

“Why is Eating **Too Much Sugar** So Toxic?”

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DeLamar Professor & Director

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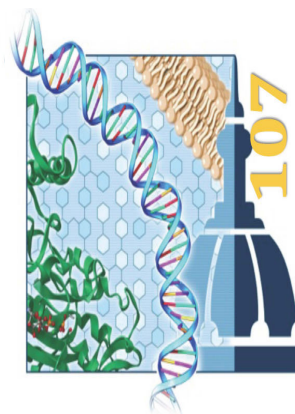
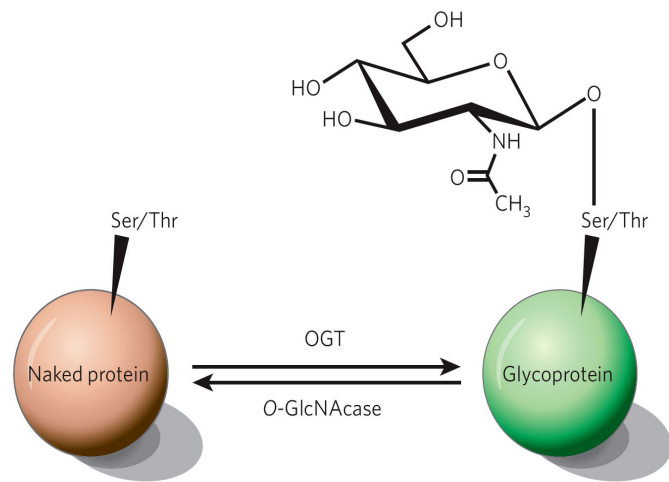
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Department of

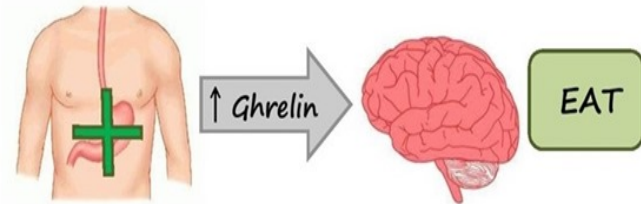
Biological Chemistry

The biology of molecules, the chemistry of life

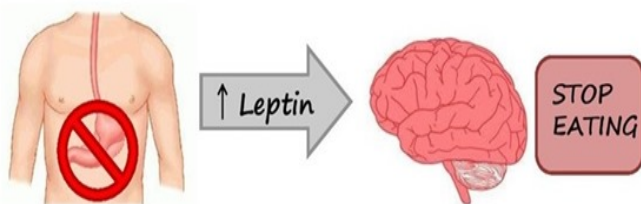
Sugar Toxicity

- Americans consume about **140 lbs. of sugar annually** (57 gallons of soda!).
- One hundred years ago we consumed **~10 lbs.**
- Mostly **sucrose, glucose and fructose.**
- **Fructose**, is particularly toxic - especially High Fructose Corn Syrup – **cheap and sweet!**
 - **ubiquitous** in almost all **processed foods**: **soda, fruit juices, cereals, ketchup, jellies, graham crackers, breads, most chocolate milk, and many others** – kids eat a LOT of fructose!
- **Eating Sugar Makes Us Hungry** - it interferes with three hormones—**ghrelin, leptin** and dopamine—all of which signal our brain that we have had enough to eat.

Empty Stomach

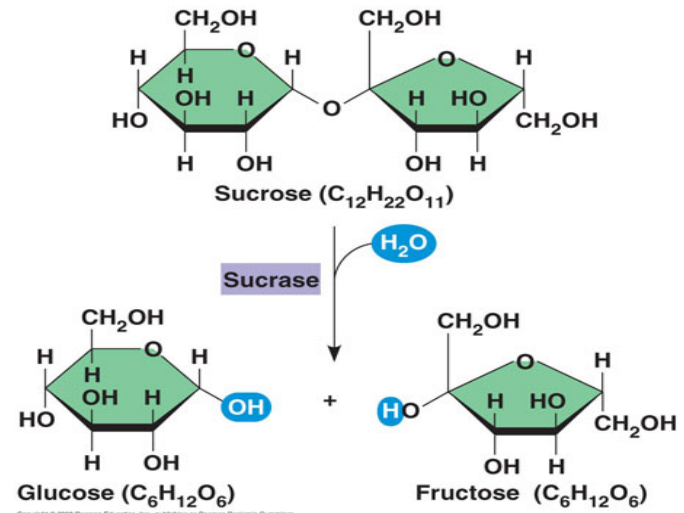


Full Stomach

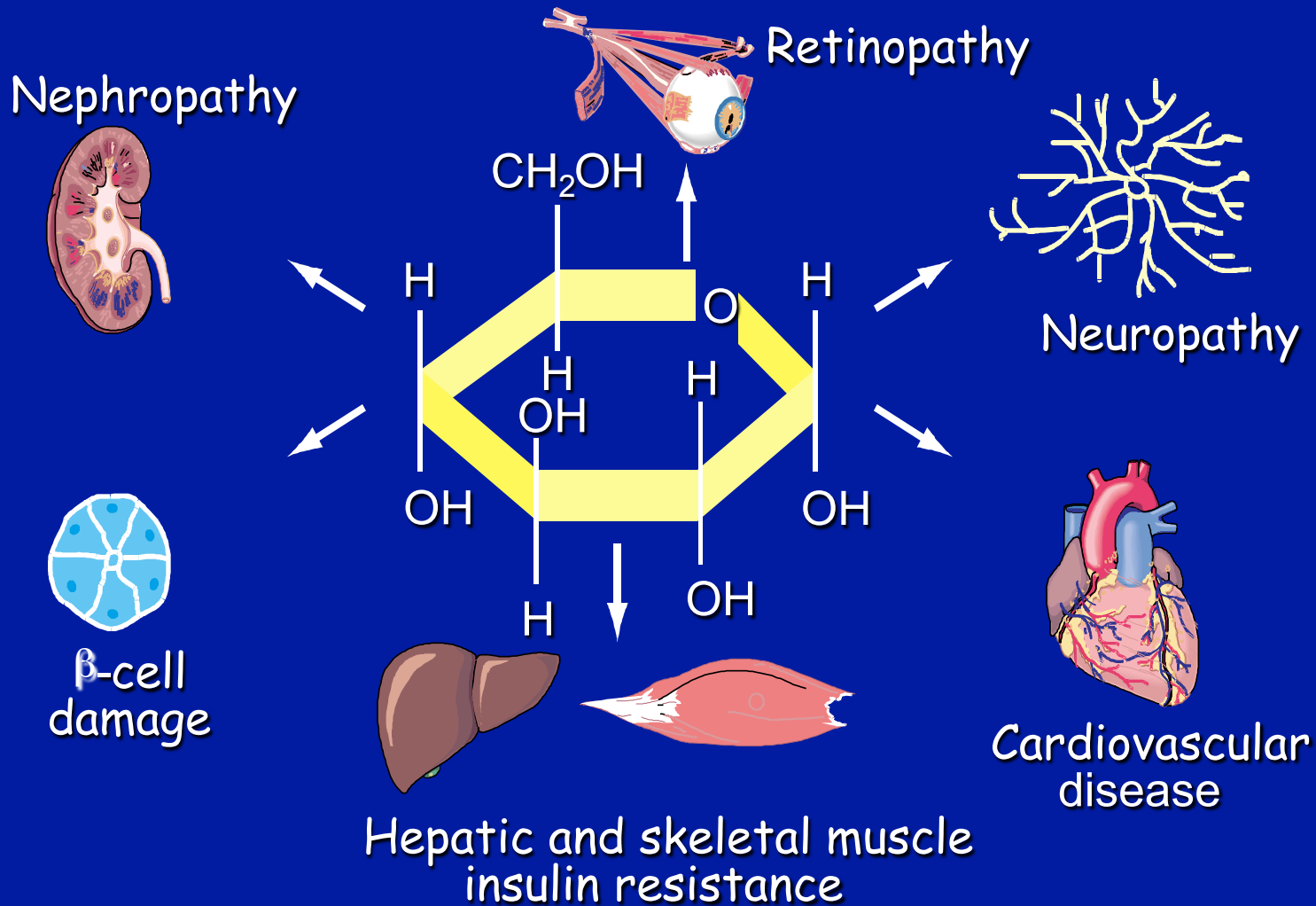


Glucose Stimulates Insulin Signaling to Up-Regulate Leptin Which Tells you to **Stop Eating.**

Fructose is metabolized In the Liver mostly to **Fat** And it **Does NOT stimulate Insulin Signaling** to Stop Eating.



Sugar Toxicity: Chronic High Blood Sugar



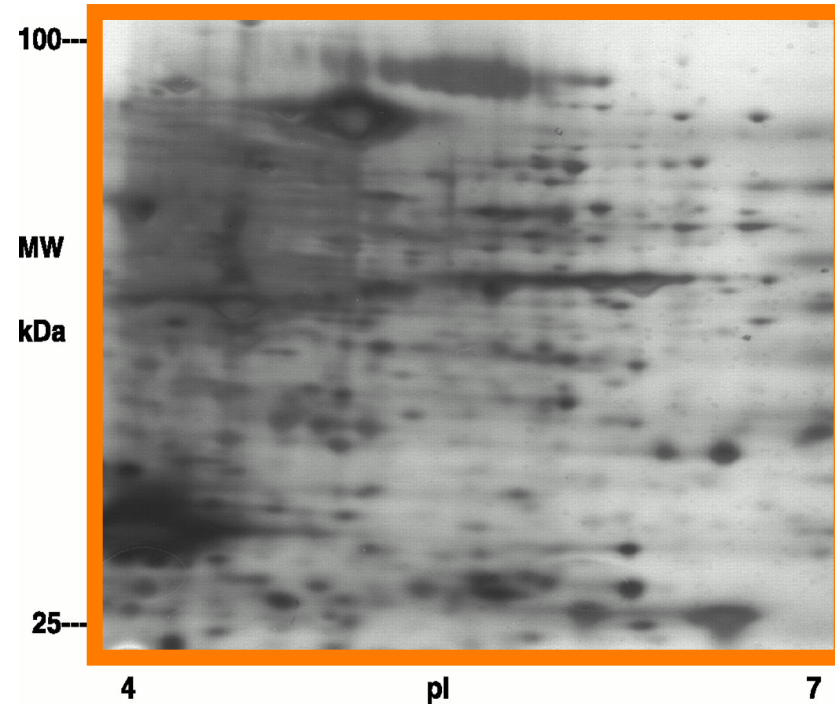
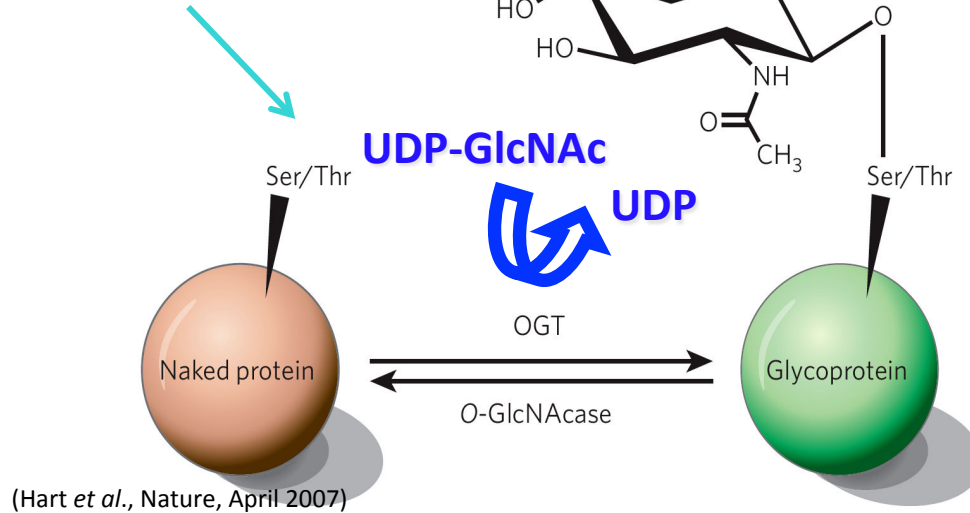
Why is Prolonged High Blood Sugar So Toxic?

Properties of O-GlcNAc.

O-GlcNAc is Abundant on Nuclear & Cytosolic Proteins

Pan >O-GlcNAc Antibody Western Blot - HeLa

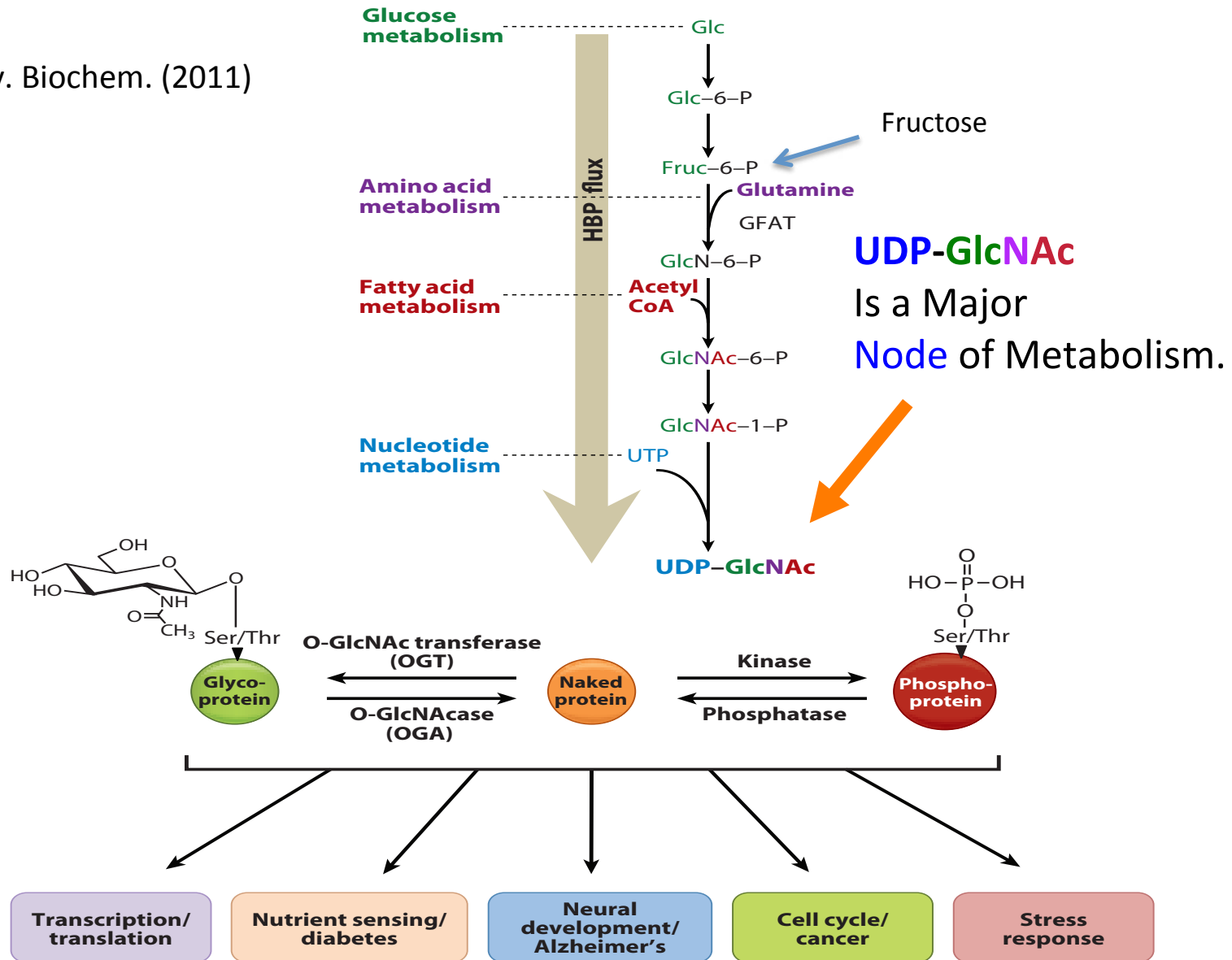
2-5% Glucose
To Hexosamine
Biosynthesis



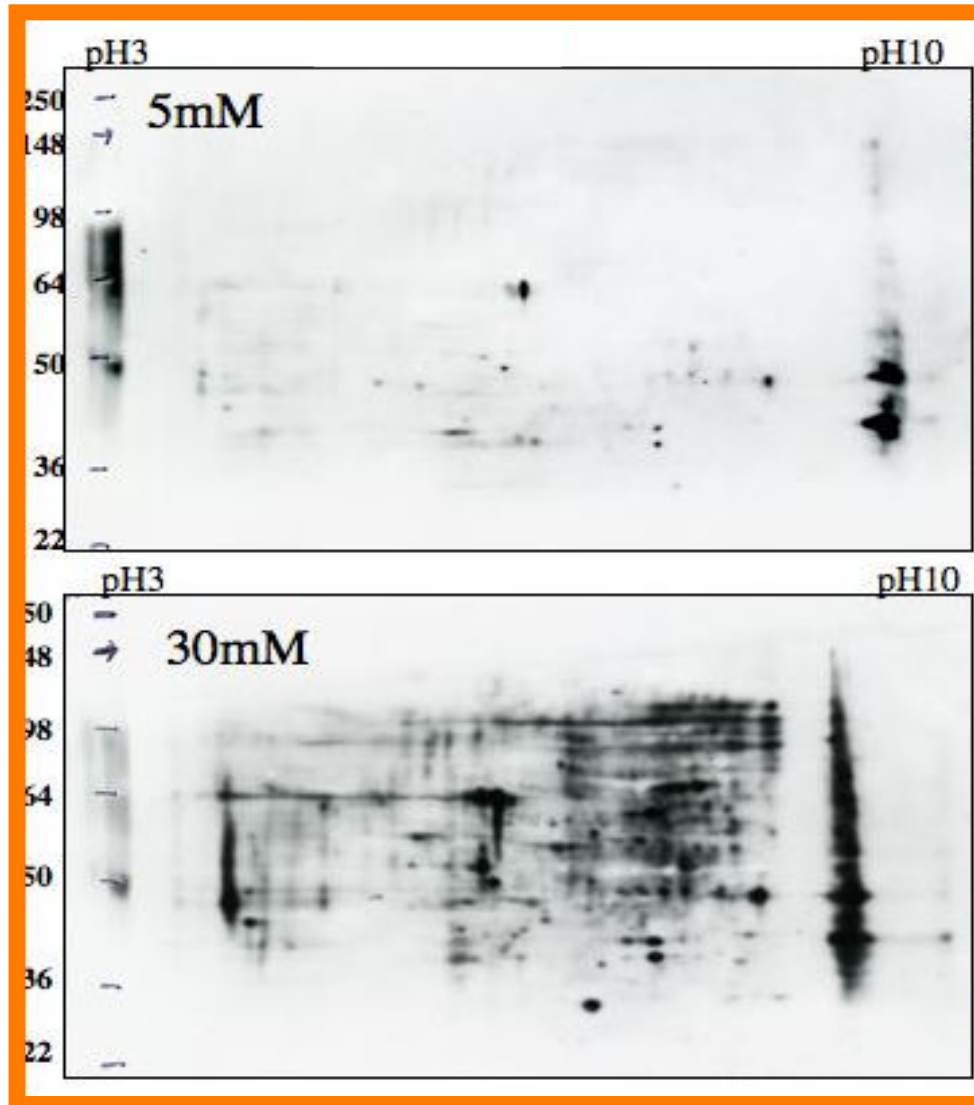
- Highly Dynamic **Enzymatic** Modification of Ser and Thr residues by β -N-acetylglucosamine
- Localized to the **cytoplasm and nucleus** on cell's **regulatory** proteins.
- **Highly abundant** PTM (>4000 identified proteins) & Often Reciprocal (**Competitive**) with **phosphorylation** - **Abundance** = pancreas islets>>brain>>other tissues>liver.
- Dynamically **cycling** on Ser/Thr residues - **Time scale similar to phosphate**.

O-GlcNAc Has Extensive Crosstalk with Phosphorylation to Serve As A Nutrient Sensor that Regulates Many Cellular Processes

Ann. Rev. Biochem. (2011)



High Glucose Increases O-GlcNAcylation on Many Proteins



Jurkat Lymphocytes
Grown in Media
With 5mM or
30mM Glucose

(Coomassie
not different)

WB with
Pan >O-GlcNAc
Antibody:
Steady-State
O-GlcNAc
Increases on
Many Proteins.

High Glucose Increased O-GlcNAc is a Major Mechanism of “Glucose Toxicity”

- ◆ Hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia and hyperinsulinemia all increase O-GlcNAcylation of many proteins.

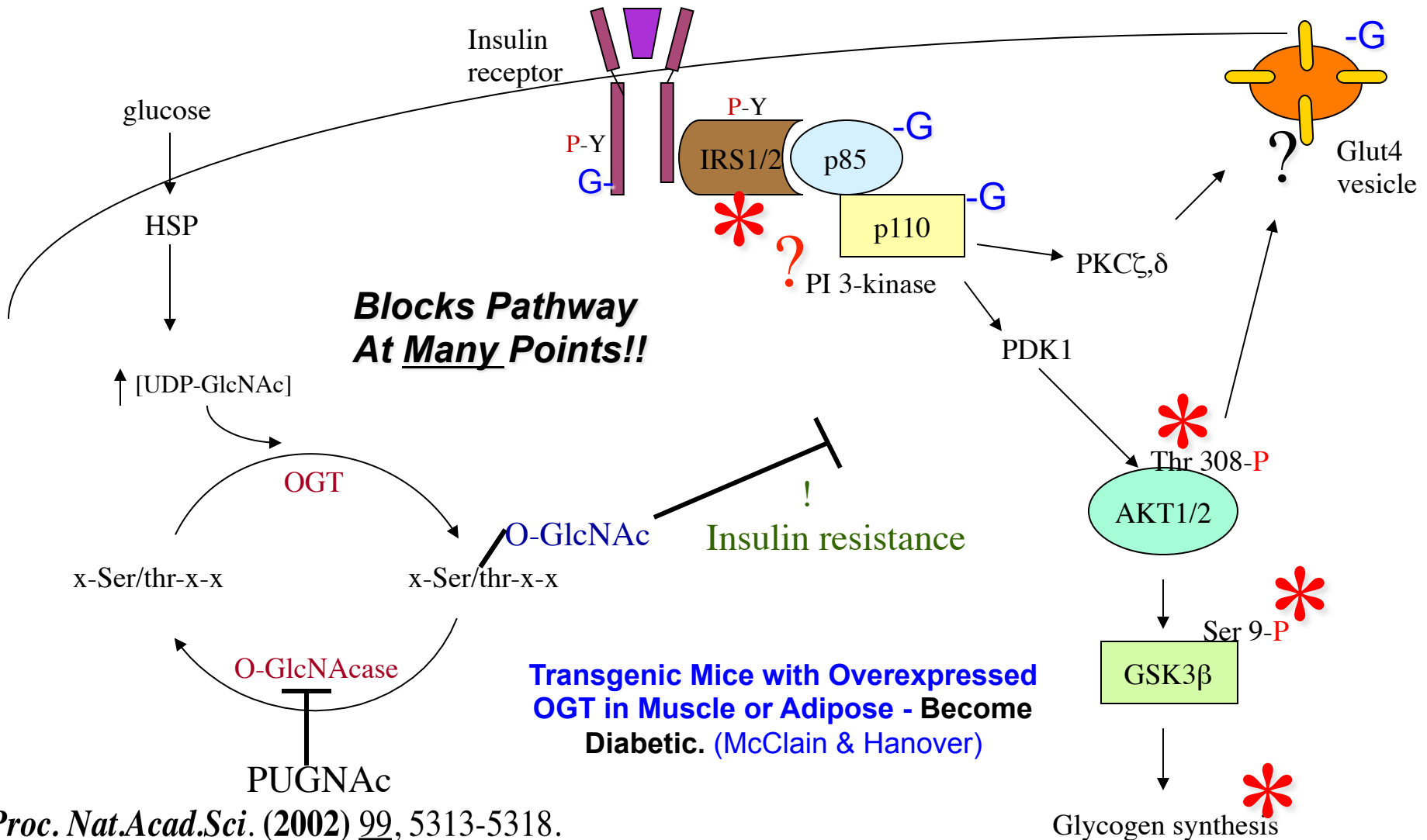
Mechanisms:

- ◆ Signaling Molecules & Kinases – Balance with Phosphorylation is Disrupted.
- ◆ Transcription Factors and Histones – Altered Promoter Activities. Wrong Genes Expressed.
- ◆ Mitochondrial Electron Transport Proteins – ROS Production???...ROS in-turn increases O-GlcNAcylation.

- ◆ Some Examples:

Elevation of O-GlcNAc Blocks Insulin Signaling:

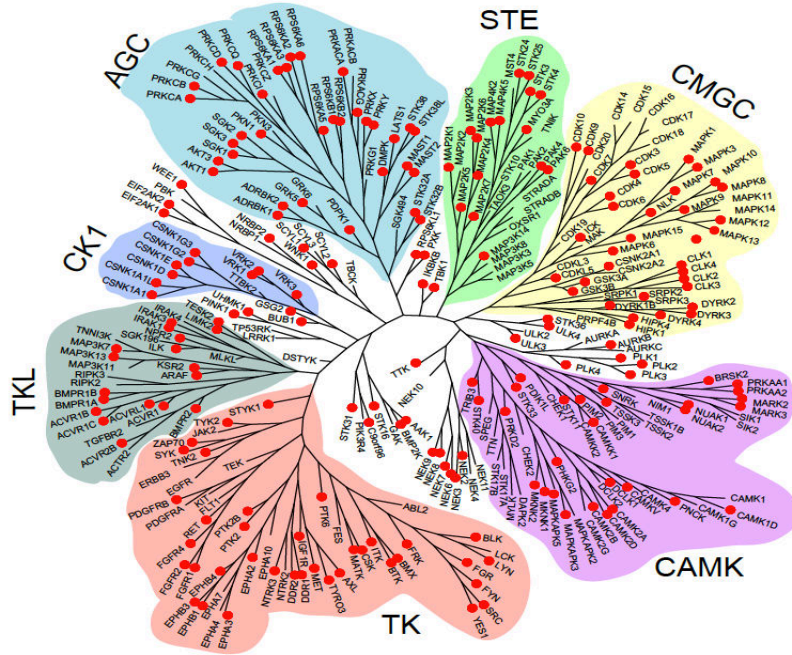
- Blocks AKT phos. at T308 and S9 on GSK3 β
- Inhib. OGase greatly increases OG on β -catenin and IRS1.



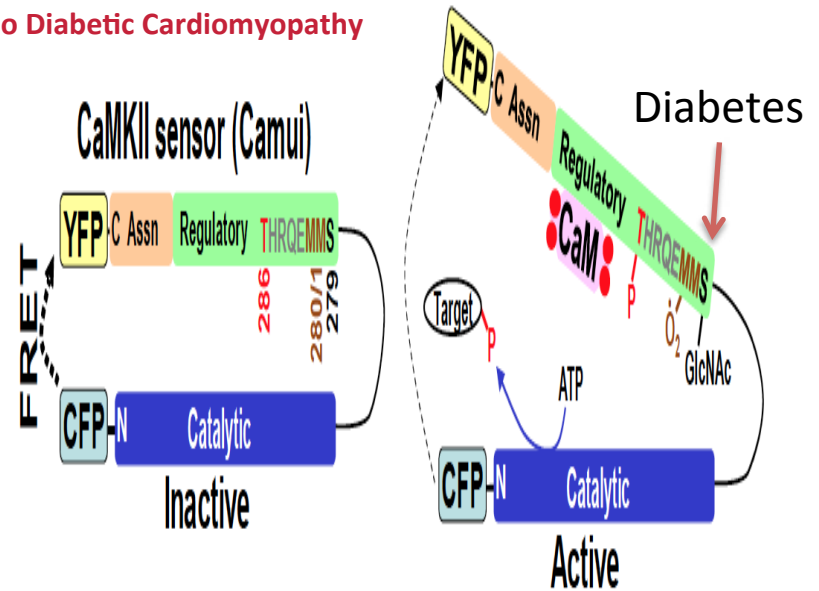
Over one-half of all human protein kinases are dynamically Modified the the Sugar O-GlcNAc.

Cardiac Myocytes: CAMKII Becomes Constitutively Active Due to Hyper-O-GlcNAcylation in Diabetes

Family Tree of Human Kinases
Modified by O-GlcNAc:



Key to Diabetic Cardiomyopathy



Contributes to Arrhythmias and Cardiac Problems in Diabetes

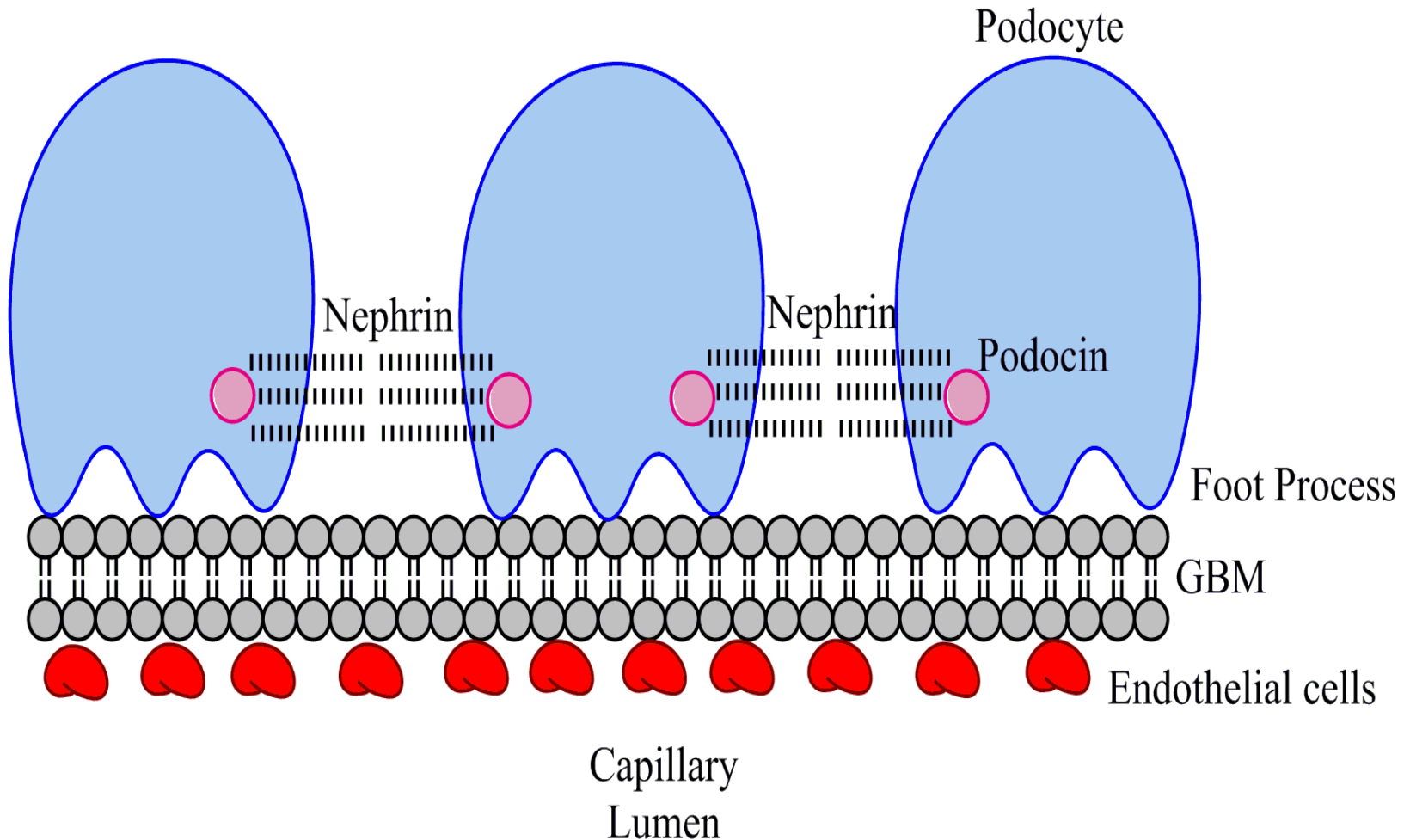
The sugar, **O-GlcNAc** Regulates Kinases Key to Signaling:

- ✓ O-GlcNAc at Active Sites **Inhibits** CAMKIV - *J. Biol. Chem.* **284**, 21327-37.
- ✓ O-GlcNAc Regulates the **Substrate Specificity** of CKII - *Nature Chemical Biology* **3**(3):262-9.
- ✓ O-GlcNAc Regulates AMPK & AMPK in Muscle (*J Biol Chem.* 289:10592-606)
- ✓ AKT is regulated by O-GlcNAcylation *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab.* 295:E974-80.
- ✓ All PKCs: O-GlcNAc **Negatively Regulates** *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1783:695-712
- ✓ O-GlcNAc **Inhibits** PFK1 & Glycolysis in Cancer - Increases Flux Through Pentose phosphate pathway. *Science* 337:975-80



Collaboration with
Donald M. Bers Ph.D.
UC Davis
Nature (2013) **502**:372-6.

Nephrin & Podocin Proteins Are Key to Kidney Function: Podocyte Filtration Barrier



Sherket
Petersen



Increased O-GlcNAc Due to High Glucose **Blocks** the Transcription of Podocin and Nephrin

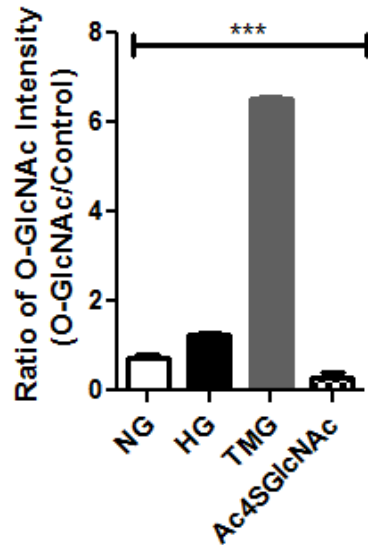
>O-GlcNAc Ab W.B.

A

NG HG TMG Ac₄SGlcNAc



O-GlcNAc

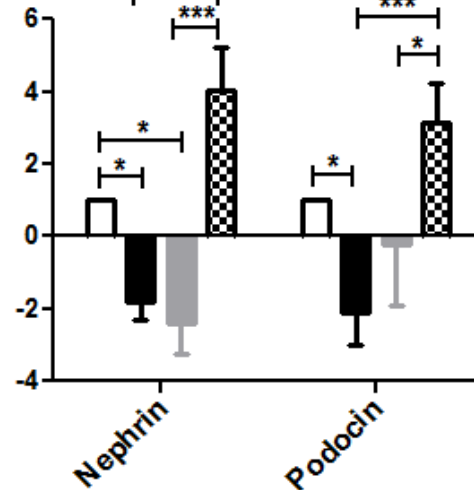


B

mRNA

- Normal Glucose
- High Glucose
- TMG Treatment
- ▣ Ac₄SGlcNAc Treatment (OGT Inhibitor)

Relative Fold Change

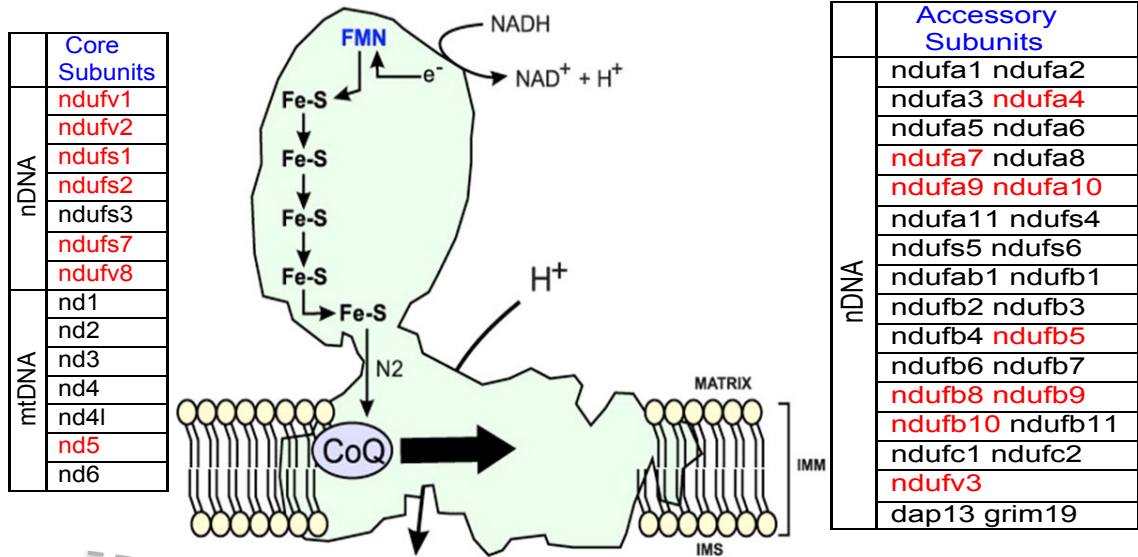


Inhibition of the O-GlcNAc Transferase, **Even in High Glucose** Restores Podocin and Nephrin Expression.

Sherket Petersen



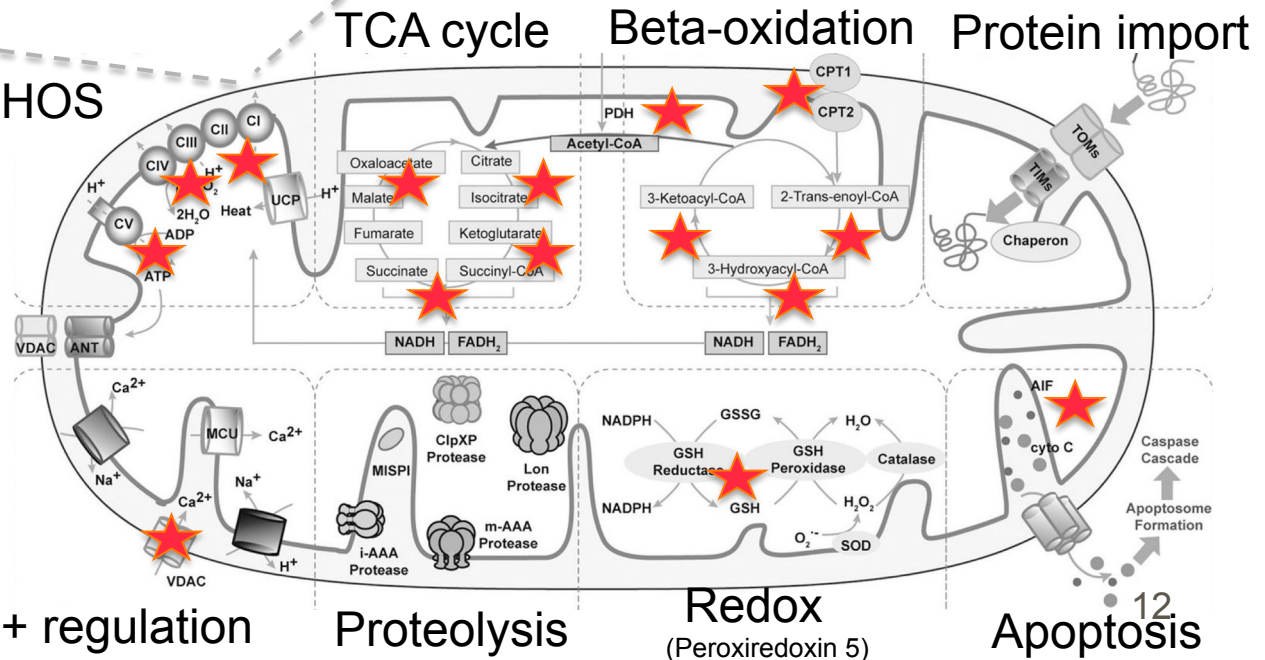
At Least 88 Mitochondria proteins are O-GlcNAcylated:



Normal Mitochondria:
Elevating O-GlcNAc Improves Mitochondrial Function.

O-GlcNAcylated proteins in complex I (in red color)

Overview of mitochondrial O-GlcNAcome. (in ★)



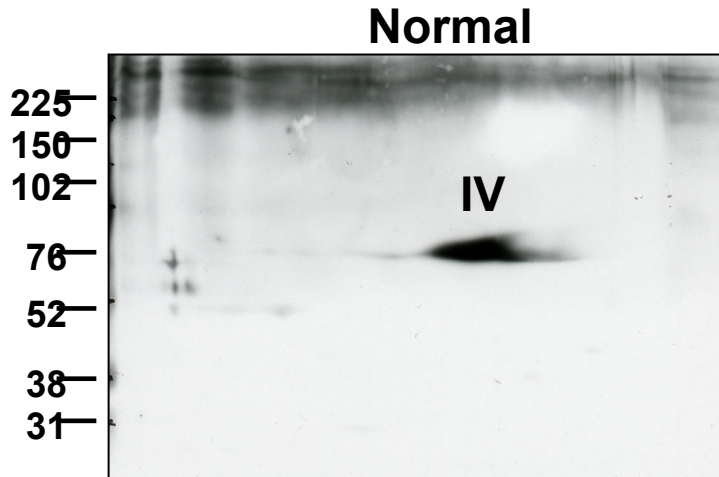
J. Biol. Chem. **290**, 29141-29153 (2015).



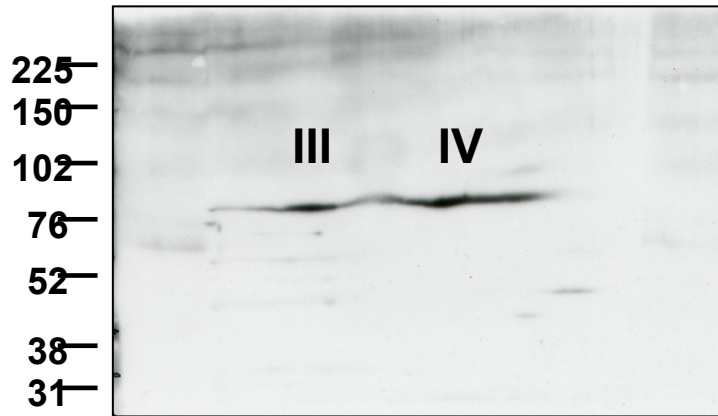
Junfeng Ma

O-GlcNAc Transferase is Mislocalized in Cardiac Mitochondria From Diabetic Rats:

a BN PAGE of mito samples with anti-OGT

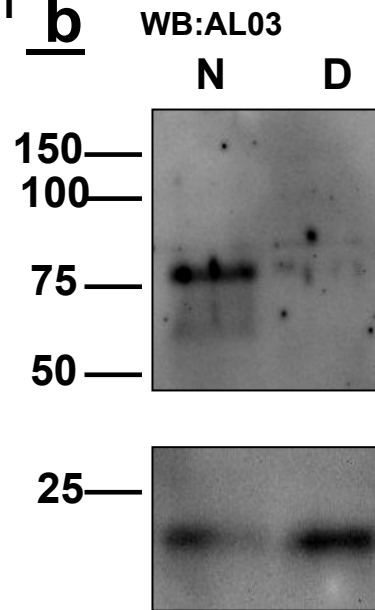


Diabetic

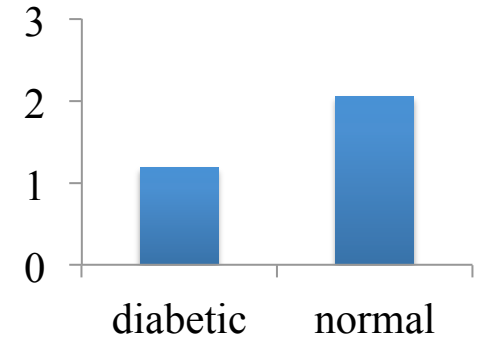


WB: OGT

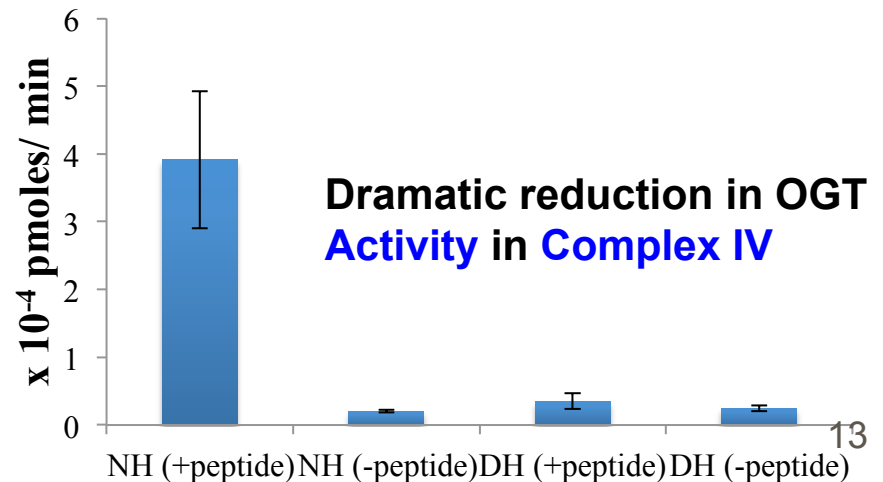
b IP of complex IV showing OGT interaction



**WB: comIV
oxphos**

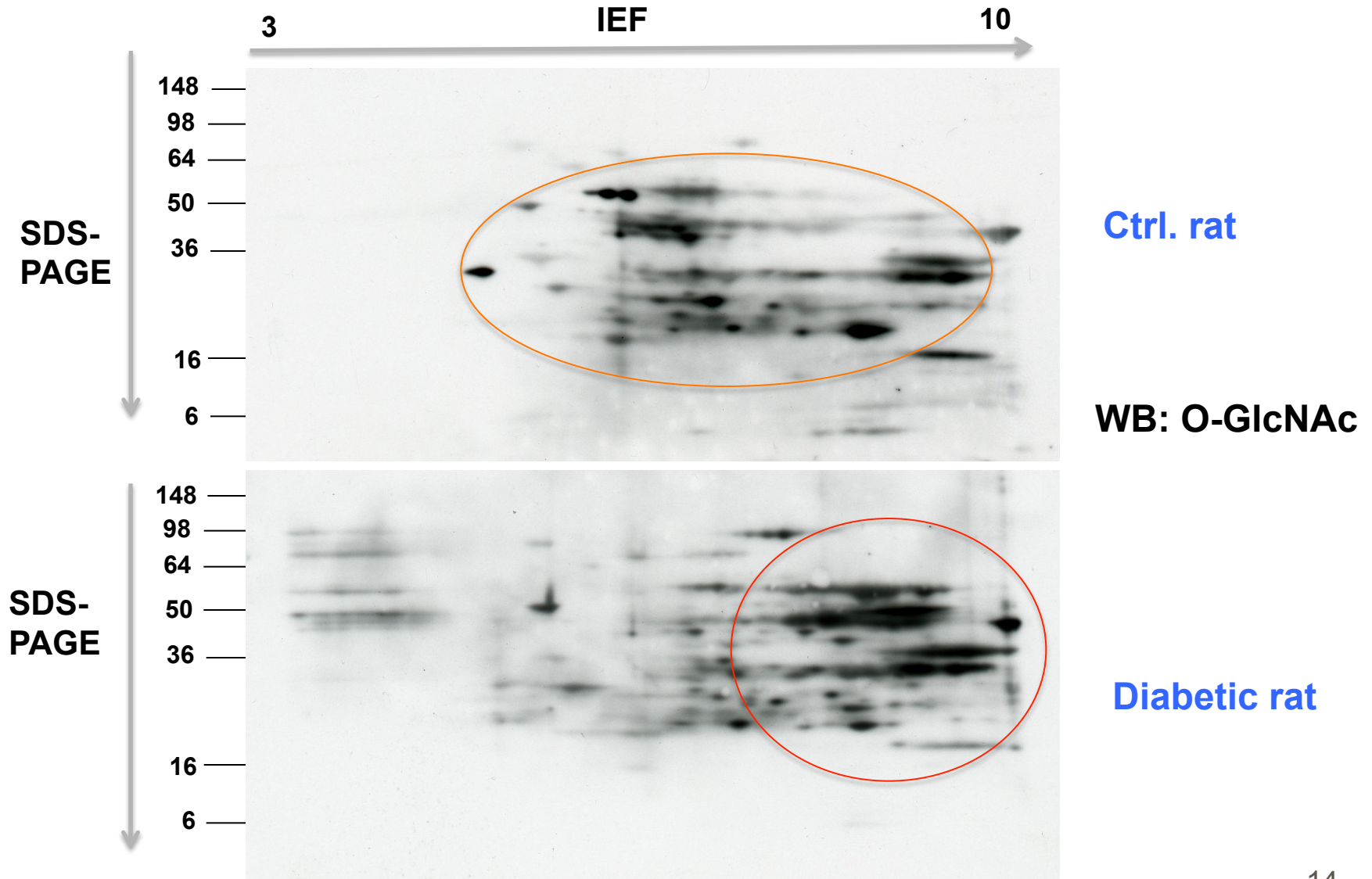


c OGT activity assay on complex IV IP with antibody conjugated beads



Partha Banerjee

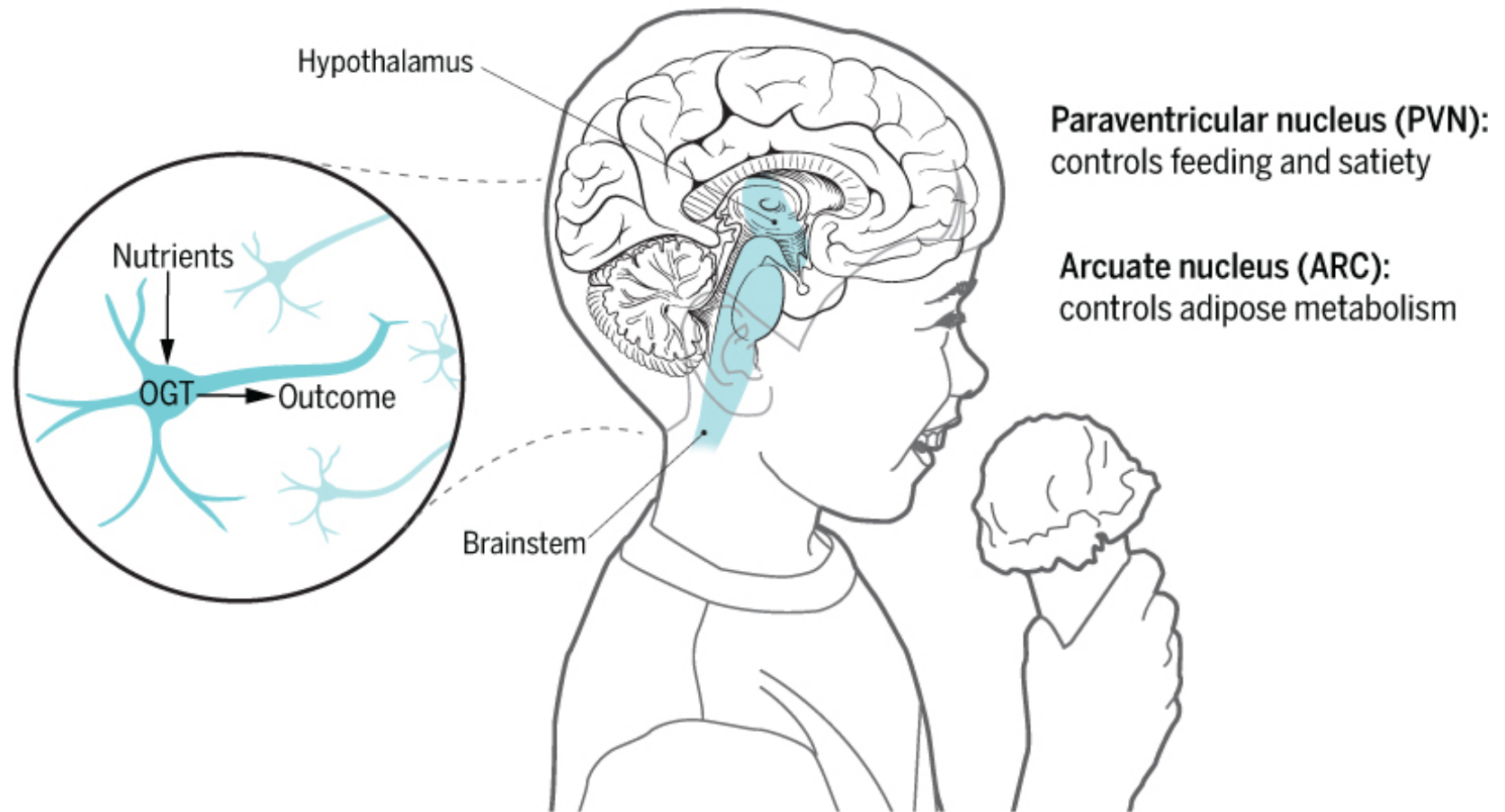
Mitochondrial proteins are O-GlcNAcylated differentially (control vs diabetic rat heart)



Directly Results in Mitochondrial Dysfunction. PNAS 112, 6050-6055 (2015)

What Happens When You **Knock-Out the Enzyme that Adds O-GlcNAc** to Proteins In the **Region of the Brain** in Adult Mice that Controls Feeding and Satiety?

OGT-expressing neurons as nutrient sensors in hypothalamus and brainstem



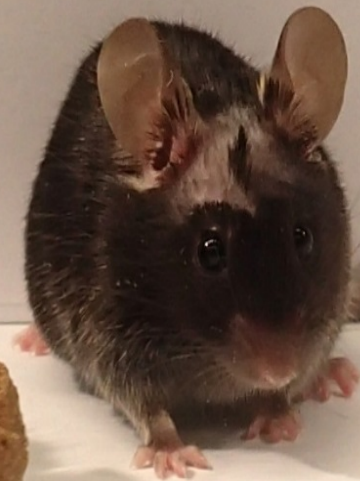
Gary J. Schwartz *Science* 2016;351:1268-1269



~2-3 Weeks Targeted KO is Morbidly Obese & Hyperactive

KO

O-GlcNAc



WT

Mice Missing O-GlcNAc in the PVN Brain Region Can't Stop Eating!

O. Lagerlöf et al., Science 351, 1293 (2016).

Conclusions – O-GlcNAc:

- ♥ O-GlcNAc is a Major **Nutrient** Regulatory Post-Translational Modification in all multicellular eukaryotes - Plants & Animals & Viruses (some bacteria).
- ♥ O-GlcNAc is **Required for Life at All Levels in Mammals and Plants.**
- ♥ **Crosstalk** or Interplay Between **O-GlcNAcylation & Phosphorylation** is Extensive and Involved in **Many** Cellular Processes.
- ♥ **O-GlcNAc is Important to Transcription:** is Part of the Histone Code where Most Sites are at Contact Regions with the DNA of the Nucleosome.
- ♥ Many Toxic Affects of Hyperglycemia Result From **Dysregulation of the Balance Between O-GlcNAc and Phosphorylation & Dysregulated Transcription** = Glucose Toxicity.
- ♥ **Future Drug Targets for Treating Obesity & Diabetes:** 1) Lower O-GlcNAcylation Globally; 2) Lower it Selectively by Targeting the Over 800 specific proteins that Target the O-GlcNAc Transferase to its Substrates.

Acknowledgements

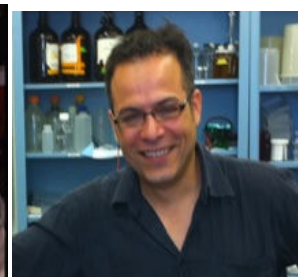


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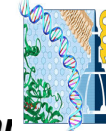


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Department of
Biological Chemistry
The biology of molecules, the chemistry of life

Hunt Lab



Donald F. Hunt
Namrata D. Udeshi
Univ. Virginia



Brian Lewis, NIH

For tools to study O-GlcNAc (eg. antibodies, plasmids, protocols): email: gwhart@jhi