

REGULATION OF FIBRINOLYSIS BY S100A10 *IN VIVO*

by

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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...Dedicated to Tia

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## ABSTRACT

Endothelial cells form the inner lining of vascular networks and maintain blood fluidity by inhibiting blood coagulation and promoting blood clot dissolution (fibrinolysis). Plasmin, the primary fibrinolytic enzyme, is generated by the cleavage of the plasma protein, plasminogen, by its activator, tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). This reaction is regulated by plasminogen receptors at the surface of the vascular endothelial cells. Previous studies have identified the plasminogen receptor protein, S100A10 as a key regulator of plasmin generation by cancer cells and macrophages. Here we examine the role of S100A10 and its annexin A2 binding partner in endothelial cell function using a homozygous S100A10-null mouse. Compared to wild-type mice, S100A10-null mice displayed increased deposition of fibrin in the vasculature and reduced clearance of batroxobin-induced vascular thrombi, suggesting a role for S100A10 in fibrinolysis *in vivo*. Compared to WT cells, endothelial cells from S100A10-null mice demonstrated a 40% reduction in plasminogen binding and plasmin generation *in vitro*. Furthermore, S100A10-deficient endothelial cells demonstrated impaired neovascularization of Matrigel plugs *in vivo* suggesting a role for S100A10 in angiogenesis. These results establish an important role for S100A10 in the regulation of fibrinolysis and angiogenesis *in vivo*, suggesting S100A10 plays a critical role in endothelial cell function.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED

$\epsilon$ -ACA –  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid  
AIIt – annexin A2 heterotetramer  
ADP – adenosine di-phosphate  
APC – activated protein C  
aPTT – activated partial thromboplastin time  
bFGF – basic fibroblast growth factor  
BSA – bovine serum albumin  
cDNA – complementary deoxyribonucleic acid  
CpB – carboxypeptidase B  
CSF – colony-stimulating factor  
Cys – cysteine  
DAPI – 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole  
DMEM – Dulbecco's minimal eagle media  
DNA – deoxyribonucleic acid  
DNase – deoxyribonuclease  
dNTP – deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate  
DPBS – Dulbecco's phosphate buffered solution  
DTT – dithiothreitol  
EBM-2 – endothelial basal medium 2  
EDTA – ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid  
EGTA – ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid  
eNOS – endothelial nitric oxide synthase  
ERK – extracellular signal-regulated kinase  
FACS – fluorescence activated cell sorting

FBS – fetal bovine serum

Fg - fibrinogen

FITC - fluorescein isothiocyanate

GAPDH - glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase

Glu-pg – glutamate plasminogen

Glu-Pm – glutamate plasmin

GPCR – G-protein coupled receptor

HBSS – Hanks buffered salt solution

Hci - homocystine

Hcy – homocysteine

HEPES – 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid

HIF – hypoxia inducible factor

HTL – homocysteine thiolactone

IL – interleukin

LDL – low density lipoprotein

LPS – lipopolysaccharide

Lys-Pg – lysine plasminogen

Lys-Pm – lysine plasmin

MMEC – murine microvascular endothelial cell

MMP – matrix metalloproteinase

NO – nitric oxide

PA – plasminogen activator

PAGE – polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

PAI – plasminogen activator inhibitor

PAN – plasminogen apple nematode

PAP – plasmin-antiplasmin  
PARs – protease-activated receptors  
PBS – phosphate buffered solution  
PCR – polymerase chain reaction  
Pg - plasminogen  
PGI<sub>2</sub> – prostacyclin  
Pm - plasmin  
PT – prothrombin time  
qPCR – quantitative real time polymerase chain reaction  
RNA – ribonucleic acid  
s.c. – sub cutaneous  
sc-tPA – single chain tissue type plasminogen activator  
sc-uPA – single chain urokinase type plasminogen activator  
SD – standard deviation  
SDS – sodium dodecyl sulfate  
SEM – standard error of the mean  
shRNA – short hairpin ribonucleic acid  
TAFI – thrombin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor  
TF – tissue factor  
TGF – transforming growth factor  
TIME – telomerase immortalized microvascular endothelial  
TLR – toll-like receptor  
TNF – tumor necrosis factor  
tPA – tissue type plasminogen activator  
tc-tPA – two chain tissue type plasminogen activator



uPA – urokinase type plasminogen activator

uPAR – urokinase type plasminogen activator receptor

UCLA – University committee on laboratory animals

VE – vascular endothelial

VEGF – vascular endothelial growth factor

vWF – von Willebrand factor

WPB – Weibel-Palade bodies

WT – wild type

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## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Coagulation**

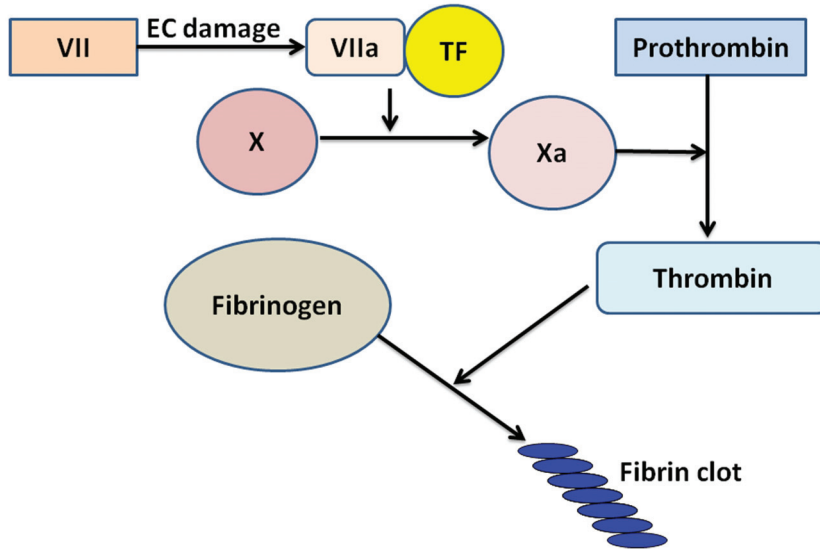
Blood clots (thrombi) are formed in the vasculature in order to stop blood loss following damage to blood vessels. Tissue factor is sequestered from circulation under normal conditions, primarily by endothelial cells, adventitial fibroblasts, pericytes and smooth muscle cells.<sup>1</sup> Following vessel injury, a clotting cascade involving circulating inactive serine proteases (pro-enzymes) with specific targets is initiated. Tissue factor is exposed to the clotting factors present in the blood. Tissue factor is now able to interact with Factor VII to activate it into Factor VIIa. Factor VIIa activates Factor X into Factor Xa, which in turn activates prothrombin into the active protease thrombin. Circulating fibrinogen (Fg) is cleaved by thrombin into fibrin to form the main protein component of blood clots.<sup>2</sup> This mechanism for initiation of coagulation is known as the tissue factor pathway (Figure 1A). Another mechanism for initiating coagulation is known as the contact activation pathway. Similar to the tissue factor pathway, the contact activation pathway can also be initiated by damage to cell surfaces. In this pathway, the damaged cell surface along with exposed collagen provides a matrix for the activation of various factors leading to clot formation. Following damage, Factor XII interacts with high-molecular-weight kininogen and prekallikrein, resulting in the active Factor XIIa, which activates Factor XI to Factor XIa. Factor XIa activates Factor IX to Factor IXa. Factor IXa then interacts with Factor VIIIa to activate Factor X. Following Factor Xa activation, thrombin is activated to cleave fibrinogen into fibrin (Figure 1B).<sup>3-5</sup> Damage to the endothelium also results in the exposure of collagen in the sub-endothelial matrix. Exposed collagen activates circulating platelets, which also contribute to the formation of

the clot.<sup>6</sup> However, blood clots do not only form in order to prevent blood loss following injury. Blood clots are continually forming due to sluggish blood flow, the presence of tissue debris in the blood, or lipids.<sup>7-9</sup> Certain pathological conditions such as atherosclerosis<sup>10</sup> and cancer<sup>11</sup> may also result in undesirable formation of clots. An inability to clear clots in a proper fashion may result in myocardial infarction and stroke.<sup>12</sup> It is therefore necessary to have a system capable of degrading clots when they are unwanted or no longer necessary.

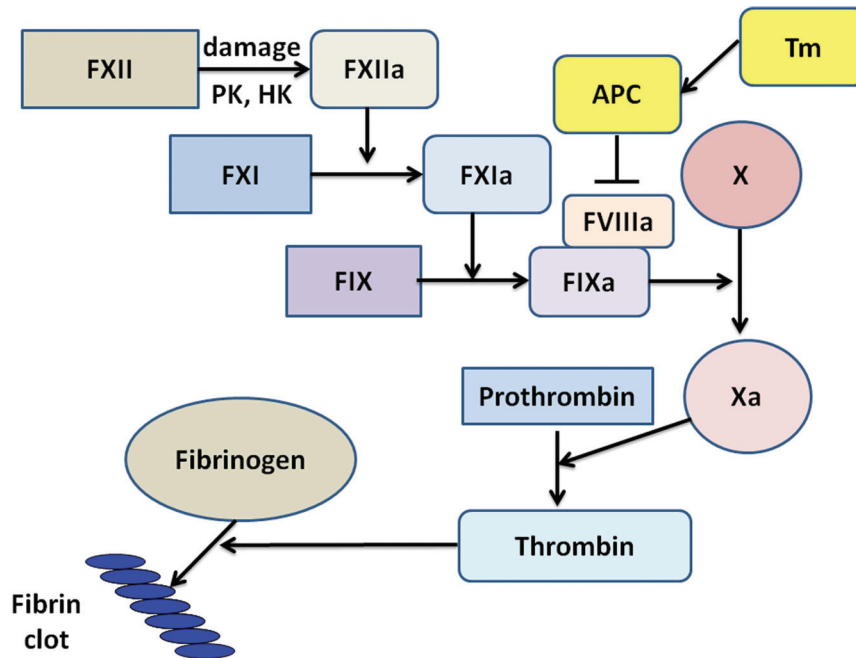
**Figure 1. Coagulation pathways.** The two predominant coagulation pathways are shown. The tissue factor (extrinsic) pathway relies on the exposure of tissue factor following blood vessel damage to initiate coagulation (A) while the contact activation (intrinsic) pathway is tissue factor independent and relies on a cascading activation of serine proteases to initiate coagulation (B). Abbreviations used: Tissue factor (TF), factor (F), prekallikrein (PK), high-molecular-weight kininogen (HK), activated protein C (APC), thrombomodulin (Tm), endothelial cell (EC).

## TF pathway

A)



B) Contact activation pathway



## 1.2 The Plasminogen/Plasmin Fibrinolytic System

In order to degrade blood clots in the vasculature, the inactive zymogen plasminogen (Pg) is converted to the active protease plasmin. The primary function of plasmin is to degrade fibrin, the protein component of blood clots, in a process known as fibrinolysis.<sup>13</sup>

Activation of Pg by the Pg activators (PAs), the tissue-type plasminogen activator (tPA) and the urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA), is tightly regulated, as is regulation of plasmin once it has been activated.

### 1.2.1 Plasminogen

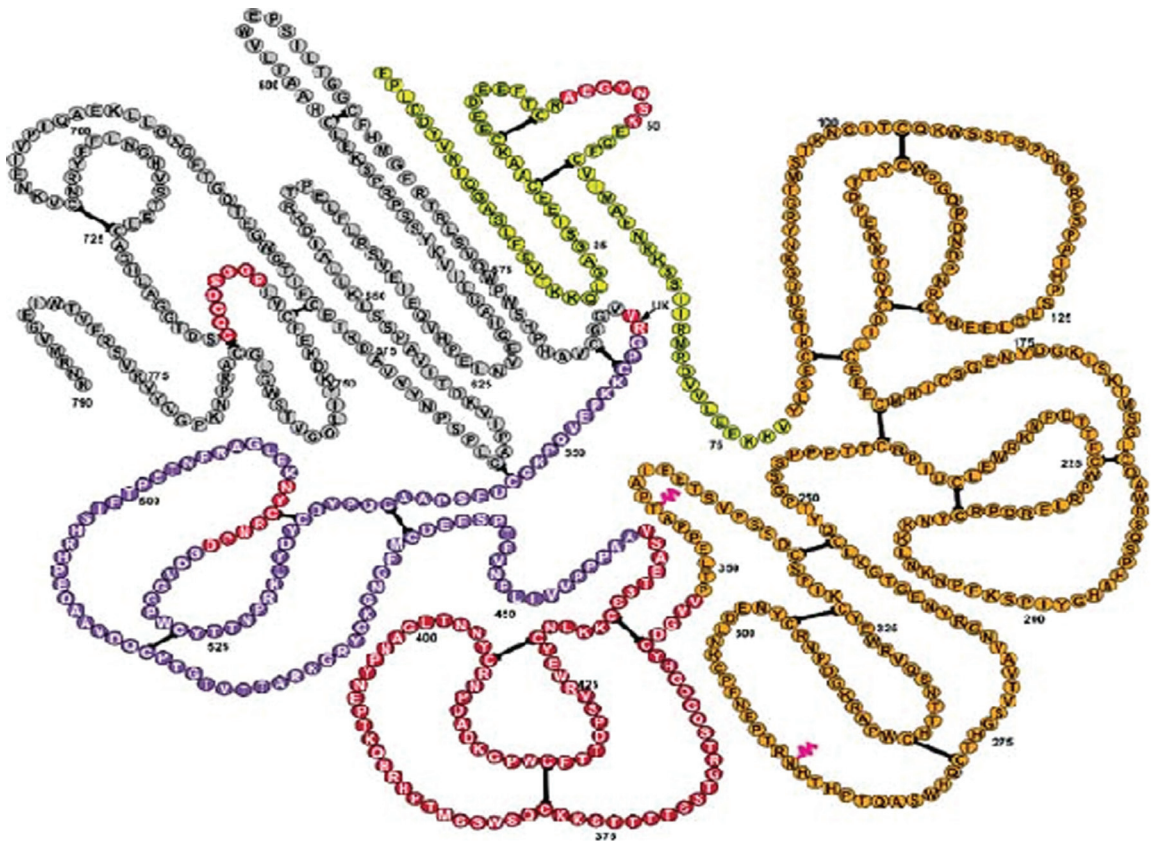
N-terminal glutamic acid plasminogen (Glu-Pg), a single-chain 92 kDa glycoprotein, is secreted from the liver and circulates in the plasma at a concentration of 1.5  $\mu\text{M}$ .<sup>14</sup> Glu-Pg is composed of seven domains: an N-terminal plasminogen-apple-nematode (PAN) domain, five kringle domains (K1-K5) and a serine protease domain (Figure 2).<sup>15</sup> The PAN domain, consisting of the first 77 amino acid residues of the N-terminus, interacts with the kringle domains to regulate its activity.<sup>16</sup> The PAN-kringle interaction results in a closed conformation that is more resistant to activation.<sup>17,18</sup> Removal of the PAN domain generates Lys<sup>77</sup>-plasminogen (Lys-Pg), which results in an open conformation that is more susceptible to activation. Cell bound Glu-Pg is converted to Lys-Pg by plasmin, increasing the rate of Pg activation by PAs.<sup>19</sup>

The kringle domains of Pg serve as docking sites for protein-protein interactions as well as playing a critical role in regulating Pg conformation. Most importantly, they serve as docking sites for interactions with fibrinogen and cell surface Pg receptors containing C-

terminal lysines. Of the five kringle domains, only K3 lacks a lysine-binding site while K1 and K4 have the highest affinity binding sites for lysine (Figure 2).<sup>15,20-23</sup>



**Figure 2. Structure of plasminogen.** The full length structure of human Pg is shown, with one letter amino acid code representing the amino acid sequence. Pink coloured wavy lines represent glycosylation sites while black lines connecting cysteine residues indicate disulfide bonds. Kringles 1-3 are orange, kringle 4 is red, kringle 5 is purple and the plasmin catalytic domain in gray. Adapted from<sup>24</sup>.



### 1.2.2 Plasmin

Plasmin (Pm), formed following the activation of Pg by Pg activators, is a serine protease primarily responsible for cleaving the fibrin component of clots. In addition to cleaving fibrin, plasmin is also capable of cleaving other extracellular matrix proteins, including fibronectin,<sup>25</sup> laminin,<sup>26</sup> thrombospondin<sup>27</sup> and von Willebrand factor (vWF).<sup>28</sup> Binding of Pg and plasmin occurs on a multitude of different cell types, including endothelial cells, fibroblasts, leukocytes, cancer cells, platelets, epidermal cells, neuronal cells and hepatocytes.<sup>6,29-32</sup> Localization of Pg and Pm on the cell surface allows Pm to be present at sites requiring blood clot dissolution, as well as in the invasiveness of various cell types.<sup>29,33-39</sup> Such spatio-temporal plasmin generation therefore allows Pm to participate in various cell-specific proteolytic events.

Plasmin is also capable of initiating a proteolytic cascade by activating several matrix metalloproteases (MMPs),<sup>40,41</sup> which are capable of degrading other components of the extracellular matrix. The development of the Pg null mouse has demonstrated that plasmin activity is critical in several physiological processes, including wound healing,<sup>42,43</sup> liver repair,<sup>44</sup> adipose tissue development<sup>45</sup> and breast feeding.<sup>46</sup> Experiments conducted using the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse have established that Pm is the key fibrinolytic enzyme. Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice display spontaneous fibrin deposits due to decreased fibrinolysis and have an impaired ability to clear thrombi experimentally lodged in the lungs.<sup>34</sup> Administration of a bolus of Pg results in restoration of thrombolytic potential in Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice as fibrin deposits disappeared and experimentally lodged thrombi were cleared following Pg injection.<sup>47</sup> Induction of vascular injuries in Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice demonstrated that Pm is involved in proper

vascular remodelling in response to injury.<sup>48-50</sup> Further proof that the effects observed in the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse were due to impaired fibrinolysis was obtained by crossing the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse with the Fg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse. In addition to increased fibrin deposition, the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> also suffered from progressive wasting syndrome, which is characterized by runting, weight loss and premature death.<sup>34</sup> Interestingly, the Pg<sup>-/-</sup>Fg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse did not suffer from progressive wasting syndrome.<sup>51</sup> Adverse health effects associated with loss of Pg were therefore due, at least in large part, to an inability to deal with fibrin deposits which occur normally.<sup>51</sup> Loss of Pg also impaired macrophage infiltration in response to inflammatory stimuli.<sup>37</sup> Plasmin is also involved in the development of several pathologies, including cancer growth<sup>52-54</sup> and metastasis,<sup>55</sup> acute promyelocytic leukemia,<sup>56</sup> angiogenesis,<sup>38,57,58</sup> atherosclerosis<sup>59</sup> and neurodegeneration.<sup>60</sup> A role for Pm in the progression of antigen-induced arthritis was also observed in the uPA<sup>-/-</sup> mouse, as the inability to clear fibrin deposits within the joints exacerbated the progression of the disease.<sup>61</sup> Plasmin contributes to angiogenesis<sup>38</sup> by releasing and activating growth factors stored in the extracellular matrix.<sup>40,62</sup> Regulation of plasmin generation is therefore critical since insufficient, excessive and improper localization of plasmin activity can result in severe pathological outcomes.

### **1.2.3 Plasminogen Activation**

Activation of Pg into plasmin is catalyzed by the Pg activators, tPA and uPA. Highly specific serine proteases, tPA and uPA activate Pg into Pm by cleaving Pg between Arg<sup>561</sup>-Val<sup>562</sup>. As a result of this cleavage, Glu-Pg becomes two-chained Glu-Pm, which consists of a 561 amino acid heavy chain linked by two disulfide bonds to a 230 amino acid light

chain. Plasmin is stabilized by a salt bridge that is formed between the N-terminal Val<sup>562</sup> created by the cleavage and Asp<sup>740</sup>. The oxyanion hole and substrate binding pocket of the active site of plasmin, found in the serine protease domain, is stabilized by this salt bridge. The catalytic triad of His<sup>603</sup>, Asp<sup>646</sup> and Ser<sup>741</sup> is found within the serine protease domain in the light chain of Pm.<sup>63,64</sup> Since systemic plasmin activity would lead to excessive fibrinolysis, active plasmin is highly regulated.  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin binds free plasmin with high affinity in the blood and forms the irreversible, covalently linked plasmin-antiplasmin complex which inhibits plasmin activity.<sup>65-67</sup> Plasmin in the serum is also inhibited by  $\alpha$ 2-macroglobulin.<sup>68</sup> These plasmin inhibitors ensure that plasmin activity is localized to sites requiring plasmin mediated proteolysis and prevent systemic plasmin activity.

#### 1.2.4 Plasminogen Activators

Pg is activated into plasmin by two PAs: tissue-type Pg activator (tPA) and urokinase-type Pg activator (uPA). tPA, which is primarily synthesized by endothelial cells, keratinocytes and in the brain, is the primary PA responsible for vascular fibrinolysis. Produced as a single-chain 72 kDa protein (sctPA), it is converted into the more active two-chain (tctPA) by plasmin, kallikrein and factor Xa.<sup>68</sup> This conversion of sctPA to tctPA increases tPA activity by 15-fold.<sup>69</sup> Binding of sctPA to fibrin results in a conformational change which increases its activity to levels comparable to that of tctPA.<sup>70</sup> tPA also binds to cell surface receptors with C-terminal lysines via its kringle domains in a manner similar to the way Pg binds to cell receptors.<sup>71,72</sup> tPA has the ability to bind both fibrin and endothelial cells, allowing co-localization of tPA and Pg for optimal Pg activation at sites requiring Pm activity.

uPA is secreted by many cell types, including leukocytes, fibroblasts, keratinocytes, epithelial cells, endothelial cells and cancer cells.<sup>29</sup> uPA is secreted as an inactive single-chain polypeptide termed pro-uPA (or scuPA). Binding of pro-uPA to its cellular receptor, urokinase PA receptor (uPAR) facilitates the activation of pro-uPA to active uPA by several proteases including plasmin, cathepsin B, factor VIIa and certain MMPs.<sup>68,73,74</sup> Increased uPA expression and activity is associated with increased invasiveness of various cell types, including cancer cells.<sup>75-77</sup> uPA activity can be correlated with cancer metastasis and can be an indicator of disease recurrence. For these reasons, uPA-uPAR have been targets for various targeted cancer therapies.<sup>52,77-79</sup>

Plasmin is capable of activating both of its activators in a process termed reciprocal zymogen activation.<sup>80,81</sup> This allows a sudden burst of localized plasmin activity at sites requiring plasmin proteolysis. The regulation of PAs is therefore also important to prevent unnecessary fibrinolysis and ensure proper spatio-temporal plasmin activity.

### **1.2.5 Plasminogen Activator Inhibitors**

Inhibition of the PAs is mediated by the Pg activator inhibitors (PAIs). PAI-1 is the primary PAI and is produced and secreted in the vasculature by the liver, smooth muscle cells, adipocytes and platelets. PAI-1 has a short half life when circulating in plasma but binding of PAI-1 to vitronectin in the extracellular matrix (ECM) significantly prolongs its half life.<sup>82</sup> Binding of PAI-1 to the uPA-uPAR complex results in endocytosis of the complex, removing active uPA from the cell surface and decreasing uPA dependent Pg activation.<sup>83</sup> Following the binding of tPA and PAI-1, the tPA-PAI-1 complex is internalized by the low-density lipoprotein-related and very low-density lipoprotein receptors and degraded.<sup>84,85</sup> PAI-1 is therefore capable of decreasing plasmin mediated proteolytic capacity by mediating the removal and degradation of plasmin activators found in circulation.

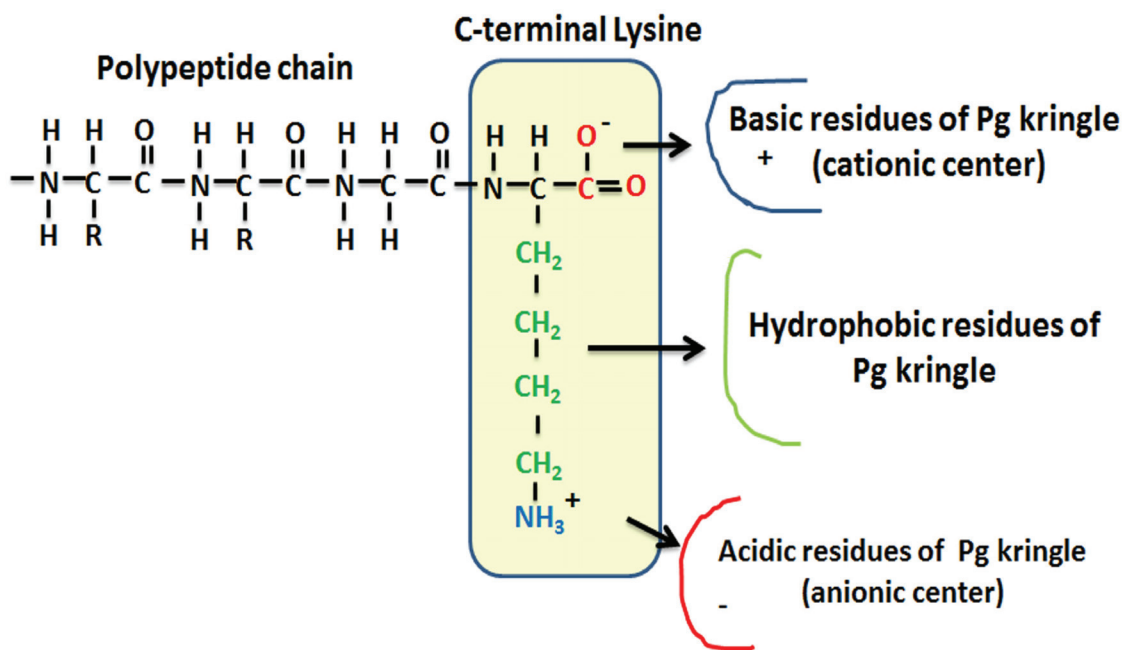
### **1.2.6 Cell Surface Receptors for Plasminogen and Plasminogen Activators**

In order to localize Pg activation to the surface of cells requiring proteolysis, cells utilize a variety of molecules that have the ability to bind to Pg with low affinity ( $K_d = 1 \mu\text{M}$ ) and high capacity ( $10^4$ - $10^7$  receptors per cell).<sup>86-89</sup> Cell surface receptors for Pg include several proteins and gangliosides.<sup>13</sup> Extensive work has demonstrated that binding of Pg to eukaryotic cells is blocked by peptides containing C-terminal lysines, lysine and lysine analogs such as  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid ( $\epsilon$ -ACA). These experiments led to the conclusion that cell surface proteins containing C-terminal lysines interact with the kringle domains of Pg to mediate binding of Pg to cell surfaces (Figure 3).<sup>30,90,91</sup> A list of cell surface Pg receptor proteins can be found in table 1. Among the proteins with C-terminal lysines



which function as cell surface Pg receptors are  $\alpha$ -enolase,<sup>91</sup> Plg-R<sub>TK</sub>,<sup>92</sup> cytokeratin 8,<sup>93</sup> histone H2B<sup>94</sup> and the annexin A2 heterotetramer (AII<sub>t</sub>).<sup>95</sup> Of particular interest to this thesis is AII<sub>t</sub>, which will be discussed in detail in sections 1.3 and 1.4.

**Figure 3. Interaction between the lysine binding kringle domain of plasminogen and the carboxyl-terminal lysine residue of the plasminogen receptors.** Lysine-binding sites in the Pg kringle domain interacts with a carboxyl-terminal lysine on the Pg receptor. The anionic, cationic and hydrophobic nature of the carboxyl-terminal lysine interacts with three distinct regions within the kringle: the cationic center, the anionic center and the hydrophobic groove.



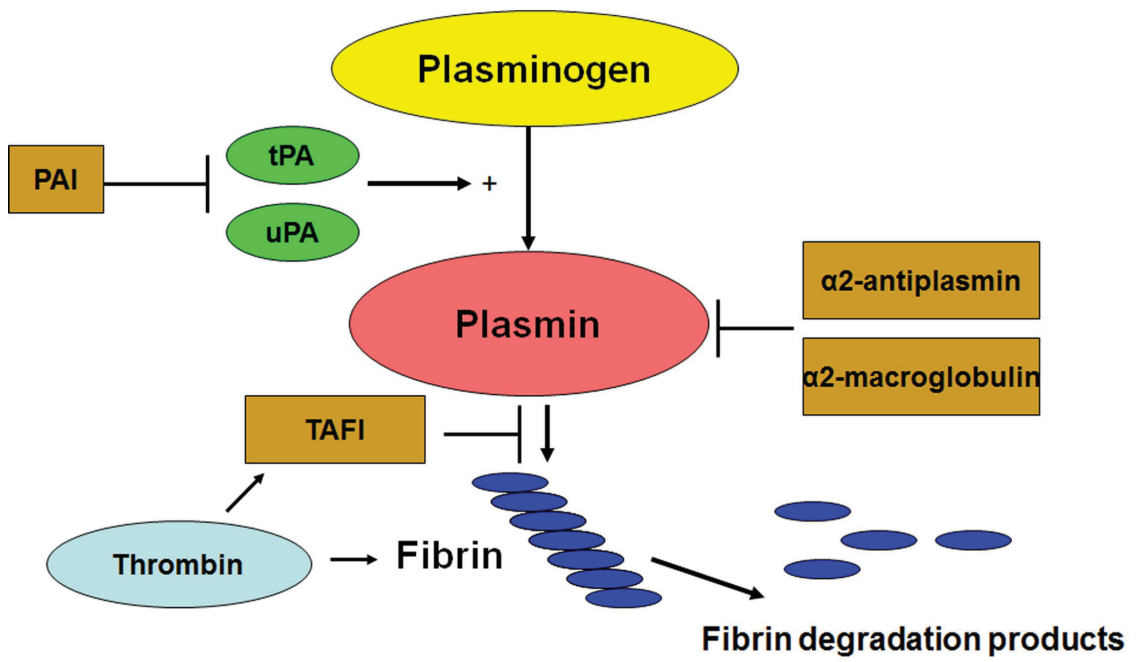
**Table 1. Identified cell-surface receptor proteins for plasminogen**

<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Cell type</b>	<b>Contains C-terminal lysine</b>
Annexin A2 <sup>93</sup>	Various	No
Annexin A2 heterotetramer <sup>94</sup>	Various	Yes
Histone 2B <sup>95</sup>	Various	Yes
Integrin $\alpha$ M $\beta$ 2 <sup>96</sup>	Leukocytes	No
GAPDH <sup>97</sup>	Streptococcus pyogenes 64/14	Yes
Actin <sup>98</sup>	Endothelial cell	No
Gp330 <sup>99</sup>	Kidney epithelial	No
$\alpha$ -enolase <sup>100</sup>	U-937	Yes
Cytokeratin 8 <sup>90</sup>	Epithelial cell	Yes
Histone-proline rich glycoprotein (HPRG) <sup>101</sup>	Various	Yes
Plg-R <sub>TK</sub> <sup>102</sup>	Catecholaminergic cells	Yes

### **1.2.7 Plasminogen Receptor Inhibitors**

Activation of Pg may also be regulated by Pg receptor inhibitors, which remove C-terminal lysine from Pg receptors, preventing binding of Pg. Some of the more prevalent Pg receptor inhibitors are thrombin-activated fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI), carboxypeptidase B and carboxypeptidase N.<sup>96-100</sup> Hydrolysis of the C-terminal lysine by these enzymes prevents C-terminal lysine dependent Pg and tPA binding to cell surfaces, which results in decreased co-localization between Pg and PAs. Additionally, since PAs and Pm are no longer protected by being bound to cell surface receptors, there are increased interactions between PA and PAIs and Pm and  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin.<sup>101</sup> Regulation of Pg activation is therefore a complex process that limits plasmin mediated proteolysis to sites requiring plasmin activity (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Regulation of Plasmin Activation and Activity.** Activation of Pg into the active serine protease plasmin is catalyzed by two Pg activators, the tissue-type Pg activator (tPA) and the urokinase-type Pg activator (uPA). tPA and uPA are inhibited by the Pg activator inhibitors (PAIs), while active plasmin is inhibited by  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin and  $\alpha$ 2-macroglobulin. Plasmin degradation of fibrin clots is inhibited by thrombin-activated fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI). Inhibitors are shown in brown boxes and PAs in green boxes.



### **1.3 Annexin A2 Heterotetramer**

The annexin A2 heterotetramer (AII<sub>t</sub>) is composed of two annexin A2 subunits and two S100A10 subunits (figure 5).

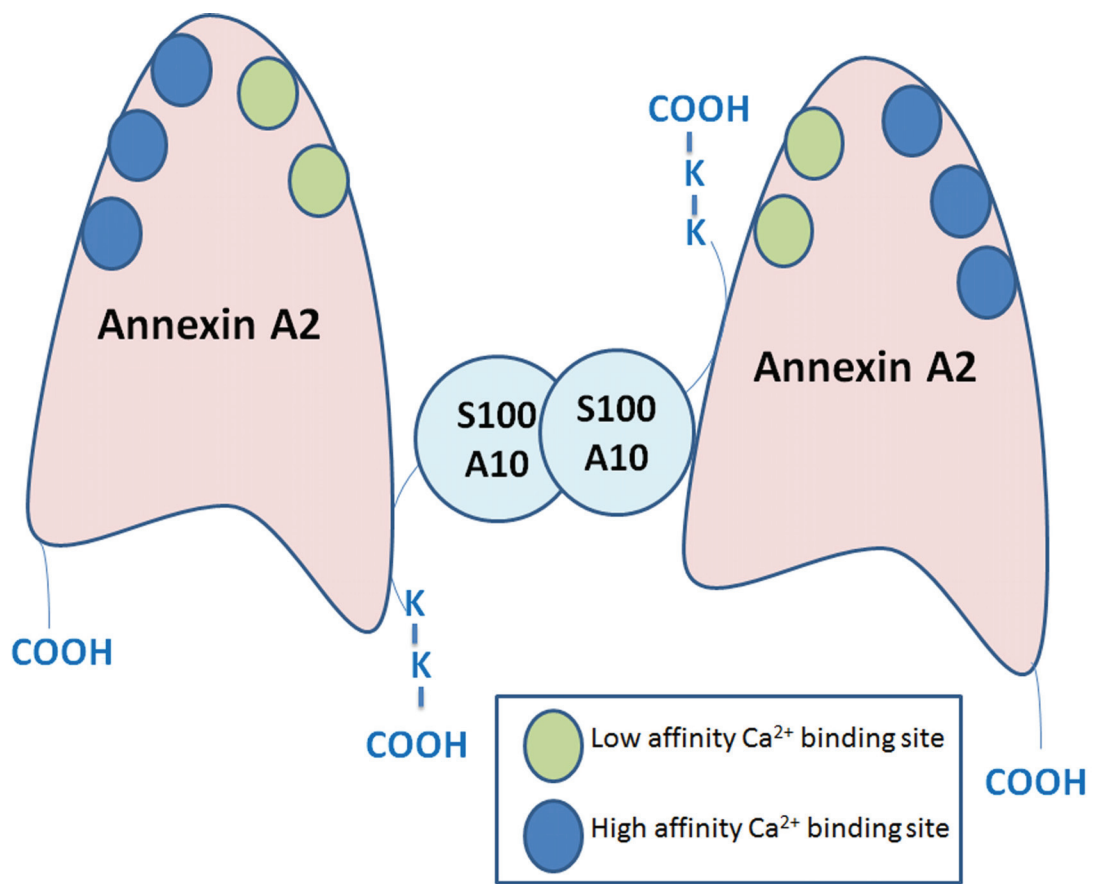
#### **1.3.1 Annexin A2**

Annexin A2 belongs to the annexin family of proteins. The annexins are characterized by the presence of conserved annexin repeats, which are approximately 70 amino acids in length, and by an ability to bind to negatively charged phospholipids in a Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent fashion.<sup>102</sup> Annexins have been shown to participate in numerous cellular processes, including endocytosis,<sup>103</sup> exocytosis,<sup>104</sup> vesicle trafficking,<sup>105</sup> inter-cellular interactions,<sup>106</sup> cellular interactions with the extracellular matrix,<sup>107</sup> ion channel formation<sup>108</sup> and inhibition of phospholipase A2.<sup>109</sup> Annexin A2 exists in both a monomeric and heterotetrameric form with S100A10. The ratio of heterotetrameric/monomeric annexin A2 varies from cell-type to cell-type. Overall, approximately 90% of annexin A2 is present in the heterotetrameric form within cells<sup>110</sup> but can range from nearly 100% heterotetrameric in intestinal epithelial cells to 50% monomeric in fibroblasts.<sup>111</sup> Annexin A2 is predominantly localized in the cytoplasm,<sup>112</sup> the plasma membrane,<sup>113-116</sup> in the nucleus<sup>117,118</sup> and associated with the cytoskeleton.<sup>119</sup> Several studies have observed that AII<sub>t</sub> is associated with caveolae.<sup>120-122</sup> A planar curved molecule, annexin A2 has opposing concave and convex sides (Figure 5). The concave side contains the amino- and carboxy-terminals of the protein while the convex side contains the phospholipid and Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding sites.<sup>123,124</sup> Several regulatory sites exist on the concave side of the annexin A2. The N-terminal regions contains the S100A10 binding site (S1-G14)<sup>110</sup> along with several sites



for post-translational modifications, including a redox sensitive cysteine (C8) which is glutathionylated,<sup>125</sup> three phosphorylation sites (S11, Y23 and S25) which have regulatory functions<sup>126-130</sup> and a nuclear export signal.<sup>118</sup> Annexin A2 may be phosphorylated by pp60src,<sup>131</sup> c-src and protein kinase C.<sup>127,129</sup> Such phosphorylation events can be controlled by growth factor signaling cascades<sup>132-134</sup> and regulate cellular processes such as Rho-mediated actin rearrangement,<sup>130</sup> cell surface AIIIt localization<sup>128</sup> and annexin A2 nuclear entry.<sup>135</sup>

**Figure 5. Structure of annexin A2 heterotetramer (AIIIt).** An illustration of the structure of AIIIt. Two annexin A2 subunits interact with two S100A10 subunits.



Annexin A2 may also be ubiquitinated, yet this modification does not appear to target the protein for proteasomal dependent degradation. Instead, it possibly regulates actin binding.<sup>136</sup> The C-terminal region of the protein has another redox sensitive cysteine (C132), which is also susceptible to glutathionylation. Reversible glutathionylation at C8 and C132 regulates annexin A2 binding to F-actin and phospholipids.<sup>137</sup> Also located in the C-terminal region are binding sites for F-actin,<sup>138</sup> Ca<sup>2+</sup> and phospholipids,<sup>110,139</sup> heparin<sup>140</sup> and fibrin.<sup>141</sup> The region between F32 and D338 of the protein contains Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding sites with the sequence GxGT-[38 aa]-D/E<sup>123</sup> and consists of four 68-69 amino acid long homologous repeats containing five helices.

Functionally, annexin A2 has been shown to participate in a variety of cellular processes. Of particular interest to this thesis is that annexin A2 serves to anchor AII<sup>t</sup> to the extracellular cell surface, allowing the Pg receptor S100A10 to regulate the conversion of Pg into plasmin.<sup>95,110,115,116,142,143</sup> Annexin A2 lacks a typical signal peptide for transport to the extracellular membrane. Phosphorylation of annexin A2 at tyrosine 23 is necessary for translocation of AII<sup>t</sup> from the cytoplasm to the extracytoplasmic plasma membrane. Transport to the extracellular membrane as a result of this phosphorylation occurs independently of the classical endoplasmic reticulum-golgi pathway.<sup>144</sup> In addition, binding of annexin A2 to intracellular S100A10 blocks polyubiquitinylation of S100A10 and subsequent proteosomal dependant degradation.<sup>145</sup> Loss of annexin A2 therefore also results in loss of S100A10<sup>146</sup> and the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mouse can in fact be considered an AII<sup>t</sup><sup>-/-</sup> mouse. Like other annexins, annexin A2 has been demonstrated to play a role in endocytosis,<sup>103,147-151</sup> exocytosis<sup>152,153</sup> and vesicular transport.<sup>102,110,154</sup> Additionally, annexin

A2 binds with F-actin to modulate the cytoskeleton,<sup>130,138,155,156</sup> interacts with various cell-adhesion molecules including E-cadherin,<sup>157</sup> CD-44,<sup>158</sup> tenascin-C<sup>159</sup> and AHNAK,<sup>160</sup> regulates several ion channels<sup>161,162</sup> and modulates lipid raft organization.<sup>163-165</sup> Annexin A2 has been reported to be overexpressed in a variety of different cancers.<sup>106,166-171</sup> This upregulation may provide several advantages to tumor growth. Increased annexin A2 levels may lead to increased AIIIt levels at the cell surface and increase cancer cell proteolytic activity, which increases metastatic and angiogenic potential by providing a mechanism for ECM remodelling required for these processes.<sup>39,58,77,128,172</sup> Additionally, a role for annexin A2 in cellular transformation was first suggested following the observation that annexin A2 was a phosphorylation target of v-Src in transformed fibroblasts.<sup>173</sup> Recent studies have demonstrated that annexin A2 may not only be target of v-Src, but may play a role in proper v-Src cellular localization and may be required for v-Src dependent transformation.<sup>174</sup> Annexin A2 has also been shown to play a role in increased cell motility by modulating rho-dependent actin remodelling.<sup>175</sup> Phosphorylation of S25 localizes annexin A2 to the nucleus and has been shown to associated with nuclear entry, DNA synthesis and cell proliferation.<sup>135</sup> A role in cancer cell redox regulation has also been demonstrated,<sup>176</sup> indicating that annexin A2 may modulate tumorigenesis in a multitude of fashions. Recently, annexin A2 has been described as a receptor in plasmin mediated signaling in monocytes.<sup>177-179</sup> Further investigation into the role annexin A2 and AIIIt may play in cell signaling will be described in chapters 4 and 5.

### 1.3.2 S100A10

S100A10 is a member of the S100 family of proteins, which are small (approximately 10 kDa) usually acidic polypeptides characterized by the presence of an EF-hand calcium binding motif on the N- and C-terminal regions, connected by an unstructured linker region.<sup>180,181</sup> Binding of calcium to the EF-hand domains result in conformational changes, usually resulting in the ability to bind to effector proteins. Therefore, S100 proteins respond to changes in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentrations within cells and participate in signaling events in response to these alterations.<sup>182,183</sup> S100 proteins are usually located in the cytoplasm and nucleus, though some are secreted and act as chemoattractants in metastatic disease.<sup>184</sup> S100 proteins are involved in a multitude of cellular processes, including differentiation, cell cycle progression, metabolic regulation and inflammation.<sup>181</sup> S100A10, the primary focus of this thesis, is different from other S100 family members in that a mutation in the EF-hand domain has rendered it insensitive to calcium and is maintained in a constitutively active state.<sup>185-187</sup> S100A10, which was initially discovered with its binding partner, annexin A2<sup>187,188</sup> is therefore able to bind annexin A2 in a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  independent fashion. Expression of S100A10 has been observed in most cell types and tissues. Lung, kidney and intestine have the highest S100A10 levels while expression levels are very low in the liver and absent in red blood cells.<sup>110,189,190</sup> S100A10, usually as part of AIIt, interacts with various other cellular components, including the Rho GTPase-activating protein DLC1,<sup>191</sup> cytosolic phospholipase A2,<sup>192</sup> the potassium channel TASK-1,<sup>193</sup> the sodium channel Na(V)1.8,<sup>194</sup> the calcium channels TRPV5 and TRPV6<sup>195</sup> and the serotonin 1B receptor (5-HT1B receptor).<sup>196,197</sup> Interaction between S100A10 and these trans-membrane proteins is necessary for proper localization and function. S100A10

therefore appears required for proper surface presentation of some receptors and ion channels. Cathepsin B, a lysosomal cysteine-protease, interacts with the S100A10 in AIIIt on the cell surface.<sup>198</sup> Subsequent work from the Sloane laboratory showed that caveolin-1 may participate in localization of S100A10 and AIIIt to the extracellular membrane and that this was important in localization of cathepsin B to the cell surface.<sup>199</sup> AIIIt in caveolae may therefore promote proteolysis in multiple ways: by mediating Pg activation and interacting with another protease, cathepsin-B. Our laboratory has demonstrated that S100A10 on the cell surface directly binds Pg and tPA, thus promoting conversion of Pg into the active serine protease plasmin.<sup>39,95,115,116,143</sup>

### **1.3.3 Role of AIIIt in fibrinolysis**

Initially, annexin A2 was identified as a cell surface Pg and tPA receptor.<sup>200-202</sup> More recently, our laboratory has expanded on the original model to demonstrate that annexin A2 serves to localize AIIIt to the cell surface and that it is the S100A10 portion of the heterotetramer that acts as the Pg and tPA receptor.<sup>95,116,143</sup> Surface plasmon resonance studies have demonstrated that S100A10 binds Pg ( $K_d=1.81 \mu\text{M}$ ), tPA ( $K_d=0.45 \mu\text{M}$ ) and plasmin ( $K_d=0.36 \mu\text{M}$ ) while AIIIt binds to Pg ( $K_d=0.11 \mu\text{M}$ ), tPA ( $K_d=0.68 \mu\text{M}$ ) and plasmin ( $K_d=77 \text{ nM}$ ). Annexin A2, on the other hand, failed to bind to Pg and tPA but displayed binding affinity for plasmin ( $K_d=0.78 \mu\text{M}$ ). Treatment with carboxypeptidase B (CpB) removed C-terminal lysines of S100A10 and abrogated Pg and tPA binding to S100A10 and AIIIt.<sup>95,203</sup> In AIIIt, only S100A10 contains a C-terminal lysine, fulfilling a requirement for Pg binding. Characterization of the ability of the components of AIIIt to activate Pg into plasmin in a tPA dependent fashion support these binding studies.

S100A10 itself was able to increase the rate of tPA dependent plasmin generation 46 fold, while AIIIt increased the rate 77 fold. Annexin A2, on the other hand, was only able to increase the rate of generation 2 fold. The presence of S100A10 and AIIIt also protected plasmin from inactivation by  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin and tPA inactivation by PAI-1.<sup>143</sup> AIIIt also promotes plasmin activation by co-localizing on the cell surface with uPAR, bringing cell bound Pg into close proximity with its other activator.<sup>39,143,172</sup> Loss of S100A10 and/or AIIIt from the cell surface results in decreased plasmin activation in several cell types, including macrophages,<sup>142,204</sup> fibrosarcoma (HT-1080),<sup>39</sup> colorectal cancer (colo 222),<sup>172</sup> breast cancer,<sup>205</sup> leukemic<sup>206,207</sup> and endothelial cells.<sup>208,209</sup> Depletion of S100A10 in HT-1080 fibrosarcoma cells by transfection with antisense S100A10 also significantly reduced tumor growth in SCID mice.<sup>39</sup> Loss of S100A10 and/or AIIIt in these cells also results in impaired invasiveness through extracellular matrices, indicating that AIIIt dependent plasmin activation is critical in cellular invasion in processes such as fibrinolysis, angiogenesis, tumor growth and macrophage infiltration. AIIIt, through S100A10, is therefore a critical regulator of plasmin activation at the cell surface.

#### **1.4 Endothelial Cells**

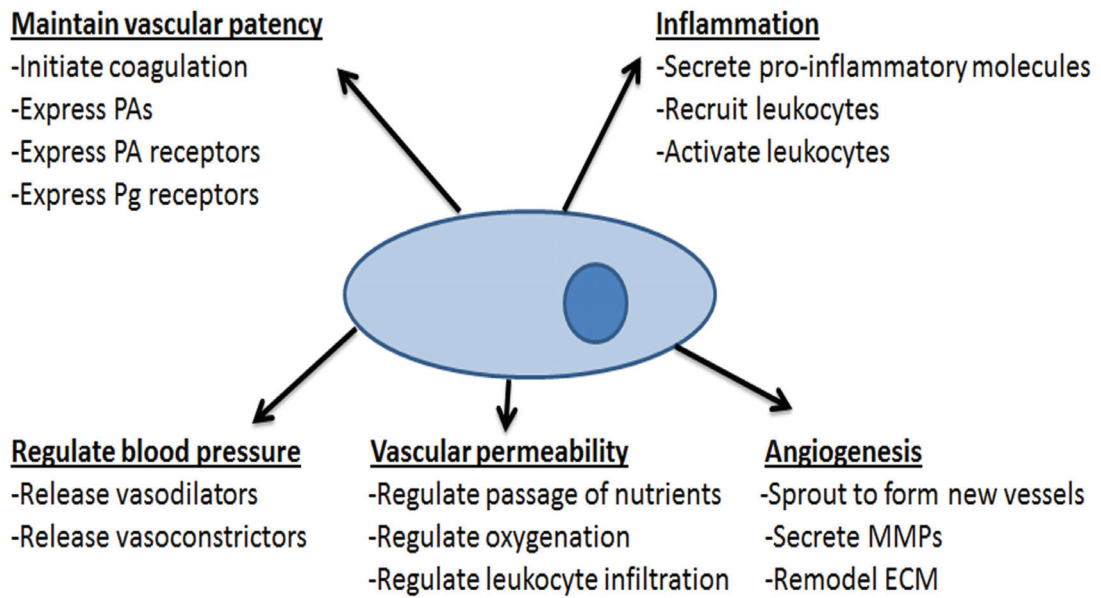
Endothelial cells line blood vessels and participate in a wide range of physiological processes (Figure 6). One of the primary functions of the endothelium is to control thrombotic and fibrinolytic systems to ensure proper blood flow is maintained under normal physiological conditions. Endothelial cells from different parts of the body vary in function. For example, endothelial cells in the liver, spleen and bone marrow sinusoids are lined in a discontinuous fashion as to allow cellular trafficking between them while



endothelial cells in endocrine glands and in peritubular capillaries of the kidney are fenestrated as to allow selective permeability.<sup>210</sup> Endothelial cells from large vessels like the aorta and the umbilical vein also differ from endothelial cells isolated from smaller vessels and capillaries. Microvascular endothelial cells are considerably more proteolytically active than macrovascular endothelial cells since they express higher levels of tPA<sup>211</sup> and MMPs.<sup>212</sup> Consequently, microvascular endothelial cells are more active in fibrinolysis and angiogenesis than macrovascular endothelial cells.<sup>213</sup> The roles of the endothelium in angiogenesis will be described in detail later in this section and in the maintenance of vascular patency will be discussed in further detail in section 1.5. Endothelial cells form a semi-permeable barrier that regulates the passage of nutrients, fluids and leukocytes between the blood and interstitial space. This allows nutrients to flow through the body in a regulated fashion and nourish tissues and organs while also participating in controlling inflammatory responses. In order to regulate this barrier, endothelial cells interact with one another and with other vascular cells using cadherin and tight junctions. Cadherin junctions are primarily regulated by vascular endothelial (VE-) cadherin. A transmembrane protein, VE-cadherin links adjacent endothelial cells together to prevent vascular leakage.<sup>214</sup> Alterations of VE-cadherin may result in increased vascular leakage. Among the factors which increase vascular permeability by altering VE-cadherin via phosphorylation are histamine,<sup>215</sup> lipopolysaccharides (LPS)<sup>216</sup> and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).<sup>217</sup> The cadherin junctions are located immediately basal to the tight junctions.<sup>218</sup> Tight junctions form the barriers that are responsible for the blood-brain barrier and the blood-testis barrier.<sup>219</sup> Tight junctions are more developed in the macrovasculature than in the microvasculature since greater nutrient exchange occurs

in microvascular endothelial cells. Leukocyte infiltration into tissues also normally occurs in post-capillary venules, requiring less developed tight junctions to ease infiltration.<sup>220</sup> Claudins are the major constituent of the tight junctions and, like VE-cadherin, are transmembrane proteins that can be altered by phosphorylation. Transforming growth factor (TGF- $\beta$ 1) in fact induces phosphorylation of VE-cadherin and claudin-5 to increase vascular permeability in the nervous system.<sup>221</sup> Both cadherin and tight junctions link the extracellular environment with the intracellular environment with the use of transmembrane proteins. The intracellular portions of VE-cadherin and claudins are linked to other protein complexes inside the cell which are linked to the actin cytoskeleton.<sup>222-224</sup>

**Figure 6. Endothelial cell functions.** Illustration of the various endothelial cell functions.



Endothelial cells contribute to the regulation of blood pressure and flow by secreting factors that promote either vasodilation or vasoconstriction. Nitric oxide (NO), a free radical that is produced in endothelial cells via endothelial NO synthase (eNOS) oxidation of L-arginine to L-citrulline,<sup>225</sup> is a vasodilator that is released constitutively by endothelial cells. Basal eNOS activity is triggered by the shear stress produced by flowing blood.<sup>226</sup> eNOS activity may be enhanced by a variety of stimuli, including thrombin, histamine,<sup>227</sup> acetylcholine<sup>228</sup> and bradykinin,<sup>229</sup> resulting in increased NO production and secretion. NO mediates vasodilation by relaxing vascular smooth muscle cells by interacting with guanylyl cyclase.<sup>230</sup> Additionally, NO participates in the maintenance of proper blood flow by inhibiting platelet aggregation, promoting platelet disaggregation<sup>231</sup> along with inhibition of leukocyte adhesion to endothelial cells.<sup>232</sup> Endothelial cells also secrete another potent vasodilator, prostacyclin (PGI<sub>2</sub>), which also aids in the maintenance of proper blood fluidity by relaxing vascular smooth muscle cells and by inhibiting platelet activation.<sup>233,234</sup> Endothelial cells also secrete molecules that trigger vasoconstriction. Endothelin is produced by endothelial cells and interacts with vascular smooth muscle cells to trigger vasoconstriction.<sup>235</sup> Endothelin expression is inhibited by NO<sup>236</sup> and is stimulated by epinephrine, thrombin, angiotensin II, hypoxia, insulin and cytokines.<sup>237</sup> Disruption in blood flow results in decreased NO production and subsequent increased endothelin activity. Endothelial cell dysfunction results from failure to produce sufficient NO, leading to vessel constriction. Prolonged endothelial dysfunction as a result of diminished NO secretion and impaired blood flow may result in chronic inflammation.<sup>238</sup>

Leukocytes, which circulate in the vasculature, are predominantly responsible for immune reactions. In order to mediate inflammatory responses outside of the blood, leukocytes must interact with endothelial cells to extravasate from the circulating blood into the extravascular space where the immune reaction is taking place. Therefore, endothelial cells play a critical role during inflammatory responses. During inflammatory responses, endothelial cells at the site of inflammation are activated in two types of responses. Type I activation is transcription independent and allows a rapid response to extracellular ligands through G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) and increased intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels.<sup>238,239</sup> Type II activation is transcription dependent and takes longer to develop but allows for sustained activation in response to factors secreted by leukocytes like tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) and interleukin-1 (IL-1).<sup>238</sup> Activation of endothelial cells results in secretion of NO and  $\text{PGI}_2$  to increase blood flow to the affected area.<sup>232,240</sup> While resting endothelial cells do not support efficient leukocyte recruitment since they do not express high levels of adhesion molecules on the cell surface, activated endothelial cells recruit leukocytes to the site of inflammation by exocytosing Weibel-Palade bodies (WPBs), resulting in presentation of P-selectin on the cell surface to interact with leukocytes and release of chemoattractants that induce adhesion.<sup>241-243</sup> Other adhesion molecules like E-selectin, ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 are also expressed by activated endothelial cells to mediate leukocytes recruitment.<sup>238,244,245</sup> Once leukocytes are sequestered by the endothelium, they interact with other adhesion molecules on the endothelial cells (CD31 and CD99) to extravasate between adjacent endothelial cells into the extravascular space.<sup>246,247</sup>

Endothelial cell dysfunction plays a critical role in the progression of atherosclerosis. Elevated native low density lipoprotein (LDL) and modified LDL levels in the blood have been demonstrated to induce endothelial cell dysfunction, in part by reducing NO bioavailability.<sup>248</sup> The combination of endothelial cells dysfunction and elevated LDL levels result in an accumulation of LDL within the arterial wall.<sup>249</sup> Free radicals created by endothelial cells and leukocytes react with LDL to create oxidized-LDL (oxLDL).<sup>250</sup> Increased leukocyte adhesion and infiltration occurs as a result of endothelial dysfunction. As monocytes infiltrate into the intimal space, they are transformed into macrophages by colony-stimulating factor (CSF).<sup>249</sup> Macrophages engulf oxLDL using scavenger LDL receptors and turn into foam cells following overwhelming lipid ingestion and metabolism.<sup>251</sup> Foam cells release more inflammatory stimuli, perpetuating the inflammatory response and increasing the likelihood of thrombotic events and plaque formation, eventually creating an atherosclerotic lesion.<sup>249,250</sup>

In adults, the quiescent vasculature does not produce new blood vessels under normal situations. Angiogenesis, or the growth of new blood vessels, normally only occurs in adults in a highly regulated fashion during the female reproductive cycle.<sup>252</sup> During development, angiogenesis is tightly controlled and the resulting vasculature is highly structured and organized. Angiogenesis may also occur following tissue injury in order to re-vascularize damaged areas.<sup>253</sup> Several pathological disorders trigger the quiescent vasculature to become mitotically active and sprout to develop new blood vessels.<sup>254</sup> Of particular interest to this thesis is the requirement for endothelial cell proteolytic activity during angiogenesis to remodel the extracellular environment. Excessive abnormal

angiogenesis can contribute to tumor growth, adiposity and chronic inflammation while suppression of angiogenesis is associated with cardiac failure and diabetic nephropathy.<sup>255</sup> As a tumor grows, it reaches a size where simple oxygen diffusion is insufficient to allow sufficient metabolism to occur to permit continued growth. The key transcriptional regulator hypoxia inducible factor- $\alpha$  (HIF- $\alpha$ ) becomes stabilized in low oxygen conditions and induces the transcription of several pro-angiogenic genes, including VEGF, angiopoietins, fibroblast growth factor, MMPs and PAs.<sup>256</sup> HIF- $\alpha$  induces the expression of these genes in the tumor and in endothelial cells themselves during periods of oxygen deprivation. Endothelial cells respond to these growth factors by sprouting towards the area of oxygen deprivation in order to restore proper oxygenation.<sup>257,258</sup> During this process, adhesion molecules on endothelial cells become altered to allow migration of the endothelial cells.<sup>254,259</sup> MMPs and plasmin play important roles in this migration since the extracellular matrix must be degraded in a specific way to clear a path for the sprouting endothelial cells.<sup>255,260</sup> Regulation of Pg activation is therefore important in angiogenic regulation<sup>58</sup> and a role for AII in this processes has been demonstrated.<sup>208</sup>



## 1.5 Maintenance of Vascular Patency by Endothelial Cells

The vascular system provides a network for blood flow through the body. As described previously, blood contains a system that is capable of initiating rapid coagulation.

Endothelial cells, which line the interior of blood vessels, are primarily responsible for controlling the processes that mediate coagulation and fibrinolysis. Impairment in the ability of endothelial cells to regulate either of these processes can have lethal consequences. Endothelial cells regulate fibrinolysis by expressing cell surface Pg receptors (including AII<sub>t</sub>) and secreting PAs and their inhibitors.<sup>36,261</sup> Additionally, endothelial cells regulate the initiation of coagulation. Thrombomodulin, a transmembrane protein expressed by endothelial cells, binds and inactivates thrombin.<sup>262</sup> The thrombomodulin-thrombin complex activates protein C to activated protein C (APC).<sup>263,264</sup> APC, whose zymogen is produced by the liver and circulates in plasma,<sup>265</sup> is a serine protease that exhibits anti-coagulatory effects by degrading Factor Va and Factor VIIIa. Activation of APC is further stimulated by the endothelial cell protein C receptors.<sup>266</sup>

Endothelial cells also play an important role in the initiation of coagulation. Tissue factor is expressed in low levels by the resting endothelium and is maintained beneath the cell surface or between cells.<sup>267</sup> Following endothelial injury, tissue factor becomes exposed to coagulation factors in the plasma and initiates coagulation.<sup>268</sup> Tissue factor expression in endothelial cells is also induced in response to stimulation from pro-inflammatory mediators like endotoxin,<sup>269</sup> thrombin,<sup>270</sup> cytokines,<sup>271</sup> VEGF,<sup>272</sup> hypoxia<sup>273</sup> and oxLDL.<sup>274</sup> Endothelial cells also express thrombin receptors, the protease-activated receptors

(PARs), on the cell surface. Binding of thrombin to PAR1, a GPCR, triggers endothelial cell activation and induces the expression of pro-thrombotic factors and inflammatory mediators.<sup>227,275</sup> During inflammation, TNF and IL-1 trigger leakage of plasma proteins (including fibrinogen) to provide a matrix for cells invading out of the vasculature. Fg that has leaked is cleaved to fibrin to provide structure for the matrix. Prolonged inflammation can therefore lead to the development of fibrin clots in the area surrounding the vasculature.<sup>238,276</sup>

Under normal circumstances, endothelial cells do not interact with platelets present in the blood. However, as is the case in endothelial-leukocyte interactions, endothelial cells may be triggered to interact with platelets and participate in their activation. Following endothelial injury, platelets adhere to the exposed endothelial compartments to initiate coagulation.<sup>277</sup> Platelets interact with vWF and collagen that has been exposed due to injury.<sup>277</sup> This interaction, in conjunction with exposure to adenosine di-phosphate (ADP) from endothelial cells and thrombin, triggers platelet activation.<sup>278</sup> Activated platelets mediate further platelet aggregation and bind fibrinogen to promote thrombus formation.<sup>278</sup> Activated platelets also release growth factors like VEGF and basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) that recruit inflammatory cells, fibroblasts and endothelial cells to participate in wound healing.<sup>279,280</sup> The fibrin clot formed with the aid of platelets stems blood loss due to injury while also serving as a matrix for the cells that migrate to the site of injury to participate in wound healing. In normal physiological wound healing, these cells will regulate plasmin activation to break down the fibrin clot as wound healing progresses.<sup>268</sup>

## 1.6 Homocysteine

Elevated levels of homocysteine (Hcy) in plasma (hyperhomocystenemia) have been identified as a significant independent risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, stroke, thrombosis and dementia.<sup>281</sup> Hcy is an amino acid which contains a sulfhydryl group. It is formed by demethylation of methionine, a reaction catalyzed by S-adenosyl-methionine synthetase.<sup>282</sup> Homocysteine can either be remethylated to form methionine in a vitamin B12-dependent reaction or undergo transsulphuration into cysteine in a vitamin B6 dependent reaction, a reaction catalyzed by Cystathionine  $\beta$ -synthase.<sup>282</sup> Mutations in the enzymes which catalyze these reactions as well as a diet insufficient in folate, vitamin B12 or vitamin B6 may result in elevated plasma homocysteine levels.<sup>283</sup> In circulation, homocysteine is primarily bound to serum proteins via a hcy-cysteine disulfide linkage.<sup>282</sup> It may also exist as a monomer, as a homocystine (Hci) homodimer linked by a disulfide bond, as a homocysteine-cysteine dimer or as cyclic homocysteine thiolactone (HTL).<sup>284,285</sup> Even though Hcy and cysteine (Cys) vary by one carbon group (Figure 7), the pKa of the sulfhydryl group of Hcy is more elevated than that of Cys.<sup>286</sup> As a result, disulfide bonds formed between Hcy and cysteine residues on proteins are much more stable and are less likely to be displaced by other thiols than disulfide bonds formed with other thiols.<sup>287</sup>

## 1.7 Role of homocysteine in endothelial cell dysfunction.

One mechanism by which Hcy may contribute to cardiovascular disease is by contributing to endothelial cell dysfunction.<sup>288-295</sup> Elevated homocysteine levels induce

endothelial cell dysfunction by increasing vascular oxidant stress, resulting in decreased nitrous oxide (NO) bioavailability.<sup>296-298</sup> Hcy has also been shown to induce ERK phosphorylation through an unknown G protein-coupled receptor.<sup>299</sup> ERK activation by homocysteine results in increased expression of MMP-9,<sup>281,300</sup> which also contributes to homocysteine mediated endothelial dysfunction. AIIIt has been shown to play a role in similar signaling events in response to plasmin,<sup>301</sup>  $\beta$ 2-glycoprotein I<sup>302</sup> and may trigger signaling events itself through Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4).<sup>303</sup> Annexin A2 is present in lipid rafts,<sup>154,304</sup> and may therefore participate in signaling initiation that may occur in lipid rafts.<sup>305</sup>

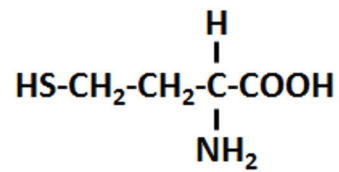
### **1.8 Interaction of Homocysteine and AIIIt**

Another mechanism by which Hcy may contribute to cardiovascular disease and stroke is by inhibiting endothelial cell fibrinolytic activity.<sup>291</sup> Conflicting reports exist in the literature as to where tPA binds on AIIIt. Our group has reported that tPA binding occurs on the C-terminal lysine of S100A10<sup>95</sup> while the Hajjar group has reported that tPA binding occurs at Cys8 of Annexin A2.<sup>202</sup> The Hajjar group has reported that binding of Hcy to Cys8 prevents binding of tPA to Annexin A2, resulting in a decrease in AIIIt dependent plasmin activation on the cell surface of endothelial cells.<sup>291</sup> Interestingly, other groups report that Hcy also exists as homocysteine-thiolactone (HTL) (Figure 7) in the blood. HTL may also modify proteins. Unlike Hcy, which attacks free thiols, HTL binds to proteins through acylation of the  $\epsilon$ -amino group of lysine by the activated carboxyl group of HTL.<sup>306</sup> Given the importance of the C-terminal lysine of S100A10 in plasmin activation, binding of HTL to S100A10 could provide an alternative mechanism to Hcy

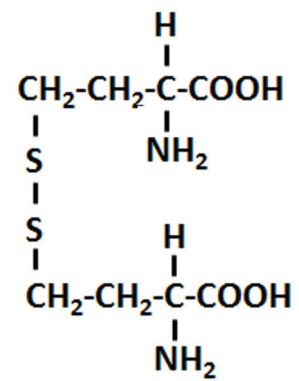
inhibition of AII<sub>t</sub> dependent plasmin activation. Elucidating the mechanism by which Hcy impairs AII<sub>t</sub> dependent fibrinolysis can therefore offer insight into how hyperhomocysteinemia increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

**Figure 7. Structures of homocysteine, homocystine, homocysteine thiolactone and cysteine.** Chemical structures of homocysteine, homocystine, homocysteine thiolactone and cysteine are drawn.

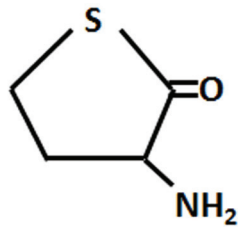
### Homocysteine



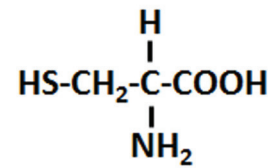
### Homocystine



### Homocysteine thiolactone



### Cysteine



## **1.9 Conceptual Framework**

The primary objective of this study was to elucidate the role of endothelial cell S100A10 in regulating the active serine protease plasmin. The primary function of plasmin is to maintain vascular patency by degrading the fibrin-rich blood clots, a process called fibrinolysis. Fibrinolysis is a normal vascular process that occurs continuously and is required to prevent naturally occurring blood clots from growing and causing vascular occlusions which would result in heart attack and stroke. A number of studies have demonstrated the importance of AII<sub>t</sub> in regulating plasmin activation. However, most of the literature has focused on the role of the annexin A2 monomer in endothelial plasmin activation instead of the role of the heterotetramer. Based on the work presented in this thesis, we hypothesize that S100A10 plays a key role in the fibrinolytic and angiogenic response of endothelial cells *in vivo*.



## **CHAPTER 2: MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Mice**

The S100A10-deficient (S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>) mice, along with their wild type (WT) counterparts, are on a 129SV x a C57BL/6 background and were a generous gift from Dr Per Svenningsson.<sup>196</sup> The annexin A2-deficient mice (annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup>), along with their WT counterparts, are on a 129SVj x a C57BL/6J background and were a generous gift from Dr Katherine Hajjar.<sup>208</sup> Experimental mice were typically 6 to 8 weeks of age and of mixed gender. All animal experiments performed were in accordance with protocols approved by the University Committee on Laboratory Animals at Dalhousie University.

### **2.2 Isolation of murine microvascular endothelial cells**

Primary murine microvascular endothelial cells (MMECs) were isolated from lungs of S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> and WT mice. Lungs were removed from 6 mice and washed in Hank's buffered saline solution (HBSS) without Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup>. Lungs were then minced into 1-2mm<sup>2</sup> pieces in HBSS without Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> and washed twice. The HBSS was aspirated and minced lungs were placed in 5 ml Dulbecco's minimal eagle medium (DMEM) (Gibco) with 0.18 U/ml Blendzyme Liberase (Roche Diagnostic) and 0.1 mg/ml DNase 1 (Invitrogen) for 1 hour at 37 °C for digestion. The supernatant after digestion was collected and pooled with the collection of supernatants of washing the minced lungs 3 times with 5 ml HBSS without Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup>. The cell suspension was centrifuged for 8 minutes at 600 x g and washed twice with 30 ml HBSS without Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup>. The cell pellet was re-suspended in 5 ml Trypsin/EDTA (Gibco) for 10 minutes at 37 °C followed

by passage through a 70 µm filter and washed with HBSS with 1% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich). The cell suspension was Fc blocked by incubation with 5 µg in 500 µl mouse IgG for 20 minutes at 4 °C followed by a 20 minute incubation at 4 °C with magnetically labelled anti-CD144 antibody (Miltenyi Biotec). The cell pellet was washed 3 times with HBSS with 1% BSA and labelled cells were separated using a miniMAC separation column (Miltenyi Biotec) according to manufacturers directions. Purified cells were plated on gelatin-coated flasks. Purity of endothelial cells was determined by visualizing Dil-Ac-LDL (Biomedical Technologies) stained cells by microscopy.

### **2.3 Cell culture**

Telomerase Immortalized Microvascular Endothelial (TIME) cells, a generous gift from Dr M. McMahon (UCSF)<sup>307</sup>, and MMECs were maintained in endothelial basal medium-2 (EBM-2) media (Lonza) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Gibco). T241 fibrosarcoma cells were a generous gift from Dr Y. Cao (Karolinska Institute) and were maintained in DMEM with 10% FBS.

### **2.4 Plasmids**

pSUPER-retro-S100A10 shRNA1 was constructed by cloning the dsDNA oligo 5'-GAT CCC CGT GGG CTT CCA GAG CTT CTT TCA AGA GAA GAA GCT CTG GAA GCC CAC TTT TTA-3' and 5'-AGC TTA AAA AGT GGG CTT CCA GAG CTT CTT CTC TTG AAA GAA GCT CTG GAA GCC CAC GGG-3' into the pSUPER.retro.puro vector

(OligoEngine), pSUPER-retro-S100A10 shRNA5 was constructed by cloning the dsDNA oligo 5'-GAT CCC CAG AGT ACT CAT GGA AAA GGT TCA AGA GAC CTT TTC CAT GAG TAC TCT TTT TTA-3' and 5'-AGC TTA AAA AAG AGT ACT CAT GGA AAA GGT CTC TTG AAC CTT TTC CAT GAG TAC TCT GGG-3' into the pSUPER-retro.puro vector (OligoEngine), pSUPER-retro-annexin A2 shRNA4 was constructed by cloning the dsDNA oligo 5'-GAT CCC CGT GCA TAT GGG TCT GTC AAT TCA AGA GAT TGA CAG ACC CAT ATG CAC TTT TTA-3' and 5'-AGC TTA AAA AGT GCA TAT GGG TCT GTC AAT CTC TTG AAT TGA CAG ACC CAT ATG CAC GGG-3' into the pSUPER-retro.puro vector (OligoEngine) and the pSUPER-retro-S100A10 scramble was constructed by cloning the dsDNA oligo 5'-GAT CCC CGT GGG AGT TCA GAG CTT CTT TCA AGA GAA GAA GCT CTG AAC TCC CAC TTT TTA-3' and 5'-AGC TTA AAA AGT GGG AGT TCA GAG CTT CTT CTC TTG AAA GAA GCT CTG AAC TCC CAC GGG-3' into the pSUPER-retro.puro vector (OligoEngine).

## **2.5 Transfections and Transductions**

Phoenix-Ampho packaging cells plated to 80-90% confluence in 25 cm<sup>3</sup> flasks were transfected with 5 µg of pSUPER-retro plasmids described above using Lipofectamine 2000<sup>TM</sup> transfection reagent (Invitrogen) according to manufacturers instructions. After 48 hours, supernatants were collected and filtered with a 45µm filter and 8 µg/ml polybrene (Sigma) and added to infect TIME cells plated to 60% confluence in 25 cm<sup>3</sup> flasks for 24 hours. TIME cells were allowed to recover for 48 hours in complete EBM-2 before being selected with 2 µg/ml of puromycin (Invitrogen) in complete EBM-2 for at least one

week. Cells were maintained in the presence of puromycin while in culture.

## **2.6 Western blot analysis and immunostaining**

Proteins, obtained by lysing cells with cell lysis buffer (1% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, and proteinase inhibitor cocktail (1:500; Sigma-Aldrich)) were loaded into each well mixed with SDS sample buffer (60 mM TrisHCl (pH 6.8), 10% glycerol, 2% SDS and 0.1 M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol) and resolved by 12% SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) following the method described by Laemmli<sup>308</sup> and electroblotted onto nitrocellulose membranes.<sup>309</sup> Murine tissues were lysed by dissociating the tissues using a polytron in phosphate buffered solution (PBS) (137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 8.1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1.76 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.4), 1% Triton X-100, 5 mM EDTA, 100 mM  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid, 10 mM benzamidine, 1 mM pefabloc and protease inhibitor cocktail, mixed with SDS sample buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE and electroblotted onto nitrocellulose membranes. Membranes were fixed with 4% formaldehyde, blocked with Odyssey blocking buffer (LI-COR Biosciences) followed by incubation with primary antibodies. Primary antibodies used were monoclonal mouse anti-human S100A10 (BD Biosciences), monoclonal goat anti-mouse S100A10 (R&D Systems), mouse monoclonal anti-annexin A2 (BD Biosciences), fibrin(ogen) (Abcam), mouse monoclonal anti-actin (loading control; Sigma Aldrich), monoclonal rabbit anti-phospho-p42/p44 (Cell Signaling Technology), monoclonal rabbit anti-p42/p44 (Cell Signaling Technology), rabbit monoclonal anti-phospho-p38 (Cell Signaling Technology), rabbit monoclonal anti-p-Jnk (Cell Signaling Technology), polyclonal goat anti-tissue

factor (American Diagnostica), rabbit polyclonal anti- $\alpha$ tubulin (loading control; Santa-Cruz), polyclonal rabbit anti-Pg (American Diagnostica) and monoclonal mouse anti-fibrinogen (American Diagnostica). Membranes were then incubated with the species appropriate secondary IRdye-800 antibody (LI-COR Biosciences). Antibody complexes were viewed using the Odyssey IR imaging system (LI-COR Biosciences). Protein expression was quantified using the Odyssey quantification software. Proteolyzed annexin A2 was prepared according to Kassam *et al.*<sup>143</sup> while bovine AII<sub>t</sub> was prepared according to Khanna *et al.*<sup>311</sup>. Briefly, bovine lung was homogenized and AII<sub>t</sub> purified from the homogenate using a Diethylaminoethyl (DEAE) sepharose column. Proteolyzed annexin A2 was obtained by incubating bovine AII<sub>t</sub> with 50 nM plasmin, resulting in removal of 27 amino acids from the amino-terminal.

## **2.7 Cell Surface Biotinylation**

Endothelial cells were plated to 80% confluence in 100 cm<sup>3</sup> cell culture plates, washed 3X with incubation buffer (IB: 20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 7.4) and then scraped in 150  $\mu$ L IB. The cell suspension was then incubated with 20  $\mu$ L of 10 mM Sulfo-NHS-SS-biotin (Pierce, Rockford IL) to label surface proteins for 30 minutes at room temperature, washed 2X with IB and lysed with cell lysis buffer. Total protein (100  $\mu$ g) from the cell lysis was incubated with 30  $\mu$ L of Dynabeads M-280 streptavidin (Invitrogen) for 2 hours at 4 °C with rotation and washed 5X with cell lysis buffer (1% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM NaVO<sub>4</sub>, 10 mM NaF and protease inhibitor cocktail (1:500; Sigma-

Aldrich)). Biotinylated surface proteins bind to the streptavidin from the Dynabeads and were separated from unlabelled proteins using a magnet since Dynabeads carry a magnetic charge. Beads were re-suspended in 2x SDS-PAGE loading buffer with  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, boiled for 10 minutes and removed from the SDS-PAGE loading buffer using the magnet. Once the Dynabeads were removed, surface proteins were resuspended in 2x SDS-PAGE loading buffer, electrophoresed and immunostained for S100A10 and annexin A2.

## **2.8 Analysis of tissue fibrin deposition by western blot analysis**

WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane. Heparin sodium (500U; Sigma-Aldrich) was injected iv via the tail vein and sacrificed by transcardial perfusion 10 minutes later with ice cold PBS followed by cervical dislocation. Lung, liver, spleen and kidneys were harvested and homogenized in 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 0.1 M  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid, 5 mM trisodium EDTA, 10 U/ml aprotinin, 10 U/ml heparin and 2 mM PMSF using a polytron. The homogenate was incubated with rotation for 14 hours at 4 °C, centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 15 minutes and resuspended in 3 M urea. The suspension was incubated with rotation for 2 hours at 37 °C, vortexed vigorously and centrifuged at 14,000 x g for 15 minutes. The supernatant was discarded and the sediment was dissolved at 65 °C in reducing SDS sample buffer before being resolved by 7.5% SDS-PAGE and immunostained by western blot analysis.

## **2.9 Analysis of tissue fibrin deposition by immunohistochemistry**

Lung, liver, kidney and spleen tissues were removed from the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice following sacrifice by transcardial perfusion with 4% formaldehyde. Tissues were fixed in 10% formalin, dehydrated in ethanol and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin sections were deparaffinized, blocked with horse serum (1:20, Invitrogen) and incubated with an antibody against fibrin (Dako) or normal rabbit IgG1 (as control, BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. A peroxidase DAB detection system (Dako) was applied according to manufacturers detection to visualize fibrin staining and sections were counter-stained with Meyer's Hematoxylin (Sigma-Aldrich). Sections were mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

## **2.10 Batroxobin induced fibrin deposition**

WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were injected with 25 µCi <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen (MP Biomedicals) followed by 25 U/kg batroxobin (Pentapharm) using tail vein catheters (Braintree Scientific). Two hours later, blood and tissues were collected and weighed. Gamma counts for the tissues and blood were measured with a Beckman LS 5000TA scintillation counter and corrected for weight.

### **2.11 Tail vein clip assay**

WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane and the bottom 3 mm of the tail was clipped off with a scalpel and the bleeding tail was placed in 37 °C saline. Time until bleeding stoppage and re-bleeding were recorded.

### **2.12 Histochemistry and immunohistochemistry of murine tails**

Sections of tails from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were fixed in 10% formalin, dehydrated in ethanol and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin sections were deparaffinized, blocked with horse serum (1:20, Gibco, Grand Island, NY) and incubated with an antibody against S100A10 (R&D Systems) or normal goat IgG1 (as control, BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. A peroxidase DAB detection system (Dako) was applied according to manufacturers detection to visualize fibrin staining and sections were counter-stained with Meyer's Hematoxylin (Sigma). Masson's trichrome staining was then performed to ensure tail morphology was not altered by loss of S100A10. For Masson's trichrome staining, sections were deparaffinized, fixed in Bouin's fixative for 1 hour, rinsed in water, stained with celestine blue for 5 minutes and hematoxylin for 8 minutes. The sections were then rinsed in water, placed in Scott's tap water substitute until sections turned blue, rinsed in water again and stained with ponceau 2R/Acid fuchsin mixture for 10 minutes and with 1% phosphomolybdic acid until red stain is removed from collagen but remains in muscle, red blood cells and fibrin. Subsequently, the sections were rinsed in water, stained with 2% light green SF yellowish in 2% acetic acid until the connective elements are stained green, rinsed in water, 100% ethanol and then xylene. Sections were



mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

### **2.13 Murine blood parameters**

Blood was collected from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice by cardiac puncture using a 25-gauge needle into 100 µL EDTA (2% w/v, Sigma-Aldrich). Platelet levels in whole blood were measured using a LH 755 analyzer (Beckman Coulter). Fibrinogen and Pg levels were determined by Western Blot analysis of murine plasma. Murine plasma was obtained following centrifugation (1500 x g) of whole blood collected with EDTA.

#### **2.13.1 Coagulation assays**

The prothrombin time (PT) and activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) were determined using an ACL TOP (Beckman Coulter). Citrated blood collected from the mice was used for both coagulation assays. PT and aPTT were determined by clot formation, measuring turbidity.

### **2.13.2 Clot lysis assay**

In vitro clot lysis was determined using a modification of the aPTT assay. In a 96-well, flat bottom plate, 50  $\mu$ L citrated plasma, 50  $\mu$ L APTT reagent (STA<sup>®</sup>-PTT A, Stago) and 100 $\mu$ L HBS-Tw80 (40 mM HEPES pH 7.0, 150 mM NaCl and 0.01% Tween 80) were added to wells containing 2.5  $\mu$ L of 5.8  $\mu$ M sc-tPA (Genentech). Duplicate reactions were carried out in wells lacking sc-tPA. After incubation at 37 °C for 3 minutes, 100  $\mu$ L of 25 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> was added, the solution mixed and absorbance was monitored at 405 nm every minute for 60 minutes using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader. Clot lysis time was defined as the time required to achieve the absorbance that was one-half of the difference between the maximum absorbance reached after clotting and the minimum absorbance value achieved after complete lysis.

### **2.13.3 Antiplasmin activity and plasmin-antiplasmin complex levels**

Antiplasmin activity was assessed using a Coamatic © Plasmin Inhibitor chromogenic kit (generously provided by Diapharma, West Chester OH), following manufacturer's direction. Antiplasmin activity was measured by loss of plasmin activity. Citrated blood collected from the mice was used. The assay was calibrated using standardized human plasma, HemosIL Calibration plasma (Instrumentation Laboratory, Lexington, MA). Plasmin-antiplasmin levels were determined using Imuclone<sup>®</sup> PAP ELISA (American Diagnostica Inc, Montréal QC) following manufacturer's direction.

#### **2.13.4 Thrombin potential assay**

Endogenous Thrombin Potential was determined using Technothrombin ® TGA (Technoclone, Vienna, Austria), utilizing a modification of the procedure as directed by the manufacturer. Briefly, citrated murine plasma samples collected with 20 mM Benzamidine and 2000 KIU/mL aprotinin were diluted ½ with TGA-buffer prior to addition of the trigger reagent and substrate. This assay measures thrombin potential by initiating coagulation following addition of TF and negatively charged phospholipids. Activation of prothrombin to thrombin is determined using a colourimetric thrombin substrate.

#### **2.14 Endothelial cell plasminogen activation with tPA**

TIME cells and MMECs were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin (Invitrogen) and washed 3X with DPBS. For carboxypeptidase B (CpB; Worthington Biochemical) treatment, cells were incubated for 20 minutes at 37 °C in the presence of 5 U/ml CpB.  $1 \times 10^5$  cells were then incubated with 5 nM tPA in IB for 20 minutes at 4 °C. The cells were then washed 3X with IB and incubated with 0.5 µM Glu-Pg and 250 µM Pm substrate S2251 (Chromogenix, Diapharma Group) with or without 100 mM ε-aminocaproic acid (ε-ACA). The rate of plasmin generation was measured at absorbance 405 nm every minute for 2 hours using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader.

### **2.15 Endothelial cell plasminogen activation with uPA**

TIME cells were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin and washed 3X with Dulbecco's PBS (DPBS) (Hyclone). Cells were then washed with 0.05M glycine, pH 3.0, 0.1 M NaCl for 3 minutes followed by neutralization with an equal volume of 0.5 M HEPES pH 7.5, 0.1 M NaCl to dissociate potential endogenously bound ligands.  $1 \times 10^5$  cells were then incubated with 25 nM uPA (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 minutes at 37 °C in DPBS containing 0.2% BSA, washed 3X in DPBS with 0.2% BSA and incubated with 0.5  $\mu$ M Glu-Pg and 250  $\mu$ M Pm substrate S2251 (Chromogenix, Diapharma Group) in 0.05 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 0.1 M NaCl, 0.01% Tween 80. The rate of plasmin generation was measured at absorbance 405 nm every minute for 2 hours using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader.

### **2.16 FITC-Plasminogen preparation**

Glu-Pg (2-5 mg/mL) was dialyzed against 0.1 M carbonate buffer (pH 9), and a 50 M excess of fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) (Sigma) was added after being dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide. Pg and FITC were mixed for 16 hours in the dark and treated with 0.01% hydroxylamine to remove all labile FITC-Pg bonds. Unincorporated FITC was removed by gel filtration through an NAP-10 column using HBSS (20 mM HEPES, 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>; pH 7.4). Typically, 2 FITC molecules were bound to each Pg molecule as determined by the  $A_{280}/A_{495}$  ratio.

### **2.17 Plasminogen binding assay**

TIME cells and MMECs were washed and cultured in the absence of serum for 2 hours prior to assay. Cells were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin and washed 3X with DPBS. For carboxypeptidase B treatment, cells were incubated for 20 minutes at 37 °C in the presence of 5 U/ml CpB. CpB treatment was performed to remove C-terminal lysines in order to observe C-terminal lysine dependant Pg binding. Cells were then incubated with 200 nM FITC Glu-Pg, with or without  $\epsilon$ -ACA (100 mM), for 1 hour at 4 °C in HBSS. Pg binding was measured by FACS analysis (FACSCalibur, BD Biosciences).

### **2.18 Matrigel plug assay**

Growth Factor-reduced Matrigel (BD Biosciences) containing 200 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) (Invitrogen) and 60 U/mL heparin (Calbiochem) added was injected subcutaneously (750  $\mu$ L) into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> C57BL/6 mice. After 7 days, the Matrigel plug was removed and embedded in Tissue Tek Cryo-OCT (Andwin Scientific).

### **2.19 T241 tumors**

T241 tumors were established by subcutaneous injection of  $2 \times 10^6$  T241 fibrosarcoma cells, suspended in 100  $\mu$ L DMEM (Invitrogen), containing 10% FBS (Hyclone), in the right flank of female 6-8 week old mice. Tumors were removed from the mice after 3 weeks and embedded in Tissue Tek Cryo-OCT (Andwin Scientific). T241 cells are

obtained from a C57Bl/6 derived fibrosarcoma.<sup>311</sup>

## **2.20 Immunofluorescence**

Matrigel plug and T241 tumor sections were blocked with horse serum (1:20; Gibco) and incubated with monoclonal rat anti-CD31 (MEC13.3, 1:250; BD Biosciences) or normal mouse IgG1 (as control; BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. Sections were then stained with Alexa-Fluor 488 conjugated rabbit anti-rat (1:2500; Invitrogen) and DAPI. Vessel density was quantified using Image J v1.42q software (National Institutes of Health).

## **2.21 Matrigel invasion and cell migration**

Murine WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells and control shRNA, S100A10-depleted or annexin A2-depleted TIME cells were loaded ( $1 \times 10^5$  cells/well) into the upper chamber of Transwell chambers with 8  $\mu\text{m}$  pores, coated with Matrigel (invasion assays) or uncoated (migration assays) (BD Biosciences). Pg (0.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ; American Diagnostica) and CpB (5 U/mL) were added to serum-free media in the upper chamber where indicated, while media containing 20% FBS was added to the bottom chamber as chemoattractant. After 48 hours, cells on the underside of the membrane were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (Sigma-Aldrich) and counted.

### **2.22 Aortic ring assay**

Aortas were isolated from the WT, S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> and annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice. All connective tissue was removed from the aortas, which were then cut into segments 1 mm in length and embedded into 250  $\mu$ L of collagen (1.5 mg/ml; Worthington Biochemical) in a 48 well plate. Collagen was formed by mixing 7.5 volumes of 2 mg/ml collagen, 1 volume of 10x MEM (Gibco), 1.5 volumes of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15.6 mg/ml), and ~0.1 volume 1 M NaOH to adjust the pH to 7.4. Once the collagen had solidified around the aortic rings, 200  $\mu$ L of complete EBM-2 was added to each well. After 7 days, images of the aortic sprouts were obtained using a Zeiss Axiovert 200M (2 $\times$ /0.08 NA objective lens) using a Hamamatsu ORCA-R2 digital camera.

### **2.23 Tube formation assay**

100  $\mu$ L of Matrigel was placed in 96 well plates and allowed to solidify. Control, S100A10-depleted or annexin A2-depleted TIME cells were placed on top of the Matrigel or fibrin in the presence of complete EBM-2. After 24 hours, tube formation was viewed using a Zeiss Axiovert 200M (2 $\times$ /0.08 NA objective lens) using a Hamamatsu ORCA-R2 digital camera.

## 2.24 Zymography

Gelatin zymography was performed in 10% SDS-PAGE in the presence of 0.1% gelatin. WT MMECs, S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> MMECs, control shRNA, S100A10 and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells were plated in 96 well plates. Cells were cultured at 37 °C in the presence or absence of Pg in EBM-2 with 1% FBS. Conditioned media was collected after 6 hours, mixed with gel loading buffer (without  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, without boiling) and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Following electrophoresis, gels were washed twice for 30 minutes in renaturing buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 2.5 % Triton X-100) to remove SDS. Gels were then incubated overnight at 37 °C in substrate buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 200 mM NaCl, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.02% Brij-35), stained with 0.1% Coomassie Blue R250 in 50% methanol and 10% glacial acetic acid for 30 minutes and destained.

## 2.25 RNA isolation and cDNA synthesis

Total RNA was isolated from lungs, livers, spleens and kidneys obtained from the WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Tissues were homogenized in Trizol (Invitrogen) using a blender. Total RNA was isolated from WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells and control, S100A10-depleted or annexin A2-depleted TIME cells by lysing cells in Trizol. All RNA extraction using Trizol was performed according to manufacturer's instructions. 1  $\mu$ g total RNA was pre-incubated with random hexamer primers at 70 °C for 10 min prior to incubation at 42 °C for 60 min with 5X FS buffer (Invitrogen), 1 mM dNTP, 40 U RNaseOUT (Invitrogen), 20 mM DTT (Invitrogen), 100 pM random hexamer primers (Invitrogen) and 200 U Super Script II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen) to create cDNA.



## 2.26 Quantitative real-time PCR

For quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) reactions, specific primers for murine and human S100A10, annexin A2 and GAPDH were designed using IDT Primer Quest software (PE Applied Biosystems) and synthesized by IDT. qPCR reactions were performed using the Roto-Gene™ 6000 (Corbett Life Science). Each qPCR reaction was carried out in a total volume of 20 µL containing 8 µL SsoFast™ EvaGreen® Supermix (Bio-Rad, CA), 1 µL each of 3' and 5' primer (IDT) and 10 µL of cDNA. Amplification was performed with an initial incubation of 95 °C for 10 min followed by 45 cycles of the following 3 step procedure: denaturation at 95 °C for 10 min, annealing at 65 °C for 15 seconds and extension at 72 °C for 20 seconds, with a ramp rate of 2 °C/second.

Primer sequences were as follows:

S100A10 forward primer: 5'-AAA TGC CAT CCC AAA TGG AGC ACG-3'

S100A10 reverse primer: 5'-TCA GGT CCT CCT TTG TCA AGT GGT-3'

Annexin A2 forward primer: 5'-CAT CCT GAC AAA CCG CAG CAA TGT-3'

Annexin A2 reverse primer: 5'-AGC ATC ATC CTG GGC AGG TGT CTT-3'

GAPDH forward primer: 5'-TGT GAT GGG TGT GAA CCA CGA GAA-3'

GAPDH reverse primer: 5'-GAG CCC TTC CAC AAT GCC AAA GTT-3'

S100A10 and annexin A2 expression was normalized against expression of the control gene GAPDH to adjust for variations in mRNA quality and cDNA synthesis efficiency.

### **2.27 Plasmin and homocysteine induced signaling**

TIME cells were plated in 12 well plates and incubated overnight with serum reduced (1% FBS) EBM-2. Cells were then incubated with either 0.43 Committee of thrombolytic agents unit (CTA)/mL plasmin (Sigma-Aldrich) or 100  $\mu$ M homocysteine, scraped into cell lysis buffer at 15 min intervals and proteins were analyzed by Western Blot.

### **2.28 Tissue factor activity assay**

TIME cells were lysed by repeated freeze thawing in a buffer of 50 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4. Tissue factor activity of the cell lysates was assayed using the Actichrome TF assay (American Diagnostica) according to manufacturers instructions. Activity is measured using a colourimetric TF substrate.

### **2.29 AIIIt plasminogen activation assay**

1  $\mu$ M bovine AIIIt was incubated with 5 mM homocysteine (Hcy), homocystine (Hci) or cysteine (Cys) or 1 mM homocysteine thiolactone (HTL) overnight at 37 °C. Pg activation was then assayed by incubating the AIIIt with 0.5  $\mu$ M Glu-Pg, 2 nM tPA and 250  $\mu$ M Pm substrate S2251. The rate of plasmin generation was measured at absorbance 405 nm every minute for 2 hours using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader.

### **2.30 Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism. Analysis performed were Student's T test and ANOVA with Tukey test.

## CHAPTER 3: REGULATION OF FIBRINOLYSIS BY S100A10 *in vivo*

### 3.1 S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice accumulate fibrin in their tissues.

S100A10 has been proposed to be an important regulator of cellular Pm generation.<sup>116</sup>

Mice with inactivation of the Pg gene do not generate Pm and develop spontaneous fibrin deposition in the tissues due to impaired fibrinolysis.<sup>312,313</sup> Therefore, we compared the

fibrin content of freshly isolated tissues from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Tissue

homogenates were prepared and the fibrin levels were determined by Western blot

analysis using an anti-fibrin antibody. As shown in Figure 8, tissues from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>

mice contain significantly higher amounts of fibrin than their WT litter mates.

Quantification of band intensity revealed a 1.8-fold increase in fibrin in lung (Figure 8A),

2.2 fold increase in the liver ( Figure 8B), 4.4 fold increase in the spleen ( Figure 8C) and

4 fold increase in the kidney (Figure 8D) from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared with WT

controls. Fibrin immunohistochemistry of tissue sections demonstrated areas of fibrin

deposition in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> lung (Figure 9A), liver (Figure 9B), spleen (Figure 9C) and

kidney (Figure 9D) while fibrin positive staining was not observed in sections from the

WT mice. Since this increased accumulation of fibrin in the tissues of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>

mice could be due to either enhanced coagulation or reduced fibrinolytic activity, we

further investigated the potential role of S100A10 in coagulation and fibrinolysis. The PT

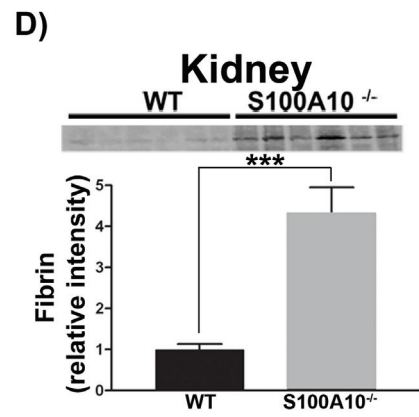
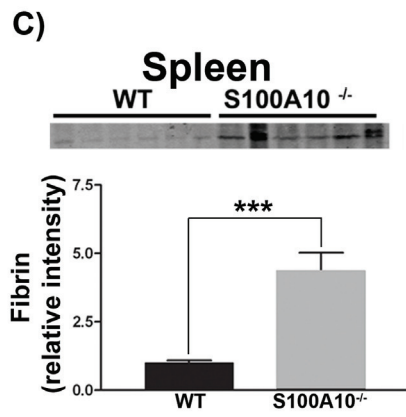
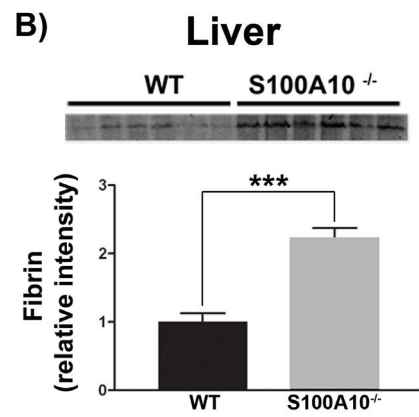
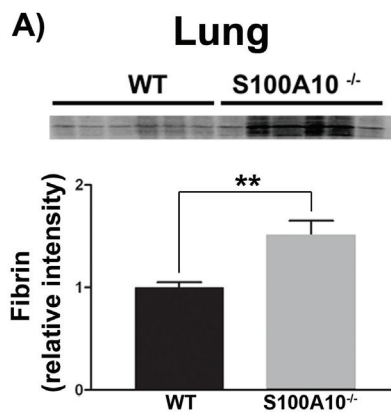
and aPTT values were identical between the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 10),

suggesting that S100A10 depletion does not affect the coagulation pathway.

Previous reports have demonstrated that loss of annexin A2 results in loss of S100A10 in

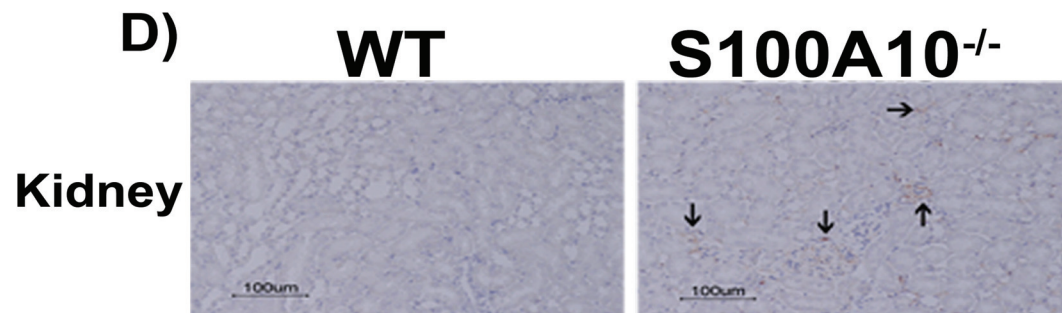
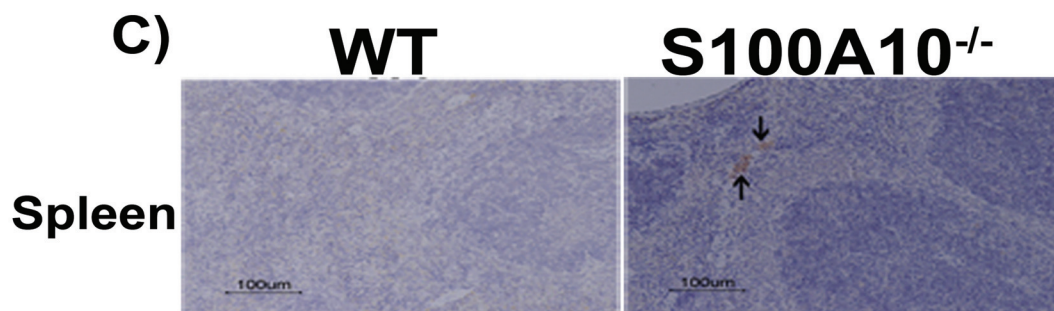
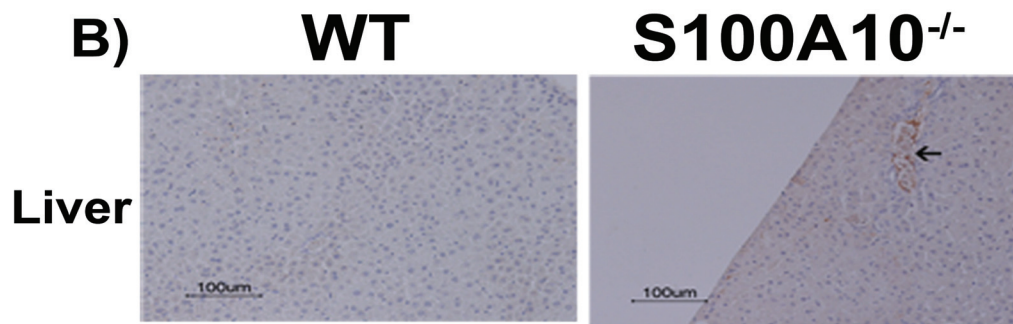
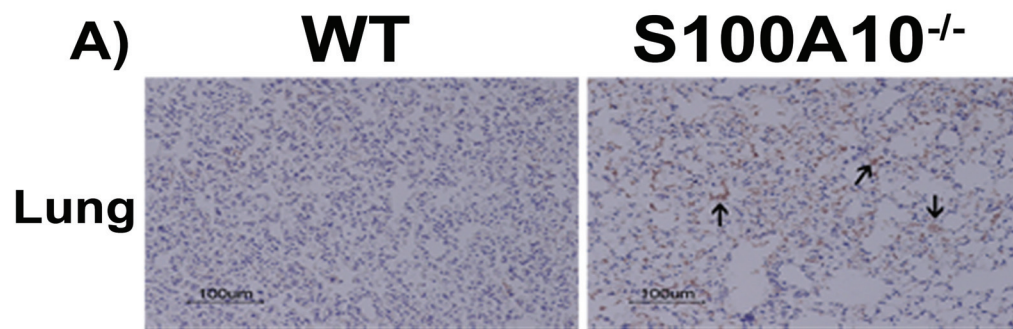
murine tissues.<sup>208</sup> The loss of S100A10 was observed to affect annexin A2 levels in a tissue specific fashion. Loss of S100A10 decreased annexin A2 levels in the lung, spleen and kidney (Figure 11A,C,D), annexin A2 protein was not detectable in WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> liver (Figure 11B) and annexin A2 levels were not altered in the small intestine (Figure 11E). While annexin A2 protein levels were decreased in lung, spleen and kidney from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse, annexin A2 mRNA levels were not altered in these tissues (Figure 12A-C), suggesting that loss of S100A10 results in decreased annexin A2 protein stability in lung, spleen and kidney.

**Figure 8. Western blot analysis reveals that loss of S100A10 results in increased tissue fibrin deposition.** Lung (A), liver (B), spleen (C) and kidney (D) tissues from 6 WT and 6 S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were collected, and the fibrin content of tissue lysates was determined by SDS-PAGE and Western blot analysis. 10 ng of each tissue were loaded. Quantification of fibrin deposition was normalized to WT levels. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean (±) SEM of 6 independent experiments (\*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001).

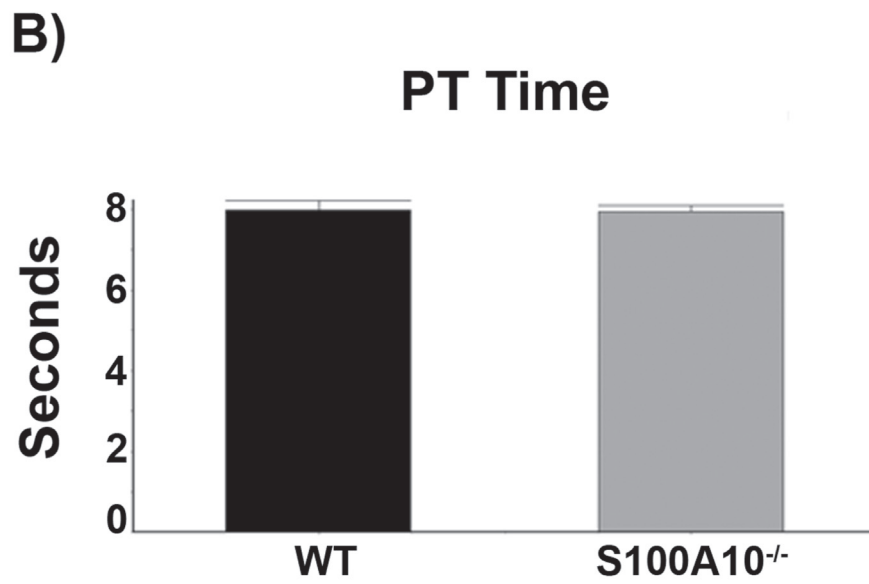
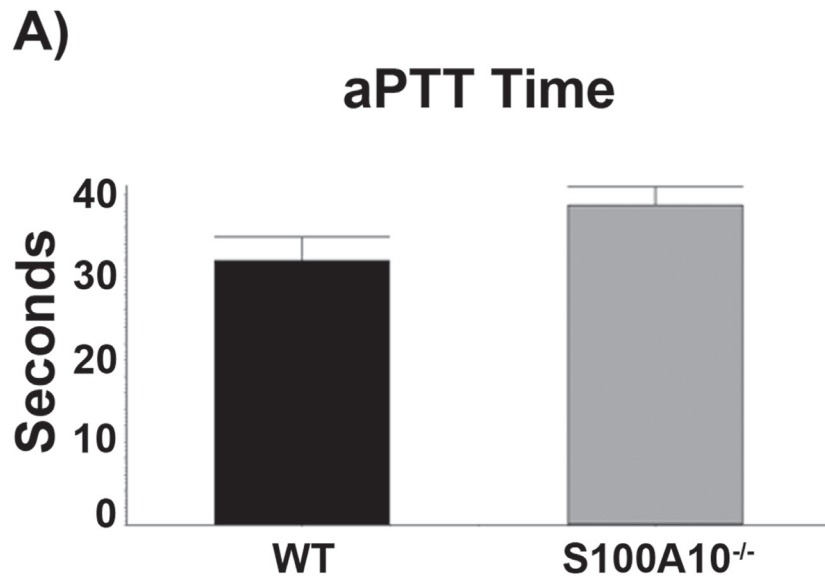


**Figure 9. Immunohistochemical analysis reveals loss of S100A10 results in elevated fibrin deposits in tissues.** Immunohistochemistry for fibrin was performed on perfused sections of formalin fixed tissues. Sections were deparaffinized and incubated with anti-fibrin antibody followed by anti-rabbit HRP. Arrows indicate areas with fibrin deposition. Tissues observed were lung (A), liver (B), spleen (C) and kidney (D).

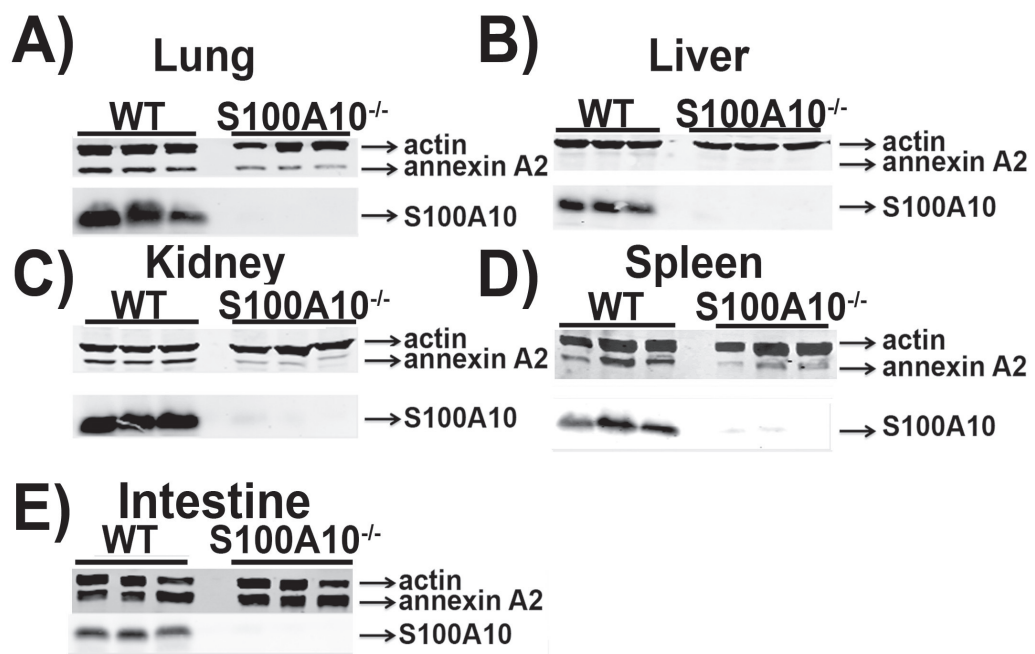




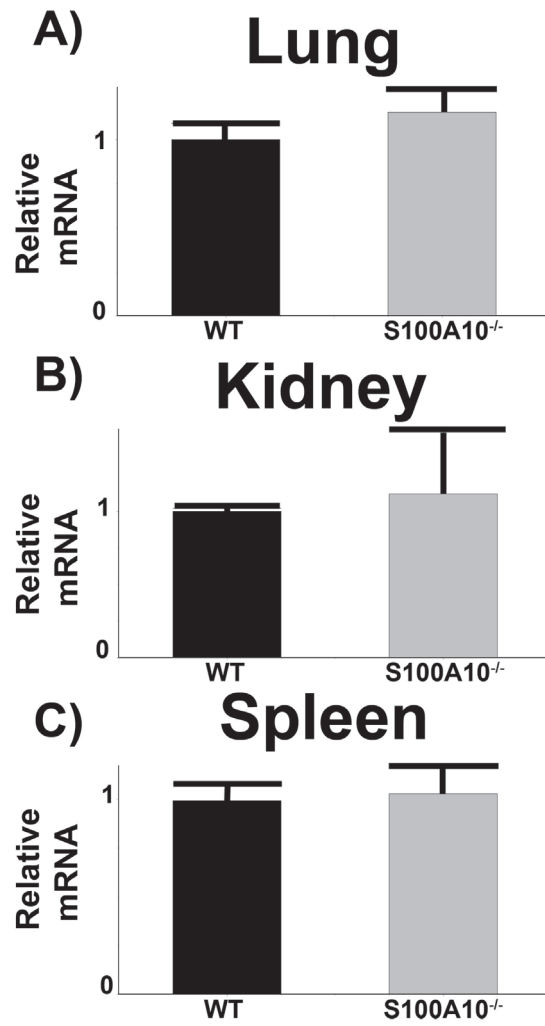
**Figure 10. Comparison of coagulation pathways.** Murine blood was obtained by cardiac puncture and treated with sodium citrate to prevent clotting. The activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) (A) and prothrombin time (PT) (B) in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were observed to be comparable with their WT counterparts. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean ( $\pm$ ) SEM of 6 independent experiments. Coagulation assays performed by Victoria Miller, samples were collected by Alexi Surette.



**Figure 11. Annexin A2 levels in tissues from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** Annexin A2 and S100A10 protein levels were analyzed by Western Blot in tissues isolated from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Annexin A2 protein levels decreased in lung (A), kidney (C) and spleen (D), were not detectable in liver (B) and were unaltered in the small intestine (E). As expected, S100A10 protein levels were not detected in tissues isolated from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.



**Figure 12. Annexin A2 mRNA levels in tissues from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** Annexin A2 mRNA levels were analyzed in tissues isolated from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Loss of S100A10 did not affect annexin A2 mRNA levels in lung (A), kidney (B) and spleen (C). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean ( $\pm$ ) SEM of 6 independent experiments.



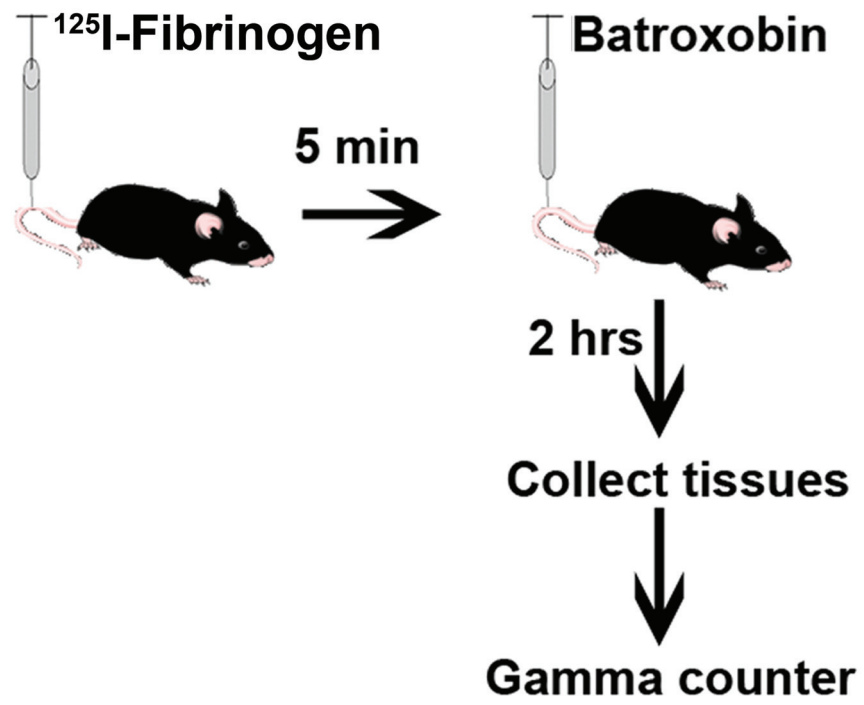
### 3.2 S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have impaired fibrinolysis

To evaluate fibrinolysis in WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, tissues and blood were collected following <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen and batroxobin injection via the tail vein into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 13). Batroxobin is a thrombin like enzyme isolated from the venom of the snake *Bothrops atrox*. Batroxobin cleaves fibrinogen to release fibrinopeptide A, resulting in the formation of fibrin. However, fibrin formed by batroxobin is more likely to form microclots than fibrin formed by thrombin since thrombin will cleave fibrinogen to release fibrinopeptides A and B, resulting in fibrin that is more cross-linked and more stable.<sup>314</sup> We observed that the tissues of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice had significantly greater accumulation of <sup>125</sup>I-label than the WT mice and less <sup>125</sup>I-label in the blood (Figure 14). For example, the residual radioactivity in the lung tissue of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse was 2.5-fold higher than the WT lung tissue and 5-fold lower in the blood. The dramatic loss in the ability of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse to degrade a batroxobin-induced clot could be due to alterations in plasma components of the clotting system or the fibrinolytic activity of the endothelium. Therefore, we compared the plasma components of the clotting and fibrinolytic systems. The platelet and protein levels of plasma Pg and fibrinogen of WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were similar (Figure 15A,B). Plasma clots prepared from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were then evaluated for their susceptibility to tPA-mediated clot lysis. We observed that neither the time to clot nor the time of clot lysis differed between the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 15 C,D). Additionally, no differences were observed in antiplasmin levels, plasmin-antiplasmin (PAP) complex levels and thrombin potential between the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice

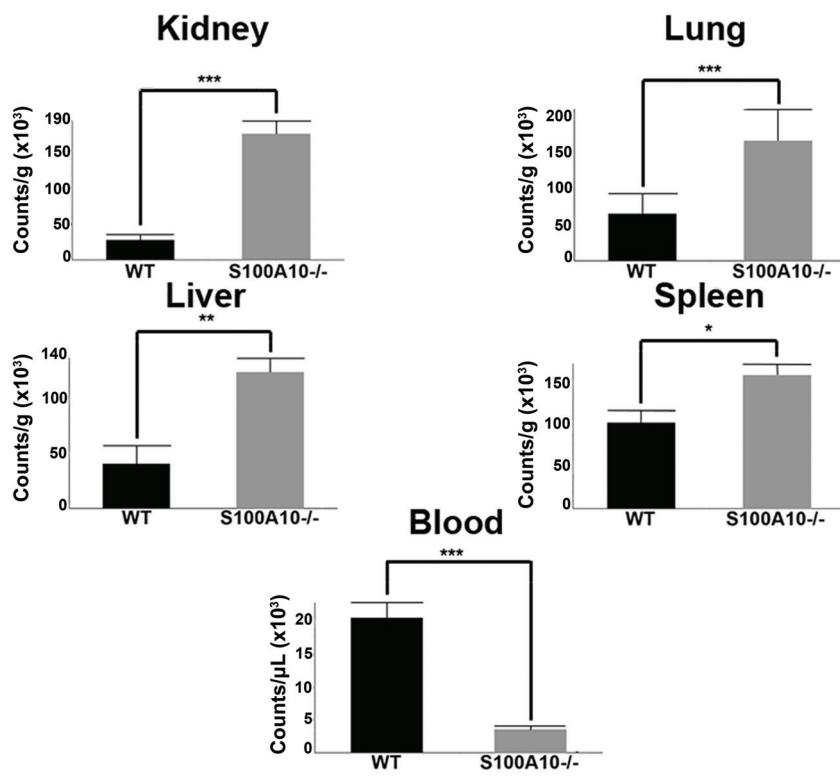


(Figure 15E,F,G).

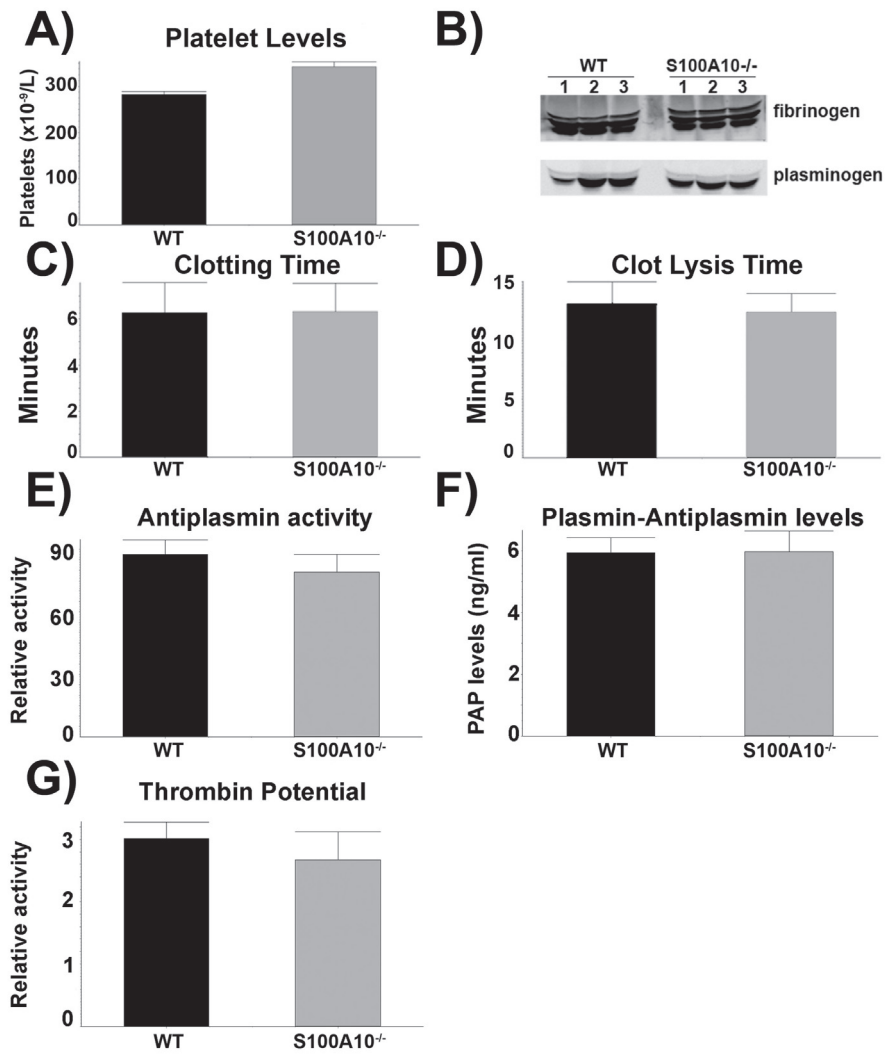
**Figure 13. Schematic design of *in vivo* clot induction.** WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were injected with <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen and batroxobin. After 2 hours, tissues were collected, weighed and radioactivity was measured in a gamma counter.



**Figure 14. S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have impaired ability to clear induced fibrin clots.** The data are expressed as counts per gram of tissue. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean ( $\pm$ ) SEM of 6 independent experiments (\*  $p < 0.1$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ).



**Figure 15. Comparison of clotting parameters and components.** Murine blood was obtained by cardiac puncture and treated with sodium citrate to prevent clotting. Platelet levels (A), Fg and Pg levels (B), clotting time (C), clot lysis time (D), antiplasmin activity (E), plasmin-antiplasmin levels (F) and endogenous thrombin potential (G) in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were observed to be comparable with their WT counterparts. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean (±) SEM of 6 independent experiments for A, C-G while B was obtained from 3 independent experiments. Clotting time, clot lysis time, antiplasmin activity, plasmin-antiplasmin levels and endogenous thrombin potential assays were performed by Victoria Miller with samples collected by Alexi Surette.



### 3.3 Tail bleeding-re-bleeding assay

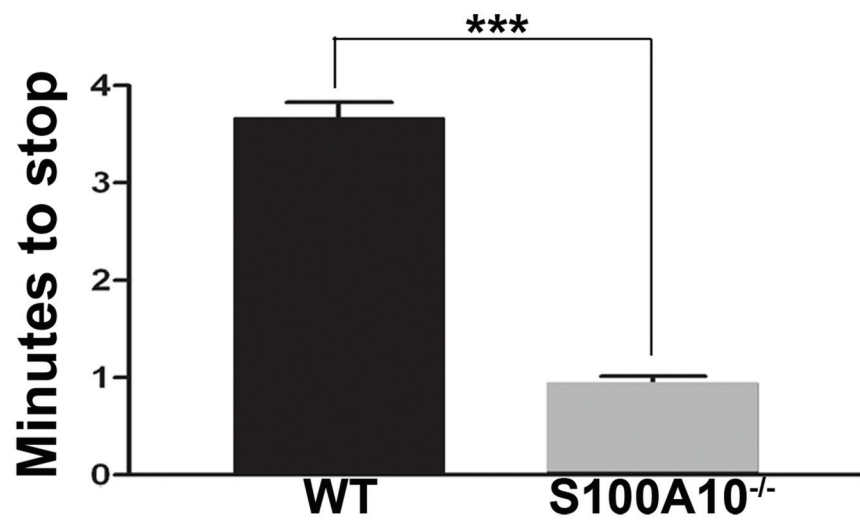
A short segment of the tail of WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was clipped and the time until cessation of bleeding was determined. We observed that mice lacking S100A10 had a 4-fold reduction in the bleeding time after the tail clip compared to the WT mice (Figure 16). Since we observed a decrease in fibrinolysis in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (Figure 14), and a similar coagulation rate (Figure 10A,B), the observed reduction in bleeding time by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was likely due to decreased fibrinolysis of the tail clip-induced blood clot. We also observed that the time between cessation of bleeding and the initiation of subsequent episodes of bleeding, the re-bleeding time, was of shorter duration and also occurred with less frequency with the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Table 2). This suggested that the clots formed by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were more stable than the WT mice, presumably again due to a decreased rate of fibrinolysis.

We also examined the tails of the mice for other differences that might explain the variations in the bleeding and re-bleeding values. Sections of the tails were stained for collagen with Masson's trichrome (Figure 17A) and obvious qualitative differences were not observed, thus suggesting that the collagen levels and architecture of the tails were similar. Since the tail collagen is the major platelet adhesive substratum for initiation of coagulation, these results further support our data suggesting that decreased fibrinolytic activity by the endothelium of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was responsible for the decreased bleeding times. Sections of the tail from the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were also stained



for S100A10 (Figure 17B). As expected, S100A10 did not stain the tail section obtained from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse while S100A10 staining is observed throughout the WT sections, including on the endothelium of the vessels.

**Figure 16. Bleeding time in WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** The last 3 mm of the tail of anaesthetized WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was clipped using a scalpel blade. The clipped tails of the anaesthetized mice were placed in 37 °C saline and the time for first cessation of bleeding was recorded. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as (±) SEM of 6 independent experiments (\*\*\*) p < 0.001).



**Table 2. Time of bleeding stops and starts.**

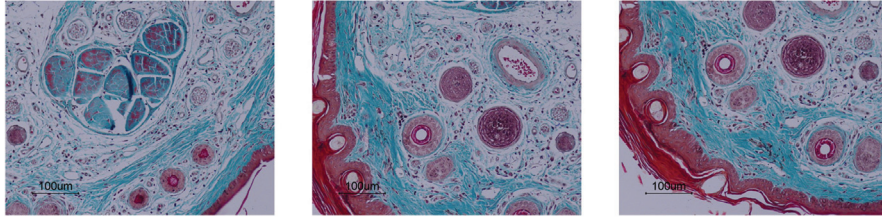
	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start		
WT 1	3:30	4:50	7:40	9:36	10:23																			
WT 2	3:09	3:20	4:15	5:40	6:11	8:20	9:11	11:10	12:10	13:20	14:15	15:01	21:00	22:30										
WT 3	3:38	4:55	7:11	7:40	8:35	8:50	11:47	12:25																
WT 4	3:30	5:54	6:28	7:20	8:05	9:00	9:41	11:36	12:03	13:50	14:39	15:50	17:04	18:12	18:40	18:56	23:23	26:12	27:33	29:13				
WT 5	4:17	6:14	7:40	8:54	11:01	12:06	15:45	17:20	19:50	21:33														
WT 6	2:57	6:29	11:03	13:16	17:37	20:04	21:50																	
-/- 1	0:45																							
-/- 2	0:50	2:30	4:00																					
-/- 3	0:51	4:30	5:00																					
-/- 4	0:58	10:40	11:02																					
-/- 5	1:15	6:08	7:07	11:30	11:58	17:00	17:17																	
-/- 6	1:01	5:31	5:55																					

The last 3 mm of the mouse tail was clipped and the tail was placed in 37 °C saline. Time until cessation and re-initiation of bleeding was recorded. Bleeding-re-bleeding was followed for 30 minutes.

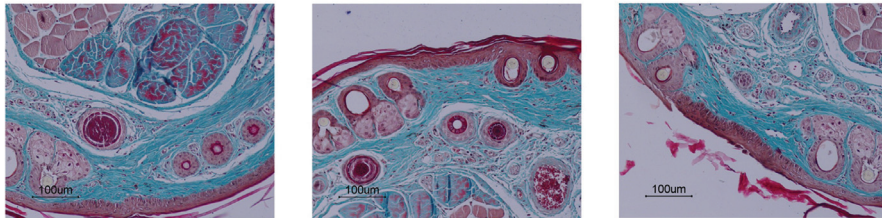
**Figure 17. Masson's trichrome and S100A10 staining of tail clip sections.** Masson's trichrome stain was used to observe the morphology of tail sections from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A). Immunohistochemistry for S100A10 was also performed on tail sections from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (B). Sections were deparaffinized and either subjected to Masson's trichrome or anti-S100A10 antibody followed by anti-goat HRP. Sections were mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Sections of tails from 3 different mice were used.

**A)**

**WT**

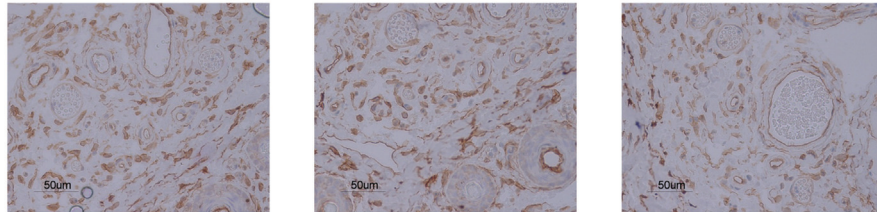


**S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>**

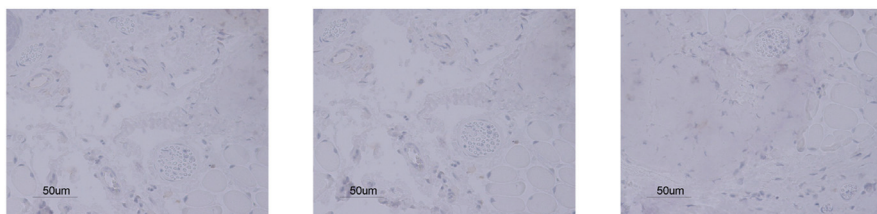


**B)**

**WT**



**S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>**



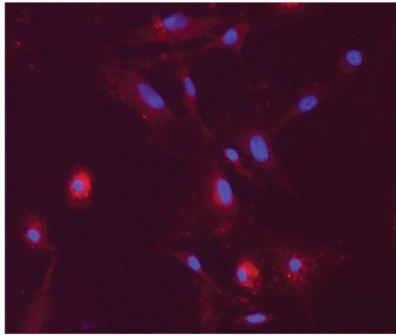
### **3.4 Generation of plasmin by isolated endothelial cells from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.**

We investigated the possibility that the fibrinolytic defect displayed by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was due to endothelial cell dysfunction. Lung endothelial cells from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were isolated (Figure 18). Total annexin A2 levels were unaffected by loss of S100A10 (Figure 19A) while cell-surface annexin A2 was depleted in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells (Figure 19C). In contrast, the cell surface levels of annexin A2 in the endothelial cell line, TIME, were unaffected by S100A10 depletion (Figure 19D), while total annexin A2 levels were also unaltered (Figure 19B). Compared to the WT mice, the endothelial cells from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed 40% less Pg binding (Figure 20A) and Pm generation (Figure 21A). We also observed that human endothelial cells that were depleted of S100A10 by RNA interference also bound about 50% less Pg (Figure 20B) and generated 60% less Pm with both tPA and uPA (Figure 21B,D). Pretreatment of the cells with carboxypeptidase B significantly decreased Pg binding and activation, suggesting that these processes are dependent in large part on carboxyl-terminal lysine on the Pg receptors. In this regard, S100A10 was responsible for 76% and 55% of the carboxyl-terminal dependent Pg binding of the murine and human endothelial cells, respectively. This also suggests that although S100A10 is the dominant Pg-binding protein in endothelial cells, other carboxyl-terminal lysine containing Pg receptors also contribute to endothelial cell Pg binding and Pm generation. Treatment with  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid (ACA) ablated Pg binding and activation by preventing Pg interaction with cell surface Pg receptors.

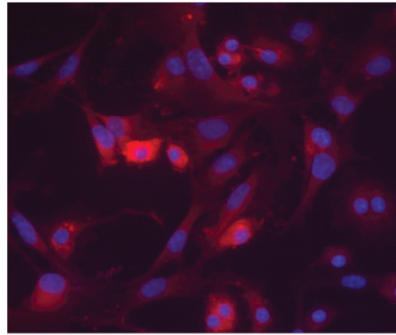
**Figure 18. Dil-Ac-LDL staining of primary microvascular endothelial cells from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** Dil-Ac-LDL was incubated with the isolated lung microvascular cells to confirm their purity. Endothelial cells specifically uptake Dil-Ac-LDL and the fluorescence (red) accumulates in the intracellular membranes. Total cells were stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (blue). All cells stained positively for Dil-Ac-LDL and DAPI. Sections were mounted using Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Zeiss Axioplan 2 microscope using a Spot 2 digital camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using Axiovision 4.7 (Zeiss). Figure is representative of 3 independent experiments.



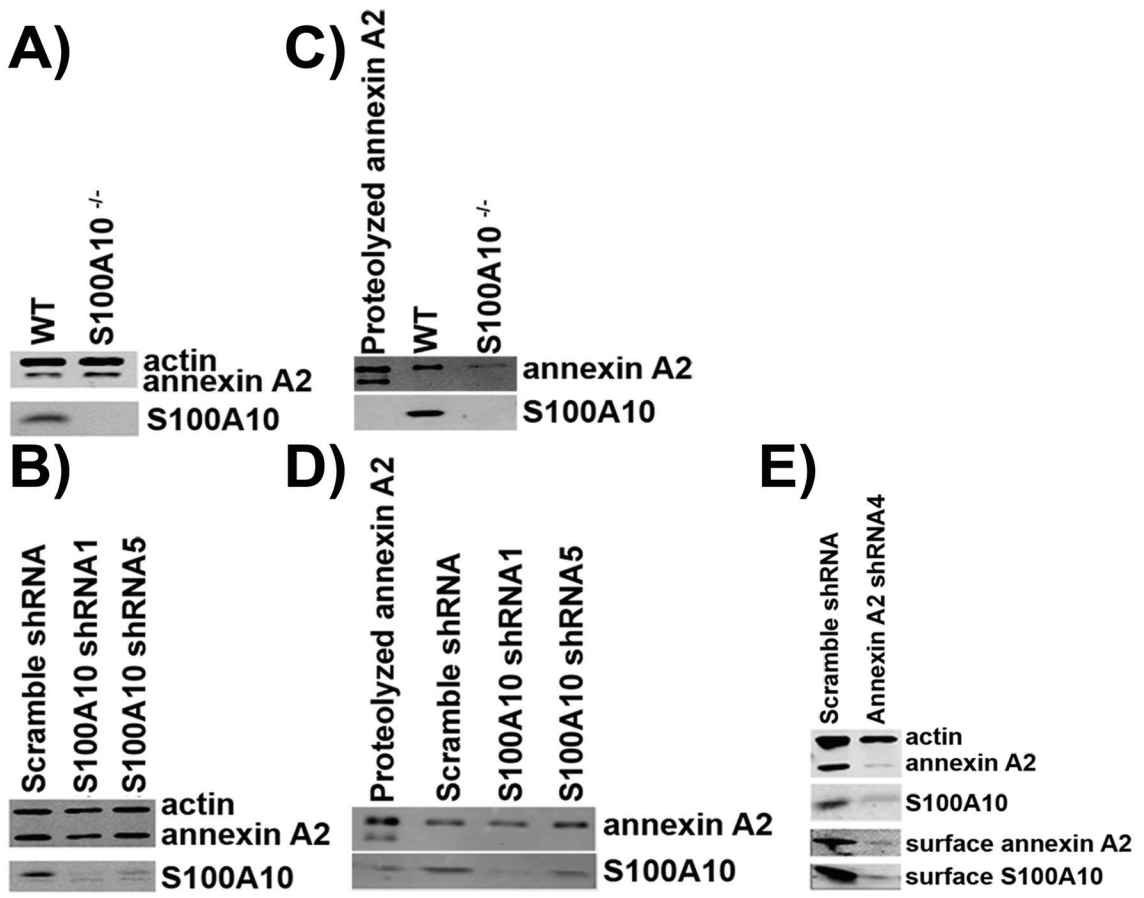
**WT**



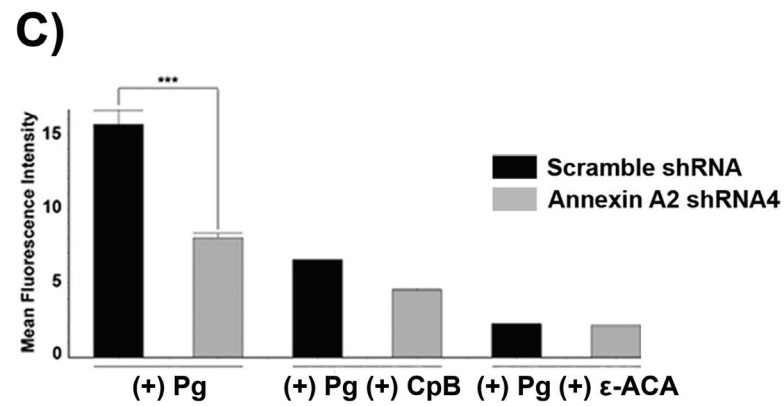
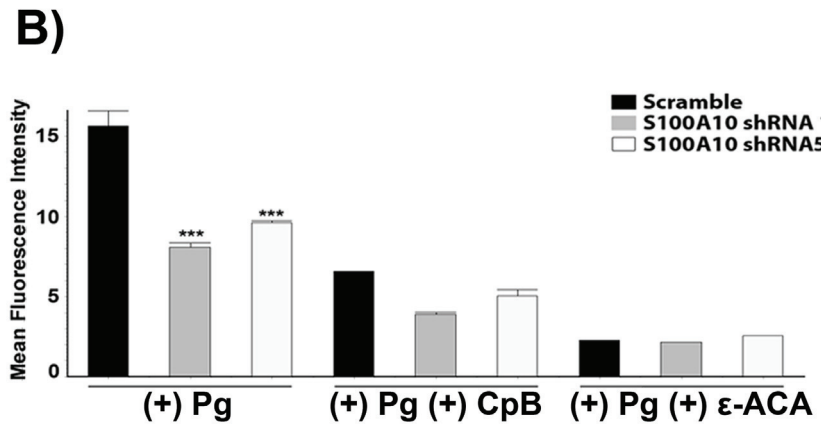
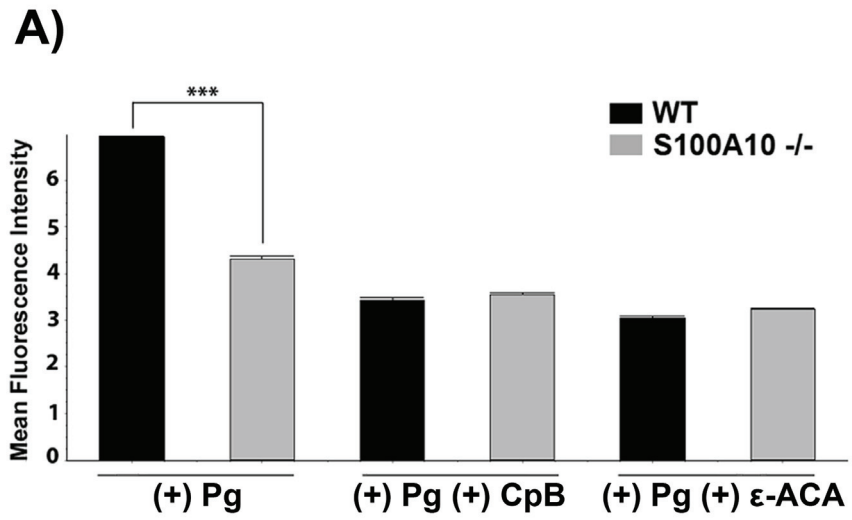
**S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>**



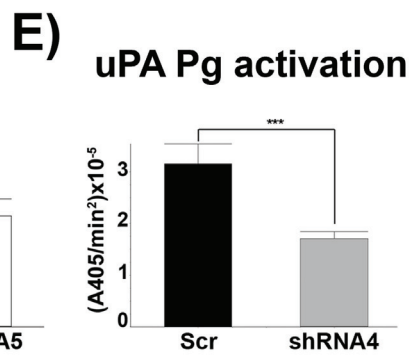
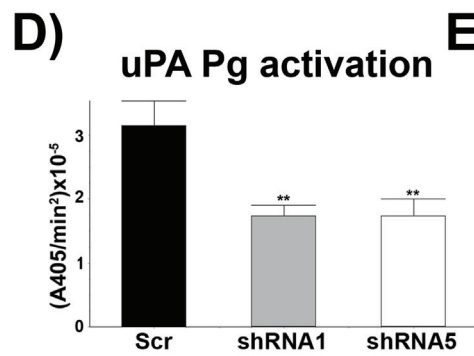
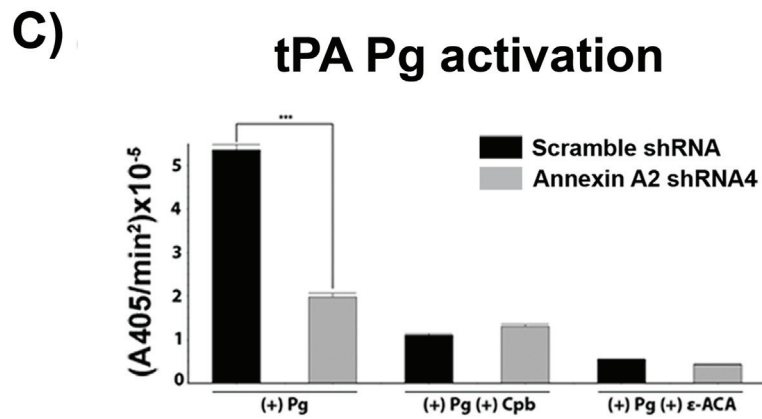
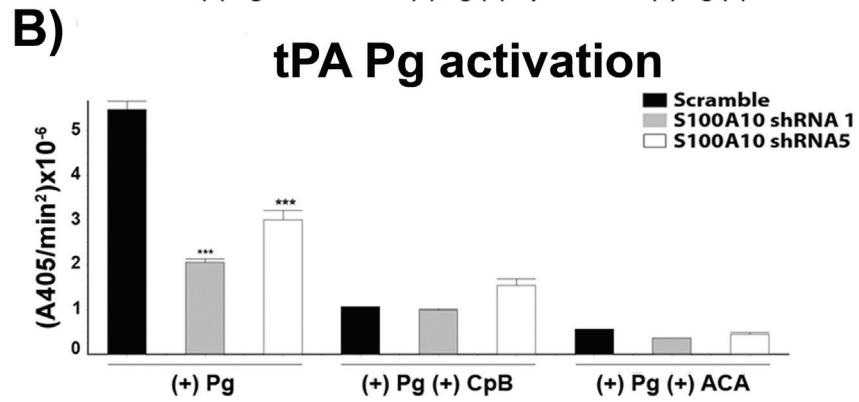
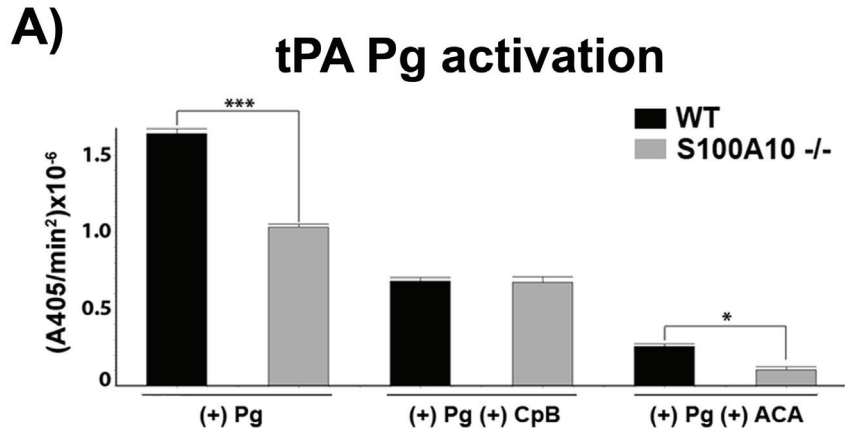
**Figure 19. Total and cells surface AIIIt levels in S100A10 depleted endothelial cells.** In order to detect the total cellular levels of annexin A2 and S100A10, primary murine endothelial cells, isolated from WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A), as well as control and S100A10 depleted TIME cells (B), were dissociated from culture flasks, lysed, subjected to SDS PAGE and immunoblotted with anti-actin (loading control), anti-annexin A2 or anti-S100A10 antibodies. Cell surface protein levels for primary murine endothelial cells (C) and TIME cells (D), as detected by cell-surface biotinylation, are shown. Total and cell surface protein levels in annexin A2 depleted TIME cells were also analyzed (E). Data is representative of 3 independent experiments. TIME cell shRNA knockdown cell lines were prepared by Dr Patricia Madureira.



**Figure 20. Depletion of S100A10 results in decreased endothelial cell plasminogen binding.** FITC-Pg binding to the primary murine endothelial cells (A), S100A10 depleted TIME cells (B) and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells (C) was measured by FACS. Quantification of flow cytometric analysis of Pg binding was calculated using WinMDI software. Statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA with the Tukey test (n=3, \*\*\* p < 0.001). Treatment of cells with CpB decreased Pg binding by removing C-terminal lysines from cell surface Pg receptors and  $\epsilon$ -ACA decreased Pg binding by preventing Pg binding to C-terminal lysines on Pg receptors.



**Figure 21. Depletion of S100A10 results in decreased tPA dependent endothelial cell plasmin generation.** Loss of S100A10 affected tPA dependent plasmin generation by primary murine endothelial cells (A) and TIME cells (B), as did loss annexin A2 (C). uPA dependent plasmin generation by TIME cells was also affected by loss of S100A10 (D) and annexin A2 (E). Statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA (n=3, \*p < 0.1, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001). Treatment of cells with CpB decreased Pg activation by removing C-terminal lysines from cell surface Pg receptors and  $\epsilon$ -ACA decreased Pg activation by preventing Pg binding to C-terminal lysines on Pg receptors.



We also examined the possible contribution of annexin A2 to endothelial cell Pm regulation. Depletion of annexin A2 by RNA interference reduced TIME cell Pg binding by about 50% (Figure 20C) and Pm generation with tPA and uPA (Figure 21C,E) by approximately 60%. These values were similar to the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation observed for S100A10-depleted TIME cells. As expected, the depletion of TIME cell annexin A2 by the annexin A2 shRNA also resulted in S100A10 depletion (Figure 19E). Thus, the similarity between the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation between TIME cells depleted of S100A10 by S100A10 shRNAs, but possessing unaltered levels of annexin A2 and those depleted of both annexin A2 and S100A10 by the annexin A2 shRNA suggested that annexin A2 did not significantly contribute to TIME cell Pg binding and Pm generation under these experimental conditions. Annexin A2 binds Pg via a mechanism that is absolutely dependent on the exposure of a new carboxyl-terminal lysine. The exposure of this lysine residue requires proteolytic processing and the loss of 29 amino acid residues (about 3200 Da).<sup>114</sup> Therefore, if annexin A2 played a significant role in Pm generation by the TIME cells, it would be expected that the truncated annexin A2 would be the predominant form of annexin A2 on the cell surface of TIME cells. Although we easily detected intact cell surface annexin A2, we were unable to detect any truncated annexin A2 at the cell surface (Figure 19D).



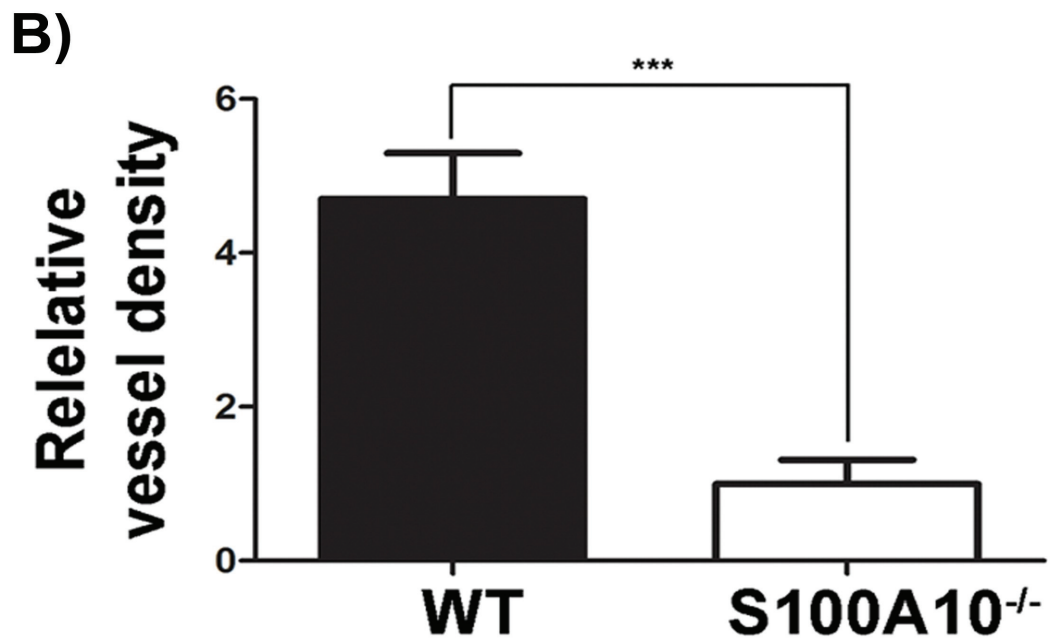
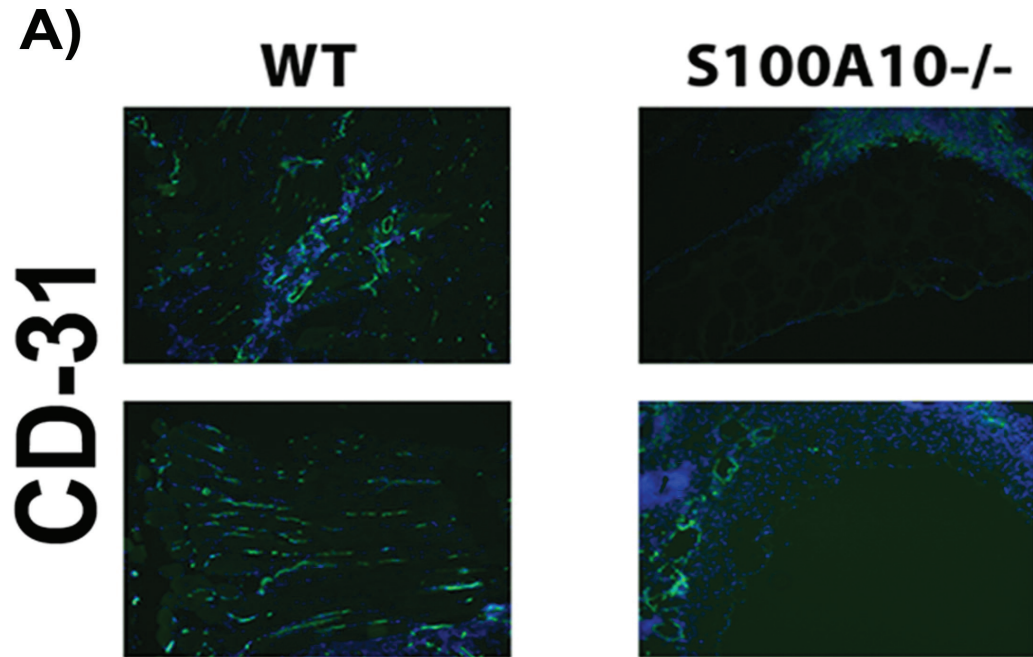
### 3.5 S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice display reduced angiogenesis

Pm, by virtue of its role in the degradation of extracellular matrix proteins, plays an important role in angiogenesis and Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice show significant defects in angiogenesis.<sup>58</sup> To examine the possible role of S100A10 in angiogenesis, we implanted WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice with Matrigel plugs containing bFGF. When known angiogenic factors, such as bFGF, are mixed with Matrigel and injected subcutaneously into mice, endothelial cells migrate into the Matrigel plug and form vessel-like structures. We observed that the Matrigel plugs obtained from the WT mice contained 4.7 fold more positive endothelial cell staining when compared to the plugs obtained from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 22A,B). When T241 tumors grown in the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were stained for the endothelial cell marker CD31, we observed 1.7 fold more positive staining in the tumors grown in the WT mice compared to those grown in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (Figure 23A,B). These results suggest that angiogenesis was severely compromised in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Interestingly, aortas isolated from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse did not demonstrate impaired sprouting when embedded into collagen *ex vivo* (Figure 24A,B). Previous reports have reported that loss of annexin A2 resulted in impaired sprouting into collagen by aortas isolated from annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice.<sup>208</sup> We were unable to reproduce these results since aortas isolated from the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed similar sprouting compared to the aortas isolated from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 24). Additionally, tube formation was not altered by S100A10 (Figure 25B,C) and annexin A2 (Figure 25D) depletion of TIME cells. Secretion and Pg dependent activation of matrix

metalloproteinase 9 (MMP-9) was not affected by loss of S100A10 or annexin A2 in TIME cells (Figure 26A-C) or in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells (Figure 26D). Again, this result was unexpected as it differed from previously published reports<sup>208</sup>. Previous reports have indicated that Pm activity is not required for tube formation *in vitro*.<sup>315</sup> Loss of Pg activation due to loss of S100A10 may therefore not be necessary for tube formation since MMP activity may provide sufficient proteolytic activity. Pm proteolytic activity, however, is required for proper invasion through a matrigel barrier. *In vivo*, loss of S100A10 severely impacts endothelial migration into matrigel and a growing fibrosarcoma. Such angiogenesis requires the interplay between several cell types, including endothelial cells, neutrophils and macrophages. S100A10 mediated Pg activation by all of these cells may be necessary for proper angiogenesis and the compound loss of Pg activation by all these cells may result in more severe loss of endothelial cell invasion *in vivo* compared to the results observed *in vitro*.

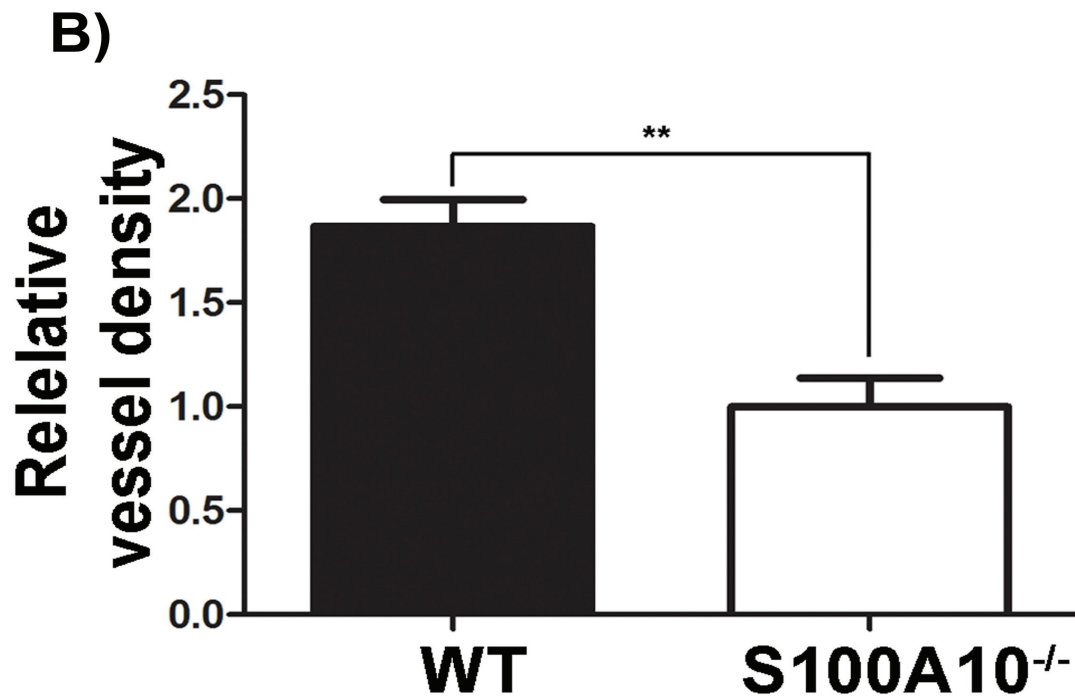
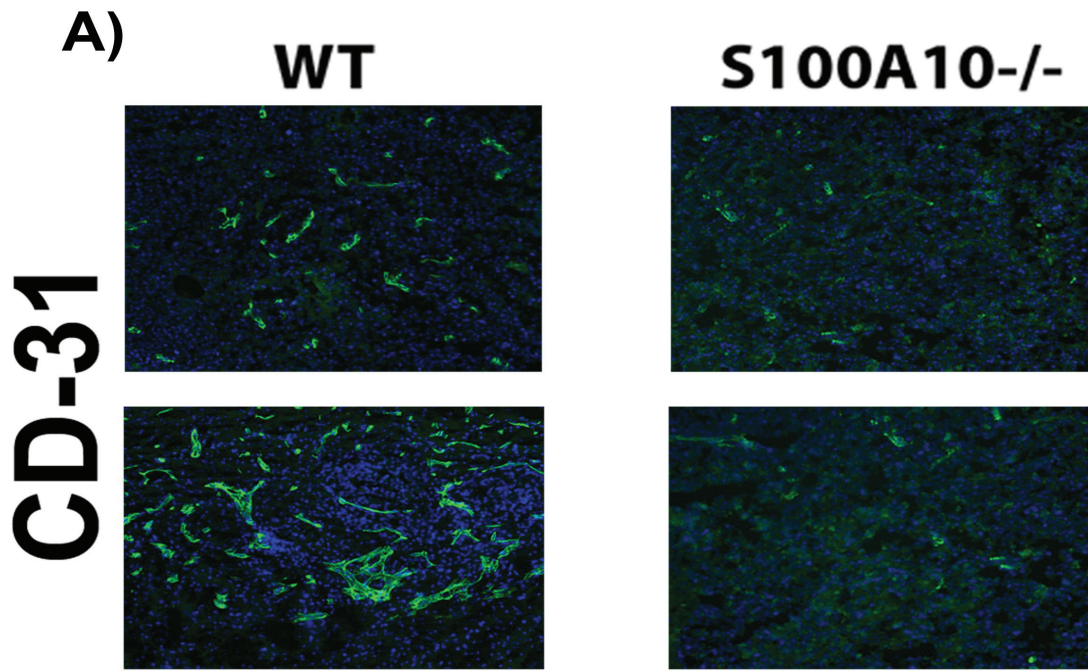
**Figure 22. Loss of S100A10 impairs invasion of endothelial cells into Matrigel *in***

***vivo***. WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were implanted with a Matrigel plug containing 200 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor and 60 U/ml heparin. CD31 staining (green) of endothelial cells shows decreased invasion into the matrigel plug in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Tissue surrounding the matrigel plug is visible in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> sections. Quantification of positive CD31 staining of 20X fields from 3 separate matrigel plugs was performed using Image J software (B). Sections were mounted using Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Zeiss Axioplan 2 microscope using a Spot 2 digital camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using Axiovision 4.7 (Zeiss). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test (n=3, \*\*\* p<0.001).



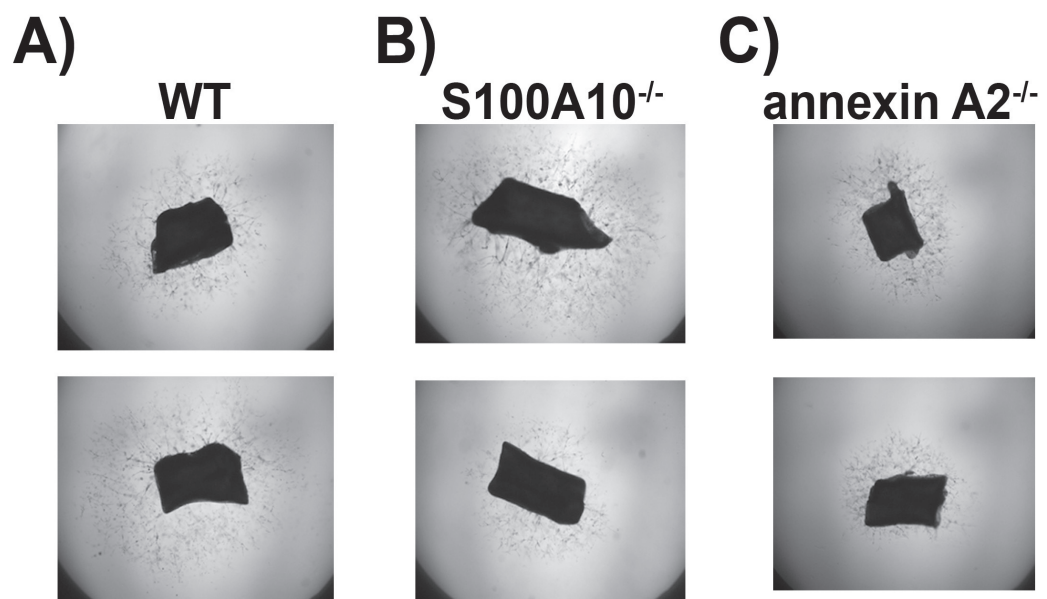
**Figure 23. Loss of S100A10 impairs endothelial cell invasion into growing T241**

**tumors.** T241 fibrosarcoma cells were injected *s.c.* into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>. Tumors were collected after 3 weeks. CD31 staining (green) of endothelial cells shows decreased levels of endothelial cells in tumors collected from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Quantification of positive CD31 staining of 20X fields from 3 separate tumors was performed using Image J software (B). Sections were mounted using Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Zeiss Axioplan 2 microscope using a Spot 2 digital camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using Axiovision 4.7 (Zeiss). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test (n=3, \*\*\* p<0.001). T241 tumors were grown by Dr Kyle Phipps.



**Figure 24. Aortic ring sprouting is not affected by loss of S100A10 and annexin A2.**

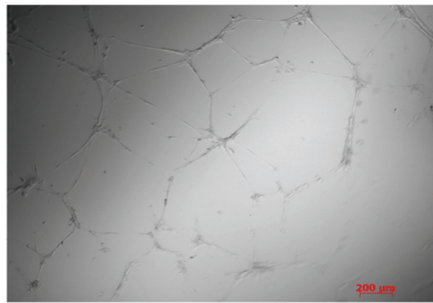
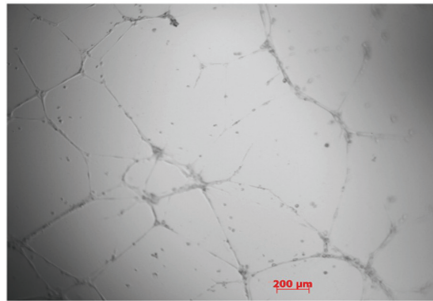
Aortas were isolated, cut and embedded into collagen to induce sprouting. Compared to aortic rings from WT mice (A), loss of S100A10 (B) and annexin A2 (C) did not alter sprouting into collagen. Representative of 3 independent experiments.



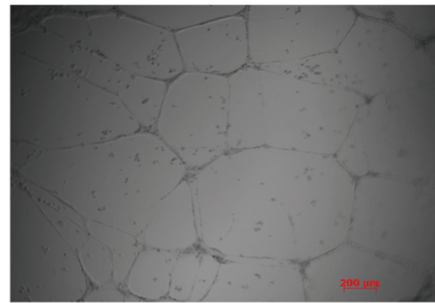
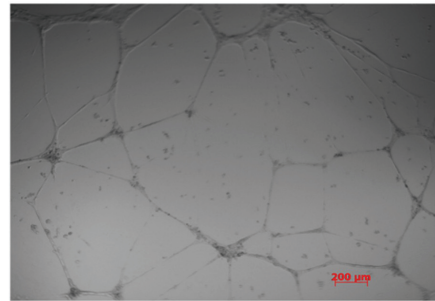


**Figure 25. Loss of S100A10 or annexin A2 does not impair endothelial cell tube formation.** Control (A), S100A10 (B,C) and annexin A2 depleted (D) TIME cells were plated on top of solidified matrigel to induce tube formation. Depletion of S100A10 and annexin A2 did not alter tube formation ability. Representative of 3 independent experiments.

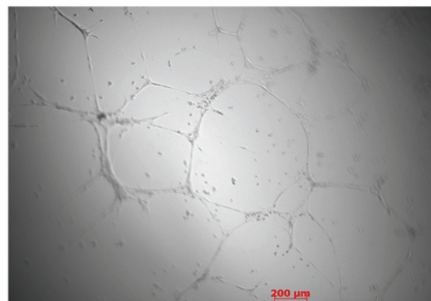
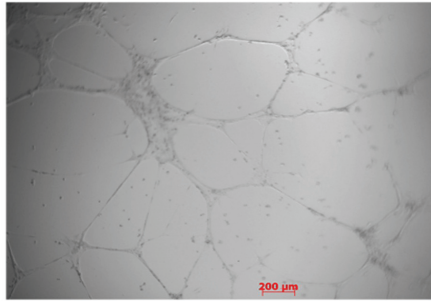
**A) Scramble**



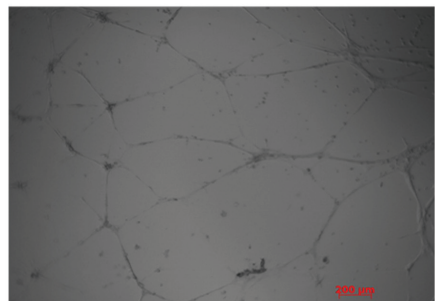
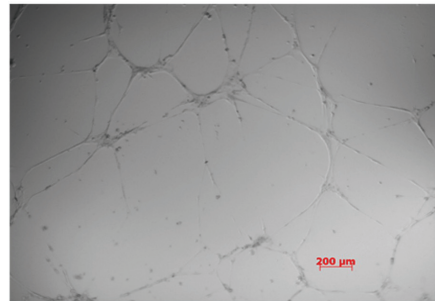
**B) S100A10 shRNA1**



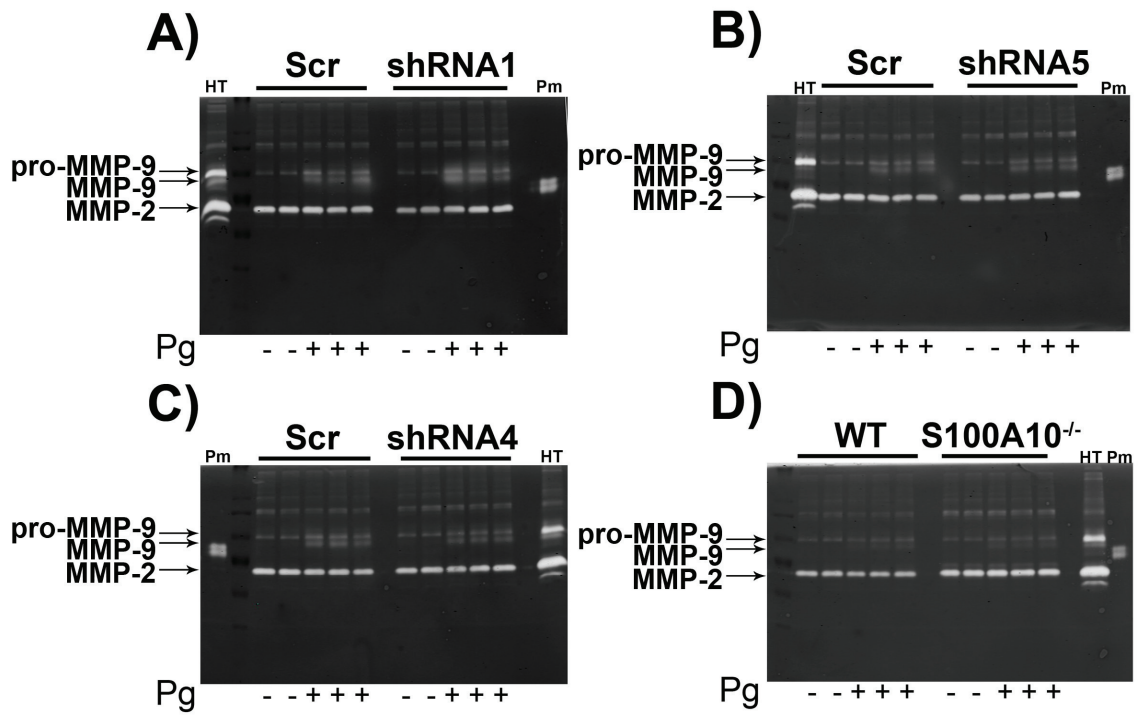
**C) S100A10 shRNA5**



**D) annexin A2 shRNA4**



**Figure 26. Loss of S100A10 or annexin A2 does not affect MMP-9 secretion and Pg dependent activation as measured by gelatin zymography.** MMP activity in conditioned media collected from control, S100A10 shRNA1 (A), S100A10 shRNA5 (B) and annexin A2 shRNA4 (C) TIME cells, as well as from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> MMECs (D) grown in the presence or absence of Pg was assayed by gelatin zymography. The addition of Pg resulted in the appearance of active MMP-9. Conditioned media collected from HT-1080 cells (HT) served as a positive control for pro-MMP-9 and MMP-2. Plasmin also served as an additional control to verify whether plasmin activity was present in the conditioned media with Pg present. Proteolytic activity is observed by negative (white) staining since the active protease will degrade gelatin and prevent staining of the gelatin. Representative of 3 independent experiments.

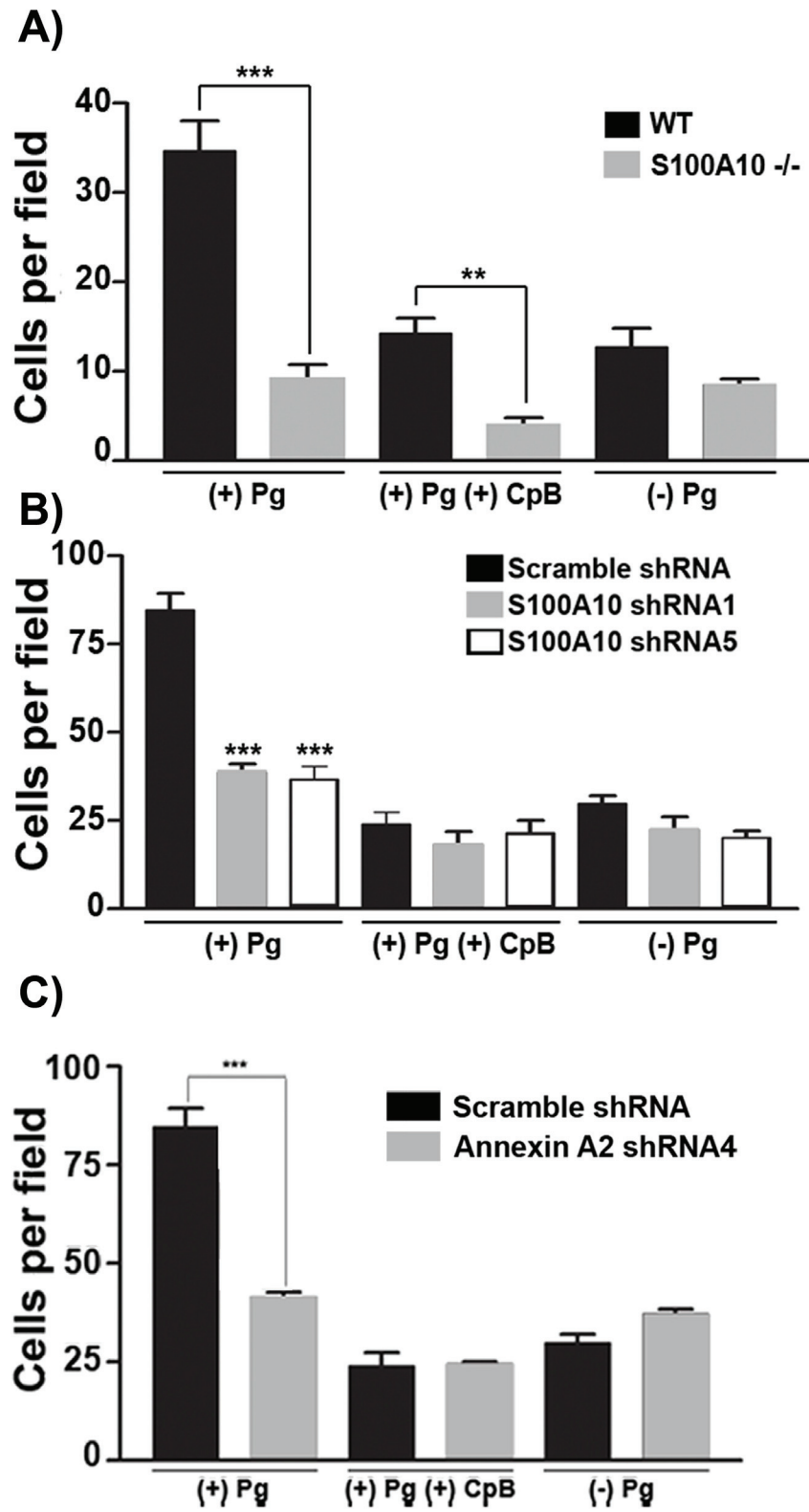


### **3.6 Endothelial cells from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice show impaired chemotaxis through Matrigel**

The simplest explanation for the inability of the S100A10-depleted endothelial cells to vascularize the Matrigel plug was due to the reduced capacity of these cells to generate Pm and clear a path through the Matrigel plug. We therefore directly examined the ability of the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells to migrate through a Matrigel layer. These experiments used Boyden chambers in which Pg and endothelial cells isolated from WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were placed in the upper chamber, the insert between chambers was coated with Matrigel, and serum was added to the lower chamber to act as a chemoattractant. We observed that in response to the chemoattractant, 74% fewer S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells migrated across the Matrigel barrier than WT endothelial cells (Figure 27A). Carboxypeptidase B treatment decreased migration across the Matrigel barrier of both WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells. We also observed that 55% fewer S100A10-depleted TIME cells migrated across the Matrigel barrier than control TIME cells (Figure 27B) and that carboxypeptidase B treatment also decreased migration across the Matrigel barrier of both control and S100A10-depleted TIME cells. Interestingly, the chemotaxis of the WT endothelial cells was enhanced in the presence of Pg. A comparison of the chemotaxis of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells in the presence or absence of Pg suggested that S100A10 was responsible for 100% of this Pg-dependent chemotaxis of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells and similarly for 75% of the Pg dependent chemotaxis of the S100A10-depleted TIME cells. These results suggest that S100A10 plays a key role in the

regulation of endothelial cell surface protease activity. Loss of annexin A2 resulted in similar decrease in Pg dependent invasion through a matrigel barrier (Figure 27C).

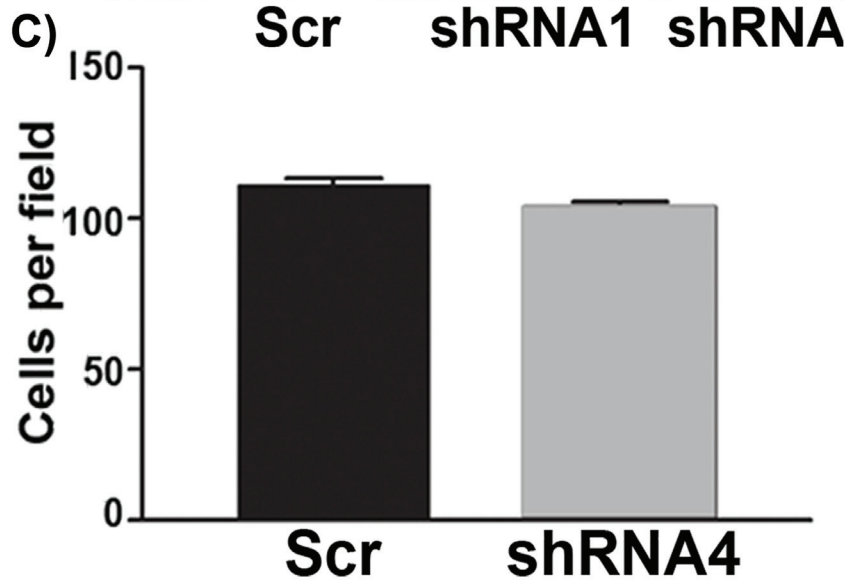
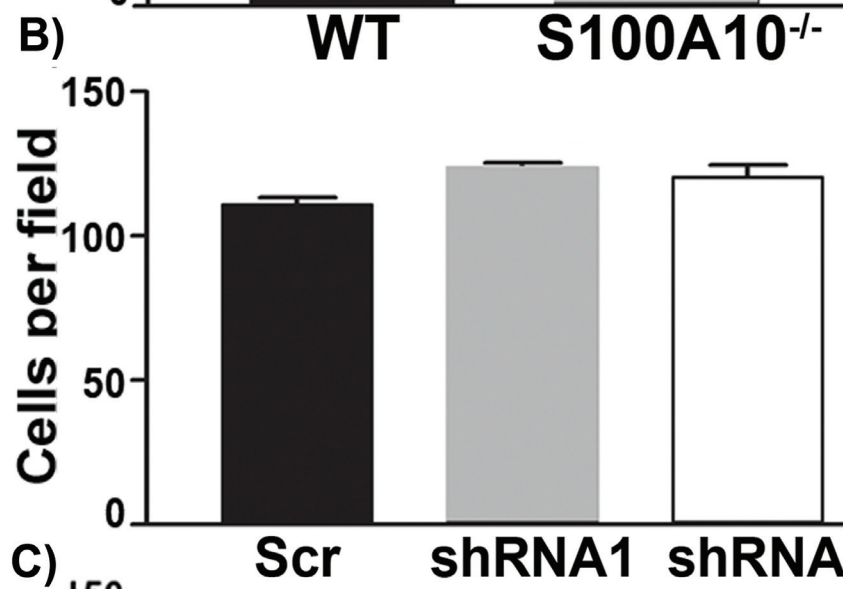
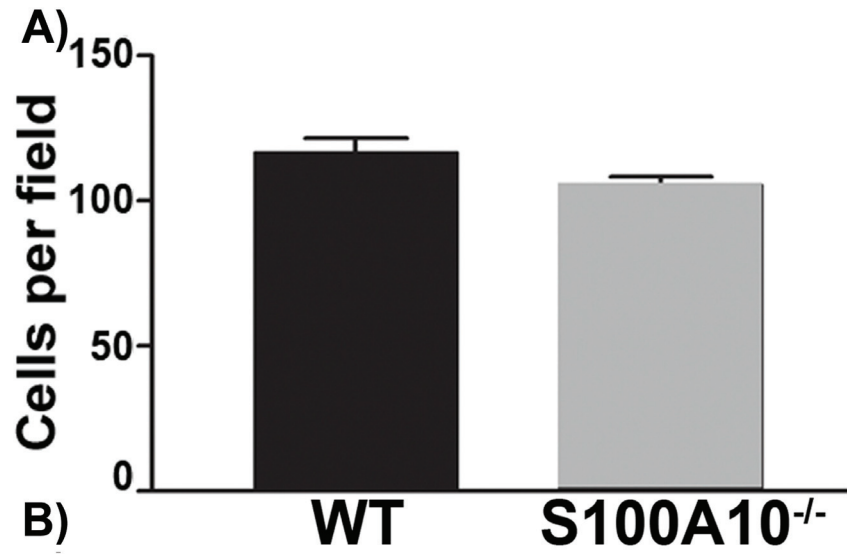
**Figure 27. Role of S100A10 in plasmin dependent Matrigel invasion.** Primary WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> murine endothelial cells (A), control or S100A10 depleted TIME cells (B) and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells (C) were added to the top chamber of Matrigel coated Transwell chambers in the presence of media and in the presence or absence of Pg (0.5  $\mu$ M). The lower chambers contained media with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Cells were incubated for 48 hours after which invading cells were stained with Haematoxylin and Eosin and counted. In some experiments cells were pretreated with carboxypeptidase B (CpB, 5 U/ml), which was added to the upper chamber where indicated. Data are expressed as mean number of cells per 40X field plus or minus SD of 3 independent experiments. Statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA (\*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001).





When chemotaxis assays were repeated in the absence of a Matrigel barrier, the migration of endothelial cells from WT and S100A10-null mice through the inserts was indistinguishable (Figure 28A) as was the migration of the S100A10 depleted TIME cells (Figure 28B). Loss of annexin A2 also did not affect migration (Figure 28C). This result establishes that the ability of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells to migrate in response to a chemotactic stimulus was unaffected by genetic ablation of S100A10.

**Figure 28. Loss of S100A10 does not affect endothelial cell migration.** Primary WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> murine endothelial cells (A), control or S100A10 depleted TIME cells (B) and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells (C) were added to the top chamber of Transwell chambers in the presence of media. The lower chambers contained media with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Cells were incubated for 48 hours after which invading cells were stained with Haematoxylin and Eosin and counted. Data are expressed as mean number of cells per 40X field plus or minus SD of 3 independent experiments.



## CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION

Our observation that S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice accumulate fibrin in their tissues is consistent with a role for S100A10 in Pm generation and fibrinolysis. However, fibrin clot accumulation in tissue is a dynamic process that is regulated by both the rate of clot formation (coagulation) and clot dissolution (fibrinolysis). Therefore, fibrin accumulation in the tissues could also be explained by increased coagulation in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse. Since the PT, aPTT and thrombin generation assays, which directly measure coagulation, were identical for the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, it is unlikely that enhanced coagulation is responsible for the increased accumulation of fibrin in the tissues of S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

To directly measure endogenous fibrinolysis *in vivo*, we injected mice with <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen followed by injection of batroxobin. Batroxobin is a thrombin-like enzyme which cleaves the fibrinopeptide A from fibrinogen and activates factor XIII only to a slight degree.<sup>316</sup> Compared to thrombin-formed fibrin, batroxobin-formed fibrin is more readily lysed by Pm, since it only cross-links fibrin to a minor extent. Furthermore, unlike thrombin, batroxobin does not activate platelets.<sup>317</sup> Under our experimental conditions, batroxobin rapidly converts <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen to <sup>125</sup>I-fibrin which is removed from the blood and retained in the tissues in the form of clots. Pm which is activated by the endothelium of the tissues digests the <sup>125</sup>I-fibrin and these degradation products are released into the blood. Our observation that the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have higher tissue and lower blood radioactivity levels than the WT mice suggests that the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have lower rates

of fibrinolysis *in vivo*. Similarly, another group used the batroxobin model system for analysis of fibrinolysis in mice deficient in the thrombin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI). They reported a reduction of radioactivity in the lungs of TAFI<sup>-/-</sup> mice, consistent with an increase in fibrinolytic activity in these mice.<sup>318</sup>

Tail bleeding times have typically been used to provide a measure of hemostasis *in vivo*, and tail bleeding times in mice are sensitive to both alterations in coagulation<sup>319</sup> or fibrinolysis.<sup>319</sup> Our observation that bleeding time is reduced in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, compared to WT mice, is consistent with the decreased fibrinolysis exhibited by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Bleeding time has been shown to be significantly increased in the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to WT mice<sup>320</sup> whereas another group found no difference.<sup>321</sup> The interpretation of the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse data was complicated by the possible role of Pg in platelet function.<sup>320</sup> However, S100A10 has not been detected in platelets, suggesting that loss of S100A10 is unlikely to affect platelet function.<sup>322</sup> In support of the decreased bleed time being due to decreased fibrinolysis is the report that textilinin-1, a potent Pm inhibitor from *Pseudonaja textilis* venom, dramatically decreases the bleeding time.<sup>319</sup>

Similarly, the decreased re-bleeding time, exhibited by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to the WT mice, could be due to increased stability of the fibrin clot due to decreased fibrinolytic attack. The decreased fibrinolytic attack could be mediated by the generation of Pm by the assembly of tPA and Pg on the plasma clot surface or by Pm generated as a consequence of the assembly of tPA and Pg on the surface of the endothelium. Our

observation that t-PA dependent plasma clot lysis by WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice is identical would rule out the possibility that neither the assembly of tPA and Pg on the fibrin clot and the generation of Pm by the plasma clot are altered by S100A10 depletion. Therefore, the central defect in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice likely involves Pm generation by the endothelium.

Matrigel is an extract of the Engleberth-Holm-Swarm tumor, and is composed of basement membrane proteins.<sup>324</sup> The Matrigel plug supports an intense vascular response when supplemented with angiogenic factors, such as bFGF, and is a well established procedure for measurement of angiogenic responses in mice.<sup>325</sup> Our observation that the Matrigel plugs were poorly vascularized in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to WT mice suggests that depletion of S100A10 inhibits angiogenesis. Further evidence for the role of S100A10 in angiogenesis is provided by the significant reduction in vascularization of T241 tumors grown in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to WT mice (Figure 23). A role for S100A10 in angiogenesis was also suggested by the dramatic loss in the ability of S100A10-depleted endothelial cells to migrate through Matrigel barriers (Figure 27).

Hajjar's group has recently developed an annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mouse.<sup>208</sup> The homozygous annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed deposition of fibrin in the microvasculature and incomplete clearance of injury-induced arterial thrombi. Our results support a subsequent publication from Hajjar's group reporting that the loss of annexin A2 also results in the loss of

S100A10 in these mice<sup>145</sup> (Figure 19E). The concomitant loss of S100A10 with annexin A2 depletion was also consistent with the reports from several other laboratories.<sup>148,326-329</sup> Since the levels of S100A10 were reduced in the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice it is unclear if the fibrin deposition observed in the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice was due to annexin A2 or S100A10 depletion (or both). Interestingly, we observed that compared to WT endothelial cells, the S100A0<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells had similar total levels of annexin A2 but the cell surface annexin A2 levels were depleted (Figure 19). This suggested that S100A10 might be necessary for the transport of annexin A2 to the cell surface.<sup>160</sup> However, the loss of cell surface annexin A2 in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells made it difficult to assess the function of annexin A2 in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells. We therefore utilized two different approaches to address the issue of whether annexin A2 played a significant role in endothelial cell-dependent fibrinolysis. First, since annexin A2 requires proteolytic processing and cleavage at Lys-307 to form a carboxyl-terminal Pg binding site<sup>200</sup>, we examined the molecular weight forms of annexin A2 at the endothelial cell surface by western blotting. Although native annexin A2 was easily detected, we were unable to detect any lower molecular weight (truncated) forms of annexin A2 (Figure 19C-E). Similarly, we have been unable to detect any truncated annexin A2 on the surface of macrophages that are actively generating Pm,<sup>142</sup> on the surface of hyperfibrinolytic leukemic promyelocytes<sup>207</sup> and on the surface of cancer cells.<sup>39</sup> The truncated form of annexin A2 (Ser-1-Lys-307) has, to the best of our knowledge, never been directly demonstrated on any cell surface. Interesting, similar to our suggestion that annexin A2 does not play a role on the surface of endothelial cells, it has been suggested that macrophage cell surface annexin A2 most likely serves as a cell-surface binding partner of S100A10, but does not directly bind

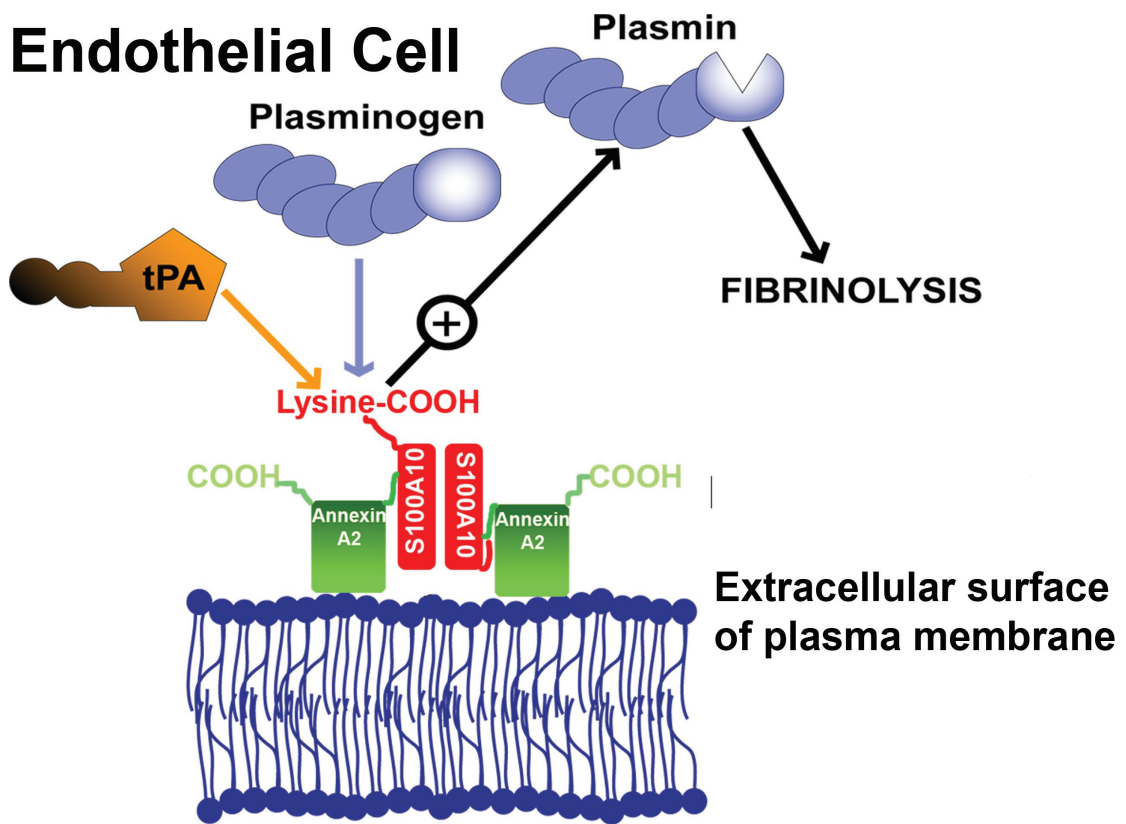
Pg.<sup>330</sup> Second, TIME cells depleted of S100A10 showed dramatic losses in both Pg binding (50%) and Pm generation (60%) even though the surface annexin A2 levels of the WT and S100A10-depleted cells are similar (Figure 19). Third, the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation is similar between the S100A10-depleted TIME cells and the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells despite the fact that the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells are actually depleted in both cell surface annexin A2 and cell surface S100A10, i.e. the loss in cell surface annexin A2 does not appear to effect Pg binding or Pm generation under these experimental conditions. Therefore, we propose that annexin A2 functions to stabilize S100A10 and to localize S100A10 to the cell surface of endothelial cells but does not play a direct role in fibrinolysis by endothelial cells (figure 29).

In conclusion, our studies with the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse establish an important role for S100A10 in endothelial cell-dependent fibrinolysis and angiogenesis. At the cellular level, S100A10 is responsible for much of the Pg binding and Pm generation of murine and human microvascular endothelial cells.



**Figure 29. Model depicting the role of S100A10 in endothelial cell plasmin**

**generation.** The predominant form of S100A10 at the endothelial cell surface is as a heterotetramer, AII<sub>t</sub>, which consists of two copies each of the annexin A2 and S100A10 subunits.<sup>143</sup> The annexin A2 subunit acts as a regulatory subunit which utilizes its phospholipid-binding sites to anchor S100A10 to the cell surface. The S100A10 subunit binds tPA and Pg at the carboxyl-terminal lysine residue.<sup>95,115</sup> The co-localization of tPA and Pg results in accelerated cleavage of Pg by tPA resulting in Pm generation and fibrinolytic activity.



## CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Conclusion

We have demonstrated that S100A10 plays a critical role in fibrinolysis *in vivo*. S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed significant levels of fibrin deposition in several organs. S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice had an impaired ability to clear batroxobin induced fibrin clots, indicating that *in vivo* fibrinolysis was impaired in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Despite demonstrating unaltered clotting parameters and components, the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice also formed more stable clots, evidenced by the increased stability of clots formed in the tail-clip assay, suggesting that loss of S100A10 mediated plasmin activation results in increased fibrin clot stability. We also performed *in vitro* experiments with endothelial cells to further investigate the *in vivo* observations. Using S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> murine microvascular endothelial cells along with S100A10 and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells, we observed that loss of S100A10 results in decreased Pg binding and subsequent plasmin activation. Interestingly, we failed to observe any truncated annexin A2, which has been suggested to be necessary for AIIIt dependent Pg binding, on the cell surface. We also observed that the presence of annexin A2 alone on the surface of human endothelial cells did not contribute to Pg binding and activation, suggesting that S100A10 is required for AIIIt dependent Pg binding and activation. Furthermore, we demonstrated that S100A10 contributes to angiogenesis. Endothelial cells in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice failed to invade into matrigel plugs *in vivo* and T241 tumors in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were poorly vascularized when compared to tumors grown in WT mice. Depletion of S100A10

severely impaired endothelial cell Pg-dependent invasion through a matrigel barrier *in vitro*. In conclusion, our studies with the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse establish an important role for S100A10 in endothelial cell-dependent fibrinolysis and angiogenesis. At the cellular level, S100A10 is responsible for a large portion of the Pg binding and Pm generation of murine and human microvascular endothelial cells.

## **5.2 Future directions.**

The work presented in this thesis establishes a role for S100A10 in regulating fibrinolysis. However, the data raises further questions relating to the role played by AIIIt and its individual components in a variety of processes, providing several interesting possibilities for future directions for this project. We have shown that S100A10 is important in activating fibrinolysis *in vivo* and *in vitro*. Further experiments investigating the role S100A10 plays in preventing pathologies associated with impaired fibrinolysis would provide further biological significance to the data presented. For example, investigating whether S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice are more susceptible to atherosclerosis induced by a high cholesterol diet would be of interest. Additionally, experiments investigating whether administration of S100A10 protein by injection would promote clot dissolution in mice would be useful in determining whether S100A10 has any therapeutic effects. Preliminary data presented in Appendix B expands on whether AIIIt-Hcy interactions participate in the contribution of Hcy to the development of cardiovascular disease. This preliminary data provides a plethora of future directions. I observed that AIIIt incubated with Hcy and HTL had a reduced ability to activate plasminogen. An interesting experiment would be to

observe whether Hcy and/or HTL alters the ability of AIIIt to bind to Pg and/or tPA. Analyzing these interactions using surface plasmon resonance would help elucidate the mechanism by which Hcy and HTL alter AIIIt Pg activation. The literature describes an interaction between the annexin A2 monomer and Hcy<sup>202,291</sup>, yet does not address a potential interaction between Hcy and AIIIt *in vivo*, which may be more relevant to impaired fibrinolysis. Placing mice on a hyperhomocysteinemic diet and analyzing the AIIIt from these mice for homocysteinylation would elucidate the nature of this potential interaction. Investigating the ability of the AIIIt from mice on a hyperhomocysteinemic diet to activate plasminogen would also provide insight into whether elevated homocysteine serum levels alter the ability of AIIIt to initiate fibrinolysis. In order to determine the nature of the Hcy-AIIIt and HTL-AIIIt interactions, AIIIt incubated with Hcy or HTL could be analyzed by mass spectrometry to determine which amino acid residues may be modified by Hcy. AIIIt isolated from murine lungs following a hyperhomocysteinemic diet could also be subjected to mass spectrometry in order to investigate the nature of the interaction *in vivo*.

Preliminary results also indicate that AIIIt participates in Hcy mediated p-ERK signaling in endothelial cells. Further experiments need to be performed in order to elucidate the role AIIIt plays in each of this signaling event. Additional experiments using S100A10 and other annexin A2 shRNA depleted TIME cells will clarify whether S100A10, annexin A2 or AIIIt are involved in this response. Addition of AIIIt and its individual components to the cells will provide evidence as to whether cell surface AIIIt, S100A10 or annexin A2 are

required for Hcy mediated signaling since the proteins will interact with the extracellular membrane without entering the cells. Additionally, it would be interesting to investigate whether gene expression in response to Hcy is altered in the absence of AIIIt. Of particular interest are MMP-9, tissue factor and adhesion molecules which can be induced by Hcy.<sup>281,288,300,331-333</sup> I also observed that p-ERK signaling was altered by loss of AIIIt. Similar experiments could therefore also be conducted to further investigate the role AIIIt plays in plasmin signaling and how loss of AIIIt and its protein components alters the endothelial cell response to the presence of plasmin.

Another interesting preliminary observation was that tissue factor was not detectable in annexin A2 and S100A10 depleted TIME cells. This result was very surprising and additional experiments would be very interesting to determine whether this result was due to cell culture conditions. Additional agents known to induce tissue factor expression would also be useful in determining whether these cells are capable of tissue factor expression. Experiments using additional endothelial cell lines and other cell types known to express tissue factor would investigate whether this phenomena is restricted to TIME cells. If it is a broad phenomena amongst endothelial cell lines, researching whether AIIIt is responsible for tissue factor expression and stability would be helpful in explaining the preliminary observation. Using the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> and annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice, experiments analyzing tissue factor expression and activity in various tissues and cell types would be useful in determining whether the observed loss of tissue factor in TIME cells also occurred *in vivo*.

The work described in this thesis establishes a role for S100A10 in the regulation of fibrinolysis. However, further work is necessary to determine whether S100A10 is a feasible therapeutic target in the treatment of thrombotic disorders.

## **APPENDIX A: MANUSCRIPT**

This appendix contains manuscript for the first publication created with work presented in this thesis. It was accepted for publication on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 in the journal *Blood*.

Manuscript references have not been included. All experiments were performed by Alexi Surette, except where indicated.

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## **Regulation of fibrinolysis by S100A10 in vivo**

**Running title: S100A10 and fibrinolysis**

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## **Abstract**

Endothelial cells form the inner lining of vascular networks and maintain blood fluidity by inhibiting blood coagulation and promoting blood clot dissolution (fibrinolysis). Plasmin, the primary fibrinolytic enzyme, is generated by the cleavage of the plasma protein, plasminogen, by its activator, tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). This reaction is regulated by plasminogen receptors at the surface of the vascular endothelial cells. Previous studies have identified the plasminogen receptor protein, S100A10 as a key regulator of plasmin generation by cancer cells and macrophages. Here we examine the role of S100A10 and its annexin A2 binding partner in endothelial cell function using a homozygous S100A10-null mouse. Compared to wild-type mice, S100A10-null mice displayed increased deposition of fibrin in the vasculature and reduced clearance of batroxobin-induced vascular thrombi, suggesting a role for S100A10 in fibrinolysis *in vivo*. Compared to WT cells, endothelial cells from S100A10-null mice demonstrated a 40% reduction in plasminogen binding and plasmin generation *in vitro*. Furthermore, S100A10-deficient endothelial cells demonstrated impaired neovascularization of Matrigel plugs *in vivo* suggesting a role for S100A10 in angiogenesis. These results establish an important role for S100A10 in the regulation of fibrinolysis and angiogenesis *in vivo*, suggesting S100A10 plays a critical role in endothelial cell function.

## **Introduction**

Blood clots are continually forming in the vasculature due to activation of the coagulation process by sluggish blood flow, the presence of tissue debris in the blood, collagen or lipids or because of damage to small blood vessels and capillaries<sup>1,2</sup>. In various diseases such as atherosclerosis, damage to the normally smooth vascular surface also results in the generation of blood clots. The endothelial cells that form the inner lining of the blood vessels are responsible for ensuring vascular patency by removing these potentially dangerous blood clots. To achieve this goal, the endothelial cells convert the plasma zymogen, plasminogen, to the active serine protease plasmin. The primary function of plasmin is to maintain vascular patency by degrading the fibrin-rich blood clots, a process called fibrinolysis<sup>3,4</sup>. Fibrinolysis is a normal vascular process that occurs continuously

and is required to prevent naturally occurring blood clots from growing and causing vascular occlusions which would result in heart attack and stroke<sup>5</sup>. Fundamental to the process of fibrinolysis are the proteins that colocalize plasminogen with its activators to the endothelial cell surface, thereby stimulating the formation of plasmin in a tightly localized and highly regulated fashion<sup>6</sup>. Among the protein and nonprotein plasminogen receptors that have been identified are a subset of plasminogen receptors that utilize their carboxyl-terminal lysine residue to interact with the kringle domains of plasminogen and tPA<sup>7-12</sup>. Several of these plasminogen receptors, such as  $\alpha$ -enolase<sup>13</sup>, histone H2B<sup>14</sup>, PLG-RTK<sup>15</sup> and S100A10<sup>16</sup> have recently been the focus of detailed studies highlighting the importance of plasminogen receptors in the regulation of cellular plasmin generation.

S100A10 is present on the surface of endothelial and other cells in a heterotetrameric complex with its binding partner, annexin A2<sup>17,18</sup>. The complex, called the annexin A2 heterotetramer (AIIIt), is composed of a dimer of S100A10 that links together two molecules of annexin A2. Our laboratory has demonstrated that the phospholipid-binding sites of annexin A2 anchor S100A10 to the cell surface whereas the carboxyl-terminal lysine of the S100A10 subunits provide the binding sites for tPA ( $K_d = 0.45 \mu\text{M}$ ), plasminogen (Pg) ( $K_d = 1.81 \mu\text{M}$ ) and plasmin (Pm) ( $K_d = 0.36 \mu\text{M}$ )<sup>19</sup>. The annexin A2 subunit may also play a role in Pg binding. However, the binding of Pg to annexin A2 is absolutely dependent on the cleavage of annexin A2 at Lys-307<sup>20</sup>, an event which has not been demonstrated to occur on the cell surface *in vivo*. The role of S100A10 in Pg binding and Pm regulation has been verified by a series of studies which have examined S100A10 function in the absence of annexin A2 *in vitro*. For example, removal of the carboxyl-terminal lysine from S100A10 attenuates its binding to tPA and Pg, establishing this region of S100A10 as the tPA and Pg binding site<sup>21</sup>. The binding of Pg to S100A10 also induces an activator-susceptible conformation in Pg which facilitates the activation of Pg by tPA<sup>19</sup>. Furthermore, S100A10 protects Pm from its physiological inhibitor,  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin and also protects tPA from its inhibitor, PAI-1<sup>22</sup>.

Using an *in vitro* assay that measures the rate of conversion of Pg to Pm by tPA, it was shown that recombinant S100A10 stimulated the rate of tPA-dependent activation of Pg

by about 46-fold compared to a stimulation of 2-fold by recombinant annexin A2 and 77-fold by recombinant AIIIt<sup>22</sup>. Interestingly, the formation of a complex between S100A10 and a peptide comprising the first fifteen amino acids of annexin A2, representing the S100A10-binding site of annexin A2, demonstrated similar activity to recombinant AIIIt, suggesting that the binding of annexin A2 to S100A10 stimulates S100A10-dependent Pg activation<sup>22</sup>. Other studies have used site-directed mutagenesis to study the role of S100A10 within the heterotetrameric complex. For example, a mutant recombinant AIIIt, composed of the wild-type annexin A2 and a S100A10 subunit deletion mutant missing the carboxyl-terminal lysine residue, possessed about 12% of the wild-type activity<sup>22</sup> and also failed to bind Pg<sup>19</sup>, confirming that the carboxyl-terminal lysine residue of S100A10 is the Pg binding site within AIIIt<sup>19</sup>. It has also been shown that physiologically relevant concentrations of plasma carboxypeptidase N and thrombin-activated fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI) are capable of completely ablating the enhancement of Pg activation by AIIIt. These enzymes specifically catalyze the removal of the carboxy-terminal lysine residues of S100A10<sup>21</sup>. These results suggest that S100A10 is a potent activator of cellular Pm generation and that physiological mechanisms exist to terminate S100A10-stimulated Pm production and thereby protect cells from the deleterious effect of Pm overproduction.

S100A10 was originally identified as an important regulator of Pm generation by endothelial and cancer cells *in vitro*<sup>17,23-25</sup>. Depletion of S100A10 by RNA interference results in the loss of 65-95% of cancer cell Pm generation<sup>23,24</sup>. The loss of S100A10 from the extracellular surface of HT1080 fibrosarcoma cells also corresponded to a decrease in cellular invasiveness and metastatic potential, suggesting a role for S100A10 in tumor growth and metastasis *in vivo*<sup>23</sup>. Recently, it was reported that macrophage recruitment in response to an inflammatory stimulus was markedly decreased in S100A10-deficient mice compared to wild-type mice. This established that S100A10 is a major mediator of the Pm-dependent component of the inflammatory response *in vivo*<sup>16</sup>. Interestingly, although a role for S100A10 in Pm regulation has been well documented, an *in vivo* role for S100A10 in endothelial cell function has not been investigated.

Here we use the recently developed homozygous S100A10-null mouse to investigate the role of S100A10 in endothelial cell function *in vivo*. We report that S100A10 plays a key role in the fibrinolytic and angiogenic response of endothelial cells *in vivo*.

## **Materials and Methods**

A detailed description of the routine methods is presented in the supplemental data. Only non-routine procedures and specialized materials are described here.

### **Mice**

The S100A10-null (S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>) mice, on a 129SV × a C57BL/6 background, were graciously provided by Svenningsson *et al.*<sup>26</sup>. Experimental mice were typically 6 to 8 weeks of age and of mixed gender. All animal experiments were performed in accordance with protocols approved by the University Committee on Laboratory Animals (UCLA) at Dalhousie University.

### **Isolation of Primary Murine Microvascular Cells**

Lungs were collected from five mice, finely diced, digested with Liberase Blendzyme (Roche), and passed through a 100 μm filter (BD Biosciences). Endothelial cells were then isolated by magnetic bead separation using CD146 microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec). Purity was measured by Dil-Ac-LDL (Biomedical Technologies).

### **Cell culture**

Primary endothelial cells and telomerase immortalized microvascular endothelial (TIME) cells were cultured with EBM-2 media (Lonza). Primary endothelial cells between passages 4 and 8 were used in all studies. T241 fibrosarcoma were a generous gift from Dr. Y. Cao (Karolinska Institute) and were cultured in complete DMEM (Gibco).

## **Plasmids**

pSUPER-retro plasmids were constructed as previously described.<sup>207</sup> Briefly, TIME cells were transduced with a retroviral shRNA system using shRNA specific for two sequences of S100A10 (shRNA 1 and shRNA 5), one sequence of annexin A2 (shRNA 4) and a control shRNA scramble sequence (shRNA Scramble).

## **Transfections**

In order to establish S100A10 and annexin A2 knockdown cell lines, Phoenix packaging cells plated in 25 cm<sup>3</sup> flasks were transfected with 4 µg of the pSUPER-retro plasmids described above using the Lipofectamine 2000 transfection reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. 48 hours after transfection the TIME cells were infected with the Phoenix cell supernatants. 48 hours after infection the S100A10 and annexin A2 knockdown cells were selected with 2 µg/ml of puromycin for a minimum of one week.

## **Analysis of Protein Expression**

Proteins were analyzed by Western immunoblot as described in detail in the supplemental data.

## **Plasminogen activation**

Cells were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin and washed 3X with DPBS. 1x10<sup>5</sup> cells were then incubated with 5 nM tPA for 20 minutes at 4 °C in incubation buffer (HBSS containing 3 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>). The cells were then washed 3X with incubation buffer and incubated with 0.5 µM Glu-Pg and 250 µM Pm substrate S2251 (Chromogenix, Diapharma Group). The uPA Pg activation assay was performed as previously described<sup>334</sup> using 25 nM uPA (Sigma) instead of tPA and is described in detail

in the supplemental data. The rate of plasmin generation was measured at absorbance 405 nm every minute for 2 hours using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader.

### **Plasminogen binding assays**

Preparation of FITC-Pg is described elsewhere.<sup>142</sup> Cells were washed and cultured in the absence of serum for 2 hours prior to assay. Cells were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin and washed 3X with DPBS. For carboxypeptidase B (CpB) (Worthington Biochemical) treatment, cells were incubated for 20 minutes at 37 °C in the presence of 5 U/ml CpB. Cells were then incubated with 200 nM FITC Glu-Pg, with or without  $\epsilon$ -ACA (100 mM), for 1 hour at 4 °C in HBSS (1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 3 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>). Pg binding was measured by FACS analysis .

### **Cell surface biotinylation**

Cell surface protein levels were analyzed by cell surface biotinylation as described in detail in the supplemental data.

### **Fibrin deposition**

Levels of fibrin deposition were determined as previously described<sup>27</sup>.

### **Histochemistry and Immunohistochemistry**

Masson's trichrome and immunohistochemical staining of tissues are described in detail in the supplemental data.

### **Batroxobin-induced fibrin deposition**

WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> C57BL/6 mice were injected with 25  $\mu$ Ci <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen (MP

Biomedicals) followed by 25 U/kg batroxobin (Pentapharm) using tail vein catheters (Braintree Scientific). Two hours later, blood and tissues were collected and weighed. Gamma counts for the tissues and blood were measured with a Beckman LS 5000TA scintillation counter and corrected for weight.

### **Neoangiogenesis assay**

750  $\mu$ L Growth Factor-reduced Matrigel (BD Biosciences) with 200 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) (Invitrogen) and 60 U/mL heparin (Calbiochem) added was injected subcutaneously into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> C57BL/6 mice. After 7 days, the Matrigel plug was removed and embedded in Tissue Tek Cryo-OCT (Andwin Scientific). Sections were blocked with horse serum (1:20; Gibco) and incubated with an antibody against CD31 (1:250; BD Biosciences) or normal mouse IgG1 (as control; BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. Sections were then stained with Alexa-Fluor 488 conjugated rabbit anti-rat (1:2500; Invitrogen) and DAPI. Vessel density was quantified using Image J v1.42q software (National Institutes of Health).

### **T241 tumor angiogenesis**

T241 tumors were established by subcutaneous injection of  $2 \times 10^6$  cells, suspended in 100  $\mu$ L DMEM (Gibco), containing 10% FBS (Hyclone), in the right flank of female 6-8week old mice. Tumors were removed from the mice after 3 weeks and embedded in Tissue Tek Cryo-OCT (Andwin Scientific). Sections were blocked with horse serum (1:20; Gibco) and incubated with an antibody against CD31 (1:250; BD Biosciences) or normal mouse IgG1 (as control; BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. Sections were then stained with Alexa-Fluor 488 conjugated rabbit anti-rat (1:2500; Invitrogen) and DAPI. Vessel density was quantified using Image J v1.42q software (National Institutes of Health).



### **Matrigel invasion and cell migration**

Murine WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells and control or S100A10-depleted TIME cells were loaded (1x10<sup>5</sup> cells/well) into the upper layer of Transwell chambers, coated with Matrigel (invasion assays) or uncoated (migration assays) (BD Biosciences). Pg (0.5 μM), which was prepared as previously described<sup>28</sup>, and CpB (5 U/mL) were added to serum-free media in the upper chamber where indicated while media with 20% FBS was added to the bottom chamber as chemoattractant. After 48 hours, cells on the underside of the membrane were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (Sigma-Aldrich) and counted.

**Coagulation Assays**-The prothrombin time (PT) and activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) were determined using an ACL TOP (Beckman Coulter) while platelet levels were determined using an LH 755 analyzer (Beckman Coulter). Citrated blood collected from the mice was used for all coagulation assays. Clot lysis assay is described in supplemental data.

### **Tail Vein Clip Assay**

WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> C57BL/6 mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane and the bottom 3 mm of the tail was clipped off with a scalpel and the bleeding tail was placed in 37 °C saline. Time until bleeding stoppage and re-bleeding was recorded.

### **Statistics**

Statistical significance was determined by Student's t test or one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. Results were regarded as significant if 2-tailed P values were less than 0.05. All data are expressed as mean ± SD.

## Results

### **S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice accumulate fibrin in their tissues**

S100A10 has been proposed to be an important regulator of cellular Pm generation<sup>17</sup>. Mice with inactivation of the Pg gene do not generate Pm and develop spontaneous fibrin deposition in the tissues due to impaired fibrinolysis<sup>29,30</sup>. Therefore, we compared the fibrin content of freshly isolated tissues from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Tissues homogenates were prepared and the fibrin levels were determined by Western blot analysis using an anti-fibrin antibody. As shown in Figure 1A, tissues from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice contain significantly higher amounts of fibrin than their WT litter mates. Quantification of band intensity revealed 1.8-fold increases of fibrin in lung, 2.2 fold increase in liver, 4 fold increase in kidney and 4.4 fold increase spleen from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared with WT controls. Fibrin immunohistochemistry of tissue sections demonstrated areas of fibrin deposition in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> lung (Figure 1A), liver (Figure 1B), spleen (Figure 1C) and kidney (Figure 1D) while fibrin positive staining was not observed in sections from the WT mice. Since this increased accumulation of fibrin in the tissues of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice could be due to either enhanced coagulation or reduced fibrinolytic activity, we further investigated the potential role of S100A10 in coagulation and fibrinolysis. The PT and aPTT values were identical between the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Supplemental Figure S1A,B), suggesting that S100A10 depletion does not affect the coagulation pathway.

### **S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have impaired fibrinolysis**

To evaluate fibrinolysis in WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen was injected via the tail vein into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. After 5 minutes, fibrin clot formation was initiated by the tail vein injection of batroxobin<sup>31</sup> and after 2 hours, blood and tissues were collected and total radioactivity was determined. We observed that the tissues of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice had significantly greater accumulation of <sup>125</sup>I-label than the WT mice

and less  $^{125}\text{I}$ -label in the blood (Figure 2). For example, the residual radioactivity in the lung tissue of the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mouse was 2.5-fold higher than the WT lung tissue and 5-fold lower in the blood. The dramatic loss in the ability of the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mouse to degrade a batroxobin-induced clot could be due to a loss in plasma components of the fibrin clot lysis system or the fibrinolytic activity of the endothelium. Therefore, we compared the plasma components of the fibrinolytic system. The platelet and protein levels of plasma Pg and fibrinogen of WT and  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice were similar (Supplemental Figure S1 C,D). Plasma clots prepared from WT and  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice were then evaluated for their susceptibility to tPA-mediated clot lysis. We observed that neither the time to clot nor the time of clot lysis differed between the WT and  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice (Supplemental Figure S1E,F). Additionally, no differences were observed in antiplasmin levels, plasmin-antiplasmin (PAP) complex levels and thrombin potential between the WT and  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice (Supplemental Figure S1 G,H,I). These results are consistent with a loss of fibrinolytic activity of the endothelium in the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mouse.

### **Tail bleeding-rebleeding assay**

A short segment of the tail of WT and  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice was clipped and the time until cessation of bleeding was determined. We observed that mice lacking  $\text{S100A10}$  had a 4-fold reduction in the bleeding time after the tail clip compared to the WT mice (Figure 3A). Since we observed a decrease in fibrinolysis in the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mouse (Figure 2B), and a similar coagulation rate (Supplemental Figure S1A,B), the observed reduction in bleeding time by the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice was likely due to decreased fibrinolysis of the tail clip-induced blood clot. We also observed that the time between cessation of bleeding and the initiation of subsequent episodes of bleeding, the rebleeding time, was of shorter duration and also occurred with less frequency with the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice (Table 1). This suggested that the clots formed by the  $\text{S100A10}^{-/-}$  mice were more stable than the WT mice, presumably again due to a decreased rate of fibrinolysis.

We also examined the tails of the mice for other differences that might explain the variations in the bleeding and rebleeding values. Sections of the tails were stained for collagen with Masson's Trichrome (Figure 3B,C) and obvious qualitative differences were not observed, thus suggesting that the collagen levels and architecture of the tails were similar. Since the tail collagen is the major platelet adhesive substratum for initiation of coagulation, these results further support our data suggesting that decreased fibrinolytic activity by the endothelium of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was responsible for the decreased bleeding times. Sections of the tail from the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were also stained for S100A10 (Figure 3D,E). As expected, S100A10 did not stain the tail section obtained from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (Figure 3E) while S100A10 staining is observed throughout the WT sections, including on the endothelium of the vessels (Figure 3D).

#### **Generation of plasmin by isolated endothelial cells from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.**

We investigated the possibility that the fibrinolytic defect displayed by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was due to endothelial cell dysfunction. Lung endothelial cells from WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were isolated. Total annexin A2 levels were unaffected by loss of S100A10 (Figure 4A) while cell-surface annexin A2 was depleted in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells (Figure 4C). In contrast, the cell surface levels of annexin A2 in the endothelial cell line, TIME, were unaffected by S100A10 depletion (Figure 4D), while total annexin A2 levels were also unaltered (Figure 4B). Compared to the WT mice, the endothelial cells from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed 40% less Pg binding (Figure 4E) and Pm generation (Figure 4G). We also observed that human endothelial cells that were depleted of S100A10 by RNA interference also bound about 50% less Pg (Figure 4E) and generated 60% less Pm with both tPA (Figure 4H) and uPA (Figure 4I). Pretreatment of the cells with carboxypeptidase B significantly decreased Pg binding and activation, suggesting that these processes are dependent in large part on carboxyl-terminal lysine on the Pg receptors. In this regard, S100A10 was responsible for 76% and 55% of the carboxyl-terminal dependent Pg binding of the murine and human endothelial cells, respectively.

This also suggests that although S100A10 is the dominant Pg-binding protein in endothelial cells, other carboxyl-terminal lysine containing Pg receptors also contribute to endothelial cell Pg binding and Pm generation.

We also examined the possible contribution of annexin A2 to endothelial cell Pm regulation. Depletion of annexin A2 by RNA interference reduced TIME cell Pg binding by about 50% and Pm generation with tPA and uPA by around 60% (Supplemental Figure S2B,C,D). These values were similar to the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation observed for S100A10-depleted TIME cells (Figure 4F,H,I). As expected, the depletion of TIME cell annexin A2 by the annexin A2 shRNA also resulted in S100A10 depletion (Supplemental Figure S2A). Thus, the similarity between the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation between TIME cells depleted of S100A10 by S100A10 shRNAs, but possessing unaltered levels of annexin A2 (Figure 4F,H) and those depleted of both annexin A2 and S100A10 by the annexin A2 shRNA (Supplemental Figure S2B,C) suggested that annexin A2 did not significantly contribute to TIME cell Pg binding and Pm generation under these experimental conditions. Annexin A2 binds Pg via a mechanism that is absolutely dependent on the exposure of a new carboxyl-terminal lysine. The exposure of this lysine residue requires proteolytic processing and the loss of 29 amino acid residues (about 3200 Da)<sup>20</sup>. Therefore, if annexin A2 played a significant role in Pm generation by the TIME cells, it would be expected that the truncated annexin A2 would be the predominant form of annexin A2 on the cell surface of TIME cells. Although we easily detected intact cell surface annexin A2, we were unable to detect any truncated annexin A2 at the cell surface (Figure 4D).

### **S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice display reduced angiogenesis**

Pm, by virtue of its role in the degradation of extracellular matrix proteins, plays an important role in angiogenesis and Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice show significant defects in angiogenesis<sup>32</sup>. To examine the possible role of S100A10 in angiogenesis, we implanted WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice with Matrigel plugs containing bFGF. When known angiogenic factors,

such as bFGF, are mixed with Matrigel and injected subcutaneously into mice, endothelial cells migrate into the Matrigel plug and form vessel-like structures. We observed that the Matrigel plugs obtained from the WT mice contained 4.7 fold more positive endothelial staining when compared to the plugs obtained from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 5A,B). When T241 tumors grown in the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were stained for the endothelial cell marker CD31, we observed 1.7 fold more positive staining in the tumors grown in the WT mice compared to those grown in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (Figure 5C,D). These results suggest that angiogenesis was severely compromised in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

### **Endothelial cells from S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice show impaired chemotaxis through Matrigel**

The simplest explanation for the inability of the S100A10-depleted endothelial cells to vascularize the Matrigel plug was due to the reduced capacity of these cells to generate Pm and clear a path through the Matrigel plug. We therefore directly examined the ability of the WT and S100A10-null endothelial cells to migrate through a Matrigel layer. These experiments used Boyden chambers in which Pg and endothelial cells isolated from WT or S100A10-null mice were placed in the upper chamber, the insert between chambers was coated with Matrigel, and serum was added to the lower chamber to act as a chemoattractant. We observed that in response to the chemoattractant, 74% fewer S100A10-null endothelial cells migrated across the Matrigel barrier than WT endothelial cells (Figure 5E). Carboxypeptidase B treatment decreased migration across the Matrigel barrier of both WT and S100A10-null cells. We also observed that 55% fewer S100A10-depleted TIME cells migrated across the Matrigel barrier than control TIME cells (Figure 5F) and that carboxypeptidase B treatment also decreased migration across the Matrigel barrier of both control and S100A10-depleted TIME cells. Interestingly, the chemotaxis of the WT endothelial cells was enhanced in the presence of Pg. A comparison of the chemotaxis of the S100A10-null cells in the presence or absence of Pg suggested that S100A10 was responsible for 100% of this Pg-dependent chemotaxis of the S100A10-

null cells and similarly for 75% of the Pg dependent chemotaxis of the S100A10-depleted TIME cells. These results suggest that S100A10 plays a key role in the regulation of endothelial cell surface protease activity. Loss of annexin A2 resulted in similar decrease in Pg dependent invasion through a matrigel barrier (Supplemental Figure 2E).

When chemotaxis assays were repeated in the absence of a Matrigel barrier, the migration of endothelial cells from WT and S100A10-null mice through the inserts was indistinguishable (Figure 5G) as was the migration of the S100A10 depleted TIME cells (Figure 5H). This result establishes that the ability of the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells to migrate in response to a chemotactic stimulus was unaffected by genetic ablation of S100A10.

## **Discussion**

Our observation that S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice accumulate fibrin in their tissues is consistent with a role for S100A10 in Pm generation and fibrinolysis. However, fibrin clot accumulation in tissue is a dynamic process that is regulated by both the rate of clot formation (coagulation) and clot dissolution (fibrinolysis). Therefore, fibrin accumulation in the tissues could also be explained by increased coagulation in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse. Since the PT and aPTT assays, which directly measure coagulation, were identical for the WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, it is unlikely that enhanced coagulation is responsible for the increased accumulation of fibrin in the tissues of S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

To directly measure endogenous fibrinolysis *in vivo*, we injected mice with <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen followed by injection of batroxobin. Batroxobin is a thrombin-like enzyme which cleaves mainly the fibrinopeptide A from fibrinogen and activates factor XIII only to a slight degree<sup>33</sup>. Compared to thrombin-formed fibrin, batroxobin-formed fibrin is more readily lysed by Pm, since it only cross-links fibrin to a minor extent. Furthermore, unlike thrombin, batroxobin does not activate platelets<sup>34</sup>. Under our experimental conditions, batroxobin rapidly converts <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen to <sup>125</sup>I-fibrin which is removed

from the blood and retained in the tissues. Pm which is produced by the endothelium of the tissues digests the  $^{125}\text{I}$ -fibrin and these degradation products are released into the blood. Our observation that the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have higher tissue and lower blood radioactivity levels than the WT mice suggests that the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have lower rates of fibrinolysis *in vivo*. Similarly, another group used the batroxobin model system for analysis of fibrinolysis in mice deficient in the thrombin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI). They reported a reduction of radioactivity in the lungs of TAFI<sup>-/-</sup> mice, consistent with an increase in fibrinolytic activity in these mice<sup>35</sup>.

Tail bleeding times have typically been used to provide a measure of hemostasis *in vivo*, and tail bleeding times in mice are sensitive to both alterations in coagulation<sup>36</sup> or fibrinolysis<sup>37</sup>. Our observation that bleeding time is reduced in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice, compared to WT mice, is consistent with the decreased fibrinolysis exhibited by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Bleeding time has been shown to be significantly increased in the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to WT mice<sup>38</sup> whereas another group found no difference<sup>39</sup>. The interpretation of the Pg<sup>-/-</sup> mouse data was complicated by the possible role of Pg in platelet function<sup>38</sup>. However, S100A10 has not been detected in platelets, suggesting that loss of S100A10 is unlikely to affect platelet function<sup>40</sup>. In support of the decreased bleed time being due to decreased fibrinolysis is the report that textilinin-1, a potent Pm inhibitor from *Pseudonaja textilis* venom, dramatically decreases the bleeding time<sup>37</sup>.

Similarly, the decreased rebleeding time, exhibited by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to the WT mice, could be due to increased stability of the fibrin clot due to decreased fibrinolytic attack. The decreased fibrinolytic attack could be mediated by the generation of Pm by the assembly of tPA and Pg on the plasma clot surface or by Pm generated as a consequence of the assembly of tPA and Pg on the surface of the endothelium. Our observation that t-PA dependent plasma clot lysis by WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice is identical would rule out the possibility that neither the assembly of tPA and Pg on the fibrin clot and the generation of Pm by the plasma clot are altered by S100A10 depletion. Therefore, the central defect in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice likely involves Pm generation by the



endothelium.

Matrigel is an extract of the Engleberth-Holm-Swarm tumor, and is composed of basement membrane proteins. The Matrigel plug supports an intense vascular response when supplemented with angiogenic factors, such as bFGF, and is a well established procedure for measurement of angiogenic responses in mice. Our observation that the Matrigel plugs were poorly vascularized by the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to WT mice suggests that depletion of S100A10 inhibits angiogenesis. Further evidence for the role of S100A10 in angiogenesis is provided by the significant reduction in endothelial cells within T241 tumors grown in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to normal tumor vascularization in the WT mice. A role for S100A10 in angiogenesis was also suggested by the dramatic loss in the ability of S100A10-depleted endothelial cells to migrate through Matrigel barriers (Figure 5).

Hajjar's group has recently developed an annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mouse<sup>27</sup>. The homozygous annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed deposition of fibrin in the microvasculature and incomplete clearance of injury-induced arterial thrombi. Our results support a subsequent publication from Hajjar's group reporting that the loss of annexin A2 also results in the loss of S100A10 in these mice<sup>41</sup> (Supplementary Figure S2A). The concomitant loss of S100A10 with annexin A2 depletion was also consistent with the reports from several other laboratories<sup>42-46</sup>. Since the levels of S100A10 were reduced in the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice it is unclear if the fibrin deposition observed in the annexin A2<sup>-/-</sup> mice was due to annexin A2 or S100A10 depletion (or both). Interestingly, we observed that compared to WT endothelial cells, the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells had similar total levels of annexin A2 but the cell surface annexin A2 levels were depleted. This suggested that S100A10 might be necessary for the transport of annexin A2 to the cell surface<sup>42</sup>. However, the loss of cell surface annexin A2 in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> endothelial cells made it difficult to assess the function of annexin A2 in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> cells. We therefore utilized two different approaches to address the issue of whether annexin A2 played a significant role in endothelial cell-dependent fibrinolysis. First, since annexin A2 requires proteolytic processing and

cleavage at Lys-307 to form a carboxyl-terminal Pg binding site, we examined the molecular weight forms of annexin A2 at the endothelial cell surface by western blotting. Although native annexin A2 was easily detected, we were unable to detect any lower molecular weight (truncated) forms of annexin A2 (Figure 4C,D and Supplemental Figure S2A). Similarly, we have been unable to detect any truncated annexin A2 on the surface of macrophages that are actively generating Pm16, on the surface of hyperfibrinolytic leukemic promyelocytes<sup>25</sup> and on the surface of cancer cells<sup>23</sup>. The truncated form of annexin A2 (Ser-1-Lys-307) has to the best of our knowledge never been directly demonstrated on any cell surface. Interesting, similar to our suggestion that annexin A2 does not play a role on the surface of endothelial cells, has been the suggestion that macrophage cell surface annexin A2 most likely serves as a cell-surface binding partner of S100A10, but does not directly bind Pg<sup>47</sup>. Second, TIME cells depleted of S100A10 showed dramatic losses in both Pg binding (50%) and Pm generation (60%) even though the surface annexin A2 levels of the WT and S100A10-depleted cells are similar (Figure 4). Third, the loss in Pg binding and Pm generation is similar between the S100A10-depleted TIME cells and the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells despite the fact that the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells are actually depleted in both cell surface annexin A2 and cell surface S100A10, i.e. the loss in cell surface annexin A2 does not appear to effect Pg binding or Pm generation under these experimental conditions. Therefore, we propose that annexin A2 functions to stabilize S100A10 and to localize S100A10 to the cell surface of endothelial cells but does not play a direct role in fibrinolysis by endothelial cells (figure 6).

In conclusion, our studies with the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mouse establish an important role for S100A10 in endothelial cell-dependent fibrinolysis and angiogenesis. At the cellular level, S100A10 is responsible for much of the Pg binding and Pm generation of murine and human microvascular endothelial cells.

### **Acknowledgements**

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Nova Scotia. We thank Patricia Colp from the Dalhousie University Histology and Research Services Laboratory for tissue processing.

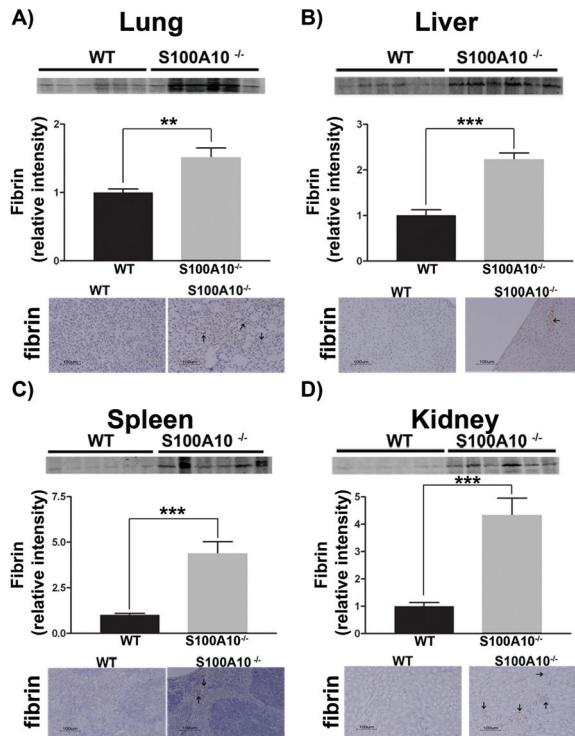
### **Authorship**

Contribution: APS designed and performed research, analyzed data, and wrote the manuscript. PAM generated the S100A10 and Annexin A2 depleted human endothelial cell lines and cell surface biotinylation. KDP and VAM performed research. PS provided the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice and critically evaluated the manuscript. DMW. designed research, analyzed data, and wrote the manuscript.

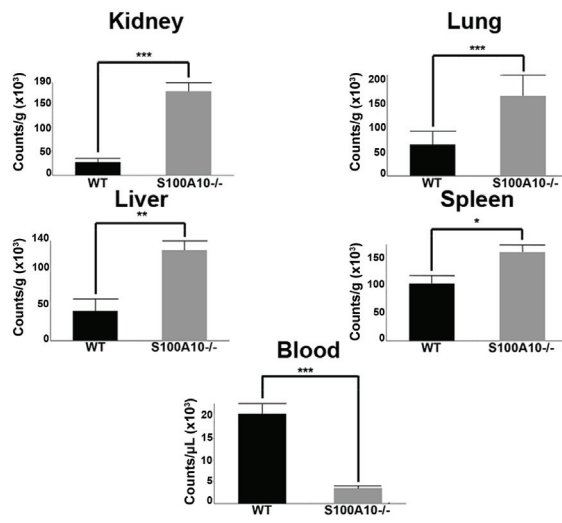
Conflict of Interest Disclosure: The authors declare no conflict of interest

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**Figure A1. Loss of S100A10 results in increased tissue fibrin deposition.** Lung, liver, kidney and spleen tissues from 6 WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were collected, and the fibrin content of tissue lysates was determined by SDS-PAGE and Western blot analysis. 10 ng of each tissue were loaded. Quantification of fibrin deposition was normalized to WT levels. Immunohistochemistry for fibrin was performed on perfused sections of formalin fixed tissues. Sections were deparaffinized and incubated with anti-fibrin antibody followed by anti-rabbit HRP. Arrows indicate areas with fibrin deposition. Tissues observed were lung (A), liver (B), spleen (C) and kidney (D). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean ( $\pm$ ) SEM of 6 independent experiments (\*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001). Sections were mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using a 20 $\times$ /0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

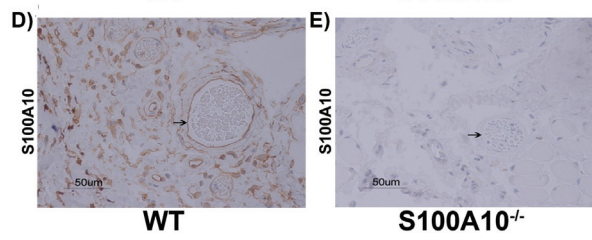
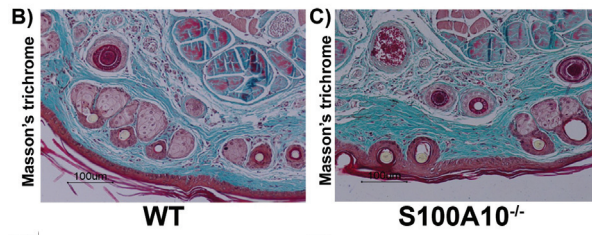
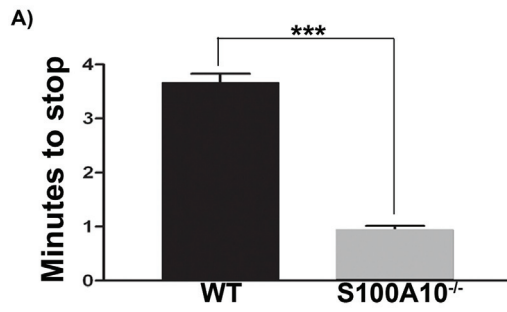


**Figure A2. S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice have impaired ability to clear induced fibrin clots.** WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were injected with <sup>125</sup>I-fibrinogen and batroxobin. After 2 hours, tissues were collected, weighed and radioactivity was measured in a gamma counter. The data are expressed as counts per gram of tissue. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as the mean (±) SEM of 6 independent experiments (\*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

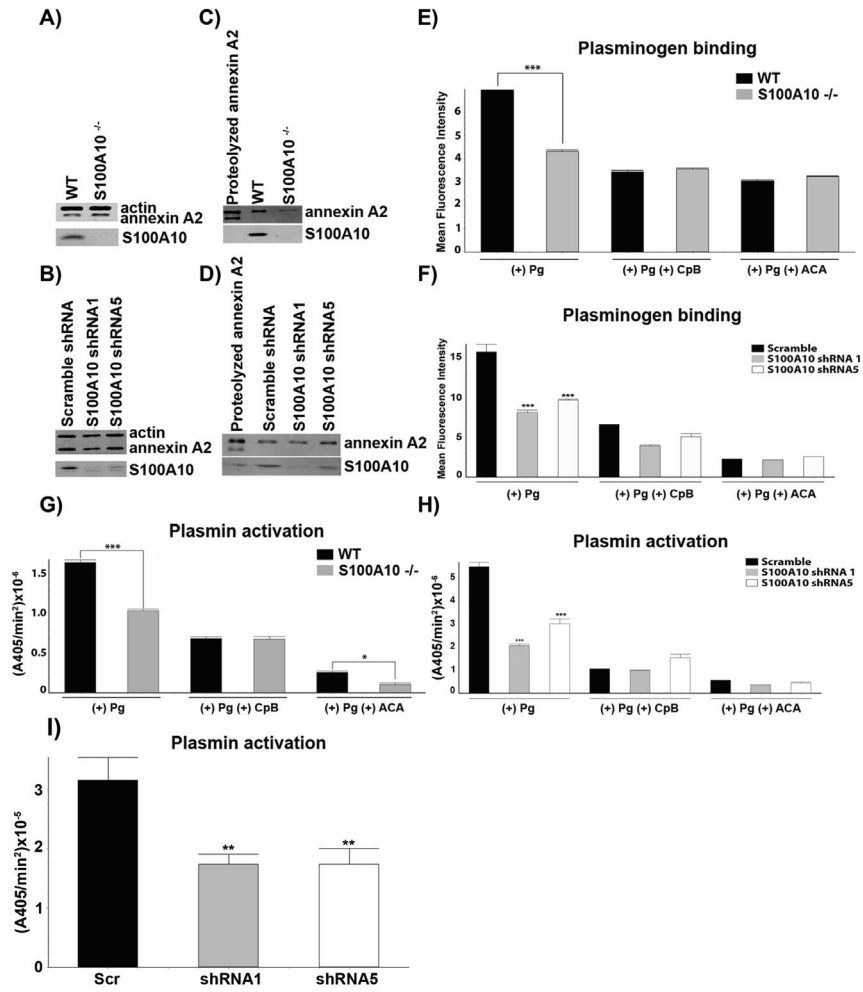


**Figure A3. Bleeding time in WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** The last 3 mm of the tail of anaesthetized WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice was clipped using a scalpel blade. The clipped tails of the anaesthetized mice were placed in 37 °C saline and the time for cessation of bleeding was recorded (A). Masson's trichrome stain was used to observe the morphology of tail sections from WT (B) and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> (C) mice. Immunohistochemistry for S100A10 was also performed on tail sections from WT (D) and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> (E) mice. Sections were deparaffinized and either subjected to Masson's trichrome or anti-S100A10 antibody followed by anti-goat HRP. Arrows indicate endothelial lining of vessels. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test and the data are expressed as (±) SEM of 3 independent experiments (\*\*\*) p < 0.001). Sections were mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

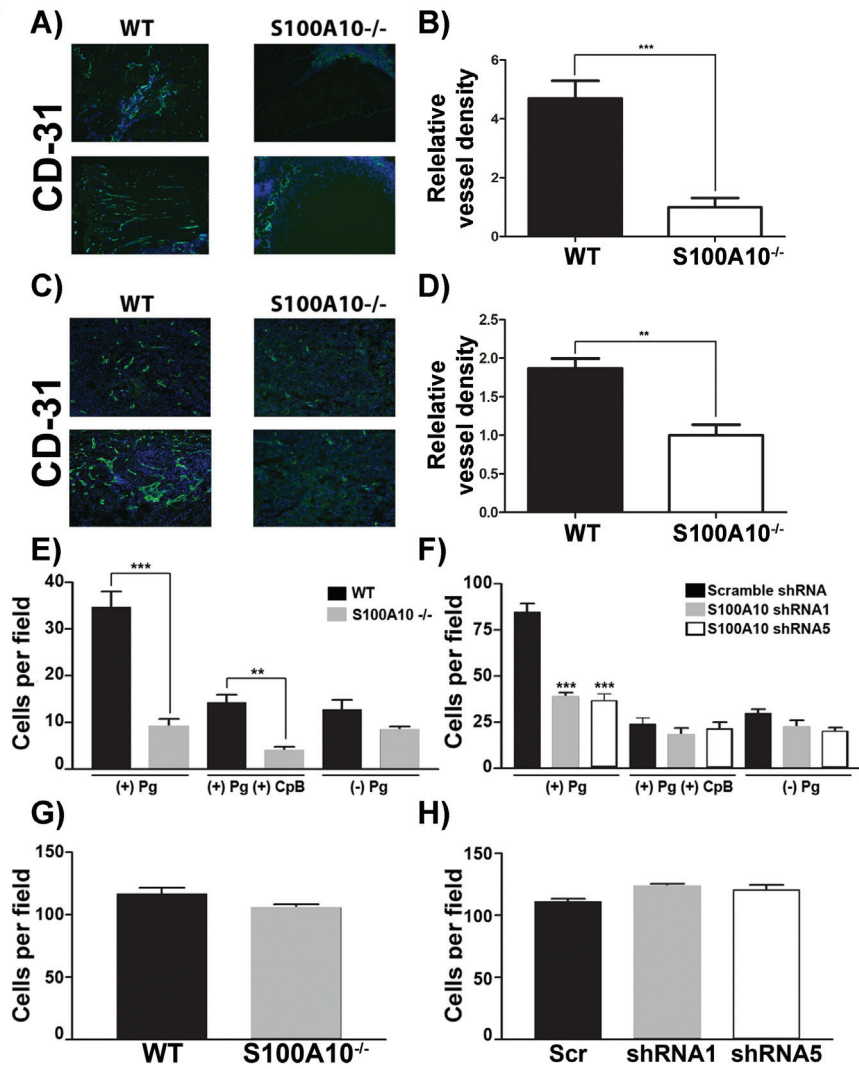




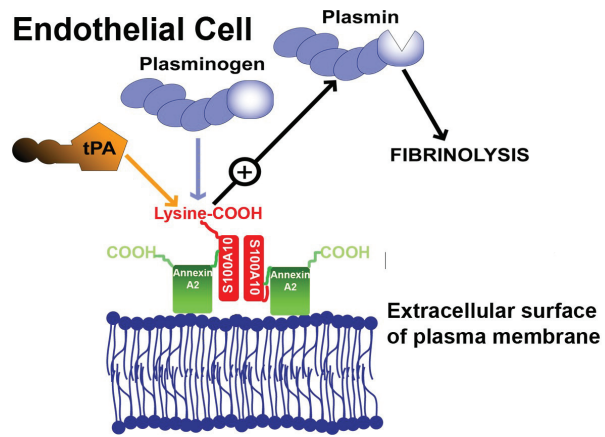
**Figure A4. Depletion of S100A10 results in decreased endothelial cell plasminogen binding and plasmin generation.** In order to detect the total cellular levels of annexin A2 and S100A10, primary murine endothelial cells, isolated from WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A), as well as control and S100A10 depleted TIME cells (B), were dissociated from culture flasks, lysed, subjected to SDS PAGE and immunoblotted with anti-actin (loading control), anti-annexin A2 or anti-S100A10 antibodies. Cell surface protein levels for primary murine endothelial cells (C) and TIME cells (D), as detected by cell-surface biotinylation, are shown. FITC-Pg binding to the primary murine endothelial cells (E) or TIME cells (F) was measured by FACS. Quantification of flow cytometric analysis of Pg binding was calculated using WinMDI software. Loss of S100A10 affected tPA dependent plasmin generation by primary murine endothelial cells (G) and TIME cells (H) along with uPA dependent plasmin generation by TIME cells (I). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test (E,G) or ANOVA (F,H) (\* p < 0.1, \*\*\* p < 0.001). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated). TIME cell shRNA knockdown cell lines were created by Dr Patricia Madureira.



**Figure A5. Role of S100A10 in plasmin dependent Matrigel invasion.** WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were implanted with a Matrigel plug containing 200 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor and 60 U/ml heparin. CD31 staining (green) of endothelial cells shows decreased invasion into the matrigel plug in S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (A). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Tissue surrounding the matrigel plug is visible in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> sections. Quantification of positive CD31 staining of 20X fields from 3 separate matrigel plugs was performed using Image J software (B). T241 fibrosarcoma cells were injected *s.c.* into WT and S100A10<sup>-/-</sup>. Tumors were collected after 3 weeks. CD31 staining (green) of endothelial cells shows decreased levels of endothelial cells in tumors collected from the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice (C). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Quantification of positive CD31 staining of 20X fields from 3 separate tumors was performed using Image J software (D). Sections were mounted using Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories) and viewed using a 20×/0.5 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Zeiss Axioplan 2 microscope using a Spot 2 digital camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using Axiovision 4.7 (Zeiss). Primary WT or S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> murine endothelial cells (E,G) or control or S100A10 depleted TIME cells (F,H) were added to the top chamber of Transwell chambers in the presence of media and in the presence or absence of Pg (0.5 μM). Some chambers were coated with Matrigel (invasion assays) (E,F) or uncoated (migration assays) (G,H). The lower chambers contained media with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Cells were incubated for 48 hours after which invading cells were stained with Haematoxylin and Eosin and counted. Data are expressed as mean number of cells per 40X field plus or minus SD of 3 independent experiments. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test (B,D,E,G) or ANOVA (F,H) (\*\*\*) p<0.001). In some experiments cells were pretreated with carboxypeptidase B (CpB, 5 U/ml), which was added to the upper chamber where indicated. Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated). T241 tumors were grown by Dr Kyle Phipps.



**Figure A6. Model depicting the role of S100A10 in endothelial cell plasmin generation.** The predominant form of S100A10 at the endothelial cell surface is as a heterotetramer, AII<sub>t</sub>, which consists of two copies each of the annexin A2 and S100A10 subunits<sup>22</sup>. The annexin A2 subunit acts as a regulatory subunit which utilizes its phospholipid-binding sites to anchor S100A10 to the cell surface. The S100A10 subunit binds tPA and Pg at the carboxyl-terminal lysine residue<sup>18,19</sup>. The colocalization of tPA and Pg results in accelerated cleavage of Pg by tPA resulting in Pm generation and fibrinolytic activity.



**Table 1. Time of bleeding stops and starts.**

	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start	Stop	Start
WT 1	3:30	4:50	7:40	9:36	10:23															
WT 2	3:09	3:20	4:15	5:40	6:11	8:20	9:11	11:10	12:10	13:20	14:15	15:01	21:00	22:30						
WT 3	3:38	4:55	7:11	7:40	8:35	8:50	11:47	12:25												
WT 4	3:30	5:54	6:28	7:20	8:05	9:00	9:41	11:36	12:03	13:50	14:39	15:50	17:04	18:12	18:40	18:56	23:23	26:12	27:33	29:13
WT 5	4:17	6:14	7:40	8:54	11:01	12:06	15:45	17:20	19:50	21:33										
WT 6	2:57	6:29	11:03	13:16	17:37	20:04	21:50													
-/- 1	0:45																			
-/- 2	0:50	2:30	4:00																	
-/- 3	0:51	4:30	5:00																	
-/- 4	0:58	10:40	11:02																	
-/- 5	1:15	6:08	7:07	11:30	11:58	17:00	17:17													
-/- 6	1:01	5:31	5:55																	

The last 3 mm of the mouse tail was clipped and the tail was placed in 37 °C saline. Time until cessation and re-initiation of bleeding was recorded. Bleeding-re-bleeding was followed for 30 min.



## **Supplemental Methods**

### **Analysis of protein expression**

Cells were lysed with cell lysis buffer (1% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, and protease inhibitor cocktail (1:500; Sigma-Aldrich)). 20 µg total protein was loaded into each well and was resolved by 12% SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) and electroblotted onto nitrocellulose membranes. Proteolyzed annexin A2 was generated as previously described<sup>16</sup>. Membranes were incubated with antibodies for S100A10 (BD Biosciences), annexin A2 (BD Biosciences), and actin (loading control; Sigma) and the secondary IRdye-800 antibody (LI-COR Biosciences). Antibody complexes were viewed on the Odyssey IR imaging system (LI-COR Biosciences).

### **Cell surface biotinylation**

Endothelial cells ( $5 \times 10^6$ ) were washed with incubation buffer (IB; 20 mM HEPES, 3 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 150 mM NaCl) and incubated with 1 mM Sulfo-NHS-SS-biotin (Pierce) in IB for 30 minutes at room temperature. Cells were lysed in lysis buffer (see western blot analysis above) on ice for 10 minutes and 100 µg total protein was incubated with 30 µL of Dynabeads M-280 streptavidin (Invitrogen) for 2 hours at 4 °C with rotation and then washed 5X with lysis buffer. Beads were resuspended in 2X SDS-PAGE loading buffer, and the supernatant collected, subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by western blot analysis for S100A10 and annexin A2.

### **Histochemistry and immunohistochemistry**

Tissues were fixed in 10% formalin and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin sections were deparaffinized, blocked with horse serum (1:20; Invitrogen) and incubated with rabbit anti-fibrin(ogen) (F0111; Dako), S100A10 (BAF2377 ;R&D Systems), or normal mouse IgG1 (as control; BD Biosciences) at room temperature overnight. Sections were then incubated for 1 hour at room temperature with Horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated

antibodies specific for rabbit or goat (Santa Cruz). Subsequently, a peroxidase diaminobenzidine detection system (Dako North America) was applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sections were counterstained with hematoxylin. Sections were mounted using Cytoseal 60 mounting media (Richard-Allen Scientific) and viewed using either a 40×/0.75 NA or 10×/0.3 NA objective lens. Images were captured by the Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope using a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Digital acquisition of the images was performed using ACT-1 v2.7 software (Nikon). Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).

#### **uPA dependent plasmin activation.**

Plasmin activation with uPA was performed as previously described<sup>48</sup>. Briefly, TIME cells were trypsinized with EDTA-free trypsin and washed 3X with DPBS. Cells were then washed with 0.05M glycine, pH 3.0, 0.1 M NaCl for 3 minutes followed by neutralization with an equal volume of 0.5 M HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.1 M NaCl to dissociate potential endogenously bound ligands.  $1 \times 10^5$  cells were then incubated with 25 nM uPA for 30 minutes at 37 °C in DPBS containing 0.2% BSA. The cells were then washed 3X DPBS with 0.2% BSA and incubated with 0.5 μM Glu-Pg and 250 μM Pm substrate S2251 (Chromogenix, Diapharma Group) in 0.05 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 0.1 M NaCl, 0.01% Tween 80. The rate of plasmin generation was measured at absorbance 405 nm every minute for 2 hours using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader.

#### **Clot lysis assay.**

In vitro clot lysis was determined using a modification of the APTT assay. In a 96-well, flat bottom plate, 50 μL citrated plasma, 50 μL APTT reagent (STA®-PTT A, Stago) and 100μL HBS-Tw80 (40 mM HEPES pH 7.0, 150 mM NaCl and 0.01% Tween 80) were added to wells containing 2.5 μL of 5.8 μM sc-tPA (Genentech). Duplicate reactions were carried out in well lacking sc-tPA. After incubation at 37 °C for 3 minutes, 100 μL of 25 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> was added, the solution mixed and absorbance was monitored at 405 nm every minute for 60 minutes using a BioTek ELx808 plate reader. Clot lysis time was

defined as the time required to achieve the absorbance that was one-half of the difference between the maximum absorbance reached after clotting and the minimum absorbance value achieved after complete lysis.

#### **Antiplasmin activity and plasmin-antiplasmin levels**

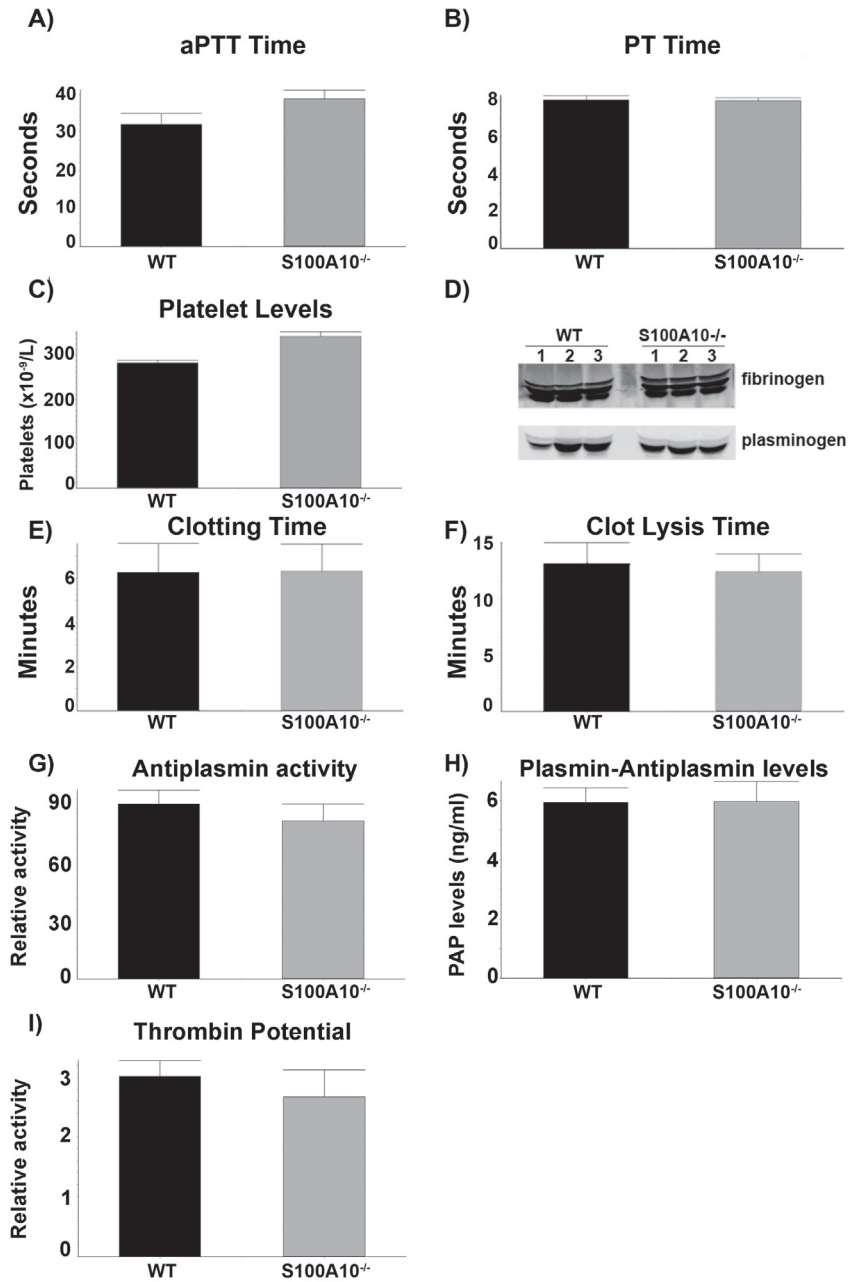
Antiplasmin activity was assessed using Coamatic © Plasmin Inhibitor chromogenic kit (generously provided by Diapharma, West Chester OH), following manufacturer's direction. The assay was calibrated using standardized human plasma, HemosIL Calibration plasma (Instrumentation Laboratory, Lexington, MA). Plasmin-antiplasmin levels were determined using Imuclone® PAP ELISA (American Diagnostica Inc, Montréal QC) following manufacturer's direction.

#### **Thrombin Potential Assay**

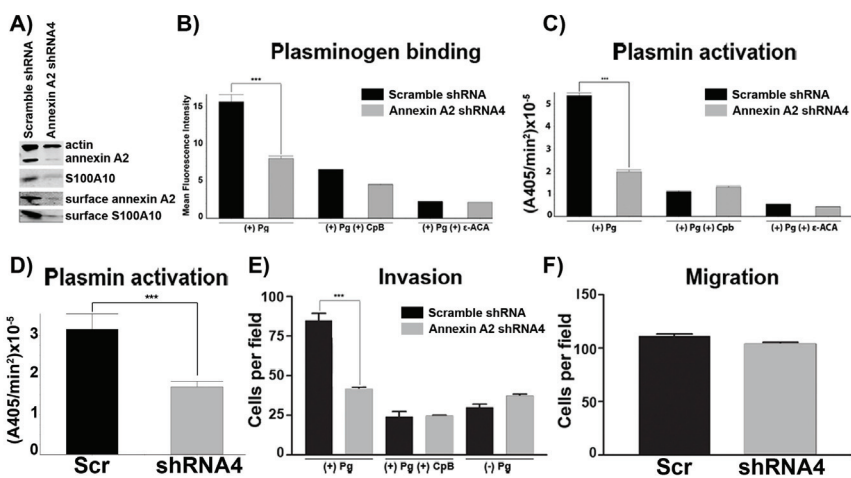
Endogenous Thrombin Potential was determined using Technothrombin ® TGA (Vienna, Austria), utilizing a modification of the procedure as directed by the manufacturer, briefly, murine plasma samples were diluted ½ with TGA-buffer prior to addition of the trigger reagent and substrate.

**Supplemental figure A1. Comparison of clotting parameters and components.**

Murine blood was obtained by cardiac puncture and treated with sodium citrate to prevent clotting. The activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) (A), prothrombin time (PT) (B), platelet levels (C) and fibrinogen and Pg levels (D), clotting time (E), clot lysis time (F), antiplasmin activity (G), plasmin-antiplasmin levels (H) and endogenous thrombin potential (I) in the S100A10<sup>-/-</sup> mice were observed to be comparable with their WT counterparts. Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated). Assays for A,E,F,G,H and I were performed by Victoria Miller with samples collected and prepared by Alexi Surette.



**Supplemental figure A2. Loss of annexin A2 results in depletion of S100A10 levels and resulting decreased plasmin activation.** TIME cell annexin A2 levels were depleted using an shRNA construct. Western blot analysis was performed to observe total and cell surface annexin A2 and S100A10 protein levels in TIME cells (A). FITC-Pg binding to the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells (B) was measured by FACS. Quantification of flow cytometric analysis of Pg binding was calculated using WinMDI software. Loss of annexin A2 affected tPA dependent plasmin generation (C) and uPA dependent plasmin generation (D) by TIME cells. Control or annexin A2 depleted TIME cells were added to the top chamber of Transwell chambers in the presence of media and in the presence or absence of Pg (0.5  $\mu$ M). Some chambers were coated with Matrigel (invasion assays) (E) or uncoated (migration assays) (F). Cells were incubated for 48 hours after which invading cells were stained with Haematoxylin and Eosin and counted. Data are expressed as mean number of cells per 40X field plus or minus SD of 3 independent experiments. Statistical analysis was performed using Student's t-test (\*\*\*)  $p < 0.001$ . In some experiments cells were pretreated with carboxypeptidase B (CpB, 5 U/ml), which was added to the upper chamber where indicated. Figures were generated using Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10 (Adobe Systems Incorporated).



## APPENDIX B: COPYRIGHT

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## **APPENDIX C: PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

This appendix contains data from preliminary experiments conducted investigating the role AII<sub>t</sub> plays in plasmin and homocysteine triggered endothelial cell signaling and on the effect homocysteine has on AII<sub>t</sub> dependent Pg activation.

### **B.1 AIIIt is required for homocysteine and plasmin signaling in endothelial cells.**

Homocysteine has previously been demonstrated to trigger the phosphorylation of the ERK.<sup>281</sup> In order to investigate whether AIIIt was necessary for Hcy mediated phosphorylation of ERK, annexin A2 depleted TIME cells were treated with 100  $\mu$ M Hcy. We observed that depletion of annexin A2 in TIME cells resulted in loss of p-ERK signaling following Hcy treatment (Figure B1). AIIIt was also shown to be required for plasmin triggered p-ERK signaling in TIME cells since depletion of S100A10 (Figure B2A) and annexin A2 (Figure B2B) prevented phosphorylation of ERK following plasmin treatment. In addition to p-ERK signaling in response to plasmin treatment, p-JNK and p-p38 signaling was also absent in annexin A2 depleted TIME cells while present in scramble control TIME cells (Figure B2B). We have yet to investigate whether these plasmin induced signaling events are also absent in S100A10 depleted TIME cells. Incubation of the annexin A2 depleted TIME cells with bovine AIIIt restored plasmin mediated p-ERK signaling, suggesting that AIIIt at the cell surface is responsible for plasmin mediated signaling in TIME cells (Figure B2C). Incubation with AIIIt alone did not activate p-ERK (Figure B2C), suggesting that the restoration in p-ERK was due to the presence of plasmin and AIIIt. In contrast to previously published reports on plasmin mediated signaling in monocytes,<sup>301,335</sup> plasmin proteolytic activity did not appear to be required for plasmin mediated signaling in TIME cells since treatment of plasmin with aprotinin did not prevent plasmin mediated signaling (Figure B2D). Signaling potential, however, is not lost in annexin A2 depleted TIME cells, as LPS and fetal bovine serum (FBS) triggered signaling in these cells (Figure B2E,F). LPS signals through TLR-4,<sup>336</sup>

indicating that loss of AIIIt is not required for all signaling through TLR-4. Plasmin and Hcy may therefore utilize AIIIt to signal through TLR-4 differently than LPS or require another trans-membrane protein to transduce a signal into the cell. FBS contains an abundance of growth factors that can induce signaling pathways. AIIIt may therefore not be required for growth factor signaling. However, since FBS contains several factors that elicit signaling pathways,<sup>337,338</sup> it is impossible to determine whether all FBS mediated signaling events are unaffected by loss of AIIIt.

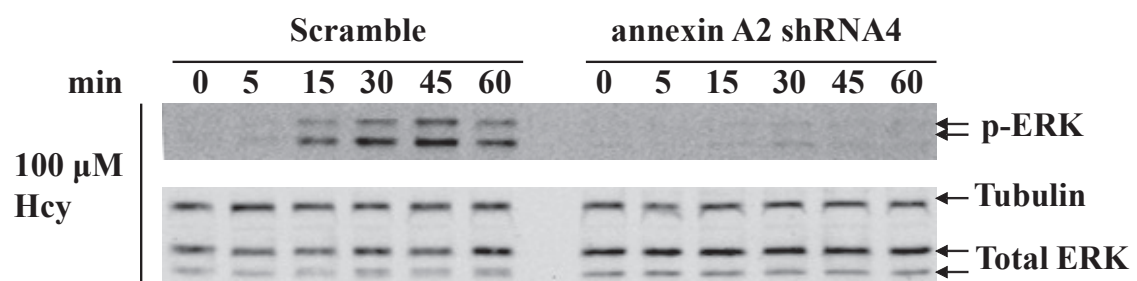
Tissue factor expression is increased in response to several stimuli, including plasmin,<sup>339</sup> Hcy<sup>333</sup> and thrombin,<sup>340</sup> which trigger signaling events similar to those observed in Figure B2. Interestingly, loss of AIIIt in TIME cells also results in depletion of tissue factor protein levels (Figure B3A) and measurable tissue factor activity (Figure B3B). As expected, induction of tissue factor protein levels by thrombin and Hcy were observed in scramble control TIME cells. However, loss of AIIIt prevented this induction (Figure B3C). It is unknown whether tissue factor protein expression is inducible in AIIIt depleted TIME cells under different conditions, whether loss of AIIIt results in loss of tissue factor in other endothelial cells and other cell types, and whether loss of AIIIt prevents expression or is involved in tissue factor protein stability.

## **B.2 Effect of homocysteine on AIIIt dependent plasminogen activation.**

Incubation of AIIIt with Hcy, Hci and HTL each decreased AIIIt dependent Pg activation in the presence of tPA by 50% (Figure B4). As mentioned in future directions, additional work is being conducted to investigate the mechanism by which Hcy and HTL affect AIIIt dependent Pg activation.

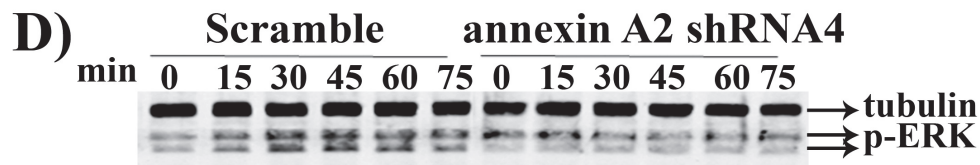
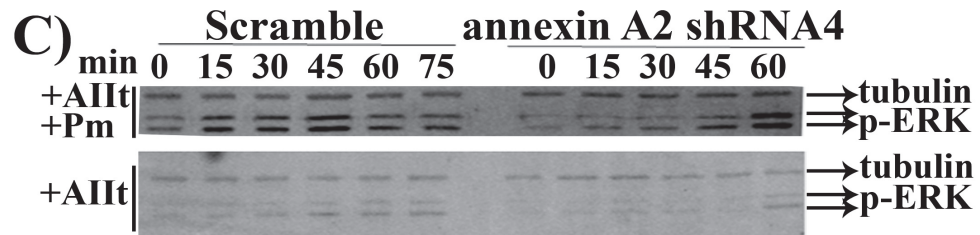
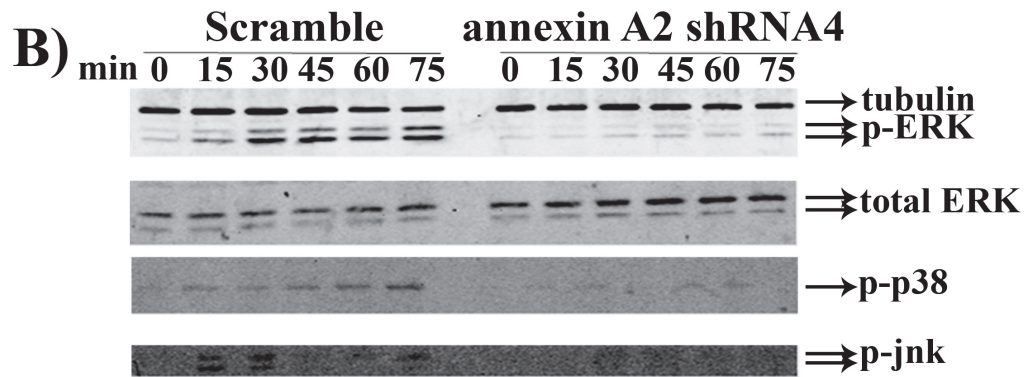
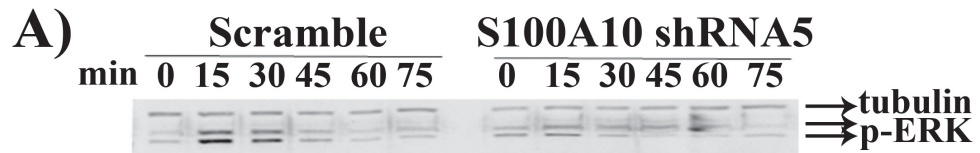
**Figure B1. Homocysteine triggered p-ERK signaling requires annexin A2.**

TIME cells were treated with 100 $\mu$ M homocysteine for the indicated time. Total cell extracts were obtained and proteins analyzed by Western Blot. The data shows that loss of annexin A2 results in loss of p-ERK signaling in response to homocysteine. Tubulin and total ERK levels serve as loading controls.



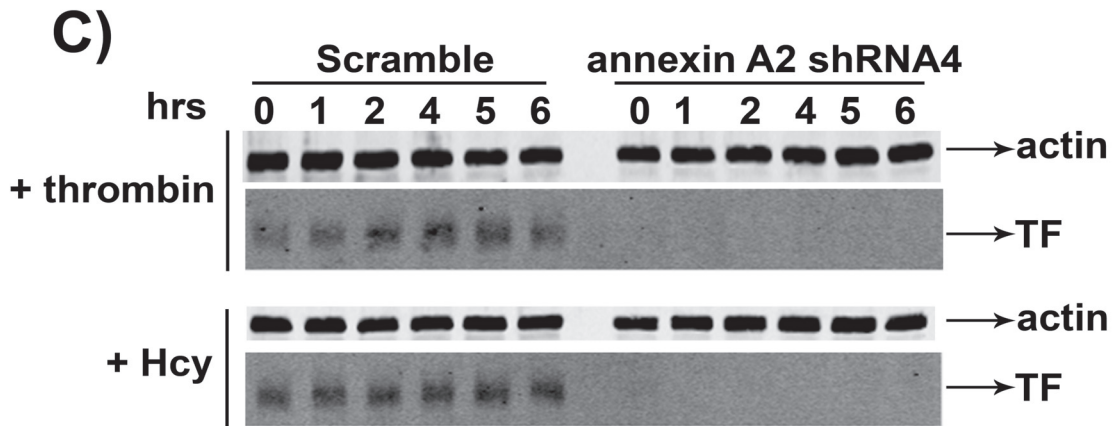
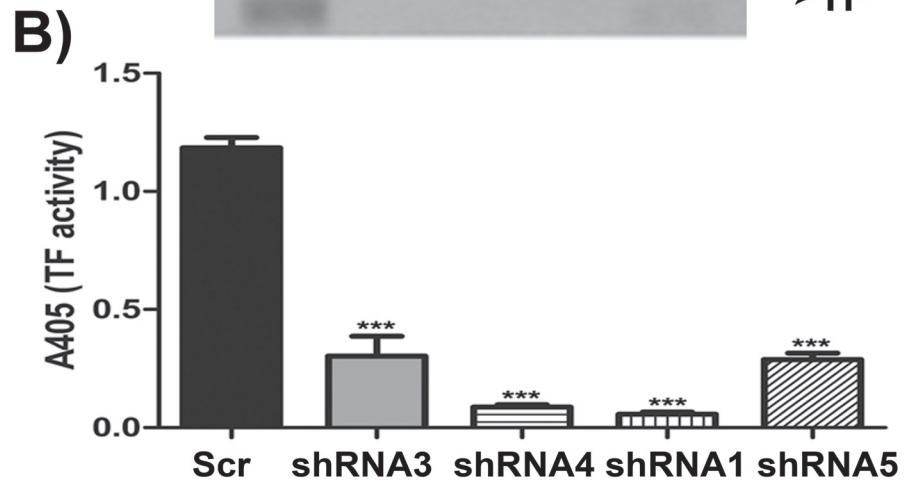
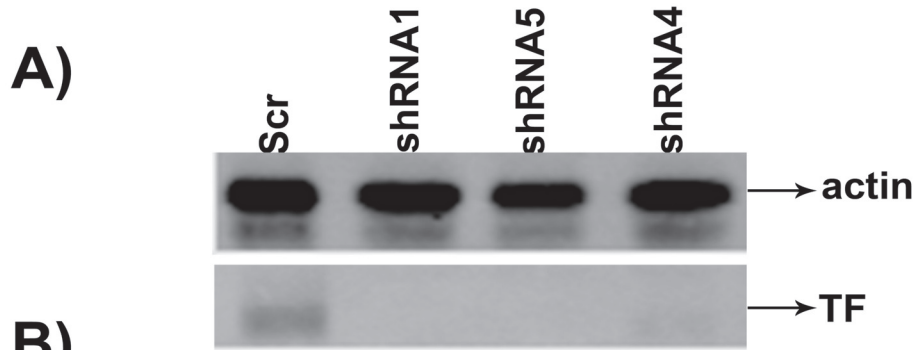
**Figure B2. AIIIt is required for plasmin triggered signaling in TIME cells.**

S100A10 and annexin A2 (AIIIt) depleted TIME cells were treated with plasmin (0.43 CTA/mL) for the indicated periods of time. Total cell lysates were analyzed by Western Blot. The data show that loss of S100A10 prevents plasmin induced p-ERK signaling (A) and loss of annexin A2 prevents plasmin induced p-ERK, p-p38 and p-jnk signaling (B). Pretreatment of annexin A2 depleted TIME cells with bovine AIIIt restored plasmin mediated p-ERK signaling (C). Inhibition of plasmin activity with aprotinin failed to prevent plasmin triggered p-ERK signaling (D). Depletion of TIME cell annexin A2 did not affect LPS induced p-ERK and p-p38 signaling (E) or FBS induced p-ERK (F).

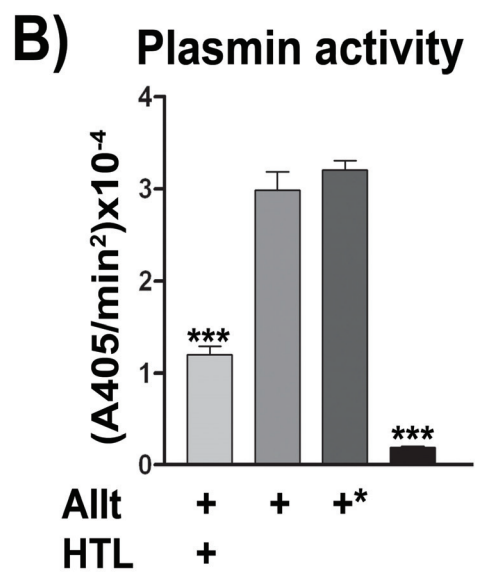
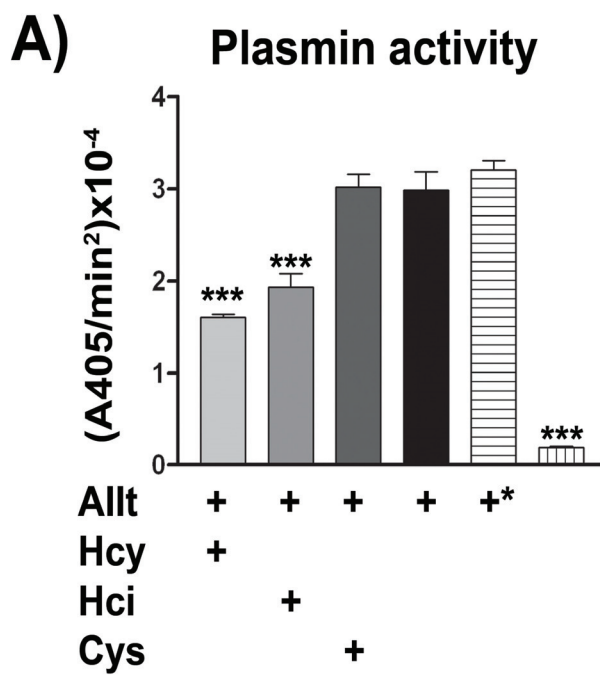




**Figure B3. Tissue factor expression and activity is reduced in AIIt depleted TIME cells.** Western Blot analysis of total cell lysates from S100A10 and annexin A2 depleted TIME cells revealed that loss of S100A10 and annexin A2 resulted in loss of tissue factor (TF) (A). A TF activity assay revealed that loss of S100A10 and annexin A2 resulted in decreased TF activity (B) (\*\*\*) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Annexin A2 depleted TIME cells were incubated with thrombin (4 U/mL) or Hcy (100  $\mu$ M) for the indicated period of time. Loss of annexin A2 prevented thrombin and Hcy induced TF expression (C).



**Figure B4. Effect of homocysteine and homocysteine-thiolactone on AIIIt dependent plasminogen activation.** Prior to incubation with Pg, tPA and S2251, AIIIt was incubated with 5 mM homocysteine (Hcy), homocystine (Hci) or cysteine (Cys) (A) or with 1 mM homocysteine thiolactone (HTL) (B) overnight at 37 °C (\* indicates AIIIt that was not incubated overnight at 37 °C to determine whether incubation of AIIIt overnight at 37 °C altered Pg activation). Incubation of AIIIt with Hcy and HTL resulted over 50% decreased Pg activation (\*\*p<0.001).



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