

**2024 RACHMIEL LEVINE-ARTHUR RIGGS**

# Diabetes Research Symposium

Targeting Hepatic Mitochondrial Fat  
Oxidation to Treat MASLD, MASH and  
Cardiometabolic Disease

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Co-Director, Yale Diabetes Research Center

Director, Yale Mouse Metabolic Phenotyping Center

Investigator Emeritus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute



# Disclaimer

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This is a Non-CME Accredited Presentation.

# Disclosures

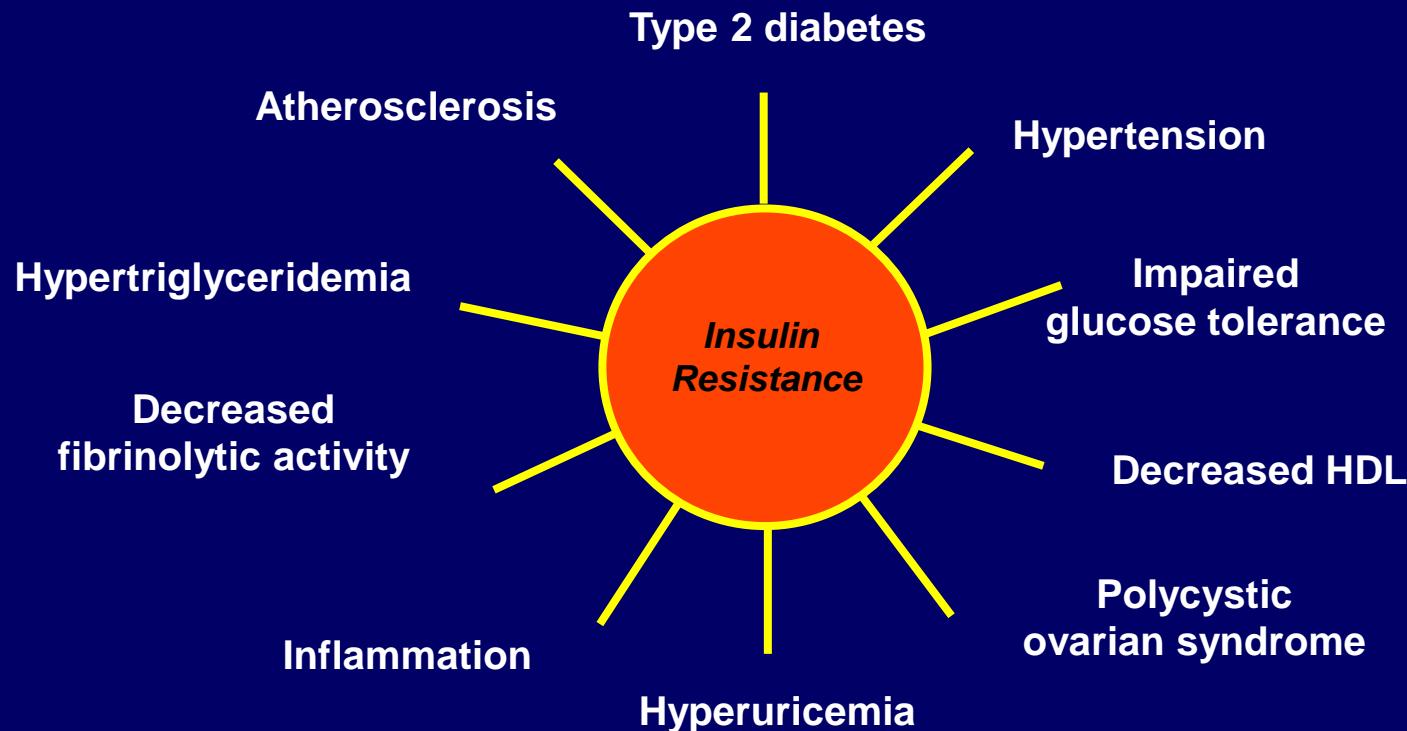
**Scientific Advisory Boards:** Merck, NovoNordisk, AstraZeneca, Aegerion, iMBP, 89bio, Janssen Research and Development, Ionis, Maze Therapeutics, Levels, Equator Therapeutics, Generian, Bayer, Kriya, Forrest Research Institute, Esperion, Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals

**Investigator-Initiated Support:** AstraZeneca, Merck, Maze Therapeutics, Esperion, Novo Nordisc

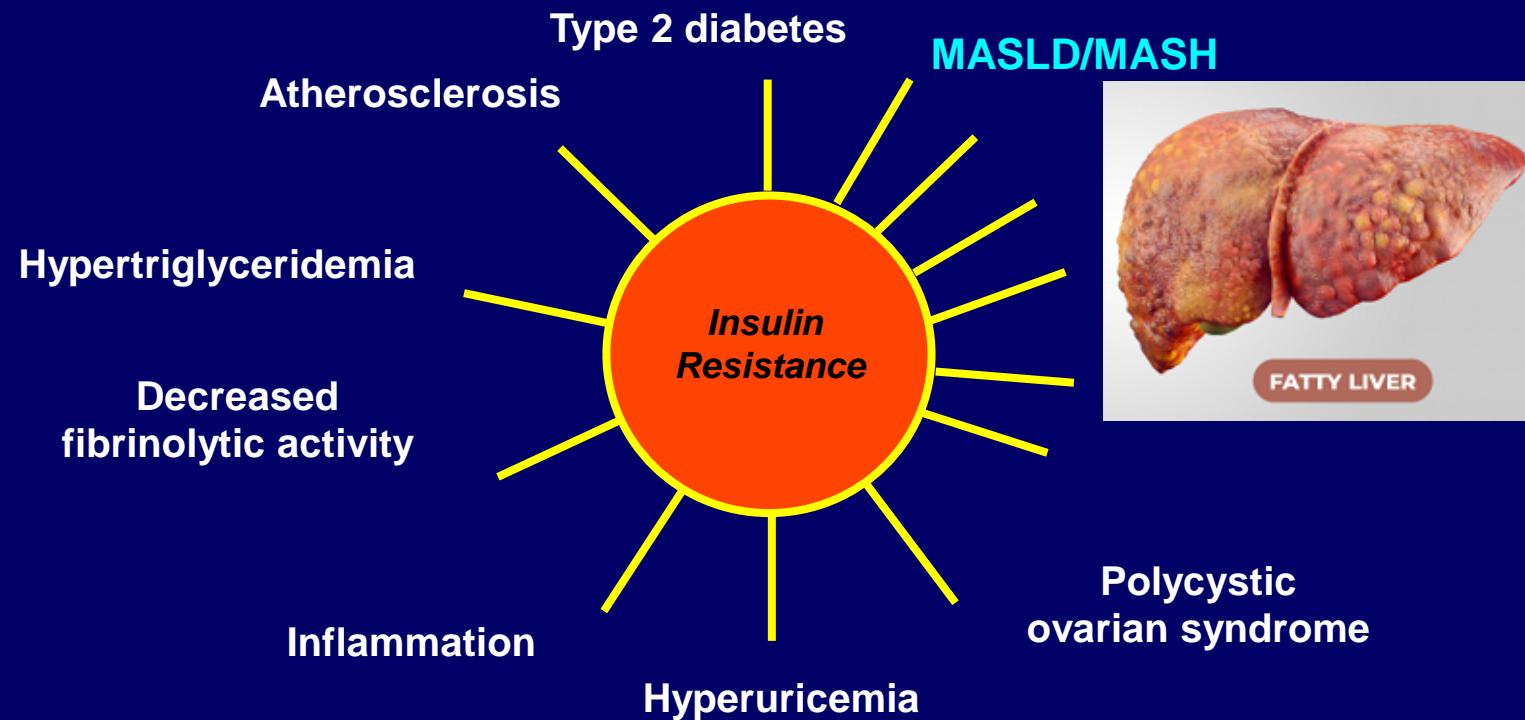
**Inventions:** GIS is an inventor on Yale patents for liver-targeted mitochondrial uncoupling agents for the treatment of MASLD, MASH, T2D and related metabolic disorders and is a Scientific-Cofounder and Scientific Advisor for OrsoBio.

# Insulin Resistance and the Metabolic Syndrome

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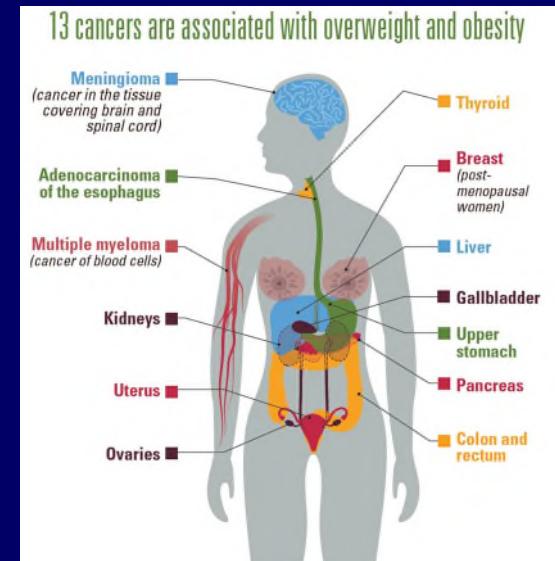
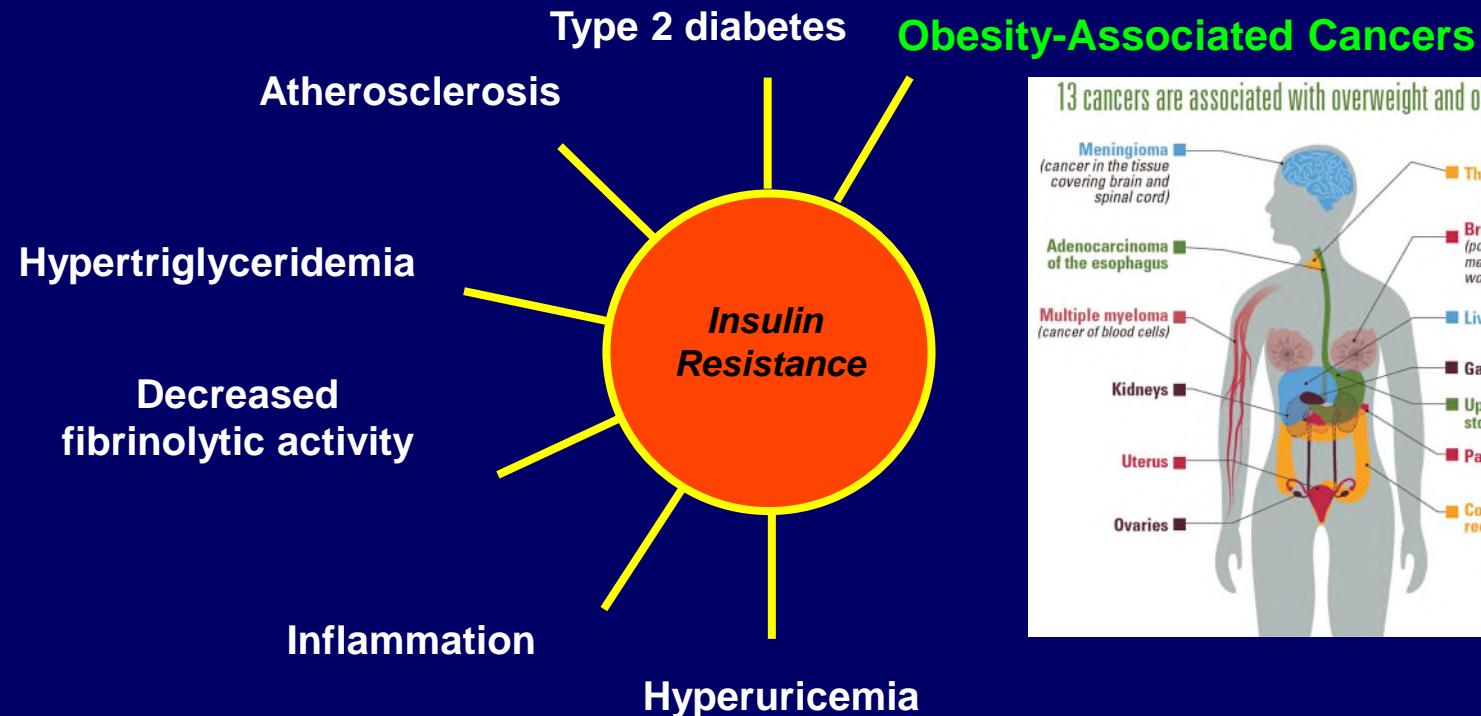


# Insulin Resistance and Cardiometabolic Disease 2024

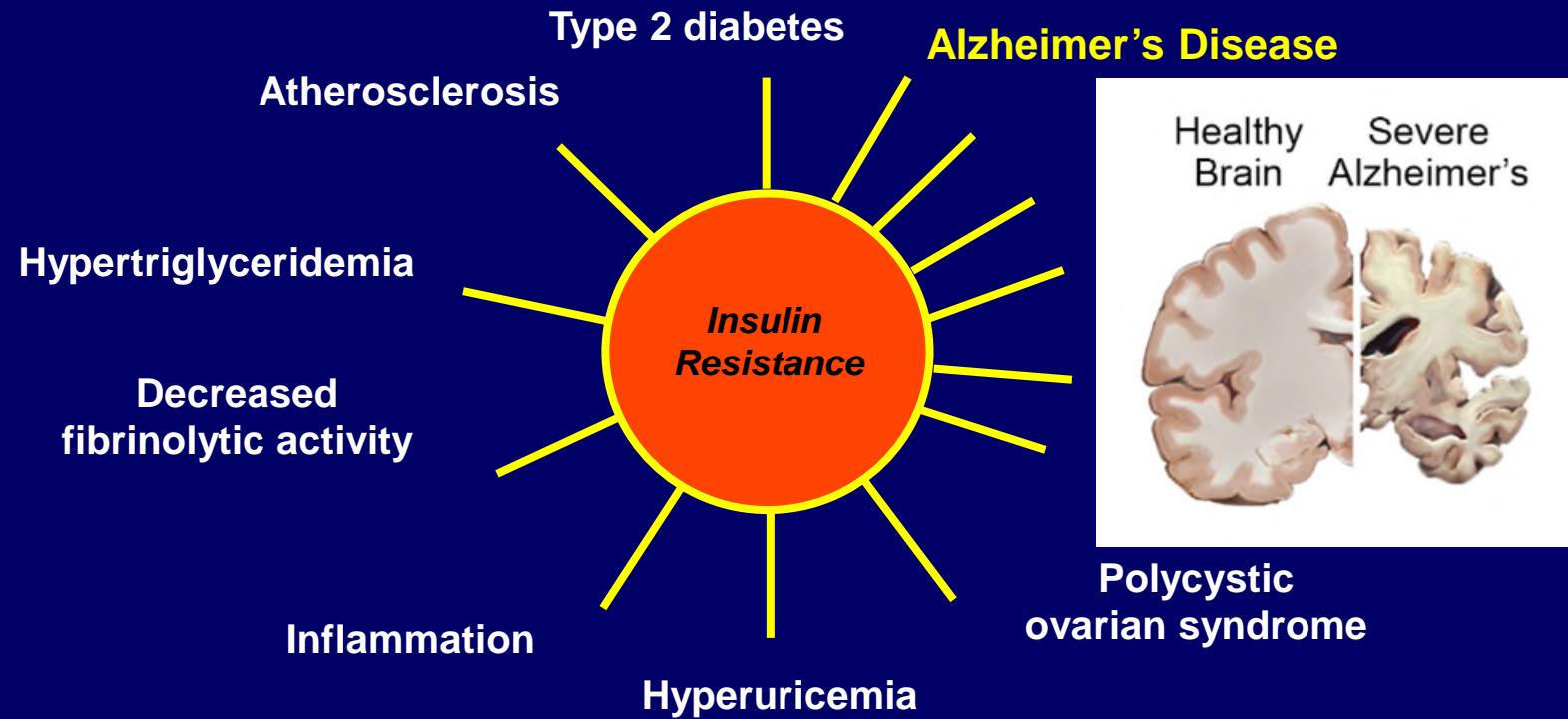


Adapted from Jerry Reaven's Banting Lecture 1988

# Insulin Resistance and Cardiometabolic Disease 2024



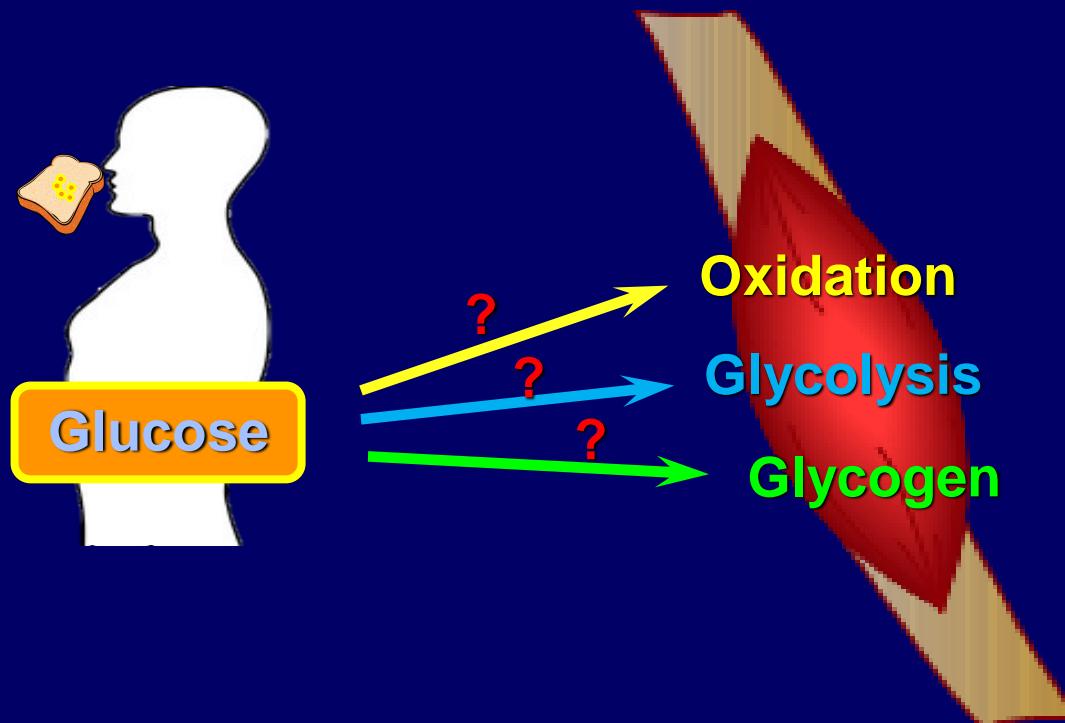
# Insulin Resistance and Cardiometabolic Disease 2024



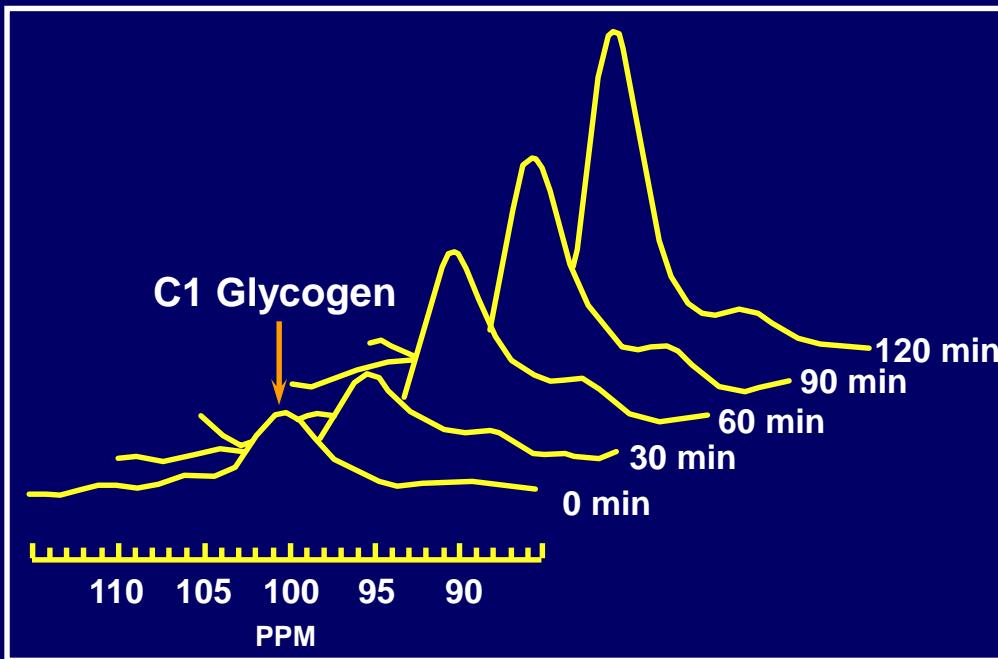
*Adapted from Jerry Reaven's Banting Lecture 1988*

# What causes muscle insulin resistance?

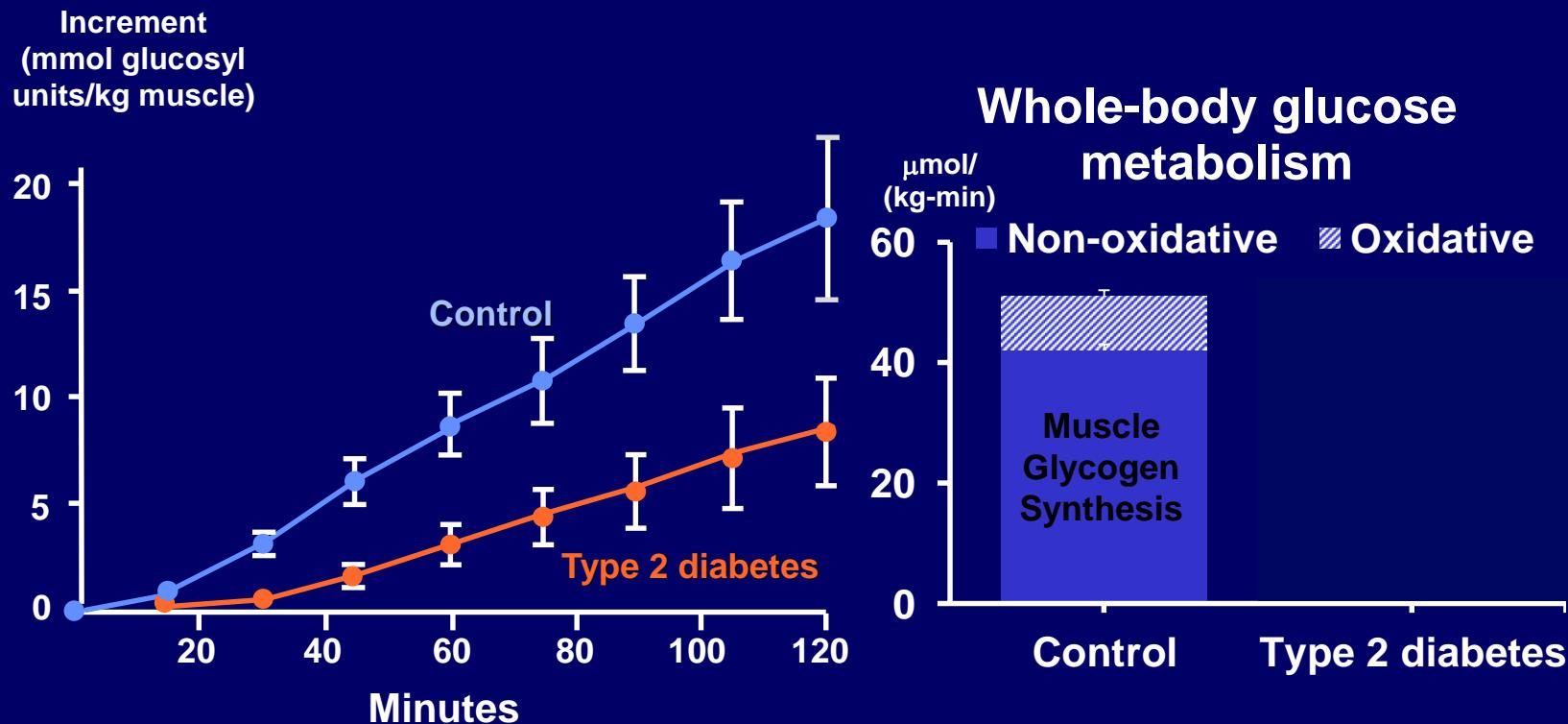
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# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of muscle glycogen synthesis in humans

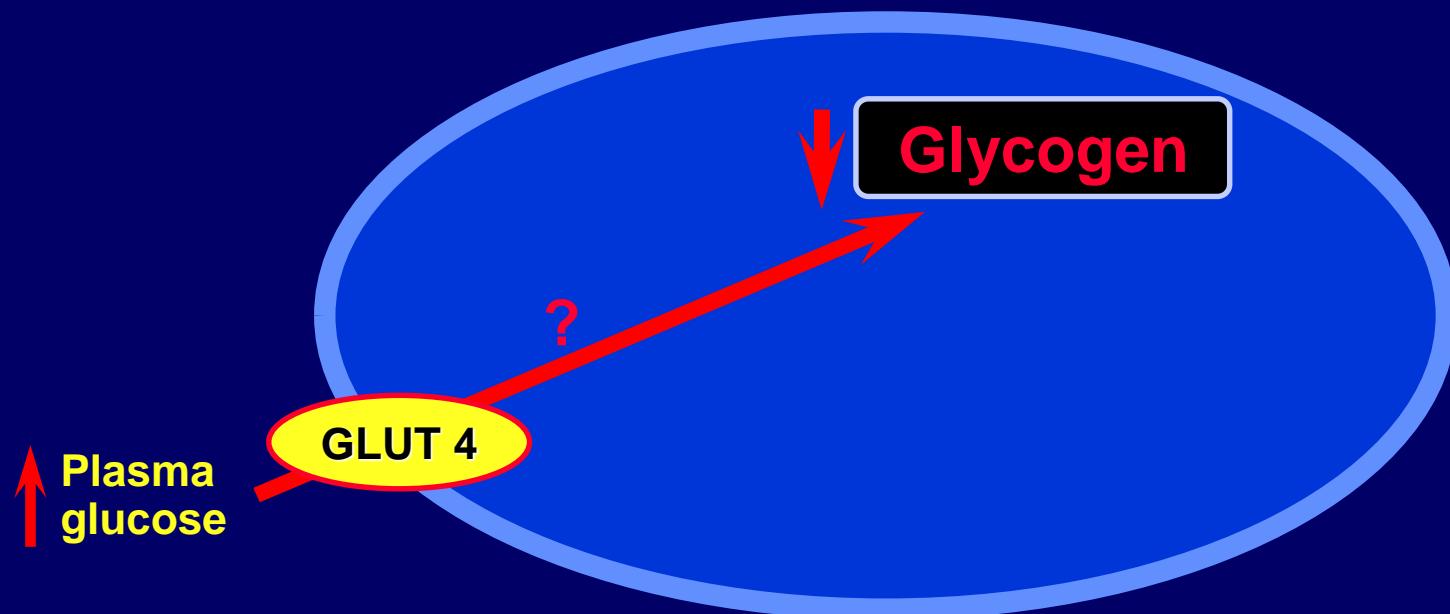


# Decreased insulin-stimulated muscle glycogen synthesis is responsible for muscle insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes



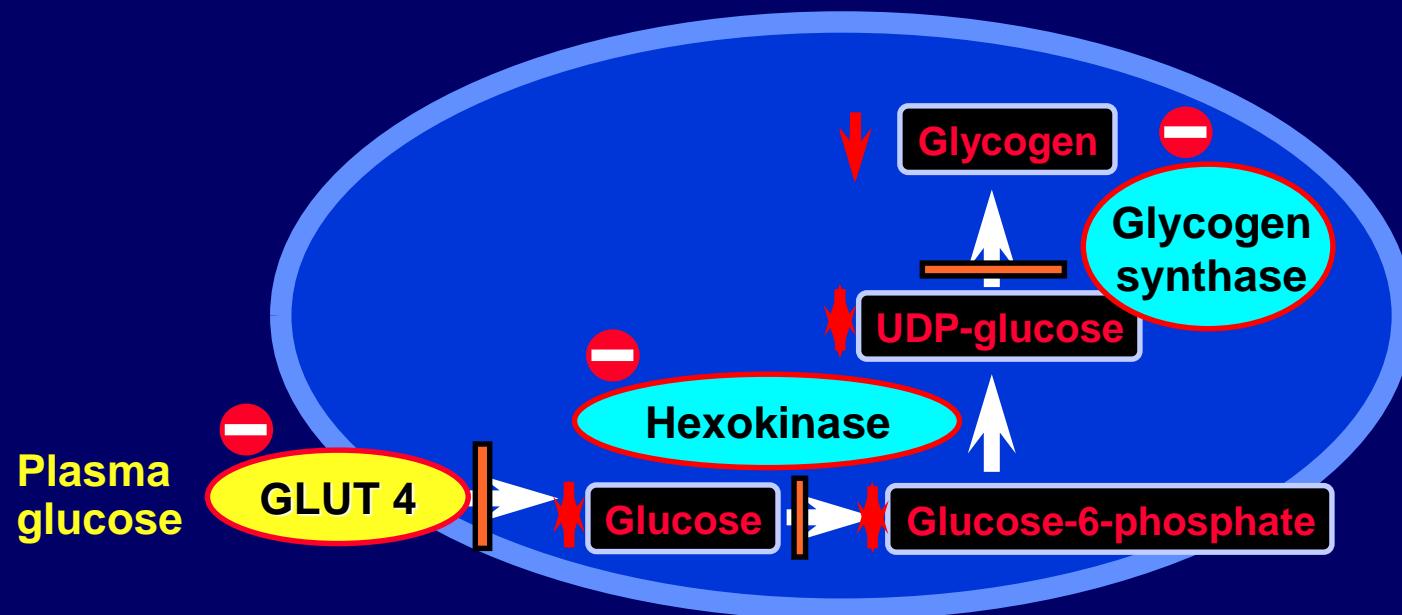
# Insulin-Stimulated Muscle Glycogen Synthesis is Impaired in Type 2 Diabetes

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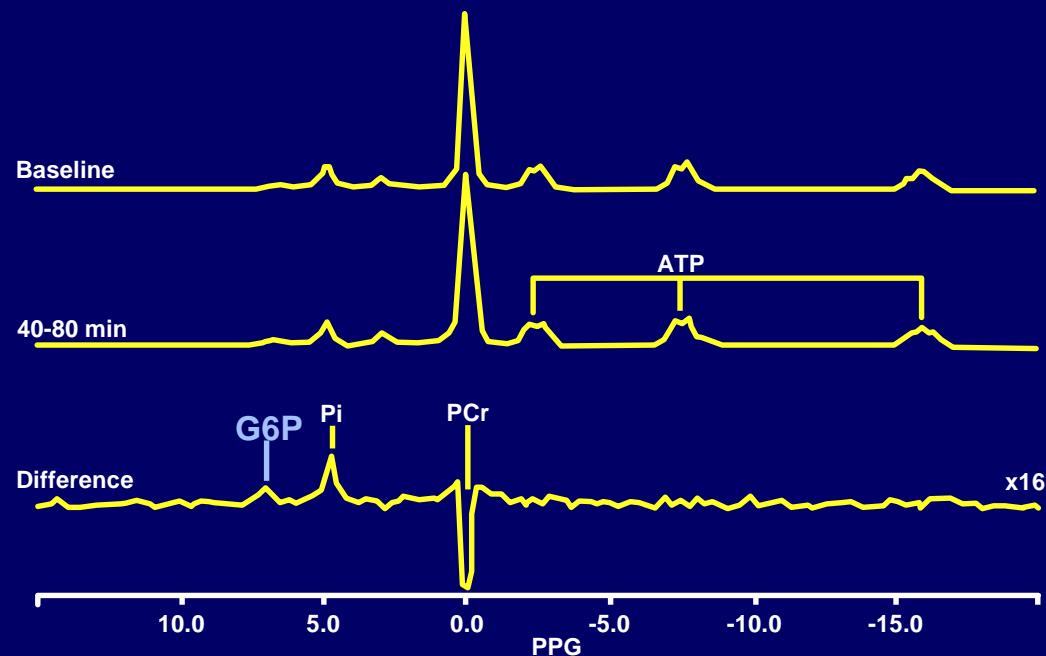


# Potential Rate-Controlling Steps in Muscle Glucose Glycogen Synthesis

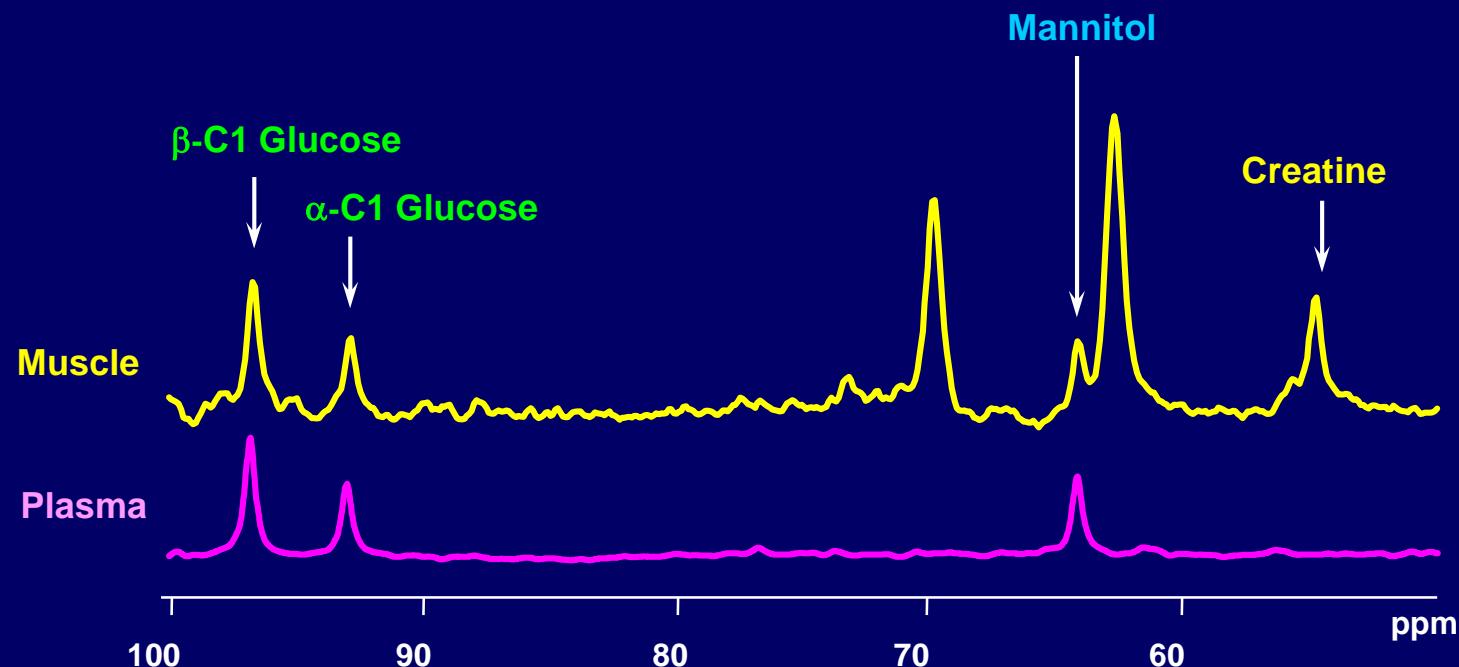
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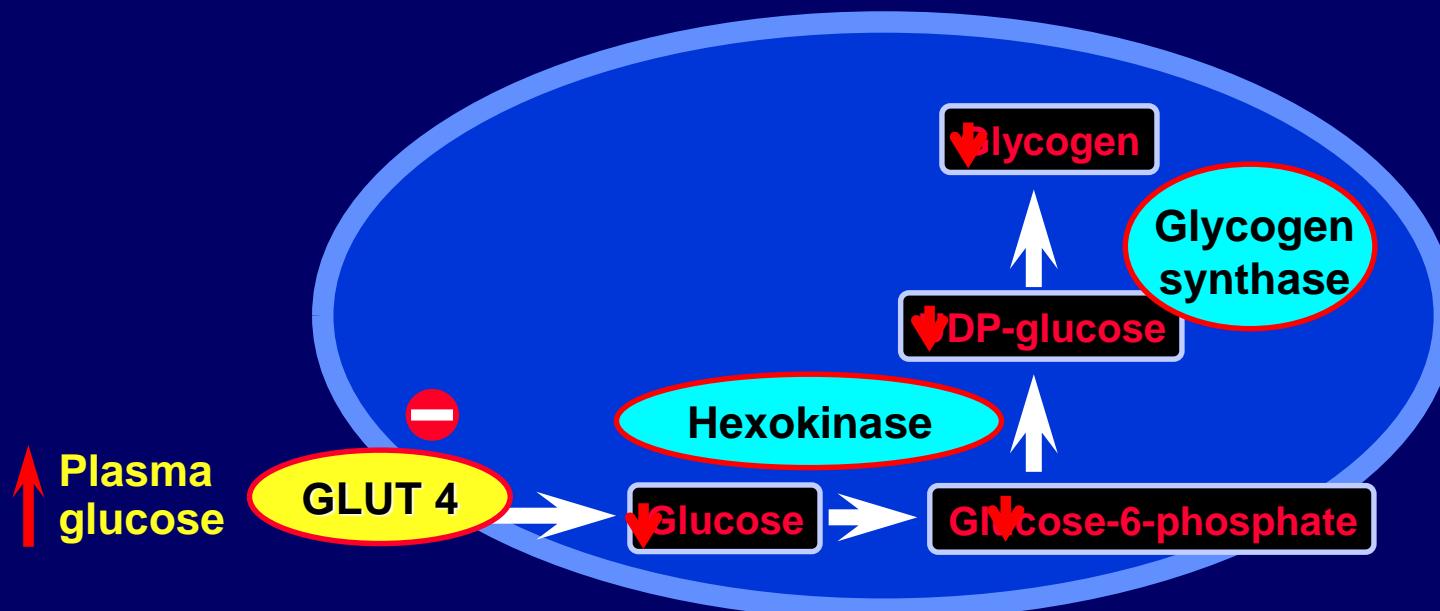
# $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR spectra of human muscle



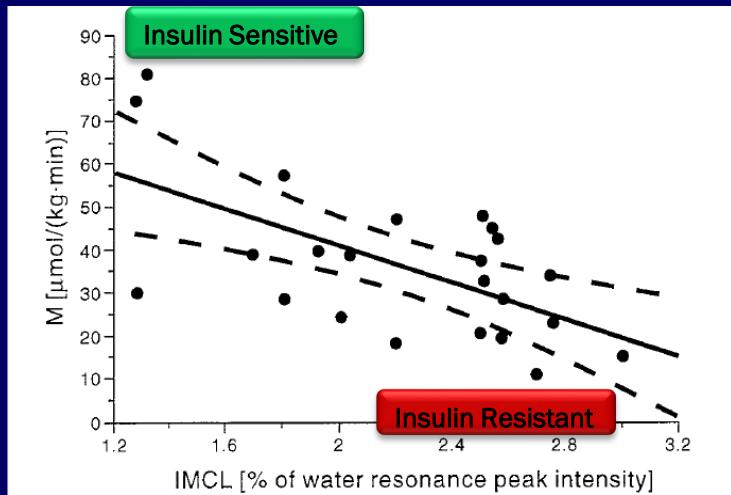
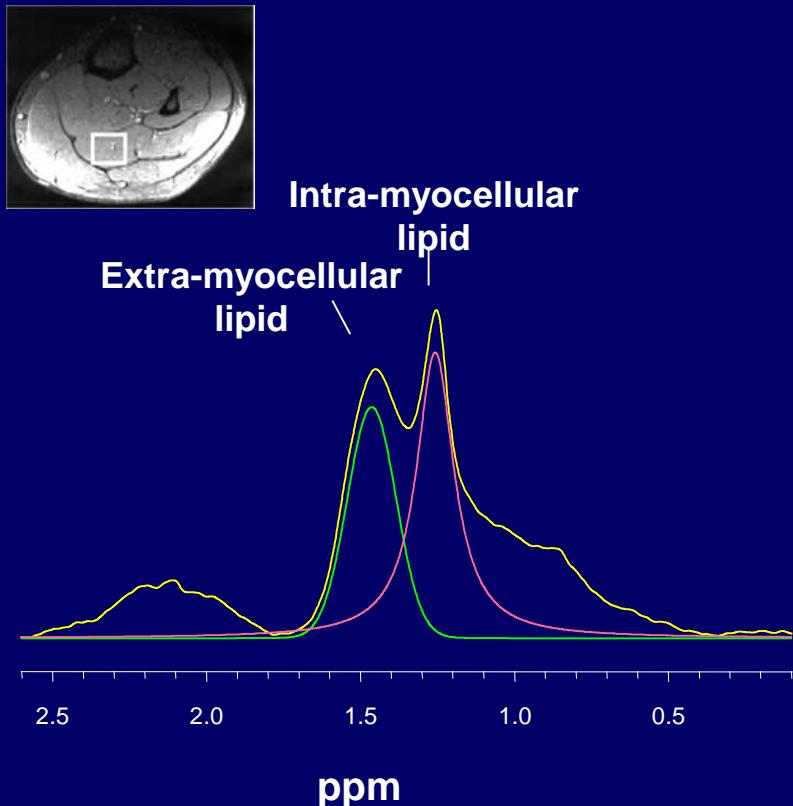
# $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of human muscle and plasma



# Glucose transport is rate-controlling for insulin-stimulated muscle glycogen synthesis in T2D

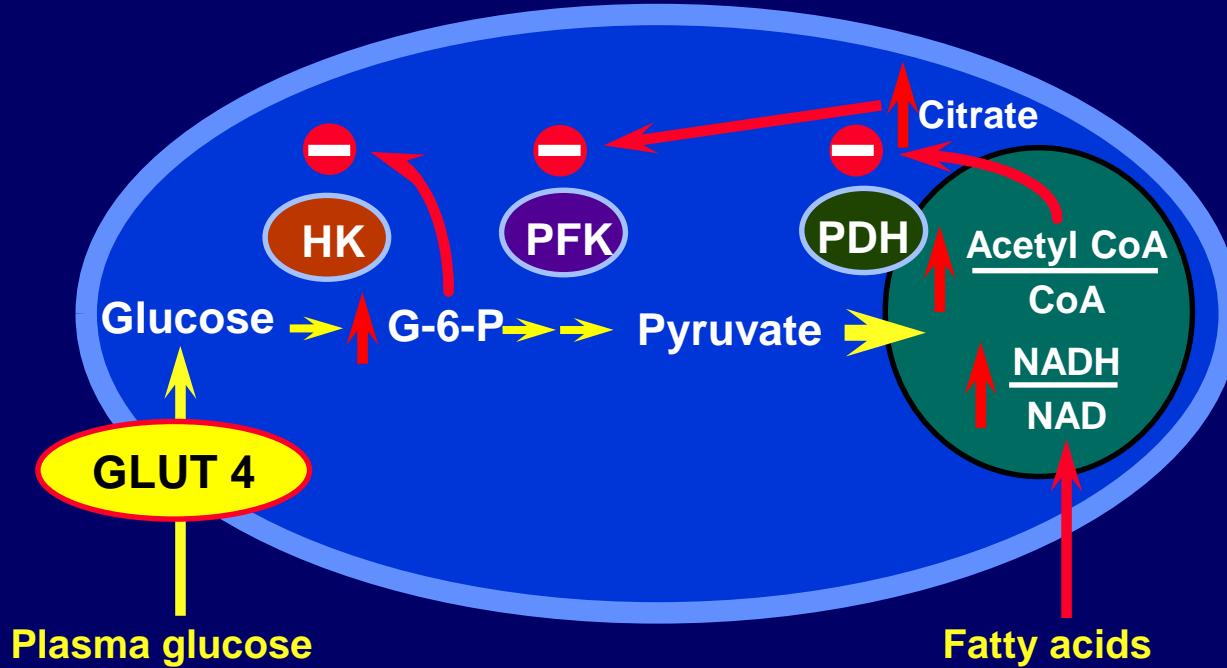


# Intramyocellular lipid (IMCL) content predicts muscle insulin resistance

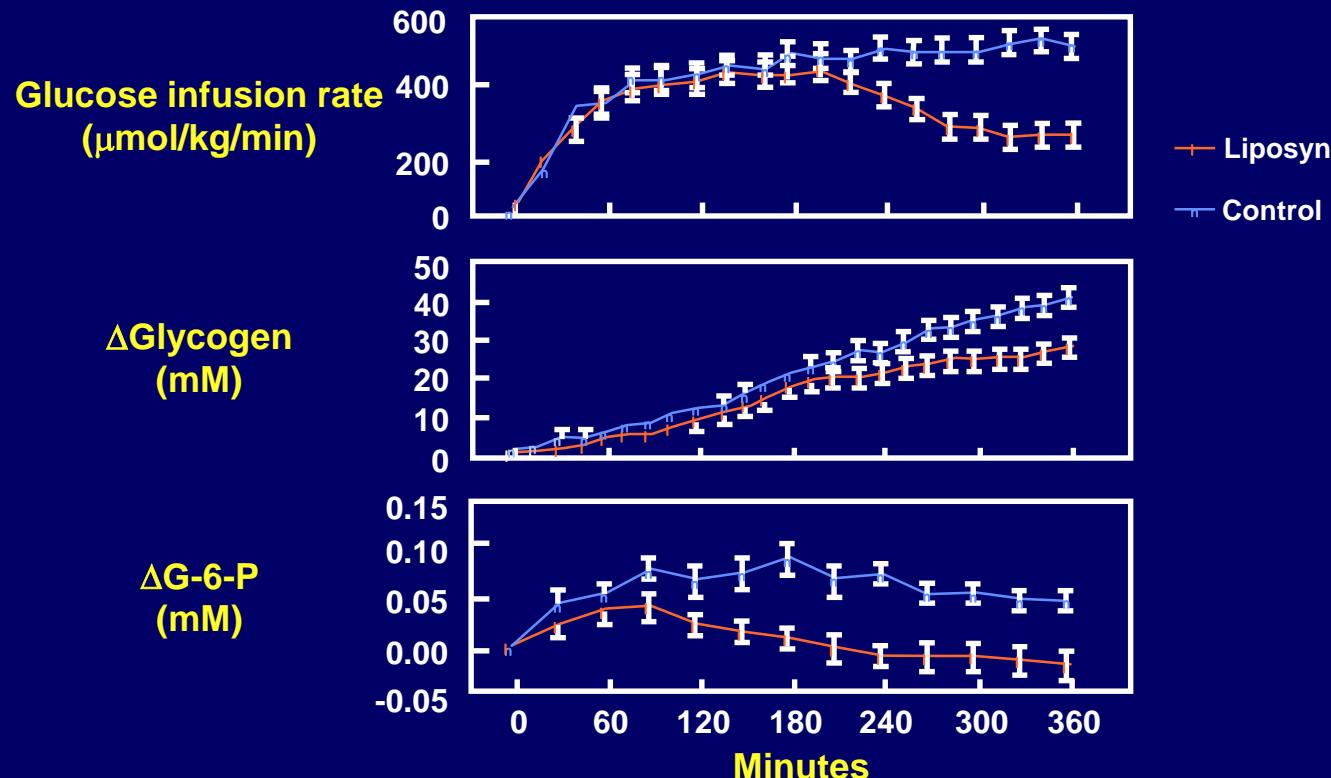


# How does ectopic lipid cause muscle insulin resistance?

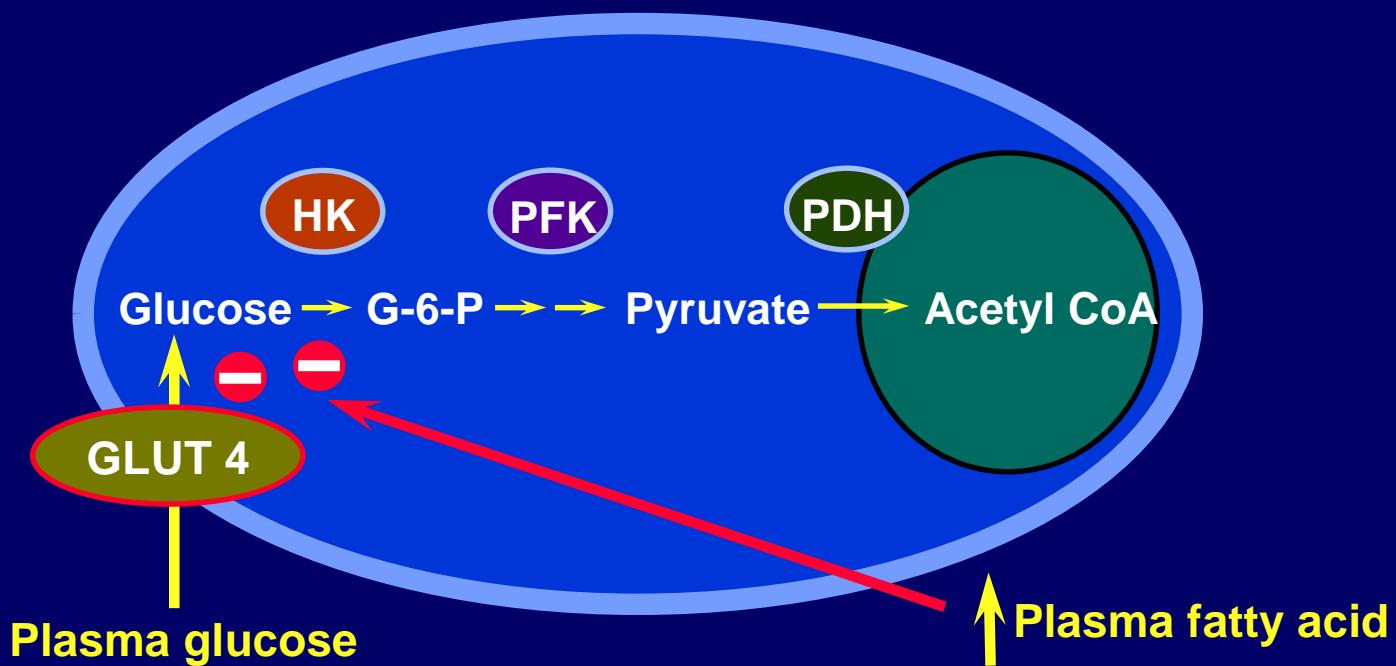
Randle postulates inhibition of pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) activity



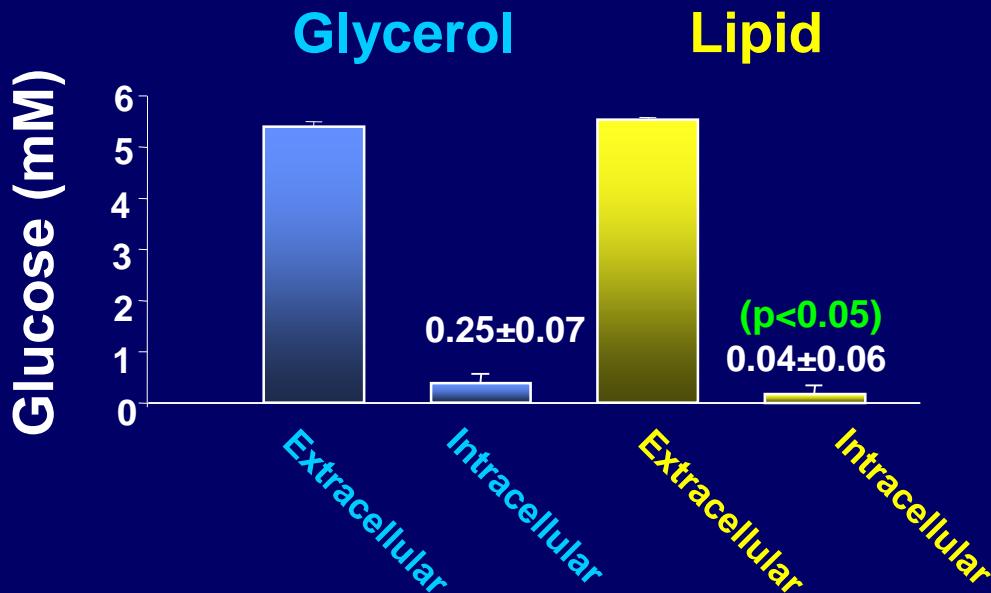
# Increasing plasma fatty acid concentrations causes a reduction in insulin-stimulated muscle glycogen synthesis and [glucose-6-phosphate]



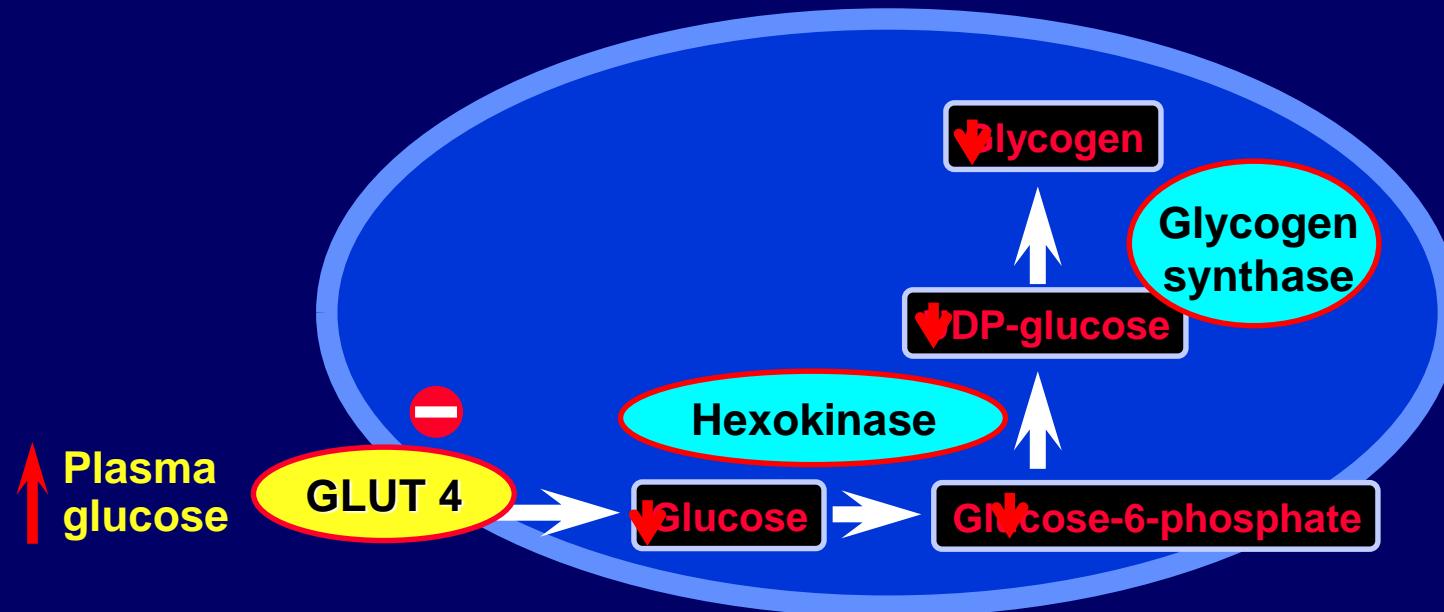
# Increasing plasma fatty acid concentrations results in a reduction in insulin-stimulated glucose transport/phosphorylation activity



# Increasing plasma fatty acid concentrations causes a reduction in intramyocellular glucose concentrations

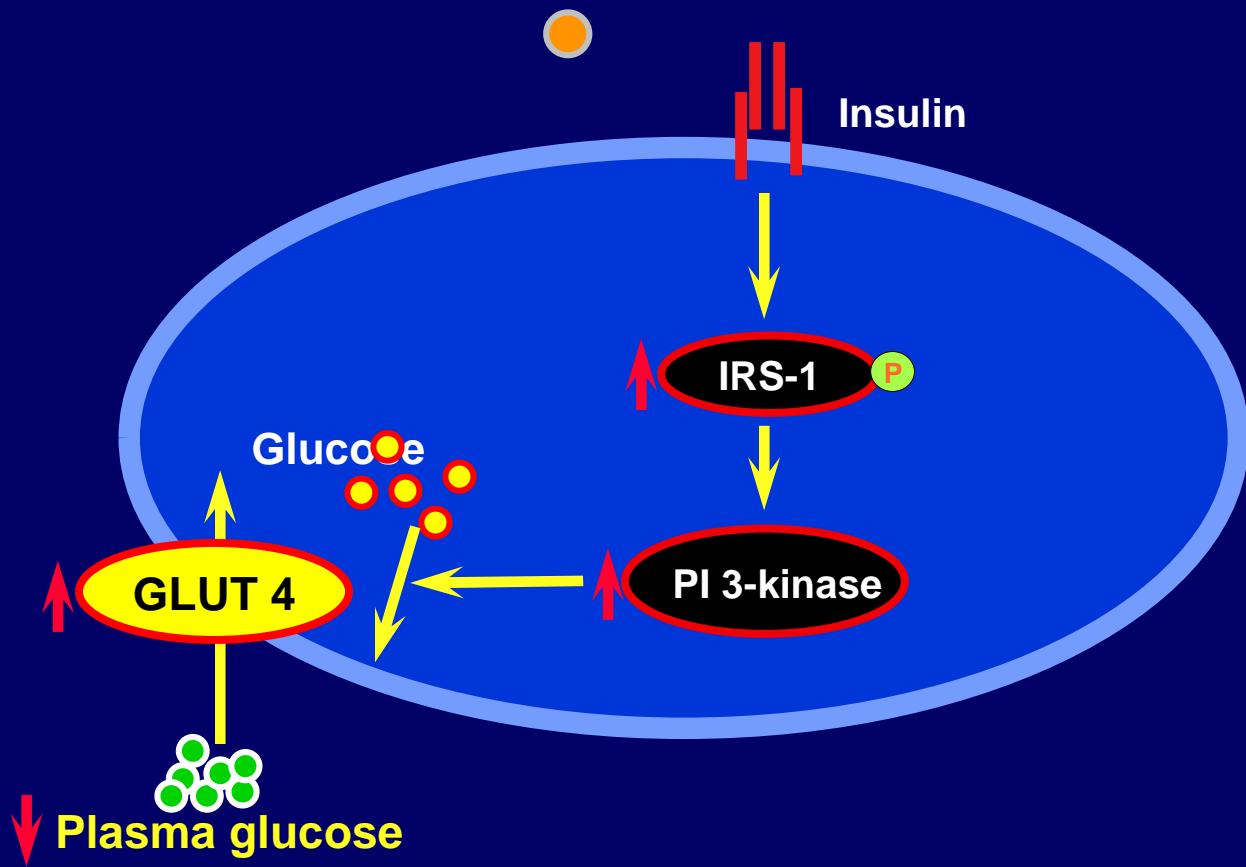


# Fatty acids acutely inhibit insulin-stimulated muscle glycogen synthesis by inhibiting glucose transport activity

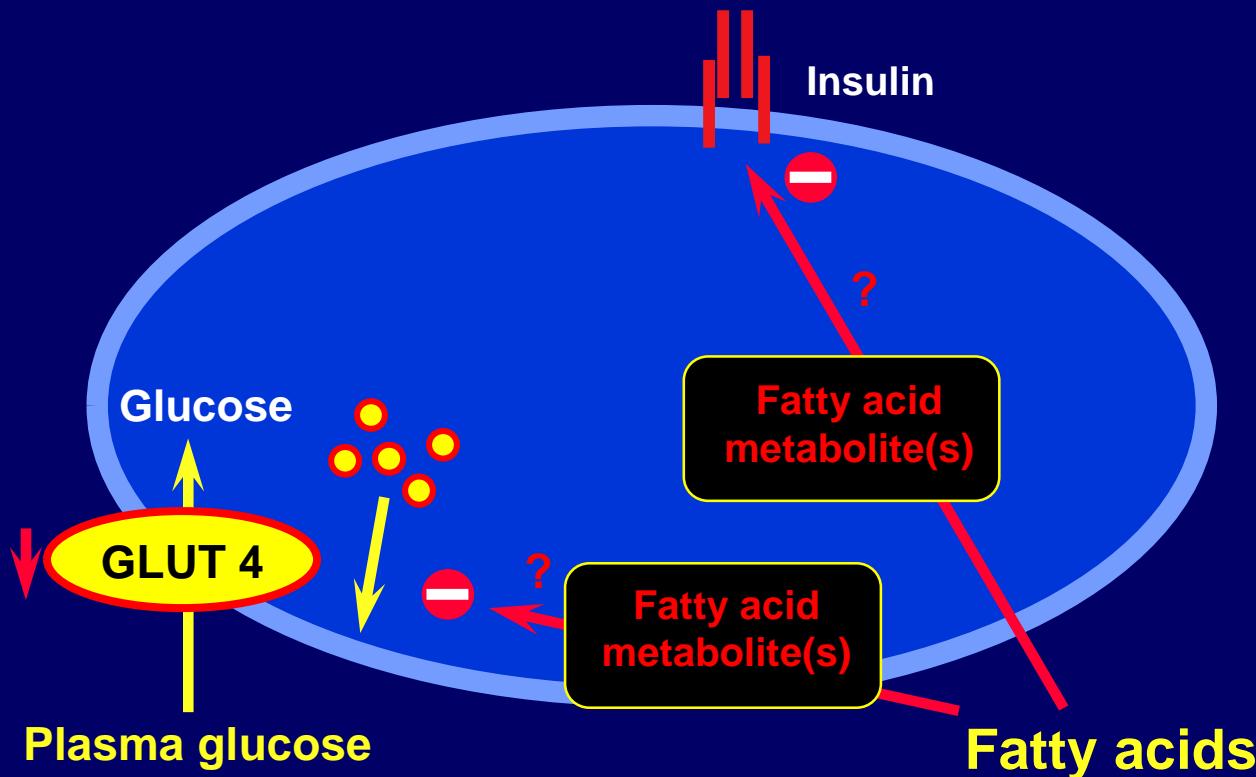


# Insulin Action in Skeletal Muscle

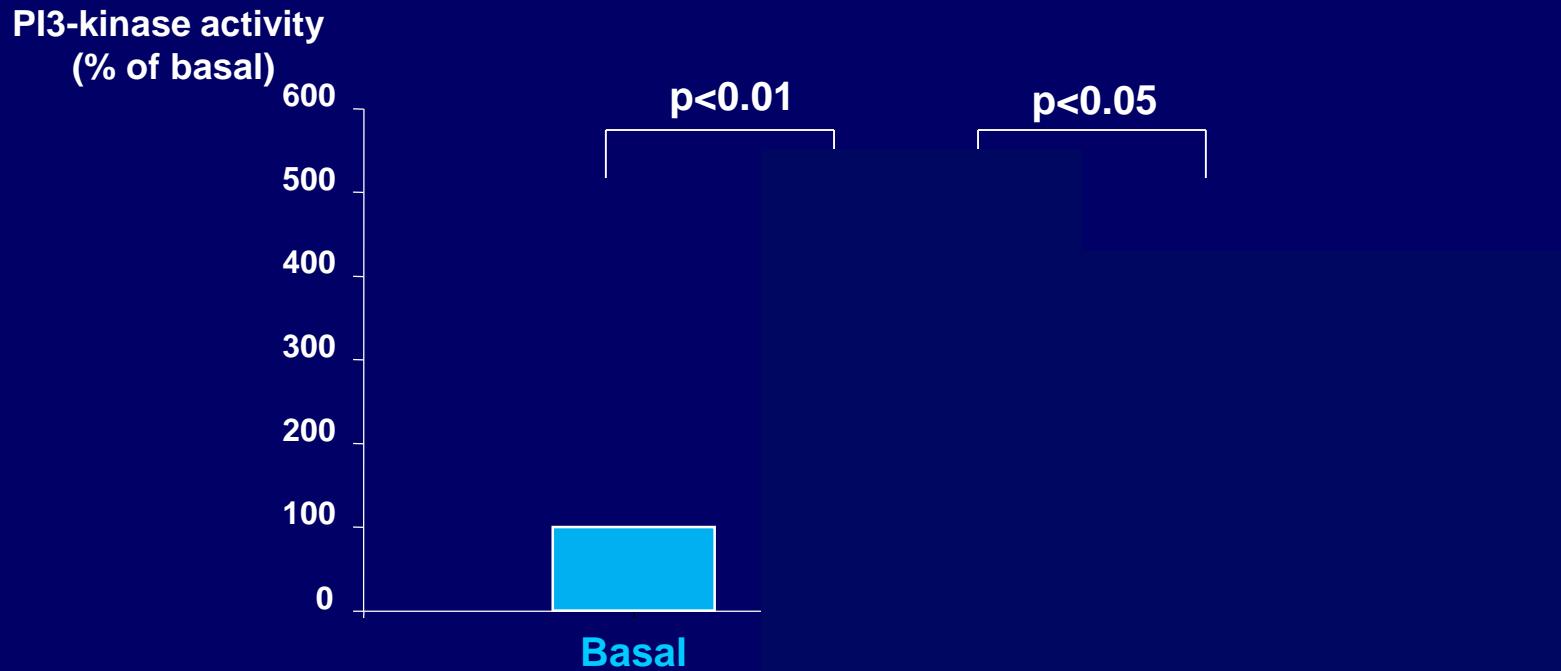
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# Potential mechanisms by which fatty acids inhibit insulin-stimulated glucose transport activity

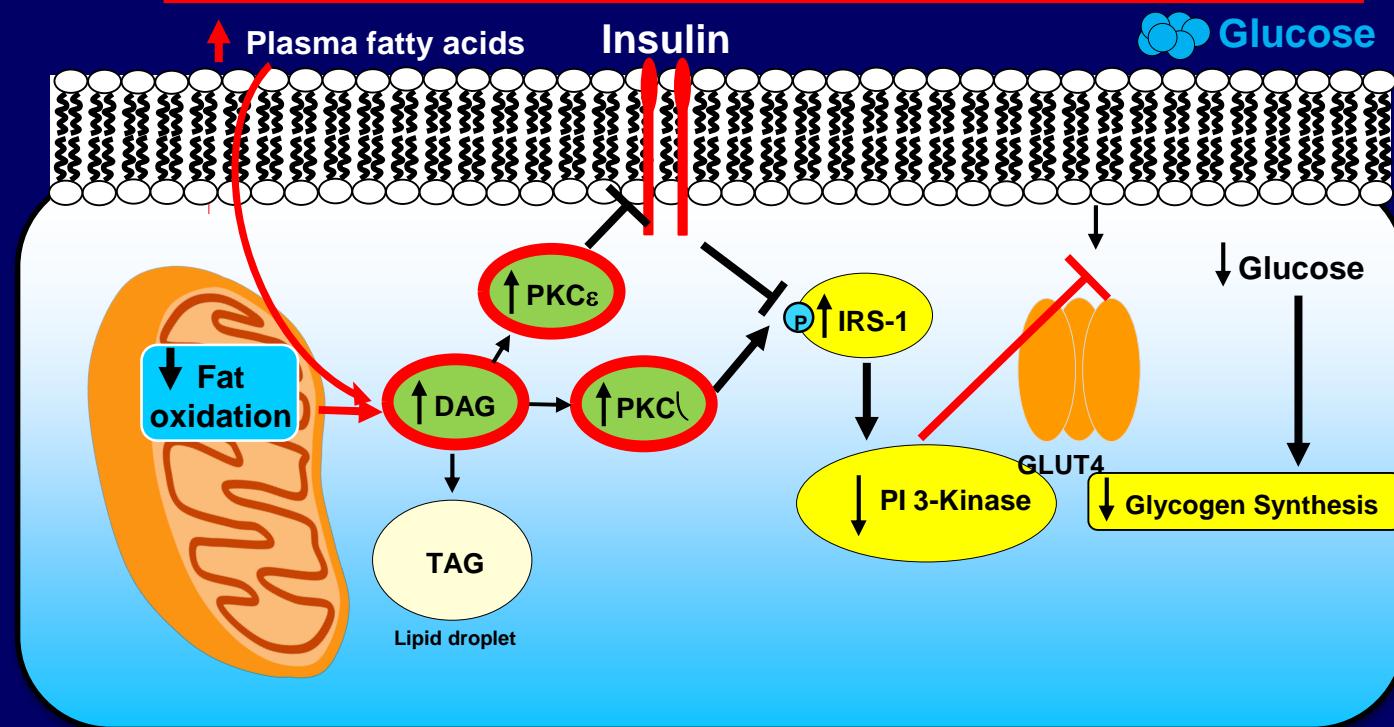


# Fatty acids inhibit insulin-stimulated PI 3-Kinase activity in human skeletal muscle



# Molecular mechanism of ectopic lipid-induced muscle insulin resistance

## Diacylglycerol (DAG)-PKC $\theta$ /PKC $\epsilon$ -insulin receptor pathway

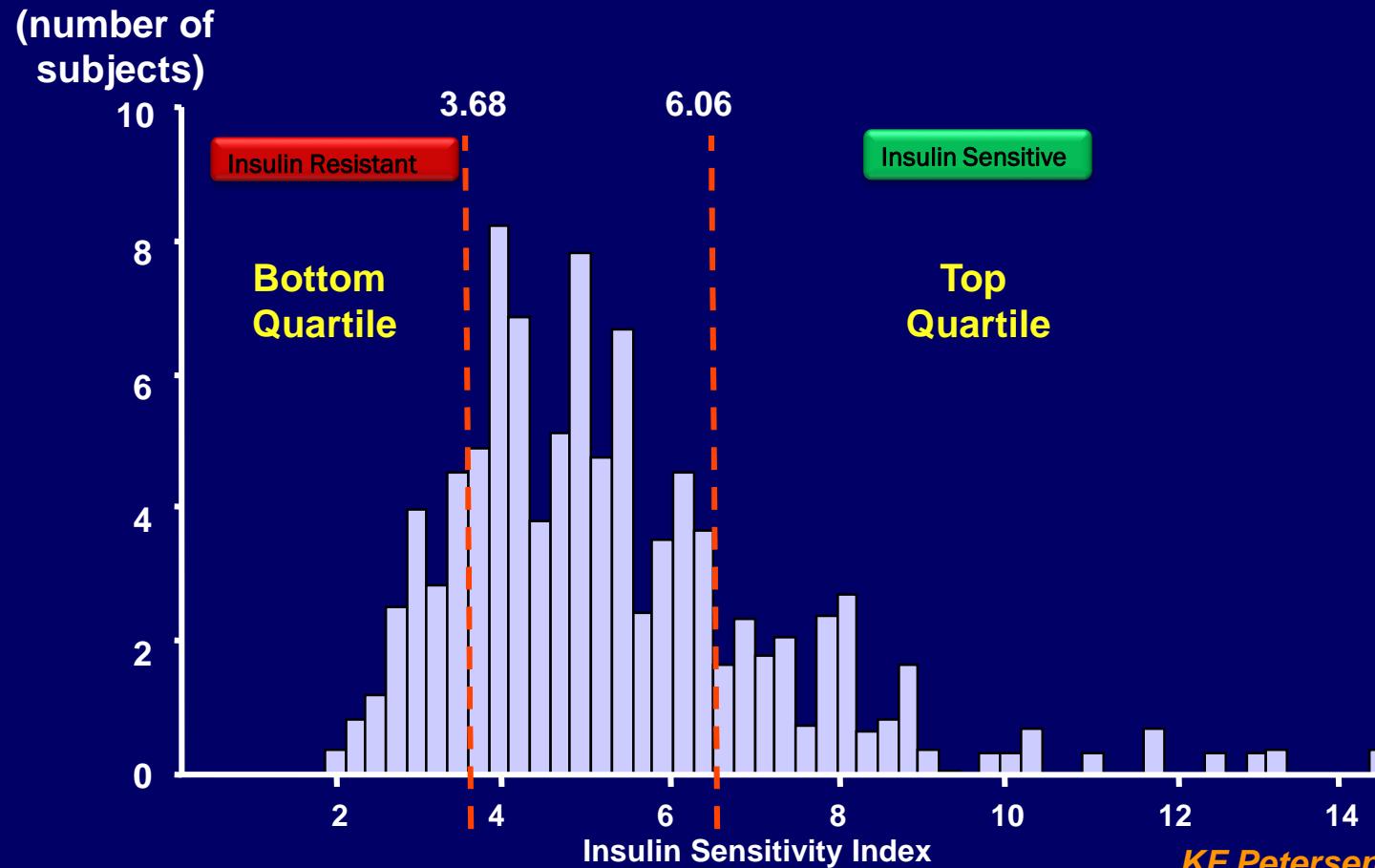


# **Role of muscle insulin resistance in the pathogenesis of NAFLD and cardiovascular disease**

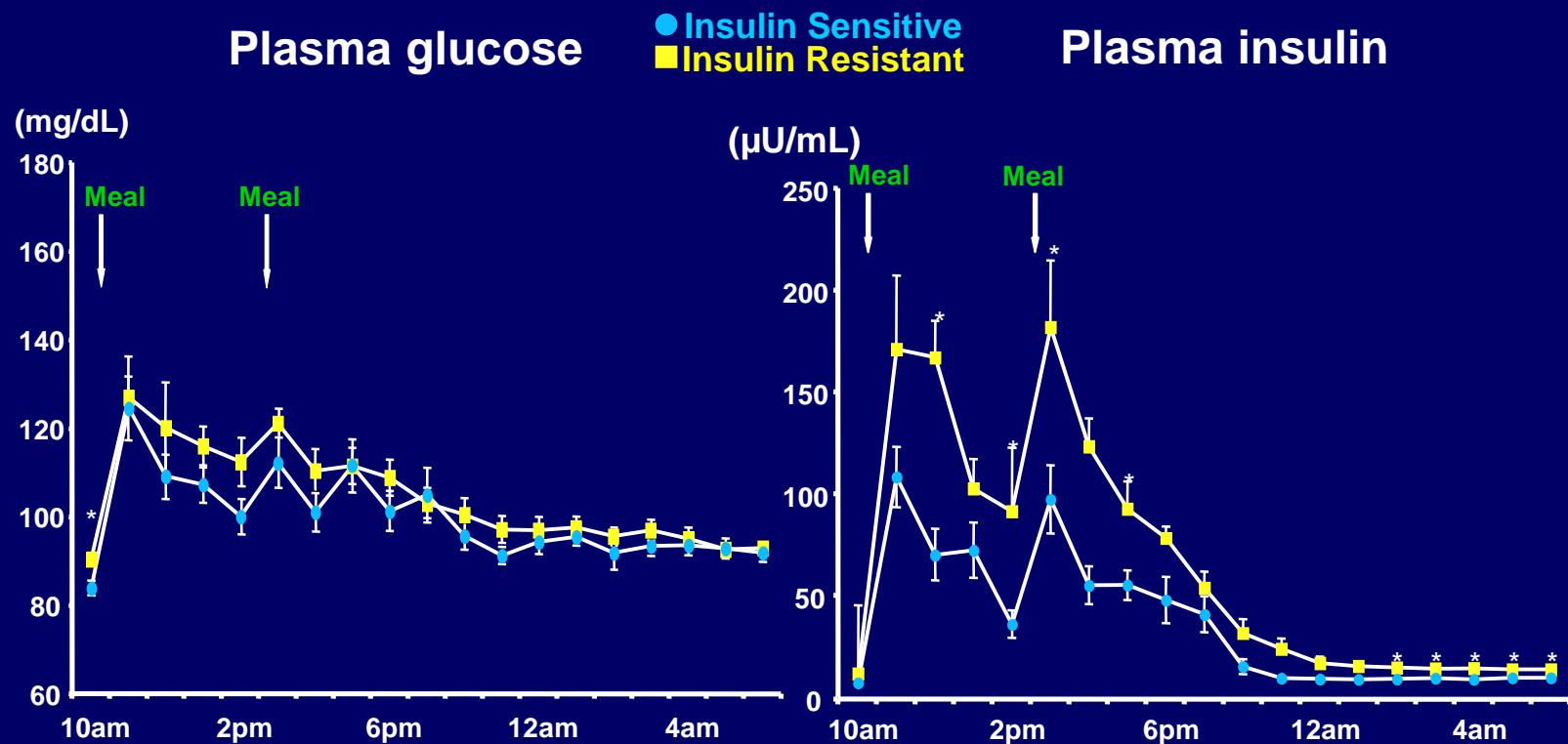
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**Hypothesis:** Muscle insulin resistance promotes NAFLD and atherogenic dyslipidemia by changing the fate of ingested carbohydrate from muscle glycogen to fat.

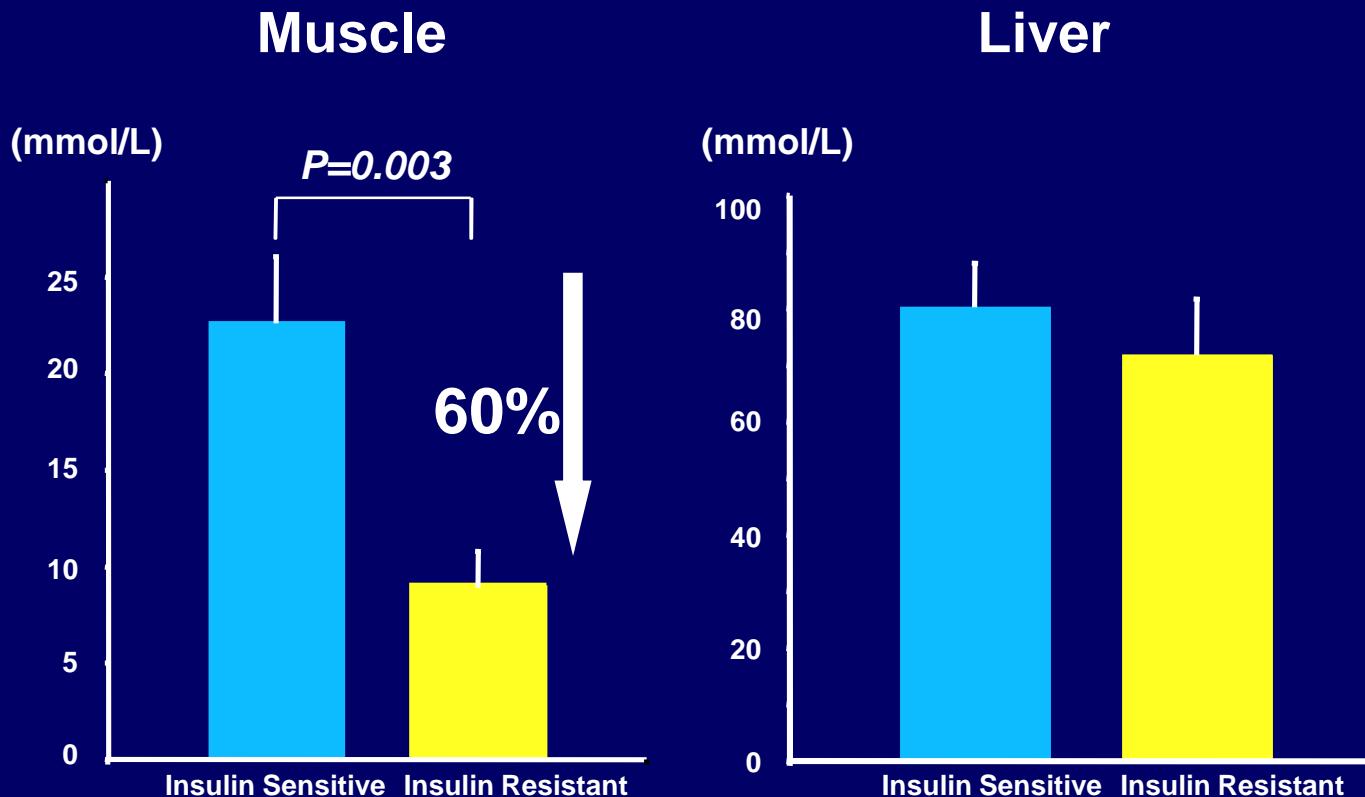
# Distribution of insulin sensitivity index in healthy lean individuals



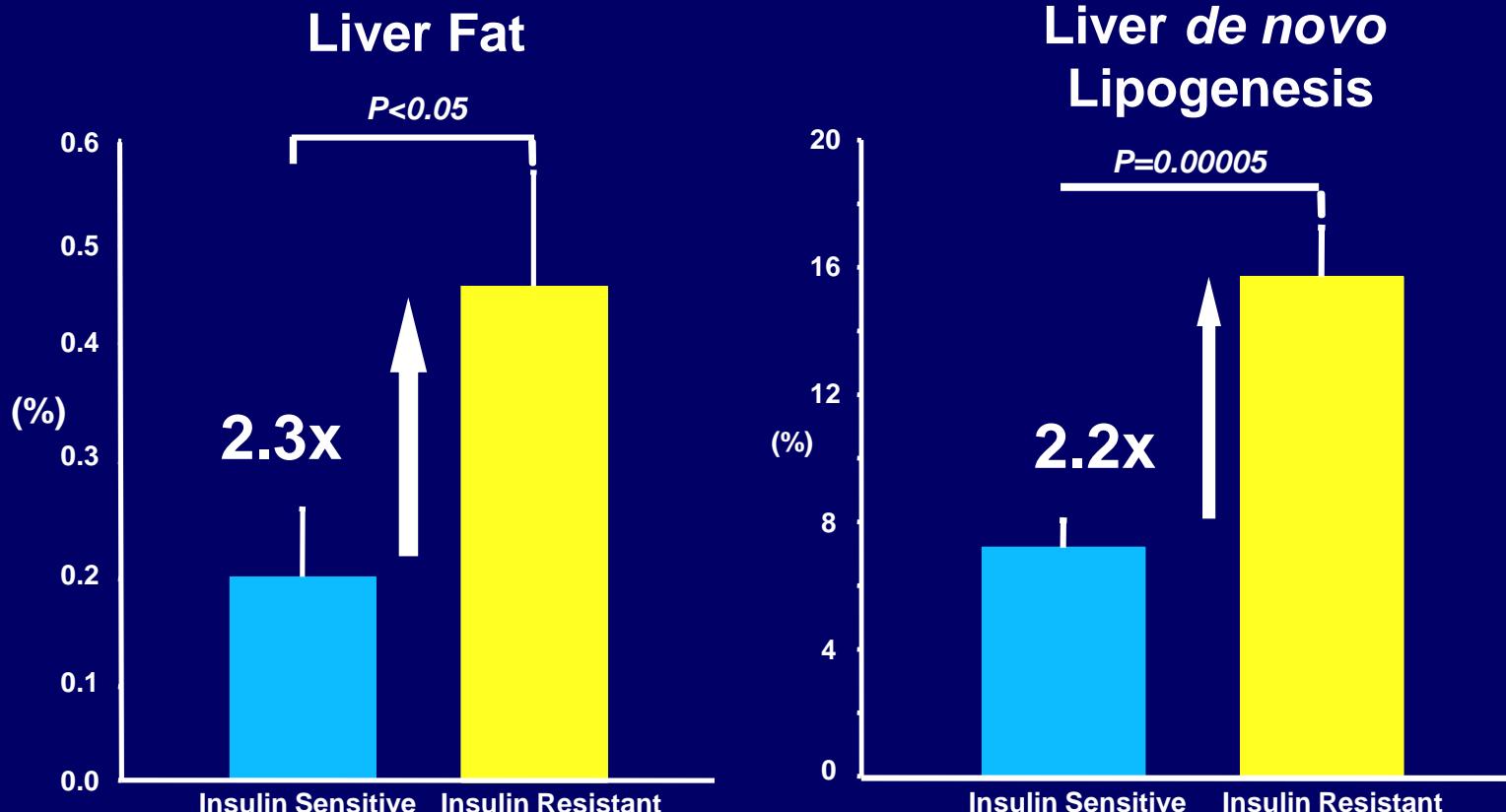
# Meal tolerance



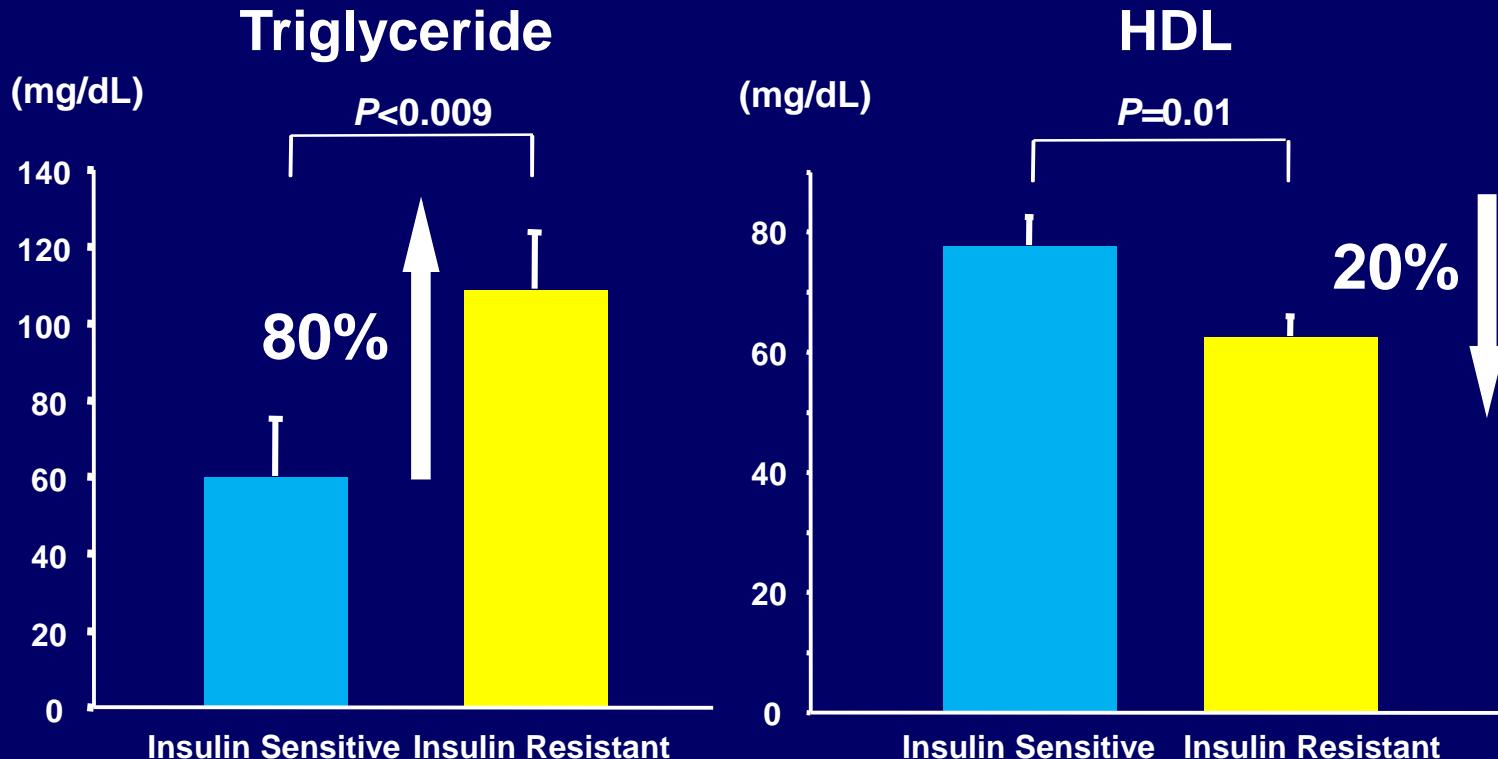
# Change in muscle and liver glycogen following carbohydrate ingestion



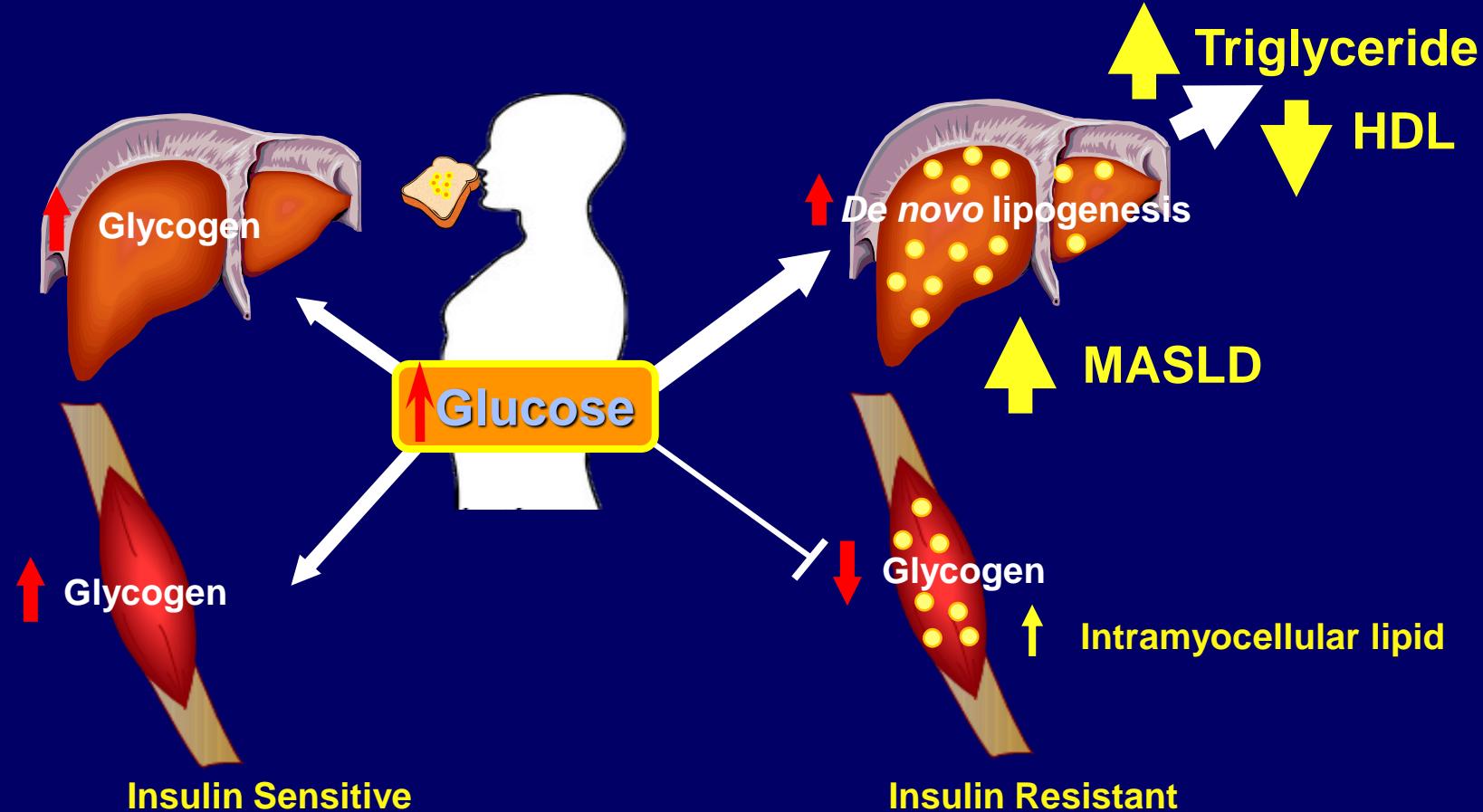
# Change in liver fat and hepatic *de novo* lipogenesis following carbohydrate ingestion



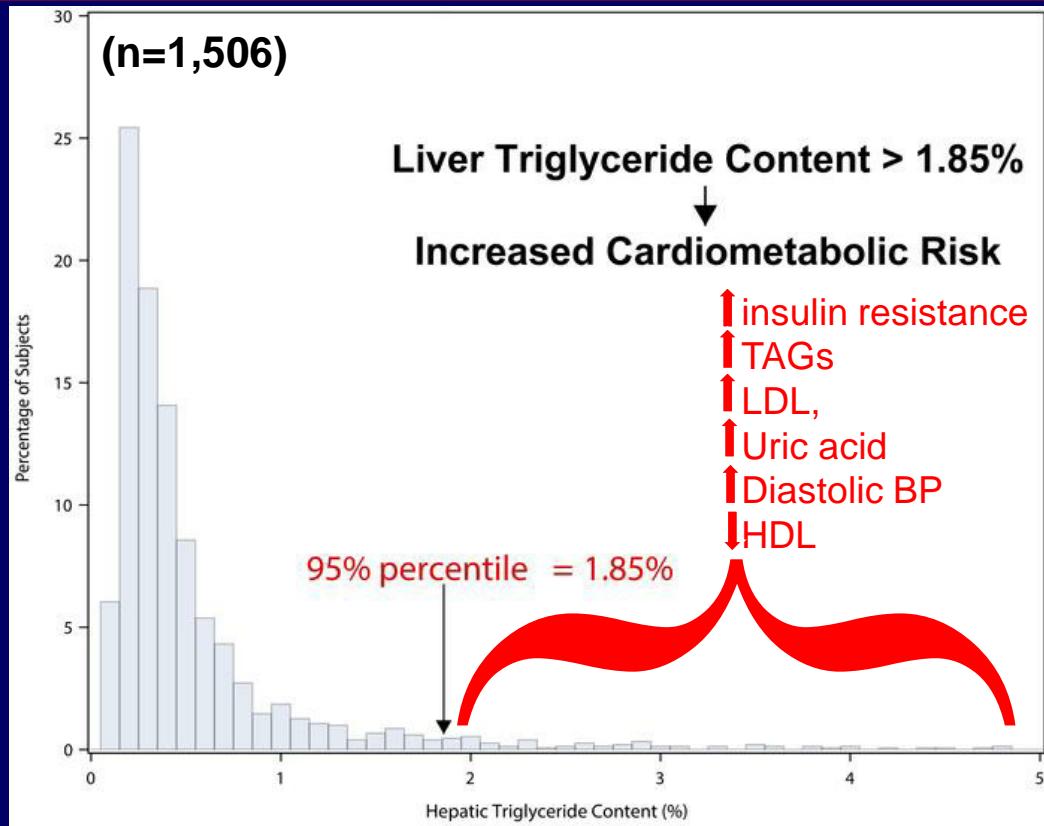
# Plasma Lipids



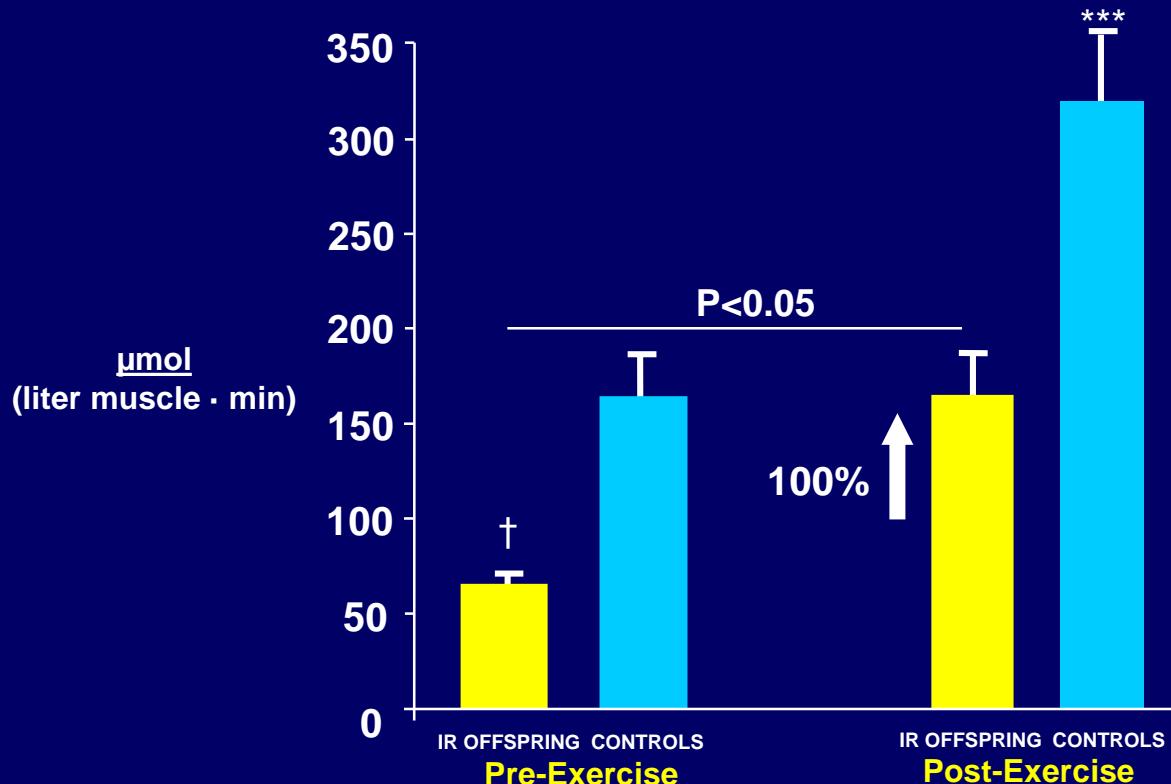
# Muscle insulin resistance promotes MASLD and atherogenic dyslipidemia by changing the fate of ingested carbohydrate from muscle glycogen to fat



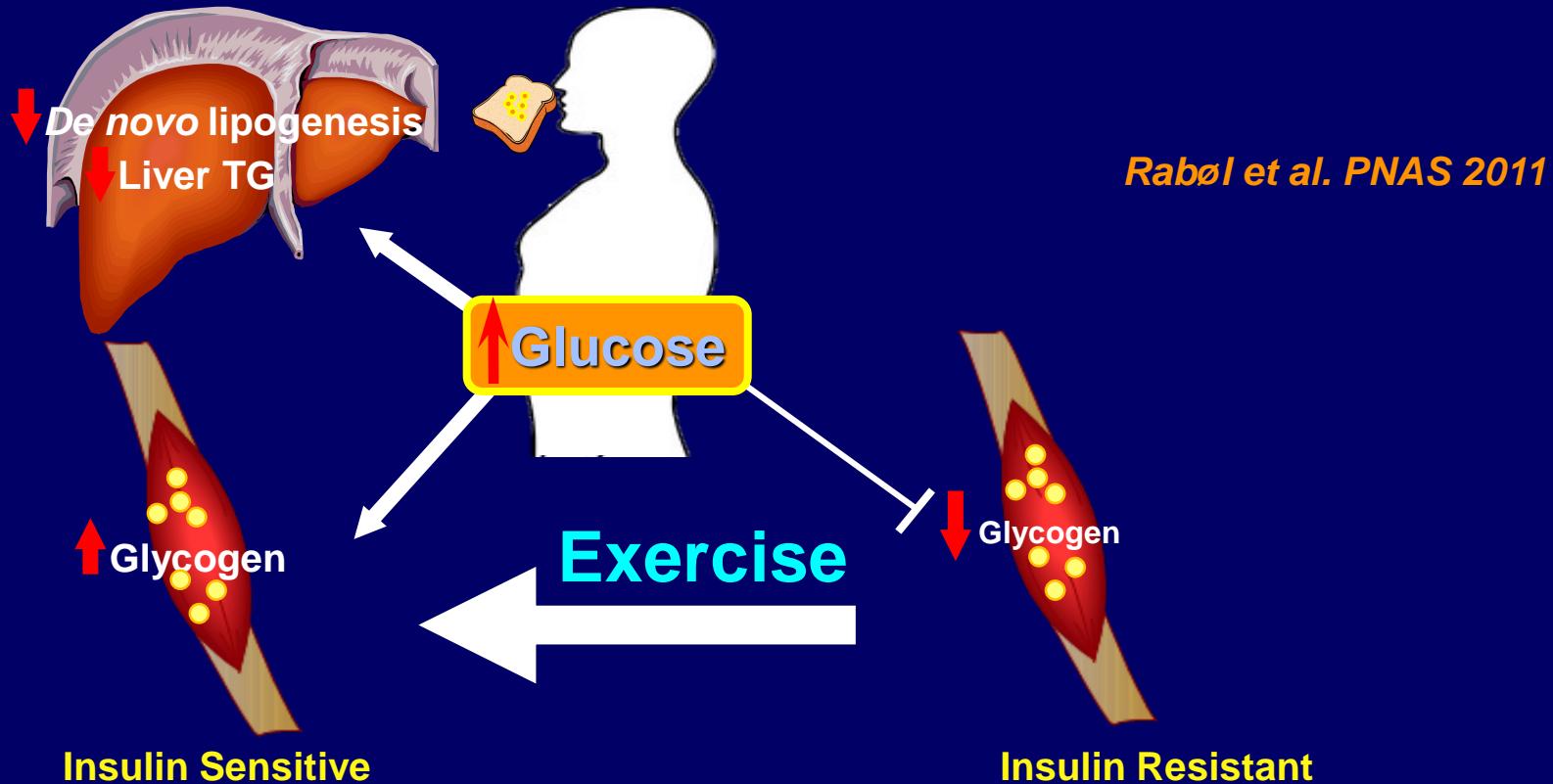
# The 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile Upper Limit of Hepatic Triglyceride Content in Healthy Lean Individuals is 1.85% - not 5.5%



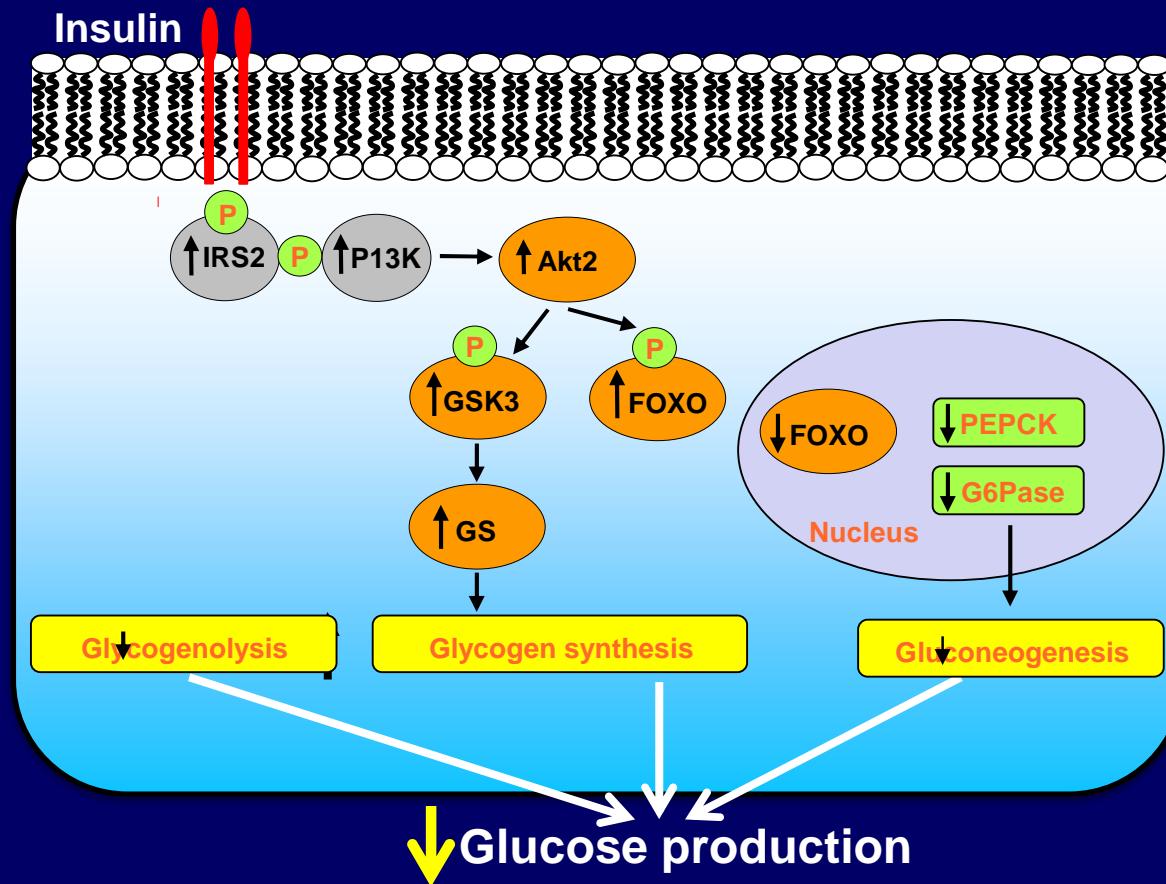
# Effects of a single-bout of exercise on insulin-stimulated muscle glycogen synthesis



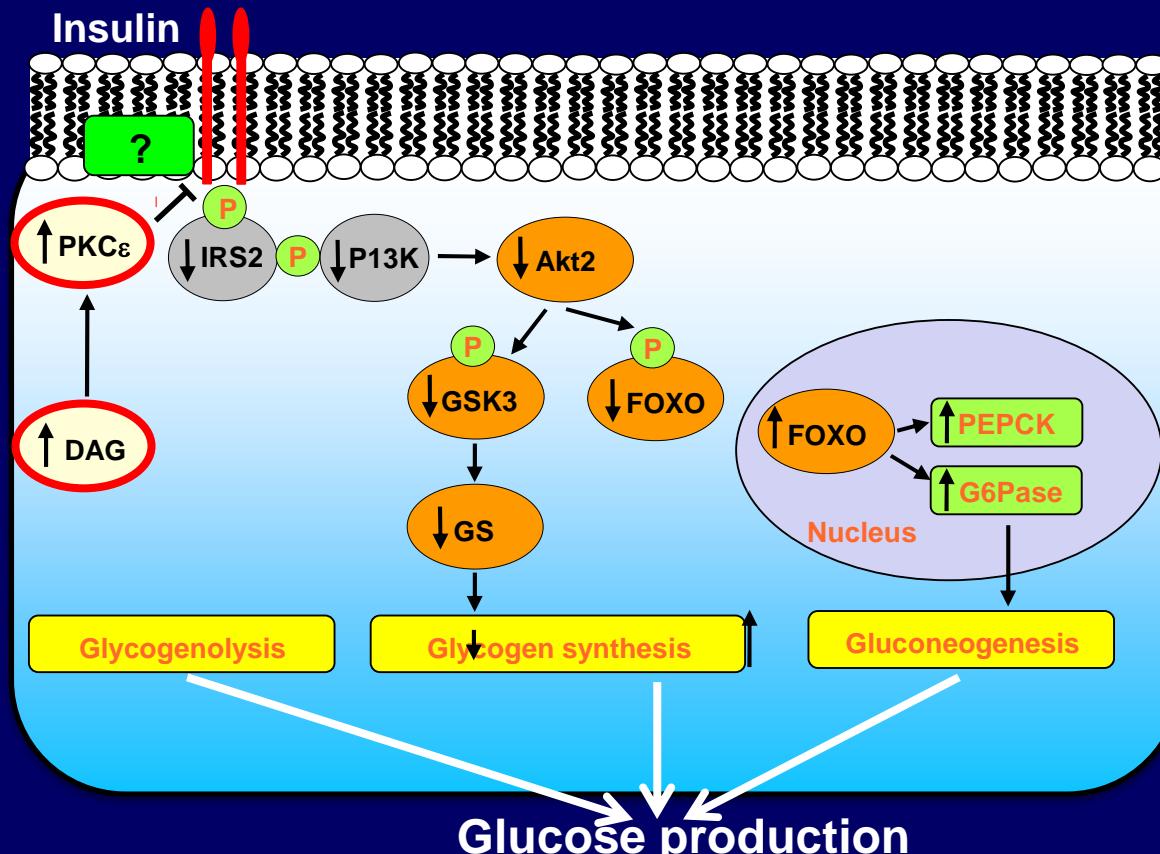
# A single-bout of exercise reverses the abnormal pattern of carbohydrate storage in insulin resistant individuals



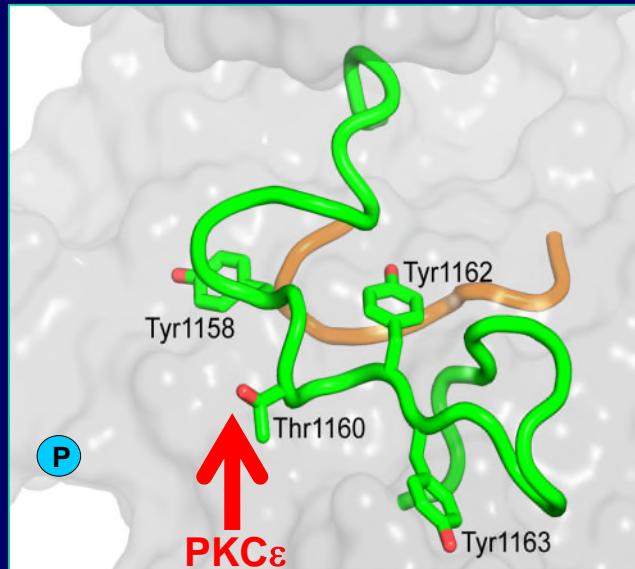
# Insulin signaling in hepatic glucose metabolism



# DAG-PKC $\epsilon$ -insulin receptor pathway-mediated hepatic insulin resistance



# Threonine<sup>1160</sup> in the insulin receptor catalytic loop is phosphorylated by PKC $\epsilon$ and it is evolutionarily conserved from humans to fruit flies



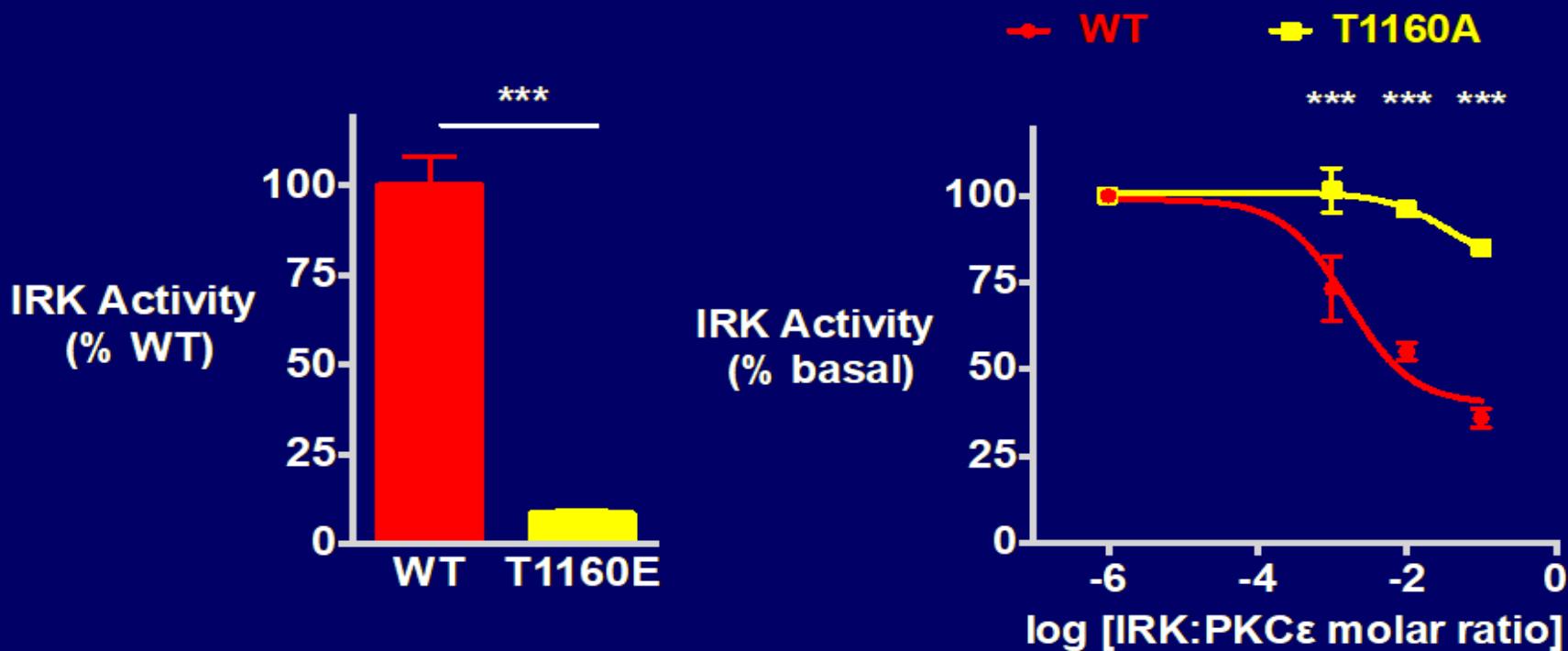
Insulin Receptor  
Kinase Catalytic Loop

Species	Gene	Sequence
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	<i>Insr</i>	DIYETDYYRK
<i>Mus musculus</i>	<i>Insr</i>	DIYETDYYRK
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	<i>insr</i>	DIYETDYYRK
<i>Danio rerio</i>	<i>insra</i>	DIYETDYYRK
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	<i>InR</i>	DIYETDYYRK

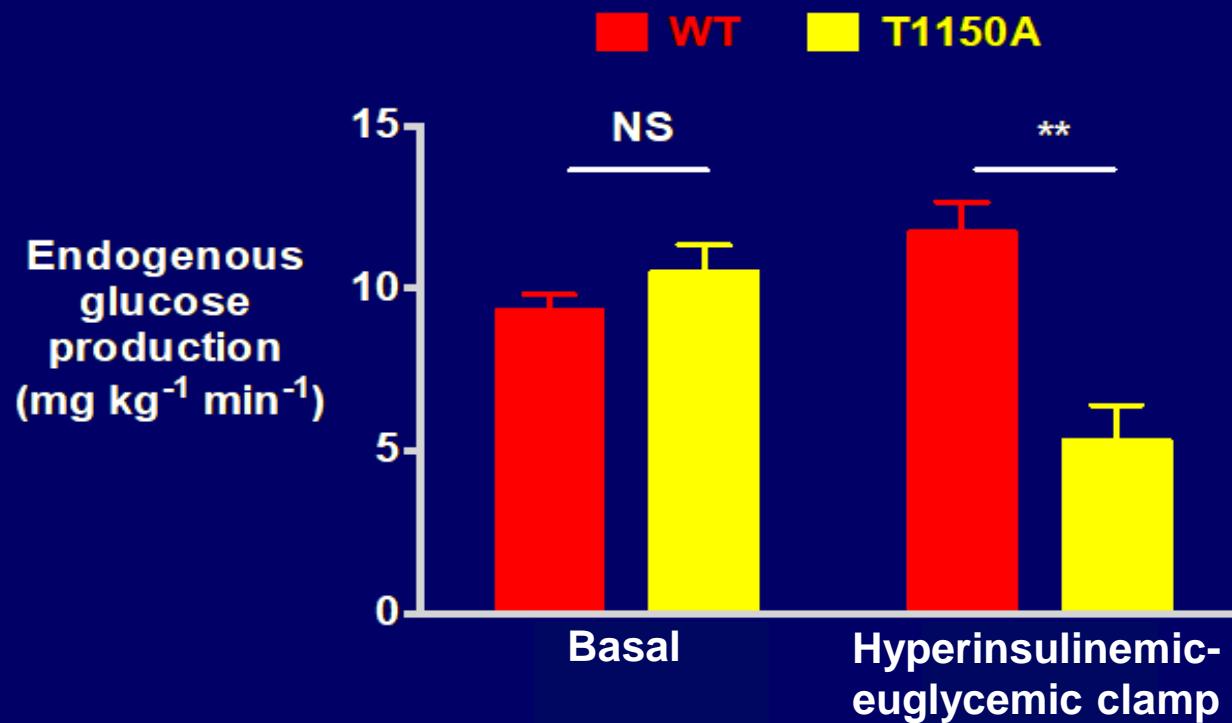
Threonine<sup>1160</sup>



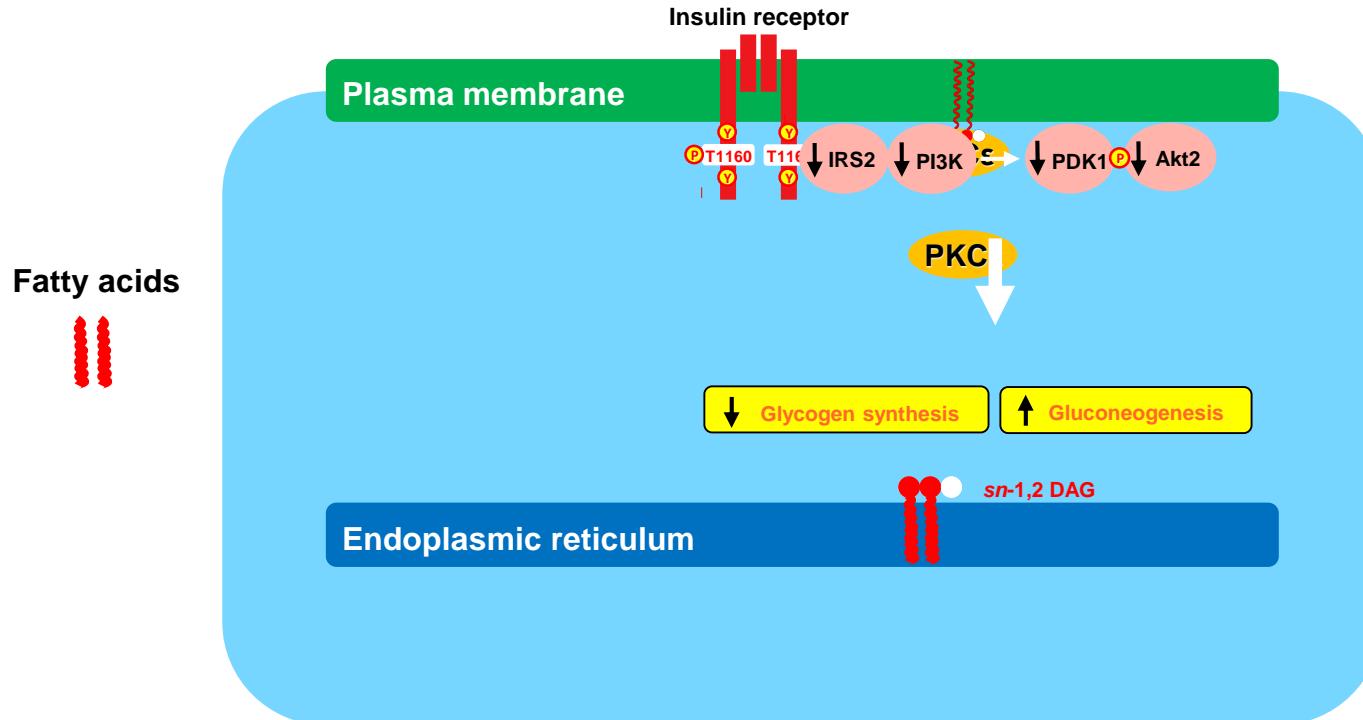
# Insulin receptor<sup>T1160E</sup> is kinase dead Insulin receptor<sup>T1160A</sup> is protected from PKC $\epsilon$ inhibition



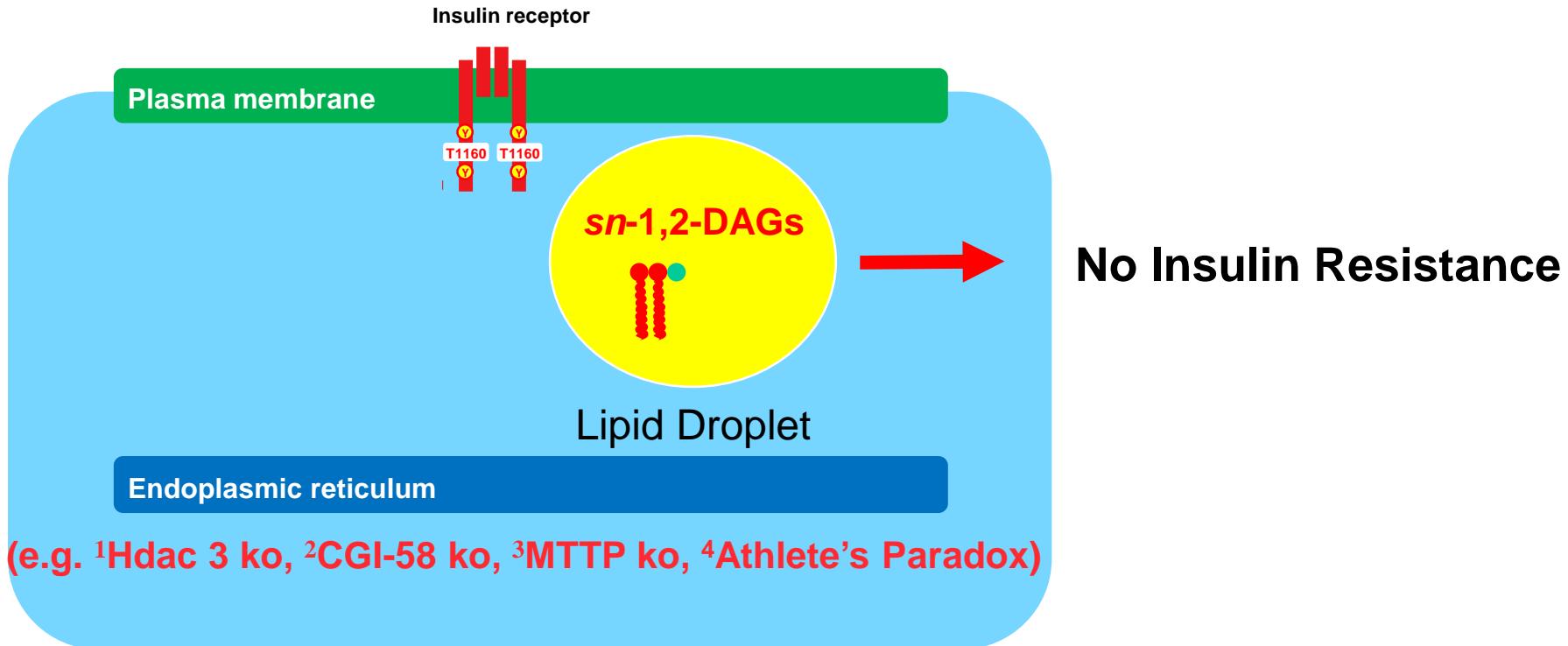
# *Insr<sup>T1150A</sup>* mice are protected from high-fat diet induced hepatic insulin resistance



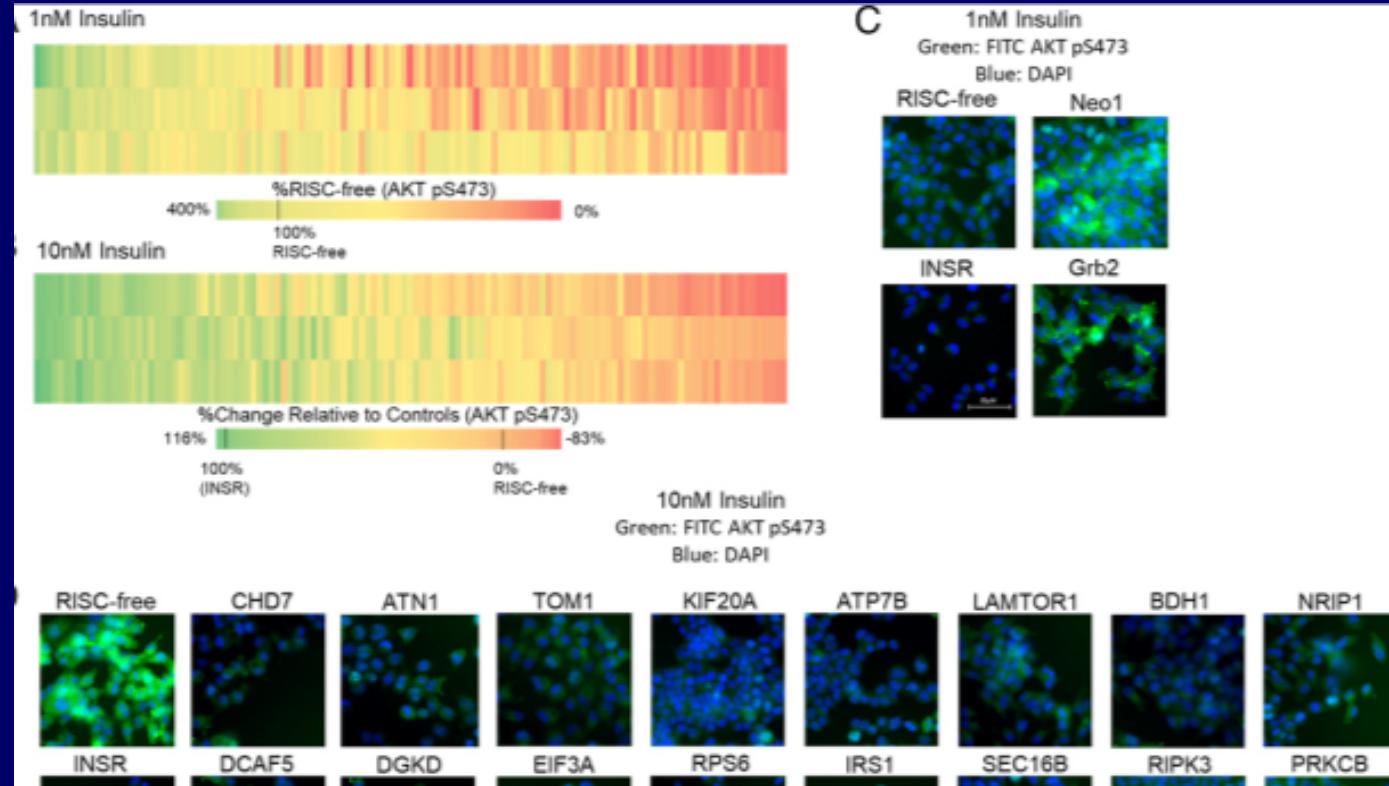
# Molecular mechanism of *sn*-1,2-DAG-PKC $\epsilon$ -IRK $T^{1160}$ phosphorylation-induced insulin resistance



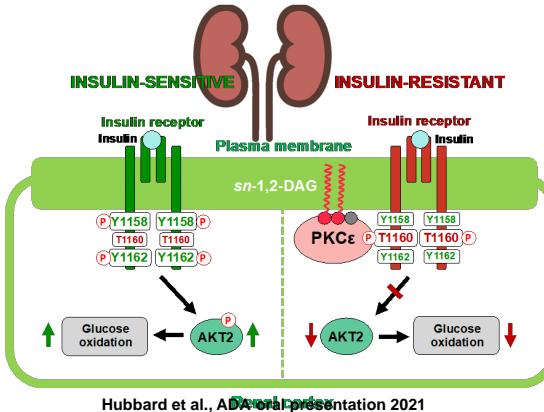
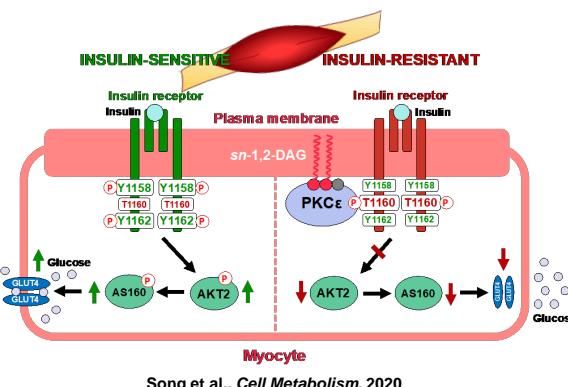
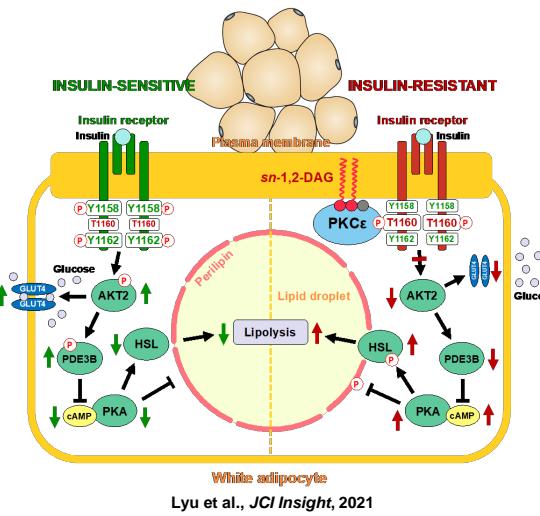
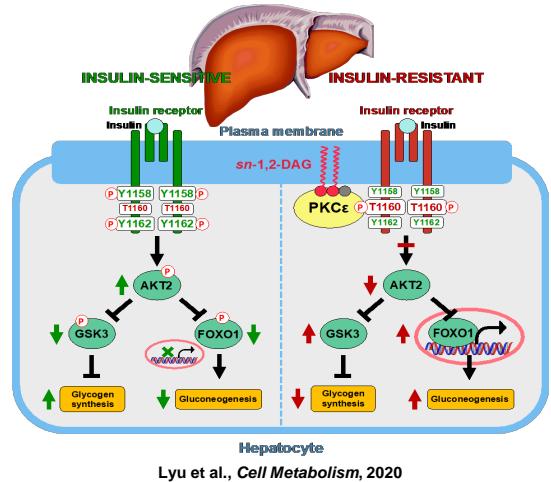
# Sequestration of *sn*-1,2-DAGs in lipid droplets do not cause insulin resistance



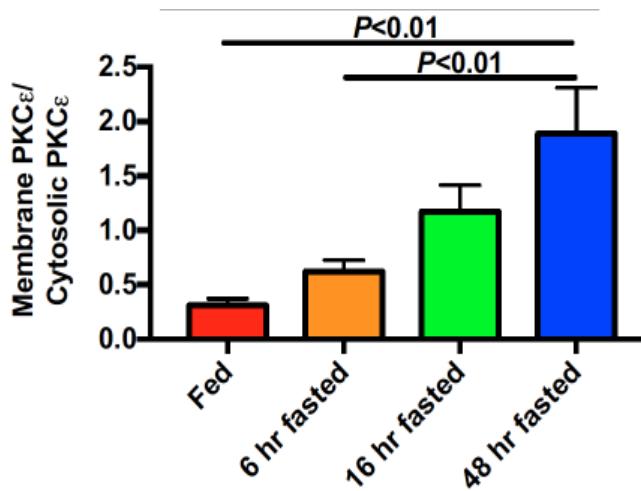
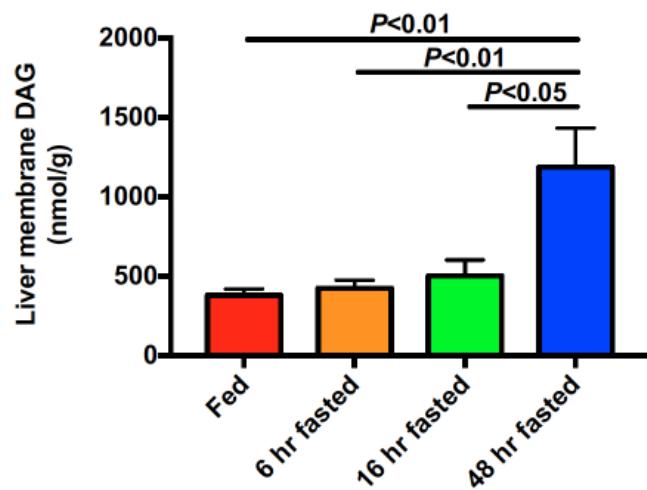
# PKC $\epsilon$ contributes to lipid-induced insulin resistance through cross talk with p70S6K and other regulators



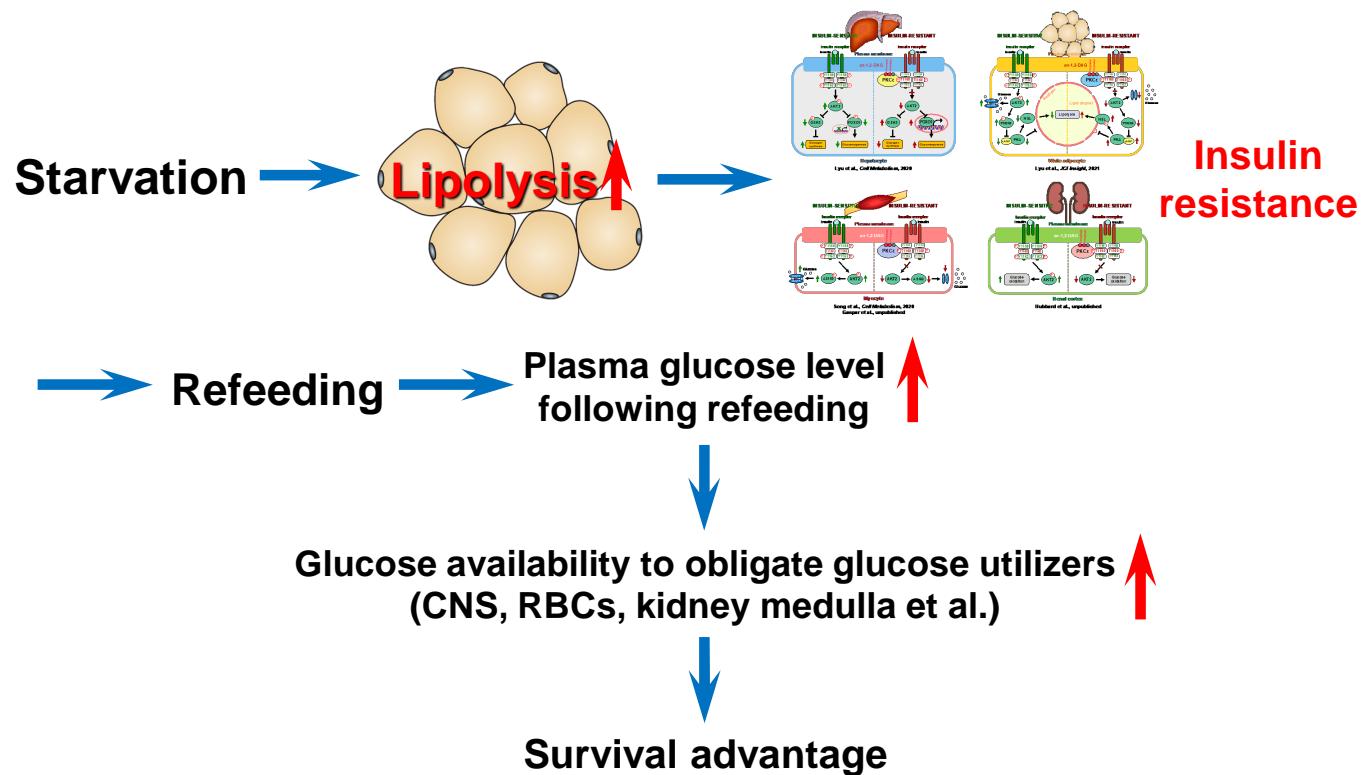
# The *sn*-1,2-DAG-PKC $\epsilon$ -IRK $T^{1160}$ phosphorylation pathway occurs in many organs



# Starvation leads to increased hepatic membrane DAG content and PKC $\epsilon$ activation



# The Evolutionary Basis of Insulin Resistance



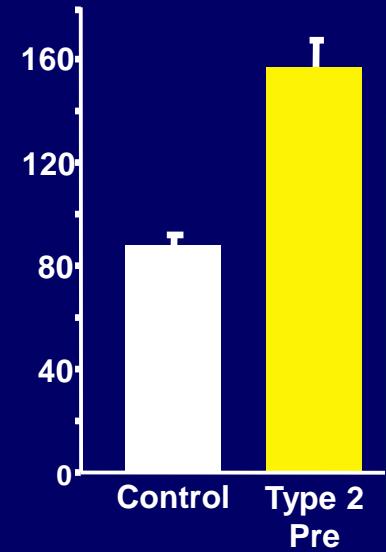
# **Effect of modest weight loss on MASLD and T2D**

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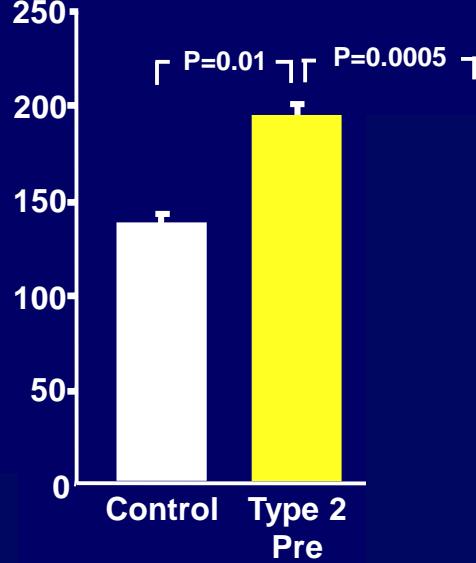
**Role of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated  
Steatosis Liver Disease (MASLD) in Type 2  
Diabetes**

# Hepatic glucose metabolism before and after weight loss

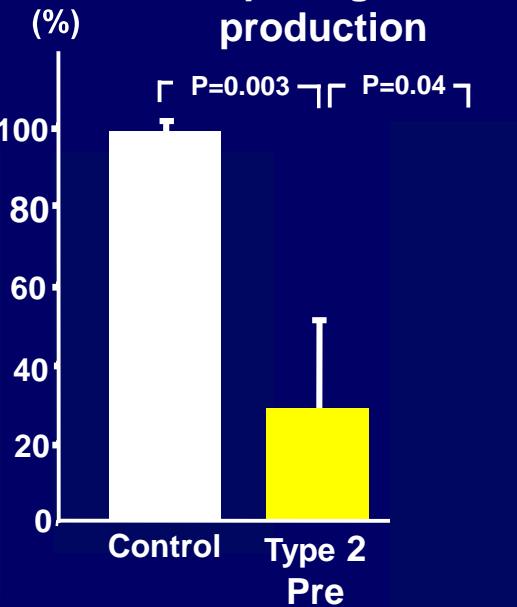
Fasting plasma glucose  
(mg/dL)



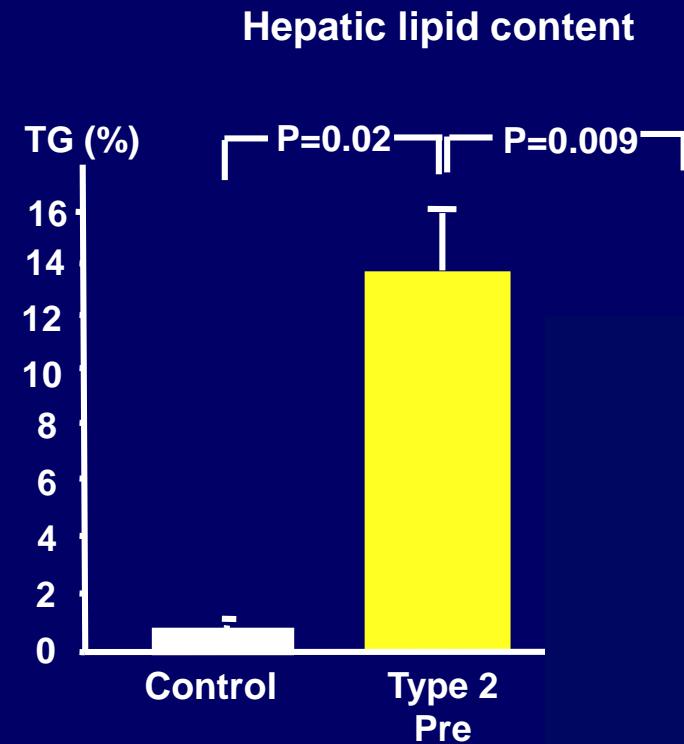
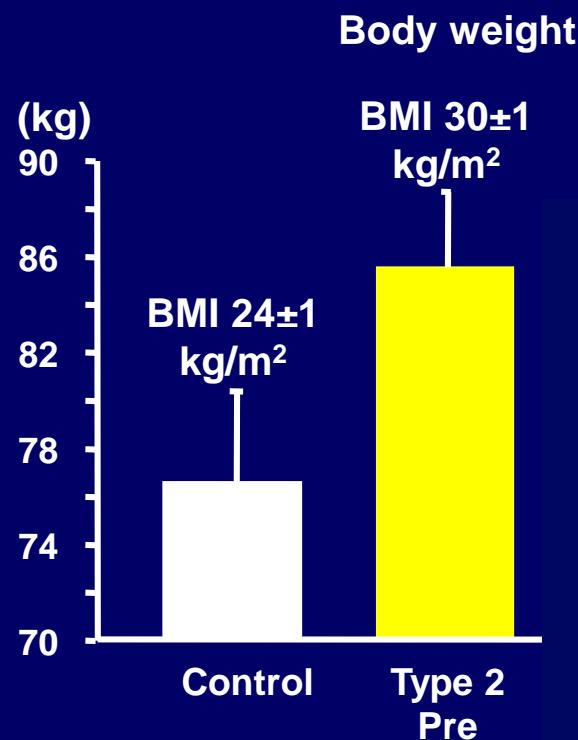
Hepatic glucose production  
(mg/min)



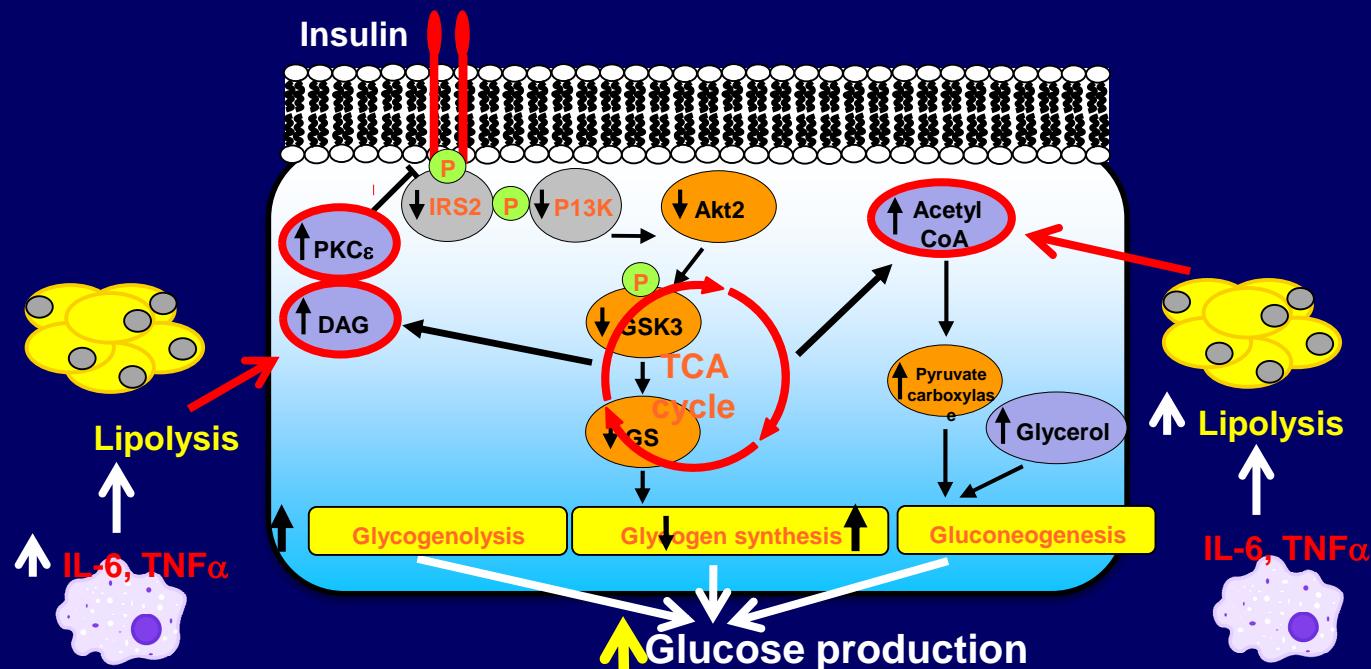
Insulin suppression  
of hepatic glucose  
production



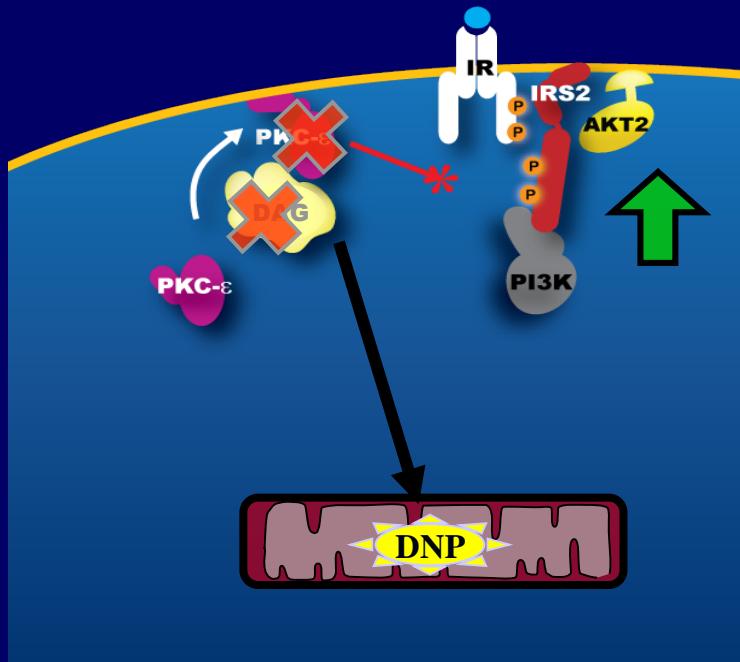
## Body weight and hepatic lipid content before and after weight loss



# Mechanisms for Dysregulated Hepatic Glucose Metabolism in Type 2 Diabetes



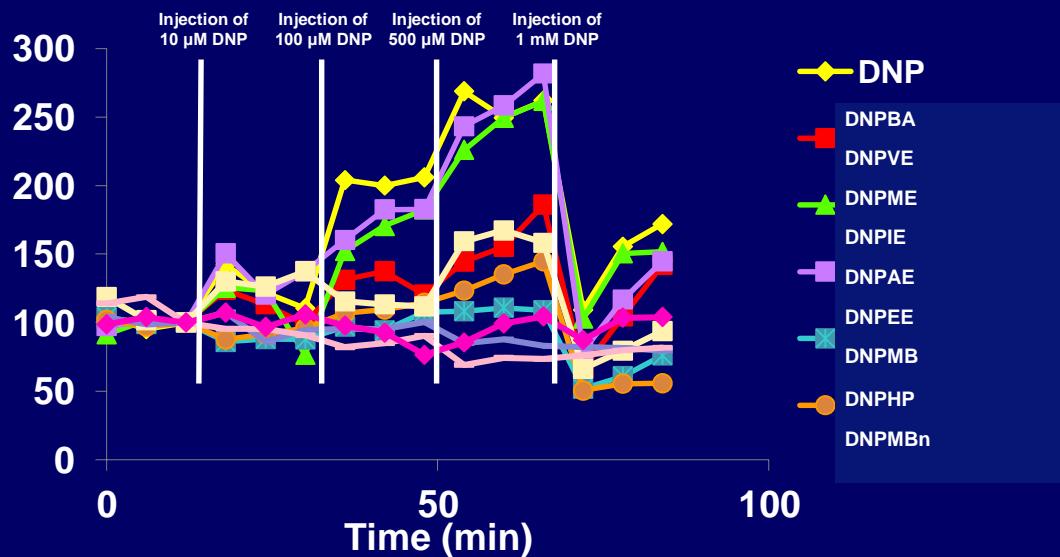
# Dinitrophenol (DNP) corrects MASLD and hepatic insulin resistance



## DNP

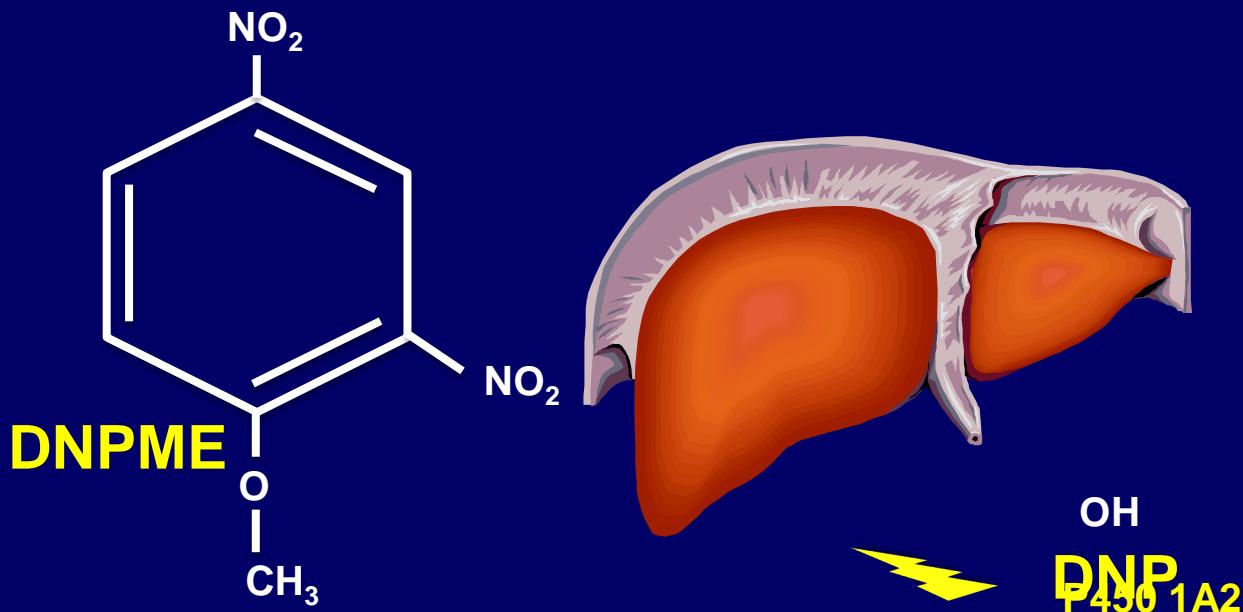
- Increased lipid oxidation
- Reduced hepatic fat content in fat-fed rats
- Prevented PKC $\epsilon$  activation
- Improved hepatic insulin sensitivity

# Screening of compounds: Oxygen consumption rate in cultured hepatocytes



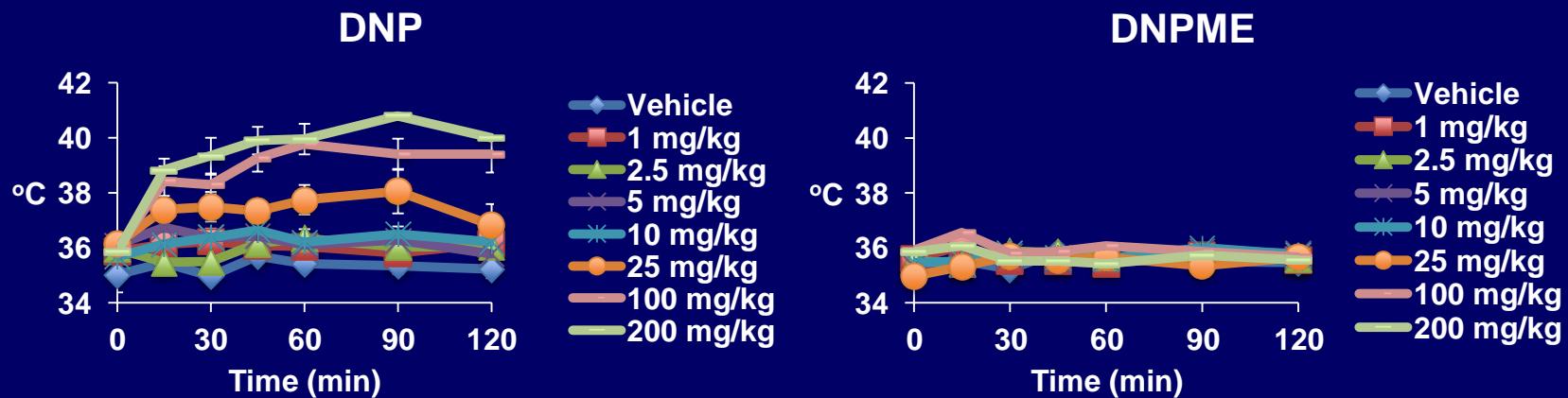
# DNP-methyl ether (DNPME)

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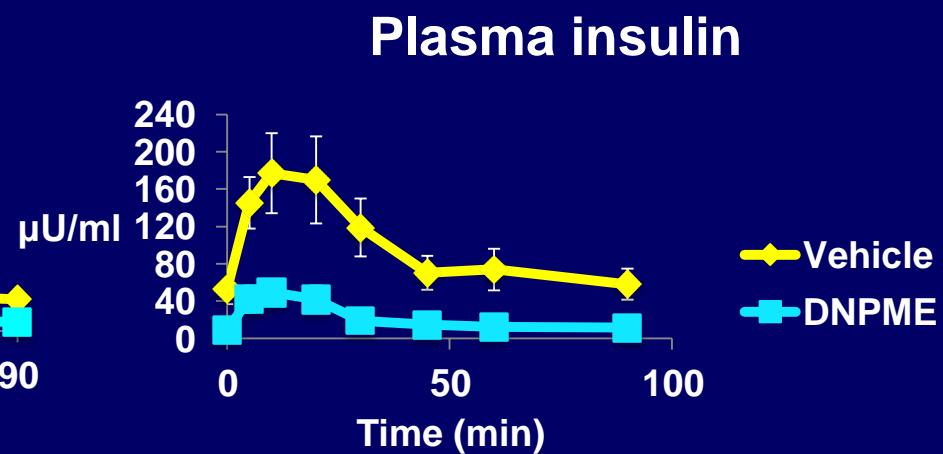
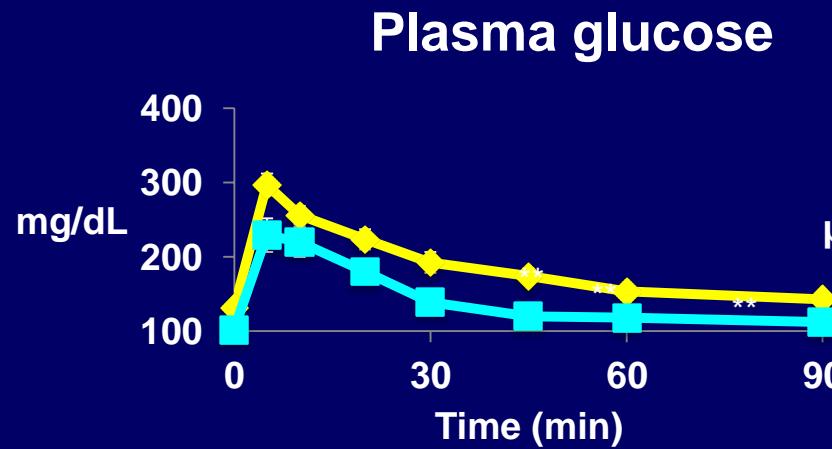


# Dose Response: DNP vs. DNPME

## Body temperature



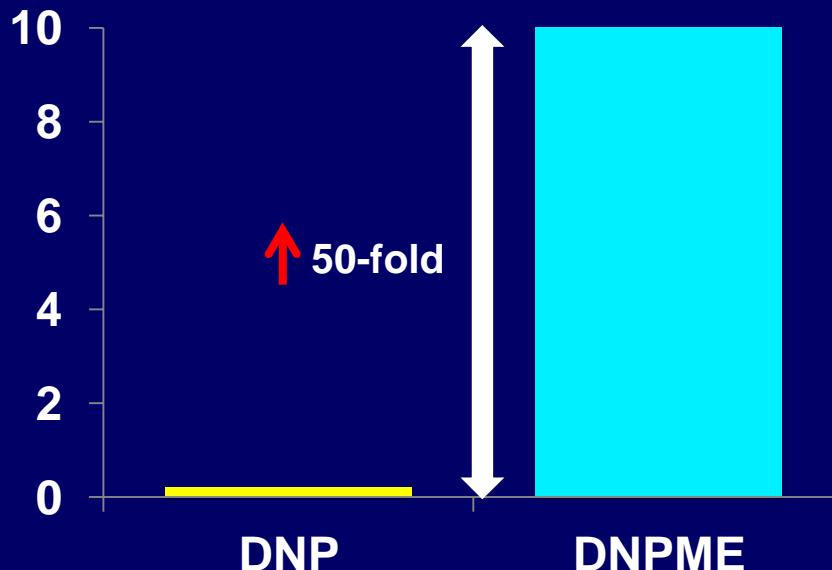
# DNPME Rx Reverses Insulin Resistance in HFD Rats



Perry et al. *Cell Metabolism* 2013

## Toxic/therapeutic dose: DNP vs. DNPME

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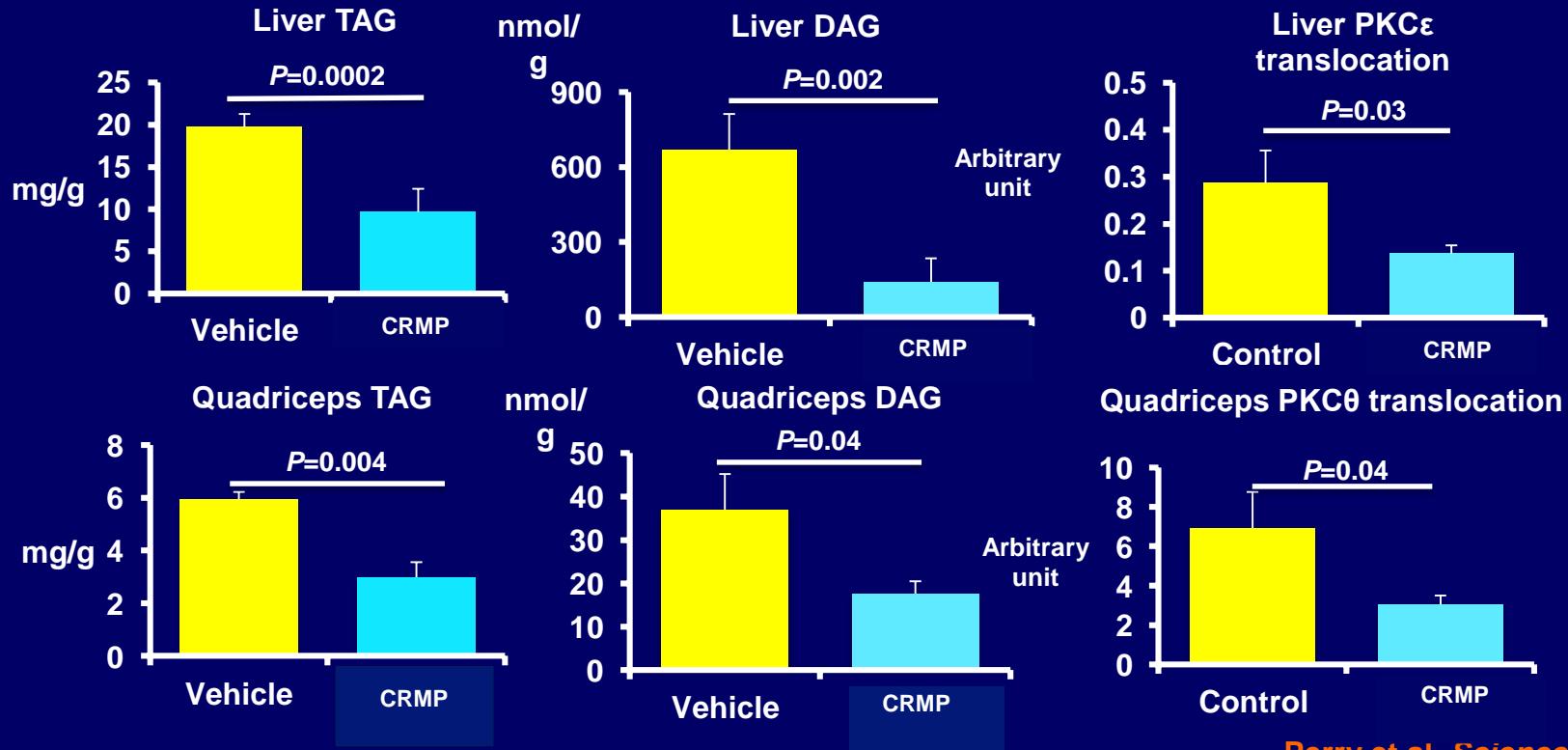


METABOLIC DISEASE

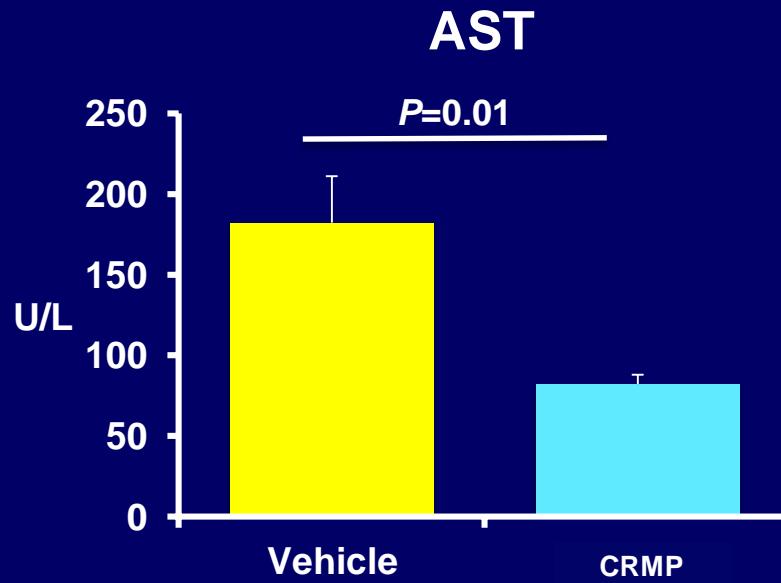
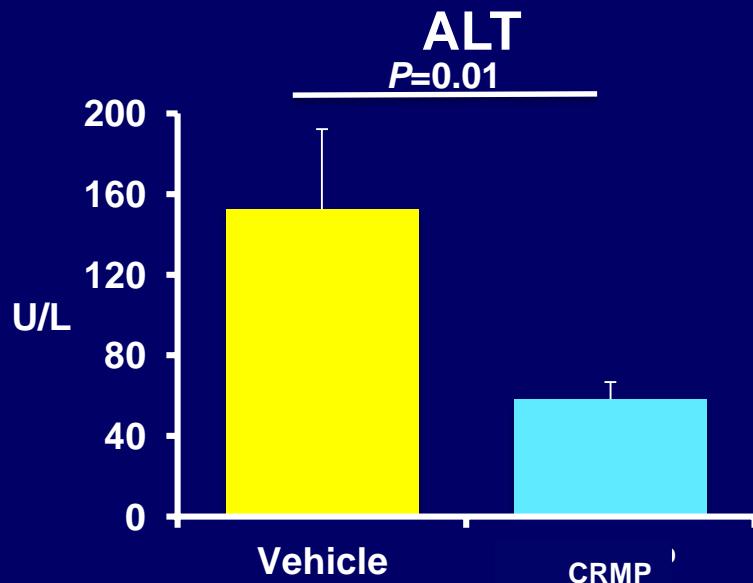
# Controlled-release mitochondrial protonophore reverses diabetes and steatohepatitis in rats

Rachel J. Perry,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Dongyan Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Xian-Man Zhang,<sup>2</sup>  
James L. Boyer,<sup>2,4</sup> Gerald I. Shulman<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>

# CRMP Rx Reduces Liver and Muscle TAG, DAG content and nPKC activity



# CRMP Reverses Liver Inflammation in ZDF rats



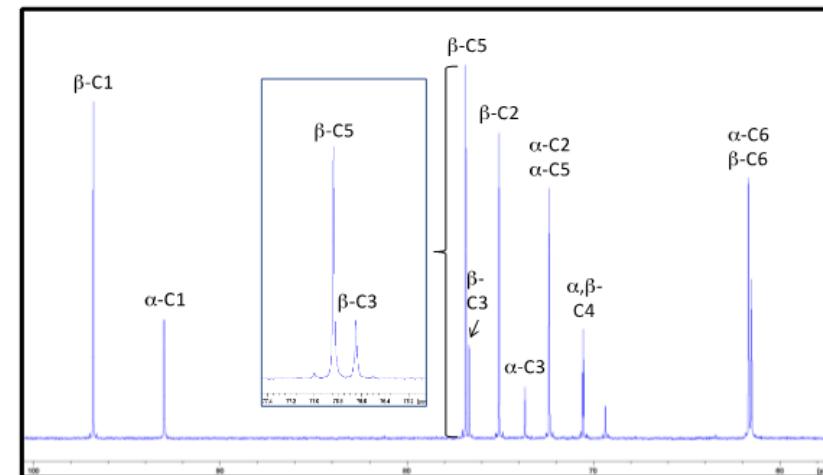
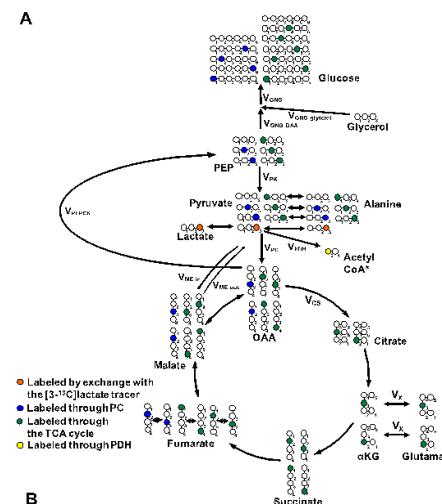
## ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-017-01143-w

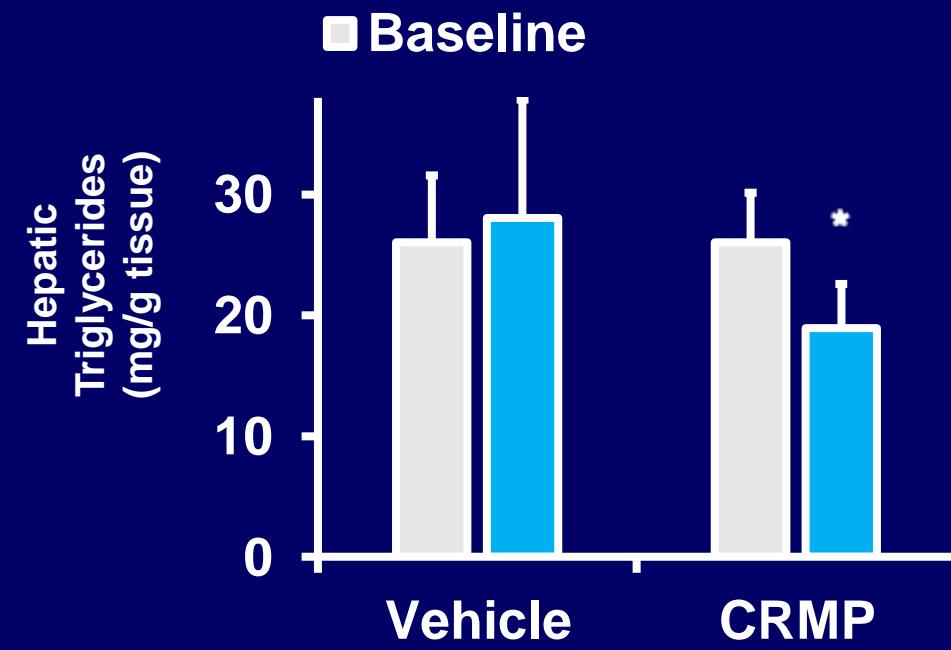
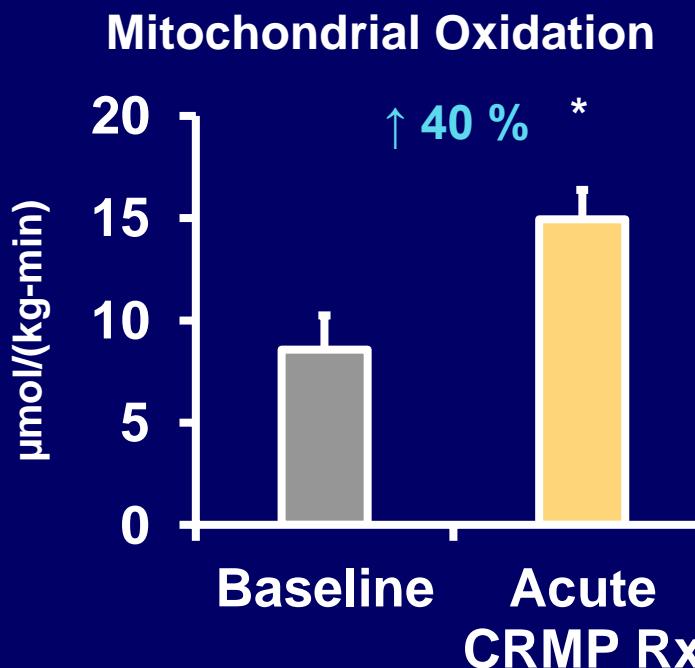
**OPEN**

# Non-invasive assessment of hepatic mitochondrial metabolism by positional isotopomer NMR tracer analysis (PINTA)

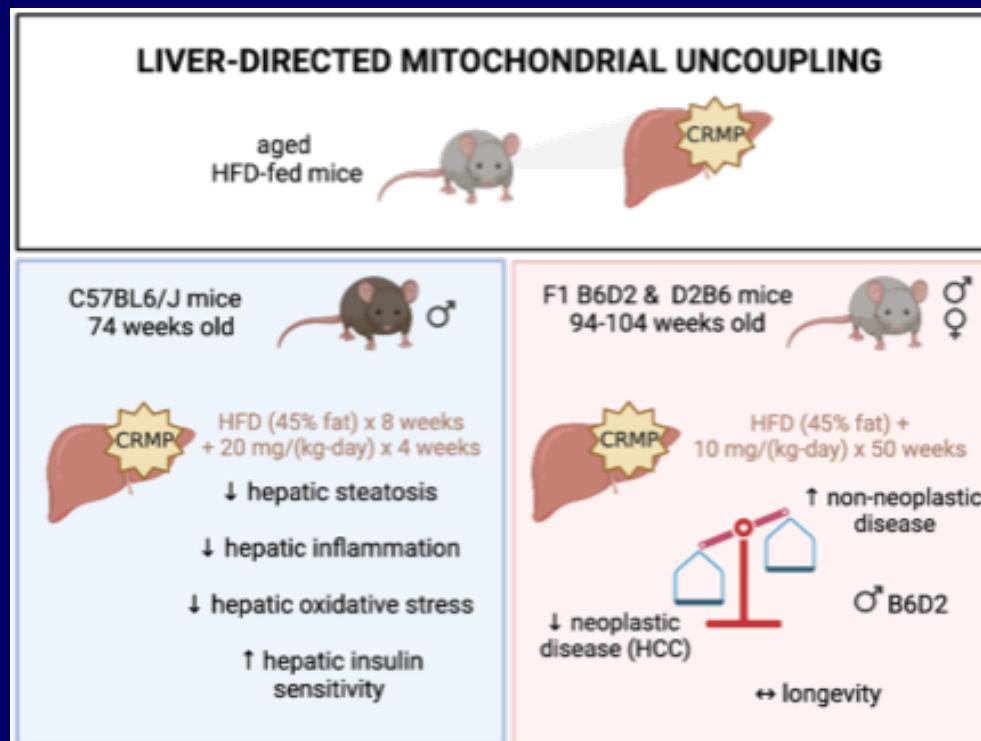
Rachel J. Perry<sup>1</sup>, Liang Peng<sup>1</sup>, Gary W. Cline<sup>1</sup>, Gina M. Butrico<sup>1</sup>, Yongliang Wang<sup>1</sup>, Xian-Man Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Douglas L. Rothman<sup>2,3</sup>, Kitt Falk Petersen<sup>1</sup> & Gerald I. Shulman<sup>1,4,5</sup>



# CRMP increases hepatic fat oxidation, reduces liver fat and is safe and well tolerated in non human primates



# CRMP Rx Protects Against Age-Related Metabolic Disease and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in HFD fed Mice



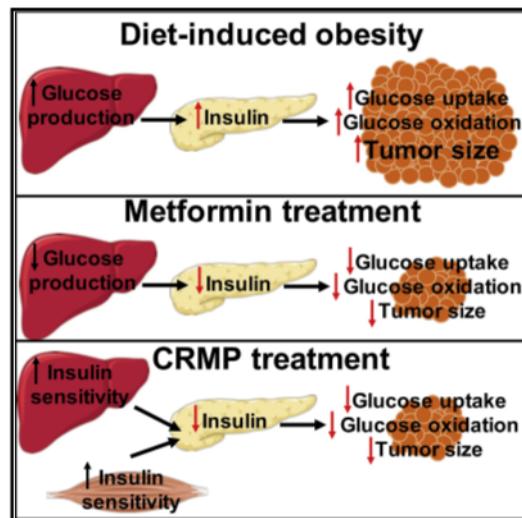
# CRMP Reduces Tumor Growth in Murine Models of Colon Cancer

## Cell Reports

Report

### Uncoupling Hepatic Oxidative Phosphorylation Reduces Tumor Growth in Two Murine Models of Colon Cancer

#### Graphical Abstract



#### Authors

Yongliang Wang, Ali R. Nasiri,  
William E. Damsky, ..., Michael N. Pollak,  
Gerald I. Shulman, Rachel J. Perry

#### Correspondence

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#### In Brief

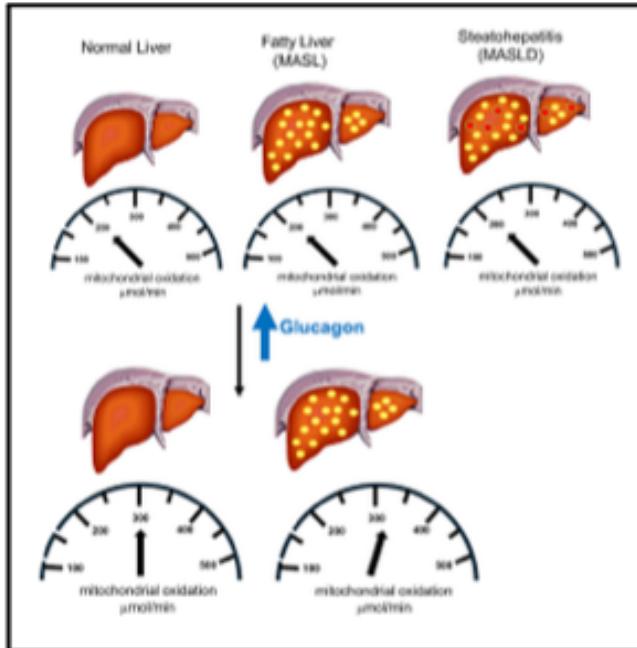
Wang et al. demonstrate that diet-induced hyperinsulinemia increases colon adenocarcinoma tumor glucose uptake and oxidation in mice. They further demonstrate that reversal of hyperinsulinemia by a liver-specific mitochondrial protonophore is sufficient to reverse the obesity-induced acceleration of tumor growth.

Clinical and Translational Report

# Cell Metabolism

## Glucagon promotes increased hepatic mitochondrial oxidation and pyruvate carboxylase flux in humans with fatty liver disease

### Graphical abstract



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### In brief

It is unclear whether rates of hepatic mitochondrial oxidation are altered in individuals with MASLD and MASH. Here, Petersen et al. show that rates of hepatic mitochondrial oxidation are not altered in humans with fatty liver or steatohepatitis and that glucagon can increase rates of hepatic mitochondrial oxidation in humans with and without fatty liver by 50%–75%.

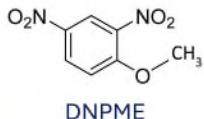


## NEWS

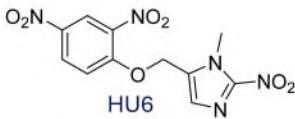
PRESS RELEASE Feb 9, 2022

### RIVUS PHARMACEUTICALS ANNOUNCES POSITIVE DATA FROM PHASE 2A CLINICAL TRIAL OF LEAD CANDIDATE HU6, DEMONSTRATING FAT REDUCTION AND WEIGHT LOSS IN HIGH BMI PARTICIPANTS

- Met primary endpoint (liver fat reduction), multiple secondary endpoints (whole body, visceral, subcutaneous fat loss)
- Significant fat selective weight loss while preserving muscle mass, without changes in diet or exercise
  - Amplified weight and fat loss in patients with elevated HbA1c
  - Improvement in key markers of insulin resistance and inflammation
  - Well tolerated across all studied doses



Perry et al.  
*Cell Metabolism* 2013



Noureddin et al.  
*Lancet Hepatology/Gastroenterology* 2023

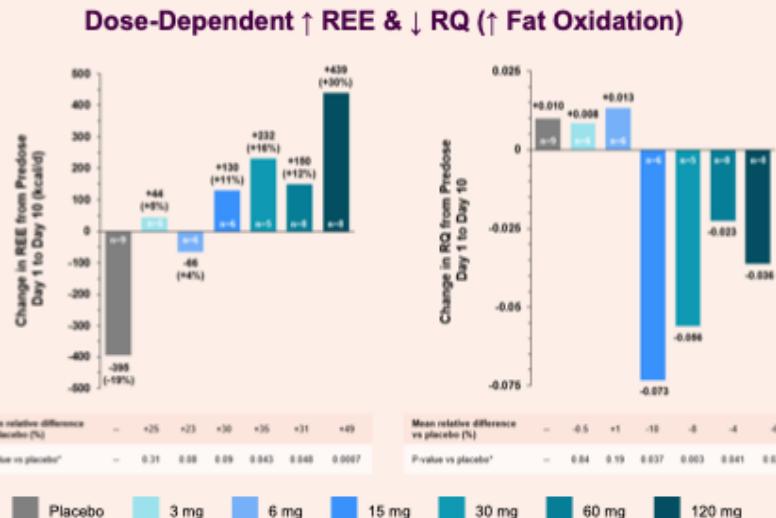
### Rivus Pharmaceuticals' Phase 2a HuMAIN Trial Meets Primary Endpoint of Weight Loss and Secondary Endpoints in Patients with Obesity-Related Heart Failure

- Data from the HuMAIN study in patients with obesity-related heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) will be presented in a Late Breaking Clinical Trial Plenary Session at the Heart Failure Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting –
- Enrollment completed in Phase 2 M-ACCEL trial of HU6 in patients with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) –
- HU6, a novel oral, once-daily Controlled Metabolic Accelerator, is a new class of investigational therapies designed to reduce body fat while preserving muscle –

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., and SAN FRANCISCO, Ca., August 13, 2024 – Rivus

Edward J. Gane,<sup>1</sup> Ryan S. Huss,<sup>2</sup> Jane Sur,<sup>2</sup> Eisuke Murakami,<sup>2</sup> Steve Weng,<sup>2</sup> Brian J. Kirby,<sup>2</sup> Gerald I. Shulman,<sup>3</sup> G. Mani Subramanian,<sup>2</sup> Archana Vijayakumar,<sup>2</sup> Robert P. Myers<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>University of Auckland, New Zealand Clinical Research, Auckland, NZ; <sup>2</sup>OrsoBio, Inc., Menlo Park, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA

# TLC-6740 Causes Dose-Dependent Increases in Energy Expenditure and Improvements in Metabolic Parameters



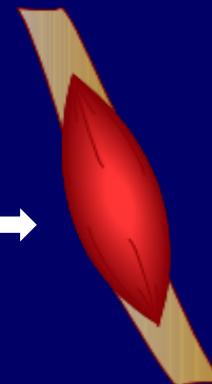
Relative (%) change from Day 1 to Day 10†	3 mg: n=8	6 mg: n=8	15 mg: n=8	30 mg: n=8	60 mg: n=8	120 mg: n=8
LDL-C	0.7 (-11.4, 12.8)	-6.2 (-18.3, 6.0)	-8.4 (-20.5, 3.7)	-3.3 (-15.4, 8.8)	-18.3 (-30.4, -6.2)	-22.4 (-34.5, -10.3)
Total cholesterol	2.0 (-6.6, 10.5)	-6.4 (-14.9, 2.2)	-7.7 (-16.3, 0.8)	-7.0 (-15.5, 1.6)	-13.6 (-22.1, -5.1)	-15.1 (-23.7, -6.6)
HDL-C	6.0 (-2.8, 14.8)	-2.0 (-10.8, 6.7)	3.4 (-5.3, 12.2)	-10.1 (-18.9, -1.3)	-0.3 (-9.1, 8.4)	-4.1 (-12.9, 4.6)
Triglycerides	3.3 (-22.0, 28.5)	-12.2 (-37.4, 13.1)	-23.8 (-49.1, 1.5)	-19.8 (-45.1, 5.5)	-18.7 (-44.0, 6.5)	-9.3 (-34.6, 16.0)
Glucose	-4.5 (-9.5, 0.5)	-5.6 (-10.6, -0.6)	3.8 (-1.6, 9.3)	-0.6 (-5.6, 4.4)	-2.0 (-7.0, 3.0)	-4.3 (-9.3, 0.7)
Insulin	-22.4 (-55.7, 10.9)	-63.7 (-97.0, -30.4)	-10.0 (-46.4, 26.3)	-44.6 (-77.9, -11.3)	-40.2 (-73.5, -6.9)	-47.6 (-80.9, -14.3)
HOMA-IR	-28.6 (-64.4, 7.2)	-71.9 (-108, -36.1)	-4.6 (-43.7, 34.4)	-47.2 (-83.0, -11.4)	-43.8 (-79.6, -8.0)	-54.5 (-90.3, -18.7)
ALT	-7.6 (-31.1, 15.9)	-11.3 (-34.8, 12.2)	-5.0 (-28.5, 18.5)	-1.5 (-25.0, 22.0)	-0.6 (-24.1, 22.9)	-13.2 (-36.7, 10.3)
GGT	-8.3 (-30.6, 14.1)	-0.1 (-22.4, 22.3)	-10.4 (-32.7, 12.0)	-14.8 (-37.2, 7.5)	6.0 (-16.3, 28.4)	-16.2 (-38.5, 6.1)

\* P-values by t-test for comparison between TLC-6740 groups and placebo with adjustment for baseline REE or RQ.

† Mean placebo-adjusted relative (%) change (95% CI) from Day 1 to 10 (statistically significant [p&lt;0.05] changes in bold).

- Increases in REE with TLC-6740 were inversely associated with baseline REE ( $p<0.0005$ )

# Liver-Targeted Mitochondrial Uncoupling



↓ Hypertriglyceridemia/  
↓ LDL Cholesterol



↑ V<sub>TCA</sub>, fatty acid oxidation, EE → ↓ VLDL export  
↓ Hepatic TAG, DAG, ↓ acetyl CoA  
↓ PKC $\epsilon$  translocation/inflammation  
↑ Hepatic insulin sensitivity      ↓ Fasting gluconeogenesis

↓ Intramyocellular TAG, DAG  
↓ PKC $\theta$ /PKC $\epsilon$  translocation  
↑ Peripheral insulin sensitivity

# **Yale**

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