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MTT assays. A549 cells were seeded in multiple 96-well plates (1,000 cells/well). Each day of the culture, cell number and viability were evaluated in one multiwell plate by measuring the mitochondrial-dependent conversion of the tetrazolium salt MTT (Sigma-Aldrich) into a colored formazan product. In brief, the cells were rinsed with PBS, and 100 μ l of fresh RPMI 1640 medium without FBS was added to each well. 10 μ l of MTT solution in 5 mg/ml PBS was then added to each well, and the dishes were incubated for 2 h at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ humidified incubator. The medium was discarded, the cells were rinsed with PBS, and 100 μ l of DMSO was added to each well to extract the dye (followed shaking for 20 min). Dye absorbance was eventually measured at 570 nm.

HUVEC co-culture experiments. HUVECs were from Clonetics and were grown in endothelial cell basal media from Cambrex. For co-culture experiments, 10⁵ HUVECs were plated on gelatin-coated cover slips for 24 h. 10³ MDA-EV and MDA-3B cells were labeled with Vybrant CellTracker green (Invitrogen) for 15 min and then plated on a confluent monolayer of HUVECs for 24 h. Cells were fixed with methanol and stained for CD31.

Endothelial cell migration. HUVEC motility was assayed using Transwell chamber inserts (8- μ M pore size; Costar). The lower surface of the porous membrane was coated by incubation with 10 μ g/ml fibronectin overnight. HUVECs were detached with 1 mM EDTA in PBS and resuspended in serum-free medium. 10⁵ cells were added to the upper side of the porous membrane and allowed to migrate toward the lower chamber for 4 h. The migrated cells to the lower side were fixed with 11% glutaraldehyde and stained with crystal violet. Cells were photographed and the dye was solubilized in 10% acetic acid to measure absorbance at 562 nm with a microplate reader.

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