Cell Reports, Volume 29

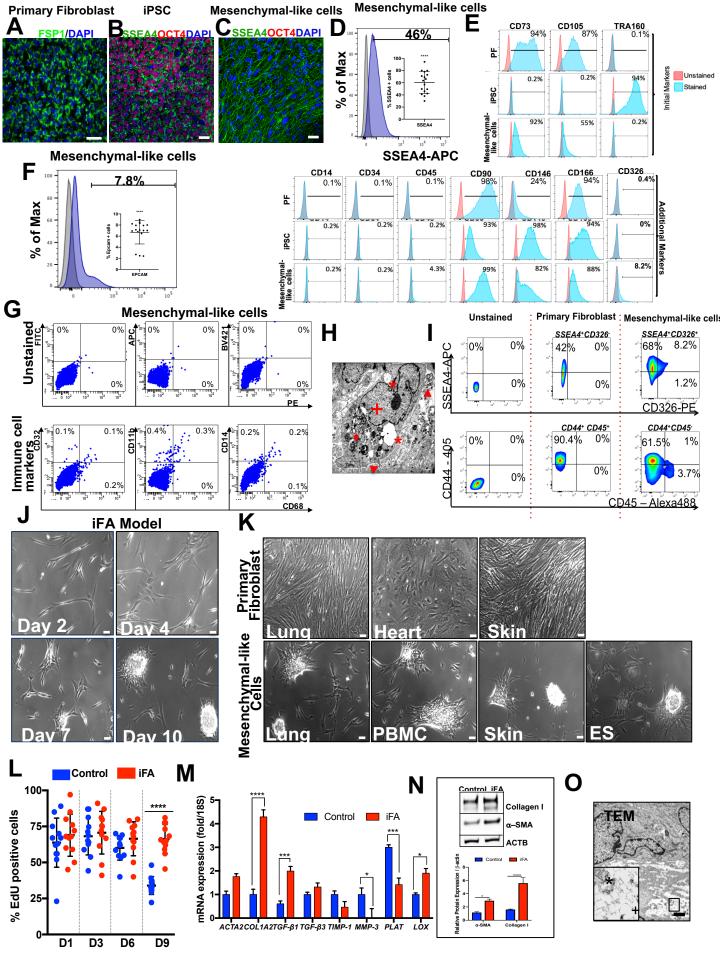
# **Supplemental Information**

# **Modeling Progressive Fibrosis**

# with Pluripotent Stem Cells Identifies

# an Anti-fibrotic Small Molecule

Preethi Vijayaraj, Aspram Minasyan, Abdo Durra, Saravanan Karumbayaram, Mehrsa Mehrabi, Cody J. Aros, Sarah D. Ahadome, David W. Shia, Katherine Chung, Jenna M. Sandlin, Kelly F. Darmawan, Kush V. Bhatt, Chase C. Manze, Manash K. Paul, Dan C. Wilkinson, Weihong Yan, Amander T. Clark, Tammy M. Rickabaugh, W. Dean Wallace, Thomas G. Graeber, Robert Damoiseaux, and Brigitte N. Gomperts

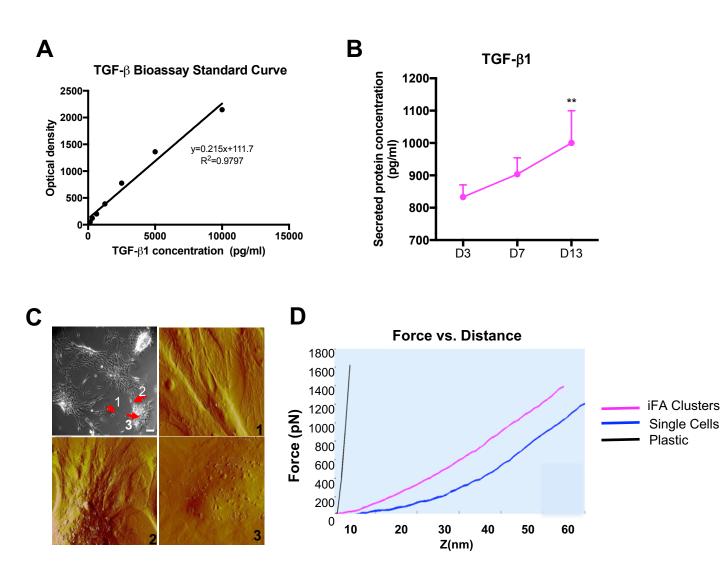


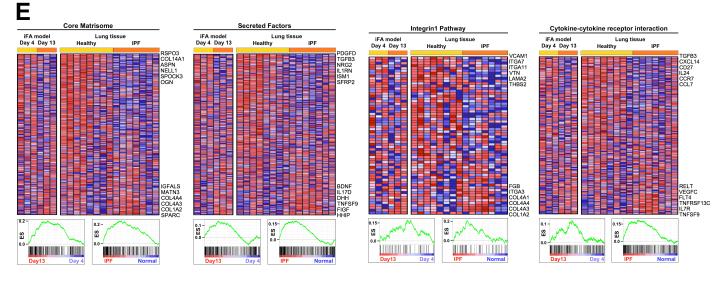
1 Figure S1. Generation and characterization of iPSC-derived mesenchymal-like cells. Related to

2 Figure 1

3 (A-C) Steps involved in generation of mesenchymal-like cells. (A) Primary cultures of lung fibroblasts that 4 expressed the fibroblast marker FSP1. (B) The primary fibroblasts were reprogrammed into iPSC and 5 expressed pluripotency marker OCT4. (C) The iPSCs were differentiated into cells that expressed markers 6 largely mesenchymal-like cells (SSEA4+). (D) Overlaid histogram plot that depicts the relative SSEA4 7 fluorescence intensity (blue) of the mesenchymal-like cells compared to the unstained controls (grey). Inset 8 depicts % of positive cells (n=17).  $p \le 0.0001$  by Wilcoxon signed rank test. (E) Representative flow 9 cytometric analysis results before and after differentiation of iPSCs. Representative flow cytometric 10 profiles obtained from parent primary fibroblasts, undifferentiated iPSC and from mesenchymal stem cell 11 (MSC)-like cells obtained after successful differentiation of iPSC to mesenchymal-like cells. The red 12 histograms represent the isotype controls, while the blue histograms represent the individual markers being 13 analyzed. (F) Overlaid histogram plot that depicts the relative CD326 (epithelial marker) fluorescence 14 intensity (blue) of the mesenchymal-like cells compared to the unstained controls (grey). Inset depicts % 15 positive cells (n=17). p $\leq$ 0.0001 by Wilcoxon signed rank test. (G) Representative FACS plots revealing 16 expression of monocyte/macrophage markers in the mesenchymal-like cells. The cells were co-stained for 17 CD68 and CD32, CD11b or CD14, revealing 0.2-0.7% cells positive for monocyte/macrophage markers. 18 Unstained controls are shown in top panel (n=7). p=0.0156 by Wilcoxon signed rank test. (H) 19 Representative image of mesenchymal-like cell of a macrophage-like cell displaying heterochromatin (+), 20 vacuolated cytoplasm (\*), several microvilli (arrows) and whorls of phagocytosed matter (star). Scale bar, 21 1µm. (I) Characterization of primary fibroblasts (middle panel) and mesenchymal-like cells (right panel) 22 using multi-color FACS. Unstained control plots are shown on the left panel. Representative FACS data 23 with gating are shown for each marker. (J) Phase-contrast images demonstrating propagation of 24 mesenchymal-like cells on 13 kPa hydrogels (iFA) over time that reveal progressively increasing scar-like 25 aggregate size with progression from D2 to 10; Scale bar, 50µm. (K) Phase-contrast images demonstrating 26 the development of the iFA phenotype only in cultures from mesenchymal-like cells generated from iPSCs 27 of different sources and human ES cells. Primary fibroblasts failed to generate the phenotype irrespective 28 of the parent source. Scale bar, 50µm. (L) Quantification of EdU positive cells in primary fibroblasts and

29	mesenchymal-like cells grown on 13kPa hydrogels related to Figure 1B. All data are presented as mean $\pm$
30	s.e.m; **** $P < 0.0001$ using 2-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test. (M) Fibrosis-
31	related genes expression by qPCR in primary fibroblasts (control) and mesenchymal-like cells (iFA)
32	cultured on 13kPa hydrogels (n=5). (N) Representative immunoblot analysis of the expression of Collagen
33	I and $\alpha$ -SMA in primary fibroblasts (control) and mesenchymal-like cells (iFA) showing increased
34	expression of the fibrosis-related proteins in the iFA cultures collected at day 13 (left panel). Beta actin was
35	used as a loading control. Right panel shows quantitative data presented as mean $\pm$ s.e.m; **** <i>P</i> < 0.0001,
36	*P<0.05 using 2-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparisons test. (O) Representative
37	transmission electron microscopic (TEM) images showing ultrastructure of cells in the iFA model amidst
38	copious amounts of matricellular proteins (asterisk) and fibrillar proteins (plus). Inset is a higher
39	magnification of the TEM image; Scale bar, 1µm.
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#### 57 Figure S2. Characterization of the iFA phenotype. Related to Figure 2

58 (A) PAI-1 promoter/luciferase construct-transfected mink lung epithelial cells were incubated with various 59 concentrations of human recombinant(r) TGF- B1 at 37°C for 20 h. The standard curve showed a dose-60 dependent increase in luciferase activity (relative light units, RLU) by rTGF-B1 between 0 and 10 ng/ml. 61 The standard curve was used to determine the bioactivity of TGF- $\beta$  in the iFA model. (B) Time-dependent 62 levels of secreted TGF- $\beta$ 1 during the development of the iFA phenotype (D4 to 13). A significant increase 63 in secreted TGF-B1 protein in the iFA model was observed over time similar to that reported in fibrotic 64 organs (n=6). Data represent mean ± s.e.m; \*\*P<0.01 using 2-way ANOVA and Sidak's multiple 65 comparisons test. (C) Representative phase contrast image (top left) of the iFA model at D13 that was used 66 to measure the elastic modulus. Arrows point to representative regions of the culture where the 67 measurements were made. 1 refers to single cells in the dish. 2 refers to the cells on the periphery of the 68 iFA phenotype. 3 refers to the center of the iFA phenotype. 3D rendering of the AFM amplitude channel 69 that shows representative areas of 1,2 and 3 from panel (top right and bottom panels). (D) Force versus 70 distance curves measured on cells from (c). Black line depicts the curve obtained on the stiff petri dish. 71 Magenta line represents curve obtained from cells in the iFA and blue line represents single cells. The 72 measured indentation was fitted to the Sneddon model. Elastic moduli of iFA cells and single cells were 73 calculated as 30kPa and 15kPa, respectively. (E) Heatmaps showing expression of genes (red/blue are 74 up/down-regulated), encoding for selected canonical pathways (core matrisome, selected factors, integrin 1 75 and cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction) in iFA model and previously published IPF lung tissue. On the 76 right of each heatmap, genes at the extremes of the lists are indicated. At the bottom of each panel, a plot 77 showing running enrichment score (ES) across the ranked list in each pathway is indicated, where the score 78 at the peak of the plot is the final enrichment of the given gene set. 79

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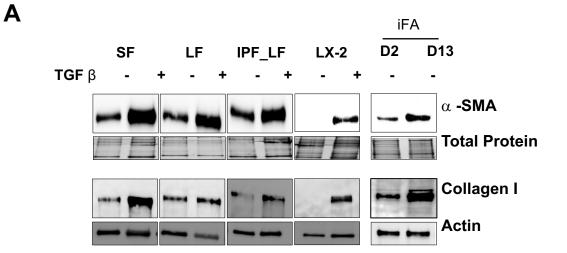
#### 141 Figure S5. Secondary Screening using the iFA model. Related to Figure 5.

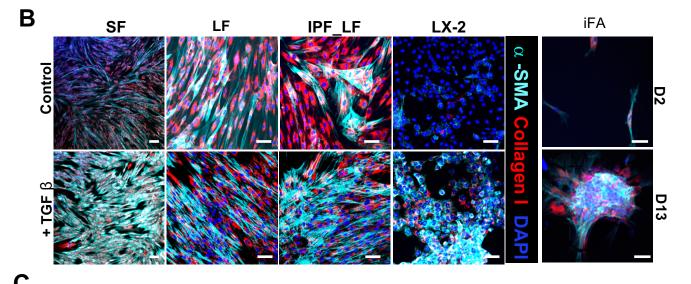
142 (A) Schematic to represent the timeline of prevention and resolution of the iFA phenotype in the iFA 143 model. (B) Representative still frames from a time-lapse series showing an invasive and progressive 144 phenotype in the disease model (upper panel), which resolved on addition of AA5 (lower panel); Scale bar, 145 100 $\mu$ m. (C) Quantitative data presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m depicting the expression of Collagen I and  $\alpha$ -SMA 146 in the iFA model and AA5-presolution cultures collected at day 16. Beta actin was used as a normalization control. n=3, \*\*P < 0.01, \*P < 0.05 using 2-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparisons test. 147 148 (D) Representative IF staining for HMGB1 in DMSO-treated, AA5-prevention- and AA5-resolution-treated 149 iFA model revealing the absence or significantly reduced cytoplasmic HMGB1 in the AA5-treated cultures; 150 Scale bar, 50um. Bottom panels are higher magnification of insets; Scale bar, 25um. (E) Overlaid 151 histogram plot that depict the relative SSEA4 fluorescence intensity in the iFA model with DMSO (blue), 152 AA5-prevention (orange) and AA5-reversal (green) treatments. Unstained control is depicted in red. Inset 153 depicts % of positive cells (n=6). \*\*P < 0.01, \*P<0.05 using two-tailed paired t-test. The percentage of 154 SSEA4+ cells was significantly reduced in the iFA model with AA5 treatment. (F-H) The Rank Rank 155 Hypergeometric Overlap (RRHO) analysis shows statistically significant hypergeometric overlap between 156 differentially expressed genes in the iFA model post AA5-prevention (n=2) and post AA5-resolution (n=2)157 treatments, as compared to the untreated control, iFA (n=2). This suggests a similar mechanism of action 158 between AA5 in preventing (G) and resolving (H) fibrosis, and both produce a shift in the gene expression 159 levels that is comparable to the differential expression of genes in the lung IPF tissue (n=7) in contrast to 160 healthy lung controls (n=8), (G,H). The signed, log<sub>10</sub>-transformed t-test P-values are indicated in the color 161 scale bar. At the bottom and on the left, ranked gene lists are indicated. (I-J) The list of significantly 162 enriched terms using ClueGO analysis of AA5-mediated prevention (I) and resolution (J) of iFA phenotype 163 in the iFA model. Terms are grouped according to the functional group that they belong to. Terms that are 164 part of more than one functional group are shown in purple. The group p-values (corrected with Bonferoni 165 step down) are indicated in between the bar charts. The bars indicate the percentage of the up- (red) or 166 down-regulated (blue) genes per each term. The numbers outside the bars show the actual number of genes 167 associated with the specific terms, while the numbers in the parenthesis show the individual term p-value. 168 Related to Figure 5d-e. (K) Representative immunoblot analysis of the expression of p-SMAD2/3 in iFA

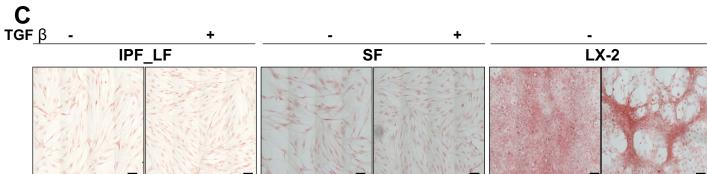
# **FIGURE S3**

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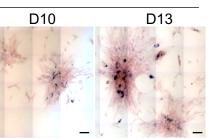
D4







iFA D6 D8

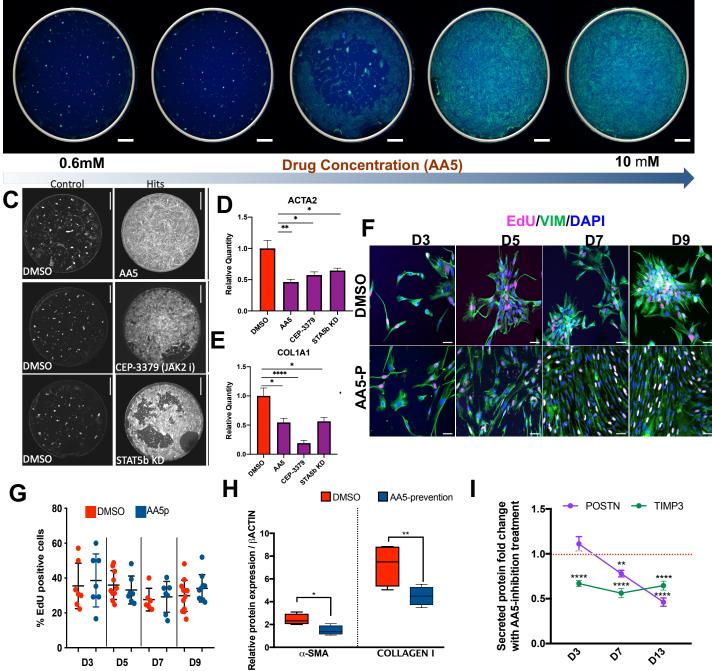


85	Figure S3. Comparison of iFA Model with TGF-β-Induced Fibrosis Models. Related to Figure 3
86	(A) Representative immunoblot analysis of the expression of Collagen I and $\alpha$ -SMA in exogenously TGF-
87	$\beta$ -treated fibrosis models of skin (SF), lung (LF, IPF_LF) and liver (LX-2) at 48 hours compared to the iFA
88	model at Day (D) 2 and 13 with no addition of TGF- $\beta$ . Total protein ( $\alpha$ -SMA) and ACTB (Collagen I)
89	were used as a loading controls. (B) Representative IF images of Collagen I and $\alpha$ -SMA in exogenously
90	TGF-β-treated fibrosis models of skin (SF), lung (LF, IPF_LF) and liver (LX-2) compared to the iFA
91	model at Day (D) 2 and 13 with no addition of TGF- $\beta$ . Scale bars, 50 $\mu$ m. (C) Representative images of
92	exogenously TGF-β-treated fibrosis models of skin, lung and liver (48 hrs) compared to the iFA model
93	during the progression of the fibrotic phenotype the iFA model at day (D) 2 to 13 of culture, demonstrating
94	senescent cells with SA-β-Gal staining; Scale bars, 50µm.
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	Calcein-AM	Calcein-AM
	Parameters to identify cellular aggregates	Parameters to identify single live cells
Approximate minimum width	60 µm	15 μm
Approximate maximum width	200 μm	100 μm
Intensity above local background	200 gray level	70 gray level

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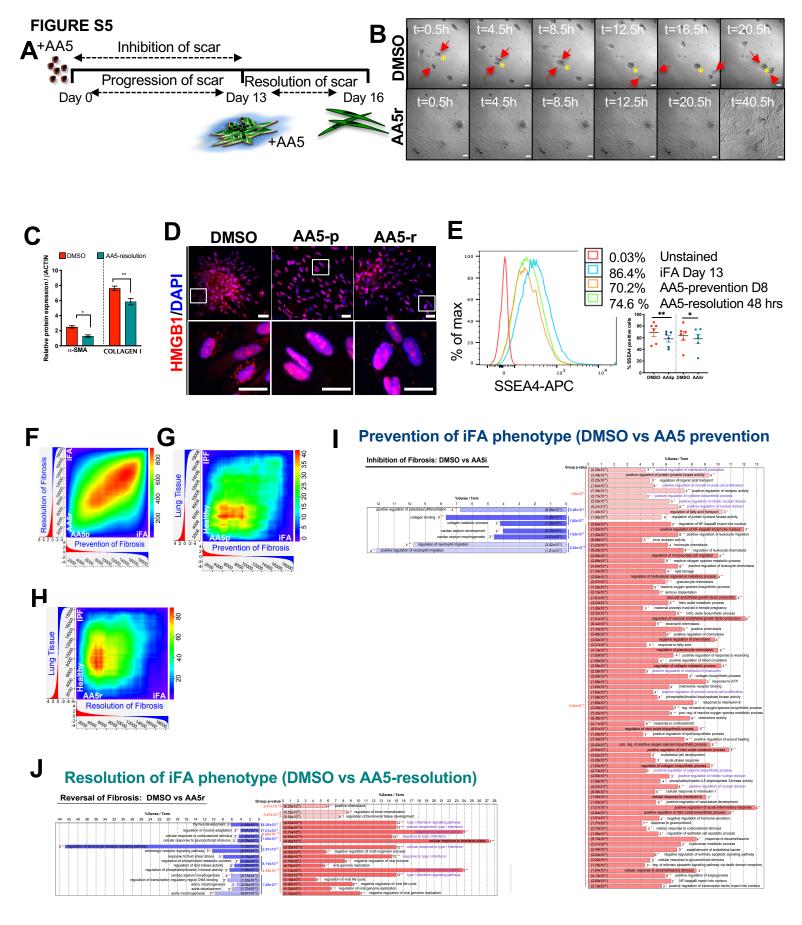
## Calcein-AM / Hoechst 33324

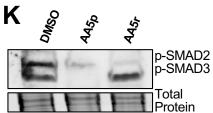


## 113 Figure S4. HTS using the iFA model identifies a primary hit molecule. Related to Figure 4.

114 (A) High content staining discrimination of iFA phenotype vs individual spindle-shaped live cells. Cells 115 are stained with Calcein-AM vital dye. Table shows the parameters that were used to identify and count the 116 number of areas displaying the iFA phenotype and total number of individual spindle-shaped live cells. 117 Scale bar, 750 $\mu$ m. (B) Representative images from wells of the iFA model treated with  $0.6\mu$ M –  $10\mu$ M 118 AA5. Cells were stained with viability dye Calcein AM and the nuclei were counterstained with Hoechst 119 33342. Note full prevention of phenotype at low micromolar concentrations; Scale bar, 750µm. (C) 120 Representative images from wells of the iFA model treated with DMSO control (left panel), hit molecules 121 (right panel) stained with Calcein AM. No inhibition of the iFA phenotype was observed in the controls. 122 The right panel shows partial or complete inhibition of the iFA phenotype. Scale bar, 750µm. (D-E) 123 Relative expression of gene expression of ACTA2 (D) and COL1A1 (E) in controls, hits and non-hits using 124 the iFA model. \*\*\*\*P < 0.0001 \* P < 0.05 using two-way ANOVA and Sidak's multiple comparison test. 125 (F) Comparative IF images of DMSO (top panel) and AA5-prevention (bottom panel) treated iFA model 126 from days (D) 3, 5, 7, and 9 in culture labeled with EdU for 6 hours. The cells were counterstained with 127 VIM and DAPI. Scale bar, 50µm. (G) EdU positive DAPI cells from (c) was quantified for each time point. 128 Treatment with AA5 did not display any significant difference in the proliferation rate when compared to 129 the DMSO treated cells. All data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  s.e.m; non-significant data using one-way 130 ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test. (H) Quantitation of immunoblot analysis of the expression 131 of Collagen I and  $\alpha$ -SMA in the DMSO and AA5-prevention samples at D8. ACTB was used as a loading 132 control. (I) Time-dependent fold change in secreted POSTN and TIMP-3 in response to AA5-prevention 133 treatment versus DMSO in the development of the iFA phenotype (D3 to D13). 134 135

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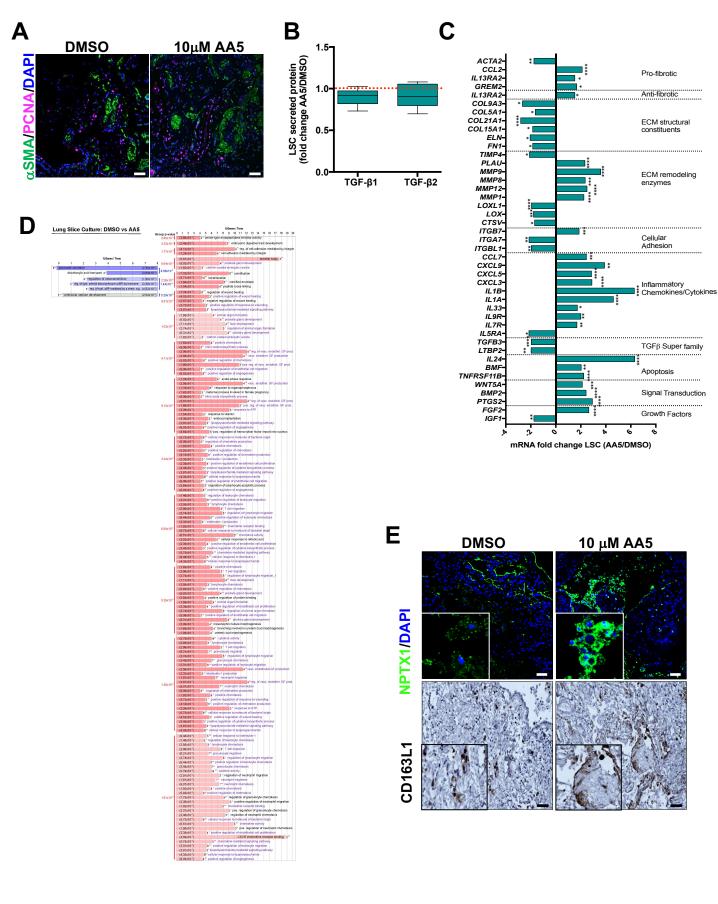


#### 141 Figure S5. Secondary Screening using the iFA model. Related to Figure 5.

142 (A) Schematic to represent the timeline of prevention and resolution of the iFA phenotype in the iFA 143 model. (B) Representative still frames from a time-lapse series showing an invasive and progressive 144 phenotype in the disease model (upper panel), which resolved on addition of AA5 (lower panel); Scale bar, 145 100 $\mu$ m. (C) Quantitative data presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m depicting the expression of Collagen I and  $\alpha$ -SMA 146 in the iFA model and AA5-presolution cultures collected at day 16. Beta actin was used as a normalization control. n=3, \*\*P < 0.01, \*P < 0.05 using 2-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparisons test. 147 148 (D) Representative IF staining for HMGB1 in DMSO-treated, AA5-prevention- and AA5-resolution-treated 149 iFA model revealing the absence or significantly reduced cytoplasmic HMGB1 in the AA5-treated cultures; 150 Scale bar, 50um. Bottom panels are higher magnification of insets; Scale bar, 25um. (E) Overlaid 151 histogram plot that depict the relative SSEA4 fluorescence intensity in the iFA model with DMSO (blue), 152 AA5-prevention (orange) and AA5-reversal (green) treatments. Unstained control is depicted in red. Inset 153 depicts % of positive cells (n=6). \*\*P < 0.01, \*P<0.05 using two-tailed paired t-test. The percentage of 154 SSEA4+ cells was significantly reduced in the iFA model with AA5 treatment. (F-H) The Rank Rank 155 Hypergeometric Overlap (RRHO) analysis shows statistically significant hypergeometric overlap between 156 differentially expressed genes in the iFA model post AA5-prevention (n=2) and post AA5-resolution (n=2)157 treatments, as compared to the untreated control, iFA (n=2). This suggests a similar mechanism of action 158 between AA5 in preventing (G) and resolving (H) fibrosis, and both produce a shift in the gene expression 159 levels that is comparable to the differential expression of genes in the lung IPF tissue (n=7) in contrast to 160 healthy lung controls (n=8), (G,H). The signed, log<sub>10</sub>-transformed t-test P-values are indicated in the color 161 scale bar. At the bottom and on the left, ranked gene lists are indicated. (I-J) The list of significantly 162 enriched terms using ClueGO analysis of AA5-mediated prevention (I) and resolution (J) of iFA phenotype 163 in the iFA model. Terms are grouped according to the functional group that they belong to. Terms that are 164 part of more than one functional group are shown in purple. The group p-values (corrected with Bonferoni 165 step down) are indicated in between the bar charts. The bars indicate the percentage of the up- (red) or 166 down-regulated (blue) genes per each term. The numbers outside the bars show the actual number of genes 167 associated with the specific terms, while the numbers in the parenthesis show the individual term p-value. 168 Related to Figure 5d-e. (K) Representative immunoblot analysis of the expression of p-SMAD2/3 in iFA

169	model treated with either DMSO, AA5-prevention (8 days) or AA5-resolution (48hrs) treatments. Total
170	protein was used as a loading control.
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## **FIGURE S6**



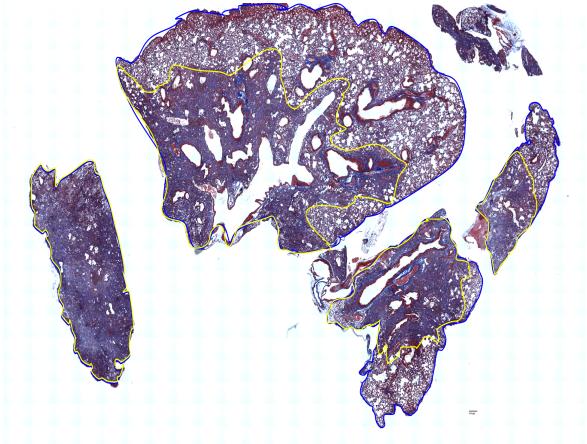
## 197 Figure S6. *Ex vivo* anti-fibrotic effect of AA5. Related to Figure 6

198 (A) Representative image of DMSO- and AA5-treated lung slice cultures (LSCs) stained for the 199 proliferation marker PCNA 72 hours after treatment depicting viability of tissue. Samples were 200 counterstained for  $\alpha$ -SMA and DAPI. (B) Relative secreted levels of TGF- $\beta$  proteins in supernatants of 201 AA5-treated LSCs compared to DMSO-treated controls, 48 hours after treatment (n=9). Data represent 202 min-max and median protein abundance in AA5-treated LSCs relative to DMSO treated controls (red line). 203 (C) Gene expression analysis showing relative expression levels of fibrosis-related genes in LSCs treated 204 with AA5 compared with DMSO treatment depicting the fibro-protective effect of AA5 (n=6). TMM 205 (trimmed mean of M-values) was used to normalize the gene expression; \*\*\*\*P < 0.0001 \*\*\* P<0.001 \*\* 206 P < 0.01 \* P < 0.05. (D) The list of significantly enriched terms in the ClueGO analysis from the pairwise 207 comparison between AA5 and DMSO treated LSCs. Terms are grouped according to the functional group 208 that they belong to. Terms that are part of more than one functional group are shown in purple. The group 209 p-values (corrected with Bonferoni step down) are indicated in between the bar charts. The bars indicate the 210 percentage of the up- (red) or down-regulated (blue) genes per each term. The numbers outside the bars 211 show the actual number of genes associated with the specific terms, while the numbers in the parenthesis 212 show the individual term p-value. (E) Upper panel shows representative images of DMSO- and AA5 213 (10µM)-treated LSCs stained for NPTX1 revealing excessive NPTX1 staining in the honey comb cyst areas 214 of the IPF lung in the AA5-treated samples within 48 hours of treatment in comparison to the DMSO 215 controls. The samples were counterstained for DAPI. Insets are higher magnified images. Scale bar, 50µm. 216 Lower panel shows representative images of DMSO- and AA5 (10µM)-treated LSCs stained for scavenger 217 receptor protein CD163L1 by immunohistochemistry and revealed prominent staining on macrophages in 218 both treatments, but a higher expression of shed receptor staining was seen on AA5 treatment suggesting 219 activation of the phagocytic cells. Insets are higher magnified images. Scale bar, 100µm. 220 221 222 223

224

**FIGURE S7** 

# Α



## Figure S7. In vivo anti-fibrotic effect of AA5. Related to Figure 7.

(A) Representative Masson trichrome stained section of bleomycin treated lungs with the borders of the lung and fibrotic areas marked using the spline contour tool. Percent fibrotic area was calculated for each lobe (related to Figure 7J) Scale bars, 100 μm.

S.No	Patients	Tissue source	Age	Gender
1	IPF patient 1	Lung, skin	65	F
2	IPF patient 2	Lung, skin	55	М
3	IPF patient 3	Lung, skin	62	М
4	IPF patient 4	Lung, skin	50	F
5	IPF patient 5	Lung, skin	64	М
6	No prior disease patient 1	lung	NK	NK
7	No prior disease patient 2	lung	NK	NK
8	No prior disease patient 3	lung	NK	NK
9	No prior disease patient 4	lung	NK	NK
10	No prior disease patient 5	lung	NK	NK
11	No prior disease patient 6	lung	NK	NK
12	No prior disease patient 7	blood	NK	М
13	No prior disease patient 8	skin	NK	М
14	No prior disease patient 9	skin	NK	М
15	Patient with NKx2.1 mutation #1	skin	NK	М
16	Patient with NKx2.1 mutation #2	Skin	NK	F
17	Patient with NKx2.1 mutation #3	Skin	NK	F

NK – not known

**Table S1:** Information of subjects from whom samples were collected for IPSC derivation. Related toFigures 1 and S1.

Oligonucleotides		
TGFB3	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs01086000_m1
TIMP1	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs01092512_g1
MMP3	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00968305_m1
PLAT	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00263492_m1
LOX	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00942480_m1
PTX3	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00173615_m1
NPTX1	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00982601_m1
CD163L1	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00264549_m1
ACTA2	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00426835_g1
COL1A2	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs01028956_m1
TGFB1	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Hs00998133_m1

 Table S3: List of TaqMan probes used in this study. Related to Methods.

253	Table S2: Canonical pathway enrichment analysis of IFA model compared to previously published fibrotic
254	lung, liver and kidney tissues. Related to Figures 2H and S2E.
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257	Supplemental Videos:
258	Video S1. Time-lapse movie showing pre-iFA phenotype in the model. Related to Figure 1.
259	Transmitted light time-lapse images of iFA model at Day 4 revealing the initial stages of the formation of
260	the iFA phenotype. The time-lapse covers a period of about 17 hours, imaged every 8 minutes and exported
261	at 12 frames per second.
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263	Video S2. Time-lapse movie showing iFA phenotype in the model. Related to Figures 1 and S5B.
264	Transmitted light time-lapse images of iFA model at Day 13 revealing fully established iFA phenotype at
265	Day 13. The time-lapse covers a period of about 20 hours, imaged every 8 minutes and exported at 12
266	frames per second. The clusters show directionality, likely a consequence of the chemokine/cytokine
267	secretion, combing of clusters accounting for the progressively increasing size of the clusters.
268	
269	Video S3. Time-lapse movie showing the iFA-resolution effect of AA5. Related to Figures 5 and S5B.
270	Transmitted light time-lapse images of iFA model at Day 13, 5 hours after addition of $10\mu M$ AA5 revealing
271	full resolution of the iFA phenotype within 48 hours. The time-lapse covers a period of about 20 hours,
272	imaged every 8 minutes and exported at 12 frames per second.
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