

Supporting Information

Zhang et al. 10.1073/pnas.1118458109

SI Materials and Methods

Mice and Surgeries. The 129S1/SvIm/J (PPAR $\alpha^{+/+}$) and 129S4/SvJae-Ppara^{tm1Gonz/J} (PPAR $\alpha^{-/-}$) mice were from The Jackson Laboratory. The 5B6 TCR Tg mice of the (SJL/J) strain were obtained from Jennifer Gommerman (University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada) through an agreement with Pfizer. Castration and sham surgeries and pellet implantations were conducted on 4–5-wk-old mice as described previously (1). Thirty-day release pellets of DHT (5 mg) or placebo were purchased from Innovative Research of America. Animal protocols were approved by the University Health Network in accordance with the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

EAE Induction, Recall Assays, and T Reg Staining. Mice (8–10 wk) were vaccinated (s.c.) with an emulsion (volume ratio, 1:1) of 100 μ g of PLP p139-151 (2 mg/mL in 1 \times PBS) mixed with CFA (4 mg/mL heat-killed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Ra*; Difco Laboratories) as described (2). PLP p139-151 was synthesized by the Stanford Pan Facility (Stanford, CA). Spleens and lymph nodes were harvested from mice 8 d postimmunization and were dissociated into a single-cell suspension. The recall proliferation and cytokine production by cultured cells in response to PLP p139-151 were measured (2). CD4⁺FoxP3⁺CD25⁺ cells were stained using the mouse regulatory T-cell staining kit (88-8111-40; eBioscience). Mononuclear cells were isolated from spinal cords of EAE mice as described previously (3).

Proliferation and Cytokine Measurements. Proliferation was measured using a [³H]thymidine incorporation assay (2). The levels of mouse and human cytokines in culture supernatants were measured using Ready-SET-Go mouse or human ELISA kits (eBioscience). Flow cytometric analysis of intracellular cytokine staining on mouse CNS mononuclear cells was conducted as described previously (3). For human intracellular cytokine staining, cells were stimulated with 10 ng/mL PMA (Sigma) and 750 nM ionomycin (Calbiochem) for 4 h in the presence of GolgiStop (BD Pharmingen) before staining with Cy7-APC-CD4 and LIVE/DEAD fixable aqua (Invitrogen). Cells were then fixed and permeabilized (BD reagents and protocols) before staining for human IL-4 (PE; clone 8D4-8; BD Pharmingen), human IFN γ (APC; clone B27; BD Pharmingen), or human IL-17A (PE; eBioscience). Data were collected using the LSRII (BD) and were analyzed using Flowjo software.

In Vitro Mouse T-Cell Culture. CD4⁺ T cells (negative-selection) or CD11c⁺ (positive-selection) cells were isolated from secondary lymphoid organs using magnetic beads (Miltenyi). For coculture experiments, naive 5B6 TCR Tg cells (50,000) were cultured with half (25,000) the number of irradiated CD11c⁺ cells in round-bottomed, 96-well plates with indicated concentrations of PLP p139-151. Alternatively, CD4⁺ T cells (150,000/well) were cultured in 96-well flat-bottomed plates precoated with various quantities of anti-CD3 (clone 145-2C11) and anti-CD28 (clone 37.51) (eBioscience) in complete RPMI that contained either 10% (vol/vol) FCS (prepared as in ref. 4) or 1% syngeneic sera. For Th17-skewing experiments, complete media was further supplemented with 3 ng/mL TGF- β , 30 ng/mL IL-6, and 10 μ g/ml of anti-IFN γ (clone XMG1.2; eBioscience). For PPAR ligand experiments, T cells were first preincubated with fenofibrate (Sigma; F6020; 1–10 μ M), rosiglitazone (R2408; 1 μ M), or DMSO vehicle (0.1%) in X-VIVO-15 (human) or X-VIVO-20 (mouse) media (Lonza) overnight before TCR and CD28 costimulation.

Human Subjects and Blood Collection. Blood samples (40–70 mL) were drawn from healthy men and women (aged 20–30 y) after obtaining informed consent with approval from the University Health Network Research Ethics Board (REB 09-0577-AE) or the Stanford University Institutional Review Board (protocol identification no. 97959). Ten milliliters of blood were collected in a clot tube for serum collection for hormone measurement. All participants were free of medications except for the use of oral contraceptives by ~50% of women. Other exclusion criteria include smoking or drug use, recent infection (<4 wk), history of cancer, thyroid problems, autoimmune, inflammatory, neurological or cardiovascular conditions, bleeding disorders, anemia, recent surgery, or obesity (body mass index, >30 kg/m²). Women provided a sample of blood during the self-reported follicular (self-reported) or luteal (21 d after the start of the last menstrual period, 28-d cycle) phase of the menstrual cycle. All blood draws were conducted in the morning hours with one man and one woman drawn per occasion.

Isolation and Culture of Human CD4⁺ T Cells. PBMCs were isolated from heparinized blood using Ficoll-Paque density gradient centrifugation (GE Healthcare). CD14⁺ monocytes and naive (CD45RA⁺) or total CD4⁺ T cells were further fractionated using magnetic beads (Miltenyi). The purity of isolated CD4⁺ T cells was >96%, as determined using flow cytometry. Naive CD4⁺ T cells (50,000/well) were cultured in serum-free X-VIVO-15 media (Lonza; supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine and 100 U/mL penicillin) in 96-well plates with Dynabeads human T-activator anti-CD3 and anti-CD28. For hormone stimulation of CD4⁺ T cells, CD4⁺ T cells were cultured in complete RPMI (2) that contained 10% charcoal-stripped FCS (HyClone) with either 100 nM DHT (Wako; catalog no. 045-26071) or ethanol vehicle (0.01%). For T-cell and monocyte coculture experiments (Fig. S4A), CD4⁺ T cells (50,000) were added, along with anti-CD3 (Clone OKT) anti-CD3 (eBioscience), to monocytes (50,000) that had been preactivated with peptidoglycan (Fluka; 77145; 1 μ g/mL) for 5 h. Memory CD4⁺CD45RO⁺ Th17 cells were expanded according to a previously published protocol (5).

Hormone Assays. Testosterone and estradiol were quantified in serum by previously described RIA methods (6, 7). Before the RIAs, steroids are extracted with hexane:ethyl acetate (3:2), and testosterone and estradiol are separated by Celite column partition chromatography (John Morris Scientific). Appropriate tritiated internal standards are added to each sample before the extraction step to determine and correct for procedural losses. A highly specific antiserum is used in conjunction with an iodinated radioligand in each RIA. The assay sensitivities are 1.5 ng/dL and 2 pg/mL for testosterone and estradiol, respectively. The interassay CVs for testosterone 11%, 9%, and 10% at concentrations of 14.9 ng/dL, 32.8 ng/dL, and 105 ng/dL, respectively. For estradiol, the interassay CVs are 12%, 11%, and 10% at concentrations of 22 pg/mL, 66 pg/mL, and 183 pg/mL, respectively.

Real-Time PCR Detection of Human and Murine PPAR α and PPAR γ mRNAs. Total RNA was isolated using Absolutely RNA mini-prep kit (Agilent Technologies). Transcript levels were measured either from (i) RNA using TaqMan one-step RT-PCR master mix (Applied Biosystems; 4309169) and primer probe sets; or (ii) cDNA that was reverse-transcribed from total RNA (Superscript II; Invitrogen) (2) before being amplified using Qiagen

QuantiTect SYBR Green PCR reagents and sequence-specific primers (3) (Table S3).

For TaqMan, the following primer/probes were used: mouse PPAR α (Mm00440939_m1), mouse PPAR γ (Mm01184322_m1), human PPAR α (Hs00947538_m1), mouse β -actin (Mm00607939_s1), and human 18S rRNA (Hs03003631_g1) with the following cycling conditions: 48 °C for 30 min, 95 °C for 10 min, followed by 50 cycles of 95 °C for 15 seconds and 60 °C for 60 s. For the SYBR method, the following cycling conditions were used: 95 °C for 15 min, followed by 50 cycles of 94 °C for 20 s, 55 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 30 s. All reactions were run using the Roche LightCycler480 real-time PCR machine.

ChIP of PPARA Promoter and IFNG CNS-6 and CNS-22 Regions. ChIP was performed to investigate the recruitment of AR to the human PPAR α promoter. PBMCs (50×10^6) were obtained from each of three female donors, and these cells were stimulated with Dynabeads human T-activator (half of recommended strength) in the presence or absence of 100 nM DHT or vehicle for 16–18 h. Cells were fixed, and then ChIP was performed immediately according to the directions of the manufacturer (Cell Signaling; SimpleChIP Enzymatic Chromatin IP kit; no. 9002S) with the addition of a manual homogenization step (10 gentle, manual strokes using a tissue grinder) at the time of lysis in buffer A. The following rabbit antibodies were used for immunoprecipitation (IP): anti-androgen receptor (1:30 dilution; Millipore; PG-21, 06-680) or an anti-IgG negative control antibody raised in rabbit (1:500; Cell Signaling; no. 2729). DNA template was amplified using real-time PCR (cycling conditions as described above) or traditional PCR using the following conditions: 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of 95 °C for 30 s, 57 °C for 30 s, and 72 °C for 30 s. PCR primer sequences are detailed in Table S3.

In a second experiment, we investigated the abundance of acetylated histone-H4 and RelA at the CNS-6 and CNS-22 sites of the *IFNG*. T cells were isolated from five men for this purpose and were transfected with either PPAR α siRNAs or nontargeting control siRNAs before stimulation with Dynabeads human T-activator for 8 h or 24 h. Cells from these donors were pooled ($15\text{--}20 \times 10^6$ T cells total) after the fixation step. Anti-acetylated H4 (1:25; Cell Signaling; no. 2594S), anti-RelA (p65 NF κ B) (1:100; Cell Signaling; no. 8242S), and a negative

control antibody raised in rabbit were used for IP. PCR was conducted similarly as above with the same cycling conditions as above, except with an annealing temperature set to 53 °C.

siRNA Transfection. Transfection of human (Human T Cell Nucleofector Kit) or mouse (Mouse T Cell Nucleofector Kit) CD4⁺ T cells was conducted according to product directions and the Nucleofector device (Amaxa). Cells were transfected with ON-TARGETplus SMART pool siRNAs (Thermo Scientific) designed against: human PPAR γ (L-003436-00-0005), human PPAR α (L-003434-00-0005), mouse PPAR α (L-040740-01), or mouse PPAR γ (L-040712-00), along with a GFP expression vector provided in the kits. As a control, CD4⁺ cells were transfected with nontargeting siRNAs (ON-TARGETplus control pool; D-001810-10-05). Human CD4⁺ T cells were recovered from the electroporation vial and then allowed to rest overnight in Lymphocyte Growth Medium (LGM) (Lonza) supplemented with 10% FCS (HyClone), penicillin (100 U/mL), and 2 mM glutamine (both from Gibco). Mouse CD4⁺ T cells were recovered from the electroporation vial and then allowed to rest overnight in supplemented Mouse T Cell Nucleofector Medium [containing 5% FCS (HyClone), 2 mM glutamine (Gibco), and Medium A and B]. The next day, some T cells were reserved for flow cytometric analysis of GFP expression and for PCR measurement of PPAR mRNA knockdown, whereas the rest were plated with stimuli for cytokine measurement. The level of PPAR mRNA knockdown was determined using real-time PCR or traditional RT-PCR.

Statistical Analyses. Data are presented as means \pm SEM. When data were parametric (kurtosis and skewness of <2) and group variances were homogenous (Bartlett homogeneity test), a one-way ANOVA and Tukey post hoc test (for more than two groups) or a *t* test ($n = 2$ groups) were used to detect between-group differences. When data were nonparametric, ranks were compared among groups using a Kruskal–Wallis test and nonparametric test for multiple comparisons (for more than two groups) or a Mann–Whitney *U* test ($n = 2$ groups). For paired human data, a paired *t* test was used to compare differences between males and females. A value of $P \leq 0.05$ was considered significant.

1. Dunn SE, et al. (2007) Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR)alpha expression in T cells mediates gender differences in development of T cell-mediated autoimmunity. *J Exp Med* 204:321–330.
2. Dunn SE, et al. (2006) Isoprenoids determine Th1/Th2 fate in pathogenic T cells, providing a mechanism of modulation of autoimmunity by atorvastatin. *J Exp Med* 203:401–412.
3. Dunn SE, et al. (2010) Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor delta limits the expansion of pathogenic Th cells during central nervous system autoimmunity. *J Exp Med* 207:1599–1608.
4. Acosta-Rodriguez EV, Napolitani G, Lanzavecchia A, Sallusto F (2007) Interleukins 1beta and 6 but not transforming growth factor-beta are essential for the differentiation of interleukin 17-producing human T helper cells. *Nat Immunol* 8:942–949.
5. Kebir H, et al. (2009) Preferential recruitment of interferon-gamma-expressing TH17 cells in multiple sclerosis. *Ann Neurol* 66:390–402.
6. Goebelsmann U, et al. (1979) Serum gonadotropin testosterone estradiol and estrone levels prior to and following bilateral vasectomy. *Vasectomy: Immunologic and Pathophysiologic Effects in Animals and Man*, eds Lepow IH, Crozier R (Academic Press, New York), p 165.
7. Probst-Hensch NM, et al. (1999) Aromatase and breast cancer susceptibility. *Endocr Relat Cancer* 6:165–173.

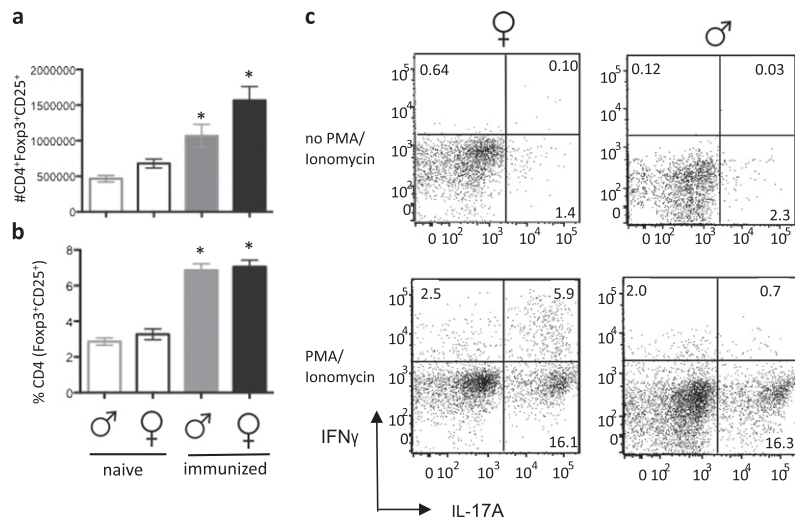


Fig. S1. Frequency of Tregs in the periphery and frequencies of CNS-infiltrating Th1 and Th17 cells during EAE. Female and male SJL/J mice ($n = 4/\text{group}$) were immunized with PLP p139-151 in CFA. (A and B) Eight days later, individual spleens were harvested from mice, dissociated into a single-cell suspension, and stained using fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies (CD4-FITC, CD25-APC, and FoxP3-PE). (A) Mean \pm SEM number of FoxP3⁺CD25⁺CD4⁺ cells in unimmunized (naive) and immunized mice. Results are of individual mice from one experiment. (B) Frequency of FoxP3⁺CD25⁺ cells in the live CD4⁺ gate. *Significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$), as determined by a one-way ANOVA and Tukey post hoc test, from the naive mice of the same genotype. (C) Several mice immunized with PLP p139-151 and CFA were followed until 6 d after the onset of clinical signs. At this time, male and female mice with synchronized disease (EAE score 3) were perfused with PBS, and mononuclear cells were isolated from the spinal cord. Mononuclear cells were pooled within sex and were stimulated with PMA/ionomycin in the presence of GolgiStop for 4 h. These cells were then stained for CD4-FITC, IFN γ -PE, and IL-17-APC. Shown are the frequencies of IFN γ - and IL-17A-producing cells in the live CD4⁺ T gate. Results in C are representative of two independent experiments.

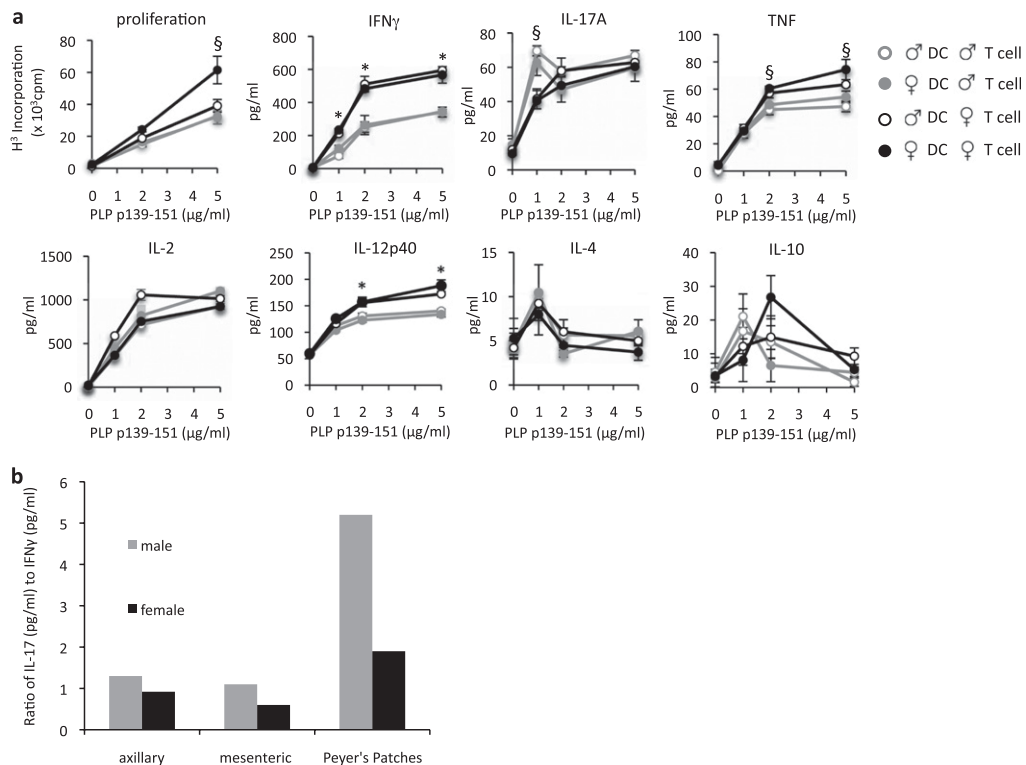


Fig. S2. Sex of T cell determines Th cytokine production. (A) Spleens were harvested from male or female SJL/J mice (8 wk old; $n = 5/\text{group}$; pooled) and were dissociated into a single-cell suspension. CD11c⁺ cells were isolated, irradiated, and then cocultured with naive 5B6 TCR transgenic CD4⁺ T cells in the presence of PLP p139-151 at various concentrations. Values are means \pm SEM picograms per milliliter of cytokine levels measured in triplicate cultures. Results are representative of two independent experiments. *Significantly different from cultures that contained male T cells ($P \leq 0.05$); §cultures that contained female APC and female T cells were significantly different from cultures that contained male APCs and male T cells ($P \leq 0.05$). These data were analyzed using a one-way ANOVA and Tukey post hoc test. (B) CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from age-matched male and female SJL/J mice ($n = 5/\text{group}$; pooled) from the indicated secondary lymphoid organs and were stimulated in vitro with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 (2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). The productions of IL-17A and IFN γ were measured by ELISA. Shown is the ratio of production of IL-17A to IFN γ in male and female CD4⁺ T-cell cultures.

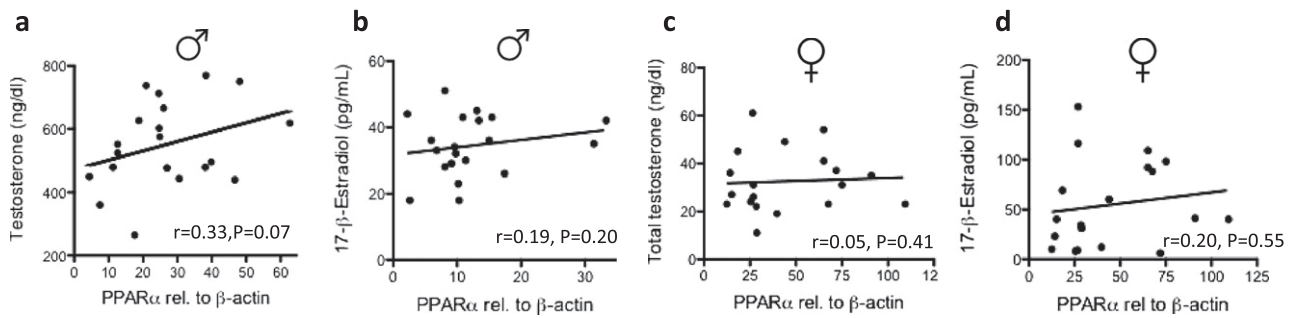


Fig. 55. Correlation of T-cell PPAR α mRNAs with circulating testosterone and estradiol. Naïve CD4⁺ T cells were freshly isolated from peripheral blood of healthy men ($n = 20$) and women ($n = 20$). The blood draw was conducted in the morning hours, when women were at the follicular phase of their cycle. Total RNA was isolated from these cells and was reverse-transcribed to cDNA. cDNAs were amplified using real-time PCR using primers specific for human PPAR α and human β -actin. PPAR α transcript levels were normalized to β -actin. Total testosterone and 17- β -estradiol were measured in the sera of the same individuals. (A–D) Correlations (Pearson) of PPAR α mRNAs with circulating testosterone (A and C) and 17- β -estradiol (B and D) in men (A and B) and women (C and D).

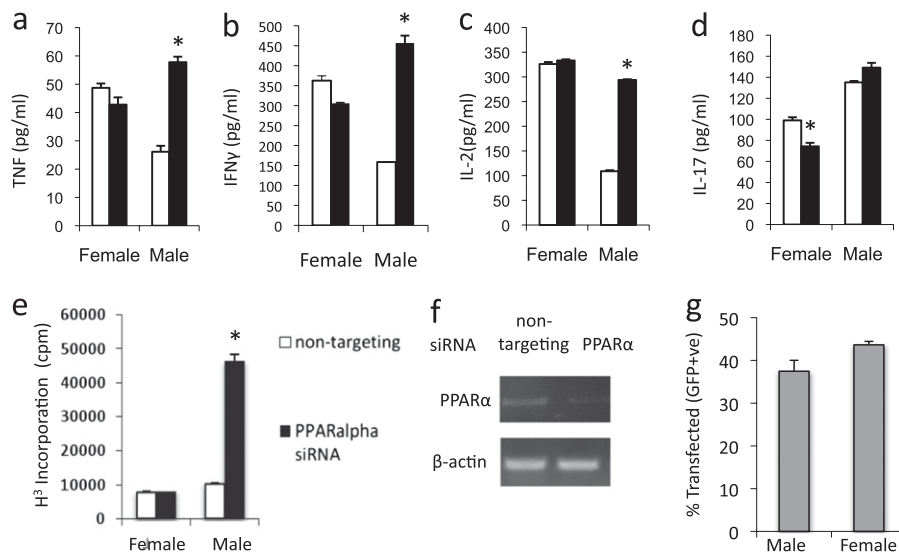


Fig. 56. Effect of PPAR α siRNAs on murine CD4⁺ T-cell proliferation and cytokine production. CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from spleens and lymph nodes of SJL/J mice and were transfected with PPAR α siRNAs or nontargeting siRNAs and then left to rest overnight. The next day, an aliquot of cells was reserved for assessment of PPAR α mRNA expression by real-time PCR (F), and the frequency of GFP⁺ cells was measured by flow cytometry (shown are frequencies of GFP⁺ cells in PPAR α siRNA samples in the live CD4⁺ gate) (G). The remaining cells were then cultured (0.1×10^6 cell/well) with plate-bound anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 (0.1, 1, or 2 μ g/mL). Proliferation (E) was measured by [³H]thymidine incorporation (shown are cpm at 0.1 μ g/mL), and cytokine levels were measured by ELISA (shown are cytokine levels at 1 or 2 μ g/mL) (A–D). Values are means \pm SE. Results are from one of three independent experiments. *Significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) from the nontargeting siRNA group.

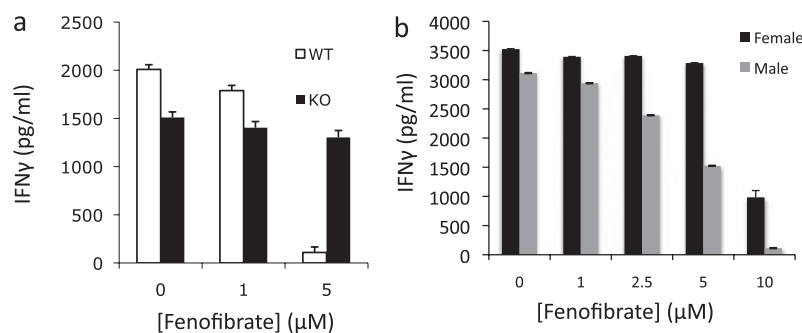


Fig. 57. Dose-dependent effect of fenofibrate on IFN γ production by murine CD4⁺ T cells. (A) CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from spleens of WT or PPAR α ^{-/-} (KO) 129 male and were stimulated with plate-bound anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 in X-VIVO-20 serum-free media after overnight pretreatment with vehicle or fenofibrate. Note that beyond 5 μ M, fenofibrate also reduced IFN γ production by KO cells. (B) CD4⁺ T cells were taken from male or female SJL/J mice and were cultured in X-VIVO-20 media with fenofibrate or equal volume of vehicle. The next day, cells were transferred to 96-well plates, precoated with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28. IFN γ production was measured by ELISA. Values are means \pm SEM. A is representative of three independent experiments. B is representative of two independent experiments.

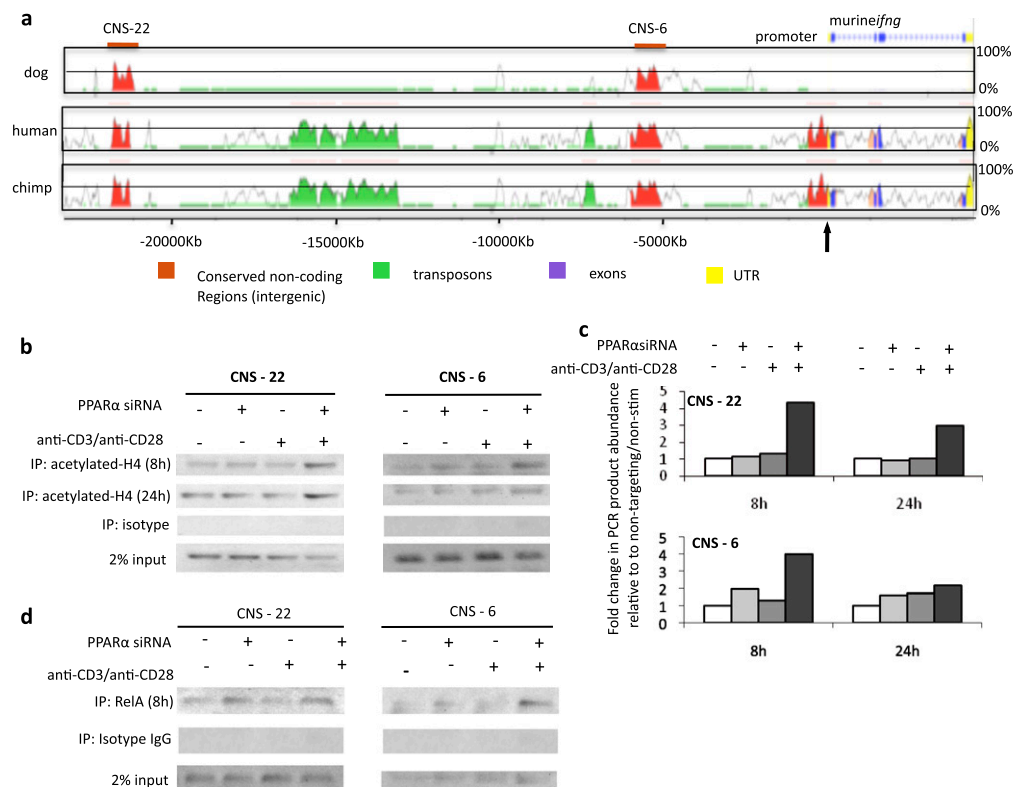


Fig. S8. Effects of PPAR α at the *IFNG* locus. Transfection with PPAR α siRNAs results in increased acetylation of histone H4 at conserved noncoding (CNS) sequences at the human *IFN γ* locus. (A) Alignment of the dog, human, and chimpanzee with the mouse genomic sequence upstream of *ifng*, highlighting the location of CNS-22 and CNS-6 sites. The arrow shows the start of *ifng*. This alignment was conducted using Vista tools (<http://genome.lbl.gov/vista/index.shtml>). (B–D) T cells from five healthy male donors were isolated and were transfected with either nontargeting (–) or PPAR α -specific siRNAs (+), after which they were left to rest (–) or were stimulated (+) with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 for 8 or 24 h. Cells were fixed and then pooled for ChIP using antibodies specific for acetylated-histone H4 (B and C), RelA (D), or a rabbit isotype control antibody (B and D). After reversal of cross-links, immunoprecipitated chromatin was amplified using primers that spanned the CNS-22 or CNS-6 regions. Representative gels of the PCR-amplified products of CNS-22 and CNS-6 regions post-ChIP are shown for acetylated-histone H4 (B) and RelA (D). (C) Average relative densitometric analysis of the 8- and 24-h experiments normalized first to input DNA and then to the nonstimulated, nontargeting control.

Table S1. Proliferation and cytokine production by human naïve CD4⁺ T cells

	Men	Women	P value
Proliferation	13,015 (1,098)	15,854 (1,909)	0.18
Cytokine Production			
IFN γ	3,324 (418)	4,874 (671)	0.0047*
IL-2	1,232 (111)	1,127 (178)	0.47
TNF	751 (121)	722 (79)	0.80
IL-10	102 (20)	107 (14)	0.73
IL-17A	55 (23)	35 (11)	0.37
IL-4	11 (4)	14 (5)	0.80
Frequency of CD4 ⁺ T cells			
IFN γ ⁺ IL-17A ⁻	22.3 (2.8)	31.3 (2.8)	0.0066*
IFN γ ⁺ IL-17A ⁺	0.8 (0.1)	1.1 (0.3)	0.37
IFN γ -IL-17A ⁺	4.4 (0.7)	4.1 (0.7)	0.71
IFN γ ⁺ IL-4 ⁻	19.4 (2.7)	25.3 (2.9)	0.019*
IFN γ ⁺ IL-4 ⁺	3.7 (0.6)	4.7 (0.8)	0.20
IFN γ ⁻ IL-4 ⁺	8.7 (1.2)	8.4 (1.1)	0.88
IFN γ (total)	23.1 (2.8)	32.5 (3.0)	0.005*
IL17A (total)	5.3 (0.7)	5.2 (0.8)	0.94
IL-4 (total)	12.4 (1.5)	13.2 (1.5)	0.65

Values are means (SE) ($n = 25$ for proliferation and cytokine production; $n = 18$ for intracellular cytokine analyses).

*Significant difference between men and women using a paired t test (two-tailed; $P \leq 0.05$).

Table S2. Effect of PPAR α siRNA on Th cell cytokine production

	Nontargeting siRNA (pg/mL)	PPAR α siRNA (pg/mL)	P value	P value (men vs. women)
<i>IFNγ</i>				
Men	643 (180)	987 (276)	0.024*	
Women	793 (140)	790 (125)	0.970	0.038*
<i>IL-2</i>				
Men	905 (201)	988 (215)	0.061	
Women	958 (138)	954 (150)	0.252	0.170
<i>TNF</i>				
Men	622 (131)	767 (175)	0.059	
Women	1,024 (330)	921 (249)	0.309	0.12
<i>IL-17</i>				
Men	15 (4)	25 (9)	0.18	
Women	46 (26)	31 (17)	0.19	0.79

*Significant (paired t test; two-tailed; $P < 0.05$).

Table S3. Human primer sequences used for SYBR real-time PCR

Primer names	Sequences (5'-3')
Human PPAR α FWD	TCGACTCAAGCTGGTG
Human PPAR α REV	TTCCTGAGAGGATGACCC
Human PPAR γ 1 FWD	CTTGGGTCGGCCTCGAG
Human PPAR γ 1 REV	CATTACGGAGAGATCCACGGA
Human β -actin FWD	CCTCGCCTTTGCCGA
Human β -actin REV	TGGTGCCTGGGGCG
Human CNS-5 FWD	CTAATAGCAGATGTTTCACTGC
Human CNS-5 REV	CGTTTTGCACCTGTTCCACAA
Human CNS-22 FWD	GCGATTTCCCTTTTTCTCAGGGTG
Human CNS-22 REV	CCAGGACAGAGGTGTCAAGCCA
Human PPAR α promoter FWD	CTGACGCTCAGCGGTGTC
Human PPAR α promoter REV	CTCAGCGGCTCCACCTA
Human IFN γ FWD	TGGAGACCATCAAGGAAGAC
Human IFN γ REV	GCGTTGGACATTCAAGTCAG
Human IL-17A FWD	CCCCTAGACTCAGGCTTCCT
Human IL-17A REV	TCAGCTCCTTCTGGGTTGT

FWD, forward; REV, reverse.