Selective deletion of PPAR β/δ in fibroblasts causes dermal fibrosis by attenuated LRG1 expression.

Ming Keat SNG^{1,3}, Jeremy Soon Kiat CHAN¹, Ziqiang TEO¹, Terri PHUA^{1,2}, Eddie Han Pin TAN¹, Jonathan Wei Kiat WEE¹, Nikki Jun Ning KOH¹, Chek Kun TAN³, Jia Peng CHEN³, Mintu PAL⁴, Benny Meng Kiat TONG⁵, Ya Lin TNAY⁵, Xuan Rui NG³, Pengcheng ZHU¹, Shunsuke CHIBA⁵, Xiaomeng WANG^{3,6,7,8}, Walter WAHLI^{3,9,10} and Nguan Soon TAN^{1,3,6,11}

¹School of Biological Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, 60 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637551.

²Karolinska Institutet, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Nobels väg 16, Stockholm 17177, Sweden.

³Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Novena Campus, 11 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308232.

⁴Biological Sciences and Technology Division, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, Assam 785006, India

⁵School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371.

⁶Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, 61 Biopolis Drive, Proteos, Agency for Science Technology & Research, Singapore 138673.

⁷Department of Cell Biology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, United Kingdom.

⁸Singapore Eye Research Institute, Singapore 169856.

⁹INRA ToxAlim, UMR1331, Chemin de Tournefeuille, Toulouse Cedex 3, France.

¹⁰Center for Integrative Genomics, University of Lausanne, Le Genopode, Lausanne, Switzerland.

¹¹KK Research Centre, KK Women's and Children Hospital, 100 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 229899.

Correspondences to: MKS: Email: <u>mksng@ntu.edu.sg</u> NST (Senior Corresponding Author): Email: <u>nstan@ntu.edu.sg</u> Tel: +65 6316 2941; Fax: +65 6791 3856

Supplementary Figure Legends

Figure S1. FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} mice are viable and have thicker epidermis and dermis.

(a) Representative scatterplots and gel runs of CD45⁺ (left panel), CD31⁺ and MHC⁺ positive cells (right panel) from indicated tissues of FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-}and *Pparb/d*^{fl/fl} mice. The diagram showed the relative position of the multiplex genotyping primers, resulting in a larger deleted PPAR β/δ allele compared to floxed PPAR β/δ allele type.

(b) Relative PPAR α , PPAR β/δ , and PPAR γ mRNA and protein levels in human fibroblasts transfected with either control (siScrambled) or PPAR β/δ (siPPAR β/δ) siRNAs. Representative immunoblots are shown. 18S rRNA served as housekeeping gene. β -tubulin that served as housekeeping protein was from the same samples. Values are mean \pm S.D. (n=3). (c) Average number of male versus female pups in each litter. n.s., not significant.

(d) Body length of male and female mutant mice over 6-week post birth. Values represent mean \pm S.D. (n=35 for male and n=40 for female mice).

(e) Thickness of the hypodermis and skeletal muscle for both genotypes at weeks 1, 4, and 8. Values represent mean \pm S.D. (n=10).

(**f-g**) Representative sections of colorimetric staining of PCNA (d) and TGase1 (e) in the skin tissues of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice. Scale bar = 50 μ m.

(h) Representative macroscopic images of liver from FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice. (i) Representative immunoblots of type I collagen and β -actin from gastrointestinal tract and liver of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice.

(**j-l**) Representative sections of H&E (j), immunohistochemical staining of PCNA (k) and Ly-6C/Ly-6G (l) for vehicle- (Veh) and TPA-treated skins of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice. Scale bar = 50 μ m. **P* < 0.05; ***P* < 0.01; ****P* < 0.001; n.s., not significant.

Figure S2. FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} mice show greater wound contraction.

(a) Representative PicroSiruis Red staining against collagen in the skins of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice at 1 and 8 weeks of age (n=3 for each age). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

(**b**) Representative transmission electron microscopy images of dermis of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* and *Pparb/d^{fl/fl}* mice. Scale bars = 0.2 μ m (inset) and 1 μ m.

(c) Macroscopic images of wounds from FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} and *Pparb/d*^{fl/fl} mice at indicated day post-injury.

(d) Representative images of wound contraction at indicated day post-injury. Wound contraction is determined using the distance between the first hair follicles at the wound edges. Red arrows indicate wound edges. Scale bar = $500 \mu m$.

(e) Frequency of male and female FSPCre- $Pparb/d^{-/-}$ mice that were positive for antinucleosome antibodies in their plasma. Seven male and 22 female mice were studied.

Figure S3. Microarray analyses of an intrinsic scleroderma gene set comprising 995 genes in mouse models of scleroderma and human SSc samples. Microarray datasets from FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} mice were hierarchically clustered with microarray datasets from Tsk1/2 heterozygous mutant mice, bleomycin-induced fibrosis mice, SGVHD mice, and human SSc. Each mouse model or human disease cluster is represented by a unique color. Microarray datasets for other mouse models of scleroderma and human SSc were downloaded from the NCBI GEO database. The white box represents a subset of 110 genes that are upregulated in human fibroproliferative SSc and well-represented by Tsk1/2 heterozygous mutant mice, bleomycin-induced fibrosis mice and SGVHD mice. The black box represents a subset of 113 genes that are downregulated in human fibroproliferative SSc and well-represented by FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} mice. Bar charts represent the gene ontologies (GO) associated with the 995 gene set, ranked by –log(p-value).

Figure S4. Gene ontology (GO) analyses of epidermis and dermis.

(a) GO of genes altered in the epidermis of FSPCre-*Pparb/d*^{-/-} mice. Genes that were altered were highly associated with lipid metabolism (80 genes). Out of these 80 genes, approximately 60% (40 genes) were associated with inflammatory responses. One of the most up-regulated genes was arachidonate 5-lipoxygenase activating protein (*Alox5ap*; circled in red), with an up-regulation of approximately 4.6-fold.

(**b**) GO of genes altered in the dermis of FSPCre-*Pparb/d^{-/-}* mice. Altered genes were highly associated with cellular function and maintenance, which could alter the behavior and function of fibroblasts in the dermis. Leucine-rich a-2-glycoprotein 1 (*Lrg1*) was one of the most down-regulated genes detected upon fibroblast-specific deletion of *Pparb/d*. This down-regulation was approximately 4-fold.

Figure S5. *Lrg1* is a novel direct target of PPAR β/δ .

(a) Schematic diagram showing the relative position of PPRE sequences in mouse and human *Lrg1* (red boxes) and their respective NUBIScan scores.

(b) Representative immunoblots of PPAR β/δ and Lrg1 from fibroblasts of normal (n = 9) and sclerodermic patients (n = 28). GAPDH served as housekeeping protein and was from the same samples. Densitometric values were used for the correlation plot.

Supplementary Table

Supplementary Table S1. Primer sequences used in this study (5' to 3').

Mouse Genotyping									
PPAR β/δ Exons 4/5 Forward	GCA	GCT	GCT	CAG	CTG	CCT	GC		
PPAR β/δ Exon 4 Reverse	CCG	ССТ	CTC	GCC	ATC	CTT	TCA	GA	
PPAR β/δ Exon 5 Reverse	CAG	GTG	CTG	GGC	GCC	CTC	TGA	CAG	AAT
FSP1Cre Control Forward	CTA	GGC	CAC	AGA	ATT	GAA	AGA	TC	
FSP1Cre Control Reverse	GTA	GGT	GGA	AAT	TCT	AGC	ATC	ATC	С
FSP1Cre Transgene Forward	GCG	GTC	TGG	CAG	TAA	AAA	CTA	TC	
FSP1Cre Transgene Reverse	GTG	AAA	CAG	CAT	TGC	TGT	CAC	TT	
Real-time qPCR									
Mouse PPARa Forward	TCG	GCG	AAC	TAT	TCG	GCT	G		
Mouse PPARa Reverse	GCA	CTT	GTG	AAA	ACG	GCA	GT		
Mouse PPAR β/δ Forward	TTG	AGC	CCA	AGT	TCG	AGT	TTG		
Mouse PPAR β/δ Reverse	CGG	TCT	CCA	CAC	AGA	ATG	ATG		
Mouse PPARy Forward	TGT	GGG	GAT	AAA	GCA	TCA	GGC		
Mouse PPARy Reverse	CCG	GCA	GTT	AAG	ATC	ACA	CCT	AT	
Human Lrg1 Forward	CAG	ACA	GCG	ACC	AAA	AAG	С		
Human Lrgl Reverse	GGA	ACA	CCT	GGC	AGT	CTT	ΤG		
Human Tgfbr2 Forward	CGT	GGA	GTC	GTT	CAA	GCA	GAC	G	
Human Tgfbr2 Reverse	CCG	CAC	CTT	GGA	ACC	AAA	TGG		
Human Smad3 Forward	GAA	CGT	CAA	CAC	CAA	GTG	CAT		
Human Smad3 Reverse	ACG	CAG	ACC	TCG	TCC	TTC	Т		
Human Col1A2 Forward	GGT	CTC	GGT	GGG	AAC	TTT	G		
Human Col1A2 Reverse	CCA	GGT	GGG	CCT	CTA	GGT			
Rpl27 Forward	CGC	AAA	GCT	GTC	ATC	GTG			

Rpl27 Reverse	GTC ACT TTG CGG GGG TAG								
18S Forward	GTA ACC CGT TGA ACC CCA TT								
18S Reverse	CCA TCC AAT CGG TAG TAG CG								
TBP Forward	GCT GGT TAT CGG GAG TTG G								
TBP Reverse	ACT GGC CTG GTG TCC TAG AG								
Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)									
Human Lrgl Forward	CCA GGA ATA GTG CCT TGC AAA C								
Human Lrgl Reverse	CCA GTC CAG GCA GGT ATA AGG C								
Human Lrgl Negative Forward	CTC CTG GGT GCA AGC AAT TCT C								
Human Lrgl Negative Reverse	GGG ATT ACA GGC GTG AGC CA								
Mouse Lrgl Forward	ACC TGC TTG GTT CCT TGT GGA AGA C								
Mouse Lrg1 Reverse	CAA ACT CAG TCC CTG GAT CCT GGT G								
Mouse Lrg1 Negative Forward	TGT GCG TGT GTG CGA CTC AG								
Mouse Lrg1 Negative Reverse	CTT CGA CCA CCA GCT GAC CAT								

Synthesis of PPAR β/δ *ligands*

¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ [with (CH₃)₄Si ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) as an internal standard]. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ [with residual CHCl₃ (d = 77.00 ppm) as an internal standard]. The following abbreviations are used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sept = septet, br s = broad singlet, m = multiplet. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained with a Finnigan MAT 95 XP mass spectrometer (Thermo Electron Corporation). Flash column chromatography was performed by using Merck silica gel 60 with distilled solvents.

Synthesis of GW501516 (GW)

GW501516 (IUPAC: {4-[({4-methyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,3-thiazol-5yl}methyl)sulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy}acetic acid) was prepared according to reported synthetic route as shown in Scheme 1 (Ham and Kang, 2005).



Scheme 1

Step 1: To a solution of 4-iodo-2-methylphenol (2.46 g, 10.5 mmol) in THF (80 mL) was added isopropylmagnesium chloride (5.3 mL, 2.0 M solution in THF, 10.5 mmol) at 0 °C under a N₂

atmosphere (Edgar and Falling, 1990). The mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0 °C, and then further cooled to -78 °C before tert-butyllithium (12.4 mL, 1.7 M solution in pentane, 21.0 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at -78 °C. A suspension of sulfur (337 mg, 10.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was then dropped into the reaction mixture and then warmed to room temperature and left to be stirred for 30 min. Finally, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of 5-(chloromethyl)-4-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thiazole (3.06 g, 10.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added dropwise, and then the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h (Sznaidman et al., 2003). The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and then acidified with aqueous 1 M HCl. The mixture was extracted thrice with ethyl acetate and the combined organic extract was washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude compound was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=75:25) to obtain 2-methyl-4-(((4-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thiazol-5-yl)methyl)thio)phenol (A1) (3.13 g, 7.9 mmol, 75%) as a white solid.

Step 2: To a solution of **A1** (2.87 g, 7.24 mmol) in DMSO/water (54 mL/ 6 mL) was added K₂CO₃ (1.49, 10.9 mmol) and ethyl bromoacetate (0.96 mL, 8.69 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was warmed to 50 °C and then vigorously stirred for 2 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was poured into water (100 mL) and extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was washed twice with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=80:20) to obtain ethyl 2-(2-methyl-4-(((4-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thiazol-5-yl)methyl)thio)phenoxy)acetate (**A2**) (3.26 g, 6.77 mmol, 94%) as a pale yellow solid. NMR analysis was in agreement with the literature data.

Step 3: A 3N aqueous solution of NaOH (3.40 mL, 10.2 mmol) was dropped into a solution of **A2** (3.26 g, 6.77 mmol) in ethanol (135 mL) and left to be stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Next, the reaction mixture was acidified with 1N HCl to pH 2–3 and ethanol was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with water and extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was then washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO4, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude compound was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (AcOH/ethyl acetate=1:99) to obtain GW501516 as a white solid (2.50 g, 5.51 mmol, 81%).

4-[({4-methyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,3-thiazol-5-yl}methyl)sulfanyl]-2methylphenoxy}acetic acid (GW501516)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 6.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.82 (br s, 1H), 7.11 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz), 7.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 7.66 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.95 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.5, 16.1, 32.4, 65.1, 111.5, 123.9 (q, *J* = 271.0 Hz), 125.3, 125.9 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 126.5, 128.4, 130.9, 131.6 (q, *J* = 33.0 Hz), 132.3, 136.3, 136.4, 151.2, 156.2, 163.7, 172.5.

Synthesis of GSK0660 (GSK)

GSK0660 (IUPAC: methyl 3-({[2-(methoxy)-4 phenyl]amino}sulfonyl)-2thiophenecarboxylate) was synthesized using the synthetic route as shown in Scheme 2.



Scheme 2

Step 1: To a solution of 2-methoxy-4-nitroaniline (1.75 g, 10.4 mmol), NaH (1.46g, 60 % in mineral oil w/w, 36.4 mmol) in THF (100 ml) was added di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (7.49 g, 34.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature under a N₂ atmosphere for 4 h to form a slurry solution. The reaction was quenched carefully by slow addition of water, and extracted thrice by ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=80:20) to obtain the *N*-protected 2-methoxy-4-nitroaniline (**B1**) (3.49, 9.47 mmol, 91%) as a pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41 (s, 18H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 7.27 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.78 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.86 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz). ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.7, 56.1, 83.0, 106.3, 115.6, 129.5, 134.5, 147.7, 150.5, 154.8. ESI HRMS: Found: *m*/*z* 369.1663. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₅N₂O₇: (M+H)⁺ 369.1662.

Step 2: To a solution of iodobenzene (0.4 ml, 3.57 mmol) in THF (8 ml) cooled at -20 °C was added isopropylmagnesium chloride (1.8 ml, 2.0 M solution, 3.60 mmol) dropwise (Sapountzis and Knochel, 2002). The mixture was stirred at -20 °C under a N₂ atmosphere for 30 mins to allow I/Mg exchange. **B1** (553 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was left to be stirred at -20 °C for 2 h. Ethanol (2 mL) was then added to the reaction reaction mixture, followed by addition of FeCl₂ (0.38 g, 3 mmol), NaBH₄ (50 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was finally quenched by water, and extracted thrice by diethyl ether. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=70:30) to obtain the *N*-protected di-phenyl aniline (**B2**) (354 mg, 0.855 mmol, 57 %) as a pale brown solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.43 (s, 18H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 5.73 (br s, 1H), 6.59-6.62 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.97 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 28.0, 55.5, 82.1, 101.1, 109.2, 118.2, 121.2, 121.5, 129.4, 129.5, 143.0, 144.0, 152.4, 155.3. ESI HRMS: Found: *m/z* 415.2236. Calcd for C₂₃H₃₁N₂O₅: (M+H)⁺ 415.2233.

Step 3: To a stirred solution of acetyl chloride (41 μ L, 0.579 mmol) in methanol (1 ml) was added a solution of **B2** (60 mg, 0.145 mmol) in methanol (0.4 ml) at 0 °C under a N₂ atmosphere. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature before refluxed for 1 h. The reaction was then allowed to cool to room temperature and quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under

reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=70:30) to obtain 3-methoxy-*N*-phenylbenzene-1,4-diamine (**B3**) in (24 mg, 0.113 mmol, 78%) as a dark purple solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.79 (s, 3H), 6.60 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 8.0 Hz), 6.65-6.68 (m, 2H), 6.79 (tt, 1H, *J* = 1.1, 7.3 Hz), 6.84-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.24 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.7, 106.0, 114.8, 115.3, 115.7, 119.2, 129.5, 132.0, 134.1, 146.1, 148.1. ESI HRMS: Found: *m/z* 215.1186. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅N₂O: (M+H)⁺ 215.1184.

Step 4: To a solution of **B3** (21 mg, 0.100 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 ml) was added pyridine (13 μ L, 0.16 mmol) and methyl 3-(chlorosulfonyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate (36 mg, 0.15 mmol) at room temperature under an inert atmosphere and left to be stirred for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of water and extracted thrice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=60:40) to obtain GSK0660 (38 mg, 0.091 mmol, 91%) as an orange solid.

Methyl 3-(*N*-(2-methoxy-4-(phenylamino)phenyl)sulfamoyl)-thiophene-2-carboxylate (GSK0660) (Toth et al., 2012)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.52 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 5.65 (br s, 1H), 6.45 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.58 (dd,1H, *J* = 2.4, 8.8 Hz), 6.94 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.92-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 3H), 8.27 (br s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 53.3, 55.6, 100.6, 109.9, 118.1, 118.4, 121.6, 126.9, 129.6, 129.7, 131.6, 131.8, 142.6, 142.8, 145.4, 152.8, 160.9. ESI HRMS: Found: *m/z* 419.0731. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂O₅S₂: (M+H)⁺ 419.0735.

Synthesis of compound 10h (10h)

Compound 10h (IUPAC: methyl 3-(N-(4-(isopentylamino)-2-methoxyphenyl)sulfamoyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate) was prepared according to reported synthetic route as shown in Scheme 3 (Toth et al., 2012).



Scheme 3

Step 1: To a solution of 4-fluoro-2-methoxy-1-nitrobenzene (471 mg, 2.75 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (2 ml) was added 3-methylbutan-1-amine (0.56 mL, 4.82 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C under microwave irradiation in a sealed 10 mL reaction vessel for 2 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silicagel flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate=80:20) to obtain *N*-isopentyl-3-methoxy-4-nitroaniline (**C1**) (513 mg, 2.16 mmol, 78%) as a yellow solid. NMR analysis is in agreement with the literature data.

Step 2: To a solution of **C1** (460 mg, 1.93 mmol) in EtOAc (4 ml) was added Pd/C (63 mg, 10% Pd in carbon w/w%) under a N₂ atmosphere. The atmosphere was then removed in *vacuo* and replaced by hydrogen via balloon (1 atm). The reaction mixture was then left to be stirred at room temperature in the dark for 12 h. The catalyst was filtered off through a pad of celite and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give the light sensitive aniline **C2**, which was directly used in the next step without further purification.

Step 3: Aniline **C2** was dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (2 mL) under a N₂ atmosphere. *N*,*N*-dimethylpyridin-4-amine (DMAP) (118 mg, 0.966 mmol) and methyl 3- (chlorosulfonyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate (558 mg, 2.32 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h in the dark. The reaction was quenched by addition of water, and extracted thrice by dichloromethane. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica-gel flash column chromatography (*n*-

hexane/ethyl acetate=60:40) to obtain compound 10h (390 mg, 0.945 mmol, 49% in two steps) as a yellow solid.

Methyl 3-(*N*-(4-(isopentylamino)-2-methoxyphenyl)sulfamoyl)-thiophene-2-carboxylate (10h)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.45 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.67 (sept, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.04 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.57 (br s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 5.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.11 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6, 2.4 Hz), 7.27 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.36 (s, 2H), 8.10 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.5, 25.9, 38.4, 42.1, 52.9, 55.1, 95.6, 104.4, 114.2, 128.1, 129.1, 131.4, 131.5, 145.6, 148.2, 153.4, 160.7.





¹H NMR Spectra of GSK 0660



¹³C NMR Spectra of GSK 0660









Sng et al., Supplementary Figure S2





















Epidermis

b



b	SSc	<u>N</u>	SSc	<u>N</u>	N	SSc	<u>N</u>
_	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	4 5 6	7 2	21 22 m 23 24 25 26 27 28	89
PPARβ/δ			tray tray tool tool too and the second too to be the second too				-
Lrg1					-		