

## Supporting Information

### Development and validation of novel Z-360-based macromolecules for the active targeting of CCK2-R

Elisa Vettorato<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Marco Verona<sup>1,†</sup>, Greta Bellio<sup>1</sup>, Stefania Croci<sup>3</sup>, Riccardo Filadi<sup>4,5</sup>, Alessandra Bisio<sup>6</sup>, Eugenia Spessot,<sup>7</sup> Alberto Andrighetto<sup>2</sup>, Devid Maniglio<sup>7</sup>, Mattia Asti<sup>8</sup>, Giovanni Marzaro<sup>1,\*</sup>, Francesca Mastrotto<sup>1,\*</sup>

†These authors contributed equally.

\*Corresponding authors.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences, University of Padova, via Marzolo 5, 35131, Padova, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Legnaro National Laboratories, Italian Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN), viale dell'Università, 2, 35020, Legnaro (Padova), Italy

<sup>3</sup>Clinical Immunology, Allergy, and Advanced Biotechnologies Unit, AUSL-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Reggio Emilia, Italy

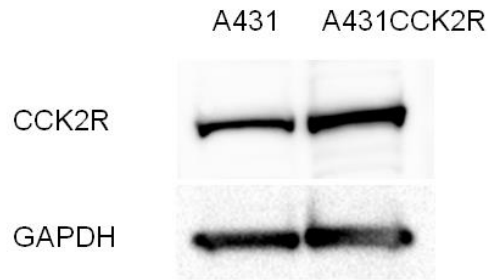
<sup>4</sup>Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Padova, via Ugo Bassi 58/B, 35131, Padova, Italy

<sup>5</sup>Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) Neuroscience Institute, Padova, Italy

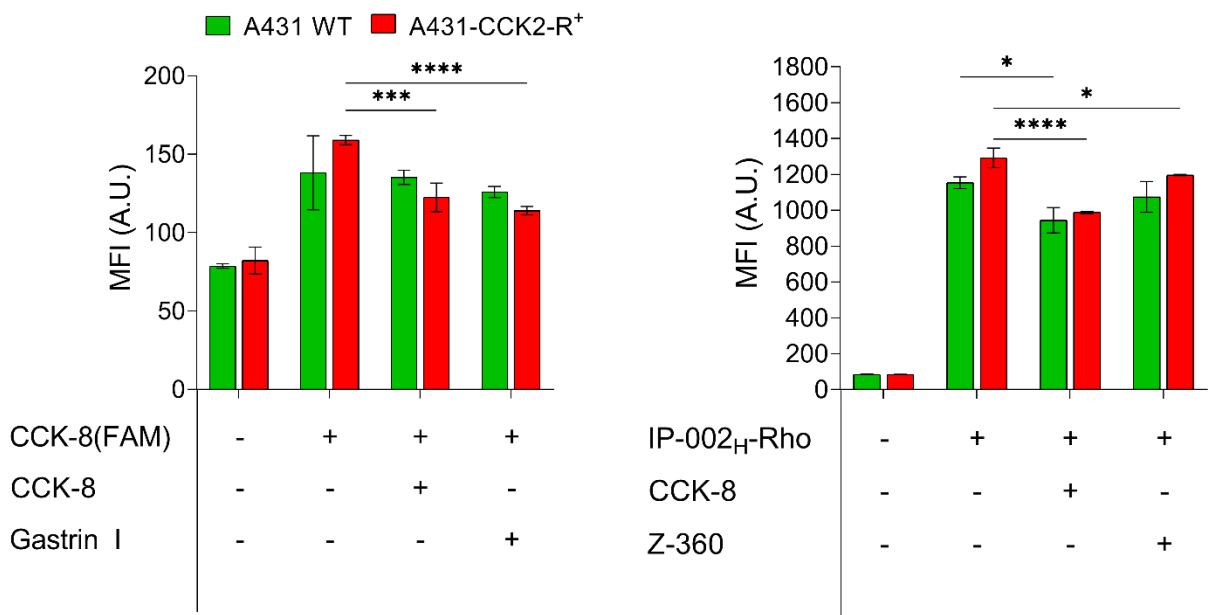
<sup>6</sup>Department of Cellular, Computational and Integrative Biology (CIBIO), University of Trento, via Sommarive 9, 38123, Povo (Trento), Italy

<sup>7</sup>Department of Industrial Engineering and BIOTech Research Center, University of Trento, via Delle Regole 101, 38123, Trento, Italy

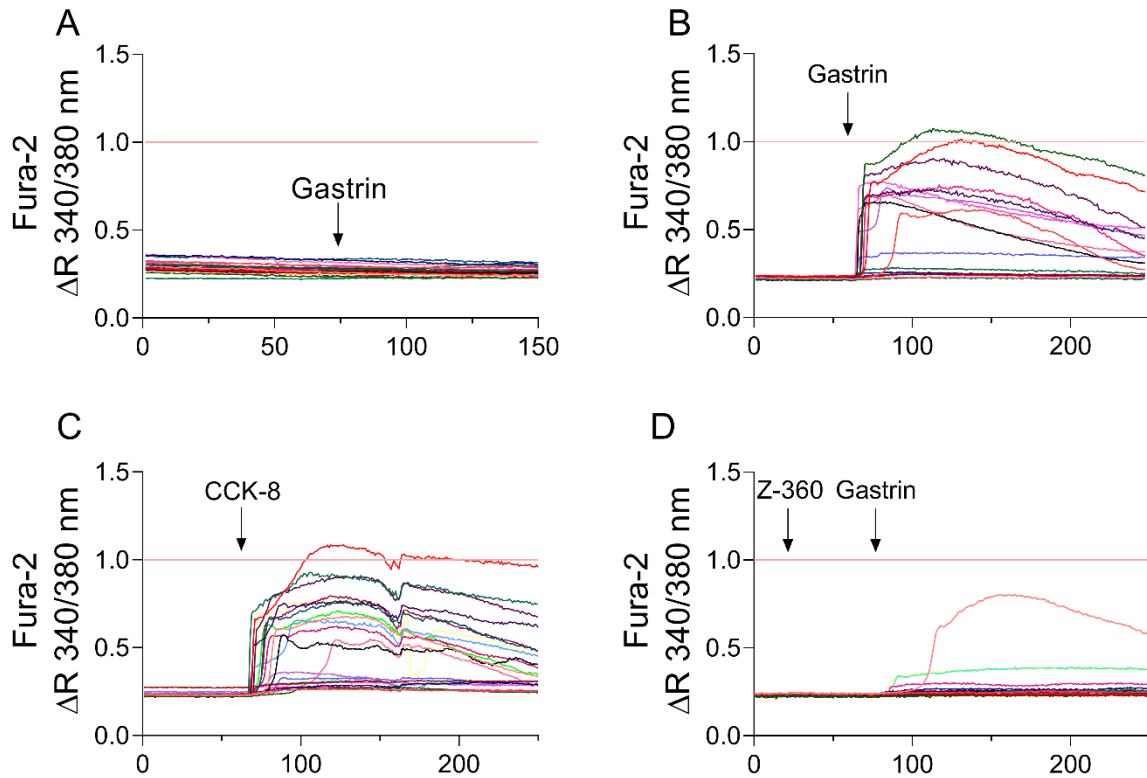
<sup>8</sup>Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry Section, Nuclear Medicine Unit, AUSL-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Reggio Emilia, Italy



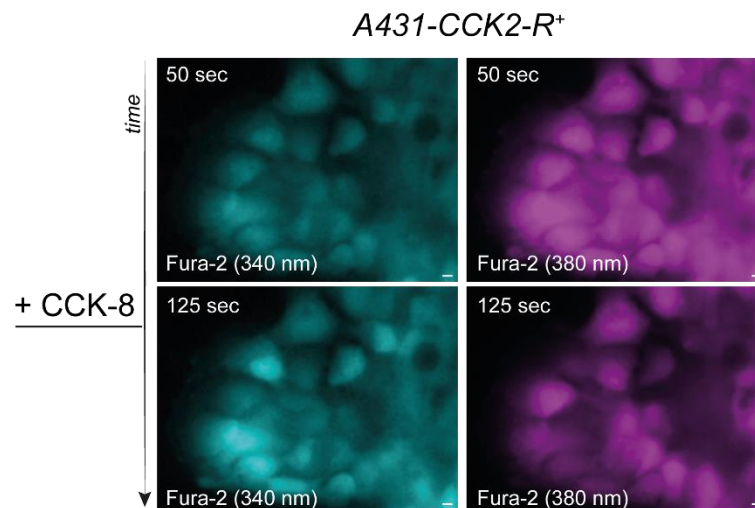
**Figure S1.** Western blot analysis for CCK2-R in A431 WT and A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> cell lines. A total of 40 µg protein of total cell lysate from each cell line was subjected to analysis.



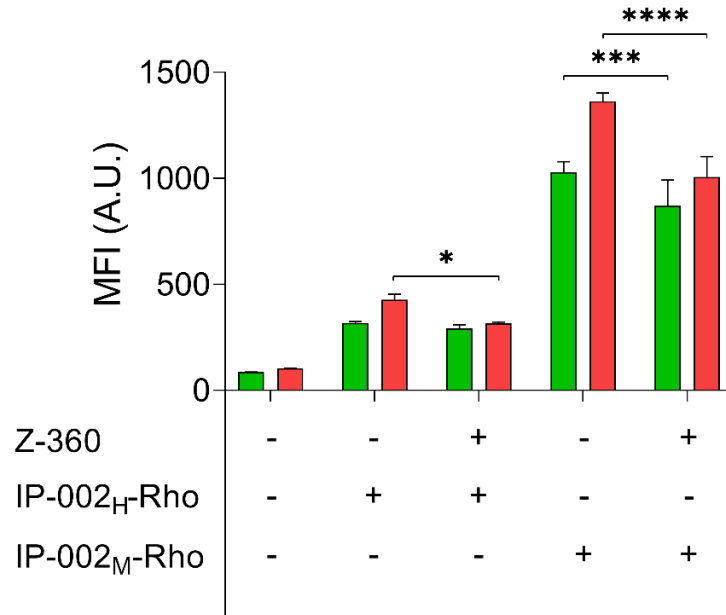
**Figure S2.** Mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) from FC analysis of A431 WT (green bars) and A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> (red bars) cell lines after 30 min incubation with (A) 5 µg/mL CCK-8(FAM) or (B) 0.5 µg/mL IP-002<sub>H</sub>-Rho, with or without 30 min pre-incubation with (A) 7.7 µg/mL CCK-8, 30 µg/mL gastrin I, or (B) 5 µg/mL CCK-8 and Z-360. Values are expressed as mean ± SD of 2 independent experiments performed in duplicate.



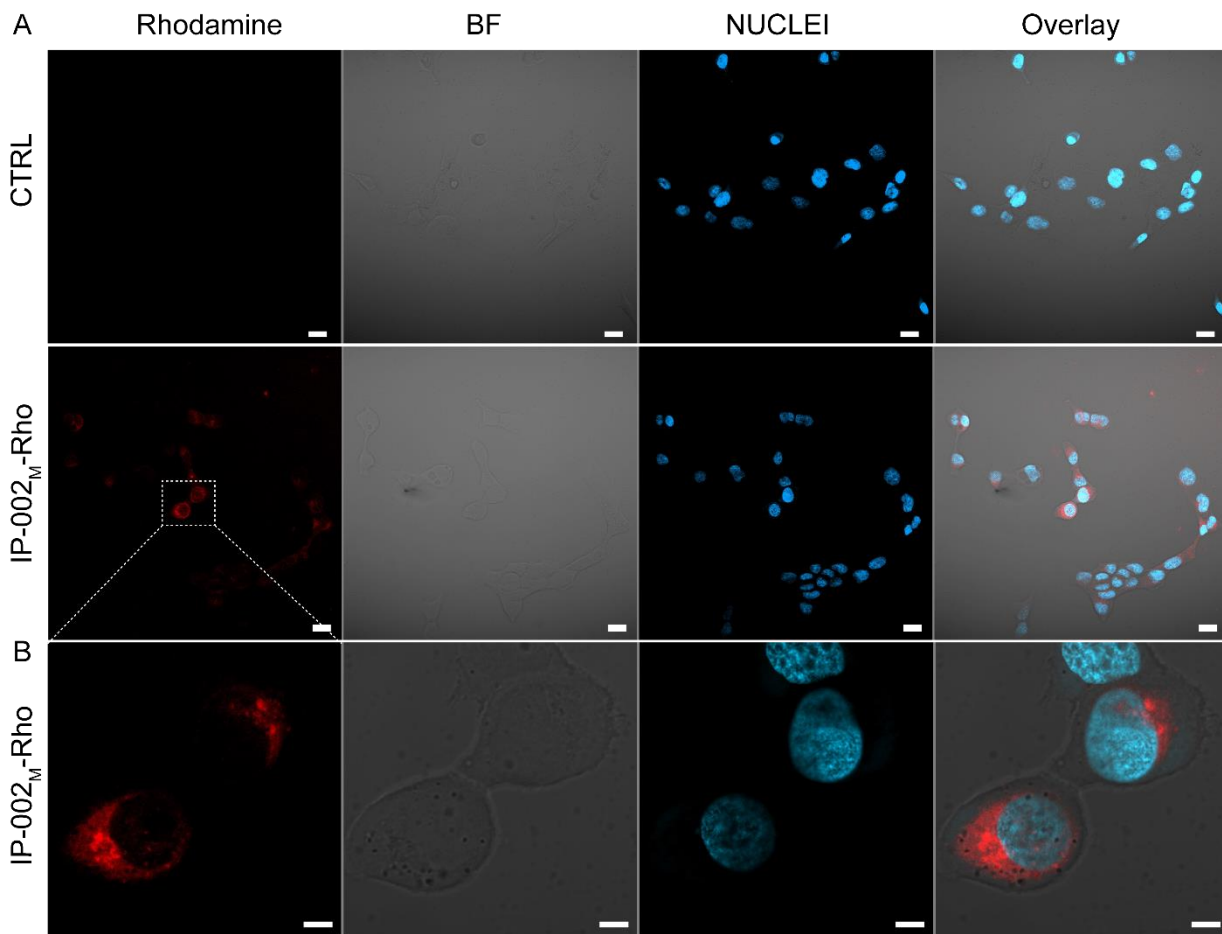
**Figure S3.** Representative traces of cytosolic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  measurements (expressed as Fura-2 340/380 nm ratio) in A431 WT (A), A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> (B-D) cells, upon stimulation with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  Gastrin I (A-B, D) or 10  $\mu\text{M}$  CCK-8 (C). Each trace represents a cell. The absence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  peaks indicate the lack of G-protein coupled CCK2 receptors in A431 WT cell lines.



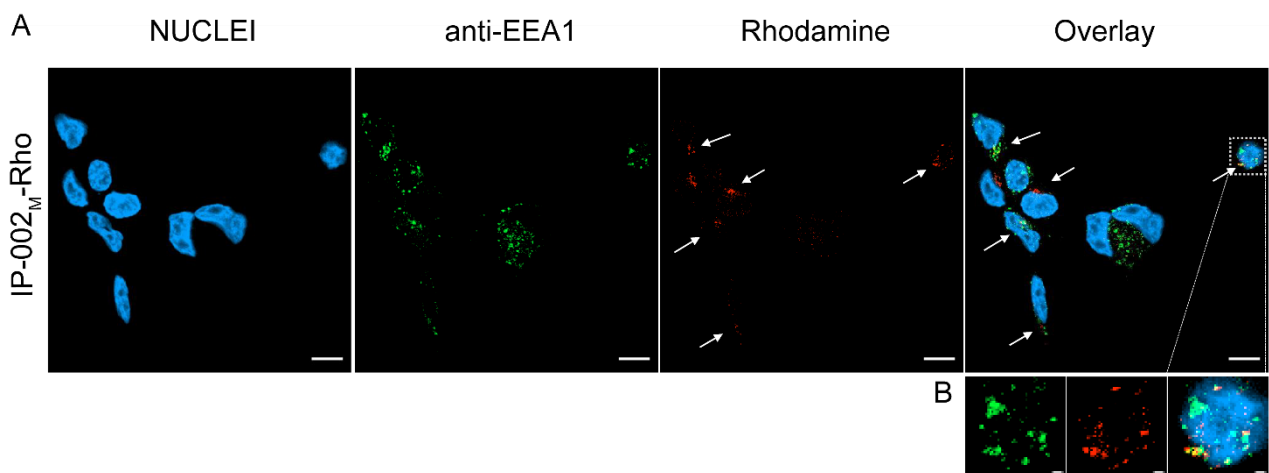
**Figure S4.** Representative images of Fura-2 AM calcium imaging (performed as in Figure 4) on CCK-8-stimulated A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> cells. Scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure S5.** Association of IP-002<sub>H</sub>-Rho and IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho with A431 WT (green bars) and A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> (red bars) cell lines in presence or absence of the natural ligand Z-360 (0.136 μg/mL, 262 nM) as assessed by Flow Cytometry (FC) analysis. Cells were pre-incubated with Z-360 or medium alone for 30 min and then exposed to IP-002<sub>H</sub>-Rho (0.36 μg/mL, 262 nM) or IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho (0.5 μg/mL, 262 nM). The association was assessed after further 30 minutes. MFI: Mean fluorescence intensity. Values are expressed as mean of 3 independent experiments performed in duplicate ± SD (\*= p < 0.05; \*\*\*= p < 0.001 \*\*\*\* = p < 0.0001).

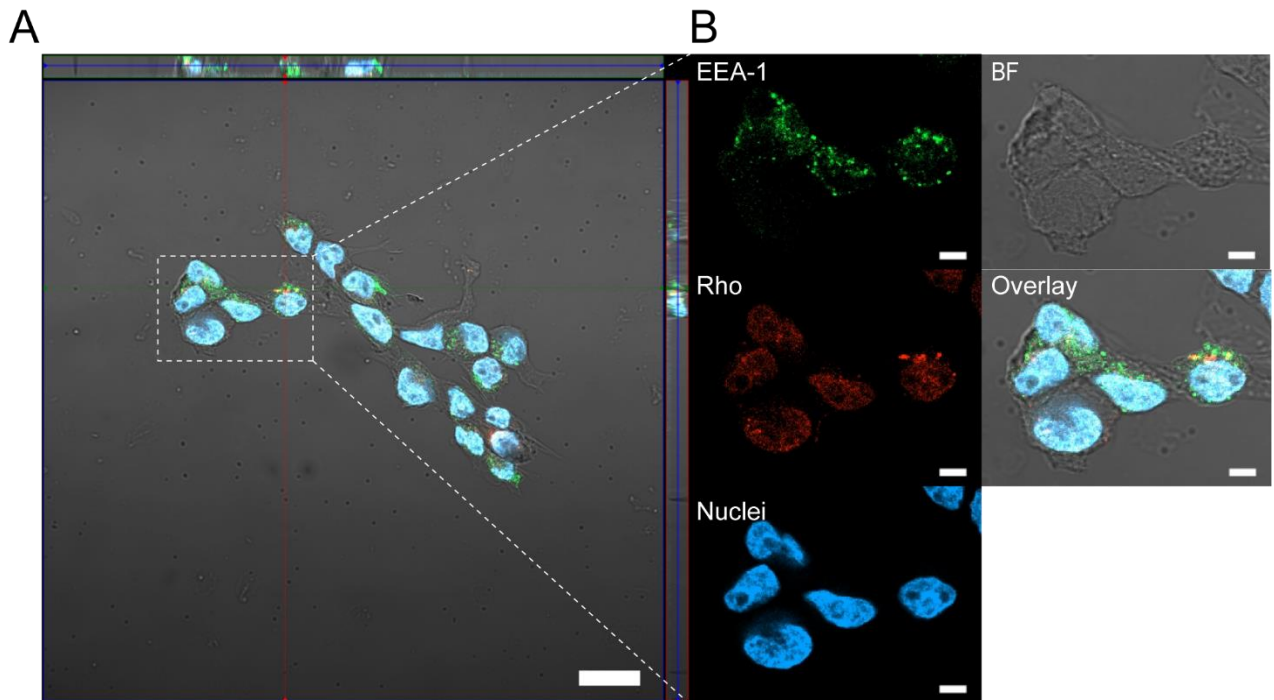


**Figure S6.** Confocal laser scanning microscope images of A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> cells (A) incubated for 30 minutes with medium only (CTRL) or medium containing 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho. Cells were visualized for IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho (red), Hoechst 33258-stained nuclei (blue), and bright field (BF). The merged images are presented (overlay). Images were acquired with a 40x objective. Scale bar: 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) Magnified view of small ROI (63x objective). Scale bar: 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

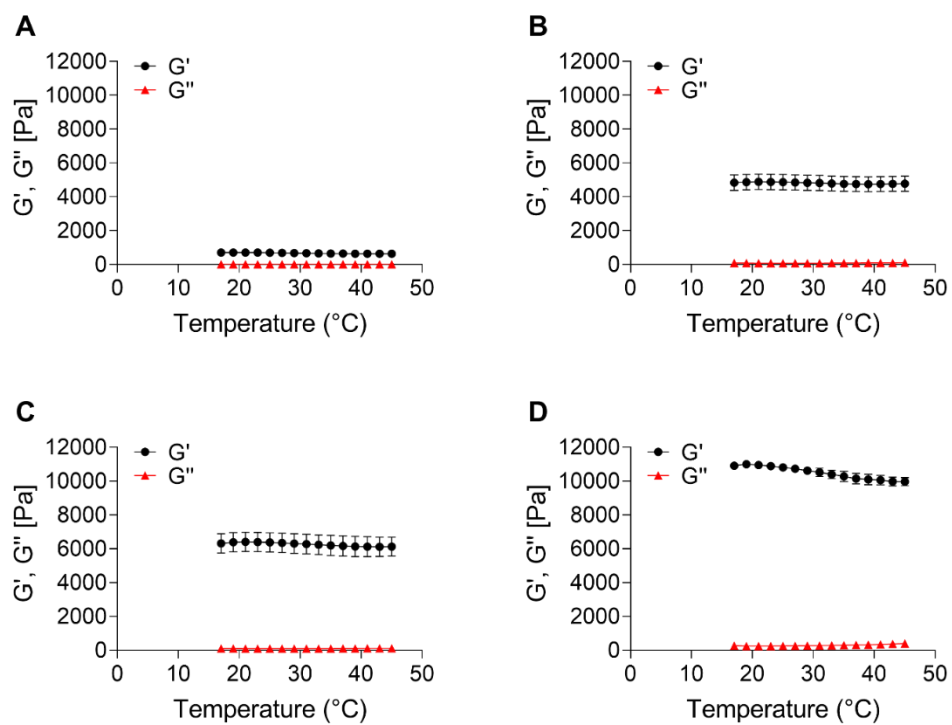


**Figure S7.** (A) Confocal microscopy images of A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> cells after 1 h of incubation with IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho (red, indicated by white arrows) and anti-EEA-1 antibody (green). Nuclei were visualized using Hoechst 33258. Scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) Magnification of a single cell, indicated by a

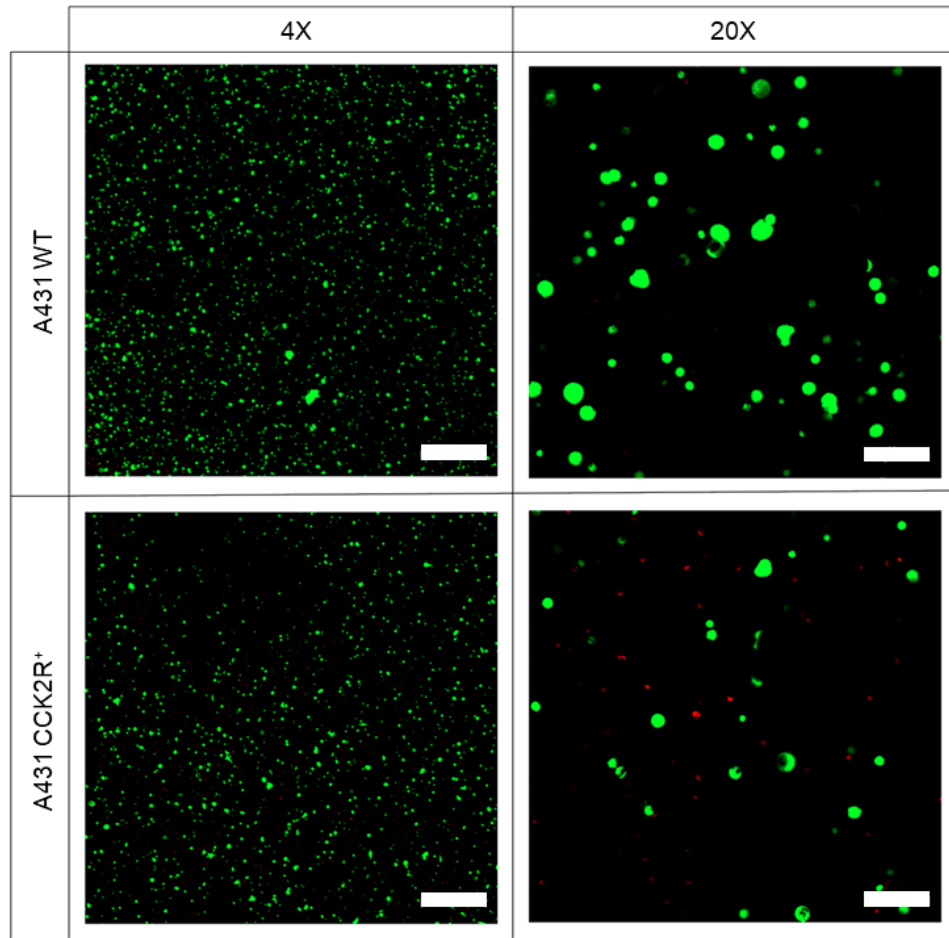
white square in panel E. Colocalization of IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho with the endosomal marker EEA-1 is displayed in yellow. Scale bar: 1  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S8.** Confocal laser scanning microscope images of A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> cells after 1 h incubation with IP-002<sub>M</sub>-Rho (red) and stained with anti-EEA-1 antibody (green). Cells were visualized with Hoechst 33258-stained nuclei (blue) and bright field (BF). (A) Orthogonal projection on confocal section. Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m. (B) Magnified view of small ROI showing separate channels and overlay. Scale bar: 5  $\mu$ m.

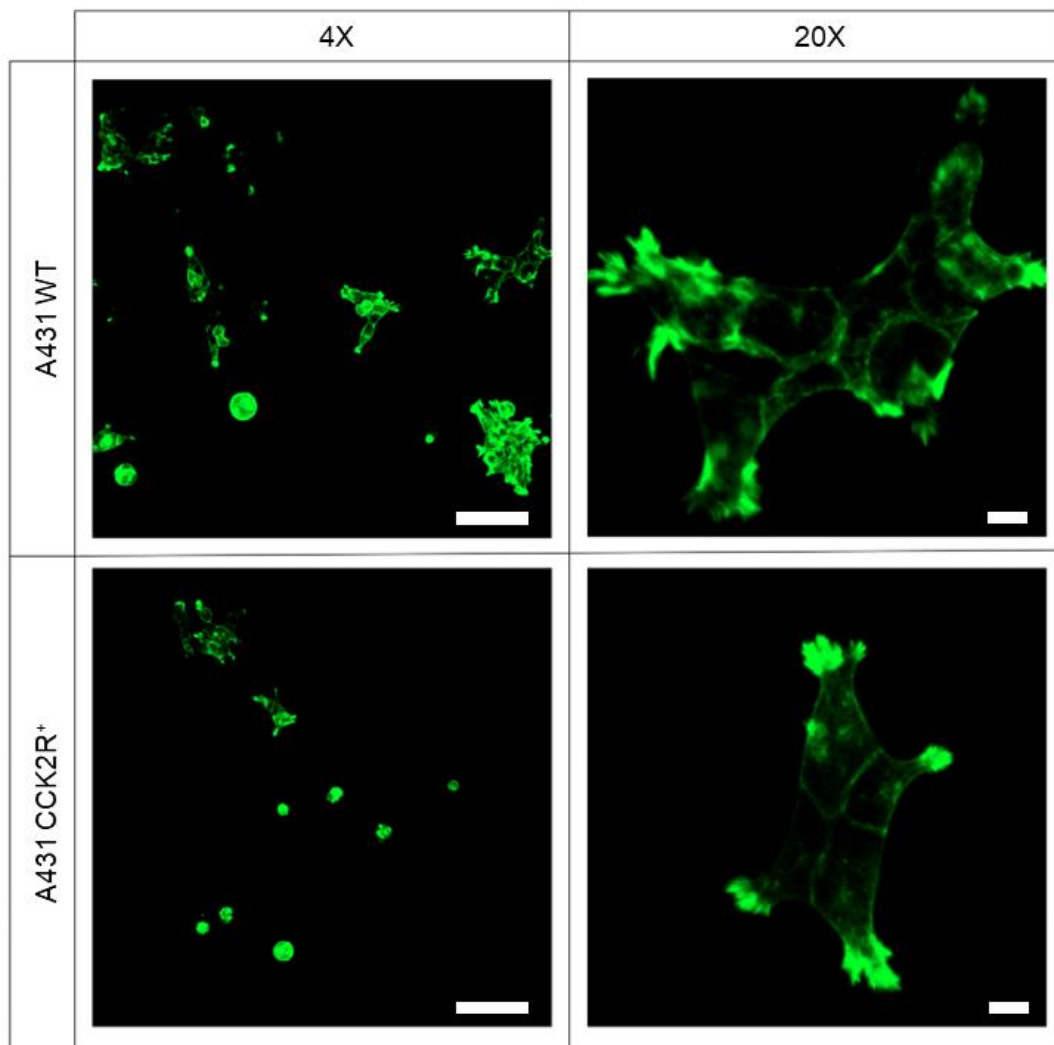


**Figure S9.** Temperature dependence of the storage modulus ( $G'$ , black circles) and loss modulus ( $G''$ , red triangles) of (A) 10%, (B) 16%, (C) 20% and (D) 25% w/V GelMA scaffold.



**Figure S10.** Confocal microscopy images of A431-WT (top) and A431-CCK2-R<sup>+</sup> (bottom) cells live/dead assay within the 3D scaffolds. Green indicates live cells and red indicates dead cells. Scale bars: 500  $\mu$ m (left) or 100  $\mu$ m (right).





**Figure S11.** Confocal microscopy analysis of A431-WT (top) and A431-CCK2R<sup>+</sup> (bottom) cells morphologies after Oregon Green 488 phalloidin staining within the 3D scaffolds. Scale bars: 100  $\mu\text{m}$  (left) or 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (right).