

Supplemental Methods and References Cited

Supplemental Methods

Cell culture and RNA interference

Parental cancer cell lines were obtained from ATCC mycoplasma-free and ATCC-authenticated in 2012, and used for experiments within 3 months of culture in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM; Corning) with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Hyclone). For hormone deprivation (HD) experiments, cells were cultured in phenol-red free DMEM (Corning) containing 10% dextran/charcoal-stripped FBS (Hyclone). Controls for HD experiments contained 1 nM E2. Stable cell lines expressing luciferase and GFP were generated using the pLGcmv-CBG-Clover lentiviral vector. The pLGcmv-CBG-Clover lentiviral vector was generated by insertion of the CMV promoter, click beetle green 99 luciferase (Promega) and Clover GFP variant fusion protein separated by a GGGS linker into pFLRu-FH-puro (2). Lentiviral vectors encoding constitutively expressed shRNA targeting AMPK α 1/*PRKAA1* (catalog # RHS4430) or non-targeting control (catalog # RHS4346) in the pGIPZ backbone were obtained from Dharmacon. LentiX cells (Clontech) were used to generate lentivirus using standard protocols with pMD2.G and psPAX2 helper plasmids (supplied by D. Trono to Addgene; catalog # 12259 and 12260). Stably transfected target cancer cells were selected for GFP expression by FACS, or for puromycin (1 μ g/mL) resistance for 2 wk. siRNA targeting AMPK α 1/*PRKAA1* (catalog # SI02622228), AMPK α 2/*PRKAA2* (catalog # SI02758595), or non-silencing control (catalog #1027310) were obtained from Qiagen and transfected into cancer cells using Lipofectamine RNAiMax (Thermo Fisher Scientific) per manufacturer's instructions.

Immunoblotting

Cells were lysed, and frozen tumors were homogenized and lysed, in RIPA buffer [20 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 10% glycerol, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 5 mM NaPPi, 50 mM NaF, 10 mM Na β -glycerophosphate, plus fresh Halt protease inhibitor cocktail (Pierce) and 1 mM Na₃VO₄ (New England Biolabs)]. Lysates were sonicated, centrifuged at 17,000 x g for 10 min at 4°C, and protein in supernatants was quantified using BCA assay (Pierce). Protein extracts were denatured with NuPage (Life Technologies) and reduced with 1.25% β -mercaptoethanol (Sigma). Proteins were heated at 95°C for 1 min, then separated by

SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose. Blots were probed with antibodies against AMPK α 1, AMPK α 2, P-ACC_{Ser79}, P-ULK1_{Ser555}, vinculin, PGC-1 α , CPT1 α , actin (Cell Signaling), and total OXPHOS antibody cocktail (Abcam). HRP-labeled secondary antibodies (GE Healthcare) and ECL substrate (Pierce) were used for signal detection.

Tumor growth studies

Female NOD-scid/IL2R γ ^{-/-} (NSG; NOD.Cg-Prkdcscid Il2rgtm1Wjl/SzJ) mice were obtained from the Norris Cotton Cancer Center Mouse Modeling Shared Resource. Female *Foxn1*^{nu}/*Foxn1*^{nu} (nude; JNu) mice were purchased from Jackson Laboratories. Ovariectomized 3-to-4-week-old mice were orthotopically injected bilaterally with MCF-7, HCC-1428, HCC-1500, or MDA-MB-415 luciferase/GFP-expressing cells in PBS, or implanted with fragments of HCI-017 patient-derived xenograft (a gift from Alana Welm, Univ. of Utah). Mice were simultaneously implanted s.c. with a 17 β -estradiol (1 mg) beeswax pellet (3). Tumor dimensions were measured twice weekly using calipers (volume = [length² x width]/2). Once tumors reached ~400 mm³, E2 pellets were removed [*i.e.*, estrogen withdrawal (EW)] and mice were randomized to treatments. Vehicle and metformin were administered via drinking water containing 4% sucrose \pm 1 mg/mL metformin. Once tumors completely regressed (*i.e.*, not palpable) following EW, residual tumor burden was monitored by bioluminescence imaging (below).

For drugs tested against dormant residual disease, tumor-bearing mice were treated with EW for 60-90 d to induce dormancy. Baseline bioluminescence was measured on two consecutive days and averaged. Animals were then treated as indicated and bioluminescence was serially measured.

For molecular analysis, tumors were harvested at the indicated time points, fixed in formalin, and paraffin-embedded (FFPE). For dietary studies, isocaloric “high-fat” and “low-fat” diets were obtained from Research Diets, Inc. (catalog # D12451i and D12450Bi) and fed to mice ad libitum.

Bioluminescence imaging

Mice were injected i.p. with 100 μ L of *in vivo*-grade D-Luciferin (3 mg/mL; Promega) in PBS and placed under isoflurane anesthesia. After a 15-min uptake period, mice were imaged for bioluminescence using a Xenogen

IVIS 200 System, and signal values were analyzed using Living Image software (Perkin Elmer). Digital light imaging topography (DLIT) was used to integrate a series of filtered 2-D bioluminescent images with animal surface topography to reconstruct 3-D images.

Pharmacokinetic analyses

Female NSG mice were treated metformin (1 mg/mL in drinking water) for 6 wk. Blood was collected retro-orbitally from 3 mice per time point into tubes containing EDTA (0.5 M final concentration) as an anti-coagulant, and centrifuged at 2,000 x g for 5 min at 4°C. Plasma was isolated and stored at -80°C. Following blood collection, tumor, liver, and gastrocnemius muscle tissues were then collected, homogenized in 200 µL water, and stored at -80°C.

For metformin measurement in cultured cells, MCF-7 cells were plated and treated as biological triplicates with the indicated concentrations of metformin in growth medium for 16 h. Cells were then rinsed twice with PBS, and scraped into 1 mL water. Scraped cells were frozen at -80°C until analysis.

Metformin concentrations were measured by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry in technical triplicates, and the average value from technical triplicates for each biological sample was used for calculations. Phenformin was added to all biological samples prior to processing to serve as an internal standard. Samples (50 µL plasma or 10 mg of homogenized tissue) were processed utilizing acetonitrile and Phenomenex iPhree cartridges, and dried under nitrogen at 50°C. Dried samples were resuspended in water for injection onto an Accucore HILIC 50 mm x 2.1 mm, 2.6 µm column with 10 mm x 2.1 mm HILIC guard cartridge. Isocratic conditions, 25% 100 mM ammonium formate pH 3.2, and 75% acetonitrile over 3 min were utilized at 0.35 mL/min on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 HPLC system. A TSQ Vantage tandem quadrupole mass spectrometer with a HESI-II probe, operated in multiple reaction monitoring mode, was used for positive ion detection, and Xcalibur software was used for data acquisition and processing. MS/MS detection was conducted monitoring 130.09 → 71.100 m/z (collision energy 20 V) for metformin and 206.07 → 60.11 m/z (collision energy 16 V) for phenformin. S-Lens RF amplitudes for metformin and phenformin were 40 V and 60 V respectively. Source parameters were spray voltage 2000 V, vaporizer temperature 275°C, capillary temperature 350°C, sheath gas 43, and aux gas 4. Calibration standards were linear over the metformin

concentration range from 50-1200 ng/mL (0.39-9.29 μ M), with quality controls of 100, 500, and 900 ng/mL (0.77, 3.87, and 6.97 μ M). Only calibration standards with >85% accuracy were used for quantitation.

Serum insulin, blood glucose, and serum free fatty acid analyses

Mice were fasted overnight, and 200 μ L of blood was collected retro-orbitally. Two μ L of blood was used to measure glucose concentrations using a glucometer (OneTouch Ultra 2). Remaining blood was allowed to coagulate prior to centrifugation and serum collection. Serum was stored at -80°C until analysis. Serum insulin and free fatty acid concentrations were measured by ELISA per manufacturers' protocols (Human Insulin ELISA kit, catalog # EZHI-14K from ENDMillipore; Free Fatty Acid Assay Kit, catalog # ab65341 from Abcam).

Immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence

Five-micron sections of FFPE tissue were stained using H&E, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or immunofluorescence (IF). For IHC and IF, sections were deparaffinized in xylene and rehydrated through a graded ethanol series. Heat-induced epitope retrieval was performed using a pressure cooker in either high-pH Tris-EDTA Buffer (pH 9) or low-pH Citrate Buffer (pH 6) (VWR). Sections were then permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS and treated with 0.3% H₂O₂. Sections were blocked in 5% goat serum for 45 min, then incubated in blocking solution containing primary antibody overnight at 4°C. IHC using antibodies against P-ACC_{ser79}, AMPK α 2, cleaved caspase 3/7, P-S6 (Cell Signaling), CPT1 α (Abcam), ER α (Dako), and Ki67 (Biocare Medical) was performed using Vectastain ABC-HRP kit (Vector Labs). Signal was developed using DAB substrate (Vector Labs). Proportions of positively stained cells in each specimen were counted in 3 random microscopic fields (200x magnification). IHC quantification was performed using HaloVelocity software (Perkin Elmer).

Mitochondrial morphology in xenograft sections was analyzed by IF using the antibody-fluorophore conjugate TOM20-AF594 (Santa Cruz). Images were acquired using a Zeiss LSM 800 with Airyscan microscope using the 63x oil objective and the magnification changer set to 3x zoom. For each Airyscan Z-stack, 35 image slices were taken, with the Z-slices set between 0.16-0.2 μ m. IF images were processed and

analyzed for mitochondrial count (Number of Connected Components) and length (Average Mitochondrial Length) using MitoGraph software (4). Analysis included ≥ 30 tumor cells from ≥ 3 tumors per treatment group.

Mitochondrial membrane potential of cultured cells was measured by incubating cells with tetramethylrhodamine methyl ester (TMRM) for 1 h or 5 h, or with MitoTracker Green (MTG) for 5 h. Staining intensity was measured using the fluorescence image acquisition mode on the IncuCyte S3 Live-Cell Analysis System (Essen Bioscience).

Tumor cell dissociation and flow cytometry

GFP-expressing tumor specimens were harvested, rinsed with PBS, and minced. Minced tumor fragments were placed in digestion buffer [(Hank's buffered salt solution (Corning), 7 mg/mL collagenase III (Sigma), 0.2 mg/mL DNase I (Sigma))] and agitated for 45 min at 37°C. Tumor digest was passed through a 70- μ m filter. P-S6 immunostaining was performed using Foxp3/Transcription Factor Fixation/Permeabilization kit (eBioscience) per manufacturer's protocol with P-S6, CD24, and CD44 antibody-fluorophore conjugates (BD Biosciences). Cells were analyzed using a MACSQuant-10 flow cytometer.

RNA expression profiling of xenografts

RNA was isolated from FFPE estrogen-driven tumors (Day 0), acutely EW tumors (Day 3 or 6), and clinically dormant residual tumor cells (Day 82 or 90) using the AllPrep DNA/RNA FFPE Kit (Qiagen). RNA quality was assessed on a fragment analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies), and RNA was quantified by Qubit. Nanostring analysis was performed using the PanCancer Pathways Panel (770 genes) on the nCounter FLEX analysis system according to manufacturer's protocol. Data were normalized using nSolver software. The complete normalized dataset is appended in Table S1.

In preparation for RNA-seq, ribo-depleted libraries were prepared from 2.5 μ g of total RNA using the GlobinZero Gold (catalog # GZG1206, Illumina) and TruSeq Stranded Total RNA (catalog # RS-122-2201, Illumina) workflows according to manufacturer's instructions. Each library was uniquely barcoded, quantified by qPCR (catalog # KK4824, Kapa Biosystems), and pooled for sequencing on an Illumina NextSeq 500 (2 \times 75-bp). Reads were checked for quality control using FastQC (5), and if necessary were trimmed using

Trimmomatic (6) to trim regions with phred Q >30 (7). High-quality reads were then aligned to reference genome hg19 using STAR (8). Gene counts were normalized by frequency per kilobase million (9). Differential expression of genes was determined using the limma (10) and DESeq2 (11) packages in the R environment (12), and multiple testing correction was performed using the FDR Benjamini-Hochberg method (13). Genes were determined to be significantly differentially expressed if FDR $q \leq 0.05$ and absolute \log_2 fold change ≥ 1 . To determine significant differences in the expression of gene signatures between time points, we performed unsupervised sample-wise enrichment analysis of common metabolic and signaling pathways [selected from the Hallmarks (HM), Gene Ontology (GO), Reactome (RM), or Motif gene set(C3) collections] using Gene Set Variation Analysis (GSVA) (14) in R using default arguments with an adjusted p-value significance threshold of 0.2 (1). RNA-seq data are available at NCBI SRA (accession number #PRJNA491455).

Cellular respiration analysis

Cells were plated at 20,000-40,000/well in 96-well plates in triplicate at 6 h prior to assay. Oxygen consumption rates (OCR) were serially monitored using the Seahorse XF96 Flux Analyser (Agilent) under the indicated treatment conditions, and after addition of 1 μM oligomycin, 0.5 μM FCCP, and 0.5 μM rotenone.

Cell growth assays

Cells were plated at 500-1,000/well in 96-well plates. The following day, cells were washed and medium was changed as indicated. Media and drugs were refreshed every 3-4 d. Growth was serially monitored using the brightfield camera on the IncuCyte S3 Live-Cell Analysis System (Essen Bioscience). Long-term assays (Figs. 4, 5A, and 6B/C) were run for 21-28 d until a well reached 100% confluence. Short-term assays (Figs. 4A and 5B) were run for 7 d.

Statistical analyses

Cell growth, IHC, and IF data were analyzed by *t*-test (for two-group experiments), or ANOVA (for experiments with more than two groups) followed by Bonferroni multiple comparison-adjusted posthoc testing between

groups. We used the following mathematical model with interpretable parameters to describe a monotonically decreasing pattern to analyze tumor volumes in mice after removal of E2 pellets:

$$V(t) = e^{a_1 + a_2 e^{-(a_3/a_2)t}}, \quad t \geq 0,$$

where a_1, a_2 , and a_3 are positive parameters, and t is time (d). At time $t = 0$ we have $V(0) = e^{a_1 + a_2}$, and when $t \rightarrow \infty$ we have $V(t) \rightarrow e^{a_1}$. On the log scale, the model simplifies and takes the form of the exponential function with asymptote $\ln V(t) = a_1 + a_2 e^{-(a_3/a_2)t}$. Function $V(t)$ is similar to a Gompertz curve that describes tumor growth ($a_2 < 0$) [detailed in (15)].

The *long-term treatment effect* (LT) is measured as the proportion of the tumor volume decrease with respect to the baseline tumor volume, $V(0)$, or in mathematical terms

$$\frac{V(0) - V(\infty)}{V(0)} = \frac{e^{a_1 + a_2} - e^{a_1}}{e^{a_1 + a_2}} = 1 - e^{-a_2} \simeq a_2.$$

This means that $100a_2\%$ can be interpreted as % tumor reduction with respect to the initial tumor volume. We refer to a_2 as the (*relative*) *tumor reduction* parameter that reflects the proportion of tumor decrease on the scale of baseline tumor volume at $t = 0$. For MCF-7 and HCI-017 dormancy models, vehicle-treated tumors regress at a linear rate beyond the limit of caliper measurement; thus, we did not compute long-term treatment effects (when applicable) for those models.

The *rate difference* (RD) is measured as the rate of tumor reduction or growth at time $t = 0$,

$$\frac{1}{V(0)} \frac{dV}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{d \ln V(t)}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{d(a_1 + a_2 e^{-(a_3/a_2)t})}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = -a_2(a_3/a_2)e^{-(a_3/a_2) \times 0} = -a_3.$$

This means that $100a_3\%$ can be interpreted as the % tumor volume decrease per unit of time at the time of E2 pellet removal or start of drug treatment. We refer to a_3 as the (*relative*) *rate of tumor reduction* parameter that reflects how fast tumor volume approaches the dormant state (*i.e.*, plateau of volume).

The model in each treatment group was estimated under the assumption that tumor volume at $t = 0$ is mouse-specific, which leads to a nonlinear mixed model:

$$y_{ti} = a_{1i} + a_2 e^{-(a_3/a_2)t} + \varepsilon_{ti}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

where n is the number of mice in a group, and a_{1i} is a random effect distributed as $N(a_1, \sigma_0^2)$. Standard deviation σ_0 reflects the heterogeneity of baseline tumor volumes. p-values compare parameters a_2 and a_3 in treatment groups using the output of nlme function in R (12).

Analysis of human breast tumor gene expression datasets

A gene expression signature of response to etomoxir in MCF-7 cells was generated using data downloaded from the Connectivity Map (16) at: <https://clue.io/command?q=/sig%20%22etomoxir%22>. Among the 992 genes altered in response to treatment with 10 μ M etomoxir for 6 or 24 h, 77 genes had a Gene Ontology annotation of “Cell Proliferation” or “Cell Cycle,” leaving 915 non-cell cycle-related genes for a subset analysis.

Gene expression profiles of paired human ER+ breast tumor specimens acquired before and after neoadjuvant anti-estrogen therapy were downloaded from the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) for accession numbers GSE71791 (17), GSE20181 (18), and GSE111563 (19). Series matrix files containing log₂-transformed normalized data were collapsed to give one (most variable) probe set per gene using GenePattern. To determine the similarity of a tumor to the etomoxir signature, we generated a t -statistic for each tumor in relation to the etomoxir signature as described (20,21). Briefly, we separated etomoxir signature genes based on the direction of their regulation in the etomoxir signature [397 genes were upregulated (z-score ≥ 1) in response to etomoxir; 595 genes were down-regulated (z-score ≤ -1) in response to etomoxir]; for GSE71791, GSE20181, and GSE111563, this included 696, 940, and 691 genes in each respective platform. We then performed a t -test of UP genes vs. DOWN genes within each tumor. The t -statistic was calculated as the two-tailed inverse of the student's t -distribution; since etomoxir inhibits FAO, and we wanted to infer FAO activation in tumors, t -statistics were multiplied by (-1) for visualization. Thus, a highly positive -(etomoxir t -statistic) implies a higher degree of FAO. t -statistics were compared between time points by paired t -test. Subset analyses were similarly performed using the 915 non-cell cycle-related gene signature of etomoxir response.

Fatty Acid Oxidation Assay

Cells were treated with phenol red-free DMEM containing 10% DCC-FBS (hormone-depleted medium, HD) \pm 1 nM E2 as indicated. Two to three days prior to assay, cells were trypsinized and reseeded at 10^4 cells/well in a 96-well plate in HD \pm 1 nM E2. Separately, an aliquot of fresh HD medium was mixed with ^3H -palmitic acid (Perkin Elmer cat # NET043001MC; provided dissolved in ethanol) at a ratio that provided 10 μCi of ^3H per 100 μL of medium for each well of cells; this mixture was rocked overnight at room temperature to allow the ^3H -palmitic acid to bind to serum elements. The ^3H -labeled medium was then aliquoted, and 1 nM E2 and/or 20 μM etomoxir was added. Medium was aspirated from cells, and the ^3H -labeled medium \pm drug(s) was added onto cells (100 μL /well), with 5 biological replicates per treatment condition, and 5 wells containing no cells (to give background readings). Cells were incubated in ^3H -labeled medium \pm drug(s) for 24 h.

^3H -labeled medium (\sim 100 μL) was removed from each well and transferred to 1.5-mL centrifuge tubes. Adherent cells were then lysed on ice in 20 μL RIPA buffer containing protease inhibitors; the amount of protein in each well was determined by BCA assay as above. The remaining protocol for processing of ^3H -labeled medium was adapted from ref. (22). To ^3H -labeled medium, 100 μL of 10% TCA was added, and tubes were vortexed for 10 sec, incubated at 4°C for 30 min, and centrifuged at 18 k x g for 5 min. Supernatant (120 μL) was transferred to a new centrifuge tube, and 120 μL of 10% TCA was added. Tubes were vortexed, incubated at 4°C , and centrifuged as above. Supernatant (150 μL) was transferred to a new centrifuge tube, and 300 μL of 2M KCl:HCl solution and 750 μL of methanol:chloroform mixture (2:1 ratio of methanol to chloroform) were added. Tubes were vortexed and centrifuged at 3 k x g for 5 min. Supernatant (500 μL) was mixed with 5 mL of scintillation fluid that was analyzed using a liquid scintillation counter.

The scintillation counts-per-minute (CPM) and amount of protein per well from the 5 “no cell” samples were averaged to provide background values, which were then subtracted from each experimental sample. Background-subtracted scintillation values were divided by amount of protein for each well. Data were reported as CPM/mg protein/h, and values relative to E2-treated samples were reported in Fig. 3G.

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