

# Spotlight on Core Facilities

# Metabolic Phenotyping Core



*February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022*  
*Ruth Gordillo*  
*Syann Lee*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Philipp Scherer  
Joel Elmquist  
Jay Horton*

*Touchstone Diabetes Center  
Center for Hypothalamic Research  
Center for Human Nutrition  
Department of Internal Medicine*



Continuous technical support and  
collaborative efforts

*Core Research Technical Personnel:*

*Shannon Hacker  
Allison Walker  
Jannine Gamayot  
Sarah Rico  
Arely Tinajero  
Chelsea Limboy  
Jenny Lee*

*Supported in part by:*

*P01-DK088761, Touchstone Center,  
Hypothalamic Research Center and  
Center for Human Nutrition.*

*State of Texas funds*



# LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FACULTY

- Philipp Scherer

Director, Touchstone Diabetes Center

- Joel Elmquist

Director, Center for Hypothalamic Research

- Jay Horton

Director, Center for Human Nutrition

- Ruth Gordillo (*Touchstone Diabetes Center*)

Mass spectrometry. Analytical assays

- Syann Lee (*Center for Hypothalamic Research*)

Rodent metabolic chambers. Surgeries. RNAscope hybridization

- Laurent Gautron (*Center for Hypothalamic Research*)

Surgeries. RNAscope hybridization

- Richard (Max) Wynn (*Biochemistry/Touchstone Diabetes Center*)

Analytical Assays

Research

CTN Big S/W Node | Core Facilities | Clinical Trials | Programs | Research Support | Research by Department | Scientific Discoveries

Metabolic Phenotyping Core

## Metabolic Phenotyping Core

The Metabolic Phenotyping Core (MPC) provides state-of-the-art analytical and phenotypical measures to the scientific community both inside and outside UT Southwestern Medical Center. Our goal is to expand the scope of techniques available to investigators, standardize key methodologies, and expedite the completion of research on diseases related to metabolic disorders (diabetes and obesity), cancer, aging neurological disorders, etc.

### Services

- Chemistry analysis using VITROS MicroSlide™ technology
- Targeted Metabolite profiling using LC-MS/MS technology
- Enzymatic colorimetric assays (Total ketone bodies, 3HB, free glycerol, non-esterified free fatty acids, BCA, total phosphate, Iron/UIBC))
- Quantification of biomarkers by ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay)
- Quantification of panels of biomarkers by magnetic bead mapping multiplex technology
- Tissue lipids extraction and quantification of cholesterol and triglyceride levels
- Seahorse XF-24 Extracellular Flux Analyzer for cellular metabolism study
- Bomb calorimeter measurements
- Plasma lipoprotein particles fractionation
- Metabolic chambers that measure calorimetry, activity, and food/water consumption
- Urine collection chamber
- Treadmill for mice and rats
- Body composition analysis (MRI)
- Glucose-insulin clamp studies
- Primary hepatocyte and  $\beta$ -cell isolation from mice or rats
- RNAscope and Base Scope hybridization

We provide letters of support for grant proposals and research applications, both on and off campus (contact core directors).

Data generated by UT Southwestern Metabolic Phenotyping Core should be acknowledged on manuscripts and grants.

View our complete [price list](#) of services.

### More Information

Visit Metabolic Phenotyping Core on iLab portal

### Principal Investigators

- [Philipp Scherer, Ph.D.](#)
- [Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D.](#)
- [Jay Horton, M.D.](#)

### Contact Us

Main Lab:  
214-645-4883

Location L4-102

### Core Directors

Ruth Gordillo, Ph.D.  
Phone: 214-648-2566  
[Email](#)

Syann Lee, Ph.D.  
Phone: 214-648-3782  
[Email](#)

We provide letters of support for grant proposals and off campus (contact core directors).

Data generated by UT Southwestern Metabolic Phen acknowledged on manuscripts and grants.

View our complete [price list](#) of services.

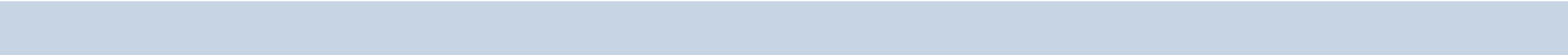




# Acknowledgement paragraph.

As per UTSW policy regarding core facilities supported by State funding, the following paragraph must be included in ALL the publications including data generated by UTSW Metabolic Phenotyping Core facility.

## *Acknowledgements.*

- a. The authors want to thank UT Southwestern Metabolic Phenotyping Core for the analysis of “XYZ” and expertise.*
  - b. The authors want to thank UT Southwestern Metabolic Phenotyping core for performing “XYZ, surgeries, rodent metabolic chambers studies, etc.” and expertise.*
  - c. The authors want to thank UT Southwestern Metabolic Phenotyping core for their shared “NMR, Echo-MRI, scintillation counter, surgery room, etc.” services, and expertise.*
- 



# THE REAL HEROES



Shannon Hacker  
Research Technician II



Allison Walker  
Research Technician II



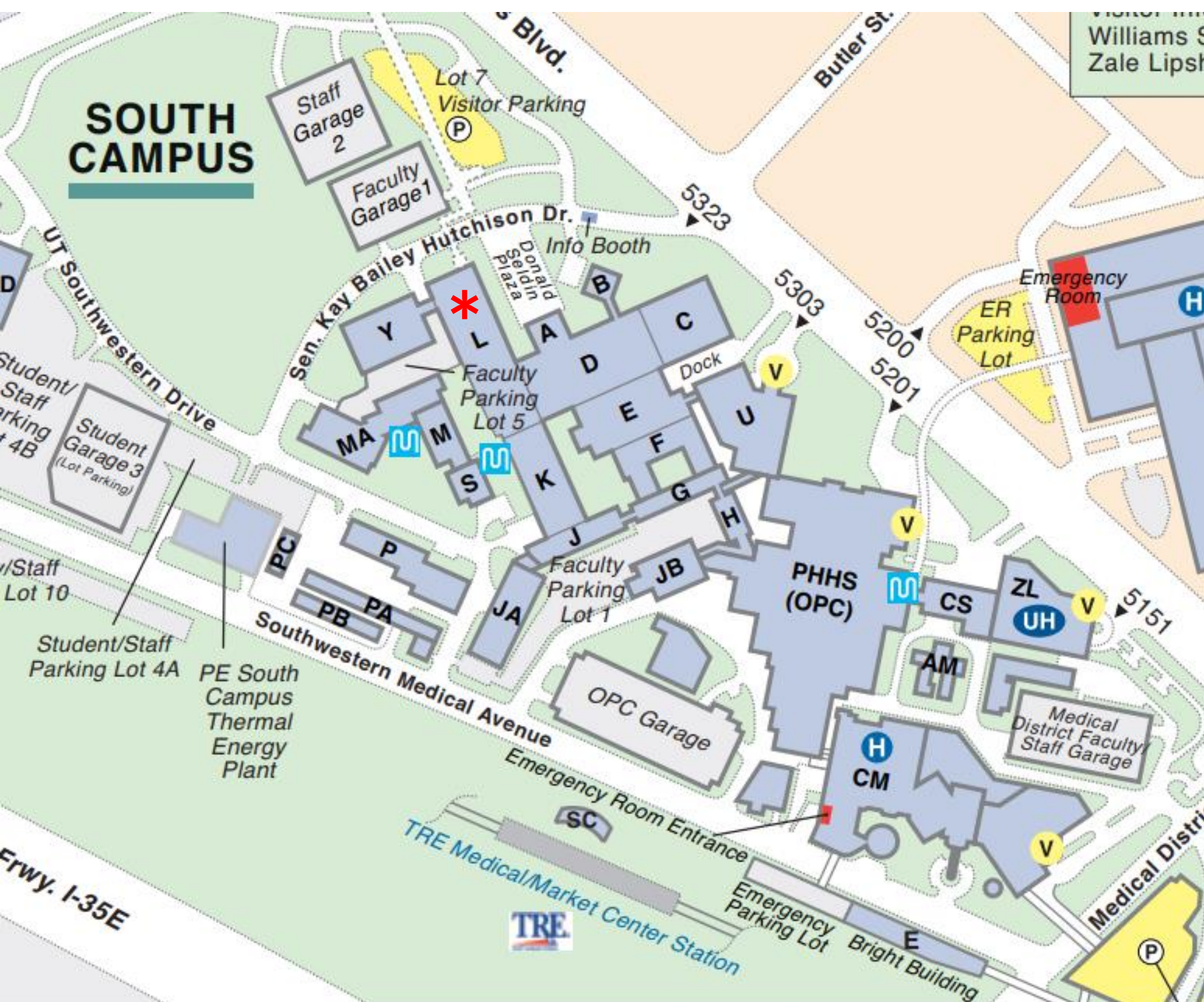
Jannine Irel Gamayot  
Research Technician II



Sarah Rico  
Research Technician II



# MAIN LAB LOCATION AND CONTACTS



Location. L4. 102

Contacts:

Ruth Gordillo. Mass Spectrometry & Bioanalytical Assays

[Ruth.Gordillo@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Ruth.Gordillo@utsouthwestern.edu)

Syann Lee. Rodent metabolic chambers. Surgeries. RNAscope hybridization


[Syann.lee@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Syann.lee@utsouthwestern.edu)



# SERVICE REQUESTS AND EQUIPMENT RESERVATIONS

## iLab portal

UTSW Metabolic Phenotyping Core



About Our CoreSchedule EquipmentRequest ServicesView All RequestsReservationsPeopleReportingBillingAdministration

▼ Service Requests

12-08-2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Our providers are experiencing shortages of reagents and consumables. The current situation is mainly impacting our VITROS clinical analyzer services.

For those of you who submit sensitive metabolites to the core for analysis freeze your samples and store at -80 C.

In the case of ALT, LDH, AMYL and UPRO freezing samples is not recommended according to the instructions from the fabricator. However, we have not found significant differences when the samples are snap frozen and slowly thawed on ice at the time of analysis.

Please submit separate aliquots for NEFA and free glycerol analysis.

The Metabolic Phenotyping Core will be CLOSED

Thanksgiving: November 25th-28th 2021. Resuming activities on November 29th 2021.  
Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup> sample drop-off only until 12:00 noon.

Winter-Break: December 24th 2021-January 2nd-2022. Resuming activities on January 3rd 2022  
Thursday December 23rd. Sample drop-off only until 12:00 noon.



# SERVICE REQUESTS AND EQUIPMENT RESERVATIONS

## iLab portal

[About Our Core](#)[Schedule Equipment](#)

**ELISA. Custom project service. Please contact the core before requesting ELISA services. Users not able to initiate.**

[\(view additional details\)](#)

Please contact the core before requesting ELISA services.

The core run routinely any commercially available sandwich ELISA kits for preclinical animal models and clinical research samples.

In general each kit can accommodate 36 samples in duplicate.

Fees include commercial price of the kit plus labor.

**MagpixCytokines. Custom project assay. Contact core personnel. Users not able to initiate.**

[\(view additional details\)](#)

**Bomb Calorimetry. Service requests accepted based on projects. Contact Core Director.**

[\(view additional details\)](#)

**SeaHorse FluxAnalyzer.**

[\(view additional details\)](#)

**Body composition analysis. Micro-CT scanner. Instrument has been decommissioned.**

[\(view additional details\)](#)



# MPC USER OF THE YEAR AWARD







## **PART I**

Bioanalytical Assays

Main laboratory L4.102

## **PART II**

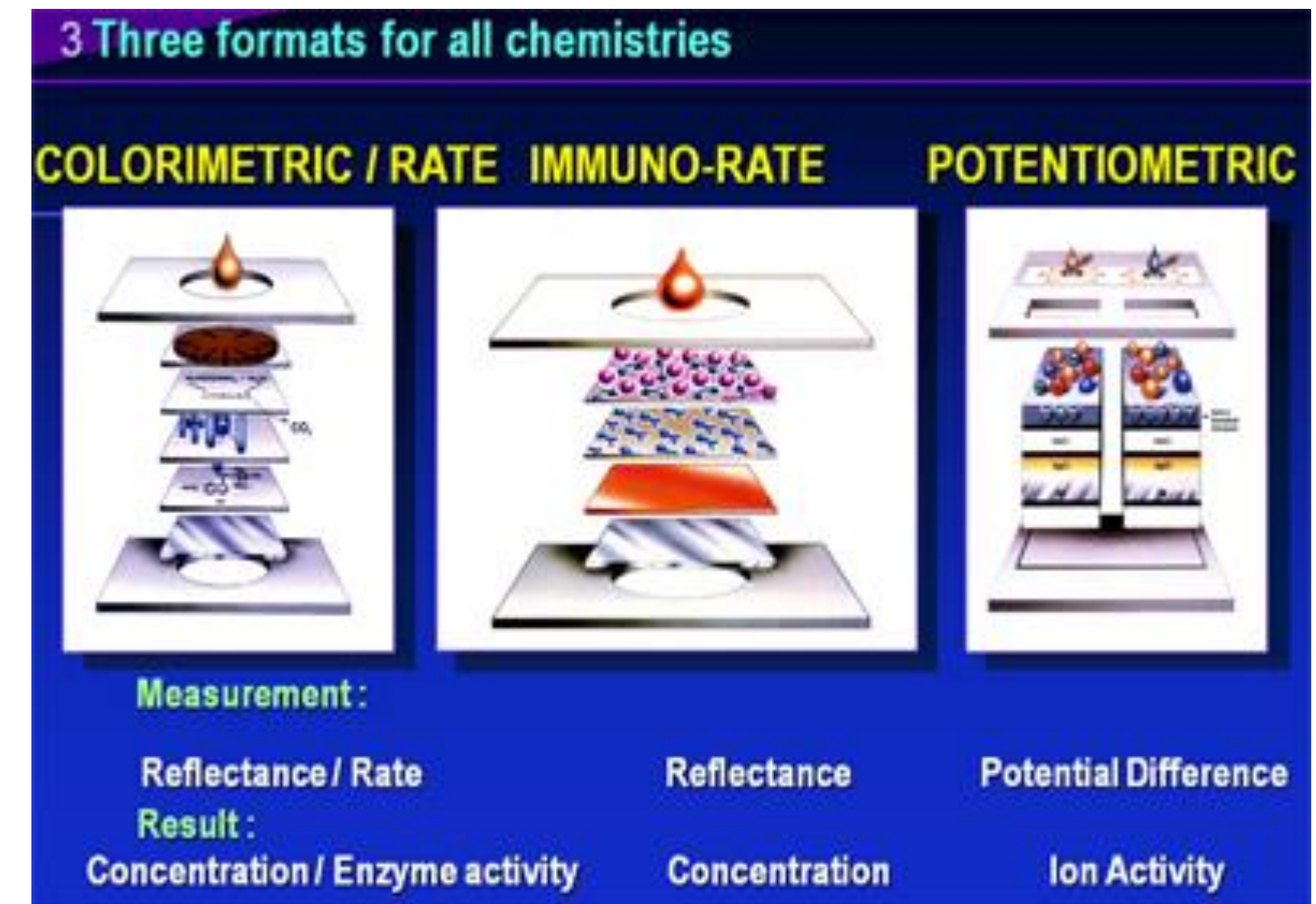
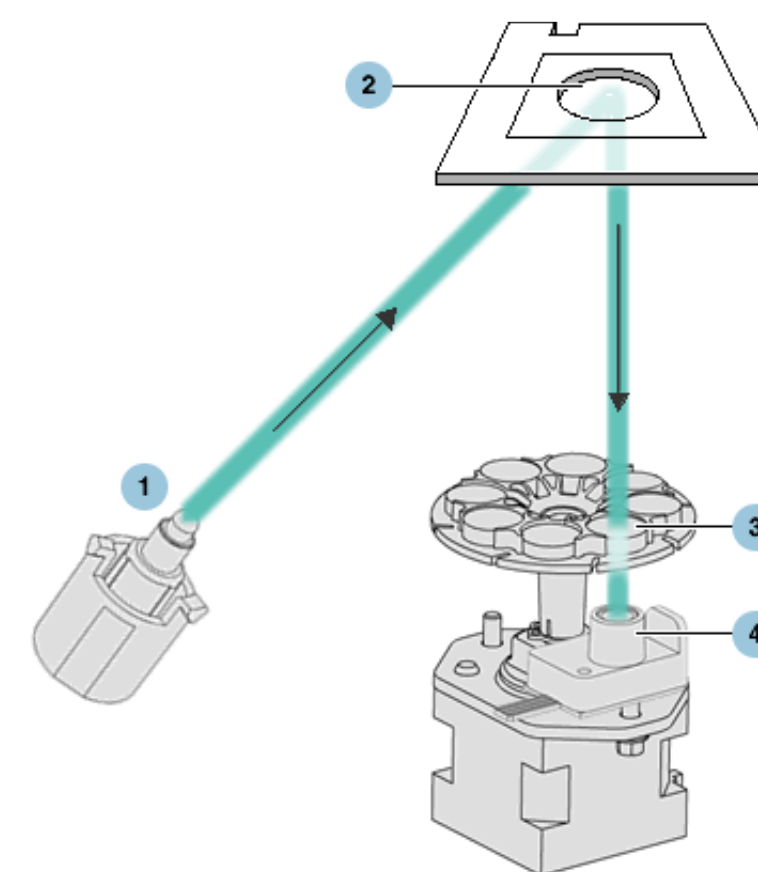
Rodent chambers

Rodent treadmills

RNAscope and Basescope hybridization



# PART I. VITROS 350 CHEMISTRY SYSTEM. Clinical Analyzer





# PART I. VITROS 350 CHEMISTRY SYSTEM. Clinical Analyzer

Albumin (ALB)

Alcohol (ALC)

Alkaline Phosphatase (ALKP)

Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)

Ammonia (AMON)

Amylase (AMYL)

Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)

Unconjugated/Conjugated Bilirubin (BuBc)

Blood Urea Nitrogen (Bun)

Calcium (Ca)

Cholinesterase (CHE)

Cholesterol (CHOL)/(HDLc)

Creatine Kinase (CK)

Creatine Kinase MB (CKMB)

Chloride (Cl)

Creatinine (CREA)

C-Reactive Protein (CRP)

Direct HDL (dHDL)

Carbon Dioxide (ECO2)

Iron (Fe)

Gamma Glutamyltransferase (GGT)

Glucose (GLU)

Potassium (K)

Lactate (LAC)

Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH)

Lipase (LIPA)

Lithium (Li)

Magnesium (Mg)

Sodium (Na)

Phosphorus (PHOS)

CSF Protein (PROT)

Total Bilirubin (TBIL)

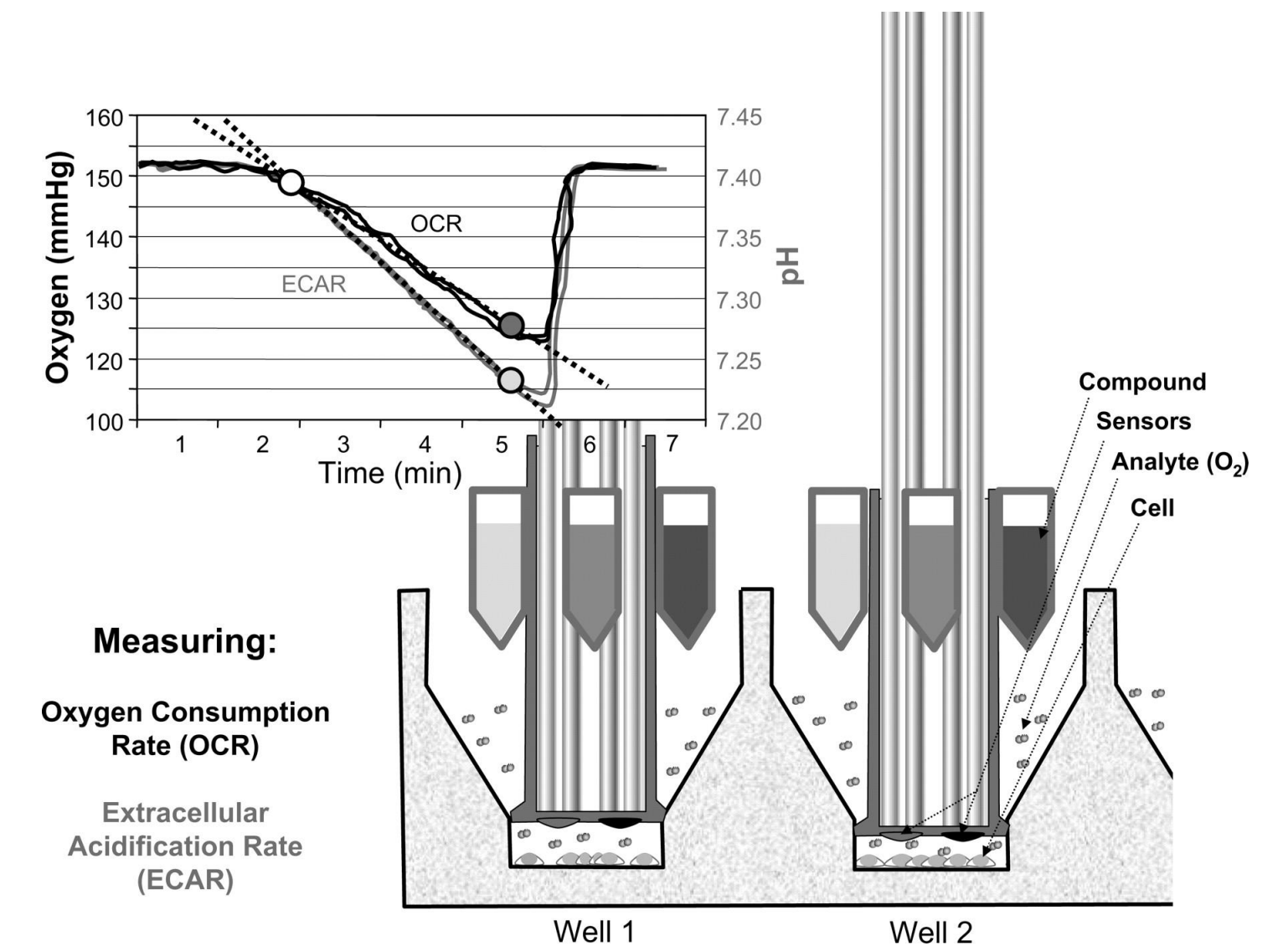
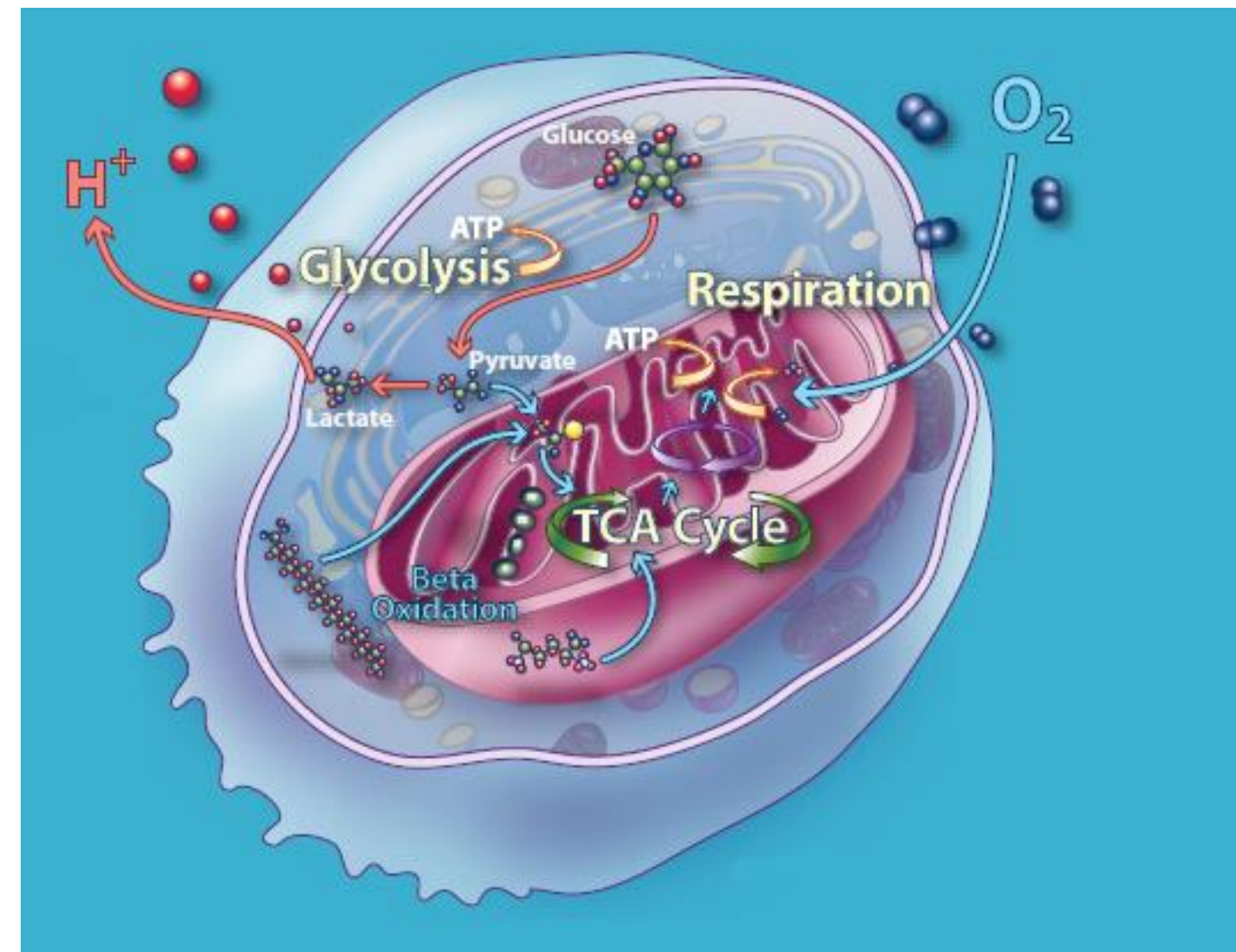
Total Protein (TP)

Triglyceride (TRIG)

Urine Protein (UPRO)

Uric Acid (URIC)

# PART I. SEAHORSE XFe24 ANALYZER



Measuring:  
Oxygen Consumption  
Rate (OCR)  
Extracellular  
Acidification Rate  
(ECAR)

**BIOHAZARD**



Biosafety Level 2

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Assay running volume 500-1,000  $\mu$ L per well  
Sample requirements: 10,000-1,000,000 cells





Product Details

[Features](#)

[Specifications](#)

[Technology](#)

[How It Works](#)

[Applications](#)

[Literature](#)

[Support](#)

[References](#)

[Tools](#)

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[News](#)

[Related Products](#)

Application Notes

[XF Data Normalization by the Agilent Seahorse XF Imaging and Normalization System](#)

This application note highlights how the XF Imaging and Normalization System provides an efficient and reliable method of normalization with a seamless and rapid workflow for XF Analyzer users.

[Application Notes](#) / [English](#) / 01 Nov 2018 / 719.16 KB / [PDF](#)

[Evaluating Changes in Cell Metabolism in Neuroimmune and Neuropsychiatric Disorders](#)

Application Brief- summarizes scientific Agilent-Seahorse XF research focused on neurodegeneration, immunology, and infectious disease.

[Application Notes](#) / [English](#) / 17 May 2017 / 689.46 KB / [PDF](#)

[Metabolic Pathway Determination Using the XF24 Analyzer](#)

How to measure the contribution of mitochondrial respiration and glycolysis to cellular bioenergetics.

[Application Notes](#) / [English](#) / 31 Mar 2017 / 493.83 KB / [PDF](#)

[Normalization of Agilent Seahorse XF Data Data by In-situ Cell Counting Using a Biotek Cytation 5](#)

Application Note - Normalization of Agilent Seahorse XF data by in-situ cell counting using a BioTek Cytation 5

[Application Notes](#) / [English](#) / 24 Mar 2017 / 931.07 KB / [PDF](#)

[Identifying Metabolic Switches Using an Agilent Seahorse XFe Analyzer in Hypoxia](#)

Identifying Metabolic Phenotype Switches in Cancer Cells Using the Agilent Seahorse XF/XFe Analyzer in an Hypoxic Environment

[Application Notes](#) / [English](#) / 03 Jan 2017 / 744.28 KB / [PDF](#)

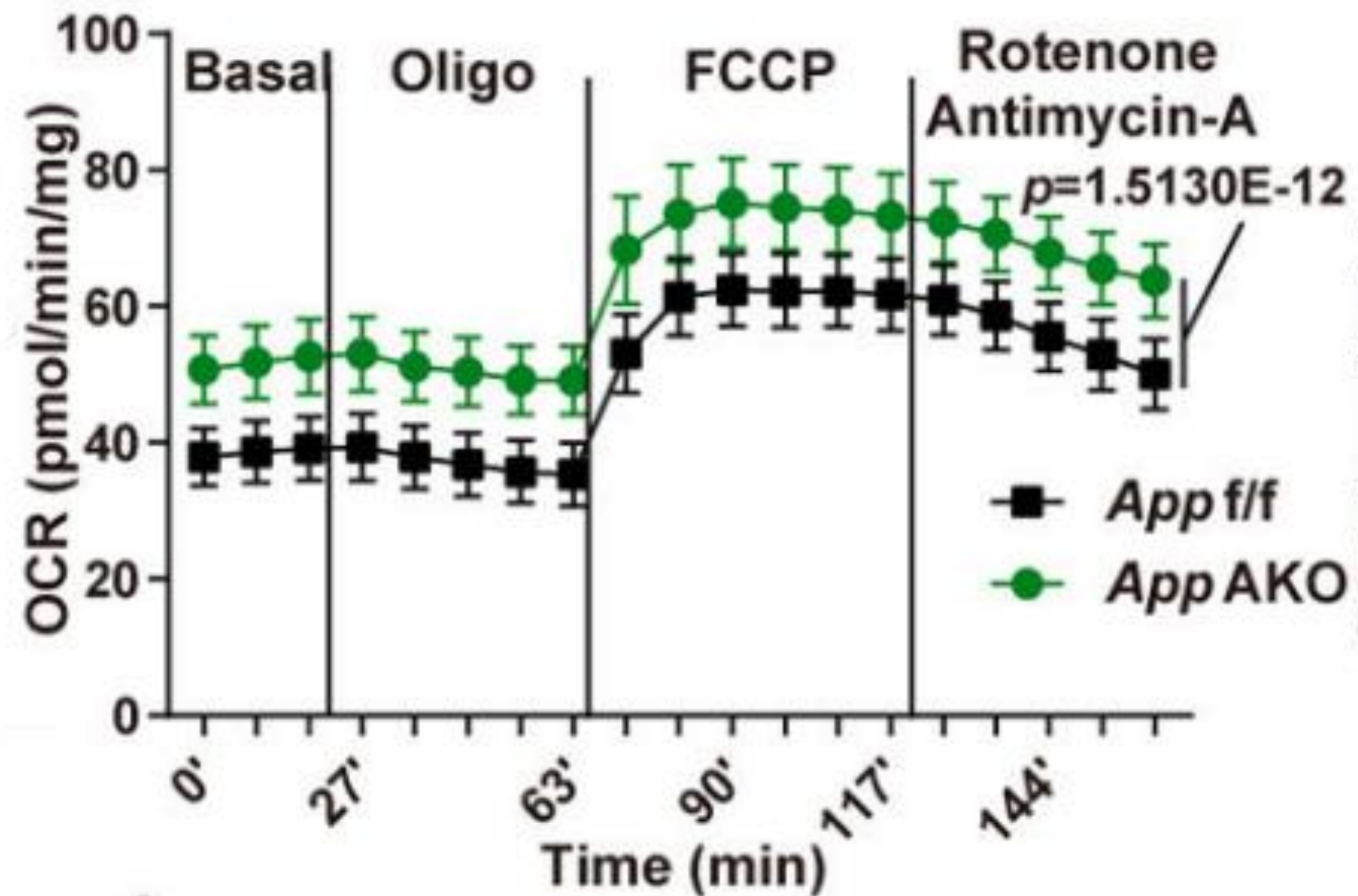
[Measure Mitochondrial Respiration in Skeletal Muscle Fibers with a Seahorse Analyzer](#)

Measuring Mitochondrial Respiration in Intact Skeletal Muscle Fibers with an Agilent Seahorse XF24/XFe24 Analyzer

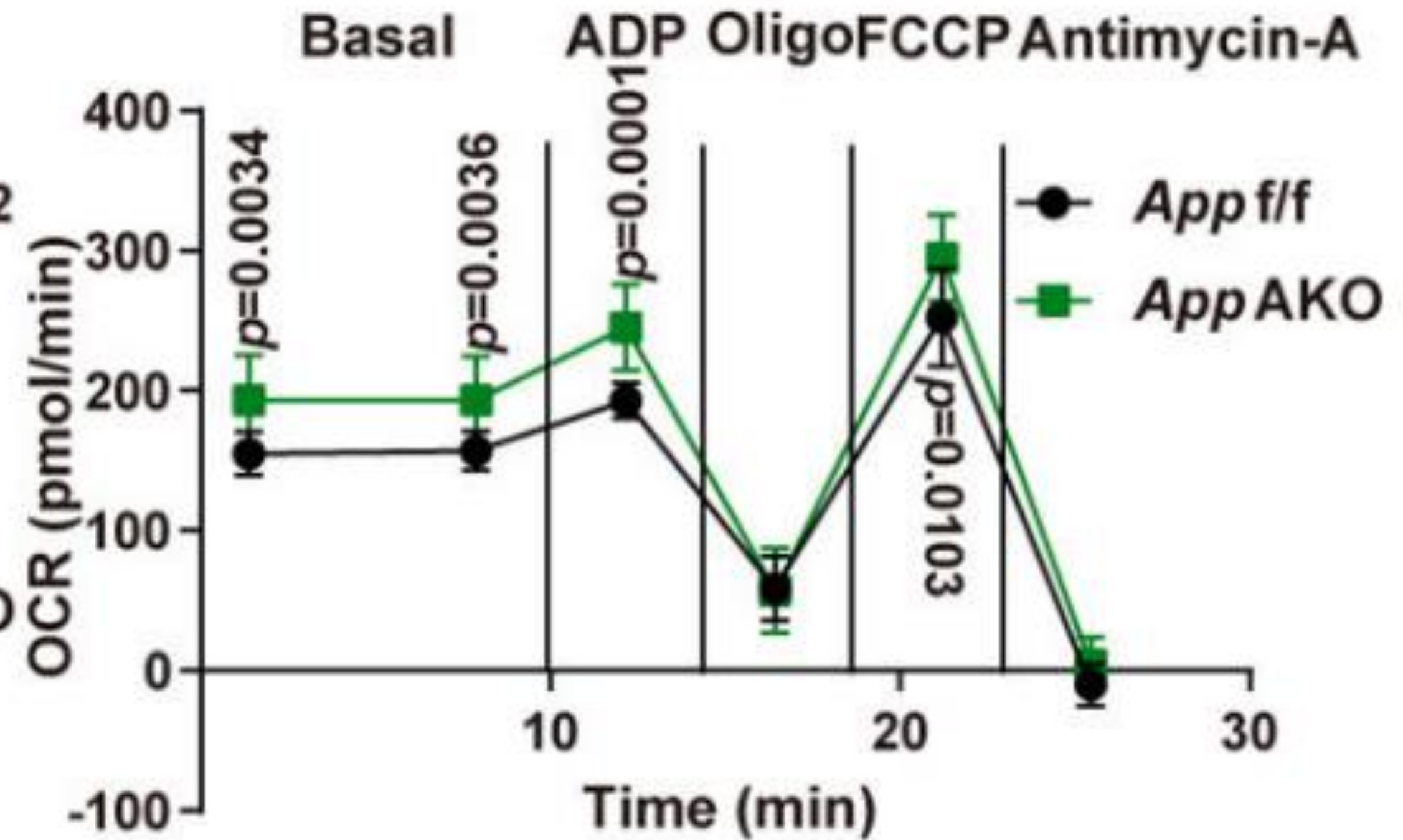


Chat

## Mitochondrial Respiration



## Mitochondrial Respiration





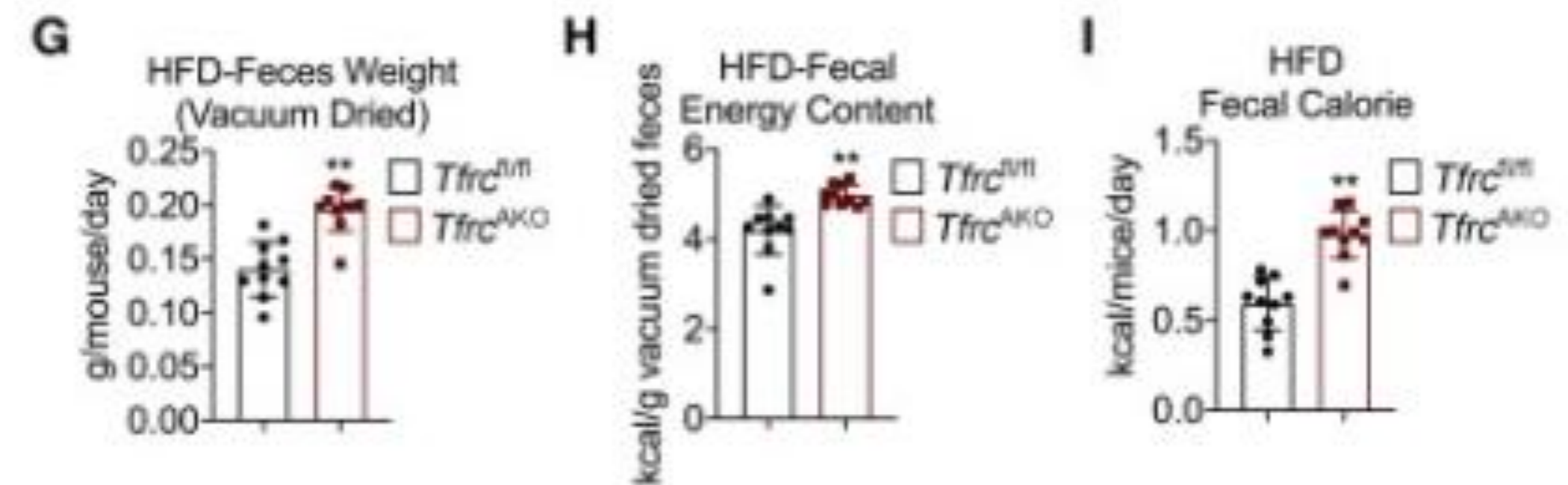
# PART I. BOMB CALORIMETER



Semi-micro 25 – 200 mg of sample



Standard 0.6 – 1.2 g of sample



Zhang et al.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmet.2021.06.001>

Daily feces weight (G), fecal energy content (H), and daily fecal calorie content (I) of *Tfr<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Tfr<sup>AKO</sup>* mice after 8 weeks of HFD



# PART I. MULTIPLEXED IMMUNOASSAYS



MAGPIX READER  
SIMULTANEOUSLY DETERMINATION UP TO 50 ANALYTES

## Diabetes, Metabolic and Gut Hormones\*:

Gut hormones regulate gut motility and secretion, pancreatic islet hormone secretion, food intake and energy expenditure.

<a href="#">Glucagon</a>	<a href="#">GLP-1</a>	<a href="#">Leptin</a>
<a href="#">C-Peptide</a>	<a href="#">GIP</a>	<a href="#">Insulin</a>
<a href="#">PYY</a>	<a href="#">Ghrelin</a>	<a href="#">Amylin</a>

\*only selected analytes listed

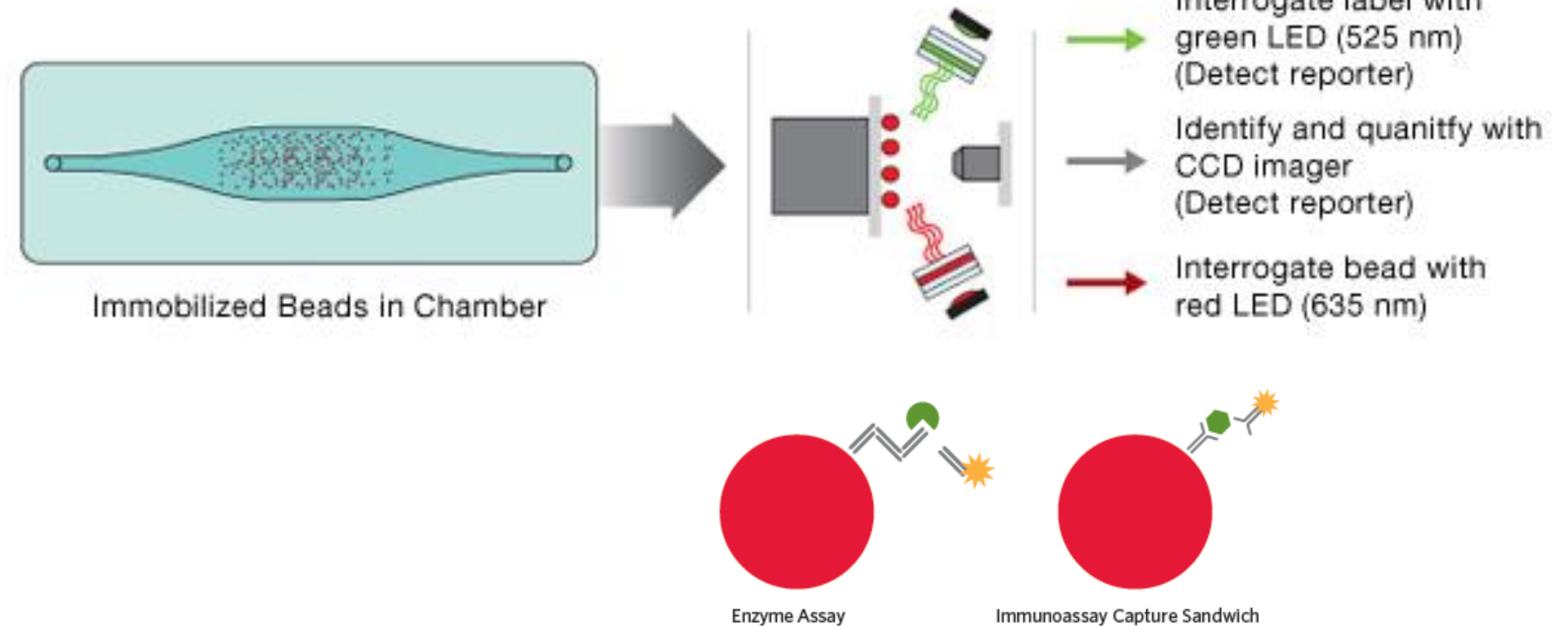
## Adipokines\*:

Hormones called adipokines regulate appetite and energy balance, insulin sensitivity, and lipid metabolism.

<a href="#">Adiponectin</a>	<a href="#">IL-1<math>\beta</math></a>	<a href="#">IL-6</a>
<a href="#">MCP-1</a>	<a href="#">PAI-1</a>	<a href="#">Resistin</a>
<a href="#">TNF-<math>\alpha</math></a>	<a href="#">Leptin</a>	<a href="#">Adiponectin</a>

\*only selected analytes listed

Fluorescent Imager



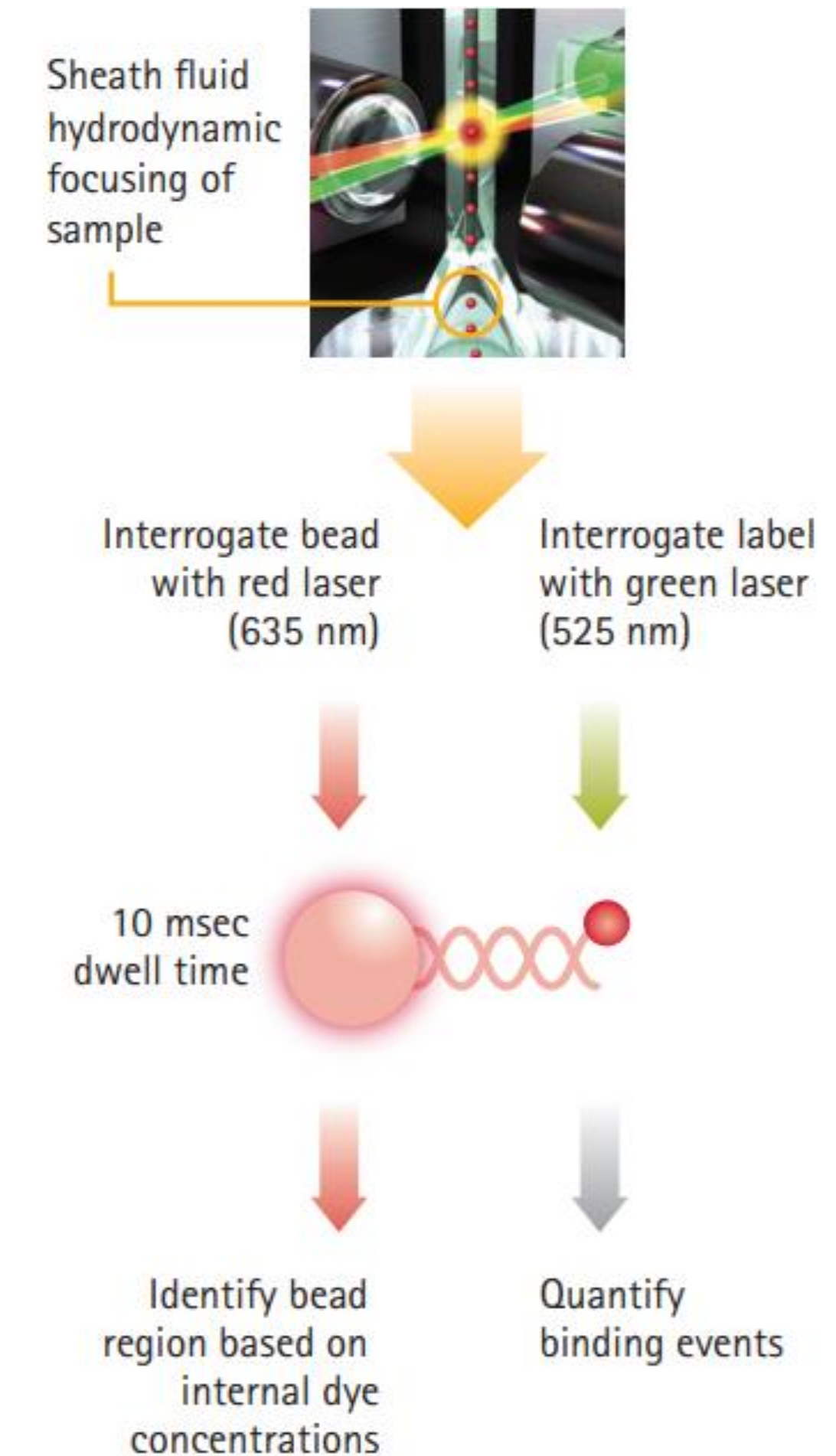


# PART I. MULTIPLEXED IMMUNOASSAYS

## Flow cytometry-based analysis

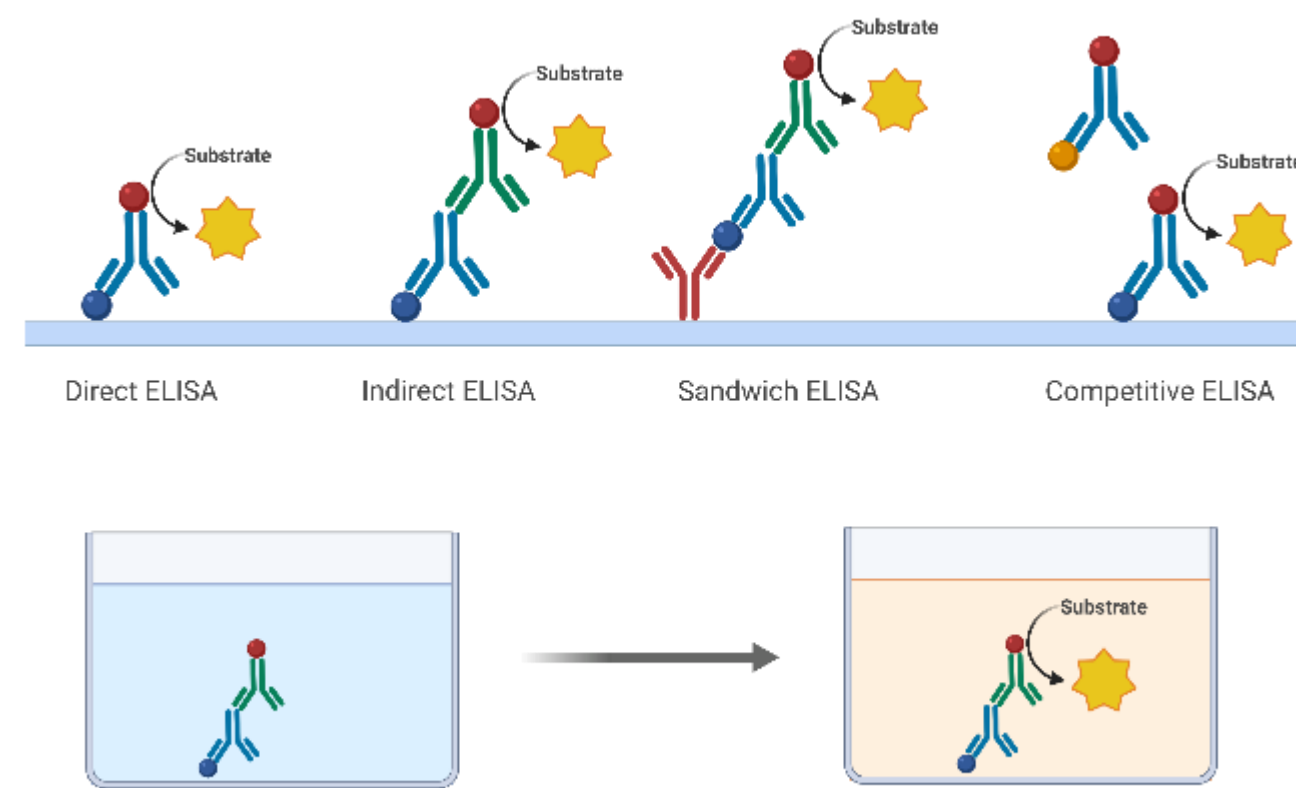


FLEXMAP 3D READER  
SIMULTANEOUSLY DETERMINATION UP TO 500 ANALYTES



# PART I. Enzyme Linked immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

## Commercial Kits

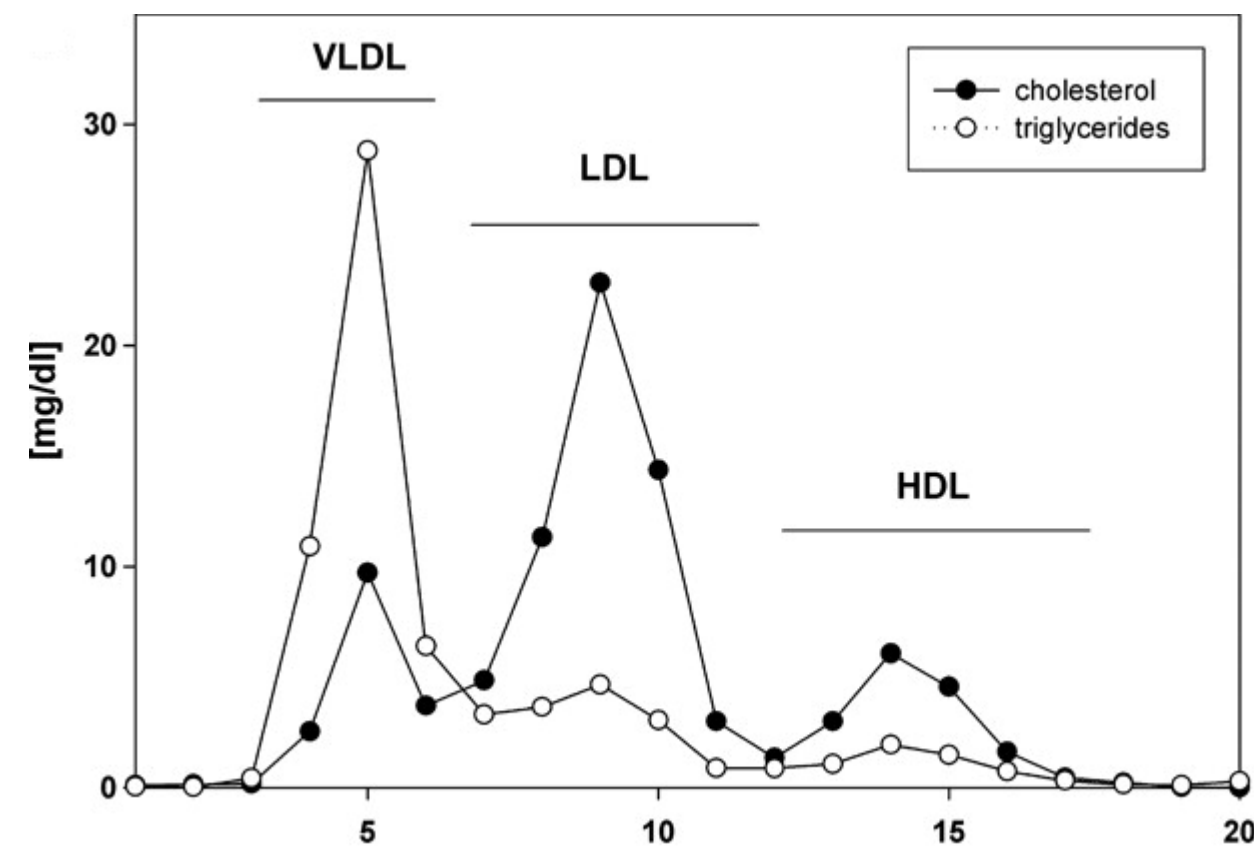


Multimode Plate Reader.  
Absorbance, Luminescence, Fluorescence

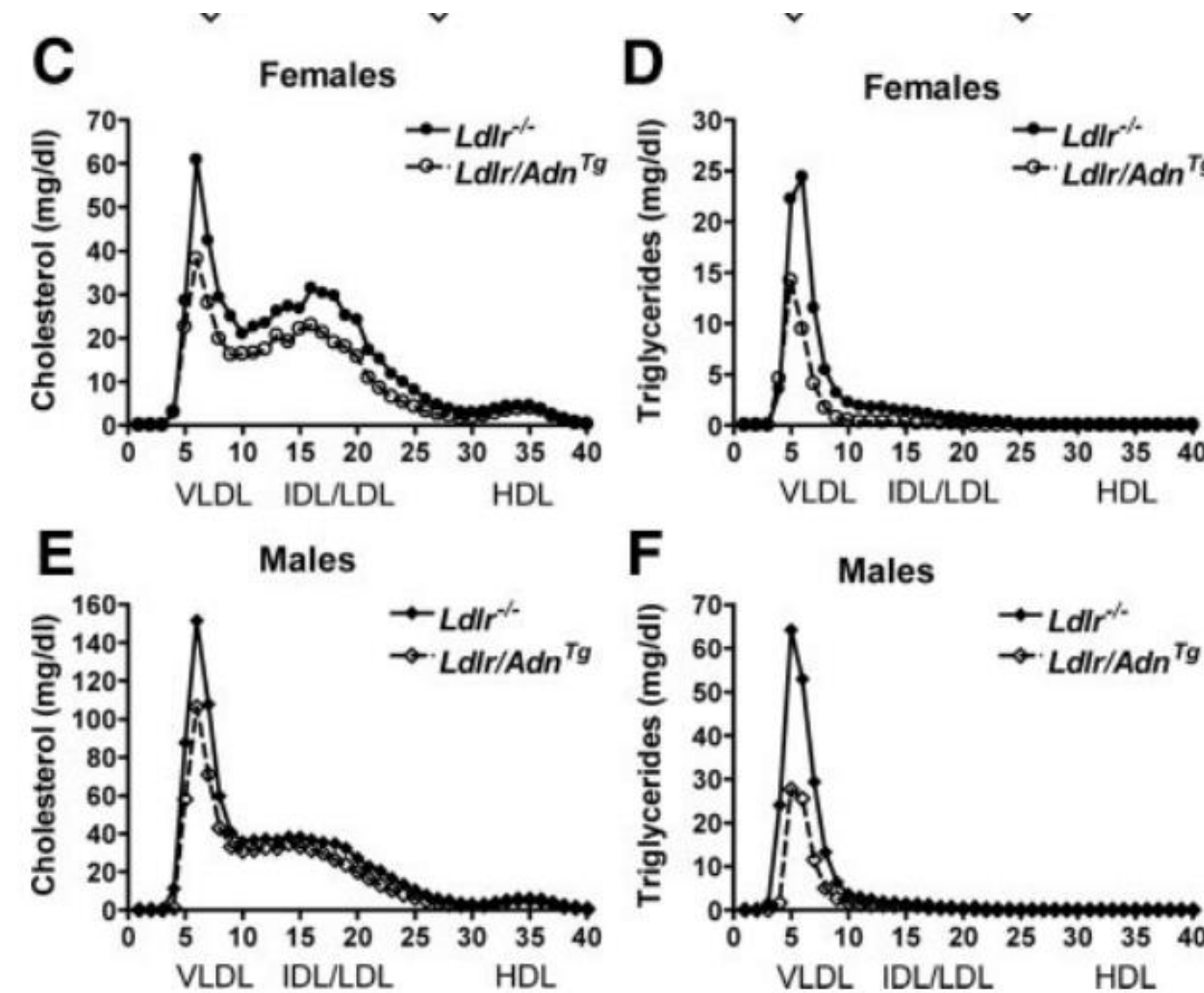




# PART I. Plasma Lipoprotein Fractionation by FPLC

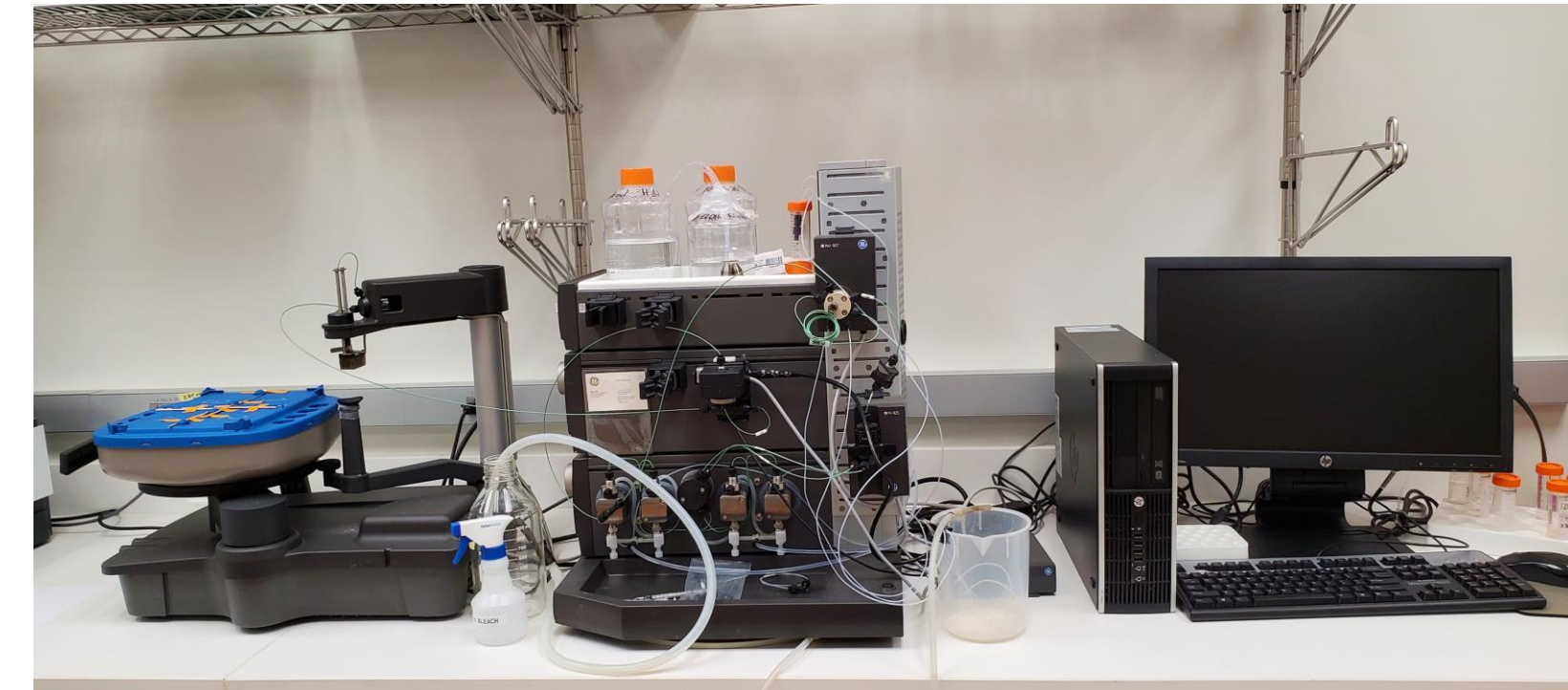


Total cholesterol (TC) and triglyceride level of fast performance liquid chromatography (FPLC) fractions. Human Serum  
Weisner *et al.*  
<https://doi.org/10.1194/jlr.D800028-JLR200>



Total cholesterol (TC) and triglyceride level of fast performance liquid chromatography (FPLC) fractions. Mouse Serum. Adiponectin improves lipoprotein profile. Shown are total cholesterol (A) and triglycerides (B) in female and male *Ldlr/Adn*<sup>Tg</sup> and *Ldlr*<sup>-/-</sup> mice after feeding of WD for 4 months.

Nawrocki *et al.*  
<https://doi.org/10.1194/jlr.D800028-JLR200>

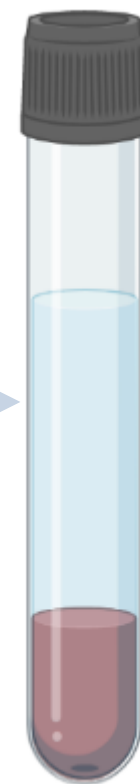


# PART I. Tissue Lipids Extractions. Enzymatic Colorimetric assay

- Total Cholesterol
- Total Triacylglycerides
- Non-Esterified Fatty Acids (Free Fatty Acids and Acyl CoA)



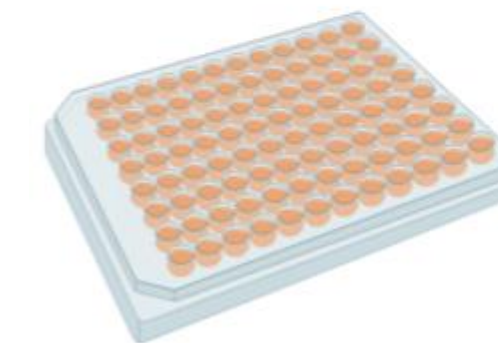
Homogenization



Single phase  
liquid extraction



Plating samples and standards,  
reagents addition



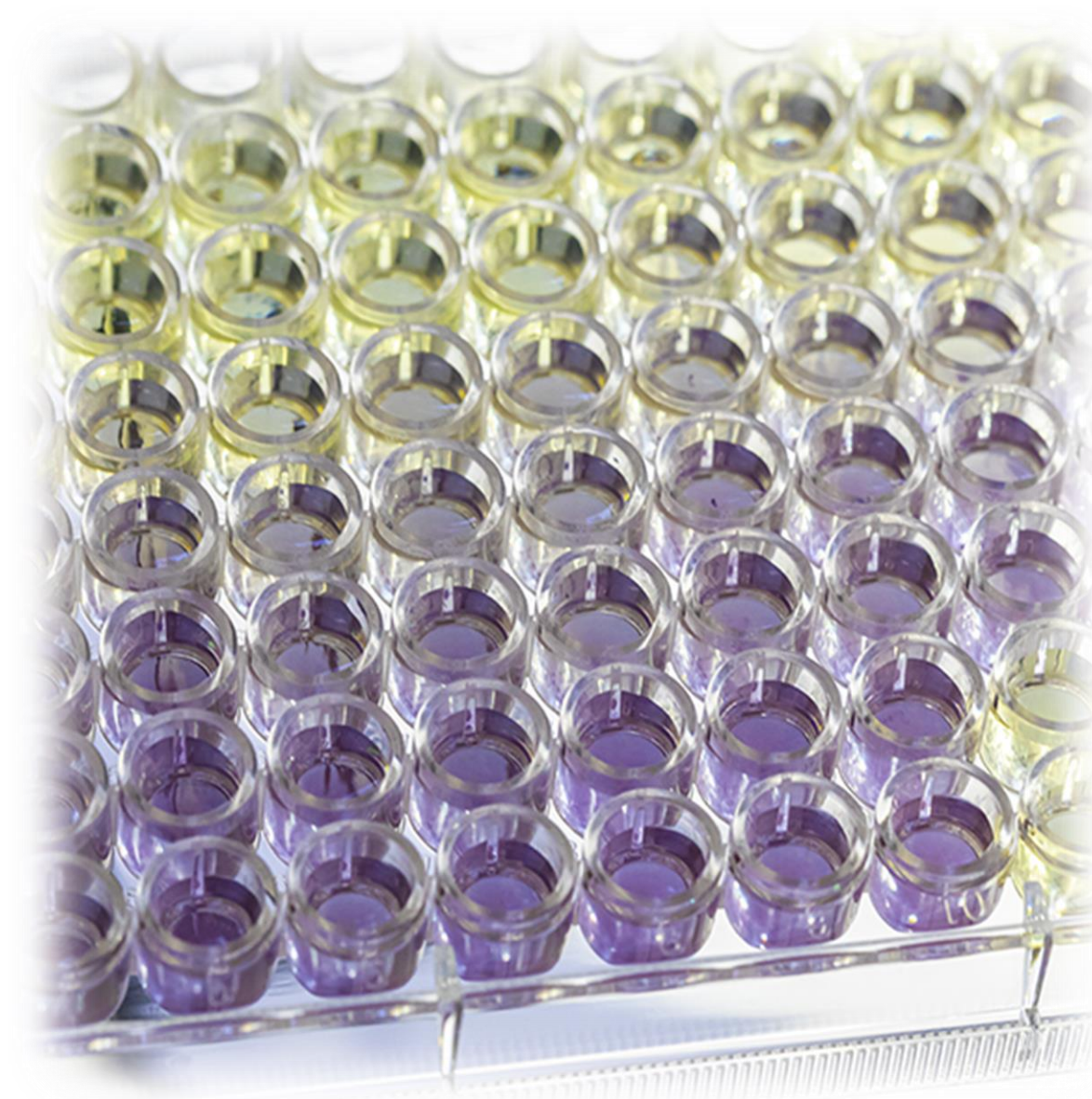
Absorbance reading and data  
processing



# PART I. Colorimetric Assays.

- NEFA serum and plasma samples
- Free glycerol
- Total ketone bodies and 3-hydroxybutyrate (3HB)
- Iron/Unsaturated iron-binding capacity (UIBC)
- Protein content

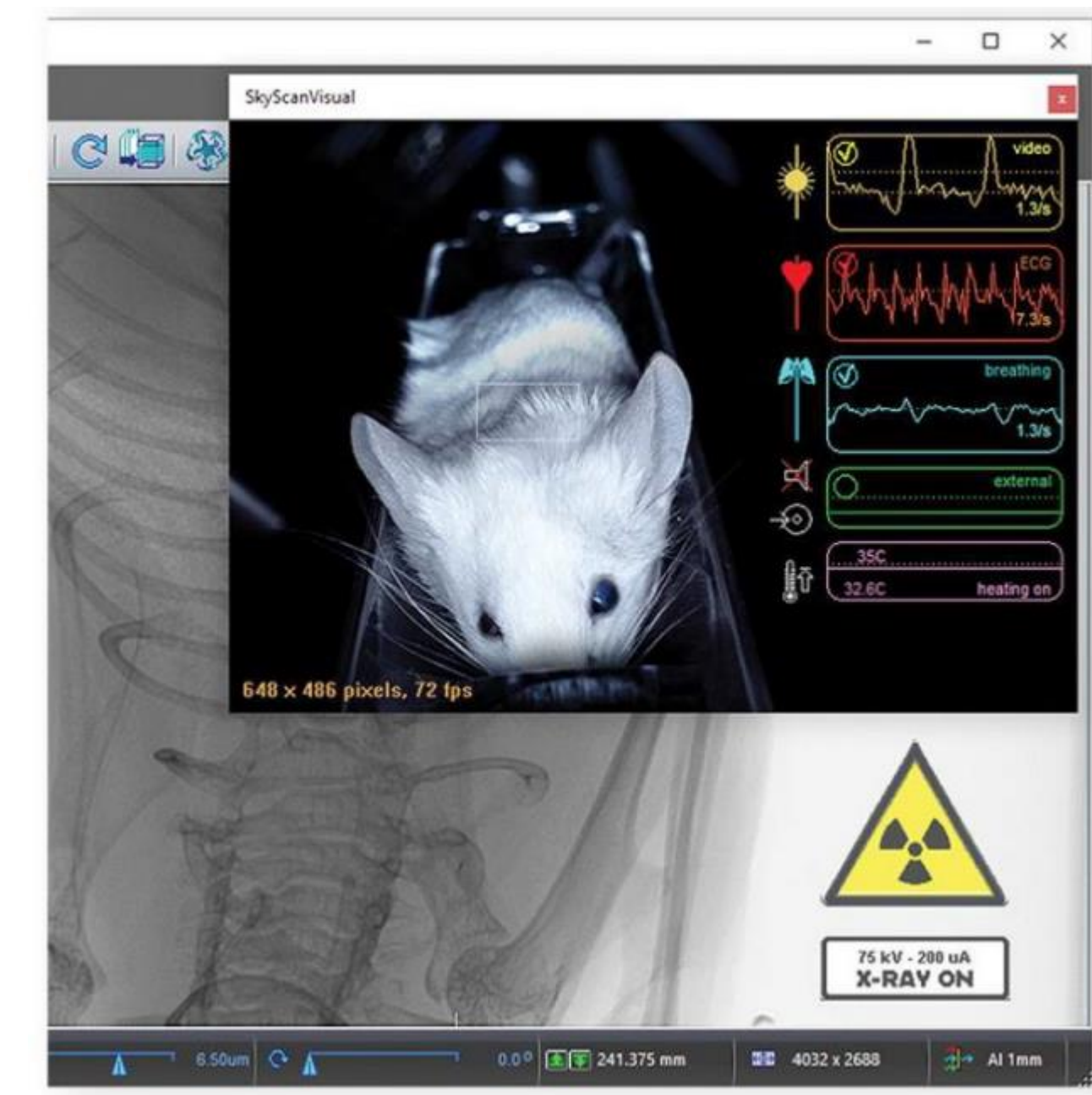
Other assays as requested. Custom design project



# PART I. Micro-CT scanner. **Coming Soon!!!**



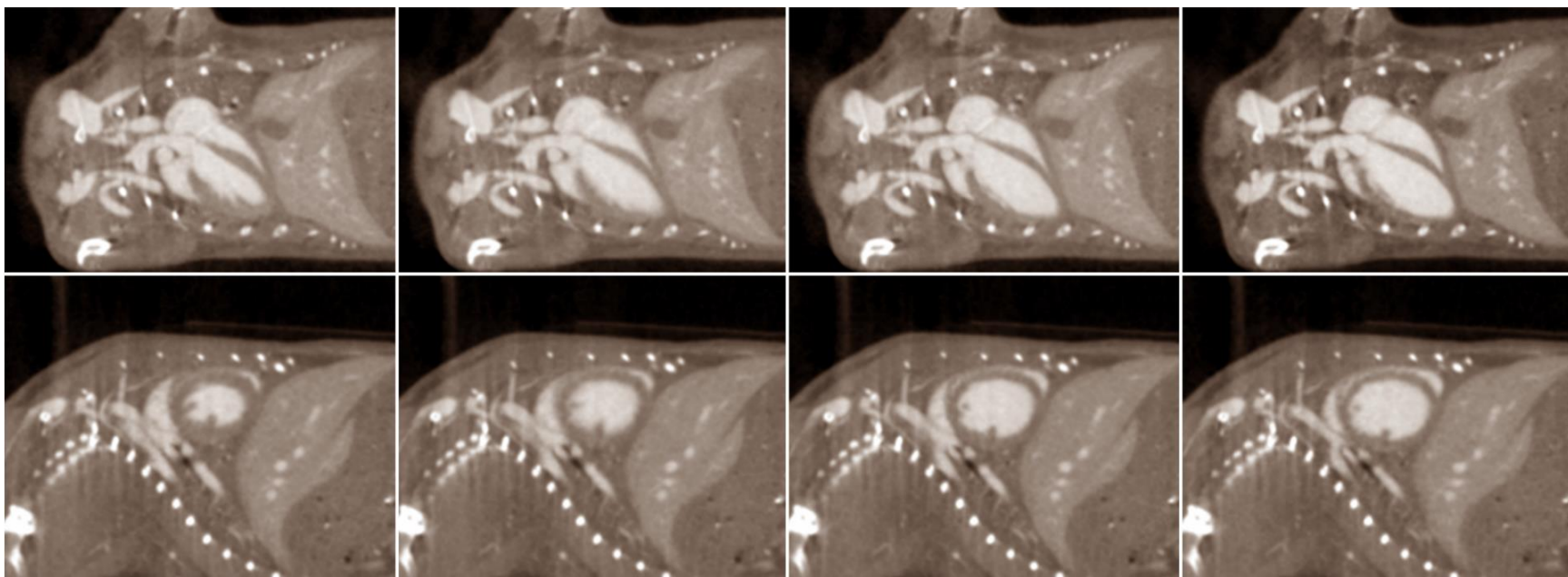
Bruker SKYSCAN 1276  
JA barrier facility



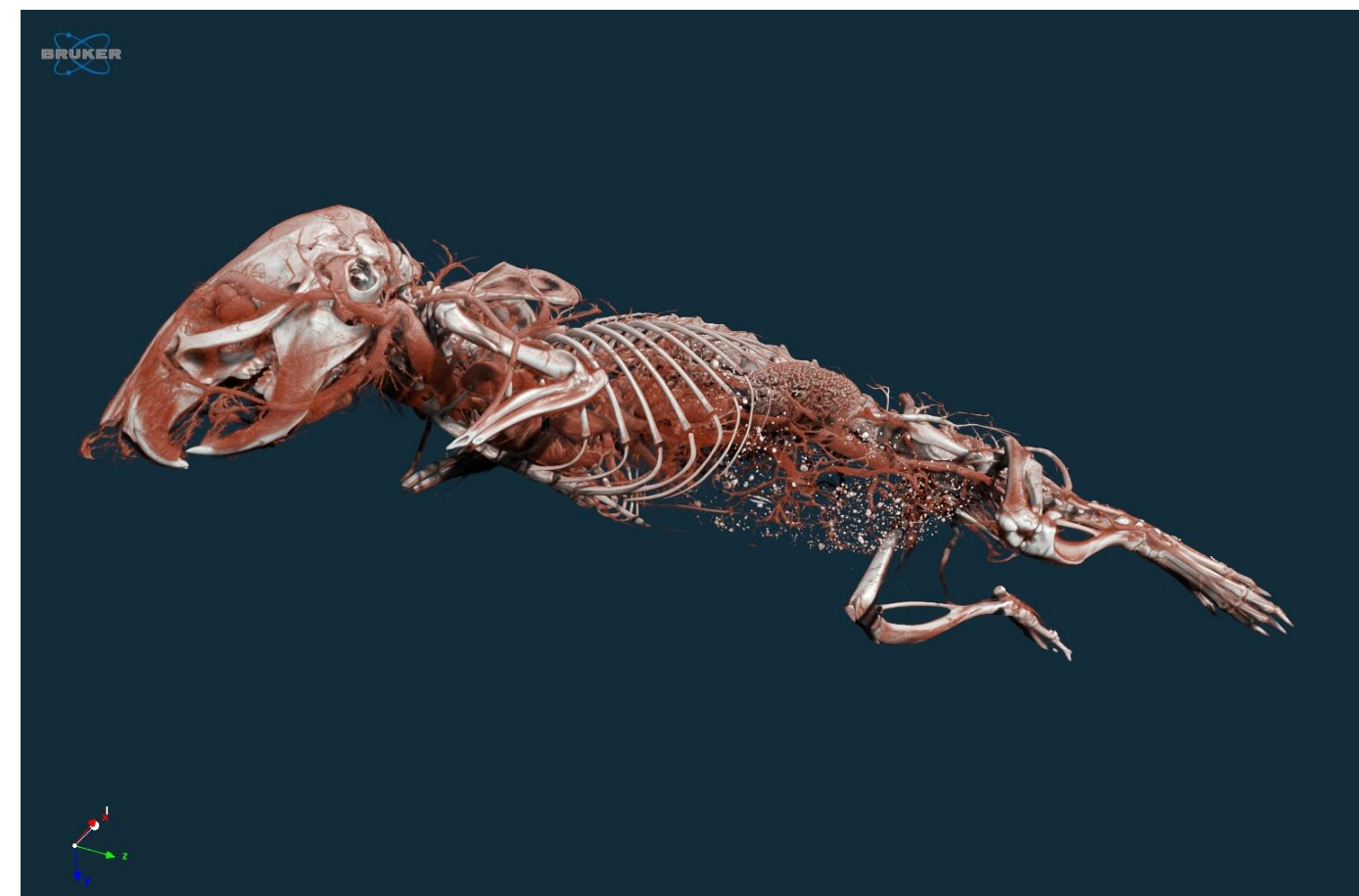
- Low-dose, fast scan → longitudinal studies
- Smallest pixel size 2.8  $\mu\text{m}$  (highest resolution)
- Integrated Physiological monitoring



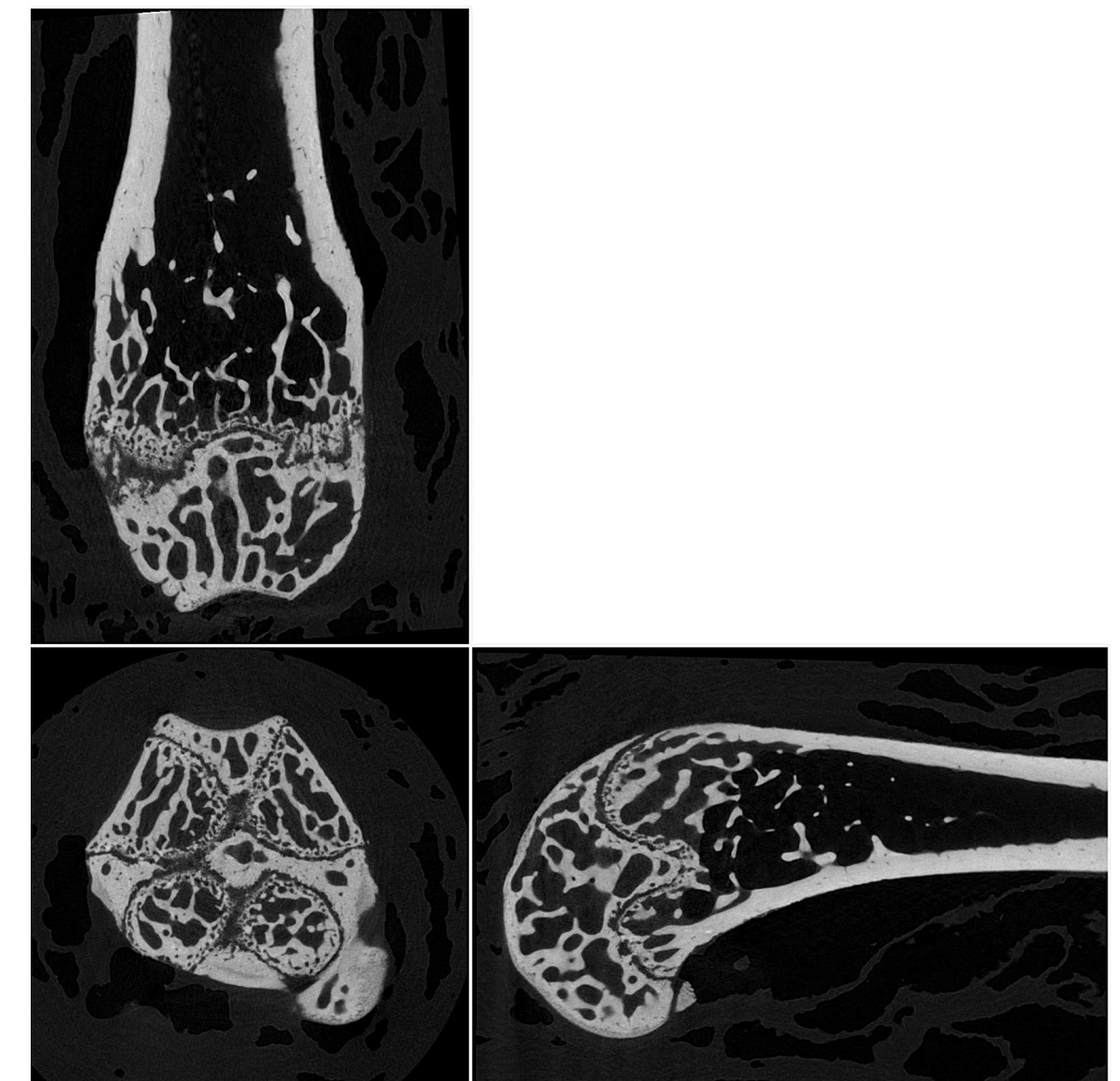
# PART I. Micro-CT scanner. **Coming Soon!!!**



Cross-sectional images of a time sequence of the mouse heartbeat, scanned *in vivo* after contrast agent injection



3D representation of the mouse vasculature, scanned *in vivo* at 7  $\mu\text{m}$  voxel size after a bolus injection of vascular contrast agent.



Orthogonal slices through a mouse femur, scanned at 2.8  $\mu\text{m}$  voxel size



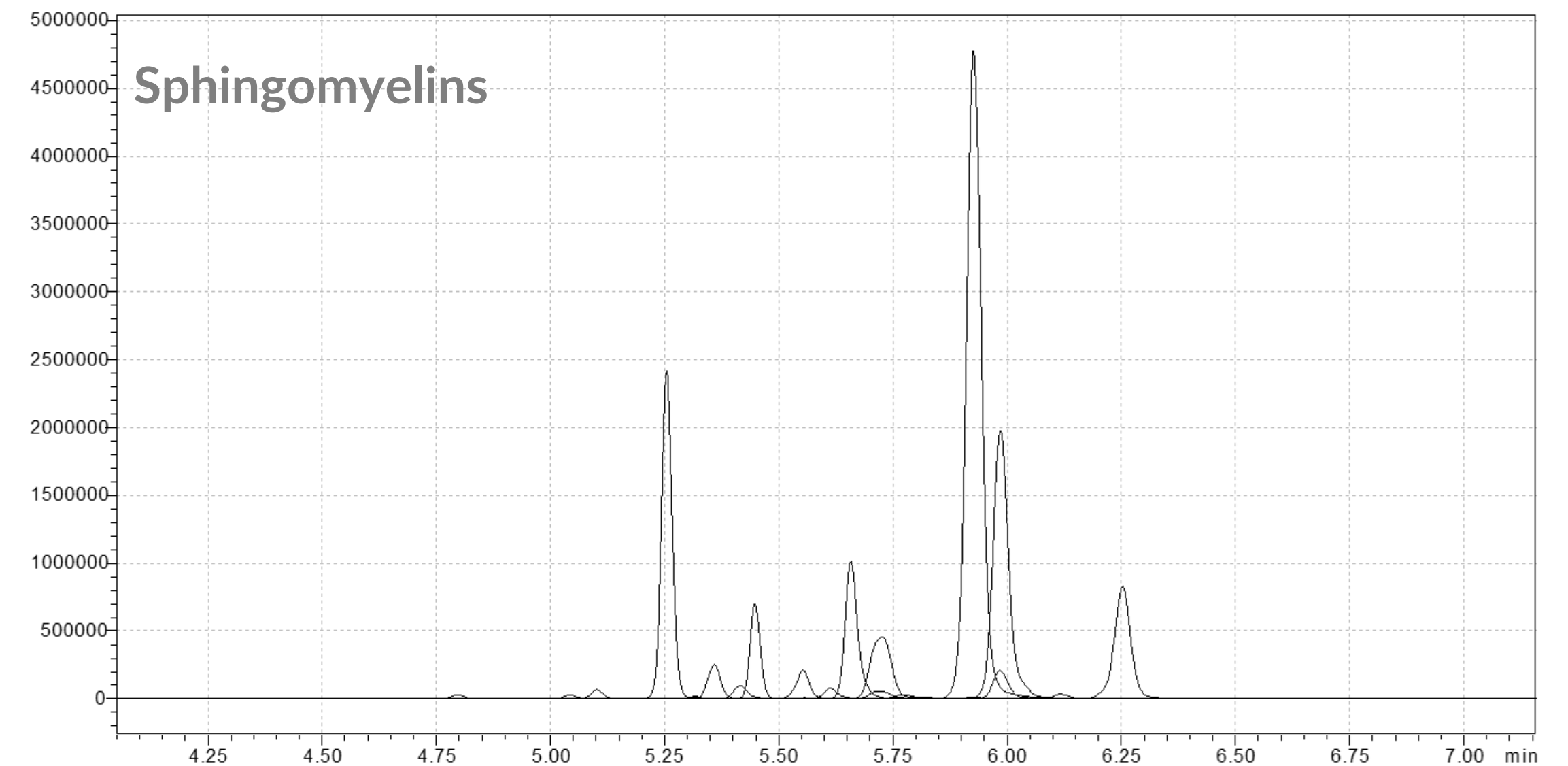
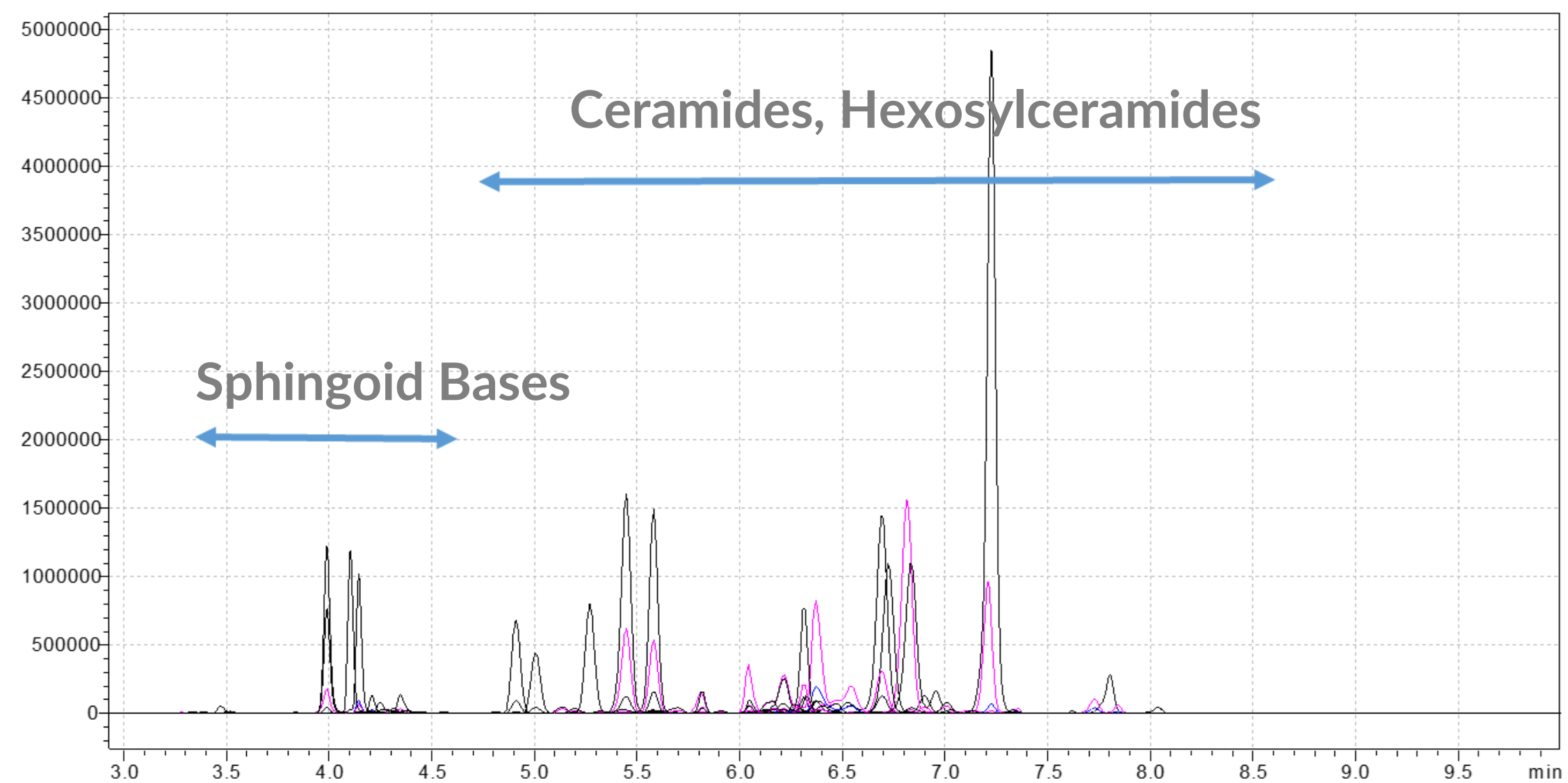
# PART I. Mass Spectrometry Lab

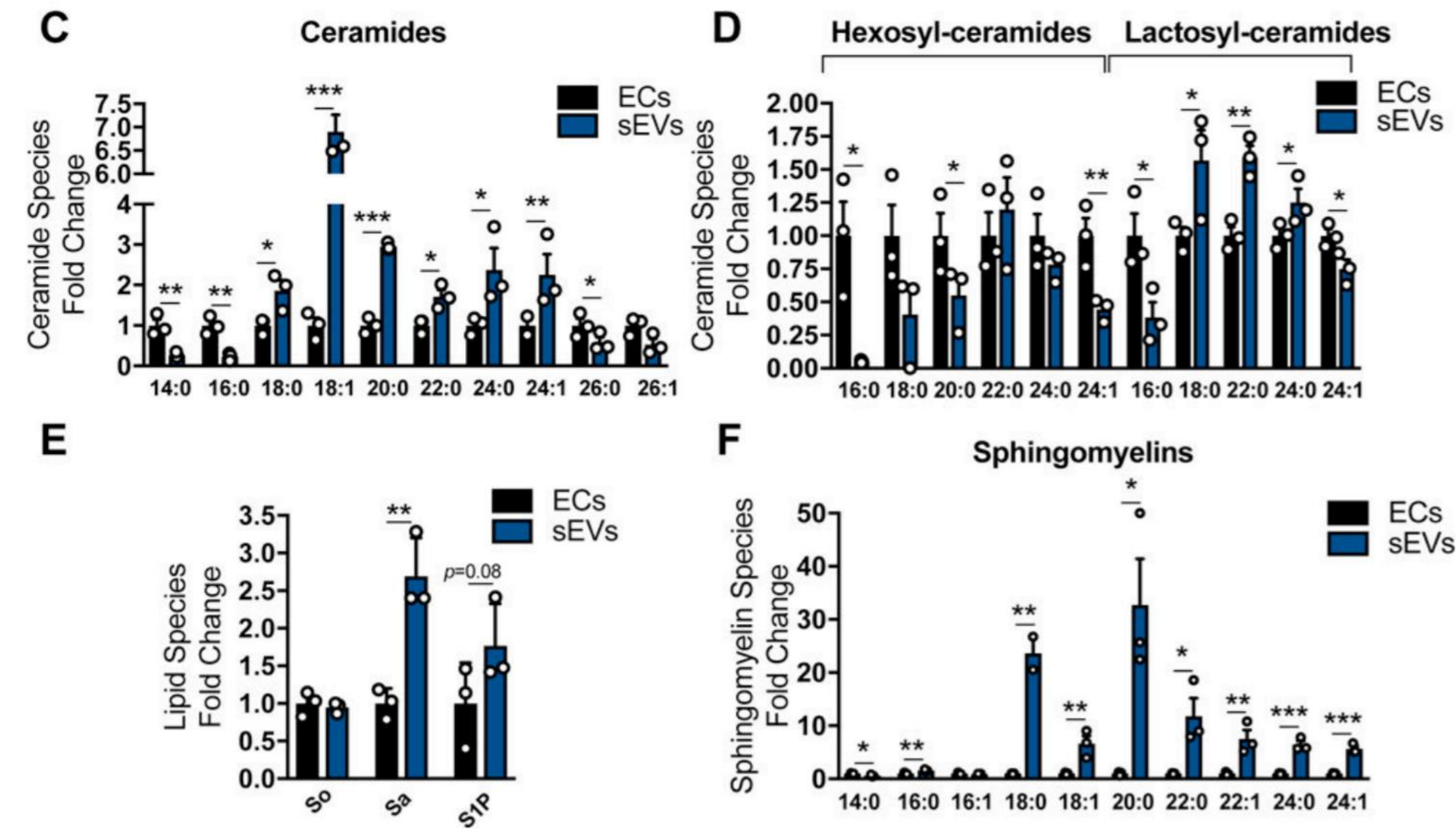




# PART I. Mass spectrometry-based analysis.

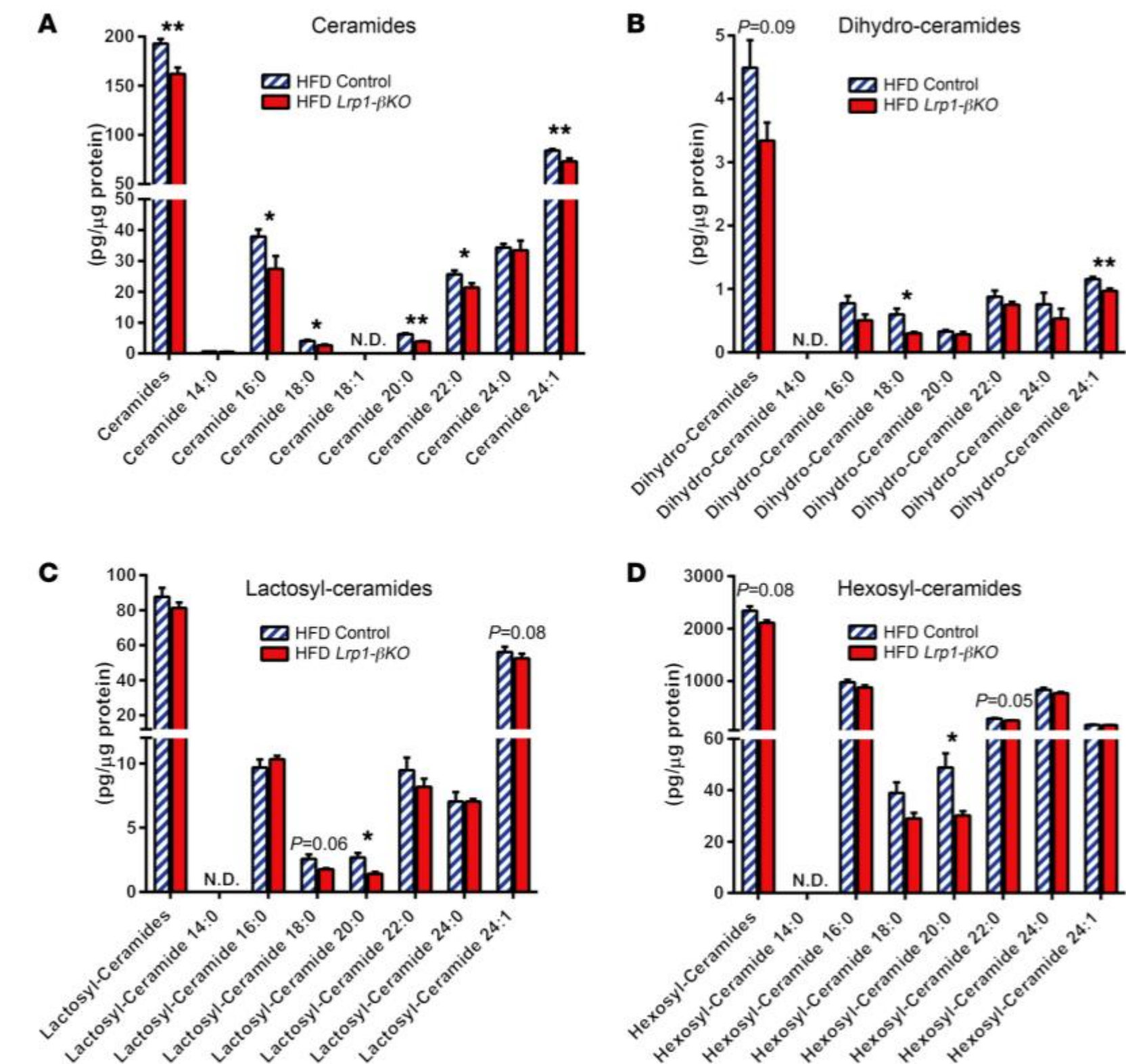
## Sphingolipids Profiling





Crew *et al.* DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2018.09.005

Small extracellular vesicles isolated from adipose tissue were found to be enriched in sphingolipids compared to endothelial cells.

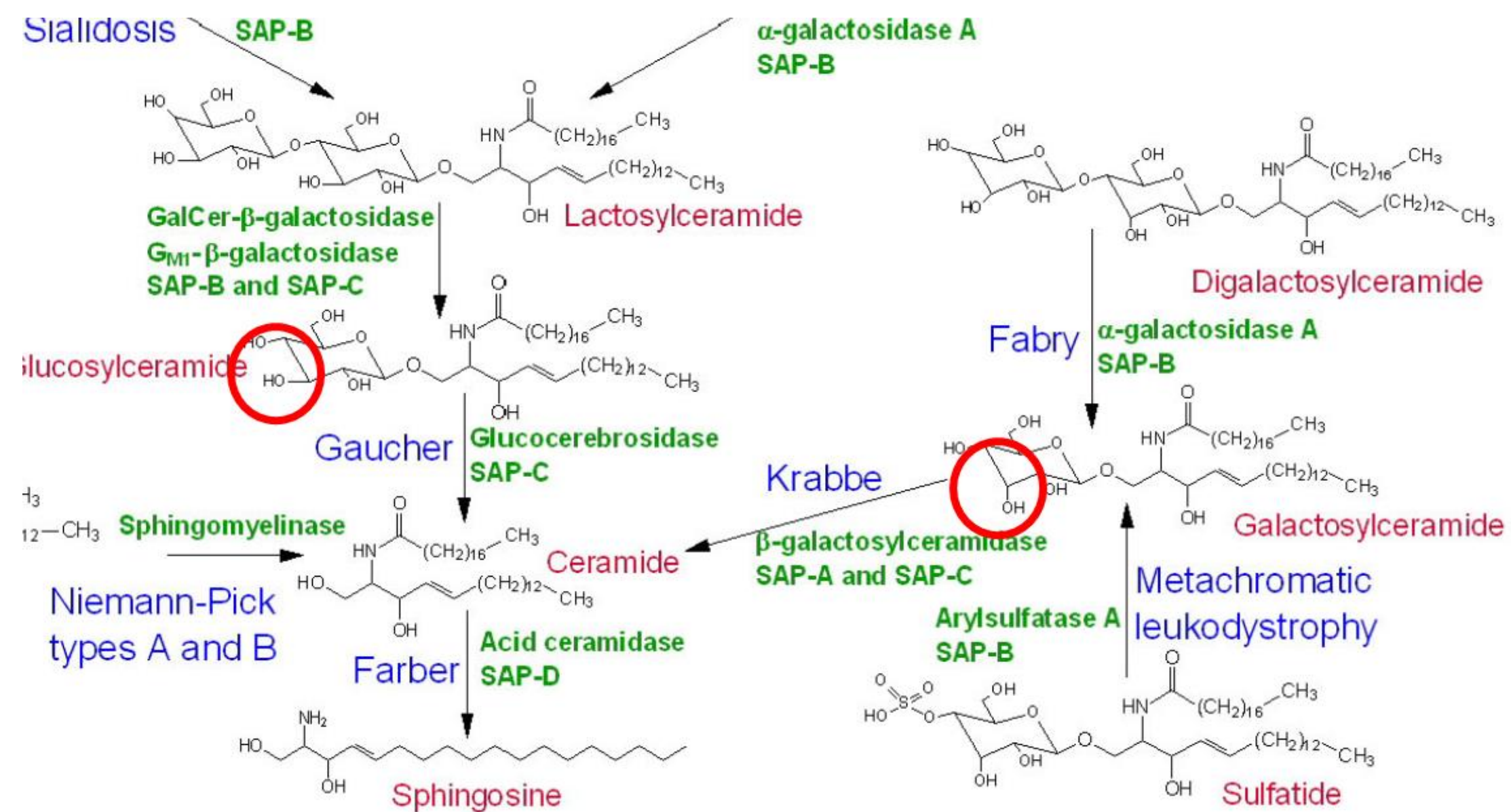


Ye *et al.* DOI: 10.1172/JCI97702

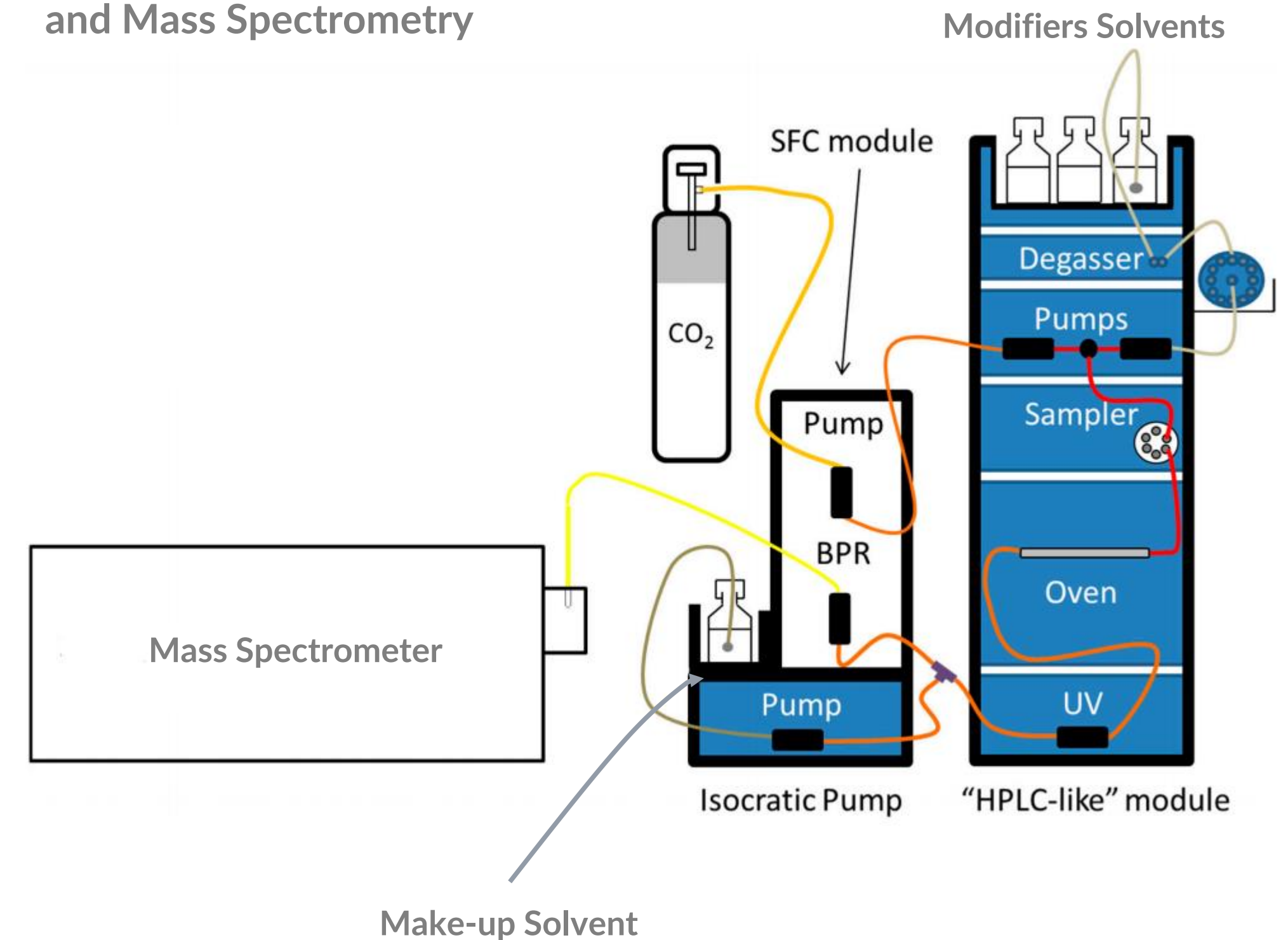
Overall decrease in ceramides and some of the lipotoxic precursors and derivatives of ceramides in *Lrp1-βKO* islets.



# PART I. Mass spectrometry-based analysis. Supercritical Fluid Chrom.

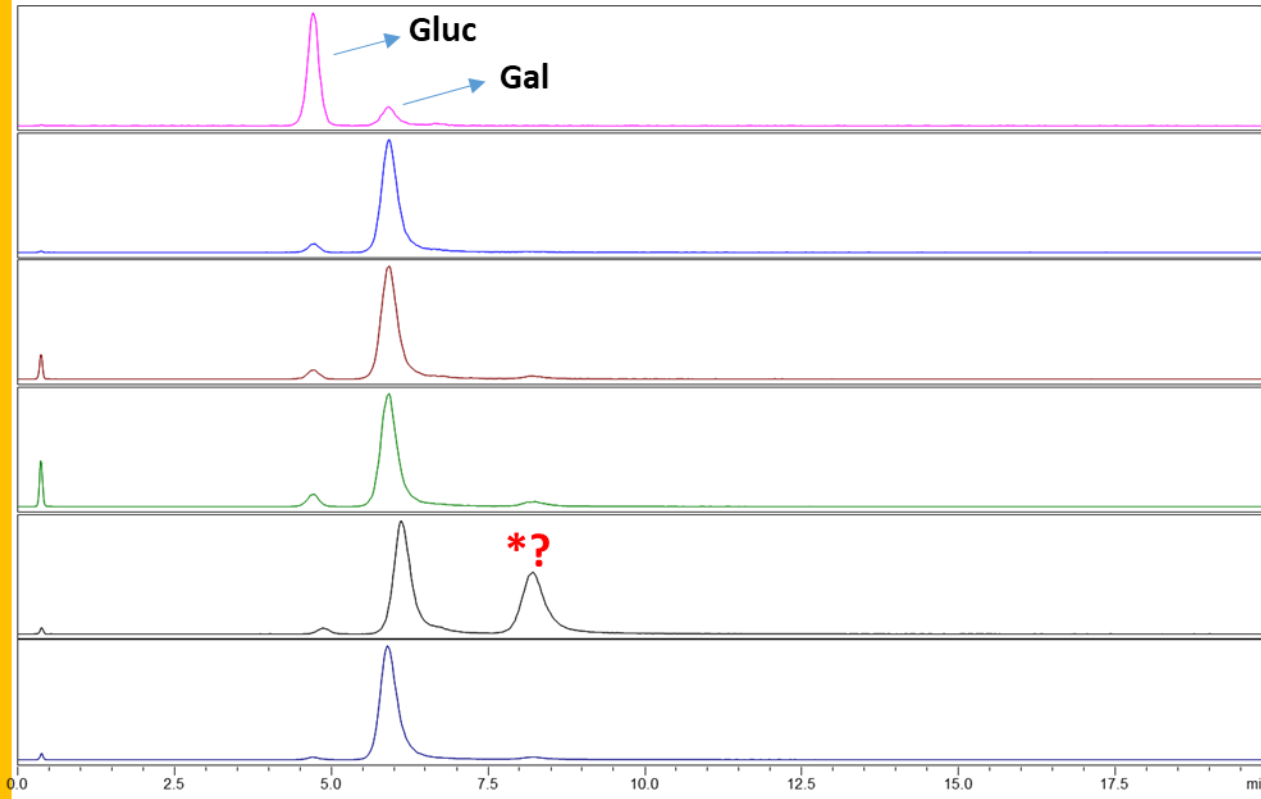


## Hyphenation Between Supercritical Fluid Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry

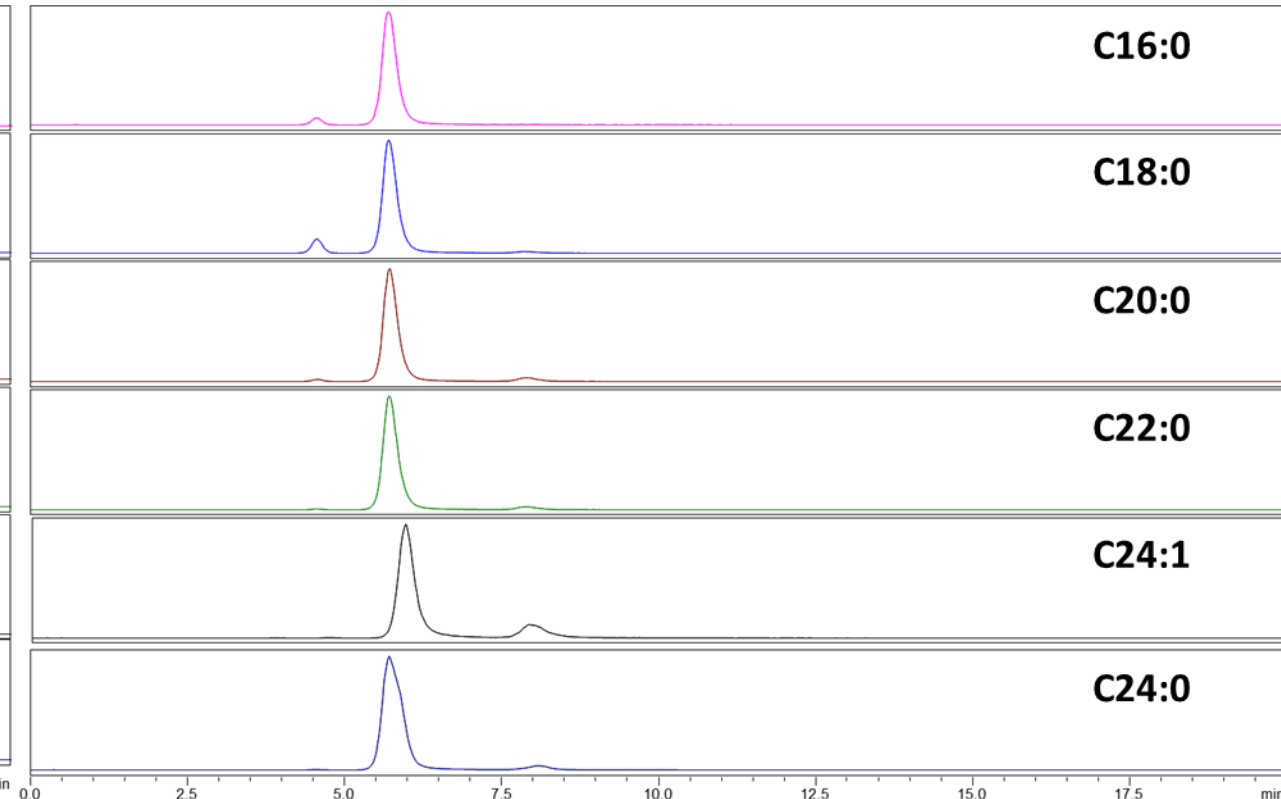


Adapted from Laboureur *et al.* DOI: 10.3390/ijms160613868

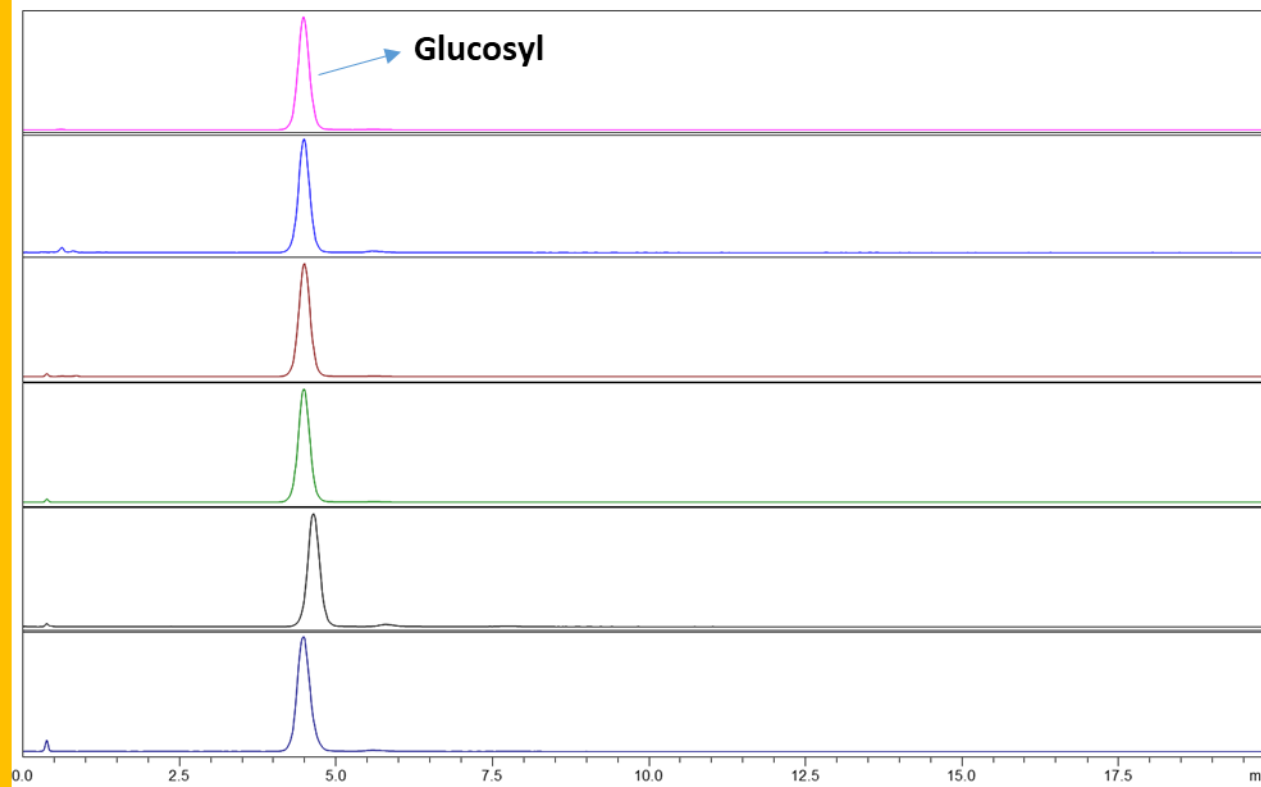
SWAT



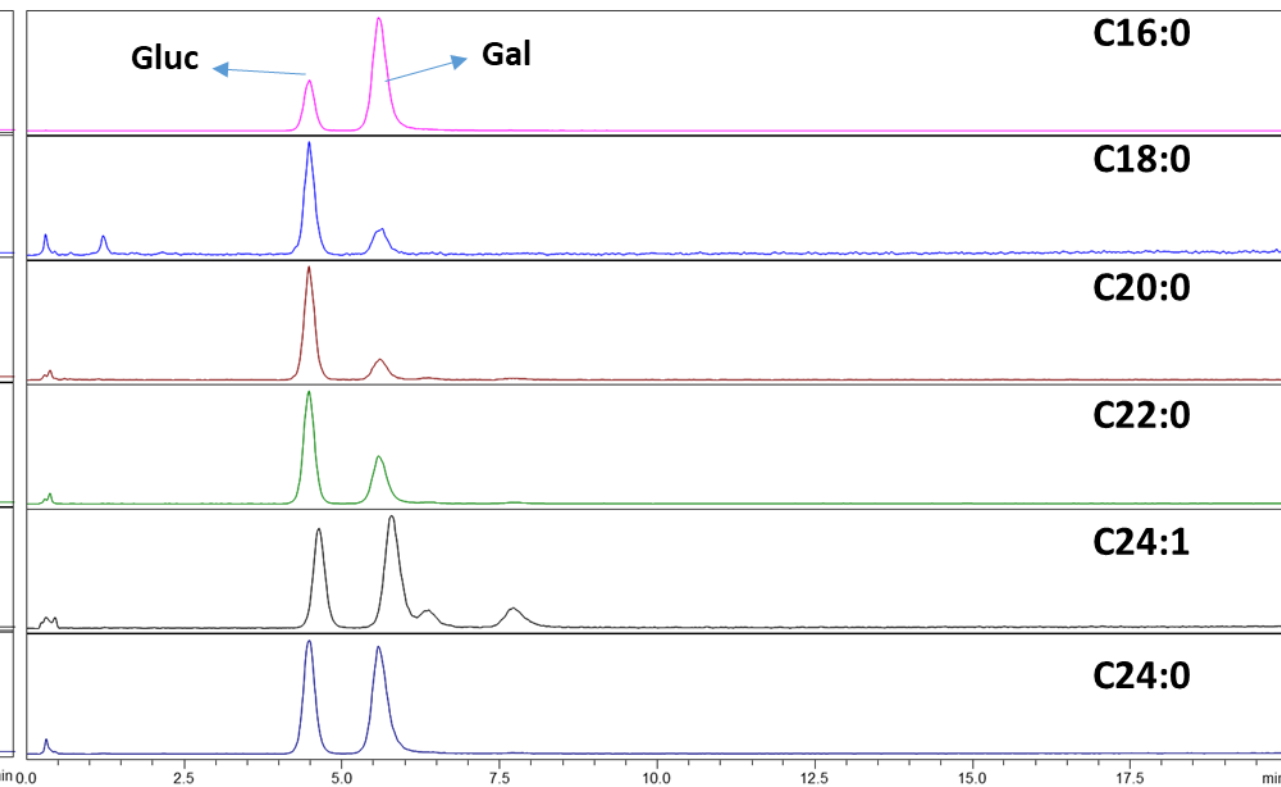
Brain



Liver



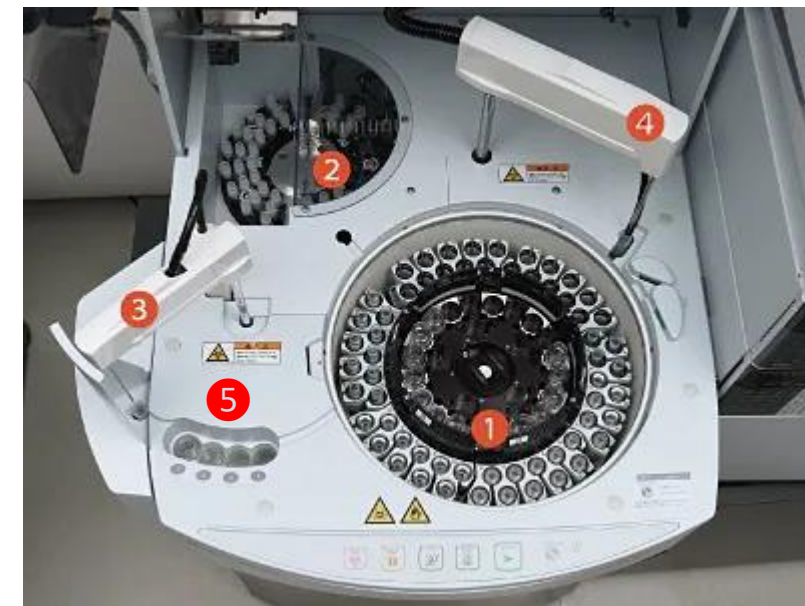
Kidney





# PART I. Mass Spectrometry-based analysis.

## Free Amino Acids



- 1 Carousel for samples and reagents. Temperature Controlled (9°C)
- 2 Racks for filtration and collection vials
- 3 Sample dispensing probe
- 4 Reagent dispensing probe
- 5 Rinsing solvents and detergents for sample probe

Dedicated  
Filtration Vial



Dedicated  
Collection Vial



Saliva



Urine

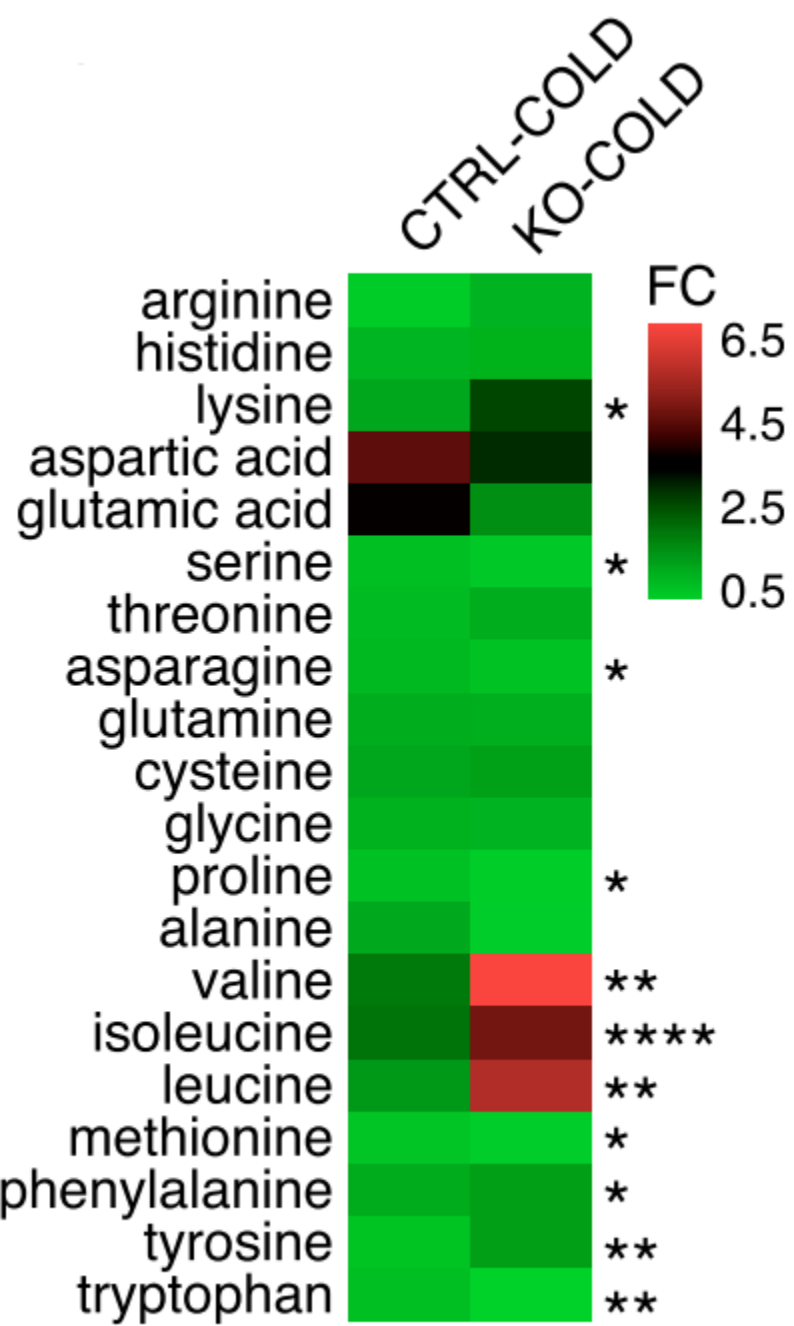
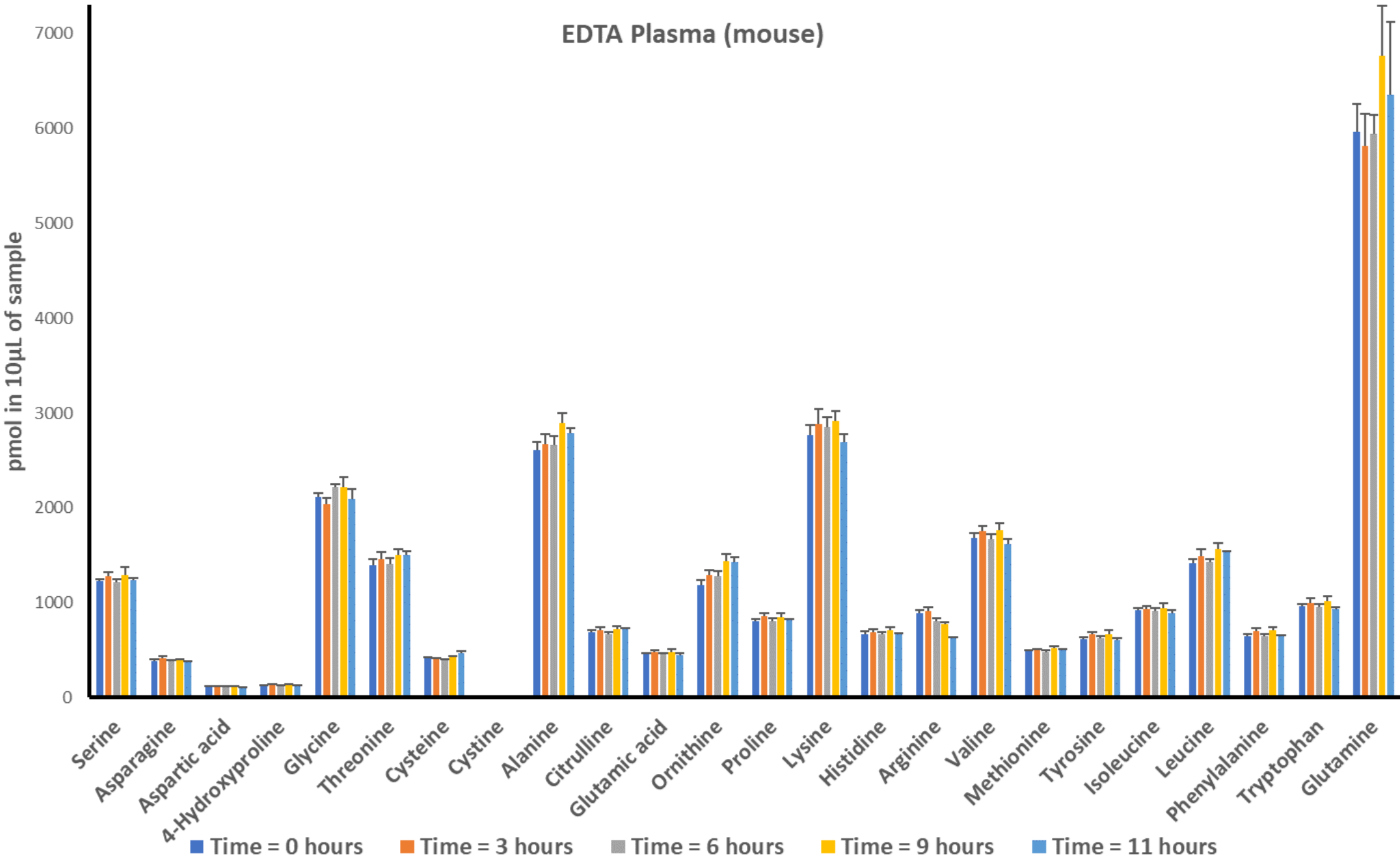


Blood, serum,  
plasma



Tissue homogenates  
and supernatants





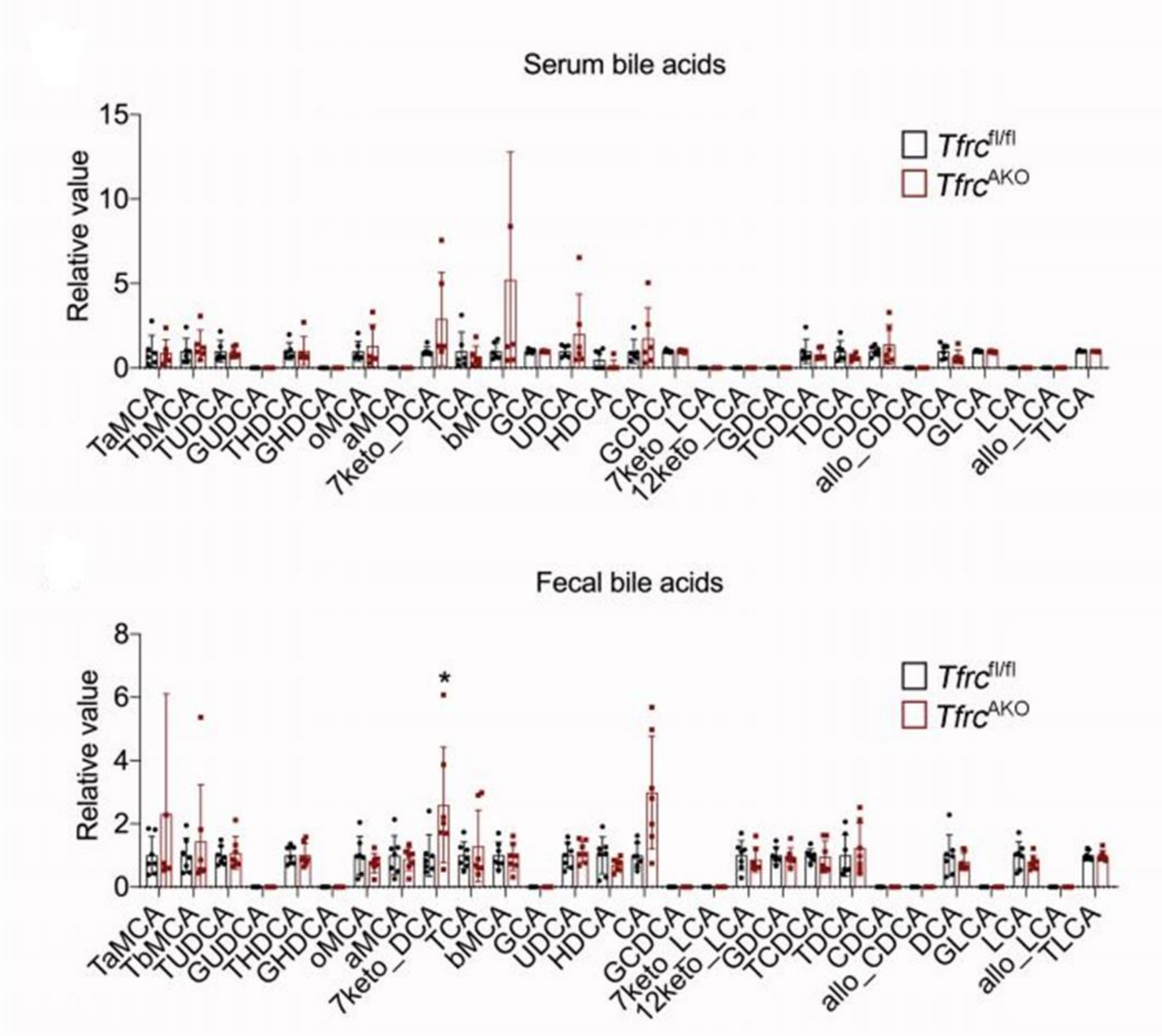
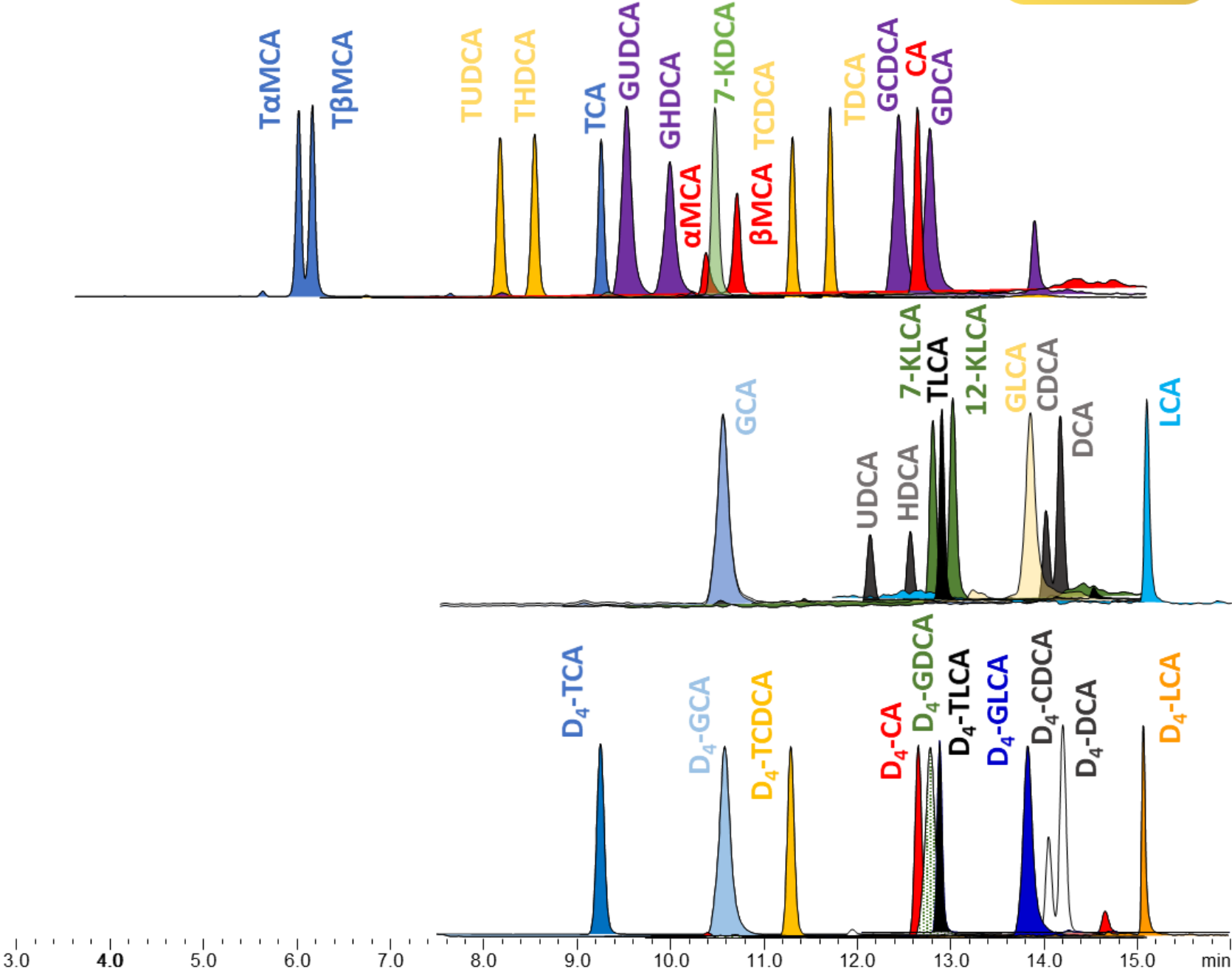
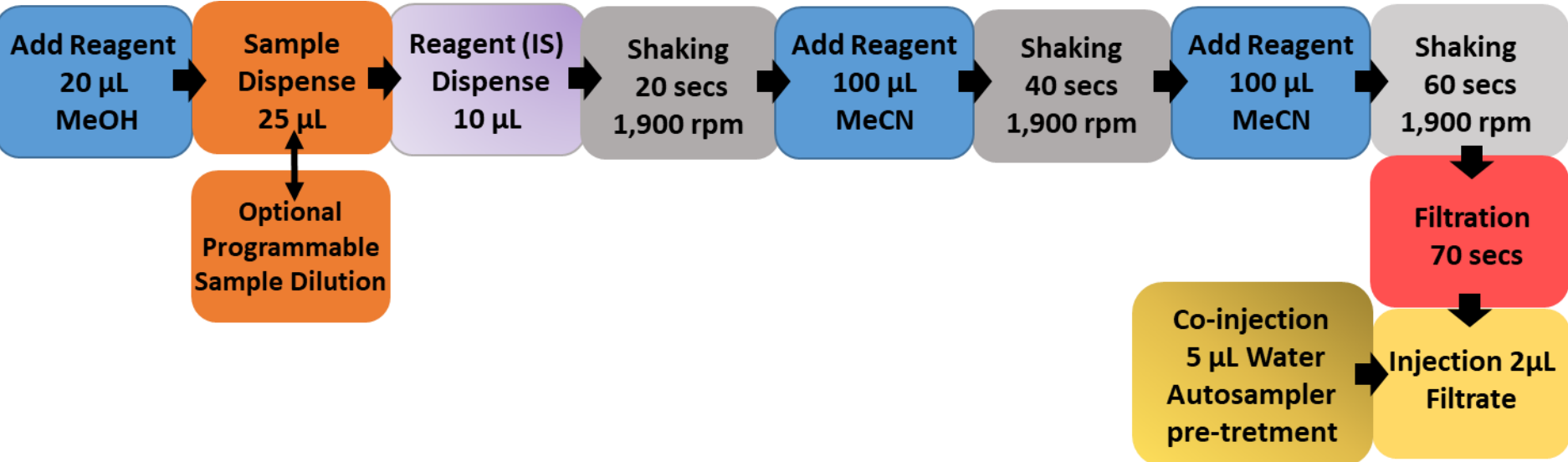
Cannavino et al. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2104650118

Heat map showing fold change of BCAA and amino acid content in plasma from CTRL and FAM195A KO animals after cold exposure.



# PART I. Mass Spectrometry-based analysis.

## Bile Acids

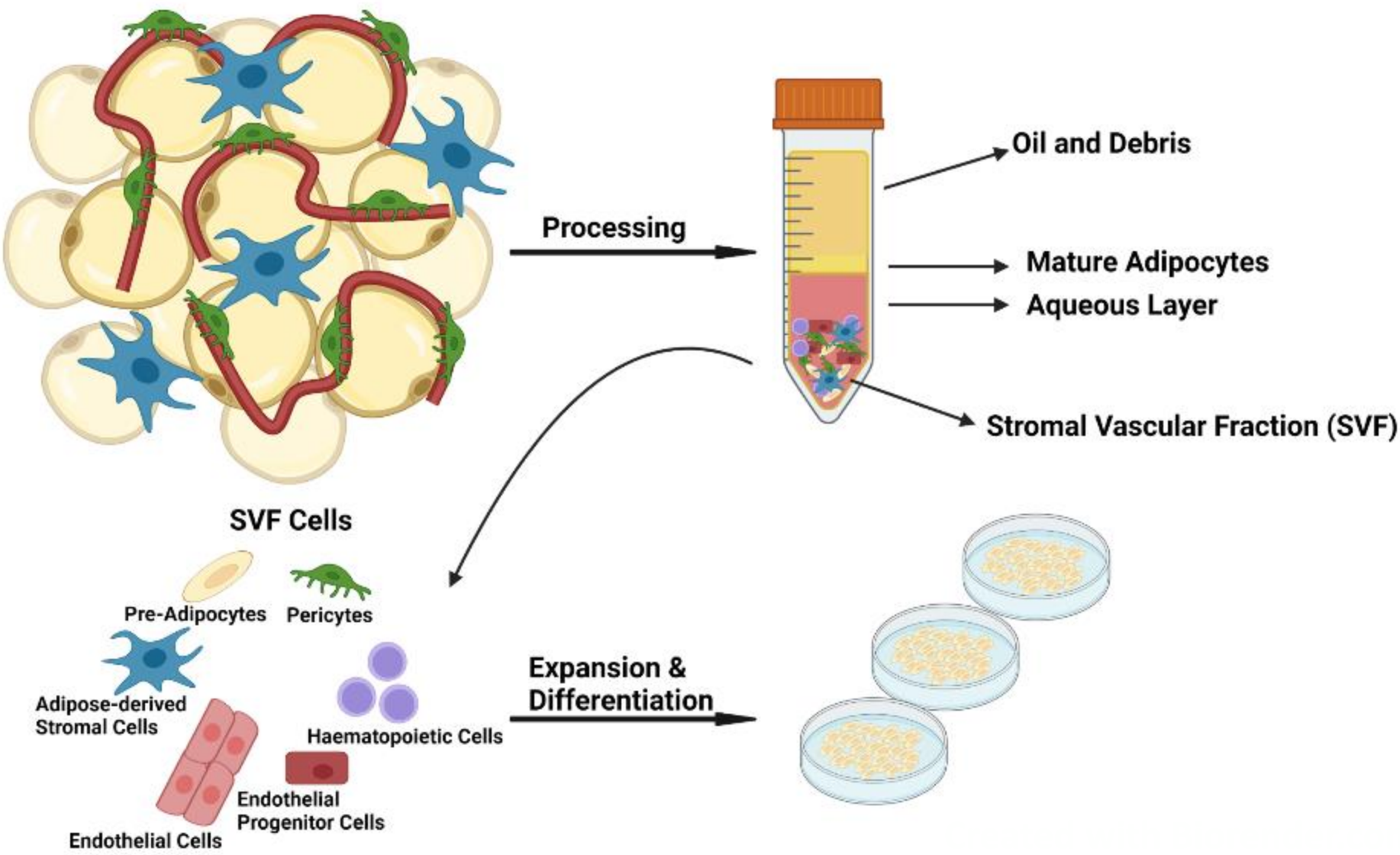
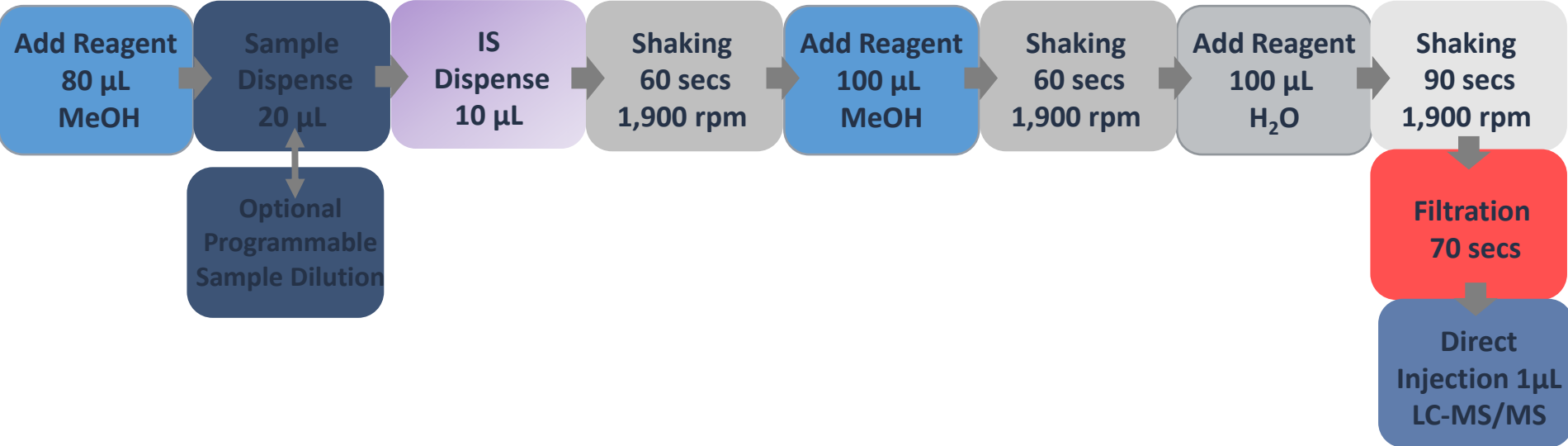


Zhang et al. DOI: 0.1016/j.cmet.2021.06.001

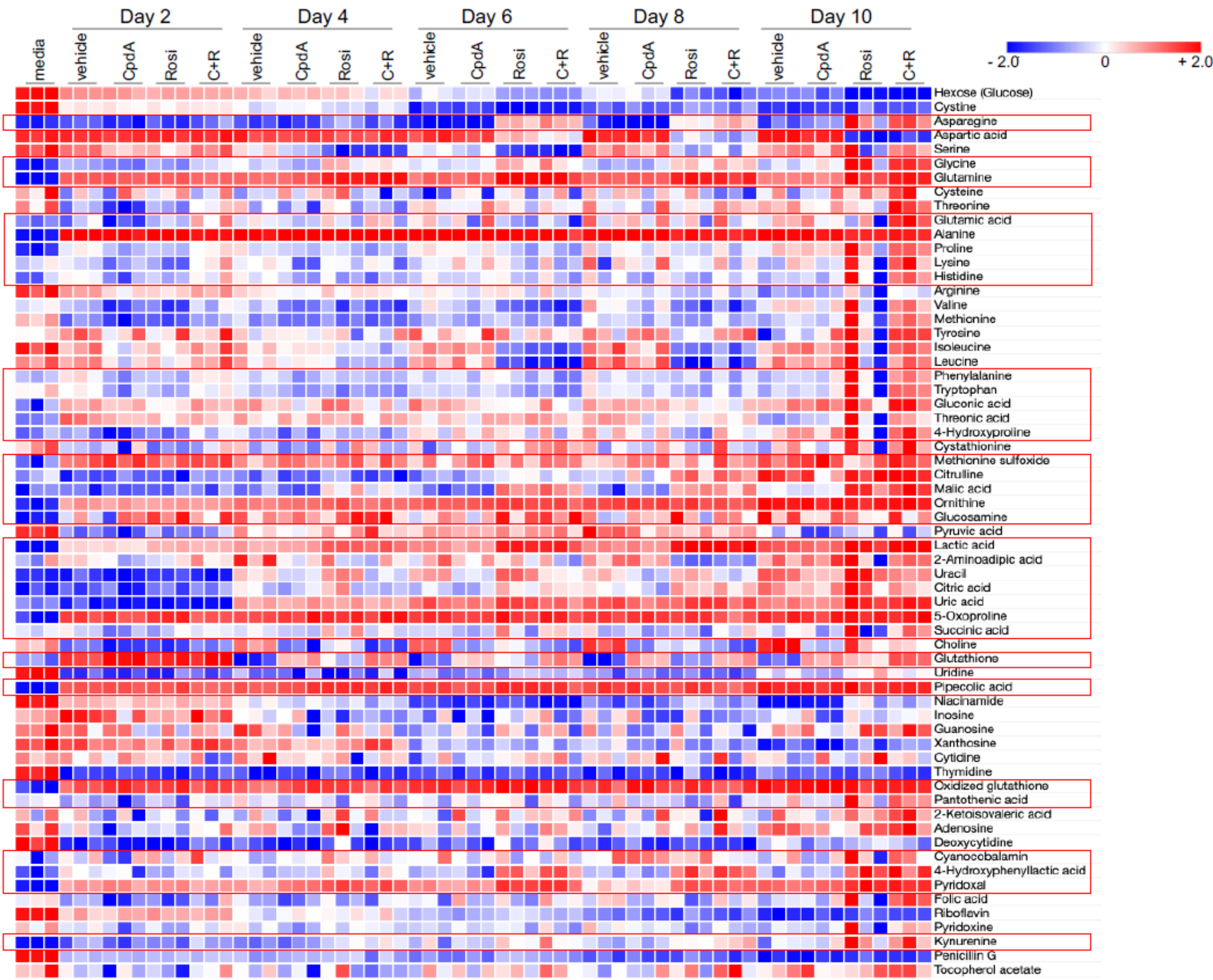
Bile Acids analysis in mouse serum and mouse feces.

# PART I. Mass spectrometry-based analysis.

## Cell Culture metabolites



LC-MS Metabolomics from inguinal adipocyte culture media

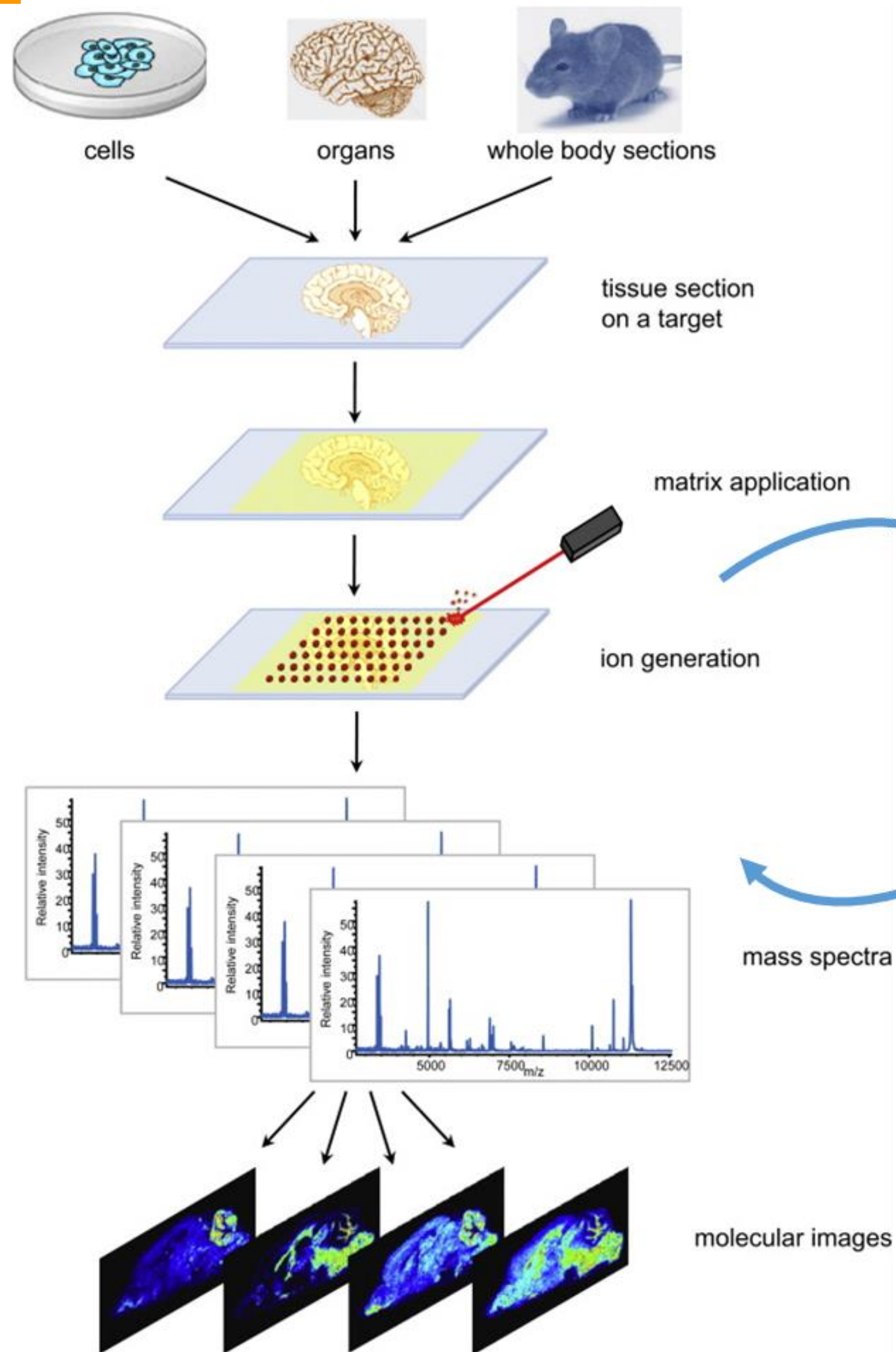


Collaboration with Dr. Oh's lab. Unpublished results



# PART I. Mass spectrometry-based analysis.

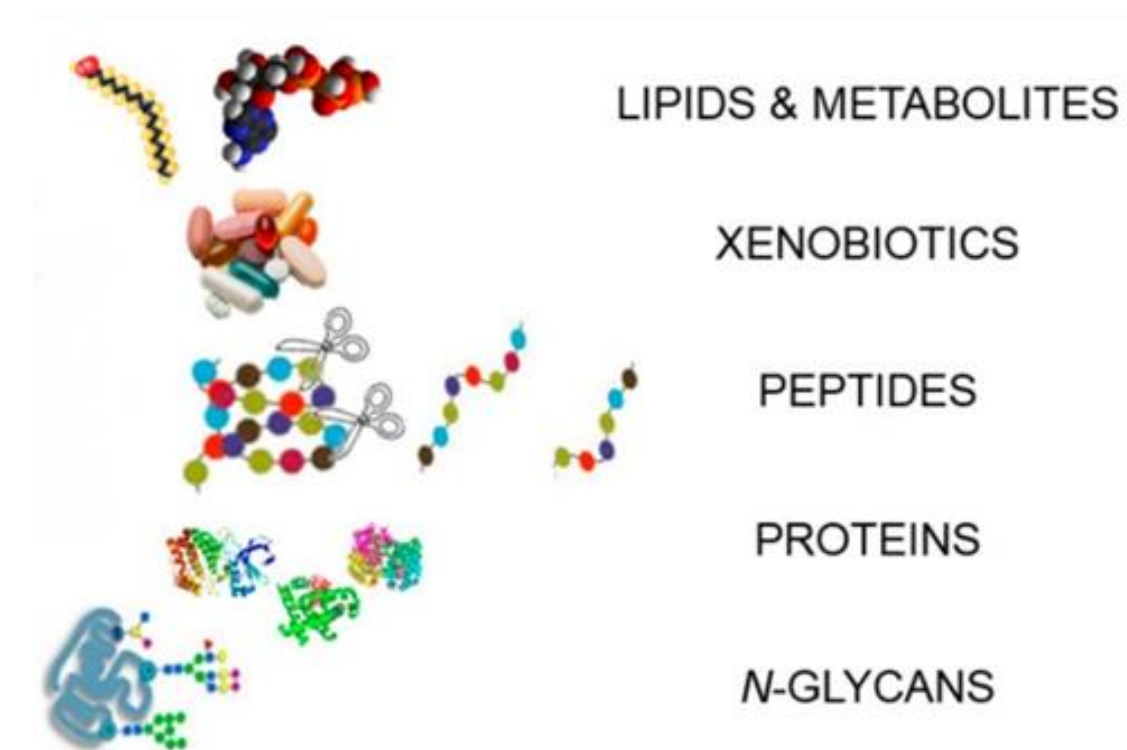
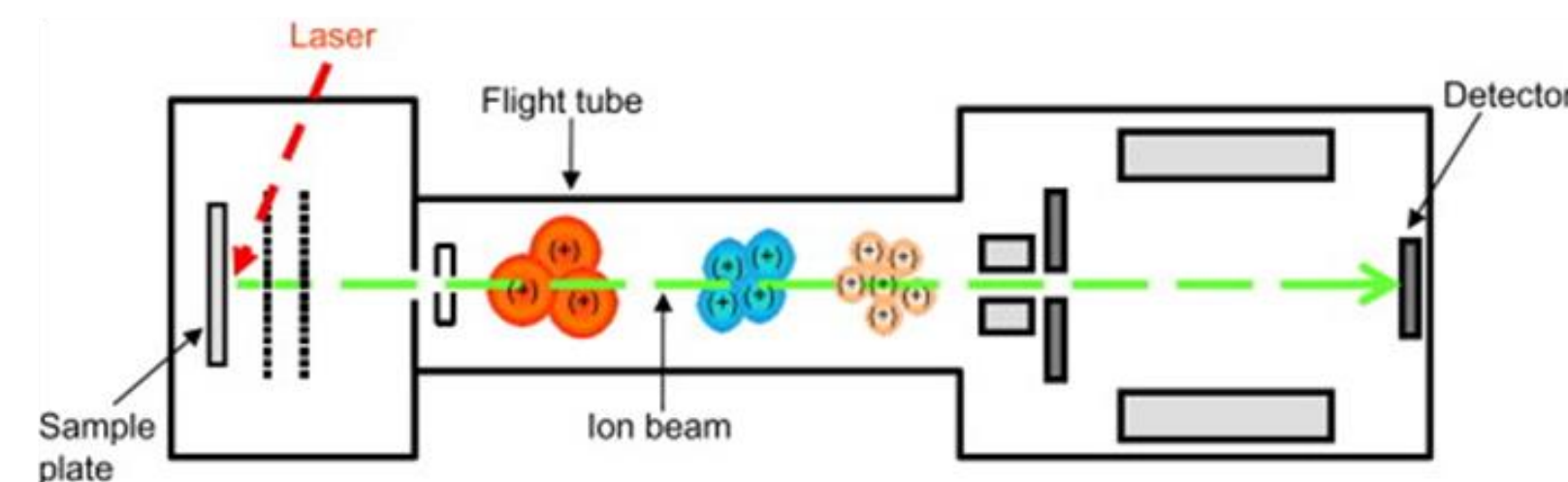
## MALDI-TOF Imaging. Coming in the Future



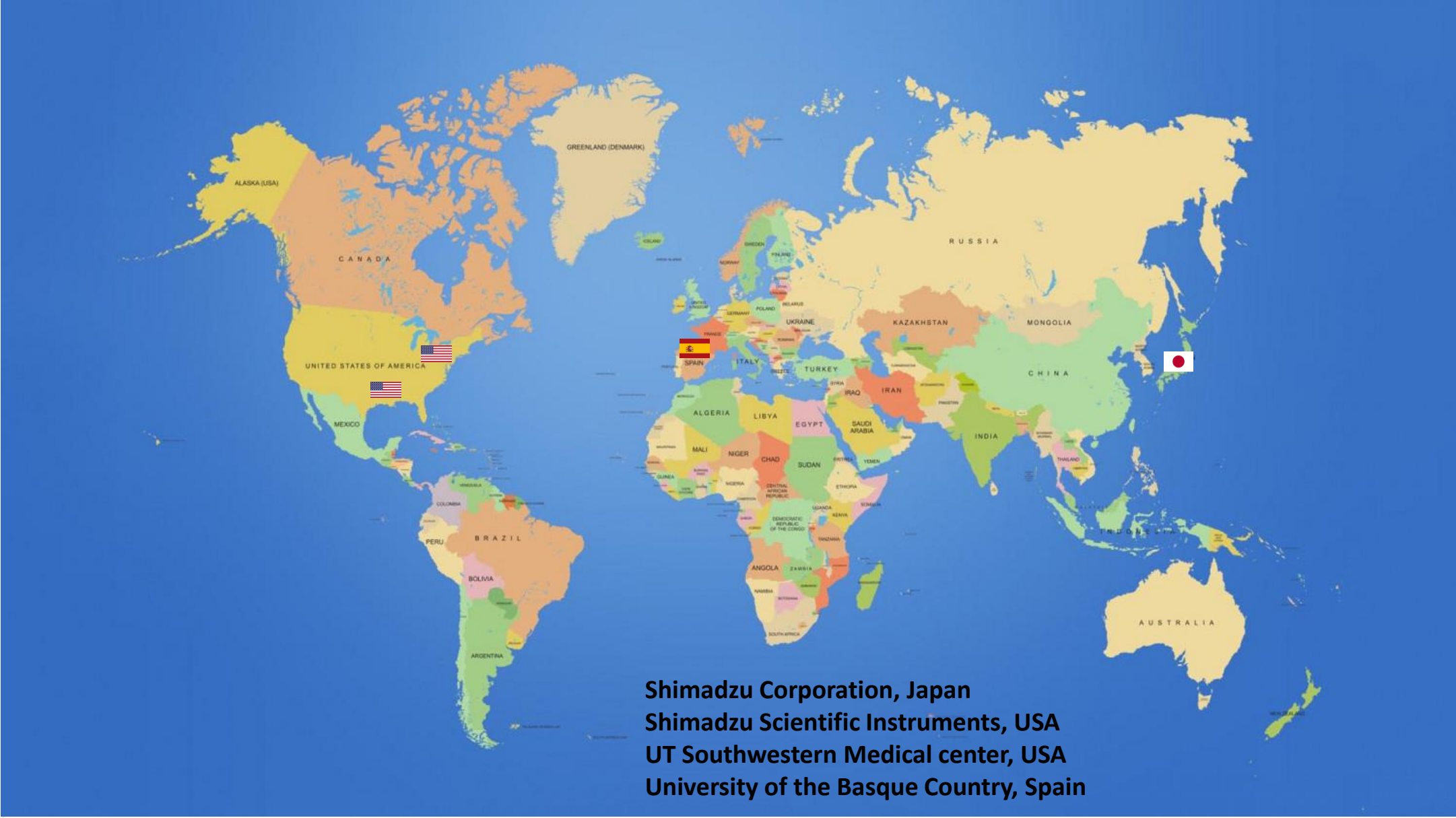
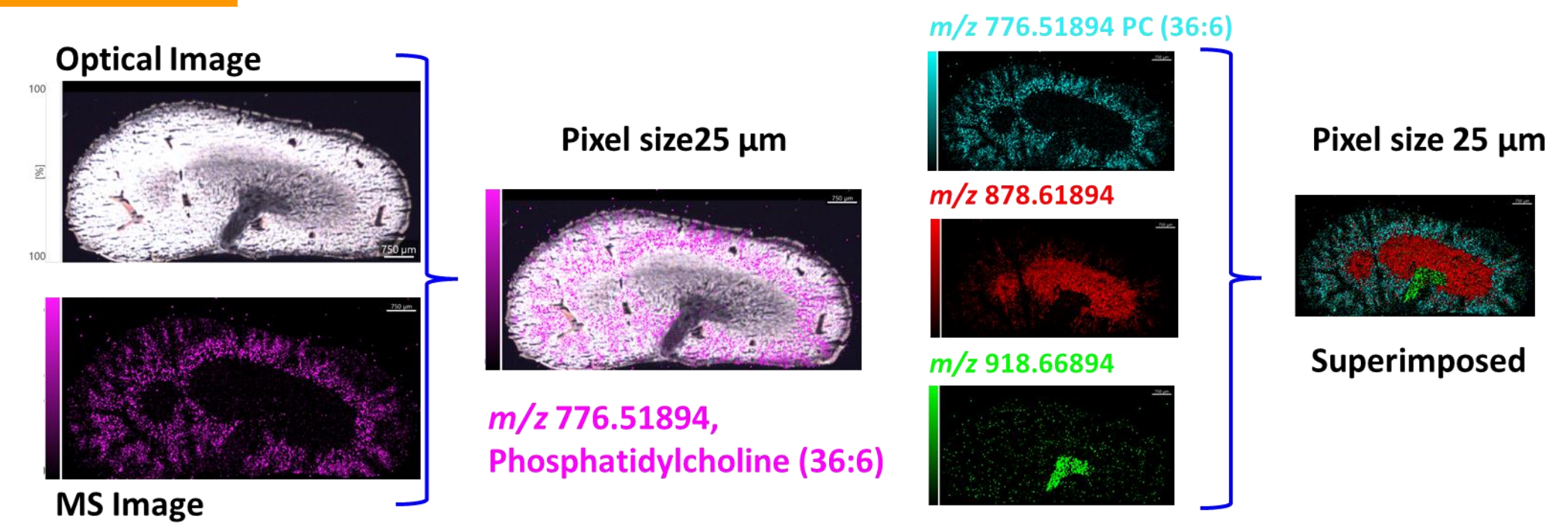
Schwamborn *et al.* DOI: 10.1016/j.molonc.2010.09.002

Smith *et al.* DOI: 10.3390/ijms18122588

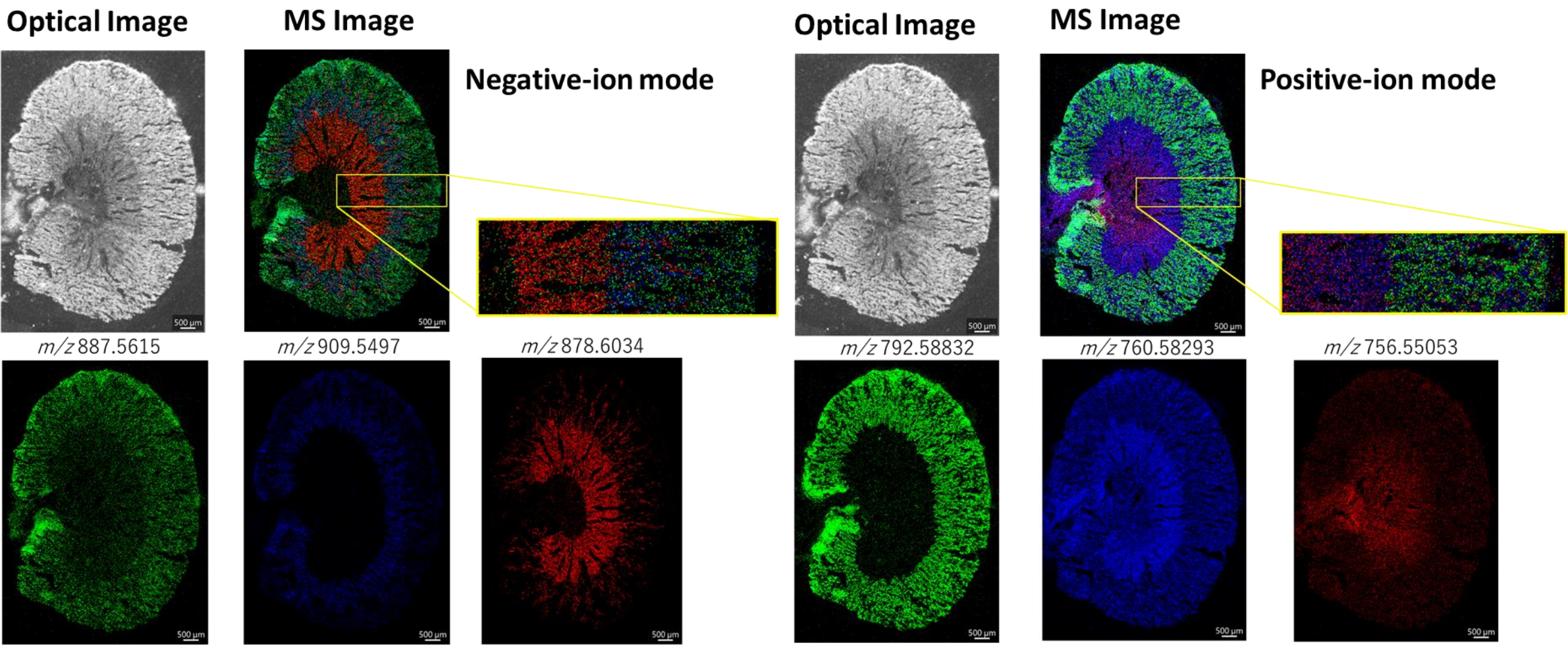
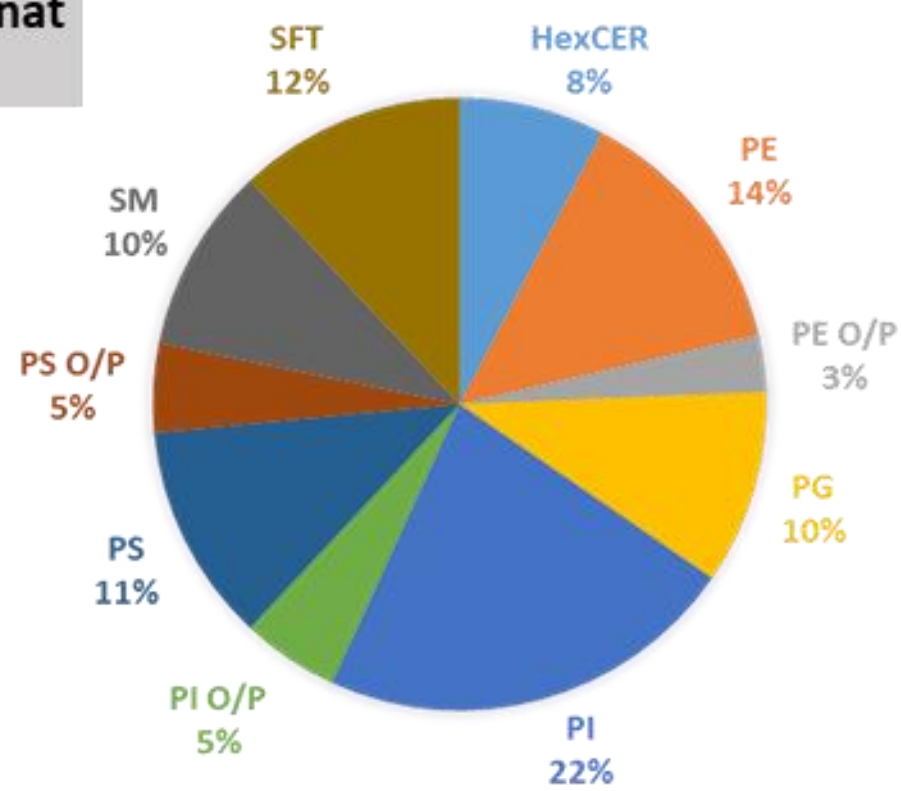
## MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometer







Lipid class	n° of species	Predominant ion
HexCER	18	-H <sup>-</sup>
PE	32	-H <sup>-</sup>
PE O/P	7	-H <sup>-</sup>
PG	24	-H <sup>-</sup>
PI	52	-H <sup>-</sup>
PI O/P	12	-H <sup>-</sup>
PS	27	-H <sup>-</sup>
PS O/P	11	-H <sup>-</sup>
SM	23	-CH <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
SFT	28	-H <sup>-</sup>
TOTAL	234	





## PART II. Metabolic chambers

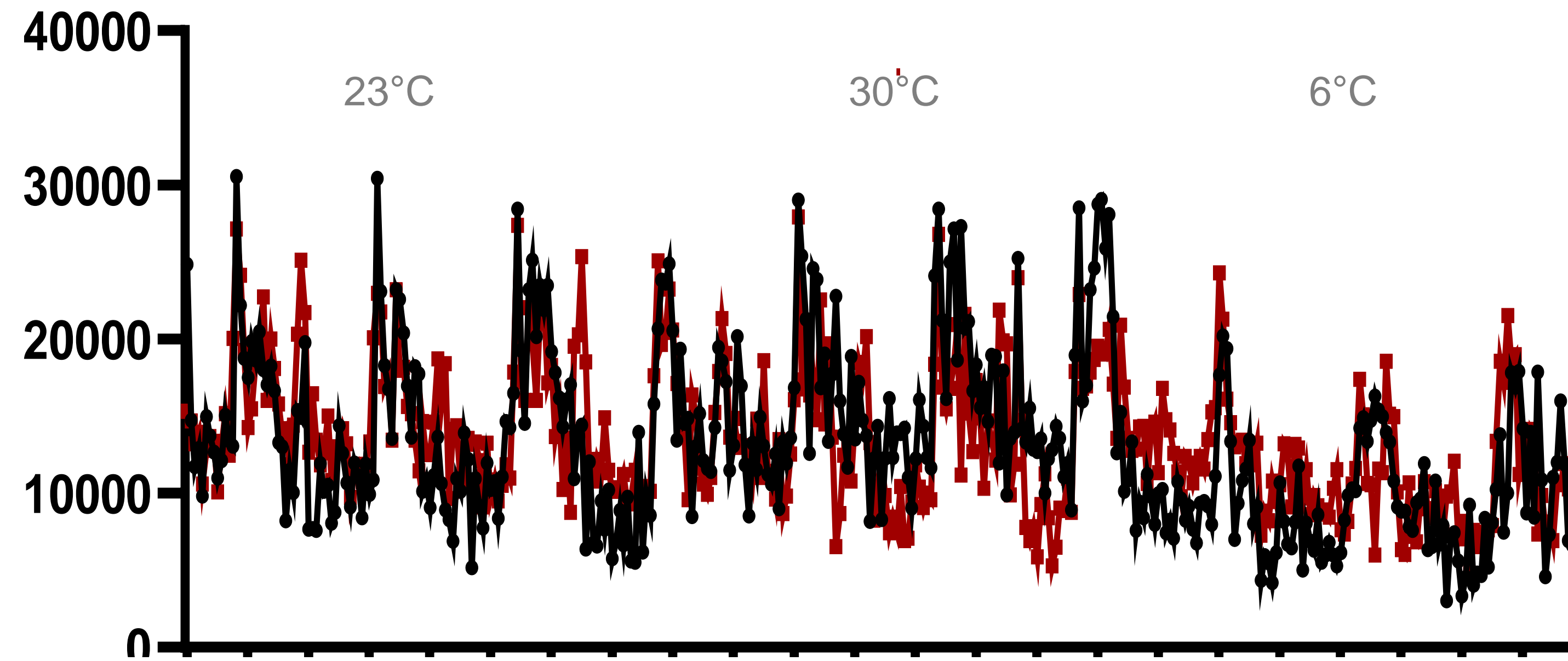


### Example experimental designs

- Control vs KO mouse
- Fasting
- HFD challenge
- Dynamic temperature challenge
- Meal pattern analysis
- Drug treatment

## PART II. Metabolic chambers

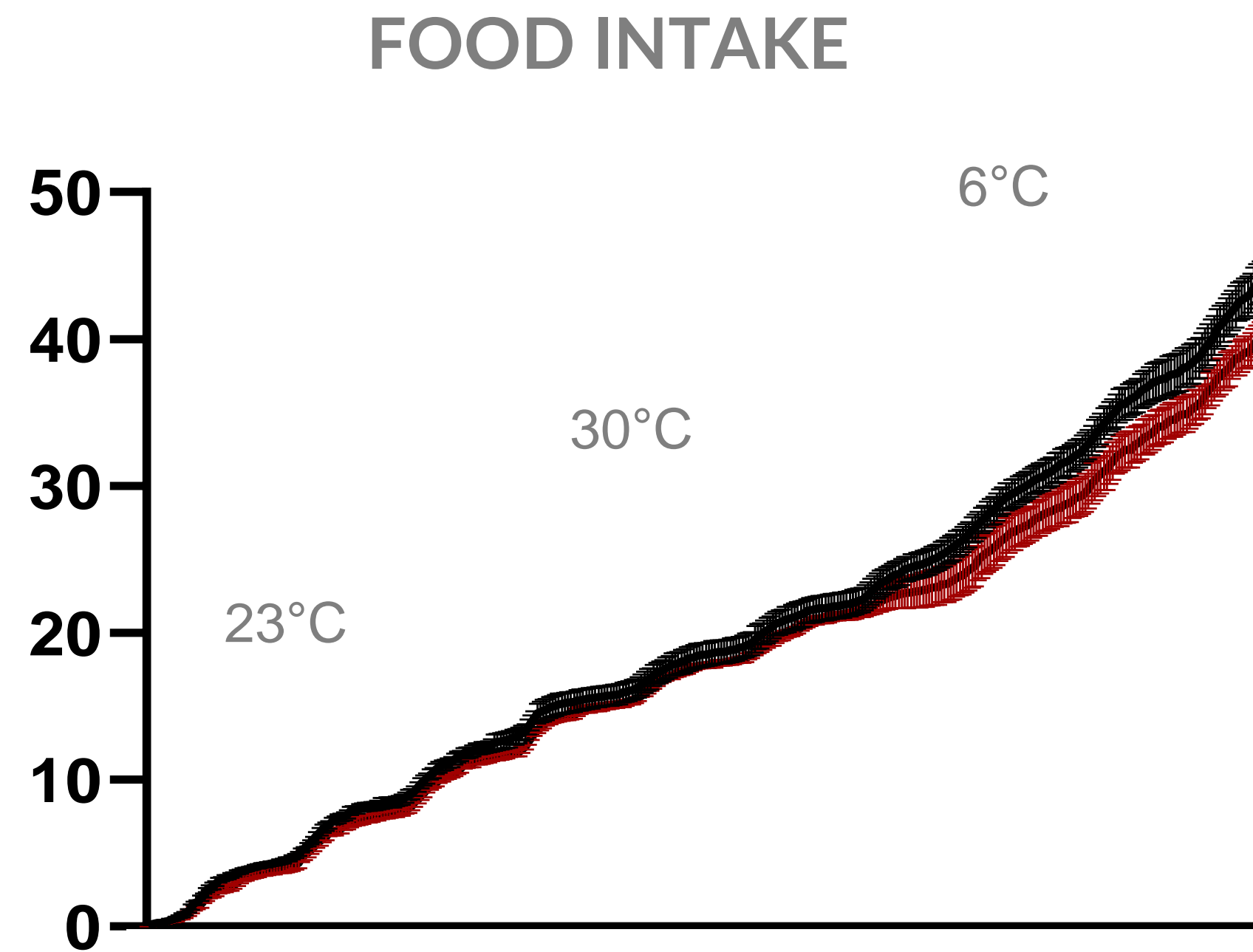
### ACTIVITY



Wyler and Elmquist, unpublished results



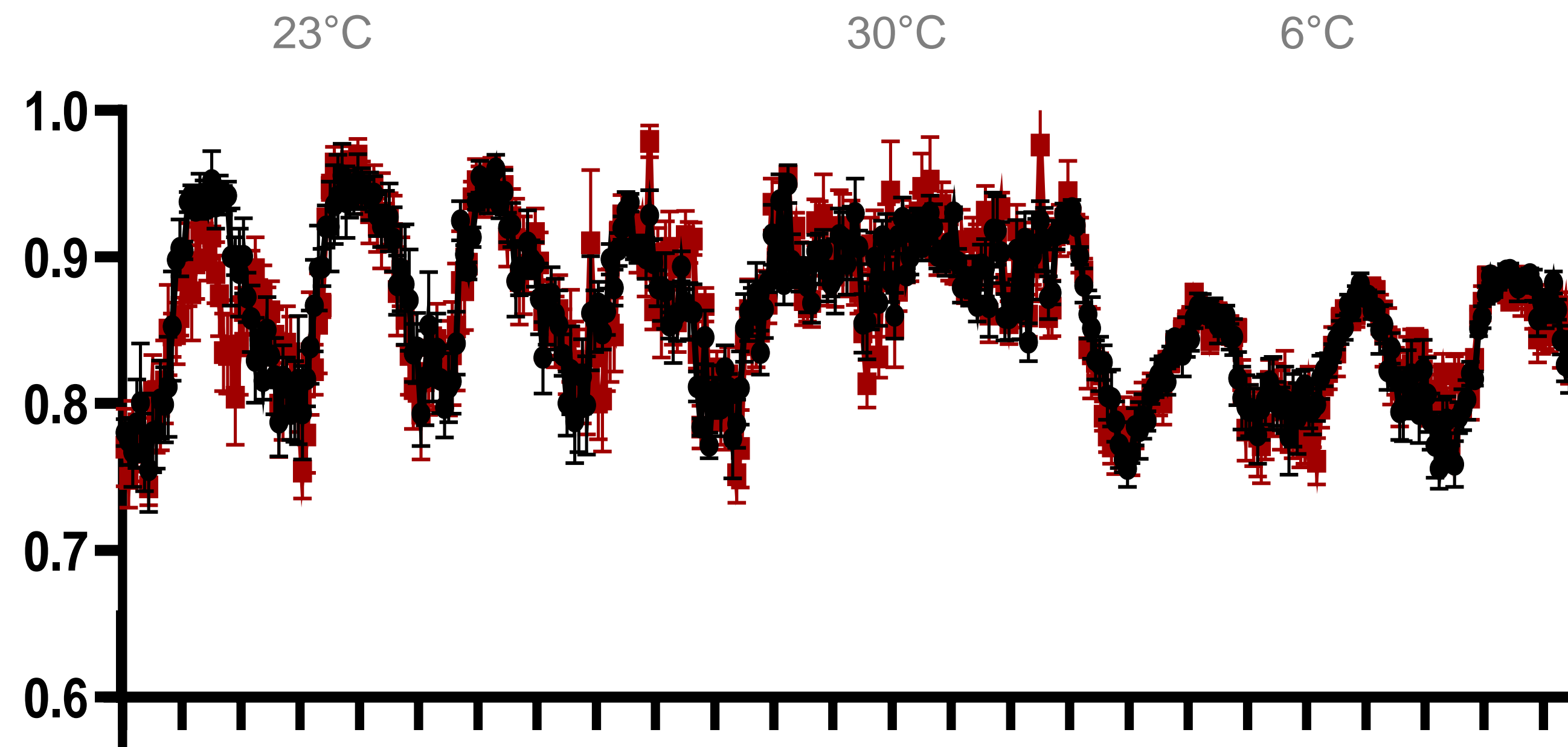
## PART II. Metabolic chambers



Wyler and Elmquist, unpublished results

## PART II. Metabolic chambers

### RESPIRATORY EXCHANGE RATIO (RER)

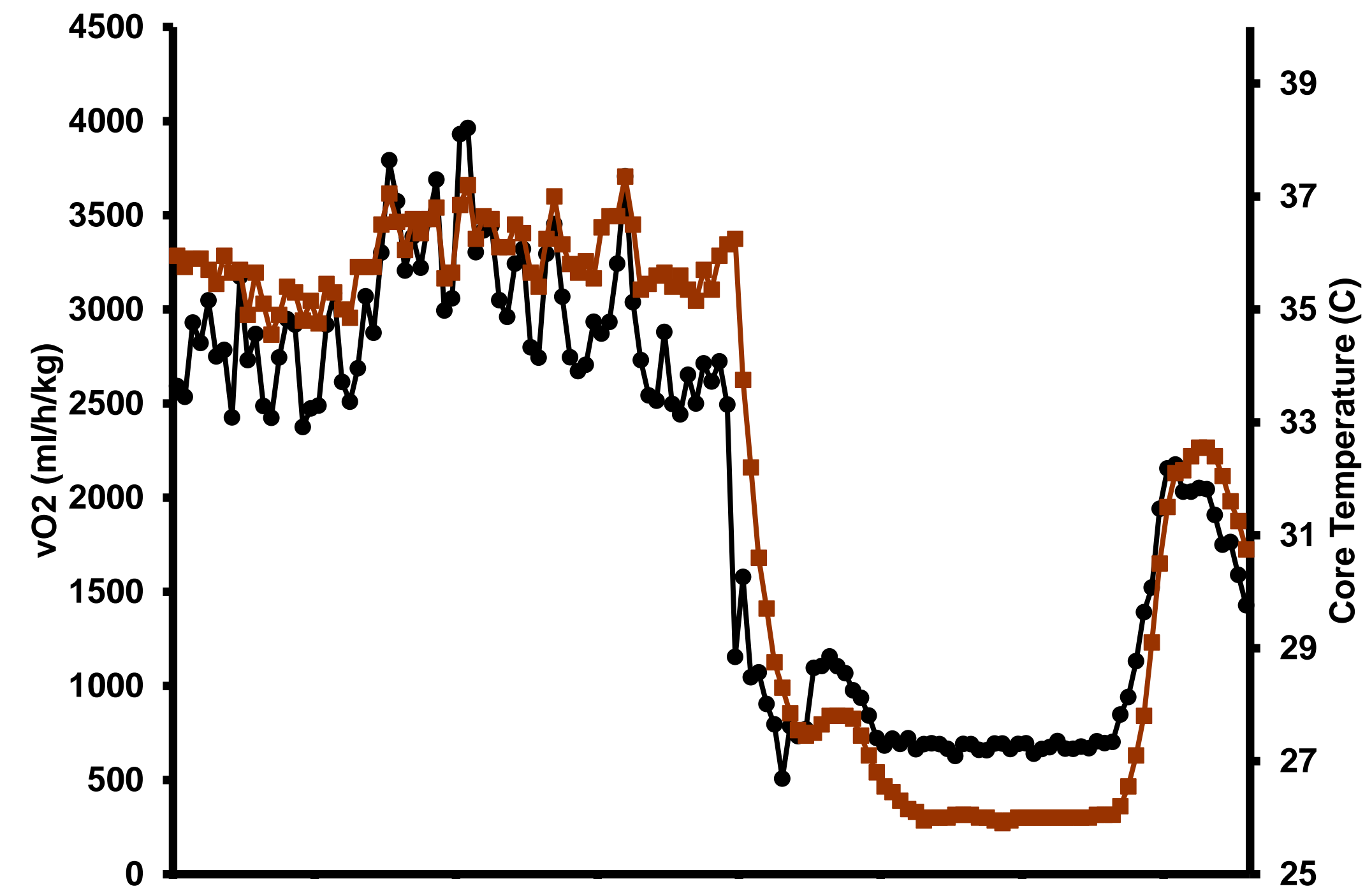


Wylter and Elmquist, unpublished results



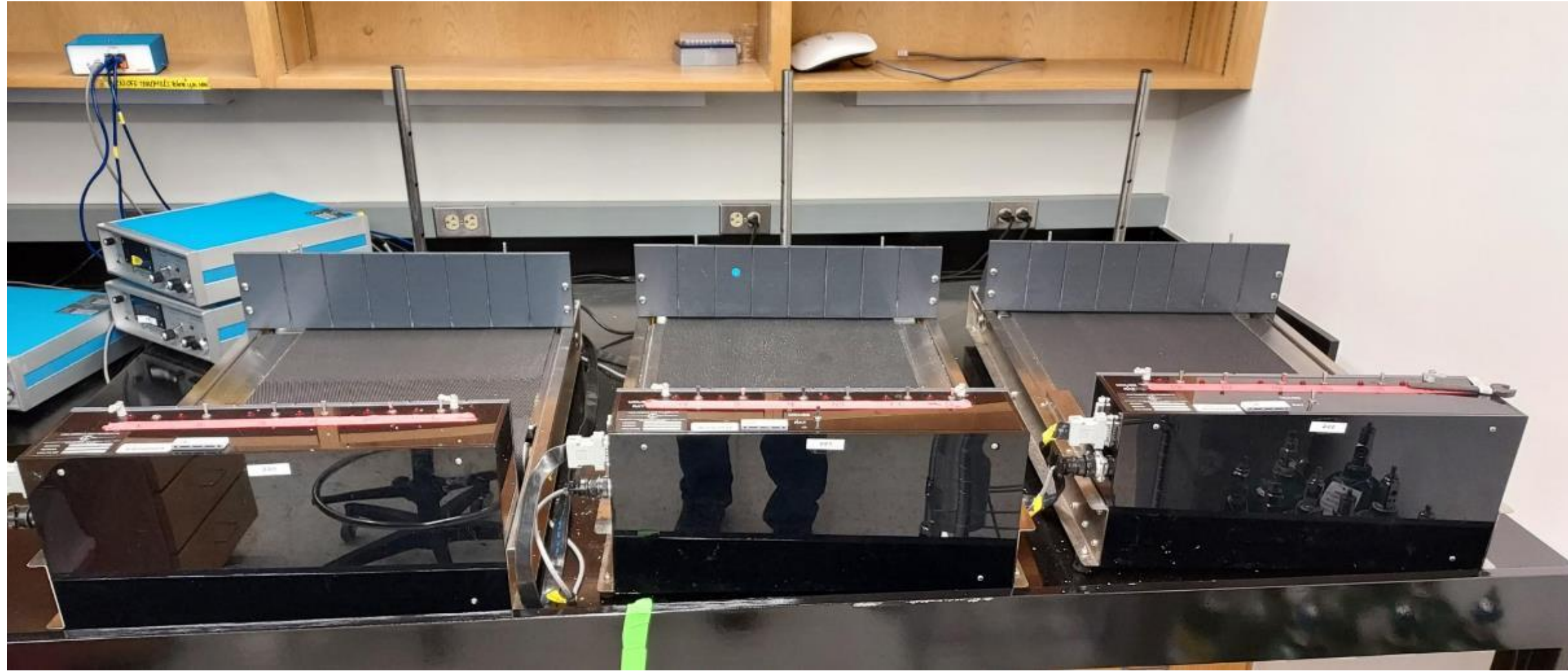
## PART II. Metabolic chambers

### OXYGEN CONSUMPTION WITH TELEMETRY



Gautron, unpublished results

## PART II. Rodent Treadmills



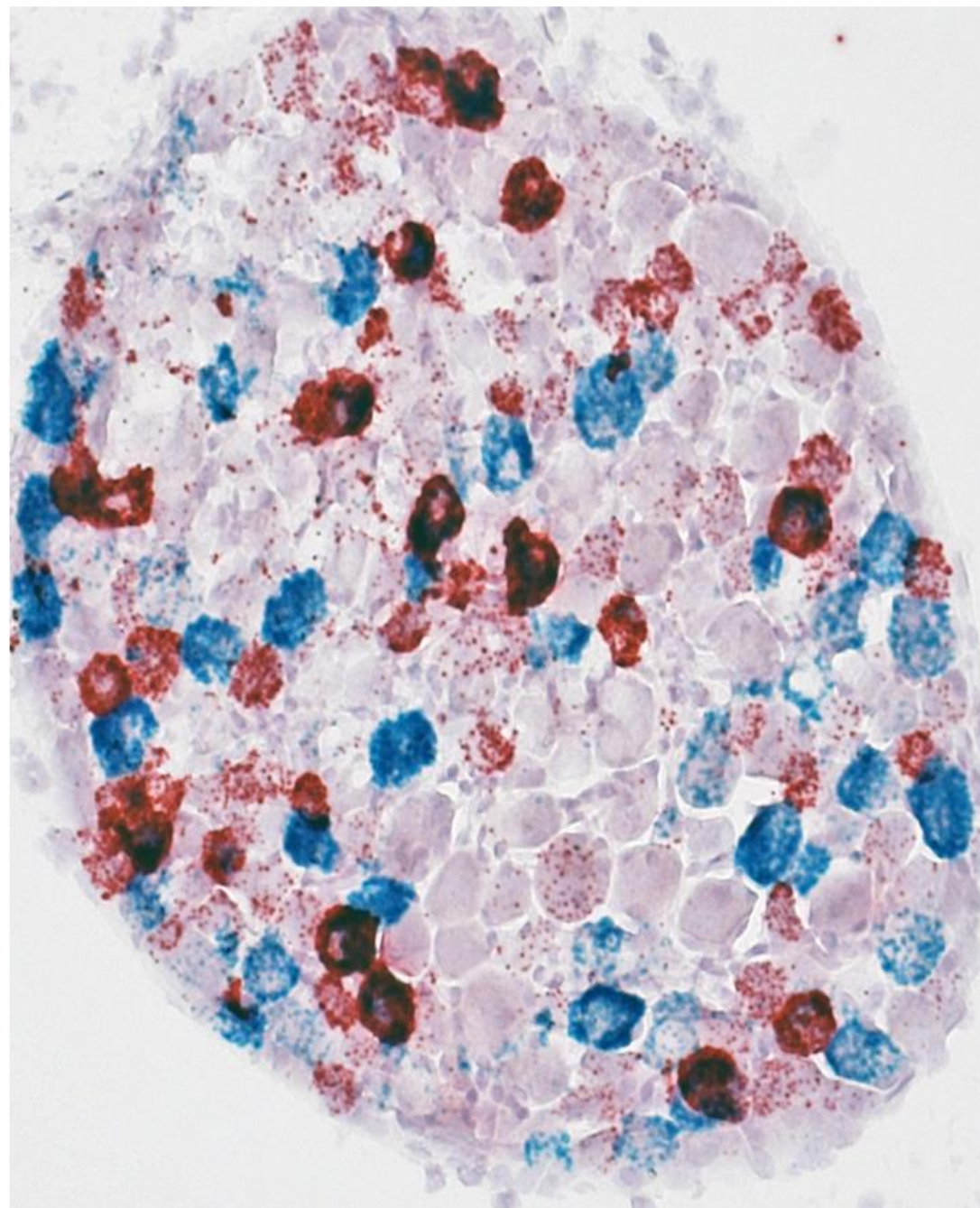
### Example experimental designs

- Endurance Test
- Chronic Exercise Training
- Lactate and glucose before and after exercise



## PART II. RNAscope and BaseScope Hybridization

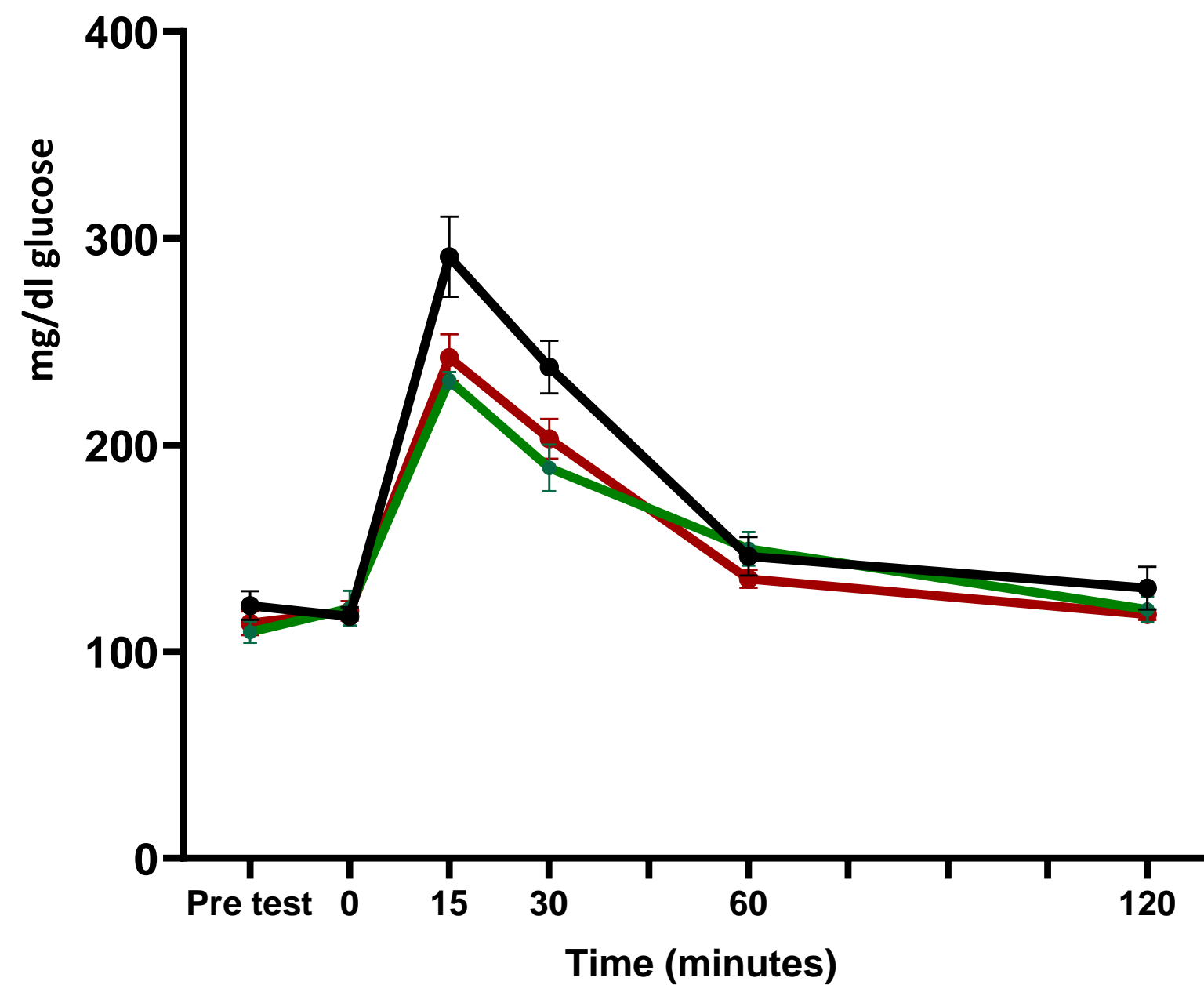
- Fluorescent and chromogenic *in situ* hybridization
- Uniplex, duplex, triplex hybridization
- Includes a range of services from tissue preparation to hybridization



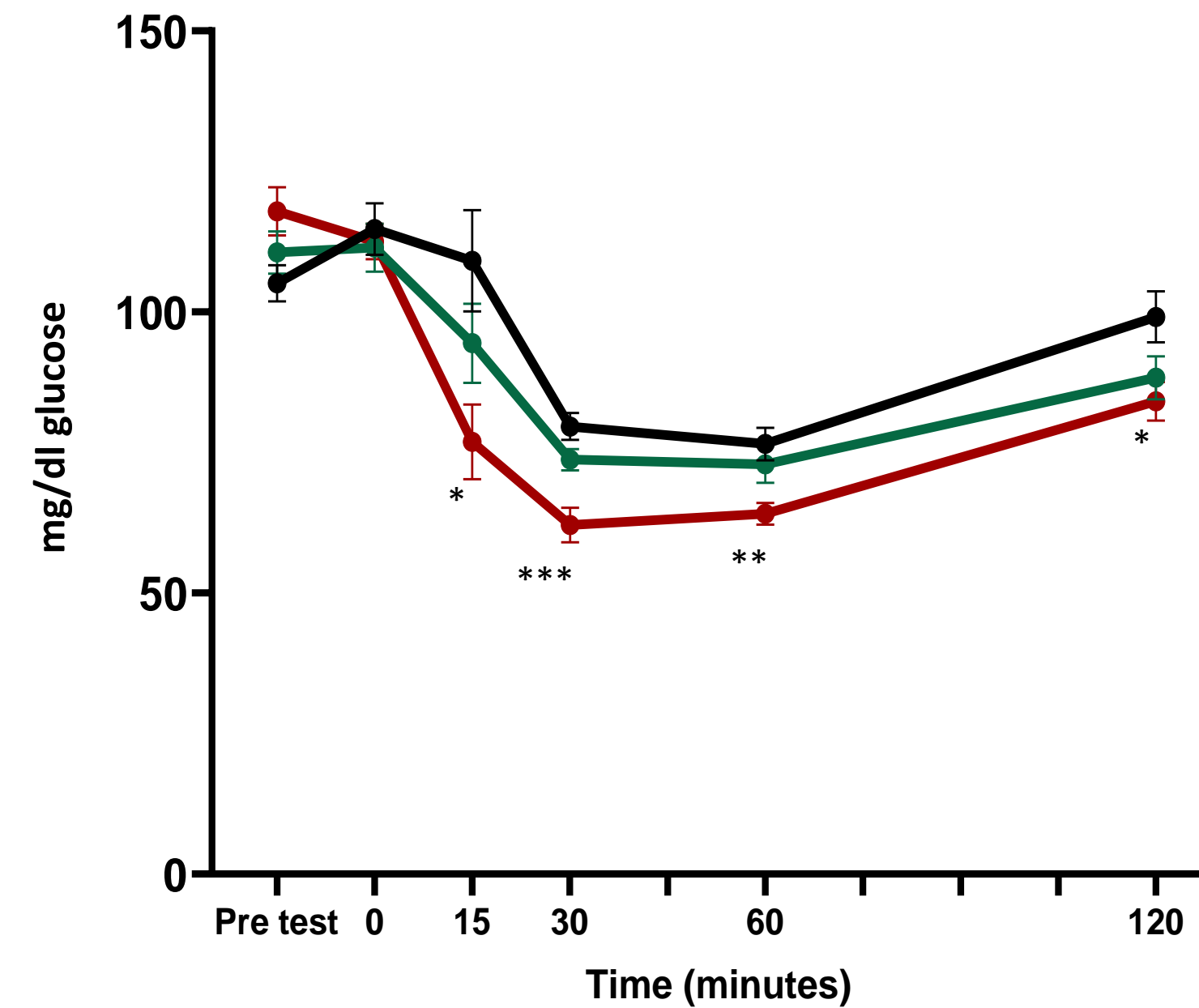
Detection of Ckka (red) and Gpr65 (blue) by chromogenic duplex RNAscope *in situ* hybridization of the mouse nodose ganglion

## PART II. Glucose homeostasis studies

### Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT)



### Insulin Tolerance Test (ITT)

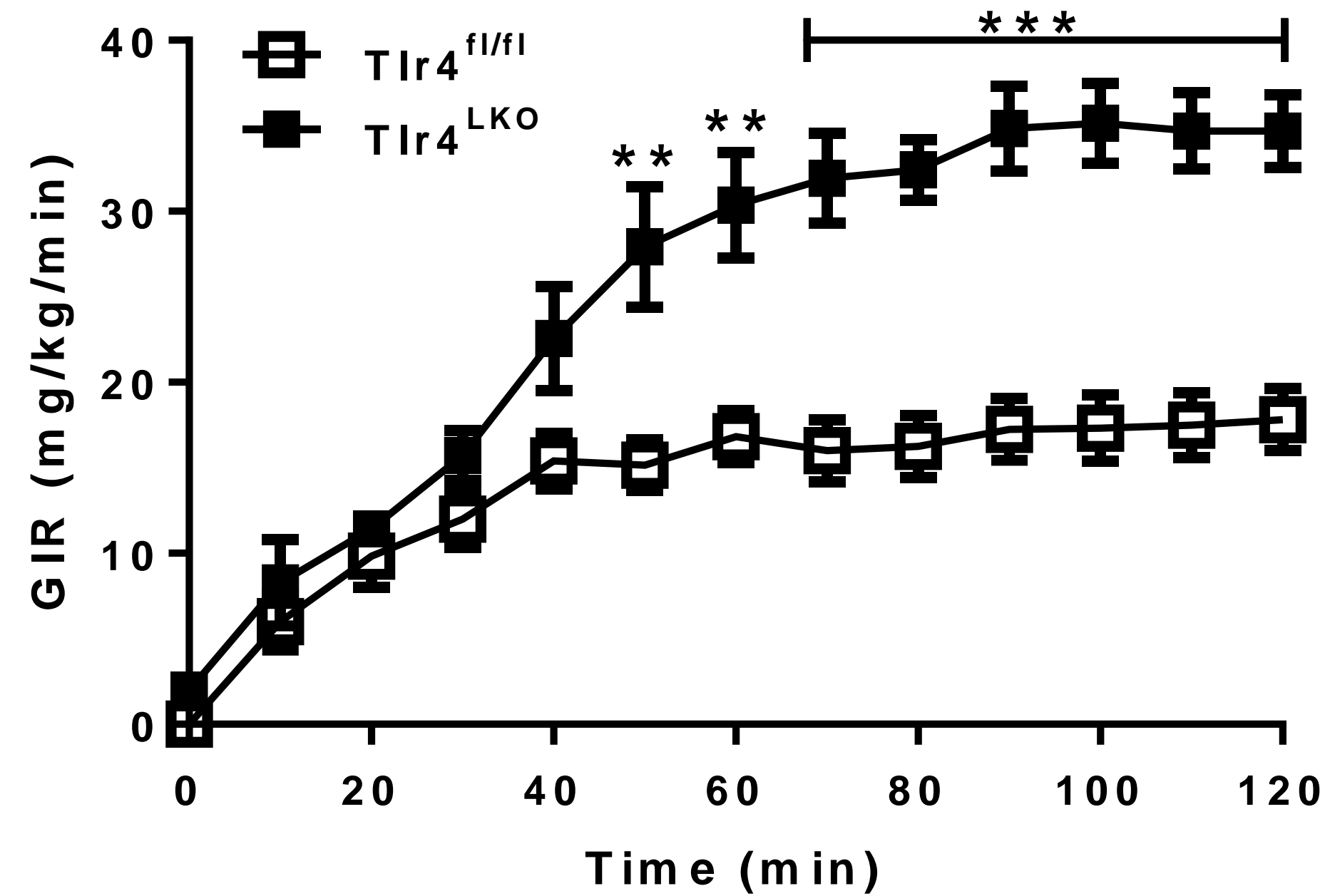


Wyler and Elmquist, unpublished results



## PART II. Glucose homeostasis studies

### Hyperinsulinemic-euglycemic clamps



## PART II. Body composition

### Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (qMRI)/ Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) analyzer

- Fat mass
- Lean mass
- Free water

