

1 SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

2 MATERIALS & METHODS

3 **AAV8-PCSK9 viral vector preparation** – DNA for pAAV/D377Y-mPCSK9 (Addgene plasmid #58376),
4 a gift from Jacob Bentzon¹ was packaged into adeno-associated virus serotype 8 (AAV8) using helper
5 and capsid plasmids from the University of Pennsylvania.^{2, 3} Viral stocks were sterilized via Millipore
6 Millex-GV syringe filter (Billerica, MA), tittered by dot blot assay, aliquoted, and stored frozen until use.
7 Final product will be referred to as AAV8-PCSK9.

8 **Animals and tissue harvest** – Animal protocols were approved by the LSU Health Sciences Center-
9 Shreveport institutional animal care and use committee, and all animals were cared for according to the
10 National Institute of Health guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals. 6- to 8-week old,
11 C57BL/6J mice were purchased from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME) and were used for the
12 generation of bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) as described in the section titled
13 “Generation of bone marrow-derived macrophages”. Mice harboring a *Lpin1* allele with exons 3 and 4
14 of the *Lpin1* gene flanked by LoxP sites (genetic background: C57BL/6J and SV129) were generously
15 provided by Brian Finck and Roman Chrast.^{4, 5} To generate mice with the *Lpin1* gene selectively
16 inactivated in myeloid-derived cells, the *Lpin1* floxed (lipin-1^{flox/flox}) mice were mated with *LysM-Cre*
17 transgenic mice purchased from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME). The resulting offspring were
18 deficient in lipin-1 enzymatic activity within myeloid-derived cells (lipin-1^{mEnzyKO}). Experimental lipin-
19 1^{mEnzyKO} mice were compared with lipin-1^{flox/flox} littermate control mice; 8- to 10-week old mice were
20 used for all studies. Mice were given retro-orbital injections of 3x10¹⁰ vector genomes of AAV8-PCSK9.
21 Immediately following the AAV8-PCSK9 injection the mice were switched to a high fat, Western diet
22 (TD 88137; Harlan-Teklad, Madison, WI) that contained 21% fat by weight (0.15% cholesterol and
23 19.5% casein without sodium cholate) for 8 or 12 weeks before euthanasia. Mice were weighed once a
24 week after starting high fat diet. After 8 or 12 weeks on high fat diet, mice were euthanized by
25 exsanguination and pneumothorax under isoflurane anesthesia. Blood was collected by vena cava
26 puncture into heparinized blood collection tubes, centrifuged at 5,000 rpm for 5 minutes, and plasma
27 was isolated and frozen at -80°C until analysis. Following blood collection, mice were perfused with 1X
28 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), the heart and aorta were fixed in 4% neutral buffered formaldehyde
29 for analysis, and additional tissue (heart and lung) was collected for Western blot or flow cytometric
30 analysis.

31 **Plaque & Blood Analysis** – Aortas were harvested, cleaned of adventitia, cut open longitudinally,
32 stained using 0.5% Oil Red O (Sigma Aldrich) prepared in 60% isopropanol, and pinned open. Vessels
33 were visualized on a DS-Fil camera (Nikon) attached to a multizoom AZ100 microscope (Nikon), and
34 plaque burden was analyzed using Nikon Elements software and expressed as a percentage of total
35 aortic area. Total and HDL cholesterol (Wako) and triglyceride levels (Pointe Scientific) were measured
36 using commercially available kits. LDL was calculated using the Friedewald equation.

37 **Histology and Image Quantification** – Aortic roots were fixed in 4% neutral buffered formaldehyde,
38 embedded in paraffin, and cut into 5 µm sections. All sections were taken from the same site at equal
39 distance from anatomical landmarks (initiation of valve leaflets). Russell-Movat Pentachrome staining
40 was performed to determine plaque area. Images were collected using an Olympus BX40 microscope
41 and quantification of the lesion area inside the internal elastic lamina was determined using Nikon
42 Elements imaging software.

43 **Immunofluorescence** – Aortic roots were fixed in 4% neutral buffered formaldehyde for 24
44 hours and then processed for paraffin embedding. Paraffin blocks were sectioned into 5 µm
45 sections. All sections within each regimen were taken from the same site at equal distance
46 from anatomical landmark (initiation of valve leaflets). Tissue sections were rehydrated and

47 antigen retrieval was performed in 10 mM citrate buffer (0.1M citric acid and 0.1M sodium
48 citrate) using a microwave oven. Sections were blocked in blocking buffer (1% bovine serum
49 albumin (BSA) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)) for at least one hour at room temperature.
50 Sections were rinsed with Tris-buffered saline with 0.1% Tween 20 (TBST) three times.
51 Primary antibodies were added and kept at 4°C overnight. Sections were again rinsed with
52 three washes of TBST. Secondary antibodies, all diluted 1:200, were added and allowed to
53 incubate for 2 hours at room temperature. Sections were washed in PBS then 3-3'-
54 diaminobenzidine (DAPI, Molecular Probes, D-3571) was added at a 1:50,000 dilution for 10
55 minutes at room temperature. Slides were imaged using a Nikon Eclipse Ti inverted
56 epifluorescence microscope equipped with a Photometrics CoolSNAP120 ES2 camera and
57 images were prepared using Nikon Elements software. Primary antibodies used include:
58 1:10,000 anti-mouse Mac2 (Accurate Chem., CL8942AP), 1:200 anti-rabbit smooth muscle
59 myosin heavy chain 11 (Abcam, ab53219), and 1:400 anti-mouse α -smooth muscle actin-Cy3
60 (Sigma Aldrich, C6198). Secondary antibodies used include: Alexa Fluor® 647 donkey anti-
61 rabbit IgG (A31573) and Alexa Fluor® 488 donkey anti-rat IgG (A21208) purchased from Life
62 Technologies.

63 **Immunocytochemistry** – 1×10^6 C57BL/6 BMDMs were seeded on glass coverslips for 2 hours in a 6-
64 well plate. BMDMs were treated with 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ oxLDL for 4, 24, and 48 hours. Following treatments,
65 cells were fixed in 4% PFA, washed twice with 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS), and blocked for 30
66 minutes in 10% BSA in PBS with 0.1% saponin (BSP). Primary antibodies were diluted and added in
67 BSP for 2 hours at room temperature. After washing three times with PBS, secondary antibody diluted
68 1:200 was added in BSP for 2 hours at room temperature. Coverslips were washed again three times
69 with PBS and then mounted with DAPI slowfade (Invitrogen, S36938). Representative images were
70 taken on a Leica TCS SP5 Confocal Microscope at 40X magnification with oil immersion.
71 Representative images are shown as equally enhanced using Image J software. Cells were scored for
72 nuclear cJun or nuclear p65, and at least 100 cells were counted from at least 3 fields per condition for
73 each experiment, performed in triplicate. Primary antibodies used included NF- κB p65 (1:70) (Cell
74 Signaling, 8242S) and total cJun (1:50) (Thermo Scientific, MA5-15172). Secondary antibody used was
75 Alexa Fluor® 594 AffiniPure F(ab')₂ Fragment Donkey Anti-Rabbit IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch, 711-
76 586-152).

77 **LDL oxidation** – Human LDL (Kalen Biomedical) was oxidized by incubation with copper (II) sulfate
78 (CuSO_4) as previously described.⁶ In short, human LDL was dialyzed in 1X phosphate buffered saline
79 (PBS) pH 7.6 for 24 hours at room temperature using a 7000 MWCO Slide-A-Lyzer® Dialysis cassette
80 (Thermo Scientific) to remove EDTA. The buffer was changed to fresh 1X PBS containing 13.8 μM
81 CuSO_4 for an additional 72 hours at room temperature. The cassette was transferred to fresh 1X PBS
82 containing 50 μM EDTA for 24 hours at 4°C to remove excess copper. Finally, the cassette was
83 transferred to fresh 1X PBS containing 50 μM EDTA for another 24 hours. Oxidized LDL (oxLDL) was
84 then collected and stored at 4°C. All steps were performed under sterile conditions. Acetylated LDL
85 (acLDL) was purchased from Alfa Aesar (J65029 BT-906). This methodology results in oxLDL that
86 consistently displays a relative electrophoretic mobility between 2 and 3. Relative electrophoretic
87 mobility of the oxLDL was 3.1 and the acLDL was 3.0.

88 **Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) Assay** – Oxidized LDL (oxLDL) prepared in the lab and acetylated
89 LDL (acLDL) purchased from Alfa Aesar (J65029 BT-906) were tested for endotoxin. The Pierce LAL
90 Chromogenic Endotoxin Quantitation Kit (ThermoFisher) was used as per manufacturers instructions.
91 OxLDL contained 0.2 endotoxin units (EU) per mg and acLDL contained 0.5 EU per mg.

92 **Generation of bone marrow-derived macrophages** – Murine, bone marrow-derived macrophages
93 (BMDMs) were generated by flushing the bone marrow from the femurs of male 6- to 8-week-old

94 C57BL/6, lipin-1^{mEnzyKO}, or lipin-1^{flox/flox} mice with BMDM differentiation medium (KnockOut™
95 Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; Gibco, 10829) supplemented with 30% L-cell conditioned
96 medium, 20% fetal bovine serum (Atlas Biologicals), 2mM L-glutamine (HyClone), 100 U/ml penicillin-
97 streptomycin (ATCC), 1mM sodium pyruvate (HyClone), and 0.2% sodium bicarbonate). Red blood
98 cells were removed by ammonium chloride-potassium carbonate lysis. Isolated cells were incubated for
99 7 days in BMDM differentiation medium at 37°C and 5% CO₂. BMDMs were collected by removing
100 medium, washing cells with 1X sterile phosphate buffered saline without Ca²⁺ or Mg²⁺ (PBS; HyClone)
101 then incubated with 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.6, in 1X PBS to lift cells from the plate. BMDMs were then
102 placed into complete DMEM (DMEM (Lonza, 12-741) 10% fetal bovine serum (Atlas Biologicals),
103 2mM L-glutamine (HyClone), 100 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin (ATCC), and 1mM sodium pyruvate
104 (HyClone)).

105 **L-cell conditioned medium** – The murine fibroblast cell line L929 (ATCC CCL-1) was grown in RPMI
106 1640 (Hyclone, SH30027.01) supplemented with 10% FBS (Atlas Biologicals), 2 mM L-glutamine
107 (Hyclone), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Hyclone), and 100 U/mL penicillin/streptomycin (ATCC). In short,
108 3.75x10⁵ cells were seeded in a T225 tissue culture flask with 75 mL medium. The flask was incubated
109 for 12 days at 37°C. Medium was collected, cleared of cell debris by centrifugation, filtered (0.22 µm),
110 and stored at -80°C until use.

111 **siRNA treatment** – Bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) were collected in complete DMEM
112 medium and counted. 5x10⁶ BMDMs were transfected using Amaxa™ P3 Primary Cell 4D-
113 Nucleofector™ X Kit L (Lonza) with 300 pmols of appropriate siRNA. cJun Silencer® Select Pre-
114 designed siRNA (Ambion® IDs: s68563 and s201552) and Accel™ Control siRNA eGFP siRNA #1
115 (Thermo Scientific, D-001940-01-20) were used. Cells were seeded in complete DMEM medium
116 (DMEM (Lonza, 12-741) 10% fetal bovine serum (Atlas Biologicals), 2mM L-glutamine (HyClone), 100
117 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin (ATCC), and 1mM sodium pyruvate (HyClone)) at a concentration of 8x10⁵
118 cells/well in a 12-well plate. Cells were incubated at 37°C for 4 hours prior to treatment.

119 **Nile Red Staining** – 1.1x10⁶ BMDMs in complete DMEM (DMEM (Lonza, 12-741) 10% fetal bovine
120 serum (Atlas Biologicals), 2mM L-glutamine (HyClone), 100 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin (ATCC), and
121 1mM sodium pyruvate (HyClone)) media were placed into a polypropylene flow cytometry tubes (VWR,
122 60818-500). 50 µg/mL of oxLDL (Alfa Aesar, J65261) was added to the tubes. BMDMs were incubated
123 with oxLDL for 24 hours. Tubes were spun at 350Xg for 10 minutes. Complete DMEM medium was
124 removed and BMDMs were fixed in 10% formalin for 20 minutes. BMDMs were then washed in FACS
125 wash (1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with 1% bovine serum albumin and 0.1% sodium azide).
126 Each sample was split equally in two new polypropylene flow tubes. Unstained tubes were left
127 untreated and the remaining tubes were spun at 350Xg for 10 minutes and brought back up in 100
128 ng/mL of Nile Red (Thermo Scientific, N1142) in 1X PBS. After 5 minutes, BMDMs were washed with
129 1X PBS and reconstituted in 0.5 mL of 1X PBS. Flow cytometry was performed on an LSR II Flow
130 Cytometer (BD Biosciences).

131 **Inhibitors** – Inhibitors used include 1 µM Gö6976 (EMD Millipore, 365253) and 10 µM U0126 (Sigma
132 Aldrich, 662005). Inhibitors were added 24 hours after the initial stimulation (with either 25 µg/mL
133 oxLDL or 10 ng/mL LPS) and cells or supernatants were collected at 48 hours after initial stimulation.

134 **Quantitative Real-Time PCR (qRT-PCR)** – mRNA was extracted from BMDMs with RNA-STAT 60
135 reagent (Amsbio) per manufacturer's instructions and converted to cDNA using qScript cDNA SuperMix
136 (Quantabio). qRT-PCR was performed in a Biorad iCycler with SsoAdvanced Universal SYBER Green
137 SuperMix (BioRad). Primers (Supplemental Table 1) were designed using online Beacon Designer
138 software. PCR products were verified by the presence of a single peak in melt curve analysis. Results
139 were normalized to the housekeeping gene, Rpl13a, and expressed as a fold change using the 2^{-ΔΔCt}
140 method.

141 **Tissue processing for Western blot analysis** – Tissues were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and
142 stored at -80°C until use. Tissue was lysed in RIPA buffer (150 mM sodium chloride, 1% NP-40, 0.5%
143 sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 50 mM Tris, pH 8, and 1 mM PMSF). Homogenization was
144 performed using the Biojector® 2000 (iHealthNet). Homogenized tissue was placed on a rotator for 30
145 minutes at 4°C. Samples were then centrifuged for 5 minutes at 15,000Xg. Resulting pellets were re-
146 suspended in denaturing lysis buffer (1X NuPage LDS sample buffer containing 100 mM dithiothreitol
147 (DTT; Life Technologies), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Thermo Scientific), 1 X phosphatase inhibitor
148 cocktail 2 (Sigma Aldrich), and 1X phosphatase inhibitor cocktail 3 (Sigma Aldrich)).

149 **Western blot analysis** – BMDMs were lysed in denaturing lysis buffer (1X NuPage LDS sample buffer
150 containing 100 mM dithiothreitol (DTT; Life Technologies), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Thermo
151 Scientific), 1X phosphatase inhibitor cocktail 1 (Sigma Aldrich), and 1X phosphatase inhibitor cocktail 3
152 (Sigma Aldrich)). Protein concentration of BMDM or tissue samples (described above) was determined
153 by Peirce® 660 nm Protein Assay (Thermo Scientific). 20 µg of total protein for each sample was loaded
154 onto a 4 to 12% polyacrylamide NuPAGE Novex gel (Invitrogen). MOPS (50 mM 4-
155 morpholinepropanesulfonic acid, 50 mM Tris base, 0.1% SDS, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.7) running buffer was
156 used to run the gel. Proteins were separated at 200V for 55 minutes and semidry transfer (Novex,
157 SD1000) was performed for 45 minutes at 20 V onto a polyvinylidene difluoride (Immobilon-FL)
158 membrane (EMD Millipore). The membranes were blocked for 1 hour at room temperature in 10% Li-
159 Cor blocking buffer (Li-Cor Biosciences) in 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Primary antibodies
160 were diluted 1:1,000 in 1% BSA in PBS with 0.01% sodium azide, excluding β-actin which was diluted
161 1:80,000, and were incubated on the membranes overnight at 4°C on a rocker. Secondary antibodies
162 were diluted 1:2,000 in 5% milk with Tris-buffered saline with 0.1% Tween 20 (TBST) plus 0.01% SDS
163 and incubated with membranes for 2 hours at room temperature. The membranes were washed three
164 times, for 15 minutes each, with TBST while rocking after incubation with both primary and secondary
165 antibodies. ImmunoCruz Western blotting luminol reagent (Santa Cruz, sc-2048) was mixed and added
166 to blots for 1 minute. Exposures were taken with UltraCruz autoradiography film (Santa Cruz, sc-
167 201697). Films were scanned and densitometry was performed using Image J analysis software. Bands
168 of interest were normalized to β-actin or PCNA for statistical analysis. Primary antibodies were as
169 follows: p38 MAPK (9212S), p-p38 MAPK (4631), SAPK/JNK (9252), p-SAPK/JNK (4668), p44/42
170 MAPK (9102), p-p44/42 MAPK (4370), p-c-Jun (3270), c-Fos (4384), p-c-Fos (5348), NF-κB p65
171 (8242), p-PKCα/β II (9375), p-PKCδ (9374), p-PKCθ (9377), PKD/PKCμ (2052), p-PKD/PKCμ (2054),
172 lipin-1 (14906) (all purchased from Cell Signaling), c-Jun (Thermo Scientific, MA5-15172), PKCδ (sc-
173 8402) and PCNA (sc-7907) (purchased from Santa Cruz), β-actin (Sigma Aldrich, A2228), and PKCβII
174 (Abcam, ab38279). Secondary antibodies were as follows: goat anti-rabbit IgG-HRP (sc-2004) and goat
175 anti-mouse IgG-HRP (sc-2005) (purchased from Santa Cruz).

176 **Cholesterol ester & Glycerolipid Analysis** – Extraction procedure and LC-MS/MS method adapted
177 with modifications from Hutchins *et. al.*⁷. Cell pellets were thawed on ice, re-suspended in 1 mL PBS
178 and sonicated for 1 minute. 500 µL of the cell homogenate was transferred to a borosilicate culture tube
179 and spiked with 300 pmol of internal standards: 1,3(d₅)-dinonadecanoyl-2-dodecanoyl-glycerol, 1,3(d₅)-
180 dinonadecanoyl-glycerol, 17:0 cholest-5-en-3β-yl heptadecanoate (Avanti® Polar Lipids, Inc). Samples
181 were extracted with 2 mL of 75:25 (v/v) isooctane-ethyl acetate. The phases were separated by
182 centrifugation (7 min, 1000 x g), and the organic layer was transferred to a clean borosilicate tube. The
183 sample was then extracted further with another 2 mL of 75:25 (v/v) isooctane-ethyl acetate. Combined
184 organic fractions were evaporated on a vacuum centrifuge. The residue was reconstituted in 100 µL of
185 4.5% methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) in hexane and transferred to a new vial for analysis. Vials were
186 immediately placed in cooled (4°C) autosampler. Separation by normal phase high performance liquid
187 chromatography (HPLC) was performed by loading 10 µL of each sample onto a 150 x 2 mm, 3 micron,
188 Phenomenex Luna® silica column fitted with a 2.1 mm 2 µm assay frit. Lipid classes were separated by
189 a 0.3 mL/min gradient of MTBE in hexane over 11 minutes. 4.5% MTBE was isocratic from 0 to 3

190 minutes; from 3 to 7.5 minutes MTBE was ramped to 45% where it was held until 9.5 minutes. MTBE
191 was returned to 4.5% from 9.5 to 10 minutes where it remained until the end of the run at 11 minutes.
192 Before entry into the mass spectrometer, the eluent was modified via a mixing tee by the addition of 0.2
193 mL/min of an electrospray solvent containing 10 mM ammonium acetate in 45:45:5:5 (v/v/v/v),
194 isopropanol-acetonitrile-water-dichloromethane delivered by a third HPLC pump (shimadzu LC-10AD).
195 Online LC-ESI MS/MS was performed on a QTRAP 6500 hybrid quadrupole/linear ion-trap mass
196 spectrometer (AB Sciex). The relative abundance of glycerolipid species was monitored by neutral loss
197 mass spectrometry. The instrument was operated in positive ion mode with an ion spray voltage of
198 5500 V. Neutral losses ($[M+NH_4]^+$) of m/z 245 (14:0), 271 (16:1), 273 (16:0), 295 (18:3), 297 (18:2), 299
199 (18:1), 301 (18:0), 319 (20:5), 321 (20:4), were monitored using full scans over m/z 550 to m/z 1,000
200 collected every 2.4 seconds from 1.5 minutes to the end of the run at 11 minutes. Detection of
201 cholesterol ester species was accomplished by using precursor ion scans in positive ion mode every
202 620 ms from 0-1.5 minutes with a product mass of m/z 369, $[M+NH_4]^+$. Qualitative abundance of lipid
203 species was determined using MultiQuant 2.1 software (Sciex). LC-MS/MS was conducted in the LIPID
204 MAPS mass spectrometry facility in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of California San
205 Diego, La Jolla, CA.

206 **ELISA Immunoassay Analysis** – TNF- α was measured using a commercially available Mouse TNF
207 alpha ELISA Ready-SET-Go![®] kit (Affymetrix eBioscience) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

208 **Isolation and Staining of Splenocytes** – Spleens were homogenized in FACS wash buffer (1%
209 bovine serum albumin, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.1% sodium azide in phosphate buffered saline). The
210 spleens were strained with a 40 μ m cell strainer (Falcon, 352340) followed by centrifugation at 300Xg
211 for 5 minutes. The supernatant was decanted and cells were dislodged in 3 mLs of ACK lysis buffer
212 (0.15 M NH_4Cl , 10 mM $KHCO_3$, 0.1 mM NA_2EDTA , adjusted to pH 7.2 and filter sterilized in 0.22 μ m
213 filter). Cells were incubated on ice for 5 minutes. Cells were washed in FACS wash buffer with
214 centrifugation. The pellet was re-suspended in 10 mLs RPMI 1640 (HyClone, SH30027.01), strained
215 (Falcon, 352340), and counted. Cells were adjusted to 5×10^6 cells/mL in RPMI. 100 μ L of cells were
216 mixed with 100 μ L of blocking buffer (CD16/32 diluted in FACS wash buffer) and incubated at 4°C for
217 20 minutes. Cells were centrifuged at 1,500 rpm for 5 minutes and the supernatant was discarded.
218 Primary labeled antibodies (50 μ L per well) were added, light protected, and incubated at 4°C for 30
219 minutes. Cells were washed 3 times in FACS wash buffer with centrifugation. Cells were re-suspended
220 in cold FACS/fix solution (FACS wash buffer with 0.1% formaldehyde), light protected, and incubated
221 for 30 minutes at 4°C. Cells were washed in FACS wash buffer with centrifugation then cells were
222 transferred to tubes in 500 μ L FACS wash buffer. Flow cytometric analysis was performed on a BD
223 LSR II (San Jose, CA). Antibodies used include: 1:800 CD11cBV786 (563735), 1:50 CD45.2 BV605
224 (56305), 1:1,000 CD3 PerCP (561089), and 1:800 Ly6G Fitc (551460) purchased from BD Biosciences,
225 and 1:4,000 CD4 e450 (48-0041-80), 1:2,000 CD8 APCe780 (47-0081-80), 1:400 NK1.1 APCe (17-
226 5941-63), 1:4,000 CD11b PECy7 (15-0112-81), 1:4,000 CD19 Pee610 (61-0193-80), 1:4,000 Ly6C PE
227 (12-5932-80) and 1:200 CD16/CD32 (16-0161-81) purchased from eBioscience.

228 **Statistical analysis** – GraphPad Prism 5.0 (La Jolla, CA) was used for statistical analyses. Student T-
229 Test analysis was used for comparison between two data sets (FIG 1D). All other statistical significance
230 was determined using a one-way ANOVA analysis of variance with a Dunnett's post-test, $P \leq 0.05$.

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SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

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