

Fig. I

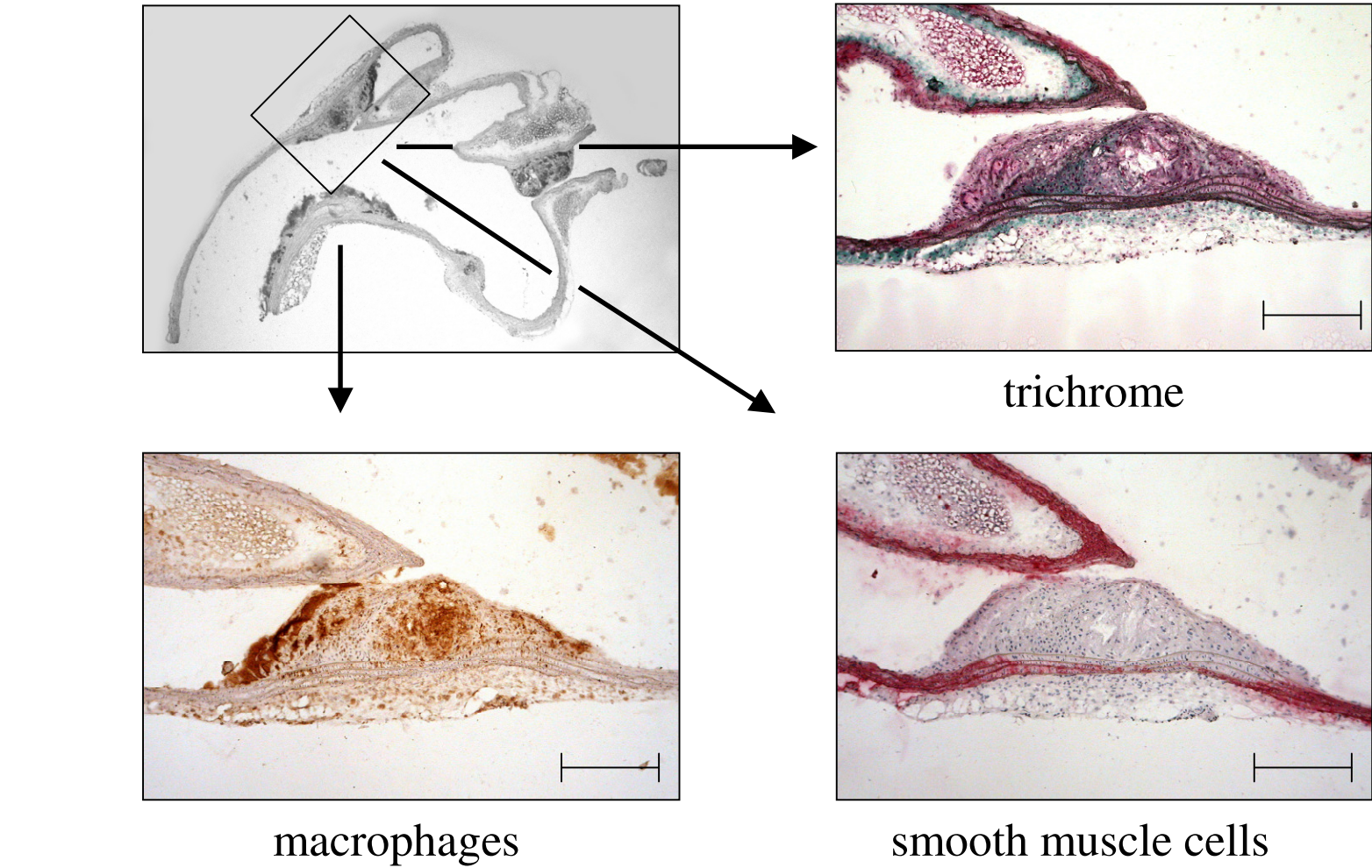


Fig. IIa

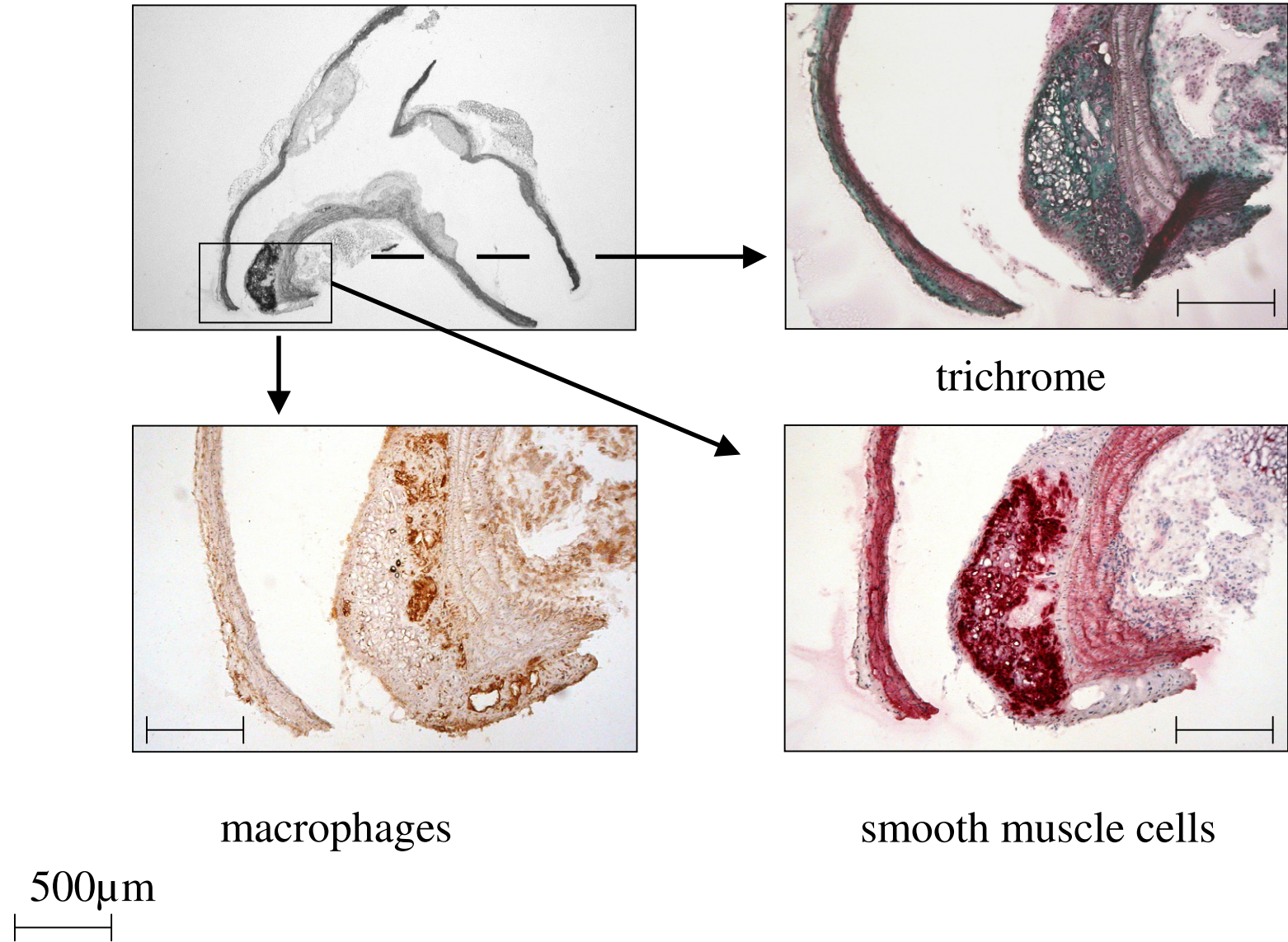


Fig. IIb

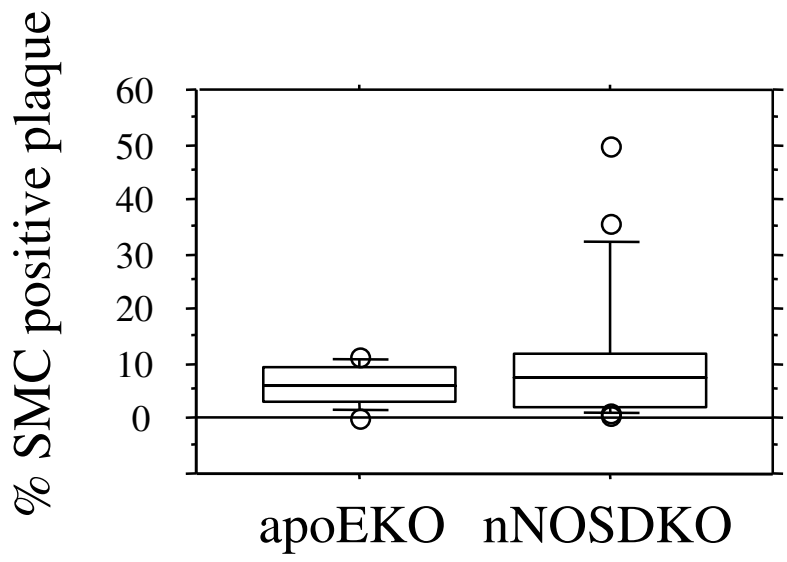


Fig. IIc

Figure I. (please see www.ahajournals.org) Western blots of total aortic lysates from male and female “western-type” diet fed apoE KO and apoE/nNOS DKO animals. eNOS protein is present at equal levels in animals of both genotypes and genders (140 kDa). iNOS-immunoreactivity is more pronounced in female than male animals without a difference between genotypes. Equal loading was confirmed by immunoblotting an anti-actin antibody with the lower part of the same membrane (43 kDa). Results were confirmed in duplicate experiments.

Figure II. Aortic arch sections of “western-type” diet fed apoE KO (6a) and apoE/nNOS DKO (6b) animals. Topographic view upper left. Masson’s trichrome staining (upper right). Immunohistochemical staining for macrophages (lower left). Smooth muscle actin (lower right) staining revealed a high variability of SMC positive plaques when comparing lesions within one animal or between different mice. Pronounced SMC positive plaques were found in DKO animals but variability prevented statistical significance (6c). Magnifications 6a and 6b: Upper left x 12,5, remaining sections x 50.