

Supplement Figure 2. Characterization of primary RPE cultures. (A,B,C) Immunohistochemistry and fluorescent microscopy was used to detect the cytoplasmic expression of the cellular retinoic acid binding protein (CRABP) and cellular retinaldehyde-binding protein (CRALBP), and MITF. **(D)** Western immunoblot probing for potential culture contamination by endothelial, immune, and Mast cells using antibodies that recognize CD31, CD45 and tryptase $\alpha 1 \beta 1$ (TPSAB1), respectively. Molecular mass (kDa) is shown on left. Lysates of HUVEC cells, Jurkat cells and choroid tissue from a human donor served as positive controls (denoted by 'C'). **(E)** FACs analysis determined the number of fluorescent beads taken up by RPE from healthy (No AMD) and AMD donors. Histograms indicate the percent of cells containing one to five beads. **(F)** Western blot for antioxidants. Results from densitometry quantification are shown in Fig. 5D.