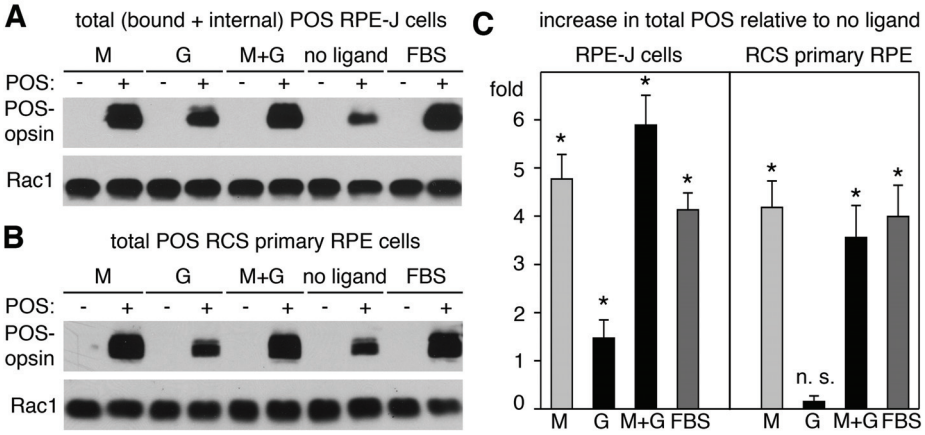
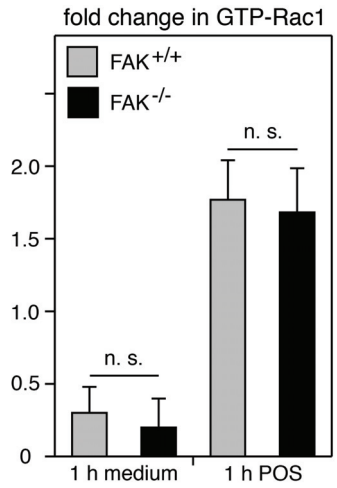
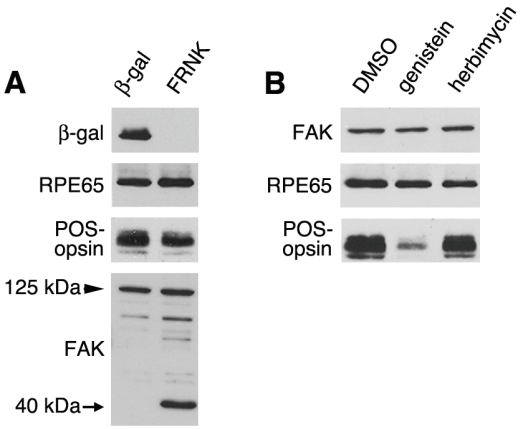
Legends to supplementary figures:



Supplementary Figure 1. Gas6 augments POS uptake by RPE-J cells but has no effect on uptake by RCS RPE. RPE-J cells (A, C) or MerTK-deficient RCS rat primary RPE (B, C) received POS suspended in DMEM supplemented with MFG-E8 (M), Gas6 (G), a mix of Gas6 and MFG-E8 (M+G), no added ligand (no ligand), or FBS (FBS) for 3.5 hours or 1.5 hours, respectively, before harvest. (A) Immunoblotting detection of total (bound plus internal) phagocytosed POS opsin showed that all ligands increased POS uptake by RPE-J cells compared to POS uptake without additives. (B) Detection as in (A) showed that RCS RPE also increased total uptake with MFG-E8, MFG-E8 plus Gas6, and FBS, but not with Gas6 alone. (C) POS opsin of experiments as shown and labeled in (A) and (B) was quantified by densitometry and normalized for sample Rac1. Bars show relative increase in POS uptake compared to uptake without additives (mean ± SD of three independent experiments each testing duplicate samples). Asterisks mark significant difference to POS uptake without added ligand, $p < 0.05$.



Supplementary Figure 2. MEFs activate Rac1 in response to POS challenge regardless whether or not they express FAK. Confluent background-matched $FAK^{+/+}$ MEFs (gray bars) and $FAK^{-/-}$ MEFs (black bars) received POS in serum-free DMEM or medium alone for 1 hour before quantification of GTP-Rac1 by G-lisa. POS increased Rac1 activity significantly more than medium alone. Untreated $FAK^{+/+}$ and $FAK^{-/-}$ MEFs did not differ in basal level of active Rac1. Bars show relative changes in GTP-Rac1 for each cell type as compared to GTP-Rac1 of untreated cells (mean ± SD of three independent experiments with duplicate samples each).



Supplementary Figure 3. Expression of FRNK or treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitors has no adverse effect on Rac1 expression but, as shown previously, reduces POS engulfment. Primary wt rat RPE cells were challenged with POS for 1 h. Surface-bound POS were removed with EDTA as described in *Materials and Methods* before cell lysis and analysis of proteins as indicated by immunoblotting for probes as indicated. Equal levels of the RPE-specific protein RPE65 demonstrated equal sample load. (A) Cells expressing FRNK (detected as a 40 kDa FAK fragment in FAK panel as indicated) internalized fewer POS than cells expressing β-gal control protein. (B) Cells treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors genistein or herbimycin A internalized fewer POS than cells treated with solvent alone.