Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor Activation Stimulates PKA-Mediated Phosphorylation of Raptor and this Contributes to the Weight Loss Effect of Liraglutide

Running title: GLP-1R agonists and PKA phosphorylation of Raptor

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Abstract

The canonical target of the glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1R), Protein Kinase A (PKA), has been shown to stimulate mechanistic Target of Rapamycin Complex 1 (mTORC1) by phosphorylating the mTOR-regulating protein Raptor at Ser^{791} following β-adrenergic stimulation. The objective of these studies is to test whether GLP-1R agonists similarly stimulate mTORC1 via PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser^{791} and whether this contributes to the weight loss effect of the therapeutic GLP-1R agonist liraglutide. We measured phosphorylation of the mTORC1 signaling target ribosomal protein S6 in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells expressing GLP-1R (CHO-Glp1r) treated with liraglutide in combination with PKA inhibitors. We also assessed liraglutide-mediated phosphorylation of the PKA substrate RRXS*/T* motif in CHO-Glp1r cells expressing Myc-tagged wild-type (WT) Raptor or a PKA-resistant ($Ser^{791}Ala$) Raptor mutant. Finally, we measured the body weight response to liraglutide in WT mice and mice with a targeted knock-in of PKA-resistant $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor. Liraglutide increased phosphorylation of S6 and the PKA motif in WT Raptor in a PKA-dependent manner but failed to stimulate phosphorylation of the PKA motif in $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor in CHO-Glp1r cells. Lean $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor knock-in mice were resistant to liraglutide-induced weight loss but not setmelanotide-induced (melanocortin-4 receptor-dependent) weight loss. Diet-induced obese $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor knock-in mice were not resistant to liraglutide-induced weight loss; however, there was weight-dependent variation such that there was a tendency for obese $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor knock-in mice of lower relative body weight to be resistant to liraglutide-induced weight loss compared to weight-matched controls. Together, these findings suggest that PKA-mediated phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser^{791} contributes to liraglutide-induced weight loss.

Introduction

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor (GLP-1R) agonists reduce food intake and body weight and are approved for weight loss[1]. Elucidating the mechanisms through which GLP-1R agonists regulate body weight could enhance the therapeutic potential of these compounds or identify novel targets for anti-obesity drug development. We have shown that the GLP-1R agonist Exendin-4 (Ex4) stimulates mechanistic Target of Rapamycin (mTOR) Complex-1 (mTORC1) signaling and that inhibition of mTORC1 signaling in the ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH) with rapamycin blocks the anorectic effect induced by Ex4 in this nucleus[2,3]. The present studies aim to define the mechanism(s) by which GLP-1R agonism stimulates mTORC1 signaling and reduces body weight.

mTOR is a Ser/Thr protein kinase that forms two complexes: mTORC1 and mTOR complex 2 (mTORC2)[4]. The rapamycin-sensitive mTORC1 has unique accessory proteins including Raptor (regulatory associated protein of mTOR). mTORC1 activity is stimulated by growth factors, nutrients, and hormones by promoting PI3K/Akt-mediated phosphorylation of tuberous sclerosis complex 1/2 (TSC1/2)[5]. Activation of mTORC1 by GLP-1R agonists seemed unlikely since the GLP-1R is a $G_\alpha s$-coupled receptor that signals via protein kinase A (PKA)[6]. However, activation of the $G_\alpha s$-coupled β-adrenergic receptor stimulates mTORC1 via Raptor phosphorylation by PKA[7], suggesting that GLP-1R activation can similarly stimulate mTORC1 via PKA phosphorylation of Raptor.

Here we demonstrate that GLP-1R activation induces mTORC1 signaling and Raptor phosphorylation in a PKA-dependent manner and show that this contributes to weight loss by the therapeutic GLP-1R agonist liraglutide. This reveals a novel weight-lowering GLP-1R-PKA-mTORC1 axis and broadly suggests that other $G_\alpha s$-coupled receptors may use this PKA-mTORC1 pathway for certain biological responses.

Results

GLP-1R agonists activate mTORC1 in a PKA-dependent manner

Similar to Ex4[2,3], liraglutide increases phosphorylation of the mTORC1 signaling target

ribosomal protein S6 in CHO-GLP-1R cells, and this is blocked by the mTORC1 inhibitor

rapamycin (Figure 1A; Figure 1-figure supplement 1). The PKA inhibitor H89 also blocks S6

phosphorylation by liraglutide or the adenylyl cyclase/PKA activator forskolin (Figure 1B; Figure

1-figure supplement 1). However, H89 has some off-target effects including inhibiting the S6

kinase p70S6K[8], likely explaining why H89 inhibits S6 phosphorylation by insulin (Figure 1B).

KT5720, a PKA inhibitor with minimal off-target effects on p70S6K[8], also reduces liraglutide-

and forskolin-induced phosphorylation of S6 and the PKA target CREB in a dose-dependent

manner (Figure 1C; Figure 1-figure supplement 1). Neither dose of KT5720 affected S6

phosphorylation by insulin (Figure 1C). Two doses of the pan-Akt inhibitor MK-2206 that block

insulin-stimulated Akt phosphorylation did not affect stimulation of mTORC1 activity by

liraglutide (Figure 1D; Figure 1-figure supplement 1). These data suggest that liraglutide

stimulates mTORC1 signaling in a PKA-dependent and Akt-independent manner.

GLP-1R activation induces PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser^{791}

The catalytic subunit of PKA directly phosphorylates Ser^{791} of Raptor[7]. We tested

whether liraglutide promotes PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser^{791} by expressing Myc-tagged

wild-type (WT) Raptor or Myc-tagged mutant Raptor with alanine replacing serine at the 791st

position (Ser^{791}Ala Raptor) in CHO-GLP-1R cells. Using an antibody against the PKA motif

RRXS*/T*, immunoblotting of immunoprecipitated Myc-proteins shows that liraglutide and

forskolin increase PKA motif phosphorylation on Myc-WT Raptor in a PKA-dependent manner

(blocked by H89), but liraglutide fails to increase PKA motif phosphorylation on Myc-Ser^{791}Ala

Raptor (Figure 2A and 2B). This was also observed in β-TC3 cells, an immortalized β-cell line

endogenously expressing the GLP-1R (Figure 2C). A high concentration of the Akt inhibitor MK-

2206 (20µM) did not affect liraglutide-induced PKA motif phosphorylation of Raptor in CHO-

GLP-1R (Figure 2A and 2B) or β-TC3 (Figure 2C) cells. Thus, liraglutide stimulates PKA

phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791].

PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791] mediates GLP-1R agonist-induced weight loss

We tested the physiological role of PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791] by

measuring body weight and glycemic responses to liraglutide in wild-type (WT) and knock-in

mice in which endogenous Raptor is replaced by a PKA-resistant Raptor expressing alanine

instead of serine at position 791 in all tissues (CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor). WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala

Raptor knock-in mice lost weight in response to liraglutide treatment, but liraglutide-induced

weight loss was attenuated in the CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice (Figure 3A – 3D). This

was primarily due to a lesser reduction in fat mass in liraglutide-treated CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor

knock-in compared to WT mice (Figure 3E- F). There was no significant difference between

genotypes in the ability of liraglutide to reduce lean (Figure 3G – 3H) or free fluid (not shown)

mass. Metabolic cage experiments demonstrate that food intake was equally suppressed in WT

and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice during the first day of liraglutide treatment. However,

food intake returned to pre-liraglutide treatment levels in CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice

by the second day of treatment whereas they did not return to pre-liraglutide treatment levels in

WT mice until the fifth day of dosing (Figure 3I – 3J). Energy expenditure (EE) decreased in

response to liraglutide in both genotypes and remained significantly lower in CMV-Ser[791]Ala

Raptor knock-in mice compared to their vehicle counterparts for up to eight days of dosing

(Figure 3K – 3L). In WT mice, EE only remained lower in liraglutide-treated mice for three days

(Figure 3K – 3L). These data suggest that phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791] is required for the

full body weight-lowering effect of liraglutide via regulation of both food intake and EE.

There was no difference between genotypes in fasting blood glucose prior to liraglutide

treatment (Figure 3-figure supplement 1). Two weeks of liraglutide treatment lowered fasting

glucose to similar degrees in both genotypes, and there was no difference in fasting plasma

insulin levels (Figure 3-figure supplement 1).

We fed a separate cohort of control and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice a 60%

high fat diet (HFD) to test whether PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791] is also required for

the weight loss effect of liraglutide in the setting of obesity. Unlike lean mice, obese CMV-

Ser[791]Ala mice were not significantly protected from weight loss induced by liraglutide (Figure

4A – 4D). One caveat to interpreting these results is that CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice gained

significantly more weight and fat mass when fed the 60% HFD prior to liraglutide treatment

compared to wild-type mice (Figure 4C, 4E). We have anecdotally observed that mice with

higher baseline body weight and fat mass tend to lose more weight in response to liraglutide.

We now support this by showing a positive correlation between starting body weight and

liraglutide-induced weight loss in both wild-type and CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice (Figure 4-figure

supplement 1). Although there is no difference in the relationship between starting body weight

and liraglutide-induced weight loss between wild-type and CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice (Figure 4-figure

supplement 1), we determined the average baseline (pre-liraglutide treatment) body weight for

both genotypes (43.4g) and divided the results into mice with baseline body weights above vs.

below 43.4g (Figure 4-figure supplement 1). There was no difference in liraglutide-induced

weight loss between wild-type and CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice in mice with baseline body weights

above 43.4g (Figure 4I – 4J). In mice with baseline body weights below 43.4g, there was a

tendency for CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice to lose less body weight in response to liraglutide (Figure 4K

– 4L). These results suggest that PKA phosphorylation of Raptor may contribute to liraglutide-

induced weight loss in obese mice below a certain threshold body weight.

PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser[791] does not mediate melanocortin-4 receptor

(MC4R) agonist-induced weight loss

To test whether Raptor phosphorylation at Ser[791] is required exclusively for the weight

loss effect of liraglutide or is necessary for other weight loss drugs, particularly those targeting

$G_{\alpha}s$-coupled receptors, we treated CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice with the MC4R agonist

setmelanotide. Like the GLP-1R, the MC4R is also a $G_{\alpha}s$-coupled receptor, and setmelanotide

is approved for weight loss in individuals with monogenic obesity cause by mutations in pro-

opiomelanocortin, proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1, or leptin receptor deficiency and

in individuals with Bardet-Biedl syndrome[9]. As shown in Figure 5, CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-

in mice were not resistant to weight loss in response to setmelanotide. This suggests that

Raptor phosphorylation at Ser[791] by PKA contributes to the weight loss effect of GLP-1R

agonists but not other $G_{\alpha}s$-targeting pharmacological agents such as setmelanotide.

Discussion

GLP-1R-stimulated mTORC1 signaling in the VMH reduces food intake[3]. This is

consistent with studies showing that activation of hypothalamic mTORC1 reduces food intake

and mediates weight lowering by leptin[10-12]. We show that PKA phosphorylates the mTORC1-

regulatory protein Raptor at Ser[791] in response to liraglutide and that this is responsible for

~50% of liraglutide-induced weight loss. Given the complexity of signaling mechanisms

downstream of the GLP-1R[13], assigning specific pathways to a desirable phenotype could be

leveraged towards more effective weight loss therapeutics.

To our knowledge, our study is the first to describe a PKA-mTORC1 interaction and its

physiological relevance in the context of GLP-1R signaling. PKA is reported to either stimulate[7]

or inhibit[14] mTORC1 activity. Similar to our study, Liu *et al.*[7] show PKA-mediated stimulation of

mTORC1 in cells incubated in serum-free media. This contrasts with inhibition of mTORC1 in

cells cultured in serum-supplemented media reported by Jewell *et al.*[14]. Since mTORC1 is a

cellular energy sensor, PKA exerts differential actions on mTORC1 depending on nutrient

availability or cellular signaling and energy status, as originally shown by Scott and Lawrence

demonstrating that forskolin inhibits insulin-stimulated S6 phosphorylation[15] and also

subsequently shown by Liu and colleagues[7].

In vivo results using novel PKA-resistant Raptor knockin mice suggest that PKA

phosphorylation of Raptor contributes to the weight loss effect of liraglutide in lean but not in

obese mice. One limitation of these *in vivo* studies is that PKA-resistant Raptor is expressed in

all tissues. Loss of PKA phosphorylation of Raptor in one or multiple tissues may contribute to

our observation that CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice gained significantly more weight on the HFD

compared to control mice. This difference in starting body weight could explain why liraglutide-

induced weight loss was not attenuated in obese CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice, as in lean mice, since

heavier mice tend to be more responsive to liraglutide (Figure 4-figure supplement 1). This

could offset any reduction in liraglutide responsiveness resulting from expression of PKA-

resistant Raptor. We support this by showing that CMV-Ser[791]Ala mice with lower initial body

weights display a tendency towards reduced responsiveness to liraglutide. Future studies will

circumvent the limitations of the CMV-Ser[791]Ala model by introducing the Ser[791]Ala mutation to

specific tissues/cell types that specifically mediate liraglutide-induced weight loss. The brain is a

key target for the weight-lowering effects of GLP-1R agonists[16-18]. Regulation of energy balance

by mTORC1 appears to be most critical in hypothalamic regions such as the arcuate (ARC),

paraventricular hypothalamus (PVH), VMH, and suprachiasmatic nucleus[12,19,20], where the GLP-

1R is highly expressed[21,22]. The ARC mediates weight loss effects of liraglutide[23] and is

engaged by systemic liraglutide[24]. Hindbrain regions are also engaged by systemic liraglutide

and mediate its weight-lowering effects[24,25]. Inhibition of PKA attenuates the anorectic effect of

hindbrain-targeted Ex4 in rats[26]. Future studies expressing Ser[791]Ala Raptor in a brain

region/cell-type specific manner will enable identification of neuronal population(s) where a

PKA-mTORC1 interaction mediates the anorectic effect of GLP-1R agonists.

The observation that CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice were not resistant to the

weight loss effect of the MC4R agonist setmelanotide suggests that PKA-mediated

phosphorylation of Raptor at Ser^{791} is not a general mechanism for all $G_{\alpha}s$-coupled receptor-

targeting weight loss drugs. However, as with our results using liraglutide in HFD-fed mice, a

caveat to interpreting our findings with setmelanotide is the use of the whole-body CMV-

$Ser^{791}Ala$ mouse model. Since the weight loss effect of setmelanotide is primarily mediated via

activation of the MC4R in the PVH, future studies will test the hypothesis that the weight loss

effect of setmelanotide will be blunted in PVH MC4R-specific $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor knock-in mice.

This could establish a role for PKA-mediated regulation of mTORC1 as a key mechanism for

weight loss along an ARC (target of GLP-1R agonists)-PVH (target of MC4R agonists) axis.

Our results suggest that liraglutide does not regulate mTORC1 via Akt, as was observed

for βAR signaling in adipocytes[7]. Inhibition of Akt activity in the hindbrain[27] or hypothalamus[28]

attenuates the anorectic effect of Ex4, so identifying targets of Akt mediating the effects of GLP-

1R agonists requires further study. AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) is also implicated in

the metabolic actions of GLP-1R agonists. Studies from our lab and others show that GLP-1R

agonists reduce food intake by inhibiting AMPK[3,26,29,30]. Since AMPK suppresses mTORC1 by

phosphorylating TSC2[31] or Raptor[32], GLP-1R activation could stimulate mTORC1 by reducing

AMPK activity. AMPK can also be inhibited by mTORC1 signaling[33], so GLP-1R-mediated

inhibition of AMPK may be downstream of mTORC1.

In summary, we have uncovered a novel signaling mechanism downstream of the GLP-

1R characterized by PKA-mediated phosphorylation of Raptor and increased mTORC1

signaling that contributes to the weight-lowering effect of liraglutide. Given the variability in

response and adverse effects (e.g. nausea) of current GLP-1 based drugs, the identification of

therapeutically relevant signaling profiles downstream of the GLP-1R holds promise for

improving efficacy and reducing side effects of these drugs. Furthermore, our findings provide a

new framework for future investigations into the significance of the PKA-mTORC1 interaction to

other beneficial metabolic effects of GLP-1R agonists. GLP-1R agonists continue to be used as

glucose-lowering agents for type 2 diabetes based on their insulinotropic effect via pancreatic β-

cells[1]. The PKA-mTORC1 interaction could contributes to this or another β-cell phenotype

associated with GLP-1R agonists (e.g., proliferation/cytoprotection). Furthermore, GLP-1R

agonists also display cardioprotective effects that could be mediated directly via effects on the

heart and vasculature and/or be secondary to the ability of these drugs to improve glycemia,

body weight, lipid profiles, and inflammation[34]. This provides an opportunity to investigate

whether the PKA-mTORC1 interaction contributes to the cardioprotective effects of GLP-1R

agonists via direct or indirect mechanisms.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture

Chinese Hamster Ovary cells expressing human GLP-1R (CHO-GLP-1R; DiscoveRx,

Fremont, CA) were maintained at 37°C (5% CO_2, humidified) in Ham's F12 media containing

10mM glucose, 1mM pyruvate, and 1mM glutamine (Cat#11765054, Gibco) supplemented with

10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Cat#16140071, Gibco), 10ml/l penicillin-streptomycin (Cat#91,

Hyclone), and 0.8mg/ml Geneticin G418 Sulfate (Cat#10131027, Gibco). β-TC3 cells[35] were

gifted by Dr. Richard O'Brien and cultured in DMEM media containing 25mM glucose, 1mM

pyruvate, and 1mM glutamine (Cat#11995065, Gibco) supplemented with 15% FBS, 2% horse

serum (Cat#26050088, Gibco) and 10ml/l penicillin-streptomycin. All cells were authenticated by

STR profiling (ATCC) and were verified to be free of mycoplasma. Cells were washed twice with

serum-free Ham's F12 (CHO-GLP-1R) or DMEM (β-TC3) media containing 5.5mM glucose for

3h and were treated with vehicle (1X PBS) or liraglutide (Victoza, Novo Nordisk) for 1h with or

without 30-min pre-treatment with vehicle (DMSO), PKA inhibitors H89 (Cat#2910, Tocris

Bioscience) or KT5720 (Cat#1288, Tocris Bioscience), or the Akt inhibitor MK-2207

(Cat#S1078, Selleck Chemicals LLC) at concentrations stated in the figure legends. The time

and dose of liraglutide treatment was determined by pilot dose response and time course

experiments (Figure 1-figure supplement 2).

Immunoblotting

Cells were washed once with ice-cold 1X PBS and lysed in RIPA buffer (Cat#R0278,

Sigma-Aldrich) containing 1X protease and phosphatase inhibitors. After centrifugation of cell

homogenates (17,000xg, 10min, 4°C), supernatant protein concentration was determined by

BCA protein assay (Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit, Cat#23225, Thermo Scientific). Twenty

μg/lane was run (200V, 45min) in 4%–20% Tris-glycine gels (Invitrogen) and transferred (100V,

1h, 4°C) onto PVDF membranes (Bio-Rad). Blots were blocked in buffer containing 5% BSA

(Cat#A9418, Sigma-Aldrich) in 1X Tris-Buffered Saline and 0.1% Tween®-20 for 1h and

incubated in primary antibodies (phospho-S6 Ser$^{235/236}$, Cat#4858, RRID:AB_916156; total-S6,

Cat#2317, RRID:AB_2238583; p-CREB, Cat#9198, RRID:AB_2561044; total-CREB, Cat#9104,

RRIS:AB_490881; phospho-Akt Thr^{308}, Cat#9275, RRID:AB_329828; total-Akt, Cat#9272,

RRID:AB_329827; and Myc tag, Cat#2276, RRID:AB_2314825; Cell Signaling Technology)

overnight at 4°C and secondary antibodies (IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Rabbit IgG, Cat#926-

32211, RRID:AB_621843 and IRDye® 680RD Goat anti-Mouse IgG, Cat#926-68070,

RRID:AB_10956588 LI-COR Biosciences) for 1h at room temperature. Blots were imaged with

an Odyssey Imaging System and full lanes were analyzed using ImageJ.

Immunoprecipitation

Myc-tagged wild-type (WT) and PKA-resistant mutant (Ser^{791}Ala) Raptor vectors[7] were

transfected into CHO-GLP-1R cells using lipofectamine-3000 (Invitrogen). Forty-eight hours

later, cells were washed 2X and maintained in serum-free media for 3h. Cells were treated with

DMSO, H89 or MK-2207 for 30min and treated with 1X PBS, liraglutide, forskolin, or insulin for

1h at concentrations stated in the figure legend. Cells were washed once with ice-cold 1X PBS

and lysed in lysis buffer (25mM Tris HCl, 131 150mM NaCl, 1μM EDTA, 1μM EGTA, 2.5mM

sodium pyrophosphate, 100mM sodium fluoride, 1mM sodium orthovanadate) containing 1X

protease and phosphatase inhibitors. After centrifugation of cell homogenates (17,000xg,

10min, 4°C) supernatant protein concentration was determined by BCA protein assay. 200µg

protein was incubated with anti–c-Myc affinity gel (EZview™ Red Anti-c-Myc Affinity Gel,

#E6654, Sigma-Aldrich) overnight. Beads were washed in lysis buffer and immunoblotting was

done as described above using a PKA substrate monoclonal antibody (Cat#9624, Cell Signaling

Technology).

Animals

Mice were kept on a 12h/12h light/dark cycle with *ad libitum* access to water and chow

(5L0D, LabDiet) from weaning and were studied at 12–16 weeks old. Procedures were

approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Vanderbilt University (Protocol

#M1500158). $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor knock-in mice were generated by inGenious Targeting

Laboratory Inc. using the targeting vector shown in Figure 3-figure supplement 2. The indicated

loxP sites were engineered into the genomic DNA and a two base pair point mutation was

introduced into a second inverted exon 20 of the Raptor coding sequence to change the codon

for Ser at position 791 to Ala. $Raptor^{fl/fl}$ mice (013188, The Jackson Laboratory) were crossed to

mice expressing the Ingenious construct, and offspring were then crossed to CMV-Cre (006054,

The Jackson Laboratory) mice to generate hemizygous wild-type mice or hemizygous mice with

global knock-in of Raptor $Ser^{791}Ala$. This strategy was chosen because the Ingenious construct

in homozygosity prior to Cre recombinase inadvertently created a hairpin loop in the transcript

between the two exon 20 regions that was spliced out. Genotyping and cDNA sequencing

confirmed expression of $Ser^{791}Ala$ Raptor in place of endogenous Raptor (Fig. 3, Figure 3-figure

supplement 2). Male mice were switched to either a low-fat diet (D12450J, Research Diets, Inc.)

for 4 weeks or a 60% HFD (D12492, Research Diets, Inc.) for 8-10 weeks prior to initiation of

dosing. Mice were maintained on the low-fat diet and were administered vehicle (0.9% saline),

liraglutide (200µg/kg body weight, BID), or setmelanotide (4mg/kg body weight once daily)

subcutaneously for 9-14 days. Body weight was measured daily, and body composition was

obtained by NMR (Minispec 235 LF90II-TD NMR Analyzer, Bruker) prior to and on the last day

of dosing. 4h fasting blood glucose and insulin levels were measured using a Contour Next EZ

glucose meter (Cat#BD15789, Bayer) and an Ultra Sensitive Mouse Insulin ELISA kit (Crystal

Chem), respectively. A separate cohort of male mice was acclimated to a Promethion System

(Sable Systems International, Inc.) for one week prior to undergoing dosing with vehicle or

liraglutide as described above for 10 days. Food intake and energy expenditure were measured

continuously.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using Prism-9 (GraphPad Software, Inc.). One-way or two-way

ANOVA or mixed-effects analysis followed by Tukey's, Holm-Sidak's, or Brown-Forsythe

multiple comparisons was used when appropriate and indicated in the figure legends. Linear

regression analysis was also used as indicated in the figure legends. Sample size was

determined based on the variability of the primary measurements of interest (phosphorylation of

S6 for cell culture studies and body weight for *in vivo* studies) and the objective of detecting

significance ($p < 0.05$) with 90% certainty. Treatments were randomized and blinded to the

experimenter when possible.

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Figure 1. The GLP-1R agonist liraglutide increases mTOR activity in a PKA- dependent

manner (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 1-source data 1). (A) Immunoblot of pS6, S6, pCREB,

and CREB and quantification of pS6 expression (pS6 / S6) in CHO-K1 cells transfected with the

a vector expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with DMSO or the mTORC1 inhibitor rapamycin

(100 nM) for 30 min followed by treatment with 1X PBS (Veh) or liraglutide (Lira, 10 nM) for 1 hr

(Interaction: $F_{(1, 8)} = 6.926$, $p = 0.0301$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 8)} = 6.926$, $p = 0.0301$; Treatment: $F_{(1,}$

$_{8)} = 22.50$, $p = 0.0015$). (B-C) Immunoblot of pS6, S6, pCREB, and CREB and quantification of

pS6 expression (pS6/S6) in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* treated with DMSO

(Veh) or either of the PKA inhibitors, (B) H89 (10 μM) or (C) KT5720 (10 μM or 50 μM), for 30

min followed by treatment with vehicle (PBS), Lira (10 nM), forskolin (Fsk, 10 μM), or insulin

(Ins, 10 mg/mL) for 1 hr (H89: Interaction: $F_{(1, 12)} = 4.782$, $p = 0.0493$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 12)} =$

4.782, $p = 0.0493$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 12)} = 12.50$, $p = 0.0041$. KT5720: (Interaction: $F_{(2, 18)} =$

15.32, $p = 0.0001$; Inhibitor: $F_{(2, 18)} = 15.32$, $p = 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 18)} = 36.14$, $p <$

0.0001). Quantification of pCREB expression (pCREB/CREB) is shown in Figure 1-figure

supplement 1. (D) Immunoblot of pS6, S6, pAkt, and Akt and quantification of pS6 expression

(pS6/S6) in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* treated with DMSO or the pan-Akt

inhibitor MK-2206 (5 μM or 20 μM) for 30 min followed by treatment with vehicle (PBS), Lira (10

nM), Fsk (10 μM), or Ins (10 mg/mL) for 1 hr (Interaction: $F_{(1, 12)} = 0.02486$, $p = 0.8773$;

Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 12)} = 0.02486$, $p = 0.8773$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 12)} = 110.2$, $p < 0.0001$).

Quantification of pAkt expression (pAkt/Akt) is shown in Figure 1-figure supplement 1. Analysis

was done using two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons. Data are

normalized to the respective control (Veh or Veh and inhibitor). Absolute data are shown in

Figure 1-figure supplement 1. All data are shown as mean ± SEM, ns not significant, * $p < 0.05$,

** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$, n = 3-4 biological replicates.

Figure 2. PKA phosphorylates Raptor at S791 upon GLP-1R activation (Resubmission

Rev 2 Figure 2-source data 1). (A) Immunoblot and quantification of phospho-PKA substrate

(pRRXS*/T*) and Myc in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* transfected with Myc-

wild-type (WT) Raptor or Myc-Ser[791]Ala Raptor and treated with vehicle (DMSO) or H89 (10 µM)

for 30 min followed by treatment with Lira (10 nM), forskolin (Fsk, 10 µM), or insulin (Ins, 10

mg/mL) for 1 hr (Interaction: $F_{(4, 21)}$ = 3.695, p = 0.0071; Genotype: $F_{(2, 21)}$ = 10.51, p =

0.0007; Treatment: $F_{(2, 21)}$ = 6.328, p = 0.0071). (B) Immunoblot and quantification of

phospho-PKA substrate and Myc in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* transfected

with Myc-wild-type (WT) Raptor and treated with vehicle (DMSO) or MK-2206 (20 µM) for 30

min followed by treatment with Lira (10 nM), Fsk (10 µM), or Ins (10 mg/mL) for 1 hr (Interaction:

$F_{(3, 16)}$ = 0.4599, p = 0.7141; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 16)}$ = 0.04511, p = 0.8345; Treatment: $F_{(3, 16)}$ =

44.26, p < 0.0001). (C) Immunoblot and quantification of phospho-PKA substrate and Myc in β-

TC3 cells transfected with Myc-wild-type (WT) Raptor or Myc-Ser[791]Ala Raptor and treated with

vehicle (DMSO) or MK-2206 (10 µM) for 30 min followed by treatment with Lira (10 nM),

forskolin (Fsk, 10 µM), or insulin (Ins, 10 mg/mL) for 1 hr (Interaction: $F_{(3, 16)}$ = 7.345, p =

0.0026; Genotype: $F_{(1, 16)}$ = 22.18, p = 0.0002; Treatment: $F_{(3, 16)}$ = 10.93, p = 0.0004).

Analysis was done using two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons. Data are

shown as mean ± SEM, no symbol = not significant, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001, n = 3-

4 biological replicates.

Figure 3. PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at S791 contributes to the weight-lowering

effects of liraglutide in lean mice (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 3-source data 1). Body

weight, body composition, and energy balance parameters in male wild-type (WT) and CMV-

Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in (S791A) mice given vehicle (0.9% saline) or liraglutide (200 µg/kg)

subcutaneously twice a day for 14 days. Absolute body weight (A), total mass (C), fat mass (E),

and lean mass (G). Change in body weight (B), total mass (D), fat mass (F), and lean mass (H)

from baseline (Day 0). Absolute daily food intake (I) and EE (J) and change in daily food intake

(K) and EE (L) relative to baseline (Day 0) during a 10-day treatment period in metabolic cages.

(A, Interaction: $F_{(42, 700)} = 14.10$, $p < 0.0001$. B, Interaction: $F_{(42, 700)} = 14.10$, $p < 0.0001$.

C, Interaction: $F_{(3, 50)} = 42.94$, $p < 0.0001$. D, $F_{(3, 50)} = 42.94$, $p < 0.0001$. E, Interaction: F

$_{(3, 36)} = 30.94$, $p < 0.0001$. F, $F_{(3, 36)} = 30.94$, $p < 0.0001$. G, Interaction: $F_{(3, 36)} = 12.19$, p

< 0.0001. H, $F_{(3, 36)} = 12.19$, $p < 0.0001$. I, Interaction: $F_{(30, 112)} = 1.370$, $p < 0.0213$. J,

Interaction: $F_{(30, 112)} = 1.706$, $p < 0.0240$. K, Interaction: $F_{(30, 120)} = 3.827$, $p < 0.0001$. L,

Interaction: $F_{(30, 112)} = 3.827$, $p < 0.0001$)   Analysis was done using mixed-effects analysis

followed by Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons between liraglutide-treated WT and CMV-

Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice. Data are shown as mean ± SEM, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, **** $p < 0.0001$,

n = 13-14 (A-D), 9-12 (E-H), or 4 (I-L) mice per group.

Figure 4. PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at S791 does not significantly contribute to the

weight-lowering effects of liraglutide in obese mice (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 4-source

data 1). Body weight in male wild-type (WT) and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in (S791A) mice

fed a 60% HFD for 8-10 weeks and then given vehicle (0.9% saline) or liraglutide (200 µg/kg)

subcutaneously twice a day for 9 days. Absolute body weight (A) and change in body weight (B)

from baseline (Day 0). Absolute total mass (C), fat mass (E), and lean mass (G) on Days 0 and

9. Change in total mass (D), fat mass (F), and lean mass (H) from baseline (Day 0). Change in

body weight in mice with a baseline body weight >43.4g (I, J) and mice with a baseline body

weight <43.4g (K, L). (A, Interaction: $F_{(27, 297)} = 22.22$, $p < 0.0001$. B, Interaction: $F_{(27, 297)}$

$= 22.22$, $p < 0.0001$. C, Interaction: $F_{(3, 33)} = 39.82$, $p < 0.0001$. D, $F_{(3, 33)} = 39.82$, $p <$

0.0001. E, Interaction: $F_{(3, 33)} = 30.17$, $p < 0.0001$. F, $F_{(3, 33)} = 30.17$, $p < 0.0001$. G,

Interaction: $F_{(3, 33)} = 25.69$, $p < 0.0001$. H, $F_{(3, 33)} = 25.69$, $p < 0.0001$. I, Interaction: F (27,

$126) = 40.94$, $p < 0.0001$. J, $F_{(3, 14)} = 131.2$, $p < 0.0001$. K, Interaction: $F_{(27, 135)} = 17.98$, p

< 0.0001. J, $F_{(3, 15)} = 29.48$, $p < 0.0001$). Analysis was done using mixed-effects analysis

followed by Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons between liraglutide-treated WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice. Data are shown as mean ± SEM, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, n = 7-12 mice per group (A – H), 3-5 (I, J), and 2-7 (K, L).

Figure 5. PKA phosphorylation of Raptor at S791 is not required for the weight-lowering effect of setmelanotide (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 5-source data 1). Body weight and body composition in male wild-type (WT) and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in (S791A) mice given vehicle (0.9% saline) or setmelanotide (4mg/kg) subcutaneously once a day for 9 days. Absolute body weight (A), total mass (C), fat mass (E), and lean mass (G). Change in body weight (B), total mass (D), fat mass (F), and lean mass (H) from baseline (Day 0). (A, Interaction: $F_{(27, 171)} = 4.955$, $p < 0.0001$. B, Interaction: $F_{(27, 171)} = 4.600$, $p < 0.0001$. C, Interaction: $F_{(3, 19)} = 12.93$, $p < 0.0001$. D, $F_{(3, 19)} = 11.28$, $p = 0.0002$. E, Interaction: $F_{(3, 19)} = 6.087$, $p = 0.0044$. F, $F_{(3, 19)} = 6.087$, $p = 0.0044$. G, Interaction: $F_{(3, 19)} = 1.311$, $p = 0.2999$. H, $F_{(3, 1)} = 1.311$, $p = 0.2999$). Analysis was done using mixed-effects analysis followed by Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons between liraglutide-treated WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice. Data are shown as mean ± SEM, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, n = 5-7 mice per group.

Figure 1-figure supplement 1. Absolute pS6, pCREB, and pAkt expression in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with liraglutide. (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 1-figure supplement 1-source data 1). (A) Quantification of pS6 expression (pS6 / S6) in CHO-K1 cells transfected with the a vector expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with DMSO or the mTORC1 inhibitor rapamycin (100 nM) for 30 min followed by treatment with 1X PBS (Veh) or liraglutide (Lira, 10 nM) for 1 hr (Interaction: $F_{(1, 8)} = 31.10$, $p = 0.0005$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 8)} = 50.10$, $p = 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 8)} = 39.17$, $p = 0.0002$). (B-C) Quantification of pS6 (pS6/S6) and pCREB (pCREB/CREB) expression in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* treated with DMSO (Veh) or either of the PKA inhibitors, (B) H89 (10 µM) or (C) KT5720 (10 µM or 50 µM), for 30 min followed by treatment with vehicle (PBS) or Lira (10 nM) for 1 hr (H89 pS6/S6: Interaction: $F_{(1, 12)} = 13.40$, $p = 0.0033$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 12)} = 21.00$, $p = 0.0006$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 12)} = 18.40$, $p = 0.0011$. H89 pCREB/CREB: Interaction: $F_{(1, 8)} = 356.7$, $p < 0.0001$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 8)} = 578.5$, $p < 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 8)} = 361.3$, $p < 0.0001$. KT5720 pS6/S6: Interaction: $F_{(2, 18)} = 15.32$, $p = 0.0001$; Inhibitor: $F_{(2, 18)} = 15.32$, $p = 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 18)} = 36.14$, $p < 0.0001$. KT5720 pCREB/CREB: Interaction: $F_{(2, 12)} = 30.76$, $p < 0.0001$; Inhibitor: $F_{(2, 12)} = 43.93$, $p < 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 12)} = 63.66$, $p < 0.0001$). Quantification of pS6 and pAkt (pAkt/Akt) in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* treated with DMSO or the pan-Akt inhibitor MK-2206 (5 µM or 20 µM) for 30 min followed by treatment with vehicle (PBS), Lira (10 nM) or Ins (10 mg/mL) for 1 hr (pS6/S6: Interaction: $F_{(1, 12)} = 17.67$, $p = 0.0012$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 12)} = 31.37$, $p = 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(1, 12)} = 181.6$, $p < 0.0001$. pAkt/Akt: Interaction: $F_{(2, 12)} = 60.57$, $p < 0.0001$; Inhibitor: $F_{(1, 12)} = 62.79$, $p < 0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(2, 12)} = 61.73$, $p < 0.0001$). Analysis was done using two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons. Data are presented as absolute densitometry values and are shown as mean ± SEM, ns not significant, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$, n = 3-4 biological replicates.

Figure 1-figure supplement 2. Dose response and time course of absolute pS6 and pCREB expression in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with liraglutide. (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 1-figure supplement 2-source data 1). (A) Quantification of pS6 expression (pS6/S6) and pCREB (pCREB/CREB) in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with DMSO (Veh) or increasing doses of Lira for 1h (pS6/S6: $F_{(5, 12)} = 70.69$, $p < 0.0001$; pCREB/CREB: $F_{(5, 12)} = 52.89$, $p < 0.0001$). (B) Quantification of pS6 expression (pS6/S6) and pCREB (pCREB/CREB) in CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the *hGLP1R* and treated with DMSO (Veh) or Lira (10 nM) for different time points (pS6/S6: $F_{(4, 15)} = 73.02$, $p < 0.0001$; pCREB/CREB: $F_{(4, 15)} = 178.2$, $p < 0.0001$). Analysis was done using one-way ANOVA followed by Brown-Forsythe test. Data are presented as absolute densitometry values and are shown as mean ± SEM, ** $p < 0.01$, **** $p < 0.0001$, n = 3-4 biological replicates.

Figure 3-figure supplement 1. Blood glucose prior to drug treatment and blood glucose and insulin post-treatment in male wild-type (WT) and Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice (Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 3-figure supplement 1-source data 1). (A-D) Total (A), fat (B), lean (C), and free body fluid (D) measurements in WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice prior to vehicle or liraglutide administration. (E-F) 5-hr fasting blood glucose in male WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice before drug treatment (E) and on treatment day 14 (F). (G) 5-hr fasting insulin in male WT and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor mice before on treatment day 14. Analysis was done using one-way ANOVA followed by Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons. Data are shown as mean ± SEM, ns not significant, n = 4-8 mice per group.

Figure 3-figure supplement 2. Generation of CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice. (A) Targeting vector used by Ingenious Targeting Laboratory, Inc. to introduce a Cre-inducible two

base pair point mutation in an inverted exon 20 of the Raptor coding sequence. (B) Verification

of correct target sequence expression by genomic DNA digestion. Wild-type (Control) DNA

contains a SacI sequence that is absent in the Ser[791]Ala point mutant (red). SacI digestion of a

subcloned 911 base pair (bp) genomic DNA fragment obtained from liver tissue of control mice

produces two products at 371bp and 540bp. The corresponding 989bp genomic DNA sequence

obtained from CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice cannot be digested by SacI.

Figure 4-figure supplement 1. Relationship between baseline body weight and liraglutide-

induced weight loss in male wild-type (WT) and Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in mice

(Resubmission Rev 2 Figure 4-figure supplement 1-source data 1). (A) Relationship

between baseline body weight and liraglutide-induced weight loss in HFD-fed wild-type (WT)

and CMV-Ser[791]Ala Raptor knock-in (S791A) mice (Test if slopes are non-zero: WT, $F_{(1,10)}$ =

9.666, $p < 0.01$; S791A Raptor: $F_{(1, 17)}$ = 36.714, $p < 0.001$. Test if slopes are different: WT

vs. S791A: $F_{(1, 17)}$ = 1.266, $p = 0.28$). Absolute body weight in mice with >43.3g baseline body

weight (B) and <43.3g baseline body weight (C). (A, $F_{(3, 14)}$ = 9.005, $p = 0.0014$. B, $F_{(3, 15)}$ =

0.3796, $p = 0.7691$). Analysis was done using linear regression or one-way ANOVA followed by

Holm-Sidak's multiple comparisons. Data are shown as mean ± SEM, ** $p<0.01$, n = 3-5 (B) and

2-7 (C) mice per group.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 1-figure supplement 1

Figure 1-figure supplement 2

A

B

Figure 3-figure supplement 1

Figure 3-figure supplement 2

A

B

Figure 4-figure supplement 1

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