Supplementary Information

A branched chain amino acid metabolite drives vascular fat transport and causes insulin resistance

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Supplementary Figs. 1-10

Supplementary Table. 1

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Supplementary Figure 1. PGC-1α CM induces endothelial FA uptake. (a) Schematic of FA uptake assay. Differentiated myotubes were infected with adenovirus expressing GFP or PGC-1α for 48 hr, and the conditioned media (CM) were harvested. Endothelial cells (ECs) in a 96 well plate were treated with CMs for 1 hr and treated with Bodipy-conjugated FA (Bodipy-FA) for 5 min. After the cells were washed and quenched, intracellular Bodipy-FA was measured by a plate reader or visualized with a fluorescence microscope. Scale bars, 25 μm. (b) Representative images of ECs that take up Bodipy-FA after treatment with CMs from C2C12 myotubes infected with retrovirus expressing vector control (Ct-CM) or PGC-1α (α-CM). (c) Quantification of Bodipy-FA (2–16 μM) uptake by ECs. Numbers (#1, #2, #3) indicate independent stable cell lines. Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates. (d) ECs with Bodipy-FA (green) after treatment of α-CM were stained with mitotracker (red, left) or immunostained with anti-Calnexin antibody (red, right) as an ER marker. Scale bars, 10 μm.



Supplementary Figure 2. Characterization of PGC-1α CM activity on endothelial FA uptake and transport. (a) Endothelial FA uptake with different FA concentrations at 5 min. (b) Endothelial FA uptake with Bodipy-conjugated long-chain FA (Bodipy-C1,C12 or Bodipy-C16) or short-chain FA (Bodipy-C5) after exposure to the indicated CM. (c) α-CM sequentially diluted with Ct-CM partially retains its activity. (d) Relative FA (2 µM) uptake by different cell types after exposure to the indicated CM for 1 hr. (e) FA (2 µM) uptake by HUVECs after pre-treatment with Calcimycin (left, 12.5–50 µM) or 2,4-Dinitrophenol (right, 125–500 µM) for 30 min. (f) Primary rat brain ECs immunostained with anti-Occludin1 antibody for tight junctions (green) and DAPI for nuclei (blue). Scale bar, 25 µm. (g) Endothelial FA transport (8 µM) with different FA concentrations at 5 min. (h) Measurement of trans-endothelial electrical resistance (TEER) of an EC monolayer after exposure to the indicated CM for 24 hr. (i, j) FA transport (8 µM) by ECs treated with CM from primary myotubes lacking both PGC-1α and PGC-1β (i, DKO-CM) or myotubes lacking PGC-1α alone (j, αKO-CM). (k) qPCR analysis of PGC-1α expression in the soleus, gastrocnemius muscle and C2C12 myotubes. Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control; #*P* < 0.05 *vs*. α-CM alone. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates.



Supplementary Figure 3. The paracrine factor in PGC-1α CM is not VEGFB but small molecule(s). (a) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes (left) expressing GFP or PGC-1α via adenovirus, or quadriceps muscle (right) from wild type or MCK-α mice. (b) Western blot analysis of ECs treated with recombinant VEGFA or VEGFB for 10 min with or without inhibitors (sFlt1 or SU11248). (c) FA uptake (2 µM) by ECs after exposure to CM from 293T cells expressing empty vector control (Ct-CM) or VEGFB (VB-CM) for 24 hr with vehicle (veh) or inhibitors. (d) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes after transfection with control or *Vegfb* siRNA for 48 hr. (e) qPCR analysis of primary ECs isolated from *Flt1*^{flox/flox};*Flk1*^{flox/flox} mice after infection with adenovirus expressing GFP or Cre recombinase for 48 hr. (f) qPCR analysis of HUVECs transfected with control or *FLK1* siRNA for 48 hr after exposure to the indicated CM for 1 hr. (h) Endothelial FA uptake (2–16 µM) after exposure to Ct-CM, α-CM itself (load), concentrate (>3kDa) or flow-through (<3kDa) of α-CM filtered with 3kDa membrane filter. (i) Endothelial FA uptake (2–16 µM) after exposure to the indicated CM for the indicated CM with or without charcoal pre-treatment. Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. α-CM alone. Two-way ANOVA for **c**. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates.

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Compound	Target	α-CM activity	Compound	Target	α-CM activity
U0126	MEK1/2 ↓	_	Phenylephrine	α1 AR ↑	_
SB203580	P38 ↓	—	Ritodrine	β2 AR ↑	—
U73122	PLCγ ↓	_	Isoproterenol	β1 AR ↑	_
AKT VIII	AKT ↓	↓↓	CL316243	β3 AR ↑	_
LY294002	PI3K↓	$\downarrow\downarrow$	XCT790	ERRα ↓	\downarrow
Rapamycin	mTORC1↓	_	GW0742	PPARδ ↑	_
Torin	mTORC1,2↓	$\downarrow\downarrow$	Rosiglitazone	PPARγ ↑	↑
Insulin	Insulin signaling ↑	1	Dexamethasone	Glucocorticoid ↑	_
PD98059	ERK1/2↓	_	2DG	Glycolysis ↓	$\downarrow\downarrow$
Compound C	AMPK ↓	Ļ	CHC	MCT ↓	$\downarrow\downarrow$
AICAR	AMPK ↑	_	FCCP	OXPHOS ↓	—
SP600125	JNK ↓	_	Rotenone	OXPHOS ↓	_



Supplementary Figure 4. Compound screen for isolation of the paracrine factor. (a) C2C12 myotubes expressing PGC-1α via retrovirus were treated with the indicated compound during CM generation for 48 hrs, and the activity of CM on FA uptake (2 µM) by ECs was measured. As a control, ECs were incubated with media containing the indicated compound for 1 hr to test if the compound directly affects FA uptake by ECs. The effect of compound is indicated with arrows. AR, Adrenergic receptor; MCT, monocarboxylate transporter; OXPHOS, oxidative phosphorylation. (b, c) FA uptake (2 µM) by ECs after exposure to α-CM from C2C12 myotubes treated with insulin (b) or the indicated inhibitor (c). (d) FA uptake (2 µM) by ECs after exposure to α-CM from C2C12 myotubes treated with the indicated inhibitor (right) for 1 hr. (e) FA uptake (2 µM) by ECs after exposure to α-CM from C2C12 myotubes treated with the indicated inhibitor with or without pyruvate addition (50 mM). Veh, vehicle. (f) α-CM treated with the indicated inhibitor were incubated with charcoal, lyophilized, and fractionated with an open silica column. Active fractions were further separated by HILIC for the activity test and HP-HILIC-MS² analysis. Two-way ANOVA; **P* < 0.05 *vs.* control; #*P* < 0.05 *vs.* α-CM alone. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates.



Supplementary Figure 5. Fractionation of CMs and MS2 profiles of isobaric hydroxybutyrates. (a) FA uptake (2–16 μ M) by ECs after exposure to Ct-CM or α -CM fractions from an open silica column. (b) FA uptake (16 μ M) by ECs after exposure to α -CM fractions from an HP-HILIC column. Detailed method is described in the Online Methods section. ACN, acetonitrile. (c) MS² fingerprints of synthetic standards of four isobaric hydroxybutyrates. Data are mean \pm s.d. of at least three biological replicates.



Supplementary Figure 6. 3-HIB is derived from value and increases endothelial FA transport. (a, b) FA (a, 16 μ M) or Dextran Texas-Red (b, 50 μ g/mL) transport by an EC monolayer after exposure to vehicle or 3-HIB for 1 hr. (c) FAs retained in ECs or transported by an EC monolayer was measured. (d) ¹³C-metabolic flux analysis of Acetyl-CoA, TCA intermediates and some amino acids in C2C12 myotubes after exposure to the media containing [U-¹³C]-palmitate transported by an EC monolayer after treatment with vehicle or 3-HIB for 1 hr. M+2 or M+4 indicates two or four carbons are ¹³C-labeled, respectively. (e) MS² spectra of ¹³C₁-3-HIB generated by C2C12 myotubes incubated with ¹³C-2-Valine. (f) ¹³C₁-3-HIB production by C2C12 myotubes incubated with different combinations of ¹²C- or ¹³C-labeled BCAAs in the C2C12 differentiation media for 48 hr. (g) FA uptake (2 μ M) by ECs after exposure to CMs generated with media lacking the indicated BCAA(s).**P* < 0.05 *vs*. control (white bar). Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates.



Supplementary Figure 7. PGC-1a and PGC-1β induce expression of valine catabolic enzymes in muscle. (a) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes after transfection with adenovirus expressing GFP or PGC-1a for 48 hr. (b) qPCR analysis of the tibialis anterior from muscle-specific PGC-1a transgenic mice (MCK-a). (c) Quantification of 3-HIB in Ct-CM and a-CM generated from the C2C12 differentiation media for 48 hr. (d) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes transfected with adenovirus expressing GFP or PGC-1 β for 48 hr. (e) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes transfected with adenovirus expressing Cas9 only (Control) or Cas9 with a PGC-1a targeting guide RNA (PGC-1a Crispr KO). The transfected cells were selected with puromycin and non-silent indel mutations of PGC-1a and PGC-1 β double knockout (DKO) mice. (g) qPCR analysis of C2C12 myotubes transfected with control (Ct si), *Hibch* (left) or *Hibadh* siRNA (right) for 48 hr. (h) qPCR analysis of HUVECs and human skeletal muscle biopsies. Note that HUVECs express much lower levels of valine catabolic genes than skeletal muscle does. (i) qPCR analysis of HUVECs transfected with *HIBADH* siRNA for 48 hr. (j) FA uptake (2 μ M) by ECs treated with vehicle or 3-HIB for 1 hr after transfection with *HIBADH* siRNA for 48 hr. Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates.



Supplementary Figure 8. FA transport proteins mediate endothelial FA uptake by *α*-CM or 3-HIB. (a) Western blot analysis of HUVECs transfected with control (Ct si), *FATP3* (left) or *FATP4* siRNA (right) for 48 hr. (b) FA uptake by HUVECs transfected with *FATP3* (3), *FATP4* (4) or both (3,4) siRNA(s) for 48 hr. (c) FA uptake by primary ECs isolated from control or FATP4 knockout (KO) mice. (d) qPCR analysis of HUVECs transfected with *CD36* siRNA for 48 hr. (e) FA uptake by HUVECs transfected with *CD36* siRNA for 48 hr. (f) FA uptake by HUVECs transfected with *CD36* siRNA for 48 hr. (f) FA uptake by HUVECs transfected with *CD36* siRNA for 48 hr. (f) FA uptake by HUVECs transfected with the indicated siRNA(s) for 48 hr. (g) FA uptake by primary ECs isolated from control, CD36 KO or FATP4 KO mice. Bodipy-FA (2 μM) was used for all the FA uptake experiments. (h, i) qPCR analysis of HUVECs after exposure to the indicated CM (h) or 3-HIB (i) for 1 hr. (j, k) Western blot analysis of HUVECs after exposure to the indicated duration. NS, non-specific band. Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. α-CM alone. Data are mean ± s.d. of at least three biological replicates



Supplementary Figure 9. Muscle PGC-1 α/β regulates value catabolic enzymes and acute feeding of 3-HIB increases FA uptake *in vivo*. (a, b) qPCR analysis of the quadriceps from muscle-specific PGC-1 β transgenic mice (a, MCK- β), or muscle-specific PGC-1 α and PGC-1 β double knockout mice (b, DKO). (c, d) Glucose tolerance tests of control (c, *n* = 6) versus MCK- β (c, *n* = 5) or control (d, *n* = 5) versus DKO (d, *n* = 8). (e) Triglyceride (TAG) and diglyceride (DAG) levels in the quadriceps from control (*n* = 4) versus DKO (*n* = 4). (f—h) Measurements of 3-HIB levels in mice fed with vehicle (Veh) or 3-HB for 1.5 hr (f). 3-HIB levels in serum (g, *n* = 2 and 3, respectively) and muscle (h, *n* = 4 and 6, respectively). (i, j) Representative luminometry images of thigh muscle after removal of the skin (i) and quantification of luminescence in the heart (j, *n* = 4 per group). Scale bar, 1 cm. (k) Quantification of Evans blue in serum and skeletal muscle before or after PBS perfusion of the mice fed with vehicle (Veh) or 3-HIB (*n* = 3 per group). Student's *t*-test; **P* < 0.05 *vs*. control. Data are mean ± s.d. (a, b, j, k) or mean ±s.e. (c—h).



Supplementary Figure 10. Metabolic phenotypes of mice fed with 3-HIB for 2 weeks and 3-HIB enzyme expressions in diabetic muscle. (a–f) 3-HIB levels in muscle (a), body weight (b), levels of serum free FA (FFA) (c), muscle FFA (d), serum triglyceride (e), and muscle morphology (f) in mice provided with 3-HIB in the drinking water for 2 weeks (n = 4 per group). Scale bars, 50 µm. (g) Subcellular fractionation of the quadriceps from mice fed with vehicle (Veh) or 3-HIB. (h–k), Blood glucose levels (h), glucose infusion rate (i), muscle glucose uptake (j), and hepatic glucose output (k) measured by hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp on mice fed with vehicle (Veh) or 3-HIB (n = 8). Two-way ANOVA analysis; P < 0.05 vs. control. I, qPCR analysis of liver from mice fed with vehicle (Veh) or 3-HIB (n = 8). (m) qPCR analysis of muscle from control (Ct, n = 7) or db/db mice (n = 9). (n) Western blot analysis (left) and quantification (right) of HIBADH in muscle from control (Ct, n = 33) or type II diabetic patients (T2D, n = 17). for i. Data are mean \pm s.d. (b–e, k–m) or mean \pm s.e. (a, h–j, n).

Supplementary Table 1. Primers used for qPCR

gene	Primer sequence
Mouse Bcat1 forward	CCCATCGTACCTCTTTCACCC
Mouse Bcat1 reverse	GGGAGCGTGGGAATACGTG
Mouse Bcat2 forward	CTCATCCTGCGCTTCCAG
Mouse Bcat2 reverse	TCACACCCGAAACATCCAATC
Mouse Bckdha forward	ATCTACCGTGTCATGGACCG
Mouse Bckdha reverse	ATGGTGTTGAGCAGCGTCAT
Mouse Bckdhb forward	AGCTATTGCGGAAATCCAGTTT
Mouse Bckdhb reverse	ACAGTTGAAAAGATCACCTGAGC
Mouse Bckdk forward	ACATCAGCCACCGATACACAC
Mouse Bckdk reverse	GAGGCGAACTGAGGGCTTC
Mouse <i>Ppm1k</i> forward	ATGTTATCAGCGGCCTTCATTAC
Mouse <i>Ppm1k</i> reverse	GTGGAGAAGTAGCAGGCAGG
Mouse Acadsb forward	TGGGTCGAAGATGTGGATCAG
Mouse Acadsb reverse	TCGGTCTACTAAGAAGCAGGTG
Mouse Hadha forward	TGCATTTGCCGCAGCTTTAC
Mouse Hadha reverse	GTTGGCCCAGATTTCGTTCA
Mouse Hibch forward	GTGGAGGCGTCATAACGCTC
Mouse Hibch reverse	AGGAATGTGTCAGGGTCTTGT
Mouse Hibadh forward	GCAGCGGTGTGTTCTAGGTC
Mouse Hibadh reverse	ACACGTCATAGAGGATGAGTGG
Mouse Vegfa forward	CTGTAACGATGAAGCCCTGGAG
Mouse Vegfa reverse	TGGTGAGGTTTGATCCGCAT
Mouse Vegfth forward	GGTTGCCATACCCCACCACC
Mouse Vegib forward Mouse Vegib reverse	CCTTGGCAATGGAGGAAGCG
Mouse Flt1 forward	CCTGCATGATTCCTGATTGGA
Mouse Flt1 reverse	GCCTAAGCTCACCTGCGG
Mouse Flk1 forward	GACTTGGTTCATCAGGCTAG
Mouse $Flkl$ reverse	GACGCTGTTAAGCTGCTACAC
Mouse Praracla forward	
Mouse Praracla reverse	GCTGCATGGTTCTGAGTGCTAAG
Mouse Praraclh forward	CTCCAGGCAGGTTCAACCC
Mouse Prargelly reverse	GGGCCAGAAGTTCCCTTAGG
Mouse Fhal forward	
Mouse Fup1 IOI watu	
Mouse <i>C6nc</i> forward	
Mouse Gope Iorward	
Mouse Benck forward	
Mouse Pepck Iorward	
Mouse Lud forward	
Mouse Iva Iorward	
Nouse Iva reverse	
Mouse Macci Iorward	
Nouse Mccc1 reverse	
Iviouse Auh forward	
Mouse Auh reverse	
Mouse <i>Hmgcl</i> forward	GGICICCCCGGCTAAAGTIG
Mouse <i>Hmgcl</i> reverse	GUCAGAGUTIGACCATAGGTAT
Mouse <i>Hsd17b10</i> forward	GCTTGGTCGCGGTAGTAACTG
Mouse <i>Hsd17b10</i> reverse	TGGGGCAAATATGCAGCTTTC
Mouse Acat1 forward	CAGGAAGTAAGATGCCTGGAAC
Mouse Acat1 reverse	TICACCCCTTGGATGACATT

Supplementary Table 1. Primers used for qPCR (continued)

gene	Primer sequence
Human FATP1 forward	TCTATGGGGTGGCTGTTCCA
Human FATP1 reverse	TCAAACCCTCTCGCTGCA
Human FATP3 forward	AGAGACCTTCAAACAGCAGAAAG
Human FATP3 reverse	GTCCAGAACGTACAGTGGGT
Human FATP4 forward	AGGCAAAGGTGCGACAGTG
Human FATP4 reverse	CCAGTGGGTATCTGTGCCC
Human FATP6 forward	ACAACCTCGGAAACCTTTCATC
Human FATP 6 reverse	CCCCTTTTTCAGAGAGGAATGG
Human FABP4 forward	AGCACCATAACCTTAGATGGGG
Human FABP4 reverse	CGTGGAAGTGACGCCTTTCA
Human FABP5 forward	TTGGTTCAGCATCAGGAGTG
Human FABP5 reverse	GATCCGAGTACAGGTGACATTG
Human FABP-PM forward	ATTTGGACAAGGAATACCTGCC
Human FABP-PM reverse	GCCACTCTTCAAGACTTCGC
Human CD36 forward	GCCAAGGAAAATGTAACCCAGG
Human $CD36$ reverse	GCCTCTGTTCCAACTGATAGTGA
Human CAV1 forward	CATCCCGATGGCACTCATCTG
Human $CAV1$ reverse	CACGGCTGATGCACTGAATCT
Human PPARG forward	ACCAAAGTGCAATCAAAGTGGA
Human <i>PPARG</i> reverse	AGGCTTATTGTAGAGCTGAGTCT
Human APLN forward	GTCTCCTCCATAGATTGGTCTGC
Human APLN reverse	GGAATCATCCAAACTACAGCCAG
Human FLK1 forward	GGCCCAATAATCAGAGTGGCA
Human FLK1 reverse	TGTCATTTCCGATCACTTTTGGA
Human BCAT1 forward	AGCCCTGCTCTTTGTACTCTT
Human BCAT1 reverse	CCAGGCTCTTACATACTTGGGA
Human BCAT2 forward	CGCTCCTGTTCGTCATTCTCT
Human BCAT2 reverse	CCCACCTAACTTGTAGTTGCC
Human BCKDHA forward	CIACAAGAGCAIGACACIGCII
Human BCKDHA reverse	
Human BCKDHB lofward	
Human BCKDK forward	GACTTCCCTCCGATCAAGGAC
Human BCKDK reverse	CTCTCACGTAGGCCCTCTG
Human $PPM1K$ forward	ATAACCGCATTGATGAGCCAA
Human <i>PPM1K</i> reverse	CGCACCCCACATTTTCCAAG
Human ACADSB forward	GATGGCAAATGTAGACCCTACC
Human ACADSB reverse	AAGGCCCGGAGTATCACGA
Human HADHA forward	CIGCCCAAAAIGGTGGGTGT
Human HADHA reverse	
Human HIBCH forward	
Human HIBADH forward	TGCTGCCCACCAGTATCAATG
Human HIRA DH reverse	GCAGGATCAATAGTGCTGGAATC
Tuillan IIIDADII Tevelse	UCAUGAICAATAUTUCTUUAAIC