Cold-induced expression of a truncated Adenylyl Cyclase 3 acts as rheostat to brown fat function.

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Abstract:

Promoting brown adipose tissue (BAT) activity has been recognized as innovative therapeutic

approach to improve obesity and metabolic disease. Whilst the molecular circuitry underlying

thermogenic activation of BAT is well understood, the processes underlying rheostatic regulation

of BAT to maintain homeostasis and avoid excessive energy dissipation remain ill-defined.

Increasing cyclic AMP (cAMP) biosynthesis is key for BAT activation. Here, we demonstrate that

ADCY3, an adenylyl cyclase whose expression is induced during cold exposure and regulates

cAMP homeostasis in thermogenic fat, is dispensable for BAT function in lean mice, but becomes

critical during obesity. Furthermore, by combining RNA-seq with epigenomic H3K4me3 profiling,

we detected a novel, cold-inducible promoter that generates a 5' truncated *Adcy3-at* mRNA

isoform, *Adcy3-at*. Mice lacking only *Adcy3-at*, but not *full-length Adcy3*, displayed increased

energy expenditure already under lean conditions and were protected against obesity and ensuing

metabolic imbalances. Subcellularly, translated ADCY3-AT proteins are retained in the

endoplasmic reticulum (ER), did not translocate to the cell membrane, and lacked enzymatic

activity. By interacting with ADCY3, ADCY3-AT retained ADCY3 in the ER and, thereby,

reduced the plasma membrane pool of ADCYs available for G-protein mediated cAMP synthesis.

Thereby, ADCY3-AT acts as a signaling rheostat in BAT, limiting adverse consequences of

uncurbed cAMP activity after long-term BAT activation. *Adcy3-at* induction was driven by a cold-

induced, truncated isoform of the transcriptional cofactor PPARGC1A (PPARG Coactivator 1

Alpha, PPARGC1A-AT). Expression of *Ppargc1a-at* and *Adcy3-at* are evolutionary conserved,

indicating that transcriptional rewiring by commissioning of alternative promoters is key for

thermogenic fat function.

Introduction:

Most mammals harbor two morphologically and functionally distinct types of adipocytes (fat cells): White adipocytes consist of a single lipid droplet[1] and predominantly regulate energy storage, whereas brown adipocytes are multilocular and possess the ability to convert (diet-derived) macronutrients like carbohydrates and lipids into heat in a unique molecular process termed Non-Shivering Thermogenesis (NST)[2]. Interest in brown adipose tissue (BAT) arose after the seminal discovery that *(i)* BAT not only exists in small animals like rodents and in human infants, but that adult humans can possess active brown fat [3-5] and *(ii)* cold ambient temperature exposure or stimulation of beta-adrenergic G-Protein receptors (GPCRs) activates BAT, which positively correlates with energy expenditure[6] and inversely correlates with body-mass indices[7, 8].

GPCRs regulate a plethora of biological processes and are the target of a major part of drugs in clinical use[9]. GPCRs play a central role in adipose tissue homeostasis, and adipocyte metabolism is regulated by GPCRs linked to different functional classes of heterotrimeric G proteins [10]. The main physiological stimulus for NST in brown and thermogenically activated 'brite' (brown-in-white) fat is cold temperature, which activates the sympathetic nervous system (SNS) and leads to release of the neurotransmitter norepinephrine (NE) [11]. NE activates beta-adrenergic GPCRs[12], which then stimulate synthesis of the second-messenger 3'-5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) by plasma membrane-bound adenylyl cyclases[13, 14] and activates protein kinase A (PKA), thereby inducing lipolysis. The ensuing generation of free fatty acids (FFA) activates uncoupling protein 1 (UCP1), a mitochondrial protein whose activation executes NST in brown and brite fat[2]. In addition to these acute effects, chronic cAMP signaling is required for adipocyte precursor differentiation [2]. Adenylyl cyclase 3 (ADCY3), which is expressed in somatic tissues like adipose tissue, kidney, pancreas and liver as well as in olfactory sensory and hypothalamic neurons[15], received attention due to loss-of-function variants in human *ADCY3* that correlate with enhanced susceptibility to increased BMI[16] and *ADCY3* loss-of-function mutations cause severe obesity in multiple human populations [17-19]. Mouse studies confirmed that *Adcy3* silencing is sufficient to impair energy homeostasis [20-24], yet the precise role of ADCY3 in thermogenic fat has not been addressed yet.

Pre-mRNA splicing is a fundamental gene-regulatory mechanism that enables cells to increase proteome complexity from a finite amount of exonic information and is important for adipocyte function, cold tolerance, and metabolic health [25-27] . For instance, PPARG coactivator 1 alpha (PPARGC1A), a key transcriptional regulator in adipose tissue, displays an alternative 5' promoter in human muscle, generating a C-terminally truncated protein that elicits distinct transcriptional programs [28, 29]. It remains elusive though if similar alternative promoter events contribute to metabolic regulation in thermogenic fat. *Here, we describe a novel molecular rheostat, ADCY3-*

AT, that is selectively induced and controls brown fat function upon cold and beta-adrenergic

stimulation. N-terminally truncated ADYC3-AT proteins limit cAMP synthesis by controlling the

subcellular localization of adenylyl cyclases and ultimately energy dissipation. Truncated ADCY3

is evolutionary conserved in brown adipocytes from rodents to humans and is part of a conserved

transcriptional network, linking thermogenic activation to adaptive proteoform changes.

Results:

Transcriptional regulation of cAMP biosynthesis during cold adaptation of brown adipose tissue.

To identify transcriptional processes controlling 3',5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP)

second messenger production in cold-activated brown (BAT) and epididymal white adipose tissue

(eWAT), we exposed chow diet-fed, male C57BL/6N mice to 24 hours of 5°C cold exposure (CE)

and analyzed transcriptome-wide gene expression changes using mRNA-sequencing (RNA-seq).

We combined our analysis with public mRNA-seq data from 72 h cold-exposed, inguinal white

adipose tissue (iWAT)[30] and observed significantly (FDR ≤ 0.05) up-or downregulated genes,

respectively: 1,086/1,204 genes in BAT, 804/448 genes in iWAT, and 584/71 in eWAT (Fig.1a-c,

Fig.S1a-c) genes between cold and ambient room (22°C) temperatures (s. Supplemental table S1).

KEGG gene ontology (GO) analysis revealed that peroxisome and PPAR signaling, as well as

protein metabolism processes were induced, whereas HIF-1-dependent hypoxic signaling was

repressed in cold-activated BAT (Fig.1d). Canonical thermogenic and brown-fat associated GO

terms like oxidative phosphorylation, thermogenesis, tricarbon acid cycle, and carbon metabolism

were upregulated in iWAT (Fig.1e), whereas few categories were altered in eWAT (Fig.1f), likely

reflecting the limited capacity for thermogenesis in this depot. We next specifically investigated

the expression of cAMP-degrading and synthesizing enzymes: Whilst expression of negative

regulators of cyclic nucleotides, namely 3′,5′-cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases (PDEs)[31],

remained unchanged across all depots investigated (Fig.S1d-f), mRNA levels of adenylyl cyclase

isoforms 3 and 4 (*Adcy3*, *Adcy4*) were specifically induced in cold-exposed BAT (Fig.1g) and only

Adcy3 expression was induced in iWAT (Fig.1h), whereas expression of *Adcy* isoforms remained

unaltered in eWAT (Fig.1i). These results point towards a specific role for ADCY3 in thermogenic

adipocytes and regulation of energy expenditure as proposed previously [32, 33].

Analysis of public single-nuclei RNA-Seq (snRNA-seq) datasets[34] from purified brown adipocytes

(BA) revealed that *Adcy3* is expressed lowly under basal (thermoneutral) conditions not exhibiting

substantial NST. However, *Adcy3* expression is induced when lowering ambient temperatures from

thermoneutrality (TN) to room temperature (RT) to cold exposure (CE) in brown adipocytes (BAs),

paralleling increased expression changes of known BAT markers like uncoupling protein 1 (*Ucp1*,

Fig.1j). Similar patterns were observed for known BAT markers[35] like PPARGC1A, pyruvate

dehydrogenase kinase 4 *(Pdk4)*, PR/SET domain 16 *(Prdm16),* and cell death inducing DFFA like

effector A *(Cidea*, Fig.1k). Thus, cold activation induces *Adcy3* expression in cold-activated BA

and inguinal white adipocytes (iWA).

ADCY3 is required for cAMP biosynthesis in BAT and required for cold adaptation in obesity.

To decipher the adipocyte-autonomous roles of ADCY3 *in vivo*, we next crossed mice harboring

LoxP-flanked *Adcy3* alleles[24] with animals expressing Adiponectin (*Adipoq*)-promoter driven cre

recombinase[36] (*Adipoq-cre*) to obtain pan-adipocyte-deficient *Adcy3* knockout mice (*Adcy3^LoxP/LoxP^,*

*Adipoq-cre^+/cre^*; *Adcy3-AdcKO)* and cre-negative littermates (*Adcy3^LoxP/LoxP^, Adipoq-cre^+/+^*; *LoxP*,

Fig.2a*)*. RNA-seq demonstrated 60-70% reduction of *Adcy3* in *Adcy3-AdcKO* BAT with remaining

Adcy3 likely representing non-adipocyte cell populations in BAT[34] (Fig.2b). Cyclic AMP levels in

BAT of mice housed at room temperature were concomitantly reduced 50 %, pointing to ADCY3

constituting a pivotal cAMP regulator in thermogenic fat (Fig.2c). To probe for roles of adipocyte

ADCY3 in energy metabolism, we analyzed metabolic parameters in lean, chow diet-fed *Adcy3-*

AdcKO mice. Unexpectedly, we observed no differences in body weight (BW, Fig.2d), and

intraperitoneal glucose (Fig.2e) and insulin (Fig.2f) tolerance tests revealed no differences in

glucose metabolism between chow diet-fed, lean *Adcy3-AdcKO* and *LoxP* control mice. We also

performed indirect calorimetry assessment of energy homeostasis at 22°C and 5°C but found no

differences in respiratory exchange ratios (RER, Fig.2g).

In line with little overt metabolic effects following *Adcy3* loss *in vivo*, we detected no differences

in regulation of genes involved in thermogenic activation in *Adcy3-AdcKO* BAT at 22°C and 5°C

(Fig.S3a,b). We also investigated thermogenic activation in mature *Adcy3*-deficient BAs *in vitro*

and committed *(i) Adcy3-AdcKO* stromal-vascular fraction-derived progenitor cells (SVF) or *(ii)*

LoxP SVFs in mature BA, transduced *LoxP*-derived BAs with adeno-associated virus 8 (AAV8)

encoding Cre (AAV8-cre), followed by CL316,243 stimulation of both models, genetic and viral.

Adcy3-deficient and control cells showed neither changes in adipocyte identity markers like *Pparg2*

and *Fabp4* nor in activation upon beta-adrenergic treatment, despite *Adcy3* silencing in both

(Fig.S2c-d), suggesting unaltered BA formation and activation. Of note, we saw progressive trends

towards impaired oxygen consumption (Fig.2h-i) and locomotor activity (Fig.2j), suggesting mildly

impaired cold tolerance during prolonged cold exposure in *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice. Thus, adipocyte-

specific loss of *Adcy3* only marginally affects thermogenesis and metabolic function in lean mice,

but despite controlling cAMP levels in BAT, does not represent a major regulator for cAMP-

dependent thermogenesis.

We and others reported that impediment of BAT function predisposes mice to increased body
weight gain and metabolic deterioration when feeding obesogenic high-fat diets (HFD) [37-41]. Given
the modest effects of ADCY3 deficiency on energy expenditure in lean mice, we next asked if HFD
renders *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice more susceptible to metabolic complications. We again observed no
genotype-specific differences in BW (Fig.2k), adipose tissue weights (Fig.S3a-b), glucose (Fig.2l)
or insulin tolerance (Fig.2m). When performing indirect calorimetry, obese *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice
displayed a reduction in RER (Fig.2n) compared to lean mice (Fig.2g), reflecting a transition in
substrate mobilization from carbohydrate to lipid oxidation in diet-induced obesity (DIO), yet no
Adcy3-driven differences were seen. In contrast, oxygen consumption (Fig.2o) and activity
(Fig.2p) were reduced in obese *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice compared to HFD-fed *LoxP* controls. Thus,
fat-specific loss of *Adcy3* in mice reduces energy expenditure in obese mice, also during cold stress.
168
ADCY3 loss causes precocious activation of PKA-independent signaling pathways
Intrigued by the lack of thermogenic and metabolic dysfunction in lean *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice, we
tested whether *Adcy3* loss in adipocytes rewired cAMP signaling. To test whether kinase activities
are altered in *Adcy3-AdcKO* BAT, we first performed Western Blot activity profiling using PKA
substrate-specific phospho-antibodies and analyzed UCP1 protein expression. In line with lack of
thermogenic dysfunction in lean mice, PKA substrate activation and UCP1 protein levels in BAT
after chronic cold exposure were upregulated to same degrees in *LoxP* and *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice
(Fig.S3c). To test more broadly the effects of *Adcy3* deficiency on signaling responses, we carried
out serine/threonine kinase (STK) profiling using PamGene peptide arrays to globally infer
differential STK kinase activities in *Adcy3-AdcKO* BAT. In *LoxP* mice, acute cold exposure (24 h)
elicited only mild overall STK signaling responses (Fig.S3d), whereas chronic cold stimulation for
6 days decreased the activity of members of the CMGC kinase family (including cyclin-dependent
kinases (CDK), glycogen synthase kinases (GSK) and MAP kinases (MAPK)), and activity of AGC
family members (including protein kinase A (PKA), C (PKC), and G (PKG) were elevated
(Fig.S3ei,ii). The CMGC family includes important hubs of cAMP-dependent signaling like the
MAPKs p38 [42], ERK [43], JNK [44], which are typically engaged during acute thermogenic activation[45].
However, STK signatures in BAT of *Adcy3-AdcKO* at 22°C resembled chronic cold exposure in
LoxP mice with exception that PKA activity remained unchanged (Fig.S3f, i-iii). Thus, kinase
signaling pathways regulating BAT activation are indeed rewired in *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice but
independent of PKA signaling. This is reflected on the functional level as minor metabolic changes
were observed in lean *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice at room temperature. Only when coupled to an additional
obesity burden, *Adcy3-AdcKO* are sensitive to metabolic deterioration.
191

Active thermogenic adipocytes express a truncated ADCY3 (ADCY3-AT) transcript and protein isoform

Chromatin profiling by chromatin-immunoprecipitation-sequencing (ChIP-seq) allows genome-wide mapping of DNA-regulatory elements and changes in cellular energetic activation and/or differentiation are paralleled by profound remodeling of promoter (e.g., H3K4me3) and enhancer (e.g., H3K27Ac)-associated histone post-translational modifications in BA[46-48]. When interrogating previously published H3K4me3 data from BAT of cold-exposed mice[49], we observed a H3K4me3-marked promoter in intron 2 of the *Adcy3* gene that arose during cold (Fig.S4a), which we verified by ChIP-qPCR (Fig.S4b). This promoter marked a cold-dependent novel transcriptional start site giving rise to a 5'-truncated *Adcy3* mRNA isoform (Fig.S4a), which we termed *Adcy3-at* to discern it from GENCODE annotated full-length *Adcy3* (*Adcy3-fl*). When combining Illumina short-read with Oxford Nanopore Technology full-length RNA-seq from cold-activated BAT, we confirmed that *Adcy3-at* represents a contiguous transcript ranging from *Adcy3-at* TSS in exon 2b to exon 22 (Fig.3a). *Adcy3-at* encoded ADCY3-AT proteins are predicted as N-terminally truncated compared to full-length ADCY-FL proteins (Fig.3b) and distinct from ADCY3 loss-of-function protein isoforms previously reported in human populations [17-19]. Thus, cold exposure activates an intronic *Adcy3* promoter that produces N-terminally truncated, unannotated *Adcy3-at* mRNA isoform in thermogenic fat depots.

When analyzing our RNA-seq data separately for *Adcy3-at* and *Adcy3-fl* isoform expression, we found that predominantly *Adcy3-at* was induced during cold exposure and constituted the dominant *Adcy3* isoform after cold as shown by RNA-seq (Fig.3c-d) and qPCR (Fig.3e) quantification. Other thermogenic depots like iWAT also induced *Adcy3-at* in cold (Fig.3f), whilst eWAT *Adcy3-at* induction was not significant (Fig.3g), pointing to roles of ADCY3-AT in thermogenic processes in mature BA, yet effects of ADCY3-AT on brown adipogenesis were not addressed at point. To address this important point specifically, we analyzed *Adcy3* isoform expression during adipogenic differentiation and observed that *Adcy3-at* expression was low throughout adipogenesis of BAT SVFs into BA and was only upregulated upon dibutyryl (db)-cAMP and CL316,243 stimulation (Fig.S4e), whereas *Ucp1* and *Adcy3-fl* expression was more highly expressed during brown adipogenesis (Fig.S4f-g). *Adcy3-at* was upregulated in a cell-autonomous manner in primary brown adipocytes (1°BA) and primary inguinal white adipocytes (1°iWA), yet only trended towards induction in primary epididymal white adipocytes (1°eWA) after stimulation with beta3-adrenergic agonist CL316,243 in all depots (Fig.3h-j). *Adcy3-fl*, but especially *Adcy3-at*, were expressed at low abundance in non-adipose metabolic tissues like liver, skeletal muscle, kidney, and pancreas (Fig.S4c-d). In obesity- and aging-associated adipose dysfunction, *Adcy3-at* expression was

unchanged in BAT and downregulated in iWAT of DIO mice, a finding seen for canonical BAT

markers like *Ucp1*, Iodothyronine Deiodinase 2 (*Dio2*) and ELOVL fatty acid elongase 3 (*Elovl3*,

Fig.S4h,i). *Adcy3-at* expression was also unaffected in BAT of aged (25 months-old) compared to

young (2 months-old) C57BL/6N male mice (Fig.S4j). Thus, two mouse models of functional

thermogenic decline [50] showed no differences in BAT *Adcy3-at* expression.

The ADCY3-AT and ADCY3-FL amino acid (aa) sequences are for large parts identical but differ

at the N-terminus: ADCY3-AT lacks 146aa and instead contains a novel 28aa N-terminus, entailing

that ADCY3-AT proteins specifically lack the 1st block of transmembrane (TM) domains, which

constitutes an integral structural hallmark and functional feature of most adenylyl cyclases (Fig.3b).

When performing Western blot analysis using a C-terminal pan-ADCY3 antibody, we detected an

additional ADCY3-specific signal at ca. 70 kD after 24 h of db-cAMP and CL316,243 stimulation

in 1°BA and 1°WA, which was absent in unstimulated cells (Fig.3k-l), likely representing ADCY3-

AT proteins. Thus, pharmacological and cold temperature-mediated activation of thermogenic

adipocytes leads to presence of a novel intronic *Adcy3-at* promoter that encodes truncated ADCY3-

AT proteins.

ADCY3-AT inhibits oxidative metabolism in vitro and in vivo.

As *Adcy3-AdcKO* mutants were deficient for both *Adcy3* isoforms (Fig.3c-d), we tested the specific

role of ADCY3-AT in cellular and metabolic homeostasis of BA *in vivo* and *in vitro*. We performed

CRISPR-Cas9-mediated gene deletion using single-guide RNAs (sgRNAs) flanking the H3K4me3-

marked *Adcy3-at* promoter and excised a 978 bp-long DNA fragment including the *Adcy3-at* TSS

in embryonic stem cells (Fig.S5a). Excision of *Adcy3-at* TSS and promoter regions was confirmed

by Southern blot (Fig.S5b) and genomic PCR analysis (Fig.S5c). Homozygous ADCY3-AT null

animals, henceforth termed *Adcy3ΔAT*, exhibited no overt phenotypes, were fertile in both sexes,

and *Adcy3ΔAT* alleles were inherited at Mendelian ratios, arguing against confounding

developmental defects after *Adcy3-at* deletion. Importantly, *Adcy3ΔAT* mice were devoid of *Adcy3-*

at (Fig.4b), but not *Adcy3-fl* (Fig.4c).

First, we tested the role of ADCY3-AT in regulating energy homeostasis in lean mice: Although

BW remained unchanged (Fig.4d), *Adcy3ΔAT* animals exhibited improved glucose tolerance

(Fig.4e) despite even mildly increased food intake (Fig.4f), normal insulin sensitivity (Fig.S5d) and

unaltered locomotor activity (Fig.S5e), suggesting negative energy balance in *ADCY3ΔAT* mice.

RER quotients unveiled that *Adcy3ΔAT* animals trended towards increased carbohydrate usage at

22°C (Fig.S5f), likely reflecting an increased capacity of *ADCY3ΔAT* mice for enhanced glucose

disposal, which consequently exhibited trends towards increased oxygen consumption during 22°C

and 5°C ambient temperatures (Fig.4g). To test for BAT-specific involvement in the improved

metabolism seen in *Adcy3ΔAT* mice, we performed qPCR analysis and observed trends towards

increased *Ppargc1a* and *Prdm16* expression, suggesting mildly elevated activation of cold-

acclimatized *Adcy3ΔAT* BAT (Fig.4h). Notably, expression of gene markers reflecting myogenic-

to-BA remodeling, such as myosin heavy chain 1 (*Myh1*) and 4 (*Myh4*), ryanodine receptor 1

(*Ryr1*), ATPase sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca2+ transporting 1 (*Atp2a1*), troponin T3

fast skeletal type (*Tnnt3*), actin alpha 1, skeletal muscle (*Acta1*), troponin I2, fast skeletal type

(*Tnni2*), H19 imprinted maternally expressed transcript (*H19*), creatine kinase, M-type (*Ckm*),

tropomyosin 1 and 2 (*Tpm1,2*) were repressed (Fig.4i), reflecting transcriptional signatures

reminiscent of activated BA at the expense of myogenic gene expression in *Adcy3ΔAT* mice, a

change in transcriptional signatures reported for other models of BAT gain-of-function [38, 40].

Albeit these mild increases in energy dissipation, we hypothesized that *Adcy3ΔAT* mice are

protected against DIO-induced metabolic alterations. To test this, we exposed *LoxP* and *Adcy3ΔAT*

to HFD feeding and observed that *Adcy3ΔAT* were indeed protected against DIO-associated BW

gains and glucose intolerance (Fig.4j-k) and *Adcy3ΔAT* mice exhibited lower glucose levels during

an insulin challenge (Fig.S5h). As seen in chow diet-fed animals, obese *Adcy3ΔAT* exhibited

decreased myogenic gene expression reflecting increased BA activation (Fig.4l). To test for BA-

intrinsic roles of ADCY3-AT, we performed Seahorse bioenergetic analyses in 1°BA and 1°iWA

and observed elevated maximal oxygen consumption rates after CL316,243 stimulation (Fig.4m)

and during FCCP treatment in mitochondrial stress tests in *Adcy3-at* deficient adipocytes (Fig.4o).

Together with higher extracellular acidification rates in *Adcy3ΔAT* cells (Fig.4n,p), the results

indicated a combination of increased oxidative phosphorylation and glucose oxidation in

Adcy3ΔAT 1°BA (Fig.4m-p) and 1°WA (Fig.S5i-l). Thus, ADCY3-AT deficiency improves

metabolism *in vivo*, especially upon diet-induced obesity, by increasing energy dissipation in brown

adipocytes and myogenic-to-BA transcriptional remodeling.

ADCY3-AT alters ADCY3-FL subcellular localization and thereby limits cAMP biosynthesis.

Our *in vitro* and *in vivo* data thus far indicated that silencing of cold-inducible ADCY3-AT

increases oxidative metabolism and thermogenic activation of BA. To test this molecularly, we

analyzed STK activities using PamGene Array analysis in BAT of *Adcy3ΔAT*. At 22°C, STK

activity in *Adcy3ΔAT* BAT remained largely unchanged compared to BAT from *LoxP* control mice

(Fig.S6a), demonstrating that ADCY3-AT does not profoundly affect STK kinase activity under

basal conditions. Upon chronic cold stimulation, directional changes in kinase activities in

Adcy3ΔAT were comparable also to cold-exposed *LoxP* mice (Fig.S6b). Importantly, when

comparing kinase activity in BAT from *Adcy3ΔAT* with *Adcy3-AdcKO*, signaling inversely

correlated, indicating that deleting both ADCY3 proteins evokes opposing effects to ablating

ADCY3-AT alone (Fig.S6c-d).

The presence of ADCY3-AT coincides with ADCY3-FL in activated BAT (Fig.3b,c), yet the

functional implication of this co-expression remained elusive. Adenylyl cyclases are active as

protein dimers, and dimerization affects protein transport to the plasma membrane (PM). Besides

homodimerization, ADCYs can also assemble in heterodimers between different adenylyl cyclase

isoforms[51]. We thus hypothesized that ADCY3-AT controls the activity of ADCY3-FL by protein

interaction. To test this notion *in vitro*, we co-expressed FLAG-tagged ADCY3-AT and HA-tagged

ADCY3-FL in Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells and demonstrated by co-immunoprecipitation

that ADCY3-AT and ADCY3-FL indeed interact (Fig.5a-b). The N terminus of adenylyl cyclases

control transport to PM, thereby regulating its localization and, concomitantly, enzymatic function

[52]. As ADCY3-AT lacks the N-terminal domain and interacts with ADCY3-FL, we next tested if

ADCY3-AT might not be able to localize to the PM, and in turn, also impairs membrane transport

of ADCY3-FL. To this end, we performed biotinylation assays to selectively labeled TM proteins

that face the extracellular *environment*. When individually overexpressing the two different

isoforms, only ADCY3-FL, but not ADCY3-AT, was biotinylated (Fig.5c-d), demonstrating that

ADCY3-AT does not localize to the PM. To complement this result with image-based approaches,

we subjected CHO cells grown on glass coverslips to short ultrasound pulses, whereby the upper

part of cells was removed and the PM and its associated complexes remained intact as membrane

sheets ('unroofing')[53]. As positive control for visualizing the PM, we expressed membrane-

anchored mCherry. ADCY3-FL colocalized with mCherry in the PM, but showed little overlap

with calnexin, a protein residing in the ER membrane and here specifically marking ER-PM contact

sites. In contrast, ADCY3-AT showed no colocalization with mCherry, but colocalized with

calnexin, demonstrating that ADCY3-AT is retained in the ER (Fig.5e-f, Fig.S6e-f). Upon co-

expression of ADCY3-AT and ADCY3-FL, ADCY3-FL was retained in the ER and no longer

localized to the PM, indicating that interaction of ADCY3-AT with ADCY3-FL prevented PM

trafficking of ADCY3-FL proteins (Fig.5g, Fig.S6g). To probe if ADCY3-AT intrinsically

possesses cAMP catalytic activity, we determined cAMP levels by ELISA in CHO cells

overexpressing the individual ADCY3 isoforms. As expected, ADCY3-FL, but not ADCY3-AT,

activity was stimulated with forskolin, a direct ADCY activator (Fig.S6h), and isoproterenol, a

beta-adrenergic receptor agonist, which stimulates adenylyl cyclase activity via G-proteins

(Fig.S6i), indicating that ADCY3-AT does not possess enzymatic activity or lost its interaction

with G-proteins due to altered subcellular localization. Our hypothesis that ADCY3-AT/ADCY3-

FL heterodimer formation is favored in cold-activated BAT was supported by *in silico* modeling of
ADCY3-AT and ADCY3-FL heteromeric structures using AlphaFold [54]. Our structural modelling
suggested that ADCY3 heterodimer are energetically plausible (Fig.5h), underlining that ADCY3-
AT-mediated retention of ADCY3-FL represents a credible scenario for ADCY3-AT-mediated
repression of adenylyl cyclase activity. Thus, in the presence of both isoforms, ADCY3-AT and
ADCY3-FL, ADCY3-FL transport to PM in ADCY3-AT/FL heterodimrs is impaired, suggesting
that interaction of ADCY3-AT with ADCY3-FL curbs cytoplasmic cAMP production by altered
localization and/or cAMP compartmentalization.
340
Conserved and cold-inducible PPARGC1A -AT drives Adcy3-at expression in brown adipocytes.
PPARGC1A represents a central regulator of mitochondrial biogenesis [29, 55] and is imperative for
brown adipocyte differentiation and function [56]. Intriguingly, alternative splicing-mediated removal
of exons 6-7 of *Ppargc1a* has been reported to results in C-terminally truncated NT-PGC1alpha [57-
59]. Loss of NT-PGC1alpha protects against obesity [60], suggesting negative roles for truncated
PPARGC1A protein isoforms in BA differentiation and/or function. Beyond NT-PGC1alpha,
alternative promoter usage and alternative splicing events give rise to more than ten PPARGC1A
proteoforms, each coordinating tissue- and state-dependent adaptive transcriptional processes [29, 61].
When interrogating our Illumina and Nanopore RNA-seq data, we observed the cold-induced
alternative promoter accrual and generation of a novel transcript start site 5' of the canonical, full-
length *Ppargc1a* (*Ppargc1a-fl*, i.e. the *Pgc1alpha1* isoforms reported previously[61]) TSS, giving rise
to a novel *Ppargc1a* mRNA isoform. In analogy to *Adcy3-at* we termed this 5'-terminally truncated
mRNA isoform *Ppargc1a-at* (Fig.6a). *Ppargc1a-at* encoded a C-terminally truncated PPARGC1A-
AT proteoform (Fig.6b) that represents a murine homologue to the *Ppargc1alpha4* isoform
reported for human skeletal muscle [28]. As PPARGC1A, together with cognate nuclear hormone
transcription factors, controls adaptive gene expression programs [62], we postulated that induction
of PPARGC1A-AT could be implicated in cold-adaptive BA responses involving *Adcy3-at*. Akin
to *Adcy3-at*, *Ppargc1a-at* was only induced in thermogenic adipose depots during cold, whereas
Ppargc1a-fl remained unchanged in all depots investigated (Fig.6c). To test the specific implication
of PPARGC1A-AT in *Adcy3-at* expression, we designed two locked nucleic acid inhibitors to
silence *(i) Ppargc1a-fl* and *Ppargc1a-at* in combination or *(ii) Ppargc1a-at* in 1°BA. Noteworthy,
knocking down *Ppargc1a* did not affect *Adcy3-fl*, but prevented CL316,243 mediated *Adcy3-at*
induction (Fig.6d-e), illustrating that PPARGC1A, likely by virtue of truncated PPARGC1A-AT is
implicated in *Adcy3-at* transcriptional regulation.
365

Finally, to test if cold-inducible ADCY3/PPARGC1A alternative promoter accrual events are
conserved in humans, we isolated SVF from deep-neck biopsies of human individuals,
differentiated these into human white and brown adipocytes and performed qPCR for full-length
and truncated *Ppargc1a* and *Adcy3* transcripts after norepinephrine (NE) stimulation. We observed
NE-induced *ADCY3-AT* and *PPARGC1A-AT* expression in brown human adipocytes (Fig.6f,g). We
also investigated the broader evolutionary context of *Ppargc1a-at* and *Adcy3-at* by sequence
comparison across a panel of thermogenic and non-thermogenic species (Fig.S7c). We found that
Ppargc1a-at exon 1 was broadly conserved across eutherian species (Fig.6j, Fig.S7d,e), whereas
mouse *Adcy3-at* was only conserved within selected rodent species (Fig.S7f) and likely arose
independently from human *ADCY3-AT* that was only conserved in primates (Fig.S7g). Despite this
convergent ADCY3-AT evolution, rodent and primate *Adcy3-at* transcripts encoded sequence- and
structurally related proteins (Fig.6k). Thus, cold stress employs an evolutionarily ancient signal
transduction axis that couples truncated PPARGC1A-AT proteins to cold-induced, rheostatic
transcriptional responses in activated brown adipocyte that, amongst others, involves ADCY3-AT.
380
Discussion:
Since the re-discovery of active and recruitable BAT in humans[3-5], enhancing brown fat activity
has been increasingly recognized as innovative therapeutic regimen to mitigate obesity and obesity-
related health decline. Understanding BAT activity and increasing energy expenditure by ectopic
BAT activation can thus become key to control metabolic health in a positive manner. Whilst the
molecular circuitry underlying thermogenic activation of brown fat is becoming increasingly well
understood, we lack detailed understanding of how BAT activation is kept in balance to avoid
negative consequences of exaggerated energy dissipation. Here, we have demonstrated a novel,
evolutionary conserved molecular mechanism that functions as a rheostat to maintain BAT
function. This is based on the expression of an N-terminally truncated ADCY3-AT isoform that
regulates cAMP synthesis during chronic cold exposure and, thereby, maintains BAT energy
homeostasis.
393
Expression of novel ADCY isoforms has also been demonstrated in other cell types, i.e., vascular
smooth muscle cells (VSMCs). A crucial change in VSMC function is the trans-differentiation from
a from contractile/quiescent to a secretory/proliferative phenotype, which underlies artherogenesis
and vascular remodeling [63]. Trans-differentiation in response to the pro-atherogenic cytokine
interleukin-1beta (IL-1b) relies on *de novo* expression of ADCY8 in VSMCs [64, 65]. However, an
increase in intracellular cAMP levels is supposed to inhibit the secretory/proliferative VSCM
phenotype [66, 67]. Strikingly, the ADCY8 isoforms expressed in VSCMs upon IL-1b stimulation are

splice variants which results in a shorter ADCY8 proteins, which are catalytically inactive. N-
terminally truncated ADCY8 proteins act in a dominant-negative manner on other ADCY isoforms
by forming heterodimers, retaining them in the ER and reducing intracellular cAMP levels [68, 69].
This is in line with our results, mirroring our observation of a stimulus-dependent *de novo*
expression of truncated ADCY3-AT in BAT. Thus, we here delineate that balancing cAMP levels
by expressing truncated ADCY isoforms is a more broadly applicable mechanisms that occurs not
only in VSCMs but also in thermogenic fat and across different ADCY isoforms. Whether the
regulation of *de novo* expression is regulated by common signaling pathways in different cell types,
is not known. We here identified a H3K4me3-marked promoter in intron 2 of the *Adcy3* gene,
selectively induced upon cold, resulting in novel transcriptional start site for a 5'-truncated *Adcy3*
mRNA isoform. The regulation of epigenetic modifications in the context of cAMP signaling is
unknown, but it has been shown that the expression of a histone demethylase is controlled by the
transcription factor CREB (cAMP-response binding protein), which is activated by cAMP/PKA-
dependent phosphorylation [70]. For instance, the beta2-adrenergic receptor agonist Clenbuterol
engages cAMP/PKA/p-CREB signaling, which then drives the expression of *Jhdm2a*, a histone
demethylase via direct binding of p-CREB to the CRE (cAMP response element) site in the
JHDM2a promotor [71]. For ADCY8, *de novo* expression seems to result from both, transcriptional
activation and alternative splicing [68]. Strikingly, the mouse *Adcy8* promoter contains a CRE site
upstream of the TSS that is required for basal and cAMP-dependent promoter activity [72, 73]. Thus,
cAMP-dependent control of *Adcy* isoforms, directly or indirectly by epigenetic modifications,
might have emerged as unifying mechanism.
422
Expression of truncated protein isoforms in metabolically active tissue, like adipose tissue or
muscle, is conserved among different proteins that converge in common signaling pathways in a
cell-type specific manner. Here, we demonstrated that cold exposure results in the expression of a
truncated PPARGC1A-AT proteoform, which contributes to induction of *Adcy3-at* expression. The
stimulus that induces *de novo* expression of the truncated proteins can, however, be different yet
appropriate towards the seminal function of the tissue, i.e., cold exposure for the thermogenic BAT
and endurance training for truncated PPARGC1A isoforms leading to the expression of truncated
PPARGC1A isoforms PGC-1a2, 3, or 4[28, 61, 74]. As these stimuli, and the resulting protein
expression, are crucial for the function and homeostasis of respective tissues, identifying
pharmacological means to target these truncated isoforms is therapeutically relevant. Based on our
results from *Adcy3ΔAT* mice, pharmacologically targeting *Adcy3-at* expression could pave the way
to re-activate BAT function and thereby mitigate, or even prevent, obesity and obesity-related
metabolic decline.

   Figure legends:

Figure 1: Transcriptional regulation of cAMP biosynthesis during cold adaptation of adipose

tissue. (**a-c**) Volcano plot of all and significantly altered (cyan, magenta) genes in BAT (**a**, n=2,290;

1,086/1,204 up-/downregulated DEGs), iWAT (**b**, n=1,252; 804/448 up-/downregulated DEGs)

and eWAT (**c**, n=655 up-/downregulated DEGs) in 20 weeks old C57BL/6N male mice housed at

room temperature (22°C) or after 24 h (**a,c**) and 72 h (**b**) of 5°C cold exposure as determined by

mRNA-seq. Statistically significant genes were defined as FDR ≤0.05 and log transcripts per

million (TPM)>0. n=3-5 animals per temperature condition were analyzed. (**d-f**) KEGG pathway

enrichments (Benjamini & Hochberg corrected *P*-value ≤ 0.05) for DEGs shown in (**a-c**). (**g-i**)

mRNA expression of adenylyl cyclase isoforms abundance in BAT (**g**), iWAT (**h**) and eWAT (**i**)

determined by mRNA-seq and depicted in TPM. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data

points plotted and unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed

to assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**j-k**) Analysis of single-

nucleus RNA-seq (snRNA-seq) data from *Adipoq*-tdTomato positive adipocyte nuclei housed at

thermoneutrality (TN), room temperature (RT), and animals after cold exposure (CE) at 8°C for 4

days (**j**). The colors depict expression of *Adcy3* (green), *Ucp1* (red) or both (yellow). (**k**) Ridgeline

plots depicting frequency (in nuclei) of expression of BAT identity genes at indicated temperatures.

Figure 2: ADCY3 is required for cAMP biosynthesis in BAT and required for cold adaptation in

obesity. (**a**) Illustration of breeding strategy to obtain adipocyte-specific *Adcy3* knockout mice

(*Adcy3-AdcKO*) and *LoxP* controls. (**b**) Quantification of *Adcy3* expression in BAT of chow-diet

fed, male *LoxP* (n=4) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=4) by RNA-seq. (**c**) Determination of total cAMP

levels by ELISA in BAT obtained from chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=4) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=4)

housed at 22°C and plotted as fold-change (fc). (**b-c**) Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data

points plotted. Unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed to

assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**d**) Body weight trajectories

in chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**e-f**) Blood glucose levels during

(**e**) glucose tolerance tests and (**f**) insulin tolerance tests in chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and

Adcy3-AdcKO (n=8) mice. (**d-f**) Graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Statistical

significance was determined by performing Two-Way ANOVA with repeated measurements for x

values (mixed models). *Post-hoc P*-value correction to account for multiple testing was performed

using Bonferroni adjustment. The source of variation, % of the variation and exact *P* values are

given in table insets. (**g**) Indirect calorimetric quantification of respiratory Exchange Ratios (RER)

in chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**h**) Indirect calorimetric

measurement of oxygen consumption in chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8)

mice. (**i**) Quantification of mean daily oxygen consumption in chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=16)

and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=14) mice. (**j**) Indirect calorimetric determination of mean daily locomotor

activity in chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**i-j**) Bar graphs represent

mean ± SD with all data points plotted and parametric, unpaired, two-tailed Student's t-tests were

performed to assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**k**) BW

trajectories in HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**l-m**) Blood glucose

levels during (**l**) glucose tolerance tests and (**m**) insulin tolerance tests in HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8)

and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**k-m**) Graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted.

Statistical significance was determined by performing Two-Way ANOVA with repeated

measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-hoc P*-value correction to account for multiple

testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment. The source of variation, % of the variation and

exact *P* values are given in table insets. (**n**) Indirect calorimetric quantification of respiratory

Exchange Ratios (RER) in HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. (**o**) Indirect

calorimetric measurement of oxygen consumption in HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-*

AdcKO (n=8) mice. (**p**) Indirect calorimetric determination of mean daily locomotor activity in

HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=8) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* (n=8) mice. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with

all data points plotted and parametric, unpaired, two-tailed Student's t-tests were performed to

assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel.

Figure 3: Activated brown adipocytes express a truncated ADCY3 (ADCY3-AT) transcript and

protein isoform. (**a**) Sashimi plots visualizing splicing junctions from aligned RNA-seq data in

BAT in the murine *Adcy3* gene from 22°C-housed 20 weeks old male wildtype C57BL/6N mice or

from animals singly housed at 4 °C for a period of 24 h prior to harvesting adipose tissues. Data

represent n=3-5 individual mice per condition. *Illu*, Illumina short-read RNA-seq; *Telo*, TeloPrime

Full-Length cDNA-seq; *cDNA*, Direct cDNA-seq. Reads were aligned against GENCODE M29

annotation and transcript re-assembly using Illumina short-read and full-length RNA-seq using

FLAIR[75]. (**b**) Schematic illustration of (1) full-length *Adcy3-fl* transcript and ADCY3-FL protein

structure, and (2) *Adcy3-at* transcript and ADCY3-AT protein structure (2). (**c-d**) Expression of

Adcy3-fl (**c**) and *Adcy3-at* (**d**) in BAT of chow diet-fed animals housed at 22°C (n=4 *LoxP*, n=4

Adcy3-AdcKO) and 5°C (n=3 for *LoxP*, n=3 for *Adcy3-AdcKO*) determined by RNA-seq. (**e-g**)

Relative expression of *Adcy3-fl* and *Adcy3-at* as determined by quantitative PCR analysis of BAT

(**e**), iWAT (**f**) and eWAT (**g**) of male C57BL/6N mice housed at room temperature (n=3) or exposed

to 5°C for 24 h (n=3). (**h-j**) Relative expression of *Adcy3-fl* and *Adcy3-at* as determined by

quantitative PCR analysis of primary adipocytes derived from stromal-vascular fraction (SVF) cells

isolated from BAT (**h**), iWAT (**i**), and eWAT (**j**) depots and stimulated with 6 h of 10 μM

CL316,243. Replicates represent primary adipocytes isolated from individual mice (n=3 mice per

depot and stimulation regimen). (**c-j**) Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted.

To test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–Wallis one-way analysis of

variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing were performed. *P*-values are

indicated in the panel. (**k-l**) Immunoblot analysis of primary adipocytes differentiated from SVF

cells isolated from BAT (1°BA) and iWAT (1°iWA), stimulated for 6 h and 24 h with 1 mM db-

cAMP (cAMP) and 10 μM CL316,243 (CL) and blotted using pan anti-ADCY3 antibody. Bands

corresponding to ADCY3-FL and ADCY3-AT are from the same membrane but represent diffent

exposure times. Calnexin (CLNX) was used as loading control.

Figure 4: ADCY3-AT inhibits oxidative metabolism in vitro and in vivo. (**a**) Illustration of

CRISPR-Cas9 mediated excision of *Adcy3-at* specific exon 2b including *Adcy3-at* TSS (light blue)

yielding ADCY3-AT specific knockout mice. (**b-c**) Relative expression of (**b**) *Adcy3-at* and (**c**)

Adcy3-fl determined by qPCR analysis of BAT, iWAT, and eWAT of chow diet fed, male *LoxP*

and *Adcy3ΔAT* mice housed at 22°C (n=3-4 per tissue and genotype). Bar graphs represent mean ±

SD with all data points plotted. An unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests

were performed to assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**d**) Body

weights in chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=7) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=9) mice. (**e**) Blood glucose excursion

during glucose tolerance test in chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=7) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=9) mice. (**f**)

Cumulative food intake as measured by indirect calorimetry in chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=7) and

Adcy3ΔAT (n=9) mice. (**g**) Indirect calorimetric measurement of oxygen consumption in chow-diet

fed, male *LoxP* (n=7) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=9) mice. (**d-g**) Graphs represent mean ± SD with all data

points plotted. Statistical significance was determined by performing Two-Way ANOVA with

repeated measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-hoc P*-value correction to account for

multiple testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment. The source of variation, % of the

variation and exact *P* values are given in table insets. (**h-i,l**) Relative expression of indicated

mRNAs in (**h**) chow diet-fed, male *LoxP* (n=5 for 22°C, n=6 for 5°C) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=3 for

22°C, n=4 for 5°C), (**i**) chow diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=3) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=3) and (**l**) HFD-fed, male

LoxP (n=3) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=3) mice. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted

and unpaired, two-tailed, non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed for indicated

comparisons to assess statistical significance. *P*-values are given within the panel. (**j**) BW in 16 to

19 weeks old, HFD-fed male *LoxP* (n=4-5) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=4-6) mice. (**k**) Blood glucose during

glucose tolerance tests in HFD-fed, male *LoxP* (n=4) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=4) mice. (**j-k**) Graphs

represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Statistical significance was determined by

performing Two-Way ANOVA with repeated measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-*
hoc P-value correction to account for multiple testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment.
The source of variation, % of the variation and exact *P* values are given in the table insets. (**m,n**)
Oxygen consumption rates (**m**) and extracellular acidification rates (**n**) in 1°BA derived from SVF
of *LoxP* or *Adcy3ΔAT* mice after stimulation with 10 μM CL316,243. The numbers of measured
wells are indicated in the panel. (**o-p**) Oxygen consumption rates (**o**) and extracellular acidification
rates (**p**) in 1°BA derived from SVF of *LoxP* or *Adcy3ΔAT* mice. OM, oligomycin; FCCP, AA,
Antimycin A; Rot, Rotenone. The numbers of measured wells are indicated in the panel. (**m-o**)
Graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Statistical significance was determined
by performing Two-Way ANOVA with repeated measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-*
hoc P-value correction to account for multiple testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment.
The source of variation, % of the variation and exact *P* values are given in the table insets.

Figure 5: ADCY3-AT alters ADCY3 subcellular localization and thereby limits cAMP
biosynthesis. (a) Co-immunoprecipitation of ADCY3-AT-FLAG and ADCY3-FL-HA in CHO
cells. CHO K1 cells stably expressing ADCY3-FL-HA were transiently transfected with mCherry
(upper row) or ADCY3-AT-Flag (bottom row). Total protein lysates were incubated with anti-
FLAG magnetic beads and the different fractions were analyzed by Western blot (Input, NB: non-
bound, W: wash, Eluate). (**b**) Quantification of Western blot analyses. The ratio of ADCY3-FL-
HA protein density in the eluate of total protein lysates described in (**a**). Bar graphs represent mean
± SD with all data points plotted. An unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests
were performed to assess statistical significance. If relevant, *P*-values are indicated within the
panel. (**c**) Biotinylation assay. Representative Western blot analysis of total protein lysates isolated
from CHO cells stably expressing CNGA2-TM (+, CNB-3B10), transiently transfected with
mCherry (-, anti-RFP antibody), or stably expressing ADCY3-FL-HA or ADCY3-AT-HA (anti-
HA antibody). Cells were treated with the biotinylation reagent Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin, lysed
(Input), and purified using a NeutrAvidin-agarose-resin (F: flow through, W: wash, E: eluate, B:
beads). (**d**) Quantification biotinylation assay. Densitometric analysis of n=3 (CNGA2-TM,
mCherry, ADCY3-FL-HA) and n=4 (ADCY3-AT-HA) Western blots shown in (**e**). Values were
normalized to the respective input sample. The ratio of eluate to input in % is shown as mean ± SD
with all data points plotted. To test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–
Wallis one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing
were performed. *P*-values are indicated in the panel. (**e**) CHO cells stably expressing ADCY3-FL-
HA and transiently transfected with mCherry-CAAX were sonicated and labeled with an anti-
Calnexin antibody (ER-marker, magenta) and an anti-HA antibody (green). mCherryCAAX

 fluorescence is indicated in red. Single channels are shown at the top, merged images at the bottom

row. White boxes are shown as magnified view at the bottom-right. Arrows point to endoplasmic

reticulum-plasma membrane (ER-PM) contact sites, asterixis indicate contact-free parts within the

membrane sheet. Scale bar: 10 μm. (**f**) See (**e**) for CHO cells stably expressing ADCY3-AT-HA.

(**g**) Representative Western blot analysis of total protein lysates isolated from CHO K1 cells stably

expressing ADCY3-FL-HA or, transiently expressing (*top*) mCherry or (*bottom*) ADCY3-AT-

FLAG-2A-mCherry. Cells were treated with the biotinylation reagent Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin and

the protein lysate was purified using a NeutrAvidin-agarose-resin. The following samples were

loaded: Input, Flow-through (F), Wash (W1-3), Eluate, Beads (B). The presence of Adcy3-FL-HA

in the plasma membrane was verified using an anti-HA antibody, an anti-mCherry antibody was

used as a control. (**h**) AlphaFold modeling of ADCY3-FL/ADCY3-AT heterodimer complex. Full-

colored and transparent domains depict non-conserved and conserved residues between ADCY3-

FL and ADCY3-AT, respectively.

Figure 6: Conserved and cold-inducible PPARGC1A-AT drives *Adcy3-at* expression in brown

adipocytes. (a) Sashimi plots visualizing splicing junctions from aligned RNA-seq data in BAT in

the murine *Ppargc1a* gene locus from 22°C-housed 20 weeks old male wildtype C57BL/6N mice

or animals singly housed at 4 °C for a period of 24 h prior to harvesting adipose tissue. n=3-5

animals per temperature. *Illu*, Illumina short-read RNA-seq; *Telo*, TeloPrime Full-Length cDNA-

seq; *cDNA*, Direct cDNA-seq. Reads were aligned against GENCODE M29 annotation and

transcript re-assembly using Illumina and ONT information using FLAIR[75]. (**b**) Illustration of full-

length *Ppargc1a-fl* transcript and PPARGC1A-FL protein structure (1) as well as *Ppargc1a-at*

transcript and PPARGC1A-AT protein structure (2). (**c**) Relative expression of *Ppargc1a-fl* and

Ppargc1a-at as determined by quantitative PCR analysis of primary adipocytes derived from

stromal-vascular fraction (SVF) cells isolated from BAT (*left*), iWAT (*middle*), and eWAT (*right*)

depots. Replicates represent primary adipocytes isolated from individual mice (n=3 mice per

adipose depot and stimulation regimen). Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points

plotted. To test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–Wallis one-way

analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing were performed.

P-values are indicated in the panel. (**d-e***) Adcy3* (**d**) and *Ppargc1a* (**e**) isoform expression in 1°BA

after transfection with 25 nM scrambled (scr LNA) or *Ppargc1a* locked nucleic acids (LNAs)

targeting both *Ppargc1a* (*Ppargc1a-at_fl* LNA) isoforms or Ppargc1a-at exclusively (*Ppargc1a-at*

LNA) knockdown. Data represent three to four independent experiments, each performed in three

technical replicates. Paired samples are represented by individual lines and scr LNA set to unity

=1. Line graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted and paired, two-tailed Student's

T-tests were performed to assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**f-**

i) Expression of human *ADCY3-AT* (**f**) and *PPARGC1A-AT* (**g**) in primary human brown adipocytes

(hBA) derived from stromal-vascular precursors and stimulated with 1 μM norepinephrine (NE)

for 16 h as described previously[76]. (**h**) Genomic conservation of *Ppargc1a-at* among representative

mammals. Color gradient indicates percent nucleotide identity of exon 1b relative to mouse.

Phylogeny based on [77]. (**i**) Overlap of predicted structure (AlphaFold) of mouse and human

ADCY3-AT proteins. Cyan and Gold depict mouse and human isoform, respectively

Methods:

Animal care and research diets:

Experimental animals were kept in individually ventilated cages (IVC Type II long) in a pathogen-

free (SPF) animal facility with controlled temperature (22-24 °C), light/dark cycle (12h/12h) and

humidity (50-70%). Care of animals was within institutional and animal-care committee guidelines

approved by (1) local (Bezirksregierung Köln) or regional (Tierschutzkommission acc. §15 TSchG

of Landesamt for Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (LANUV) North-Rhine Westphalia,

Germany) authorities, internal accession no. 84-02.04.2017.A009 or (2) Ministry of Environment

of Denmark (Miljø- og Fødevarestyrelsen), internal accession no. 2018-15-0201-01562. All

animals were maintained and regularly backcrossed to a C57BL/6N background and housed in

groups of 3-4 animals per cage and had *ab libitum* access to food and drinking water. All mice were

sacrificed by cervical dislocation or carbon dioxide asphyxiation. Unless otherwise indicated,

animals were allowed ad libitum access to chow diet (ssniff® R/M-H Low-Phytoestrogen, V1554)

containing 62 kJ% carbohydrates, 27 kJ% protein and 11 kJ% fat and drinking water. Diet-induced

obesity (DIO) was achieved by feeding a high-fat diet (HFD, D12492 (I) mod; Sniff) containing 22

kJ% carbohydrates, 24k J% protein and 54 kJ% fat from starting at 6-8 weeks of age.

Mouse husbandry:

Adcy3 floxed mice were kindly provided by Chen and colleagues [24]. Herein, exon 3 of the *Adcy3*

gene is flanked by two intronic *LoxP* sites, each 75 base pairs upstream or downstream of the exon.

Deleting exon 3 of *Adcy3* causes a frame shift mutation, resulting in a premature stop codon within

the *Adcy3* gene. Adipose tissue-specific deletion of both, *Adcy3-fl* and *Adcy3-at*, isoforms of *Adcy3*

was achieved using cre recombinase-mediated excision of *LoxP*-flanked ('floxed') gene sequences.

For this, mice floxed for *Adcy3* (*Adcy3^{LoxP/LoxP}*) were interbred with mice expressing the *Adipoq*-

cre recombinase under control of mature adipocyte specific *Adipoq* promote (*Adipoq-cre^{+/}*cre) [36].

AdipoQ-Cre mice were obtained from Jax (Stock no. #010803) and backcrossed to C57BL/6N for

at least five generations. Resulting (*Adcy3^{LoxP/LoxP}, Adipoq-cre^{+/cre}* mice (*Adcy3-AdcKO*) were

compared to (*Adcy3^{LoxP/LoxP}, Adipoq-cre^{+/+}*) littermates as controls (*LoxP*).

Generation of Adcy3ΔAT mice:

Adcy3ΔAT knock-out ES cells were generated using CRISPR/Cas9 technology using a modified

pX330 plasmid vector [78, 79] containing two gRNAs and a GFP-puromycin selection cassette. The

plasmid was kindly provided by Dr. Stefan Frank and was constructed at the Max-Planck Institute

for Molecular Biomedicine (Münster, Germany). The knock-out strategy targeted 978 bp deletion

of *Adcy3-at* starting exon ('exon 2b') and flanking regions from *Adcy3* genomic DNA. A CRISPR

design online tool (http://crispr.mit.edu/) was used to generate *Adcy3-AT* specific single guide RNA

(sgRNA) sequences. The list of sgRNAs and primers for generation of *Adcy3*ΔAT mice are given

in Supplementary table S3. The quality score of the design pipeline represents the reliability of an

on-target activity computed as 100%, minus a weighted sum of off-target hit-scores. A chosen

gRNA with a high-quality score was cloned into the BbsI-digested pX330 vector, followed by the

second gRNA, which was cloned using a SapI-mediated Golden Gate assembly method for the

concatemerization of gRNA cassettes.

Vector generation:

For CRISPR/Cas9 construct generation, 1 µg of the pX330 vector was enzymatically digested with

FastDigest BbsI (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 30 min at 37 °C. The digested vector was purified

using the MinElute PCR Purification kit (Qiagen) following the manufacturer's instructions. gRNA

was phosphorylated by a T4 polynucleotide kinase according to product instructions (New England

Biolabs). For the amplification of phosphorylated sgRNA it was incubated with 1 µl of forward and

reverse primers (100 µM, Supplementary Table S3) for 30 min at 37 °C. Annealing was performed

at 95 °C for 5 min and subsequently the reaction was cooled to 25 °C at a cooling rate of 5 °C/min.

1 µl of the oligo reaction was ligated with 50 ng of digested pX330 vector and was assessed using

the Quick Ligase kit (New England Biolabs) for 20 min at room temperature according to the

manufacturer's instructions. Plasmid Safe DNase kit (EpiCentre) was used to degrade any

unspecific recombination products for 30 min at 37 °C, following the instructions of the kit.

Culturing mouse embryonic fibroblasts and ES cells and ES cell transfection:

Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (EF) were used as feeder cells for mouse embryonic stem cells (ESC).

EF cells were passaged before reaching full confluence and EF-cell medium was changed to fresh

medium every two days. To obtain mitotically inactive fibroblasts, cell growth was stopped by

adding 10 µg/ml MMC after three generations (EF3) and the reaction was incubated for another 2-

4 h. MMC was removed, and cells were rinsed with 1xPBS. The cells were afterwards stored by

freezing or directly used for seeding. To seed MMC-treated EF3 cells, tissue culture dishes were

gelatinized with 0.2% gelatin in advance to enhance the attachment of MMC-treated cells to the

dish-surface. ES cells were cultivated on top of MMC-treated EF3 cells and ES cell culture medium

was exchanged every day. ES cells were passaged to new culture plates or were frozen for long

term use and to maintain pluripotency.

10^7 ESC were mixed with 40 µg of the CRISPR construct dissolved in PBS, resuspended in 400

µL transfection buffer (RPMI without Phenol Red, Gibco, Karlsruhe, Germany), and mixed with

the plasmid construct DNA. The total volume was adjusted to 800 μl. Transfection was achieved

by electroporation at 450 μFD and 240 V at room temperature (Gene Pulser Xcell, Bio-Rad

Laboratories GmbH, München, Germany) in a 4 mm electroporation cuvette. The time constant

was set to around 7-10 seconds. After 5 min incubation, cells were resuspended in ES-cell medium,

diluted 1:20000 and plated on a gelatinized 10 cm culture dishes with previously prepared MMC-

treated EF3 cells. Following two days of incubation in ES-medium, single clones were transferred

to three 96-well plates and selected via colony PCR. In addition to PCR confirmation, Southern

blot analysis was used to confirm the deletion of *Adcy3-AT* as explained below. Validated colonies

were transferred in 40 μl PBS to a 96-well (round-bottom) plate containing 25 μl trypsin.

Trypsinization took place for 5 min at 37 °C and the reaction was stopped by adding 100 μl ES-

medium. Cell suspension for each colony was added up to 15 mL with ESC-medium and seeded in

one separate 10 cm dish per colony. To achieve higher homogeneity among targeted ESC

populations, positive colonies were again seeded out after expansion in three 96-well plates each

and selection by PCR and Southern blot repeated. Positive colonies were trypsinized and seeded

on 10 cm dishes for expansion as before.

Generation of Adcy3ΔAT chimeric mice from genetically modified ESC clones and genotyping:

Positive *Adcy3ΔAT* clones were injected into donor blastocysts, which was performed by Taconic

Biosciences (Cologne, Germany). Injected blastocysts were implanted into pseudo-pregnant foster

mice and resulting progenies (Generation F1) partly develop from cells derived from the *Adcy3Δ*AT

ESC. Male chimeric F_1 mice were backcrossed to C57BL/6N mice to produce the F_2 generation.

Germline transmission was confirmed by PCR and Sanger sequencing of DNA extracted from the

tails of F_2 mice. Genotyping protocols for the *Adcy3ΔAT* transgenic allele was conducted using the

following primers which were also used for genotyping from mouse tail DNA:

*Adcy3ΔAT*_E2B_F_1: 5'-GGGACTGAGGGAGCCTAAGA-3'

*Adcy3ΔAT*_E2B_R: 5'-GGCCAGGTTACATGAGGACA-3'

*Adcy3ΔAT*_E2BF_2_R2: 5-'-GGAGAGCTTCGAGTGTGTCAAG-3'.

Southern blot of Adcy3ΔAT embryonic stem cells:

For confirmation of *Adcy3-at* deletion in ESC, genomic DNA (5-10 μg) derived from transfected

ESC was digested by high concentrated HindIII-HF or high concentrated BamHI-HF (NEB). In all

Southern blot analyses, wildtype Bruce 4 (Br4) ESC DNA was used as negative control. Overnight

digested DNA was loaded with loading dye onto a 0.8 % agarose gel and separated at 30 V for at

least 16 hours. The DNA was consequently de-purinated within the gel by incubating the gel in

0.25 M HCl for 20 min under continuous shaking. DNA was then transferred into a charged

Amersham Hybond-XL nylon membrane by alkaline capillary transfer using a sodium hydroxide

solution (0.4 M NaOH) and the membrane was incubated in 2X SSC for 20 min and finally dried

at 80 °C for 45 min to fix the DNA on the membrane. To probe for the modified *Adcy3ΔAT* allele,

a 394 bp probe was amplified from Bruce4 ESC genomic DNA with primers 5'-

ATCCTGTGCTGACATGGGTG-3' and 5'-AATTCCCCACTGACCAACGG-3' using high-

fidelity PCR Master Kit. The extracted probes were radioactively labeled with 2.5 µl [alpha-32P]

dCTP (Amersham) according to the instructions of the kit (LaddermanTM Labeling Kit, Takara).

The probe was mixed with 100 µl TE buffer (10mM, pH8.5) and purified via spin-column

chromatography using Illustra MicroSpin S-200 HR columns. The dried membrane was incubated

in 2X SSC buffer to prepare for pre-hybridization. Pre-hybridization was performed in pre-

hybridization buffer (1 M sodium chloride, 50 mM Tris-CL pH 7.5, 10 % Dextran sulfate, 1% SDS,

250 µg/ml salmon sperm DNA) at 65 °C for at least 4 h. After pre-hybridization radioactively

labeled probes were added to the membrane and the reaction was incubated overnight at 65 °C.

After several washing steps, the membrane was placed in direct contact with Kodak MS

hypersensitive films for 4-24 h to detect the radioactive signal. Expected product sizes were 4.75

kb for *Adcy3* wildtype and 3.75 kb for *Adcy3ΔAT* constructs.

Plasmid vector cloning:

Overexpression constructs (ADCY3-AT, 3201 bp and ADCY3-FL, 3792 bp) were PCR amplified

from synthetic oligonucleotides by Thermo Fischer scientific. The DNA fragment was inserted into

pcDNA3.1(+) vector backbones using NheI / XhoI restriction enzymes. For ADCY3-AT the first

ATG in-frame within exon 2 was used as start codon. Sequences encoding Kozak sequences

(GCCACC) and a 295 bp artificial intron sequence were included upstream of ATG. To generate

pc3.1(+)-mADCY3-AT-FLAG, the FLAG tag was added by PCR and the coding sequence cloned

into the vector backbone using EcoRI/XhoI. Additional details on cloning procedures are available

upon reasonable request.

Illumina and Nanopore RNA sequencing and data analysis:

Paired end libraries were constructed using the NEBNext Ultra II RNA Library Prep Kit (New

England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA) following the manufacturer's protocol and sequenced on a

NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) in 2x50-bp paired-end reads. Transcriptional

expression was quantified using Salmon[80] by mapping RNA-seq reads to the ENSEMBL m38

(mm10) transcriptome. Adcy3-at transcript identified in the de novo ONT/Illumina transcriptome

assembly (see section below), was added to the ENESEML m38 transcriptome and counted as an

independent gene. Transcript counts were imported and summarized to ENSEMBL genes IDs using

tximport[81] and differential expression analyses were conducted with edgeR [82]using glmQLFTest.

KEGG pathway enrichment analyses were conducted using clusterProfiler package for R[83].

Nanopore RNA-Sequencing and data processing:

RNA was isolated by phenol chloroform extraction and alcohol precipitation followed by two

consecutive rounds of poly-A selection using oligo(dT) beads (GenElute mRNA Miniprep Kit,

Sigma MRN10) following the manufacturer's recommendations. Subsequently, RNA was alcohol

precipitated using NaAcetate and glycogen following the protocol from the Ribo-Zero rRNA

Removal Kit (Illumina). Nanopore sequencing libraries were prepared using the TeloPrime Full-

Length cDNA Amplification Kit (Lexogen, Austria), the SQK-DCS109 direct cDNA sequencing

kit (Oxford nanopore technologies, ONT) and the SQK-RNA002 direct RNA sequencing kit (ONT)

according to manufacturer's protocols. Sequencing was performed using FLO-MIN106 R9 flow

cells on the GridION platform (ONT). Reads were mapped against the murine genome

(GRCm38.p6) using minimap2 [84] and transcriptomes reassembled using FLAIR [75]. Tracks were

visualized using gviz [85].

Single-nucleus RNA-Sequencing (snRNA-seq) data processing:

Pre-processed data from snRNA-seq from 10X sequencing of mouse 1°BA housed at room-

temperature, cold-exposure and/or thermoneutrality was adopted from Sun[34] (ArrayExpress using

accession code E-MTAB-8562. Data was normalized (SCTransform), analyzed and plotted using

Seurat 4.0.1 package for R[80-83, 86].

Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP) coupled to sequencing (ChIP-seq) and ChIP-qPCR:

Prior to ChIP-seq, brown adipose tissue was dissociated using a gentleMACS Dissociator (Miltenyi

Biotec, Germany). The cell suspension was crosslinked with 1 % formaldehyde for 10 min at RT

and the reaction was quenched with 0.125 M glycine for 5-10 min at RT. Cells were washed 2X

with cold PBS and PMSF and snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen before storing at -80°C. For histone

posttranslational modification (PTM) sequencing, BAT of two mice were used and steps performed

on ice. First, frozen pellets were thawed on ice for 30-60 min. Pellets were resuspended in 5 ml

LB1 (50 mM Hepes, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 % Glycerol, 0.5 % NP-40, 0.25 % Triton X-

100) by pipetting and then rotated vertically at 4°C for 10 min. Pellets were centrifuged for 5 min

at 1350 x g at 4°C (GH-3.8 rotor = 2400 rpm) and supernatant was aspirated. Pellets were

resuspended in 5 ml LB2 (10 mM Tris, 200 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA) and incubated

at vertical rotation and at room temperature for 10 min. Samples were centrifuged for 5 min at 1350

x g at 4°C and supernatant was carefully aspirated. Then, samples were resuspended in 3 ml LB3

(10 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.1 % Na-Deoxycholate, 0.5 % N-lauroylsarcosine) and were separated into 2 x 1.5 ml in 15 ml polypropylene tubes, in which they were sonicated with the following settings by Bioruptor Plus sonication: Power = high, 'on' interval = 30 sec, 'off' interval = 45 sec, total time = 10 min (18 cycles of 'on'/'off'). Sonicated samples were transferred to a 1.5 ml microfuge tube and were centrifuged for 10 min at 16000 x g at 4°C to pellet cellular debris. 10 % of sample solution were stored to be used as input control, while the rest was used for ChIP. To capture different H3K4me3 modifications, 3 μl of anti-H3K4me3 antibodies (Active Motif, cat. No 39159) were added to the sonicated ChIP reaction and rotated vertically at 4° C overnight. The next day, 100 μl Dynabeads (Protein A or Protein G) for each ChIP sample were prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions, mixed with 1 ml of antibody-bound chromatin, and rotated vertically at 4°C for at least 2-4 hours. Bound beads were washed at least five times in 1 ml cold RIPA and once in 1 ml cold TE buffer containing 50 mM NaCl. Samples were eluted for 15 min with elution buffer at 65°C and continuously shaken at 700 rpm. Beads were separated using a magnet and 200 μl supernatant were transferred to fresh microfuge tubes. Previously stored input samples were thawed and mixed with 300 μl Elution buffer. ChIP/input samples were incubated at 65°C in a water bath overnight to reverse the crosslinking reaction. On the third day, 1 volume TE buffer was added at room temperature to dilute SDS in both ChIP and input samples. For digestion of RNA and protein contamination, RNase A was added to the samples and incubated in a 37°C water bath for 2 hours; then proteinase K was added to a 0.2 mg/ml final concentration and incubated in a 55°C water bath for 2 hours. Finally, DNA was extracted using a standard phenol-chloroform extraction method at room temperature and DNA concentrations were measured using a NanoDropTM ND-1000 spectrophotometer or QubitTM dsDNA HS Assay Kit and stored at -80 °C until sequencing or ChIP-qPCR.

H3K4me3-immunoprecipitated genomic DNA was diluted 1:100 and Chip-qPCR performed with a Light Cycler 480II machine (Roche) using technical duplicates and ChIP-qPCR signals were calculated as % of input. Standard deviations were calculated from technical duplicate reactions and represented as error bars. Quantitative PCR primer sequences were:

Adcy3-fl TSS_F: 5'-GATGGACTTCCACGAGGCTG-3'

Adcy3-fl TSS_R: 5'-TACTTCCTTTCCCCCACCCA-3'

Adcy3-at TSS_F: 5'-GGAGAGCTTCGAGTGTGTCAAG-3'

Adcy3-at TSS_R: 5'-GTCTCACCTTAAGGCTCCTCCT-3'

*Adcy3 exon 3*_F: 5'-CTGTGCCAGATTGTCTCCGT-3'

*Adcy3 exon 3*_R: 5'-GTCATGGACTTGGGCTTCCA-3'

Mouse tissue RNA isolation:

RNA from indicated tissues and primary brown and inguinal white adipocytes was isolated using Trizol® according to manufacturer's protocols for total RNA isolation.

CHO K1 cell culture:

CHO K1 WT cells (ATCC, #CCL-61) were maintained in F-12 Nut Mix + GlutaMAX (#31765-027, Thermo Fisher) at a subconfluent level and passaged every 4 days. Cells stably expressing ADCY3-FL-HA were kept in medium containing 0.8 mg/ml Geneticin (G418 Sulfate, Gibco).

Isolation of depot-specific stromal-vascular fraction (SVF) derived 1° adipocytes:

Inguinal white and intrascapular brown adipose tissues from 6-8 weeks-old male mice were dissected after carbon dioxide asphyxiation, minced, and digested with collagenase II (2 mg/mL), DNAse I (15 kU/mL), Dispase II (for BAT: 1.5 mg/mL) and 3.4 % BSA supplemented serum-free SVF culture media Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium:Nutrient Mixture F-12 (DMEM/F-12) pre-supplemented with 1 % P/S, 0.1 % Biotin and 0.1 % pantothenic acid. Minced tissues incubated in 37 °C shaker at 120 rpm/min for 45 minutes and pipetted in every 15 minutes until the minced tissue particles were completely dissolved. SVF fraction cells were enriched in the pellet of the tubes by sequential filtering and washing steps with 250 μm and 70 μm sterile cell strainers in 10 % FBS supplemented SVF culture media. Enriched SVF cells seeded in 6-well plate wells (1 well/mice) with 20% FBS supplemented SVF culture media and incubated in cell culture incubator for the required amount of time to enable expansion of the culture.

Induction of SVF adipogenesis:

iWAT and BAT depot-specific stromal vascular fraction (SVF) at 80 % confluency were induced for adipogenic differentiation with induction cocktail (1 μM Rosiglitazone, 850 nM Insulin, 1 μM Dexamethasone, 250 μM IBMX, and, for only BAT, 125 μM Indomethacin and 1 nM T3) in 10 % FBS supplemented SVF culture media. After incubation for 2 days with induction media, culture media replenished with the differentiation media (1 μM Rosiglitazone, 850 nM Insulin and for only BAT with 1 nM T3 in 10 % FBS supplemented culture media) on days 2, 4, and 6. Cells were treated with compounds (10 μM CL-316,243; 2 μM Forskolin) on day 7 for and harvested the same day after compound stimulations.

LNA-mediated gene knockdown in primary adipocytes:

For transfection of LNA GapmeRs in 1°BA and 1°iWA, 80,000 cells were seeded per well in 6-well plates and grown to confluence in growth medium. Immediately before transfection, medium

was changed to fresh differentiation medium without antibiotics. In the meantime, antisense LNA GapmeRs (Exiqon A/S) were diluted to the concentration of 100 nM in OptiMEM and transfected using Lipofectamine® 2000 according to the manufacturer's instructions. LNA sequences are provided in Supplementary Table S5.

AAV-mediated cre transduction in primary adipocytes:

On day 4 of iWA and BA differentiation, committed adipocytes were trypsinized, counted and seeded into multi well plates with the experimental setup (180.000 cells / cm^2 growth area) with the differentiation media containing AAV viruses. Primary adipocytes were transduced with AAV8-CMV-Cre (pENN.AAV.CMVs.Pl.Cre.rBG, Addgene #105537-AAV8 Cre) and AAV8-CMV-eGFP (pAAV.CMV.PI.EGFP.WPRE.bGH, Addgene #105530-AAV8 eGFP) viruses with the amount of 100. 000 MOI. Virus containing media replenished on day 6 with fresh differentiation media and cells were treated with compounds (10 µM CL-316,243) on day 7 for and harvested the same day after compound stimulations.

Determination of oxygen consumption rates and measurement of glycolytic activity:

Adcy3-at deficient SVFs from indicated adipose depots of transgenic mice were seeded into Agilent Seahorse XFe96 Bioanalyzer microplates. Per well, 50,000 cells were seeded and incubated in DMEM/Ham's F-12 medium plus 10 % Fetal Calf Serum, 1 % P/S, 0.1 % Biotin and 0.1 % Pantothenic acid (Growth medium) at 37° C and 5 % CO2 at a standard incubator until confluency is reached. To induce commitment of SVFs into mature adipocytes within Xfe96 microplates, freshly prepared 0.05 % Insulin, 0.005 % Dexamethasone, 0.001 % Rosiglitazone and 0.05 % IBMX (1°iWA) or 0.1 % Indomethacin, 0.001 % Triiodothyronine (1°BA) in growth medium (induction medium) were added. After 48 h of induction, differentiation was initiated using freshly prepared 0.001 % Rosiglitazone (1°iWA) or 0.001 % Triiodothyronine (1°BA) in growth medium (differentiation medium). Differentiation was achieved after 3-4 days of incubation in the differentiation medium. For each seahorse plate the corresponding calibration plate was prepared 24 h prior to experiments using 200 µl XF Seahorse Calibrant Agilent per well. The plate was incubated for 24 h in a non-CO2 incubator at 37° C and the instrument set to 37° C 24 h prior to the experiment. One hour before measurements, plates were washed with 1xPBS and the medium changed according to the corresponding experiment analyte kits (MitoStressKit or GlycoStressKit, provided by the manufacturer). Prior to measurement, calibration was started using calibration plates, measuring O2 and pH LED Value/emission/Initial reference Delta for each well. After calibration cartridges were kept within the machine and measurement of adipocyte-containing microplates commenced. Measurement parameters were mix 3 min, wait 0 min, measure 3 min

with each reagent's effect assessed within three (MitoStressKit) or four consecutive measurement
cycles (GlycoStressKit) with a total duration of 18 min or 24 min per reagent injection. All
measurements started with measuring basal values, followed by injection of Oligomycin, FCCP
and Rotenone plus Antimycin A (MitoStressKit) or Glucose, Oligomycin and 2-Deoxy-Glucose,
GlycoStressKit). (1) For MitoStressKit, corresponding media were prepared before the experiment
and consisted of Basal Seahorse Medium supplemented with 25 mM Glucose, 1 mM Glutamine, 2
mM Sodium Pyruvate, set to pH = 7.4 and filtered sterile. Per Plate ca. 25 ml of MitoStress Medium
were needed and Seahorse cell plates were changed to 180 µl MitoStress medium 1 h prior to
calibration in a non-CO2 incubator at 37° C. The calibration plate possessed a cartridge having 4
pockets per well. Before the measurement pocket A was filled with 20 µl 10 µM Oligomycin,
pocket B with 22 µl 10 µM FCCP and pocket C with 25 µl 5 µM Antimycin A and Rotenone. (2)
For GlycoStressKit, the cell plate was washed with 1xPBS, and media changed to filtered 180 µl
GlycoStressKit medium. GlycoStressKit medium consisted of Basal Seahorse Medium
supplemented with 1 mM Glutamine and 2 mM Sodium Pyruvate, set to pH = 7.4 and stored for 1
h in a non-CO2 incubator at 37° C. The calibration plate possessed a cartridge having 4 pockets per
well. Shortly before the measurement pocket A was filled with 20 µl 10 mM Glucose, pocket B
with 22 µl 10 µM Oligomycin and pocket C with 25 µl 50 mM 2-Deoxy-Glucose.

Intraperitoneal glucose tolerance test (GTT) and insulin tolerance test (ITT):
GTT was carried out at 12am after a 6 h fast starting in the morning. After determining basal blood
glucose levels (0min), animals received an intraperitoneal bolus of 2 g glucose per kilogram of
body weight (20 % glucose, Delta select). Blood glucose levels were determined 15, 30, 60 and
120 min after injection using an automatic glucose monitor (Contour, Bayer Diabetes Care). ITT
was carried out in random-fed mice at 9-10am in the morning in fresh cages with bedding, free
access to drinking water but no food. After determining basal blood glucose levels (0min), each
animal received 0.75 U/kg of body weight of insulin (Actrapid; Novo Nordisk). Blood glucose
levels were recorded after 15, 30, 60 and 120 min. Those animals that showed no increase/decrease
of blood glucose levels after i.p. injection of glucose or insulin, assuming injection outside of the
peritoneal cavity as required for the assay, were excluded from analysis.

Indirect calorimetry (PhenoMaster):
Indirect calorimetry (PhenoMaster, TSE Systems GmbH, Bad Homburg, Germany) was used to
evaluate energy expenditure (EE), locomotor activity (LMA), respiratory exchange ratios (RER) as
well as food and water intake (1) in the animal facility of Max Planck Institute for Metabolism
Research or (2) the Biomedical Laboratories (University Hospital Odense, OUH). Mice were

allowed to acclimatize to single housing conditions in metabolic cages for two to four days. Food

and water were provided *ad libitum* during acclimatization and throughout all experimental

measurements. All parameters of indirect calorimetry were measured for a period of 1-10 days

depending on the duration of cold exposure. Oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide production

were measured in units of volume every 10 min for indicated amounts of days (including

measurements for both cold and warm ambient temperatures) to determine the respiratory quotient

$(RQ = VCO2/VO2\ 2/VO2))) \times 4.1868)$. LMA was measured by a multidimensional infrared light

beam system. Integrated scales assessed water and food intake at 2 min intervals and automatically

calculated cumulative water and food intake. During measurements in the PhenoMaster System,

mice were initially kept at a constant temperature of 23 °C for 72 h, followed by 4 °C for 1-6 days

depending on the experimental setup.

mRNA isolation and quantitative RT-PCR (qPCR) analysis:

mRNA isolation from primary adipocytes and adipose tissues were lysed within a monophasic

solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate reagent (TRI Reagent®, Sigma-Aldrich #T9424)

and eluted with RNAse/DNAse free water following silica-based RNA spin column enrichment.

RNA concentrations measured by spectrophotometer and 500 ng RNA used for reverse

transcription (High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit, Thermo Fisher #4368813).

Abundance of *Adcy3-at*, *Adcy3-fl*, *Adipoq*, *Cidea*, *Dio2*, *Elovl3*, *Emr1*, *Fabp4*, *Lsgals3*, *Pparg*

isoform 2 (*Pparg2*), *Ppargc1a-at*, *Ppargc1a-fl*, *Prdm16* and *Ucp1* were quantified using SYBR

Green based quantification method (FastStart Universal SYBR Green Mastermix, Roche® Life

Science #4913914001) and mRNA abundance was calculated using relative quantification methods

($2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$). Transcript levels of mRNAs were normalized to hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase

1 (*Hprt1*) or general transcription factor IIB (*Gtf2b*) expressions. Primer sequences for SYBR

Green based quantification are provided in Supplementary Table 4.

Protein isolation:

To isolate total protein from 1°BA and 1°iWA, 100-250 μl RIPA buffer were added to frozen cells

in cell culture plates. Using a cell scraper, the adipocytes were detached and transferred into 1.5 ml

reaction tubes. In case of adipose tissue, Precellys® zirconium oxide beads and 500-1000 μl RIPA

buffer was used to disrupt and homogenize adipose tissue using a FastPrep-24TM 5G Homogenizer

(mouse muscle program: 3x 90 sec). To disrupt the cell membrane of the tissue and primary cells,

tubes were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and thawed on ice three times. The samples were

centrifuged for 10 min at 12000 x g and at 4 °C. The supernatant was transferred to a new reaction

tube and samples were stored at -80 °C. Quick StartTM Bradford Protein Assay Kit and Pierce

BCA Protein Assay Kit were used for the quantification of protein concentrations according to the
instructions of the kits. A FilterMaxTM F5 microplate reader was used to measure protein
concentrations at 595 nM.

SDS-PAGE and Western Blot analysis:
Protein samples were diluted in 4X Laemmli Buffer (Bio-Rad Laboratories) containing 5 % ß-
Mercaptoethanol and were boiled at 96 °C for 6 min (unless when probing for ADCY3). Protein
lysates were separated based on their molecular weight by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide
gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Samples and PageRulerTM Prestained Protein Ladder
(ThermoScientific) were loaded onto Mini-PROTEAN® precast gradient (4-20 %) polyacrylamide
gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories) and proteins were separated in an electric field of 90-120 V for varying
time spans in SDS Running Buffer (25 mM Tris-base, 0.192 M Glycine, 0.1 % SDS).

SDS-PAGE separated proteins were transferred to methanol-activated PVDF membrane by wet
transfer. Wet transfer was performed in a blotting chamber with ice-cold transfer buffer (48 mM
Tris-base, 39 mM glycine, 0.037 % SDS and 20 % methanol) for 2-3 h at 120 mA per membrane.
After protein transfer membranes were incubated in Ponceau solution (Sigma-Aldrich) to confirm
even transfer. Afterwards, membranes were rinsed once in TBS-T (500 mM Tris base, 1.5 M NaCl,
1 % Tween-20, pH=8) and incubated for 1 h in a Western Blocking Reagent solution (Sigma-
Aldrich). Membranes were incubated overnight at 4 °C with 20 ml of the respective primary
antibody solution. Primary antibodies were anti-HSC70 (sc-7298, Santa Cruz Biotechnology,
dilution 1:10,000), anti-UCP1 (#14670, Cell Signaling Technology, dilution 1:1000), anti-ADCY3
(#Ab14778, Abcam, dilution 1:500, and anti-phospho-PKA Substrate (#9624, Cell Signaling
Technology, 1:1000). Membranes were washed three times for 10 min with TBS-T and incubated
for 1 h at room temperature with 10 mL of the respective horseradish peroxidase (HRP)- coupled
secondary antibody. Wash steps were repeated, and 1 mL of chemiluminescent substrate
(#1705061, Biorad) was applied on the membrane and visualized by Amersham Imager 680.

For CHO cells, 4x sample buffer (200 mM TRIS/HCl pH 6.8, 8 % (w/v) SDS, 4 % (v/v) β-
Mercaptoethanol, 50 % (v/v) glycerin, 0.04 % (w/v) bromphenolblue) was added to the samples at a
final concentration of 1x, directly loaded on an 8.75 % SDS-PAGE gel, and separated by molecular
weight. Subsequently, proteins were transferred onto a methanol activated PVDF membrane by semi-
dry transfer. The membrane was blocked using PBS Intercept blocking buffer (LI-COR) for 30 min at
room temperature. The membrane was then incubated with the primary antibody solution overnight at
4°C. The following primary antibodies were used: anti-FLAG (1:2000, F1804, Sigma-Aldrich) and anti-

HA (1:1000, Roche, clone 3F10). Following primary antibody incubation, the membrane was washed 3

times with PBS-T for 10 min at room temperature. The membrane was then incubated with the

respective IRDye secondary antibodies (1:20000, LICOR) for 1 h at room temperature. After washing

the membrane 3 times with PBS-T and once with PBS, protein bands were imaged using a LI-COR

imaging system. Protein bands were quantified using ImageJ.

1008

Co-immunoprecipitation:

2.1 x10^6 CHO K1 cells stably expressing ADCY3-FL-HA were seeded on 10 cm cell culture dishes

(Greiner). The following day, the cells were either transfected with pc3.1-ADCY3-AT-FLAG or

pc3.1Zeo-mCherry using polyethylenimine (Sigma-Aldrich). To increase expression of the transfected

constructs, 5 h after the transfection sodium butyrate was added to the cells to a final concentration of 5

µM. 24 h later, cells were washed with 10 mL PBS and scraped in 1 mL PBS. The cell solution was then

transferred into a precooled tube and centrifuged at 500 x g for 5 min at 4°C. The supernatant was

aspirated, and the cell pellet resuspended in 300 µL lysis buffer (20 mM TRIS/HCl pH 8, 137 mM NaCl,

2 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, 1:500 mammalian protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma Aldrich)). Following 60

min incubation on ice, the samples were centrifuged at 10000 x g for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatant

was transferred into a new tube and the protein concentration was determined using the Pierce BCA

Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific). Protein concentration was adjusted to 0.5 µg/µL using lysis

buffer and 45 µL were stored at -80°C ("input"). To reduce the amount of unspecific binding, the lysate

was incubated with uncoupled NHS-activated magnetic beads (Thermo Fisher). 40 µL NHS-activated

beads were equilibrated in 400 µL equilibration buffer (10 mM TRIS/HCl pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl) and

separated from the supernatant using a magnet. The beads were resuspended in 500 µL of the 0.5 µg/µL

lysate and incubated for 1 h at 4°C end over end. Beads and lysate were then magnetically separated,

and 45 µL of the supernatant were stored at -80°C ('non-bound 1'). Magnetic anti-FLAG-M2 beads

(Sigma-Aldrich) were equilibrated in 400 µL equilibration buffer (10 mM Tris/HCl pH=7.4, 150 mM

NaCl), resuspended in the supernatant, and incubated end-over-end overnight at 4°C. The next day,

beads and supernatant were magnetically separated, 45 µL of the supernatant were stored at -80°C ('non-

bound 2'), and the rest of supernatants were discarded. The beads were washed 4 times with 375 µL

wash buffer (20 mM TRIS/HCl pH8, 137 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.2 % NP-40, 1.500 mammalian

protease inhibitor cocktail). 45 µL of wash fractions 1 and 4 were saved for Western blot analysis.

Proteins bound to the beads were eluted by incubating the beads in 75 µL elution buffer (0.1 M glycine

pH 3.0) for 3 min at room temperature. Subsequently, 20 µL 1 M TRIS/HCl pH 8 were added for

neutralization. 45 µL of the neutralized elution fraction were analyzed by western blot analysis.

1036

Biotinylation assay:

The biotinylation assay was performed using the Pierce Cell Surface Biotinylation and Isolation kit

(A44390, Thermo Scientific). Cells were treated with the biotinylation reagent Sulfo-NHS-SS-

Biotin according to the manufacturer's protocol, harvested, and lysed. The lysate was transferred

to a column containing a NeutrAvidin-agarose-resin and incubated end-over-end overnight. The

column was centrifuged and the flow-through (sample F) was collected. The column was washed

three times (samples W1, W2, W3) with 500 µL wash buffer and the labeled protein was eluted

(sample E) using 200 µL 4x SDS sample buffer containing 50 mM dithiothreitol (DTT). After

elution, beads of the agarose matrix were scraped off the column, boiled in 100 µL 4x SDS probe

buffer and centrifuged. For each fraction, 40 µL were loaded.

1047

Membrane sheets and immunofluorescent labeling:

CHO cells were seeded on poly-L-lysine (PLL, 0.1 mg/ml, Sigma Aldrich, #P1399-100MG)-coated 13

mm glass coverslips (VWR) coated glass coverslips in a 4-well dish (VWR) and cultured for 24 h.

Before sonication, cells were washed with PBS and sonicated in 500 µl sonication buffer (120 mM

glutamate, 20 mM potassium acetate, 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM EGTA, pH 7.2 using the VibraCell

Sonifier (0.1 s pulse, distance to cover slip: 3 mm, amplitude: 1-20 %). Cells were fixed with 4 %

paraformaldehyde (Alfa Aesar, ThermoFisher Scientific, #43368) for 10 min at room temperature. After

washing thrice with PBS, cells were blocked with CT (0.5% Triton X-100 (Sigma Aldrich, #X100) and

5% ChemiBLOCKER (Merck Millipore, #2170) in 0.1 M NaP, pH 7.0) for 30 min at room temperature.

Primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in CT and incubated for 60 min each at room

temperature, respectively. Coverslips were mounted with one drop of Aqua-Poly/Mount (Tebu-Bio,

#07918606-20). The following primary antibodies were used: anti-calnexin (rb, 1:200, Sigma Aldrich,

#C4731), anti-HA (rt, 1:1000, Roche, clone 3F10), anti-CNG channel (ms, 1:100, clone 3B10) (Pichlo

et al, JCB 2014). As a DNA counterstain, cells were labeled with DAPI together with the secondary

antibody (4',6-Diamidino-2-Phenylindole, Dihydrochloride, 1:10.000, Thermo Fisher Scientific,

#D1306). The following secondary antibodies were used: goat-anti-rabbit-Alexa647 (1:500, Thermo

Fisher Scientific, #A21245), goat-anti-mouse-Alexa594 (1:500, Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A21125),

goat-anti-rat-Alexa488 (1:500, Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A11006).

1066

AlphaFold modeling of Adcy3 structures:

Folding prediction of ADCY3-FL and ADCY3-AT protein monomers and dimers were carried out

with LocalColabFold based on AlphaFold2 using standard parameters [54, 87]. ATP was docked to

ADCY3 models by aligning catalytic domains with B chain of x-ray crystal structure PDB ID 3C16

(Catalytic Domain of Mammalian Adenylyl Cyclase). Computation of the models was performed

on the UCloud interactive HPC system, which is managed by the eScience Center at the University

of Southern Denmark. Molecular graphics performed with UCSF ChimeraX[88]. Alignment of

structures was performed using '*mmaker*' function in ChimeraX.

1075

PamGene serine-threonine kinase (STK) kinome arrays:

Frozen brown adipose tissue was homogenized in 150 µL cold M-Per (Thermo Fisher) containing 1:50

HALT Protease and Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (EDTA-free, 100x, Thermo Fisher) using a small,

precooled pistil. Following 10 min incubation on ice, samples were centrifuged at 10000 x g for 5 min

at 4°C. The liquid phase was carefully transferred into a new precooled tube, and this process was

repeated at least twice (or until no lipid phase was left). Subsequently, the cleared lysates were aliquoted

in 15 µL aliquots, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C. Not more than 4 samples were handled

simultaneously to avoid prolonged handling times. After the protein concentration was determined using

Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific), 10 µg of protein was used as input and the STK

assay was performed according to the standard protocol provided by PamGene. Kinome trees have been

generated using the following software: http://phanstiel-lab.med.unc.edu/CORAL/

1087

Catch point cAMP assay (ELISA):

Brown adipose tissue cAMP levels were measured using the CatchPoint cAMP Fluorescent Assay Kit

(Molecular Devices). A small piece of frozen BAT (2 – 5 mg) was transferred into a BeadBug tube

(Sigma Aldrich) containing 1.0 mm zirconium beads (Merck) and 300 µL cold catchpoint lysis buffer.

The tissue was disrupted using a BeadBug microtube homogenizer (Sigma Aldrich) at 400 rpm for 30

s. Subsequently, samples were placed on ice for 1 min and homogenization was repeated twice.

Following 15 min incubation at 4°C, each sample was sonicated 3 times for 1 min with 1 min incubation

on ice in between each cycle. To clear the lysate from debris and insoluble lipids, samples were

centrifuged at 10000 x g for 10 min at 4°C. The liquid fraction of the lysate was then transferred into a

new tube and the process was repeated twice. The protein concentration of the cleared lysate was

determined using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific). The CatchPoint cAMP ELISA

was then performed according to the manual using 0.8 µg protein as input. Colorimetric measurement

was performed after 30 min final incubation using a FLUOstar Omega (BMG Labtech).

1101

Human primary brown and white adipocytes and study characteristics:

Deep neck BAT biopsies were acquired from a 52-year-old, non-diabetic female donor (BMI 24.1)

undergoing thyroid surgery after giving written informed consent and approval by the ethics

commitee of the University Hospital Bonn (Vote 076/18). Primary brown adipocytes were isolated

according to protocols described recently (Jespersen et al., 2013) and cultured in 60mm culture

dishes containing DMEM/F12, 10% FBS, 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin (all from Invitrogen) and

1nM acidic FGF-1 (ImmunoTools). Cells were incubated at 37°C with 5% CO2. Adipocytes were

induced two days after full confluence with DMEM/F12 containing 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin,

0.1 mM dexamethasone (Sigma-Aldrich), 100 nM insulin, 200 nM rosiglitazone (Sigma-Aldrich),

540 mM isobutylmethylxanthine (Sigma-Aldrich), 2 nM T3 (Sigma-Aldrich) and 10 mg/mL

transferrin (Sigma-Aldrich). After three days of differentiation, isobutylmethylxanthine was

removed from the cell culture media. The cell cultures were left to differentiate for an additional

nine days. Cells were treated with and without 1 µM NE for 16h. Total RNA was isolated using

Trizol (Invitrogen). Reverse transcription was performed using ProtoScript II (NEB). qPCR

reactions were assembled with Luna Master Mix (NEB) and qPCR was performed using a HT7900

(Applied Biosystems). Expression levels were calculated as delta Ct values relative to house-

keeping gene hTBP (human TATA-box binding protein) serving as control.

1119

Comparative sequence conservation analyses of Adcy3-at and Ppargc1a-at genomic sequences:

Analyses of alternative transcription (AT) start sites sequence conservation were conducted by first

acquiring genomic contigs spanning either *Ppargc1a* or *Adcy3* via NCBI BLASTs using mouse or

human transcript variants (accession numbers: NM_001377131.1; NM_138305.3; NR_132764.1)

as query against whole genome shotgun contigs from representative species. Accession numbers

of acquired contigs are listed in Supplementary Table S2. Contigs were imported into Geneious

software version 9.1.8 (Dotmatics), and conserved exons were annotated using the 'transfer

annotations' function. Alternative start sites from the mouse or human were then used to search for

homologous sequences among contigs of various species using either the 'transfer annotations'

function or EMBOSS 6.5.7 dotmatcher dot plots. MUSCLE alignments of conserved putative AT

regions were assembled in Geneious and pairwise percent nucleotide identities were calculated

relative to AT sites of either the mouse or human. These conservation levels were then mapped to

the respective phylogenetic trees using the colour gradient function on the Interactive Tree of Life

webserver[89]. The phylogenetic relationships and branch lengths illustrating the conservation of

Ppargc1a-at were based on [77], while phylogenetic relationships and branch lengths for *Adcy3-at*

conservation analyses were based on [90] for primates and [91] for rodents.

1136

1137   *Data availability:*

1138   NGS datasets are currently being uploaded to Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) and are provided

1139   upon reviewer's request.

1140

1141   *Public datasets:*

1142 H3K4me3 ChIP-seq from BAT of chow diet and HFD fed, male C57BL/6N mice housed at 22°C
1143 or exposed to 5°C for 24 h were downloaded from GEO (GSE20065). snRNA-seq data from
1144 *Adipoq*-tdTomato-positive adipocyte nuclei were downloaded from Array Express (E-MTAB-
1145 8562).

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1351

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SK, HT, AJ, PL, BDL, ARAAT, NS, IG, NH, ES, RR, SG, LMV, TG, SN, MPJ, NZJ performed the experiments. SK, HT, AJ, PL, IG, AP, TG, MJ, MG, BDL, CAE, MG, RR, PK contributed discussions and performed training. SK, HT, AJ, PL, BDL, NH, PF, ARA, SN, CMS, TJS, FTW, AP, MJ, DW and JWK conceived the experiments. DW, HT and JWK wrote the manuscript.

Competing financial interests:

The authors declare no conflicting financial interest.

Materials & Correspondence:

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Supplementary Figure S1: Transcriptional regulation of cAMP biosynthesis in adipose tissue after cold exposure. (**a-c**) Principal component analysis (PCA) of transcriptomic changes in (**a**) BAT, (**b**) iWAT and (**c**) eWAT after 24 h (**a,c**) or 72 h (**b**) of 5° cold exposure. Dots represent individual, chow diet fed male C57BL/6N animals with n=3-5 animals per temperature condition (**d-f**). mRNA expression of phosphodiesterases (PDEs) mRNA abundance in BAT (**d**), iWAT (**e**) and eWAT (**f**) determined by mRNA-seq and depicted in transcripts per million (TPM). (**d-f**) Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed to assess statistical significance.

Supplementary Figure S2: ADCY3 is required for cAMP biosynthesis in BAT and required for cold adaptation in cold. (**a-b**) Expression of indicated (**a**) transcriptional BAT regulator genes and (**b**) adipose depot specific genes in BAT from *LoxP* (n=4 each for 22°C and 5°C) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice (n=4 each for 22°C and 5°C) housed at 22°C or after 24 h of 5°C cold exposure as determined by mRNA-seq and depicted in transcripts per million (TPM). (**c-d**) qPCR analysis of indicated BAT mRNA markers measured in 1°BA derived from SVF of *LoxP* animals (**c**) or *LoxP* and *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice (**d**). (**c-d**) Replicates represent n=4 primary brown adipocytes, n=4 mice per adipose depot, stimulation regimen and genotype. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. To test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–Wallis one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing were performed.

Supplementary Figure S3: ADCY3 loss in adipocytes predisposes to obesity-associated brown fat dysfunction. (**a-b**) Relative (body-weight corrected) gross tissue weights from indicated adipose tissue depots and liver from *LoxP* (*n=4* for 22°C, n=8 for 5°C) and *Adcy3-AdcKO* mice (*n=4* for 22°C, n=8 for 5°C) fed (**a**) chow diet or (**b**) HFD and housed at 22°C (*left side of panels*) or exposed for 24 h to 5°C (*right side of panels*). Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed to assess statistical significance. (**c-d,f**) Analysis of STK activity in murine brown adipose tissue. Kinome trees depict the mean kinase statistic of differentially activated STKs in (**c**) LoxP (22°C vs 5°, 24 h), (**d**) LoxP (22°C vs 5°, 6 days) and (**f**) *Adcy3-AdcKO* vs. *LoxP* (22°C). Inserts show zoom-ins of relevant areas of the kinome tree (blue box: down-regulated kinases; red box: up-regulated kinases). (**c-d,ii**) Mean kinase statistic of 15 most significantly differentially activated kinases is represented in bar graphs. (**f,iii**) Venn diagram depicting differences in differentially activated kinases of the respective comparison. Data represent mean of n=4 biological replicates for all

1418 conditions. (**e**) Protein immunoblots of BAT from chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* and *Adcy3-AdcKO*
1419 mice housed at room temperature (22°C) or for 6 days in the cold (5°C). Anti-phospho-PKA
1420 substrate antibodies were used for detection of PKA phosphorylation substrates. Anti-UCP1
1421 antibodies probed for UCP1 protein levels. anti-HSC70 antibody served as loading control.
1422
Supplementary Figure S4: Activated brown adipocytes express a truncated ADCY3
(ADCY3-AT) transcript and protein isoform. (**a**) Genome browser track depicting changes in
mRNA expression (grey) and H3K4me3 (magenta) in BAT from chow diet-fed, male C57BL/6N
mice housed at 22°C or exposed to 24 h of 5°C cold challenge. Red and blue transcripts depict
Adcy3-fl and *Adcy3-at* transcripts, respectively, and mRNA isoform specific transcriptional start
sites (TSS). (**b**) ChIP-qPCR of H3K4me3 at the TSS of *Adcy3-fl* (blue), *Adcy3-at* (red) and *Adcy3-*
fl and *Adcy3-at* common exon 3 (grey). Replicates represent H3K4me3 immunoprecipitations
perform in individual animals (n=3). Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted.
To test for statistical significance, parametric, unpaired, two-tailed Student's t-tests were
performed. *P*-values are indicated in the panel. (**c-d**) Expression of (**c**) *Adcy3-fl* (blue) and (**d**)
Adcy3-at (red) in indicated whole tissues from chow diet fed, male C57BL/6N mice. Data points
represent individual mice (n=4 BAT, n=2 iWAT, n=3 eWAT, n=3 pancreas, n=3 kidneys, n=2
skeletal muscle, n=3 liver). (**e-g**) Absolute expression (ΔΔCt) of (**e**)*Adcy3-at*, (**f**) *Ucp1* and (**g**)
Adcy3-fl in BAT-derived SVF at indicated stages of brown adipogenesis and after stimulation with
1 mM db-cAMP or 10 µM CL316,243 as determined by qPCR. Replicates depict experiments
performed in SVF isolated from individual mice, i.e., n=4 biological replicates. Bar graphs
represent mean ± SD with all data points. (**h,i**) Expression of indicated mRNAs in (**h**) BAT or (**i**)
iWAT of chow diet or HFD fed male C57BL/6N mice housed at 22°C or after 24 h of 5°C cold
exposure as determined by qPCR. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted. To
test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–Wallis one-way analysis of
variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing were performed. *P*-values are
indicated in the panel. (**j**) Expression of *Adcy3-at* in BAT of chow diet fed male C57BL/6N mice
at 2.5 months or 25 months of age. Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points plotted.
1446
Supplementary Figure S5: ADCY3-AT inhibits oxidative metabolism *in vitro* and *in vivo*. (**a**)
Genome browser track depicting mRNA (grey) and H3K4me3 signals in murine *Adcy3* locus from
chow diet fed, male C57BL/6N mice at 22° (light grey) and 5°C (dark grey) as well as HFD-fed,
male C57BL/6N mice at 22°C (light orange) and 5°C (dark orange). Location and sequence of
sgRNAs used for CRISPR/Cas9 mediated 978-nt deletion *Adcy3-at* TSS are indicated. (**b**) Southern
blot analysis of control (C57BL/6N wildtype, WT) and *Adcy3ΔAT* embryonic stem cell DNA. The

asterisk depicts a heterozygous *ADCY3ΔAT*/WT ESC. (**c**) PCR from genomic DNA isolated from

Adcy3-at proficient (WT) and *Adcy3ΔAT* embryonic stem cell DNA. (**d,h**) Blood glucose excursion

during insulin tolerance tests performed in (**d**) chow diet and (**h**) HFD fed, male *LoxP* (n=7 chow,

n=4 HFD) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=9 chow, n=4 HFD) mice. (**e-g**) Quantification of mean (**e**) nocturnal

locomotor activity (LMA, **f**) daily respiratory exchange ratios (RER) and (**g**) daily oxygen

consumption in chow-diet fed, male *LoxP* (n=7) and *Adcy3ΔAT* (n=9) mice. Bar graphs represent

mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Unpaired, two-tailed Student's t-tests were performed to

assess statistical significance. *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**i-j**) Oxygen consumption

rates (**i**) and extracellular acidification rates (**j**) in 1°iWA derived from SVF of *LoxP* or *Adcy3ΔAT*

mice after injection with 10 μM CL316243. The numbers of measured wells are indicated in the

panel and reflect BA from 2-3 independent mice. (**k-l**) Oxygen consumption rates (**k**) and

extracellular acidification rates (**l**) in 1°iWA derived from SVF of *LoxP* or *Adcy3ΔAT* mice. OM,

oligomycin; FCCP, AA/Rot, Antimycin A plus Rotenone. The numbers of measured wells are

indicated in the panel and reflect BA from 2-3 independent mice. (**m-o**) Bar graphs represent mean

± SD with all data points plotted. Statistical significance was determined by performing Two-Way

ANOVA with repeated measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-hoc P*-value correction to

account for multiple testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment. The source of variation,

% of the variation and exact *P* values are given in the table insets. (**d,h-l**) Bar graphs represent

mean ± SD with all data points plotted. Statistical significance was determined by performing Two-

Way ANOVA with repeated measurements for x values (mixed models). *Post-hoc P*-value

correction to account for multiple testing was performed using Bonferroni adjustment. The source

of variation, % of the variation and exact *P* values are given in table insets.

1475

Supplementary Figure S6: ADCY3-AT alters ADCY3 subcellular localization and limits

cAMP biosynthesis. (**a-b**) Analysis of STK activity in *Adcy3ΔAT* BAT. Kinome trees depict the

mean kinase statistic of differentially activated STKs in (**a**) *Adcy3ΔAT* vs. *LoxP* (22°C) and (**b**)

Adcy3ΔAT (22°C) vs. *Adcy3ΔAT* (5°C, 6 days). (**c-d**) Comparison of *Adcy3ΔAT* vs *LoxP* at 22°C

(**c**) and *Adcy3ΔAT* vs *LoxP* after 6 days at 5°C (**d**). At 22°C, a set of kinases is inversely regulated

in BAT of *Adcy3ΔAT* and *Adcy3AdcKO* mice compared to *LoxP* mice. The mean kinase statistic of

these kinases is shown for 22°C (**c**) and for 5°C (**d**). Data includes n = 4 biological replicates for

all conditions. (**e**) Quantification of the average HA-signal intensity within the PM (co-localization

with mCherry) and the ER (co-localization with calnexin). Data shown as mean + SD (empty

vector: n=4; ADCY3-AT: n=8, ADCY3-FL: n=10). (**f**) Ratio PM/ER distribution (empty vector:

n=4; ADCY3-AT: n=8, ADCY3-FL: n=10). Bar graphs represent mean ± SD with all data points

plotted. An unpaired, two-tailed, and non-parametric Mann-Whitney tests were performed to assess

statistical significance. If relevant, *P*-values are indicated within the panel. (**g**) Quantification of

extracellular biotinylation of ADCY3-FL when co-expressed with mCherry or ADCY3-AT

(mCherry: n=4, ADCY3-AT: n=4). (**h**) Quantification of intracellular cAMP levels using ELISA.

CHO cells stably expressing ADCY3-AT or ADCY3-FL, or empty vector transfected CHO cells

were stimulated with DMSO or 2 μM Forskolin for 30 min. Values were normalized to DMSO

control and normalized to the respective amount of total protein (empty vector: n=4; ADCY3-AT:

n=5, ADCY3-FL: n=5) (**i**) Quantification of intracellular cAMP levels using ELISA. CHO cells

stably expressing ADCY3-AT or ADCY3-FL, or empty vector transfected CHO cells were

stimulated with buffer or 1 μM Isoproterenol for 15 min. Values were normalized to the respective

buffer control and normalized to the respective amount of total protein (empty vector: n=4;

ADCY3-AT: n=5, ADCY3-FL: n=5) (**e-i**) Data is shown as mean ± SD with all data points plotted.

To test for statistical significance, non-parametric (ranked) Kruskal–Wallis one-way analysis of

variance (ANOVA) tests with Dunn's correction for multiple testing were performed. *P*-values are

indicated in the panel.

1502

Supplementary Figure S7: Conserved and cold-inducible PPARGC1A-AT drives *Adcy3-at*

expression in BAT. (**a**) Mammalian phylogeny from Meredith et al [77] modified in iTOL[89], with

silhouettes in black indicating representative species that were selected for comparative analyses

of PPARGC1A-AT. (**b**) Genomic conservation among representative rodents of *Adcy3-at* identified

in the mouse. Color gradient indicates percent nucleotide identity of the *Adcy3-at* relative to the

mouse. Phylogeny based on Swanson et al [91]. (**c**) Genomic conservation among representative

primates of *Adcy3-at* identified in the human. Color gradient indicates percent nucleotide identity

of *Adcy3-at* relative to the human. Phylogeny based on Perelman et al [90]. (**d**) Nucleotide sequence

alignment of *Ppargc1a-at* (exon 1b) from various mammalian species. (**e**) Percent identity matrix

of *Ppargc1a-at* among 14 representative mammals (exon 1b).

1513

Supplementary tables:

Supplementary Table S1: Adipose depot-specific RNA-seq from cold-exposed C57BL/6 mice.

Supplementary Table S2: Gene accession numbers for species conservation analyses.

Supplementary Table S3: List of sgRNAs and primers for the generation of *Adcy3*ΔAT mice.

Supplementary Table S4: List of SYBR qPCR primers

Supplementary Table S5: List of locked nucleic acid (LNA) GapmeR inhibitors.

Figure 1: Transcriptional regulation of cAMP biosynthesis during cold adaptation of brown adipose tissue

Figure 2: ADCY3 is required for cAMP biosynthesis in BAT and required for cold adaptation in obesity.

Figure 3: Active thermogenic adipocytes express a truncated ADCY3 (ADCY3-AT) transcript and protein isoform

Figure 4: ADCY3-AT inhibits oxidative metabolism in vitro and in vivo

Figure 5: ADCY3-AT alters ADCY3-FL subcellular localisation and thereby limits cAMP biosynthesis

Figure 6: Conserved and cold-inducible PPARGC1A-AT drives *Adcy3-at* expression in brown adipocytes.

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Figure S7: Conserved and cold-inducible PPARGC1A-AT drives *Adcy3-at* expression in BAT

a

100 million years

c

Genomic conservation of *ADCY3-at* in primate species

Tree scale: 100

ADCY3-AT

Adcy3
75
77
80
82
85
87
90
92
95
97
100

Treeshrew
Culogo
Lemur
Tarsier
Capuchin
Baboon
Gibbon
Orangutan
Gorilla
Chimpanzee
Human

b Genomic conservation of *Adcy3-at* in rodent species

Adcy3-at

Tree scale: 10

Adcy3-AT
56
60
65
69
73
78
82
86
91
95
100

Ground squirrel
Kangaroo rat
Spiny mouse
Rat
Mouse
Deer mouse
Hamster
Vole

d Pairwise species comparision of *PPARGC1A-AT* genomic (exon 1b) sequence

Consensus
Identity

1. Wombat PPARGC1a AT?
2. Mondo - PPARGC1a AT?
3. Tenrec - PPARGC1a AT
4. Elephant - PPARGC1a AT
5. Mouse - PPARGC1a AT
6. Pangolin - PPARGC1a AT
7. Bat - PPARGC1a AT
8. Dog - PPARGC1a AT
9. Minke whale - PPARGC1a AT
10. Orca PPARGC1a AT
11. Cow - PPARGC1a AT
12. Armadillo - PPARGC1a AT
13. Human - PPARGC1a AT
14. Sloth - PPARGC1a AT

e Pairwise species comparision of *PPARGC1A-AT* genomic (exon 1b) sequence

	Wombat P...	Mondo – P...	Tenrec – P...	Elephant –...	Mouse – P...	Pangolin –...	Bat – PPA...	Dog – PPA...	Minke wha...	Orca PPAR...	Cow – PPA...	Armadillo ...	Human – ...	Sloth – PP...
Wombat PPARGC1a AT?		30.357%	33.333%	35.052%	45.361%	34.021%	37.755%	43.299%	40.816%	40.816%	38.776%	40.206%	41.237%	46.392%
Mondo – PPARGC1a AT?	30.357%		29.565%	41.071%	39.286%	30.000%	41.071%	40.179%	42.857%	39.286%	42.857%	38.393%	43.750%	38.393%
Tenrec – PPARGC1a AT	33.333%	29.565%		61.386%	54.902%	49.020%	61.165%	59.804%	60.194%	61.165%	63.107%	56.436%	56.863%	59.406%
Elephant – PPARGC1a...	35.052%	41.071%	61.386%		63.918%	55.670%	64.286%	68.041%	67.347%	67.347%	67.347%	71.875%	68.041%	70.833%
Mouse – PPARGC1a a...	45.361%	39.286%	54.902%	63.918%		50.515%	67.347%	69.072%	70.408%	69.388%	65.979%	65.979%	75.258%	68.041%
Pangolin – PPARGC1a ...	34.021%	30.000%	49.020%	55.670%	50.515%		62.245%	70.103%	71.429%	69.388%	65.306%	58.763%	58.763%	61.856%
Bat – PPARGC1a AT	37.755%	41.071%	61.165%	64.286%	67.347%	62.245%		75.510%	79.592%	81.633%	76.531%	70.408%	76.531%	75.510%
Dog – PPARGC1a AT	43.299%	40.179%	59.804%	68.041%	69.072%	70.103%	75.510%		84.694%	84.694%	82.653%	72.165%	81.443%	79.381%
Minke whale – PPARG...	40.816%	42.857%	60.194%	67.347%	70.408%	71.429%	79.592%	84.694%		95.918%	89.796%	73.469%	81.633%	80.612%
Orca PPARGC1a AT	40.816%	39.286%	61.165%	67.347%	69.388%	69.388%	81.633%	84.694%	95.918%		89.796%	73.469%	79.592%	80.612%
Cow – PPARGC1a AT	38.776%	42.857%	63.107%	67.347%	65.306%	65.306%	76.531%	82.653%	89.796%	89.796%		69.388%	77.551%	76.531%
Armadillo – PPARGC1...	40.206%	38.393%	56.436%	71.875%	65.979%	58.763%	70.408%	72.165%	73.469%	73.469%	69.388%		74.227%	82.292%
Human – PPARGC1a AT	41.237%	43.750%	56.863%	68.041%	75.258%	58.763%	76.531%	81.443%	81.633%	79.592%	77.551%	74.227%		82.474%
Sloth – PPARGC1a AT	46.392%	38.393%	59.406%	70.833%	68.041%	61.856%	75.510%	79.381%	80.612%	80.612%	76.531%	82.292%	82.474%	