



Supplementary Figure 1 A: Proliferation of AAFs was increased significantly after IL-6/IL-6R stimulation at 72h time point ($p < 0.05$). **B-C:** Expressions of two anti-apoptosis protein, BCL-x1 and Mcl-1 were increased significantly when AAFs were stimulated with 50ng/ml IL-6/IL-6R ($p < 0.001$). **D:** Representative immunoblots of p-JNK, p-ERK, p-p38 and p-Smad3 at 0, 15, 30, 45, 60, and 120 min after IL-6/IL-6R stimulation. No increased phosphorylation of these proteins was detected in AAFs after IL-6/IL-6R stimulation. **E:** Levels of STAT3, CREB and C/EBP- β in nucleus of AAFs. **F-G:** Expression of IL-6 was significantly increased in AAFs and peaked at 4 hours after IL-6/IL-6R stimulation at 50ng/ml ($p < 0.001$).