**Supplemental Figure 1**. Histological examination of epithelial cells after digestion with 0.01% collagenase A in the trachea of GFP/C57BL/6 mice. The epithelial layers are intact in the non-digested normal trachea and 15 minutes digestion trachea. Epithelial cells detached after digestion of 30 minutes and completely detached after 1 hour digestion. Solid arrows indicate epithelial cells. The open arrows indicate basal cells. The magnifications were indicated in the pictures.

## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

