



**SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S2.** BMP-2 does not modulate the expression of *osteocalcin* mRNA in chondrocytes cultured in collagen sponges and in hypoxia. HACs were cultured in type I collagen sponges for 7 days in hypoxia, in the absence (Control), or in the presence of 50 ng/mL of BMP-2. Relative mRNA expression of osteocalcin was measured using real-time RT-PCR with specific primers. All results were normalized to *RPL13a* mRNA, compared with untreated sponge-cultured cells, and are presented as the relative expression of the gene. Box plots represent four independent experiments in triplicate. Statistically significant difference between the untreated cells and BMP-2-treated cells was determined using the Mann–Whitney *U* test and was nonsignificant.