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1 **NEDD4 protects vascular endothelial cells against Angiotensin II-induced cell**
2 **death via enhancement of XPO1-mediated nuclear export**

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14

15 **Abstract**

16 NEDD4 is an E3 ubiquitin ligase containing the HECT domain, which regulates
17 various cellular processes, but its role in vascular endothelial cells is unknown. In the
18 present study, we found that NEDD4 bound directly to XPO1 by
19 co-immunoprecipitation screening. In HUVECs (human umbilical vein endothelial
20 cells), overexpression of NEDD4 reduced Ang II-induced ROS level and cell
21 apoptosis. Ang II stimulation led to nuclear accumulation of cargoes, while
22 overexpression of NEDD4 enhanced the XPO1-dependent nuclear export of its
23 cargoes. KPT185, an inhibitor of XPO1, can abolished the protective effect of
24 NEDD4 under Ang II treatment. In addition, NEDD4 could promote the interaction
25 between XPO1 and RanBP3 via K63-linked ubiquitination of XPO1. These results
26 suggested that NEDD4 played a protective role in vascular endothelial cell injury
27 through regulating XPO1-mediated nuclear export.

28

29 **Key words:** NEDD4, XPO1, ubiquitination, nuclear expor

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32 **1. Introduction**

33 Dysfunction of endothelial cells plays a critical role in the development of vascular
34 pathogenesis and disorders, including hypertension, thrombosis and atherosclerosis,
35 etc.[1,2]. Angiotensin II (Ang II), the major vasoactive factor, is able to promote
36 vascular pathological remodeling via leading to endothelial cell damage. Evidence
37 showed that oxidative stress, DNA damage and caspase activation contribute to
38 endothelial cell apoptosis, which is involved in Ang II-mediated endothelial cells
39 injury[3,4].

40 Exportin 1 (XPO1), a transport receptor, is one vital component of the nuclear
41 transporter complex embedded within the nuclear envelope, which mediates the
42 nuclear-to-cytoplasmic export of variety proteins and certain RNAs[5]. XPO1
43 contacts with its cargo via recognition of the specific leucine-rich nuclear export
44 signals (NES), which is rely on many scaffold molecules and the small GTPase Ran
45 to facilitate this process[6–8]. So far, many tumor suppressors or anti-apoptotic
46 regulators, such as P53, BRCA1, and survivin, were identified as the cargos
47 interacting with XPO1[9–11]. Overexpression of XPO1 is responsible for cell
48 survival, which has been reported to promote the tumorigenesis[12–14]. Recently, we
49 find that XPO1-mediate nuclear export of RNF146, an important repressor in poly
50 (ADP-ribose) polymerase dependent cell death, plays a role in Ang II-induced
51 endothelial cell injury[15]. However, how XPO1 is regulated in this situation remains
52 elusive.

53 Homologous to the E6-AP carboxyl terminus (HECT) E3 ligases found in all
54 eukaryotic organisms directly catalyze target for ubiquitination, are involved in the
55 regulation of various physiological processes[16]. In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the
56 family members of HECT E3 ligase can regulate nucleocytoplasmic export. Rsp5, one
57 of the main HECT E3 ligase in yeast, has been reported to be required for proper
58 mRNA, tRNA and rRNA export[17–19]. Another HECT E3 ligase Tom1 contributes

59 to nucleocytoplasmic transport of heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins and
60 mRNA[20,21]. NEDD4 (neuronal precursor cell-expressed, developmentally
61 downregulated 4), also known as NEDD4-1, containing an C2 domain, three WW
62 domains, and a C-terminal catalytic HECT domain, is one major homologue of yeast
63 HECT E3 ubiquitin ligase widely expressed in mammalian cells. NEDD4 exerts
64 anti-apoptotic effect via multiple mechanisms. NEDD4 can block cell apoptosis by
65 targeting PTEN for proteasomal degradation[22]. Recent study has shown that
66 NEDD4 reduced ischemia/reperfusion induced apoptosis of cardiomyocytes through
67 activation of PI3K/Akt signaling[23]. In addition, NEDD4 is expressed in vascular
68 endothelial cells and is involved in endocytosis by vascular endothelial growth factor
69 receptor-2 (VEGF-R2) degradation[24]. However, the role of NEDD4 in vascular
70 endothelial cells under the apoptotic stress is unknown.

71 In the present work, we demonstrated NEDD4 is only HECT E3 ligase that
72 interacted with XPO1 in HUVECs (human umbilical vein endothelial cells). NEDD4
73 protected HUVEC against Ang II-induced cell death through enhancing
74 XPO1-mediated nuclear export. XPO1 was directly ubiquitinated by NEDD4 in
75 K63-linked fashion, which facilitated the interaction of XPO1 and RanBP3
76 (Ran-binding Protein 3), a scaffold factor in the nuclear-export complex.

77 **2. Materials and methods**

78 *2.1. Cell culture and reagents*

79 HUVECs (human umbilical vein endothelial cells), Hela cell line and HK-2 cells were
80 purchased from Type Culture Collection Committee of Chinese Academy of Science
81 (Shanghai, China), cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Gibco)
82 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum at 37°C in 5% CO₂ incubator. Angiotensin
83 II (Ang II) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and dissolved in sterile, ultrapure water.
84 KPT-185 and cycloheximide (CHX) were purchased from Selleck Chemicals and
85 dissolved in Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

86 *2.2. Plasmids preparation and transfection*

87 Full-length XPO1 cDNA were amplified from a human cDNA library using standard

88 PCR techniques and subcloned into p3XFlag-CMV(TM)-14 expression vector
89 (Sigma). Full-length NEDD4, AIP4, WWP1 and SMURF1 were amplified and
90 inserted into pcDNA3.1-Myc vector, respectively (Invitrogen). Each construct used
91 was confirmed by direct sequencing. Cultured cells were transfected with the
92 plasmids by Lipofectamine® 2000 reagent according to manufacturer's instructions
93 (Invitrogen).

94 *2.3. Cellular Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Detection*

95 Intracellular ROS level was measured with Cellular Reactive Oxygen Species
96 Detection Assay Kit (Abcam, ab113851). Briefly, HUVECs were seeded in a 96-well
97 plate before treatment. After treated with Ang II, HUVECs were collected and washed
98 with PBS twice. After that 20 μ M 2',7'-dichlorofluorescein diacetate (DCFDA) was
99 used to stain the cells in serum-free DMEM for 30 min at 37°C. Then, Flow
100 cytometry was performed to quantify the levels of ROS, the mean fluorescence was
101 determined by counting 10,000 events.

102 *2.4. Nuclear–cytoplasmic fractionation separation and Western Blot*

103 Nuclear and cytoplasmic fractionations were separated with the NE-PER Nuclear and
104 Cytoplasmic Extraction Reagents kit (Thermo Fisher scientific) according to the
105 manufacturer's protocol. Western blot analysis for protein expression was performed
106 using standard methods. The antibodies against specific proteins used in this study
107 were as follows: NEDD4 (proteintech, 21698-1-AP), AIP4 (Abcam, ab108515),
108 WWP1 (proteintech, 13587-1-AP), SMURF1 (Abcam, ab38866), XPO1 (proteintech,
109 66763-1-Ig), RNF146 (Abcam, ab201212), Apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF)
110 (proteintech, 17984-1-AP), Cleaved Caspase-3 (Abcam, ab208003), Caspase-3
111 (Abcam, ab197202), TP53 (proteintech, 10442-1-AP), RanBP3 (CST, #93706),
112 alpha-Tubulin (proteintech, 11224-1-AP) and Histone-H3 (proteintech, 17168-1-AP).
113 The signals of blots were quantified and analyzed using the ImageJ software.

114 *2.5. Co-immunoprecipitation and in vivo ubiquitination assay*

115 Briefly, cell lysates were extracted with mild cell lysis buffer and cleared by
116 centrifugation. Then the supernatants were immunoprecipitated with appropriate

117 antibodies and protein A/G Plus-agarose for overnight at 4°C. The immunocomplexes
118 were then washed with lysis buffer three times, and then used for immunoblotting
119 analysis with the indicated antibodies.

120 For the *in vivo* ubiquitination assay, NEDD4 overexpression or knockdown
121 HUVECs were pretreated with MG132 for 4 hours before harvesting. Then, the cells
122 were lysed and immunoprecipitated with anti-XPO1 antibody. Subsequently, the
123 ubiquitination level of XPO1 was tested with K48-ubiquitination or
124 K63-ubiquitination antibody.

125 2.6. Cell apoptosis analysis

126 The apoptosis rate of HUVECs was tested by Apoptosis Detection Kits (BD, USA)
127 following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 5×10^5 cells were harvested and
128 resuspended in 200 μ L binding buffer, followed by a 15 min incubation with 5 μ L
129 Annexin V-FITC and 5 μ L propidium iodide (PI) in the dark at 37°C. Then, the flow
130 cytometry analysis was employed for detecting apoptotic events.

131 2.7. Statistical analysis

132 All data are shown as means \pm SEM and analyzed with GraphPad prism 6 software
133 (San Diego, United States). The unpaired Student t test was used to determine the
134 statistical significance of differences between two groups. One-way ANOVA analysis
135 was used for more than two groups. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

136

137 3. Results

138 3.1. NEDD4 is the only human Rsp5 homolog that interacts with XPO1 in 139 vascular endothelial cells

140 Rsp5 is the major HECT domain-containing ubiquitin ligase encoded by the
141 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genome. NEDD4, AIP4, WWP1, and SMURF1 are four
142 obvious homologs of Rsp5 in human cells with similar sequence and domain
143 arrangement (Fig. 1A). To identify which HECT E3 ligase was the potential regulator
144 of XPO1-mediated nuclear export, we exogenously co-expressed XPO1 with NEDD4,
145 AIP4, WWP1, and SMURF1 and detected the interaction between XPO1 and the four

146 Rsp5-homologs by co-immunoprecipitation in the proximal tubule epithelial cell line
147 (HK-2 cells). The results showed that only NEDD4 can interact with XPO1, whereas
148 AIP4, WWP1, and SMURF1 could not bind to XPO1 (Fig. 1B). To confirm this
149 interaction between XPO1 and NEDD4, we further performed
150 co-immunoprecipitation by XPO1 antibody or NEDD4 antibody in HUVECs. The
151 data indicated that NEDD4 indeed interacted with XPO1 in HUVECs (Fig. 1C and D).
152 Collectively, these data demonstrated that XPO1 was a substrate of the HECT
153 ubiquitin ligase, NEDD4, in HUVECs.

154 **3.2. NEDD4 protects HUVECs against Ang II-induced cell death**

155 To investigate the biological role of NEDD4 in Ang II-induced HUVECs damage, we
156 first assessed the expression level of NEDD4 after Ang II treatment. The HUVECs
157 was subjected to Ang II (1 μ M) treatment for 24 hours, and the qRT-PCR and
158 Westernblot analysis showed that the expression of NEDD4 was decreased both in
159 transcriptional and translational level (Fig. 2A and B).

160 Accordingly, we assumed that NEDD4 lost its function in this model. Then we
161 used the overexpression experiment to determine the effect of NEDD4 to the
162 HUVECs damage. The NEDD4 was overexpressed by transfection of Myc-NEDD4
163 plasmids (Fig. 2C). Compared with the vector transfected HUVECs, overexpression
164 of NEDD4 significantly reduced the ROS level caused by Ang II treatment (Fig. 2D).
165 Flow cytometry also showed that overexpression attenuated the cell death induced by
166 Ang II (Fig. 2E). Moreover, overexpression of NEDD4 resulted in marked decreases
167 in cleaved-caspases 3 and AIF (Fig. 2F-H). Overall, these results suggested a directly
168 protective role of NEDD4 against Ang II-stimulated HUVECs death.

169 **3.3. The protective effect of NEDD4 is dependent on XPO1-mediated nuclear** 170 **export**

171 Maintenance of XPO1-mediated nuclear export of specific cargoes has been proved to
172 play a protective role against stress-induced cell death. RNF146, whose
173 nuclear-export plays a key role in Ang II-induced HUVECs injury, has been recently
174 reported as a cargo of XPO1[15]. TP53, the classic cell apoptosis inducer, was also

175 reported as the XPO1's cargo [25]. Therefore, we addressed whether the nuclear
176 export of RNF146 and TP53 was affected by NEDD4. Ang II treatment significantly
177 induced nuclear accumulation of TP53 and RNF146, while overexpression of NEDD4
178 promoted the nuclear export of both TP53 and RNF146 in Ang II treated HUVECs
179 (Fig. 3A). This observation suggested that the nuclear export of XPO1's cargoes might
180 be regulated by NEDD4.

181 In order to further investigate whether XPO1-mediated nuclear export is required
182 for the protective effect of NEDD4, we used the XPO1 inhibitor (KPT-185) to block
183 XPO1's function[15,26]. Addition of KPT-185 aggravated the intracellular ROS level
184 induced by Ang II, and further abolished the beneficial effect of
185 NEDD4-overexpression against Ang II-induced cell damage (Fig. 3B and C). In
186 keeping with these findings, treatment of KPT-185 also withdrew the down-regulation
187 of cleaved-caspases 3 caused by NEDD4-overexpression under the Ang II-mediated
188 cellular pro-death response (Fig. 3D-F). Moreover, we found that KPT-185 efficiently
189 inhibited the nuclear-export of RNF146 and TP53 in the present of
190 NEDD4-overexpression (Fig. 3G). These results indicated that XPO1-mediated
191 nuclear export of cell death regulators was a required molecular event for the
192 beneficial effect of NEDD4 against Ang II-induced HUVECs death.

193 **3.4. K63-linked ubiquitination by NEDD4 affects XPO1-RanBP3 interaction**

194 To better understand how NEDD4 regulates XPO1-mediated nuclear export, we
195 examined the effect of NEDD4 on the expression level of XPO1. Unexpectedly, the
196 overall protein level of XPO1 was not affected by NEDD4-overexpression in
197 HUVECs (Fig. 4A). Therefore, we speculated that NEDD4 did not mediate the
198 proteasomal degradation of XPO1. To confirm this, the HUVECs was treated with
199 CHX, the inhibitor of protein synthesis, for the indicated times, which showed that
200 overexpression of NEDD4 did not regulate the degradative rate of XPO1 (Fig. 4B and
201 C). Different types of polyubiquitinated modification may exert definitive function.
202 K48-linked polyubiquitination usually functions as the signal for proteasomal
203 degradation, whereas K63-linked polyubiquitination has been shown to have

204 non-degradative functions[27]. Accordingly, we used the specific antibodies
205 recognizing the two different types of polyubiquitinated chain to test which kind of
206 polyubiquitinated modification can be catalyzed by NEDD4. Only the K63-linked
207 polyubiquitination level of XPO1 was increased by overexpression of NEDD4
208 compared to that through K48 (Fig. 4D).

209 K63-linked polyubiquitin chains may serve as a scaffold for a protein complex
210 assembling[28]. RanBP3 (Ran-binding Protein 3) was reported to interact with XPO1
211 functions as a vital scaffold factor in the nuclear-export complex[29]. According to
212 this, we subsequently investigated whether K63-linked polyubiquitin of XPO1
213 impacted the interaction between XPO1 and RanBP3. Interestingly, further
214 co-immunoprecipitation experiments showed that the interaction between XPO1 and
215 RanBP3 was significantly enhanced by overexpression of NEDD4 in HUVECs (Fig.
216 4E). These results indicated that NEDD4 could catalyze the K63-linked
217 polyubiquitination of XPO1, which facilitated the interaction between XPO1 and
218 RanBP3.

219 **3.5. RanBP3 was essential for the protective effect of NEDD4**

220 To further confirm that RanBP3 was required for the protective effect of NEDD4,
221 RanBP3 was knocked down by interference RNA (si-RNA) transfection. The western
222 blot revealed that both si-RNAs effectively repressed the protein expression level of
223 RanBP3 in HUVECs (Fig. 5A). Knockdown of RanBP3 could cancel the
224 ROS-repressing effect of overexpression of NEDD4 in Ang II-treated HUVECs (Fig.
225 5B). The result of flow cytometry showed that knockdown of RanBP3 repressed the
226 anti-apoptotic effect of NEDD4 overexpression (Fig. 5C). In addition, knockdown of
227 RanBP3 re-upregulated the expression of the apoptotic markers, cleaved-caspase 3
228 and AIF, at the present of NEDD4 overexpression in Ang II treated HUVECs (Fig.
229 5D-F). To see whether the cargos of XPO1 were affected by RanBP3 deficiency in
230 this condition, we tested the level of RNF146 and TP53 in the nuclear and
231 cytoplasmic fractions, respectively. The results demonstrated that knockdown of
232 RanBP3 efficiently inhibited the nuclear export of RNF146 and TP53 in spite of

233 overexpressed NEDD4 in Ang II treated HUVECs (Fig. 5G). The above analyses
234 suggested that RanBP3 was essential for the protective effect of NEDD4 and XPO1
235 dependent nuclear export of apoptosis related proteins.

236

237 **4. Discussion**

238 The nuclear transporter XPO1 plays an important role in regulating tumor cell death.
239 We recently report that XPO1 can protect vascular endothelial cell against Ang II
240 induced cell death[15]. However, the mechanism by which XPO1 is regulated
241 remains unclear. In this study, we screen four major HECT E3 ubiquitin ligases in
242 human cells and identify NEDD4 as the one that functionally regulates XPO1 in
243 vascular endothelial cells. NEDD4 reduces Ang II-induced endothelial cell apoptosis
244 by promoting XPO1-mediated nuclear export. Mechanistically, NEDD4 facilitates the
245 binding of XPO1 to the accessory protein RanBP3 by mediating the K63-linked
246 polyubiquitination of XPO1, which results in maintaining the stability of the XPO1
247 nuclear transport complex (Fig.6). Therefore, our first finding provides the evidence
248 indicating that NEDD4 plays a pivotal role in attenuating Ang II-induced endothelial
249 damage by regulating XPO1-dependent nuclear export.

250 There has been much evidence that XPO1 plays an important role in promoting
251 cell survival and inhibiting cell death [30]. We recently present that RNF146 is a
252 cargo of XPO1 in vascular endothelial cells. Overexpression of XPO1 can export
253 RNF146 from nucleus to cytoplasm for AIF degradation, which in turn reduces Ang
254 II- mediated endothelial cell death[15]. In addition, another well-known
255 apoptosis-inducing factor, which is also a transcription factor, TP53, is also regulated
256 by XPO1[31,32]. Inhibition of XPO1 can cause TP53 to accumulate in the nucleus
257 and produce an apoptotic response[25]. In the present study, we find that Ang II can
258 induce the aggregation of RNF146 and TP53 in nucleus. And promotion of
259 XPO1-mediated nuclear export enhances the translocation of RNF146 and TP53 out
260 of the nucleus, which exerts beneficial effect against Ang II-induced cell damage.
261 These results suggest that RNF146 and TP53 accumulated in nucleus by XPO1

262 dysregulation are involved in Ang II-induced endothelial cell injury.

263 Saito et al. have reported that XPO1 can be modified by NEDD8, a ubiquitin-like
264 protein, which lead to proteasome-dependent degradation[33]. Some proteomic
265 studies have also implied that XPO1 can be modified by ubiquitination[34–37]. We
266 first discover XPO1 as a substrate of ubiquitination, and it can be modified by both
267 K48 and K63 linked ubiquitination. In this report, we mainly find that NEDD1
268 directly interacts with XPO1 and mediates its K63-linked ubiquitination. In general,
269 K63-linked ubiquitination plays a role in promoting protein-protein interactions. Our
270 results also show that NEDD4-mediated ubiquitination of XPO1 promotes its
271 interaction with RanBP3, which involves in maintenance of the structure and function
272 of nuclear exporter complex. RanBP3 serves as a scaffold to prompt the efficient
273 assembly of export complex and stabilize XPO1-cargo interaction[8,29]. Our data
274 suggest that the interaction between XPO1 and RanBP3 promoted by NEDD4 can
275 efficiently increase the nuclear transport of the substrates, despite the decrease of
276 XPO1's expression by Ang II stimuli. Collectively, we speculate that the ubiquitinated
277 site may be near the interaction region between XPO1 and RanBP3, which needs to
278 be confirmed by further studies.

279 NEDD4 is a widely expressed E3 ligase in many cell types with numerous
280 substrates. NEDD4 has been shown to protected cardiomyoblast cells against
281 ischemia/reperfusion injury[23]. Furthermore, deficiency of NEDD4 could be
282 involved in vascular calcification of vascular smooth muscle cells[38]. In line with
283 those studies, our findings suggest a protective role of NEDD4 in cardiovascular
284 system. Our results demonstrated that NEDD4 regulates nuclear protein XPO1. Some
285 studies have also found that NEDD4 is expressed in the nucleus and regulates nuclear
286 substrates' function such as histone H3 and heat shock transcription factor 1[39–42].
287 Our data reveal that NEDD4 directly ubiquitinates XPO1 for K63-linked form
288 without altering its expression level. Indeed, other research has shown the
289 non-proteolytic role of NEDD4 in the nucleus[39]. Additionally, NEDD4 mediates
290 phospho-AKT for K63-linked poly-ubiquitination at the plasma membrane to promote

291 nuclear trafficking of AKT[43].

292 In summary, we found that HECT E3 ligase NEDD4 protected vascular
293 endothelial cell against Ang II-induced cell death. Mechanistically, NEDD4 directly
294 ubiquitinated XPO1 via K63-linked form, enhancing the interaction between XPO1
295 and RanBP3, and thereby increased the XPO1-mediated nuclear export capacity. Thus,
296 our data provide a novel perspective on the role of NEDD4 in Ang II-induced
297 vascular endothelial cell injury and new insight for the treatment of vascular
298 disorders.

299

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303

304 **Conflict of Interest**

305 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

306

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451

452 **Figure Legends**

453 **Figure 1. NEDD4 is the only human Rsp5 homolog that interacts with XPO1 in**
454 **vascular endothelial cells.**

455 (A) Domain structure of four human Rsp5 homologs. The positions of the C2 domain
456 (yellow), WW domain (green), and the HECT domain (red) are shown. (B) The
457 interaction between XPO1 and the four Rsp5 homologs (NEDD4, AIP4, WWP1, and
458 SMURF1) by co-immunoprecipitation in the HK-2 cells. Cell extracts were IP with
459 anti-Flag Ab. (C and D) The co-immunoprecipitation assay of XPO1 and NEDD4 in
460 HUVECs. Data are representative of means \pm SEM of three assays.

461 **Figure 2. Overexpression of NEDD4 reduces Ang II-induced HUVECs injury**
462 **and apoptosis.**

463 (A) qRT-PCR analysis of NEDD4 expression in HUVECs treated with Ang II. (B)
464 Western Blot analysis of NEDD4 in HUVECs treated with Ang II. (C) The expression

465 level of NEDD4 in HUVECs was significantly increased by transfection p-NEDD4,
466 compared with vector group, respectively. (D) Flow cytometry assay was used to
467 examine the intracellular ROS levels of HUVECs cells transfected with vector or
468 p-NEDD4 and then treated with or without Ang II (1 μ M) for 24 h. (E) Measurement
469 of apoptotic cells following overexpression of NEDD4 in HUVECs. Results are
470 expressed as scatter diagram (left) and calculated percentage of annexin-V-positive
471 cell population (right). (F) Western Blot analysis of apoptotic markers
472 (cleaved-caspases 3 and AIF) in in Ang II treated HUVECs after NEDD4
473 overexpression. (G and H) Quantitative analysis of Western blot data. Data
474 represented mean \pm s.e.m., n =3; * p <0.05.

475 **Figure 3. The protective effect of NEDD4 is dependent on XPO1-mediated**
476 **nuclear export.**

477 (A) Western blot analysis of RNF146 and TP53 in cytoplasmic and nuclear fraction of
478 HUVECs after Ang II treatment in the presence of overexpressed NEDD4
479 (p-NEDD4). (B) Measurement of ROS level from Ang II-treated HUVECs after
480 KPT-158 exposure with the presence of overexpressed NEDD4. (C) The data of flow
481 cytometry experiment in Ang II-treated HUVECs after KPT-158 exposure with the
482 presence of overexpressed NEDD4. (D) Western Blot analysis of apoptotic markers
483 (cleaved-caspases 3 and AIF) in Ang II-treated HUVECs after KPT-158 exposure
484 with the presence of overexpressed NEDD4. (E and F) Quantitative analysis of
485 Western blot data. Data represented mean \pm s.e.m., n =3; * p < 0.05. (G)Western blot
486 analysis of RNF146 and TP53 in cytoplasmic and nuclear fraction in Ang II-treated
487 HUVECs after KPT-158 exposure with the presence of overexpressed NEDD4.

488 **Figure 4. K63-linked ubiquitination by NEDD4 affects XPO1-RanBP3**
489 **interaction.**

490 (A) Western Blot analysis of XPO1 in HUVECs transfected with NEDD4 plasmids.
491 (B-C) The effect of NEDD4 overexpression on the protein degradative rate of XPO1.
492 (D) *in vivo* ubiquitination assay showed the K48-linked and K63-linked ubiquitination
493 status of XPO1 after NEDD4 overexpression in HUVECs. (E)

494 Co-immunoprecipitation showed the effect of NEDD4 overexpression on the
495 interaction between XPO1 and RanBP3. Data are representative of means \pm SEM of
496 three assays.

497 **Figure 5. RanBP3 was essential for the protective effect of NEDD4.**

498 (A) Western Blot analysis of RanBP3 in HUVECs transfected with siRNA of RanBP3.
499 Data represented mean \pm s.e.m., n =3; * p < 0.05. (B) Measurement of ROS level
500 showed the effect of RanBP3 knock-down in Ang II-treated HUVECs with the
501 presence of overexpressed NEDD4. (C) The data of flow cytometry experiment
502 showed the apoptotic rate of HUVECs. (D) Western Blot analysis of apoptotic
503 markers (cleaved-caspases 3 and AIF). (E and F) Quantitative analysis of Western blot
504 data. Data represented mean \pm s.e.m., n =3; * p < 0.05. (G) Western blot analysis of
505 RNF146 and TP53 in cytoplasmic and nuclear fraction.

506 **Figure 6. Proposed model for regulation of NEDD4 on XPO1-mediated nuclear**
507 **export.** The mechanism by which NEDD4 plays a protective role in endothelial cell.
508 In nucleus, NEDD4 promotes XPO1-RanBP3 interaction via K63-linked
509 polyubiquitination of XPO1, which facilitates XPO1-dependent nuclear export of the
510 cargo.

511

512

Figure 1

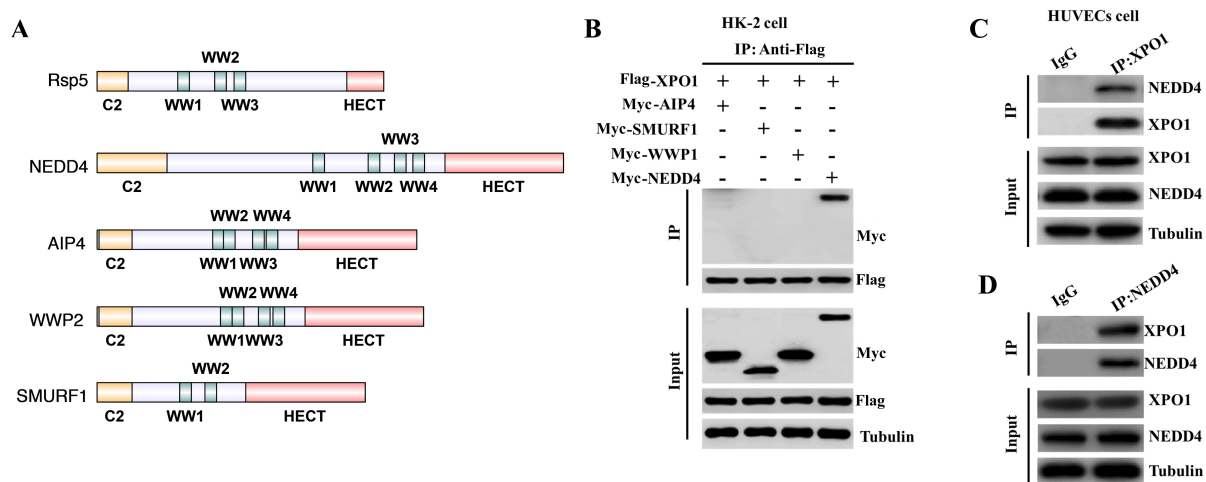


Figure 2

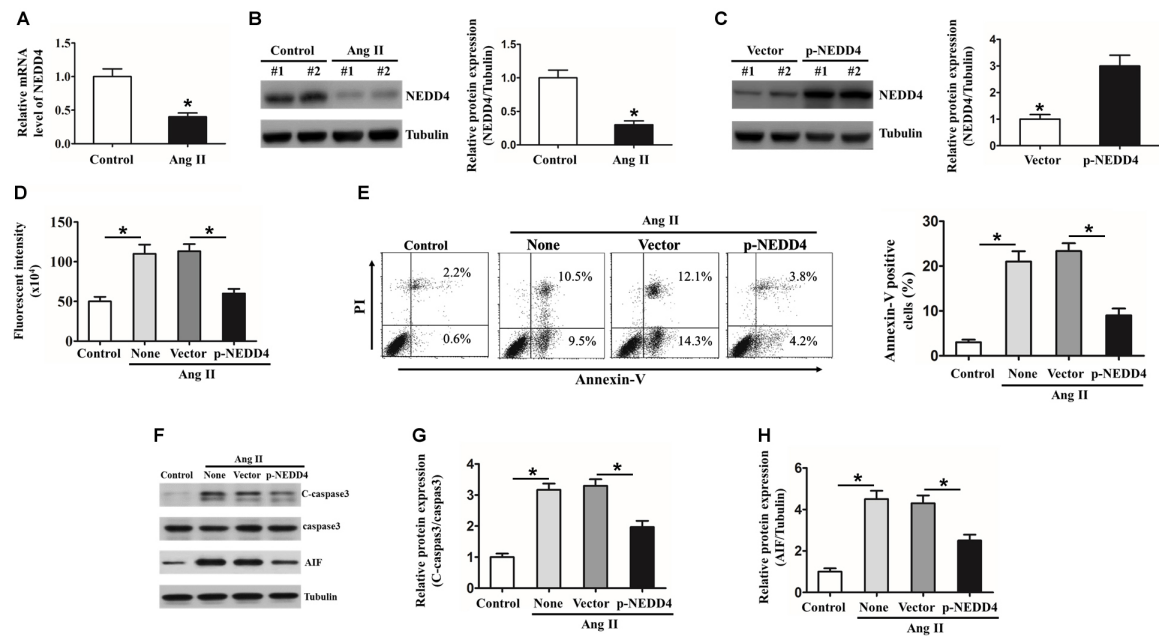


Figure 3

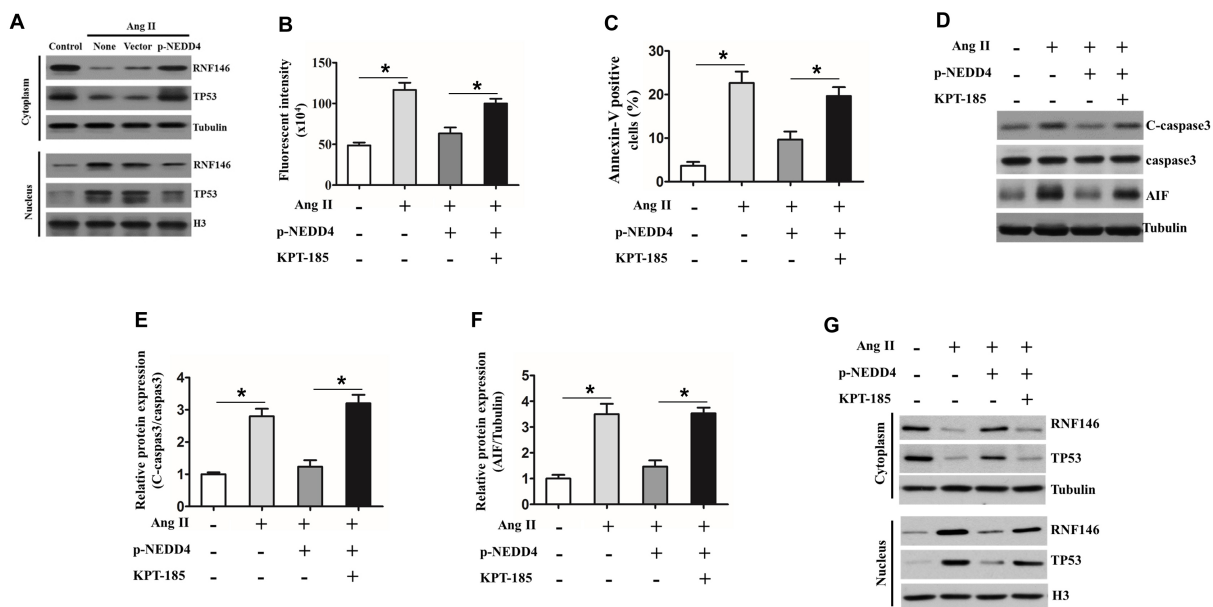


Figure 4

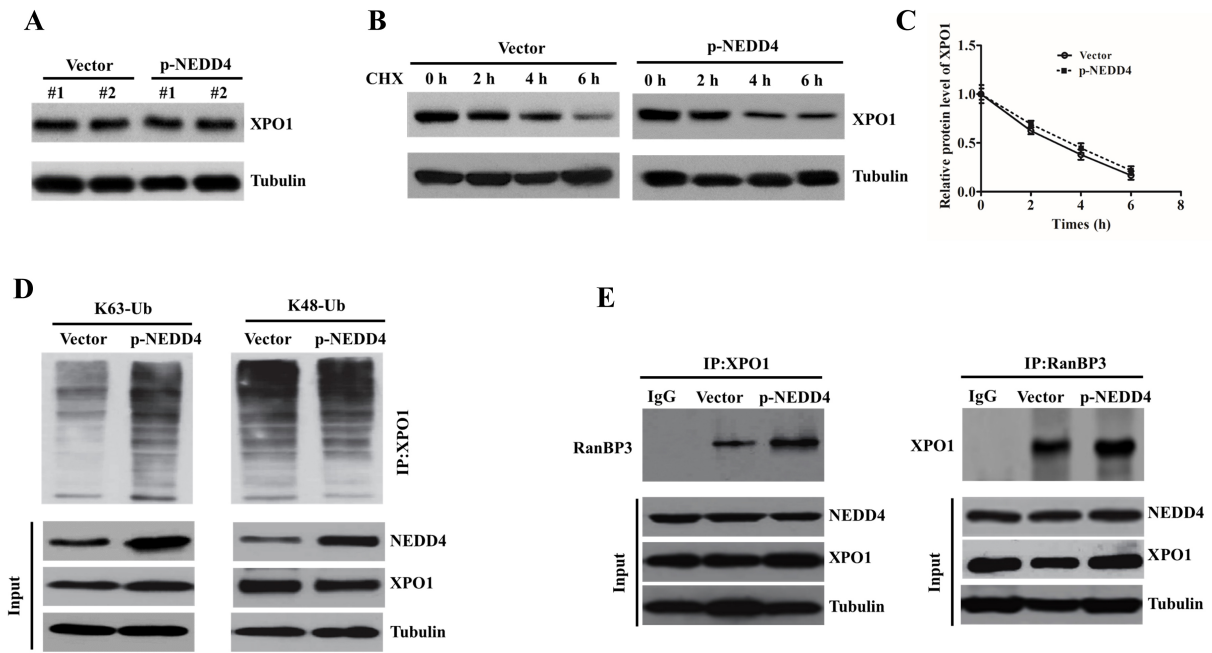


Figure 5

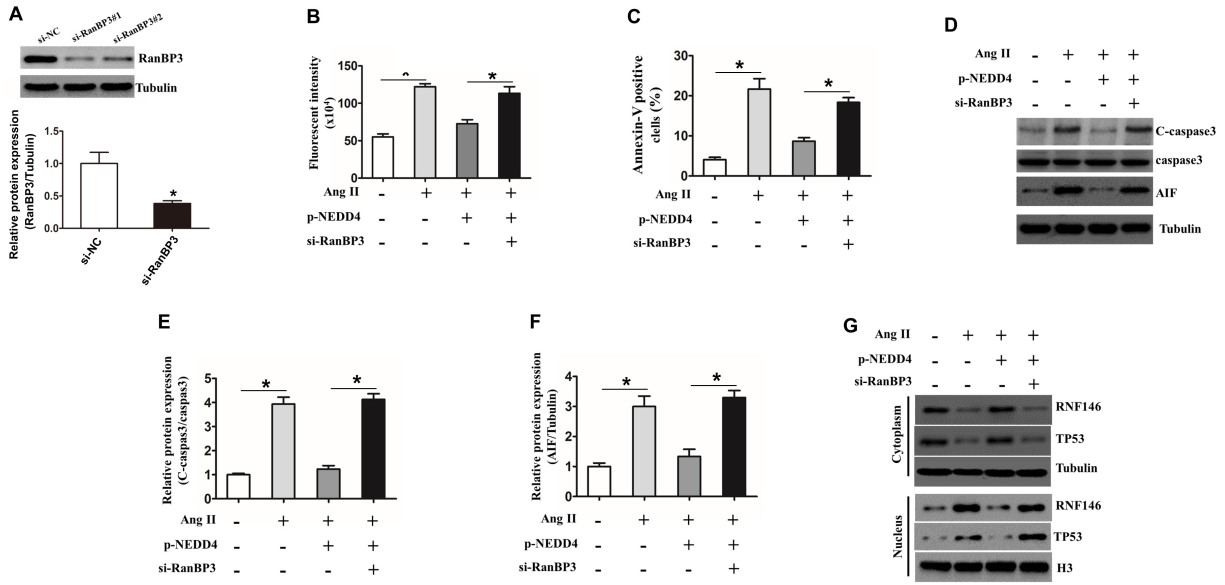
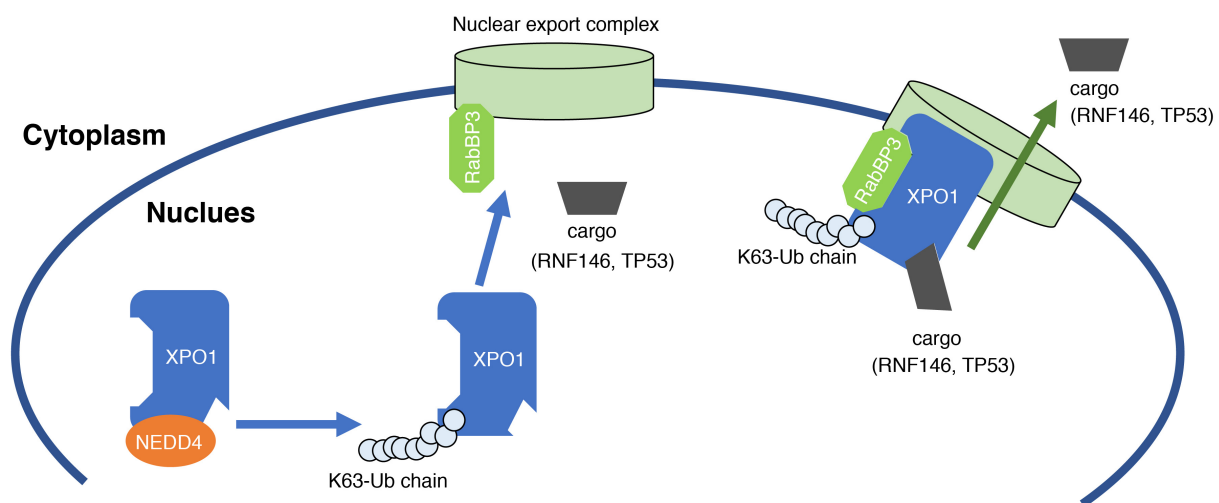


Figure 6



Highlights

- HECT E3 ligase NEDD4 interacts directly with XPO1 and mediates XPO1 for K63-linked ubiquitination
- Overexpression of NEDD4 protects HUVECs against Ang II-induced cell death
- The protective effect of NEDD4 is dependent on XPO1-mediated nuclear export
- K63-linked ubiquitination of XPO1 enhances its interaction with RanBP3