

**ERK activating peptide, AES16-2M promotes wound healing  
through accelerating migration of keratinocytes.**

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## **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

### **Cell proliferation assays.**

HaCaT cells ( $3 \times 10^3$  cells/well, 200  $\mu$ l) were plated into a 96-well plate. After an overnight incubation, media was removed and cells were treated with 200  $\mu$ l fresh media that included AES16-2M or EGF. Every 24 hr, for 72 hr, 10  $\mu$ l Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) (Dojindo, Japan) was added to each well and the plate was incubated for 3 hr at 37°C. Absorbance at 450 nm was measured with an ELISA microplate reader.

### **Chemicals and antibodies.**

The p38 inhibitor, SB203580, was purchased from Calbiochem. Rabbit anti-p38, anti-phosphorylated (p-)p38 (all at 1:1000; 9212, 9211) were purchased from Cell Signaling.

## Supplementary figure legends

### **Figure S1. AES16-2M had an insignificant effect on HaCaT cell proliferation.**

HaCaT cells ( $3 \times 10^3$  cells/well) were cultured in 96-well plates with the indicated doses of AES16-2M or EGF (100 ng/ml). Cell proliferation was detected with CCK-8 analysis at 24, 48, and 72 hr. The relative proliferation rate was calculated as the ratio of the AES16-2M or EGF group versus the PBS group at each time point. ( $n=5$ ) Error bars, mean  $\pm$  SD.  $**p<0.05$  (EGF treatment group versus control group), one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey post-hoc test.

### **Figure S2. HaCaT cell migration induced by AES16-2M was poorly associated with p38 activation.**

(A) HaCaT cells were treated with AES16-2M (10 ng/ml), TGF- $\beta$  (1 ng/ml), and PBS for 30min under serum-free conditions. The p38 inhibitor (SB203580 at 10  $\mu$ M) was added to cells 2 hr prior to treatment. Western blotting for phospho-p38, total-p38, and GAPDH was performed. The figure is a cropped image; full-length blots are presented in Figure S4. (B) The band intensity of panel A was measured with Image J and relative density was analysed as the ratio of phospho-p38 to GAPDH ( $n=3$ ). Error bars, mean  $\pm$  SD.  $*p<0.05$  (TGF- $\beta$  or SB203580 treatment group versus control group), one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey post-hoc test. N.S.=No significance (AES16-2M versus AES16-2M + SB203580 treatment group). (C) For the scratch assay, HaCaT cells were treated with p38 inhibitor (SB203580 at 10  $\mu$ M) 2 hr before AES16-2M treatment. Scale bar: 500  $\mu$ m. (D) The residual area of the wound was measured by Image J and the relative wound area was calculated as the ratio of the remaining area to that

at 0 hr ( $n=6$ ). Error bars, mean  $\pm$  SD. \*\* $p<0.01$ , \*\*\* $p<0.001$  (AES16-2M, AES16-2M + SB203580 or TGF- $\beta$  treatment group versus control group). N.S.=No significance (AES16-2M versus AES16-2M + SB203580 treatment group), one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey post-hoc test.

**Figure S3. Full-length blots for Figure 4A.**

All dashed lines indicate the area cropped and used in the figures. The number displayed is the size of the marker (kD). (A) phospho (p)-ERK. (B) ERK. (C) GAPDH. Blots B and C were performed following stripping the membrane shown in panel A. The arrow indicated non-specific binding (bands remaining after stripping ERK from the membrane). (D) Digitized image for marker detection.

**Figure S4. Full-length blots for Figure S2A.**

All dashed lines indicate the area cropped and used in the figures. The number displayed is the size of the marker (kD). (A) phospho-p38. The arrow indicated non-specific binding. (B) p38. Blot B was performed following stripping the membrane shown in panel A. (C) Digitized image for marker detection of panels A and B. (D) GAPDH. (E) Digitized image for marker detection of panel D.

Figure S1

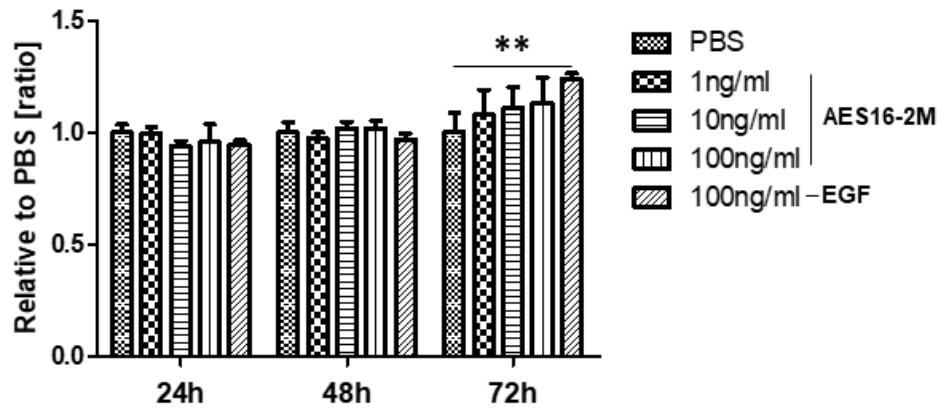


Figure S2

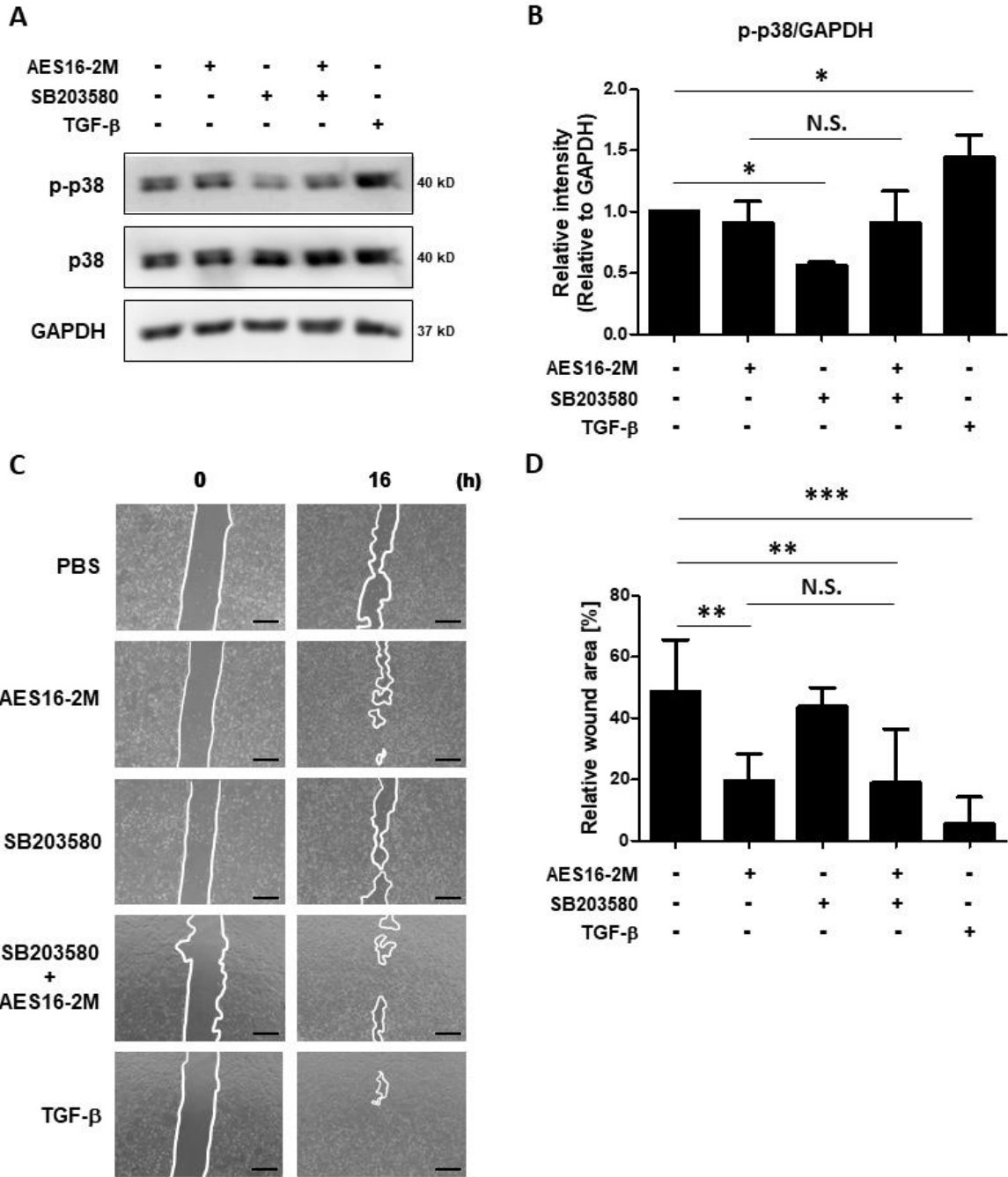


Figure S3

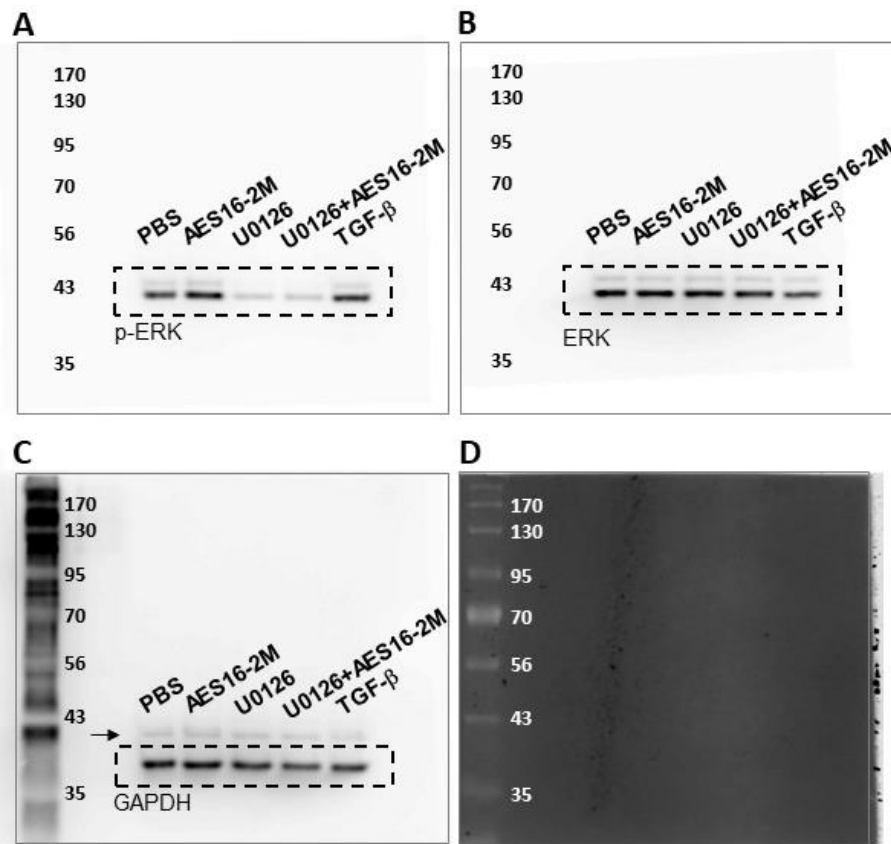


Figure S4

