

Fig. S1

Figure S1: Details of metabolome screen in human GSCs. **a.** KEGG pathway composition of the metabolome shRNA library. Dark gray bars represent the genes covered by the screen within the total genes that constitute the pathway (light gray). **b.** List of genomic events and driver mutations that characterized the GBM models used for the screen (GSC 8.11 and 6.27). **c.** Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of animals with intracranial tumors generated from injecting 1×10^6 GSC 8.11 or 6.27 cells. **d.** Percentage of shRNA-associated barcodes recovered above each indicated threshold of read counts for transduced GSCs (ref) and tumors (*in vivo*). Fold change (\log_2) distributions of positive (PMSA1, proteasome subunit alpha type-1, and RPL30, ribosomal protein L30) and negative (Luciferase) control shRNAs. **e.** Density distribution of shRNA-associated barcodes (size normalized counts) for transduced GSCs (references) and three tumor replicates (*in vivo*) infected with the metabolome shRNA lentiviral library. **f.** Fold change (\log_2) distributions of positive (PMSA1, proteasome subunit alpha type-1, and RPL30, ribosomal protein L30) and negative (Luciferase) control shRNAs. **g.** Gene-rank analysis highlighting the behavior of genes involved in fatty acid metabolism (*ACADM*, *ACADL*, *PRKACB* and *ACSL6*) in *in vivo* screens executed in two independent GSC models: GSC 8.11 and GSC 6.27 (RSA = redundant shRNA activity, $\log P$). **h.** Relative abundance of *ACADM* in brain cells expressed as Fragments Per Kilobase Of Exon Per Million Fragments Mapped (FPKM, data from RNAseq database from Ben Barres lab at Stanford (available at <https://web.stanford.edu>))

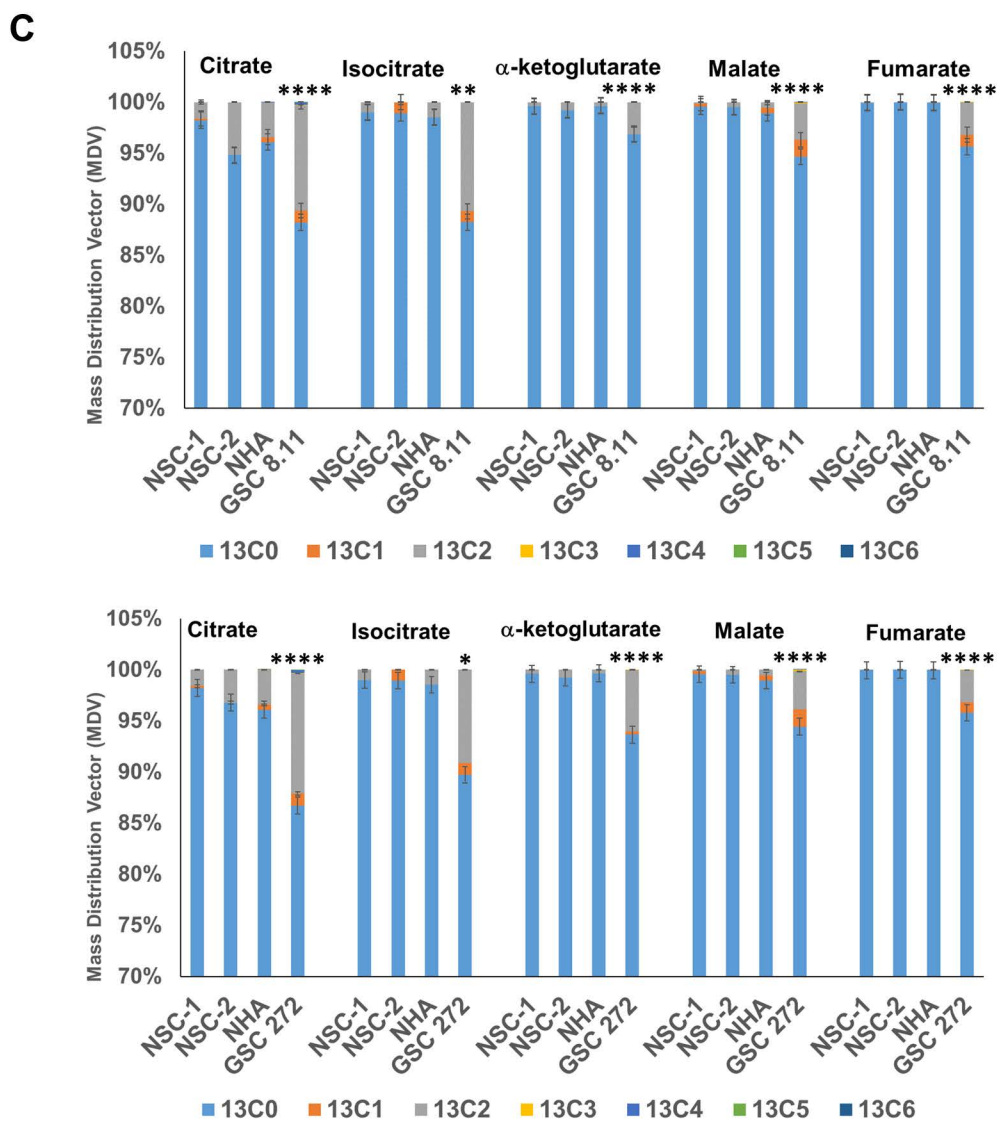
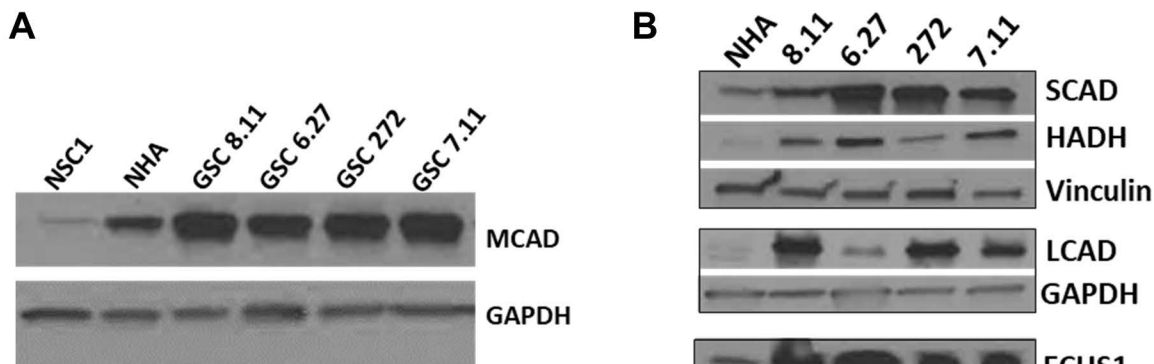


Figure S2: Fatty acid oxidation fuels oxidative metabolism in GBM cells. **a.** Representative immunoblot of MCAD expression in NHAs and NSCs in comparison with different GSCs models. GAPDH served as loading control. **b.** Representative immunoblot of FAO enzymes expression in NHAs compared to GSCs models. Vinculin and GAPDH served as loading controls. **c.** Isotopologue patterns for incorporation of ^{13}C - labeled oleate into TCA cycle intermediates, as measured by LC-MS in NHAs and GSCs in basal conditions in GSCs 8.11 and 272. Cells were cultured with ^{13}C oleate for 6 hours prior to sample collection. $n = 4$ biological replicates, error = \pm SD. * $P = 0.0129$, ** $P = 0.0014$, **** $P < 0.0001$.

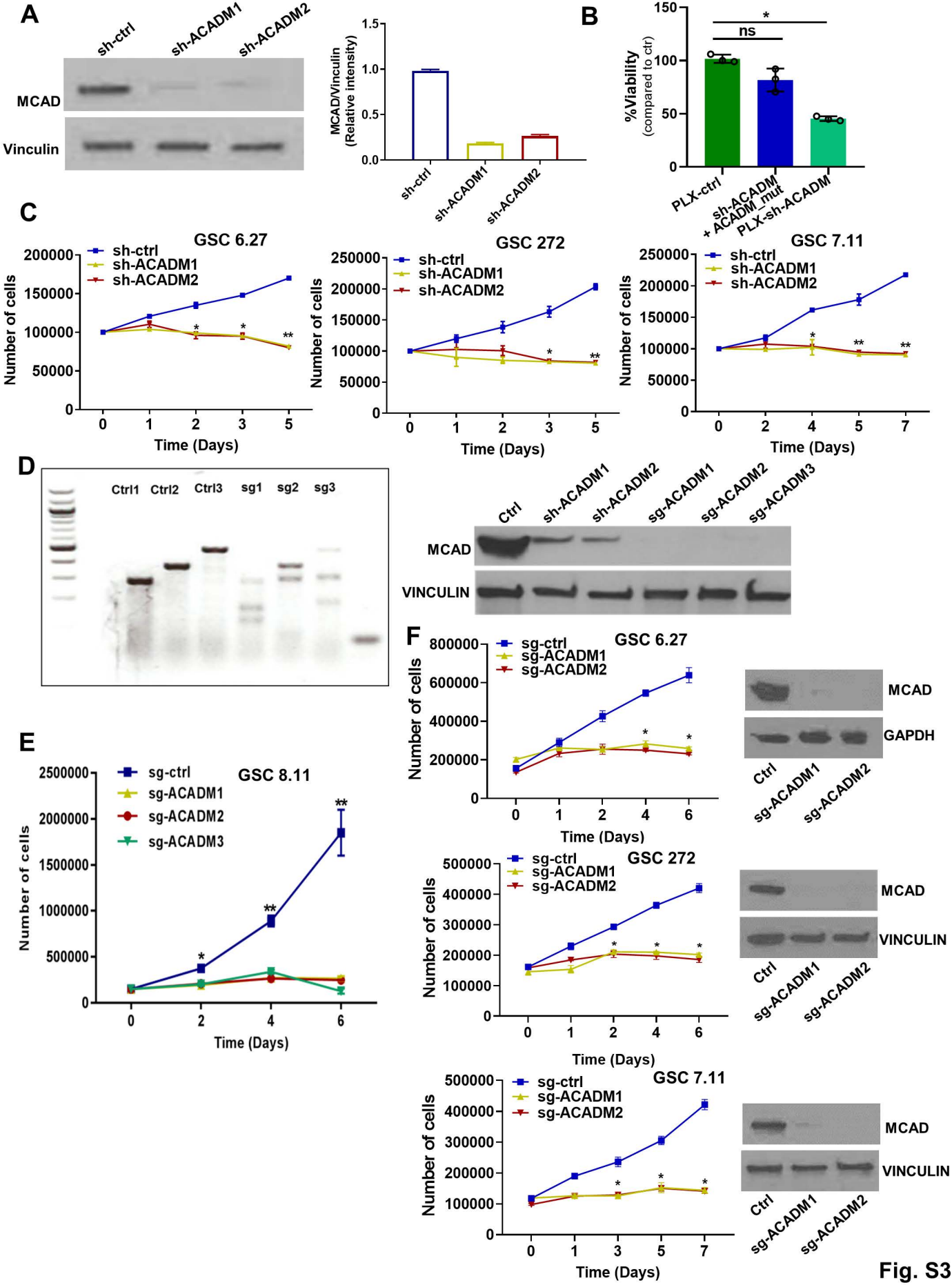


Fig. S3

Figure S3: MCAD ablation dramatically affects GSC growth *in vitro*. **a.** Representative immunoblot (left) and quantification (right) of MCAD expression in GSC 8.11 infected with *ACADM*-targeting or control shRNA. Vinculin served as a loading control. **b.** GSC 8.11 cells were stably transfected with mutant *ACADM*- expressing vector or with an empty vector (PLX). The number of viable cells (as percentage of the ctrl) was assessed by Trypan Blue exclusion after genetic silencing. Values are expressed as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups **P* < 0.05. **c.** Growth curve of GSCs 6.27, 272, and 7.11 upon shRNA-mediated *ACADM* knockdown. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups GSCs 6.27 **P* < 0.04; ***P* = 0.0051. GSCs 272, * *P* = 0.0132, ** *P* = 0.0078. GSCs 7.11, * *P* = 0.034; ** *P* \leq 0.004. **d.** (Left) Analysis of Cas9 activity by T7 endonuclease I assay. GSCs were transfected and total genomic DNA was isolated 72 h post transfection for subsequent T7EI cleavage. (Right) MCAD knockdown/knockout efficiency of shRNAs/sgRNAs determined by immunoblot. Vinculin served as loading control. **e.** Growth curve of GSC 8.11 cells carrying three independent sgRNA-mediated *ACADM* deletions, compared to a sgRNA control. Day 0 was defined as starting 48 hours post-puromycin selection. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups * *P* = 0.0146, ** *P* \leq 0.01. **f.** (Left) Growth curve of GSCs 6.27, 272, and 7.11 upon sgRNA-mediated *ACADM* knockout. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups GSCs 6.27 * *P* < 0.03; GSCs 272, * *P* \leq 0.02. GSCs 7.11, * *P* \leq 0.04. (Right) Representative immunoblot of MCAD expression in GSC 6.27, 272, 7.11 infected with *ACADM*-targeting or control sgRNA. Vinculin or GAPDH served as a loading control.

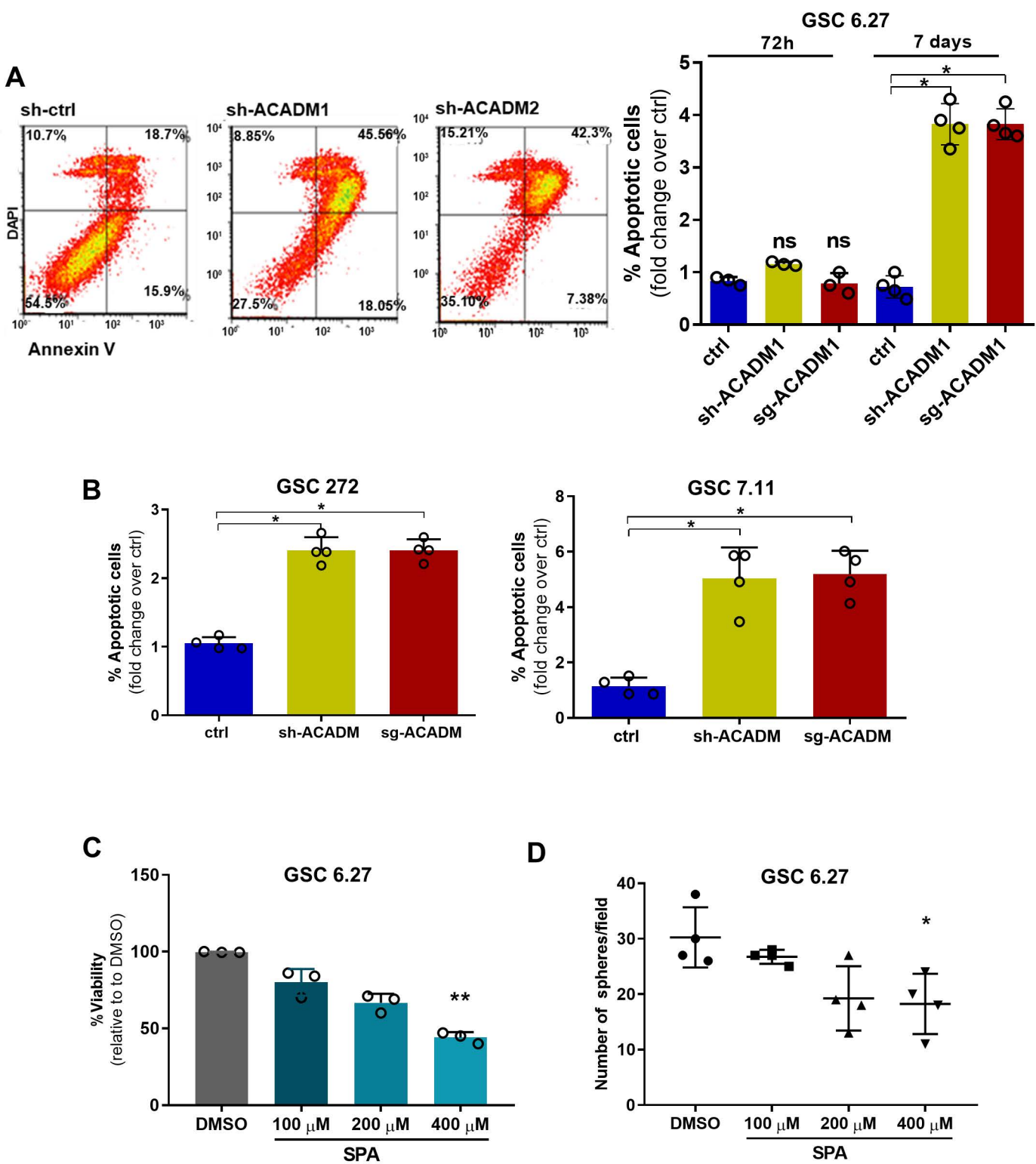


Fig. S4

Figure S4: MCAD inhibition triggers apoptotic cell death and attenuates proliferative capacity and sphere-forming efficiency in GSCs *in vitro*. **a.** (Left) Representative scatter plot showing Annexin V and DAPI staining in GSC 8.11 cells upon MCAD knockdown (7 days post-puromycin selection) as measured by flow cytometry. (Right) Quantification of apoptosis in GSC 6.27 infected with anti-ACADM shRNA/shRNA by Annexin V. Staining was evaluated by flow cytometry at 72 hours and 7 days after puromycin selection. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three or four independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups $*P < 0.05$. **b.** Quantification of apoptosis in GSC 272, 7.11 infected with anti-ACADM shRNA/sgRNA by Annexin V. Staining was evaluated by flow cytometry at day 7 after puromycin selection. Values represent the mean \pm SD of four independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups 272 $*P < 0.03$, 7.11 $*P \leq 0.04$. **c.** Cell viability assessed by Trypan Blue exclusion of GSC 6.27 treated with indicated concentration of SPA. Mean values \pm SD of three biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups $**P = 0.006$. **d.** Dot plot showing GSCs 6.27 sphere formation efficiency (SFE) upon SPA treatment at different concentrations. DMSO was used as control. Values represent the mean \pm SD of four independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups $*P = 0.0327$.

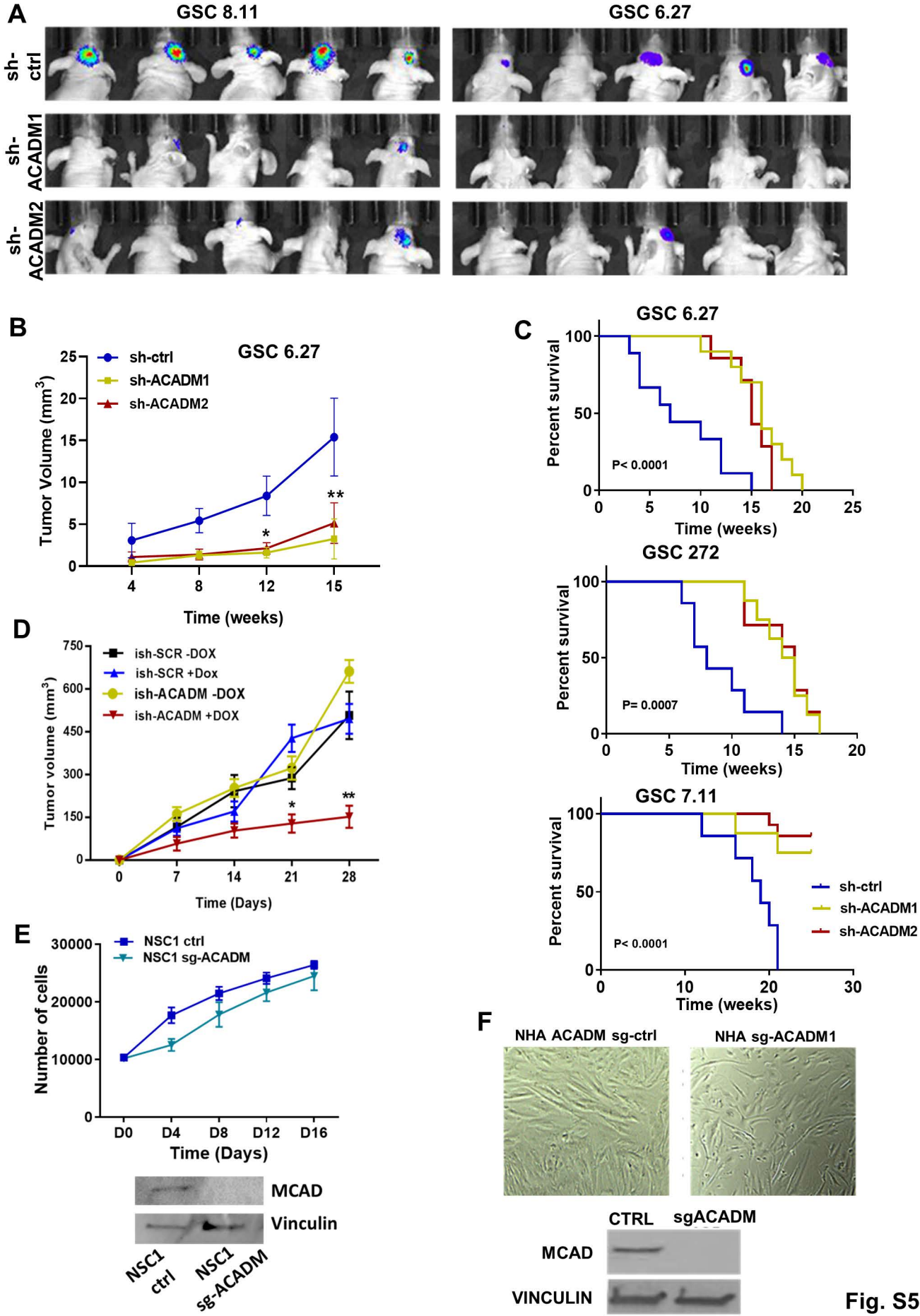


Fig. S5

Figure S5: MCAD ablation/inhibition impacts tumor formation of GSCs *in vivo*. **a.** Luciferase imaging of representative tumors 30 days (GSC 8.11) or 60 days (GSC 6.27) post-implantation. **b.** Quantification of tumor progression after implantation of GSCs 6.27 as measured by MR volumetry (n = 8 mice per group). Data represent mean \pm SEM. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups **P* = 0.0121, ***P* = 0.0047. **c.** Kaplan–Meier survival analysis upon *in vivo* implantation of GSCs 6.27, 272 and 7.11. For sh-ctrl, sh-*ACADM1*, sh-*ACADM2*, n = 8 mice per group. *P* values were generated using log-rank test. ****P* = 0.0007, *****P* < 0.0001. **d.** Effect of shRNA-mediated knockdown on tumor growth in GSC 8.11 cells with induced (doxycycline) MCAD depletion 20 days after subcutaneous implantation. Day 0 indicates the beginning of doxycycline treatment (n = 5 mice per group). Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups **P* = 0.036, ***P* = 0.003; **e.** (Top) Growth curve of NSCs infected with sgRNA targeting either *ACADM* or GFP. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments and (Bottom) representative immunoblot. Vinculin served as loading control. **f.** Representative images (top) of NHAs upon MCAD depletion at 7 days from the beginning of the growth curve shown in Figure 2H and corresponding immunoblot (bottom). Vinculin served as loading control.

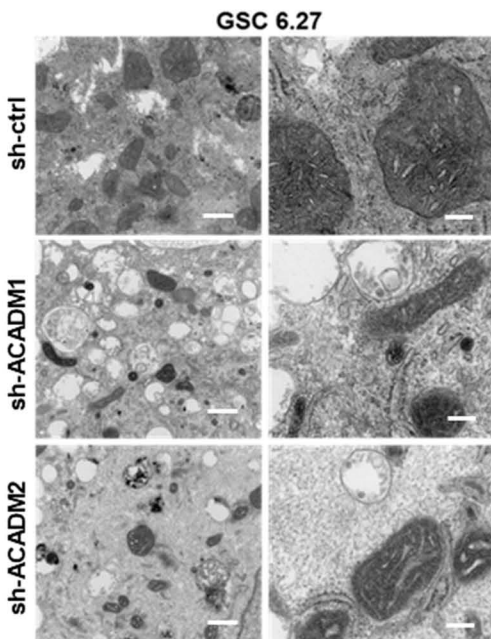
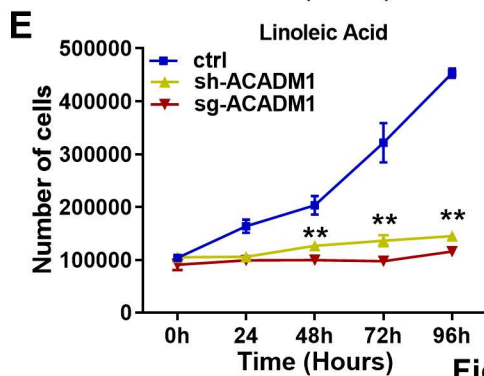
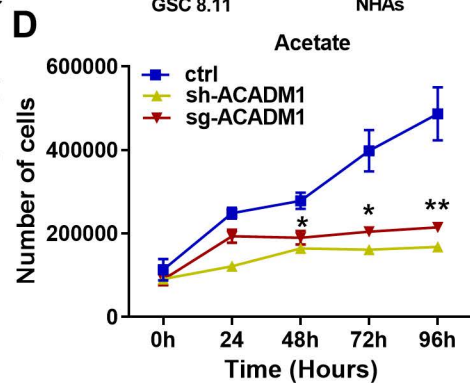
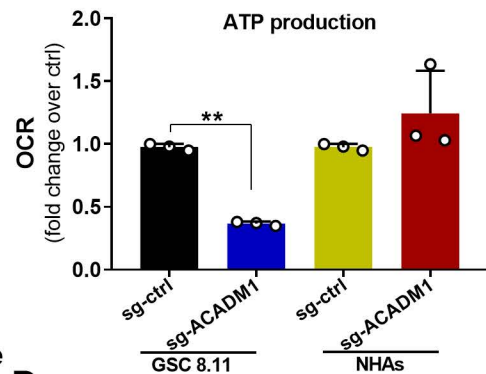
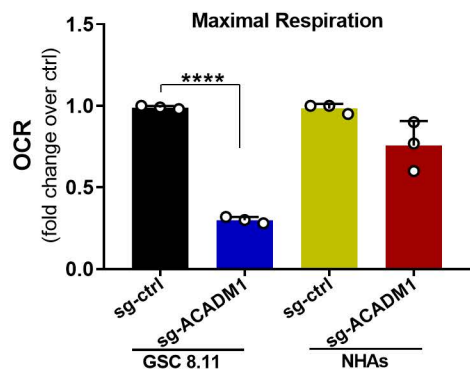
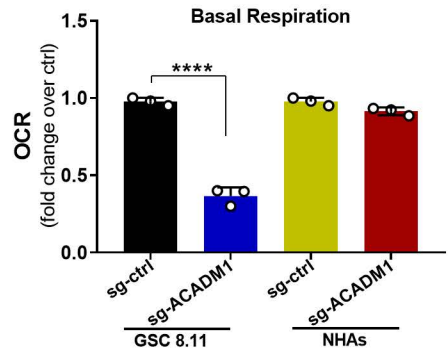
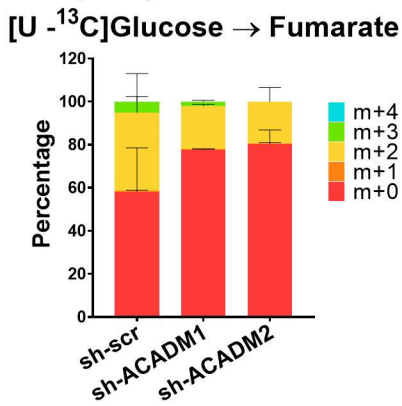
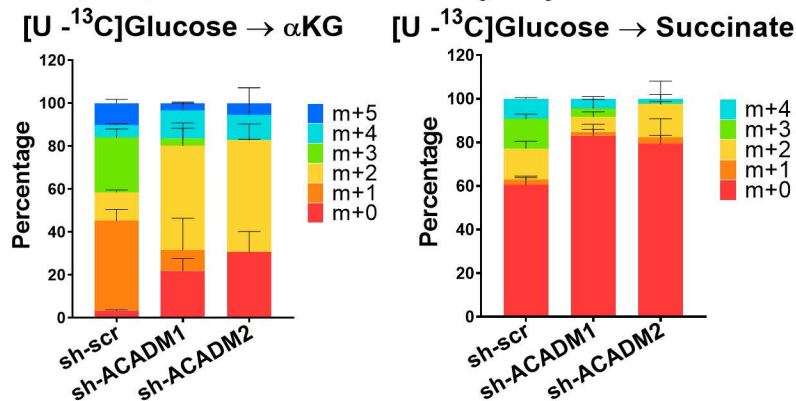
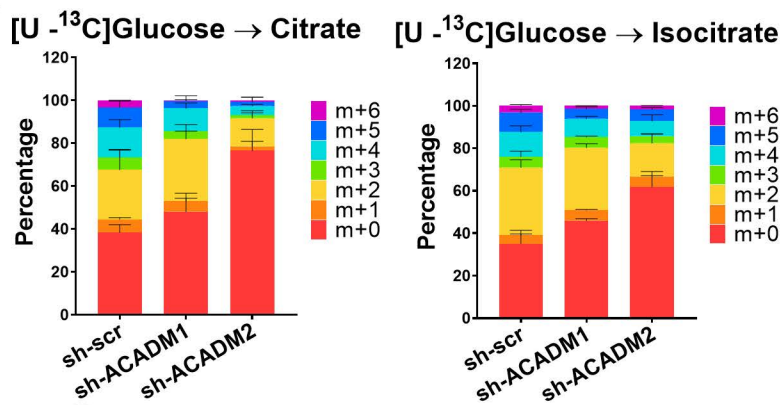
A**B****C**

Figure S6. MCAD depletion alters the bioenergetics profile of GSCs.

a. Transmission electron microscopy images of mitochondria in GSC 6.27 upon MCAD silencing (magnification x15,000 and 50,000; scale bar= 1 μ m, 300 nm). **b.** Analysis of basal respiration rate, maximal respiratory capacity, and ATP-linked respiration generated via metabolic flux assay. Rates are quantified by normalization of OCR level to the total protein OD values. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups *******P* = 0.01, ******** *P* = 0.0001. Results represent cumulative analyses of multiple independent biological replicates from three independent experiments (*n*≥4 for each condition per experiment). Data extracted from the OCR traces in Figure 3C, D. **c.** Isotopologue patterns for incorporation of ¹³C-labeled glucose into TCA cycle intermediates, as measured by LC-MS in GSC 8.11 infected with anti-*ACADM* or control shRNA. Cells were cultured with ¹³C glucose for 24 hours prior to sample collection. *N* = 3 biological replicates, error bars = +/- SD. **d.**, **e.** 96-h growth curve of GSC 8.11 cells upon *ACADM* silencing with shRNA/sgRNA cultured in DMEM-F12 media supplemented with acetate (2 mM) (d) or linoleic acid (0.1 mg/ml) (e). Day 0 was defined as 48 hours of puromycin selection. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. In **d**: ******P* = 0.011 ****** *P* = 0.003. In **e**: *******P* \leq 0.0033.

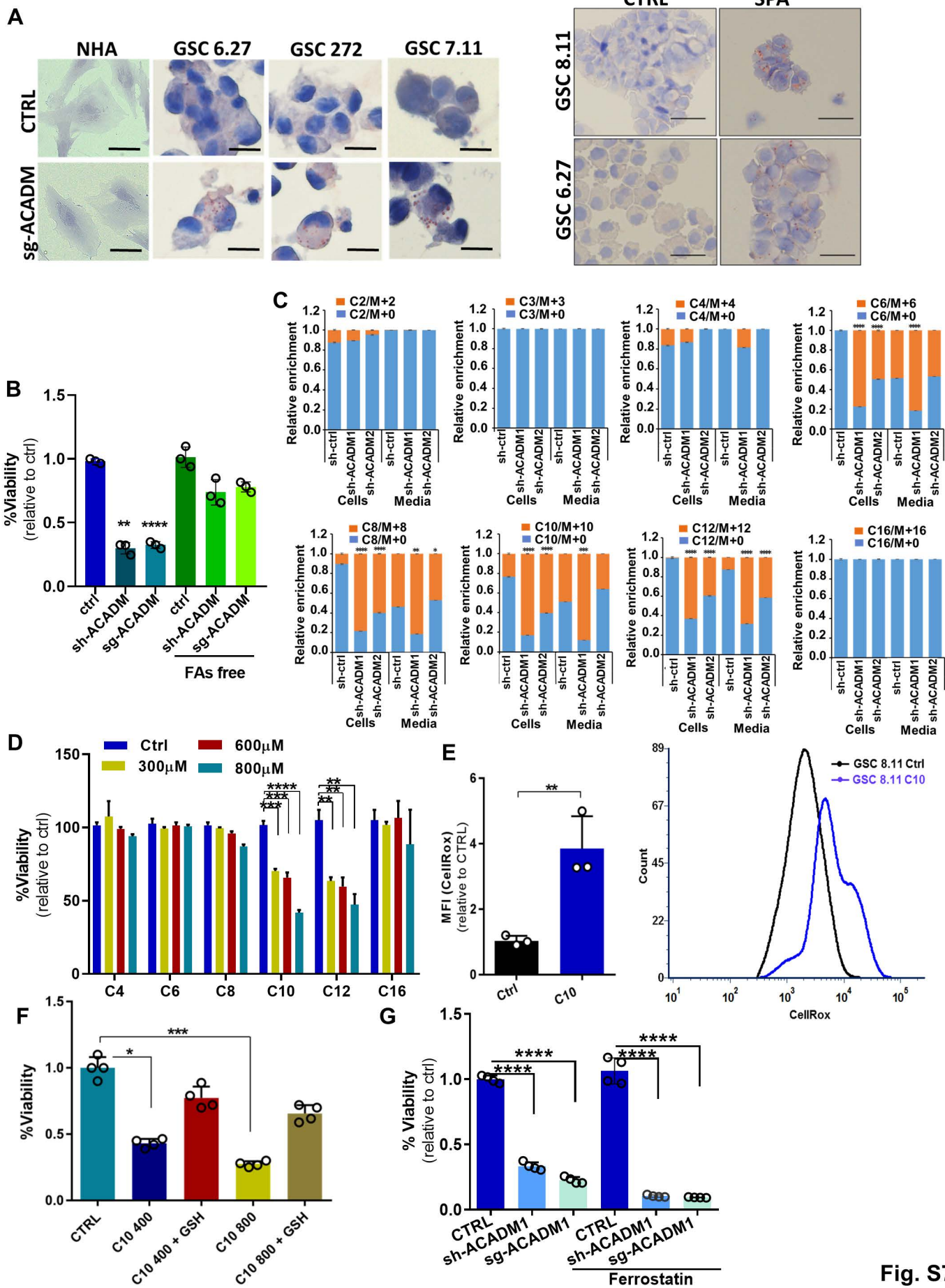


Fig. S7

Figure S7. Toxic lipid species are causally correlated with ROS increase and cell death in MCAD-silenced GSCs. **a.** (Left) Oil Red O staining in NHAs, GSCs 6.27, 272, 7.11 cells infected with sgRNA targeting either *ACADM* or GFP at 72 hours from the silencing, Scale bar = 10 μm . (Right) Oil Red O staining of GSC 8.11 and 6.27 cells after 72-hour treatment with SPA. DMSO was used as control, scale bar 50 μm . **b.** Cell viability as assessed by Trypan Blue exclusion in *ACADM* wild type or null GSC 8.11 grown in normal or FAs-free DMEM-F12 7 days after puromycin selection. Data represent the mean \pm SEM of three biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. $^{**}P < 0.01$, $^{****}P = 0.0001$. **c.** LC-MS acyl-carnitine labeling profile of growth medium and whole-cell extracts from GSC 8.11 infected with anti-*ACADM* or non-targeting shRNAs cultured with ^{13}C oleate for 24 hours prior to sample collection. *N* = 3 biological replicates, error bars represent \pm SD. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. $^{*}P = 0.04$, $^{**}P = 0.0032$, $^{***}P = 0.0002$, $^{****}P < 0.0001$. **d.** Cell viability assessed by Trypan Blue exclusion of GSC 8.11 cells treated with 400 μM butyrate (C4), hexanoate (C6), octanoate (C8), decanoate (C10), dodecanoate (C12), palmitic acid (C16), or vehicle control for 48 h. Data represent mean \pm SEM of four biologically independent replicates *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. $^{**}P < 0.006$; $^{***}P < 0.0003$; $^{****}P < 0.0001$. **e.** Quantification by flow cytometry of ROS production in GSC 8.11 cells treated with C10 for 48 h measured by CellROX Green (left) and representative fluorescence (right). Data represent mean \pm SEM of three biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using two-tailed t-test. $^{**}P = 0.0082$. **f.** Viability of GSC 8.11 cells grown for 48 h in medium supplemented with 400 or 800 μM C10 and in the presence or absence of GSH- ethyl ester (GSH-EE) assessed by Trypan Blue exclusion. Data represent mean \pm SEM of four biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. $^{*}P = 0.0163$; $^{***}P = 0.0005$. **g.** Quantification of cell viability as assessed by Annexin V in *ACADM*-wild type or -null GSCs 272 cells grown in DMEM supplemented with ferrostatin-1 (0.5 μM) 7 days after puromycin selection. Data represent the mean \pm SEM of four biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. $^{****}P < 0.0001$.

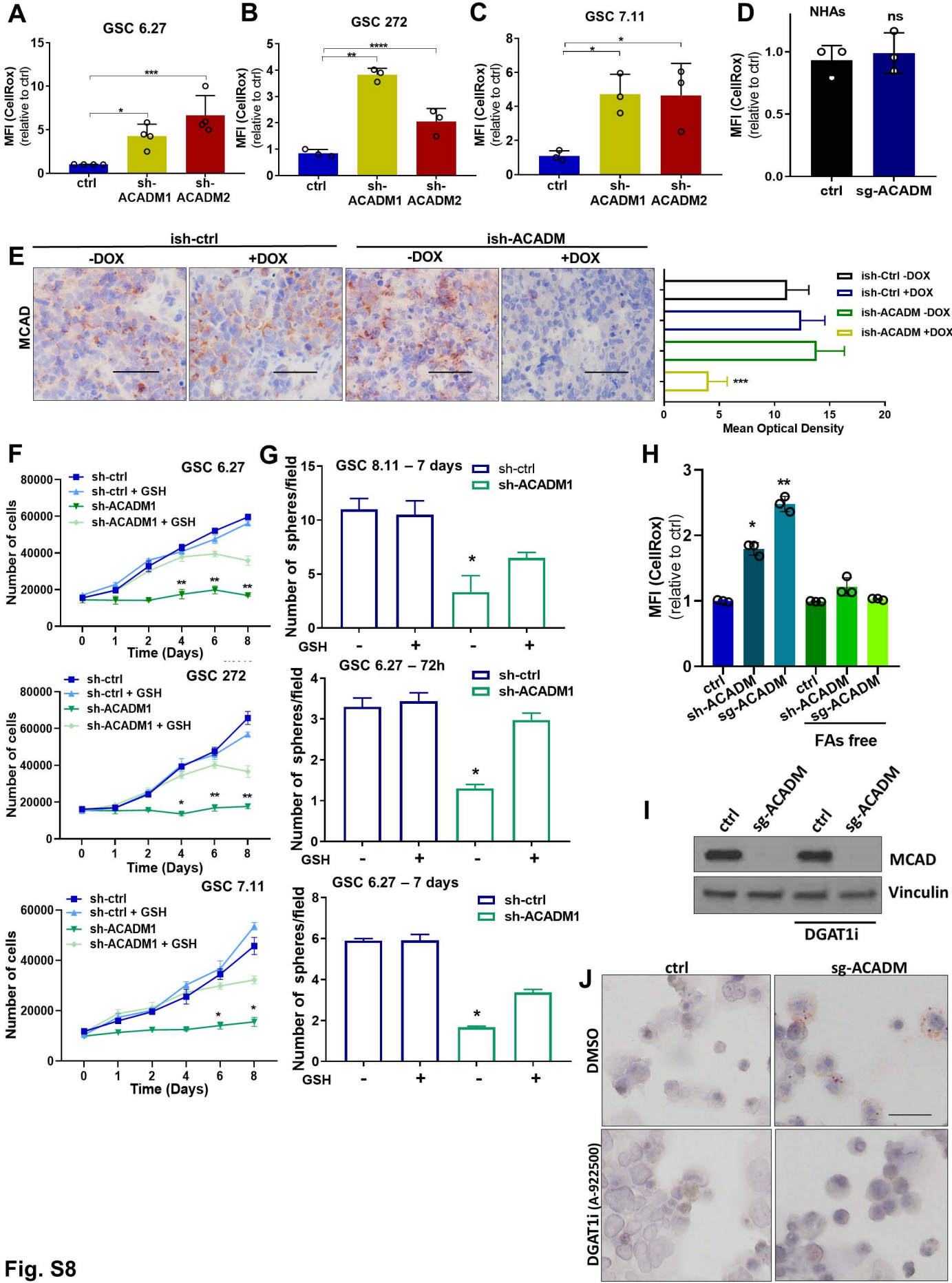


Fig. S8

Figure S8. MCAD knockdown triggers ROS-related damage in GSCs *in vitro* and *in vivo*. a,b,c. Quantification of ROS production (mean of fluorescence intensity) as measured by CellROX Green in GSC 6.27 **(a)**, 272 **(b)** and 7.11 **(c)** cells harboring anti-ACADM or non-targeting shRNA. Values represent the mean \pm SD of three or four independent experiments. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. **(a)** **P* = 0.025, ****P* = 0.0009, **(b)** ***P* = 0.007, *****P* < 0.0001, **(c)** **P* < 0.03. **d.** Quantification of ROS production (mean of fluorescence intensity) as measured by CellROX Green in NHAs harboring anti-ACADM sgRNA at 72 hours from the silencing. **e.** Immunostaining for MCAD of xenograft tumor samples derived from GSC 8.11 harboring doxycycline-inducible anti-ACADM or non-targeting shRNAs (shown in Figure S5D) and relative quantification. Quantification was performed with ImageJ software, four/five images per condition, where each condition was represented by three biological replicates. Values are expressed as mean \pm SD; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. *** *P* = 0.0002. **f.** Growth curves of GSC 6.27, 272 and 7.11 cells infected with sh-ACADM or non-targeting shRNAs grown in the presence or absence of GSH-EE. Values are expressed as mean \pm SD; *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. GSC 6.27, ** *P* < 0.007; GSC 272 **P* = 0.03, ** *P* \leq 0.004; GSC 7.11 **P* \leq 0.04. **g.** Quantification of the number of spheres formed by GSC 8.11 and GSC 6.27 harboring sh-ACADM or non-targeting shRNAs grown for 7 days (for 8.11) or 72 hours and 7 days (for 6.27) in the presence or absence of GSH-EE as indicated. Values represent the number of spheres per field expressed as mean \pm SD. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. **P* \leq 0.04. **h.** Quantification of ROS via CellRox Green staining intensity by flow cytometry in ACADM wild type or null GSC 8.11 cells grown in normal or FAs free DME-F12 supplemented. Mean values \pm SD of three biologically independent replicates. *P* values were generated using Kruskal–Wallis ANOVA. Dunn’s test for comparison among groups. **P* < 0.05, ***P* = 0.01. MFI= Mean of Fluorescence Intensity. **i.** Representative immunoblot of MCAD expression in GSC 8.11 infected with ACADM-targeting or control sgRNA in the presence or in the absence of DGAT1 inhibitor. Vinculin served as a loading control. **j.** Oil Red O staining of GSC 8.11 cells upon MCAD ablation in the presence or in the absence of DGAT1 inhibitor (A-922500, 15 μ M). DMSO was used in the control. Scale bar= 50 μ m.