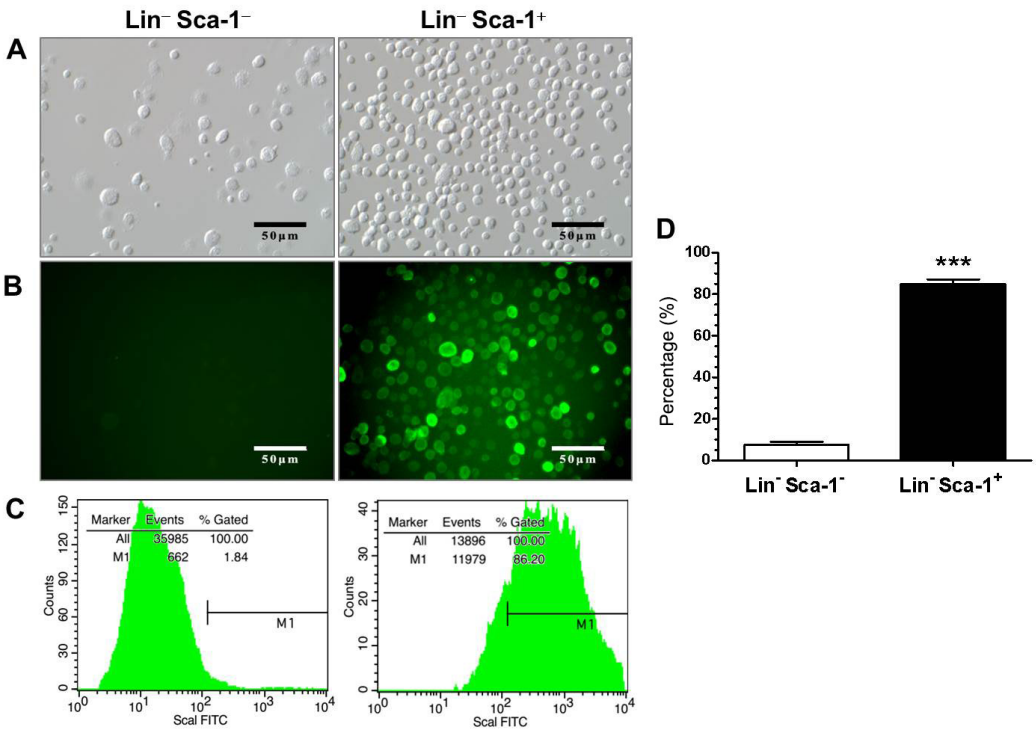

Fig. S1. Plentiful high-purity Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^+$ SCs obtained from mice myocardium by enzymatic digestion and magnetic cell sorting. *A*: Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^-$ cells and Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^+$ SCs under optical microscope after magnetic cell sorting. *B*, *C*: Typical immunofluorescent stain images (*B*) and graphic representation (*C*) of flow cytometric data via magnetic cell sorting. *D*: The percentage of Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^-$ and Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^+$ cells in primary cell culture detected by flow cytometry. Mean ± SEM, $n = 8$ per group. $^{***}P < 0.001$ *vs* Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^-$ group.

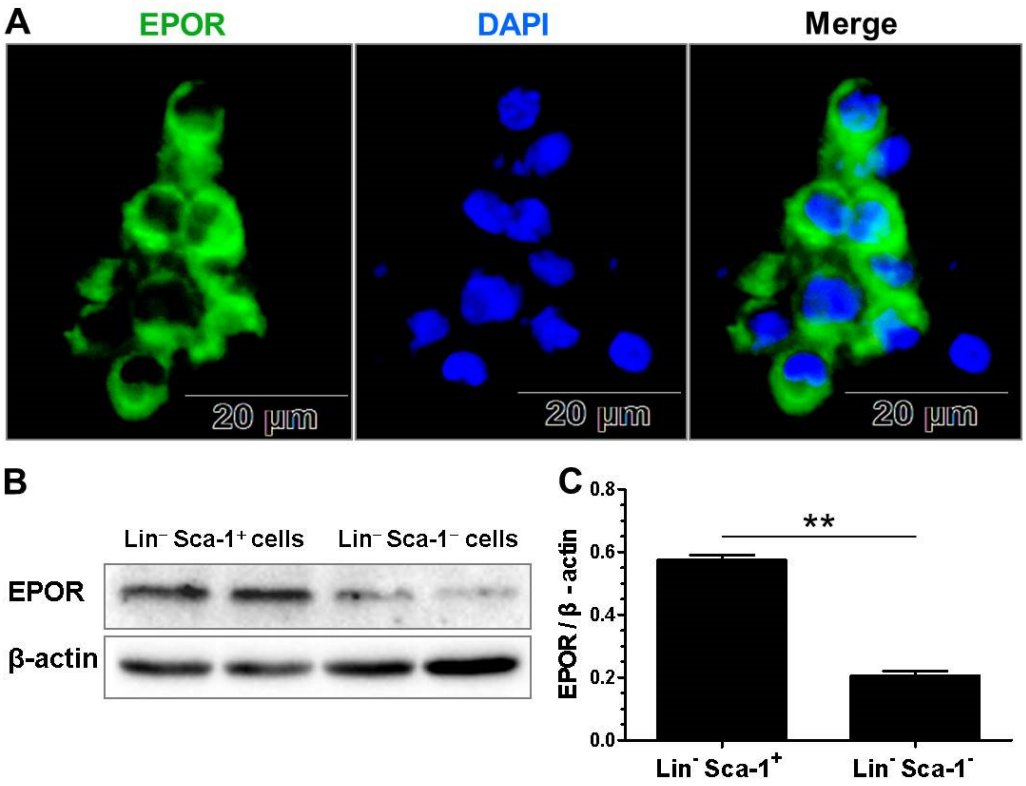

Fig. S2. Expression of EPO receptor (EPOR) in Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^-$ cells and Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^+$ SCs. *A*: Immunofluorescent staining of EPOR in Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^-$ cells and Lin$^-$ Sca-1$^+$ SCs. *B*, *C*: Western blot results of EPOR distribution on Lin$^-$ cells. Mean ± SEM, $n = 3$ per group. $^{**}P < 0.01$.