

**2024 RACHMIEL LEVINE-ARTHUR RIGGS**

# Diabetes Research Symposium

## Mitochondrial Alterations in Steatotic Liver Diseases

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# Disclosures

- Grant/Research Support to the German Diabetes Center from Boehringer Ingelheim, and Novo Nordisk.
- Consultant for Echosens, Madrigal Pharmaceuticals, MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH/Merck, and Target RWE.
- Speakers Bureau for AstraZeneca, Madrigal Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Novo Nordisk.

*This presentation and/or comments will be free of any bias toward or promotion of the above referenced companies or their product(s) and/or other business interests.*

*This presentation and/or comments will provide a balanced, non-promotional, and evidence-based approach to all diagnostic, therapeutic and/or research related content.*

*This presentation has been peer-reviewed and no conflicts were noted.*

# Cultural Linguistic Competency (CLC) & Implicit Bias (IB)

## STATE LAW:

The California legislature has passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1195, which states that as of July 1, 2006, all Category 1 CME activities that relate to patient care must include a cultural diversity/linguistics component. It has also passed AB 241, which states that as of January 1, 2022, all continuing education courses for a physician and surgeon **must** contain curriculum that includes specified instruction in the understanding of implicit bias in medical treatment.

*The cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and implicit bias (IB) definitions reiterate how patients' diverse backgrounds may impact their access to care.*

## **EXEMPTION:**

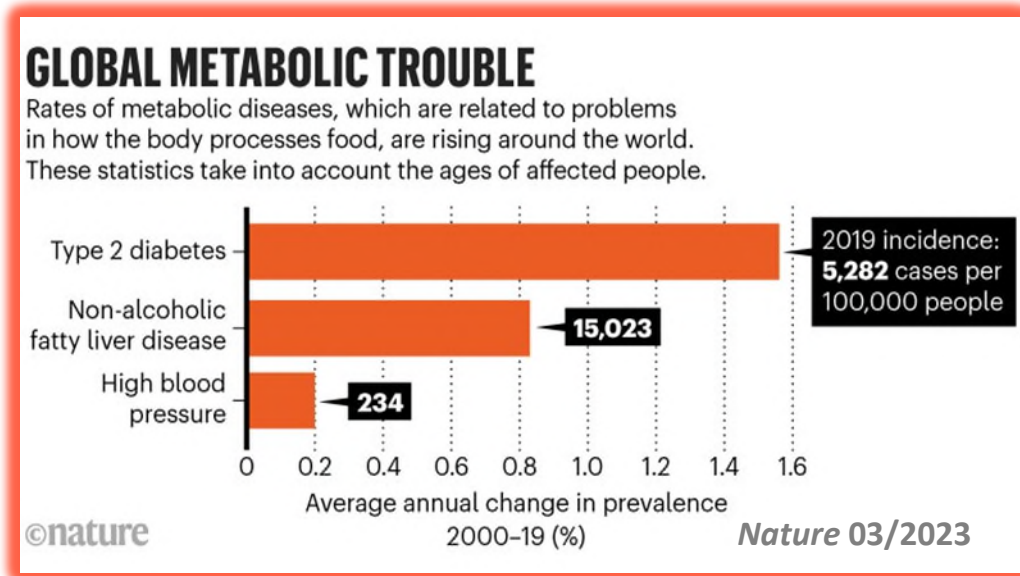
Business and Professions Code 2190.1 exempts activities which are dedicated solely to research or other issues that do not contain a direct patient care component.

***This presentation is dedicated solely to research or other issues that do not contain a direct patient care component.***

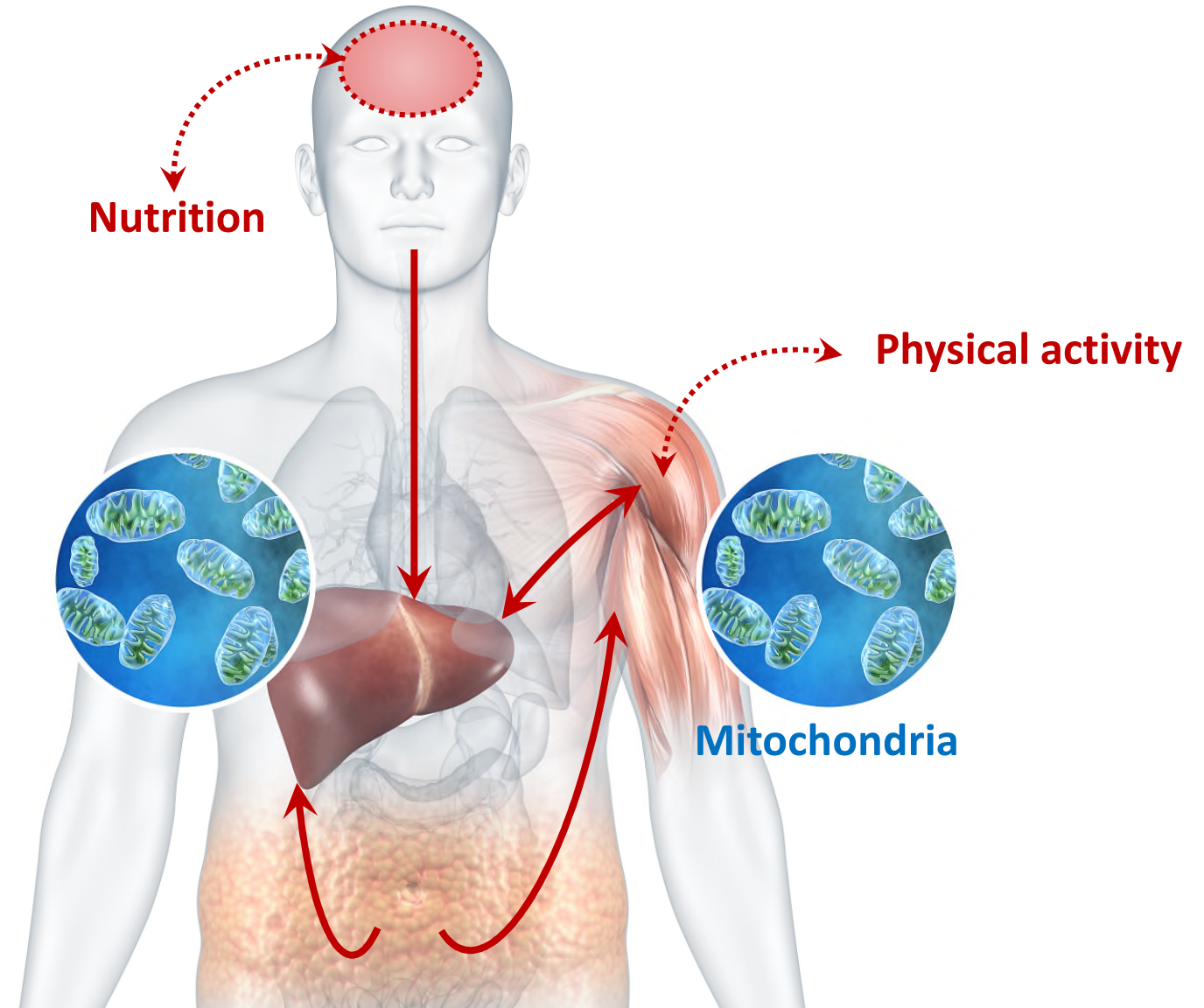
# Disturbed energy metabolism and metabolic diseases

**Excessive energy intake**

**Abnormal energy use**



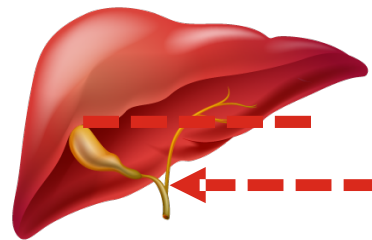
**Abnormal energy storage**



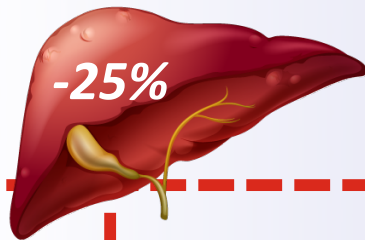



# Metabolic dysfunction-association steatotic liver diseases (MASLD)

Healthy liver



**MASL**  
**Steatosis**



 **1.3-1.6 CVD**  
**1.4-1.8 HF**

**MASH**  
**Steatohepatitis**

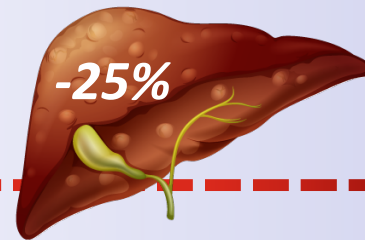
F0-1

F2

F3

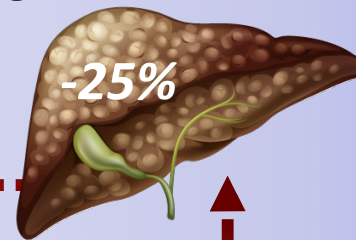
advanced/  
bridging


F4



 **1.3-1.6 Stroke**

**Comp. cirrhosis**



 **1.3-1.5 CKD**

*Hepatocellular carcinoma & Liver transplantation*

1-4%/yr

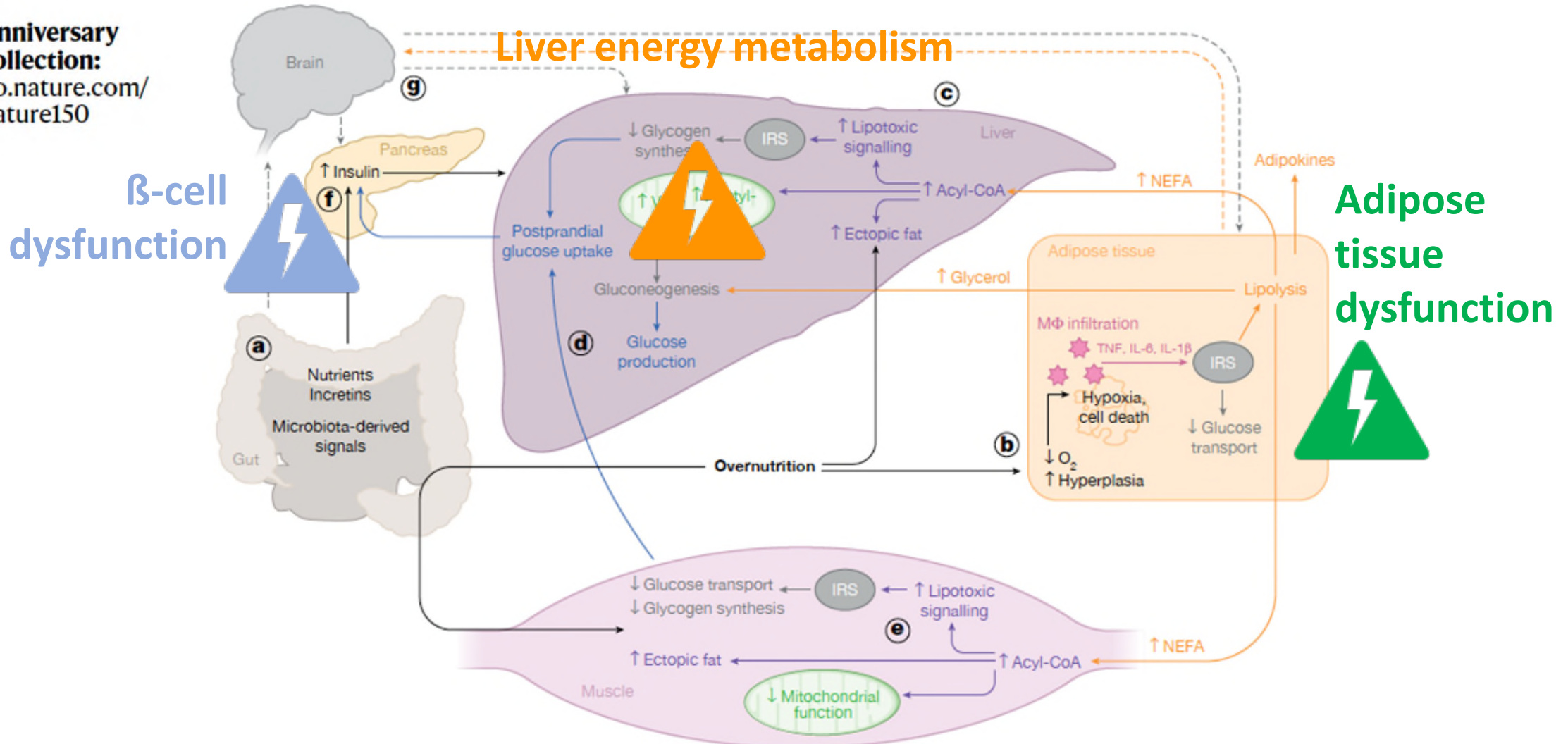


- Fat content >5% (Histo) or >5.56% (<sup>1</sup>H-MRS, PDFF-MRI)
- Alcohol <10 (male: 20) g/d
- Presence of  $\geq 1$  cardiometabolic risk factor
- **Prevalence: 25% (general population), 65% (diabetes)**

# The integrative biology of common metabolic diseases



Anniversary collection:  
[go.nature.com/nature150](https://go.nature.com/nature150)



# Studying features of “mitochondrial function”

- **In vitro morphometry**

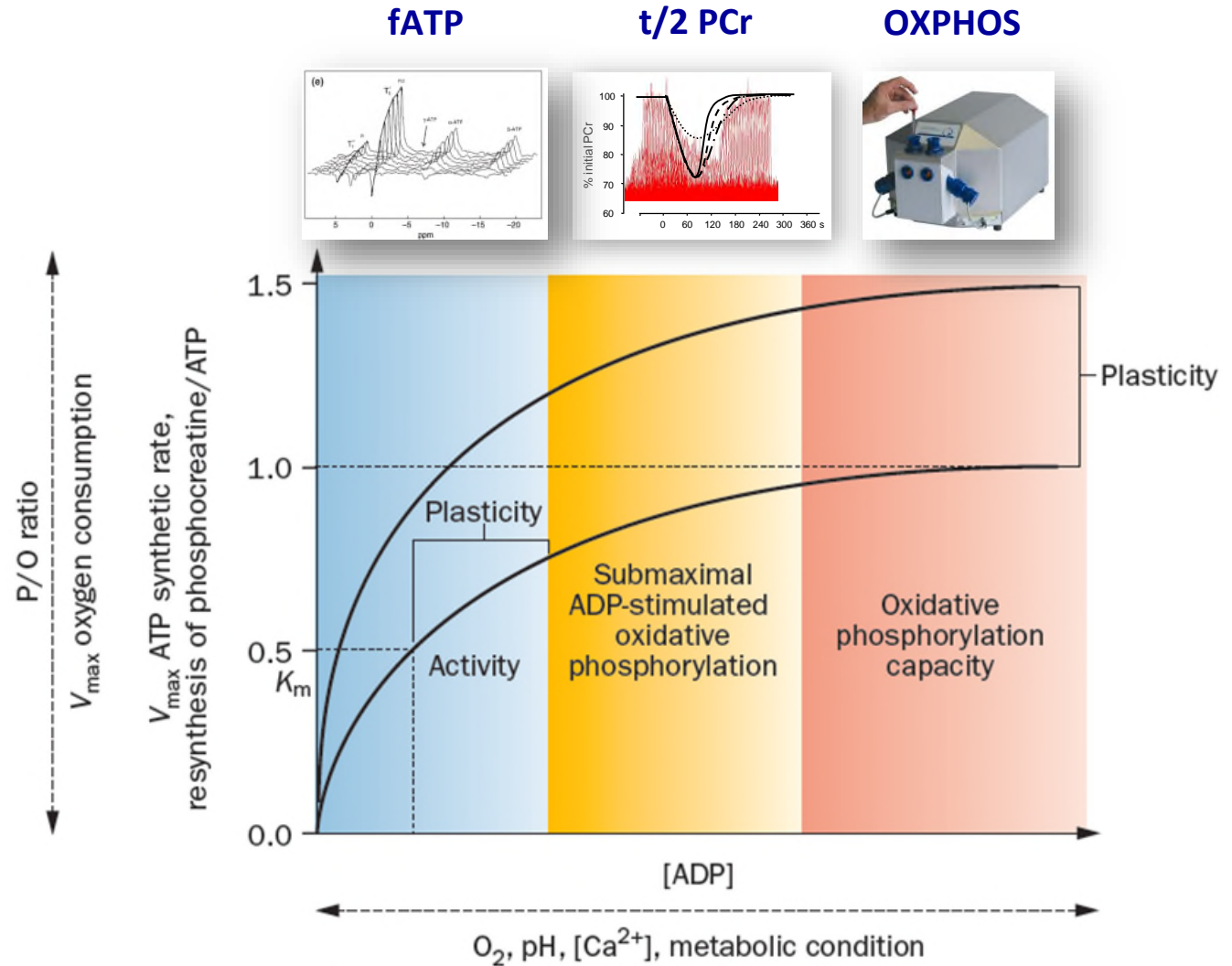
- Morphometry
- Histochemistry
- Molecular analyses

- **Ex vivo functional analyses**

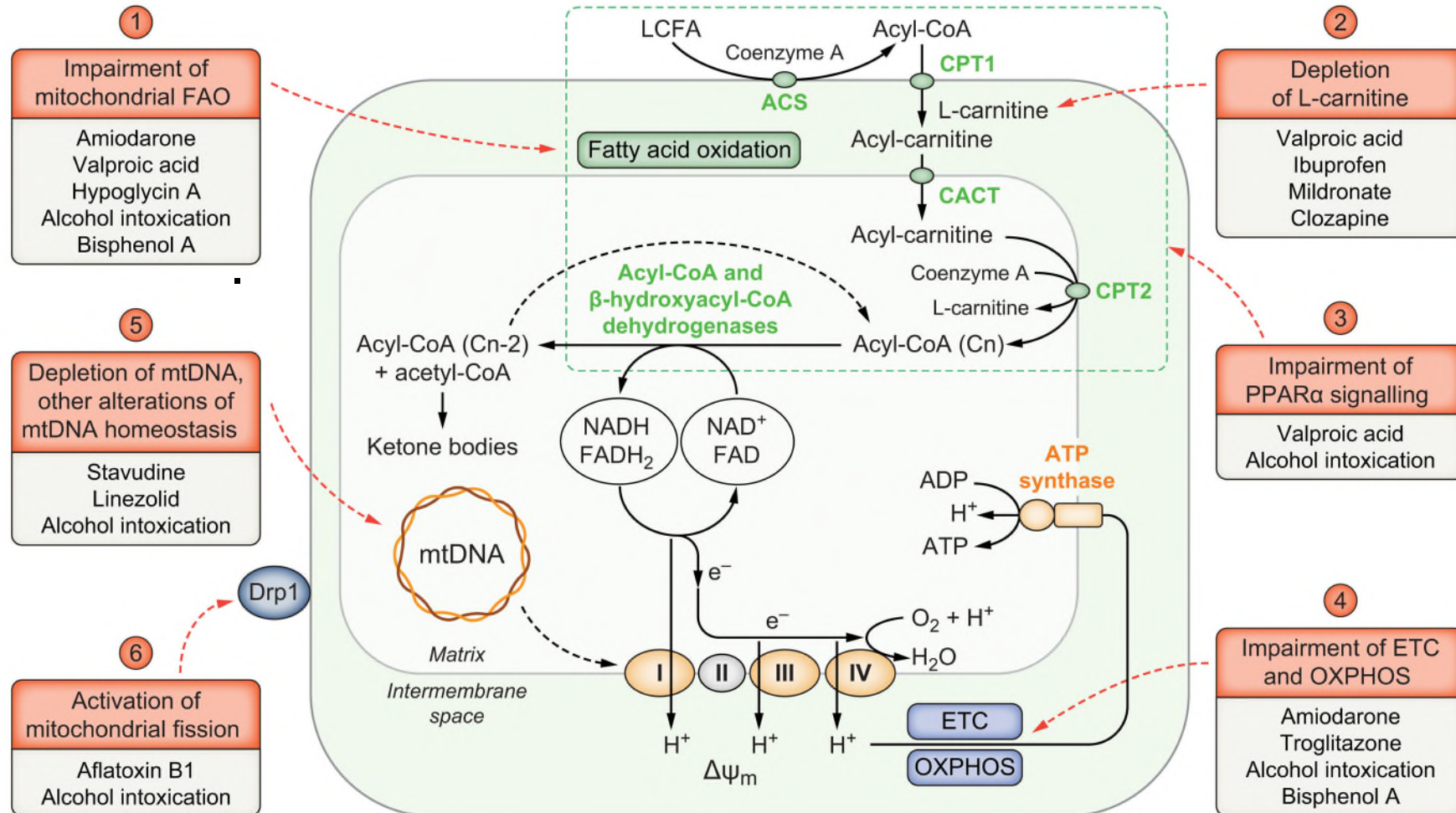
- Enzyme activities
- ATP production
- **O<sub>2</sub> flux** (high resolution respirometry)

- **In vivo methods**

- Respiratory exchange measurement
- Isotope dilution/distribution
- Positron emission tomography (PET)
- **Magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS)**
  - ATP synthase flux (fATP)
  - PCr recovery
  - Fructose challenge

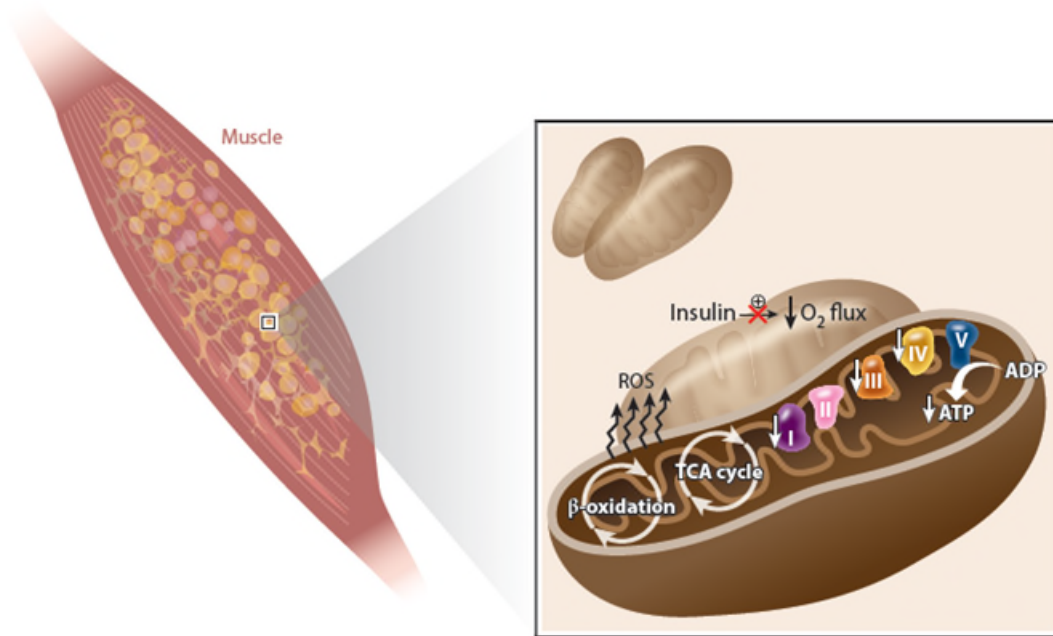


# Mitochondrial alterations: Xenobiotic-induced liver diseases

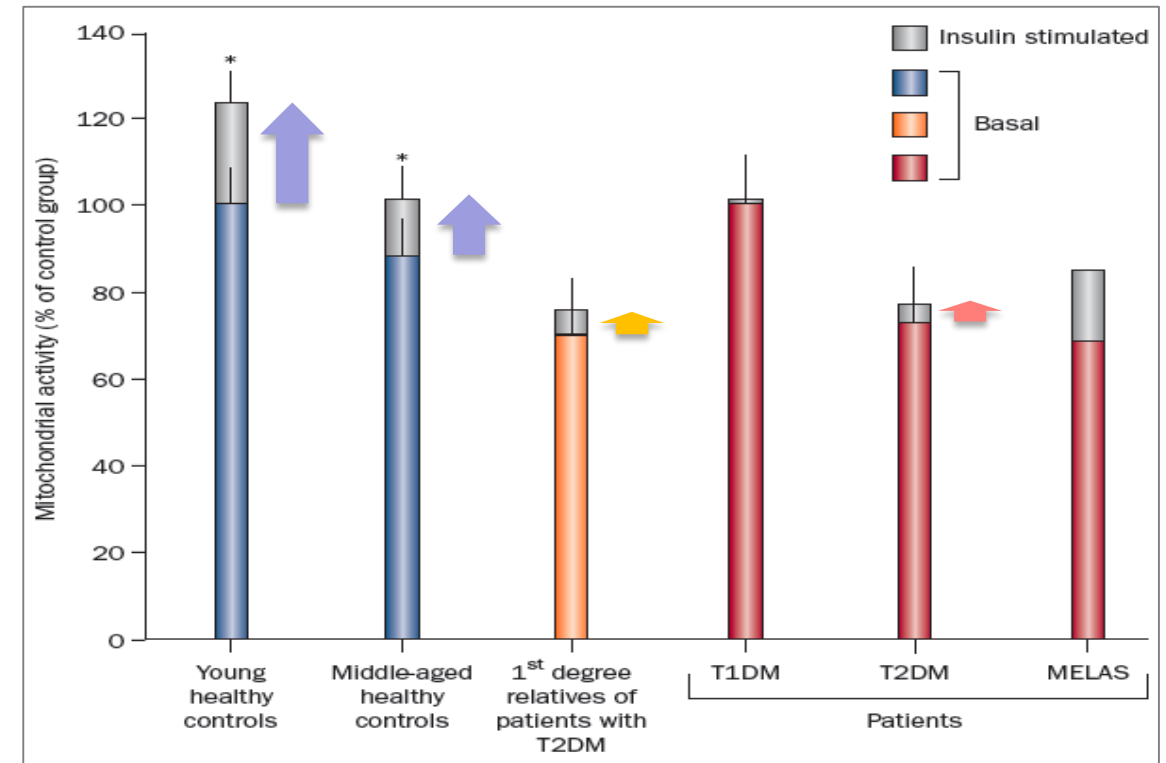




# Impaired basal and insulin-dependent ATP synthesis in skeletal muscle of insulin resistant states



## Myocellular flux through ATP synthase (fATP) from *in vivo* <sup>31</sup>P MRS



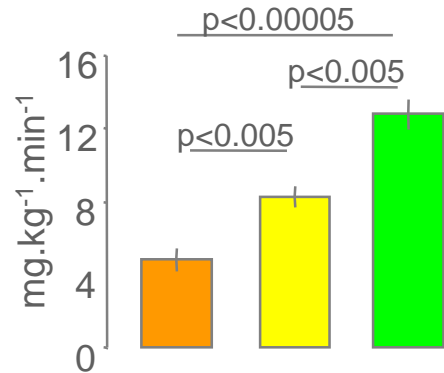
# Hepatic ATP synthesis in obesity and T2D

Direct assessment by *in vivo*  $^{13}\text{C}$  MRS

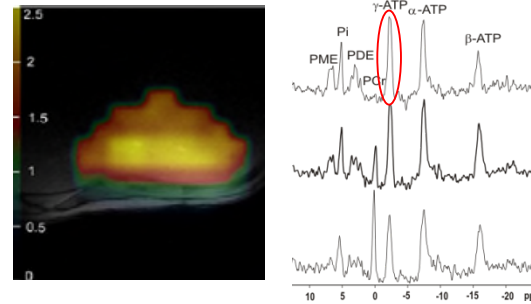


**DDZ**  
German Diabetes Center

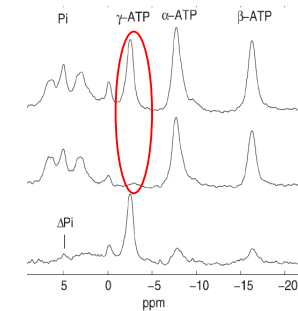
## Insulin sensitivity



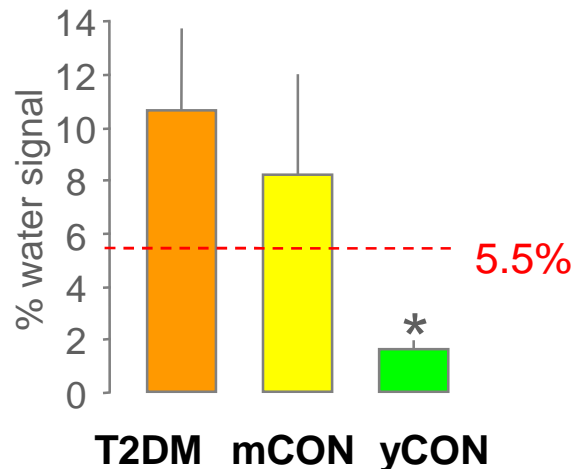
## Liver *in vivo* $^{31}\text{P}$ 3-D MRS



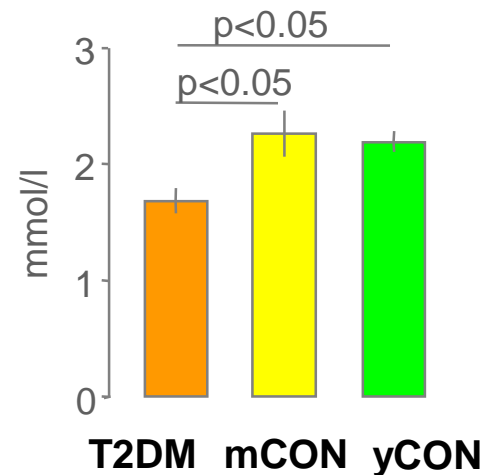
## $^{31}\text{P}$ MRS sat trans



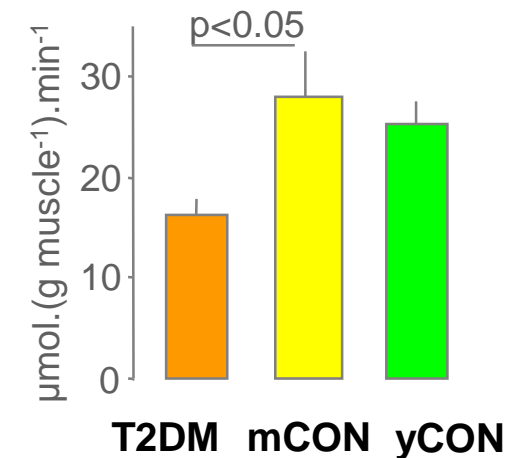
## Hepatic fat content



## Hepatic ATP content



## Hepatic fATP



Schmid et al. *NMR Biomed* 21:437,2007  
Chmelik et al. *Magn Reson Med* 60:796,2008

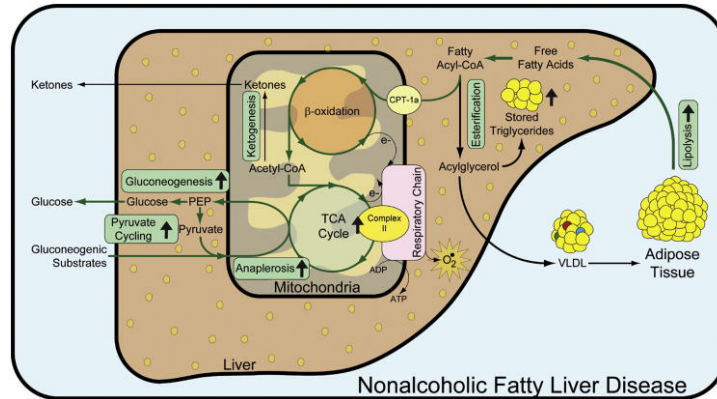
Szendrödi et al. *Hepatology* 50:1079,2009  
Schmid et al. *Diabetes Care* 34:448,2011



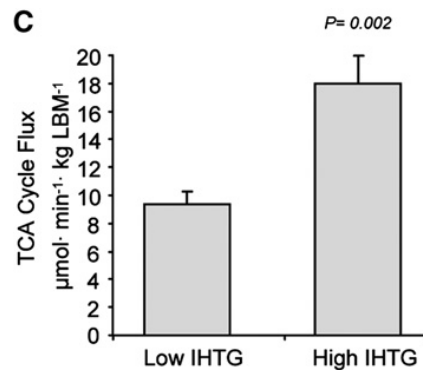
# Hepatic mitochondrial function in obese and lean MASLD

## Indirect assessment by stable isotope techniques

### [U-<sup>13</sup>C]propionate



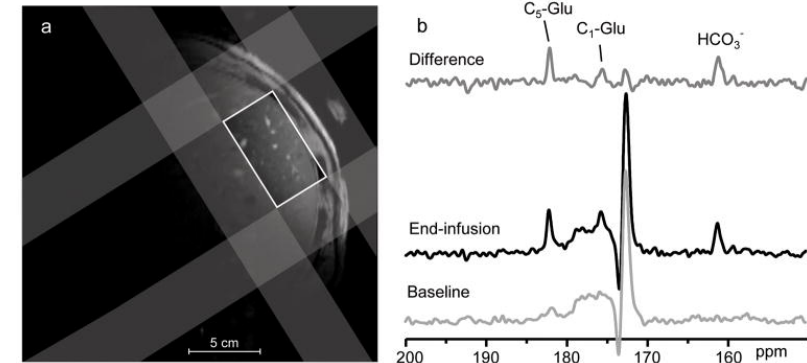
$V_{TCA}$



$V_{ANA}/V_{TCA}$ : approx. 5

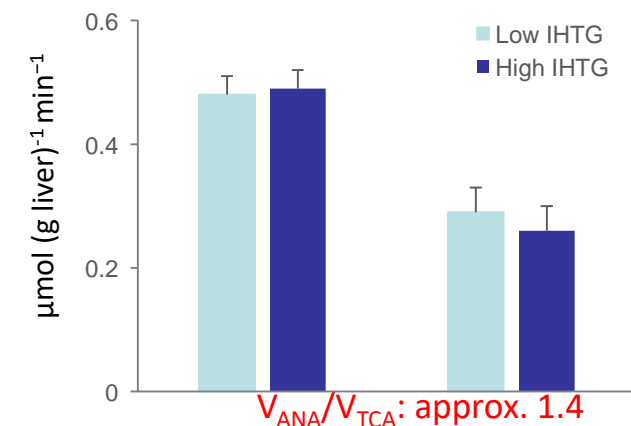
Sunny et al. *Cell Metab* 14:804,2011

### [1-<sup>13</sup>C]acetate + <sup>13</sup>C MRS



$V_{CS}$

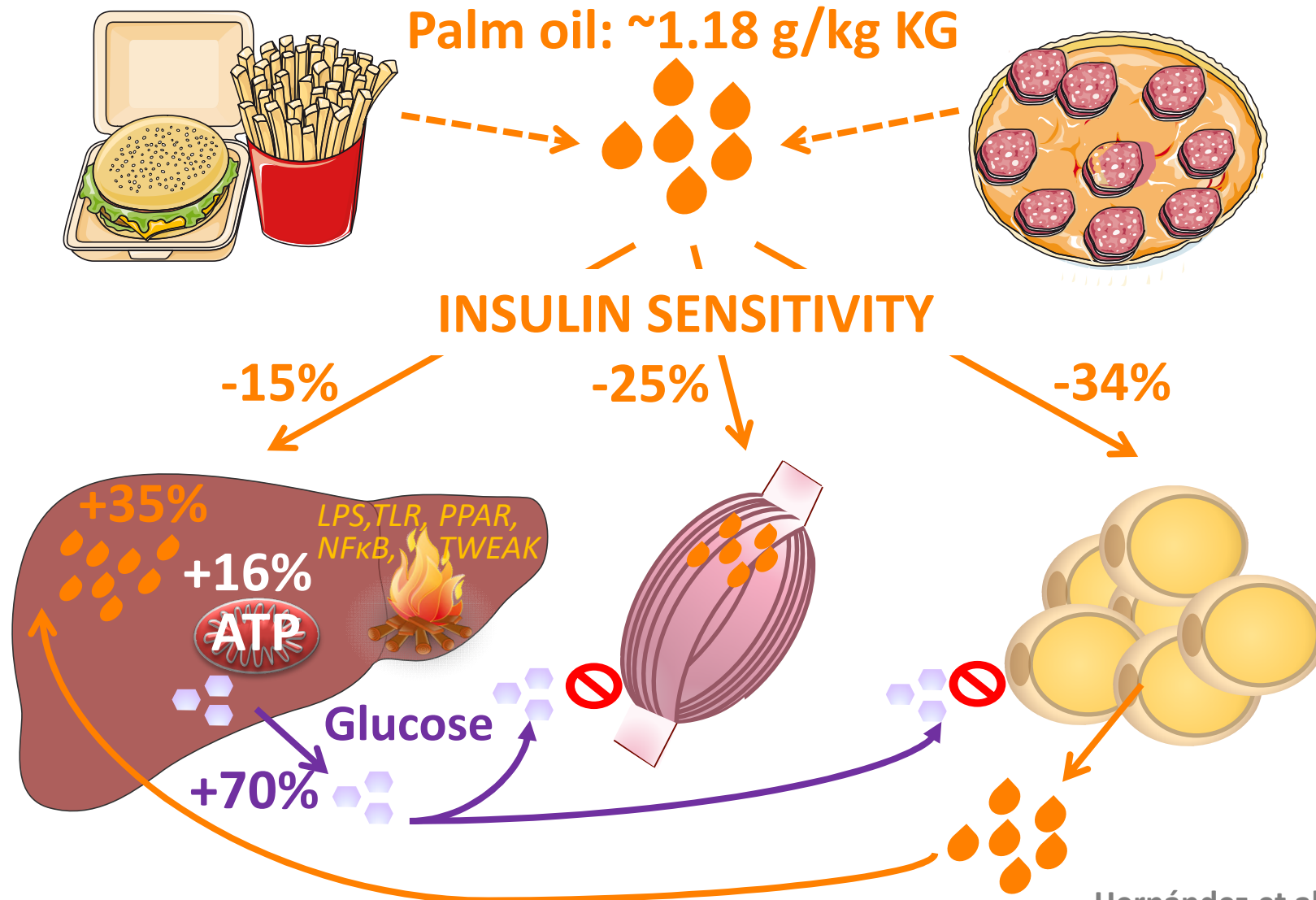
$V_{PK}$



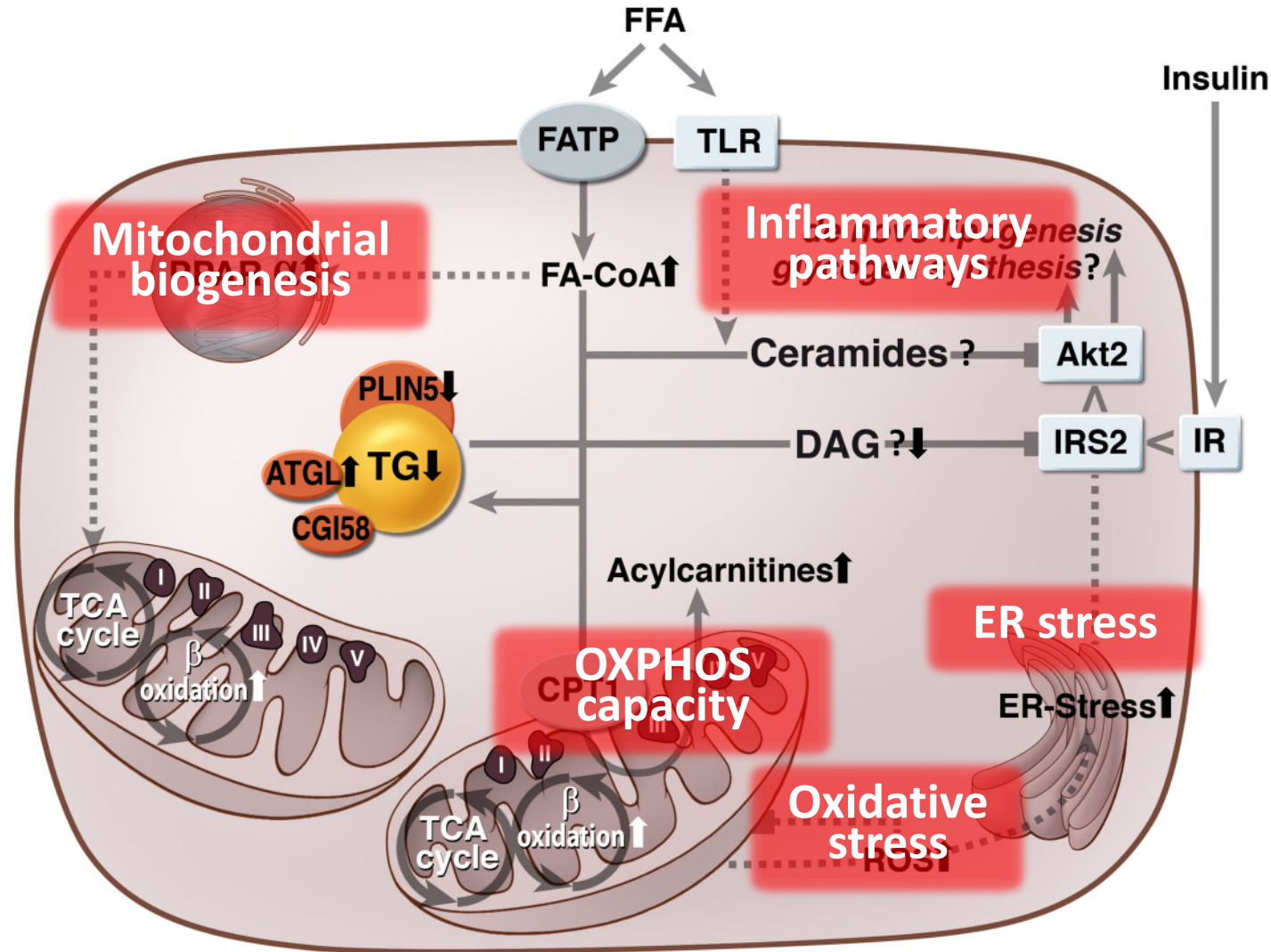
Befroy et al. *Nat Med* 20:98,2014

Petersen et al. *Cell Metab* 24:167,2016

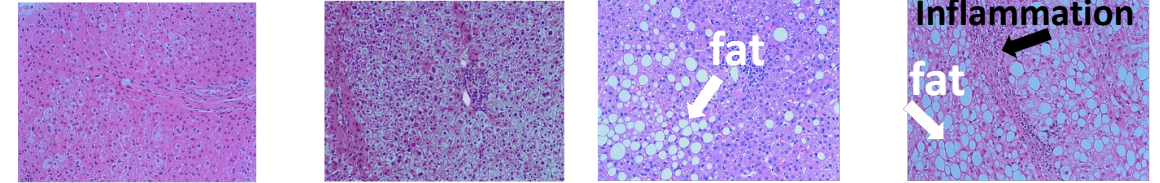
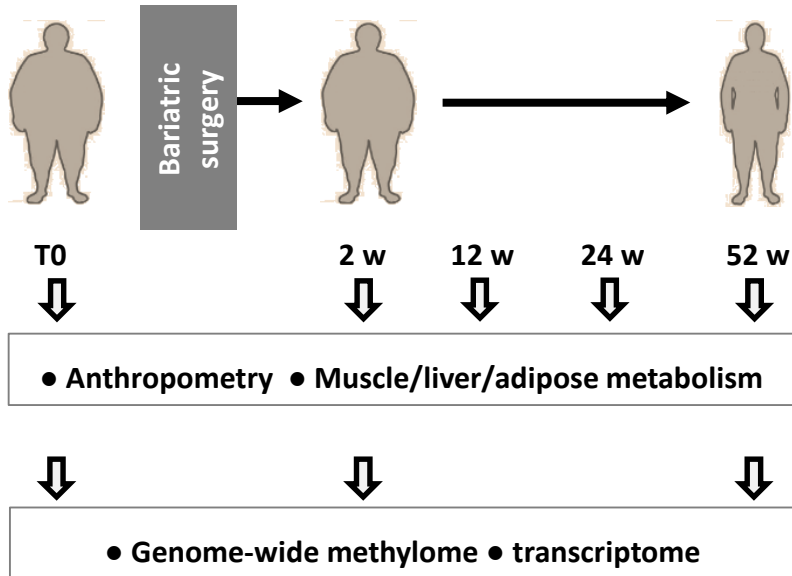
# Effect of a single palm oil drink in healthy humans and mice



# Q. Is mitochondrial oxidative capacity *increased* or *reduced* in steatotic liver disease and/or T2DM?



# Hepatic energy metabolism in humans

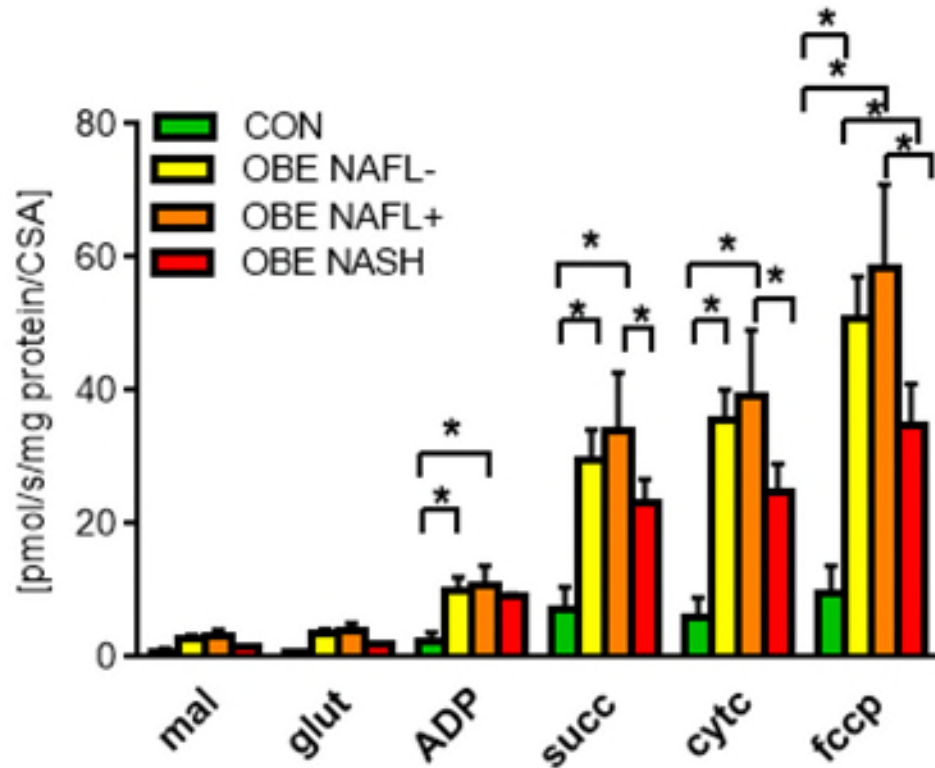


	CON	OBE NAFL-	OBE NAFL+	OBE NASH
Age (years)	41±3	39±3	41±3	51±3
Sex (m/f), n	5/7	3/15	2/14	3/4
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.5±0.7	48.3±1.9 <sup>a</sup>	53.7±2.1 <sup>a</sup>	47.3±0.7 <sup>a</sup>
F-glucose (mg/dl)	78±1	88±3	87±3	127±19 <sup>a,b,c</sup>
Rd (μmol/kg/min)	47±8	23±3 <sup>a</sup>	14±1	15±4 <sup>a</sup>
EGP suppression (%)	82±3	76±4	73±7	59±18 <sup>a,b</sup>
HCL (%)	2.1±1.0	2.6±0.5	26.9±3.7 <sup>a,b</sup>	70.7±2.8 <sup>a,b</sup>
NAFLD score	0.6±0.3	0.6±0.2	2.9±0.4	6.9±0.6 <sup>a,b</sup>

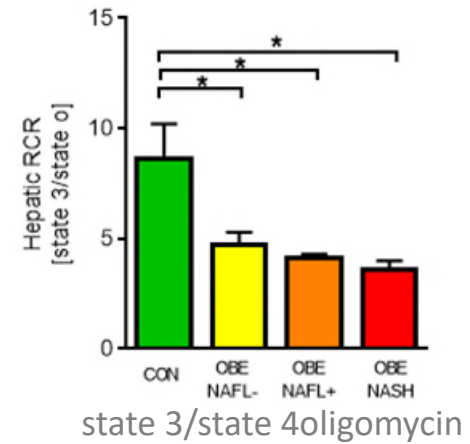


# Hepatic mitochondrial function, mass and biogenesis

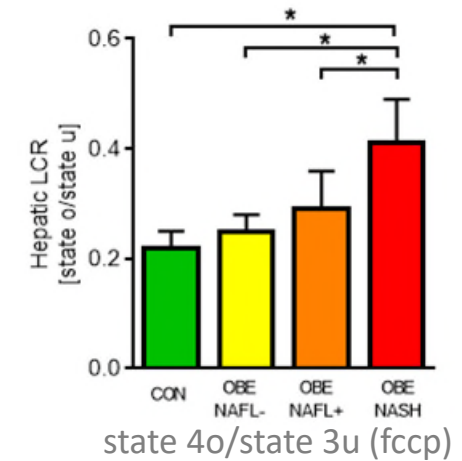
## Hepatic oxidative capacity



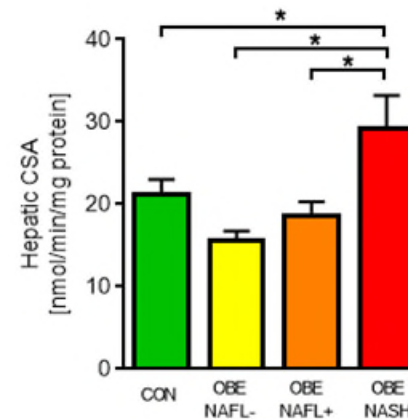
## Respiratory control



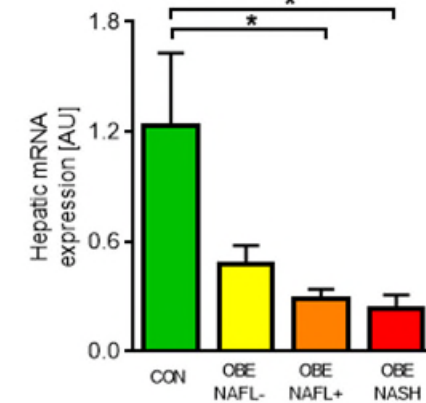
## Leak control



## Mito mass

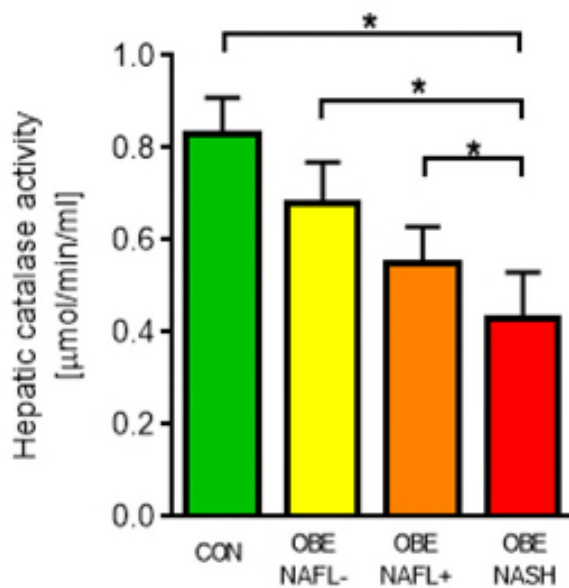


## PGC-1 $\alpha$

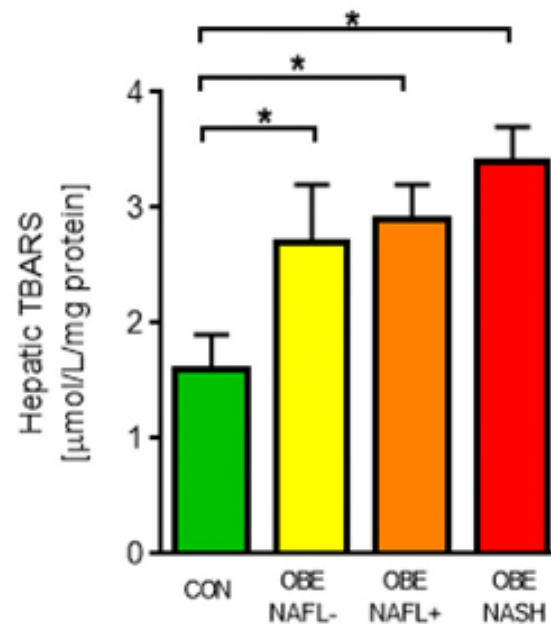


# Hepatic mitochondrial oxidative stress and inflammation

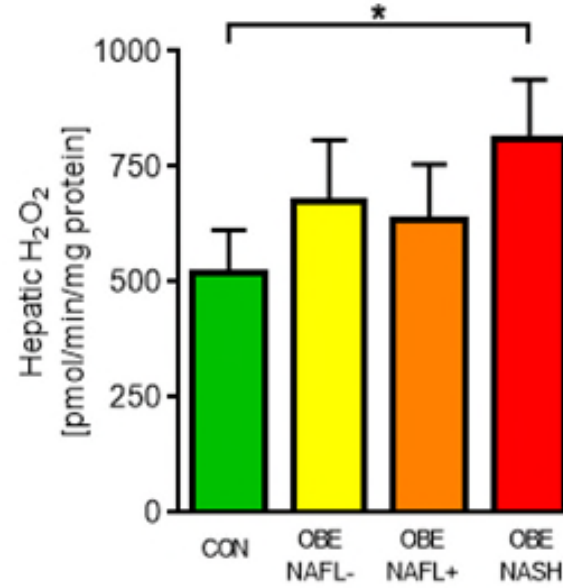
## Antioxidative defense



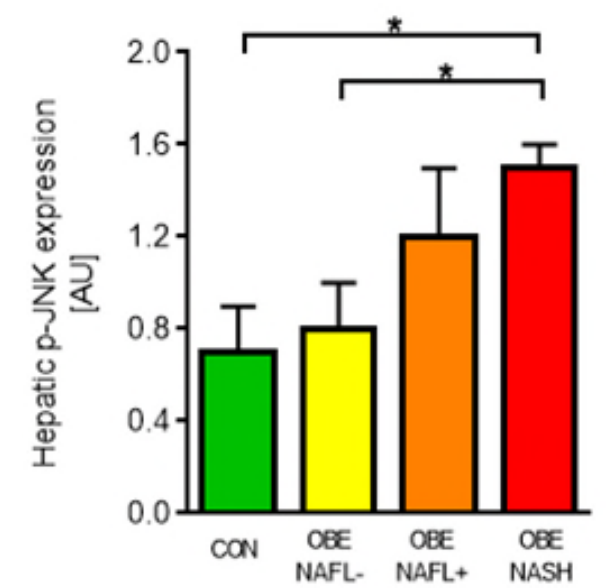
## Lipid peroxidation



## ROS production

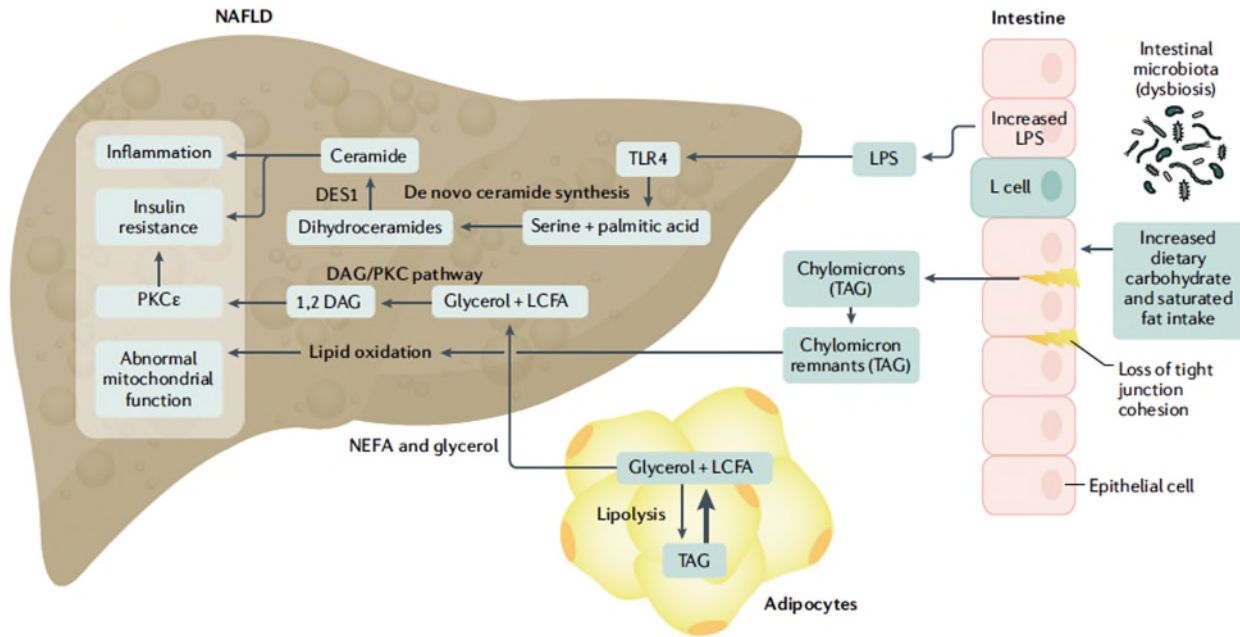


## pJNK Thr183/Tyr185

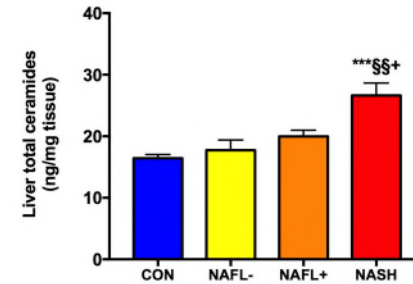




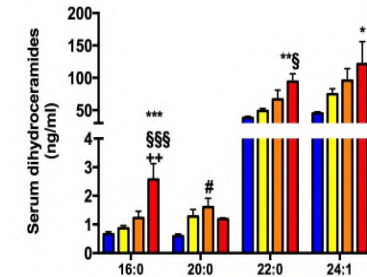
# Ceramides relate to hepatic oxidative stress & inflammation



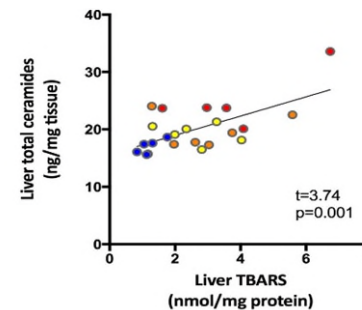
**Hep. total ceramides**



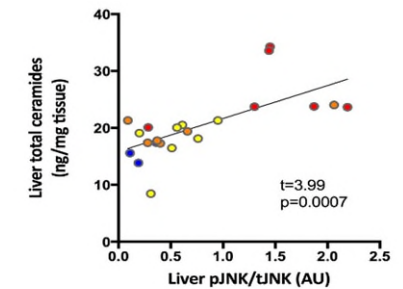
**Serum DH-ceramides**



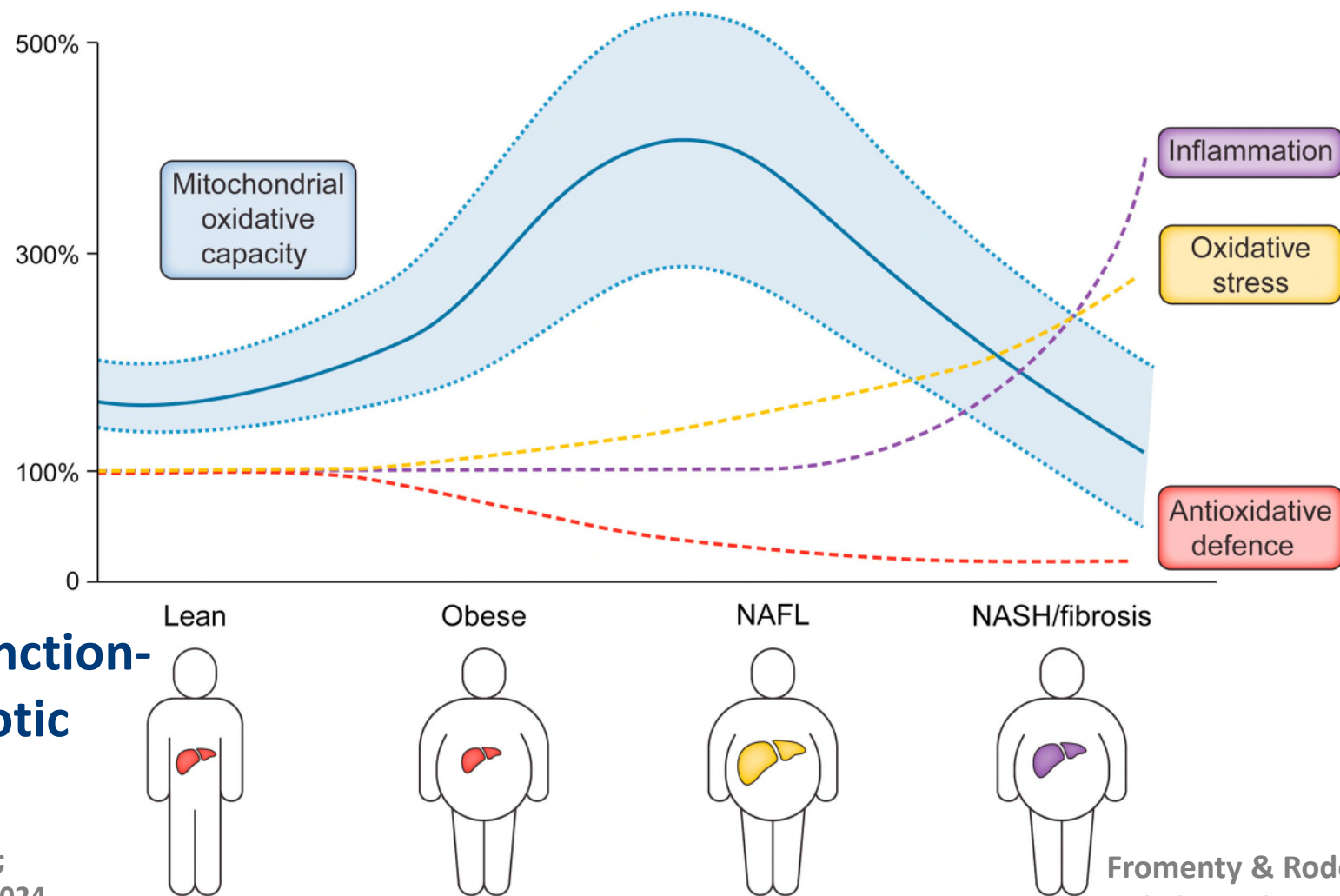
**Hep. oxidative stress**



**Hep. inflammation**



# Concept of hepatic mitochondrial plasticity and its loss during MASLD\* development

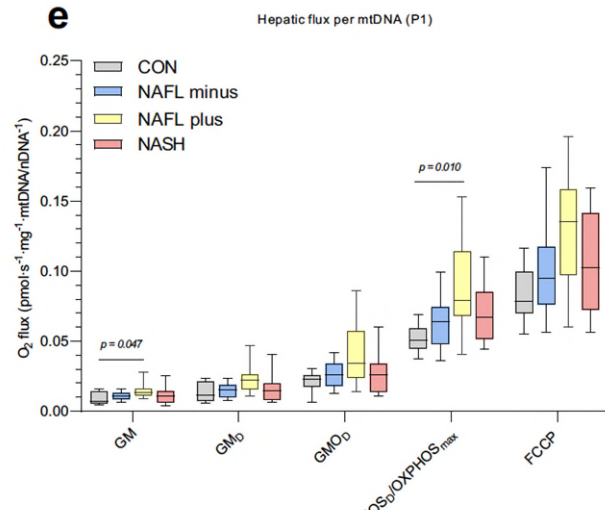


**\* = Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease**

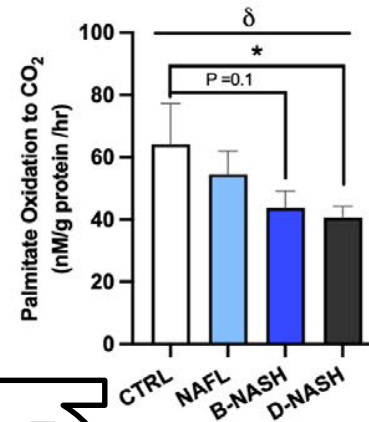
Rinella et al. *Hepatology* 2023;  
*J Hepatol* 2023; *Ann Hepatol* 2024

Fromenty & Roden. *J Hepatol* 78:415,2023  
Koliaki et al. *Annu Rev Nutr* 36:337,2016  
& *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 379:35,2013

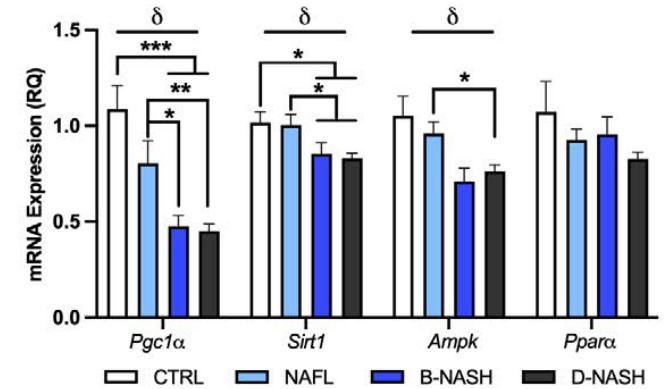
# Confirmation by other groups



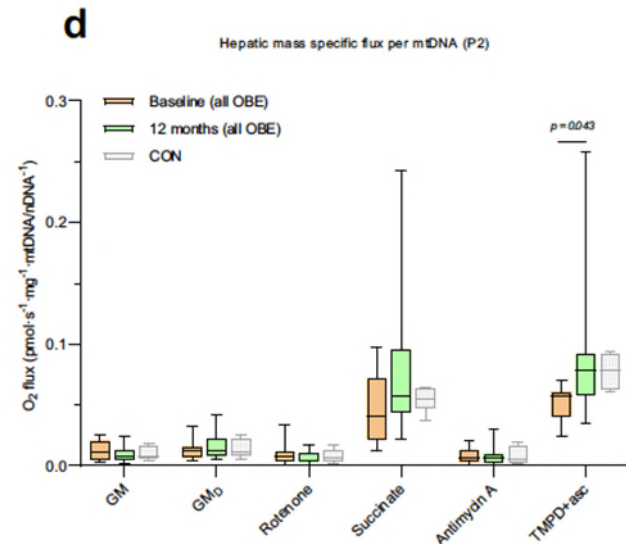
## Mitochondrial Complete Fatty Acid Oxidation



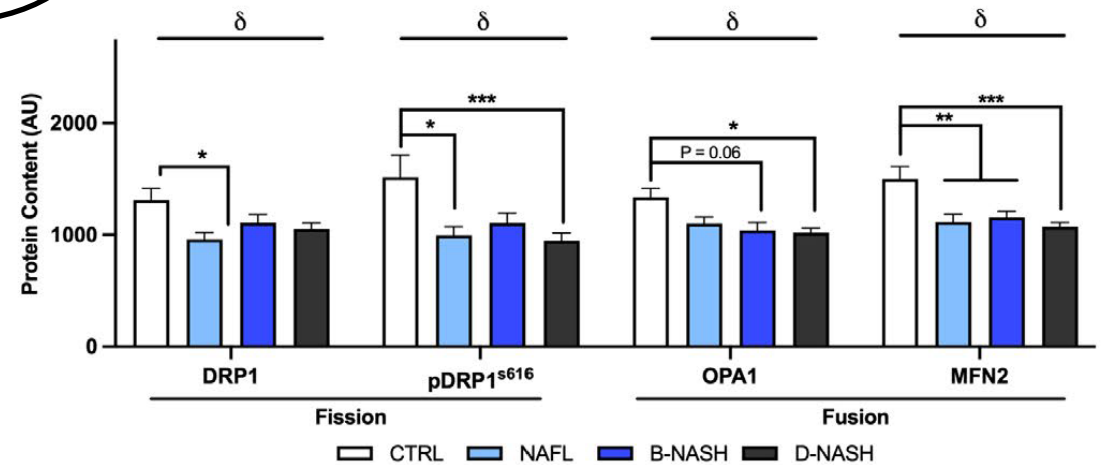
## Mitochondrial Biogenesis Markers



**CTRL = OBE !**



## Fission/Fusion Markers in Liver



# Hepatic mitochondrial function in human

## obesity- and diabetes-related MASH -/+ fibrosis



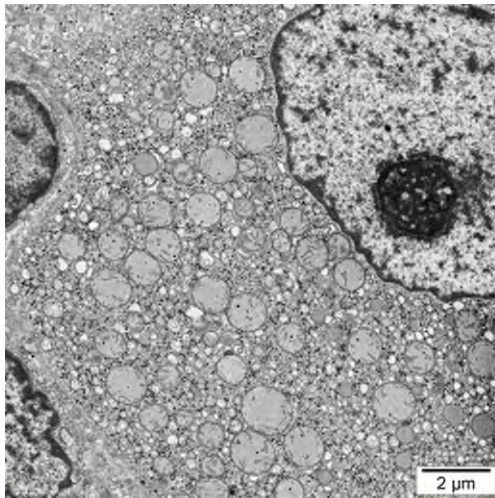
	CON	OBE	T2D
N (f)	14 (8)	30 (26)	15 (9)
Age (years)	40±10	39±10	<b>49±8*</b>
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25±2	52±9 <sup>#</sup>	51±7 <sup>#</sup>
ALT/ GPT (U/L)	30±41	44±32	51 ±17
HbA1c (%)	5.1±1.3	5.1±1.1	<b>7.3±1.2**</b>
NEFA (μmol/l)	436 (358;612)	639 (572;781)	728 (555;791)
M-value (mg/kg/min)	8.8 (6.5;10.9)	2.3 (1.9;3.0) <sup>#</sup>	<b>1.5 (1.4;1.8)<sup>#</sup></b>
HIS (dl*min*kg/mg/μU)	6.0 (4.4; 9.4)	3.7 (3.1;5.0)	3.0 (1.9;3.9) <sup>#</sup>
AdipoIR (AU)	5845 (3110;7171)	16737(10466;19155) <sup>#</sup>	16690 (14214;32298) <sup>#</sup>

	F0	F1+
N (f)	18 (13)	27 (22)
Age (years)	41±12	43±9
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	54±9 <sup>#</sup>	50±7 <sup>#</sup>

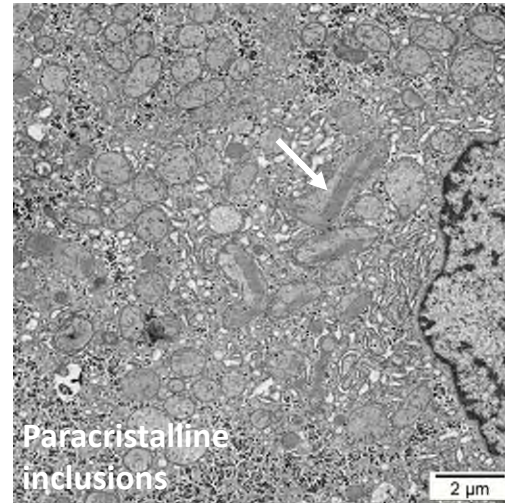


# Hepatic mitochondrial ultrastructure and mass in people with obesity, T2D and fibrosis + MASH

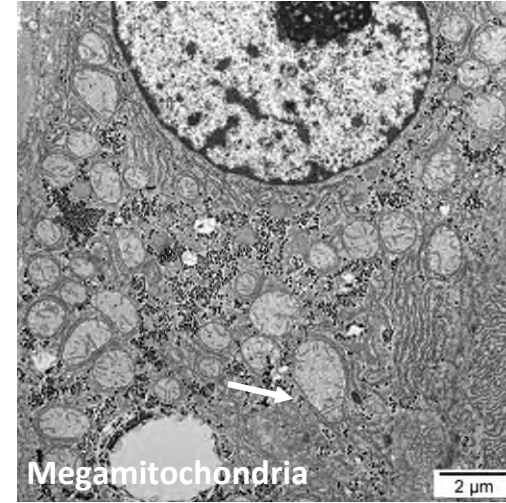
CON



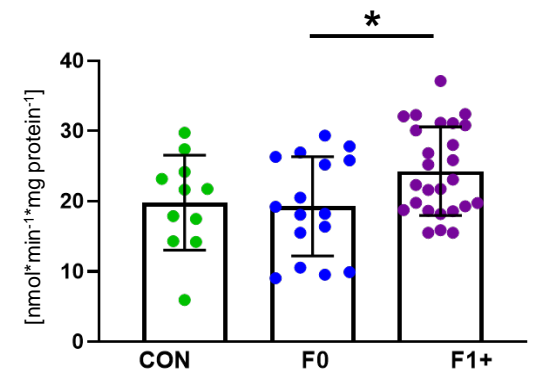
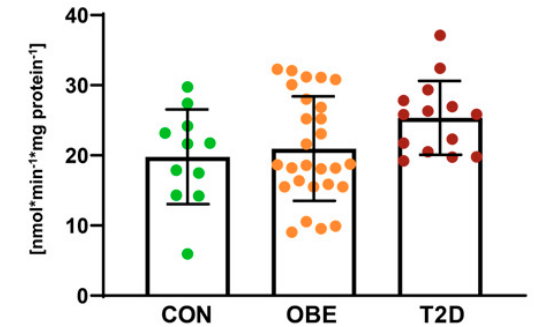
OBE



T2D

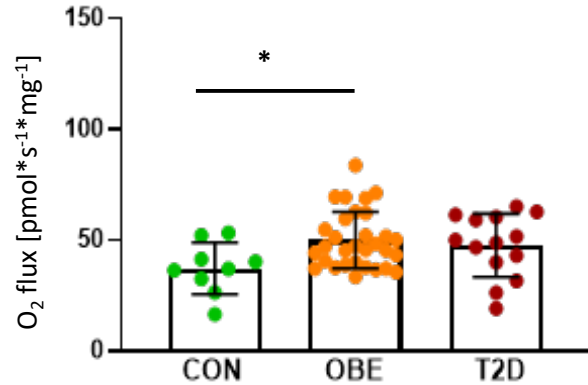


Citrate synthase activity

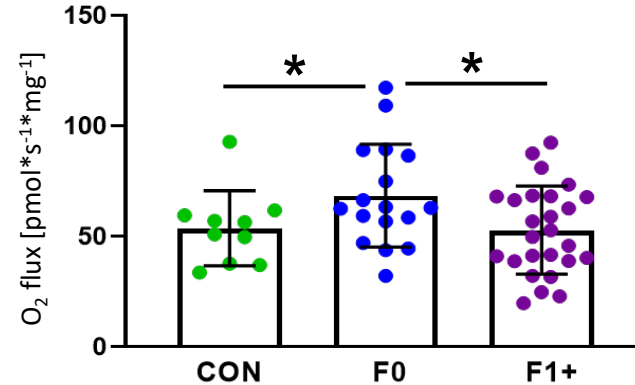


# Increased OXPHOS capacity only in obese and in no-fibrosis MASH

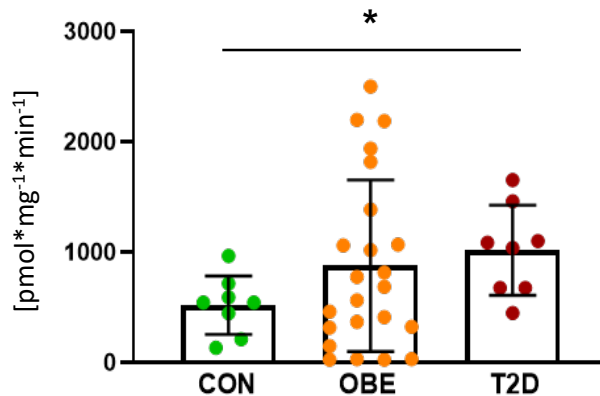
TCA-cycle-linked state u  
(liver tissue)



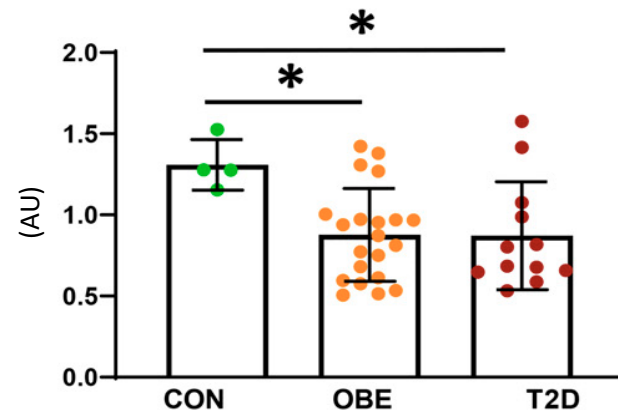
TCA-cycle-linked state u  
(liver tissue)



H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission



MFN2



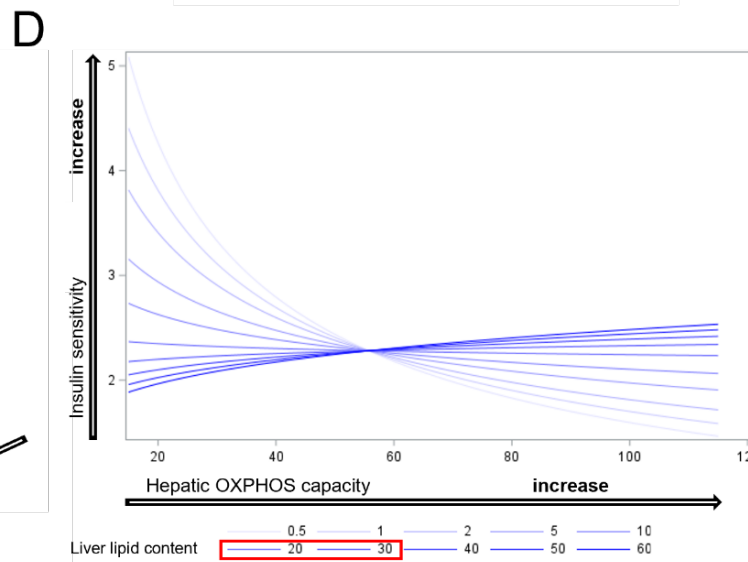
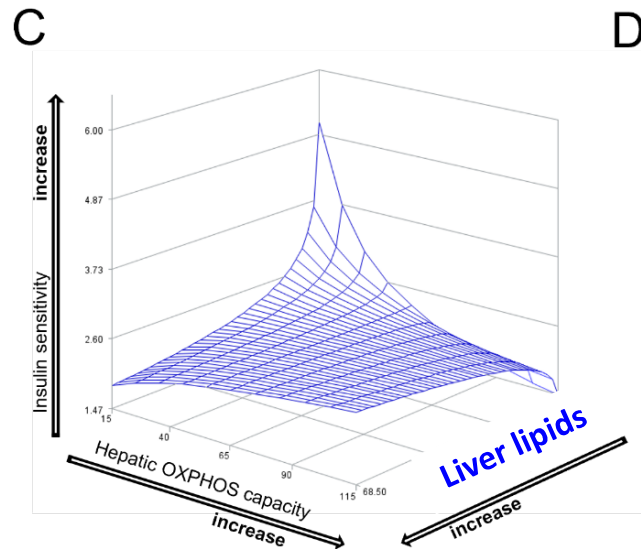
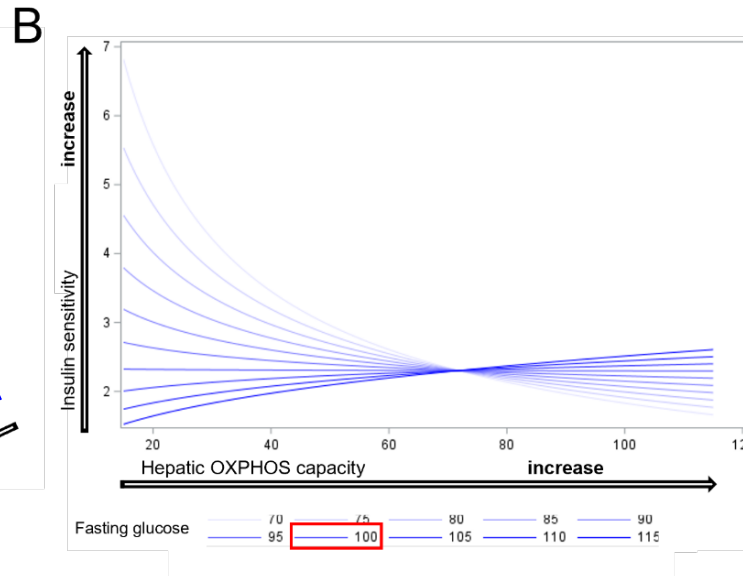
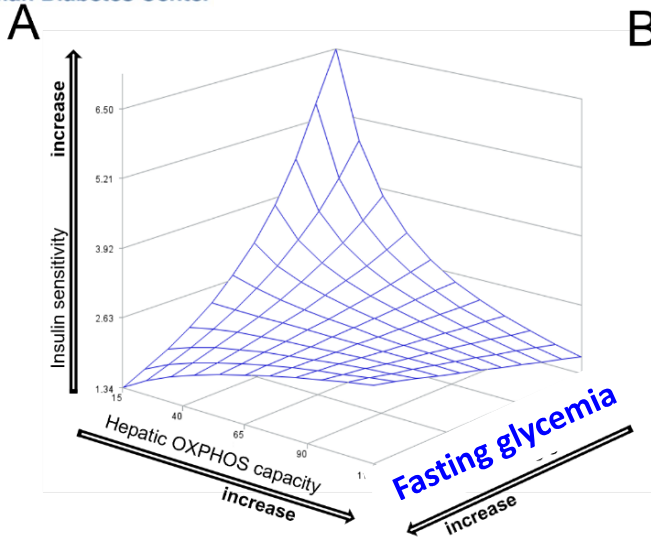
Max. Resp. /CSA	Variable	r	P
TCA-cycle linked	Liver TBARS	-0.42	0.045
	Liver carboxymethyl lys	-0.78	0.0005
β-oxidation-linked	Fasting blood glucose	-0.42	0.017
	Fasting EGP	-0.45	0.048
	Hepatic TBARS	-0.47	0.028



# Higher liver lipids & glycemia relate to declining hepatic mitochondrial plasticity in obesity and insulin resistance



**DDZ**  
German Diabetes Center



**Correlation of hepatic OXPHOS capacity w/ insulin sensitivity:**

inverse for FPG  $\leq$  100 mg/dl, but positive for FPG  $>$  100 mg/dl.

Similar behavior for liver lipids, with a threshold of 24%.

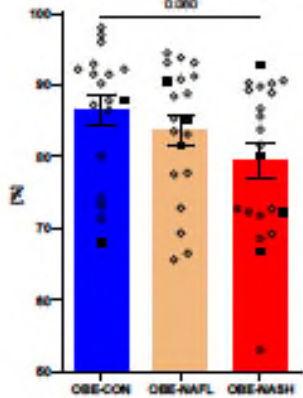


# Reduced visceral adipose tissue oxidative capacity in human MASL and MASH

**DDZ**  
German Diabetes Center

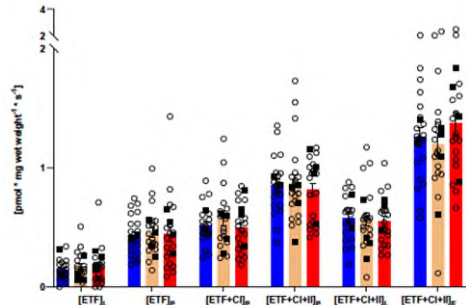


Whole-body AT  
Insulin sensitivity

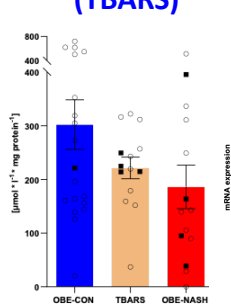


## SAT

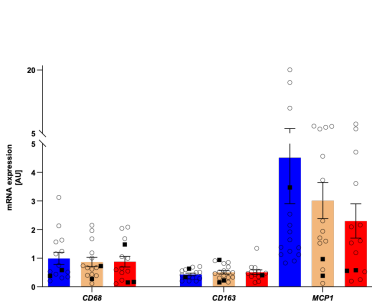
Oxidative capacity



OX stress  
(TBARS)



MΦ markers

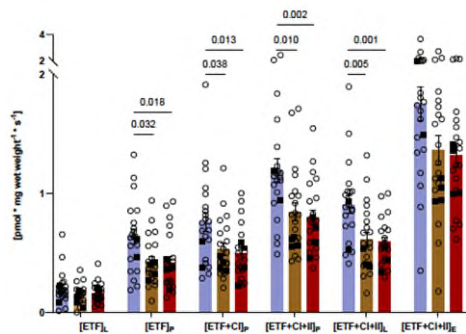


Subcutaneous adipose tissue

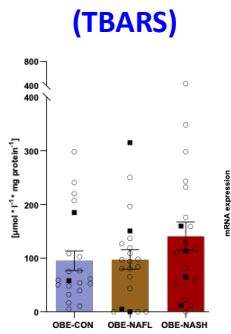


## VAT

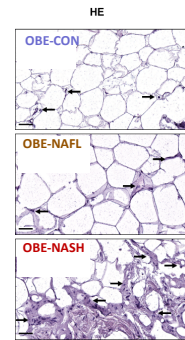
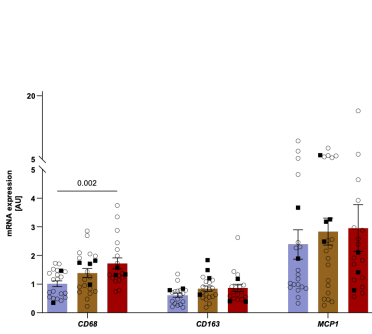
Oxidative capacity



OX stress  
(TBARS)



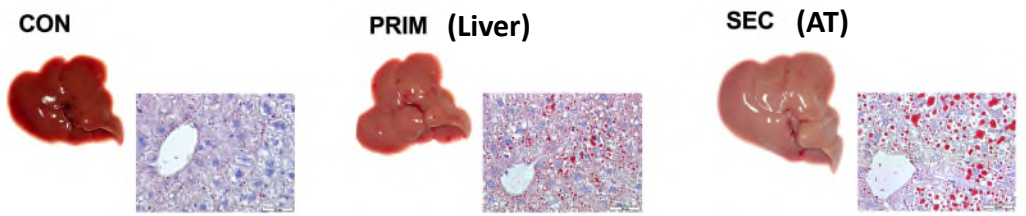
MΦ markers



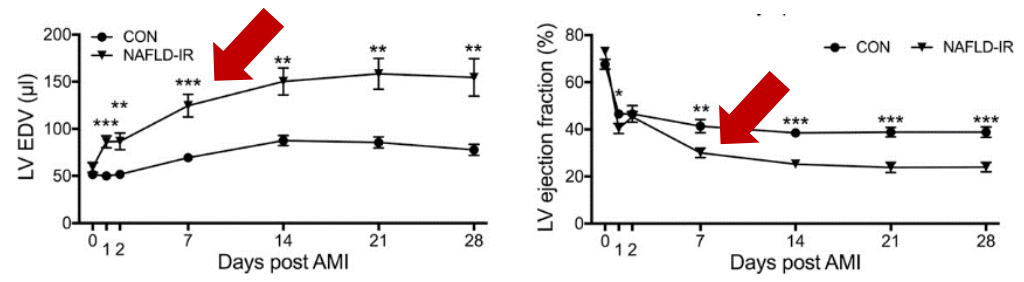


# Development of MASLD and CVD in a model of adipose tissue dysfunction

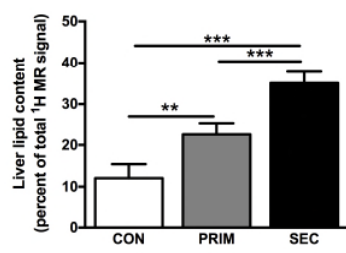
## SREBP-1c overexpression



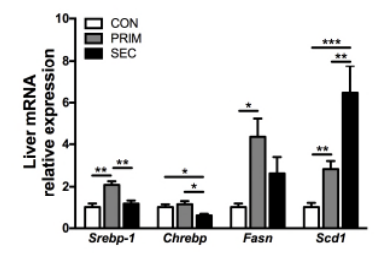
## Cardiac morphology and function after experimental myocardial infarction



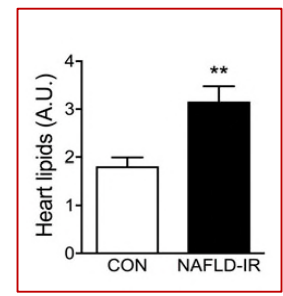
## Liver TAG



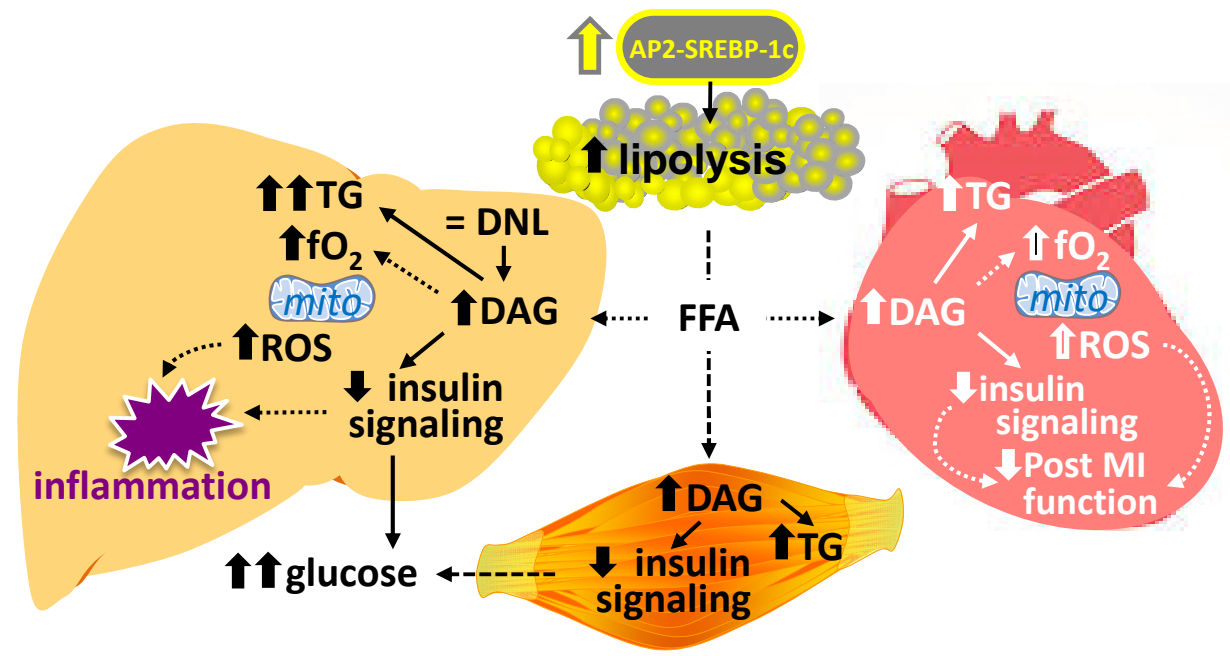
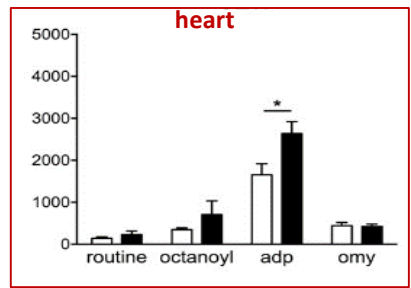
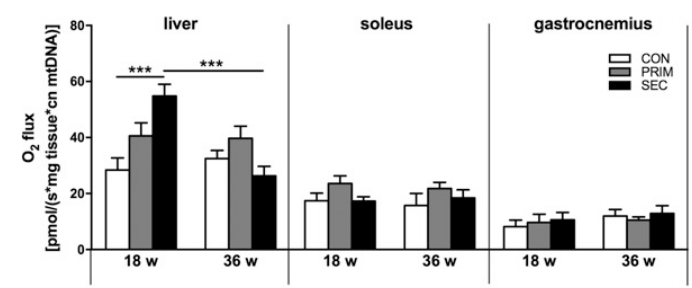
## Lipogenic enzymes



## Heart TAG



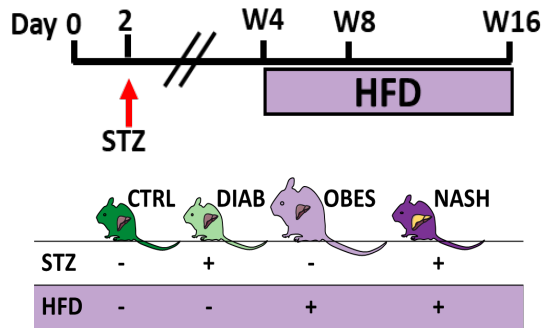
## FAO-related O<sub>2</sub> flux



# Hepatic oxidative metabolism in MASLD/MASH models

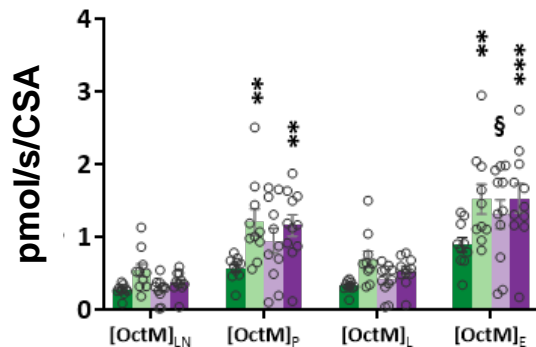


## Study design

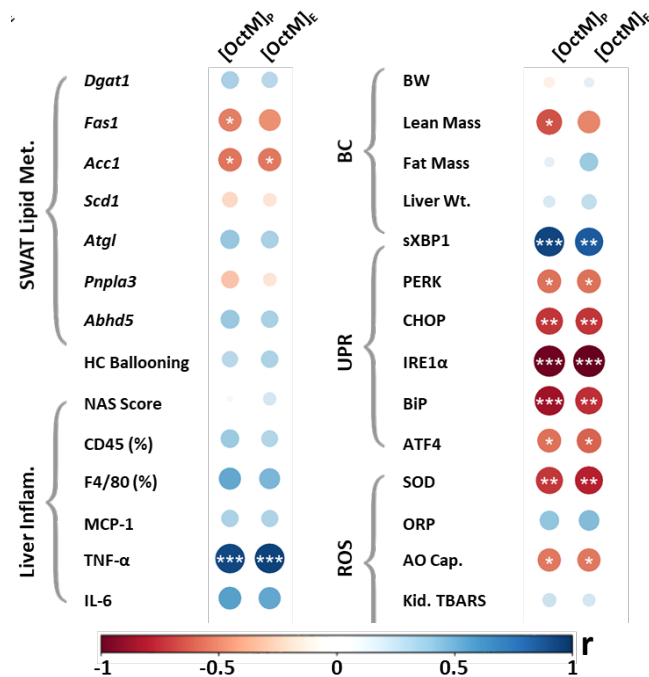


## Liver oxidative capacity

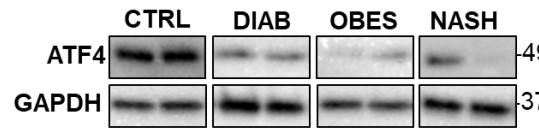
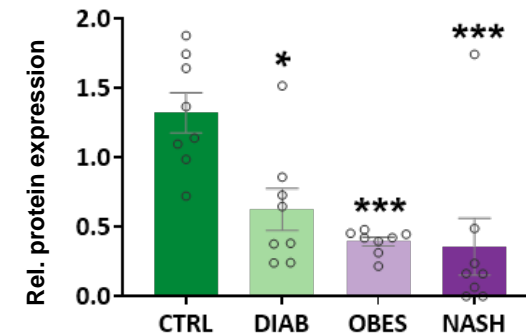
W16



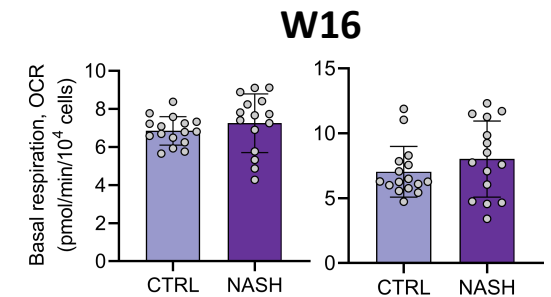
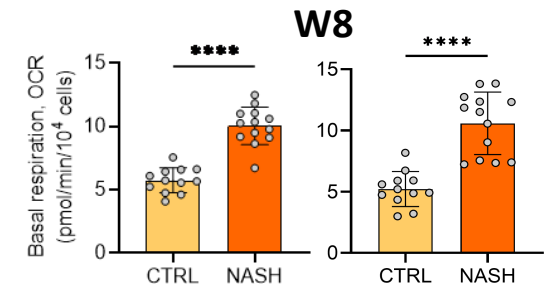
## Pearson correlation w/oxidative capacity



## Unfolded Protein Response Liver ATF4



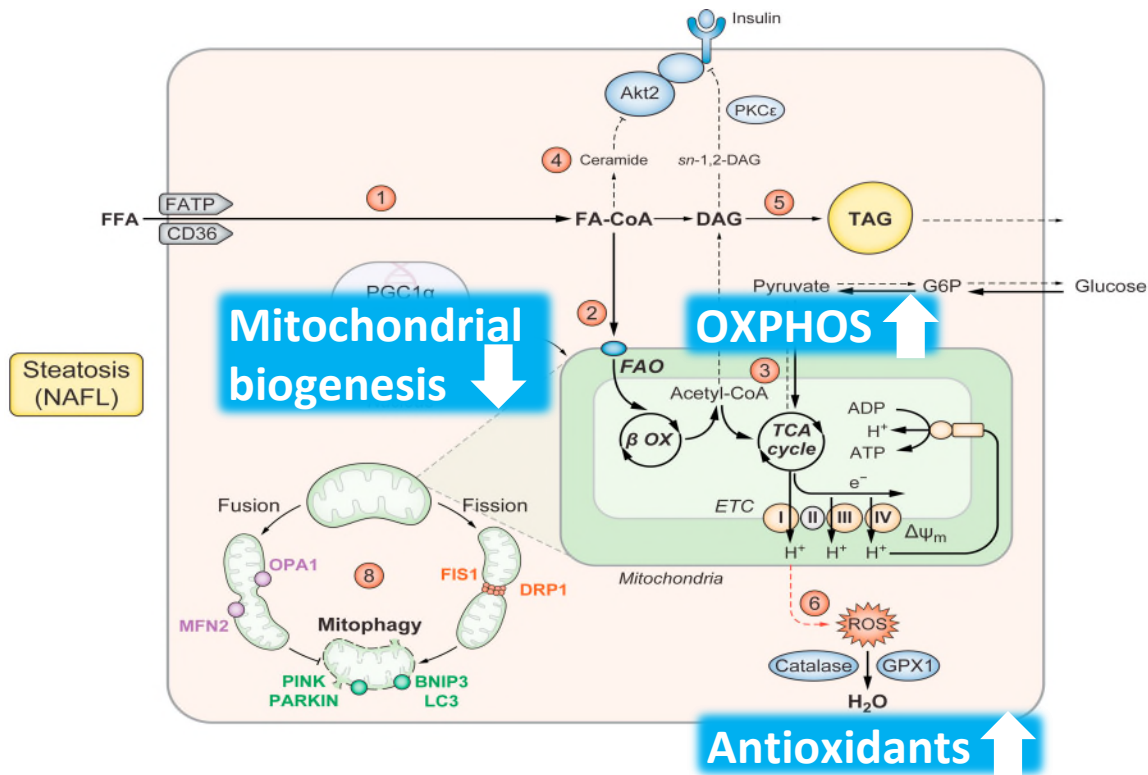
## Basal & maximal respiration LSEC



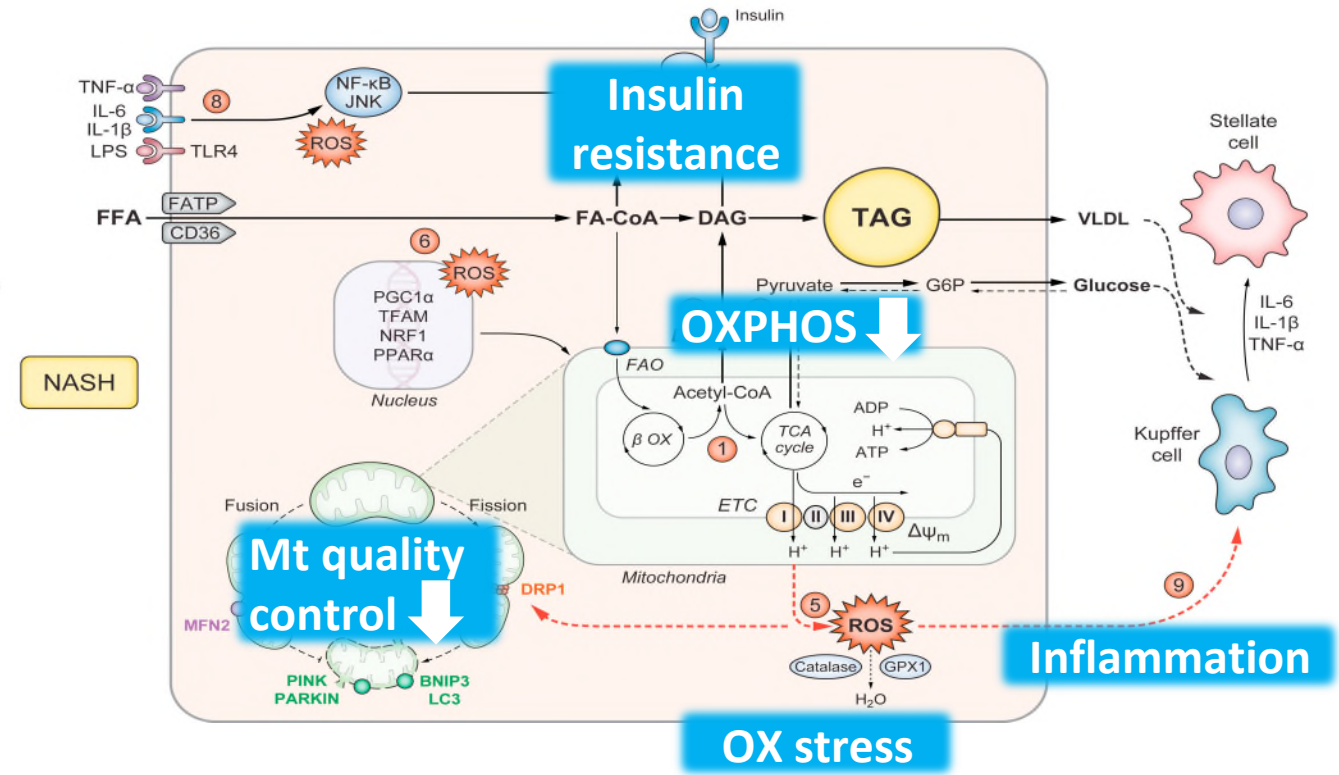


# Graphical summary

## Hepatic steatosis (MASL)



## Steatohepatitis (MASH)



# Acknowledgements



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# Assessing mitochondrial functionality, contents and quality control



German Diabetes Center

**Table 1. Methods used to assess features of mitochondria in humans or human liver tissue.**

Parameter	Method	Readout	Pros	Cons
<b>Mitochondrial content</b>	Transmission electron microscopy	Mitochondrial area and number	Gold standard, morphologic assessment Availability, time	Invasive, availability, time  Invasive, no accepted marker, no validation in liver
	Protein expression, and activity ratios, proteomics	Maximal CSA, cardiolipin, mtDNA, ETC complexes I-IV, biomarkers of mitochondrial biogenesis		
<b>Mitochondrial bioenergetic efficiency</b>	High-resolution respirometry (HRR)	OXPHOS capacity	Quasi-gold standard, assessment of different OXPHOS states	<i>Ex vivo</i> , invasive, permeabilized tissue
	Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS)	Hb oxygenation, cytochrome oxidase aa3 (REDOX state)	Intact tissue	<i>Ex vivo</i> , invasive, indirect measure, limited use
	Liver <sup>31</sup> P MRS	[ATP], [Pi] or V <sub>ATP</sub> (from saturation transfer or upon fructose challenge)	<i>In vivo</i> , intact tissue, suitable for repeated measures and clinical studies	Availability, multidisciplinary expertise, exclusion criteria, time
	Liver <sup>13</sup> C MRS + [1- <sup>13</sup> C]acetate and [3- <sup>13</sup> C]lactate	Mitochondrial oxidation and pyruvate cycling (from <sup>13</sup> C incorporation into hepatic glutamate and alanine)	<i>In vivo</i> , intact tissue	Availability, multidisciplinary expertise, exclusion criteria, time
	PET + <sup>11</sup> C- or <sup>18</sup> F-labeled fatty acids or analogues	Fatty acid β-oxidation	<i>In vivo</i> , intact tissue	Radiation, availability, multidisciplinary expertise, indirect measure, time
	<sup>13</sup> C- or <sup>2</sup> H-labeled metabolite dilution and positional isotopomer analysis Breath test + <sup>13</sup> C-labeled metabolites Genome-scale human metabolic model	Anaplerotic and TCA cycle fluxes (e.g. V <sub>PC</sub> and V <sub>CS</sub> ), β-oxidation Mitochondrial oxidation Multiomics and splanchnic metabolite flux data	<i>In vivo</i> , intact tissue Integrated complex analysis	Availability, indirect measure, time Indirect measure, no validation Partly <i>in vitro</i> , partly invasive, multidisciplinary expertise
<b>Mitochondrial quality control</b>	Protein expression, activity, and ratios	Ubiquitin-proteasome system: USPs, ubiquitin Mitochondrial dynamics: Fusion: mitofusins (Mfn1, Mfn2), Opa1 Fission: Drp1 Mitophagy: PINK1/Parkin pathway, Tom20, COXII	Availability, Time	<i>In vitro</i> , invasive, indirect measure, no accepted single marker, no validation in human liver
	Fluorescence-activated cell sorting, confocal imaging	Mitophagy: cell analyses	Direct measure	<i>Ex vivo</i> , invasive, no validation in human liver

COXII, cytochrome c oxidase subunit II; CS, citrate synthase; CSA, CS activity; Drp, dynamin-related protein; ETC, electron transfer chain; Hb, hemoglobin; Mfn, mitofusin; MRS, magnetic resonance spectroscopy; mtDNA, mitochondrial DNA; PC, pyruvate carboxylase; PET, positron emission tomography; PINK1, PTEN-induced kinase 1; USPs, ubiquitin-specific proteases; Tom20, translocase of outer mitochondrial membrane 20.

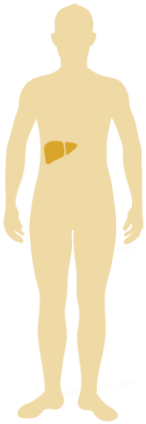


# Time-dependent changes in liver lipid contents and energy metabolism in T1D and T2D

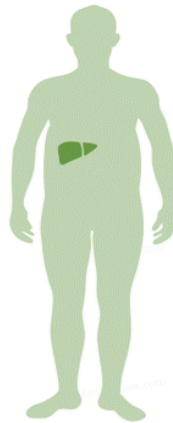


Changes after 5-years diabetes duration

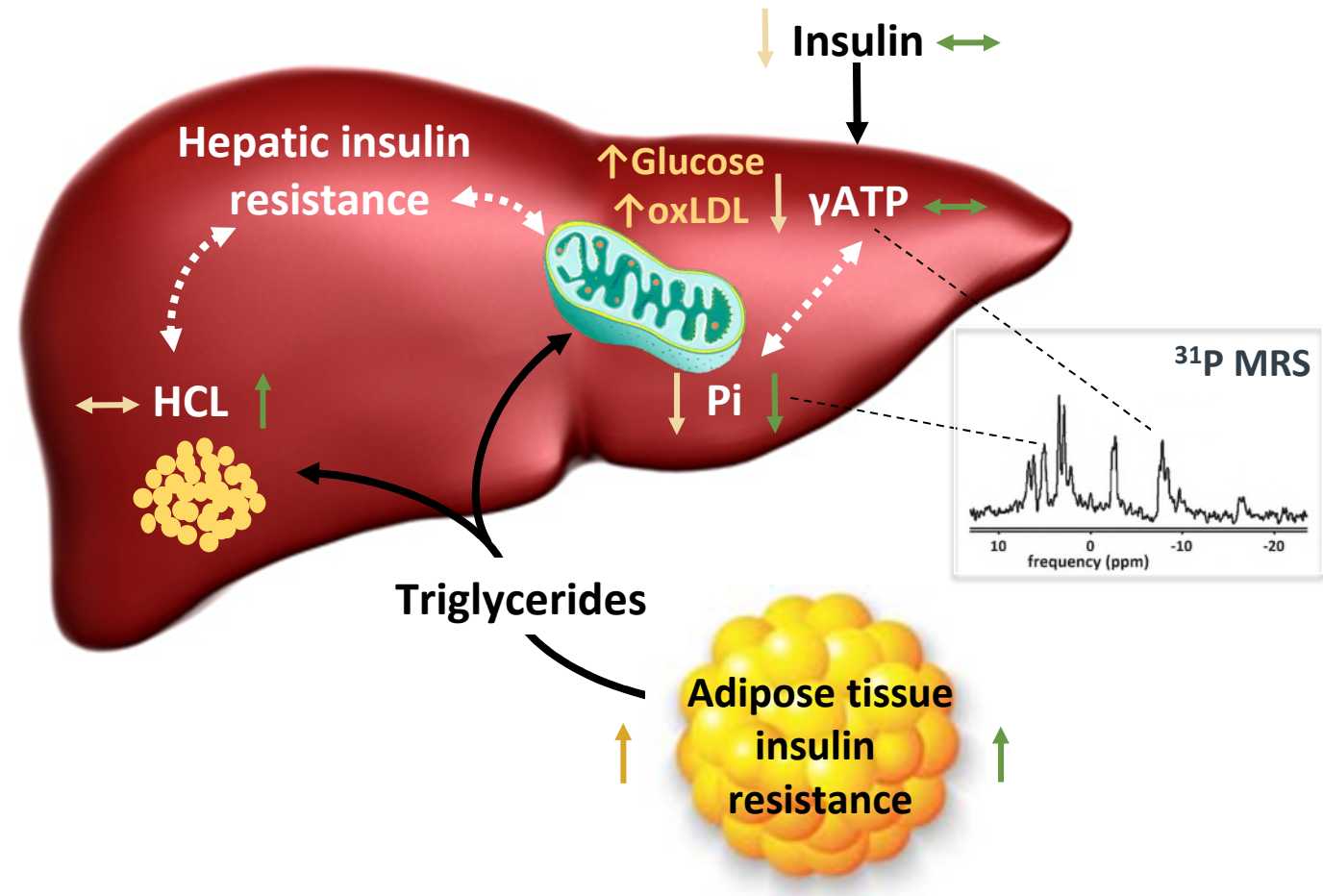
Type 1 diabetes



Type 2 diabetes



- ↓ Insulin sensitivity ↓
- ↓ Beta-cell function ↔
- ↑ Adipose tissue volume ↑

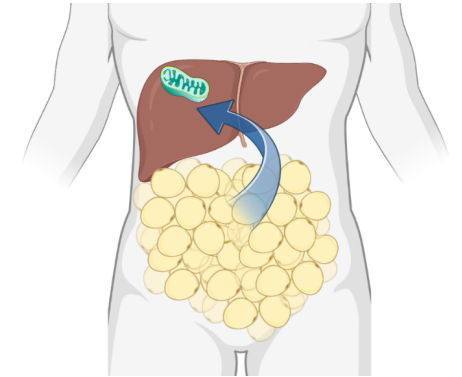
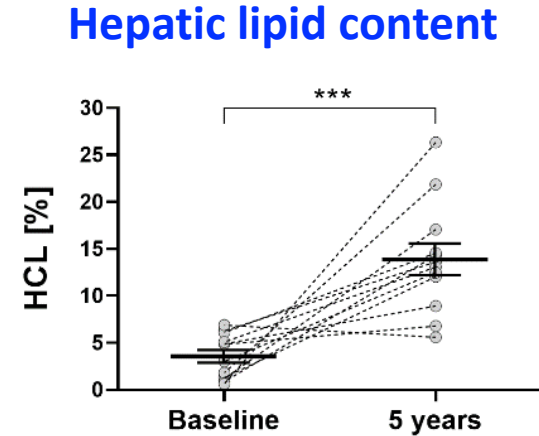
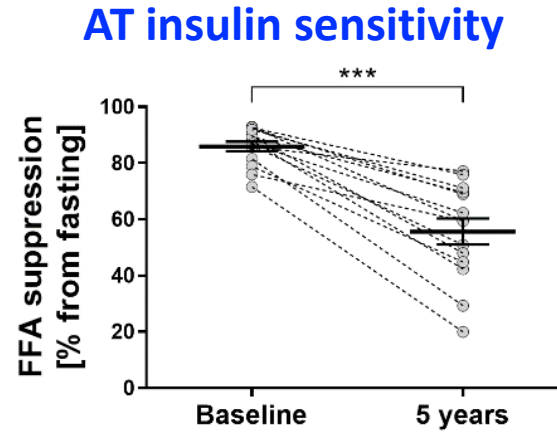
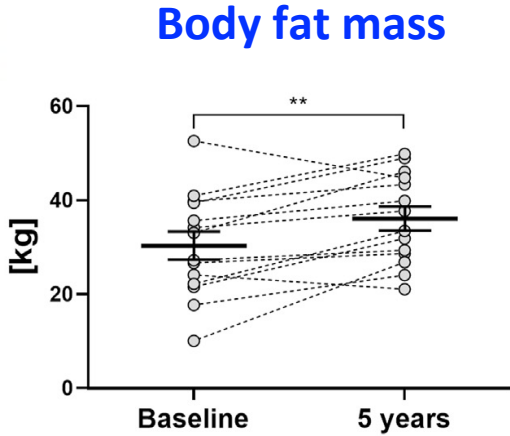
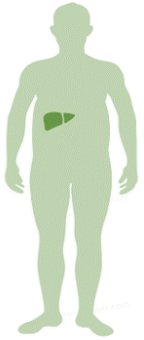


Kuprianova et al *J Hepatol* 74:1028-1037,2021  
 Rothe et al. *NMR Biomed* 34:e4422,2021  
 Gancheva et al. *Diabetes* 65:1849-57,2016

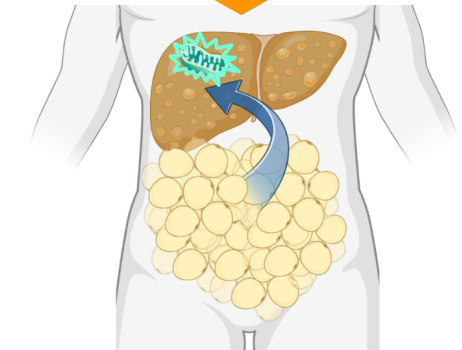
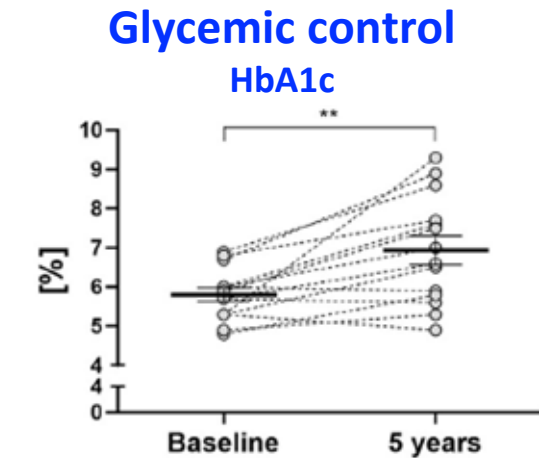
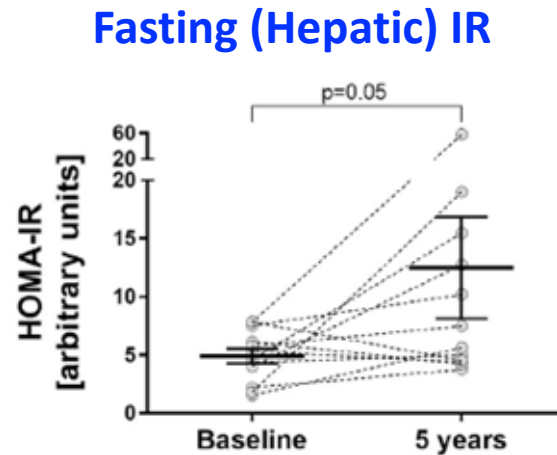
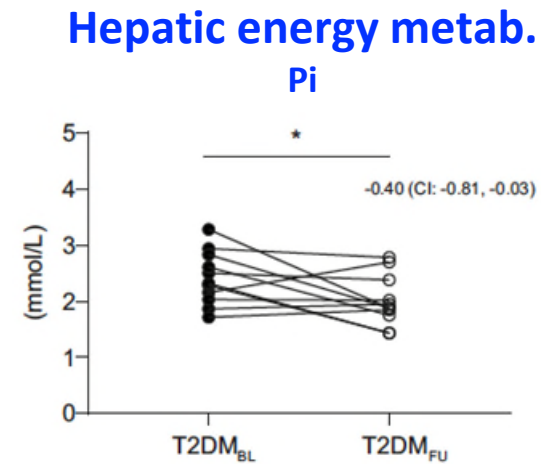
# AT dysfunction and progression of new-onset T2D



T2D  
(TM6SF2<sup>EE</sup>)



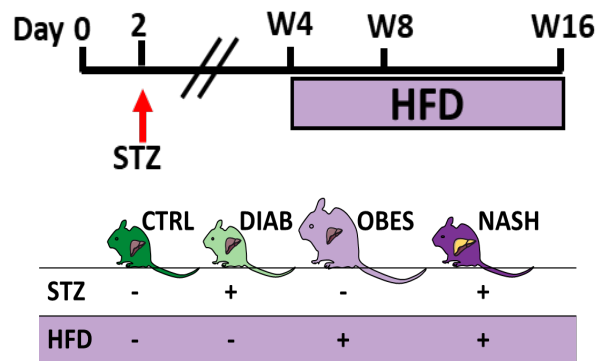
5 years



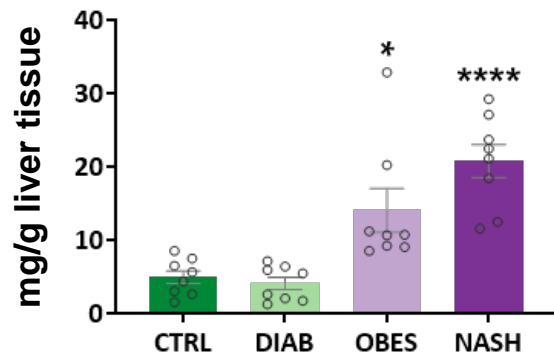
# Comparing models of diabetes, obesity and NASH



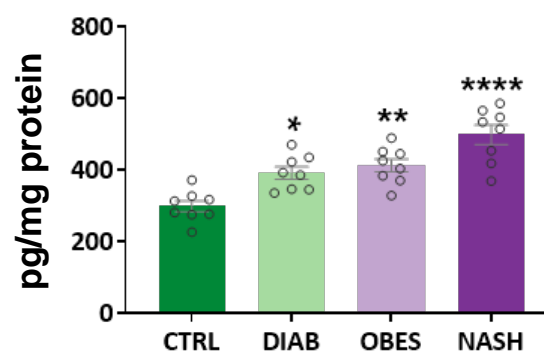
## Study design



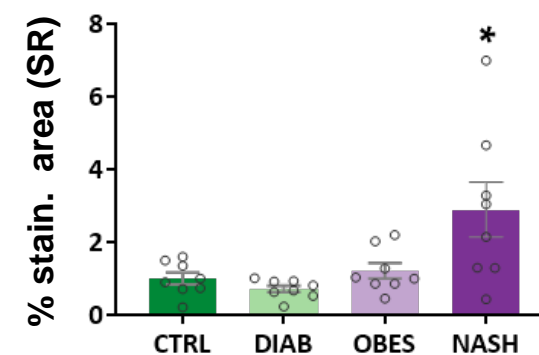
## Liver triglycerides



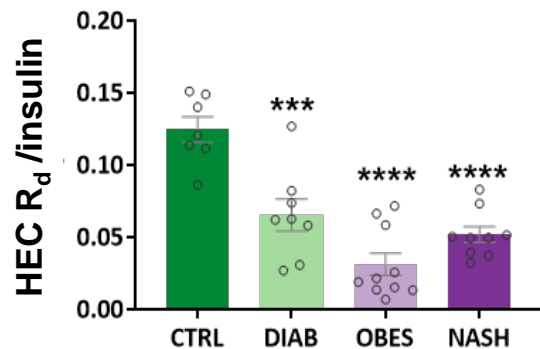
## Liver TNF-α



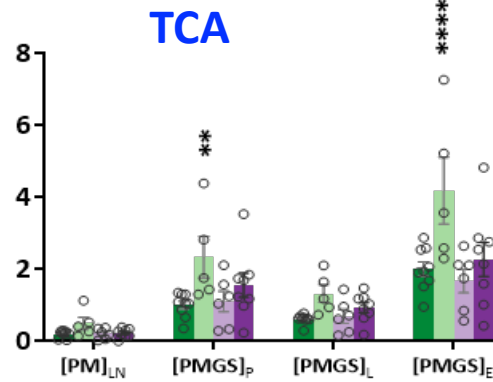
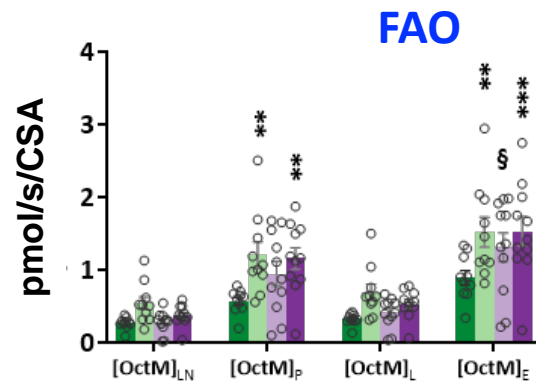
## Liver collagen



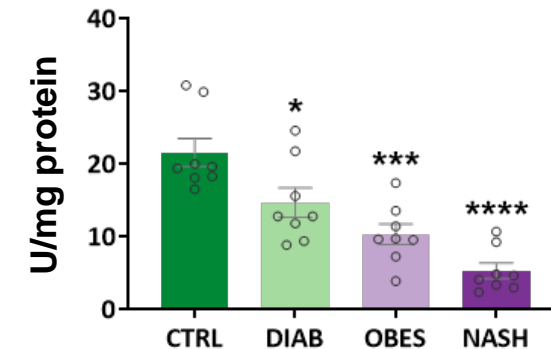
## Whole-body insulin sensitivity



## Liver oxidative capacity (W16)

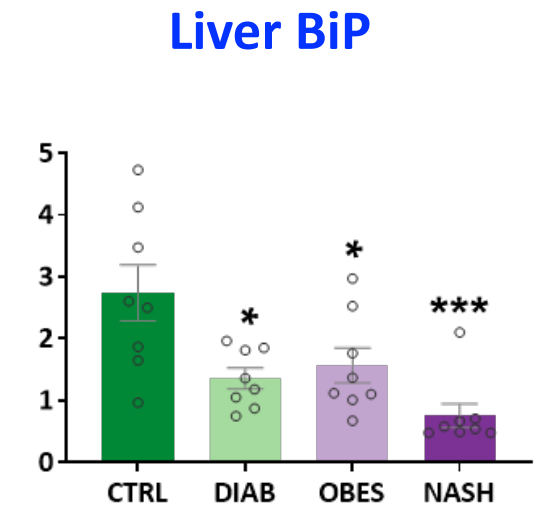
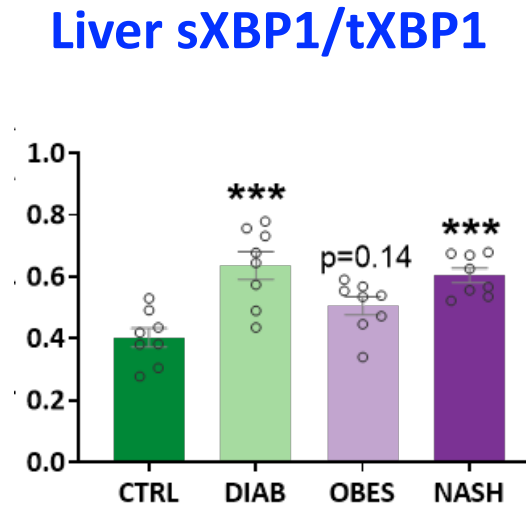
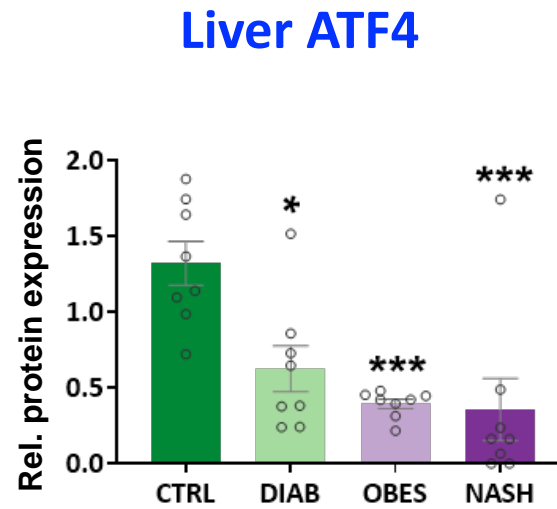
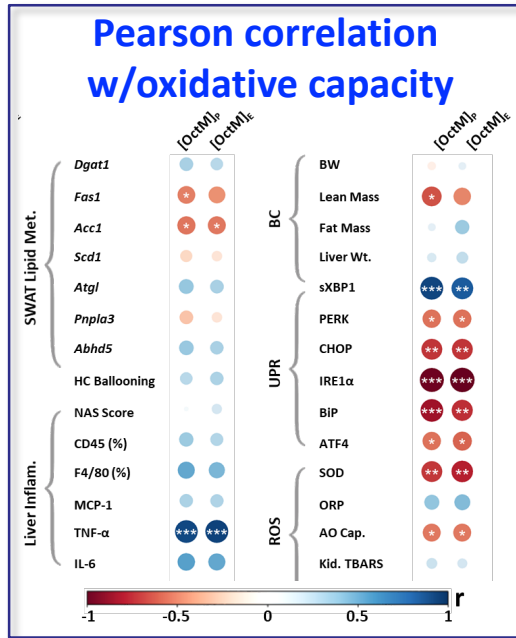


## Liver SOD activity

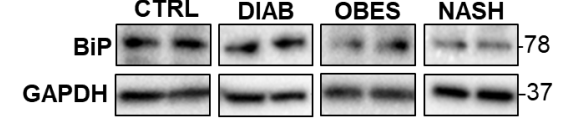
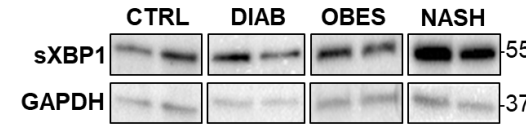
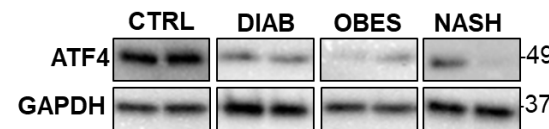
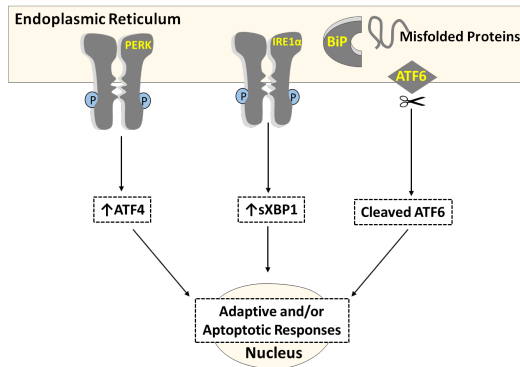




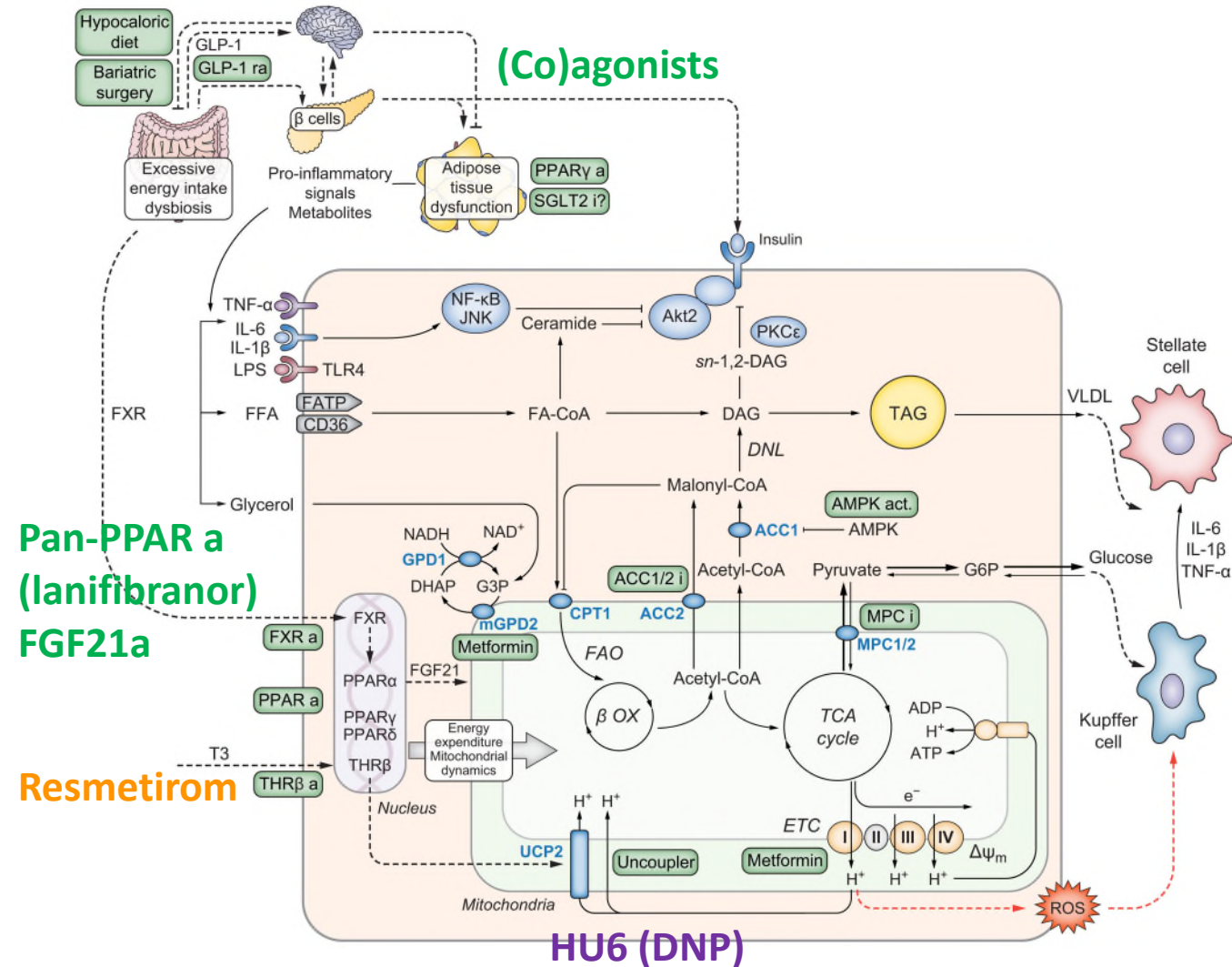
# A possible role of ER stress in MASLD



## Unfolded Protein Response



# Development to targets for future treatment of abnormal mitochondrial functionality in MASLD



Modified from Fromenty & Roden. *J Hepatol* 78:415,2023