

1 **Discovery of ciliary G protein-coupled receptors regulating pancreatic islet insulin**  
2 **and glucagon secretion**

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19 **Summary**

20 Multiple G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) are expressed in pancreatic islet cells but the  
21 majority have unknown functions. We observe specific GPCRs localized to primary cilia, a  
22 prominent signaling organelle, in pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells. Loss of cilia disrupts  $\beta$ -cell  
23 endocrine function, but the molecular drivers are unknown. Using functional expression, we  
24 identified multiple GPCRs localized to cilia in mouse and human islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells,  
25 including FFAR4, PTGER4, DRD5, ADRB2, KISS1R, and P2RY14. Free fatty acid receptor  
26 4 (FFAR4) and prostaglandin E receptor 4 (PTGER4) agonists stimulate ciliary cAMP  
27 signaling and promote glucagon and insulin secretion by  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell lines, and by mouse  
28 and human islets. Transport of GPCRs to primary cilia requires *TULP3*, whose knockdown in  
29 primary human and mouse islets depleted ciliary FFAR4 and PTGER4, and impaired  
30 regulated glucagon or insulin secretion, without affecting ciliary structure. Our findings  
31 provide index evidence that regulated hormone secretion by islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells is regulated  
32 by ciliary GPCRs providing new targets for diabetes.

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34 **Keywords:** Cilia, pancreas, diabetes, obesity, beta-cells, alpha-cells, insulin, glucagon,  
35 glucose-stimulated insulin secretion,

36

37 **Introduction**

38

39 Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2D) is a pandemic disease affecting over 400 million patients  
40 worldwide<sup>1</sup>. Hallmarks of T2D include elevated blood glucose levels, inadequate circulating  
41 insulin, and excessive glucagon. Although glucose is a primary mediator of insulin and  
42 glucagon release from pancreatic islets, circulating factors including free fatty acids, amino  
43 acids, neurotransmitters and hormones like incretins can play critical roles<sup>2</sup>. Accordingly,  
44 there is considerable interest in drugs that regulate insulin and glucagon secretion, notably  
45 drugs that regulate the G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) for the incretins Glucagon-like  
46 peptide 1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulintropic peptide (GIP<sup>3</sup>). Nutrient-sensing  
47 GPCRs contribute to many aspects of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell function, including regulated insulin and  
48 glucagon secretion<sup>2, 4</sup>. Recent studies suggest that primary cilia play critical roles in the  $\beta$ -  
49 and alpha cells of the pancreatic islet<sup>5, 6</sup>, but the molecular nature of that function is unclear.  
50 Here, we identify specific GPCRs that localize to islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell cilia and regulate  
51 glucagon and insulin secretion.

52 The primary cilium is a membrane and microtubule-based sensory organelle protruding  
53 from the apical cell surface and is highly enriched with specialized GPCRs<sup>7</sup>. Transport of  
54 GPCRs into the cilium is regulated by two major protein complexes, called the BBSome and  
55 the TULP3-IFT-A complex<sup>8</sup>. Defects in primary cilia result in disorders collectively called  
56 “ciliopathies”, often present with metabolic syndromes including early onset obesity and  
57 eventual diabetes<sup>7</sup>. Cilia are present on mouse and human islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells<sup>9</sup> and recent  
58 evidence has linked diabetic progression in ciliopathy patients to impaired insulin secretion<sup>10-  
59 12</sup>. Recent data also showed that dysregulation of cilia associated genes are linked to  
60 increased risk of T1D and T2D<sup>13-15</sup>. Moreover, two rodent models have also correlated fewer  
61 ciliated  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells with impaired glucose-regulated insulin secretion<sup>13, 16, 17, 13, 16, 17</sup>.  
62 Moreover,  $\beta$ -cell specific mouse knockouts (KO) of the *Ift88* core ciliary gene and *Bbs4*  
63 component of the BBSome, critical for ciliary trafficking and signaling,<sup>5, 6, 13</sup> also show  
64 impaired glucose-stimulated insulin secretion. These data argue that cilia are important in  
65 the development of diabetes, raising the possibility that ciliary signaling through factors like  
66 GPCRs could regulate  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell function. However, the identity of GPCRs or other  
67 signaling regulators that localize to primary cilia and regulate  $\beta$ -cell and  $\alpha$ -cell secretion have  
68 not been reported.

69 Here we screened ciliary GPCRs as candidate regulators of insulin or glucagon output by  
70 islets. We discovered that GPCRs like FFAR4 and PTGER4, whose natural agonists include  
71 omega-3 free fatty acids like DHA and the prostaglandin PGE<sub>2</sub>, localize to native  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -  
72 cell cilia, and regulate insulin and glucagon secretion in response to pharmacological  
73 agonists through localized ciliary cyclic AMP (cAMP) signaling. We further find that agonists  
74 of receptors for omega-3 fatty acids can enhance glucose secretion in response to GLP1R  
75 agonists indicating the potential for combination therapies for T2D.

76

## 77 Results

### 78 Identification of ciliary GPCRs regulating insulin and glucagon secretion

79 We hypothesized that  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell ciliary GPCRs transduce signals to regulate islet  
80 insulin or glucagon secretion and sought to identify GPCRs that localized to  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell  
81 cilia. From human pancreas transcriptome studies<sup>18</sup>, we identified 96 GPCRs enriched in  $\alpha$ -  
82 and  $\beta$ -cells compared to pancreatic duct cells (Fig. 1a). To assess ciliary localization, we  
83 expressed each candidate GPCR as a C-terminal GFP fusion protein, and assessed  
84 subcellular localization in the mouse pancreatic  $\alpha$ -cell line  $\alpha$ -TC9<sup>19</sup>, and in the mouse  $\beta$ -cell  
85 line MIN6<sup>20</sup>, which are both uniformly ciliated (Fig. 1b). We found that FFAR4, PTGER4,  
86 ADRB2, KISS1R, and P2RY14 localized to cilia in both MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells: (Extended  
87 Data Fig. 1a, b). To confirm ciliary localization of candidate GPCRs in native islet cells, we  
88 used antibodies that recognize endogenous GPCR protein<sup>21-20</sup>, and found that endogenous  
89 free fatty acid receptor 4 (FFAR4) and prostaglandin E receptor 4 (PTGER4) localized to the  
90 primary cilium of MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. In contrast, endogenous KISS1R, a receptor for the  
91 peptide hormone kisspeptin, was not found localized to cilia in MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells.  
92 Likewise, endogenous FFAR1, a functional homolog of FFAR4 that also binds omega-3 fatty  
93 acids, was not ciliary (Fig. 1c-h; Extended Data Fig. 1c, d). Thus, we successfully identified a  
94 critical set of GPCRs that localize to cilia in islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell lines.  
95

### 96 Ciliary GPCRs regulate insulin and glucagon secretion

97 To test if FFAR4 or PTGER4 regulate insulin or glucagon secretion, we exposed MIN6 or  
98  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells to selective agonists of these GPCRs and measured regulated insulin and  
99 glucagon secretion. MIN6 cells displayed glucose-dependent insulin secretion, and  $\alpha$ -TC9  
100 cells showed glucose-dependent glucagon secretion, as previously reported<sup>19, 20</sup> (Fig. 2a, b).  
101 Next, we examined the effect of agonists for FFAR4 or PTGER4 on insulin or glucagon  
102 secretion. Both FFAR4 and PTGER4 agonist treatment augmented insulin secretion in a  
103 dose-dependent manner at elevated (16.7 and 25 mM) glucose concentrations compared to  
104 controls (Fig. 2c, d). Similarly, the FFAR4 agonist enhanced glucagon secretion at low (1  
105 mM) glucose concentrations in  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells (Fig. 2e), whereas a PTGER4 agonist did not  
106 (Fig. 2f). We found that agonists of GPCRs not localized to cilia in MIN6 or  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells also  
107 potentiated glucose-regulated insulin or glucagon secretion. This included exposure to  
108 agonists for KISS1-R (Extended Data Fig. 2 a,b), and to TUG424, a selective FFAR1  
109 agonist<sup>22</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 2 f). In contrast to these results, we observed no detectable  
110 effect on MIN6 insulin secretion or  $\alpha$ -TC9 glucagon secretion following analogous exposure  
111 to agonists of ADRB2 or P2RY14 (Extended Data Fig. 2c, d). Together these data indicate  
112 that FFAR4 and PTGER4 are ciliary GPCRs that can potentiate glucose-regulated insulin  
113 and glucagon secretion. Glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor (GLP-1R) is a GPCR not known to  
114 localize to islet cilia. GLP-1R agonists comprise an important standard treatment for type 2  
115 diabetes<sup>23</sup>. We observed that stimulation of GSIS by the GLP-1R agonist Exendin-4 showed  
116 a similar scale of effect to FFAR4 agonists (Extended Data Fig. 2e). To evaluate GLP-1R  
117 potentiation of glucose-dependent insulin secretion in the setting FFAR4 activation, we  
118 simultaneously stimulated GLP-1R with the agonist Exendin-4, and FFAR4 with TUG891 in  
119 MIN6 cells. Compared to exposure to Exendin-4 or TUG891 alone, glucose-dependent  
120 insulin secretion by MIN6 cells was substantially increased by simultaneous Exendin-4 and  
121 TUG891 (Extended Data Fig. 2e). We observed a similar effect with combined exposure to

122 TUG424, a FFAR1 agonist, and TUG891 (Extended Data Fig. 2f). Thus, FFAR4 agonists  
123 could potentially combine with GLP1R and FFAR1 agonists, suggesting these may signal via  
124 distinct, but cooperating signaling pathways.

### 125 **TULP3 is required for trafficking FFAR4 and PTGER4 to islet cell cilia**

126 TULP3 is a crucial regulator of GPCR trafficking and localization to cilia. For example,  
127 depletion of TULP3 impairs localization of FFAR4 to the cilium of 3T3L1 preadipocytes and  
128 attenuates FFAR4 agonist-regulated adipogenesis<sup>21</sup>. However, prior studies have not  
129 assessed the requirement for TULP3 in GPCR trafficking islet cell cilia<sup>8</sup>. To test this  
130 possibility, we used CRISPR-Cas9 to generate MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells lacking TULP3 (Fig.  
131 3a, b). Consistent with prior work in other cells, depletion of TULP3 from primary cilia in  
132 MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells did not detectably affect ciliation (Fig. 3c, d). However, TULP3  
133 depletion in these cells clearly reduced localization of the ciliary signaling protein ARL13B,  
134 consistent with reports in other cell types (Extended Data Fig. 3a,b)<sup>24</sup>. Moreover, we found  
135 that depletion of TULP3 significantly decreased trafficking of FFAR4 and PTGER4 to cilia in  
136 MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells (Fig. 3e-g). Thus, islet cell ciliary FFAR4 and PTGER4 localization is  
137 TULP3-dependent.

### 138 **FFAR4- and PTGER4-regulated insulin or glucagon secretion is cilia dependent**

139 To test whether islet  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells require ciliary trafficking of FFAR4 and PTGER4 to  
140 transduce metabolic cues and potentiate insulin and glucagon secretion, we treated MIN6 or  
141  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells lacking TULP3 with the specific FFAR4 and PTGER4 agonists and examined  
142 effects on insulin and glucagon secretion. If FFAR4 or PTGER4 regulates insulin or  
143 glucagon secretion in a cilia-dependent manner, agonist or ligand treatment should enhance  
144 glucose-stimulated insulin or glucagon secretion in control cells but not in cells lacking  
145 TULP3. Insulin and glucagon content were not significantly altered in cells lacking TULP3  
146 (Fig. 3h, i). This shows that TULP3 depletion did not affect hormone production or  
147 accumulation. TULP3 loss also did not attenuate glucose-dependent insulin or glucagon  
148 secretion of MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells (Fig. 3j, k). However, loss of TULP3 impaired the  
149 potentiation by FFAR4 or PTGER4 agonists of glucose-dependent insulin secretion by MIN6  
150 cells (Fig. 3l and Extended Data Fig. 3c) and glucagon secretion by  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells (Fig. 3m),  
151 arguing that ciliary localization is critical for FFAR4 and PTGER4 signaling in islet cells. By  
152 contrast, loss of TULP3 did not reduce potentiation of insulin or glucagon secretion by  
153 TUG424, an agonist for FFAR1 which is not cilia-localized (Fig. 3l, m). Likewise, TULP3  
154 knockout did not affect KISS1R-regulated insulin or glucagon secretion (Extended Data Fig.  
155 3c, d). Thus, our work provides evidence that FFAR4 or PTGER4 agonists promote insulin  
156 or glucagon secretion via TULP3-dependent mechanisms in primary cilia of MIN6 or  $\alpha$ -TC9  
157 cells.

### 158 **Localization of FFAR4 and PTGER4 to cilia in primary human and mouse islet cells**

159 Previous studies have shown that human and murine islet cells are ciliated<sup>9, 25</sup>. To  
160 confirm and extend these observations, we first quantified ciliation of islet  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\delta$ -cells  
161 from mice or human cadaveric donors and found that both mouse and human endocrine  
162 cells are efficiently ciliated, about 62, 70, and 75% in mouse and about 32, 41, and 33% in  
163 human  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\delta$ -cells (Fig. 4a, b). We noted no significant difference in the percentage of  
164 ciliation of these islet cell subsets in mice versus humans. Supporting our findings with  $\alpha$ -

165 and  $\beta$ -cell lines, we found that FFAR4 localized to the primary cilium of pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -  
166 cells in mouse and human islets, and that this ciliary localization persisted even after  
167 dissociation and flow cytometry-based purification of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells from isolated islets (Fig.  
168 4c-f and Extended Data Fig. 4a, b). PTGER4 also localized to the primary cilium in  $\beta$ -cells,  
169 but compared to FFAR4, the degree of PTGER4 localization to  $\alpha$ -cell cilia was lower (Fig.  
170 4g-j and Extended Data Fig. 4c, d). We next examined the effects of FFAR4, PTGER4, and  
171 KISS1R agonists on insulin or glucagon secretion from mouse or human islets. Addition of  
172 agonists promoted insulin or glucagon secretion in mouse or human islets (Extended Data  
173 Fig. 4g-j). Consistent with our cell line data, PTGER4 agonist did not affect glucagon  
174 secretion (Extended Data Fig. 4h, j). Taken together, our data shows that FFAR4 and  
175 PTGER4 localize to the cilium in mouse and human endocrine cells and regulate insulin and  
176 glucagon secretion.

### 177 **FFAR4- and PTGER4-regulated islet hormone secretion is cilia dependent**

178 To test if FFAR4- and PTGER4-regulated hormone secretion in primary pancreatic  
179 islets requires *TULP3*, we infected dispersed primary human islet cells with lentivirus  
180 expressing shRNA to knockdown *TULP3*, re-aggregated these cells into pseudoislets<sup>26</sup>, and  
181 measured glucose-dependent insulin or glucagon secretion. Lentiviral GFP co-expression  
182 permitted sorting and isolation of virus-infected cells. >50% knockdown of *TULP3* mRNA was  
183 demonstrated by qRT-PCR (Extended Data Fig. 5a, b). Total insulin or glucagon content  
184 was not significantly altered after *TULP3* knockdown (Extended Data Fig. 5c-f). Similar to  
185 our islet cell line studies, depletion of *TULP3* mRNA did not affect insulin or glucagon  
186 secretion in response to glucose changes alone (Fig. 5a, c, e, g), but did significantly  
187 attenuate FFAR4 and PTGER4 agonist-regulated insulin or glucagon secretion (Fig. 5b, d, f,  
188 h). Similar to our cell line studies, exposure to selective FFAR1 and KISS1R agonists  
189 (whose receptors do not localize to islet cilia) also stimulated insulin or glucagon secretion,  
190 and this effect was not altered by *TULP3* islet knockdown (Fig. 5b, d, f, h and Extended Data  
191 Fig. 5g-j). Thus, our findings establish that FFAR4- and PTGER4-regulated insulin or  
192 glucagon secretion by primary islet cells are *TULP3*-dependent and function efficiently in  
193 mouse and human islets.

### 194 **FFAR4 signaling raises ciliary cAMP to promote insulin or glucagon secretion**

195 To identify molecular signaling mechanisms underlying FFAR4 or PTGER4 potentiation  
196 of insulin or glucagon secretion, we investigated ciliary cAMP signaling, which was shown in  
197 our recent studies to mediate omega-3 fatty acid activation of ciliary FFAR4, and to trigger  
198 adipogenesis<sup>21</sup>. Adenylyl cyclases (ACs) catalyze the conversion of adenine triphosphate  
199 (ATP) into cAMP in response to a wide range of extracellular signals. In mammals, there are  
200 nine membrane-associated ACs. The type 3 adenylyl cyclase (AC3), an established cilia  
201 marker, is highly and predominantly expressed in primary cilia in different tissues, including  
202 pancreas, adipose tissue, kidney and brain<sup>27</sup>. Moreover, recent human studies show that  
203 mutation of the *ADCY3* gene encoding AC3 is associated with T1D and T2D<sup>14, 15</sup>. We  
204 observed that AC3 localizes to MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cilia (Extended Data Fig. 6a). To test the  
205 hypothesis that FFAR4 activation promotes insulin or glucagon secretion by modulating  
206 AC3-regulated ciliary cAMP, we transduced MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells with a ciliary-targeted  
207 cAMP sensor optimized for live cell imaging (cilia cADDIS<sup>28</sup>). Within 120 seconds of MIN6 or  
208  $\alpha$ -TC9 exposure to the FFAR4 agonist TUG891, we observed increased ciliary cAMP levels

209 (Fig. 6a, b and Extended Data Fig. 6b). As a control, a selective FFAR1 agonist did not  
210 potentiate cAMP levels. cAMP may activate at least two downstream pathways regulated by  
211 protein kinase A (PKA) or by the cAMP-regulated exchange factor, EPAC. Inhibition of  
212 EPAC prevented FFAR4 agonist-stimulated insulin and glucagon secretion (Fig. 6c, d).  
213 Inhibition of PKA also inhibited FFAR4 agonist-stimulated insulin secretion but not glucagon  
214 secretion (Fig. 6e, f). Thus, FFAR4 signaling likely potentiates insulin secretion by activating  
215 localized ciliary cAMP signaling via both EPAC and PKA activity. Interestingly, prior studies  
216 show that FFAR4 agonist regulated adipogenesis through activation of localized ciliary  
217 cAMP and EPAC, but not detectably via PKA<sup>21</sup>. In studies examining potentiation of  
218 secretion, we found that inhibition of EPAC, but not PKA, prevented PTGER4 agonist-  
219 enhanced insulin secretion (Fig. 6c, e). Together these studies identify cAMP-dependent  
220 mechanisms of ciliary GPCR signaling. This suggests that signal transduction through  
221 specific GPCRs is executed through overlapping but distinct pathways.

## 222 **Discussion**

223 Pancreatic islet cells are vital regulators of metabolism that integrate diverse, dynamic  
224 signals, to optimize their output of insulin and glucagon. While glucose is a primary regulator  
225 of insulin and glucagon secretion by islets, other important signals reflecting metabolic flux or  
226 feeding state are recognized as crucial controllers of islet hormone output. Thus, multiplexed  
227 signaling from the autonomic and central nervous system, peripheral organs like fat, liver,  
228 inflammatory cells and peripheral endocrine organs, and dietary sources tunes islet  
229 hormonal output to match dynamic physiological demands in healthy and diseased states<sup>29</sup>.  
230<sup>30</sup>. Intensive investigations have focused on identifying the cellular and molecular signaling  
231 elements in islets that integrate and orchestrate islet hormone output<sup>31</sup>. Work here provides  
232 index evidence that islet cell primary cilia are organizers of signaling by specific G-protein  
233 coupled receptors (GPCRs) that respond to native ligands and synthetic agonists to regulate  
234 islet insulin and glucagon secretion. Findings here also delineate specific intracellular  
235 responses to ciliary GPCR activation and suggest how ciliary signaling logic could integrate  
236 cues to optimize hormonal output and metabolic control.

237 Our work reveals multiple ciliary GPCRs as conserved regulators of insulin and glucagon  
238 output by mouse and human islets. Depletion of TULP3, a regulator of GPCR trafficking to  
239 cilia in pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells provided crucial, index evidence that ciliary localization of  
240 GPCRs like FFAR4 and PTGER4 is required for potentiation of insulin or glucagon secretion  
241 by specific agonists *in vitro* and *ex vivo*. Agonist activation of ciliary FFAR4 and PTGER4  
242 resulted in a rapid increase in cAMP levels, activating EPAC, a guanine-nucleotide  
243 exchange factor, and protein kinase A. Moreover, demonstration of signaling effects in  $\alpha$  and  
244  $\beta$  cell lines argues that TULP3-dependent ciliary GPCR effects are cell-autonomous (Fig. 6g).  
245 Our studies provide critical functional evidence for how ciliary GPCR signaling works in islet  
246 cells and identifies candidate small molecules that regulate insulin or glucagon secretion.

247 This study provides evidence that ciliary FFAR4 and PTGER4 regulated insulin secretion  
248 by  $\beta$ -cells. In addition, we show that ciliary FFAR4 regulates glucagon secretion by  $\alpha$ -cells<sup>32</sup>.  
249 Specifically, *in vivo* and *ex vivo* loss of ciliary FFAR4 in  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells impairs FFAR4  
250 agonist-regulated insulin and glucagon secretion. We also found that this process is  
251 dependent on ciliary cAMP (Fig. 6g). While cAMP is generally considered as an amplifier of  
252 insulin secretion triggered by Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevation in the  $\beta$ -cells<sup>33</sup> it was not previously reported

253 that subcellular organelle signaling, like in islet cell cilia, might underlie this effect. cAMP is  
254 synthesized by adenylyl cyclases (ACs). In mammals, there are nine membrane-associated  
255 ACs. Here, we found that AC3 localizes to the cilia in MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. This indicates  
256 that ciliary AC3 may be activated by FFAR4 and then increase the cAMP level in the cilium.  
257 However, we recognize other ACs like AC5/6 may also be involved; recent data showed that  
258 mutation of ADCY3, ADCY5, and ADCY6 are each strongly associated with T1/T2D<sup>14, 15, 34, 35</sup>.  
259 We hypothesize that specific cAMP effectors may work locally at cilia or centrioles to control  
260 signaling or transport processes. In many organisms including unicellular protists, primary  
261 cilia or flagella are localized next to zone of organized endocytosis and exocytosis. The  
262 specific configuration of cilia in the context of islet cells is therefore of interest, and future  
263 studies could address how localized cAMP signals are propagated to the secretory  
264 structures in islet cells. In addition to signaling mechanisms revealed here, prior reports<sup>36</sup>  
265 suggest that FFAR4 stimulation may lead to activation of phospholipase C (PLC) and  
266 subsequent elevation of intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ ; we have found that exposure of MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9  
267 cells to PLC inhibitor U73122 also attenuates FFAR4-stimulated insulin and glucagon  
268 secretion (data not shown). Thus, additional studies will also be useful for understanding  
269 how the same ciliary GPCR can simultaneously and locally modulate multiple signaling  
270 pathways, and whether this multiplex signaling is achieved by dynamic control of localized  
271 intra- or juxta-ciliary signaling.

272 PGE<sub>2</sub> production is activated in response to various forms of pancreatic damage, and is  
273 expected to work via four independent receptors PTGER1-4, often called EP1-4. Of these  
274 four, only PTGER4/EP4 is ciliary<sup>37</sup> (PKJ, unpublished) and is the only form linked to G $\alpha_s$  and  
275 cAMP production. Prior studies have shown a protective role for EP4 on  $\beta$  cell survival and  
276 proliferation<sup>38</sup>, but EP3 may have opposing effects. The presence of inflammatory receptors  
277 like PGTER4 may couple localized pancreatic or more global responses to islet output of  
278 insulin. Systemic delivery of high levels of PGE<sub>2</sub> appear to lower insulin secretion<sup>39, 40</sup>, but  
279 the selective effects on  $\beta$  cell proliferation or survival versus direct effects on insulin  
280 secretion are not fully separated. The broader context of activating PGE<sub>2</sub> levels in  
281 pancreatic islets may cause a variety of effects. Here, by using selective EP4 agonists, we  
282 show that direct effects on cAMP, via its ciliary signaling channel, have a positive effect on  
283 insulin release, supporting the potential value of using selective drugs for EP4. This  
284 highlights the potential importance of selective signaling through multiple islet ciliary GPCRs  
285 as a mechanism to organize responses by a single cell. By organizing islet cell sensors,  
286 notably in the form of G-protein coupled receptors, the multicellular islet cluster integrates  
287 and tailors the potent systemic response of islet hormones to systemic demands.

288 Our work also revealed evidence of additive or synergistic regulation of  $\beta$  cell insulin  
289 secretion by FFAR4 and FFAR1, or by FFAR4 and GLP1-R (Extended Data Fig. 2e, f). This  
290 is supported by recent studies suggesting that FFAR1 and FFAR4 signaling can cooperate  
291 to stimulate insulin secretion<sup>41</sup>. Neither FFAR1 (Fig. 1) nor GLP1-R (CT.W. and P.J.,  
292 unpublished results) are observed to localize to cilia. Consistent with this, FFAR1-regulated  
293 insulin and glucagon secretion is TULP3 independent. Thus, outcomes here suggest that  
294 islet hormone secretion may be regulated by simultaneous activation of GPCR-dependent  
295 signaling pathways in *distinct* subcellular compartments (Fig. 6g). FFAR1 and FFAR4 bind to  
296 medium- to long-chain fatty acids, including  $\omega$ -3 fatty acids like  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid,  
297 eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), leading to enhanced insulin  
298 and glucagon secretion<sup>22</sup>, although it is not entirely clear that FFAR1 and FFAR4 signaling

299 results from precisely the same natural ligands, Unlike FFAR4 agonists, FFAR1 agonists do  
300 not raise ciliary cAMP, but instead stimulate calcium influx<sup>41</sup>. We also observe evidence of  
301 synergy between FFAR4 agonists and GLP1R agonists (Extended Data Fig. 2e, f). GLP1R  
302 signaling can induce intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> transients in addition to cAMP signaling<sup>42</sup>. Thus, if  
303 ciliary FFAR4-cAMP signaling were to activate docked, active zone vesicles, possibly  
304 through EPAC2-dependent signaling, this could augment or synergize with GLP1-R or  
305 FFAR1-calcium dependent insulin secretion.

306         Based on the signaling we observe here in isolated islets, we can propose that the  
307 apical position of primary cilia in pancreatic islets provide a critical architecture that  
308 integrates islet cell cross-talk. This could represent both homotypic ( $\beta$  cell to  $\beta$  cell) and  
309 heterotypic ( $\beta$  cell to  $\alpha$  cell) paracrine signals from nearby islet cells, but also global  
310 endocrine and metabolite signals. We can imagine a range of signaling inputs, some  
311 commonly used and some more specialized, that would control insulin and glucagon  
312 secretion, and more broadly in other islet subtypes. There is the intriguing possibility that  
313 ciliary signaling in multiple islet cell types allows an integration of dietary and neuroendocrine  
314 signals, ensuring metabolic homeostasis and rapid responses to specialized conditions.

315         The integrated, multisystem approach used here to identify ciliary GPCRs and  
316 mechanisms that regulate human insulin and glucagon secretion can be readily expanded.  
317 Further studies could take advantage of the tools and approaches generated here, including  
318 development of *Tulp3*-deficient  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  cell lines, pseudoislet-based genetic methods for  
319 generating primary human islets lacking TULP3, and measures of agonist-dependent  
320 hormone secretion. In addition to GPCRs, other classes of receptors and their signal  
321 transduction elements could be revealed by these future studies. In addition, the increasing  
322 availability of cadaveric human islets from donors with specific pathological or physiological  
323 states could broaden the impact of our findings. For example, based on prior studies,  
324 dynamic physiological changes like sexual maturation or pregnancy<sup>43</sup>, or inflammatory states  
325 like diabetes<sup>44</sup> could regulating or dysregulate islet ciliary signaling. If so, this could advance  
326 the concept that age or disease-dependent degeneration of ciliary signaling might underlie  
327 diabetes and other human pancreatic diseases.

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335 Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan). We thank the Alberta  
336 Diabetes Institute Islet (ADI) Research Core, IIDP, NDRI and IIAM for islet and/or pancreas  
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349 Genomics and Analysis Core of the Stanford Diabetes Research Center.

350

## 351 **Methods**

352 **Human islet procurement.** De-identified human pancreatic islets were obtained from organ  
353 donors without a history of glucose intolerance with less than 15 h of cold ischemia time.  
354 Islets were procured through the Integrated Islet Distribution Program, Alberta Diabetes  
355 Institute IsletCore, and the International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine.

356 **Mouse islet isolation.** Islets were isolated from male C57BL/6 mice at 2 to 4 month of age  
357 using Collagenase P (Roche Diagnostics, catalog number: 11213865001) into the pancreatic  
358 duct, surgically removing the infused pancreas and placing it into 50-ml conical tubes  
359 containing 4 ml of HBSS/Ca/HEPES solution (1 L of Hanks balanced salt solution (HBSS), 2  
360 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and 20 mM HEPES). Mouse pancreata were incubated for 12 min in a 37 °C  
361 water bath. The digested pancreata were then washed three times in ice-cold  
362 HBSS/Ca/HEPES solution. The pancreas tissue was disrupted by vigorously hand shaking  
363 the tubes for 1 min at a rate of 3 shakes per second. The islets were isolated from acinar  
364 tissue on a Histopaque-1077 gradient (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog number: H8889). After three  
365 additional washes by RPMI 1640 (Gibco), islets were handpicked under a dissecting  
366 microscope and cultured in RPMI 1640, 2.25 g/dl glucose, 1% penicillin/streptomycin (v/v,  
367 Gibco) and 10% fetal bovine serum (HyClone).

368 **Human and mouse pseudo islet generation.** Human or mouse islets were dissociated into  
369 a single cell suspension by enzymatic digestion (Accumax, Invitrogen). For each  
370 experimental condition,  $\sim 1 \times 10^6$  cells were transduced with lentivirus corresponding to  $1 \times$   
371  $10^9$  viral units in 1 ml as determined by the Lenti-X qRT-PCR titration kit (Clontech).  
372 Lentiviral transduced islets cells were cultured in 96-well ultra-low attachment plates  
373 (Corning) and cultured for 3 days at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After 3 days, pseudo islets were  
374 transferred to a 6 well ultra-low attachment plates and cultured 2 days prior to further  
375 molecular or physiological analysis. The islets were cultured in culture media: RPMI 1640  
376 (Gibco), 2.25 g/dl glucose, 1% penicillin/streptomycin (v/v, Gibco) and 10% fetal bovine  
377 serum (HyClone).

378 **Cell line models.** Pancreatic MIN6  $\beta$  cells (passages 5–15) were a gift from Professor Jun-  
379 ichi Miyazaki (Department of Stem Cell Regulation Research, Graduate School of Medicine,  
380 Osaka University, Osaka, Japan). MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells were cultured in DMEM medium  
381 containing 10% Fetal Bovine Serum, HEPES (1M), 2-Mercaptoethanol (50mM), 1%  
382 Pen/Strep, and 1% GlutaMAX.

383 **Lentivirus production.** Lentiviruses were produced by transient transfection of HEK293T  
384 cells with lentiviral vectors carrying the gene of interest and pMD2.G (12259; Addgene) and  
385 psPAX2 (12260; Addgene) packaging constructs. DMEM Media was re-placed after  
386 overnight and virus was harvested 24, 48, and 72 h post-transfection. Virus was filtered with  
387 a 0.45mm OVDf filter (Millipore). Supernatants were collected and purified using PEG-it  
388 (System Biosciences). Concentrated lentivirus was stored at -80 °C for transduction of  
389 primary human cells.

390 **Cell line generation.** Virus carrying the gene of interest was used to infect cell lines with  
391 10mg/mL polybrene (Millipore). Media was replaced after 24 h and cells were sorted for GFP  
392 positivity after 48-72 h post-infection. To generate Crispr/Cas9 knockout cells, MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -  
393 TC9 Cas9-BFP cells were infected with lentivirus containing the sgRNA of interest. Knockout

394 efficiency was determined 10 days post-infection by western blotting. MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells  
395 expressing Cas9-BFP were generated by infection of virus harvested from 293T cells  
396 transfected with p293 Cas9-BFP, pMD2.G and psPAX2. MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 Cas9-BFP cells  
397 were sorted for BFP positivity.

398 **Immunofluorescence staining.** Cells were grown on 12mm round coverslips and fixed with  
399 4% paraformaldehyde (433689M, AlfaAesar) in PBS at room temperature for 10min.  
400 Samples were blocked with 5% normal donkey serum (017-000-121, Jackson  
401 ImmunoResearch) in IF buffer (for FFAR4 staining: 3% BSA and 0.4% saponin in PBS; for  
402 all else: 3% BSA and 0.1% NP-40 in PBS) at room temperature for 30min. Samples were  
403 incubated with primary antibody in IF buffer at room temperature for 1 h, followed by 5  
404 washes with IF buffer. Samples were incubated with fluorescent-labeled secondary antibody  
405 at room temperature for 30min, followed by a 5 min incubation with 4',6-dia-midino-2-  
406 phenylindole (DAPI) in PBS at room temperature for 5min and 5 washes with IF buffer.  
407 Coverslips were mounted with Fluoromount-G (0100-01, SouthernBiotech) onto glass slides  
408 followed by image acquisition. Antibodies were used as follows: FFAR4 (residues  
409 PLYNMSLFRNEWK, 1:600)<sup>21</sup>, FFAR4 (Santa Cruz, sc-390752, 1:100), Acetylated tubulin  
410 (Sigma, T7451, 1:2000), PTGER4 (Santa Cruz, sc-55596, 1:100), KISS1R (A kindly gift from  
411 Professor Kirk Mykytyn, The Ohio State University, 1;500), ARL13B (UC Davis/NIH  
412 NeuroMab Facility, 73-287, 1:1000), FGFR1OP (Novus,H00011116-M01, 1:1000), GFP  
413 (Invitrogen, A10262, 1:2000).

414 **Epi-fluorescence and confocal imaging.** Images were acquired on an Everest  
415 deconvolution workstation (Intelligent Imaging Innovations) equipped with a Zeiss  
416 AxiomagerZ1 microscope and a CoolSnapHQ cooled CCD camera (Roper Scientific) and a  
417 40x NA1.3 Plan-Apochromat objective lens (420762-9800, Zeiss) was used. Confocal  
418 images were acquired on a Marianas spinning disk confocal (SDC) microscopy (Intelligent  
419 Imaging Innovations). For Figures 2 and S2, images were acquired using a Leica DMI8  
420 microscope equipped with a DFC7000T color camera (bright field images) as well as the  
421 SPE confocal system (immunofluorescence).

422 **Sample preparation and immunoblot** Cells were lysed in 1x LDS buffer containing DTT  
423 and incubated at 95°C for 20 min. Cells were lysed in RIPA buffer with protease inhibitors  
424 (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 20 mM  $\beta$ -glycerophosphate, 20 mM  
425 NaF, 1 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, and protease inhibitors including 1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l leupeptin, 1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l pepstatin,  
426 and 1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l aprotinin) for 30 min at 4°C. The cell lysates were centrifuged at 16,000 g at 4°C  
427 for 15 min. Proteins were separated using NuPage 4%–12% Bis-Tris gel (Thermo Fisher  
428 Scientific, WG1402BOX) in NuPage MOPS SDS running buffer (50 mM MOPS, 50 mM  
429 TrisBase, 0.1% SDS, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.7), followed by transfer onto PVDF membranes  
430 (Millipore, IPFL85R) in transfer buffer (25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine, pH 8.3) containing 10%  
431 methanol. Membranes were blocked in non-fat dry milk in PBS for 30 min at room  
432 temperature, followed by incubation with primary antibody in blocking buffer for overnight at  
433 4°C. The membrane was washed 4 times for 10min in TBST buffer (20 mM Tris, 150 mM  
434 NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20, pH7.5) at room temperature, incubated with secondary IRDye  
435 antibodies (LI-COR) in blocking buffer for 1 h at room temperature, and then washed 4 times  
436 for 10min in TBST buffer. Membranes were scanned on an Odyssey CLx Imaging System  
437 (LI-COR), with protein detection at 680 and 800 nm. Antibodies were used as follows:  
438 TULP3 (Yenzym, 1:2000)<sup>21</sup>, Tubulin (Sigma, 9026, 1:5000).

439 **Quantitative Real time PCR.** RNA was extracted using the RNeasy Lipid Tissue Kit  
440 (QIAGEN) and cDNA was synthesized using M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen,  
441 28025-013). Quantitative real time PCR was performed using TaqMan Probes (Invitrogen)  
442 and the TaqMan Gene Expression Master Mix (Applied Biosystems, 4369016) in 96-well  
443 Micro Amp Optical reaction plates (Applied Biosystems, N8010560). Expression levels were  
444 normalized to the average expression of the housekeeping gene.

445 **Live Cell Ciliary cAMP assay.** MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells were seeded at  $10^4$  cells/well in a 96-  
446 well cell imaging plate (Eppendorf, 0030741013) and transduced the following day with the  
447 ratiometric cilia-targeted cADDis BacMam (Molecular Montana, D0211G) according to  
448 manufacturer's recommendation. Briefly, cells were infected with 25ul of BacMam sensor  
449 stock in a total of 150ul of media containing 2mM Sodium Butyrate (Molecular Montana) for  
450 overnight in the 37 °C incubator. Prior to imaging, cells were incubated in PBS for 30min at  
451 room temperature. Images were acquired on a Marianas spinning disk confocal (SDC)  
452 microscopy (Intelligent Imaging Innovations) (40x, epi-fluorescence) every 1min for 15min  
453 with agonist added after 30sec. Red fluorescence was used to determine a mask and  
454 background subtracted green and red fluorescent intensity over time was determined using  
455 Slidebook (Intelligent Imaging Innovations).

456 **In vitro insulin and glucagon secretion assays.** MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 ( $1 \times 10^5$ ) seeded in 96-  
457 well plates and batches of 25 pseudo islets were used for in vitro secretion assays. MIN6,  $\alpha$ -  
458 TC9 cells, and pseudo islets were incubated at a glucose concentration of 2.8 mM for 60 min  
459 as an initial equilibration period. Subsequently, MIN6,  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells, and pseudo islets were  
460 incubated at 2.8 mM, 16.7 mM and 16.7 mM + agonists glucose concentrations for 60 min  
461 each. Pseudo islets were then lysed in an acid-ethanol solution (1.5% HCL in 75% ethanol)  
462 to extract the total cellular insulin or glucagon content. Secreted human insulin or glucagon  
463 in the supernatants and pseudo islet lysates were quantified using either a human insulin  
464 ELISA kit or glucagon ELISA kit (both from Mercodia). Secreted insulin levels were divided  
465 by total insulin content and presented as a percentage of total insulin content; a similar  
466 method of data analysis was employed for glucagon secretion assays. All secretion assays  
467 were carried out in RPMI 1640 (Gibco) supplemented with 2% fetal bovine serum (HyClone)  
468 and the above-mentioned glucose concentrations.

469 **Reagents and treatment** The concentration of the following reagents was indicated in the  
470 figure legend. ESI-09, RP-cAMP, Compound 19a (CAY10598), Salbutamol, UDP- $\alpha$ -D-  
471 Glucose and Exendin-4 were from Cayman Chemical. AZ13581837 purchased from  
472 AOBIIOUS. TUG891 and TG424 were from Tocris. Small molecules were dissolved in DMSO  
473 (276855, Sigma-Aldrich). kisspeptin-10 purchased from Santa Cruz. Small molecules or  
474 peptides were dissolved in DMSO (276855, Sigma-Aldrich). ESI-09 or RP-Camp 30 min  
475 prior to agonist or vehicle addition. The following reagents were used at the indicated  
476 concentrations in Fig. 3, Extended Data Fig. 3, Fig. 5, Extended Data Fig. 5, and Fig. 6:  
477 100 $\mu$ M TUG891, 1 $\mu$ M CAY10598, 2 $\mu$ M KP-10, 100nM TUG424.

#### 478 **Quantification and statistical analysis**

479 Statistical analyses were performed in Microsoft Excel and GraphPad Prism. Most data are  
480 represented as mean  $\pm$  standard derivation (s.d.) as specified in the figure legends. Sample  
481 size and number of repeated experiments are described in the legends. p value was

482 determined using the two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. The precise P values are shown in  
483 the figures.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. All experiments were repeated  
484 three or four times (see figure legends) with similar results.

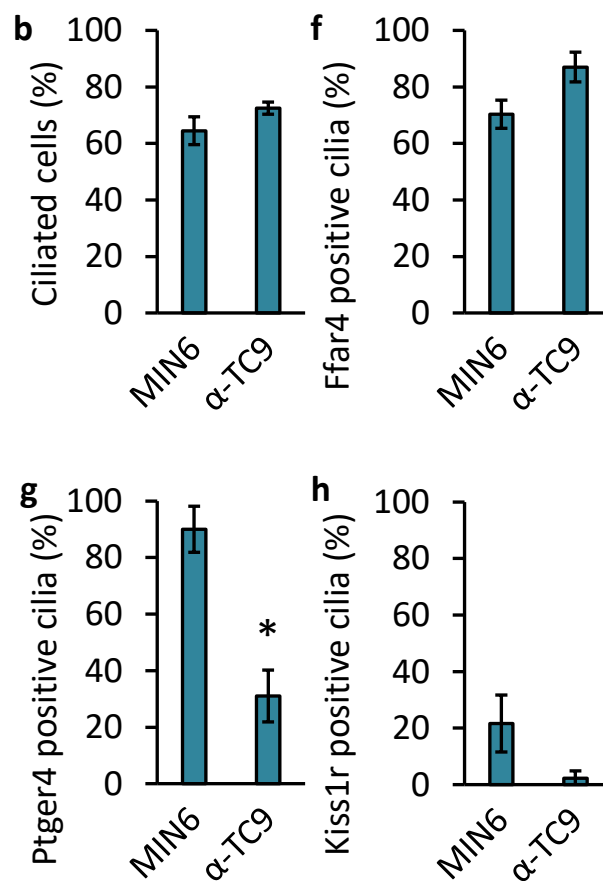
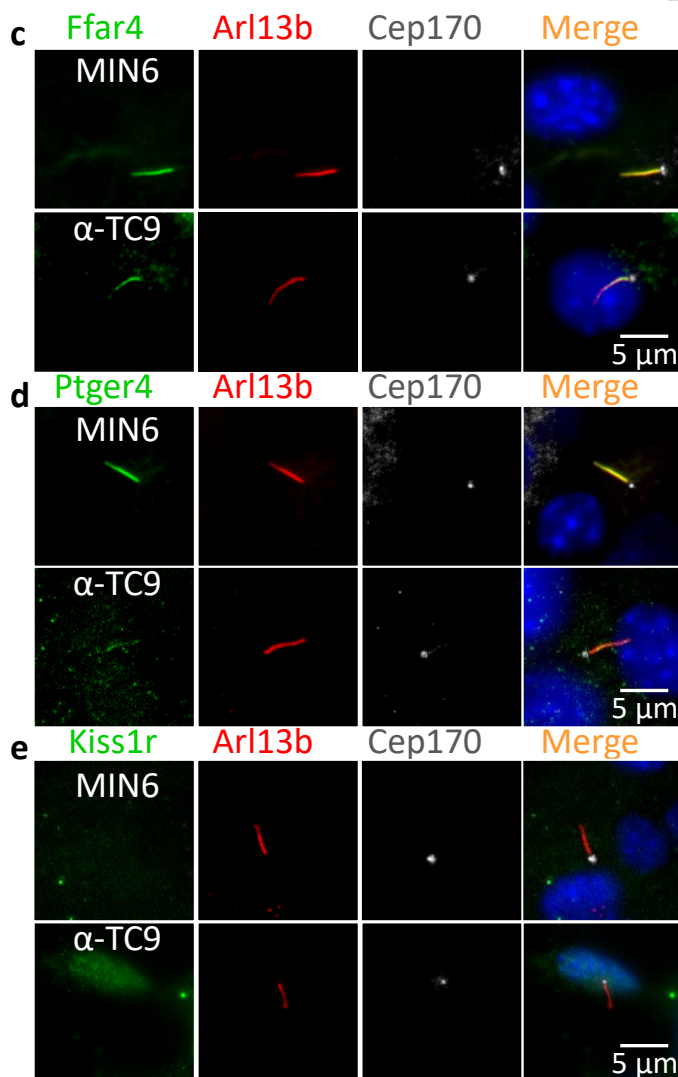
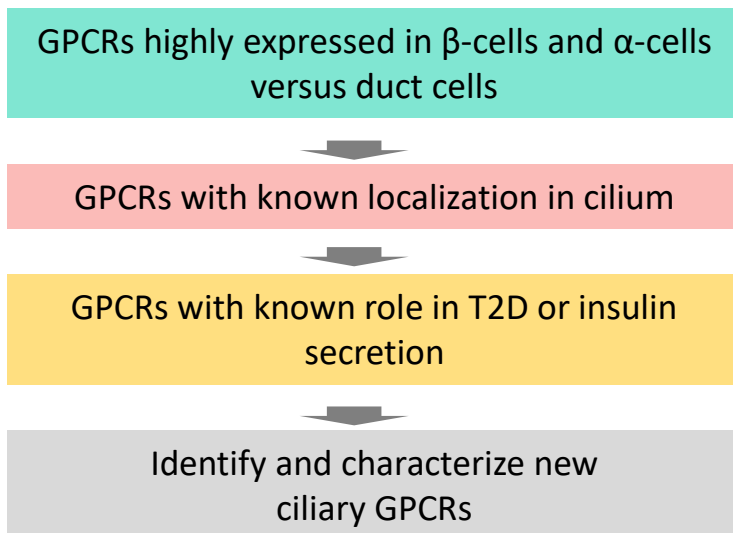
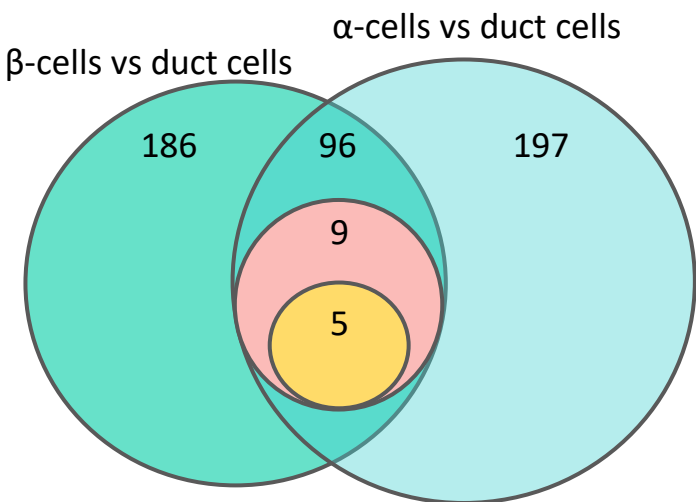
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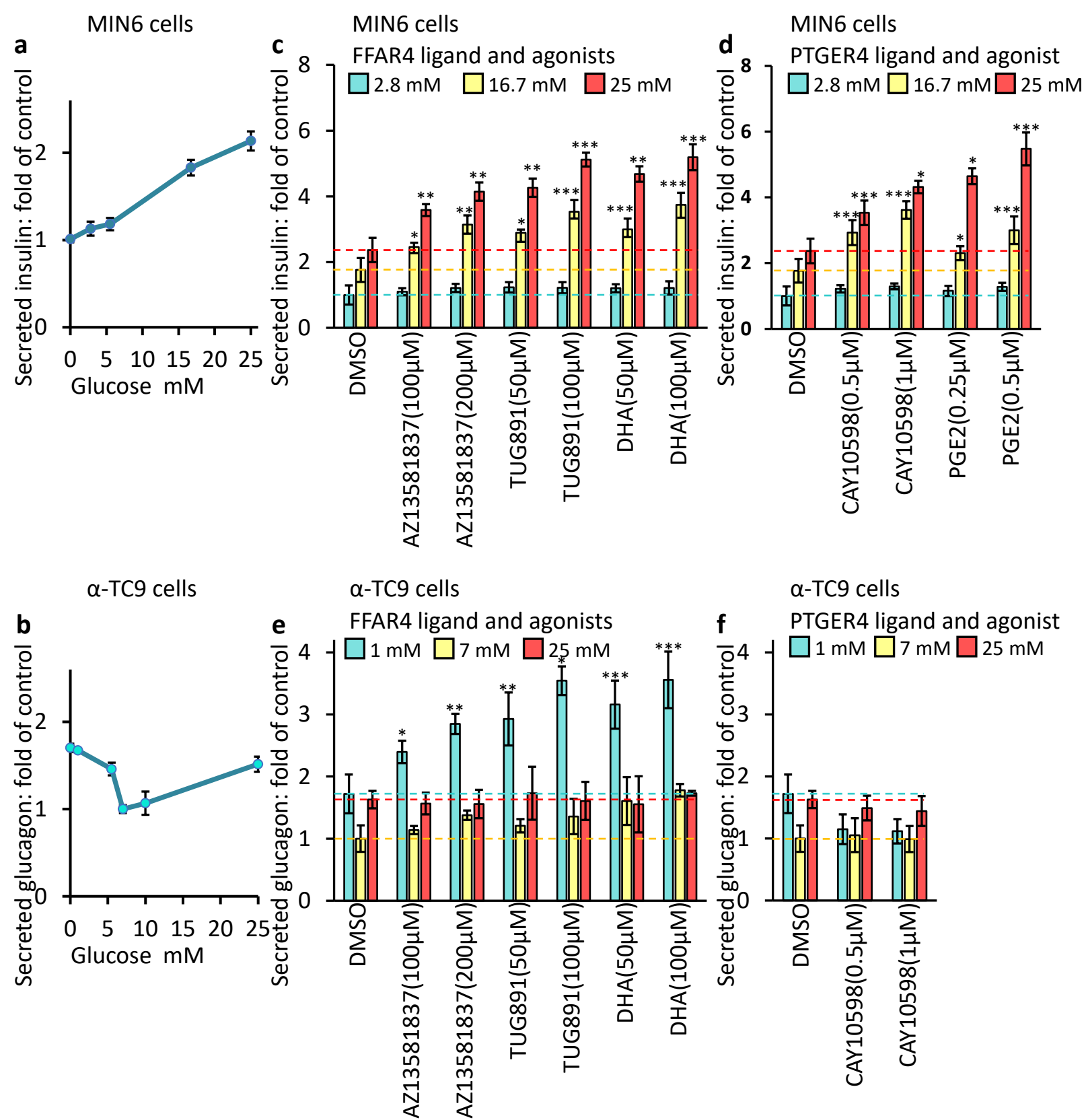
# Figures

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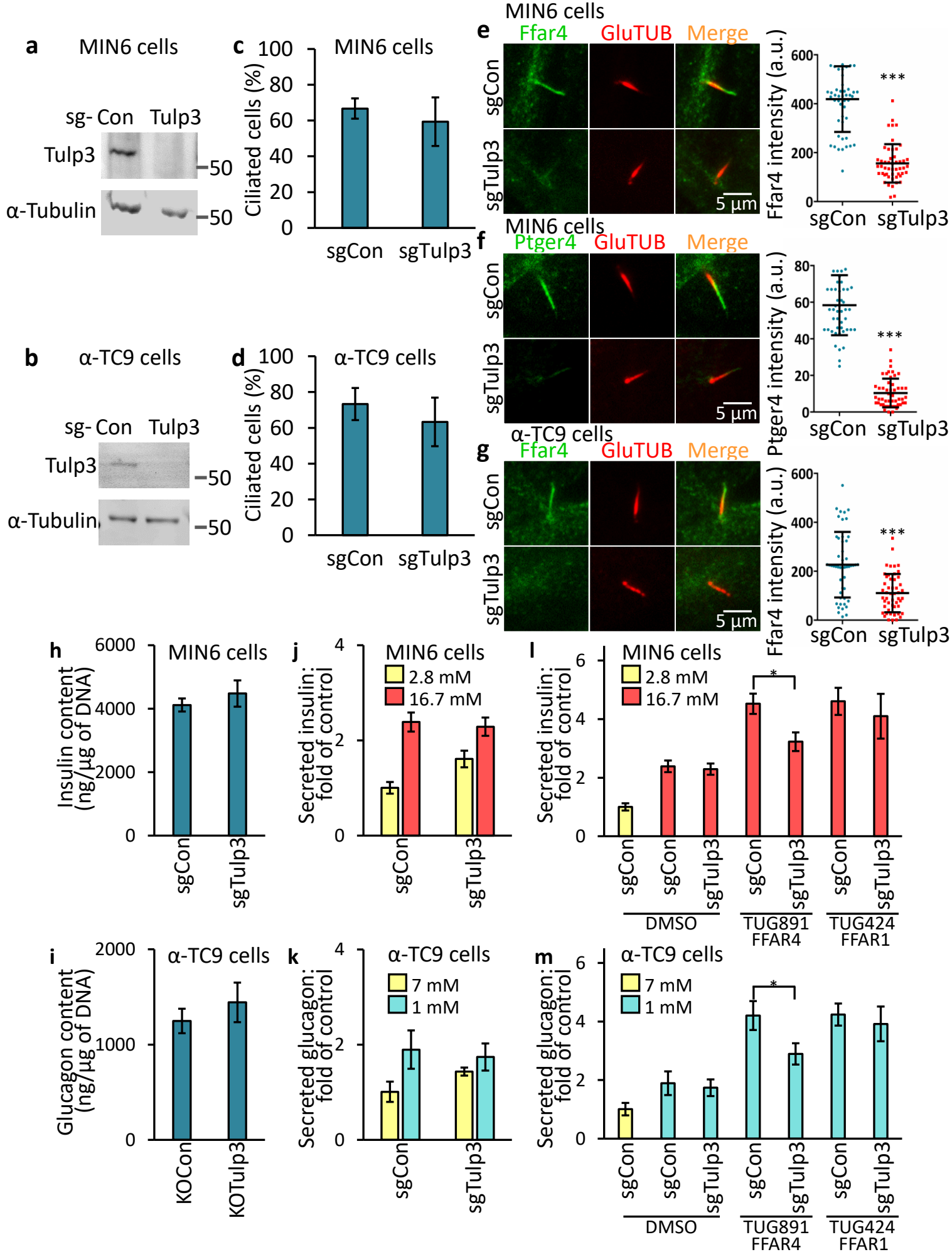


**Fig. 1 | Identification of ciliary GPCRs regulating insulin and glucagon secretion.** (a) Schematic of the screen to identify ciliary GPCR in human pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells. Candidate GPCRs were selected based on known localization in the cilium and for links to T2D or insulin/glucagon secretion. (b) MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells are ciliated. MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells were grown to confluence. Ciliated cells were examined by confocal fluorescence microscopy using acetylated tubulin and Arl13b antibodies, and quantified. (c-h) Endogenous Ffar4 and Ptger4 but not Kiss1r localize to the primary cilium of MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells grown to confluence were immunostained with indicated antibodies (c-e). Percentages of GPCRs-positive ciliated cells (labelled Arl13b) are shown in f-h. Error bars in b and f-h represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments with 100 cells scored per experiment).

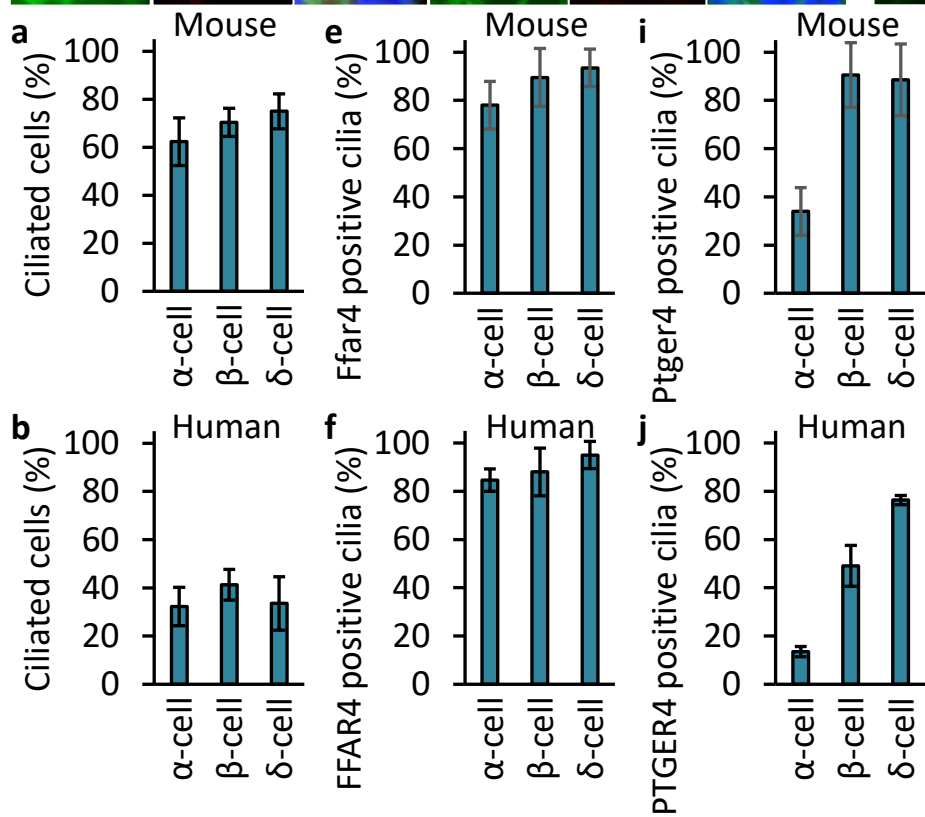
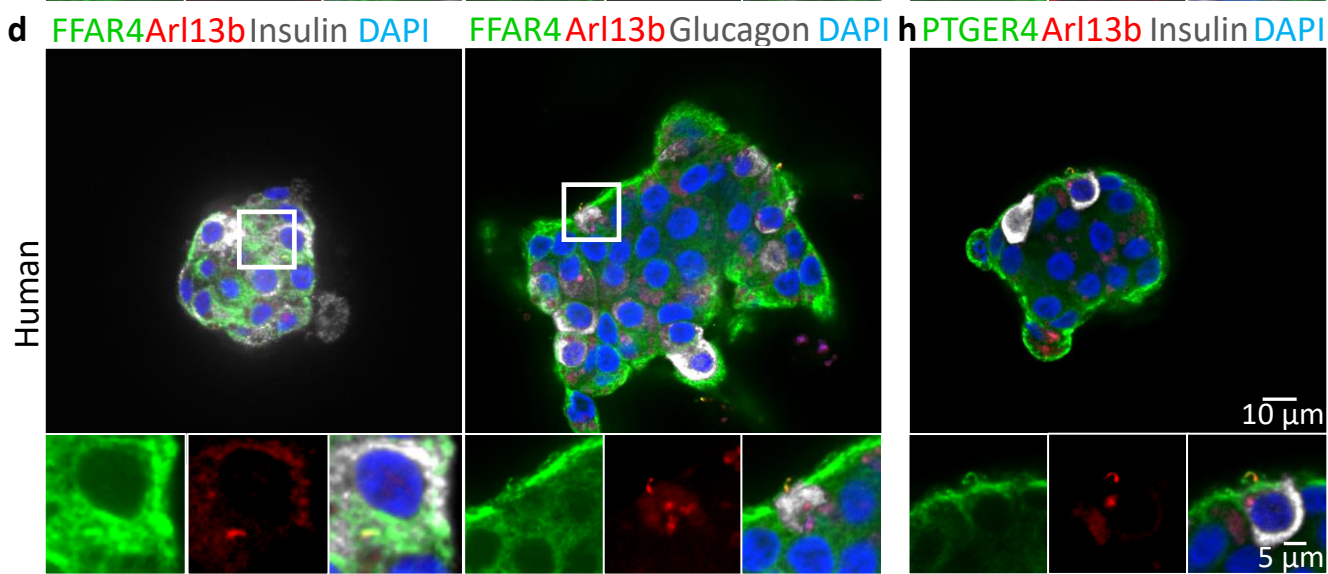
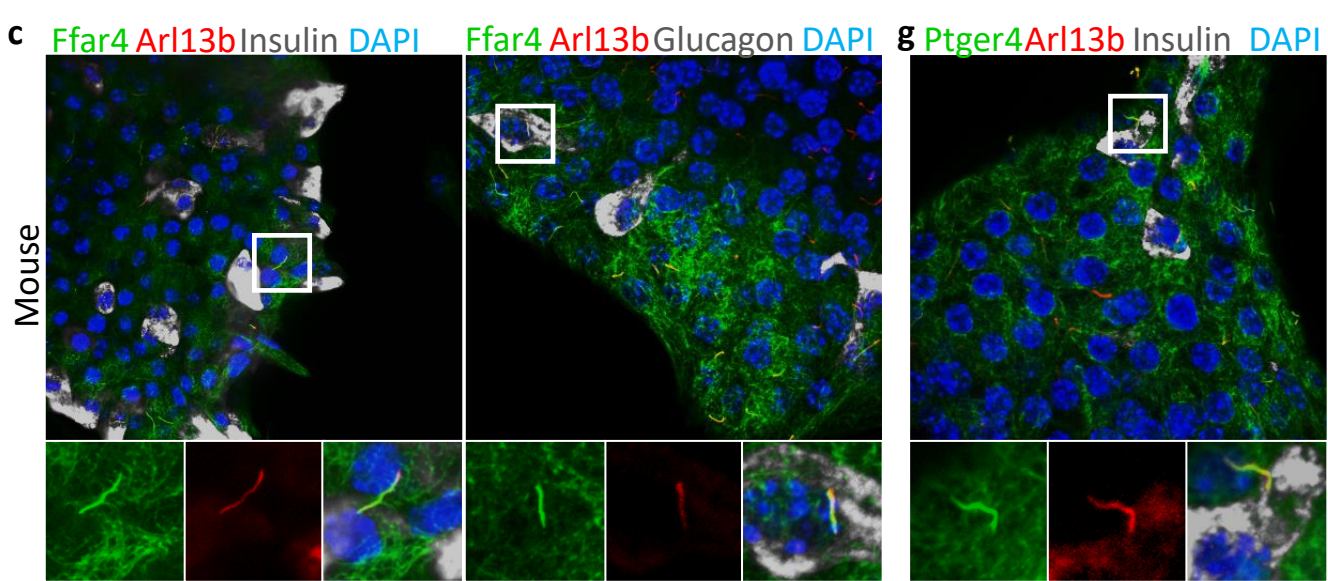




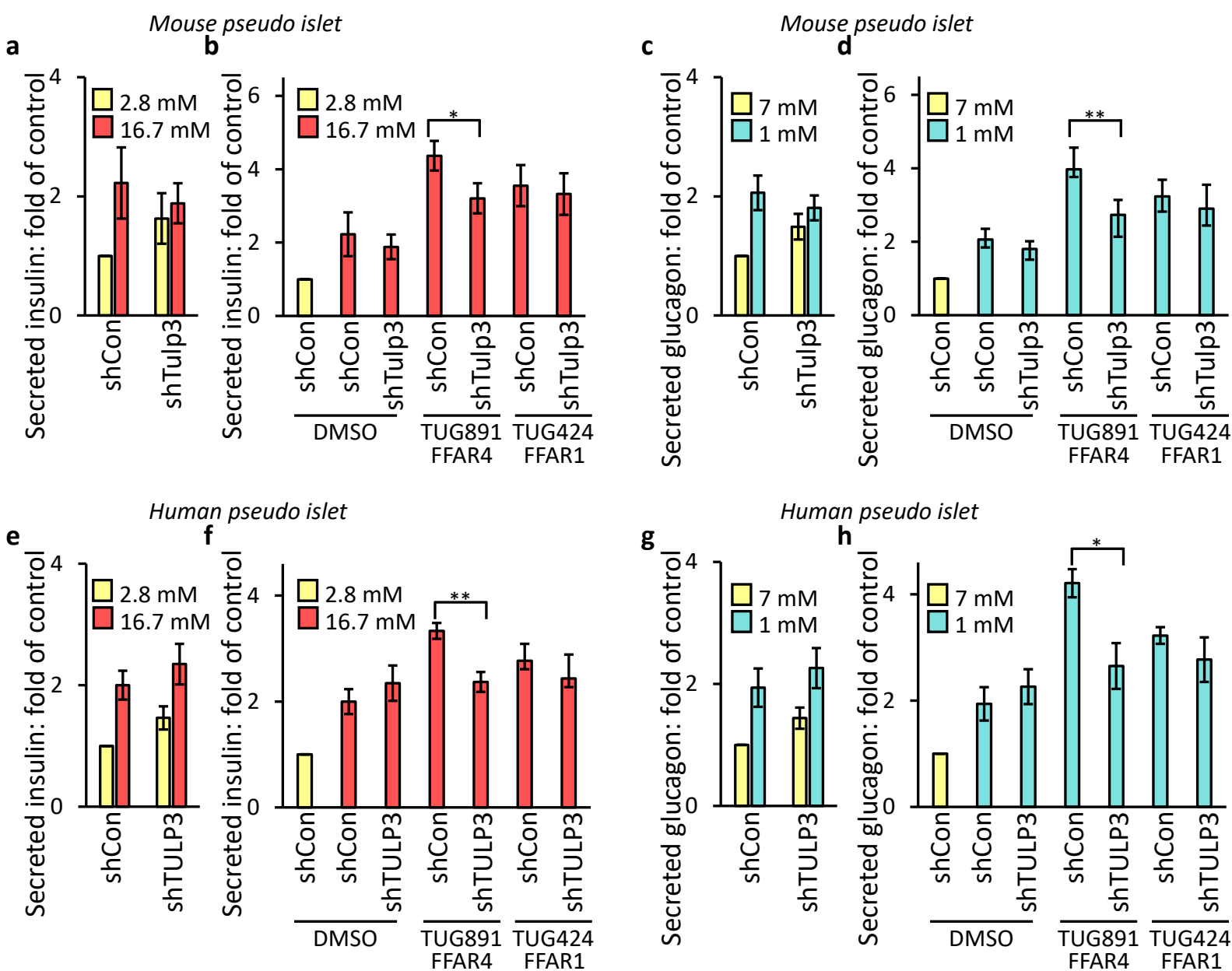
**Fig. 2 | Ciliary GPCRs agonists promote GSIS and GSGS** MIN6 (a) and α-TC9 (b) cells responded in a dose-dependent manner to glucose. GSIS (c,d) and GSGS (e,f) induced by elevation (from 2.8 mM to 25 mM) or decrease (from 25 mM to 1 mM) of glucose levels and then effects of agonists on insulin or glucagon secretion have been evaluated. Bar graphs are normalized mean ± SD (n = 3 independent experiments); \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.



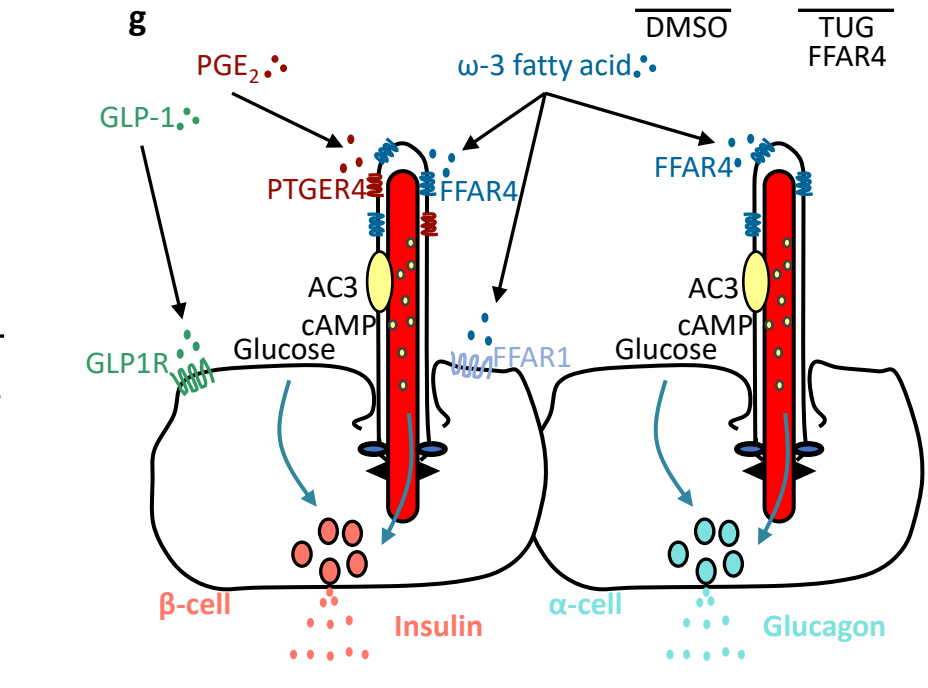
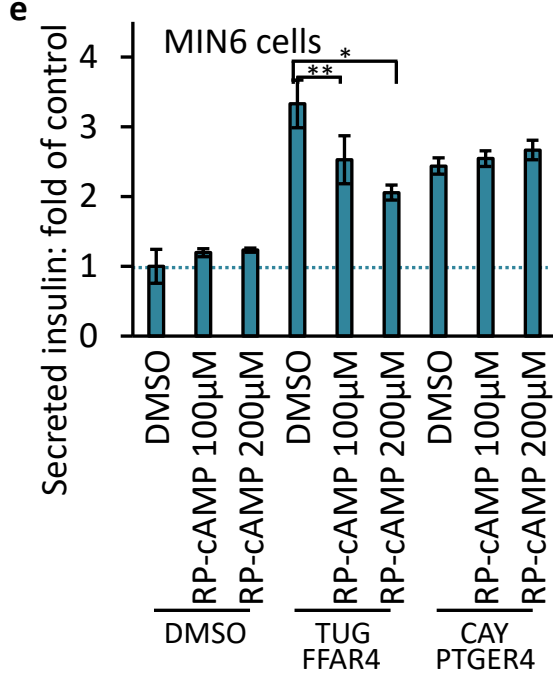
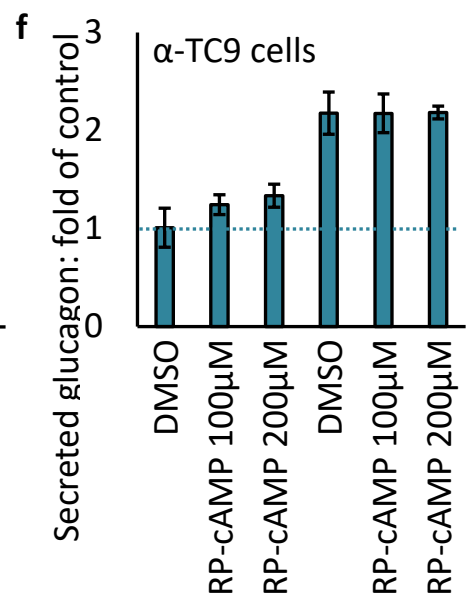
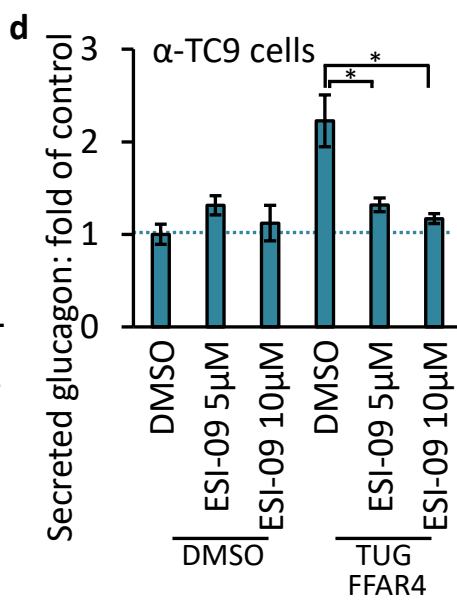
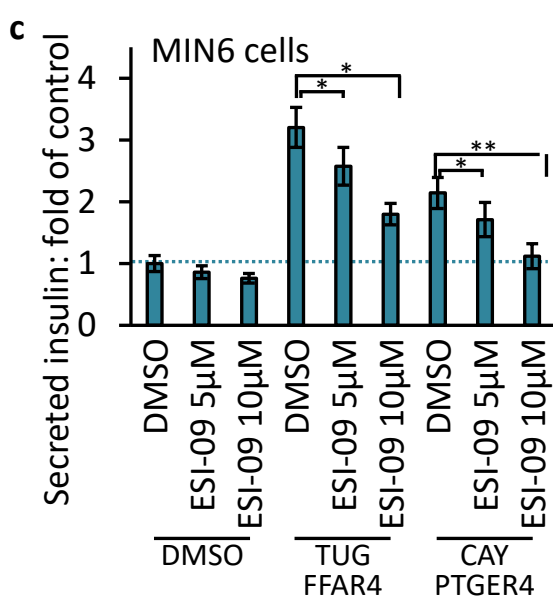
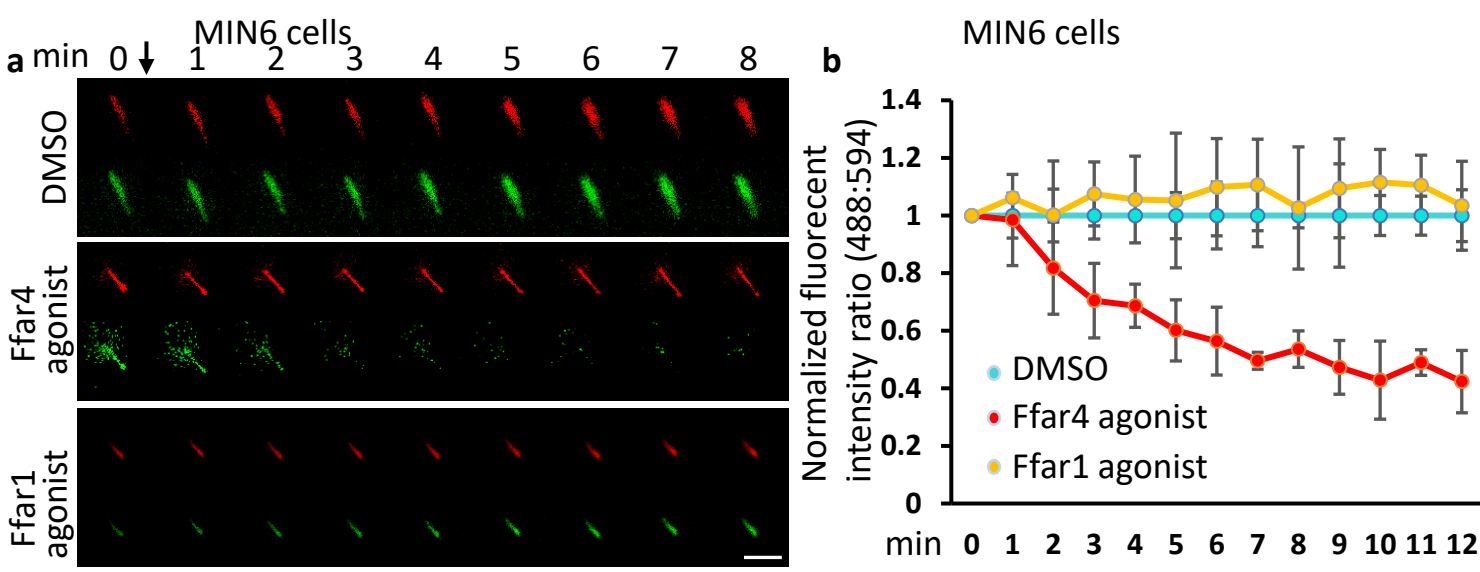
**Fig. 3 | Ffar4-regulated GSIS and GSGS are Tulp3 dependent in pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell lines (a-d)** Loss of Tulp3 does not affect cilia formation in MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. Immunoblot showing depletion of TULP3 in MIN6 (a) and  $\alpha$ -TC9 (b) sgTulp3 cell line. Control MIN6 (c) and  $\alpha$ -TC9 (d) cells (sgCon) and Tulp3 knockout cell lines (sgTulp3) grown to confluence. Ciliated cells were examined by confocal fluorescence microscopy using acetylated tubulin antibodies, and quantified. (e-g) Loss of Tulp3 prevents ciliary GPCRs trafficking in MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. Control MIN6 (e,f) and  $\alpha$ -TC9 (g) cells and Tulp3 knockout cell lines grown to confluence were immunostained with indicated antibodies. The graph (e-g, right) shows the normalized fluorescent intensity of the indicated GPCR proteins that co-localize with the cilium. (h,i) Insulin and glucagon content was unchanged in Tulp3 knockout vs control MIN6 (h) or  $\alpha$ -TC9 (i) cells. (j,k) GSIS and GSGS was unchanged in Tulp3 knockout vs control MIN6 (j) or  $\alpha$ -TC9 (k) cells. (l,m) Ffar4-regulated GSIS (l) and GSGS (m) are cilia dependent. Error bars in c, d, and h-m represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments). \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.



**Fig. 4 | FFAR4- and PTGER4 are a ciliary GPCR displayed by mouse and human pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells (a,b)**  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\delta$ -cells are ciliated in mouse (a) and human (b) islet. Ciliated cells were examined by confocal fluorescence microscopy using acetylated tubulin, Arl13b, insulin, glucagon, and somatostatin antibodies, and quantified. (c-j) Endogenous Ffar4 and Ptger4 localize to the primary cilium of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells in mouse (c, g, e, i) and human (d, h, f, j) pancreatic islet. (e, f, i, j) Percentages of GPCRs-positive mouse (e, i) and human (f, j) ciliated  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\delta$ -cells (labelled Ar113b) are shown. Error bars in a-j represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments with 100 cells scored per experiment).

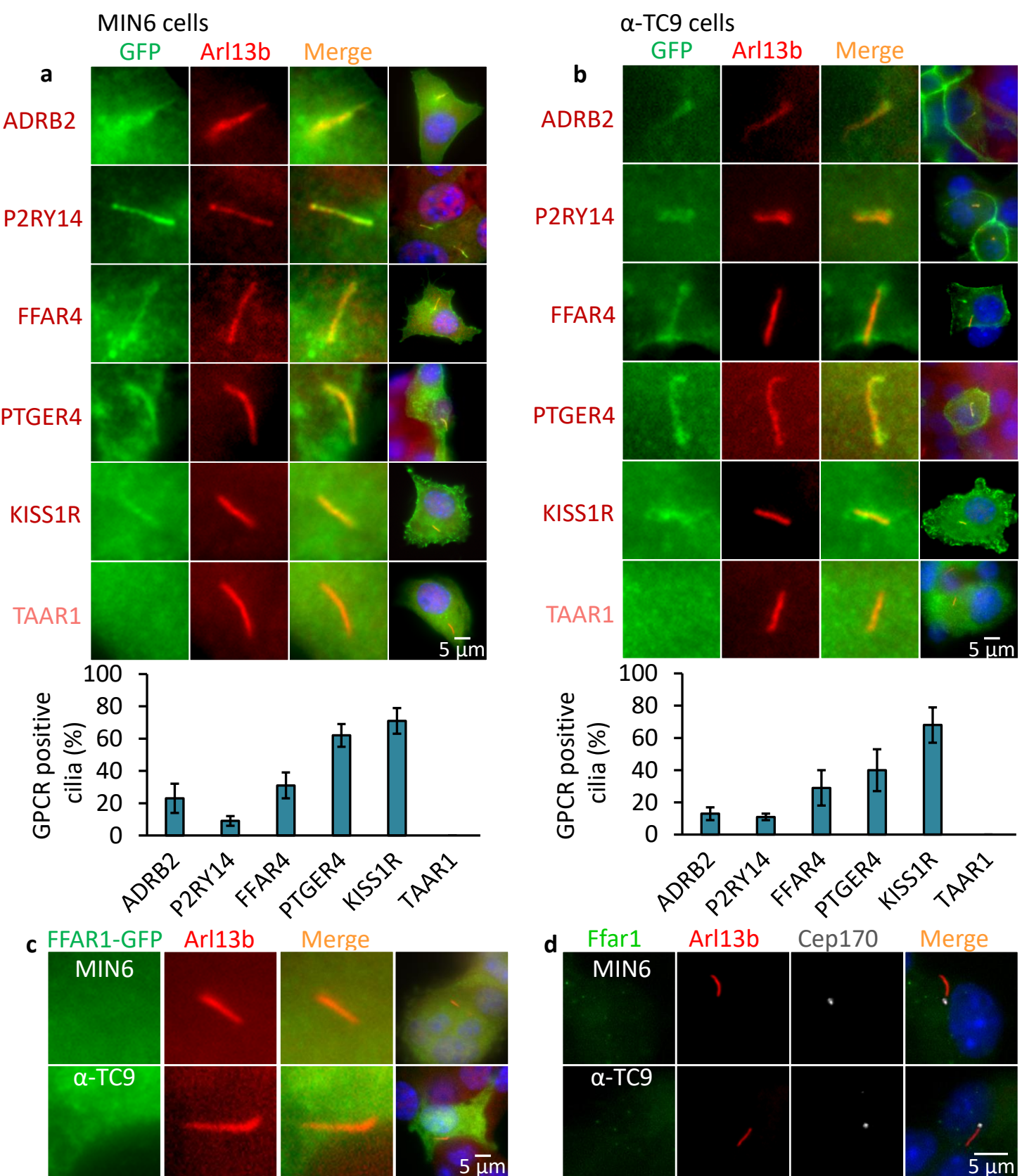


**Fig. 5 | FFAR4-regulated GSIS and GSGS are cilia dependent in pancreatic islet** GSIS (a, e) and GSGS (c, g) was unchanged in Tulp3 knockdown vs control mouse (a,c) or human (e, g) pseudoislets. (b, d, f, h) Ffar4-regulated GSIS (b, f) and GSGS (d, h) are cilia dependent in mouse (b, d) and human (f, h) pseudoislets. Error bars in a–h represent mean ± s.d. (n = 4 independent experiments). \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

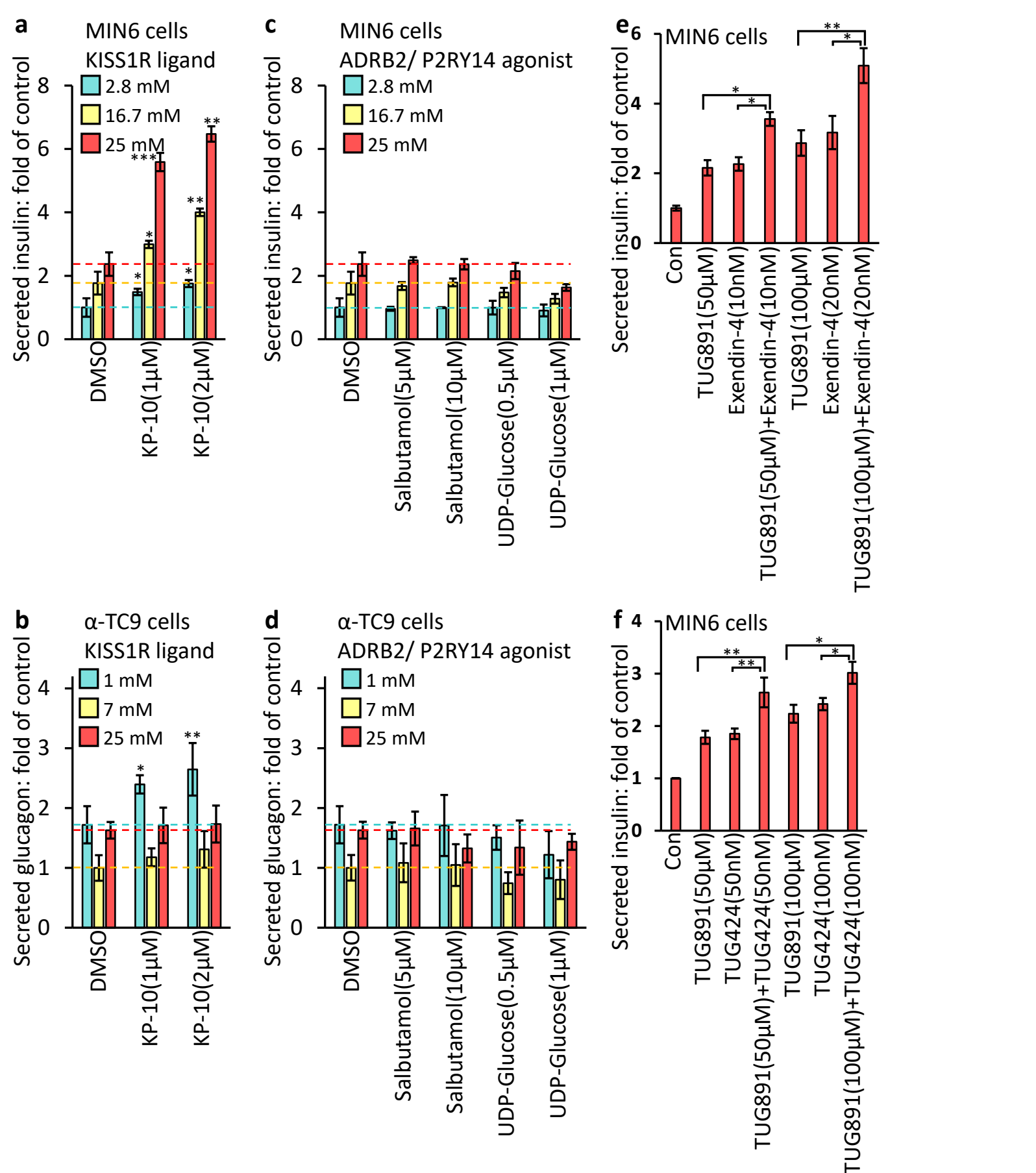


**Fig. 6 | FFAR4 Regulates GSIS and GSGS via cAMP** (a) Representative images showing the cADDIS cAMP sensor (green) and cilia (red) offset in MIN6 cells. Scale bar, 2 mm. (b) Background subtracted ratio of fluorescence intensities are normalized to DMSO control and 0 s time point.  $n = 3$  for FFAR4 agonist and DMSO control  $\pm$  SD, where  $n$  is the average of all cilia measured per well. (c-f) Inhibition of EPAC attenuates Ffar4-regulated GSIS and GSGS in a dose-dependent manner. MIN6 (c, e) and  $\alpha$ -TC9 (d, f) cells were stimulated with GPCR agonists in the presence of an inhibitor of EPAC (ESI-09) or PKA (Rp-cAMPS) for the first 1 h. Error bars in c-f represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. ( $n = 3$  independent experiments). \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . (g) Model for ciliary GPCR-regulated insulin or glucagon secretion. FFAR4 localized to the cilia in  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cell is activated by  $\omega$ -3 fatty acids to promote glucose-stimulated insulin or glucagon secretion. PTGER4 localized to cilia in  $\beta$ -cells is activated by  $PGE_2$  to regulate glucose-stimulated insulin secretion. GLP1R and FFAR1 localized to the plasma membrane are activated by GLP-1 or  $\omega$ -3 fatty acid to regulate insulin secretion, which can cooperate with FFAR4 stimulated insulin secretion.

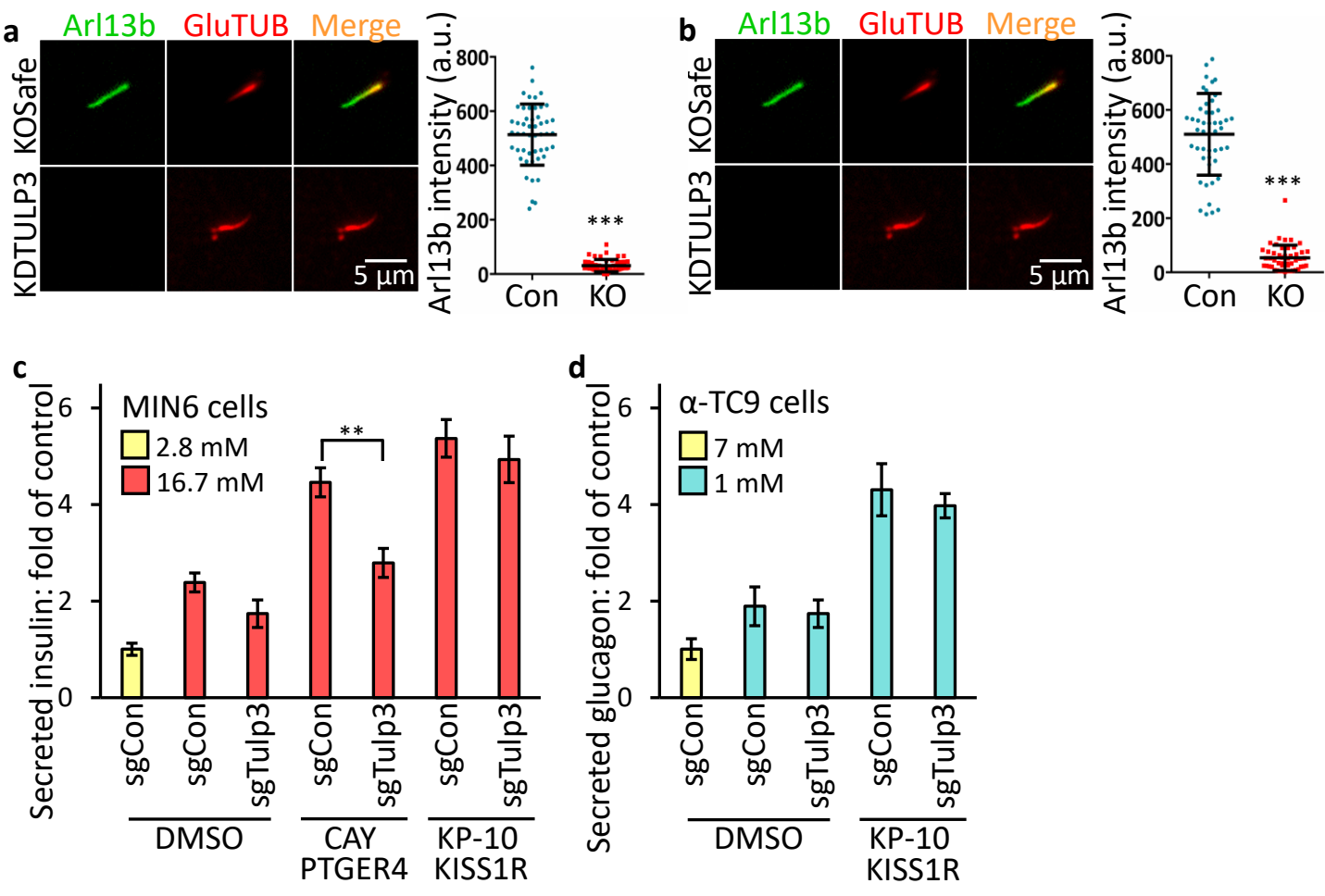




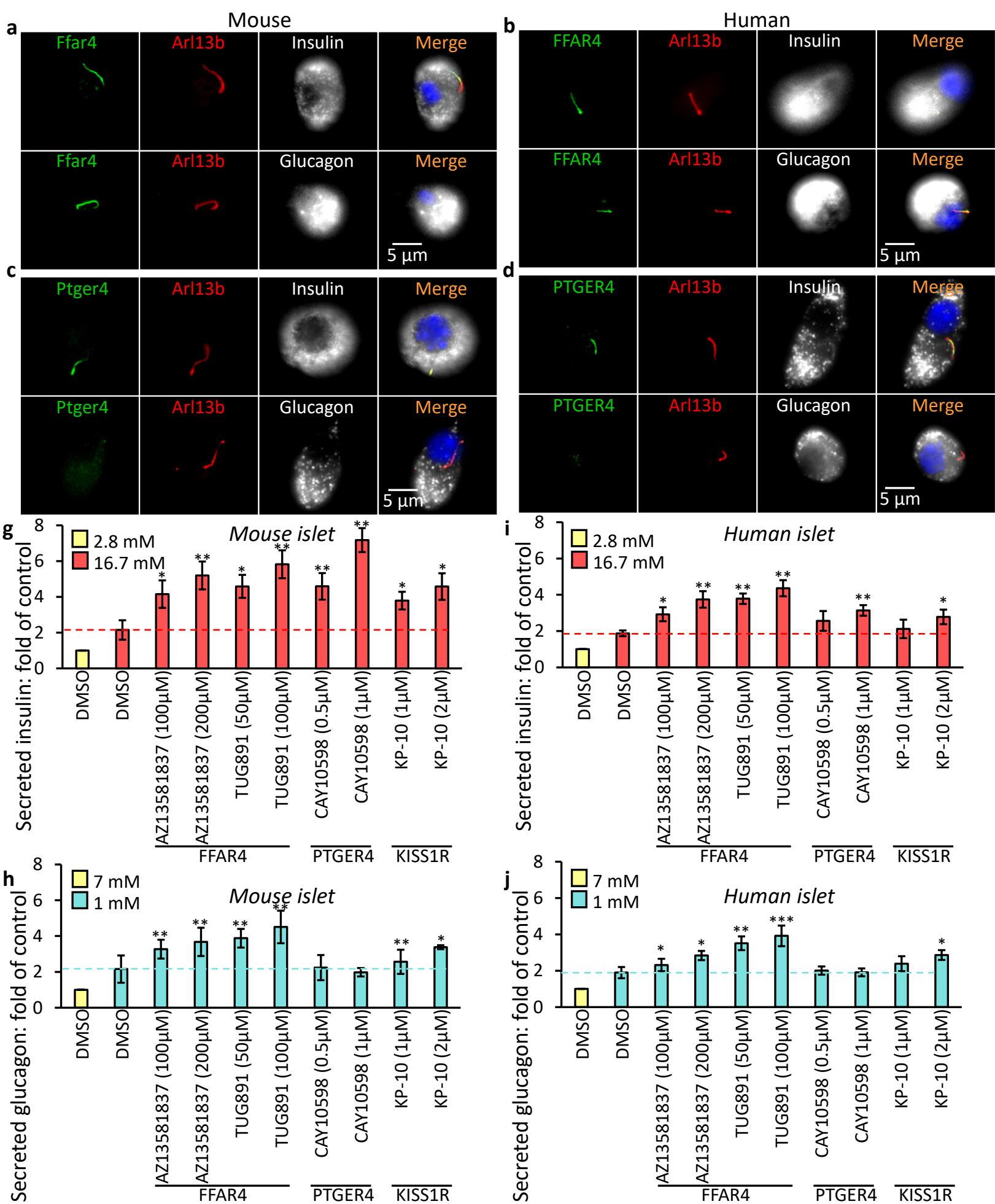
**Extended Data Fig. 1** MIN6 (a) or α-TC9 (b) cells expressing GFP-tagged GPCRs were grown to confluence and immunostained with indicated antibodies. Percentages of GFP-positive ciliated cells (labelled Ar113b) are shown in (a, b) (down panel). Error bars in a and b represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments with 100 cells scored per experiment). (c,d) GFP-tagged FFAR1 (c) and endogenous FFAR1 (d) does not localize to the primary cilium of MIN6 and α-TC9 cells.



**Extended Data Fig. 2** GSIS (a,c,e,f) and GSGS (b,d) induced by elevation (from 2.8 mM to 25 mM) or decrease (from 25 mM to 1 mM) of glucose levels and then effects of agonists on insulin or glucagon secretion have been evaluated. Bar graphs are normalized mean  $\pm$  SD (n = 3 independent experiments); \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.

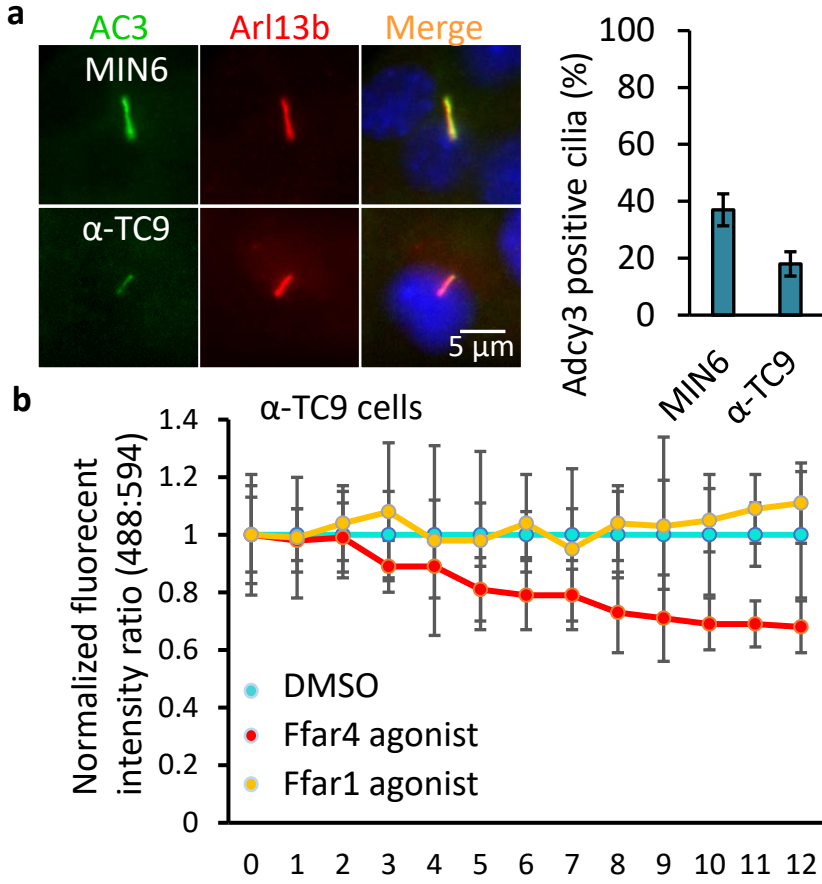


**Extended Data Fig. 3** Loss of Tulp3 prevents ciliary Arl13b trafficking in MIN6 and  $\alpha$ -TC9 cells. Control MIN6 (a) and  $\alpha$ -TC9 (b) cells and Tulp3 knockout cell lines grown to confluence were immunostained with indicated antibodies. (c) Ptger4-regulated GSIS is cilia dependent. (c,d) Kiss1r-regulated GSIS (c) and GSGS (d) are cilia independent. Error bars in c and d represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments). \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.



**Extended Data Fig. 4 (a-d)** Endogenous GPCRs localize to the primary cilium of dissected mouse (**a, c**) and human (**b, d**) pancreatic  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells. GSIS (**g, i**) and GSGS (**h, j**) induced by elevation (from 2.8 mM to 25 mM) or decline (from 25 mM to 1 mM) of glucose levels and then effects of agonists on insulin or glucagon secretion have been evaluated in mouse (**g, h**) and human (**i, j**) islets. Insulin and glucagon content of each treatment was measured using ELISA. Error bars in **g–j** represent mean  $\pm$  s.d. (n = 4 independent experiments). \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.





**Extended Data Fig. 6 (a)** ADCY3 (AC3) localizes to the cilia of MIN6 and α-TC9 cells. MIN6 and α-TC9 cells grown to confluence were immunostained with indicated antibodies. Percentages of AC3-positive ciliated cells (labelled Ar113b) are shown in (a, right). **(b)** Ffar4 regulates GSGS via cAMP in α-TC9 cells. Background subtracted ratio of fluorescence intensities are normalized to DMSO control and 0 s time point. Error bars in a represent mean ± s.d. (n = 3 independent experiments with 100 cells scored per experiment). \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001.