Supplementary figure captions

Suppl. Fig. S1 Hepatocytes cultured on a spot containing mixture of HGF and TGF-β1. (**A**) Both spheroids and spindle-shaped morphology were observed after 5 days in culture of HGF and TGF-β1 containing spots. (**B**) Hepatocytes on HGF+ TGF-β1/collagen (I) secrete more albumin than TGF-β1/collage (I), indicating that HGF helps to protect hepatocytes from the effects of TGF-β1.

Suppl. Fig. S2 Dose-dependent influence of immobilized HGF on albumin synthesis. Primary hepatocytes were cultured for 4 days on different concentration of HGF mixed with collagen I. The data indicates means ± SD (n=3 samples).

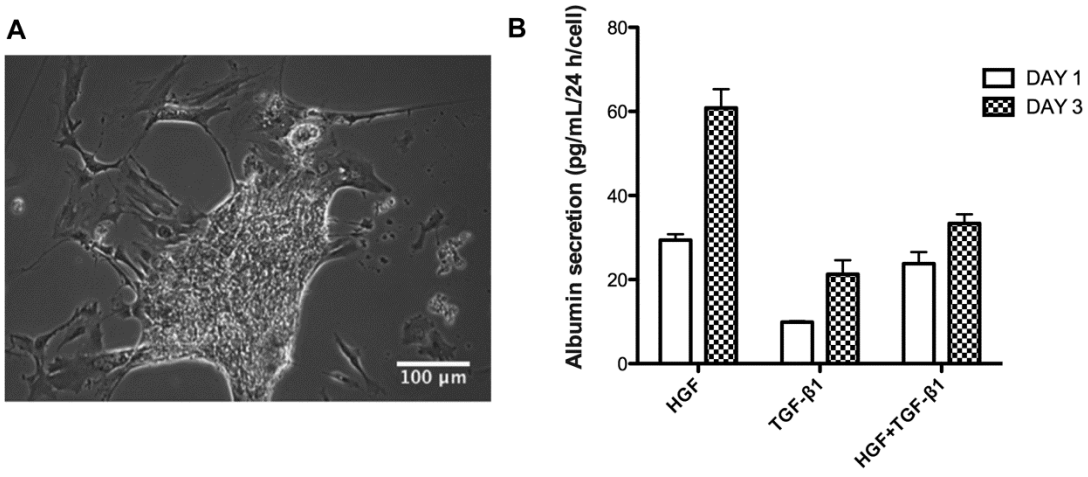
Suppl. Fig. S3 Functional test of primary hepatocytes cultured on HGF and TGF-β1 microarrays. Urea secretion of hepatocytes by ELISA yielded results similar to those of albumin production. The data indicates means ± SD (n=3 samples). *p-value < 0.05.

Suppl. Fig. S4 TGF-β1 inhibitor can enhance the epithelial phenotype in hepatocytes. The influence of TGF-β1 inhibitor (SB431542) on rat primary hepatocytes cultured on collagen I spot containing HGF and TGF-β1 was monitored at varying distances (center to center distance: 0.7 mm and 1.5 mm). **(A)** The immunostaining images showing the higher expression of epithelial cell marker (E-cadherin and albumin) and lower expression of mesenchymal marker (N-cadherin) in cells cultured on both HGF and TGF-β1 spots in presence of SB431542. Scale bar: 100 μm. **(B,C)** The fluorescence intensity of E-cadherin and N-cadherin was quantified using imageJ software and normalized with their DAPI intensity. For the control, the center to center distance

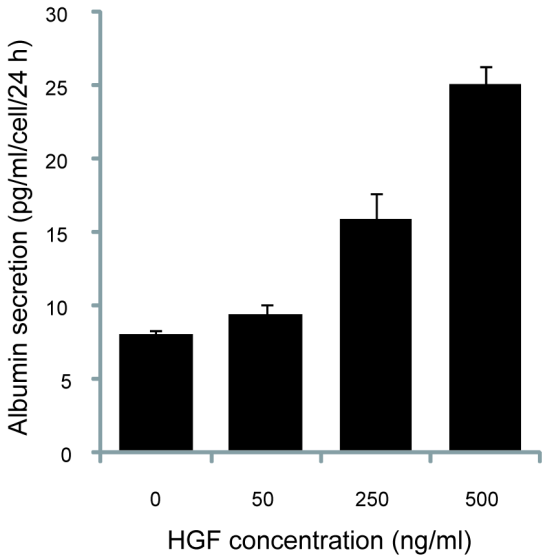
between spots is 1.5 mm. Data are mean ± SD, n=3.

Supplementary figures

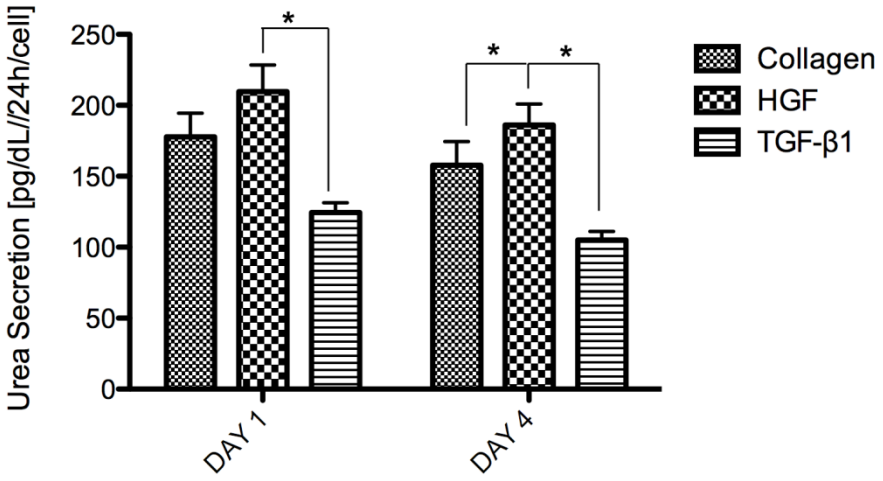
Suppl. Fig. S1



Suppl. Fig. S2



Suppl. Fig. S3



Suppl. Fig. S4