

<Supporting Information>

A potent small-molecule inducer of chondrogenic differentiation of human bone-marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells

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S. No.	Content	Page No.
I	Synthetic procedure and characterization of Δ^5 -2-oxopiperazine 5	S2 – S5
II	NMR spectroscopy	S6 – S7
III	Cultivation of human bone marrow derived MSCs	S8
IV	Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis	S9 – S10
V	Chondrogenic differentiation of hBM-MSCs	S11
VI	Morphology and chondrocyte ball formation of hBM-MSCs	S12
VII	Glycosaminoglycan and DNA measurement	S13– S14
VIII	Histological staining and immunohistochemistry	S15 – S16
IX	Total RNA preparation and RT-PCR	S17 – S18
X	Cartilage ball implantation	S19
XI	LC/MS analysis data of all library members	S20 – S36

I. Synthetic procedure and characterization of Δ^5 -2-oxopiperazine library

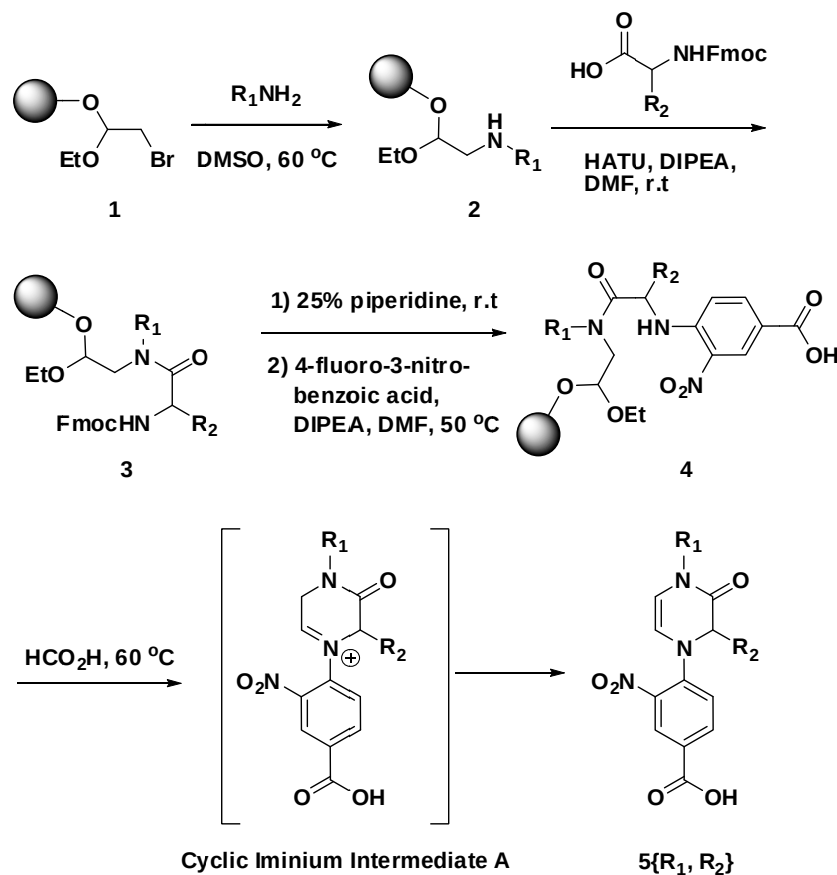
1. General information

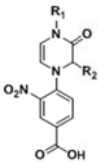
All commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification unless noted otherwise. All the solvents were purchased from commercial vendors. Bromoacetal resins were obtained from either Advanced ChemTech or Aldrich, but the high loading resins for actual library construction were synthesized in our laboratory.¹ The reaction steps for library construction were performed in parallel using the FlexChem Synthesis System from SciGene [Sunnyvale, CA] in a 96-deep-well filtration block. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian Inova-500 (Varian Assoc., Palo Alto, USA) and Bruker DRX-300, AVANCE 600 (Bruker Biospin, Germany). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard or the residual solvent peak (CDCl₃, ¹H: 7.26, ¹³C: 77.23; CD₃OD, ¹H: 3.31, ¹³C: 49.00; DMSO-*d*₆, ¹H: 2.50, ¹³C: 39.52). Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); m (multiplet); dd (doublet of doublet); ddd (doublet of doublet of doublet); dt (triplet of doublet); td (doublet of triplet); br s (broad singlet), etc. Coupling constants were reported in Hz. The purity of all the library members was observed by a LC/MS system equipped with a reverse phase column (C-18, 50 × 2.1 mm, 5 μm) and photodiode array (PDA) detector using electron spray ionization (ESI). Purities were obtained by PDA based LC/MS analysis of final crude products without further purification. The high resolution mass spectrometric analyses were conducted at the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory of Seoul National University using mass spectrometer by direct injection for fast atomic bombardment (FAB).

¹ S.-C. Lee, S. B. Park, *J. Comb. Chem.*, 2006, 5, 50–57.

2. General solid-phase reaction procedures for the construction of Δ^5 -2-oxopiperazine-based small molecule library

Supporting Table 1. Set of buildings blocks and purities [%] of Δ^5 -2-oxopiperazines 5.^[a]



 5(R₁, R₂)			R ₁												
				a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l
		1	77%	76%	82%	88%	81%	84%	84%	79%	82%	84%	86%	80%	
		2	67%	70%	93%	92%	81%	72%	80%	83%	85%	81%	84%	79%	
		3	88%	82%	88%	89%	92%	93%	86%	84%	84%	87%	90%	86%	
		4	80%	85%	83%	83%	90%	81%	80%	88%	87%	82%	82%	80%	
		5	82%	74%	86%	82%	88%	90%	84%	88%	77%	79%	85%	88%	
		6	85%	86%	74%	90%	81%	67%	72%	95%	81%	83%	67%	87%	
		7	66%	71%	73%	69%	79%	73%	70%	82%	86%	79%	73%	75%	

[a] Purities were obtained by PDA-based LC/MS analysis of final products without further purification.

Step 1: Amine Substitution

Bromoacetal resins **1** (40 mg, 1.6 mmol/g, 0.064 mmol) were loaded into each well of a Robbins 96-deep-well filtration block, and solutions of 12 different R₁-amines (20 equiv. in 1.2 mL of DMSO) were dispensed into the designated wells of the reaction block. The reaction mixture was shaken at 60 °C in a rotating oven [Robbins Scientific] for 12 h. The resulting resins **2** thus obtained were washed extensively with DMF, MeOH, and CH₂Cl₂ sequentially (three times each) and dried in vacuo.

Step 2: Amino Acid Coupling

A reaction cocktail of *N*-Fmoc amino acid (3 equiv.), HATU (3 equiv.), and DIPEA (6 equiv.) in DMF (1.2 mL per well) was dispensed into each well of the reaction block charged with resins **2**. The reaction mixture was shaken at room temperature in a rotating oven for 12 h. The resins were then washed extensively with DMF, MeOH and CH₂Cl₂ (three times each) and dried in vacuo. The reaction completion was confirmed by negative chloranil test.

Step 3: Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution

To the resins **3** in the reaction block was added 25% piperidine in DMF, and the reaction mixture was shaken at room temperature for 1 h to unmask the Fmoc-protected primary amine. The resins were then washed extensively with DMF, MeOH and CH₂Cl₂ (three times each). A reaction cocktail of 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic acid (5 equiv.) and DIPEA (10 equiv.) in DMF (1.2 mL per well) was then dispensed into each well of the reaction block charged with resins. The reaction mixture was shaken at 50 °C in a rotating oven for 12 h. The resins were washed extensively with DMF, MeOH and CH₂Cl₂ (three times each) and dried in vacuo. The reaction completion was confirmed by negative Kaiser test.

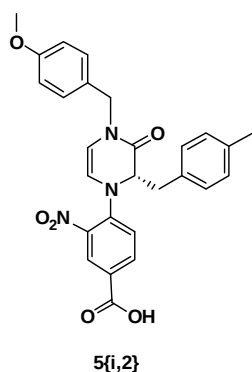
Step 4: Cleavage and Cyclization

After the resulting resins **4** in the 96-deep-well reaction blocks were dried under high vacuum, resins were treated with 100% formic acid (1.4 mL per well) for 3 h at 60 °C. Then, the resins were removed by filtration and washed several time with DCM. The filtrate was condensed under reduced pressure using GeneVac [Thermo Savant] and the resulting residues were diluted with 50% H₂O/ACN and freeze-dried, which yielded final products as a pale red powder. The purity of final products was confirmed by LC/MS without further purification.

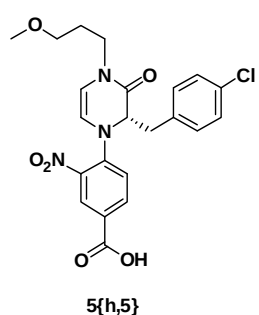
Supporting Table 2. Purity and mass confirmation of representative compounds in Δ^5 -2 oxopiperazines library.

compd	R ₁	R ₂	Purity ^[a]	MS[M+H] ⁺ calcd	obs
5{i,2}	4-Methoxybenzyl	4-Methylbenzyl	85%	488.17	488.22
5{h,5}	3-Methoxypropyl	4-Chlorobenzyl	88%	460.12	460.19

[a] Purities were obtained by PDA-based LC/MS analysis of final products without further purification.



Characterization of Compound 5{i,5}^[b]: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.94 (br s, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 4H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, J = 5.4, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, 2J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 4.76–4.71 (m, 1H), 4.59 (d, 2J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.09–3.03 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 163.9, 159.5, 141.8, 140.8, 137.4, 133.7, 133.1, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.1, 122.0, 120.3, 116.0, 114.4, 111.2, 64.9, 55.5, 48.6, 34.4, 21.3; HRMS (FAB+) m/z calcd for C₂₇H₂₅N₃O₆ [M+H]⁺: 488.1822; Found: 488.1824.

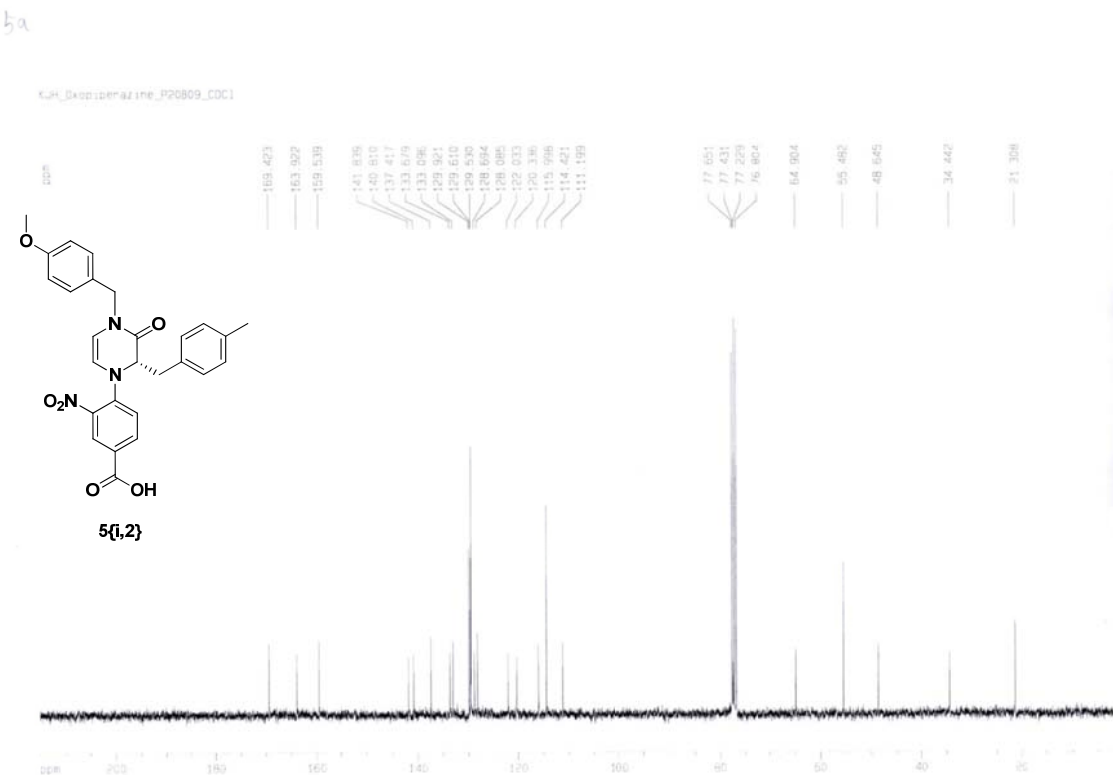
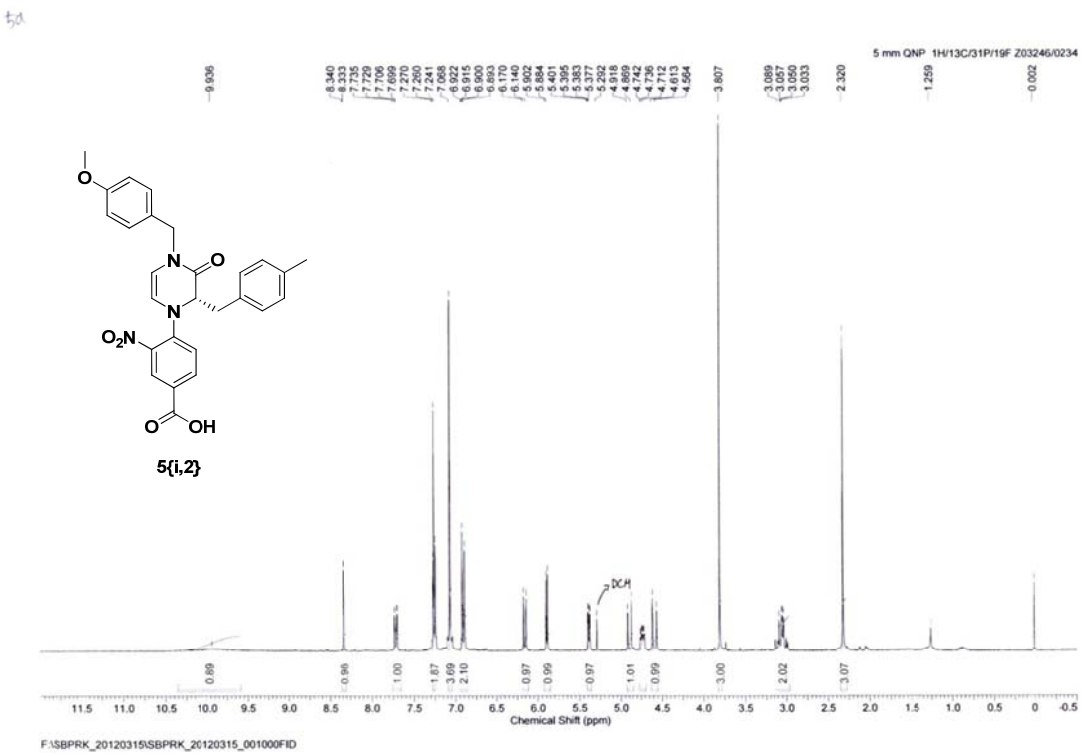


Characterization of Compound 5{h,5}^[b]: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.27 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (dd, J = 5.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.63–4.61 (m, 1H), 3.85–3.82 (m, 1H), 3.50–3.44 (m, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.15 (dd, 2J = 13.5 Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, 2J = 13.8 Hz, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (pentet, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 164.4, 142.8, 141.5, 136.5, 134.6, 134.1, 132.5, 129.8, 128.4, 122.2, 116.5, 113.4, 70.5, 65.7, 58.8, 44.8, 34.9, 29.5; HRMS (FAB+) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₂₃ClN₃O₆ [M+H]⁺: 460.1275; Found: 460.1276.

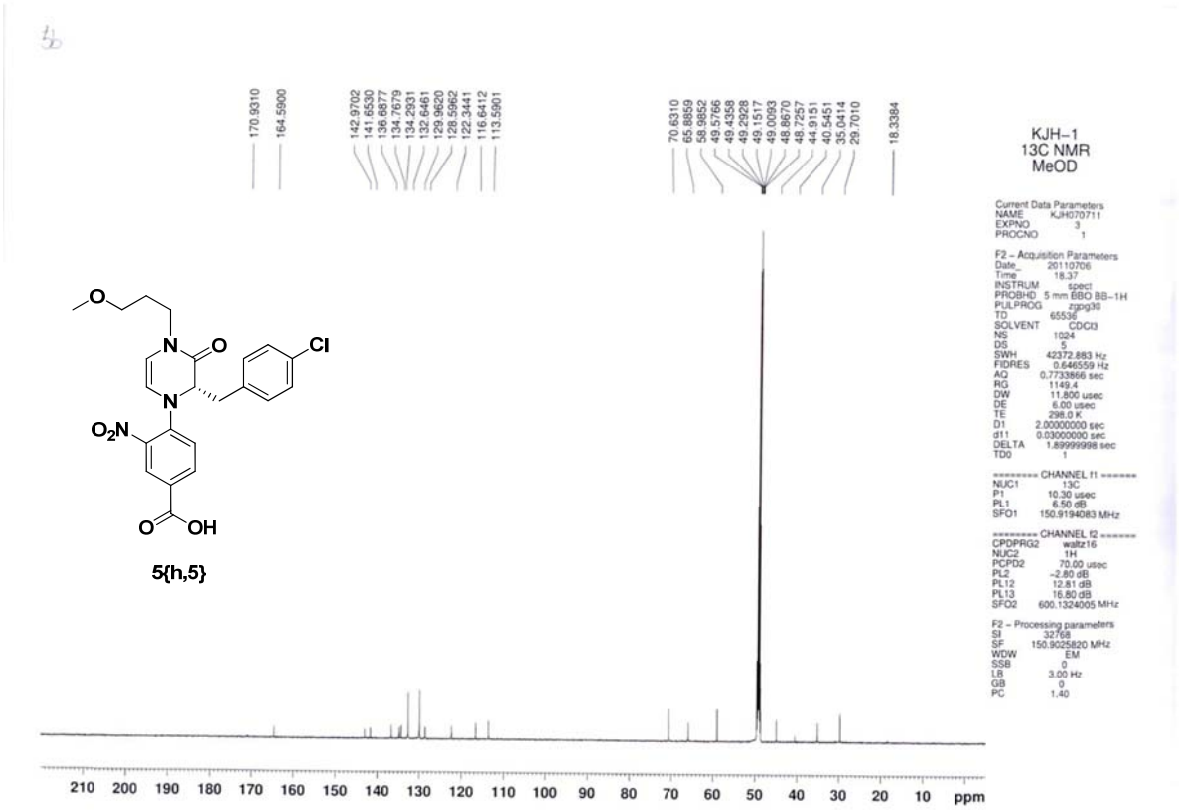
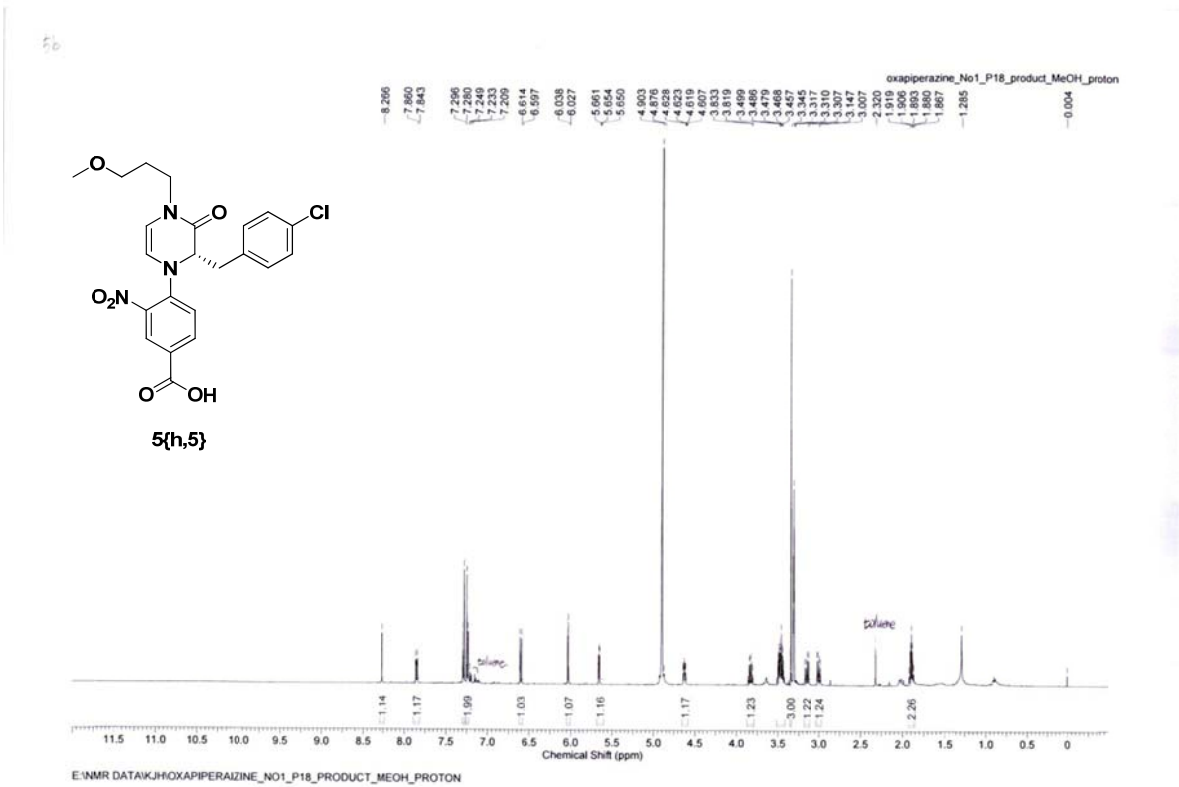
[b] The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy were obtained after purification of samples by silica-gel flash column chromatography.

II. NMR spectroscopy

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra data of 5{i,2}



¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra data of 5{h,5}



III. Cultivation of human bone-marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hBM-MSCs)

Human bone-marrow-derived MSCs (hBM-MSCs) were obtained from children cardiac surgeries of Seoul National University Hospital, which was approved by the IBR (No.:S-D0090001). hBM-MSCs were maintained and expanded in the medium composed of a high-glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium (DMEM: Welgene, Korea) including 20% Fetal bovine serum (FBS: Hyclon, USA), and 1% Antibiotics-Antimycotics (Gibco, Grand Island, NY) at 37 °C under 5% CO₂. The cells were passaged up to 70% confluency. The cells at passage 7 (P7) were subjected to the chondrogenic differentiation assay.

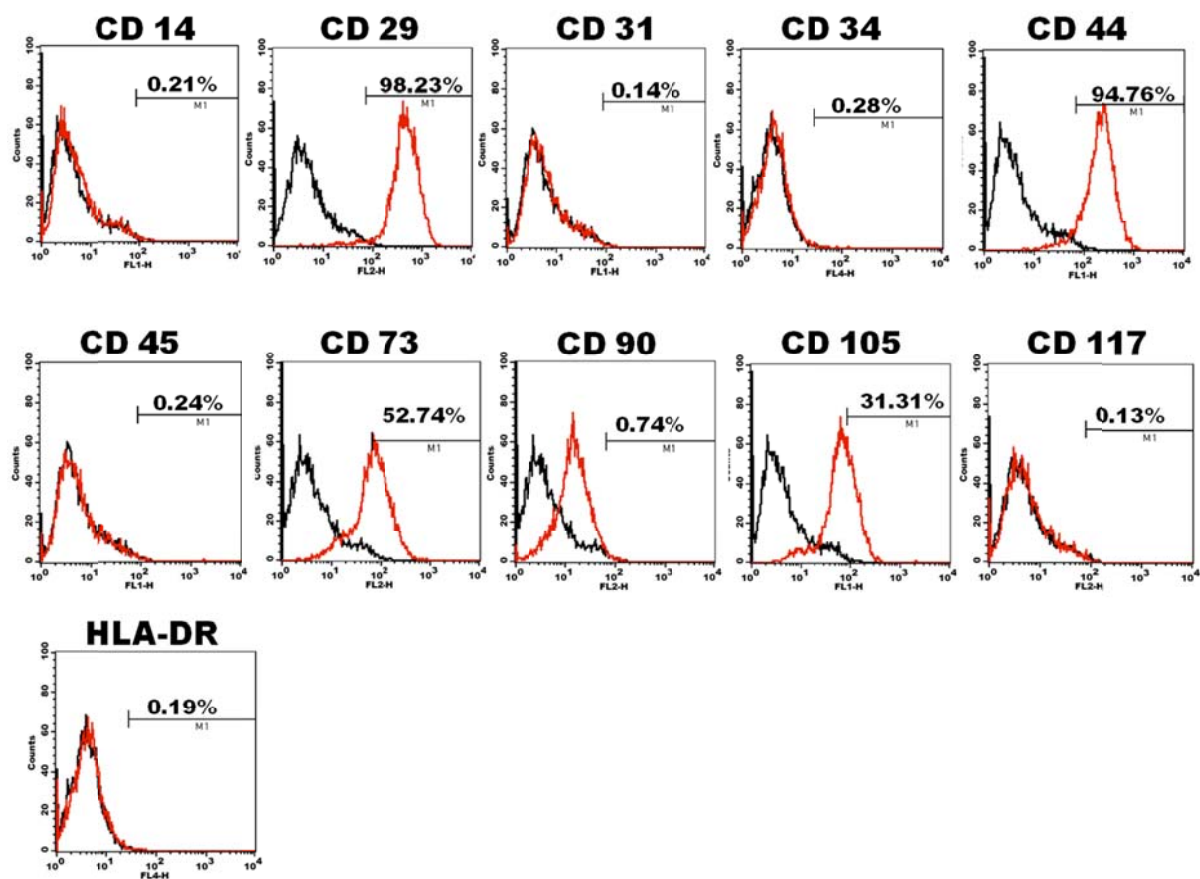
IV. Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis

For the characterization of the hBM-MSCs, fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) was performed to examine expression status of several stem cell surface markers.

The cells were detached and washed with PBS supplemented with 2% FBS to carry out the FACS analysis. The following antibodies were used; fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-conjugated mouse anti-human CD14, CD31, CD44 and CD45; phycoerythrin (PE)-conjugated mouse anti-human CD29, CD73, and CD117; PE/Cy5-conjugated mouse anti-human CD90; allophycocyanin (APC)-conjugated mouse anti-human CD34; HLA-DR; PE-conjugated streptavidin; biotin-conjugated HLA class II (all from BD PharMingen, San Diego, CA, USA); APC-conjugated mouse anti-human CD105 (eBioscience, USA). Each primary antibody was incubated with 100,000 cells for 30 min on ice. After washing, the secondary antibody was applied for 30 min on ice. Then, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde at 4 °C until they were analyzed. The fluorescence intensity was measured by a FACS CaliburTM and data were analyzed with BD CellQuest Pro software (all from Becton Dickinson, San Jose, CA, USA).

As shown in Supporting Figure 1, hBM-MSCs expressed the mesenchymal stem cell markers such as CD29 (98.23%), CD44 (94.76%), CD73 (52.74%), CD90 (0.74%), and CD105 (31.31%), whereas few cells expressed hematopoietic marker such as CD14 (0.21%), , CD34 (0.28%), CD45 (0.24%), CD117 (0.13%), and HLA-DR (0.19%), or the endothelial marker CD31 (0.14%). The homogeneously high expression of CD29 (β 1-integrin) and CD44 (hyaluronan receptor) indicates that the used hBM-MSCs are mainly mesenchymal stem cells.² However, the lack of hematopoietic cell marker and endothelial cell marker reveals that hBM-MSCs were not contaminated by hematopoietic stem cells or endothelial cells. The relative low level of CD105 (endoglin), which is a specific marker for mesenchymal stem cell, implies that there exists osteogenic differentiation process.²

² S. P. Burder, M. C. Horowitz, J. D. Mosca, S. E. Haynesworth, *Bone*. 1997, **21**, 225–235.



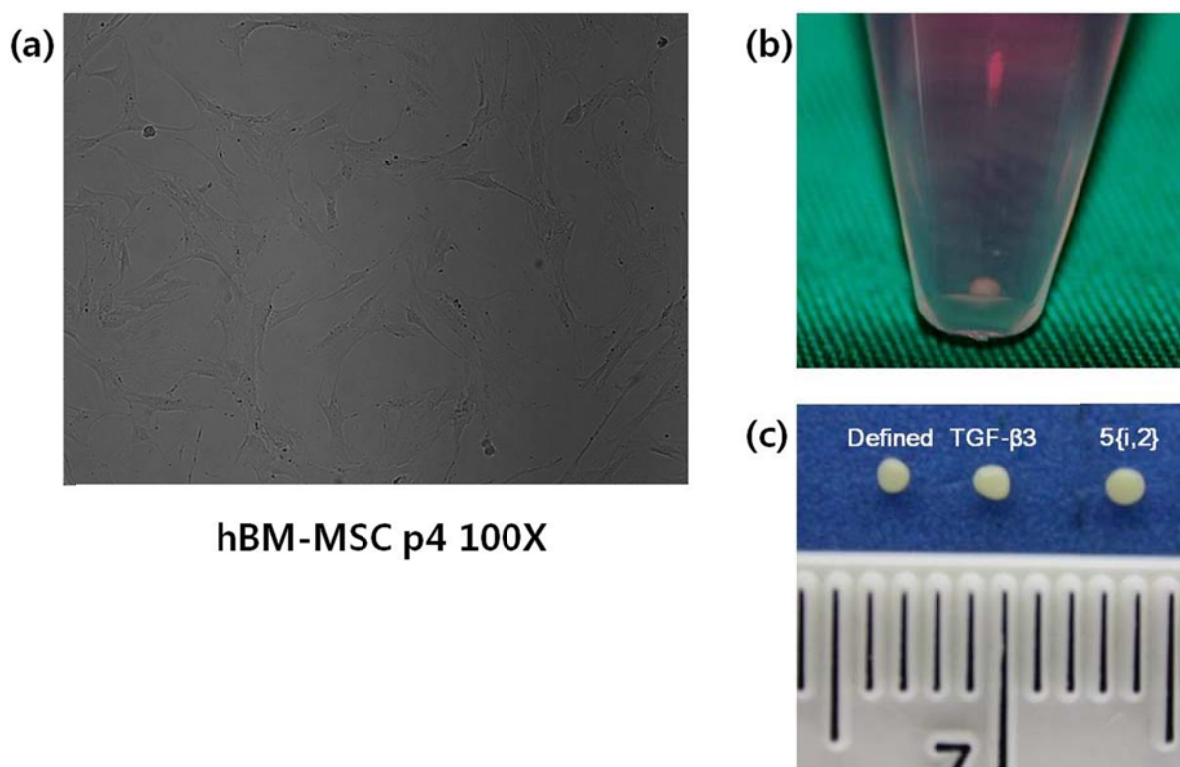
Supporting Figure 1. Immunophenotypic characterization of hBM-MSC at passage 6 (P6). Data are shown as an overlay plot with immunoglobulin isotype control (in black) and different specific cell-surface markers (in red).

V. Chondrogenic differentiation of hBM-MSCs

For initiation of chondrogenesis of hBM-MSCs, the cells were enzymatically detached by treating 0.25% trypsin and counted by hemocytometer. Chondrocyte balls were formed in a 15 mL conical polypropylene tube with 250,000 cells. The tubes with cells were centrifuged in 500 g for 5 min. Then, the FBS containing medium was replaced with chemically defined medium which contained a high-glucose DMEM (Welgene, Korea), supplemented with 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ascorbate-2-phosphate, 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ sodium pyruvate, 40 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ L-proline, and 1% ITS+Premix (all Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA). To investigate the effect of TGF- β 3 or individual compounds on chondrogenic differentiation of hBM-MSCs, the chondrocyte balls were cultured in three different conditions: chemically defined medium only or defined medium that was supplemented with TGF- β 3 (10 ng/mL), or individual compounds (10 μM). The chondrocyte balls with each medium were cultured in a 37 °C, 5% CO₂ incubator and medium change was carried out every 2~3 days.

VI. Morphology and chondrocyte ball formation

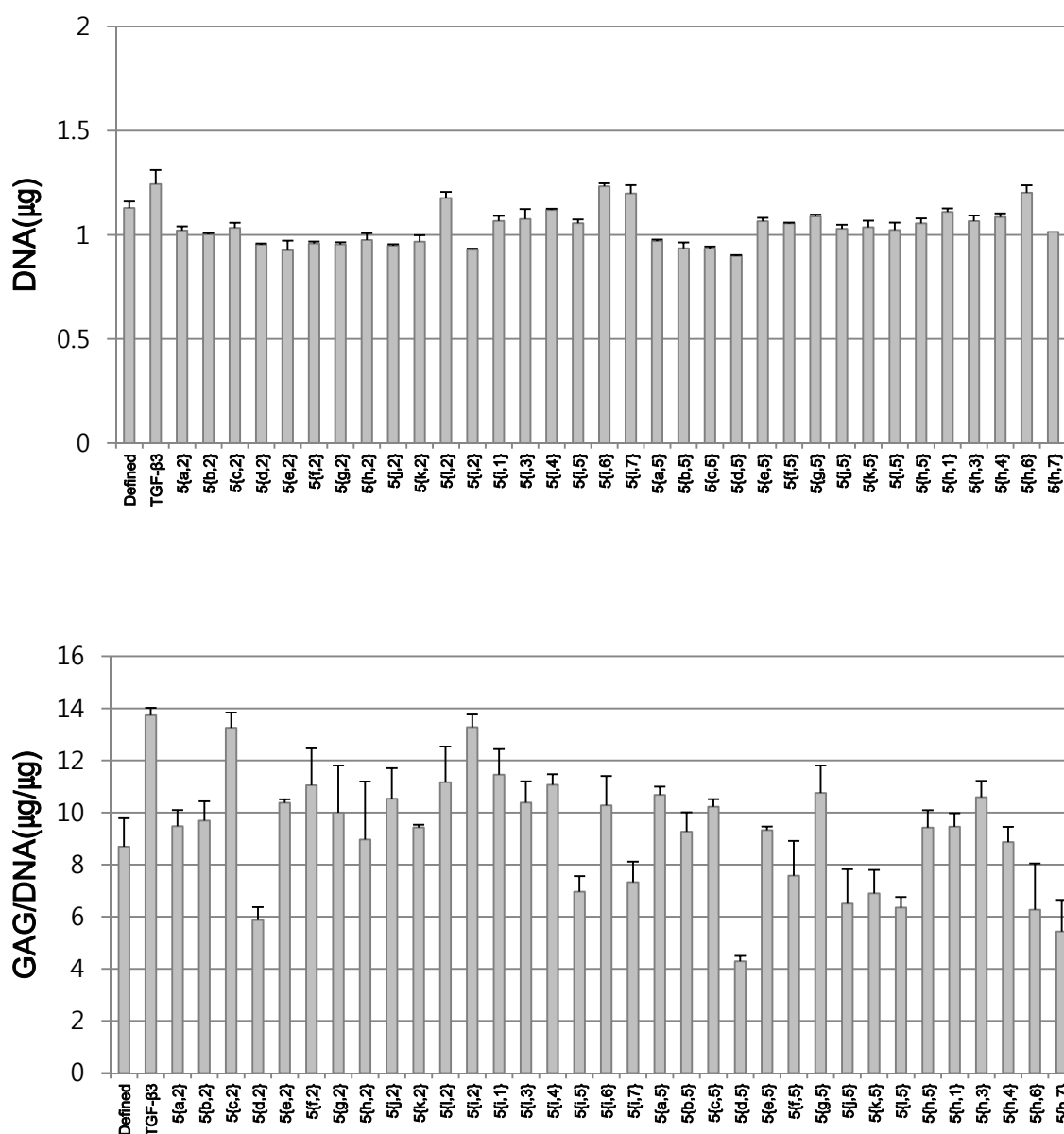
The hBM-MSCs at passage 4 (P4) exhibited the typical fibroblast-like phenotype and were homogeneous (Supporting Fig. 2a). For inducing chondrogenic differentiation, the cells were aggregated by mechanical force. As shown in Supporting Fig. 2b, the hBM-MSC-derived chondrocyte balls were formed in a tube.



Supporting Figure 2. (a) Morphology of hBM-MSCs at passage 4 (P4) (b,c) Formation of chondrocyte ball upon treatment of TGF-β3(10 ng/mL), 5{i,2} (10 μM) at Day 14. (a): Original magnitude X100.

VII. Glycosaminoglycan and DNA measurement

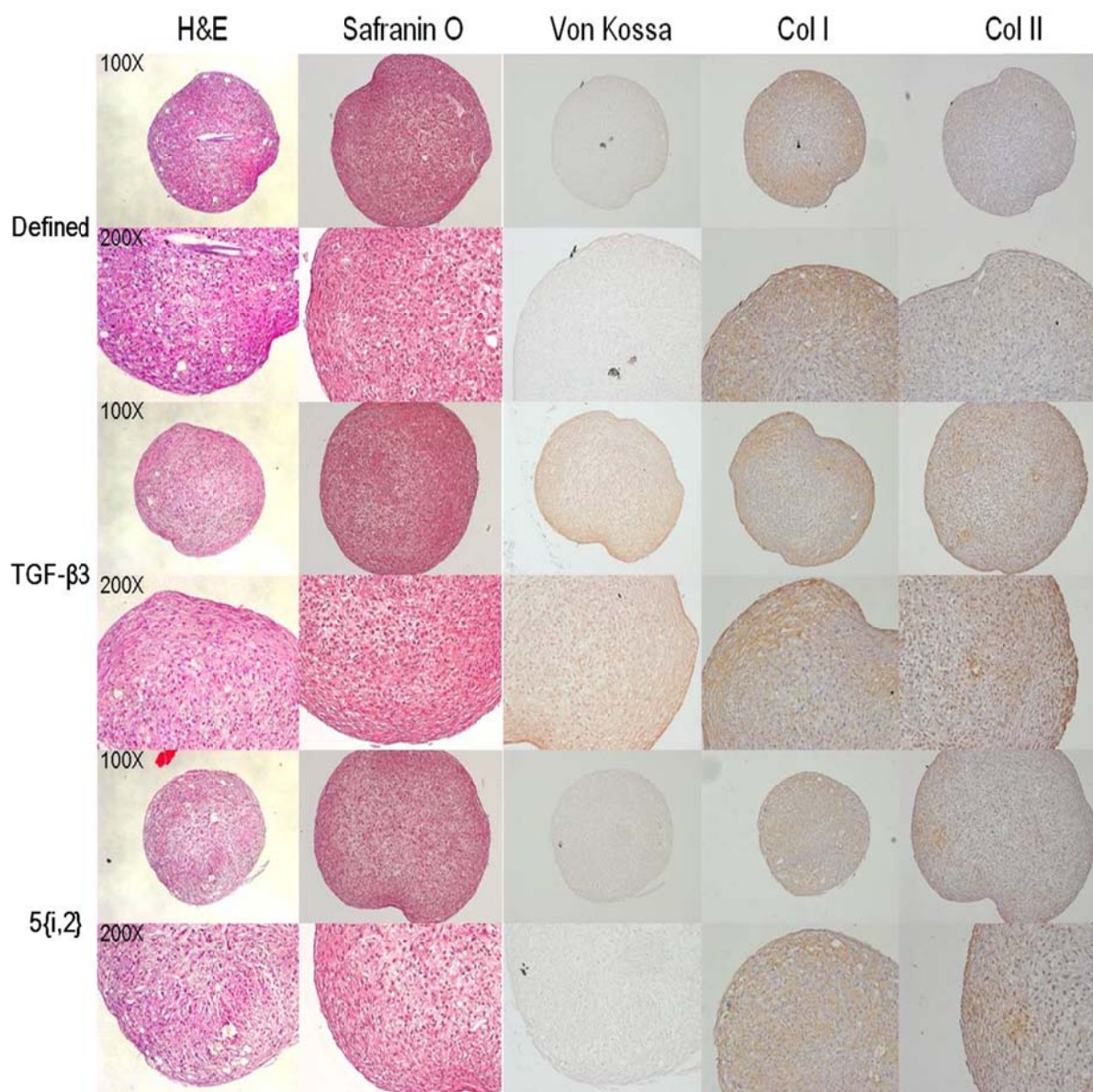
For glycosaminoglycan (GAG) contents assay, we used 3 chondrocyte balls in each group and were measured with Blyscan Sulfate Glycosaminoglycan Assay kit (biocolor, Belfast, Ireland). This experiment was performed according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, after putting 3 chondrocyte balls into a new eppendorf tube, papain buffer solution [0.2 M sodium phosphate buffer, 0.1 M sodium acetate, 10 mM EDTA, 5 mM L-cysteine HCl, 7.6 μ L/mL papain (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), pH 6.4] was added 500 μ L in that tube. This tube was incubated at 65 °C water bath for 18 h. After that time, the tube was centrifuged for 10 min at 10000 g and 100 μ L of supernatant was transferred to a new tube. Then, 1 mL of the Blyscan dye reagent solution was added in the tube. The resulting eppendorf tube was incubated at the room temperature in a gentle mechanical shaker for 30 min. During this time period, a sulphated glycosaminoglycan-dye complex is formed and precipitated out from the soluble unbound dye. The resulting tube was centrifuged for 10 min at 12000 rpm. After the careful removal of all supernatant, a pellet of insoluble sGAG-dye complex at the bottom of the tubes was dried on a paper tissue at the room temperature. After addition of 1 mL of the dissociation reagent, each tube was recapped and vortexed to release the bound dye into the solution. After 10-min mixing, we measured the absorbance of this dissociated solution at 656 nm. For the measurement of total DNA contents, we used Pico-green dsDNA assay kit (Invitrogen, USA) and this experiment was performed according to manufacturer's instructions. The GAG contents were normalized versus the total content of cellular DNA. This experiment was carried out in triplicate.



Supporting Figure 3. The measurement of cellular glycosaminoglycan (GAG) contents as a marker that is associated with the chondrogenic capacity at Day 7. Human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hBM-MSCs) were treated with defined medium only or defined medium that was supplemented with TGF- β 3 (10 ng/mL), or 34 individual compounds (10 μM). Total GAG contents were normalized by dividing with the total DNA contents (n=3).

VIII. Histological staining and immunohistochemistry

For paraffin section, chondrocyte balls in each different group were fixed in 4% phosphate buffered formalin and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin embedded samples were sectioned by thickness of 4 μm and deparaffinized. Deparaffinized slides were stained by hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) and Safranin O staining to visualize the cellular proteoglycan was carried out. We also performed Von Kossa staining to show the calcium deposition levels in the samples. For the detection of collagen type I and collagen type II, ABC detection kit (Cap-plus detection Kit, Invitrogen) was used and performed according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 3% peroxidase was treated in the samples for 10 min and washed 3 times by PBS. Pepsin solution also was treated for retrieval. Nonspecific binding event was minimized by the treatment of blocking solution of the detection kit. The sample was subjected to the sequential treatment of primary antibody [Rabbit polyclonal antibody for collagen type I (Abcam, UK) and mouse monoclonal antibody for collagen type II (Calbiochem, Germany), diluted by 1:100 and 1:10, respectively], biotinylated secondary antibody (either anti-rabbit IgG or anti-mouse IgG), and streptavidin-HRP (horse-radish peroxidase). The immunohistochemical staining was visualized by the color development of DAB (3,3'-diaminobenzidine) upon peroxidase activity.



Supporting Figure 4. Histological staining and immunohistochemistry of hBM-MSC-derived chondrocyte balls treated with defined medium only or defined medium that was supplemented either with TGF-β3 (10 ng/mL) or 5{i,2} (10 μM) for 14 days. H&E staining indicates the morphology changes of chondrocyte balls, Safranin-O staining indicates the level of proteoglycan, and Von Kossa staining indicates the level of deposited calcium. Immunohistochemical staining was performed with collagen type I- and II-specific antibodies.

IX. Total RNA preparation and RT-PCR

For reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), chondrocyte balls in 3 different media were gathered at 7, and 14 days. Chondrocyte balls were digested in liquid nitrogen. Then, total RNA was extracted from chondrocyte balls using Trizol Reagent (Invitrogen Life Technologies, USA). To synthesize a complementary DNA (cDNA) used as a template in subsequent PCR reaction, 2 µg of total RNA was reverse-transcribed with cDNA Synthesis Kit (M-MLV RT, Invitrogen, USA) according to manufacturer's instructions. In PCR reactions, the total reaction volume was 20 µl which include 1 µl of 10-fold dilution cDNA, 1 µl of each of primers (5 pmole), PCR premix (Accupower PCR premix, Bioneer, Korea) and sterilized 17 µl of water. PCR amplification was conducted with Mastercycler gradient (Eppendorf, Germany) under followed conditions: denaturation at 94 °C for 5 min, amplification at 94 °C for 30 sec, annealing at specific temperature for each primer pair (as shown in supporting table 1) for 30 sec, extension at 72 °C for 20 sec, and total 28~37 cycles. A final extension step was performed at 72 °C for 5 min. RT-PCR primer sequences and each annealing temperature are shown in supporting table 1. For analysis of PCR products, DNA gel electrophoresis was carried out in 1.2% agarose gel with 0.01 mg/mL ethidium bromide and quantified by Bio-profil X press zoom 2000 (Vilber Lourmat, Marne-la-Vallee, France).

Target gene	Primer sequences	Annealing temperature	product size(bp)
SOX9	F: 5`-ATC TGA AGA AGG AGA GCG AG-3`	60 °C	264 bp
	R: 5`-TCA GAA GTC TCC AGA GCT TG-3`		
Aggrecan	F: 5` TCC TCT CCG GTG GCA AAG AAG TTG 3`	60 °C	271 bp
	R: 5` CCA AGT TCC AGG GTC ACT GTT ACC G 3`		
Collagen II	F: 5`-TGGCCTGAGACAGCATGAC-3`	64 °C	373bp
	R: 5`-AGTGTTGGGAGCCAGATTGT-3`		
Collagen X	F: 5`-CCC TTT TTG CTG CTA GTA TCC-3`	58 °C	468 bp
	R: 5`-CTG TTG TCC AGG TTT TCC TGG CAC-3`		
Collagen I	F: 5`-GGACACAATGGATTGCAAGG-3`	54 °C	461bp
	R: 5`-TAACCACTGCTCCACTCTGG-3`		
RUNX2	F: 5`-CAG AAC CCA CGG CCC TCC CT-3`	64 °C	242bp
	R: 5`-TCT GAA GCA CCT GAA ATG CGC CT-3`		
MMP13	F: 5`-TGC GCA TGA GTT CGG CCA CT-3`	60 °C	277bp
	R: 5`-ATG CAG GCG CCA GAA GAA TCT GT-3`		
GPADH	F: 5`-TGT TGC CAT CAA TGA CCC CTT-3`	55 °C	202 bp
	R: 5`-CTC CAC GAC GTA CTC AGC G-3`		

Supporting Table 3. Primer sequence and specific annealing temperature for each primer pair for RT-PCR.

X. Cartilage ball implantation

To evaluate the *in vivo* fate of the cartilage balls differentiated with small molecules, complex immunocompromised NOD/scid/IL-2R $\gamma^{-/-}$ (NOG) mice, which lack T, B, and NK cell activities, were anesthetized with intraperitoneal injection of 2.5% Avertin and inhalation of metofane. The parietal peritoneum was exposed in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen and fine incisions along the peritoneum were made using iridectomy scissors. Differentiated cartilage balls with 1~1.5 mm in diameter were inserted into the extraperitoneal fat tissue and the cut peritoneum was sutured using 7-0 nylon. On 14 days following transplantation, mice were sacrificed and the engrafted cartilage balls were exposed. For microscopic analysis, cartilage balls with surrounding tissues were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, tissue-processed, and embedded in paraffin. Sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E).

XI. LC/MS analysis data of all library members

