

Title: p16^{INK4A}-expressing mesenchymal stromal cells restore the senescence–clearance–regeneration sequence that is impaired in chronic muscle inflammation

Authors: Takako S. Chikenji^{1*}, Yuki Saito¹, Naoto Konari¹, Masako Nakano¹, Yuka Mizue¹, Miho Otani¹, Mineko Fujimiya¹

Affiliations:

¹ Department of Anatomy, Sapporo Medical University School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan.

*Corresponding author: Takako S. Chikenji Email: chikenji@sapmed.ac.jp

Supplementary Materials and Methods

***In situ* hybridisation analysis by PrimeFlow™ RNA Assay.** Expression of *p16INK4A*, *OCT4*, and *TERT* mRNA was evaluated using the human PrimeFlow™ RNA assay (eBioscience). Briefly, MSCs or MSCs+PE were permeabilised, and then hybridised with type 1 Human CDKN2A Alexa Fluor® 647 (Affymetrix, cat. VA1-10040), type 6 OCT4 Human Alexa Fluor® 750 (Affymetrix, cat. VA6-17268), and type 6 TERT Human Alexa Fluor® 750 (Affymetrix, cat. VA6-17270) probes. After hybridisation, cells were analysed on a FACSCanto™ II flow cytometer (BD Biosciences). Data collection and analysis were conducted using the FACSDiva™ (BD Biosciences) and Kaluza V1.5a software (Beckman Coulter).

Preparation of culture supernatant. To prepare culture supernatant from MSCs or MSCs+PE, MSCs were cultured with or without PE. After 3 days, the cells were washed with PBS and cultured with DMEM lacking serum. Twenty-four hours later, the supernatant was collected and supplemented with 20% FBS (final concentration).

In-cell enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (In-Cell ELISA). FAPs were cultured in 96-well plates and treated with culture supernatant from MSCs or MSCs+PE in

combination with vildagliptin (a DPP-4 inhibitor) or neutralising antibodies of SerpinE1(PAI-1) for 3 days. Cultured cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 min at RT, washed in PBS-T, and incubated in 2% bovine serum albumin for 60 min at RT. After washing with PBS-T, the cells were incubated at 4°C overnight with anti-p16^{INK4A} (CDKN2A) antibody (Proteintech), followed by secondary antibody staining. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (1:1000; Dojindo). Fluorescence intensities of p16^{INK4A} staining were measured using a microplate reader (INFINITE M1000 PRO; Tecan Trading AG, Switzerland) and normalised against DAPI staining intensity.

Characterisation of MSCs. MSC and PE-treated MSCs were cultured on 8-well chamber slides for osteogenic and adipogenic differentiation, or in 15-mL conical tubes for chondrogenic differentiation, in DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin–streptomycin. Culture was performed at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. Mesenchymal stem cell functional identification kits (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) were used to monitor induction of differentiation. Osteocytes, adipocytes, and chondrocytes were detected by alkaline phosphatase (ALP) staining, immunofluorescence staining with anti-FABP4 antibody, and immunofluorescence staining with anti-aggrecan antibody, respectively. For flow cytometry analysis, cultured

cells were trypsinised, resuspended in PBS with 2% FBS and 5 mM EDTA, stained for 15 min in Zombie Violet Dye (BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA) diluted 1:100 in PBS, washed, and fixed with 4% PFA. Primary antibodies were PE-conjugated anti-CD90, CD73, CD40, CD45, and IgG control (Biolegend). The cells were incubated with primary antibodies for 30 min at 4°C in the dark. Stained cells were analysed on a FACSCanto II (BD Biosciences). For colony-forming unit assays, MSCs or PE-treated MSCs were cultured on 6-well plates (4,000 cells per well) in DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin–streptomycin. After 10 days, the cells were Giemsa stained.

Supplemental Figure legend

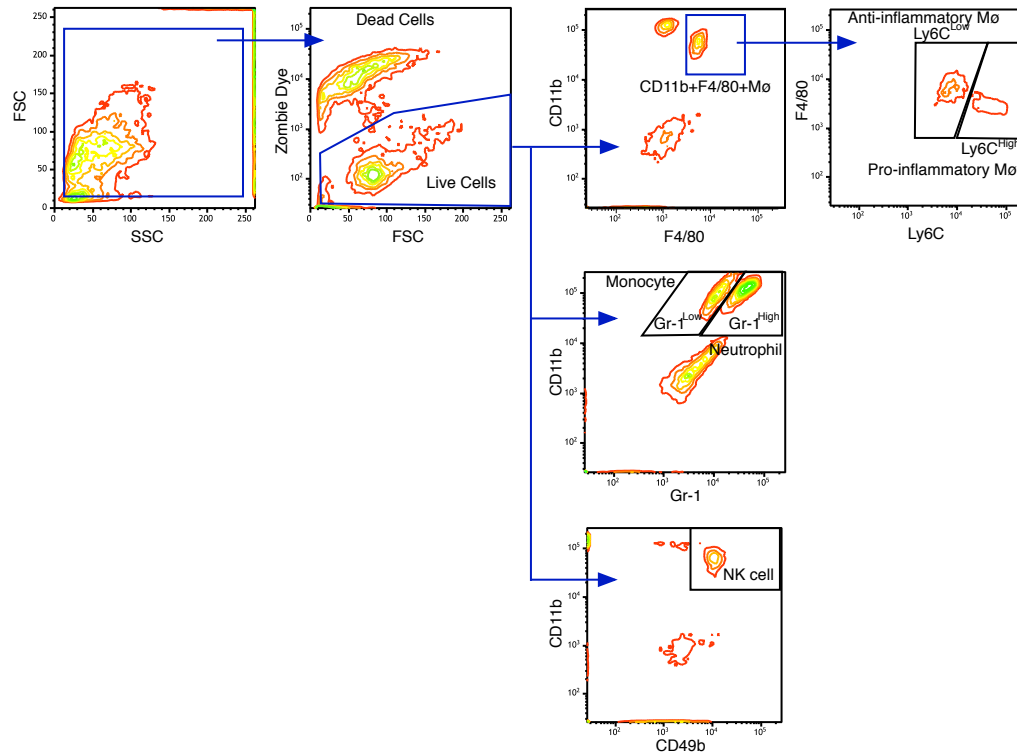


Fig. S1. Gating strategies used in flow cytometry experiments throughout the article.

Zombie dye-positive cells were gated out as dead cells.

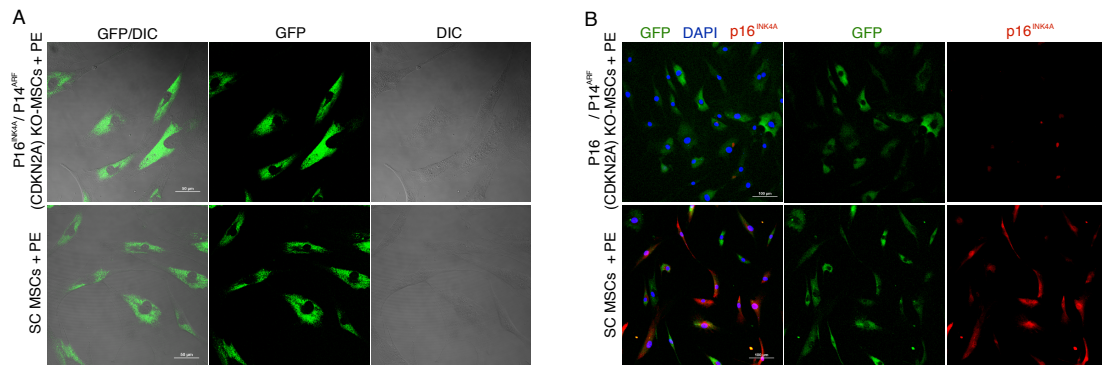


Fig. S2. Representative image of CDKN2A-KO MSCs+PE and scrambled control

MSCs+PE. (a) GFP expression and differential interference contrast (DIC) microscopy

and (b) GFP and p16^{INK4A} expression in CDKN2A-KO MSCs+PE and scrambled

controls.

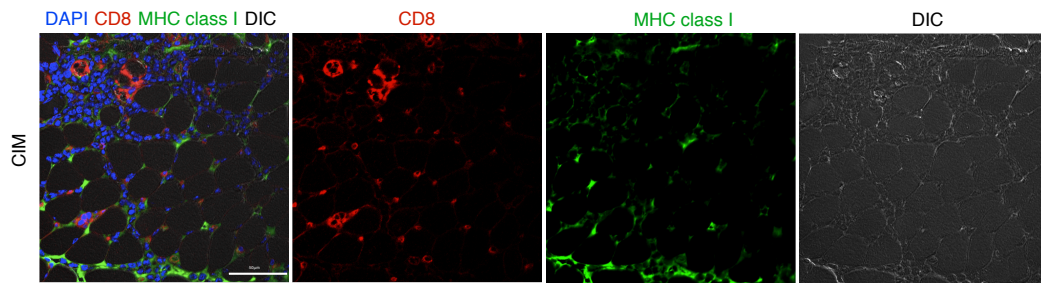


Fig. S3. Characteristics of CIM model mice. Shown are representative images of triceps surae immunostained for CD8 and MHC class 1.

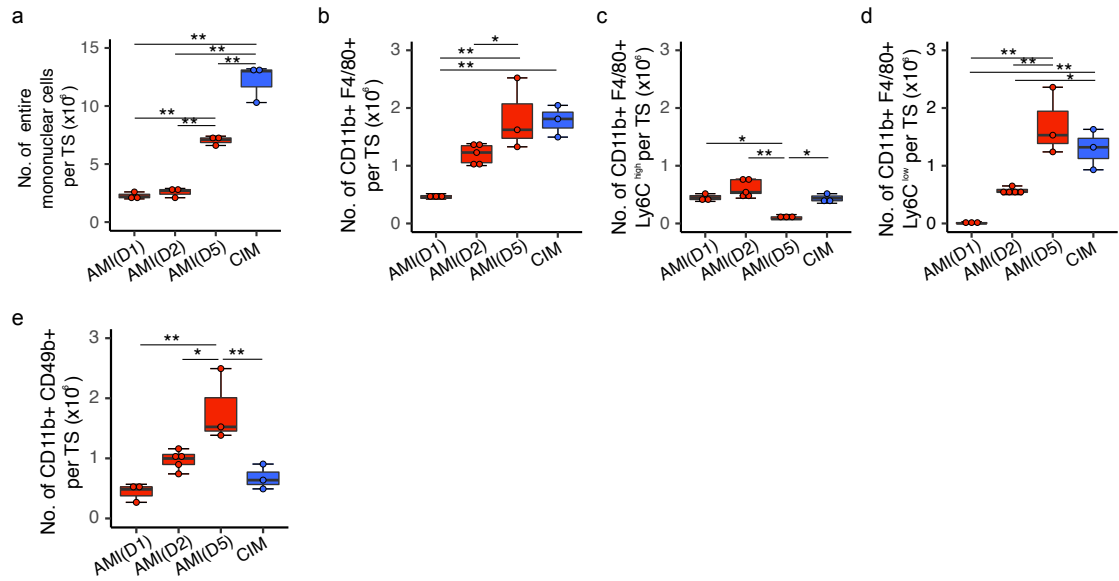


Fig. S4. Immune cell number in AMI and CIM mice, as determined by flow cytometry. (a) Total number of mononuclear cells in triceps surae; (b) CD11b+ F4/80+ macrophages; (c) CD11b+ F4/80+ Ly6C^{high} pro-inflammatory macrophages; (d) CD11b+ F4/80 Ly6C^{low} anti-inflammatory macrophages; and (e) CD11b+ CD49b NK cells in CIM and AMI (1, 2, and 5 days after injury). Quantitative data are shown as box-and-whisker plots with medians, interquartile range (IQR), and $1.5 \times$ IQR. P-values were determined by one-way ANOVA adjusted by Tukey's method. (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.001$).

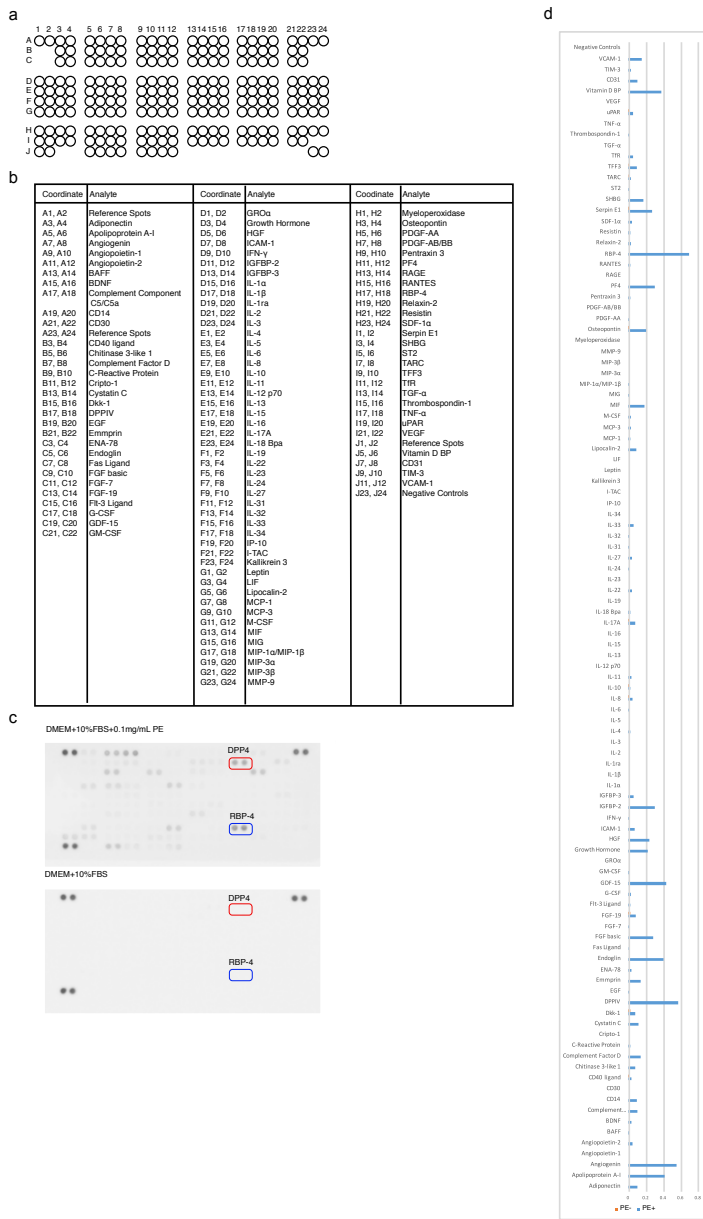


Fig. S5. PE contains various cytokines. (a) Human XL Cytokine Array coordinates and (b) names of cytokines represented on the array. (c–d) Proteome array analysis of DMEM + 10% FBS + PE and DMEM + 10% FBS containing protein, and relative expression levels of cytokines in DMEM + 10% FBS (PE-) and DMEM + 10% FBS + PE (PE+).

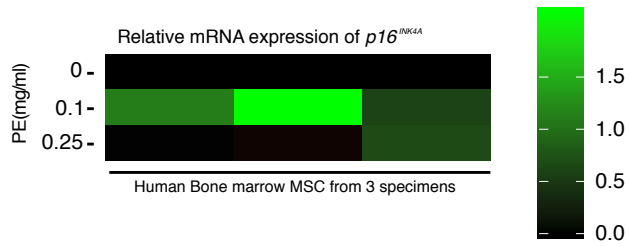


Fig. S6. Heat map of $p16^{INK4A}$ gene expression when MSCs were cultured with 0, 0.1, or 0.25 mg/ml PE in the culture media. $p16^{INK4A}$ gene expression increased in MSCs exposed to 0.1 mg/ml PE.

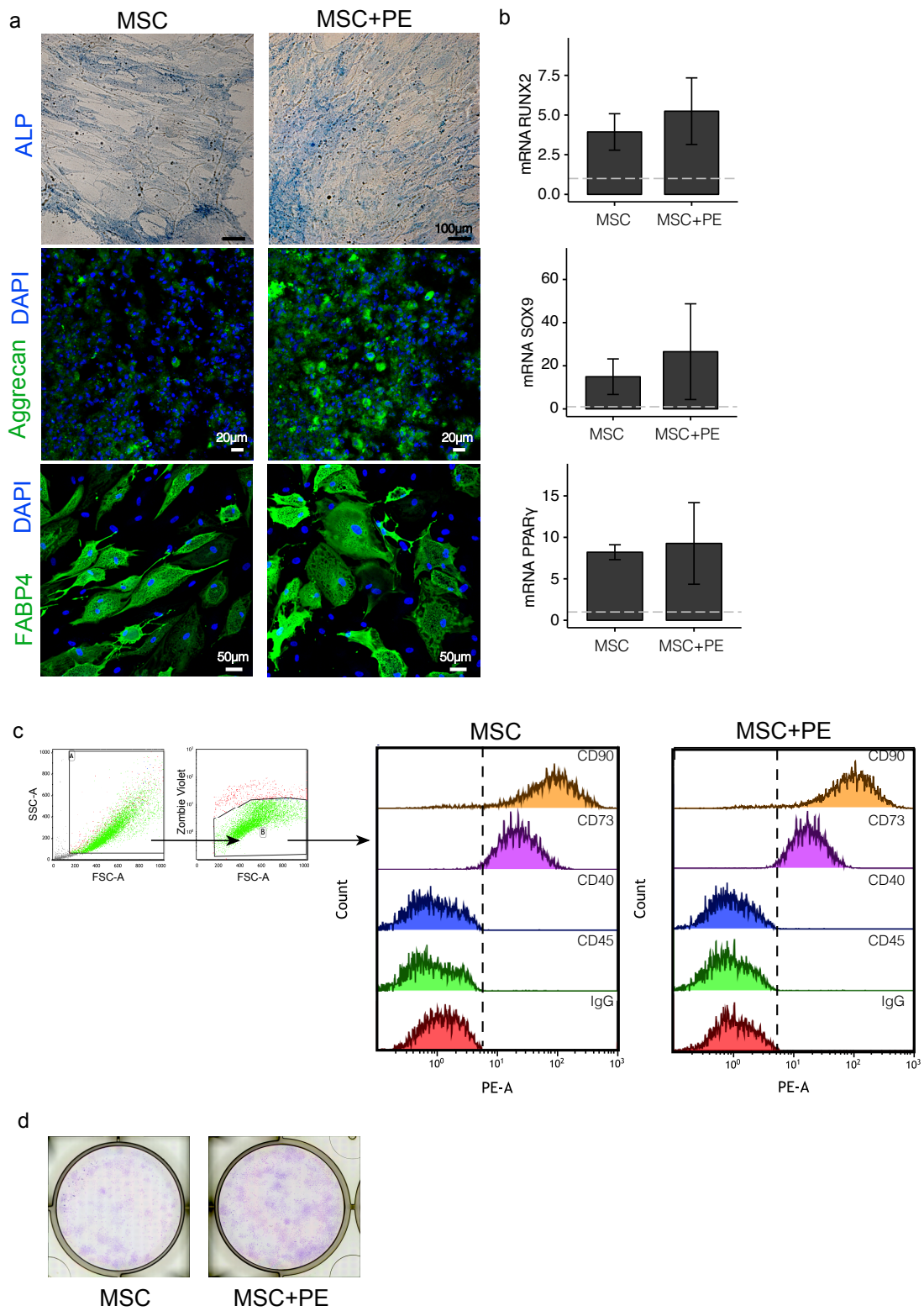


Fig. S7. Characterisation of MSC with or without PE treatment. (a) Multi-lineage

differentiation of MSCs with or without PE treatment. Osteocytes, chondrocytes, and adipocytes were detected by alkaline phosphatase (ALP) staining, immunofluorescence staining with anti-aggrecan antibody, and immunofluorescence staining with anti-FABP4 antibody, respectively. Representative images of three independent experiments are shown. (b) mRNA expression of RUNX2, SOX9, and PPAR γ after induction of differentiation of MSCs with or without PE treatment. (n = 3) (c) Flow cytometry analysis of CD90, CD73, CD40, and CD45 expression in MSCs, with or without PE treatment. (d) Colony-forming unit assay of MSCs with or without PE treatment. Representative images of three independent experiments are shown.

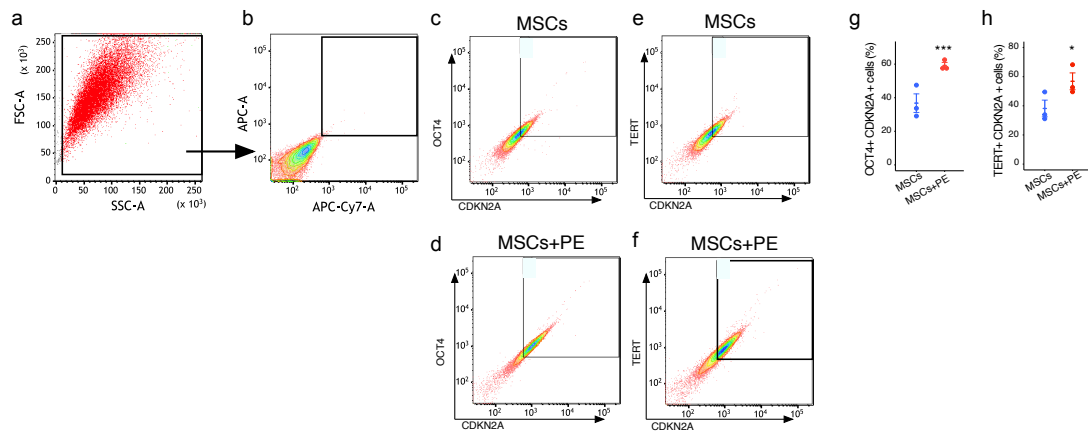


Fig. S8. Expression of OCT4, CDKN2A, and TERT increased in MSCs+PE, as determined by *in situ* hybridisation analysis using the PrimeFlow™ RNA Assay. (a and b) Positive gates were set by analysing the negative control sample. (c-f) Flow cytometry analysis of OCT4 and CDKN2A (c and d), and TERT and CDKN2A (e and f). (g and h) Percentage of the OCT4⁺ CDKN2A⁺ cells in MSCs and MSCs+PE (n = 3 per group) (g), and percentage of TERT⁺ CDKN2A⁺ cells in MSCs and MSCs+PE (n = 3 per group) (h).

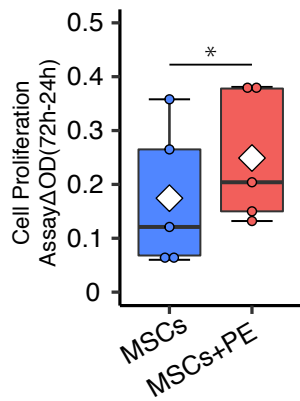


Fig. S9. Cell proliferation assay in MSCs and MSCs+PE. (a) Cell proliferation assay in MSCs, with or without PE treatment. Quantitative data are shown as box-and-whisker plots with medians, interquartile range (IQR), and $1.5 \times$ IQR. P-values were determined by two-tailed Student's t-test (* $P < 0.05$).

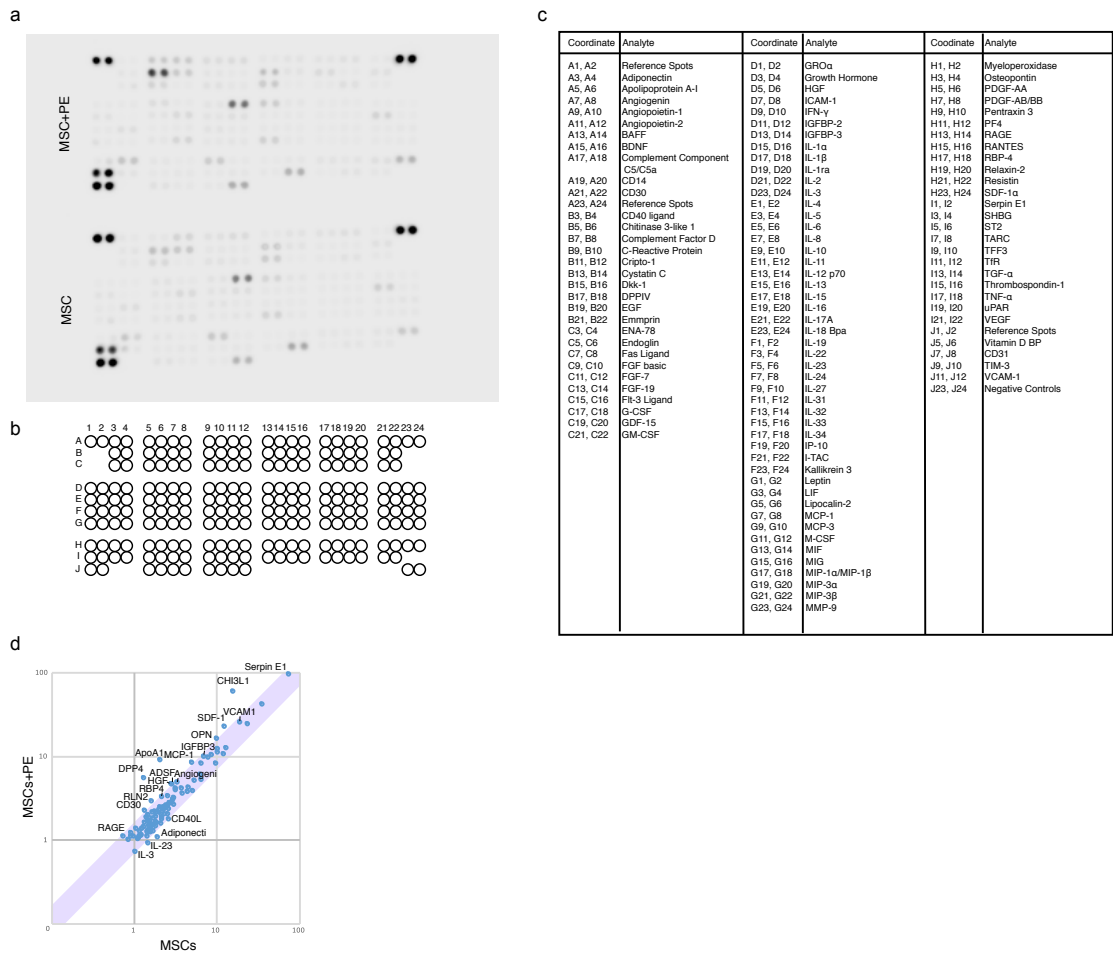


Fig. S10. Proteome array analysis of supernatant cytokines of MSC cultures. (a) Proteome array analysis of cytokines in culture supernatants of MSCs with or without PE. (b) Human XL Cytokine Array coordinates and (c) names of cytokines represented on the array. (d) Scatter plots of changes in protein expression in MSC cultures with or without PE supplementation.

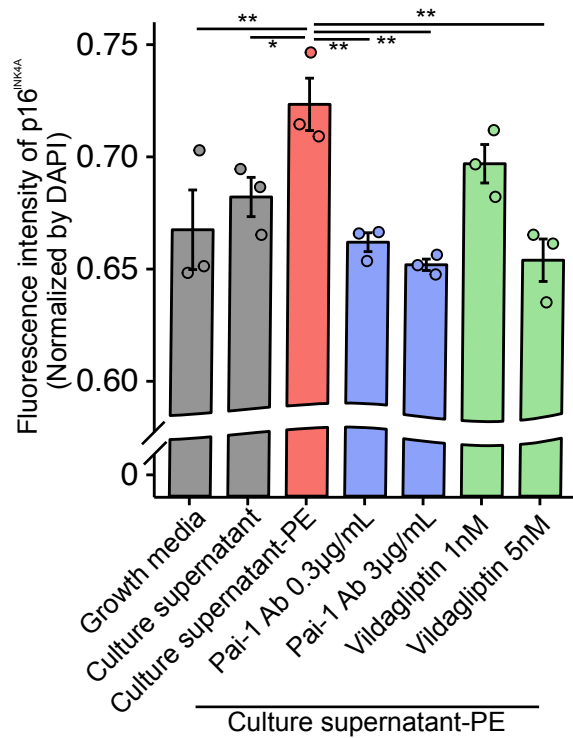


Fig. S11. Induction of FAP senescence by culture supernatant of MSCs or MSCs+PE.

(a) Fluorescence intensity of p16^{INK4A} in FAPs treated with culture supernatant of MSCs or MSCs+PE in combination with vildagliptin, a DPP-4 inhibitor or neutralising antibodies of PAI-1. Quantitative data are shown as means \pm SEM (dot plot). P-values were determined by one-way ANOVA, adjusted by Tukey's method. (*P < 0.05, **P < 0.001).

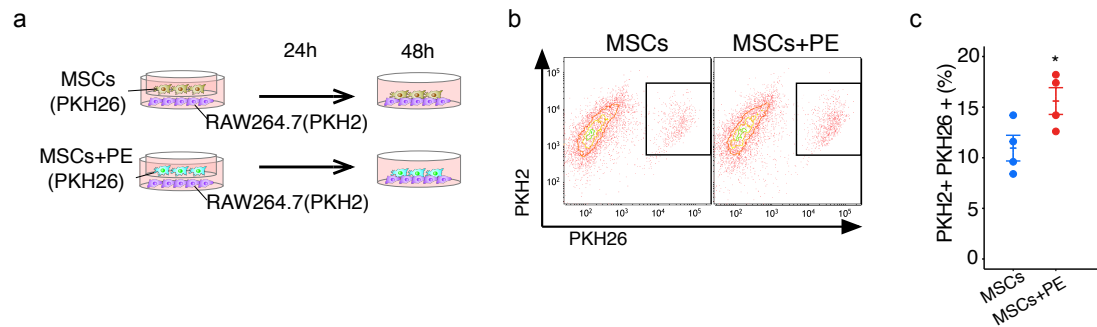


Fig. S12. Phagocytosis assay (a) Procedure for co-culture of MSCs or MSCs+PE with RAW264.7 macrophages. (b) Flow cytometry analysis of PKH2-labelled RAW264.7 and PKH26-labelled MSCs or MSCs+PE. (c) Cells engulfing PKH26-positive cells were identified as PKH2-labelled RAW264.7 macrophages, and the percentage of PKH2⁺ PKH26⁺ cells was determined (n = 3 per group). Quantitative data are shown as means ± SEM (dot plot). P-values were determined by two-tailed Student's t-test (*P < 0.05).

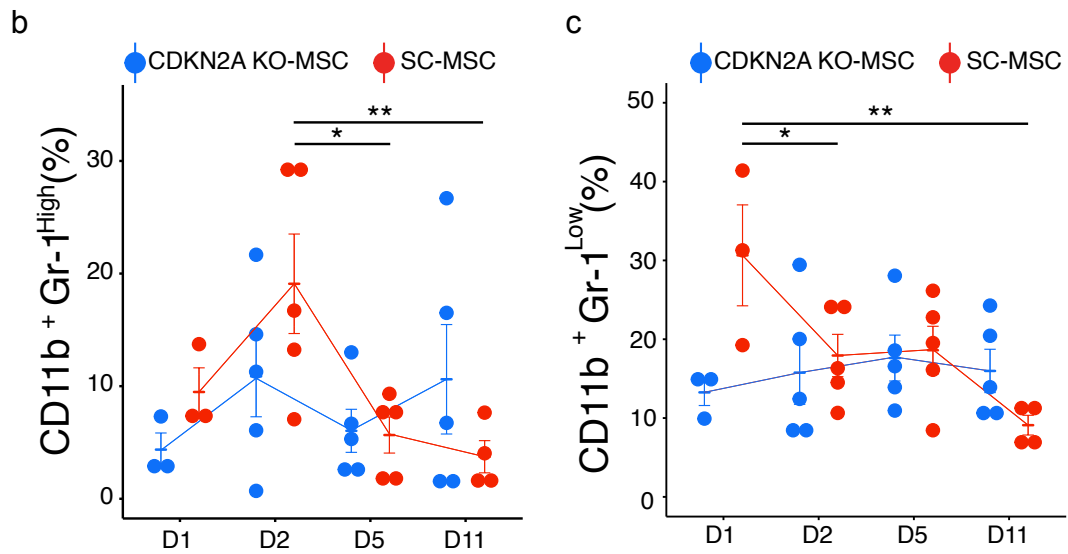
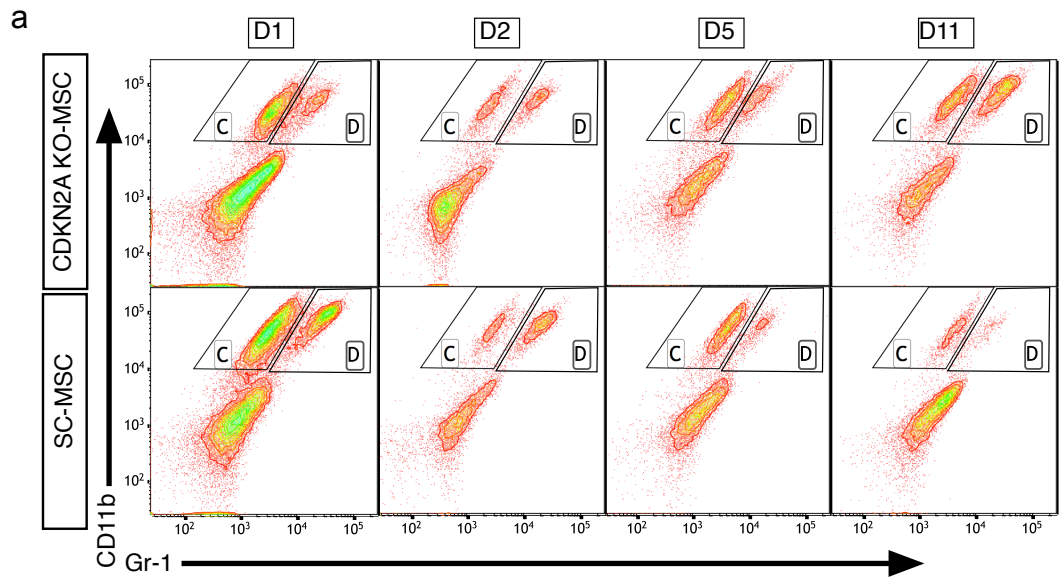


Fig. S13. CD11b⁺Gr1⁺ cells after CDKN2A KO-MSC transplantation. (a)

Representative CD11b and Gr-1 counter plot in CIM (1, 2, 5, and 11 days after CDKN2A

KO-MSC or scramble control (SC)-MSC injection). (b) Percentage of CD11b⁺ Gr-1^{high}

neutrophils and CD11b⁺ Gr-1^{low} immature myeloid cells. Quantitative data with dot plots

are shown as means ± SEM. P-values were determined by one-way ANOVA, adjusted by

Tukey's method. (*P < 0.05, **P < 0.001).

Supplementary tables

Table 1

Primary antibodies				
Antibody	Clone	Conjugate(s)	Dilution	Source
Flow cytometry				
rat anti-CD45	30-F11	FITC	1:200	Biolegend
rat anti-CD11b	M1/70	PE/Cy7	1:80	Biolegend
rat anti-Gr-1	RB6-8C5	PerCP/Cy5.5	1:80	Biolegend
rat anti-F4/80	BM8	Alexa Fluor APC	1:80	Biolegend
rat anti-CD31	390	FITC	1:80	Biolegend
rat anti-CD49b	DX5	PE	1:200	Biolegend
rat anti-Ly-6C	HK1.4	FITC	1:200	Biolegend
rat anti-integrin α 7	3C13	PE	1:20	Miltenyi Biotec
rabbit anti-p16INK4A	Polyclonal	unconjugated	1:200	ProteinTech
Immunohistochemistry and Immunofluorescence				
rabbit anti-YAP	63.7	unconjugated	1:100	Santa Cruz Biotechnology
rabbit anti-p16INK4A	Polyclonal	unconjugated	1:200	ProteinTech
rabbit anti-OCT4	Polyclonal	unconjugated	1:100	Abcam
rabbit anti-phospho-LATS1/2	Polyclonal	unconjugated	1:50	Sigma Aldrich
rabbit anti-YAP1(phospho-Ser127)	EP1675Y	unconjugated	1:250	Abcam
F-actin	-	Phalloidin-iFluor 488 reagent	1:1000	Abcam
rabbit anti-laminin	Polyclonal	unconjugated	1:100	Abcam
rat anti-CD8a	53-6.7	unconjugated	1:80	Biolegend

mouse anti-H-2Kd	SF1-1.1	biotin	1:80	Biolegend
rat anti-CD140a	APA5	unconjugated	1:50-200	Biolegend
rat anti-CD49b	DX5	Alexa Fluor 488	1:200	Biolegend
rat anti-F4/80	BM8	Alexa Fluor 488	1:80	Biolegend

Secondary reagents

Antibody or reagent	Conjugate(s)	Source
	Alexa Fluor 488,	
goat polyclonal anti-rabbit IgG	Alexa Fluor 647, Cy3	Jackson ImmunoResearch
	Alexa Fluor 488,	
	Alexa Fluor 647,	Jackson
goat polyclonal anti-rat IgG	Cy3	ImmunoResearch Jackson
Streptavidin	Alexa Fluor 647	ImmunoResearch
Donkey polyclonal anti-rabbit IgG	PE	Biolegend

Table 2**Specific primer sequences used for real-time PCR**

Gene	Forward Sequence	Reverse Sequence	Size (bp)	Accession Number
<i>POU5F1 (OCT4)</i>	5' GACAGGGGAGGGGAGGAG 3'	5' CTTCCCTCCAACCAAGTTGCC 3'	143	NM_001159542
<i>SOX2</i>	5' GGGAAATGGGAGGGGTGCAA 3'	5' TTGCGTGAGTGTGGATGGGA 3'	151	NM_003106
<i>NANOG</i>	5' TGGACTTGCTGAATCCTTC 3'	5' CGTTGATTAGGCTCCAACCAT 3'	142	NM_024865
<i>DNMT1</i>	5' CGTAAAGAAGAATTATCCGAGG 3'	5' GTTTTCTAGACGTCCATTAC 3'	123	NM_001130823
<i>p16INK4A (CDKN2A)</i>	5' AGCATGGAGCCTTCGGCTGA 3'	5' CCATCATCATGACCTGGATCG 3'	142	NM_000077
<i>p14ARF (CDKN2A)</i>	5' TACTGAGGAGCCAGCGTCTA 3'	5' TGCACGGGTCGGGTGAGAGT 3'	146	NM_058195
<i>p21 (CDKN1A)</i>	5' GAGACTCTCAGGGTCGAAAA 3'	5' TTAGGGCTTCTCTTGAGAGA 3'	92	NM_000389
<i>TP53</i>	5' TGACTGTACCACCATCCACTA 3'	5' AAACACGCACCTCAAAGC 3'	143	NM_000546
<i>RB1</i>	5' GCTAGCCTATCTCCGGCTAAA 3'	5' CTGAAAAGGGTCCAGATGA 3'	88	NM_000321
<i>TERT</i>	5' CGGAAGAGTGTCTGGAGC 3'	5' GGATGAAGCGGAGTCTGGA 3'	145	NM_198253
<i>TSG-6</i>	5' CCCATTGTGAAGCCAGGCCCAACTG 3'	5' GGAAGCTCATCTCCACAGTATCTCCC 3'	362	NM_007115
<i>IDO1</i>	5' GCATTTTTCAGTGTTCTTCGCATA 3'	5' TCATACACCAGACCGTCTGATAGC 3'	77	NM_002164
<i>IL-6</i>	5' GATGAGTACAAAAGTCTGATCCA 3'	5' CTGCAGCCACTGGTTCTGT 3'	130	NM_000600
<i>α-SMA (ACTA2)</i>	5' GCAGCCCAGCCAAGCACTGT 3'	5' TGGGAGCATCGTCCCAGCA 3'	135	NM_001613
<i>CD47</i>	5' AGAAGGTGAAACGATCATCGAGC 3'	5' CTCATCCATACCACCGGATCT 3'	160	NM_001777
<i>PPARγ (PPARG)</i>	5' GACTTCTCCAGCATTTCTAC 3'	5' TCCACTTTGATTGCACTTTG 3'	122	XM_024453606
<i>RUNX2</i>	5' AAGCTTGATGACTCTAAACC 3'	5' TCTGTAATCTGACTCTGTCC 3'	164	NM_001024630
<i>SOX9</i>	5' CATGAGCGAGGTGCACTCC 3'	5' TCGCTTCAGGTGAGCCTTG 3'	112	NM_000346
<i>18S rRNA</i>	5' ATCGGGGATTGCAATTATTC 3'	5' CTCACTAAACCATCCAATCG 3'	130	X03205
<i>GAPDH</i>	5' ATTGCCCTCAACGACCACTT 3'	5' TGCTGTAGCCAAATTCGTTGTC 3'	64	NM_002046