***D-β*-hydroxybutyrate stabilizes the hippocampal CA3-CA1 circuit during acute insulin**
resistance.

Running title: **D-βHb-driven recovery of acute insulin resistance.**

Bartosz Kula[1], Botond Antal[2,3], Corey Weistuch[4], Florian Gackière[5], Alexander Barre[5], Victor
Velado[6], Jeffrey M Hubbard[5], Maria Kukley[7,8], Lilianne R Mujica-Parodi[2,3,9,*], and Nathan A
Smith[1,6,10,*].

1 Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, Department of Neuroscience, University of Rochester,
School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, USA

2 Department of Biomedical Engineering, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, USA

3 Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, Massachusetts General Hospital and
Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

4 Department of Medical Physics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA

5 Neuroservices Alliance, Les Jardins de l'Entreprise, Quartier de le Confrérie, Le Puy Ste
Réparade, France

6 Center for Neuroscience Research, Children's National Research Institute, Children's National
Hospital, Washington D.C., USA

7 Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience, Leioa, Spain

8 Ikerbasque - Basque Foundation for Science, Bilbao, Spain

9 Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, USA

10 George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington D.C.,
USA
24
* Corresponding authors: lilianne.strey@stonybrook.edu (LMP);
Nathan_Smith@urmc.rochester.edu (NAS)

1. **Abstract**

The brain primarily relies on glycolysis for mitochondrial respiration but switches to alternative
fuels such as ketone bodies (KB) during low glucose availability. Neuronal KB uptake, which does
not rely on the glucose transporter 4 (GLUT4) and insulin, has shown promising clinical
applications in alleviating the neurological and cognitive effects of disorders with hypometabolic
components. However, the specific mechanisms by which such interventions affect neuronal
functions are poorly understood. In this study, we pharmacologically blocked GLUT4 to
investigate the effects of the exogenous KB D-β-hydroxybutyrate (D-βHb) on mouse brain
metabolism during acute insulin resistance (AIR). We found the impacts of AIR and D-βHb to be
qualitatively distinct across neuronal compartments: AIR decreased synaptic activity and LTP,
and impaired axonal conduction, synchronization, and action potential (AP) properties. D-βHb
rescued neuronal functions connected to axonal conduction and synchronization but did not
rescue synaptic activity. While D-βHB failed to rescue synaptic activity, it successfully rescued
neuronal functions associated with axonal conduction and synchronization.

Teaser: **$D\text{-}\beta Hb$ reverses detrimental effects of acute insulin resistance in the hippocampus,**
with distinct effects on soma, dendrites, and axons.

Keywords: hippocampus, beta-hydroxybutyrate, insulin resistance, Schaffer collaterals,
pyramidal neurons

2. **Introduction**

Over the past two decades, research on insulin signaling in the brain has become increasingly
important in the contexts of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and Alzheimer's disease (AD) [1,2].
Insulin plays a critical role in memory formation processes in the hippocampus. Systemic insulin
resistance can interfere with hippocampal metabolism and cognitive function, as shown by various
studies [3,4]. Therefore, depletion of glucose availability in the hippocampus may contribute to
cognitive decline associated with healthy aging, T2DM, and AD [5,6]. Additionally, insulin is an
essential element in memory processing in the hippocampus and a vital mediator of cognitive
impairments in T2DM and AD [7,8]. Although insulin does not easily cross the blood-brain barrier,
research suggests local insulin synthesis and release in the brain [9]. It is believed that
hippocampal insulin might enhance the pro-cognitive effects of brain glucose [10].

Brain aging and age-based cognitive impairment are associated with cerebral glucose
hypometabolism [13]. Indeed T2DM, and thus insulin resistance, are associated with accelerated
brain aging and cognitive decline [12]. This relationship has led to the hypothesis that brain aging
and associated hypometabolism reflect encroaching neuronal insulin resistance. The

hippocampus is highly enriched with the insulin responsive GLUT4, which is the primary neuronal
glucose transporter, particularly in brain areas with high concentrations of insulin receptors and
increased neuronal activity [10,13,14]. Insulin acts by enhancing GLUT4 translocation across
neuronal membranes in a time-dependent manner under regulation by phosphatidylinositol 3-
kinase (PI3K), which furthermore promotes memory formation [15,16]. GLUT4 is primarily
expressed in the soma rather than in the more metabolically active hippocampal neuropil during
memory formation [17,18]. Indeed, the results of those studies suggest that insulin release
throughout the hippocampus may act simultaneously at synapses and soma to control
glutamatergic neurotransmission by enhancing GLUT4 translocation and neuronal glucose
utilization. Mouse models of AD or diet-induced obesity (DIO) showed blunting of the pro-cognitive
effects of intrahippocampal insulin injections, along with decreased local glucose metabolism
[19,20]. These mouse models also showed neuronal hyperexcitability with epileptiform spikes,
along with impairment of GLUT4 translocation, which is considered a key factor in the associated
cognitive and metabolic impairments [21].

During periods of lower glucose availability, including sleep, the brain switches to alternative fuels
such as ketone bodies (KBs) [22,23]. Shifting brain metabolism from its default glycolysis to
ketosis through the introduction of a ketogenic diet has shown pro-cognitive benefits in patients
suffering from T2DM or AD. These benefits may arise from a reduction in neuronal firing rates
during ketosis, which can help to maintain neuronal stability [24-26]. One of the earliest studies
of the effects of the ketogenic diet on rodent brain metabolism showed that shifting to KB
metabolism increased ATP:ADP ratios, which could account for improved neuronal stability [27].
The substantial formation of acetyl-CoA via KB metabolism [28] is thought to contribute to the
increased secretion of the inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA [29], improvements in the
NAD:NADH equilibrium, increased efficiency of ATP production, and reduced production of free
radicals, which together may help to moderate the excessive neuronal firing and its metabolic
consequences [30,31].

Moreover, KBs play a crucial role in protecting mitochondria from acute metabolic stress. KBs
prevent mitochondrial permeability transition (mPT) through effects on intracellular calcium levels,
leading to a direct increase in the threshold for mPT, thus preserving neuronal cell viability and
preventing cell death [31,32]. Furthermore, KBs can affect neuronal firing frequency by
modulating the activity of ion channels, by promoting the opening of ATP sensitive K^+ channels
(K-ATP), thus reducing the cytosolic pool of ATP generated from glycolysis and disinhibiting the
opening of K-ATP channels [26,33].

The ketogenic diet calls for strict adherence to promote KB metabolism [34]. However,
administration of exogenous KBs such as *D*-beta-hydroxy-butyrate (DβHb) ester can raise KB
levels in circulation without requiring severe restrictions on glucose availability that would be likely
to globally perturb metabolic homeostasis [35,36]. It is unclear whether KBs such as D-βHb ester
can maintain their neuroprotective effects in the presence of normal glucose levels. However,
dietary ketosis through exogenous KBs increased overall brain activity and stabilized functional
networks in healthy adults [37], even in younger adults [38].

In this study, we establish a hippocampal model of acute insulin resistance (AIR) through the
inhibition of GLUT4 by administration of Indinavir [39,40], a compound best known as a retroviral
protease inhibitor. We studied how neuron-specific insulin resistance affects hippocampal
neurons and the CA1 circuit, one of the most studied brain circuits for learning and memory. We
tested the interaction between D-βHb treatment and AIR to establish the therapeutic potential of
a ketogenic diet in euglycemic animals. To examine circuit-wide effects on synaptic and axonal
function, we obtained field potential recordings in the hippocampus. Furthermore, patch-clamp
recordings in hippocampal slices were utilized to assess the effects of AIR and D-βHb on the
electrophysiological properties of CA1 pyramidal neurons and CA1 fast-spiking interneurons
(FSI). Finally, we used computational modeling to establish a bridge between our
electrophysiological results and the dysfunction of Na^+/K^+ ATPase observed in our AIR model.

3. **Results**

Electrophysiological studies have identified various paradigms of synaptic plasticity in the
hippocampus, which are associated with learning and memory at a cellular level. Long-term
potentiation (LTP) and long-term depression (LTD), spike-timing-dependent plasticity, and EPSP-
spike potentiation have been extensively documented in many hippocampal circuits, making it a
classic system for studying neuroplasticity. Furthermore, the hippocampus's simple
cytoarchitecture, combined with this background, makes it an ideal model system for investigating
the detrimental effects of AIR on learning and memory. In this study, we utilized Indinavir, a potent
GLUT4 blocker, to induce AIR pharmacologically, specifically in the brain. Our investigation was
focused on the stratum radiatum of the CA1, where numerous synapses are formed between
Schaffer collaterals (SCO) and the apical dendrites of the pyramidal neurons.

3.1 Synaptic activity and LTP, but not fiber volleys (FV), are adversely affected by AIR and are
not reversed by either 0.1 mM or 1 mM DβHb.

To test synaptic transmission within CA1 under different physiological stimulation paradigms, we
measured the circuit's response under a wide range of energetic demands. First, we applied mild
physiological stimulation, consisting of paired stimulation at 25 Hz, with repetition every 20 s over
30-60 trials [**Fig.1A-F**], which does not impose high energetic demands and is within the range of
a naturally occurring, physiological CA3-driven slow gamma rhythm observed in CA1 during
normal behavioral activity [41,42]. Moreover, this stimulation, during field potential recordings,
allows us to probe two neuronal functions at once: the fEPSP component of the signal, referring
to the glutamatergic synapses of CA1 pyramidal neurons, and the FV component, referring to
APs generated by CA3 pyramidal neurons.

Figure 1: *Synaptic activity and LTP, but not neuronal firing or PPR, are decreased during paired stimulation and do not recover during D-βHb administration.*

A) Scatter plot of the fEPSP amplitudes evoked by paired-pulse stimulation of Schaffer collaterals. Each pair of circles is the average of 30-40 consecutive responses. Black bars represent mean ± SEM. Control fEPSPs in gray, AIR in red; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR in blue; 1 mM D-βHb in purple. Control: n=26 slices; AIR n=19; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR: n=20; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR: n=16. B) Scatter plot of the paired-pulse ratio (PPR) of fEPSP recorded in A. The labels, n, are identical to A). No significant differences (p=0.41, ANOVA). C) On top: Representative recording of a Control experiment where the same stimulation as in A) was applied for 50 min. Each circle represents fEPSPs amplitude normalized to the average of the first 30 fEPSPs. The

*dashed orange line represents the mean amplitude at time -10 to 0 min. The black line represents the mean amplitude at +30 to +40 min. At the bottom: corresponding normalized PPR. **D)** fEPSPs waveforms recorded in C) showing LTP development. In gray, 30 fEPSP waveforms at t=0 to t=+10 min and their average (black). In yellow, 30 fEPSP at time +30 to +40 min and their average (orange). Stimulation artifacts and FVs are removed. **E)** Scatter plot of LTP triggered by paired stimulation, as in A). Control: n=13; AIR n=11; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR: n=12; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR: n=14. **F)** Scatter plot of the FV amplitudes recorded during A). The labels, n are identical to A). No significant differences (p=0.42 at stimulus 1, p=0.40 at stimulus 2; ANOVA). In all plots *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001.*

During the AIR condition, we observed a strong decrease in fEPSP amplitudes, namely -39.23 ± 8.72% (1st stimulus) and -38.79 ± 8.93% (2nd stim.) compared to baseline (**Fig. 1A**, p = 0.00029; p = 0.00037, respectively). There was no recovery of amplitude when D-βHb was applied at low (0.1 mM) (+13.10 ± 6.64% and +14.07 ± 6.76%, **Fig. 1A,** p = 0.34, p = 0.30) or high (1 mM) (**Fig.1A,** -5.98 ± 6.13% and -5.81 ± 6.26%**,** p = 0.88; p = 0.56) concentrations. There were no effects of either AIR or D-βHb + AIR on PPR [**Fig.1B,** Control: 1.89; AIR: 1.92; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR: 2.00; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR: 1.88; p = 0.54], suggesting that the facilitation at the synaptic sites remained largely unchanged.

When applied over sufficient time, our paired stimulation triggered the development of LTP in the CA1, as evident by a gradual increase in the fEPSP amplitudes [**Fig.1C, top**]. As with the LTPs induced by theta burst or tetanic stimulation, PPR showed no visible change [**Fig.1C, bottom**]. Therefore, we measured the LTP effect by comparing fEPSP amplitudes during the first 10 min with fEPSP amplitudes at 40 ± 10 min [**Fig. 1D-F**]. The control condition showed the strongest LTP, with a ratio of 1.53 ± 0.13, while LTP induction was almost abolished during AIR [**Fig. 1E**, 1.06 ± 0.06 ratio; -30.66 ± 9.42% reduction compared to the Control condition, p = 0.018]. D-βHb at 0.1 mM concentration did not reverse this effect [**Fig. 1E**, 1.08 ± 0.08, +1.25 ± 6.61% AIR vs. D-βHb + AIR 0.1 mM, p > 0.99], but 1mM D-βHb did [**Fig. 1E**, 1.39 ± 0.10, +21.19 ± 7.64% AIR vs. D-βHb + AIR 1 mM, p = 0.044].

Moreover, we found no significant effects of either AIR or D-βHb + AIR on the amplitudes of the recorded fiber volleys (FV) [**Fig. 1F** means of both responses; control: 1.03 ± 0.08; AIR: 0.89 ± 0.07; D-βHb + AIR 0.1 mM: 0.85 ± 0.08; D-βHb + AIR 1 mM: 1.03 ± 0.12; p = 0.40].

Taken together, these results strongly suggest that the effects of both AIR and/or D-βHb could have different specificities for various cellular compartments, with synapses being particularly susceptible to metabolic challenges induced by GLUT4 inhibition.

3.2 *AIR and 0.1mM D-βHb have largely the same effects during train stimulation, but 1 mM D-βHb exerts an additional suppressive effect on synaptic transmission.*

Next, we tested whether the circuit would behave differently under a stronger stimulation, thereby inducing greater metabolic demands: a model for cognitive load. We stimulated the Schaffer

collaterals with 20 pulses applied at 25 Hz, with 20 s breaks between trials. This stimulation lies
within the gamma rhythm range, but bursts of 20 APs are rare (although possible) under
physiological conditions [41,42]. In all experimental groups we averaged the complete sets of 60
repetitions for comparison among the experimental groups. In addition, to avoid the onset of LTP
from skewing the results, we recorded all train stimulations at least 40 min after the paired
stimulation paradigm.

Figure 2: AIR and *D-βHb* have the same effects during train and paired stimulation.

A) Representative examples of averaged fEPSP responses recorded in each experimental group to
Schaffer collateral stimulation with 20 pulses applied at 25 Hz every 20 s for 20 min, at 280-350 µm distance
between electrodes. Control in gray; AIR in red; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR in blue; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR in purple.
Stimulation artifacts and FVs are removed for clarity. B) Group mean fEPSP amplitudes ± SEM evoked by
stimulation as in A), plotted against the stimulus number. *,#,+,^ mark statistically significant differences.
*<0.05 Control vs. 0.1 mM AIR; #p<0.05 Control vs. 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR; +p<0.05 Control vs. 1 mM D-
βHb + AIR; ^p<0.05 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR; ANOVA. Control, n=24, N=22; AIR, n=16,
N=15; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=17, N=15; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=14, N=10. C) Group mean FV amplitudes
± SEM recorded during A), plotted against the stimulus number. The labels, n, and N are identical to (B).
No significant differences (p=0.091 to 0.34 during the trains, ANOVA).

All compared groups showed potentiation of fEPSP amplitudes during the train, reaching peak
potentiation at stimuli 5-6. Thereafter, the amplitudes experienced a slight decline but remained
potentiated [**Fig. 2A,B**]. Interestingly, throughout the entire stimulation period, the fEPSP
amplitudes matched the differences we had seen during paired stimulation [**Fig. 2B**; at stimulus
5: -34.25 ± 11.80% Control vs. AIR, p = 0.031; -40.54 ± 11.48% Control vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR,
p = 0.000044; +3.37 ± 7.80 AIR vs. 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.99; -25.21 ± 7.36% AIR vs. 1 mM

D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.0054]. The FV amplitudes followed a similar pattern, with potentiation
observed at stimulus 2, followed by a consistent decline to approximately 70% of the initial
amplitude [**Fig. 2C**]. Similar to paired stimulation, no statistically significant differences were
observed between groups at any time point during the train [**Fig. 2C**; p = 0.16 to 0.40].

As with paired stimulation, the compartment-specific effects of AIR and D-βHb are preserved.
Interestingly, the relatively unchanged response patterns support our previous PPR-related
conclusions that synaptic facilitation is largely unchanged [**Fig. 1B**] Additionally, at the high
concentration, D-βHb demonstrated synaptic suppression, potentially linked to the lower vesicular
glutamate content reported in previous studies [43,44].

3.3 *AIR and D-βHb during non-physiological, long-train stimulation demonstrated effects similar*
to previously employed physiological stimulation paradigms.

Finally, we examined the hippocampal circuit under conditions of intense non-physiological
stimulation. This involved applying long trains of 50 stimuli at 25 Hz, spanning across 60 trials
with a 20-second break between each trial. The responses during this specific stimulation varied
between trials, making it inappropriate to average them over the entire stimulation period. As a
result, we represent the fEPSP and FV amplitudes as heat maps. In these heat maps, each point
represents the group's mean response to a single stimulus at a given time point.

Consistent with our previous results, we observed a period of fEPSP amplitude potentiation
followed by a steady decline [**Fig. 3A-D**; at maximum, trial 4-6, stimuli 7-9: -34.81 ± 10.56%
Control vs. AIR, p=0.0084; -48.27 ± 11.37% Control vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.00065; +10.19
± 11.39% AIR vs. 0.1mM D-βHb + AIR, p=0.59; -13.66 ± 9.08% AIR vs. 1mM D-βHb + AIR, p =
0.45]. Synaptic depression developed by the final stimuli of the trains roughly 3 min into the
stimulation and became more prominent with each subsequent train application [**Fig. 3A-D**]. In
general, fEPSP amplitudes of controls and AIR groups differed substantially through the first 7
min of the recordings [**Fig. 3A**]. Control and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups also differed throughout
most stimulation [**Fig. 3B**], but the 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR and AIR alone groups scarcely differed
except at the end of the trains [**Fig. 3C**]. The AIR and 0.1 mM D-βHb groups generally did not
differ.

In contrast to fEPSP amplitudes, FV between all the groups remained statistically similar, with
almost the same response pattern [**Fig. 3E-G**], replicating the results from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

241   ***comparable effects with physiological stimulation paradigms.***

242   *A) Heat maps of mean fEPSP amplitudes recorded over 60 min in the Control and AIR groups and the*
243   *significance of the differences. The y-axis represents the time points of the trains of 50 stimuli applied at 25*
244   *Hz every 20 s at 280-350 μm distance between electrodes. The x-axis represents the time points of*
245   *responses to individual stimuli. fEPSP amplitudes are color-coded as a visible light spectrum in the range*
246   *of 0.1 mV (brown) and 0 mV (violet). Control n=24 slices, N=24 mice, and AIR n=21, N=18. The groups*
247   *were compared as 3 stimuli x 3-time blocks, and the p values are summarized on the rightmost graph.* ***B)***
248   *The same as A) for Control and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups. Control n=24, N=24; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR n=12,*
249   *N=10.* ***C)*** *The same as A) for AIR and 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups. AIR n=21, N=18; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR;*
250   *n=18, N=15.* ***D)*** *The same as A) for AIR and 1 mM D-βHb + AIRgroups. AIR n=21, N=18; 1 mM D-βHb +*
251   *AIR n=12, N=10.* ***E)*** *Comparison of mean FV amplitudes between Control and AIR groups as in A). The*
252   *layout, color-coding, and n or N numbers are identical to A).* ***F)*** *The same as E) for Control and 1 mM D-*
253   *βHb + AIR groups. The layout, color coding, and n or N numbers are identical to B).* ***G)*** *The same as E) for*
254   *AIR and 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups. The layout, color coding, and n or N numbers are identical to C).* ***H)***
255   *The same as E) for AIR and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups. The layout, color coding, and n or N numbers are*
256   *identical to D).*

257

258   *3.4 AIR impairs axonal conduction speeds, but D-βHb treatment restores and enhances axonal*
259   *conduction in a dose-dependent manner.*

260   In the previous sections, we highlighted how AIR and the rescue agent D-βHb affected fEPSPs
261   and FVs at CA1 stratum radiatum, finding a surprising lack of adverse effects of AIR on FV
262   amplitudes, along with a noticeable reduction in fEPSP amplitudes, which D-βHB all further
263   exacerbated. This difference suggests that different cellular compartments might be differentially
264   affected by AIR or D-βHb treatment. We, therefore, decided to investigate whether any other
265   physiological parameters of FVs change during AIR and whether D-βHB remedies any such
266   changes.

267   Considering first the conduction velocities (CV) of the FVs, we found that inducing AIR resulted
268   in a strong reduction in the CV of Schaffer collaterals (SCOs) [**Fig. 4C**; -13.07 ± 2.87% Control
269   vs. AIR, p = 0.027]. Interestingly, the addition of 0.1 mM D-βHb to AIR reversed the CV decrease
270   back to Control levels [**Fig. 4C**; +12.43 ± 4.42% AIR vs. 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.034; +0.01 ±
271   0.07% Control vs. 0.1mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.99]. However, the combination of 1 mM D-βHb +
272   AIR significantly increased CV levels, surpassing those of the Control group by approximately
273   20% [**Fig. 4C**; +31.79 ± 4.59% for AIR vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 4.2E-8; +19.10 ± 4.53% for
274   Control vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.00057].

Figure 4: C*onduction velocity (CV) of Schaffer collaterals decreases under AIR are rescued by 0.1 mM D-βHb, and increases with 1mM D-βHb concentration.*

A) Representative hippocampal slice during CV recording. Distance between the electrodes = ~600 μm. B) Representative FV averages recorded in CA1, at ~300-900 μm distance between the electrodes (150 μm spacing). The stimulus onset time (t=0) is marked with a dashed line. Stimulus artifacts are removed for clarity. C) Conduction velocity scatter plots. Each colored circle represents a CV replicate. Control in gray,

*AIR in light red, 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR in blue, and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR in purple. Data are shown as means ± SEM. *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001, nested ANOVA, Control: m=62, n=24, N=14; AIR: m=65, n=22, N=13; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR: m=64, n=21, N=13; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR: m=50, n=14, N=10. **D)** Diagram of conduction velocity of an action potential propagating along an axon. Conduction velocity is the ratio between the distance along the axon (Δx) and the time required for an AP to pass that distance (t_2 - t_1). V represents membrane potential. **E)** Model of a propagating action potential. Change in V over time (t) is shown at a longitudinal increment along the axon (x_2) and at neighboring increments lying immediately ahead (x_1) and behind (x_3). Membrane potential at rest (V_R) changes over time proportionally to the sum of differences between its value and those of the preceding and superseding increments. Upon reaching the threshold potential (V_T), a spike occurs and the membrane potential reaches peak value (V_A). **F-G)** CV is modulated by peak and resting membrane potentials. Our computational model predicts declining CV due to reductions in the peak of action potentials (F) and/or hyperpolarization of the resting membrane potential (G). CV quantified as percentage, relative to Control.*

To elucidate these trends, we constructed a computational model of CV by employing an analytical approximation of axonal cable theory (refer to Methods for details). Our model examines three potential processes that determine CV, namely resting membrane potential (V_{rest}), peak membrane potential (V_a, the amplitude of Na^+-driven AP overshoot), and activation threshold potential (V_t, the earliest potential for Na_v activation). We consider V_t to be robust to various physiological conditions, given that it primarily depends on Na_v channel type and gating kinetics [45]; therefore, we fixed V_t at a constant value of -50 mV in our calculations. We varied V_{rest} between -90 and -60 mV and V_a between 10 and 30 mV, both of which are considered physiological ranges. We evaluated the formula for CV at these increments relative to a reference state where V_{rest} = -75 mV, V_a = 30 mV, and V_t = -50 mV. Results showed that acutely achieving a decrease in CV required either hyperpolarized resting membrane potential or decreased peak AP amplitude [**Fig. 4F-G**]. As we shall show below, the absence of such findings in our experimental observations calls for invoking another mechanism.

3.5 AIR adversely affects input timing, restored by high D-βHb concentrations.

Changes in the CV of the observed magnitude and differences in input timing would likely desynchronize the hippocampal network. Therefore, we investigated the changes in latency during stimulation with 20 pulse trains. Here, we assumed that the first 2 stimuli within the first 3 trials represented the baseline resting state of the circuit and normalized all measured latencies throughout the train to the median baseline value.

In all treatment groups, the first FV peaks after the onset of the stimulation tended to synchronize better, with FV peak latencies improving by ~-0.2 ms. This trend reversed in later stages of the train, where minor delays of +0.2 to +0.3 ms appeared. For the first 3 min of stimulation, all experimental groups exhibited the same pattern of latency changes. However, the delays subsequently became significantly different between the AIR group and both the Controls and the 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups. During AIR, we observed the fastest progression of desynchronization

and the largest delays [**Fig. 5E-F, Fig. 5I, L**; at 15 min, stim. 9-11: +2.69 ± **Figure 5:** *Time delays in axonal firing during taxing stimulation are increased during AIR and are reversed by 1 mM DβHb.*

A) Top: Representative example of the FVs recorded at the first stimulus in the control group during
stimulation with 20 pulses applied at 25 Hz every 20 s, over 20 min. Bottom: FVs recorded in response to
the last stimulus in each train. The FVs recorded at t = 0 are marked in black; the FVs recorded at t = +20
min, are marked in dark gray. B) - D) The same as A) in the AIR, 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR and 1 mM D-βHb +
AIR groups. E) Heat map of the mean, normalized FV peak latencies recorded in the Control group. Each
trial is represented by a new row. The columns represent the time points of successive stimuli. Normalized
latencies (0 ms) are color-coded in yellow. Delays (>0 ms) are color-coded in green-violet, and latency
improvements (<0 ms) are coded in orange-brown. n=24, N=22. F) - H) The same as E) for AIR, n=16,
N=15; 0.1 mM D-βHb + AIR. n=17, N=15, 1 mM D-βHb + AIR. n=14, N=10. I) Statistical comparison of
latencies for the Control (E) and AIR (F) groups, performed on means of 3 stimuli x 2 trials blocks. p<0.05
in green, p<0.1 in yellow, p≥0.1 in white. J) The same as I) comparing Control (E) and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR
(H) groups. No significant differences, p=0.067to p=0.99. K) The same as I) comparing AIR (F) and 0.1 mM
D-βHb + AIR (G) groups. No significant differences, p=0.41 to p=0.99. L) The same as I) comparing AIR
(F) and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR (H) groups.

0.84 ms, Control vs. AIR, p = 0.0077; 2.64 ± 0.94 ms, AIR vs.1 mM D-βHb + AIR, p = 0.020]. The
lower (0.1 mM) D-βHb concentration did not significantly improve the time delays when compared
with the AIR group [**Fig. 5F, G; Fig. 5J, K**; p = 0.45 to 0.99]. However, the addition of 1 mM D-
βHb resulted in latencies comparable to Control levels, with an almost identical pattern of
progression [**Fig. 5E, H; Fig. 5J**; p = 0.070 to 0.99].

3.6 AIR increases membrane resistance (R_m) without affecting other intrinsic membrane
properties of CA1 pyramidal neurons. D-βHb treatment under AIR did not recover R_m to normal
levels.

Results presented above [**Fig. 4**] indicate that AIR might negatively impact the membrane
properties of hippocampal neurons by disrupting the Na^+/K^+ ATPase, which normally maintains
resting membrane potential after AP generation, thereby requiring roughly 59% of the total *de*
novo ATP production [46]. Given this, we sought to identify membrane properties vulnerable to
AIR and test their response to DβHb. Based on dose-response results from the field potential
studies, we selected 1 mM D-βHb for use in patch clamp experiments testing the effects of AIR
on intrinsic membrane properties of the CA1 pyramidal neurons (membrane resistance, R_m;
membrane capacitance, C_m, and resting membrane potential, $V_{rest.}$), and their spike thresholds.
We found significantly increased R_m of the CA1 pyramidal neurons in the AIR group compared
with Controls [**Fig. 6B**, +43.24 ± 3.73%, p = 1.41E-07], which remained increased in the presence
of 1 mM D-βHb [**Fig. 6B**, +27.86 ± 8.93%, p = 0.030], while AIR and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups
were very similar (p=0.31). Interestingly, neither did $V_{rest.}$ [**Fig. 6C**, -67.26 ± 1.17, -63.57 ± 1.38, -
65.11 ± 0.99, p = 0.09, Control, AIR, D-βHb + AIR respectively] nor spike threshold [**Fig. 6D**, -
46.31 ± 0.76, -44.53 ± 0.80, 44.64 ± 0.73, p = 0.17] were significantly affected by either AIR or D-
βHb + AIR treatments, as likewise seen for C_m which also remained unaffected [114.25 ± 9.73,
115.52 ± 9.26, 132.20 ± 9.46, p = 0.32].

Figure 6: *Membrane resistance (R_m) increases during AIR and is not reversed by DβHb. Other intrinsic properties do not change under either condition.*

A) On the left: A CA1 pyramidal neuron recorded in whole-cell patch clamp mode (outlined in red) with resistances and capacitance within the cell. On the right: A simple electric circuit diagram of the cell with the same resistances. B) Scatter plots of CA1 pyramidal neuron R_m, compared between the experimental groups. Each colored circle represents a value recorded in a single cell. Control in gray, AIR in light red, 1 mM D-βHb + AIR in purple. Vertical black bars represent mean ± SEM. Control n=28, N=22; AIR n=25, N=17; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR; n=30, N=16. C) Scatter plots of CA1 pyramidal neurons capacitance (C_m), compared between the experimental groups. The plots and coloring are identical to B). No significant differences (p=0.32). Control n=28, N=22; AIR n=25, N=17; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR; n=30, N=16. D) Representative example of a ramp current injection performed in a Control CA1 pyramidal neuron. 300 pA of current were injected into the cell held in current clamp mode. The dashed line marks the spike threshold recorded at the onset of the first AP triggered. The inset shows the magnified AP with the arrow pointing to the onset time point. E) Scatter plots of CA1 pyramidal neurons spike thresholds, compared between the experimental groups. The plots are identical to B). No significant differences (p=0.17). Control n=28, N=22; AIR n=25, N=17; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR; n=30, N=16. F) Scatter plots of CA1 pyramidal neurons resting membrane potential ($V_{rest.}$), compared between the experimental groups. The plots and coloring are identical to B). No significant differences (p=0.09). Control n=28, N=22; AIR n=25, N=17; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR; n=30, N=16.

3.7 AIR increased the frequency of spontaneous vesicular release at CA1 synapses (sEPSCs) but did not affect sEPSC quantal parameters. D-βHb did not reverse the increase in frequency or change the properties of sEPSC.

One of the fundamental properties of synaptic transmission is the quantal size, q, which is defined as a single EPSC triggered by the release of a single neurotransmitter vesicle at a presynaptic release site. Due to the quantal nature of signaling, such events are known as quantal or miniature

EPSC (mEPSC). Recovering the membrane back to resting potential during synaptic transmission
is the most energy-consuming neuronal process (~50% of total ATP produced [46]). Therefore,
we tested for changes in the frequency and magnitude of quantal EPSCs that might explain the
~35% decrease in fEPSP amplitudes reported above (**Fig.1-3**). During these recordings, CA1
pyramidal neurons were held at V_h = -70 mV in VC, with no drugs other than Indinavir and/or
DβHb. AIR significantly increased the frequency of qEPSCs, nearly doubling the number of
detected synaptic events compared with the Control [**Fig. 7A,B**; 0.53 vs. 0.96 Hz, +0.42 ± 0.12
Hz, p = 0.0031]. Interestingly, D-βHb failed to rectify the increased qEPSC frequency [**Fig. 7A,B**;
D-βHb + AIR 0.93 vs. AIR 0.96 Hz, 0.021 ± 0.15 Hz, p = 0.99; D-βHb + AIR vs. Control, +0.40 ±
0.12 Hz, p = 0.0091]. However, the amplitude, rise-time, and decay time of the sEPSCs showed
no significant differences between the experimental groups [**Fig. 7C-E**, amplitude: p = 0.21; rise
time: p = 0.51; decay tau: p = 0.98].

Figure 7: *AIR increased sEPSC frequency without altering sEPSC properties and D-βHb (1*
mM) does not reverse this effect.

A) Representative examples of the first 2 min of sEPSC recorded in CA1 pyramidal neurons Voltage
Clamped at V_h= -70 mV in each experimental group (Control in gray; AIR in red; 1.0 mM D-βHb + AIR in
purple). Below: averaged sEPSC waveforms from individual cells (light color) and the group mean (full
color). B) Scatter plots of the frequency of the sEPSCs recorded in CA1 pyramidal neurons, compared
between the experimental groups. Each colored circle represents a value recorded in a single cell. Control
in gray, AIR in light red, 1 mM D-βHb + AIR in purple. Vertical black bars represent mean ± SEM. *p<0.05,
Control n=19, N=19; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=24, N=16. C) Scatter plots of the sEPSC 20-
80% rise times, compared between the experimental groups, as in B). No significant differences (p=0.51).
Control n=19, N=19; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=24, N=16. D) Scatter plots of the sEPSC
decay tau times, compared between the experimental groups, as in B). No significant differences (p=0.98).
Control n=19, N=19; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=24, N=16. E) Scatter plots of the sEPSC
amplitudes, compared between the experimental groups, as in B). No significant differences (p=0.21).
Control n=19, N=19; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=23, N=16.

Given the change in R_m, the lack of significant changes in the amplitudes is surprising. In addition,
several studies utilizing different metabolic challenges, such as food deprivation [47] and inhibition
of glycolysis [48], showed an increase in mEPSC/sEPSC amplitudes, therefore, we decided to
investigate our sEPSCs in more detail. In most central synapses, in line with the quantal
hypothesis, the distribution of mEPSC/sEPSC amplitudes shows several peaks related to multiple
quanta released simultaneously or at short delays [49], with each subsequent peak linked to an
increasing number of quanta released. Capitalizing on the multiplicative nature of this process,
we assumed that small changes in amplitudes [**Fig. 7E**] would scale up. We detected 2-4 distinct
peaks in ~85% of the analyzed cells [**Fig. S1A-C**], with no differences between the groups in the
number of cells with multi-peak distributions [**Fig. S1C**; 89.5% in Control; 84.2% in AIR, 87.5% in
D-βHb + AIR], but the amplitudes at each peak showed large differences between the groups
[**Fig. S1E**], in line with our initial assumptions. Control and D-βHb + AIR groups did not show
significant differences in the amplitudes at any point [**Fig. S1E**; peak 1: p = 0.50; p2: p = 0.17; p3:
p = 0.88]. However, the AIR group had significantly higher amplitudes than D-βHb + AIR [p1: p =
0.048; p2: p = 0.0054; p3: p = 0.0038; p4: p = 0.021] and tested as different from Controls at peak
3 [p = 0.007]. We did not compare Control peak 4 with any group due to the low group size (n =
2). It is important to emphasize that D-βHb + AIR had the lowest amplitudes of all compared
groups, despite the same sEPSC frequency as AIR [**Fig. 7B**].

We further validated those findings by comparing the normalized distributions [**Fig. S1F-I**]. Within
the range correlating to peak 2 – peak 4 (sEPSC of 20 pA or more), AIR had a significantly higher
number of large events (15.19% of the total) when compared to Control (7.65%) and D-βHb + AIR
(9.48%) conditions [**Fig. S1F-I**]. On the other hand, Control and D-βHb + AIR groups showed little
consistent differences in their distributions. This result suggests that during AIR, the elevated
frequency of events increased the probability of multi-vesicular events occurring. Conversely, D-
βHb during AIR, with the same frequency of sEPSCs as in the AIR-alone condition, produced a
distribution resembling Control, as if the vesicles had lower glutamate content, as suggested by
Fig. 1-3 and literature [43,44].

3.8 *AIR slightly changes the firing pattern of hippocampal pyramidal neurons and causes*
increased membrane depolarization with input. Those effects of AIR are reversed by D-βHb,
which surprisingly also increases AP amplitudes.

The action potential generation and subsequent recovery of V_m to resting levels entail a large part
of the energy budget of pyramidal neurons (~41% of all produced ATP [46]). Therefore, we
investigated changes in the capacity of CA1 pyramidal neurons to generate APs under the above
experimental conditions by recording input-output curves, with the neurons subjected to 20
current steps 1 s apart of increasing magnitude (Δ25 pA) to a maximum current injection of 500
pA.

First, we recorded the firing frequency at different activation levels [**Fig. 8A**], finding that AIR

caused the cells to fire during current injections of lower magnitude than required for Control
recordings [**Fig. 8B**, 100 pA, p = 0.019] and D-βHb + AIR [**Fig. 8B**, 75 – 150 pA, p = 0.0038 to
0.050], but without altering the maximal firing rate [**Fig. 8C**, p = 0.78]. These results suggest that
the cells activate slightly earlier under AIR than in the Controls or D-βHb + AIR conditions. To test
this further, we measured the maximum depolarization attained by each neuron during the final 5
ms of each current injection step [**Fig. 8D**]. This analysis showed that AIR neurons indeed had
slightly higher depolarization with each injection step compared to Controls [**Fig. 8E,F**; p = 0.0027
to 0.048] or D-βHb + AIR groups [**Fig. 8E,F**; p = 0.0029 to 0.042].

Figure 8: *Neuronal firing is mildly affected by AIR and reversed by DβHb, with DβHb*
increasing AP overshoot amplitudes.

A) Representative examples of responses to 400 pA square current injections into Control (gray), AIR (red),
and 1 mM D-βHb + AIR (purple) CA1 pyramidal neurons held at V_h=-70 mV. B) Input-output curves of CA1
pyramidal neurons. Cells received 21, Δ+25pA current injections to a maximum of 500 pA (V_h=-70 mV).
*Circles represent group mean ± SEM. * Control vs. AIR, + Control vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, ^ AIR vs. 1 mM*
*D-βHb + AIR. *,+,^ in black p<0.05; **,++,^^ in black p<0.01; *,+,^ in gray p<0.1; ANOVA, Control n=23,*
N=20; AIR n=20, N=14; 1.0 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=22, N=16. C) Maximum firing rate of the pyramidal neurons
in B). Circles represent single neurons, black bars represent group means ± SEM. No significant differences

 *(p=0.778, ANOVA). N and n are identical to B). **D)** Example of responses to Δ+50pA square current*
injections into a control pyramidal neuron. The arrowhead and inset mark the membrane depolarization
*measurement (V_m, last 5 ms of the step). **E)** V_m at the current injections from B). Circles represent single*
*neurons. Black lines represent the group mean. **F)** Group means ± SEM of V_m from E). Statistical tests and*
*labels are identical to B). Control n=23, N=20; AIR n=20, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR n=22, N=16. **G)** Example*
*of AP overshoot measurement. Black line marks V_m= 0 mV. **H)** Averaged AP overshoot amplitudes from*
*B). Circles represent amplitudes in single neurons. Black lines represent group means. **I)** Group means ±*
SEM of overshoot amplitudes from H). Statistical tests and labels are identical to B). Control n=23, N=20;
AIR n=20, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=22, N=16.

Next, we investigated whether all experimental groups attained the same AP peak amplitudes [**Fig. 8G**]. Here, we averaged AP peak amplitudes generated at each step and compared the values by experimental condition, starting with the 100 pA step [**Fig. 8H**]. Surprisingly, D-βHb + AIR neurons had the largest amplitudes, which remained consistently elevated up to 350 pA compared to Controls [**Fig. 8I**, p = 0.00015 to 0.030]. At the same time, AIR neurons only showed significant differences from Controls or 1 mM D-βHb + AIR groups at the early injections [**Fig. 8I**, p = 0.0017 to 0.036, AIR vs. Control; p = 0.0093 to 0.044, AIR vs. 1 mM D-βHb + AIR].

3.8 *AIR increases AP decay time, while D-βHb accelerates the AP rise without reversing the AIR-induced slower AP decay.*

We next proceeded to investigate other properties of the APs, namely their decay time (from the overshoot peak to 0 mV) [**Fig. 9A-C**] and rise time (from 0 mV to the overshoot peak) [**Fig. 9D-F**]. We found that Control neurons had significantly lower average AP decay times when compared to AIR [**Fig. 9B,C**; p = 0.047 to 0.0019] and D-βHb + AIR conditions [**Fig. 9B,C**; p = 0.041 to 0.0023], across almost all current injection steps. AIR and D-βHb + AIR cells did not significantly different at any point [**Fig. 9B,C**; p = 0.32 to 0.99]. However, D-βHb + AIR cells demonstrated faster rise times compared to Control [**Fig. 9E,F**; p = 0.000094 to 0.0025] and AIR cells [**Fig. 8E,F**; p = 0.047 to 0.0052] in the majority of the injection steps. Interestingly, AIR cells exhibited slightly faster AP rise times exclusively at the lowest current injections [**Fig. 6 N,O**; p=0.012 to 0.035]. These slightly faster APs were likely due to earlier activation of the cells, as shown in [**Fig. 8B-C, E-F**]. Notably, the curves in [**Fig. 9E,F**] displayed an almost inverse shape compared to those in [**Fig. 8H,I**], indicating a potential correlation between the AP rise time and the amplitude of the overshoot. Most surprisingly, Control had the most stable AP rise times, changing little with increases in injected currents.

Finally, as we did not observe significant differences in firing frequency among the groups [**Fig. 8B,C**], we examined variations in the timing of AP firing based on the intervals between consecutive APs (AP Inter Event Interval, AP IEI) [**Fig. 9G**]. There were no clearly consistent changes in the trend of the AP IEI during current injections [**Fig. 9H,I**; Control vs. AIR, 400, 425 pA injections, p = 0.043 and p = 0.029; Control vs. D-βHb + AIR, 225, 500 pA, p = 0.0053 and p

= 0.023], although AIR tended to have some slightly increased IEI during injections of larger currents (>400pA), when compared with Control, but not D-βHb + AIR, but the trend is not consistent [**Fig. 9I**].

Figure 9: *AP decay times change during AIR and DβHb + AIR but DβHb + AIR APs have faster rise times.*

A) Example of AP decay time measurement. Black line marks V_m= 0mV. B) Averaged AP decay times for the current injections in B). Circles represent averaged amplitudes in single neurons. Black lines represent group means. C) Group means ± SEM of AP decay times from B). Statistical tests and labels are identical to B). Control n=23, N=20; AIR n=20, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=22, N=16. D) Example of AP decay time measurement. Black line marks V_m= 0mV. E) Averaged AP rise times for the current injections in B). Circles represent averaged amplitudes in single neurons. Black lines represent group means. F) Group means ± SEM of AP rise times from B). Statistical tests and labels are identical to B). Control n=23, N=20; AIR n=20, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=22, N=16. G) An example of the AP Inter Event Interval (IEI) measurement. The double arrow marks the latency between AP peaks. H) Averaged IEI recorded during the square current injections in B). Each point represents the average of all overshoot amplitudes recorded at each step in a single neuron. The black line represents the group mean. I) Group means ± SEM of

averaged IEI. *,^ p<0.05; ANOVA, Control n=21, N=20; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=20, N=16.

3.9 *AP adaptation is negatively affected by AIR, with AP amplitudes showing steeper declines,*
and is not reversed by D-βHb.

The amplitudes of the AP overshoot, AP decays, and rise times demonstrated a distinct pattern
in the AIR and D-βHb + AIR groups. Notably, the average slopes appeared to be steeper than the
Control group. It is important to note that the properties of APs during neuronal firing and/or
current injections undergo dynamic changes, commonly referred to as spike adaptation or spike
frequency adaptation [50]. However, in our experiments, these changes seemed to be intensified
by GLUT4 antagonism.

To test this, we examined the adaptation of AP overshoots by separately comparing the first APs
triggered by current injections [**Fig. S2 A-C,D**], the averaged APs [**Fig. 8G-I**), **Fig. S2E**] and the
final APs during current injections [**Fig. S2F**]. The first APs represent neuronal firing after rest
(10s between subsequent current injections), while the average and final AP are recorded after
energy expenditure. As expected, the first APs displayed minimal changes in amplitude with
increasing injections [**Fig. S2D**], with D-βHb + AIR consistently exhibiting larger amplitudes than
the Control group (p=0.0071 to p=0.047). AIR, also showing elevated amplitudes, did not differ
significantly from either the Control or D-βHb + AIR groups. However, for the final APs, we
observed a sharp decline in amplitude scaling with injected current [**Fig. S2F**]. In contrast to both
AIR and D-βHb + AIR, the Control group remained relatively stable, demonstrating significant
differences from D-βHb + AIR at low to medium injections (100-300pA; p=0.040 to p=0.00006)
and from AIR at large injections (400-500pA; p=0.032 to p=0.0011) [**Fig. S2F**]. Linear fits to the
average AP amplitudes revealed significantly steeper slopes of declining amplitudes [**Fig. S2G,H**;
p=0.00039, AIR vs Control; p=0.0012, D-βHb + AIR vs Control]. These results indicate that the
negative effects of AIR are even more pronounced during higher levels of neuronal activity.

3.10 *Changes in AP decay and rise times translate into differences in the areas and widths of*
FVs.

In our initial analysis of the field potential (FV) data, our focus was solely on the amplitudes of the
biological signals. Consistently, we found no significant changes in the FV amplitudes [**Fig. 1F,**
2C, 3E-G], which aligns with our findings on AP overshoot amplitudes [**Fig. 8G-I**] (with the
exception of D-βHb + AIR group). Based on these results, we further investigated whether the
changes in AP decay and/or rise times also corresponded to changes in FV areas or widths during
our long-train stimulations [**Fig. 3**].

We first looked into FV areas [**Fig. S3D,E**], where we observed small but significant differences
between all experimental groups during parts of the stimulation period, particularly at the
beginning of the stimulation for AIR vs 1mM D-βHb + AIR (p=0.00015 to p=0.049).

Next, we explored the FV widths [**Fig. S3F,G**]. Consistent with the FV areas and our findings on
AP decay/rise times, AIR exhibited the widest FV, followed by the Control group, while 1mM D-
βHb + AIR had the narrowest FVs. However, the differences between AIR and Control were
inconsistent and limited to a subset of the stimulation range. On the other hand, substantial
differences were observed between AIR and 1mM D-βHb + AIR at the beginning of the
stimulation, which gradually diminished by the end of the stimulation (p=1.26E-05 to p=0.046),
supporting our findings on AP adaptation [**Fig. S2**].

3.11 *With abolished GABAergic inhibition, AIR strongly decreased firing rates of CA1 pyramidal*
neurons and fast-spiking interneurons, which were not rescued by DβHb.

Our patch-clamp results in the CA1 pyramidal highlight an unusual increase in R_m [**Fig. 6B**], which
likely arose from the earlier neuronal activation and the relatively depolarized membranes during
current injections [**Fig. 8B-F**]. However, we performed the recordings under the same conditions
as our field potential data [**Fig. 1-5**], which entailed normally functioning excitatory and inhibitory
synaptic and extrasynaptic transmission. Therefore, as the next step, we investigated the
properties of CA1 pyramidal neurons and fast-spiking interneurons (FSI) after pharmacologically
abolishing AMPA/kainate excitatory and fast GABAergic inhibitory transmission by applying the
antagonists NBQX and gabazine, respectively [**Fig. S3**].

For this investigation, we first recorded the firing frequency of CA1 pyramidal neurons [**Fig.**
S3A,B] at different activation levels [**Fig. S3C,D**], finding that AIR prominently decreased their
firing rate at nearly all injected currents, when compared with Control [**Fig. S3C**, p = 0.024 to
0.0053]. Surprisingly, the application of 1 mM D-βHb during AIR resulted in a stronger reduction
in firing rate when compared with Control [**Fig. S3E**, p = 0.000027 to 0.035]. AIR and D-βHb +
AIR results remained similar throughout the injections [**Fig. S3E**, with 60 pA, p = 0.035 and 150
pA, p = 0.036 being the only significant differences]. However, all groups differed significantly with
respect to the maximum firing rate, with Control having the highest (31.03 ± 3.43) and D-βHb +
AIR having the lowest (13.17 ± 2.05) firing rates.

Next, we examined CA1 FSIs using the same drug conditions as those applied to CA1 pyramidal
neurons [**Fig. S3E,F**]. There was a similar but less prominent trend regarding firing frequency:
AIR decreased the firing rate of FSIs compared with Control, which differed at the low injection
magnitudes [**Fig. S3G**, p = 0.012 to 0.048]. D-βHb applied during AIR consistently resulted in a
stronger reduction in firing rate relative to Control [**Fig. 7H**, p = 0.00017 to 0.035]. Interestingly,
as also seen for pyramidal neurons, the FSIs for AIR and D-βHb + AIR groups remained
comparable throughout the injections [**Fig. S3G**, 300 pA, p = 0.048; as the only clear difference],
but none of the groups differed with respect to maximum firing rate [**Fig. S3H**, p = 0.068].

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3.12 *Hodgkin-Huxley model predicts that impairments in Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase activity result in more*

depolarized V_{rest}, lower AP overshoot (V_a), and increased neuronal firing.

Figure 10: *Impairments in Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase activity are predicted to have significant effects*
on neuronal dynamics.

A) Examples of simulated spike trains in response to stimulus lasting 1 s are shown overlaid at the two
extremes of the investigated v_{ATPase}^{max} regime. B) Parts of the same two spike trains are shown with finer
temporal resolution. C-F) Trends in resting membrane potential (C), firing frequency (D), peak potential of
the first spike (E) and slope of the decline of peak membrane potential over subsequent spikes (F) are
shown as a function of v_{ATPase}^{max}, with smaller values on the x axis representing declining ATPase activity.

Here we aim to explain the previous observations of dysregulated firing dynamics in response to
Indinavir-induced AIR. We hypothesize that Indinavir restricts the energy supply of neurons and
thus impairs the neuronal Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase, one of the main consumers of cellular energy [46]. To
test this hypothesis, we developed a computational model of the isolated CA1 neuron in the
absence of inhibition and toggled Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase activity through the enzyme kinetic parameter
v_{ATPase}^{max} (see methods, **Fig. 10**). **Figs. 10A,B** (at two different temporal scales) shows the

predicted changes in neuronal firing dynamics when the Na^+/K^+ ATPase is impaired. Such an
impairment predicts the depolarization of the resting state membrane potential (**Fig. 10C**) and is
consistent with trends in our injected current findings (**Fig. 6F**). Furthermore, this modeled
depolarization reduces the change in membrane potential required for an action potential.
Consequently, the model predicts higher frequency oscillations (**Fig. 10D**), consistent with the
observed increases in the number of evoked action potentials (**Figs. 10B,C**) and spontaneous
neural activity (**Fig. 7A,B**). Finally, the model predicts that the Na^+/K^+ ATPase should act more
slowly to recover ion gradients after an AP, causing the amplitude of subsequent APs to decline
progressively with time (**Figs. 10E,F**). Such an amplitude decrease is consistent with the
observed decrease in LTP under Indinavir (**Fig. 1E**) and with the trends in measured conduction
velocity (**Fig. 4**). There was no corresponding trend in amplitude following Indinavir application
(**Fig. 7H,I**), although we observed a highly significant increase in the decay times of the APs (**Fig.
9K,L**).

4. **Discussion**

Central insulin resistance impairs cognitive performance and promotes hippocampal
neurodegeneration and memory loss [51,52]. Recent experiments utilizing GLUT4 blockers in
animal models expand our understanding of the GLUT4-insulin interactions in the brain
[summarized in 10]. Our present results highlight the adverse effects of GLUT4 inhibition on
synaptic function and LTP, in accord with findings that acute and chronic blockade of GLUT4 are
detrimental to performance on hippocampal-mediated memory tasks, thus suggesting that
GLUT4 is critical for acquisition and consolidation of memory [10,14]. Memory formation increases
glucose flux into neurons by promoting translocation of the glucose-bound transporter across the
membrane [14,53]. This process enables increased metabolic support during high demand, such
as during cognitive challenges. Crucially, most GLUT4s localize in the perikaryon [54,55], likely
in close proximity to axo-somatic synapses, which are associated with synaptic plasticity and long-
term memory (LTM). Indeed, prolonged blockade of the GLUT4 glucose transporter in the brain
results in impaired formation of LTM [14]. Decreased levels of hippocampal BDNF, which is a key
factor in establishing LTM [56], support the notion of LTM impairments. Moreover, hypoglycemia
negatively affects memory performance and cognition [57,58, however, see 14], a clinical result
consistent with our mechanistic findings that insulin resistance impairs hippocampal neuronal
functioning.

Chronic reduction in GLUT4-mediated glucose uptake increased the neuronal plasma membrane
content of AMPA GluR1 subunits and elevated GLUT3 expression, suggesting a compensatory
increase in transient synaptic excitability [14]. It is unclear, however, whether such an increase in
synaptic activity is adaptive/beneficial or merely another detrimental outcome of hypoglycemia. In
this study, we found that AIR increased the frequency of sEPSC events and increased their
amplitudes, in line with the previously published data showing similar increases during food
deprivation [48], but curiously not under inhibition of glycolysis [47] or ischemia [58]). However,

the increased sEPSC frequency we observed is consistent with hypoglycemia driven Ca^{2+}
accumulation at the presynapse, as occurs upon inhibition of glycolysis and during ischemia
[47,59], although the frequency increase was much smaller in our study. The same studies
suggest that presynaptic glycolysis is essential for maintaining synaptic transmission, even at a
low frequency, and cannot be substituted by mitochondrial respiration. Glycolysis meets
approximately one-third of the energy budget at presynaptic terminals to sustain low-frequency
transmission, and its loss leads to decreased synaptic EPSC amplitudes, which are connected to
slower, broader, and smaller presynaptic AP waveforms, and a depolarization of the resting
membrane potential [48]; results which are consistent with ones we report. Our pharmacological
manipulation with AIR is likely much less severe than ischemia or glycolysis inhibition.
Interestingly, D-βHb + AIR treatment, which showed the same increase in the frequency of
sEPSCs as with AIR alone, had the lowest amplitudes, implying a reduction in the quantal release
of glutamate per vesicle. This result is consistent with reports of lowered conversion of glutamate
to aspartate under ketosis [43,44]. The present modeling results highlight a mechanism for
increased excitability, decreased CV, and slower AP decays through diminished Na^+/K^+ ATPase
activity due to energy constraints [**Fig. 6J-L**]. Interestingly, there is a report of comparable findings
in the mouse visual cortex, where dietary food restriction resulted in lower excitatory postsynaptic
currents, increased input resistance, and depolarization of the resting membrane potential, all of
which contributed to increased neuronal excitability, leading to broader orientation tuning,
decreased coding precision, and impaired discrimination in visual tasks [48].

Although the results of our computational models are consistent with the observed changes in
resting state membrane potential and firing frequency during AIR, there were seemingly
contradicting results with respect to AP peak amplitude. Specifically, while we measured slightly
increased AP overshoot amplitudes, our model predicted a decrease due to energy constraints.
As such, we suppose that neurons may compensate for the energetic limitations induced by
Indinavir by counter-regulating alternative properties, such as their membrane resistance, as
reported in [48]. However, our model may not encompass all relevant processes, such as the
effects of inhibitory synaptic inputs. Furthermore, we used the maximal Na^+/K^+ ATPase activity as
a surrogate for ATP availability, and we relied on literature estimates of kinetic and
thermodynamic rate constants. A more direct approach might consider ATP concentration as an
input variable, were such experimental data available. Furthermore, ATP has an additional
function as a potent signaling molecule, exerting diverse cellular effects beyond the scope of our
current model. Furthermore, astrocytic pathways significantly influence neuronal dynamics across
different metabolic states [60,61].

Another computational model aiming to establish the underlying causes of the diminished axonal
conduction velocity during AIR implicated hyperpolarized resting membrane potential or
decreased AP peak amplitude. However, our experimental measurements indicated opposing
trends in both metrics, thus suggesting that neither of the two phenomena could account for the
lower conduction velocity. This discrepancy might reflect exhaustion effects on the measured
conduction velocities; an exhaustion phenomenon would likely result in decreased AP peak
amplitude, which would predict declining conduction velocity according to our model. Alternatively,

the inconsistency might reflect the simplistic nature of our model, which neglects complex ion
dynamics, altered membrane permeability, synaptic processes, and a possible astrocytic
contribution.

Inclusion of 0.1 or 1 mM D-βHb in the medium recovered some functions of the glucose-deprived
hippocampal circuit. The ketogenic diet has served for decades to treat epilepsy and has an
emerging wide range of therapeutic applications [34]. However, the mechanisms whereby a
ketogenic diet may alleviate, for example, certain neurodegenerative disorders remain uncertain.
Possible mechanisms include modulation of potassium channels, free fatty acid receptor 3
(FFAR3/ GPR41) activation, promotion of GABA synthesis, and epigenetic modifications [62]. The
action of D-βHb in modulating potassium flux across the neuronal membrane may be most
relevant in the present context [63]. Indeed, the application of D-βHb modulates the activity of
ATP-sensitive K^+ channels (K_{ATP}), resulting in decreased neuronal firing rates [64,65]. Activation
of K_{ATP} links neuronal metabolism with firing activity and can prevent picrotoxin-induced
epileptiform activity in the hippocampus [66]. This effect of D-βHb seems due to reduced
glycolysis rather than direct interaction with the channel [67]. However, this pathway may explain
present findings that firing rates and membrane depolarization remained at control levels in the
presence of 1 mM D-βHb plus Indinavir, despite an elevated R_m.

D-βHb exerts other neuroprotective effects via increased synthesis of GABA from intermediate
metabolites; D-βHb is a precursor for the synthesis of glutamine, which promotes increased GABA
levels, as seen in clinical epilepsy studies of the ketogenic diet [68]. D-βHb also directs glutamate
towards GABA production by reducing the conversion of glutamate to aspartate [43,44]. In
addition, D-βHb has a direct effect on the vesicular glutamate transporter VGLUT2, which plays
a crucial role in hippocampal CA3-CA1 circuit, as shown by the impaired spatial learning and
memory, along with reduced LTP and synaptic transmission, seen in conditional VGLUT2 knock-
out mice [69]. DβHb, along with acetoacetate and pyruvate, competes against Cl⁻ at the Cl⁻ binding
site of the VGLUT2 and inhibits Cl⁻ dependent glutamate uptake, although less potently than the
endogenous KB acetoacetate [70]. Together with the increased formation of GABA and/or GABA
derivatives, VGLUT2 inhibition reduces glutamate excitatory transmission. However, given the
IC_{50} for the DβHb-VGLUT2 interaction (3.75 mM), we do not suppose that this was physiologically
relevant in the present study [70].

The present results have important implications for the treatment of conditions such as type 2
diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and seizure disorders that involve insulin hyposensitivity.
According to NIH estimates, ~40% of Americans today display symptoms of type 2 diabetes, a
proportion expected to reach 50% by the end of this decade. Together with the longer average
lifespans and demographic changes leading to an expansion in the aging population, obtaining
insights into the outcomes of metabolic dysfunction and its potential treatment becomes a more
pressing matter each day. Our results provide a unique insight into the potential use of KBs as an
inexpensive and relatively risk-free treatment for metabolic disorders and insulin resistance.
Medical researchers can use this information to discover new targets for treatment and develop

therapies that are more effective. Further research in this area could inform novel treatment
approaches that address the complex effects of metabolic disorders on brain health.

5. **Materials and Methods**

5. 0 *Mice*

Breeding pairs of transgenic GAD2Cre/GCamp5gTdTomato, Thy1/GCamp6fTdTomato, and
C57BL/6J mice were originally obtained from The Jackson Laboratory (stocks 010802, 024477,
024339) or Charles River Laboratories and bred in-house under standard conditions of 12-12
hours light-dark cycle, with food and water available ad libitum. The Institutional Animal Care and
Use Committee approved all experiments. Mice of both sexes aged between 30 and 60 days
(P30-P60) were used in all experiments.

5.1 *Electrophysiology under native conditions – slice preparation.*

Coronal brain slices containing the hippocampus were used in all recordings. Mice were deeply
anesthetized with a mixture of isoflurane and air (3% v/v), decapitated, and their brains extracted
and cut using a Leica VT1200S vibratome into 300 µm-thick slices in ice-cold ACSF solution
containing (in mM): 230 sucrose, 1 KCl, 0.5 $CaCl_2$, 10 $MgSO_4$, $NaHCO_3$, 1.25 NaH_2PO_4, 0.04 Na-
ascorbate, and 10 glucose; 310 ± 5 mOsm, pH adjusted to 7.35 ± 5 with HCl, and, gassed with
carbogen (95% O_2, 5% CO_2) for at least 30 min before use. The slices were then transferred to a
Zbicz-type BSC-PC submerged slice chamber (Harvard Apparatus, USA) filled with artificial
cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF) containing (in mM): 124 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 2 $CaCl_2$, 2 $MgSO_4$, 26 $NaHCO_3$,
1.25 NaH_2PO_4, 0.04 Na-ascorbate, and 10 glucose; 305 ± 5 mOsm/kg, pH adjusted to 7.35 ± 0.05
mOsm/kg, gassed with carbogen and prewarmed to 32 ^{o}C. The slices were allowed to recover in
the warm ACSF for 15 min, whereupon the heating was switched off, and the slice preparation
gradually cooled down to room temperature (RT; 23 ± 2 ^{o}C) over 45 min.

Following their recovery, individual slices were transferred to another BSC-PC chamber filled with
gassed ACSF and a mixture of drugs (Indinavir 0.1 mM; Indinavir 0.1 mM and either 0.1 or 1 mM
DβHb), where they were incubated for 60 ± 15 min. Next, the slices were transferred to a
submerged recording chamber mounted on an upright microscope stage (E600FN, Nikon, Japan)
equipped with infrared differential interference contrast (IR-DIC) filters. The slices were kept at
RT and superfused continuously with gassed ACSF delivered by a peristaltic pump at a steady
rate of ~2 ml/min.

5.2 Field potential recordings under native conditions.

Evoked field potential responses were triggered with an isolated pulse stimulator (Model 2100,

AM Systems, Science Products, Germany) using a CBARC75 concentric bipolar electrode (FHC,
USA) placed in the center of the junction between CA3 and CA1. The recording electrode was
placed 300 ± 50 μm away for the recordings of CA1 FV and fEPSP. During the recordings of
axonal conduction velocity (CV), the electrodes were 300 to 900 (± 50) μm apart, and up to 6
different sites were recorded. All stimulation paradigms were applied every 20 s as biphasic
rectangular pulses of 240 μs total duration, 50 ± 5 V strength (~60 ± 10% of the maximum
response size), and a between-stimuli frequency of 25 Hz (40 ms).

During non-CV recordings, three different types of stimulation were applied: two stimuli ("mild"
stimulation), 20 stimuli ("taxing"), and 50 stimulus trains ("overtaxing"), repeated every 20 s for a
total period of 20 min in each case. We consider the "mild" and "taxing" stimulations as two
extremes mimicking physiological activation in CA3/CA1. The "overtaxing" stimulation is non-
physiological and thus mimics pathological activation in the network. After each train stimulation,
the slice was allowed to recover for 20 min under "mild" stimulation. The recording was discarded
if the slice failed to recover FV / fEPSP to at least 50% of pre-train levels.

Recording pipettes were pulled from borosilicate glass capillaries (ID 0.86, OD 1.5, BF150-86-10,
Sutter Instruments, USA) on a vertical PC-100 puller (Narishige, Japan) and filled with 6% NaCl
(in H_2O, 1.02 M). Only pipettes with a resistance of 0.2-1.0 MΩ were used. Recording pipettes
were allowed to rest at the recording site for 10 min to equilibrate before the start of a recording.
All recorded signals were acquired using a MultiClamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices, USA),
Bessel-filtered at 2 kHz, and digitized at a sampling frequency of 10 kHz using an Axon Digidata
1440A digitizer (Molecular Devices, USA).

5.3 Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings under native conditions.

Pyramidal neurons of the hippocampal CA1 region were selected for recordings based on their
general morphology (pyramidal shape) and position within the pyramidal layer. As an additional
verification, recorded cells were screened for GAD2[+]-driven tdTomato fluorescence. Cells that
displayed any level of tdTomato fluorescence were rejected.

Patch pipettes were pulled from borosilicate glass capillaries (BF150-86-10, Sutter Instruments,
USA) on a vertical puller (PC100, Narishige, Japan). Pipettes had a resistance of 6–8 MΩ when
filled with an internal solution containing (in mM): 136 K-gluconate, 4 Na_2ATP, 2 $MgCl_2$, 0.2 EGTA,
10 HEPES, 4 KCl, 7 di-triphospho-creatine, 0.3 Na_3GTP; 280–290 ± 5 mOsm/kg, titrated to pH
7.3 ± 0.05 with KOH.

During recordings in voltage clamp (VC), cells were clamped at the holding potential (V_h) = −70
mV with a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices, USA). This V_h was uncorrected for liquid
junction potential before seal formation. All cells were compensated for pipette capacitance.
During VC experiments, series resistance (R_s) was not compensated. During recordings in the

current clamp (CC) mode, a holding current was applied to the cells to maintain membrane
potential at V_h = -70 ± 2 mV. All cells were bridge-balanced at 50% of R_s. Cell capacitance was
not compensated in either mode. Immediately after establishing the whole-cell configuration, the
cell was kept in I = 0 mode to monitor the resting membrane potential ($V_{rest.}$) over a period of ~120
to 180 s. The average value of $V_{rest.}$ over this period is reported as the $V_{rest.}$.

During the recordings, every 5 to 10 min we applied a series of 10 square voltage steps of −10
mV to the cell held at V_h = -70 mV to monitor changes in the R_s. All whole-cell currents in response
to voltage steps were 0.1 mM-pass filtered at 10 kHz with a Bessel filter and digitized at a sampling
frequency of 20 kHz (Axon Digidata 1550B, Molecular Devices, USA). To be included in the final
dataset, all recordings had to meet 3 criteria simultaneously: 1) R_s after any recorded protocol
could not increase by more than 20% compared to the R_s pre-protocol; 2) R_s during any of the
recorded protocols could not exceed 30 MΩ; 3) the offset drift by the end of the recordings could
not be lower than ± 5 mV.

Spontaneous synaptic currents (sEPSC) were recorded in VC at V_h = -70 mV in a single,
continuous sweep for 10 to 15 min, high-pass filtered at 2 kHz with a Bessel filter, and digitized
with a sampling frequency of 10 kHz.

To establish the spiking threshold, each neuron was current-clamped at V_h ~ -70 ± 2 mV and
subject to a ramp-shaped 200-500 pA current injection with a duration of 1s. The spike threshold
was determined as the membrane potential (V_m) at which the first fully developed action potential
(AP) was visible. Each ramp injection was repeated 10x, and the average V_m is reported as the
spike threshold for the cell.

To establish the firing properties of recorded neurons, each neuron was current-clamped as
described previously and subjected to a square-shaped series of current injections with 25pA Δ
per step to a maximum of 500 pA, with each step having a duration of 1 s and inter-step interval
(ISI) of 10 s. If necessary, the holding current was corrected during the protocol to maintain V_h at
~ -70 ± 3 mV. During analyses, only fully-formed APs that crossed the 0 mV threshold were
included.

All data acquisition was performed using pCLAMP software (Molecular Devices, USA).

5.4 *Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings under abolished AMPA/kainatergic and GABAergic inputs.*

Acute coronal brain slices (300 µm thick) containing the hippocampus were prepared from male
C57BL/6j mice (6 to 8 weeks old; Charles River). The brain was rapidly extracted and soaked in
ice-cold (ice slush) oxygenated buffer (in mM): 98 N-methyl-*D*-glucamine (NMDG), 25 D-glucose,
30 $NaHCO_3$, 20 HEPES, 5 Na-*L*-ascorbate, 2 thiourea, 2 ethyl pyruvate, 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH_2PO_4,
10 $MgSO_4$, 0.5 $CaCl_2$ and 12 N-acetyl-*L*-cysteine (adjusted to pH = 7.4) for cutting. Acute brain
slices were prepared with a VT1200S vibratome (Leica Biosystems), with cutting parameters set

to 0.08 mm/s speed and 1.2 mm vibration amplitude. 10 to 12 slices containing hippocampus
were collected and left to recover for 10 minutes in a 32 °C NMDG solution in an interface chamber
(Brain Slice Keeper 5, Scientific Systems Design). Slices were individually timed to ensure the
precise timing of this step. Slices were then moved to a second interface chamber containing
HEPES holding solution at RT containing (in mM): 90 NaCl, 25 *D*-glucose, 30 NaHCO$_3$, 20
HEPES, 3.5 NaOH, 2 CaCl$_2$, 2 MgSO$_4$, 1.25 NaH$_2$PO$_4$, 2.5 KCl, 2 thiourea, 5 Na-*L*-ascorbate, and
5 ethyl pyruvate, and left to recover for an additional 50 minutes. The total time of recovery was
at least 60 min after cutting.

Slices were transferred to a recording chamber continuously perfused with recording aCSF at a
rate of 3-5 ml/min at RT. Whole-cell recordings were performed using a software-controlled
MultiClamp 700B amplifier and a Digidata 1440A digitizer (Molecular Devices, USA). Recording
pipettes were pulled from borosilicate glass capillaries (WPI) with a resistance of 3-6 MΩ and
filled with an intracellular solution containing (in mM): 135 K-gluconate, 3 KCl, 3 MgCl$_2$, 10
HEPES, 0.5 EGTA, 4 Na$_2$ATP, 0.3 Na$_3$GTP, 10 Na-phosphocreatine, pH adjusted to 7.3 with 1M
KOH and osmolarity adjusted to ~290 ± 5 mOsm. Slices were visualized with infrared optics using
an upright microscope equipped with differential interference contrast (IR-DIC) using a 4x
objective. Pyramidal neurons and fast-spiking interneurons (FSI) in the CA1 region were
visualized with a 60x immersion objective and identified by their morphology and
electrophysiological properties (i.e., presence of the voltage "sag" with hyperpolarizing current
step injections and specific pattern of AP firing with depolarizing current step injections, in current-
clamp).

Slices were incubated in parallel with aCSF in 0.1% DMSO (Control), 0.1 mM Indinavir, or with
0.1 mM Indinavir + 1mM D-βHb at least 45 minutes before the recordings, which were made
directly in the patch chamber for a period never exceeding 3 hours, with inclusion of additional
synaptic blockers, namely 10 µM NBQX and 10 µM gabazine, which were also present in the
aCSF throughout the recording. A maximum of 4 neurons per slice were recorded. Mean
incubation times were 93 -min for Control and 95 min for Indinavir groups.

After a short period of stabilization (3 minutes) in whole-cell configuration, neurons were recorded
without any current injection (the holding was not set within a specific range) in current-clamp
mode. The protocol for pyramidal neurons consisted of 3-second sweeps with 1-second pulses
of from -20 to 100 pA in steps of 20, and then to 500 pA in steps of 50. For fast-spiking
interneurons we used 3-second sweeps with 1-second pulses from -20 to 100 pA in steps of
twenty, 500 pA in steps of 50, and then to 800 pA in steps of 100. Each group of pulses was
separated by 15 seconds, and with averaging of 3 consecutive runs

All data acquisition was performed using pCLAMP software (Molecular Devices, USA).

5.5 Field potential recordings – analyses.

During field potential recordings, the biologically relevant signals are superimposed onto the
decaying stimulation artifact. To isolate the stimulation artifacts for subtraction from the total signal
at the end of each recording, we applied 1 µM TTX to the slice. After the drug had abolished all
responses to stimulation, 30 repetitions of each stimulation paradigm were recorded in the
presence of TTX.

All recorded traces were analyzed in IgorPro (Wavemetrics, USA). First, an average of the traces
recorded in the presence of TTX was subtracted from each trace containing the biologically
relevant signals. The traces were then filtered using a rolling five-point average to remove noise,
and the baseline was adjusted to the 1 s period before the application of stimuli. Next, the
amplitudes and latencies of FVs and fEPSPs were measured at their peaks relative to the start of
the preceding stimulus. Amplitudes were measured against 0 mV baselines, while latencies were
measured against the onset of the stimulation. During high-frequency stimulation, cells often do
not have sufficient time to fully recover their membrane potentials before the next stimulus is
applied. This leads to a gradual shift in the baseline. To correct for this effect, we subtracted the
median value at +35 to +40 ms after each stimulus (where the exponentially recovering baseline
is mostly linear) from each FV or fEPSP peak amplitude. The width of a FV is determined as a
time difference between the FV start (peak of the first positive deflection) and FV end (peak of the
second positive deflection). To calculate the FV area, first we subtracted from each data point
values corresponding to a line interpolated between the FV start and end. After the correction,
the area under the curve is measured in arbitrary units (AU).

All traces were screened for occasional electrical interference and the affected data points were
manually removed from the analysis.

To measure axonal conduction velocity (CV), we calculated the time shift (Δt, ms) between the
stimulus start and the time of the FV peak. Next, the linear distance between the recording site
and the stimulation electrode was divided by the measured Δt. We recorded CV at 3-6 sites over
a span of 300-900 µm, with ~150 µm steps between sites. Each CV recording site served as a
replicate for statistical analysis (see Statistics). During CV recording, stimulation remained
stationary, and the sites were recorded in randomized order, always starting and ending at 300
µm.

To investigate whether there were any additional changes in CV during or after the train
stimulation, the Δt of each recorded FV in a single slice subject to train stimulation was calculated
in the same manner described above for CV measurements. Afterward, the median Δt at stimulus
1-3 of traces 1-2 (Δt_N) was used as a normalizing value and was subtracted from each Δt. Finally,
we calculated a group matrix of normalized, averaged Δt and saved it as a text file for visualization
(see below).

5.6 Field potential recordings – data visualization.

For constructing "heatmap" visualizations of the data, numerical matrices of FV or fEPSP
amplitude means were built for each of the four slice treatment groups. Every matrix consisted of
amplitudes recorded during the stimulation period and responses to each subsequent train in a
new row. Then, two additional columns were added at the end as a color normalization in the
heatmap (0, 1 mV), and the matrix was saved as a text file. Afterward, the text files were imported
to ImageJ (NIH, USA) as text images, converted from 32- to 16-bit, and saved as TIFF images,
which were then imported to IgorPro (Wavemetrics, USA), whereupon their look-up table (LUT)
was changed from "Grays" to "Spectrum."

The heat maps for time delays during train stimulation were generated similarly but using different
normalizations: 20 pulse train recordings had normalization boundaries of -1 and +1 ms.

5.7 Whole-cell patch-clamp – sEPSC analyses.

sEPSCs detection was automatized using a convolution-based algorithm in Fbrain 3.03 [71], a
customized program running under IgorPro 6 (WaveMetrics, Lake Oswego, USA), kindly provided
by the Peter Jonas Lab (IST, Klosterneuburg, Austria). Recorded traces were smoothed by
subtracting a 20-term polynomial fitted to the trace and digital lowpass (10 Hz) and Notch (50 ±
0.5 Hz) filtered in FBrain before the analysis. The trace subject to convolution was passed through
a digital band-pass filter at 0.001 to 200 Hz. The event detection template had a rise-time time
constant (tau) τ = 1.5 ms, a decay tau, τ = 6 ms, and an amplitude of −10 pA. The event detection
threshold (θ) was set to 4.2 times the standard deviation of a Gaussian function fitted to the all-
point histogram of the convolved trace. All events detected by the algorithm were inspected
visually. Those that clearly did not show fast rise time and exponential decay kinetics of a typical
hippocampal EPSC were removed by hand. Only cells with a rejection ratio higher than 20% were
included in the analysis. The analysis was performed using custom-written macros kindly provided
by Dr. Maria Kukley (Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience, Bilbao, Spain).

Afterwards, individual sEPSC waveforms were extracted from the trace. Each waveform
consisted of a 5 ms segment of the trace before the onset of the sEPSC and a 50 ms piece after
the onset to capture the full decay of the waveform. Before averaging, all sEPSCs were baseline-
adjusted to the pre-onset 5 ms. The peak amplitude, 20-80% onset-to-peak rise time, and decay
constant τ were measured for the averaged sEPSC. The decay constant τ was calculated as the
monoexponential fit from the peak to the final 50 ms of the averaged waveform.

To avoid selection bias during sEPSC extraction, we repeated the Fbrain analysis at least twice
in each cell and averaged the results.

5.8 *Multi-Gaussian fitting*

To create histograms of sEPSC amplitudes, we measured the amplitudes of at the peak in each
individual waveform using the custom-written macros in 5.7. Afterwards, we created histograms
of the amplitudes with Igor's build-in Histogram function by binning the amplitudes into 200 of 0.5
pA bins, ranging from -100 to 0 pA. In the next step, the histograms were imported into the
Multipeak Fitting 2.16 build-in Igor package. We started the analysis by using the "Auto-locate
Peaks Now" option, which utilizes an automatic peak-finding algorithm searching for peaks by
finding maxima in the smoothed second derivative of the data. The algorithm automatically
estimates the noise level in the data and an optimal smoothing factor. If the initial guess appeared
correct, the data were fitted with the multi-Gaussians suggested by the software. If the fits
appeared erroneous, the smoothing factor, widths, and locations of Gaussian peaks were
corrected manually until the best possible fit was achieved. If no corrections provided a good fit,
the distributions were fitted by a single Gaussian to capture the largest peak.

5.9 *Statistics.*

All data acquisitions were made in randomized sequence, with a maximum of 2 slices (field
potential recordings) or 2 cells (patch clamp recordings) from a single animal per experimental
condition to avoid pseudoreplication. All experimental groups had comparable distributions of
ages (close to P50 ± 6) and sex. The order of slice pre-incubation with drugs was randomized for
each animal. The numbers of slices or cells and animals used in each experiment are indicated
in the figure legends.

Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 9.5.1 (GraphPad Software, USA).
Significant outliers were removed with the Prism ROUT method at Q = 5%, and the normality of
residuals and homoscedasticity were tested for each comparison. If the datasets had normal
residuals and equal variances, we used ordinary one-way ANOVA with *post hoc* Holm-Šídák's
test. If the datasets had normal residuals but unequal variances, we used Brown-Forsythe
ANOVA with *post hoc* Dunnett's T3 test. If the datasets were not normally distributed but had
equal variances, we used Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with *post hoc* Dunn's test. In rare cases where
the data was neither normally distributed nor had equal variance, we applied the Brown-Forsythe
ANOVA with *post hoc* Dunnett's T3 test. If the combined sample size exceeded n=50, only one-
way ANOVA or Brown-Forsythe ANOVA were used. If the dataset consisted of multiple replicates
(as in Fig. 3), we used nested one-way ANOVA with *post hoc* Holm-Šídák's test. The tested
groups and p values are indicated in the text and the figure legends. Individual cells or slices are
labeled as n, replicates are labeled as m, and the numbers animals used are labeled as N. If the
groups tested as being different, we report the p-values of *post hoc* tests, but omit the p-value of
the omnibus test. If the groups did not test as differing, only the p-value of an omnibus test is
reported. For scatter plots, each point represents an individual data point (cell, slice or replicate),
and the horizontal bars represent the group mean ± SEM. In all other graphs, we present mean
± SEM. The heat maps represent the group means.

5.10 *Power and sample size calculations.*

The sample sizes for all statistical comparisons in this work were determined based on the means
and pooled standard deviations from preliminary recordings of 8-10 cells or slices per group, α =
0.05, β = 0.8, corrected for the number of pairwise comparisons (τ), based on the following
equations:

$n = 2\left(\sigma \frac{z_{1-\alpha/(2\tau)}z_{1-\beta}}{\mu A - \mu B}\right)^2,$

$1 - \beta = \phi\left(z - z_{1-\alpha/(2\tau)}\right) + \phi\left(-z - z_{1-\alpha/(2\tau)}\right),$

$z = \frac{\mu A - \mu B}{\sigma\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}},$

Where n is the sample size, σ is standard deviation, ϕ is standard normal distribution function, α
is Type I error rate, τ is the number of pairwise comparisons, and β is Type II error rate. During
the calculations, the normality of residuals and equality of variances were assumed *a priori*.

All of the calculations were performed in an online calculator available at:

http://powerandsamplesize.com/Calculators/Compare-k-Means/1-Way-ANOVA-Pairwise

5.11 *Hodgkin-Huxley model*

Our computational simulations investigating the effects of declined Na$^+$/K$^+$ ATPase activity utilized
a model primarily based on a previously validated CA1 neuron model [72]. This model builds upon
the original Hodgkin-Huxley model, but entails greater specificity to various voltage gated ion
channels, including separate Ca^{2+}, Na$^+$, and various types of K$^+$ channels. We combined this
framework with additional components specific to the Na$^+$/K$^+$ ATPase, which were adapted from
[73]. These additions involved kinetic equations for concentrations and reversal potentials specific
to Na$^+$ and K$^+$, and a dependence on ATPase activity. To investigate the effects of different rates
of the Na$^+$/K$^+$ ATPase, we toggled the kinetic parameter v_{ATPase}^{max} between 10 μA/cm^2 and 100
μA/cm^2 in increments of 10 μA/cm^2. v_{ATPase}^{max} determines Na$^+$/K$^+$ ATPase activity in the following
manner:

$I_{pump} = v_{ATPase}^{max}\left(1 + \frac{K_M^{Na}}{[N]_i}\right)^{-3}\left(1 + \frac{K_M^{K}}{[K]_e}\right)^{-2}$

Where $[Na]_i$, $[K]_e$ are ion concentrations that vary over time, and K_M^{Na}, K_M^{K} are Michaelis-Menten

constants. The extension with pump dynamics necessitated a volume and a surface to be
specified for the CA1 neuron. Our modeled neuron had a volume of 2000 µm³ [74], and assuming
a smooth spherical surface, an active surface area of 800 µm². Temperature was set at 24.5 °C
to closely match experimental conditions. During each simulation, the neuron was left at rest for
1 s to reach equilibrium and then stimulated for 1 s at 3.125 µA/cm², equivalent to 250 pA. The
model was implemented in the Julia programming language and simulated with the
DifferentialEquiations.jl library (https://github.com/SciML/DifferentialEquations.jl).

To evaluate the effects of diminished Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase activity, we extracted multiple features from
the simulated spike trains. Resting state potential (mV) was quantified as the membrane potential
at 1 s, immediately before stimulation. Firing frequency (Hz) was calculated by dividing the
number of APs with the time duration between the first and last evoked spike. Peak membrane
potential (mV) was taken from the first action potential of the spike train. Lastly, we quantified the
rate of exhaustion during a spike train by fitting a linear model to the progression of peak potentials
over the index number of the corresponding action potential. The slope of the fitted line was
extracted and labeled as the slope of the peak.

All relevant code is available on github, where one can find all equations and parameters. The
code can also be used to reproduce all results: https://github.com/lcneuro/iAIR_models.

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5.12 Model of conduction velocity

Here we model how AP shape affects the conduction velocity (CV) along an unmyelinated axon.
We model an infinitesimally small unit of the axon consisting of three distinct units in a row,
separated by a space h. The first and last of these units are kept "fixed" at voltages $V_1 = V_a$ (the
peak membrane potential) and $V_3 = V_{rest}$, respectively; this potential difference leads to a voltage
flow across the axon which is generally described by the cable equation [75]:

$\lambda^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = \tau \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + V$

Once the intermediate unit V_2 is excited above a threshold voltage V_t, the unit activates and is
self-excited up to a voltage V_a. This process then repeats *ad infinitum* along the entirety of the
axon (assuming no backflow of the charge). The conduction velocity (i.e. the rate of this voltage
flow) is thus inversely proportional to the reset time t_{reset} (the first time when $V_2(t) = V_t$, with
$V_2(0) = V_{rest}$ as well). Over the discrete lattice above, the cable equation is given by:

$\lambda^2 \frac{V_3 - 2V_2 + V_1}{h^2} - \tau \frac{dV_2}{dt} = V_2$

Solving this for $V_2(t)$ and substituting in the boundary conditions, we find:

$V_2(t) = \dfrac{\lambda^2(V_{rest} + V_a)}{h^2 + 2\lambda^2} + K e^{\frac{-1}{\tau}\left(1+\frac{2\lambda^2}{h^2}\right)t} = V_B + K e^{\frac{-1}{\tau}\left(1+\frac{2\lambda^2}{h^2}\right)t}$

where K is an integration constant needed to satisfy the initial condition $V_2(0) = V_{rest}$. Substituting
in the initial condition and solving for t_{reset}, we find:

$t_{reset} = \dfrac{-\tau}{1+\frac{2\lambda^2}{h^2}} \log \dfrac{V_t - V_B}{V_{rest} - V_B}$

Thus:

$CV \propto \dfrac{1}{\log \dfrac{V_{rest} - V_B}{V_t - V_B}}$

However, h is an arbitrarily small spacing that we can take to approach zero. Thus:

$CV \propto \dfrac{1}{\log \dfrac{V_{rest} - V_a}{2V_t - V_{rest} - V_a}}$

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9. **Contributions**

Conceptualization: BK, BA, CW, LMP, NAS

Methodology: BK, BA, FG, AB, JMH, CW, MK, LMP, NAS

Software: FG, AB, JMH, BA, CW, MK

Validation: BK, BA, CW, LMP, NAS

Formal Analysis: BK, BA, CW, FG, AB, JMH

Investigation: BK, BA, CW, FG, AB, JMH, LMP, NAS

Writing – Original Draft: BK

Writing – Review & Editing: BK, BA, CW, FG, AB, VV, JMH, MK, LMP, NAS

Visualization: BK, BA

Supervision: LMP, NAS

Funding Acquisition: LMP, NAS

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1299   10. **Competing Interests**

1300   All authors declare no competing interest.

1301

1302   11. **Data and materials availability**

1303   Raw data presented in this work, data tables with analyses and tables with statistics are
1304   available upon request. All code is available on GitHub, by following the links provided in
1305   the text.

1306

1307   12. **Supplementary materials**

1308   Figures S1 to S5.

Supplementary Materials for

D-β-hydroxybutyrate stabilizes the hippocampal CA3-CA1 circuit during acute insulin resistance.

Bartosz Kula *et al.*

*Corresponding authors. Email: lilianne.strey@stonybrook.edu (LMP),
Nathan_Smith@urmc.rochester.edu (NAS)

This PDF file includes:

Figs. S1 to S5

Figure S1: Detailed analysis of the sEPSC amplitude distributions reveals an increase in the amplitudes and number of multi-quantal sEPSCs.

A) An example of a skewed distribution of sEPSC amplitudes. Skewed distributions have a single peak and are best fitted by a log-normal function (top, brown) or multi-term polynomial (bottom, green). **B)** An example of a multi-peaked distribution of sEPSC amplitudes. Multi-peak distributions can be fitted by a series of Gaussian functions (navy blue). Multi-Gaussians tend to fit better than multi-term polynomials (bottom, green). The peaks of the distribution are expected to correlate to the quanta of neurotransmitter released. **C)** Ratio of multi-peak distributions (colored) to skewed distributions (gray) in the experimental groups. Control in black, AIR in red, DβHb + AIR in purple. **D)** An example of the multi-Gaussian fit with post-fit residuals (blue), the fitted distribution (gray), fitted function (black), and 3 individual Gaussians comprising the fitting function (orange). The gray vertical lines denote peaks of the Gaussians. **E)** Scatter plots of the sEPSC multi-peak amplitudes, compared between the experimental groups. Each colored circle represents a value recorded in a single cell, at a specific distribution peak (p1 = 1st peak; p2 = 2nd peak; etc.). Control in gray, AIR in light red, 1 mM DβHb + AIR in purple. Vertical black bars represent mean ± SEM. *p<0.05, Control n=19, N=19; AIR n=19, N=14; 1 mM DβHb + AIR, n=24, N=16. Values below the means denote the percentage of cells in which a specific distribution peak could be detected. **F)** Comparison of averaged and normalized sEPSC amplitude distributions in the Control and AIR groups, binned every 0.5 pA. Note that averaging smooths out multi-peaks of the distributions. The inset shows a magnified part of both distributions around the point of largest differences. Green squares mark significant differences (p<0.05), yellow squares mark differences close to significance (p<0.1). **G)** As in F), for Control and D-βHb + AIR distributions. **H)** As in F), for AIR and D-βHb + AIR distributions. **I)** Distributions from F-H presented as cumulative distributions. The inset is a magnified part of the distributions around the point of largest differences. Vertical lines mark the average sEPSC amplitudes, as in Fig. 7E.

Figure S2: Under AIR and D-βHb + AIR, AP show a steeper decline in amplitudes during current injections triggering multiple AP responses.

A) Representative example of AP overshoot amplitudes recorded in response to 21, +25pA square current injections into a representative control pyramidal neuron. Individual AP amplitudes are in gray, the first AP per injection is in dark gray, the last AP per injection is in white and the means of all APs per injection are represented by a black bar. **B)** The same as A) for a representative pyramidal neuron recorded under AIR. **C)** The same as A) for a representative pyramidal neuron recorded under DβB + AIR. **D)** Group means ± SEM of the first AP overshoot amplitudes during 21, Δ+25pA square current injections. * Control vs. AIR, + Control vs. D-βHb + AIR, ^ AIR vs. DβHb + AIR. *,+,^ in gray $p < 0.1$; *,+,^ in black $p < 0.05$; **,++,^^ in black $p < 0.01$; ANOVA. Control n=23, N=20; AIR n=20, N=14; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR n=22, N=16. **E)** Group means ± SEM of the average AP overshoot amplitudes during 21, Δ+25pA square current injections (as in Fig. 8I). N and n are identical to D). **F)** Group means ± SEM of the final AP overshoot amplitudes during 21, Δ+25pA square current injections. N and n are identical to D). **G)** Linear regression fits to the average AP overshoot amplitudes in individual pyramidal neurons in all experimental groups. N and n are identical to D). **H)** The slopes of the linear regression fits, compared between the groups. Each colored circle represents a slope for a single cell. Control in gray, AIR in light red, D-βHb + AIR in purple. Vertical black bars represent mean ± SEM. **$p < 0.01$. N and n are identical to D).

Figure S3: In the absence of inhibition and synaptic inputs, neuronal firing is negatively affected by AIR and further decreases under D-βHb.

A) Representative DIC image of a hippocampal CA1 area acquired under 60x magnification. White dashed lines highlight the pyramidal layer. The white arrowhead points to a patch-clamped pyramidal neuron. **B)** Top: Representative firing pattern of a CA1 control pyramidal

neuron injected with 350 pA current. $V_{rest.}$ = -62 mV. Bottom: The first 100 µs of the injection. **C)** Input-output curves for the CA1 pyramidal neurons in the experimental groups. Each circle represents the group mean ± SEM. * Control vs. AIR, + Control vs. 1 mM DβHb + AIR, ^ AIR vs. 1 mM DβHb + AIR. *,+,^ in black p<0.05; **,++,^^ in black p<0.01; *,+,^ in gray p<0.1; ANOVA, Control n=20, N=4; AIR n=20, N=3; 1 mM D-βHb + AIR, n=14, N=2. **D)** Maximum firing rate of the pyramidal neurons. Black bars represent group means ± SEM. Circles represent firing rate in individual neurons. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, p ***<0.001. **E)** Representative DIC image of a hippocampal CA1 as in A). The white arrowhead points to a patch-clamped FSI interneuron outside the pyramidal layer. **F)** Representative firing pattern of a CA1 control FSI interneuron injected with 800 pA current. Vrest. = -66 mV. Bottom: The first 100 µs of the injection. **G)** Input-output curves for the CA1 FSI in the experimental groups. Each circle represents the group mean ± SEM. Statistical tests and labels are identical to C). Control n=12, N=4; AIR n=14, N=4; 1 mM DβHb + AIR, n=11, N=2. **H)** Maximum firing rate of FSI in G). Statistical tests and labels are identical to C). No significant differences (ANOVA, p=0.068). * in gray p<0.1.

Figure S4: AIR causes an increase in the areas and widths of FV, while D-βHb, when applied under AIR, recovers and decreases FV areas and widths.

A) Top: Representative examples of the FVs recorded in the control group, at the first stimulus, during stimulation with 50 pulses applied at 25 Hz, every 20 s, over 20 min. Responses in the first train are in black, last train in dark gray, others in light gray. Bottom: FVs recorded during the same stimulation, at the last stimulus (50). Responses in the first train are in brown, last train in orange, others in light gray. The arrows mark the points at which FV are cut for subsequent area and width measurements. **B)** Representative example of 60 FV waveforms extracted from a control train at the first stimulus. **C)** The same FVs, corrected for area analysis. **D)** Heat maps of mean FV areas, recorded over 20 min (60 trains) in the Control, AIR, 1mM D-βHb + AIR groups and the significance of the differences. The areas are in arbitrary units (AU) and color-coded as a visible light spectrum (rainbow LUT) in the range of 21 AU (red) to 1 AU (violet). Control n=24, N=24; AIR n=22, N=19; D-βHb + AIR n=12, N=10. **E)** p value maps of statistical differences in FV area between the Control, AIR and 1mM D-βHb + AIR groups. p>0.1 in white; p<0.1, >0.05 in yellow; p<0.05 in green. Note that the comparison was made on 3x3 averages. **F)** Heat maps of mean FV widths, as in D), color-coded in the range of 2.25ms (red) to 4.85ms (violet). **G)** p value maps of statistical differences in FV full widths between the Control, AIR and 1mM D-βHb + AIR groups, as in E).

Figure S5: Overall summary of key findings.

On the left: Most important results of the field potential recordings. On the right: Most important results of the patch clamp experiments. Black, solid lines link field potential results with their clear counterparts during patch clamp experiments. Dashed lines link field potential results with their most likely patch clamp counterparts, but with unclear association. Figure prepared with BioRender.