SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental Methods

Animals.

Tamoxifen (4-OHT: 4-hydroxytamoxifen)-inducible EC-specific ERK5 KO mice (Inducible ERK5-EKO mice) were generated by crossing mice expressing tamoxifen-inducible Crerecombinase CreER^{T2} under the regulation of the vascular endothelial cadherin (VE-Cad) promoter¹ (kindly gifted from Dr. Iruela-Arispe) with a conditional KO line of ERK5². The latter mice have loxP sites inserted at the 3' and 5' ends of exon 4 in the $Erk5$ gene². Rat wild type p90RSK1 cDNA containing the Kozak and Flag sequences from pCMV-Taq2b were cloned into the NotI/XhoI sites of the plasmid Z/EG, which consists of pCAGGS promoter, directing expression of a *loxP*flanked bgeo (*lacZ*/neomycin-resistance) fusion gene and three SV40 polyadenylation sequences³. We gave these constructs to the University of Rochester Transgenic Facility, and we have obtained five founders of these mice. Genotype of mouse pups was confirmed by PCR analysis of tail clipping using standard procedure. To induce deletion of the *Erk5* gene or expression of wild type *p90RSK1* gene, 4-week old heterozygous VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/*Erk5*^{flox/-} (Inducible ERK5-EKO^{+/-}) or homozygous VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/*Erk5*^{flox/flox} (Inducible ERK5-EKO^{-/-}), or VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/WT-p90RSK^{flox/-} mice were injected with peanut oil, with or without 2 mg of 4-OHT for 5 consecutive days. The diabetogenic Akita mutation (C96Y) in the insulin 2 genes of the C57BL/6 strain were purchased from Jackson Laboratory. C57BL/6 wild type mice (Taconic, Hudson, NY) fed standard chow diet were used for en face study. For atherosclerosis study using Ang II infusion model, male ApoE-KO mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, Me) and bred in house with a specific,

pathogen-free environment. Mice received Ang II via an osmotic minipump for 28 days. During that time, mice were fed standard chow diet. For atherosclerosis using high cholesterol diet (HCD) , inducible ERK5-EKO-LDLR^{\div} mice were fed with HCD for 16 weeks. Food and tap water were administrated ad libitum. All mice of C57BL/6 wild type and ApoE^{-/-} male mice were used between the ages of 6 and 9 weeks. All experiments were approved by the University of Rochester Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Antibodies and reagents.

Antibodies were purchased from the following vendors: anti-p90RSK1 (C-21, #SC-231), antip90RSK2 (E-1, # sc-9986), anti-VP16 (#SC-7546) and anti-VCAM-1 (SC-8304) from Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, CA); anti-phospho-p90RSK (Ser380, # 9341), anti-phospho-ERK5 (Thr218/Tyr220, #3371L), anti-ERK5 (#3372), and anti-ERK1/2 (#9102) from Cell Signaling (Cell Signaling Technology Inc, Danvers, MA); anti-tubulin (T-5168) and anti-Flag (# F-3165) from Sigma (Sigma, St. Louis, MO); and anti-eNOS (#610299) and anti-VE-cadherin (#555289**)** from BD Transduction Laboratory (Pharmingen, San Diego, CA), anti-Eselectin (# 3631-100) from Bio Vision (CA 94043). Hydrogen Peroxide was purchased from Sigma (#216763). GST fused active recombinant full-length rat RSK1 (Cat # 14-479) was purchased from Millipore (Millipore, Billerica, MA)*.*

Generation of human anti-phospho-ERK5-S496 antibody.

A peptide corresponding to amino acids 486-506 of mouse ERK5 (SLRSRLRDGPS*APLEAPEPRK) was synthesized (Peptibody Inc. 2216 Mermans Rd Charlotte, NC 28270, US) with an amino-terminus biotin in both phosphorylated and unphosphorylated forms. A human anti-phospho-ERK5-S496 single-chain Fv (scFv) was

generated against the phospho-peptide by phage display⁴ with a naïve, human phage display library constructed from peripheral blood lymphocytes^{5,6}. The phospho-peptide was bound to streptavidin-coated immunowells (Pierce) and the phage library was enriched for three rounds, switching to neutravidin-coated wells for the second round to avoid isolating anti-streptavidin scFvs. Individual clones from the second and third rounds were screened by phage ELISA and a clone reactive with phosphorylated peptide, but not with un-phosphorylated peptide, was identified. The scFv was sequenced, re-amplified and cloned into a human immunoglobulin heavy chain expression⁷ vector modified by deletion of the CH1 domain to produce an scFv-Fc fusion protein. This plasmid was transiently transfected into HEK293T cells and the medium was harvested every three days. The culture supernatants from three harvests were combined, and the scFv was purified on an Aspire protein G tip (Thermo-Fisher). The protein was eluted from the tip and dialyzed into PBS and used for Western blotting experiments. The fusion protein was detected with anti-human IgG antibodies.

Plasmid and adenovirus vector construction.

Kinase dead rat RSK-1 (Genebank NM031107) with K94A/K447A mutations was created using a QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis kit (STRATAGENE, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA)⁸. Mouse ERK5 and a constitutively active form of MEK5 α (CA-MEK5 α) were cloned as previously described⁹. VP16 wild type and truncated forms of mERK5a were created by inserting the mouse wild type and truncated mERK5a isolated from pcDNA3.1-mERK5a into BamHI and NotI sites of the pACT vector. Glutathione S-transferase (GST)-ERK5 was created by cloning PCR-amplified DNA fragments corresponding to the different ERK5 regions into the EcoRI-XhoI sites of the pGEX-KG vector (Amersham Biosciences, GE Healthcare Biosciences,

Pittsburgh, PA). ERK5 constructs with various point mutations were created using the QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). A reporter gene encoding KLF2 promoter (-924 \sim + 14) was a kind gift from Dr. Jerry B. Lingrel (University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH). Human eNOS promoter (eNOS-Luc, -1197) was a gift from Dr. David Gardner (University of California, San Francisco, CA). For adenovirus preparation, DN-p90RSK construct was cloned into an AdEasy-CMV system (QBIOGen, Carlsbad, CA) with Sal*I* and Hind*III* restriction enzymes⁸. All constructs were verified by DNA sequencing. Adenovirus vector containing β-galactosidase (Ad-LacZ) was used as a control virus.

Cell Culture and transfection.

Human umbilical vein ECs (HUVECs) were obtained from collagenase digested umbilical cord veins ¹⁰ and collected in M200 medium supplemented with LSGS (Cascade Biologics Inc., Portland, OR) and 2% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Atlanta Biologicals Inc., Lawrenceville, GA). HUVECs were cultured in 0.2% gelatin pre-coated dishes. For transient expression experiments, 70 to 80% confluent cells were transfected with cDNA using Opti-MEM containing Plus-Lipofectamine as we previously described ¹¹. After 4 hrs of transfection, Opti-MEM was replaced with the complete M200 medium. HeLa cells were maintained in DMEM (GIBCO, Carlsbad, CA) supplemented with 10% FBS, 50 units/ml penicillin, and 50 µg/ml streptomycin.

Analysis of metabolic parameters

For analysis mice were anesthetized and blood samples were collected from the abdominal artery. Plasma was prepared and plasma total cholesterol, HDL, and non-HDL (LDL and VLDL) concentrations were measured enzymatically using commercially available kits (Abcam,

ab65390). The assays were performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For glucose tests, mice fasted overnight were given one i.p. injection of glucose (2 mg/g body weight) in PBS, and tail blood was collected before (time 0) and at indicated times after injection for measurement of glucose (Glucometer Elite; Bayer).

Atherosclerosis and AAA model

Using osmotic minipumps¹² (model 1004; Alzet Osmotic pumps) implanted subcutaneously, 3 groups of mature ApoE-KO male mice (8-12 weeks), each group consisting of 10-18 mice, received saline, Ang II (Calbiochem, 670 ng/kg/min for atherosclerosis), or Ang II (1000 ng/kg/min for AAA) for 4 weeks. In addition, to assess the role of p90RSK activation, some mice were treated with FMK-MEA (80 mg/Kg body weight/day) by interperitoneal injections for 21 constitutive days 7 days after Ang II infusion was started. We observed animals daily, and in the case of premature sudden death, we performed necropsy to determine the cause of death. Determining the plaque area of the aorta using Oil Red O staining of en face mounts and paraffin-embedded aortic valves sections were used for assessment of atherosclerosis. AAA was defined as greater than or equal to 50% enlargement of the maximal abdominal aorta diameter.

Tissue preparation, histology, and quantification of the lesion sizes.

Mice were sacrificed 28 days following implantation of osmotic minipumps. Animals of 6-9 weeks of age were euthanized by $CO₂$ inhalation. The arterial tree was perfused via the left ventricle with saline containing heparin (40 USPU/mL), followed by paraformaldehyde (4%, pH 7.3) in PBS for 10 min. We exposed the full-length of the aorta-to-iliac bifurcation and dissected carefully from any surrounding tissues, and opened the aortas along the ventral midline. En face

preparations of the aortas were washed in distilled water, dipped in 70% isopropyl-alcohol, and stained for 40 min in 0.16% Oil-Red-O dissolved in 70% isopropyl-alcohol/0.2 mol/l NaOH. Aortic images were captured with a digital camera mounted on a Leica stereomicroscope and analyzed using Adobe Photoshop Extended software. The stained plaque areas were quantified blindly using ImageJ 1.45 (available as freeware from http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/). The percentage of lesion area from full-length of the aorta-to-iliac bifurcation (Fig. 3F, and 8A) or ascending area, from the arch to the last diaphragm (Fig. 8B) was calculated as total lesion area divided by total surface area. To examine the atherosclerotic lesions in the aortic valve area using histology, the heart and aortic sinus area was dissected from full-length of the aorta and then embedded in paraffin. Serial sections (5 µm) were taken throughout the entire aortic valve area and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) to assess the quantification of atherosclerotic plaque. To quantify the extent of intimal surface covered by grossly discernible lesions, image analysis was performed with ImageJ 1.45. The percentage of lesion area was calculated as total lesion area divided by total surface area.

Isolation of mouse ECs from lung tissue (MECs).

Method for isolation of MECs was modified from published protocols ¹³. Briefly, the lung from each mouse was harvested, minced finely with scissors, and then digested in 15 ml collagenase (2 mg/ml; Worthington Biochemicals Corp., Lakewood, NJ, Cat $\#$ 4177) at 37⁰C for 45 min. The suspension was then triturated 15 -20 times using a 20 ml syringe attached to a cannula, avoiding frothing, and was filtered through a 70μ m cell strainer. The crude cell preparation was pelleted and resuspended in cold DPBS with Ca/Mg (HyClone, HyClone Laboratories Inc., Logan, UT, Cat $\#$ SH30264.01) and 0.1% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich, $\#$ A9576) and the cell

concentration was adjusted to $3x10^7$ cells/mL. Dynabeads were conjugated with sheep anti-rat IgG (Invitrogen; Cat # 110.35), and then incubated with rat anti-mouse PECAM-1 (Pharmingen, San Diego, CA, Cat # 553370) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The cell suspension was incubated with PECAM-1-coated beads (35 µl beads/mL cell suspension) at room temperature for 30 min with end-over-end rotation. Using a magnetic separator stand (Promega, Madison, WI, Cat # Z5410), cells bound to the beads were recovered, washed with DMEM containing 20% FBS, suspended in 6 mL complete culture medium [DMEM containing 20% FBS, supplemented with 100 μ g/mL porcine heparin, 100 μ g/mL EC grow supplement (ECGS; Biomedical Technologies Inc., Stoughton, MA), nonessential amino acids, sodium pyruvate, and antibiotics at standard concentrations], and then plated in a 0.2% gelatin-coated 6 cm dish. Once the cells reached 70-80% confluence, they were detached with trypsinethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA) to generate single-cell suspension, pelleted, and then resuspended in 2 mL DPBS with Ca/Mg and 0.1% BSA and incubated with PECAM-1-coated beads (35 µl beads/mL cell suspension) at RT for 15 min with rotation. The bound cells were washed and plated in complete culture medium. Cells were used for experiments at passages 3.

Real-time RT-PCR.

MECs were isolated from mouse lungs as described previously. At passage 3, cells were seeded at \sim 30% density into 6-well-plate and left to grow in the presence of DMEM low glucose supplemented with 10% FBS. Once confluent, cells were pretreated with vehicle or 10 μ M of FMK-MEA for 3 hrs, followed by stimulation with either HG/low H_2O_2 or Mannitol/low H_2O_2 as a control. Then, total RNA was isolated using RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Cat. # 74134, QIAGEN Sciences, Maryland 20874, US) according to the manufacturer's instruction. During this process,

genomic DNA contamination was eliminated by gDNA Eliminator column, which is included in the Kit. First strand cDNA synthesis was done in 50 µL reaction using 2 µg of purified RNA, 5 μ L 10X buffer, 11 μ L MgCl₂, 10 μ L dNTPs, 2.5 μ L random hexamer, 1.25 μ L oligo dT, 1 μ L RNAse inhibitor, and 0.75 µL reverse transcriptase enzyme (TaqMan Reverse Transcription Reagents, N808-0234, made for Applied Biosystems by Roche Molecular systems, Inc., Branchburg, New Jersey, US). Target cDNA levels were quantified by real-time RT-PCR using a MviOTM2 Optics Module (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.). Each reaction mixture (20 μ L) contained cDNA synthesized from 20 ng of total RNA, 10 μ L of iQTMSYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.), 0.5 µmol/L of each primer. The real-time PCR protocol consisted of the initial step at 95^oC for 3 min, followed by 40 cycles: 95^oC for 10 sec and annealing at 55^oC for 30 sec. The ΔΔCt method was used to calculate the fold change in mRNA expression: ΔCt = Ct (target gene) – Ct (housekeeping gene), $Δ\Delta Ct = ΔCt$ (treatment) - $ΔCt$ (control), fold change = $2^{(\epsilon_{\text{A}}\text{Ct})}$. Primer sequences are as follows: mouse VCAM-1 forward: 5'-TGA CAA GTC CCC ATC GTT GA-3' and reverse: 5'-ACC TCG CGA CGG CAT AAT T-3'14; Mouse GAPDH forward: 5'-TGG CAA AGT GGA GAT TGT TGC C-3' and reverse: 5'-AAG ATG GTG ATG GGC TTC CCG-3'; Mouse KLF2 forward: 5'-ACC AAG AGC TCG CAC CTA AA-3' and reverse: 5'-GTG GCA CTG AAA GGG TCT GT-3'. Mouse eNOS forward: 5'-TCT ACC GGG ACG AGG TAC TG-3' and reverse: 5'-CTG TCC TCA GGA GGT CTT GC-3'¹⁵. Mouse Eselectin forward: 5'-ATC TGG TGG CGA TTC AGA AC- 3' and reverse: 5'-TGT TGT TTG GTT CAC CTG GA-3¹⁶.

Mammalian one- and two-hybrid analyses and transfection of cells.

Sub-confluent HUVECs plated in 12-well plates were transfected using Opti-MEM (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) containing Plus-Lipofectamine mixture with the pG5-luc vector and various pBIND and pACT plasmids (Promega, Madison, WI), as indicated, for 4 hrs. Cells were then washed, and complete M200 medium supplemented with LSGS and 2% FBS was added. The pG5-luc vector contains five Gal4 binding sites upstream of a minimal TATA box, which in turn, is upstream of the firefly luciferase gene. pBIND containing Gal4 was fused with p90RSK, and pACT containing VP16 was fused with either full length ERK5 or ERK5 fragments, as indicated. Since pBIND also contains the Renilla luciferase gene, expression and transfection efficiencies were normalized to the Renilla luciferase activity. Cells were harvested 24 hrs after transfection unless otherwise indicated, and luciferase activity was assayed using a dual-luciferase reporter system (Promega, Madison, WI) using a TD-20/20 Luminometer (Turner Designs, Sunnyvale, CA). Transfections were performed in triplicate, and each experiment was repeated at least three times.For the one-hybrid analysis, HUVECs were transfected with the pG5-luc vector and Gal4-fused ERK5 constructs in the presence of pcDNA3.1-CA-MEK5 α or pcDNA3.1 as a control. After 4 hrs of transfection, Plus-Lipofectamine/Opti-MEM was replaced by supplemented M200 medium, and then cells were incubated for another 8 hrs before being exposed to H_2O_2 , D-glucose (25 mM), or mannitol (25 mM) for indicated lengths of time. Transfections were performed in triplicate, and each experiment was repeated at least twice.

KLF2 promoter activity.

Sub-confluent HUVECs were transfected with Flag-ERK5, a reporter gene encoding KLF2 promoter (-924 \sim + 14), pRL-CMV (as a luciferase control reporter vector), and pcDNA3.1-CA-MEK5, or pcDNA3.1 as a control vector. After 4 hrs of transfection, Plus-Lipofectamin/Opti-

MEM was replaced by supplemented M200 medium and cells were incubated for another 4 hrs before being treated with FMK. Then, the cells were treated with FMK $(10 \mu M)$ for 3 hrs prior to H_2O_2 stimulation for 24 hrs. KLF2 promoter luciferase activity was assayed using a dualluciferase reporter assay system. The experiment was repeated three times.

Flow stimulation.

Confluent HUVECs cultured in 100-mm dishes were exposed to laminar flow as we previously described¹¹ in a cone and plate viscometer placed in a cell incubator with 5% CO_2 and at 37^oC for 24 hr (shear stress $= 12 \text{ dyn/cm}^2$).

In vitro kinase assay of ERK5.

ERK5 kinase activity was measured by auto-phosphorylation assay as we described previously¹⁷.

Immunoprecipitation.

Cell extracts were prepared in modified radioimmunoprecipitation assay 1 (RIPA) buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4; 150 mM NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 1% Nonidet P-40; 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS); 0.25% Sodium Deoxycholate; 1:200-diluted protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma, St. Louis, MO); 1 mM PMSF; and 10 mM NEM]. Immunoprecipitation with a mouse monoclonal anti-Flag, or a polyclonal rabbit anti-ERK5 was performed as described previously¹⁸. Bound proteins were released in 2× SDS sample buffer, resolved by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, transferred onto a Hybond enhanced chemiluminescence nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare, Piscataway, NJ, USA), and visualized by using the enhanced

chemiluminescence detection reagent (PerkinElmer, Shelton, CT, USA) according to the manufacturer's instruction.

Bodipy-FMK Rsk1/2 occupancy assay using heart lysates from mice treated with FMK-MEA.

Frozen heart tissues from mice that were injected intraperitoneally with FMK-MEA (Fig.S12) (0, 15, 35 and 50 mg/kg in PBS) were thawed on ice in the presence of 2 mL PBS containing protease (Complete, Roche) and phosphatase (Cocktail I and II, Sigma) inhibitors. The tissues were kept on ice and were homogenized three times for 30 sec at 13,500 rpm with an electric tissue Tearor (Janke & Kunkel/IKA T25-Ultra-Turrax Homogenizer). The homogenates were transferred to clean 4 mL ultracentrifuge tubes (Beckman) and were clarified by centrifugation at 30,000 x g for 60 min (Beckman Coulter Optima TLX Ultracentrifuge; TLA-100.3 rotor). Next, 250 μ L of the clarified lysate (normalized to 2.5 mg/mL) derived from the vehicle-treated mouse was pre-treated with FMK-MEA (3 μ M) for 1 hour at room temperature, and then reacted with bodipy-FMK (5 μM) for 1 hour at room temperature. This sample was a control for the labeling specificity of bodipy-FMK in the heart tissue lysates. Separately, 250 μL each of the clarified lysates (from mice treated with 0, 15, 35 and 50 mg/kg FMK-MEA; normalized to 2.5 mg/mL) were reacted with bodipy-FMK (5 μ M) for 1 hour at room temperature (without FMK-MEA pretreatment). Following the bodipy-FMK treatment, each sample $(270 \mu L \text{ total})$ was diluted with 730 μ L ice cold PBS + 1% NP40. Immunoprecipitation was performed using 4 μ g Rsk2 antibody (E-1, sc-9986 mouse monoclonal antibody, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) for 3 hr at $4^{\circ}C$, followed by overnight incubation at 4° C with 50 μ L of Protein G Sepharose beads (GE Healthcare). The beads were washed three times for 10 min with 500 μ L PBS + 1% NP40,

pelleted and resuspended in 50 μ L Laemmli sample buffer. A second immunoprecipitation step was performed with the remaining supernatants using 4μ g Rsk1 antibody (C-21, sc-231 rabbit polyclonal antibody, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) for 3 hr at 4˚C, followed by overnight incubation at 4° C with 50 μ L of Protein G Sepharose beads (GE Healthcare). The beads were washed three times for 10 min with 500 μ L PBS + 1% NP40, pelleted and resuspended in 50 μ L Laemmli sample buffer. The samples were resolved on 10% SDS-PAGE and detected by in-gel fluorescence scanning with a Typhoon 9400 flatbed laser-induced scanner, followed by transfer to nitrocellulose membrane and western blot detection with antibodies against RSK1 and RSK2.

En Face **immunohistochemistry.**

S-flow areas within the aorta were chosen based on published and generally accepted anatomical locations where such flow patterns are known to occur^{19, 20}. For example, an s-flow area is located in the greater curvature area or marked as a low probability region for lesion formation¹⁹, which is also known as a high wall shear stress area^{19, 20}. EC shape outlined by anti-VE-cadherin staining was also used to identify s-flow area (elongated cell shape) and disturbed flow areas (irregular cell shape). C57BL/6 wild type mice (Taconic, Hudson, NY) were fed standard chow. Animals of 6-9 weeks of age were euthanized by $CO₂$ inhalation. The arterial tree was perfused via the left ventricle with saline containing heparin (40 USPU/mL), followed by 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 10 min. After adipose tissues were removed aortas were cut open longitudinally and permeabilized with PBS containing 0.1% Triton X-100 and blocked by TBS containing 10% goat serum and 2.5% Tween-20 for 30 min. Aortas were incubated with (animal-rabbit) anti-p90RSK or (animal-rabbit) anti-phospho-p90RSK with (animal-rat) anti-VE-cadherin in the blocking solution overnight. After rinsing with PBS, anti-rabbit IgG and

anti-rat IgG (1:1000 dilution, Alexa Fluor 546 or 488 tagged, respectively, Molecular Probes, Carlsbad, CA) were applied for 1 hr at RT. Images were observed using a confocal laser scanning microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Fluoview 300) equipped with krypton/argon/HeNe laser lines and 20X (N.A. 0.70), 40X (N.A.1.0), and 60X (N.A.1.4) objectives. All images were collected using the same confocal setting. p90RSK and phospho-p90RSK expression in ECs of aortic arch of wild type was quantified using Adobe Photoshop by assessing fluorescence intensity after background fluorescence was subtracted. All animal procedures were performed with the approval from the University Committee on Animal Resources, University of Rochester.

Leukocyte rolling assay and vessel diameter measurements

Intravital microscopy was performed as previously described 21 . Leukocytes were labeled by intravenous injection of rhodamine 6G (50 μ l of 0.05% solution in H₂O). Mice were anesthetized with ketamine (80 mg/kg) and xylazine (13 mg/kg). The mesentery was exteriorized, and an area containing target venules $(120-150 \,\mu m)$ in diameter) was selected and mounted on an inverted fluorescent microscope (Nikon, ECLIPSE Ti) with a 37°C stage warmer. Images of leukocyte rolling were video-recorded by electron-multiplying CCD camera (*QuantEM,* 512SC). Leukocyte rolling on the endothelium was quantified for 2 min (NIS elements, Nikon). Leukocyte rolling flux (Number of rolling leukocytes passing a perpendicular line placed across the observed vessel in one minute) and velocity, leukocyte adhesion (leukocytes showing no movement during 2 min recording), and venular wall shear rate were determined as previously described²². Venule diameter was measured by direct observation using image analysis software as described previously²³. Briefly, the venules were induced by the superfusion of 30 μ L of cumulative doses of acetylcholine (10 nM to 10 μ M), subsequent

recordings were performed for 2 min between each dose, followed by 10 min equilibration to the 10 µM phenylephrine. Vessel tone was analyzed by direct measuring of diameter using image analysis software (NIS elements, Nikon).

Ambit/DiscoverX platform screening (Table S1)

"Kinomescan" binding assays^{24, 25} (www.kinomescan.com) were performed by Ambit (now DiscoverX), and the following description is derived from the study report provided by Ambit/DiscoverX. The Ambit kinase screening platform is based on a competition binding assay that quantitatively measures the ability of a compound to compete with an immobilized, activesite directed ligand. The assay is performed by combining three components: DNA-tagged kinase; immobilized ligand; and a test compound (FMK-MEA, $1 \mu M$). The ability of the test compound to compete with the immobilized ligand is measured via quantitative PCR of the DNA tag. For most assays, kinase-tagged T7 phage strains were grown in parallel in 24-well blocks in E. coli. E. coli were grown to log-phase and infected with T7 phage from a frozen stock (multiplicity of infection = 0.4) and incubated with shaking at 32° C until lysis (90-150 minutes). The lysates were centrifuged $(6,000 \times g)$ and filtered $(0.2 \mu m)$ to remove cell debris. The remaining kinases were produced in HEK-293 cells and subsequently tagged with DNA for qPCR detection. Streptavidin-coated magnetic beads were treated with biotinylated small molecule ligands for 30 minutes at room temperature to generate affinity resins for kinase assays. The liganded beads were blocked with excess biotin and washed with blocking buffer (SeaBlock (Pierce), 1 % BSA, 0.05 % Tween 20, 1 mM DTT) to remove unbound ligand and to reduce nonspecific phage binding. Binding reactions were assembled by combining kinases, liganded affinity beads, and test compounds in 1x binding buffer (20 % SeaBlock, 0.17x PBS, 0.05 %

Tween 20, 6 mM DTT). FMK-MEA was prepared as a 40x stock in 100% DMSO and directly diluted into the assay. All reactions were performed in polypropylene 384-well plates in a final volume of 0.04 ml. The assay plates were incubated at room temperature with shaking for 1 hour and the affinity beads were washed with wash buffer (1x PBS, 0.05 % Tween 20). The beads were then re-suspended in elution buffer (1x PBS, 0.05 % Tween 20, 0.5 μm non-biotinylated affinity ligand) and incubated at room temperature with shaking for 30 minutes. The kinase concentration in the eluates was measured by qPCR.

Expanded discussion

We did not show data on diabetes-enhanced atherosclerosis in this study, although our study strongly suggested mechanistic correlation between diabetes and atherosclerosis. The main aim of our study was not on determining the mechanism of diabetes-mediated acceleration of atherosclerosis, but rather we focused on the following two goals: 1) to determine the role of the p90RSK-ERK5 module in endothelial dysfunction, and 2) to investigate the role of p90RSK activation (which causes endothelial dysfunction) on atherosclerosis formation. Since we have found that the diabetes mouse models (STZ and Akita) exhibit the most reproducible and reliable endothelial dysfunction and also have high pathological significance, we used these models in this study and found the important role of the p90RSK-ERK5 module in endothelial dysfunction in vivo, which presumably leads to atherosclerosis in these animals²⁶. In addition, we found increased p90RSK activation in the disturbed flow area, which is a pro-atherogenic area in aortic arch (Heo KS, Abe J, unpublished data). These data suggest a role of p90RSK activation on athereosclerosis formation, and indeed we found that the inhibition of p90RSK activation by FMK-MEA significantly reduced atherosclerosis formation and that depletion of ERK5 accelerated it. We believe that these data provide strong evidence for the key role of the p90RSK-ERK5 module in endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerosis formation.

Limitation of this study

As shown in Fig.4A-E, we found that p90RSK activation was significantly increased in STZ treated mice, suggesting that p90RSK was, indeed, activated in the DM model in vivo. However, HG 25 mM alone could not activate p90RSK activation in HUVECs *in vitro*. Although we found that 100 μ g/mL AGE could activate p90RSK in HUVECs (Fig. S2D, E), it will be

important to determine the major physiological stimulus and mechanism of p90RSK activation in DM condition. In addition, although the role of this module on endothelial dysfunction in vivo was further demonstrated by eliminating the beneficial effect of FMK-MEA in EC-specific ERK5 depletion mice, the role of endothelial ERK5 in p90RSK-mediated atherosclerosis formation remains unclear. To prove this we will perform p90RSK inhibition in endothelial specific ERK5-KO mice and detect atherosclerosis formation in our future study. It will also be necessary to create a model of atherosclerosis with the DM background and use it to prove the role of the p90RSK-ERK5 module in DM-mediated acceleration of atherosclerosis.

Supplemental Tables

Table S1: Specificity of FMK-MEA

To show the specificity of FMK-MEA, we used the Ambit/DiscoverX platform to measure its apparent binding constant (Kd) to 443 human kinases. We found that all kinases except RSK1/4 CTD bound with $Kd \gg 1$ μ M. This profiling experiment was carried out in vitro against recombinant kinase domains. It is well known that the vast majority of kinase inhibitors shows potency shifts of 10-100 fold when comparing in vitro to cellular assays, because the inhibitors must compete with high intracellular concentrations of ATP (> 1 mM)²⁷. Given this lower limit for the apparent Kd, it is unlikely that the kinases would be significantly inhibited in cells at 10 μ M, especially given the high intracellular concentration of ATP (> 1 mM) as described previously 2^7 .

Supplemental Figure Legends

Figure S1. Transduction of dominant negative ERK5 (Ad-DN-ERK5) could not inhibit H₂O₂-induced p90RSK activation, and the role for H₂O₂-induced p90RSK activation in ERK5 transcriptional activity and the KLF2 and eNOS promoter activity.

(A, B) Following transduction with either Ad-LacZ or Ad-DN-ERK5 for 24 hours, HUVECs were treated with 200 μ M H₂O₂ or vehicle for indicated times. p-p90RSK, p90RSK, p-ERK5, ERK5, p-ERK1/2, and tubulin expressions were detected by Western blotting in the total cell lysates with each specific antibody (A). Quantification of p90RSK phosphorylation was expressed as the relative ratio compared with p $90RSK$ ($2nd$ from top) bands. Results were normalized to the lowest phosphorylation level within each set of experiments, and statistical significance was determined by comparing the average level of the control group with that of each experimental data point. Experiments were carried out in triplicates using 3 different batches of H₂O₂-stimulated HUVECs (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, **P < 0.01 compared to control) (B). (C) HUVECs were co-transfected with plasmids encoding Gal4-ERK5 and the Gal4-responsive luciferase reporter pG5-Luc. Cells were also transfected with an empty vector or $CA-MEK5\alpha$ as indicated. After 16 hrs cells were serum starved by replacing completed M200 medium by M200 medium without any supplement. One hour later, cells were treated with various concentrations of FMK-MEA as indicated for 30 min, followed by stimulation with 200 μ M H₂O₂ for 16 hrs. Finally, ERK5 transcriptional activity were assayed as described in Fig. 1E. (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, $*P < 0.05$) (D) HUVECs were co-transfected with either DN-p90RSK vector or empty vector, and the KLF2 promoter with luciferase (left) or the eNOS promoter with luciferase (right) reporter gene. Eight hours after transfection, cells were treated with or without $H₂O₂$ (200 μ M) and exposed to s-flow or no flow. Luciferase activities were assayed 24 hrs after the flow stimulation. Data are representative of three independent experiments (mean \pm SEM, n $= 3, *p < 0.05, **P < 0.01$.

Figure S2. The role of p90RSK activation in combined effects of high glucose and low dose H2O2 and advanced glycation end products (AGE)-induced reduction of ERK5 transcriptional activity.

(A, B) A combination of high glucose (25 mM) and low dose H_2O_2 (20 μ M) increases p90RSK activation. HUVECs were stimulated with low dose H_2O_2 alone or with the combination of high glucose and low dose H_2O_2 for indicated times. p90RSK activation and p90RSK expression were detected by Western blotting with anti-phospho-p90RSK and anti-p90RSK, respectively (A). Phosphorylation levels of p90RSK were densitometrically determined (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, *p < 0.05 compared with control 0 hr) (B). (C) Combination of high glucose and low dose H_2O_2 inhibits ERK5 transcriptional activity via p90RSK activation. HUVECs were co-transfected with an empty vector or plasmids encoding DN-p90RSK (lane 21-32), Gal4-ERK5 (lane 1-32), the Gal4-responsive luciferase reporter pG5-luc (lane 1-32), and CA-MEK5 α as indicated. Eight hours post transfection, cells were stimulated for 16 hrs by mannitol (25 mM) (lane 3-4, 17-18, 21-22, 25-26, 29-30), H₂O₂ (20 μ M) (lane 7-8), D-glucose (25 mM) (lane11-12), a combination of mannitol (25 mM) and H₂O₂ (20 μ M) (lane 15-16), or a combination of D-glucose (25 mM) and $H_2O_2(20 \mu M)$ (lane 19-20, 23-24, 27-28, 31-32). Then, ERK5 transcriptional activity was assayed as described in Fig.1E. Luciferase activity was normalized relative to Renilla luciferase activity, and expressed as relative fold increase compared with the level of the condition of empty vector transfection for vehicle treatment. Data are representative of three independent experiments (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, *p < 0.05, **P < 0.01). (D) HUVECs were pre-treated with

FMK-MEA (10 μ M), followed by stimulation with AGE (100 μ g/mL) for indicated times. pp90RSK and p90RSK expression was detected using each specific antibody. (E) HUVECs were co-transfected with plasmids encoding Gal4-ERK5 and the Gal4-responsive luciferase reporter pG5-Luc. Eight hours after transfection, cells were treated with FMK-MEA (10 μ M) for 3 hrs, followed by stimulation with 100 μ g/mL AGE for 16 hrs. ERK5 transcriptional activity was assayed as described in (C) (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, **P < 0.01).

Figure S3. p90RSK associates with ERK5 and phosphorylates ERK5-S496.

(A) Association between p90RSK and ERK5 was tested by a mammalian two-hybrid assay. HeLa cells were co-transfected with plasmids encoding Gal4 or Gal4-p90RSK, VP16-ERK5 wild type (see the domain map) or truncated fragments, and the Gal4-responsive luciferase reporter pG5-luc. Luciferase activity was measured after 24 hrs of transfection. Luciferase activity was normalized to the Renilla luciferase activity²⁸. Data are representative of three independent experiments (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, *P<0.05, **P < 0.01). (B, C) H_2O_2 increases ERK5-S496 phosphorylation via p90RSK activation. HUVECs were transduced with either adenovirus vector containing DN-p90RSK or LacZ and 24 hrs later HUVECs were stimulated with H_2O_2 for indicated times. ERK5-S496 phosphorylation, ERK5, p90RSK, and tubulin expression were detected by Western blotting with specific antibodies (B). Phosphorylation level of ERK5-S496 was densitometrically quantified (C) (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, *P<0.05).

Figure S4. eNOS, adhesion molecule expressions, p90RSK activation, and apoptosis in non-inducible EC-specific ERK5 knockout mice (ERK5-EKO) and tamoxifen (4-OHT) treated VE-Cad-CreERT2/WT mice.

(A) TUNEL positive cells (%) in cultured MECs from peanut oil or 4-OHT treated inducible heterozygous ERK5-EKO^{+/-} mice (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, N.S.: Not significant). (B) The expressions of ERK5, eNOS, VCAM-1, E-selectin, PECAM-1, p-p90RSK, total p90RSK, cleaved caspase 3, and Tubulin were determined in MECs from non-inducible VE-CadN-wild type (VE-CadN-WT) or homozygous ERK5-EKO^{-/-} (VE-CadN-ERK5^{flox/flox}) mice. (C) The expression of ERK5, eNOS, VCAM-1, E-selectin, PECAM-1, p-p90RSK, p90RSK, and Tubulin were determined in MECs from peanut oil or 4-OHT-treated VE-Cad-Cre ER^{T2}/WT mice. (D) Endothelium-independent relaxation to SNP was measured in 4-OHT-treated VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/WT or inducible ERK5-EKO^{-/-} mice (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, N.S.: Not significant).

Figure S5. Body weight, glucose tolerance test, and plasma cholesterol level in inducible ERK5-EKO-/- /LDLR-/- mice.

(A) After 18 weeks of 4-OHT injection and HCD diet, inducible ERK5-EKO^{-/-}/LDLR^{-/-} (n = 6) or VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}-WT/LDLR^{-/-} control (n = 6) mice were fasted overnight (16 hours) before the test. Glucose was injected intra-peritoneally (2g/kg) and blood samples were taken before and at 10, 30, 60, and 120 min after the injection of glucose for the measurement of glucose (mean \pm SEM). (B) Body weight changes of inducible $ERK5-EKO^{-1}/LDLR^{-1}$ (n = 6) or VE-Cad-Cre ER^{T2} -WT/LDLR^{-/-} control (n = 6) mice after 4-OHT treatment. Each mouse at the age of 6-7 weeks was injected with 4-OHT as described in methods. After 2 weeks of 4-OHT treatment body weight was measured at indicated times (mean \pm SEM). (C) Cholesterol profiles were from inducible ERK5-EKO^{-/-}/LDLR^{-/-} (n = 6) or VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}-WT/LDLR^{-/-} control (n = 8) mice after 18 weeks of 4-OHT injection and HCD diet (mean \pm SEM).

Figure S6. FMK-MEA inhibited p90RSK1 and 2 in vivo, but did not have any effect on glucose level, leukocyte count, and EC-independent relaxation in STZ-mediated hyperglycemia.

(A) Chemical structure of FMK-MEA. (B) Bodipy-FMK^{29, 30} p90RSK1/2 occupancy assay using heart lysates from mice treated with FMK-MEA. Mice were injected intraperitoneally with FMK-MEA (0, 15, 35 and 50 mg/kg in PBS), and bodipy-FMK p90RSK1/2 occupancy assay was performed as described in the methods. (C-E) FMK-MEA did not have any effect on glucose level, leukocyte count, and EC-independent relaxation in STZ-mediated hyperglycemia. Glucose tests (C) or systemic leukocyte count in the blood (D) in male mice after FMK-MEA or Insulin treatment followed by injection of vehicle or STZ (mean \pm SEM, n = 3-4, N.S.: Not significant). STZ injection significantly increased fasting glucose level, whereas FMK-MEA treatment had no effect on STZ-mediated hyperglycemia and systemic leukocyte count. (E) Endothelium-independent relaxation to SNP was measured in C57BL/6 WT mice after injection of vehicle or STZ (mean \pm SEM, n = 3, N.S.: Not significant). (F) Cholesterol profiles were from Apo $E^{-/-}$ receiving vehicle, AngII, or AngII + FMK-MEA under normal chow diet for 28 days (mean \pm SEM, n = 3-5, N.S.: Not significant).

Supplemental Video Legends

Supplemental Video 1.1-1.2

Leukocyte rolling in micro-vessels of inducibleERK5-EKO mice after peanut oil (1.1) or 4-OHT (1.2) treatment. Intravital microscopy was used to visualize leukocyte rolling in the mesenteric venules.

Supplemental Video 2.1-2.4

Leukocyte rolling in micro-vessels of wild type C57BL/6 mice after vehicle (2.1), STZ alone (2.2), STZ and FMK-MEA (2.3), or STZ and insulin (2.4) treatment. Intravital microscopy was used to visualize leukocyte rolling in the mesenteric venules.

Supplemental Video 3.1-3.3

Leukocyte rolling in micro-vessels of non-transgenic littermate control (NLC) or Akita mice after vehicle (NLC; 3.1, Akita; 3.2) or FMK-MEA (Akita; 3.3) treatment. Intravital microscopy was used to visualize leukocyte rolling in the mesenteric venules.

Supplemental Video 4.1-4.2

Leukocyte rolling in micro-vessels of VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/WT (4.1) or inducible-EC-WT-p90RSK-Tg mice (4.2). Intravital microscopy was used to visualize leukocyte rolling in the mesenteric venules.

Supplemental Video 5.1-5.5

Leukocyte rolling in micro-vessels of VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/WT or inducible ERK5-EKO mice after vehicle (VE-Cad-CreER^{T2}/WT; 5.1, inducible ERK5-EKO; 5.2), STZ alone (inducible ERK5-EKO; 5.3), FMK-MEA alone (inducible ERK5-EKO; 5.4) or STZ and FMK-MEA (inducible ERK5-EKO; 5.5) treatment. Intravital microscopy was used to visualize leukocyte rolling in the mesenteric venules.

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Fig. S1

Fig. S2

H2O2 0 20 40 60 0 20 40 60 (mn)

Ad-LacZ Ad-DN-p90RSK

Fig. S4

Fig. S5

Table S1. Ambit/DiscoverX platform secreening

