

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

Gerald W. Hart, Ph.D.

DeLamar Professor & Director

Department of Biological Chemistry

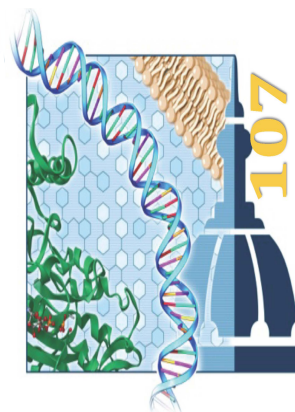
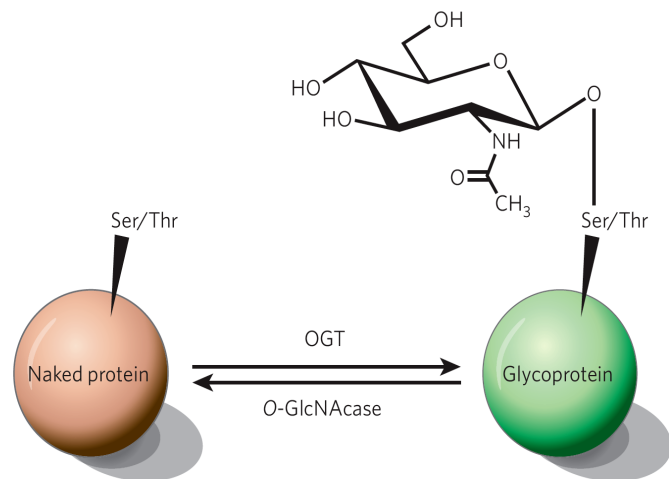
Johns Hopkins University

School of Medicine

725 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21205-2185

Email: gwhart@jhmi.edu

Disclosures: Supported by NIH R01DK61671; P01HL107153; N01-HV-00240; R01CA42486; *Dr. Hart receives a share of royalty received by the university on sales of the CTD 110.6 antibody, which are managed by JHU.*



Department of

Biological Chemistry

The biology of molecules, the chemistry of life

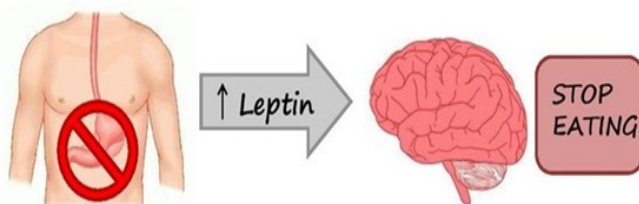
Sugar Toxicity

- 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

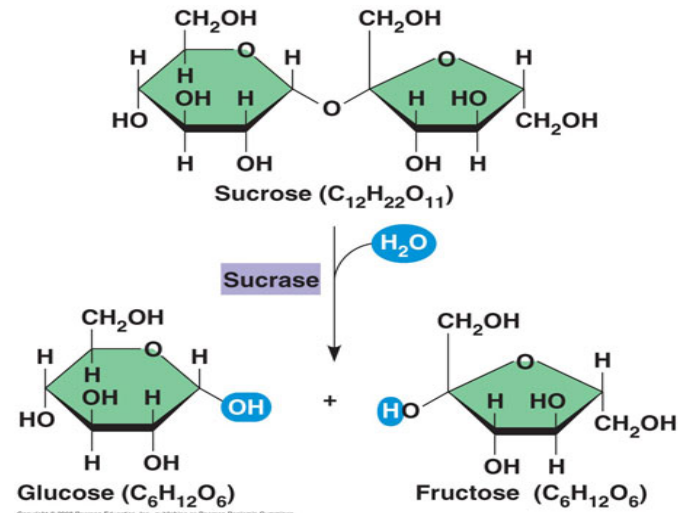


Full Stomach

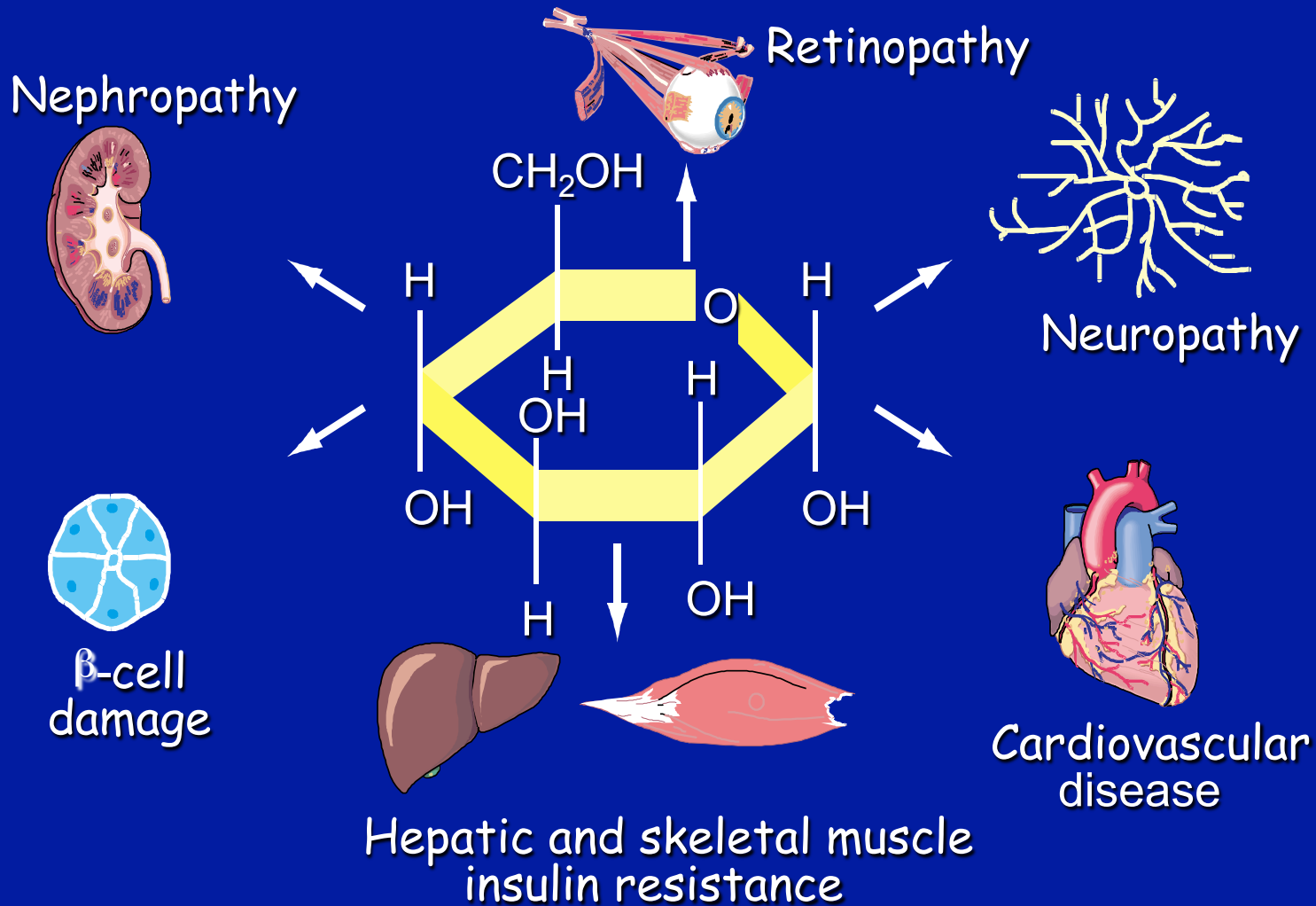


Glucose Stimulates Insulin Signaling to Up-Regulate Leptin Which Tells you to **Stop Eating.**

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



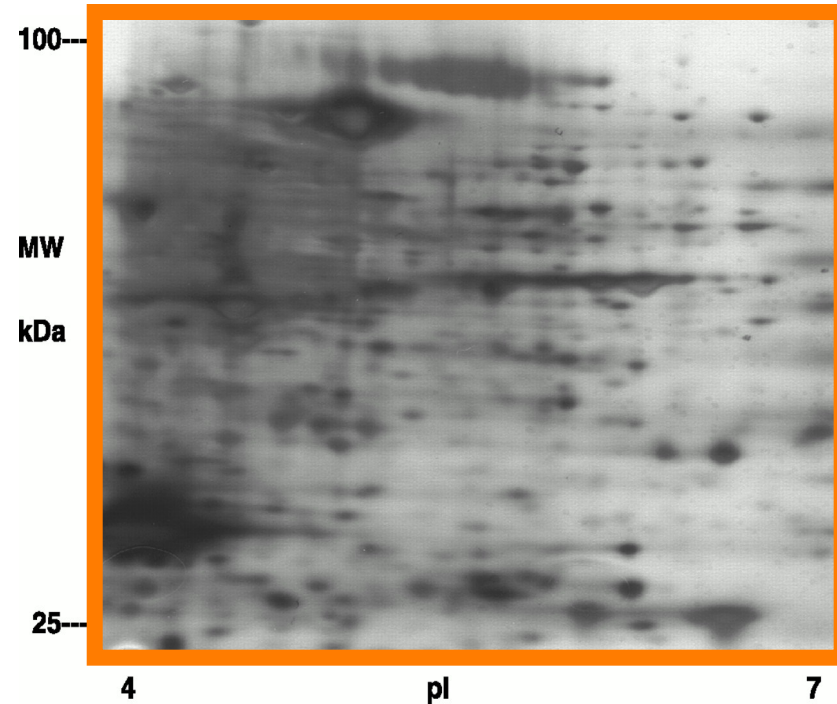
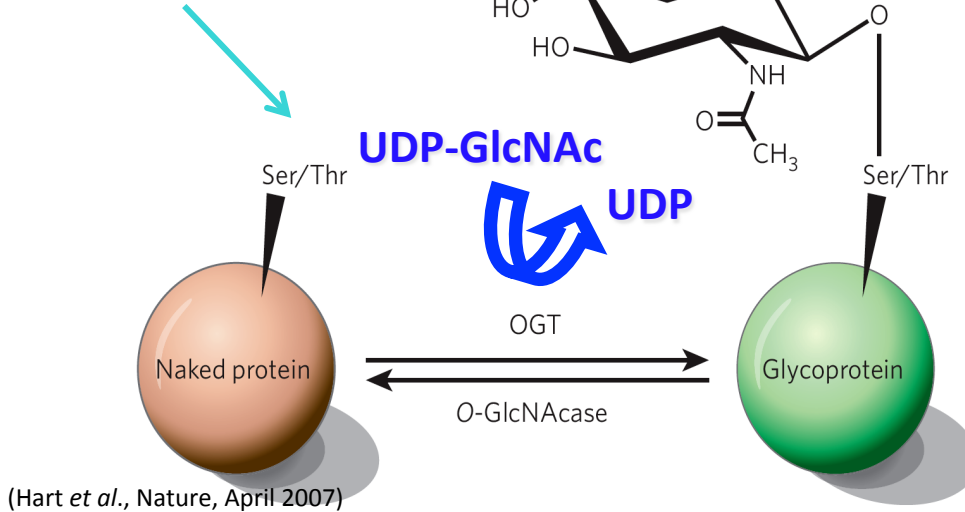
Why is Prolonged High Blood Sugar So Toxic?

Properties of O-GlcNAc.

O-GlcNAc is Abundant on Nuclear & Cytosolic Proteins

Pan >O-GlcNAc Antibody Western Blot - HeLa

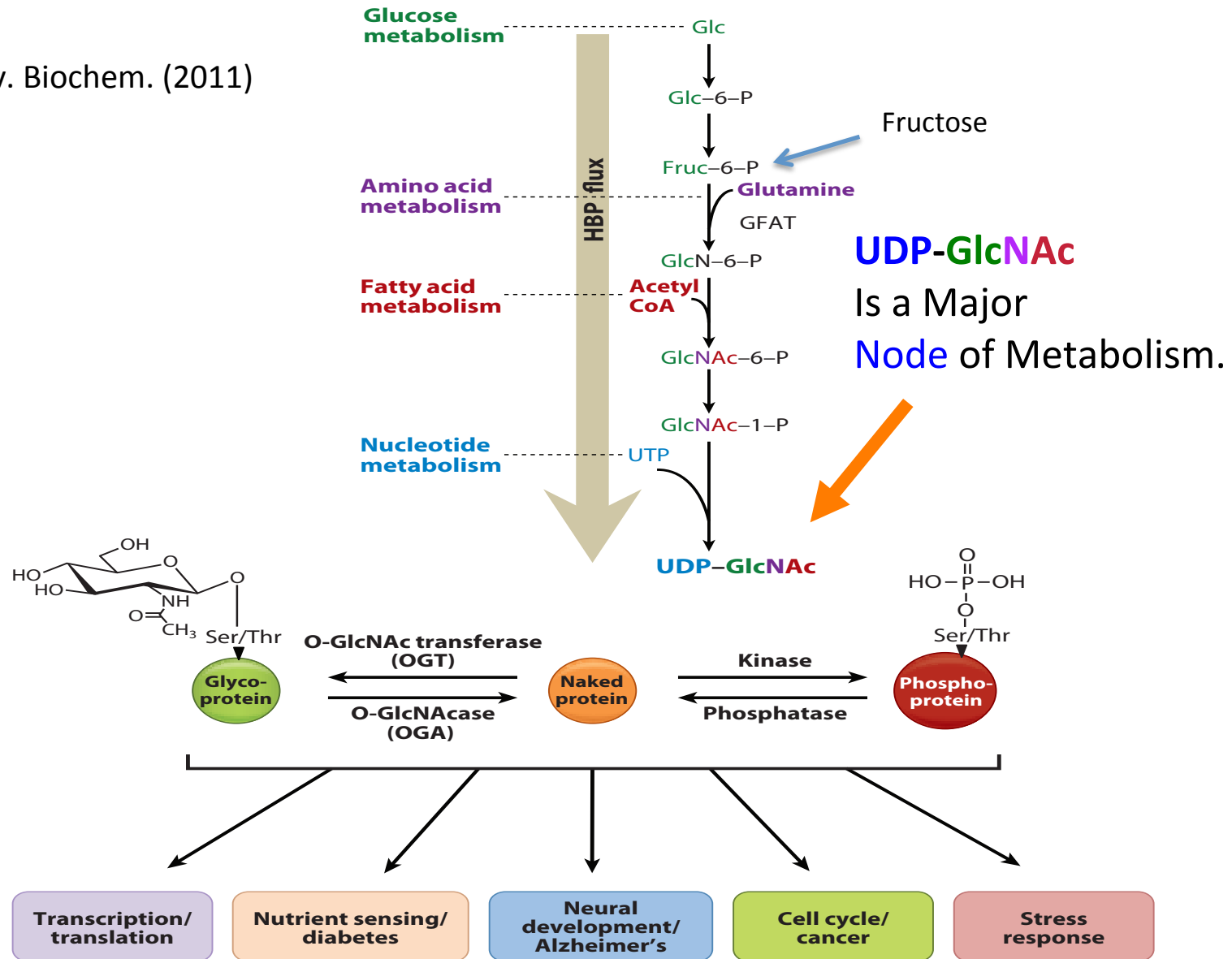
2-5% Glucose
To Hexosamine
Biosynthesis



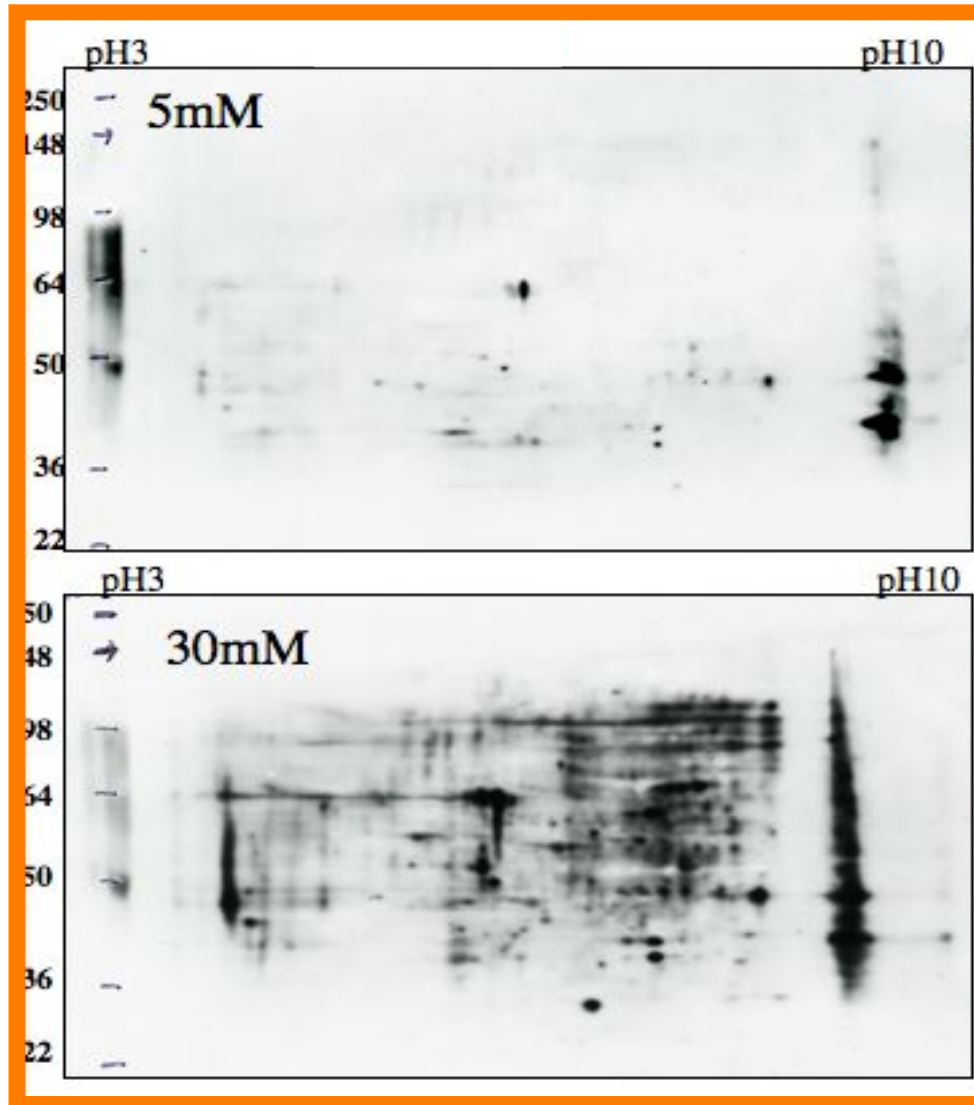
- Highly Dynamic **Enzymatic** Modification of Ser and Thr residues by β -N-acetylglucosamine
- Localized to the **cytoplasm and nucleus** on cell's **regulatory** proteins.
- **Highly abundant** PTM (>4000 identified proteins) & Often Reciprocal (**Competitive**) with **phosphorylation** - **Abundance** = 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.

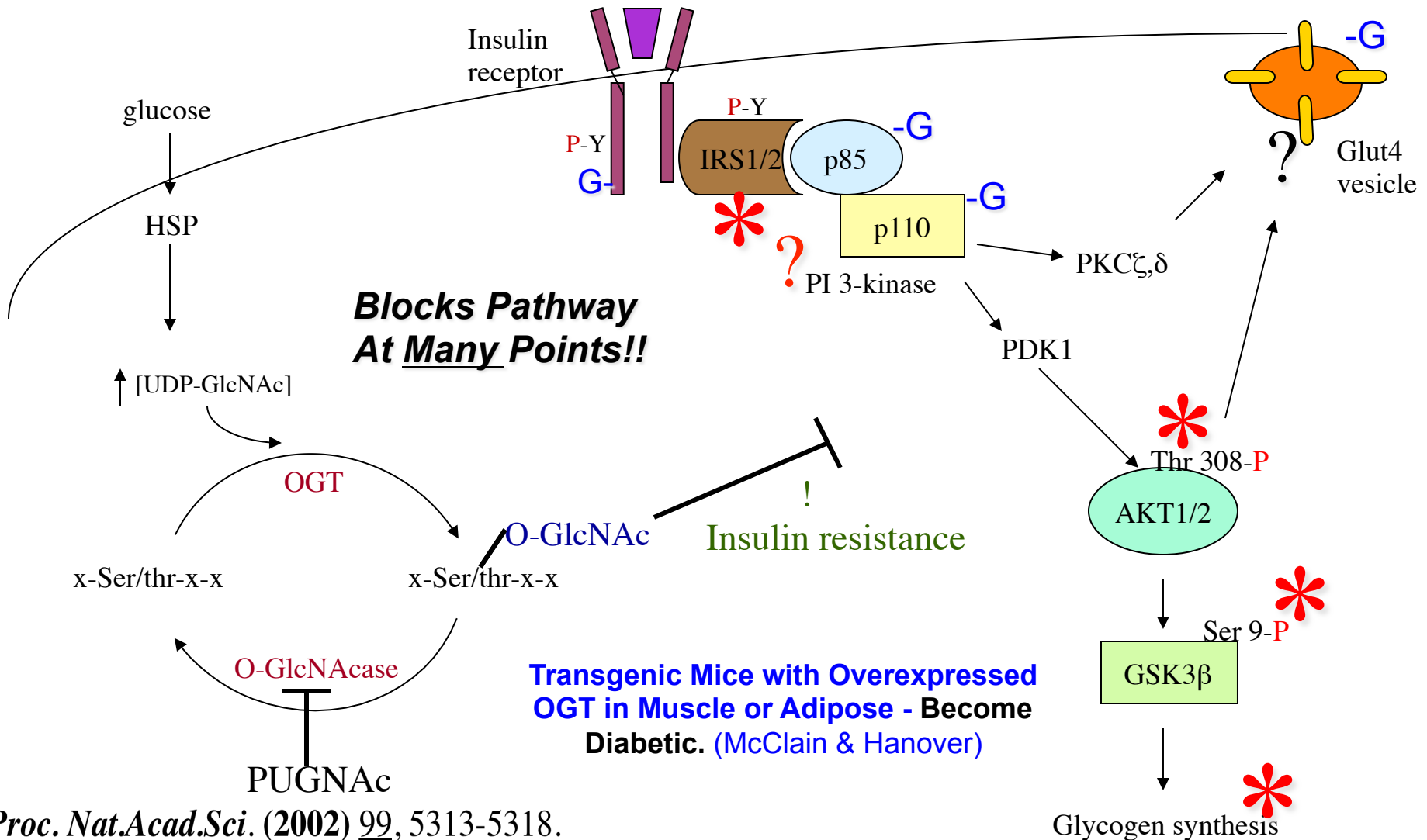
Mechanisms:

- ◆ 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:

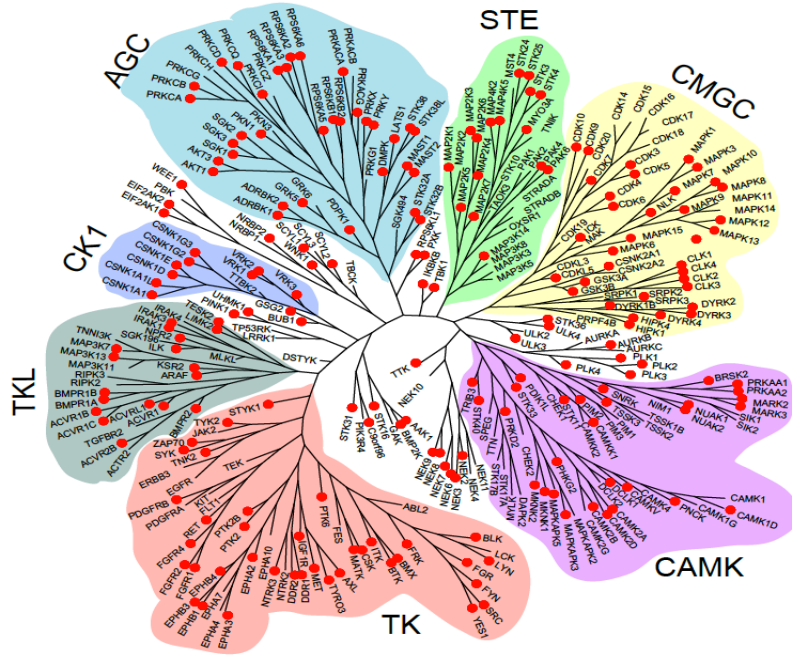
- Blocks AKT phos. at T308 and S9 on GSK3 β
- Inhib. OGase greatly increases OG on β -catenin and IRS1.



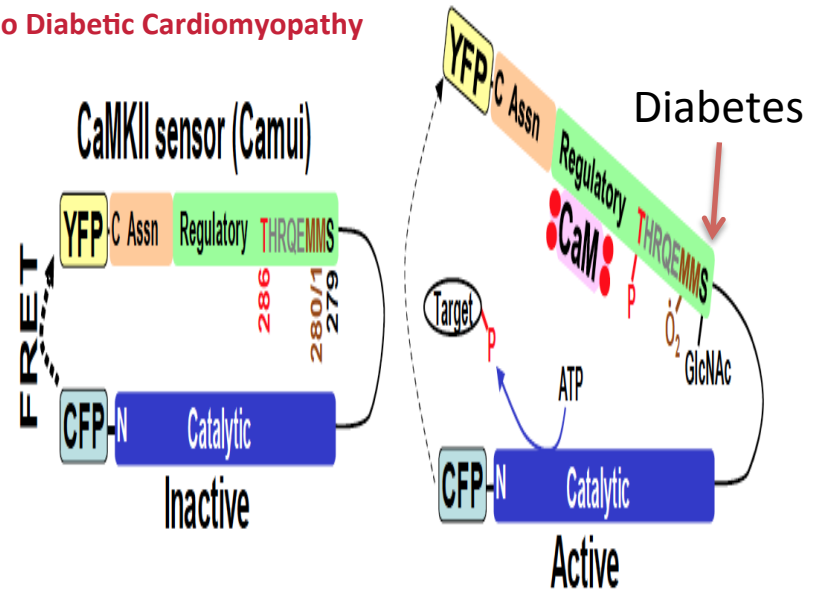
Over one-half of all human protein kinases are dynamically Modified the the Sugar O-GlcNAc.

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

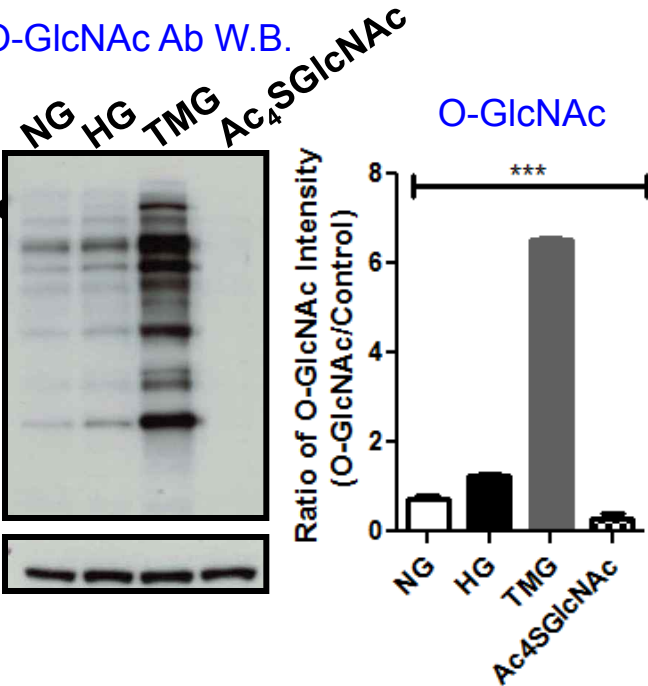


Collaboration with
Donald M. Bers Ph.D.
UC Davis
Nature (2013) **502**:372-6.

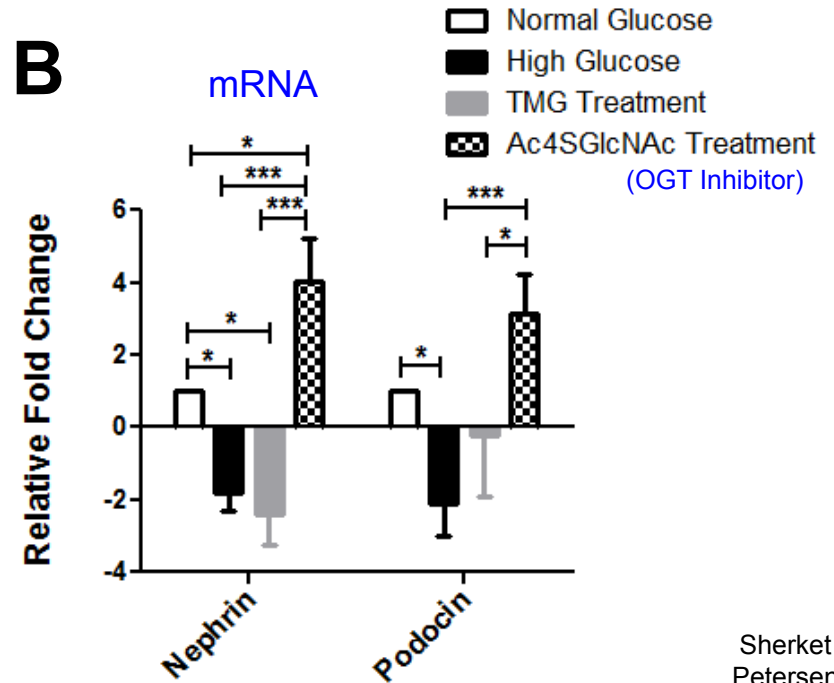
Increased O-GlcNAc Due to High Glucose **Blocks** the Transcription of Podocin and Nephrin

>O-GlcNAc Ab W.B.

A



B

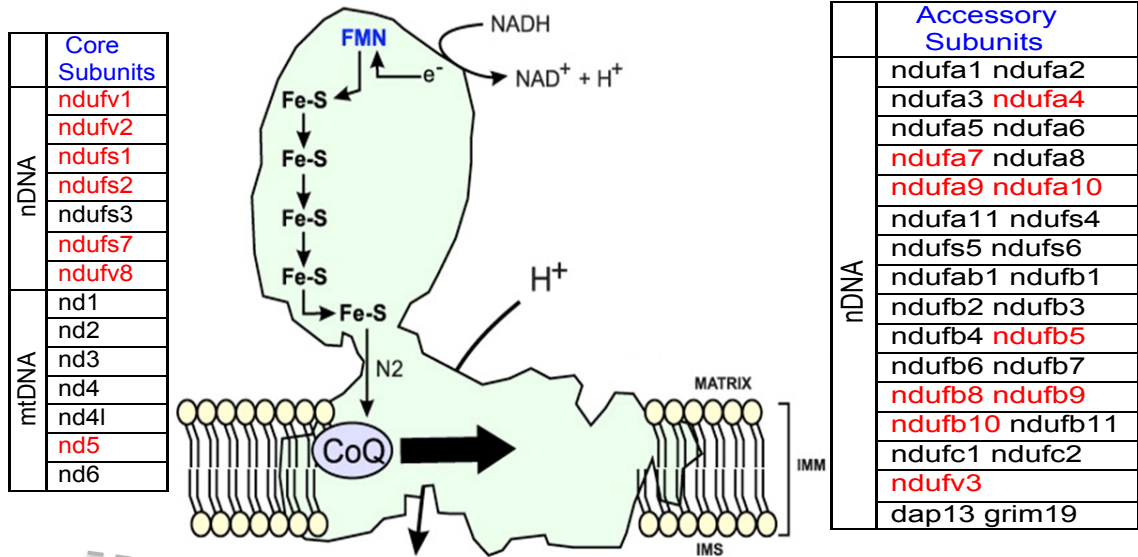


Inhibition of the O-GlcNAc Transferase, **Even in High Glucose** Restores Podocin and Nephrin Expression.

Sherket Petersen



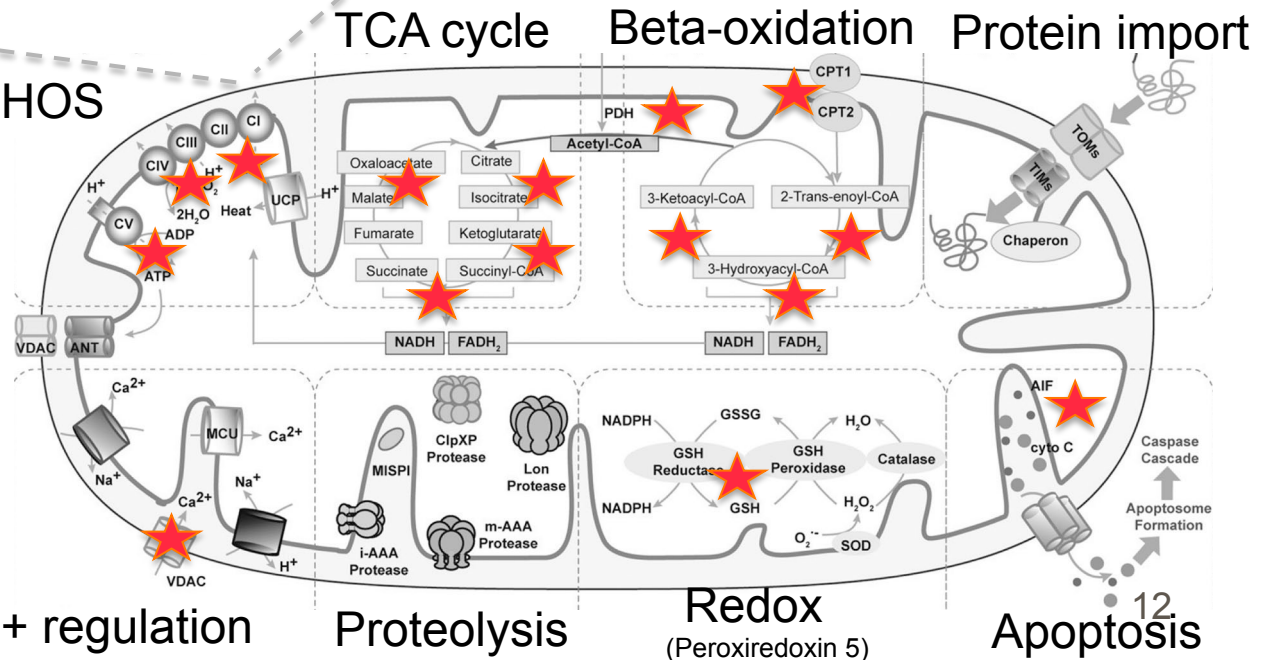
At Least 88 Mitochondria proteins are O-GlcNAcylated:



Normal Mitochondria:
Elevating O-GlcNAc Improves Mitochondrial Function.

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

Overview of mitochondrial O-GlcNAcome. (in ★)



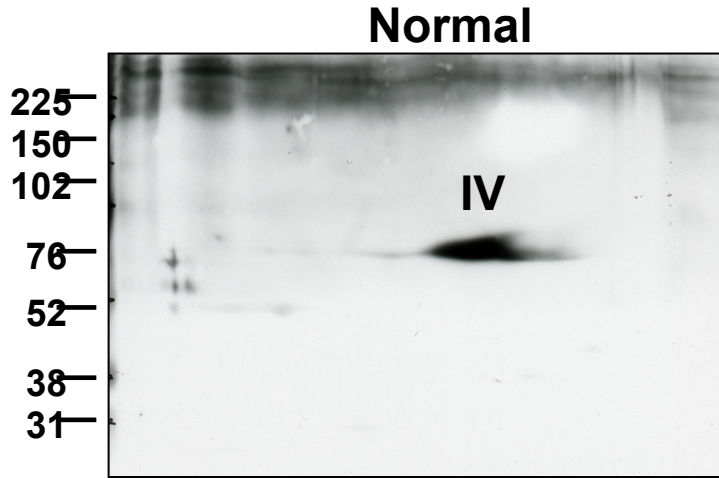
J. Biol. Chem. **290**, 29141-29153 (2015).



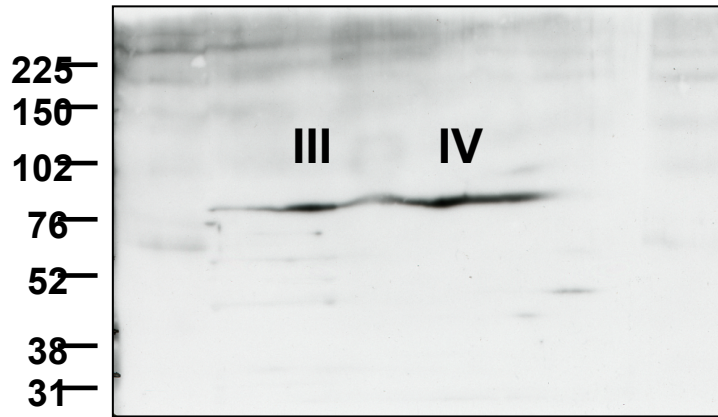
Junfeng Ma

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

a BN PAGE of mito samples with anti-OGT

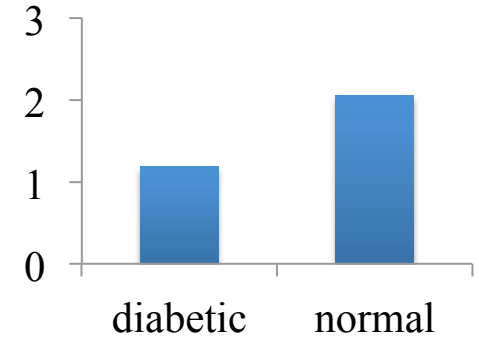
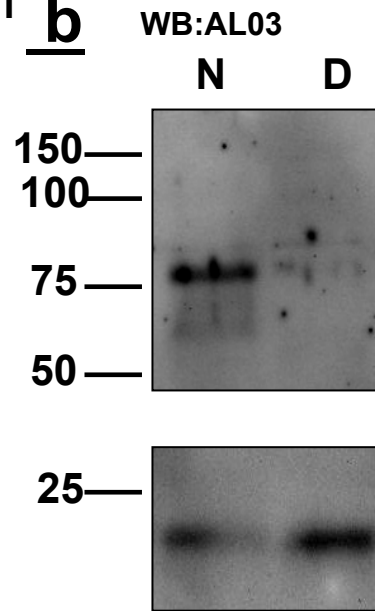


Diabetic

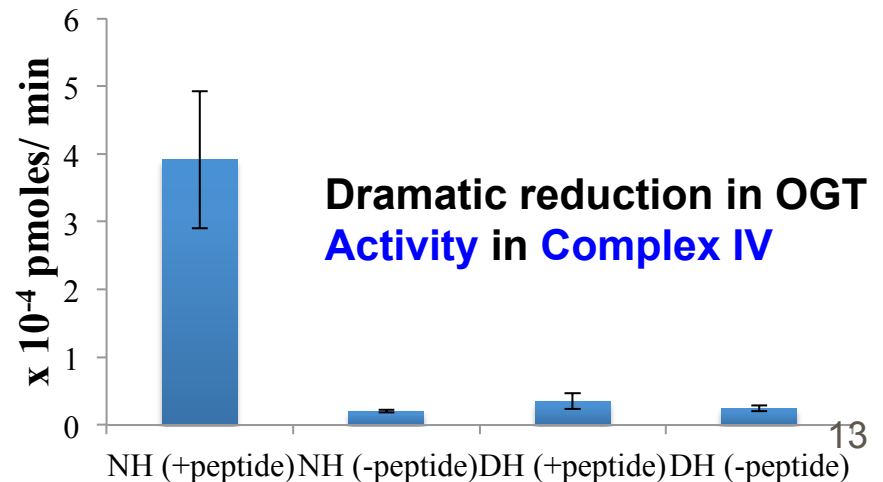


WB: OGT

b IP of complex IV showing OGT interaction

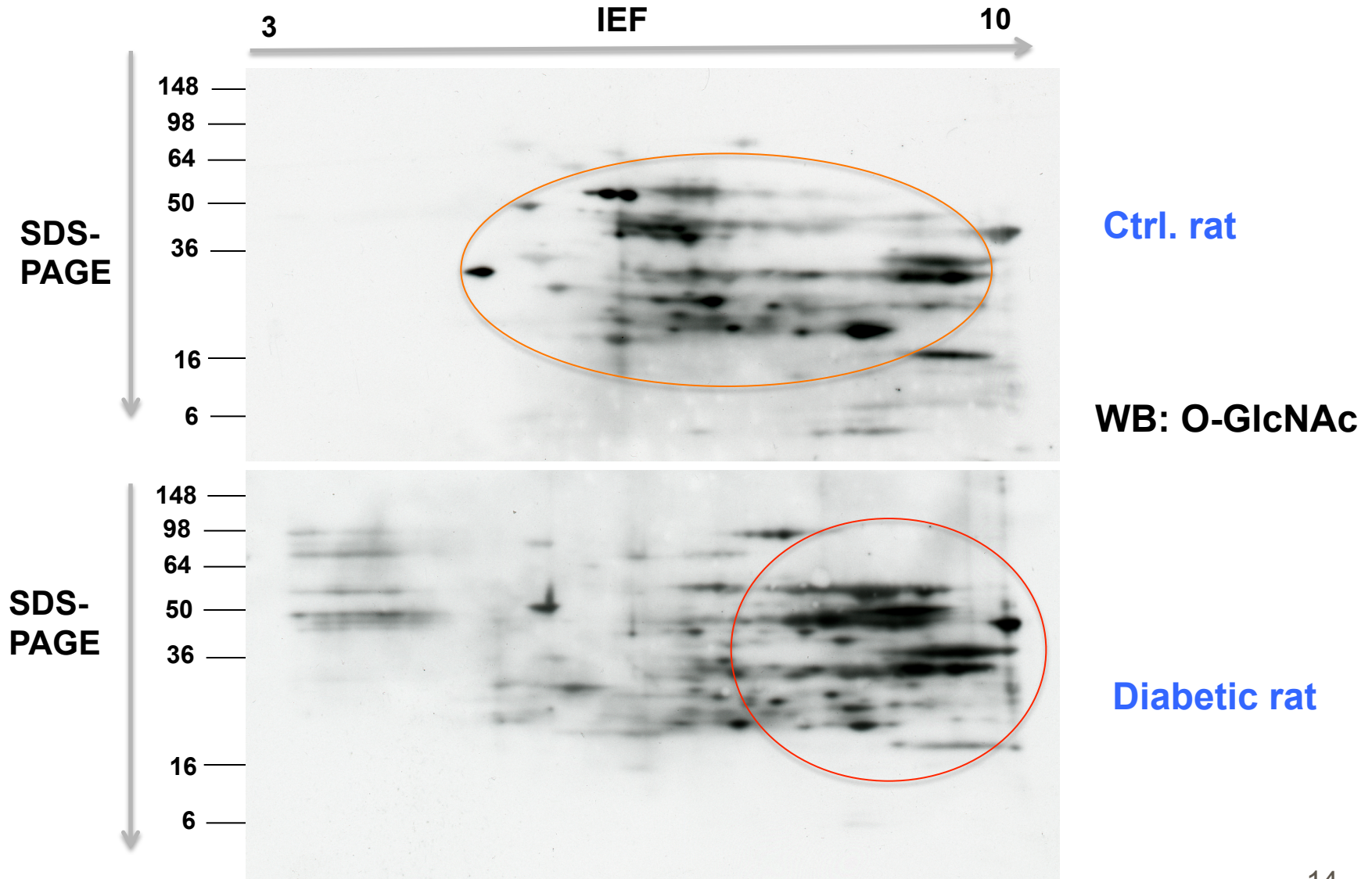


c OGT activity assay on complex IV IP with antibody conjugated beads



Partha Banerjee

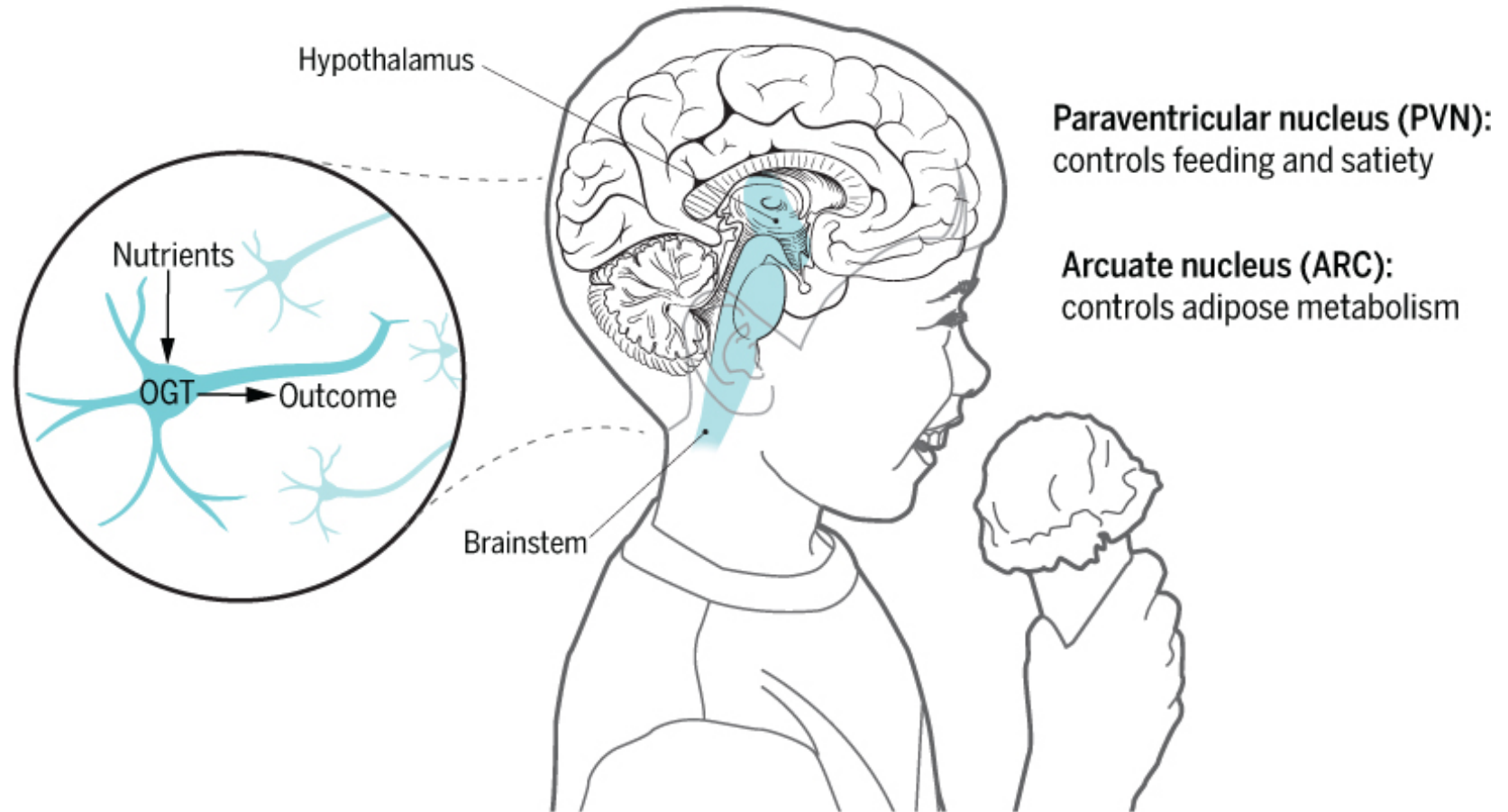
Mitochondrial proteins are O-GlcNAcylated differentially (control vs diabetic rat heart)



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



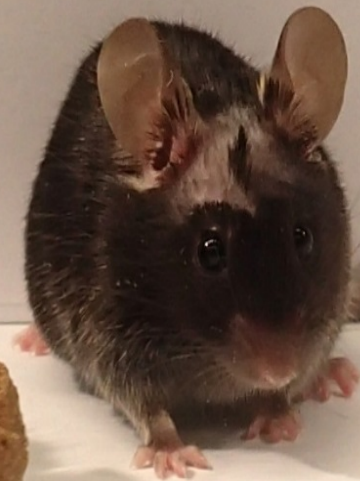
Gary J. Schwartz *Science* 2016;351:1268-1269



~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

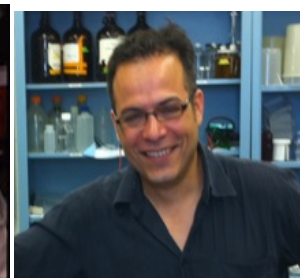


**Genaro A. Ramirez-Correa,
Weidong Gao, and Anne
Murphy**
Department of Pediatrics/
Division of Cardiology

Rick Huganair

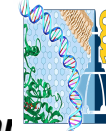


Brian O'Rourke



Heng Zhu
JHMI

Johnathan Neiswinger
JHMI



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