Catechin attenuates TNF-α induced inflammatory response via AMPK-SIRT1 pathway in 3T3-L1 adipocytes

An-Wei Cheng1,2,3*, Xin Tan1,2,3,4, Jin-Yue Sun1,2,3*, Chun-Mei Gu4, Chao Liu1,2,3, Xu Guo1,2,3

1 Institute of Agro-food Science and Technology, Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Jinan, China, 2 Key Laboratory of Novel Food Resources Processing, Ministry of Agriculture, Jinan, China, 3 Key Laboratory of Agro-Products Processing Technology of Shandong Province, Jinan, China, 4 College of Food Science and Engineering, Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, China

* These authors contributed equally to this work.
* anweich@126.com (AWC); moon_s731@hotmail.com (JYS)

Abstract

Chronic inflammation is a fundamental symptom of many diseases. Catechin possesses anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. However, the mechanism of catechin to prevent inflammation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes caused by TNF-α remains unknown. Therefore, the effects of catechin on the gene expression of cytokines and the activation of cell signals in TNF-α induced 3T3-L1 adipocytes were investigated. The effects of catechin on adipogenesis and cell viability were detected by Oil Red O staining and CCK-8 assay, respectively. The expression of NF-κB, AMPK, FOXO3a and SIRT1 on translation level was determined by western blotting analysis. The results demonstrated that catechin significantly enhanced adipogenesis and cell viability. Catechin inhibited the gene expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines including IL-1α, IL-1β, IL-6, IL-12p35, and inflammatory enzymes including iNOS and COX-2, but enhanced the gene expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines including IL-4 and IL-10. Catechin also inhibited the activation of NF-κB, AMPK, FOXO3a and SIRT1, but increased the phosphorylation level of the above factors. All these results indicated that as a potential therapeutic strategy catechin has the ability of attenuating inflammatory response triggered by TNF-α through signaling cascades involved in inflammation and cytokines.

Introduction

Inflammation is a vital survival mechanism in human but it would be dangerous when it loses balance in metabolism and survives, and may slowly develop into a chronic state. Several metabolic disorders, such as obesity, diabetes and atherosclerosis, stir up immune defense mechanisms and stimulate chronic inflammation which in turn aggravate the symptoms of the diseases [1–3]. Especially in recent years obesity has become a worldwide health problem. Obesity can lead to inflammation, and its induced insulin resistance is the key to the occurrence of metabolic syndrome. Some studies have shown that adipose tissue/cells are not only the place
for energy storage, but also secrete a variety of adipokines and inflammatory factors [4], and there is a certain relationship between energy metabolism and immune regulation at the cellular level. The formation of inflammatory mediators is a highly energy-consuming process, and the energy metabolism state of cells is closely related to the occurrence and development of inflammation. The inflammatory effects of tumor necrosis factor (TNF-α) are triggered by the activation of the inflammatory signaling networks, including nuclear factor (NF)-κB, AMPK, AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), forkhead box O3a (FOXO3a), sirtuin1 (SIRT1) pathways in key metabolic tissues as well as adipocytes [5–9], which is responsible for the increasing of pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as interleukin (IL)-1, IL-6, IL-12, and inflammatory enzymes, such as inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), but for the decreasing of anti-inflammatory cytokines, such as IL-4 and IL-10 [6,7,10–13].

AMPK consists of of a catalytic subunit (α) and two regulatory subunits (β, γ), which is activated by the phosphorylation of the threonine residue (Thr172) [14]. It is a key regulator to maintain the stability of energy metabolism at the cellular level [15]. AMPK has a large number of downstream substrates which are usually metabolic enzymes and protein. SIRT1, a NAD⁺-dependent protein deacetylase, plays an important role in the regulation of physiological and pathological processes such as apoptosis/aging, metabolism, differentiation and inflammation through deacetylation of intracellular signaling factors [16, 17]. AMPK and SIRT1 have synergistic effects on maintaining evolutionary stability, and have similar roles in cellular metabolism and survival [18]. Canto et al. [19] demonstrated that AMPK can activate SIRT1 deacetylase by increasing cellular NAD⁺ levels. In contrast, SIRT1 can also activate AMPK by stimulating the activity of LKB1 [20]. Through such an effective feedback loop to replenish the energy shortage during cell survival.

The commonly studied dietary polyphenols have been reported to possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Polyphenols are the main functional compounds of tea and there are a class of flavonoids known as catechins (the most abundant component) which comprise of (–)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate, (–)-epigallocatechin, (–)-epicatechin, and (–)-epicatechin-3-gallate [21]. The previous reports about the anti-inflammatory activity and mechanism of catechin were mainly using lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced macrophages [22–24], rarely were found using TNF-α induced 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Mouse 3T3-L1 preadipocytes are commonly recognized as a cell model to study differentiation and metabolism of adipocyte. Therefore, we took 3T3-L1 preadipocytes as the model to study the relationship between energy metabolism and inflammatory response at the cellular level. TNF-α is a major player mediating the activation of signaling cascades in adipocytes that are central to inflammation and insulin resistance [25]. It has been widely known that the target of AMPK/SIRT1 plays a key role in maintaining metabolic homeostasis [18], which is a ubiquitous regulator of mitochondrial activity, but little has been known about its anti-inflammatory regulatory role in inflammatory adipocytes. Therefore, in the present study the role of catechin in the prevention of TNF-α mediated inflammation resistance in 3T3-L1 adipocytes were investigated.

### Materials and methods

#### Materials

Fetal bovine serum (FBS), Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle’s Medium (DMEM) and penicillinstreptomycin solution were purchased from Gibco Laboratory (Carlsbad, CA, USA). Trizol reagent was purchased from Invitrogen Life Technologies (Carlsbad, CA, USA). Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) was purchased from Dojindo Laboratory (Kumamoto, Japan). catechin (> 97%), 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), insulin, dexamethasone (DEX), TNF-α and Oil Red O were ordered from Sigma-Aldrich Company (St. Louis, MO, USA). HyPure™
Molecular Biology Grade Water, phosphate buffer solution (PBS) were purchased from Hyclone (Waltham, MA, USA). The reagents for electrophoretic mobility shift assays were from SunShine Biotechnology (Hangzhou, China). RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit was from Thermo Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA). FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master (Rox) was from Roche (Basel, Switzerland). Antibodies for NF-\(\kappa\)B-p65, p-NF-\(\kappa\)B-p65 (Ser276) were from Abcam Inc. (Cambridge, MA); SIRT1, p-SIRT1 (Ser27), FOXO3a, p-FOXO3a (Ser253) and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) were from ABclonal Biotechnology (Woburn, MA, USA); AMPK and p-AMPK(Thr172) were from Cell Signaling Technology (Danvers, MA, USA). Cell culture dishes and multi-well plates were supplied by Nunc (Denmark).

**Cell culture and differentiation**

3T3-L1 preadipocytes obtained from China Center of Type Culture Collection (CCTCC, Wuhan, China) were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 g/mL streptomycin, 100 U/mL penicillin, 44 mM NaHCO\(_3\) and 1 mM sodium pyruvate at 37°C in a 5% CO\(_2\) humidification atmosphere (Thermo Scientific BBD6220, Germany). To induce differentiation, the cultured 3T3-L1 preadipocytes were kept until confluence was reached (0 day), and the culture medium was then replaced with a fresh induction medium containing 0.5 mM IBMX, 10 \(\mu\)g/mL insulin and 1 \(\mu\)M DEX in DMEM with 10% FBS for 2 days. The cells was then cultivated in a differentiation DMEM medium containing 10 \(\mu\)g/mL insulin and 10% FBS for four times (2 days for each time) until the cells were harvested.

The harvested cells were cultured in a complete medium containing 10 ng/mL TNF-\(\alpha\) for 24 h (except the control group), then the media were removed and adherent cells were washed with PBS for twice. The obtained adipocytes were incubated in complete DMEM containing catechin (0, 10, 25, 50, 100 \(\mu\)g/mL) up to 48 h. Finally the adipocytes were collected for following experiments.

**Oil Red O staining**

Intracellular lipid accumulation was measured using Oil Red O staining. The mature 3T3-L1 adipocytes were washed twice with PBS, fixed with 10% formalin (pH 7.4) for 15 min, and washed with distilled water for 10 s. The washed adipocytes were stained with Oil Red O solution for 30 min, and then washed with distilled water for 60 s. The fat droplets in 3T3-L1 adipocytes were observed by phase contrast microscopy (CKX41, Olympus, Japan). After removing the staining solution, 200 \(\mu\)L isopropanol was added into the dye retained in the cells, and the value was determined by a microplate reader at absorbance of 510 nm. The value of OD\(_{510}\) may indirectly represents the content of intracellular triglyceride.

**CCK-8 assay**

The cell viability was measured by using CCK-8 kits according to the manufacturer’s instruction. Absorbance of the samples was measured at 450 nm by a spectrophotometer (UV-1750, Shimadzu, Japan).

**RNA isolation and real-time PCR**

Total RNA was isolated from the control and treated cells using Trizol reagent. The quantity of total RNA was determined by using a spectrophotometer according to the absorbance at A260/A280 nm. cDNA was generated by using a High Capacity RNA-to-cDNA Kit. Real-time PCR analysis was performed on a StepOne Real-time PCR system (Applied Biosystems) in triplicates by using FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master (Rox) (Roche) and cDNA as....
template. The specific upstream and downstream primer sequences were shown in Table 1. Cycling was initiated at 95˚C for 2 min, followed by 40 cycles of 95˚C for 10 s, 60˚C for 40 s. The relative expression of each gene was calculated using the comparative threshold cycle method normalized to GAPDH.

### Western blotting analysis

Protein extracts were prepared by lysing cells in RIPA lysis buffer, and centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 15 min at 4˚C. Protein concentration of the resultant supernatant was measured by using BCA Assay Reagent Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Rockford, IL, USA). Proteins in cell lysates were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) on 12% gels, transferred onto a polyvinyliden fluoride membrane for 1.5 h at 250 mV, and then blocked with 5% skim milk in TBS containing 1% Tween 20 (TBST) for 1 h at room temperature. The transferred membranes were washed 3 times with TBST for 10 min, then incubated with the primary antibodies at a dilution of 1:1000 in PBS containing 2% BSA overnight at 4˚C. After the incubation, the membranes were washed 3 times for 10 min each time and incubated for 1 h at room temperature in TBST. After three times of washes with TBST the membranes were finally exposed to ECL plus western blot analysis detection reagents.

### Statistical analysis

Results of three replica were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to calculate significant differences in treatment means, and multiple comparisons of means were performed by the post-hoc test (SPSS 19.0 software). A probability value of p < 0.05 was considered significant.

### Results

#### Effects of catechin on adipogenesis and cell viability in 3T3-L1 adipocytes

The effect of catechin on cell adipogenesis was measured by Oil Red O staining as shown in Fig 1A. The density of lipid droplets in adipocytes under the condition of without the
Catechin attenuates inflammatory response via AMPK-SIRT1 pathway in adipocytes

A

B

C

Triglyceride (OD510)

CCK8 (OD450)

Control
TNF-α
TNF-α + 10 μg/mL catechin
TNF-α + 25 μg/mL catechin
TNF-α + 50 μg/mL catechin
TNF-α + 100 μg/mL catechin

Catechin (μg/mL)

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8

- 10 25 50 100

TNF-α

Catechin (μg/mL)

- 10 25 50 100

TNF-α
stimulation of TNF-α was high, however the density significantly decreased when adipocytes were stimulated by TNF-α, which indicated that TNF-α could induce the loss of intracellular lipids. The quantity of lipid droplets was significantly increased when the TNF-α stimulated 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with catechin, and they are in a dose-dependent manner. In the TNF-α induced adipocytes treated with 100 μg/mL of catechin, the density of lipid droplets reached the same level as the control group. These results indicated that catechin can impair the formation of lipid droplets, and enhance intracellular lipids accumulation during differentiation. The value of OD₅₁₀ indirectly reflects the content of intracellular triglyceride (Fig 1B). Similarly, the effects of catechin were significant at the increasing of triglyceride accumulation.

The effect of catechin on cell viability was measured by CCK-8 assay as shown in Fig 1C. The OD₄₅₀ value of the TNF-α stimulated 3T3-L1 adipocytes was obviously lower than that of un-stimulated adipocytes. When catechin were added in the TNF-α induced adipocytes, the OD₄₅₀ values increased in a dose-dependent manner. These results indicated that catechin could enhance the cell viability of the TNF-α stimulated adipocytes. It was speculated that catechin was non-cytotoxic in the range of concentrations (10–100 μg/mL), therefore this concentration range of catechin was used in the subsequent experiments.

**Catechin prevent TNF-α induced activation of pro-inflammatory cytokines in 3T3-L1 adipocytes**

Different concentrations (10, 25, 50, 100 μg/mL) of catechin were added to the TNF-α induced 3T3-L1 adipocytes and cultured for 48 h. The effects of catechin on gene expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines including IL-6, IL-12p35, IL-1α, IL-1β were shown in Fig 2. The results demonstrated that the gene expression levels of IL-6, IL-12p35, IL-1α, IL-1β were the lowest (fold induction 1) in the groups without TNF-α stimulation (control group, CK). But, the gene expression of the above aspro-inflammatory cytokines was sharply increased in adipocytes after TNF-α (10 ng/mL) stimulation, and the mRNA levels of IL-6, IL-1α, IL-1β, IL-12p35 after induction reached to 11.46, 8.40, 3.43 and 3.36 folds, respectively of the control. When catechin was added to the TNF-α induced 3T3-L1 adipocytes, the gene expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines on the transcription level significantly decreased in a dose-dependent manner. The inhibition rate was over 80% at the group with 100 μg/mL catechin. Similar tendency in the effect of catechin on gene expression of the above pro-inflammatory cytokines was observed.

**Catechin improve TNF-α induced activation of anti-inflammatory cytokines in 3T3-L1 adipocytes**

The effect of catechin (10–100 μg/mL) on the gene expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines including IL-4 and IL-10 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes were presented in Fig 3. The expression of IL-4 and IL-10 on transcription level was the highest (fold induction 1) in adipocytes without the stimulation of TNF-α (control group, CK). When 3T3-L1 adipocytes were induced by TNF-α, the expression of IL-4 and IL-10 on transcription level decreased significantly, the fold induction of IL-4 and IL-10 was 0.57 and 0.21 folds, respectively. When catechin was added to the media, the gene expression of IL-4 and IL-10 on the transcription level in TNF-α induced adipocytes was significantly increased (P < 0.05) in a dose-dependent manner. For the treatment...
with 100 μg/mL catechin, the transcription level of IL-4 and IL-10 reached to 2 and 4.4 folds, respectively.

**Catechin prevent TNF-α induced activation of inflammatory enzymes in 3T3-L1 adipocytes**

Inhibitory effects of catechin on gene expression of inflammatory enzymes iNOS and COX-2 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes were presented in Fig 4. When 3T3-L1 adipocytes were stimulated by TNF-α, an obvious increase of the gene expression of iNOS (fold induction 34.79) and COX-2 (fold induction 57.17) was detected. When catechin was added to the media, the iNOS and COX-2 mRNA expression decreased in a concentration-dependent manner in the range of 10 to 100 μg/mL, and the inhibitory rate of 100 μg/mL catechin on iNOS and COX-2 mRNA was over 60% and 80%, respectively.

**AMPK-SIRT1 pathway is associated with catechin in 3T3-L1 adipocytes**

To determine whether the inhibition of adipocyte differentiation by catechin is mediated by AMPK-SIRT1 pathway, TNF-α induced adipocytes were treated with various concentrations...
of catechin (10–100 μg/mL). The protein levels of phosphorylated AMPK (Thr172) and phosphorylated SIRT1 (Ser 27) in TNF-α induced adipocytes were determined by Western blot (Fig 5). TNF-α (10 ng/mL) caused a significant increase of AMPK and SIRT1 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. TNF-α induced adipocytes at the presence of 10–100 μg/mL catechin exhibited a dose-dependent inhibition on AMPK and SIRT1. However, the phosphorylation levels of AMPK and SIRT1 decreased 91% and 46%, respectively was observed in 3T3-L1 after incubated with TNF-α for 48 h. Adipocytes treated with catechin showed a dose-dependent increase of TNF-α induced phosphorylation level for AMPK and SIRT1. These results suggest that catechin can modulate pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines by activating the AMPK/SIRT1 pathway.

NF-κB-FOXO3a pathway is associated with catechin in 3T3-L1 adipocytes

The NF-κB signaling, at the core of chronic inflammation, is involved in both the innate and adaptive immune systems [26]. FOXO3a is also involved in the regulation of inflammation. Thus, we investigated the effect of catechin on the phosphorylation level of NF-κB and FOXO3a in TNF-α induced adipocytes (Fig 6). TNF-α caused an increase on the expression levels of p65 subunit of NF-κB. By contrast, the phosphorylation level of p65 decreased in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. When catechin was added to the media, the expression levels of p65 diminished. However, catechin (10–100 μg/mL) stimulated the increase on the phosphorylation level...
of p65 in a dose-dependent manner. FOXO3a is an evolutionary conserved transcription factor which is involved in the regulation of inflammation [27]. The effect of catechin on the expression levels of FOXO3a and phosphorylated FOXO3a (Ser 253) was similar to p65 subunit of NF-κB in TNF-α induced adipocytes.

Discussion

Inflammation, especially chronic inflammation, is an important defense response to resist pathogen invasion and repair tissue damage. Chronic inflammation and cellular senescence are inseparable in the process of accelerated or premature aging [28]. This is due to the associated production of pro-inflammatory cytokines (such as IL-1, IL-6, IL-12), anti-inflammatory cytokines (such as IL-4, IL-10) and inflammatory enzymes (such as iNOS, COX-2). These cytokines and enzymes drive the regeneration and activation of immune cells that achieve a balance between inflammatory and metabolic functions [29]. Natural products can provide abundant resources for anti-inflammatory compounds. Some dietary polyphenols, such as resveratrol, catechin, and quercetin, have been shown to be effective in preventing or alleviating inflammatory [22, 30]. The current work demonstrated that catechin had a capacity to protect adipocytes from TNF-α deleterious, with the increasing of the cell adipogenesis and viability. Catechin in the range of 10–100 μg/mL inhibited TNF-α induced the expression of genes involved in pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-1, IL-6, IL-12) and inflammatory enzymes (iNOS, COX-2), and promoted TNF-α induced the expression of genes involved in anti-inflammatory...
Catechin attenuates inflammatory response via AMPK-SIRT1 pathway in adipocytes.
cytokines (IL-4, IL-10). IL-4 and IL-10 are the protective cytokines against TNF-$\alpha$-induced inflammation. Vazquezprieto et al. [25] showed that TNF-$\alpha$ dependent transcription of pro-inflammatory genes (IL-6, resistin) was inhibited by (-)-epicatechin, which was consistent with our results. Similar result was also detected in the report from Chia et al. [6].

To get deeper insights in the mechanism of catechin on TNF-$\alpha$ induced adipocytes, we further researched cellular signal transduction in 3T3-L1 adipocytes and payed much attention to the AMPK-SIRT1 pathway. It has been reported that AMPK and SIRT1 have synergistic function in transcriptional factors and signal transduction proteins of inflammation response [31]. The activation of SIRT1 and AMPK significantly reduces the production of inflammatory factors and further inhibits the inflammatory response [32]. The activation of AMPK, SIRT1, FOXO3a and NF-$\kappa$B signaling by TNF-$\alpha$ has been reported to cause inflammation and insulin resistance in several cell lines [33]. It has been showed that dietary polyphenols have an obvious anti-inflammatory effect through the pathway of AMPK/SIRT1-induced p65 deacetylation of NF-$\kappa$B [16]. This study was to research that two energy target AMPK and SIRT1 serve as negative regulators of TNF-$\alpha$ induced inflammatory in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. In this experiment, TNF-$\alpha$ promoted the expression of AMPK, SIRT1, FOXO3a and NF-$\kappa$B, but inhibited the expression of the phosphorylated AMPK (p-AMPK), phosphorylated SIRT1 (p-SIRT1), phosphorylated FOXO3a (p-FOXO3a) and phosphorylated NF-$\kappa$B (p-NF-$\kappa$B). In contrast, supplementation of catechin markedly increased the level of p-AMPK, p-SIRT1, p-FOXO3a and p-NF-$\kappa$B, and gradually closed to the control group. Similar effects were observed for the extracts from grape [6], black tea [22], brown alga [34]. Consistent with our findings, a few studies have also demonstrated that synergistic activation of AMPK and SIRT1 can promote the expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines, and prevent the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines via NF-$\kappa$B signaling pathway in LPS-induced cells [35, 36].

SIRT1, as a downstream signal, mediates the anti-inflammatory effect of AMPK, which provides a mechanism of AMPK and SIRT1 in the inflammatory response [4]. The anti-inflammatory effect of AMPK is dependent on SIRT1, and changes in AMPK activity often affect the content and activity of SIRT1 [20]. Our results indicated that AMPK and SIRT1 also have effect on insulin sensitivity through their ability to antagonize TNF-$\alpha$ induced inflammation. Catechine supplementation remarkably reduced the phosphorylation level of AMPK, SIRT1, FOXO3a and NF-$\kappa$B irrespective to the presence or absence of insulin. It seems that AMPK and SIRT1 synergistically regulate metabolic or inflammatory pathways. AMPK and SIRT1 may activate and feedback each other based on different cellular or physiological requirements. Activation of AMPK increases the expression of SIRT1 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Accordingly, activation of the AMPK-SIRT1-FoxO3a pathway by catechine may exert beneficial effects on inflammation treatment. Our study demonstrates the anti-inflammation effect of catechine in mature adipocytes through activation of the AMPK pathway, which consequently modulates gene expression of NF-$\kappa$B through up-regulation of SIRT1 and FOXO3a.

In summary, these data demonstrate that catechin attenuates TNF-$\alpha$ stimulated inflammation by suppressing the activation of NF-$\kappa$B and FOXO3a via AMPK/SIRT1 pathway, that lead to down-regulation of the gene expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines and inflammatory enzymes, and lead to up-regulating of the gene expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines. Regulation of AMPK/SIRT1 activity by catechin is a promising therapeutic strategy against many chronic inflammation and related diseases.
Catechin attenuates inflammatory response via AMPK-SIRT1 pathway in adipocytes.

**Figure:**

- **p-Foxo3a (Ser253) and Foxo3a**
- **p-NF-κB (Ser276) and NF-κB**
- **actin**

**Graphs:**

1. **Catechin (µg/mL) vs. TNF-α**
   - Catechin concentrations: - (control), 10, 25, 50, 100 µg/mL
   - Expression levels of p-Foxo3a (Ser253), Foxo3a, p-NF-κB (Ser276), and NF-κB

2. **Catechin (µg/mL) vs. TNF-α**
   - Catechin concentrations: - (control), 10, 25, 50, 100 µg/mL
   - p-NF-κB (Ser276)/NF-κB expression levels

3. **Catechin (µg/mL) vs. TNF-α**
   - Catechin concentrations: - (control), 10, 25, 50, 100 µg/mL
   - p-Foxo3a/Foxo3a (arbitrary units)
Adipose tissue/cells, as the initial site of systemic inflammation, play an important role in regulating energy metabolism in the body. Therefore, taking 3T3-L1 adipocytes as the model to study the mechanism of chronic inflammatory caused by metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes, which can be targeted for the prevention and treatment of metabolic inflammation, and also has important theoretical significance for revealing the anti-inflammatory mechanism of catechin.

Acknowledgments
This research was supported by Taishan Talents Introduction Program of Shandong, China (tsxz2018), and Young Talents Training Program of Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences (SAAS2015-06).

Author Contributions
Data curation: Xin Tan.
Formal analysis: Chun-Mei Gu, Chao Liu, Xu Guo.
Investigation: Xin Tan.
Methodology: An-Wei Cheng, Jin-Yue Sun, Xu Guo.
Project administration: An-Wei Cheng, Jin-Yue Sun.
Resources: Xin Tan.
Software: Chao Liu.
Writing – original draft: An-Wei Cheng.
Writing – review & editing: Jin-Yue Sun.

References
1. Hummaati S, Hotamisligil GS. Endoplasmic reticulum stress and inflammation in obesity and diabetes. Circulation Research. 2010; 107: 579–591. https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.110.225698 PMID: 20814028
2. Hotamisligil GS. Endoplasmic reticulum stress and the inflammatory basis of metabolic disease. Cell. 2010; 140: 900–917. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2010.02.034 PMID: 20303879
3. Hotamisligil GS, Erbay E. Nutrient sensing and inflammation in metabolic diseases. Nature Reviews Immunology. 2008; 8: 923–934. https://doi.org/10.1038/nri2449 PMID: 19029988
4. Takeuchi O, Akira S. Pattern recognition receptors and inflammation. Cell. 2010; 140(6): 805–820. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2010.01.022 PMID: 20303872
5. Wang J, Zhao C, Kong P, Sun H, Sun Z, Bian G, et al. Treatment with NAD+ inhibited experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis by activating AMPK/SIRT1 signaling pathway and modulating TH1/TH17 immune responses in mice. International Immunopharmacology. 2016; 39: 287–294. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intimp.2016.07.036 PMID: 27500459
6. Morita N, Hosaka T, Kitahara A, Murashima T, Onuma H, Sumitani Y, et al. Novel Mechanisms Modulating Palmitate-Induced Inflammatory Factors in Hypertrophied 3T3-L1 Adipocytes by AMPK. Journal of Diabetes Research. 2018; 1–11. https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/9256482 PMID: 29713651
7. Liu Z, Jiang C, Zhang J, Liu B, Du Q. Resveratrol inhibits inflammation and ameliorates insulin resistant endothelial dysfunction via regulation of AMP-activated protein kinase and sirtuin 1 activities. Journal of Diabetes. 2015; 8(3): 324–335. https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-0407.12296 PMID: 25850408
25. Vazquezprieto MA, Bettaieb A, Haj FG, Fraga CG. (–)-Epicatechin prevents TNFa-induced activation of the NF-κB pathway in adipocytes. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. 2011; 414: 551–556. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrc.2011.09.115 PMID: 21982776

26. Ichikawa D, Matsui A, Imai M, Sonoda Y, Kasahara T. Effect of various catechins on the IL-12p40 production by murine peritoneal macrophages and a macrophage cell line, J774.1. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. 2011; 414: 551–556. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrc.2011.09.115 PMID: 21982776

27. Ayissi VB, Ebrahimi A, Schluesener H. Epigenetic effects of natural polyphenols: a focus on sirt1-AMPK-mediated mechanisms. Molecule Nutrition & Food Research. 2014; 58(1): 22–32. https://doi.org/10.1002/mnfr.201300195 PMID: 23881751

28. Cattelan A, Ceolotto G, Bova S. NAD(+)-dependent sirt1 deactivation has a key role on ischemia-refusion-induced apoptosis. Vascular Pharmacology. 2015; 70: 35–44. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vph.2015.02.004 PMID: 25863291

29. Ruderman NB, Xu XJ, Nelson L, Cacicedo JM, Saha AK, Lan F, et al. AMPK and SIRT1: a long-standing partnership? American Journal of Physiology-endocrinology and Metabolism. 2010; 298: E751–760. https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpendo.00745.2009 PMID: 20103737

30. Canto C, Gerhart-Hines Z, Feige JN, Lagouge M, Noriega L, Milne JC, et al. AMPK regulates energy expenditure by modulating NAD+ metabolism and SIRT1 activity. Nature. 2009; 458: 1056–1060. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature07813 PMID: 19262508

31. Lan F, Cacicedo JM, Ruderman N, Ido Y. SIRT1 modulation of the acetylation status, cytosolic localization, and activity of LKB1. Possible role in AMP-activated protein kinase activation. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 2008; 283: 27628–27635. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M805711200 PMID: 18687677

32. Wang CS, Chung JY, Yang G, Chhabra SK, Lee MJ. Tea and tea polyphenols in cancer prevention. Journal of Nutrition. 2000; 130: 472S–478S. https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/130.2.472S PMID: 10721932

33. Ko HJ, Lo CY, Wang BJ, Chiu YY, Lin SM. Theaflavin-3,3′-digallate, a black tea polyphenol, attenuates adipocyte-activated inflammatory response of macrophage associated with the switch of M1/M2-like phenotype. Journal of Functional Foods. 2014; 11: 36–48. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jff.2014.05.003

34. Pan MH, Linshiau SY, Ho CT, Lin JH, Lin JK. Suppression of lipopolysaccharide-induced nuclear factor-κB activity by theaflavin-3,3′-digallate from black tea and other polyphenols through down-regulation of IkB kinase activity in macrophages. Biochemical pharmacology. 2000; 59(4): 357–367. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-2952(99)00335-4 PMID: 10644043

35. Zhong Y, Chiuo YS, Pan MH, Shahidi F. Anti-inflammatory activity of lipophilic epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) derivatives in LPS-stimulated murine macrophages. Food Chemistry. 2012; 134(2): 742–748. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2012.02.172 PMID: 23107686

36. Vazquezprieto MA, Bettaieb A, Haj FG, Fraga CG. (–)-Epicatechin prevents TNFa-induced activation of signaling cascades involved in inflammation and insulin sensitivity in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics. 2012; 527: 113–118. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abb.2012.02.019 PMID: 22425757
26. Zhang H, Sun SC. NF-κB in inflammation and renal diseases. Cell & Bioscience. 2015; 5(1): 63. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13578-015-0056-4 PMID: 26579219

27. Peng SL. Foxo in the immune system. Oncogene. 2008; 27: 2337–2344. https://doi.org/10.1038/onc.2008.26 PMID: 18391975

28. Kakhkashan R, Sundar IK, Janice G, Dongmei L, Irfan R. Lung cellular senescence is independent of aging in a mouse model of copd/emphysema. Scientific Reports. 2018; 8(1): 9023. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-27209-3 PMID: 29899396

29. Gregor MF, Hotamisligil GS. Inflammatory mechanisms in obesity. Annual Review of Immunology. 2011; 29: 415–445. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-immunol-031210-101322 PMID: 21219177

30. Pan MH, Lai CS, Ho CT. Anti-inflammatory activity of natural dietary flavonoids. Food & Function. 2010; 1(1): 15–31. https://doi.org/10.1039/c0fo00103a PMID: 21776454

31. Tian Y, Ma J, Wang W, Zhang L, Xu J, Wang K, et al. Resveratrol supplement inhibited the NF-κB inflammation pathway through activating AMPK-α-sirt1 pathway in mice with fatty liver. Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry. 2016; 422(1–2): 75–84. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11010-016-2807-x PMID: 27613163

32. Salminen A, Hyttinen JM, Kaarniranta K. AMP activated protein kinase inhibits NF-κB signaling and inflammation: Impact on healthspan and lifespan. Journal of Molecular Medicine. 2011; 89(7): 667–676. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00109-011-0748-0 PMID: 21431325

33. Fujishiro M, Gotoh Y, Katagiri H, Sakoda H, Ogihara T, Anai M, et al. Three mitogenactivated protein kinases inhibit insulin signaling by different mechanisms in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Molecular Endocrinology. 2003; 17: 487–497. https://doi.org/10.1210/me.2002-0131 PMID: 12554784

34. Jung HA, Jung HJ, Jeong HY, Kwon HJ, Ali MY, Choi JS, et al. Phlorotannins isolated from the edible brown alga Ecklonia stolonifera exert anti-adipogenic activity on 3T3-L1 adipocytes by downregulating C/EBPα and PPARγ. Fitoterapia, 2014; 92: 260–269. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fitote.2013.12.003 PMID: 24334103

35. Jung TW, Park HS, Choi GH, Kim D, Lee T. β-aminoisobutyric acid attenuates LPS-induced inflammation and insulin resistance in adipocytes through AMPK-mediated pathway. Journal of Biomedical Science. 2018; 25(1): 27. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12929-018-0431-7 PMID: 29592806

36. Huang BP, Lin CH, Chen HM, Lin JT, Cheng YF, Kao SH. AMPK activation inhibits expression of proinflammatory mediators through downregulation of PI3k/p38 MAPK and NF-κB signaling in murine macrophages. DNA and Cell Biology. 2015; 34(2): 133–141. https://doi.org/10.1089/dna.2014.2630 PMID: 25536376