Impaired fatty acid import or catabolism in macrophages restricts intracellular growth of

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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Abstract

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (*Mtb*) infection of macrophages reprograms cellular metabolism to

promote lipid retention. While it is clearly known that intracellular *Mtb* utilize host derived

lipids to maintain infection, the role of macrophage lipid processing on the bacteria's ability to

access the intracellular lipid pool remains undefined. We utilized a CRISPR-Cas9 genetic

approach to assess the impact of sequential steps in fatty acid metabolism on the growth of

intracellular *Mtb*. Our analyzes demonstrate that macrophages which cannot either import,

store or catabolize fatty acids restrict *Mtb* growth by both common and divergent anti-microbial

mechanisms, including increased glycolysis, increased oxidative stress, production of pro-

inflammatory cytokines, enhanced autophagy and nutrient limitation. We also show that

impaired macrophage lipid droplet biogenesis is restrictive to *Mtb* replication, but increased

induction of the same fails to rescue *Mtb* growth. Our work expands our understanding of how

host fatty acid homeostasis impacts *Mtb* growth in the macrophage.

Key words: Macrophages, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, lipid metabolism, CRISPR-Cas9,

nutritional immunity

Introduction

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (*Mtb*), the causative agent of tuberculosis (TB), has caused disease and death in humans for centuries (WHO, 2023). *Mtb* primarily infects macrophages in the lung (Cohen et al., 2018; Wolf et al., 2007) wherein the bacterium relies on host derived fatty acids and cholesterol for synthesis of its lipid rich cell wall, and to produce energy and virulence factors (Peyron et al., 2008; Russell et al., 2009; Singh et al., 2012; Daniel et al., 2011; Muñoz-Elías and McKinney, 2005; Pandey and Sassetti, 2008; Brzostek et al., 2009). Within the lung microenvironment, resident alveolar macrophages preferentially oxidize fatty acids and are more permissive to *Mtb* growth while recruited interstitial macrophages are more glycolytic and restrictive of *Mtb* replication (Huang et al., 2018; Pisu et al., 2020; Pisu et al., 2021). Globally, *Mtb* infection modifies macrophage metabolism in a manner that enhances its survival. *Mtb* infected macrophages shift their mitochondrial substrate preference to exogenous fatty acids which drives the formation of foamy macrophages that are laden with cytosolic lipid droplets (Peyron et al., 2008; Russell et al., 2009; Cumming et al., 2018; Singh et al., 2012; Podinovskaia et al., 2013). Foamy macrophages are found in abundance in the central and inner layers of granulomas, a common histopathological feature of human TB (Russell et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2010). Interference with key regulators of lipid homeostasis, such as the miR-33 and the transcription factors peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α (PPARα) and PPAR-γ enhances macrophage control of *Mtb* (Kim et al., 2017; Almeida et al., 2009; Ouimet et al., 2016). Moreover, compounds which modulate lipid metabolism such as the anti-diabetic drug metformin and some cholesterol lowering drugs are under investigation for host directed therapeutics (HDTs) against *Mtb* (Parihar et al., 2014; Singhal et al., 2014). Although the dependence of intracellular *Mtb* on host fatty acids and cholesterol is well documented (Wilburn et al., 2018), the impact of specific aspects of macrophage lipid metabolism on the bacteria remains opaque. In *Mtb* infected foamy macrophages, bacteria containing phagosomes are found in close apposition to intracellular lipid droplets (Peyron et al., 2008). It is believed that the bacterial induction of a foamy macrophage phenotype in host cells results in a steady supply of lipids that addresses the bacteria's nutritional requirements (Peyron et al., 2008; Russell et al., 2009; Singh et al., 2012; Daniel et al., 2011). In fact, intracellular *Mtb* has been

shown to import fatty acids from host lipid droplet derived triacylglycerols (Daniel et al., 2011).

However, other studies indicate that macrophage lipid droplet formation in response to *Mtb*

infection can lead to the induction of a protective, anti-microbial response (Knight et al., 2018).

Mtb appears unable to acquire host lipids when lipid droplets are induced by stimulation with

interferon gamma (IFN-γ) (Knight et al., 2018). Moreover, there is some evidence that lipid

droplets can be sites for the production of host protective pro-inflammatory eicosanoids (Knight

et al., 2018; Daniel et al., 2011). Lipid droplets can also act as innate immune hubs against

intracellular bacterial pathogens by clustering anti-bacterial proteins (Bosch et al., 2020).

Inhibition of macrophage fatty acid oxidation by knocking out mitochondrial carnitine palmitoyl

transferase 2 (CPT2) or using chemical inhibitors of CPT2 also restrict intracellular growth of *Mtb*

(Chandra et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2018). These data demonstrate that modulation of the

different stages in lipid metabolism inside *Mtb* infected macrophages can result in conflicting

outcomes.

We carried out a candidate-based, CRISPR mediated knockout of lipid import and metabolism

genes in macrophages to determine their roles in intracellular growth of *Mtb*. By targeting

genes involved in fatty acid import, sequestration, and metabolism in Hoxb8 derived

conditionally immortalized murine macrophages (Kiritsy et al., 2021), we show that impairing

lipid homeostasis in macrophages at different steps in the process negatively impacts the

growth of intracellular *Mtb*, albeit to differing degrees. The impact on *Mtb* growth in the

mutant macrophages was mediated through different mechanisms despite some common anti-

microbial effectors. *Mtb* infected macrophages deficient in the import of long chain fatty acids

increased production of pro-inflammatory markers such as interleukin 1β (IL-1β). In contrast,

ablation of lipid droplet biogenesis and fatty acid oxidation increased production of reactive

oxygen species and limited the bacteria's access to nutrients. We also found that suppression of

Mtb growth in macrophages that are unable to produce lipid droplets could not be rescued by

exogeneous addition of fatty acids indicating that this is not purely nutritional restriction. Our

data indicate that interference of lipid metabolism in macrophages leads to suppression of *Mtb*

growth via multiple routes.

Results

Knockout of fatty acid import and metabolism genes restricts *Mtb* growth in macrophages

To apply a holistic approach to assessing the role(s) of fatty acid metabolism on the intracellular

growth of *Mtb*, we used a CRISPR genetic approach to knockout genes involved in lipid import

(CD36, FATP1), lipid droplet formation (PLIN2) and fatty acid oxidation (CPT1A, CPT2) in murine

primary macrophages (Figure 1A). Deletion of CD36 or CPT2 in mouse macrophages has been

shown to impair intracellular growth of *Mtb* (Hawkes et al., 2010; Chandra et al., 2020). But the

role of specialized long chain fatty acid transporters (FATP1-6) on *Mtb* growth in macrophages is

uncharacterized. FATP1 and FATP4 are the most abundant fatty acid transporter isoforms in

macrophages (Nishiyama et al., 2018). PLIN2, or adipophilin, is known to be required for lipid

droplet formation (Paul et al., 2008; Larigauderie et al., 2004). Five isoforms of mammalian

perilipins (PLIN) are involved in lipid droplet biogenesis amongst which PLIN2 is the dominant

isoform expressed in macrophages (Knight et al., 2018). However, macrophages derived from

PLIN2$^{-/-}$ mice show no defects in production of lipid droplets nor do they impair intracellular

growth of *Mtb* (Knight et al., 2018). We targeted each of these genes with at least two sgRNAs

in Hoxb8 Cas9^{+} conditionally immortalized myeloid progenitors (Kiritsy et al., 2021) to generate

a panel of mutants that were deficient in the following candidates of interest; FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$,

CD36$^{-/-}$, CPT1A$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$. Each individual sgRNA achieved >85% CRISPR-mediated deletion

efficiency for all the five genes, as analyzed by the Inference for CRISPR Edits (ICE) tool (Conant

et al., 2022) (Supplementary file 1). We verified the protein knockout phenotypes by flow

cytometry and western blot analysis of differentiated macrophages derived from the CRISPR

deleted Hoxb8 myeloid precursors (Figure 1 - figure supplement 1).

To confirm certain knockout phenotypes functionally, we checked lipid droplet

biogenesis in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages in comparison to macrophages transduced with a non-

targeting scramble sgRNA by confocal microscopy of BODIPY stained cells. Cells were cultured

for 24 hours in the presence of exogenous oleate to enhance the formation of lipid droplets

(Listenberger and Brown, 2007). We observed a complete absence of lipid droplet formation in

PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages as compared to controls (Figure 1 - figure supplement 2A). This is contrary

to previous observations in macrophages derived from PLIN2 knockout mice which were

reported to have no defect in lipid droplet formation (Knight et al., 2018). We also assessed the

ability of CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages to oxidize fatty acids using the Agilent Seahorse XF Palmitate

Oxidation Stress Test. Scrambled sgRNA and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were cultured in substrate

limiting conditions and supplied with either bovine serum albumin (BSA) or BSA conjugated

palmitate. As shown in Figure 1 - figure supplement 2B, control macrophages were able to

utilize and oxidize palmitate in substrate limiting conditions indicated by a significant increase in

oxygen consumption rates (OCRs) in contrast to cells supplied with BSA alone. Addition of the

CPT1A inhibitor, etomoxir, inhibited the cell's ability to use palmitate in these conditions (Figure

1 - figure supplement 2B). CPT2 knockout in CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages impaired the cell's ability to

oxidize palmitate to a degree comparable to etomoxir treatment as evidenced by baseline OCRs

when compared to scrambled sgRNA control (Figure 1 - figure supplement 2C).

We then assessed the different knockout mutant macrophages in their ability to support

the intracellular growth of *Mtb*. We infected macrophages with *Mtb* Erdman at a multiplicity of

infection (MOI) of 0.4 and assessed intracellular bacterial growth rates by counting colony

forming units (CFUs) 5 days post infection. All the five mutant macrophages significantly

impaired *Mtb* growth rates when compared to scrambled sgRNA as assessed by CFUs counts on

day 5 (Figure 1B). PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages displayed the strongest growth

restriction phenotypes while CD36$^{-/-}$macrophages had a moderate, but significant, impact on

Mtb growth. In parallel, we quantified intracellular bacteria on day 0, 3 hours post infection

(Figure 1C), to ascertain that subsequent differences on day 5 were not due to disparities in

initial bacterial uptake. The moderate growth restriction phenotypes of CD36$^{-/-}$ macrophages

were consistent with previous findings which reported similar impact on *Mtb* and *M. marinum*

growth in macrophages derived from CD36$^{-/-}$ mice (Hawkes et al., 2010). Impaired growth of

Mtb in CPT1A$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages is also consistent with previous reports that genetic

and chemical inhibition of fatty acid oxidation is detrimental to the growth of *Mtb* within

macrophages (Huang et al., 2018; Chandra et al., 2020).

Mtb infected macrophages with impaired fatty acid import and metabolism display altered mitochondrial metabolism and elevated glycolysis.

Impairment of fatty acids metabolism by FATP1 knockout in macrophages rewires their
substrate bias from fatty acids to glucose (Johnson et al., 2016). We reasoned that deletion of
genes required for downstream processing of lipids (Figure 1A) could also reprogram
macrophages and increase glycolysis which could, in part, explain bacterial growth restriction.
We analyzed the metabolic states of three knockout macrophages (FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$)
in uninfected and _Mtb_ infected conditions by monitoring oxygen consumption rates (OCR) and
extracellular acidification rates (ECARs) using the Agilent Mito and Glucose Stress Test kits. All
three mutant uninfected macrophages displayed reduced mitochondrial respiration as
evidenced by lower basal and spare respiratory capacity (SRC) when compared to scrambled
sgRNA controls (Figure 2 - figure supplement 1A, 1B). _Mtb_ infection proportionally reduced
basal and SRC rates across all the mutant macrophages and scrambled controls (Figure 2A, 2B)
when compared to uninfected macrophages, which is consistent with previous findings
(Cumming et al., 2018). PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages displayed the most marked reduction in
mitochondrial activity in both uninfected and infected conditions, while FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages
were the least affected (Figure 2A, Figure 2 - figure supplement 1A). As reported previously
(Johnson et al., 2016), uninfected FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages were more glycolytically active with
higher basal and spare glycolytic capacity (SGC) compared to scrambled controls (Figure 2 -
figure supplement 1C, 1D). Uninfected PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were also more
glycolytically active, but to a greater degree than FATP1$^{-/-}$ (Figure 2 - figure supplement 1C, 1D).
Mtb infection increased the glycolytic capacity of all the three mutant macrophages (Figure 2C,
2D). Overall, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages exhibited the highest glycolytic capacity (Figure 2C, Figure 2 -
figure supplement 1D). Our data indicates that impairment of fatty acid metabolism at different
steps significantly impacts mitochondrial respiration and reprograms cells towards glycolysis.
Increased glycolytic flux in macrophages has been linked to the control of intracellular _Mtb_
growth (Gleeson et al., 2016; Shi et al., 2015). Metabolic realignment as a consequence of

interference with lipid homeostasis, which results in enhanced glycolysis may contribute to *Mtb*

growth restriction in these mutant macrophages.

Knockout of lipid import and metabolism genes in macrophages activates AMPK and stabilizes

HIF1α

Mtb infection is known to induce increased glycolysis or the "Warburg effect" in macrophages,

mouse lungs and human TB granulomas (Shi et al., 2015; Gleeson et al., 2016; Belton et al.,

2016). Several studies have demonstrated that the Warburg effect is mediated by the master

transcription factor hypoxia-inducible factor 1 (HIF1) (Courtnay et al., 2015). During *Mtb*

infection, HIF1 is activated by production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), TCA cycle

intermediates and hypoxia in the cellular microenvironments as a consequence of altered

metabolic activities and increased immune cell functions (Li et al., 2024; Shi et al., 2015;

Gleeson et al., 2016; Belton et al., 2016). We assessed HIF1 stability in the three mutant

macrophage lineages (FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$) by monitoring total HIF1α protein levels by

western blot, having confirmed that they were all more glycolytically active than the scrambled

controls (Figure 2, Figure 2 - figure supplement 1). Indeed, all the three mutant macrophages

displayed significantly higher amounts of total HIF1α when compared to scrambled controls

after *Mtb* infection for 48 hours (Figure 3A, 3B, Figure 3 - figure supplement 1A, 1B). FATP1$^{-/-}$,

PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages had increased levels of total HIF1α even in uninfected states (Figure 3A,

3B, Figure 3 - figure supplement 1A, 1B). We also checked the phosphorylation status of the

adenosine monophosphate kinase (AMPK), a master regulator of cell energy homeostasis

(Garcia and Shaw, 2017), in the mutant macrophages since Seahorse flux analyses indicated that

they had impaired mitochondrial activities (Figure 2, Figure 2 - figure supplement 1). Western

blot analysis revealed that in both *Mtb* infected and uninfected conditions, impaired fatty acid

metabolism in the mutant macrophages correlated with increased activation of AMPK as

indicated by higher levels of phosphorylated AMPK when compared to scramble (Figure 3C, 3D,

Figure 3 - figure supplement 1C, 1D). Interestingly, total AMPK was also increased, at least in

FATP1$^{-/-}$ and PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages, in both uninfected and *Mtb* infected conditions (Figure 3C,

3E, Figure 3 - figure supplement 1C, 1D). These data point to a metabolic reprogramming of cells

through activation of HIF1α and AMPK to promote glycolysis. In energetically stressed cellular environments, activated AMPK promotes catabolic processes such as autophagy to maintain nutrient supply and energy homeostasis (Garcia and Shaw, 2017). Autophagy is also an innate immune defense mechanism against intracellular *Mtb* in macrophages (Gutierrez et al., 2004). We examined the levels of autophagic flux in the mutant macrophages by monitoring LC3I to LC3II conversion by western blot and by qPCR analysis of selected autophagy genes (*AMBRA1, ATG7, MAP1LC3B* and *ULK1)*. We observed an increase in autophagic flux by western blot analysis of LC3II/LC3I ratios in *Mtb* infected FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Figure 3 - figure supplement 2A-C). CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were more autophagic even in uninfected conditions (Figure 3 - figure supplement 2A-C). Meanwhile, our qPCR analysis also revealed that the four autophagy genes were upregulated in both *Mtb* infected and uninfected conditions in all the three mutants (Figure 3 - figure supplement 2D, 2E). These data suggest that impaired fatty acid import and metabolism in macrophages could be restricting *Mtb* growth by promoting autophagy. These data agree with previous observations that inhibition of fatty acid oxidation enhances macrophage xenophagic activity which leads to improved control of *Mtb* (Chandra et al., 2020).

Exogenous oleate fails to rescue the *Mtb icl1*-deficient mutant in FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages

The mycobacterial isocitrate lyase (*icl1*) acts as an isocitrate lyase in the glyoxylate shunt and as a methyl-isocitrate lyase in the methyl-citrate cycle (MCC) (Gould et al., 2006; McKinney et al., 2000). *Mtb* uses the MCC to convert propionyl CoA originating from the breakdown of cholesterol rings and β-oxidation of odd chain fatty acids into succinate and pyruvate, which are eventually assimilated into the TCA cycle (Muñoz-Elías et al., 2006; Griffin et al., 2012). The buildup of propionyl CoA is toxic to *Mtb* and the bacteria relies on the MCC together with the incorporation of propionyl CoA to methyl-branched lipids in the cell wall as an internal detoxification system (Muñoz-Elías et al., 2006; Savvi et al., 2008). *Mtb* propionyl CoA toxicity is, in part, due to a cellular imbalance between propionyl CoA and acetyl CoA as an accumulation of the former or paucity of the latter results in the propionyl CoA mediated inhibition of

pyruvate dehydrogenase (Lee et al., 2013). Consequently, *Mtb icl1* deficient mutants (*Mtb Δicl1*)

are unable to grow in media supplemented with cholesterol or propionate, or intracellularly in

macrophages (Lee et al., 2013). However, this growth inhibition could be rescued both in culture

and in macrophages by exogenous supply of acetate or even chain fatty acids which can be

oxidized to acetyl-CoA (Lee et al., 2013). We took advantage of this metabolic knowledge to

assess whether exogenous addition of the even chain fatty acid oleate can rescue the

intracellular growth of *Mtb Δicl1* mutants in our CRISPR knockout macrophages. Scrambled

controls, FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages in normal macrophage media or media

supplemented with oleate were infected with an *Mtb Δicl1* strain expressing mCherry at MOI 5.

Bacterial growth measured by mCherry expression was recorded 5 days post infection.

Consistent with previous observations (Lee et al., 2013), the *Mtb Δicl1* mutant failed to replicate

in both mutant and scramble macrophages that were grown in normal macrophage media as

evidenced by baseline mCherry fluorescence (Figure 4A). Oleate supplementation successfully

rescued the *Mtb Δicl1* mutant in scrambled control macrophages. However, the growth

restriction of the *Mtb Δicl1* strain could not be alleviated by exogenous addition of oleate to the

mutant macrophages (FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$) (Figure 4A). These data suggest that

impaired import (FATP1$^{-/-}$), sequestration (PLIN2$^{-/-}$) or β-oxidation of fatty acids (CPT2$^{-/-}$) blocks

Mtb's ability to access and use cellular lipids.

Oleate supplementation in macrophages induces the formation of lipid droplets and we

were able to confirm the inability to produce lipid droplets in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages using this

approach (Figure 1 - figure supplement 2A). As an indirect measure to track the fate of

supplemented oleate in the mutant macrophages, we monitored lipid droplet biogenesis in

FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages to check if the inability to rescue the *Mtb Δicl1* impaired

growth phenotypes in these mutant macrophages could be possibly related to disruptions in

lipid droplet formation. Confocal analysis of BODIPY stained cells upon oleate supplementation

revealed that FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages also fail to generate lipid droplets (Figure 4B). In contrast,

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages produced more and larger lipid droplets in comparison to scrambled

controls (Figure 4B). These data suggest that the inhibition of *Mtb* growth in these mutant

macrophages is not merely through limitation of access to fatty acid nutrients.

Dual RNA sequencing to identify host and bacterial determinants of *Mtb* restriction in mutant

macrophage lineages.

We performed RNA sequencing of both host and bacteria in *Mtb* infected mutant macrophages

as a preliminary step in identification of pathways restricting bacterial growth. We infected

scrambled controls, FATP1$^{-/-}$, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages with the *Mtb* smyc'::mCherry

strain for 4 days and processed the samples for dual RNA sequencing as previously described

(Simwela et al., 2024). Principal component analysis (PCA) of host transcriptomes revealed a

clustering of all the three mutant macrophages away from scrambled controls (Figure 5A).

Interestingly, there was a separation in transcriptional responses between the three mutant

macrophages as CPT2$^{-/-}$ and PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages clustered closer together and more distant

from FATP1$^{-/-}$ (Figure 5A). Overall, using an adjusted p-value < 0.05 and absolute log2 fold

change > 1.2, we identified 900 genes which were differentially expressed (DE) in PLIN2$^{-/-}$

macrophages (589 up, 311 down), 817 genes which were DE in FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages (501 up,

315 down) and 189 genes which were DE in CPT2$^{-/-}$ (124 up, 65 down) (Supplementary file 2,

Figure 5B). Consistent with the PCA analysis, Venn diagram of the DE genes (Figure 5B) indicated

divergent responses in the three mutant macrophage populations. We performed pathway

enrichment analysis (Wu et al., 2021) of the DE genes to identify anti-microbial pathway

candidates in the three mutant macrophages. We found that defects in fatty acid uptake in

FATP1$^{-/-}$ infected macrophages upregulated pro-inflammatory pathways involved in MAPK and

ERK signaling and production of inflammatory cytokines (IFN-γ, interleukin-6, Interleukin-1α, β)

(Figure 6A, Supplementary file 3). The pro-inflammatory signatures of the FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages

are consistent with previous observations that demonstrated that a deficiency in FATP1

exacerbated macrophage activation *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Johnson et al., 2016). FATP1 is a solute

carrier family member (SLC27A1) and *Mtb* infected FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages showed reduced

expression of other solute carrier transporters (SLC) such as FATP4 (SLC27A4), GLUT1 (SLC2A1)

and 8 SLC amino acid transporters (Figure 6 - figure supplement 1A, 1B, 2A, Supplementary file

2). Interestingly, *Mtb* infected FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophage transcriptomes exhibited upregulation of

macrophage scavenger receptors (MSR1) and the ATP binding cassette transporter ABCC1

(Figure 6 - figure supplement 1A), both of which can independently transport fatty acids into

cells (Vogel et al., 2022; Raggers et al., 1999).

Meanwhile, *Mtb* infection of PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages led to upregulation in pathways

involved in ribosomal biology, MHC class 1 antigen presentation, canonical glycolysis, ATP

metabolic processes and type 1 interferon responses (Figure 6B, Supplementary file 3). In the

downregulated PLIN2$^{-/-}$ DE gene set, enriched pathways included those involved in production

of pro-inflammatory cytokines; interleukin-6 and 8, IFN-γ and interleukin-1 (Figure 6 - figure

supplement 2B, Supplementary file 3). Oxidative phosphorylation and processes involved in the

respiratory chain electron transport were also significantly enriched in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ downregulated

genes. This suggests that *Mtb* infected PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages increase glycolytic flux and

decrease mitochondrial activities, which is consistent with our metabolic flux analysis data

(Figure 2, Figure 2 - figure supplement 1). Unlike FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages, PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages

are, however, broadly anti-inflammatory as most pro-inflammatory genes were downregulated

upon *Mtb* infection.

Further downstream in the lipid processing steps, inhibition of fatty acid oxidation in

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages upregulated pathways involved in MHC class 1 antigen presentation,

response to IFN-γ and interleukin-1 and T-cell mediated immunity (Figure 6 - figure supplement

3, Supplementary file 3). There was a limited overlap in enriched pathways in the upregulated

genes between *Mtb* infected CPT2$^{-/-}$ and FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages such as those involved in the

cellular responses to interleukin-1 and IFN-γ. However, many pathways over-represented in

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were common to PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Figure 6B, Figure 6 - figure

supplement 3, Supplementary file 3). Similarly, both *Mtb*-infected PLIN2$^{-/-}$ *and* CPT2$^{-/-}$

macrophages were downregulated in expression of genes involved in oxidative phosphorylation

(Supplementary file 3). We confirmed expression levels of a selected genes by qPCR analysis of

IL-1β and the type 1 interferon (IFN-β) response during the early time points of infection.

Indeed, 4 hours post infection, IL-1β and IFN-β were both upregulated in FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages

as compared to scrambled controls consistent with their pro-inflammatory phenotype (Figure 6

- figure supplement 4A, 4B). On the contrary, PLIN2[-/-] macrophages downregulated IL-1β (Figure

6 - figure supplement 4B). These data indicate that macrophages respond quite divergently to

the deletion of the different steps in fatty acid uptake, which implies that the intracellular

pressures to which *Mtb* is exposed may also differ.

Oxidative stress and nutrient limitation are major stresses experienced by *Mtb* in PLIN2[-/-] and

CPT2[-/-] macrophages

We also analyzed transcriptomes from intracellular *Mtb* from scrambled controls, FATP1[-/-], CPT2[-

/-] and PLIN2[-/-] macrophages in parallel with host transcriptomes in Figure 5A. Using an adjusted

p-value of < 0.1 and an absolute log2 fold change > 1.4, 0 genes were DE in FATP1[-/-]

macrophages, 105 *Mtb* genes were DE in PLIN2[-/-] macrophages (69 up, 36 down) and 10 genes

were DE in CPT2[-/-] macrophages (3 up, 7 down) (Supplementary file 4). Despite being restrictive

to *Mtb* growth (Figure 1B) and appearing more pro-inflammatory (Figure 6A), FATP1[-/-]

macrophages did not elicit a detectable shift in the transcriptional response in *Mtb,* compared

to control host cells. We speculate that pro-inflammatory responses in FATP1[-/-] macrophages

could be enough to restrict the growth of bacteria, but the resulting compensatory responses as

evidenced by the upregulation of macrophage scavenger receptors (Figure 6 - figure

supplement 1A) alleviate some of the stresses that a lack of fatty acid import could be duly

exerting on the bacteria. PLIN2[-/-] macrophages appeared to elicit the strongest transcriptional

response from *Mtb* which is consistent with our CFU data (Figure 1B) as PLIN2[-/-] macrophages

exhibited the strongest growth restriction. Among the DE genes in *Mtb* from PLIN2[-/-]

macrophages (Supplementary file 4), a significant number of upregulated genes are involved in

nutrient assimilation (Figure 7A). *Mtb* in PLIN2[-/-] macrophages upregulated CobU (Rv0254c)

which is predicted to be involved in the bacteria's cobalamin (Vitamin B_{12}) biosynthesis. Vitamin

B_{12} is an important cofactor for the activity of *Mtb* genes required for cholesterol and fatty acid

utilization (Campos-Pardos et al., 2024; Savvi et al., 2008). Genes involved in de novo long chain

fatty acid synthesis (AccE5, Rv281) (Bazet Lyonnet et al., 2014), cholesterol breakdown (HsaD,

Rv3569c) (Lack et al., 2010), β-oxidation of fatty acids (EchA18, Rv3373; FadE22, Rv3061c)

(Schnappinger et al., 2003), purine salvage (Apt, Rv2584c) (Warner et al., 2014) and tryptophan

metabolism (Lott, 2020) were also upregulated in *Mtb* from PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Figure 7A).

This metabolic re-alignment response is seen most frequently under nutrient limiting conditions

(Huang et al., 2018; Pisu et al., 2020; Theriault et al., 2022). *Mtb* in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages also

appears to experience a significant level of other cellular stresses as genes involved in DNA

synthesis and repair, general response to oxidative stress and PH survival in the phagosome

(DnaN, Rv0002; RecF, Rv0003; DinF, Rv2836c; Rv3242c, Rv1264) were upregulated (Figure 7B).

Amongst the down-regulated genes in *Mtb* in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages, FurA (Rv1909c), a KatG

repressor was the most significant (Figure 7B, Supplementary file 4). FurA downregulation

derepresses the catalase peroxidase, KatG, which promotes *Mtb* survival in oxidative stress

conditions (Zahrt et al., 2001). These data suggest that PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages could be, in part,

restricting *Mtb* growth by increasing production of ROS. The data also suggest that, contrary to

a previous report (Knight et al., 2018), blocking lipid droplet formation in host macrophages

does place increased nutritional and oxidative stress on intracellular *Mtb*.

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages elicited a modest shift in transcriptional response from *Mtb*, and

the majority of the DE genes (8 out of 10) were also DE in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Supplementary

file 4). This in in agreement with the host transcription response as CPT2$^{-/-}$ and PLIN2$^{-/-}$

macrophages share similar candidate anti-bacterial responses (Figure 5A, 5B, Figure 6B, Figure 6

- figure supplement 3). In common with the *Mtb* transcriptome response in PLIN2$^{-/-}$

macrophages, upregulated genes in *Mtb* isolated from CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages included those

involved in response to oxidative stress (DinF, Rv2836c) (Figure 7B, Supplementary file 4). To

substantiate some of these pathways, we assessed the levels of total cellular ROS in FATP1$^{-/-}$,

PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages in both *Mtb* infected and uninfected conditions by staining the

cells with the Invitrogen CellROX dye and confocal microscopy analysis of live stained cells. In

both infected and uninfected conditions, all the three mutants displayed significantly elevated

total cellular ROS when compared to scramble controls (Fig. 7 - figure supplement 1A, 1B).

Inhibitors of lipid metabolism block intracellular growth of *Mtb* in macrophages but not in

broth culture

We next examined if pharmacological inhibitors would phenocopy the growth inhibition
phenotypes we observed with specific gene deletions. Compounds which modulate lipid
homeostasis are currently being investigated for HDT against TB, which is an area of
considerable interest (Kim et al., 2020). Such compounds include metformin, a widely used anti-
diabetic drug which activates AMPK, inhibits fatty acid synthesis and promotes β-oxidation of
fatty acids (Fullerton et al., 2013; Singhal et al., 2014). Chemical inhibition of fatty acid β-
oxidation is already known to promote macrophage control of *Mtb* (Chandra et al., 2020; Huang
et al., 2018). We targeted macrophage lipid homeostasis with trimetazidine (TMZ), an inhibitor
of β-oxidation of fatty acids, metformin, and an FATP1 inhibitor, FATP1 In (Matsufuji et al.,
2013). We assessed the impact of these compounds on extracellular *Mtb* cultured in broth over
9 days in the presence of the inhibitors (DMSO, TMZ; 500 nM, Metformin; 2 mM, FATP1 In; 10
µM, Rifampicin; 0.5 µg/ml). None of the three lipid metabolism inhibitors had a measurable
effect on *Mtb* growth in liquid culture media when compared to DMSO controls (Figure 8A).
Treatment with rifampicin completely blocked bacterial growth under the same conditions
(Figure 8A). We next infected scrambled sgRNA control macrophages with *Mtb* at MOI 0.5.
Inhibitors were added to infected macrophages 3 hours post infection and bacterial CFUs were
enumerated 4 days post treatment. Consistent with previous observations (Chandra et al., 2020;
Singhal et al., 2014), TMZ and metformin significantly reduced bacterial loads in macrophages
when compared to DMSO controls (Figure 8B). Similarly, FATP1 In also impacted the intracellular
growth of *Mtb* (Figure 8B). The results provide independent data that both genetic and
chemical modulation of fatty acid metabolism at different steps in the process negatively
impacts intracellular growth of *Mtb*.
428
Discussion

430 It is clearly established that host derived fatty acids and cholesterol are important carbon
431 sources for *Mtb* (Wilburn et al., 2018). However, the relationship between *Mtb* and the infected
432 host cell lipid metabolism remains a subject of conjecture. In this report, we characterized the
433 role of macrophage lipid metabolism on the intracellular growth of *Mtb* by a targeted CRISPR
434 mediated knockout of host genes involved in fatty acid import, sequestration and catabolism.

Macrophage fatty acid uptake is mediated by the scavenger receptor CD36 and specialized long chain fatty acid transporters, FATP1 and FATP4 (Deng et al., 2023). Earlier studies reported that a deficiency of CD36 enhances macrophage control of Mtb, albeit to a modest degree (Hawkes et al., 2010). Work from Hawkes et al.(Hawkes et al., 2010) indicated that the anti-microbial effectors in CD36 deficient macrophages were not due to bacterial uptake deficiencies, differences in the rate of Mtb induced host cell death, production of ROS or pro-inflammatory cytokines (Hawkes et al., 2010). We similarly observed a moderate Mtb growth restriction phenotype in our CRISPR generated $CD36^{-/-}$ macrophages. However, a strong growth restriction of Mtb was observed when we knocked out the long chain fatty acid transporter, FATP1. $FATP1^{-/-}$ macrophages displayed altered metabolism characterized by stabilization of $HIF1\alpha$, activated AMPK, increased glycolysis and reduced mitochondrial functions. Given that both CD36 and FATP1 perform similar functions, it is expected that they should be some degree of compensation between the transporters when either of the genes are deleted. Indeed, we found out that FATP1 knockout resulted in the upregulation of other lipid import transporters (MSR1, ABCC1). This would be consistent with the moderate anti-Mtb phenotypes in $CD36^{-/-}$ macrophages which could easily be compensated by the presence of FATPs to alleviate the reduction in fatty acid supply experienced by intracellular Mtb. However, the $FATP1^{-/-}$ macrophage phenotype appears to be more severe on Mtb and could be exacerbated by an elevated pro-inflammatory response as has been reported previously both in $vitro$ and in $vivo$ (Johnson et al., 2016).

After uptake into the cells, most fatty acids either undergo β-oxidation in the mitochondria to provide energy or are esterified with glycerol phosphate to form triacylglycerols that may be incorporated into lipid droplets in the endoplasmic reticulum (Deng et al., 2023). Over the last 2 decades, it has been believed that lipid droplets are a nutrient source for Mtb in macrophages (Russell et al., 2009; Daniel et al., 2011; Peyron et al., 2008; Singh et al., 2012). However, recent work indicates lipid droplets may serve as centers for the production of pro-inflammatory markers and anti-microbial peptides (Knight et al., 2018; Bosch et al., 2020). It has also been reported that bone marrow macrophages derived from $PLIN2^{-/-}$ mice did not have defects in the

formation of lipid droplets and supported robust intracellular *Mtb* replication (Knight et al.,
2018). However, our mutant macrophages with myeloid specific knockout of PLIN2 are unable
to form lipid droplets and are defective in supporting the growth of *Mtb*. The discrepancies with
previous observations (Knight et al., 2018) could be a consequence of compensatory responses
to PLIN2 knockout in whole mice which when performed at embryonic level would allow for
sufficient time for the cells to recover by upregulating related PLIN isoforms. In fact, PLIN2$^{-/-}$
macrophages displayed the strongest anti-*Mtb* phenotypes amongst our mutants exhibiting
activated AMPK, increased glycolysis and autophagy and impaired mitochondrial functions. *Mtb*
isolated from PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages displayed signatures of severe nutrient limitation and
oxidative stress damage.

It has also been previously reported that chemical, genetic or miR33 mediated blockade
of fatty acid β-oxidation in macrophages induces lipid droplet formation (Chandra et al., 2020;
Ouimet et al., 2016) but that this enhanced lipid droplet formation does not correlate with
improved intracellular *Mtb* growth (Chandra et al., 2020). We observed a similar phenotype as
CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages that generated larger and more abundant lipid droplets than scrambled
control macrophages were still restrictive to *Mtb* growth. This implies that the presence or
absence of lipid droplets does not in itself indicate whether a macrophage will support or
restrict *Mtb* growth, and that the anti-microbial environment extends beyond simple nutrient
availability.

In summary, our study shows that blocking macrophage's ability to import, sequester or
catabolize fatty acids chemically or by genetic knockout impairs *Mtb* intracellular growth. There
are shared features between potential anti-microbial effectors in macrophages which lack the
ability to import (FATP1$^{-/-}$) or metabolize fatty acids (PLIN2$^{-/-}$, CPT2$^{-/-}$) such as increased
glycolysis, stabilized HIF1α, activated AMPK, enhanced autophagy and production of ROS.
However, there are also intriguing points of divergence as FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages are more pro-
inflammatory while PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages appear to be broadly anti-inflammatory. The routes
to *Mtb* growth restriction in these mutant macrophages are clearly more complex than the
bacteria's inability to acquire nutrients. The data further emphasizes that targeting fatty acid

homeostasis in macrophages at different steps in the process (uptake, storage and catabolism) is

worthy of exploring in the development of new therapeutics against tuberculosis.

Materials and methods

All materials and methods are as described (Simwela et al., 2024) unless otherwise specified.

Flow cytometry and western blot analysis

Generation of CRISPR mutant Hoxb8 macrophages was carried out as described previously

(Simwela et al., 2024). Antibodies used for both western blot and flow cytometry were as

follows: rat anti-Mouse CD36:Alexa Fluor®647 (Biorad, 10 µl/million cells), rabbit anti-PLIN2

(Proteintech, 1:1000), rabbit anti-FATP1 (Affinity biosciences, 1:1000), rabbit anti-CPT1A

antibody (Proteintech, 1:1000), rabbit anti-CPT2 antibody (Proteintech, 1:1000), rabbit anti-

HIF1α antibody (Proteintech, 1:1000), rabbit anti-AMPKα(1:1000, Cell signalling Technology),

rabbit anti-Phospho-AMPKα(1:500, Cell signalling Technology), rabbit anti-LC3B (1:1000, Cell

signalling Technology) and rabbit anti-β Actin (1:1000, Cell Signalling Technology). For western

blots, secondary antibodies used were anti-rabbit/mouse StarBright Blue 700 (1:2500, Biorad).

Blots were developed and imaged as described previously (Simwela et al., 2024).

Staining for cellular lipid droplets

Macrophages monolayers in Ibidi eight-well chambers were supplemented with exogenous 400

µM oleate for 24 hours to induce the formation of lipid droplets (Listenberger and Brown,

2007). Cells were then fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and stained with BODIPY™ 493/503

(Invitrogen, 1 µg/ml) in 150 mM sodium chloride. Stained cells were mounted with media

containing DAPI and imaged using a Leica SP5 confocal microscope.

Seahorse XF palmitate oxidation stress test

A modified Seahorse mitochondrial stress test was used to measure macrophage's ability to

oxidize palmitate in substrate limiting conditions. Two days before the assay, 1×10^5 cells were

plated in Seahorse cell culture mini plates. One day before the assay, macrophage media was

replaced with the Seahorse substrate limited growth media (DMEM without pyruvate

supplemented with 0.5 mM glucose, 1 mM glutamine, 1% FBS and 0.5 mM L-Carnitine). On the

day of the assay, substrate limited media was replaced with assay media (DMEM without

pyruvate supplemented with 2 mM glucose and 0.5 mM L-Carnitine). In selected treatment

conditions, cells were either supplied with bovine serum albumin (BSA), BSA palmitate or BSA

palmitate plus etomoxir (4 μM). Oxygen consumption rates (OCRs) were measured using the

Mito Stress Test assay conditions as described previously (Simwela et al., 2024).

Rescue of the *Mtb* Δicl1 mutant in oleate supplemented media

The *Mtb* H37Rv Δ*icl1* mutant expressing mCherry (Lee et al., 2013) was used for the rescue

experiments. The strain was maintained in 7H9 OADC broth as previously described (Simwela et

al., 2024) in the presence of Kanamycin (25 μg/ml) and hygromycin (50 μg/ml). 24 hours before

infection, macrophages were cultured in normal macrophage media or media supplemented

with 400 μM oleate. Cells were then infected with the *Mtb* Δ*icl1* mutant at MOI 5. The bacterial

mCherry signal was measured on day 0 and day 5 post infection on an Envision plate reader

(PerkinElmer). Oleate was maintained throughout the experiment in the rescue assay

conditions.

Measurement of total cellular ROS

Uninfected or *Mtb* infected macrophages monolayers in Ibidi eight-well chambers were stained

with the CellROX Deep Red dye (Invitrogen) as per manufacturer's staining protocol. Live stained

cells were imaged on a Leica SP5 confocal microscope. Z-stacks were re-constructed in ImageJ

from which mean fluorescence intensities (MFI) for individual cells were obtained.

Datasets

The RNA-seq data from the dual RNA-seq analysis of infected mouse macrophages, which
includes both macrophage and *Mtb* reads are available in GEO: GSE270571.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE270571
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Figure legends

Figure 1: Knockout of fatty acid import and metabolism genes restricts *Mtb* growth in

macrophages. (A) Schematic of lipid import and metabolism genes in macrophages. Genes

targeted for CRISPR-Cas9 mediated knockout are highlighted in red. (B) Scramble or indicated

mutant macrophages were infected with the *Mtb* Erdman strain at MOI 0.4. Intracellular *Mtb*

growth was measured by plating and counting CFUs in lysed macrophages 5 days post infection

(PI). (C) CFUs from lysed macrophages were also plated on day 0, 3 hours post infection to

measure bacterial uptake differences. n=6 biological replicates; ****, P < 0.0001, one-way

ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean

values ± SD.

Figure 2: *Mtb* infected macrophages with impaired fatty acid import and metabolism display

reduced mitochondrial activities and are more glycolytic. (A) Seahorse flux analyses of

scramble or PLIN2[-/-], FATP1[-/-] and CPT2[-/-] macrophages infected with *Mtb* Erdman strain at MOI

1 24 hours post infection. Oxygen consumption rates (OCR) were measured using the Cell Mito

Stress Test Kit (Agilent). Oligo, oligomycin; FCCP, fluoro-carbonyl cyanide phenylhydrazone;

Rot/A, rotenone and antimycin A. (B) Comparison of basal respiration and spare respiratory

capacity (SRC) from A. SRC was calculated by subtracting the normalized maximal OCR from basal OCR. n=3 biological replicates (2 technical repeats per replicate); ****, $P < 0.0001$, one-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD. (C) Extracellular acidification rates (ECARs) of scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages infected with *Mtb* as in A. ECARs were measured using the Agilent Seahorse Glycolysis Stress Test kit. 2DG, 2-Deoxy-D-glucose. (D) Comparison of basal glycolysis and spare glycolytic capacity (SGC) in the indicated mutant macrophages. SGC was calculated as SRC above. n=3 biological replicates (2 technical repeats per replicate); *, $P < 0.05$, ****, $P < 0.0001$, one-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 3: Knockout of fatty acid import and metabolism genes in macrophages activate AMPK and stabilizes HIF1α. (A) Western blot analysis of HIF1α in uninfected and *Mtb* infected scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. In *Mtb* infected conditions, cells were infected with the bacteria at MOI 1 for 48 hours before preparation of cell lysates. (B) Quantification of relative expression of HIF1α in (A) and in Figure 3 - figure supplements 1A, 1B normalized to β-actin; n = 3 biological replicates. *$P < 0.05$; ***$P < 0.001$, two-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD. (C) Western blot analysis of total and phosphorylated AMPK in uninfected and *Mtb* infected scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ *macrophages*. Cell lysates were prepared as in (A). (D, E) Quantification of relative expression of pAMPK and AMPK in (C) and in Figure 3 - figure supplements 1C, 1D normalized to β-actin; n = 3 biological replicates. **$P < 0.01$; ***$P < 0.001$, ****$P < 0.0001$, two-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 4: Supplementation with exogenous oleate fails to rescue the *Mtb* Δicl1 mutant in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. (A) Scramble or indicated mutant macrophages

were infected with the *Mtb* H37Rv Δicl1 mutant expressing mCherry at MOI 5. Oleate
supplementation (400 µM) was commenced 24 hours before infection in the treatment group,
removed during *Mtb* infection and re-added 3-hours post infection for the entire duration of the
experiment. Growth kinetics of *Mtb* were measured by monitoring mCherry fluorescence using
a plate reader. n=4 biological replicates; ****, *P* < 0.0001, two-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's
multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD. (B) Uninfected scramble or
FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were supplemented with 400 µM oleate for 24 hours. Cells
were then fixed for 20 minutes and stained for lipid droplet inclusions using the Bodipy 493/503
dye. DAPI was used as a counterstain to detect nuclei.

Figure 5: Dual RNA sequencing to identify host and bacterial determinants of *Mtb* restriction
in macrophages with fatty acid import and metabolism knockout genes. (A) Principal
component analysis (PCA) of scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages
transcriptomes infected with the *Mtb* smyc'::mCherry strain at MOI 0.5 4 days post infection. (B)
Venn diagram of DE gene sets (Supplementary file 2) in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ mutant
macrophages as compared to scramble showing overlapping genes. DE genes cutoff; abs (log$_2$
fold change) > 0.3, adjusted p-value < 0.05.

Figure 6: Pathway enrichment analysis of upregulated genes in *Mtb* infected PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and
FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages
Tree plots of top 80 enriched gene ontology terms (biological process) in *Mtb* infected PLIN2$^{-/-}$
(A) and FATP1$^{-/-}$ (B) upregulated genes.

Figure 7: Nutritional and oxidative stress define the core transcriptome response of *Mtb*
inside PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. Heatmaps of nutritional (A) and oxidative stress (B) DE genes in
PLIN2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. Arrows show genes which are also DE in CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages in a similar
trend (Supplementary file 4).

Figure 8: Inhibitors of fatty acid transport and metabolism block intracellular growth of *Mtb* in

macrophages. (A) Growth of *Mtb* in liquid broth in the absence of drug (DMSO) or presence of

metformin, FATP1 inhibitor (FATP1 In, 10 μM) and the β-oxidation of fatty acid inhibitor,

Trimetazidine (TMZ, 500 nM). *Mtb* Erdman was grown to log phase and diluted to OD_{600} 0.01 in

7H9 media in the presence of the above inhibitors. Growth kinetics were monitored by OD_{600}

measurements using a plate reader. Rifampicin (RIF) at 0.5 μg/ml was used as a total killing

control. (B) Scramble macrophages were infected with *Mtb* Erdman at MOI 0.5. Inhibitors were

added 3 hours post infection following which CFUs were plated 4 days post infection. n=5

biological replicates; **, P < 0.01; ****, P < 0.0001, one-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's

multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Supplementary figure legends

Figure 1 - figure supplement 1: Flow cytometry and western blot analysis of CRISPR knockout

macrophages. (A-E) Western blot and flow cytometry analysis of protein depletion in fatty acid

import and metabolism genes in macrophages derived from Hoxb8 parental lines

(Supplementary file 1). Each gene was targeted with at least 2 sgRNAs; PLIN2 (A), FATP1 (B),

CD36 (C), CPT1A (D), CPT2 (E).

Figure 1 - figure supplement 2: Lipid droplet formation and fatty acid oxidation in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. (A) Phenotypic characterization of lipid droplet biogenesis in PLIN2$^{-/-}$

macrophages. Uninfected macrophages were supplemented with 400 μM oleate for 24 hours.

Cells were fixed for 20 minutes and stained for lipid droplet inclusions using the Bodipy 493/503

dye. DAPI was used as a counterstain to detect nuclei. (B) Seahorse fatty acid oxidation analyses

of uninfected scramble or CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. Cells were cultured in substrate limiting

conditions for 24 hours and supplied with exogenous palmitate. Oxygen consumption rates

(OCR) were measured as in the Cell Mito Stress Test Kit (Agilent). Oligo, oligomycin; FCCP, fluoro-

carbonyl cyanide phenylhydrazone; Rot/A, rotenone and antimycin A; BSA, bovine serum

albumin; Eto, Etomoxir. n=3 biological replicates; **, P < 0.01, one-way ANOVA alongside

Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 2 - figure supplement 1: Flux analyzes of mitochondrial activities and glycolysis in

PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. (A) Seahorse flux analyses in uninfected scramble or

PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages using the Cell Mito Stress Kit as in Figure 2A, 2B. (B)

Seahorse flux analyses in uninfected scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages

using the Glycolysis Stress Test kit as in Figure 2C, 2D.

Figure 3 - figure supplement 1: Replicate western blot analyzes of HIF1α (A, B), AMPK and

pAMPK (C, D) in uninfected and *Mtb* infected scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$

macrophages as in Figure 3.

Figure 3 - figure supplement 2: Increased autophagy in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$

macrophages. (A, B) Independent western blot analyzes of autophagic LC3I to LC3II conversion

in uninfected and *Mtb* infected scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. (C)

Densitometry quantification of LC3I to LC3II turnover ratios (LC3II/LC3I ratio) in (A) and (B) after

normalization to β-actin; n = 2 biological replicates. *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01, two-way ANOVA

alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD. (D, E)

qPCR analysis of the indicated autophagy genes in uninfected (D) and *Mtb* infected (E) scramble

or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. The *Mtb Erdman* strain was used for bacterial

infections. *, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01; ***, P < 0.001; ****, P < 0.0001, two-way ANOVA alongside

Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 6 - figure supplement 1. Compensatory transcriptional responses in *Mtb* infected

FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages. (A, B) Violin plots showing expression (log2 normalized counts) of fatty

acid (A) and amino acid transport genes (B) in FATP1$^{-/-}$ mutant macrophages 4 days post

infection (Figure 5). *, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01, ***, P < 0.001; ****, P < 0.0001, two-way ANOVA

alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 6 - figure supplement 2: Tree plot of top 80 enriched gene ontology terms (biological

process) in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and FATP1$^{-/-}$ macrophages downregulated genes.

Figure 6 - figure supplement 3: Tree plot of top 80 enriched gene ontology terms (biological

process) in CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages upregulated genes.

Figure 6 - figure supplement 4: qPCR analysis of IFN-β and IL-1β in in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and

CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages. Macrophages were left uninfected or infected with the *Mtb Erdman*

strain at MOI 4. RNA was extracted for qPCR at 4 and 24 hours post infection. ***, *P* < 0.001;

****, *P* < 0.0001, two-way ANOVA alongside Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are

presented as mean values ± SD.

Figure 7 - figure supplement 1: Total cellular ROS in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages.

(A-B) Scramble or PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ macrophages were left uninfected (A) or infected

(B) with the *Mtb* Erdman strain at MOI 1 for 24 hours. Live cells were stained with the Invitrogen

CellROX™ Deep Red dye and imaged using a confocal microscope. Mean fluorescence intensities

(MFI) per individual cell were quantified using ImageJ in at least 100 cells for every mutants

across three biological replicates. **, P < 0.01; ****, P < 0.0001, one-way ANOVA alongside

Dunnett's multiple comparison test. Data are presented as mean values ± SD.

Description of supplementary files

Supplementary file 1. sgRNAs Primers and ICE scores for lipid import and metabolism gene targets in this study

Supplementary file 2. Differentially expressed genes in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ *Mtb* infected macrophages

Supplementary file 3. Enriched GO terms in upregulated and downregulated genes in PLIN2$^{-/-}$, FATP1$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ *Mtb* infected macrophages

Supplementary file 4. *Mtb* differentially expressed genes in PLIN2$^{-/-}$ and CPT2$^{-/-}$ infected macrophages

A

B

Scramble

FATP1⁻/⁻ g4

CPT2⁻/⁻ g2

BODIPY 493/503:DAPI