

## Irisin – still chasing shadows

Elke Albrecht <sup>1</sup>, Lisa Schering <sup>1</sup>, Friedrich Buck <sup>2</sup>, Konrad Vlach <sup>3\*</sup>, Hans-Christof Schober <sup>3</sup>, Christian A. Drevon <sup>4</sup>, Steffen Maak <sup>1#</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Muscle Biology and Growth, Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN)  
Dummerstorf, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Clinical Chemistry, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Department of Internal Medicine I, Municipal Hospital Suedstadt Rostock, Rostock, Germany

<sup>4</sup> Department of Nutrition, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.

\* Present address: Medical Clinic III, Angiology, University Hospital Dresden, Germany

# Corresponding author: Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Institute of Muscle Biology and Growth, Wilhelm-Stahl-Allee 2, 18196 Dummerstorf, Germany, Phone: +49 38208 68850, E-mail: [maak@fbn-dummerstorf.de](mailto:maak@fbn-dummerstorf.de)

**Supplementary Table S 1.** Characterization of human serum samples analyzed in this study.

Subject/ Samples	Use	Exercise* (Sampling time after exercise)	Irisin level (ELISA)**	
			Phoenix (ng/mL)	Adipogen ( $\mu$ g/mL)
HS 1	Fig. 3	acute exercise (120 min)	125.9	2.44
HS 2a	Fig. 4	acute exercise (120 min)	168.0	3.91
HS 2b	Tab. 2	combined training (0 min)	102.6	4.18
HS 3	Fig. 4	acute exercise (120 min)	163.6	2.55
HS 4a	Tab. 2	No exercise (baseline)	124.0	2.30
HS 4b	Fig. 5A	combined training (0 min)	114.5	1.96
HS 5a	Tab. 2	No exercise (baseline)	109.2	3.17
HS 5b	Fig. 5A, Tab. 2	combined training (0 min)	130.3	2.97
HS 6a	Fig. 5C	combined training + acute exercise (120 min)	99.9	3.18
HS 6b	Fig. 6	combined training (0 min)	105.3	3.16
HS 7a	Fig. 5C	combined training + acute exercise (120 min)	182.7	2.77
HS 7b	Fig. 6, Tab. 2	combined training + acute exercise (0 min)	236.8	2.96
HS 7c	Fig. S 3, Tab. 2	combined training (0 min)	188.9	2.96

\* Acute exercise: A 45-min bicycle test at 70 % of  $\text{VO}_{2\text{max}}$  was performed.

Combined training: Combined strength and endurance training for 12 weeks, including two endurance bicycle sessions (60 min) and two whole body strength training sessions (60 min) per week (Norheim et al. [5]).

\*\* Irisin ELISAs: Phoenix (Cat.-#: EK-067-52; Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, Burlingame, USA; Norheim et al. [5])

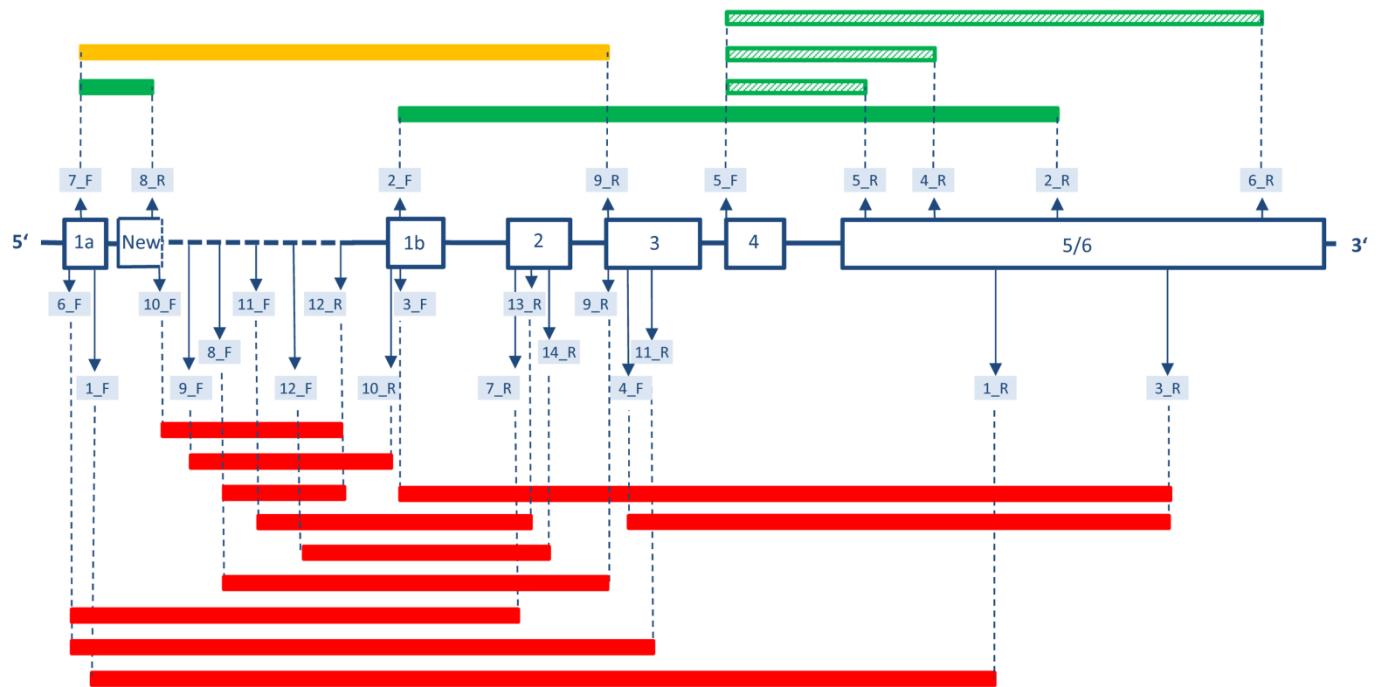
Adipogen (Cat-#: AG-45A-0046Y; Adipogen Life Sciences, Liestal, Switzerland; Albrecht et al. [6])

**Supplementary Table S 2.** Primers for cDNA-PCR used in this study.

Primer	T <sub>a</sub> [°C]	Amplicon length (bp)	Sequence 5'-3'	GenBank Accession no.
HS_FNDC5_1_F			GTC GAG GTC CCA GCT GAG	
HS_FNDC5_1_R	57	670	CTG TCG CCA TGC CAG TCC	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_2_F			GAG CCA CCA TAC ACC CCG	
HS_FNDC5_2_R	57	671	TGA GGG CAA GCA CTG AAA AG	NM_153756.2
HS_FNDC5_3_F			GAG CCA CCA TAC ACC CCG	
HS_FNDC5_3_R	57	557	GCA GTC ACG CTT CAA TGA TGT CA	NM_001171940.1
HS_FNDC5_4_F			TAC ATA GTC CAC GTG CAG GC	
HS_FNDC5_3_R	60	250	GCA GTC ACG CTT CAA TGA TGT CA	NM_001171940.1
HS_FNDC5_5_F*			CCT CCA AGA ACA AAG ATG AGG	
HS_FNDC5_4_R*	60	292	TAC CAG AGC ATG AGG CAC AG	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_5_F*			CCT CCA AGA ACA AAG ATG AGG	
HS_FNDC5_5_R*	60	247	TTT CAT ATC TTG CTG CGG AGA	NM_153756.2
HS_FNDC5_5_F*			CCT CCA AGA ACA AAG ATG AGG	
HS_FNDC5_6_R*	60	160	ACA GGC AGT CAC GCT TCA AT	NM_001171940.1
HS_FNDC5_6_F			AGA AAA GAG AGA GAG AGG TGCT	
HS_FNDC5_7_R	57/60	160	CTC CAG AAC ATC CCA GCT CA	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_7_F			GGC TCT TCT CCC AAA CGG	
HS_FNDC5_8_R	57/60	218	GGT CTT CCT CTC CAT CCC C	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_8_F			CCC GGC CAA TTC TAG AGT CT	NM_153756.2;
HS_FNDC5_9_R	57/60	177	GCA CAT CCT TCT TCT GCT GG	NM_001171940.1
HS_FNDC5_9_F			TCC ACC TTG TTT CTC TGG CT	
HS_FNDC5_10_R	57/60	239	GGG GTG TAT GGT GGC TCC	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_7_F			GGC TCT TCT CCC AAA CGG	
HS_FNDC5_9_R	57	177	GCA CAT CCT TCT TCT GCT GG	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_6_F			AGA AAA GAG AGA GAG AGG TGCT	
HS_FNDC5_11_R	57	306	GCC TGC ACG TGG ACT ATG TA	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_8_F			CCC GGC CAA TTC TAG AGT CT	
HS_FNDC5_12_R	57	206	GGC CGC AAA GTC ATA CTC TG	NM_153756.2
HS_FNDC5_10_F			TTT CGG ATA GTC GTG GGA GG	
HS_FNDC5_12_R	57	395	GGC CGC AAA GTC ATA CTC TG	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_11_F			GCT TTG GGA GTC AGA TCA GC	
HS_FNDC5_13_R	57	366	ATC CTC CAG AAC ATC CCA GC	NM_001171941.2
HS_FNDC5_12_F			TGT TCA AAT CCT GGC TCT GC	
HS_FNDC5_14_R	57	364	GGC AAA TCC GAT GAC AAC CT	NM_001171941.2
MM_Fndc5_1a_F			GAG CCG ATA TGC AGG C	
MM_Fndc5_1a_R	53	250	CTG ACC ACG GCA GAG TTG	XM_006503212.3
MM_Fndc5_1b_F			GTG GCT AGG CTG CGT CTG	
MM_Fndc5_1b_R	57	189	TCC TGA ATG AAC CGG AGC AT	NM_027402.4
MM_Fndc5_2_F			TGC CAT CTC TCA GCA GAA GA	
MM_Fndc5_2_R	57	245	TCC TCC CCA TCT CCT TCA TG	NM_027402.4
MM_Fndc5_3_F			TGA AGG AGA TGG GGA GGA AC	
MM_Fndc5_3_R	57	304	GCA TGT TGG ACA ATC ACC GT	NM_027402.4

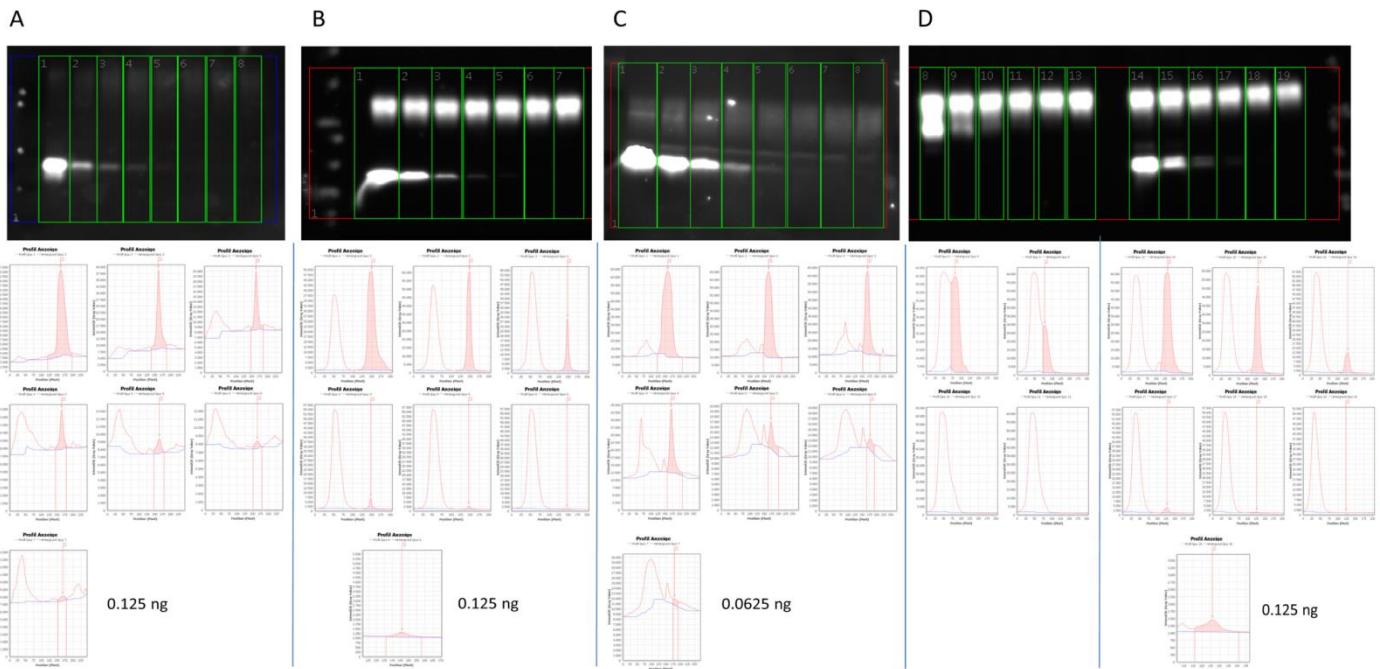
HS: Homo sapiens; MM: Mus musculus

\* Primer pairs from Kim et al. [30]



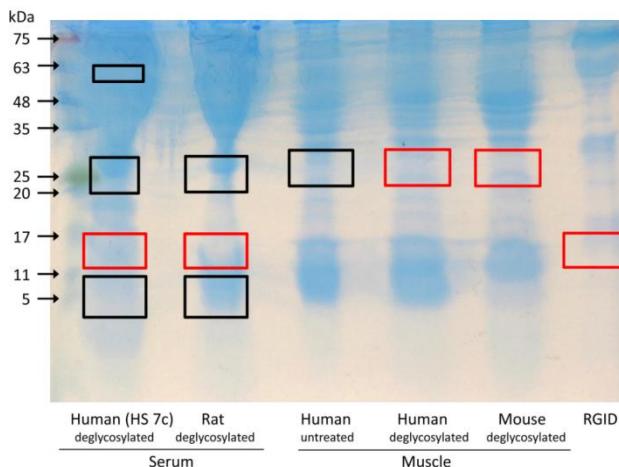
**Supplementary Figure S 1.** Primer combinations for *FNDC5* transcript analysis in human muscle.

The boxes refer to exons in the human *FNDC5* locus (compare Figure 1). The dashed line indicates a region annotated as intron but suspected to be expressed. Tested primer pairs are marked by arrows and the numbering relates to Supplementary Table S 2. Green bars: Successfully amplified and sequenced. Hatched green bars denote amplicons based on the primers published by Kim et al. [29]. Yellow bar: PCR product observed but no sequence derived. Red bars: Amplification failed.



**Supplementary Figure S 2.** Image analysis of dilution series of recombinant irisin species on western blots.

**A** Recombinant irisin diluted in albumin-depleted bovine plasma. Irisin amounts per lane: 20, 4, 2, 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, and 0.062 ng. Detection with antibody A. **B** Irisin amounts per lane: 4, 2, 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, and 0.062 ng. Detection with antibody B. **C** Irisin amounts per lane: 4, 2, 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.062, and 0.031 ng. Detection with antibody C. **D** Glycosylated irisin amounts per lane: 2, 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, and 0.062 ng (left panel). Same irisin amounts after deglycosylation with Protein Deglycosylation Mix II (NEB; right panel).

**A****B**

Sample	Molecular weight range (expected FNDC5/irisin form)	FNDC5/irisin signature
Human serum, deglycosylated (HS 7c*)	60 kDa (negative control) 5 - 10 kDa (truncated irisin, T1) 20 - 25 kDa (glycosylated irisin) 10 - 15 kDa (deglycosylated irisin)	- - - -
Rat serum, deglycosylated	5 - 10 kDa (negative control) 20 - 25 kDa (glycosylated irisin) 10 - 15 kDa (deglycosylated irisin)	- - -
Human muscle, untreated	20 - 25 kDa (glycosylated FNDC5)	FIQEVDTTTR DSPSAPVDVTVR
Human muscle, deglycosylated	20 - 25 kDa (deglycosylated FNDC5)	FIQEVNTTTR DSPSAPVDVTVR
Mouse muscle, deglycosylated	20 - 25 kDa (deglycosylated Fndc5)	FIQEVDTTTR DSPSAPVDVTVR
Recombinant, glycosylated irisin, deglycosylated (RGID)	10 - 15 kDa (deglycosylated irisin)	FIQEVDTTTR DSPSAPVDVTVR

\* HS 7c (12 w training; see Supplementary Table S 1 for details)

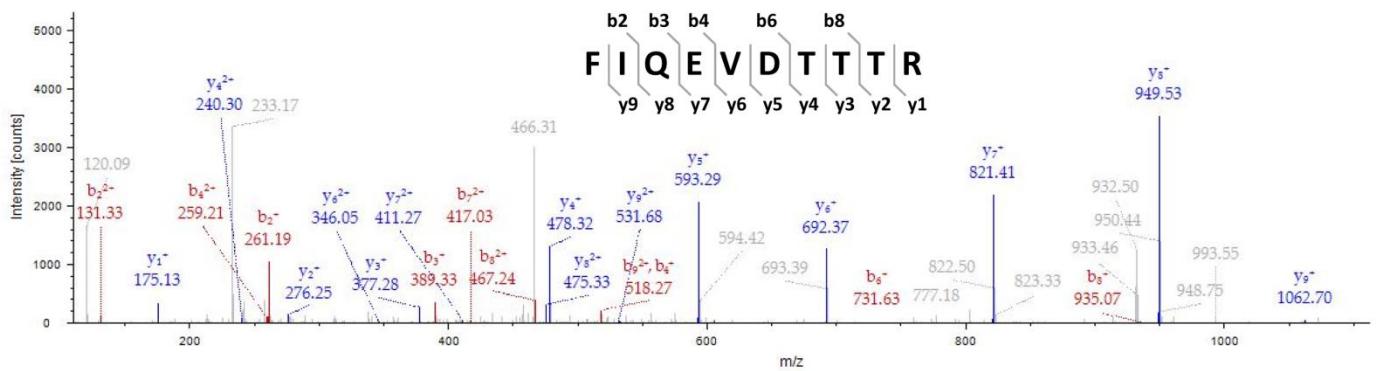
**Supplementary Figure S 3.** Detection of FNDC5/irisin by targeted mass spectrometry (DDA mode).

**A** Coomassie-stained gel with boxed regions of interest cut-out for targeted mass spectrometry in data dependent acquisition (DDA) mode. Red boxes sign areas where FNDC5/irisin was expected.

**B** Results of mass spectrometry with the detected peptides given in the last column.

## Predicted Fragmentation Pattern

#1	b <sup>+</sup>	b <sup>2+</sup>	Seq.	y <sup>+</sup>	y <sup>2+</sup>	#2
1	148.07569	74.54148	F			10
2	261.15975	131.08352	I	1062.54258	531.77493	9
3	389.21833	195.11280	Q	949.45851	475.23290	8
4	518.26092	259.63410	E	821.39994	411.20361	7
5	617.32934	309.16831	V	692.35734	346.68231	6
6	732.35628	366.68178	D	593.28893	297.14810	5
7	833.40396	417.20562	T	478.26199	239.63463	4
8	934.45164	467.72946	T	377.21431	189.11079	3
9	1035.49932	518.25330	T	276.16663	138.58695	2
10			R	175.11895	88.06311	1



**Supplementary Figure S 4.** MS/MS spectrum of the deglycosylated, recombinant irisin peptide with b- and y-ion series m/z values.