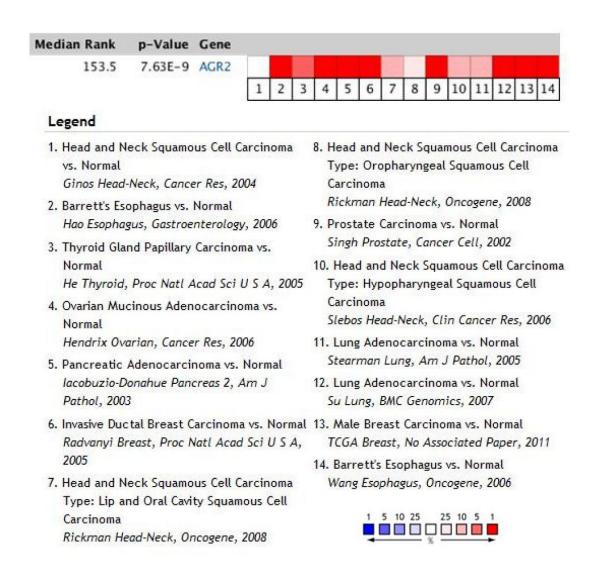
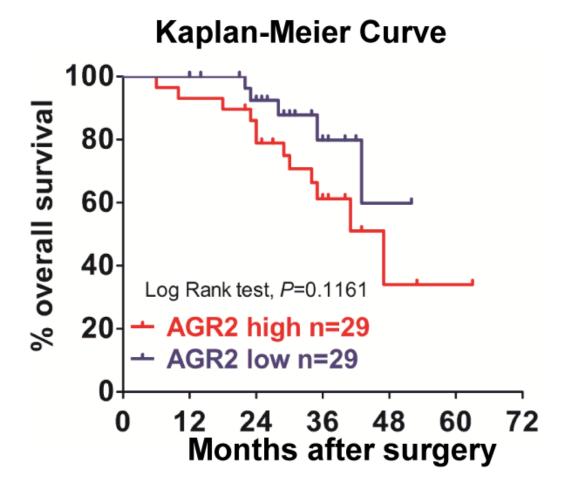
## Anterior gradient protein 2 expression in high grade head and neck squamous cell carcinoma correlated with cancer stem cell and epithelial mesenchymal transition

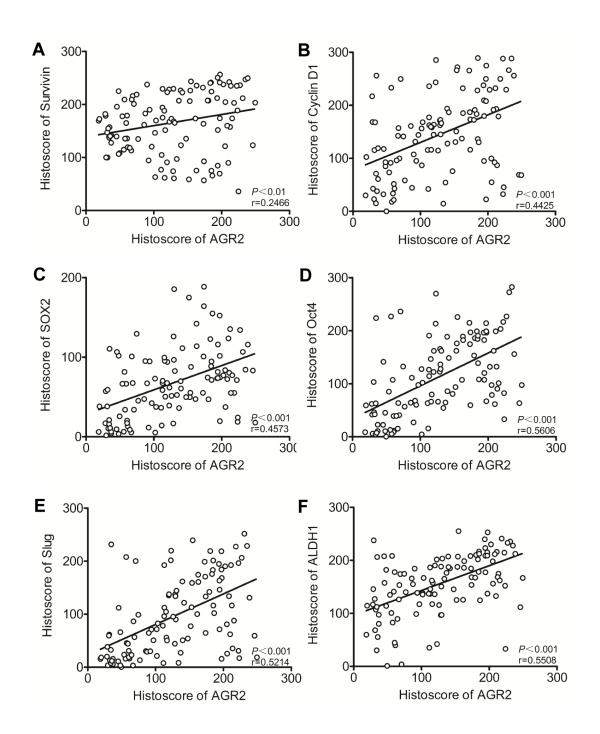
## **Supplementary Material**



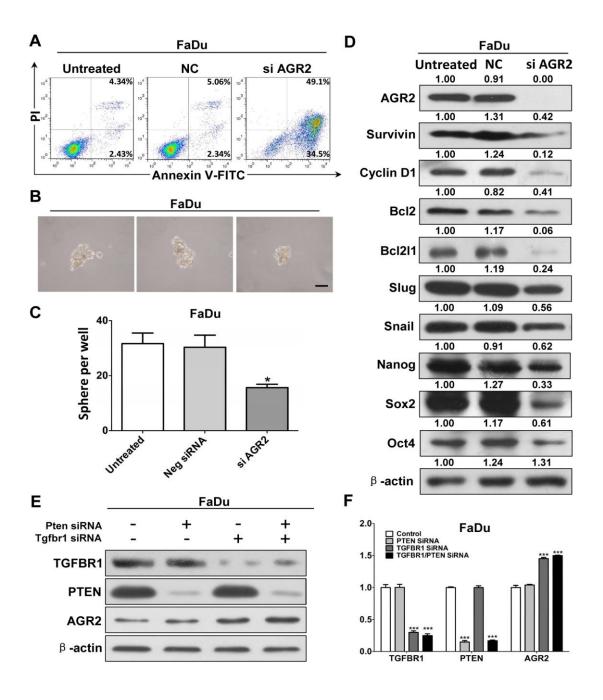
**Supplementary Figure S1: AGR2 expression in human head neck cancer.** Meta-analysis of recent gene expression profiling for *AGR2* where the colored squares indicated the median rank for AGR2 across each analysis in various human cancer.



**HNSCC.** Kaplan Meier curve showing head neck squamous cell carcinoma patient with low AGR2 expression (n=29) survival longer than AGR2 high expression patient, which log-Rank analysis reveal the difference was not significant (n=29, *P*>0.05).

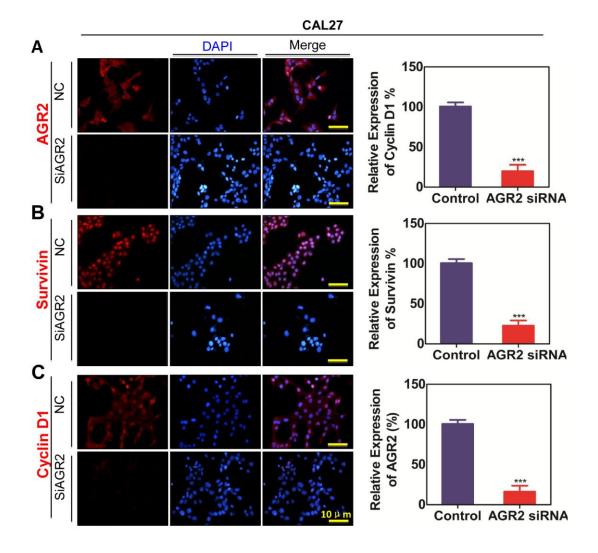


Supplementary Figure S3: Quantification and correlation of AGR2 with Survivin, Cyclin D1, ALDH1, Oct4, Sox2 and Slug in human HNSCC tissue. Correlation of AGR2 with Survivin (A), Cyclin D1 (B), Sox2 (C), Oct4 (D), Slug (E) and ALDH1 (F) in human HNSCC tissue array.

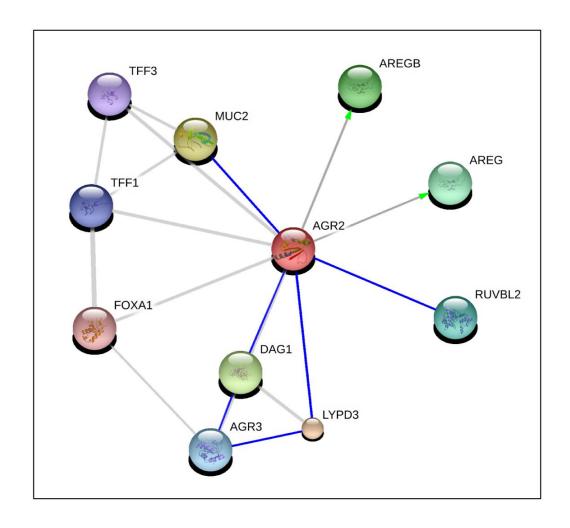


**Supplementary Figure S4:** Knock down of *AGR2* induces cell apoptosis and reduces colony formation in FaDu cell line. (A) Annexin V-FITC/PI dual labeling assay showed *AGR2* siRNA enhance apoptosis in FaDu cell lines by using flow cytometry; (B) Knock down of *AGR2* in FaDu cell line reduced sphere formation with quantification in (C); Scale bar=100μm;(D) Western blot analysis revealed that the protein level of Survivin, Cyclin D1, Bcl2, Bcl2l1, Slug, Snail, Nanog, Sox2 and OCT4 were reduced in different degrees after *AGR2* konck down in FaDu cell line for

48h.Quantification is performed using Image J by pixel analysis of band by normalized of  $\beta$ -actin as a loading control. Neg siRNA, negative siRNA,si AGR2, AGR2 siRNA.(E) Western blot analysis of AGR2 48h after knocking down PTEN, TGFBR1, and combined TGFBR1/PTEN by using siRNA in FaDu cell line; (F) Quantitative analysis showed the protein level of AGR2 in TGFBR1 siRNA group and TGFBR1/PTEN combined siRNA group were significantly higher than the control group (P < 0.001). Mean±SEM, \*\*\*, P < 0.001.



Supplementary Figure S5: Immunoflurosence of AGR2 knock down reduce the expression of Survivin and Cyclin D1 in CAL27 cell line. AGR2 siRNA significantly reduce the expression of AGR2 (A), Survivin (B) and Cyclin D1 (C) in CAL27 cell line (P < 0.001, respectively). \*\*\*, P < 0.001.



## Supplementary Figure S6: Predict protein interaction of AGR2.

Computer predicts protein with direct protein-protein interaction with AGR2 analyzed by STRING database.

## Supplementary Table 1: Cinicopathological features of 59 oral squamous cell carcinoma used in this study.

1 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N0M 2 Gingiva 2.0*1.5 T1N1M 3 Tongue 1.5*1.5 T1N1M 4 Tongue 2.0*2.0 T2N0M	10 I I
3 Tongue 1.5*1.5 T1N1M 4 Tongue 2.0*2.0 T2N0M	10 I
4 Tongue 2.0*2.0 T2N0M	10 I
C	
	10 1
5 Gingiva 3.0*2.0 T2N0M	1
6 Tongue 1.7*1.7 T1N0M	I 0
$7^{\dagger}$ Tongue $3.0*1.5$ T2N1M	I0 I
8 Tongue 2.0*2.0 T1N0M	I0 I
9 Gingiva 3.0*2.0 T2N0M	I 0
10 Buccal mucosa 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	I 0
Buccal mucosa 3.0*3.0 T2N0M	II 0
Buccal mucosa 4.0*3.0 T3N1M	II 0
Buccal mucosa 5.0*4.0 T3N0M	II 0
14 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	II 0
15 Tongue 4.0*3.0 T3N0M	II 0
16 Tongue 5.0*4.0 T3N0M	II 0
17 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N0M	10 II
18 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	10 II
19 Tongue 1.5*1.0 T1N1M	10 II
20 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	10 II
21 <sup>†</sup> Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	II 0
22 Tongue 3.0*2.5 T2N0M	10 II
23 Tongue 4.0*2.0 T3N0M	10 II
24 Tongue 3.0*2.0 T2N1M	10 II
Oropharyngeal 3.0*3.0 T2N0M	10 II
26 Mouth floor 2.0*2.0 T2N0M	II 0
27 Gingiva 3.0*1.5 T2N0M	III 0
28 Buccal mucosa 4.0*3.0 T3N1M	III III
29 Tongue 2.0*1.0 T2N0M	III 0
30 Buccal mucosa 3.0*2.5 T2N1M	III III
31 Gingiva 3.0*2.5 T2N0M	III III
32 Gingiva 3.0*2.0 T2N0M	III III
33 <sup>†</sup> Tongue 5.0*3.0 T3N1M	III III
34 Mouth floor 3.0*3.0 T2N1M	III III
35 <sup>†</sup> Tongue 5.0*3.0 T3N1M	10 III
36 Tongue 5.0*4.0 T3N0M	
37 Mouth floor 4.0*4.0 T3N0M	
38 Tongue 2.5*1.5 T2N0M	
39 Gingiva 3.0*1.5 T2N0M	

40	Tongue	1.5*1.5	T1N0M0	I
41	Mouth floor	3.0*2.5	T2N0M0	I
42	Gingiva	6.0*3.0	T3N0M0	I
43	Gingiva	2.0*2.0	T2N1M0	I
44	Gingiva	2.5*2.0	T2N0M0	II
45	Palate	3.0*2.5	T2N0M0	II
46	Mouth floor	2.0*2.0	T1N0M0	II
$47^{\dagger}$	Mouth floor	2.5*1.5	T2N1M0	II
48	Oropharyngeal	4.0*2.0	T2N0M0	II
49	Oropharyngeal	4.0*3.0	T2N0M0	II
50	Gingiva	3.0*3.0	T2N0M0	II
51	Tongue	2.5*1.0	T2N1M0	III
52	Mouth floor	4.0*3.0	T2N0M0	III
53	Oropharyngeal	4.0*3.0	T2N0M0	III
54	Palate	6.0*3.0	T3N0M0	III
55	Palate	6.0*3.0	T3N0M0	III
56	Gingiva	4.6*3.2	T2N0M0	III
57	Tongue	2.0*2.0	T1N0M0	III
58	Buccal mucosa	3.0*3.0	T2N1M0	III
59	Tongue	1.0*1.0	T1N0M0	III
$60^*$	Oropharyngeal	2.5*2.0		
61 <sup>*</sup>	Mouth floor	1.5*1.0		
62 <sup>*</sup>	Oropharyngeal	3.0*2.0		
63 <sup>*</sup>	Gingiva	4.0*4.0		
64*	Mouth floor	5.0*3.0		
65 <sup>#</sup>	Lip	2.5*2.0		
66 <sup>#</sup>	Buccal mucosa	3.0*2.5		
67#	Buccal mucosa	3.7*3.2		
68 <sup>#</sup>	Gingiva	4.0*4.0		
69 <sup>#</sup>	Tongue	5.0*1.0		
70 <sup>#</sup>	Gingiva	4.0*4.0		
$71^{\#}$	Buccal mucosa	5.0*5.0		
72 <sup>#</sup>	Tongue	2.0*2.0		
73 <sup>#</sup>	Tongue	1.5*1.5		
74#	Buccal mucosa	4.0*3.0		
75 <sup>#</sup>	Tongue	2.0*2.0		
76 <sup>#</sup>	Gingiva	3.0*3.0		

 $<sup>^\</sup>dagger S$ pecimen including original tumor as well as metastatic lymph nodes

<sup>\*</sup> Recurrence after radiotherapy or radiotherapy before surgery

<sup>\*</sup> Specimen including biopsy as well as surgical removal specimen after TPF chemotherapy

Supplementary Table 2: Pearson correlation coefficient test analyses of the array immunostainings of AGR2, Survivin, Cyclin D1, ALDH1, Sox2, Oct4 and Slug in OSCC (n=111).

Markers	AGR2	Survivin	Cyclin	ALDH1	Sox2	Oct4	Slug
			D1				
AGR2		P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001
		r=0.246	r=0.442	r=0.521	r=0.551	r=0.561	r=0.457
Survivin			P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	
			r=0.452	r=0.460	r=0.459	r=0.478	
Cyclin D1				P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001
				r=0.846	r=0.529	r=0.829	r=0.417
ALDH1					P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001
					r=0.574	r=0.931	r=0.536
Sox2						P<0.001	P<0.001
						r=0.579	r=0.379
Oct4							P<0.001
							r=0.531