Forkhead box i2 (Foxi2) transcription factor regulates systemic energy

metabolism via neuropeptide AgRP

Yatong Fan^{1,11}, Sufang Sheng^{1,11}, Cunle Guo^{2,11}, Wei Qiao¹, Yue Jin³, Lu Tan⁴, Yong Gao⁵, Lei Zhang¹, Xi Dong², Jun Zhang⁶, Xiaorong Li⁷, Hui Shen^{8,9,*}, Yunfei Liao^{10,*}, Yongsheng Chang^{1,7,*}

¹Key Laboratory of Immune Microenvironment and Disease (Ministry of Education), Tianjin Key Laboratory of Cellular Homeostasis and Disease, Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Tianjin Medical University, Tianjin, China ²Laboratory of Neurobiology, School of Biomedical Engineering, Tianjin Medical

University, Tianjin, China

³Tianjin Key Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Immunology and Key Laboratory of the Educational Ministry of China, Department of Immunology, Tianjin Medical University, Tianjin, China

⁴Department of Laboratory Animal Science, Tianjin Medical University, Tianjin, China ⁵Science and Technology Innovation Center, Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou, China

⁶Department of Basic Medicine, Shihezi University School of Medicine, Shihezi, Xinjiang, China

⁷Tianjin Key Laboratory of Retinal Functions and Diseases, Tianjin Branch of National Clinical Research Center for Ocular Disease, Eye Institute and School of Optometry, Tianjin Medical University Eye Hospital, Tianjin, China ⁸Department of Cell Biology, Tianjin Medical University, Tianjin, China

⁹Brain Research Center of Innovation Institute of Traditional Chinese medicine, Shandong University of traditional Chinese Medicine, Jinan, Shandong, China
¹⁰Department of Endocrinology, Wuhan Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, China

¹¹These authors contributed equally

*Correspondence: Hui Shen, email: <u>shenhui@tmu.edu.cn</u>, <u>tel: +86-022-8333-6729</u>; Yunfei Liao, email: <u>yunfeiliao2012@163.com</u>, <u>tel: +86-27-8572-6798</u>; Yongsheng Chang, email: <u>changys@tmu.edu.cn</u>, <u>tel: +86-134-3633-0816</u>

Supplemental Figures



Supplemental Figure 1. Overexpression of Foxi2 in AgRP neurons of male mice causes obesity under a chow diet condition. A: Schematic of Foxi2 overexpression in AgRP neurons in AgRP-IRES-Cre mice by AAV injections. B: Tissue weight of BAT, iWAT and eWAT in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice fed a chow diet (n= 6/group). C: Locomotor activity of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. *p<0.05, ** p<0.01, two-tailed Student's t test (B, C). Abbreviations: n.s., not significant.



Supplemental Figure 2. Overexpression of Foxi2 in AgRP neurons of female mice causes obesity under a chow diet condition. 14-week-old female AgRP-IRES-Cre mice were received bilateral AAV-Foxi2 injection into ARC. These mice were studied at 22 weeks of age. A: The body weight of AAV-Foxi2 and AAV-GFP-infected mice at

22 weeks of age (n=6/group). B: Fat and lean mass (n=6/group). C: Daily food intake (n= 6/group). D: Accumulative food intake of 24 hours in mice fasted overnight (n= 6/group). E and F: Energy expenditure (EE) was measured and analyzed by ANCOVA (n=6/group). All EE data are expressed as the absolute value (E). All ANCOVA values are expressed as estimated marginal means \pm SEM. Estimated effect size of covariates for ANCOVA analysis is presented as partial eta-squared (F). G: Respiratory quotient (VCO_2/VO_2) (n= 6/group). H: Locomotor activity of mice in A (n= 6/group). I: Quantitative PCR analysis of mRNA levels of genes involved in thermogenesis and fatty acid oxidation in BAT from AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). J: Western blotting analysis of UCP1 protein level in BAT of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRPcre^{Foxi2} mice. K and L: Plots for glucose tolerance tests and insulin tolerance tests (insert graphs represent the area under the curve) from AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice on a chow diet (n=6/group). Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. *p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001, two-tailed Student's t test (A-I, K, L), ANCOVA (F). Abbreviations: n.s., not significant.





Supplemental Figure 3. Overexpression of Foxi2 in AgRP neurons aggravates HFD-induced obesity. A and B: The growth curve starting at 2 weeks after receiving AAV-GFP or AAV-Foxi2 bilaterally in ARC of 6-week old male AgRP-IRES-Cre mice fed an HFD and a representative photograph of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice at

22 weeks of age under an HFD (n= 6/group). C: MRI assay of body composition of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). D: Gross appearance of interscapular BAT, inguinal and epididymal fat pads from mice in B. E: Tissue weight of BAT, iWAT and eWAT in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). F: Hematoxylin and eosin staining of paraffin-embedded BAT, iWAT and eWAT sections in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice. Scale bar, 50 µm. G: Daily food intake (n= 6/group). H: Accumulative food intake of 24 hours in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice fasted overnight (n= 6/group). I and J: Energy expenditure (EE) was measured and analyzed by ANCOVA (n=6/group). All EE data are expressed as the absolute value (I). All ANCOVA values are expressed as estimated marginal means \pm SEM. Estimated effect size of covariates for ANCOVA analysis is presented as partial eta-squared (J). K: Respiratory quotient (VCO₂/VO₂) (n= 6/group). L: Locomotor activity of mice (n= 6/group). M: The rectal temperature of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice subjected to acute cold exposure for 6 hours (n=6/group). N: Quantitative PCR analysis of mRNA levels of UCP1, Cidea and Nrf1 in BAT of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). O: Western blotting analysis of lipolytic enzymes in eWAT from AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice. P and Q: Plots for glucose tolerance tests and insulin tolerance tests (insert graphs represent the area under the curve) from AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRPcre^{Foxi2} mice on an HFD (n= 6/group). R and S: Blood glucose and insulin levels in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice under an ad libitum condition (n = 6/group). T: Western blotting analysis of AKT and p-AKT (Ser473) in the liver, adipose tissue, and muscle 15 min after administration of insulin (1 U/kg). U: Representative photograph

and liver weight in AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). V: Representative images of H&E- and Oil-red O-stained hepatic sections of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice. Scale bar, 100 μ m. W: Hepatic TG, TC content and serum TG, TC content of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). X: Quantitative PCR analysis of expression of Srebp-1c, Fasn, Acc, Scd1, PGC1a, CPT1a and PPARa in the livers of AgRP-cre^{GFP} and AgRP-cre^{Foxi2} mice (n= 6/group). Data are represented as mean ± SEM. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, two-tailed Student's t test (A, C, E, G-N, P-S, U, W, X), ANCOVA (J). Abbreviations: n.s., not significant.



Supplemental Figure 4. Global Foxi2 KO mice are lean under a chow diet condition. A: Tissue weight of BAT, iWAT and eWAT in WT and KO mice fed with a chow diet (n= 6/group). B: Locomotor activity of mice (n= 6/group). Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. *p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001, two-tailed Student's t test (A, B). Abbreviations: n.s., not significant.



Supplemental Figure 5. Foxi2 KO mice are resistant to HFD-induced obesity. A: Tissue weight of BAT, iWAT and eWAT in WT and KO mice (n= 6/group). B: Locomotor activity of mice (n= 6/group). C: Liver weight of WT and KO mice (n= 6/group). Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. *p<0.05, ** p<0.01, two-tailed Student's t test (A-C). Abbreviations: n.s., not significant.

Gene	Forward primer	Reverse primer
symbol		
Foxi2	5'-TTCCGAAGGAAGAGGAGACGG-	5'-CAAGTAGTGGTGGCCTCAGACG-3'
	3'	
Ucp1	5'-AGGCTTCCAGTACCATTAGGT-3'	5'-CTGAGTGAGGCAAAGCTGATTT-3'
Cidea	5'-GCCGTGTTAAGGAATCTGCTG-3'	5'-TGCTCTTCTGTATCGCCCAGT-3'
Dio2	5'-CAGTGTGGTGCACGTCTCCA	5'-TGAACCAAAGTTGACCACCAG-3'
	ATC-3'	
PGC1a	5'-TGATGTGAATGACTTGGATACA	5'-GCTCATTGTTGTACTGGTTGGAT
	GACA-3'	ATG-3'
Nrf1	5'-GCACCTTTGGAGAATGTGGT-3'	5'-CTGAGCCTGGGTCATTTTGT-3'
Sdhb	5'-AATTTGCCATTTACCGATGGGA-	5'-AGCATCCAACACCATAGGTCC-3'
	3'	
Srebp1c	5'-GGAGCCATGGATTGCACATT-3'	5'-GGCCCGGGAAGTCACTGT-3'
Fasn	5'-GTAAGTTCTGTGGCTCCAGAG-3'	5'-GCCCTCCCGTACACTCACTC-3'
Acc	5'-AGGAAGATGGCGTCCGCTCTG-	5'-GGTGAGATGTGCTGGGTCAT-3'
	3'	
Scd1	5'-CCTGCCTCTTCGCGTTTGT-3'	5'-GGCGTGCCTTGTACGTTCT-3'
CPT1a	5'-GAACCCCAACATCCCCAAAC-3'	5'-TCCTGGCATTCTCCTGGAAT-3'
PPARα	5'-ACAAGGCCTCAGGGTACCA-3'	5'-GCCGAAAGAAGCCCTTACAG-3'

Supplemental Table 1. Primers used in quantitative-PCR, ChIP assay and plasmids construction.

MCAD	5'-AACACTTACTATGCCTCGATTG	5'-CCATAGCCTCCGAAAATCTGAA-3'
	CA-3'	
AgRP	5'-ATGCTGACTGCAATGTTGCTG-3'	5'-CAGACTTAGACCTGGGAACTCT-3'
NPY	5'-TGGCCAGATACTACTCCGCT-3'	5'-AGTGTCTCAGGGCTGGATCT-3'
РОМС	5'-GGCTTGCAAACTCGACCTCT-3'	5'-CGTACTTCCGGGGGGTTTTCA-3'
CART	5'-AAGAAGTACGGCCAAGTCCC-3'	5'-CAGTCACACAGCTTCCCGAT-3'
36B4	5'-GAGGAATCAGATGAGGATAT	5'-AAGCAGGCTGACTTGGTTGC-3'
	GGGA-3'	
Foxi2-	CCGGGCTCAGCCAGATCTACCAGT	AATTCAAAAAGCTCAGCCAGATCTAC
shRNA	ACTCGAGTACTGGTAGATCTGGCT	CAGTACTCGAGTACTGGTAGATCTGGC
primers	GAGCTTTTTG	TGAGC
AgRP	5'-CTTCGTGGGTACTGGCCATG-3'	5'-TTTTGACAGAATCTTACTATGTAA
ChIP		GGCC-3'
ChIP primers		GGCC-3'
ChIP primers AgRP	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC
ChIP primers AgRP promoter-	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3'	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3'
ChIP primers AgRP promoter- 1795Luc	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3'	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3'
ChIP primers AgRP promoter- 1795Luc AgRP	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3' 5'-CTAGCTAGCACTGGGGTAT	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC
ChIP primers AgRP promoter- 1795Luc AgRP promoter-	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3' 5'-CTAGCTAGCACTGGGGTAT ATCCCTTCTC-3'	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3'
ChIP primers AgRP promoter- 1795Luc AgRP promoter- 545Luc	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3' 5'-CTAGCTAGCACTGGGGTAT ATCCCTTCTC-3'	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3'
ChIP primers AgRP promoter- 1795Luc AgRP promoter- 545Luc AgRP	5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTGTTTACC ATTGCGCGAC-3' 5'-CTAGCTAGCACTGGGGTAT ATCCCTTCTC-3' 5'-CTAGCTAGCCTTCGTGGGTA	GGCC-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC AGCAGTGAA-3' 5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC

345Luc		
AgRP	5'-CTAGCTAGCTCTGTAAATT	5'-CCGCTCGAGTATCACCATGC
promoter-	GGAGGCCAGC-3'	AGCAGTGAA-3'
195Luc		