

1 **S1P controls endothelial sphingolipid homeostasis via ORMDL**

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32 **Abstract**

33 Sphingolipids (SL) are both membrane building blocks and potent signaling molecules
34 regulating a variety of cellular functions in both physiological and pathological conditions.
35 Under normal physiology, sphingolipid levels are tightly regulated, whereas disruption of
36 sphingolipid homeostasis and signaling has been implicated in diabetes, cancer,
37 cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases. Yet, mechanisms governing cellular sensing
38 of SL, and according regulation of their biosynthesis remain largely unknown.
39 In yeast, serine palmitoyltransferase (SPT), catalyzing the first and rate limiting step of
40 sphingolipid *de novo* biosynthesis, is negatively regulated by Orosomucoid 1 and 2 (Orm)
41 proteins. Lowering sphingolipid levels triggers Orms phosphorylation, resulting in the
42 removal of the inhibitory brake on SPT to enhance sphingolipid *de novo* biosynthesis.
43 However, mammalian orthologs ORMDLs lack the N-terminus hosting the phosphosites.
44 Thus, which sphingolipid(s) are sensed by the cells, and mechanisms of homeostasis
45 remain largely unknown. This study is aimed at filling this knowledge gap.
46 Here, we identify sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) as the key sphingolipid sensed by
47 endothelial cells via S1PRs. The increase of S1P-S1PR signaling stabilizes ORMDLs,
48 which downregulates SPT activity to maintain SL homeostasis. These findings reveal the
49 S1PR/ORMDLs axis as the sensor-effector unit regulating SPT activity accordingly.
50 Mechanistically, the hydroxylation of ORMDLs at Pro137 allows a constitutive
51 degradation of ORMDLs via ubiquitin-proteasome pathway, therefore preserving SPT
52 activity at steady state. The disruption of the S1PR/ORMDL axis results in ceramide
53 accrual, mitochondrial dysfunction, and impaired signal transduction, all leading to

54 endothelial dysfunction, which is an early event in the onset of cardio- and
55 cerebrovascular diseases.

56 The disruption of S1P-ORMDL-SPT signaling may be implicated in the pathogenesis of
57 conditions such as diabetes, cancer, cardiometabolic disorders, and neurodegeneration,
58 all characterized by deranged sphingolipid metabolism. Our discovery may provide the
59 molecular basis for a therapeutic intervention to restore sphingolipid homeostasis.

60

61 **INTRODUCTION**

62 Formed by the subunits SPT Long Chain 1 and 2 (SPTLC1 and SPTLC2), mammalian
63 SPT activity is enhanced by small subunits ssSPTa and ssSPTb¹, and decreased by
64 ORMDLs² and Nogo-B³. The requirement of sphingolipid *de novo* biosynthesis for viability
65 and health is underlined by genetic evidence in humans and mice. SPTLC1/2 mutations
66 cause Hereditary Sensory Neuropathy Type I^{4,5}, SNPs in ORMDLs are associated to
67 asthma⁶ and atherosclerosis⁷, while the excision of *Sptlc1* or *Sptlc2* genes in mice is
68 embryonically lethal⁸. In yeast, Orms (*Orm1* and *Orm2*) proteins regulate SL
69 homeostasis, with the phosphorylation of Orms releasing the brake on SPT². However,
70 mammalian ortholog ORMDLs lack the N-terminal regions hosting these phosphosites⁹.
71 How cells sense SL, monitor the rate of the *de novo* biosynthesis, and what goes awry in
72 disease remain unknown.

73 S1P signaling is critical in development, physiological homeostasis, and diseases¹⁰.

74 Genetic disruption of the S1P pathway results in congenital defects in humans, including
75 Sjogren-Larsson syndrome, adrenal insufficiency and nephrosis, hearing impairment,
76 embryonic lethality, and post-natal organ defects in mice, underlining that functional S1P

77 signaling is a prerequisite for health. Within the cardiovascular and immune systems, S1P
78 is necessary for vascular development¹¹ and homeostasis¹² as well as immune cell
79 trafficking¹³, mainly via S1PR1. Endothelial S1PR1 controls blood flow and pressure via
80 nitric oxide (NO) formation^{3,14,15}, and maintains the quiescent state of the endothelium by
81 exerting anti-inflammatory^{16,17} and barrier¹⁸ functions. The endothelium is also an
82 important source of plasma ceramide¹⁹ and S1P²⁰, which is transported outside of the
83 cells by the bonafide transporter for S1P, Spinster-2 (Spns2)²¹. Autocrine S1P signaling
84 controls flow-induced vasodilation, which is a vital function of blood vessels to meet the
85 tissue metabolic demands²². Disruption of endothelial S1P signaling by deletion of
86 S1PR1¹⁵ or Spns2²³ results in vascular^{15,23} and barrier¹⁸ dysfunctions, severe
87 hypertension^{15,23} and atherosclerosis¹⁶, underlying the fundamental role of S1P-S1PR1
88 signaling in preserving vascular health.

89

90 **RESULTS**

91 **S1P inhibits SPT activity via ORMDLs stabilization**

92 This study tested the hypothesis that S1P signaling is a fundamental molecular
93 mechanism used by the cells to maintain sphingolipid homeostasis. The capability of
94 S1PR to transduce S1P levels in a biological signal, and the specificity and dynamicity of
95 this interaction, make of S1P-S1PR an ideal metabolite-sensor system to regulate cellular
96 sphingolipid homeostasis through an effector yet to be identified. To test this hypothesis,
97 we used murine EC (mEC) inducible knockout for *S1pr1* (**Fig. 1A**). Interestingly, *S1pr1*
98 deletion resulted in increased SPT activity and SL levels (**Fig. 1A-C** and **Supplementary**
99 **Fig. 1**) suggesting that S1PR1 signaling could function as negative feedback on

100 sphingolipid metabolism. Based on this finding, we hypothesized that S1P is the key
101 sphingolipid metabolite sensed by the cells to modulate the sphingolipid *de novo*
102 biosynthesis via SPT (effector). Interestingly, S1P was able to rapidly decrease SPT
103 activity of human umbilical vein EC (HUVEC, **Fig. 1D**). Recent studies suggested that
104 ceramide could modulate the ORMDL-SPT complex²⁴⁻²⁶. In line with this finding, the
105 addition of C16:0-ceramide significantly decreased SPT activity in HUVEC (**Fig. 1E**).
106 However, this effect was abolished by SKI II, an inhibitor of sphingosine kinase-1 (SphK1)
107 and SphK2 (**Fig. 1F**), which give rise to S1P via the phosphorylation of sphingosine,
108 suggesting that S1P derived from ceramide metabolism mediates the inhibitory effects of
109 ceramide on SPT. mEC with genetic deletion of *Sphk1* and *Sphk2* (*Sphk1,2^{ECKO}*, **Fig. 1G**)
110 corroborated that S1P formation is necessary for ceramide to downregulate SPT activity
111 (**Fig. 1H**). Of note, basal SPT activity was significantly upregulated in *Sphk1,2^{ECKO}* (**Fig.**
112 **1H**), revealing a direct role of endothelial-derived S1P in constraining SPT activity.
113 Contrary to Orms in yeast, ORMDLs are not phosphorylated²⁴ in mammals, and our data
114 corroborated this finding (**Supplementary Fig. 2**). Interestingly, S1P stimulation triggered
115 a rapid increase in ORMDLs levels (ca. 2.5-fold), without affecting Nogo-B, SPTLC1 or
116 SPTLC2 expression (**Fig. 1I,L**). Ceramide also induced a rapid increase in ORMDLs (**Fig.**
117 **1M**), which was abolished by SKI II inhibitor, consistent with S1P mediating ceramide
118 inhibition of SPT activity (**Fig. 1F**). Both NOGO-B (**Fig. 1N**) and ORMDLs (**Fig. 1O**) knock-
119 down resulted in a higher SPT activity, in line with a constitutive inhibition of SPT.
120 However, only knock-down of ORMDLs (**Fig. 1O**) abolished the S1P downregulation of
121 SPT activity, suggesting that ORMDLs and not Nogo-B are accountable for a nimble
122 regulation of SPT activity by S1P (**Fig. 1P**).

123

124 **ORMDLs are degraded via PHD-mediated ubiquitination and proteasomal**
125 **degradation**

126 We next sought to unveil the molecular mechanism orchestrating the acute changes of
127 ORMDLs levels. Protein abundance reflects the integration of synthesis and degradation
128 rates²⁷. The inhibition of translation with cycloheximide (CHX) showed that ORMDL half-
129 life was 1.7h (**Fig. 2A**), indicating a relatively fast turnover. To identify the regulatory
130 mechanisms controlling ORMDLs levels, we analyzed ORMDLs sequence properties and
131 observed the presence in the C-terminus of a conserved prolyl hydroxylase (PHD)
132 consensus domain, known to regulate the levels of hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF-1 α)²⁸
133 and other proteins²⁹ via ubiquitination (**Fig. 2B**). Interestingly, the inhibition of PHD activity
134 with the hydroxylase inhibitor dimethyloxallylglycine (DMOG) elevated ORMDLs to the
135 same extent as S1P, suggesting that PHD-mediated ubiquitination controlled the
136 abundance of ORMDLs (**Fig. 2C**). A retro-translocation from the ER to the cytosol is
137 necessary for ER-membrane associated protein degradation (ERAD)³⁰. The inhibition of
138 dislocase p97/VCP with Eeyarestatin-1 (EER1) led to ORMDLs accumulation (**Fig. 2D**),
139 implicating the retro-translocation as regulatory step of ORMDLs levels. Eukaryotic cells
140 rely on the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway as a major degradation system for short-lived
141 proteins³¹. MG132, proteasome inhibitor, significantly augmented ORMDLs levels in
142 basal conditions but not in presence of S1P, most likely because S1P already maximized
143 ORMDLs stability by inhibiting their degradation (**Fig. 2E**). This data highlights
144 proteasomal degradation as a primary mechanism to control mammalian ORMDLs levels.

145 ORMDL3 is the most abundant ORMDL isoform in EC (**Supplementary Fig. 3A**), and
146 SNP for ORMDL3 are associated with asthma⁶ and atherosclerosis⁷. To demonstrate the
147 requirement of PHD-mediated hydroxylation for ubiquitination-mediated degradation of
148 ORMDLs, we mutated P137 to A in the PHD consensus domain of ORMDL3. The P137
149 to A mutation was sufficient to stabilize ORMDL3 to the same levels of S1P, DMOG,
150 EER1, and MG132 (**Fig. 2F**). Interestingly, the half-life of ORMDL3-P137A was
151 remarkably higher than the native form, 24h and 1.7h respectively (**Fig. 2G,H**). Of note,
152 the expression of mutant ORMDL3 did not affect the stability of SPTLC1 or SPTLC2 (**Fig.**
153 **2G** and **Supplementary Fig. 3B,C**). Lys-48-linked ubiquitination targets protein for
154 degradation³². WB analysis of immunoprecipitated ORMDL3 showed that Lys-48-linked
155 polyubiquitination was significantly reduced in the ORMDL3-P137A compared to native
156 ORMDL3 (**Fig. 2I**). Finally, to investigate the biological significance of P137 hydroxylation,
157 native and mutant ORMDL3 were overexpressed in HUVEC depleted of endogenous
158 ORMDLs via siRNA approach. In HUVEC expressing ORMDL3-P137A, SPT activity was
159 significantly suppressed at baseline and no longer modulated by S1P (**Fig. 2L**).
160 Mechanistically, these data strongly support the model in which ORMDLs undergo PHD-
161 mediated hydroxylation of P137, ubiquitination, extraction from ER membrane via ERAD
162 pathway, and ultimately proteasome-mediated degradation (**Fig. 2M**). S1P signaling
163 downregulates SPT activity by stabilizing ORMDLs via inhibition of PHD-mediated
164 hydroxylation.

165

166 **Endothelial-derived S1P inhibits de novo sphingolipid biosynthesis via S1PRs**

167 Quiescent EC express mainly S1PR1, and less abundantly S1PR3³³. The loss of either
168 S1PR1 (**Fig 1A**) or S1PR3 (**Supplementary Fig. 4A**) leads to constitutive increases of
169 SPT activity (**Fig. 1B** and **Supplementary Fig. 4B**), suggesting that S1PR1,3 signaling
170 provides constitutive inhibitory feedback on SPT. Thus, to investigate the role of S1PR1,3
171 in the dynamic regulation of SPT activity by S1P, mEC were depleted of both S1P
172 receptors. Interestingly, the loss of S1PR1,3 abolished the downregulation of SPT activity
173 (**Fig. 3A**), as well as the stabilization of ORMDLs, by exogenous S1P (**Fig. 3B**),
174 suggesting that these receptors are necessary to sense S1P abundance and operate a
175 negative feedback to SPT via ORMDLs. Consistently, S1PR1,3 deletion significantly
176 raised basal SPT activity (**Fig. 3A**), as well as total ceramides (**Fig. 3C**) and
177 glucosylceramides (**Fig. 3D**) levels. Cellular SL results from the *de novo* and recycling
178 pathways. To investigate the impact of S1P on SPT activity, we used stable-isotope
179 labeled serine (L-serine-¹³C₃,¹⁵N) to trace the *de novo* synthesized SL (**Fig. 3E**).
180 Exogenous S1P significantly decreased labelled ceramides and glucosylceramides (**Fig.**
181 **3F-I**), corroborating the S1P-induced downregulation of SPT activity (**Fig. 1D**). However,
182 in absence of S1PR1,3, labeled ceramides and glucosylceramides were significantly
183 elevated in basal conditions and were not decreased by exogenous S1P compared to
184 control EC (**Fig. 3F-I**), suggesting that S1PR1,3 are necessary to mediate S1P
185 downregulation of SPT activity. Unlabeled ceramides showed a similar trend
186 (**Supplementary Fig. 5A-E**), suggesting that the primary influence exerted on
187 sphingolipid production was indeed from *de novo* sphingolipid biosynthesis.
188 Considering that the deletion of SphK1,2 dramatically upregulated SPT activity (**Fig. 1H**),
189 we hypothesized that S1PR1,3 can be activated in an autocrine manner by locally

190 produced S1P to initiate the negative feedback on SPT. To preserve the formation of
191 intracellular S1P and its degradation by S1P lyase, representing the catabolic exit of the
192 pathway, instead of *Sphk1,2* genes, *Spns2* was deleted to prevent the transporter-
193 mediated cellular excretion of S1P (**Fig. 3L**). Thus, mEC from *Spns2^{ff}* VE-Cad-CreERT2
194 mice were used *in vitro*. *Spns2* deletion significantly raised SPT activity, suggesting a
195 constitutive inhibitory function of endogenous S1P on SPT via inside-outside signaling
196 (**Fig. 3M**). Importantly, exogenous S1P was able to downregulate SPT activity in
197 *Spns2^{ECKO}* as in *Spns2^{ff}* EC (**Fig. 3M**), indicating that while the loss of *Spns2* disrupted
198 the autocrine S1P signal on SPT, the S1PR-ORMDL-SPT signaling pathway was
199 preserved. Consistently with these findings, total ceramides (**Fig. 3O** and
200 **Supplementary Fig. 5F,G**) and glucosylceramides (**Fig. 3P** and **Supplementary Fig.**
201 **5H-L**), were upregulated in *Spns2^{ECKO}* vs. *Spns2^{ff}*. The measure of sphingolipid flux with
202 isotope-labeled serine showed that the loss of *Spns2* increased the *de novo* synthesized
203 ceramides and glucosylceramides in basal conditions (**Fig. 3Q-T**), while preserving the
204 downregulation in response to exogenous S1P (**Fig. 3Q-T**), in line with SPT activity data
205 (**Fig. 3M**). Lastly, SPT activity was significantly higher in *Spns2^{ECKO}* mouse lung
206 microsome compared to *Spns2^{ff}* (**Fig. 3U**), corroborating the function of SPNS2-S1P
207 negative feedback on SPT *in vivo*. These results support an important role of the
208 endothelial-derived S1P-S1PR signaling in maintaining sphingolipid homeostasis via
209 stabilization of ORMDL-SPT complex.

210

211 **Ceramide accrual leads to endothelial and mitochondrial dysfunction**

212 Ceramides regulate membrane biophysical properties, particularly of lipid rafts, important
213 signaling platforms³⁴⁻³⁶. Recently, we reported that optimal ceramide levels are necessary
214 to preserve endothelial signal transduction to different agonists, including VEGF and
215 insulin¹⁹. The loss of Spns2 disrupted the cellular SL sensing mechanism and increased
216 SL, including ceramides (**Fig 3O**). Thus, to test the hypothesis that in absence of Spns2
217 ceramide accrual impairs endothelial signal transduction, we performed a series of
218 experiments in primary mEC *in vitro* isolated from Spns2^{ECKO} and Spns2^{ff} mice. The
219 activation of both VEGFR2 and insulin receptor (IR), and downstream signaling, were
220 blunted in Spns2^{ECKO} compared to Spns2^{ff} mEC (**Fig. 4A-C**), although the receptor
221 expression was unchanged, suggesting that ceramide accrual in absence of Spns2
222 impairs endothelial signal transduction. To further explore the consequences of Spns2
223 deletion in more physiological setting, we used mesenteric arteries (MA) *ex vivo*. In line
224 with endothelial signaling data, vasorelaxation to both VEGF (**Fig. 4D**) and insulin (**Fig.**
225 **4E**) was significantly diminished in Spns2^{ECKO} compared Spns2^{ff} MA. On the contrary,
226 acetylcholine and sodium nitroprusside (SNP) induced vasorelaxation were not affected
227 by altered ceramide levels (**Fig. 4F,G**), as previously reported¹⁹. Interestingly, mouse
228 treatment with myriocin, an inhibitor of SPT, restored VEGF- and Insulin-dependent
229 vasorelaxation (**Fig. 4D,E**), consistent with a role of ceramide in endothelial dysfunction³⁷.
230 Multiple lines of evidence have shown that ceramide accrual is causal of mitochondrial
231 dysfunction, oxidative stress^{38,39}, and apoptosis⁴⁰. Loss of Spns2 resulted in decreased
232 maximal respiration and reduced spare respiratory capacity (**Fig. 4H,I**). Extracellular
233 acidification rate, an indirect index of mitochondrial dysfunction, suggests an increased
234 ability to upregulate aerobic glycolysis upon the loss of mitochondrial ATP production

235 caused by inhibition of the ATPase by oligomycin (**Fig. 4L,M**). Spns2^{ECKO} EC showed
236 decreased membrane potential (**Fig. 4N**), smaller mitochondrial size (**Fig. 4O**) and
237 increased number of mitochondria per cell (**Fig. 4P**), as assessed by TMRM staining. All
238 together, these findings suggests a respiratory chain dysfunction that result in lower
239 mitochondrial polarization, fragmentation of mitochondria and adaptive changes in
240 glycolysis as an alternate source of energy production, supporting the concept that Spns2
241 deletion increases sphingolipid de novo biosynthesis and ceramide levels, hence the
242 susceptibility of the cells to metabolic stress.

243 Next, we investigated whether the ceramide accrual in absence of Spns2 heighten the
244 susceptibility of the EC to apoptosis induced by palmitate, substrate of SPT. In Spns2^{ECKO}
245 EC baseline apoptosis was increased to the same extent of palmitate-induced apoptosis
246 in Spns2^{ff} EC. The loss of Spns2 dramatically increased the apoptosis induced by
247 palmitate (**Fig. 4P,Q**).

248 Altogether, these results show that disruption of S1P-S1PR-ORMDL negative feedback
249 on SPT results in unrestricted levels of SL, including ceramides, triggering mitochondrial
250 dysfunction, apoptosis, and impaired vascular tone regulation, which all underline
251 endothelial dysfunction, an early event in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular diseases,
252 including atherosclerosis.

253

254 **DISCUSSION**

255 SL, a minor class of mammalian lipids, have gained much attention because emerging
256 pre-clinical and clinical evidence established a strong link between altered sphingolipid
257 homeostasis and diseases^{41,42}, including atherosclerosis⁴³, coronary artery disease⁴⁴,

258 myocardial infarction⁴⁵, heart failure^{46,47}, hypertension⁴⁸, and type 2 diabetes^{49,50}.
259 However, how cells sense sphingolipid levels and regulate their biosynthesis accordingly
260 remains poorly understood. Because SPT catalyzes the rate-limiting step of the pathway,
261 there has been much effort in understanding how this enzyme is modulated in response
262 to cellular sphingolipid levels. In this study, we identified a sensing mechanism used by
263 the cells to maintain sphingolipid homeostasis and assure proper cellular functions. Our
264 study discovered S1P as the specific SL metabolite sensed by the cells; S1P actions
265 downregulate SPT activity via S1PR/ORMDL negative feedback to maintain sphingolipid
266 homeostasis.

267 In yeast the phosphorylation of Orms releases the interaction with SPT, hence
268 sphingolipid *de novo* biosynthesis is upregulated². However, in mammalian orthologs
269 ORMDLs lack the N-terminus hosting the phosphosites⁹. Considering that sphingolipid
270 homeostasis is necessary to preserve cellular functions and health, it is conceivable that
271 complex regulatory mechanisms exist to regulate SPT-ORMDL interactions in response
272 to metabolic and environmental cues, at transcriptional, translational and post-
273 translational levels. For instance, inflammatory stimuli and changes in SL can upregulate
274 the transcription⁵¹ and the translation²⁵ of ORMDL, respectively, although the underlying
275 molecular mechanisms remain unknown. Previous works from Wattenberg's group^{24,26},
276 using cell-free isolated membranes or permeabilized cells, suggested that C6:0- and
277 C8:0-ceramide (10-20 μ M) can acutely downregulate SPT activity, probably by interacting
278 with the SPT-ORMDLs complex. However, by using multiple genetic and pharmacological
279 strategies our data showed that when S1P formation was inhibited, ceramide was no
280 longer able to modulate SPT activity.

281 ORMDLs have a relatively short half-life (ca. 1.7h, **Fig. 2A,H**). Mechanistically, our data
282 show that PHD-mediated hydroxylation of Pro137 enforces a constitutive degradation of
283 ORMDLs via ER-associated degradation and ubiquitin-proteasome pathway (**Fig. 2M**),
284 hence preserving a steady-state SPT activity. Upregulation of S1P signaling inhibits PHD-
285 mediated Pro137 hydroxylation, resulting in ORMDLs stability and downregulation of SPT
286 activity. It is conceivable that this sensing-effector mechanism that maintains sphingolipid
287 homeostasis is not only functional in the EC but also in other cell types. Further studies
288 are needed to explore this possibility.

289 S1P is known to induce barrier function¹⁸, NO production^{3,14,15}, as well as cell migration
290 and survival. In addition to known functions, our study discovered that a fundamental
291 function of S1P is to maintain sphingolipid homeostasis via S1PR-ORMDL negative
292 feedback on SPT. Genetic and pharmacological disruption of endothelial S1P autocrine
293 signaling at multiple levels, including *Sphks*, *Spns2*, and *S1prs*, support the direct role of
294 S1P-S1PR signaling in modulating SPT activity via stabilization of ORMDLs. How cells
295 can sense SL has been a longstanding question. Our findings identified S1P-S1PR as
296 the sensor-effector unit by which cells can sense SL and maintain homeostasis by a
297 nimble modulation of SPT activity via ORMDLs.

298 The disruption of S1P negative feedback on SPT leads to uncontrolled sphingolipid *de*
299 *novo* biosynthesis and ceramide accumulation, resulting in mitochondrial dysfunction,
300 apoptosis, and impaired signal transduction and endothelial-regulated vascular tone,
301 which are all manifestations of endothelial dysfunction, an early event in the onset of
302 cardiovascular diseases, including atherosclerosis and hypertension. Postnatally the
303 disruption of S1P signaling results in permeability¹⁸, hypertension^{15,23}, atherosclerosis¹⁶,

304 and heart failure⁵², as result of the loss of S1P biological actions, including the
305 enhancement of endothelial barrier functions and NO production, and downregulation of
306 NFkB pathway¹⁶. In addition to these canonical cardiovascular functions, our data
307 identified a novel fundamental function of S1P which is to maintain sphingolipid
308 homoeostasis and protect the cells from a “metabolic catastrophe” due to uncontrolled
309 ceramide accrual, causing cellular and organ dysfunctions.

310 The clinical significance of this signaling mechanisms is also underlined by the correlation
311 of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) in *SphK1*⁵³, *S1pr1*⁵⁴, and *Ormdl3*⁷ with the risk
312 of atherosclerosis. Genetic deletion of endothelial *S1pr1* in mice significantly elevated
313 BP¹⁵. Interestingly, chronic administration fingolimod, a functional antagonist of S1PR1
314 approved by the FDA for the treatment of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis⁵⁵, also
315 significantly increased BP, in line with the loss endothelial *S1pr1*¹⁵. Our findings suggest
316 that an additional biological consequence of fingolimod on-target actions on S1PRs is the
317 disruption of S1P negative signaling on SPT, and therefore the homeostasis of SL, at
318 least in cell type expressing high levels of S1PR1, such as endothelial and immune
319 cells^{13,33}. Further studies are needed to investigate the impact of fingolimod on
320 sphingolipid sensing and homeostatic pathway of the cells.

321 This study reveal a novel mechanism by which cells can sense SL and regulate
322 sphingolipid biosynthesis accordingly. S1P is the metabolite sensed by the cells to
323 downregulate SPT activity via S1PR-ORMDI signaling. Whether the disruption of this
324 negative feedback plays a role in the pathogenesis human diseases remains to be
325 investigated.

326

327 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

328 **Mouse models.** We generated conditional mouse model lacking endothelial S1PR1,
329 namely S1pr1^{ECKO}; lacking endothelial SphK1,2, namely SphK1,2^{ECKO}; and lacking
330 endothelial Spns2, namely Spns2^{ECKO}. S1pr1^{ff} (floxed S1pr1)⁵⁶, SphK1,2^{ff} (floxed
331 SphK1,2)⁵⁷, and Spns2^{ff} (floxed Spns2)⁵⁸ mice were crossed with transgenic mice in
332 which the VE-cadherin promoter drives expression of tamoxifen-responsive Cre (VE-Cad-
333 CreERT2), such that tamoxifen treatment selectively deletes the loxP-flanked (floxed)
334 region of S1pr1 in endothelial cells (EC)⁵⁹. S1pr1^{ECKO} and S1pr1^{ff}, and SphK1,2^{ECKO} and
335 SphK1,2^{ff} were used only for isolation of mouse liver EC. To delete Sptlc2 in EC, 7- to 8-
336 week-old male mice were injected intraperitoneally with 20 mg/kg of tamoxifen daily for 5
337 consecutive days. All animal experiments were approved by the Weill Cornell Institutional
338 Animal Care and Use Committee.

339

340 **Isolation of mouse liver EC.** Liver EC, but not lung and heart EC, are responsive to 4-
341 hydroxytamoxifen-induced gene excision *in vitro*. Four-week-old female and male mice
342 were used to isolate EC. Briefly, liver were cut into small pieces and incubated in a
343 solution of 2mg/mL collagenase I (Alfa Aesar, #J62406), 1U/mL dispase (Stemcell
344 Technologies, #07913) and 100µg/mL DNase I (Roche, # 10104159001), followed by
345 mechanical dissociation. EC were isolated with CD144 antibody-conjugated dynabeads
346 (CD144 antibody, BD bioscience, #555289; dynabeads, ThermoFisher Scientific,
347 #111035). Isolated EC were cultured in DMEM (Lonza, #12709-F) with 20% FBS (R&D
348 Systems, #S11150H), 100µg/mL heparin (Sigma, #H3393), and 25µg/mL ECGF (Alfa
349 Aesar, #J64516). For gene excision, EC were treated with 1µM 4-hydroxytamoxifen

350 (Cayman Chemical, #14854) for 3 consecutive days. Before treatment with S1P (300nM,
351 30min; Cayman Chemical, #62570), C16:0-ceramide (300nM, 30min; Avanti, #868516),
352 VEGF (100ng/mL, 2min; Peprotech, #100-20), or Insulin (1U/mL, 2min), ECs were
353 cultured in DMEM with 10% Charcoal-Stripped FBS for 18h, followed by 6h starvation in
354 DMEM with 0.1% Charcoal-Stripped FBS.

355

356 **Experimental protocol with HUVEC.** HUVEC (LifeLine Cell Technology, cat# FC- 0044)
357 were grown in EBM-2 (Lonza, cat# CC-3156) and supplemented with EGM-2 Endothelial
358 Cell Growth Medium-2 BulletKit (Lonza, cat# CC-3162) and 10% FBS. Before treatment
359 HUVEC were cultured in EBM-2 with 10% Charcoal-Stripped FBS for 18h, followed by 6h
360 starvation in EMB-2 with 0.1% Charcoal-Stripped FBS. The following treatments were
361 used: S1P (300nM, 30min), C16:0-Ceramide (300nM, 30min), SKI II⁶⁰ (1μM, 30min
362 before C16:0-Cer; Cayman Chemical, #10009222), CHX (10μM, for the indicated time;
363 Cayman Chemical, #14126), DMOG²⁸ (1mM, 1h; Cayman Chemical, #72210),
364 Eeyarestatin 1⁶¹ (EER1, 10μM, 1h; Cayman Chemical, #10012609); MG132 (10μM, 1h;
365 Cayman Chemical, #13697).

366

367 **SPT activity assay.** SPT activity in HUVEC and EC was measured as previously
368 described¹⁹. Briefly, the assay was conducted in 0.1mL of SPT reaction buffer composed
369 by: 0.1M HEPES pH 8.3, 5mM DTT, 2.5mM EDTA, 50μM pyridoxal 5'-phosphate (Sigma,
370 #P9255), 0.45μM [³H]serine (American Radiolabeled Chemicals, #0246), 0.2mM
371 palmitoyl-CoA (Sigma, #P9715) and 150μg of protein lysates. After 15 min at 37 °C, the
372 reaction was stopped with NH₄OH and the reaction product 3-ketosphinganine converted

373 into sphinganine with NaBH₄ (5 mg/ml). Radiolabeled lipids were extracted by using a
374 modified Bligh and Dyer's method, dissolved in CHCl₃ and analyzed by thin-layer
375 chromatography.

376

377 **Western Blot analysis.** RIPA buffer cell lysates were analyzed with sodium dodecyl
378 sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE) and immunoblotting, as
379 previously reported ¹⁹. The following primary antibodies were used for WB analysis: S1P1
380 (ABclonal, #A12935); ORMDL3 (Millipore, #ABN417); NOGO-B (SCBT, #sc-11027);
381 SPTCL1 and eNOS (BD Biosciences, #611305 and (#610297, respectively); SPTLC2
382 (ABclonal, #A11716); HA, Ubiquitin-K48, P-IR (Y1150/1151), IR, P-VEGFR2 (Y1175),
383 VEGFR2, P-eNOS (S1177), P-AKT (S473), and AKT (Cell Signaling Technology, #3724,
384 #4289, #3024, #3020, #2478, #2479, #9571, #4058, and #2920, respectively); β-ACTIN
385 (ThermoFisher Scientific, #AM4302).

386

387 **Phosphorylation analysis by phosphate-affinity SDS–PAGE.** RIPA buffer EDTA-free
388 cell lysates were loaded in a SDS–PAGE gels with prepared with 50mM MnCl₂ and 25mM
389 phosphate affinity reagent (ApexBio, #F4002)⁶². Gels were run at 100V for 2h, rinsed
390 three time for 10min in transfer buffer with 1mM EDTA before transfer to nitrocellulose
391 membranes.

392

393 **Knockdown by siRNA transfection.** siRNA targeting Nogo-B (sense: 5'-
394 GACUGGAGUGGUGUUUGGUUU-3', antisense: 5'-ACCAAACACCACUCCAGUCUU-
395 3'); ORMDL1 (sense: 5'-CUCAUUGGGAACAACUGGAUU-3', antisense: 5'-

396 UCCAGUUGUUCCTCAAUGAGUU-3'); ORMDL2 (sense: 5'-CUUCCUUCAUACGGUGAA
397 AUU-3', antisense: 5'-UUUCACCGUAUGAAGGAAGUU-3'); ORMDL3 (sense: 5'-
398 UUCUACACUAAGUACGACCUU-3', antisense: 5'-GGUCGUACUUAGUGUAGAAUU-
399 3'); S1P3 (sense: 5'-GCUCCAGUAACAACAGCAGUU-3', antisense: 5'-
400 CUGCUGUUGUUACUGGAGCUU-3'), and control (sense: 5'-
401 UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACG-3', antisense: 5'-ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAA-3') were
402 synthesized by Dharmacon. HUVEC or murine EC were transfected with 40nM of siRNA
403 using DharmaFECT 4 transfection reagent (Dharmacon, #T-2004). mRNA or protein
404 expression and relative assays were performed 72h after transfection.

405

406 **Real-time PCR (RT-PCR) analysis of murine EC.** Total RNA from EC in culture was
407 extracted according to the TRIzol reagent protocol (ThermoFisher Scientific, #15596026).
408 Maxima First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific, #K1641) was used for
409 the reverse transcription of 100ng of RNA. For RT-PCR analysis PowerUp™ SYBR™
410 Green Master Mix (ThermoFisher Scientific, #A25779) and Applied Biosystems 7500 Fast
411 RT PCR system were used. Primers set were: SphK1 (5'-
412 AGGTGGTGAATGGGCTAATG-3' and 5'-TGCTCGTACCCAGCATAGTG-3'); SphK2 (5'-
413 TGGTGCCAATGATCTCTGAA-3' and 5'-CCAGACACAGTGACAATGCC-3'); ORMDL1
414 (5'-CATAGCCGGTTGAAGCAGAC-3' and 5'-ACGTTGACTCAGAGCCTTGA-3');
415 ORMDL2 (5'-CCAAGTACGATGCTGCTCAC-3' and 5'-TTCCAGTGCCTTCCCTCAAT-
416 3'); ORMDL3 (5'-ACTGAGGTTGTAGCCCCTTC-3' and 5'-
417 ACCCTAACCCCACTACAAGC-3'); S1PR3 (5'-GCTTCATCGTCTTGGAGAACCTG-3'
418 and 5'-CAGAGAGCCAAGTTGCCGATGA-3'); Spns2 (5'-

419 AGAAGCCGCATCCTCAGTTAGC-3' and 5'-CAGGCCAGAATCTCCCCAAATC-3'); 18S
420 (5'-TTCCGATAACGAACGAGACTCT-3' and 5'-TGGCTGAACGCCACTTGTC-3'). Gene
421 of interest relative mRNA expression was calculated with the $2(-\Delta\Delta Ct)$ method, using 18S
422 as housekeeping⁶³.

423

424 **Lentivirus construction.** Human HA-tagged ORMDL3 (NCBI AAM43507.1) and the
425 mutant P137A were synthesized by Genewiz and inserted in the lentiviral vector pCDH-
426 CMV-MCS-EF1-Puro (Addgene). Lentiviral particles containing the construct encoding
427 HA-ORMDL3-WT and HA-ORMDL3-P137A were produced in HEK293T cells transfected
428 with Calcium Phosphate technique. Viral particles were harvested from the culture
429 supernatant 72h after transfection, passed through a 0.45 μ m filter and concentrated by
430 adding a virus precipitation solution (40% PEG8000 and 2.5M NaCl) overnight at 4 °C,
431 followed by centrifugation at 1,500 \times g for 30min. Viral pellets were resuspended in DMEM
432 and stored at -80 °C until use.

433

434 **Immunoprecipitation.** To assess ubiquitination, 293T cells were co-transfected with
435 plasmid expressing Ub-GFP (gift from Nico Dantuma (Addgene plasmid # 11928;
436 <http://n2t.net/addgene:11928>; RRID:Addgene_11928)) and HA-ORMDL3-WT or HA-
437 ORMDL3-P137A. After 48h, cells were lysed and HA-ORMDL3 was immunoprecipitated
438 with antibody against HA (Cell Signaling Technology, #3724) in modified RIPA buffer (50
439 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.2, 0.9% NaCl, 5.0 mM NaF, 1.0 mM Na₃VO₄, 1% NP40, and protease
440 inhibitors) at 4°C o.n. The immune

441 complexes were precipitated with Dynabeads protein G (#10003D, Invitrogen, for 1.5h at
442 4°C) and size-fractionated on SDS-PAGE gels. Ubiquitin was detected with Ubiquitin-K48
443 antibody (Cell Signaling Technology, #4289).

444

445 **Microsomal isolation from mouse lung.** Microsomal fractions were obtained from
446 Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} lungs as previously described³. Briefly, lungs were homogenized
447 with liquid nitrogen in microsomal preparation buffer (50mM HEPES pH 7.4, 0.25M
448 sucrose, and 5mM EDTA). The homogenates were centrifuged for 15min at 18,000×g at
449 4°C, and the resulting supernatants were ultracentrifuged for 1h at 100,000×g at 4°C. The
450 microsomal pellets were then resuspended by adding 0.25ml of SPT reaction buffer.

451

452 **Measurement of Sphingolipid Flux using Stable Isotopes.** Confluent EC were
453 switched to DMEM lacking L-Serine for 2hrs. The cells were then switched to DMEM
454 containing 0.45mM L-serine-¹³C₃, ¹⁵N (Sigma, #608130) and 300μM palmitate, with or
455 without 300nM S1P for 3h. The reaction was thereafter washed with PBS, trypsinized and
456 the cell pellet stored at -80°C. Lipids were thereafter extracted and total and labeled
457 sphingolipids analyzed by mass-spectrometry at the University of Utah metabolomics
458 core, as previously described⁶⁴.

459

460 **Flow cytometric determination of apoptosis by Annexin V/Propidium Iodide**
461 **staining.** Cells were analyzed for phosphatidylserine exposure by an Annexin-V
462 FITC/Propidium Iodide double-staining method, according to manufacturer instruction
463 (Abcam, #ab14085). Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} cells were treated with vehicle or C6:0-

464 ceramide (30 μ M, 8h; Avanti, #860506), stained, acquired with BD FACSymphony Flow
465 Cytometer, and analyzed with FlowJo software.

466

467 **Vascular reactivity studies.** At 2 weeks post-tamoxifen treatment, second order
468 mesenteric arteries (MA) were harvested, cleaned from adhering tissue and mounted on
469 glass micropipettes in a wire myograph chamber (Danish MyoTechnology, Aarhus,
470 Denmark). Vessels were maintained in Krebs solution^{3,19}. MA were equilibrated for 15
471 min at 80 mmHg, pre-constricted with PE (1 μ M) and a cumulative concentration-response
472 curve of Ach (0.1nM-30 μ M) was performed to evaluate the endothelial function. The
473 following concentration-response curves were performed: insulin (pU/mL-3 μ U/mL),
474 VEGF (1 μ g/ml-30mg/ml), and sodium nitroprussiate (SNP, 10nM-30 μ M). Were indicated,
475 mice were treated with myriocin 0.3mg/Kg i.p. for two consecutive days before the
476 experiment.

477

478 **Seahorse.** Oxygen consumption rate (OCR) and extracellular acidification rate (ECAR)
479 was measured with a XF96 Extracellular Flux Analyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa
480 Clara, CA, USA). mEC were plated a density of 1.5×10^4 cells/well in 200 μ l of DMEM and
481 incubated for 24h at 37°C in 5% CO₂. After replacing the growth medium with 200 μ l of XF
482 Assay Medium (Seahorse Bioscience, 103575-100) supplemented with 5mM glucose,
483 1mM pyruvate and 2mM GlutaMAX (Gibco), pre-warmed at 37°C, cells were preincubated
484 for 1h before starting the assay procedure. OCR and ECAR were recorded at baseline,
485 in the presence of 1 μ M oligomycin, 2 μ M carbonyl cyanide 4-
486 trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone (FCCP), 0.5 μ M Antimycin A (AA) plus 0.5 μ M Rotenon

487 (Rot) and in the presence of 25mM 2-Deoxy-D-glucose sequentially. Non-mitochondrial
488 respiration (in the presence of AA+Rot) was subtracted from all rates. Following the
489 experiment cell nuclei were stained with 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 (Thermo), imaged with an
490 ImageXpress pico (Molecular Devices, San Jose, CA, USA) and counted. OCR and
491 ECAR were normalized by the cell counts. Respiratory and glycolysis parameters were
492 quantified by subtracting respiration rates at times before and after the addition of electron
493 transport chain inhibitors according to Seahorse Bioscience. Basal respiration: baseline
494 respiration minus (AA+Rot)-dependent respiration; H⁺ leak, Oligo-dependent respiration
495 minus (AA+Rot)-dependent respiration; ATP turnover, baseline respiration minus oligo-
496 dependent respiration; Max respiratory capacity: FCCP–dependent respiration minus
497 (AA+Rot)-dependent respiration; Spare capacity: Max respiratory capacity minus Basal
498 respiration. Basal glycolysis: basal ECAR minus non-glycolitic acidification; Glycolitic
499 capacity: maximal ECAR after oligo minus non-glycolitic acidification.

500

501 **Mitochondrial membrane potential and morphology.** For the measurements of
502 mitochondrial membrane potential number, mEC were seeded at the density of 2×10^3
503 cells/well in a 96-well glass bottom tissue culture plate (Cellvis P96-1.5H-N) in 200 μ L of
504 DMEM and incubated for 24h at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Cells were loaded with 15nM
505 tetramethylrhodamine methyl ester (TMRM, 544ex; 590em, Life Technologies) and 1 μ M
506 Hoechst 33342 for 30 minutes at 37°C in Krebs buffer. TMRM and Hoechst fluorescence
507 were imaged with an ImageXpress pico. Subsequently 5 μ M FCCP was added to record
508 background fluorescence. ~50 cells were segmented manually using ImageJ.

509 Background TMRM fluorescence was subtracted from baseline fluorescence.
510 Mitochondria were segmented and counted in each cell using adaptive thresholding.

511

512 **Statistical Analysis**

513 Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test, or Student *t* test were used for the statistical
514 analysis as indicated in figure legends. Differences were considered statistically
515 significant when $P < 0.05$. GraphPad Prism software (version 9.0, GraphPad Software,
516 San Diego, CA) was used for all statistical analysis.

517

518 **Figure Legends**

519 **Figure 1. S1P inhibits SPT activity via ORMDLs stabilization. (A)** SPT activity and
520 Western blot (WB) analysis of S1PR1 in S1pr1^{ff} and S1pr1^{ECKO} endothelial cells after 4-
521 OHT (1 μ M, 72h) treatment. (n=8/group from 3 independent EC isolations/group; 4
522 mice/EC isolation). LC- MS/MS quantification of Total **(B)** Ceramide and **(C)**
523 Glucosylceramide in S1pr1^{ff} and S1Pr1^{ECKO} endothelial cells after 4-OHT (1 μ M, 72h)
524 treatment (n=5/group from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation). SPT
525 activity in HUVEC in **(D)** absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') (n=6); **(E)** absence of
526 presence of C16:0-ceramide (300nM, 30') and **(F)** absence of presence of C16:0-
527 ceramide (300nM, 30'), in presence of SKI II (1 μ M, 1h pre-treatment). **(G)** RT-PCR for
528 SphK1 and SphK2 in endothelial cells SphK1,2^{ff} and SphK1,2^{ECKO} after 4-OHT (1 μ M,
529 72h) treatment (n=4/group). **(H)** SPT activity in SphK1,2^{ff} and SphK1,2^{ECKO} after 4-OHT
530 (1 μ M, 72h) treatment in absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') or C16:0-ceramide
531 (300nM, 30') (n \geq 5/group from 3 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation).

532 **(I)** WB analysis of ORMDLs, NOGO-B, SPTLC1 and SPTLC2 in HUVEC lysates in
533 absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') and **(L)** relative ORMDLs quantification. **(M)**
534 WB analysis of ORMDLs, SPTLC1 and SPTLC2 in HUVEC lysates in absence or
535 presence of C16:0-ceramide (300nM, 30'), with or without SKI II 1µM, 1h pre-treatment).
536 SPT activity and WB analysis of HUVEC treated with **(N)** siCTRL and siNOGO (40nM,
537 72h) (n≥4/group), or with **(O)** siCTRL and siORMDL1/2/3 (40nM, 72h) (n=4/group). **(P)**
538 Graphical abstract. β-ACTIN, loading control. ³[H]-serine and palmitoyl-CoA were used
539 as substrates for SPT activity. Sphinganine - the reaction product – was separated in TLC
540 (thin-layer chromatography) and quantified. Where not indicated, data are representative
541 of two or more independent experiments. Data are expressed as mean±SEM. *P≤0.05;
542 **P≤0.01; ***P≤0.001. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired t-test **(A-G, L)**,
543 and 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test **(H, N, O)**.

544

545 **Figure 2. ORMDLs are degraded via PHD-mediated ubiquitination and proteasomal**
546 **degradation. (A)** WB analysis of ORMDL3 (HA), SPTLC1 and SPTLC2 in HUVEC
547 lysates expressing HA-ORMDL3 and treated with cycloheximide (CHX, 10µM) for the
548 indicated period of time. **(B)** Prolyl hydroxylase consensus sequence in the three ORMDL
549 isoforms. **(C-E)** WB analysis of ORMDLs, SPTLC1 and SPTLC2 in HUVEC lysates in
550 absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') and with or without **(C)** DMOG (1mM, 1h pre-
551 treatment), **(D)** Eeyarestatin 1 (EER1, 10µM, 1h pre-treatment), **(E)** MG132 (10µM, 1h
552 pre-treatment). **(F)** WB analysis of HA-ORMDL3 and HA-ORMDL3-P137A in HUVEC
553 lysates in absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30'), DMOG (1mM, 1h), EER1 (10µM,
554 1h), and MG132 (10µM, 1h). **(G)** WB analysis of HA-ORMDL3 and HA-ORMDL3-P137A,

555 SPTLC1 and SPTLC2 in HUVEC lysates treated with CHX (10 μ M) for the indicated period
556 of time, and **(H)** relative quantification. **(I)** WB analysis for GFP and HA of HEK293T
557 transfected with GFP-ubiquitin and with the indicated HA-ORMDL3 plasmid, and
558 immunoprecipitated with HA antibody. **(L)** SPT activity in HUVEC expressing the
559 ORMDL3 or ORMDL3-P137A, and depleted of endogenous ORMDLs with siRNA, in
560 absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') (n \geq 4/group). **(M)** Graphical abstract. β -ACTIN,
561 loading control. 3 [H]-serine and palmitoyl-CoA were used as substrates for SPT activity.
562 Sphinganine - the reaction product – was separated in TLC (thin-layer chromatography)
563 and quantified. Where not indicated, data are representative of two or more independent
564 experiments. Data are expressed as mean \pm SEM. * $P\leq$ 0.05; ** $P\leq$ 0.01; *** $P\leq$ 0.001.
565 Statistical significance was determined by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test.

566

567 **Figure 3. Endothelial-derived S1P inhibits de novo sphingolipid biosynthesis via**
568 **S1PRs. (A)** SPT activity in S1pr1,3^{ff} and S1pr1,2^{ECKO} after 4-OHT (1 μ M, 72h) and
569 siS1PR3 (40nM, 72h) treatments, in absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30') (n \geq 4/group
570 from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation) and **(B)** relative WB
571 analysis for S1PR1, ORMDL, P-AKT and AKT. LC- MS/MS quantification of Total **(C)**
572 Ceramide and **(D)** Glucosylceramide in S1pr1,3^{ff} and S1Pr1,3^{ECKO} endothelial cells after
573 4-OHT and siS1PR3 treatment (n \geq 3/group from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4
574 mice/EC isolation). **(E)** Experimental procedure for the measurement of the *de novo*
575 synthesized Ceramides and Glucosylceramides. LC- MS/MS quantification of **(F)** total and
576 **(G)** specific Ceramides, and of **(H)** total and **(I)** specific Glucosylceramides labeled with
577 L-Serine- 13 C $_3$, 15 N in absence or presence of S1P (300nM). **(L)** RT-PCR for Spns2 in

578 endothelial cells Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} after 4-OHT (1 μ M, 72h) treatment (n=4/group).
579 **(M)** SPT activity in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} after 4-OHT, in absence or presence of S1P
580 (300nM, 30') (n \geq 3/group from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation)
581 and **(N)** relative WB analysis for ORMDL. LC- MS/MS quantification of Total **(O)** Ceramide
582 and **(P)** Glucosylceramide in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} endothelial cells after 4-OHT
583 (n=5/group from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation). **(Q)** SPT activity
584 in microsomes from lung of Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} mice (n=5/group). LC- MS/MS
585 quantification of **(R)** total and **(S)** specific Ceramides, and of **(T)** total and **(U)** specific
586 Glucosylceramides labeled with L-Serine-¹³C₃, ¹⁵N in absence or presence of S1P
587 (300nM). β -ACTIN, loading control. ³[H]-serine and palmitoyl-CoA were used as
588 substrates for SPT activity. Sphinganine - the reaction product – was separated in TLC
589 (thin-layer chromatography) and quantified. Where not indicated, data are representative
590 of two or more independent experiments. Data are expressed as mean \pm SEM. * $P\leq$ 0.05;
591 ** $P\leq$ 0.01; *** $P\leq$ 0.001. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired t-test (**C, D, L,**
592 **O-Q**), and 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test (**A, F-I, M, R-U**).

593

594 **Figure 4. Ceramide accrual leads to endothelial and mitochondrial dysfunction. (A)**
595 WB analysis of P-VEGFR2 (Y1175), VEGFR2, P-IR (Y1150/1151), IR, P-AKT (S473),
596 AKT, P-eNOS (S1176), and eNOS in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} endothelial cells lysates in
597 absence or presence of VEGF (100ng/mL, 2') or Insulin (1U/mL, 2') and **(B-C)** relative
598 quantification of the indicated phospho/total protein ratios. Vasodilation in response to **(D)**
599 VEGF, **(E)** Insulin, **(F)** Acetylcholine, and **(G)** SNP (Spns2^{ff}, n=3; Spns2^{ECKO}, n=3;
600 Spns2^{ECKO} + Myo, n=4). **(H)** Representative curves of OCR and **(I)** quantification of OCR

601 metrics in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} mEC. Oligomycin (Oligo), uncoupler FCCP, rotenone
602 and antimycin A (Rot/AA) were added at the indicated times. **(L)** Representative curves
603 of ECAR and **(M)** quantification of ECAR metrics in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} mEC.
604 Oligomycin (Oligo), uncoupler FCCP, rotenone and antimycin A (Rot/AA) were added at
605 the indicated times. **(N)** TMRM fluorescence, **(O)** mitochondrial area, and **(P)** number of
606 mitochondria per cells, as quantified by TMRM and Hoechst fluorescence. **(Q)**
607 Representative dot-plot diagrams and **(R)** relative quantification of Spns2^{ff} and
608 Spns2^{ECKO} mEC, in absence or presence of Palmitate (300μM, 16h), stained with Annexin
609 V and analyzed by FACS. Where not indicated, data are representative of two or more
610 independent experiments. Data are expressed as mean±SEM. * $P\leq 0.05$; ** $P\leq 0.01$;
611 *** $P\leq 0.001$; °°° $P\leq 0.001$. *Spns2^{ff} vs. Spns2^{ECKO}, °Spns2^{ECKO} vs. Spns2^{ECKO} + Myo.
612 Statistical significance was determined by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test (**D-G, I,**
613 **M, R**) and unpaired t-test (**N, O, P**).

614

615 DATA SOURCE

616 Figure 1 – Source Data 1: Uncropped western blot images

617 Figure 1 – Source Data 2: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement in S1pr1^{ff} and

618 S1pr1^{ECKO} endothelial cells

619 Figure 2 – Source Data 1: Uncropped western blot images

620 Figure 3 – Source Data 1: Uncropped western blot images

621 Figure 3 – Source Data 2: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement in S1pr1,3^{ff}

622 and S1pr1,3^{ECKO} endothelial cells

623 Figure 3 – Source Data 3: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement in Spns2^{ff} and
624 Spns2^{ECKO} endothelial cells

625 Figure 4 – Source Data 1: Uncropped western blot images

626 Supplementary Figure 4 – Source Data 1: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement
627 in S1pr1,3^{ff} and S1pr3^{ECKO} endothelial cells

628 Supplementary Figure 5 – Source Data 1: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement
629 in S1pr1,3^{ff} and S1pr1,3^{ECKO} endothelial cells

630 Supplementary Figure 5 – Source Data 2: Ceramide and Glucosylceramide measurement
631 in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} endothelial cells

632

633

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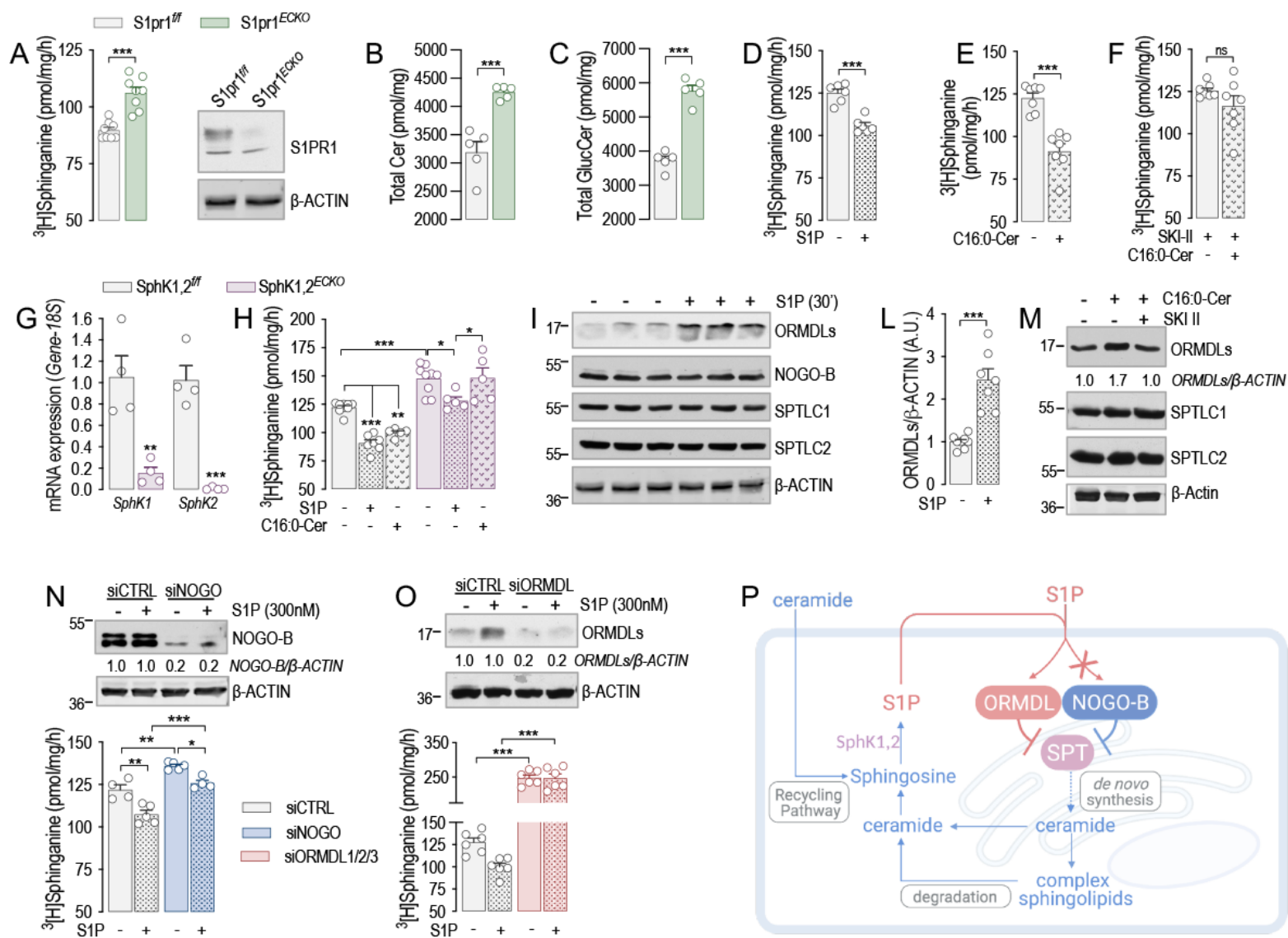


FIGURE 1

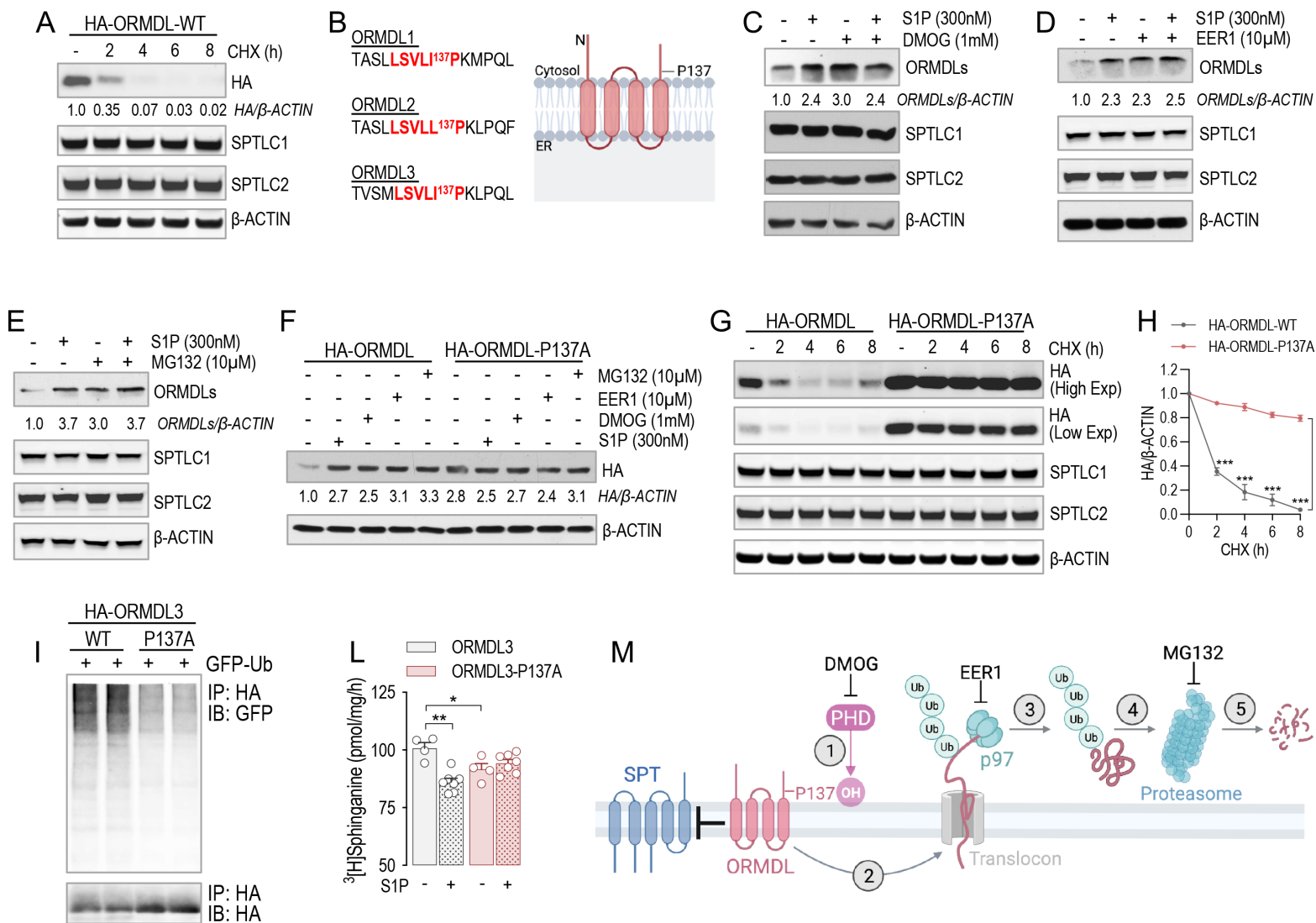


FIGURE 2

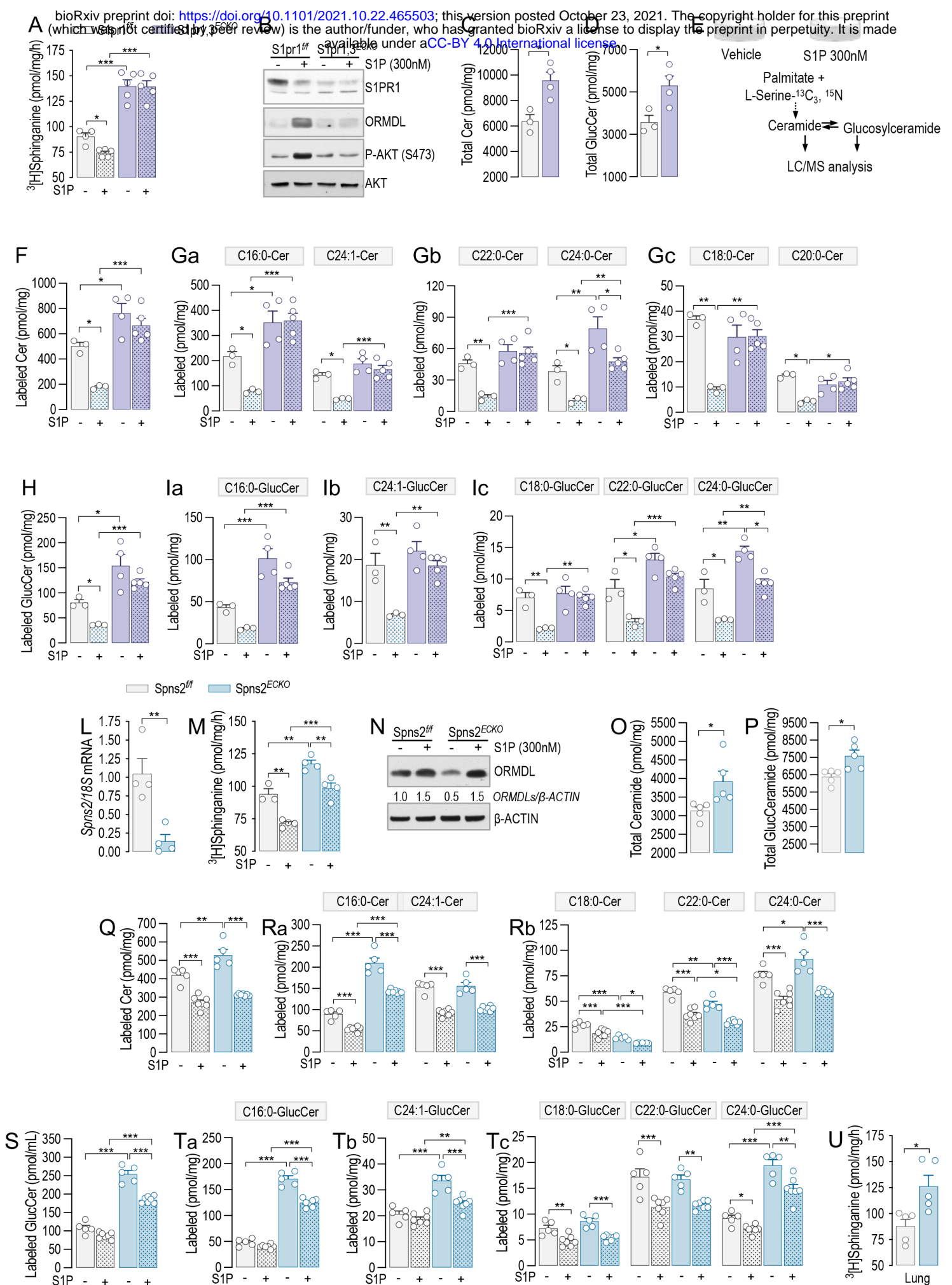


FIGURE 3

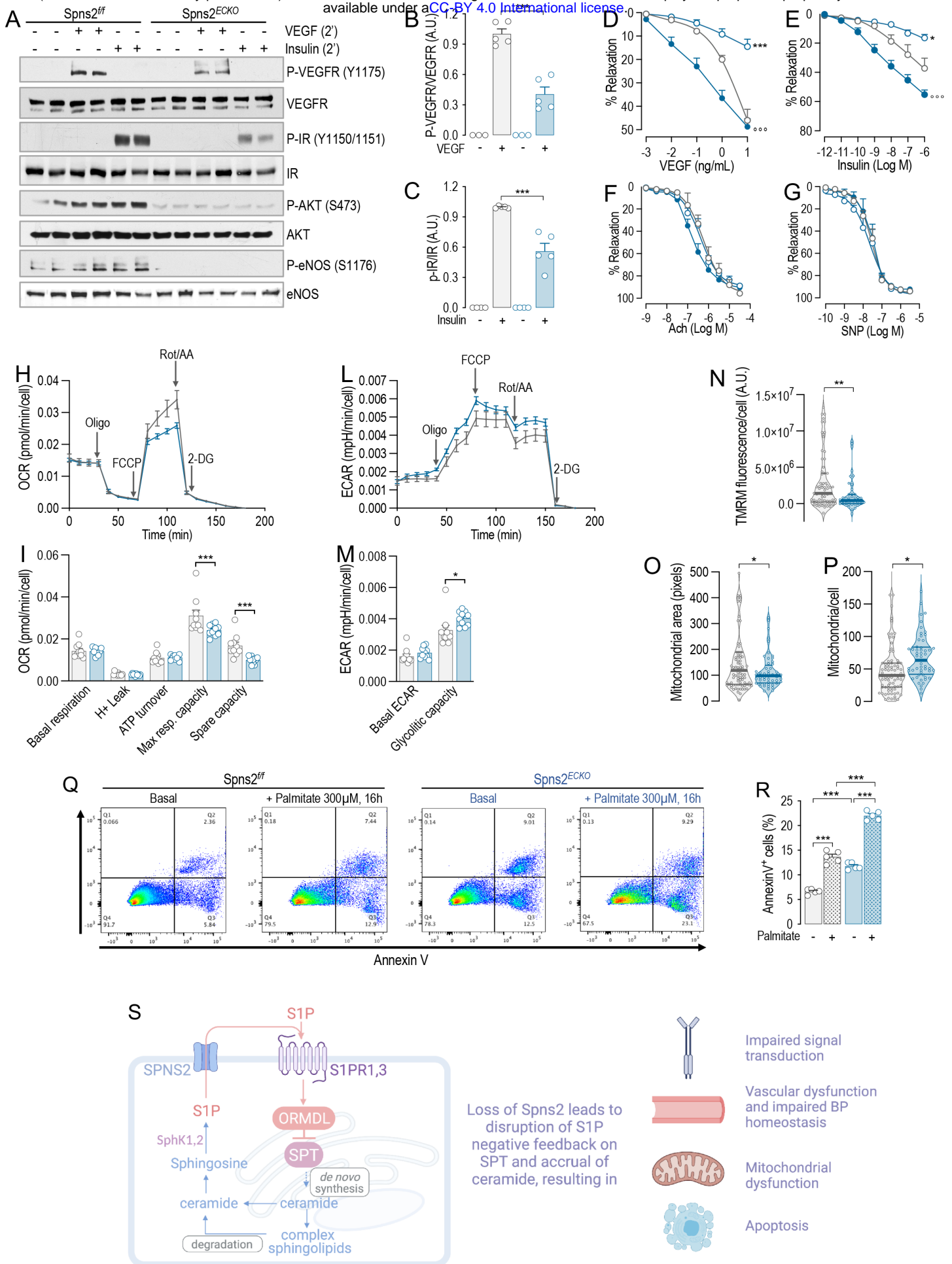


FIGURE 4

S1P controls endothelial sphingolipid homeostasis via ORMDL

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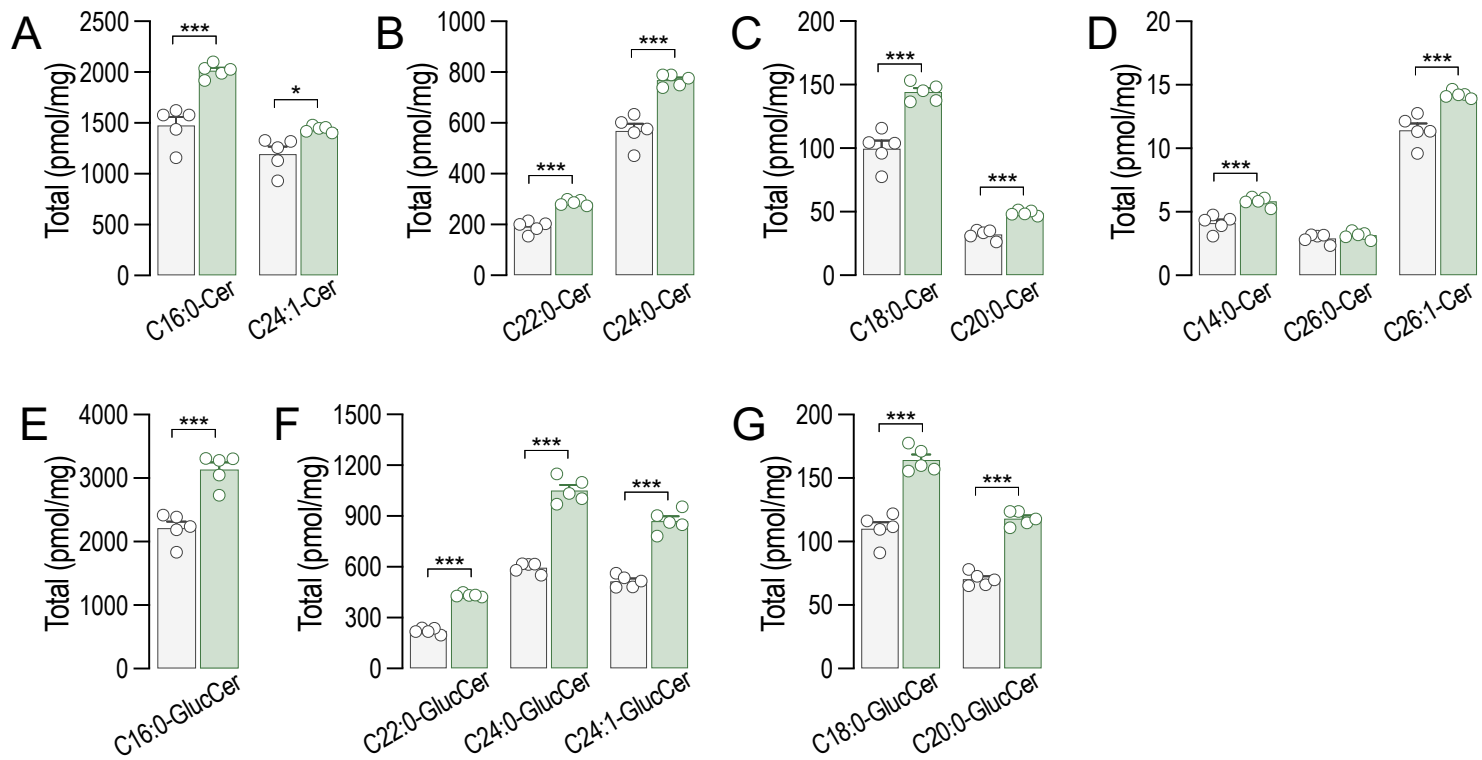
Supplementary Figure 1. LC- MS/MS quantification of total specific **(A-D)** ceramides and **(E-G)** glucosylceramides in S1pr1^{ff} and S1Pr1^{ECKO} endothelial cells after 4-OHT (1μM, 72h) treatment (n=5/group from 2 independent EC isolations/group; 4 mice/EC isolation). Data are expressed as mean±SEM. ***P≤0.001. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired t-test.

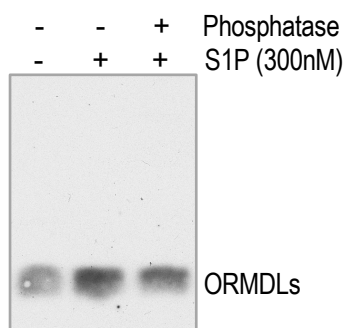
Supplementary Figure 2. Phosphate-affinity gel analysis of ORMDLs in HUVEC in absence or presence of S1P (300nM, 30').

Supplementary Figure 3. **(A)** Ct differences between genes and 18S determined by RT-PCR. Quantification of **(A)** SPTLC1, and **(B)** SPTLC2 (relative to **Fig. 2G**) in HUVEC lysates treated with CHX (10μM) for the indicated period of time, expressing HA-ORMDL3 or HA-ORMDL3-P137A. Data are expressed as mean±SEM. Statistical significance was determined by 2-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test.

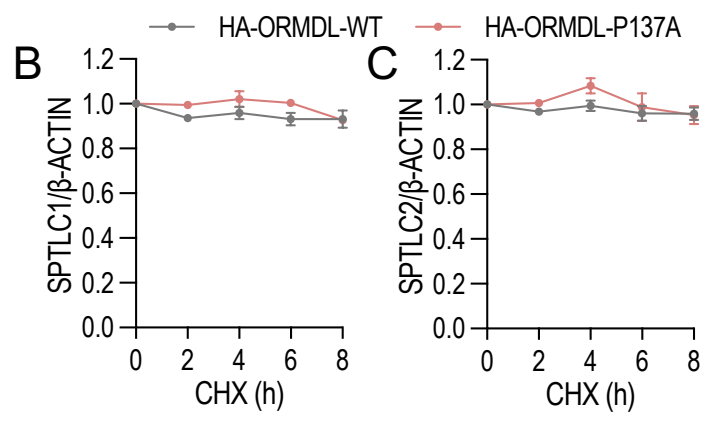
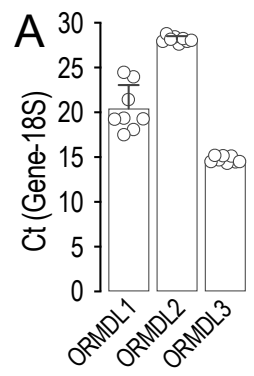
Supplementary Figure 4. **(A)** RT-PCR and **(B)** SPT activity for S1pr3 in mEC after siCTRL or siS1PR3 treatment (40nM, 72h) (n=4/group). LC-MS/MS quantification of total **(C)** Ceramide and **(D)** Glucosylceramide in mEC after siCTRL or siS1PR3 treatment (40nM, 72h) (n≥3/group). Data are expressed as mean±SEM. *P≤0.05; ***P≤0.001. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired t-test.

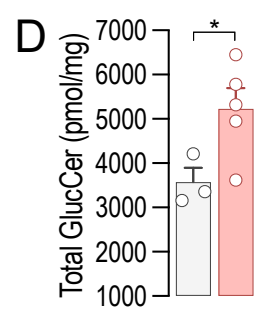
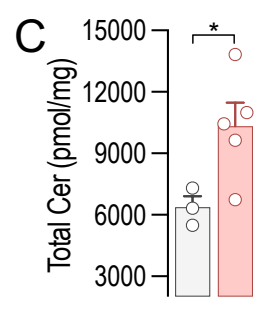
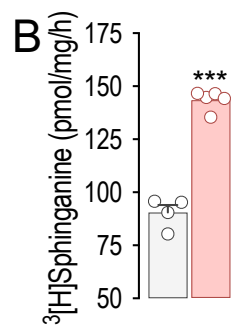
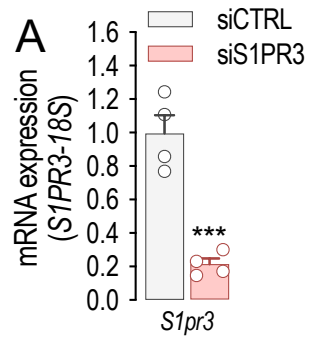
Supplementary Figure 5. LC-MS/MS quantification of total specific **(A-B)** ceramides and **(C-E)** glucosylceramides in S1pr1,3^{ff} and S1Pr1,3^{ECKO} mEC after 4-OHT (1μM, 72h) and siS1PR3 (40nM, 72h) treatments (n≥3/group). LC-MS/MS quantification of total specific **(F-G)** ceramides and **(H-L)** glucosylceramides in Spns2^{ff} and Spns2^{ECKO} mEC after 4-OHT (1μM, 72h) treatment (n=5/group). Data are expressed as mean±SEM. *P≤0.05; **P≤0.01; ***P≤0.001. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired t-test.

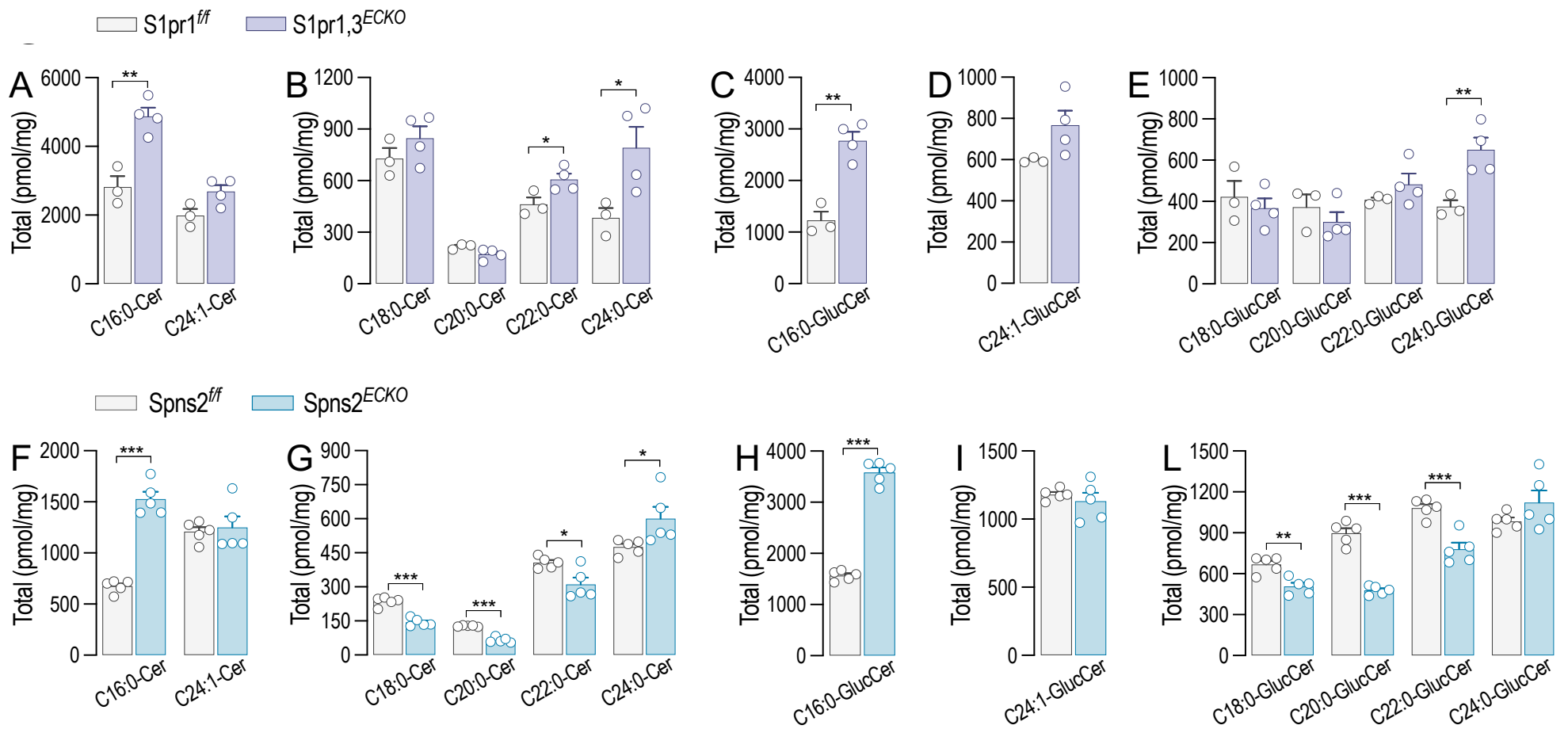




SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 2







SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 5