

1 **Supplement to: Circulating extracellular vesicles as putative mediators**  
2 **of cardiovascular disease in pediatric chronic kidney disease**  
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## 5 **Supplemental materials and methods**

### 6 *Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)*

7 EVs for TEM imaging were purified from 500  $\mu$ L citrated plasma using the exoEasy Maxi Kit  
8 (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's protocols. EV eluates were then  
9 concentrated to 100  $\mu$ L using Sartorius Vivaspin 2 columns with a 100kD molecular weight  
10 cut-off (Sartorius, Göttingen, Germany) and fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde in PBS. For  
11 negative staining, 15  $\mu$ L of fixed eluates were applied to parafilm and carbon-coated EM grids  
12 were placed on top for 15 minutes at room temperature. The grids were then blotted onto moist  
13 filter paper (*aqua dest.*) and washed three times with *aqua dest.* Contrasting was achieved by  
14 placing the grids in 20  $\mu$ L of 1% uranyl acetate for 20 seconds, and then the grids were again  
15 blotted on moist filter paper (*aqua dest.*) and air-dried. TEM was performed with a Leo EM  
16 906 (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) at 27,800 $\times$  magnification.

### 17 *Immunoblotting*

18 Immunoblotting for CD9, CD41 and GAPDH was performed on EVs isolated from 100  $\mu$ L  
19 citrated plasma using the exoEasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol.  
20 Protein was extracted by addition of 4 $\times$  non-reducing SDS Laemmli buffer and incubation at  
21 95 $^{\circ}$ C for five minutes, and protein concentration was determined by bicinchoninic acid assay  
22 (BCA assay). 20  $\mu$ g of protein and 5  $\mu$ L of PageRuler prestained protein ladder (Thermo Fisher  
23 Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) were loaded onto 1.5 mm 10% Bis-Tris gels. Protein was  
24 transferred to a 0.2  $\mu$ m PVDF membrane and blocked with 5% non-fat milk for one hour. After  
25 three washes in TBS-T, the membrane was incubated overnight with primary antibodies in 5%  
26 BSA (CD9 (D8O1A) rabbit mAb, Integrin  $\alpha$ 2b (D8V7H) rabbit mAb (CD41), both 1:1,000,  
27 both Cell Signaling Technology, Cambridge, UK; GAPDH (0411) mouse mAb, 1:1,000, Santa  
28 Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA). After three washes in TBS-T the membrane was  
29 incubated for two hours with secondary antibodies in 5% BSA (donkey anti-rabbit-HRP  
30 polyclonal (NA 934), 1:2,000, GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL, USA, or rabbit anti-mouse-HRP  
31 polyclonal (P0260), 1:2,000, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). After three washes  
32 in TBS-T, the membrane was incubated for two minutes with HRP substrate (SuperSignal West  
33 Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrat, Thermo Fisher Scientific) and imaged. The original  
34 images were processed in Adobe Photoshop by modifying the graduation curves for better  
35 visualization.

36 *Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA)*

37 EVs for NTA were purified by applying 50  $\mu$ L of citrated plasma to Izon qEVoriginal 70nm  
38 size exclusion chromatography (SEC) columns (Izon Science, Christchurch, New Zealand) and  
39 the EV fraction was collected in 1.5mL of PBS according to the manufacturer's protocols. NTA  
40 measurements were performed using a NanoSight LM20 (NanoSight, Amesbury, UK)  
41 equipped with a 632nm laser. SEC eluates were injected into the sample chamber using sterile  
42 syringes at room temperature and were analyzed in five positions for 60 seconds per position.  
43 NTA 3.0 software (NanoSight) was used for measurements and analysis. Raw concentration  
44 data were multiplied by 30 to calculate plasma concentrations. Statistical tests were performed  
45 with GraphPad Prism (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA USA). Kruskal-Wallis test and  
46 Dunn's post hoc test were performed for cross-sectional data and Wilcoxon test for longitudinal  
47 data,  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

48 *Patient EV flow cytometry*

49 4  $\mu$ L of citrated plasma per patient per staining was diluted 1:50 in Annexin V binding buffer  
50 (BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA). Four separate stainings were performed for each patient  
51 sample, all containing 1:4,000 FITC Annexin V (BioLegend) and two antibodies per staining  
52 (antibodies directed against i) CD41 (BV510, clone HIP8, 1:100, BioLegend) + CD235a  
53 (PerCP/Cy5.5, clone HI264, 1:100, BioLegend), ii) CD14 (BV421, clone 63D3, 1:100,  
54 BioLegend) + CD31 (BV711, clone WM59, 1:100, BioLegend), iii) CD3 (BV421, clone OKT3,  
55 1:100, BioLegend) + CD20 (BV605, clone 2H7, 1:100, BioLegend), iv) CD66b (BV421, clone  
56 G10F5, 1:100, BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) + CD68 (BV785, clone Y1/82A,  
57 1:400, BioLegend), MiFlowCyt-EV guideline report in Table S1, full antibody list in Table S2).  
58 Annexin V staining was used as an internal control, but EVs were quantified independently of  
59 Annexin V staining. To quantify EVs, 50  $\mu$ L of counting beads were added per sample  
60 (pediatric cohort: CountBright Absolute Counting Beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific); adult  
61 cohort: Precision Count Beads (Biolegend)). Samples were run on a BD Influx Cell Sorter (BD  
62 Biosciences) equipped with a 200mW 488nm laser, a 45mW 405nm laser and dedicated small  
63 particle optics. FlowJo v10.7 (FlowJo, Ashland, OR, USA) was used for data analysis.  
64 Statistical tests were performed with GraphPad Prism. Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's post hoc  
65 test were performed for cross-sectional data and Wilcoxon test for longitudinal data,  $p < 0.05$   
66 was considered statistically significant.

67 *Plasma EV sphingolipidomics*

68 EVs from 1 mL of patient plasma were isolated using the exoEasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen) according  
69 to the manufacturer's instructions and eluted in 400  $\mu$ L elution buffer. They were then snap-  
70 frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . 40  $\mu$ L EV suspensions were subjected to lipid  
71 extraction using 1.5 mL methanol/chloroform (2:1, v:v) as previously described<sup>1</sup>. The  
72 extraction solvent contained C17 ceramide (C17 Cer) and  $\text{d}_{31}$ -C16 sphingomyelin ( $\text{d}_{31}$ -C16  
73 SM) (both Avanti Polar Lipids, Alabaster, USA) as internal standards. Chromatographic  
74 separations were performed on a 1290 Infinity II HPLC (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn,  
75 Germany) equipped with a Poroshell 120 EC-C8 column ( $3.0 \times 150$  mm,  $2.7 \mu\text{m}$ ; Agilent  
76 Technologies). MS/MS analyses were performed using a 6495C triple-quadrupole mass  
77 spectrometer (Agilent Technologies) operating in the positive electrospray ionization mode  
78 (ESI+). Cer and SM were quantified by multiple reaction monitoring (qualifier product ions in  
79 parentheses):  $[\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O}+\text{H}]^+ \rightarrow m/z$  264.3 (282.3) for all Cer and  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ \rightarrow m/z$  184.1 (86.1)  
80 for all SM subspecies (C16, C18, C20, C22, C24 and C24:1)<sup>2</sup>. Peak areas of Cer and SM  
81 subspecies, as determined by MassHunter Quantitative Analysis software (version 10.1,  
82 Agilent Technologies), were normalized to those of the internal standards (C17 Cer or  $\text{d}_{31}$ -C16  
83 SM) followed by external calibration in the range of 1 fmol to 50 pmol on the column. The  
84 amounts sphingolipids determined were normalized to the actual protein content (as determined  
85 by the Bradford assay) of the EV suspension used for extraction.

#### 86 *Lipidomics data analysis*

87 The differential abundance of sphingolipids between patient groups was analyzed using the  
88 Wilcoxon rank-sum test to calculate p-values, Benjamini-Hochberg FDR (BH-FDR), FDR-  
89 corrected p-values  $< 0.1$  were considered statistically significant, while the effect sizes (Cliff's  
90 delta) were calculated using the `dmes()` function in the `orddom` R package<sup>3</sup>.

91 Principal component analysis (PCA) of the lipidomics data was performed and visualized using  
92 the `factoextra` R package<sup>4</sup>.

#### 93 *Plasma EV small RNA sequencing*

94 500  $\mu$ L of citrated plasma per patient was thawed and EV RNA was isolated using the  
95 ExoRNeasy Midi Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol. In brief, plasma was  
96 passed through the columns to bind EVs to the membrane, EVs were lysed, RNA was  
97 extracted using Qiazol reagent, purified using RNeasy MinElute columns, and dissolved in 12  
98  $\mu$ L of RNase-free water. 7  $\mu$ L of RNA was used to generate cDNA libraries for small RNA

99 sequencing using the SMARTer smRNA-Seq Kit for Illumina (Takara Bio USA, San Jose, CA,  
100 USA). The final libraries were quality-checked for base pair length (~172bp) using a Fragment  
101 Analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies, Heidelberg, Germany) and cDNA content was  
102 measured using the Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Sequencing was  
103 performed on a MiSeq sequencer using the MiSeq Reagent Kit v3 (150-cycle, both Illumina,  
104 San Diego, CA, USA).

#### 105 *Small RNA sequencing data analysis*

106 MicroRNA (miRNA) reads were mapped using miRDeep2<sup>5</sup>. Differential expression of  
107 miRNAs between patient groups was analyzed using DESeq2<sup>6</sup>. In brief, raw miRNA data were  
108 converted into a DESeqDataSet using the function DESeqDataSetFromMatrix() and then  
109 pairwise comparisons between patient groups were performed using the function lfcShrink(type  
110 = "ashr"). P-values were corrected by BH-FDR. FDR-corrected p-values < 0.1 were considered  
111 significant. In addition to DESeq2, the results of the DESeq2 miRNA analysis were further  
112 confirmed using an adaptation of the LongDat R script<sup>7</sup>. To adapt to the cross-sectional analysis  
113 used here (group-to-group comparison), the effect size calculation script was modified to  
114 calculate the between-group effect size. Here, the “count” mode of LongDat was used, which  
115 means that the data were fitted with negative binomial models. MiRNAs with model p-values  
116 (FDR-corrected) < 0.1 and post-hoc test p-values (FDR-corrected) < 0.1 were considered  
117 significant.

118 Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA) of the miRNAs was performed using  
119 the caret R package<sup>8</sup> and plotted using the ggplot2 package<sup>9</sup>.

#### 120 *Identification of miRNA targets*

121 Target genes of all 31 miRNAs that were significantly altered in CKD, PD and/or HD patients  
122 compared to healthy donors and/or KTx patients according to DESeq2 analyses and confirmed  
123 by LongDat were identified using TargetScanHuman (v8.0, targetscan.org)<sup>10</sup>. Target genes of  
124 all 31 miRNAs were pooled and filtered for miRNA-gene matches with a cumulative weighted  
125 context++ score below a cut-off of -0.3 to exclude matches with low gene regulation  
126 probability. Gene set enrichment analysis was then performed using the PANTHER  
127 overrepresentation test (PANTHER 17.0)<sup>11,12</sup> via geneontology.org. The reference list was set  
128 to “Homo sapiens” and Fisher’s exact test with FDR correction was applied, p-values (FDR-  
129 corrected) < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Only the most specific gene ontology

130 (GO) terms from hierarchical trees of significantly altered GO terms and GO terms with fold  
131 enrichment  $\geq 1.5$  or  $\leq 0.5$  were used for graphical illustration and further analysis. To trace back  
132 the influence of specific miRNAs on the identified GO terms the database of miRNA-gene  
133 matches with a cumulative weighted context++ score  $< -0.3$  was filtered for the target genes  
134 that matched for the selected GO terms with fold enrichment  $\geq 1.5$ , and the relative contribution  
135 of each of the 31 miRNAs to all miRNA-gene matches for each of the selected GO terms was  
136 calculated.

### 137 *Patient EV miRNA RT-qPCR*

138 The five miRNAs that were significantly altered in CKD EVs according to small RNA  
139 sequencing and had the highest predicted contribution to the enriched GO terms in the miRNA  
140 target analysis were validated by RT-qPCR in the same patient samples that were used for  
141 sequencing (hsa-miR-19a-3p, hsa-miR-142-3p, hsa-miR-103a-3p, hsa-let-7d-5p, hsa-miR-24-  
142 3p). In addition, the single miRNA found to be upregulated in dialysis patients was also  
143 assessed by qPCR (hsa-miR-4485-3p). cDNA was generated from 2  $\mu$ L of RNA using the  
144 TaqMan Advanced miRNA cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the  
145 manufacturer's instructions. RiboLock RNase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added  
146 before starting the reactions. Taqman Advanced miRNA Assays were used for qPCR (Thermo  
147 Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions. In brief, 5  $\mu$ L of cDNA was  
148 diluted 1:10 in 0.1X trypsin-EDTA buffer. 5  $\mu$ L of diluted cDNA was added to 15  $\mu$ L of qPCR  
149 master mix containing 10  $\mu$ L TaqMan Fast Advanced Master Mix (2X), 1  $\mu$ L of the miRNA-  
150 specific TaqMan Advanced miRNA Assay (20 $\times$ ) (both Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 4  $\mu$ L  
151 RNase-free water. qPCR reactions were performed in duplicates on a QuantStudio 7 Flex Real-  
152 Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to manufacturer's instructions (40  
153 cycles). Statistical testing was performed with GraphPad Prism. Normal distribution of data  
154 was tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's post hoc test  
155 for non-normally distributed data or one-way ANOVA and Sidak's post hoc test for normally  
156 distributed data were performed as appropriate for cross-sectional data, and Wilcoxon or paired  
157 Student's *t*-test for longitudinal data.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

### 158 *Treatment of HAoECs with CKD EVs and HAoEC transcriptomics*

159 To assess the effect of CKD EVs on the vasculature HAoECs were treated with EVs from  
160 healthy children and pediatric CKD patients undergoing hemodialysis or after kidney  
161 transplantation. EVs were then isolated from 1 mL of patient plasma using the exoEasy Maxi

162 Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions and eluted in 400  $\mu$ L of elution buffer.  
163 The samples were then snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

164 Commercially available Human Aortic Endothelial Cells (HAoECs) were cultured in  
165 Endothelial Cell Growth Medium MV with the appropriate SupplementMix (all PromoCell,  
166 Heidelberg, Germany) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. HAoECs were seeded at confluence in  
167 a gelatin-coated 24-well plate and incubated overnight at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight to allow attachment.  
168 The cells were then washed with PBS and incubated for 18 hours at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  in duplicates with 40  
169  $\mu$ L of EVs or vehicle control (buffer XE from the exoEasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen)) diluted 1:10 in  
170 basal medium (Endothelial Cell Growth Medium MV (PromoCell)).

171 After incubation, the medium was removed and Qiazol (Qiagen) chloroform isolation followed  
172 by purification with components of the exoRNeasy Midi Kit (Qiagen). 500  $\mu$ L Qiazol was  
173 added per well, and the cells were scraped from the bottom of the well. The lysate was mixed  
174 with 100  $\mu$ L of chloroform and then centrifuged at  $12,000\times g$  for 15 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The upper  
175 aqueous phase was collected and duplicates were pooled. Two volumes of ethanol were added  
176 and the mixtures were transferred to RNeasy MinElute spin columns and centrifuged at 12,000  
177 rpm for 15 seconds at room temperature. The columns were washed once with RWT buffer and  
178 twice with RPE buffer before drying the columns by centrifugation with the lid open at 14,000  
179 rpm for five minutes at room temperature and eluting the RNA in 12  $\mu$ L RNase-free water by  
180 centrifugation at 14,000 rpm for one minute. RNA was stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . RNA concentration and  
181 quality were analyzed using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and the  
182 RNA Quality Number was measured using a fragment analyzer (Advanced Analytical  
183 Technologies).

184 cDNA was generated from 10 ng RNA using the SMART-Seq v4 Ultra Low Input RNA Kit  
185 for Sequencing (Takara Bio USA) and libraries were prepared from 1 ng cDNA using the  
186 Nextera XT Library Prep Kit (Illumina). cDNA and library quality, DNA concentration and  
187 fragment size were measured using a fragment analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies)  
188 and the Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Sequencing was performed on  
189 a NextSeq 2000 using the NextSeq 2000 P3 reagents (100 cycles, both Illumina).

#### 190 *HAoEC bulk RNA sequencing data analysis*

191 RNA reads were mapped using STAR<sup>13</sup> and gene level quantification was performed using  
192 featureCounts<sup>14</sup>. Read counts were imported into R and batch-corrected between sequencing

193 rounds using the ComBat function of the sva package<sup>15</sup>. Differential expression analysis was  
194 performed using DESeq2<sup>6</sup>. Size factors were estimated to account for differences in library size,  
195 dispersion was estimated using the apeglm method, and differential testing was performed using  
196 shrinkage estimators. Results were extracted using custom contrasts comparing HD EV to  
197 healthy donor and KTx EV treatment. Subsequent analyses were performed only on genes  
198 belonging to Gene Ontology (GO) terms identified by prior miRNA sequencing and potentially  
199 involved in vascular function: cellular response to platelet-derived growth factor stimulus  
200 (GO:0036120), G1/S transition of the mitotic cell cycle (GO:0000082), regulation of smooth  
201 muscle cell proliferation (GO:0048660), regulation of angiogenesis (GO:0045765), negative  
202 regulation of cell migration (GO:0030336) and angiogenesis (GO:0001525). PCA was  
203 performed on the variance-stabilized transformed counts using the plotPCA function on the  
204 subset of genes. The heatmap was generated using the pheatmap package<sup>16</sup> and met the criteria  
205 of  $P < 0.05$  and absolute  $\log_2$  fold change  $> 1$ . To verify the matches of differentially enriched  
206 genes (DEGs) with miRNA target genes, the DEGs were cross-compared with the same list of  
207 miRNA target genes that was used for gene set enrichment. Matches of HAoEC DEGs with  
208 miRNA target genes were visualized in a circus plot using the circlize R package<sup>17</sup>.

#### 209 *Vascular tube formation, endothelial migration and proliferation after exposure to CKD EVs*

210 Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells (HUVECs) were obtained shortly after isolation<sup>18</sup>,  
211 cultured in Endothelial Cell Medium MV with the appropriate SupplementMix (all PromoCell,  
212 Heidelberg, Germany) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and used for experiments at passages  
213 3-7. Plasma EVs were isolated using Exo-spin mini columns (Cell guidance systems,  
214 Cambridge, UK) with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  citrated plasma that was eluted in 180  $\mu\text{L}$  PBS. For vascular tube  
215 formation experiments confluent cells were starved in a T75 flask overnight in DMEM (Gibco,  
216 Grand Island, NY, USA) containing 2% FCS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. 96-well plates  
217 were prepared by adding 50  $\mu\text{L}$  Matrigel (Corning, Corning, NY, USA) containing 30 ng/mL  
218 vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A, Abcam, Cambridge, UK) per well and  
219 incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. Subsequently, 40,000 cells per well were seeded on the  
220 polymerized Matrigel in 80  $\mu\text{L}$  endothelial cell medium MV and 20  $\mu\text{L}$  EVs from either healthy  
221 donors or HD patients were added in duplicate. Cells were incubated for 6 hours at 37°C and  
222 brightfield images were captured on an EVOS M5000 microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific)  
223 at 10 $\times$ . Vascular tube-like structures per field of view were counted (typical elongated character  
224 with maximum width of two cells) and *ImageJ Angiogenesis Analyzer* software<sup>19</sup> was used for  
225 automated analysis of vascular-like networks. Three images per well were analyzed and the



226 mean of both duplicates was used for subsequent statistical analyses. Analysis was performed  
227 on unaltered images; for representative images in the manuscript, grading curves were altered  
228 using Adobe Photoshop for better visualization.

229 To assess endothelial migration, 2-well culture inserts (Ibidi, Gräfelfing, Germany) were placed  
230 in a 24-well plate and 20,000 HUVECs were seeded on each side of the insert. The cells were  
231 allowed to attach for 12 hours and starved overnight in DMEM containing 2% FCS and 1%  
232 penicillin/streptomycin. The inserts were then removed and 400  $\mu$ L Endothelial Cell Medium  
233 MV and 100  $\mu$ L EVs from either healthy donors or HD patients were added. Brightfield  
234 microscopy was performed on an EVOS M5000 microscope at 10 $\times$  immediately and after 4  
235 hours of incubation at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. Three images per well were analyzed for both time points and gap  
236 area was calculated using ImageJ. The relative reduction in gap area at 4 hours was used for  
237 statistical analysis. Analysis was performed on unaltered images; for representative images in  
238 the manuscript, grading curves were altered using Adobe Photoshop for better visualization.

239 For proliferation analyses 20,000 HUVECs were seeded per well in a 96-well plate and allowed  
240 to adhere for 12 hours. They were then incubated with 80  $\mu$ L medium and 20  $\mu$ L EVs from  
241 either healthy donors or HD patients for 18 hours in duplicates. For Ki-67 immunofluorescence,  
242 the cells were then washed three times with PBS, fixed with 4% PFA for 15 minutes and  
243 permeabilized with 0.25% Triton X-100. The cells were blocked with 3% BSA for 10 minutes.  
244 The cells were then washed three times with PBS-T and incubated with anti-Ki-67 antibody  
245 (rabbit anti-human, polyclonal, 1:400 in PBS-T, Abcam) for one hour. The cells were then  
246 washed three times with PBS-T and incubated with Alexa 568 anti-rabbit IgG (goat, polyclonal,  
247 1:400 in PBS-T, Thermo Fisher Scientific) for one hour. The cells were washed three times  
248 with PBS-T and DAPI was added in PBS before subsequent fluorescence imaging on an EVOS  
249 M5000 microscope at 40 $\times$ . DAPI $^{+}$  and Ki-67 $^{+}$  nuclei were counted in three images per well, the  
250 Ki-67 $^{+}$  fraction was calculated and the mean of both duplicates was used for subsequent  
251 statistical analysis.

252 For all HUVEC assays statistical analyses were performed using the Mann-Whitney *U* test on  
253 GraphPad Prism, where  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

#### 254 *Vascular smooth muscle cell formation after exposure with CKD EVs*

255 Human Aortic Smooth Muscle Cells (HAoSMCs, PromoCell) were cultured using Smooth  
256 Muscle Cell Growth Medium 2. To assess proliferation upon exposure to plasma EVs from HD

257 patients as compared to healthy donors, Ki-67 immunofluorescence was performed as described  
258 above for HUVECs, with two differences: cells were allowed to attach for 24 hours due to  
259 slower growth characteristics, and microscopic images were taken at 20× due to lower cell  
260 density. GraphPad Prism was used for statistical analysis, where  $p < 0.05$  was considered  
261 statistically significant according to the Mann-Whitney  $U$  test.

### 262 *Targeted tryptophan metabolomics*

263 Plasma metabolomics was focused on tryptophan (TRP) metabolites and was performed as  
264 previously described<sup>20</sup> with an expansion of the analyzed metabolite panel to 34 metabolites  
265 (Table S3). In brief, liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) was performed on a  
266 1290 Infinity 2D HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) combined with  
267 a TSQ Quantiva triple quadrupole mass spectrometer with a heated ESI source (Thermo Fisher  
268 Scientific) using 150  $\mu$ L of EDTA plasma per patient. Data were exported to Skyline v.19.1 -  
269 64 bit to identify and quantify peak intensity and area. 31 of 34 metabolites could be analyzed  
270 in quantitatively, for melatonin, formylanthranilate and picolonic acid only semi-quantitative  
271 measurements could be performed for technical reasons and these metabolites were excluded  
272 from further analysis.

### 273 *Metabolomics and integrative data analysis*

274 The differential abundance of metabolites between patient groups was analyzed using the  
275 Wilcoxon rank-sum test for p-value calculation, BH-FDR-corrected p-values  $< 0.1$  were  
276 considered statistically significant, while the effect sizes (Cliff's delta) were calculated using  
277 the `dmes()` function in the `orddom` R package<sup>3</sup>.

278 Principal component analysis (PCA) of the metabolomics data was performed and visualized  
279 using the `factoextra` R package<sup>4</sup>.

280 Longitudinal analysis of metabolomics data in patients before and after kidney transplantation  
281 was performed using the `longdat_disc(data_type = "measurement")` function in the `LongDat` R  
282 package<sup>7</sup>. `LongDat` analyzes the longitudinal data using a covariate-sensitive approach. Here,  
283 the analysis took EVs and medical variables as covariates. The measurement mode first  
284 normalized the data and then fitted the data with linear mixed-effect models. Metabolites with  
285 model p-values (FDR-corrected)  $< 0.1$  and post-hoc test p-values (FDR-corrected)  $< 0.05$  were  
286 considered significant.

287 TRP metabolites were correlated with EC-EV plasma concentrations using Pearson correlation  
288 in GraphPad Prism. Correlations with  $p < 0.05$  were considered statistically significant.

289 *HAoEC EV release on uremic toxin stimulation*

290 Potential effects of TRP-derived uremic toxins on endothelial EV release were tested *in vitro*.  
291 HAoECs were cultured as described above and seeded at confluence ( $0.7 \times 10^5$  cells/well) in  
292 gelatin-coated 24-well plates and incubated overnight at 37°C to attach. The cells were then  
293 washed with PBS and incubated with 1  $\mu$ M carboxyfluorescein succinimidyl ester (CFSE,  
294 Thermo Fisher Scientific) in PBS for 10 minutes at room temperature. CFSE was removed and  
295 the cells were incubated in medium at 37°C for 24 hours. After washing with PBS, cells were  
296 incubated with indoxyl sulfate (IS), xanthurenic acid (XA) (both Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO,  
297 USA) or formylkynurenine (FKYN) (Biozol, Eching, Germany) in 100 nm-filtered basal  
298 medium at concentrations ranging from 0.1  $\mu$ M to 1 mM for two (all toxins) and eight hours  
299 (IS, XA). Vehicle controls with DMSO (IS, XA) and 0.6 mM NaOH (FKYN) were performed  
300 as appropriate.

301 After incubation, the supernatant was collected and centrifuged at 600 $\times$ g for 15 minutes to  
302 remove cells. The resulting supernatant was then centrifuged twice at 2,500 $\times$ g for 15 minutes  
303 to remove debris. All centrifugation steps were performed at room temperature without breaks.  
304 The cell-free supernatant was then snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

305 *HSaVEC EV release on shear stress and uremic toxin stimulation*

306 EV release from the venous endothelium under venous or arterial shear stress and concomitant  
307 vehicle or IS treatment was tested *in vitro*. Commercially available Human Saphenous Vein  
308 Endothelial Cells (HSaVECs) were cultured in Endothelial Cell Growth Medium 2  
309 supplemented with the SupplementMix 2 (all PromoCell) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin.  
310 HSaVECs were seeded at confluence ( $2.2 \times 10^5$  cells/well) onto pre-coated (attachment factor,  
311 incubated for 20 minutes at 37°C)  $\mu$ -slides I 0.6 Luer (Ibidi) in 150  $\mu$ L growth medium and  
312 incubated overnight at 37°C to attach. The cells were then washed twice with 100  $\mu$ L PBS and  
313 then stained with 100  $\mu$ L 1  $\mu$ M CFSE (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in PBS for 10 minutes at room  
314 temperature. CFSE was removed and the cells were incubated in medium at 37°C for 24 hours.

315 The Ibidi pump system was used to mimic venous and arterial flow on HSaVECs. Cells were  
316 washed twice with 100  $\mu$ L PBS and then cultured with 100 nm-filtered basal medium. 13 mL

317 of the medium was added to the flow system. Unidirectional laminar flow was applied at 1  
318  $\text{dyn/cm}^2$  for venous flow and  $10 \text{ dyn/cm}^2$  for arterial flow. Different perfusion sets were required  
319 to mimic venous and arterial flow in combination with the  $\mu$ -slides I 0.6 Luer. For venous flow,  
320 the blue perfusion set was used according to the manufacturer's instructions while for arterial  
321 flow the red perfusion set was used. For venous flow, HSAVEC<sub>s</sub> were exposed directly to 1  
322  $\text{dyn/cm}^2$ , whereas for arterial flow, the flow rates were gradually increased (30 minutes  $2.5$   
323  $\text{dyn/cm}^2$ , 30 minutes  $5 \text{ dyn/cm}^2$ , then  $10 \text{ dyn/cm}^2$ ) to prevent the cells from being ruptured by  
324 immediate high shear stress. Both flow conditions were combined with vehicle control (DMSO)  
325 or IS treatment ( $50 \mu\text{M}$ ). HSAVEC<sub>s</sub> were incubated under these conditions for 18 hours.

326 After incubation, the supernatant was collected and centrifuged at  $600\times g$  for 15 minutes to  
327 remove cells. The supernatant obtained was then centrifuged twice at  $2,500\times g$  for 15 minutes  
328 to remove debris. All centrifugation steps were performed at room temperature without breaks.  
329 Given the large amount of medium and expected low EV concentrations, EVs were isolated  
330 and concentrated from the cell-free supernatant obtained by multiple centrifugations using the  
331 exoEasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Isolated EVs were  
332 snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ .

### 333 *Platelet EV release upon uremic toxin stimulation*

334 For platelet isolation, 3.5 mL of whole blood was drawn from healthy donors in 3.2% trisodium  
335 citrate tubes. Informed written consent was obtained in accordance with the Declaration of  
336 Helsinki, and the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Charité – Universitätsmedizin  
337 Berlin (EA2/162/17). Whole blood was centrifuged at  $200\times g$  for 15 minutes without breaks.  
338 Platelet-rich plasma was transferred to siliconized glass tubes containing 1 mL of 10% citrate-  
339 phosphate-dextrose solution containing adenine (CPDA, Sigma Aldrich) in PBS and  
340 centrifuged at  $1,000\times g$  for 15 minutes. After incubation at room temperature for 20 minutes,  
341 the supernatant/platelet-poor plasma was removed and the platelets were resuspended in 2 mL  
342 of 10% CPDA.  $50 \mu\text{L}$  of platelets were transferred to a new siliconized glass tube and  
343 containing  $950 \mu\text{L}$  of 10% CPDA. The platelets were then incubated with  $50 \mu\text{M}$  IS or vehicle  
344 (DMSO) for 3 hours at  $30^\circ\text{C}$  on a shaking incubator at 100 rpm . After incubation, the tubes  
345 were centrifuged at  $600\times g$  for 15 minutes and the supernatant was collected. The supernatant  
346 was then centrifuged twice at  $2,500\times g$  for 15 minutes to remove debris. All centrifugation steps  
347 were performed at room temperature without breaks. The cell-free supernatant was snap-frozen  
348 in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ .

349 *Macrophage EV release on uremic toxin stimulation*

350 10 mL of whole blood was drawn from healthy donors into K3 EDTA tubes. Informed written  
351 consent was obtained in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and the study was  
352 approved by the Ethics Committee of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin(EA2/162/17).  
353 Whole blood was diluted in PBS with 2% FCS and layered on 15 mL Pancoll density gradient  
354 (PAN-Biotech, Aidenbach, Germany) in 50 mL SepMate tubes (StemCell Technologies,  
355 Vancouver, BC, Canada) and centrifuged at 1,200×g for 10 minutes at room temperature.  
356 Plasma and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were transferred to a new 50 mL  
357 tube, filled to 50 mL with PBS containing 2% FCS and centrifuged at 400×g for 10 minutes at  
358 room temperature. The supernatant was removed and the cells were resuspended in 2 mL of  
359 erythrocyte lysis buffer (155 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 10 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 1 mM EDTA in water) and  
360 incubated at 37°C for 7 minutes. The tubes were then filled to 50 mL with PBS with 2% FCS  
361 and centrifuged at 400×g for 10 minutes at room temperature. The supernatant was removed  
362 and the cells were resuspended in 50 mL with PBS containing 2% FCS and centrifuged again  
363 at 400×g for 10 minutes at room temperature. The supernatant was removed and the cells were  
364 resuspended in with PBS containing 2% FCS and counted. The cells were centrifuged at 400×g  
365 for 10 minutes at room temperature, resuspended at 5×10<sup>5</sup> cells/ml in RPMI with 1%  
366 penicillin/streptomycin, 50 mM β-mercaptoethanol and 10 mM HEPES without FCS and 1×10<sup>6</sup>  
367 cells were seeded per well in 12-well plates. The cells were incubated for 2 hours at 37°C and  
368 then incubated for 6 days with RPMI containing 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 50 mM β-  
369 mercaptoethanol, 10 mM HEPES, 20% FCS and 100 ng/mL macrophage colony-stimulating  
370 factor (M-CSF, Miltenyi Biotec, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany) with one medium exchange  
371 after 3 days for macrophage differentiation. The cells were then washed with PBS and incubated  
372 with 1 mL RPMI containing 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 50 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 10 mM  
373 HEPES and 20% FCS with either 50 μM IS or vehicle (DMSO). After incubation, the  
374 supernatant was collected and centrifuged at 600×g for 15 minutes. The supernatant was  
375 collected and centrifuged twice at 2,500×g for 15 minutes to remove debris. All centrifugation  
376 steps were performed at room temperature without breaks. The cell-free supernatant was snap-  
377 frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

378 *HAoEC, platelet, macrophage and HSaVEC EV flow cytometry*

379 40μL annexin binding buffer (5X, Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added to 100 μL purified  
380 HAoEC, platelet or macrophage supernatant/100 μL isolated EVs from HSaVECs. HAoEC and

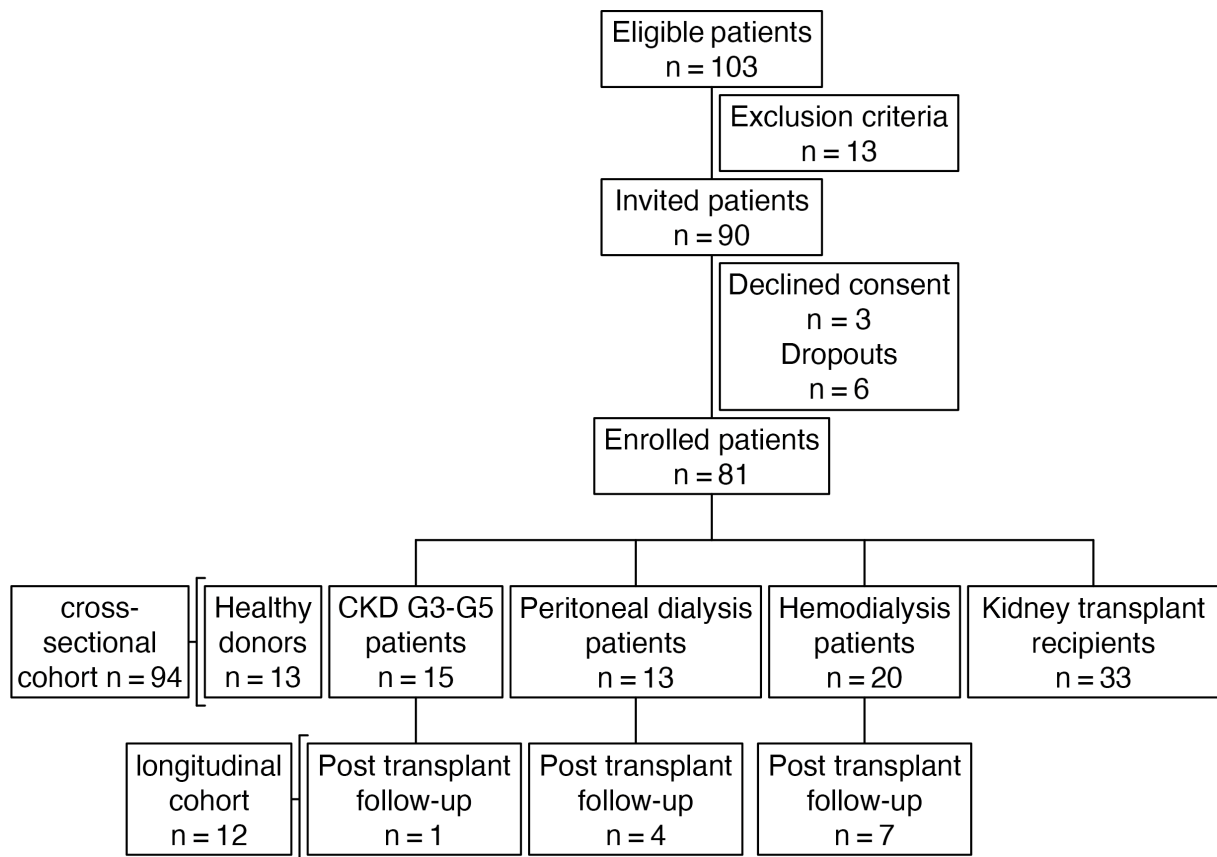
381 HSaVEC EVs were stained with 1:200 PeCy7 Annexin V (BioLegend) in addition to CFSE  
382 staining. Plt- and Mac-EVs were stained with 1:100 anti-CD41 (BV510, clone HIP8,  
383 BioLegend) or 1:400 CD68 (BV785, clone Y1/82A, BioLegend) antibodies respectively and  
384 1:4,000 FITC Annexin V (BioLegend). Annexin V staining was used as internal control, but  
385 EVs were quantified independently of Annexin V staining. 50  $\mu$ L Precision Count Beads  
386 (Biolegend) were added per sample to quantify EVs. Samples were run on a BD Influx Cell  
387 Sorter (BD Biosciences) equipped with a 200mW 488nm laser, a 45mW 405nm laser and  
388 dedicated small particle optics. FlowJo v10.7 software was used for data analysis. Statistical  
389 tests were performed with GraphPad Prism. Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's post hoc test for  
390 unpaired data or Wilcoxon test for paired data were performed as appropriate,  $p < 0.05$  was  
391 considered statistically significant.

#### 392 *HSaVEC, platelet and macrophage EV miRNA RT-qPCR*

393 To identify a potential mechanism of differential EV miRNA release in CKD, HSaVECs EVs  
394 from the aforementioned different flow and uremic conditions and Plt- and Mac-EVs from  
395 uremic or control conditions were analyzed for their miRNA content by RT-qPCR. The same  
396 six miRNAs as in patient EVs were analyzed (hsa-miR-19a-3p, hsa-miR-142-3p, hsa-miR-  
397 103a-3p, hsa-let-7d-5p, hsa-miR-24-3p, hsa-miR-4485-3p), with the exception of hsa-miR-  
398 4485-3p in Plt- and Mac-EVs. HSaVEC EV RNA was extracted from isolated EVs using a  
399 combination of Qiazol (Qiagen) chloroform isolation followed by purification with components  
400 of the exoRNeasy Midi kit (Qiagen). 140  $\mu$ L of EVs purified with the exoEasy Kit (Qiagen)  
401 from HSaVEC supernatant (representing 1/3 of the total EVs from the *in vitro* experiments)  
402 were mixed with 700  $\mu$ L Qiazol, 140  $\mu$ L chloroform was added and samples were then  
403 centrifuged at 12,000 $\times$ g for 15 min at 4°C. The upper aqueous phase was removed, two volumes  
404 of ethanol were added and the mixtures were transferred to RNeasy MinElute spin columns and  
405 centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 15 seconds at room temperature. The columns were washed once  
406 with RWT buffer and twice with RPE buffer before drying by centrifugation at 14,000 rpm for  
407 five minutes with the lid open at room temperature and eluting the RNA in 10  $\mu$ L of RNase-  
408 free water by centrifugation at 14,000 rpm for one minute. Plt- and Mac-EV RNA was isolated  
409 from 300  $\mu$ L supernatant using the ExoRNeasy Midi Kit (Qiagen) according to the  
410 manufacturer's protocol (see "Patient plasma EV RNA isolation") and was also eluted in 10  $\mu$ L  
411 of RNase-free water. RNA was stored at -80°C.

412 cDNA generation from 2  $\mu$ L of RNA and qPCR were performed in the same way as for patient  
413 samples using the TaqMan Advanced miRNA cDNA Synthesis Kit and Taqman Advanced  
414 miRNA Assays respectively (both Thermo Fisher Scientific, see details above). qPCR was run  
415 for 60 cycles in anticipation of lower RNA levels. Statistical tests were performed with  
416 GraphPad Prism. Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's post hoc test for unpaired data or Wilcoxon  
417 test for paired data were performed as appropriate,  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically  
418 significant.

419 **Supplemental Figure 1**

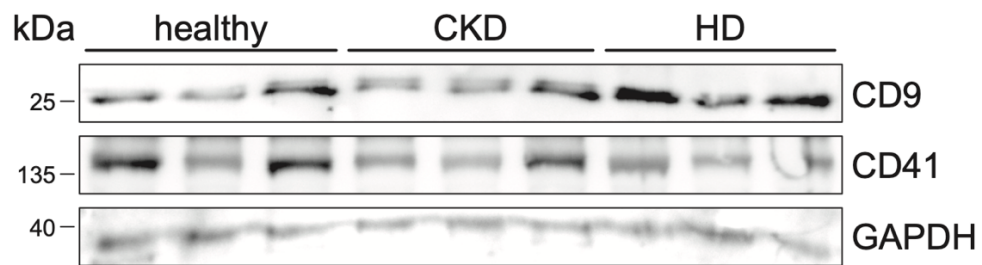


420

421 **Figure S1. Study design pediatric CKD cohort.** Of 103 eligible patients, 90 patients were invited to participate  
 422 in this study (13 patients met the exclusion criteria). Three patients refused to participate and six patients dropped  
 423 out due to loss to follow-up or difficulties with blood collection. In addition to the 81 CKD patients, 13 age-  
 424 matched healthy donors with normal kidney function who were hospitalized for reasons other than kidney disease  
 425 were enrolled, resulting in 94 patients in the cross-sectional cohort. During the study period twelve patients  
 426 underwent successful kidney transplantation and were included in the longitudinal study with post-transplant  
 427 follow-up.

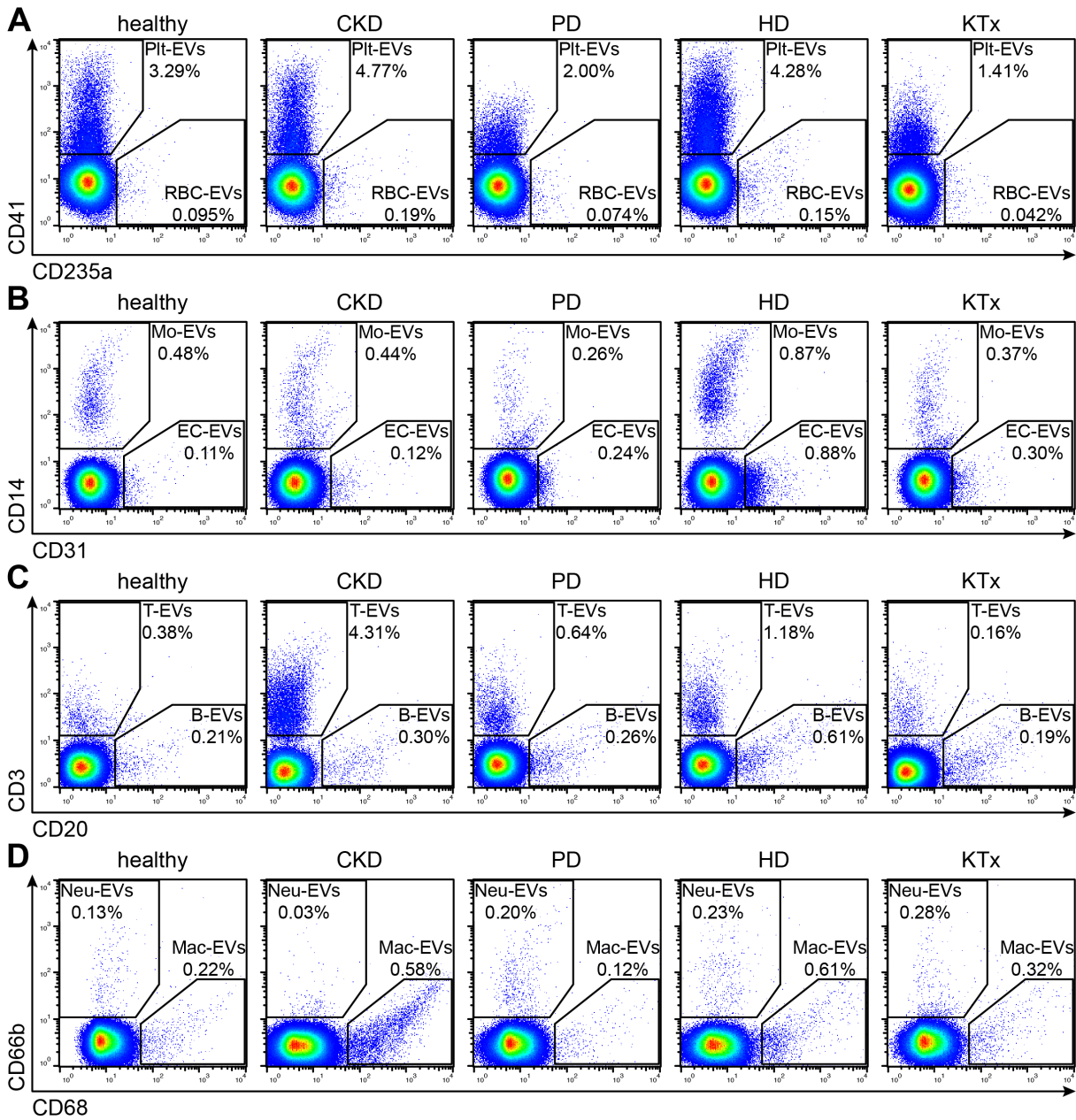


428 **Supplemental Figure 2**



429

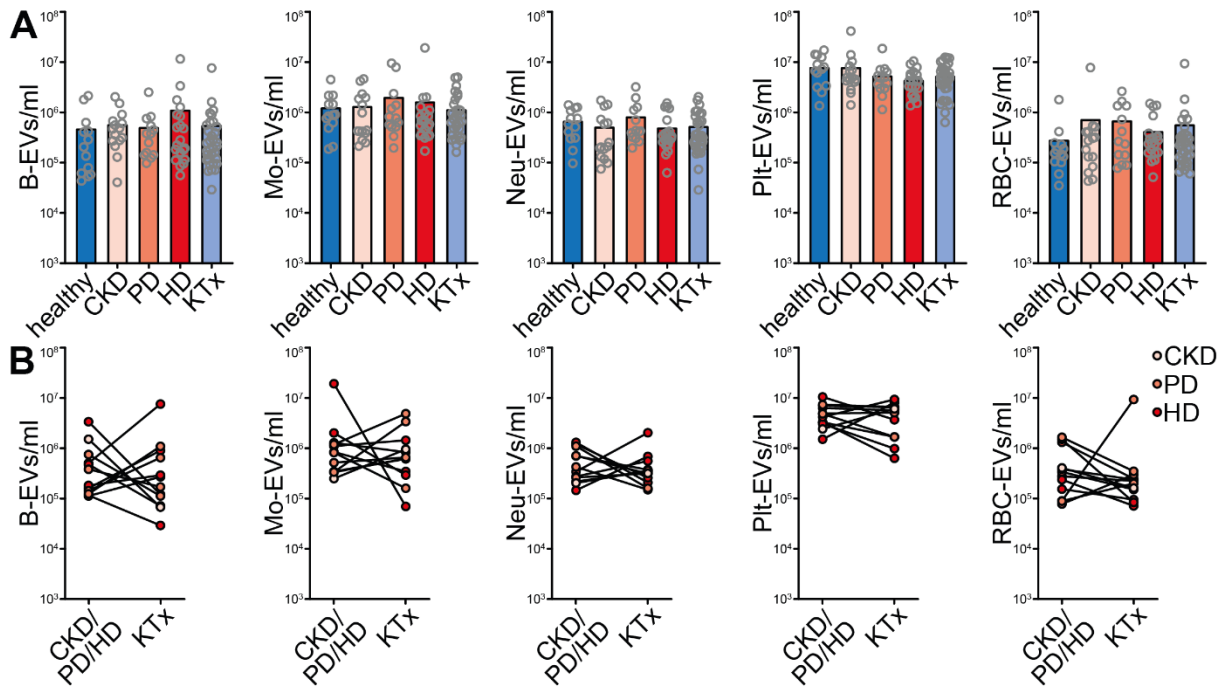
430 **Figure S2. Plasma EV western blot.** Expression of EV membrane protein CD9, platelet membrane protein CD41  
431 and cytosolic/intravesicular protein GAPDH in EVs isolated from 100  $\mu$ L of patient plasma from healthy donors,  
432 CKD patients without dialysis and patients on hemodialysis (HD).



434

435 **Figure S3. Representative images plasma EV flow cytometry.** Pseudocolor plots showing the four plasma EV  
 436 staining panels for all patient groups of the pediatric CKD cohort used to quantify (A) CD41<sup>+</sup> platelet-derived (Plt-  
 437 ) EVs and CD235a<sup>+</sup> red blood cell-derived (RBC-) EVs, (B) CD14<sup>+</sup> monocyte-derived (Mo-) EVs and CD31<sup>+</sup>  
 438 endothelial (EC-) EVs, (C) CD3<sup>+</sup> T cell-derived (T-) EVs and CD20<sup>+</sup> B cell-derived (B-) EVs, and (D) CD66b<sup>+</sup>  
 439 neutrophil-derived (Neu-) EVs and CD68<sup>+</sup> macrophage-derived (Mac-) EVs. HD hemodialysis patients, KTx  
 440 kidney transplant recipients, PD peritoneal dialysis patients.

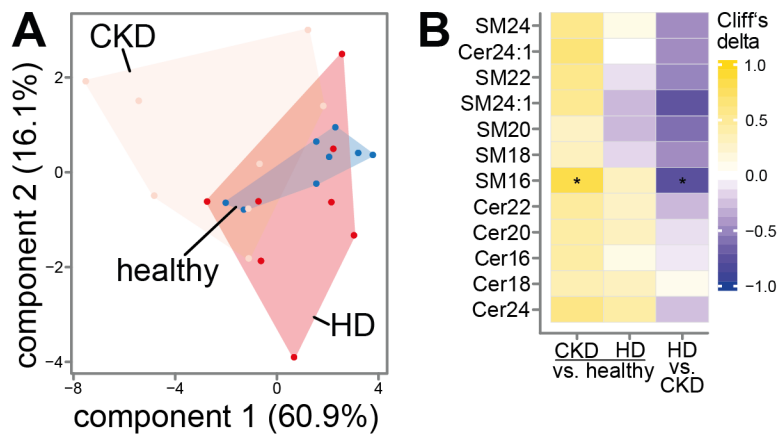
441 **Supplemental Figure 4**



442

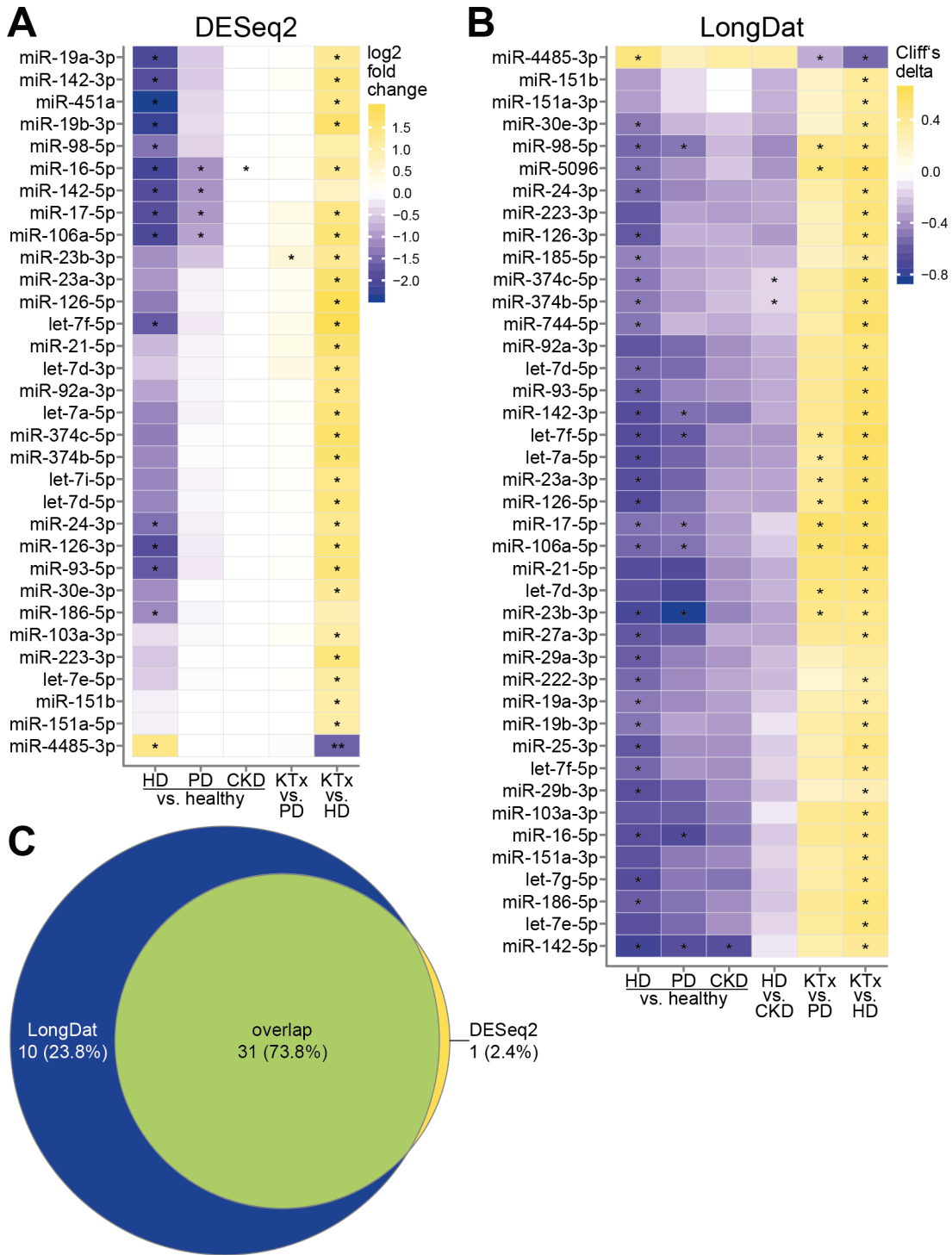
443 **Figure S4. Quantification of plasma EV flow cytometry.** Specialized multicolor EV flow cytometry was  
 444 performed on plasma from all patients in the pediatric CKD cohort. Cross-sectional (A) and longitudinal (B)  
 445 comparison of EVs of additional cellular origins: CD20<sup>+</sup> B cell-derived (B-) EVs, CD14<sup>+</sup> monocyte-derived  
 446 (Mo-) EVs, CD66b<sup>+</sup> neutrophil-derived (Neu-) EVs, CD41<sup>+</sup> platelet-derived (Plt-) EVs and CD235a<sup>+</sup> red  
 447 blood cell-derived (RBC-) EVs. HD hemodialysis patients, KTx kidney transplant recipients, PD peritoneal  
 448 dialysis patients.

449 **Supplemental Figure 5**



450

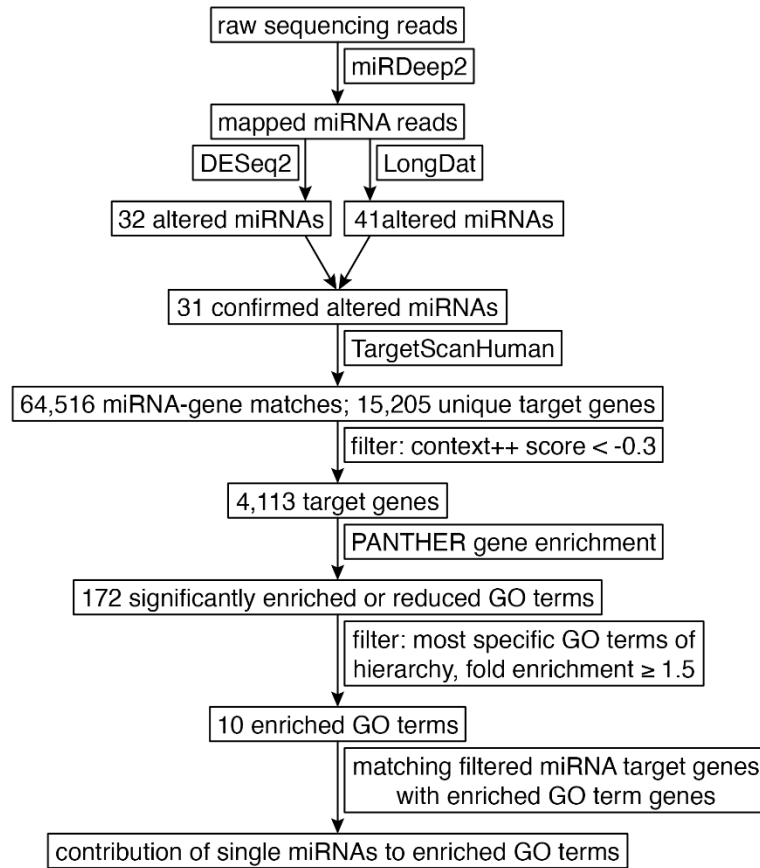
451 **Figure S5. Plasma EV sphingolipidomics.** Exploratory EV cargo analysis for sphingolipids (ceramides (Cer) and  
 452 sphingomyelins (SM)) was performed in a subset of healthy donors, CKD patients without dialysis and  
 453 hemodialysis (HD) patients (N=8 per group). Lipidomics was performed on isolated plasma EVs and sphingolipid  
 454 concentrations were normalized to protein content. **(A)** Principal component analysis showed a large overlap  
 455 between healthy donors and hemodialysis patients, whereas CKD patients without dialysis showed a partial  
 456 separation. **(B)** This trend was confirmed at the metabolite level where CKD patients without dialysis showed  
 457 different concentrations of total SM, SM16 and total ceramide as compared to healthy donors and HD patients.  
 458 However, this trend was not consistent across different patient groups as evidenced by no significant differences  
 459 between HD patients and healthy donors. **(A)** \* $p < 0.1$  by Wilcoxon rank-sum test with FDR correction.



461

462 **Figure S6. Plasma EV miRNA sequencing.** Heatmaps showing significantly altered plasma EV miRNAs in CKD  
 463 patients as analyzed by (A) DESeq2 and (B) LongDat. (C) Venn diagram comparing significantly altered miRNAs  
 464 as identified by DESeq2 and LongDat. \**p* (FDR-corrected) < 0.1. HD hemodialysis patients, KTx kidney  
 465 transplant recipients, PD peritoneal dialysis patients.

**A**



**B**

	miR-19a-3p	miR-142-3p	miR-103a-3p	let-7d-5p	miR-24-3p	miR-223-3p	miR-151a-5p	miR-128-3p	miR-4485-3p	miR-21-5p	miR-23b-3p	miR-16-5p	miR-374c-5p	miR-142-5p	miR-190b-3p	miR-206a-3p	let-7f-5p	miR-128-5p	miR-17-5p	miR-106a-5p	miR-374b-5p	let-7f-5p	miR-186-5p	miR-23b-5p	let-7a-5p	miR-98-5p	miR-93-5p	let-7e-5p
cellular response to PDGF stimulus	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.24	0.06	0.12	0.18	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G1/S transition of mitotic cell cycle	0.11	0.11	0.15	0.20	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
regulation of SMC proliferation	0.16	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
negative regulation of epithelial cell proliferation	0.09	0.12	0.14	0.02	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
negative regulation of cell migration	0.13	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
regulation of angiogenesis	0.16	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
angiogenesis	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
reproductive structure development	0.10	0.16	0.08	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
regulation of protein serine/threonine kinase activity	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
urogenital system development	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
sum	1.12	1.06	1.02	0.99	0.87	0.61	0.51	0.44	0.40	0.36	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.21	0.19	0.19	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.01

467

468 **Figure S7. miRNA target identification. (A)** Workflow for small RNA sequencing data analysis and miRNA

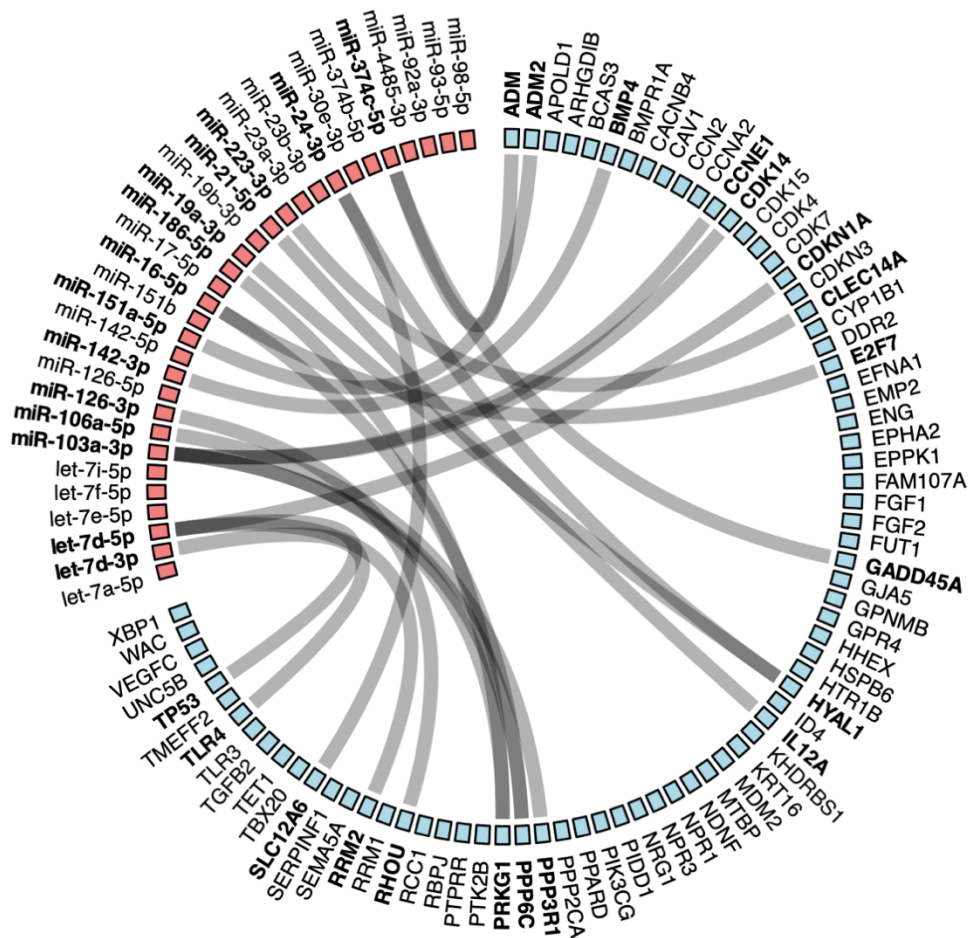
469 target identification. **(B)** Heatmap of the relative contribution of individual miRNAs to enriched gene ontology

470 (GO) terms, shown as the fraction of individual miRNA target gene matches for an enriched GO term, hence row

471 sum = 1 for each GO term. Sums are shown as a surrogate for the global interference potential of individual

472 miRNAs for the ten enriched GO terms. miRNAs selected for RT-qPCR validation are highlighted in **bold**.

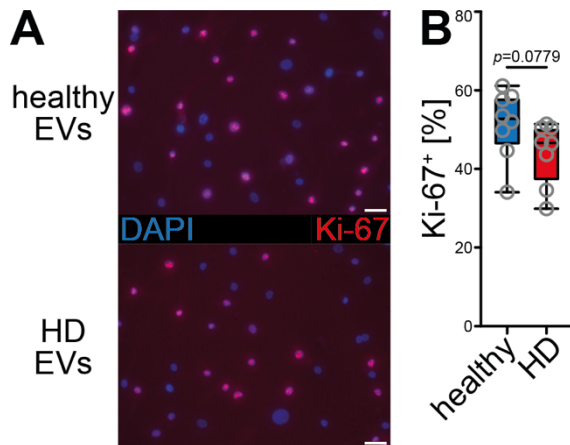
473 **Supplemental Figure 8**



474

475 **Figure S8. HAoEC DEG – miRNA target gene matches.** Differentially enriched genes (DEGs) from Human  
 476 Aortic Endothelial Cells (HAoECs) treated with healthy, hemodialysis or kidney transplant recipient plasma EVs  
 477 (Figure 3B) were matched with predicted miRNA target genes from miRNAs differentially enriched in CKD EVs  
 478 (as used for gene set enrichment analysis in Figure 3C). Matches are visualized in a circus plot, with matches  
 479 indicated by connecting lines and bold font.

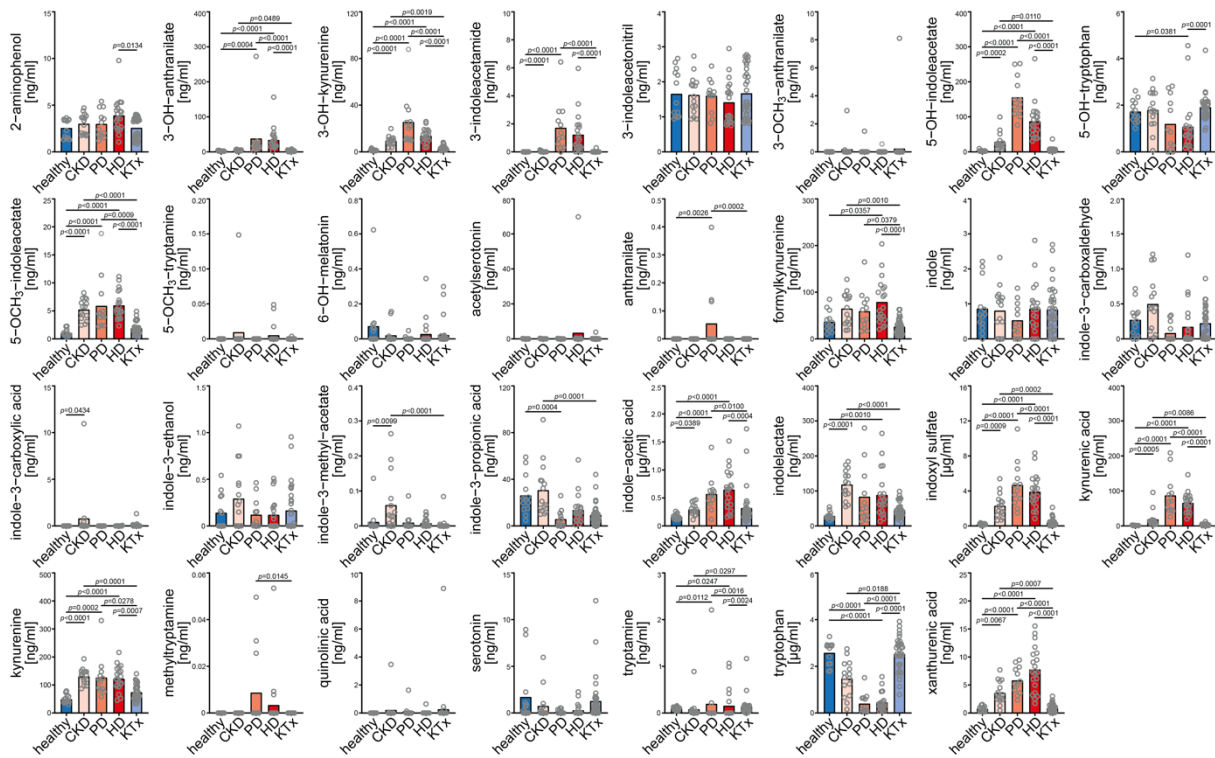
480 **Supplemental Figure 9**



481

482 **Figure S9. Vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation after exposure to CKD EVs.** Human Aortic Smooth  
483 Muscle Cells (HAoSMCs) were exposed to EVs from either healthy donors or hemodialysis (HD) patients for 18  
484 hours. HAoSMC proliferation was measured by immunofluorescence (Ki-67 expression). **(A)** Representative  
485 microscopic images of HAoSMCs after 18 hours of incubation with healthy/HD EVs. **(B)** Unaltered proliferation  
486 after exposure to HD EVs as compared to healthy EVs as measured by the proportion of Ki67<sup>+</sup> nuclei. **(A)** Scale  
487 bar 50  $\mu$ m (20 $\times$ ). **(B)** P-value according to Mann-Whitney *U* test. HD hemodialysis patients.

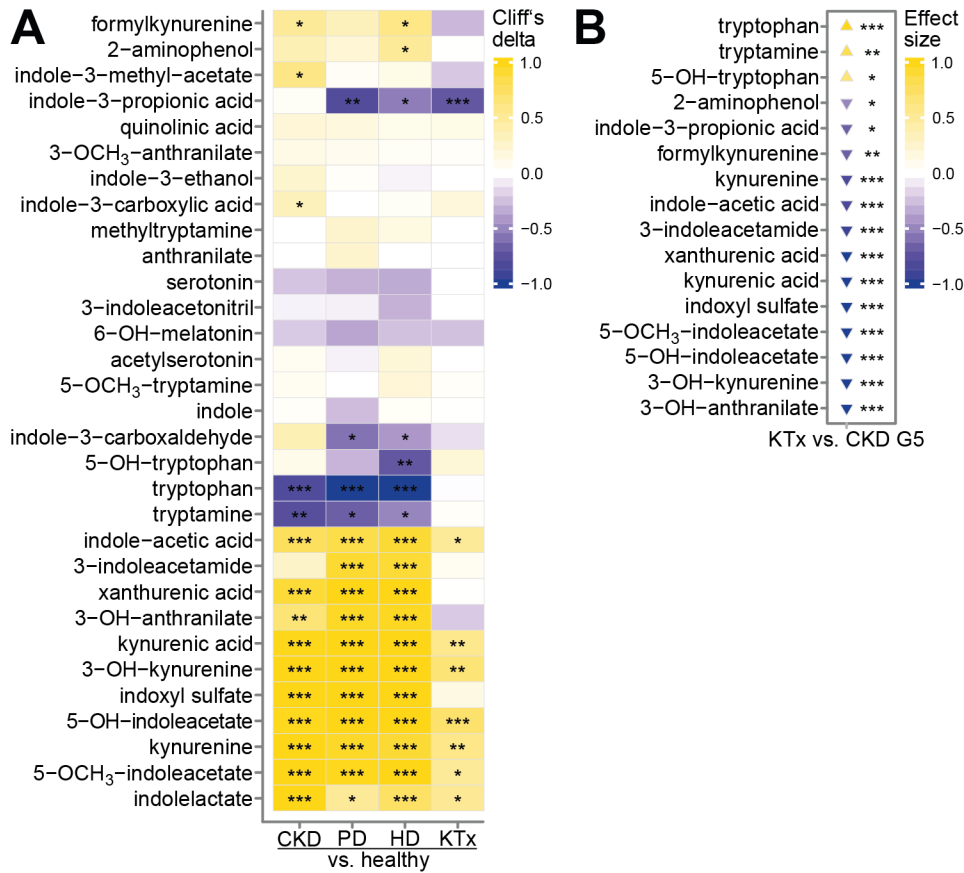




489

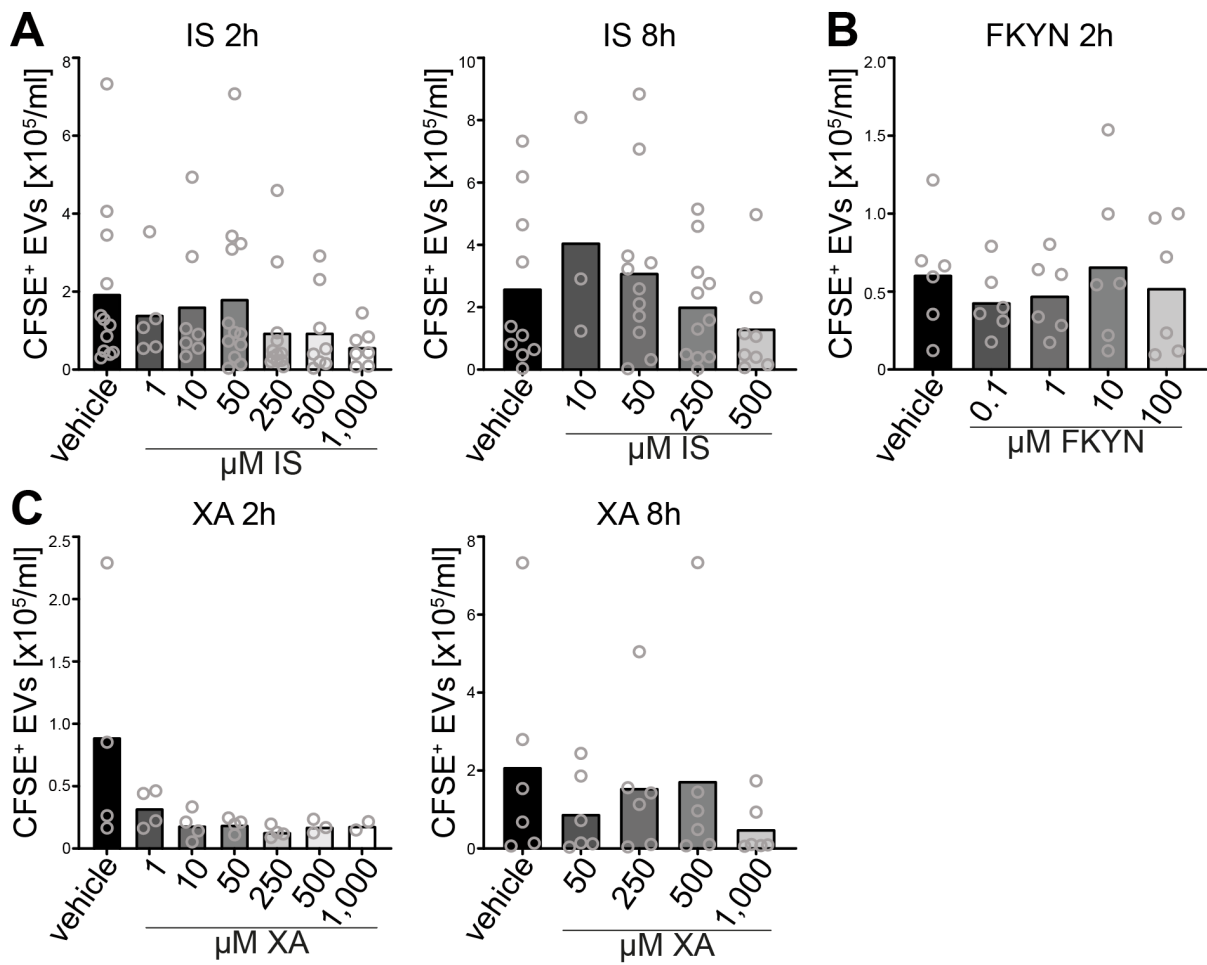
490 **Figure S10. Individual tryptophan plasma metabolites I.** Targeted plasma metabolomics was performed for 34  
 491 tryptophan metabolites of which 31 could be quantified in the pediatric CKD cohort. Bar graphs showing  
 492 individual metabolite concentrations in cross-sectional group comparisons. Melatonin, formylanthranilate and  
 493 picolonic acid could not be quantified for technical reasons. P-values according to Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's  
 494 post hoc test. HD hemodialysis patients, KTx kidney transplant recipients, PD peritoneal dialysis patients.

495 **Supplemental Figure 11**



496

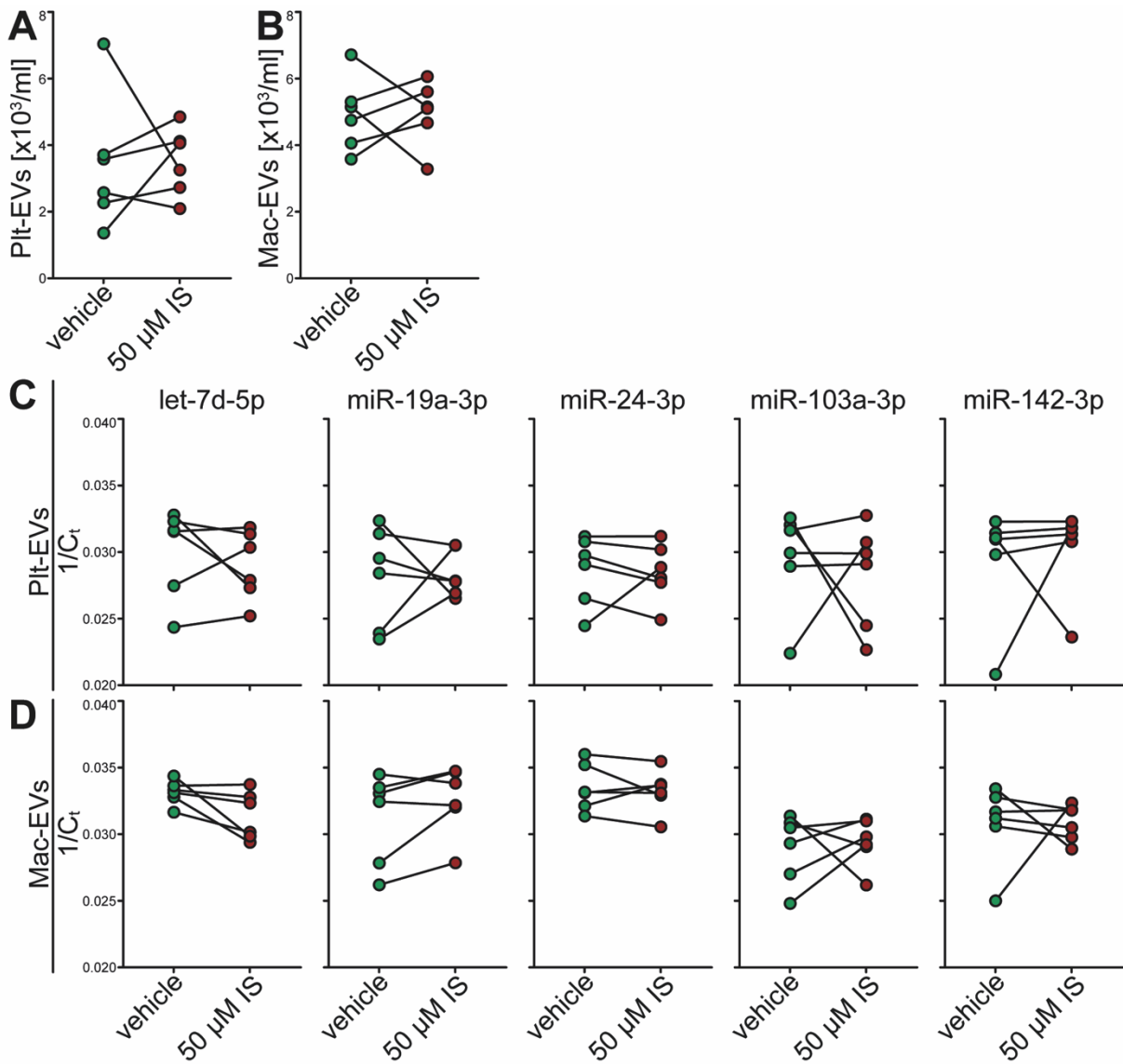
497 **Figure S11. Individual tryptophan plasma metabolites II.** Targeted plasma metabolomics was performed for  
 498 34 tryptophan metabolites, of which 31 could be quantified in the pediatric CKD cohort. **(A)** Heatmap showing  
 499 group-to-group comparisons of individual tryptophan metabolites – in addition to highly abundant  
 500 metabolites, several others were also dysregulated in CKD, including closely related tryptophan derivatives,  
 501 which were decreased in CKD, and several metabolites of both the kynurenine and indole pathways, which  
 502 were increased in CKD. **(B)** Cuneiform plot showing longitudinal changes in tryptophan metabolism after  
 503 KTx with normalization of numerous metabolites. Melatonin, formylanthranilate and picolonic acid could not  
 504 be quantified for technical reasons. **(A)** \**p* < 0.1, \*\**p* < 0.01, \*\*\**p* < 0.001 by Wilcoxon rank-sum test with  
 505 FDR correction. **(B)** \**p* < 0.05, \*\**p* < 0.01, \*\*\**p* < 0.001 according to LongDat for FDR-corrected post-hoc  
 506 test *p*-values. HD hemodialysis patients, KTx kidney transplant recipients, PD peritoneal dialysis patients.



508

509 **Figure S12. HAoEC EV release after exposure to uremic toxins.** Quantification of CFSE<sup>+</sup> membrane-stained  
 510 Human Aortic Endothelial Cell (HAoEC) EVs after treatment for 2 or 8 hours with the uremic toxins **(A)** indoxyl  
 511 sulfate (IS), **(B)** formylkynurenine (FKYN) or **(C)** xanthurenic acid (XA) with respective vehicle controls (DMSO  
 512 for IS and XA, 0.6 mM NaOH for FKYN).

513 **Supplemental Figure 13**



514

515 **Figure S13. EV release from platelets and macrophages after exposure to indoxyl sulfate.** (A,B) Flow  
 516 cytometric quantification of (A)  $\text{CD41}^+$  EVs from human platelets treated with 50  $\mu\text{M}$  indoxyl sulfate (IS) or  
 517 vehicle (DMSO) for 3 hours and (B)  $\text{CD68}^+$  EVs from human monocyte-derived macrophages treated with 50  $\mu\text{M}$   
 518 indoxyl sulfate (IS) or vehicle for 4 hours. (C,D) Plt- (C) and Mac-EV (D) miRNA cargo as determined by RT-  
 519 qPCR. Each data point represents a single donor, lines connect IS and vehicle condition data from the same donors.

520 **Supplemental Table 1**

Component	Specifications
1.1 preanalytical variables	<p>Blood was collected from pediatric CKD patients and age-matched healthy donors in 5 mL 3.2% sodium citrate (0.106 mmol/L) tubes (S-Monovette, Sarstedt, Nümbrecht, Germany) via brachial venipuncture using 21G or 23G cannulas. Before obtaining citrated blood for EV analyses, blood was drawn for routine clinical laboratory analyses. Cells were removed by an initial centrifugation at 600×g for 15 minutes, followed by two centrifugation steps at 2500×g for 15 minutes each to remove residual cells and debris. All centrifugation steps were performed without breaks. The platelet-free plasma was then snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.</p>
1.2 experimental design	<p><u>Aim:</u> To compare the concentrations of circulating EVs of platelet, red blood cell, endothelial, B cell, T cell, monocyte, macrophage and neutrophil origin in CKD patients at different stages (before dialysis, on peritoneal dialysis, on hemodialysis, after kidney transplantation) with those in age-matched healthy donors.</p> <p><u>Experimental variables:</u> Platelet-free plasma was measured from 94 study participants in a cross-sectional study and 12 participants in a longitudinal follow-up after kidney transplantation was measured. Side scatter-based triggering was used for particle detection.</p>
2.1 sample staining	<p>Concentrations of EVs of platelet, red blood cell, endothelial, B cell, T cell, monocyte, macrophage and neutrophil origin were determined using antibody staining in 4 panels with two antibodies each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CD41 for platelets and CD235a for red blood cells</li> <li>- CD14 for monocytes and CD31 for endothelial cells</li> <li>- CD3 for T cells and CD20 for B cells</li> <li>- CD66b for neutrophils and CD68 for macrophages</li> </ul> <p>All panels included Annexin V staining as an internal control, which was not used for quantification. Details of reagents and concentrations are given in Table S2. 4 µL of platelet-free plasma was stained in a total volume of 200 µL, containing 50 µL CountBright Absolute Counting Beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), antibodies, Annexin V and Annexin V Binding Buffer (BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA), for 15 minutes at room temperature and stored on ice until measurement. Antibodies, Annexin V and Annexin V Binding Buffer were filtered at 0.1 µm before use.</p>
2.2 sample washing	<p>No washing or dilution was performed prior to measurement. 0.1 µm filtration and centrifugation of the antibody ensured the specificity of the measured events for EVs.</p>
2.3 sample dilution	<p>4 µL platelet-free plasma was diluted 1:50 for staining and measured without further dilution.</p>
3.1 buffer-only controls	<p>A buffer-only control of 0.1 µm-filtered Annexin V Binding Buffer was acquired using the same acquisition settings as the biological samples, including trigger threshold, voltages and flow rate. The buffer-only control had an event rate of ~100 events/s.</p>
3.2 buffer with reagent controls	<p>Buffer with reagent controls of 0.1 µm-filtered Annexin V Binding Buffer, 0.1 µm-filtered Annexin V, counting beads and the corresponding 0.1 µm-filtered antibodies were recorded for each panel using the same acquisition settings as</p>

	the biological samples, including trigger threshold, voltage and flow rate. The buffer with reagent controls had an event rate of ~100 events/s.
3.3 unstained controls	Unstained controls were measured at the same dilution as the matched stained, isotype and detergent controls. Acquisition settings were maintained for all samples, including trigger threshold, voltages and flow rate. The event rate of unstained controls differed by <10% from stained samples and isotype controls. No changes in scatter signal were observed between unstained controls, stained samples and isotype controls were observed. Fluorescence signals remained within a similar range in unstained and isotype controls.
3.4 isotype controls	Isotype controls were performed at the same antibody concentration as the stained samples and at the same sample dilution. Isotype controls were purchased from the same manufacturers as the respective antibodies. Acquisition settings were maintained for all samples, including trigger threshold, voltages and flow rate. No changes in scatter signal were observed between unstained controls, stained samples and isotype controls. Fluorescence signals remained within a similar range in unstained and isotype controls.
3.5 single stained controls	All antibodies and Annexin V were measured on single-stained samples. The compensation was determined based on the basis of the single-stained samples.
3.6 procedural controls	No washing, processing or purification was performed after staining. Therefore, no procedural controls were considered necessary.
3.7 serial dilutions	Serial dilutions of platelet-free plasma were performed in the range of 1:4 to 1:10,000. Dilutions of 1:25, 1:50 and 1:100 showed a linear decrease in event rate. Therefore, 1:50 was selected as the desired dilution for measurement of patient samples. Mean forward and side scatter, as well as fluorescence intensities were unchanged from 1:25 to 1:100.
3.8 detergent-treated controls	Detergent controls were performed on all panels. 20 $\mu$ L of 1% 0.1 $\mu$ m-filtered Triton X-100 was added to 200 $\mu$ L of stained samples and incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature. Event rates decreased by ~50% and the percentage of positively stained events decreased by a further ~35%, indicating an overall binding of ~70%.
4.1 trigger channel and threshold	Detection was triggered on the 488 nm side scatter with a threshold of 0.39 arbitrary units based on the buffer only control and the unstained sample. The buffer only control had an event rate of ~100 events/s.
4.2 flow rate/volumetric quantification	Flow rate was kept constant across measured samples, as achieved by maintaining hydrodynamic settings and validated by the flow rate of calibration beads (Sphero Rainbow Calibration Particles (8 peaks), 3.0 - 3.4 $\mu$ m, Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). Volumetric quantification was based on counting bead quantification and subsequent estimation of the measured volume. Calculated EV concentrations were then multiplied by 50 to account for a 1:50 plasma dilution.
4.3 fluorescence calibration	Photomultiplier voltages were set according to the staining intensity of positively stained EVs in single stained controls after setting antibody dilution adjustment and kept constant for all patient EV measurements. Fluorescence calibration with MESF or ABC beads was not performed.
4.4 scatter calibration	488 nm forward and side scatter detection voltages and side scatter threshold were set based on the buffer only control and the unstained sample. Scatter calibration based on Mie modelling was not performed.

5.1 EV diameter/surface area/volume approximation	Not performed.
5.2 EV refractive index approximation	Not performed.
5.3 epitope number approximation	Not performed.

521 **Table S1. MiFlowCyt-EV guidelines report for plasma EV flow cytometry.** Applicable to plasma EV flow  
522 cytometry in the pediatric CKD cohort and adult hemodialysis patients.

523 **Supplemental Table 2**

<b>lineage</b>	<b>epitope</b>	<b>clone</b>	<b>isotype</b>	<b>fluorochrome</b>	<b>company</b>	<b>usage</b>
platelet (Plt)	CD41	HIP8	mouse IgG1, κ	BV510	BioLegend	1:100
red blood cell (RBC)	CD235a	HI264	mouse IgG2a, κ	PerCP/Cy5.5	BioLegend	1:100
monocyte (Mo)	CD14	63D3	mouse IgG1, κ	BV421	BioLegend	1:100
endothelial cell (EC)	CD31	WM59	mouse IgG1, κ	BV711	BioLegend	1:100
T cell (T)	CD3	OKT3	mouse IgG2a, κ	BV421	BioLegend	1:100
B cell (B)	CD20	2H7	mouse IgG2b, κ	BV605	BioLegend	1:100
neutrophil (Neu)	CD66b	G10F5	mouse IgM, κ	BV421	BD	1:100
macrophage (Mac)	CD68	Y1/82A	mouse IgG2b, κ	BV785	BioLegend	1:400
Annexin V	Phosphatidylserin	-	-	FITC	BioLegend	1:4,000

524 **Table S2. Plasma EV flow cytometry antibody list.** Used in pediatric CKD cohort and adult hemodialysis  
525 patients.



## 526 Supplemental Table 3

metabolite	acquisition mode	precursor ion (m/z)	qualifier ion (m/z)	qualifier ion (m/z)	qualifier ion (m/z)	qualifier ion (m/z)	retention time (min)	quantification
2-aminophenol	pos	110.060	92.040	65.110			2.1	yes
3-OH-anthranilate	neg	152.199	108.139	90.999	81.129		3.2	yes
3-OH-kynurenine	pos	225.210	207.820	162.380	110.200		2.3	yes
3-indoleacetamide	pos	175.086	130.065	103.055			3.8	yes
3-indoleacetonitril	pos	157.076	130.065	117.058			4.7	yes
3-OCH <sub>3</sub> -anthranilate	pos	168.065	92.100	77.040			4.5	yes
5-OH-indoleacetate	pos	192.065	146.061	118.066			3.3	yes
5-OH-tryptophan	pos	221.092	204.066	162.055			2.6	yes
5-OCH <sub>3</sub> -indoleacetate	pos	206.081	160.075	145.052	117.057		4.3	yes
5-OCH <sub>3</sub> -tryptamine	pos	191.117	174.091	130.065			3.1	yes
6-OH-melatonin	pos	249.123	190.040	158.000			3.5	yes
acetylserotonin	pos	219.112	202.086	160.075			3.3	yes
anthranilate	pos	138.054	120.045	92.014	65.039		4.0	yes
formylkynurenine	pos	237.086	148.040	74.024			2.7	yes
indole	pos	118.065	91.100	65.100			5.3	yes
indole-3-carboxaldehyde	pos	146.060	117.040	91.040	89.040	65.100	4.3	yes
Indole-3-carboxylic acid	pos	162.054	144.000	118.058	116.058	88.986	4.4	yes
Indole-3-ethanol	pos	162.091	144.081	117.040	91.111		4.4	yes
Indole-3-methyl-acetate	pos	190.117	130.040	103.040	77.110		5.3	yes
Indole-3-propionic acid	pos	190.086	130.058	128.040	103.058		5.1	yes
Indole-acetic acid	pos	176.070	130.110	103.110	77.110		4.5	yes
indolelactate	pos	206.081	130.065	118.065			4.2	yes
Indoxyl sulfate	neg	212.002	132.370	80.160			3.5	yes
Kynurenic acid	pos	190.049	144.050	116.370	89.200		3.6	yes
kynurenine	pos	209.092	118.079	94.040			2.7	yes
methyltryptamine	pos	175.122	144.080	132.081			3.1	yes
quinolinic acid	pos	168.290	150.000	78.000			2.1	yes
serotonin	pos	177.102	160.076	132.045	115.033		2.5	yes
tryptamin	pos	161.107	144.081	117.070			3.1	yes
tryptophan	pos	205.097	118.200	115.040			3.3	yes
xanthurenic acid	pos	206.044	187.929	178.000	160.040	132.045	3.6	yes
formylanthranilate	pos	166.049	120.045	92.050			4.4	no
melatonin	pos	233.128	174.000	159.000			4.2	no
picolinic acid	pos	124.039	106.000	78.000			1.1	no

527 **Table S3. List of tryptophan metabolites.** Tryptophan metabolite transitions and feasibility of metabolite  
528 quantification after quality control assessment.

529 **Supplemental Table 4**

metabolite	Pearson <i>r</i>	<i>r</i> 95% CI	<i>p</i>
2-aminophenol	0.1947	-0.009411 to 0.3832	0.0615
3-OH-anthranilate	0.05611	-0.1493 to 0.2569	0.5932
3-OH-kynurenine	0.09001	-0.1158 to 0.2884	0.3909
3-indoleacetamide	0.1191	-0.08666 to 0.3152	0.2553
3-indoleacetonitril	-0.09953	-0.2972 to 0.1063	0.3425
3-OCH <sub>3</sub> -anthranilate	0.02602	-0.1786 to 0.2285	0.8044
5-OH-indoleacetate	0.1053	-0.1006 to 0.3025	0.3151
5-OH-tryptophan	-0.1727	-0.3636 to 0.03214	0.0978
5-OCH <sub>3</sub> -indoleacetate	0.1365	-0.06909 to 0.3310	0.1919
5-OCH <sub>3</sub> -tryptamine	0.00006924	-0.2036 to 0.2038	0.9995
6-OH-melatonin	0.04108	-0.1640 to 0.2428	0.6959
acetylserotonin	0.04112	-0.1640 to 0.2428	0.6956
anthranilate	-0.04752	-0.2488 to 0.1577	0.6511
formylkynurenine	0.3404	0.1469 to 0.5088	<b>0.0008</b>
indole	-0.06455	-0.2648 to 0.1410	0.5388
indole-3-carboxaldehyde	0.01108	-0.1931 to 0.2143	0.916
Indole-3-carboxylic acid	-0.02897	-0.2313 to 0.1758	0.7828
Indole-3-ethanol	-0.09695	-0.2948 to 0.1089	0.3553
Indole-3-methyl-acetate	-0.02045	-0.2232 to 0.1840	0.8458
Indole-3-propionic acid	0.06491	-0.1407 to 0.2651	0.5365
Indole-acetic acid	0.07679	-0.1289 to 0.2762	0.4644
indolelactate	0.0469	-0.1583 to 0.2482	0.6553
Indoxyl sulfate	0.2223	0.01952 to 0.4076	<b>0.0322</b>
Kynurenic acid	0.08015	-0.1256 to 0.2793	0.445
kynurenine	0.06012	-0.1454 to 0.2606	0.567
methyltryptamine	-0.07138	-0.2711 to 0.1343	0.4966
quinolinic acid	0.02665	-0.1780 to 0.2291	0.7998
serotonin	0.04442	-0.1607 to 0.2459	0.6724
tryptamin	-0.09526	-0.2933 to 0.1106	0.3637
tryptophan	-0.2368	-0.4203 to -0.03480	<b>0.0223</b>
xanthurenic acid	0.2638	0.06349 to 0.4437	<b>0.0106</b>

530 **Table S4. Tryptophan metabolite – endothelial EV correlation analyses.** Individual plasma tryptophan  
531 metabolites were correlated with plasma endothelial EV concentrations in the pediatric CKD cohort including  
532 healthy donors and CKD patients. Pearson correlations were performed and  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically  
533 significant (bold). N=93 (one biospecimen missing in the healthy group).

534 **Supplemental Table 5**

	<b>all</b>	<b>catheter</b>	<b>fistula</b>
<b>individuals (N)</b>	16	7	9
<b>age (years)</b>	60.4 ± 4.2	48.6 ± 3.4	69.7 ± 5.1
<b>female</b>	5 (31%)	3 (43%)	2 (22%)

535 **Table S5. Baseline clinical characteristics of the hemodialysis cohort.** 16 hemodialysis patients with vascular  
536 access either via either a central venous catheter or an arterio-venous fistula were enrolled to analyze the immediate  
537 effects of dialysis.

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