

1  
2 **Supplemental Material for**

3  
4 **Endothelial UCP2 is a mechanosensitive suppressor of atherosclerosis**

5  
6 **This file includes:**

7 Expanded Materials & Methods

8 Online Supplemental Figures S1 – S11

9 Online Supplemental Tables S1- S3

10  
11 **Materials & Methods**

12 **Chemicals and reagents**

13 Simvastatin (#10010344), Rosuvastatin (#12029) and Resveratrol (#10004235) were purchased  
14 from Cayman chemicals (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA). IL-1 $\beta$  (201-LB) were from R&D Systems  
15 (Minneapolis, USA). L- $\alpha$ -Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC, #L4129) and Phorbol 12-myristate 13-  
16 acetate (PMA, # P8139) were from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). AS1842856 (HY-100596) was  
17 from MedChemExpress. Tempol (ALX-430-081-G001) was from Enzo Life Sciences  
18 (Farmingdale, New York). The antibodies used in this study includes: anti-UCP2 (AF4739, R&D  
19 Systems; #89326, CST), anti-KLF2 (#09-820, Merck), anti-Myc tag (ab9132, Abcam), anti-eNOS  
20 (#610297, BD bioscience), anti-FoxO1(#2880, CST), anti-VCAM-1 (ab134047, Abcam), anti-  
21 MCP-1 (ab25124, Abcam), anti-IL-6 (sc-57315, Santa Cruz), anti-p-AKT S473 (#4060, CST),  
22 anti-p-AKT T308 (#4056, CST), anti-p-FoxO1 S256 (#9461, CST), anti-AKT (#9272, CST), anti-  
23 p-AMPK $\alpha$  T172 (#2535, CST), anti-AMPK $\alpha$  (#2532, CST), anti-I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  (#4814, CST), anti-LDLR  
24 (# PA5-22976, Invitrogen), and anti-GAPDH (#2118, CST). For more detailed information, please  
25 refer to Major Resources Table.

29 **Cell culture**

30 Human aortic endothelial cells (HAECs) were purchased from ThermoFisher Scientific (Catalog  
31 #: C0065C) and cultured in Medium 200 supplemented with Low Serum Growth Supplement Kit  
32 (Catalog #: S003K). Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were from Lonza  
33 Bioscience (Catalog #: CC-2519) and cultured in Endothelial cell Growth Medium supplemented  
34 with EGS and 20% Fetal bovine serum (FBS) at 37 °C in incubator with 95% humidified air and  
35 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. HAECs and HUVECs were subcultured every six and three days, respectively. Cells  
36 before passage 8 were used in this study. HEK293A and HEK293T cells used for virus packaging  
37 were purchased from ATCC and cultured in high glucose DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS.  
38 For more detailed information, please refer to Major Resources Table.

39

40 **Adeno-associated virus (AAV) generation**

41 For generation of EC-specific AAV vector, the CMV promoter in the pAAV-MCS (Cell Biolabs)  
42 vector was replaced with a 2500 bp mouse Cdh5 promoter<sup>54</sup> and the new vector was named as  
43 pAAV-Cdh5. The mouse Ucp2 cDNA was PCR amplified from the cDNA template obtained from  
44 mouse liver and was cloned to pAAV-Cdh5 vector to generate recombinant pAAV-Cdh5-Ucp2  
45 vector. The pAAV-Cdh5 was used as the control during virus packaging. RGDLRVS-AAV9-cap  
46 plasmid (a gift from Dr. O.J. Müller, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany) was used to  
47 package recombinant endothelial enhanced AAV owing to its higher infection efficiency in  
48 endothelial cells<sup>55</sup>. The pAAV-Cdh5-Ucp2 or pAAV-Cdh5-Vector, RGDLRVS-AAV9-cap, and  
49 pAAV-Helper were co-transfected into HEK293 T cells. 72 hours post-transfection, the AAV viral  
50 particles were harvested and purified by ultracentrifuge. The titer of AAV was determined by AAV  
51 real-time PCR titration kit provided by Takara (#6233). To generate AAV-Pcsk9, the  
52 pAAV/D377Y-mPCSK9 (Addgene, #58376) was used to co-transfect with pAAV-DJ (Cell  
53 Biolabs) and pAAV-Helper to HEK293T cells. The virus was harvested and purified using the  
54 same protocol as described above.

55

56

57

58 **Adenoviral vectors**

59 Human KLF2 cDNA was PCR amplified and cloned to pAdtrack-CMV plasmid. The resultant  
60 plasmid Adtrack-CMV-KLF2 linearized by Pme I was co-transformed with pAdEasy-1  
61 (adenoviral backbone plasmid) for homologous recombination in *E. coli* BJ5183 strain cells.  
62 Positive recombinants were digested with Pac I and then transfected into HEK293A cells for  
63 adenovirus packaging. The pAdtrack-CMV vector was used as the control vector during virus  
64 packaging. Cells and culture medium were harvested until cytopathic effect became obvious.  
65 Three cycles of freeze and thaw method were performed to release adenovirus to the culture  
66 medium. After centrifuge, the virus-containing supernatant was subsequently precipitated with 5  
67 X PEG buffer. The virus was then suspended in PBS containing 4% sucrose and aliquoted to vials  
68 before storage at -80 °C. To generate adenovirus short hairpin RNAs (shRNA) targeting human  
69 KLF2 (Ad-shKLF2, CGGCACCGACGACGACCTCAA) and human UCP2 (Ad-shUCP2,  
70 GCCTGTATGATTCTGTCAAAC), the shRNA against KLF2 and UCP2 and the scrambled  
71 shRNA were cloned to pAdtrack-U6 vector and the recombinant adenovirus was generated  
72 according to the above method. For generation of EC-specific adenoviral vector, the CMV  
73 promoter in the pAdtrack-CMV vector was replaced with mouse *Cdh5* promoter (2500 bp)<sup>1</sup> and  
74 the new vector was named as pAdtrack-*Cdh5*. The mouse *Klf2* cDNA was cloned to pAdtrack-  
75 *Cdh5* vector to generate recombinant pAdtrack-*Cdh5*-*Klf2* vector. Ad-FoxO1-AAA (three Akt  
76 phosphorylation sites are altered from Serine/Threonine to Alanine) was generated using the  
77 shuttle vector pAdTrack FKHR AAA (Addgene, #1199). For more detailed information, please  
78 refer to Major Resources Table.

79

80 **Lentiviral vectors**

81 The PLKO.1 plasmid containing shRNAs targeting human FoxO1, PGC-1 $\alpha$  and SMAD4 were  
82 purchased from GeneChem (Shanghai, China). Lentivirus encoding these shRNAs was generated  
83 by co-transfection of PLKO.1, PMD2.0 and PSPAX2 to HEK293T cells for 72 hours. The  
84 supernatant containing recombinant lentivirus was collected and purified. The shRNA sequences  
85 were available upon request. For more detailed information, please refer to Major Resources Table.

86

## 87 **Animals**

88 Both the male and female mice were used in the present study. C57BL/6 mice were provided by  
89 The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Laboratory Animal Services Center and  
90 maintained at controlled temperature (22-23°C, 55 ± 5% humidity) with a 12-hour light/dark cycle  
91 with free access to standard mice diet (Research Diet Inc., USA) and water. All animal procedures  
92 were approved by the CUHK Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee (Approval number: Ref  
93 No. 16-029-MIS). Animals were randomly assigned to the experimental groups and the analysis  
94 of animal experiments were blinded whenever possible by numerical coding of samples. The  
95 present study did not use G\*power software to determine the animal group sizes. Sample size were  
96 determined according to our previous experience with mouse model of atherosclerosis. To account  
97 for potential loss of mice due to illness or sudden death, group size of 7-10 mice were chosen. All  
98 the mice and samples were included for analysis unless unsuccessful surgical operation or sample  
99 processing happens. Partial ligation of carotid artery was not successful in one mouse of the *Ucp2<sup>f/f</sup>*  
100 group and the data from this mouse was excluded. In all other cases, no animals were excluded  
101 from analysis. *Ucp2* floxed mice (B6;129S-Ucp2tm2.1Lowl/J) were from Jackson laboratory  
102 (Stock No: 022394 | *Ucp2lox*) and crossbred with Ve-Cadherin Cre mice {B6;129-Tg (Cdh5-  
103 cre)1Spe/J; Stock No: 017968} to achieve endothelium-selective deletion of UCP2 (*Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>*).  
104 The mice were genotyped according to a protocol provided by Jackson laboratory. The LDLR  
105 downregulation in liver was achieved by a single dose injection of AAV-Pcsk9 (1 x 10<sup>12</sup> vg/mouse)  
106 via tail vein to the *Ucp2<sup>f/f</sup>* and *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice, which were fed on a western diet (Cat# D12336,  
107 Research Diet Inc., USA) for induction of atherosclerosis. For more detailed information, please  
108 refer to Major Resources Table.

109

## 110 **Lung endothelial cell isolation**

111 To isolate endothelial cells from mouse lungs, the perfused lung lobes were cut into tiny pieces  
112 before Collagenase I (450 U/mL) digestion at 37°C for 30 minutes. The digestion was stopped by  
113 adding the FACS buffer (2 mM EDTA, 2% FBS). The samples were transferred to 70 μm cell  
114 strainer and the cell suspension is incubated with mouse CD31 microbeads on ice for 15 minutes  
115 before being sorted using LS column (Miltenyi Biotec) on the magnet. Column was washed with  
116 FACS buffer for several times before transferring to a 15 MI-tube for collection of CD31<sup>+</sup> cells by

117 pushing syringe plug. The cell suspension was then centrifuged, and the cell pellet was subjected  
118 to RNA isolation.

119

### 120 **In vitro shear stress experiment**

121 Ibidi flow system (Ibidi, Germany) connected with home-made flow chambers were used to  
122 generate unidirectional shear stress (USS) and oscillatory shear stress (OSS) (12 dyn/cm<sup>2</sup> for USS  
123 and  $0.5 \pm 6$  dyn/cm<sup>2</sup>, 1 Hz for OSS). The setup of flow system and computer control program were  
124 followed by manufacturer's instructions. HUVECs and HAECs were seeded at a density of  $5 \times 10^5$   
125 cells to fibronectin (50 µg/ml, Sigma)-coated glass slides (75 mm × 38 mm; Corning). 24 hours  
126 post-seeding, HUVECs and HAECs on the glass slide was mounted to the flow chambers and  
127 connected to the Ibidi flow system. The perfusion solution is EGM supplemented with 2% FBS  
128 for HUVECs, or Medium 200 supplemented with 2% FBS for HAECs.

129

### 130 **Quantitative real-time PCR**

131 HUVECs, HAECs or mouse lung ECs were homogenized and lysed in RNAiso plus (TaKaRa,  
132 #9109) and isolated according to manufacturer's protocol. Total RNA (1 µg) was reverse  
133 transcribed into cDNA using PrimeScript RT Master Mix (TaKaRa, RR036A). For detection of  
134 genes of interest, 0.25 µM primers, 0.5 µL cDNA with 2 × SYBR Green reagent (Vazyme, # Q411),  
135 were mixed and loaded to 384-well plate for RT-PCR analysis on the ViiA<sup>TM</sup>7 real time PCR  
136 system (ThermoFisher). The comparative C<sup>T</sup> method was applied to analyze the relative level of  
137 gene expression. The expression of *GAPDH* level was used as internal control for normalization.  
138 The sequences of the primers used in the present study were listed in Supplementary Table S1 and  
139 S2.

140

### 141 **RNA sequencing**

142 HAECs were transduced with Ad-SCR and Ad-shUCP2 for 120 hours and total RNA was isolated  
143 by using RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, # 217004). The extracted RNA samples were sent to Novogene  
144 Co., Ltd (Beijing, China) for RNA sequencing analysis. FDR<0.05 was used as a threshold for  
145 differentially expressed genes (DEGs). DAVID tools were used for the KEGG pathways

146 enrichment analysis. The analyzed sequencing data (Upregulation and downregulation of DEGs)  
147 is available as Online Dataset 1-3. Heatmap was generated using an online tool named phantasus  
148 which can be accessed via the link <https://artyomovlab.wustl.edu/phantasus/>.

149

## 150 **Western blotting**

151 Whole lysate isolated from cellular and tissue samples was obtained by using RIPA buffer  
152 supplemented with protease inhibitors and phosSTOP phosphatase inhibitors (Roche,  
153 11836153001). Protein concentrations were determined by Bradford Assay (Bio-Rad). Equal  
154 amount of proteins was loaded and separated by SDS–PAGE and transferred to PVDF (Millipore,  
155 USA) membranes. After blocking at room temperature for 1 hour, all antibodies were incubated  
156 overnight at 4 °C in 1 X TBST buffer. Membranes were washed three times and incubated with  
157 secondary antibodies at room temperature for 1 h. Membranes were visualized by enhanced  
158 chemiluminescence (WBKLS0500, Millipore) and the protein bands were visualized by using Bio-  
159 Rad ChemiDoc™ Imaging System.

160

## 161 **Measurement of mitochondrial ROS production in *en face* endothelium of mouse aortas**

162 After isolation, aortic segments were incubated with MitoSOX™ Red (ThermoFisher) at 5 µmol/L  
163 for 30 minutes at 37 °C in extracellular medium (in mmol/L: 121 NaCl, 5 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 10 Na-HEPES,  
164 4.7 KCl, 1.2 KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1.2 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 2 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 glucose; pH=7.4). Then the segments were washed  
165 twice in extracellular medium and cut open longitudinally. The endothelium was facing upward  
166 before cover slipping and examined under a confocal microscope (FV1000, Olympus, Japan). The  
167 images showing mitochondrial ROS signals were taken at excitation 510 nm and emission 580 nm  
168 (autofluorescence of elastin excitation: 488 nm, emission 520 nm). For determination of  
169 intracellular mitochondrial ROS in vitro, HAECs were incubated with MitoSOX™ Red (5 µmol/L)  
170 for 20 min at 37 °C, protected from light. Fluorescent images were analyzed by FV10 ASW viewer  
171 software (Version 4.2, Olympus, Japan).

172

173

174

## 175 **Partial ligation of carotid artery**

176 Partial ligation of carotid artery was performed as described previously<sup>56,57</sup>. Briefly, *Ucp2<sup>f/f</sup>* and  
177 *Ucp2<sup>Δ<sup>EC</sup></sup>* mice pre-injected with AAV-Pcsk9 were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of  
178 xylazine (10 mg/kg) and ketamine (80 mg/kg) mixture. A ventral midline incision (4–5 mm) was  
179 made in the neck to expose the left common carotid artery. Left external carotid, internal carotid,  
180 and occipital artery were ligated while the superior thyroid artery was left intact. After surgery, the  
181 mice were monitored until recovery in a chamber with a heating pad. Post-surgery, the mice were  
182 immediately fed on western diet for 3 weeks. For evaluation of the effect of FoxO1 inhibitor  
183 AS1842856 on disturbed flow-induced atherosclerosis, the *Ucp2<sup>f/f</sup>* and *Ucp2<sup>Δ<sup>EC</sup></sup>* mice pre-injected  
184 with AAV-Pcsk9 were orally administered with AS1842856 (30mg/kg daily) one-week post-  
185 surgery and lasted for two weeks. For assessment of the effect of UCP2 overexpression in  
186 endothelial cells on disturbed flow-induced atherosclerosis, the *ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>* mice were injected with  
187 AAV-vector (1 x 10<sup>12</sup> vg/mouse) and AAV-Cdh5-Ucp2 (1 x 10<sup>12</sup> vg/mouse) one day before partial  
188 ligation of carotid arteries.

189

## 190 **UCP2 promoter cloning**

191 Human UCP2 promoters were cloned into pGL3-basic vector (Promega). The PCR primers to  
192 clone human UCP2 promoters with different lengths are listed in the following. The genomic DNA  
193 template for PCR was extracted from HUVECs genome. The forward primers (Xho I as the  
194 restriction enzyme) used for cloning the promoters with different lengths are listed below: length  
195 3558 bp Fwd primer: CCGCTCGAGCTACAGGCAAGCACACCACAC; the 2302 bp Fwd  
196 primer: CCGCTCGAGGTCCACAGGACATCTTATGACTT; the 581 bp Fwd primer:  
197 CCGCTCGAGACGCTGTTAGAAACCGTCCTGGC; the 308 bp Fwd primer:  
198 CCGCTCGAGAAGTAGGAGCTGGCAGGCC; the 227 bp Fwd primer:  
199 CCGCTCGAGTGCGCGGAGCCCCACTGCGAA. All the above forward primers were used  
200 together with the same following reverse primer to amplify different sizes of UCP2 promoters.  
201 The Reverse (Hind III as the restriction enzyme) primer:  
202 CCCAAGCTTTGGGTGGGAGAGAAGGTAAATGGAA.

203

204 **Luciferase assay**

205 One day prior to transfection, HEK293A cells were seeded to a 24-well plate at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$   
206 cells/well. 200 ng luciferase reporter plasmid, 5 ng internal control plasmid renilla and 200 ng the  
207 control plasmid were mixed in 100  $\mu$ l low serum OMEM (Gibco, USA). The plasmid cocktail was  
208 gently mixed and transfected to HEK293A cells with 0.8  $\mu$ l lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen, USA).  
209 24 hours post-transfection, the cells were washed with PBS twice and lysed in 100  $\mu$ l  $1 \times$  Passive  
210 lysis buffer for 15 min at room temperature with mild shaking. 10  $\mu$ l cell lysate were transferred  
211 to 1.5 ml EP tube for measurement of relative luminescence using dual-luciferase reporter gene  
212 assay system (Promega, USA). The assay was done in GloMaxR-20/20 single-Tube Luminometer  
213 (Promega, USA) via sequentially mixing the cell lysate with 50  $\mu$ l LAR II buffer and 50  $\mu$ l Stop  
214 & Glow buffer. The data was expressed as relative luciferase activity by dividing the value of  
215 firefly luciferase by that of renilla luciferase. For luciferase activity assay done in HUVECs, the  
216 plasmids were transfected to the cells using an electroporation system from Lonza (Amaxa®  
217 HUVEC Nucleofector® Kit).

218

219 **Monocyte adhesion assay**

220 THP-1 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium. HAECs in 6-well plate pre-transduced by the  
221 Ad-shUCP2 or Ad-SCR for 96 hours were washed twice in PBS to remove cell debris, and the 2  
222 mL THP-1 monocytes suspension ( $10^5$  cells/mL) in full EGM were added to monolayers of  
223 HAECs and incubated for 40 min under normal cell culture condition. Nonadherent THP-1 cells  
224 were removed following by gentle washing of the cells for three times with EGM and cultured in  
225 full EGM medium during visualization under microscope. The THP-1 bound HAECs were  
226 visualized under a bright-field microscopy. For quantification of bound THP-1 cells, all the cells  
227 were lysed with 200  $\mu$ l lysis buffer (0.1% sodium hydroxide/0.01% SDS) and quantified for  
228 fluorescence intensity using SpectraMax i3x Multi-Mode Detection Platform (Molecular devices,  
229 USA).

230

231

232



233 **Determination of cellular ADP/ATP ratio**

234 ADP/ATP ratio in HUVECs was determined by an ADP/ATP Ratio Assay Kit (ab65313, abcam),  
235 following the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, HUVECs were washed and harvested after mixing  
236 with nucleotide releasing buffer and incubated at room temperature with gentle shaking for 5 min.  
237 Subsequently, 100 µl prepared reaction mix was dispensed to control wells and the background  
238 luminescence (SpectraMax i3x Multi-Mode Detection Platform) was recorded (Data A). Then 50  
239 µl sample was added and the luminescence was detected after 2 min (Data B). To determine ADP  
240 levels in HUVECs, the luminescence of samples was read again (Data C), followed by the addition  
241 of 10 µl 1 X ADP converting enzyme and measurement of luminescence after approximately 2  
242 min (Data D). ADP/ATP ratio = [Data D-Data C]/[Data B-Data A].

243

244 **Quantification of mitochondrial membrane potential**

245 HUVECs were incubated with MitoTracker CMXRos (50 nM; Thermo Fisher Scientific) as  
246 specific dye of mitochondrial membrane potential at 37°C for 30 min in DMEM/F12 medium. The  
247 cells were later washed three times in PBS and counterstained with DAPI. Fluorescence signals  
248 were detected by the Olympus Fluoview FV1000 laser scanning confocal system (Olympus).

249

250 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation**

251 Chromatin was prepared from HUVECs seeded on 15 cm petri dish using ChIP-IT Express  
252 Enzymatic kit (#53035, Active Motif) according to manufacturer's instruction. Briefly, HUVECs  
253 were fixed in formaldehyde for cross-linking the DNA-binding proteins to the DNA. Next, the  
254 chromatin was sheared into small fragments by enzymatic shearing and immunoprecipitated using  
255 antibodies against Myc tag (ab9132, Abcam) and p300 (ab10485, Abcam). Then the chromatin  
256 was eluted, reversed cross-links and treated with proteinase K before PCR analysis. Multiple  
257 primer pairs were used for the optimal PCR amplification of UCP2 promoter. The primer pair used  
258 for DNA gel electrophoresis is: Forward 5'- TGACCATCTCGGGGAACGAA -3' and Reverse  
259 5'- GGCCTGCCAGCTCCTACTT -3'. For ChIP-qPCR assay, chromatin was prepared from  
260 HUVECs using the similar method, the kit used was from Cell Signaling Technology  
261 (SimpleChIP® Enzymatic Chromatin IP Kit, Magnetic Beads, #9003). The antibody used for

262 immunoprecipitation is anti-KLF2 ((#09-820, Merck). The information of primers used was listed  
263 in Supplemental Table S3.

264

### 265 **Immunofluorescence staining**

266 The HAECs transduced with Ad-shUCP2 or Ad-SCR for 120 hours were fixed in 4%  
267 paraformaldehyde for 15 minutes and permeabilized by 0.1% Triton X-100. The cells were  
268 blocked by 5% normal donkey serum at room temperature for 1 hour, and then incubated with the  
269 primary antibody against FoxO1 (1:100) overnight at 4 °C. Next day, the cells were washed and  
270 followed by incubation with secondary antibody (Alexa Fluor 546, 1:500) for 2 hours at room  
271 temperature in dark. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (Invitrogen) in PBS for 5 min. For  
272 immunofluorescence staining in carotid arteries, the sectioned vessel segments were fixed and  
273 blocked by 5% bovine serum albumin at room temperature for 2 hours, and then incubated with  
274 antibody against VCAM-1 (1:100) and CD68 (1:100) overnight at 4 °C, followed by AlexaFluor  
275 secondary antibodies (1:500) for 2 hours at room temperature in dark. Images were captured by  
276 Fluoview FV1000 laser scanning confocal system (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

277

### 278 **Cytoplasmic and nuclear fractionation**

279 NE-PER Nuclear and Cytoplasmic Extraction Kit (#78833, ThermoFisher Scientific) was used for  
280 the fractionation of cytoplasmic and nuclear contents of HUVECs. Briefly, HUVECs (SCR and  
281 *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>*) were harvested with trypsin-EDTA and then centrifuged to obtain the cell pellet, which  
282 was washed with ice-cold PBS. The cell pellet in the 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube was sequentially  
283 subjected to lysis using CER I, CER II and NER reagents (all containing protease inhibitors). The  
284 cytoplasmic extract and nuclear extract were analyzed using western blotting to determine FoxO1  
285 level.  $\beta$ -tubulin and Histone H3 were used to monitor the successful fractionation.

286

### 287 **Serum lipid profile**

288 Mouse blood was collected through the celiac vein and the serum was obtained by centrifugation  
289 at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes at room temperature. The serum lipid level was determined by a  
290 commercial assay kit (Stanbio, Boerne, Texas, USA) specialized for serum total cholesterol (TC),

291 triglycerides (TG) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. To separate the HDL from  
292 whole serum, HDL precipitating reagent (Stanbio) was added to the serum (1:10), followed by  
293 centrifugation at 1000 g for 10 minutes. Lipid profile was measured according to the  
294 manufacturer's instructions and the data were obtained by reading the absorbance at wavelength  
295 500 nm on a plate reader (Bio-Rad). The amount of non-HDL cholesterol was calculated using the  
296 following formula: non-HDL cholesterol = TC - (TG/5) - HDL.

297

### 298 **Immunohistochemical Analysis**

299 To examine atherosclerotic lesions, hearts of *Ucp2<sup>ff</sup>* and *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice were harvested and rinsed  
300 in ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline, followed by overnight fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde.  
301 Later, the paraffin-embedded hearts were sectioned horizontally to the aortic axis towards the  
302 aortic arch. The collagen content in the aortic roots was assessed by Masson's trichrome staining  
303 following standard protocols. In brief, the deparaffinized and rehydrated aortic roots were stained  
304 in Weigert's iron hematoxylin working solution for 10 min, followed by staining in Biebrich  
305 scarlet-acid fuchsin solution for 10 min. The aortic roots were subsequently differentiated in  
306 phosphomolybdic-phosphotungstic acid solution for 10 min or until the collagen was not red.  
307 Before mounting, the sections were transferred to aniline blue solution for 5 min prior to a 2-min  
308 differentiation in 1% acetic acid solution. For H&E staining of carotid arteries subjected to partial  
309 ligation, the tissues were fixed with 4% formaldehyde, embedded in paraffin and cut into 5 μm  
310 sections which were then baked at 65°C overnight, dewaxed, hydrated in distilled water, stained  
311 with hematoxylin (1min), differentiated in hydrochloric acid alcohol, blued in ammonia water,  
312 counterstained with eosin (7s), dehydrated with ethanol at different concentrations (75%, 90% and  
313 anhydrous ethanol), transparentized with xylene I and xylene II, and finally mounted in neutral  
314 gum.

315

### 316 **Oil Red O staining for atherosclerotic aortas**

317 The *Ucp2<sup>ff</sup>* and *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice were euthanized by CO<sub>2</sub> asphyxiation. Mouse aortas were dissected  
318 in cold KHS solution and cut open to expose the atherosclerotic plaques. The exposed aortas were  
319 pinned in a matric gel and fixed in 4% formaldehyde overnight at 4 °C. Next day, the aortas were

320 first rinsed in water for 10 minutes and then in 60% isopropanol. The aortas were stained with Oil  
321 Red O for 15 minutes with gentle shaking and rinsed again in 60% isopropanol and then in water  
322 for three times. The aortas were fixed on the cover slides with endothelium facing upwards. The  
323 images were recorded using HP Scanjet G4050. The plaque areas were determined using the NIH  
324 ImageJ software and calculated by expressing the plaque area relative to the total vascular area.

325

### 326 **Human artery samples and Immunohistochemical staining of UCP2**

327 Human renal arteries (n=6) were dissected from patients subjected to nephrectomy. These samples  
328 were collected from Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital, CUHK. Samples were fixed  
329 in paraformaldehyde solution (4% in PBS) and subsequently embedded in paraffin. The paraffin-  
330 embedded samples were sliced into cross sections (5  $\mu$ m) for Masson's trichrome staining and  
331 immunohistochemistry staining. The study was approved by the ethics committee of clinic  
332 research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Ref. NO.: 2014.468). All participants have  
333 signed an informed consent prior to inclusion into the study.

334

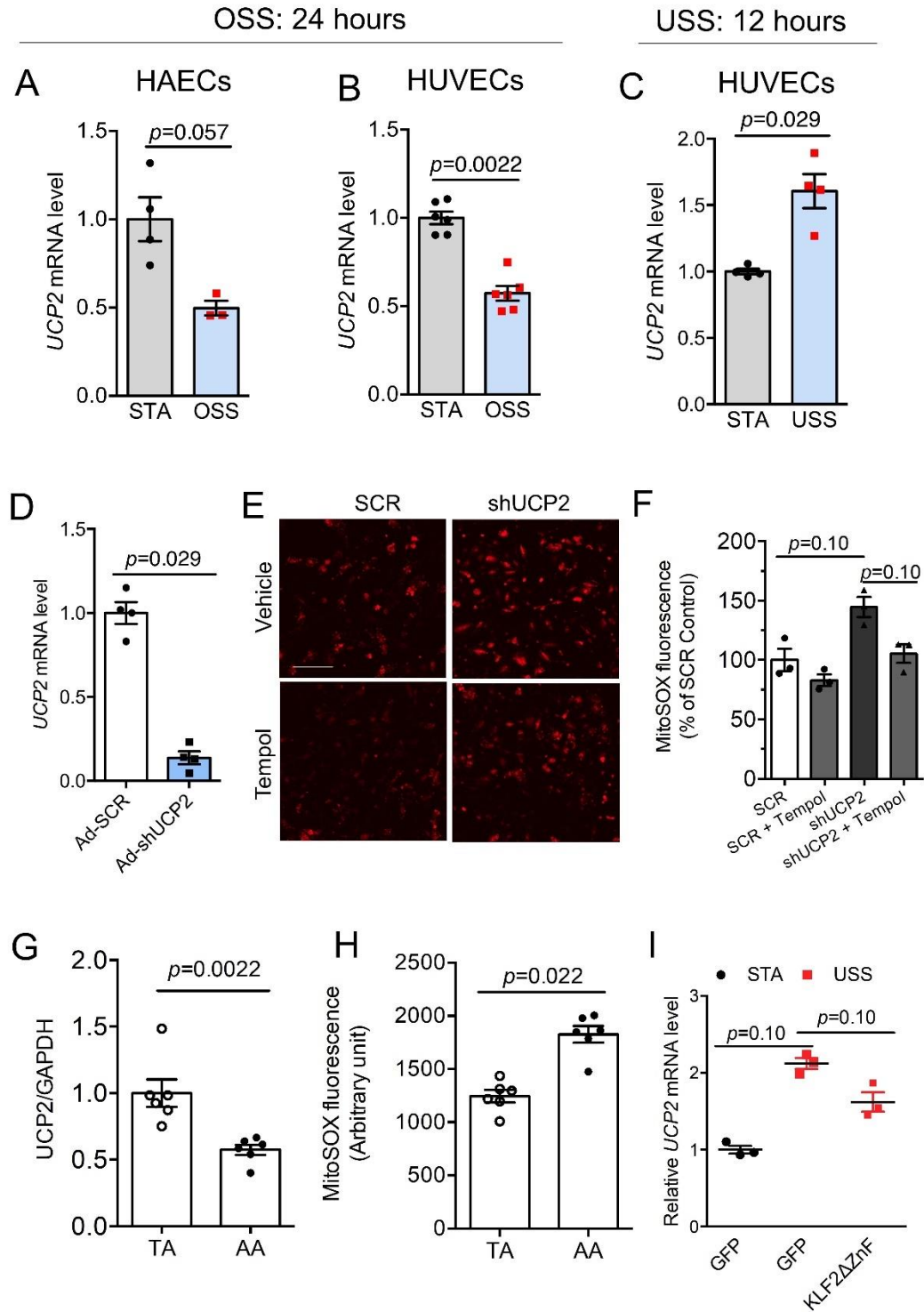
335 Paraffin sections of human renal arteries were used for the immunohistochemistry for UCP2.  
336 Antigen retrieval was achieved in 0.01 M citrate buffer (pH 6.0). After a 2-h blocking by 5% BSA  
337 at room temperature, the sections were incubated with the primary antibody anti-UCP2 (1:100; sc-  
338 390189; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) at 4 °C overnight. Signals were developed by applying the  
339 UltraSensitive™ SP kit (Fuzhou MAXIM Biological Technology Development Co., Ltd., China)  
340 following the manufacturer's protocols. The nuclei of the samples were counterstained in  
341 hematoxylin.

342

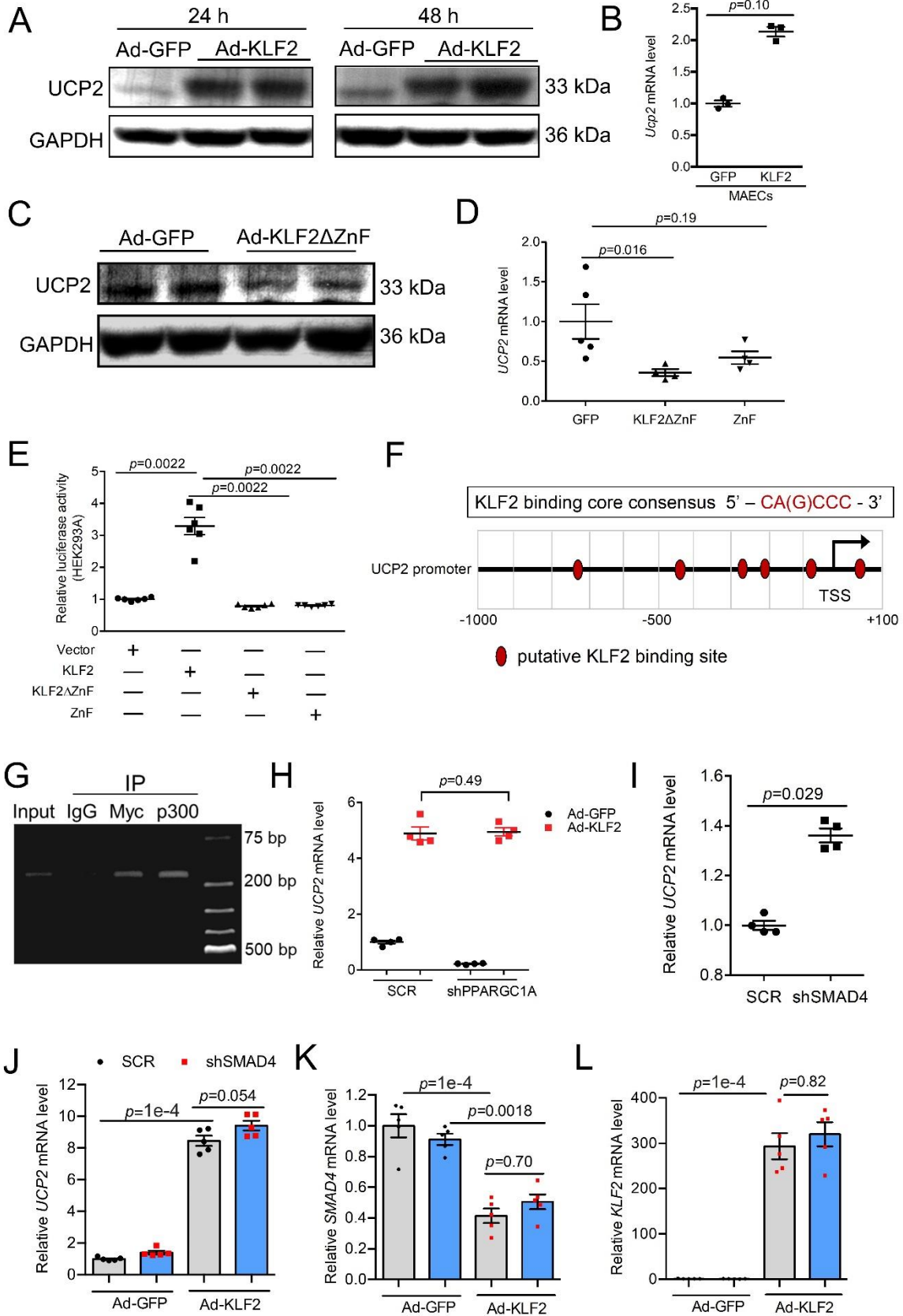
### 343 **Statistical analysis**

344 Data are expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM. Gene and protein expression were normalized to the  
345 expression level of GAPDH and then expressed as relative to control. Column graphs were  
346 constructed using GraphPad Prism software (Version 6.0, San Diego, CA, USA). Normality and  
347 equal variance tests were performed for all variables before further analysis. For data passed equal  
348 variance test, unpaired *t* test was used to analyze differences between 2 groups and One-way

349 ANOVA followed by Tukey multiple comparison test was used for analyzing the differences  
350 between multiple groups. If a normal distribution could not be achieved, nonparametric tests were  
351 used. Mann-Whitney test was applied for 2 independent groups and Kruskal-Wallis test followed  
352 by Dunn's multiple comparison test, was used for comparing multiple groups.  $p < 0.05$  was  
353 considered as statistically different between groups.

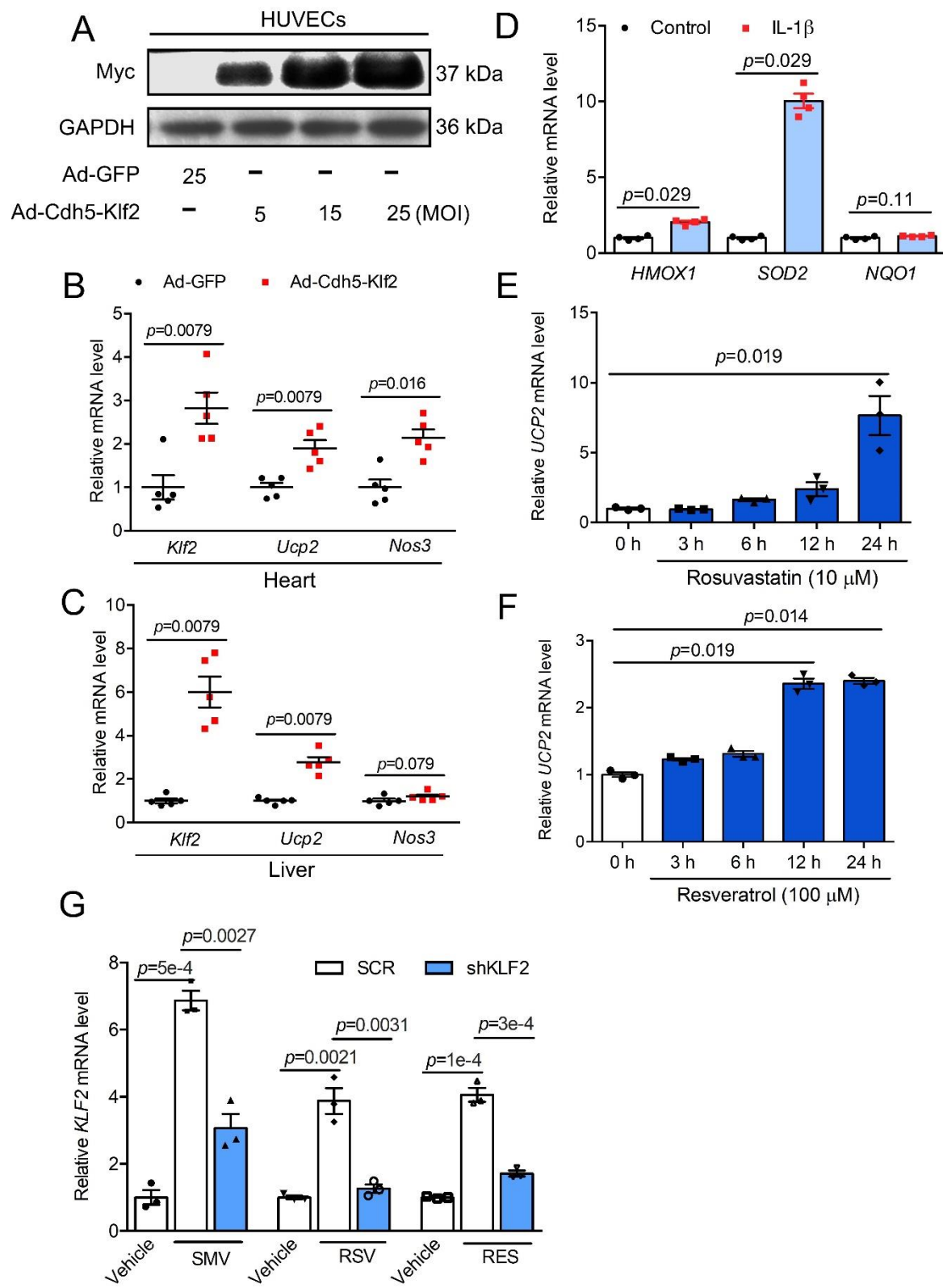


356 **Supplemental Figure S1. Regulation of UCP2 by shear stress and UCP2 knockdown**  
357 **increased production of mitochondrial reactive oxygen species (ROS).** Exposure to oscillatory  
358 shear stress (OSS) for 24 hours inhibited *UCP2* mRNA expression in (A) HAECs and (B)  
359 HUVECs. (C) Exposure to unidirectional shear stress (USS) for 12 hours increased *UCP2* mRNA  
360 expression in HUVECs. (D) Verification of the successful knockdown of *UCP2* mRNA expression  
361 by UCP2-shRNA using qPCR. (E, F) ROS scavenger Tempol reversed UCP2 knockdown-induced  
362 production of mitochondrial ROS indicated by MitoSOX staining. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ M. (G)  
363 Summarized data showing reduced expression of UCP2 protein in AA compared to that in TA  
364 detected by western blotting. (H) Summarized data showing increased mitochondrial ROS  
365 generation in AA compared to that in TA indicated by MitoSOX staining. (I) DNA binding  
366 defective KLF2 mutant KLF2 $\Delta$ ZnF attenuated USS-induced *UCP2* mRNA expression in  
367 HUVECs. **A-D, F, G, H and I:** Mann-Whitney test.

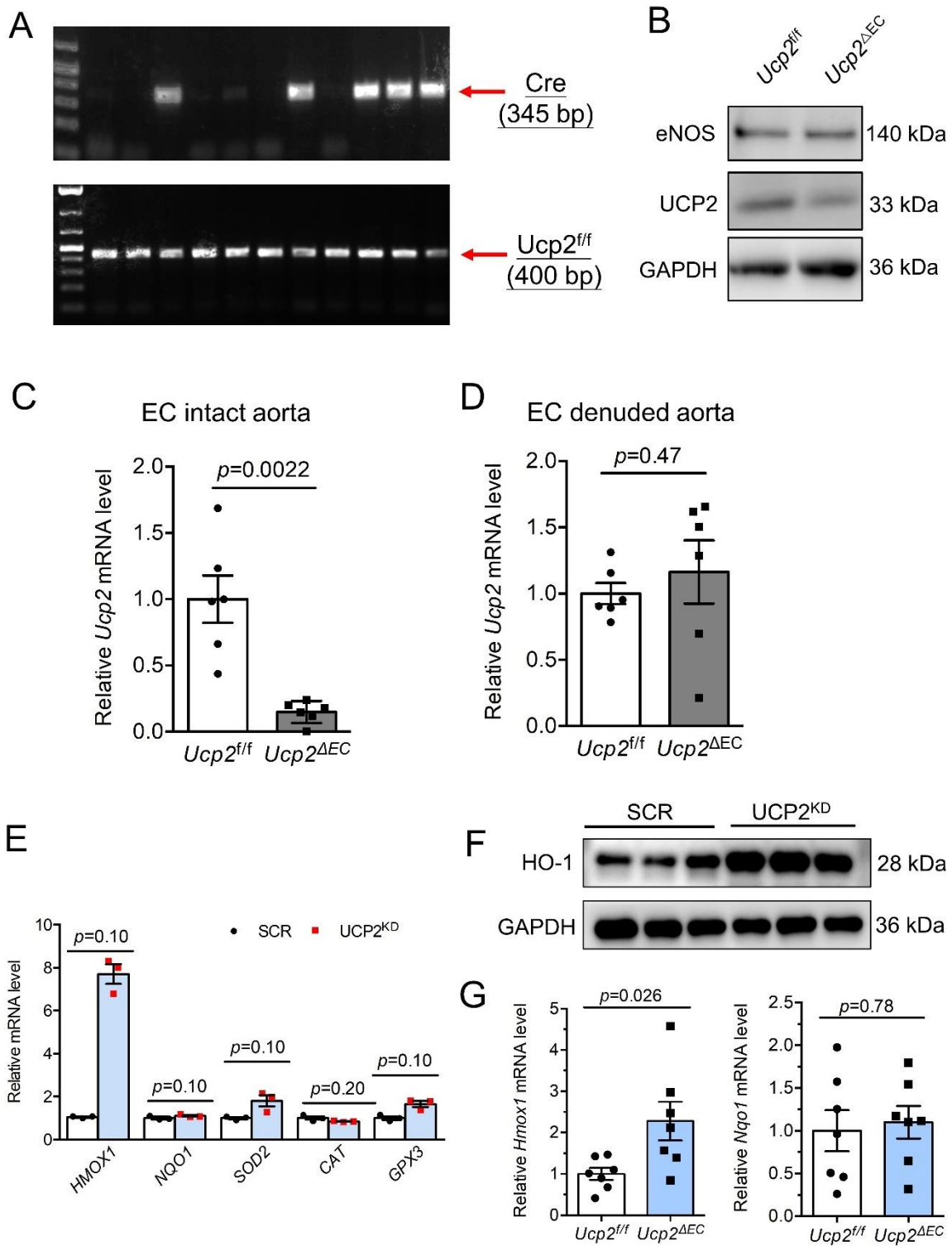




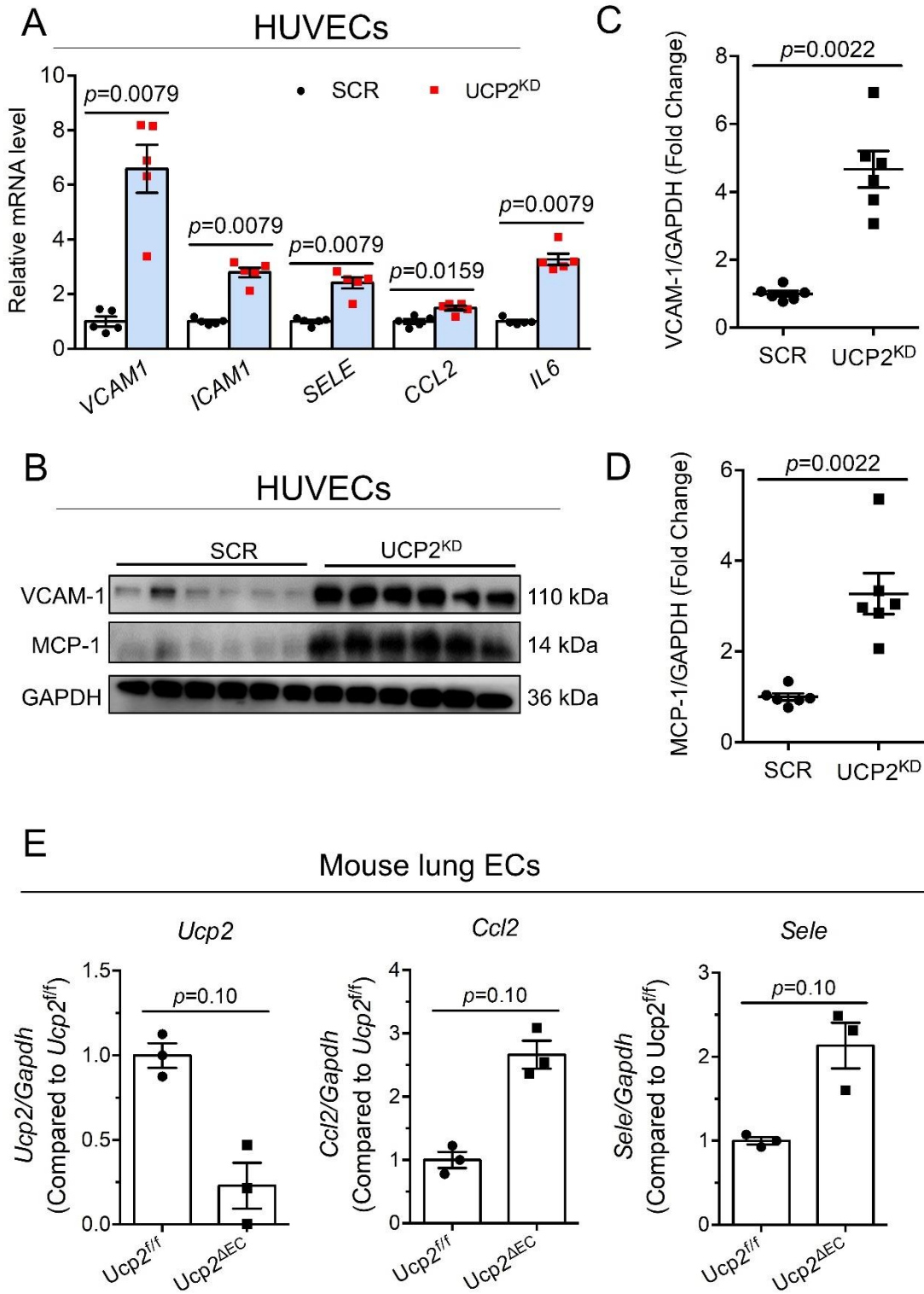
369 **Supplemental Figure S2. KLF2 regulates UCP2 expression.** (A) Ad-KLF2 overexpression for  
370 24 and 48 hours increased UCP2 protein expression in HUVECs. (B) KLF2 overexpression  
371 upregulated *Ucp2* mRNA level in mouse aortic ECs (MAECs), Mann-Whitney test. (C) Ad-  
372 KLF2 $\Delta$ ZnF overexpression for 48 hours downregulated UCP2 protein expression in HUVECs. (D)  
373 Overexpression of Ad-KLF2 $\Delta$ ZnF and Ad-ZnF for 24 hours downregulated *UCP2* mRNA  
374 expression in HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. (E) Dual luciferase reporter assay showing KLF2  
375 increases whereas KLF2 $\Delta$ ZnF and ZnF inhibit UCP2 promoter activity in HEK293A cells. Mann-  
376 Whitney test. (F) Schematic diagram showing putative KLF2 binding sites in UCP2 promoter (-  
377 1000/+100 bp), TSS: transcription start site. (G) DNA gel electrophoresis image showing the result  
378 of ChIP-PCR assay of the UCP2 promoter in HUVECs transduced with Ad-Cdh5-Klf2 (Myc  
379 tagged). The image is representative of triplicate experiments. (H) Knockdown of PGC-1 $\alpha$  using  
380 shRNA downregulated *UCP2* mRNA expression but did not affect KLF2-induced upregulation of  
381 *UCP2* mRNA level. 2 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc. (I) Knockdown of SMAD4 upregulated  
382 basal *UCP2* mRNA expression in HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. (J-L) qPCR results showing  
383 KLF2-induced UCP2 expression is independent of SMAD4. Mann-Whitney test.



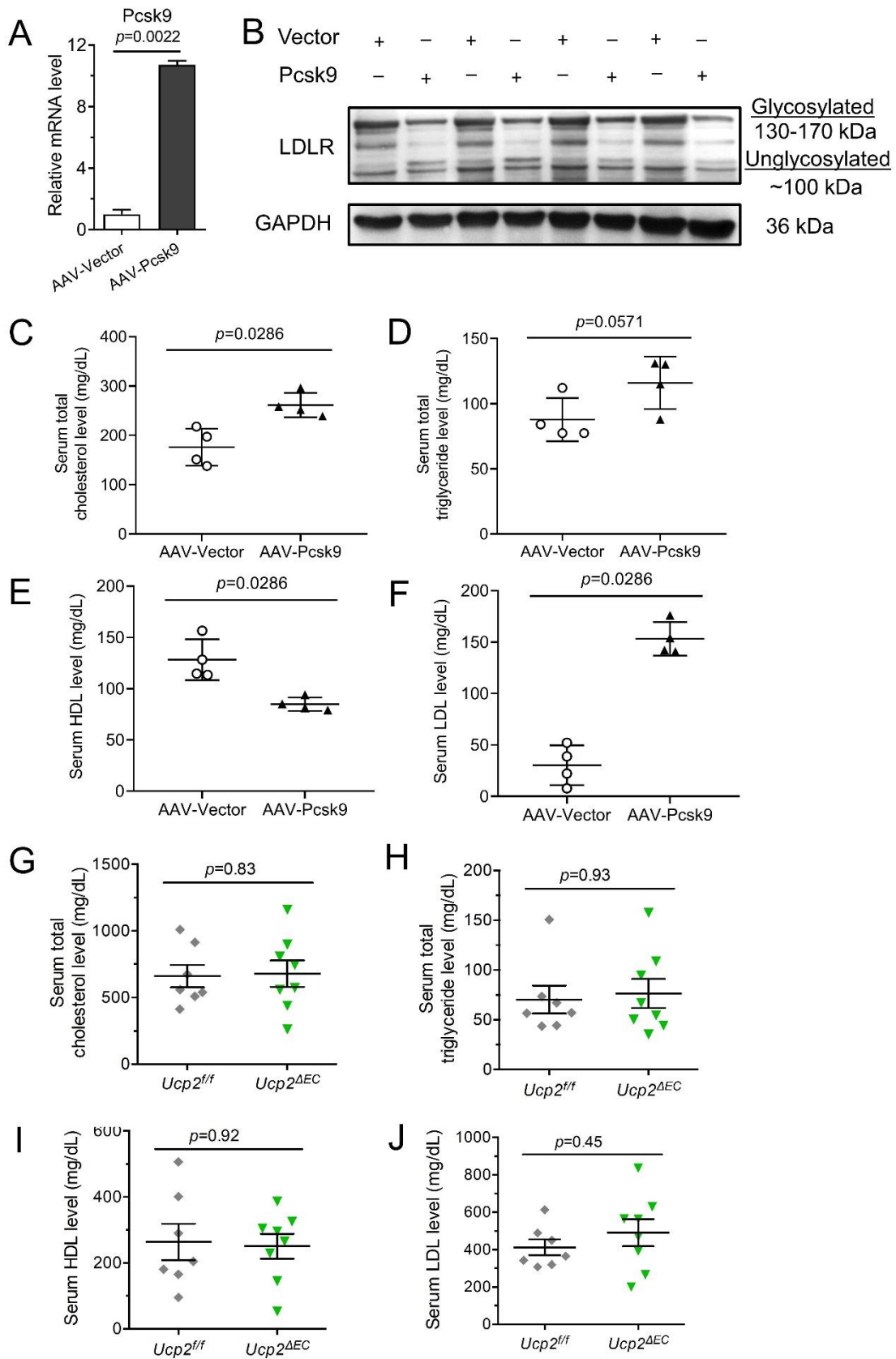
385 **Supplemental Figure S3. EC-specific adenoviral Klf2 overexpression vector and induction**  
386 **of UCP2 mRNA expression by rosuvastatin and resveratrol.** (A) Titer-dependent increase of  
387 exogenous KLF2 expression by Ad-Cdh5-Klf2 (Myc-tagged) in HUVECs. Ad-Cdh5-Klf2  
388 increased *Klf2* and *Ucp2* mRNA expression in hearts (B) and livers (C) from mice. Mann-Whitney  
389 test. (D) IL-1 $\beta$  (10 ng/ml) treatment for 24 hours induced *HMOX1* and *SOD2* expression in  
390 HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. Time-dependent upregulation of *UCP2* mRNA by (E) rosuvastatin  
391 (10  $\mu$ M) and (F) resveratrol (50  $\mu$ M) in HUVECs. Kruskal-Wallis test. (G) KLF2-shRNA inhibited  
392 the effect of simvastatin (SMV), rosuvastatin (RSV) and resveratrol (RES) on induction of *KLF2*  
393 mRNA in HUVECs. 2 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc.



395 **Supplemental Figure S4. Validation of EC-specific *Ucp2* knockout in mice and *UCP2***  
396 **knockdown induces activation of antioxidant pathway. (A)** DNA gel image showing the  
397 genotyping results of *Ucp2<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice. **(B)** Reduced aortic UCP2 protein expression in  
398 *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice. Reduced *Ucp2* mRNA expression in EC intact aortas **(C)** but not in EC denuded  
399 aortas **(D)** from *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice. Mann-Whitney test. **(E)** The effect of *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>* on antioxidant gene  
400 expression in HAECs. Mann-Whitney test. **(F)** Upregulated HO-1 protein expression in *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>*  
401 HAECs. **(G)** Upregulated mRNA expression of *Hmox1* but not *Nqo1* in aortas from *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice.  
402 Mann-Whitney test.



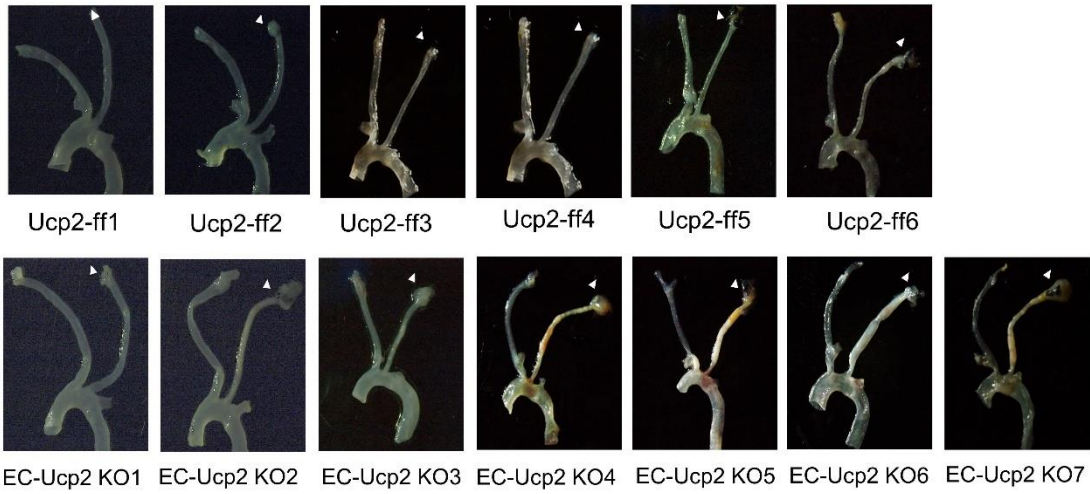
404 **Supplemental Figure S5. The proinflammatory effect of UCP2 deficiency in HUVECs and in**  
405 **mouse lung ECs.** (A) Increased expression of *VCAM1*, *ICAM1*, *SELE*, *CCL2* and *IL6* in *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>*  
406 HUVECs detected by qPCR. Mann-Whitney test. (B) Increased protein expression of VCAM-1  
407 and MCP-1 in *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>* HUVECs. Summarized data for VCAM-1 (C) and MCP-1 (D) protein  
408 expression in *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>* HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. (E) Reduced expression of *Ucp2* but  
409 increased expression of *Ccl2* and *Sele* in mouse lung ECs from *Ucp2<sup>ΔEC</sup>* mice. Mann-Whitney test.



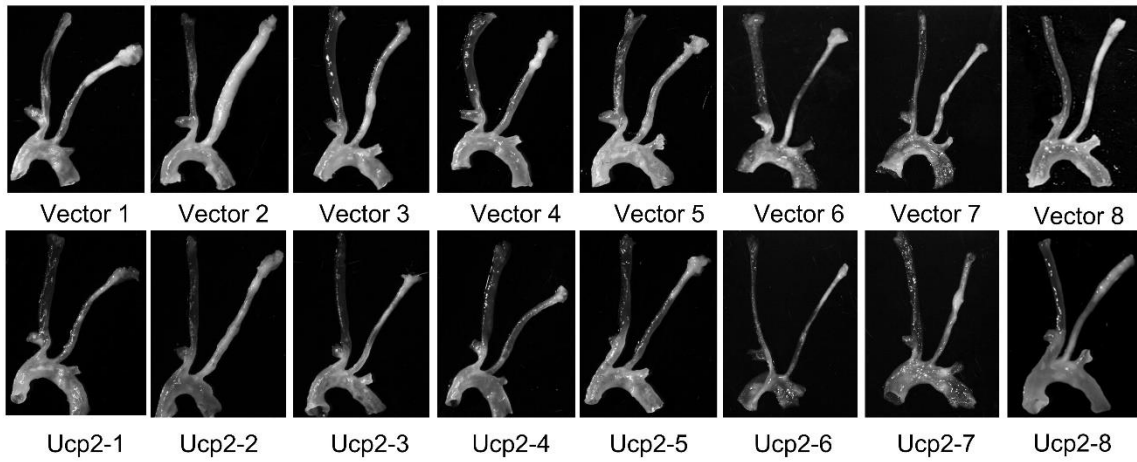


411 **Supplemental Figure S6. AAV-Pcsk9-mediated knockdown of LDL receptor and serum lipid**  
412 **profile in mice. (A)** Compared to AAV-vector group, upregulated mRNA expression of *Pcsk9*  
413 and **(B)** decreased LDLR protein expression in livers from C57 mice injected with AAV-Pcsk9 for  
414 7 days. Mann-Whitney test. **(C, D, E, F)** Elevated serum lipid level in C57 mice injected with  
415 AAV-Pcsk9 for 7 days. Mann-Whitney test. **(G, H, I, J)** EC-specific *Ucp2* knockout does not  
416 affect serum lipid profile. Mann-Whitney test.

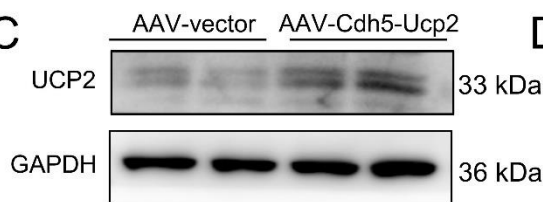
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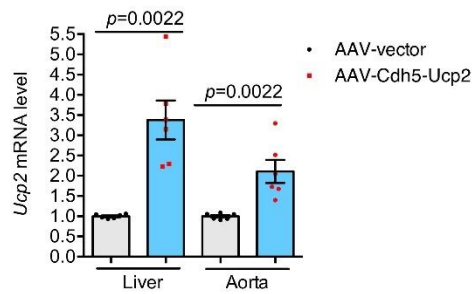
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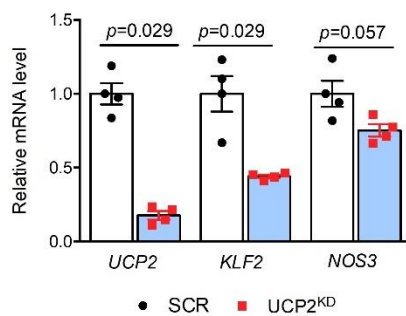
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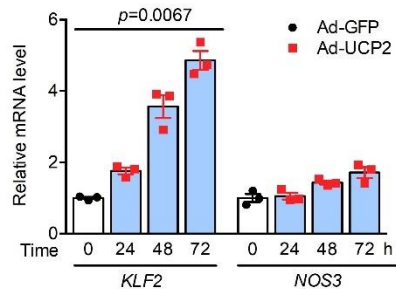
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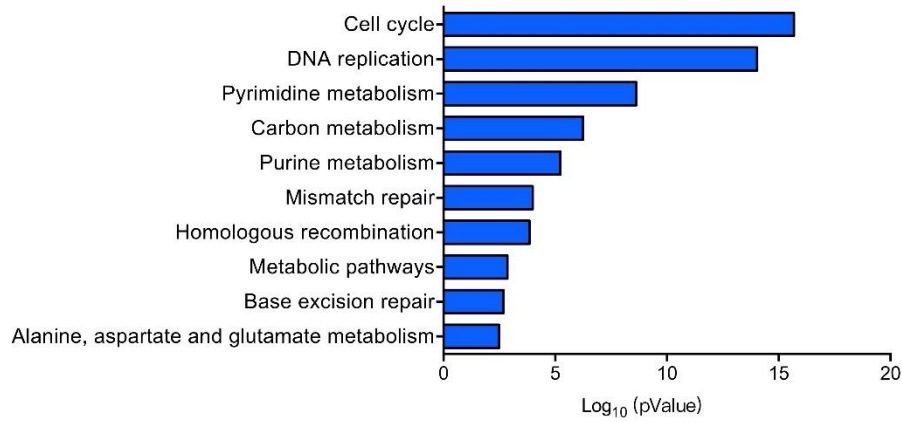
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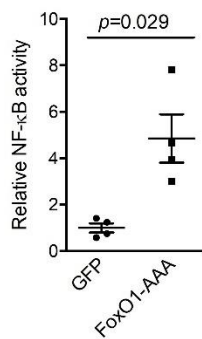
418 **Supplemental Figure S7. Effect of UCP2 gain- and loss-of-function on disturbed flow-**  
419 **associated atherosclerosis and UCP2 regulates KLF2 expression in HUVECs.** Pictures  
420 showing the atherosclerotic plaques in carotid arteries received partial ligation **(A)** EC-specific  
421 *Ucp2* KO mice **(B)** AAV-Cdh5-Ucp2 overexpression in *ApoE*<sup>-/-</sup> mice. **(C)** Upregulated UCP2  
422 protein level by AAV-Cdh5-Ucp2 in HUVECs. **(D)** Upregulated *Ucp2* mRNA level in mouse liver  
423 and aorta by AAV-Cdh5-Ucp2. Mann-Whitney test. **(E)** Reduced *KLF2* mRNA level in UCP2-  
424 silenced HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. **(F)** Ad-UCP2 overexpression time-dependently increased  
425 *KLF2* and *NOS3* mRNA expression in HUVECs. Kruskal-Wallis test.

**A**

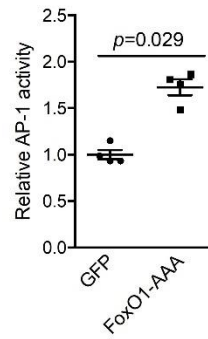
SCR vs UCP2<sup>KD</sup>: enriched pathways for downregulated genes



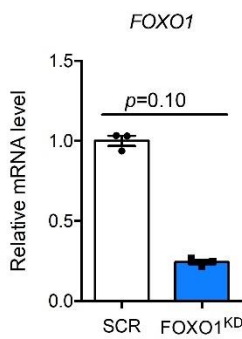
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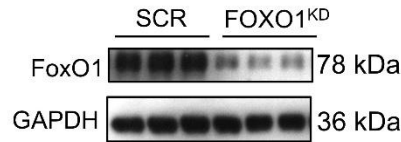
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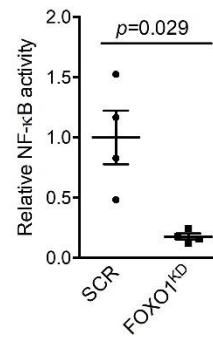
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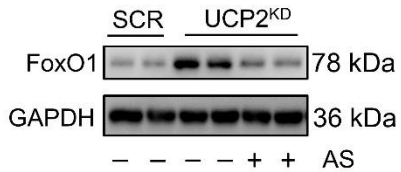
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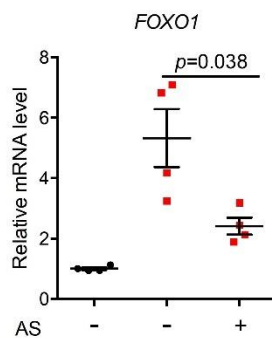
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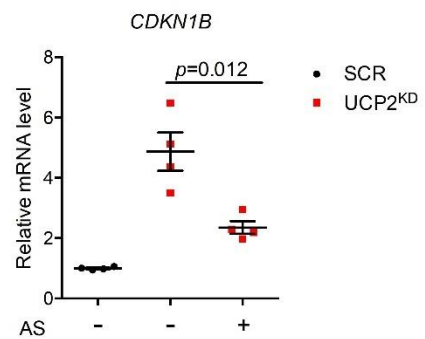
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**H**

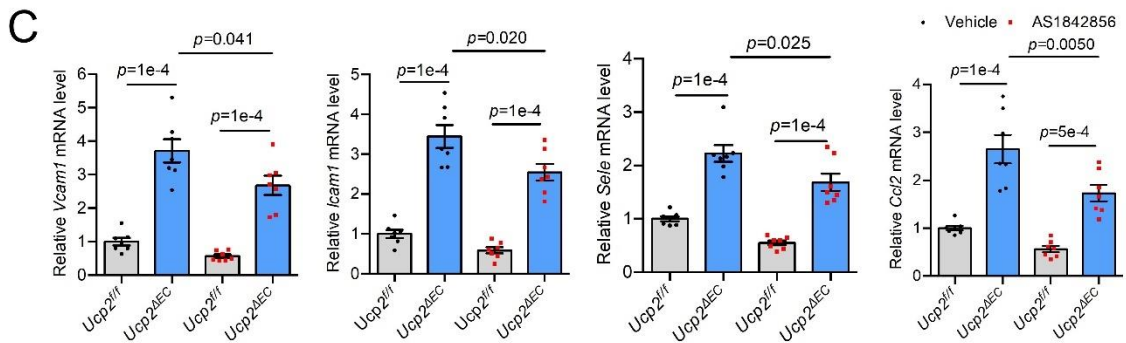
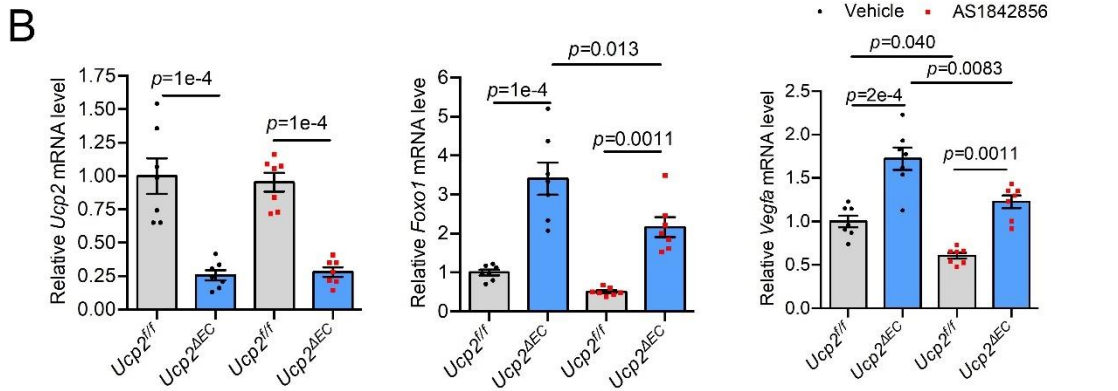
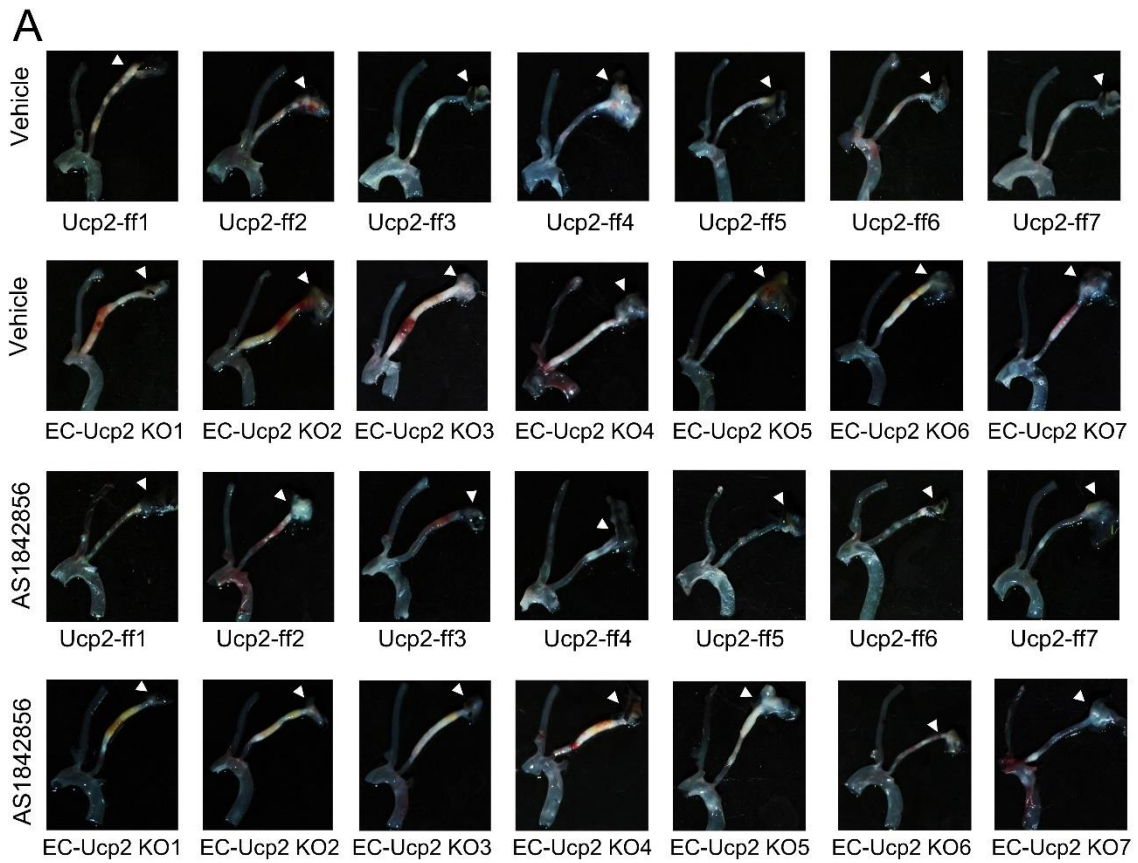


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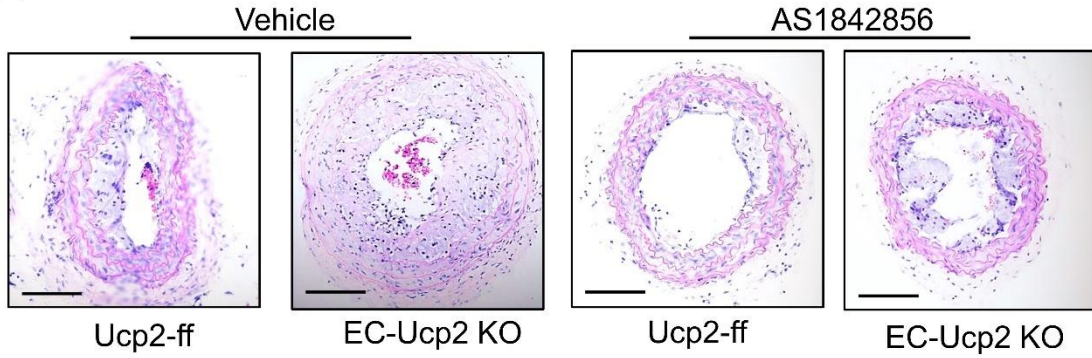
427 **Supplemental Figure S8. FoxO1 is proinflammatory in ECs.**

428 **(A)** KEGG enrichment pathway analysis of downregulated genes in *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>* HAECs.  
429 Overexpression of FoxO1-AAA increased transcriptional activity of **(B)** NF- $\kappa$ B and **(C)** AP-1 in  
430 HUVECs detected by dual luciferase assay. Mann-Whitney test. FOXO1 mRNA **(D)** and **(E)**  
431 protein downregulation by FOXO1-shRNA in HAECs. Mann-Whitney test. **(F)** Knockdown of  
432 FoxO1 by FOXO1-shRNA inhibits transcriptional activity of NF- $\kappa$ B in HUVECs detected by dual  
433 luciferase assay. Mann-Whitney test. **(G)** AS1842856 treatment inhibited *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>*-induced FoxO1  
434 protein expression. AS1842856 abolished *UCP2<sup>KD</sup>*-induced mRNA expression of FOXO1 **(H)** and  
435 FoxO1 target gene *CDKN1B* **(I)** in HAECs. 2 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc.

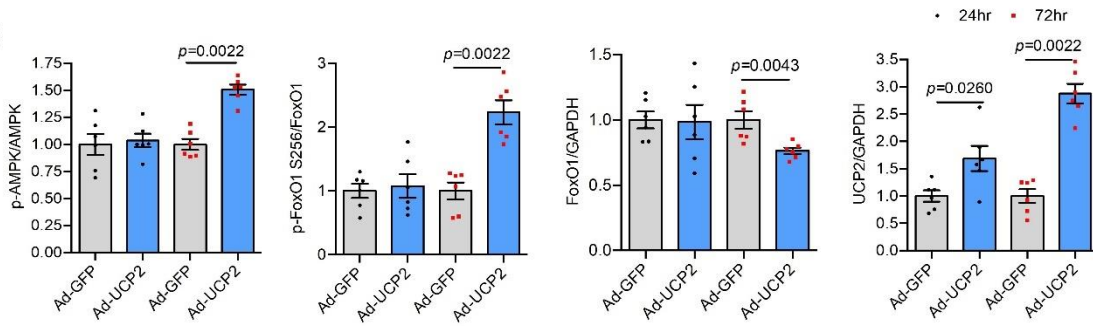


437 **Supplemental Figure S9. FoxO1 inhibition by AS1842856 attenuated disturbed flow-**  
438 **enhanced atherosclerotic plaque formation in carotid arteries.** (A) Pictures showing the  
439 atherosclerotic plaques in carotid arteries received partial ligation in EC-specific *Ucp2* KO mice  
440 treated with vehicle and AS1842856. (B) qPCR results showing AS1842856 inhibited the mRNA  
441 expression of *Foxo1* and FoxO1 target gene *Vegfa* in aorta of EC-specific *Ucp2* KO mice. 2 Way  
442 ANOVA, Tukey post hoc. (C) Reduced mRNA expression level of proinflammatory genes  
443 (*Vcam1*, *Icam1*, *Sele* and *Ccl2*) in aorta of EC-specific *Ucp2* KO mice treated with AS1842856. 2  
444 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc.

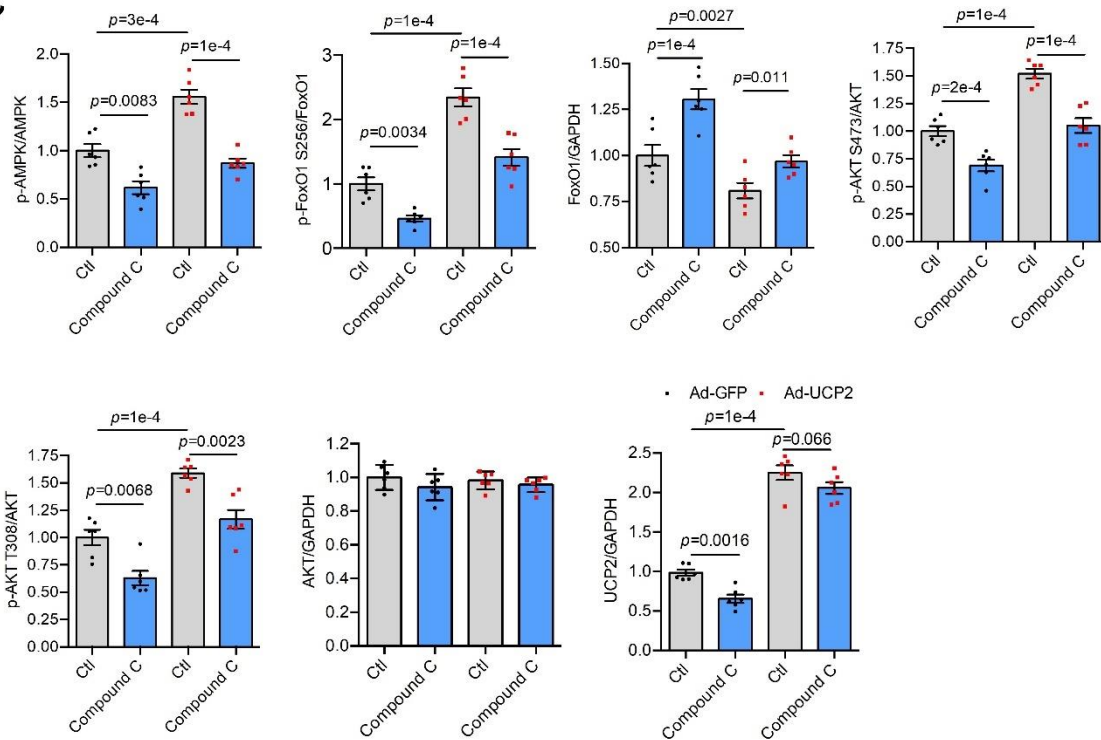
**A**



**B**

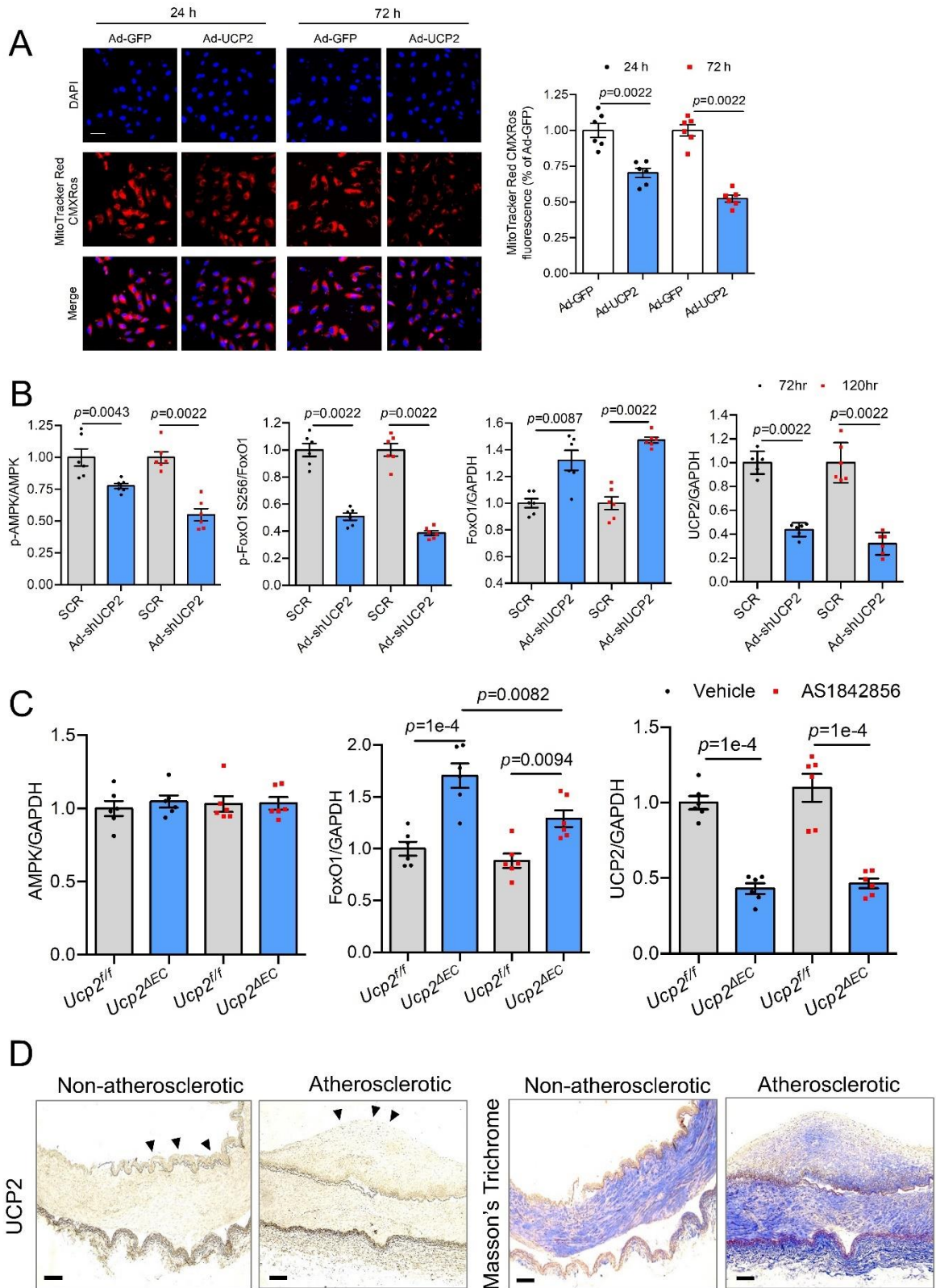


**C**





446 **Supplemental Figure S10. UCP2 overexpression activates AMPK to inhibit FoxO1.** (A) H&E  
447 staining results showing AS1842856 suppressed the carotid wall thickening in EC-specific *Ucp2*  
448 KO mice subjected to partial ligation of carotid arteries. (B) Summarized western blotting data  
449 showing UCP2 overexpression for 72 hours increased level of p-AMPK and p-FoxO1 but inhibited  
450 FoxO1 expression in HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. (C) Summarized western blotting data  
451 showing inhibition of AMPK by Compound C abolished the effect of UCP2 overexpression on  
452 Akt and FoxO1 activity in HUVECs. 2 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc.



454 **Supplemental Figure S11. UCP2 regulates AMPK activity HUVECs and in mouse aortas. (A)**  
455 UCP2 overexpression time-dependently reduced mitochondrial membrane potential in HUVECs.  
456 Scale bar=50  $\mu$ M. **(B)** UCP2 knockdown reduced levels of p-AMPK and p-FoxO1 but increased  
457 FoxO1 expression in HUVECs. Mann-Whitney test. **(C)** Summarized western blotting data  
458 showing EC-specific *Ucp2* knockout did not affect total AMPK expression but increase FoxO1  
459 protein expression in aortas. 2 Way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc. **(D)** Immunohistochemical staining  
460 of UCP2 for diminished UCP2 expression, and Masson's Trichrome staining for elevated collagen  
461 level in plaque region of human renal arteries. Scale bar: 200  $\mu$ M.

462 **Supplemental Table S1. Real time qPCR primers for detection of mouse genes**

463

Gene name	Primer sequences	Species
Gapdh	F: AGGTCGGTGTGAACGGATTG R: TGTAGACCATGTAGTTGAGGTCA	Mouse
Klf2	F: CTCAGCGAGCCTATCTTGCC R: CACGTTGTTTAGGTCCCTCATCC	Mouse
Ucp2	F: ATGGTTGGTTTCAAGGCCACA R: CGGTATCCAGAGGGAAAGTGAT	Mouse
Pcsk9	F: GAGACCCAGAGGCTACAGATT R: AATGTACTCCACATGGGGCAA	Mouse
Nos3	F: TGTGACCCTCACCGCTACAA R: GCACAATCCAGGCCCAATC	Mouse
Vcam1	F: GTTCCAGCGAGGGTCTACC R: AACTCTTGGCAAACATTAGGTGT	Mouse
Icam1	F: GTGATGCTCAGGTATCCATCCA R: CACAGTTCTCAAAGCACAGCG	Mouse
Sele	F: ATGCCTCGCGCTTTCTCTC R: GTAGTCCCGCTGACAGTATGC	Mouse
Ccl2	F: TTA AAAACCTGGATCGGAACCAA R: GCATTAGCTTCAGATTTACGGGT	Mouse
Il6	F: TTCAGCCCTTGCTTGCCTC R: ACACTTTTACTCCGAAGTCGGT	Mouse
Hmox1	F: AAGCCGAGAATGCTGAGTTCA R: GCCGTGTAGATATGGTACAAGGA	Mouse
Nqo1	F: TGGCCGAACACAAGAAGCTG R: GCTACGAGCACTCTCTCAAACC	Mouse
Angpt2	F: CAGCCACGGTCAACAATC R: CTTCTTTACGGATAGCAACCGAG	Mouse

464

465 **Supplemental Table S2. Real time qPCR primers for detection of human genes**

466

Gene name	Primer sequences	Species
GAPDH	F: CCACTCCTCCACCTTTGAC R: ACCCTGTTGCTGTAGCCA	Human
KLF2	F: CTACACCAAGAGTTCGCATCTG R: CCGTGTGCTTTTCGGTAGTG	Human
UCP2	F: CCCC GAAGCCTCTACAATGG R: CTGAGCTTGGAATCGGACCTT	Human
SMAD4	F: ACGAACGAGTTGTATCACCTGG R: TGCACGATTACTTGGTGGATG	Human
PPARGC1A	F: TCTGAGTCTGTATGGAGTGACAT R: CCAAGTCGTTACATCTAGTTCA	Human
NOS3	F: TGATGGCGAAGCGAGTGAAG R: ACTCATCCATACACAGGACCC	Human
IL6	F: CCTGAACCTTCCAAAGATGGC R: TTCACCAGGCAAGTCTCCTCA	Human
VCAM1	F: CAGTAAGGCAGGCTGTAAAAGA R: TGGAGCTGGTAGACCCTCG	Human
ICAM1	F: TTGGGCATAGAGACCCCGTT R: GCACATTGCTCAGTTCATACACC	Human
SELE	F: TGTGGGTCTGGGTAGGAACC R: AGCTGTGTAGCATAGGGCAAG	Human
CCL2	F: CAGCCAGATGCAATCAATGCC R: TGGAACTCTGAACCCACTTCT	Human
SERPINE1	F: AGTGGACTTTTCAGAGGTGGA R: GCCGTTGAAGTAGAGGGCATT	Human
F3	F: CCCAAACCCGTC AATCAAGTC R: CCAAGTACGTCTGCTTCACAT	Human
MMP1	F: GGGGCTTTGATGTACCCTAGC R: TGTCACACGCTTTTGGGGTTT	Human
MMP2	F: GATACCCCTTTGACGGTAAGGA R: CCTTCTCCCAAGGTCCATAGC	Human
COL1A1	F: GTGCGATGACGTGATCTGTGA R: CGGTGGTTTCTTGGTCGGT	Human
COL1A2	F: GGCCCTCAAGTTC AAGG R: CACCCTGTGGTCCAACA AACTC	Human
COL3A1	F: TTGAAGGAGGATGTTCCCATCT R: ACAGACACATATTTGGCATGGTT	Human

COL4A1	F: GGGATGCTGTTGAAAGGTGAA R: GGTGGTCCGGTAAATCCTGG	Human
COL4A2	F: GGTTTCTACGGAGTTAAGGGTG R: GCCAGGGTAACCCCTCAGT	Human
COL5A1	F: TACCCTGCGTCTGCATTCC R: GCTCGTTGTAGATGGAGACCA	Human
COL5A2	F: GACCAGAACATGTAGGTCCCC R: CTGACATGACAAAAGCGTGCAT	Human
HMOX1	F: GCCATGAAC TTTGTCCGGTG R: TTTCGTTGGGGAAGATGCCA	Human
NQO1	F: GAAGAGCACTGATCGTACTGGC R: GGATACTGAAAGTTCGCAGGG	Human
SOD2	F: TTTCAATAAGGAACGGGGACAC R: GTGCTCCACACATCAATCC	Human
GPX3	F: CCATGGTGGCATAAGTGGCA R: ATGACCAGACCGAATGGTGC	Human
FOXO1	F: TCGTCATAATCTGTCCCTACACA R: CGGCTTCGGCTCTTAGCAAA	Human
CDKN1B	F: TAATTGGGGCTCCGGCTAACT R: TGCAGGTCGCTTCCTTATTCC	Human

467

468 **Supplemental Table S3. ChIP-qPCR primers for detection of KLF2 enrichment in UCP2**  
 469 **promoter.**

Primer name	Primer sequences	Species
UCP2 (-889/-691)	F: GGCCCAATTGTTGGCTGTTC R: GTGACCTCACGCTCCTACAC	Human
UCP2 (-314/-200)	F: AGACTTGTTTCTGGCGGTCA R: TACTCCTTCGTTCCCGAGA	Human
UCP2 (-228/-138)	F: GAGTGACCATCTCGGGGAAC R: CCGCCTAGGGTTCTCTCCAT	Human
UCP2 (-157/+42)	F: ATGGAGAGAACCCTAGGCGG R: TGGACAGTCAATCCCAAGGC	Human

470