## **Supporting Information**

## Dynamic matrix potentiates mesenchymal stromal cells paracrine function *via* effective mechanical dose

Chuanchuan Lin<sup>a</sup>, Kun Xu<sup>a</sup>, Ye He<sup>a</sup>, Bailong Tao<sup>a</sup>, Zhang Yuan<sup>a</sup>, Ke Li<sup>a</sup>, Xuemin Li<sup>c</sup>, Zengzilu Xia<sup>a</sup>, Kaiyong Cai<sup>a, b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Biorheological Science and Technology, Ministry of Education College of Bioengineering, Chongqing University, Chongqing 400044, China

<sup>b</sup> Chongqing Key Laboratory of Soft-Matter Material Chemistry and Function Manufacturing, Chongqing 400044, China

<sup>c</sup> Innovation Drug Research Centre, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
 Chongqing University, Chongqing 401331, China

\* Corresponding author: Prof. Kaiyong Cai

College of Bioengineering

**Chongqing University** 

Chongqing 400044

China

Tel: +86-23-65111802

Fax: +86-23-65102877

E-mail: <u>kaiyong\_cai@cqu.edu.cn</u>







**Figure S2.** Spreading rate of MSCs in soft or stiffening hydrogel (red: cytoskeleton; blue: nuclei, scale bar =  $20 \mu m$ ).



**Figure S3.** The effects of conditioned medium (CM) of MSCs on (A) The morphology of SD rat thoracic aorta endothelial cells; (B - D) the effects of conditioned medium (CM) of MSCs on SD rat thoracic aorta endothelial cells (B & C) migration and (D) proliferation. (Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m, n = 3, \**p* < 0.05, \*\**p* < 0.01) All data was shown as mean ± SD.



**Figure S4.** Paracrine factors of MSCs in soft or stiffening hydrogel after 24 h / 48 h under 10 % FBS medium or free FBS medium (n=3, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001). All data was shown as mean ± SD.



**Figure S5.** Cell viability of MSCs which treated with different  $Ca^{2+}$ . All data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.



Figure S6. The morphology or YAP location of cluster cells in hydrogel.



**Figure S7.** Cell morphology and viability of MSCs cultured in SA hydrogels for 7 days with inhibitors treatment. (A) Live / dead staining of MSCs (scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m, green - live cells, red - dead cells). (B) The cytoskeleton staining of MSCs cultured in hydrogels (scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m, red - cytoskeleton, blue - nucleus). (C) Cell viability of MSCs (calculated 5 scopes in every sample). (D & E) Cell shape index of single MSC (n = 60, \*\**p* < 0.01). All data was shown as mean ± SD.



**Figure S8.** Inhibited the polymerization of F-actin cannot enough change the paracrine cytokines of MSCs in hydrogels (n = 3). All data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S9.** MW of SA can affect the stress relaxation of SA hydrogels (n = 3, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001). All data was shown as mean ± SD.



Figure S10. Correlation between Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration and stress relaxation (n =

3, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001). All data was shown as mean ± SD.



**Figure S11.** The ALP expression of MSCs in hydrogels after culturing 7 days (n = 5). All data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S12.** The effects of verteporfin on the expression and activation of YAP. (A-C) Western blotting analysis of the expression of YAP in MSCs in hydrogel (n = 3). (D-E) Immunofluorescent staining of YAP (green), cytoskeleton (red) and nuclei (blue) in MSCs in hydrogel (n =60 single MSCs, scale bar =  $30 \mu m$ ).

Gene	5'-3'	Primers
VEGFA	Sense	5'-CTTCAAGCCGTCCTGTGTGC-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-GGCTCACAGTGATTTTCTGGCT-3'
FGF	Sense	5'-AAGAGCGACCCACACGTCAAA-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-CTGCCCAGTTCGTTTCAGTGC-3'
HGF	Sense	5'-CCCCCATGAACACAGCTTTTTG-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-GCTTTCACCGTTGCAGGTCA-3'
IGF	Sense	5'-CTGGGACTTCTGAGTCTTGG-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-GGGCATTGTGGATGAGTG-3'
SDF-1	Sense	5'-ATGCCCCTGCCGATTCTTT-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-GTTGTTGCTTTTCAGCCTTGC-3'
GAPDH	Sense	5'-TGCGTTGTTGCGGTCCAC-3'
	Anti-sense	5'-GGCATTGCTCTCAATGACAA-3'

 Table S1. The sequence of primers used in RT-PCR.