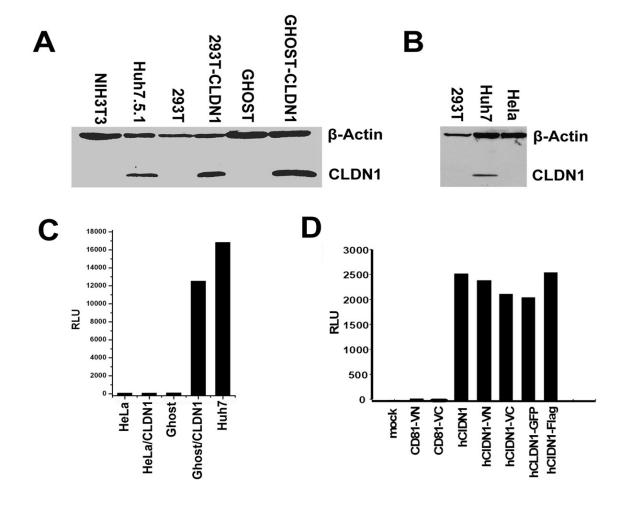
Supplementary Data

Supplementary Fig. 1. (**A**) Profiling CLDN1 expression in various cell lines by Western analysis. Detectable level of endogenous CLDN1 was only found in Huh7.5.1 (**A**) and Huh 7 (**B**) cells. Ghost-CLDN1 and 293T-CLDN1 stable cell lines express CLDN1 to a level that is comparable to that in Huh7. (**C**) Ghost, Ghost-CLDN1, HeLa, and HeLa-CLDN1 stable cells were pre-seeded in a 24-well plate and then spin infected with HCVpp. Luciferase activity was determined 48 hours after infection. Huh7 was included as the positive control. (**D**)Tagged CLDN1s rendered 293T cells susceptible to HCVpp. A representative of three independent experiments was shown here.

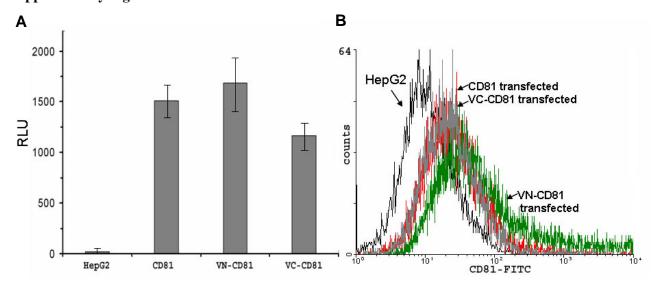
Supplementary Fig. 2. (A) 10⁵ HepG2 cells were transfected with 1 µg of wild type CD81, VN- or VC-CD81. Tagged CD81s rendered HepG2 cells susceptible to HCVpp infection at a comparable efficiency as untagged version did. (B) HepG2 cells were transfected with the full-length CD81 (red line), VN-CD81 (green line), and VC-CD81 (grey line). Untransfected (black line) and transfected cells were then stained for surface CD81 expression and quantified on the flow cytometer.

Supplementary Fig. 3. Entry of HCVpp to Caco-2 but not HeLa-CLDN1 stable line. Caco-2 (**A**) cell or HeLa-CLDN1 stable cell line (**B**) were infected with HCVpp and then luciferase assay was performed. Huh7 cells were included as a positive control and HeLa-CLDN4 stable line was used as the negative control. A representative of two independent experiments was shown here.

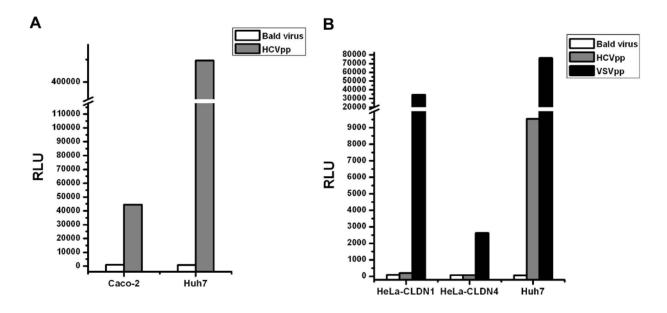
Supplementary Fig. 4. Increase in viral attachment to GHOST cells in the presence of CLDN1. 4X10⁵ parental GHOST cells and GHOST cells stably expressing CLDN1 (GHOST-CLDN1) were incubated with HCVcc (MOI 10) in a 12-well plate at 4 °C for 1 hour to synchronize infection. Uninfected or infected cells were fixed in 2% Paraformaldehyde and stained with anti-E2 antibody (H47) followed by a FITC-conjugated secondary antibody staining. Samples were analyzed on a Coulter XL flow cytometer. The percentage of E2 positive cells and the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) were indicated in the upper right corner of each histogram.



Supplementary Figure 2



Supplementary Figure 3



Supplementary Figure 4

