#### Supplementary Methods

#### **RNA** Analyses

<u>Human plasma samples</u>: miRNA was extracted from 200µl plasma using Exiqon's miRCURY<sup>™</sup> RNA isolation kit for biofluids. Extraction (per manufacturer's instruction) included carrier RNA (MS2) and RNA-spike-in controls to monitor efficiency. RNA was eluted in 50µl. 8µl RNA was reverse transcribed using the miRCURY LNA<sup>™</sup> Universal cDNA synthesis kit (Exiqon) and quality assessed for sample purity, cDNA synthesis and haemolysis using the miRCURY<sup>™</sup> microRNA QC PCR Panel (Exiqon). All samples passing quality control were run against the Exiqon serum/plasma focus microRNA panel V1 (175 miRNAs) using the miRCURY LNA miRNA PCR ExiLENT SYBR green master mix.

EVs were extracted from 500µl plasma from n=6 individuals with obesity using the exoRNEASy kit (Qiagen), which has a high specificity for EV RNA over non-EV plasma RNA (1). EVs were captured on filter and Trizol extracted (manufacturer's protocol). Flow through was collected ('non-EV fraction') and extracted as per captured EVs. Real-time QRTPCR (RTqPCR) was performed using Exiqon reagents and specific LNA primers. miRNA were deemed undetectable at a Ct threshold of  $\geq$  35.

<u>Mouse plasma and tissue samples:</u> miRNA was isolated using the Exiqon miRCURY<sup>™</sup> RNA isolation kit for biofluids (plasma) and tissue as appropriate. RNA (max volume plasma, 500 ng tissue) was reverse transcribed using the miRCURY LNA<sup>™</sup> Universal cDNA synthesis kit.

#### Data analyses

All statistical analyses were performed in R (2).

<u>Human plasma miRNA</u>: Of the 175 miRNA measured, 4 were classified undetectable (miR-297, miR-885-5p, miR-95 and miR-346) with Ct values ≥35 in at least 65% of samples. Interplate calibration (IPC) using UniSp3 controls was used to correct for variance across plates. Detectable miRNA were assessed for least variance across all samples and groups, identifying miR-93 as the miRNA showing least variance and therefore a potential endogenous control. This was confirmed by comparison of the five suggested Exiqon controls using Exiqon software (GenEx v2.5), which identified miR-93 as the best control, and significant variance of the other four potential controls. Furthermore, miR-93 did not vary significantly in plasma in our murine model of obesity (normal chow: mean Ct 18.96 ± 0.65 vs HFHS diet mean Ct 19.05 ± 0.30). Therefore, to avoid additional variance, and because it validated in mouse plasma miR-93 alone was selected as a normalisation control. Each miRNA was normalized using the  $\Delta$ Ct method (i.e. Ct<sub>candidatemiRNA</sub> – Ct<sub>miR93</sub>). miRNA levels were compared between groups using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) test, with results corrected for multiple testing (Bonferroni adjusted P<0.05 threshold of significance).

Correlations between miRNA level ( $\Delta$ Ct) and clinical parameters were investigated using Pearson correlation. The clinical data was minimally ragged, with 14 individuals missing data for one clinical variable. Therefore, in order to retain maximum power by not removing individuals from the analysis, missing data were imputed using the imputePCA function in the missMDA (3) package prior to analysis. Correlations with an absolute  $r \ge 0.3$  and passing an  $FDR \leq 0.05$  threshold were deemed significant. To further investigate these associations stepwise regression analyses (both directions) were performed using the stepAIC function in the MASS package (4) with clinical trait as the response variable against all miRNA for which a significant correlation with that trait was observed. Models with the miRNA expression level as a significant co-variate and an overall model P value of 0.05 were included. Model P values were generated from ANOVA using the F distribution, which tests the null hypothesis that the coefficients represented in the overall regression model (represented by  $R^2$ ) are equal to 0. We performed a further step-wise regression whereby we added clinical and anthropometric variables (Table 1) to the final miRNA models (Table 5). Variables used to derive the response variable, or with an intrinsic relationship to it, were excluded from the relevant model (i.e McA - BMI, trigylcerides, insulin and HOMA-IR excluded, HOMA-IR - insulin, glucose and McA excluded, insulin - HOMA-IR and McA excluded, glucose – HOMA-IR excluded, triglycerides – McA excluded).

# Mouse miRNA analysis

miRNA levels were assayed using Exiqon LNA RTqPCR specific primers with plasma and tissue levels normalised to miR-93 and snRNA U6 respectively using the  $\Delta$ Ct approach (Ct<sub>candidatemiRNA</sub> – Ct<sub>mi93 or U6</sub>) as previously described (5). Fold change was calculated using the formula 2<sup>- $\Delta\Delta$ Ct</sup>. miRNA levels were compared between groups using the KS test, a threshold of P≤0.05 was considered significant.

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# Supplementary File Figure S1

# Boxplots showing log2 expression (exprs) levels of circulating miRNA in plasma of control individuals without obesity, and individuals with three different obesity phenotypes - insulin sensitive, insulin resistance and type-two diabetes.

Log2 expression (i.e. log2  $\Delta$ Ct) is shown on the Y axis. Significance levels are shown for comparisons between controls and each obese phenotypic group; they are presented as: Bonferroni adjusted P<0.05 \*, <0.01 \*\*, <0.001, \*\*\* and unadjusted P<0.01 and <0.001 are represented as a single or double dot respectively. Controls (red), inS (insulin sensitive, blue), insR (insulin resistant, yellow), T2D (type-II diabetes, green).































# Supplementary File Table S1: Pearson's correlation data for all miRNA: clinical trait associations passing absolute r $\ge 0.3$ and adjusted P $\le 0.05$ .

Clinical Parameter	miRNA⁺	Pearsons r	P value	Adjusted P value (fdr)
systolic blood pressure	hsa-let-7a	0.38	0.0102	0.0218
systolic blood pressure	hsa-let-7c	0.40	0.0059	0.0135
fasting-insulin	hsa-let-7d	0.47	0.0011	0.0029
HOMA2-IR	hsa-let-7d	0.41	0.0050	0.0117
McAuley-Index	hsa-let-7d	-0.43	0.0033	0.0081
systolic blood pressure	hsa-let-7d	0.36	0.0140	0.0288
fasting-glucose	hsa-let-7g	0.37	0.0121	0.0253
fasting-insulin	hsa-let-7g	0.33	0.0249	0.0477
HbA1c	hsa-let-7g	0.36	0.0163	0.0328
HOMA2-IR	hsa-let-7g	0.35	0.0199	0.0391
McAuley-Index	hsa-let-7g	-0.36	0.0152	0.0307
systolic blood pressure	hsa-let-7g	0.38	0.0091	0.0197
McAuley-Index	hsa-let-7b	-0.44	0.0024	0.0062
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-122	0.34	0.0238	0.0458
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-122	-0.46	0.0015	0.0041
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-122	-0.41	0.0050	0.0116
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-122	-0.41	0.0057	0.0131
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-122	0.56	0.0001	0.0003
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-125b	-0.37	0.0112	0.0237
HbA1c	hsa-miR-136	-0.40	0.0068	0.0153
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-144-5p	-0.36	0.0149	0.0303
diastolicBP	hsa-miR-145	0.39	0.0084	0.0184
HbA1c	hsa-miR-150	0.39	0.0090	0.0195
HbA1c	hsa-miR-152	-0.36	0.0146	0.0298
fasting-glucose	hsa-miR-155	0.33	0.0247	0.0474
HbA1c	hsa-miR-155	0.33	0.0260	0.0496
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-155	-0.34	0.0236	0.0455
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-155	0.41	0.0050	0.0117
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-15b	0.34	0.0234	0.0451
fasting-LDL	hsa-miR-17	-0.34	0.0206	0.0404
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-17	0.36	0.0147	0.0300
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-181a	0.33	0.0253	0.0484
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-192	-0.41	0.0046	0.0108
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-192	-0.40	0.0071	0.0159
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-192	-0.38	0.0093	0.0202
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-192	0.38	0.0111	0.0235
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-192	-0.33	0.0261	0.0497
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-193b	0.34	0.0213	0.0416
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-193b	-0.35	0.0175	0.0348
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-193b	-0.46	0.0015	0.0041

HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-193b	-0.36	0.0153	0.0310
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-193b	0.38	0.0096	0.0207
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-193b	-0.36	0.0152	0.0307
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-194	-0.41	0.0048	0.0113
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-199a-3p	0.34	0.0225	0.0436
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-21	-0.43	0.0029	0.0073
fasting-glucose	hsa-miR-210	-0.42	0.0044	0.0104
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-210	0.37	0.0122	0.0255
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-210	-0.40	0.0071	0.0159
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-210	-0.41	0.0050	0.0116
HbA1c	hsa-miR-210	-0.43	0.0036	0.0086
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-210	-0.36	0.0141	0.0290
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-210	0.48	0.0009	0.0025
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-2110	-0.37	0.0126	0.0262
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-215	-0.40	0.0067	0.0152
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-215	-0.44	0.0027	0.0069
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-215	-0.37	0.0115	0.0243
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-215	0.37	0.0118	0.0247
fasting-glucose	hsa-miR-22	-0.41	0.0047	0.0110
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-22	0.35	0.0179	0.0357
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-22	-0.43	0.0030	0.0075
HbA1c	hsa-miR-22	-0.42	0.0036	0.0088
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-22-5p	-0.42	0.0043	0.0103
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-223-5p	0.39	0.0085	0.0185
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-223-5p	-0.34	0.0206	0.0403
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-25	-0.45	0.0019	0.0049
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-25	-0.39	0.0074	0.0164
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-25	0.33	0.0246	0.0473
systolic blood pressure	hsa-miR-26b	0.38	0.0109	0.0232
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-27b	-0.38	0.0109	0.0232
HbA1c	hsa-miR-27b	-0.33	0.0257	0.0490
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-30a	-0.41	0.0057	0.0130
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-30b	0.34	0.0224	0.0434
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-30e-3p	0.34	0.0232	0.0449
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-335	0.39	0.0076	0.0168
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-34a	0.39	0.0076	0.0168
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-34a	-0.45	0.0022	0.0055
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-34a	-0.49	0.0006	0.0017
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-34a	-0.43	0.0031	0.0075
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-34a	0.49	0.0006	0.0017
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-374a	0.36	0.0152	0.0309
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-374a	0.34	0.0212	0.0414
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-374b	0.37	0.0112	0.0237
fasting-glucose	hsa-miR-378	-0.36	0.0167	0.0335

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fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-378	0.49	0.0006	0.0017
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-378	-0.54	0.0001	0.0004
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-378	-0.47	0.0012	0.0032
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-378	-0.52	0.0003	0.0008
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-378	0.51	0.0003	0.0011
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-421	0.39	0.0075	0.0166
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-423-5p	-0.33	0.0258	0.0492
fasting-glucose	hsa-miR-484	-0.35	0.0171	0.0342
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-484	-0.35	0.0194	0.0382
HbA1c	hsa-miR-484	-0.39	0.0082	0.0180
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-495	0.36	0.0138	0.0284
HOMA2-IR	hsa-miR-495	0.35	0.0177	0.0352
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-502-3p	-0.33	0.0259	0.0495
fasting-HDL	hsa-miR-505	0.35	0.0185	0.0366
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-505	-0.50	0.0005	0.0014
HbA1c	hsa-miR-505	-0.36	0.0165	0.0332
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-532-5p	-0.44	0.0026	0.0066
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-532-5p	0.42	0.0039	0.0093
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-660	-0.45	0.0018	0.0047
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-660	0.39	0.0077	0.0170
fasting-insulin	hsa-miR-766	0.34	0.0213	0.0416
fasting-triglycerides	hsa-miR-99a	-0.45	0.0020	0.0052
McAuley-Index	hsa-miR-99a	0.34	0.0241	0.0463

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