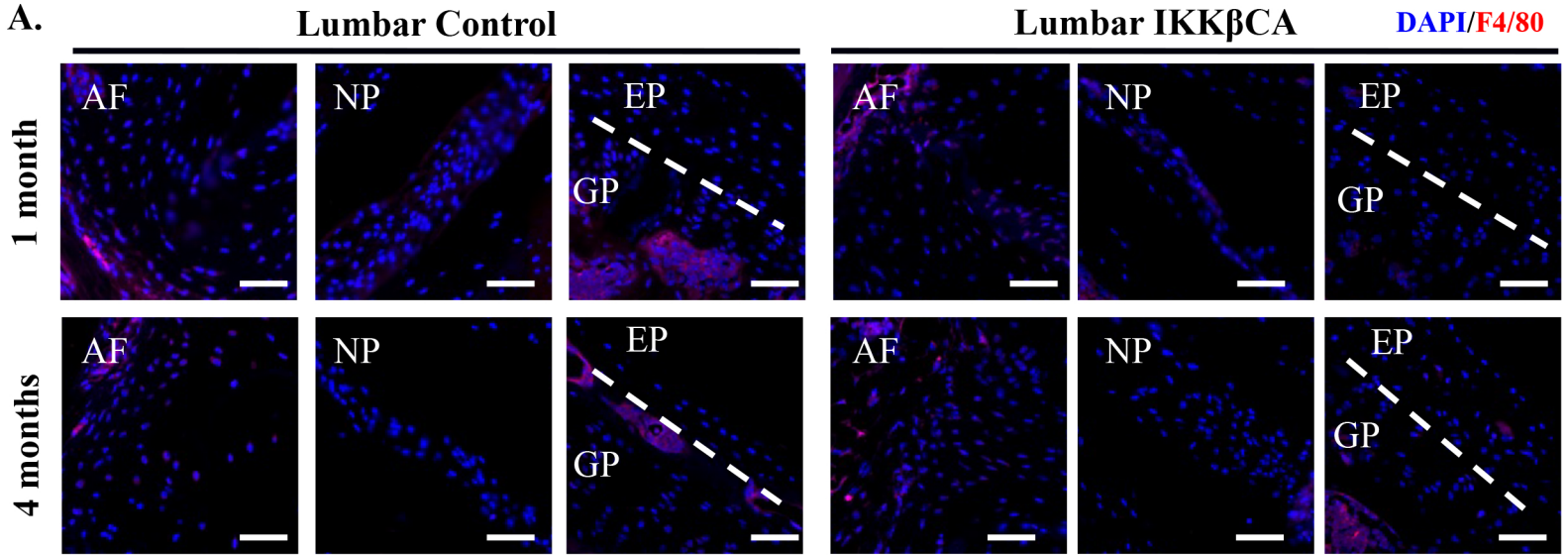


Fig. S5. Macrophage presence within the lumbar IVDs. (A) Representative images of IF staining for F4/80, in mid sagittal sections of control (*AcanCre^{-/-}Ikk2ca^{fl/fl}*) and IKK β CA lumbar IVDs at 1- and 4-months post recombination. Scale bar = 100 μ m. (B) MFI quantification of F4/80 expression within individual NP, AF, and EP compartments. Letters (a,b,c) indicating statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) different groupings. (n=3-6 mice/genotype, 1-2 discs/mouse).

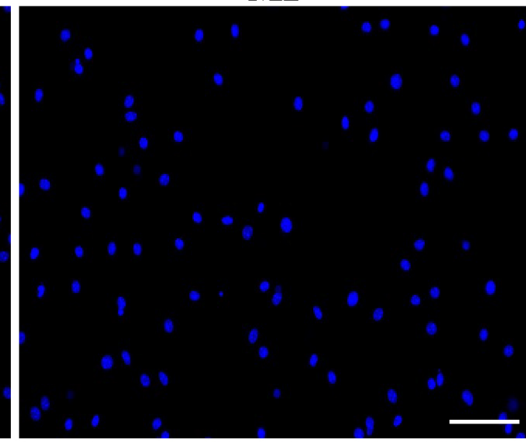
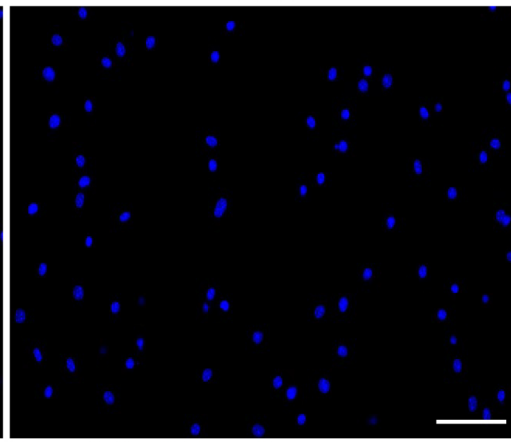
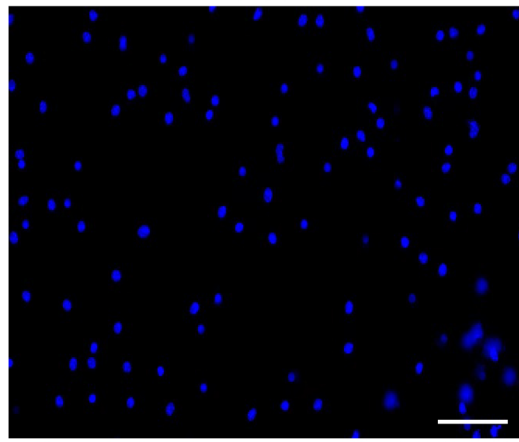
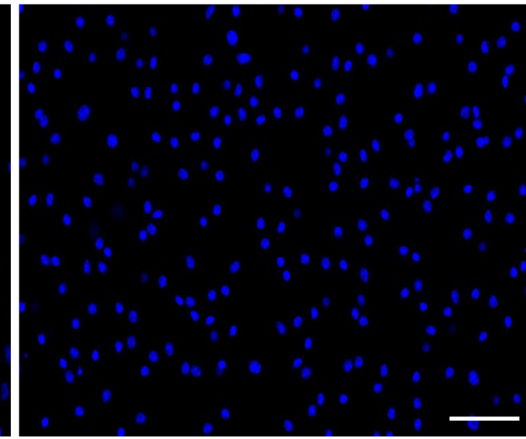
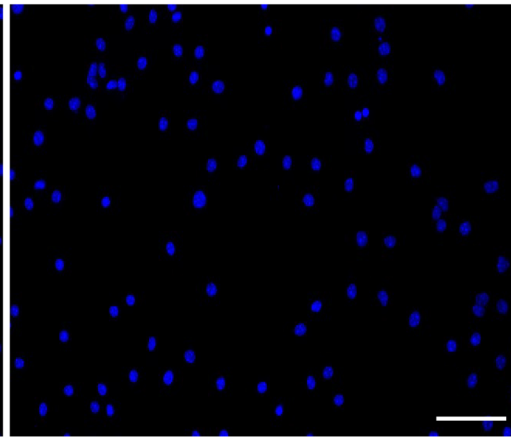
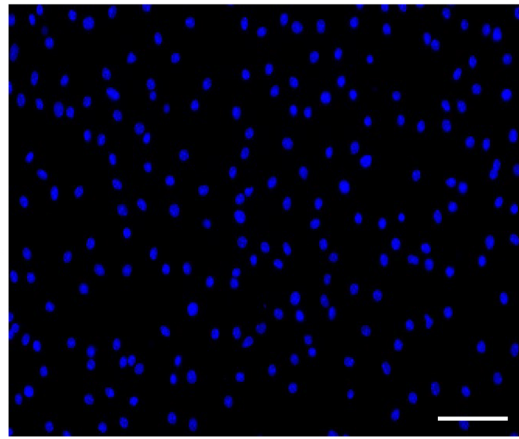
M0**M1****M2****Control-CM****IKKβCA-CM**

Fig. S6. Caudal IKK β CA-CM increases macrophage migration *in vitro*. Representative images of DAPI (nuclear) stained M0, M1, and M2 macrophages on transwell membranes following caudal IKK β CA-CM stimulation. Cell counting used for quantification of migration through transwell membranes. Scale bar = 100 μ m (n=3).

Table S1: FWD and REV murine primers (IDT) for rt-qPCR.

Gene Target, murine	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (<i>Gapdh</i>)	AAC AGC AAC TCC CAC TCT TC	CCT GTT GCT GTA GCC GTA TT
inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase subunit beta (<i>Ikk2</i>)	CTG AAG ATC GCC TGT AGA AA	TCC ATC TGT AAC CAG CTC CAG
interleukin-6 (<i>Il6</i>)	CTT CCA TCC AGT TGC CTT CT	CTC CGA CTT GTG AAG TGG TAT AG
tumor necrosis factor alpha (<i>Tnfa</i>)	TTG CTC TGT GAA GGG AAT GG	GGC TCT GAG GAG TAG ACA ATA AAG
interleukin-1 beta (<i>Il1b</i>)	ATG GGC AAC CAC TTA CCT ATT T	GTT CTA GAG AGT GCT GCC TAA TG
nitric oxide synthase 2 (<i>Nos2</i>)	TCT CCC TTT CCT CCC TTC TT	CTT CAG TCA GGA GGT TGA GTT T
interferon gamma (<i>Ifng</i>)	GGC CAT CAG CAA CAA CAT AAG	GTT GAC CTC AAA CTT GGC AAT AC
Prostaglandin-Endoperoxide Synthase 2 (<i>Ptgs2/Cox2</i>)	GAA GAT TCC CTC CGG TGT TT	CCC TTC TCA CTG GCT TAT GTA G
Cluster of differentiation 38 (<i>CD38</i>)	TCT CTC TCT CTC TCT CTC TCT CT	TCA GCT GTG CTG AGG ATT TAG
Cluster of differentiation 206 (<i>CD206</i>)	GGA ATC AAG GGC ACA GAG TTA	TTC CAT CTG CTC CAC AAT CC
monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (<i>Mcp1</i>)	CTC GGA CTG TGA TGC CTT AAT	TGG ATC CAC ACC TTG CAT TTA
macrophage inhibitory factor (<i>Mif</i>)	GTT CCA CCT TCG CTT GAG T	CAT CGC TAC CGG TGG ATA AA
Matrix Metalloproteinase 3 (<i>Mmp3</i>)	GGA CCA GGG ATT AAT GGA GAT G	TGA GCA GCA ACC AGG AAT AG
Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 (<i>Mmp9</i>)	CTG GAA CTC ACA CGA CAT CTT	TCC ACC TTG TTC ACC TCA TTT
A Disintegrin-Like And Metalloprotease With Thrombospondin Type 1, Motif 4 (<i>Adamts4</i>)	GGC AGA GAA GGG ATG ATG TAA TAG	CCC AAC ATC ACC CAG GTA ATA A
A Disintegrin-Like And Metalloprotease With Thrombospondin Type 1, Motif 5 (<i>Adamts5</i>)	GTG CTG TGT TTG CCA TCT TC	GCA CTG CCT TGT TCT GTT TC
nerve growth factor (<i>Ngf</i>)	CAG TGA GGT GCA TAG CGT AAT	CTC CTT CTG GGA CAT TGC TAT C
brain derived neurotrophic factor (<i>Bdnf</i>)	CAA GAG TCC CGT CTG TAC TTT AC	GAC TAG GGA AAT GGG CTT AAC A

Table S2: Primary and secondary fluorescent antibodies used for immunohistochemistry.

Antigen	Company	Cat #	Dilution
[1°] mCherry	Sicgen	AB0040-200	1:250
[1°] Phosphorylated p-65	Abcam	AB86299	1:500
[1°] F4/80	Bio-rad	MCA497GA	1:100
[1°] IKK β	Sigma	07-1479	1:500
[1°] CD38	Fisher	PIMA516871	1:100
[1°] CD206	Fisher	PIPA595840	1:100
[2°] Donkey anti-goat (AF 594)	Thermo Fisher	A-11058	1:250
[2°] Donkey anti-rabbit (AF 594)	Abcam	AB150064	1:200
[2°] Donkey anti-rat (AF 488)	Abcam	Ab150153	1:200