Title: Glycolysis upregulation is neuroprotective as a compensatory mechanism in ALS

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Abstract

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), is a fatal neurodegenerative disorder, with TDP-43 inclusions as a major pathological hallmark. Using a *Drosophila* model of TDP-43 proteinopathy we found significant alterations in glucose metabolism including increased pyruvate, suggesting that modulating glycolysis may be neuroprotective. Indeed, a high sugar diet improves locomotor and lifespan defects caused by TDP-43 proteinopathy in motor neurons or glia, but not muscle, suggesting that metabolic dysregulation occurs in the nervous system. Overexpressing human glucose transporter GLUT-3 in motor neurons mitigates TDP-43 dependent defects in synaptic vesicle recycling and improves locomotion. Furthermore, *PFK* mRNA, a key indicator of glycolysis, is upregulated in flies and patient derived iPSC motor neurons with TDP-43 pathology. Surprisingly, *PFK* overexpression rescues TDP-43 induced locomotor deficits. These findings from multiple ALS models show that mechanistically, glycolysis is upregulated in degenerating motor neurons as a compensatory mechanism and suggest that increased glucose availability is protective.

30 **Introduction**

31 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a neurodegenerative disease affecting upper and lower
32 motor neurons resulting in progressive muscle weakness and eventual death (Hardiman et al.,
33 2017). Cellular metabolic defects arise early, and contribute to the clinical manifestation of
34 systemic defects that include weight loss, dyslipidemia, and hypermetabolism (reviewed in
35 (Dupuis et al., 2011; Joardar et al., 2017). However, it is unclear how metabolic defects relate, or
36 may contribute to motor neuron degeneration.

37 Observations from both patients and animal models have begun to elucidate the
38 mechanisms that contribute to metabolic defects in ALS. Interestingly, the human brain relies on
39 glucose as its major energy source, and consumes ~20% of the body's glucose derived energy
40 (Mergenthaler et al., 2013). Glucose metabolism defects have been previously reported in the
41 frontal lobe and the cortex of ALS patients (Ludolph et al., 1992), and in mutant SOD1 mouse
42 models of ALS (Browne et al., 2006; Miyazaki et al., 2012). Increasing glucose availability has
43 been shown to reduce protein misfolding and delay neuronal degeneration in *C. elegans* models
44 of neurodegeneration (Tauffenberger et al., 2012). In a recent pilot study, a high caloric diet based
45 on high carbohydrate content has been shown to be well tolerated by patients, and reduce serious
46 adverse events in ALS patients (Wills et al., 2014b). Taken together, these findings suggest that
47 although defective glucose metabolism is still poorly understood in ALS, there lies a great
48 opportunity to better understand its relationship to disease and explore its potential as a
49 therapeutic avenue.

50 Our lab has developed a *Drosophila* model of ALS based on overexpression of human
51 TDP-43 that recapitulates multiple disease aspects including cytoplasmic aggregates,
52 neuromuscular junction (NMJ) abnormalities, lifespan, and locomotor defects (Estes et al., 2011,
53 2013). Importantly, the large majority of ALS patients (>97%) harbor TDP-43 cytoplasmic
54 aggregates regardless of etiology, highlighting the importance of understanding TDP-43 toxicity
55 mechanisms (Ling et al., 2013; Neumann et al., 2006). Here, we report that in a *Drosophila* model
56 of TDP-43 proteinopathy, glycolytic metabolites and genes are altered, and are consistent with
57 increased glucose consumption. Moreover, key genes responsible for driving glucose metabolism

58 are upregulated in both patient derived induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) motor neurons and
59 postmortem patient spinal cord tissue. In a fly model of TDP-43 proteinopathy, increased dietary
60 glucose improves locomotor function and increases lifespan when TDP-43 is expressed in the
61 central nervous system but not muscles. Additionally, genetic over-expression of human glucose
62 transporters improves locomotor function, mitigates neuromuscular junction defects, and
63 improves lifespan in a variant dependent manner. Finally, motor neuron overexpression of *PFK*,
64 the rate limiting enzyme in glycolysis, improves locomotor function, suggesting that upregulation
65 of glycolysis is neuroprotective through a compensatory mechanism in ALS. Together, our results
66 show that increased glucose availability protects motor neurons and improves overall outcome in
67 models of TDP-43 proteinopathy.
68
69 **Results**
70 **Glycolysis and pentose phosphate pathways are altered by TDP-43 expression in motor**
71 **neurons**
72 To decipher metabolic alterations in ALS, we employed a *Drosophila* model of TDP-43
73 proteinopathy that recapitulates key features of the human disease including locomotor
74 dysfunction and reduced survival (Estes et al., 2011; Estes et al., 2013). We conducted
75 metabolomic profiling in whole third instar larvae expressing TDP-43 in motor neurons (D42>TDP-
76 43^{WT} or D42>TDP-43^{G298S}) and controls (D42>w^{1118}). These experiments showed significantly
77 increased phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) and pyruvate in both TDP-43^{WT} and TDP-43^{G298S}
78 suggesting an increase in glucose metabolism (PEP, P_{value} = 0.034 and pyruvate, P_{value} = 0.007
79 for TDP-43^{WT}; PEP, P_{value} =0.002 and pyruvate, P_{value} = 0.009 for TDP-43^{G298S}; see Fig.1 and
80 Supplemental file 1). Interestingly, pyruvate does not appear increased when endogenous TDP-
81 43 is knocked down by RNAi in motor neurons suggesting that this alteration is caused by TDP-
82 43 proteinopathy (Figure 1 - supplemental 1). In larvae expressing TDP-43^{G298S}, we also found a
83 decrease in ribulose/xylulose 5-phosphate (P_{value} = 0.011) in conjunction with increased
84 sedoheptulose 7-phosphate (P_{value} = 0.008) suggesting that increased glycolytic input into the
85 Pentose Phosphate Pathway occurs in a variant dependent manner (see Fig. 1, Supplemental

file 1). Taken together these findings suggest that glucose metabolism is altered in the context of TDP-43 proteinopathy, consistent with previous reports of metabolite alterations such as increased pyruvate in plasma isolated from ALS patients (Lawton et al., 2012).

Key glycolysis and pentose phosphate pathway enzymes are upregulated by TDP-43 expression in motor neurons

An increase in glycolytic metabolites suggests a possible increase in glycolysis. To test this hypothesis, we profiled the expression of multiple enzymes known to regulate flux through glycolysis and the Pentose Phosphate Pathway. Phosphofructokinase-1 (*PFK1*; *PFK* in *Drosophila*) levels are considered to be rate-limiting and control the rate of glycolysis, thus *PFK* expression provides a reliable determinant of flux for glucose breakdown (Tanner et al., 2018).

To measure the levels of *PFK* in the context of TDP-43 proteinopathy we performed qPCR in ventral nerve chords dissected from third instar larvae expressing TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} in motor neurons (D42>TDP-43) and w^{1118} controls. These experiments showed that *PFK* transcript levels are increased in the context of TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S}, albeit statistical significance was only achieved in the mutant TDP-43 (37% increase, P_{value} = 0.06 for TDP-43^{WT} and 59% increase, P_{value} = 0.014 for TDP-43^{G298S}; see Fig. 2A). These results suggest that flux through glycolysis is significantly increased in motor neurons in the context of TDP-43^{G298S}.

Finally, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (*G6PD*; *Zw* in *Drosophila*) was selected due to its role as the commitment step for the pentose phosphate pathway (PPP). *Zw* transcript levels are increased specifically in TDP-43^{G298S} (37% increase, P_{value} = 0.012, see Fig. 2B) but not TDP^{WT}, consistent with increased glycolytic influx through the PPP in the context of mutant TDP-43.

***PFK* transcript is upregulated in human tissue**

To confirm that the changes in our *Drosophila* model of ALS have clinical relevance, we assayed the transcript levels of *PFK* in human tissues and patient derived iPSC motor neurons. Humans have three isoforms of *PFK*, namely *PFKM*, *PFKL*, and *PFKP*. Although all are present in the brain, *PFKL* is expressed at lower levels (Human Brain Transcriptome: http://hbatlas.org/) thus

114 we focused on *PFKP* and *PFKM*. For human tissues we used spinal cords isolated from ALS
115 patients with TDP-43 proteinopathy and controls lacking neurological defects (see Supplemental
116 file 2 for demographic information). qPCR experiments show that both *PFKP* and *PFKM* levels
117 are significantly increased in human spinal cords (*PFKP*: 80% increase, P_{value} <0.001; *PFKM*: 55%
118 increase, P_{value}=0.014, Fig. 2C). iPSC motor neurons were derived from a patient harboring the
119 TDP-43^{G298S} mutation and differentiated as previously described (Coyne et al., 2017). qPCR
120 profiling from iPSC derived motor neurons differentiated for 69-77 days (three independent
121 differentiations, see Supplemental file 3) showed a 58% increase in *PFKP* (P_{value}=0.010; see Fig.
122 2D) and a 45% increase in *PFKM* (P_{value}=0.036). These experiments show that glycolysis is also
123 upregulated in patient spinal cords and motor neurons consistent with our findings in the fly model.
124 Similarly, *G6PD* transcript levels are increased by 49% in spinal cords of ALS patients
125 (P_{value}=0.015; see Fig. 2C) and by 52% in patient derived motor neurons (P_{value}=0.012: see Fig.
126 2D).
127
128 **TDP-43 proteinopathy alters the capacity of motor neurons to import glucose**
129 Our findings that TDP-43 expression in motor neurons alters glycolysis could be explained by an
130 effect on glucose flux. To evaluate the levels of glucose in motor neurons, in the context of TDP-
131 43 proteinopathy, we used a genetically encoded, FRET based, glucose sensor, FLII12Pglu-
132 700μδ6 (Fehr et al., 2003; Takanaga et al., 2008). The sensor comprises a bacterial glucose-
133 sensing domain and a pair of cyan and yellow fluorescent proteins that upon glucose binding,
134 undergoes a conformational change and allows FRET to occur (Fig. 3A). This genetically encoded
135 sensor has been previously used in conjunction with the GAL-UAS system in *Drosophila* to detect
136 glucose flux and distribution in various cell types within the fly ventral nerve cord (Volkenhoff et
137 al., 2018).
138 Upon stimulation with glucose, neurons expressing the glucose sensor alone or together
139 with TDP-43 showed a small but significant increase in the FRET/CFP ratio (Figs. 3B, C). TDP-
140 43^{WT} expressing neurons showed no significant difference in the FRET/CFP signal compared to
141 controls (Figs. 3B, C, P_{value} <0.99). In contrast, TDP-43^{G298S} expressing neurons showed a

142 significant increase in the FRET/CFP signal compared to controls (Figs. 3B, C, P_{value} <0.001).
143 These results suggest that glucose flux is specifically enhanced in TDP-43^{G298S} expressing
144 neurons, and further substantiate our findings that glycolysis and the pentose phosphate pathway
145 are significantly increased in the context of TDP-43 proteinopathy.
146

147 **A high glucose diet mitigates neuronal and glial induced TDP-43 toxicity**

148 The alterations in glucose metabolism we have uncovered here could be a direct consequence
149 of TDP-43 proteinopathy, or alternatively, could reflect a coping mechanism. To distinguish
150 between these two scenarios, we fed TDP-43 expressing flies a high glucose diet. As we have
151 previously shown, the neuronal or glial expression of TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} caused locomotor
152 defects as indicated by increased larval turning time compared to controls (Estes et al., 2011;
153 Estes et al., 2013). Of note, a high glucose diet increased the larval turning time of control larvae,
154 consistent with previous reports that high sugar intake induces insulin resistance and obesity in
155 flies (Musselman et al., 2011; Na et al., 2013). In contrast, a high glucose diet improved the larval
156 locomotor defect caused by either neuronal, or glial expression of TDP-43 (Fig. 4A and Fig. 4 –
157 figure supplement 1). Interestingly, we found that increasing the concentration of glucose five-fold
158 or higher rescued locomotor phenotypes caused by TDP-43 while no improvement was observed
159 when glucose is only increased by two-fold (Fig. 4 – figure supplement 1). Next, we examined the
160 effect of glucose on lifespan and found that the reduced survival caused by neuronal or glial
161 expression of TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} was also significantly improved by feeding *Drosophila* a
162 high sugar (HS) versus a regular sugar (RS) diet (23.5 days for TDP-43^{WT} on RF and 53 days for
163 TDP-43^{WT} on HS, P_{value} = <0.0001; 14.5 days for TDP-43^{G298S} on RS and 41 days for TDP-43^{G298S}
164 HS, P_{value} = <0.0001 ; Fig. 4B, Fig. 4 – figure supplement 2). Together, these results suggest that
165 while a high sugar diet is detrimental to control flies, it improves key hallmarks of motor neuron
166 disease including locomotor dysfunction and reduced survival in ALS flies.
167

168 **Overexpression of human glucose transporters mitigate TDP-43 dependent phenotypes in**
169 **neurons or glia**

170 Our results on a high sugar diet suggest that increased glucose availability is protective in our fly
171 model of ALS. However, because feeding can cause systemic effects, and to further probe the
172 role of glucose in our *Drosophila* model of ALS, we co-expressed TDP-43 and the human glucose
173 transporter GLUT-3 in motor neurons or glia. GLUT-3 is the primary glucose transporter of
174 mammalian neurons, and has a high capacity for glucose (Ferreira et al., 2011). Co-expression
175 of GLUT-3 and TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S}, in either motor neurons or glia cells, improved the
176 locomotor deficits caused by TDP-43 expression alone (Fig. 4C). Moreover, GLUT-3 expression
177 in neurons improved the locomotor ability of adult flies expressing TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} (as
178 measured by negative geotaxis assays, Fig. 4 – figure supplement 3). When using the standard
179 log-rank test for analyzing the survival data, lifespan was significantly increased when GLUT-3
180 was co-expressed with TDP-43^{G298S} in motor neurons, but not glial cells (18 days for TDP-43^{G298S}
181 and 30 days for TDP-43^{G298S}, P_{value} = <0.0001). However, when using the Mantel-Cox test, which
182 weighs earlier deaths more significantly, we found that GLUT-3 overexpression increases lifespan
183 when TDP-43^{G298S} is expressed in glial cells (43.5 days vs 51.5 days, P_{value} = 0.015). GLUT-3 had
184 no effect on lifespan when TDP-43^{WT} was expressed in either motor neurons or glia. Importantly,
185 GLUT3 overexpression had no effect on TDP-43 suggesting that its protective effect occurs
186 through a mechanism independent of TDP-43 levels (see Fig. 4 – figure supplement 4). Together,
187 these findings suggest that increased glucose availability is protective in both motor neurons and
188 glia but to a different extent that likely reflects different metabolic capabilities of the two cell types.
189 Although GLUT-3 is the predominant glucose transporter in the brain, recently, the human
190 glucose transporter GLUT-4, an insulin dependent glucose transporter expressed primarily in
191 muscle has been shown to localize to the plasma membrane to support synaptic activity (Ashrafi
192 et al., 2017). To test whether GLUT-4 also modulates TDP-43 proteinopathy, we co-expressed
193 GLUT-4 and TDP-43 in either motor neurons or glia. Similar to GLUT-3, co-overexpression of
194 GLUT-4 and TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S}, in either motor neurons or glial cells, improved the
195 locomotor deficits caused by TDP-43 expression alone (Fig. 4 – figure supplement 5). Notably,
196 while TDP-43 overexpression in muscle causes larval turning phenotypes, co-overexpression of
197 either GLUT-3 or GLUT-4 in muscle does not mitigate TDP-43 dependent locomotor deficits,

198 suggesting that the primary metabolic defect lies in the nervous system (Fig. 4 – figure
199 supplements 2 and 5).
200
201 **TDP-43 dependent defects at the neuromuscular junction are rescued by GLUT-3**
202 We previously described defects at the *Drosophila* neuromuscular junction (NMJ) caused by
203 neuronal expression of TDP-43. These defects include a reduction in synaptic bouton number
204 (Coyne et al., 2014; Estes et al., 2013) and a reduction in synaptic vesicle endocytosis as
205 indicated by FM1-43 dye uptake experiments (Coyne et al., 2017). To test whether increased
206 GLUT-3 could also rescue morphological and functional defects at the larval NMJ, we co-
207 expressed GLUT-3 and TDP-43 in motor neurons. Co-expression of GLUT-3 rescued NMJ size
208 as indicated by the total number of synaptic boutons in both TDP-43^{WT} (P_{value} = 0.004) and TDP-
209 43^{G298S} (P_{value} = 0.023) expressing larvae (Figs. 5A and 5C). Moreover, GLUT-3 overexpression
210 partially restores synaptic vesicle endocytosis deficits caused by TDP-43 (Figs. 5B and 5D, P_{value}
211 <0.001 for both TDP-43^{WT} and TDP-43^{G298S}). Taken together, these results show that GLUT-3
212 expression in motor neurons mitigates morphological and functional defects caused by TDP-43
213 at the NMJ and suggest that increased glucose availability in motor neurons is neuroprotective in
214 ALS.
215
216 **Neuronal co-expression of *PFK* rescues TDP-43 induced toxicity**
217 Increased *PFK* levels in conjunction with our findings that increased glucose availability is
218 protective suggest that increased glycolysis may be compensatory. To test this hypothesis, we
219 directly manipulated glycolysis genetically, either via *PFK* overexpression or RNAi knock-down,
220 in the context of TDP-43 proteinopathy. Overexpression of *PFK* alone in motor neurons negatively
221 altered locomotor activity suggesting that in normal neurons high glycolytic activity may be toxic
222 (Fig. 6A). However, the co-expression of *PFK* with TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} rescued locomotor
223 defects to control levels (P_{value} = 0.003 for TDP-43^{WT} and P_{value} <0.001 for TDP-43^{G298S}, Fig. 6A).
224 In contrast, *PFK* RNAi knock-down had no significant effect on larval turning when expressed in
225 motor neurons alone (53% knock-down, P_{value}= 0.04, see Materials and Methods). However, when

226 *PFK* was knocked down by RNAi in the context of TDP-43 proteinopathy we found that it
227 significantly increased larval turning times for TDP-43^{WT} albeit it had no effect on TDP-43^{G298S}
228 (P_{value} < 0.001 for TDP-43^{WT} and P_{value} = 0.767 for TDP-43^{G298S}, Fig. 6B). One possible
229 interpretation for this variant dependent effect is that the metabolic deficit of TDP-43^{G298S} is so
230 severe that it may be difficult to exacerbate by further altering energy metabolism. Of note, a
231 second *PFK* RNAi line (y(1) sc[*] v(1) P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS01324}attP2) was tested, but
232 was lethal when expressed in motor neurons.

233 Similar to the experiments with motor neurons, the over-expression of *PFK* in glial cells
234 causes a locomotor defect, while the expression of two independent *PFK* RNAi lines has no effect
235 on locomotor activity as determined by larval turning assays (Fig. 6 – figure supplement 1). When
236 *PFK* is co-expressed in glial cells with TDP-43^{WT} there is a slight but not statistically significant
237 reduction in larval turning (P_{value} > 0.302) while it significantly mitigates TDP-43^{G298S} (P_{value} = 0.001,
238 Fig. 6 – figure supplement 1). Moreover, the knockdown of *PFK* in conjunction with TDP-43^{WT}
239 significantly impaired locomotor function when compared to TDP-43^{WT} expression alone (P_{value} <
240 0.001, Fig. 6 – figure supplement 1). *PFK* knock down did not affect TDP-43^{G298S} expressing flies
241 P_{value} > 0.057, Fig. 6 – figure supplement 1). Importantly, the protective effect of *PFK*
242 overexpression in motor neurons does not occur via reducing TDP-43 levels (Fig. 6 – figure
243 supplement 1). These results indicate that an increase in glycolysis, in either motor neurons or
244 glial cells, can ameliorate TDP-43 toxicity.
245

246 **Compensatory upregulation of PFK transcript is not a consequence of sequestration in**
247 **TDP-43 insoluble complexes**

248 Our findings of increased *PFK* mRNA levels and genetic interaction data with *PFK* support a
249 protective compensatory mechanism (see Fig. 7 for model). This could be in part explained by
250 the ribostasis hypothesis (Ramaswami et al., 2013) whereby *PFK* mRNA associates with TDP-43
251 in insoluble complexes and as a result, transcription is upregulated to compensate for the amount
252 of mRNA sequestered and unavailable for translation. This however, does not seem to be the
253 case, as soluble versus insoluble fractionation experiments do not support this hypothesis (Fig. 7

254 – figure supplement 1). Surprisingly, *PFK* mRNA appears to be more soluble in the context of
255 TDP-43^{WT} versus TDP-43^{G298S}, consistent with different TDP-43 variants utilizing distinct
256 pathomechanisms, as we have previously reported (Coyne et al., 2017; Estes et al., 2013).
257

258 **Discussion**

259 It is widely known that ALS patients display gross metabolic dysregulation described as
260 hypermetabolism (for a recent review, see (Joardar et al., 2017)). However, a major challenge in
261 the field has been to understand how these clinical observations relate to metabolic changes at
262 the cellular level. Here, we take advantage of cell type specific genetic tools available in
263 *Drosophila* to pinpoint how specific metabolic changes in neurons and glia relate to disease
264 progression. Using metabolic profiling we first found that the neuronal expression of TDP-43
265 increases the abundance of pyruvate, the end product of glycolysis. Notably, this alteration is
266 consistent with metabolite changes in plasma from ALS patients (Lawton et al., 2012) and suggest
267 an increase in glycolysis. Substantiating this scenario is transcriptional profiling of ALS spinal
268 cords and patient derived iPSC motor neurons showing that just as in flies, *PFK*, the rate limiting
269 step in glycolysis, is significantly upregulated (Fig. 2). Interestingly, metabolic profiling in flies also
270 suggests increased glycolytic input into the pentose phosphate pathway (Supplemental file 1),
271 which provides a mechanism for countering oxidative stress via increased NADPH production
272 (Kruger and von Schaewen, 2003). Supporting this possibility are our findings that G6PD, the rate
273 limiting enzyme of the pentose phosphate pathway is upregulated in fly and human ALS ventral
274 and spinal cords, respectively (Fig. 2). Oxidative stress is a well-established ALS manifestation
275 (Barber and Shaw, 2010) and the most recent FDA approved drug for treating ALS patients,
276 Radicava, is aimed at countering this aspect of the disease (Cruz, 2018). Collectively, molecular
277 and metabolic alterations identified in the fly validate in patient derived motor neurons and spinal
278 cords, albeit the magnitude of the changes found in human ALS tissues is often more dramatic
279 and, at some level, more comparable with mutant TDP-43 dependent phenotypes in flies. These
280 findings highlight the predictive power of the fly model and its relevance to studying disease
281 pathomechanisms in humans.

282 Using a genetically encoded glucose sensor we show that TDP-43^{G298S} expressing motor
283 neurons have increased capacity to import glucose (Fig. 3). This is consistent with increased
284 glycolysis and its end product, pyruvate. It is unclear why despite finding that pyruvate is also
285 increased in motor neurons overexpressing TDP-43^{WT}, we could not detect higher glucose uptake
286 than in controls, although this is consistent with PFK transcript levels trending up, yet not reaching
287 significance in our data set (Fig. 2). A possible explanation is that while our model is based on
288 TDP-43 expression specifically in motor neurons or glia, the metabolite profiling was performed
289 on whole larvae and captured non-cell autonomous changes, occurring in cells other than motor
290 neurons. Nevertheless, taken together our data show that there is a clear dysregulation of
291 glycolysis in TDP-43 expressing *Drosophila* and patient tissue samples. Alterations in glucose
292 metabolism may also be a feature of multiple ALS types. Indeed, pre-symptomatic SOD1 mutant
293 mice have been shown to have high glucose levels in spinal cords; however, glucose levels
294 gradually decrease as disease symptoms progress (Miyazaki et al., 2012). One question that
295 remains is whether alterations in glucose metabolism are compensatory or causative.

296 In an effort to address this question, we first increased glucose availability in *Drosophila*
297 by raising the dietary concentration of glucose (5-10 X higher than normal levels in standard fly
298 food), which mitigates locomotor defects and increases lifespan in ALS flies while making wild-
299 type larvae sluggish (Fig. 3). Interestingly, a high sugar diet only mitigates locomotor defects when
300 TDP-43 is expressed in motor neurons or glia but not muscles, indicating that the primary
301 metabolic defect lies in the nervous system and that muscles do not benefit from increased
302 glucose availability (Fig. 4 and Fig. 4 – figure supplements 2 and 5). This is somewhat surprising
303 given that muscles normally rely on glycolysis for ATP production but is also consistent with
304 findings that in ALS, muscles switch to primarily using lipids and not glucose for energy production
305 (Palamiuc et al., 2015).

306 This systemic approach, however, does not provide information on which cells specifically
307 benefit from increased glucose availability. To answer this question, we intervened genetically by
308 overexpressing human glucose transporters GLUT-3 or GLUT-4 in motor neurons, glia or muscles
309 (Figs. 4, 5 and Fig. 4 – figure supplements 2 and 5). These experiments showed that both GLUT-

310 3 and GLUT-4 rescued locomotor dysfunction of TDP-43 expressing larvae in the nervous system,
311 but not in muscles (Fig. 4 and Fig. 4 – figure supplements 2 and 5) confirming our findings from
312 high sugar feedings. Furthermore, our findings that overexpression of either GLUT-3 or GLUT-4
313 can help mitigate specific ALS-like phenotypes in flies are consistent with recent reports that both
314 GLUT-3 and GLUT-4 are required at synapses to regulate activity (Ashrafi et al., 2017; Ferreira
315 et al., 2011). Together, our dietary intervention and GLUT-3/4 overexpression experiments
316 indicate that increased glucose availability in motor neurons and glia confers protection in models
317 of TDP-43 proteinopathy, in a cell type dependent manner.

318 A possible explanation for why increased glucose availability improves defects caused by
319 TDP-43 proteinopathy is that cells are actively consuming glucose to increase glycolytic flux. A
320 recent study using vertebrate cell lines suggests that glycolytic flux depends on four key steps.
321 They include: 1) glucose uptake by glucose transporters, 2) hexokinase levels, 3) *PFK* levels (and
322 associated enzymes), and 4) lactate export, but not other enzymes or steps involved in glycolysis
323 (Tanner et al., 2018). The co-over-expression of *PFK* mitigates TDP-43 defects in flies, and is
324 consistent with our GLUT-3 over-expression experiments (Fig. 6). Surprisingly, *PFK* transcript
325 levels were higher in human ALS post-mortem tissues compared to controls, however protein
326 levels in total tissue homogenates were not significantly increased despite trending upwards (data
327 not shown). Nevertheless, our findings of increased *PFK* mRNA levels in flies and human tissues,
328 and the genetic interaction experiments support the notion that glycolysis is increased in ALS as
329 a compensatory mechanism (see Fig. 7 for model).

330 The fact that neurons would compensate deficits in cellular energetics through increasing
331 glycolysis makes sense in the light of well-established defects in mitochondrial function. TDP-43
332 has been previously shown to localize to the inner mitochondrial membrane of mitochondria
333 (Wang et al., 2016), and it has been shown to cause abnormally small mitochondria in *Drosophila*
334 (Khalil et al., 2017). Consistent with the importance of glycolysis in neurodegeneration, there are
335 reports of SNPs within *PFK* that are present in ALS patients but not in healthy controls (Rouillard
336 et al., 2016; Xie et al., 2014). Our findings that glycolysis is increased as a compensatory
337 mechanism and this confers neuroprotection is consistent with findings from a small clinical trial

338 showing that a high caloric high carbohydrate diet improves patient outcome (Wills et al., 2014a)
339 and also that patients with diabetes have a later onset of disease (Kioumourtzoglou et al., 2015).
340 While upregulation of glycolysis decreases the dependence of the organism for ATP derived from
341 mitochondria, it is also possible that increased glycolysis is improving organismal health through
342 a different mechanism. For example, pyruvate has been previously shown to protect mitochondria
343 from oxidative stress (Wang et al., 2007). Future studies should focus on the link between
344 glycolysis, oxidative stress and mitochondria in ALS.
345

346 **Materials and Methods**

347 ***Drosophila* genetics**

348 Standard crosses were incubated at 25°C with a 12-hour alternating dark-light cycles. (i) w^{1118} (ii)
349 w^{1118}; UAS-TDP43^{WT}-YFP (iii) w^{1118}; UAS-TDP43^{G29S8}-YFP (iv) UAS-GLUT3 flies were crossed
350 with the GAL4 motor neuron driver D42. GLUT3 TDP-43 recombinant flies were generated using
351 standard genetic techniques. GLUT3 flies were described in (Besson et al., 2015).

352 TDP-43 was expressed in motor neurons and glia using the D42 GAL4 (Gustafson and
353 Boulianne, 1996) and repo GAL4 (Sepp et al., 2001) drivers, respectively. w^{1118} was crossed with
354 either the D42 or repo GAL4 drivers as a control. Endogenous TDP-43 was knocked down via
355 RNAi using y[1] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS01932}attP40 and y[1] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7]
356 v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HM05194}attP2.

357 To manipulate *PFK*, we used w^{1118}; P{w[+mC]=UAS-Pfk.T}3 for over expression, and y^1
358 sc* v^1; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS01324}attP2 or y^1 sc* v^1; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.GL00298}-
359 attP2 (Line 2, viable only in glial expressing flies) for PFK knock down. *attP2* was used as a
360 genetic background control for PFK RNAi knock-down experiments. All lines were obtained from
361 the Bloomington Stock Center.

362 *PFK* RNAi efficiency was assayed by crossing *PFK* RNAi to D42 GAL4. Ventral nerve
363 cords were dissected and analyzed via qPCR (see below for primers). A Welch's t-test was used
364 to identify significance.
365

366 **Fly food supplementation**

367 Standard yeast/cornmeal/molasses food was heated and then allowed to cool to 55-60˚C. For
368 high sugar supplementation, additional glucose was added to reach a final concentration of
369 357g/L (10X compared to regular food). Supplemented food was dispensed into vials and allowed
370 to cool.

371

372 **Locomotor assays**

373 Larval turning assays were performed as previously described (Estes et al., 2011; Estes et al.,
374 2013). Briefly, larvae are placed on a petri dish filled with solidified agar (2.5%) and grape juice.
375 Third instar larvae are transferred from a vial onto the agar/juice surface and are allowed to
376 acclimate. Using a clean paintbrush, larvae are turned ventral side up. The time it takes for larvae
377 to turn themselves ventral side down and make a forward motion is recorded. Larval turning data
378 were analyzed using Kruskal-Wallis multiple comparison tests (GraphPad Prism v8). Negative
379 geotaxis assays on adult flies were performed by using TDP-43 expressing flies with a milder
380 phenotype/lethality. TDP-43^{WT} and TDP-43^{G298S} flies were previously described in (Khalil et al.,
381 2017). Briefly, TDP-43 and GLUT-3 were expressed in neurons with the pan neuronal driver, elav
382 GAL4. Female flies of 11-day old were anesthetized with CO_2 and placed in a plastic column
383 (diameter 1.3 cm) with a mark at 22 cm. After 20 min recovery, flies were gently tapped to the
384 bottom of the column. Then the percentages of flies reaching the 22 cm mark or remaining at the
385 bottom were counted after 60 sec. The test was repeated 3 times and results were averaged. The
386 data are the mean of at least 6 trials and are expressed as mean ± SEM. Statistical comparisons
387 were performed using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison test.

388

389 **Metabolite analysis**

390 Metabolomic analysis was conducted by Metabolon, Inc as previously described (Joardar et al.,
391 2014; Manzo et al., 2018). Briefly, 50–60 wandering third instar larvae (~50–60 mg) per sample
392 were collected and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. A total of 5 replicates per genotype were
393 collected. Samples were analyzed by ultrahigh performance liquid chromatography/mass

394 spectrometry (UHPLC/MS), or by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). One-way
395 ANOVA was used to identify biochemicals that differed significantly between experimental groups.
396
397 **Pyruvate measurements**
398 Pyruvate was measured using the Pyruvate Assay Kit (Abcam-ab65342) as per manufacturer's
399 instructions. In brief, 20 3rd instar larvae per genotype were analyzed in three biological
400 replicates. Standard curve was generated kit provided reagents. Results are shown (Fig. 1 –
401 figure supplement 1) in nmoles/microliter.
402
403 **RNA isolation, cDNA preparation and qPCR**
404 cDNA protocol has been previously described (Manzo et al., 2018). Briefly, 5 ventral nerve cords
405 (VNCs) were isolated from third instar larvae per genotype using HL-3 saline buffer (70 mM NaCL,
406 5 mM KCl, 22 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM $NaHCO_3$, 5 mM trehalose, 115 mM sucrose, 5 mM HEPES, pH
407 7.3). RNA was extracted using the RNeasy RNA Extraction Kit (Qiagen) and stored at -80°C.
408 Genomic DNA (gDNA) was cleared using a DNase I (Thermo Fisher Scientific) digestion protocol.
409 Following gDNA clearing, reverse transcription was performed using the Maxima First Strand
410 cDNA Synthesis Kit for RT-qPCR (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The quality of the cDNA was tested
411 using GPDH primers (see below for sequence) and GoTaq endpoint polymerase chain reaction
412 (PCR) protocol (Promega). Quantitative PCR was performed using a SYBR Green protocol
413 (Applied Biosystems) and primers designed to span exon-exon junctions. Each reaction was
414 conducted in 3-6 biological replicates with three technical replicates each. ΔΔCT values are
415 normalized to GPDH (Pfaffl, 2001).The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to assess statistical
416 significance in GraphPad Prism v8. Protocols for human tissue RNA isolation and cDNA
417 preparation have been previously described (Bakkar et al., 2018). RT-PCR was performed using
418 TaqMan Gene Expression Assays following the TaqMan Fast Advanced Master Mix protocol
419 (Applied Biosystems) on the QuantStudio 6 Flex instrument (Applied Biosystems).
420
421 **Primer sequences and Taqman probes**

422 *Drosophila Phosphofructokinase* (PFK): Forward primer - TGGACGAGCTGGTCAAGAAC;
423 Reverse primer - CCACAAGAGCTAAATAGCCG
424 *Drosophila G6PD (Zw)*: Forward primer - AAGCGCCGCAACTCTTTG; Reverse primer -
425 AGGGCGGTGTGATCTTCC
426 *Drosophila GPDH:* Forward primer - CCGCAGTGCTTGTTTTGCT*;* Reverse primer –
427 TATGGCCGAACCCCAGTTG
428 Human *Phosphofructokinase P* (PFKP): Assay ID Hs00242993_m1
429 Human *Phosphofructokinase M* (PFKM): Assay ID Hs00175997_m1
430 Human G6PD: Assay ID Hs00166169_m1
431 Human GAPDH: Assay ID Hs99999905_m1
432
433 **Glucose sensor**
434 Third instar larval brains where dissected in HL3-buffer (70 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 20 mM MgCl2,
435 10 mM NaHCO3, 115 mM sucrose, 5 mM trehalose, 5 mM HEPES; pH 7.1). Of note, the glucose
436 sensor is not sensitive to trehalose (Volkenhoff et al., 2018). Larvae were pinned down on a
437 Sylgard plate using insect pins and cleaned so that the ventral nerve cord is clearly visible. A 40x
438 water immersion lens was used to image larvae individually. For glucose stimulation, HL3-buffer
439 was removed and replaced with 5mM glucose supplemented HL3 (70 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 20
440 mM MgCl2, 10 mM NaHCO3, 115 mM sucrose, 5 mM glucose, 5mM HEPES, pH 7.1).
441 Fluorescent images were acquired using a Zeiss LSM880 NLO upright
442 multiphoton/confocal microscope. CFP was excited using a 405-nm laser, and images were
443 acquired in both the CFP (CFP 465–499 nm) and the FRET (535–695 nm) detection channels.
444 Data was analyzed using ImageJ with a drift correction plugin turboreg (Thevenaz et al.,
445 1998). Regions of interest (ROIs) were manually selected and the mean grey value of each ROI
446 was extracted. The mean grey values for the FRET and CFP channels was taken to calculate the
447 FRET ratio (F/C), which corresponds to the intracellular glucose concentration.
448 Each ROI was imaged every 10 seconds for 10 minutes (baseline) and then for another
449 10 minutes under high glucose HL-3 (stim; see Fig. 3 – figure supplement 1 for representative

450 examples). Each FRET ratio was normalized to the mean baseline value for each genotype. For
451 baseline vs stim comparisons (Fig. 3B), the normalized FRET ratio of each ROI was taken from
452 minutes 5-10 and minutes 15-20.
453
454 **Western blots**
455 TDP-43 was detected via its YFP tag using either the Clontech/Takara Living Colors GFP
456 monoclonal antibody (6326375) at 1:1,000 (for Fig. 4 – figure supplement 4) or the ThermoFisher
457 polyclonal antibody (A-11122) at 1:1,000 (for Fig. 6 – figure supplement 1). For normalization we
458 used either the Cell Signaling polyclonal rabbit anti β-Actin antibody (4967) at a 1:1,000 dilution
459 or the Millipore Sigma monoclonal antibody against beta tubulin (Mab3408) at 1:1,000. 5% milk
460 was used as blocking agent for all westerns.
461
462 **FM1-43 experiments**
463 Larvae are dissected in HL-3 buffer on a sylgard dish as previously described. FM1-43 dye uptake
464 assays were conducted using 4 μM FM1-43FX, 90 mM KCl, and 2 mM Ca2+ for stimulation.
465 Methods adapted from (Kuromi and Kidokoro, 2005; Verstreken et al., 2008). To determine dye
466 uptake signal, the background-corrected fluorescence for every synaptic bouton was calculated
467 by subtracting the mean background fluorescence of cell-free regions equal in size to the synaptic
468 bouton.
469
470 **Bouton counts**
471 Larval NMJs were dissected and fixed with 3.5% paraformaldehyde in PBS (pH 7.2: 130 mM NaCl,
472 5 mM Na_2HPO_4, 5mM NaH_2PO_4) for 30 minutes. Antibody dilutions are as follows: 1:300 mouse
473 anti-DCSP2 (DSHB), 1:500 anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 568 (Invitrogen), 1:200 Anti-HRP-CY5
474 conjugate (Invitrogen), and 1:40 Phalloidin-488 (Invitrogen). Blocking solution contained 2% BSA
475 and 5% Normal goat serum. Methods have been previously described in (Coyne et al., 2014).

476 Larval muscles 6 and 7, segment A3, were imaged using an LSM 880 confocal microscope
477 (Zeiss). NIH ImageJ was used to count bouton numbers and measure muscle area. Bouton count
478 was normalized to muscle area to account for size variation.
479
480 **iPSC methods**
481 Control iPSC and TDP-43 iPSC cells were differentiated to motor neurons as previously described
482 (Donnelly et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2015).
483
484 **Cellular Fractionations**
485 To generate cellular fractions, 25 3rd instar wandering larvae were flash frozen, followed by
486 homogenization in Trizol™reagent using the Bullet Blender™ Bead Lysis Kit Green in
487 conjunction with a Bullet Blender™ Blue 24. Homogenates were then centrifuged at 2,000 x g
488 for 3 minutes. The supernatant was separated from both the fat layer and the beads then it was
489 further centrifuged at 25,000 g for 30 minutes. The resulting supernatant is the soluble fraction
490 and the insoluble fraction is generated by resuspending the pellet in urea buffer (30 mM Tris, 7
491 M Urea, 2 M Thiourea, 4% CHAPS, 1X Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Roche), 0.5 mM PMSF, 40
492 units/μl RNAsin plus, pH 8.5). RNA was isolated from inputs and the cellular fractions utilizing
493 the manufactured described protocol for Trizol™ reagent. cDNA was then generated utilizing
494 Thermoscientific™ Maxima First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit for RT-qPCR. RT-qPCR was
495 conducted on the StepOnePlus™ RT-qPCR machine utilizing Sybr reagents.
496
497 **Statistics**
498 All statistical analyses for locomotor assays or qPCR comprising three or more data sets were
499 conducted using Kruskal-Wallis with uncorrected Dunn's test in Prism v8.0 (GraphPad). When
500 only two data sets were compared, either Welch's test or Wilcoxon signed-rank test were used.
501 Biological replicates for qPCR and metabolomics are defined as independent sample collections
502 per genotype, from independent genetic crosses. All qPCR experiments included three technical

503 replicates per biological replicate. Outliers were removed using ROUT method (Q=1%) in Prism
504 v8.0.
505
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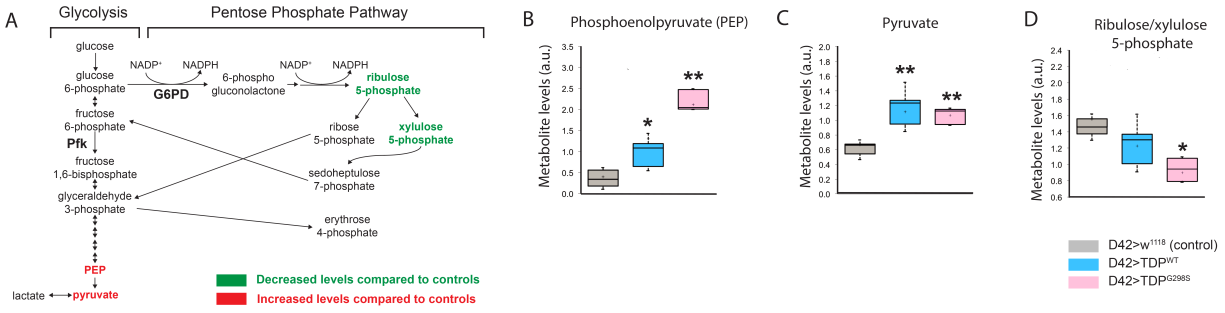
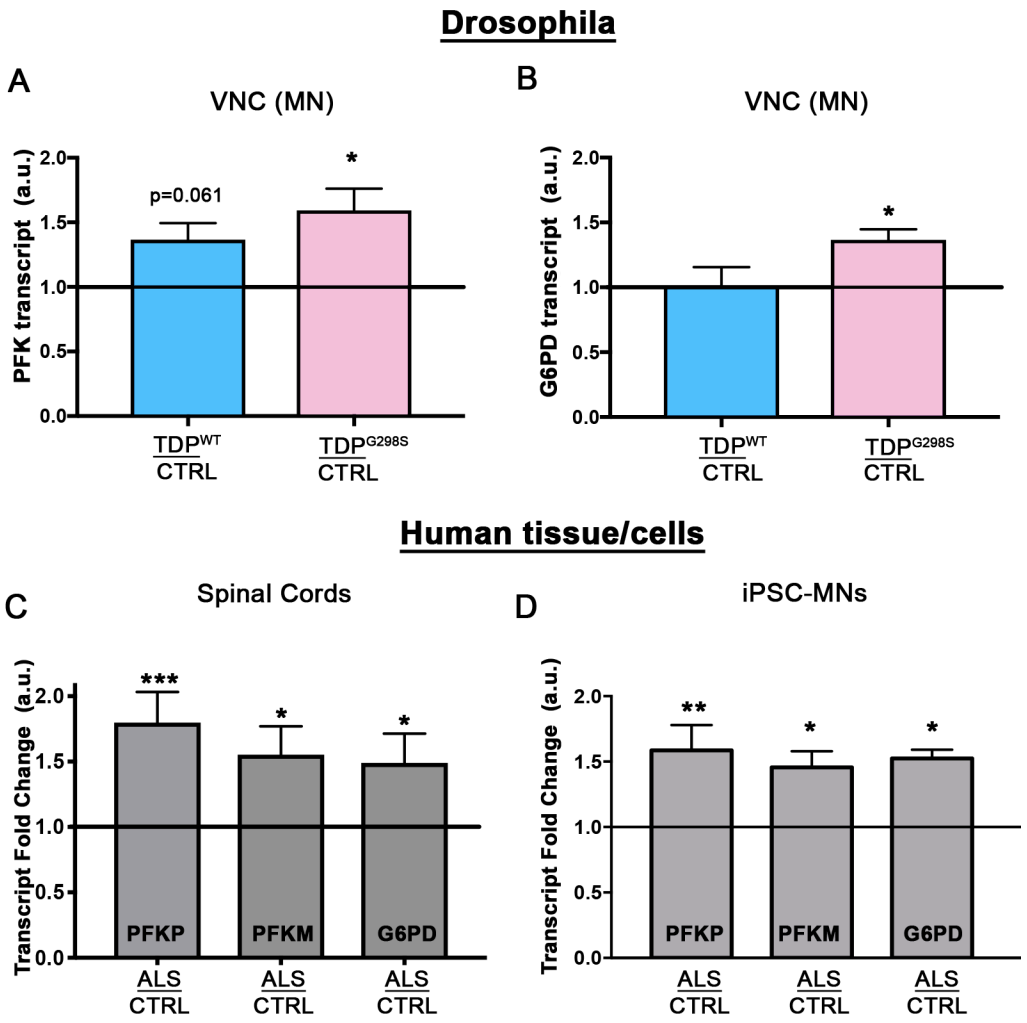


663 **Figure 1**. **Glycolysis and pentose phosphate pathways are altered by TDP-43 expression**
664 **in motor neurons. (A)** Metabolite changes in glycolysis for whole larvae expressing TDP-43^{WT}
665 or TDP-43^{G298S} were analyzed using mass spectrometry (see Materials and Methods). Green and
666 red font represent metabolites that are significantly changed compared to controls (w^{1118}), as
667 indicated. PEP and pyruvate were upregulated in both TDP-43^{WT} and TDP-43^{G298S} expressing
668 flies and is denoted by red asterisks. Changes in the pentose phosphate pathway metabolites are
669 specific to larvae expressing TDP-43^{G298S}. (**B, C, D)** Significant changes in select metabolites
670 shown as box and whisker plots. Whiskers represent maximum and minimum values. Box edges
671 represent upper and lower quartiles. Median values are denoted by horizontal lines within each
672 box. One-way ANOVA was used to identify metabolites that differed significantly between
673 experimental groups (N=5).
674



675

676 **Figure 2. Glycolytic enzymes are transcriptionally upregulated**. qPCR profiling of PFK (**A**;
677 N=5) and G6PD (**B**; N=5) from ventral nerve cords of *Drosophila*. Human PFKP, PFKM, or G6PD
678 mRNA levels were profiled in either spinal cords (**C**; N=8 control and 9 ALS cases) or human
679 iPSCs (**D**; N=2 differentiations). Kruskal-Wallis test was used to identify significance.
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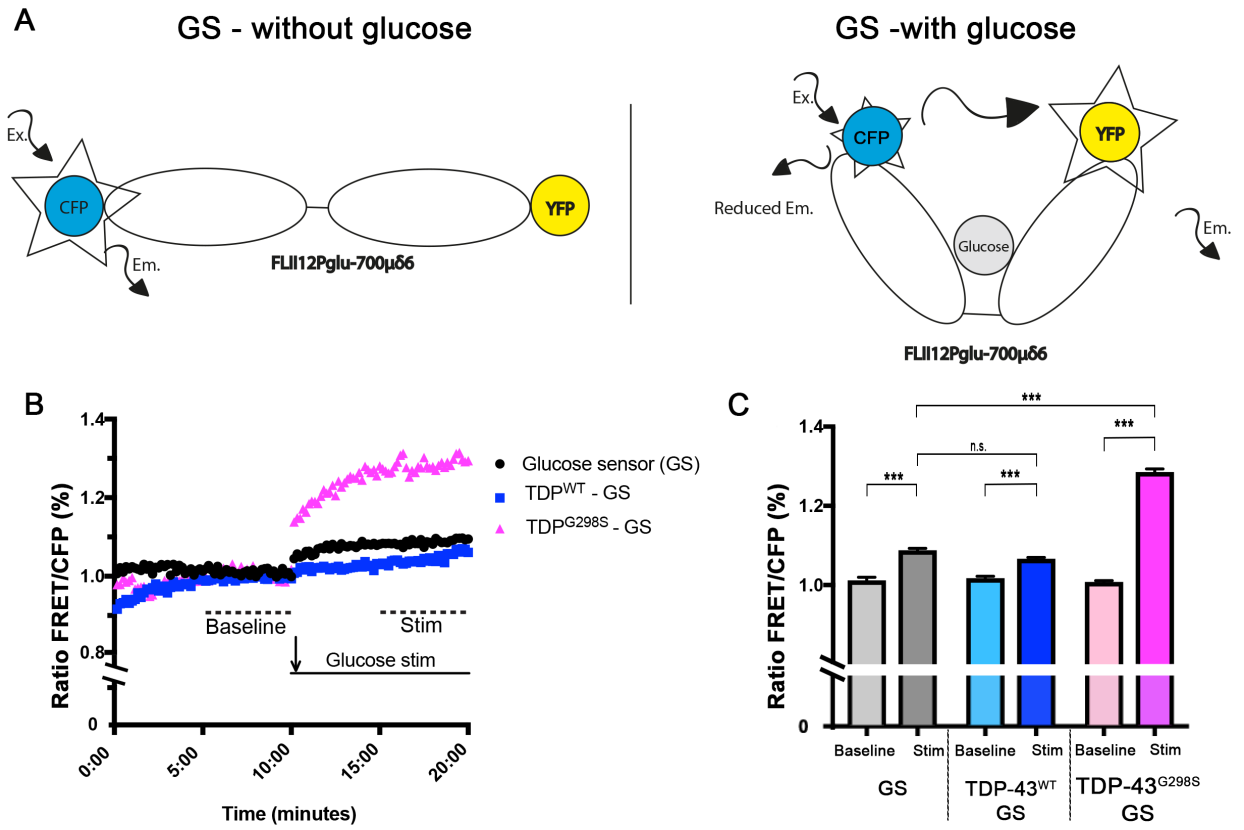
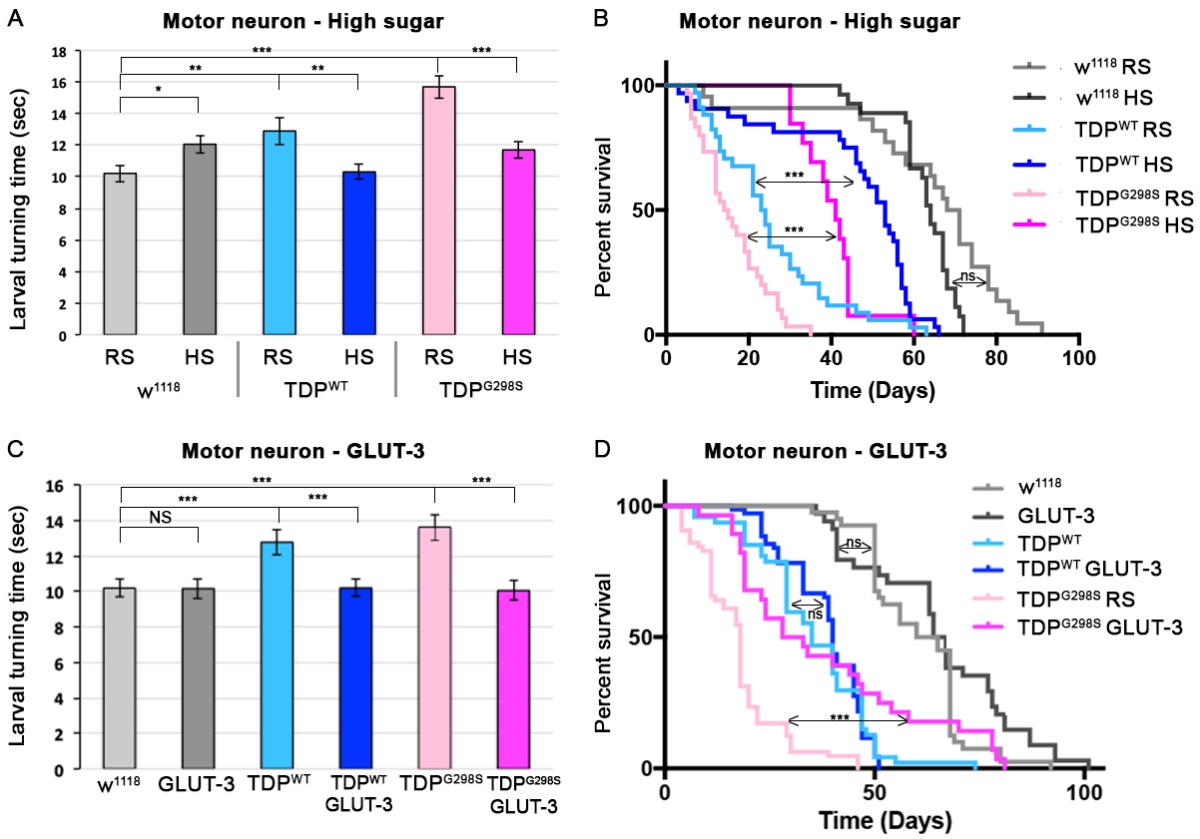


688

689 **Figure 3. TDP expressing neurons have altered capacity to import glucose.** FRET based
690 glucose sensor described in (Volkenhoff et al., 2018) was used to measure the glucose import
691 capacity. Glucose sensor schematic described in **(A)**. Ex – Excitation; Em – Emission. **(B, C)**

692 TDP-43 expressing neurons and controls were imaged to detect CFP and FRET signal. 12-14
693 neurons were imaged every 10 seconds for 20 minutes. Values shown are the mean of 12-14
694 individual cells (ROI) from two ventral nerve cords **(B)**. Mean values for 5-10 minutes and 15-20
695 minutes time intervals were used to calculate the "baseline" and "stimulated" ("Stim") values
696 respectively (**C).** Kruskal-Wallis test was used to calculate significance.
697



698

699 **Figure 4. A high glucose diet rescues neuronal TDP-43 toxicity in flies.** TDP-43^{WT} or ALS
700 associated TDP-43^{G298S} were expressed in MNs (using GAL4-UAS). **(A, B)** Larval turning and
701 lifespan assays for *Drosophila* fed a cornmeal based food containing either regular concentration
702 of sugar (RS) or a high sugar diet (HS:10x the standard amount of sugar). **(C, D)** Larval turning
703 and lifespan assays for *Drosophila* expressing GLUT-3 on its own or with TDP-43, as indicated.
704 At least 30 larvae were tested in larval turning assays and on average 20 adults were assayed
705 for survival. Kruskal-Wallis test and Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test was used to determine statistical
706 significance for larval turning and survival curve respectively. * - p < .05, ** - p<0.01, *** - p<0.001.
707

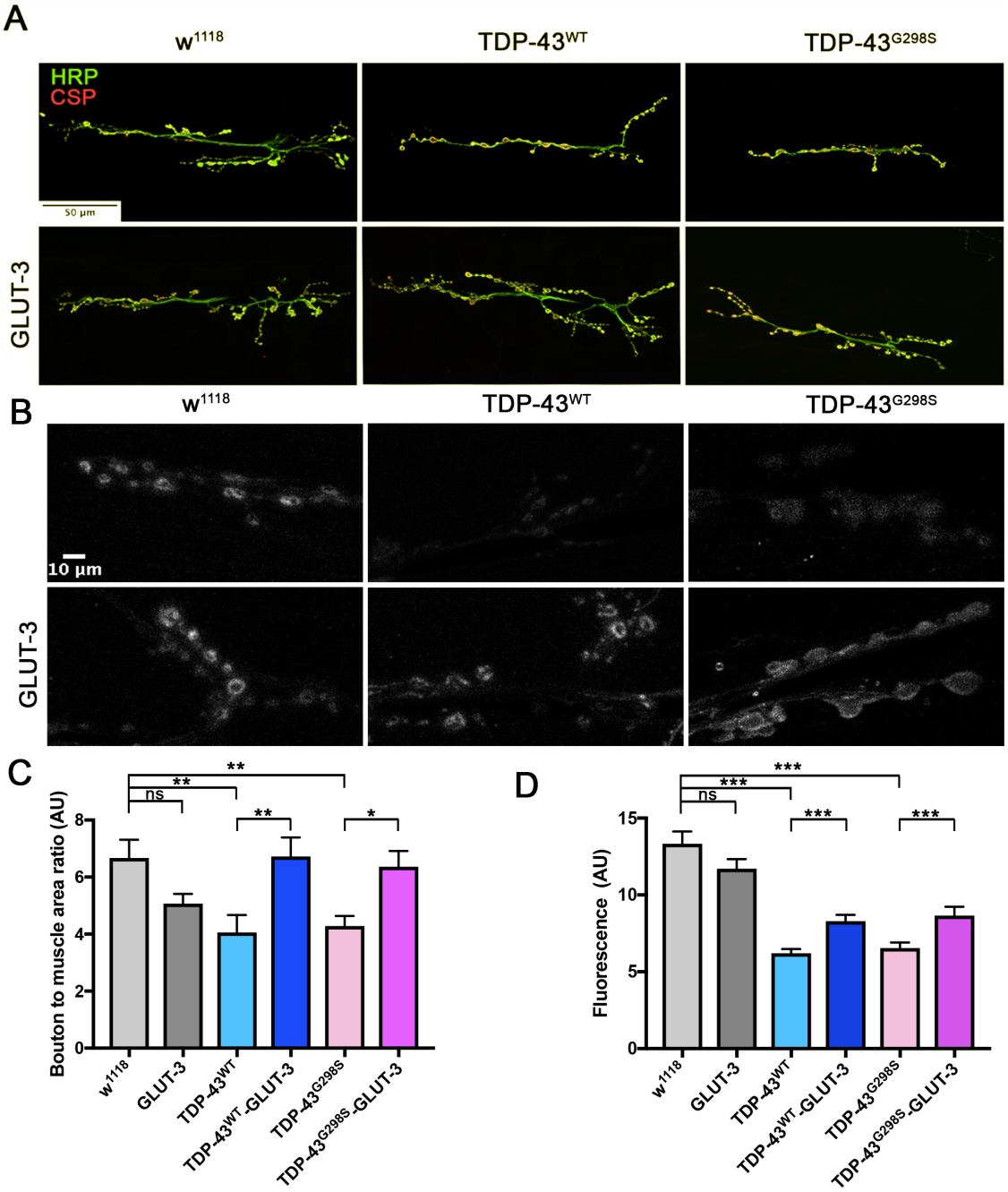


Figure 5. TDP-43 dependent defects at the NMJ are rescued by GLUT-3. Third instar larvae NMJ from segment A3, muscle 6/7 were immunostained for CSP and HRP **(A)** or analyzed for their ability to endocytose FM1-43 dye upon stimulation with 90 mM KCl **(B)**. **(A, C)** Neuronal TDP-43 expression in *Drosophila* neurons reduces the number of boutons (labeled with CSP and HRP **A, C**) and reduces FM1-43 dye uptake **(B, D)**. These morphological **(A, C)** and functional **(B, D)** deficits are rescued by co-expression of GLUT-3. N = 7-10 larvae. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to identify significance.

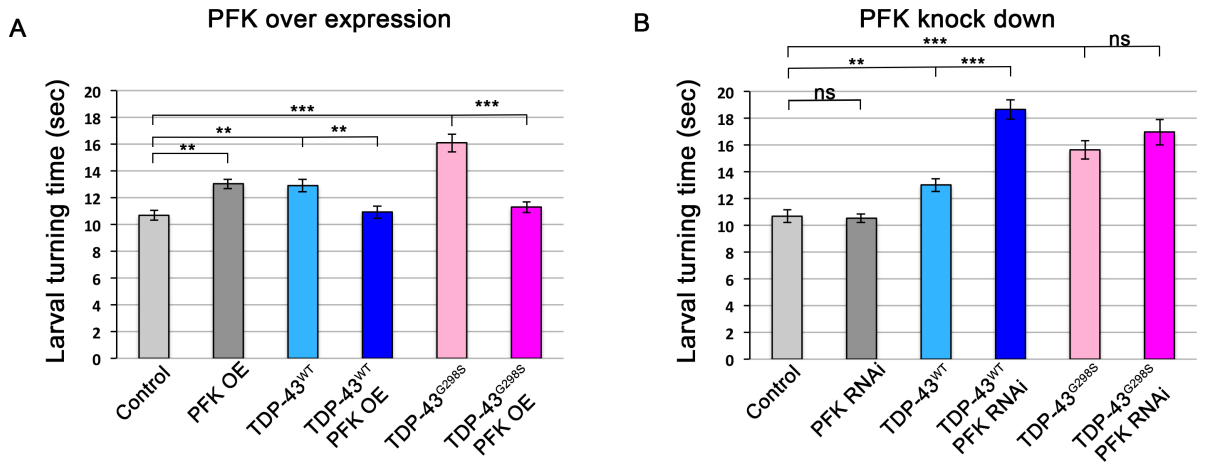


Figure 6. Co-overexpression of PFK rescues TDP-43 induced locomotor defects. **(A)** TDP-43^{WT} or ALS associated TDP-43^{G298S} were expressed in MNs (using the GAL4-UAS system together with *Drosophila* UAS-PFK). **(B)** TDP-43^{WT} or ALS associated TDP-43^{G298S} were expressed in MNs (using the GAL4-UAS system together with *Drosophila* UAS-PFK^{RNAi}). N = 30 larvae. Kruskal-Wallis was used to determine statistical significance. * - $P_{value} < .05$, ** - $P_{value} < 0.01$, *** - $P_{value} < 0.001$.

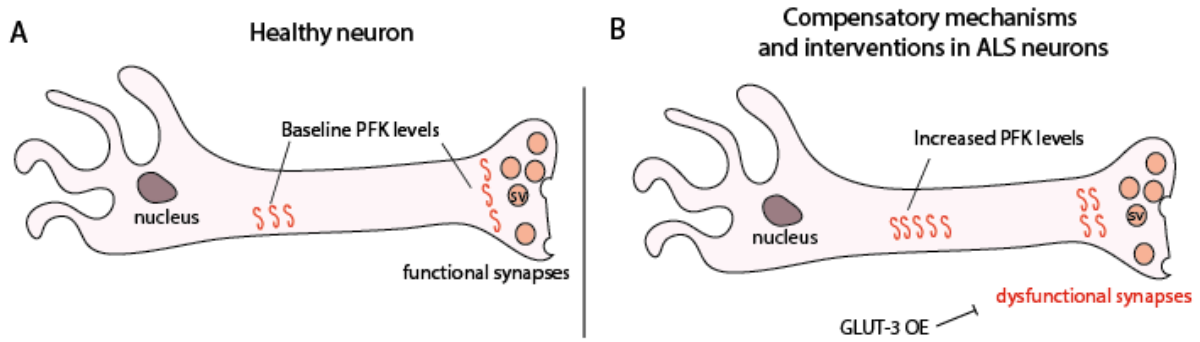
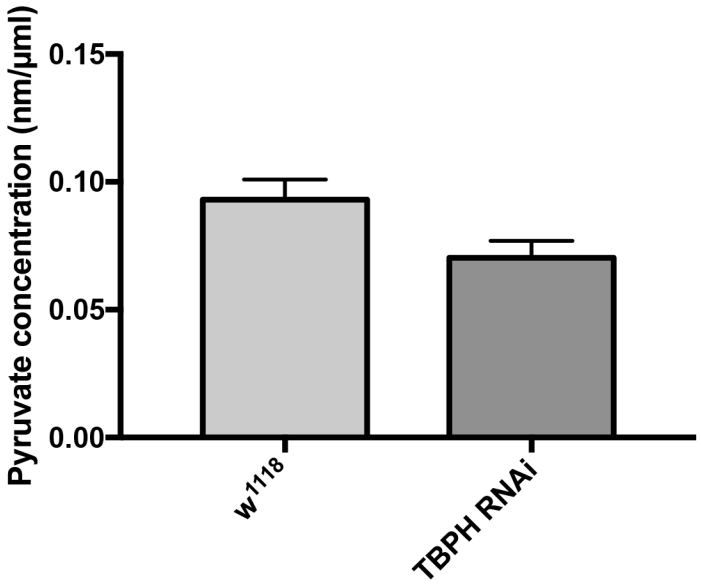


Figure 7. Proposed model showing PFK transcript levels increase in response to TDP-43 proteinopathy. (A) Neurons from non-diseased patients. **(B)** ALS neurons showing an increase in *PFK* transcript levels. SV – synaptic vesicle.

Supplemental Figures

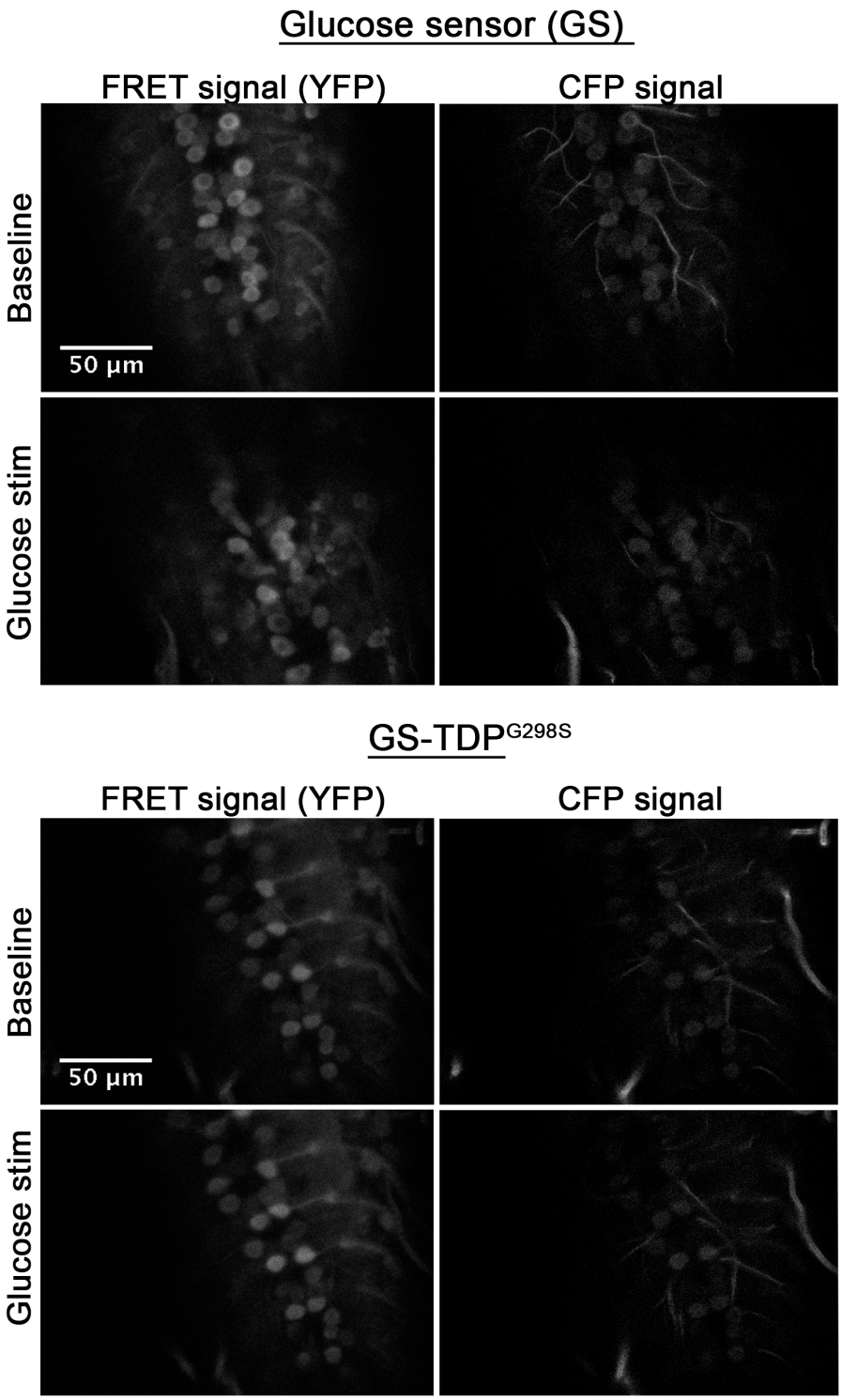


734

735 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 1**

736 Pyruvate measurements in whole larvae expressing RNAi knock-down constructs for the
737 endogenous *Drosophila* TDP-43 (TBPH) with the D42 GAL driver show no significant changes
738 compared to w^{1118} controls. P_{value}=0.092 (Student's t test).

739



740

741 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 1**

742 Raw images of glucose sensor **(A)** or glucose sensor in the context of TDP-43^{G298S} **(B)**.

743 Sections shown are taken through the ventral nerve cord 7.5 min post mounting (baseline) and

744 7.5 min post stimulation (Glucose stim), as indicated. See Materials and Methods for details on

745 imaging and analyses. Scale bar as shown.

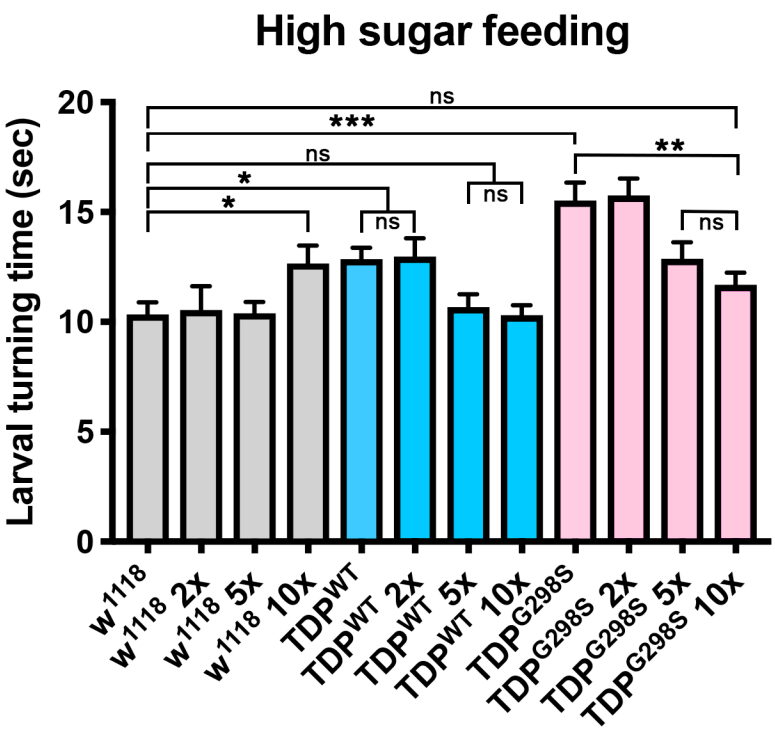


Figure 4 – figure supplement 1

Larval turning assays on regular cornmeal-molasses food supplemented with various amounts of glucose (2X, 5X or 10X, as shown). Genotypes as indicated. N=30 larvae. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to determine statistical significance.

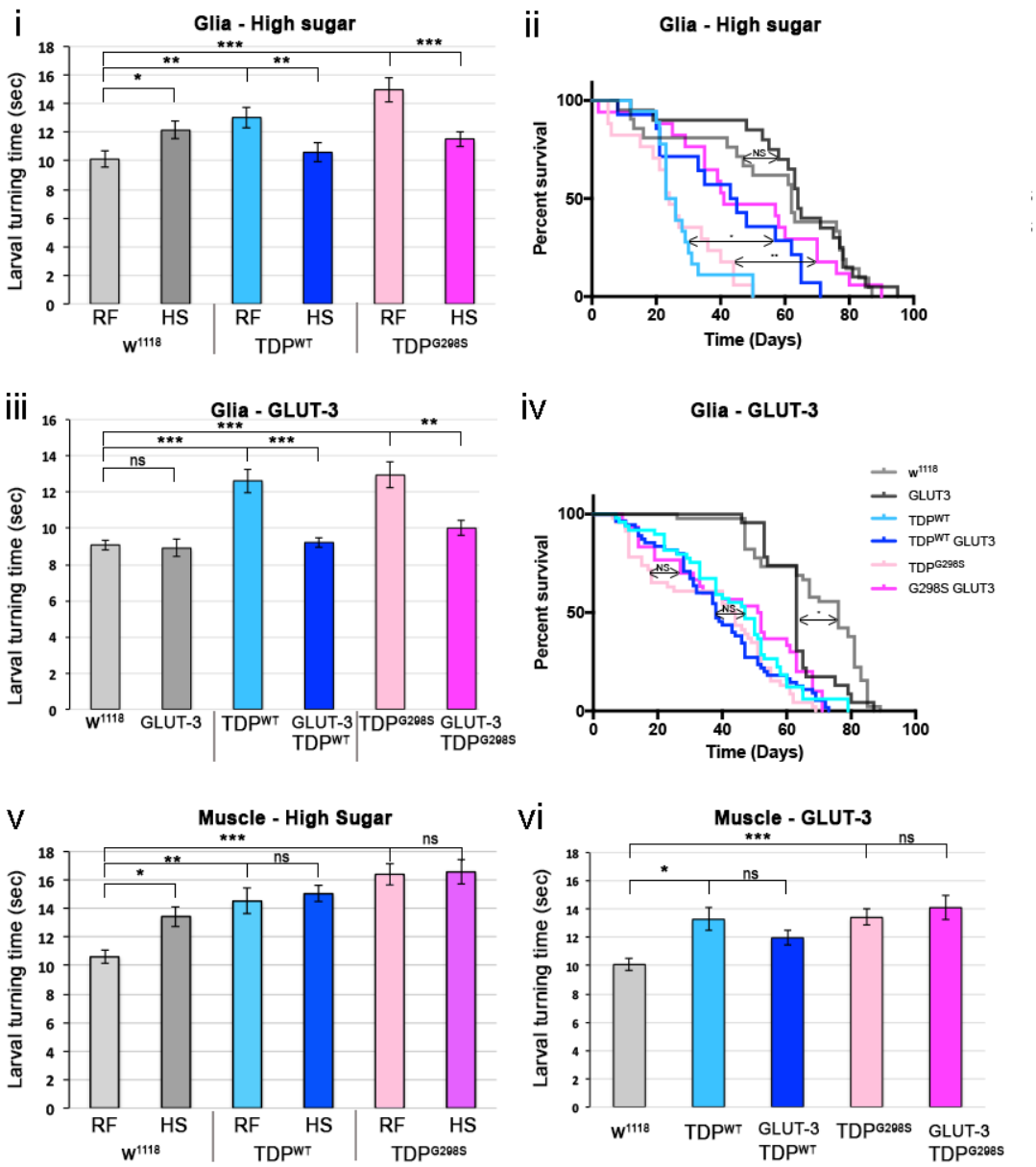


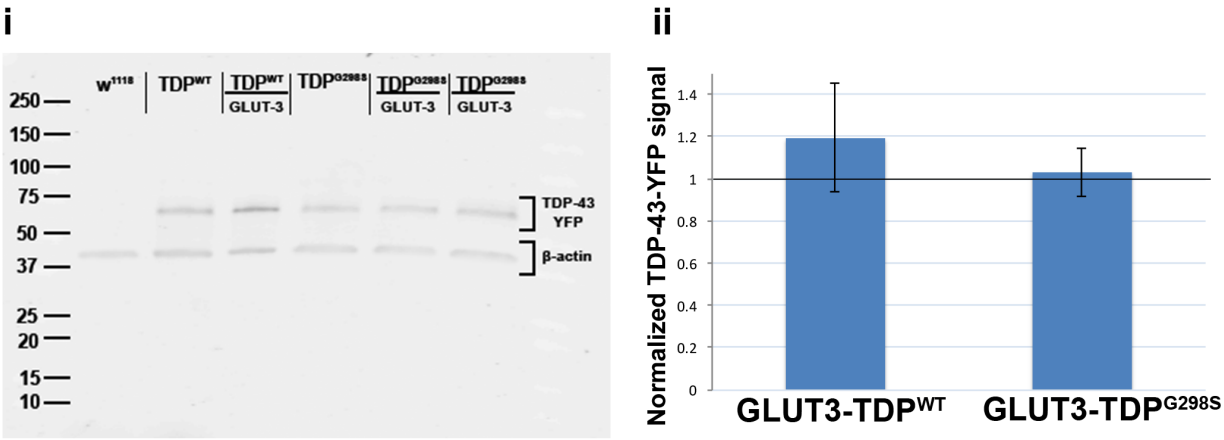
Figure 4 – figure supplement 2

(i, ii) Larval turning assays **(i)** and lifespan assays **(ii)** on a high sugar diet (HS) compared to a regular sugar diet (RF). Genotypes as indicated. **(iii and iv)** Larval turning assays **(iii)** and lifespan assays **(iv)** for GLUT-3 overexpression alone or in conjunction with TDP-43. Genotypes as indicated. **(v and vi)** Larval turning assays on HS versus RF **(v)** or in the context of GLUT-3 and TDP-43 overexpression in muscles **(vi)**. Kruskal-Wallis test was used for larval turning assays and Log-rank or Mantel-Cox tests were used for lifespan assays to determine significance.

761

762 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 3**

763 Negative geotaxis assay on adult flies expressing TDP-43^{WT} or TDP-43^{G298S} alone or in
764 conjunction with GLUT-3. The percent of flies that reach the top of the column are shown after
765 60 sec. Gene expression was specifically targeted in all neurons by using the elav GAL4 driver.
766 Statistical comparisons were performed using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-
767 comparison test.



768

769 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 4**

770 i. Western blot of ventral nerve cords probing for TDP-43-YFP and β-actin. D42 motor neuron
771 driver was used to express TDP-43 in motor neurons. ii. Quantification of 3 western blot
772 bioreplicates. Protein levels measured by GFP western blot (to detect TDP-YFP) are shown as a
773 ratio between GLUT-3-TDP^{WT}-YFP to TDP^{WT}-YFP alone and GLUT-3-TDP^{G298S}-YFP to TDP^{G298S}-
774 YFP alone.

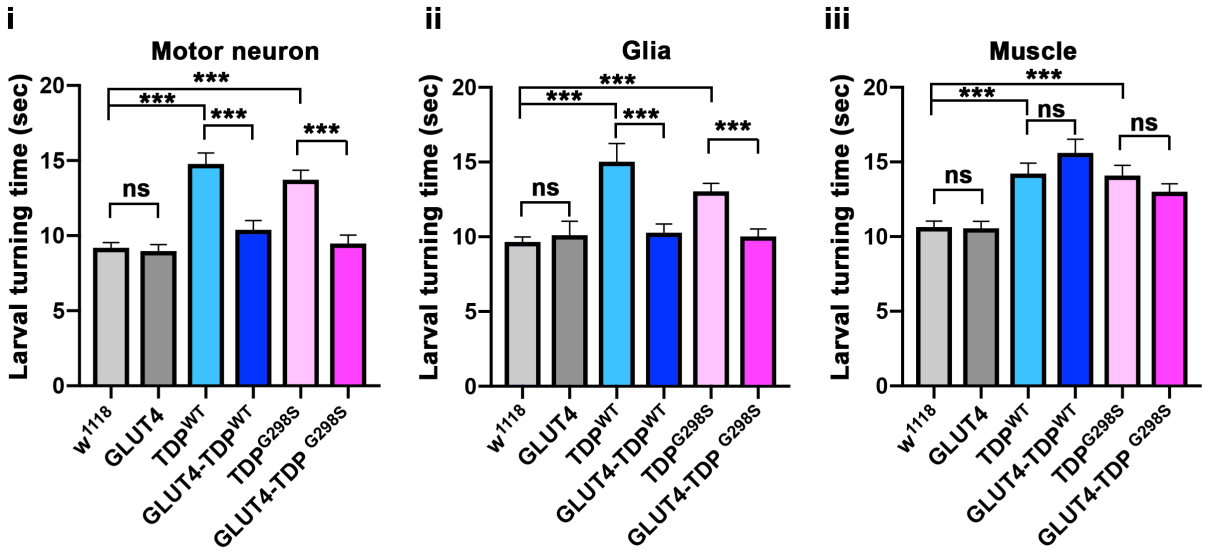
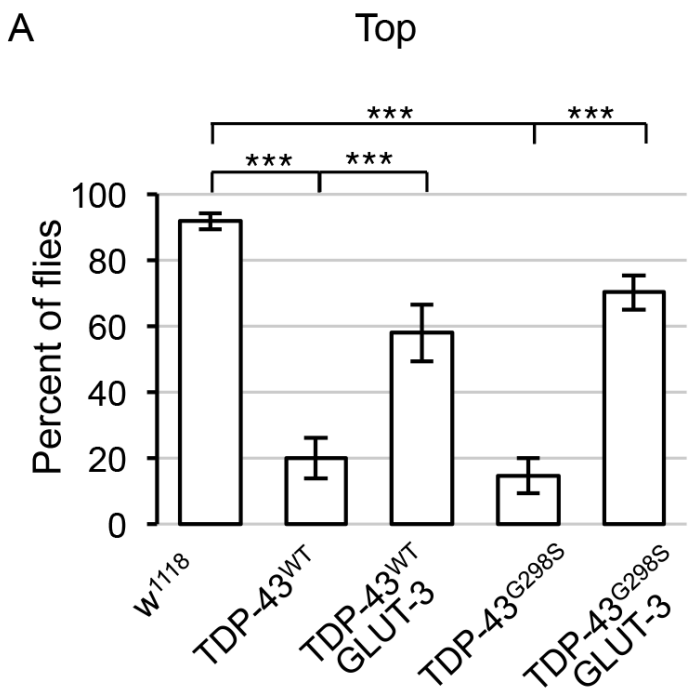


Figure 4 – figure supplement 5

Larval turning assays for GLUT-4 and TDP-43 overexpression in motor neurons (i), glia (ii) or muscles (iii). Genotypes as indicated. N=30 larvae. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to determine statistical significance.



Supplemental Figure 4D. Negative geotaxis assay on adult flies expressing TDP-43WT or TDP-43G298S alone or in conjunction with GLUT-3. The percent of flies that reach the top (A) of the column are shown after 60 sec. Gene expression was specifically targeted in all neurons by using the elav GAL4 driver. Statistical comparisons were performed using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple-comparison test.

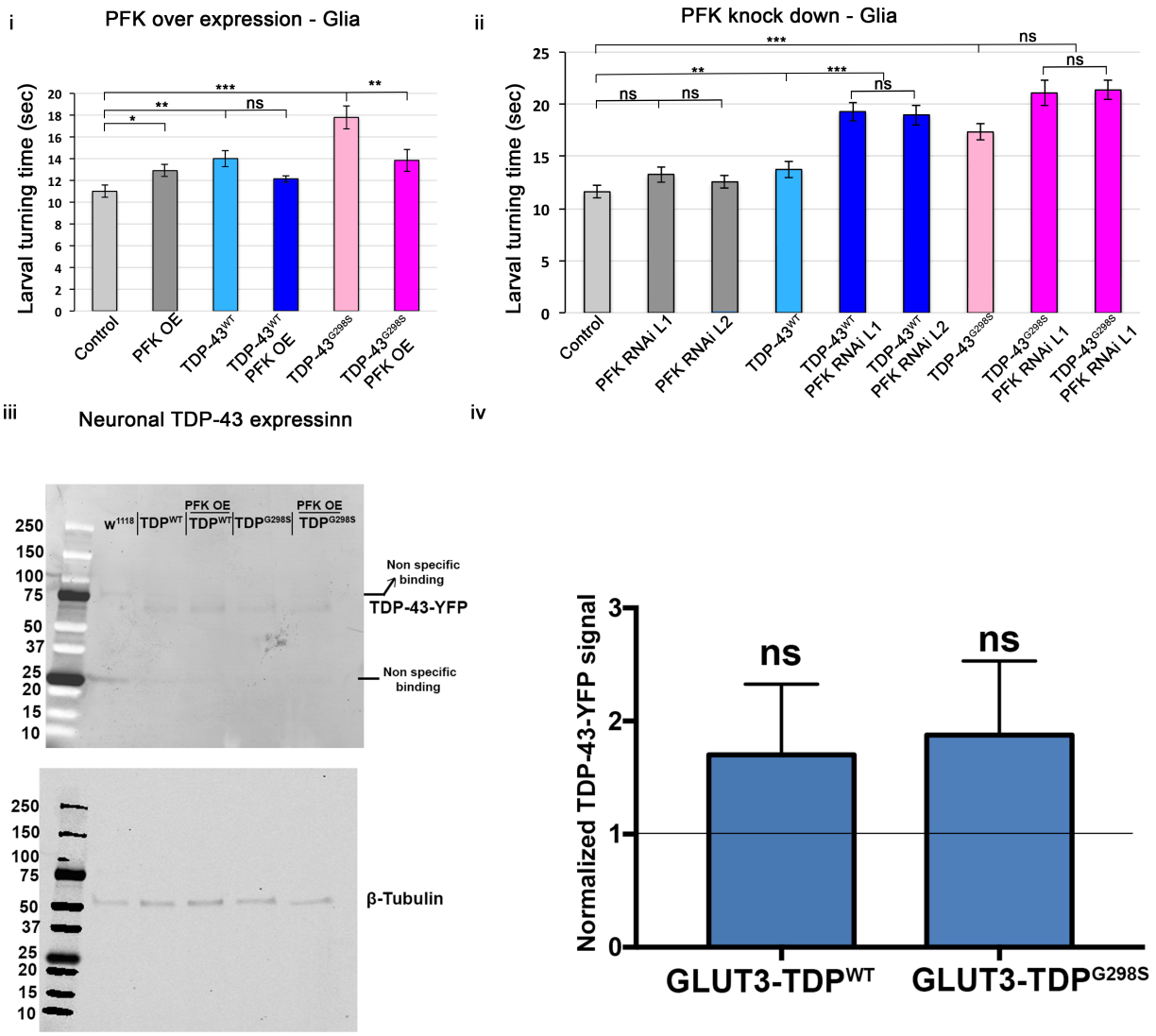
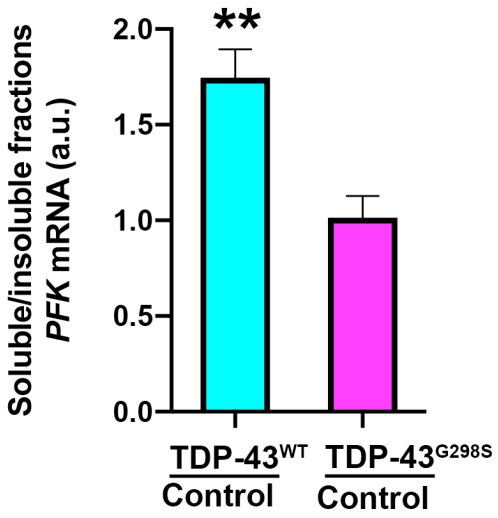


Figure 6 – figure supplement 1

Larval turning assays for PFK overexpression **(i)** or RNAi **(ii)** in the context of TDP-43 in glia. Genotypes as indicated. N=30 larvae. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to determine statistical significance. iii. Western blot of ventral nerve cords probing for TDP-43-YFP and tubulin. D42 motor neuron driver was used to express TDP-43 in motor neurons. ii. Quantification of 3 western blot bioreplicates. Protein levels measured by GFP western blot (to detect TDP-YFP) are shown as a ratio between PFK OE - TDP^{WT}-YFP to TDP^{WT}-YFP alone and PFK OE - TDP^{G298S}-YFP to TDP^{G298S}-YFP alone.



800

801 **Figure 7 – figure supplement 1**

802 Cellular fractionations from third instar larvae. TDP^{WT} **(A)** or TDP^{G298S} **(B)** were fractionated (see

803 supplemental materials and methods above) and PFK transcript levels in the urea fraction were

804 quantified and normalized to controls (w^{1118}). Wilcoxon ranked sum test was used to perform

805 statistics.

806

	Biochemical name	TDP^{WT} / control	P_{value}	TDP^{G298S} / control	P_{value}
Glycolysis, Gluconeogenesis, and Pyruvate Metabolism	glucose	0.85	0.0003	0.95	0.2562
	glucose-6-phosphate (G6P)	1.13	0.697	1.37	0.1516
	glucose 1-phosphate	0.83	0.4723	0.87	0.5666
	fructose-6-phosphate	1.29	0.5165	1.35	0.235
	2-phosphoglycerate	0.77	0.9454	1.05	0.5316
	3-phosphoglycerate	1.03	0.9916	0.98	0.5479
	phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP)	3.29	0.0343	5.35	0.0016
	pyruvate	1.67	0.0072	1.6	0.0089
	lactate	0.9	0.2946	0.92	0.4443
	glycerate	1.05	0.5279	0.84	0.6078
Pentose Phosphate Pathway	6-phosphogluconate	0.62	0.0174	1.1	0.7614
	sedoheptulose-7-phosphate	1.16	0.5718	2.38	0.0084
	ribulose/xylulose 5-phosphate	0.79	0.211	0.58	0.0107
Pentose Metabolism	ribulose	1.13	0.1944	0.91	0.8221
	ribose	1.3	0.0543	0.9	0.7074
	ribitol	0.61	0.0433	0.58	0.0332
	ribonate	0.95	0.6298	1.03	0.7813
	xylonate	0.73	0.0615	1.11	0.7787
	xylose	0.9	0.6029	0.75	0.171
	xylitol	0.89	0.1002	0.85	0.0266
	threitol	1.4	0.4369	2.18	0.0355
	arabitol	1.09	0.5878	1.3	0.194
Glycogen Metabolism	maltopentaose	0.86	0.4789	1.23	0.3532
	maltotetraose	0.95	0.8841	0.98	0.8168
	maltotriose	1.02	0.9606	0.95	0.7228
	maltose	0.85	0.0094	0.97	0.6114
	isomaltose	0.83	0.2842	0.91	0.6496
Disaccharides and Oligosaccharides	trehalose	1.17	0.1078	1.04	0.6138
Fructose, Mannose and Galactose Metabolism	fructose	1.1	0.4677	1.05	0.7955
	sorbose	1.16	0.3647	1.11	0.4997
	sorbitol	0.8	0.0935	0.81	0.1236
	mannose	0.84	0.297	0.98	0.9304
	mannose-6-phosphate	1.15	0.6242	1.38	0.1272
	galactose 1-phosphate	0.78	0.3283	0.92	0.82
	galactonate	0.76	0.0366	0.95	0.8452
Nucleotide Sugar	UDP-glucuronate	0.82	0.4406	0.85	0.5114
	UDP-N-acetylglucosamine	0.76	0.0224	0.86	0.2222
Aminosugar Metabolism	glucosamine-6-phosphate	0.94	0.911	1.33	0.1329
	glucuronate	0.83	0.007	0.6	1.18E-09
	N-acetylglucosamine	0.76	0.0519	0.8	0.1516
	N-acetylglucosamine 6-phosphate	0.68	2.24E-05	0.84	0.0424

Supplemental file 1. Summary of carbohydrate metabolites in TDP-43^{WT} and TDP-43^{G298S} compared to w^{1118} controls. Altered metabolites in third instar larvae crossed with the motor neuron driver D42 GAL4 were measured using gas or liquid chromatography followed by mass spectrometry. Red and green colored cells indicate statistically significant changes ($P_{value} < 0.05$) that are increased and decreased, respectively. Light red and light green colored cells indicate upward or downward trends, respectively ($P_{value} < 0.1$).

Group/ID	Race	Gender	Age	PMI (hrs)
CON 1	W	M	22	6
CON 2	-	F	71	5
CON 3	-	M	72	7
CON 4	W	F	57	32
CON 6	W	F	53	4
CON 7	W	F	51	5
CON 8	W	F	57	11
CON 9	W	M	76	13
ALS 1	W	F	68	1
ALS 2	W	M	69	10
ALS 3	W	F	73	11
ALS 4	W	M	53	-
ALS 5	W	F	62	4
ALS 6	W	M	53	5
ALS 7	W	F	76	6
ALS 8	W	F	63	5
ALS 9	W	M	67	8

PMI = post-mortem interval; CON = Non-neurologic disease control

Supplemental file 2. Summary of demographic information for patient samples used to quantify PFKP, PFKM and G6PD.

Cell line number	Passage number	Days in culture
ALS 1	39	69
ALS 2	35	70
ALS 3	36	77
Control 1	19	73
Control 2	28	74
Control 3	37	71
Control 4	21	70

Supplemental file 3. Summary of iPSC MNs used to quantify PFKP, PFKM and G6PD.

Patient cell lines used for qPCR analysis are shown.