Chylomicrons stimulate incretin secretion in mouse and human cells

Arianna Psichas1 · Pierre F. Larraufie1 · Deborah A. Goldspink1 · Fiona M. Gribble1 · Frank Reimann1

Received: 27 April 2017 / Accepted: 7 July 2017 / Published online: 2 September 2017 © The Author(s) 2017. This article is an open access publication

Abstract
Aims/hypothesis Lipids are a potent stimulus for the secretion of glucagon-like peptide (GLP)-1 and glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP). Traditionally, this effect was thought to involve the sensing of lipid digestion products by free fatty acid receptor 1 (FFA1) and G-protein coupled receptor 119 (GPR119) on the apical surface of enteroendocrine cells. However, recent evidence suggests that lipids may in fact be sensed basolaterally, and that fatty acid absorption and chylomicron synthesis may be a prerequisite for their stimulatory effect on gut peptide release. Therefore, we investigated the effect of chylomicrons on GLP-1 and GIP secretion in vitro.

Methods The effect of chylomicrons on incretin secretion was investigated using GLUTag cells and duodenal cultures of both murine and human origin. The role of lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and FFA1 in GLUTag cells was assessed by pharmacological inhibition and small (short) interfering RNA (siRNA)-mediated knockdown. The effect of chylomicrons on intracellular calcium concentration ([Ca2+]i) was determined by imaging GLUTag cells loaded with Fura-2. In the primary setting, the contributions of FFA1 and GPR119 were investigated using L cell-specific Gpr119 knockout cultures treated with the FFA1 antagonist GW1100.

Results Chylomicrons stimulated GLP-1 release from GLUTag cells, and both GLP-1 and GIP secretion from human and murine duodenal cultures. Chylomicron-triggered GLP-1 secretion from GLUTag cells was largely abolished following lipase inhibition with orlistat or siRNA-mediated knockdown of Lpl. In GLUTag cells, both GW1100 and siRNA-mediated Ffar1 knockdown reduced GLP-1 secretion in response to chylomicrons, and, consistent with FFA1 Gq-coupling, chylomicrons triggered an increase in [Ca2+]i. However, LPL and FFA1 inhibition had no significant effect on chylomicron-mediated incretin secretion in murine cultures. Furthermore, the loss of GPR119 had no impact on GLP-1 secretion in response to chylomicrons, even in the presence of GW1100.

Conclusions/interpretation Chylomicrons stimulate incretin hormone secretion from GLUTag cells as well as from human and murine duodenal cultures. In GLUTag cells, the molecular pathway was found to involve LPL-mediated lipolysis, leading to the release of lipid species that activated FFA1 and elevated intracellular calcium.

Keywords Chylomicrons · Enteroendocrine · Fat-sensing · Ffar1/GPR40 · Glucagon-like peptide-1 · Glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide · GPR119 · Gut peptide · Incretin · Lipoprotein lipase

Abbreviations

\([\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i\) Intracellular calcium concentration
CCK Cholecystokinin
EEC Enteroendocrine cell
ERK Extracellular signal-regulated kinase
FFA1/4 Free fatty acid receptor 1/4

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-017-4420-2) contains peer-reviewed but unedited supplementary material, which is available to authorised users.
Until recently, activation of these receptors was thought to be mediated by free fatty acid receptors 1 and 4 (FFA1 [GPR40] and FFA4 [GPR120]) [8–10]. Long-chain fatty acids (LCFAs) are well-established agonists of the free fatty acid receptor 1, and FFA1 likely resides on the basolateral surface of enterocytes. Indeed, activation of FFA1 appears able to activate G<sub>s</sub>-coupled signalling in addition to G<sub>q</sub> and consequently yield greater secretory responses [11]. Secondary messages downstream of GPCRs thus include elevation of cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> and cAMP concentrations as well as activation of protein kinases such as extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) [15].

Lipid-sensing receptors have traditionally been thought to mediate the stimulatory effect of lipids on gut peptide secretion, acting via G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) expressed on enteroendocrine cells (EECs) [1], which release gut peptides following the ingestion of a meal. Lipids are an established potent stimulus for the secretion of gut peptides including incretins, glucagon-like peptide (GLP)-1 and glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP) [2–4]. These peptide hormones serve to facilitate the efficient digestion and absorption of lipids and other nutrients, and to promote satiety. However, despite significant advances in the field of intestinal nutrient sensing in recent years, there are still gaps in our understanding of the mechanisms underlying this fundamental component of postprandial physiology.

Triacylglycerols are digested by lipases in the small intestinal lumen to generate long-chain fatty acids (LCFAs) and 2-monoacylglycerol. These digestion products mediate the stimulatory effect of lipids on gut peptide secretion, acting via G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) expressed on EECs [5–7]. LCFAs are well-established agonists of the free fatty acid receptors 1 and 4 (FFA1 [GPR40] and FFA4 [GPR120]) [8–10]. Until recently, activation of these receptors was thought to trigger gut peptide release solely via activation of G<sub>s</sub>-coupled intracellular pathways, as is indeed the case for the native ligands, long-chain non-esterified fatty acids (NEFAs). However, a new generation of synthetic ‘full’ FFA1 agonists appears able to activate G<sub>q</sub>-coupled signalling in addition to G<sub>s</sub>, and consequently yield greater secretory responses [11]. Monoacylglycerols on the other hand, in particular 2-oleoylglycerol, are known to induce GLP-1 secretion by activating the G<sub>q</sub>-coupled GPR119 receptor [12–14]. Secondary messages downstream of GPCRs thus include elevation of cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> and cAMP concentrations as well as activation of protein kinases such as extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) [15].

Lipid-sensing receptors have traditionally been thought to be expressed on the apical side of EECs and therefore, in the ‘classical’ model of intestinal fat-sensing, it is luminal lipid digestion products that are responsible for receptor activation. However, recent evidence has called into question the presence of FFA1 at least on the apical surface of EECs. Ex vivo studies using isolated perfused rat intestine revealed that linoleic acid and four synthetic FFA1 agonists elicited GLP-1 secretion only when administered into the vasculature, and not when administered directly into the gut lumen [16]. These findings raise the possibility that FFA1 may actually reside on the basolateral surface of EECs, and that fatty acid absorption may be a prerequisite for lipid stimulated gut peptide release.

Following the absorption of LCFAs and 2-monoacylglycerol by enterocytes, these are re-esterified into triacylglycerols and packaged into chylomicrons. Chylomicrons contain a central triacylglycerol-rich lipid core (approximately 95% of the particle mass) and an outer layer composed of phospholipids, apolipoproteins and non-esterified cholesterol [17]. Mature chylomicrons are then trafficked in vesicles to the basolateral surface of enterocytes, from where they are released. At this point, chylomicrons could interact with the basolateral surface of EECs. Indeed, there is in vivo evidence in support of a role for chylomicron formation and secretion in lipid-induced GLP-1 and GIP secretion. When chylomicron formation was inhibited using the surfactant Pluronic L81, the GLP-1 response to an intraduodenal lipid emulsion in rats was significantly reduced and the increase in GIP was practically abolished [18].

Therefore, we investigated the effect of chylomicrons on GLP-1 and GIP secretion in vitro using GLUTag cells, an established L cell model, as well as primary murine and human duodenal cultures. The mechanisms underlying this effect were explored by employing a combination of small (short) interfering RNA (siRNA)-mediated genetic manipulation and pharmacological inhibition.

**Methods**

**Experimental animals and ethical approval**

All animal procedures were approved by the University of Cambridge Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body and conformed to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations (SI 2012/3039). The work was performed under the UK Home Office Project License 70/7824. Conditional Gpr119 knockout mice were generated by crossing homozygous Gpr119 floxed mice with heterozygous GlucCre12 mice, which express Cre recombinase under the control of the proglucagon promoter, as previously described [13]. All mice were on a C57BL/6 background and bred in house. For secretion experiments, intestinal tissue was obtained from both male and female mice on a C57BL6 background (aged 3–8 months). The mice were housed in individually ventilated cages on a 12 h light/dark cycle with ad libitum access to food and water.
access to water and regular chow. Mice were culled by approved schedule 1 methods.

RNA sequencing

High-quality total RNA extracted from approximately 10,000–12,000 FACS-purified L cells and 20,000 non-L cells from the upper small intestine (top 10 cm) of GLU-Venus mice [19] and 50,000 GLUTag cells (a gift from D. Drucker, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Toronto, ON, Canada) was used for sequencing, as previously described [20]. Briefly, amplified cDNA was obtained using an Ovation RNA-Seq System V2 (NuGEN, Leek, the Netherlands) and used to generate barcoded libraries (Ovation rapid DR Multiplex System 1-96; NuGEN) after fragmentation to 200 bp. Libraries were SE50 sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq 2500 system (Great Chesterford, UK). After alignment to the mouse genome (GRCm38, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/grc/mouse), expression of genes of interest in each sorted population (two positive ‘L’ cell and two negative ‘non-L’ cell populations, and three GLUTag passages) was determined using Cufflinks version 2.2.1 (http://cole-trapnell-lab.github.io/cufflinks/) and expressed as fragments per kilobase per million reads (FPKM).

Primary intestinal cultures

Murine Duodenal crypts were isolated and cultured as previously described [21] and recently demonstrated [22]. Briefly, the duodenum (top 10 cm distal to the pylorus) was cleaned thoroughly with ice-cold PBS and the muscle layer was removed. The duodenum was cut open longitudinally and minced using a surgical blade to produce tissue pieces of around 1–2 mm². The tissue pieces were then digested with collagenase type XI (0.3 mg/ml high-glucose DMEM) at 37°C and filtered through a 100 μm cell strainer. The resulting cell suspension was plated in a random order onto 24-well plates coated with 2% Matrigel (BD Bioscience, Oxford, UK) for the secretion experiments. The Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase (ROCK) inhibitor Y-27632 dihydrochloride (Tocris Bioscience, Bristol, UK) was added to final cell suspensions at a concentration of 10 μmol/l to prevent anoikis.

Human The use of human intestinal tissue was approved by the Cambridge Central Research Ethics Committee under license number 09/H0308/24. Fresh surgical specimens of healthy human duodenum were obtained from the Tissue Bank at Addenbrooke’s Hospital (Cambridge, UK). The tissue was stored in L-15 (Leibovitz) medium (Sigma-Aldrich, Poole, UK) at 4°C until processing (within a few hours of surgery). The isolation and culture of mixed human duodenal cells was performed using the same protocol as for murine intestinal cultures, without the filtration step.

GLUTag cell culture

GLUTag cells, an established pro-glucagon-derived peptide-secreting cell line model [23], were cultured as previously described [24]. Cells for experimental use were plated onto 1% Matrigel-coated (BD Bioscience) 24-well plates (secretion) or 35 mm glass-bottomed plastic dishes (MatTek Corporation, Ashland, MA, USA) (imaging). Secretion experiments were carried out 18–24 h after plating. Imaging experiments were carried out 18–48 h after plating.

siRNA knockdown

GLUTag cells in 24-well plates were transfected with 30 nmol/l AllStars negative control siRNA, Ffar1 siRNA (Mm_Gpr40_2, target sequence: 5’-TGCGCTGGGCTTTC CATTGAA-3′ or Lpl siRNA (Mm_Lpl_5, target sequence: 5’-CAGGCTATCTTGGATTTGA-3′) (Qiagen, Manchester, UK) using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Loughborough, UK) as per the manufacturer’s protocol. Secretion experiments and RNA extraction (wells transfected in parallel) were performed 48 h post-transfection. Knockdown efficiency was assessed using TaqMan gene expression assays (see below).

Quantitative RT-PCR

Extraction of RNA from siRNA-treated GLUTag cells was performed using an RNeasy Micro Kit (Qiagen). RNA (500 ng) was reverse-transcribed using SuperScript II (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and the resulting cDNA template was mixed with PCR Master Mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific), RNase-free water and specific TaqMan primers (Thermo Fisher Scientific). All experiments were performed on isolated cDNA samples from three independent transfection experiments. In all cases, expression was compared with that of β-actin measured from the same sample in parallel on the same plate, giving a C1 difference (ΔC1) for β-actin (Actb) minus the test gene. Expression is calculated as 2ΔC1. The following primer pairs were used (Thermo Fisher Scientific): Actb, Mm02619580; Lpl, Mm00434764_m1; Ffar1, Mm00809442_s1.

Ca²⁺ imaging

Imaging experiments using GLUTag cells were performed as previously described [25]. Briefly, GLUTag cells were incubated with 5 μmol/l Fura-2-acetoxymethyl-ester (Fura-2-AM; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and 1 nmol/l glucose in assay buffer (see below) for 15 min at 37°C and
15 min at room temperature. The Fura-2-AM solution was then replaced with assay buffer. Cells loaded with Fura-2 were continuously perfused with assay buffer with or without test reagents, and changes in intracellular Ca²⁺ levels were assessed by measuring the change in ratiometric fluorescence (excitation 340/380 nm) at wavelength above 510 nm. Experiments were performed using an Olympus IX71 inverted microscope with a 40× oil immersion objective, fitted with a monochromator (Cairn Research, Faversham, UK) and OrcaER camera (Hamamatsu, Hamamatsu City, Japan). Images were acquired every 2 s and analysed, after background subtraction, using MetaFluor software (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Data were smoothened with a 20 s sliding average. Maximum ratios were determined at baseline (20 s prior to the test condition) and after test reagent application. Cells were included in the analysis if they responded to the positive control, 30 mmol/l KCl. Approximately 15% of cells responded to chylomicrons, and only the data from these cells (n = 44) termed ‘responders’ are included in Fig. 1. Summary data are presented as mean calculated increments (normalised to baseline).

**Fig. 1** Chylomicrons stimulate GLP-1 secretion in GLUTag cells via an increase in [Ca²⁺], and activation of ERK signalling. (a) GLP-1 secretion from GLUTag cells treated with chylomicrons in the presence of glucose (10 mmol/l) with or without IBMX (100 μmol/l). Data represent means ± SEM, n = 12–14 wells from four independent experiments; one-way ANOVA, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.001. (b) GLP-1 secretion from GLUTag cells treated with glucose (10 mmol/l), chylomicrons (CM; 10 μg/ml) or forskolin/IBMX (F/I; 10 μmol/l each) in the presence or absence of the MEK inhibitor U0126 (10 μmol/l, following 30 min pre-treatment). Data represent means ± SEM, n = 9 wells from three independent experiments (apart from F/I, n = 6 wells from two independent experiments); one-way ANOVA, ***p < 0.001. (c) Representative traces of the [Ca²⁺] response observed in GLUTag cells following application of chylomicrons (CM; 10 μg/ml) and the positive control KCl (30 mmol/l), added as indicated by the horizontal bars. [Ca²⁺], was monitored as the ratio of fluorescence at 340 and 380 nm in individual GLUTag cells loaded with Fura-2. (d) Mean 340/380-nm ratio averaged over 20 s periods. Data represent means ± SEM, n = 44 ‘responder’ cells; Friedman test with Dunn’s correction, ***p < 0.001 vs baseline.

**Secretion studies**

Cells were washed three times with assay buffer (see below) and incubated with test reagents in assay buffer, supplemented with 0.1% fatty acid-free BSA ± 10 mmol/l glucose, for 2 h at 37°C. Test reagents were added in a random order, which differed between experiments. Supernatant and lysate samples were collected for primary cell experiments and siRNA-treated GLUTag cells. Supernatant samples only were collected for standard GLUTag secretion experiments. Samples were assessed using a total GLP-1 assay (Meso Scale Discovery, Gaithersburg, MD, USA). GLP-1 measurement was blinded. GIP was measured using a total GIP ELISA (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA). For standard GLUTag secretion experiments, the raw GLP-1 data (in pg/ml) are presented. For primary secretion experiments and siRNA-treated GLUTag cells, hormone secretion was calculated as a percentage of total hormone content per well, to account for potential differences in EEC number between wells. GLP-1 and GIP were measured in the same samples.
GLUTag cells were transfected with 30 nmol/l Lpl three independent experiments; one-way ANOVA, ***p < 0.001 vs control (white bars) or orlistat (1 μmol/l each) in the presence of glucose (10 mmol/l). Data represent means ± SEM, n = 9 wells from three independent experiments; one-way ANOVA, **p < 0.01 vs control in the presence of glucose/3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine [IBMX]). As ERK phosphorylation has previously been linked with gut peptide secretion, we investigated the effect of chylomicrons on [Ca^{2+}]_i was also investigated. In a population of GLUTag cells (approximately 15%), application of chylomicrons triggered a significant rise in [Ca^{2+}]_i (Fig. 1c, d).

Materials

All drugs and chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (UK), unless otherwise stated. Drugs were made up as 1000× or 10,000× stock solutions, as per the manufacturer instructions. Human chylomicrons were obtained from BioVision (Milpitas, CA, USA), and ten individual batches were used during these studies. The broad-spectrum lipase inhibitor orlistat was manufactured by Cayman Chemical (Ann Arbor, MI, USA). The FFA1 agonist AM-1638 was kindly donated by Lilly (Indianapolis, IN, USA). The FFA1 antagonist GW1100 was manufactured by Merck Chemicals (Nottingham, UK).

The assay buffer used in secretion and imaging experiments contained (in mmol/l) 138 NaCl, 4.5 KCl, 4.2 NaHCO₃, 1.2 NaH₂PO₄, 2.6 CaCl₂, 1.2 MgCl₂ and 10 HEPES (adjusted to pH 7.4 with NaOH).

Statistical analysis

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM unless otherwise indicated. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 5.00 software (San Diego, CA, USA). GLP-1 and GIP secretion data were analysed by one-way ANOVA with a post hoc Bonferroni test (n ≥ 3 independent experiments performed in duplicate or triplicate). For qRT-PCR data, statistical significance between the expression of the target gene in siRNA-treated vs negative control siRNA-treated GLUTag cells was assessed by an independent t test (n = 3 independent experiments performed in duplicate or triplicate). For the Ca^{2+} imaging experiments, statistical analysis was carried out using raw baseline and treatment maximum 340/380-nm ratios (n = 44 cells). As the data were not normally distributed and the observations were paired, they were analysed using the non-parametric Friedman test (p < 0.0001) with a Dunn’s post hoc test for multiple comparisons.

Results

Effects of chylomicrons on GLP-1 secretion and [Ca^{2+}]_i in GLUTag cells

Chylomicrons significantly increased GLP-1 secretion from GLUTag cells (Fig. 1a; p < 0.05 vs control in the presence of glucose; p < 0.001 vs control in the presence of glucose/3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine [IBMX]). As ERK phosphorylation has previously been linked with gut peptide release [26, 27], the ability of chylomicrons to stimulate GLP-1 secretion was tested in the presence or absence of the widely used mitogen-activated protein kinase/ERK kinase (MEK) inhibitor U0126 (Fig. 1b). Chylomicron-mediated GLP-1 secretion was significantly impaired in GLUTag cells treated with U0126 (p < 0.001 vs untreated cells). Glucose-mediated GLP-1 secretion also appeared to be affected by U0126, although this was not consistently observed and therefore did not reach statistical significance. On the other hand, basal secretion and GLP-1 secretion induced by forskolin/IBMX (a previously described robust stimulus) in the absence of glucose were unaffected. Due to the coupling of intracellular calcium ([Ca^{2+}]_i) elevations with gut peptide secretion, the effect of chylomicrons on [Ca^{2+}]_i was also investigated. In a population of GLUTag cells (approximately 15%), application of chylomicrons triggered a significant rise in [Ca^{2+}]_i (Fig. 1c, d).
Dependence of chylomicron-mediated GLP-1 secretion on lipoprotein lipase in GLUTag cells

To further dissect the mechanisms underlying chylomicron-mediated GLP-1 secretion, genes of interest were identified from an RNA-Seq database derived from duodenal GLU-Venus-positive ‘L cells’ or negative control ‘non-L cells’, as well as GLUTag cells. One gene that was identified as being expressed in primary duodenal L cells and also highly expressed in GLUTag cells was Lpl (Fig. 2a).

Treatment of GLUTag cells with the broad-spectrum lipase inhibitor orlistat (tetrahydrolipstatin) [28] significantly blunted chylomicron-induced GLP-1 secretion (Fig. 2b; *p < 0.001 vs untreated cells). To support these results, GLUTag cells were also transfected with Lpl siRNA, or negative siRNA as a control. Post-transfection (48 h), a significant knockdown of mRNA expression (approximately 90% reduction) was achieved (p < 0.01 vs negative siRNA), as determined by qRT-PCR (Fig. 2c). Secretion experiments using these transfected cells demonstrated that GLP-1 release in response to chylomicrons was practically abolished when Lpl expression was knocked down (Fig. 2d). While there was a significant difference in GLP-1 release following incubation with the positive control forskolin/IBMX, this difference was no longer significant when expressed as ‘relative to basal’, whereas the inhibition of chylomicron-stimulated secretion remained significant (p < 0.001; data not shown).

Role of FFA1 in chylomicron-induced GLP-1 secretion in GLUTag cells

As Ffar1 is known to be expressed by L cells and GLUTag cells (Fig. 3a), we examined its role in potentially mediating the effect of long-chain NEFAs, generated by chylomicron hydrolysis, using the FFA1 antagonist GW1100. The synthetic FFA1 selective agonist AM-1638 led to a significant increase in GLP-1 secretion (p < 0.001 vs control) and was thus used as a positive control. In the presence of GW1100, GLP-1
secretion in response to both AM-1638 and chylomicrons was significantly inhibited in GLUTag cells (Fig. 3b).

To support these findings, GLUTag cells were also transfected with Ffar1 siRNA or negative control siRNA. Following transfection (48 h), Ffar1 expression was reduced by approximately 50% (Fig. 3c, p < 0.05 vs negative siRNA). GLP-1 secretion in response to both AM-1638 and chylomicrons was significantly inhibited in GLUTag cells transfected with Ffar1 siRNA compared with negative siRNA (Fig. 3d; p < 0.001 and p < 0.01, respectively). Basal secretion and the response to forskolin/IBMX were unaltered by transfection with Ffar1 siRNA.

Effects of chylomicrons on GLP-1 and GIP secretion from human and murine primary intestinal cultures

To determine whether the stimulatory effect of chylomicrons was maintained in primary cultures, GLP-1 and GIP secretion was measured following incubation of duodenal cultures, of both murine and human origin, with chylomicrons. Chylomicrons at physiological concentrations of 10 and 100 µg/ml [29] significantly stimulated GLP-1 and GIP secretion in murine duodenal cultures, in a dose-dependent fashion (Fig. 4a, b). Furthermore, chylomicrons also led to a significant increase in both GLP-1 and GIP secretion from human duodenal cultures (Fig. 4c, d).

Mechanisms underlying chylomicron-mediated GLP-1 and GIP secretion from primary EECs

The relative contributions of FFA1 and GPR119 in chylomicron-induced GLP-1 secretion were investigated using duodenal cultures from conditional Gpr119 knockout mice lacking GPR119 in proglucagon-expressing cells (Cre-positive/Gpr119<sup>flox</sup>), and the FFA1 antagonist GW1100. The absence of GPR119 in L cells did not impair GLP-1 release in response to chylomicrons (Fig. 5a). However, it did prevent GLP-1 secretion in response to the GPR119 agonist AR231453 (Fig. 5a), which in the wild-type-like Cre-negative/Gpr119<sup>fl</sup> cultures significantly stimulated GLP-1 secretion (Fig. 5b). As anticipated, the FFA1 agonist AM-1638 significantly stimulated GLP-1 secretion in the primary cultures, an effect that was inhibited by the FFA1 antagonist GW1100 (Fig. 5a, b). As GPR119 and FFA1 have been shown to act synergistically [11, 14], we also tested the ability of chylomicrons to stimulate GLP-1 secretion in a setting where both pathways were inhibited, i.e. in L cell-specific Gpr119 knockout (Cre-positive/Gpr119<sup>flox</sup>) cultures treated with GW1100. In the absence of both GPR119 and FFA1 signalling, chylomicrons were still able to significantly increase GLP-1 secretion (Fig. 5a).

To assess the role of FFA1 in mediating the stimulatory effect of chylomicrons on GIP secretion, primary murine duodenal cultures were treated with chylomicrons (10 and 100 µg/ml) and AM-1638 in the presence or absence of GW1100. As with GLP-1, the inhibition of FFA1 had no effect on chylomicron-mediated GIP secretion from duodenal cultures (Fig. 5c). Moreover, in our hands, AM-1638 did not significantly stimulate GIP secretion (Fig. 5c).

Furthermore, treatment of duodenal cultures with the lipoprotein lipase (LPL) inhibitor orlistat had no effect on chylomicron-stimulated GLP-1 secretion (Fig. 5d).

Discussion

This study has demonstrated that chylomicrons, at physiological concentrations [29], stimulate incretin hormone secretion from GLUTag cells as well as from primary duodenal cultures of both human and murine origin. In GLUTag cells, the molecular pathway was found to involve LPL-mediated lipolysis, leading to the release of lipid species that activated FFA1 and elevated intracellular calcium.

The importance of LPL in GLUTag cells was independent-
GLP-1 secretion

cose (10 mmol/l) control. (dent experiments; one-way ANOVA, **
treatment). Data represent means ± SEM, 
ence or absence of the FFA1 antagonist GW1100 (5 
the medium, or indeed both.

LPL adheres to the surface of GLUTag cells, potentially via
activate FFA1 to trigger GLP-1 secretion. It is unclear whether
these data suggest that in GLUTag cell cultures, chylomicrons
are hydrolysed by LPL to liberate LCFAs, which subsequently
the secretory pathway downstream of chylomicrons.

Although ERK signalling has been implicated in the GLP-1
secretion, and no impairment of chylomicron-mediated GLP-
CCK and incretin secretion. In primary intestinal cultures,
the role of GPRC6A in GLUTag cells but not
sensed via distinct mechanisms in GLUTag cells and primary

mutation, as chylomicron-triggered GLP-1 secretion was
largely abolished following incubation with the broad-
spectrum lipase inhibitor orlistat [28] or siRNA-mediated
knockdown of Lpl mRNA expression. LPL catalyses the hy-
drolysis of chylomicron triacylglycerols to produce LCFAs
and monoacylglycerols, which are both well-known stimuli
of GLP-1 secretion acting via FFA1 and GPR119, respective-
ly. In GLUTag cells, both FFA1 antagonism using GW1100
and siRNA-mediated Ffar1 knockout (Cre-positive/Gpr119\textsuperscript{lox/lox}) and (b) wild-
type-like (Cre-negative/Gpr119\textsuperscript{lox/lox}) murine duodenal cultures treated
with the GPR119 agonist AR231453 (AR; 100 nmol/l), chylomicrons
(CM; 100 μg/ml) or the FFA1 agonist AM-1638 (1 μmol/l), in the presence
or absence of the FFA1 antagonist GW1100 (5 μmol/l, 30 min pre-
treatment). Data represent means ± SEM, n = 9 wells from three indepen-
dent experiments; one-way ANOVA, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001 vs glucose
(10 mmol/l) control. (c) GIP secretion from murine duodenal
cultures treated with chylomicrons (CM; 10 or 100 μg/ml) or AM-1638
(1 μmol/l), in the presence or absence of GW1100 (5 μmol/l, 30 min pre-
treatment). Data represent means ± SEM, n = 11–21 wells from 4–7
independent experiments; one-way ANOVA, **p < 0.01 vs glucose
(10 mmol/l) control. (d) GIP-1 secretion from murine duodenal cultures
were inactivated. Although we cannot rule out the
possibility that orlistat was inactivated during the incubation
period [32], the additional lack of evidence for involvement of
GPR119 or FFA1 suggests that LPL-dependent hydrolysis of
triacylglycerols in chylomicrons does not underlie the stimu-
lation of GLP-1 and GIP secretion observed in primary cul-
tures. This is not the first demonstration of nutrients being
sensed via distinct mechanisms in GLUTag cells and primary
L cells (e.g. the role of GPRC6A in GLUTag cells but not
native L cells [33, 34]). As GLUTag cells were originally
derived from an intestinal tumour, it is conceivable that their
high expression of LPL may reflect a cancerous phenotype.
LPL has been detected in a number of tumour types and has

Chylomicrons significantly stimulated both GLP-1 and
GIP secretion in human and murine duodenal cultures, con-
trasting with the findings of Chandra et al. [31], who reported
that chylomicrons at the same concentration (100 μg/ml) stim-
ulated cholecystokinin (CCK) secretion only in the additional
presence of the fatty acid C12 (100 μmol/l), pointing towards
possible differences in the stimulus detection mechanisms for
CCK and incretin secretion. In primary intestinal cultures,
however, orlistat did not inhibit chylomicron-mediated GLP-
1 secretion, and no impairment of chylomicron-triggered
GLP-1 secretion was observed when the GPR119 and FFA1
pathways were inactivated. Although we cannot rule out the
possibility that orlistat was inactivated during the incubation
period [32], the additional lack of evidence for involvement of
GPR119 or FFA1 suggests that LPL-dependent hydrolysis of
triacylglycerols in chylomicrons does not underlie the stimu-
lation of GLP-1 and GIP secretion observed in primary cul-
tures.
been shown to be critical in enabling cancer cells to acquire NEFAs from culture medium [35].

Given that lipolysis does not appear to be required for chylomicron-dependent GLP-1 secretion from primary intestinal L cells, LPL expressed either by L cells or other cells within the villus core sufficiently hydrolyses triacylglycerols to stimulate basolaterally located FFA1. The results in primary mixed epithelial cultures suggest additional sensing mechanisms independent of triacylglycerol hydrolysis through yet to be identified receptors (‘ApoR’). 2-MAG, 2-monoacylglycerol by chylomicrons is a result of artificial access to apically located receptors; however, we can exclude GPR119 and FFA1 as possible mediators under these culture conditions, as discussed above. By contrast, we cannot exclude apolipoprotein A-I or A-IV as possible mediators, as the results of the pilot experiments might simply reflect conformational changes due to the purification of the apolipoproteins.

The release of gut peptides in response to chylomicrons may have physiological relevance beyond the classical slowing of gastrointestinal motility and increase in satiety. In addition to producing GLP-1, primary L cells also produce GLP-2, from the processing of the proglucagon precursor. GLP-2 is best known for its role in stimulating intestinal growth and promoting nutrient absorption [39, 40], including fat absorption via an upregulation of CD36/fatty acid translocase [41]. Intriguingly, there is emerging evidence to suggest that GLP-2 also promotes the release of preformed chylomicrons from enterocytes in humans and animal models [42, 43], an effect that under normal physiological conditions is thought to predominate over the opposing action of GLP-1 [44]. The mechanisms underlying this effect are currently unclear and are presumably indirect, given that neither the GLP-1 nor the GLP-2 receptor is thought to be expressed by enterocytes.

The idea that chylomicron formation is important for EEC detection of ingested lipids was suggested previously by in vivo experiments in rats, which demonstrated that co-
administration of an intraduodenal lipid emulsion with Pluronic L-81, an inhibitor of chylomicron formation [45, 46], significantly impaired GLP-1 secretion and largely abolished GIP secretion [18]. Other in vivo studies have shown that oral lipid-triggered GLP-1 and GIP secretion is strongly dependent on FFA1 and GPR119, and that FFA1 on L cells responds primarily to ligands delivered from the basolateral direction [13, 14, 16]. Our results from murine and human cultures demonstrating an effect of chylomicrons on gut hormone secretion and the molecular pathway highlighted in GLUTag cells could explain a wealth of these in vivo findings.

This model (Fig. 6) involves a chylomicron-dependent step for delivery of lipids to the basolateral compartment of the intestinal epithelium, followed by the local lipase-dependent production of active lipid species such as LCFA and monoacylglycerols, which target GPCRs such as FFA1 and GPR119 on the basolateral membrane of EECs and thereby stimulate gut peptide secretion. Although we could not demonstrate the validity of this molecular pathway in the primary duodenal culture model, we do not believe this rules out the possibility that the pathway plays an important role in the intact gut, where other non-epithelial cells lost in the cultures might contribute to partial chylomicron lipolysis. Therefore, further work is warranted to establish the importance of local lipase-dependent LCFA and monoacylglycerol delivery from chylomicrons for the stimulation of gut hormone release by ingested lipids.

Acknowledgements GLP-1 immunoassays were performed by K. Burling, P. Barker and colleagues at the Addenbrooke’s Hospital Core Biochemical Assay Laboratory. GLUTag cells were kindly provided by D. Drucker (The Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Sequencing was performed at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute Genomics core facility. Human duodenal tissue was provided by the Addenbrooke’s Hospital Human Research Tissue Bank, which is supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre.

Funding FMG and FR are funded by grants from the Medical Research Council (MRC_MCUU_12012/3 and MRC_MCUU_12012/5) and Wellcome Trust (grants 106262/Z/14/Z and 106263/Z/14/Z). This work was also supported by a Society for Endocrinology Early Career Grant (AP).

Data availability statement The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding authors on reasonable request.

Duality of interest The authors declare that there is no duality of interest associated with this manuscript.

Contribution statement AP, PFL and DAG performed experiments and analysed data. AP, FR and FMG designed the research study and wrote the article. All authors edited the final version for intellectual content and approved its publication. FR and FMG are responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole.

Open Access This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.

References

1. Habib AM, Richards P, Cairns LS et al (2012) Overlap of endocrine hormone expression in the mouse intestine revealed by transcriptional profiling and flow cytometry. Endocrinology 153:3054–3065
2. Beglinger S, Drew J, Schirra J, Goke B, D’Amato M, Beglinger C (2010) Role of fat hydrolysis in regulating glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 95:879–886
3. Lindgren O, Carr RD, Deacon CF et al (2011) Incretin hormone and insulin responses to oral versus intravenous lipid administration in humans. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 96:2519–2524
4. Matikainen N, Bjorhson E, Soderlund S et al (2016) Minor contribution of endogenous GLP-1 and GLP-2 to postprandial lipemia in obese men. PLoS One 11:e0145890
5. Edfalk S, Steenberg P, Edlund H (2008) Gpr40 is expressed in enteroendocrine cells and mediates free fatty acid stimulation of incretin secretion. Diabetes 57:2280–2287
6. Xiong Y, Swaminath G, Cao Q et al (2013) Activation of FFA1 mediates GLP-1 secretion in mice. Evidence for allosterism at FFA1. Mol Cell Endocrinol 369:119–129
7. Hirasa A, Tsumaya K, Awaji T et al (2005) Free fatty acids regulate gut incretin glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion through GPR120. Nat Med 11:90–94
8. Briscoe CP, Tadayyon M, Andrews JL et al (2003) The orphan G protein-coupled receptor GPR40 is activated by medium and long chain fatty acids. J Biol Chem 278:11303–11311
9. Kotarsky K, Nilsson NE, Olde B, Owman C (2003) Progress in methodology. Improved reporter gene assays used to identify ligands acting on orphan seven-transmembrane receptors. Pharmaco 93:249–258
10. Itoh Y, Hinuma S (2005) GPR40, a free fatty acid receptor on pancreatic beta cells, regulates insulin secretion. Hepatol Res 33:171–173
11. Hauge M, Vestmar MA, Husted AS et al (2015) GPR40 (FFAR1)—combined Gs and Gq signaling in vitro is associated with robust incretin secretagogue action ex vivo and in vivo. Mol Metab 4:3–14
12. Lan H, Lin HV, Wang CF et al (2012) Agonists at GPR119 mediate secretion of GLP-1 from mouse enteroendocrine cells through glucose-independent pathways. Br J Pharmacol 165:2799–2807
13. Moss CE, Glass LL, Diakogiannaki E et al (2016) Lipid derivatives activate GPR119 and trigger GLP-1 secretion in primary murine L-cells. Peptides 77:16–20
14. Ekberg JH, Hauge M, Kristensen LV et al (2016) GPR119, a major enteroendocrine sensor of dietary triglyceride metabolites coacting in synergy with FFA1 (GPR40). Endocrinology 157:4561–4569
15. Reimann F, Tolhurst G, Gribble FM (2012) G-protein-coupled receptors in intestinal chemosensation. Cell Metab 15:421–431
16. Christensen LW, Kuhre RE, Janus C, Svendsen B, Holst JJ (2015) Vascular, but not luminal, activation of FFAR1 (GPR40) stimulates GLP-1 secretion from isolated perfused rat small intestine. Physiol Rep 3:e12551
17. Mu H, Hoy CE (2004) The digestion of dietary triacylglycerols. Prog Lipid Res 43:105–133
18. Lu WJ, Yang Q, Yang L, Lee D, D’Alessio D, Tso P (2012) Chylomicron formation and secretion is required for lipid-stimulated release of incretins GLP-1 and GIP. Lipids 47:571–580
19. Reimann F, Habib AM, Tolhurst G, Parker HE, Rogers GJ, Gribble FM (2008) Glucose sensing in L cells: a primary cell study. Cell Metab 8:532–539
20. Pais R, Rievaj J, Larraufie P, Gribble F, Reimann F (2016) Angiotensin II type 1 receptor-dependent GLP-1 and PYY secretion in mice and humans. Endocrinology 157:3821–3831
21. Psichas A, Glass LL, Sharp SJ, Reimann F, Gribble FM (2016) Activation of proglucagon gene-transcription by protein kinase-A in a novel mouse enteroendocrine cell-line. Mol Endocrinol 8:1646–1655
22. Reimann F, Gribble FM (2002) Glucose-sensing in glucagon-like peptide-1-secreting cells. Diabetes 51:2757–2763
23. Drucker DJ, Jin TR, Asa SL, Young TA, Brubaker PL (1994) Activation of proglucagon gene-transcription by protein kinase-A in a novel mouse enteroendocrine cell-line. Mol Endocrinol 8:159–170
24. Lim GE, Huang GJ, Flora N, LeRoith D, Rhodes CJ, Brubaker PL (2009) Acute inhibition of intestinal lipid transport by Pluronic L-81 in the rat. Am J Physiol 296:R591–R599
25. Emery EC, Diakogiannaki E, Gentry C et al (2015) Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor signaling in human intestinal enteroglucagon. Diabetes 64:1202–1210
26. Reimann F (2006) Meats hydrolysates and essential amino acid-induced glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion, in the human NCI-H716 enteroendocrine cell line, is regulated by extracellular signal-regulated kinase1/2 and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinases. J Endocrinol 191:159–170
27. Pallasch CP, Schwamb J, Konigs S et al (2008) Targeting lipid metabolism by the lipoprotein lipase inhibitor orlistat results in apoptosis of B cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells. Leukemia 22:585–592
28. Lin C, Rajalalitha T, Mjos SA, Kvalheim OM (2016) Predictive associations between serum fatty acids and lipoproteins in healthy non-obese Norwegians: implications for cardiovascular health. Metabolomics
29. Briscoe CP, Peat AJ, MeKeown SC et al (2006) Pharmacological regulation of insulin secretion in MIN6 cells through the fatty acid receptor GPR40: identification of agonist and antagonist small molecules. Br J Pharmacol 148:619–628
30. Chandra R, Wang Y, Shahid RA, Vigna SR, Freedman NJ, Liddle RA (2013) Immunoglobulin-like domain containing receptor 1 mediates fat-stimulated cholecystokinin secretion. J Clin Invest 123:3343–3352
31. Orsolin PC, Silva-Oliveira RG, Nepomuceno JC (2012) Assessment of the mutagenic, recombinagenic and carcinogenic potential of orlistat in somatic cells of Drosophila melanogaster. Food and Chem Toxicol 50:2598–2604
32. Oya M, Kitaguchi T, Pais R, Reimann F, Gribble F, Tsuboi T (2013) The G protein-coupled receptor family C group 6 subtype A (GPRC6A) receptor is involved in amino acid-induced glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion from GLUTag cells. J Biol Chem 288:4513–4521
33. Diakogiannaki E, Pais R, Tolhurst G et al (2013) Oligopeptides stimulate glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion in mice through proton-coupled uptake and the calcium-sensing receptor. Diabetologia 56:2688–2696
34. Hsieh J, Trajcevski KE, Farr SL et al (2015) Glucagon-like peptide-2 (GLP-2) stimulates postprandial chylomicron production and triglyceride secretion in mice. J Biol Chem 288:17085–17097
35. Dash S, Xiao C, Morgantini C, Connelly PW, Lewis GF (2014) Glucagon-like peptide-2 increases intestinal lipid absorption and chylomicron production via CD36. Gastroenterology 146:1366–1376
36. Hein GJ, Baker C, Hsieh J, Farr S, Adeli K (2013) GLP-1 and GLP-2 as yin and yang of intestinal lipoprotein production: evidence for predominance of GLP-2-stimulated postprandial lipemia in normal and insulin-resistant states. Diabetes 62:373–381
37. Tso P, Balint JA, Bishop MB, Rodgers JB (1981) Acute inhibition of intestinal lipid transport by Pluronic L-81 in the rat. Am J Physiol 241:G487–G497
38. Fatma S, Yakubov R, Anwar K, Hussain MM (2006) Pluronic L81 enhances triacylglycerol accumulation in the cytosol and inhibits chylomicron secretion. J Lipid Res 47:2422–2432