

# 1 High fat diet induces microbiota-dependent silencing of enteroendocrine cells

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## 11 ABSTRACT

12 Enteroendocrine cells (EECs) are specialized sensory cells in the intestinal epithelium  
13 that sense and transduce nutrient information. Consumption of dietary fat contributes to  
14 metabolic disorders, but EEC adaptations to high fat feeding were unknown. Here, we  
15 established a new experimental system to directly investigate EEC activity in vivo using  
16 a zebrafish reporter of EEC calcium signaling. Our results reveal that high fat feeding  
17 alters EEC morphology and converts them into a nutrient insensitive state that is  
18 coupled to endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress. We called this novel adaptation “EEC  
19 silencing”. Gnotobiotic studies revealed that germ-free zebrafish are resistant to high fat  
20 diet induced EEC silencing. High fat feeding altered gut microbiota composition  
21 including enrichment of *Acinetobacter* species, and we identified an *Acinetobacter* strain  
22 sufficient to induce EEC silencing. These results establish a new mechanism by which  
23 dietary fat and gut microbiota modulate EEC nutrient sensing and signaling.

## 24 INTRODUCTION

25 All animals derive energy from dietary nutrient ingestion. The energy harvested through  
26 digestion and absorption of dietary nutrients in the intestine is consumed by metabolic  
27 processes or stored as fat in adipose tissues. Excessive nutrient intake leads to  
28 metabolic disorders such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. To maintain energy

29 homeostasis the animal must constantly monitor and adjust nutrient ingestion in order to  
30 balance metabolic needs with energy storage and energy intake. To accurately assess  
31 energy intake, animals evolved robust systems to monitor nutrient intake and  
32 communicate this dynamic information to the rest of the body. However, the  
33 physiological mechanisms by which animals monitor and adapt to nutrient intake remain  
34 poorly understood.

35 The primary sensory cells in the gut epithelium that monitor the luminal nutrient status  
36 are enteroendocrine cells (EECs) (Furness, Rivera, Cho, Bravo, & Callaghan, 2013).  
37 These hormone-secreting cells are dispersed along the entire gastrointestinal tract but  
38 comprise only ~1% of gut epithelial cells (Sternini, Anselmi, & Rozengurt, 2008).  
39 However, collectively these cells constitute the largest, most complex endocrine  
40 network in the body. EECs synthesize and secrete hormones in response to ingested  
41 nutrients including carbohydrates, fatty acids, peptides and amino acids (Delzenne,  
42 Cani, & Neyrinck, 2007; Moran-Ramos, Tovar, & Torres, 2012). These nutrients directly  
43 stimulate EECs by triggering a cascade of membrane depolarization, action potential  
44 firing and voltage dependent calcium entry. Increase of intracellular calcium ( $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ ) can  
45 trigger the fusion of hormone-containing vesicles with the cytoplasmic membrane and  
46 hormone release (Sternini et al., 2008). The apical surface of most EECs are exposed  
47 to the gut lumen allowing them to detect ingested luminal contents (Gribble & Reimann,  
48 2016). However, some EECs are not open to the gut lumen and reside close to the  
49 basal lamina (Hofer, Asan, & Drenckhahn, 1999; Sternini et al., 2008). These different  
50 morphological types are classified as “open” or “closed” EECs respectively, and  
51 traditionally have been thought to reflect distinct developmental cell fates. However, the  
52 transition between open and closed EEC types has not been described.

53 Besides morphological characterization, EECs are commonly classified by the  
54 hormones they express. More than 15 different hormones have been identified in EECs  
55 which exert broad physiological effects on gut motility, satiation, food digestion, nutrient  
56 absorption, insulin sensitivity, and energy storage (Moran-Ramos et al., 2012). EECs  
57 communicate not only through circulating hormones, but also through direct paracrine  
58 and neuronal signaling to multiple systems including the intrinsic and extrinsic nervous

59 system, pancreas, liver and adipose tissue (Bohorquez et al., 2015; Gribble & Reimann,  
60 2016; Kaelberer et al., 2018; Latorre, Sternini, De Giorgio, & Greenwood-Van Meerveld,  
61 2016). EECs therefore have a key role in regulating energy homeostasis and represent  
62 the first link that connects dietary nutrient status to systemic metabolic processes.

63 Energy homeostasis can be influenced by many environmental factors, although diet  
64 plays the most important role. Despite efforts to reduce dietary fat intake in recent  
65 decades, the percentage of energy intake from fat remains ~33% in the US (Austin,  
66 Ogden, & Hill, 2011). High levels of dietary fat have a dominant effect on energy intake  
67 and adiposity (Hu et al., 2018) and have been implicated in the high prevalence of  
68 human metabolic disorders worldwide (Ludwig, Willett, Volek, & Neuhouser, 2018;  
69 Oakes, Cooney, Camilleri, Chisholm, & Kraegen, 1997; Panchal et al., 2011). The  
70 effects of a high fat diet on peripheral tissues like pancreatic islets, liver and adipose  
71 tissue have been studied extensively (Green & Hodson, 2014; Kahn, Hull, &  
72 Utzschneider, 2006). It is also well appreciated that consumption of a high fat diet  
73 affects the microbial communities residing in the intestine, commonly referred to as the  
74 gut microbiota (David et al., 2014; Hildebrandt et al., 2009; Murphy et al., 2010;  
75 Turnbaugh, Backhed, Fulton, & Gordon, 2008; Wong et al., 2015). Gnotobiotic animal  
76 studies also demonstrated that gut microbiotas altered by high fat diet can promote  
77 adiposity and insulin resistance (Ridaura et al., 2013; Turnbaugh et al., 2008;  
78 Turnbaugh et al., 2006), but the underlying mechanisms are incompletely understood.  
79 Notably, despite the importance of EECs in nutrient monitoring and systemic metabolic  
80 regulation, it remains unknown how a high fat diet might impact EECs function and  
81 whether the gut microbiota play a role in this process.

82 A major problem in studying the effects of diet on EEC physiology has been the lack of  
83 *in vivo* techniques for studying these rare cells in an intact animal. Historically, *in vivo*  
84 EEC function has been studied by measuring hormone levels in blood following luminal  
85 nutrient stimulation (Goldspink, Reimann, & Gribble, 2018). However, many  
86 gastrointestinal hormones have very short half-lives and peripheral plasma hormone  
87 levels do not mirror real-time EEC function (Cuenco et al., 2017; Druce et al., 2009;  
88 Kieffer, McIntosh, & Pederson, 1995). EEC function has been measured *in vitro* via cell

89 and organoid culture models using electrophysiological cellular recordings and  
90 fluorescence-based calcium imaging (Kaelberer et al., 2018; Kay, Boissy, Russnak, &  
91 Candido, 1986; Reimann et al., 2008). However, these *in vitro* models are not suited for  
92 modeling the effect of diet and microbiota on EEC function as they are unable to  
93 reproduce the complex *in vivo* environment that involves signals from neighboring cells  
94 like enterocytes, enteric nerves, blood vessels and immune cells. Moreover, *in vitro*  
95 culture systems are unable to mimic the dynamic and complex luminal environment that  
96 contains food and microbiota. Therefore, to fully understand the effects of diet and  
97 microbiota on EEC function, it is necessary to study EECs *in vivo*.

98 In this study, we utilized the zebrafish model to investigate the impact of dietary  
99 nutrients and microbiota on EEC function. The development and physiology of the  
100 zebrafish digestive tract is similar to that of mammals (Wallace, Akhter, Smith, Lorent, &  
101 Pack, 2005; Wallace & Pack, 2003). Zebrafish hatch from their protective chorions at 3  
102 days post-fertilization (dpf) and microbial colonization of the intestinal lumen begins  
103 shortly thereafter (Rawls, Mahowald, Goodman, Trent, & Gordon, 2007). The zebrafish  
104 intestine becomes completely patent by 4 dpf and feeding and digestion begin around 5  
105 dpf. The zebrafish intestine develops most of the same differentiated epithelial cell types  
106 as observed in mammals, including absorptive enterocytes, mucus-secreting goblet  
107 cells, and EECs (Ng et al., 2005; Wallace et al., 2005; Wallace & Pack, 2003). Digestion  
108 and absorption of dietary fat occur primarily in enterocytes within the proximal intestine  
109 of the zebrafish (Quinlivan & Farber, 2017) (yellow area in Figure 1D). These conserved  
110 aspects of intestinal epithelial anatomy and physiology are associated with a conserved  
111 transcriptional regulatory program shared between zebrafish and mammals (Lickwar et  
112 al., 2017). To monitor EEC activity in zebrafish, we used a genetically encoded calcium  
113 indicator (Gcamp6f) expressed under control of an EEC gene promoter. The excitability  
114 of EECs upon luminal stimulation could be measured using *in vivo* fluorescence-based  
115 calcium imaging. By combining this *in vivo* EEC activity assay with diet and gnotobiotic  
116 manipulations, we show here that specific members of the intestinal microbiota mediate  
117 a novel physiologic adaption of EECs to high fat diet.

## 118 RESULTS



119 **Establishing methods to study enteroendocrine cell function using an *in vivo***  
120 **zebrafish model**

121 We first developed an approach to identify and visualize zebrafish EECs *in vivo*.  
122 Previous mouse studies have shown that the transcription factor NeuroD1 plays an  
123 essential role to restrict intestinal progenitor cells to an EEC fate (H. J. Li, Ray, Singh,  
124 Johnston, & Leiter, 2011; Ray & Leiter, 2007), and is expressed in almost all EECs  
125 without expression in other intestinal epithelial cell lineages (H. J. Li, Kapoor, Giel-  
126 Moloney, Rindi, & Leiter, 2012; Ray, Li, Metzger, Schule, & Leiter, 2014). We used  
127 transgenic zebrafish lines expressing fluorescent proteins under control of regulatory  
128 sequences from the zebrafish *neurod1* gene, *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* (McGraw,  
129 Snelson, Prendergast, Suli, & Raible, 2012) and *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)* (Trapani,  
130 Obholzer, Mo, Brockerhoff, & Nicolson, 2009). We found that both lines labeled cells in  
131 the intestinal epithelium of 6 dpf zebrafish (Fig. 1A-B, Fig. S1A), and that these  
132 *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> cells do not overlap with goblet cells and express the intestinal secretory cell  
133 marker 2F11 (Crosnier et al., 2005) (Fig. S1C-E). To further test whether these  
134 *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> cells in the intestine label secretory but not absorptive cell lineages, we  
135 crossed *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* with the Notch reporter line *Tg(tp1:EGFP)* (Parsons  
136 et al., 2009). Activation of Notch signaling is essential to restrict intestinal progenitor  
137 cells to an absorptive cell fate (Crosnier et al., 2005; H. J. Li et al., 2012), suggesting  
138 *tp1*<sup>+</sup> cells may represent enterocyte progenitors. In accord, we found that *neurod1*<sup>+</sup>  
139 cells in the intestine do not overlap with *tp1*<sup>+</sup> cells (Fig. S1B). Additionally, our results  
140 demonstrated that *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> cells in the intestine do not overlap with the mature  
141 enterocyte marker *ifabp/fabp2* (Kanter et al., 2011)(Fig. 1C). These results suggested  
142 that, similar to mammals, *neurod1* expression in the zebrafish intestine occurs  
143 specifically in EECs. In addition, using EdU labeling at 5 dpf zebrafish larvae, we found  
144 that EECs in the intestine are post-mitotic and require about 30 hours to differentiate  
145 from proliferating progenitors (Fig. S2A-F).

146 Hormone expression is a defining feature of EECs, so we next evaluated the expression  
147 of four hormones in *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> EECs in 6 dpf zebrafish larvae: pancreatic peptide YY  
148 (PYY), cholecystokinin (CCK), somatostatin (*Tg(sst2:RFP)*),(Z. Li, Wen, Peng, Korzh, &

149 Gong, 2009)) and glucagon (precursor to glucagon-like peptides GLP-1 and GLP-2;  
150 *Tg(gcga:EGFP)*, (Ye, Robertson, Hesselson, Stainier, & Anderson, 2015)) (Fig. 1E-H).  
151 We found that PYY and CCK hormones, which are important for regulating fat digestion  
152 and feeding behavior, are only expressed in EECs in the proximal intestine where  
153 dietary fats and other nutrients are digested and absorbed (Carten, Bradford, & Farber,  
154 2011; Farber et al., 2001) (Fig. 1I-J). In contrast, somatostatin expression occurred in  
155 EECs along the whole intestine and glucagon expressing EECs were found along  
156 proximal and mid-intestine but excluded from the distal intestine (Fig. S1F-G). The  
157 regionalization of EEC hormone expression may reflect the functional difference of  
158 EECs and other epithelial cell types along the zebrafish intestine (Lickwar et al., 2017).

159 EECs are specialized sensory cells in the intestinal epithelium that can sense nutrient  
160 stimuli derived from the diet such as glucose, amino acids and fatty acids. Upon  
161 receptor-mediated nutrient stimulation, EECs undergo membrane depolarization that  
162 results in transient increases in intracellular calcium that in turn induce release of  
163 hormones or neurotransmitters (Goldspink et al., 2018). Therefore, the transient  
164 increase in intracellular calcium concentration is an important mediator and indicator of  
165 EEC function. To investigate EEC function in zebrafish, we utilized a *neurod1:Gcamp6f*  
166 transgenic zebrafish model (Rupprecht, Prendergast, Wyart, & Friedrich, 2016), in  
167 which the calcium-dependent fluorescent protein *Gcamp6f* is expressed in EECs under  
168 control of the -5kb *neurod1* promoter (McGraw et al., 2012). Using this transgenic line,  
169 we established an *in vivo* EEC activity assay system which permitted us to investigate  
170 the temporal and spatial activity of EECs *in vivo*. Briefly, unanesthetized  
171 *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae were positioned under a microscope objective  
172 and a solution containing a stimulus was delivered onto their mouth. The stimulus was  
173 then taken up into the intestinal lumen and EEC *Gcamp6f* activity was recorded  
174 simultaneously (Fig. 2A; see Methods and Fig. S3 for further details). Using this EEC  
175 activity assay, we first tested if zebrafish EECs were activated by fatty acids. We found  
176 that palmitate, but not the BSA vehicle control, activated a subset of EECs (Fig. 2B-F,  
177 supplemental video 1). Similar patterns of EEC activation in the proximal intestine were  
178 induced by the fatty acids linoleate and dodecanoate; whereas, the short chain fatty  
179 acid butyrate did not induce EEC activity (Fig. 2D). The ability of EECs in the proximal

180 intestine to respond to fatty acid stimulation is interesting because that region is the site  
181 of dietary fatty acid absorption (Carten et al., 2011). In this region EECs express CCK  
182 which regulates lipase and bile secretion and PYY which regulates food intake (Fig.  
183 1IJ). Our results further establish that activation by fatty acids is a conserved trait in  
184 zebrafish and mammalian EECs.

### 185 **High fat feeding impairs enteroendocrine cell nutrient sensing**

186 The vast majority of previous studies on EECs in all vertebrates has focused on acute  
187 stimulation with dietary nutrients including fatty acids. In contrast, we have very little  
188 information on the adaptations that EECs undergo during the postprandial process. To  
189 address this gap in knowledge, we applied an established model for high fat meal  
190 feeding in zebrafish (Carten et al., 2011; Semova et al., 2012). In this high fat (HF) meal  
191 model, zebrafish larvae are immersed in a solution containing an emulsion of chicken  
192 egg yolk liposomes which they ingest for a designated amount of time prior to  
193 postprandial analysis using our EEC activity assay (Fig. 2G). Importantly, ingestion of a  
194 HF meal does not prevent subsequent nutrient stimuli such as fatty acids to be ingested  
195 and distributed along the length of the intestine (Fig. S4A-F). To our surprise, we found  
196 that the ability of EECs in the proximal intestine to respond to palmitate stimulation in  
197 our EEC activity assay was quickly and significantly reduced after 6 hours of HF meal  
198 feeding (Fig. 2H-J, supplemental video 2).

199 We next sought to test if HF feeding only impairs EEC sensitivity to fatty acids or if there  
200 are broader impacts on EEC nutrient sensitivity. First, we investigated EEC responses  
201 to glucose stimulation. Similar to fatty acids, glucose stimulation activated EECs only in  
202 the proximal intestine of the zebrafish under unfed control conditions (Fig. 3A, B,  
203 supplemental video 1). Previous mammalian cell culture studies reported that glucose-  
204 stimulated elevation of intracellular calcium concentrations and hormone secretion in  
205 EECs is dependent upon the EEC sodium dependent glucose cotransporter 1 (Sglt1),  
206 an apical membrane protein that is expressed in small intestine and renal tubules and  
207 actively transports glucose and galactose into cells (Song, Onishi, Koepsell, & Vallon,  
208 2016). Similarly, we found that Sglt1 is expressed on the apical surface of zebrafish  
209 intestinal epithelial cells including enterocytes and EECs (Fig. 3E). In addition, co-

210 stimulation with glucose and phlorizin, a chemical inhibitor of Sglt1, blocked the EEC  
211 activation induced by glucose (Fig. 3F-G). Consistently, the EEC response to glucose  
212 stimulation was significantly increased by the addition of NaCl in the stimulant solution  
213 which will facilitate sodium gradient dependent glucose transport by Sglt1 (Fig. 3C). In  
214 addition, zebrafish EECs also responded to the other Sglt1 substrate, galactose, but not  
215 fructose (Fig. 3D). These results suggest that glucose can induce EEC activity in a Sglt1  
216 dependent manner in the zebrafish intestine.

217 We then examined if HF feeding impaired subsequent EEC responses to glucose, as  
218 we had observed for fatty acids (Fig.2G-J). Indeed, HF feeding significantly reduced  
219 EECs' response to subsequent glucose stimulation (Fig. 3H-J, supplemental video 3).  
220 We extended these studies to investigate zebrafish EEC responses to amino acids.  
221 Among the twenty major amino acids we tested, we only observed significant EEC  
222 activity in response to cysteine stimulation under control conditions (Fig. S5A-B,  
223 supplemental video 1). However, in contrast to the fatty acid and glucose responses,  
224 zebrafish EECs that respond to cysteine were located primarily in the mid intestine (Fig.  
225 S5A-B) and HF meal ingestion did not significantly impair subsequent EEC responses  
226 to cysteine (Fig. S5C-E). These results collectively indicate that HF feeding impairs the  
227 function of palmitate and glucose responsive EECs in the proximal intestine, the region  
228 where fat absorption take place.

### 229 **High fat feeding induces morphological adaption in enteroendocrine cells**

230 To further investigate how HF feeding impacts zebrafish EECs, we leveraged the  
231 transparency of the zebrafish to permit morphologic analysis of EECs. In zebrafish  
232 under control conditions, most EECs are in an open-type morphology (Fig. 1B-G) with  
233 an apical process that extends to the intestinal lumen, allowing them to directly interact  
234 with the contents of the intestinal lumen (Fig. 4A). When we examined the proximal  
235 zebrafish intestine after 6 hours of HF feeding, we discovered that most EECs had  
236 adopted a closed-type morphology that apparently lacked an apical extension and no  
237 longer had access to the luminal contents (Fig. 4B, Fig.S6A-C). We first speculated this  
238 shift from open-type to closed-type EEC morphology may be due to cell turnover and  
239 loss of open-type EECs and replacement with newly differentiated closed-type EECs.

240 To test this possibility, we created a new *Tg(neurod1:Gal4); Tg(UAS:Kaede)*  
241 photoconversion tracing system in which UV light can be used to convert the Kaede  
242 protein expressed in EECs from green to red emission (Fig. S7A-C). This allowed us to  
243 label all existing differentiated *neurod1+* EECs by UV light photoconversion immediately  
244 before HF feeding (Fig. S7G), so that pre-existing EECs emit red and green Kaede  
245 fluorescence and any newly differentiated EECs emit only green Kaede fluorescence  
246 (Fig. S7D-E). However, we did not observe the presence of any green EECs following  
247 HF feeding (Fig. S7F-G). To test whether HF feeding induced EEC apoptosis, we used  
248 an *in vivo* apoptosis model in which *Tg(ubb:sec5A-tdTomato)* (Scott T. Espenschied,  
249 2019) zebrafish were crossed with *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)* allowing us to determine if  
250 apoptosis occurred in EECs (Fig. S8A-B). However, we did not detect activation of  
251 apoptosis in closed-type EECs following high fat diet feeding (Fig. S8C). These results  
252 suggest that the striking change in EEC morphology during HF feeding is not due to  
253 EEC turnover but is instead due to adaptation of the existing EECs.

254 To analyze this adaptation of EEC morphology in greater detail, we used a new  
255 transgenic model *TgBAC(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)* together with the *Tg(-*  
256 *5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* line. In these animals, the apical surface of EECs and other  
257 intestinal epithelial cells can be labeled by *gata5:lifActin-EGFP* and the cytoplasmic  
258 extension of EECs to the apical lumen can be visualized and quantified through z-stack  
259 confocal imaging of the proximal intestine (Supplemental video 4). We measured the  
260 ratio of EECs with apical extensions to the total number of EECs, and defined that ratio  
261 as an “EEC morphology score”. In control embryos, most EECs are open-type and the  
262 morphology score is near 1 (Fig. 4E). We found that the EEC morphology score  
263 gradually decreased upon high fat feeding (Fig. 4E, supplemental video 5), indicating  
264 that EECs had changed from an open-type to closed-type morphology. To further  
265 analyze the dynamics of the EEC apical response, we generated a new transgenic line  
266 *Tg(-5kbneurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*(Fig. S9 A-C). Using *in vivo* confocal time-lapse imaging  
267 in *Tg(-5kbneurod1:lifActin-EGFP)* zebrafish, we confirmed that EEC apical processes  
268 undergo dynamic retraction after HF feeding (Fig. 4F), which was not observed in  
269 control animals (Fig. S9 C-D, supplemental video 6). Interestingly, EECs in the distal  
270 intestine retained their open-type morphology following HF feeding (Fig. S6 F-H),

271 suggesting the adaptation from open- to closed-type EEC morphology is a specific  
272 response of EECs in the proximal intestine. This suggests that this EEC morphological  
273 adaption upon HF feeding is associated with impairment of EEC sensitivity to  
274 subsequent exposure to nutrients such as palmitate and glucose. We operationally  
275 define this novel EEC morphological and functional postprandial adaption to HF feeding  
276 as “EEC silencing”.

### 277 **Activation of ER stress following high fat feeding leads to EEC silencing**

278 We next sought to identify the mechanisms underlying HF feeding-induced EEC  
279 silencing. Quantitative RT-PCR assays in dissected zebrafish digestive tracts revealed  
280 that HF feeding broadly increased expression of EEC hormones (Fig. 5A). The largest  
281 increases were *pyyb* and *ccka* (Fig. 5A), both of which are expressed by EECs in the  
282 proximal zebrafish intestine (Fig.1) and are important for the response to dietary lipid.  
283 However, HF feeding did not significantly alter expression of EEC specific transcription  
284 factors (*neurod1*, *pax6b*, *isl1*), nor the total number of EECs per animal (Fig. 5A, C).  
285 These data suggested that HF feeding challenges the existing EECs to increase  
286 hormone synthesis and secretion, perhaps in response to depletion of pre-existing  
287 hormone granules. We speculated that this increase in hormone synthesis might place  
288 an elevated demand and stress on the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), the organelle where  
289 hormone synthesis takes place. ER stress is known to activate a series of downstream  
290 cell signaling responses called the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) (Hetz, 2012; Xu,  
291 Bailly-Maitre, & Reed, 2005). Increased misfolded protein and induction of ER stress  
292 activates ER membrane sensors Atf6, Perk and Ire1 (Hetz, 2012; Xu et al., 2005). The  
293 activated ER stress sensor Ire1 then splices mRNA encoding the transcription factor  
294 Xbp1, which in turn induces expression of target genes involved in the stress response  
295 and protein degradation, folding and processing (Yoshida, Matsui, Yamamoto, Okada, &  
296 Mori, 2001). Using quantitative RT-PCR analysis in dissected zebrafish digestive tracts,  
297 we found that HF feeding increased expression of UPR genes including chaperone  
298 proteins Gpr94 and Bip (Fig. 5B). To investigate whether ER stress is activated in  
299 EECs, we took advantage of a transgenic zebrafish *Tg(ef1a:xbp1δ-gfp)* that permits  
300 visualization of ER stress activation by expressing GFP only in cells undergoing *xbp1*



301 splicing (J. Li et al., 2015). We crossed *Tg(ef1a:xbp1δ-gfp)* with *Tg(-*  
302 *5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* zebrafish and found that zebrafish larvae fed a HF meal, but not  
303 control larvae, displayed a significant induction of GFP in *neurod1+* EECs (Fig. 5 J, K,  
304 O). Next, we tested if activation of ER stress in EECs is required for EEC silencing.  
305 Whereas HF feeding normally reduces the EEC morphology score, this did not occur in  
306 zebrafish treated with tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA), a known ER stress inhibitor  
307 (Uppala, Gani, & Ramaiah, 2017; Vang, Longley, Steer, & Low, 2014) (Fig. 5 L-N, R).  
308 To further confirm the hypothesis that ER stress activation can lead to EEC silencing,  
309 we tested if induction of ER stress is sufficient to cause EEC silencing independent of  
310 HF feeding. We treated 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae with thapsigargin,  
311 a chemical compound commonly used to induce ER stress by interrupting ER calcium  
312 storage and protein folding (Samali, Fitzgerald, Deegan, & Gupta, 2010), and then  
313 performed the EEC response assay. Thapsigargin treatment reduced the EEC calcium  
314 response to both glucose and palmitate (Fig. 5D-I) and decreased the EEC morphology  
315 score, both key phenomena associated with EEC silencing (Fig. 5P). To confirm this  
316 result, we tested a second ER stress inducer brefeldin A (BFA), which inhibits  
317 anterograde ER export to Golgi and blocks protein secretion (Donaldson, Cassel, Kahn,  
318 & Klausner, 1992; Klausner, Donaldson, & Lippincott-Schwartz, 1992). Similar to  
319 thapsigargin, treatment with BFA significantly decreased the EEC morphology score  
320 (Fig. 5Q). These results support a working model wherein increased hormone synthesis  
321 and secretion following HF feeding induces ER stress in EECs which leads to EEC  
322 silencing.

### 323 **Blocking fat digestion and absorption inhibits EEC silencing following high fat** 324 **feeding**

325 We next sought to explore the physiological mechanisms within the gut lumen that may  
326 lead to EEC silencing after HF feeding. We reasoned that induction of ER stress in  
327 EECs after a HF meal is likely caused by over-stimulation with fatty acids and other  
328 nutrients derived from the meal. Fatty acids are liberated from dietary triglycerides in the  
329 gut lumen through the activity of lipases, so we predicted that lipase inhibition would  
330 block EEC silencing normally induced by HF feeding. We therefore treated zebrafish



331 larvae with orlistat, a broad-spectrum lipase inhibitor commonly used to treat obesity  
332 (Ballinger, 2000; Hill et al., 1999). We found that treatment of *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)*  
333 zebrafish with orlistat during HF feeding significantly increased the ability of EECs to  
334 subsequently respond to glucose and palmitate (Fig. 6 A-F). Next, we investigated the  
335 effect of orlistat on EEC morphology during HF feeding in *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP); Tg(-*  
336 *5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* zebrafish. We found that following 10 hours of HF feeding, EECs  
337 in control animals had switched from an open-type to a closed-type morphology and  
338 significantly reduced the EEC morphology score (Fig. 6 G, N). By contrast, treatment  
339 with orlistat prevented HF induced EEC morphological changes (Fig. 6 H, N),  
340 suggesting lipase activity is required for EEC silencing.

341 To investigate further how orlistat treatment inhibits EEC silencing, we analyzed the its  
342 effect on ER stress in EECs following HF feeding using *Tg(ef1a:xbp1δ-gfp)* zebrafish.  
343 We found that orlistat treatment significantly reduced the percentage of EECs that are  
344 *ef1a:xbp1δ-gfp+* following HF feeding (Fig. 6 I, J, O). We next sought to test if additional  
345 pathways are activated in EECs by HF feeding, and if those EEC responses are  
346 dependent on lipase activity or ER stress. Induction of ER stress can lead to activation  
347 of the transcription factor NF-κB through release of calcium from the ER, elevated  
348 reactive oxygen intermediates or direct Ire1 activity (Kim et al., 2015; Pahl & Baeuerle,  
349 1997). After crossing a transgenic reporter of NF-κB activity *Tg(NFκB:EGFP)* (Kanther  
350 et al., 2011) with *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)*, we found that HF feeding significantly  
351 increased the number of NF-κB+ EECs (Fig. 6 K, P), but that this effect could be  
352 significantly reduced by treatment with orlistat or the ER stress inhibitor TUDCA (Fig. 6  
353 L, M, P). These results indicate that EEC silencing and associated signaling events that  
354 follow ingestion of a HF meal require lipase activity.

355 Lipases act on dietary triglycerides to liberate fatty acids and monoacylglycerols that are  
356 then available for stimulation of EECs (Hara, Hirasawa, Ichimura, Kimura, & Tsujimoto,  
357 2011; Lauffer, Iakoubov, & Brubaker, 2009). To test if free fatty acids are sufficient to  
358 induce EEC silencing, we treated 6 dpf zebrafish larvae with palmitate, a major fatty  
359 acid component in our HF meal (Poureslami, Raes, Huyghebaert, Batal, & De Smet,  
360 2012). Treatment with palmitate for 6 hours significantly reduced the ability of EECs to

361 respond to subsequent palmitate stimulation, but did not influence the EEC morphology  
362 score, nor the EEC response toward subsequent glucose stimulation (Fig. S10). These  
363 results suggest that the fatty acid palmitate is sufficient to induce only a portion of the  
364 EEC silencing phenotype induced by a complex HF meal.

### 365 **High fat feeding induces EEC silencing in a microbiota dependent manner**

366 Using the same HF feeding model in zebrafish, we previously showed that the gut  
367 microbiota promote intestinal absorption and metabolism of dietary fatty acids (Semova  
368 et al., 2012), and similar roles for microbiota have been established recently in mouse  
369 (Martinez-Guryn et al., 2018). We therefore predicted that the microbiota may also  
370 regulate EEC silencing after HF feeding. Using our established methods (Pham,  
371 Kanther, Semova, & Rawls, 2008), we raised *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP); Tg(-*  
372 *5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* zebrafish larvae to 6 dpf in the absence of any microbes (germ  
373 free or GF) or colonized at 3 dpf with a complex zebrafish microbiota (ex-GF  
374 conventionalized or CV). In the absence of HF feeding, we observed no significant  
375 differences between GF and CV zebrafish in their EEC morphology score or EEC  
376 response to palmitate (Fig. 7C,D,G,I). We then performed HF feeding in these 6 dpf GF  
377 and CV zebrafish larvae. In contrast to CV HF-fed zebrafish larvae, EECs in GF  
378 zebrafish did not show a change in morphology after HF feeding (Fig. 7A, B, I) and  
379 exhibited significantly greater responses to palmitate stimulation (Fig. 7E, F, H). In  
380 accord, the ability of HF feeding to induce reporters of ER stress and NF- $\kappa$ B activation  
381 was significantly reduced in GF compared to CV zebrafish (Fig. 7J,K). These results  
382 indicate that colonization by microbiota mediates EEC silencing in HF fed zebrafish.  
383 EECs are known to express Toll-like receptors (TLRs) (Kanwal, Wiegertjes, Veneman,  
384 Meijer, & Spaink, 2014) (Palti, 2011), which sense diverse microbe-associated  
385 molecular patterns and signal through the downstream adaptor protein Myd88 leading  
386 to activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and other pathways (Kawasaki & Kawai, 2014). To test if EEC  
387 silencing requires TLR signaling, we evaluated *myd88* mutant zebrafish (Burns et al.,  
388 2017). We found that EECs' response to palmitate after HF feeding was equivalent to  
389 that of wild type fish (Fig. S11 A-B), suggesting microbiota promote EEC silencing in a  
390 Myd88-independent manner.

391 HF diets are known to significantly alter gut microbiota composition in human, mice and  
392 zebrafish (David et al., 2014; Hildebrandt et al., 2009; Wong et al., 2015). We therefore  
393 hypothesized that HF feeding might alter the composition of the microbiota, which in  
394 turn might promote EEC silencing. To test this possibility, we first analyzed the effects of  
395 HF feeding on intestinal microbiota density through colony forming unit (CFU) analysis  
396 in dissected intestines from CV zebrafish larvae. Strikingly, we found that intestinal  
397 microbiota abundance had increased ~20-fold following 6 hours of HF feeding (Fig. 8A).  
398 To determine if this increase in bacterial density was accompanied by alterations in  
399 bacterial community structure, we performed 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Since diet  
400 manipulations can alter microbiota composition in the zebrafish gut as well as their  
401 housing water media (Wong et al., 2015), we analyzed samples from dissected  
402 intestines of zebrafish larvae in control and HF fed groups as well as their respective  
403 housing medias (Fig. 8B). Analysis of bacterial community structure using the Weighted  
404 Unifrac method (Caporaso et al., 2010) revealed, as expected, relatively large  
405 differences between gut and media samples (PERMANOVA  $P < 0.02$  control gut vs.  
406 control media,  $P < 0.005$  HF gut vs HF media) (Fig. 8C). The addition of HF feeding had  
407 a relatively smaller but consistent effect on overall bacterial community structure in both  
408 gut and media (PERMANOVA  $P = 0.2$  control gut vs HF gut,  $P = 0.094$  control media vs  
409 HF media) (Fig. 8C). HF feeding caused a small reduction in within-sample diversity  
410 among media microbiotas as measured by Faith's Phylogenetic Diversity (Kruskal-  
411 Wallis  $P = 0.049$ ), but no significant effects on gut microbiotas ( $P = 0.29$ ) (Faith & Baker,  
412 2007). Taxonomic analysis of zebrafish gut and media samples revealed several  
413 bacterial taxa significantly affected by HF feeding (Table S2). Members of class  
414 Betaproteobacteria dominated the control media, but HF feeding markedly decreased  
415 their relative abundance (LDA effect size 5.45,  $P = 0.049$ ). Conversely, HF feeding  
416 increased the relative abundance of members of class Gammaproteobacteria (LDA  
417 effect size 5.49,  $P = 0.049$ ; Fig. 8D) such as genera *Acinetobacter* (LDA effect size 5.13,  
418  $P = 0.049$ ), *Pseudomonas* (LDA effect size 5.02,  $P = 0.049$ ) and *Aeromonas* (LDA effect  
419 size 4.78,  $P = 0.049$ ; Fig. 8E; Tables S2 and S3). HF feeding also increased the relative  
420 abundance in media of class Cytophagia from phylum Bacteroidetes (LDA effect size  
421 4.66,  $P = 0.049$ ; Fig. 8D) due to increases in the genus *Flectobacillus* (LDA effect size

422 4.76,  $P=0.049$ ; Fig. 8F; Tables S2 and S3). The increased relative abundances of  
423 *Aeromonas* sp. and *Pseudomonas* sp. in HF fed medias was not recapitulated in the gut  
424 microbiotas (Fig.8G; Table S2). However, similar to the media, HF feeding significantly  
425 increased abundance of class Cytophagia (LDA effect size 4.01,  $P=0.018$ ; Fig.8D) due  
426 to enrichment of *Flectobacillus* (LDA effect size 4.01,  $P=0.004$ ; Fig.8H). Additionally, HF  
427 feeding resulted in a 100-fold increase the relative abundance of *Acinetobacter* sp. in  
428 the gut (average 0.04% in control gut, 4.28% in HF gut; LDA effect size 4.31,  $P=0.001$ ;  
429 Fig. 8G, Tables S2 and S4). These results establish that HF feeding has diverse effects  
430 on the bacterial communities in the zebrafish gut and media, and raise the possibility  
431 that members of these affected bacterial genera may regulate EEC silencing in  
432 response to HF feeding.

433 We next tested if EEC silencing could be facilitated by representative members of the  
434 zebrafish microbiota, including those enriched by HF feeding. We selected a small  
435 panel of bacterial strains that were isolated previously from the zebrafish intestine  
436 (Stephens et al., 2016) and used them to monoassociate separate cohorts of GF  
437 *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)*; *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* zebrafish at 3dpf (Fig. 8I). These  
438 bacteria strains were from 9 different genera including *Acinetobacter* sp. ZOR0008, a  
439 member of the *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-Acinetobacter baumannii* complex (Gerner-  
440 Smidt, Tjernberg, & Ursing, 1991) (Bouvet & Jeanjean, 1989). We did not observe  
441 significant differences in colonization efficiency among these bacteria strains that were  
442 inoculated into GF zebrafish (Fig. S12A-B). At 6 dpf, we performed HF feeding and  
443 examined the EEC morphology score. Strikingly, only *Acinetobacter* sp. ZOR0008 was  
444 sufficient to significantly reduce the EEC morphology score upon HF feeding (Fig. 8J)  
445 similar to conventionalized animals (Fig. 7A,B,I). These results indicate that the effects  
446 of microbiota on EEC silencing following HF feeding display strong bacterial species  
447 specificity, and suggest *Acinetobacter* bacteria enriched by HF feeding may mediate the  
448 effect of microbiota on HF sensing by EECs.

## 449 Discussion

450 In this study, we established a new experimental system to directly investigate EEC  
451 activity *in vivo* using a zebrafish reporter of EEC calcium signaling. Combining genetics,

452 diet and gnotobiotic manipulations allowed us to uncover a novel EEC adaptation  
453 mechanism through which high fat feeding induces rapid change of EEC morphology  
454 and reduced nutrient sensitivity. We called this novel adaptation “EEC silencing”. Our  
455 results show that EEC silencing following a high fat meal requires lipase activity and it is  
456 coupled to ER stress. Furthermore, HF meal induced EEC silencing is promoted by  
457 certain microbial species (e.g., *Acinetobacter* sp.). As discussed below, we propose a  
458 working model (Fig. S13) that nutrient over-stimulation from high fat feeding increases  
459 EECs hormone synthesis burden, overgrowth of the gut bacterial community including  
460 enrichment of *Acinetobacter* sp., which in turn activates EECs ER stress response  
461 pathways and thereby induces EECs silencing. This study demonstrates the utility of the  
462 zebrafish model to study *in vivo* interactions between diet, gut microbes, and EEC  
463 physiology. In the future, the mechanisms underlying EEC silencing could be targeted  
464 in rational manipulations of EEC adaptations to diet and microbiota which could be used  
465 to reduce incidence and severity of metabolic diseases.

#### 466 **EEC physiology in zebrafish**

467 Our studies here provide important new tools for studying EECs in the context of  
468 zebrafish intestinal epithelial development and physiology. Similar to mammals, fish  
469 EECs are thought to arise from intestinal stem cells through a series of signals that  
470 govern the differentiation process (Aghaallaei et al., 2016). Delta-Notch signaling  
471 appears to control the differentiation of stem cells into absorptive and secretory cell  
472 lineages in both zebrafish and mammalian models (Crosnier et al., 2005). Activation of  
473 Notch signaling can block the differentiation of EECs by inhibiting the expression of key  
474 EEC bHLH transcription factors (H. J. Li et al., 2011). In mammals, the bHLH  
475 transcription factor Neurod1 that has been shown to regulate EEC terminal  
476 differentiation (H. J. Li et al., 2011; Ray & Leiter, 2007). Our results indicate that  
477 Neurod1 is expressed by and important in EEC differentiation in zebrafish as it is in  
478 mammals. Moreover, this finding enabled us to use *neurod1* regulatory sequences to  
479 label and monitor zebrafish EECs.

480 The hallmark of EECs is their expression of hormones. In this study, using transgenic  
481 reporter lines and immunofluorescence staining approaches to examine a panel of gut

482 hormones in zebrafish EECs, we found that zebrafish EECs express conserved  
483 hormones as mammalian EECs. Interestingly, a subset of EECs express proglucagon  
484 peptide which can be processed to hormones Glucagon like peptide 1 (GLP-1) and 2  
485 (GLP-2) (Sandoval & D'Alessio, 2015). GLP-1, one of the incretin hormones, is released  
486 by EECs in response to oral glucose intake that can facilitate insulin secretion and  
487 reduce blood glucose (Drucker, Habener, & Holst, 2017). Multiple studies suggest that  
488 the expression of Sglt1 is important for EEC glucose sensing (Gorboulev et al., 2012;  
489 Reimann et al., 2008; Roder et al., 2014). EECs in Sglt1 knockout mice fail to secrete  
490 GLP-1 in response to glucose and galactose (Gorboulev et al., 2012). In our studies, we  
491 identified similar Sglt1 mediated glucose sensing machinery in zebrafish EECs. This  
492 together suggest that zebrafish EECs may exhibit conserved roles in regulating glucose  
493 metabolism.

494 Our data also establish that zebrafish EECs develop striking regional specificity in the  
495 hormones they express along the intestine (Fig. S1). For example, the CCK and PYY  
496 hormones that are important for regulating food digestion and energy homeostasis  
497 (Beglinger & Degen, 2006; Liddle, 1997; Raybould, 2007) were only expressed in the  
498 proximal intestine. In addition to hormonal regional specificity, we found that EEC  
499 calcium response toward nutrients also display regional specificity. For example,  
500 glucose and long chain/medium chain fatty acids only stimulate EECs in proximal  
501 intestine, a region in zebrafish where digestion and absorption of dietary fats primarily  
502 occurs (Carten et al., 2011). This hormonal and functional regional specificity suggests  
503 that distinct developmental and physiological programs govern EEC function along the  
504 intestinal tract, and that EECs in the proximal zebrafish intestine may play key roles in  
505 monitoring and adapting to dietary nutrient experience.

## 506 **EEC silencing**

507 In this study, we discovered that high fat feeding can induce a series of functional and  
508 morphological changes in EECs we refer to as “EEC silencing”. EEC silencing includes  
509 (1) reduced EEC sensitivity to nutrient stimulation (e.g., fatty acids and glucose) and (2)  
510 conversion of EEC morphology from an open to a closed type. To our knowledge, EEC  
511 silencing has not been observed in previous studies of EEC in any vertebrate. This



512 underscores the unique power of *in vivo* imaging in zebrafish to reveal new physiologic  
513 and metabolic processes. Our evidence suggests that EEC silencing is a stress  
514 response that EECs display following consumption of a high fat meal in the presence of  
515 specific microbes. However, EEC silencing may also serve to protect EECs against  
516 excessive stress following consumption of a high fat meal. In neurons for example,  
517 similar desensitization has been shown to protect nerve cells from excitatory  
518 neurotransmitter induced toxicity (Gainetdinov, Premont, Bohn, Lefkowitz, & Caron,  
519 2004; Quick & Lester, 2002) and blocking desensitization of excitatory neuronal  
520 receptors induces rapid neuronal cell death (Walker et al., 2009). High dietary fat can  
521 also lead to excessive production of excitatory stimuli like long-chain fatty acids. We  
522 speculate that EEC silencing provides an adaptive mechanism for EECs to avoid  
523 excessive stimuli and protect against cell death.

524 The observation that EECs exhibited reduced sensitivity to oral glucose following high  
525 fat feeding is interesting and consistent with the finding in mice that high fat feeding  
526 reduces intestinal glucose sensing and glucose induces GLP-1 secretion *in vivo* (Bauer  
527 et al., 2018). *In vitro*, small intestinal cultures from high fat fed mice also exhibit reduced  
528 secretory responsiveness to nutrient stimuli including glucose when comparing with  
529 intestine cultures from control mice (Richards et al., 2016) but underlying mechanisms  
530 remained unclear. These studies, together with our results, suggest that high fat feeding  
531 impairs EEC function. However, how high fat feeding reduces EEC glucose sensitivity is  
532 still unclear as we did not detect changes in the EEC glucose sensor *sglt1* expression in  
533 high fat fed dissected intestine (data not shown). One possibility is that high fat feeding  
534 affects EECs glucose sensing via altering Sglt1 activity (Ishikawa, Eguchi, & Ishida,  
535 1997; Subramanian, Glitz, Kipp, Kinne, & Castaneda, 2009; Wright, Hirsch, Loo, &  
536 Zampighi, 1997). We also speculate that high fat feeding induced EEC morphological  
537 changes may contribute to EEC glucose insensitivity. Since Sglt1 is expressed on the  
538 brush border at the apical surface of the cell, as EECs switch from an open to closed  
539 type morphology they would lose their contact with the gut lumen and exposure to  
540 luminal glucose stimuli.



541 Our observation that EECs can change their morphology from an “open” to “closed”  
542 state upon high fat feeding was surprising. The majority of EECs in the intestinal tract  
543 are open with an apical extension and microvilli facing the intestinal lumen. In contrast,  
544 some EECs lie flat on the basement membrane and are “closed” to the gut lumen  
545 (Gribble & Reimann, 2016). The presence of open and closed EECs has been observed  
546 in both mammals and fish (Rombout, Lamers, & Hanstede, 1978). Previously, it was  
547 believed that the open and closed EECs were two differentiated EEC types that perhaps  
548 had different physiological functions (Gribble & Reimann, 2016). The open EECs were  
549 thought to sense and respond to luminal stimulation while although less clear the closed  
550 EECs were thought to respond to hormonal and neuronal stimulation from the  
551 basolateral side. However, our data reveal for the first time that EECs can convert from  
552 an open to a closed state. This indicates that EECs possess plasticity to actively prune  
553 their apical extension. The pruning of cellular process can be observed extensively in  
554 neurons. Studies from multiple organisms revealed that sensory neurons can eliminate  
555 their dendrites and axon during development and in response to injury through active  
556 pruning (Kanamori et al., 2013; Nikolaev, McLaughlin, O’Leary, & Tessier-Lavigne,  
557 2009; Sagasti, Guido, Raible, & Schier, 2005; Williams, Kondo, Krzyzanowska, Hiromi,  
558 & Truman, 2006; Yu & Schuldiner, 2014). This process includes focal disruption of the  
559 microtubule cytoskeleton, followed by thinning of the disrupted region, severing and  
560 fragmentation and retraction in proximal stumps after severing events (Williams &  
561 Truman, 2005). In our system, the thinning and fragmentation in the EEC apical  
562 extension was also observed. It is well known that EECs possess many neuron-like  
563 features including neurotransmitters, neurofilaments, and synaptic proteins (Bohorquez  
564 et al., 2015). Whether EECs adopt the same mechanisms as neurons to prune their  
565 cellular processes in response to nutritional and microbial signals is interesting and  
566 requires future study.

### 567 **The effects of diet and microbes on EEC silencing**

568 In this study, we have shown that both diet and microbes play important roles in  
569 inducing EEC silencing. Dietary manipulations and changes in gut microbiota have been  
570 shown to affect EEC cell number and GI hormone gene expression in mice and

571 zebrafish (Arora et al., 2018; Rawls, Samuel, & Gordon, 2004; Richards et al., 2016;  
572 Troll et al., 2018). However, it remains unclear from previous studies how environmental  
573 factors like diet and gut microbiota affect EEC function. We found that while the  
574 presence of microbiota did not influence EEC nutrient sensing under basal conditions,  
575 microbiota played an essential role in mediating high fat diet induced EEC silencing as  
576 germ free EECs were resistant to high fat diet induced silencing. We speculate that  
577 EEC silencing may temporarily attenuate the host's ability to accurately sense ingested  
578 nutrients and thereby control energy homeostasis. Our finding that gut microbiota play  
579 an essential role in high fat diet induced EEC silencing may provide a new mechanistic  
580 inroad for understanding the effects of gut microbiota in diet induced metabolic diseases  
581 including obesity and insulin resistance (Backhed, Manchester, Semenkovich, &  
582 Gordon, 2007; Rabot et al., 2010).

583 There are several nonexclusive ways by which specific gut microbiota members such as  
584 *Acinetobacter* sp. might affect EECs in the setting of a high fat diet. First, microbiota  
585 could affect EEC development to increase production of EEC subtypes that are  
586 relatively susceptible to diet-induced EEC silencing. Previous transcriptome analysis in  
587 the ileum of GLP-1 secreting EECs showed that microbiota colonization increased  
588 transcript levels of genes associated with synaptic cycling, ER stress response and cell  
589 polarity was reduced in germ free mice (Arora et al., 2018). This suggests that EECs in  
590 colonized animals may be more prone to diet-induced ER stress and morphological  
591 changes including those associated with EEC silencing.

592 Second, high fat meal conditions induce bacterial overgrowth and alter the selective  
593 pressures within the gut microbial community to allow for enrichment and depletion of  
594 specific bacterial taxa. Such changes in microbial density and community composition  
595 may then acutely affect EEC physiology. Indeed, we found that high fat feeding altered  
596 the relative abundance of several bacterial taxa in the zebrafish gut and media,  
597 including a 100-fold increase for members of the *Acinetobacter* genus. Strikingly, a  
598 representative *Acinetobacter* sp. was the only strain we identified that was sufficient to  
599 mediate high fat induced alterations in EEC morphology. We speculated that bacterial  
600 overgrowth may also result in increased presentation of microbe-associated molecular

601 patterns which could then hyper-activate TLR or other microbe-sensing pathways that  
602 could lead to EEC functional changes. However, our data from *myd88* mutant zebrafish  
603 suggest that at least the Myd88-dependent microbial sensing pathways are not required  
604 for high fat induced EEC silencing. As described below, identification of the specific  
605 signals produced by *Acinetobacter* sp. and other bacteria that facilitate EEC silencing  
606 remain an important research goal.

607 Third, gut microbiota might affect EEC function through promoting lipid digestion and  
608 absorption. This is supported by our observations that blocking fat digestion and  
609 subsequent lipid absorption in enterocytes through orlistat treatment inhibited high fat  
610 diet induced EEC silencing. EEC function may be directly influenced by the products of  
611 lipolysis such as free fatty acids (Edfalk, Steneberg, & Edlund, 2008; Hirasawa et al.,  
612 2005; Katsuma et al., 2005). However, in our experiments, palmitate treatment was only  
613 sufficient to reproduce a portion of the EEC silencing phenotype (i.e. loss of nutrient  
614 sensitivity), suggesting that additional undefined signals from fat digestion in the  
615 intestine are required to fully induce EEC silencing. In the intestinal epithelium, EECs  
616 are surrounded by enterocytes and these two cell types exhibit complex bi-directional  
617 communication (Hein, Baker, Hsieh, Farr, & Adeli, 2013; Hsieh et al., 2009; Okawa et  
618 al., 2009; Shimotoyodome et al., 2009). Following ingestion of a complex high fat meal,  
619 free fatty acids and glycerol liberated from triglyceride digestion are taken up by  
620 enterocytes and assembled into lipid droplets and chylomicrons (Phan & Tso, 2001).  
621 The subsequent enlargement of enterocytes from lipid droplet accumulation may exert  
622 mechanical pressure on EECs that then induces EECs adaption through pruning of their  
623 apical protrusions. Besides mechanical pressure, lipoproteins and free fatty acids  
624 released from enterocytes may act on EECs basolaterally to alter their function  
625 (Chandra et al., 2013; Okawa et al., 2009; Shimotoyodome et al., 2009). Previous  
626 studies have shown that lipid digestion and absorption is impaired in germ free animals  
627 and enterocytes in germ free condition exhibit reduced lipid droplet accumulation  
628 (Martinez-Guryn et al., 2018; Semova et al., 2012). Therefore, reduced mechanical  
629 pressure or secondary signaling molecules from enterocytes in the germ free condition  
630 may lead to the resistance of EECs to high fat induced silencing. On the other hand, gut  
631 microbiota may promote EECs silencing by facilitating intestinal lipid digestion and

632 absorption. *Acinetobacter* was the most highly enriched genus in the larval zebrafish  
633 intestine following high fat feeding in this study and was also enriched in adult zebrafish  
634 gut following a chronic high fat diet (Wong et al., 2015). Further, we identified a  
635 representative member of this genus that is sufficient to mediate EEC silencing under  
636 high fat diet conditions. However, the molecular mechanisms by which *Acinetobacter*  
637 spp. evoke this host response remains unknown. Studies suggest that *A. baumannii*, a  
638 closely related opportunistic pathogen, can signal to host epithelial cells through  
639 secreted outer membrane vesicles (OMVs) and activation of downstream inflammatory  
640 pathways (Jha, Ghosh, Gautam, Malhotra, & Ray, 2017; Jin et al., 2011; Jun et al.,  
641 2013; March et al., 2010). In addition to OMVs, *Acinetobacter* strains are known to  
642 secrete phospholipase that can affect host cell membrane stability and interfere with  
643 host signaling (Lee et al., 2017; Songer, 1997). Members of the *Acinetobacter* genus  
644 are also known to possess potent oil degrading and lipolytic activities (Lal & Khanna,  
645 1996; Snellman & Colwell, 2004). Moreover, species from *Acinetobacter* genus have  
646 the ability to produce emulsifiers which might enhance lipid digestion (Navon-Venezia et  
647 al., 1995; Toren, Navon-Venezia, Ron, & Rosenberg, 2001; Walzer, Rosenberg, & Ron,  
648 2006). Interestingly, *Acinetobacter* spp. in the human gut are positively associated with  
649 plasma TG and total- and LDL-cholesterol (Graessler et al., 2013), and *Acinetobacter*  
650 spp. are also enriched in the crypts of the small intestine and colon in mammals (Mao,  
651 Zhang, Liu, & Zhu, 2015; Pedron et al., 2012; Saffarian et al., 2017). Therefore, it will be  
652 interesting to determine whether *Acinetobacter* spp. also modulate EEC function in  
653 mammals under high fat diet conditions. Finally, considering the small scale of our  
654 monoassociation screen, we anticipate that additional members of the gut microbiota in  
655 zebrafish and other animals will be found to also affect EEC silencing and other aspects  
656 of EEC biology.

## 657 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 658 **Zebrafish strains and husbandry**

659 All zebrafish experiments conformed to the US Public Health Service Policy on Humane  
660 Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, using protocol number A115-16-05 approved by  
661 the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Duke University. Conventionally-

662 reared adult zebrafish were reared and maintained on a recirculating aquaculture  
663 system using established methods (Murdoch et al., 2019). For experiments involving  
664 conventionally-raised zebrafish larvae, adults were bred naturally in system water and  
665 fertilized eggs were transferred to 100mm petri dishes containing ~25mL of egg water at  
666 approximately 6 hours post-fertilization. The resulting larvae were raised under a 14h  
667 light/10h dark cycle in an air incubator at 28°C at a density of 2 larvae/ml water. To  
668 ensure consistent microbiota colonization, 10mL filtered system water (5µm filter,  
669 SLSV025LS, Millipore) was added into 3 dpf zebrafish larva that were raised in 25mL  
670 egg water. All the experiments performed in this study ended at 6 dpf unless specifically  
671 indicated. The strains used in this study are listed in Table S1. All lines were maintained  
672 on a EKW background.

673 Gateway Tol2 cloning approach was used to generate *neurod1:lifActin-EGFP* and  
674 *neurod1:Gal4* plasmid (Kawakami, 2007; Kwan et al., 2007). The 5kb pDONR-neurod1  
675 P5E promoter was previously reported (McGraw et al., 2012) and generously donated  
676 by Dr. Hillary McGraw. The PME-lifActin-EGFP (Riedl et al., 2008) and the PME-Gal4-  
677 vp16 plasmids (Kwan et al., 2007) were also previously reported. pDONR-neurod1 P5E  
678 and PME-lifActin-EGFP was cloned into pDestTol2pA2 through an LR Clonase reaction  
679 (ThermoFisher, 11791). Similarly, pDONR-neurod1 P5E and PME-Gal4-vp16 was  
680 cloned into pDestTol2CG2 containing a *cm1c2:EGFP* marker. The final plasmid was  
681 sequenced and injected into the wild-type Ekkwill (EKW) zebrafish strain and the F2  
682 generation of allele *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)<sup>rd70</sup>* and *Tg(neurod1:Gal4;*  
683 *cm1c2:EGFP)<sup>rd71</sup>* was used for this study.

684 The construct used to generate the *TgBAC(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)* line was made by  
685 inserting lifeact-GFP at the *gata5* ATG in the BAC clone DKEYP-73A2 using BAC  
686 recombineering as previously described ( PMID: 12618378). The BAC was then  
687 linearized using I-SceI and injected to generate transgenic lines. Allele  
688 *TgBAC(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)<sup>pd1007</sup>* was selected for further analysis. The construct used  
689 to generate the *TgBAC(cd36-RFP)* lines was made by inserting link-RFP before the  
690 *cd36* stop codon in the BAC clone DKEY-27K7 using the same BAC recombineering as  
691 previously described (Navis et al PMID 23487313). Then, Tol2 sites were recombined

692 into the BAC and the resulting construct was injected with transposase mRNA (cite  
693 Kawakami here) to generate the transgenic lines. Allele *TgBAC(cd36-RFP)<sup>pd1203</sup>* was  
694 selected for further analysis.

### 695 **Gnotobiotic zebrafish husbandry**

696 For experiments involving gnotobiotic zebrafish, we used our established methods to  
697 generate germ-free zebrafish using natural breeding (Pham et al., 2008) with the  
698 following exception: Gnotobiotic Zebrafish Medium (GZM) with antibiotics (AB-GZM)  
699 was supplemented with 50 µg/ml gentamycin (Sigma, G1264). Germ free zebrafish  
700 eggs were maintained in cell culture flasks with GZM at a density of 1 larvae/ml. From 3  
701 dpf to 6 dpf, 60% daily media change and ZM000 (ZM Ltd.) feeding were performed as  
702 described (Pham et al., 2008).

703 To generate conventionalized zebrafish, 15 mL filtered system water (5µm filter,  
704 SLSV025LS, Millipore, final concentration of system water ~30%) was inoculated to  
705 flasks containing germ-free zebrafish in GZM at 3 dpf when the zebrafish normally hatch  
706 from their protective chorions. The same feeding and media change protocol was  
707 followed as for germ free zebrafish. Microbial colonization density was determined via  
708 Colony Forming Unit (CFU) analysis. To analyze the effect of high fat feeding on  
709 intestinal bacteria colonization, dissected digestive tracts were dissected and pooled (5  
710 guts/pool) into 1mL sterile phosphate buffered saline (PBS) which was then  
711 mechanically disassociated using a Tissue-Tearor (BioSpec Products, 985370). 100 µL  
712 of serially diluted solution was then spotted on a Tryptic soy agar (TSA) plate and  
713 cultured overnight at 30°C under aerobic conditions.

714 To generate mono-associated zebrafish, a single bacterial strain was inoculated into  
715 each flask containing 3dpf germ-free zebrafish. The respective bacterial stock was  
716 streaked on a TSA plate and cultured at 28°C overnight under aerobic conditions. A  
717 single colony was picked and cultured in 5mL Tryptic soy broth media shaking at 30°C  
718 for 16 hours under aerobic conditions. 250 µL bacterial culture was pelleted and washed  
719 3 times with sterile GZM and inoculated into flasks containing germ-free zebrafish.  
720 OD600 and CFU measurements were performed in each mono-associated culture. The



721 final inoculation density in GZM was  $10^8$ - $10^9$  CFU/mL. The colonization efficiency was  
722 determined at 6 dpf by CFU analysis from dissected zebrafish intestines as described  
723 above.

#### 724 **EEC response assay and image analysis**

725 This assay was performed in *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* 6 dpf zebrafish larvae.  
726 Unanesthetized zebrafish larvae were gently moved into 35mm petri dishes that  
727 contained 500 $\mu$ L 3% methylcellulose. Excess water was removed with a 200 $\mu$ L pipettor.  
728 Zebrafish larvae were gently positioned horizontal to the bottom of the petri dish right  
729 side up carefully avoiding touching the abdominal region and moved onto an upright  
730 fluorescence microscope (Leica M205 FA microscope equipped with a Leica DFC  
731 365FX camera). The zebrafish larvae were allowed to recover in that position for 2  
732 minutes. One hundred  $\mu$ L of test agent was pipetted directly in front of the mouth region  
733 without making direct contact with the animal. Images were recorded every 10 seconds.  
734 For fatty acid stimulation, 30 frames (5mins) were recorded. For glucose stimulation, 60  
735 frames (10mins) were recorded. The *Gcamp6f* fluorescence was recorded with the  
736 EGFP filter. The following stimulants were used in this study: palmitic  
737 acid/linoleate/dodecanoate (1.6mM), butyrate (2mM), glucose (500mM), fructose  
738 (500mM), galactose (500mM), cysteine (10mM). Since palmitic  
739 acid/linoleate/dodecanoate was not water soluble by itself, 1.6% BSA was used as a  
740 carrier to facilitate solubility. Solutions were filtered with 0.22 $\mu$ m filter.

741 Image processing and analysis was performed using FIJI software. The time-lapse  
742 fluorescent images of zebrafish EEC response to nutrient stimulation were first aligned  
743 to correct for experimental drift using the plugin “align slices in stack.” Normalized  
744 correlation coefficient matching method and bilinear interpolation method for subpixel  
745 translation was used for aligning slices (Tseng et al., 2012). The plugin “rolling ball  
746 background subtraction” with the rolling ball radius=10 pixels was used to remove the  
747 large spatial variation of background intensities. The *Gcamp6f* fluorescence intensity in  
748 the proximal intestinal region was then calculated for each time point. The ratio of  
749 maximum fluorescence ( $F_{max}$ ) and the initial fluorescence ( $F_0$ ) was used to measure  
750 EEC calcium responsiveness.



## 751 **High fat feeding**

752 The high fat feeding regimen was performed in 6 dpf zebrafish larvae using methods  
753 previously described (Semova et al., 2012). ~25 zebrafish larvae were transferred into 6  
754 well plates and 5mL egg water (for gnotobiotic studies, GZM was used). Replicates  
755 were performed in three wells for each treatment group in each experiment. Chicken  
756 eggs were obtained from a local grocery store from which 1mL chicken egg yolk was  
757 transferred into a 50mL tube containing 15mL egg water (for gnotobiotic studies, sterile  
758 GZM was used). Solutions were sonicated (Branson Sonifier, output control 5, Duty  
759 cycle 50%) to form a 6.25% egg yolk emulsion. 4 mL water from each well was removed  
760 and replenished with 4mL egg yolk. 4 mL egg water emulsion was used to replenish the  
761 control group. Zebrafish larvae were incubated at 28°C for the indicated time. The high  
762 fat meal was administered between 10am - 12pm to minimize circadian influences.

## 763 **Chemical treatment**

764 To block Sglt1, phloridzin (0.15mM, Sigma P3449) was used to pretreat zebrafish for 3  
765 hours prior to glucose stimulation, and 0.15mM phloridzin was co-administered with the  
766 glucose stimulant solution. To induce ER stress, thapsigargin (0.75µM, Sigma T9033)  
767 and brefeldin A (9µM, Sigma B6542) were added to egg water and zebrafish were  
768 treated for 10 hours prior to performing the EEC activity assay. To block high fat meal  
769 induced EEC silencing, sodium tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA; 0.5mM, T0266) or  
770 orlistat (0.1mM, Sigma O4139) were added to the high fat meal solution and zebrafish  
771 were treated for the indicated time.

## 772 **Quantitative RT-PCR**

773 The quantitative real-time PCR was performed as described previously (Murdoch et al.,  
774 2019). In brief, 20 zebrafish larvae digestive tracts were dissected and pooled into 1mL  
775 TRIzol (ThermoFisher, 15596026). mRNA was then isolated with isopropanol  
776 precipitation and washed with 70% EtOH. 500ng mRNA was used for cDNA synthesis  
777 using the iScript kit (Bio-Rad, 1708891). Quantitative PCR was performed in triplicate  
778 25 µl reactions using 2X SYBR Green SuperMix (PerfeCTa, Hi Rox, Quanta  
779 Biosciences, 95055) run on an ABI Step One Plus qPCR instrument using gene specific

780 primers (Table S1). Data were analyzed with the  $\Delta\Delta C_t$  method. 18S was used as a  
781 housekeeping gene to normalize gene expression.

## 782 **16S rRNA gene sequencing**

783 Wild-type adult EKW zebrafish were bred and clutches of eggs from three distinct  
784 breeding pairs were collected, pooled, derived into GF conditions using our standard  
785 protocol (Pham et al., 2008), then split into three replicate flasks with 30ml GZM as  
786 described above. At 3 dpf 12.5ml 5 $\mu$ m-filtered system water was inoculated into each  
787 flask per our standard conventionalization method. ZM000 feeding and water changes  
788 were performed daily from 4 dpf to 5 dpf. At 6 dpf, zebrafish larvae from each flask were  
789 divided evenly into a control and a high fat fed group. High fat feeding was performed as  
790 described above for 6 hours. Then 1 ml water samples were collected from each flask  
791 and snap frozen on dry ice/EtOH bath. For intestinal samples, individual digestive tracts  
792 from 6dpf zebrafish were dissected and flash frozen (3-4 larvae/flask, 3  
793 flasks/condition). All samples were stored in -80°C for subsequent DNA extraction.

794 The Duke Microbiome Shared Resource (MSR) extracted bacterial DNA from gut and  
795 water samples using a MagAttract PowerSoil DNA EP Kit (Qiagen, 27100-4-EP) as  
796 described previously (Murdoch et al., 2019). Sample DNA concentration was assessed  
797 using a Qubit dsDNA HS assay kit (ThermoFisher, Q32854) and a PerkinElmer Victor  
798 plate reader. Bacterial community composition in isolated DNA samples was  
799 characterized by amplification of the V4 variable region of the 16S rRNA gene by  
800 polymerase chain reaction using the forward primer 515 and reverse primer 806  
801 following the Earth Microbiome Project protocol (<http://www.earthmicrobiome.org/>).  
802 These primers (515F and 806R) carry unique barcodes that allow for multiplexed  
803 sequencing. Equimolar 16S rRNA PCR products from all samples were quantified and  
804 pooled prior to sequencing. Sequencing was performed by the Duke Sequencing and  
805 Genomic Technologies shared resource on an Illumina MiSeq instrument configured for  
806 150 base-pair paired-end sequencing runs. Sequence data are deposited at SRA under  
807 Bioproject accession number PRJNA532723.

808 Subsequent data analysis was conducted in QIIME2 (Caporaso et al.,  
809 2010)( <https://peerj.com/preprints/27295/>). Paired reads were demultiplexed with qiime  
810 demux emp-paired, and denoised with qiime dada2 denoise-paired (Callahan et al.,  
811 2016). Taxonomy was assigned with qiime feature-classifier classify-sklearn (Scikit-  
812 learn: Machine Learning in Python. Journal of Machine Learning Research), using a  
813 naive Bayesian classifier, trained against the 99% clustered 16S reference sequence  
814 set of SILVA, v. 1.19 (Quast et al., 2013). A basic statistical diversity analysis was  
815 performed, using qiime diversity core-metrics-phylogenetic, including alpha- and beta-  
816 diversity, as well as relative taxa abundances in sample groups. The determined relative  
817 taxa abundances were further analyzed with LEfSe (Linear discriminant analysis effect  
818 size) (Segata et al., 2011), to identify differential biomarkers in sample groups.

### 819 **Immunofluorescence Staining and Imaging**

820 The whole mount immunofluorescence staining was performed as previously described  
821 (Ye et al., 2015). In brief, ice cold 2.5% formalin was used to fix zebrafish larvae  
822 overnight at 4°C. The samples were then washed with PT solution (PBS+0.75% Triton-  
823 100). The skin and remaining yolk was then removed using forceps under a dissecting  
824 microscope. The deyolked samples were then permeabilized with methanol for more  
825 than 2 hours at -20°C. The samples were then blocked with 4% BSA at room  
826 temperature for more than 1 hour. The primary antibody was diluted in PT solution and  
827 incubated at 4°C for more than 24 hours. Following primary antibody incubation, the  
828 samples were washed with PT solution and incubated overnight with secondary  
829 antibody with Hoechst 33342 for DNA staining. The imaging process was performed  
830 with a Zeiss 780 inverted confocal and Zeiss 710 inverted confocal microscopes with  
831 the 40× oil lenses. The following primary antibodies were used in this study: rabbit anti  
832 PYY (custom, aa4-21, 1:100 dilution) (Chandra, Hiniker, Kuo, Nussbaum, & Liddle,  
833 2017), goat anti-CCK (Santa Cruz SC-21617, 1:100 dilution), rabbit anti-Sglt1 (Abcam  
834 ab14686, 1:100 dilution). The secondary antibodies used in this study are from Alexa  
835 Fluor Invitrogen. All the secondary antibodies were used at a dilution of 1:250.

836 To quantify EEC morphology score, chick anti-GFP (Aves GFP1010, 1:500 dilution) and  
837 rabbit anti-mcherry (TAKARA 632496, 1:250 dilution) antibodies were used in the fixed

838 *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP);Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* samples to perform immunofluorescence  
839 staining. The region following intestine bulb were imaged with a Zeiss 780 inverted  
840 confocal and Zeiss 710 inverted confocal microscopes with the 40× oil lenses. Images  
841 were processed with FIJI. The *gata5:lifActin-EGFP* only stains the apical brush border  
842 of the intestine. Total EECs number was assessed via counting RFP+ cell bodies. The  
843 number of EECs with intact apical protrusion was assessed via counting the number of  
844 RFP+ cells with attachment to GFP staining brush border. EEC morphology for each  
845 sample were quantified as ratio between EECs with intact apical protrusion and total  
846 EEC number.

847 For live imaging experiments, zebrafish larvae were anesthetized with Tricane and  
848 mounted in 1% low melting agarose in 35mm petri dishes. The live imaging was  
849 recorded with Zeiss 780 upright confocal with a 20× water lens.

## 850 **Statistical Analyses**

851 The appropriate sample size for each experiment was suggested by preliminary  
852 experiments evaluating variance and effects. Using significance level of 0.05 and power  
853 of 80%, a biological replicate sample number 10 was suggested for EEC calcium  
854 response analysis and a biological replicate sample number 13 was suggested for EEC  
855 morphology analysis. For each experiment, wildtype or indicated transgenic zebrafish  
856 embryos were randomly allocated to test groups prior to treatment. In some EEC  
857 calcium response experiments, less than 10 biological replicate samples were used due  
858 to technical limitations associated with live sample imaging. In EEC morphology  
859 analysis, each experiment contained 8-15 biological replicates or individual fish  
860 samples. Individual data points, mean and standard deviation are plotted in each figure.

861 The raw data points in each figure are represented as solid dots. The data was  
862 analyzed using GraphPad Prism 7 software. For experiments comparing just two  
863 differentially treated populations, a Student's t-test with equal variance assumptions was  
864 used. For experiments measuring a single variable with multiple treatment groups, a  
865 single factor ANOVA with post hoc means testing (Tukey) was utilized. Statistical  
866 evaluation for each figure was marked \* P<0.05, \*\* P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001, \*\*\*\* P<0.0001

867 or ns (no significant difference,  $P>0.05$ ). Statistical analyses for 16S rRNA gene  
868 sequencing data can be found in in the corresponding Methods section above.

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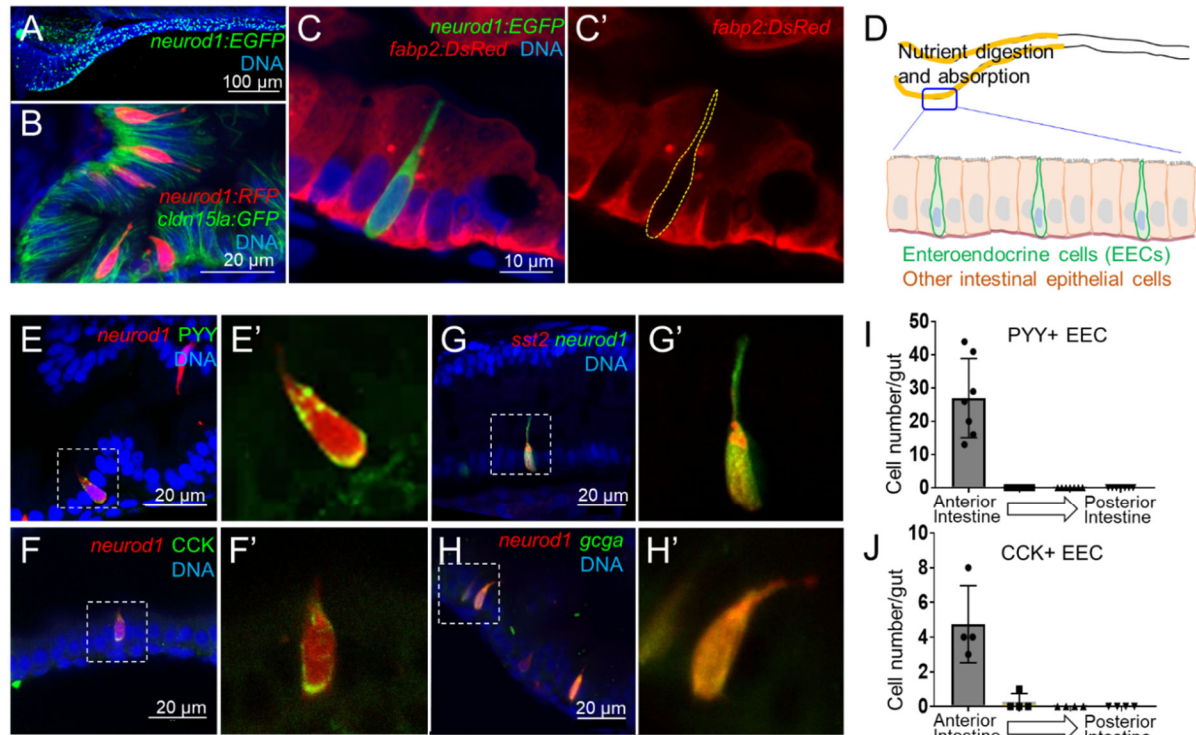
## 881 **Competing interests**

882 The authors declare no competing interests.

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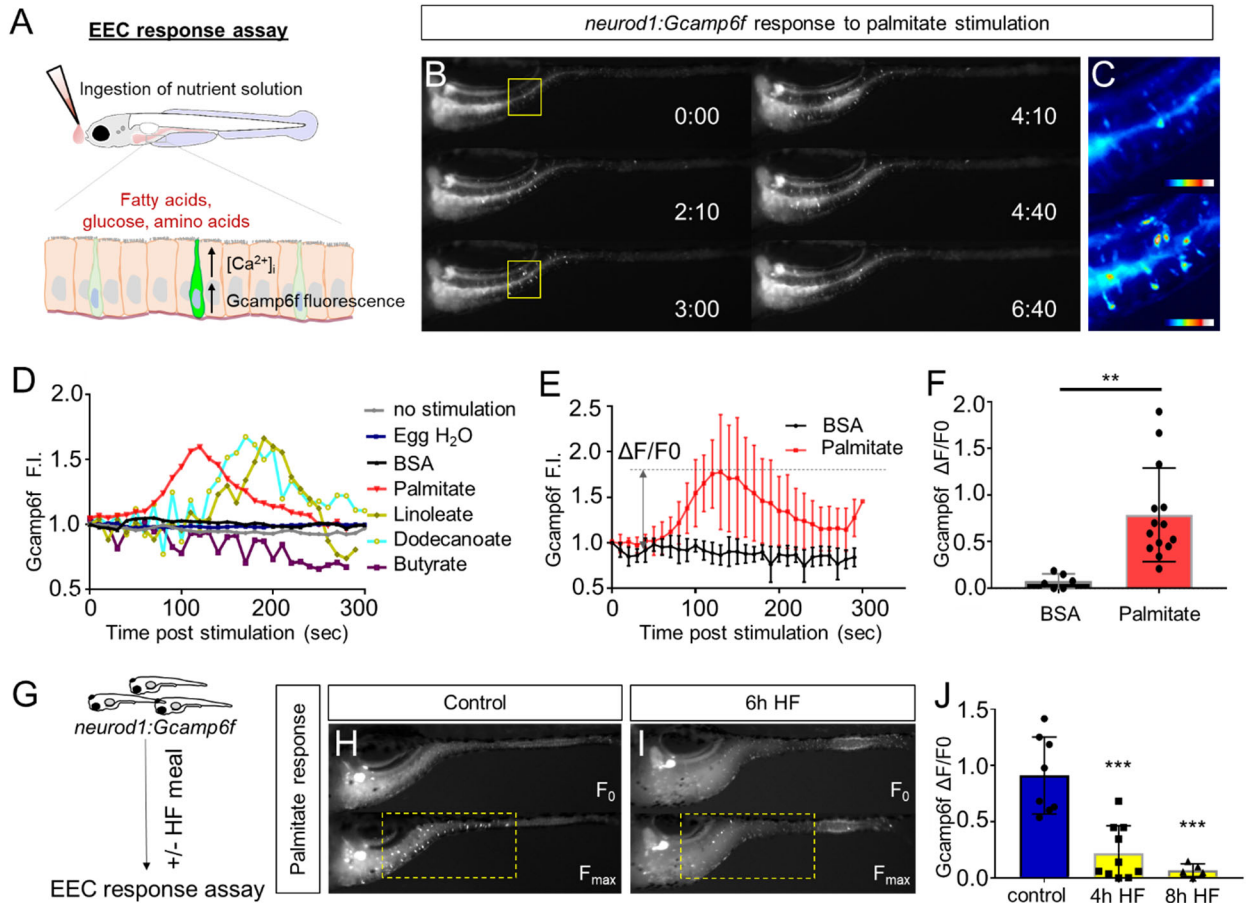
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## Main Figures



**Figure 1.** Identification of *neurod1*+ zebrafish enteroendocrine cells (EECs). (A) Confocal projection of zebrafish EECs marked by *Tg(neurod1:EGFP)* transgenic line. (B) Confocal projection of zebrafish EECs marked by *Tg(neurod1:RFP)* transgenic line. *TgBAC(cldn15la:GFP)* marks intestinal epithelial cells. (C-C') Confocal image of zebrafish EECs marked by *Tg(neurod1:EGFP)* transgenic line. Note that *neurod1*+ EECs do not express the enterocyte marker *fabp2* which is marked by *Tg(fabp2:DsRed)*. (D) Schematic diagram of 6 dpf larval zebrafish intestine. The anterior region of the zebrafish intestine that is largely responsible for nutrient absorption is highlighted in yellow. (E-F) Confocal image of *neurod1*+ EECs stained for PYY (E, E') and CCK (F, F'). (G-H) Confocal image of *neurod1*+ EECs express somatostatin [marked by *Tg(sst2:DsRed)* in G, G'] and proglucagon hormones [marked by *Tg(gcga:EGFP)* in H, H']. (I-J) Quantification of PYY+ (n=7) and CCK+ (n=4) EECs in 6 dpf zebrafish larval intestines.

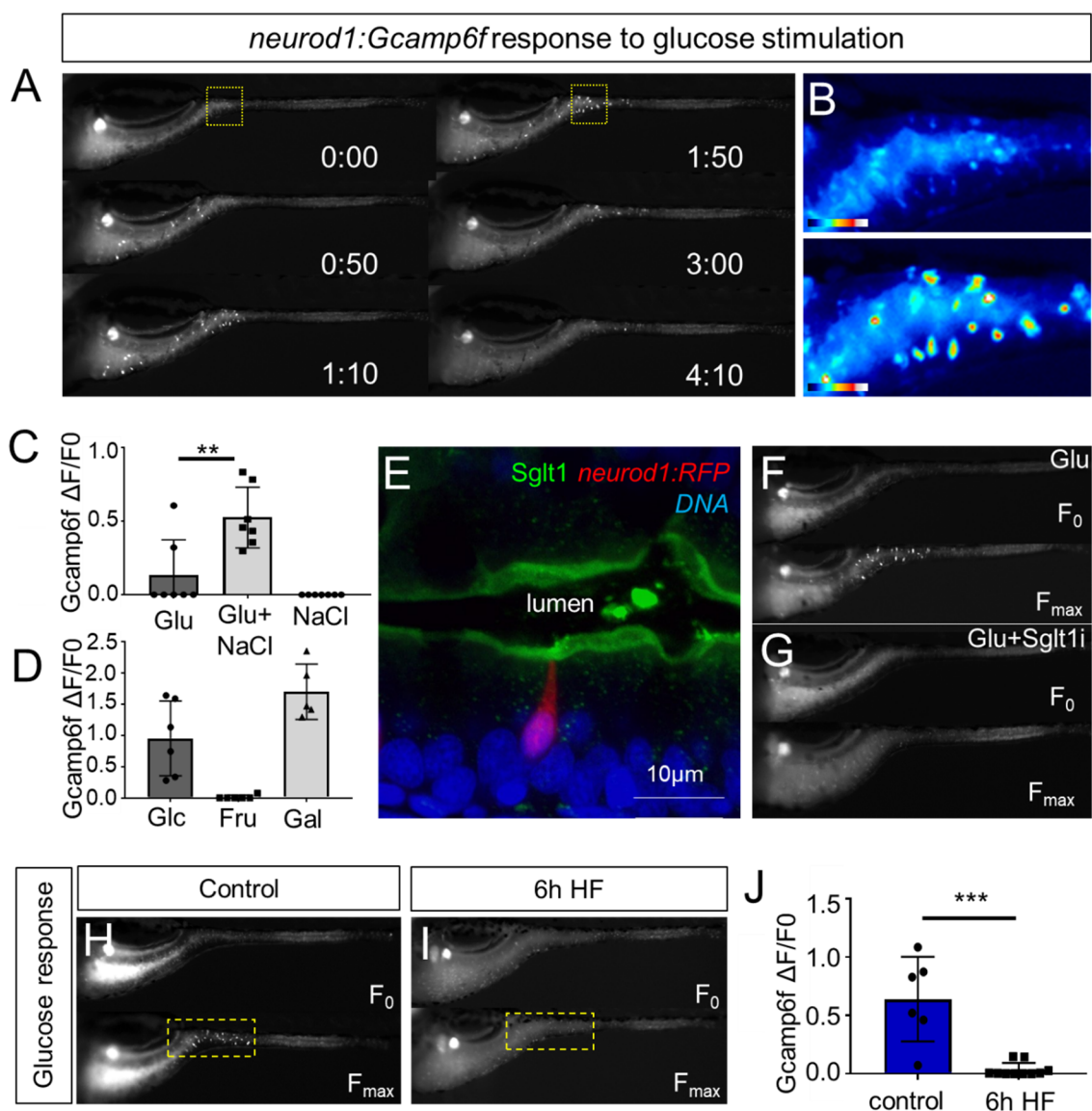




**Figure 2.** High fat feeding impairs the EEC calcium response toward palmitate stimulation. (A) Measurement of the EEC response to nutrient stimulation using *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)*. (B) Time lapse image of the EEC response to BSA conjugated palmitate stimulation in *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* using the EEC response assay. Note that palmitate responsive EECs are primarily in the proximal intestine. (C) Heat map image indicating the EEC calcium response at 0 and 3 minutes post palmitate stimulation from the highlighted area in B. (D) Change in Gcamp6f relative fluorescence intensity in 5 minutes with no stimulation or stimulation with egg water, BSA vehicle, palmitate, linoleate, dodecanoate or butyrate. Note that only palmitate, linoleate and dodecanoate induced EEC calcium responses. (E, F) Change in Gcamp6f relative fluorescence intensity in BSA stimulated (n=4) and palmitate stimulated (n=5) animals. (G) Measurement of EEC calcium responses to palmitate stimulation following 4 - 8 hours of high fat (HF) meal feeding in 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* larvae. (H, I)

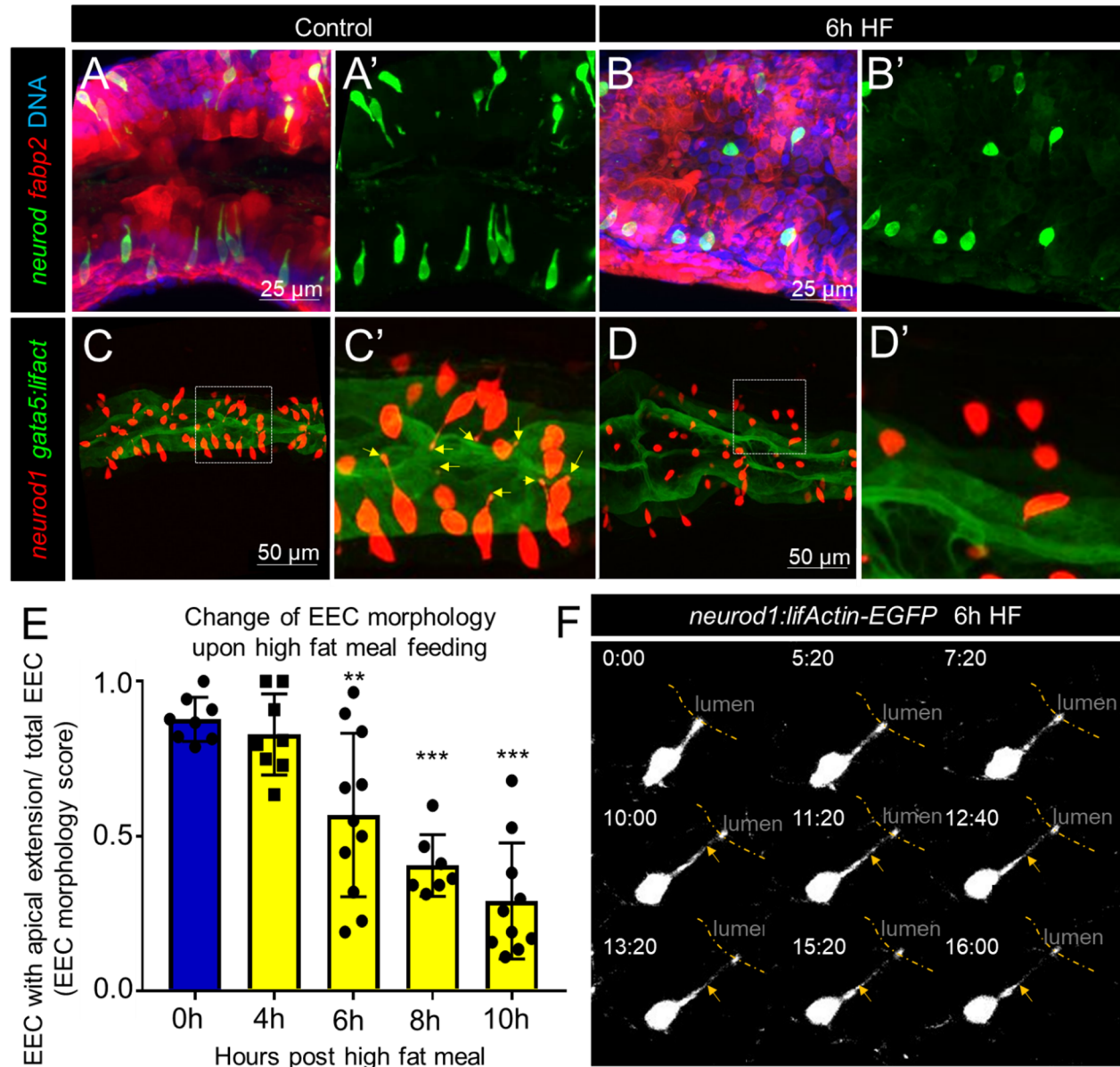


Representative images of the EEC response to palmitate stimulation in control larvae (without HF meal feeding, H) and 6 hours of HF feeding (I). (J) Measurement of EEC calcium responses to palmitate stimulation in control embryos following 4 and 8 hours HF feeding. Student t-test was used in F and One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in J. \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$



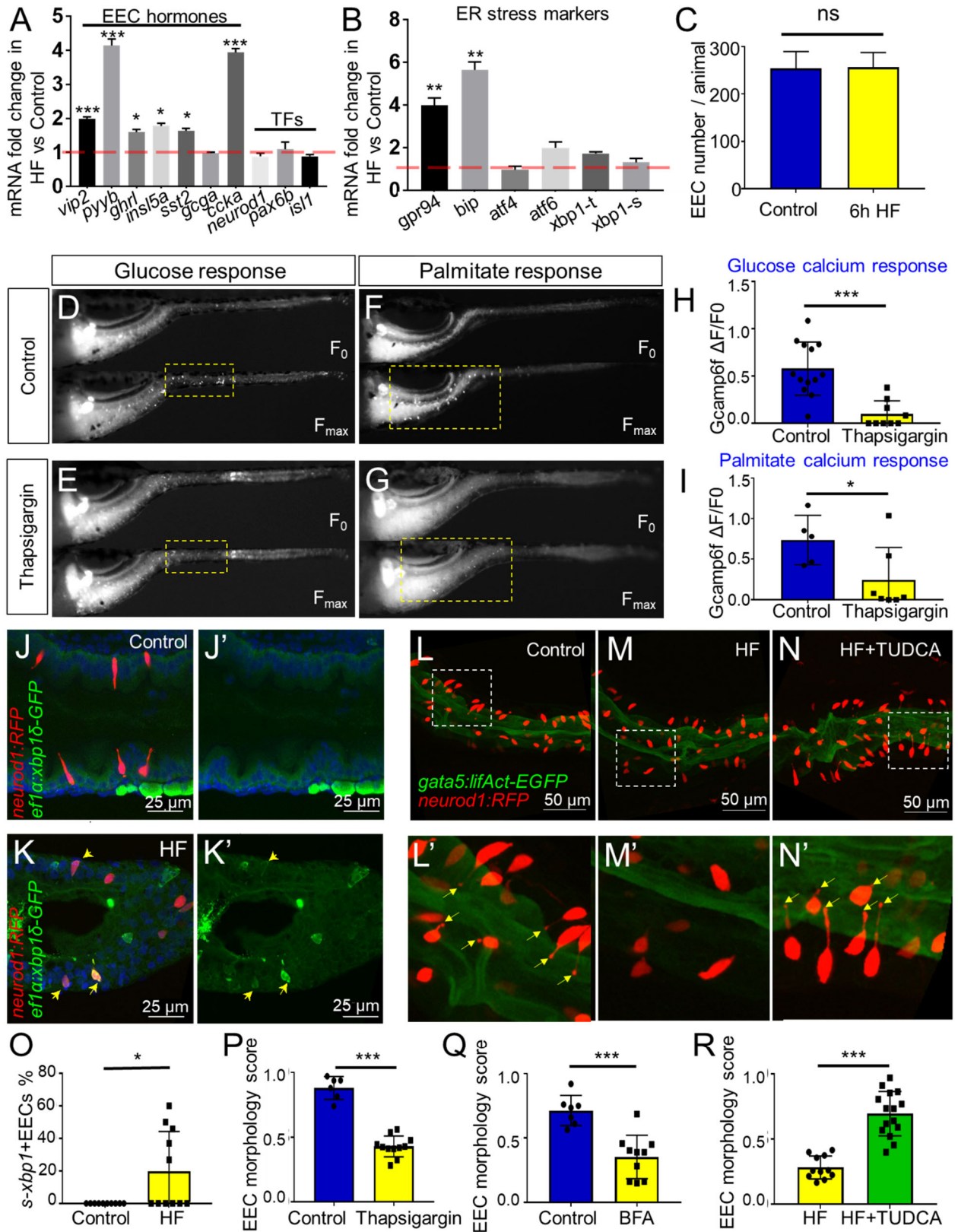
**Figure 3.** High fat feeding impairs EECs' calcium response to glucose stimulation. (A) Time lapse images of the EEC response to glucose (500 mM, dissolved in 100 mM NaCl solution) in *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* using the EEC response assay. (B) Heat map image indicating the EEC calcium response at 0 and 110 seconds post glucose

stimulation from the highlighted area in A. (C) Measurement of the EEC calcium response when stimulated with glucose (500 mM) dissolved in water or 100 mM NaCl vehicle. Note that the presence of NaCl significantly increased the glucose induced EEC calcium response. (D) Measurement of the EEC calcium response when stimulated with glucose (500mM), fructose (500mM) and galactose (500mM). All of these stimulants were dissolved in 100 mM NaCl solution. Note that only glucose and galactose induced the EEC calcium response. (E) Confocal image of 6 dpf zebrafish intestine stained with Sglt1 antibody. EECs were marked by *Tg(neurod1:RFP)*. Note that Sglt1 is located on the apical side of intestinal cells. (F, G) Representative image of the EEC calcium response in *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* when stimulated with 500 mM glucose or 500 mM glucose with the Sglt1 inhibitor (0.15mM phloridzin). Note in G that when co-stimulated with glucose and Sglt1 inhibitor, the intestine appeared to dilate but no EEC activation was observed. (H,I) Representative image of the EEC calcium response to glucose stimulation in control larvae without high fat (HF) meal feeding (H) and 6 hours HF fed larvae (I). (J) Quantification of the EEC calcium response to glucose stimulation in control and 6 hours HF fed larvae. Student t-test was used in C,J. \*\* P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001



**Figure 4.** Enteroendocrine cells lose their apical extensions following high fat feeding. (A- B) Confocal projection of 6 dpf zebrafish intestine in control (A, A') and 6 hours high fat fed larvae (B, B'). Enteroendocrine cells are marked by *Tg(neurod1:EGFP)* and the enterocytes are marked by *Tg(fabp2:DsRed)*. (C-D) Confocal projection of 6 dpf zebrafish intestine in control (C,C') and 6 hours high fat fed larvae(D,D'). The enteroendocrine cells are marked by *Tg(neurod1:RFP)* and the apical region of intestine cells are marked by *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)*. Note that in control intestine, the enteroendocrine cells have extensions that touch the apical lumen (yellow arrow in C').

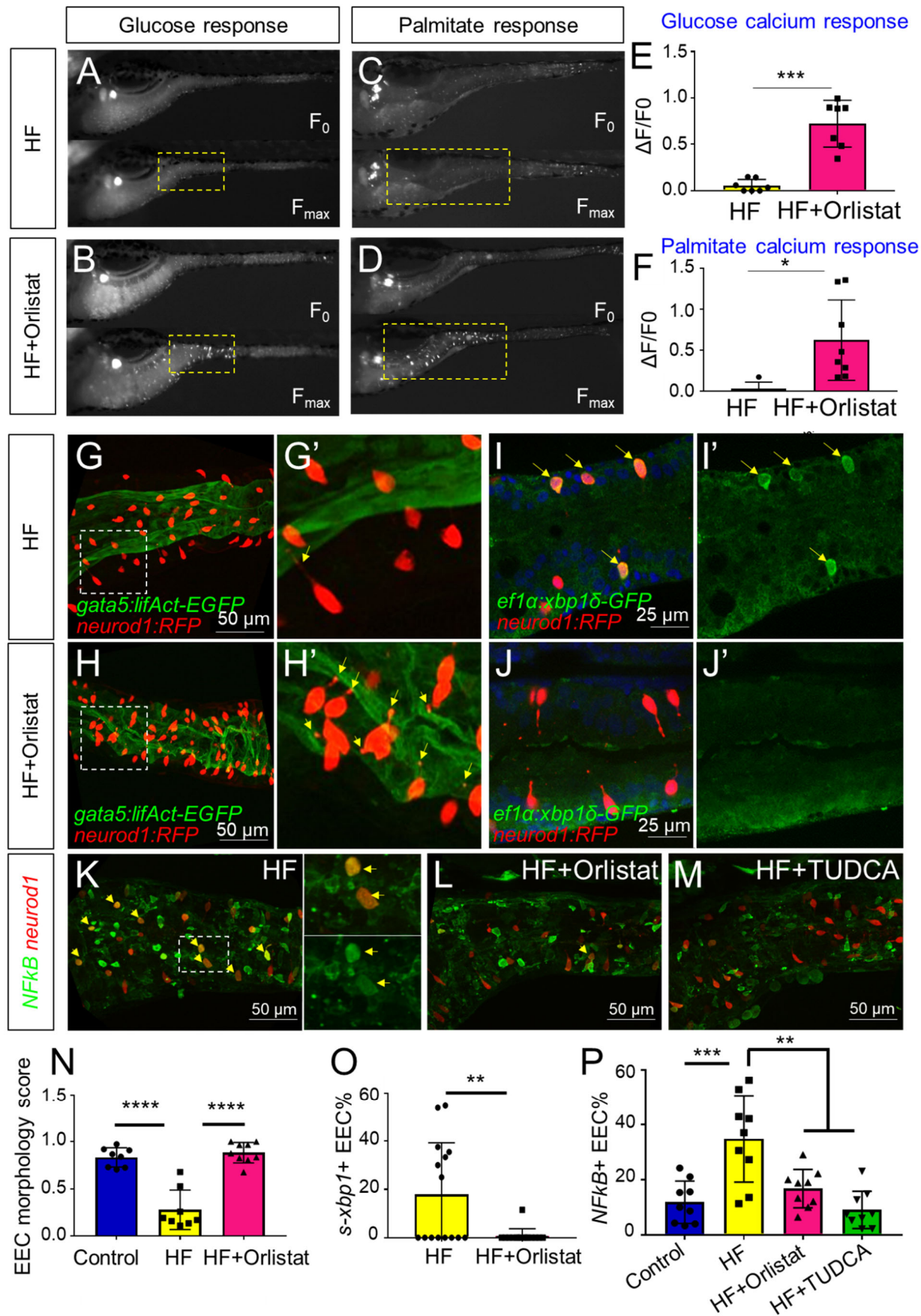
Such apical extensions in enteroendocrine cells are lost following high fat meal feeding (D, D'). (E) Quantification of EEC morphology in control and 4-10 hours high fat fed zebrafish larvae in *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP);Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* double transgenic zebrafish. The EEC morphology score is defined as the ratio of the number of EECs with apical extensions over the number of total EECs. (F) Time lapse images showing loss of EEC the apical extension in 6 hours high fat fed larvae using *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*. One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in E for statistical analysis. \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001.



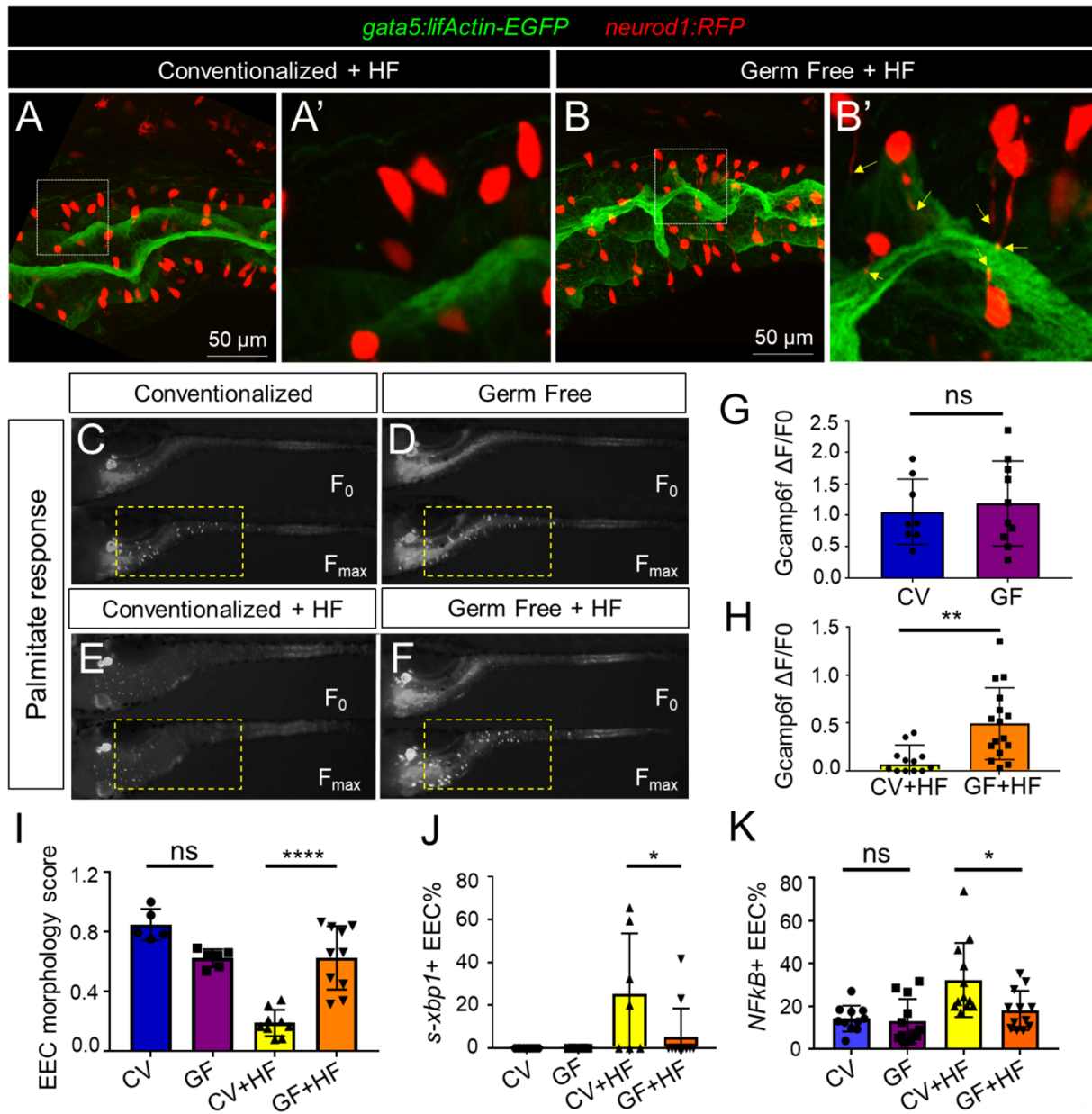


**Figure 5.** Activation of ER stress following high fat feeding leads to EEC silencing. (A-B) Quantitative real-time PCR measurement of relative mRNA levels from dissected tracts in control (n=4, each replicate from 20 pooled fish sample, 3 technique replicates) and 6 hours high fat (HF) meal larvae (n=4, each replicate from 20 pooled fish sample, 3 technique replicates). The plot indicates the fold increase of relative mRNA expression of indicated genes. (C) Quantification of total EEC number in control (n=8) and 6 hours HF fed larvae (n=6). (D-G) Representative images of the EEC calcium response to glucose or palmitate stimulation in control (D, F) and 2 hours thapsigargin (ER stress inducer, 1  $\mu$ M) treated larvae (E, G). (H, I) Quantification of the EEC calcium response toward glucose (H) and palmitate (I) in control and 2 hours thapsigargin (Tg, 1  $\mu$ M) treated larvae. (J-K) Confocal images of control (J, J') and 6 hours HF fed (K, K') larval zebrafish intestines. The EECs are marked by *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)*, the activation of ER stress is marked by *Tg(ef1a:xbp1 $\delta$ -GFP)* and DNA is stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue). Yellow arrows indicate EECs with *xbp1* activation. (L-N) Confocal projection of zebrafish intestine in control (L, L'), 10 hours HF fed (M, M') and 10 hours HF fed treated with 0.5 mM TUDCA. EECs are marked with *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* and intestine apical lumen is marked with *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)*. EECs' apical extension is indicated with yellow arrows in (L', N'). (O) Quantification of *s-xbp1*+ EECs percentage in control and 6 hours HF fed zebrafish larvae represented in J and K. (P, Q) Quantification of EEC morphology score in control and 10 hours thapsigargin (0.75 $\mu$ M) or brefeldin A (BFA, 9 $\mu$ M) treated larvae *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP);Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* double transgenic line. (R) Quantification of the EEC morphology score in zebrafish larvae following 10 hours HF feeding and 10 hours HF feeding with 0.5 mM TUDCA represented in L-N. Student t-test was performed for statistic analysis. \* P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001.



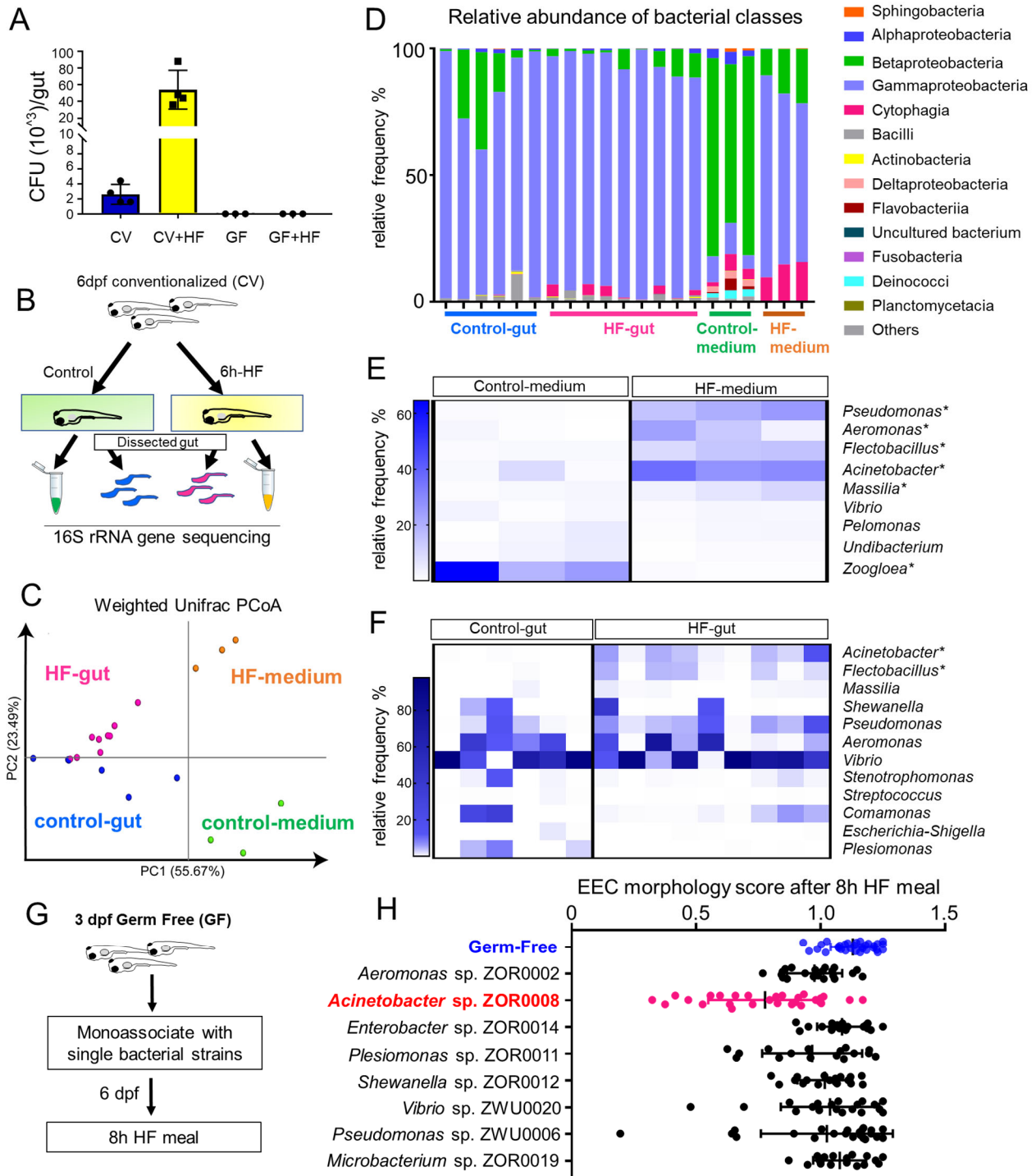


**Figure 6.** Orlistat treatment inhibits high fat feeding induced EEC silencing. (A-D) Representative image of the EEC calcium response to glucose (A, B) and palmitate (C, D) stimulation in 6 hours high fat fed and 6 hours high fat (HF) fed with 0.5 mM orlistat treated *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae. (E, F) Quantification of the EEC calcium response to glucose and palmitate stimulation in 6 hours HF fed and 6 hours HF fed with 0.5 mM orlistat treated zebrafish larvae. (G-H) Confocal projection of *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)* zebrafish intestine in 10 hours HF fed larvae (G, G') and 10 hours HF fed with 0.1 mM orlistat treated larvae (H, H'). The EECs' apical extensions are marked with yellow arrows. (I-J) Confocal images of *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); Tg(ef1a:xbp1δ-GFP)* zebrafish intestine in 6 hours HF fed larvae (I, I') and 6 hours HF fed with 0.5 mM orlistat treated larvae (J, J'). (K-M) Confocal images of *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); Tg(NFκB:EGFP)* zebrafish intestine in 10 hours HF fed larvae (K), 10 hours HF fed larvae treated with 0.1 mM orlistat (L) and 10 hours HF fed larvae treated with 0.5 mM TUDCA (M). Yellow arrows indicate *neurod1:TagRFP+* EECs co-labeled with the *NFκB* reporter. (N) Quantification of the EEC morphology score in control, 10 hours HF fed and 10 hours HF fed with 0.1mM orlistat treated larvae represented in G and H. (O) Quantification of *s-xbp1+* EEC percentage in 6 hours HF fed larvae and 6 hours HF fed larvae treated with 0.5 mM orlistat represented in J and K. (P) Quantification of the percentage of NF-κB+ EECs in control, 10 hour HF fed, 10 hour HF fed with 0.1 mM Orlistat and 10 hour HF fed with 0.5 mM TUDCA zebrafish larvae represented in K-M. Student t-test was performed in E, F, O and one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in N, P for statistical analysis. \* P<0.05, \*\* P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001, \*\*\*\* P<0.0001.



**Figure 7.** High fat feeding induced EEC silencing is microbiota dependent. (A-B) Confocal images of 6 dpf zebrafish intestines from conventionalized (CV) and germ free (GF) larvae following 10 hours high fat (HF) feeding. EECs are marked with *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* and the intestine apical lumen is marked with *Tg(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)*. (C-F) Representative images of the EEC calcium response toward glucose (A, B) and palmitate stimulation in CV and GF *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* larvae with or without 6 hour HF feeding. (G-H) Quantification of the EEC calcium response to palmitate

stimulation represented in C-F. (I) Quantification of the EEC morphology score in CV and GF zebrafish larvae with or without 10 hours HF feeding represented in A and B. (J) Quantification of *xpb1+* EECs (%) in CV and GF *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); Tg(ef1a:xbp1δ-GFP)* zebrafish larvae with or without 6 hours HF feeding. (K) Quantification of NF-κB+ EECs (%) in CV and GF *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); Tg(NFκB:EGFP)* zebrafish larvae with or without 10 hours high fat feeding. Student t-test was used in G,H and one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in I-K for statistical analysis. \* P<0.05, \*\* P<0.01, \*\*\*\* P<0.0001.



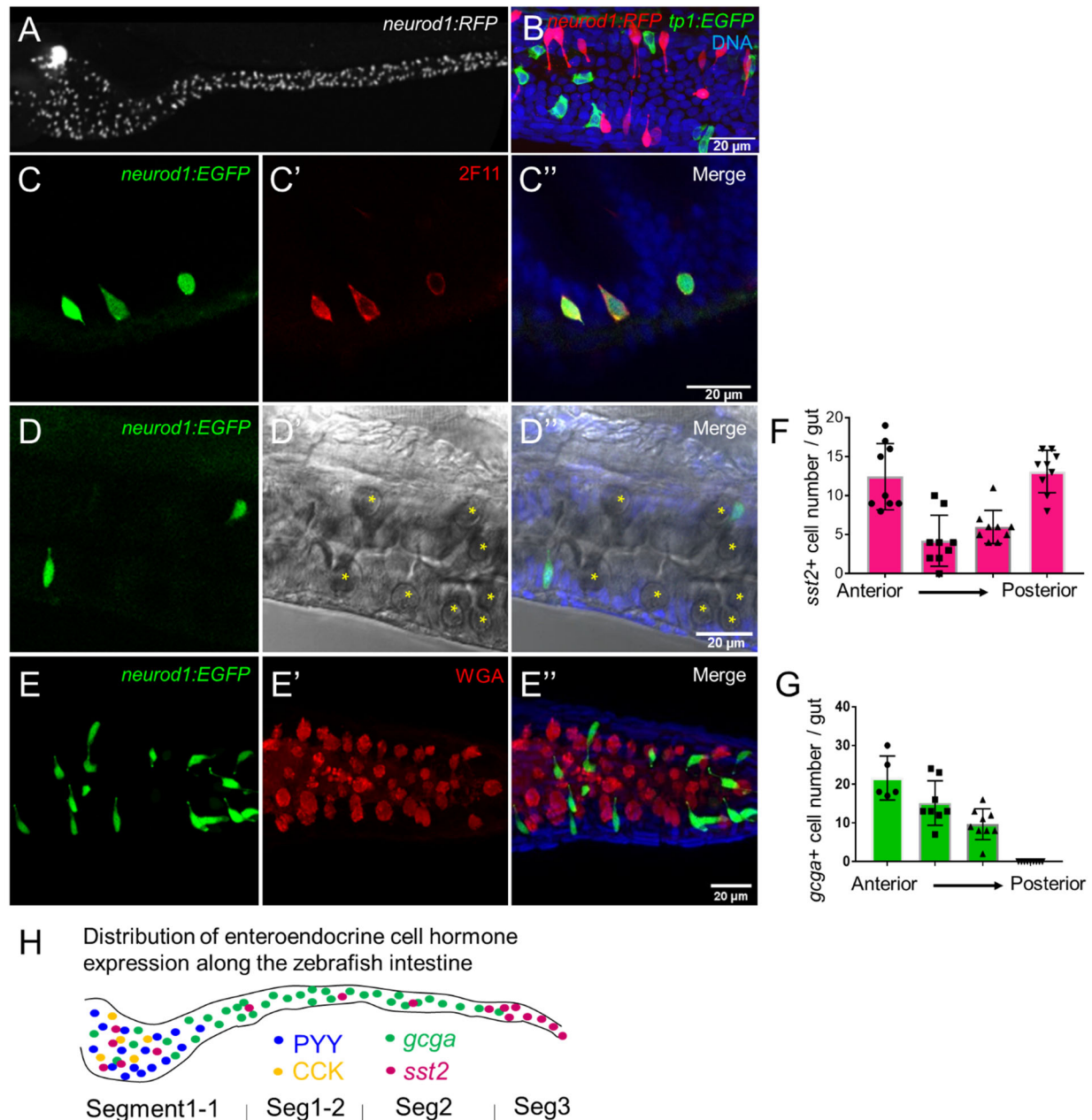
**Figure 8.** High fat feeding modified microbiota composition. (A) CFU quantification in GF and CV dissected intestine with or without 6 hours high fat (HF) feeding. (B) Experimental design of 16S rRNA gene sequencing in control larvae dissected gut and medium and 6 hour HF fed larvae dissected gut and medium. (C) PCoA plot



representing the microbiome community in control and HF fed gut and media. (D) Relative abundance of bacteria composition at the class level in control and HF fed gut and medium. (E-F) Change in representative specific bacteria genus following HF feeding in gut and medium. \* indicates taxa with  $P < 0.05$  by LEfSe analysis. (G) Schematic of mono-association screening to investigate the effects of specific bacteria strains on EEC morphology. 3 dpf zebrafish larvae were colonized with one of the isolated bacteria strains and EEC morphology was scored after 8-hour high fat meal feeding in 6 dpf GF and mono-associated animals. (H) EEC morphology score of GF and monoassociated zebrafish larvae following 8 hour high fat feeding. Data were pooled from 3 independent experiments, with each dot representing an individual animal. The EEC morphology score in *Acinetobacter* sp. ZOR0008 mono-associated animals was significantly lower than GF EECs ( $P < 0.001$ ). No significant difference was observed in other bacteria strain monoassociated group. One way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-test was used in H for statistical analysis.

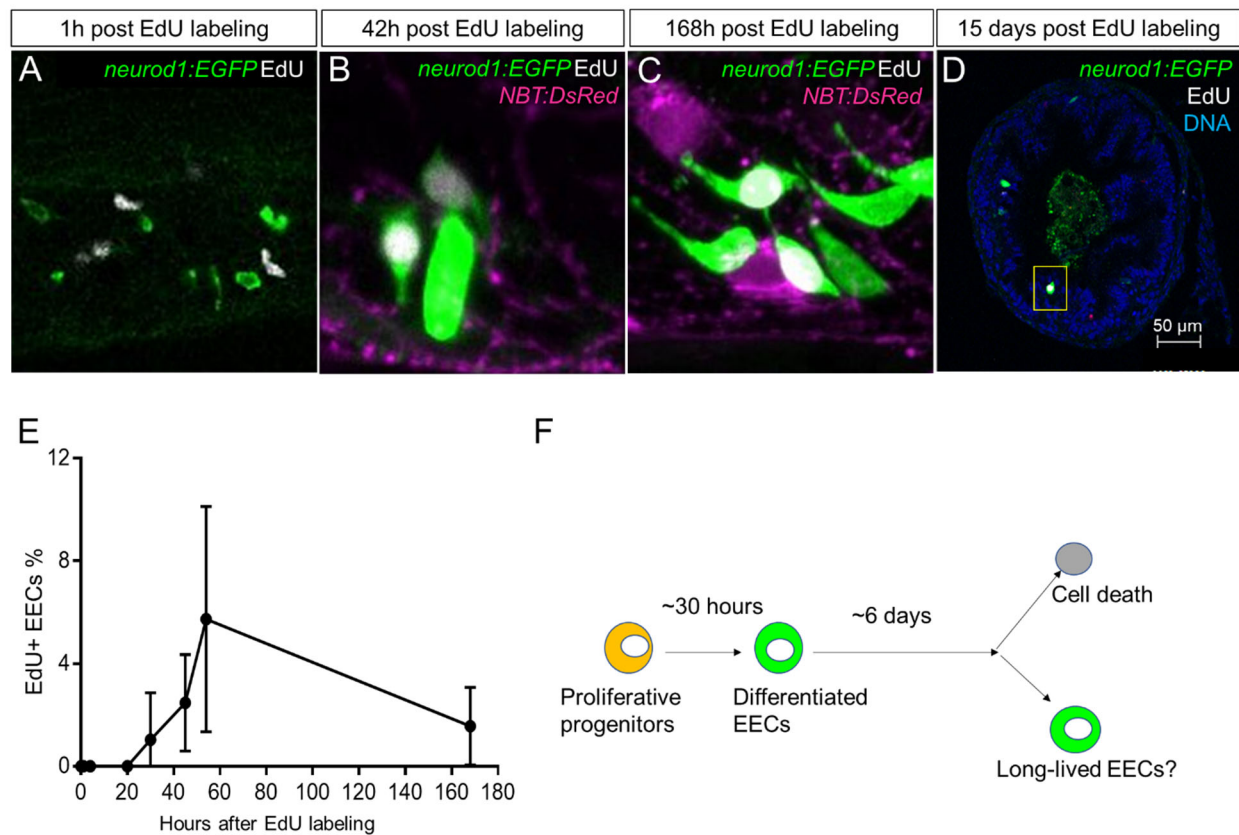


## Supplemental Figures



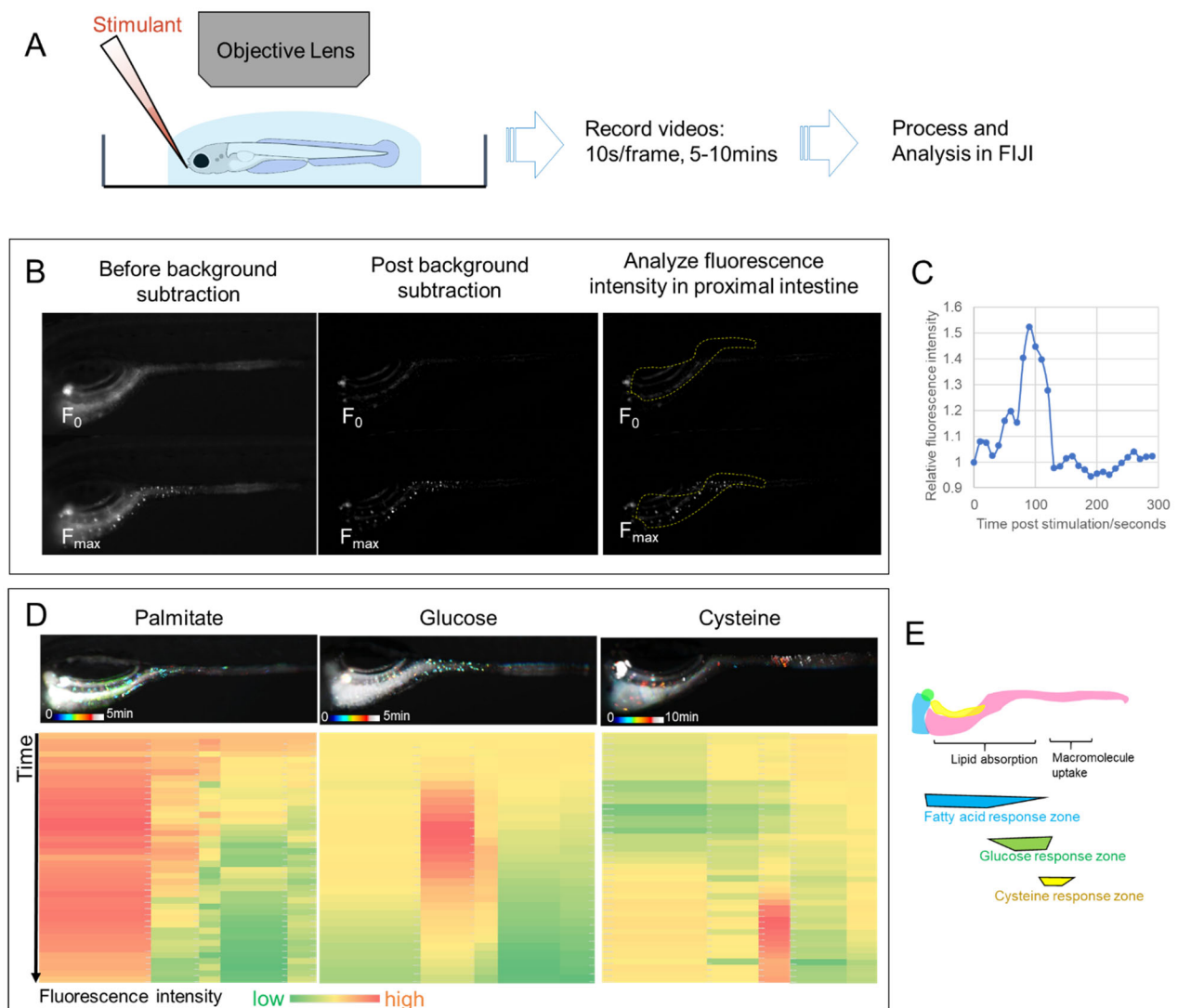
**Supplemental Figure 1.** Characterization of zebrafish enteroendocrine cells. (A) Fluorescence images of *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)* 6 dpf zebrafish gut. *Neurod1* is expressed in islet cells of the pancreas and enteroendocrine cells in the intestine. (B) Confocal projection of zebrafish EECs marked by *Tg(-5kbneurod1:TagRFP)*. Note that red *neurod1+* EECs are not overlapping with green *tp1+* cells. (C) Immunofluorescence staining of 6 dpf *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)* with the known intestinal secretory cell marker

2F11 (red). (D) Confocal plane of zebrafish intestine from *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)*. Goblet cells are identified by their specific cell shape in the white field (B'') and EGFP labeled EECs do not overlap with goblet cells. (E) Confocal projection of zebrafish EECs marked by *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)*. Mucus in Goblet cells is labeled with WGA lectin (red). *neurod1+* EECs do not stain with WGA. (F) Quantification of somatostatin+ cells that are labeled by *Tg(sst2:RFP)* in the 6 dpf zebrafish intestine. (G) Quantification of glucagon+ cells that are labeled by *Tg(gcga:EGFP)* in the 6 dpf zebrafish intestine. (H) Schematic depiction of EEC hormone distribution along the intestinal segments of 6 dpf zebrafish larvae.



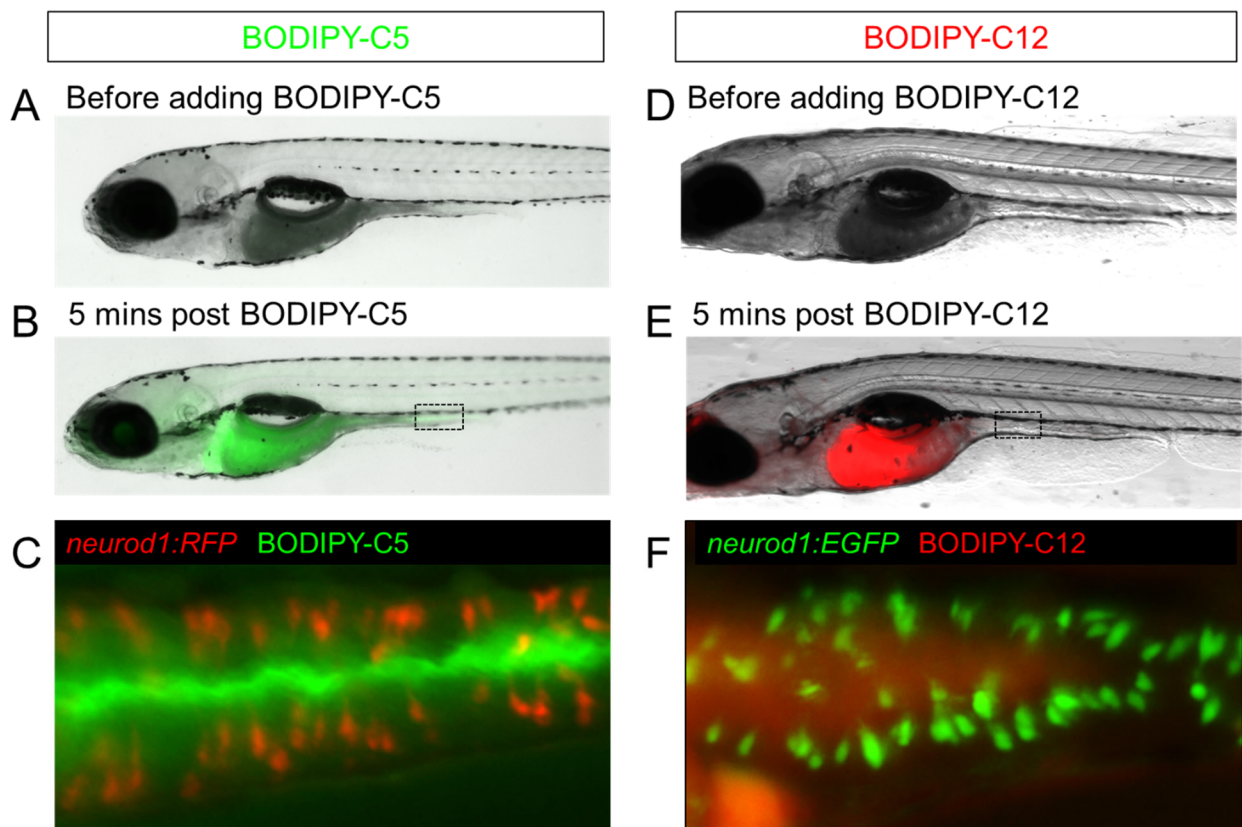
**Supplemental Figure 2.** Analysis of EEC lifespan in zebrafish larvae using single dose EdU labeling. EdU was injected into the pericardiac sac region of 5 dpf *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)* zebrafish using described previously methods (Ye et al., 2015). Zebrafish were fixed at 1h, 4h, 20h, 30h, 45h, 54h, 7 days (168 hours) and 15 days post EdU injection. (A-D) Confocal images of EdU fluorescence staining in

*TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP)* zebrafish intestine. (E) Quantification of the percentage of EdU+ EECs in zebrafish intestine following EdU tracing. t=0 (n=6), t=1h (n=8), t=4h (n=5), t=20h (n=6), t=30h (n=11), t=45h (n=9), t=54h (n=6), t=168h (n=). No EdU+ EECs could be detected until 30h post EdU injection and some EdU+ EECs remained 15 days post EdU injection. (F) Schematic model of our hypothesis of the EEC lifespan.



**Supplemental Figure 3.** EEC activity assay. (A) Experimental flow of EEC activity assay using the *Tg(-5kbneurod1:Gcamp6f)* model. (B) Representative images of EEC calcium fluorescence analysis using FIJI template matching and background subtraction in *Tg(-5kbneurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish stimulated with palmitate. (C) Relative fluorescence intensity in the proximal intestine in a series of video images from

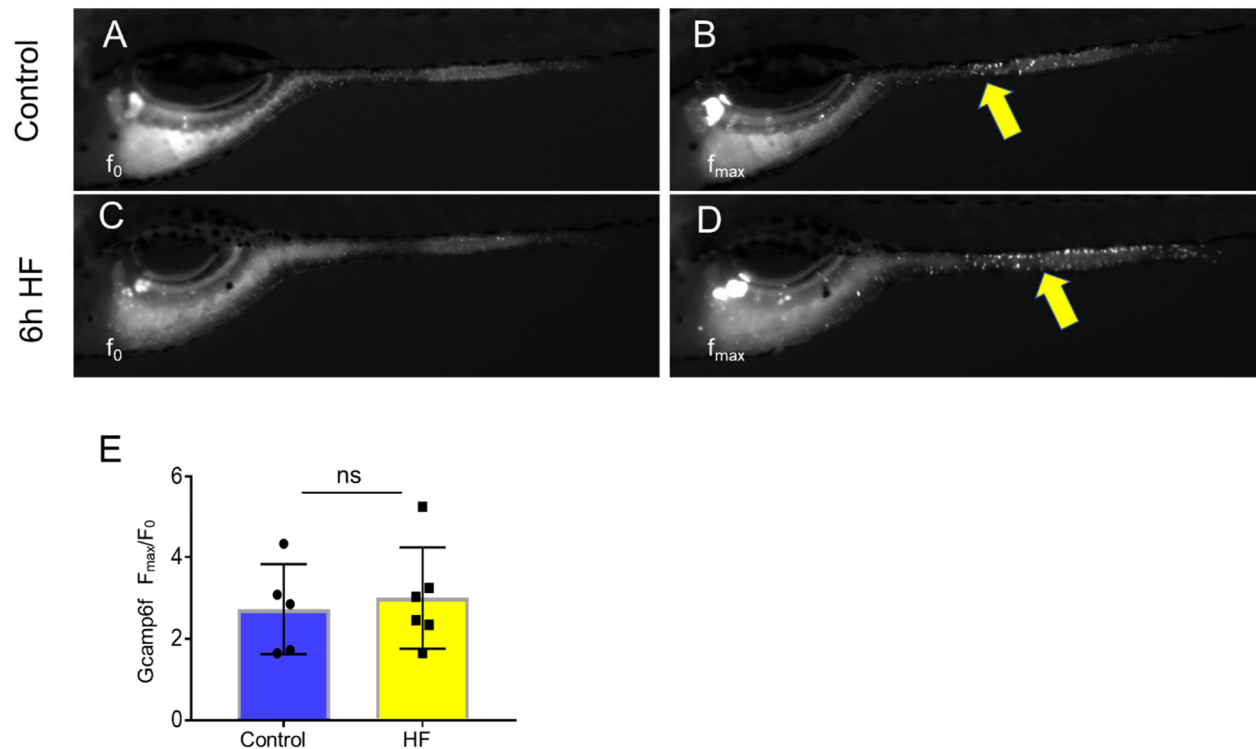
zebrafish in B. (D) Spatial-temporal resolution of the EEC response to palmitate, glucose and cysteine stimulation. (E) Representative images of the EEC nutrient response in a regional specific manner. Palmitate and glucose primarily activated EECs in the proximal intestine where most lipid and nutrient absorption occurs. Cysteine on the other hand activated EECs in the distal intestine where proteins are digested and amino acids absorbed by specialized intestinal epithelial cells in this region (Nakamura, Tazumi, Muro, Yasuhara, & Watanabe, 2004; Wang et al., 2010).



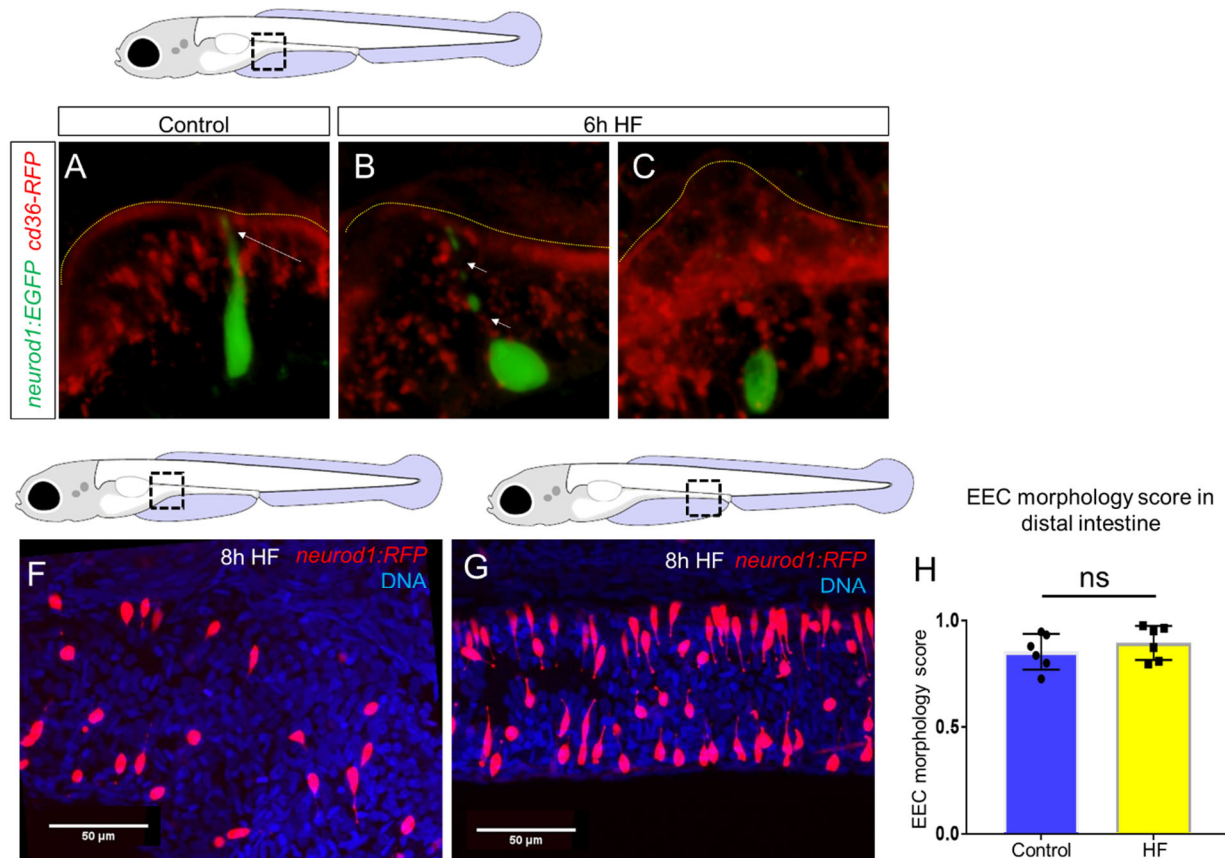
**Supplemental Figure 4.** Feeding a high fat meal did not impair fatty acid intake. (A-C) Fatty acid was labeled with green fluorescence in BODIPY-C5 (Carten et al., 2011). BODIPY-C5 (in BSA complex) was delivered to zebrafish larvae that had been fed high fat (HF) meal for 6 hours, the same as the EEC activity assay. Within 5 minutes of delivery, green BODIPY-C5 was distributed throughout the entire zebrafish intestinal lumen. (D-F) Fatty acids were labeled with red fluorescence in BODIPY-C12 (Carten et al., 2011). BODIPY-C12 was delivered to zebrafish larvae that had been fed HF meal



for 6 hours, the same as the EEC activity assay. Within 5 minutes of delivery, red BODIPY-C12 was distributed throughout the zebrafish intestinal lumen.



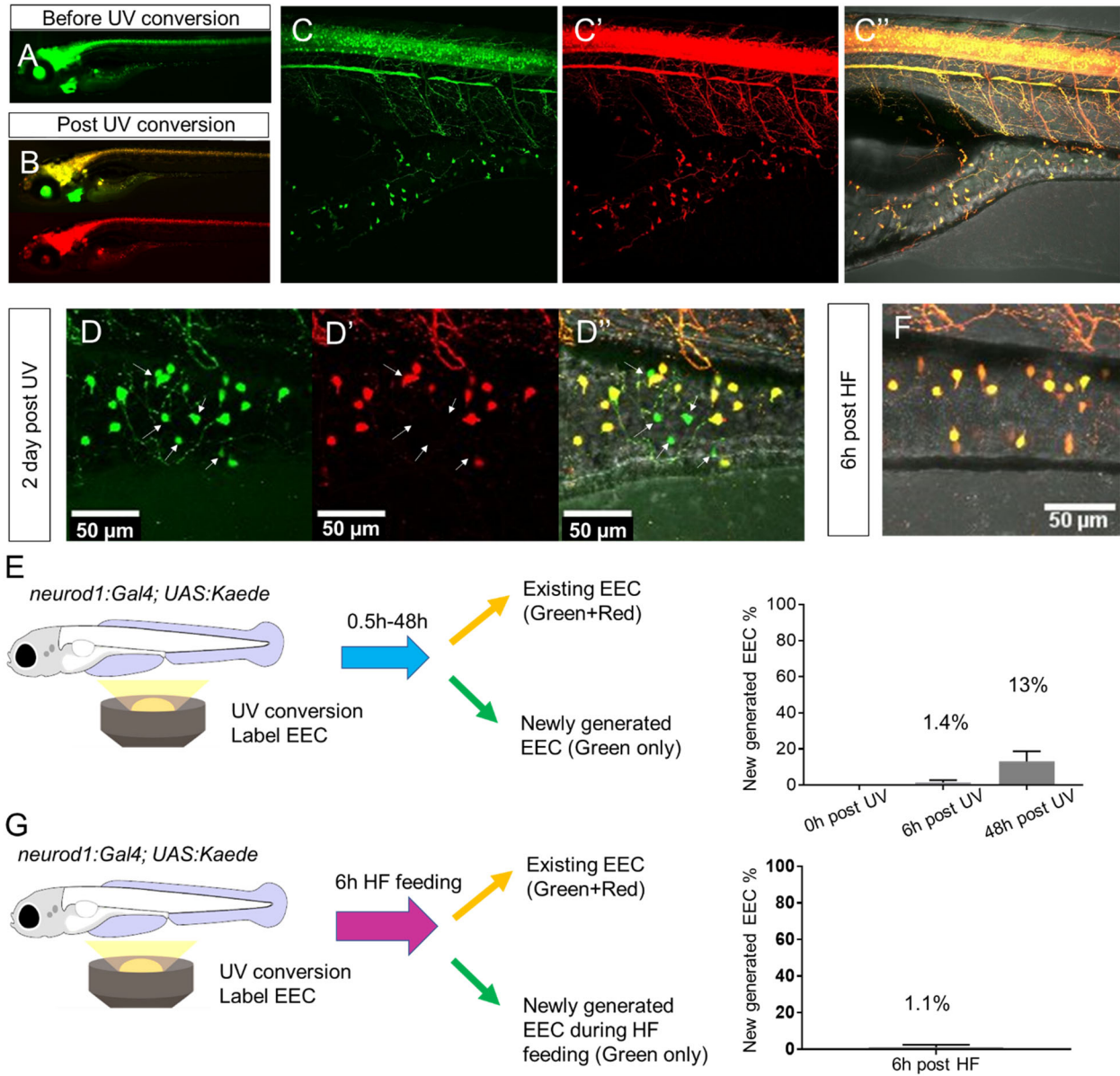
**Supplemental Figure 5.** EECs remain responsive to cysteine following high fat feeding. (A-B) Representative images of the EEC response to cysteine in control *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae. Note the location of responsive EECs in the mid-intestinal region (yellow arrows) (C-D) Representative images of the EEC response to cysteine in 6h high fat meal fed *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae. (E) Quantification of the EEC response to cysteine in control and high fat fed zebrafish. Student t-test was used in E for statistical analysis.



**Supplemental Figure 6.** High fat feeding induced loss of the EEC apical protrusion in the proximal intestine but not in the distal intestine. (A) Confocal projection of a typical EEC of control *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP); TgBAC(CD36-RFP)* zebrafish. The white arrow indicates the apical projection that extends to the intestinal lumen. (B) Confocal image of an EEC 6 hours post high fat (HF) meal feeding in *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP); TgBAC(CD36-RFP)* zebrafish. The white arrows indicate the discontinuous fragmentation of an apical projection that can only be observed in HF fed EECs. (C) Confocal image of “closed” EECs after 6 hours post HF meal feeding in *TgBAC(neurod1:EGFP); TgBAC(CD36-RFP)* zebrafish. (F) Representative confocal image of EECs in the proximal intestine following 8 hours of high fat feeding. (G) Representative confocal image of EECs in the distal intestine following 8h HF feeding. (H) Quantification of EEC morphology in the distal intestine in control and 8h HF fed zebrafish. Student t-test was used in H for statistical analysis.

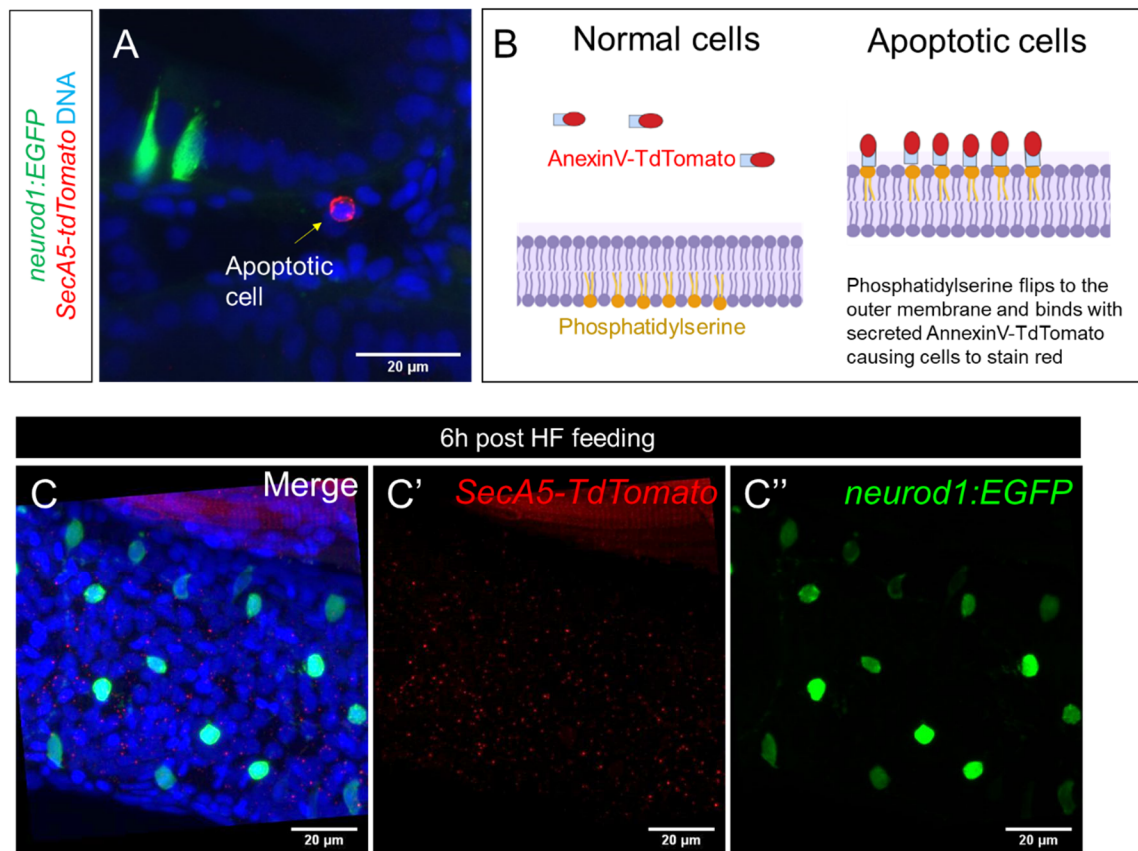


*Tg(neurod1:Gal4; cmlc2:EGFP); Tg(UAS:Kaede)* tracing model

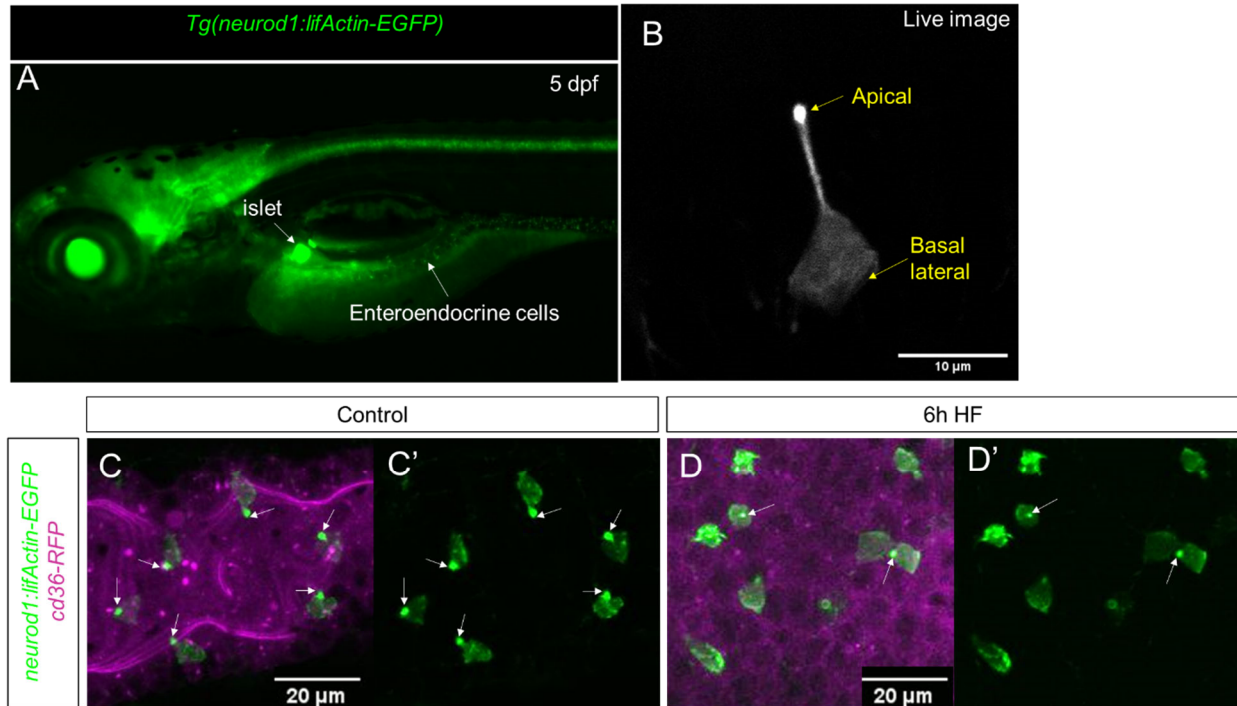


**Supplemental Figure 7.** High fat feeding did not induce EEC neogenesis. (A-B) Epifluorescence image of *in vivo* EEC lineage tracing using *Tg(neurod1:Gal4;cmlc2:EGFP); Tg(UAS:Kaede)* (referred to as *neurod1-Kaede*). Before UV conversion, *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> cells were labeled with green Kaede protein. Following UV exposure, green Kaede protein was converted into red Kaede protein and *neurod1*<sup>+</sup> cells are labeled yellow. (C) Confocal image of live *neurod1-Kaede* zebrafish intestine 0.5h post UV conversion. All the EECs are labeled. (D) Confocal image of live *neurod1-Kaede* zebrafish intestine 2 days post UV conversion. Arrows indicate the EECs that

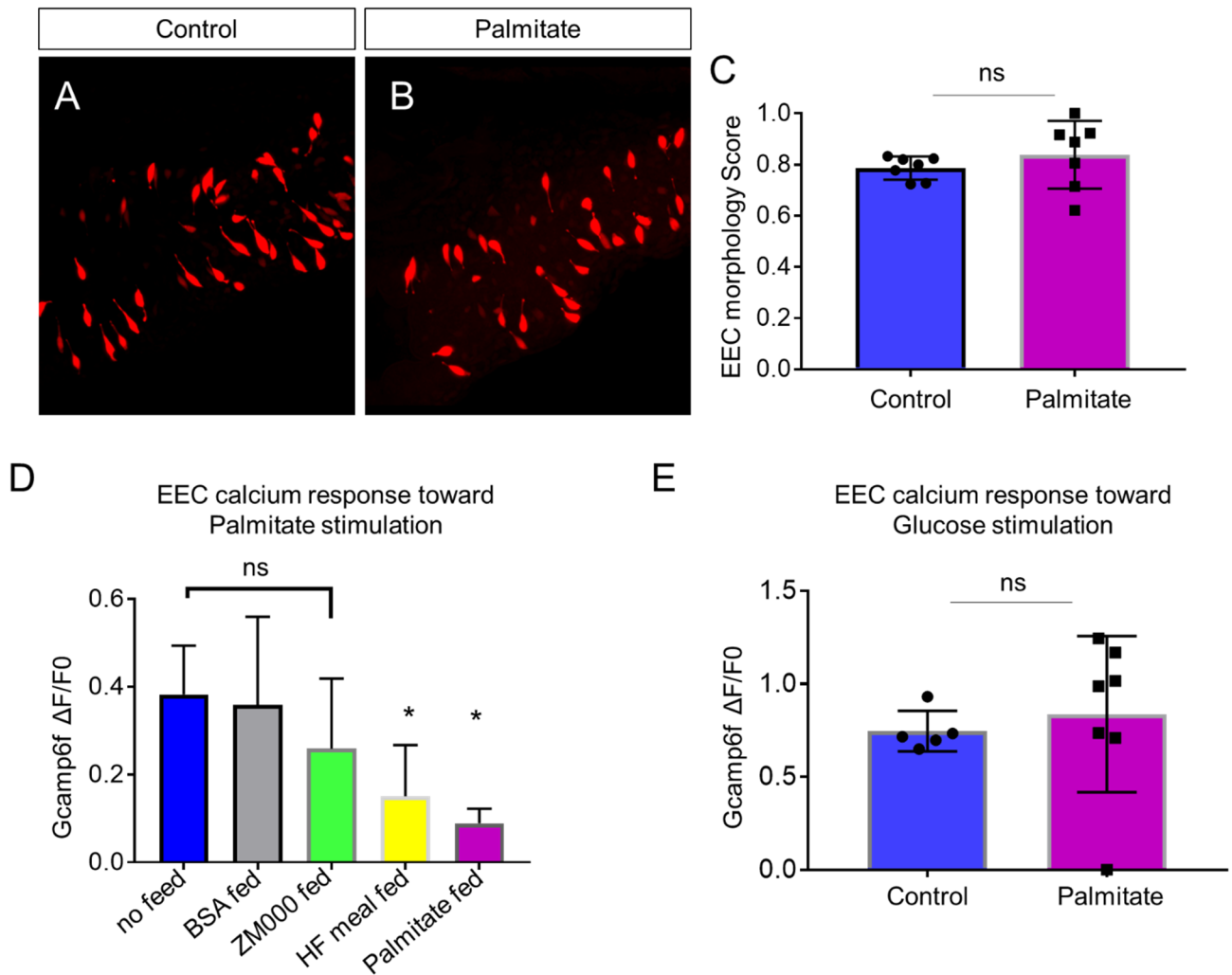
were generated after UV conversion and exhibit green fluorescence only. (E) Confocal image of live *neurod1-Kaede* zebrafish intestine 6 hours post high fat (HF) meal. No green EECs were detected. (F) EEC neogenesis tracing at 0.5 hour, 6 hours and 2 days post UV conversion using the *neurod1-Kaede* system. (G) EEC neogenesis tracing at 6 hours post HF feeding.



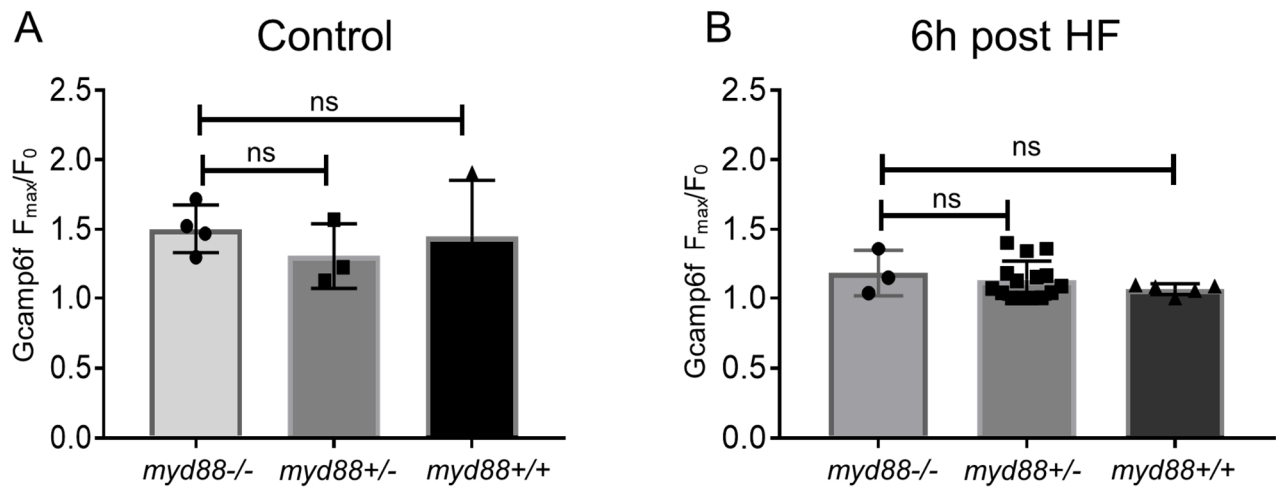
**Supplemental Figure 8.** High fat feeding did not induce EEC apoptosis. (A) Confocal projection of 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:EGFP); Tg(ubb:secA5-TdTomato)* intestine. The apoptotic cells were labeled by sesA5-tdTomato as red (yellow arrow). (B) Schematic view of labeling apoptotic cells using sesA5-tdTomato (secreted Annexin5-TdTomato). During apoptosis, phosphatidylserine flips to the outer cellular membrane. The secA5-TdTomato was then able to bind to the phosphatidylserine and labeled the apoptotic cells red. (C) Confocal image of *Tg(neurod1:EGFP); Tg(ubb:secA5-TdTomato)* zebrafish intestine following 6 hours of the high fat (HF) meal. In all the samples that were examined (n=10), no apoptotic EECs were observed.



**Supplemental Figure 9.** Characterization of *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*. (A) Epifluorescence image of 5 dpf *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*. The pancreatic islet and enteroendocrine cells that were labeled by *lifActin-EGFP* are designated by white arrows. (B) Confocal image of EEC labeled by *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)* in live zebrafish mounted in 2% low melting agarose. The stronger *lifActin-EGFP* signal was detected in the apical of EEC protrusion. (C, C') Confocal image of *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*; *TgBAC(cd36-RFP)* zebrafish intestine. The EEC's apical protrusion that labeled by a strong *lifActin-EGFP* signal is labeled with white arrows. (D, D') Confocal images of *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)*; *TgBAC(cd36-RFP)* zebrafish intestine after 6h high fat (HF) meal feeding. The EECs' apical protrusion labeled by strong *lifActin-EGFP* signal was reduced.

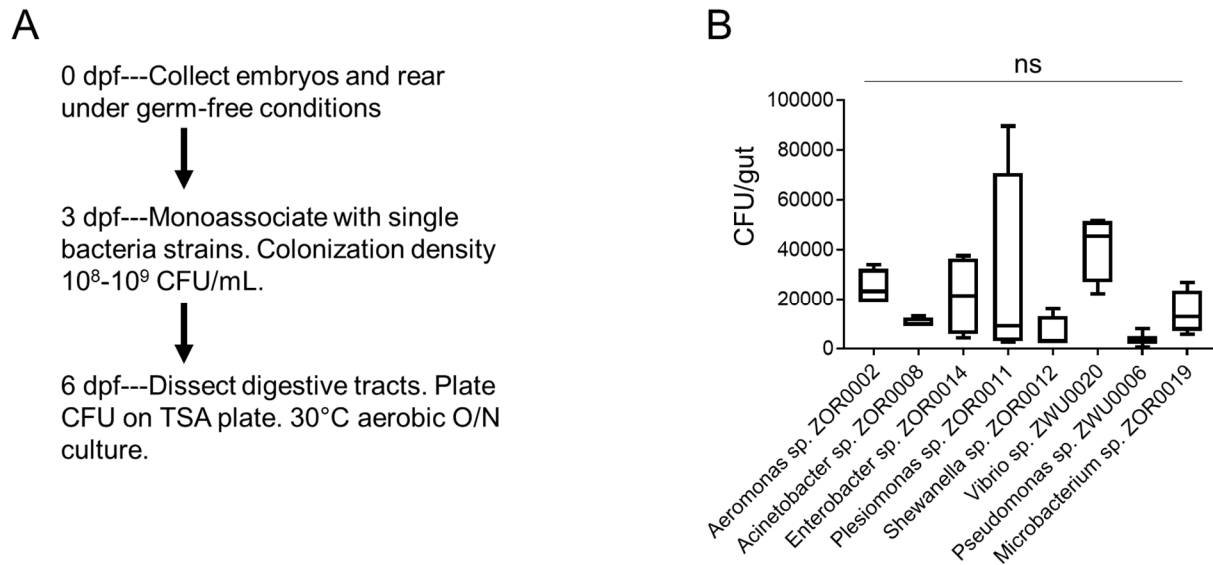


**Supplemental Figure 10.** The effect of palmitate feeding on EEC morphology and function. (A) Confocal image of *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP)* zebrafish intestine in control and 6 hours post palmitate feeding zebrafish. (B) EEC morphology score in control and palmitate fed zebrafish embryos. (D) EECs' response to palmitate following different dietary manipulations. 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish were untreated (n=6) or fed for 6 hours with BSA (n=3), ZM000 (larvae zebrafish food) (n=4), HF meal (6.25% chicken egg yolk) (n=11), or palmitate (n=4). Only egg yolk and palmitate feeding reduced the EECs' response to palmitate stimulation. (E) EECs' response to glucose stimulation following 6 hours of palmitate feeding. Student t-test was used in C,E and one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in D for stastic analysis. \* P<0.05, ns P>0.05, not significantly different.



**Supplemental Figure 11.** EEC sensitivity to palmitate stimulation is not altered in *myd88* mutant zebrafish. *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)*; *myd88*<sup>+/-</sup> fish were crossed with *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)*<sup>+</sup> fish and sorted at 3 dpf. Response to palmitate stimulation was assessed after which the genotypes of zebrafish were determined. (A) Quantification of the EEC response to palmitate stimulation in 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish under control conditions. No differences were observed among different genotypes. (B) Quantification of EECs' response to palmitate stimulation in 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish 6 hours after high fat (HF) feeding. One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in A, B for statistical analysis and no statistical differences were observed among different genotypes.

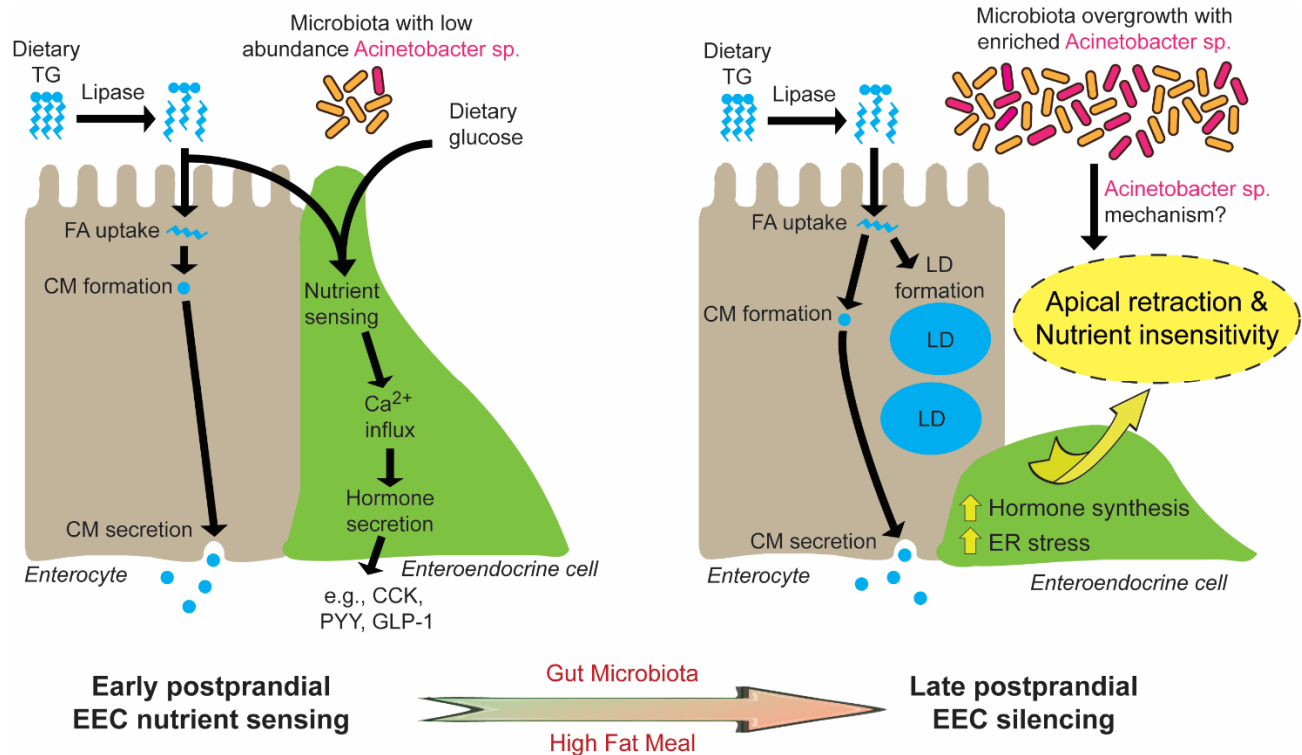




**Supplemental Figure 12.** Colonization of bacteria strains used for monoassociation.

(A) Schematics of the experimental design. The digestive tracts from 5 zebrafish larvae were dissected and pooled, and CFU analysis was performed to assess the colonization efficiency for bacteria strains that were used for consociation. (B) CFU quantification of zebrafish larvae samples that were monoassociated with different bacterial strains. One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test was used in B for statistic analysis and no statistical differences among groups were observed.





**Supplemental Figure 13.** Proposed model for microbiota-dependent HF feeding-induced EEC silencing. At early postprandial stages after consumption of a HF meal, dietary triglyceride (TG) is hydrolyzed to monoglycerides and free fatty acids (FA) by lipases in the gut lumen. FA are taken up by enterocytes and re-esterified into TG which is packaged into chylomicrons (CM) for basolateral secretion. FA and dietary glucose stimulate EECs, increasing  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  and inducing secretion of hormones like CCK, PYY and GLP-1. During and after HF feeding, FA taken up by enterocytes are stored in cytosolic lipid droplets (LD) in addition to secreted CM. During later postprandial stages, nutrient over-stimulation from HF feeding increases EECs hormone synthesis burden, activates EECs ER stress response pathways and induces overgrowth of the gut bacterial community including enrichment of *Acinetobacter* sp.. These nutrient and microbial stimuli in turn induce EECs apical retraction and reduce EECs nutrient sensitivity at the late postprandial stage, a process we call “EEC silencing”.

**Supplemental video 1.** EEC calcium response to water, BSA, palmitate, glucose and cysteine administration. 6 dpf *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish were used in these experiments and videos were recorded at 10s/frame for 5 or 10 minutes (cysteine).

**Supplemental video 2.** EEC calcium response to palmitate stimulation in control and 6 hour high fat fed *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae.

**Supplemental video 3.** EEC calcium response to glucose stimulation in control and 6 hours high fat fed *Tg(neurod1:Gcamp6f)* zebrafish larvae.

**Supplemental video 4.** Confocal Z stack images in *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); TgBAC(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)* 6 dpf control zebrafish larvae. The apical border of the intestine was labeled by *gata5:lifActin-EGFP*. Note that the apical protrusion of EECs extends to the intestinal lumen.

**Supplemental video 5.** Confocal Z stack image in *Tg(neurod1:TagRFP); TgBAC(gata5:lifActin-EGFP)* 10 hours high fat fed zebrafish larvae. The majority of EECs have lost their apical protrusions that extend to the intestinal lumen.

**Supplemental video 6.** Time lapse video of intestine in control *Tg(neurod1:lifActin-EGFP)* zebrafish larvae. Videos were taken at 10s/frame for 16 minutes.

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