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► To cite this version:

Denis A Mogilenko, Joël Haas, Laurent L'Homme, Sébastien Fleury, Sandrine Quemener, et al.. Metabolic and innate immune cues merge into a specific inflammatory response via unfolded protein response (UPR). *Cell*, In press, 177 (5), pp.1201-1216.e19. 10.1016/j.cell.2019.03.018 . inserm-02084447

HAL Id: inserm-02084447

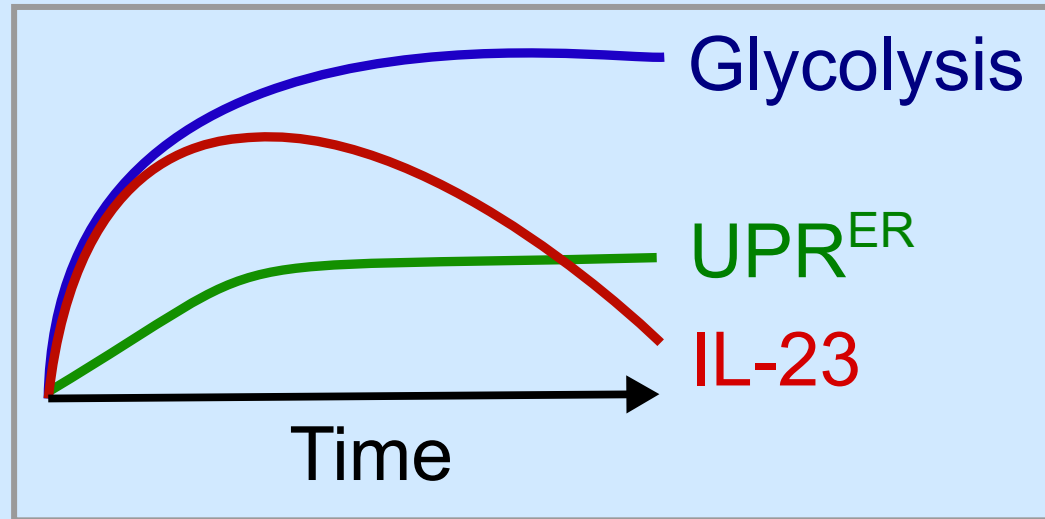
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Submitted on 29 Mar 2019

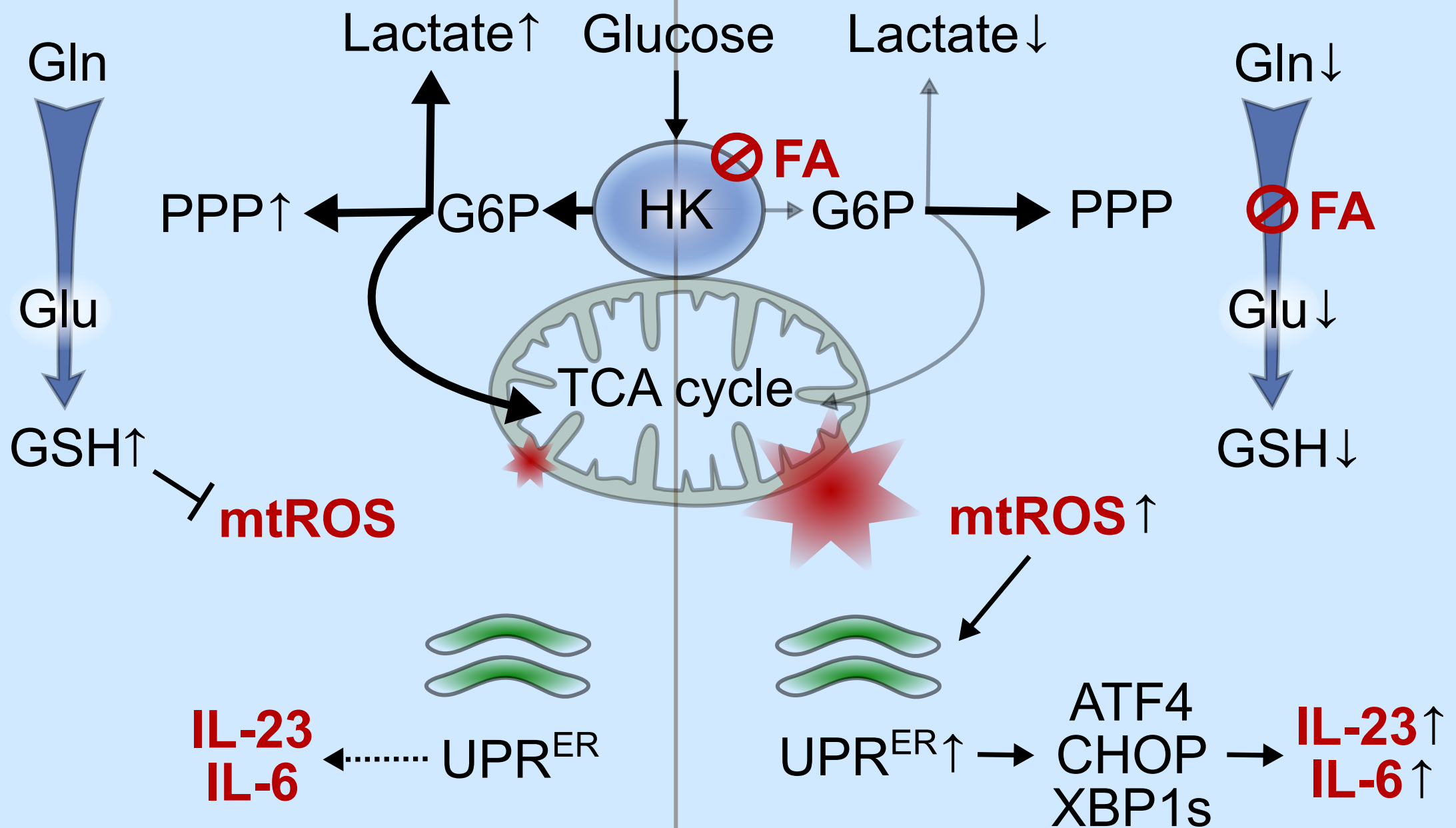
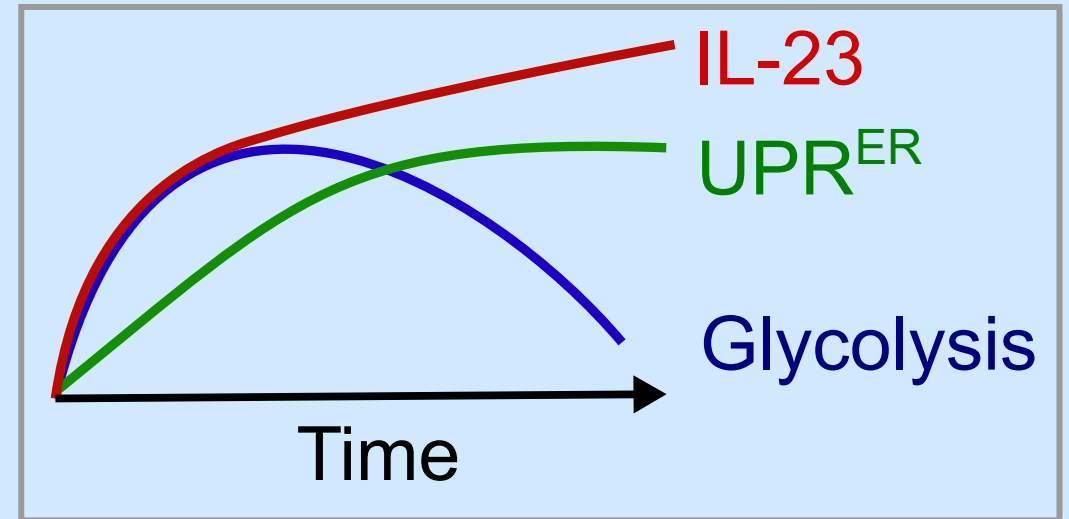
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TLR activation Low Fatty Acid



TLR activation High Fatty Acid



Resolution of inflammation

Unresolved inflammation

Metabolic and innate immune cues merge into a specific inflammatory response via UPR

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Summary

Innate immune responses are intricately linked with intracellular metabolism of myeloid cells. Toll-like receptor (TLR) stimulation shifts intracellular metabolism toward glycolysis, while anti-inflammatory signals depend on enhanced mitochondrial respiration. How exogenous metabolic signals affect the immune response is unknown. We demonstrate that TLR-dependent responses of dendritic cells (DC) are exacerbated by a high fatty acid (FA) metabolic environment. FA suppress the TLR-induced hexokinase activity and perturb tricarboxylic acid cycle metabolism. These metabolic changes enhance mitochondrial reactive oxygen species (mtROS) production and, in turn, the unfolded protein response (UPR) leading to a distinct transcriptomic signature, with IL-23 as hallmark. Interestingly, chemical or genetic suppression of glycolysis was sufficient to induce this specific immune response. Conversely, reducing mtROS production or DC-specific deficiency in XBP1 attenuated IL-23 expression and skin inflammation in an IL-23-dependent model of psoriasis. Thus, fine-tuning of innate immunity depends on optimization of metabolic demands and minimization of mtROS-induced UPR.

Introduction

Metabolic adaptations play an important role in host response to pathogens (Wang et al., 2016; Weis et al., 2017). Inflammatory responses are triggered by pattern-recognition receptors (PRRs), such as Toll-like receptors (TLRs), which recognize pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) (Medzhitov, 2001). Inflammation is a tightly controlled process sensitive to dynamic changes in tissue environment and to the intrinsic state of immune cells, both contributing to initiation and resolution of inflammation (Netea et al., 2017). However, dysregulation of the transient inflammatory response can result in chronic inflammatory diseases (Fullerton and Gilroy, 2016).

Recent evidence shows that metabolism of macrophages and DC plays a crucial role in inflammation (O'Neill and Pearce, 2016). Both DC and macrophages undergo a robust increase of glycolysis after acute activation by TLR agonists, whereas mitochondrial activity is suppressed in such conditions (Krawczyk et al., 2010; Tannahill et al., 2013). This shift of metabolic activity, known as glycolytic reprogramming, results in altered mitochondrial function, increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) production, and elevated secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines (Tannahill et al., 2013; Lampropoulou et al., 2016; Mills et al., 2016). Importantly, processes that drive glycolytic reprogramming in M1 macrophages, activated by the TLR4 agonist LPS, are down-regulated in IL-4-polarized M2 macrophages (Jha et al., 2015) or in response to IL-10 (Ip et al., 2017). In addition, a recent study demonstrated that the key hallmarks of M2 macrophages are fatty acid oxidation (FAO)-independent and are not regulated by mitochondrial respiration (Divakaruni et al., 2018). Alterations of immune

signaling have a profound impact on whole body metabolism in metabolic diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes (Hotamisligil, 2017). Conversely, altered metabolic environment, for instance, due to obesity, affects myeloid cells during the innate inflammatory response (Duan et al., 2018). Immune cells sense environmental and metabolic cues that induce specialized stress responses in these cells (Chovatiya and Medzhitov, 2014). Flexibility of immune cells to adapt to different metabolic demands and diverse metabolic milieu via dynamic regulation of intracellular metabolism is an important component of inflammation and tissue homeostasis (Gaber et al., 2017). However, the underlying molecular mechanisms remain poorly understood. We hypothesized that metabolic adaptations during DC innate immune activation might be sensitive to extracellular metabolites such as FA, whose concentrations are altered by nutritional status and in several metabolic diseases (Karpe et al., 2011). Our results show that FA enhance TLR-mediated innate activation by inhibiting hexokinase (HK) thereby impairing the glycolytic reprogramming, leading to disturbed mitochondrial fitness and increased mtROS generation. This results in an exacerbated unfolded protein response (UPR) and, in turn, induces a distinct molecular signature and inflammatory response characterized by increased IL-23 production. Thus, adaptation of glycolysis to the metabolic environment links mtROS production to UPR activation and represents a specific mechanism regulating innate immunity.

Results

FA alter TLR-induced innate immune response

To study whether the metabolic environment modulates the innate immune response, we analyzed the impact of FA on TLR-mediated activation of mouse GM-CSF bone marrow-derived DC (GM-DC). In GM-DC, PA, a common saturated FA in processed food diets, alone did not induce a significant expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines, but it greatly modified *Il23a*, *Il6*, and *Il12a* expression in response to TLR activation (Figure 1A-B and S1A-C). Moreover, PA potentiated IL-23 expression induced by activation of another PRR Dectin-2 (by furfuran), but not by Dectin-1 (by curdlan), as well as by TNF, but not by IL-1 β (Figure S1D). Likewise, PA robustly increased IL-23 expression upon TLR4 and TLR7/8 activation in bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDM) (Figure S1E). These data indicate that IL-23 expression is sensitive to the presence of a high FA metabolic environment.

Next, we focused on activation of DC with TLR7/8 ligand imiquimod (IMQ) which induced the strongest synergistic effects with PA. Interestingly, PA only modified expression of a subset of cytokines and chemokines among all induced by IMQ (Figure S1C), suggesting that FA promote a distinct innate immune signature in TLR-activated DC.

PA modulates glycolysis in TLR-activated DC

TLR activation rapidly increases glycolysis in DC (Everts et al., 2014; Krawczyk et al., 2010). Furthermore, PA affects early TLR4 signaling in macrophages (Lancaster et al., 2018). Consequently, we hypothesized that PA might modulate the DC inflammatory response either by acting as a signaling molecule or by altering intracellular metabolism. Stimulation of GM-DC from wildtype and TLR4-deficient mice with IMQ and PA resulted in similar IL-23 induction (Figure S2A). Moreover, the up-regulation of IL-23 by PA was not due to NF- κ B signaling (Figure S2B) or JNK signaling (Figure S2C-D). Furthermore, the monounsaturated oleic acid (OA) also increased IL-23 secretion upon IMQ activation, independently of TLR4 (Figure S2E). Taken together, these results show that FA increase IMQ-mediated IL-23 expression through a yet unknown mechanism. We thus investigated the impact of PA on intracellular metabolism in IMQ-stimulated DC. The dose-dependent increase of IL-23 expression and secretion upon IMQ and PA late co-stimulation was associated with a decrease of lactate secretion (Figure S2F), indicating reduced glycolytic activity. Moreover, PA suppressed lactate production during the late PRR activation (Figure 1C and S2G). Notably, PA presence did not affect extracellular acidification rate (ECAR), a surrogate measurement of glycolytic activity, and oxygen consumption rate (OCR), a measurement of oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS), during the immediate response to IMQ activation (Figure S2H-I). These results indicate that PA suppresses late, but does not interfere with early steps of glycolytic reprogramming.

Next, we speculated that GM-DC become sensitive to metabolic effects of PA once the cells acquire “Warburg-like” metabolism (O’Neill and Pearce, 2016). Indeed, GM-DC demonstrated a highly glycolytic phenotype with inhibited mitochondrial respiration after IMQ activation (Figure 1F-I). Interestingly, while PA rapidly increased mitochondrial respiration in resting and IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure 1F-G), only IMQ-activated “Warburg-like” cells displayed decreased glycolytic activity in response to PA (Figure 1H-I). Similarly, PA inhibited lactate secretion from TLR-activated “Warburg-like” BMDM (Figure S2J). Together, these data show that PA alters late stages of glycolytic reprogramming, resulting in a shift from aerobic glycolysis towards OXPHOS. This metabolic effect of PA was not due to alterations in glucose uptake (Figure S2K) or mitochondrial content (Figure S2L), nor was it explained by changes in activity of electron transport chain (ETC) complexes (Figure S2M). Although IMQ activation in GM-DC increased ATP levels and decreased ATP/ADP ratio (indicating elevated energy utilization), PA presence did not alter these parameters in IMQ-stimulated cells (Figure S2N).

PA inhibits hexokinase activity and increases IL-23 expression independently of FAO

Octanoic acid, a medium chain saturated FA, has been shown to inhibit key glycolytic enzymes in the liver (Weber et al., 1966). We hypothesized that PA might also inhibit glycolytic enzymes during the

late-stage TLR activation in GM-DC. Indeed, PA reversed the IMQ-induced increase of hexokinase (HK) activity at 24 hr (Figure 1J). Furthermore, various FA were capable to inhibit lactate secretion when added for 2 hr to GM-DC primed with IMQ for 24 hr (Figure S2O). Interestingly, 2-methyl-PA failed to inhibit lactate secretion in this setting, suggesting that an intact carboxylic acid moiety is required for the PA-dependent regulation of HK activity. Finally, the PA-mediated inhibition of HK was not due to its dissociation from mitochondrial outer membrane into the cytosol (Figure S2P).

We next assessed whether PA activation to PA-CoA was required for the inhibition of glycolytic activity. As the effect of PA on glycolysis was not modulated by triacsin C, an inhibitor of long-chain-FA-CoA ligases (Figure S2O and Q), its conversion to PA-CoA by these enzymes appears dispensable. Mitochondrial FAO depends on the activity of FA importers CPT1A and CPT2 (Mehta et al., 2017). *Cpt1a*-deficiency or silencing both *Cpt1a* and *Cpt2* did not alter the PA-mediated increase in IL-23 expression (Figure S3A-B and D-F). Moreover, *Cpt1a* deficiency did not affect the PA-mediated inhibition of HK activity in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure S3C). In addition, using a FAO-specific concentration of CPT1 inhibitor etomoxir (Divakaruni et al., 2018) did not alter IL-23 expression (Figure S3F). Furthermore, activation with IMQ decreased *Cpt1a* expression and reduced complete PA oxidation to CO₂ in GM-DC, despite a modest increase of acid-soluble metabolite (ASM) production, which was not rescued by pre-incubation with PA (Figure S3G-H), indicating greatly reduced PA catabolism. In line, IMQ activation led to elevated accumulation of free non-metabolized PA in GM-DC (Figure S3I). These results indicate that elevated intracellular FA concentrations, rather than their metabolization via FAO, are critical for the inhibition of HK activity and ensuing increase in IL-23 production at the late stage of TLR activation.

PA inhibits glycolytic fluxes and disturbs mitochondrial fitness

We next investigated whether the FAO-independent inhibition of glycolysis by PA was associated with alterations in the glycolytic pathway. IMQ-mediated DC activation induced the expression of genes encoding glycolytic enzymes and lactate transporters (Figure S4A and P left). Interestingly, PA addition to IMQ repressed *Ldha*, *Pfkfb3*, and *Pfkfb3* expression compared to IMQ alone (Figure S4A and P right). In line with gene expression data, [1,2-¹³C]glucose flux via glycolysis into lactate (M+2) was significantly reduced upon PA treatment in IMQ activated GM-DC, whereas the (M+1) flux via the oxidative pentose phosphate pathway (PPP) was not altered (Figure 1K). Analysis of glycolysis intermediates showed non-significant increases of total fructose-1,6-biphosphate, 3-phosphoglycerate and pyruvate upon IMQ stimulation (Figure S4C-F). However, GM-DC co-stimulated with IMQ and PA displayed significantly decreased 3-phosphoglycerate compared to IMQ alone, in line with reduced glycolytic activity (Figure S4E and P).

IMQ activation generally down-regulated genes in the TCA cycle compared to resting cells (Figure S4G and P). These transcriptional changes led to accumulation of itaconate, and to elevated fumarate and malate levels, but no changes in citrate, isocitrate, and succinate were found in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure S4G-M and P). By contrast, IMQ and PA stimulation increased expression of pyruvate dehydrogenase (*Pdhb*), malate dehydrogenase (*Mdh1/2*) and mitochondrial isocitrate dehydrogenase 2 (*Idh2*) but decreased lactate dehydrogenase (*Ldha*) expression compared to IMQ-activation (Figure S4A, G & P). Surprisingly, in this setting, [1,2-¹³C]glucose fluxes into TCA metabolites, such as isocitrate, itaconate, and malate, were significantly inhibited by PA (Figure 1L), and intracellular citrate and itaconate levels were reduced (Figure S4H and J). Itaconate regulates the late inflammatory response in macrophages (Bambouskova et al., 2018). Because PA decreased itaconate levels, we treated *Acod1*^{-/-} (also known as *Irg1*^{-/-}) GM-DC, deficient in itaconate synthase, with IMQ and PA. While *Irg1*-deficiency affected IMQ+PA-induced IL-23 expression, the effect was relatively small (Figure S4Q). Thus, the up-regulation of IL-23 by PA is unlikely due to the modulation of intracellular itaconate.

Inhibited HK activity can lead to uncoupling of intra- from extramitochondrial metabolism (Robey and Hay, 2006), which might result in mitochondrial stress. Indicative of mitochondrial stress, mtROS generation was significantly increased by PA in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure 1M). Moreover, inhibition of HK activity by 2DG phenocopied the PA-induced increase of mtROS generation (Figure 1N). Taken together, these results indicate that the metabolic adaptation of glycolysis/ to a high FA environment is associated with inhibition of glycolysis, reduced glycolytic flux into the TCA cycle, and elevated mitochondrial stress.

PA increases IL-23 expression through elevated generation of mtROS by complex I

As PA elevated mitochondrial stress and increased IL-23 expression, we investigated whether these events are functionally associated by inhibiting of mtROS generation. Both mitoTEMPO, an mtROS scavenger, and rotenone, an inhibitor of ETC complex I, diminished mtROS generation and blunted the PA-dependent increase in IL-23 expression (Figure 2A-C). These results suggest that mtROS generation by complex I or III activity links FA to IL-23 expression. Notably, although it generally diminished mitochondrial respiration, mitoTEMPO neither prevented the PA-mediated inhibition of glycolytic and HK activities in IMQ-activated GM-DC nor altered GAPDH activity (Figure S5A-E). Thus, the increased mtROS generation is rather the result of inhibited glycolytic activity, not the cause.

ROS generation has been shown to rapidly up-regulate oxidative PPP activity in keratinocytes leading to increasing NADPH production to insure stabilization of redox balance and ROS clearance (Kuehne et al., 2015). We investigated whether alterations in PPP might functionally link the PA-mediated

glycolysis inhibition with increased mtROS production. PA inhibited activity of G6PDH, a rate limiting enzyme of the oxidative PPP, and treatment with mitoTEMPO diminished this effect (Figure S5F). In addition, the product of the oxidative PPP, ribose-5-phosphate (R5P), was decreased (Figure S5G), and [1,2-¹³C]glucose fluxes into R5P via non-oxidative PPP (M+2), but not oxidative PPP (M+1), were decreased by PA in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure S5H). Interestingly, PA treatment also affected the PPP metabolite sedoheptulose-7-phosphate (S7P) (Figure S5I-J). Altogether, these data show that extracellular FA establishes a new metabolic equilibrium involving a modulation of the PPP activity, redox balance and mtROS generation in TLR-activated DC.

Increased mitochondrial activity potentiates IL-23 expression

To demonstrate the relevance of these results *in vivo*, we used a mouse model of IMQ-induced skin inflammation (Fits et al., 2009), which shares some features with human psoriasis, an IL-23-dependent disease (Teng et al., 2015). IMQ treatment and high-fat diet (HFD) feeding increased concentrations of non-esterified FA (NEFA) in plasma (Figure S6A-B) in agreement with published results (Stelzner et al., 2016). As reported (Kanemaru et al., 2015), HFD feeding increased epidermal thickening (Figure S6C-D). Moreover, in IMQ-treated mice, HFD feeding increased the population of IL-23⁺ conventional DC (cDC) in skin draining inguinal lymph nodes (iLN) (Figure 2D). Upon HFD feeding, IMQ-activated cDC exhibited increased expression of genes involved in OXPHOS (Figure S6E) and generated more mtROS (Figure S6F), similar to the *in vitro* findings (Figure 1M). Notably, HFD feeding enhanced the IL-23-induced expression of a subset of IMQ-responsive genes in skin (Suárez-Fariñas et al., 2013), while it did not exert such an effect in the absence of IMQ (Figure S6G), suggesting that increased IL-23 production links HFD feeding with exacerbated skin pathology. Indeed, IMQ-induced skin inflammation was abrogated upon treatment with an IL-23-blocking antibody (Figure S6H). Moreover, in HFD fed mice treated with IMQ, Cpt1a-deficiency in cDC did not alter IL-23 expression and skin pathology (Figure S6I-K), in agreement with *in vitro* data (Figure S3B). Taken together, these results indicate that IMQ-activated cDC respond to a high FA environment *in vivo* via a FAO-independent mechanism by increasing mtROS generation and IL-23 expression. Next, we tested whether inhibition of ETC complex I activity could mitigate the effects of HFD feeding on increased IL-23 production *in vivo*. Metformin, a complex I inhibitor active in macrophages (Kelly et al., 2015), significantly reduced mitochondrial respiration in IMQ-activated GM-DC in the presence of PA (Figure S6L) and decreased IL-23 expression induced by IMQ and PA (Figure 2E) through an AMPK-independent mechanism (Figure S6M). In HFD-fed mice, metformin significantly reduced IL-23⁺ cDC numbers in iLN and epidermal thickness induced by epicutaneous application of IMQ (Figure 2F) and mitigated psoriasis-associated gene expression in the skin (Figure S6N). Thus, *in vivo* IL-23

production by cDC is enhanced by HFD-derived NEFA through a mechanism dependent on complex I activity.

PA-mediated increase of IL-23 expression is associated with a decrease in the glutamate/glutathione axis

We noticed, that the level of NADPH, a product of oxidative PPP, was decreased (Figure 2G) and NADP⁺/NADPH ratio was increased by PA in IMQ-activated cells (Figure S5L). Decreased NADPH might thus explain the elevated mtROS generation in response to PA. Interestingly, mitoparaquat (mitoPQ), which increase mtROS generation, up-regulated IL-23 expression in non-activated GM-DC but failed to potentiate IL-23 expression in IMQ-activated cells (Figure 2H). Glutathione (GSH) is an important component of the cellular anti-oxidant system (Mailloux et al., 2013). IMQ treatment resulted in a robust increase of GSH levels during the late TLR7/8 response, but this effect was reversed in the presence of PA (Figure 2I). Metabolomic data analysis revealed a decrease of intracellular glutamine and glutamate levels in IMQ-activated GM-DC treated with PA (Figure 2J), which was associated with inhibited flux into glutamate from glycolysis but not from glutaminolysis (Figure 2K). As glutamate is a key component for GSH synthesis, reduced glutamate may also account for the decreased levels of GSH, and thereby elevated mtROS generation, in GM-DC treated with IMQ and PA.

To test whether glutamine plays a role in the regulation of IL-23, we deprived GM-DC from glutamine before activation with IMQ and found significantly increased IL-23 expression (Figure 2L). Similarly, silencing of *Gls* and *Gls2* (Figure 2M), genes encoding enzymes mediating glutaminolysis, decreased glutamate and GSH levels (Figure 2N-O) and also increased mtROS generation and IL-23 expression in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure 2P-R). These results show that the pro-inflammatory effect of PA depends, at least in part, upon the reprogramming of the glutamine/glutamate/GSH axis.

Upper glycolysis inhibition promotes IL-23 expression

Because PA inhibited HK activity, we determined whether glycolytic inhibition was sufficient *per se* to enhance IL-23 expression. Treatment with 2DG led to elevated IL-23 expression in GM-DC in synergy with IMQ activation (Figure 3A). In line, intraperitoneal injection of 2DG significantly increased the accumulation of IL-23⁺ cDC in IMQ-treated mice (Figure 3B). Taken together, these results show that inhibition of HK activity promotes IL-23 expression in TLR7/8-activated DC *in vitro* and *in vivo*. PA inhibited aerobic glycolysis in part through transcriptional regulation with a pronounced effect on *Pfkfb3* gene (Figure S4A). PFKFB3 increases glycolysis in macrophages (Jiang et al., 2016). Upon activation by IMQ and PA IL-23 expression was significantly increased in *Pfkfb3*-knocked-down GM-DC (Figure 3C). We next evaluated whether lower glycolysis was critical for IL-23 expression.

Combined inactivation of *Pfkl* (liver-type phosphofructokinase 1) and *Pfkp* (6-phosphofructo-1-kinase) decreased lactate secretion in IMQ-activated DC (Figure S7). However, this inactivation failed to up-regulate IL-23 expression (Figure S6O), indicating that the activity of upper, but not lower, glycolysis is essential for the regulation of IL-23 expression.

We further confirmed the role of upper glycolysis on IL-23 regulation using a model of genetic inactivation of HIF1 α , which controls glycolytic activity in myeloid cells (Corcoran and O'Neill, 2016). Accordingly, lactate secretion and HK activity were significantly decreased in IMQ-activated HIF1 α -deficient GM-DC (Figure 3D-F), while mtROS generation was significantly elevated (Figure 3G). In line, IMQ-activated, but not resting, HIF1 α -deficient GM-DC displayed increased IL-23 expression and secretion (Figure 3H). Similar results were observed in HIF1 α -deficient GM-DC from *Hif1a*^{Vav/Vav} mice and tamoxifen-treated *Hif1a*^{fl/fl}Rosa26CreER mice (data not shown). Finally, the increase of IL-23 expression in IMQ-activated HIF1 α -deficient GM-DC was abrogated by inhibiting mtROS generation, but not pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase (PDK) activity (Figure 3I). Taken together, these results show that chemical or genetic inhibitions of upper glycolysis lead to increased mtROS generation and IL-23 expression.

Metabolic adaptation to a high FA environment is associated with a distinct transcriptional program

To get further insight into the mechanisms of metabolic adaptation of DC to a high FA environment, we performed microarray analysis of GM-DC activated by IMQ and PA. IMQ alone induced pronounced changes in the DC transcriptional program, whereas PA alone only modestly affected gene expression (Figure 4A). By contrast, combined PA and IMQ treatment resulted in robust alteration of the DC transcriptional program, significantly modulating the expression of 874 genes (594 up-regulated and 280 down-regulated) compared to GM-DC treated with IMQ alone (Figure 4A-B). Analysis of the 594 up-regulated genes revealed an enrichment in the UPR, IRE1 α /XBP1 pathway, and N-linked glycosylation (Figure 4C), including up-regulated expression of multiple genes from the UPR and the integrated stress response pathways (Figure 4D). Similarly, transcriptomic analysis of cDC isolated from IMQ-treated mice showed that, compared to CD, HFD feeding led to an increase in the UPR gene signature (Figure 4E). Taken together, these results suggest that metabolic adaptation of IMQ-activated DC to a high FA environment induces a distinct transcriptional program associated with exacerbated UPR.

PA potentiates the UPR in TLR-activated DC

The UPR regulates immune homeostasis and responses in DC (Martinon et al., 2010; Osorio et al.,

2014; Tavernier et al., 2017). Thus, we further analyzed the impact of UPR alterations on IL-23 expression. While PA alone acted on a very restricted gene subset, compared to IMQ alone, PA and IMQ differentially altered the expression of genes involved in the UPR (Figure S7A). In particular, combined action of IMQ and PA resulted in an additional increase of protein and/or gene expression of *Hspa5* (encoding BIP), *Ddit3* (encoding CHOP), and the spliced form of Xbp1 (XBP1s), but not the cleaved form of ATF6 p50 (Figure 5A-B and S7B). Likewise, in sorted cDC, key UPR genes were differentially expressed in response to HFD feeding (Figure S7C). Notably, this was not associated with elevated expression of the UPR receptors PERK or IRE1 α (Figure 5A and S7B). In line with these data, the accumulation of XBP1s protein was maximal after 24 hr of combined treatment with IMQ and PA (Figure S7D-E). Furthermore, PA potentiated UPR activation by TLR2, 3, and 4 in GM-DC (Figure 5B), indicating that this effect is not limited to TLR7/8 pathway. These results thus show that the late metabolic adaptation of TLR-activated DC to a high FA environment results in a synergistic induction of the UPR.

PA-induced metabolic adaptations hyperactivate the UPR

Next, we determined whether metabolic adaptations to PA directly potentiate TLR-mediated UPR activation. In GM-DC treated with IMQ and PA, complex I and mtROS inhibition decreased CHOP and XBP1s expression (Figure 5C-H). Furthermore, inhibition of glycolysis in IMQ-activated GM-DC resulted in an increase of *Ddit3* and *Xbp1s* expression (Figure 5I-J). Accordingly, *Ddit3* and *Xbp1s* expression were significantly increased in HIF1 α -deficient GM-DC that failed to increase glycolytic activity upon TLR-activation (Figure 5K-L). Importantly, Xbp1-deficiency neither affected glycolytic activity, nor altered mitochondrial respiration in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure S7F), indicating that the increased UPR is a consequence rather than a cause of the inhibited glycolytic activity driven by PA. Taken together, these results indicate that metabolic adaptations to PA control the UPR in TLR-activated DC.

UPR increases IL-23 expression through the PERK/CHOP and IRE1 α /XBP1 pathways

Tunicamycin, a direct activator of the UPR, significantly increased IL-23 expression in resting GM-DC (Figure 6A). Interestingly, it synergistically enhanced IL-23 expression in IMQ-activated GM-DC (Figure 6A-B). Specific inhibitors of IRE1 α -dependent splicing activity and PERK signaling resulted in a significant and additive decrease of IL-23 expression in GM-DC treated with IMQ and PA (Figure 6C-D). Because these inhibitors also significantly decreased *Xbp1s*, *Atf4*, and *Ddit3* expression (data not shown), downstream IRE1 α and PERK targets, we evaluated the impact of these transcription factors on IL-23 expression. *Atf4* silencing decreased IL-23 expression in GM-DC activated with IMQ and PA,

but not IMQ alone (Figure S7G). Likewise, CHOP-deficient *Ddit3*^{-/-} GM-DC (Oyadomari et al., 2001) displayed a lower IL-23 expression compared to *Ddit3*^{+/+} cells (Figure 6E-F). IL-23 expression was also decreased in XBP1-deficient *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} GM-DC (Osorio et al., 2014; Cubillos-Ruiz et al., 2015; Tavernier et al., 2017) upon IMQ and PA activation (Figure 6G-H). Moreover, *Ddit3*^{-/-}*Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} GM-DC (Tavernier et al., 2017), deficient for both XBP1 and CHOP (Figure S7H), showed a further decrease in IL-23 expression (Figure 6G-H). Of note, in IMQ-activated GM-DC, *Ii6* induction by PA was dependent on mtROS generation, and XBP1- and CHOP-deficiency significantly attenuated *Ii6* expression (Figure S7I-J). Furthermore, in IMQ-activated GM-DC, single or combined XBP1- and CHOP-deficiency diminished IL-23 expression potentiated upon glycolysis inhibition by 2DG (Figure 6I-J). GM-DC activation by IMQ and PA lead to increased mitochondrial UPR (UPR^{mt}) (Wu et al., 2014), and diminished mitochondrial localization of ATF5, a master regulator of the UPR^{mt} in mammals (Shpilka and Haynes, 2018) (Figure S7K-L). However, *Atf5* knock-down did not alter IL-23 expression in GM-DC (Figure S7M). Moreover, silencing *Atf3*, a transcription factor that controls the integrated stress response (Jiang et al., 2004), increased IL-23 expression in GM-DC activated with IMQ and PA (Figure S7N).

Finally, ChIP-qPCR analysis revealed that CHOP and XBP1 interact with the mouse *Ii23a* gene promoter in GM-DC and their binding increased by treatment with IMQ and/or PA (Figure 6K). Together, these results indicate that the endoplasmic reticulum UPR (UPR^{ER}), rather than UPR^{mt} or the ATF3-dependent pathway, links metabolic adaptation to elevated extracellular FA concentrations to IL-23 expression in DC.

HFD-feeding exacerbates IMQ-mediated inflammation through DC-specific XBP1-dependent regulation of IL-23

To assess the contribution of the UPR to exacerbation of inflammatory response by HFD feeding, we evaluated IMQ-induced skin inflammation in mice harboring DC-specific XBP1-deficiency (Osorio et al., 2014). Whereas the number and proportion of IL-23⁺ and IL-6⁺ cDC were not significantly lower in CD-fed *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} mice compared to their *Xbp1*^{fl/fl} littermates, XBP1-deficiency in cDC strongly prevented the increase in IL-23⁺ and IL-6⁺ cDC in response to HFD feeding in IMQ-treated mice (Figure 7A-D). Importantly, *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} mice displayed ameliorated IMQ-induced psoriasis-like skin inflammation but showed no obvious difference in skin morphology without IMQ treatment (Figure 7E-F). These results show that UPR activation in DC contributes to TLR-mediated IL-23-driven inflammation enhanced by a high FA environment.

Discussion

Here, we demonstrate that the UPR integrates the signal driven by metabolic adaptation of activated DC to a high FA environment into a specific inflammatory program, characterized by elevated expression of IL-23. Upon pathogen-mediated activation via PRRs, innate immune cells must meet the high energetic demand required for anti-infectious defenses while ensuring moderate ROS levels to preserve the host from cell damage. Hence, a trade-off exists between highly effective ATP synthesis by OXPHOS and excessive mtROS production. Here, we demonstrate that, in DC, glycolysis is sensitive to a high FA environment at the late stage of PRR activation. Mechanistically, this metabolic adaptation to excessive FA exposure is due to the inhibition of HK activity, resulting in metabolic stress, in a decrease of carbon fluxes from glycolysis into the TCA cycle and, ultimately, in decreased mitochondrial fitness. In turn, it increases mtROS generation and drives a distinct immune response associated with hyperactivation of the UPR. Increased IL-23 and IL-6 are hallmarks of this metabolically-driven inflammatory response, and their expression is controlled by XBP1 and CHOP. IL-23 and IL-6 are known targets of NF- κ B signaling upon TLR activation (Matsusaka et al., 1993; Sheikh et al., 2010). However, in our model, regulation of IL-23 by PA was not due to elevated NF- κ B signaling. We also excluded the involvement of the UPR^{mt} and ATF3-dependent pathway in regulation of IL-23 by PA. Similarly, a recently described JNK-dependent modulation of the early TLR response by PA (Lancaster et al., 2018) did not explain the PA-dependent up-regulation of IL-23 expression. On the other hand, we found that the glutamine/glutamate/glutathione axis contributes, in addition to decreased NADPH levels, to elevated mtROS levels upon PA treatment and in turn to increased IL-23 expression. By contrast, our data show that itaconate is unlikely to be involved in the PA-mediated up-regulation of IL-23 expression. Further studies are however needed to better understand such integrated reprogramming mechanisms.

Different types of TLR ligands, myeloid cell origins and the microenvironment, as well as duration of activation, can lead to differential metabolic responses (Stienstra et al., 2017). LPS treatment rewires glycolysis and TCA cycle metabolism in macrophages (Jha et al., 2015). We found similar transcriptional and metabolic alterations in DC activated by IMQ alone, where accumulation of non-metabolized PA and inhibited FAO suggest that FA are likely diverted from OXPHOS to avoid activation of the ETC and generation of mtROS. It is also possible that triglyceride synthesis acts as a transient buffer for extracellular FA. However, excessive extracellular FA likely overwhelm this protective mechanism (Chitraju et al., 2017), inhibiting HK activity and resulting in a metabolic disequilibrium and up-regulation of IL-23 and IL-6.

FAO contributes to polarization of M2 macrophages (Huang et al., 2014) or tolerogenic DC (Malinarich et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2018), at least in the absence of an acute inflammatory stimulus. Importantly, a recent study challenged the role of FAO in M2 macrophage polarization as widely used etomoxir

concentrations show multiple FAO-independent metabolic effects that are absent in genetic models of FAO deficiency (Divakaruni et al., 2018). In line, we found that the PA-mediated increase of IL-23 expression is FAO independent and rather due to direct FA-mediated inhibition of the upper glycolysis in DC. HK has been shown to be an innate immune receptor for bacterial peptidoglycan detection and its activity controls a dialog between mitochondria and inflammasome (Wolf et al., 2016). PFKFB3 has been recently described as an important glycolytic activator controlling antiviral immune responses in macrophages (Jiang et al., 2016). Our results suggest that HK and PFKFB3 link the metabolic adaptation of glycolysis to high extracellular PA with inflammatory responses, including increased IL-23 expression. Given that glycolysis controls a specific inflammatory signature, manipulating its activity is a potential therapeutic approach to control innate inflammation.

Various TLR ligands and ROS are known UPR inducers (Grootjans et al., 2016; Martinon et al., 2010) and our data confirm these findings. Importantly, our results demonstrate a finely regulated cross-talk between the adaptation of glycolytic activity to the metabolic environment and the UPR in TLR-activated DC. Elevated glycolytic activity and reduced mtROS generation in TLR-activated DC are protective mechanisms that cells use to prevent excessive UPR activation upon inflammation. This hypothesis is in line with the observation that glucose utilization prevents UPR-induced neuronal damage during TLR3-induced and viral inflammation (Wang et al., 2016). The UPR has been shown to induce certain pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as IL-6, via NOD1/2 – another class of PRRs (Keestra-Gounder et al., 2016). Whether a similar cross-talk also plays a role in the integration of environmental metabolic signals with PRRs, other than TLRs and Dectin-2, remains to be investigated.

Different branches of the UPR are involved in the homeostasis and the control of immune responses in DC (Janssens et al., 2014; Osorio et al., 2014; Tavernier et al., 2017). XBP1 regulates transcription of IL-6 and TNF in mouse macrophages (Martinon et al., 2010) and IL-23 production in human DC in response to zymosan (Márquez et al., 2017), while CHOP increases IL-23 expression in human DC in response to LPS and tunicamycin (Goodall et al., 2010). However, whether these effects require metabolic adaptations has not been investigated.

Our results show that XBP1 and the UPR are potential therapeutic targets for IL-23-dependent inflammatory diseases. Interestingly, a recent study identified that activation of XBP1s by lipid peroxidation results in abnormal lipid accumulation in tumor-associated DC and inhibits their capacity to support anti-tumor T lymphocytes (Cubillos-Ruiz et al., 2015), suggesting that XBP1 provides a strong link between metabolic and immune functions in DC.

IL-23 is a cytokine associated to protective immunity against some pathogens (Aychek et al., 2015). Moreover, IL-23 plays a role in autoimmune diseases including psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, and

ankylosing spondylitis (Pfeifle et al., 2017; Teng et al., 2015). It is likely that the mechanism of metabolic adaptation reported here is relevant to psoriasis and other IL-23-dependent pathologies. During acute inflammation, elevated FA produced by lipolysis in adipose tissue (Rittig et al., 2016) may potentiate IL-23 and IL-6 production by DC, thereby promoting inflammatory effects against pathogens. The innate immune system may have evolved to utilize the UPR as a sensor of elevated FA that tunes acute inflammatory responses of DC to the metabolic milieu. However, excessive FA in obesity and upon feeding with a HFD may result in hyperactivation of the UPR in DC and chronically increased production of IL-23 and IL-6.

In conclusion, our results demonstrate that adaptation of the glycolysis/mtROS axis to a metabolic environment rich in FA and ensuing hyperactivation of the UPR represents a new regulatory mechanism of the innate immune response.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported in part by grants from ANR and European Union: EGID ANR-10-LABX-46 (to B.S. and D.D.), National Psoriasis Foundation (USA) Early Career Research Grant (to D.A.M.), EMBO Long Term Fellowship (to J.T.H.) and MRC grant (MR/M023230/1) (to E.A.). B.S. is recipient of an ERC advanced grant (ERC-2016-AdG-694717). We thank members of the Bart Staels lab for help with experiments, Jean-Claude Sirard (Institut Pasteur de Lille, France), Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz and Laurie H. Glimcher (Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, USA) and, Eik Hoffmann (Institut Pasteur de Lille, France) for mice, Morten Danielsen and Lea Johnsen (MS-Omics Inc., Copenhagen, Denmark) for assistance with LC-MS and GC-MS.

Author contributions: D.A.M., J.T.H., D.S.S, E.A and D.D. designed the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript with input from the other authors. B.S. discussed the data and edited the manuscript. D.A.M., J.T.H., L.L., S.F., S.Q., M.L., C.B., S.L., A.B., D.S.S, E.A. and D.D. performed the experiments with assistance from J.W., L.P., O.M.C., H.D., C.G., A.M., C.D., A.N., A.B., S.P. and N.R. Important mice, reagents, experimental and data analysis techniques were provided by J.S.A., S.O., T.V.H., J.C., M.F., B.V., M.V., A.V., K.K., G.M., S.T., C.P., P.C., L.B. M.P.L. and S.J.²¹ D.S.S., E.A. and B.S contributed equally to this work.

Declaration of interests

The authors declare no competing interests

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. PA rewires inflammatory response and metabolism in TLR-activated DC.

GM-DC were activated by TLR ligands during indicated time without (control) or with PA.

(A-C) *I/23a* expression (A), IL-23p19 secretion (B) and lactate secretion (C) at 24 hr.

(D-E) Lactate secretion and *I/23a* expression at indicated time after activation.

(F-I) GM-DC activated during 24 hr, followed by extracellular flux analysis. Mitochondrial respiration calculated as OCR (F-G), glycolysis activity calculated as ECAR (H-I), before and after PA administration. Oligo, oligomycin; FCCP, carbonyl cyanide-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone; AA, antimycin A; Rot, rotenone; 2DG, 2-deoxyglucose.

(J) HK activity in GM-DC treated as in D-E.

(K-L) Fluxes from 1,2-¹³C-glucose into intracellular lactate (K), isocitric, itaconic, and malic acids (L).

(M-N) MitoSOX staining in GM-DC activated by IMQ with/without PA (M) or with/without 2DG (N).

n = 3-5 per group. Data are shown as mean ± SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 (unpaired Student's t test or one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test). #P < 0.05 as compared to mock/control treated cells (one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test). See also Figure S1-5.

Figure 2. PA increases IL-23 through mitochondrial respiration and mtROS generation.

GM-DC were activated by IMQ without (Control) or with PA in the presence of indicated inhibitors for 24 hr.

(A-C) MitoSOX staining (A), *I/23a* expression and IL-23p19 secretion (B-C) in the presence of mitoTEMPO or rotenone.

(D) Male mice were fed CD or HFD, abdominal skin was treated with IMQ or vehicle during 6 days. Proportion of IL-23⁺ cDC in iLN. n = 4-6 mice per group.

(E) *I/23a* expression in GM-DC in response to metformin.

(F) Male mice were fed HFD with or without metformin supplementation of drinking water during 3 days followed by IMQ application to belly skin. Number of IL-23⁺ cDC in iLN 18 hr after IMQ treatment and average epidermal thickness after 5 days of IMQ treatment. n = 6-8 mice per group.

(G) NADP⁺ and NADPH levels in GM-DC activated by IMQ with/without PA for 2-24 hr.

(H) MitoSOX staining in GM-DC activated by IMQ with/without mitoParaquat (mitoPQ).

(I) Intracellular GSH in GM-DC treated as in Figure 1D.

(J) Intracellular glutamine and glutamate.

(K) Carbon fluxes from 1,2-¹³C-glucose and U-¹³C-glutamine into intracellular glutamate.

(L) *I/23a* expression in GM-DC pre-incubated with or without 2 mM glutamine for 4 hr and treated with

IMQ for 24 hr.

(M-R) *Gls* and *Gls2* expression (M), intracellular glutamate (N) and GSH (O), mtROS levels (P) and *Ii23a* expression (R) in GM-DC transfected with siRNA against *Gls* and *Gls2* or control siRNA and 48 hr later treated with IMQ in media containing glutamine for 24 hr.

n = 3-6 per group. Data are shown as mean \pm SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 by unpaired Student's t test. See also Figure S4 and S6.

Figure 3. Upper glycolysis decreases IL-23 expression.

(A) *Ii23a* expression and IL-23 protein secretion in GM-DC activated by IMQ and treated with 2DG.

(B) Number and proportion of IL-23⁺ cDC in iLN in mice 18 hr after IMQ application to abdominal skin and intraperitoneal injection with PBS or 2DG. n = 4-8 mice per group.

(C) *Pfkfb3* and *Ii23a* expression in GM-DC transfected with siRNA against *Pfkfb3* or control siRNA and 48 hr later treated with IMQ.

(D-J) *Hif1a*^{fl/fl} and *Hif1a*^{Tie2/Tie2} GM-DC treated with IMQ. Lactate secretion (D), ECAR (E), hexokinase activity (F), MitoSOX⁺ staining (G).

(H-I) *Ii23a* expression and IL-23 secretion in *Hif1a*^{fl/fl}, *Hif1a*^{Vav/Vav}, and *Hif1a*^{Tie2/Tie2} GM-DC treated with IMQ in the presence of mitoTEMPO and DCA.

n = 3-5 per group. Data are shown as mean \pm SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 (unpaired Student's t test or two-way ANOVA with Sidak *post-hoc* test). See also Figure S3-4.

Figure 4. PA and HFD feeding alter transcription program and induce the UPR in IMQ-activated DC.

(A) Principal component (PC) analysis of 15000 genes with maximal average expression in GM-DC.

(B) Volcano plot of differential gene expression in GM-DC treated with IMQ versus treated with IMQ plus PA; number of genes with fold-change > 1.5 and < 0.67 and adjusted P < 0.05 are shown.

(C) Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of the 594 genes from B using the Reactome database.

(D) K-mean clustering of the 15000 genes.

(E) GSEA using the "Unfolded Protein Response (UPR)" pathway in cDC sorted from iLN from IMQ-treated mice fed CD or HFD (15000 genes with maximal average expression).

n = 4 in each group. See also Figure S6.

Figure 5. PA enhances the UPR through mtROS generation and inhibition of glycolysis.

(A) Representative Western blot analysis of the UPR proteins in GM-DC treated with IMQ and PA. TBP (TATA-binding protein) and β -tubulin were used as loading controls.

(B) *Hspa5*, *Ddit3*, and *Xbp1s* expression in GM-DC treated with various TLR ligands without PA (Control) or with PA.

(C-D) *Ddit3* expression (C) and CHOP analysis by Western blot (D) in GM-DC treated as in A in the presence of rotenone.

(E) *Xbp1s* expression in GM-DC treated as in C.

(F) Representative flow cytometric analysis of XBP1s-venus⁺ GM-DC from ERAI mice treated as in C.

(G-J) *Ddit3* and *Xbp1s* expression in GM-DC treated as in A in the presence of mitoTEMPO or 2DG.

(K-L) *Ddit3* and *Xbp1s* expression in *Hif1a*^{fl/fl} and *Hif1a*^{Vav/Vav} GM-DC treated with IMQ.

n = 2-5 per group. Data are shown as mean ± SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 (unpaired Student's t test or one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test). #P < 0.05 as compared to mock/control treated cells (one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test). See also Figure S7.

Figure 6. PA and 2DG increase IL-23 expression through CHOP and XBP1s

(A-B) *Ii23a* expression (A) and IL-23p19 secretion (B) by GM-DC activated by IMQ and treated with tunicamycin (TN).

(C-D) *Ii23a* expression (C) and IL-23p19 secretion (D) by GM-DC activated by IMQ and PA and treated with 4μ8C (IRE1α inhibitor) and/or GSK2606414 (PERK inhibitor).

(E-F) *Ii23a* expression (E) and IL-23p19 secretion (F) by *Ddit3*^{+/+} and *Ddit3*^{-/-} GM-DC activated by IMQ and PA.

(G-J) *Ii23a* expression (G and I) and IL-23p19 secretion (H and J) by *Xbp1*^{fl/fl}, *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c}, and *Ddit3*^{-/-}*Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} GM-DC activated by IMQ and PA or 2DG.

(K) Schematic map of potential CHOP and XBP1 binding sites within the 5'-region of *Ii23a* mouse gene and ChIP-qPCR analysis of XBP1 and CHOP binding to these sites in GM-DC treated as in (C-D). Data are shown as % DNA input enrichment for each site. TSS – transcription start site.

n = 3-5 per group. Data are shown as mean ± SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 (unpaired Student's t test or one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test). See also Figure S7.

Figure 7. HFD feeding exacerbates psoriasis-like inflammation through the Xbp1-dependent increase of IL-23 expression in cDC

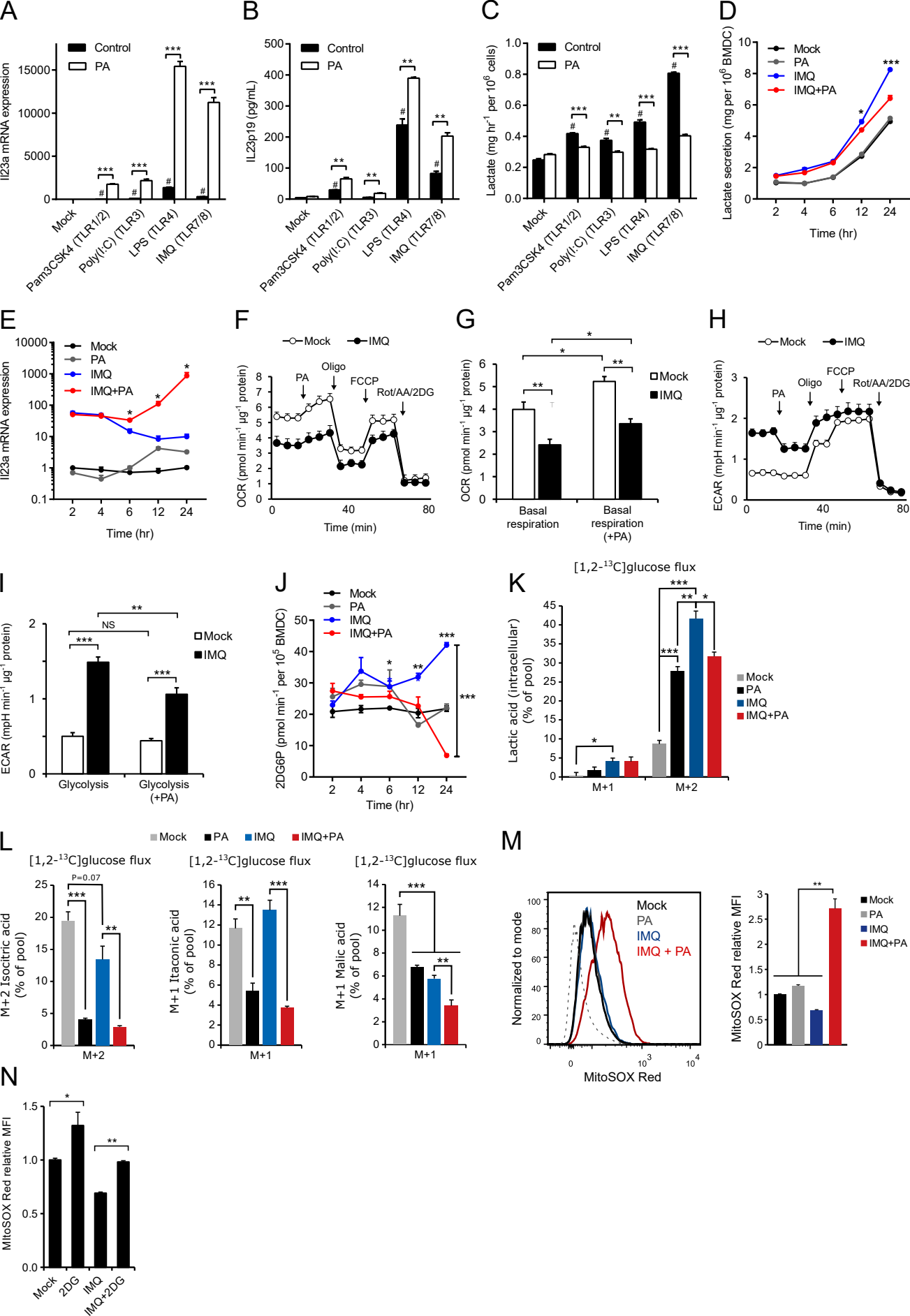
Xbp1^{fl/fl} and *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c} littermate male mice were untreated or daily treated by application of IMQ to shaved abdominal skin during 5 days and fed CD or HFD.

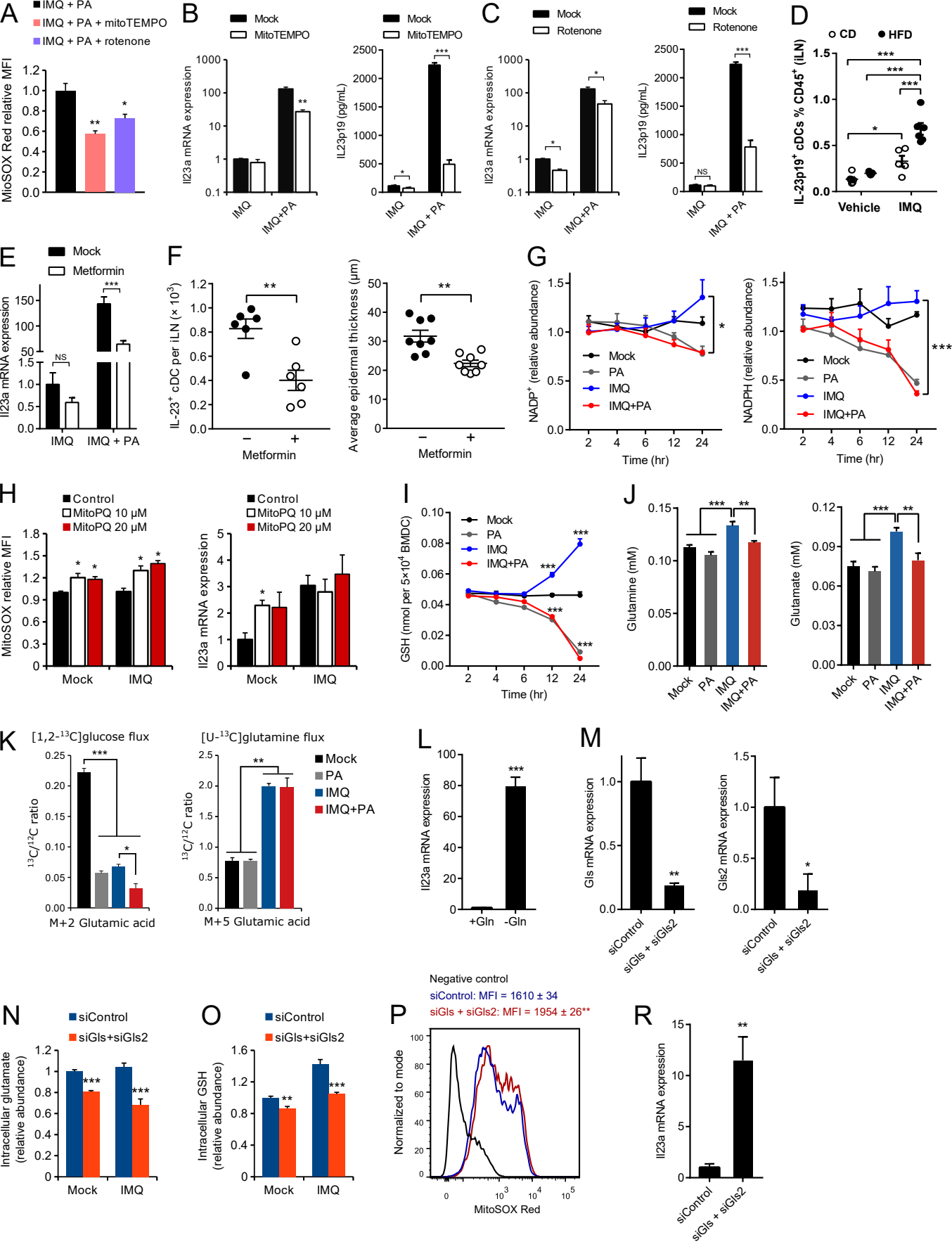
(A-D) Number and proportion of IL-23⁺ (A-B) and IL-6⁺ (C-D) cDC in iLN.

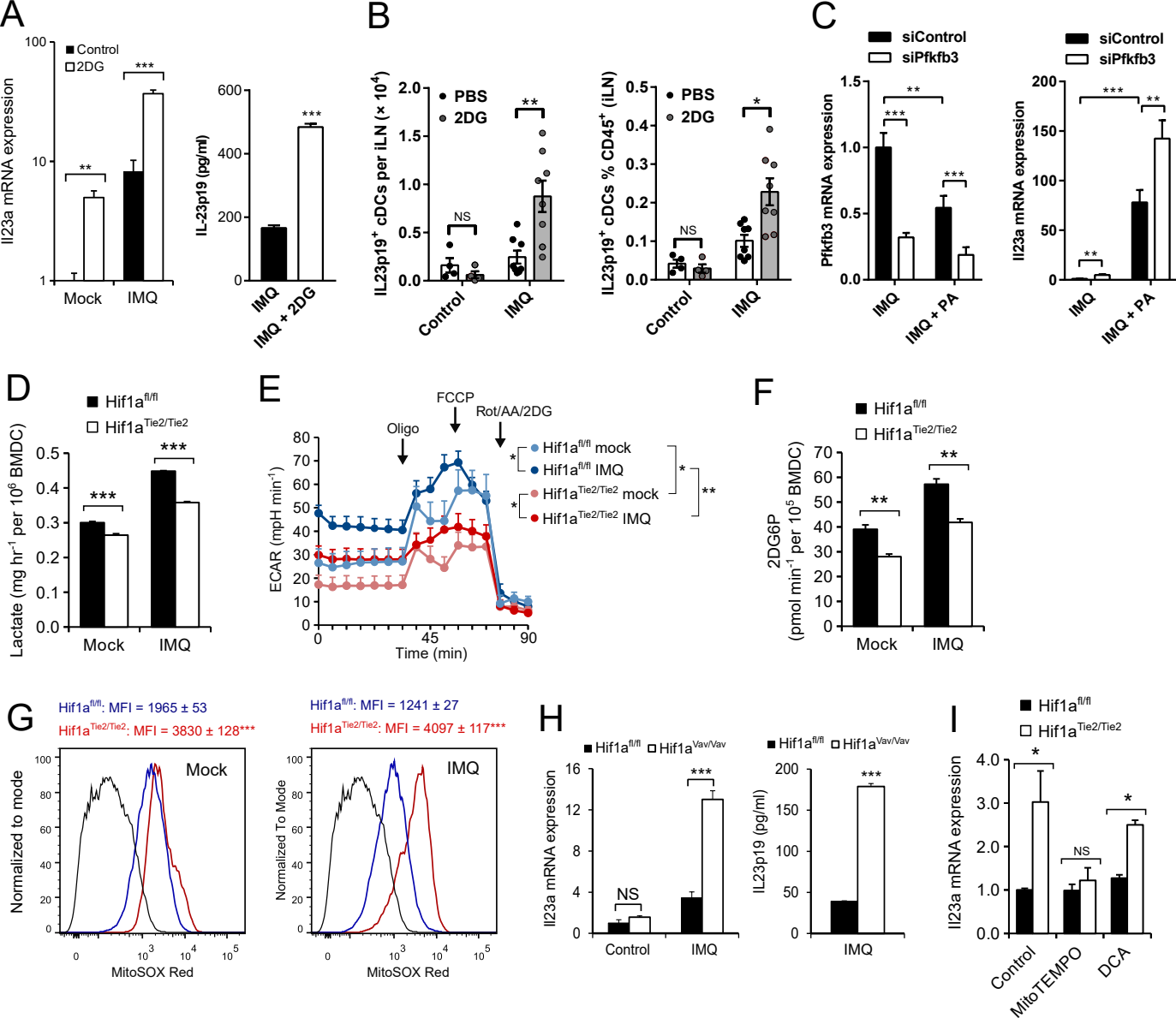
(E) Representative MGG staining of sections from abdominal skin. Scale bar 50 μm.

(F) Average epidermal thickness of abdominal skin.

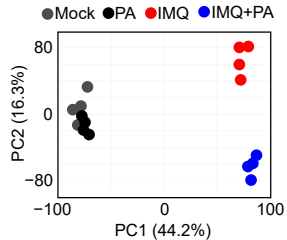
n = 6-8 mice per group (IMQ treated) and n = 2 mice per group (untreated). Data are shown as mean \pm SEM. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 (two-way ANOVA with Tukey's *post-hoc* test; significance of genotype and diet effects or their interaction is shown). See also Figure S7.



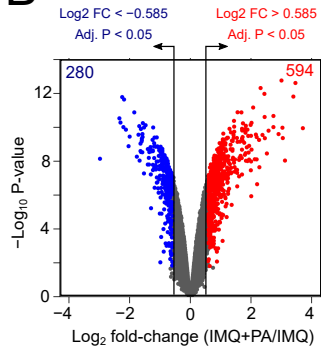




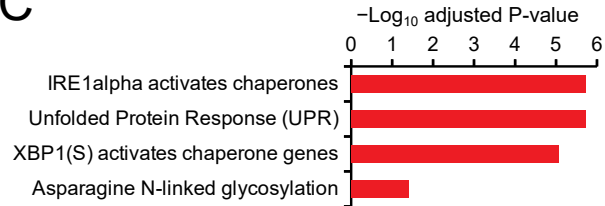
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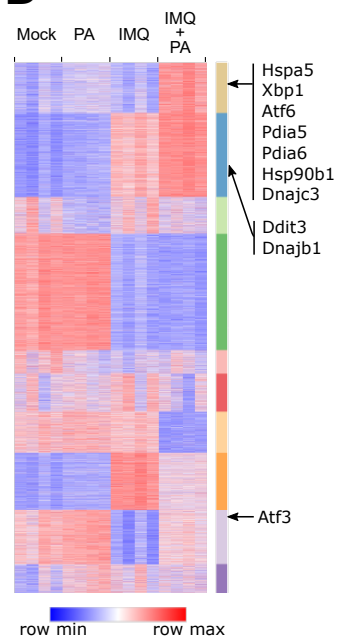
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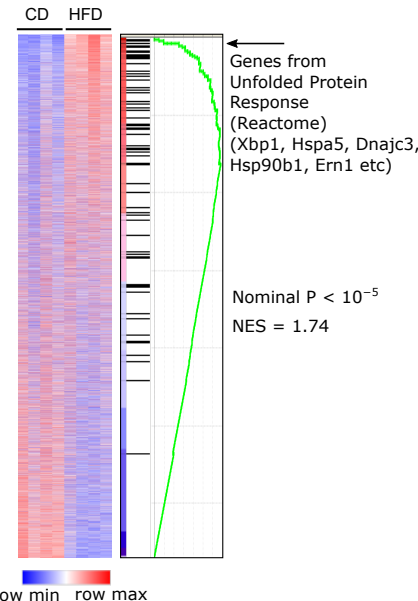
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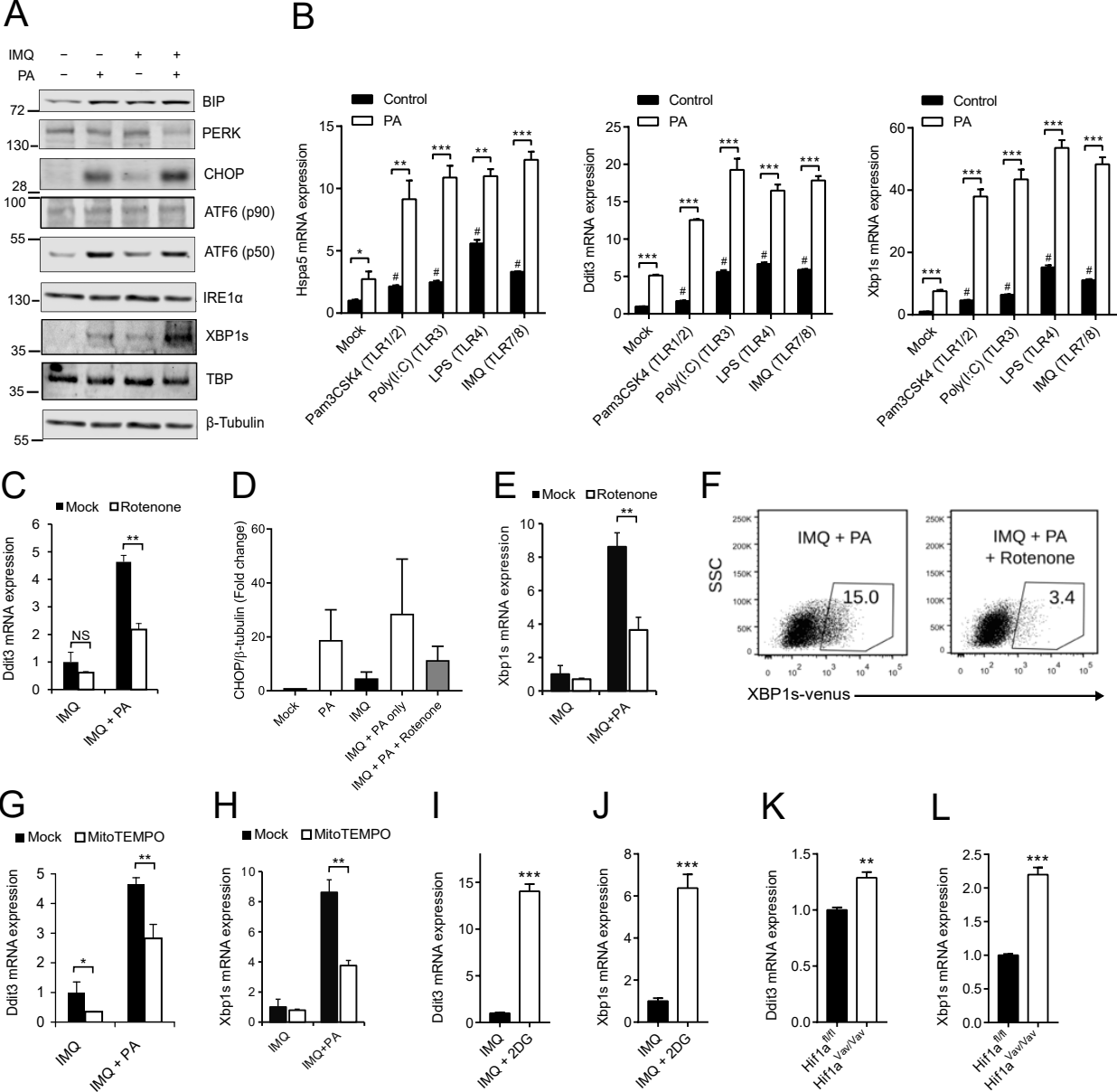


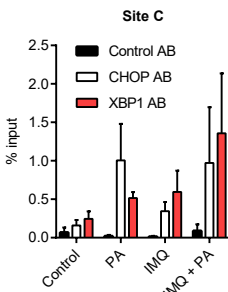
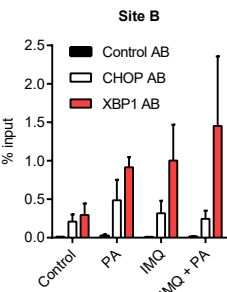
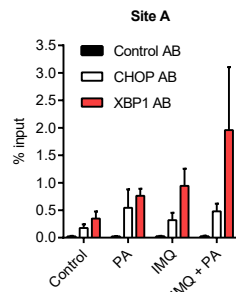
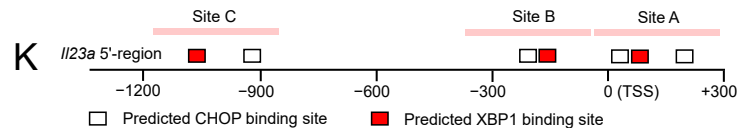
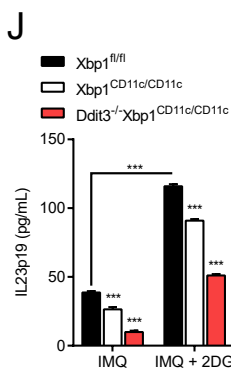
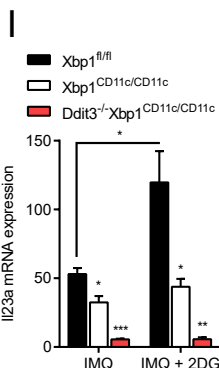
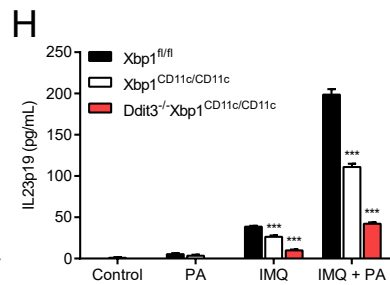
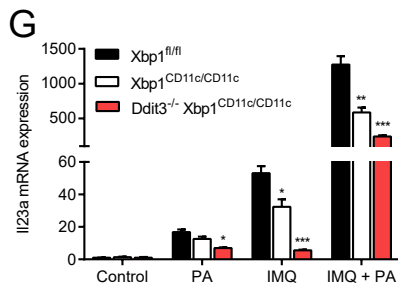
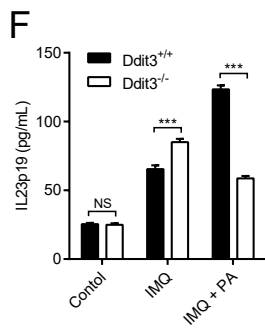
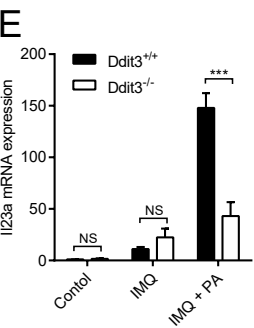
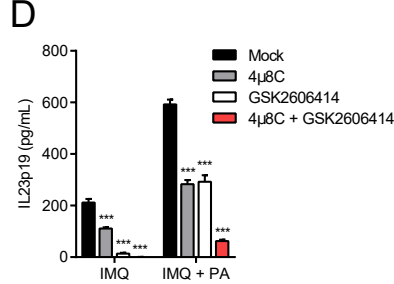
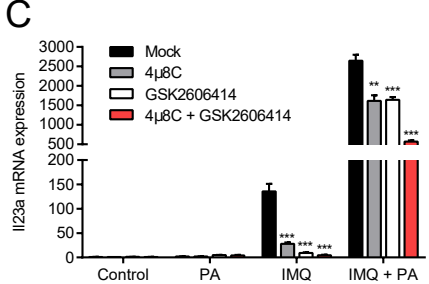
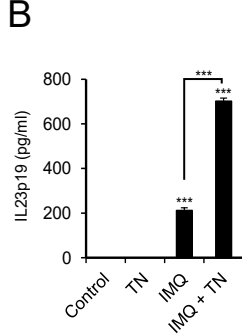
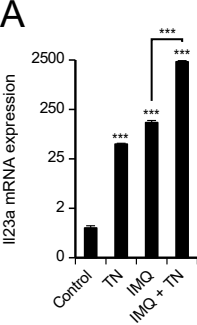
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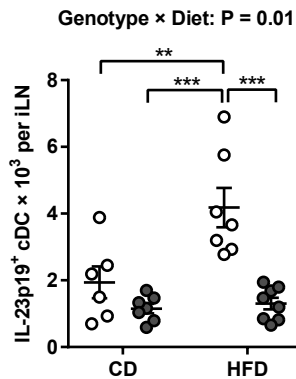
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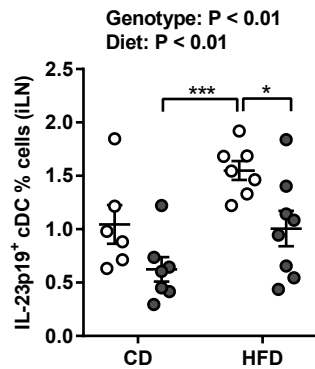




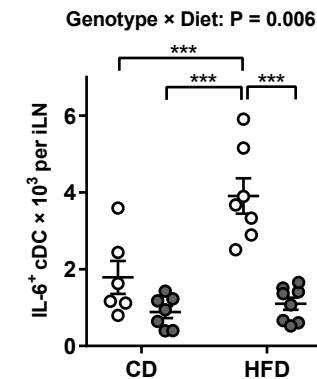
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○ *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c}



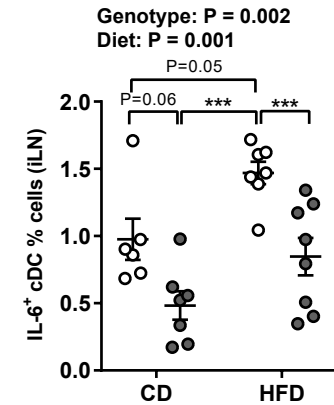
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● *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c}



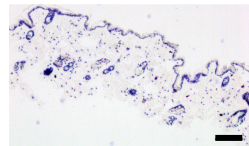
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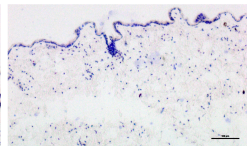
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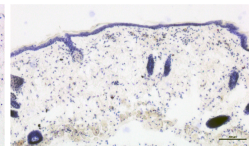
E *Xbp1*^{fl/fl}
CD



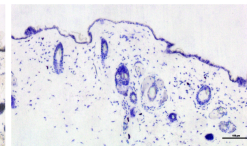
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CD



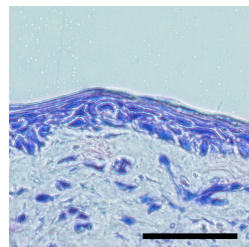
Xbp1^{fl/fl}
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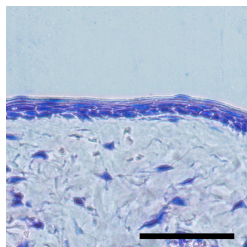
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HFD



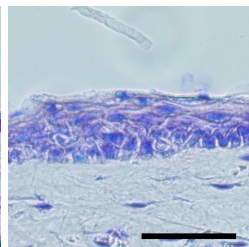
Xbp1^{fl/fl}
CD + IMQ



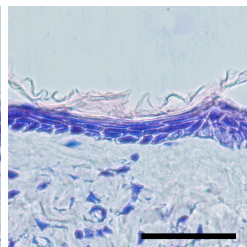
Xbp1^{CD11c/CD11c}
CD + IMQ



Xbp1^{fl/fl}
HFD + IMQ



Xbp1^{CD11c/CD11c}
HFD + IMQ



F ○ *Xbp1*^{fl/fl}
● *Xbp1*^{CD11c/CD11c}

