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## **Liver GCN2 controls hepatic FGF21 secretion and modulates whole-body postprandial oxidation profile under a low-protein diet**

Tristan Chalvon Demersay, Joanna Moro, Patrick Even, Catherine C. Chaumontet, Daniel Tomé, Julien Averous, Julien Piedcoq, Claire C. Gaudichon, Anne-Catherine Maurin, Pierre Fafournoux, et al.

### ► To cite this version:

Tristan Chalvon Demersay, Joanna Moro, Patrick Even, Catherine C. Chaumontet, Daniel Tomé, et al.. Liver GCN2 controls hepatic FGF21 secretion and modulates whole-body postprandial oxidation profile under a low-protein diet. *AJP - Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 2019, 317 (6), pp.E1015-E1021. 10.1152/ajpendo.00022.2019 . hal-02308960

**HAL Id: hal-02308960**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02308960>**

Submitted on 26 May 2020

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1 **Liver GCN2 controls hepatic FGF21 secretion and modulates whole-body postprandial**  
2 **oxidation profile under a low-protein diet**

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21  
22 **Financial support statement:**

23 Supported by the UMR Nutrition Physiology and Ingestive Behavior.

24 **Declarations of interest:** none

25

**Author disclosures:**

26

TC-D, JM, PCE, DT, JA, JP, CG, ACM, PF, and DA-M, no conflicts of interest.

27

28

**Author contributions:**

29

The authors responsibilities were as follows— TC-D, JM, PCE, DA-M, CC, and JP:

30

conducted the research; TC-D, JM, PCE, DA-M, JA, ACM, DT and PF: interpreted the data;

31

TC-D, PCE, DT, DA-M: wrote the manuscript; TC-D, DA-M, and CG designed the study;

32

TC-D, DA-M, PE, CG and PF had primary responsibility for the final content; JA, ACM and

33

PF provided the mouse model; and all authors: read and approved the final manuscript.

34

35 **Abstract**

36 Objective: GCN2 is a kinase which detects amino acid deficiency and is involved in the  
37 control of protein synthesis and energy metabolism. However, the role of hepatic GCN2 in the  
38 metabolic adaptations in response to the modulation of dietary protein has been seldom  
39 studied.

40 Methods: Wild-type (WT) and liver GCN2-deficient (KO) mice were fed either a normo-  
41 protein diet, a low-protein diet or a high-protein diet for 3 weeks. During this period, body  
42 weight, food intake and metabolic parameters were followed.

43 Results: In mice fed normo- and high protein diets, GCN2 pathway in the liver is not  
44 activated in WT mice leading to a similar metabolic profile with the one of KO mice. On the  
45 contrary, a low protein diet activates GCN2 in WT mice inducing FGF21 secretion. In turn,  
46 FGF21 maintains a high level of lipid oxidation leading to a different postprandial oxidation  
47 profile compared with KO mice.

48 Conclusions: Hepatic GCN2 controls FGF21 secretion under a low protein diet, and  
49 modulates a whole-body postprandial oxidation profile.

50

51 **Keywords:** GCN2; liver; protein; FGF21

52

53 *Highlights*

- 54
- Hepatic GCN2 controls FGF21 secretion under a low-protein diet.
- 55
- Hepatic GCN2 deletion's metabolic consequences depend on dietary protein content.
- 56
- Hepatic GCN2 modulates whole-body postprandial oxidation profile through FGF21.

57

58

59 **1. Introduction**

60 General control non-derepressible 2 (GCN2) is a serine/threonine kinase which was first  
61 identified to play a major role in sensing amino acid deprivation. When the availability of one  
62 or several amino acid decreases, GCN2 phosphorylates the eukaryotic initiation factor 2 $\alpha$   
63 (eIF2 $\alpha$ ) which leads to the blockade of translation initiation and protein synthesis (6).  
64 Simultaneously GCN2/eIF2 $\alpha$  signaling activates a gene expression program mediated by  
65 the translational upregulation of the transcription factor ATF4 (2). GCN2 is also a sensor of  
66 amino acid availability, indeed, GCN2 phosphorylation in the liver is repressed in rats fed a  
67 high-protein diet for 14 days (4).

68 GCN2 is also involved in the control of carbohydrates and lipid metabolism. GCN2-KO mice  
69 have a less efficient neoglucogenesis in the fasting state and are not able to repress  
70 phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (PEPCK) expression in the fed state (19). In response to  
71 a leucine-deficient diet GCN2-KO mice also have an increase in fatty acid synthase  
72 expression in the liver and develop steatosis (10). Moreover, in response to a low protein diet,  
73 GCN2-KO mice are not able to induce the secretion of Fibroblast Growth Factor 21 (FGF21),  
74 involved in the regulation of  $\beta$ -oxidation, ketogenesis, neoglucogenesis and lipogenesis via  
75 ATF4 (5, 12). When fed a normo-protein diet, no difference in term of body composition,  
76 food intake and energy expenditure are observed between WT and GCN2-KO mice whereas  
77 when fed a low-protein diet, some of the features observed in WT mice such as the increase in  
78 food intake and in energy expenditure and the decrease in body weight and lean body mass  
79 are blunted in GCN2-KO mice during the first weeks after the introduction of the diet (13).

80 However, to which extent GCN2, especially hepatic GCN2, is involved in the regulation of  
81 energy metabolism in response to changes in dietary protein intake is not clear at this time. In  
82 order to assess the contribution of hepatic GCN2 on the adaptation to dietary protein level,  
83 wild-type mice and genetically modified mice in which the expression of GCN2 in the liver is

84 deleted, were fed diets differing in their relative protein to carbohydrate content and  
85 parameters related to energy metabolic pathways were examined.

86

87        **2. Materials and methods**

88        *2.1 Animals*

89        The study was approved by the French National Animal Care Committee (number 14-15) and  
90        conformed to the European legislation on the use of laboratory animals.

91        GCN2 knock-out liver specific *C57BL/6* mice were generated by crossing albumin-Cre  
92        transgenic mice with floxed GCN2 mice. The deletion was confirmed by PCR genotyping as  
93        previously described (3).

94        Fifty-two males, 27 wild-type mice (WT) and 25 GCN2-KO (KO) liver specific mice were  
95        produced and housed in the light and temperature-controlled animal facility of AgroParisTech  
96        (12:12 h reversed light/dark cycle, lights on at 21:00, 24 °C). Spawners were fed a 20%  
97        protein (P20) diet throughout the test. Young mice were weaned at 25 days, and fed with a  
98        normo-protein (14%) diet (NP) during three weeks (run-in period) before being switched to  
99        their experimental diet (test period). Diet compositions are detailed in table 1.

100       *2.2 Experimental Design*

101       During an additional three-week period, corresponding to the test period, mice were either  
102       kept on the NP diet (N=18, 9 KO / 9 WT), switched on a low protein (LP) diet (N=18, 9 KO /  
103       9 WT) or switched on a high protein (HP) diet (N=16, 7 KO / 9 WT). Feed intake was  
104       measured daily except on weekends.

105       Each mouse was submitted to 2 meal-tolerance tests during the study. To this purpose they  
106       were fasted overnight, and refed a standardized test-meal (1-gram pellet of their usual diet) in  
107       the morning. The first meal-tolerance test was performed during the second week while the  
108       mice were housed in an indirect calorimeter during which respiratory exchanges and  
109       spontaneous motor activity were continuously recorded at 2 s interval in order to compute the  
110       evolution of glucose and lipid oxidation during the transition from the fasting to the fed state  
111       as previously described (8). At the termination of the study, the meal tolerance test was



112 repeated in order to standardize the energy intake for all mice. Thus, only the macronutrients  
113 composition of the diet could impact the metabolic orientation. Mice were fasted overnight.  
114 At 7:00, 50 $\mu$ L of blood were collected from the tail vein to measure plasma parameters in the  
115 fasting state (see below). At 8:00 the mice were fed with 1-gram pellet of their test-diet and  
116 two hours after the meal they were killed with a pentobarbital injection (50 mg/kg). Blood  
117 was taken from the vena cava (~200 $\mu$ l), collected on EDTA, centrifuged (4°C, 3000rpm,  
118 10min) and plasma was stored at -80°C until analysis.  
119 Afterwards, body composition was analyzed by dissection and weighing of organs and  
120 tissues. Samples of liver, gastrocnemius muscle, epididymal adipose tissue, brown adipose  
121 tissue were placed in TRIzol (Invitrogen) and frozen at -80°C for further measurement of  
122 mRNA abundance. Additional liver samples were frozen to assay glycogen and triglyceride  
123 content.

### 124 *2.3 Glucose and lipid oxidation in response to ingestion of the test-meal*

125 Each mouse was housed individually from 17:00 to 16:00 the next day in an indirect-  
126 calorimeter in which temperature was maintained at 30°C, and oxygen consumption (VO<sub>2</sub>),  
127 carbon dioxide production (VCO<sub>2</sub>) and motor activity (assessed by piezoelectric cells) were  
128 continuously recorded at 2sec interval.

129 After an overnight fast (~17:00 to 09:00 the next day), a 1-gram pellet (16kJ) of their test-diet  
130 was introduced in the calorimetry cage and it was controlled that the food was eaten within  
131 15 min.

132 Glucose (Gox) and lipid (Lox) and protein oxidation (Pox) were computed according to the  
133 Weir formula (8):

$$134 \quad \text{Gox (Watts)} = ((4.57 \cdot \text{VCO}_2) - (3.23 \cdot \text{VO}_2) - (2.87 \cdot \text{N})) \cdot (0.279),$$

$$135 \quad \text{Lox (Watts)} = ((1.69 \cdot \text{VO}_2) - (1.69 \cdot \text{VCO}_2) - (1.92 \cdot \text{N})) \cdot (0.628),$$

136 with  $VO_2$ ,  $VCO_2$  in mL/min and N in mg/min. 0.279 and 0.628 are conversion factor of Gox  
137 and Lox from mg/min to W respectively (8). N was estimated assuming that Pox  
138 ( $Pox=N*6.25$ ) usually contributes to resting metabolic rate in proportion to the protein  
139 content in each diet, i.e. 5%; 14 %, 55% respectively for LP, NP and HP diets. However, it  
140 was taken into account that in response to ingestion of a HP meal, only half of the deaminated  
141 amino acids are oxidized four hours after meal onset (9, 18) and therefore, protein oxidation  
142 was limited to 25% of resting metabolic after ingestion of the HP test-meal. To validate these  
143 calculations and to compare protein oxidation between WT and KO mice, the floor of the  
144 calorimetry cage was covered with blotting paper to collect excreted urea. The blotting paper  
145 was changed when the meal was given to separate collection during the pre- and post-meal  
146 periods. Urea was recovered by soaking the blotting paper into sterile water overnight. Urea  
147 was measured using a kit (Urea kit, Biomérieux) and real protein oxidation calculated  
148 assuming (8):

149 
$$Pox_r \text{ (Watts)} = 6.25 * \text{Excreted urea (mg/min)} * 2 * (15.6/60).$$

#### 150 *2.4 Analytical procedures*

151 Glucose was measured immediately from a drop of blood using automatic analyzer (Life-  
152 scan, One touch Vita). Metabolites profile (Non-esterified fatty acid, urea, cholesterol, HDL  
153 cholesterol,  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate, triglycerides (TG)) was measured using an automated  
154 chemistry analyzer, Olympus AU400. Hepatic TG concentration was assayed on  
155 homogenized samples of liver using a TG assay kit (Randox Triglycerides). Glycogen was  
156 extracted from liver samples using KOH 30%, digested into glucose using amyloglucosidase  
157 (Sigma) and assayed using a glucose assay kit (Randox Gluc). Plasma insulin and FGF21  
158 were assayed using an enzyme linked immunoassay (Mercodia Mouse Insulin/.FGF21 ELISA  
159 kit, Symansis).

160 *2.5 RNA preparation and gene expression measurement*

161 We investigated lipid and carbohydrate metabolism and energy expenditure assessing mRNA  
162 abundance of key genes involved in lipogenesis, lipolysis, glycolysis, neoglucogenesis and  
163 glycogen synthesis in the liver, muscle and white adipose tissue. We also studied the  
164 expression of gene involved in the GCN2/ATF4 pathway specifically in the liver.

165 Total RNA from samples of liver, gastrocnemius muscle, epididymal adipose tissue, brown  
166 adipose tissue, hypothalamus, nucleus accumbens and epithelial cells from ileum and  
167 duodenum, was extracted using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen). RNA concentration was  
168 estimated using a nanodrop spectrophotometer at 260 nm and RNA integrity was confirmed  
169 by electrophoresis on agarose gel. To synthesize cDNA using High Capacity cDNA Archive  
170 Kit (Applied Biosystems, retrotranscription was accomplished on 0.4 µg of RNA. Real Time  
171 PCR was performed to measure gene expression on the Step One (Applied Biosystems) using  
172 Power SYBR GREEN PCR MIX (Applied Biosystems) on 5 ng (2.5 µl) of cDNA. Gene  
173 expression was calculated as  $2^{-\Delta CT}$ , where  $\Delta CT = CT_{Gene} - CT_{18S}$ . Data were expressed as a  
174 percentage of the values of the WT mice fed the NP diet. Negative controls were used to  
175 detect potential contamination (control without Retrotranscriptase or RNA). For each run, a  
176 melt curve was performed to analyze the products generated and controlled for possible contamination  
177 resulting from residual genomic DNA amplification (using control without reverse transcriptase),  
178 and/or from primer-dimer formation (controls with no cDNA template and no reverse transcriptase)  
179 and/or primer specificity. PCR efficiency was determined for each gene using a serial dilution of  
180 reverse transcribed RNA. PCR primers were designed using Primer Express and are available  
181 under request. The sequences of primers used is detailed in supplemental Table S1 (publically  
182 available DOI for Figshare data: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>).

183 *2.6 Statistical analysis*

184 Data are presented as means  $\pm$  SEM. The effect of the diets and genotype was tested by two-  
185 way ANOVA with interaction using R<sup>®</sup>. Pairwise comparisons were performed with Post hoc  
186 Bonferonni tests for multiple comparisons. Differences were considered significant at *P*  
187  $<0.05$ .

188

189 **3. Results**

190 ***3.1 Food intake, body weight, body composition and hepatic triglycerides and glycogen***  
191 ***concentrations.***

192 To investigate how hepatic GCN2 is involved in the regulation of energy metabolism in  
193 response to changes in dietary protein intake, wild-type mice and liver specific GCN2 KO  
194 mice were fed during three weeks with low, normo- and high protein diets. Results showed  
195 that in comparison with the NP diet, food intake was larger with the LP diet and lower with  
196 the HP one (Table 2). Thus, mice fed the LP diet had a food intake 1.3-fold and 1.7-fold  
197 higher than mice fed the NP and HP diet respectively. No difference was observed between  
198 body weights but weights of total fat and in particular of mesenteric, epididymal,  
199 retroperitoneal and subcutaneous fat pads were reduced in HP fed mice compared to LP and  
200 NP fed mice, whereas there was no significant difference between NP et LP fed mice. Hepatic  
201 triglycerides and glycogen contents decreased with the increase in the protein content of the  
202 diet. However, no differences were observed between WT and KO mice on all of these  
203 parameters.

204 ***3.2 Glucose and lipid oxidations in response to ingestion of the test-meal***

205 Basal glucose and lipid oxidation measured in overnight fasted mice was similar in all groups  
206 also indicating that basal metabolic rate (sum of Glucose, lipid and protein oxidation) was  
207 similar in all groups. Meal-induced changes in glucose and lipid oxidation were larger in  
208 response to the LP test-meal and lower in response to the HP one which fitted with the largest  
209 carbohydrate content in the LP meal and the lowest in the HP meal. No difference in glucose  
210 and lipid oxidations were observed between KO and WT mice fed the NP and HP meals  
211 whereas when fed the LP meal, from 0.25 h to 2.5 h after ingestion of the test-meal, KO mice  
212 exhibited a small but significantly larger increase in glucose oxidation and decrease in lipid  
213 oxidation than WT mice (Figure 1). In all groups, since changes in glucose oxidation were

214 quite exactly compensated by similar and opposite changes in lipid oxidation, the  
215 thermogenic response to feeding was not different (data not shown).

216

### 217 **3.3 Plasma metabolites and hormonal concentration**

218 Fasting (but not fed) blood glucose was lower in KO mice compared with WT mice and lower  
219 in LP fed mice compared with HP fed mice (Table 2).

220 Triglycerides, non-esterified fatty acids, total cholesterol and HDL cholesterol as well as  
221 insulin were not affected neither by the protein content of the diet nor by the deletion of  
222 hepatic GCN2 (Supplemental Table S2, publically available DOI for Figshare data:  
223 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>). However, there was a trend to a trend to a  
224 higher insulinemia for HP fed mice diet effect P=0.82).

225 Plasma urea was higher in HP fed mice both in the fasting and fed state in comparison with  
226 both NP and LP fed mice. Interestingly, fasting plasma  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate was higher in LP  
227 fed mice whereas in the fed state it was higher in HP fed ones. No effect of the deletion was  
228 observed on these two parameters (Supplemental Table S2, publically available DOI for  
229 Figshare data: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>).

230 Fasting plasma FGF21 concentration was higher in LP fed mice than in NP and HP fed ones.

231 Ingestion of the test-meal significantly increased plasma FGF21 only in WT mice fed the LP  
232 diet and not in KO mice (Figure 2).

233

234

### 235 **3.4 Gene expression measurement**

236 In liver, but not in muscle (Table 3), as expected, GCN2 mRNA abundance was much  
237 reduced in KO mice. Residual expression is due to the abundance of Kupffer cells, blood cells  
238 in the liver<sup>13</sup>. Expressions of genes involved in lipid metabolism were affected only by the

239 protein content of the diet: mRNA encoding fatty acid synthase (FAS), acetyl-CoA  
240 carboxylase a (ACCa) and Elongation of very long chain fatty acids protein 6 (ELOVL6)  
241 were lower in mice fed the HP diet compared to NP or LP diets and mRNA encoding  
242 diglyceride acyltransferase (DGAT) and glycerol-3- phosphate acyltransferase (GPAT) were  
243 higher in mice fed the LP diet compared to mice fed the NP diet. These changes suggest that  
244 the decrease in protein and the parallel increase in carbohydrates in the diet induced an  
245 increase in hepatic fatty acid synthesis. Moreover, the expression of lipoprotein lipase (LPL)  
246 and low density lipoprotein receptor (LDLr) was higher in mice fed the LP diet suggesting  
247 that these higher expressions could help coping with the higher triglyceride synthesis.

248 Regarding carbohydrate metabolism, mRNA encoding phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase  
249 (PEPCK) was higher in mice fed the HP diet whereas the expression of glucose-6-  
250 phosphatase (G6PC1) was lower in mice fed the LP-test meal. Taken together, these  
251 observations suggest that neoglucogenesis is stimulated when the diet is high in protein and  
252 low in carbohydrate and inhibited when the diet is low in protein and high in carbohydrates.

253 Interestingly, the expressions of ATF4 and target genes, *Ddit3* (encoding CHOP) and *Trib3*  
254 (encoding TRB3), were decreased in KO mice under the LP diet compared to WT mice.  
255 Similarly, liver mRNA encoding *FGF21* was lower in KO mice fed the LP test-meal (Figure  
256 3A).

257 No effect was observed on the expression of gene encoding proteins involved in ketogenesis  
258 (ACAA, HMG lyase), in fatty acid oxidation (CPT1a) and glycolysis (L-PK) (Supplemental  
259 Table S3, publically available DOI for Figshare data:  
260 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>).

261 In brown adipose tissue (Table 3), mRNA expression was affected only by the protein  
262 content of the diet. mRNA encoding for carnitine palmitoyltransferase a (CPT1a), CPT1b and  
263 uncoupling protein 2 (UCP2) were larger in LP fed mice and ACCa was lower in HP fed mice

264 whereas no significant changes were observed for UCP1. In line with these observations, in  
265 white adipose tissue, mRNA expression was also affected only by the protein content of the  
266 diet. LP diet intake was associated with higher levels of mRNA encoding ACCa and FAS  
267 (Table 3). Taken together, these observations suggest a concomitant upregulation of  
268 lipogenesis, fatty acid oxidation and energy expenditure in these two tissues. Interestingly,  
269 UCP3 mRNA was lower in KO mice fed the LP diet compared with WT mice (Figure 3B). In  
270 muscle, *UCP2* mRNA was higher in mice fed the LP diet (Table 3) but no effect of the diet or  
271 the genotype was observed on the expression of other genes (Supplemental Table S3,  
272 publically available DOI for Figshare data: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>).  
273 No effect of genotype or diet was observed on gene encoding proteins involved in the control  
274 of food intake in the hypothalamus, nucleus accumbens, epithelial intestinal cells  
275 (Supplemental Table S3 publically available DOI for Figshare data:  
276 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8187989.v2>).

#### 277 **4. Discussion**

278 The purpose of this study was to get a better understanding of the role played by liver GCN2  
279 in the metabolic adaptations to dietary protein content. To this end, wild-type mice and mice  
280 in liver specific GCN2 KO mice were fed during three weeks with low, normo- and high  
281 protein diets.

282 KO mice exhibited globally lower fasting blood glucose levels and, when fed the LP test-  
283 meal, had a higher increase in glucose oxidation and a higher decrease in lipid oxidation, and  
284 failed to induce FGF21, ATF4, CHOP, TRB3 mRNA as did the WT mice. The consumption  
285 of a low-protein diet was associated an increase in food intake, and an increase in gene  
286 expression involved in lipogenesis, fatty acid oxidation and energy expenditure as reported  
287 previously (12, 1, 15). These processes probably compensated each other mice fed the LP diet



288 did not exhibit significant differences in term of body composition with NP fed mice. On the  
289 contrary, we observed that the HP diet induced a decrease in food intake associated with a  
290 decrease in adiposity which is consistent with the literature (15). Moreover, HP diet intake  
291 induced an increase in ketogenesis in the fed state and potentially an increase in  
292 gluconeogenesis or glyconeogenesis as suggested by the upregulation of PEPCK expression  
293 in the liver.

294 Laeger et al. have reported that general deletion of GCN2 in mice resulted in an inability to  
295 induce FGF21 secretion in response to the intake of a low-protein diet (11). Our results are in  
296 line this observation and suggest the central roles of hepatic GCN2 in the sensing of protein  
297 content and in the expressions of ATF4, CHOP and TRB3 in the liver. These results should be  
298 confirmed by measuring protein changes of GCN2 signaling pathway. In addition, it has been  
299 reported that FGF21 treatment in cardiomyocytes in culture induces the expression of genes  
300 encoding UCP3 (16). In our study, we observed that UCP3 mRNA was increased in white  
301 adipose tissue in WT, but not in KO mice, fed a LP diet. UCP3 is highly expressed in brown  
302 adipose tissue (11) and thus, the increase of its expression in white adipose tissue suggests a  
303 browning of white adipose tissue and could explain the maintenance of a slightly higher rate  
304 of LOX observed in LP fed WT mice.

305 Laeger et al. also reported that the higher food intake observed with LP diets was suppressed  
306 in GCN2-KO and FGF21-KO mice (13), suggesting that FGF21 is responsible for the higher  
307 intake observed with LP diets. In the present study, we observed that WT and KO mice fed  
308 the LP diet had the same food intake but that a LP test-meal induced the secretion of FGF21  
309 only in WT mice. Moreover, no changes in gene expression encoding neuropeptides in the  
310 hypothalamus were observed. This leads us to hypothesize that the increase in feed intake is  
311 not mediated only by the GCN2 signaling pathway in liver but involve another sensing

312 pathway and/or other organs. However, these results should be confirmed by measuring  
313 protein changes of GCN2 signaling pathway.

314 We also observed that, following the meal-tolerance tests, the rates of glucose and lipid  
315 oxidation were the same between wild-type and KO mice after ingestion of a NP or HP test-  
316 meal but that, after ingestion of the LP test-meal, KO mice exhibited larger changes in the  
317 rates of glucose and lipid oxidation. In the context of this study, one possible mechanisms is  
318 that, after ingestion of the NP and HP test-meals, the flow of amino-acids to the liver was  
319 sufficient to prevent the phosphorylation of GCN2. Therefore, the lack of GCN2 in KO mice  
320 did not affect the metabolic fate of glucose and free-fatty acids in comparison with WT mice.  
321 In contrast, in response to the LP test-meal, the reduced flow of amino acids to the liver  
322 would activates the GCN2 pathway in wild-type mice. Since KO mice were not able to  
323 activate this adaptive pathway, we observed in KO mice a defective post-prandial metabolic  
324 fate of dietary carbohydrates and lipids characterized by an exaggerated increased in glucose  
325 oxidation and an exaggerated decrease in lipid oxidation (hyperflexibility). Since WT but not  
326 KO mice exhibited a huge increase in FGF21 secretion after refeeding this response was  
327 probably mediated by FGF21. Accordingly, FGF21 is known to stimulate lipid oxidation (18)  
328 and could therefore explain why post-meal lipid oxidation was less reduced in WT than in KO  
329 mice and according to the Randle's cycle why symmetrically, glucose oxidation less  
330 increased (17).

331 In addition, Xu et al. have reported that in GCN2-KO mice the expression of  
332 phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (PEPCK), the rate-limiting enzyme involved in  
333 gluconeogenesis, is not repressed in the postprandial state compared to wild type mice both at  
334 mRNA and protein level (20). Hepatic neo-synthesized glucose could therefore be oxidized in  
335 peripheral tissues which could partially explain the increase in glucose oxidation. However,  
336 our experiments failed to show any difference in liver PEPCK mRNA between wild-type and

337 GCN2-KO liver specific mice, but that remained to confirmed at the protein level. In this  
338 same study, Xu and al. reported in GCN2-KO mice that blood glucose was lower 24 and 48 h  
339 after fasting and that gluconeogenesis from exogenous pyruvate was less efficient. In line  
340 with these results we observed that, whatever the diet, fasting blood glucose was globally  
341 lower in KO mice compared to WT mice.

342 In conclusion, the consequences of GCN2 deletion depend on the protein content of the diet.  
343 When the dietary protein content is sufficient, The GCN2 pathway remains inactivated, and  
344 silencing of the GCN2 pathway in the liver does not affect substrates handling by the liver. In  
345 contrast, when the dietary protein content is low, GCN2 is activated in the liver of WT mice.  
346 This, in turn, induces FGF21 secretion and leads to adaptive changes in the postprandial  
347 oxidation profile of glucose and free fatty acids a response that is blunted in GNC2 KO mice.  
348

349 **5. Acknowledgments**

350 We thank Morgane Dufay who took care of the animals.

351 This study was funded by the UMR Nutrition Physiology and Ingestive Behavior.

352

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407 **7. Tables**

408 **Table 1:** Macronutrient composition of the HCD. Diets were prepared by the “atelier de  
 409 préparation des aliments”, UPAE, INRA, Jouy en Josas, France. Energy density is computed  
 410 assuming a metabolizable energy of 16.7 kJ/g for carbohydrates and proteins and 37.7 kJ/g for  
 411 fat.  
 412

	<b>P20</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>LP</b>	<b>HP</b>
<b>Weight content (g/kg)</b>				
Milk proteins	200	140	50	530
Starch	570	622	700	287
Sucrose	93	100	113	46
Soy Oil	40	40	40	40
Minerals	35	35	35	35
Vitamins	10	10	10	10
cellulose	50	50	50	50
choline	2	2	2	2
<b>Energy content (%)</b>				
Protein	20.5	14.5	5.2	54.6
Carbohydrate	68.5	75.0	84.0	34.9
Fat	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Energy density (kJ/g)	14.57	14.56	14.54	14.60



413 **Table 2:** Body composition, food intake and fasting glucose of WT and KO mice fed NP, LP or HP diets.

Diet	NP		LP		HP		Genotype	Test diet	Inter
	WT	KO	WT	KO	WT	KO			
Cumulative food intake (g)	68.26 ± 3.16	70.93 ± 2.83 <sup>A</sup>	93.64 ± 2.74	88.45 ± 3.16 <sup>B</sup>	54.26 ± 2.58	52.37 ± 3.80 <sup>C</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Initial Weight (g)	21.83 ± 0.28	21.76 ± 0.58	21.87 ± 0.43	21.36 ± 0.54	22.21 ± 0.48	21.44 ± 0.49	NS	NS	NS
Final Weight (g)	23.17 ± 0.48	23.54 ± 0.55	22.07 ± 0.44	21.6 ± 0.61	22.51 ± 0.89	22.56 ± 0.79	NS	NS	NS
Fat mass (g)	1.91 ± 0.11	1.98 ± 0.16 <sup>A</sup>	2.16 ± 0.16	1.97 ± 0.18 <sup>A</sup>	1.1 ± 0.13	1.2 ± 0.14 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Epididymal adipose tissue (g)	0.45 ± 0.03	0.47 ± 0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.47 ± 0.04	0.44 ± 0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.27 ± 0.04	0.29 ± 0.03 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Retroperitoneal adipose tissue (g)	0.14 ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.02 <sup>A</sup>	0.2 ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.02 <sup>A</sup>	0.07 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.01 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Mesenteric adipose tissue (g)	0.19 ± 0.01	0.21 ± 0.02 <sup>A</sup>	0.2 ± 0.02	0.18 ± 0.03 <sup>A</sup>	0.12 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.01 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Subcutaneous adipose tissue (g)	1.04 ± 0.06	1.05 ± 0.08 <sup>A</sup>	1.18 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.09 <sup>A</sup>	0.58 ± 0.08	0.62 ± 0.09 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Hepatic triglycerides	44.3 ± 6.94	43.42 ± 7.86 <sup>A</sup>	52.57 ± 7	56.98 ± 7.21 <sup>A</sup>	18.58 ± 2.68	26.25 ± 8.15 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Hepatic glycogen	29.44 ± 2.5	34.3 ± 2.61 <sup>A</sup>	38.96 ± 3.47	40.93 ± 3.55 <sup>B</sup>	25.12 ± 4.34	20.97 ± 2.99 <sup>C</sup>	NS	<0.001	NS
Fasting glucose	112.25 ± 14.9	91.78 ± 10.04	84 ± 13.2	62.78 ± 7.21	122.57 ± 17.86	96.83 ± 18.27	<0.05	<0.05	NS

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415 <sup>A,B,C</sup> Different letters within a line mean statistically different values between diets (post hoc Bonferonni tests for multiple comparisons, P<0.05).

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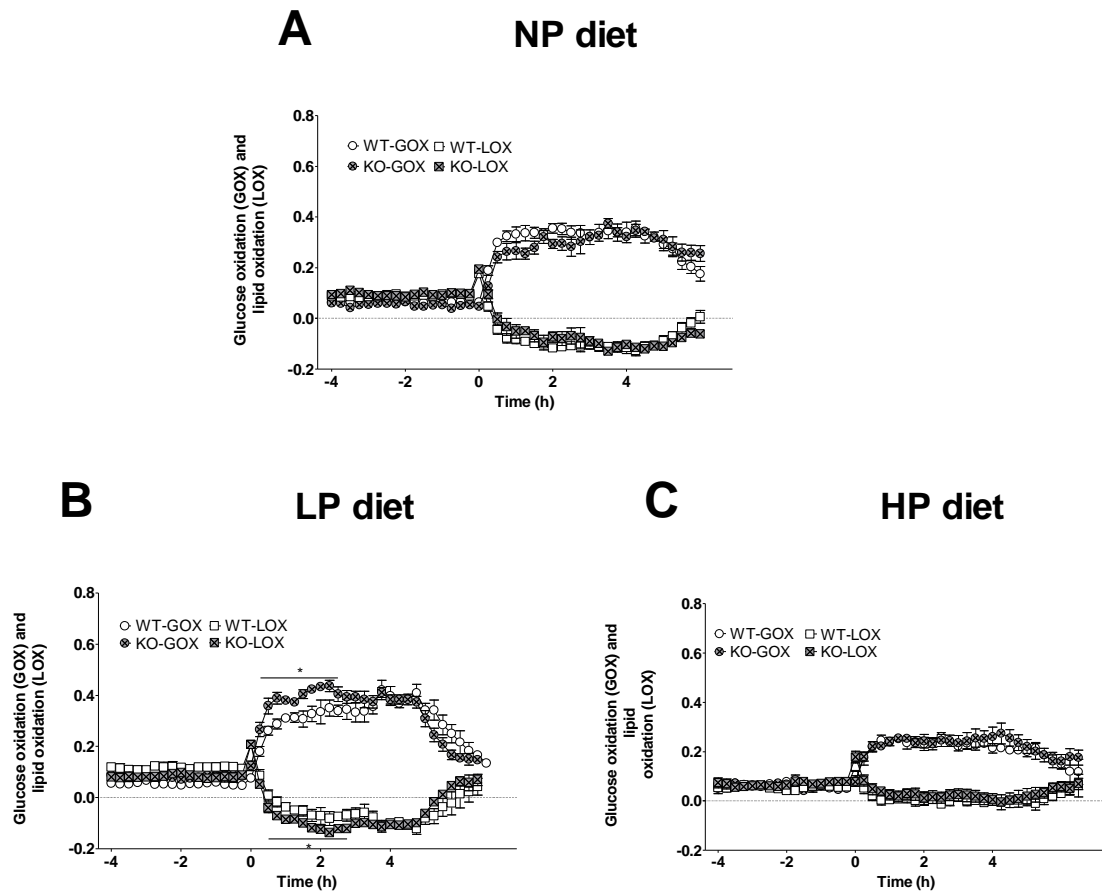
419 **Table 3.** mRNA abundance in liver, brown adipose tissue (BAT), white adipose tissue (WAT), muscle of WT and KO mice fed LP, NP or HP  
 420 diets two hours after meal onset.

Diet	NP		LP		HP		Genotype	Test diet	Interaction	
	WT	KO	WT	KO	WT	KO				
Liver	GCN2	1 ± 0.23	0.16 ± 0.02	0.84 ± 0.09	0.25 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.14	0.20 ± 0.04	<0.0001	NS	NS
	CHOP	1 ± 0.16	0.90 ± 0.08	<sup>A</sup> 7.28 ± 2.11	1.33 ± 0.29* <sup>B</sup>	1.27 ± 0.21	1.69 ± 0.28	<sup>A</sup> <0.01	<0.01	<0.01
	TRB3	1 ± 0.10	0.96 ± 0.17	<sup>A</sup> 35.1 ± 12.4	2.23 ± 0.88* <sup>B</sup>	1.20 ± 0.42	2.80 ± 1.19	<sup>A</sup> <0.01	<0.01	<0.01
	ATF4	1 ± 0.18	0.98 ± 0.08	2.15 ± 0.43	1.09 ± 0.15* <sup>B</sup>	1.25 ± 0.46	1.17 ± 0.14	0.08	0.07	NS
	FAS	1 ± 0.27	1 ± 0.27	<sup>A</sup> 0.61 ± 0.05	0.65 ± 0.14 <sup>AB</sup>	0.48 ± 0.11	0.48 ± 0.08	<sup>B</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
	ACCa	1 ± 0.15	0.82 ± 0.13	<sup>AB</sup> 0.96 ± 0.11	0.97 ± 0.07 <sup>A</sup>	0.66 ± 0.12	0.71 ± 0.08	<sup>B</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
	Elov16	1 ± 0.2	0.86 ± 0.12	<sup>AB</sup> 1.01 ± 0.15	1.2 ± 0.17 <sup>A</sup>	0.66 ± 0.16	0.5 ± 0.08	<sup>B</sup> NS	<0.01	NS
	DGAT	1 ± 0.12	1.11 ± 0.18	<sup>A</sup> 1.4 ± 0.31	1.78 ± 0.19 <sup>B</sup>	1.26 ± 0.25	1.31 ± 0.16	<sup>AB</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
	GPAT	1 ± 0.12	0.65 ± 0.04	<sup>A</sup> 1.35 ± 0.21	1.62 ± 0.21 <sup>B</sup>	0.64 ± 0.07	0.97 ± 0.17	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.0001	<0.05
	LPL	1 ± 0.15	2.12 ± 0.9	<sup>A</sup> 5 ± 1.87	4.8 ± 1.62 <sup>B</sup>	1.21 ± 0.22	1.52 ± 0.21	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
	LDLr	1 ± 0.18	0.75 ± 0.11	<sup>A</sup> 1.31 ± 0.17	1.55 ± 0.21 <sup>B</sup>	0.69 ± 0.1	0.83 ± 0.18	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.001	NS
	PEPCK	1 ± 0.44	0.86 ± 0.21	<sup>A</sup> 1.07 ± 0.36	1.1 ± 0.31 <sup>AB</sup>	1.88 ± 0.54	1.77 ± 0.31	<sup>B</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
G6PC1	1 ± 0.18	1.05 ± 0.28	<sup>A</sup> 0.28 ± 0.06	0.62 ± 0.12 <sup>B</sup>	0.91 ± 0.21	0.92 ± 0.15	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.01	NS	
BAT	ACCa	1 ± 0.14	0.94 ± 0.21	<sup>A</sup> 1.25 ± 0.17	1.02 ± 0.16 <sup>A</sup>	0.52 ± 0.07	0.49 ± 0.09	<sup>B</sup> NS	<0.001	NS
	CPT1a	1 ± 0.35	0.8 ± 0.09	<sup>A</sup> 1.86 ± 0.35	1.55 ± 0.3 <sup>B</sup>	0.82 ± 0.15	1.06 ± 0.26	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.01	NS
	CPT1b	1 ± 0.13	1.4 ± 0.25	<sup>A</sup> 2.09 ± 0.31	1.44 ± 0.11 <sup>B</sup>	1.45 ± 0.18	1.62 ± 0.19	<sup>AB</sup> NS	<0.05	NS
	UCP2	1 ± 0.14	0.59 ± 0.11	<sup>A</sup> 1.57 ± 0.26	1.63 ± 0.17 <sup>B</sup>	0.68 ± 0.09	0.92 ± 0.23	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.0001	NS
	UCP1	1 ± 1.16	1.00 ± 0.48	1.35 ± 0.75	0.79 ± 0.35	1.08 ± 0.46	1.38 ± 1.12	NS	NS	NS
WAT	ACCa	1 ± 0.12	1.13 ± 0.19	<sup>A</sup> 1.94 ± 0.21	1.67 ± 0.19 <sup>B</sup>	0.78 ± 0.15	1.49 ± 0.61	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.0001	NS
	FAS	1 ± 0.21	1.24 ± 0.17	<sup>A</sup> 3.05 ± 0.69	2 ± 0.41 <sup>B</sup>	0.85 ± 0.33	2.7 ± 1.87	<sup>A</sup> NS	<0.01	NS
Muscle	GCN2	1 ± 0.26	1.11 ± 0.17	1.08 ± 0.20	0.96 ± 0.18	0.98 ± 0.12	1.21 ± 0.19	NS	NS	NS
	UCP2	1 ± 0.20	1.68 ± 0.50	<sup>A</sup> 1.86 ± 0.38	2.01 ± 0.22 <sup>B</sup>	1.14 ± 0.08	1.84 ± 0.54	<sup>AB</sup> NS	<0.001	NS

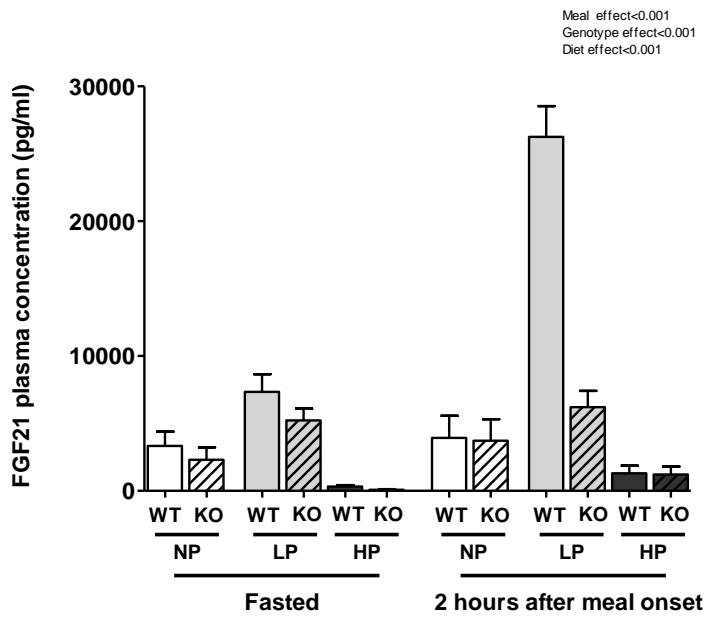
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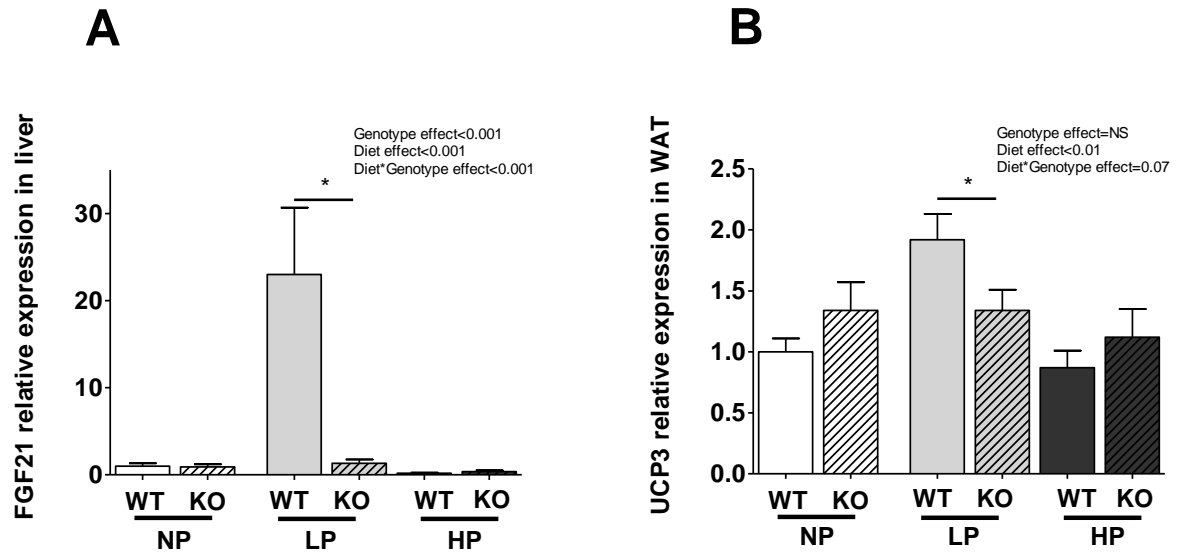
<sup>A,B,C</sup> Different letters within a line mean statistically different values between diets (post hoc Bonferonni tests for multiple comparisons, P<0.05).



**Fig. 1: Meal-induced changes in glucose and lipid oxidation following the ingestion of a test-meal.** (A) Glucose and lipid oxidation in WT and KO mice fed the NP diet. (B) Glucose and lipid oxidation in WT and KO mice fed the LP diet. (C) Glucose and lipid oxidation in WT and KO mice fed the HP diet. Fasted mice were fed at 9:00 (T=0) with 1 g of their respective maintenance diet. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM (n =6-8). \*, P < 0.05 between WT and KO mice



**Fig. 2: FGF21 concentration.** Modulation of FGF21 protein abundance in the plasma in the fasting state and two hours after meal onset. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM (n =7-9). \*, P < 0.05 between WT and KO mice.



**Fig. 3: FGF21 and UCP3 gene expressions.** (A) Modulation of FGF21 mRNA abundance in the liver of mice two hours after meal onset. (B) Modulation of UCP3 mRNA abundance in the white adipose tissue (WAT) of mice two hours after meal onset. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM (n =7-9). \*,  $P < 0.05$  between WT and KO mice.

**Supplemental Table S1:** Primer sequences used for liver, muscle, adipose tissues, hypothalamus, nucleus accumbens, epithelial intestinal mRNA analysis.

PROTEINE	GENES	FULL-LENGTH NAME	FORWARD PRIMER (5' TO 3')	REVERSE PRIMER (3' TO 5')
-	<i>18S</i>	ribosomal RNA	ACGGAAGGGCACCACCAGGAG	GCACCACCACCCACGAAAC
<b>ACCa</b>	<i>Acaca</i>	acetyl-CoA carboxylase a	TGGTGCAGAGGTACCGAAGTG	CGTAGTGGCCGTTCTGAAACT
<b>ACCb</b>	<i>Acacb</i>	acetyl-CoA carboxylase b	GGGCTCCCTGGATGACAAC	GCTCTTCCGGGAGGAGTTCT
<b>AGRP</b>	<i>Agrp</i>	agouti related neuropeptide	GTTCCCAGAGTTCACAGGTCTAA	GTGTCTCAGGTCTGCAGTTA
<b>ATF4</b>	<i>Atf4</i>	Activating transcription factor 4	TCGATGCTCTGTTTCGAATG	AGAATGTAAAGG
<b>CART</b>	<i>Cartp</i>	cocaine- and amphetamine-regulated transcript	CCGAGCCCTGGACATCTACTC	AAATACTGACCAGCTCCTTCT
<b>CB1</b>	<i>Cbl</i>	cannabinoid receptor 1	GCTGGTATCAAATGCCAAGGAA	GTTCTCATCTGGTAGTTGGGC
<b>CD36</b>	<i>Cd36</i>	cluster of differentiation 36	CATGATTAATGGCACAGATGCA	GCAAAATGTCAGAGGAAAAGA
<b>CRH</b>	<i>Crh</i>	corticotropin releasing hormone	CAACCTCAGCCGTTCTGA	CCCCAGGCGGAGGAAGTA
<b>CHOP</b>	<i>Ddit3</i>	DNA damage inducible transcript 3	CTTGACCCTGCATCCCTAGCT	AGGGCTTTGGGA
<b>CPT1a</b>	<i>Cpt1a</i>	carnitine palmitoyl transferase 1a	TCTCTGGATGCGGTAGAAAAGG	CTCTATATCCCTGTTCCGATT
<b>CPT1b</b>	<i>Cpt1b</i>	carnitine palmitoyl transferase 1b	CAGCCATGCCACCAAGATC	CTTGGGCAGTGATGTTTGGGA
<b>DGAT</b>	<i>Dgat1</i>	diacylglycerol O-acyltransferase 1	ACTCCAGTGGGTTCCGTGTTT	GCGGCACCACAGGTTGAC
<b>DOR</b>	<i>Oprd1</i>	opioid receptor, delta 1	CGTGCTCGTCATGTTTGAA	AAGGCCAGATTGAAGATGTA
<b>DR2</b>	<i>Drd2</i>	opioid receptor, delta 2	CCATCAGCATTGACAGGTACACA	CAGTAACTCGGCGCTTGGGA
<b>DR3</b>	<i>Drd3</i>	opioid receptor, delta 3	GCTTCCCTCAGCAGTCTTCTT'	CCCTTATTGAAAACCTGCCGAA
<b>ELOVL6</b>	<i>Elovl6</i>	family member 6, elongation of long chain fatty	CGTAGCGACTCCGAAGATCAG	ACAGCGGAGAA
<b>FAS</b>	<i>Fasn</i>	fatty acid synthase	TGCTCCCAGCTGCAGGC	GCCCCGGTAGCTCTGGGTGTA
<b>FGF21</b>	<i>Fgf21</i>	fibroblast growth factor 21	CAGGGAGGATGGAACAGTGGTA	GCTGTTGGCAAAGAAACCTA
<b>G6PC1</b>	<i>G6pc</i>	glucose-6-Phosphatase, Catalytic	GTGCAGCTGAACGTCTGTCTGTG	TCCGGAGGCTGGC
<b>GCN2</b>	<i>Eif2ak4</i>	Eukaryotic initiation factor 2 alpha kinase 4	AAAAAGCTACTGCTGTGCTGGTAA	TAGTGCAGTGTGTTTCCCCA
<b>GLUT1</b>	<i>Slc2a1</i>	solute carrier family 2 member 1	GCCCCCAGAAGGTTATTGA	CGTGGTGAGTGTGGTGGGA
<b>GLP1</b>	<i>Gcg</i>	glucagon-	GCCCAGGAAGGCGAGACT	GGCCGAGTTCCTCAGCAAT
<b>GPAT</b>	<i>GPAT</i>	glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase	CAACACCATCCCCGACATC	GTGACCTTCGATTATGCGAT
<b>HK2</b>	<i>Hk2</i>	hexokinase 2	AACCGAACAAGCTGGTGTAC	TGCACACATCTATAGGTGGC
<b>HSL</b>	<i>Lipe</i>	hormone-sensitive lipase	CCTACATGGCTCAACTCC	CGTTCTTGACTATGGGTGA
<b>HMG lyase</b>	<i>Hmgcl</i>	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A lyase	CTGCTCTATAGAGGAGAGTTTC	TGGCAGTGGACAGCCAATGC
<b>ACAA</b>	<i>Acaa</i>	Acetyl-Coenzyme A acyltransferase	TCACGGCAGAAGCAGGATGC	TGCTCCATCACTCACCTGACT

<b>KOR</b>	<i>Oprk1</i>	opioid receptor, kappa 1	TGTGGTATTTGTGGTGGGCTTA	TCTTCGTGTATCGGATGATGA
<b>LDLr</b>	<i>Ldlr</i>	low density lipoproteine receptor	GCTCCATAGGCTATCTGCTCTTCA	GCGGTCCAGGGTCATCTTC
<b>LPL</b>	<i>Lpl</i>	lipoprotein lipase	TGAAAGTGGGTTTTCTGAGTAT	GGTTAGCCACCGTTTAATATT
<b>MC4R</b>	<i>Mc4r</i>	melanocortin 4 receptor	CCGAACCCAGAAGAGACCAA	CTAGGAGCAGGGTCAGAAGC
<b>NPY</b>	<i>Npy</i>	neuropeptide Y	GGGAGCCTGAGAAACGGC	CCTGGTGGTGGCATGCAT
<b>Y2R</b>	<i>Npy2r</i>	neuropeptide Y receptor Y2	CCGCTCCTGCTTCTGACTC	ACCCAAAGCAGGTCCGATT
<b>Y5R</b>	<i>Npy5r</i>	neuropeptide Y receptor Y5	AACCTTTGGCTCAGCATTGC	CAGAGGGCCATGACTCAACA
<b>PEPCK</b>	<i>Pck1</i>	phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase	GGAAAGTTGAATGTGTGGGTGAT	TTCTGGGTTGATGGCCCTTA
<b>LPK</b>	<i>Pklr</i>	l-Pyruvate kinase	AACCATGAAGGCGTGAAGAAGT	TGGGATCTCAATGCCAAGGT
<b>MOR</b>	<i>Oprm1</i>	opioid receptor, mu 1	CACGGCTAATACAGTGGATCGA	GGGCAATGGAGCAGTTTCTG
<b>POMC</b>	<i>Pomc</i>	proopiomelanocortin	AGGCCTTTCCCCTAGAGTTCAA	GTCGGCCTTCTCGGTATCC
<b>PYY</b>	<i>Pyy</i>	peptide YY	CGGCAGCGGTATGGAAAA	TGTGAAGAGCAGTTTGGAGA
<b>SIRT1</b>	<i>Sirt1</i>	sirtuin 1	TCACACGCCAGCTCTAGTGACT	CCAATCATGAGATGTTGCTGA
<b>TRB3</b>	<i>Trib3</i>	Tribbles homolog 3	TACCTCCCGCCTCAGACTTG	TTGCCTTGCTCTCGTTCCA
<b>UCP1</b>	<i>Ucp1</i>	mitochondrial uncoupling protein 1	CGTACCAAGCTGTGCGATGT	GACCCGAGTCGCAGAAAAGA
<b>UCP2</b>	<i>Ucp2</i>	mitochondrial uncoupling protein 2	TGAAAGCCAACCTCATGACAGA	CAATGACGGTGGTGCAGAAG
<b>UCP3</b>	<i>Ucp3</i>	mitochondrial uncoupling protein 3	CTGGGAGCTTGAACGTGAT	AAACGGAGATTCCCAGTA

**Supplemental Table S2:** Plasma Metabolite profile of WT and KO mice fed LP, NP or HP diets before or two hours after meal onset.

Diet		NP		LP		HP		Genotype	Test diet	Interaction
Genotype		WT	KO	WT	KO	WT	KO			
Plasma Urea (mmol/l)	Fasted	17 ± 2.21	15.21 ± 2.6 <sup>A</sup>	19.78 ± 2.62	13.89 ± 1.74	30.06 ± 4.62 <sup>A</sup>	27.71 ± 4.18 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.0001	NS
	2h	30 ± 3.76	34.18 ± 3.88 <sup>A</sup>	31.31 ± 3.52	22.08 ± 3.53	54.91 ± 6.13 <sup>A</sup>	58.79 ± 9.53 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.0001	NS
Plasma NEFA (mmol/l)	Fasted	1.77 ± 0.27	1.92 ± 0.54	2.31 ± 0.44	3.29 ± 0.59	1.73 ± 0.23	1.95 ± 0.32	NS	NS	NS
	2h	0.77 ± 0.18	0.75 ± 0.29	0.6 ± 0.12	0.6 ± 0.19	0.48 ± 0.1	0.44 ± 0.16	NS	NS	NS
Plasma Chol (mmol/l)	Fasted	5.49 ± 0.84	4.84 ± 1.06	5.46 ± 1.13	4.5 ± 0.72	6.16 ± 0.75	5.47 ± 1.21	NS	NS	NS
	2h	4.98 ± 1.02	5.28 ± 0.87	4.38 ± 0.63	4.18 ± 0.83	4.06 ± 0.58	3.88 ± 0.77	NS	NS	NS
Plasma Trig (mmol/l)	Fasted	2.43 ± 0.37	1.91 ± 0.48	2.6 ± 0.42	2.52 ± 0.35	1.9 ± 0.2	2 ± 0.43	NS	NS	NS
	2h	1.74 ± 0.29	2.02 ± 0.32	2.11 ± 0.2	2.12 ± 0.33	1.63 ± 0.23	1.89 ± 0.38	NS	NS	NS
Plasma HDL (mmol/l)	Fasted	4.13 ± 0.6	3.54 ± 0.76	3.82 ± 0.65	3.17 ± 0.53	4.6 ± 0.55	4.08 ± 0.87	NS	NS	NS
	2h	3.76 ± 0.77	4.3 ± 0.69	3.28 ± 0.46	3.1 ± 0.58	3.19 ± 0.41	3.04 ± 0.66	NS	NS	NS
Plasma β-hydroxybutrate (mmol/l)	Fasted	1.1 ± 0.14	1.07 ± 0.3 <sup>AB</sup>	1.94 ± 0.54	1.89 ± 0.46	0.89 ± 0.16 <sup>A</sup>	0.83 ± 0.17 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.01	NS
	2h	0.22 ± 0.05	0.33 ± 0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.33 ± 0.05	0.30 ± 0.08	0.51 ± 0.07 <sup>A</sup>	0.52 ± 0.09 <sup>B</sup>	NS	<0.01	NS
Plasma insulin	Fasted	0.19 ± 0.05	0.22 ± 0.07	0.39 ± 0.23	0.33 ± 0.05	0.19 ± 0.04	0.23 ± 0.07	NS	NS	NS
	2h	1.51 ± 0.36	1.9 ± 0.52	0.94 ± 0.23	1.44 ± 0.45	2.58 ± 0.88	2.64 ± 0.8	NS	NS	NS

<sup>A,B,C</sup> Different letters within a line mean statistically different values between diets (post hoc Bonferonni tests for multiple comparisons, P<0.05).



**Supplemental Table S3:** mRNA abundance in liver, muscle, white adipose tissue (WAT), brown adipose tissue (BAT), hypothalamus, nucleus accumbens (NACC), ileum, duodenum, jejunum of WT and KO mice fed LP, NP or HP diets two hours after meal onset

Diet		NP		LP		HP		Genotype	Test diet	Interaction
Genotype		WT	KO	WT	KO	WT	KO			
Liver	Cpt1a	1 ± 0.28	2.42 ± 1.55	1.06 ± 0.24	1.06 ± 0.21	1.25 ± 0.34	0.69 ± 0.22	NS	NS	NS
	ACAA	1 ± 0.18	0.93 ± 0.16	0.95 ± 0.19	1.1 ± 0.11	0.64 ± 0.16	0.9 ± 0.09	NS	NS	NS
	HMG lyase	1 ± 0.2	0.97 ± 0.13	1.34 ± 0.13	1.34 ± 0.22	0.7 ± 0.13	1.13 ± 0.2	NS	NS	NS
	LPK	1 ± 0.17	0.95 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.08	0.63 ± 0.12	0.74 ± 0.27	0.47 ± 0.05	NS	<0.05	NS
Muscle	ACCb	1 ± 0.2	1.17 ± 0.26	0.95 ± 0.17	1.11 ± 0.11	1.04 ± 0.13	1.28 ± 0.3	NS	NS	NS
	CD36	1 ± 0.39	1.19 ± 0.24	1.06 ± 0.23	1.06 ± 0.09	1.07 ± 0.14	1.24 ± 0.27	NS	NS	NS
	CPT1b	1 ± 0.16	1.57 ± 0.34	1.12 ± 0.28	1.04 ± 0.1	1.28 ± 0.17	1.32 ± 0.36	NS	NS	NS
	FAS	1 ± 0.31	0.72 ± 0.17	0.81 ± 0.23	0.95 ± 0.2	0.61 ± 0.07	0.94 ± 0.18	NS	NS	NS
	HK2	1 ± 0.22	1.22 ± 0.27	0.92 ± 0.19	0.91 ± 0.1	0.99 ± 0.14	0.94 ± 0.14	NS	NS	NS
	LDLr	1 ± 0.28	1.2 ± 0.28	1.11 ± 0.32	0.93 ± 0.15	1.1 ± 0.23	1.02 ± 0.18	NS	NS	NS
	UCP3	1 ± 0.21	1.61 ± 0.27	1.34 ± 0.33	1.64 ± 0.13	1.2 ± 0.17	1.5 ± 0.54	NS	NS	NS
WAT	GPAT	1 ± 0.23	0.88 ± 0.19	1.14 ± 0.21	1.22 ± 0.29	1.21 ± 0.24	1.27 ± 0.27	NS	NS	NS
	CD36	1 ± 0.27	0.83 ± 0.1	1.09 ± 0.09	0.9 ± 0.13	0.71 ± 0.12	0.7 ± 0.12	NS	NS	NS
	HSL	1 ± 0.24	1.02 ± 0.26	1.88 ± 0.43	1.31 ± 0.44	0.98 ± 0.32	0.99 ± 0.4	NS	NS	NS
	Sirt1	1 ± 0.18	0.97 ± 0.08	1.24 ± 0.17	0.89 ± 0.1	1.11 ± 0.17	0.92 ± 0.2	NS	NS	NS
	UCP2	1 ± 0.23	1.11 ± 0.23	1.36 ± 0.23	1.26 ± 0.29	0.96 ± 0.18	1 ± 0.29	NS	NS	NS
	GPAT	1 ± 0.23	0.88 ± 0.19	1.14 ± 0.21	1.22 ± 0.29	1.21 ± 0.24	1.27 ± 0.27	NS	NS	NS
BAT	ACCb	1 ± 0.15	1 ± 0.14	1.29 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.23	0.81 ± 0.19	0.89 ± 0.15	NS	NS	NS
	GLUT1	1 ± 0.09	1.64 ± 0.28	1.8 ± 0.27	1.45 ± 0.19	1.64 ± 0.2	1.64 ± 0.2	NS	NS	NS
	HSL	1 ± 0.16	1.01 ± 0.19	1.25 ± 0.24	1.35 ± 0.14	1.35 ± 0.15	0.83 ± 0.12	NS	NS	NS
	UCP1	1 ± 0.44	1 ± 0.19	1.35 ± 0.27	0.79 ± 0.13	1.08 ± 0.21	1.38 ± 0.46	NS	NS	NS
	UCP3	1 ± 0.38	1.13 ± 0.16	1.77 ± 0.35	1.63 ± 0.32	1.46 ± 0.19	1.26 ± 0.19	NS	NS	NS
	ACCb	1 ± 0.15	1 ± 0.14	1.29 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.23	0.81 ± 0.19	0.89 ± 0.15	NS	NS	NS

Hypothalamus	CRH	1 ± 0.26	0.84 ± 0.07	1.24 ± 0.4	1.31 ± 0.17	1.14 ± 0.23	1.55 ± 0.15	NS	NS	NS
	MC4R	1 ± 0.21	0.87 ± 0.1	1.36 ± 0.33	1.11 ± 0.17	1.11 ± 0.1	1.06 ± 0.2	NS	NS	NS
	NPY	1 ± 0.16	1.01 ± 0.13	0.97 ± 0.11	0.92 ± 0.11	1.14 ± 0.16	1.07 ± 0.26	NS	NS	NS
	POMC	1 ± 0.23	1.07 ± 0.17	0.88 ± 0.11	1.09 ± 0.15	1.16 ± 0.31	1.38 ± 0.21	NS	NS	NS
	AGRP	1 ± 0.15	1.31 ± 0.3	1.06 ± 0.14	1.1 ± 0.36	1.3 ± 0.15	1.4 ± 0.3	NS	NS	NS
	CART	1 ± 0.43	0.77 ± 0.1	1.51 ± 0.53	0.85 ± 0.14	0.96 ± 0.15	0.96 ± 0.12	NS	NS	NS
	Y5R	1 ± 0.06	0.9 ± 0.11	0.94 ± 0.15	0.77 ± 0.09	0.86 ± 0.11	0.79 ± 0.14	NS	NS	NS
	MOR	1 ± 0.12	0.98 ± 0.11	1.04 ± 0.27	0.88 ± 0.29	1.70 ± 0.16	1.14 ± 0.23	NS	NS	NS
NACC	Y2R	1 ± 0.13	0.66 ± 0.15	0.87 ± 0.14	0.87 ± 0.16	0.71 ± 0.12	1.03 ± 0.21	NS	NS	NS
	DR2	1 ± 0.17	0.96 ± 0.15	1.21 ± 0.18	0.83 ± 0.18	1.02 ± 0.08	0.88 ± 0.21	NS	NS	NS
	DR3	1 ± 0.18	0.97 ± 0.17	1.15 ± 0.18	0.76 ± 0.17	1.13 ± 0.13	0.83 ± 0.18	NS	NS	NS
	CB1	1 ± 0.09	1.05 ± 0.14	1.08 ± 0.14	0.82 ± 0.09	1.07 ± 0.12	0.87 ± 0.13	NS	NS	NS
	DOR	1 ± 0.12	1.25 ± 0.26	1.2 ± 0.19	0.84 ± 0.1	0.92 ± 0.08	0.85 ± 0.14	NS	NS	NS
	KOR	1 ± 0.18	1.49 ± 0.33	1.16 ± 0.17	0.75 ± 0.12	1.1 ± 0.13	1.01 ± 0.15	NS	NS	NS
Ileum	MOR	1 ± 0.19	1.29 ± 0.26	1.33 ± 0.25	0.98 ± 0.19	1.19 ± 0.15	1.22 ± 0.1	NS	NS	NS
	PYY	1 ± 0.13	0.71 ± 0.05	0.93 ± 0.14	0.75 ± 0.07	1.09 ± 0.19	1.43 ± 0.34	NS	NS	NS
Jejunum	GLP1	1 ± 0.13	0.93 ± 0.06	1.14 ± 0.29	0.81 ± 0.13	0.95 ± 0.14	1.16 ± 0.15	NS	NS	NS
	PYY	1 ± 0.15	1.44 ± 0.19	1.38 ± 0.3	1.36 ± 0.22	1.3 ± 0.18	1.42 ± 0.3	NS	NS	NS
	GLP1	1 ± 0.14	0.78 ± 0.11	0.95 ± 0.15	0.89 ± 0.11	0.81 ± 0.1	0.74 ± 0.13	NS	NS	NS