

15-Lipoxygenase-2 Deficiency Induces a Dysfunction in Macrophages That Can Be Restored by Salidroside

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1 **15-Lipoxygenase-2 Deficiency Induces a Dysfunction in**
2 **Macrophages That Can be Restored by Salidroside**

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19 **Abstract**

20 15-Lipoxygenase-2(15-LOX-2) is thought to regulate inflammation and immunological
21 function; however, its mechanisms of action are still unclear. Furthermore, it has been
22 reported that salidroside has anti-inflammatory properties, but its role in macrophage
23 function has not been understood yet. In this study, we aimed to determine how
24 15-LOX-2 expression levels affect the function of macrophages and the effect of
25 salidroside on 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages. We used multiple functional genetic
26 strategies to determine 15-LOX-2 function in macrophages. 15-LOX-2 deficiency promotes
27 phagocytosis and proliferation of macrophages and impairs their apoptosis.
28 Mechanistically, the expression levels of cyclophilinB (CypB) were upregulated in
29 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages, whereas those of caspase-3 were downregulated.
30 Furthermore, RNA-seq analysis showed that inflammation, complement, and TNF- α
31 signaling pathways were all activated in 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages.
32 Treatment of 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages with salidroside, a natural product derived
33 from *Rhodiola* species, effectively reversed the effects of 15-LOX-2 deficiency on
34 caspase-3 and CypB levels, as well as on apoptosis and proliferation. In conclusion, our
35 study shows that there is a newly identified link between 15-LOX-2 deficiency and
36 salidroside in regulating macrophage survival, proliferation, and function. Salidroside may
37 be a promising therapeutic strategy for treating inflammation-related diseases resulting
38 from 15-LOX-2 deficiency.

39 Keywords: 15-Lipoxygenase-2, macrophages, *Rhodiola*, salidroside, cyclophilin B

40

41 **1. Introduction**

42 Mononuclear phagocytes such as dendritic cells, monocytes, and macrophages play an
43 essential role in inflammation by eliminating pathogens and producing inflammatory
44 mediators [1,2]. Under inflammatory conditions, monocytes can differentiate into
45 inflammatory macrophages, which can be further polarized to become either M1 or M2
46 macrophages[3].

47 Most studies defining the roles of macrophages in immunology have been
48 based on their chemokine and cytokine profiles [4]. Arachidonic acid (AA), a lipid mediator,
49 has been shown to be produced by a subset of macrophages. AA serves as a substrate
50 for the biosynthesis of eicosanoids. More specifically, AA can be metabolized by
51 arachidonic acid lipoxygenases (ALOXs), cyclooxygenases, and cytochromeP450 [5,6].

52 The metabolism of AA by 15-LOX-2 predominantly produces
53 15(S)-hydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid [15(S)-HETE] that can bind to and activate
54 peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ (PPAR γ), which is known to be involved in
55 inflammatory responses and inflammation-based diseases. 15(S)-HETE has been shown
56 to have different effects on different diseases and cell types. For example, it can stimulate
57 the proliferation of primary human pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells [7-9]. However,
58 we and others have shown that it acts as a suppressor gene in tumorigenesis and
59 suppresses tumor cell growth [10,11]. In macrophages, 15-LOX-2 function and the
60 regulatory mechanism of its expression along with strategies for therapeutic interventions
61 are poorly understood.

62 Salidroside is an active component extracted from plants of the genus *Rhodiola*, which

63 are used intraditional Chinese medicine [12]. Previous studies have shown that
64 salidroside exerts extensive pharmacological activities, such as antioxidant, anti-cancer,
65 and anti-cardiovascular effects, by repressing inflammation and oxidative stress [13-17].
66 Notably, salidroside also has diverse roles in different cells under different conditions. For
67 example, salidroside may protect quiescent hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) from
68 damage caused by oxidative stress and can cause proliferating HSCs to become
69 quiescent *in vivo* [16]. Based on recent literature reports on the functions of salidroside, in
70 this study, we used two strategies (shRNA and CRISPRa) to regulate the expression of
71 15-LOX-2 in macrophages and used salidroside to treat 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages.
72 We aimed to investigate whether and how lipoxygenase 15-LOX-2 induced macrophage
73 dysfunction and find an effective treatment for diseases associated with this condition.

74

75 **2. Materials and Methods**

76 **2.1 Cell lines**

77 The Ana-1 cell line was purchased from Boster Biological Technology Co., Ltd. (Wuhan,
78 China). RAW264.7 macrophages were obtained from the Chinese Academy of Sciences
79 Shanghai Branch. Both cell lines were maintained in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented
80 with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Human umbilical vein endothelial cells(HUVECs)
81 were obtained from CCLY LAB, State Key Laboratory of Biotherapy, and cultured with
82 Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 10%FBS. All cells were incubated in an
83 incubator at 37°C with an atmosphere of 5% CO₂.

84

85 **2.2 Cloning 15-LOX-2-underexpressing and overexpressing cell lines**

86 To create a 15-LOX-2 shRNA, the appropriate 15-LOX-2 primers were cloned into the
87 pMSCV-mir30-SV40-GFP retroviral construct. Virus packaging and infection were
88 performed as reported previously [10]. Cells stably expressing 15-LOX-2 shRNA were
89 selected using G418. sgRNAs (Table 1) were designed using Broad Institute's web portal
90 (<https://www.genscript.com/gRNA-design-tool>) and cloned into
91 TRE-SV40-GFP/dCas9-VP64-IRES-AiTA. The CRISPR/dCas9 (CRISPRa) system
92 consisted of these two vectors, which were used to package the virus and coinfect cells,
93 respectively. Cells expressing GFP were sorted using flow cytometry to identify and
94 isolate cell lines with 15-LOX-2 upregulation.

95

96 **2.3 RNA sequencing**

97 Total RNA was sequenced using BGISEQ500, and the results of the sequencing were
98 analyzed using 50-bp single-end reads. The reads were aligned to the reference genome
99 (GRCm38) using STAR_2.6.0. Transcript abundance was normalized and measured in
100 reads/fragments per kilo base per million mapped reads (RPKM/FPKM). DESeq2 was
101 used to analyze differential gene expression. Genes with absolute fold changes in
102 expression levels greater than 1 and a false discovery rate ≤ 0.05 were considered
103 differentially expressed genes. The characteristic differences between samples were
104 assessed using principal component analysis (PCA). Based on the designated clusters,
105 gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed to statistically analyze similarities
106 and differences between two types of samples. The top 100 genes in our RNA sequencing

107 data were ranked according to the degree of differential expression between the two
108 groups. Genes with high and low expression and having an inflammatory signature were
109 analyzed by GSEA.

110

111 **2.4 Proliferation assay**

112 The cells were incubated with the medium containing 10% FBS and supplemented with or
113 without 100 μ M salidroside (cat: #CSN17210, CSNpharm, Shanghai, China). After 48 h,
114 cell proliferation was assessed using a Cell-Light™ Edu Apollo643 In Vitro Kit (cat:
115 #C10310-2, Ribobio, Guangzhou, China) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The
116 proportion of proliferating cells was determined using flow cytometry(ACEA/Agilent,
117 NovoCyte,San Diego, CA, USA).

118

119 **2.5 Apoptosis assay**

120 Ana-1-sh15-LOX-2 cells were seeded at 3×10^5 cells/mL in 6-well plates. The cells were
121 treated with or without 100 μ M salidroside dissolved in H₂O. After 48 h, the cells were
122 assayed for apoptosis using an Annexin V PE Apoptosis Dtec Kit (cat: #559763,BD
123 Biosciences, Franklin Lakes,NJ, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. For each
124 sample, more than 20,000 cells were collected. The number of Annexin V- and
125 7ADD-positive cells was analyzed and expressed as a percentage of the total number of
126 cells in four separate fields. Samples were analyzed using flow cytometry (BD
127 Biosciences), and the data were analyzed using FlowJo v10.

128

129 **2.6 Western blotting**

130 The cells were lysed by the addition of RIPA (cat: #CW2333,CWBio,Beijing, China)
131 containing protease inhibitors (cat: #A32961,ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).
132 Proteins were separated by electrophoresis on 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate
133 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis gels and then transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride
134 membranes (Immobilon-P,ThermoFisher Scientific). The membrane was blocked at
135 25°C with 5% fat-free milk in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and 0.1% Tween-20 (0.1%
136 PBS-T) for 1 h and then incubated with the appropriate primary antibody [15-LOX-2, 1:200;
137 caspase-3, 1:1000; cyclophilinB (CypB), 1:1000; β -tubulin, 1:1000] (Table2) overnight at
138 4°C, followed by incubation with the appropriate secondary antibody (anti-rabbit or
139 anti-mouse IgG HRP-linked, 1:10000) for 1 h at room temperature. Immunoreactive
140 proteins were detected using the VilberLourmat imaging system (Fusion
141 Fx7,VilberLourmat,Marne-la-ValléeCedex 3, France).

142

143 **2.7 Quantitative reverse transcription PCR**

144 Total RNA was isolated from cells using RNAiso Plus reagent (cat: #9109, Takara, Dalian,
145 China) and quantified using a NanoDrop 2000C spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher
146 Scientific). RNA was transcribed using RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (cat:
147 #K1622, Thermo Fisher Scientific).Reverse transcription PCR (Table 3) primers were
148 designed using <https://pga.mgh.harvard.edu/primerbank/>.Quantitative reverse
149 transcription PCR(qRT-PCR) was performed using a PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix
150 (cat: #A25742,Thermo Fisher Scientific) and the LightCycler96 system (Roche,Basel,

151 Switzerland).

152

153 **2.8 Oil Red O staining**

154 To assess the effect of 15-LOX-2 on the phagocytosis of macrophages, sh15-LOX-2Ana-1
155 macrophages were seeded at a density of 2.5×10^5 cells/mL in 12-well plates and treated
156 with 0.033mM oleicacid (cat: #YZ-2760S,Extrasynthese, Genay Cedex, France) and
157 0.066mM palmiticacid (cat: #SP9880, Solarbio, Beijing, China). After 48 h, the cells were
158 fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 10minand stained with Oil Red O (cat: #O8010,
159 Solarbio) at 37°C for 15min. Microscopy was performed using
160 OLYMPUSDP73(OLYMPUS, Japan).

161

162 **2.9 Lipid droplet staining and detection using a laser confocal microscope**

163 Ana-1-sh15-LOX-2 cells were seeded at a density of 2.5×10^5 cells/mL in 12-well plates
164 and treated with 0.033mM oleicacid and 0.066mM palmiticacid. After 48 h, the cells were
165 fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 10min and stained with the cell membrane red
166 fluorescent probe Dil(cat: #C1036,Beyotime,Shanghai, China) at 37°C for 15 min,
167 followed by staining with DAPI (cat: #AR1176,BOSTER, Wuhan, China) for 5 min. Optical
168 density (OD) was determined at 550nm for Dil and 360nm for DAPI using a microplate
169 reader (FluoroskanAscent FL, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Lipid droplet density in
170 sh15-LOX-2 cells was calculated as relative absorbance compared with that in
171 control-shRen. Furthermore, the cells were analyzed using a laser confocal microscope
172 (FV3000, OLYMPUS).

173

174 **2.10 Statistical analysis**

175 All experiments were performed three times independently. Data are shown as mean ±
176 SD. Comparisons between groups were analyzed using one-way ANOVA. Differences
177 were expressed as p-values; $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

178

179 **3. Results**

180 **3.1 15-LOX-2 deficiency promotes phagocytosis of macrophages**

181 To validate the role of 15-LOX-2 in macrophages, two independent 15-LOX-2 shRNAs
182 (sh15-LOX-2.1252 and sh15-LOX-2.2865) or control shRen were introduced into GFP
183 and Neo vectors (Fig. 1a). Then, the 15-LOX-2 shRNAs were introduced into
184 macrophages to construct stable cell lines with a 15-LOX-2 deficiency (Supplementary
185 figure 1a,b). Then, western blotting (WB) was performed to verify the efficiency of shRNA
186 targeting of 15-LOX-2. As shown in Figure 1b, the expression of 15-LOX-2 in 15-LOX-2
187 shRNA Ana-1 macrophages was lower than that in shRen Ana-1 macrophages.

188 As is known, the formation of foam cells via increased phagocytosis of lipid droplets by
189 macrophages is an important step in atherosclerosis (AS) [18]. Therefore, to further study
190 the function of 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages, the phagocytosis of lipid droplets
191 was analyzed. Notably, as shown in Figure 1c and Supplementary Fig.2a, the cytoplasm
192 of 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages were filled with lipid droplets, whereas few lipid
193 droplets were observed in the cytoplasm of shRen Ana-1 macrophages. The fluorescence
194 OD also showed that lipid droplets were markedly higher in 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1

195 macrophages than in shRenAna-1 macrophages (Fig. 1d). These data suggest that the
196 phagocytosis of lipids by macrophages was enhanced following 15-LOX-2 deficiency.

197

198 **3.2 15-LOX-2 deficiency promotes macrophage proliferation and inhibits its**

199 **apoptosis**

200 Based on the above data, we further assessed both proliferation and apoptosis in
201 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages using Edu staining and Annexin V staining,
202 respectively. Increased proliferation was observed in 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1
203 macrophages when compared with that in control Ana-1 macrophages (Fig. 2a); the
204 percentage of cells in S-phase in Ana-1 cells expressing shREN, sh15-LOX-2.1252, and
205 sh15-LOX-2.2865 macrophages were 16.5, 30.7, and 47.3% (n=3, p<0.01), respectively
206 (Fig. 2b). As shown in Figure 2c, the percentage of early apoptotic cells was lower in
207 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages than in control Ana-1 macrophages. More
208 specifically, the percentage of early apoptotic Ana-1 macrophages expressing shREN,
209 sh15-LOX-2.1252, and sh15-LOX-2.2865 was 8.24, 2.61, and 1.71% (n=3, p<0.05),
210 respectively (Fig. 2d). All these data suggest that 15-LOX-2 deficiency may promote
211 macrophage activity.

212

213 **3.3 15-LOX-2 deficiency changes the expression of protein related to cell activity**

214 **and apoptosis**

215 It is known that the proliferation and apoptosis of macrophages with increased ability to
216 phagocytize lipids play an important role in the development of AS [19]. It has also been

217 reported that AS is a disease closely related to hypoxia, and CypB may inhibit cell death
218 induced by hypoxia [20,21]. Therefore, WB was performed to assess the expression
219 levels of CypB in 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages. As shown in Figure 3a and b,
220 compared with those in control Ana-1 macrophages, the expression levels of CypB in
221 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages increased significantly($p<0.05$). Caspase-3
222 encodes a cysteine protease that has been linked to the promotion of cell apoptosis. WB
223 was performed to examine the expression levels of caspase-3 protein in
224 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages. As shown in Figure3c and d, compared with
225 those in control, caspase-3 expression levels were significantly reduced
226 in15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages.

227 To further confirm its function on apoptotic proteins, we designed sgRNAs targeting
228 the untranslated regions of 15-LOX-2 and constructed the CRISPR/dCas9(CRISPRa)
229 system (Supplementary Figure. 3a). 15-LOX-2 CRISPRa was used to construct
230 RAW264.7macrophages and stable HUVECs, which have a relative function to
231 Ana-1macrophages in AS development (Supplementary Figure. 1c-f). In contrast to
232 15-LOX-2-deficient cells, CypB expression levels were significantly decreased in
233 RAW264.7 macrophages and HUVECs overexpressing 15-LOX-2 compared with those in
234 control RAW264.7 macrophages and HUVECs, (Supplementary Figure. 4a–c). In addition,
235 the expression levels of caspase-3 were upregulated in both cell types overexpressing
236 15-LOX-2 (Supplementary Figure. 5a–d).

237

238 **3.4 15-LOX-2 deficiency is associated with enhancement of inflammation-related**

239 **pathways**

240 To further explore the molecular mechanisms of 15-LOX-2 on macrophage function,
241 RNA-seq was performed to analyze the transcriptomes of Ana-1 macrophages expressing
242 sh15-LOX-2 or shRen. Both unsupervised clustering and PCA plots showed that Ana-1
243 macrophages expressing sh15-LOX-2.1252 or sh15-LOX-2.2865 were grouped together
244 and clearly separated from shRen cells, indicating that the off-target effects of these two
245 shRNAs are minimal (Fig. 4a and b). Notably, compared with those in the control
246 shRen-associated transcriptome, multiple gene sets related to inflammation, complement
247 pathway, and TNF- α signaling pathway were activated in sh15-LOX-2-expressing cells
248 (Fig. 4c–e). The results of qPCR revealed that compared with those in shREN control
249 macrophages, *Cx3cl1*, *Il4*, and *Il10*, all related to the pathways identified, were upregulated
250 in sh15-LOX-2-expressing Ana-1 macrophages. However, the expression of TNF- α was
251 downregulated, indicating that 15-LOX-2 deficiency regulates the inflammatory response
252 in Ana-1 macrophages (Fig. 4f).

253

254 **3.5 Salidroside can reverse the abnormal function of macrophages caused by** 255 **15-LOX-2 deficiency**

256 We investigated the effect of the natural product salidroside, which we hypothesized might
257 reverse these changes in 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages. Salidroside has been shown
258 to exert various pharmacological effects, including antioxidative stress and
259 anti-inflammatory properties [22,23]. In this study, after treatment of 15-LOX-2-deficient
260 Ana-1 macrophages with salidroside, the upregulation of CypB expression caused by

261 15-LOX-2 deficiency was significantly reversed, returning to levels close to those of
262 control Ana-1 macrophages (Fig. 5b and c). In addition, caspase-3 levels in
263 15-LOX-2-deficient cells were restored to normal levels by salidroside (Fig. 5d and e).
264 Similar results were obtained from the analysis of cell proliferation and apoptosis in
265 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 macrophages treated with salidroside. As shown in Figure 5f,
266 the increased proliferation observed in 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages was attenuated
267 by salidroside. Similarly, as shown in Figure 5g, the reduced apoptosis observed in
268 15-LOX-2-deficient Ana-1 cells were dramatically restored to normal levels by salidroside.
269 These data indicate that salidroside can ameliorate the changes in macrophages caused
270 by 15-LOX-2 deficiency.

271

272 **4. Discussion**

273 In this study, we aimed to determine how 15-LOX-2 expression levels affect the function of
274 macrophages. We also determined the effect of salidroside on 15-LOX-2
275 deficiency-induced dysfunction in macrophages. We found that salidroside restored the
276 changes in macrophages caused by 15-LOX-2 deficiency. Macrophages are now known
277 to have diverse and context-dependent functions in a variety of pathophysiological
278 settings [24]. There is a rapidly growing interest in understanding how metabolic
279 process-related genes, including lipoxygenases, can affect the appropriate activation of
280 macrophages to enable host defense mechanisms. Multiple studies have proven that
281 15-LOX-2 plays a role in cancer and diseases of lipid metabolism [10,25-27]. Recent
282 studies have also suggested that lipids regulate the inflammatory responses and

283 phagocytosis of macrophages [28,29]. However, little is known about the importance of
284 15-LOX-2 and its relationship to physiological events in macrophages. In this study, using
285 both loss-of-function and gain-of-function models and transcriptomics approaches, we
286 highlight the fact that abnormal expression of 15-LOX-2 (either under- or overexpression)
287 regulates the phagocytosis of lipids by macrophages.

288 15-LOX-2 has been found to affect the development of tumors through an impact on
289 tumor cell apoptosis and proliferation in previous studies [30,31]. In this study, we found
290 that 15-LOX-2 deficiency inhibited apoptosis and promoted the proliferation of
291 macrophages. It has also been reported that 15-LOX-2 products [15(S)-HETE] might
292 promote caspase-3 activation and markedly inhibit the growth of tumor cells [10,32]. Here,
293 we found that changes in 15-LOX-2 levels may result in the abnormal expression of
294 caspase-3 protein, thus affecting cell survival. Notably, we found for the first time that
295 15-LOX-2 may regulate CypB expression in cells, which has been reported to prevent
296 hypoxia-induced cell death in other studies [33]. In our system, there was a negative
297 correlation between 15-LOX-2 and CypB levels. For example, when 15-LOX-2 levels were
298 downregulated, CypB levels were accordingly increased. These results indicate
299 that 15-LOX-2 deficiency may regulate genes related to the Hif1 α pathway to impact cell
300 growth and functions.

301 In addition, we showed that 15-LOX-2 is a crucial anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative
302 stress regulator. The downregulation of 15-LOX-2 expression serves as a positive
303 feedback mechanism to activate inflammatory, complement, and TNF- α signaling
304 pathways. Conversely, the upregulation of its expression inhibited the expression of

305 pro-inflammatory genes.

306 Salidroside has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory actions, and it may be used to treat
307 diseases associated with these conditions [14,23]. It has been reported that salidroside
308 may promote autophagy, inhibit oxidative stress, and prevent mitochondrial dysfunction by
309 activating the AMPK pathway [34]. Notably, in our study, salidroside was shown to restore
310 abnormal apoptosis and proliferation in macrophages caused by 15-LOX-2 deficiency.
311 Furthermore, it restored the abnormal expression levels of caspase-3, CypB, and other
312 inflammatory genes, which were induced by 15-LOX-2 deficiency, to normal levels.

313 The main limitation of our study is that our experiments were only carried out in vitro;
314 in vivo experiments need to be performed to further verify our results. Furthermore, the
315 activation of multiple pathways by 15-LOX-2 deficiency shown by RNAseq results needs
316 further functional investigation. Nevertheless, we demonstrated that 15-LOX-2 deficiency
317 enhanced lipid phagocytosis by macrophages and several cytokines associated with
318 those inflammatory pathways were regulated by 15-LOX-2.

319 In conclusion, our findings suggest that 15-LOX-2 deficiency could promote the
320 development of inflammation-related diseases, and these diseases could be alleviated by
321 salidroside. Further research is needed to explore the relationship between 15-LOX-2 and
322 inflammatory diseases, such as AS and cancer, and elucidate the underlying mechanisms.
323 Salidroside may be a promising therapeutic strategy to treat inflammation-related
324 diseases resulting from 15-LOX-2 deficiency.

325

326 **Data availability statement**

327 The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available from the
328 corresponding author on reasonable request.

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420

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432

433 **Authors Contribution**

434 R.H designed the experiments. T.L, X.Y., H.W., X.Z., J.Y., C.Y., P.X., Y.W., D.W, T.X., H.Y.,

435 Y.C., L.X., X.Z., X.L. performed the experiments; Y.L. contributed to the RNAseq analysis;

436 Z.X., C.Z. and R.H organized data and wrote the manuscript.

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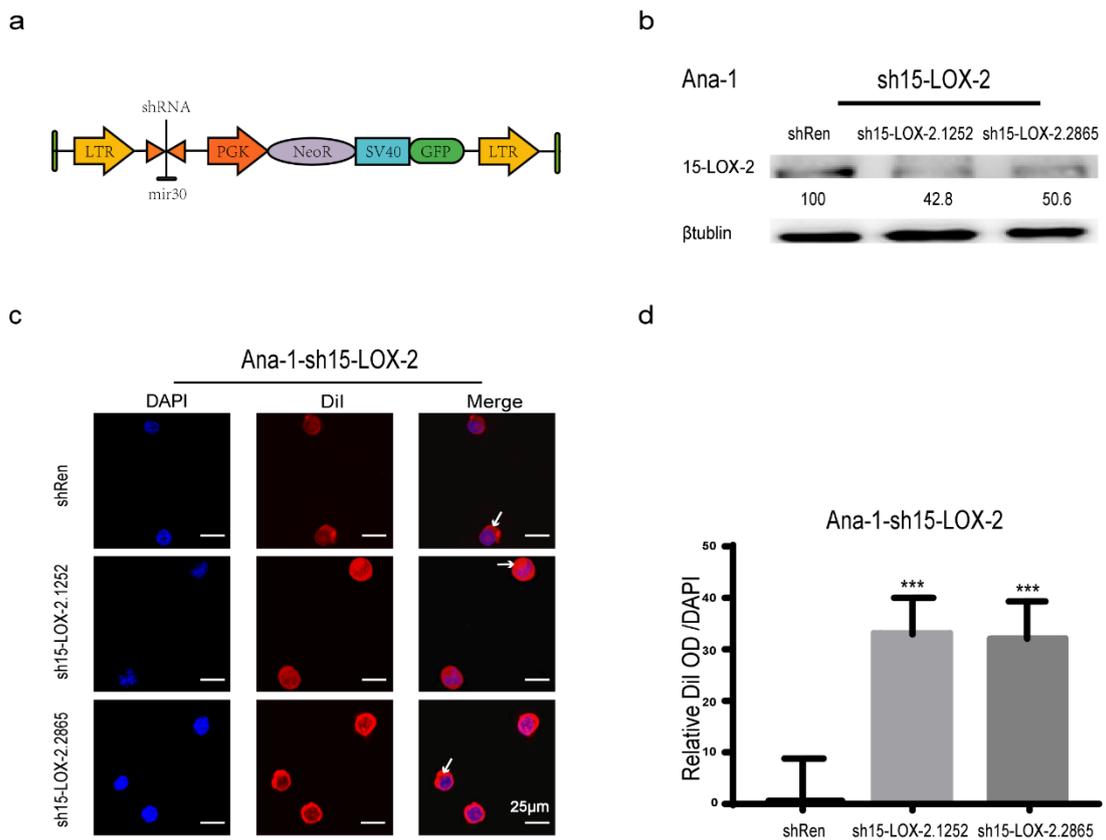
438 Competing Interests Statement

439 All authors declare no conflict of interest.

440

441 Figure legends

Figure 1



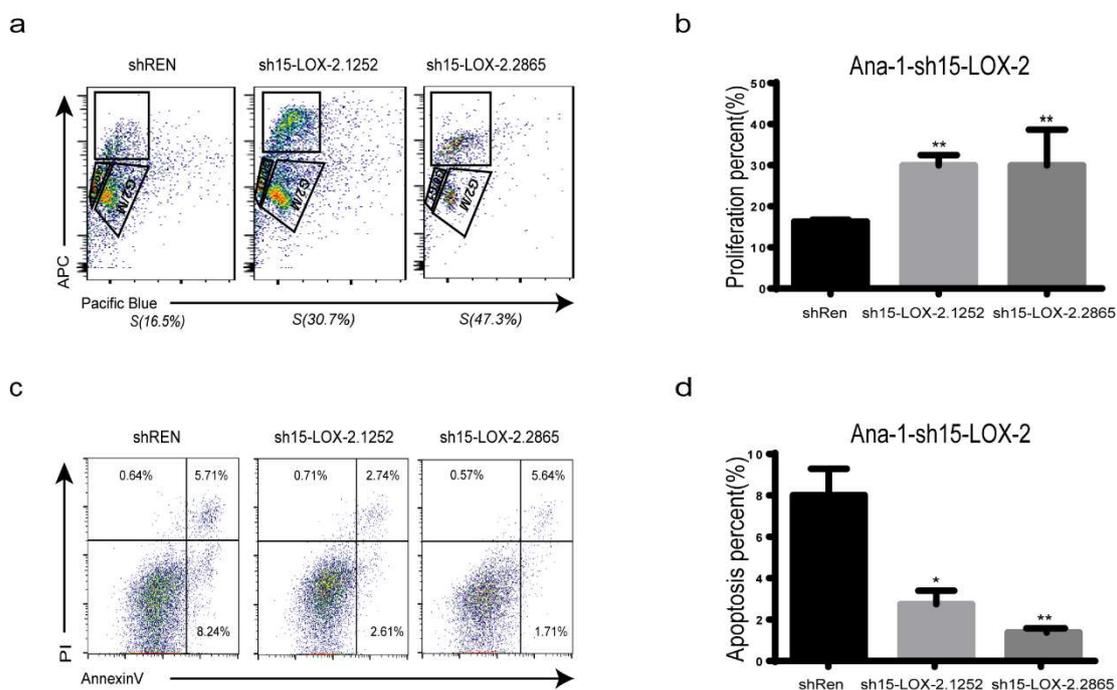
442

443 **Figure 1. 15-LOX-2 deficiency promotes phagocytosis of macrophages.**(a) Vector

444 schematic of MLS, which was constructed in the self-activation retroviral backbone NeoR,

445 G418 (Geneticin) screening sequence. (b) The knockdown efficiency of 15-LOX-2 by
 446 shRNA in Ana-1 was detected by WB and quantitated using ImageJ, compared with
 447 shRen.(c) Subcellular localization of lipid droplets, Scale bar 25 μ m. White arrows show
 448 lipid droplets located in the cytoplasm; Red arrow shows cytoplasm without lipid
 449 droplets. (d)Lipid droplets per cell was determined using relative Dil Fluorescence OD
 450 compared to DAPI OD.(n=3), ***: P<0.001, vs shRen.

Figure 2



451

452 **Figure 2. Effects of 15-LOX-2 deficiency on proliferation and apoptosis of**

453 **macrophages.**(a) Representative flow cytometry plot of proliferation of sh15-LOX-2 and

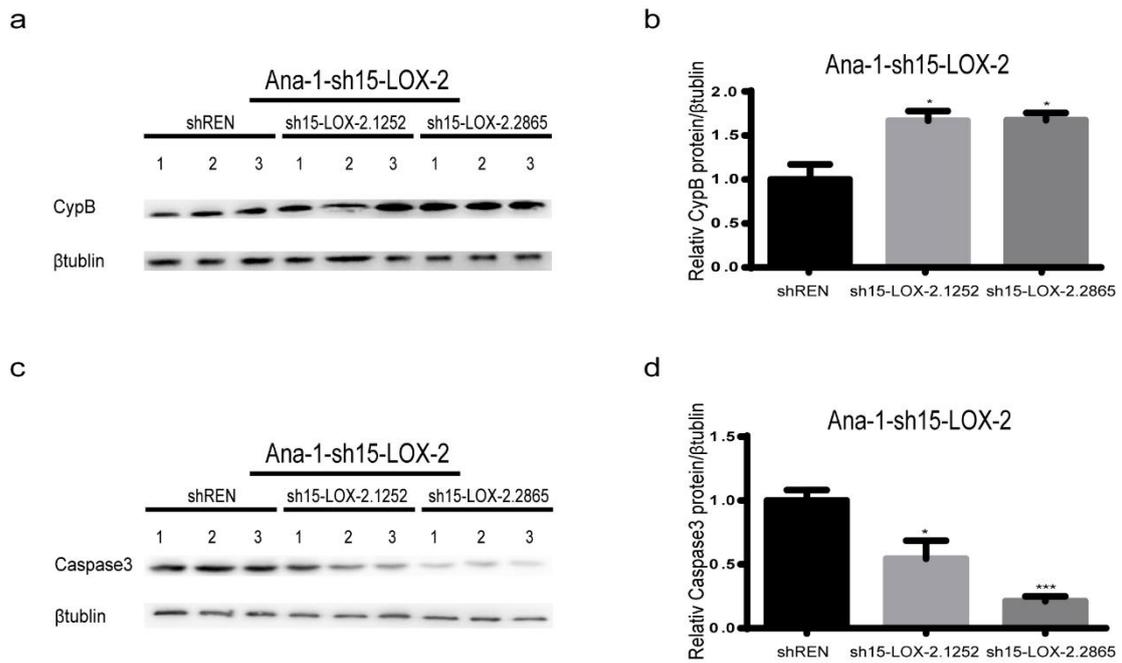
454 shRen macrophages.(b) Proliferation percentage of sh15-LOX-2 and shRen (n=3), **:

455 P<0.01, vs shRen.(c) Representative flow cytometry plot of apoptosis of sh15-LOX-2 and

456 shRen macrophages.(d) Apoptosis percentage of sh15-LOX-2 and shRen (n=3), *:

457 P<0.05, **:P<0.01, vs shRen.

Figure 3

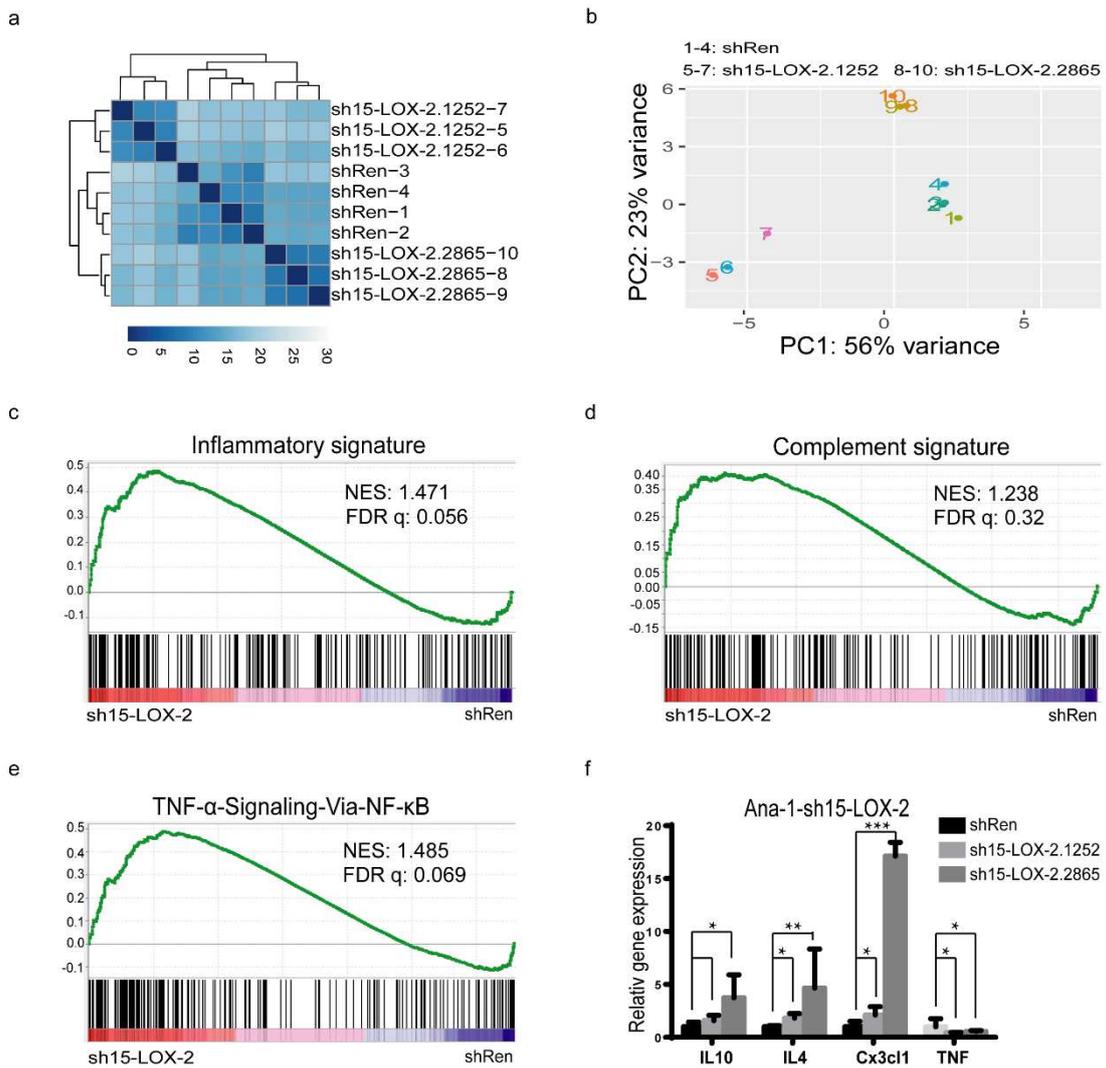


458

459 **Figure 3. 15-Lox-2 deficiency attenuated the expression of proteins related to cell**
460 **activity and apoptosis.**(a, b) The expression of CypB in Ana-1- sh15-LOX-2 and shRen
461 macrophages was detected using WB and quantitated with ImageJ. Results are
462 presented as the mean \pm SD (n=3), *:P<0.05, vs shRen.(c) The expression of caspase-3 in
463 Ana-1-sh15-LOX-2 and shRen macrophages was detected using WB. (d) Quantification
464 to (c) is presented as the mean \pm SD (n=3), *: P<0.05, ***: P<0.001, vs shRen.

465

Figure 4



466

467 **Figure 4. Deficiency of ALOX15B associated with activation of inflammation-related**

468 **signaling pathway.**(a) Unsupervised clustering of RNA-seq data sh15-LOX-2.1252,

469 sh15-LOX-2.2865 or shRen macrophages.(b) PCA analysis of transcriptome

470 ofsh15-LOX-2 and shRen macrophages.(c) GSEA shows positive enrichment of the

471 hallmark-inflammatory-response gene sets in sh15-LOX-2 macrophages compared with

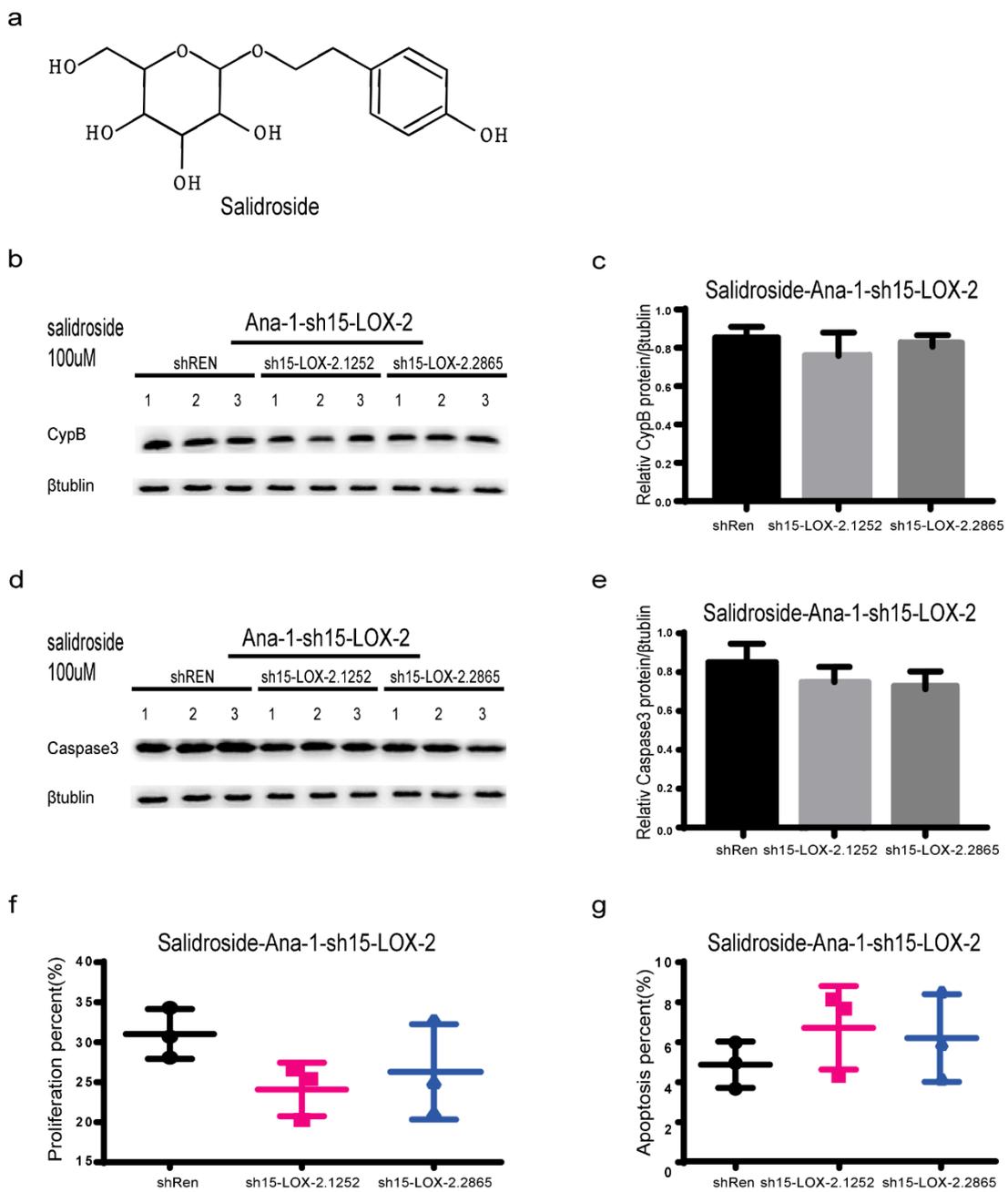
472 shRen macrophages. NES, normalized enrichment score; FDR, false discovery rate. (d)

473 GSEA shows positive enrichment of the hallmark-complement gene set in sh15-LOX-2

474 macrophages compared with shRen macrophages. (e) GSEA shows positive enrichment

475 of the hallmark-TNF- α -signaling-via-NF- κ B gene set in sh15-LOX-2 macrophages
 476 compared with shRen macrophages. (f) Gene (*Il10*, *Il4*, *Cx3cl1* or *TNF*) expression
 477 quantification of 15-LOX-2-deficient macrophages performed by qRT-PCR. Results are
 478 presented as the mean \pm SD (n=3), *:P<0.05, vs shRen.

Figure 5



479

480 **Figure 5. Salidroside can reverse the abnormal function of macrophages caused**
481 **by 15-LOX-2 deficiency.** (a) The chemical structure formula of salidroside. (b, c)
482 Representative WB result shows CypB levels in sh15-LOX-2 and shRen macrophages
483 treated with salidroside and quantitated with ImageJ. Results are presented as the mean
484 \pm SD (n=3), *:P<0.05, vs shRen. (d, e) Representative WB result shows the caspase-3
485 levels in sh15-LOX-2 and shRen macrophages treated with salidroside and quantitated
486 using ImageJ. Results are presented as the mean \pm SD (n=3), *: P<0.05, vs shRen.
487 (f)Proliferation percentage of sh15-LOX-2 and shRen treated with salidroside (n=3). (G)
488 Apoptosis percentage of sh15-LOX-2 and shRen treated with salidroside (n=3).
489

490 **Tables**

491 **Table 1. sgRNA used in CRISPRa system**

Primers	Primer sequence
15-LOX-2-sgRNA1 forward	5'-GGATGGGCGGGGCATCGCTG-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA1 reverse	5'-CAGCGATGCCCCGCCCATCC-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA2 forward	5'-CTCAAAGCAGCCTTGTGGCG-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA2 reverse	5'-CGCCACAAGGCTGCTTTGAG-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA3 forward	5'-CAAAACAAACAGACGTGGT-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA3 reverse	5'-ACCACGTCTGTTTGTTTTG-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA4 forward	5'-CATCATCCTGGCCTACATGG-3'
15-LOX-2-sgRNA4 reverse	5'-CCATGTAGGCCAGGATGATG-3'

492

493

494 **Table 2. Antibodies used in the experiment**

Antibodies	Source	Identification
15-LOX-2	Abcam	Cat: #ab23691
Caspase-3	CST	Cat: #9662S
CypB	CST	Cat: #43603
β -Tubulin	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat: #MA5-16308

495

496

497 **Table 3. Primers used in qRT-PCR**

Primers	Primer sequence
β -Actin (human)forward	5'-GTTGTCGACGACGAGCG-3'
β -Actin (human)reverse	5'-GCACAGAGCCTCGCCTT-3'
β -Actin (mouse) forward	5'-ATGGAGGGGAATACAGCCC-3'
β -Actin (mouse) reverse	5'-TTCTTTGCAGCTCCTTCGTT-3'
Cx3cl1 (mouse) forward	5'-ACGAAATGCGAAATCATGTGC-3'
Cx3cl1 (mouse) reverse	5'-CTGTGTCGTCTCCAGGACAA-3'
IL10 (mouse) forward	5'-GTGAGTGAGATGGGCATGTTT-3'
IL10 (mouse) reverse	5'-GAGTGGCAAGAAGGCTGGAT-3'
IL4 (mouse) forward	5'-GGTCTCAACCCCCAGCTAGT-3'
IL4 (mouse) reverse	5'-GCCGATGATCTCTCTCAAGTGAT-3'
TNF (mouse) forward	5'-CCCTCACACTCAGATCATCTTCT-3'
TNF (mouse) reverse	5'-GCTACGACGTGGGCTACAG-3''

498

499

Figures

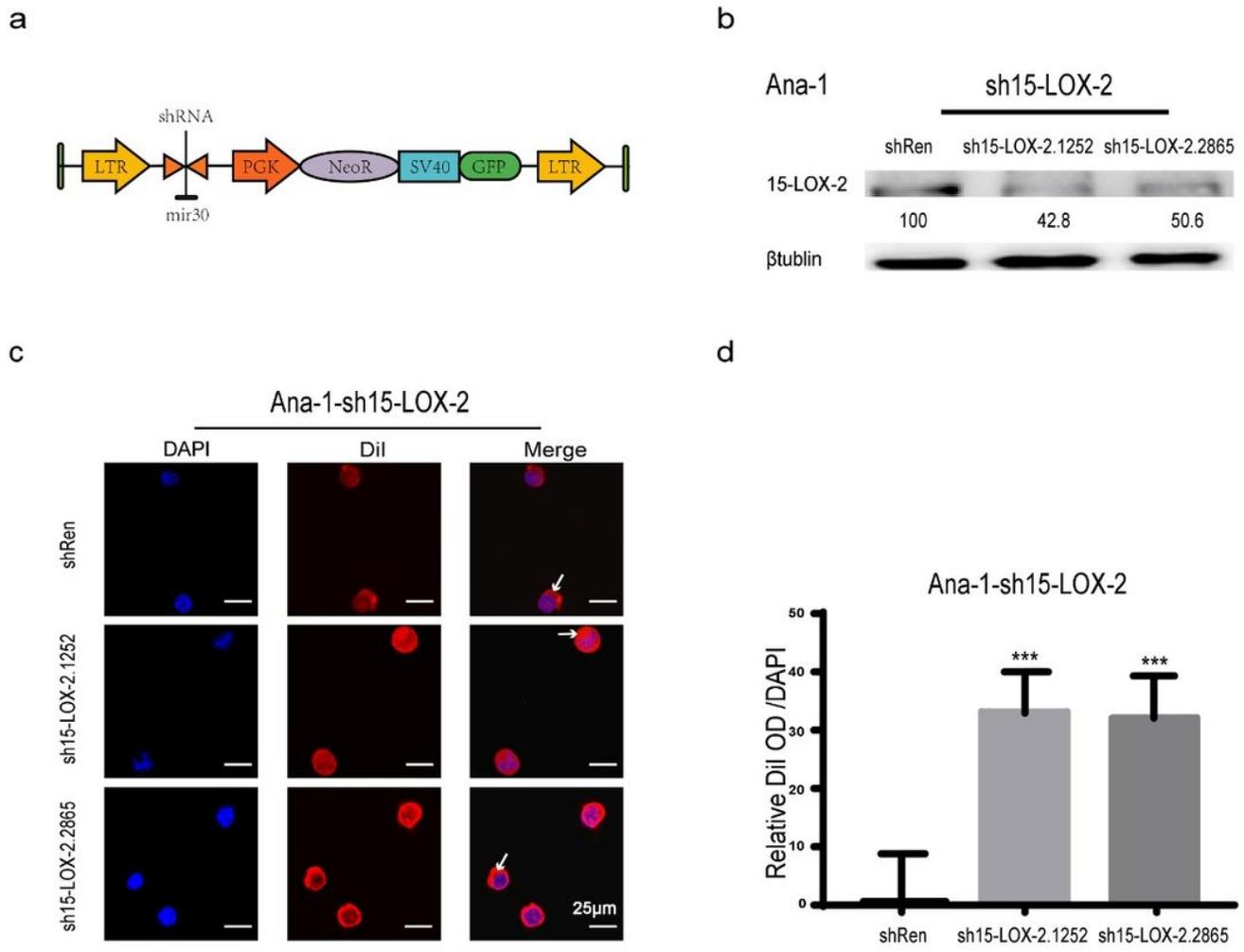


Figure 1

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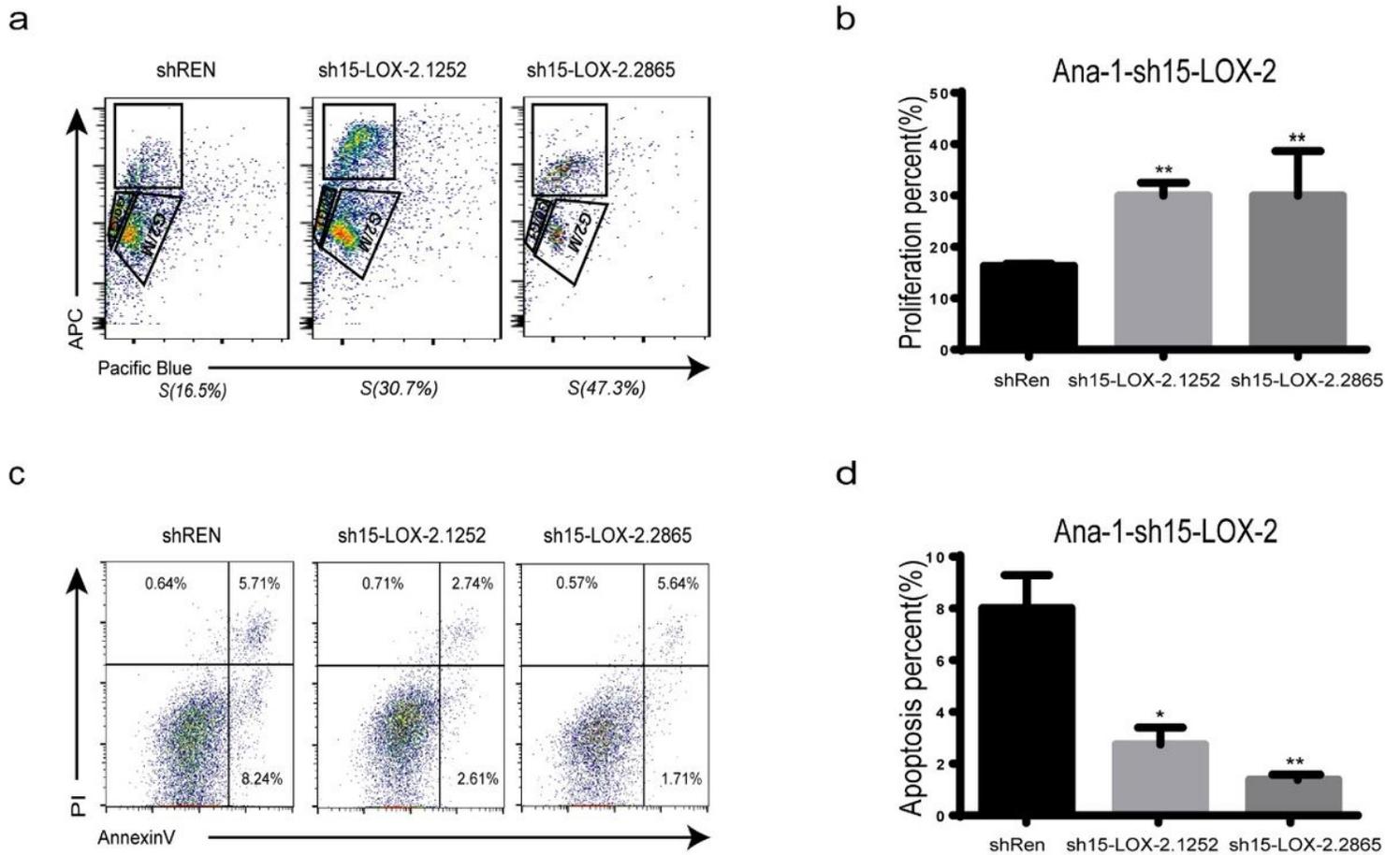
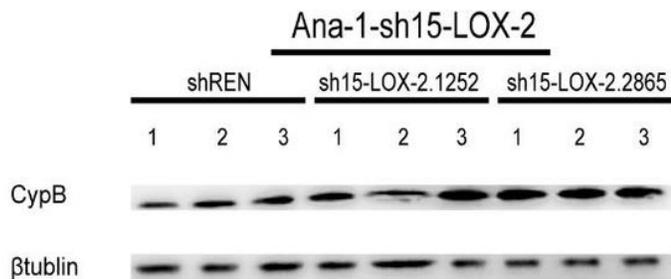


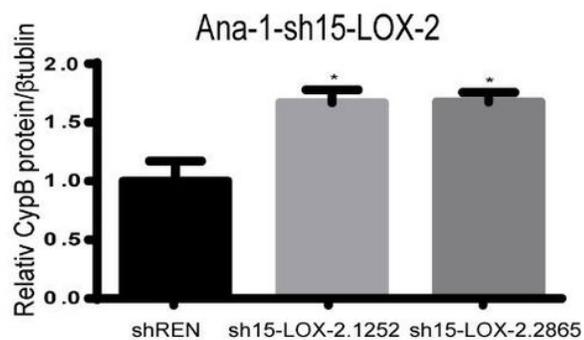
Figure 2

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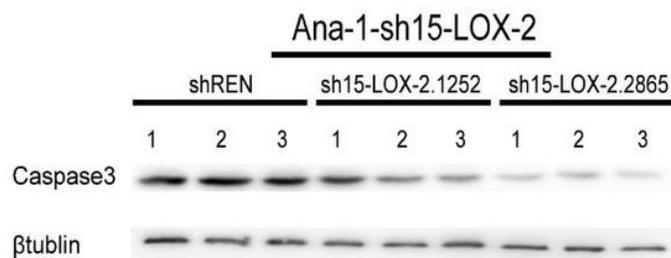
a



b



c



d

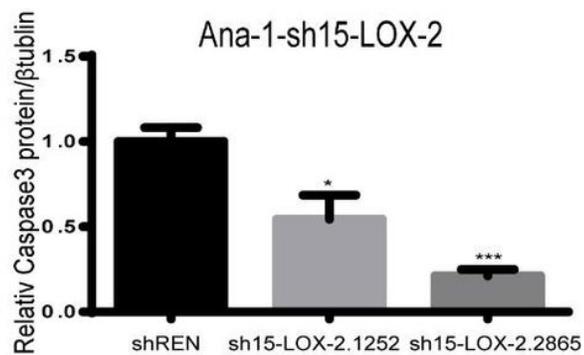


Figure 3

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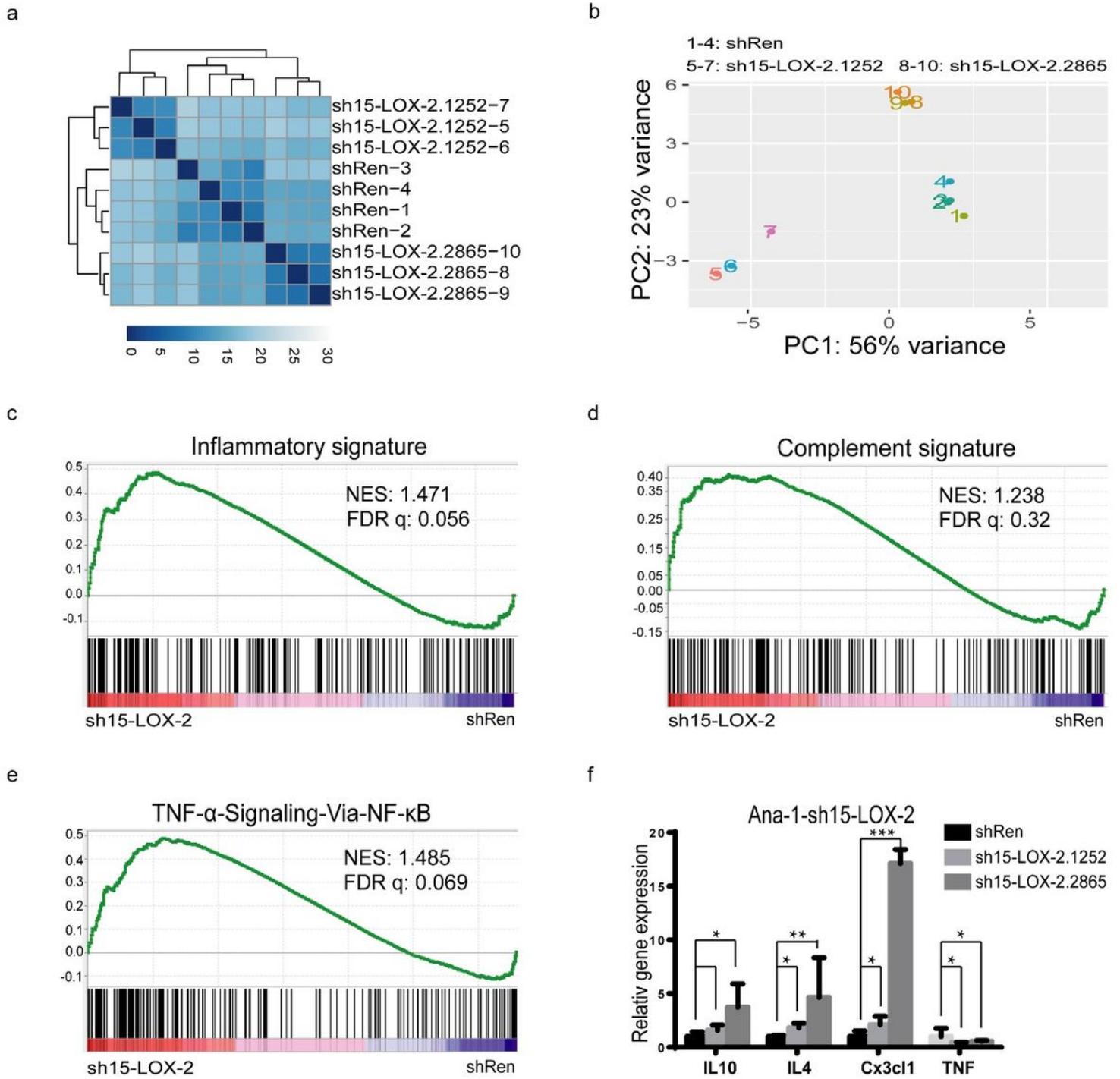


Figure 4

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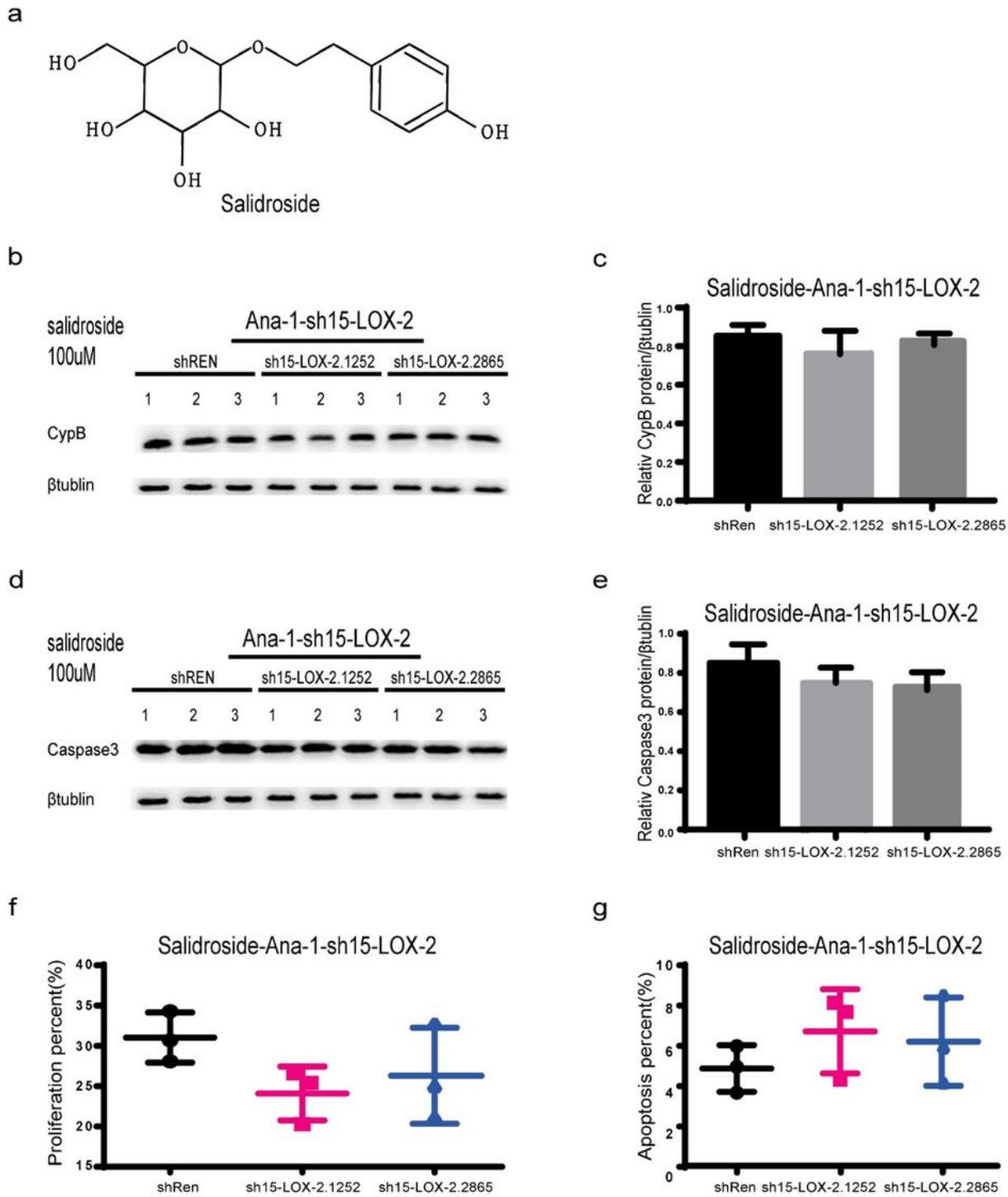


Figure 5

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