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## **Linking E-cadherin mechanotransduction to cell metabolism through force mediated activation of AMPK**

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**The response of cells to mechanical force is a major determinant of cell behavior and is an energetically costly event. How cells derive energy to resist mechanical force is unknown. Here, we show that application of force to E-cadherin stimulates Liver Kinase B1 (LKB1) to activate AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), a master regulator of energy homeostasis. LKB1 recruits AMPK to the E-cadherin mechanotransduction complex, thereby stimulating actomyosin contractility, glucose uptake, and ATP production. The increase in ATP provides energy to reinforce the adhesion complex and actin cytoskeleton so the cell can resist physiological forces. Together, these findings reveal a paradigm for how mechanotransduction and metabolism are linked and provide a framework for understanding how diseases involving contractile and metabolic disturbances arise.**

In response to externally applied forces, cell surface adhesion receptors trigger robust actin cytoskeletal rearrangements and growth of the associated adhesion complex<sup>1-3</sup>. These changes are energetically costly, requiring approximately 50% of the total ATP in a cell<sup>4, 5</sup>. Energy homeostasis is controlled<sup>4</sup> by AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK). Based on this rationale, we tested whether application of force on E-cadherin

33 increased AMPK activity. For this, a well-established approach to directly apply force to  
34 cadherins was employed<sup>6-12</sup>. Magnetic beads were coated with E-cadherin extracellular  
35 domains (or IgG as a control) and permitted to adhere to MCF10A epithelial cells. A  
36 constant force was then applied for 5 minutes using a permanent ceramic magnet.  
37 Following application of force, AMPK was immunoprecipitated and subjected to an *in*  
38 *vitro* kinase assay with a fusion protein of GST and a SAMS peptide (an AMPK-specific  
39 substrate)<sup>13</sup>. Application of force increased phosphorylation of the SAMS peptide by 4.9-  
40 fold; a control peptide (SAMA) lacking the second serine phosphorylation site was not  
41 phosphorylated (Fig. 1a). Importantly, the peptide phosphorylation was blocked by  
42 application of Compound C (a cell permeable AMPK specific inhibitor)<sup>14</sup>.

43  
44 As additional measures of AMPK activation, we examined phosphorylation of  
45 AMPK in its activation loop and phosphorylation of the AMPK substrate, acetyl CoA  
46 carboxylase. Force increased phosphorylation of AMPK in its activation loop in MCF10A  
47 (pAMPK, Fig. 1b) and MDCK (Fig. S1a) cells. The increases in activation loop  
48 phosphorylation were blocked when AMPK was inhibited using shRNAs (Fig. 1b) or  
49 Compound C (Fig. S1a-c). Phosphorylation of acetyl CoA carboxylase was also  
50 elevated (Fig. S1c). Hence by three independent measures, force stimulated AMPK  
51 activation.

52  
53 To ensure AMPK activation was independent of the method of force application  
54 shear stress was applied to MDCK cells using a parallel plate chamber. Alternatively,  
55 junctional assembly was triggered using a calcium switch assay—a process that relies  
56 on elevations in actin polymerization and myosin II activity<sup>15, 16</sup>. Both shear stress and  
57 junctional assembly stimulated AMPK activation loop phosphorylation (Fig. 1c,S1d).

58  
59 To interrogate the contribution of E-cadherin to force-induced AMPK activation,  
60 we examined the effects of inhibiting E-cadherin function using a function blocking  
61 antibody (HECD-1) or by silencing E-cadherin expression (Fig. 1d, S1e). E-cadherin  
62 was required to trigger AMPK activation (Fig. 1d, S1e). Additionally, application of force  
63 to another transmembrane adhesion receptor, syndecan-1, failed to enhance AMPK

64 phosphorylation (Fig. S1f). Taken together, these data demonstrate that force on E-  
65 cadherin stimulates AMPK activation.

66

67 To investigate the contribution of force to AMPK activation, we examined the  
68 effect of promoting and interfering with known mechanically controlled elements. To  
69 promote force transmission increases in contractility were stimulated by applying  
70 Calyculin A, a phosphatase inhibitor that augments myosin II phosphorylation.  
71 Stimulating myosin light chain phosphorylation increased AMPK activation (Fig. 1e). To  
72 interfere with force transmission, cells were treated with blebbistatin, a myosin II  
73 inhibitor. In the presence of blebbistatin, myosin light chain phosphorylation and force-  
74 induced AMPK activation were decreased (Fig. 1d).

75

76 Since activate AMPK localizes to the plasma membrane<sup>17</sup> and E-cadherin is  
77 membrane-bound<sup>18, 19</sup>, we examined whether force stimulated AMPK recruitment to the  
78 cadherin adhesion complex. To address this possibility, we applied tensile forces to E-  
79 cadherin and the level of co-precipitating AMPK and activated AMPK were assessed.  
80 AMPK (Fig 1f) and active AMPK (Fig 1g) were recovered with E-cadherin complexes.  
81 The recruitment of AMPK to E-cadherin was blocked by preincubation of the cells with  
82 blebbistatin (Fig 1f and g), with E-cadherin function blocking antibodies (Fig 1f and g), or  
83 by silencing AMPK expression (Fig S1g). Additionally, the recruitment of AMPK to E-  
84 cadherin was not dependent on the method of force application as stimulating junctional  
85 assembly using a calcium switch assay triggered AMPK co-immunoprecipitation with E-  
86 cadherin (Fig. S1h). Taken together, these studies demonstrate AMPK is recruited to E-  
87 cadherin in response to force.

88

89 How is AMPK activated and recruited to the cadherin complex? Previous studies  
90 from the Schwartz laboratory indicated that LKB1, an AMPK activator, localizes to  
91 cadherin-containing complexes in maturing junctions<sup>17</sup>. Additionally work from Cantley  
92 laboratory found that calcium-induced tight junction assembly depends on LKB1<sup>20</sup>.  
93 Based on this rationale, we determined if LKB1 associates with the cadherin adhesion  
94 complex in response to force. LKB1 was recovered with E-cadherin-coated magnetic

95 beads in a force- and E-cadherin-dependent manner (Fig 2a). Since the buffer  
96 conditions used to examine protein recruitment beneath the magnetic beads were less  
97 stringent than convention co-immunoprecipitation studies, we examined if LKB1 co-  
98 immunoprecipitated with E-cadherin. Robust co-immunoprecipitation of E-cadherin was  
99 observed LKB1 immunoprecipitates recovered from cells lysed in a 1%-triton x100-  
100 containing buffer, thereby confirming the interaction (Fig 2b). In further support of LKB1,  
101 we determined if LKB1 co-localized with E-cadherin in cells. Since the magnetic beads  
102 we use in these studies autofluorescence, we examined co-localization in response to  
103 application of shear stress to MDCK cells. We observed strong co-localization of LKB1  
104 and E-cadherin (Fig 2c).

105  
106 Having identified a mechanically-active signaling pathway from E-cadherin to  
107 LKB1, we next determined if LKB1 is required for AMPK activation and recruitment to  
108 the cadherin adhesion complex. Tensile forces were applied to E-cadherin on MCF10A  
109 (Fig 2d) or on MDCKII (Fig 2e) cells. We found the force-induced activation of AMPK  
110 was prevented by LKB1 silencing in both cell lines (Fig 2d-e). Similarly, shear stress-  
111 induced activation of AMPK was blocked by inhibition of LKB1 (Fig 2f). We next  
112 determined whether LKB1 was required for the recruitment of AMPK to E-cadherin.  
113 LKB1 inhibition prevented co-precipitation of AMPK and active AMPK with E-cadherin  
114 coated magnetic beads (Fig 2g). Taken together, this data demonstrates that LKB1 is  
115 needed for AMPK to be recruited to and activated at cadherin-containing sites.

116  
117 The observation that LKB1 and AMPK are recruited to the cadherin adhesion  
118 complex suggests they may lie in a known contractility pathway. This pathway initiates  
119 when E-cadherin activates Abelson tyrosine kinase (Abl) thereby triggering  
120 phosphorylation of Y822 vinculin (Fig. 3a) and culminating in elevated RhoA-mediated  
121 contractility<sup>11</sup>. To determine whether LKB1 and/or AMPK are components of this  
122 pathway, we examined the effect of their inhibition. As an indicator of Abl activation, we  
123 followed phosphorylation the Abl substrate, CrkL, using a phosphospecific antibody  
124 against the Abl-specific sites<sup>21</sup>. Application of tensile forces using the magnetic bead  
125 approach stimulated CrkL phosphorylation in MCF10A (Fig 3b and c) and MDCKII cells

126 (Fig. S2a). Inhibition of LKB1 (Fig. 3b, S2a) or AMPK (Fig. 3c, S2b) prevented this  
127 increase. Stimulation of vinculin Y822 phosphorylation, a downstream target of Abl, also  
128 required LKB1 (Fig. 3d) and AMPK (Fig. 3e, S2c). These data indicate that AMPK lies  
129 upstream of Abl in the known contractility pathway. Since Abl is activated and AMPK  
130 and vinculin are recruited to cadherin-containing junctions in response to force<sup>22</sup>, we  
131 examined whether AMPK is in a complex with these components. For this, we  
132 monitored co-immunoprecipitation of vinculin and Abl with AMPK from cells lysed in  
133 RIPA buffer. These studies revealed that AMPK forms a complex with Abl and vinculin  
134 in a force-dependent manner (Fig. 3f).

135

136 Further downstream in the E-cadherin contractility pathway (Fig. 3a), RhoA-  
137 mediates activation of Rho kinase, which promotes phosphorylation of myosin light  
138 chain (MLC), thereby stimulating actomyosin contractility<sup>23</sup>. We measured force-induced  
139 RhoA activity in cells in the presence or absence of LKB1 or AMPK. Application of  
140 tensile force to E-cadherin stimulated RhoA activation in an LKB1- and AMPK-  
141 dependent manner (Fig. 3g). To determine if increases in RhoA were propagated to  
142 changes in contractility, we analyzed MLC phosphorylation at a regulatory Ser19 site<sup>24</sup>.  
143 MLC phosphorylation increased 2.7-fold in response to force (Fig. 3h). Inhibition of  
144 AMPK or LKB1 abrogated these effects (Fig. 3g, 3h, S2d, and S2e). Taken together,  
145 these findings demonstrate that AMPK is required to increase RhoA-mediated  
146 contractility when E-cadherin experiences force.

147

148 These observations raise the question why cells activate a master regulator of  
149 metabolism, such as AMPK, to modulate contractility. When cells experience force,  
150 elevations in enzymatic activity, actin polymerization, and actomyosin contractility  
151 facilitate the cytoskeletal rearrangements and the growth of adhesions necessary to  
152 withstand the force<sup>2, 25-28</sup>. All of these processes require energy. The preferred energy  
153 source for epithelial cells is ATP derived from glucose oxidation<sup>29</sup>. In other systems,  
154 AMPK activation stimulates glucose uptake and oxidation<sup>30</sup>. Based on this rationale, we  
155 hypothesized a consequence of force-induced AMPK is the stimulation of glucose  
156 uptake. To test this possibility, tensile forces were applied to E-cadherin and the uptake

157 of a fluorescently labelled, non-hydrolyzable 2-deoxyglucose was monitored. Force  
158 stimulated a 2.2-fold increase in glucose uptake in the MCF10A cells (Fig. 4a, Fig. S3a)  
159 and a 2.6-fold increase in the MDCK II cells (Fig. 4b, Fig. S3b). Moreover, inhibition of  
160 E-cadherin, LKB1, or AMPK prevented the force-induced glucose uptake (Fig. 4a-b, Fig.  
161 S3a-b). To ensure that these results were not the consequence of the approach, the  
162 effects of shear stress on MDCKII cells or the effects of stimulating junctional assembly  
163 (using a calcium switch assay) were monitored. Both methods stimulated an elevation in  
164 glucose uptake. The fold activation was similar to the increase observed when tensile  
165 forces applied (Fig. 4c, S3c, S3d) and required E-cadherin, LKB1 and AMPK.  
166 Collectively, these data demonstrate that force on E-cadherin stimulates glucose uptake  
167 in a LKB1- and AMPK-dependent manner.

168

169 In response to many stimuli, glucose is oxidized to ATP. Hence, we tested  
170 whether increases in glucose uptake translate to elevations in ATP. Application of force  
171 to E-cadherin increased cellular ATP levels by 1.5-fold (Fig. 4d and S3e). The increase  
172 in ATP, while slight, was statistically significant and reproducible (Fig. S3e). This  
173 modest change is not surprising as ATP levels remain relatively constant, even in the  
174 most metabolically active tissues<sup>31</sup>. Importantly, we found force-induced ATP could be  
175 blocked by the shRNAs against LKB1 or AMPK (Fig 4d), the AMPK inhibitor Compound  
176 C (Fig. 4e, Fig S3f), or the ATP synthase inhibitor Oligomycin A (Fig. 4e, Fig S3f). To  
177 ensure that the ATP produced was derived from glucose, the effect of a non-  
178 hydrolyzable, 2-deoxyglucose analog was studied. The 2-deoxyglucose analog blocked  
179 force-induced elevations in ATP (Fig. 4e). Taken together, these data indicate that the  
180 glucose taken up when E-cadherin experiences force is converted to ATP.

181

182 We next tested the possibility that ATP provides the energy necessary to  
183 reinforce the actin cytoskeleton and cadherin adhesion complex in response to force. In  
184 support of a role for AMPK, we found that A-769662, an AMPK activator, increased E-  
185 cadherin and F-actin enrichment in cell-cell junctions (Fig. S4a). To directly test the role  
186 for LKB1 and AMPK, we applied shear stress to MCDK cells and monitored F-actin and  
187 E-cadherin enrichment in cell-cell junctions using immunofluorescence. A 2.0-fold

188 increase E-cadherin deposition in cell-cell junctions (Fig. 5a and b) and a 3.8-fold  
189 increase in junctional actin were observed in cells exposed to shear (Fig 5a and c).  
190 These increases were blocked by shRNAs against LKB1 or inhibitors of AMPK (Fig 5a-  
191 c). Similarly, inhibiting glucose metabolism (by incubating cells in low glucose containing  
192 media) or blocking ATP synthesis (using Oligomycin A or Carbonyl cyanide-4-  
193 (trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazine) dramatically impaired junctional enrichment of F-  
194 actin and E-cadherin in shear stress treated cells (Fig. 5a-c). Only modest changes  
195 were observed in control cells (Fig. S4b-d).

196

197 To ensure that shear stress applied force to cell-cell junctions, we investigated  
198 whether myosin light chain was phosphorylated in response to shear and whether  
199 vinculin (an actin binding protein that bears force) was enriched in cell-cell junctions.  
200 Both myosin light chain phosphorylation and vinculin localization to cell-cell contacts  
201 were increased in response to shear stress (Fig. S4e-h). In further support of a role for  
202 force, we found that the enrichment of vinculin in cell-cell junctions was blocked by  
203 preincubation of cells with blebbistatin (Fig. S4e-g). This observation is in agreement  
204 with previous findings showing vinculin is recruited to endothelial cell-cell junctions in a  
205 tension-dependent manner<sup>32</sup> and force-dependent vinculin recruitment can be blocked  
206 by blebbistatin<sup>22</sup>. Collectively, these data demonstrate that AMPK-dependent increases  
207 in ATP enrich F-actin and E-cadherin in response to force.

208

209 Previous studies show that tension is required for the formation of an epithelial  
210 barrier<sup>33</sup>. To interrogate the physiological significance of the pathway uncovered in this  
211 study, the formation of an epithelial barrier was monitored in MDCKII cells after a  
212 calcium switch. After readdition of calcium to the medium, control cells gradually formed  
213 an epithelial barrier (Fig. 5d). Inhibition of E-cadherin, LKB1, or AMPK or Blebbistatin  
214 compromised formation of the barrier function. By 24 h after junctional assembly was  
215 initiated, the cells with E-cadherin, LKB1 or AMPK inhibited had only modest (but  
216 statistically significant) alterations in their barriers (Fig. 5d). Interestingly, a slight  
217 alteration in barrier function at 24h after calcium readdition was observed in the MCDKII  
218 cells lacking E-cadherin. The requirement for AMPK is in good agreement with previous



219 studies showing that treatment of epithelial cells with AMPK activators promoted barrier  
220 function<sup>34</sup>. Taken together, these data indicate force-induced activation of LKB1/AMPK  
221 is required for efficient formation of an epithelial barrier.

222  
223 Cell differentiation, proliferation, gene expression and disease development are  
224 all impacted by the forces experienced by the cell<sup>35-38</sup>. A vast literature shows that cells  
225 withstand forces by reinforcing their actin cytoskeletons and growing their adhesion  
226 complexes<sup>1-3, 26</sup>. These events increase enzymatic activity, actin polymerization, and  
227 actomyosin contractility<sup>26-28</sup>, yet it is unknown how the cell derives the vast amount of  
228 energy it needs to support these events. Here, we demonstrate that LKB1-mediated  
229 activation of AMPK is a key player in a junctional contractility pathway that increases  
230 glucose uptake and ATP synthesis. This is a mechanism for how cells signal to increase  
231 energy and use the energy to reinforce their cytoskeletal networks in order to resist  
232 applied forces.

233  
234 This work establishes AMPK as a critical link between mechanotransduction and  
235 metabolism. This information may serve as the impetus for future studies aimed at  
236 establishing further links between mechanotransduction and the metabolic machinery  
237 and defining mechanisms of regulation. This work also has the potential to have far  
238 reaching medical implications as AMPK is a negative regulator of diseased states with  
239 metabolic disturbances. Our observation that E-cadherin force transmission activates  
240 AMPK demonstrates that mechanical forces on E-cadherin may protect against the  
241 metabolic disturbances associated with diseases such as cardiovascular disease<sup>39</sup>,  
242 diabetes<sup>40</sup>, and cancer<sup>38</sup>.

243  
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246 **Contributions:** J.B. designed and performed experiments, analyzed all the data, and  
247 helped write the manuscript. C.H. and H.C. helped with experimental design and  
248 procedures. K.D. helped with the experimental design, wrote the manuscript, and  
249 directed the project. All authors provided detailed comments.

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259

## 260 **Figure Legends.**

261 **Figure 1. AMPK is activated in response to force applied to E-cadherin. a and b,** MCF10A  
262 cells were incubated with magnetic beads coated with IgG or E-cadherin extracellular domains  
263 (E-cad). The cells were left resting(-) or a magnet was used to generate tensional forces (+). **a,**  
264 AMPK immunoprecipitates were subjected to in vitro kinase assay with its substrate, SAMS  
265 peptide. SAMA=control peptide. Cmpd. C indicates cells pretreated with the AMPK inhibitor,  
266 Compound C. **b,** total cell lysates were immunoblotted with antibodies that recognize AMPK or  
267 AMPK phosphorylated in its activation loop (pAMPK). shControl indicates cells treated with  
268 scrambled shRNAs. shAMPK1 and shAMPK2 indicate cells infected with two separate shRNAs  
269 targeting AMPK. **c,** shear stress was applied to MDCK cells, and AMPK and pAMPK were  
270 monitored by immunoblotting. **d,** tensional forces (+) were applied to MCF10A cells pretreated  
271 with blebbistatin (Blebbi) or E-cadherin function blocking antibodies (HECD-1). Total cell lysates  
272 were probed with antibodies against pAMPK, AMPK, phospho-myosin light chain (pMLC), or  
273 MLC. **e,** MCF10A cells were left resting (-) or treated (+) with Calyculin A (to stimulate myosin II-  
274 dependent increased contractility). Total cell lysates were immunoblotted as described in d. **f**  
275 **and g,** Tensional forces were applied to MCF10A cells as described in a. The beads were  
276 recovered and co-precipitation of AMPK (f) and pAMPK (g) with E-cadherin were examined by  
277 immunoblotting. The graphs beneath the image show the average  $\pm$  SEM for 3 independent  
278 experiments. \*, #, and ## indicate p-values of <0.01, 0.05 and 0.005, respectively. Unprocessed  
279 scans of blots are shown in Supplementary Figure 5.

280

281 **Figure 2. LKB1 is recruited to the cadherin adhesion complex in response to force and**  
282 **activates and recruits AMPK.** MCF10A cells (a,b,d,g) or MDCK cells (e) were incubated with  
283 beads coated with IgG or E-cadherin extracellular domains (E-cad) and left resting (-) or  
284 stimulated (+) with tensional force using a permanent magnet. In other experiments, MDCK  
285 cells (c and f) were left resting (-) or exposed to shear stress (+). **a,** the cells were lysed and co-  
286 precipitation of LKB1 with the E-cadherin-coated magnetic beads was examined. **b,** Co-  
287 immunoprecipitation of E-cadherin (E-cad) with LKB1 was monitored using immunoblotting. **c,**  
288 The cells were fixed, permeabilized and stained with antibodies against E-cadherin or LKB1.  
289 The co-localization of LKB1 with E-cadherin was examined using confocal microscopy. Scale

290 bar = 20µm. **d-f**, The cells were lysed, and whole cell lysates were immunoblotted with the  
291 indicated antibodies. shLKB1 denotes cells with LKB1 silenced. shLuc indicates cells  
292 expressing a vector control cDNA, and cl.11 and cl.14 indicate two clonal cell lines lacking  
293 LKB1. **g**, the cells were lysed, and pAMPK and AMPK co-purification with the E-cadherin-coated  
294 magnetic beads was examined by immunoblotting. The graphs beneath each image show the  
295 average ± SEM for 3 independent experiments. \* and # indicate p-values of <0.01, and <0.05,  
296 respectively. Unprocessed scans of blots are shown in Supplementary Figure 5.

297

298 **Figure 3. LKB1 and AMPK are upstream of Abl-mediated phosphorylation of Y822**  
299 **vinculin and Rho-mediated contractility.** **a**, schematic of the signal transduction cascade  
300 from E-cadherin to Rho-mediated contractility. **b-h**, MCF10a cells were incubated with beads  
301 coated with IgG or E-cadherin extracellular domains (E-cad) and left resting (-) or stimulated (+)  
302 with tensional force using a permanent magnet. **b,c,d,e**, whole cell lysates were probed by  
303 immunoblotting with antibodies that recognize phosphorylation of CrkL at the Abl-specific site (b  
304 and c, pCrkL) or phosphorylation of vinculin Y822 (d and e, pY822). **f**, AMPK was  
305 immunoprecipitated and vinculin and Abl recruitment were examined by immunoblotting. **g**,  
306 Active Rho (Rho-GTP) was isolated with GST-RBD and analyzed by western blotting. **h**, total  
307 cell lysates were immunoblotted with antibodies against myosin light chain (MLC) or MLC  
308 phosphorylated at Serine 19 (pMLC). shLKB1 denotes cells expressing shRNAs against LKB1.  
309 shControl indicates cells treated with scrambled shRNAs. shAMPK1 and shAMPK2 indicate cells  
310 infected with two separate shRNAs targeting AMPK. The graphs beneath each image show the  
311 average ± SEM for 3 independent experiments. \*\*, \* and # indicate p-values of <0.001, <0.01,  
312 and 0.05, respectively. Unprocessed scans of blots are shown in Supplementary Figure 5.

313

314 **Figure 4. Force-induced AMPK stimulates glucose uptake and increases intracellular ATP**  
315 **levels.** **a and b**, MCF10A (**a**) or MDCK (**b**) cells were incubated paramagnetic beads coated  
316 with IgG or E-cadherin extracellular domains (E-cad). Tensile forces were applied to the beads  
317 using a magnet, the cells were lysed, and the amount of a fluorescently-labelled 2-deoxyglucose  
318 analog taken up into the cells was monitored using a fluorimeter. **c**, MDCK cells were left resting  
319 (no shear) or exposed to shear stress (shear), and the amount of glucose taken up into the cells  
320 was monitored as described in **a**. **d and e**, Total ATP levels in cells treated as described in **a**  
321 and **b** were monitored as described in the experimental procedures. Cmpd C indicates cells  
322 treated with the AMPK inhibitor Compound C, Oligo indicates cells treated with the ATP  
323 synthase inhibitor, Oligomycin A, and 2-DG indicates cells incubated in the presence of 2-  
324 deoxyglucose. The graphs represent average glucose uptake or intracellular ATP for at least  
325 three representative experiments ± SEM. # and ## indicate p-values of <0.05 and < 0.005,  
326 respectively. n.s. indicates that there is no statistical differences between groups.

327

328 **Figure 5. Force-induced increases in ATP reinforce the actin cytoskeleton and the E-**  
329 **cadherin adhesion complex to modulate barrier formation.** **a-c**, MDCKII cells (n=80) or two

330 clonal MDCKII cells lines (cl.11 and cl.14, n=63 and 52 respectively) lacking LKB1 were left  
331 untreated, treated with inhibitors of AMPK (Compound C=Cmpd. C, n=62) or ATP synthesis  
332 (Oligo A,n=44 or Carbonyl cyanide-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone= FCCP, n=26, or  
333 incubated in low glucose containing media (Low Gluc, n=25). The cells were then left resting (no  
334 shear) or exposed to physiological shear stress. The cells were fixed, stained with antibodies  
335 against E-cadherin or Texas-Red phalloidin, and examined by confocal microscopy. The graphs  
336 in b and c represent the average corrected fluorescence intensity of E-cadherin (b, E-cad) or F-  
337 actin (c) in junctions. The data are represented as a box and whisker plot with median, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>,  
338 75<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles shown. Scale bars=20  $\mu$ m. **d**, MDCKII cells were grown to confluence  
339 and then incubated overnight in low calcium containing media. The formation of cell-cell  
340 junctions was then stimulated by adding growth media to the cells. The trans-epithelial  
341 resistance across the epithelial monolayer was monitored using a voltmeter at the indicated  
342 times (hours). \*\*,\*, and # indicate p-values of <0.001, <0.01 and <0.05, respectively.

343

344

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436

1

## 2 **Materials and Methods.**

3

4 **Cell lines.** No cell lines used in this study were found in the database of commonly  
5 misidentified cell lines maintained by the ICLAD and NCBI. MCF10A human breast  
6 epithelial cells and MDCK II canine kidney epithelial cells were purchased from ATCC  
7 and were maintained as previously described<sup>11,41</sup>. Cell lines were used for no more  
8 than twelve passages and were tested periodically for mycoplasma contamination  
9 (Lonzo MycoAlert). The cell lines were not authenticated. MDCKII lines expressing  
10 control shLuc, shLKB1 clones 11 and 14, and shE-cadherin were generous gifts from  
11 Dr. Michael Sebbagh<sup>17</sup>. MDCKII cells were maintained in DMEM (4g/L D-glucose with L-  
12 Glutamine) with 10% FBS (Atlanta Biologicals) and 1x Penicillin/ Streptomycin (Sigma).  
13 These lines were chosen for they are both non-tumorigenic epithelial lines that form  
14 strong cell-cell adhesions which have been characterized by our laboratory and  
15 others<sup>11,41-43</sup>. 293GPG cells are a virus-producing cell line that are a derivative of 293T  
16 cells and were maintained as described previously<sup>11</sup>.

17

18 **Constructs.** shRNA lentiviral particles targeting LKB1 and AMPK were purchased from  
19 Santa Cruz (270074-V labeled shLKB1, 29673-V denoted shAMPK1, and 45312-V  
20 termed shAMPK2). Additional control shRNA lentiviral particles containing scrambled  
21 AMPK targeting regions were purchased from Santa Cruz (108080, referred to as  
22 shControl). pLEGFP-vinculin Y822F was generated using site-specific mutagenesis of  
23 pLEGFP-WTvinculin<sup>11,42</sup>. pGEX4T1-SAMS (aattccacatgagggtccgcatgtccggcttgacacctagtaaaac  
24 gacgac) and SAMA (aattccacatgagggtccgcatggccggcttgacacctagtaaaacgacgac) were  
25 generated by annealing oligonucleotides and ligating oligonucleotides into pGEX4T1  
26 vector (GE Healthcare) cut at Xho1 and EcoR1 restriction sites. pGEX-RBD was a  
27 generous gift from Dr. Keith Burrige (University of North Carolina).

28

29 **Magnetic Bead Force Assays.** The application of tensile force to E-cadherin using  
30 magnetic beads was performed as previously described<sup>11</sup>. In brief, paramagnetic beads

31 were coated with Fc-Ecadherin, IgG or syndecan-1 antibodies. For the E-cadherin and  
32 IgG coated beads, 1.5 mg Dynabeads Protein A (Invitrogen) were coated with 10  $\mu$ g  
33 purified Fc-E-cadherin<sup>44</sup> or IgG. For the syndecan experiments, 0.75  $\mu$ g protein G  
34 Dynabeads (Invitrogen) were coated with 10 $\mu$ g syndecan-1 antibody (281.2; BD  
35 Biosciences). The beads were incubated with cells for 40 min at 37°C in the presence or  
36 absence of Compound C (10 $\mu$ M, Sigma), Blebbistatin (50 $\mu$ M, Sigma), or HECD-1  
37 (200 $\mu$ g/mL, Invitrogen). Tensile forces were applied to beads 5-10 minutes using a  
38 permanent ceramic magnet. For all experiments, the magnet was placed parallel to and  
39 at a distance of 0.6 cm from the cell surface, so that the force on a single bead was  
40 approximately 10 pN<sup>6,11</sup>. After application of force, the cells were transferred to ice and  
41 immediately lysed.

42

43 **Shear stress.** To examine the cellular response to shear stress, cells were grown to 90-  
44 95% confluence on 35mm coverslips coated with 10 $\mu$ g/ml fibronectin. Cells were placed  
45 in a parallel plate flow chamber (Glycotech) and a Buchler polystatic pump was  
46 employed to apply force at 10dyn/cm<sup>2</sup> by administering media onto the cells at a rate of  
47 3mL/minute. To determine force, the equation  $\tau = 6\mu Q/a^2b$ <sup>45</sup> was used.  $\tau$  = shear stress,  
48 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>,  $\mu$  = apparent viscosity of the media (DMEM-F12 = 0.009598 Poise or  
49 dynes\*sec/ cm<sup>2</sup>), Q = volumetric flow rate (3 mL/min), a = channel height (0.12 cm), and  
50 b = channel width (2 cm). For signaling and cytoskeletal reinforcement studies, fluid was  
51 passed along the monolayer of cells for 6 hours in the presence or absence of  
52 Compound C (Sigma, 10 $\mu$ M), Oligomycin A (Tocris, 10 $\mu$ M), or Carbonyl cyanide-4-  
53 (trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazine (i.e. FCCP, Sigma, 1 $\mu$ M) or in low glucose media  
54 (0.5 g/L D-Glucose in DMEM). Cells were then immediately lysed in 2X Laemmli sample  
55 buffer or fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde. For glucose uptake assays, cells were exposed  
56 to shear stress for 2 hours and then allowed to recover for 1 hour with glucose  
57 derivative (2-NBDG).

58

59 **Calyculin A Treatment.** Cells were grown to near confluence and treated with 5nM of  
60 Calyculin A (Cell Signaling) for 40 minutes and then lysed.

61



62 **Calcium-switch assays.** The calcium-switch assays were performed by incubating  
63 cells in calcium-free media for 12 hours and then restoring calcium-containing media for  
64 the times indicated.

65

66 **AMPK *in vitro* kinase assay.** Cells with and without force applied were lysed into an *in*  
67 *vitro* kinase assay buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 50 mM NaF, 5 mM Na pyrophosphate, 1  
68 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 250 mM mannitol, 1% (v/v) Triton X-100, 1 mM DTT). AMPK  
69 was immunoprecipitated from whole cell lysates a 1:100 dilution of a polyclonal antibody  
70 against AMPK (2532), and the immunoprecipitates were washed with 50 mM Tris, pH  
71 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 50 mM NaF, 5 mM Na pyrophosphate, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA.  
72 GST-SAMS and GST-SAMA fusion proteins were purified according to the  
73 manufacturer's instructions. After elution, proteins were concentrated using the Amicon  
74 Ultra 3,000 MWCO system (Millipore). 1 µg of purified SAMS and SAMA proteins were  
75 added to a kinase reaction mixture (1X HEPES- Brif buffer, 250 mM Na HEPES, pH 7.4, 5  
76 mM DTT, 0.1%% Brij-35, 100 µM cold ATP, 300 µM AMP, 25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 10 µCi  
77 <sup>32</sup>P-ATP). 20µL of the reaction mixture was next added to 5µL of washed protein A  
78 beads with bound AMPK. The reactions were incubated for 30 minutes at room  
79 temperature and stopped by adding 5X Laemmli sample buffer. The samples were  
80 boiled, analyzed by SDS-PAGE, and detected by autoradiography.

81

82 **AMPK activator.** Cells without force applied were treated with 100 µM of A-769662  
83 (Selleck Chemical) which is a potent, reversible allosteric activator of AMPK. Cells were  
84 treated with the activator for 2 hours and then fixed and stained for  
85 immunofluorescence.

86

87 **Immunoprecipitation.** To immunoprecipitate E-cadherin or LKB1, cells were  
88 solubilized in Extraction Buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 50 mM NaCl, 1% triton X-100,  
89 5mM EDTA, 50 mM NaF, 20 µg/ml aprotinin, 2 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, and 1 mM PMSF). Clarified  
90 cell lysates were incubated with 6 µg of E-cadherin (HECD-1, Invitrogen) or a 1:100  
91 dilution of a polyclonal LKB1 (Cell Signaling 27D10) antibody, and the resulting antibody

92 complexes were recovered with Protein G or Protein A agarose (Sigma). To  
93 immunoprecipitate AMPK, cells were lysed in ice-cold RIPA buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH  
94 7.4, 1% NP-40, 0.5% Na-deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 150 mM NaCl, 2mM EDTA, 50mM  
95 NaF, 20 µg/ml aprotinin, 2 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, and 1 mM PMSF). Clarified lysates were  
96 incubated with a 1:100 dilution of a polyclonal antibody against AMPK (Cell Signaling  
97 2532). The complexes were recovered with Protein A agarose (Sigma).

98

99 **Pulldown assays.** Force was applied to cells using the magnetic bead approach  
100 described above with the exception that cells were pretreated for 2 hours with 50µM  
101 blebbistatin (Sigma) or 200µg/mL HECD-1 (Invitrogen). Cells were lysed in ice-cold lysis  
102 buffer (20 mM Tris at pH 7.6, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>,  
103 20 µg/ml aprotinin). Cadherin-coated beads were isolated from the lysate using a  
104 magnet and washed three times with lysis buffer. The bound proteins were denatured  
105 and reduced in 2X Laemmli sample buffer and separated using SDS-PAGE.

106

107 **RhoA assays.** Active RhoA (RhoA-GTP) was isolated using a GST fusion protein with  
108 Rhotekin binding domain (GST-RBD) as detailed in Arthur and Burrige<sup>46</sup>. The GST-  
109 RBD domain binds specifically to GTP-bound, but not GDP-bound, RhoA proteins<sup>47</sup>.  
110 Cells were lysed in 50 mM Tris (pH 7.6), 500mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% DOC, 1% triton  
111 X-100, MgCl<sub>2</sub> and rotated for 30 minutes with 30 µg of purified GST-RBD bound to  
112 glutathione-Sepharose beads. The beads were washed in 50 mM Tris (pH 7.6), 150 mM  
113 NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and the bound proteins were separated using  
114 SDS-PAGE.

115 **Immunoblotting.** Cell lysates were fractionated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to  
116 PVDF (Immobilon). The membranes were blocked in 5% milk (vinculin, E-cadherin), 5%  
117 BSA (AMPK, pAMPK, ACC, pACC) or 1% BSA (pVinculin, pCrkL, CrkL, MLC, pMLC,  
118 Abl) and subjected to Western blot analysis. AMPK was recognized using a polyclonal  
119 antibody from Cell Signaling (2532) that detects both the endogenous α-1 and α-2  
120 isoforms of the catalytic subunit, but not the regulatory γ and β subunits. Phospho-  
121 AMPK was detected with an antibody that recognizes AMPK phosphorylated at Thr172  
122 (Cell Signaling Technology, 40H9 2535 @ 1:1000 dilution). LKB1 was recognized with a

123 polyclonal antibody from Cell Signaling (27D10 @ 1:1000 dilution). ACC was  
124 recognized with a polyclonal antibody from Cell Signaling (C83B10 @ 1:1000 dilution);  
125 phospho-ACC was detected with an antibody that recognizes ACC phosphorylated at  
126 S79 (Cell Signaling Technology, D7D11@ 1:1000 dilution). Abl kinase was recognized  
127 using a polyclonal antibody raised against a peptide mapping the kinase domain from  
128 Santa Cruz (clone K-12, @ 1:250 dilution). E-Cadherin was immunoblotted with an  
129 HECD-1 mouse monoclonal antibody (Invitrogen 13-1700 @ 1:1000 dilution) or  
130 monoclonal antibody from (BD Transduction Labs @ 1:1000 dilution). Vinculin was  
131 detected with a monoclonal vinculin antibody (hVIN-1, Sigma @ 1:1000 dilution), and  
132 phosphorylated vinculin at Y822 was recognized with a rabbit polyclonal antibody  
133 (AB61071, Abcam @ 1:1000 dilution). CrkL was recognized with a polyclonal antibody  
134 raised against the C-terminus of human CrkL (C-20, Santa Cruz Biotechnology @ 1:250  
135 dilution) and phospho-CrkL was immunoblotted with a polyclonal antibody that  
136 recognizes CrkL phosphorylated at Y207 (3181S, Cell Signaling Technology @ 1:1000  
137 dilution). Phosphorylated myosin light chain (MLC) was detected with antibodies against  
138 phosphorylated serine 19 (3671, Cell Signaling @ 1:1000 dilution). MLC was also  
139 recognized with an antibody from Cell Signaling Technology (3672 @ 1:1000 dilution).  
140 The blots were visualized using chemoluminescence detection reagents (Pierce), and  
141 the signal was detected on x-ray film (Kodak) or a GE Image Quant LAS 400 Imager.  
142 Immunoblots were quantified using the ImageJ program, which measures the integrated  
143 density of bands corrected for background. Shown is the average ratio density from at  
144 least 3 experiments  $\pm$  standard error of mean. A series of two-tailed student t-tests,  
145 heteroscedastic variance, normal distribution, were performed to determine statistical  
146 significance.

147  
148 **Immunofluorescence.** Cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate buffered  
149 saline (PBS), permeabilized in 0.5% Triton X-100 in Universal buffer (UB) (150 mM  
150 NaCl, 50 mM Tris pH 7.6, 0.01% NaN<sub>3</sub>) for 3 minutes, and washed in UB or PBS. Cells  
151 were blocked with 5% goat serum in UB for an hour at 37°C, incubated with a primary  
152 antibody for 1 hour at 37°C, washed with UB, and then incubated with secondary  
153 antibody for 1 hour at 37°C. F-actin was stained using phalloidin conjugated with Texas

154 Red at a 1:200 dilution (Life Technologies). E-cadherin was visualized by staining with  
155 HECD-1 (Invitrogen) at a 1:500 dilution, followed by FITC-conjugated goat anti-mouse  
156 IgG (H+L) (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, Inc) at a 1:500 dilution. To examine  
157 LKB1, cells were blocked in 1% BSA in UB and stained with LKB1 at 1:400 (Cell  
158 Signaling, 27D10). To examine vinculin, cells were blocked with 10% BSA in UB and  
159 stained with hVin-1(Sigma) and F79 (Millipore) at a 1:100 dilution and  $\beta$ -catenin (Sigma)  
160 at 1:750, was and incubated with Texas Red–conjugated donkey anti-rabbit IgG (H + L)  
161 at a 1:500 dilution (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, Inc.) and FITC–conjugated  
162 donkey anti-mouse IgG (H + L) at a 1:300 dilution (Jackson ImmunoResearch  
163 Laboratories, Inc.). Fluorescence images were captured at room temperature with a  
164 confocal microscope (model LSM 510; Carl Zeiss Micro Imaging, Inc.). We used a 63X  
165 objective (Carl Zeiss Micro Imaging, Inc.) with an NA of 1.2. Images were obtained  
166 using the LSM Image Browser (Carl Zeiss Micro Imaging, Inc.). To examine vinculin the  
167 Leica SP8 confocal microscope was used with a 40X objective. Quantifications of  
168 images were made using ImageJ. Fifty junctions were chosen at random measured at  
169 random over at least five fields of view. Data analyzer was blinded to image identity. A  
170 Dixon Q-test<sub>95%</sub> was used to determine if data should be excluded. Graphs report the  
171 corrected fluorescence intensity of the regions of interest of interest. The corrected  
172 fluorescence intensity= integrated density- background (area of measurement times the  
173 mean intensity). Data represented as a box and whisker box with 90-10 percentile  
174 shown. Fold increase in intensity was calculated from the average corrected  
175 fluorescence intensity divided by the corrected fluorescence intensity from the untreated  
176 samples and is depicted as the average of 3 independent experiments.

177  
178 **Glucose uptake assays.** Glucose uptake was measured using a kit from Cayman  
179 Chemical (600470). To determine uptake in response to tensile forces,  $1.0 \times 10^5$   
180 cells/well were plated in 24-well plates and grown for two days. One hour prior to assay,  
181 cells were transferred to PBS with and without Compound C (10  $\mu$ M, Sigma) or  
182 200 $\mu$ g/mL HECD-1 (Invitrogen). 50  $\mu$ g of Dynabeads Protein A (Invitrogen) coated in  
183 0.4  $\mu$ g Fc-E-cadherin or IgG were incubated with cells for 45 minutes at 37°C. Just prior  
184 to applying force on cells, 33  $\mu$ g of glucose derivative (2-NBDG) was added to each

185 well. Force was applied to beads for 10 minutes, and then the cells were permitted to  
186 recover for 10 minutes at 37°C and lysed in 250µL of 10 mM Tris (pH 7.4), 50mM NaCl,  
187 5mM EDTA, 50mM NaF, 1% triton X-100 and protease inhibitors. The lysate were  
188 centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 5 minutes at 4 °C, and the resulting supernatant (200µL)  
189 was collected. An equal volume of Cell- Based Assay Buffer (Cayman Chemical,  
190 10009322) was added to the collected supernatant. 100 µL of resulting solution were  
191 loaded into a 96-well plate in triplicate, and a fluorescence reading at 485/535 nm was  
192 taken (Biotek Synergy Neo model NEOALHPA B, Gen 5 software). To evaluate uptake  
193 in response to junction formation,  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/well were plated in 24-well plates and  
194 grown for 48 hours in calcium-containing media. After 48 hours, the cells were  
195 incubated in calcium-free media for 12 hours and calcium was restored for the times  
196 indicated. The cells were lysed and the amount of glucose uptake was measured as  
197 described above. The glucose uptake concentration was determined using a standard  
198 curve. Results are reported as µg/mL/ $1 \times 10^5$  cells.

199  
200 **ATP assays.** Cells were plated at a density of  $0.75 \times 10^5$  for 2 days in 35mm dishes. An  
201 hour before applying force, cells were treated with Compound C (Sigma 10µM),  
202 Oligomycin A (Tocris, 10µM), 2-NBDG (fluorescently-labeled 2-deoxyglucose from  
203 Cayman Chemical, 150µg/mL). Dynabeads (0.15mg) coated with 1µg of Fc-E-cadherin  
204 or IgG were incubated with the cells for 45 minutes. Force was applied using a ceramic  
205 magnet for 10 minutes. Intracellular ATP levels were examined using a Fluorometric  
206 ATP assay kit from Abcam (ab83355). Cells were lysed in 200µL of ATP Assay Buffer,  
207 centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 5 minutes at 4°C, and protein was removed from the  
208 supernatant using a 10 Kd spin column (Thermo Scientific). 5µL of the de-proteinated  
209 sample were added to ATP reaction mix in 96-well plates and a fluorescence reading at  
210 535/587nm was made (Biotek Synergy Neo model NEOALHPA B, Gen 5 software).

211 **Transepithelial electrical resistance.** Cells were plated on Costar® 0.4 µm  
212 Polycarbonate membrane Transwell® 24-well plates and grown to confluence. The cells  
213 were then incubated in calcium free DMEM overnight. Growth media was added back  
214 to the cultures for the indicated times and transepithelial electrical resistance was  
215 measured in triplicate using a Millipore Voltmeter (MERS 000 01). Results are in Ω\*cm<sup>2</sup>.

216

217 **Statistics and Reproducibility.** Statistical differences between groups of data were  
218 analyzed using a series of two-tailed unpaired Student *t*-tests. All experiments were  
219 completed at least three independent times. Key findings were repeated by at least two  
220 of the authors.

221 **Data availability.** All data supporting the findings of this study are available from the  
222 corresponding author on reasonable request.

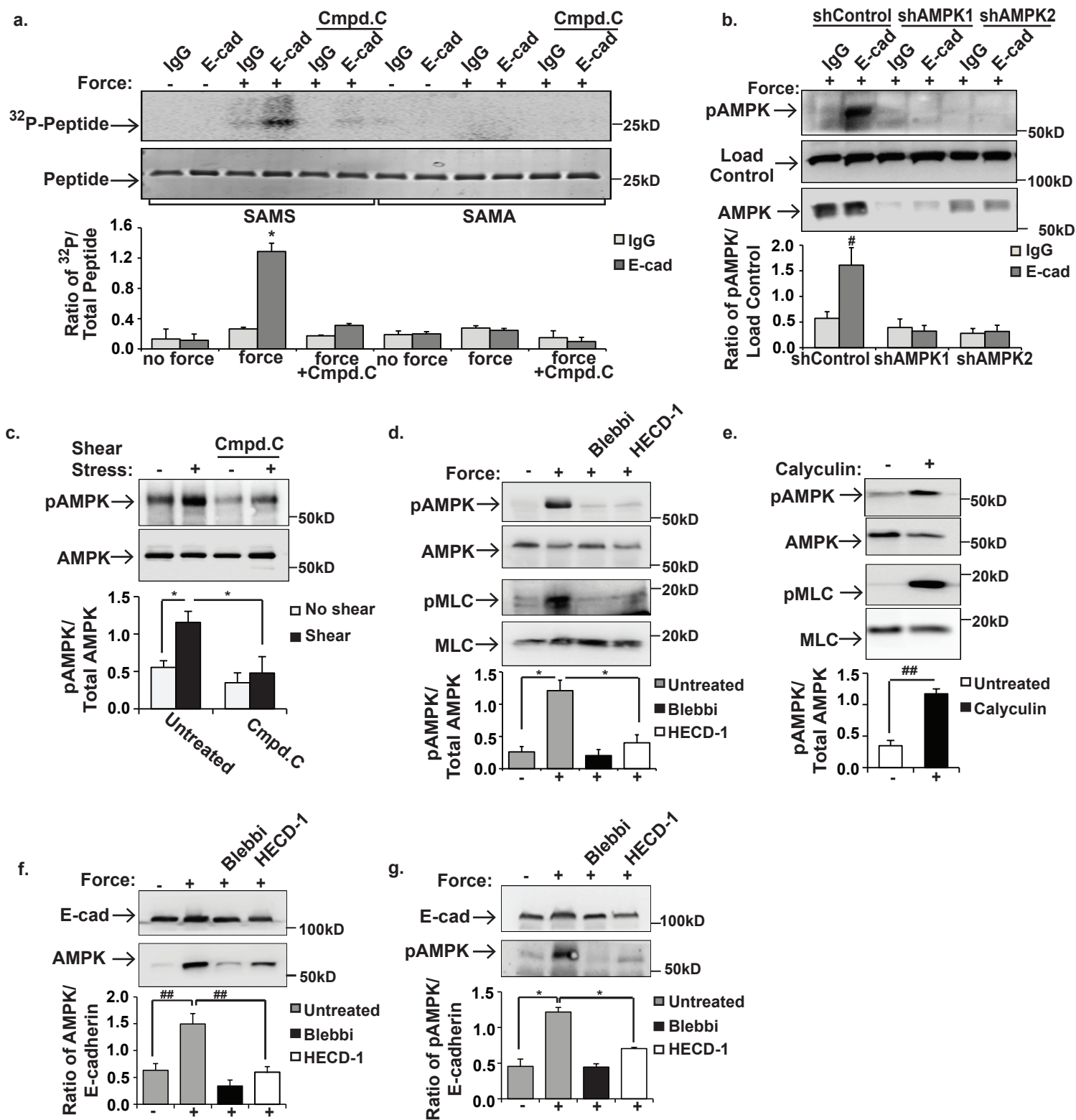
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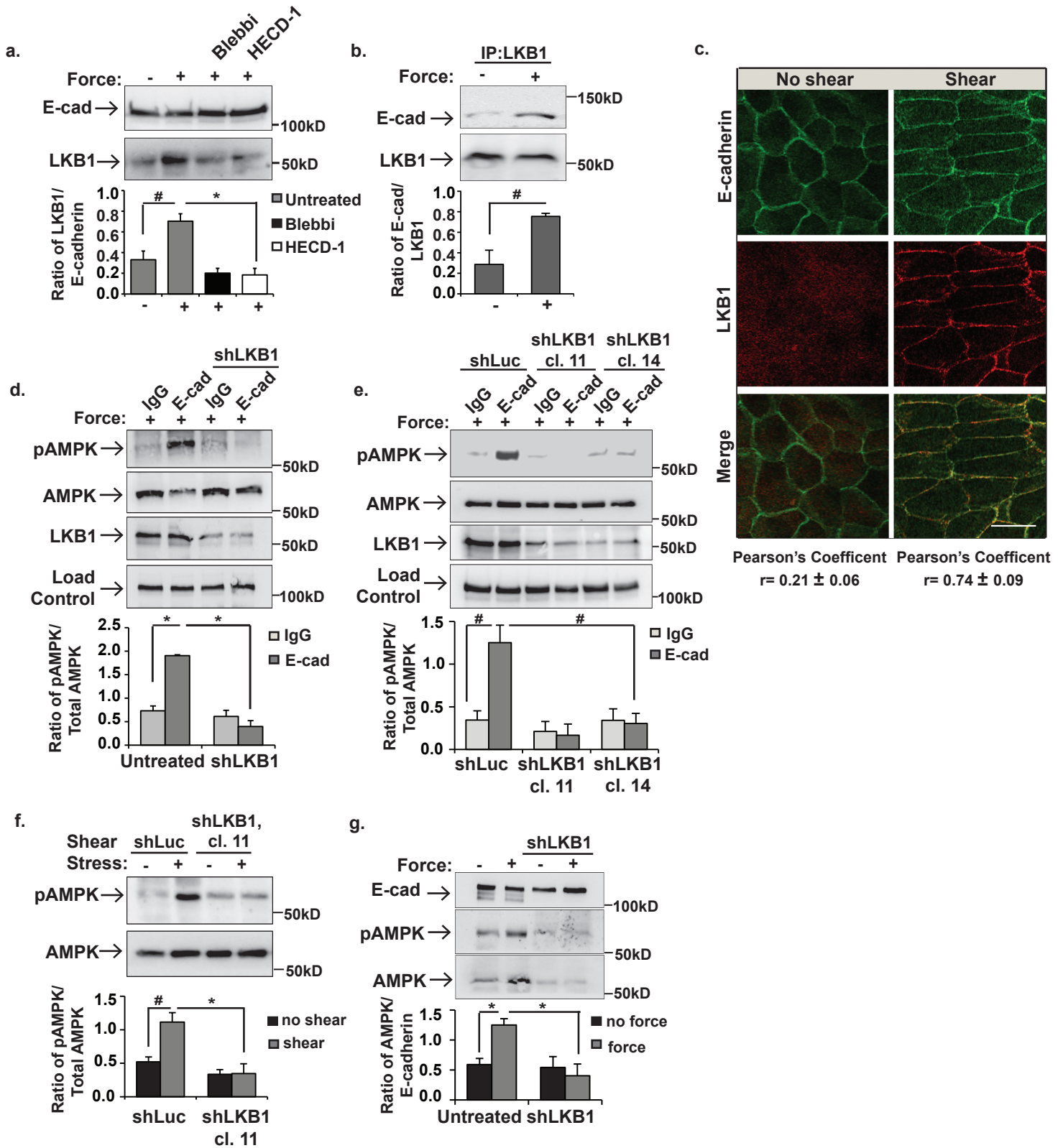
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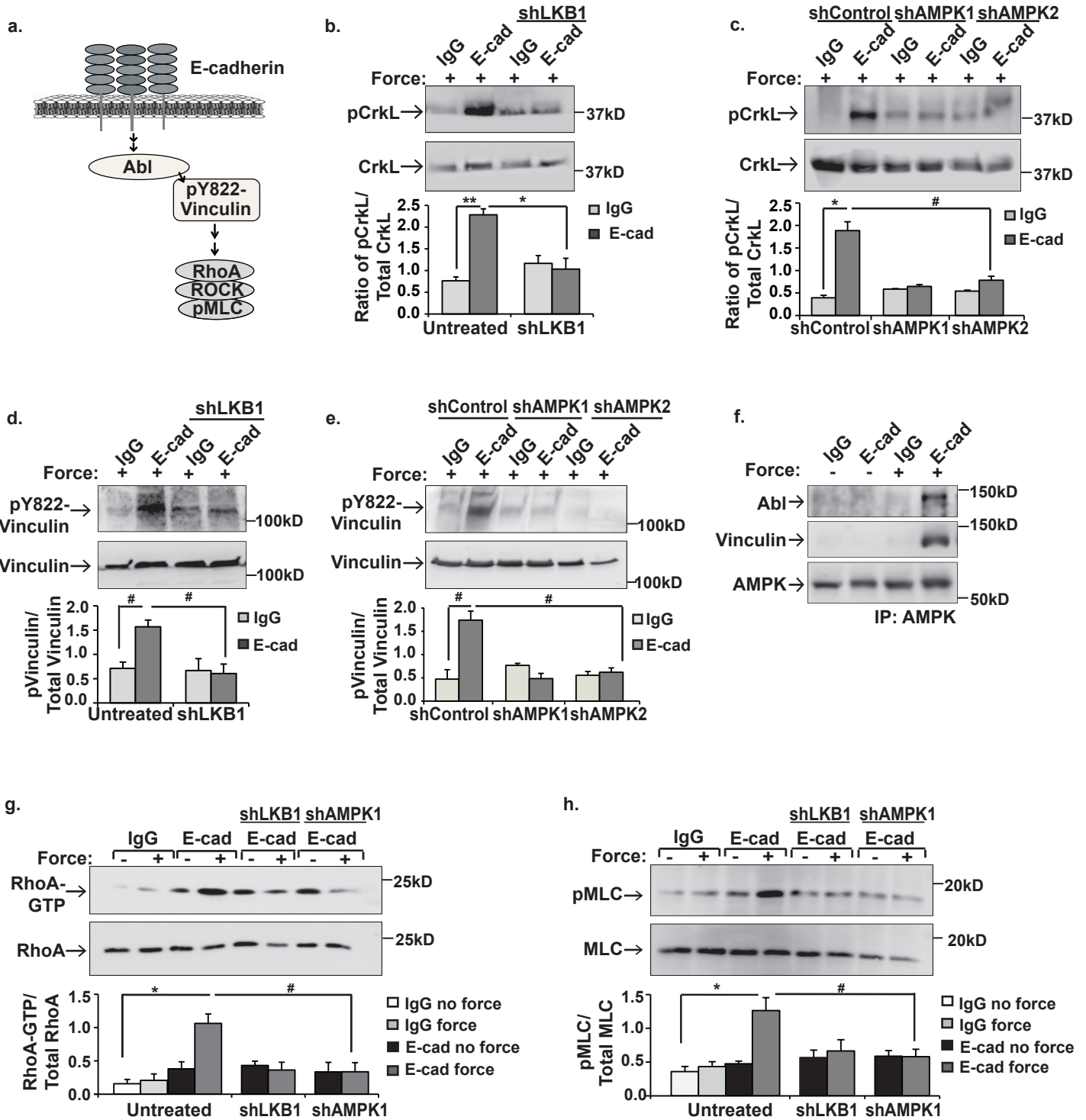
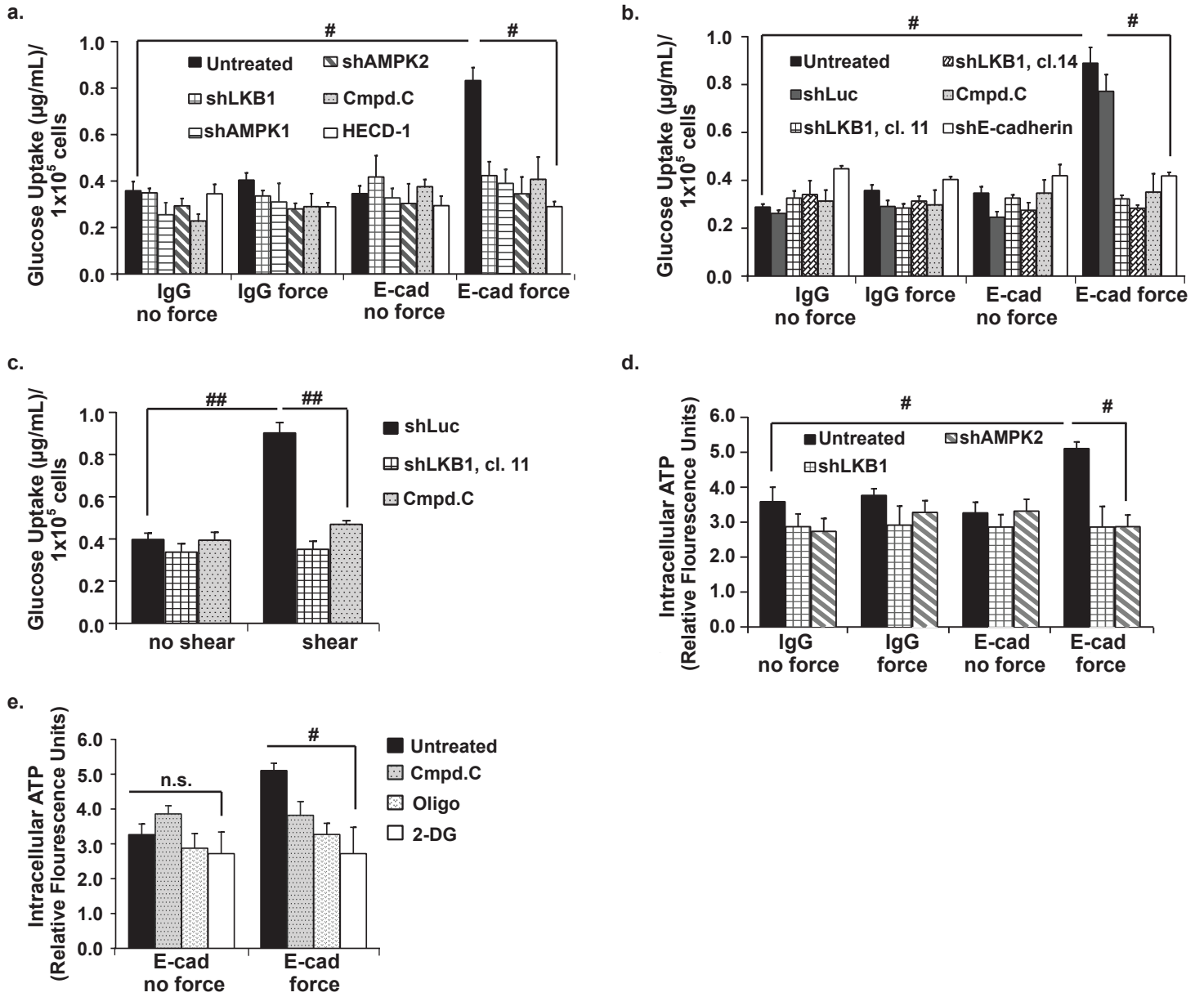
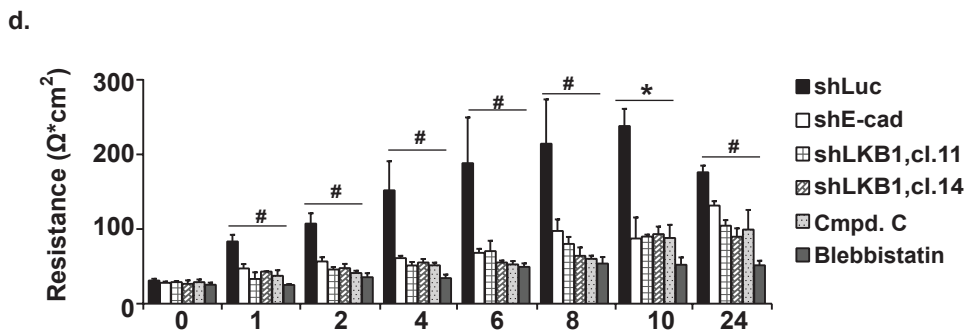
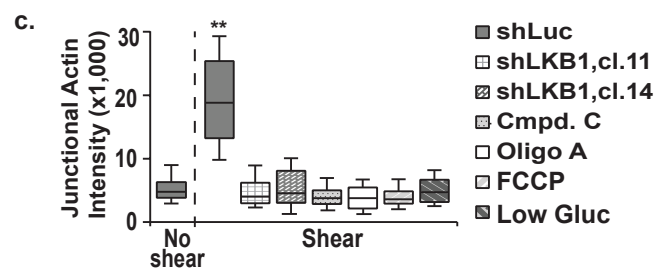
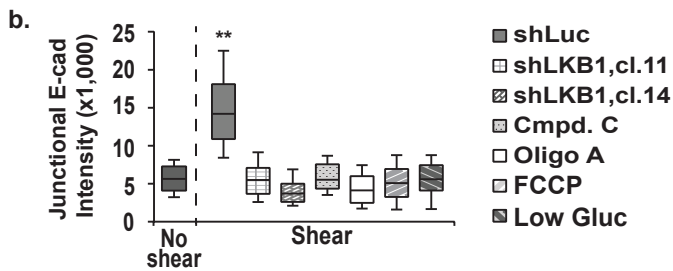
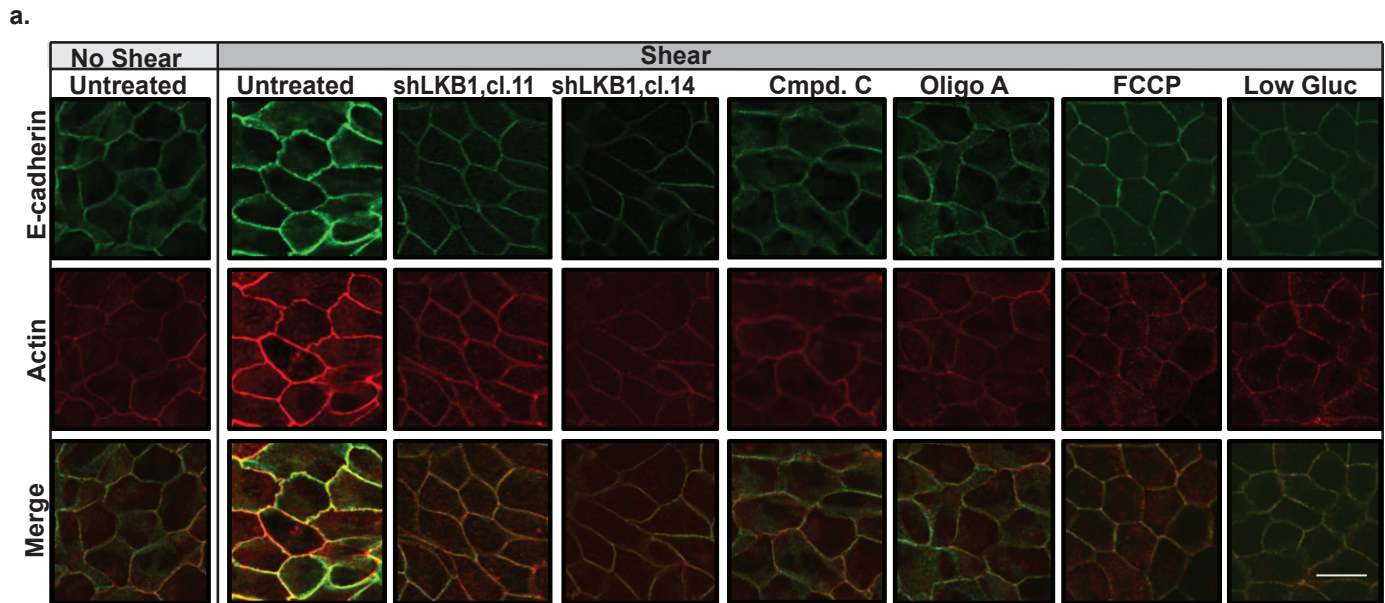


Figure 4. Bays et al 2017





## 1 Legends to Supplementary Information

2 **Supplementary Figure 1. The force-induced activation of AMPK occurs in multiple**  
3 **epithelial cell lines and requires E-cadherin and force transmission.** MDCK II (a,e)  
4 or MCF10A (b,c,f,g) cells were incubated with magnetic beads coated with IgG (as a  
5 control), a syndecan-1 antibody, or E-cadherin extracellular domains (E-Cad). The cells  
6 were then left resting (-) or tensile forces were applied to the beads (+), the cells were  
7 lysed, and total cell lysates were immunoblotted with antibodies that recognize AMPK  
8 (a,b,d,e,f), pAMPK(a,b,d,e,f), acetyl CoA carboxylase (c,ACC), acetyl CoA carboxylase  
9 phosphorylated at its AMPK specific site (c, pACC), or E-cadherin (e, E-cad). shE-cad  
10 indicates cells with E-cadherin silenced. shAMPK indicates cells with E-cadherin  
11 silenced. Compound C (Cmpd. C), Blebbistatin (Blebbi) and HECD-1 indicate cells  
12 pretreated with these reagents. **d and h**, the assembly of cell-cell junctions was  
13 stimulated using a calcium switch assay, and the cells were lysed. The levels of pAMPK  
14 and AMPK were examined by immunoblotting (d) or E-cadherin was  
15 immunoprecipitated and AMPK association was monitored by immunoblotting (h).  
16 ' indicates minutes after Ca<sup>2+</sup> re-addition. Steady indicates cells maintained in growth  
17 media. The graphs beneath the image show the average ± SEM for 3 independent  
18 experiments. \*\*, \*, and # indicate p values of <0.001, <0.01, and <0.05, respectively.  
19 n.s. indicates not significant. Unprocessed scans of blots are shown in Supplementary  
20 Figure 5.

21

22 **Supplementary Figure 2. LKB1 and AMPK are upstream of Abl-mediated**  
23 **phosphorylation of Y822 vinculin and RhoA contractility.** MDCK II(a) or MCF10A(b-  
24 e) cells were incubated with magnetic beads coated with IgG (as a control) or E-  
25 cadherin extracellular domains (E-Cad). The cells were left resting (-) or tensile forces  
26 were applied to the beads (+), and the cells were lysed. **a and b**, immunoblots of whole  
27 cell lysates showing phosphorylation of CrkL at the Abl-specific site (pCrkL). shLKB1  
28 denotes cells with LKB1 silenced. shLuc indicates cells expressing a control vector  
29 cDNA, and cl.11 and cl.14 indicate two different clonal cell lines lacking LKB1. **c**,  
30 immunoblots of whole cell lysates showing phosphorylation of vinculin Y822 (pY822). **d**,  
31 Active Rho (Rho-GTP) was isolated from whole cell lysates with GST-RBD and  
32 analyzed by western blotting. Compound C (Cmpd. C) indicates cells pretreated with  
33 this AMPK inhibitor. Y822F indicates MCF10A cells expressing a mutant vinculin  
34 containing a Y822F vinculin in place of the endogenous protein. **e**, immunoblots of  
35 whole cell lysates showing myosin light chain (MLC), or MLC phosphorylated in its  
36 regulatory chain (pMLC). The graphs beneath each image represent an average of  
37 three experiments ± SEM. \*\*, \*, # and ## indicate p values of <0.001, <0.01, < 0.05 and

38 <0.005, respectively. n.s. indicates not significant. Unprocessed scans of blots are  
39 shown in Supplementary Figure 5.

40

41 **Supplementary Figure 3. Average fold activation of the glucose uptake and ATP**  
42 **values.** Bar graphs displaying the average fold activation of force-induced glucose  
43 uptake assays (a-d) or of the intracellular ATP levels (e and f) are shown. **a-c**, The fold  
44 activations for the data presented in Figures 4a-c are shown in panels S3a, S3b, and  
45 S3c, respectively. **d**, the amount of glucose taken up into MCF10A cells after a calcium  
46 switch assay performed as described in supplemental Figure 1f. **e and f**, The fold  
47 activation for ATP levels presented in Figures 4d and e are shown in panels S3e and  
48 S3f, respectively. The values represent the average fold activation from three  
49 independent experiments  $\pm$  the standard error of the mean.

50

51 **Supplementary Figure 4. Controls for shear stress studies in Figure 5. a-h**, MDCK  
52 II cells (n=79) or two clonal MDCK II cells lines (cl.11 and cl.14, n=51 and 76  
53 respectively) lacking LKB1 were left untreated, treated with inhibitors of AMPK  
54 (Compound C=Cmpd. C, n=55), treated with inhibitors of ATP synthesis (Oligo A,n=53  
55 or Carbonyl cyanide-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone =FCCP,n=29), treated with  
56 inhibitors of myosin II (blebbistatin=Blebbi, n=30), treated with the AMPK activator (A-  
57 769662), or incubated in low glucose containing media (Low Gluc, n=25). The cells  
58 were left resting (no shear) or exposed to shear stress (shear). **a-d**, The cells were  
59 fixed, stained with antibodies against E-cadherin or with Texas-Red labelled phalloidin,  
60 and visualized using confocal microscopy. Representative images are shown in a and d.  
61 Scale bars=20  $\mu$ m. The graph in b and c represent the average corrected fluorescence  
62 intensity of E-cadherin (b, E-cad) or F-actin (c) in junctions. The data are represented as  
63 a box and whisker plot with median, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles shown. **e**, the  
64 cells were fixed, stained with antibodies against vinculin or  $\beta$ -catenin, and examined by  
65 confocal microscopy. The graphs represent the average corrected fluorescence  
66 intensity of vinculin (**f**) or  $\beta$ -catenin (**g**) in junctions. **h**, the cells were lysed and total cell  
67 lysates were immunoblotted with antibodies against myosin light chain (MLC) or MLC  
68 phosphorylated at Serine 19 (pMLC). The graphs beneath each image represent an  
69 average of three experiments  $\pm$  SEM. \*\*, \* and # indicate p values of <0.001, <0.01 and  
70 < 0.05, respectively. n.s. indicates not significant. Unprocessed scans of blots are  
71 shown in Supplementary Figure 5.

72

73

74 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Uncropped blots from Figures 1, 2, 3 and Supplementary  
75 figures 1, 2 and 4.

