# **APPENDIX**

# **Intracellular adenosine alters epigenetic programming in endothelial cells to promote angiogenesis**

This appendix includes 6 figures, 4 tables and Supplementary methods.





**Appendix Figure S1. Hypoxia-induced factors (HIFs) mediates hypoxia-induced ADK downregulation.** 

**A, Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of HIF-1** $\alpha$  **in HUVECs (n=4). Cells were transiently** transfected with siHIF-1α or sictl. Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were exposed to hypoxia  $(0.5\%$  O2) or air  $(21\%$  O2) for an additional 24 h.

**B,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of HIF-2 $\alpha$  in HUVECs (n=4). Cells were transiently transfected with siHIF-2α or sictl. Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were exposed to hypoxia  $(0.5\%$  O2) or air  $(21\%$  O2) for an additional 24 h.

**C,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of ADK in HUVECs (n=4). Cells were transiently transfected with siHIF-1α or sictl. Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were exposed to hypoxia  $(0.5\% \text{ O2})$  or air  $(21\% \text{ O2})$  for an additional 24 h.

**D,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of ADK in HUVECs (n=4). Cells were transiently transfected with siHIF-2α or sictl. Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were exposed to hypoxia  $(0.5\%$  O2) or air  $(21\%$  O2) for an additional 24 h.

**E,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of HIF-1α in HUVECs infected with Ad-mutHIF-1α or Ad-Ctrl  $(n=4)$ .

**F,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA level of HIF-2α in HUVECs infected with Ad-mutHIF-2α or Ad-Ctrl  $(n=4)$ .

**G,** Real-Time PCR analysis of mRNA levels of HIF-1α and HIF-2α in HUVECs infected with Ad-mutHIF-1 $\alpha$ , Ad-mutHIF-2 $\alpha$ , or Ad-Ctrl (n=4).

Data are the Mean  $\pm$  SD,  $*P$  <0.05 and  $*$  *P* <0.01 for indicated comparisons (One way ANOVA with Tukey's *post-hoc* test for A-D and G; unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test for E and F). The exact *P*-values are specified in Appendix Table S1.



### **Appendix Figure S2. The effect of ADK KD on endothelial angiogenesis.**

**A,** Representative images and quantification of HUVEC migration to cell medium containing VEGF-A at 50 ng/mL in a transwell assay  $(n = 3)$ .

**B,** Representative images and quantification of capillary network formation of HUVECs cultured in growth factor–deprived Matrigel  $(n = 3)$ .

**C,** Representative images of spheroid sprouting assay and quantification of sprout numbers for control and ADK KD HUVECs ( $n = 30$  spheroids per group).

All images are representative. For all bar graphs, data are the Mean ± SD, \**P* <0.05 and \*\* *P* <0.01 (Unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test). The exact *P*-values are specified in Appendix Table S1.



**Appendix Figure S3. Arteriole relaxation and constriction as well as circulating adenosine in ADKWT and ADKVEC-KO mice.** 

A-B, Diameter changes of isolated and pressurized gracilis muscle arterioles of ADK<sup>WT</sup> and ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup> mice in response to the vasodilator ACh ( $10^{-10}$  - $10^{-6}$  M,  $n = 5$  mice for each group) (A), or to the vasoconstrictor 5-HT ( $10^{-10}$  - $10^{-6}$  M,  $n = 5$  mice for each group) (**B**).

**C**, Circulating adenosine in ADK<sup>WT</sup> and ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup> mice. Blood was drawn from mice ( $n=3$ ) mice per group) and the levels of adenosine in plasma analyzed with HPLC.



**Appendix Figure S4. The role of adenosine receptors in the angiogenic effects of ADK KD.** 

**A,** The levels of endothelial A1R, A2AR, A2BR and A3R were quantified with real time RT-PCR after HUVECs were infected with adenoviral shctl and shADK for 36 hours . Results are from three independent experiments.

**B,** A commercial kit (Cell Signaling Technology) was used to measure cAMP levels of endothelial cell lysates. HUVECs were pretreated with vehicle or 5  $\mu$ M ZM 241385 or 5  $\mu$ M MRS 1754 for 15 min, then followed by 5  $\mu$ M CGS 21680 and/or 5  $\mu$ M NECA for 1 hour. Results are from three independent experiments.

**C,** Representative images and quantification of endothelial sprouting of control and ADK KD HUVECs in a spheroid assay in the absence or presence of both ZM 241385 and MRS 1754 at 5 μM (n=10 spheroids per group).

**D,** Representative images and quantification of endothelial migration for control and ADK KD HUVECs in a transwell assay in the absence or presence of both ZM 241385 and MRS 1754 at 5 μM. Results are from four independent experiments.

Data information: For all bar graphs, data are the Mean  $\pm$  SD,  $* P < 0.05$  and  $** P < 0.01$  for indicated comparisons (Unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test for A; One-way ANOVA with Tukey's *post-hoc* test for B-D). The exact *P*-values are specified in Appendix Table S1.



## **Appendix Figure S5. ADK inhibitor efficiency, adenosine receptor KD efficiency and the effect of VEGFR2 on ADK KD-increased endothelial tube formation.**

**A,** Quantification of intracellular adenosine in vehicle and ITU-treated HUVECs. Cells were treated with vehicle or ITU at 10 µM for 24 hours. Adenosine in collected cell lysates was measured by HPLC. Results are from four independent experiments.

**B,** Real-time PCR analysis of mRNA levels of A<sub>2A</sub>R and A<sub>2B</sub>R in HUVECs transduced with sictl,  $siA_{2A}R$  or  $siA_{2B}R$ . Results are from four independent experiments.

**C,** Representative images and quantification of capillary network formation of control and ADK KD HUVECs treated with or without VEGFR2 inhibitor SU1498 at 1μM and cultured in growth factor–deprived Matrigel for 16 hours. Results are from four independent experiments.

Data information: For all bar graphs, data are the Mean ± SD, \* *P* < 0.05 and \*\* *P* < 0.01 for indicated comparisons (Unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test for A and B; One-way ANOVA with Tukey's *post-hoc* test for C). The exact *P*-values are specified in Appendix Table S1.



**Appendix Figure S6. The effect of exogenous adenosine on DNA methylation, VEGFR2 expression and endothelial functions.** 

**A**, Representative images and quantification of Western blot analysis of VEGFR2 protein expression in vehicle and adenosine-treated HUVECs. Results are from three independent experiments.

**B**, Real-time PCR analysis of VEGFR2 mRNA expression in vehicle and adenosine-treated HUVECs. Results are from three independent experiments.

**C**, Representative images of Western blot analysis of VEGFR2 protein expression in control and adenosine-treated HUVECs pretreated with vehicle or NBMPR  $(10 \mu)$ . Results are from three independent experiments.

**D**, Quantification of intracellular adenosine, SAM and SAH in vehicle and adenosine-treated HUVECs. Results are from three independent experiments.

**E**, Quantification of 5-methylcytosine (5-mC) in vehicle and adenosine-treated HUVECs. Results are from three independent experiments.

For **A**-**E**, cells were treated with vehicle or adenosine at 10 µM for 24 hours. Adenosine treatment was repeated every 6 hours.

**F**, Representative images and quantification of network formation of vehicle and adenosinetreated HUVECs cultured in growth factor–deprived Matrigel. Results are from three independent experiments.

**G,** Endothelial sprouting of vehicle and adenosine-treated HUVECs in a spheroid assay (n=10 spheroids per group).

Data information: For all bar graphs, data are the Mean  $\pm$  SD,  $* P < 0.05$  and  $* P < 0.01$ 

(Unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-test). The exact *P*-values are specified in Appendix Table S1. Source data are available online for this figure.









## **Appendix Table S2: Pro-angiogenic genes with increased and decreased methylation upon ADK knockdown.**









# **Appendix Table S2. Pro-angiogenic genes with decreased methylation upon ADK knockdown.**

Following the Infinium methylation assay, DNA methylation analysis was carried out on a group of 109 genes related to pro-angiogenic function as defined in the program of Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA). Column 1: gene symbols and names according to the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee; column 2: gene accession number according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information; column 3: number of different probes for each gene represented on the array; column 4: CH3**↑**, number of probes with increased methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 5: CH3**↓**, number of probes with reduced

methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 6: CH3**↑**, percentage of probes with increased methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 7: CH3**↓**, percentage of probes with reduced methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group. The level of DNA methylation in the 14 green highlighted pro-angiogenic genes are considered to be significantly decreased in the shADK group compared with the shctl group.

## **Appendix Table S3: Anti-angiogenic genes with increased and decreased methylation upon ADK knockdown.**







# **Appendix Table S3. Anti-angiogenic genes with decreased methylation upon ADK knockdown.**

Following the Infinium methylation assay, DNA methylation analysis was carried out on a group of 69 genes related to anti-angiogenic function as defined in the program of Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA). Column 1: gene symbols and names according to the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee; column 2: gene accession number according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information; column 3: number of different probes for each gene represented on the array; column 4: CH3**↑**, number of probes with increased methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 5: CH3**↓**, number of probes with reduced methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 6: CH3**↑**, percentage of probes with increased methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group; column 7: CH3**↓**, percentage of probes with reduced methylation in the shADK group compared with the shctl group. The level of DNA methylation in the GDF2 gene highlighted in green is considered to be significantly decreased in the shADK group compared with the shctl group.

# **Appendix Table S4. Primer sequences for qRT-PCR analysis**





#### **Appendix Supplementary Methods**

#### **Mouse generation and breeding**

 The use of experimental animals was approved by the IACUC at the Augusta University in accordance with NIH guidelines. The floxed ADK ( $ADK<sup>flox/flox</sup>$ ) mice were generated by Xenogen Biosciences Corporation (Cranbury, NJ, USA). Briefly, a BAC clone containing the designated mouse ADK gene was first isolated, confirmed and characterized. A conditional gene targeting construct (2loxP construct), as shown in Fig 3A, was generated. ES cells were transfected with the targeting construct DNA for the gene target in the presence of G418. After screening, G418-resistant clones were analyzed with independent Southern blot analysis with 5', 3' and Neo probes in order to confirm homologous recombination clones. The confirmed ES clones were injected into up to a total of 200 blastocysts. The blastocysts were then injected into pseudo-pregnant females to generate chimeras. Chimeric mice were bred with wild-type mice, and the F1 generation with germline transmission of the mutant allele was confirmed through tail DNA PCR and/or Southern blot analysis. Cell-specific inactivation of ADK (ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup>) in endothelial cells was achieved by cross-breeding Cdh5-Cre transgenic mice (The Jackson Laboratory) with  $ADK<sup>flox/flox</sup> mice.$ 

#### **Isolation and culture of primary mouse aortic endothelial cells (MAECs)**

 MAECs were isolated using a previously described method except that Matrigel was replaced with collagen gel (Wang et al, 2016). Collagen gel was prepared as follows. Commercial type I collagen (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA, USA) was diluted with endothelial growth medium 2 (EGM-2; Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) to a final concentration of 1.75 mg/mL. 0.5 ml collagen gel was added to each well of a 24-well plate, and the collagen gel was then solidified at 37°C for at least 30 min.

 Aortic ring preparation: Four-week-old male mice were used. Briefly, mice were sacrificed by  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  asphyxiation and cleaned with 70% ethanol. The abdominal and thoracic cavities were opened, and each mouse was perfused with 3 mL PBS via the left ventricle. After removal of perivascular fat and adventitia from the ventral side of the aortas, the aortas were dissected out, rinsed 5 times with fresh PBS, and placed in a sterile dish of cold PBS. The aortas were then cut into  $\sim$ 1 mm length rings, and each aortic ring was opened and laid on the surface of collagen gel with the endothelium directly facing the gel.

 Following tissue placement for 36 hours, the gel and aortic piece were kept hydrated with EGM-2. During the above procedures, care was taken to avoid submerging and dislodging the aorta piece from the gel. Explants were then cultured in an incubator at  $37^{\circ}$ C and  $5\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> and monitored daily. For the experiments on endothelial migration, the gels and aortic pieces were processed at different time points based on the protocols. After visible cellular outgrowth from the aortic segments, the medium was aspirated, and the aortic segments were removed in a sterile fashion. The collagen gel was digested by 0.3% collagenase H solution in PBS, and the MAECs were collected.

#### **Isolation and culture of murine lung and heart endothelial cells**

Lungs and hearts were minced and placed in DMEM containing 2 mg/ml collagenase (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) for 1 h at 37°C. The digested tissues were separated into single cell suspension using 18-gauge and 20-gauge needles and then passed through a 70  $\mu$ m cell strainer. The cell suspension was centrifuged and the cell pellets were washed once with washing buffer

(PBS-0.5% BSA supplemented with 2mM EDTA) and resuspended with 90 µl binding buffer per 10<sup>7</sup> total cells, followed by the addition of 10  $\mu$ l CD31 MicroBeads (130-097-418, Miltenyi Biotec). After incubation at  $4^{\circ}$ C for 15 min, positive selection was performed by passing the cell suspension through magnetic LS columns (130-042-401, Miltenyi Biotec). The CD31<sup>+</sup> endothelial cells were then collected.

#### **Cell culture and treatments**

 HUVECs (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA), at a passage of 3-8, and MAECs, at a passage of 2-4, were cultured in EGM-2 (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland). In some experiments, 10 μM 5 iodotubercidin (ITU, Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 10 μM adenosine (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA), 1 μM SU1498 (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA), 5 μM CGS21680 (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 5 μM NECA (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 5 μM MRS1754 (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 5 μM ZM241385 (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 10 μM NBMPR (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, United Kingdom), 2 μM 5-Aza-2'-deoxycytidine (5-Aza, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA), 100 ng/ml hVEGF (R & D systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA), or 100ng/ml mVEGF (R & D systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) was added to the culture medium.

#### **Adenoviral transduction of HUVECs**

 The GFP-labeled-ADK shRNA adenovirus targeting the 3' UTR sequence of human ADK and the control adenovirus were constructed by Vector Biolabs (Malvern, PA, USA). AdmutHIF-1 $\alpha$  encoding the mutant human HIF-1 $\alpha$  construct containing mutations at P564A and N803A and Ad-mutHIF-2 $\alpha$  containing mutations at P531A and N847A were generated as

previously described (Ahmad et al, 2009). These adenoviruses were expanded inside HEK293 cells, and the virus concentration was determined using an Adeno-XTM rapid titer kit (Clontech, Mountain View, USA). HUVECs at 80% confluence were transduced with the adenovirus (10 pfu/cell) and were used for experiments 36 h after the transduction.

### **RNA interference**

 HUVECs were transfected at 60-70 % confluence with 30 nM siRNAs targeting human  $A_{2A}R$  (si $A_{2A}R$ , Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, Texas, USA) or targeting human  $A_{2B}R$ (siA2BR, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) using siRNA transfection reagent (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) per the manufacturer's protocol. Knockdown of HIF-1 $\alpha$  or HIF-2 $\alpha$  in HUVECs was performed using predesigned SmartPool siRNA (siHIF-1 $\alpha$  and siHIF-2 $\alpha$ ) purchased from Dharmacon (Lafayette, CO, USA). Twenty-four hours after transfection, cells were cultured in fresh complete EGM-2 for an additional 24 hours before further experiments.

### **Cell number analysis**

 For cell counting, HUVECs or MAECs were seeded in 6-well plates in triplicate at an equal density, and cell numbers were manually counted at the indicated days with a hemocytometer.

#### **Quantitative real time RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) analysis**

 The total RNA from HUVECs was extracted with an RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen), and qRT-PCR was done as described previously. Briefly, a 0.5-1 μg sample of RNA was utilized as a template for reverse transcription using the iScriptTM cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad). qRT-PCR

was performed on an ABI 7500 Real Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) with the respective gene-specific primers listed in Appendix Table S4. All samples were amplified in duplicate, and every experiment was repeated independently at least three times. For experiments under normoxia, relative gene expression was calculated using the  $2^{\Delta \Delta ct}$  method against the internal control β-actin. For experiments subjected to hypoxia, relative gene expression was calculated using the  $2^{-\Delta \Delta ct}$  method against the internal control RPLP0.

#### **Protein extraction and Western blotting**

 HUVECs or MAECs were lysed with RIPA buffer (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) with 1% proteinase inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) and 1% PMSF. After centrifugation of the cell lysates, the protein was quantified with a BCA assay and then loaded in a 6-9% SDS-PAGE gel at 10 μg per lane. Antibodies used in this study against the following proteins were as follows: ADK (Abcam, Cambridge, MA, USA; rabbit, 1:1000), p-VEGFR2 (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), VEGFR2 (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), p-AKT (rabbit, 1:2000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), AKT (rabbit, 1:2000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), p-p70S6K (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), p70S6K (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), p-ERK (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), ERK (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA), PCNA (rabbit, 1:1000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA) and β-actin (rabbit, 1:5000; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA). Images were taken with the ChemiDoc MP system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA), and band densities were quantified using Image Lab software (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA).

#### *In vitro* **tube formation analysis**

 HUVECs were transfected with an ADK shRNA-containing adenovirus or control virus 36 h before the assays were performed, or cells were treated with 10 μM adenosine 48 h before assays were performed. To examine tube formation, growth factor-reduced Matrigel (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA, USA) was placed in 96-well tissue culture plates (60μl/well) and allowed to form a gel at 37°C for at least 30 min. HUVECs infected with virus were resuspended in 0.5% FCS growth medium at a  $1 \times 10^5$  concentration. The adenosine-treated HUVECs were resuspended in 0.5% FCS growth medium supplemented with 10μM adenosine. Aliquots of 150 μl of the cell suspension were added to each well, and the plates were incubated 8 h at 37°C. The endothelial tubes were observed using an inverted fluorescent microscope after staining with Calcein AM (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY, USA). Three random fields were selected and photographed. Tube formation was analyzed with WimTube quantitative tube formation image analysis program (Ibidi, Martinsried, Germany). The results are expressed as the mean fold-change of tube length compared with the control.

#### **Assay of endothelial cell chemotactic migration**

 HUVECs were transfected with an ADK shRNA-containing adenovirus or control virus 36 h prior to performing the migration assay. The chemotactic migration of HUVECs was assayed using a transwell chamber equipped with a 6.5-mm-diameter polycarbonate filter with 8 µm pore size. Briefly, 50 ng/ml of recombinant VEGF in endothelial basal medium (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) containing 1% FCS was placed in the lower wells, and HUVECs suspended in endothelial basal medium containing 1% FCS at a final concentration of  $5 \times 10^4$  cells/ml were placed in the upper wells. The chambers were incubated at 37°C for 12 h. Non-migrating cells on the upper surfaces of filters were removed by wiping with a cotton swab, and migrated cells on the back of the filter were fixed and stained with a 1% crystal violet solution (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA). Migrated cells on the lower side of the filters were counted at  $\times$ 200. Eight random fields were counted for every transwell.

#### **BrdU incorporation analysis**

 HUVECs were synchronized in G0/G1 by total FBS depletion for 12 hours and then treated with 10 µM BrdU (5-bromodeoxyuridine, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) and further incubated with complete growth medium for an additional 24 hours. Following BrdU treatment, cells were fixed, heated at 98°C for 8 min in citric acid buffer for antigen retrieval and incubated with a monoclonal anti-BrdU antibody (mouse, 1:200; Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) followed by incubation with an Alexa Fluor 594-labeled anti-mouse secondary antibody (Molecular Probes; 1:250). The cells were then immersed in ProLong Gold mounting medium with DAPI (Invitrogen, Grand Island, USA) to visualize the nuclei. Images were obtained using a Zeiss Axio Observer Z1 inverted microscope at 10 X magnification.

#### **Fibrin gel bead assay**

Fibrin gel bead assay was performed as described previously (Nakatsu et al, 2007). Briefly, HUVECs were incubated with Cytodex3 microbeads (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) at a concentration of 400 cells per bead in 1.5 mL of EGM-2 medium for 4 hours at 37°C. Overnight, cell-coated beads were washed with EGM-2 and then resuspended in 2 mg/mL of fibrinogen solution (Sigma-Aldrich) plus 0.15 U/mL of aprotinin (Sigma-Aldrich) at a concentration of 500

cell-coated beads/mL. Next, 500 μL of fibrinogen/bead suspension was added to the wells of a 24-well plate containing 0.625 units of thrombin (Sigma-Aldrich). Once the gel clotted, 1 ml of EGM2 containing 20,000 fibroblasts was placed on the top of the fibrin gel, and the culture medium was changed every other day. Images were captured and data were quantified between days 5 and 6 by the live-culture imaging system of a Zeiss LSM 780 Inverted Confocal Microscope using a bright field. The number of sprouts and cumulative length of sprouts per bead were quantified from 30 beads per condition.

### **Spheroid capillary sprouting assay**

 HUVECs (750 cells) were incubated for 24 hours in 25% EBM-2 (25% EBM-2 complete medium plus 75% EGM-2 medium) supplemented with 0.25% (w/v) methylcellulose (Sigma-Aldrich) to form spheroids as described previously (Heiss et al, 2015). The spheroids were harvested and embedded in 0.9 ml collagen solution in a pre-warmed 24-well plate, with a final concentration of rat type I collagen (BD Biosciences) at 1.5 mg/ml. The spheroid-containing gels were rapidly transferred into a humidified incubator (37 °C, 5 % CO2) and allowed to polymerize for 20 min, after which 0.1 ml EBM-2 basal medium supplemented with 20ng/ml hVEGF (R & D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) and the corresponding compounds were pipetted on top of the gel. After 24 hours, gels were fixed with pre-warmed 4 % paraformaldehyde (PFA), and images were captured with a Zeiss LSM 780 Inverted Confocal Microscope. The number of sprouts per spheroid was quantified from 10 spheroids for each condition using Image J software.

#### **Aortic ring assay**

Aortas were harvested from 4-week-old male ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup> and control ADK<sup>WT</sup> mice. Plates (24-well) were coated with collagen gel, and after it had gelled, the rings were placed into the wells. Thirty-six hours later, 1 mL EGM-2 was added to each well. On day 3 or 5, the tissue and the sprouting endothelial cells were fixed and stained with isolectin B4. Endothelial sprouts were time-lapse imaged on an Olympus IX81-ZDC inverted fluorescence microscope (Olympus, Center Valley, PA, USA). Vessel sprouting was quantified by counting the number of vascular sprouts that directly originated from a mouse aorta. The photographed image was divided into 5 regions and sprouts in each region were scored from 0 (least positive) to 1 (most positive) in a double-blind manner. The scores from 5 regions were combined, and the total was scored from 0 (least positive) to 5 (most positive). Each data point was assayed in quintuple.

#### **Analysis of mouse retinal vasculature**

 For retinal vessel analysis, P4 or P12 pups were given lethal doses of ketamine (Boehringer, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany), and the eyes were collected and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 10 min at 4°C. The retinas were isolated and fixed in PFA for an additional 30 min and then stained overnight at 25°C with Alexa Fluor 594-labeled Isolectin B4 (Molecular Probes, Grand Island, NY, USA) in 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> in PBS. Following 2 h of washes, retinas were whole-mounted onto Superfrost/Plus microscope slides (Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA, USA) with the photoreceptor side down and embedded in SlowFade Antifade reagent (Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY, USA). Images were taken on an Olympus IX81-ZDC inverted fluorescence microscope and confocal fluorescent microscope (LSM 510 META; Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany). Vessel sprouts were evaluated using a described method (Lobov et al, 2007).

#### **Analysis of embryonic hindbrain angiogenesis**

Mouse embryos were harvested at E10.5-11.5 and hindbrain tissue was isolated, stained and analyzed as previously described (Fantin et al, 2013).

#### **Wound healing assay and analysis**

 A previously described method was used (Lanahan et al, 2014). Briefly, 8-week-old male ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup> and control ADK<sup>WT</sup> mice were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of a ketamine (100 mg/kg)/xylazine (10 mg/kg) solution. Wounds were generated with a sterile 6-mm biopsy punch (Miltex Inc, PA) on the mouse back skin without injuring the underlying muscle. Wound regions were photographed using a Leica M125 microscope with an HC80 HD camera (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany) on days 0, 1, 3, 5 and 7. The wound area was calculated using NIH Image J software in a blinded fashion with regard to the animal groups, and the sizes at different time points were expressed as a percentage of the wound area on day 0. Blood perfusion images of the wounds on day 2 of wound generation were obtained by laser speckle contrast imaging. Briefly, the mice were anesthetized using isoflurane, and body temperature was maintained at 37  $\pm 0.2$  °C using a thermo-regulated heating pad (Harvard Apparatus, Holliston, MA, United States). Blood perfusion images were acquired using PeriCam PSI HD system (Perimed Inc., Sweden) with a 70 mW built-in laser diode for illumination and a 1388 x 61038 pixel CCD camera for image acquisition. Once the perfusion was consistent, images (2 per sec) were acquired for 2 min at a speed of 2 Hz. Acquired images were analyzed for blood flow using PIMSoft, a PeriCam dedicated computer program (Perimed Inc., Sweden). The mean wound blood flow was calculated as the ratio of the blood flow in the wound area to that of the surrounding normal tissue area and was presented as a percent. Six mice were analyzed in each group.

#### **Hind limb ischemia model**

As described previously (Limbourg et al, 2009), the femoral arteries of male ADK<sup>VEC-KO</sup> and control ADK<sup>WT</sup> mice at 8 weeks of age were ligated at 2 positions spaced 5 mm apart, and the arterial segment between the ligatures was excised. In a blinded fashion with regard to the animal groups, tissue perfusion was assessed preoperatively, immediately, and 3, 7, and 14 days after surgery. Blood flow images of the foot were acquired by laser speckle contrast imaging (Perimed Inc., Sweden) at  $37 \pm 0.2$  °C under isoflurane anesthesia. Data were analyzed with PIMSoft, a PeriCam-dedicated computer program (Perimed Inc., Sweden) and reported as the ratio of blood flow in the left/right (L/R) hind limb after background subtraction.

#### **Histology and immunohistochemistry**

 On the day indicated after femoral artery ligation, gastrocnemius muscles were dissected, fixed in 4% PFA for 24 h, dehydrated, embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 7 μm thicknesses, and stained with haematoxylin and eosin (H&E). Areas of necrotic muscle fibers were identified with morphology, differential eosin staining, and infiltrating leukocytes near the degenerating fibers on the whole section at  $\times$  200. Inflammation status was scored based on the number of infiltrated leukocytes.

 For immunofluorescent staining of CD31 and VEGFR2 in gastrocnemius muscles, following deparaffinization, rehydration and antigen retrieval, sections were blocked and incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies followed by fluorescent secondary antibody for 1 h at room temperature. The capillaries were visualized by fluorescent staining with antibodies against CD31 (rat, 1:200, Dianova, Hamburg, Germany) and VEGFR2 (rabbit, 1:200; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA) as well as their respective fluorophoreconjugated secondary antibodies (1:1000; Molecular Probes, Grand Island, NY, USA). The slides were coverslipped using Dapi Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA). The numbers of CD31- and VEGFR2-positive cells were counted in 5 random high-power fields (magnification x 200 or x 400) with 4 mice for each group, respectively.

 For immunostaining for VEGFR2, aortas were fixed in 4% ice-cold PFA overnight, then embedded in paraffin. Slides were deparaffinized, rehydrated, incubated for 30 minutes in diluted normal blocking serum, and then incubated with primary VEGFR2 antibody (rabbit, 1:200; Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA). Sections were then stained with secondary antibody and HRP-DAB detection reagents (brown) and counterstained with haematoxylin (blue).

#### **Global DNA methylation assay**

 Total genomic DNA was isolated from HUVECs using a DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (QIAGEN, Venlo, Netherlands). Global DNA methylation status was assessed using the MethylFlash Methylated DNA quantification kit (Epigentek, Farmingdale, NY, USA) per the manufacturer's instructions.

#### **DNMT activity assay**

 Nuclear proteins were isolated from adenosine-treated HUVECs using an EpiQuik Nuclear Extraction Kit I per the manufacturer's instruction (Epigentek, Farmingdale, NY, USA). DNMT activity of freshly isolated nuclear proteins was quantified using a fluorimetric EpiQuick

DNMT Activity Assay Ultra kit per the manufacturer's instruction (Epigentek, Farmingdale, NY, USA).

#### **Methylated DNA immunoprecipitation-qRT-PCR**

 Methylated DNA immunoprecipitation (MeDIP)-qPCR assay was carried out with a Magnetic Methylated DNA Immunoprecipitation kit (Diagenode, Denville, NJ, USA). Briefly, the ADK KD or control HUVECs were collected and lysed using GenDNA Digestion buffer supplemented with GenDNA proteinase K. The genomic DNA was extracted by phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol and then precipitated by 100% ethanol. To gain fragments of 300 +/- 200 bp size, DNA was sheared using the sonicator XL2000 (Misonix, Farmingdale, NY, USA). Conditions were 10 cycles of 20sec ON/70sec OFF at power level 5. Efficiency of shearing was checked by electrophoresis on an agarose gel. The sonicated DNA was then immunoprecipitated by incubating with the 5-methylcytosine antibody and Magbeads. A portion of sheared DNA was kept as input control. Immune complex-bound beads were washed with washing buffers, and then the proteinase K digestion-recovered DNA was checked for the efficiency of methyl DNA immunoprecipitation of the VEGFR2 promoter region by qPCR using VEGFR2-specific primers with the sequences TGGTCGCTGCGTTTCCTC (forward) and CGGGAGCCGGTTCTTTC (reverse). The MeDIP-qPCR data were analyzed the using [delta]Ct method in which the immunoprecipitated sample Ct value was normalized with the input DNA Ct value, and the percentage of precipitation was calculated using the following formula (%Input  $= 2^{\wedge}$ -[Ct (meDNA-IP)-Ct (Input)] x dilution factor x 100%).

#### **Infinium methylation assay**

 The bisulfite conversion of genomic DNA was conducted using an EZ DNA Methylation Gold kit (Zymo Research). 200ng of converted DNA was analyzed using an Illumina Infinium 450K Methylation array according to the manufacturer's protocols (Illumina). The quantitative value of DNA methylation was calculated from the ratio of fluorescent signals from the methylated alleles to the sum of the signals from the methylated and unmethylated alleles, assigned via the Genome Studio Methylation Software Module (Illumina). Minfi package in Bioconductor (http://bioconductor.org/packages /release/bioc/html/minfi.html) was used for quality control and normalization before statistical analysis. The average of the DNA methylation level across all the CpG sites within a sample was used as an index of the global DNA methylation level of the sample. Student *t*-test analysis from Limma package was used to identify differentially methylated CpG sites between the control shctl group and the shADK group in the methylation array data. Raw *P*-values were converted to false discovery rates (FDRs) based on Benjamini and Hochberg. A FDR < 0.2 was used as the cut-off value to select differentially methylated CpG sites in the genes in the pathway of positive regulation of angiogenesis (n=3, obtained from the AmiGO2).

### **DNA bisulfite sequencing analysis**

 To confirm the methylation status of the VEGFR2 promoters, HUVEC genomic DNA was bisulfite converted using an EpiTect Bisulfite Kit (QIAGEN, Venlo, Netherlands) according to the manufacturer's instructions. After bisulfite conversion, the VEGFR2 promoter region was amplified using the following primers (product size, 612bp): forward, 5'-AAG TTG TTG TTT TGG GAT GTT T-3'; reverse, 5'-AAA TAA ACT CCT TAC CCA CAA A-3'. PCR amplifications were carried out at 95°C for 10 minutes, followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 30

seconds, 54.7°C for 30 seconds and 72°C for 1 minute, with final extension at 72°C for 20 minutes. The resulting PCR products were first checked by agarose gel electrophoresis and then subcloned into a TA vector using a TOPO® Cloning Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Ten positive clones originating from each PCR product were randomly selected for DNA sequencing analysis with T3 primer in an ABI 310 automated sequencing system (ACGT Inc, Wheeling, IL). DNA sequencing results were analyzed by Sequence Scanner Software 2.0 (Applied Biosystems, Grand Island, NY) and BiQ analyzer 2.0 (http://biq-analyzer.bioinf.mpi-sb.mpg.de).

#### **DNA extraction and methylation-specific PCR (MSP)**

 DNA was extracted from MAECs using a DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (QIAGEN, Venlo, Netherlands). Methylation status was determined by methylation-specific PCR using a methylation kit (EpiTect Bisulfite Kit; QIAGEN, Venlo, Netherlands). MethPrimer software was used for prediction of the CpG island of VEGFR2 (NM\_010612.2) and design of methylationspecific primers. The sequences of primers for methylated VEGFR2 at the promoter region were TGTTTTTAGATGCGATTTGTCGTTC (forward) and

AAAATAAAAACTCCCTACGTCCGAC (reverse); for unmethylated VEGFR2 promoter, TTTTTAGATGTGATTTGTTGTTTGG (forward) and

AAAATAAAAACTCCCTACATCCAAC (reverse). The PCR conditions were 94°C for 2 minutes with hot start, and then 94°C for 30 seconds, 58°C and 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 1 min, repeated for 35 cycles. The template DNA for a positive control was mouse genomic DNA that was enzymatically methylated at all CpGs by M.SssI methyltransferase 1 (Thermo Scientific, Grand Island, NY, USA). Template DNA for a negative control was a fragment of unmethylated mouse DNA amplified with a pair of primers (forward:

ACACAGCTTACTCTCTTGGG; reverse: ACTGACCAACTCACTGCAAG). The subsequent 485 bp product contains a MSP-amplified DNA fragment. Image J was used for semiquantitative measurement of methylated and unmethylated VEGFR2. Methylated VEGFR2 was normalized by comparison with unmethylated VEGFR2. The experiments were repeated three times.

#### **Measurement of intracellular cAMP**

 The cAMP concentrations were determined using a Cyclic AMP XP® assay kit (Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, HUVECs were seeded at a density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well in a 96-well plate and incubated overnight. Following exposure to the indicated chemicals, the cells were washed with ice-cold PBS and lysed with ice-cold  $1 \times$  lysis buffer. The HRP-linked cAMP solution was added to the assay plate, incubated at room temperature for 3 h, followed by 4 washes with the  $1\times$  wash buffer. The TMB substrate was then added and the absorbance was measured at 450 nm. The cAMP concentration of the sample was calculated using a cAMP standard curve.

#### **Videomicroscopic assessment of arteriolar responsiveness**

 Videomicroscopy of isolated skeletal muscle (m. gracilis) arterioles were performed as previously described (Bagi et al, 2005). Briefly, arterioles (diameter:  $\sim 100 \mu m$ ) were dissected from the m. gracilis obtained from  $ADK<sup>f/f</sup>$  (n=5) and  $ADK<sup>f/f</sup>/Cdh5<sup>Cre</sup>$  mice (n=5). Isolated arterioles were cannulated at both ends and pressurized (70 mmHg) with the use of hydrostatic pressure reservoirs. Changes in arteriolar diameter were measured with a videocaliper (Colorado Instruments, Colorado Springs, CO, USA) in response to cumulative concentrations of the

endothelium-dependent vasodilator acetylcholine (ACh,  $10^{-10}$  - $10^{-6}$  M) or to the potent vasoconstrictor, serotonin  $(5-HT, 10^{-10} - 10^{-6} M)$ .

#### **Measurement of intracellular adenosine, SAM and SAH levels**

 Adenosine was measured with reversed-phase HPLC. Briefly, supernatants of HUVEC lysates with protein concentration at 1 mg/mL were separated with a  $C_{18}$  reversed-phase analytical column (250 mm x 4.6 mm I.D., 5 μm particle) (Aglient, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The mobile phase consisted of two solvents. Solvent A is a solution of  $0.031M$  Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O and 0.068M NaH2PO4·2H2O adjusted to pH 6.3. Solvent B is a solution of 100% methanol. Solvent A was filtered through a 0.2-μm membrane filter prior to use in the assay. To detect adenosine, the HPLC column was first equilibrated with 80% Solvent A and 20% Solvent B and was held constant at the equilibration conditions for 10min. The flow-rate was 1 mL/min, and detection was monitored at 254 nm. A 20-μl aliquot of the acid extract was applied directly onto the HPLC column. The identity of adenosine was determined by comparing retention times to an adenosine standard and was further confirmed by enzymatic peak shift analysis. The results  $(\mu m/mg)$ indicate the adenosine concentrations  $(\mu \text{mol/L})$  in the cell lysates with protein concentration at 1 mg/mL.

 SAH and SAM were measured with reversed-phase HPLC. Briefly, supernatants of HUVEC lysates were separated with a  $C_{18}$  reversed-phase analytical column (250 mm x 4.6 mm I.D., 5 μm particle) (Aglient, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The mobile phase consisted of two solvents. Solvent A is a solution of 8 mM octane sulfonic acid sodium salt and 50 mM NaH<sub>2</sub> PO<sub>4</sub> adjusted to pH 3.0 with  $H_3$  PO<sub>4</sub>. Solvent B is a solution of 100% methanol. Solvent A was filtered through a 0.2-mm membrane filter before use in the assay. The HPLC column was first

equilibrated with 80% Solvent A and 20% Solvent B and then injected with sample. Separation was obtained using a step gradient with 8 min at the equilibration conditions, 30 s to increase Solvent B to 40%, 12.5 min at the new condition, and 30 s to return to the equilibration conditions. There was a minimum of 10 min before a subsequent injection. The flow-rate was 1 ml/min, and detection was monitored at 254 nm. A 25-µl aliquot of the acid extract was applied directly onto the HPLC column. SAM and SAH were identified based on their retention times and co-chromatography of SAM and SAH standards. Quantification was based on integration of peak areas and compared to the standard calibration curves of SAM and SAH.

#### **Statistical analysis**

The data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SD and were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-hoc test or Student's *t*-test to evaluate two-tailed levels of significance. Two-way repeated-measures ANOVA with Bonferroni's post-hoc test was done to assess wound size and perfusion improvement over time within groups. The null hypothesis was rejected at  $P \leq$ 0.05.

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