Supplemental Material

Supplemental Tables

Suppl. Table 1

| Primer name | Sequence |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| hDSG2-1 f | caccgCTTTGGCGCCCTTTCCGCAA |
| hDSG2-1 r | aaacTTGCGGAAAGGGCGCCAAAGc |
| hDSG2-2 f | caccgCTAAACATCCTCATTTAGTG |
| hDSG2-2 r | aaacCACTAAATGAGGATGTTTAGc |
| qPCR primer | Sequence |
| DSG2 f | Aattgcgctcatgattttgg |
| DSG2 r | Gcaatggcacatcagcagta |

Primer list of used in for the present study as outlined in Methods

Suppl. Table 2

| Antibody | Source | Catalogue Number | Dilution | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------|-------|
| Primary | 1 | | WB | IF |
| р38 МАРК | Cell Signaling, Danvers, USA | 9212 | 1:1000 | |
| Phospho-p38 MAPK (Thr180/Tyr182) | Cell Signaling, Danvers, USA | 9211 | 1:1000 | |
| GFRa1 | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | ab186855 | 1:1000 | |
| GFRα2 | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | ab19146 | 1:1000 | |
| GFRa3 | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | ab89343 | 1:1000 | |
| Ret | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | ab184189 | 1:1000 | |
| Phospho-Ret (Tyr905) | Cell Signaling, Danvers, USA | 3221 | 1:1000 | |
| GDNF | R&D Systems, Abingdon, UK | AF-212-NA | 1:200 | |
| Phospho-Cytokeratin18 (Serin52) | Abcam, Cambridge, UK | ab63393 | 1:1000 | |
| Phospho-Cytokeratin18 (Serin33) | SAB Signalway Antibody, College Park, USA | 11306-2 | 1:1000 | |
| Cytokeratin18 | Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Heidelberg, Germany | Sc-6259 | 1:1000 | |
| Phospho-Cytokeratin8 (Serin74) | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | PA5-37623 | 1:1000 | |
| Cytokeratin8 | Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Heidelberg, Germany | Sc-8020 | 1:1000 | |
| Cleaved Caspase-3 (Asp175) | Cell Signaling, Danvers, USA | 9661 | 1:600 | |
| Caspase-3 | Cell Signaling, Danvers, USA | 9662 | 1:600 | |
| Desmoglein-2 (m) | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | 32-6100 | 1:1000 | 1:100 |
| Desmoglein-2 (rb) | Millipore/Merck, Darmstadt, Germany | ABT290 | 1:1000 | 1:100 |
| E-Cadherin | BD Transduction Laboratories, Heidelberg, Germany | 610182 | 1:1000 | 1:100 |
| Claudin-1 | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | 51-9000 | 1:500 | 1:50 |
| GAPDH-Peroxidase | Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany | G92950 | 1:10000 | |
| ß-Actin-Peroxidase | Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany | A3854 | 1:10000 | |
| Alexa Fluor 488 Phalloidin | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | A-12379 | | 1:60 |

| Secondary | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--------|-------|--|
| horseradish peroxidase- labelled goat anti-mouse IgG | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 115-035-003 | 1:3000 | | |
| horseradish peroxidase- labelled goat anti-rabbit IgG | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 111-035-003 | 1:3000 | | |
| horseradish peroxidase- labelled donkey anti-goat IgG | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 705-035-003 | 1:1000 | | |
| dam Alexa Fluor 488 | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | A-21201 | | 1:200 | |
| darb Alexa Fluor 488 | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA | A-21206 | | 1:200 | |
| goat-anti-mouse Cy3 | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 115-165-003 | | 1:600 | |
| goat-anti-rabbit Cy3 | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 111-165-003 | | 1:600 | |
| donkey-anti-goat Cy3 | Dianova, Hamburg, Germany | 705-035-003 | | 1:600 | |

List of all antibodies with catalogue and/or clone numbers are shown. On the right side the

dilutions used for Western blot or immunostaining are indicated.

Supplemental Figure legends

Supplemental Figure 1

A As shown in Figure 1F measurements of the optical density of DSG2 western blots of CD patients demonstrated a reduction of DSG2 in the inflamed parts of the specimens to 0.33 ± 0.10 (equates 0.21 ± 0.05 of controls) compared to 1.91 ± 0.56 in control specimens. In the uninflamed resection margins of the specimens no changes compared to controls were observed when OD was 0.66 ± 0.22 ; (OD = optical density, n=9).

B As shown in Figure 1F for CD patients quantification of the optical density resulted in a significant increase of phosphorylation of p38MAPK to 2.37 ± 0.42 (-fold of controls) in the inflamed areas of the tissue that was not seen in the non-inflamed specimens when OD was 0.76 ± 0.22 (OD = optical density, n=9).

C As shown in Figure 1F for CD patients in inflamed tissue phosphorylation of cytokeratin18 at serin52 was increased to 1.92 ± 0.15 compared to 1.29 ± 0.36 in the non-inflamed tissue (OD = optical density, n=9).

D As shown in Figure 1F for CD patients increased phosphorylation of cytokeratin8 at serin74 was observed in inflamed tissue specimen (OD = optical density, n=9).

E, F Representative Western blots for E-cadherin (E) and claudin1 are shown from specimens of patients with CD compared to healthy controls to verify the presence of epithelial markers and to exclude loss of the mucosa (n=3)

Supplemental Figure 2

A As shown in Figure 1F analysis of optical density of DSG2 demonstrated a significant reduction of DSG2 in inflamed colon specimen of patients suffering from ulcerative colitis (OD = optical density, n=9)

B-D As shown in Figure 1F the loss of Desmoglein2 in specimen of ulcerative colitis was paralleled by an increase in phosphorylation of p38MAPK (B), cytokeratin18 at serin52 (C) and

cytokeratin8 at serin74 (D) as shown by an augmented optical density of western blots (OD = optical density, n=9).

E, F Representative Western blots for E-cadherin (E) and claudin1 are shown from specimens of patients with UC compared to healthy controls to verify the presence of epithelial markers and to exclude complete loss of the mucosa (n= 3). Western blot shown for β -actin to verify equal protein loading is the same in E and F since the same gel was used for E-cadherin and claudin1 blots after stripping.

Supplemental Figure 3

A, B Western blot signaling of DSG2 and quantification of the optical densities in Caco2 cells in Triton assays are shown. TNF α led to a reduced signal in the triton-insoluble fraction. In contrast incubation with GDNF increased the intensity of DSG2 in the triton-insoluble fraction and blocked the effects of TNF α (OD = optical density, n=5).

C Measurements of the permeability coefficient in a transwell filter system of a Caco2 monolayers demonstrated permeability of 70kDa FITC-Dextran was not altered in Dsg2 deficient cells compared to a DSG2 wild type monolayer. Permeability was not changed following incubation of TNF α and TNF α + GNDF under both conditions (n=8); ordinary one way ANOVA.

D Analyses of cytokeratin immunostaining as shown in Figure 3D revealed a shift of the intensity peak away from the cell border after incubation with TNF α . Co-incubation with GDNF attenuated the effect of TNF α (n = 6); ordinary one way ANOVA for each time point

E The distance of keratin retraction in all immunostaining for cytokeratin18 in Caco2 cells from the cell borders is shown; representative images are shown in Figure 3D. The distance between the highest intensities and the cell borders was determined. TNF α increased the keratin retraction to 43.52 ± 4.48 pixel compared to 9.84 ± 1.14 after co-incubation of TNF α with GDNF (n=6); ordinary one way ANOVA.

Supplemental Figure 4

A, B Immunostaining of Propidiumiodide (pink) and DAPI (blue) in Caco2 cells demonstrated that application of TNF α did not increase ratio of propidiumiodide positive cells. Quantification of apoptotic cells / HPF showed no significant difference between controls, TNF α , TNF α and GDNF and GDNF. Apoptosis inductor staurosporine served as a positive control; (HPF= high power field, n=10)

C Cell viability assays in Caco2 cells were performed. Cell viability was not significantly changed compared to controls following the incubation with $TNF\alpha$, $TNF\alpha$ and GDNF and GDNF. The cell viability was significantly reduced after application of staurosporine (n=5); ordinary one way ANOVA.

D Following crystal violet staining, the colorimetric signal of crystal violet dye did not change after the application of TNF α , TNF α and GDNF+GDNF compared to controls (n= 8). Ordinary one way ANOVA.

E Western Blots for Caspase3 showed that $TNF\alpha$ -induced inflammation did not lead to an increase in cleaved Caspase3 signal in contrast to incubation with Staurosporine in Caco2 cells (representative blots are shown for n=5).

F The ratio of cleaved Caspase3 / Caspase3 was also not altered in DSS mice compared to mice that were treated with GDNF simultaneously (representative blots are shown for n=5).

Supplemental Figure 5

A, C, E Measurements of the optical density in Western Blots after application of TNF α and GDNF in Caco2 cells demonstrate that TNF α showed increased phosphorylation of p38MAPK, cytokeratin18 at serin 52 and cytokeratin8 at serin 74 as shown in Figure 3E. This was attenuated following co-incubation of TNF α with GDNF, where phosphorylation patterns were comparable to control levels (OD = optical density, n=6); ordinary one way ANOVA.

B, D, F TNF α enhanced phosphorylation of p38 MAPK and cytokeratin18 at serin52 in human enteroids as shown in Figure 4B which was not that strong for cytokeratin8 at serin74. Application of GDNF reduced TNF α -induced phosphorylation (OD = optical density, n=6); ordinary one way ANOVA.

Supplemental Figure 6

A, B Western Blots of Caco2 cells showed that $TNF\alpha$ and GDNF did not affect the phosphorylation of cytokeratin18 at serin33 (OD = optical density, n=4; ordinary one way ANOVA).

C Western Blots of Caco2 cells, lysates of human intestinal tissue, lysates of mouse tissue and human enteroids revealed the expression of RET and GFR α 1-3 receptor. While Caco2 cells express RET and GFR α 1, lysates of human specimen and human enteroids also show a signal of GFR α 2. In lysates of mouse colon, Western Blots showed an expression of RET and GFR α 3; β -actin blots shown are loading controls from RET blots which are representative for sufficient protein loading of all blots shown here (representative blots are shown for n=3).

D Representative Western blot of murine full wall intestinal lysates for GDNF is shown on the left for control, DSS-colitis and DSS-colitis with GDNF treatment. Quantifications of all Western blot experiments are shown on the right. (OD = optical density, n=5; ordinary one way ANOVA).

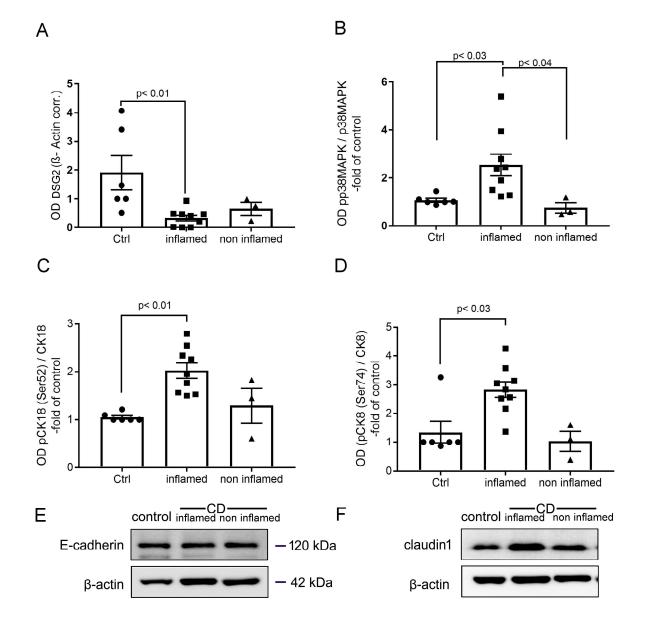
Supplemental Figure 7

A Quantification of all western blot experiments of murine colon lysates as shown in Figure 7D is shown (n=6); Kruskal-Wallis Test (ANOVA)

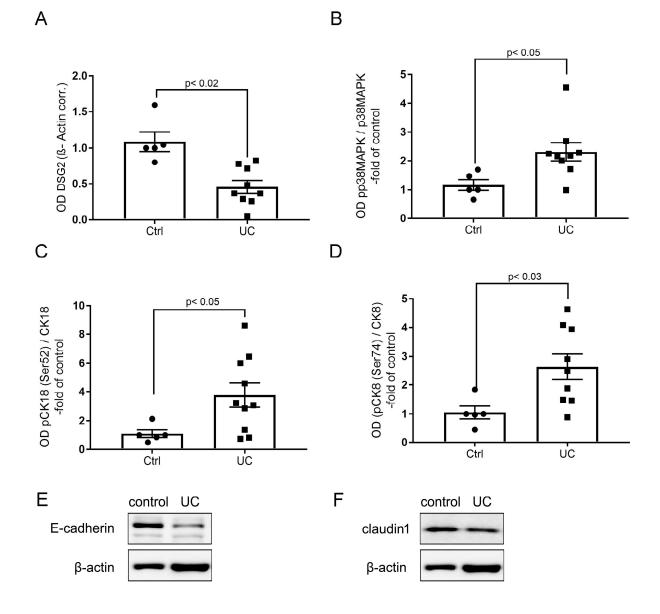
B Quantification of all western blot experiments for the phosphorylation of p38MAPK is shown as shown in Figure 7D. In DSS animals phosphorylation of p38MAPK was significantly increased which was blocked by treatment with GDNF (OD = optical density, n=6); Kruskal-Wallis Test (ANOVA)

C, D Measurements of the optical density of phosphorylation of all Western blot experiments of cytokeratin18 and 8 in Western blots of murine colon lysates demonstrated a significantly

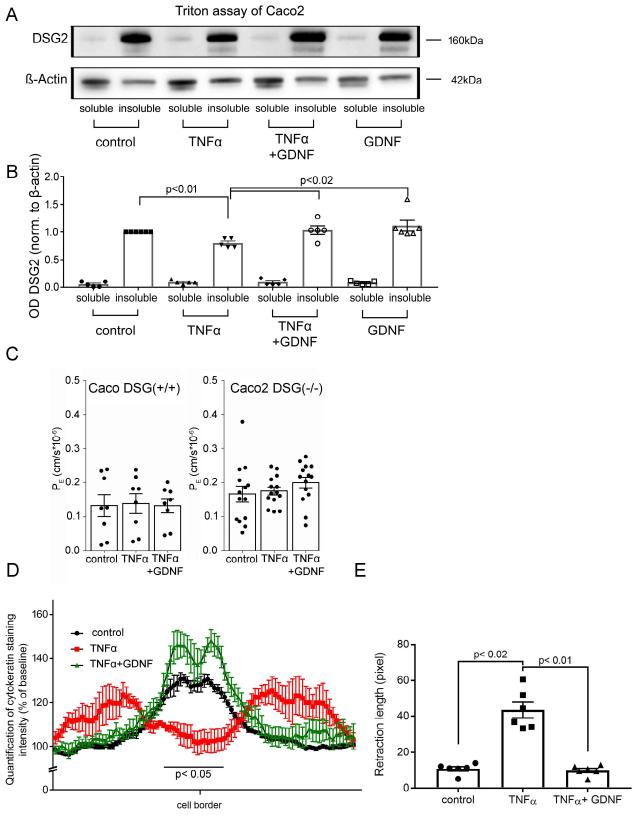
elevated signal of phosphorylated cytokeratin18 an 8 (OD = optical density, n=6); Kruskal-Wallis Test (ANOVA).



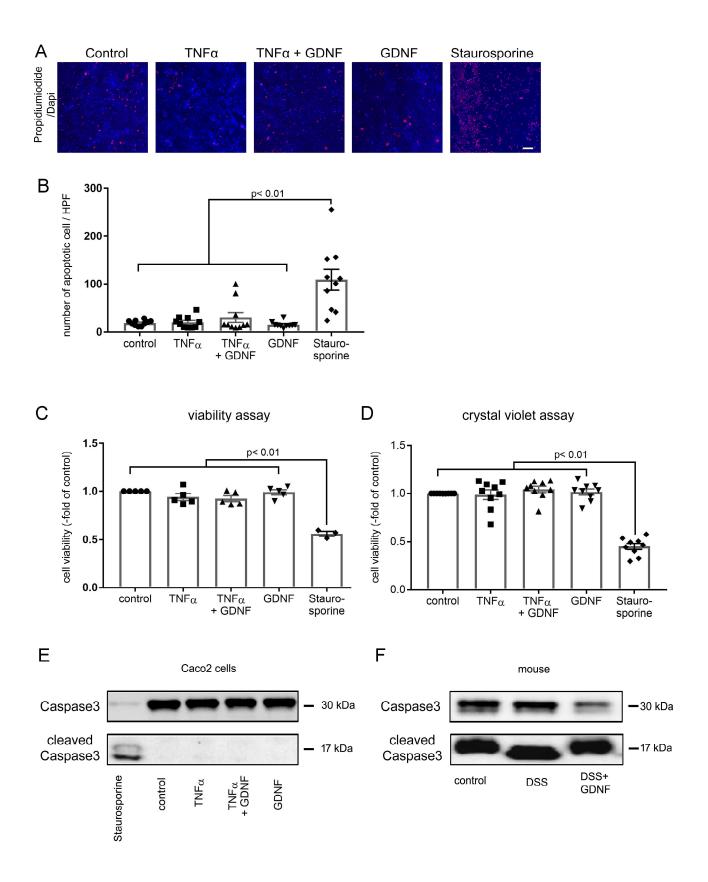
suppl. Figure 1



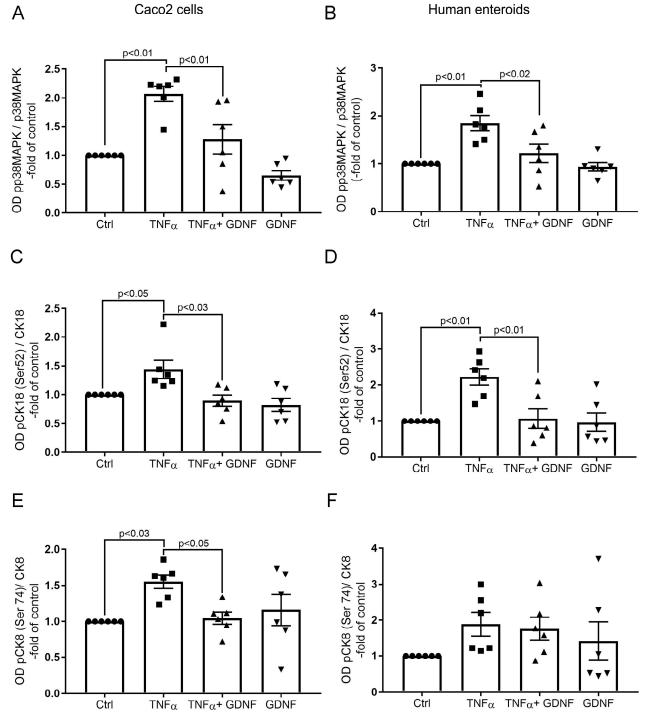
suppl. Figure 2



Suppl. Fig. 3



Suppl. Fig. 4

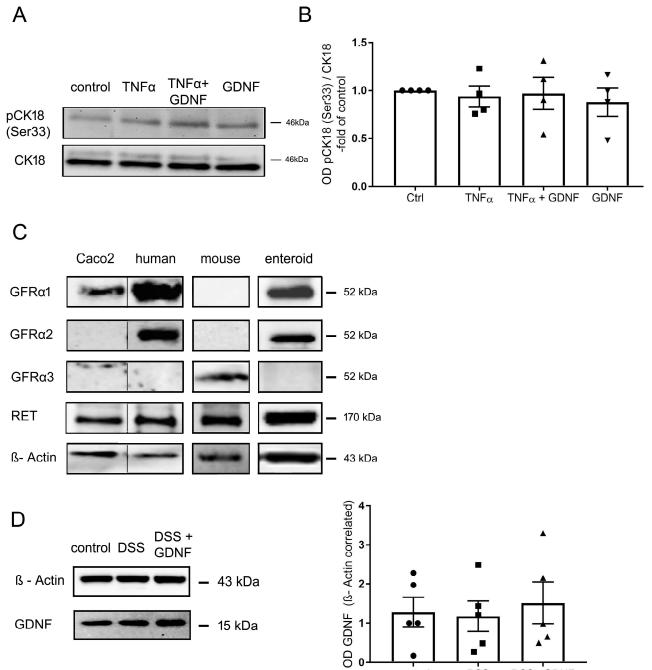


Caco2 cells

В

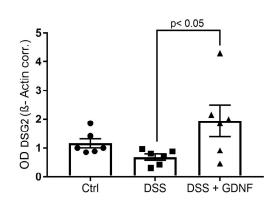
Human enteroids

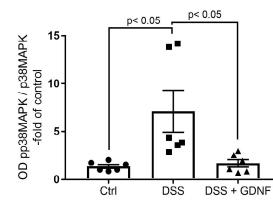
Suppl. Fig. 5



control DSS DSS+ GDNF

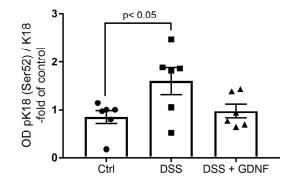


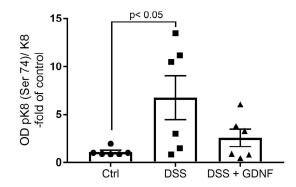












Suppl. Fig. 7

В