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The Ebola virus matrix protein clusters phosphatidylserine, a critical step in viral budding

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1 **Abstract**

2 Phosphatidylserine (PS) has been shown to be a critical lipid factor in the assembly
3 and spread of numerous lipid enveloped viruses. Here, we describe the ability of the Ebola
4 virus (EBOV) matrix protein eVP40 to induce clustering of PS and promote viral budding
5 *in vitro*, as well as the ability of an FDA approved drug, fendiline, to reduce PS clustering
6 subsequently reducing virus budding and entry. To gain mechanistic insight into fendiline
7 inhibition of EBOV replication, multiple *in vitro* assays were employed including imaging,
8 viral budding and viral entry assays. Fendiline reduced the PS content in mammalian cells
9 and PS in the plasma membrane, reducing the ability of VP40 to form new virus particles.
10 Further, particles that do form from fendiline treated cells have altered particle
11 morphology and decreased infectivity capacity. These complementary studies reveal the
12 mechanism by which filovirus matrix proteins cluster PS to enhance viral assembly,
13 budding, and spread from the host cell while also laying the groundwork for fundamental
14 drug targeting strategies.

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23 **Introduction**

24 Ebola virus (EBOV), which was first discovered in 1976[1,2], has been of much
25 concern recently due to an ongoing outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo as well
26 as the unprecedented 2014-16 outbreak in Western Africa. The FDA recently approved
27 an EBOV vaccine that shows efficacy when administered prior to virus exposure[3];
28 however, the duration and breadth of these recent outbreaks underscore that with an
29 increasingly interconnected world, the dangers of reoccurring outbreaks are increasingly
30 high and there is an imminent need to develop small molecule counter measures to treat
31 patients who test positive for EBOV and exhibit symptoms. Further, there is still a large
32 gap in knowledge in how EBOV hijacks host cell components to replicate and spread from
33 cell-to-cell, elucidation of which may identify new drug targets.

34 In the Filoviridae family, EBOV and Marburg virus (MARV) are two of the most
35 highly pathogenic viruses. EBOV and MARV are lipid enveloped negative-sense single
36 stranded RNA viruses[4,5]. One commonly overlooked characteristic of many pathogenic
37 viruses, including EBOV and MARV, is their lipid envelope, which is acquired from the
38 host cell they infect. Furthermore, lipid enveloped negative-strand RNA viruses possess
39 limited viral machinery, often encoding for just a handful of viral proteins. Amongst these
40 viral proteins is the multi-functional matrix protein. These matrix proteins, including the
41 VP40 protein of Ebola (eVP40) and Marburg (mVP40) viruses, are essential to efficient
42 viral assembly and egress. In fact, independent expression of eVP40 or mVP40 leads to
43 the production of virus-like particles (VLPs), nearly indistinguishable from infectious
44 virions[6–8]. Although these matrix proteins travel through different trafficking pathways
45 within cells, they coalesce at the plasma membrane (PM) to form the viral matrix, which

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46 directs viral assembly, budding and the acquisition of their characteristic lipid envelope[9–
47 13]. Importantly, phosphatidylserine (PS) has been implicated in recruiting matrix proteins
48 to the PM and coordinating the assembly of progeny virions[14–16].

49 While lipids play a critical role in assembly of progeny viral particles, lipids are also
50 actively involved in viral entry in a phenomenon known as “apoptotic mimicry”. Apoptotic
51 mimicry is central to the efficient entry of numerous lipid-enveloped viruses[17–19].
52 During apoptotic mimicry, PS is transferred from the inner to the outer leaflet of the PM;
53 this causes PS to become a component of the outer viral envelope during
54 infection[14,20,21]. Subsequently, the exposed PS in the viral envelope is recognized by
55 target cell receptors for viral uptake, continuing the viral lifecycle[18,22,23].

56 The two bilayers of the PM have varying compositions of four main phospholipid
57 classes asymmetrically distributed across the two bilayers[24,25]. However, the most
58 abundant anionic lipid within the inner leaflet of the PM is PS, a frequent participant in
59 peripheral protein recruitment[26]. Extensive work has looked at the dynamic nature of
60 lipids within the PM, including PS, and their tendency to cluster into domains several
61 hundred nanometers in size[15,27,28]. Clustering of anionic lipids into domains enriches
62 regions of the PM with anionic charge, creating a platform for electrostatic interactions at
63 the PM and cytosolic interface for peripheral protein recruitment. This phenomenon has
64 been reported between PS and the matrix protein of influenza A virus[15]. Although
65 significant work has underscored the importance of PS in filovirus budding and
66 entry[14,18,22,29–32], the molecular details of the interaction has not been explored in
67 the context of the lateral organization of PS, matrix assembly or implications on viral
68 spread.

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69 Recently, an FDA approved drug, fendiline, was reported to reduce PS levels
70 within the PM inner leaflet[33,34], which was sufficient to inhibit the oncogenic protein K-
71 Ras PM localization and signaling[34,35]. Fendiline was initially approved by the FDA in
72 the 1970s as a non-selective calcium channel blocker to treat coronary heart disease[36];
73 however, these recently identified off target properties were found to be calcium
74 independent and associated with the indirect inhibition of acid sphingomyelinase
75 (ASM)[33,34]. eVP40 and mVP40 have been shown to utilize PS for their PM localization,
76 assembly, and production of progeny virions; however, detailed molecular insight into this
77 relationship is lacking. To delineate the molecular architecture and requirements of PS
78 concentration on VP40 assembly, oligomerization and budding, we employed
79 biochemical and biophysical assays *in vitro* and in cells. We also tested the ability and
80 mechanism by which VP40 clusters PS *in vitro* and in cells. We hypothesized that
81 reduction of PS from the PM with fendiline treatment would perturb filovirus assembly and
82 inhibit viral budding. Lastly, fendiline treatment was tested as a potential therapy for
83 inhibition of EBOV budding and spread in biosafety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-4 models of
84 infection. Our results demonstrate that VP40 clusters PS, a critical requirement for viral
85 budding, spread and subsequent entry that can be inhibited with the FDA-approved drug
86 fendiline.

87

88 **Results**

89 **EBOV VP40 localizes to PS enriched regions in synthetic membranes and in living**
90 **cells**

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91 Previous work investigating the relationship between PS and eVP40 has been
92 limited to the transient expression of the PS probe, GFP-LactC2, and PS-deficient cell
93 lines[14,29]. The drawback to these techniques is the inability to capture PS and eVP40
94 localization simultaneously, as GFP-LactC2 and GFP-eVP40 compete for PS binding
95 within the PM. To overcome this limitation, we utilized a synthetic fluorescent analogue
96 of PS, TopFluor® TMR-PS (tetramethylrhodmaine-PS (TMR-PS)) which permits
97 visualization of PS and eVP40 localization and dynamics in real time in synthetic
98 membranes and in cells.

99 It was previously reported that eVP40 has selectivity and high affinity for PS and
100 PI(4,5)P₂, both *in vitro* and in cells[14,31,37–40]. To test if eVP40 colocalizes with PS, we
101 employed a TMR-PS labelled giant unilamellar vesicle (GUV) system with fluorescently
102 labelled His₆-eVP40. Because of their large size, GUVs are a reliable tool for fluorescence
103 analysis of lipid-protein interactions by confocal microscopy. To simultaneously image
104 eVP40 and PS localization, we generated an Alexa-488 conjugated His₆-eVP40 dimer
105 (eVP40-Alexa488) through conjugation of the fluorophore to two cysteine residues within
106 the dimer structure (positions 311 and 314) using a previously described protocol[41].
107 First, we tested the ability of conjugated eVP40 to bind control and anionic membranes
108 by incubating different GUVs with eVP40-Alexa488. Confocal microscopy was performed
109 and fluorescence plot profile analysis of both eVP40-Alexa488 and TMR-PS was
110 analyzed (Expanded View Fig. 1a-d). As expected, no significant overlap of fluorescence
111 signals was observed following incubation of eVP40-Alexa488 with control GUVs
112 (DPPC:Chol) (Expanded View Fig. 1a *left panel* & Expanded View Fig 1b). Furthermore,
113 the quantification of protein enrichment showed no eVP40 enrichment on this control

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114 membrane despite the presence of 0.2 % anionic fluorescent PS (enrichment index $1.0 \pm$
115 0.2 , Expanded View Fig. 1e). This result clearly supports previous data demonstrating
116 that eVP40 membrane binding is anionic lipid dose-dependent[14,31,39] requiring a level
117 of PS similar to that found at the PM inner leaflet.

118 In GUVs supplemented with DPPS, we observed a homogeneous ring structure of
119 eVP40-Alexa488 surrounding the GUV membrane (Expanded View Fig. 1a, *middle panel*)
120 and the plot profile analysis indicates a small overlap of the two fluorescent signals at the
121 GUV membrane (Expanded View Fig. 1c, indicated by the asterisk). However, the protein
122 enrichment at the GUV membrane does not indicate a significant increase in the amount
123 of Alexa488 fluorescence at the GUV membrane (enrichment index 1.4 ± 0.4 , Expanded
124 View Fig. 1e). These data indicate that the conjugated protein binds weakly to DPPS-
125 containing GUVs. To investigate further the ability of eVP40-Alexa488 to bind an anionic
126 membrane similar to the PM, similar analyses as above were performed on GUVs
127 containing both DPPS and PI(4,5)P₂ (Expanded View Fig. 1a *right panel*). The plot profile
128 analysis of the image in Supplementary Fig. 1a revealed a strong overlap between the
129 two fluorescence signals (eVP40 and TMR-PS) (Expanded View Fig. 1d). The protein
130 enrichment analysis also supported this previous observation with an enrichment index
131 of $\sim 5.4 \pm 2$, four times more than membranes devoid of PI(4,5)P₂ (Expanded View Fig.
132 1e). These data are in agreement with the previously published findings that eVP40
133 requires both anionic lipids for efficient membrane binding and oligomerization and
134 suggest eVP40 is able to enrich fluorescent PS at sites of VP40 oligomerization.

135 To expand upon our findings, we investigated if eVP40 localizes to PS enriched
136 regions within living cells. PS can be exogenously added to media of cells and within

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137 minutes it will be incorporated into the inner leaflet of the PM as a result of PS flippases,
138 which are widely expressed in mammalian cells and rapidly translocate PS from the outer
139 to the inner leaflet of the PM[42]. To visualize PS and protein localization simultaneously,
140 we transiently expressed EGFP-fused proteins in HEK293 cells and supplemented the
141 cells with TMR-PS immediately prior to imaging (Expanded View Fig. 2a). Plot profile
142 analysis of the fluorescence intensities for both EGFP and TMR-PS was performed
143 (Expanded View Fig. 2b-f). To first verify our experimental setup, monomeric EGFP or
144 EGFP-LactC2 were expressed in HEK293 cells. Plot profile analysis comparing the EGFP
145 vs. TMR-PS signals revealed almost no overlap of the fluorophores, as EGFP was
146 primarily cytosolic (Expanded View Fig. 2a,b). Additionally, the plot profile analysis of the
147 EGFP-LactC2 vs. TMR-PS signals showed strong overlap of these two fluorophores
148 (Expanded View Fig. 2a,c). These results confirmed that TMR-PS was specifically
149 localized to the PM and was detectable by a peripheral protein with PS specificity.

150 To test the hypothesis that eVP40 localizes to PS enriched regions of the PM, we
151 next examined the plot profile analysis of TMR-PS and eVP40 by expressing functionally
152 unique EGFP fused eVP40 proteins: WT-eVP40, K224A-eVP40 (a PS-binding residue
153 mutant[31]), and WE/A-eVP40 (oligomerization deficient mutant[43]). The fluorescence
154 profile of EGFP-WT-eVP40 vs. TMR-PS revealed a strong overlap between the two
155 fluorophores (Expanded View Fig. 2a,d). This cellular data corroborates our *in vitro* data,
156 demonstrating that EGFP-eVP40 localizes to PS enriched regions of both model
157 membranes and in the PM of cells. Additionally, there was no significant fluorescence
158 signal overlap between the EGFP-K224A-eVP40 mutant and TMR-PS (Expanded View
159 Fig. 2a,e) which supports the requirement for PS binding for PM localization of eVP40[31].

160 Importantly, plot profile analysis revealed a moderate overlap in the fluorescence signals
161 of the oligomerization deficient mutant WE/A-eVP40 and TMR-PS (Expanded View Fig.
162 2a,f). This is important to note as this protein is still able to interact with PS at the PM,
163 however, is unable to properly oligomerize[43,44]. These results suggest that VP40
164 interacts with PS at the PM inner leaflet as a dimer without significant oligomerization, in
165 line with VP40 *in vitro* lipid-binding[31].

166

167 **EBOV-VP40 enhances clustering of PS in synthetic membranes and in living cells**

168 The proper localization and function of numerous peripheral proteins are
169 dependent on the presence of PS in the inner leaflet[45–47]. Biophysical and molecular
170 studies into PS dynamics in both model membranes and in living cells revealed that PS
171 basally distributes into clustered domains enriched with PS[15,27,28]. Interestingly,
172 cellular proteins such as Annexins are known to significantly enhance the clustering of
173 PS[48] and viral proteins such as M1 of Influenza A virus have a selectivity for these PS
174 clusters[15]. However, detailed examination of PS clustering and whether filovirus matrix
175 proteins such as eVP40 alter the organization of PS has not yet been explored.

176 To quantitatively investigate how eVP40 affects PS clustering *in vitro*, we
177 investigated TMR-PS labelled PS:PI(4,5)P₂ GUVs incubated with eVP40-Alexa488 using
178 confocal microscopy. Confocal 3D reconstruction of GUVs (with DPPS and PI(4,5)P₂) in
179 the absence of protein indicates a homogeneous distribution of TMR-PS across the
180 section of the GUV membrane (Fig. 1a; *left column*). However, after incubation with 1.25
181 μ M of eVP40:eVP40-Alexa488 (9:1 ratio), different structures of TMR-PS clusters are
182 clearly observed where eVP40-Alexa488 fluorescence is enriched (Fig. 1a, *three right*

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183 *columns*). Furthermore, the Mander's coefficient index of correlation was quantified
184 between the TMR-PS and eVP40-Alexa488 fluorescence signals of GUVs with varying
185 lipid compositions (Fig. 1b). The index of correlation revealed no correlation between PS
186 and eVP40 when anionic lipids were not abundant (DPPC:Chol:TMR-PS). Conversely, a
187 notable increase in PS clustering was detected when eVP40-Alexa488 was incubated
188 with DPPS GUVs (Fig. 1b; $p=0.0544$). Furthermore, a statistically significant increase in
189 PS clustering was detected when eVP40-Alexa488 was incubated with GUVs containing
190 both DPPS and PI(4,5)P₂ (Fig. 1b; $*p<0.0001$). These results suggest that eVP40 induces
191 PS clustering *in vitro*, which is significantly enhanced in the presence of both PS and
192 PI(4,5)P₂, akin to the lipid composition typically found in the PM inner leaflet.

193 Next, we were interested to determine if eVP40 was able to induce PS clustering
194 in synthetic membranes in the absence of PI(4,5)P₂. Therefore, we performed a TMR
195 self-quenching experiment as described previously[49,50]. The TMR fluorescent group
196 has potent self-quenching properties when two molecules or more are brought to close
197 distance from each other. Because of the low molar ratio of TMR-PS (0.2%) used in this
198 assay, self-quenching is expected to be minimal in the absence of induced PS-clustering.
199 We tested the ability of eVP40 to undergo TMR self-quenching when fluorescent PS was
200 incorporated in lipid vesicles, as a secondary effect to eVP40-induced PS-clustering. We
201 also tested different eVP40 concentrations and different PS ratios to investigate if TMR
202 self-quenching was concentration dependent. The strongest TMR self-quenching in all
203 membranes was observed at 1.5 μ M eVP40 (Fig. 1c). As expected, higher PS molar ratios
204 resulted in stronger eVP40 induction of TMR self-quenching except for a high molar ratio
205 of DPPS (60% molar ratio). However, the addition of PI(4,5)P₂ at 2.5% molar ratio to 60%

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206 DPPS-containing membranes rescued TMR self-quenching similarly to 40% DPPS-
207 containing membranes. Further, DPPS-containing membranes at 60% molar ratio with or
208 without PI(4,5)P₂ displayed a maximum of TMR-PS self-quenching at 2 μM eVP40. These
209 observations may indicate a saturation of the liposome membranes with eVP40 at high
210 PS concentrations. Altogether, this assay demonstrated that eVP40 is able to cluster PS,
211 which is enhanced in the presence of PI(4,5)P₂.

212 We next examined if eVP40 enhanced PS clustering in the PM of living cells. We
213 first expressed monomeric EGFP in HEK293 cells supplemented with TMR-PS and
214 examined the ability of confocal microscopy to detect PS clusters (Fig. 1d *top panel*, Fig.
215 1e). As previously mentioned, PS selectively localizes into clustered regions[15,27,28];
216 therefore, a basal degree of PS clustering should be observed. We developed a custom
217 ImageJ macro to perform a moments-based thresholding analysis to identify regions of
218 the PM with enriched PS content (Expanded View Fig. 3a). From there, we quantified the
219 total area of these identified clusters as a percentage of the entire PM area. Through this
220 analysis we were able to detect a basal level of PS enriched clusters in our control GFP
221 expressing cells, with PS clusters accounting for approximately ~8% of the PM (Fig. 1d
222 *top panel* and Fig. 1e). Our method was further validated by expressing an additional
223 control protein with a glycosylphosphatidylinositol membrane anchor conjugated to GFP
224 (GFP-GPI) in HEK293 cells supplemented with TMR-PS, which revealed PS clusters in
225 ~8% of the PM area (Fig. 1e; Representative image available in Expanded View Fig. 3b
226 *top panel*).

227 We next sought to determine if our technique accurately captured enhanced PS
228 clustering, therefore, we expressed EGFP-Annexin A2 in HEK293 cells. Annexin A2 has

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229 been shown to enhance the clustering of PS in a calcium dependent manner[48].
230 Therefore, in EGFP-Annexin A2 expressing cells, supplementation with TMR-PS was
231 preceded with supplementing the cellular media with 10 mM calcium and 5 μ M of the
232 calcium ionophore ionomycin. As shown in Fig. 1d&e, expression of EGFP-Annexin A2
233 in cells significantly enhanced PS clustering roughly 2-fold, compared to EGFP
234 expressing cells (**p=0.0001). Taken together, these findings corroborate the previously
235 reported effect of Annexin A2 on PS organization, as well as validate the method
236 developed for our assay.

237 To further examine the selectivity of PS clustering for lipid-binding proteins that
238 localize to the PM inner leaflet, we expressed EGFP-PLC δ -PH and EGFP-LactC2 in
239 HEK293 cells supplemented with TMR-PS (Representative images available in
240 Expanded View Fig. 3b, *middle & bottom panel*). EGFP-PLC δ -PH binds specifically to
241 PI(4,5)P₂, another critical component of many virus assembly processes, including
242 filoviral assembly[39]. Again, EGFP-LactC2 specifically and reversibly binds to PS. As
243 expected, expression of neither EGFP-PLC δ -PH or EGFP-LactC2 significantly altered the
244 extent of PS clustering (Fig. 1e). This confirms that transient expression of fluorescently
245 conjugated lipid-binding proteins is not sufficient to enhance PS clustering at the PM.

246 Finally, we evaluated the effect of eVP40 expression on PS organization across
247 the PM. We independently expressed three functionally distinct EGFP fused eVP40
248 constructs: WT-eVP40, K224A-eVP40, and WE/A-eVP40 and supplemented the cells
249 with TMR-PS prior to imaging. Strikingly, expression of EGFP-WT-eVP40 increased PS
250 clustering by ~2 fold (*p=0.004), similar to the PS clustering observed with Annexin A2
251 expression (Fig. 1d,e). However, expression of the PS-binding deficient mutant EGFP-

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252 K224A-eVP40 showed no significant change in PS clustering (Fig. 1d,e), supporting the
253 hypothesis that eVP40 must interact with PS to promote its clustering at the PM.
254 Additionally, to investigate if eVP40 matrix oligomerization was important for PS
255 clustering, we expressed EGFP-WE/A-eVP40 in HEK293 cells. It is important to note that
256 this mutant still colocalizes with PS at the PM (Expanded View Fig. 2a,f) albeit to a lesser
257 extent than WT[43]. Although the WE/A-eVP40 and PS interaction is maintained in cells,
258 no significant increase in PS clustering was observed (Fig. 1d,e). To the best of our
259 knowledge, this is the first account of a filovirus matrix protein modulating the organization
260 of PS within the PM. Moreover, these results demonstrate that both membrane binding
261 and oligomerization of eVP40 is central to eVP40-mediated PS clustering.

262

263 **eVP40 membrane binding and oligomerization are dependent on** 264 **phosphatidylserine content in lipid membranes**

265 As eVP40 binds to PS through electrostatic and stereospecific interactions
266 [14,31,37], we hypothesized eVP40 may require PS clustering for productive interactions
267 at the PM during assembly. Enrichment of PS within regions of the PM would provide
268 additional PS molecules available to recruit eVP40 to platforms of viral budding. To
269 investigate how increasing the amount of PS within membranes dictates eVP40
270 membrane affinity, surface plasmon resonance (SPR) was performed with His₆-eVP40
271 and large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) with increasing concentrations of PS (from 1% to
272 22 mol% PS; Fig. 2a-c). eVP40 displayed moderate binding to LUVs with 1% PS, with an
273 apparent affinity of 2.5 μ M (Fig. 2a). However, increasing the concentration of PS to 11%
274 increased the apparent affinity of eVP40 to 0.65 μ M (Fig. 2b). eVP40 displayed even

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275 stronger affinity to vesicles with 22% PS, with an apparent affinity of $\sim 0.18 \mu\text{M}$ (Fig. 2c).
276 These results indicate that by increasing the amount of PS in membranes, the affinity of
277 eVP40 to lipid membranes can be modulated. This finding supports the hypothesis that
278 PS clustering may be a mechanism for the virus to provide the necessary electrostatic
279 contacts needed for matrix assembly during viral production.

280 Once at the PM, VP40 oligomerizes into the extensive matrix that gives rise to the
281 stability and structure of the virion. Previously, Adu-Gyamfi *et al.* (2015) highlighted the
282 importance of PS in this process, where a cell line deficient in PS synthesis showed a
283 significant reduction in eVP40 oligomerization at the PM. Moreover, our confocal
284 clustering data (Fig. 1d,e) revealed that eVP40 oligomerization is crucial for modulating
285 PS organization into clustered domains. To investigate how increasing PS concentration
286 alters eVP40 oligomerization, we utilized chemical crosslinking of His₆-eVP40 which had
287 been incubated with LUVs of increasing PS concentration (Fig. 2d,e). We found that when
288 eVP40 is incubated with LUVs that contain 0% PS, no detectable higher order structures
289 of eVP40 are found (Fig. 2d *lane 1*, Fig. 1e). However, by introducing 15% PS into LUVs,
290 the extent of eVP40 oligomerization beyond dimeric eVP40 is significantly higher than
291 when 0% PS LUVs are used (Fig. 2d *lane 2*, Fig. 1e). We next tested LUVs containing
292 30% and 60% PS and found that eVP40 oligomerization was even more significantly
293 detected than when just 15% PS was used (Fig. 2d *lane 3 and lane 4, respectively*, Fig.
294 1e). Compared to LUVs with 0% PS, both 30% PS and 60% led to a significant increase
295 in eVP40 oligomerization (* $p=0.021$ and * $p=0.017$, respectively). Further, eVP40
296 oligomerization appeared to saturate when 30% PS was included, as increasing PS
297 content to 60% did not increase eVP40 oligomerization (compared to 30% PS). Taken

298 together, these studies suggest a dynamic relationship between PS clustering and eVP40
299 affinity and oligomerization as a critical step in eVP40 viral assembly.

300

301 **Total cellular and plasma membrane levels of phosphatidylserine are reduced by**
302 **fendiline treatment**

303 A recent study reported an FDA-approved drug, fendiline, inhibited K-Ras PM
304 localization and signaling[35] and reduced PM PS content in MDCK cells[33]. Therefore,
305 it was our goal to determine if fendiline could also reduce PS levels in the human cell line
306 HEK293, a cell line commonly used in BSL-2 filovirus studies, and subsequently inhibit
307 virus spread. The initial finding that fendiline reduced PS levels within the PM (40%
308 reduction, $IC_{50} \sim 3\mu M$) was conducted in MDCK cells using thin-layer chromatography[33],
309 therefore it had not been established if this effect was cell-type specific. To address this,
310 we first established fendiline's toxicity in HEK293 cells. After 24 and 48 hours of treatment,
311 no significant toxicity was observed in treatments up to 5 μM fendiline (Expanded View
312 Fig. 4a). Next, to evaluate the effect of fendiline on PS in HEK293 cells, cells were treated
313 with fendiline for 48 hours, harvested, and lipids were extracted and quantified by liquid
314 chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). We observed a significant
315 reduction in cellular PS levels compared to DMSO treated cells, after 48 hour treatment
316 with 1 μM fendiline ($\sim 18\%$ reduction; $*p=0.012$) and 5 μM fendiline ($\sim 30\%$ reduction;
317 $***p=0.0003$)(Fig. 3a). Fendiline exhibited no selectivity in reducing different PS species,
318 as 5 μM fendiline reduced long chain ($C>38$) and saturated PS species nearly equally
319 (Expanded View Fig. 4b). It is important to note that the effect of fendiline on PS was
320 specific in that fendiline treatment had no significant effect on another anionic

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321 phospholipid, phosphatidic acid (Expanded View Fig. 4c). Therefore, our data supports
322 the reported finding that fendiline reduced total cellular levels of PS, and that the effect is
323 not cell dependent.

324 As PS is an integral anionic component of the PM inner leaflet, we sought to
325 confirm that fendiline treatment also reduced PS levels within the PM in HEK293 cells.
326 PS localization within the PM has been readily studied by expressing EGFP-LactC2 in
327 mammalian cells[42,51]. Therefore, HEK293 cells expressing EGFP-LactC2 were
328 imaged at 24 hours (representative images in Expanded View Fig. 4d) and 48 hours
329 (representative images in Fig. 3b) post-treatment with increasing concentrations of
330 fendiline. Single doses of 500 nM fendiline had no effect on EGFP-LactC2 PM localization
331 at 24 or 48 hours post treatment (Expanded View Fig. 4e and Fig. 3c, respectively).
332 However, we found a ~30% reduction in PM EGFP-LactC2 localization after 24 hours of
333 treatment for both 1 μ M (**p=0.0003) and 5 μ M fendiline (**p=0.0045) (Expanded View
334 Fig. 1e). However, a single dose of 1 μ M fendiline treatment did not significantly affect
335 Lact-C2 PM localization after 48 hours of treatment (Fig. 3c). Conversely, a single dose
336 of 5 μ M fendiline significantly reduced Lact-C2 PM localization even at 48 hours post
337 treatment (~30% reduction; **p=0.0031; Fig. 3c), a reduction similar to that observed at
338 24 hours post treatment. These finding corroborate Cho *et al.* (2015) where reduction of
339 PS levels by fendiline at the PM were slow acting but could be sustained with 5 μ M
340 treatment after 48 hours[33] and were also consistent with our LC-MS/MS analysis (Fig.
341 3a).

342

343 **Fendiline reduces PS clustering**

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344 Next, we hypothesized that reduced levels of PS within the PM would therefore
345 reduce the degree of PS clustering. To determine if fendiline treatment reduced the
346 degree of PS clustering, we utilized the Number & Brightness technique (N&B). N&B is a
347 quantitative fluorescence microscopy technique that allows one to detect the aggregation
348 state of proteins with pixel resolution in real time within living cells[52]. Previously, N&B
349 was used to quantify PS clustering by analyzing the N&B profile of EGFP-LactC2[15]. To
350 accurately capture PS clustering at the PM, imaging was performed at a focal plane near
351 the cell surface. Importantly, HEK293 cells expressing monomeric EGFP were imaged
352 and quantified to establish the experimental brightness value for a monomeric
353 aggregation state (Expanded View Fig. 4f).

354 To evaluate PS clustering, HEK293 cells expressing EGFP-LactC2 were treated
355 with the control or fendiline for 48 hours and the EGFP-LactC2 N&B profile was examined
356 (Fig. 3d,e). Three different cluster bin sizes were examined, 1—5, 5-10 and >10. The
357 average percentage of pixels in each bin was calculated and plotted (Fig. 3e). Within
358 control-treated cells, significant aggregation of EGFP-LactC2 was observed, with 25%
359 present in complexes of 5-10 LactC2 molecules and ~10% in complexes of >10 LactC2
360 molecules (Fig. 3d *top panel* and Fig. 3e). This corroborates previous work investigating
361 PS clustering, which found EGFP-LactC2 clusters up to 15 molecules in size[15].
362 Treatment of cells with 1 μ M fendiline led to no significant change in PS clustering (Fig.
363 3d *middle panel* and Fig. 3e) which was expected as 1 μ M fendiline had no significant
364 effect on EGFP-LactC2 PM localization at 48 hours (Fig. 3b,c). Strikingly, 5 μ M fendiline
365 treatment abolished the presence of EGFP-LactC2 complexes >10 molecules and
366 significantly reduced the number of complexes of 5-10 LactC2 molecules large (from ~8%

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367 in DMSO to ~0% in 5 μ M fendiline; ** $p=0.0043$) (Fig. 3d *bottom panel* and Fig. 3e).
368 Moreover, there was a significant (~23%) increase in EGFP-LactC2 complexes of ~1-5
369 molecules in size in cells treated with 5 μ M fendiline compared to control treated cells
370 (**** $p<0.0001$) (Fig. 3d *bottom panel* and Fig. 3e). Taken together, this data suggests that
371 fendiline treatment disrupted large PS-dependent LactC2 complexes which was
372 compensated by an increase in smaller PS-dependent complexes. Therefore, fendiline
373 may possess antiviral properties by disassembling PS enriched regions that would
374 otherwise have been used as platforms for viral assembly.

375

376 **Fendiline significantly inhibits authentic EBOV and MARV replication**

377 Recent studies have implicated PS as an essential component of the budding
378 [14,43] and entry[22,23] of filovirus VLPs and authentic virions. To determine if the FDA-
379 approved drug fendiline was able to inhibit authentic filovirus replication and spread, we
380 first established the toxicity of fendiline in Vero E6 cells (Expanded View Fig. 5a) and then
381 monitored the efficacy of fendiline at inhibiting EBOV and MARV replication in a BSL-4
382 setting. Vero E6 cells, an established model for BSL-4 filovirus studies[53], were used to
383 examine filovirus replication 48, 72 and 96-hours post-infection at different multiplicity of
384 infection (MOI). Several different dosing regimens were designed to account for the slow
385 response of fendiline in lowering cellular PS levels. The toxicity of fendiline in Vero E6
386 cells was first established using treatment schedules that would directly mirror treatment
387 schedules in the filovirus infection model. As can be seen in Expanded View Fig. 5a,
388 minimal toxicity was observed compared to the vehicle (even at the highest treatment
389 group of 20 μ M). Therefore, we proceeded with the filovirus infection model using

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390 treatments of fendiline up to 20 μ M. Cell treatment groups included increasing
391 concentrations of fendiline (2.5 μ M, 5 μ M, 10 μ M, and 20 μ M) that were added to cell
392 culture 24-hours prior to infection. An equivalent percent concentration of DMSO in
393 culture media served as the vehicle control. Following removal of pretreatment
394 compound, cells were then inoculated with either EBOV (Kikwit) or MARV (Ci67) at a
395 multiplicity of infection MOI of 0.1 or 1.0, and incubated for 1 hour at 37C in 5% CO₂, in
396 a BSL-4 laboratory located at USAMRIID. Following infection, plates were separated into
397 three post-infection treatment groups (day 0, every day dosing, or every other day
398 dosing). In order to quantify viral replication, at 48 hours (MOI=1.0), 72 or 96 hours
399 (MOI=0.1) post-infection, cells were washed and submerged in 10% neutral buffered
400 formalin 24 hours prior to removal from the BSL-4 laboratory. Using virus specific
401 antibodies to the glycoprotein (GP), cells were then imaged (Fig. 4a,e) and the percent of
402 virus infected cells calculated using a high content imaging system (Fig. b-d, f-h).

403 Fendiline was most effective at reducing EBOV and MARV infection *in vitro* at the
404 highest 20 μ M concentrations in each treatment group with statistically significant
405 inhibition observed for both EBOV and MARV at each time point and each treatment
406 group (excluding EBOV 48 hours, e.d.)(**** $p < 0.0001$, ** $p < 0.0066$). Percent inhibition was
407 directly affected by timing of treatments following infection. Furthermore, both EBOV and
408 MARV treatment with fendiline e.d. had the highest inhibition on viral spread at each time
409 point for 20 μ M fendiline treatments. Cells of the e.o.d. treatments group, which did not
410 receive treatment immediately following infection with virus, had a dramatically reduced
411 degree of inhibition as compared to the day 0 and e.d. treatment groups, both of which
412 received fendiline immediately following viral infection of one hour.

413

414 **Fendiline reduced EBOV-VP40 but not MARV-VP40 localization to the plasma**
415 **membrane**

416 As both EBOV and MARV-VP40 assembly at the PM is in part governed by PS,
417 we first analyzed both EGFP-eVP40 and EGFP-mVP40 PM localization in cells treated
418 with fendiline for 24 or 48 hours. Treatment with 1 μ M and 5 μ M fendiline had no significant
419 effect on eVP40 PM at 24 hours post treatment (Expanded View Fig. 5b,c); therefore,
420 EGFP-mVP40 PM localization was not assessed at 24 hours. Surprisingly, no significant
421 change in EGFP-mVP40 PM localization was observed after 48 hours with either 1 μ M or
422 5 μ M fendiline treatment (Fig. 4a *bottom panel* and Fig. 4b); therefore, mVP40 was
423 excluded from further experiments. In agreement with our results thus far, 1 μ M fendiline
424 did not significantly inhibit EGFP-eVP40 PM localization after 48 hours of treatment (Fig.
425 5a *top panel* and Fig.5 c). However, treatment with 5 μ M fendiline for 48 hours led to a
426 modest reduction in EGFP-eVP40 PM localization (~6% reduction compared to control
427 treated cells; **not significant as** $p=0.08$) (Fig. 5a *top panel* and Fig. 5c). However, the
428 reduction of eVP40 PM localization was not robust enough to lead to the observed
429 inhibition of EBOV by fendiline treatment in our BSL-4 studies (Fig. 4). One possible
430 explanation is that a limitation of this technique is the inability to differentiate the extent of
431 VP40 oligomerization occurring using basic confocal microscopy. Therefore, it is possible
432 that fendiline reduced PS levels within the PM, but not significantly enough to block
433 VP40's ability to bind to the PM.

434

435 **VP40 oligomerization is significantly reduced by fendiline treatment**

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436 PS is also a key factor promoting the self-assembly of VP40 into the matrix layer
437 of the budding virion[14,43]. This self-assembly process has been highlighted in our *in*
438 *vitro* crosslinking data (Fig. 2d,e) as well as previously reported in live cells utilizing the
439 N&B technique[43]. To assess how fendiline impacted eVP40 oligomerization in cells, we
440 examined the oligomerization profile of EGFP-eVP40 using the previously described
441 N&B[39,43] (Fig. 5d,e). To accurately capture oligomerization at the PM, imaging was
442 performed at a focal plane at the top of the cell. HEK293 cells expressing monomeric
443 EGFP were imaged and quantified to calculate the experimental brightness value for a
444 monomer (Expanded View Fig. 4f). The crystal structure and biochemical analysis of
445 eVP40 suggests eVP40 binds to the PM as a dimer, subsequently oligomerizes into larger
446 oligomers such as a hexamer, and these hexamers are building blocks for extensive
447 filamentous formation [11]. Therefore, for our data to coincide with the current models of
448 eVP40 oligomerization, EGFP-eVP40 oligomers were grouped into bins based on
449 multiples of the hexamer (i.e. monomer-hexamer, hexamer-12mer, 12mer-18mer, and
450 >18mer). The average percentage of pixels in each bin was calculated and plotted for
451 HEK293 cells expressing EGFP-eVP40 and treated with either the control or indicated
452 concentration of fendiline for 48 hrs (Fig. 5e).

453 Large eVP40 oligomeric structures corresponding to each bin size were readily
454 detectable at the PM in control treated cells (Fig. 5d *top panel* and Fig. 5e), with ~72% of
455 eVP40 found as a monomer-hexamer, ~16% as a hexamer-12mer, ~8% as a 12mer-
456 18mer, and 3% in complexes >18mer. Treatment with 1 μ M fendiline led to a ~8%
457 increase in monomeric-hexameric eVP40, and small decreases in the larger oligomeric
458 structures, although no changes were statistically significant (Fig. 5d *middle panel* and

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459 Fig. 5e). However, the oligomeric profile of eVP40 was statistically different when cells
460 were treated with 5 μ M fendiline. Following 5 μ M fendiline treatment, there was a
461 significant increase in eVP40 found in the monomeric-hexameric state (~13% increase;
462 ** $p=0.0035$) which was counterbalanced by an equal reduction in the larger oligomeric
463 states (~6% reduction for hexamer-12mer, 5% reduction for 12mer-18mer, and ~3%
464 reduction for eVP40 structures >18mer) (Fig. 5d *bottom panel* and Fig. 5e). These results
465 support our hypothesis that by reducing PS concentration and therefore the pool of PS
466 available for clustering, eVP40 is unable to properly oligomerize once it traffics and binds
467 to the PM. This, in combination with the modest reduction in eVP40 PM binding following
468 fendiline treatment, may therefore impact the production of viral particles as suggested
469 from our BSL-4 studies.

470

471 **Fendiline reduced VLP production at the plasma membrane**

472 As fendiline reduced VP40 oligomerization, we sought to determine the effect of
473 fendiline treatment on VLP production using functional budding assays. VLPs were
474 harvested at 24 (Fig. 6a,b) and 48 hours (Fig. 6c,d) post-treatment and the relative
475 budding index was determined with western blotting and densitometry analysis. No
476 significant effect on VLP production was observed for cells treated with 0.5 μ M or 1 μ M
477 fendiline at either 24 (Fig. 6a *lane 3,4* and Fig. 6b) or 48 hours post-treatment (Fig. 6c
478 *lanes 3,4* and Fig. 6d). However, treatment with one dose of 5 μ M fendiline for 24 hours
479 led to a ~25% reduction in VLP production (Fig. 6a *lane 5* and Fig. 6b) compared to DMSO
480 treated cells (Fig. 6a *lane 2* and Fig. 6b). More importantly, this reduction in VLP
481 production was even more robust when monitored at 48 hours post-treatment, with a

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482 statistically significant ~60% reduction in the relative budding efficiency of 5 μ M fendiline
483 treated cells (*p=0.0260) (Fig. 6c *lane 5* and Fig. 6d) compared to DMSO treated cells
484 (Fig. 6c *lane 2* and Fig. 6d). The reduction in VLPs is supported by our previous findings
485 that a single dose of 5 μ M fendiline reduced PS levels, PS clustering and the extent of
486 eVP40 oligomerization at the PM. Therefore, we hypothesize that reduced virus budding
487 is at least partially responsible for fendiline efficacy in authentic EBOV studies (Fig. 4).

488 To further investigate the reduction of VLP production in fendiline treated cells, and
489 to determine if there were any observable morphological changes in VLPs, scanning
490 electron microscopy (SEM) experiments were performed on mock transfected cells (Fig.
491 6e) and cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 (Fig. 6f). Cells were treated with either the control,
492 1 μ M or 5 μ M fendiline for 48 hours. SEM revealed the presence of filamentous
493 protrusions from the PM of mock transfected cells in untreated and control treated cells
494 (Fig. 6e). In both control and fendiline treated cells expressing FLAG-eVP40, a dense
495 filamentous protrusion population was observed at the surface of cells, indicating
496 abundant VLP production (Fig. 6f). This extensive budding of VLPs was present in
497 untreated, DMSO treated, and 1 μ M fendiline treated cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 (Fig.
498 6f). Importantly, micrographs of cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 and treated with 5 μ M
499 fendiline revealed minimal VLP production at the PM compared to control treated cells
500 (Fig. 6f). These findings support the hypothesis that fendiline treatment considerably
501 reduces the production of VLPs in eVP40 expressing cells.

502

503 **VLP morphology is altered by fendiline treatment**

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504 The structure and stability of filoviruses is derived from the VP40 matrix underlying
505 the lipid envelope of virions. Therefore, we utilized transmission electron microscopy
506 (TEM) of purified VLPs to determine if disturbing matrix assembly and altering the lipid
507 components of the PM with fendiline treatment changed VLP morphology and possibly
508 infectivity (Fig. 7a-c). During filoviral entry, surface exposed GP and viral envelope PS
509 interact with the receptor T-cell immunoglobulin receptor-1[18,22] (TIM-1). To recapitulate
510 entry-competent VLPs (eVLPs), we co-expressed eVP40 with the Ebola virus
511 glycoprotein (eGP). We performed TEM of eVLPs purified from control and 5 μ M fendiline
512 treated cells (48-hour treatment) and used ImageJ software to analyze VLP length and
513 diameter (Fig. 7a-c). Control eVLPs were heterogenous in length with a mean length of
514 4.1 μ m \pm 2.9 (Fig. 7a *left panel* and Fig. 7b). Control eVLPs diameter also exhibited a
515 level of heterogeneity but had a fairly consistent diameter of 75 nm \pm 12.9, which is similar
516 to previous studies of both virions and VLPs[2,7] (Fig. 7a *left panel* and Fig. 7c). The
517 length and diameter of eVLPs derived from 5 μ M fendiline treated cells were significantly
518 less than control eVLPs. Strikingly, fendiline treatment reduced eVLP length by ~35%,
519 from 4.1 μ m to 2.7 μ m (*p=0.0139) (Fig. 7a *right panel* and Fig. 7b) and modestly but
520 statistically significantly reduced eVLP diameter (*p=0.043) (Fig. 7a *right panel* and Fig.
521 7c). To ensure that eVLPs derived from fendiline treated cells were not more susceptible
522 to damage during the purification, circular dichroism thermal melting was performed and
523 no difference in eVLP stability was observed (Expanded View Fig. 6). Reduced eVLP
524 length and diameter could translate into reduced infectivity (e.g., less PS and less surface
525 area and membrane available to bind TIM-1), therefore we next sought to determine the
526 effect of fendiline on eVLP entry.

527

528 **Fendiline blocks EBOV eVLP entry**

529 A common characteristic of viral infectivity is the relationship between virion
530 associated PS and the TIM-1 receptor on target cells[18,22,23,54,55]. Moreover, it has
531 been previously reported that other ASM inhibitors blocked EBOV infectivity[56]. To
532 determine if fendiline treatment reduced the entry of eVLPs, we performed a fluorescent
533 based entry assay using 1,1'-dioctadecyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethylindocarbocyanine
534 perchlorate (DiI) labelled eVLPs[20,57,58]. DiI labelled eVLPs were derived from cells
535 treated with either control or 5 μ M fendiline. By testing entry of eVLPs derived from
536 fendiline treated cells rather than the entry of eVLPs on fendiline treated cells, we were
537 able to determine how fendiline treatment affected eVLP entry rather than how inhibition
538 of ASM in target cells affected eVLP entry (as previously described[56]). In brief, eVLPs
539 derived from both control and fendiline treated cells were purified and labelled with DiI,
540 incubated with target cells overexpressing increasing amounts of TIM-1, and the DiI signal
541 was imaged using confocal microscopy (Representative images in Fig. 7d). If entry of the
542 eVLPs was not altered by fendiline treatment, one would expect a dose-dependent
543 increase in infectivity with increasing TIM-1 expression. Conversely, if eVLP entry was
544 inhibited by fendiline treatment, a dose-dependent increase in eVLP entry would not be
545 observed with increasing TIM-1 expression.

546 For all VLPs, non-specific entry was observed for target cells lacking TIM-1
547 overexpression (~1.7-1.9 DiI/infected cell, Fig. 7d *left panel* and Fig. 7e). This was not
548 unexpected, as normal endocytic processes were not inhibited in these experimental
549 conditions. However, as TIM-1 overexpression increased in target cells, a detectable and

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550 significant dose-dependent increase in control eVLP entry was observed, by more than
551 200% in the highest TIM-1 overexpressing cells (compared to no TIM-1 overexpression;
552 Fig. 7d *top panel* and Fig. 7e). Remarkably, no measurable increase in eVLP entry was
553 observed for fendiline derived-VLPs across any of the TIM-1 overexpressing target cell
554 conditions (Fig. 7d *bottom panel* and 7e). From this comparison, these results suggest
555 that the impaired entry of fendiline eVLPs is a result of reduced PS in the viral envelope,
556 either from smaller VLPs or a lower % of PS content. These findings in combination with
557 the observed reduction in VLP formation further substantiate the significant reduction of
558 EBOV infection observed in our live virus studies following fendiline treatment.

559

560 **Mathematical model of *in vitro* experiments**

561 We next used a mathematical model to predict how the effects of fendiline on both
562 viral budding and entry combine to produce the observed effects in the BSL-4 assays.
563 We calibrate our mathematical model (equations 1-3) to experimental data from the
564 budding, entry and cellular infection assays using approaches and parameter settings
565 outlined in the methods and Table 1. Results from our two-phase calibration procedure
566 are shown in fig. 8a-f and Expanded View fig. 7. The model captures key features of the
567 data including a progressive increase in percentage of infected cells over time,
568 differences between MOI as well as limited cell death in the first 48 hours of the
569 experiment (Expanded View Fig. 7).

570 The dynamics behind these calibrated figures suggested that fendiline treatment
571 significantly delayed the infection process (Fig. 8g,h), resulting in the observed decrease
572 in percent infected cells with treatment over 4 days. The effects of fendiline on budding

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573 and entry are estimated to have similar pharmacodynamics (PD), with entry effects
574 estimated to have a slightly stronger response (lower C_{50} and higher E_{max}) compared to
575 budding (Table 1). Based on PD parameters, the response to fendiline was estimated to
576 be weaker in the BSL-4 assays, as is evident by higher C_{50} values and lower E_{max} values
577 compared to the budding and entry assays (Table 1, Fig. 8i). These PD parameter
578 differences between budding and entry assays vs BSL-4 results could suggest that other
579 parts of the viral life cycle not affected by fendiline (not quantified explicitly in these
580 experiments) become rate limiting in the BSL-4 assays, thereby reducing the overall effect
581 of fendiline on infection progression. In summary, a mathematical model consistent with
582 three independent experimental systems, predicts a combination of budding and entry
583 effects resulting in the observed BSL-4 effects, and estimates PD parameters for each
584 mechanism.

585

586 Discussion

587 The host cell PM is exploited by filoviruses for their assembly and budding, where
588 they can egress the host cell to form a new virion. The matrix protein, VP40, is the main
589 driver of this process as it harbors a high affinity for lipids in the PM inner leaflet. Lipid
590 binding by VP40, which includes selectivity for PS[14,31,37,38] and PI(4,5)P₂[39] drives
591 and stabilizes, respectively, VP40 oligomers that are necessary for viral budding. In fact,
592 VP40 has been shown to be sufficient (in the absence of other filovirus proteins) to form
593 VLPs from the host cell PM that are nearly indistinguishable from virions[6–8]. Again, this
594 underscores the unique properties of VP40 structure and sequence, which provides a
595 template for host lipid binding, oligomerization, and sufficient information to encode cues

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596 for scission to complete the viral budding process. Further, VP40 derived VLPs enter cells
597 in a PS-dependent manner despite the absence of the EBOV glycoprotein[19]. While
598 some of the basic principles between VP40 and PM interactions have been previously
599 revealed, the mechanistic consequences of the interactions and their potential
600 pharmacological targeting have remained unknown.

601 In this study, we demonstrated that VP40 was able to cluster PS *in vitro* and in the
602 PM of cells. VP40-dependent PS clustering required PS binding and efficient PM
603 localization of VP40, as the K224A-VP40 mutant, previously defined as a PS-binding
604 residue did not significantly increase PS clustering. VP40 oligomerization was also crucial
605 to PS clustering efficiency as a VP40 oligomerization deficient mutant, which can still
606 exhibit PM localization, significantly reduced PS clustering. This is an important point as
607 the PM of host cells is generally thought to harbor 20-30 mol% PS in the inner leaflet. In
608 fact, VP40 effectively binds and oligomerizes on PS-containing membranes with
609 compositions close to the PS-content of the PM inner leaflet. In contrast, PS
610 concentrations below 15 mol% didn't provide robust affinity and oligomerization compared
611 to those with 22 mol% PS and greater. PS clustering and PS content may also play a
612 critical role in the loss of asymmetry that occurs during the EBOV budding process. For
613 instance, pooling of PS in distinct regions of VP40 assembly may provide a cue for
614 scramblases shown to distribute PS to the outer leaflet of the PM during the viral budding
615 process[57,59].

616 A recent study demonstrated that silencing PSS1, an enzyme responsible for PS
617 synthesis in mammalian cells was sufficient to inhibit EBOV replication[59]. However, to
618 the best of our knowledge, small molecules aimed at targeting host cell lipid distribution

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619 have not previously been tested against EBOV. Fendiline was a logical choice to form an
620 initial hypothesis of an FDA-approved drug that could inhibit EBOV budding as it was
621 recently shown to lower PM PS[33] and inhibit K-Ras signaling[34,35] suggesting this
622 FDA-approved drug may be sufficient to inhibit EBOV budding. Indeed, in BSL-4
623 experiments, fendiline was able to inhibit EBOV replication >75% at 20 μ M and MARV
624 replication >90% when given every day post-infection. Follow up mechanistic studies
625 demonstrated that fendiline efficacy was due to inhibition of VP40 oligomerization, viral
626 budding and viral entry. Thus, fendiline, which reduced the PS content of HEK293 cells
627 by ~30%, subsequently reduced PS clustering and VP40 oligomerization necessary for
628 efficient viral budding. VLPs that did form from fendiline-treated cells had an overall
629 reduced length and surface area, which likely combined with the reduced PS-content of
630 the virus or VLPs to limit subsequent viral entry. Thus, disruption of PM PS content by
631 one small molecule was sufficient to effect at least three important steps in the filovirus
632 life cycle.

633 Overall, this study lends credence to the hypothesis that host processes may be
634 targeted to inhibit viral replication and spread. While the potency of fendiline may be low,
635 the combination of fendiline with other FDA-approved drugs that have shown efficacy
636 against EBOV[60–64] hold further promise. These studies also lay a framework to
637 improved pharmacological targeting strategies against either VP40 matrix assembly or
638 PS clustering that would not only reduce viral budding and spread, but lower subsequent
639 viral entry, which partially relies on PS in the viral envelope[18,19,22,32]. Notwithstanding
640 pharmacological principles learned from this study, a critical balance between VP40 and
641 PS has been resolved demonstrating a critical need for VP40 clustering in the assembly

642 and budding process. VP40 oligomers are needed for enhanced PS clustering where PS
643 clustering seems to ensure optimal VP40 oligomerization.

644

645 **Methods**

646 **Reagents & solutions**

647 PBS, DMEM, ionomycin and Lipofectamine LTX + Plus were purchased from
648 Fisher Scientific, heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Hyclone,
649 and Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) was purchased from Corning. Invitrogen Live Cell
650 Imaging Solution, Dil Stain, Halt Protease inhibitor cocktail, Pierce BCA Assay kit, and
651 BS3 were purchased from ThermoFisher Scientific. Non-essential amino acids (NEAA)
652 were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and L-glutamine was purchased from Gibco. Alexa
653 Fluor™ 488 C₅ Maleimide (Alexa-488) for protein conjugation was purchased from
654 Invitrogen. Fendiline was purchased from Cayman Chemical, prepared in DMSO and
655 stored at -20 °C. Ultra-Pure Grade DMSO was purchased from VWR and the Ni-NTA
656 slurry was purchased from Qiagen. L1 chips for SPR experiments were purchased from
657 GE Healthcare. For cell viability assays, CellTiter-Glo® was purchased from Promega.
658 Antibody information for immunoblotting and immunofluorescence can be found in Table
659 1. Ten percent neutral buffered formalin was purchased from Val Tech Diagnostics
660 (Brackenridge, PA). Cell staining buffer was purchased from BioLegend. Invitrogen™
661 Molecular Probes™ Hoechst 3342 stain was purchased from Fisher Scientific.

662

663 **Plasmids**

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664 EGFP, EGFP-eVP40 and EGFP-WE/A-eVP40 were prepared as described
665 previously[39,43]. GFP-K224A-eVP40 was prepared by site directed mutagenesis[40]
666 GFP-mVP40 was used as described previously[10,16]. The GFP-LactC2 plasmid was a
667 kind gift from Sergio Grinstein (University of Toronto). GFP-PLC δ PH was a kind gift from
668 Tamas Balla (NIH). pCAG-GPI-GFP was a gift from Anna Katerina Hadjantonakis
669 (Addgene #32601). pEGFP-N3-Annexin A2 was a gift from Volker Gerke & Ursula
670 Rescher (Addgene #10796). pCAGGS-FLAG-eVP40 (NR49337) and pcDNA3.1-eGP
671 (NR-19814) were obtained from BEI Services. pCAGGS-TIM-1 was from Heinz
672 Feldmann[65].

673

674 **Lipids and LUV preparation**

675 All lipids were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc. (Alabaster, AL) and stored
676 in chloroform and/or methanol at -20°C until use. POPC (#850457), DPPC (#850355),
677 Chol (#700000), DPPS (#840037), POPE (#850757), POPS (#840034), Brain PI(4,5)P₂
678 (#840046) and TopFluor® TMR-PS (#810242). For large unilamellar vesicle (LUV)
679 preparation used in SPR and chemical crosslinking experiments, lipid mixtures were
680 prepared at the indicated compositions, dried down to lipid films under a continuous
681 stream of N₂, and stored at -20°C until further use. On each day of experiments, LUVs
682 were brought to room temperature, hydrated in either SPR buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150
683 mM NaCl, pH 7.4) or chemical crosslinking buffer (260 μ M Raffinose pentahydrate in
684 PBS, pH 7.4), vortexed vigorously, and extruded through a 100 nm (SPR experiments) or
685 200 nm (chemical crosslinking experiments) filter. Vesicle size was confirmed by dynamic
686 light scattering using a DelsaNano S Particle Analyzer (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA).

687

688 **Preparation and imaging of GUVs**

689 GUVs were prepared by a gentle hydration method.[66–68] Briefly, 1 mM of lipid
690 control mixture was made and contained 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
691 (DPPC), cholesterol (Chol) and fluorescent phosphatidylserine (TopFluor® TMR-PS) at
692 90:9.8:0.2% molar ratio. For PS clustering and eVP40 binding analysis, 1,2-dipalmitoyl-
693 sn-glycero-3-phosphoserine (DPPS) alone or with brain phosphatidylinositol 4,5-
694 bisphosphate PI(4,5)P₂ were added at 40 and 2.5% molar ratios, respectively, and the
695 ratios of DPPC were adjusted accordingly. The lipid mixtures were prepared in 5 mL
696 round-bottom glass flasks and the chloroform was removed with rotary movements under
697 a continuous stream of N₂. The lipid films were then hydrated over night at 50°C
698 (DPPC:Chol:TopFluor TMR-PS) and 55°C (DPPC:Chol:DPPS:PI(4,5)P₂:TopFluor TMR-
699 PS) in an appropriate volume of GUV hydration buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES,
700 0.5 M sucrose, pH 7.4).

701 For imaging, the freshly hydrated GUVs were diluted 10 times in GUV dilution
702 buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, 0.5 M glucose, pH 7.4) and placed on a 6-mm
703 diameter chamber made from a silicon sheet using a core sampling tool (EMS # 69039-
704 60). The silicon chamber was mounted on a 1.5-mm clean coverglass (EMS # 72200-31)
705 pre-coated with 1 mg/mL BSA. The set up was then assembled in an Attofluor chamber
706 (Invitrogen # A7816) and 1.25 μM eVP40-Alexa488 was added. GUVs imaged for eVP40
707 and PS colocalization and clustering analysis was performed at 37°C on a Nikon Eclipse
708 Ti Confocal inverted microscope (Nikon Instruments, Japan), using a Plan Aplanachromat
709 60x 1.4 numerical aperture oil objective and a 100x 1.45 numerical aperture oil objective,

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710 respectively. A 488 nm argon laser was used to excite GFP and a 561 nm argon laser
711 was used to excite TopFluor®-TMR-PS. The 3D reconstruction was performed using
712 ImageJ. Mander's correlational analysis was performed using the plugin JACoP.[69]

713

714 **Cell culture, transfections, pharmacological treatments**

715 All BSL-2 studies were performed using HEK293 cells obtained from the American
716 Type Culture Collection and cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% PS.
717 Transient transfections were performed using Lipofectamine LTX + PLUS, according to
718 the manufacturer's protocol. All transfections were performed in DMEM supplemented
719 with 10% FBS. Treatment with fendiline (in DMSO) occurred at 5-hours post-transfection
720 in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS. BSL-4 assays were also performed using Vero
721 E6 cells cultured in MEM, 5% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 1% L-glutamine, and
722 1% NEAA. Both HEK293 and Vero E6 cells were cultured and incubated at 37°C, 5%
723 CO₂, 80% humidity.

724

725 **Immunoblotting**

726 Samples prepared for western blotting analysis were first separated using SDS-
727 PAGE (8% for chemical crosslinking and 12% for cell lysates and VLPs). Following
728 transfer onto a nitrocellulose membrane, membranes were blocked with 5% MILK-TBST
729 and analyzed with their respective antibodies (See Supplement Table 1). Antibodies were
730 detecting using an ECL detection reagent and imaged on the ImageQuant LAS 4000 or
731 Amersham Imager 600 (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). All quantitative analysis derived
732 from western blotting was performed using densitometry analysis in ImageJ.

733

734 **Protein purification and Alexa-488 C₅ Maleimide labelling**

735 The His₆-eVP40-pET46 expression vector was a kind gift from Erica Ollmann
736 Sapphire (La Jolla Institute for Immunology) and was expressed and grown in Rosetta2
737 BL21DE3 cells (Merck Millipore, Billerica MA). The pet28a-His₆-Lact C2 bacterial
738 expression plasmid was a kind gift from Dr. Sergio Grinstein. His₆-eVP40 and His₆-LactC2
739 were grown and purified as described previously[39]. Following elution from a Ni-NTA
740 slurry (Qiagen), the protein samples were then further purified using size exclusion
741 chromatography on a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg column (ÄKTA pure, GE
742 Healthcare). The desired fractions containing dimeric VP40 or monomeric LactC2 were
743 collected, concentrated and stored in 10 mM Tris, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8.0. Protein
744 concentration was calculated using the Pierce BCA assay and the protein was stored at
745 4°C for no longer than 14 days.

746 Labeling of eVP40 cysteine residues was carried out using Alexa-488- C₅-
747 maleimide. eVP40 dimer was treated with a 1.5-fold molar excess of Alexa-488-C₅-
748 maleimide dissolved in DMSO for 2 hours at room temperature in maleimide labelling
749 buffer (20 mM NaPi solution pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 4 M Guanidine HCl). The labeling
750 reaction was quenched by adding dithiothreitol (final concentration of 50 mM) and the
751 labeled protein was separated from the non-conjugated dye on a HiLoad 16/600
752 Superdex 200pg column. Fractions containing eVP40 dimeric form were collected and
753 concentrated. The labelling efficiency and protein concentration were estimated using a
754 NanoDrop according to Invitrogen's instructions.

755

756 **Plasma membrane localization confocal microscopy**

757 Live cell imaging experiments were performed at 24 hours and 48 hours post
758 treatment. Experiments to quantify fluorescent protein PM localization were performed on
759 a Zeiss LSM 710 inverted microscope using a Plan Aplanachromat 63x 1.4 numerical
760 aperture oil objective. A 488 nm argon laser was used to excite GFP/EGFP. GFP-LactC2
761 PM localization was quantified ratiometrically by comparing the PM signal vs. the cytosolic
762 signal. GFP-EBOV-VP40 and GFP-MARV-VP40 PM localization was quantified
763 ratiometrically by comparing the PM signal vs. the total fluorescence signal within the cell.

764

765 **TMR-PS quenching experiment**

766 The Top Fluor TMR quenching analysis was performed as described
767 previously[50]. Briefly, LUVs with 0.5% TopFluor® TMR-PS and increasing amounts of
768 DPPS (0, 1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60%) with or without PI(4,5)P₂ (2.5% with 60% DPPS) were
769 made as described above. LUVs were then mixed at a final concentration of 40 μM with
770 corresponding concentrations of eVP40 dimer in 10 mM HEPES, 160 mM NaCl pH 7.4 in
771 a black/clear bottom 96-well plate and incubated at 37°C for 30 min. The Top Fluor TMR
772 was excited at 547 nm and the fluorescence was recorded from 555 to 600 nm with no
773 cutoff wavelength using the plate reader SpectraMax M5e (Molecular Devices, St Jose,
774 CA). The fluorescence quenching ratio, ΔF , was calculated according to the ratio (F_0/F),
775 where F_0 is the fluorescence in absence of protein and F is the fluorescence at a given
776 eVP40 concentration.

777

778 **Cellular Top Fluor TMR-PS clustering confocal microscopy**

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779 Each experimental day, a 100 μ M working stock of TopFluor® TMR-PS in
780 methanol was prepared. Immediately prior to imaging, cells were placed in 4°C for 5 min.
781 The working stock was diluted to a final 500 nM TopFluor® TMR-PS solution in 3 mg/mL
782 BSA/PBS. The 500 nM TopFluor® TMR-PS/BSA/PBS solution was incubated with cells
783 at 4°C for 10 min, rinsed three times with cold PBS, and immediately imaged in fresh cold
784 PBS. Top Fluor TMR was excited at 560 nm and GFP was excited at 488 nm. For PS
785 clustering analysis, a custom macro in ImageJ was used. Prior to the macro analysis
786 background was subtracted, and the contrast was enhanced. To isolate the PM area, a
787 default threshold was applied. To isolate PS clusters the Moments analysis
788 thresholding[70] was applied. Following the moments analysis thresholding, the custom
789 ImageJ macro was applied: despeckle, close-, fill holes, and remove outliers (radius=5,
790 threshold=50). The sum of the remaining particles area was calculated, as well as the PM
791 area. %PS clustering was calculated according to the ratio ($\text{Area}_{\text{clusters}}/\text{Area}_{\text{plasma membrane}}$).

792 **Number & Brightness**

793 Number & Brightness experiments were performed as described
794 previously[15,39,43] on a Zeiss LSM 880 upright microscope using a LD “C-Apochromat”
795 40x/1.1 W Corr M27 objective. HEK293 cells expressing either GFP, GFP-LactC2 or
796 GFP-eVP40 were treated with fendiline (1 or 5 μ M) for 48-hours prior to N&B analysis.
797 Cells were imaged in phenol-free live cell imaging solution. For each experimental day,
798 the brightness value of a monomer was determined in cells expressing monomeric GFP.
799 Each image was acquired using the same laser power (0.01), resolution (256x256), pixel
800 dwell time (16 us), frames (50), and zoom (pixel size of 50 nm). SimFCS Globals Software

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801 (Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics, University of California, Irvine, CA) was used for
802 analysis.

803

804 **Chemical crosslinking**

805 His₆-eVP40 and His₆-LactC2 were purified as previously described in *Protein*
806 *Purification*. LUVs containing POPC and Brain PI(4,5)P₂ (2.5%) with varying PS mol%
807 composition (0, 15,30, 60%) were prepared as previously described in *Lipids & Vesicle*
808 *Preparation*. Experimental protocol was adapted from Johnson K.A. *et al* 2016, and the
809 manufacturers protocol for BS³ (ThermoFisher) with each step performed at RT. In brief,
810 protein (final concentration of 0.3 μM in PBS pH 7.4) was mixed with LUVs (final
811 concentration = 660 μM) at a 1:1 volumetric ratio for 30 min. Protein bound LUVs were
812 separated from unbound protein through centrifugation (75,000 x g, 30 min, 22°C), and
813 resuspended in PBS (pH 7.4) buffer containing BS³ (final concentration- 200 μM).
814 Samples were incubated for 45 min, quenched with glycine for 15 min and then analyzed
815 through western blotting. Following immunoblotting, oligomerization of VP40 was
816 quantified ratiometrically by comparing VP40_o vs. VP40_{m+d} (where VP40_o is the oligomeric
817 VP40 band density (>75 kDa) and VP40_{m+d} is the sum of monomeric and dimeric eVP40
818 (~37 and 74 kDa) band density).

819

820 **Surface plasmon resonance**

821 To determine the affinity of 6xHis-eVP40 to LUVs with increasing PS
822 concentrations, SPR was performed. SPR experiments were performed at 25°C using a
823 Biacore X100 as described previously.[14] In brief, an L1 chip was coated at 5 μL/min

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824 with LUVs containing 0% PS on flow cell 1 and either 1%, 11% or 22 mol% POPS on flow
825 cell 2 (LUV preparation described in previous section, *Lipids and Vesicle Preparation*).
826 The LUV conjugated chip was stabilized by washing with 50 mM NaOH and blocked with
827 0.1 mg/mL BSA (in SPR buffer) at a flow rate of 10 μ L/min until the response on each
828 flow cell was <100 response units (RU). For quantitative affinity analysis, each
829 concentration of eVP40 was injected for 540 s at a flow rate of 10 μ L/min with a 180 s
830 delay, and the difference in response between flow cell 1 and flow cell 2 was recorded
831 (Δ RU). The apparent K_d of vesicle binding was determined using the non-linear least
832 squares analysis: $R_{eq} = R_{max}/(1 + \frac{K_d}{C})$ where R_{eq} (measured in RU) is plotted against
833 protein concentration (C). R_{max} is the theoretical maximum RU response and K_d is the
834 apparent membrane affinity. Data were fit using the Kaleidagraph fit parameter of
835 $(m_0 * m_1)/(m_0 + m_2); m_1 = 1100; m_2 = 1$. Δ RU data was normalized in GraphPad Prism 8 for
836 windows (La Jolla, CA) and plotted in Kaleidagraph (Reading, PA).

837

838 **Lipidomics**

839 HEK293 cells were treated with the indicated concentration of fendiline for 48
840 hours, collected through centrifugation, rinsed with PBS and protein concentration was
841 determined. Cells were pelleted, flash frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at -80°C until
842 subsequent LC/MS/MS processing by Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc.. Prior to LC-MS/MS
843 analysis, lipids were extracted using the Folch method.[71] The bottom chloroform layer
844 taken after centrifugation was diluted with internal standards for LPA, LPS, PA and PS
845 for quantization by injection on LC-MS/MS. Samples were injected on a LC-MS/MS
846 method using a Waters Acquity UPLC / AB Sciex 5500 MS system performing reversed

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847 phase separation of LPA and LPS and PA and PS components with MS/MS detection.
848 Each molecular species identified by the [M-H] m/z of its acyl carbon:double bond (CC:DB
849 i.e. 34:2 PA) was quantified against the response of the internal standards of known
850 concentration. Content of individual and total LPA/PA and LPS/PS was reported. Values
851 were corrected to 1×10^6 cells for all samples.

852

853 **BSL-4 immunofluorescence assay**

854 Vero E6 cells were seeded at 2×10^4 cells/well in black 96-well poly-D-lysine treated
855 plates (Greiner Bio-One Cellcoat®). Twenty-four hours prior to infection, fendiline was
856 diluted in 0.5% DMSO and Vero E6 cell culture media at indicated concentrations and
857 added to cells. An equivalent percentage of DMSO in culture media served as the vehicle
858 control. Following pretreatment, compound was removed, and cells were incubated with
859 Ebola virus (Kikwit) or Marburg virus (Ci67) at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.1 or 1.0
860 in a BSL-4 located at USAMRIID. Following absorption for 1 hour, virus inoculum was
861 removed and cells were washed. Plates were divided into three post-infection treatment
862 groups (day 0, every day- e.d., every other day-e.o.d.), and received either culture media
863 or freshly prepared fendiline or vehicle control. Cells were then treated daily with freshly
864 prepared compound or left to incubate based on their designated treatment group. At 48
865 hours (MOI=1.0), 72 or 96 hours (MOI=0.1) post infection, cells were washed with PBS
866 and submerged in 10% neutral buffered formalin for 24 hours prior to removal from the
867 BSL-4 laboratory. Formalin was removed and cells were washed with PBS. Cells were
868 blocked with 3% BSA/PBS cell staining buffer (BioLegend) and incubated at 37°C for 2
869 hours. Ebola virus GP-specific mAb KZ52 or Marburg virus GP-specific mAb 9G4, diluted

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870 in 3% BSA/PBS, were added to appropriate wells containing infected cells and incubated
871 at room temperature for 2 hours. Cells were washed three times with PBS prior to addition
872 of goat anti-human or goat anti-mouse IgG-Alexa-488 secondary antibody. Following 1-
873 hour incubation with secondary antibody, cells were washed 3 times prior to
874 counterstaining with Hoechst's stain diluted in PBS. Cells were imaged and percent of
875 virus infected cells calculated using the Operetta High Content Imaging System and
876 Harmony® High Content Imaging and Analysis Software (PerkinElmer).

877

878 **VLP collections & functional budding assays**

879 HEK293 cells were transfected and treated with fendiline as described in the
880 previous section, *Cell Culture, Transfection & Pharmacological Treatments*. Budding
881 assays were performed as described previously.[39,72] In brief, VLP containing
882 supernatants were harvested from cells and clarified through low speed centrifugation.
883 Clarified VLPs were loaded onto a 20% sucrose cushion in STE buffer (10 mM TRIS, 100
884 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.6), isolated through ultracentrifugation, and resuspended in
885 either 150 mM ammonium bicarbonate (functional budding assays), 2.5% glutaraldehyde
886 in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer (TEM experiments), STE buffer (entry assays) or 0.1 M
887 phosphate buffer for CD and thermal melting (PB; 0.02 M sodium phosphate monobasic,
888 0.08 M sodium phosphate dibasic, pH 7.4). VLP samples were stored at -80°C for
889 functional budding assays, -20°C for entry assays or 4°C for TEM and CD analysis.

890 For functional budding assays, cell lysate samples were harvested and lysed on
891 ice with RIPA buffer (150mM NaCl, 5mM EDTA pH=8, 50mM Tris pH 7.4, 1% Triton-X,
892 0.1% SDS, 0.5% deoxycholic acid) supplemented with Halts protease inhibitors. Prior to

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893 separation on a 12% SDS-PAGE gel, cell lysate and VLP sample volume loading were
894 normalized to sample protein content, determined by a BCA assay. Gels were transferred
895 to a nitrocellulose membrane and immunoblotted was performed as described previously
896 in the section, *Immunoblotting*. Following ECL detection, VP40 cell lysate (VP40_{CL})
897 expression was normalized to the respective GAPDH band density. The relative budding
898 index was calculated according to the ratio of $\text{density}_{\text{VLP}}/\text{density}_{\text{C+VLP}}$ (where $\text{density}_{\text{VLP}}$ is
899 the eVP40 VLP band density and $\text{density}_{\text{C+VLP}}$ is the eVP40 cell lysate + VLP band
900 density).

901

902 **Scanning electron microscopy**

903 HEK293 cells were transfected with FLAG-eVP40 and treated as described in the
904 previous section, *Cell Culture, Transfections & Pharmacological Treatments*. Cells were
905 scraped and collected through low-speed centrifugation at 48 hours post transfection, and
906 stored in primary fixative (2% glutaraldehyde, 2% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate
907 buffer, pH 7.35) at 4°C until processing. During processing, samples were fixed to
908 coverslips and post-stained with 1% osmium tetroxide in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer.
909 Samples were extensively rinsed with water and dehydrated with a graded series of
910 ethanol followed by drying in a Tousimis 931 Supercritical Autosamdri® device. Prior to
911 imaging, samples were coated with 3 nm Iridium. A Field Emission Scanning Electron
912 Microscope Magellan 400 (FEI) (Hillsboro, OR) was used to collect images, with
913 assistance from Tatyana Orlova at the Notre Dame Integrated Imaging Facility.

914

915 **Transmission electron microscopy imaging**

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916 VLPs were purified as previous described in *VLP Collections & Functional Budding*
917 *Assays*. Following ultracentrifugation, VLPs were resuspended in fixative (2.5%
918 glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer). Purified VLPs were applied onto glow
919 discharged carbon formvar grids and negatively stained using 4% uranyl acetate.
920 Samples were imaged with a FEI Tecnai T12 electron microscope equipped with a
921 tungsten source and operating at 80 kV. VLP length and diameter measurements were
922 quantified using ImageJ software. For diameter analysis, eight different diameters were
923 measured across random areas on each VLP, and the mean diameter was reported.

924

925 **Circular dichroism**

926 VLPs were produced in the presence of DMSO or fendiline and purified as
927 previously described in the *VLP collections* section. PB buffer was added to a 10-mm
928 path-length Spectrosil Far UV Quartz cuvette (Starna Cells CatID: 21-Q-10) and a
929 background spectra was collected and autosubtracted from VLP samples. VLP samples
930 were loaded into the 10-mm cuvette diluted in PB buffer to an approximate final protein
931 concentration of 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Circular dichroism spectra of VLP samples were collected
932 between 200-280 nm at a 0.2 nm step size with 0.5s time-per-point (with adaptive
933 sampling) using a Chirascan spectrometer (Applied Photophysics, Leatherhead, UK).
934 Absorbance spectra (Abs) and detector signal (hv) were collected simultaneously as
935 controls. After collecting the CD spectra, a microstir bar was added to the cuvette and
936 thermal melting was run from 20°C-93°C using a 0.5°C step ramping at 1.00°C/minute
937 with a tolerance of 0.20°C; simultaneously, spectra were collected at a single wavelength
938 of 220 nm with a time-per-point of 24 seconds. Absorbance spectra (Abs) and detector

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939 signal (hv) were collected simultaneously as controls. At the end of thermal melting
940 measurement collection, temperature set-points were replaced with temperatures
941 measured by the sample handling unit. Data was converted from Chirascan filetype to
942 CSV and then extracted into GraphPad PRISM 7. Using the first derivative of the circular
943 dichroism spectral signal in respect to temperature, the maxima was taken as the melting
944 point of the sample. Melting temperatures of the three replicates were averaged for the
945 reported T_m .

946

947 **Dil entry assay**

948 **VLP labeling.** VLPs produced from HEK293 cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 and eGP
949 were purified as previously described in the *Functional Budding Assays* section. Dil entry
950 assays were performed as described previously.[58,73] In brief, following ultra-
951 centrifugation VLPs were resuspended in STE buffer and further purified by filtering
952 through a 0.22 μm filter. Protein content of VLP samples were normalized to 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$
953 using STE buffer. VLPs were labeled with Dil for 1 hr at RT with gentle agitation (final Dil
954 = 0.06 μM). Following incubation, labeled VLP samples were concentrated down to equal
955 volumes, and brought up to volume in phenol-free MEM with 2% FBS and 4% BSA.

956

957 **TIM-1 dependent entry.** HEK293 cells were transfected with TIM-1 for 24 hours prior to
958 incubation with Dil-labeled VLPs and briefly rinsed with phenol-free MEM with 2% FBS
959 and 4%BSA. Dil-VLPs were added to TIM-1 expressing HEK293 cells, spinoculated for
960 45 min at 4°C, and allowed to incubate for 1 hr at 37°C. Plates were then rinsed with PBS,
961 fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, their nuclei stained with Hoechst 3342, and

962 stored at 4°C until imaging. During image acquisition, z-stacks were acquired of 10-15
963 frames (1 µm steps).

964

965 **Toxicity analysis**

966 HEK293 and Vero E6 cell toxicity following fendiline treatment was tested at the
967 indicated time points using the Cell Titer Glo Viability Assay (Promega, Madison WI)
968 according to the manufacturer's protocol. In brief, HEK293 cells were treated with the
969 indicated concentration of fendiline or control for 24 or 48 hours. Vero E6 cells were
970 treated for 24 hours, the drug was removed and the cells were replenished with Vero E6
971 culture media, to mirror the corresponding ebolavirus and Marburgvirus infections at BSL-
972 4. Following the one-hour mock infection, cells were washed with PBS and plates were
973 divided into three treatment groups (day 0, e.d., e.o.d.), and cells received either culture
974 media or freshly prepared fendiline or vehicle control and were then treated daily with
975 freshly prepared compound or left to incubate based on their designated treatment group.
976 At 48, 72, and 96 hours following mock infection, and mirroring the post infection fixation
977 time points, CellTiter-Glo® reagent was added to each well in accordance with the
978 manufacturer's instructions. Both HEK293 and Vero E6 toxicity assays luminescence
979 readings were recorded using a SpectraMax® M5 (Molecular Devices®) plate reader.

980

981 **Mathematical model of *in vitro* experiments**

982 We implemented a system of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) to describe
983 the dynamics of host target cells, infected cells and free virus in different combinations

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984 reflecting the *in vitro* experimental systems used here. These equations are similar to
985 those used to simulate Ebola virus dynamics in earlier work [74,75].

986

$$987 \quad \frac{dT}{dt} = -\beta TV \quad (1)$$

$$988 \quad \frac{dI}{dt} = \beta TV - \delta I \quad (2)$$

$$989 \quad \frac{dV}{dt} = pI - cV \quad (3)$$

990

991 Where T , I and V represent numbers of susceptible target host cells, infected cells and
992 free virions respectively and parameters are described in Table 2.

993 We modified appropriate parameters in equations 1-3 to represent the following
994 experimental systems during calibration of the mathematical model:

- 995 • Viral budding assay (set $\beta=0$, $T(0) = 0$, $I(0) = 2.625 \times 10^6$, $V(0) = 0$, vary δ , c , p)
- 996 • Viral entry assay (set $p=0$, $T(0) = 6.3 \times 10^5$, $I(0) = 0$, $V(0) = 6.3 \times 10^3$, vary β , δ , c)
- 997 • BSL-4 Cellular infection assay (BSL4) ($T(0) = 5 \times 10^4$, $I(0) = 0$, $V(0) = 5 \times 10^4$ (MOI 1)
998 or $V(0) = 5 \times 10^3$ (MOI 0.1) , vary β , δ , c , p)

999

1000 Fendiline treatment effects are simulated using E_{max} dose response curves:

$$1001 \quad f_X = E_{max} \frac{C^H}{C_{50}^H + C^H}$$

1002

1003 Where C : concentration of fendiline, E_{max} : maximum effect of fendiline, H : hill constant
1004 for the dose response curve, and C_{50} concentration with 50% of E_{max} efficacy. E_{max} , C_{50}

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1005 and H are fitted separately for fendiline effects on budding ($f_{budding}$) or entry (f_{entry}).

1006 Fendiline

1007 efficacy (f_x) is defined as a fraction where $f_x=0$ implies no effect and $f_x=1$ implies 100%
1008 inhibition of X ($X = budding$ or $entry$). Fendiline effects are integrated into equations (1-3)
1009 by multiplying β by $(1-f_{entry})$ and multiplying p by $(1-f_{budding})$. Fendiline concentrations are
1010 assumed to be constant over the observation periods based on low *in vitro* degradation
1011 rates of the drug. Daily treatment in the BSL-4 assays (e.d.) are simulated by removing
1012 all free virus particles from the equations at each dosing time.

1013

1014 We calibrated the model in two stages. First, we calibrated to the budding and
1015 entry assays. The uncoupling of budding and entry in this data allows us to define
1016 biologically feasible ranges for the effects of fendiline on budding and entry separately.
1017 Using these feasible ranges, we proceed to calibrate the full model to the BSL-4 data
1018 (day-1/0 and e.d.). Therefore, we allow the budding and entry assays to inform the BSL-
1019 4 simulations without imposing strict assumptions about the equivalency between the two
1020 systems. In this way we progressively build complexity into the model accounting for
1021 fendiline effects on viral budding, entry, and infection progression.

1022

1023 Calibrating to budding and entry assays we restrict the value of p to be larger than
1024 1 and c to be between 0 and 5. These assumptions are in line with previous estimates,
1025 and are necessary to qualitatively reproduce viral production observed, but not quantified,
1026 in the budding assays. Parameters are estimated using Matlab's non-linear least squares

1027 optimization algorithm. Parameter bounds and final values are defined in Supplementary
1028 Information Table 2.

1029

1030 **Statistical testing**

1031 All experiments were done in triplicate (unless otherwise noted). For analysis of
1032 eVLP diameter and length from TEM experiments, as well as total PA levels between
1033 control and 5 μ M fendiline treated cells, a two-tailed t-test was performed. For all
1034 experiments which contained >2 experimental groups, a one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's
1035 multiple comparisons was performed on raw data. Lastly, for N&B analysis, a two-way
1036 ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons was performed.

1037

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1045 Electron Microscopy facility.

1046

1047 **Author Contributions**

1048 M.L.H. and R.V.S conceived of and designed the study. M.H., S.A., E.D., and C.P.
1049 performed experiments and analyzed the data. L.P. designed the BSL-4 experiments and
1050 L.P. and K.E.H. performed and analyzed the BSL-4 experiments. J.M.B. and J.D. oversaw

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1051 the BSL-4 work. E.P. designed and performed the mathematical modeling and analysis.

1052 M.L.H. and R.V.S. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

1053

1054 **Conflict of Interest**

1055 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1

Clustering of PS by eVP40 *in vitro* and in HEK 293 cells. **a** Representative 3D reconstructed confocal images of immobilized GUVs (DPPC:Cholesterol:DPPS:PI(4,5)P₂:TopFluor® TMR-PS(red)). Left panel: GUVs incubated without eVP40-Alexa488. Right three panels: GUVs incubated with 1.25 μM eVP40-Alexa488 (green). **b** Index of correlation (Mander's coefficient) between TopFluor® TMR-PS and eVP40-Alexa488 of different GUVs compositions incubated with 1.25 μM eVP40-Alexa488. Values are reported as mean ± s.d. A one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons was performed; ****p<0.0001. **c** % TopFluor® TMR-PS quenching by eVP40 using GUVs (DPPC:Cholesterol:TopFluor®TMR-PS + increasing mol% of PS), 2.5% PI(4,5)P₂ was added to GUVs with 60% PS. Fluorescence spectra were recorded (Ex: 547 nm; Em: 550-600 nm); n=2. **d** Representative confocal images of HEK293 cells expressing various GFP-fused proteins (green) and supplemented with TopFluor® TMR-PS (red); scale bar= 10 μm. Yellow arrows indicate high intensity PS fluorescence regions **e** %PM with PS clusters = area of high intensity fluorescent PS clusters over total plasma membrane area from images in panel (d). Black bars are control proteins and blue bars are eVP40 proteins. Values are reported as mean ± s.d.; N>18, n=3; A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the control GFP %PS clustering (***p=0.0007, **p=0.004). DPPC: dipalmitoyl-phosphatidylcholine; DPPS: dipalmitoyl-phosphatidylserine; GUVs: giant unilamellar vesicles; PS: phosphatidylserine; PM: plasma membrane.

Figure 2

Effect of PS concentration on eVP40 binding affinity to and oligomerization on membranes. **a-c** SPR demonstrates that eVP40 affinity to LUVs increases in relation to PS concentration. **a** Representative normalized sensorgram of His₆-eVP40 binding to LUVs containing 1% PS indicating an apparent affinity of 2.5 μ M. **b** Representative normalized sensorgram of His₆-eVP40 binding to LUVs containing 11% PS indicating an apparent affinity of 0.65 μ M. **c** Representative normalized sensorgram of His₆-eVP40 binding to LUVs containing 22% PS indicating an apparent affinity of 0.18 μ M. **d-e** PS concentration in LUVs enhances the ability of His₆-eVP40 to oligomerize on membranes. **d** Representative western blot of chemical crosslinking performed on His₆-WT-eVP40 following incubation with LUVs of varying PS content (detected by Mouse α -His antibody & HRP-Sheep α -Mouse). **e** Oligomerization capacity was determined from the western blot band density ratio of oligomers/(monomer + dimer) from chemical crosslinking experiments. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the control 0% PS LUVs control (30% PS * p = 0.021; 60% PS * p =0.017). n =3. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d.; SPR: surface plasmon resonance; LUVs: large unilamellar vesicles; PS: phosphatidylserine; HRP: horseradish peroxidase.

Figure 3

PS concentration, localization, and dynamics in fendiline treated HEK293 cells. **a** Lipidomic analysis (LC/MS/MS) of total lipids extracted from HEK293 cells treated with the indicated concentration of fendiline (48 hours) demonstrated a significant reduction of total cellular PS levels. Values are normalized to DMSO control and are reported as mean

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\pm s.d.; n=3; A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons to the control DMSO (*p=0.0120, ***p=0.0003). **b-c** Analysis of PS plasma membrane localization in response to fendiline treatment in HEK293 cells. **b** Representative confocal images from live cell imaging of HEK293 cells expressing GFP-LactC2 and treated with fendiline for 48 hours; scale bars= 10 μ m. **c** Effect of fendiline on PS plasma membrane localization was calculated by the ratio of GFP fluorescence at the plasma membrane intensity/intracellular intensity. Values are normalized to DMSO control and are reported as mean \pm s.d.; N>15, n=3; A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the DMSO control (**p=0.0031) **d-e** Analysis of PS clustering in HEK293 cells in response to fendiline treatment through N&B analysis. **d** *Left panel:* Representative images from time-lapse (30 frames) imaging of HEK293 expressing GFP-LactC2 and treated with fendiline for 48 hours; scale bar= 5 μ m. *Middle panel:* Brightness and Intensity plots for each representative image. *Right panel:* Selection map correlating each pixel in the representative image to an oligomerization state (b value) (red: monomer-5mer, green: 5mer-10mer, blue: >10mer). **e** Average % pixels quantification from panel (d)= Percentage of GFP-LactC2 with brightness values corresponding to monomer-5mer (~1.-1.5), 5mer-10mer (~1.5-1.9) and >10mer (>1.9) over the total pixels within each image. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d.; N \geq 9, n=3; A two-way ANOVA was performed with Dunnett's multiple comparisons compared to the control DMSO % average pixels (****p<0.0001, **p=0.0043). GFP-LactC2: phosphatidylserine sensor; N&B: Number & Brightness analysis; PM: plasma membrane; PS: phosphatidylserine.

Figure 4

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Evaluation of fendiline efficacy in the inhibition of authentic EBOV and MARV

spread. a-d Effect of fendiline on EBOV infection. **a** Representative confocal images of Vero E6 cells infected with EBOV (Kikwit) at the indicated MOI and treated with the indicated concentration of fendiline. Cells were pretreated 24 hours prior to infection with the indicated concentration of fendiline. Post infection, cells were treated 1 hour later (d - 1/0), treated every day (e.d), or treated every other day (e.o.d) and fixed at either 48 hours, 72 hours or 96 hours post infection. (green=EBOV; blue= nuclei). White numbering in top right corner indicates %infection **b-d** Quantification of % inhibition of EBOV by fendiline. **b** 48 hours (MOI 1.0) **c** 72 hours (MOI 0.1) **d** 96 hours (MOI 0.1). Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons was performed. n=3. **e-h** Effect of fendiline on MARV infection. **e** Representative confocal images of Vero E6 cells infected with MARV (Ci67) at the indicated MOI and treated with the indicated concentration of fendiline. Cells were pretreated 24 hours prior to infection with the indicated concentration of fendiline. Post infection, cells were treated 1 hour later (d -1/0), treated every day (e.d), or treated every other day (e.o.d) and fixed at either 48 hours, 72 hours or 96 hours post infection. (green=MARV; blue= nuclei). White numbering in top right corner indicates %infection. **f-h** Quantification of % inhibition of MARV by fendiline. **f** 48 hours (MOI 1.0) **g** 72 hours (MOI 0.1) **h** 96 hours (MOI 0.1). Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons was performed. n=3. EBOV: Ebola virus; MOI: multiplicity of infection; MARV: Marburg virus; d. -1/0: treatment 1 hour after infection; e.d.: treatment every day; e.o.d.: treatment every other day.

Figure 5

Analysis of eVP40/mVP40 cellular localization and oligomerization following fendiline treatment. a-c Effect of fendiline on eVP40 and mVP40 PM localization in HEK293 cells after 48 hours of treatment. **a** Representative confocal images from live cell imaging experiments of HEK293 cells expressing EGFP-WT-eVP40 (top panel) and EGFP-WT-mVP40 (bottom panel) after 48 hours of fendiline treatment. scale bars= 10 μ m. Effect of fendiline on eVP40 (**b**) and mVP40 (**c**) PM localization was quantified by the ratio of EGFP fluorescence intensity at the PM / total EGFP fluorescence intensity (and normalized to DMSO control). N>15, n=3. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons was performed compared to the DMSO control. **d-e** Analysis of eVP40 oligomerization in HEK293 cells in response to 48 hour fendiline treatment using N&B analysis. **d Left panel:** Representative images from time-lapse (30 frames) of HEK293 expressing EGFP-WT-eVP40 and treated with fendiline for 48 hours. scale bar = 5 μ m. **Middle panel:** Brightness and Intensity plots for each representative image. **Right panel:** Selection map correlating each pixel in the representative image to an oligomerization state (b value) (red: monomer-hexamer, green: hexamer-12mer, blue: 12mer-24mer, pink: >24mer). **e** Average % pixel quantification from panel (d)= % of GFP-WT-eVP40 with brightness values corresponding to monomer-hexamer (~1.-1.6), hexamer-12mer (~1.6-2.0), 12mer-24mer (2.0-3.2) and >24mer (>3.2) over the total pixels within each image. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d.; N \geq 9, n=3; A two-way ANOVA was performed with Dunnett's multiple comparisons compared to the control DMSO % average pixels (**p=0.0035). PM: plasma membrane; N&B: Number & Brightness analysis.

Figure 6

VLP production and morphology in HEK293 cells in the presence of fendiline. a-d

Functional budding assays assessed at 24 hours (a-b) and 48 hours (c-d) post treatment.

a Representative western blot of budding assays performed at 24 hours. VLP samples (top panel) and cell lysate samples (bottom panel) collected from HEK293 cells and immunoblotted for eVP40 expression; GAPDH served as a loading control. eVP40 detected by (Rabbit α -eVP40 and HRP-Goat α -Rabbit); GAPDH detected by mouse α -GAPDH and HRP-Sheep α -Mouse) **b** Quantification of relative budding index at 24 hours post fendiline treatment. Relative budding index was determined by the western blot band density of eVP40 in the VLP fraction/(total eVP40 cell lysate + eVP40 VLP band density) and was normalized to the DMSO control. Cell lysate eVP40 band density was normalized to GAPDH band density prior to use in budding index quantification. n=3. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the DMSO control. **c** Representative western blot of budding assays performed at 48 hours. VLP samples (top panel) and cell lysate samples (bottom panel) collected from HEK293 cells and immunoblotted for eVP40 expression; GAPDH served as a loading control. eVP40 detected by (Rabbit α -eVP40 and HRP-Goat α -Rabbit); GAPDH detected by (Mouse α -GAPDH and HRP-Sheep α -Mouse) **b** Quantification of relative budding index at 48 hours post fendiline treatment. Relative budding index was determined by the western blot band density of eVP40 in the VLP fraction/(total eVP40 cell lysate + eVP40 VLP band density) and was normalized to the DMSO control. Cell lysate eVP40 band density was normalized to GAPDH band density prior to use in

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budding index quantification. $n=3$. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the DMSO control. (* $p=0.0260$) **e-f** SEM micrographs of HEK93 cells. **e** Representative micrographs of mock transfected HEK293 cells harvested after 48 hours of no treatment or DMSO treatment. **f** Representative micrographs of HEK293 cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 and harvested after 48 hours of no treatment, DMSO treatment, or the indicated concentration of fendiline. VLPs: virus like particles; SEM: scanning electron microscopy; GAPDH: glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; HRP: horseradish peroxidase.

Figure 7

Effect of fendiline on eVLP morphology and TIM-1 dependent eVLP entry. a-c TEM analysis of eVLP morphology. **a** Representative transmission electron micrographs of eVLPs purified from HEK293 cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 and eGP following 48 hours of DMSO (left panel) or 5 μ M fendiline treatment (right panel). **b** Quantification of eVLP length (μ m) of DMSO-derived eVLPs (black) and fendiline-derived eVLPs (blue). $N>50$, $n=3$. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A two-tailed t-test was performed (** $p=0.0139$). **c** Quantification of eVLP diameter (nm) of DMSO-derived eVLPs (black) and fendiline-derived eVLPs (blue). $N>50$, $n=3$. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A two-tailed t-test was performed (* $p=0.0430$). **d-e** Fluorescence based Dil TIM-1 dependent entry assay. **d** Representative confocal images from the Dil-entry assay comparing entry of eVLPs produced from DMSO (top panel) and fendiline-treated HEK293 cells (bottom panel) into target cells (HEK293 cells transiently expressing increasing amounts of TIM-1; 0.0 μ g, 0.5 μ g, 1.0 μ g). A stack of 10 frames was acquired for each image. Dil (initially red) was

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recolored to yellow for easier observation in print; blue (Hoechst 3342 stain); scale bar = 10 μm . **e** Quantification of eVLP entry was performed by calculating the total number of Dil punctate / the total number of Dil-positive cells. Three images from each z-stack was quantified. N=9, n=3. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons against the 0.0 μg TIM-1 condition for both DMSO- and fendiline derived eVLPs.(****p<0.0001; **p=0.0093). eVLP: entry-competent viral like particles; TEM: transmission electron microscopy; TIM-1: t-cell immunoglobulin receptor-1; eVLPs: entry-competent VLPs; eGP: Ebola glycoprotein; Dil: 1,1'-Dioctadecyl-3,3,3',3'-Tetramethylindocarbocyanine Perchlorate.

Figure 8

Calibrated mathematical model reproduces key observations in multiple experimental datasets. Percentage infected cells is shown for various fendiline concentrations given prior to infection (d-1/0, **a-c**) or daily (e.d., **d-f**). (**a,d**) MOI 1; (**b,c,e,f**) MOI 0.1. (**g-h**) Model predicted cell and viral dynamics for MOI 0.1. (**i**) Model predicted dose response curves for fendiline effects on viral budding and entry in the BSL4 experiments.

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Tables

Table 1. Antibodies used in immunoblotting

Target	Species	Tag	Dilution	Cat. #	Company
eVP40	Rabbit		1/40,000	0301-010	IBT Bioservices
Rabbit	Goat	HRP	1/5,000	205718	Abcam
GAPDH	Mouse		1/5,000	8245	Abcam
Mouse	Sheep	HRP	1/10,000	6808	Abcam
EBOV-GP (KZ52)	Human		1.0 µg/ml	0260-001	IBT Bioservices
Human	Goat	Alexa-488	0.7 µg/ml	A11013	Invitrogen
MARV-GP (9G4)	Mouse		4.0 µg/ml	N/A	USARMIID Hybridoma Division
Mouse	Goat	Alexa-488	1.0 µg/ml	A11029	Invitrogen
6xHis	Mouse		1/1,000	A5588	Sigma

Table 2. Mathematical model parameter descriptions and values

Symbol	Description	Unit	Value from calibration to budding and entry assays	Ranges based on fits to budding and entry assays	Value from calibration to BSL4 data – using ranges defined by budding and entry assays
β	Infection rate constant of target cells by free virions	(Virion.day) ⁻¹	N/A	0 - inf	6.6x10 ⁻⁶
δ	Death rate constant of infected cells	Day ⁻¹	N/A	0 - inf	4.6x10 ⁻⁶
c	Decay rate constant of free virions	Day ⁻¹	N/A	0 - 5	5
p	Viral production rate constant by infected cells	Virions.(Infected cell.day) ⁻¹	N/A	1 - inf	49

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H_b	Hill constant for Fendiline effects on VLP budding		2.7	0.5 - 7	3.4
H_e	Hill constant for Fendiline effects on VLP entry		11	0.5 - 20	4.7
C_{50}^b	Concentration with 50% of maximum Fendiline effect on VLP budding	μM	5.7	2 - 20	18
C_{50}^e	Concentration with 50% of maximum Fendiline effect on VLP entry	μM	4.8	0.5 - 20	15
E_{max}^b	Maximum Fendiline effect on VLP budding		0.98	0.3 - 1	0.3
E_{max}^e	Maximum Fendiline effect on VLP entry		0.76	0.3 - 1	0.33

Expanded View Figure Legends

Expanded View 1 (EV1)

Fluorescence profiles of PS and WT-eVP40 through confocal microscopy and plot profile analysis of fluorescently labeled GUVs and Alexa488-eVP40. a

Representative confocal images of fluorescently labeled (TopFluor® TMR-PS) GUVs with varying lipid compositions (red) following incubation with eVP40-Alexa88 (green).

Colocalization between eVP40 and PS within GUVs was indicated by plot profile analyses of fluorescence signals between TopFluor® TMR-PS (red dotted line) and eVP40-Alexa488 (green solid line) performed at indicated open yellow lines in **a** and shown in

b-d. **b** Plot profile analysis of eVP40-Alexa488 and control GUVs (DPPC:Cholesterol:0.2mol% TopFluor® TMR-PS), **c** Plot profile analysis of eVP40-

Alexa488 and PS GUVs (DPPC:Cholesterol:0.2mol% TopFluor® TMR-PS:DPPS). *

indicates overlap in fluorescence signals. **d** Plot profile analysis of eVP40-Alexa488 and PS+PI(4,5)P₂ GUVs (DPPC:Cholesterol:0.2mol% TopFluor® TMR-PS:DPPS:PI(4,5)P₂).

PS: phosphatidylserine; DPPC: dipalmitoyl-phosphatidylcholine; DPPS: dipalmitoyl-phosphatidylserine.

Expanded View 2 (EV2)

Fluorescence profiles of PS and GFP-WT-eVP40 in HEK 293 cells through confocal

microscopy. a Representative confocal images from live cell imaging of HEK293 expressing various GFP-fused proteins (GFP; green) following supplementation with

TopFluor® TMR-PS (red). Solid white lines indicate where plot profile analysis was

performed; scale bar= 10 μm. **b-c** Validation of ability to detect exogenously added

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fluorescently labelled PS within the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane of cells **b** Plot profile analysis of HEK293 cells expressing cytosolic GFP. **c** Plot profile analysis of HEK293 cells expressing the PS sensor GFP-LactC2 **d-e** Investigation of functionally distinct eVP40 proteins ability to bind to fluorescently labelled PS within the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane in living cells. **d** Plot profile analysis of HEK293 cells expressing GFP-WT-eVP40. **e** Plot profile analysis of HEK293 cells expressing GFP-K224A-eVP40 (PS-binding residue mutant). **f** Plot profile analysis of HEK293 cells expressing GFP-WE/A-eVP40 (oligomerization deficient mutant). TopFluor TMR-PS fluorescence signal intensity (red dotted line) and GFP fluorescence signal intensity (green solid line).

Expanded View 3 (EV3)

Validation of *in-vitro* and cellular PS clustering experiments. **a** GUVs of varying compositions were imaged prior to and following the addition of 1.25 μ M eVP40-Alexa. eVP40-Alexa 488 enrichment ratios at the membrane of the GUVs was calculated by the ratio the Alexa488 fluorescence intensity at the GUV membrane / Alexa488 total fluorescence. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d.; of n=3. A two-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons was performed. *p<0.0001. **b** Representative images of the step-wise image analysis workflow of quantifying PS clustering in living HEK293 cells expressing GFP-fused proteins using a custom ImageJ macro. scale bar= 10 μ m. **c** Representative images from live cell imaging experiments of HEK293 cells expressing control GFP-fused proteins specific for the plasma membrane (GPI), and specific lipids, PS (LactC2) and PI(4,5)P₂ (PLC δ -PH). scale bar= 10 μ m.

Expanded View 4 (EV4)

Profile of fendiline toxicity and efficacy in BSL-2 models. a CellTiter-Glo® viability results of HEK293 cells. **a** HEK293 cells were treated with fendiline for 24 hours (black line) and 48 hours (blue line) and viability was assessed as a % viability of control. **b** PS saturation analysis from lipidomic analysis (LC/MS/MS) of total lipids extracted from HEK293 cells treated with the indicated concentration of fendiline (48 hours). Values are normalized to DMSO control and are reported as mean \pm s.d.; n=3; A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the control DMSO. **c** PA level analysis from lipidomic analysis (LC/MS/MS) of total lipids extracted from HEK293 cells treated with 5 μ M fendiline (48 hours). Values are normalized to DMSO control and are reported as mean \pm s.d.; n=3; A two-tailed t-test was performed. **d-e** Analysis of PS plasma membrane localization in response to 24 hour fendiline treatment. **d** Representative confocal images from live cell imaging of HEK293 cells expressing GFP-LactC2 and treated with fendiline for 24 hours; scale bars= 10 μ m. **d** Effect of fendiline on PS plasma membrane localization was calculated by the ratio of GFP fluorescence at the (plasma membrane intensity/intracellular intensity). Values are normalized to DMSO control and are reported as mean \pm s.d.; N>15, n=3; A one-way ANOVA was performed with multiple comparisons compared to the DMSO control. **p=0.0045; ***p=0.0003. **f** N&B analysis of HEK293 cells expressing the control GFP. Analysis was performed at 48 hours post treatment (DMSO) to align with N&B analysis performed on experiments with HEK293 cells expressing GFP-LactC2 or GFP-eVP40 and treated with the control or fendiline. *Left panel:* Representative images from time-lapse (30 frames) of HEK293 expressing EGFP and treated with fendiline for 48 hours. scale bar = 5 μ m. *Middle panel:*

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Brightness and Intensity plots for representative image. *Right panel:* Selection map correlating each pixel in the representative image to an oligomerization state (b value) (red: monomer). PS: phosphatidylserine; PA: phosphatidic acid; N&B: number & brightness analysis.

Expanded View 5 (EV5)

Vero E6 toxicity and effect of fendiline on eVP40 plasma membrane localization at 24 hours post treatment. **a** CellTiter-Glo® viability results of Vero cells. Cells were treated with control or fendiline for 48 hours according to the BSL-4 infection model; d-1/0 (black line), e.d. (blue line) and e.o.d (gray line) and viability was assessed as a % viability of control. **b-c** Effect of fendiline on eVP40 PM localization in HEK293 cells after 24 hours of treatment. **b** Representative confocal images from live cell imaging experiments of HEK293 cells expressing EGFP-WT-eVP40 after 48 hours of fendiline treatment. scale bars= 10 μ m. **c** Effect of fendiline on eVP40 PM localization was quantified by the ratio of EGFP fluorescence intensity at the PM / total GFP fluorescence intensity (and normalized to DMSO control). N>15, n=3. Values are reported as mean \pm s.d. A one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons was performed compared to the DMSO control. PM: plasma membrane.

Expanded View 6 (EV6)

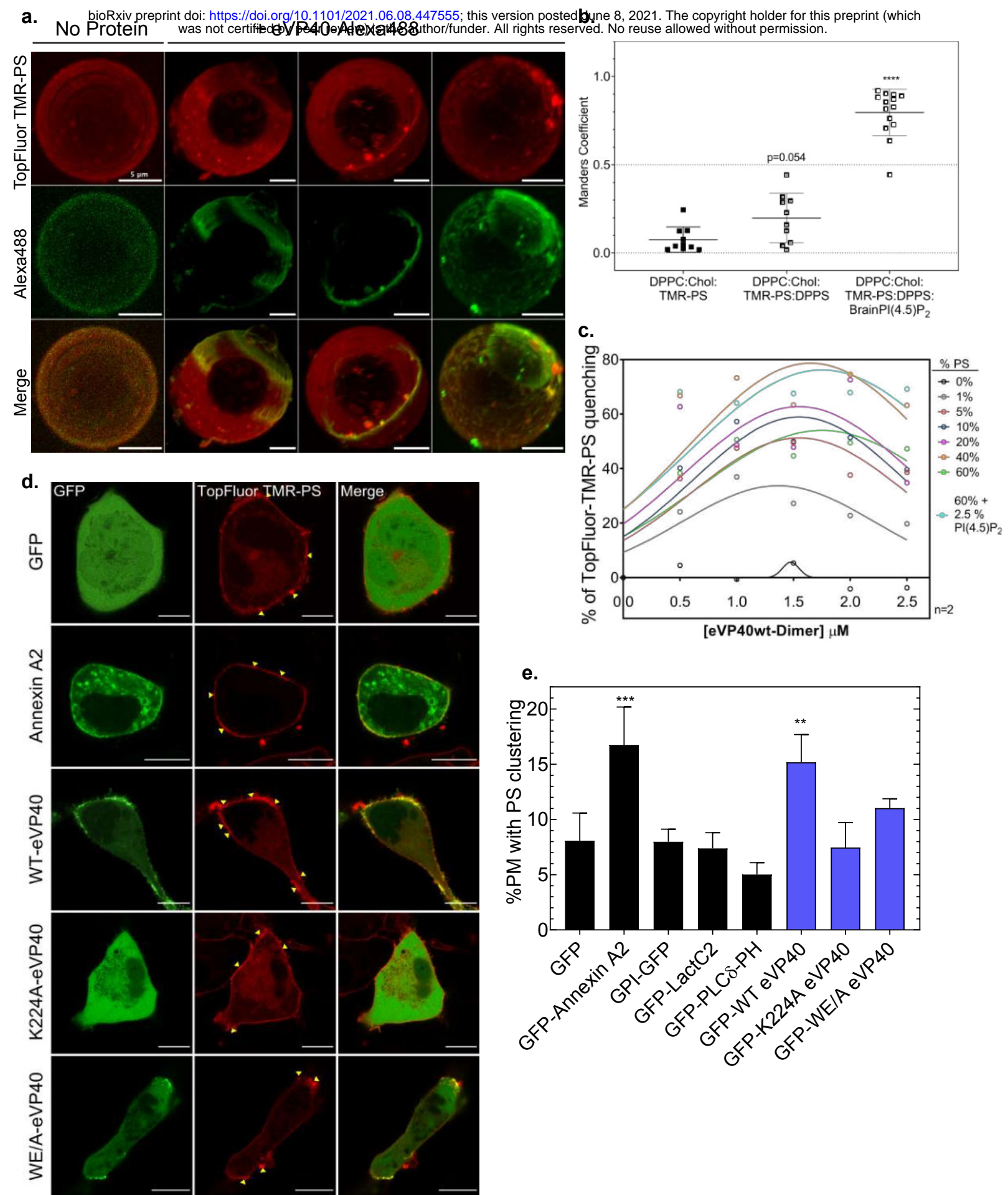
Thermal melting of eVLPs produced in the presence and absence of fendiline. **a** Ebola virus-like particles (eVLPs) were produced in DMSO treated HEK293 cells expressing FLAG-eVP40 and eGP constructs which were then collected, purified, and melted while measuring the loss in polarized light absorption at 220 nm. **b** Prior to melting, the circular dichroism spectra of DMSO

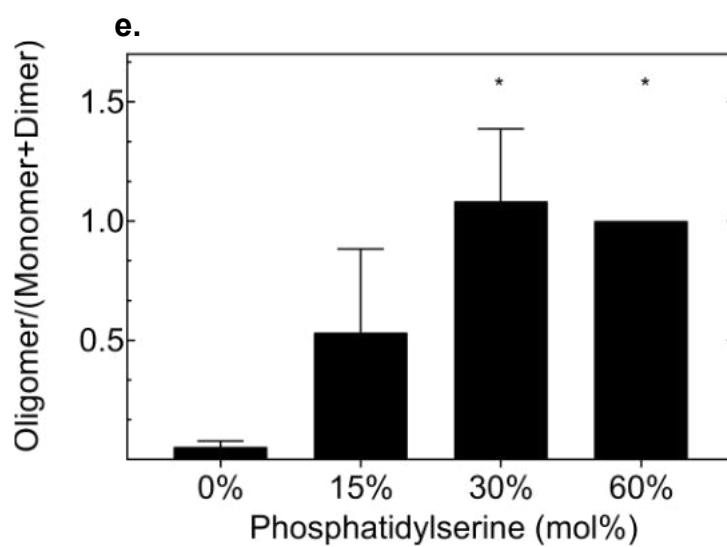
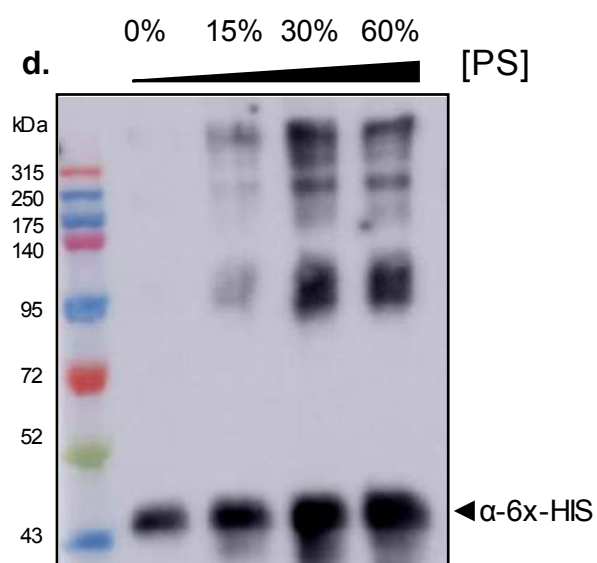
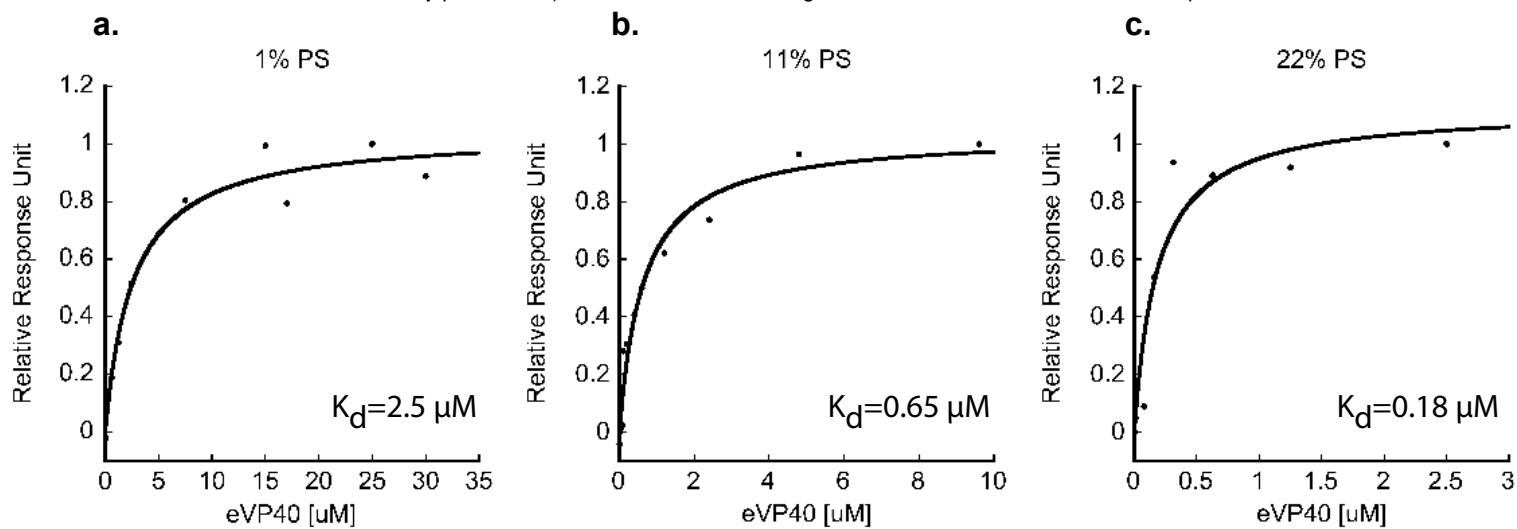
Targeting PS levels to inhibit EBOV

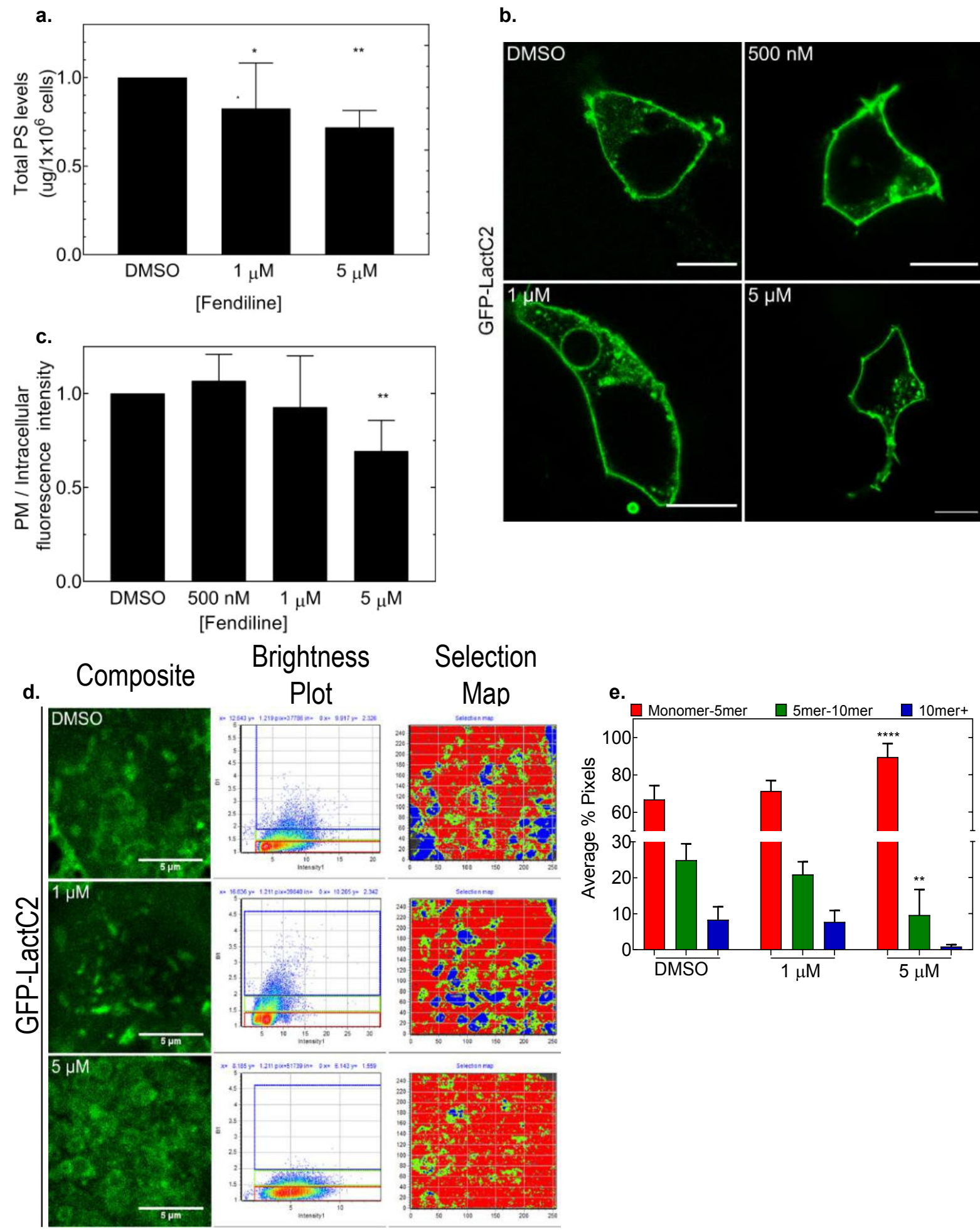
VLPs was measured alongside the absorbance and detector (hv) signals. **c** Ebola VLPs were produced in 5 μ M fendiline treated HEK293 cells using the same FLAG-eVP40 and eGP constructs which were then collected, purified and melted while measuring the loss in polarized light absorption at 220 nm. **d** Prior to melting, the circular dichroism spectra of Fendiline VLPs was measured alongside the absorbance and detector (hv) signals.

Expanded View 7 (EV7)

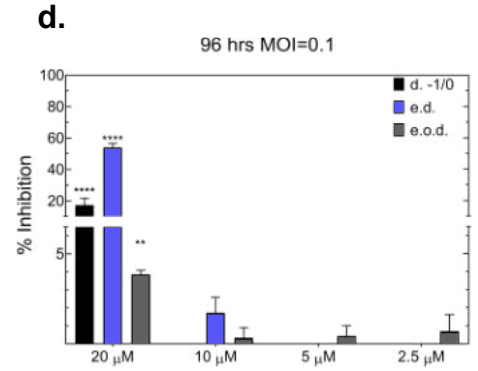
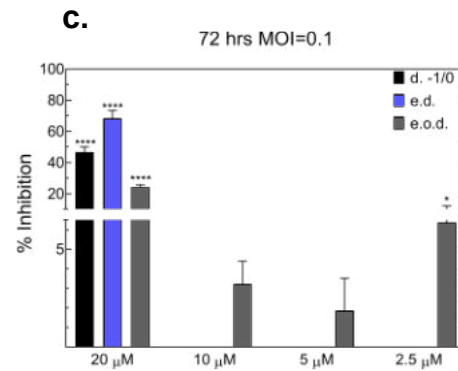
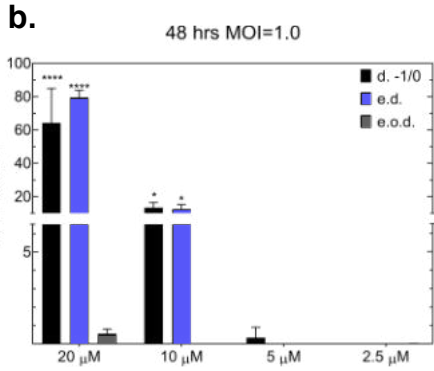
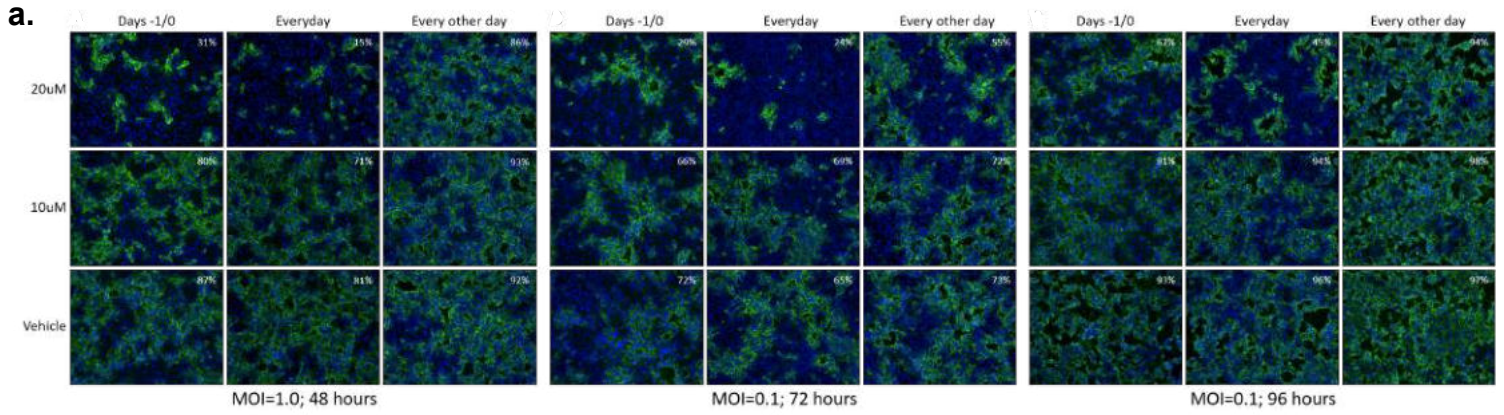
Calibration results from the first and second phase of model development. a-c First phase calibration results between experimental (black bars) and simulation (gray) data from budding (**a-b**) and entry (**c**) assays. **d-e** Second phase calibration results showing comparison between experimental and simulation data from cell viability assays. The mathematical model was calibrated to this data and the data in Figure 8 in the main text simultaneously.



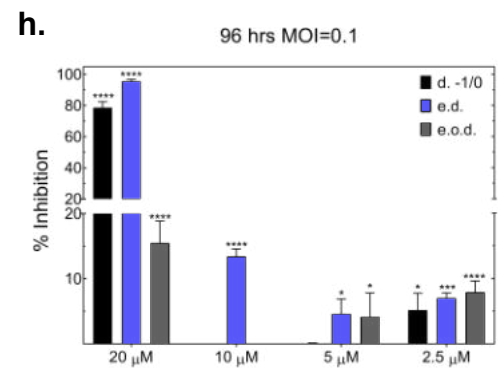
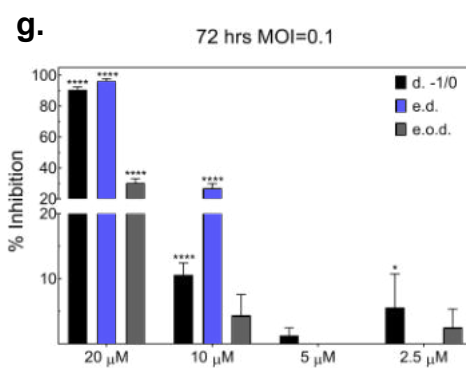
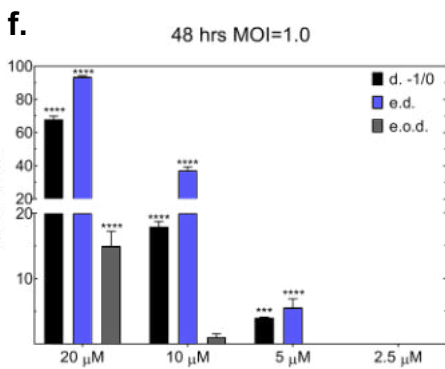
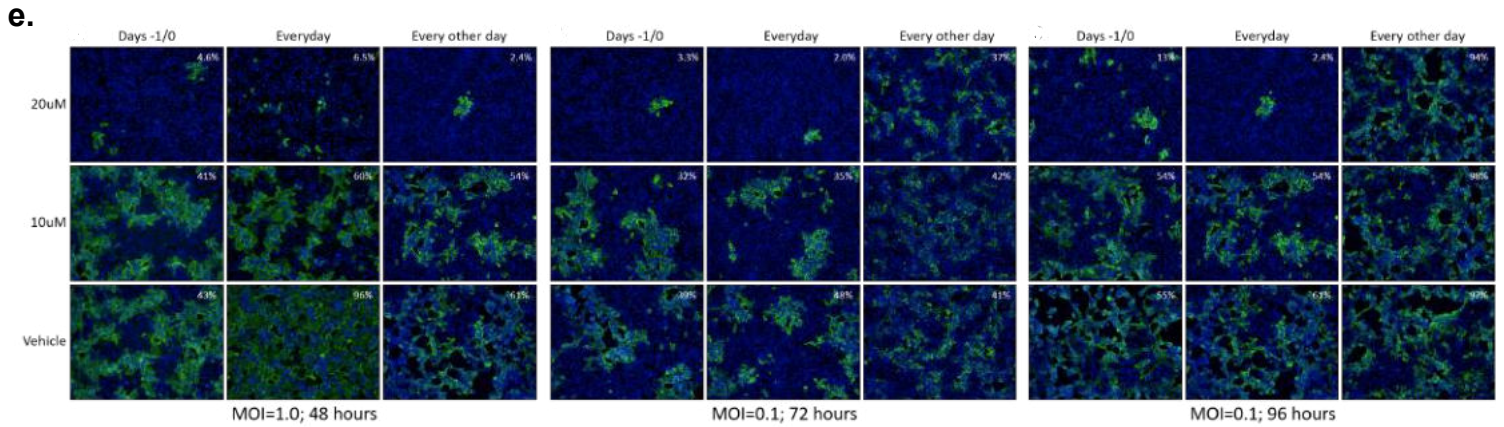


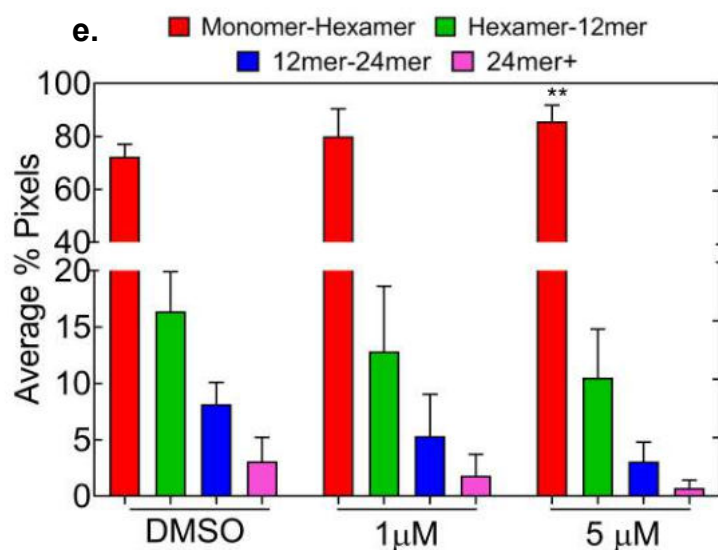
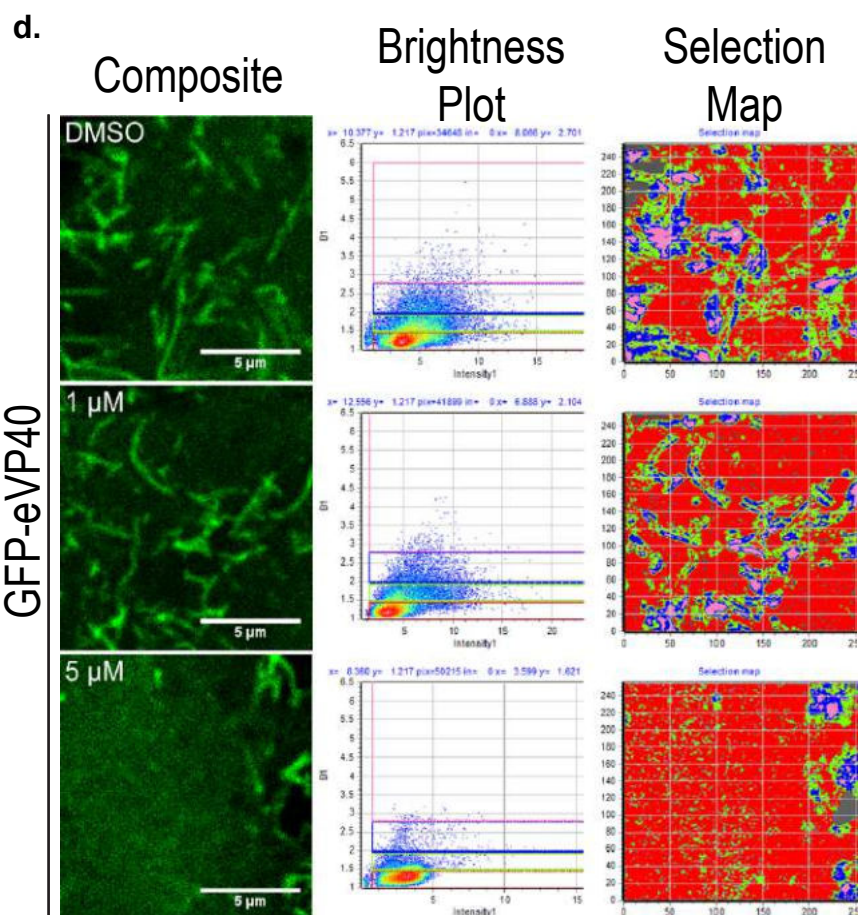
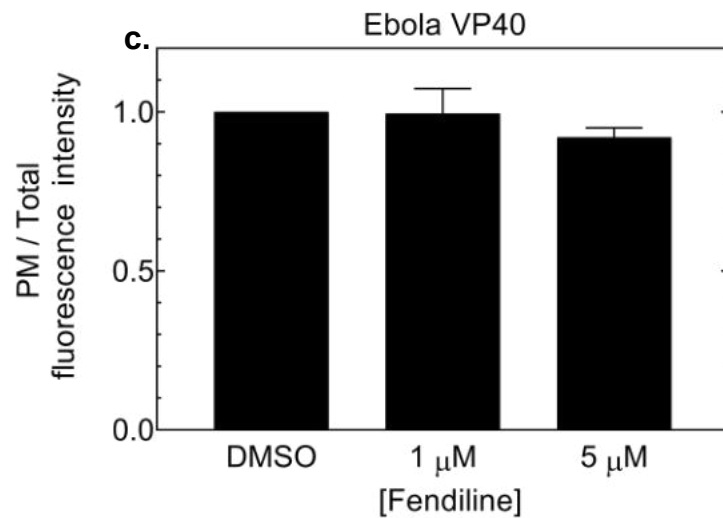
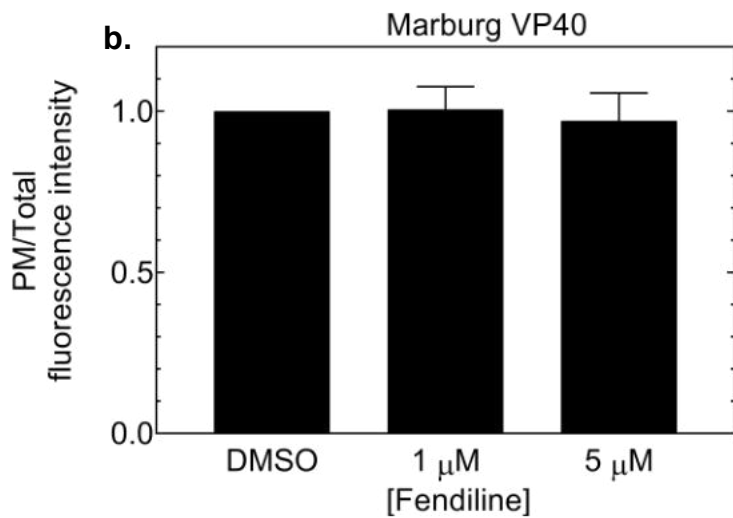
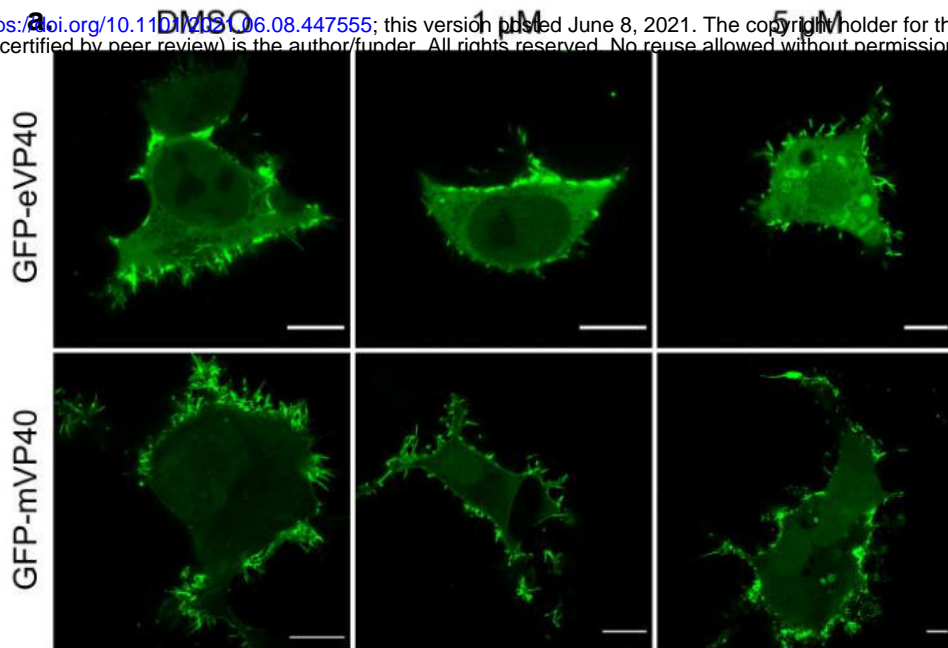


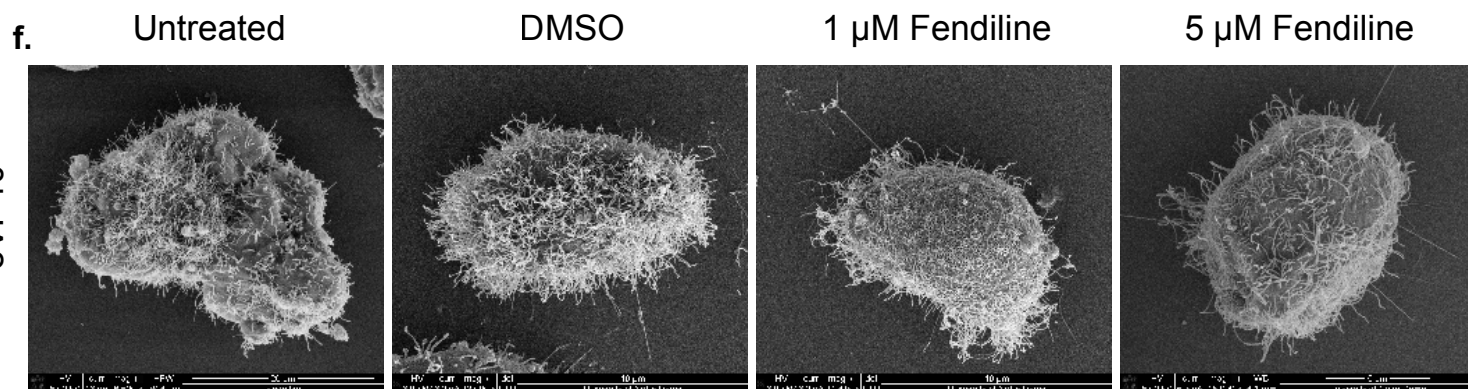
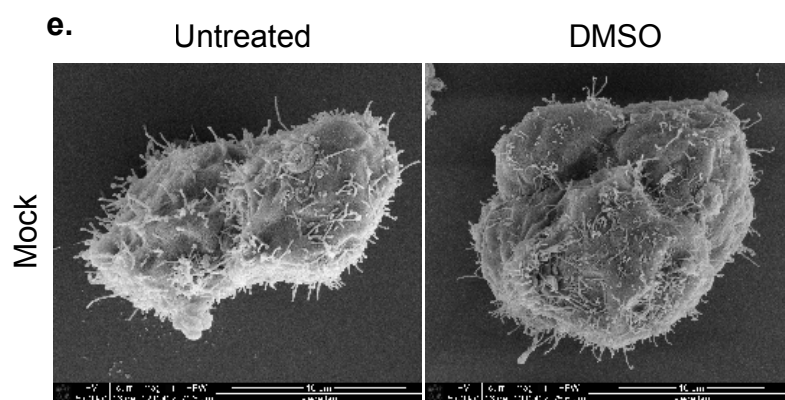
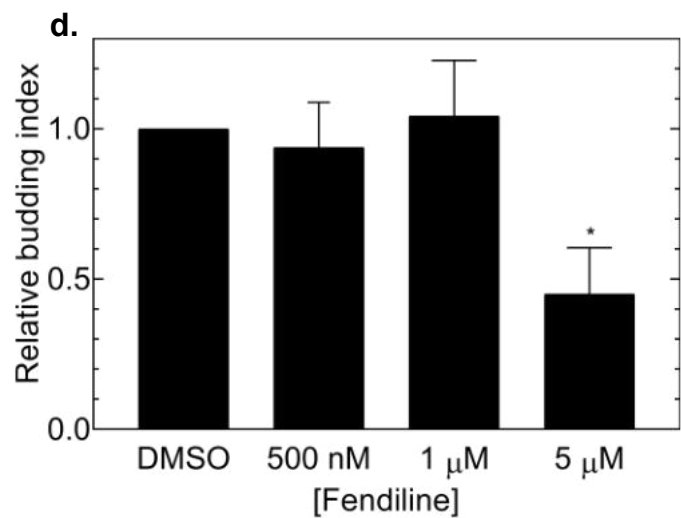
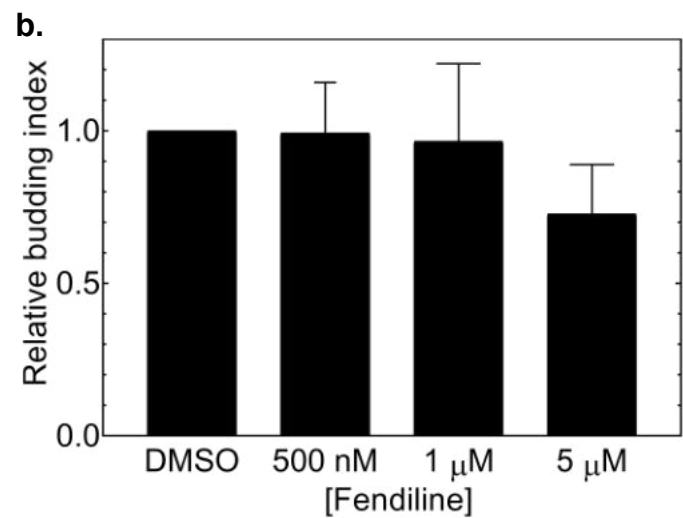
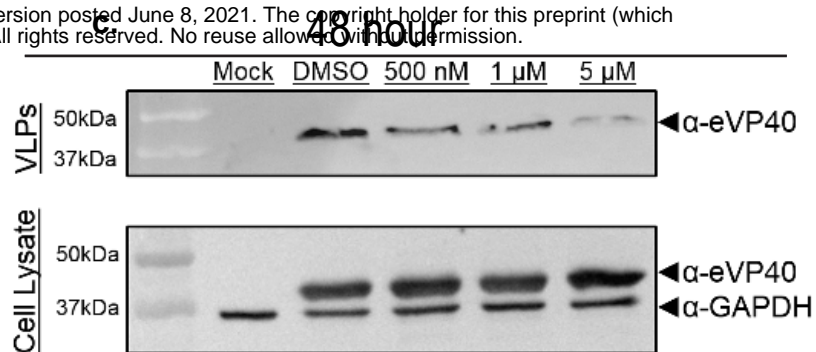
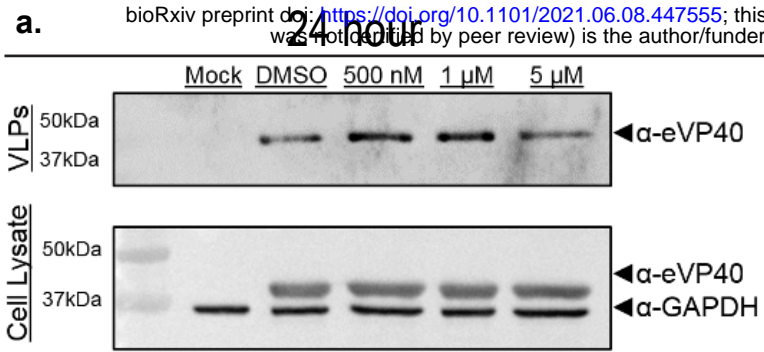
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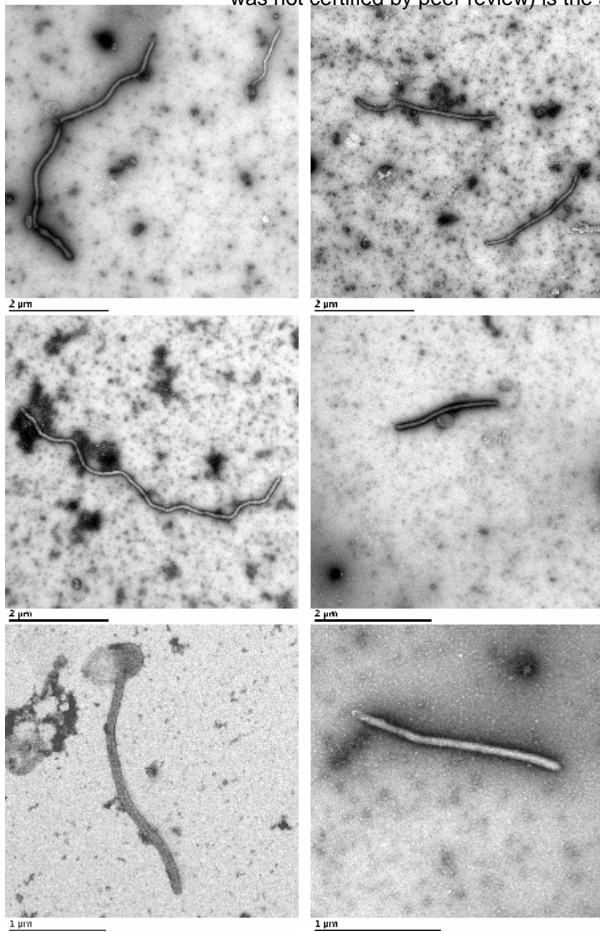
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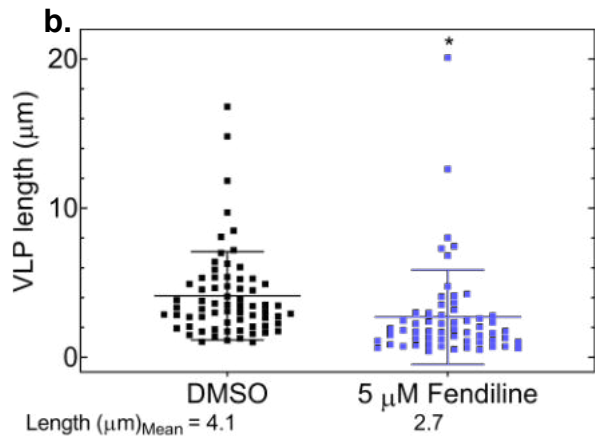




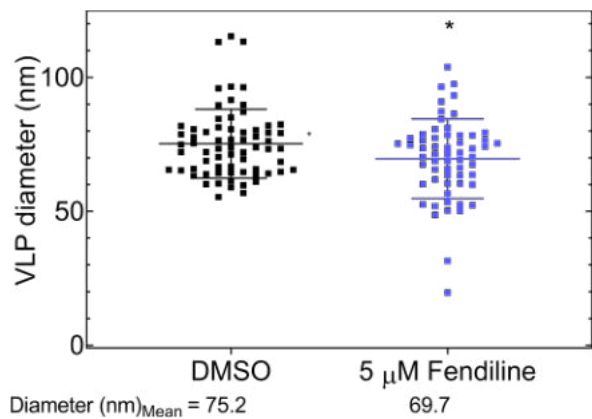
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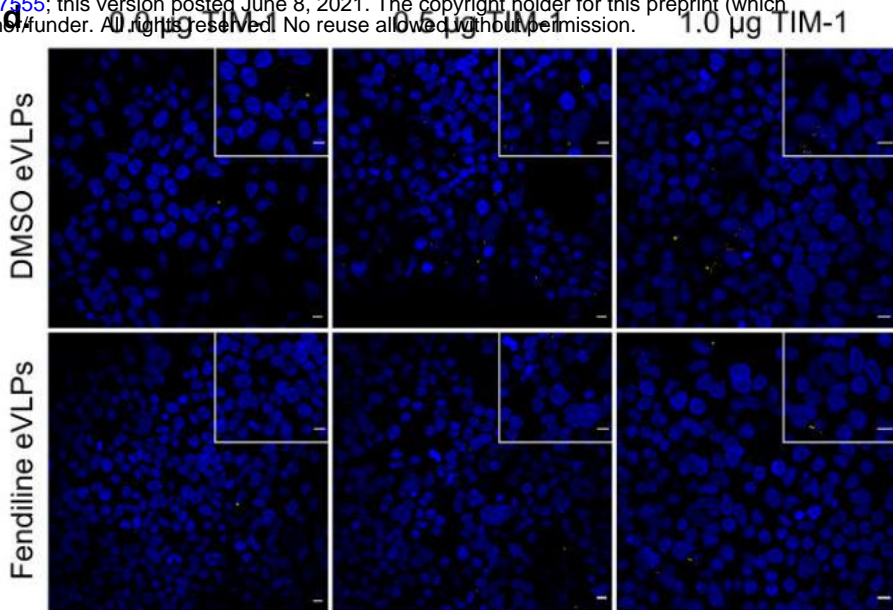
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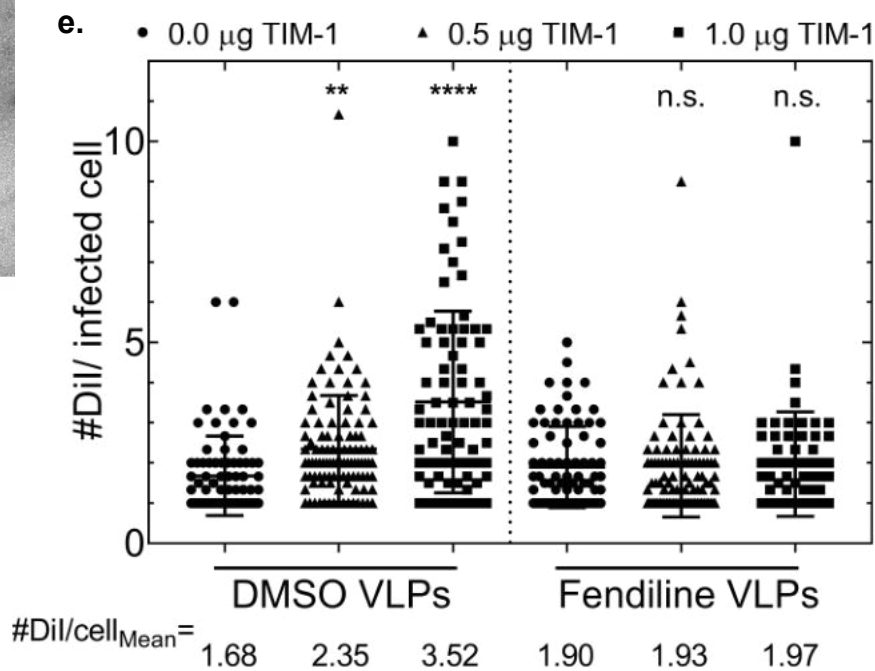
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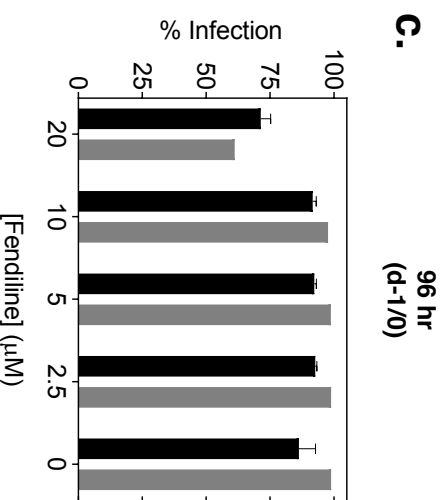
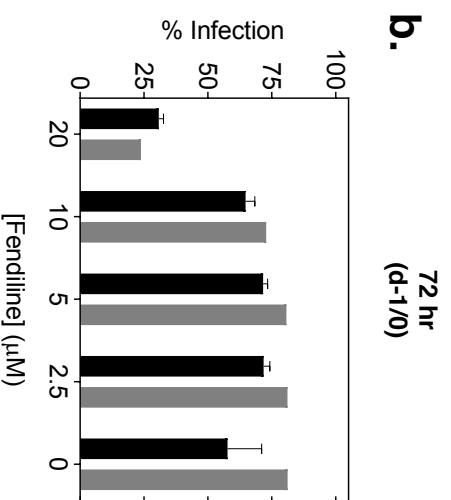
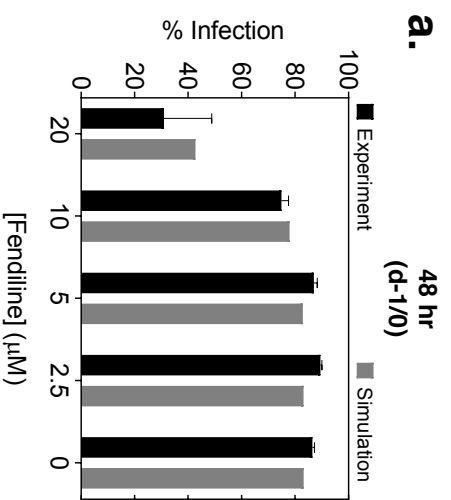
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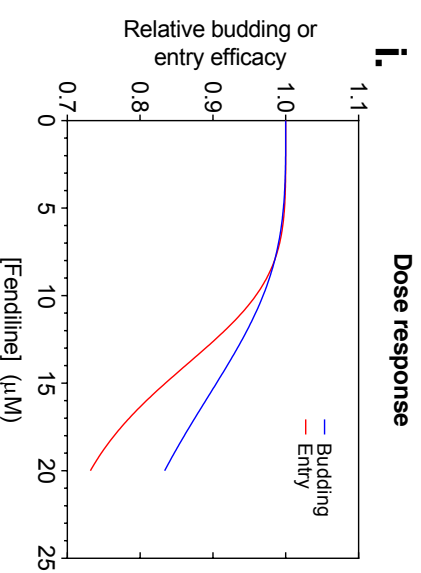
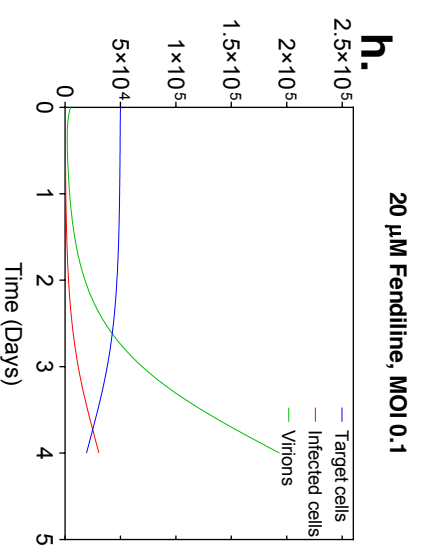
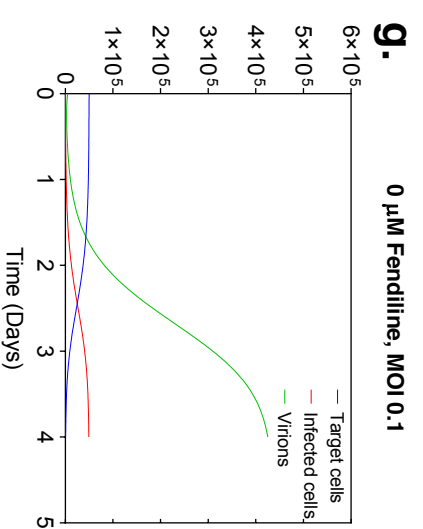
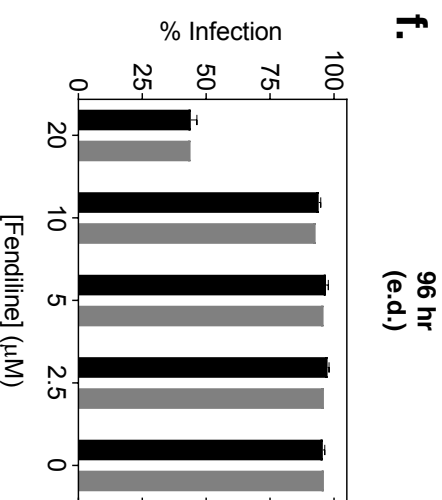
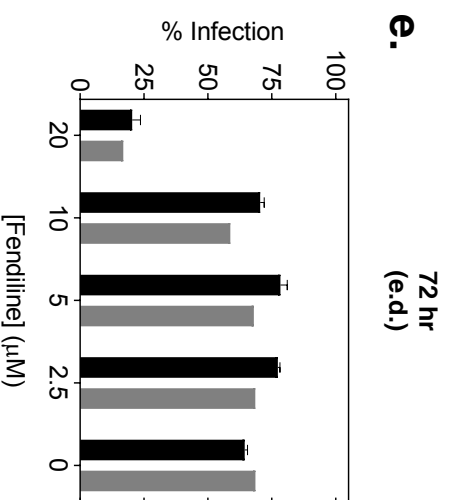
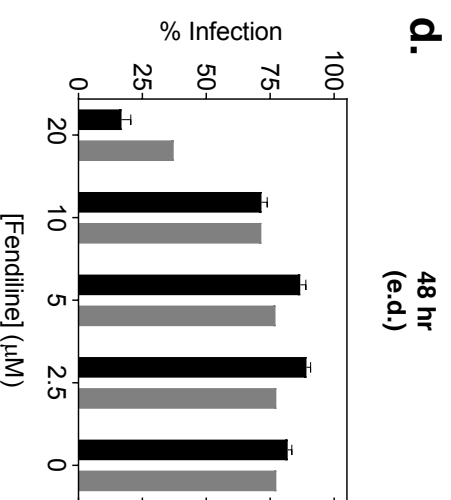
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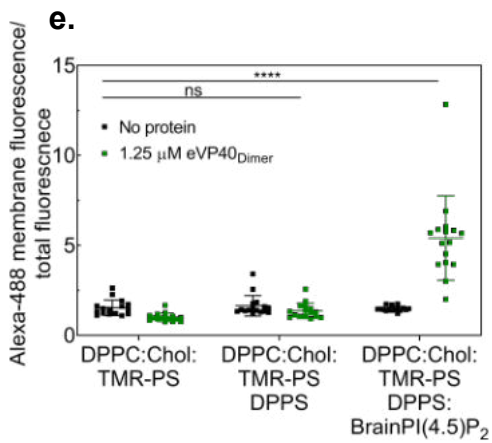
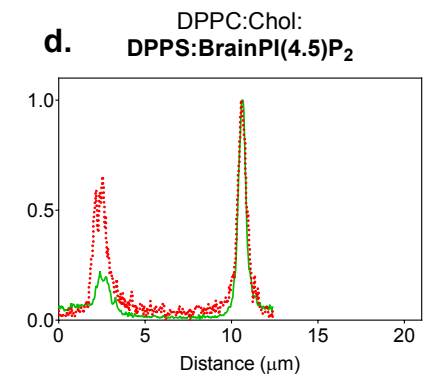
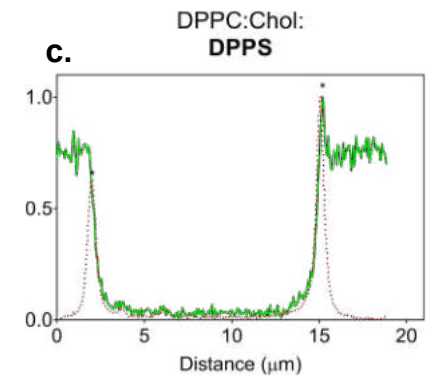
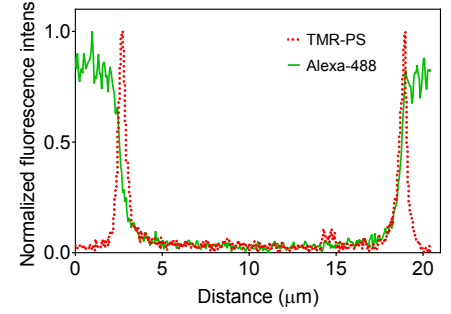
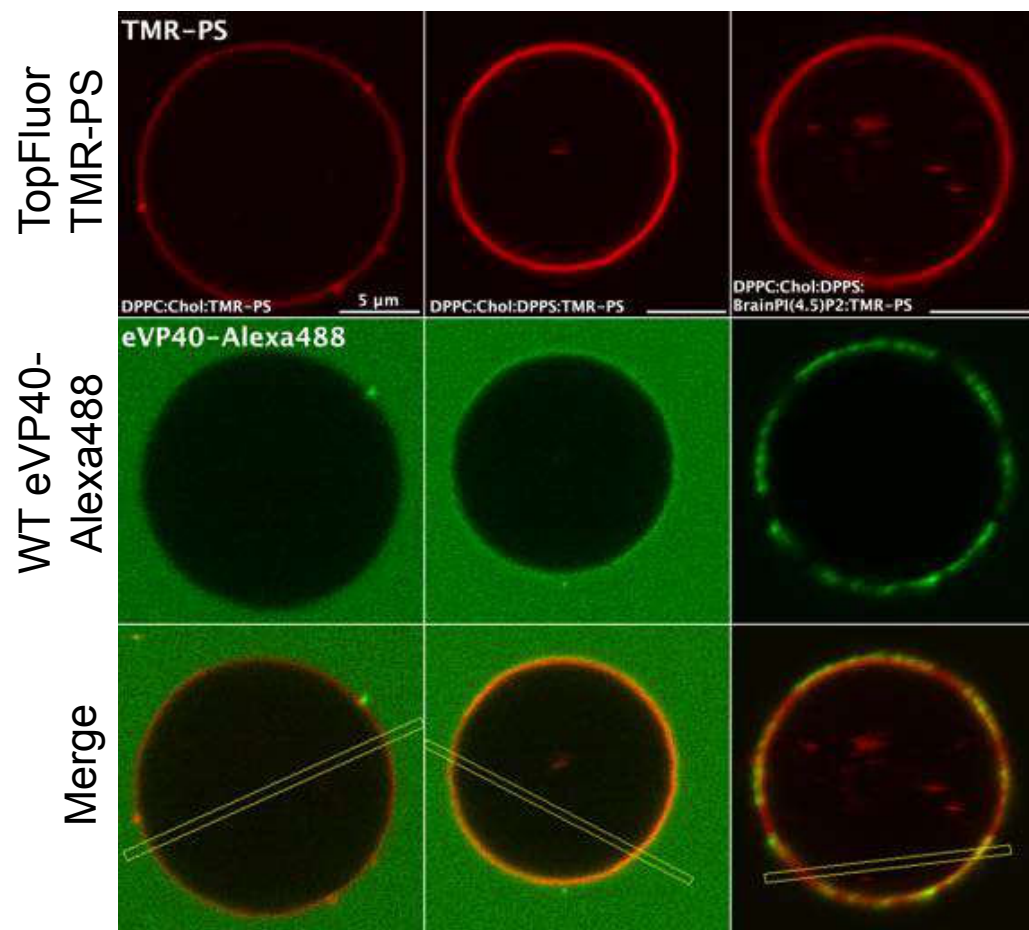
Pre-infection treatment



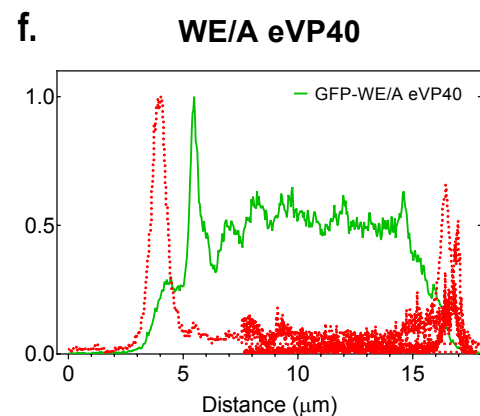
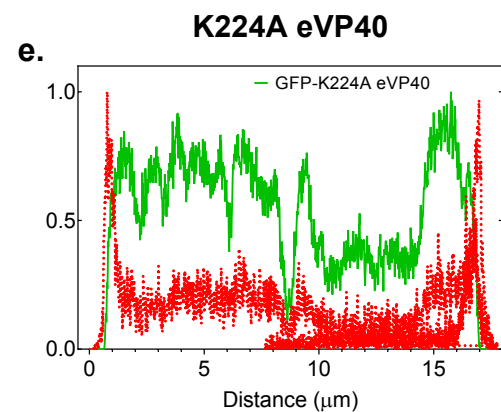
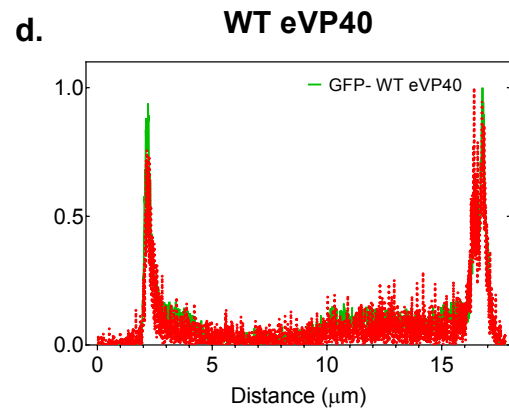
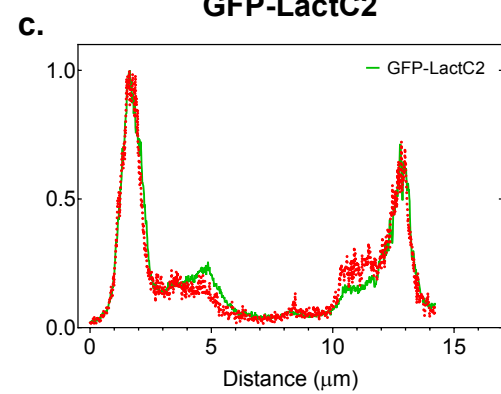
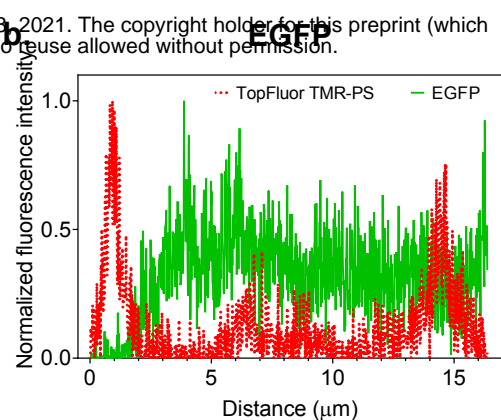
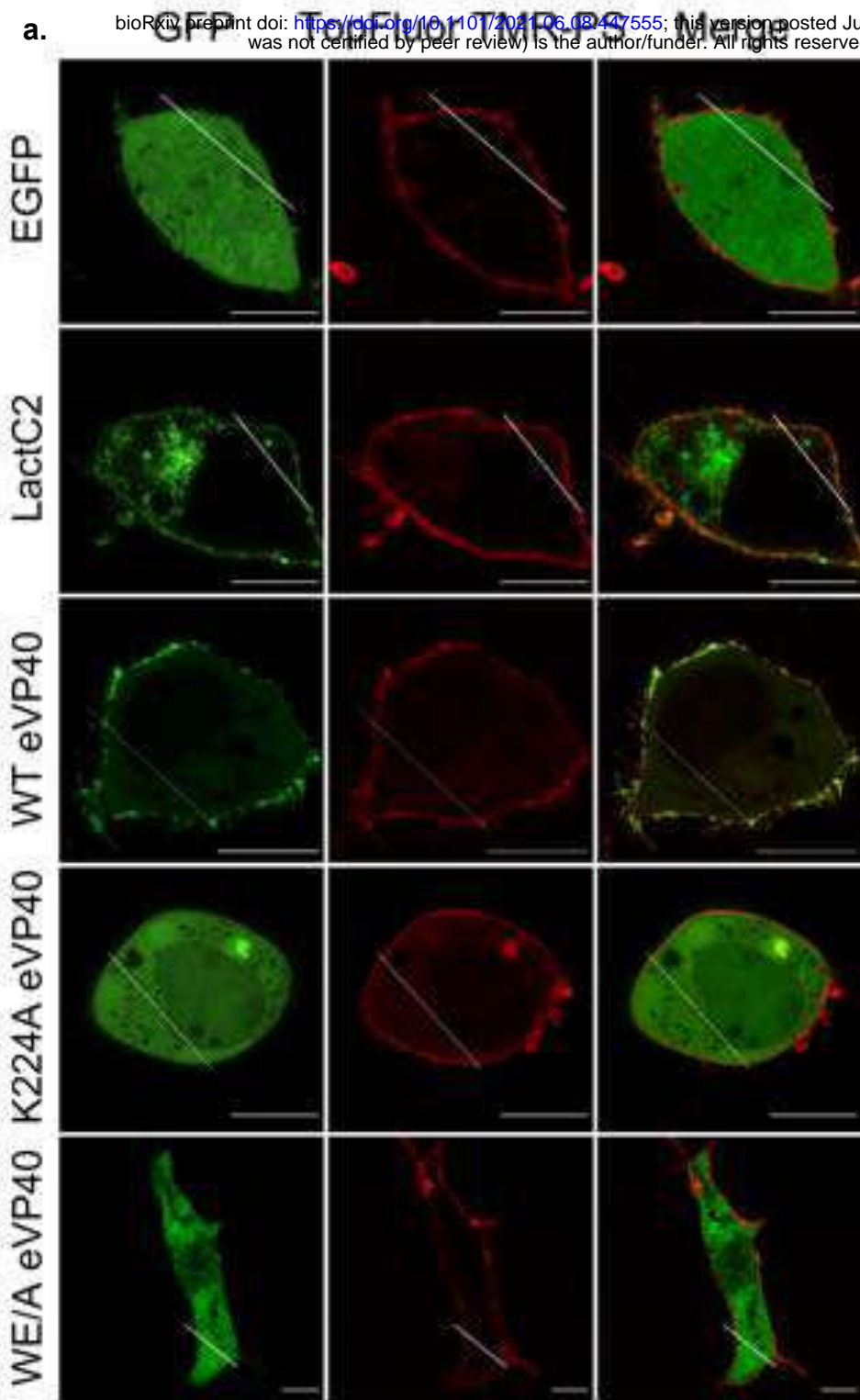
Daily treatment



a. DPPC:Chol + DPPS + DPPS:PI(4,5)P₂



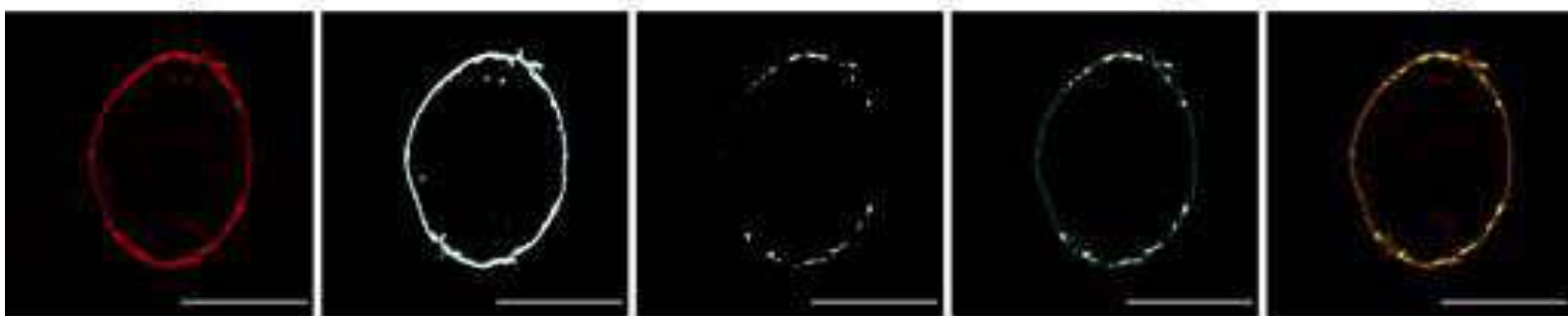
EV1



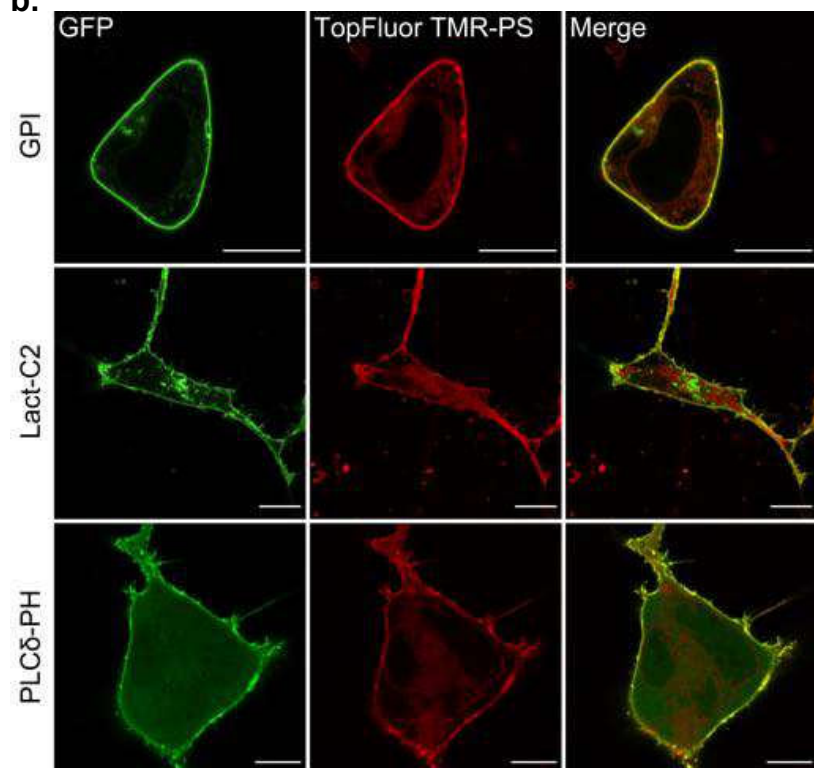
EV2

a.

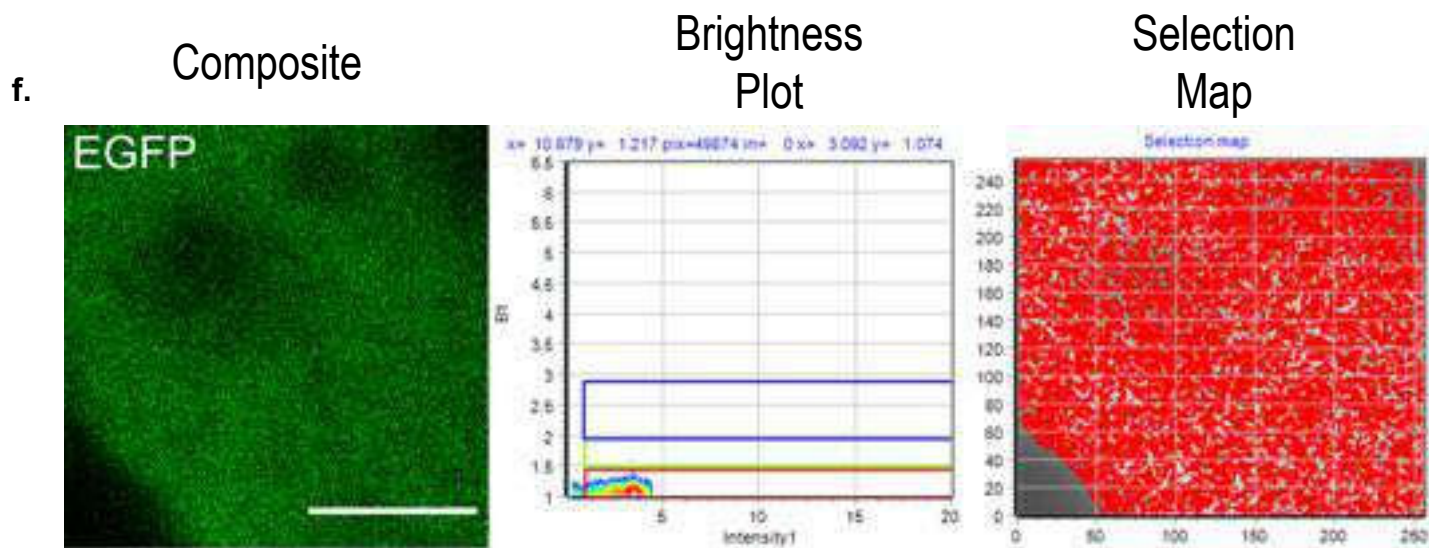
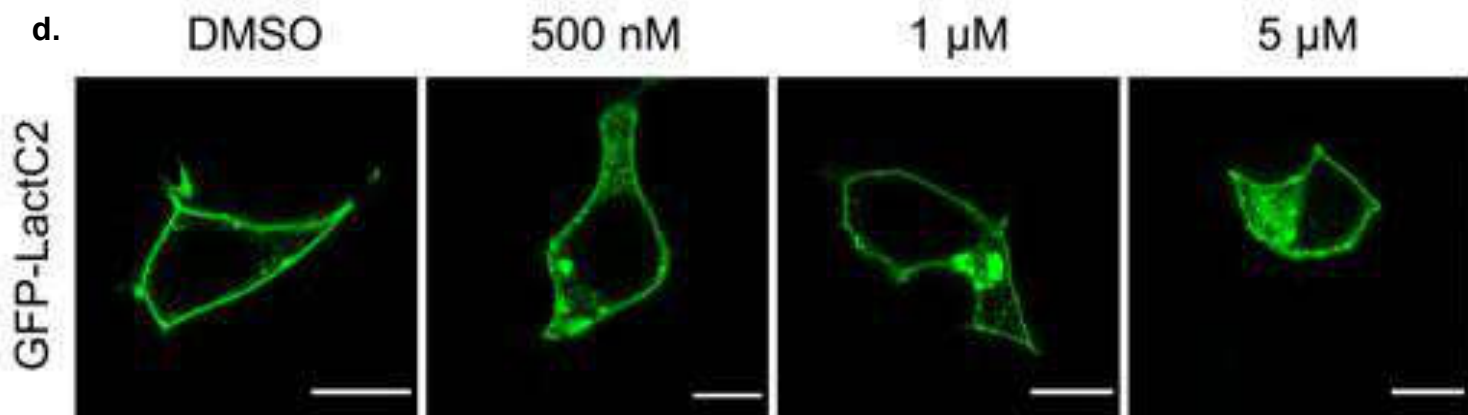
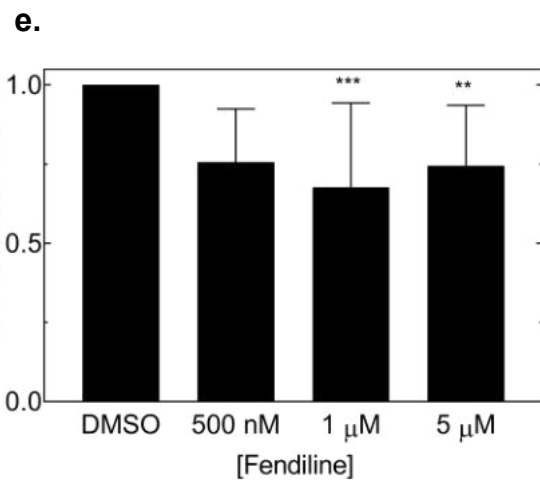
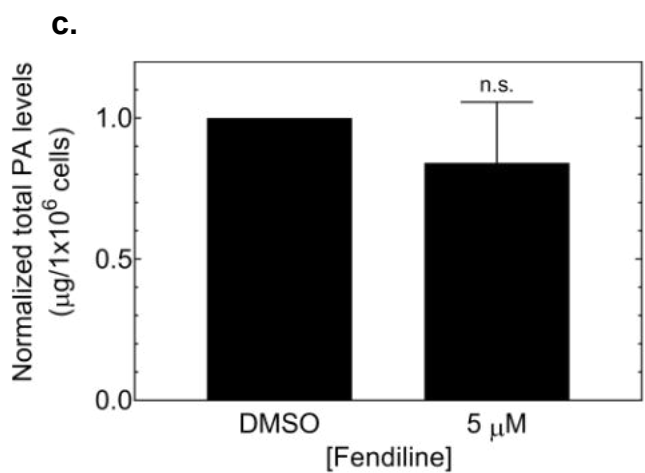
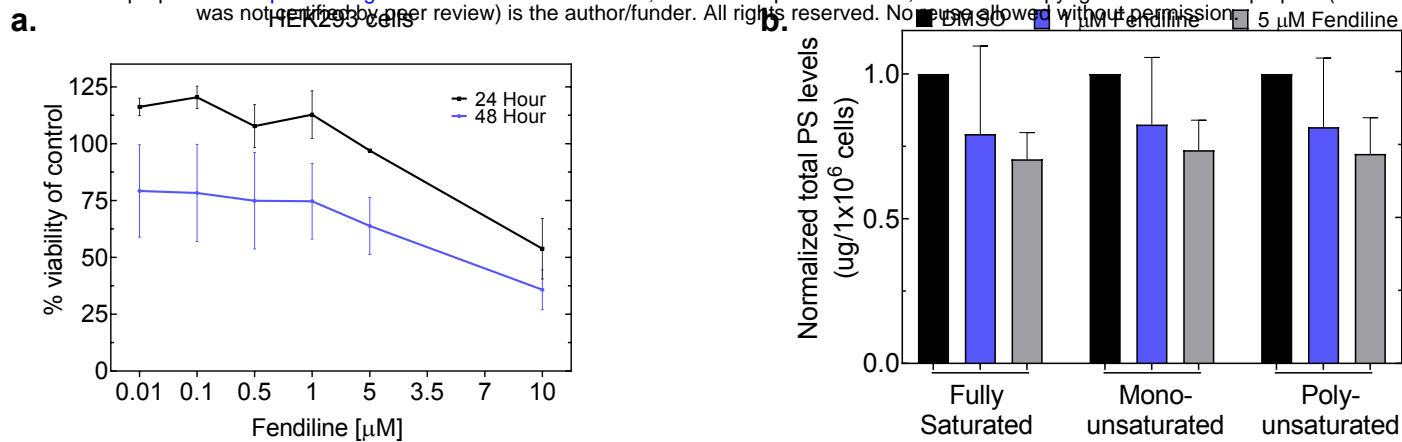
Image Membrane Clusters Overlay Merge

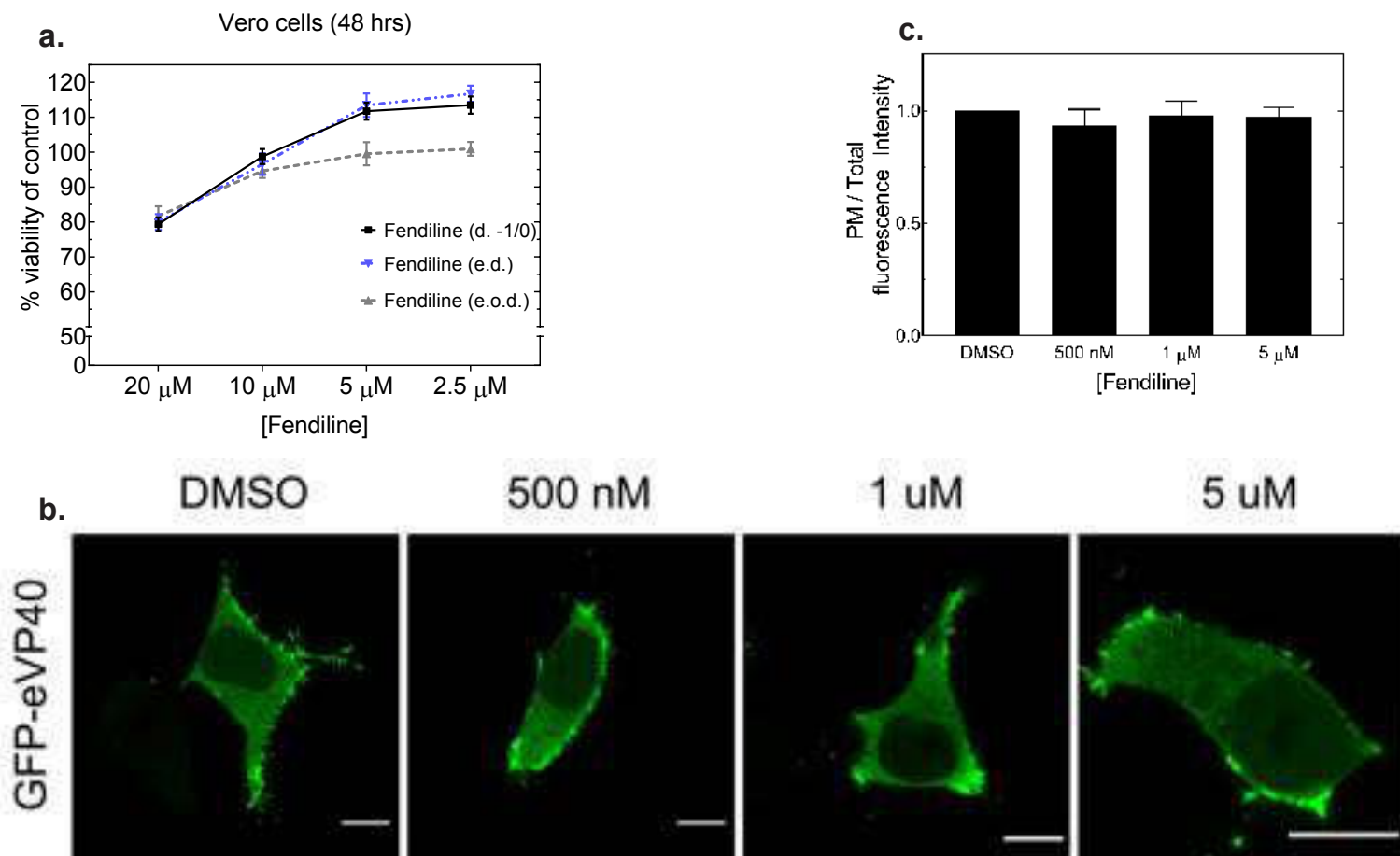


b.



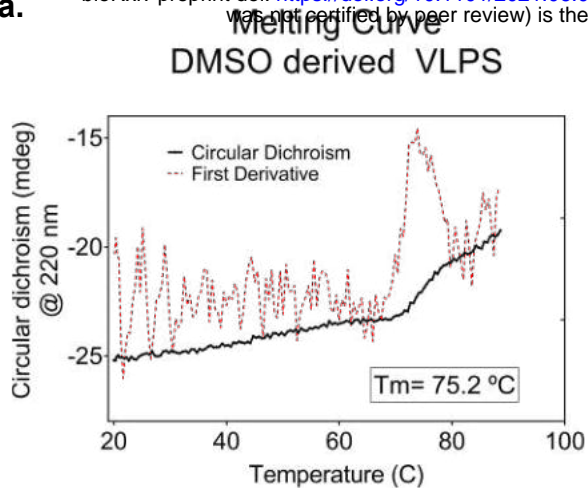
EV3



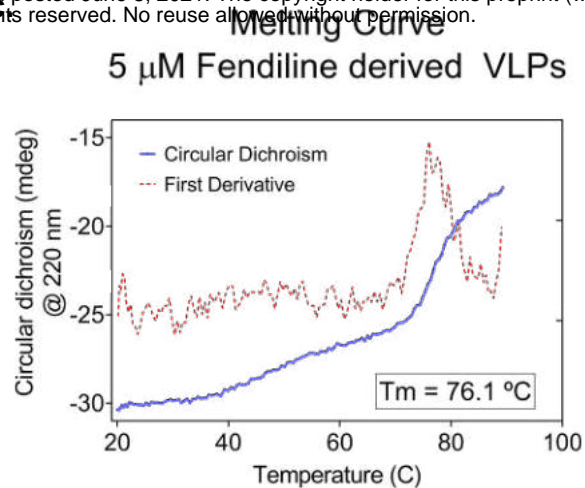


EV5

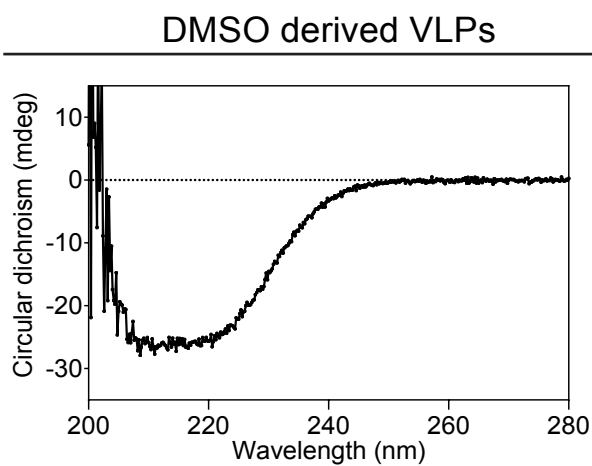
a.



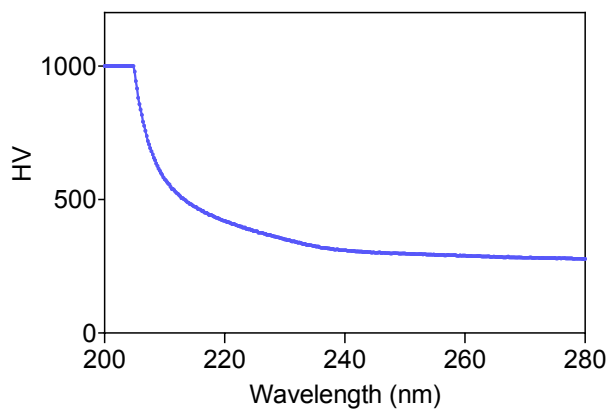
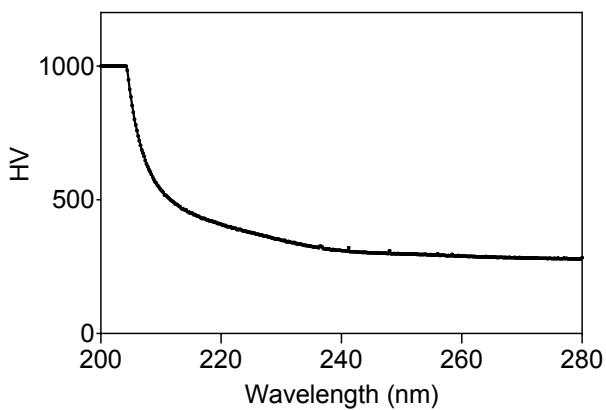
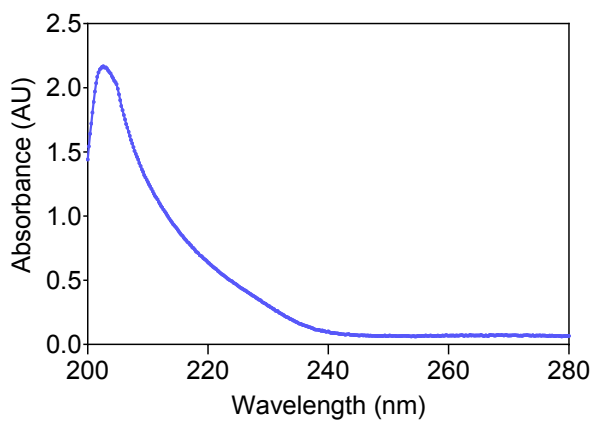
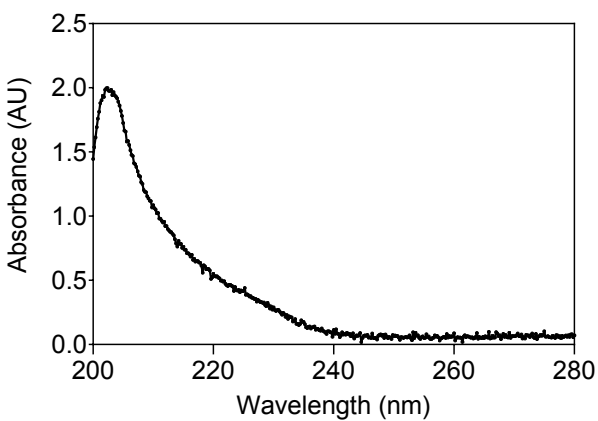
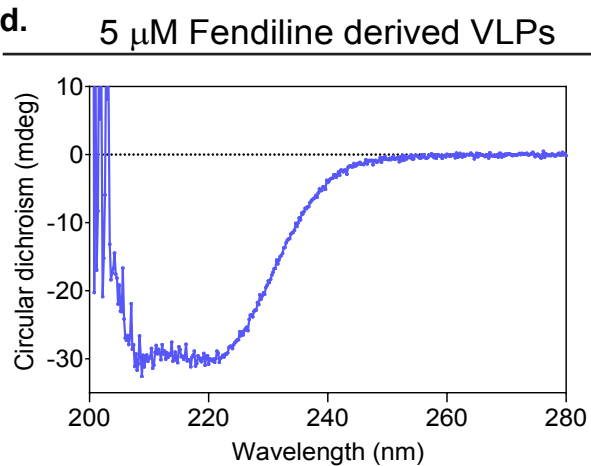
c.



b.

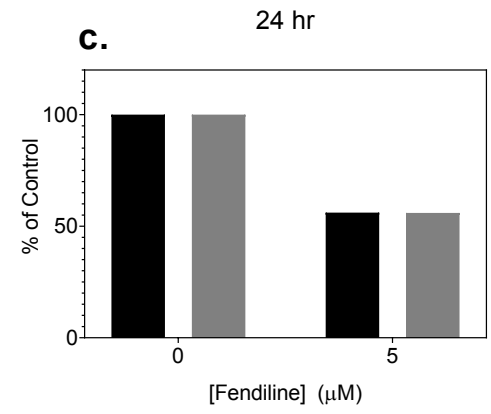
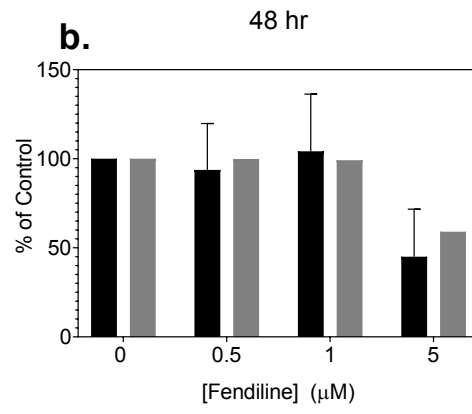
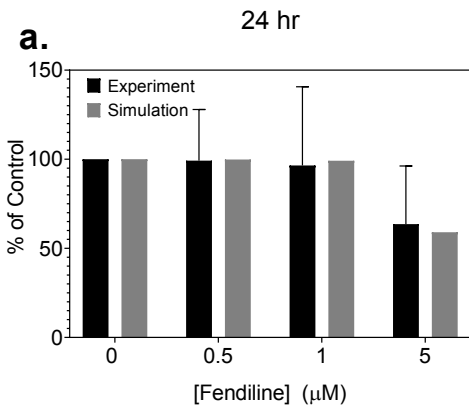


d.



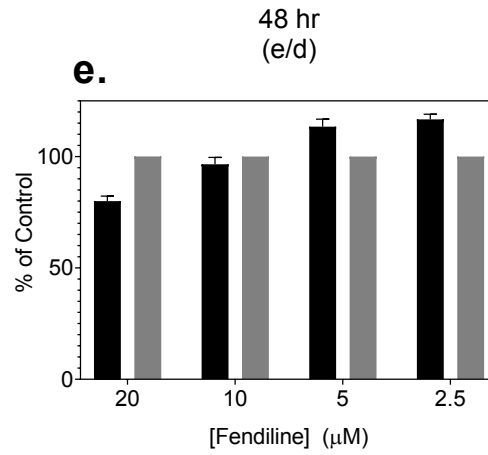
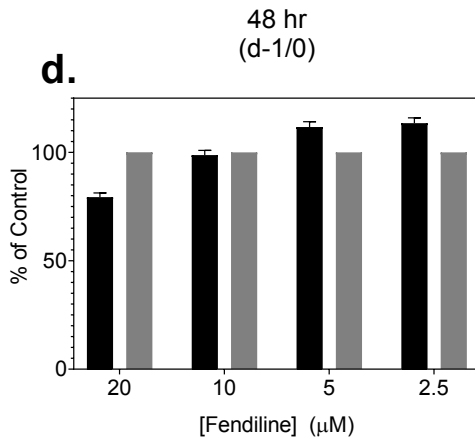
Budding

Entry



Pre-infection treatment

Daily treatment



EV7