Irisin stimulates protective signaling pathways in rat hippocampal neurons

Mychael V. Lourenco1*, Guilherme B. de Freitas1,2,3, Ícaro Raony1, Sergio T. Ferreira1,4* and Fernanda G. De Felice1,2,3,5*

1Institute of Medical Biochemistry Leopoldo de Meis, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada, 1Department of Psychiatry, Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada, 1Institute of Biophysics Carlos Chagas Filho, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1D’Or Institute for Research and Education, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Physical exercise stimulates neuroprotective pathways, has pro-cognitive actions, and alleviates memory impairment in Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Irisin is an exercise-linked hormone produced by cleavage of fibronectin type III domain containing protein 5 (FNDC5) in skeletal muscle, brain and other tissues. Irisin was recently shown to mediate the brain benefits of exercise in AD mouse models. Here, we sought to obtain insight into the neuroprotective actions of irisin. We demonstrate that adenoviral-mediated expression of irisin promotes extracellular brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) accumulation in hippocampal cultures. We further show that irisin stimulates transient activation of extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2 (ERK 1/2), and prevents amyloid-β oligomer-induced oxidative stress in primary hippocampal neurons. Finally, analysis of RNA sequencing (RNAseq) datasets shows a trend of reduction of hippocampal FNDC5 mRNA with aging and tau pathology in humans. Results indicate that irisin activates protective pathways in hippocampal neurons and further support the notion that stimulation of irisin signaling in the brain may be beneficial in AD.

KEYWORDS
FNDC5/irisin, Alzheimer’s disease, hippocampus, reactive oxygen species (ROS), gene expression

Abbreviations: AD, Alzheimer’s disease; Aβ, amyloid-β; AβOs, amyloid-β oligomers; ACT, adult changes in thought study; BDNF, brain derived neurotrophic factor; cAMP, 3'-5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate; CERAD, consortium to establish a registry for Alzheimer’s disease; CREB, cAMP response element binding protein; ERK 1/2, extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2; FNDC5, fibronectin type III domain containing protein 5; GFR, green fluorescent protein; mRNA, messenger ribonucleic acid; PKA, cAMP-activated protein kinase; RNAseq, RNA sequencing; ROS, reactive oxygen species; TBI, traumatic brain injury.
Introduction

Irisin is an exercise-induced myokine that modulates adipose, bone and brain functions (Boström et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2018; De Freitas et al., 2020; Isaac et al., 2021; Jodeiri Farshbaf and Alvina, 2021). Upon exercise, irisin is cleaved from a precursor protein, fibronectin type III domain containing protein 5 (FNDC5), and released into the circulation (Boström et al., 2012; Jedrychowski et al., 2015). FNDC5 and irisin have been detected in the brain (Wrann et al., 2013; Lourenco et al., 2019), and irisin has been shown to mediate the beneficial actions of physical exercise in mouse models of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) (Lourenco et al., 2019).

Previous studies have identified potential signaling mechanisms induced by irisin in the brain. Wrannt et al. (2013) reported that irisin stimulates the expression of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in cultured neurons (Wrannt et al., 2013), and we have demonstrated that irisin engenders cAMP/PKA/pCREB signaling in brain explants (Lourenco et al., 2019). Recently, αVβ5 integrin has been suggested as a potential receptor for irisin in the brain (Islam et al., 2021). However, the signaling mechanisms initiated by irisin in the brain are not completely understood. Here, we used primary hippocampal cultures to gain insight into potential irisin-mediated neuroprotective pathways.

Methods

Primary hippocampal cultures

Cultures were prepared in compliance with international standards. Experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (protocol #IBqM 022). Primary rat hippocampal neuronal cultures were prepared according to established procedures (Bomfim et al., 2012; Lourenco et al., 2013), maintained in Neurobasal medium supplemented with 2% B27 (Life Technologies, CA), 1 mM glutamine, penicillin/streptomycin, and amphotericin B (De Felice et al., 2007), and were used after 18–21 days in vitro. Cultures were exposed to recombinant irisin (25 nM) (Adipogen, Switzerland) for the time intervals indicated in each experiment. Choice of this concentration was based on previous studies showing neuroactive properties of 25 nM irisin, in the absence of any detectable toxicity (Moon et al., 2013; Peng et al., 2017; Lourenco et al., 2019). For ROS experiments, 0.5 μM Aβ oligomers (AβOs) or an equivalent volume of vehicle (2% DMSO in PBS) were added 15 min after irisin and remained for 3 h. Adenoviral vectors expressing FNDC5 or GFP (MOI 1) [as described in Lourenco et al. (2019)] were allowed to express for 48 h before conditioned medium was collected from primary neurons. For some experiments, hippocampal cultures were exposed to forskolin (10 μM) or an equivalent volume of vehicle (0.1% ethanol) for 20 min.

ELISA

Conditioned medium was collected, centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 10 min at 4°C, and the supernatant supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails. Irisin (Phoenix; EK-067-29) and BDNF (Abcam; ab99978) ELISA assays were performed according to kit manufacturer instructions, as previously described (Lourenco et al., 2019, 2020).

RNA extraction and qPCR

Total RNA was obtained from cultures using the SV Total RNA Isolation System (Promega, CA, United States), following manufacturer instructions. Purity and integrity of extracted RNA were checked by the 260/280 absorbance ratio. Only preparations with 260/280 nm optical density ratios higher than 1.8 were used. RNA concentrations were determined by absorption at 260 nm. For qRT-PCR, 1 μg total RNA was used for complementary DNA synthesis using High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription kit (Applied Biosystems, CA, United States). Quantitative expression analysis of target genes was performed on a 7500 Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA, United States) system with the Power SYBR Green kit, supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails. Irisin (Phoenix; EK-067-29) and BDNF (Abcam; cat: ab99978) ELISA assays were performed according to kit manufacturer instructions, as previously described (Lourenco et al., 2019, 2020).

Immunoblotting

Hippocampal cultures were homogenized in RIPA buffer containing protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails and were resolved on 4–20% polyacrylamide pre-cast gels (BioRad) with Tris/glycine/SDS buffer run at 150 V for 60 min at room temperature. The gel (30 μg total protein/lane) was electroblotted onto Hybond ECL nitrocellulose using 25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine, 20% (v/v) methanol, pH 8.3, at 300 mA for 90 min at 4°C. Membranes were blocked with 3% bovine serum albumin (BSA) for 1 h at room temperature, as described (Freitas-Correa et al., 2013). Primary antibodies anti-pERK

Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience

02

frontiersin.org
1/2 (Cell Signaling, 4377S; 1:1000), anti-total ERK 1/2 (Cell Signaling, 9102S; 1:1000), and anti-β-actin (Abcam, ab170325; 1:20,000) were diluted in blocking solution and incubated with the membranes overnight at 4°C. After incubation with anti-mouse or anti-rabbit fluorescent IRDye-conjugated secondary antibodies (1:10,000) for 60 min, membranes were washed and then scanned in an Odyssey detector. Optical density determination for quantification was performed on ImageJ (Abramoff et al., 2004).

**Amyloid-β oligomers**

Oligomers were prepared from synthetic Aβ1–42 (California Peptide) and were routinely characterized by size-exclusion chromatography, as described (De Felice et al., 2007; Sebollela et al., 2012; Oliveira et al., 2021).

**Reactive oxygen species assays**

Reactive oxygen species formation was evaluated in living neurons using CM-H2DCFDA as described previously (De Felice et al., 2007; Saraiva et al., 2010; Brito-Moreira et al., 2017). Briefly, 2 μM CM-H2DCFDA was loaded during the last 40 min of Aβ0 exposure. Neurons were rinsed three times in warm PBS containing 2% glucose and immediately imaged on a Nikon Eclipse TE300 inverted microscope. Analysis of DCF fluorescence was carried out using ImageJ. Ten images were acquired under each experimental condition, carried out in triplicate, per experiment. Each experiment was performed with independent primary cultures.

**Human data sets**

RNA-seq data was obtained from The Aging, Dementia and Traumatic Brain Injury Study, a detailed transcriptomics and neuropathological investigation of the aging human brain. Inclusion criteria encompassed subjects (males and females) >77 years old and complete information of hippocampal Fndc5 gene expression and neuropathology. Exclusion criteria were presence of non-Alzheimer’s dementia, mixed pathologies, or previous traumatic brain injury (TBI) diagnosis. Differential gene expression was based on comparison of normalized z-scores obtained from the study. For Braak analyses (Braak and Braak, 1991), subjects were classified as either low tau pathology (Braak I–II) or high tau pathology (Braak III–VI). Detailed information of tissue processing, neuropathological analyses, RNA extraction and deep sequencing can be found online (see text footnote 1). Complete datasets can be downloaded from this link: https://aging.brain-map.org/download/index.

**Statistical analysis**

Data are expressed as means ± S.E.M. and were analyzed using GraphPad Prism 6 software (La Jolla, CA, United States). Data were assessed for normality using the Shapiro–Wilk test prior to statistical comparisons. For normally distributed data, comparisons between multiple experimental groups were analyzed using two-tailed ANOVA, followed by appropriate post-hoc tests. Comparisons between two groups were analyzed by two-tailed Student’s t-test. For comparisons between two groups deviating from normality, Wilcoxon matched-pairs rank test was used. Correlations between hippocampal Fndc5 expression and markers of AD-related neuropathology (Aβ and tau) from human datasets were evaluated by Pearson (parametric) or Spearman (non-parametric) correlation analyses. Sample sizes and p-values for each experiment are indicated in the Figure.

**Results and discussion**

Building upon previous evidence linking irisin to BDNF in rodents and humans (Wrann et al., 2013; Lourenco et al., 2020), we initially treated primary rat hippocampal cultures with recombinant irisin (25 nM) for 24 h and determined BDNF mRNA levels. We found that irisin-treated cultures had increased BDNF mRNA content as compared to vehicle-treated cultures (Veh: 1.0 ± 0.15; Irisin: 10.6 ± 5.2) (Supplementary Figure 1).

Primary rat hippocampal cultures were next transduced with adenoviral vectors to overexpress Fndc5 (AdFndc5) or GFP (AdGFP, as a control) for 48 h. Whereas control media had undetectable levels of irisin, conditioned media from AdFndc5-transduced cultures contained high amounts of soluble irisin (0.32 ± 0.1 ng/ml) (Figure 1A). Notably, expression of Fndc5/irisin by AdFndc5 resulted in an increase in extracellular BDNF when compared to cultures transduced with AdGFP (GFP: 0.43 ± 0.08 ng/ml; Fndc5: 0.85 ± 0.14 ng/ml; W = 24; p = 0.03) (Figure 1B). These results indicate that extracellular BDNF content is potentially increased by irisin, likely contributing to synapse function and neuronal homeostasis.

Irisin has been reported to engage extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2 (ERK 1/2) signaling to promote adipose tissue browning (Zhang et al., 2014). In neurons, ERK 1/2 has been associated with neuroprotective mechanisms induced by BDNF against toxic insults (Almeida et al., 2005). Treatment with recombinant irisin (25 nM) transiently (from 10 to 30 min) promoted ERK 1/2 phosphorylation.
Irisin increases extracellular BDNF levels, stimulates transient ERK activation, prevents AβO-induced oxidative stress in primary neurons. (A,B) Primary hippocampal cultures were transduced with AdFNDC5 or AdGFP (control) adenoviral particles for 48 h. Conditioned media were collected and levels of irisin (A) or BDNF (B) were assessed by ELISA. N = 4 experiments using independent hippocampal cultures for irisin and 7 for BDNF measurements. Wilcoxon matched-pairs rank test. Primary hippocampal cultures were treated with recombinant irisin (25 nM) for the indicated timespoints (C,D) or with forskolin (10 µM; 20 min) (E,F), and ERK 1/2 phosphorylation at Thr202/Tyr204 (pERK 1/2) was measured by immunoblotting. N = 3 experiments using independent hippocampal cultures. Repeated measures one-way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak correction. (G,H) Hippocampal neurons were exposed to 0.5 µM AβOs for 3 h in the presence or absence of recombinant irisin (25 nM). When present, irisin was added 15 min before AβOs. ROS was measured by DCF fluorescence. N = 3 experiments with independent cultures and AβO preparations. Two-tailed two-way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak correction. Each dot represents an independent hippocampal culture; data are shown as means ± S.E.M. p-values are indicated in the figure. Scale bar = 100 µm.

at threonine202/tyrosine204 residues (Thr202/Tyr204) in hippocampal neurons, indicative of ERK activation (Figures 1C,D). Interestingly, treatment with forskolin, a direct activator of adenylyl cyclase, for 20 min similarly triggered ERK 1/2 phosphorylation in primary neurons (Veh: 1 ± 0.07; Forskolin: 1.34 ± 0.06; t = 12.39; p = 0.01) (Figures 1E,F). Results indicate that the stimulation of cAMP signaling by irisin (Lourenco et al., 2019) is linked to ERK activation to amplify protective responses and prevent neuronal dysfunction. Whereas chronic ERK activation has been reported in mouse models of AD (Kirov et al., 2017), it is conceivable that moderate/transient ERK phosphorylation may result in neuroprotection in AD.

We next tested whether irisin would protect cultured hippocampal neurons against oxidative stress induced by AD-linked amyloid-β oligomers (AβOs) (De Felice et al., 2007; Brito-Moreira et al., 2017). When added to cultures 15 min before AβOs, recombinant irisin (25 nM) prevented AβO-induced accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), as measured by dichlorofluorescein (DCF) fluorescence (Veh: 100; AβOs: 221 ± 17; Irsin: 97 ± 29; Irsin + AβOs: 88 ± 31; two-way ANOVA interaction p = 0.02) (Figures 1G,H). These results are consistent with the kinetics of irisin-induced protective mechanisms and demonstrate that irisin mitigates neuronal oxidative stress, a hallmark of metabolic dysfunction in AD pathogenesis (Smith et al., 1998; De Felice et al., 2007; Clarke et al., 2018). Notably, recent studies demonstrated that irisin prevents oxidative stress in cardiomyocytes and endothelial cells (Zhang et al., 2020; Lin et al., 2021; Pan et al., 2021), raising the notion that mititigation of oxidative stress may be a shared mechanism of protection induced by irisin in the brain and in other tissues. Altogether, our results support the notion that boosting brain irisin levels (achieved by regular physical exercise, for example) could entail a neuroprotective mechanism that alleviates the impact of neuronal injury in AD.

As age is the major risk factor for AD-linked dementia, it is important to determine whether such endogenous mechanisms are disrupted in aging. To address this issue in humans, we analyzed the expression of hippocampal FNDC5 in data
Fibronectin type III domain containing protein 5 (FNDC5) mRNA expression inversely correlates with age and AD neuropathology. Z-scores for FNDC5 expression obtained from the RNA seq database of the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) study (https://aging.brain-map.org/).

(A) FNDC5 expression in postmortem hippocampal tissue from 77 to 89 years old and 90+ year-old subjects, \( N = 21 \) cases of 77–89 years old and 20 cases of 90+ years old.

(B) Hippocampal FNDC5 z-scores across the CERAD scale for amyloid pathology. \( N = 14 \) for CERAD 0, 11 for CERAD 1, 7 for CERAD 2, and 12 for CERAD 3. Correlations between hippocampal FNDC5 z-scores and brain A\( \beta \)42 level (Spearman \( r = 0.2940 \); \( p = 0.0094 \); \( n = 34 \)) (C), and brain A\( \beta \)42/A\( \beta \)40 ratio (Spearman \( r = 0.3100 \); \( p = 0.0744 \); \( n = 34 \)) (D).

(E) Hippocampal FNDC5 z-scores across the Braak scale for tau pathology. \( N = 14 \) for Braak I-II and 25 for Braak III–VI. Correlations between hippocampal FNDC5 z-scores and brain AT8 (pSer202/Thr205 tau) (Pearson \( r = 0.3056 \); \( p = 0.0788 \); \( n = 34 \)) (G) or pThr181 tau immunoreactivity (Pearson \( r = 0.3056 \); \( p = 0.0788 \); \( n = 34 \)) (G). Statistics: two-tailed unpaired Student's \( t \)-test (A,E) or unpaired one-way ANOVA with Sidak post-hoc test (B). Correlations (C,D,F,G) were determined using the Pearson method for parametric data or the Spearman method for non-parametric data.

Recent studies suggest that irisin controls memory function (Lourenco et al., 2019, 2020; Jodeiri Farshbaf et al., 2020; Islam et al., 2021). The current study demonstrates that irisin signaling engages transient ERK phosphorylation (activation), increases extracellular BDNF, and prevents A\( \beta \)O-induced oxidative stress. Collectively, these observations expand our knowledge of how...
Irinin signals in the brain and mediates the beneficial properties of physical exercise.

Of note, the temporal dynamics of ERK phosphorylation found here coincides with our previous demonstration of irisin-induced cAMP accumulation (Lourenco et al., 2019). Here we further demonstrate that cAMP accumulation by the adenyyl cyclase activator, forskolin, promotes ERK phosphorylation, raising the possibility that ERK activation is downstream of cAMP. Although aVß5 integrin has been identified as a putative irisin receptor in the brain (Islam et al., 2021), the receptor(s) required for these effects induced by irisin in hippocampal neurons and the potential contribution of glial cells remain elusive. It is conceivable that irisin may exert pleiotropic actions in the brain by activating multiple signaling pathways in distinct brain cells (e.g., neurons and glial cells). Studies in other cell types indicate that irisin activates pathways mediated by p38MAPK, AMPK, and Akt (Zhang et al., 2014, 2020; Lin et al., 2021), but whether irisin stimulates the same pathways in the brain remains to be investigated.

Our results further suggest that hippocampal FNDC5 expression may correlate inversely with AD-linked neuropathology, in line with our previous reports that brain irisin is reduced in AD (Lourenco et al., 2019) and that CSF irisin correlates with memory and Aß profiles typical of AD (Lourenco et al., 2020). Investigating FNDC5 mRNA levels in the human cohort allowed us to focus on local hippocampal FNDC5/irisin production and thus avoid potential confounders related to blood-brain barrier permeability to peripheral irisin or local irisin clearance. Nonetheless, future studies are warranted to determine whether aging or AD pathology can modify the dynamics of irisin production/clearance in the brain.

A limitation of the current study is the reduced sample size for the RNAseq datasets after application of the exclusion criteria we defined (TBI or non-Alzheimer’s dementia). Confirmation of these associations in larger cohorts will be important to extend the significance of the current findings. On the other hand, the parallel measurement of multiple Aß and tau neuropathological markers, allowing examination of their associations with FNDC5 expression, represents an advantage of our study. Furthermore, our report of increased extracellular BDNF was based on commercial ELISA kits, which rely on antibody specificity and may be seen as another limitation. Replication of these findings using additional techniques (e.g., proteomics of cultured media) may confirm these results in future studies. Nonetheless, the current data are in line with previous evidence showing that transduction of primary neurons with AdFNDC5 promoted Fndc5 expression, as assessed by qPCR (Wrann et al., 2013). Further investigation of brain irisin signaling, including mechanistic studies, will be key to establish the potential of pharmacological therapeutics inspired by the protective actions of exercise in neurodegenerative diseases.

Data availability statement

Publicly available datasets were analyzed in this study. This data can be found here: https://aging.brain-map.org/download/index.

Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Human data were obtained from public repositories of the Aging, Dementia and TBI study, for which appropriate approvals were obtained by the ACT study coordinators. More information can be found on https://help.brain-map.org/display/aging/Documentation. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study. The animal study was reviewed and approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (protocol # IBqM 022).

Author contributions

ML, SF, and FD designed the study, analyzed and discussed the results, contributed the reagents, materials, animals, and analysis tools. ML, GF, and ÍR performed the research and analyzed data. All authors wrote the manuscript.

Funding

This work was supported by grants from Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ) (SF, FD, and ML), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) (SF, FD, and ML), National Institute for Translational Neuroscience (INNT/Brazil) (SF and FD), Alzheimer’s Society Canada (FD), Weston Brain Institute (FD), Alzheimer’s Association (AARG-D-615714 to ML), and Serrapilheira Institute (R-2012-37967 to ML). GF and ÍR were supported by scholarships from CNPq and FAPERJ, respectively.

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Bruce M. Spiegelman (Harvard University) for sharing AdFNDC5 and AdGFP adenoviral vectors, and the Aging, Dementia and Traumatic Brain Injury Study team for making RNAseq data publicly available. We also thank Maira S. Oliveira, Mariangela M. Viana, and Ana Claudia Rangel for technical and/or administrative assistance.
Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnccel.2022.953991/full#supplementary-material

References

Abrâimoff, M. D., Magalhães, P. J., and Ram, S. J. (2004). Image processing with Imagej. Biophotons Int. 11, 36–42.

Almeida, R. D., Manadas, B. J., Melo, C. V., Gomes, J. R., Mendes, C. S., and Grasas, M. M. (2005). Neuroprotection by BDNF against glutamate-induced apoptotic cell death is mediated by ERK and PI3-kinase pathways. Cell Death Differ. 12, 1329–1343.

Bomfim, T. R., Fronza-Germeno, L., Sathler, L. B., Brito-Moreira, J., Houzel, J. C., and Decker, H. (2012). An anti-diabetes agent protects the mouse brain from defective insulin signaling caused by Alzheimer’s disease-associated Aβ oligomers. J. Clin. Invest. 123, 1339–1353. doi: 10.1172/JCI57256

Boström, P., Wu, J., Jedrychowski, M. P., Korde, A., Ye, L., Lo, J. C., et al. (2012). A PGC1α-dependent myokine that drives brown-fat-like development of white fat and thermogenesis. Nature 481, 463–468. doi: 10.1038/nature10777

Braak, H., and Braak, E. (1991). Neuropathological staging of Alzheimer-related changes. Acta Neuropathol. 82, 239–259. doi: 10.1007/BF00308809

Brito-Moreira, J., Lourenco, M. V., Oliveira, M. M., Ribeiro, F. C., Ledo, J. H., and Diniz, L. P. (2017). Interaction of amyloid-beta (Abeta) oligomers with neurexin 2alpha and neurelgin 1 mediates synapse damage and memory loss in mice. J. Biol. Chem. 292, 7327–7337. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M116.761189

Bullain, S. S., and Corrada, M. M. (2013). Dementia in the oldest old. Continuum 19, 457–469.

Clarke, J. R., Ribeiro, F. C., Fronza, R. L., De Felice, F. G., and Lourenco, M. V. (2018). Metabolic defects in Alzheimer’s disease: From basic neurobiology to clinical approaches. J. Alzheimer’s Dis. 64, 405–426.

Corrada, M. M., Brookmeyer, R., Paganim-Hill, A., Berflau, D., and Kawas, C. H. (2010). Dementia incidence continues to increase with age in the oldest old: The 90+ study. Ann. Neurol. 67, 114–121.

De Bastiani, M. A., Bellaver, B., Carello-Collar, G., Zimmermann, M., Kunach, P., and Lima-Filho, R. A. S. (2022). Transcriptomic similarities and differences between mouse models and human Alzheimer’s disease. bioRxiv [Preprint]. doi: 10.1126/biorxiv.2021.06.09.447404

De Felice, F. G., Velasco, P. T., Lambert, M. P., Viola, K., Fernandez, S. J., Rehen, S. K., et al. (2007). Aβ oligomers induce neuronal oxidative stress through an N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor-dependent mechanism that is blocked by the Alzheimer drug memantine. J. Biol. Chem. 282, 11590–11601. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M607483200

De Freitas, G. B., Lourenco, M. V., and De Felice, F. G. (2020). Protective actions of exercise-related FNDC5/Irisin in memory and Alzheimer’s disease. J. Neurochem. 155, 602–611. doi: 10.1111/jnc.15039

Freitas-Correia, L., Lourenco, M. V., Acquarone, M., Da Costa, R. F., Galina, A., Rehen, S. K., et al. (2013). 2,4-Dinitrophenol induces neural differentiation of murine embryonic stem cells. Stem Cell Res. 11, 1407–1416. doi: 10.1016/j.scr.2013.09.016

Isaac, A. R., Lima-Filho, R., and Lourenco, M. V. (2021). How does the skeletal muscle contribute to brain function? Neuropharmacology 197:108744.

Islam, M. R., Valarais, S., Young, M. F., Haley, E. B., Luo, R., and Bond, S. F. (2021). Exercise hormone irisin is a critical regulator of cognitive function. Nat. Metab. 3, 1058–1070.

Jedrychowski, M. P., Wann, C. D., Paulo, J. A., Gerber, K. K., Szypt, J., and Robinson, M. M. (2015). Detection and quantitation of circulating human irisin by tandem mass spectrometry. Cell Metab. 22, 734–740. doi: 10.1016/j.cmet.2015.08.001

Jodeiri Farshbaf, M., and Alivizatos, K. (2021). Multiple Roles in Neuroprotection for the Exercise Derived Myokine Irisin. Front. Aging Neurosci. 13:649929. doi: 10.3389/fnagi.2021.649929

Jodeiri Farshbaf, M., Garasia, S., Moussouki, D. P. K., Mondal, A. K., Cherkowsky, D., Manal, N., et al. (2020). Hippocampal injection of the exercise-induced myokine irisin suppresses acute stress-induced neurobehavioral impairment in a sex-dependent manner. Behav. Neurosci. 134, 233–247. doi: 10.1037/bne0000367

Kim, H., Wann, C. D., Jedrychowski, M., Vidon, S., Kitase, Y., Nagano, K., et al. (2018). Irisin Mediates Effects on Bone and Fat via oV InteGrin Receptors. Cell 175, 1756–1768.e17.

Kirouac, L., Rajic, A. J., Oribas, D. H., and Padmanabhan, J. (2017). Activation of Ras-ERK Signaling and GSK-3 by Amyloid Precursor Protein and Amyloid Beta Facilitates Neurodegeneration in Alzheimer’s Disease. eNeuro 4, ENEURO.0149-16.2017. doi: 10.1523/ENEURO.0149-16.2017

Lin, C., Guo, Y., Xia, Y., Li, C., Xu, X., Qi, T., et al. (2021). FNDC5/Irisin attenuates diabetic cardiomyopathy in a type 2 diabetes mouse model by activation of integrin alphaV/beta5-akt signaling and reduction of oxidative/introsative stress. J. Mol. Cell Cardiol. 160, 27–41. doi: 10.1016/j.yjmcc.2021.06.013

Livak, K. J., and Schmittgen, T. D. (2001). Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2−Δ(ΔC(T)) Method. Methods 25, 402–408.

Lourenco, M. V., Clarke, J. R., Fronza, R. L., Bomfim, T. R., Fonza-Germeno, L., Batista, A. F., et al. (2013). TNF-α mediates PKR-dependent memory impairment and brain IBS-1 inhibition induced by Alzheimer’s β-amyloid oligomers in mice and monkeys. Cell Metab. 18, 831–843. doi: 10.1016/j.cmet.2013.11.002

Lourenco, M. V., Fronza, R. L., De Freitas, G. B., Zhang, H., Knieske, G. C., Ribeiro, F. C., et al. (2019). Exercise-linked FNDC5/Irisin rescues synaptic plasticity and memory defects in Alzheimer’s models. Nat. Med. 25, 165–175.

Lourenco, M. V., Ribeiro, F. C., Sudo, F. K., Drummond, C., Assunciao, N., and Vanderborgh, B. (2020). Cerebrospinal fluid irisin correlates with amyloid-beta, BDNF, and cognition in Alzheimer’s disease. Alzheimers Dement. 12:e12034. doi: 10.1002/dad2.12034

Moon, H. S., Dincer, F., and Mantzoros, C. S. (2013). Pharmacological concentrations of irisin increase cell proliferation without influencing markers of neurite outgrowth and synaptogenesis in mouse H19-7 hippocampal cell lines. Metabolism 62, 1131–1136. doi: 10.1016/j.metabol.2013.04.007

Oliveira, M. M., Lourenco, M. V., Longo, F., Kasica, N. P., Yang, W., Ureta, G., et al. (2021). Correction of eIF2-dependent defects in brain protein synthesis, synaptic plasticity, and memory in mouse models of Alzheimer’s disease. Sci. Signal. 14.eabc5429. doi: 10.1126/scisignal.aabc5429
Pan, J. A., Zhang, H., Lin, H., Gao, L., Zhang, H. L., Zhang, J. F., et al. (2021). Irisin ameliorates doxorubicin-induced cardiac perivascular fibrosis through inhibiting endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition by regulating ROS accumulation and autophagy disorder in endothelial cells. Redox Biol. 46:102120. doi: 10.1016/j.redox.2021.102120

Peng, J., Deng, X., Huang, W., Yu, J. H., Wang, J. X., Wang, J. P., et al. (2017). Irisin protects against neuronal injury induced by oxygen-glucose deprivation in part depends on the inhibition of ROS-NLRP3 inflammatory signaling pathway. Mol. Immunol. 91, 185–194. doi: 10.1016/j.molimm.2017.09.014

Raony, I., Domith, I., Lourenco, M. V., Paes-De-Carvalho, R., and Pandolfo, P. (2022). Trace amine-associated receptor 1 modulates motor hyperactivity, cognition, and anxiety-like behavior in an animal model of ADHD. Prog. Neuropsychopharmacol. Biol. Psychiatry 117:110555. doi: 10.1016/j.pnpbp.2022.110555

Saraiva, L. M., Seixas Da Silva, G. S., Galina, A., Da-Silva, W. S., Klein, W. L., et al. (2010). Amyloid-β triggers the release of neuronal hexokinase 1 from mitochondria. PLoS One 5:e135230. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.00135230

Sebollela, A., Freitas-Correa, L., Oliveira, F. F., Paula-Lima, A. C., Saraiva, L. M., and Martins, S. M. (2012). Amyloid-β oligomers induce differential gene expression in adult human brain slices. J. Biol. Chem. 287, 7436–7445. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M111.298471

Smith, M. A., Hirai, K., Hsiao, K., Pappolla, M. A., Harris, P. L., Siedlak, S. L., et al. (1998). Amyloid-beta deposition in Alzheimer transgenic mice is associated with oxidative stress. J. Neurochem. 70, 2212–2215.

Wrann, C. D., White, J. P., Salogiannnis, J., Laznik-Bogoslavski, D., Wu, J., Ma, D., et al. (2013). Exercise Induces Hippocampal BDNF through a PGC-1α/FNDC5 Pathway. Cell Metab. 18, 649–659.

Zhang, X., Hu, C., Kong, C. Y., Song, P., Wu, H. M., Xu, S. C., et al. (2020). FNDC5 alleviates oxidative stress and cardiomyocyte apoptosis in doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity via activating AKT. Cell Death Differ. 27, 540–555. doi: 10.1038/s44148-019-0372-z

Zhang, Y., Li, R., Meng, Y., Li, S., Donelan, W., Zhao, Y., et al. (2014). Irisin stimulates browning of white adipocytes through mitogen-activated protein kinase p38 MAP kinase and ERK MAP kinase signaling. Diabetes 63, 514–525. doi: 10.2337/db13-1106