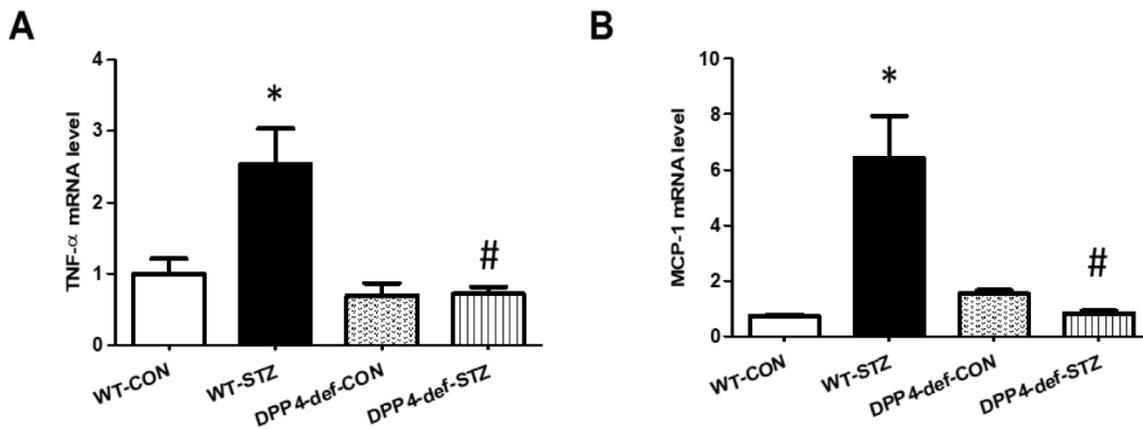
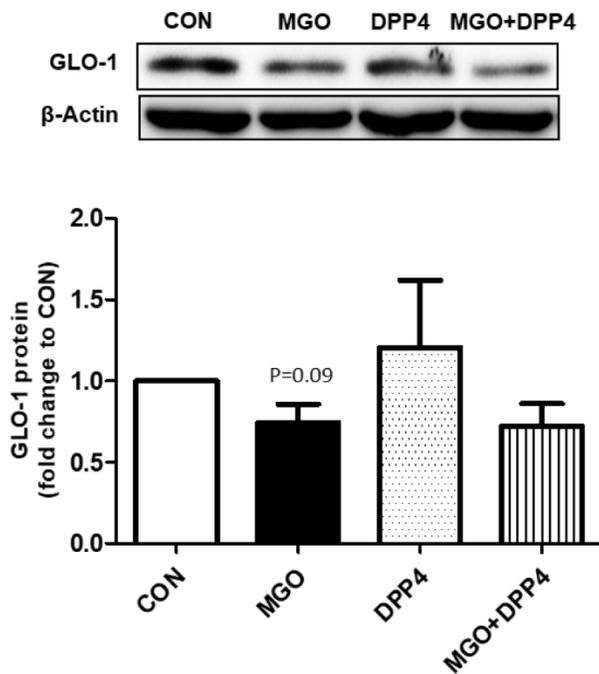


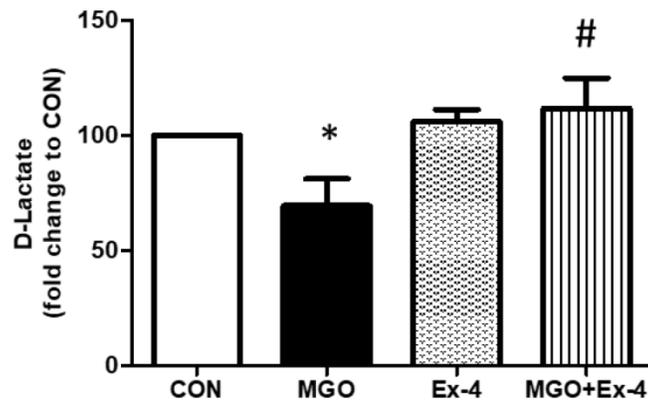
**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES**



**Supplementary Figure 1. The expression of inflammatory cytokines are reduced in STZ-induced diabetic rats.** (A) *TNF- $\alpha$*  mRNA level, (B) *MCP-1* mRNA level in kidney tissues. Data are shown as the means  $\pm$  SEM \* $p < 0.05$  vs. WT-CON; # $p < 0.05$  vs. WT-STZ.  $n = 5-8$  per group.



**Supplementary Figure 2. Recombinant DPP4 protein treatment does not alter the expression of GLO-1 in rat mesangial cells.** Rat mesangial cells were treated either with 1 mM MGO, 500 ng/mL recombinant DPP4, or both for 10 h after synchronization with 1% fetal bovine serum for 13-16 h. GLO-1 protein level with a representative blot. Data are shown as the means  $\pm$  SEM.  $P = 0.09$  and CON,  $n = 3$ .



Supplementary Figure 3. D-lactate level in rat mesangial cells. Rat mesangial cells were treated either with 1 mM MGO, 10 nM Ex-4, or both for 10 h after synchronization with 1% fetal bovine serum for 13-16 h. The D-lactate level was measured using the D-lactate assay kit, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Data are shown as the means  $\pm$  SEM. \* $p < 0.05$  and CON, # $p < 0.05$  and MGO,  $n = 5$ .