

A combination of metformin and galantamine exhibits synergistic benefits in the treatment of sarcopenia

Caterina Tezze^{1,2}, Francesco Ivan Amendolagine^{1,2}, Leonardo Nogara^{1,2}, Martina Baraldo^{1,2}, Stefano Ciciliot^{1,2}, Diletta Arcidiacono³, Alice Zaramella³, Giulio Masiero^{1,2}, Giulia Ferrarese^{1,2}, Stefano Realdon³, Bert Blaauw^{1,2}, Giel Detienne⁴, Ann TJ Beliën⁴, Marco Sandri^{1,2,5}, Evi M Mercken⁴.

¹Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Padova, via Ugo Bassi 58/b, 35121 Padova, Italy

²Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, via Orus 2, 35129 Padova, Italy

³Gastroenterology Unit, Veneto Institute of Oncology IOV-IRCCS, Via Gattamelata 64, 35128 Padova, Italy

⁴Rejuvenate Biomed, Wetenschapspark 13, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium

⁵Department of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, QC H4A 3J1, Canada

Correspondence to: Marco Sandri, Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, via Orus 2, 35129 Padova, Italy. Phone: +39 0497923264, Email: marco.sandri@unipd.it and Evi Mercken, Rejuvenate Biomed, Wetenschapspark 13, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium. Email: evi@rejuvenatebiomed.com.

Supplemental Table 1: Sequences of primers used for Quantitative Real Time Analysis

	Forward	Reverse
GAPDH	CACCATCTTCCAGGAGCGAG	CCTTCTCCATGGTGGTGAAGAC
IL-1 α	TCTCCTTCTCCTCCTTCTCC	GCTCCCTAAGTTCCTGTCA
IL-1 β	AAGGAGAACCAAGCAACGACAAAA	TGGGGA ACTCTGCAGACTCAA ACT
IL-6	TAGTCCTTCCTACCCCAATTTC	TTGGTCCTTAGCCACTCCTTC
LC3	CACTGCTCTGTCTTGTGTAGGTTG	TCGTTGTGCCTTTATTAGTGCATC
P62	CCCAGTGTCTTGGCATTCTT	AGGGAAAGCAGAGGAAGCTC

Supplemental Table 2: Antibodies used in this study

Primary antibodies	Source (Identifier)	Dilution	Analysis
Mouse anti-GAPDH	Abcam (ab8245)	1:10000	WB
Rabbit anti-LC3B	Sigma (L7543)	1:1000	WB
Rabbit anti-P62	Sigma (P0067)	1:1000	WB
Rabbit anti-NCAM	Millipore (AB5032)	1:200	IF
Mouse anti-SV2 supernatant	Hybridoma Bank	1:100	IF
Mouse anti-2H3 supernatant	Hybridoma Bank	1:50	IF
Rat anti-LAMP1 (1D4B)	Hybridoma Bank	1:200	IF
Mouse anti-Pax7	Hybridoma Bank	1:50	IF
Rabbit anti-Dystrophin	Abcam (ab85302)	1:200	IF
Mouse anti-MHC IIB (BF-F3)	Hybridoma Bank	1:50	IF
Mouse anti-MHC IIA (sc-71)	Hybridoma Bank	1:100	IF
Mouse anti-MHC I (BA-D5)	Hybridoma Bank	1:50	IF
Bungarotoxyn, 594 conjugated	Invitrogen (b13423)	1:200	IF
WGA, 488 conjugated	Invitrogen (11570806)	1:100	IF

WB: western blotting; IF: immunofluorescence

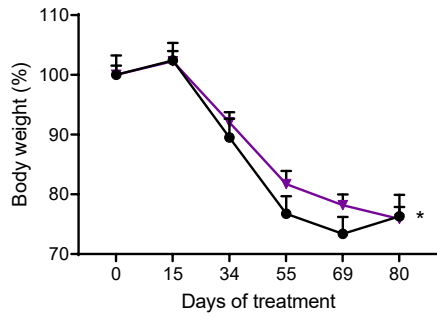
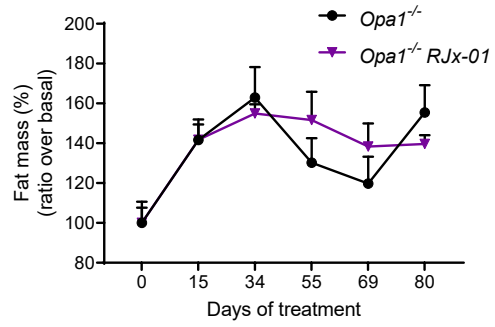
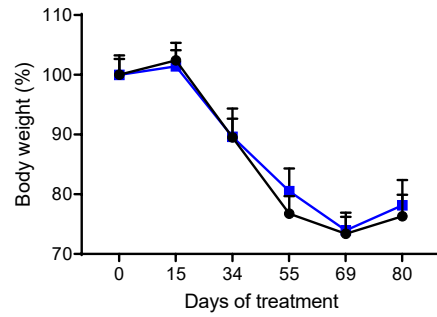
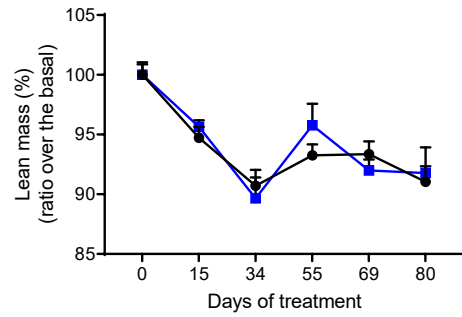
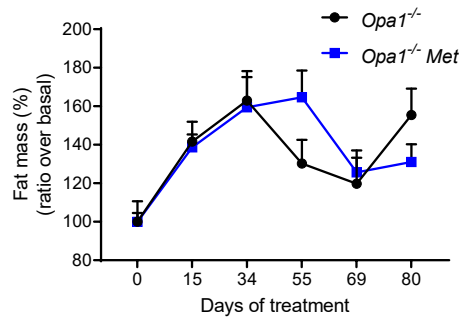
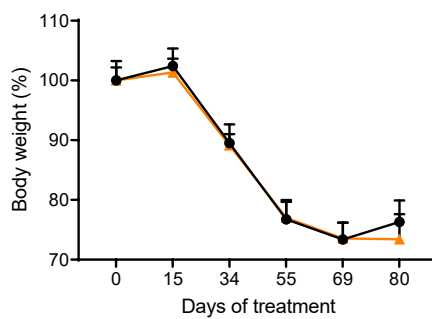
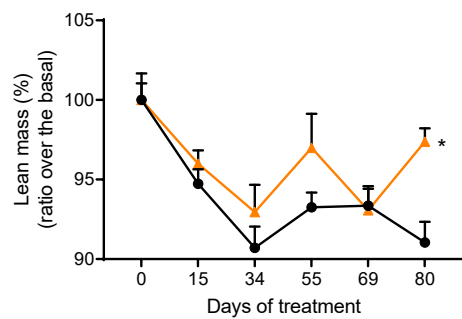
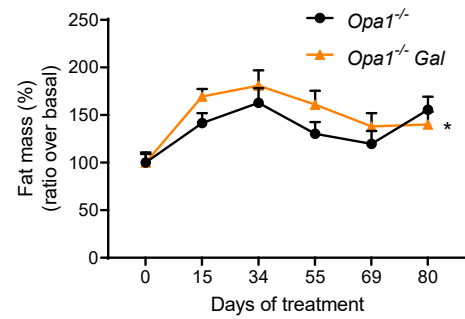
Secondary antibodies	Source (Identifier)	Dilution	Analysis
Goat Anti-Mouse IgG (H + L)-HRP Conjugate (for GAPDH)	Biorad (1706516)	1:20000	WB

Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG (H + L)-HRP Conjugate (for LC3/P62)	Biorad (1706515)	1:2000	WB
Cy3 anti-rabbit IgG (for NCAM)	Jackson (111-165-003)	1:200	IF
Goat anti-Mouse IgG (H+L), Superclonal™ Recombinant, Alexa Fluor™ 488 (for SV2/2H3)	Invitrogen (A28175)	1:200	IF
Goat anti-Rat IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed, Alexa Fluor™ 594 (for LAMP1)	Invitrogen (A-11007)	1:200	IF
Goat anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody, Alexa Fluor™ 594 (for Pax7)	Invitrogen (A-11005)	1:200	IF
Alexa fluor 488 anti-rabbit (for dystrophin in the Pax7 immunostaining)	Jackson (111-145-144)	1:200	IF
Alexa Fluor 405 goat anti-mouse IgG2b (MHC I)	Jackson ImmunoResearch Europe (115-475-207)	1:200	IF
Alexa Fluor 448 goat anti-mouse IgG1 (MHC IIa)	Jackson ImmunoResearch Europe (115-545-205)	1:200	IF
Alexa Fluor 594 goat anti-mouse IgM (Cy3) (MHC IIb)	Jackson ImmunoResearch Europe (115-505-020)	1:200	IF
Alexa Fluor 647 goat anti-rabbit IgG (dystrophin)	Jackson ImmunoResearch Europe (111-607-003)	1:200	IF

Supplemental Table 3: Significant synergy between metformin and galantamine was detected in terms of adult *C. elegans* survival

Condition	[Met] (mM)	[Gal] (μM)	Mean lifespan vs untreated control	Mean lifespan vs Met 25 + Gal 100
Untreated control	0	0		-18.1%***
Met 25	25	0	+11.9%***	-8.3%*
Gal 100	0	100	+6.8%*	-12.5%***
Met 25 + Gal 100	25	100	+22.1%***	

Met: metformin; Gal: galantamine; * $p_{\log\text{-rank}} < 0.05$, *** $p_{\log\text{-rank}} < 0.001$.

A**B****C****D****E****F****G****H**

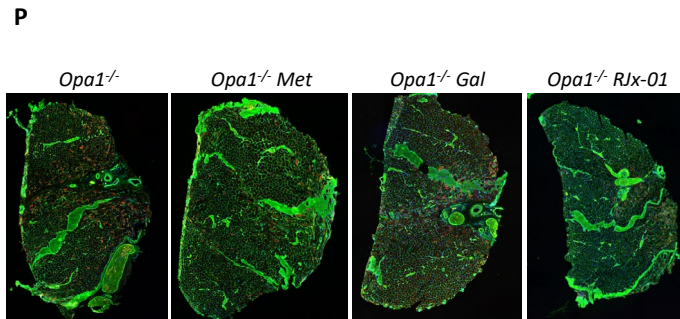
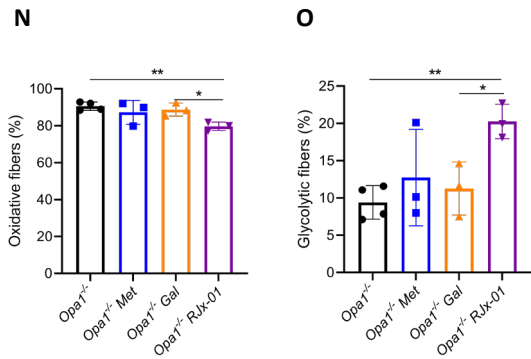
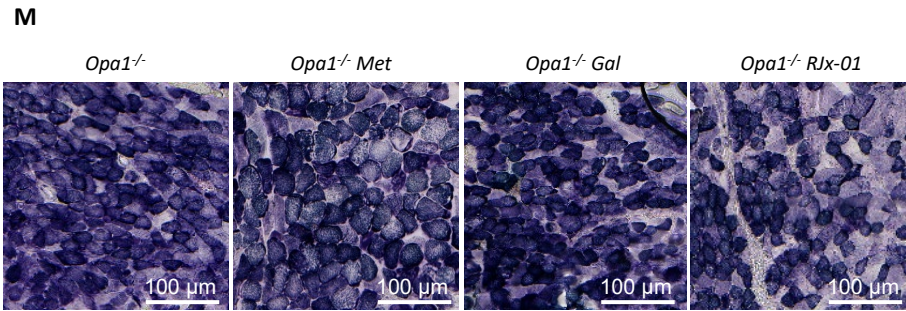
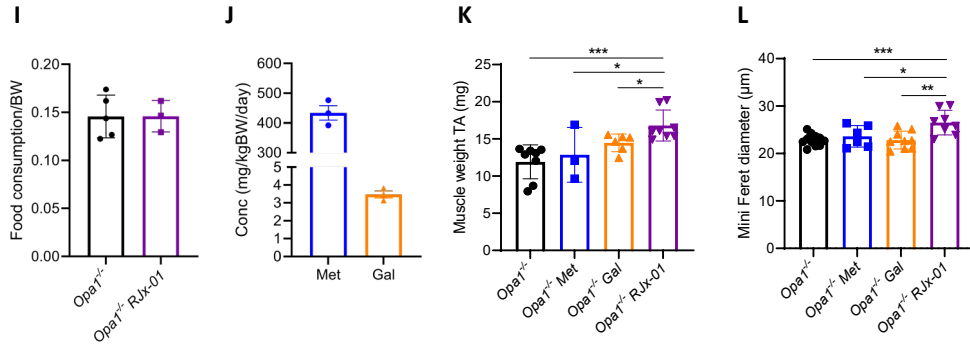


Figure S1. (A-B) Percentage of body weight and fat mass of *Opal^{-/-}* mice fed a diet supplemented with RJx-01. (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=11, *Opal^{-/-} RJx-01*: n=8). **(C-H)** Percentage of body weight, lean mass and fat mass of *Opal^{-/-}* mice fed a diet supplemented with metformin (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=11, *Opal^{-/-} Met*: n=6) or **(F-H)** galantamine (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=11, *Opal^{-/-} Gal*: n=6). **(I)** Food consumption over bodyweight and **(J)** dosages of metformin and galantamine per kg of bodyweight (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=5, *Opal^{-/-} RJx-01*: n=3) **(K)** Weights of tibialis anterior muscles (TA) (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=8, *Opal^{-/-} Met*: n=3, *Opal^{-/-} Gal*: n=6, *Opal^{-/-} RJx-01*: n=8) and **(L)** minimal Feret diameter of transversal gastrocnemius sections (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=11, *Opal^{-/-} Met*: n=6, *Opal^{-/-} Gal*: n=9, *Opal^{-/-} RJx-01*: n=8) **(M)** SDH staining (Scale bar = 100 μ m) and quantification of the number of **(N)** Oxidative, and **(O)** Glycolytic fibers in the different conditions (*Opal^{-/-}*: n=4, *Opal^{-/-} Met*: n=3, *Opal^{-/-} Gal*: n=3, *Opal^{-/-} RJx-01*: n=3). **(P)** Representative muscles stained with NCAM and WGA. Data are mean \pm SEM. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$. In panel **A, B, C, D, E, F, G** and **H** a linear mixed-effects model was used, a two-tailed Student's *t* test was performed in panel **I** and **J**, and 1-way ANOVA followed by Holm step-down method (two-tailed Student's *t* test) was performed in panels **O** and **P**.

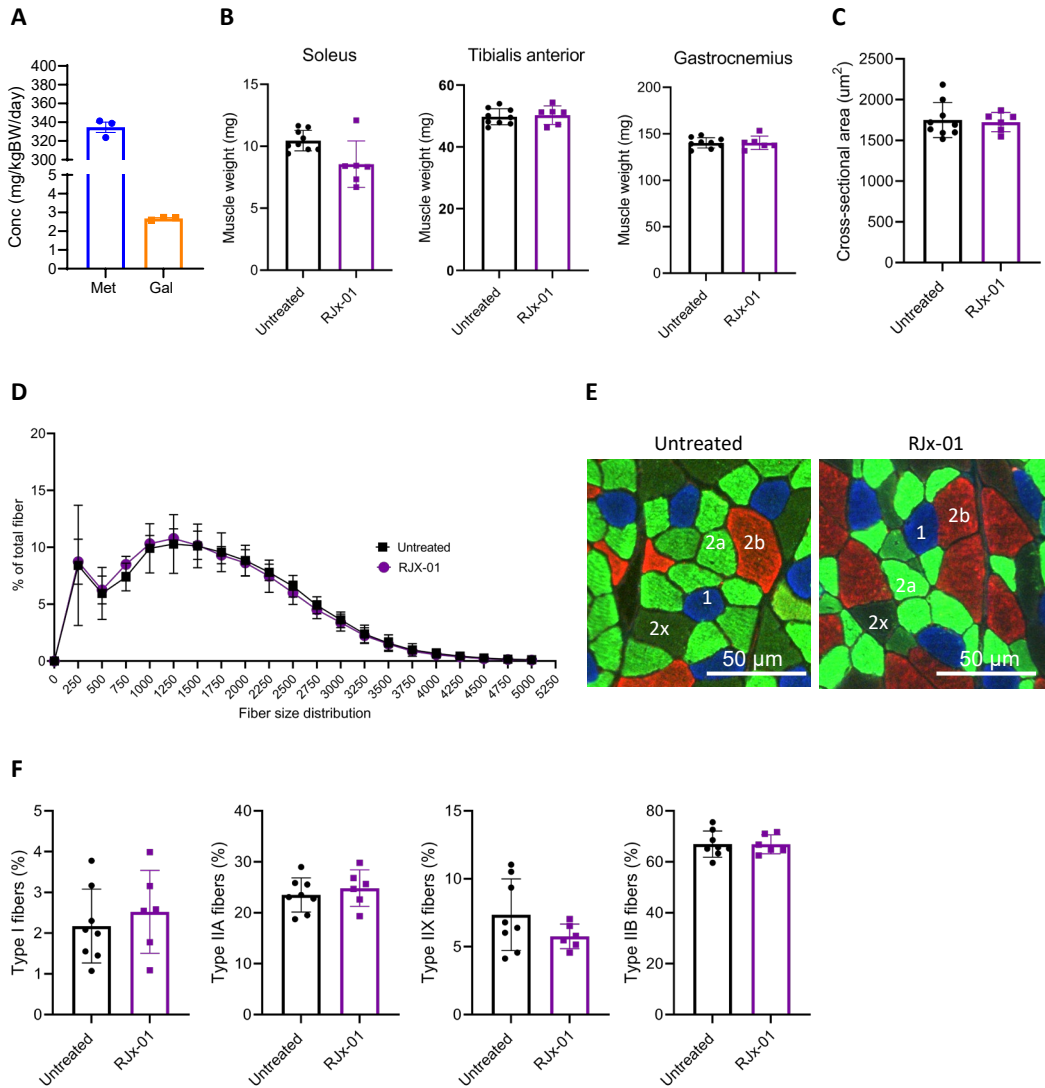


Figure S2. (A) Dosages of metformin (Met) and galantamine (Gal) per kg of bodyweight in aged mice (n=3). (B) Weights of muscles (soleus, tibialis anterior, gastrocnemius) of aged mice fed a control diet or a control diet supplemented with RJx-01. (C) Myofibers cross-sectional area analysis of gastrocnemius muscle, and (D) the relative fiber size distribution. (E) Representative images of the fiber type staining (Scale bar = 50 um) and (F) The number of fibers (Type I, IIA, IIX, IIB) expressed as a percentage (n= 5300-7500 fibers per muscle). (Untreated: n=9; RJx-01: n=6). Data are mean \pm SEM.

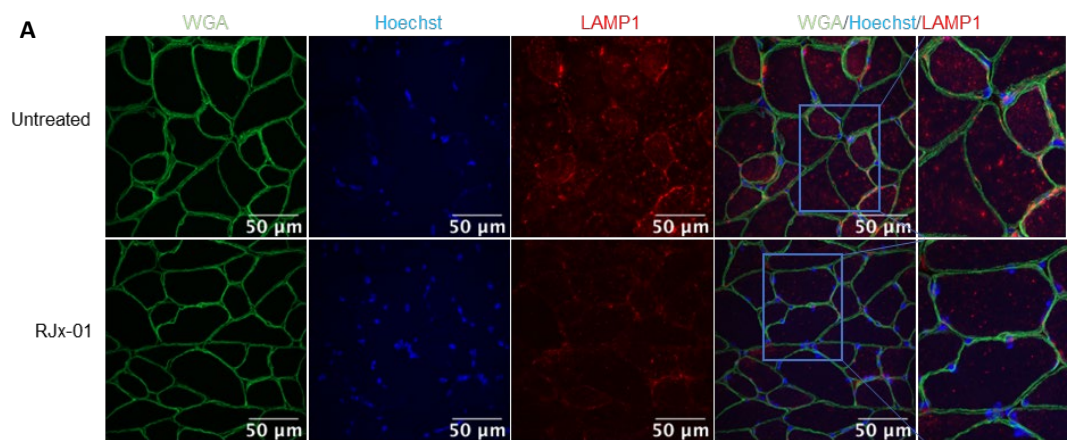


Figure S3. (A) Representative images of LAMP1 expression after 18 weeks of treatment. (Untreated: n=3; RJx-01: n=6). Scale bar = 50 μ m.