### Supplementary Table 1. Clinical characteristics of 471 patients with well-controlled T2DM (HbA1c <7.0%)

| Variables                                | Type 2 diabetes mellitus |   |   |   | F/x² value | P value |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|-------------|---------|
|                                          | Total                    | Without DKD | With DKD |   |             |         |
| Number                                   | 471                      | 344         | 127       |   |             |         |
| Age, yr                                  | 55.65±11.62              | 54.67±11.73 | 58.31±10.91 | 3.045 | 0.002      |
| Female sex                               | 234 (49.7)               | 170 (49.4)  | 64 (50.4)  | 0.035 | 0.851      |
| BMI, kg/m²                               | 25.58±3.70               | 25.37±3.64  | 26.14±3.84 | 1.997 | 0.046      |
| SBP, mm Hg                               | 134.4±17.8               | 131.9±16.1  | 141.1±20.2 | 5.106 | <0.001     |
| DBP, mm Hg                               | 78.4±10.0                | 78.0±9.6    | 79.4±11.1  | 1.428 | 0.154      |
| Diabetic duration, yr                    | 5.29±4.39                | 5.04±4.23   | 5.98±4.74  | 2.082 | 0.038      |
| Glucose-lowering therapies               |                          |             |           |     |            |
| Diabetes drug-free                       |                           |             |           |     |            |
| Insulin treatments                       |                           |             |           |     |            |
| Insulin-secretagogues                    |                           |             |           |     |            |
| Metformin                                | 195 (41.4)               | 142 (41.3)  | 53 (41.7)  | 0.008 | 0.929      |
| Pioglitazone                             | 103 (21.9)               | 72 (20.9)   | 31 (24.4)  | 0.657 | 0.418      |
| AGIs                                     | 88 (18.7)                | 64 (18.6)   | 24 (18.9)  | 0.005 | 0.942      |
| DPP-4Is                                  | 74 (15.7)                | 52 (15.1)   | 22 (17.3)  | 0.341 | 0.559      |
| GLP-1RAs                                 | 7 (1.5)                  | 5 (1.5)     | 2 (1.6)    | –    | 1.000      |
| Hypertension                             | 234 (49.7)               | 148 (43.0)  | 86 (67.7)  | 22.624 | <0.001     |
| Statin medication                        | 178 (37.8)               | 129 (37.5)  | 49 (38.6)  | 0.046 | 0.830      |
| TG, mmol/L                               | 1.62 (1.06–2.62)         | 1.54 (1.02–2.55) | 1.88 (1.22–3.04) | 2.302 | 0.022      |
| TC, mmol/L                               | 4.34±0.96                | 4.29±0.90   | 4.48±1.11  | 1.922 | 0.055      |
| HDL-C, mmol/L                            | 1.15±0.32                | 1.17±0.31   | 1.10±0.33  | –2.126 | 0.034      |
| LDL-C, mmol/L                            | 2.51±0.79                | 2.46±0.73   | 2.66±0.93  | 2.397 | 0.017      |
| Serum UA, μmol/L                         | 316.2±96.8               | 306.1±94.6  | 343.6±97.6 | 3.783 | <0.001     |
| Serum albumin, g/L                       | 40.0±4.2                 | 40.2±4.0    | 39.5±4.6   | –1.506 | 0.133      |
| Haemoglobin, g/L                         | 134.1±16.8               | 134.6±16.5  | 132.5±17.5 | –1.133 | 0.258      |
| INSHOMAcp                                | 3.11 (1.98–4.78)         | 3.19 (2.15–4.78) | 2.71 (1.65–4.67) | –2.341 | 0.020      |
| AUCcp, ng/mL·hr                          | 14.5±7.2                 | 14.1±6.7    | 15.6±8.2   | 2.047 | 0.041      |
| AUCglu, mmol/L·hr                        | 33.3±8.6                 | 32.9±8.7    | 34.1±8.2   | 1.324 | 0.186      |
| HbA1c, %                                 | 6.44±0.34                | 6.41±0.33   | 6.51±0.31  | 2.675 | 0.008      |
| Postchallenge 2-hr glucose, mmol/L       | 12.76±1.69               | 12.64±1.71  | 13.08±1.60 | 2.567 | 0.011      |
| Fasting glucagon, pg/mL                  | 125.1±29.1               | 123.0±27.4  | 130.8±32.5 | 2.616 | 0.009      |
| AUCglu, pg/mL·hr                         | 410.4±169.3              | 391.1±152.9 | 462.8±198.9 | 4.148 | <0.001     |
| eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m²                     | 95.8±24.4                | 100.3±21.2  | 83.7±28.1  | –6.681 | <0.001     |
| UACR, mg/g                               | 17.8 (13.4–29.4)         | 15.4 (12.4–19.0) | 62.6 (36.0–173.0) | 10.024 | <0.001     |
| Log₁₀UACR, mg/g                          | 1.39±0.45                | 1.19±0.15   | 1.94±0.52  | 24.250 | <0.001     |

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation, number (%), or median (interquartile range). Student’s t-test and chi-square test were applied to detect differences in their corresponding type of data, and corresponding test statistics (F and x² values) were also provided.

T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; DKD, diabetic kidney disease; BMI, body mass index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; AGI, α-glucosidase inhibitor; DPP-4I, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor; GLP-1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; TG, triglyceride; TC, total cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; UA, uric acid; INSHOMAcp, homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance using C-peptide; AUCcp, area under the C-peptide curve; AUCglu, area under the glucose curve; AUCglu, area under the glucagon curve; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; UACR, urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio.

*aCompared by Fisher’s exact test."