

- Figure S13. Gene expression levels of indicated genes in WT and DKO macrophage.
- Figure S14. Gating strategy and clathrin mediated-ABCG1 endocytosis.
- Figure S15. The expression of ABCG1 decreased with progression of atherosclerotic lesions in humans and mice.
- Figure S16. Characterization and silencing efficacy of S2P-conjugated siEpsin1/2 NPs.
- Figure S17. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 treated macrophages show reduced foam cell formation.
- Figure S18. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 inhibits lesion formation and macrophage accumulation in early
- stage of atherosclerosis.
- Figure S19. Silencing lesional macrophage Epsin1/2 by S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 NP-treatment stabilized plaques in a progression model of atherosclerosis.
- Figure S20. Delivery of S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 does not change cholesterol and triglyceride levels of
- ApoE-/-mice fed a WD.
- Figure S21. Silencing macrophage Epsin1/2 by S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 NPs reduces lesion size in a
- regression model of atherosclerosis.
- Figure S22. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 delivery inhibits the progression and regression of atherosclerosis
- in female mice.
- Figure S23. Knockdown of Epsin1/2 in THP-1 macrophages show reduced lipid uptake, foam cell
- formation and increased cholesterol efflux to HDL.
- Figure S24. Epsins facilitates CD36-mediated lipid uptake and degradation of ABCG1 and LRP1
- in THP1 macrophages.
- Figure S25. Summary schematic diagram of the study.
- Table S1. Demographic Information of The Human Samples
- Table S2. Statistical Table
- Major Resource Table
- Data file S1. Differentially expressed genes between cell clusters identified in all the cells in aorta.
- Data file S2. Differentially expressed genes between macrophage subclusters.
- Data file S3. Differentially expressed genes between macrophage subclusters on WD.
- Data file S4. Cholesterol producing and consuming enzymes.
- Data file S5. Differentially expressed genes in DKO compared to wild type.
- Data file S6. Gene differential expression analysis between ABCG1KO and wild type macrophages.
- Data file S7. Gene expression data for all the expressed genes in DKO compared to wild type.
- Data file S8. Gene expression data for all the expressed genes in ABCG1KO compared to wild type.
- Data file S9. Gene expression data for all the expressed genes in CD36KO compared to wild type.
- Data file S10. Full GSEA analysis results between DKO and wild type macrophages.
- Data file S11. Full GSEA analysis results between ABCG1KO and wild type macrophages.
- Data file S12. Full GSEA analysis results between CD36KO and wild type macrophages.
- Data file S13. GSEA analysis results for GO Biological Process terms reversely regulated by ABCG1KO and DKO.
- Data file S14. Gene Ontology enrichment analysis for DEGs shared by DKO and CD36KO.
- Data file S15. Gene Ontology enrichment analysis for DEGs in ABCG1KO compared to wild type.
- Data file S16. Gene Ontology enrichment analysis for pathways reversely regulated by ABCG1KO
- and DKO.
- Data file S17. Uncropped Western Blot.
- Data file S18. Primary data of statistical analysis.

#### 79 **MATERIALS and METHODS**

#### 80 **Animal models**

81 In this study, all animal procedures were performed in compliance with institutional guidelines 82 and mouse protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) 83 of Boston Children's Hospital, MA, USA. Both male and female mice were used. C57BL/6 mice 84 (stock #00664), ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice (stock #002052), LysM-Cre deleter mice (stock #004781), and 85 ABCG1flox mice (C57BL/6-Abcg1tm1Ched/J, stock #027954) were all purchased from Jackson 86 Research Laboratory. As double knockout mice of Epsins 1 and 2 (Epsin1<sup>-1</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-1</sup>) lead to 87 embryonic lethality, we generated conditional  $Epsin1<sup>f</sup>/f$ <sup>1</sup>;Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup> mice previously described <sup>19,20,23</sup>. 88 ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice, LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> mice and Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup> mice were backcrossed to C57BL/6 89 background. We bred Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup> mice with LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> mice to generate Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; 90 Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> myeloid-specific Epsins deficient (LysM-DKO) mice (Figure S1B-a)<sup>26</sup>. **The** 91 **detailed information of all the mice used in this study were described in Figure S1B.** These 92 mice only have one copy of LysM Cre as homozygous LysM Cre mice are susceptible to 93 atherosclerosis. In addition, we bred  $Epsin1<sup>f</sup>/f1$ ;  $Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>$ ; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> mice with  $ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>$  (C57BL/6) 94 background to generate  $Epsin1<sup>f</sup>/f1$ ;  $Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>$ ;  $LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup>$ ;  $ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>$  mice  $(LysM-DKO/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>)$ 95 (Figure S1B-b). Furthermore, we bred Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup>; ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> (LysM-96 DKO/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>) mice with ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup> to generate Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup>; ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup>; 97 ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice (LysM-DKO/ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup>/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>) (Figure S1B-c). We also bred ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup> with 98 ABCG1flox/+ to generate ABCG1flox/flox mice, then further bred ABCG1flox/flox mice with LysM-Cre+/-99 mice to generate ABCG1<sup>flox/flox</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> (ABCG1 KO) (Figure S1B-d).

100 The control mice for Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> (LysM-DKO) mice were Epsin1<sup>+/+</sup>; 101 Epsin2<sup>+/+</sup> LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> mice (WT) (Figure S1B-a). The control mice for Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-

102 Cre<sup>+/-</sup>; ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> (LysM-DKO/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>) were Epsin1<sup>+/+</sup>; Epsin2<sup>+/+</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup>; ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> (WT/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>) 103 (Figure S1B-b). The control mice for Epsin1<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Epsin2<sup>-/-</sup>; LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup>; ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup>; ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice 104 (LysM-DKO/ABCG1flox/+/ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>) were Epsin1+/+; Epsin2+/+; LysM-Cre+/-; ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> (WT/ApoE<sup>-</sup> 105 (Figure S1B-c). The control mice for ABCG1 flox/flox; LysM-Cre+/- (ABCG1 KO) were ABCG1+/+; 106 LysM-Cre<sup>+/-</sup> (Figure S1B-d).

107 We used peritoneal macrophages from WT and LysM-DKO mice on either normal background  $108$  or ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> background. We have not seen significant differences in the results with these 109 backgrounds (detailed information of the mice that we used were interpretated in each figure 110 legend). Therefore, we referred to the macrophages from WT or ApoE $\div$ /WT as WT macrophages 111 and macrophage from LysM-DKO or LysM-DKO/AopE<sup>-/-</sup> as DKO macrophages.

112 We used these mice (male and female) and primary macrophages (peritoneal and bone 113 marrow derived) isolated from them for this study.

 To induce atherosclerosis, mice were fed Western diet (WD, Protein 17% kcal, Fat 40% kcal, Carbohydrate 43% kcal; D12079B, Research Diets, New Brunswick, USA) starting at the age of 6-8 weeks for 8-20 weeks. Mice were sacrificed at different time points based on the experimental design and peritoneal macrophages, blood, heart, aorta and bone marrow monocytes were 118 harvested. For control mice, in addition to ApoE<sup>1</sup>; Epsin1<sup>+/+</sup>; Epsin2<sup>+/+</sup> mice, we also used ApoE<sup>-</sup> 119 /: Epsin1+/+; Epsin2+/+ mice with a single copy of LysM-cre, and ApoE+; Epsin1fl/fl; Epsin2+ littermates lacking the single copy of LysM-cre. To simplify the terminology, we refer to these 121 control mice as  $ApoE^{-1}$ , as results were not different in any of the analyses we performed. For the study of atheroma resolution, WT mice (both male and female) at the age of 8 weeks were 123 intravenously injected with 2x10<sup>11</sup> genomes of PCSK9 adeno-associated virus (rAAV8-D377Y-mPCSK9 purchased from Boston Children's Hospital Viral Core Facility) followed by 17 weeks  of WD feeding. For each experimental model and time point, 6-10 mice were analyzed and both male and female mice were used in separate groups. In the current study, we did not exclude any

mice when analyzing.

### **Aortic single-cell preparation and single-cell RNA (scRNA) sequencing**

 WT and DKO mice were euthanized by CO2 inhalation. The aortas were isolated after perfusion with 30 mL of PBS through left ventricular and quickly transferred to cold DMEM medium. Aortas from the two groups were cut into about small pieces and digested with an enzyme solution (5mg/mL collagenase type I, 5mg/mL collagenase type IV, and 5mg/mL liberase) for 90min at 37 °C on a shaker. The digested cell suspension was filtered through a 40 μm strainer and washed twice with PBS. The cells were resuspended and ready for sequencing in PBS with 0.04% bovine serum albumin, and their viability was over 90%.

 Single-cell RNA-Seq library construction was performed using the protocol provided by 10X Genomics. In brief, the single-cell suspensions from both groups, reagents, gel beads and partitioning oil were loaded to 10X Chromium Chip G to generate single-cell Gel Beads-in- emulsion (GEMs, Single cell 3' Reagent Kits v3.1, 10X Genomics). scRNA was barcoded through reverse transcription in individual GEMs followed by a post GEM-RT cleanup and cDNA amplification. Then, a 3'-gene expression library construction was performed. Finally, the library was sent for sequencing.

#### **ScRNA-seq data analysis and metabolite-sensor communication inference**

 The raw scRNA-seq data were processed using Cell Ranger (version 6.1.2) (10x Genomics). 145 The reads were mapped to the prebuilt mouse mm10 genome. The resulted gene expression matrix 146 in individual single cells was processed by the R package Seurat (version 4.1.0) . Low-quality cells with number of expressed genes less than 200 or larger than 5000 or with percentage of  mitochondria reads greater than 10% were dropped out. Rarely expressed genes which were detected in less than 3 cells were removed. Mitochondria genes and ribosomal protein coding genes were removed from the expression matrix before normalization. The high-quality data after these filtering steps was then used at additional processing steps including log normalization, data scaling, principal component analysis (PCA), cell clustering, and UMAP visualization. The UMAP visualization of cell clusters was performed by the DimPlot function. Differentially expressed genes among cell clusters were identified by FindAllMarkers function using the default Wilcoxon test method, with minimal percentage of expressed cells as 25% and minimal log2 fold change as 0.25. Next, marker genes in each cell clusters were used to annotate cell types based on known 157 marker genes in PanglaoDB database <sup>50</sup> and literatures. The marker gene expressions were 158 visualized by DotPlot and VlnPlot function. Trajectory analysis was conducted by Monocle3  $81,82$ . 159 The metabolite-sensor cell-cell communication was analyzed by MEBOCOST . The data was analyzed following the tutorial on the MEBOCOST website (https://github.com/zhengrongbin/MEBOCOST). Note that a metabolomics analysis was not conducted in this study. Instead, scRNA-seq expression data was used to estimate metabolite abundance and calculate communication score for each condition. Next, results of two conditions were combined to compare the communications. The differences in communication scores between two conditions were calculated. The prediction of sender-metabolite-sensor-receiver communication events were visualized by barplot, flow plot and circle plot. The metabolite abundance and sensor expression levels were exhibited by violin plot. Index of dispersion (IOD) was calculated using communication scores across conditions as described in the MEBOCOST 169 paper<sup>53</sup>. The top 100 most variable communications were selected for further investigation. All the data for scRNA-seq are available in Data files (S1-S4).

#### **Human samples**

 Human healthy control and diseased aortic arch samples from atherosclerosis patients were purchased from Maine Medical Center Biobank. The medical information of the atherosclerotic patient and healthy people samples is in Table S1. The paraffin sections were de-paraffinized and performed antigen retrieval to unmask the antigenic epitope with 10mM Sodium Citrate, pH 6.0, with 0.5% Tween 20 at 90°C for 10 minutes. Immunofluorescence staining of the slides was performed with the standard protocol described below.

## **Synthesis of DSPE-PEG-S2P, preparation and characterization of S2PNP-siRNA**

 To construct the lesional macrophage-targeted siRNA NPs, S2P peptide-conjugated DSPE- PEG (DSPE-PEG-S2P) was first synthesized via a thiol-maleimide Michael addition click reaction between S2P peptide (CRTLTVRKC, GLS Biochem Systems Inc.) and DSPE-PEG-Mal [PEG 182 molecular weight, 3.4 kDa; Nanocs Inc.], as reported previously <sup>59</sup>. Then, a robust self-assembly 183 method was used to prepare the targeted polymer-lipid hybrid NPs for siRNA delivery <sup>59,83</sup>. In brief, G0-C14 and PLGA were dissolved separately in anhydrous dimethylformamide (DMF) to form a homogeneous solution at the concentration of 2.5 mg/mL and 5 mg/ml, respectively. DSPE-PEG- OCH3 (DSPE-mPEG) and DSPE-PEG-S2P were dissolved in HyPure water (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, catalog no. SH30538) at the concentration of 0.1 mg/mL. 1 nmol Epsin1 siRNA and 1 nmol Epsin2 siRNA were gently mixed with 100 μL of the G0-C14 solution. The mixture of siRNA and G0-C14 was incubated at room temperature for 15 min to ensure the full electrostatic complexation. Next, 500 μL of PLGA polymers were added and mixed gently. The resultant solution was subsequently added dropwise into 10 mL of HyPure water containing 1 mg lipid- PEGs (i.e., 50% DSPE-PEG-S2P and 50% DSPE-mPEG hybrids for the S2P-targeted siRNA NPs, or 100% DSPE-mPEG for the non-targeted siRNA NPs) under magnetic stirring (1,000 rpm) for

 30 min. The siRNA NPs were purified by an ultrafiltration device (EMD Millipore, MWCO 100 195 kDa) to remove the organic solvent and free excess compounds via centrifugation at  $4^{\circ}$ C. After washing 3 times with HyPure water, the siRNA NPs were collected and finally resuspended in pH 197 7.4 PBS buffer. The NPs were used freshly or stored at -80 °C for further use. The physicochemical properties (particle size and surface charge) of S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 were characterized by dynamic light scattering (DLS, Brookhaven Instruments Corporation). The S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 was ~89 nm 200 in size as measured by DLS, and their surface charge was determined to be  $\sim$  -5.3 mV.

# **Isolation of primary mouse macrophage and macrophage culture**

202 The isolation of peritoneal macrophages was performed as described previously <sup>84</sup>. Briefly, mice were intraperitoneally injected with 1mL of 4% thioglycolate (TG), and 3 days post-injection, mice were sacrificed, and peritoneal cells were harvested with 7mL of sterile PBS by lavage of peritoneal cavity. Cells were spun down (1000xg, 5 minutes), washed with PBS, resuspended, and 206 plated in RPMI (containing 10% FBS and 1% Pen-Strep) at 37 °C in humidified air containing 5%  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  atmosphere. After 3 hours, non-macrophages were washed with PBS. For bone marrow- derived macrophages, mice were sacrificed, and both femurs and tibias were dissected and flushed with sterile 1X PBS, followed by passing through a 70μM cell strainer. Cells were spun down (1000xg, 5 minutes), washed with PBS, and seeded in RPMI (containing 10% FBS and 1% Pen- Strep) with macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF, 10ng/mL) to differentiate into macrophages for 5 days. After which, the macrophages were harvested and used in experiments. Both bone marrow-derived and isolated peritoneal primary macrophages were used to confirm knock out of Epsin1 and Epsin2. Isolated peritoneal macrophages were mainly used for western blots, flow cytometry and immunoprecipitations due to higher yields.

# **Human THP1 macrophage culture and transfection of Epsin1/2 siRNA mix**

 THP1 monocytes (human monocytic leukemia cell line) from ATCC (TIB-202) was cultured 218 in RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin at  $37^{\circ}$ C 219 in 5%  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  humidified incubator. THP1 monocytes (1X10<sup>6</sup> cells/mL) were differentiated into THP1 macrophages with 10 ng/mL phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) for 48 hours. Then, 221 the transfection of control siRNA (4 μg) and human epsin 1 and 2 siRNAs mix (2 μg/each siRNA) to the differentiated THP1 macrophages were performed using a Nucleofector 2b device for 223 electroporation of the cells<sup>85</sup>. After transfection, the transfected THP1 macrophages were incubated with different kinds of compounds for functional studies.

# **RNA isolation, quantitative real-time PCR and RNA sequencing**

 Total RNA was extracted from primary macrophages with Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit based on manufacturer's instruction including the optional step to eliminate genomic DNA. The extracted RNA was either used for qRT-PCR or RNA sequencing according to the experimental designs.

 For qRT-PCR, mRNA was reverse transcribed to cDNA with the iScript cDNA Synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., Hercules, CA, United States). 2 μL of the product was subjected to qRT-PCR in StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) using SYBR Green PCR Master Mix reagent as the detector. PCR amplification was performed in triplicate on 96-well 233 optical reaction plates and replicated in at least three independent experiments. The  $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method was used to analyze qPCR data. The Ct of β-actin cDNA was used to normalize all samples. Primers are listed in Major Resource Table. For RNA sequencing, extracted RNA from primary macrophages with Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit based on manufacturer's instruction were sent to BGI Genomics Company (San Jose, USA) for RNA sequencing.

# **RNA sequencing data processing and differential expression analysis**

 The raw reads of RNA sequencing data were mapped to the mouse genome (version mm10) 240 using STAR (version 2.7.9a) <sup>86</sup> or TopHat (version v2.1.1) <sup>87</sup>. The read count was calculated for 241 each gene by htseq-count (version  $0.11.2$ ) <sup>88</sup> and further normalized to TPM (transcripts per million) and FPKM (fragments per kilobase of transcript per million fragments mapped). For differential expression analysis of Epsin deficient and wild type macrophage dataset, the read count matrix 244 produced by htseq-count was imported into the R package DESeq2 (version 1.30.1)  $^{89}$ . For the ABCG1 knock out dataset, we first performed a batch effect removal on the log10 transformed 246 TPM expression matrix using ComBat in the R package sva (version 3.38.0)  $^{90}$ . Then, the R package limma was used to do differential expression analysis for the batch effect-removed expression matrix. Genes with fold change larger than 1.2-fold and p-value less than 0.05 were identified as differentially expressed genes (DEGs). Principal component analysis (PCA) was conducted by the plotPCA function of DESeq2. Heatmap of gene expression values was generated using the R package heatmap (version 1.0.12). Gene Ontology (GO) functional enrichment 252 analysis was performed by the R package clusterProfiler (version 3.18.1) .

 For the comparison of DEGs between DKO and CD36 knockout macrophages in mice, we 254 utilized the published bulk RNA-seq data from Chen et. al. , with the accession number 255 GSE139439, downloaded from NCBI GEO database . The overlapping DEGs co-regulated in DKO and CD36 knockout macrophages were analyzed by the R package VennDiagram (version 257 1.6.20)<sup>93</sup>. The statistical significance of overlapping genes was calculated by Fisher exact test. All the data for bulk RNA-seq are available in Data files (S5-S16).

#### **Cell culture and plasmids transfection**

 The HEK 293T cell line (ATCC no. CRL-11268) was used for plasmid transfection to map the 261 binding sites of Epsin to CD36 or ABCG1. Flag-tagged Epsin1WT, Epsin1<sup>ΔUIM</sup>, Epsin1<sup>ΔENTH</sup>

262 truncation constructs, and pcDNA vector were prepared previously in our lab<sup>25</sup>. CD36 (lot:52025) and ABCG1 (lot:53952) plasmids were purchased from AddGene. HEK 293T cells were cultured 264 in DMEM (10% FBS and 1% Pen-Strep) at  $37^{\circ}$ C in humidified air containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 as instructed by the manufacturer. Transfection of Epsin domains to macrophage: Isolated WT and DKO peritoneal macrophages were cultured in RPMI 267 media (containing 10% lipid-depleted serum and 1% Pen-Strep). Epsin1<sup>WT</sup>, Epsin1<sup>ΔUIM</sup>, 268 Epsin1<sup>ΔENTH</sup> truncation constructs, and pcDNA vector were transfected to macrophages using lipofectamine LTX transfection reagent or using Nucleofector II apparatus (Amaxa, Germany) with mouse macrophage nucleofector kit (Lot: VPA-1009, Lonza) as instructed by the manufacturer.

## **Immunoprecipitation (IP) and western blotting (WB)**

 For total protein levels, primary macrophages were washed with ice cold PBS, lysed in RIPA buffer (50 mM Tris HCl, 150 mM NaCl, 1.0% NP-40, 0.5% Sodium Deoxycholate, 1.0 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS and 0.01% sodium azide at a pH of 7.4.), added 4X Laemmli buffer (1:3 dilution in lysis buffer) was added and WB was performed for the proteins indicated in this study. For IP, 276 cells were washed with ice cold PBS, lysed with lysis buffer (1% Triton X-100, 5mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, 277 10mM N-ethylmaleimide, and protease inhibitor cocktail), spun down (12000xg, 5 min at  $4^{\circ}$ C) to remove the debris. Cell lysates were pre-cleared with appropriate species of IgG and protein A/G 279 Sepharose beads for 1h at  $4^{\circ}$ C with rotation followed by incubation with A/G Sepharose beads and 280 indicated antibodies for 12 hours at 4<sup>o</sup>C with rotation. For negative controls, equal concentrations of mouse IgG were added instead of specific antibodies. Precipitated proteins were washed with ice cold lysis buffer for 3 time and eluted from protein A/G beads using 2X Laemmli buffer (1:1 283 in lysis buffer) followed by WB as described previously  $^{26}$ . WB were repeated for at least 3 times with different mice and bands were quantified using NIH ImageJ software. The protein expression

 levels were normalized to GAPDH levels. For IPs in macrophages involving oxLDL treatment, cells were pre-treated with 1 μM MG132 in serum-free media for 4 hours, followed by the 287 treatment with or without oxLDL (100μg/ml) for 30 minutes at 37<sup>o</sup>C and processed for immunoprecipitation. For the transfection of Epsin1 constructs and CD36 or ABCG1 constructs, transfected HEK 293T cells were cultured in lipid-depleted DMEM media for 24 hours followed by stimulation with 100μg/mL oxLDL for 30 minutes at 37°C and performed for immunoprecipitation.

## **Atherosclerosis analysis**

 Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane. Blood was collected from the right atrium followed by left ventricle perfusion with cold PBS. Whole aortas, brachiocephalic artery (BCA) and hearts of the mice were isolated. Whole aortas were dissected symmetrically, pinned to parafilm and fixed in 4% PFA to allow the *en face* analysis. Heart and BCA were embedded in OCT mounting medium and immediately frozen. The aortic sinus and BCA in the heart were sectioned at 10 microns (at least 9 sections of each sample were collected). The internal elastic lamina and luminal boundary of the lesion was manually traced and the lesion sizes of the *en face* aortas and aortic roots were quantified by NIH ImageJ software. The methods for Oil Red O (ORO) staining, immunofluorescent (IF) staining, Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining, and Van Gieson's staining are described in supplemental materials <sup>26</sup>.

 ORO staining and IF staining of primary macrophages or cryosections were performed as described below. Oil Red O imaging was taken by a Zeiss Axio Scope.A1, AxioCam ICc5, and analyzed by ZEN-Lite 2012 software. Imaging of *en face* aortas was performed using a Nikon SMZ1500 stereomicroscope, SPOT Insight 2Mp Firewire digital camera, and SPOT Software 5.1. Imaging of IF staining was taken by Zeiss confocal microscope and quantification areas were

 performed by manually tracing the aortas, BCA, and aortic root lesion areas with NIH ImageJ software. Statistical analysis of samples including Oil Red O, Van Gieson's, H&E, and IF staining were performed by blinding in which each animal was assigned a number and data was collected based on the assigned number with genotype and experimental condition unknown to the data collector.

## **Oil Red O staining**

 For cryostat sections: cryostat sections 10 microns were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde. Slides were washed with PBS (3 times, 5 min each time), and rinsed with 100% propylene glycol followed by staining with freshly prepared 0.5% Oil Red O solution for 10 minutes at 60°C. Slides were then put in 85% propylene glycol for 2 min, followed by 3 washes in water. Slides were next incubated with hematoxylin for 1-2 min, rinsed 3 times in water, and mounted with aqueous mounting medium. For foam cells: coverslips were washed with PBS, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 min and stained with freshly prepared 0.5% Oil Red O solution for 10 min at 65°C. Slides were then washed in PBS (3 times, 5min each time), incubated with hematoxylin for 1min, washed with PBS 3 times, and mounted on coverslips with aqueous mounting medium. Imaging was processed with a Zeiss LSM880 confocal microscope and analyzed with ZEN-Lite 2012 software and NIH ImageJ software. Quantification of lesion was performed as described above. Quantification of foam cells was performed as described below.

## **Hematoxylin and Eosin staining**

 Frozen aortic root and BCA sections: slides were fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 15 min and washed in water. Next, slides were stained with 0.1% hematoxylin for 3min followed by ddH2O washes, 95% ethyl alcohol and water. Slides were then dipped in 0.5% Eosin for 3 min, 330 quickly rinsed with ddH<sub>2</sub>O, dipped in 95% and 100% ethanol, incubated in 50:50 Xylenes:100% ethanol and incubated in 100% Xylenes. Slides were mounted using Permount with coverslips.

#### **Van Gieson's staining**

 Sections were fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 15 min and washed in water. Slides were 334 stained with hematoxylin for 10 min, washed in ddH<sub>2</sub>O, stained 1-3 min in Van Gieson's solution, dehydrated in 95% alcohol and 100% alcohol two times. Then, slides were cleared in xylene for two times and mounted with Permount. Staining results were presented as: Elastic fibers and nuclei–Black, Collagen fibers–Red and Other tissue elements–Yellow. Lesion area was traced using NIH ImageJ software. The percentage of necrotic area was determined by necrotic areas within the lesion. Collagen content was determined by the percentage of lesion areas.

#### **Immunofluorescence staining**

 Human samples: human healthy and atherosclerotic aorta paraffin sections were deparaffinized in xylene for 15min, immersed in graded ethanol (100%, 100%, 95%, 90%, 80%, and 70%, each for 3 min), washed with running tap water and processed antigen retrieval with 10mM Sodium Citrate, pH 6.0, with 0.05% Tween 20 at 90°C for 10 min. Samples were blocked in PBS with 3% donkey serum, 3% BSA, and 0.3% Triton X-100 and incubated with primary antibodies ABCG1 or CD68 (1:70 dilution) at 4°C overnight. The sections were washed three times and respective secondary antibodies conjugated to fluorescent labels (Alexa Flour 594, 488, or 647; 1:200 to 1:500) were added for 2 h at room temperature. The sections were mounted with mounting medium containing DAPI (1:100). Isotype controls for the immunofluorescence experiments was used to validate antibody specificity (isotype antibodies) and distinguish genuine target staining from background (secondary antibody only controls).

 Mouse aortic root and BCA cryosections: Sections were fixed by 4% paraformaldehyde for 30 min at room temperature and blocked in PBS solution containing 3% donkey and/or goat serum, 3% BSA, and 0.3% Triton X-100 for 1hour. Samples were then incubated with primary antibody at  $4^{\circ}$ C overnight, followed by incubation with the respective secondary antibodies conjugated to fluorescent labels (Alexa Flour 594, 488, or 647; 1:200 to 1:500) for 2 h at room temperature. The sections were mounted with mounting medium containing DAPI (1:100).

 Staining of peritoneal macrophages: macrophages plated on the 18-mm coverslips were washed with PBS, fixed by 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 min at room temperature and blocked in PBS solution containing 3% donkey and/or goat serum, 3% BSA, and 0.3% Triton X-100 for 1hour. Coverslips were then incubated with primary antibody (CD36, ABCG1, EEA1, Rab11, or Lamp1; 1:100-1:300) at 4°C overnight, followed by incubation with the respective secondary antibodies conjugated to fluorescent labels (Alexa Flour 594, 488, or 647; 1:200 to 1:500) for 1 hour at room temperature. The sections were mounted with mounting medium containing DAPI (1:100). 365 BODIPY<sup>TM</sup> 493/503 staining of macrophages was performed following F4/80-fluorescent 366 conjugated antibody incubation for 2 hours at room temperature <sup>94</sup>. Slides were washed with PBS, stained with DAPI and mounted. Immunofluorescent images were captured using a Zeiss LSM880 confocal microscope and analyzed with ZEN-Lite 2012 software and HIH ImageJ software. Samples stained without the primary antibody were obtained using the same settings as negative controls. Mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of antibody staining was determined using NIH ImageJ software with n=3 or more.

## **Image Choosing**

 We had two blinded observers select representative images from a panel of images collated from all experiments performed for any given sample. Representative images from

 immunofluorescence, Oil Red O and Van Gieson's staining were selected based on and the most accurate representation of similarity with the mean value for each experimental group. The way to select a representative image would be an image that is most similar to all of the other images in the set. Representative images from immunofluorescence, Oil red O and Van Gieson's stainings were selected based on high quality, resolution, and accurate representation of similarity with the mean value for each experimental group.

#### **Flow cytometry assay**

 Flow cytometry of elicited primary macrophages: peritoneal macrophages from WT and DKO mice were isolated as described above and plated in 6 well plates in lipid-deficient medium for 24 hours followed by the treatment with or without 100μg/mL oxLDL in the presence or absence of 385 clathrin siRNA at 37°C for different time based on the experiment designs. Macrophages were washed with 1XPBS, dissociated with 1mL non-enzymatic cell dissociation buffer, centrifuged (300x*g*, 5 minutes), and resuspended in 100μL FACS buffer (1X PBS, 2% FBS, 2mM EDTA) containing the following: FcR Blocking Reagent, fluorochrome conjugated anti-F4/80, primary antibodies against CD36 or ABCG1. Cells were incubated with the primary antibodies (1:100) on 390 ice for 30min, washed with 100μL FACS buffer, spun down and resuspended with 100μL FACS buffer containing the fluorescent secondary antibodies (1:100). After 30 min, cells were washed with FACS buffer, fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA), and resuspended in FACS buffer for analysis. Single color and no color controls were prepared using elicited macrophages, which were treated the same as experimental groups. Expression of cell markers was analyzed using a FlowJo version 10 software. Gating strategies were performed as described in Supplemental Figures S4 and S10. Flow cytometry of DiI-oxLDL treated macrophages: peritoneal macrophages elicited from WT and DKO mice were incubated in lipid-deficient medium for 24h followed by the

398 treatment of DiI-oxLDL for 2h at  $37^{\circ}$ C and macrophages were washed with 1XPBS, dissociated with 1mL non-enzymatic cell dissociation buffer, centrifuged (300xg, 5 minutes), resuspended in 100μL FACS buffer (1X PBS, 2% FBS, 2mM EDTA) containing the following: FcR Blocking Reagent, fluorochrome conjugated anti-F4/80 antibody staining, fixed and assessed the uptake of lipoproteins by flow cytometry as described above.

#### **Foam cell formation**

 TG (4%) induced peritoneal macrophages were isolated and plated on 18mm glass coverslips. Cells were cultured in RPM media (containing 10% lipid-depleted serum and 1% PennStrep) for 406 24 hours and then treated with 10-100  $\mu$ g/mL oxLDL for 24 hours <sup>26</sup>. Cells were fixed in 4% PFA for 10 minutes at room temperature and washed with PBS. For Oil Red O staining, coverslips were stained with Oil Red O, washed with PBS, counterstained with hematoxylin, washed with PBS, and then mounted on slides. For Bodipy staining, coverslips were immunofluorescently stained BodipyTM 493/503 and phalloidin-iFluor 555 reagent for 1 hour at 37°C, counterstaining with DAPI, and mounting on slides. Negative controls were not treated with oxLDL. Foam cells were determined as the number of lipid positive cells (Oil Red O positive or Bodipy positive) as a percentage of total cells. At least 6 fields per cover slip and 6 mice per genotype were used for quantification.

#### **Cell surface biotinylation**

416 Cell surface biotinylation was performed as described previously . Isolated peritoneal 417 macrophages in the plate were washed with cold PBS, suspended at a concentration of  $25x10<sup>6</sup>$  cells/mL and treated with 2mM EZ-Link Sulfo-NHS-LC-Biotin reagent on ice for 30 minutes followed by 3 washes with 100mM Glycine to remove excess biotin and then 3 washes with cold

 PBS (5min each time). Cells were lysed and pulled down by streptavidin bead: cell lysates were 421 incubated with neutravidin beads for at least 12 hours at  $4^{\circ}$ C with rotation, and proteins were eluted from beads using 4X Laemmli buffer diluted 1:3 in lysis buffer. Cell surface biotinylated proteins were analyzed by western blotting and quantified using NIH Image J software.

### **Plasma collection, triglyceride, and cholesterol analysis**

 For each mouse, 1mL syringe were rinsed with 1mL 0.5M EDTA to coat the inside of the syringe with EDTA to prevent clotting during blood collection. Blood was collected from the right atrium of the mouse heart after sacrifice with isoflurane and added to each 1.7mL tube containing 50μL 0.5M EDTA. Blood was centrifuged at 2000xg for 10 minutes at 4°C. Plasma was transferred to a new tube and stored at -20°C. Plasma cholesterol and triglyceride levels were determined as described below.

 Total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and triglycerides in mouse serum were determined on Ace Axcel Clinical Chemistry System (Alfa Wassermann, West Caldwell, NJ). Non-HDL cholesterol is calculated as Total Cholesterol – HDL and gives a measure of the cholesterol carried by all of the atherogenic lipoproteins.

 Quantification of total cholesterol, HDL and triglycerides in macrophages. Lipids were 436 extracted from macrophages with hexane:isopropanol (3:2, v:v) as described in Robinet et al . Solvents were removed by drying with nitrogen gas. Extracts were resolubilized in 5% bovine serum solution by bath sonication (10 minutes at 37°C), freeze/thaw treatment (1 hour at -80°C) and followed by probe sonication for 10 seconds. Reconstituted samples were analyzed on Ace Axcel® Clinical Chemistry System for total cholesterol, HDL and triglycerides as described above for measurements in mouse serum. Obtained values were normalized to total protein measured in the cell lysates by Bradford Protein Assay (Bio-Rad).

#### **Macrophage cholesterol efflux assay**

444 Thioglycolate induced peritoneal macrophages from WT, DKO and DKO/ABCG1 $10+$  mice were plated in RPMI medium for 2-4 hours. Non-adherent cells were removed by washing with 446 PBS and cells were incubated with radiolabeled medium supplemented with 4  $\mu$ Ci/mL of [<sup>3</sup>H]- cholesterol (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA), 5% FBS,1% P/S and 50μg/mL acetyl-LDL for 24 hours. Macrophages were washed twice with warm PBS and incubated with serum-free RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 0.2% BSA, 2μg/mL acyl-CoA cholesterol acyltransferase 450 (ACAT) inhibitor and 4μmol/L LXR agonist T0901317 for 18 hours equilibration <sup>58</sup>. After this equilibration period, cells were washed twice with warm PBS and incubated in serum free RPMI medium supplemented with or without cholesterol acceptors (10 μg/mL ApoA-1 or 25 μg/mL 453 HDL) and  $2\mu$ g/mL ACAT inhibitor for 4 hours <sup>96</sup>. At the end of the incubation, the efflux media was collected and filtered through a 0.45-μm filter to remove the detached cells. Then, transfer the efflux medium was transferred to a scintillation vial. The macrophages in the plates were added to 500 μL of 0.2N NaOH and incubated on shaker at 4 °C overnight. Cell extract from each well was transferred to a scintillation vial. 4 mL of scintillation liquid were added to each scintillation vial 458 and radioactivity was measured by liquid-scintillation counting <sup>97</sup>. The cholesterol efflux to acceptors was expressed as a percentage of total cholesterol using the following formula: % 460 cholesterol efflux = (medium [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity [cpm]) / [(medium [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity [cpm] + [ $H$ ]-radioactivity from cell extract [cpm])] x 100, where cpm = counts per minute.

# **Reverse cholesterol transport (RCT) assay**

*In vivo* RCT experiment is based on the method detailed by Joan Carles Escolà-Gil et al <sup>97</sup>. 464 Briefly, macrophages were radiolabeled with [ $H$ ]-cholesterol (5  $\mu$ Ci/mL) in 10% lipoprotein-depleted serum, 1% P/S and 50μg/mL acetyl-LDL RPMI media for 48h. Foam cells were washed

466 with serum-free media supplemented with 0.2% BSA and equilibrated for 4h (37 °C, 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>). 467 Then, [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol-labeled macrophages were detached, spun down and resuspended in PBS. 468 The injection dose was 0.5 mL per mouse  $(4x10<sup>6</sup>$  cpm/mL) administered intraperitoneally into 469 C57BL/6 WT mice fed on normal diet as indicated in Figure 5C. Mice were then individually 470 housed in metabolic cages and feces in the cage floor were collected for 2 days. At 48h, mice were 471 sacrificed and blood, liver, intestinal contents were collected in Figure S8. Serum [3H]-cholesterol 472 was measured by liquid scintillation counting. [3H]-HDL cholesterol was determined after 473 precipitation of ApoB-containing lipoproteins with 0.44mM phosphotungstic acid and 20mM 474 MgCl2. Liver, fecal and intestinal lipids were extracted with hexane- isopropanol (3:2, v:v) and 475 partitioned against Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The lipid layer was collected and dried for 48h using nitrogen gas in a 476 fume hood, and [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol radioactivity was measured by liquid scintillation counting (4mL) 477 scintillation fluid for 4 min). The [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity observed in fecal biliary acids was determined 478 in the remaining aqueous phase of fecal material extracts. The amount of [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity was 479 expressed as a percentage of the total injected dose, which was taken as 100%.

#### 480 **Statistical analysis**

 Statistical analysis was processed using GraphPad Prism 9.3 and IBM SPSS Version 26. Data 482 are shown as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (mean  $\pm$  SD). For in vitro study, all biological replicates using primary cultured cells or cells lines correspond to independent experiments from distinct expansions and passage numbers, with technical replicates. Shapiro-Wilk test (P<0.05) was used to test normality of all data obtained from in vivo study. Comparisons among multiple groups were performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey post hoc multiple comparisons test or two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak post hoc multiple comparisons test. For comparisons between two groups, unpaired *t* test was performed to analyze the data. Data that  failed normality test or small sample size (n<6 per group), Mann-Whitney *U* test were used to analyze two-group comparisons and Kruskal-Wallis followed by Dunn post hoc multiple comparisons test for multi-group comparisons. Raw P values were provided for two-group comparisons, and adjusted P values were provided for multiple-group comparisons. All experiments were performed independently, no experiment-wide/across-test multiple test correction was applied.

# **Supplemental Figure Legends**

**Figure S1A. Overview of single cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) and data analysis.**

 **Sample preparation**: WT and DKO mice (n=3/group) were fed normal diet or western diet for 16 weeks, followed by the isolation of aortas, enzyme digestion and single cell suspension were prepared by manufacturer's instructions. **10X Genomics- Single-cell cDNA library preparation**:

- barcoding cells for 10 x genomics, cDNA library construction and scRNA sequencing. **cDNA library sequencing and computational analysis:** Then the sequencing reads were preprocessed
- by cell ranger, downstream analysis was done by Seurat, Scanpy, and Monocle pipelines.
- 
- **Figure S1B**. **Overview of animal models.** (**a**) Generating myeloid-specific Epsin deletion mice. (**b**) Generating myeloid-specific Epsin deletion mice in ApoE-/- background. (**c**) Generating LysM-508 DKO/ABCG1<sup>flox/+</sup> in ApoE-null mouse. (**d**) Generating ABCG1 knockout mice.
- 

 **Figure S2. Cell populations were annotated based on marker gene expression.** (**A**) Dot plot of known marker genes for each cell cluster in Figure 1A. Marker gene expression are colored by red and blue for aortas in WT and LysM-DKO mice on normal diet, respectively. Size of nodes represent percentage of cells expressing a certain gene. (**B**) Dot plot of known marker genes for each major macrophage subcluster. (**C**) Violin plots showing the representative marker gene expression in each major macrophage subcluster in WT and LysM-DKO. (**D**) Feature plots showing the representative M1 and M2 macrophage marker gene expression across all major macrophage subclusters. Log-transformed normalized read count: Read counts for each cell were divided by the total counts for that cell and multiplied by 10,000. This was then natural log transformed using log1p.

 **Figure S3. Cell proportion changes for each cell type in WT and LysM-DKO.** The bar plots showing the cell proportion of M1 macrophage was decreased, while those of M2 macrophage and M1-M2 transition cells were increased in LysM-DKO compared to WT. 

- **Figure S4. Metabolite-sensor cell communications related to macrophages.** (**A-B**) A flow plot of communications comprising senders, metabolites, sensors, and receivers from macrophage subpopulations to all the cell types (A); and from all cell types to macrophages (B). (**C**) A heatmap showing the most variable communications related to cholesterol metabolism in macrophages in the comparison of WT and LysM-DKO aorta.
- 

 **Figure S5. The expression levels of cholesterol-producing enzymes and the sensor Cd36 tended to decrease while those of cholesterol-consuming enzymes tended to increase in DKO compared to WT mice.** (**A**) Violin plots showing the expression levels of cholesterol producing enzymes in DKO and WT macrophage c2. (**B**) Violin plots showing the expression levels of cholesterol consuming enzymes in DKO and WT macrophage c2. (**C**) Dot plot showing the expression levels of cholesterol producing enzymes in DKO and WT macrophage c2. (**D**) Dot plot showing the expression levels of cholesterol consuming enzymes in DKO and WT macrophage c2. (**E**) Violin plot showing the expression level of Cd36 in DKO and WT M1-M2 transition cells. Log-transformed normalized read count: Read counts for each cell were divided by the total counts 540 for that cell and multiplied by 10,000. This was then natural log transformed using  $log1p$ .

 **Figure S6. The expression levels of the producing and consuming enzymes for 25- hydroxycholesterol in macrophage subpopulations in WT and DKO aorta. (A)** Violin plots showing the expression levels of 25**-**hydroxycholesterol producing and consuming enzymes across macrophage subpopulations in WT and DKO. (**B**) Dot plots showing the expression levels of 25**-** hydroxycholesterol producing and consuming enzymes across macrophage subpopulations in WT and DKO. Log-transformed normalized read count: Read counts for each cell were divided by the total counts for that cell and multiplied by 10,000. This was then natural log transformed using log1p.

 **Figure S7. RNA-seq analysis of WT and DKO macrophages reveals that Epsins regulate lipid cholesterol metabolism and efflux pathways**. (**A**) A volcano plot showing differential gene expression in Epsin deficient (DKO) and wild type (WT) macrophages. Red and blue indicate up- and down-regulated genes, respectively. (**B**) A heatmap showing the expression of genes involved in the cholesterol metabolic process (GO:0008203) and cholesterol efflux (GO:0033344). (**C-E**) GSEA demonstrated the tendency of individual pathways to be up- or down- regulated in Epsin deficient macrophages compared to wild type (top panels). Genes associated with Fatty acid metabolism (HALLMAKR) (C), NR1H3-NR1H2 regulate gene expression linked to cholesterol transport and efflux (Reactome) (D), and negative regulation of macrophage derived foam cell differentiation (GOBP) (E) are analyzed. The bar plots (bottom panels) showing log2 fold change of altered genes in these pathways. (**F**) Venn diagrams (top panels) showing the number of overlapping up- and down-regulated genes in DKO and CD36 knockout (CD36KO) samples. Bar plots (bottom panels) showing the observed numbers of overlapped genes versus numbers expected by random chance. The P-value was calculated using two tail Fisher exact test. (**G**) The Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis for shared down regulated (top) and up regulated genes 567 (bottom) between DKO and CD36KO macrophages. \* Adjusted P<0.05, \*\* adjusted P<1x10<sup>-5</sup>. For comparison between different genes, the log-transformed values were further scaled using Z-score method.

 **Figure S8. Gating strategy and clathrin-mediated CD36 internalization.** (**A**) Macrophages 572 isolated from WT (n=6) and DKO (n=6) mice were incubated in lipid-deficient medium for 24h followed by treatment with oxLDL for 2h, then staining with CD36-Alex488 and cytometric 574 analyses. (**B**) Macrophages isolated from WT (n=6) and DKO (n=6) mice were incubated in lipid-575 deficient medium for 24h followed by the treatment of 10  $\mu$ g/mL Dil-oxLDL for 2h at 37<sup>o</sup>C and assessed the uptake of lipoproteins by flow cytometry. The major macrophage population was selected in forward vs side scatter plots and single cell determination was performed by FSC-H vs FSC-A. CD36 (A) or DiI-oxLDL (B) positive macrophages were presented in Figure 2C and 2H, respectively. (**C**) WT and DKO macrophages were incubated in lipid-deficient medium and 580 transfected with clathrin siRNA for 24h followed by treatment with or without  $100\mu\text{g/mL}$  oxLDL<br>581 for 15 mins at 37<sup>o</sup>C. Flow evtometry for surface level of CD36. 581 for 15 mins at  $37^{\circ}$ C. Flow cytometry for surface level of CD36.

 **Figure S9. The loss of Epsins reduced oxLDL uptake by macrophages.** (**A**) Isolated peritoneal macrophages from WT (n=6) and DKO (n=6) mice were pre-incubated with 25μg/mL oxLDL for 24h in lipid-deficient medium and stained with BODIPY (lipids, green), F4/80 (macrophage, red), and DAPI (blue), \*\*WT vs DKO group, n=6, P<0.01, scale bar=200μm. (**B**) ORO staining of

 peritoneal macrophages, which were pre-incubated with 25μg/mL oxLDL for 24h in lipid-deficient medium, scale bar=20μm.

 **Figure S10. Transfection of full-length Epsin1 and constructs with the ENTH and UIM domains deleted into WT macrophages did not affect lipid uptake.** Constructs of FLAG-592 Epsin1 WT,  $\triangle$ ENTH, and  $\triangle$ UIM were transfected into ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>/WT macrophages for 48h and 593 treated with 100  $\mu$ g/mL oxLDL for 1h, followed by staining with F4/80 (red), BODIPY (green)<br>594 and DAPI (blue). Scale bars=200 $\mu$ m. Statistical analyses are presented in Figure 3E. and DAPI (blue). Scale bars=200μm. Statistical analyses are presented in Figure 3E.

**Figure S11. Differentially expressed genes between WT and ABCG1 knockout (ABCG1KO)** 

 **macrophages.** (**A**) A volcano plot showing differential gene expression in ABCG1KO and WT macrophages. Red and blue indicate up- and down-regulated genes, respectively. (**B**) A heatmap

exhibiting the expression values of up- and down-regulated genes in each sample. (**C**) Bar plots

showing log2 fold changes of the top 30 up- and down-regulated genes between ABCG1KO and

WT macrophages. Up- (red) and down-regulated (blue) genes are indicated. (**D**-**F**) GSEA (top

 panels) indicated the tendency of individual pathways to be up- or down-regulated in response to DKO or ABCG1KO compared to WT cells. Genes associated with cell activation involved in

immune response (GO:0002263) (D), regulation of leukocyte migration (GO:0002685) (E), and

leukocyte proliferation (GO:0070661) (F) were analyzed. The bar plots (bottom panels) showing

log2 fold change of altered genes in these pathways. For comparison between different genes, the

- log-transformed values were further scaled using Z-score method.
- 

609 Figure S12. Schematic of the quantification for radiolabeled cholesterol. [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol was measured in serum and HDL after precipitating ApoB-containing lipoproteins. Liver, feces and 611 intestinal lipids were extracted with hexane–isopropanol and partitioned against Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Liver 612 [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity was determined in the upper laver, which contains the [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol. In the [<sup>3</sup>H]-radioactivity was determined in the upper layer, which contains the [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol. In the 613 feces extract, the amount of  $[{}^{3}H]$ -radioactivity was determined in the upper layer (neutral sterols) 614 and the lowest layer (bile acids). In the intestinal contents,  $[^{3}H]$ -radioactivity was determined in the upper layer.

 **Figure S13. Gene expression levels of indicated genes in WT and DKO macrophage.**  Peritoneal macrophages were isolated from WT (n=5) and DKO (n=5) mice. Total RNA was

extracted and mRNA levels of ABCG1, Epsin1, and Epsin2 were measured (n=5/group).

 **Figure S14. Gating strategy and clathrin mediated-ABCG1 endocytosis.** (**A**) Macrophages isolated from WT and DKO mice were incubated in lipid-deficient medium and treated with LXR agonist for 24h followed by treatment with or without 100 μg/mL oxLDL for 5min, 15min, and 45min, and then stained with ABCG1. Surface levels of ABCG1 were assessed by flow cytometry. The major macrophage population was selected in forward versus side scatter plots and single cell determination was performed by FSC-H vs FSC-A. Isotype controls were gated in the histogram as M1 for the negative control of experimental groups for Figure 6C. (**B**) Statistical analysis is presented for Figure 6C. At least three independent experiments were performed for statistical analysis. Data are presented as mean ± SD. **(C)** WT and DKO macrophages were incubated in lipid-deficient medium and transfected with clathrin siRNA for 24h followed by treatment with or 631 without  $100\mu g/mL$  oxLDL for 15 mins at 37°C. Flow cytometry for surface level of ABCG1.

 **Figure S15. The expression of ABCG1 decreased with progression of atherosclerotic lesions in humans and mice.** (**A-B**) Immunostaining of CD68 (red), ABCG1(green) and DAPI (blue) of 635 human patient aortic arch sections  $(A, n=6)$  and mouse aortic root sections  $(B, n=6)$  in early and advanced stage of atherosclerosis (white dashed line outlined in CD68). Mean fluorescence 637 intensity (MFI), scale bar,  $A=50\mu m$ ,  $B=200\mu m$ . **Figure S16. Characterization and silencing efficacy of S2P-conjugated siEpsin1/2 NPs.** (**A**) Schematic of the targeted hybrid siRNA NP platform composed of a lipid-PEG shell with a lesion macrophage specific targeting ligand, S2P peptide, and a PLGA core. (**B-C**) Macrophages from WT mice were treated with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 24h, RNA and proteins were isolated, qRT-PCR (B) and western blot (C) was performed to check the expression of Epsin 1 and 2 levels (n=3). **Figure S17. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 treated macrophages show reduced foam cell formation**. (**A-B**) Macrophages isolated from ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice were incubated in lipid-deficient medium and treated with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 48h, follow with treatment of 100 μg/mL oxLDL (A) 649 or serum (B) collected from ApoE<sup> $\pm$ </sup> mice fed a WD for 8 weeks. ORO staining was performed, scale bar=50μm. **Figure S18. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 inhibits lesion formation and macrophage accumulation in early stage of atherosclerosis.** (**A**) Male ApoE-/- mice were fed a WD for 8 weeks followed by treatment with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 3 weeks (2 doses per week). (**B**) WB of Epsin 1 and 2 after treatment with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 NPs using lesional lysates from the aortas (n=4 times). (**C-D**) Aortic roots from S2PNP-siCtrl treated ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> or S2PNP-

- siEpsin1/2 siRNA treated ApoE-/- mice were stained with the macrophage marker CD68 (solid white line) and Epsin1 or Epsin2 (dashed white line), Epsin 1 and 2 mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) were analyzed (n=5, scale bars=500 μm). (**E**) *En face* ORO staining of aortas (upper panel) and aortic root sections (lower panel) of hearts from baseline, S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 treated ApoE-/-mice fed a WD. Scale bar; aorta=5mm, aortic root=500μm.
- 

 **Figure S19. Silencing lesional macrophage Epsin1/2 by S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 NP-treatment stabilized plaques in a progression model of atherosclerosis.** ApoE-/- mice fed a WD for 17 weeks followed by treatment with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 3 weeks (two doses per week). Van Gieson's staining of brachiocephalic artery (BCA) (upper panel) and aortic root (lower panel) sections from baseline, S2PNP-siCtrl-, or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2-treated ApoE-/- mice was 668 performed (arrows indicate the elastic fibers,  $n=6$ , scale bar=250  $\mu$ m).

**Figure S20. Delivery of S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 does not change cholesterol and triglyceride levels** 

 **of ApoE-/-mice fed a WD.** Plasma from ApoE-/-mice fed a WD for 17 weeks (before NP injection), followed by an additional 3 weeks of treatment with S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEspsin1/2, showed no alteration in triglyceride, cholesterol, HDL and non-HDL (LDL/VLDL) cholesterol levels  $(n=5)$ .

# **Figure S21. Silencing macrophage Epsin1/2 by S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 NPs reduces lesion size in**

**a regression model of atherosclerosis.** (**A**) ORO staining of BCA sections in baseline, S2PNP-

siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 treated PCSK9-mice was performed and lesions were indicated (dash

 lines) (n=6, scale bar=500μm). (**B**) Van Gieson's staining of BCA sections from above three groups was performed (n=6, scale bar=500μm). (**C**) qRT-PCR analysis to confirm expression of 681 the indicated genes  $(n=3)$ .

 **Figure S22. S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 delivery inhibits the progression and regression of atherosclerosis in female mice.** (A) Female ApoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice fed a Western Diet (WD) for 8 weeks followed by treatment of S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 3 weeks (2 doses per week). (**B**) 686 Female Apo $E^{-/-}$  mice fed a Western Diet (WD) for 17 weeks followed by treatment of S2PNP- siCtrl or S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 for 3 weeks (2 doses per week, n=6mice per group). (**C**) Female C57BL/6 WT mice were injected twice with PCSK9-AAV8 (D377Y) virus and fed a WD for 16 weeks and followed by normal diet feeding with the treatment of S2PNP-siCtrl or S2PNP- siEpsin1/2 for 4 weeks (2 doses per week). (**D)** Statistic analysis of A. (**E)** Statistic analysis of B. (**F)** Statistic analysis of C. Scale bar: A, B, C=5mm.

 **Figure S23. Knockdown of Epsin1/2 in THP-1 macrophages show reduced lipid uptake, foam cell formation and increased cholesterol efflux to HDL.** THP1 human monocytes-derived macrophages were differentiated with 10 ng/ml phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) for 48 hours and transfected with control siRNA and human epsin 1 and 2 siRNAs (2μg/each siRNA) for 24 hours. (**A**) Western blot was performed to confirm the knockdown of Epsin 1 and 2 in transfected THP1 macrophages. (**B**) Transfected THP1 macrophages were treated with 25μg/mL oxLDL for 24h in lipid-deficient medium. Oil Red O staining was performed to assess lipid accumulation and foam cell formation. (**C**) Transfected THP1 macrophages were incubated in 701 lipid-deficient medium for 24h followed by the treatment with DiI-oxLDL for 2h at  $37^0C$  to assess 702 the lipid uptake. scale bar: B,  $C=50\mu m$ . (D) *In vitro* [<sup>3</sup>H]-cholesterol labeled transfected THP1 macrophages were incubated in the presence or absence of HDL (25μg/mL) and ApoA-1 704 (10 $\mu$ g/mL) in the presence of 3 $\mu$ mol/L LXR agonist (T0901317) (n=9).

 **Figure S24. Epsins facilitates CD36-mediated lipid uptake and degradation of ABCG1 and LRP1 in THP1 macrophages.** THP1 human monocytes-derived macrophages were differentiated with 10 ng/ml phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) for 48 hours and transfected with control siRNA and human epsin 1 and 2 siRNAs (2μg/each siRNA) for 24 hours. (**A-B**) Transfected THP1 macrophages were incubated in lipid-deficient medium for 24h and treated with or without 100μg/mL oxLDL for 45 min followed by staining with anti-CD36 (A) or anti-LRP1 (B) antibodies and analyzed by flow cytometry. (**C**) Transfected THP1 macrophages were treated with 3μmol/L liver X receptor (LXR) agonist in lipid-deficient medium for 24h, then treated with or without 100μg/mL oxLDL for 45 min followed by staining with Anti-ABCG1 antibody and analyzed by flow cytometry. (**E-G**) Statistic analysis for A-C, n=5 per group.

 **Figure S25. Summary schematic diagram of the study. (A**) In the progression model of atherosclerosis, the plaque size and lesions increase in the artery on western diet feeding. The 719 delivery of S2PNP-siEpsin1/2 significantly slowed the progression of atherosclerosis compared to<br>720 S2PNP-siCtrl group. In the regression model of atherosclerosis, plaque size and lesion area were S2PNP-siCtrl group. In the regression model of atherosclerosis, plaque size and lesion area were dramatically reduced with the intravenously injection of S2PNP-siEpsin1/2. (**B-C**). Under the stimuli of oxLDL, Epsin binds to CD36 and ABCG1 through Epsin ENTH and Epsin UIM domains, respectively. In B, Epsin facilitates CD36-mideated lipid uptake via recycling endosomes. The loss of Epsin impairs the internalization of CD36, which results in reduced lipid  uptake. While in C, Epsin promotes endocytic degradation of ABCG1via lysosomes, which leads 726 to reduced total and surface level of ABCG1.

# 730 **Supplemental Figures** 731 732 **Figure S1A** 733

**Step 1. Sample preparation Step 2. 10X Genomics: single-cell cDNA library preparation**



# 736 **Figure S1B**









**Figure S4** 747<br>748

















Cells 49.0

 $15M$ 

 $10M$ 

 $5.0M$ 

FSC-H

5.0M

SSC-A

500K

**B**



 $\frac{1}{5.0M}$ 

Single cells 94.8

 $10M$ 

 $15M$ 

Count

 $10$ 

 $10^3$ 





763

CD36 1.15

 $10^4$ 

 $\frac{1}{10^5}$ 

# 765

766













778 779

780

# 781 **Figure S13**

782

783







793



# 798

# 799



- 
- 803





Serum from ApoE<sup>,-</sup>mice **Serum from ApoE-/-mice**









# 811





- 812 813
- 814

815 **Figure S20**





P=9.9x10^-1







- 822 **Figure S22**
- 823
- 824





**F**

- 
- 830



834













843

844<br>845

# 845 **Table S2. Statistical Table**



















