

Hyperactivation of the Insulin Signaling Pathway Improves Intracellular Proteostasis by Coordinately Up-regulating the Proteostatic Machinery in Adipocytes^{*,§}

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Hyperinsulinemia, which is associated with aging and metabolic disease, may lead to defective protein homeostasis (proteostasis) due to hyperactivation of insulin-sensitive pathways such as protein synthesis. We investigated the effect of chronic hyperinsulinemia on proteostasis by generating a time-resolved map of insulin-regulated protein turnover in adipocytes using metabolic pulse-chase labeling and high resolution mass spectrometry. Hyperinsulinemia increased the synthesis of nearly half of all detected proteins and did not affect protein degradation despite suppressing autophagy. Unexpectedly, this marked elevation in protein synthesis was accompanied by enhanced protein stability and folding and not by markers of proteostasis stress such as protein carbonylation and aggregation. The improvement in proteostasis was attributed to a coordinate up-regulation of proteins in the global proteostasis network, including ribosomal, proteasomal, chaperone, and endoplasmic reticulum/mitochondrial unfolded protein response proteins. We conclude that defects associated with hyperactivation of the insulin signaling pathway are unlikely attributed to defective proteostasis because up-regulation of protein synthesis by insulin is accompanied by up-regulation of proteostatic machinery.

The insulin signaling pathway (ISP)⁴ is a master regulator of protein metabolism. Many of its effects, such as increased pro-

tein synthesis and reduced autophagy, are orchestrated via mTORC1 (1, 2). The ISP is hyperactivated by chronic hyperinsulinemia, a common consequence of insulin resistance and aging (3). This in turn exacerbates insulin resistance, obesity (4–6), and aging (7–10). Chronic ISP activity may partially cause these detrimental effects by dysregulating protein homeostasis (proteostasis) (11, 12). Supporting this view, genetic manipulations that lead to either endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, reduced proteasomal activity, or reduced autophagy are associated with insulin resistance in mice (13–15). Moreover, the mTORC1 inhibitor rapamycin extends lifespan in a range of animals, and in *Drosophila* these effects are at least in part due to reduced protein synthesis and enhanced autophagy (16).

Proteins are made via a carefully orchestrated process that minimizes misfolding. This involves chaperones that ensure efficient folding of newly synthesized proteins, the ubiquitin-proteasome system that degrades misfolded proteins, and autophagy for removal of protein aggregates (17, 18). It has been proposed that chronic insulin signaling impairs protein folding and promotes aggregation because it simultaneously activates protein synthesis, suppresses autophagy, and inhibits the activity of FOXO, a transcription factor that regulates chaperone gene expression (11, 12, 19–21).

The effect of loss of function of *daf-2*/ISP activity on global proteostasis was recently studied in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (22), but few studies have examined the effects of hyperactivation of the ISP on proteostasis, and none have examined the effects at a systems-wide level. Furthermore, the full complement of proteins that is synthesized and/or degraded in response to insulin has not been characterized. Here we investigated the global effects of hyperactive insulin signaling on protein synthesis and degradation using pulse-chase labeling with stable isotopes (stable isotope-labeled amino acids in cell culture (SILAC)) (23–28) and high resolution mass spectrometry (MS)-based proteomics.

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⁴ The abbreviations used are: ISP, insulin signaling pathway; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; SILAC, stable isotope-labeled amino acids in cell culture; M, medium isotopes; L, light isotopes; H, heavy isotopes; m_{syn} , synthesis rate of M; m_{deg} , degradation rate of M; h_{syn} , synthesis rate of H; h_{deg} , degradation rate of H; UPR, unfolded protein response; mTOR, mechanistic target of rapamycin; adj., adjusted; Fluc, firefly luciferase; *df*, degrees of freedom; DNP, 2,4-dinitrophenyl; DM, destabilized mutant; PERK, protein kinase RNA-like endoplasmic reticulum kinase; FOXO, Forkhead box class O family member protein.

Our studies focus on postmitotic 3T3-L1 adipocytes because exposure of these cells to chronic hyperinsulinemia results in insulin resistance (29), and defects in insulin action in adipocytes contribute to whole body insulin resistance (30). Moreover, although primary mouse/rat adipocytes lose their insulin sensitivity upon long term culturing (31), 3T3-L1 adipocytes are highly insulin-responsive for long periods (32).

Unexpectedly, although insulin potentially stimulated protein synthesis and suppressed autophagy, there was no evidence of protein aggregation or carbonylation. Rather, insulin induced the synthesis of cytosolic chaperones and ER unfolded protein response (UPR) and mitochondrial UPR proteins, and this was associated with improved rather than impaired protein folding. We therefore suggest that hyperactivation of the ISP does not contribute to impaired proteostasis as insulin coordinated protein biosynthesis with the up-regulation of the proteostasis network.

Results

Mapping Large Scale Protein Synthesis and Degradation—To assess the effect of chronic insulin signaling on global proteostasis, we exposed 3T3-L1 adipocytes to insulin over 4 days and analyzed protein turnover by pulse-chase metabolic labeling and mass spectrometry (Fig. 1A). Insulin caused sustained stimulation of protein biosynthetic pathways as indicated by a marked increase in total cellular protein content and S6 phosphorylation (Fig. 1, B and C). To measure global protein turnover, we metabolically labeled 3T3-L1 fibroblasts with “heavy” isotopes (H) of arginine and lysine (Arg +10/Lys +8) until complete incorporation had occurred and then differentiated the fibroblasts into adipocytes. Heavy labeled cells were then switched into culture medium containing “medium” isotopes (M) of Arg and Lys (Arg +6/Lys +4) and harvested over a time series. Consequently, a decay in heavy labeled proteins is indicative of protein degradation, and an increase in medium proteins reflects protein synthesis (Fig. 1A) (24).

The cell lysates were mixed with a reference sample of “light” isotope (L)-labeled adipocytes for proteomic analysis. The experimental and reference samples were mixed such that DNA rather than protein content was constant because altered protein synthesis might affect normalization by protein mass. The samples contained an equal number of cells as histone abundance, which is proportional to DNA mass, was highly consistent between samples (Fig. 1D).

We identified a total of 6,550 proteins of which 2,560 newly synthesized medium proteins and 2,321 degraded heavy proteins were quantified across at least 50% of the time series (supplemental Table S1). Medium and heavy labeled proteins increased and decreased, respectively, over the time course and intersected at ~72 h, suggesting that half the pool of proteins turns over after 3 days (Fig. 1E).

Insulin treatment commenced 1 day prior to switching to medium isotopes (the start of the chase). Insulin-treated adipocytes demonstrated a similar decrease in heavy labeled proteins as compared with untreated cells but a greater increase in medium labeled proteins (Fig. 1E). These changes correspond to increased protein synthesis with no change in protein degradation rates in response to insulin treatment.

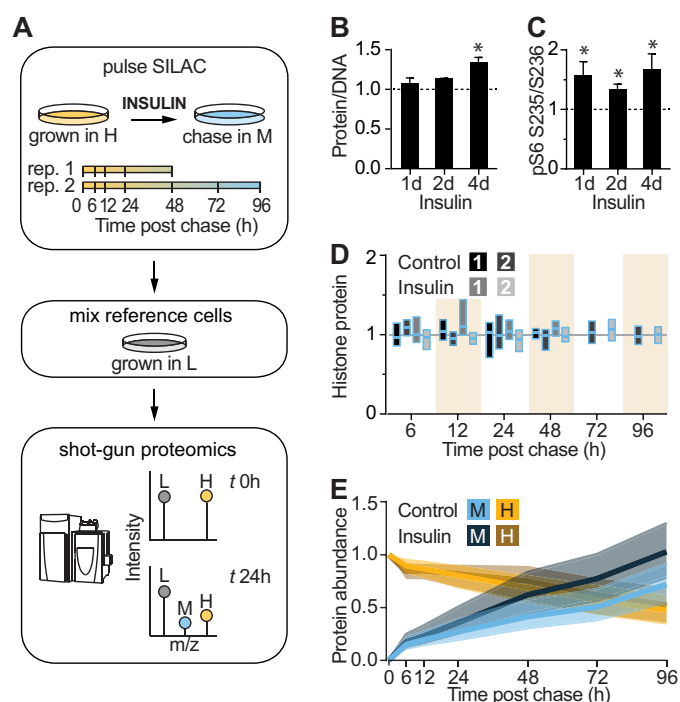


FIGURE 1. Analysis of insulin-stimulated protein synthesis and degradation by pulse-chase SILAC and mass spectrometry. A, schematic of pulse-chase SILAC experiment. 3T3-L1 adipocytes were labeled with heavy and pulsed with medium isotopes of arginine and lysine. After switching to medium isotopes, cells were harvested after 6, 12, 24, and 48 h in the first experiment and after 6, 12, 24, 48, 72, and 96 h in the second experiment. Adipocytes were then mixed with L-labeled adipocytes, and the amount of H-, M-, and L-labeled proteins was analyzed by shotgun proteomics. B, protein/DNA ratio was quantified in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with insulin for the indicated days (d) and normalized to untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). C, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin for the indicated days, and lysates were immunoblotted with phospho-S6 (pS6) (Ser-235/Ser-236) and 14-3-3 (loading control) antibodies. Immunoblots were quantified and normalized to the loading control and untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) ($n = 6$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). D, box plots of histone protein abundance quantified in pulse-chase SILAC experiment relative to time 0 for control and insulin-treated cells ($n = 9$ proteins) of two independent experiments. E, global change in M and H proteins in control and insulin-treated samples during pulse-chase SILAC experiment. Shading indicates interquartile range, and the line indicates median.

Insulin Enhances the Synthesis and Stability of Newly Made Proteins—To identify the primary insulin-responsive proteins, we derived synthesis rates by fitting the increase in medium proteins to a variation of a kinetic model described previously (27, 33). In this model, proteins are synthesized linearly and, once made, are subject to degradation (Fig. 2, A and B). An example of the model fit for two proteins is shown in Fig. 2B. The initial increase in medium labeled squalene epoxidase was due to proteins synthesis (m_{syn}), and this eventually reached a plateau (steady state) due to degradation of the newly synthesized protein (m_{deg}). In contrast, GLUT4 was synthesized more slowly and did not exhibit a plateau, so the degradation component was not apparent (Fig. 2B). We modeled the degradation rate of medium and heavy labeled proteins separately because the degradation of newly synthesized proteins (m_{deg}) may differ from pre-existing proteins (h_{deg}).

Of the initial 2,560 quantified medium proteins, 1,445 fit the model with adj. $R^2 > 0.8$, and 752 fit with a more stringent adj. $R^2 > 0.9$ (Fig. 2A and supplemental Table S1). Manual inspection

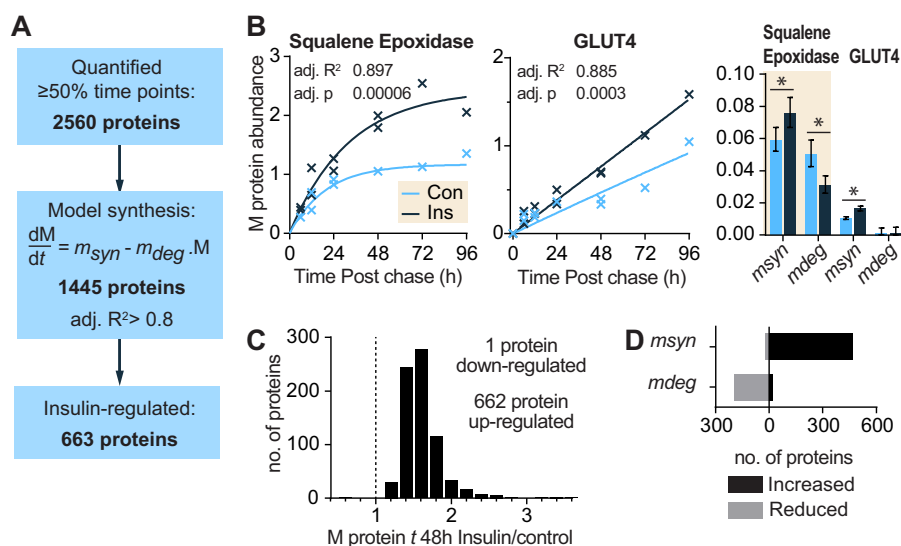


FIGURE 2. Insulin up-regulates synthesis and stability of newly made proteins. A, number of proteins that were quantified, curve fitted, or insulin-regulated in protein synthesis data. B, graph of abundance of representative medium labeled proteins over the time course in control (Con) and insulin (Ins)-treated cells. The line indicates the best fit synthesis curve. The bar graph indicates mean and S.D. of the curve parameters m_{syn} for synthesis and m_{deg} for degradation of newly synthesized protein (*, $p < 0.05$). C, relative abundance of significantly insulin-regulated proteins relative to control samples 48 h postchase. D, bar chart of insulin-regulated proteins with significantly increased or decreased ($p < 0.05$) m_{syn} or m_{deg} . B and D, statistics were performed on linearized model as described under "Experimental Procedures."

tion revealed that a cutoff of adj. $R^2 > 0.8$ was sufficient to eliminate proteins with irregular profiles over the time course. Proteins may have exhibited irregular time profiles because of inaccurate quantification due to low abundance, slow protein synthesis, or cycling of protein abundance such as occurs under circadian control (34). Although proteins with irregular profiles may be of interest, here we focused on proteins that fit our basic model of turnover. We classified proteins as insulin-regulated if the control and insulin-treated samples fit separate models better than one model with both data combined (adj. $p < 0.0005$). Using this criterion, several proteins with synthesis rates known to be regulated by insulin were identified, including GLUT4 and GAPDH (35–37). In total, insulin regulated the levels of around 46% of the proteins modeled (663 of 1,445 proteins).

Some studies of mTORC1-mediated protein synthesis have suggested that chronic activation of mTORC1 reduces protein synthesis as either inhibitory proteostatic pathways are activated or there is increased degradation of newly made proteins due to increased misfolding (38–40). In contrast to this view, in insulin-stimulated 3T3-L1 adipocytes we observed that all but one of the 663 insulin-regulated proteins increased in abundance (median increase of 49% after 48 h) (Fig. 2C). To determine whether this was due to increased synthesis (m_{syn}) and/or decreased degradation of newly made proteins (m_{deg}), we compared the probable parameter values for m_{syn} and m_{deg} and found that protein synthesis rates were specifically increased for 468 and decreased for 22 proteins, whereas degradation rates were decreased for 197 and increased only for 20 proteins (Fig. 2D). These data suggest that chronic insulin treatment enhances both the synthesis and stability of newly made proteins.

Insulin Minimally Affects Protein Degradation Despite Inhibiting Autophagy—We next examined the degradation of the premeasured heavy proteins for evidence of insulin-regulated pro-

tein degradation or proteome destabilization (Fig. 3A). To achieve this, heavy proteins were fitted to an exponential decay model. Interestingly, 27% of proteins approached a plateau greater than one-quarter of their starting abundance after 96 h and thus did not completely degrade. To allow the model to approach a non-zero plateau, we included the h_{syn} parameter so that the plateau is given by h_{syn}/h_{deg} . The incomplete protein degradation may reflect discrete pools of proteins with different turnovers. This is not surprising because the majority of proteins exist both in protein complexes and in isolation (41). Alternatively, heavy amino acids liberated by proteolysis may be reincorporated into protein. However, this seems unlikely because h_{syn} varied among proteins. By allowing incomplete degradation in our model, we estimated the half-life of the insulin receptor to be 11.7 h (S.D. 8.76–15.7), which is similar to previously observed values (42).

In contrast to earlier pulse-chase SILAC studies, we found that many proteins were long lived with 38% of proteins (891 proteins) exhibiting no detectable degradation over a 96-h period (Fig. 3B and supplemental Table S2). Insulin had no detectable effect on the degradation of long lived proteins. These included nuclear pore proteins and histones, consistent with a recent report *in vivo* (43), as well as mitochondrial electron transport chain proteins.

Among the heavy labeled proteins, 544 proteins fit our model of protein degradation with adj. $R^2 > 0.8$ (Fig. 3, A and C, and supplemental Table S1). For these proteins, the median half-life was 47 h (Fig. 3D). There was more variability in protein degradation compared with synthesis. Because both processes were measured using the same samples, it is likely that protein degradation occurs with greater biological variability in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. In comparison, earlier pulse-chase SILAC studies in dividing cells reported less variable protein degradation. This may be because cell division is associated with activation of

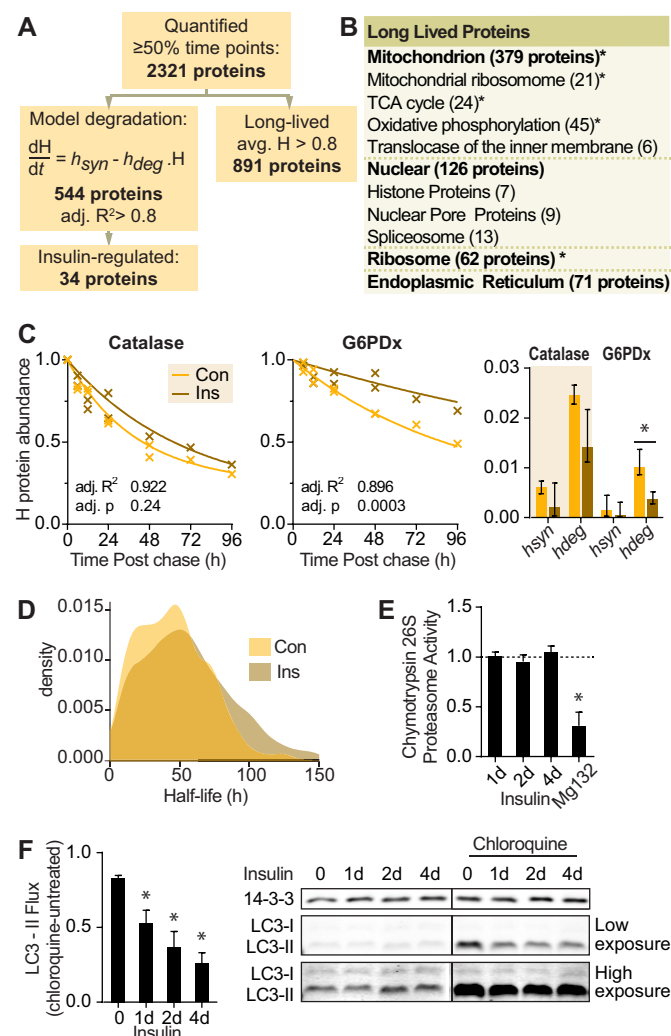


FIGURE 3. Insulin minimally affects protein degradation despite suppression of autophagy. A, number of proteins that were quantified, curve fitted, insulin-regulated, or long lived in protein degradation data. B, gene ontology terms of long lived proteins from proteomic data with number of proteins in each category in parentheses. Significantly enriched gene ontology terms are indicated (*, $p < 0.05$). TCA, tricarboxylic acid. C, graph of abundance of representative heavy labeled proteins in control (Con) and insulin (Ins)-treated cells over the time course. The line indicates the best fit degradation curve. The bar graph indicates mean and S.D. of the curve parameters h_{deg} for degradation and h_{syn} for reincorporation of heavy amino acids into proteins. Statistics were performed on a linearized model as described under "Experimental Procedures" (*, $p < 0.05$). D, density graph of proteome half-lives calculated from protein degradation data. E, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin for the indicated times or MG132 for 2 h. Chymotrypsin activity of 26S proteasome was quantified and normalized to untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). F, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin for the indicated days (d) and/or 400 μ M chloroquine for 15 min. Cell lysates were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. Vertical lines on immunoblots indicate where the blot was spliced. Immunoblots were quantified, and LC3-II was normalized to the 14-3-3 loading control. LC3-II flux was calculated as the difference of LC3-II with chloroquine minus without chloroquine for each time point ($n = 5$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$).

ubiquitin ligases (44) and higher rates of protein turnover (23–28).

In contrast to the effects of insulin on protein synthesis, insulin modulated the degradation of only 34 proteins using an adj. $p < 0.01$, and nine proteins using a more stringent cutoff of adj. $p < 0.005$. Consistent with this, insulin did not significantly modulate proteasomal activity in adipocytes (Fig. 3E). How-

ever, insulin suppressed autophagy as indicated by the significant reduction in autophagic flux (Fig. 3F). Autophagic flux was measured by the difference in LC3-II, a marker of autophagosomes, with and without an inhibitor of autophagic degradation, chloroquine. Hence, these data indicate that insulin does not regulate global protein degradation, and by extension insulin-mediated inhibition of autophagy does not have a major impact on the adipocyte proteome.

Insulin Coordinates Protein Synthesis with the Proteostasis Network—Insulin increased the synthesis of proteins involved in glucose metabolism, including glycolysis, tricarboxylic acid cycle, and pentose phosphate pathway (Fig. 4A and supplemental Table S3). Insulin also increased the synthesis of proteins that support protein synthesis and the clearance of misfolded proteins. These included ribosomal, tRNA biosynthetic, proteasomal, ER, and Golgi proteins that regulate homeostasis of the secretory/biosynthetic tract as well as proteins involved in heat shock and mitochondrial and ER UPR. The expression of these proteins was proportional to the overall increase in cellular protein synthesis. As protein synthesis was not impaired but rather significantly enriched in the cytosol, ER, and Golgi compartments, it seems likely that elevated expression of these proteins is part of a coordinated response to support protein synthesis.

The up-regulation of ER UPR proteins was not associated with PERK activation as phosphorylation of neither PERK nor its substrate EIF2 α was increased, but rather IRE1 phosphorylation was increased (Fig. 4B). These data are interesting as PERK reportedly promotes apoptosis, whereas IRE1 is cytoprotective (45). We examined whether hyperinsulinemic rats also exhibited ER UPR activation in adipose tissue. Previously, rats were cannulated and infused with glucose (40 mg/kg/min) for 1 or 4 days, resulting in a state of chronic *in vivo* hyperinsulinemia (Fig. 4C) (46) and chronic mTORC1 signaling in adipose as indicated by elevated S6 phosphorylation after 1- and 4-day glucose infusion, although changes after 4 days were insignificant due to high variation (Fig. 4D). Akt phosphorylation was unchanged probably because of negative feedback in response to chronic insulin signaling. In adipose tissue from 1- or 4-day hyperglycemic hyperinsulinemic rats, phosphorylation of IRE1, but not EIF2 α , was increased compared with saline-infused rats (Fig. 4D). IRE1 phosphorylation was not induced by a proteostasis stress as IRE1 phosphorylation was increased after 30-s insulin stimulation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes (Fig. 4E), well before mTORC1 activation (47). In addition, IRE1 phosphorylation was not inhibited by cycloheximide, an inhibitor of protein synthesis, or by the mTORC1 inhibitor rapamycin (Fig. 4F). Rather, IRE1 phosphorylation was induced by PI3K/Akt activity because it was blocked by inhibitors of Akt (MK2206) and PI3K/mTOR (LY294002) but not by inhibitors of MAPK (U0126) (Fig. 4G). Therefore, we speculate that the activation of UPR proteins by insulin is not indicative of protein misfolding or cellular stress but likely represents part of a coordinate proteostatic response, which may be regulated by IRE1 in preparation for a burst of insulin-regulated protein synthesis.

Protein Synthesis via Insulin and mTORC1 Does Not Increase Protein Misfolding—To test the hypothesis that a burst of protein synthesis in response to insulin is accompanied by a coor-

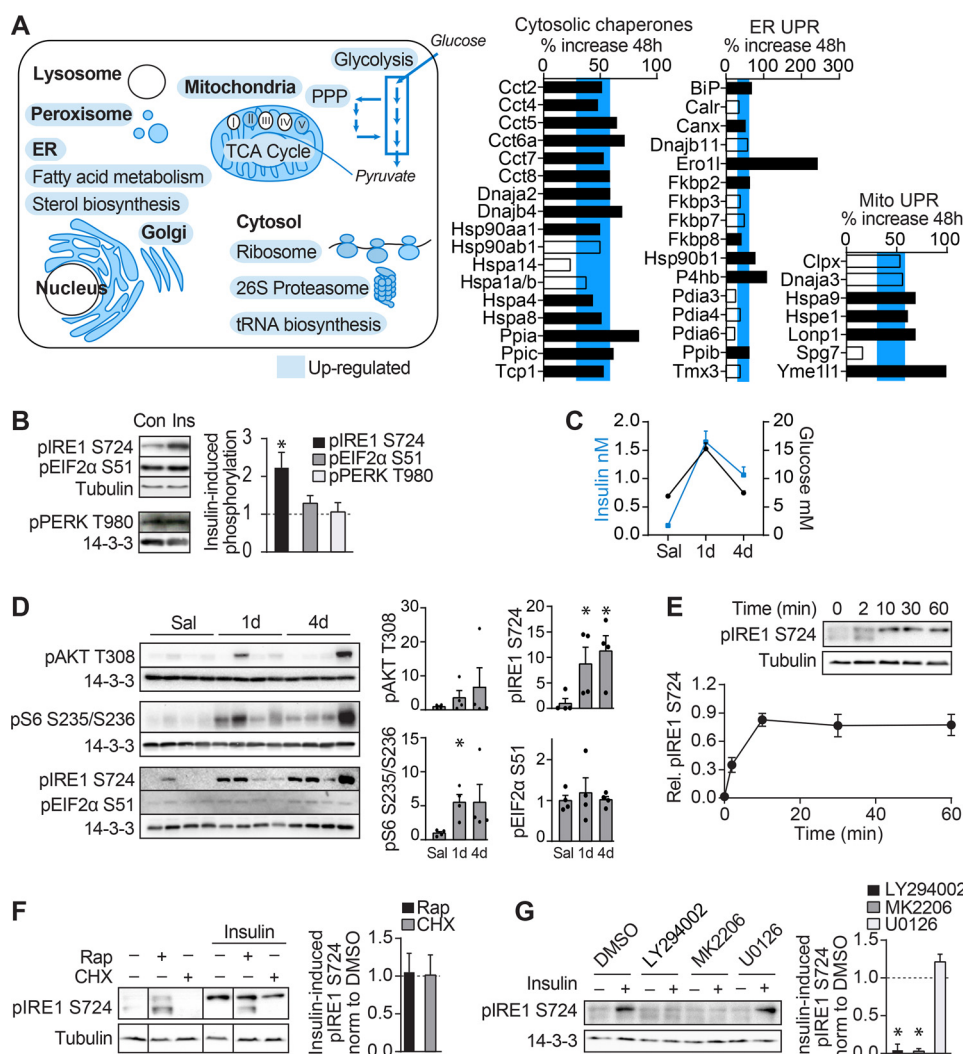


FIGURE 4. Insulin coordinates synthesis of proteins across multiple compartments with proteostasis network. A, gene ontology of newly made proteins significantly increased in response to insulin are highlighted in blue and depicted in the illustration of a cell. TCA, tricarboxylic acid; PPP, pentose phosphate pathway. Bar graphs depict the percent increase in abundance of ER UPR, mitochondrial (Mito) UPR, or cytosolic chaperone proteins synthesized after 48-h incubation with insulin compared with control. Black bars indicate significantly insulin-regulated proteins. The blue horizontal bar indicates the interquartile range of the percent increase in insulin-regulated proteins. B, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin (Ins) for 24 h, and cell lysates were immunoblotted for the indicated proteins. Con, control. Immunoblots were quantified and normalized to loading control and untreated samples ($n = 5$ for phosphorylated IRE1 (pIRE1) and EIF2 α (pEIF2 α); $n = 3$ for phosphorylated PERK (pPERK); error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; $^* p < 0.05$). C and D, rats were cannulated and infused with 40 mg/kg/min glucose for the indicated periods or saline (Sal) for 4 days (d). C, plasma glucose and insulin levels are reproduced from Laybutt *et al.* (46). D, adipose tissue of rats was immunoblotted for the indicated proteins. Immunoblots were quantified and normalized to loading control and saline samples ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; two-sample t test; $^* p < 0.05$). E, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were serum-starved for 1.5 h and treated with insulin for the indicated times. Cell lysates were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. Immunoblots were quantified and normalized to 14-3-3. Data were scaled so that basal is set to 0, and the maximal response set to 1 ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; $^* p < 0.05$). F and G, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were serum-starved for 1.5 h and treated with the indicated inhibitors for 30 min followed by insulin for 30 min. Cell lysates were immunoblotted for the indicated proteins. Vertical lines on the immunoblots indicate where the blot was spliced. Immunoblots were quantified and normalized (norm) to 14-3-3. Insulin-stimulated phosphorylated IRE1 is expressed as -fold change relative to DMSO-treated samples (indicated by the dotted line) (F, $n = 4$; G, $n = 5$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; $^* p < 0.05$). Rap, rapamycin; CHX, cycloheximide.

dinate proteostatic response, we next examined protein folding. Misfolded proteins often assemble into large insoluble aggregates that can be readily detected using a detergent solubility assay. As expected, we observed a 4-fold increase in detergent-insoluble proteins in cells treated with the proteasomal inhibitor MG132. However, we found no detectable increase in detergent-insoluble proteins in cells treated with insulin for 4 days (Fig. 5A). Similarly, there was no change in detergent-insoluble protein in adipose tissue from glucose-infused hyperinsulinemic rats (Fig. 5B). Next, we examined protein carbonylation, a measure of cellular oxidative damage (Fig. 5C).

Hydrogen peroxide caused a 2-fold increase in protein carbonylation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes, whereas no detectable increase was observed with insulin. Rather, insulin induced a small but significant reduction in protein oxidation, indicating an adaptive response against not only protein folding stress but also oxidative stress. Evidence for an adaptive antioxidant response was also found in our proteomic data: insulin up-regulated the antioxidants peroxiredoxin 4 and carbonyl reductases 1 and 3, and a transcription factor enrichment analysis predicted activation of NRF2, which is involved in oxidative stress tolerance (supplemental Table S4). There was also no effect of

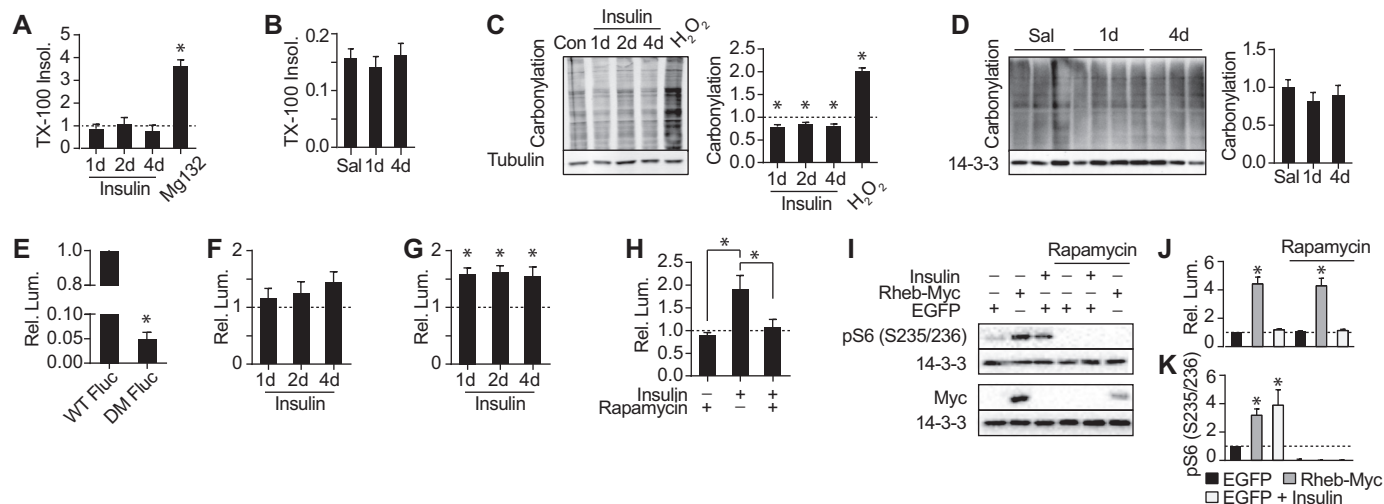


FIGURE 5. Insulin preserves protein folding. A, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin for the indicated periods or MG132 for 24 h. Triton X-100-insoluble protein was measured and normalized to untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) ($n = 3$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). B, Triton X-100-insoluble protein relative to total protein was measured in adipose tissue of rats (Fig. 4C) (saline (Sal), $n = 6$; 1-day (d) glucose, $n = 8$; 4-day glucose, $n = 7$; error bars represent S.E.; two-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). C, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were treated with insulin for the indicated periods or H_2O_2 for 30 min. Carbonylation was measured and normalized to untreated cells ($n = 3$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). D, carbonylation was measured in rats (Fig. 4C) (saline, $n = 6$; 1-day glucose, $n = 8$; 4-day glucose, $n = 7$; error bars represent S.E.; two-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). E, 3T3-L1 adipocytes stably expressing WT Fluc or DM Fluc were assayed for luminescence. Luminescence (Lum.) was normalized to cells expressing WT Fluc ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). F and G, 3T3-L1 adipocytes stably expressing WT Fluc (F) or DM Fluc (G) were treated with insulin for the indicated periods and assayed for luminescence. Luminescence was normalized to untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) (F, $n = 4$; G, $n = 6$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). H, 3T3-L1 adipocytes stably expressing DM Fluc were treated with insulin and/or rapamycin for 24 h and assayed for luminescence. Luminescence was normalized to untreated cells (indicated by the dotted line) ($n = 3$; error bars represent S.E.; one-way analysis of variance; *, $p < 0.05$). I–K, HEK293 cells were transiently co-transfected with WT Fluc and either enhanced GFP (EGFP) or Rheb-Myc and treated with insulin and/or rapamycin for 24 h. Lysates were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies (I), quantified, and normalized to 14-3-3 and untreated sample expressing enhanced GFP (indicated by the dotted line) (J) ($n = 3$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). Luminescence was measured in separate cells and normalized to untreated sample expressing enhanced GFP (K) ($n = 4$; error bars represent S.E.; one-sample t test; *, $p < 0.05$). pS6, phospho-S6.

in vivo hyperinsulinemia on protein carbonylation levels in rat adipose tissue (Fig. 5D). Collectively, these data indicate that chronic activation of insulin signaling is not accompanied by compromised protein synthesis or degradation or a demonstrable change in markers of protein misfolding.

Because previous studies suggested that accelerated protein synthesis via mTORC1 causes protein misfolding, we reasoned that although the endogenous proteome was not detectably misfolded insulin treatment might reduce folding capacity under stress. To test this hypothesis, we assayed folding in insulin-treated adipocytes using firefly luciferase (Fluc). Luciferase is commonly used for measuring protein folding capacity as it folds rapidly upon translation and does not require post-translational modifications for its activity (48). The folding efficiency of wild type (WT) Fluc was not reduced by insulin treatment but instead demonstrated a trend toward increased synthesis (Fig. 5F). To further challenge the folding environment, we expressed a destabilized luciferase construct (DM Fluc), which contains two point mutations that impair the ability of the protein to fold (49). DM Fluc had 5% of the activity of WT Fluc in control cells (Fig. 5E). However, insulin treatment improved folding of DM Fluc by 50% (Fig. 5G). This increase was mTORC1-dependent because rapamycin abrogated the increase in DM Fluc folding (Fig. 5H). These data contrast with a report by Conn and Qian (38) where either chronic mTORC1 activation in *TSC2*^{-/-} mouse embryonic fibroblasts or Rheb overexpression in HEK293 cells inhibited WT Fluc folding. To test whether our results were cell type-dependent or whether insulin differs in its response compared with selective and

chronic mTORC1 activation, we expressed WT Fluc in HEK293 cells and measured folding in response to chronic insulin or Rheb overexpression. Both insulin and Rheb overexpression caused activation of mTORC1 but in neither case was folding significantly inhibited (Fig. 5, I–K). Rather, Rheb overexpression led to an increase in WT Fluc activity, which was rapamycin-insensitive. Based on our data, we suggest that increased translation associated with either chronic insulin or mTORC1 activation does not cause a reduction in proteins synthesized due to elevated misfolding as has been proposed previously. Rather, both insulin and mTORC1 activity concurrently increase protein synthesis with the ability to fold proteins.

Discussion

The ISP is a major regulator of protein metabolism, but how hyperactivation of ISP, which occurs with aging and metabolic diseases, affects global proteostasis is unclear. To assess the effects of insulin on the composition, stability, and folding of the proteome, we undertook a global analysis of protein synthesis and degradation followed by assays to assess protein quality in 3T3-L1 adipocytes exposed chronically to insulin. Surprisingly, we found that insulin does not affect protein degradation despite suppressing autophagy. Additionally, insulin increased synthesis of 46% of the proteome without evidence of protein damage. Among the up-regulated proteins were many belonging to the proteostasis machinery, including metabolic enzymes, protein chaperones, protein synthesis machinery, and ER/Golgi proteins. Hence, this demonstrates that in response

to chronic elevation of protein synthesis cells possess adaptive mechanisms to cope with the additional protein folding burden by coordinately up-regulating the proteostatic machinery.

The concept that the insulin signaling pathway is detrimental to health due to impaired protein misfolding stems largely from loss of function studies (22, 50–53). Most notably, rapamycin is thought to extend lifespan in part by reducing protein synthesis and thus improving proteostasis (16). Based on these studies, it has been inferred that increased insulin signaling would compromise cellular proteostasis. In the present study, we tested the consequences of chronic hyperactivation of the insulin signaling pathway under well controlled experimental conditions using both adipocytes grown in culture and adipose tissue from hyperglycemic hyperinsulinemic rats, and in neither case could we find evidence that hyperactivation of this pathway compromises cellular proteostasis. We assessed proteostasis by measuring insoluble proteins (Fig. 5, *A* and *B*), protein carbonylation (Fig. 5, *C* and *D*), synthesis of a destabilized luciferase construct (Fig. 5*G*), and stability of existing or newly made proteins in the MS-based map of proteome turnover (Figs. 2*D* and 3*A*). It has been shown that hyperactivation of the ISP reduces toxicity of misfolding-prone neurodegenerative proteins that have been expressed in various cell types, and so these studies are in general agreement with our findings that the ISP in fact promotes proteostasis (54–57). In contrast, it has been shown that constitutive hyperactivation of mTORC1 via either TSC2 deletion or overexpression of Rheb in HEK293 cells resulted in impaired protein folding, although we have been unable to replicate the latter observation in the current study. The basis for why these findings contrast with the present findings remains unclear. However, aspects of proteostasis do appear to be inconsistent across studies using the chronic mTORC1 activation cell models (38–40, 58). One possibility is that long term overexpression of these hyperactivating mutants in cells over many generations results in ill-defined adaptive changes, and it could be these changes that drive the proteostasis defect. Regardless, in our study, increased protein synthesis via either insulin or mTORC1 activation does not impair cellular proteostasis.

One of the reasons insulin was thought to cause protein misfolding is because it suppresses autophagy. Genetically inhibiting autophagy reduces protein degradation, thereby increasing protein aggregation (59, 60). Here, however, insulin had a relatively modest effect on overall protein degradation in adipocytes, indicating that insulin-dependent reduction in autophagy does not affect protein degradation.

We propose that cells accommodate the increased synthetic demand imposed by insulin by increasing synthesis of proteins involved in proteostasis, including chaperones and vesicle transport proteins. Initially, we expected that cytosolic chaperones would be down-regulated by chronic insulin as many of these are regulated by FOXO, a transcription factor that is suppressed by insulin. The insulin-dependent synthesis of chaperone proteins may instead be regulated via a pathway such as HSF1 or HIF1 α . HSF1 was reported to be activated by mTORC1 following heat stress (61). Furthermore, HSF1 is induced during protein translation in various cancer cell lines (62). Although it is possible that HSF1 may mediate the induction of the proteostasis network here, HSF1 was not signifi-

cantly enriched in our transcription factor enrichment analysis (supplemental Table S4). Future studies examining this will be of considerable interest.

Insulin also up-regulated components of the mitochondrial and ER unfolded protein response. Previously, activation of the ER UPR in adipose tissue in obese hyperinsulinemic subjects as well as in healthy subjects rendered acutely hyperinsulinemic was assumed to indicate compromised ER protein synthesis and stress and as a result proposed to cause insulin resistance (13, 63–65). This is largely because the ER UPR was initially characterized as a response to agents such as tunicamycin and thapsigargin, which have a profound inhibitory effect on ER protein synthesis and cause insulin resistance (66). Our proteomic data reveal that insulin does not compromise ER protein synthesis. Rather, we propose that the induction of the ER UPR by insulin is part of a protective response and may be preemptively induced by Akt-mediated IRE1 phosphorylation in anticipation of a burst of protein synthesis. These observations are supported by other studies, which demonstrated that IGF-1 stimulates IRE1 phosphorylation to protect against ER stress and that the PI3K subunit p85 α stimulates XBP1 splicing downstream of IRE1 phosphorylation, leading to resistance to ER stress (67, 68). As such, activation of the ER UPR should not be used alone to indicate ER stress. Our data indicate that, because hyperinsulinemia does not induce ER stress, ER stress is not likely to cause hyperinsulinemia-induced insulin resistance. Additionally, ER stress during obesity is likely caused by factors aside from hyperinsulinemia.

In addition to examining the effects of insulin on proteostasis, we also explored the stability of the endogenous proteome of adipocytes. Proteins that were degraded in adipocytes had an average half-life of 47 h, which is similar to HeLa and NIH3T3 cells, which are reported to have half-lives of 20 and 46 h, respectively (33, 69). However, compared with these mitotic cells, we found that many proteins in adipocytes are highly stable: 24% of quantified proteins did not turn over during the 96-h period of investigation, and other proteins comprised a pool of protein that was resistant to degradation. This may suggest that proteins in postmitotic cells, such as adipocytes, are particularly stable. This slow turnover of proteins may explain why knock-down of proteins is difficult using siRNA in adipocytes; cells are typically exposed to siRNA for 2–3 days. We suggest that our global protein turnover data will be an invaluable guide for such experiments. The long lived proteins are also of interest in the study of proteostasis as specialized repair mechanisms for the maintenance of long lived proteins have not yet been identified.

The current study suggests that cellular proteostasis is a highly regulated process that can accommodate dynamic changes in protein turnover. Hyperinsulinemia increases protein biosynthesis, which has the potential to burden the proteostasis machinery. Here we show that insulin coordinately up-regulates the proteostasis network concomitant with protein synthesis. Therefore, the metabolic and health consequences of hyperinsulinemia are unlikely to be mediated by compromised proteostasis. Rather, it seems likely that proteostasis defects are triggered by alternative mechanisms. In view of these data, it seems unlikely that reduced protein synthesis accounts for the lifespan-extending effects of loss of function mutations in the

insulin signaling pathway or drugs such as rapamycin that dampen signaling downstream of the insulin receptor.

Experimental Procedures

Cell Culture—3T3-L1 adipocytes were cultured as described previously (47). For chronic insulin treatments, adipocytes were incubated with 10 nM insulin for 1–5 days with medium replenished every 12 h. For acute insulin treatments, 3T3-L1 adipocytes were serum-starved in DMEM supplemented with 0.2% BSA for 2 h before incubation with 10 nM insulin. Inhibitors were added 30 min prior to insulin stimulation at the following concentrations: 10 μ M cycloheximide (Sigma-Aldrich), 500 nM rapamycin (LC Laboratories), 10 μ M MK2206 (Selleckchem), 50 μ M LY294002 (Tocris Bioscience), and 10 μ M U0126 (Cell Signaling Technology). H_2O_2 (BDH) was used at 10 mM.

Pulse-Chase Using SILAC—SILAC DMEM (deficient in lysine, arginine, and leucine; Thermo Fisher) was supplemented with 10% dialyzed FCS (Hyclone Laboratories), GlutaMAX (Life Technologies), and leucine. Different isotopes of arginine and lysine were added to the DMEM to result in either light DMEM (Arg and Lys; Sigma), medium DMEM (Arg +6, Lys +4; Silantes), or heavy DMEM (Arg +10, Lys +8; Silantes). 3T3-L1 fibroblasts were passaged for six doublings in light or heavy SILAC DMEM and differentiated into adipocytes. On day 8 of differentiation to commence the pulse-chase, heavy labeled adipocytes were washed three times in warm PBS and switched to medium SILAC DMEM. Subsequently, medium DMEM was replenished every 12 h. Cells were harvested at the following times after switching to medium SILAC DMEM: 0, 6, 12, 24, and 48 h in the first experiment and 0, 6, 12, 24, 48, 72, and 96 h in the second experiment. Insulin-treated cells were exposed to 10 nM insulin for 24 h prior to start of the chase and thereafter.

Harvested cells were washed three times with ice-cold PBS and solubilized by sonication in HES buffer (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 250 mM sucrose) and protease inhibitors (Roche Applied Science). DNA content was measured by SYBR Green I nucleic acid stain (S-7585, Thermo Fisher) assay using salmon sperm DNA (D1626, Sigma) as a standard. Samples were mixed with light labeled adipocytes (reference cells) at a ratio of 1:1 based on DNA content, and SDS was added (final concentration, 2% (w/v)). Following mixing, proteins were processed by filter-aided sample preparation and trypsin-digested (Promega), and peptides were fractionated by strong anion exchange as described previously (70).

Mass Spectrometry—LC-MS/MS analysis was carried out on an LTQ-Orbitrap Velos Pro (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as described previously (47). Raw mass spectrometry data were processed using MaxQuant (71) version 1.3.0.5 using default settings except for oxidized methionine and acetylation (protein N terminus), which were selected as variable modifications, and carbamidomethyl (Cys) and triple SILAC labels, which were set as fixed modifications. A maximum of two missed cleavages was permitted, 10 peaks per 100 Da, MS/MS tolerance was 20 ppm, and minimum peptide length was 7 for analysis. Database searching was performed using the Andromeda search engine integrated into the MaxQuant environment

(72) against the mouse UniProt database (July 2013). Protein, peptide, and site false discovery rate thresholds in MaxQuant were each set to a maximum of 1%.

Modeling of Synthesis and Degradation Rates—The MS data set contained two time courses of H/L and M/L proteins both under control and insulin conditions. Each time course was normalized to starting amounts of H/L in control, \log_2 transformed, and normalized using LOESS (locally weighted scatter plot smooth) curve fitting. Proteins with $\geq 50\%$ missing values in a time course were removed. The resulting data were fitted to a kinetic model of protein synthesis and degradation described by the following ordinary differential equations.

$$[\dot{M}] = m_{\text{syn}} - [M]m_{\text{deg}} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$[\dot{H}] = h_{\text{syn}} - [H]h_{\text{deg}} \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

where $[\dot{M}]$ is the rate of change of the concentration of M-labeled proteins of interest, and m_{syn} and m_{deg} are their synthesis and degradation rate constants, respectively. Similarly, $[\dot{H}]$ is the rate of change of the concentration of H-labeled proteins, and h_{syn} and h_{deg} are their corresponding synthesis and degradation rate constants. The differential equations were solved with the initial conditions $[M](0) = 0$ and $[H](0) = 1$ to obtain the following models.

$$[M] = \frac{m_{\text{syn}}}{m_{\text{deg}}} [1 - \exp(-m_{\text{deg}}t)] \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

$$[H] = \frac{h_{\text{syn}}}{h_{\text{deg}}} + \left(1 - \frac{h_{\text{syn}}}{h_{\text{deg}}}\right) \exp(-h_{\text{deg}}t) \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

The data were fitted to the models, and optimal parameters were obtained by minimizing the weighted least square residual (ϵ) using the Nelder-Mead simplex method in MATLAB version R2015a (The MathWorks Inc.). The half-life of proteins was determined as $\ln 2/m_{\text{deg}}$.

Statistical Identification of Insulin-regulated Proteins—The analysis of M-labeled proteins is described here in detail and the same analysis was applied to H-labeled proteins. The kinetic parameters were modeled as a linear model in logarithmic space using the following formulas for control (Equations 5 and 6) and insulin (Equations 7 and 8).

$$m_{\text{syn_con}} = 10^{\alpha_0} \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

$$m_{\text{deg_con}} = 10^{\beta_0} \quad (\text{Eq. 6})$$

$$m_{\text{syn_ins}} = 10^{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1} \quad (\text{Eq. 7})$$

$$m_{\text{deg_ins}} = 10^{\beta_0 + \beta_1} \quad (\text{Eq. 8})$$

Next, each protein was tested for whether it agreed with the hypothesis that there was a change in $[\dot{M}]$ when insulin was present (H_1) and therefore a change in m_{syn} or m_{deg} or whether it agreed with the null hypothesis (H_0).

$$H_1: \alpha_1 \neq 0 \text{ or } \beta_1 \neq 0 \quad (\text{Eq. 9})$$

$$H_0: \alpha_1 = 0 \text{ or } \beta_1 = 0 \quad (\text{Eq. 10})$$

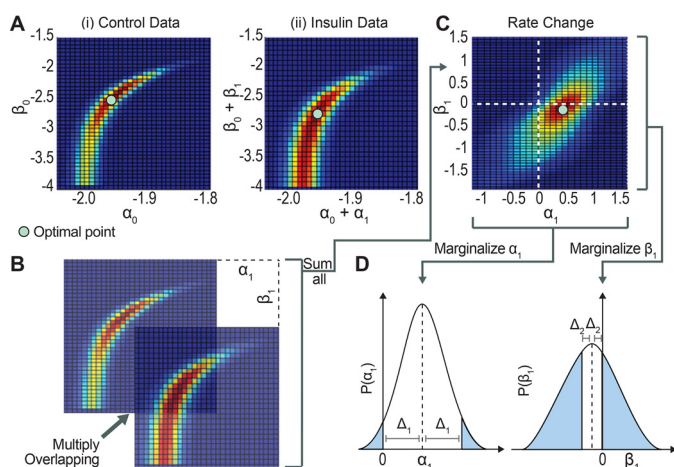


FIGURE 6. Sensitivity analysis of synthesis and degradation parameters to determine significance of their change using maximum likelihood. A, the joint likelihood distribution of control with respect to α_0 and β_0 , corresponding to $m_{\text{syn_con}}$ and $m_{\text{deg_con}}$, respectively (panel i), and insulin with respect to $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1$ and $\beta_0 + \beta_1$, corresponding to $m_{\text{syn_ins}}$ and $m_{\text{deg_ins}}$, respectively (panel ii). B, the joint likelihoods for control and insulin are superimposed and their likelihoods are multiplied and then summed across the entire landscape to form one grid point in the joint likelihood distribution for α_1 and β_1 (Equation 13). Each subsequent grid point in the joint likelihood distribution for α_1 and β_1 is determined by repeating the process but shifting the joint likelihood for insulin in the x and y directions. C, after performing the operation described in B for all possible offsets between the control and insulin joint likelihoods, the joint likelihood for the parameter change is formed. D, the marginalized probability distribution for α_1 and β_1 , the change in the synthesis and degradation rate, respectively, are obtained by first marginalizing the joint likelihood distribution in C and then normalizing the integral to 1. The p value is represented by the blue area under the curve and is a measure of the distance of the distribution away from zero.

Proteins passed H_0 if the adjusted coefficient of determination (adj. R^2) of the null hypothesis (adj. R_0^2) is larger than that of the alternative hypothesis (adj. R_1^2) because if adj. $R_0^2 > \text{adj. } R_1^2$ then it implies that H_0 is a better fit to the data than H_1 . This step also removes bias for H_1 generated by the increased degree of freedom in the model. For the remaining proteins, an F-statistic was obtained for the two models (H_1 and H_0) using degrees of freedom $df_1 = 2$ and $df_2 = 15$. The F-statistic was converted to a p value, which was adjusted for multiple comparison testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg algorithm in R (73, 74). H_0 was rejected for proteins with a cutoff of $p < 0.0005$ for analysis of medium and $p < 0.01$ for heavy based on manual inspection for irregular time profiles of the resulting ranked list.

Statistical Comparison of Insulin and Control m_{syn} and m_{deg} Rates—Of the insulin-regulated proteins, which are those that rejected the null hypothesis above (9), we determined whether m_{syn} , m_{deg} , or both parameters contributed to the changes with insulin. Expressed mathematically, we tested whether α_1 , β_1 , or both were non-zero (5–8). We evaluated this hypothesis by examining the joint probability distributions of α_1 and β_1 ; this distribution illustrates the likely values of α_1 and β_1 (Fig. 6C). The joint probability distributions of α_1 and β_1 were generated by the following steps. Initially, the joint likelihood distributions of α_0 and β_0 in the control conditions were constructed (Fig. 6A) from the following likelihood estimator equation.

$$L_{\text{con}}(\alpha_0, \beta_0) = \exp\{-\epsilon_{\text{con}}(\alpha_0, \beta_0)/2\} \quad (\text{Eq. 11})$$

where ϵ_{con} is the sum of the squared residuals weighted to the

standard deviation. Similarly, the joint likelihood distribution of $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1$ and $\beta_0 + \beta_1$ under insulin conditions is given by the following equation.

$$L_{\text{ins}}(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1, \beta_0 + \beta_1) = \exp\{-\epsilon_{\text{ins}}(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1, \beta_0 + \beta_1)/2\} \quad (\text{Eq. 12})$$

Finally, the joint likelihood distributions of α_0 and β_0 and of $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1$ and $\beta_0 + \beta_1$ were then used to construct the joint probability distributions for α_1 and β_1 (Fig. 6, B and C) using the following equation.

$$P(\alpha_1, \beta_1) = \frac{1}{E} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} L_{\text{con}}(\alpha_0, \beta_0) L_{\text{ins}}(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1, \beta_0 + \beta_1) d\alpha_0 d\beta_0 \quad (\text{Eq. 13})$$

where E , a normalization factor, is defined as follows.

$$E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(\alpha_1, \beta_1) d\alpha_1 d\beta_1 \quad (\text{Eq. 14})$$

Next, the marginal probability distribution for just the α_1 or β_1 variable was obtained by numerically integrating with respect to β_1 and α_1 , respectively (Fig. 6D). The p values for the marginal variables α_1 and β_1 were found by first calculating the distance between the mean and zero (Δ) and then calculating the area under the curve outside the interval mean $-\Delta$ and mean $+\Delta$ (Fig. 6D, shaded area). The p values were used to test the significance of the deviation of the marginal probabilities of α_1 and β_1 from zero.

Gene Ontology and Transcription Factor Analysis—Insulin-regulated proteins or long lived proteins were analyzed for enriched gene ontology categories ($p < 0.01$) using DAVID (75). Enriched transcription factors were identified through a hypergeometric test using the Molecular Signatures Database version 4.0 (76) and the “C3 motif gene set” (which is based on conserved cis-regulatory motifs between humans and other model organisms) curated from the TRANSFAC (77) database. Proteins that fit the models of synthesis with adj. $R^2 > 0.8$ were used as the background for this, and p value significance was defined by controlling for 5% false discovery rate in this test.

Data Quantification and General Statistical Analysis—Immunoblots were quantified by densitometry analysis using ImageJ software. t tests and analyses of variance were done in GraphPad Prism version 6.01 for Windows (GraphPad Software).

Luciferase Plasmids, Transfection, and Luciferase Assay—pCIneo-WT-Fluc and pCIneo-DM-Fluc were kindly provided by Dr. Ulrich Hartl and Dr. Swasti Raychaudhuri (Max Planck Institute) (49). pEGFP-N1 was from Clontech. pRK7-myc-Rheb was kindly provided by Dr. John Blenis (Weill Cornell Medical College) (78). WT Fluc and DM Fluc were PCR-amplified and subcloned into pBabepuro. For stable overexpression, 3T3-L1 fibroblasts were infected with pBabepuro-WT-Fluc or pBabepuro-DM-Fluc retrovirus. HEK293 cells were co-transfected with pEGFP-N1 (Clontech) or pRK7-myc-Rheb in

combination with pCIneo-WT-Fluc at a 1:1 molar ratio using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions for 6 h. After transfection, the culture medium was replenished with DMEM/FCS, and cells were treated with the indicated drugs for 16 h and then harvested. To assay luciferase activity, cells were lysed in 100 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.8, and 0.2% Triton X-100 by passing through a 27-gauge needle. Equivalent amounts of protein were assayed for luciferase activity with the Luciferase Assay System (Promega).

Detergent-insoluble Proteins—Cells were lysed by passing through a 27-gauge needle in Triton buffer (1% Triton X-100, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris, 10 μ M MG132, and 1 mM *N*-ethylmaleimide). Cell lysates were spun at 20,000 $\times g$ for 30 min at 4 °C. The resulting pellet was transferred to a new Eppendorf tube, resuspended in Triton buffer containing 30% sucrose by passing through a 27-gauge needle, and then spun for 100,000 $\times g$ for 30 min at 4 °C. This step was repeated twice more to the cellular pellet. The final pellet was solubilized in 8 M urea, 2% SDS, and 50 mM Tris by sonication, and protein content was determined by BCA assay.

Carbonylation—Protein carbonylation in freshly prepared extracts was measured by derivatization of carbonyl groups with 2,4-dinitrophenyl (DNP) hydrazine followed by detection of DNP-derivatized protein by immunoblotting using an Oxy-Blot Protein Oxidation Detection kit (S7150, Millipore). Membranes were then probed for tubulin, and DNP-derivatized protein levels were normalized to tubulin levels.

Proteasome Activity—Cells were solubilized by 5-min gentle agitation in proteasome lysis buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 250 mM sucrose, 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM ATP, 1 mM DTT, 0.5 mM EDTA, and 250 μ g/ml digitonin). Samples with equivalent amounts of protein were assayed for proteasome activity with Proteasome-Glo™ Chymotrypsin-Like Cell-Based Reagent (G8660, Promega).

Animals—Rat tissue was generated previously (46). Briefly, adult male Wistar rats were anesthetized, and cannulas were implanted into the right jugular vein and left carotid artery and exteriorized at the back of the neck. After surgery, rats were housed in separate cages, and 3 days after surgery rats were infused with 0.9% saline or 50% glucose in water at 40 mg/kg/min via the carotid cannula using a peristaltic roller pump. After 1 and 4 days of glucose infusion, rats were sacrificed, and tissues were rapidly dissected, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −80 °C. Animal experiments were approved by the Garvan Institute/St. Vincent's Hospital Animal Ethics Committee.

Data Accessibility—All raw and processed data associated with the manuscript have been deposited in PRIDE ProteomeXchange (project accession PXD003696).

Author Contributions—A. Y. M. and D. E. J. designed experiments and wrote the manuscript. A. Y. M. performed the majority of the experiments. M. K. L. W. designed and performed the majority of the statistical analysis of proteomic data. R. C., J. Y. Y., and A. C. F. C. contributed to the statistical analysis of protein turnover data. S.-X. T. and J. S. assisted with study design. J. S. cloned DNA constructs. S. J. H. established MS methods. B. L. P. and S. J. H. ran MS samples. D. R. L. and G. J. C. performed experiments on rats. All authors reviewed and edited the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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