SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**Endothelial Zeb2 preserves the hepatic angioarchitecture and protects against liver fibrosis**

Willeke de Haan¹, Wouter Dheedene², Katerina Apelt², Sofiane Décombas-Deschamps³, Stefan Vinckier⁴⁵, Stefaan Verhulst⁶, Andrea Conidi⁷, Thomas Deffieux³, Michael W. Staring¹, Petra Vandervoort¹, Ellen Caluwé¹, Marleen Lox¹, Inge Mannerts⁶, Tsuyoshi Takagi⁸, Joris Jaekers⁹, Geert Berx¹⁰¹¹, Jody Haigh¹²¹³, Baki Topal⁹, An Zwijsen¹, Yujiro Higashi⁸, Leo A. van Grunsven⁶, Wilfred F.J. van IJcken⁷¹⁴, Eskeatnaf Mulugeta⁷, Mickael Tanter³, Franck P.G. Lebrin²³, Danny Huylebroeck⁷¹⁴ and Aernout Luttun¹

¹Center for Molecular and Vascular Biology, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; ²Department of Internal Medicine (Nephrology), Einthoven Laboratory for Experimental Vascular Medicine. Leiden University Medical Center. Leiden, The Netherlands; ³Physics for Medicine Paris, Inserm, CNRS, ESPCI Paris, Paris Sciences et Lettres University, Paris, France; ⁴Department of Oncology, Laboratory of Angiogenesis and Vascular Metabolism, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; ⁵Laboratory of Angiogenesis and Vascular Metabolism, Center for Cancer Biology, Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB), Leuven, Belgium; ⁶Liver Cell Biology research group, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium; ⁷Department of Cell Biology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; ⁸Department of Disease Model, Institute of Developmental Research, Aichi Developmental Disability Center, Aichi, Japan; ⁹Abdominal Surgery, UZ Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; ¹⁰Molecular and Cellular Oncology Laboratory, Department of Biomedical Molecular Biology, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; ¹¹Cancer Research Institute Ghent (CRIG), Ghent, Belgium; ¹²Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; ¹³Research Institute in Oncology and Hematology, Cancer Care Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; ¹⁴Center for Biomics-Genomics, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; ¹⁵Department of Development and Regeneration, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
**A. SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES**

**Figure S1. Transgenic mouse models for EC-specific Zeb2 expression manipulation and study design.** (A) Schematic diagram showing the genetic strategy for EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out (KO; A,left) or EC-specific Zeb2-overexpression (OE; A,right). eGFP: enhanced green fluorescent protein; pr.: promoter; CAG: CMV early enhancer/chicken beta actin; ires: internal ribosome entry site; ORF: open reading frame. (B) Recombination efficiency (expressed as fraction of recombined eGFP⁺ cells of the total number of endothelial cells) of the Cdh5-CreERT2 driver in liver (n=4), heart (n=5) and brain (n=5). (C) Representative images of serial cross-sections of livers stained with the pericentral hepatocyte marker Cyp2e1 (left) and a combination (right) of endothelial marker Erg (red)/recombination marker eGFP (green) and corresponding quantification of recombination efficiency in the Cyp2e1⁺ pericentral (‘C’; lined by white dashed lines) vs. Cyp2e1⁺ periportal (‘P’) zone (n=8). Data are expressed as mean ± sem. (D-G) Schematic diagrams showing the study design for evaluating the role of Zeb2 during no challenge (‘maintenance’) (D), acute carbon-tetrachloride (CCl₄) challenge (E), mild CCl₄ exposure (F) or chronic CCl₄ exposure (G). Types of analyses performed are shown on the right, the timing is displayed in the middle and the mouse strains and treatment regimens used are mentioned on the left. w: weeks; hrs: hours; ALT: alanine transferase; qRT-PCR: quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction; ECKO: endothelial-specific Zeb2-knockout; ECOE: endothelial-specific Zeb2-overexpression; OH-proline: hydroxyproline; ‘R’: regression analysis time point; EM: electron microscopy; UFUS: ultrafast ultrasound. Scale bars: 100 µm.
Figure S2. Zeb2 is widely expressed in liver endothelium in mice and humans. (A) Schematic representation of a liver sinusoid (top) and sections (bottom) of each region (i-v) of Zeb2-eGFP livers stained for Zeb2-eGFP (red), EC marker Erg (green) or a combination of Zeb2-eGFP (red) an EC marker Erg (green). Nuclei are stained with Hoechst (blue). Arrowheads indicate Zeb2-expressing ECs. Asterisks indicate bile duct. (B) Confocal images of human liver sections of the portal triad (i), sinusoidal region (ii-iv) and central vein (v) stained for a nuclear EC marker (ERG; green) and ZEB2 (red). Arrowheads indicate co-localisation of ZEB2 and ERG signals. Scale bars: 50 µm in Ai,v; 20 µm in Aii-iv; 10 µm in Bi+iii; and 5 µm in Bii.
Figure S3. EC-specific Zeb2 knock-out. (A) Zeb2 mRNA expression in LSECs, HSCs, Kupffer cells (KCs) and hepatocytes (HEPs) of WT livers (n=5-7). (B) Zeb2 mRNA expression in LSECs, HSCs, KCs and HEPs from WT and EC\textsuperscript{KO} mice (n=5-7). (C) Schematic representation of mouse chromosome 2, red mark indicates the Zeb2 locus. The bottom diagram zooms in on the region around exon 7 (which is the part of the gene that is deleted upon tamoxifen-induced Cre-mediated recombination). The RNA sequencing coverage is shown for each of the samples included in the study set-up, revealing that exon 7 reads are exclusively diminished in LSECs in the EC\textsuperscript{KO} mice. Note that the expression of Zeb2 detected by RNA sequencing in HEPs is very low. Data represent mean ± sem; *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.
Figure S4. Purity and segregation of sorted cell populations, validation of RNA sequencing data and differential gene expression. (A) Expression (n=5-6) of cell-type-specific markers for ECs, HSCs, Kupffer cells (KCs), and hepatocytes (HEPs) (left) and cluster heat map (right) of samples included in the RNA sequencing analysis. (B) Expression derived from the RNA sequencing expressed as mean counts relative to WT and corresponding expression determined by quantitative (q)RT-PCR (n=2). (C) Volcano plots showing genes up- or downregulated in LSECs, HSCs, KCs and HEPs upon EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out. Data represent mean ± sem (A) or mean ± SD (B).
Figure S5. Endothelial Zeb2 loss does not affect LSEC zonation. (A,B) Representative pictures of Lyve1 (A; n=4) and Endomucin (B; n=8) staining and corresponding quantification (% vs. total area). (C) Representative pictures for Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA) lectin binding and corresponding quantification (% vs. total area; n=8). Data are expressed as mean ± sem. *P<0.05. Zones surrounding the central (‘C’) and portal (‘P’) vein are marked by white dotted lines. Scale bars: 100 µm (C), 200 µm (A,B).
Figure S6. NicheNet analysis upon endothelial-specific Zeb2-knock-out. Heat map showing expression of ligands downregulated by Zeb2 deletion emerging from NicheNet analysis in LSEC source cells and corresponding candidate receptors expressed on WT target HSCs.
**Figure S7. Phenotype of non-challenged EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out mice.** (A) Body weight and liver weight of mice before (‘pre’) and after tamoxifen (TAM) treatment. \(n=7-9\). (B) Representative images of Sirius red-stained liver sections of WT or EC\(^{KO}\) livers. (C) Scanning EM of liver sections. (D) Porosity of liver sinusoidal ECs (LSECs) in liver bulk cultures \(n=3-4\). (E) Pan-endo\(^{+}\) area \(1\) \((\text{left}; \ n=5-6)\) or \(2\) \((\text{right}; \ n=11-13)\) weeks after the last TAM injection. (F) Number of medium-sized vessels counted on H&E-stained sections \(n=4-5\). (G,H) Cd31\(^{+}\) area in heart (G) and brain (H) \(n=5-6\). Data represent mean ± sem; \(*P<0.05\), \(**P<0.01\). Scale bars: 2 µm in C,D; and 100 µm in B,F-H.
Figure S8. Ultrafast ultrasound imaging of the liver. (A) Schematic representation of the experimental set up for in vivo ultrasound imaging of the liver. (B) Example of a stack of ultrafast Doppler images of the liver recorded during 30 seconds (s) at ultrafast frame rate. ROI: region of interest. Scale bar: 3 mm.
Figure S9. ZEB2 affects tube formation in HUVECs. (A) ZEB2 mRNA expression in HUVECs transduced with a lentivirus for GFP (control) or shRNA for ZEB2. ($n=7-8$). (B) HUVEC proliferation ($n=8$) chemotaxis ($n=6$) and scratch wound closure ($n=8$). (C) Sprout length from HUVEC spheroids ($n=8$). (D) Number of branching points ($n=12-14$) and branch length in HUVECs grown on Matrigel ($n=12-14$). Data represent mean ± sem; **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.
Figure S10. Increased liver fibrosis in EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out mice upon chronic CCl₄ challenge. (A) Hydroxyproline levels (n=4-5; expressed as fold increase vs. vehicle) and collagen area on Masson’s trichrome staining (n=4-6) in livers of mice after 4 weeks of treatment with oil (vehicle) or high-dose CCl₄ and representative pictures. (B,C) Collagen type I (B) and Collagen type III (C) area in livers of mice treated for 4 weeks with oil (vehicle) or high-dose CCl₄ (n=4-6). (D) Expression of genes related to fibrosis/hepatic stellate cell (HSC) activation in whole livers after 4 weeks of treatment with oil (vehicle) or high-dose CCl₄ (n=4-6). Data represent mean ± sem; *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. Scale bars: 100 µm.
Figure S11. Loss of endothelial Zeb2 does not affect acute hepatocyte damage or zonation. (A) Plasma alanine transferase (ALT) levels ($n=3$-$5$) and necrotic area ($n=5$-$6$) in livers of mice after a single injection of oil (vehicle) or CCl$_4$ and representative H&E pictures; areas showing necrosis are indicated by asterisks. ND: not detectable. (B) Diagram showing minimal overlap between differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in hepatocytes (HEPs) from EC$^{KO}$ livers with genes known to be zonated (left) and mRNA expression of angiocrine factors known to regulate HEP zonation in LSECs of EC$^{KO}$ vs. WT mice (right; $n=4$-$7$). (C-E) Representative pictures for HEP zonation markers Glutamate ammonia ligase or Glu (C), Cytochrome P450 Family 2 Subfamily E Member 1 or Cyp2e1 (D) and Arginase1 or Arg1 (E) and corresponding quantification (% vs. total area; $n=7$-$8$). Data are expressed as mean ± sem; ***$P<0.001$. Scale bars: 100 μm ($A,D$), 200 μm ($C,E$).
Figure S12. Vascular phenotype of EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out mice upon chronic CCl\textsubscript{4} challenge. (A) Pan-endo\textsuperscript{+} area in livers of mice treated for 4 weeks with high-dose CCl\textsubscript{4} (n=4-9). (B) Expression of genes related to capillarisation in whole livers after 4 weeks of treatment with oil (vehicle) or high-dose CCl\textsubscript{4} (n=4-6). Data represent mean ± sem; *P<0.05, ***P<0.001. Scale bars: 100 µm.
Figure S13. Phenotype of EC-specific Zeb2-overexpressing mice unchallenged and upon mild CCl₄ challenge. (A) Body weight and liver weight of wild-type (WT) or endothelial cell (EC)-specific Zeb2-overexpressing mice (ECOE) before and after last tamoxifen treatment (n=5-8). (B) Number of medium-sized vessels counted on H&E-stained sections (n=10-12). (C) Sirius red+ area (n=4-9) after treatment with oil (vehicle) or CCl₄ 24 hours (progression cohort) or 1 week after the injection (regression cohort ‘R’). Data represent mean ± sem; *P<0.05, **P<0.01. Scale bars: 100 µm.
Figure S14. Analysis of EndoMT-related genes and Notch pathway genes upon endothelial-specific Zeb2-knock-out. (A) Expression of Notch pathway genes in wild-type (WT; n=5-7) versus EC-specific Zeb2-knock-out (EC\textsuperscript{Ko}) mice (n=3-5). Data represent mean ± sem. (B) Heat map showing expression of endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EndoMT)-related genes in LSECs of WT versus EC\textsuperscript{Ko} mice.
### Table S1. Antibodies/reagents for immunofluorescence staining and cell isolation

| Target                        | Ab species | Conjugate | use, dilution       | Catalogue number |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|------------------|
| Mouse α-SMA                   | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:4,000, 1:100   | Cell Signaling D4K9N |
| Mouse Arg1                    | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Novus NBP1-32731 |
| BS-I lectin                   | -          | biotin    | IF 1:200            | Sigma L3759       |
| Mouse Cd31                    | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Ab28364           |
| Mouse Cd32                    | rat        | -         | IF 1:100            | BD553142          |
| Mouse Cd34                    | rat        | PE        | FACS 1:80; IF 1:100 | BD551387          |
| Mouse Cd45                    | rat        | PE        | IF 1:100            | BD55308           |
| Mouse Ck19                    | rat        | -         | IF 1:200            | DSHB TROMA-III-c  |
| Mouse Collagen type I         | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:400            | Ab34719           |
| Mouse Collagen type III       | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:400            | Ab7778            |
| Mouse Collagen type IV        | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Biorad 2150-1470  |
| Mouse Cyp2e1                  | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Novus NBP1-85367  |
| Mouse Desmin                  | goat       | -         | IF 1:100            | R&D AF3844        |
| Mouse Endomucin               | goat       | -         | IF 1:600            | R&D AF4660        |
| Mouse/Human Erg               | goat       | -         | IF 1:100            | AB115555          |
| Mouse Erg                     | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:200            | Ab110639          |
| Mouse F4/80                   | rat        | Alexa-647 | FACS 1:80           | Invitrogen MF48021|
| Mouse F4/80                   | rat        | PE        | FACS 1:80           | BD565410          |
| GFP                           | chicken    | -         | IF 1:100            | Ab13970           |
| Mouse Glul                    | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Novus NB110-4140  |
| Mouse Meca32                  | rat        | Alexa-770 | FACS 1:80           | Novus NB10077668AF700|
| Ki67                          | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:1000           | Ab15580           |
| Mouse Meca32                  | rat        | biotin    | FACS 1:80; IF 1:400 | BD550563          |
| Mouse Laminin                 | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Sigma L9393       |
| WGA lectin                    | -          | FITC      | IF 1:1,000          | Sigma L4895       |
| Mouse Lyve1                   | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:2,000          | Angiobio 11034    |
| Mouse vWF                     | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:250            | Dako A0082        |
| Human ZEB2                    | rabbit     | -         | IF 1:100            | Made in house     |
| Isotype control               | rat        | PE        | FACS 1:80           | BD553989          |
| Isotype control               | rat        | APC       | FACS 1:80           | BD550882          |
| Isotype control               | rat        | Alexa-700 | FACS 1:80           | R&D IC006N        |
| Streptavidin-APC              | -          | APC       | FACS 1:80           | BD550882          |
| anti-Chicken IgG              | donkey     | Alexa-488 | IF 1:100            | Jackson 703-546-155|
| anti-Rabbit IgG               | goat       | biotin    | IF 1:300            | Dako E0432        |
| anti-Rabbit IgG               | goat       | HRP       | IF 1:300            | Dako P0448        |
| anti-Goat IgG                 | rabbit     | biotin    | IF 1:300            | Dako E0466        |
| anti-Goat IgG                 | rabbit     | HRP       | IF 1:300            | Dako P0449        |
| anti-Rat IgG                  | rabbit     | biotin    | IF 1:500            | Invitrogen A18919 |
| anti-Rat IgG                  | rabbit     | HRP       | IF 1:500            | Invitrogen A18915 |
| Streptavidin                  | -          | Alexa-488 | IF 1:200            | Life tech S11223  |

**Abbreviations:** GFP: green fluorescent protein; PE: phycoerythrin; FITC: fluoresceine-isothiocyanate; APC: allophycocyanin; HRP: horse radish peroxidase; IF: immunofluorescence; SMA: Smooth muscle actin; vWF: von Willebrand Factor; BS-I: *Bandeiraea simplicifolia*-I; Erg: ETS-related gene; Ck19: Cytokeratin 19; WGA: *Wheat Germ Agglutinin*; Glul: glutamate ammonium ligase; Cyp2e1: Cytochrome P450 Family 2 Subfamily E Member 1; Arg1: Arginase1.
Table S2. Primer sequences for qRT-PCR

| Gene      | Forward (5' > 3')                  | Reverse (5' > 3')                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| **A. Mouse genes** |                                           |                                    |
| 18s       | TCAAGAACGAGAAGTCGGAGGTT             | GGACATCTAAGGGGATCCACAGG            |
| Acta2     | CATACAGACTCAGTCGAGGGG             | GTTCTCGTGGGATCCACAGG              |
| Agmat     | CTCCTGACCTTGGGATGAGGA             | GCACCCACATGCACACATAC              |
| Akrl1d1   | GCTTGCAAGATTGCTGCTTTTT             | GAAATACCGGGGATCCACAGAG            |
| Angptl4   | GGAGCACCTTACTCTGCAAA             | GTTGGCTGGGGATAGAGTTG              |
| Angptl3   | GCCGACAACTCGGGTGCAG               | TCTGGAGAGTCTGCTGAGCC             |
| Apln      | CATAGGGGCCCCATGCTTTT             | TGGAGTAGAGAGACCGGAC              |
| Apoa1     | TTGGATCTCCTCCTCCTGAGG            | CAGGTTATCCCAGGAGGTCCCG            |
| Apoa5     | GTTGGAGGAAGGGGCTGATG             | CTGGTCGAGACCGGCTTTC              |
| Apoc3     | GAAACAGGGGAGGGTGGGGA             | TACGACATCAGGGGAGGCGA            |
| Bmp1      | GTACGTCGAGGTTCCCTGCGAG        | TTTGGACATCAGCCAGGAGC              |
| C3        | GCTTGCCTTCACTCCCTCATT             | GCATTGACCTACTGAGCTGG             |
| C8a       | GCTTGTCCTTGGCACTGAGG             | ACTGCAAGAGACAGCTGCTG             |
| C9        | GGAAGTCTCCCAAGGAGCAAC             | GAGAAGTCTCCCACTCTCAGT            |
| Ccl2      | CCCATGAGAGGCTGAGGAGA             | CAGCCATCACTCCTCTGAGTC             |
| Ccl5      | TTGGACATCAGCTCCCTGAGA            | AGGGAAGCTATACAGGGTGCA            |
| Cd34      | AGCATGAGCGAGACAGAGAC             | AGTCCAGAGGCTGAGGGA               |
| Cepba     | AATGGGCAAGCTGAGGCTCTTA          | CCCCATGACGGTTAGGGAGA             |
| Chac1     | GCCTATGAGCAGCCCTCACG            | CATCTTGCTGCTGCCCCCTAT            |
| Clec4g    | ATATACAAAGACTGGAGGATG             | TGGACATGAGGCTGCTGAG              |
| Col1a1    | AGCAGCTCTGTCGTTGAGAGA          | GACATAGGAGTGGAGGAGGAG            |
| Col1a2    | GGACTGAGAGAGGCTGAGT              | CACCAGGGGAGCAGCTACCT            |
| Col3a1    | CATACGTGCTTACGGGTGCTG            | CACCCATCTTCTTCTGGGTC             |
| Col4a1    | CAGGACAAAAGCTGGGATGCTG            | CTTTCTCTATGCTGAGGCT              |
| Col4a2    | CATCGCTGGAGATGAGAAT              | GATGCTCTGGGAAACCCTGA             |
| Col18a1   | CCAAGTCTCCTCAGAGGCTCA             | CCCCATTCTCTACACACATT            |
| Cps1      | TTTTATGCTGGGGGGGACCTG           | CATTGCTCTTCTGGGAGTC              |
| Cxcl12    | TCCAAAGATGACCTGGGAGAAGG         | GCAGGGAGGGGGAGGACTA             |
| Cxcr6     | TGGAAACAAAGACTGGGCTG             | TCTGATGCGCCATGCTGAC              |
| Cyp2d10   | CATCAAGATGGACAGAAGAATGACTGG      | CGCAGGAGATAGGGGAGCAGATA          |
| Cyp8b1    | TTTCAATGTGCTTCCCTAAC          | TAACATGCGACAGATGCT              |
| Des       | AACTTCCAGAGAACCAGGCGC          | ATCCAGAGTGGGAGAGGCT              |
| Egfr      | TGGGTGGGCTCTCTCTCATA            | GGTGAGAAGAGGCTCCAGAG             |
| F8        | TTTATCCAGAGAAGGAGGGAC             | ACAACCCAGGCTGTTTCTATT            |
| Fabp1     | GTCAAGCTGGAGAAGAAGAGA          | GTTCCAGCTGGAGACTCTCTC             |
| FcgR4     | CAGGAGGCTGCTATGCTGACAGA        | CACGGAGAAACAGTGGAGT              |
| Fgb       | ATGACCGATCCACAAACGCGAT          | GATCCAGGGTAGTTGCCAGCG            |
| Flt       | TGCGCGAGGGCTGAGTTG            | TCGCAAATCTCACCACCATG              |
| Fn1       | TGGACAGGAGAGCGAGAAGTA         | TGGGGGAGAGGGAAGGGTGAT              |
| G6pc      | CCGCACTGCTCTGGCTGCT            | GACATAGGAGTGGGAGGCT              |
| Gapdh     | CGCATCTTCTCTGCTGAGT            | GAAATGCGGCTGAGGAGGAGT            |
| Gata4     | TTTCCTGAGCAACACGAGGC            | GCCAGAGTGTGGTACACAAAT            |
| Gdf15     | TGAGGCCAATCTCAACAGGC           | AACCCAAATCTCACCCTTGGGA            |
| Hes1      | TCAACAGCAAGACGGGACAA          | ATCTGCGAGAGGCTTGCTTCTCTCTT        |
| Hey1      | ATGAAAGAGAGAGCCTACCCAGACTAC     | ATCTGCGAGAGGCTTGCTTCTCTCTT        |
| Gene  | Forward Primer                  | Reverse Primer                  |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hprt1 | CAGTACAGCCCCAAAAATGGTG         | TTGCGCTCATCTTAGGCTTTT          |
| Igf1  | ATGGTTCCCCCAGCTGTTTCC          | ATCCCATTGCGCAGGCTCTA           |
| Igfbp1 | GGAACGCCATACGCCACTA            | GTTGCGCTGACGATTATCTCT          |
| Inhbe | CCGTGCAACCGAGAGAAGGT           | CATGTTACAGGTGTTGGGAC           |
| Itgam | AGCTTGAGCTTTTCCAAGGCGG         | AAGAGCCGGTTACGTGAGTGG           |
| Knca2 | ATGGAGGCTCTGAGGCCACCT          | AGGAAAGGCGCAAGATGCA            |
| Krt8  | TCTCCGAGATGAACCAGCACAC        | TTAATGCCATCTCCACACACAC         |
| Lama1 | ATTTTCAGCGCTCTACCTGCAC         | CATGTTACAGGTGTTGGGAC           |
| Lama4 | GGAAGATGTCGACCCCTGTTGTA        | CTCTCCGTTTGTGTTCCCGCT          |
| Lgmn  | ATTTGTCGGCTGAGGTAAGG           | ACATCTGTCGAGATGGTCG            |
| Ltf   | TGATGACACCGAGAGACCTG           | CGGTCGCTATGACGTATTGATCC        |
| Lyve1 | ACCTGGAGACCGCTGCTCTGGA         | AGGAGCCGCTCTCCCTAAGTC          |
| Map1b | CGCACCACGCTCACAGACTA           | TCAGGTTGTGCCAGTACACAGAG        |
| Mnr   | TATGTTTGGAGATGTCGCTA           | ATTTGCAATGCGCCAGTAAAGG         |
| Mr   | CAATGAGCGCTACGTACCTCT          | CATTTCCAAATCTAAGCTG            |
| Notch1| TGGGATGTCATGAGGGAA            | TCTTCTCAGTGTGGCTTCTCT          |
| Oaz1  | AGTCACTGCGAGAGGCAGACCC         | CCAAGAAAAGCTGAAGGTTGCGG        |
| Pck1  | TGGCGGATTACCTCGGAGTA           | AGGCCAGTGTGGACCAA              |
| Pdfrb | GAGAAGCAGAGGCTGACGAG           | CATCAAAGGAGCGAGATTG            |
| Pecam1| CTGGAAATGCTGAGTAAAACCCCA       | AGCCCTCGGTTCTGTTGGT            |
| Pparg | CAGCCGCCTCATGAAAGACCTT         | GAGATGCGGCGAATAGTACG           |
| Prodh2| GTGTGTCGCTACGTGGTAG           | TGGGCCTTCTGCGATTAGTA           |
| Rbp4  | GAGGTGTCGCTACGAGGACCC         | ACCCCATCTATCTACCC             |
| Reep6 | GCGGAAGAGCATTGGACCTA           | CTTGGGTCGAGTCGAGAG            |
| Rgcc  | ATGGGGATCACAATGCGACGG          | GTGAACCAGAGATGGCCAGG           |
| Rsps3 | TGGCCAGAAGGGGTTAAGGC          | CCGTGTTTCAGTCCCCTCTT          |
| Serpina1a | GACTGCGCACTCAGAGAGAT         | TGCCCAGAAATGCGGTGACG          |
| Serpina1b | AAGGTTGCCATGATGATGCT          | TGCCCGCGTAATCCATCG             |
| Serpins1 | GACTGCACTACGAGGACTG          | TGCCCAAGATGGTGACGCA           |
| Slco1b2| TGAACGCAACCATCCTTGGC          | AACCAACAGCAGCATCCTGAG          |
| Sod3  | ACTTCACAGAGGGAAAGACG         | CTGGAACATCCCCTTGAGTTCG         |
| Stab1 | GGAATTGCGCAAGCCTTGAACA        | GCAACCGGTTTGGTTGATG            |
| Stab2 | ATGGACCTGCGGAGCTAGGGAATGTGTT | ATGCACTTGGGACAGAAGGGTTT        |
| Steap4 | GGCTTCCACGTCAAGGACCC         | GGTAGCGCCCAAGATGACAGG          |
| Tgfβ1 | ATGCTAAATGCCAGGCTACCC         | TGCTGCACTTGGATGACG             |
| Tgfβ2 | CAGTGGGAAAGGACCCCCACATC       | TGTAAGAGGGGCGGAAGGCGAG         |
| Tgfβ3 | GATGCCAACAACACACCACCTC       | ATAAAGGCGGCGGTACACAGG          |
| Tie1  | GCATGGGACAGGCGCCTC           | TCCTGTGAAATGACGTCCTTCTC        |
| Tmprss6 | CCAAGCCATGTGACATCCACCT       | GAAACGGGAGGCATGCGGAAAC         |
| Wnt2  | GCCAACGAAAAATGACCTCGT         | TCGGGAATCGAAGTGGCAGA          |
| Wnt9b | GGCGCGGAGAGGCAAGGAAGG         | CCTGACACCCATGGCCAGG            |
| Ywhaz | GCTGGTGTAGGAACAGAGGAAAT        | GCGTGTCTGCTTTTGACGAC          |
| Zeb1  | CTGCTCCCTTGCGAGTACCA          | GTGCACTTGAACTTGGGTTGTT         |
| Zeb2  | GGACTGCAAGACGGAGAA          | TTTGAGTCGGTGTCGACAGC          |

### B. Human genes

| Gene  | Forward Primer                  | Reverse Primer                  |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| GAPDH | TGGTATCGTGAGGAGAAGACTCATGAC       | ATGCCCAGTGACGGTCCTCCCAAGTGCA |
C. EXTENDED METHODS

Mice and human tissues/cells

Mouse experiments were approved by the KU Leuven Animal Ethics Committee (Ethics Committee Dossier 148/2010, 022/2011, 169/2014, 208/2017 and 121/2019) or the VUB ethics Committee (VUB-18-212-2) and were performed in accordance with the Committee’s guidelines and those from directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Mice were housed in filter top cages with wood bedding and cocoons as enrichment under standard conditions with 12-hour light/dark cycles. Mice had ad libitum access to regular chow (Ssniff) and water. All interventions were done during the light cycle. Unless stated otherwise, male mice were used that were 8 weeks of age at the start of the experiment.

Blood was drawn via the heart and mice were euthanised by exsanguination under ketamine (75 µg/g i.p.) and xylazine (5 µg/g i.p.) anaesthesia. Anaesthesia depth was checked by toe pinch and, if necessary, mice received another i.p. injection with 7.5 µg/g ketamine/0.5 µg/g xylazine. Four different mouse lines were used: (1) endothelial cell (EC) reporter mice specifically expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP) in blood-vessel but not lymphatic ECs under the Tie2 promoter (‘Tie2-GFP’ on an FVB background); (2) Zeb2 knock-in reporter mice expressing a Zeb2-enhanced (e)GFP fusion protein under control of the endogenous Zeb2 promoter (‘Zeb2-eGFP’ on an ICR/C57Bl6 background); (3) endothelial-specific Zeb2 knock-out mice (‘EC\textsuperscript{KO}’ generated by inter-crossing the tamoxifen-inducible Cdh5-Cre\textsuperscript{ERT2} driver line (on a C57Bl6 background)\textsuperscript{3} with Zeb2\textsuperscript{fl/fl} mice (on a 129Sv/CD1 background) carrying a Zeb2 exon 7 flanked by loxP sites\textsuperscript{4} (Fig. S1A,left; all supplementary figures are designated ‘S’); (4) endothelial-specific Zeb2-overexpressor mice (‘EC\textsuperscript{OE}’ generated by inter-crossing the Cdh5-Cre\textsuperscript{ERT2} driver line with ROSA26-Zeb2\textsuperscript{fl/fl} mice (on a 129Sv/CD1 background) which carry on both alleles a floxed STOP codon before the Zeb2 gene in the Rosa locus and an ires-eGFP cassette in frame with the Zeb2 gene (Fig. S1A,right). For EC\textsuperscript{KO} and EC\textsuperscript{OE} mice, tamoxifen-treated Cre-negative littermates were used as wild-type (WT) controls. To enable visualisation and quantification of Cre-mediated recombination, EC\textsuperscript{KO} mice were crossed onto an R26R CAG-boosted eGFP (RCE) reporter background (harbouring a floxed STOP codon before the GFP gene under the CAG promoter in the Rosa26 locus; Fig. S1A,left).\textsuperscript{6} To induce Cre-mediated recombination, mice were intraperitoneally (i.p.) injected with 2 mg tamoxifen (Sigma) in 100 µL sunflower oil (Sigma) for 5 consecutive days. Recombination efficiency (expressed as the fraction of ECs expressing eGFP) was ~90% and similar across organs and across the zonated liver vascular bed (Fig. S1B,C).

Human liver biopsies used for immunostaining were collected in Gey’s buffer after obtaining informed consent from the donors (patients undergoing elective cholecystectomy at the University Hospital UZ Leuven). Biopsies were fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA), embedded in paraffin and sectioned for immunofluorescence (IF) staining (primary and secondary antibodies used for IF staining are listed in Table S1). Biopsies were stained with Sirius Red and none of the biopsies showed fibrosis. Human umbilical vein ECs (HUVECs) were isolated as previously described\textsuperscript{7} from umbilical cords of babies delivered by Caesarean section after full-term pregnancy with informed consent from the mother. The use of human biopsies, umbilical cords and human cells was approved by the Ethics Committee of University Hospitals Leuven (No B32220152525871) and experiments were performed in accordance with the Committee’s guidelines and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.
Maintenance and hepatotoxic models

To study the effect of endothelia Zeb2 on (vascular) maintenance, tamoxifen-treated mice were euthanised under anaesthesia as described above at 1, 2, or 4 weeks after the last tamoxifen injection (Fig. S1D). Unless indicated otherwise, mRNA expression changes are shown at 2 weeks post-tamoxifen and protein expression or structural changes at 4 weeks post-tamoxifen. To study the response to acute liver injury, mice received one i.p. injection with high-dose CCl₄ (0.6 µL/g in mineral oil) or with mineral oil alone as control (vehicle) and were sacrificed 24 hours later (Fig. S1E). To study the effect of mild fibrosis, mice were injected with low-dose CCl₄ (0.2 µL/g in mineral oil) or vehicle 3 times with one day in between and were sacrificed 24 hours (progression cohort) or 1 week (regression or ‘R’ cohort) after the last injection (Fig. S1F). For chronic (septal) fibrosis, mice received high-dose CCl₄ (0.6 µL/g in mineral oil) or vehicle 3 times per week (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) for 4 weeks and were sacrificed 24 hours (progression cohort) or 1 week (regression or ‘R’ cohort) after the last injection (Fig. S1G).

For (immuno)histological analyses, mice were euthanised under anaesthesia as described above, livers were subsequently perfusion-fixed with zinc-formaline (Sigma) and processed for paraffin sectioning. For other analyses, tissues were isolated, snap-frozen and stored at -80°C until further use.

Cell isolation and gene profiling

To study the organ-specific Zeb2 expression, GFP⁺ ECs were isolated from Tie2-GFP hearts, brains and livers (yielding > 95% pure populations consisting for > 99% of microvascular ECs)⁸,⁹ and comparative gene expression was performed by quantitative (q) real-time (RT)-PCR. To establish primary cultures for fenestrae analysis, livers were digested and plated in EGM2 medium supplemented with EGM2-MV (containing 0.5 ng/mL VEGF-A; Lonza) onto gelatin-coated cell culture vessels, cells were allowed to settle for 36 hours, washed and fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer. To simultaneously isolate the four main hepatic cell types, ECKO and their WT (Cre-negative) littermates were perfused via the portal vein for 5 minutes with SC-1 solution (8 g/L NaCl, 400 mg/L KCl, 75.5 mg/L NaH₂PO₄ H₂O, 120.45 mg/L Na₂HPO₄, 2.38 g/L HEPES, 350 mg/L NaHCO₃, 190 mg/L EGTA, 900 mg/L glucose, pH 7.3), followed by 5 minutes 0.04% pronase E (Merck) and 5 minutes 0.02% collagenase P (Boeringer-Manheim) both in 8 g/L NaCl, 400 mg/L KCl, 75.5 mg/L NaH₂PO₄ H₂O, 120.45 mg/L Na₂HPO₄, 2.38 g/L HEPES, 350 mg/L NaHCO₃, 560 mg/L CaCl₂.2H₂O, pH 7.3). The liver was excised and incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes in a solution containing 0.03% collagenase P, 0.03% pronase E and 0.001% DNase (Grade II, Boeringer-Manheim). The resulting suspension was filtered through a 100 µm strainer and centrifuged 2 times for 2 minutes at 50 g to separate the hepatocytes (HEPs) from the non-parenchymal cell (NPC) fraction. Hepatocytes were immediately snap-frozen after centrifugation. Red blood cells were removed from the NPC fraction by incubation with red blood cell lysis buffer (Miltenyi Biotec) for 3 minutes, followed by washing in GBSS-B (70 mg/L KCl, 210 mg/L MgCl₂.6H₂O, 70 mg/L MgSO₄.7H₂O, 120 mg/L Na₂HPO₄, 30 mg/L KH₂PO₄, 990 mg/L glucose, 227 mg/L NaHCO₃, 225 mg/L CaCl₂.2H₂O, pH 7.3). The resulting cell pellet was resuspended in a 3:1 mix of SC-1 and DNase solution and the suspension was filtered through a 40 µm mesh. The cell suspension was subsequently stained for Pan-endo and F4/80 to enable the sorting of UV⁺ HSCs, UV⁻ F4/80⁺ Kupffer cells and UV⁺Pan-endo⁺ ECs on a FACS Aria-II sorter. Antibodies used for FACS are listed in Table S1.
For RNA sequencing, RNA was isolated from ECs, HSCs, Kupffer cells and hepatocytes from WT and EC$^{K0}$ mice ($n=2$ per cell type and genotype) using Reliaprep (Promega). RNA samples were quality controlled and prepared according to the Smart-seq2 method. In brief, polyA$^+$ RNA was reverse transcribed using an oligo(dT) primer. Template switching by reverse transcriptase was achieved using an LNA-containing TSO oligo. The reverse transcribed cDNA was pre-amplified with primers for 18 cycles followed by clean-up. Tagmentation was performed on 500 pg of the pre-amplified cDNA with Tn5 followed by gap repair. The tagmented library was extended with Illumina adaptor sequences by PCR for 14 cycles and purified. The resulting sequencing library was measured on a Bioanalyzer and equimolar loaded onto a flow cell and sequenced according to the Illumina TruSeq v3 protocol on the HiSeq2500 with a single read 50 bp and dual 9 bp indices. Illumina adapter sequences and poly-A stretches were trimmed from the reads. The remaining sequences were aligned to the mouse GRCm38 reference sequence using HISAT2 (version 2.1.0). Transcript abundance level (transcript count) was generated using HTSeq (version 0.9.1) based on the ENSEMBL 84 gene annotation. The transcript counts were further processed using R software environment for statistical computing and graphics (version 3.4.0). Data normalisation, removal of batch effect and other variance was performed using EDASEq R and RUVSeq packages. Differential expression analysis was performed using the edgeR R package, applying the negative binomial general linear model (GLM) approach. Differentially expressed genes with false discovery rate (FDR) $< 0.05$, Benjamini-Hochberg multiple testing correction and expression level in WT samples of $> 1$ counts per million (CPM) were retained and used for further processing (i.e., principal component analysis, cluster analysis, Volcano plots, heat maps, Gene Enrichment analysis by Enrichr$^{17}$ and ligand-target prediction analysis by NicheNet (using an open source R implementation; https://github.com/saeyslab/nichenetr). The RNA sequencing datasets generated for this study are available in the NCBI GEO repository (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/), under series number GSE150699. To obtain RNA from whole liver tissue, the liver was homogenised in TRIZol and RNA was isolated according to manufacturer’s instructions. For quantitative qRT-PCR, cDNA was made using the GoScript™ reverse transcription system (Promega) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. QRT-PCR was performed with the ABI system using Sybr green (ABI). Gapdh was used as reference gene after validation (Note S1; for primer sequences, see Table S2).

**In vitro angiogenesis assays and lentivirus-mediated knock-down**

HUVECs were cultured in EBM2 medium supplemented with EGM2-MV (Lonza) in gelatin-coated culture flasks. Plasmids containing ZEB2-shRNA or GFP (control) in a lentiviral backbone were purchased from Sigma and lentiviruses were produced in human embryonic kidney (HEK)293 cells. Obtained viruses were titrated on HUVECs and the lowest concentration leading to 100% transduction efficiency was used in subsequent experiments. Cells were transduced with viruses, medium was changed, 1 and 3 days after transduction and on day 6 cells were either lysed in TRIzol for RNA isolation or passaged for functional analyses.

For proliferation assays, 5,000 cells were plated per well on gelatin-coated 24-well plates, cells were counted 6 days later and doubling time was calculated. For tube formation assays, 50,000 cells were plated on Matrigel-coated 24-well plate and tube formation was assessed 24 hours later. Branch length was quantified using the angiogenesis analyser plug-in for Image J (NIH). For scratch wound assays, 50,000 cells were plated in a 24-well plate, and 24 hours later when confluence was reached,
a standardised scratch was made and the gap distance between the cells was measured immediately after scratching and again 24 hours later. To assess chemotactic migration, 25,000 cells were seeded in starvation medium onto collagen type I-coated Boyden chambers with 8 micron pores (Costar) placed into 24-wells filled with EBM2-EGM2-MV medium and cells were allowed to migrate for 24 hours, as described. Cells were stained with Wright-Giemsa solution (Sigma) and migrated cells were counted. To evaluate sprouting, spheroids were made by incubating 600 HUVECs per spheroid for 24 hours in hanging droplets containing 0.24 g/L methylcellulose in EBM2-EGM2-MV medium. Spheroids were embedded in 2 mg/mL collagen (Corning) and collagen gels were covered with EBM2-EGM2-MV medium. Sprouting was analysed 24 hours later.

**Scanning electron microscopy**

To perform morphometric analysis on vascular corrosion casts, mice were euthanised under anaesthesia as described above and livers were consecutively perfused with 50 U/mL heparin in PBS, 2.5% glutaraldehyde in PBS and VasQtec resin (VasQtec Zurich, Switzerland; prepared according to manufacturer’s instructions). Livers were isolated and kept in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in PBS at 40°C to allow the resin to harden and livers were subsequently saponified in 5% KOH at 40°C for 2-5 days, casts were dried and sputter-coated with gold and images were recorded on a JEOL scanning electron microscope at 0.8 K magnification (JEOL Europe BV). Pillars, the ultrastructural hallmark of intussusceptive angiogenesis, were identified and counted. Sinusoidal diameters were measured in ImageJ. To document fenestrae in vivo, mice were perfused via the portal vein with PBS containing 50 U/mL heparin and 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.3), livers were dissected and fixed overnight in 2.5% glutaraldehyde, buffered with 0.05 M sodium cacodylate (pH 7.3). Liver slices were post-fixed in 2% OsO₄ (buffered with 0.05 M sodium cacodylate, pH 7.3) dehydrated in a graded ethanol series and hexamethyldisilazane before slices were dried, sputter-coated with chrome and pictures were recorded on a Zeiss Sigma VP scanning electron microscope using the variable pressure mode at 24 K magnification. To analyse fenestrae ex vivo, digested livers were cultured and bulk cultures were fixed 36 hours later with 2.5% glutaraldehyde (pH 7.3), buffered with 0.05 M sodium cacodylate. Cell cultures were post-fixed in 2% OsO₄ (buffered with 0.05 M sodium cacodylate, pH 7.3) dehydrated in a graded ethanol series followed by hexamethyldisilazane and cell cultures were dried, sputter-coated with chrome and pictures were recorded on a Zeiss Sigma VP scanning electron microscope at 12.5 K magnification. Porosity was determined by calculating the cumulative area taken up by fenestrae relative to the cytoplasmic area. Bulk cultures were used and supplemented with 0.5 ng/mL VEGF-A in order to preserve fenestrae.

**Ultrafast ultrasound imaging**

Ultrafast ultrasound acquisition was performed on the left (lateral) liver lobe at 2 or 4 weeks after the last tamoxifen injection on a research ultrafast platform (INSERM “Biomedical Ultrasound” ART) comprising an ultrasound acquisition board (128 channels, 62.5 MHz, Verasonics, Vantage 256) and a 15 MHz ultrasonic probe (pitch 0.11 mm, 128 elements, Vermon, France) mounted on 4 motors (3 translation and 1 rotation, Pi, Germany) (Fig. S8). The scanner was driven by a real-time Doppler acquisition software platform (INSERM “Biomedical Ultrasound” ART and Iconeus, Paris, France). Mice were anaesthetised with ketamine (75 µg/g i.p.) and medetomidine (1 µg/g i.p.). Anaesthesia depth was checked by toe pinch and, if necessary, mice received another i.p. injection with 7.5 µg/g
ketamine and 0.1 µg/g medothomide. A 3-dimensional printed water tank consisting of TPX polymethylpentene film was placed on the mouse abdomen with transmission gel between the mouse skin and the film and the tank was filled with water. The probe was placed in the water tank in contact with the liver and several planes of the lateral left liver lobe were acquired every 0.5 mm. The animals received subcutaneously atipamezole (1 µg/g) to reverse the anaesthesia, the average imaging time was 45 minutes per mouse. The ultrasensitive ultrasound sequence consisted of 11 compounded plane waves (angles from -10° to 10°) designed to acquire a full 30 seconds at a continuous framerate set to 500 Hz. A singular value decomposition clutter filter was applied on blocks of 200 frames (400 ms) to separate blood signal from tissue signal by removing the 60 largest singular values. In order to filter different flow velocities, additional bandpass frequency filters were applied on the 400 ms subsets of data acquisition, giving access to blood volume movies corresponding to three different velocity ranges (2 to 4 mm/s, 4 to 6 mm/s and 6 mm/s and upper). Those high framerate power-Doppler movies were computed by integrating the energy of windows of 20 consecutive filtered ultrafast frames (40 ms). Breathing motion (which can induce significant out of plane movements and artefacts) was eliminated by performing frame classifications on the high frame-rate power-Doppler movies. For this purpose, a k-means clustering algorithm (2 clusters, correlation distance metric, 100 replicates) was applied to the power-Doppler movies in order to remove the outlier images. The remaining frames were then median-averaged to construct one power Doppler image per band-speed. Regions of interest (ROI) were manually drawn based on the anatomical and vascular landmarks of the liver and the median value of each ROI was estimated for the different bands.

**Morphometric analysis and assessment of liver fibrosis and function**

For histology, mice were euthanised under anaesthesia as described above and perfusion-fixed via the heart with zinc-formalin (Sigma), the left liver lobe, heart and brain were dissected out, fixed overnight in zinc-formalin, dehydrated, embedded in paraffin and 7 µm sections were prepared. To assess general morphology and liver damage, sections were stained with haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) and collagen was stained using Sirius red, Masson’s trichrome (Sigma HT15) or antibodies against fibrillar Collagen types I and III. To analyse the zonated architecture of the liver vasculature, we used antibodies against cytokeratin (Ck)19 and Endomucin to identify portal triads and central veins, respectively. To further characterise the reaction to liver repair/damage, sections were stained with antibodies against α-smooth muscle actin (αSMA), Desmin and the inflammatory marker Cd45. To characterise endothelial changes, IF stainings were performed for Pan-endo, Cd31, Cd32, Cd34, vWF, Laminin, Lyve1, Endomucin, Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA) lectin and Collagen type IV. To assess Cre-mediated recombination in EC^K0^ mice or demonstrate endothelial expression of Zeb2 in Zeb2-eGFP reporter mice, livers were co-stained for eGFP and ETS-related gene (Erg). Alternatively, recombination was assessed by FACS on monocellular liver suspensions stained for Pan-endo. To analyse recombination in different zones, recombined ECs were counted on serial cross-sections stained for Erg/eGFP and pericentral hepatocyte zonation marker Cytochrome P450 Family 2 Subfamily E member 1 (Cyp2e1). Hepatocyte zonation was analysed by IF staining using antibodies against pericentral markers Cyp2e1 or Glutamate ammonia ligase (Glul) and periportal/midzonal marker Arginase1 (Arg1). Antibodies were tested using a negative control (no primary antibody) and WT healthy mouse liver sections as positive control where we compare the expression pattern with stainings found on the manufacturers’ websites and in literature; for antibodies and concentrations
see Table S1. Where necessary, amplification was performed using a Cy3- or fluorescein-tyramide kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (Perkin Elmer). To demonstrate endothelial Zeb2 expression on human liver paraffin sections, these were co-stained for ZEB2 and Erg (Table S1). Microscopy images were analysed in Image J and FACS data were analysed with FACS DIVA software. To assess fibrosis by hydroxyproline content, livers were hydrolysed in 6 M HCl at 110°C overnight. Liver homogenates were dried and dissolved in 50% isopropanol. Hydroxyproline was detected after oxidation by chloramine T using Ehrlich reagent. To estimate liver function, plasma alanine transferase (ALT) was measured using a Spotchem EZ system analyser (Arkray) and GPT/ALT strips (Menarini diagnostics).

**Statistics**

Data are expressed as mean ± standard error of the mean (sem), unless stated otherwise. Student's *t*-test was used to compare 2 groups. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test was used to compare > 2 groups. *P*<0.05 was considered statistically significant. Graphpad Prism 8 was used for statistical analysis.
D. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

**Note S1.** We confirmed that expression of *Gapdh* expression is stable (by measuring its expression using 4 other housekeeping genes as a reference). First, under unchallenged conditions (qRT-PCR data reported in Fig. 2B,C; S11B and S14A), its expression was stable between genotypes in LSECs as well as in HSCs. Second, *Gapdh* expression was also stable upon induction of fibrosis.

| Reference gene | normalised *Gapdh* expression |  |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
|                | LSECs                         | HSCs                      |
|                | *WT (n=5-7)*                  | *ECKO (n=4-5)*            | *WT (n=9-10)*      | *ECKO (n=7-10)*     |
| *18s*          | 1.0 ± 0.1                     | 1.0 ± 0.3                 | 1.0 ± 0.2          | 1.2 ± 0.2           |
| *Hprt1*        | 1.0 ± 0.1                     | 1.0 ± 0.3                 | 1.0 ± 0.2          | 0.8 ± 0.1           |
| *Oaz1*         | 1.0 ± 0.1                     | 0.9 ± 0.3                 | 1.0 ± 0.3          | 0.9 ± 0.1           |
| *Ywhaz*        | 1.0 ± 0.1                     | 0.9 ± 0.1                 | 1.0 ± 0.1          | 1.0 ± 0.1           |

Data are expressed as mean ± sem, normalised to the condition indicated in **bold**.

**Note S2.** As the sorted EC population mainly (> 99%) represents LSECs, we consider that the expression detected largely reflects that in LSECs and therefore labelled the EC population in this results section and corresponding figures as ‘LSECs’ rather than ‘ECs’.

**Note S3.** The population sizes of each of the three non-parenchymal cell types that were simultaneously sorted were the same between genotypes. The number of hepatocytes counted on H&E-stained liver cross-sections did not reveal differences between the genotypes. Hence, the observed genotypic differences were not indirectly related to a difference in cell numbers.

| cell type | fraction (%) |
|-----------|--------------|
|           | *WT (n=7)*   | *ECKO (n=5)*   |
| LSECs     | 43 ± 2       | 41 ± 5         |
| HSCs      | 3 ± 1        | 4 ± 1          |
| KCs       | 20 ± 2       | 19 ± 1         |
| HEPs      | 58 ± 1       | 58 ± 1         |

Data are percentages of non-parenchymal cells (LSECs, HSCs and KCs) or all liver cells (HEPs) and expressed as mean ± sem.
**Note S4.** The expression of multiple genes known to have a zonated expression pattern in LSECs were not altered according to RNA sequencing (including Kit, Lgals1, Efnb2, Jak1, Thbd, Fabp4, Dll4, Cdhl3, Ltbp4, Chst2, Pear1 and many others). This gives additional support to the notion that LSEC zonation was not affected by endothelial Zeb2 loss.

**Note S5.** The functional importance of the altered LSEC-HSC communication through LSEC ligands Gdf15, Ltf and Igf1 was shown by downregulation of a large panel of their downstream target genes in HSCs.

| Ligand in LSECs | Downstream target genes in HSCs |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Gdf15           | Apoc3, Ccl2, G6pc, Krt8, Pck1   |
| Ltf             | Cxcr6, Tmprss6                  |
| Igf1            | Bhmt, C9, Slco1b2               |

**Note S6.** While the vast majority of the studies with EC\(^{K0}\) mice were performed with males, some important findings were confirmed in females. A similar increase in Pan-endo\(^{+}\) area fraction was observed in EC\(^{K0}\) females compared to their WT littermates 4 weeks post-tamoxifen (relative area expressed as % vs. total area: 25.0 ± 0.7 in EC\(^{K0}\) vs. 20.1 ± 0.5 in WT; n=3-5; \(P<0.01\)). A similar increase in the number of medium-sized vessels was observed in EC\(^{K0}\) females compared to their WT littermates 4 weeks post-tamoxifen (number/area in mm\(^2\): 6.6 ± 0.2 in EC\(^{K0}\) vs. 5.4 ± 0.5 in WT; \(n=5-7; P<0.05\)).

**Note S7.** Multiple genes known to have a zonated expression pattern in HEPs were not altered in their expression level determined by RNA sequencing (including genes involved in the Wnt signalling pathway, e.g., Axin2, Axin1, Fzd4, Fzd5, Fzd8, Ctnnb1, Apc, Lef1 and many others). This gives additional support to the notion that hepatocyte zonation was not affected by endothelial Zeb2 loss.

**Note S8.** Increased fibrosis upon exposure of EC\(^{K0}\) mice to low-dose CCl\(_4\) was also accompanied by increased signs of capillarisation as evidenced by the increased fractional area of continuous EC marker Cd34 (relative area, expressed as % vs. total area: 4.6 ± 0.6 in EC\(^{K0}\) vs. 0.8 ± 0.3 in WT; \(n=4; P<0.01\)).

**Note S9.** While the vast majority of the studies with EC\(^{OE}\) mice were performed with males, some important findings were confirmed in female mice. A similar decrease in the number of medium-sized vessels was observed in EC\(^{OE}\) females compared to their WT littermates 4 weeks post-tamoxifen (number/area in mm\(^2\): 5.3 ± 0.2 in EC\(^{OE}\) vs. 6.6 ± 0.4 in WT; \(n=5-6; P<0.05\)).

**Note S10.** In order to deliver additional evidence that spontaneous activation of HSCs and fibrosis upon endothelial Zeb2 deletion is unlikely, we also looked at the longer-term effects of the deletion where mice were analysed by histology 26 weeks after tamoxifen-induced deletion. HSC activation was not induced upon long-term endothelial Zeb2 deletion as evident from the absence of the HSC activation marker αSMA and there were no signs of fibrosis on Sirius red-stained liver cross-sections.
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