

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGEND

**Fig. 1. Nep1 knock down with Nep1 SiRNA induces loss of cell-cell contacts in podocyte cells.** Podocyte cells were transfected with plasmid (pGIPZ Open Biosystems) containing Nep1 SiRNA or GFP using AMAXA transfection system. The cells were grown on cover slips for 48h followed by treatment with 2ug/ml puromycin for 72h to select stable transfectants for Nep1 knock down. The cells were stained with Nep1, ZO-1 and actin antibodies to determine the relative abundance of these proteins. Immunofluorescence analysis was performed using confocal microscopy. Please note the cells transfected with Nep1 SiRNA failed to develop efficient cell-cell contacts in comparison with the podocytes transfected with GFP plasmid.