

Figure S1. Transfection efficiency and the effects on TGF- β expression. (A) HRPTEpiCs were infected with Ad-ACE2 or transfected with siArkadia for 48 h. Reverse transcription-quantitative PCR revealed that ACE2 expression was increased in HRPTEpiCs transfected with Ad-ACE2, and Arkadia expression was decreased in HRPTEpiCs transfected with siArkadia. (B) HRPTEpiCs were treated with the ACE2 inhibitor DX600 for 48 h. Western blotting revealed that TGF- β expression was increased in HRPTEpiCs stimulated with high glucose and further increased by DX600. (C) HRPTEpiCs were transfected with siArkadia and/or co-treated with high glucose and DX600 for 48 h. Western blotting revealed that TGF- β expression was increased in HRPTEpiCs co-treated with high glucose and DX600, but decreased following siArkadia transfection. Results were normalized to β -actin expression. * P <0.05 compared with control cells; $^{\$}$ P <0.05 compared with high glucose-treated cells; $^{\#}$ P <0.05 compared with cells co-treated with high glucose and DX600. ACE2, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2; α -SMA, α -smooth muscle actin; CON, control; HG, high glucose; HRPTEpiCs, human renal proximal tubular epithelial cells; Ad-ACE2, adenoviruses overexpressing ACE2; siArkadia, small interfering RNA targeting Arkadia; TGF- β , Transforming growth factor- β .

