



**LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE**  
FOR FARM ANIMAL BIOLOGY

# Nutrient signalling receptors for free fatty acids and hydroxycarboxylic acids in farm animals

**Manfred Mielenz**



**66<sup>th</sup> EAAP ANNUAL MEETING – Warsaw, Poland 2015**



**LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE**  
FOR FARM ANIMAL BIOLOGY

Warsaw 31<sup>st</sup> of August to 4<sup>th</sup> of September

# Definition of “nutrient sensing”

1

- **Ability to recognize and respond to macronutrients linked to:  
energy metabolism and biomass production**

- Carbohydrates
- Fatty acids
- Amino acids
- Beta-hydroxybutyric acid (BHBA) and lactate

# Definition of “nutrient sensing”

1

- Ability to recognize and respond to macronutrients linked to:  
energy metabolism and biomass production
- Direct impact on metabolism by their function as substrates
- Effects based on receptor binding
  - Nuclear receptor binding
  - Membrane receptor binding

# Scope and significance of the topic

1

- **Nutrient scarcity: selection of effective mechanisms in nutrient sensing**  
Efeyan et al., 2015, Nature
- **Difficulties to find an area of cell biology in which lipids do not have important or key roles as signalling and regulatory molecules**  
Hannun & Obeid, 2008, Nature Reviews Mol Cell Biol
- **Relatively less knowledge on direct nutrient sensing-mechanisms**  
Efeyan et al., 2015, Nature

# Scope and significance of the topic

1

- **Fatty acids besides their role in energy metabolism act as important signalling molecules e.g. during fasting**

de Lange et al., 2007, FASEB J, modified

**Direct Regulatory Effect of Ketones  
on Lipolysis and on Glucose  
Concentrations in Man**

Senior & Lordan

**controlling lipolysis**

Volume 21, number 2

FEBS LETTERS

March 1972

**EFFECTS OF VOLATILE FATTY ACIDS, KETONE BODIES, GLUCOSE, AND  
INSULIN ON LIPOLYSIS IN BOVINE ADIPOSE TISSUE**

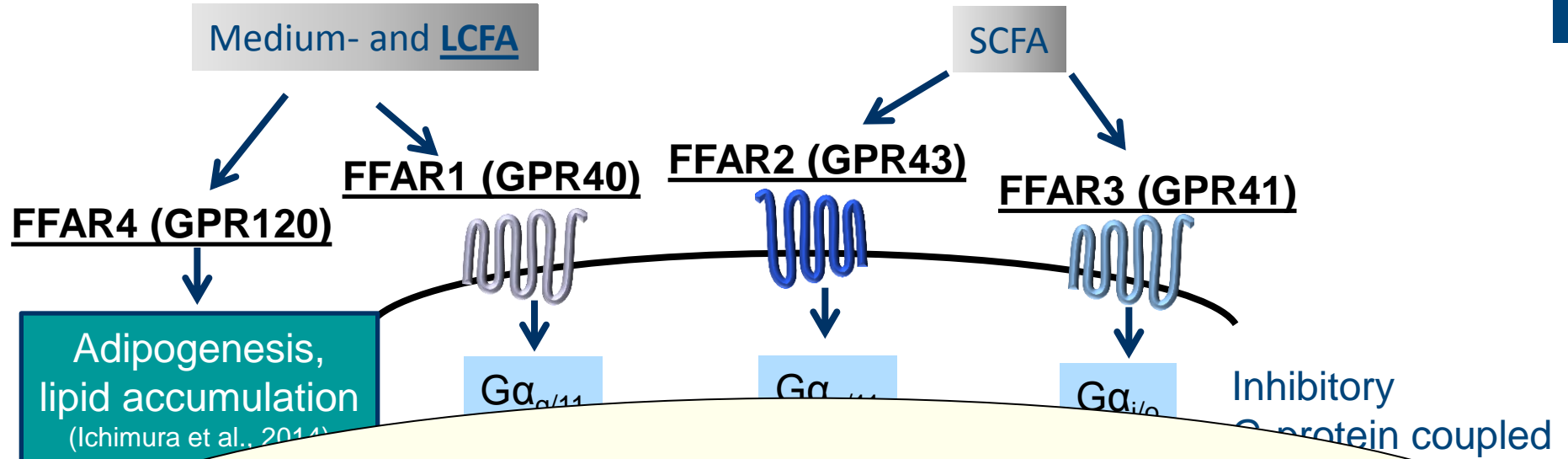
Stef H.M. METZ and Simon G. VAN DEN BERGH

*Laboratory of Veterinary Biochemistry, State University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands*

## Ligands:

- Medium-chain fatty acids
- Long-chain fatty acids (**LCFA**)
- Short-chain fatty acids (**SCFA**)

# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors



Link to the innate immune system (Brown et al., 2003)

e.g. FFAR4 but not FFAR1 on human eosinophil granulocytes (Konno et al., 2015)



# Intestinal effects of FFAR2 and FFAR3 activation

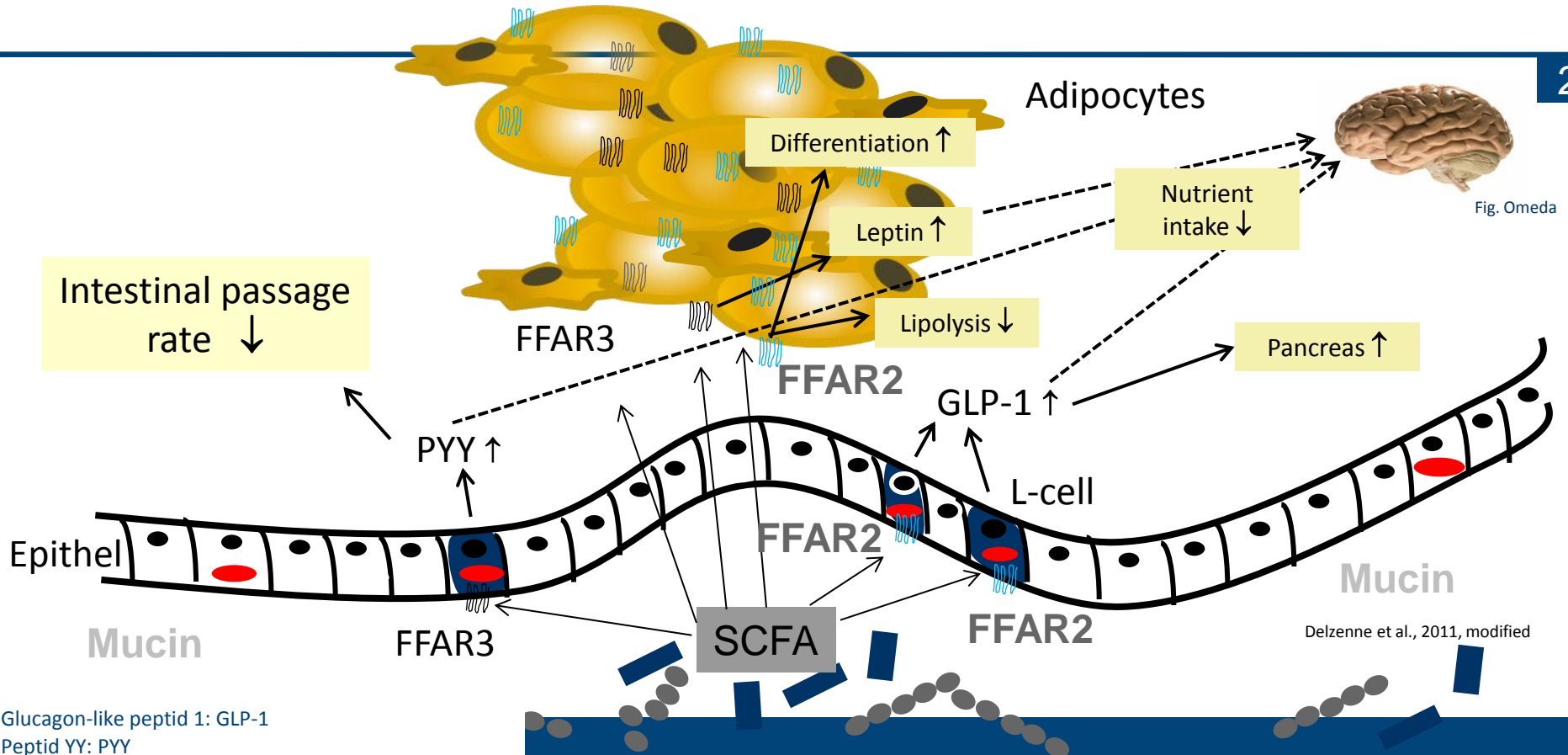


Fig. Omeda

Delzenne et al., 2011, modified

Glucagon-like peptide 1: GLP-1  
Peptid YY: PYY  
Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\gamma$ : PPAR $\gamma$

# Intestinal expression of FFAR1 and FFAR4

FFAR1

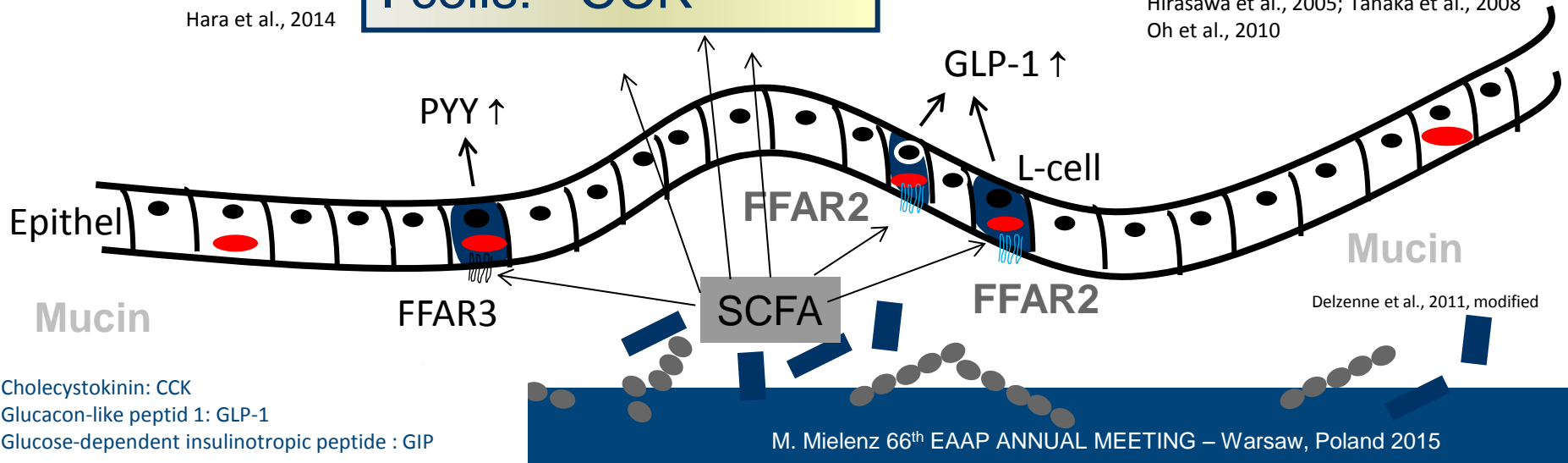
K cells: GIP  
L cells: GLP-1  
I cells: CCK

Hara et al., 2014

FFAR4

L cells: GLP-1  
I cells: CCK

Hirasawa et al., 2005; Tanaka et al., 2008  
Oh et al., 2010

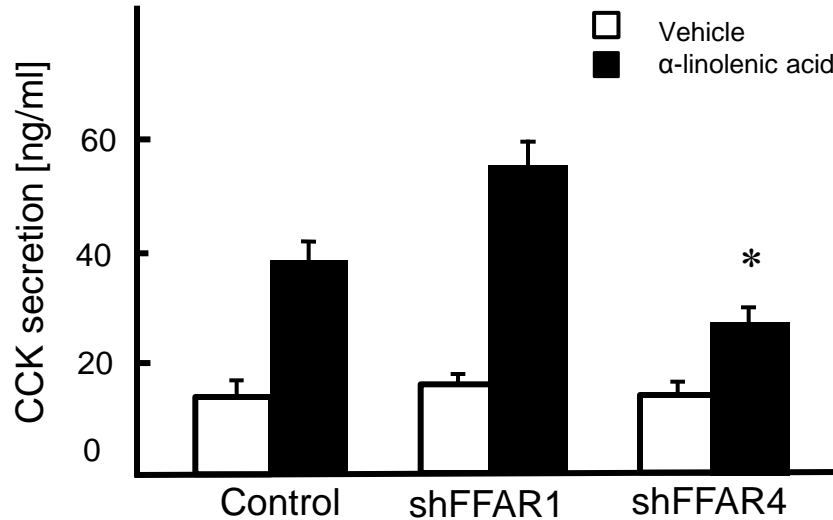


Cholecystokinin: CCK  
Glucagon-like peptide 1: GLP-1  
Glucose-dependent insulintropic peptide : GIP

# Intestinal expression of FFAR1 and FFAR4

2

## FFAR4 but not FFAR1 affects CCK secretion



Tanaka et al., 2008, modified

Cholecystokinin: CCK

# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid binding receptors

3

## Ligands:

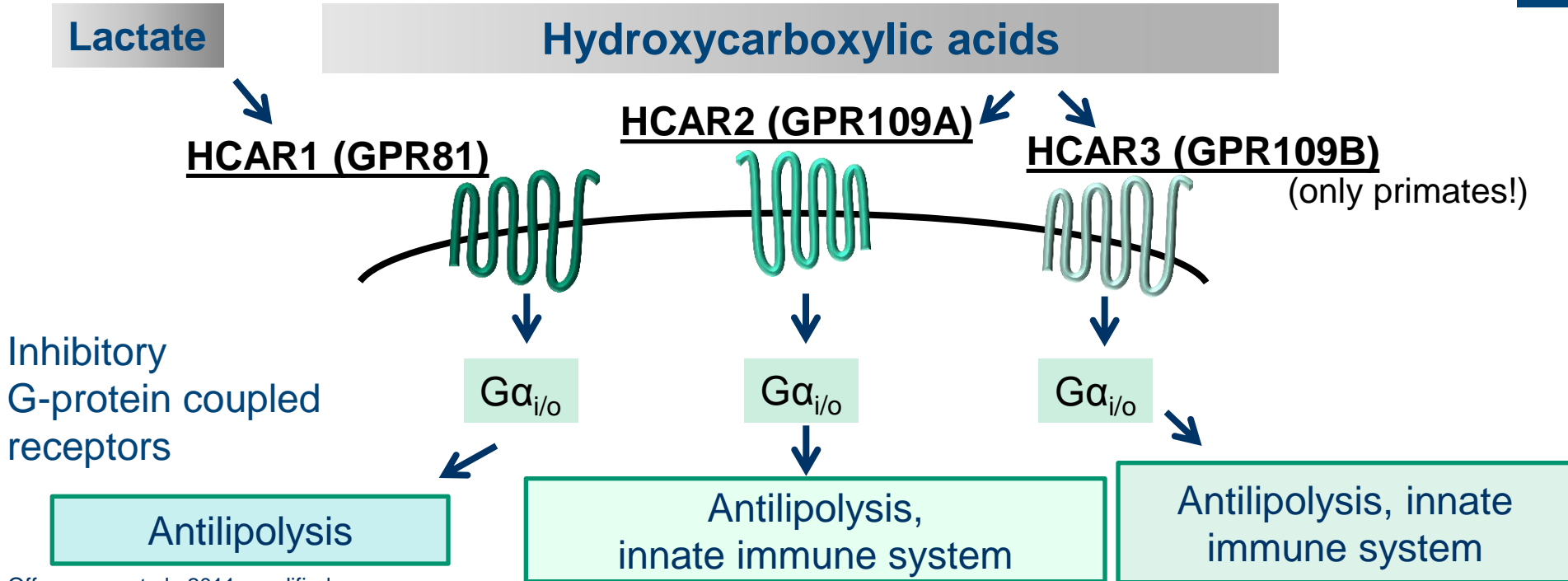
- BHBA
- Polyphenolic acids
- Nicotinic acid
- Lactate
- Butyrate

**Studies on the Effect of Nicotinic Acid on Catecholamine  
Stimulated Lipolysis in Adipose Tissue in Vitro**

By  
LARS A. CARLSON

1963

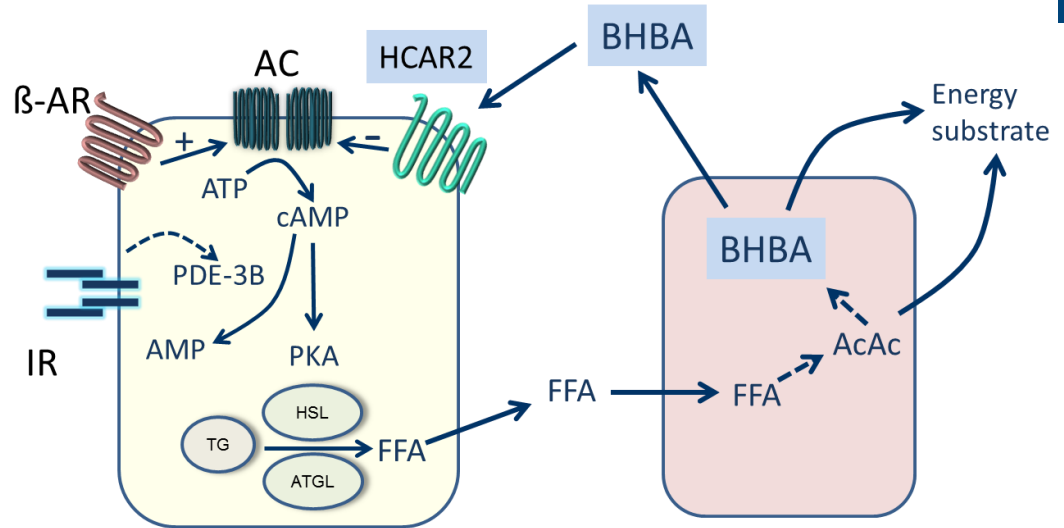
# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid binding receptors



Offermanns et al., 2011, modified

# Feedback mechanism of lipolysis and the role of HCAR2

- Inhibitory G-Protein
- Antilipolytic activity
- Antagonistic activity to adrenergic stimulation of lipolysis
- Fine tuning of lipolysis



Adipocyte

Adenylyl cyclase  
 Adipocyte triglyceride lipase  
 β-adrenergic receptor  
 Hormone sensitive Lipase  
 Insulin receptor  
 Protein kinase A  
 Phosphodiesterase 3B

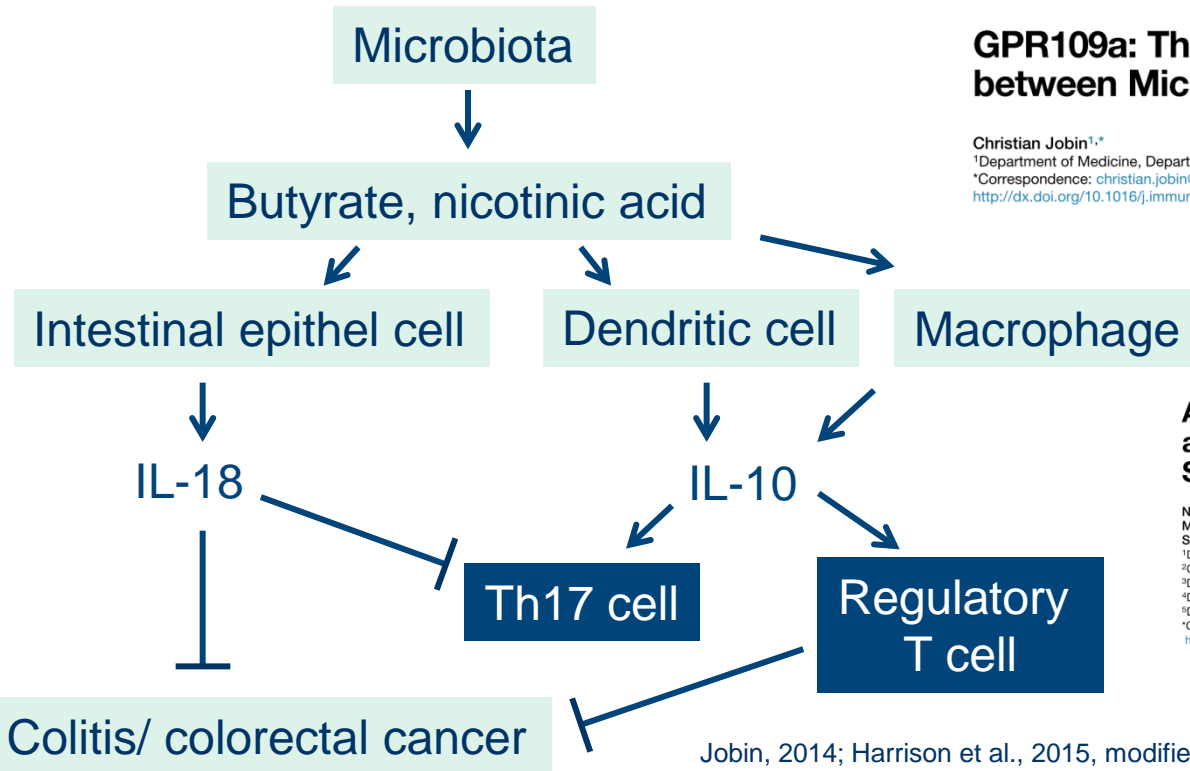
AC  
 ATGL  
 β-AR  
 HSL  
 IR  
 PKA  
 PD3B

Liver

Gille et al., 2008, modified

# Importance of the intestinal expression of hydroxycarboxylic acid binding receptor HCAR2 (GPR109A)

3



## GPR109a: The Missing Link between Microbiome and Good Health?

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases & Pathology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

\*Correspondence: christian.jobin@medicine.ufl.edu

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2013.12.009>

Jobin, 2014

## Activation of Gpr109a, Receptor for Niacin and the Commensal Metabolite Butyrate, Suppresses Colonic Inflammation and Carcinogenesis

Nagendra Singh,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Ashish Gurav,<sup>1</sup> Sathish Sivaprakasam,<sup>1</sup> Evan Brady,<sup>1</sup> Ravi Padia,<sup>1</sup> Huidong Shi,<sup>1,2</sup> Muthusamy Thangaraju,<sup>1,2</sup> Puttur D. Prasad,<sup>1,2</sup> Santhakumar Manicassamy,<sup>2</sup> David H. Munn,<sup>2,3</sup> Jeffrey R. Lee,<sup>4</sup> Stefan Offermanns,<sup>5</sup> and Vadivel Ganapathy<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2013.12.007>

Singh et al., 2014

Jobin, 2014; Harrison et al., 2015, modified



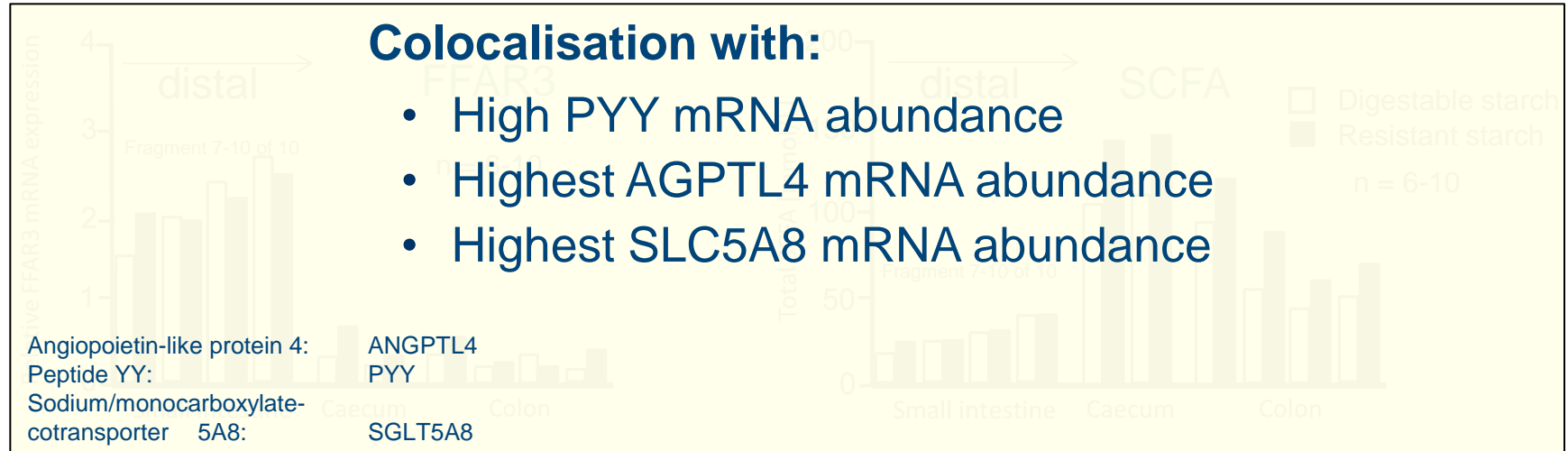
# Family of Free fatty acid binding receptors in farm animals



# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in pig



- Highest mRNA abundance of FFAR2 and FFAR3 in the distal part of the small intestine

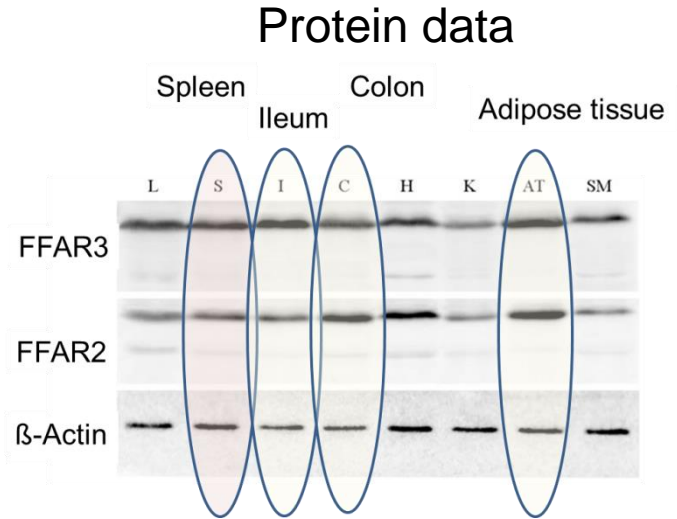
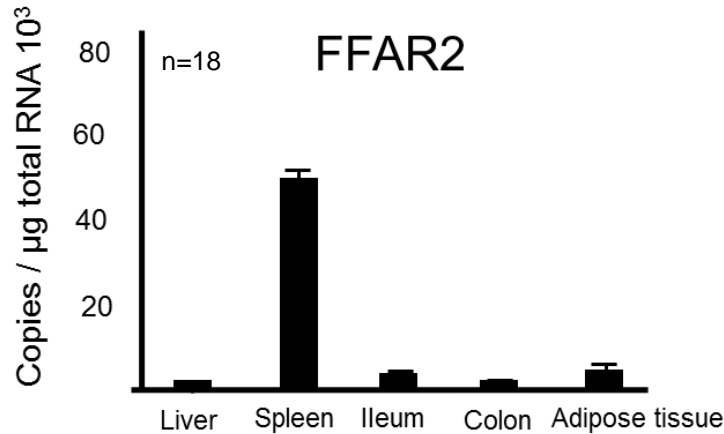


Haenen et al., 2013, modified

# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in tissues of pig



- FFAR2 mRNA mostly linked to the immune system
- FFAR3 mRNA mostly linked to the digestive system

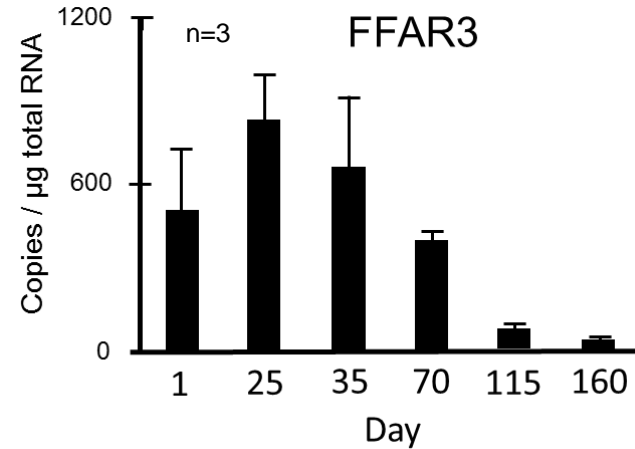
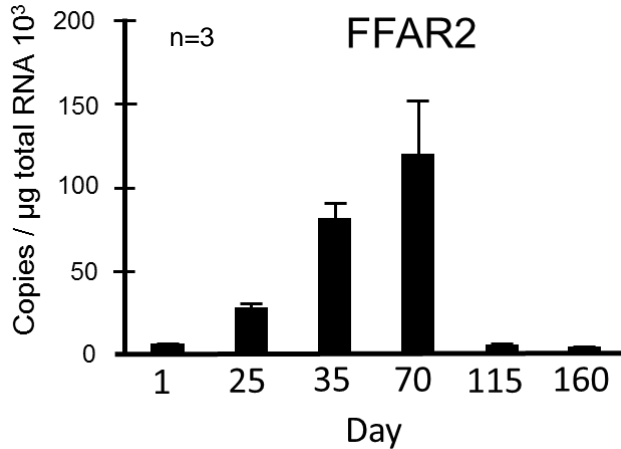


# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in adipose tissue of pig

4



- Expression in adipose tissue seems to be important up to day 70 postpartum  
→ critical role in adipose tissue development?



Li et al., 2014, modified

# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in pig

4

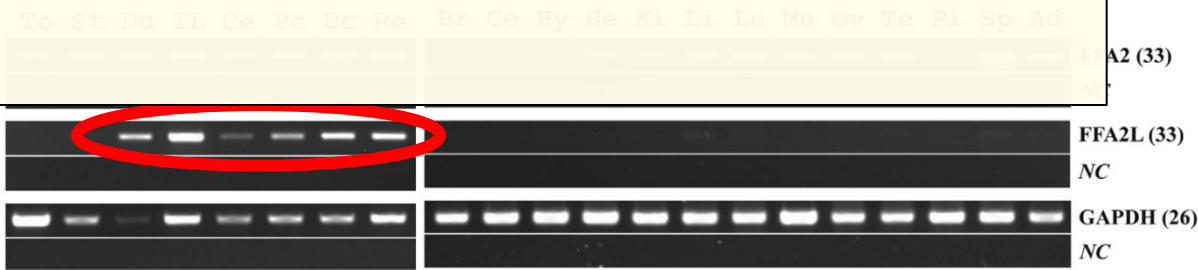


- Two genes for FFAR2 in pigs are existing

- **Detection of FFAR4 mRNA but not FFAR1 mRNA in**
  - stomach
  - jejunum
  - colon**of young pigs**

Colombo et al., 2012

intestinal prevalence  
of gene expression



Zhang et al., 2014

# Detection of free fatty acid binding receptors in chicken

4



- Expression of FFAR1 in primary hepatocytes *in vitro*

Suh et al., 2008

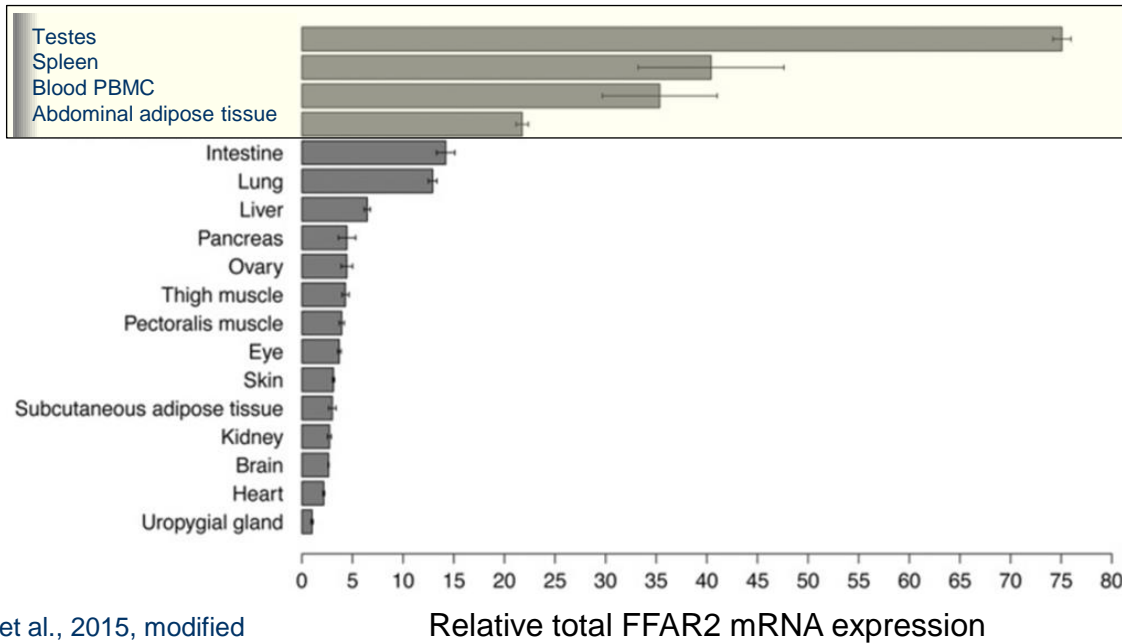
- 26 paralogs of FFAR2 within the chicken genome  
→ chicken specific event, not in finch, turkey, quail!
- Recent duplication of FFAR2 paralogs in the chicken genome

Meslin et al., 2015

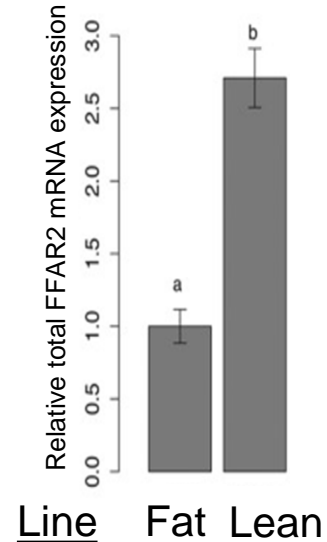
# Detection of free fatty acid binding receptors in chicken



- Low abundance of total FFAR2 mRNA in most tissues (qPCR)



## Adipose tissue



Meslin et al., 2015, modified

# Effects of FFAR1 activation in chicken hepatocytes *in vitro*

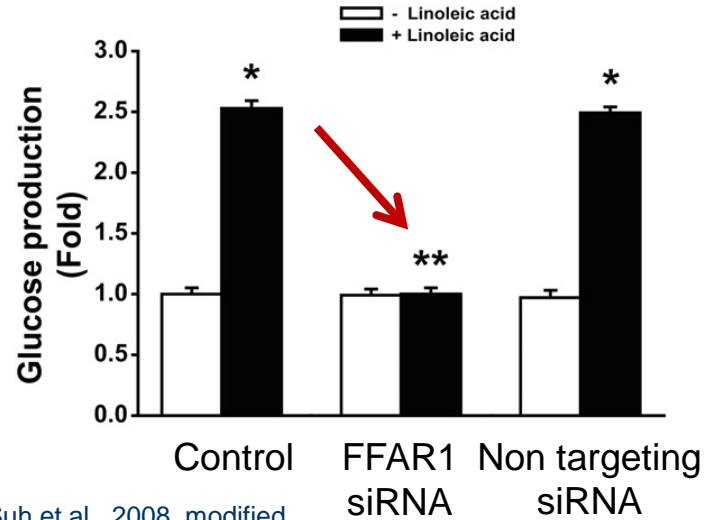
4



- Linoleic acid increases hepatic glucose production dose and time dependently

- No detection of FFAR1 or FFAR3 genes

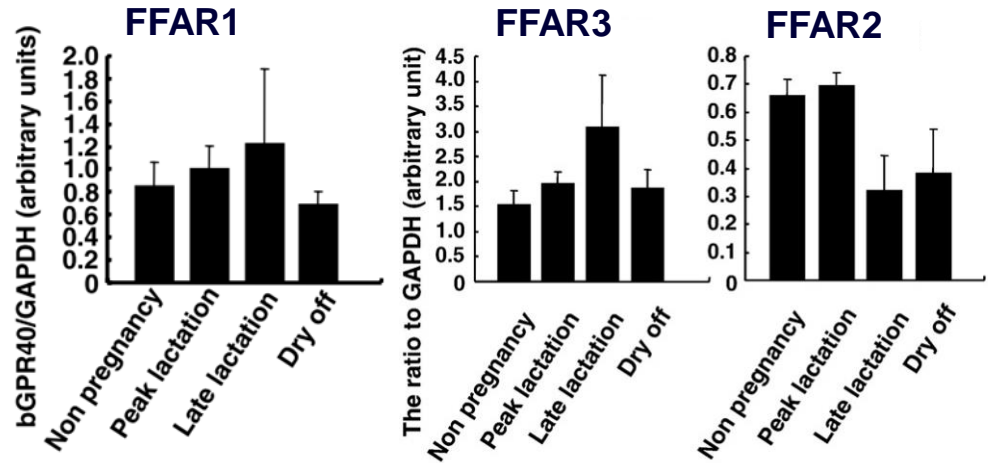
Meslin et al., 2015



# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in ruminants



- **FFAR1, FFAR2, FFAR3** mRNA are expressed in the bovine mammary gland
- Free fatty acids increase intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilisation *in vitro*
- Induction of proliferation of bovine mammary epithel cells *in vitro*

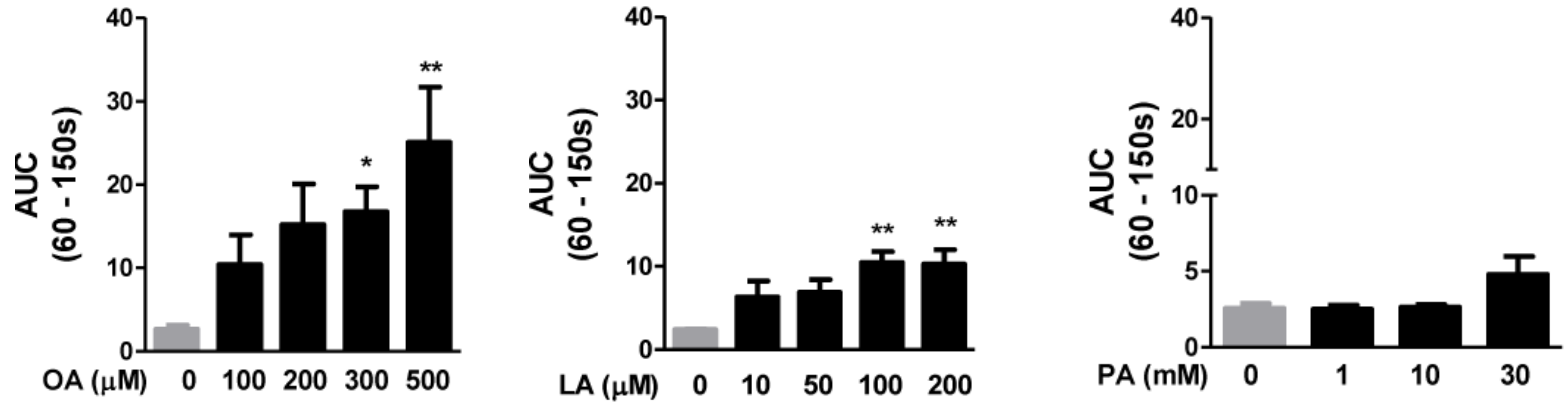




# Cloning of bovine FFAR1 and activation by LCFA



- Intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilisation increases after stimulation with LCFA in CHO-K1 cells overexpressing the bovine FFAR1



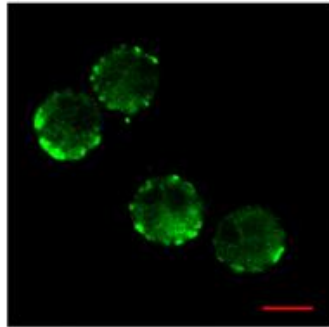
OA Oleic acid; LA linoleic acid; PA propionate

# Effects of LCFA on bovine neutrophils

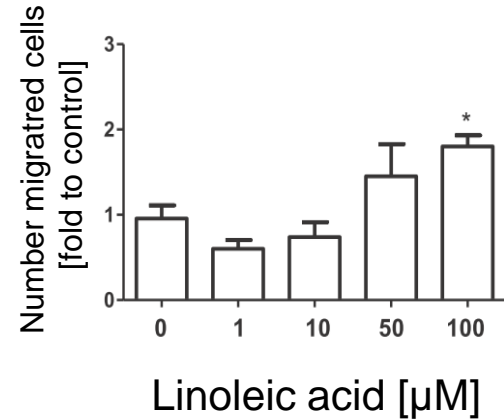
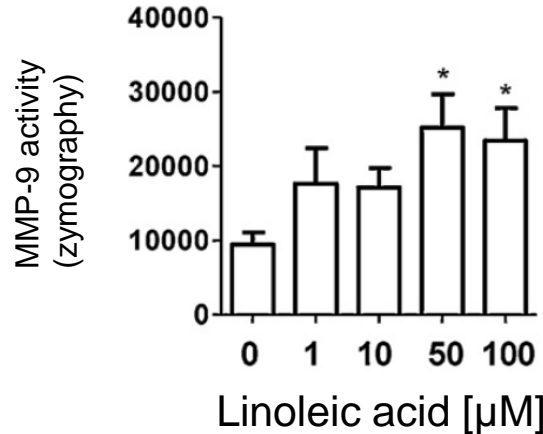


- High NEFA concentrations enhances oxidative burst activity
- Linoleic acid induces MMP-9 release and chemotaxis
- FFAR1 activation induces reactive oxygen species production

FFAR1



Hidalgo et al., 2011



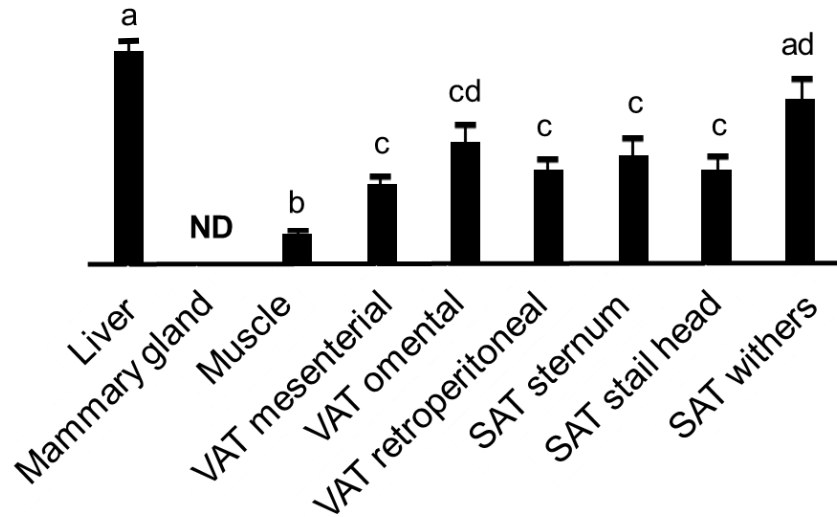
MMP-9: Matrix metalloprotease-9

Hidalgo et al., 2011; Mena et al., 2013; Manosolva et al., 2015; Scalia et al., 2006

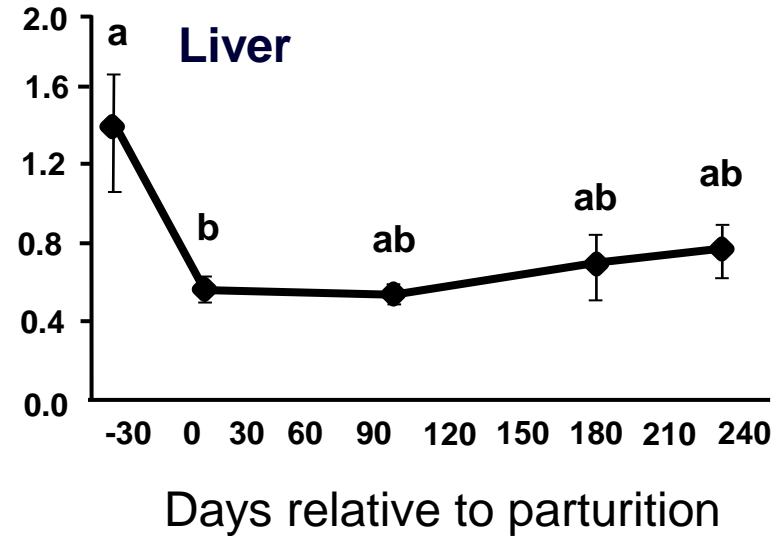
# FFAR1 mRNA in adipose tissue and liver of lactating dairy cows



## Primiparous cow (slaughter)

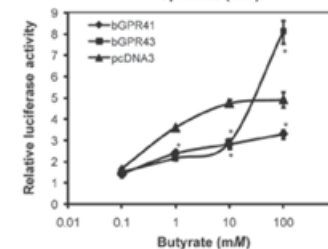
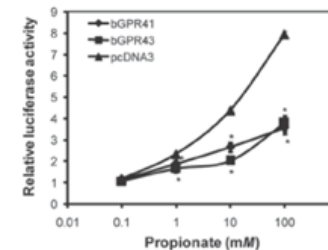
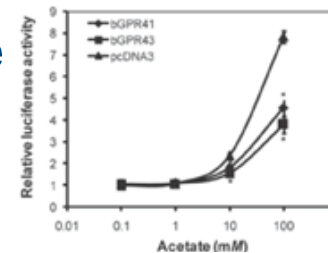
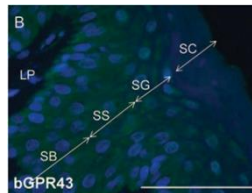
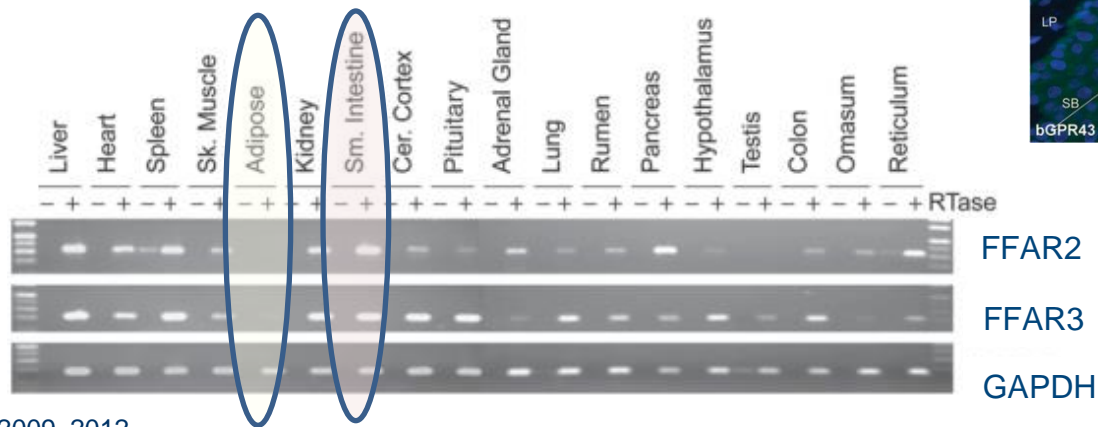


## Multiparous cow (biopsy)



# Family of free fatty acid binding receptors in ruminants

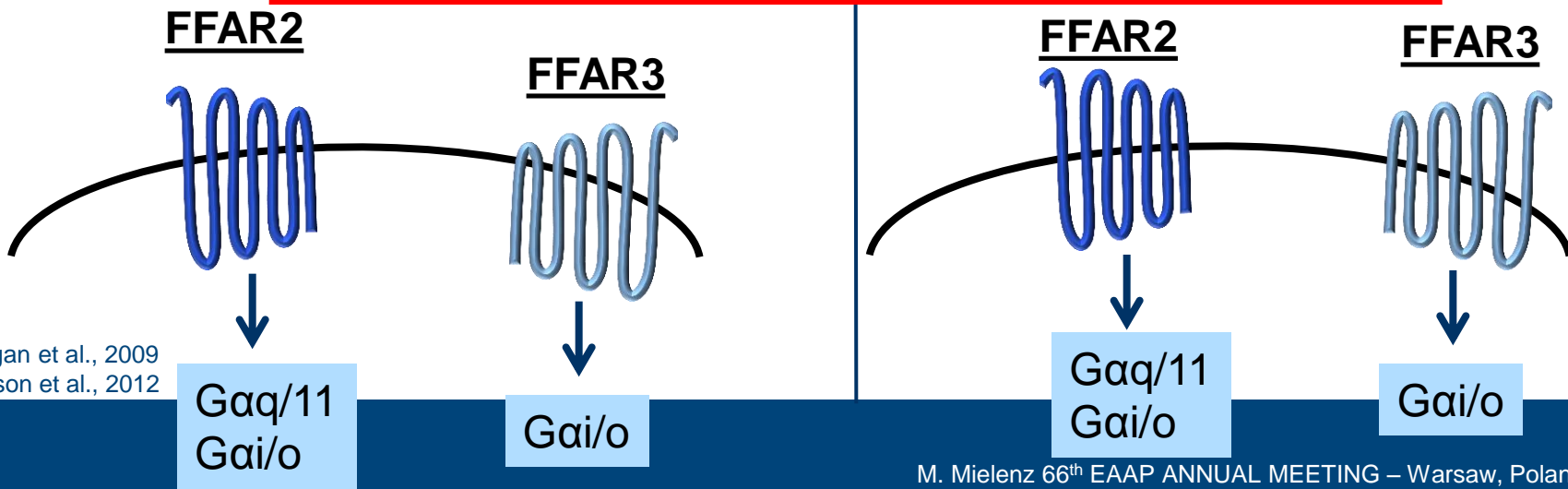
- Broad distribution of **FFAR2**, **FFAR3** mRNA abundance
- Cloning and functional analysis of bovine FFAR2 and FFAR3; two variants of FFAR3 mRNA
- FFAR2 protein detected in ruminal mucosa



# Differences in the affinity for SCFA of human compared to bovine FFAR2 and FFAR3

Human		Bovine	
Affinities:			
C3=C2>C1=C5	C3=C4=C5>C2>C1	C6>C5>C4>C3>C2	C5>C4<C3>C2

Affinity shifts to longer chain length of SCFA in the bovine

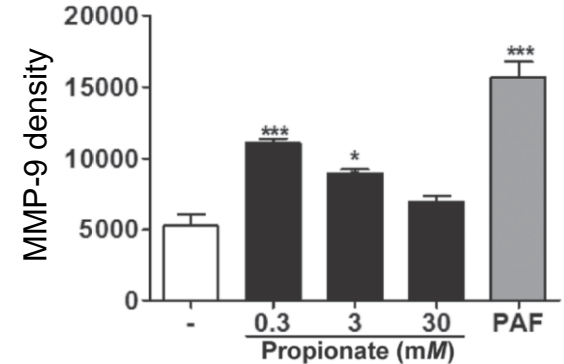
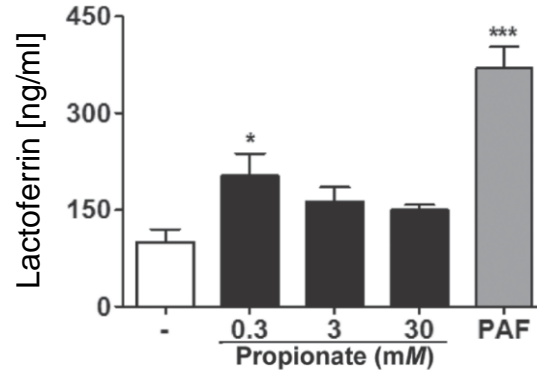
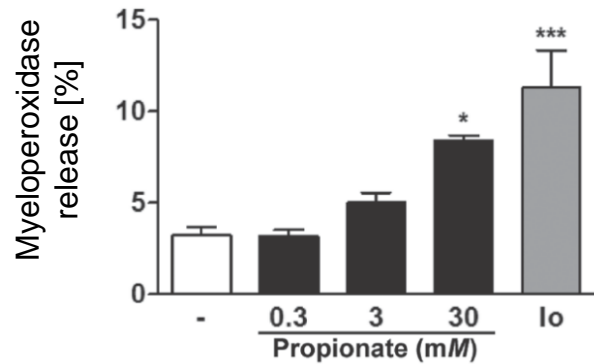


Milligan et al., 2009  
Hudson et al., 2012

# Effects of SCFA on bovine neutrophils



- Propionate induces release of MMP-9, myeloperoxidase and lactoferrin



# Effects of propionate on ruminant adipose tissue

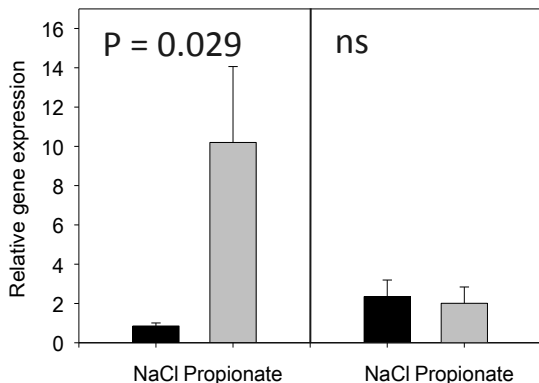


- Infusion increases e.g. leptin and PPAR $\gamma$  mRNA in sheep
- Infusion or stimulation *in vitro* affects adipose tissue gene expression depot depending *in vivo* (goat) or *in vitro* (cow).

## Goat

Subcutaneous      Perirenal

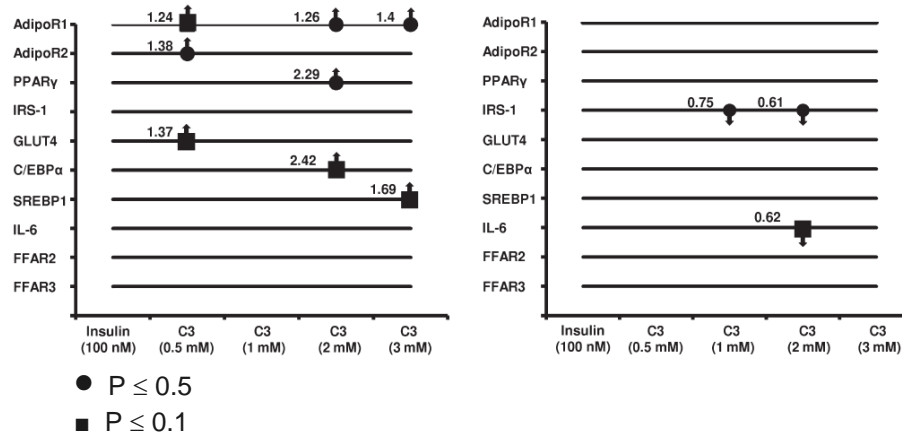
**FFAR3**



## Cow

Subcutaneous

Kidney fat



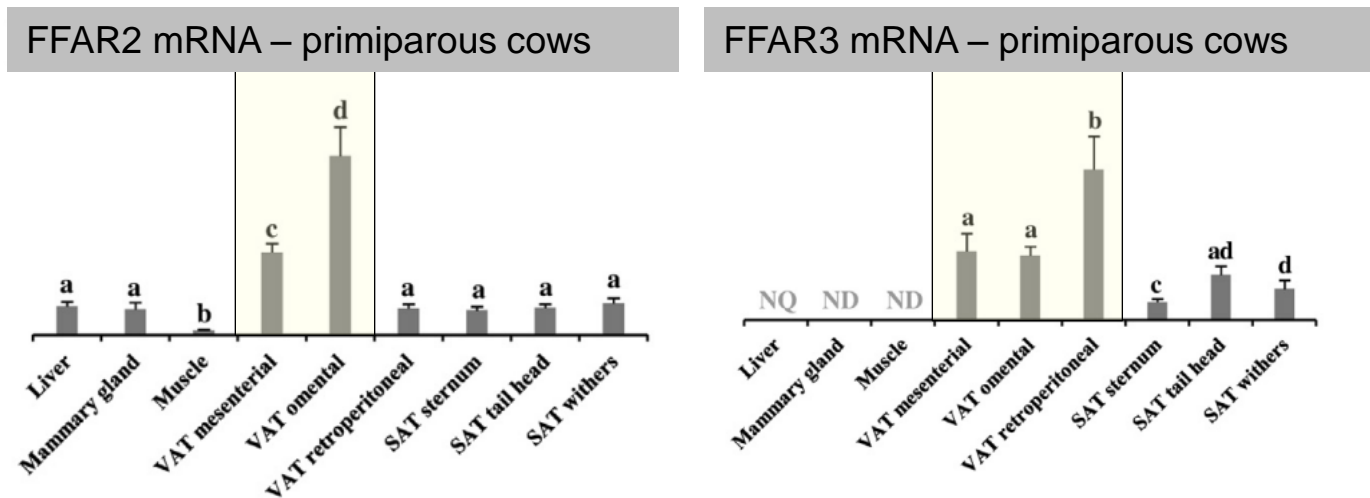
Lee & Hossner, 2002; Hosseini et al., 2012; Mielenz et al., 2008

# FFAR2 and FFAR3 mRNA in adipose tissue of dairy cow

4



- FFAR2 and FFAR3 with highest mRNA abundance in visceral adipose tissue depots of primiparous cows



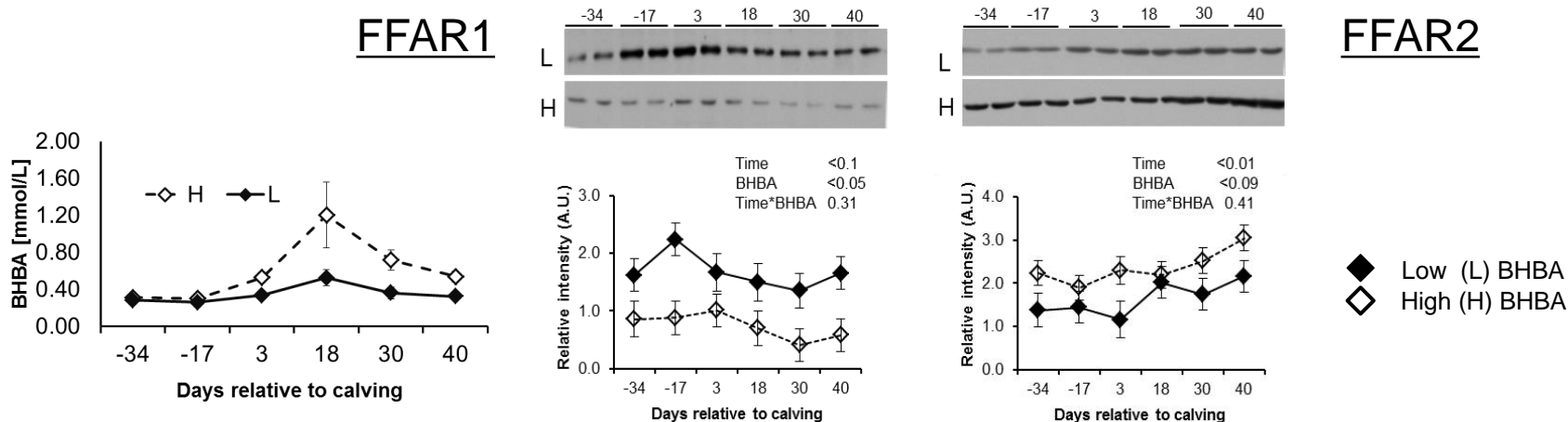


# FFAR1 and FFAR2 protein in liver of dairy cow during the transition period

4



- FFAR1 protein is differentially regulated depending on differences in lipid mobilisation (high BHBA vs. low BHBA in week 2 – 3 postpartum)
- FFAR2 protein is differentially regulated depending on time



Aguinaga et al., 2015 unpublished

# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in farm animals



# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in farm animals

4

- Currently no data on the receptors available for **chicken**
  - Effects of niacin and butyrate on lipid or insulin metabolism are shown.

Jiang et al., 2014; Mátis et al., 2015

- Data on receptors in NCBI data base available for **sheep**
  - Niacin induces skeletal muscle fiber switch from type II to oxidative type I in **sheep**.

Khan et al., 2013a, Khan et al., 2013b

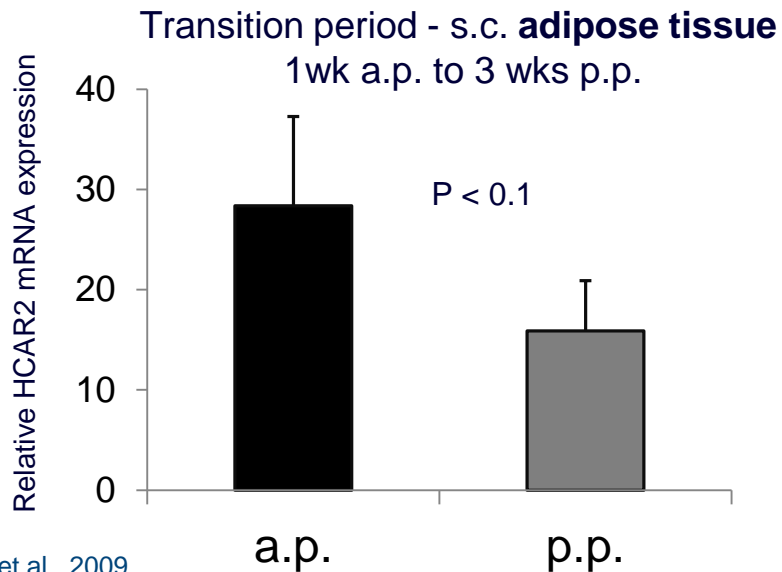


# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR2

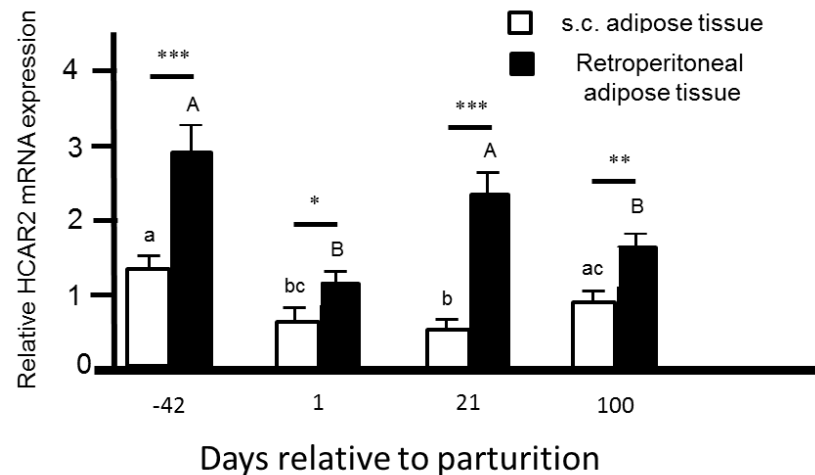


- BHBA and butyrate reduces lipolysis in s.c. adipose tissue *in vitro*
- Inhibition of cAMP synthesis

Metz & van den Bergh, 1972; Metz, 1974



Lemor et al., 2009

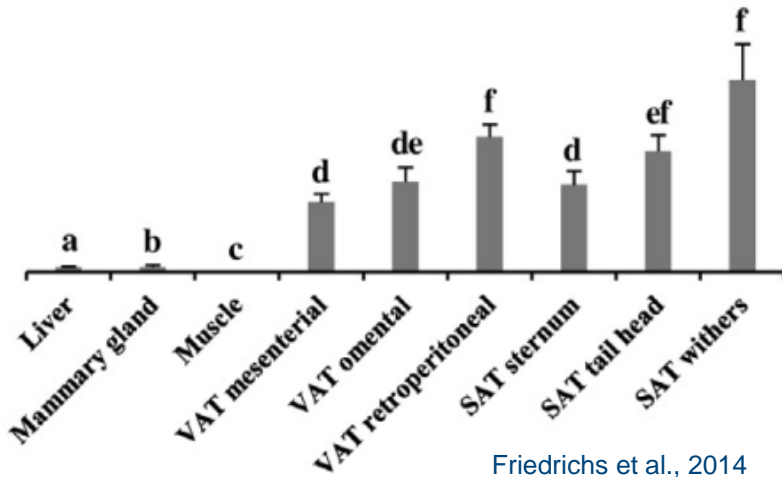


Weber et al., 2015, unpublished

# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR2

- BHBA and butyrate reduces lipolysis in s.c. adipose tissue *in vitro*
- Inhibition of cAMP synthesis

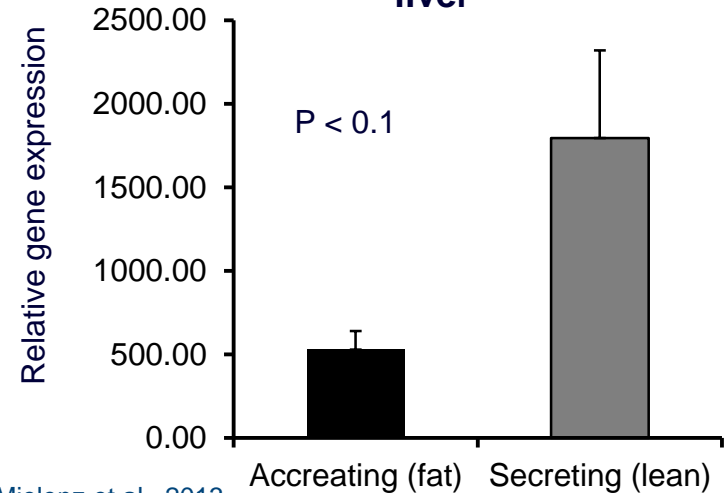
## HCAR2 mRNA – primiparous cows



Friedrichs et al., 2014

Metz & van den Bergh, 1972; Metz, 1974

## Charolais X German Holstein F2 offspring liver



Mielenz et al., 2013

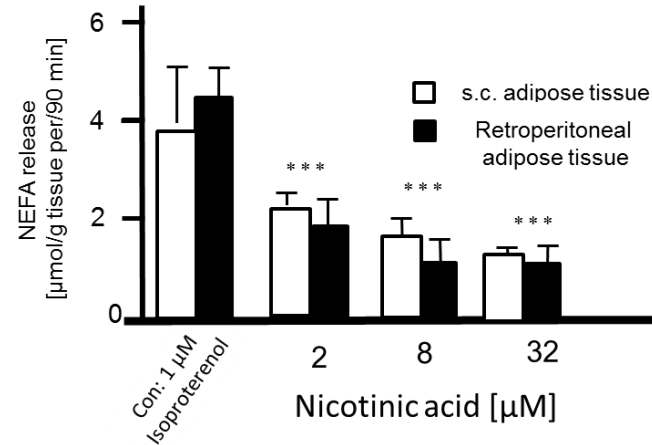
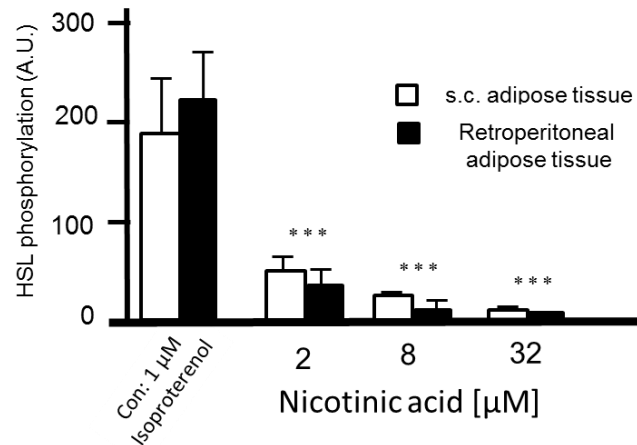


# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR2

4



- Nicotinic acid reduces the phosphorylation of hormone sensitive lipase (HSL).
- Nicotinic acid treatment reduces the stimulated NEFA release from bovine adipose tissue explants *in vitro*

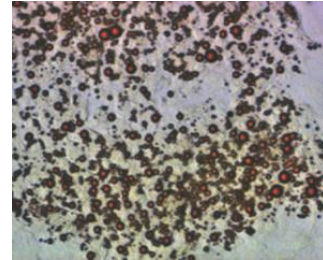
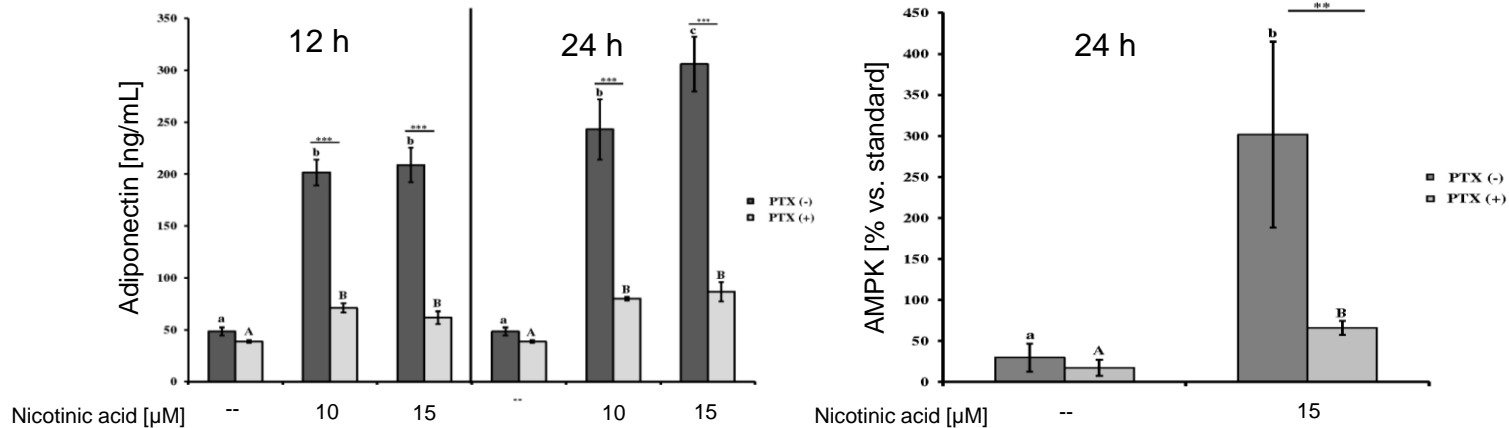


Kénez et al., 2014

# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR2



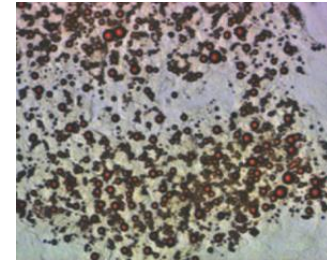
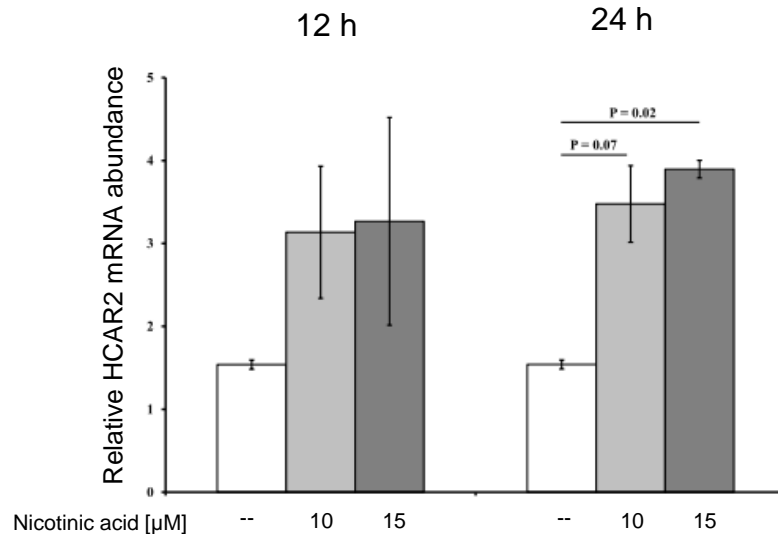
- Nicotinic acid increases adiponectin secretion, AMPK abundance and HCAR2 gene expression in differentiated bovine adipocytes *in vitro*.
- Nicotinic acid effects are partly Gi/o dependent (pertussis toxin (PTX) sensitive).



Kopp et al., 2014

# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR2

- Nicotinic acid increases HCAR2 mRNA in differentiated bovine preadipocytes
- No effect of PTX



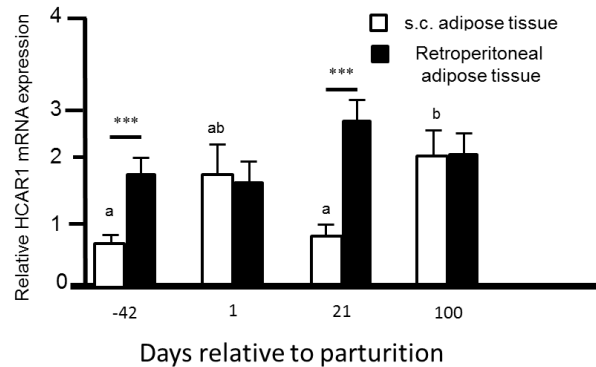
Kopp et al., 2014



# Family of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptors in cattle – HCAR1

4

- HCAR1 mRNA in adipose tissue is reduced by high energy diet (1.62 Mcal/KG DM) vs. controlled energy diet (1.35 Mcal/KG DM) Ji et al., 2014
- Differential expression of HCAR1 mRNA during lactation
- Differential expression between s.c. vs. retroperitoneal adipose tissue



➔ Receptor binding of lactate characterised (EC<sub>50</sub> 4.95 mM) Liu et al., 2009

- abomasal disorders
- exercise

➔ Autocrine lactate effects?

# Conclusions

- Data on nutrient sensing receptors is currently mostly linked to the expression of receptor mRNA (protein data scarcely available)
- In many cases physiological significance has to be proven
- Relatively less knowledge on direct nutrient sensing-mechanisms

Efeyan et al., 2015, Nature



especially in farm animals!

- Increasing knowledge may help to improve efficiency and health in farm animals in future

# Acknowledgements

## **Institute of Nutritional Physiology “Oskar Kellner”, FBN:**

Maria Arantzazu Aguinaga Casañas

Harald Hammon

Björn Kuhla

Christine Schäff

Anne-Kathrin Möller

## **Institute of Muscle Biology and Growth, FBN:**

Monika Röntgen

## **University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover**

### **Clinic for Cattle:**

Jürgen Rehage

Lena Locher

### **Department of Physiology**

Korinna Huber\*

Árkos Kénez\*

## **Institute of Animal Science, Physiology & Hygiene Unit, University of Bonn:**

Helga Sauerwein

Paula Friedrichs, Afshin Hosseini, Christina Kopp,  
Anneka Lemor, Hamed Khalilvandi-Behroozyar,  
Behnam Saremi, Shiva Singh, Martina Weber, Laura Webb

Inga Hofs

Isabella Israel

## **Institute of Animal Nutrition, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Braunschweig (FLI, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health)**

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FOR FARM ANIMAL BIOLOGY



**Dummerstorf**

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