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1 **Expansion of bone marrow adipose tissue during caloric restriction is associated with increased**
2 **circulating glucocorticoids and not with hypoleptinemia.**

3

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47 **ABSTRACT**

48 Bone marrow adipose tissue (MAT) accounts for up to 70% of bone marrow volume in healthy adults and
49 increases further in clinical conditions of altered skeletal or metabolic function. Perhaps most strikingly,
50 and in stark contrast to white adipose tissue (WAT), MAT has been found to increase during caloric
51 restriction (CR) in humans and many other species. Hypoleptinemia may drive MAT expansion during
52 CR but this has not been demonstrated conclusively. Indeed, MAT formation and function are poorly
53 understood; hence, the physiological and pathological roles of MAT remain elusive. We recently revealed
54 that MAT contributes to hyperadiponectinemia and systemic adaptations to CR. To further these
55 observations, we have now performed CR studies in rabbits to determine if CR affects adiponectin
56 production by MAT. Moderate or extensive CR decreased bone mass, WAT mass, and circulating leptin,
57 but, surprisingly, did not cause hyperadiponectinemia or MAT expansion. Although this unexpected
58 finding limited our subsequent MAT characterization, it demonstrates that during CR, bone loss can occur
59 independently of MAT expansion; increased MAT may be required for hyperadiponectinemia; and
60 hypoleptinemia is not sufficient for MAT expansion. We further investigated this relationship in mice. In
61 females, CR increased MAT without decreasing circulating leptin, suggesting that hypoleptinemia is also
62 not necessary for MAT expansion. Finally, circulating glucocorticoids increased during CR in mice but
63 not rabbits, suggesting that glucocorticoids might drive MAT expansion during CR. These observations
64 provide insights into the causes and consequences of CR-associated MAT expansion, knowledge with
65 potential relevance to health and disease.

66 **INTRODUCTION**

67 Adipocytes are a major component of human bone marrow (BM), comprising up to 70% of BM
68 volume and accounting for over 10% of total adipose mass in lean, healthy adults (1, 2). Such marrow
69 adipose tissue (MAT) further increases in diverse clinical conditions, including aging-associated bone
70 loss and osteoporosis (3); estrogen deficiency (4, 5); type I diabetes (6, 7); and during treatment with
71 pharmacological agents such as glucocorticoids, thiazolidinediones, or fibroblast growth factor-21
72 (FGF21) (8-12). Perhaps most strikingly, MAT is not catabolized during acute starvation (13, 14) but
73 instead increases during anorexia nervosa and other conditions of prolonged caloric restriction (CR) (15-
74 18). This is in stark contrast to white adipose tissue (WAT), underscoring the notion that MAT and WAT
75 are developmentally and functionally distinct. However, both MAT formation and function are poorly
76 understood, and therefore the impact of MAT on human physiology and disease remains to be
77 established.

78 Understanding why MAT increases during CR might yield insights into MAT's physiological and
79 pathological functions. Many changes that occur during CR are physiological adaptations that improve
80 the ability to survive and/or recover from starvation (19). Such beneficial adaptations are likely to have
81 been strongly selected for during mammalian evolution (20), and therefore the fact that MAT expands
82 during CR suggests that MAT might serve an important physiological function. Alternatively, CR-
83 associated MAT expansion might be a neutral, inconsequential phenomenon, or a pathological response
84 that negatively impacts human health (18). Whatever the case, improved knowledge of the causes and
85 consequences of MAT expansion during CR might shed light on the role of MAT in human physiology
86 and disease.

87 Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain why MAT increases during CR (18). For
88 example, CR and/or fasting are associated with decreased circulating leptin, estradiol, and insulin-like
89 growth factor-1 (IGF1), and increased circulating FGF21, ghrelin, and cortisol or corticosterone (15, 21-
90 25). Each of these changes has also been linked to increased BM adiposity in other contexts (5, 11, 12,
91 26-29), and therefore each of these factors has been proposed as a mediator of CR-associated MAT

92 expansion. The strongest argument has been made for hypoleptinemia (18). *In vitro* studies suggest that
93 leptin directly inhibits adipogenic differentiation of BM stromal cells (30, 31), whereas MAT is increased
94 in leptin-deficient *ob/ob* mice (26). Moreover, central or peripheral leptin administration leads to
95 decreased BM adiposity in *ob/ob* mice (26, 32), type 1 diabetic mice (33) and Sprague-Dawley rats (34).
96 Leptin may promote MAT loss by acting centrally to increase activity of the sympathetic nervous system,
97 a mechanism through which leptin also promotes bone resorption (35). Finally, serum leptin
98 concentrations inversely associate with vertebral BM adiposity in a cohort of healthy and anorexic
99 humans (36). Thus, several lines of evidence support the possibility that hypoleptinemia drives MAT
100 expansion during CR. However, why CR leads to MAT expansion remains to be established.

101 In addition to MAT formation, the function of MAT during CR has also begun to be addressed.
102 We recently found that, during CR, MAT contributes to increased circulating levels of adiponectin (2), a
103 hormone associated with enhanced insulin sensitivity and fat oxidation, anti-atherogenic and anti-cancer
104 effects. Moreover, we found that in mice with impaired MAT expansion, skeletal muscle adaptations to
105 CR are suppressed (2). These observations support the concept that MAT is an endocrine organ and
106 suggest that MAT exerts systemic effects to impact adaptive responses to CR (2). However, numerous
107 questions remain. For example, does CR alter MAT's expression or secretion of adiponectin, or other
108 endocrine properties of MAT? And does MAT produce other endocrine factors that contribute to systemic
109 effects of CR?

110 To address these questions, we investigated the effect of moderate or extensive CR in rabbits, a
111 species that allows isolation of relatively large amounts of intact MAT for downstream analysis (2).
112 Surprisingly, these CR regimens did not lead to MAT expansion or increased circulating adiponectin,
113 despite marked bone loss and hypoleptinemia. Conversely, in female mice we found that CR promotes
114 MAT expansion without altering circulating leptin. Our rabbit studies further suggest site-dependent
115 differences in BM adipocyte size and responsiveness to varying degrees of CR. Finally, we found that CR
116 is associated with increased circulating glucocorticoids in mice, but not in rabbits, suggesting that
117 glucocorticoid excess might contribute to MAT expansion during CR. Together, these observations shed

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- 118 new light on the potential mechanisms of MAT formation; the site-dependent nature of MAT
- 119 characteristics; and the interplay between MAT expansion, bone loss, and circulating adiponectin.

120 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

121 *Animals and animal care*

122 New Zealand White rabbits were purchased from Harlan Laboratories (Haslett, MI, USA) or were
123 generously provided by Dr. Yuqiang Chen (University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI,
124 USA). Body mass and random-fed blood glucose were recorded weekly. For euthanasia, rabbits were first
125 sedated by intramuscular injection of ketamine (40 mg/kg) and xylazine (5 mg/kg) before euthanizing by
126 intravenous injection of pentobarbital (65 mg/kg) via the marginal ear vein. C57BL/6J mice were bred in-
127 house as described previously (2). Body fat, lean mass, and free fluid were measured in conscious mice
128 using an NMR analyzer (Minispec LF90II; Bruker Optics, Billerica, MA, USA). The University of
129 Michigan Committee on the Use and Care of Animals approved all animal experiments, with daily care of
130 mice and rabbits overseen by the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM).

131

132 *Caloric restriction*

133 For moderate CR in rabbits (Fig. 1-2; Supplemental Fig. 1-2), 15-week-old male rabbits (3.14 ± 0.19 kg,
134 mean \pm SD) were randomly assigned into control (n=5) and CR (n=6) diet groups. Each group was fed a
135 high-fiber diet (LabDiet 5326). Control rabbits received 100 g/day (31.91 ± 0.19 g/kg body mass/day;
136 mean \pm SD) whereas CR rabbits received 70 g/day (23.00 ± 0.35 g/kg body mass/day; mean \pm SD),
137 consistent with 30% CR that was found previously to drive MAT expansion in mice (2, 15). For extensive
138 CR in rabbits (Fig 3-4; Supplemental Fig. 3), young males (1.04 ± 0.09 kg, mean \pm SD) were fed *ad*
139 *libitum* from 5 to 6 weeks of age to establish baseline food intake. Rabbits were then randomly assigned
140 to control (n=6) or CR (n=6) diet groups. From 6-13 weeks of age, control rabbits were fed *ad libitum*
141 (68.26 ± 4.82 g/kg body mass/day; mean \pm SD) whereas CR rabbits were fed 40-50 g/day depending on
142 body mass (30.65 ± 4.92 g/kg body mass/day; mean \pm SD); this is consistent with the 50-70% reduction of
143 *ad libitum* food intake used in recent rabbit CR studies (37, 38). For comparisons between the moderate
144 and extensive CR cohorts, the following differences are worth considering: firstly, the moderate CR

145 animals were older, and therefore heavier; secondly, control-fed rabbits in the extensive CR cohort were
146 fed *ad libitum*, while those in the moderate CR cohort were fed 100 g/day (consistent with ULAM
147 guidelines). These differences likely explain why percent fat pad mass is greater in the extensive CR
148 controls than in the moderate CR control rabbits (Fig. 1B vs Fig. 3B). To avoid malnutrition associated
149 with micronutrient deficiency, both groups were fed throughout with a complete diet for growing rabbits
150 (LabDiet 5321). The CR protocol for C57BL/6J mice was described previously (2).

151

152 ***Blood collection and serum hormone analysis***

153 Blood was sampled from the marginal ear artery of rabbits or the lateral tail vein of mice using Microvette
154 CB 300 capillary collection tubes (Sarstedt, Newton, NC, USA). To obtain serum, blood samples were
155 allowed to clot on ice for two hours before centrifuging at 3,800 RCF for 5 min at 4 °C. Serum leptin was
156 determined using an ELISA kit (catalog no. MOB00) from R&D Systems Inc. (Minneapolis, MD, USA).
157 Total and HMW serum adiponectin were determined using an ELISA kit (catalog no. 47-ADPHU-E01)
158 from Alpco (Salem, NH, USA). ELISA kits to determine concentrations of corticosterone (catalog no.
159 ADI-900-097) and cortisol (catalog no. ADI-900-071) were from Enzo Life Sciences, Inc (Exeter, UK).

160

161 ***Analysis of bone morphology by μ CT***

162 Femoral heads of rabbits were surgically isolated and embedded in 1% agarose and scanned using a μ CT
163 system (μ CT100 Scanco Medical, Bassersdorf, Switzerland). Agarose-embedded femoral heads of rabbits
164 were placed in a 48 mm diameter tube prior to scanning the femoral neck using the following settings:
165 voxel size 36 μ m, 70 kVp, 114 μ A, 0.5 mm AL filter, and integration time 500 ms. Rabbit trabeculae
166 were analyzed by contouring the inner trabecular compartment using the manufacturer's software
167 (Analysis #15: trabecular, threshold 220), starting 20 slices away from the growth plate and contouring
168 every 10 slices for a total of 30 slices. Density measurements were calibrated to the manufacturer's
169 hydroxyapatite phantom. Analysis was performed using the manufacturer's evaluation software.

170

171 ***Real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR)***

172 Total RNA was isolated from tissues using RNA STAT60 reagent (Tel-Test Inc, Friendswood, TX, USA)
173 according to the manufacturer's instructions. Reverse transcription, primer design and qPCR were
174 performed as described previously (39). Primers for rabbit *Lep*, *Adipoq*, *Pparg*, *Cebpa*, *Ppia* and *Tbp*
175 were described previously (2). Sequences for other primers (5'-3') are as follows: *Eroll*, (F)
176 TTGGCTAGAAGGCCTGTGTG, (R) GCCTTCTCCCTCGGTCAAAA; *Erp44*, (F)
177 CTCCAGCAGATTGCCCTGTT, (R) GGGTGGACTGCTTGCTACAT; *Rab11fip1*, (F)
178 CAGTACGGCAGAAGCTCCAA, (R) CCGAGGGGCTGTATTTCTTCA.

179

180 ***Immunoblot analysis***

181 To detect total adiponectin in sera, samples were reduced and denatured by mixing with 4X SDS loading
182 buffer, incubating at 95 °C for 5 min, and cooling on ice for 1 min before separating by SDS-PAGE, as
183 described previously (40). To isolate total protein, tissues were first pulverized in liquid nitrogen using a
184 pestle and mortar. Pulverized tissues were then mixed with lysis buffer (1% SDS, 12.7 mM EDTA, 60
185 mM Tris-HCl; pH 6.8) heated to 95 °C, and homogenized by sequential passaging through 21-gauge and
186 26-gauge needles. Lysates were then centrifuged at 20,000 RCF for 15 min at 4 °C, lipid layers were
187 discarded and supernatants transferred to fresh tubes and stored at -80 °C. Protein concentration in tissue
188 lysates was estimated using the BCA protein assay (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). SDS-PAGE
189 and immunoblotting of tissue lysates was done as described previously (39). Mouse monoclonal anti-
190 adiponectin (MA1-054) and rat monoclonal anti- α -tubulin (MA1-80017) were from Thermo Scientific.
191 Mouse monoclonal anti-perilipin A (#4854) was from Vala Sciences (San Diego, CA, USA).

192

193 ***Isolation of BM, MAT, or RM***

194 To visualize the spatial distribution of MAT and red marrow (RM) *in situ*, humeri, tibiae, and femurs
195 were longitudinally bisected using a Dremel rotary tool with a #409 cutoff wheel (Robert Bosch Tool

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196 Corporation, Addison, IL, USA); a constant drip of sterile USP-grade water was used during cutting to
197 prevent overheating. MAT or RM was then removed using a stainless steel spatula. To isolate MAT from
198 radii or ulnae, epiphyses were removed by lateral incisions with the Dremel tool, thereby allowing access
199 to the marrow cavity. BM was then extruded by first tracing the perimeter of the marrow cavity with a 2-
200 inch, 21-gauge needle, and subsequently scraping the BM out using a stainless steel spatula.

201

Triacylglycerol content of rabbit femoral BM

203 One femur of each rabbit was bisected and whole BM removed. BM plugs were then frozen on dry ice
204 before cryopulverization in liquid nitrogen using a pestle and mortar. Total lipid was then extracted from
205 ~56 mg of each sample using the Folch method (41) as follows: 1), in a glass vial, mix sample with 1 mL
206 methanol and dissolve by sonication for 4 x 5 min, vortexing between each sonication; 2), mix 0.5 mL of
207 tissue/methanol homogenate with 1 mL chloroform and vortex for 30 seconds; 3), add 0.5 mL of 0.1N
208 HCl and vortex the vial to mix; 4), centrifuge for 10 min at 500 RCF; 5) remove the top layer and the
209 protein/debris interphase carefully by aspiration under mild vacuum; 6), wash the lower organic layer by
210 adding 0.5mL of 50% methanol and vortex to mix; 7), centrifuge for 3 min at 12,000 RCF; 8), discard
211 upper layer using vacuum aspirator; 9), repeat steps 6-8; 10), transfer 0.3 mL of each sample to a new
212 glass vial and evaporate solvent using nitrogen gas; 11), re-suspend the remaining lipid in 100 μ L
213 chloroform. These lipid samples were then separated by thin layer chromatography on a silica gel plate;
214 the triacylglycerol bands were then identified and excised. This portion was then extracted from the silica
215 gel and resuspended in 500 μ L of 68% ethanol (357 μ L of 95% ethanol, plus 143 μ L of isotonic saline).
216 The triacylglycerol concentration in 20 μ L of each sample was then determined using the Triglyceride
217 Determination Kit (Sigma Aldrich) based on the manufacturer's instructions.

218

Histology and analysis of adipocyte morphology

220 Intact pieces of WAT, MAT, and RM were fixed in 10% neutral-buffered formalin, paraffin-embedded,
221 sectioned, and stained with H&E prior to determination of adipocyte size distribution, as described

222 previously (42). Analysis of MAT and RM was done without reference to the directionality or orientation
223 within the bone.

224

225 ***Osmium tetroxide staining***

226 Mouse tibiae were stained with osmium tetroxide (Electron Microscopy Sciences #19170) and MAT was
227 then visualized by μ CT, as described previously (2). MAT volume in distinct tibial regions was then
228 quantified and is presented relative to total tibial marrow volume, as described previously (43). Osmium
229 tetroxide staining could not be used for quantitation of MAT volume in rabbit bones, because the osmium
230 tetroxide is unable to stain beyond the periphery of these large tissues, especially those that are densely
231 packed with fat (E. Scheller, unpublished observations).

232

233 ***Statistical Analysis***

234 Data are represented as box and whisker plots overlaid with individual values, or as mean \pm standard
235 deviation (for data where box and whisker plots would be too cluttered). For box and whisker plots, the
236 box extends from the 25th to 75th percentiles, with the central line representing the median and the
237 whiskers showing the minimum and maximum values. Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad
238 Prism 6 software (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA). Significant differences in body mass, tissue mass,
239 circulating leptin, circulating adiponectin, circulating corticosterone, transcript expression, femoral head
240 bone characteristics, BM triacylglycerol, bone length, body composition, and MAT volume were assessed
241 using two-sample t-tests. For moderate CR rabbits, differences in circulating cortisol were assessed using
242 two-sample t-tests; however, for extensive CR rabbits, cortisol concentrations were non-normally
243 distributed, and therefore significant differences were assessed using the Mann-Whitney U test (Fig. 6D).
244 Significant differences in adipocyte size were assessed by ANOVA with a Tukey post-test for multiple
245 comparisons. The D'Agostino test confirmed that adipocyte areas were normally distributed across all
246 tissues for control and CR rabbits. A *p*-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

247 **RESULTS**

248 *Circulating adiponectin does not increase during moderate CR in rabbits*

249 We previously used rabbits to characterize expression and secretion of adiponectin in MAT,
250 because, unlike mice or rats, this species allows isolation of relatively large and intact MAT samples (2).
251 Thus, to investigate further if CR affects adiponectin production by MAT, we pursued CR studies in
252 rabbits. We fed rabbits in the CR group 30% less food than their control counterparts, consistent with the
253 extent of CR used in our previous mouse studies (2). Herein, this 30% CR regimen is described as
254 ‘moderate’ CR. As expected, moderate CR was associated with decreased body mass, circulating leptin,
255 and mass of WAT in inguinal (iWAT), gonadal (gWAT), and perirenal (pWAT) depots (Fig. 1A-C;
256 Supplemental Fig. 1). CR-associated bone loss was also apparent, with μ CT of femoral heads revealing
257 that CR-fed rabbits had significantly decreased bone volume fraction (BVF), connectivity density (Conn.
258 Dens), and bone mineral content (BMC) compared to controls (Table 1). To next investigate if CR
259 impacts adiponectin production by MAT, and how this compares to effects in WAT, we first analyzed
260 expression of adiponectin mRNA (*Adipoq*). As a positive control, we also measured expression of leptin
261 (*Lep*), which is known to be decreased in WAT during fasting or CR (44-47). As shown in Fig. 1D, CR
262 led to significantly decreased *Lep* expression in iWAT, whereas adiponectin (*Adipoq*) expression was not
263 significantly altered by CR. Similar effects were observed in gWAT and pWAT (data not shown). These
264 findings are consistent with observations in rodents and humans (44-50). In tibial MAT, CR was also
265 associated with decreased expression of *Lep* but not *Adipoq* (Fig. 1E). To begin assessing potential effects
266 on adiponectin secretion, we next analyzed expression of factors known to regulate this process. Ero1-L α
267 is an ER chaperone that promotes adiponectin secretion, whereas ERp44 and Rab11-FIP1 inhibit
268 adiponectin secretion (51-53). We found that CR did not affect *Ero1l*, *Erp44*, or *Rab11fip1* expression in
269 iWAT (Fig. 1D). Expression of *Ero1l* and *Erp44* in tibial MAT was similarly unaffected, whereas
270 *Rab11fip1* expression was significantly higher in MAT of CR-fed rabbits (Fig. 1E). These observations
271 are consistent with the concept that adiponectin secretion from WAT does not increase during CR (54),

272 and suggest that this is also true for tibial MAT. However, there is often a disparity between adiponectin
273 transcript expression and circulating adiponectin levels (48, 50, 55). Thus, we next used immunoblotting
274 to assess total adiponectin in serum, expecting that, as in rodents and humans (48, 56), this would increase
275 with moderate CR. Counter to these expectations, total serum adiponectin did not differ between control
276 and CR-fed rabbits (Fig. 1F-G). Thus, moderate CR in rabbits exerts expected effects on body mass, fat
277 mass, bone mass, circulating leptin, and expression of leptin and adiponectin in WAT; however, moderate
278 CR in rabbits is not associated with hyperadiponectinemia.

279

280 *MAT expansion does not occur during moderate CR in rabbits*

281 Our recent work reveals that in mice, CR-associated hyperadiponectinemia is blunted when MAT
282 expansion is impaired (2). Therefore, the lack of hyperadiponectinemia observed above suggests that
283 MAT expansion might be limited or absent during moderate CR in rabbits. To address this possibility, we
284 bisected bones of these animals and characterized BM adiposity. The BM of each group appeared grossly
285 similar, with no differences in the amount of fatty yellow marrow in humeri and femurs (Fig. 2A-B), or in
286 radii, ulnae, and tibiae (data not shown). To further assess MAT content, we analyzed whole femoral BM
287 for expression of transcripts and proteins typical of BM adipocytes, as well as total triacylglycerol
288 content; unlike the above qPCR analysis of tibial MAT (Fig. 1E), these analyses sought to determine
289 adipocyte content in more heterogeneous femoral BM samples. Control and moderate CR-fed rabbits had
290 similar BM expression of *Pparg* and *Lep* transcripts (Fig. 2C), while expression of Perilipin A protein
291 was also similar (Fig. 2D). In contrast, moderate CR was associated with a trend for decreased *Cepba*
292 expression and significantly lower *Adipoq* expression (Fig. 2C). Similarly, total femoral BM
293 triacylglycerol content tended to be lower with moderate CR (Fig. 2E). These observations suggest that
294 moderate CR does not lead to MAT expansion.

295 To fully determine the impact of CR on BM adiposity throughout the skeleton, we analyzed
296 adipocyte size distribution in MAT and red marrow (RM) obtained from different skeletal sites (Fig. 2F-
297 G; Supplemental Fig. 2). As shown in Supplemental Fig. 2, CR did not affect adipocyte size in any MAT

298 or RM depot analyzed, except in ulnae, where CR led to a small but significant increase in adipocyte size
299 (Supplemental Fig. 2H). This suggests depot-specific variation in MAT responsiveness to CR. Indeed, in
300 CR-fed rabbits the adipocytes in distal MAT depots (tibia, radius, ulna) tended to be larger than those in
301 proximal MAT (femur, humerus) (Fig. 2F). For further comparison, we also analyzed adipocyte sizes in
302 WAT. In contrast to RM or MAT, CR led to markedly decreased adipocyte size in iWAT, gWAT, and
303 pWAT (Fig. 2G; Supplemental Fig. 2I). WAT adipocytes were also significantly larger than BM
304 adipocytes in control-fed rabbits, but not after CR (Fig. 2G). Thus, adipocyte size and responsiveness to
305 CR differs both between BM and WAT, and also across different MAT depots.

306 Together, these analyses of BM triacylglycerol content, adipocyte marker expression, and
307 adipocyte size demonstrate that in rabbits, moderate CR does not lead to MAT expansion.

308

309 *Extensive CR in rabbits leads to BM adipocyte hypotrophy, suggesting loss of MAT*

310 The lack of hyperadiponectinemia and MAT expansion during these moderate CR studies was
311 unexpected. Given that effects of CR are dependent upon the degree of restriction (47, 57, 58), one
312 possibility is that the extent of moderate CR was insufficient to drive hyperadiponectinemia or MAT
313 expansion. Another possible explanation relates to the fact that our above studies were in skeletally
314 mature rabbits, whereas previous research into CR-associated MAT expansion in mice has been done in
315 young, growing animals (2, 15). To address these possibilities, we next investigated the effects of more
316 extensive CR in a cohort of young, growing rabbits. As found above for moderate CR (Fig. 1), extensive
317 CR was associated with significantly decreased body mass, fat pad mass, and circulating leptin (Fig. 3A-
318 C); however, each of these changes was more pronounced than those that occurred during moderate CR
319 (Fig. 1A-E). Bone length was also markedly decreased with extensive CR (Fig. 3D), consistent with
320 suppressed skeletal development observed in previous rabbit CR studies (59). Thus, extensive CR was
321 associated with expected effects on body mass, peripheral adiposity, circulating leptin, and skeletal

322 biology. However, as found for moderate CR, extensive CR did not affect total circulating adiponectin
323 (Fig. 3E-F).

324 We next assessed BM adiposity. Upon bisecting bones for MAT isolation we were struck by the
325 very dark appearance of BM in the extensive CR-fed rabbits (Fig. 4A-B), suggesting decreased BM
326 adiposity in these animals. Indeed, we were unable to isolate intact pieces of MAT from extensive CR-fed
327 rabbits, which prevented us from analyzing MAT adiponectin production in these animals. However, we
328 could isolate small pieces of less pure MAT from the radius and ulna, and from distal regions of the
329 humerus, femur, and tibia. Thus, to further assess effects of extensive CR on BM adiposity we analyzed
330 adipocyte size distribution in these MAT samples, and in RM obtained from humeri, femurs, and tibiae.
331 For comparison we also analyzed adipocyte sizes in WAT. We found that extensive CR led to
332 significantly reduced adipocyte size in each WAT depot; in humerus MAT and RM; and in femoral and
333 tibial RM (Fig. 4C; Supplemental Fig. 3). There was also a trend for decreased adipocyte size in radial
334 MAT ($P = 0.068$) and tibial MAT ($P = 0.077$). Such hypotrophy suggests lipolytic breakdown of BM
335 adipocytes and/or impaired MAT development, possibilities that remain to be formally tested; however,
336 these possibilities are highly likely based on current understanding of adipose tissue biology, and are
337 consistent with the conclusion that extensive CR leads to MAT depletion. One notable exception was the
338 ulna, where CR did not affect adipocyte size (Supplemental Fig. 3H). As noted for moderate CR (Fig.
339 2G), in extensive CR rabbits the distal MAT depots (tibia, radius, ulna) tended to have larger adipocytes
340 than more proximal depots (femur, humerus) (Fig. 4C). Differences in adipocyte size were even more
341 pronounced between BM and WAT, with gWAT, iWAT, and pWAT of control-fed rabbits having
342 significantly larger adipocytes than any of the RM or MAT depots (Fig. 4C). Thus, as found for the
343 moderate CR cohort, in control rabbits BM adipocytes are smaller than WAT adipocytes, and the
344 response of BM adipocytes to extensive CR varies across the different skeletal sites. Ultimately, both
345 moderate CR and extensive CR led to decreased circulating leptin without resulting in MAT expansion.

346

347 *MAT expansion is not associated with hypoleptinemia during CR in female mice*

348 The above findings demonstrate that hypoleptinemia *per se* is not sufficient to cause MAT expansion, at
349 least in rabbits. To determine the relevance of this finding to other species, we next investigated the
350 relationship between CR, leptin, and MAT expansion in mice. We fed male and female C57BL/6J mice a
351 control or 30% CR diet from 9-15 weeks of age and analyzed MAT, total adiposity, lean mass, and
352 circulating leptin. As expected, in both sexes CR was associated with decreased body mass (Supplemental
353 Fig. 4A-B), hyperadiponectinemia (Supplemental Fig. 4C, F), and significant MAT expansion, as
354 assessed by analysis of osmium tetroxide-stained tibiae (Fig. 5A-B). MAT expansion occurred
355 predominantly in the proximal tibia, from the growth plate to tibia-fibula junction, consistent with this
356 region containing ‘regulated’ MAT (rMAT) that is more responsive to external stimuli than the
357 ‘constitutive’ MAT (cMAT) in the distal tibia (43). However, other effects of CR differed between males
358 and females. Thus, in males CR led to decreases in total adiposity and the masses of iWAT, gWAT and
359 liver, both in terms of absolute mass (Fig. 5C-D) and percent body mass (Supplemental Fig. 4D-E).
360 Consistent with this decreased adiposity, circulating leptin was markedly lower in CR-fed males
361 compared to their control counterparts (Fig. 5E). In contrast, in females CR did not decrease the absolute
362 masses of iWAT, gWAT, or total body fat, despite decreased body mass (Fig. 5F-G; Supplemental Fig.
363 4B). As such, CR in females was associated with significantly increased body fat percentage and percent
364 iWAT mass, while percent lean mass was decreased (Supplemental Fig. 4G-H). Thus, unlike in male
365 mice, CR in female mice led to loss of lean mass without decreasing WAT mass or total adiposity.
366 Consistent with this maintenance of fat mass, circulating leptin did not differ between CR-fed females
367 and their control counterparts (Fig. 5H). These observations demonstrate that in female mice, CR-
368 associated MAT expansion is not associated with hypoleptinemia, suggesting that the latter is not required
369 for MAT expansion.

370

371

372 *MAT expansion during CR is associated with increased circulating glucocorticoids*

373 The above observations show that MAT expansion occurs during CR in mice but not in rabbits, and that
374 this is not associated with hypoleptinemia. Therefore, we next investigated if there is another endocrine
375 basis for this differential response. One well-established effect of CR is to increase levels of circulating
376 glucocorticoids, such as cortisol in humans and corticosterone in rodents (25, 60). In contrast, one study
377 finds that glucocorticoids are not increased during CR in rabbits (61). This supports the possibility that
378 differential MAT expansion during CR in mice and rabbits might relate to divergent effects on circulating
379 glucocorticoids. Therefore, we next analyzed circulating glucocorticoids in our cohorts of mice and
380 rabbits with or without CR. Consistent with previous studies, serum concentrations of corticosterone, the
381 major circulating glucocorticoid in rodents, were increased during CR in male and female mice (Fig. 6A-
382 B). In contrast, circulating cortisol and corticosterone were unaltered during moderate or extensive CR in
383 rabbits (Fig. 6C-F). These observations support the possibility that increases in circulating glucocorticoids
384 are a stimulus for CR-associated MAT expansion.

385 **DISCUSSION**

386 In the present study our original aim was to determine how CR affects adiponectin production by
387 MAT. However, in pursuing this goal we found, unexpectedly, that CR in rabbits does not lead to
388 increased circulating glucocorticoids, MAT expansion, or hyperadiponectinemia. Conversely, in female
389 mice CR-associated MAT expansion occurs without decreased circulating leptin, whereas in both males
390 and females CR is associated with increased serum corticosterone. Together, these observations provide
391 insights into the mechanisms of MAT expansion, the impact of MAT on bone remodeling, and the
392 potential function of MAT as an endocrine organ.

393

394 *Unexpected effects of CR in rabbits*

395 The lack of MAT expansion during moderate or extensive CR in rabbits was unexpected, because
396 increased BM adiposity during CR has been observed repeatedly in other species (18). However, while
397 previous rabbit studies report maintenance of BM adipocyte size even after 10-21 days' starvation (13,
398 14), there are no reports of *increased* MAT during CR in rabbits. Instead, MAT loss has been noted in
399 rabbits when food deprivation extends beyond 25 days (62, 63), which is far shorter than the 7-week
400 timeframe of our CR studies. Thus, extensive CR can lead to MAT loss in rabbits. Similarly, in anorexia
401 nervosa MAT expansion occurs in patients with more minimal weight loss, whereas BM lipid content and
402 adipocyte size decrease in patients with the greatest weight loss (17). In severely anorexic patients, BM
403 becomes serous-like, with atrophy of adipocytes and hematopoietic cells (64). MAT loss following
404 extensive CR has also been reported in other species (65). One limitation of our extensive CR studies is
405 that we did not sample total BM from any bones; hence, unlike for the moderate CR rabbits, we could not
406 analyze other markers of MAT content, such as total triacylglycerol. It is also plausible that extensive CR
407 causes BM adipocyte hypotrophy not because of MAT loss, but as a result of constraints imposed by
408 decreased bone size (Fig. 3D); however, this is perhaps unlikely given that CR also increases BM volume
409 via bone loss (2), which may compensate for decreases in bone size. Ultimately, the marked BM
410 adipocyte hypotrophy in extensive CR rabbits, together with the darker appearance of BM in this group,

411 supports the conclusion of MAT loss in this context. Together with the preclinical and clinical studies
412 described above, our findings demonstrate that MAT depletion can occur when the degree and duration of
413 CR are sufficient.

414 Although CR can cause MAT loss, we find that CR-associated adipocyte hypotrophy is far
415 greater in WAT than in MAT. Thus, MAT adipocytes might be more resistant to lipolysis than adipocytes
416 in WAT. Moreover, it is notable that, in moderate and extensive CR, adipocytes in WAT and MAT reach
417 a similar size. This suggests that MAT adipocyte size might represent a minimum threshold for
418 adipocytes, both in MAT and WAT, which is defended in catabolic states.

419

420 *Sexually dimorphic effects of CR*

421 In addition to the lack of MAT expansion in rabbits, our finding that CR does not decrease WAT
422 mass or circulating leptin in female mice was initially unexpected; however, our observations are
423 consistent with previous CR studies in female C57BL/6 mice. For example, Varady *et al* observe
424 increased scWAT and unaltered leptin after 25% CR from 7-11 weeks of age (66); Fenton *et al* report no
425 change in leptin following 30% CR from 6-16 weeks of age (67); and Li *et al* find increased adiposity
426 after 5% CR from 13-16 or 15-19 weeks of age (68). Our finding that CR decreases adiposity and
427 circulating leptin in male C57BL/6J mice is also consistent with previous studies (15, 69, 70), which
428 suggests that responses to CR in C57BL/6J mice are sex-specific. Similarly, Shi *et al* showed that CR in
429 FVBN mice leads to hypoleptinemia and decreased scWAT mass in males but not females (71). Such
430 sexually dimorphic effects of CR have also been noted in many other species (72-74). In humans, several
431 CR studies report greater loss of total or visceral fat mass in men than in women (75-78); however, this
432 has not been found in all studies (79, 80), and therefore the relevance of such sexual dimorphism to
433 humans remains to be established. Given the extensive interest in potential benefits of CR to human
434 health (81), this issue clearly warrants further investigation.

435

436

437 *Endocrine factors as potential mediators of CR-associated MAT expansion*

438 Our observations in rabbits and female mice suggest that hypoleptinemia *per se* is neither necessary nor
439 sufficient for MAT expansion during CR, which contradicts the hypothesis that hypoleptinemia is a key
440 driver of CR-associated MAT expansion (18). This hypothesis is indirectly supported by observations that
441 leptin-deficient mice have increased MAT, which decreases following exogenous leptin administration
442 (26, 32-34, 82). This leptin supplementation approach could also be used during CR to directly test if
443 hypoleptinemia is required for MAT expansion. Here, it would be important to ensure that such leptin
444 supplementation does not increase circulating leptin to supraphysiological concentrations. Indeed,
445 exogenous leptin administration also leads to profound MAT loss in animals that are not leptin-deficient
446 (34, 82, 83). In such states of leptin sufficiency, effects of exogenous leptin typically depend upon
447 administration of high doses that elevate circulating leptin to supraphysiological concentrations (84). In
448 contrast, our results demonstrate that hypoleptinemia alone, within a normal physiological range, is not
449 sufficient for CR-associated MAT expansion in rabbits, while lack of hypoleptinemia, without resorting
450 to exogenous leptin treatment, does not prevent MAT expansion during CR in female mice. Moreover,
451 estrogen deficiency is associated with increases in MAT and circulating leptin (4, 85), demonstrating that
452 hypoleptinemia is not required for MAT expansion in other contexts. Nevertheless, it remains possible
453 that our observations in rabbits and female mice are species-, sex-, age-, and/or protocol-specific. For
454 example, we cannot exclude the possibility that hypoleptinemia contributes to MAT expansion in male
455 C57BL/6J mice, or that moderate CR would promote MAT expansion in younger rabbits. Therefore, there
456 is clear utility in pursuing leptin supplementation experiments to directly test if hypoleptinemia is
457 required for MAT expansion during CR.

458 The basis for our observed species-specific differences in MAT expansion remains to be firmly
459 established. As described in the introduction, several endocrine changes have been proposed to contribute
460 to MAT expansion during CR, including decreased IGF1 and increases in FGF21 or glucocorticoids.
461 Circulating FGF21 increases during short-term fasting (23, 24), but recent studies demonstrate no
462 differences during longer-term CR (86). This argues against a role of FGF21 excess in driving MAT

Marrow fat expansion during caloric restriction

463 expansion during CR. In contrast, decreased IGF1 is well established during anorexia nervosa in humans
464 (60) and CR in rodents (58), supporting the possibility that this contributes to MAT expansion; however,
465 IGF1 also decreases during CR in rabbits (87), and therefore this is unlikely to account for the differences
466 in MAT expansion observed between rabbits and mice. Moreover, CR in non-anorexic humans was
467 recently shown to decrease bone mass without affecting circulating IGF1 (88), demonstrating that
468 decreased IGF1 is not necessary for effects of CR on bone.

469 Our present findings suggest that the species-specific differences in MAT expansion may relate to
470 effects on circulating glucocorticoids. CR-induced increases in circulating glucocorticoids are well
471 established in rodents and humans, but only one prior study reports the lack of this response in rabbits
472 (61). Our observations therefore build on this work by further demonstrating that, unlike in other species,
473 circulating cortisol and corticosterone do not increase during CR in rabbits. Given that glucocorticoids
474 increase BM adiposity (11), our findings support the possibility that increased circulating glucocorticoids
475 are necessary for CR-associated MAT expansion. We are currently investigating this hypothesis further.

476

Depot-specific differences in MAT characteristics

478 Two previous studies report that adipocytes in pWAT are larger than those in femoral RM (14,
479 89), consistent with our present findings that BM adipocytes are smaller than those in WAT. However,
480 our study is the first to comprehensively compare BM adipocyte sizes across different skeletal sites. We
481 found that adipocytes in distal regions of the skeleton (tibia, radius, ulna) tend to be larger than those in
482 MAT from more proximal depots (femur, humerus). Responsiveness to CR also varies across these sites:
483 unlike adipocytes in more proximal BM regions, adipocytes in ulnar MAT undergo hypertrophy during
484 moderate CR and resist hypotrophy during extensive CR. This is consistent with an early study of
485 starvation in rabbits, which shows that BM adiposity decreases more in proximal bones (e.g. humeri
486 ,femurs) than in distal regions (e.g. tibiae, radii, ulnae) (63). This is also consistent with our recent
487 research that identifies regionally distinct MAT subtypes with different characteristics: constitutive MAT
488 (cMAT) exists at distal sites and is relatively refractory to external stimuli, whereas regulated MAT

489 (rMAT) is interspersed within RM at proximal skeletal sites and is more responsive to external stimuli,
490 such as cold exposure (43). Our present analyses confirm and extend these observations by revealing that
491 CR-associated MAT expansion predominantly occurs within rMAT, while increases in cMAT are far less
492 pronounced (Fig. 5A-B). Determining if these site-specific differences extend to other MAT properties
493 might provide fundamental insights into MAT formation and function.

494

495 *Relationship between MAT expansion and bone loss*

496 Our results shed further light on the relationship between MAT and bone. Given that MAT is
497 increased in osteoporosis (3), BM adipocytes have been postulated to directly inhibit bone formation
498 and/or promote bone resorption (90-93). Indeed, increased MAT volume is now considered a clinical risk
499 factor for fracture (94). However, this concept is coming under scrutiny following numerous recent
500 studies (95). For example, across several inbred mouse strains there is no correlation between BM
501 adipocyte numbers and femoral bone mineral density (96), while blocking MAT expansion does not
502 prevent bone loss during type 1 diabetes or ovariectomy (33, 97, 98). Our observations in rabbits further
503 demonstrate that MAT expansion is not necessary for bone loss during CR. Such knowledge has direct
504 clinical relevance to diseases such as anorexia nervosa, which is associated with bone loss and life-long
505 increases in fracture risk (3, 99). It remains possible that altered MAT characteristics, independent of
506 MAT expansion, contribute to bone loss in osteoporosis, type 1 diabetes, CR, or other conditions.
507 However, our present study provides further evidence that MAT expansion *per se* does not promote bone
508 loss.

509

510 *Potential endocrine functions of MAT*

511 Our previous research supports the concept that MAT is an endocrine organ that contributes to
512 hyperadiponectinemia during CR (2). This conclusion is partly based on the observation that increased
513 MAT is required for full increases in circulating adiponectin during CR, at least in mice. Herein, we find
514 that neither MAT nor circulating adiponectin increases during CR in rabbits, while in mice the increases

515 in MAT and circulating adiponectin are greater in females than in males. These observations further
516 support the concept that CR-associated hyperadiponectinemia is linked to MAT expansion. Our rabbit
517 studies also reveal that MAT leptin expression decreases during CR, a phenomenon well established in
518 WAT (44, 47). In contrast, we find that CR does not increase adiponectin expression in MAT or WAT.
519 Our data also support the possibility that secretion of adiponectin is not increased, at least based on the
520 expression of known regulators of adiponectin secretion. Similar observations have been made for WAT
521 of rodents and humans (47-50, 54); however, given the lack of hyperadiponectinemia and MAT
522 expansion during CR in rabbits, the relevance of these observations to MAT of humans and other species
523 remains unclear. This uncertainty, as well as the inability to isolate sufficient MAT from extensive CR
524 rabbits, limited our ability to more comprehensively investigate the endocrine properties of MAT. Thus,
525 establishing how CR affects MAT's potential endocrine functions will require further studies in other
526 species. Such research will be crucial if we are to better understand MAT's nascent role as an endocrine
527 organ, as well as the impact of MAT on human health and disease.

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- 813
814

815 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

816

817 **Figure 1 – Circulating adiponectin does not increase during moderate CR in rabbits.** Adult male
818 rabbits were fed a control or 30% CR diet from 15 to 22 weeks of age, as described in *Materials and*
819 *Methods*. **(A)** Body mass was measured weekly and is presented relative to body mass at 15 weeks of age.
820 **(B-G)** After 7 weeks on CR or control diet, rabbits were euthanized and fat pads, serum, WAT, and MAT
821 were isolated. **(B)** WAT masses were recorded at necropsy. **(C)** Serum leptin concentrations, as
822 determined by ELISA. **(D-E)** Total RNA was isolated from iWAT (D) and tibial MAT (E). Expression of
823 the indicated transcripts was determined by qPCR and normalized to *Ppia* expression. **(F)** Immunoblot of
824 total adiponectin in sera from 22-week-old rabbits. **(E)** Densitometry was used to quantify serum
825 adiponectin from (F). Data in (A) are reported as mean \pm SD of 5 control and 6 CR rabbits. All other
826 graphs are box and whisker plots. Statistically significant differences between control and CR rabbits are
827 indicated as follows: * = $P < 0.05$; ** = $P < 0.01$; *** = $P < 0.001$.

828

829 **Figure 2 – Bone marrow adiposity does not increase during moderate CR in rabbits.** Control and
830 moderate CR rabbits (*described in Figure 1*) were euthanized and humeri, radii, ulnae, tibiae, and femurs
831 were removed. **(A, B)** Representative images of bisected humeri (A) or femurs (B); scale bar, 1 cm. **(C-E)**
832 Whole, intact BM was isolated from one femur of each rabbit, followed by isolation of total RNA (C),
833 protein (D), or lipid (E). In (C), expression of the indicated transcripts was determined by qPCR and
834 normalized to *Ppia* expression. In (D), perilipin A expression was determined by immunoblotting, with
835 alpha-tubulin used as a loading control. In (E), total triacylglycerol was isolated by TLC and the
836 concentration determined by an enzymatic assay. **(F)** Schematic showing the sites from which each
837 sample of RM or MAT was isolated. **(G)** Adipocyte size distribution in the indicated RM, MAT, or WAT
838 samples was determined by quantitative histomorphometry; median adipocyte size was then determined.
839 Data in (C) and (E) represent 5 control and 6 CR rabbits, and are shown as box and whisker plots. In (C),
840 statistically significant differences between control and CR rabbits are indicated by * ($P < 0.05$). Data in

841 (G) are reported as mean \pm SD of the following numbers of samples: femur RM - 5 control, 6 CR;
842 humerus RM - 5 control, 6 CR; tibia RM - 3 control, 5 CR; femur MAT - 5 control, 5 CR; humerus MAT
843 - 4 control, 6 CR; tibia MAT - 5 control, 6 CR; radius MAT - 5 control, 6 CR; ulna MAT - 4 control, 6
844 CR; gWAT, iWAT, or pWAT - 5 control and 6 CR. In (G), statistically significant differences in median
845 adipocyte size were assessed by two-way ANOVA. Lower-case letters indicate statistical significance for
846 the control tissues, while upper-case letters are used for the CR tissues; samples that do not share a
847 common letter are significantly different from each other ($P < 0.05$). Significant effects of CR, within
848 each tissue type, are indicated in Supplemental Figure 2.

849

850 **Figure 3 – Circulating adiponectin does not increase during extensive CR in rabbits.** Male rabbits
851 were fed *ad libitum* (control) or at 40% of *ad libitum* food intake (CR) from 6 to 13 weeks of age. **(A)**
852 Body mass was measured weekly. **(B-F)** After 7 weeks of CR or control diet, rabbits were euthanized and
853 fat pads, serum, and bones were isolated. **(B)** WAT masses were recorded at necropsy. **(C)** Serum leptin
854 concentrations, as determined by ELISA. **(D)** Lengths of the indicated bones were recorded at necropsy.
855 **(E)** Immunoblot of total adiponectin in sera from 13-week-old rabbits. **(F)** Densitometry was used to
856 quantify serum adiponectin from (E). Data in (A) are reported as mean \pm SD of 6 control and 6 CR
857 rabbits. All other graphs are box and whisker plots. Statistically significant differences between control
858 and CR rabbits are indicated as described for Figure 1.

859

860 **Figure 4 – BM adipocyte size is decreased during extensive CR in rabbits.** Control and extensive CR
861 rabbits (*described in Figure 3*) were euthanized and humeri, radii, ulnae, tibiae, and femurs were
862 removed. **(A, B)** Representative images of bisected humeri (A) or tibiae (B); scale bar, 1 cm. **(C)** Median
863 adipocyte size in the indicated RM, MAT, or WAT samples was determined by quantitative
864 histomorphometry, as described for Figure 2G. Because of the extent of MAT and WAT loss, from some
865 CR rabbits we were unable to detect any MAT for further analysis. Thus, data in (C) are reported as mean

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866 \pm SD of the following numbers of samples: femur RM - 6 control, 4 CR; humerus RM - 5 control, 4 CR;
867 tibia RM - 5 control, 4 CR; femur MAT - 4 control, 2 CR; humerus MAT - 4 control, 4 CR; tibia MAT - 6
868 control, 4 CR; radius MAT - 5 control, 5 CR; ulna MAT - 6 control, 5 CR; gWAT - 5 control, 3 CR;
869 iWAT - 6 control, 1 CR; pWAT, 5 control, 1 CR. Because femur MAT for the CR group is from only two
870 rabbits, the SD of this group represents 0.7071 times the range of the two data points. Significant
871 differences are indicated as described for Figure 2G. Data for iWAT and pWAT are from only one CR
872 rabbit, and data for femur MAT are from only two CR rabbits; hence, ANOVA could not be used to
873 assess statistical significance for these samples owing to uncertainty over the normality of data
874 distribution.

875

876 **Figure 5 – In female mice CR increases MAT without decreasing circulating leptin.** Male and female
877 C57BL/6J mice were fed *ad libitum* or a 30% CR diet from 9-15 weeks of age. **(A,B)** Tibiae from 15-
878 week-old mice were stained with osmium tetroxide followed by μ CT analysis. **(A)** Representative μ CT
879 scans of osmium tetroxide-stained tibiae. MAT appears as darker regions within each bone. **(B)** MAT
880 volume within each tibial region was determined from μ CT scans. **(C,F)** Body composition of 15-week-
881 old live mice was determined by NMR. **(D,G)** Masses of the indicated tissues were recorded at necropsy.
882 **(E,H)** Blood was sampled from the lateral tail vein of 15-week-old live mice. Serum was isolated and
883 leptin concentrations were determined by ELISA. Data in (C-D) and (F-G) are reported as mean \pm SD of
884 the following numbers of mice: male control, n = 6; male CR, n = 7; female control, n = 6; female CR, n
885 = 5. All other graphs are box and whisker plots. For each sex, statistically significant differences between
886 control and CR animals are reported as described for Figure 1.

887

888 **Figure 6 – MAT expansion during CR is associated with changes in circulating glucocorticoids.**
889 C57BL/6J mice (A,B) or New Zealand White rabbits (C-F) were fed control or CR diets, as described in
890 Figures 1-5. Blood was sampled at the end of the CR protocols and concentrations of total corticosterone
891 and cortisol were determined by ELISA. Data are presented as box and whisker plots. Within each group

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892 (male mice; female mice; moderate CR rabbits; extensive CR rabbits) statistically significant differences
893 between control and CR animals are reported as described for Figure 1.

Marrow fat expansion during caloric restriction

TABLES

	Control	CR	p-value
TV (mm³)	35.91 ± 0.83	39.87 ± 3.59	0.352
BV (mm³)	7.07 ± 3.32	7.05 ± 1.7	0.167
BVF (%)	27.1 ± 2.0	21.6 ± 1.0	0.032
Conn. Dens	9.62 ± 0.81	7.46 ± 0.47	0.041
SMI	0.61 ± 0.10	0.88 ± 0.17	0.211
Tb.N	2.60 ± 0.09	2.48 ± 0.05	0.271
Tb.Th	0.174 ± 0.01	0.170 ± 0.01	0.513
Tb.Sp	0.366 ± 0.02	0.40 ± 0.01	0.082
BMC (mg HA)	286.70 ± 15.14	231.49 ± 10.85	0.014

Table 1 – Characteristics of femoral heads of control and CR rabbits, as assessed by μ CT. Abbreviations are as follows: TV, trabecular volume; BV, bone volume; BVF, bone volume fraction; Conn. Dens, connectivity density; SMI, structure model index; Tb.N, trabecular number; Tb.Th, trabecular thickness; Tb.Sp, trabecular spacing; BMC, bone mineral content; mg HA, milligrams of hydroxyapatite.

Figure 1 – Circulating adiponectin does not increase during moderate CR in rabbits

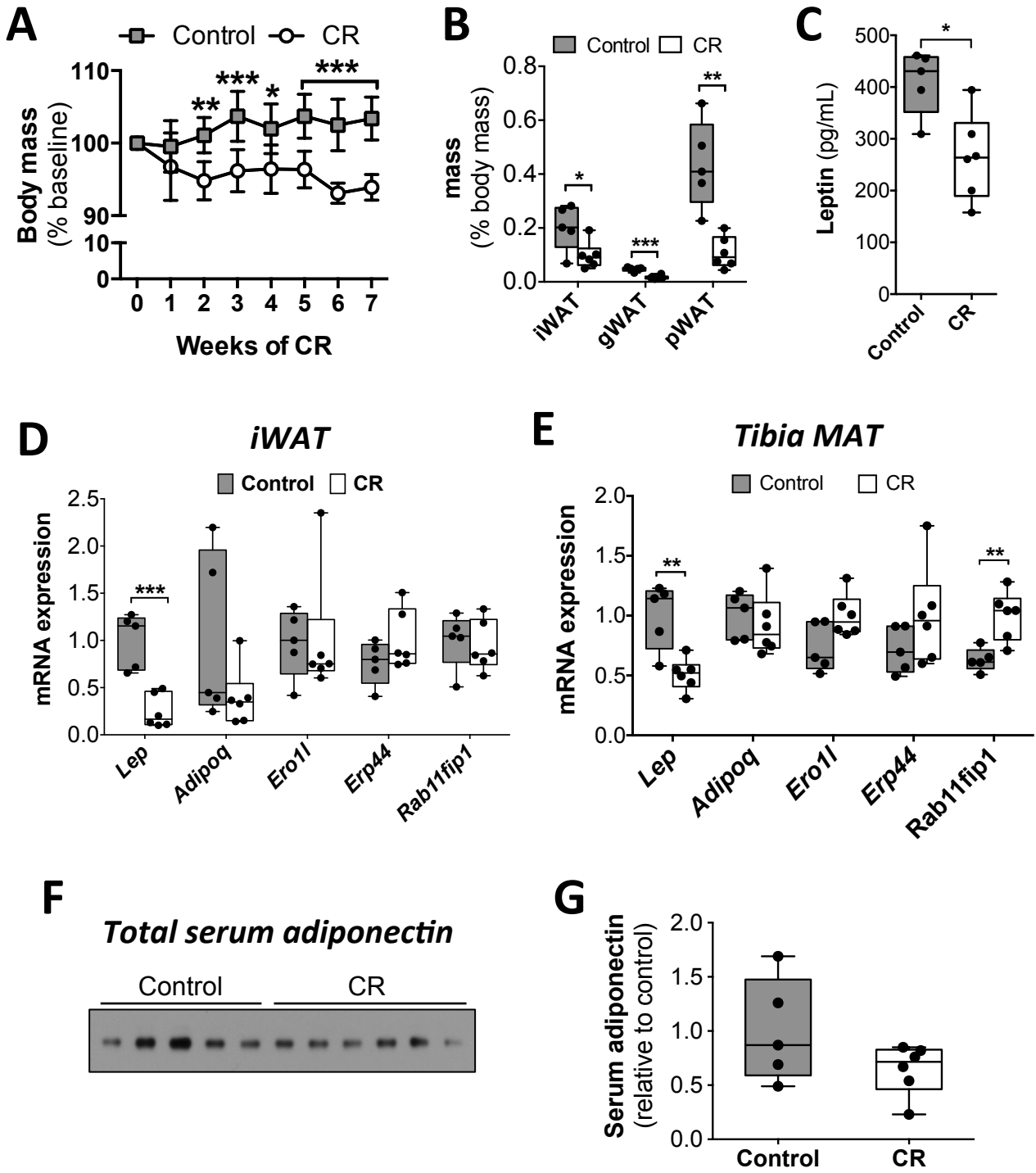


Figure 2 – Bone marrow adiposity does not increase during moderate CR in rabbits

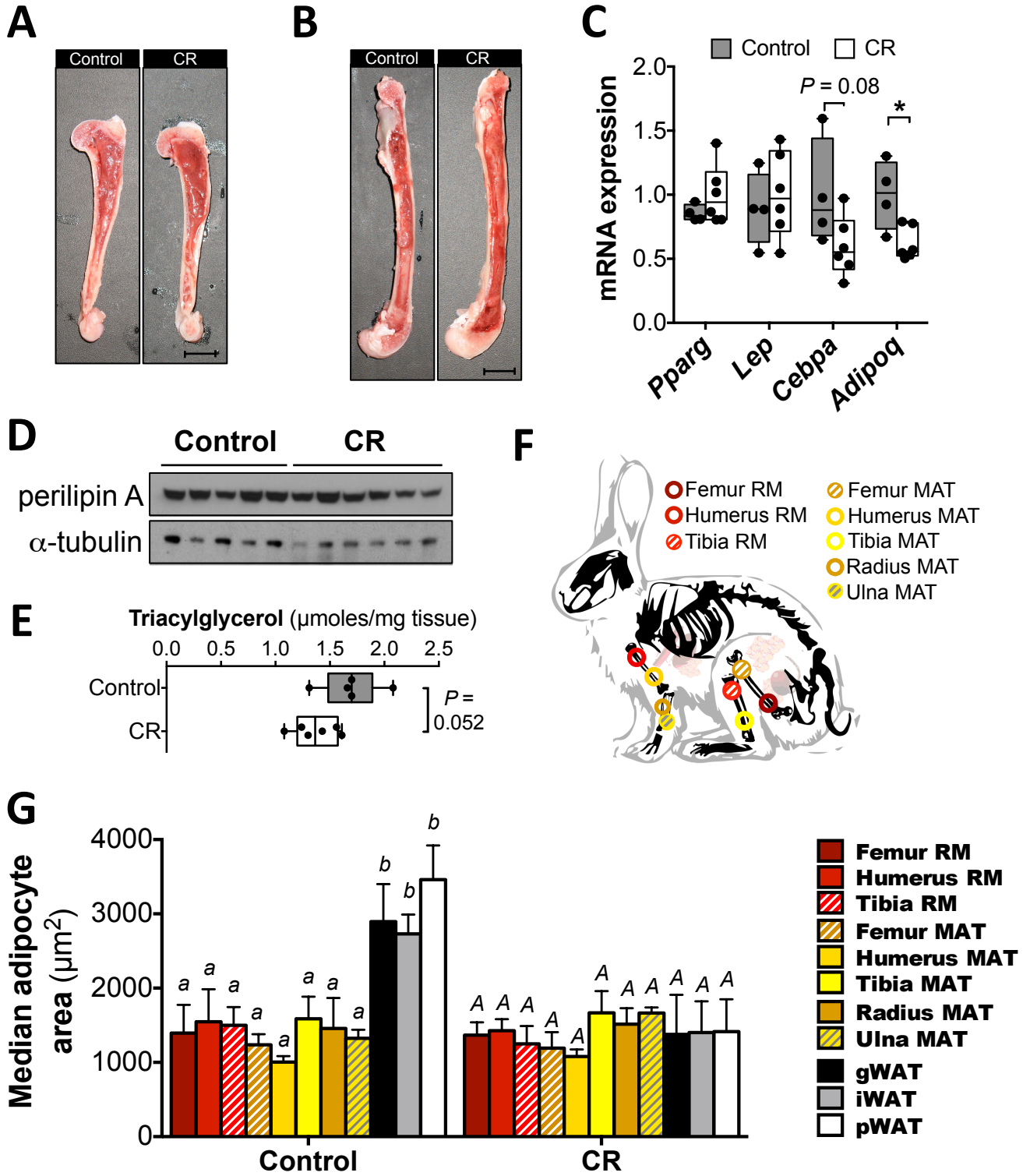


Figure 3 – Circulating adiponectin does not increase during extensive CR in rabbits

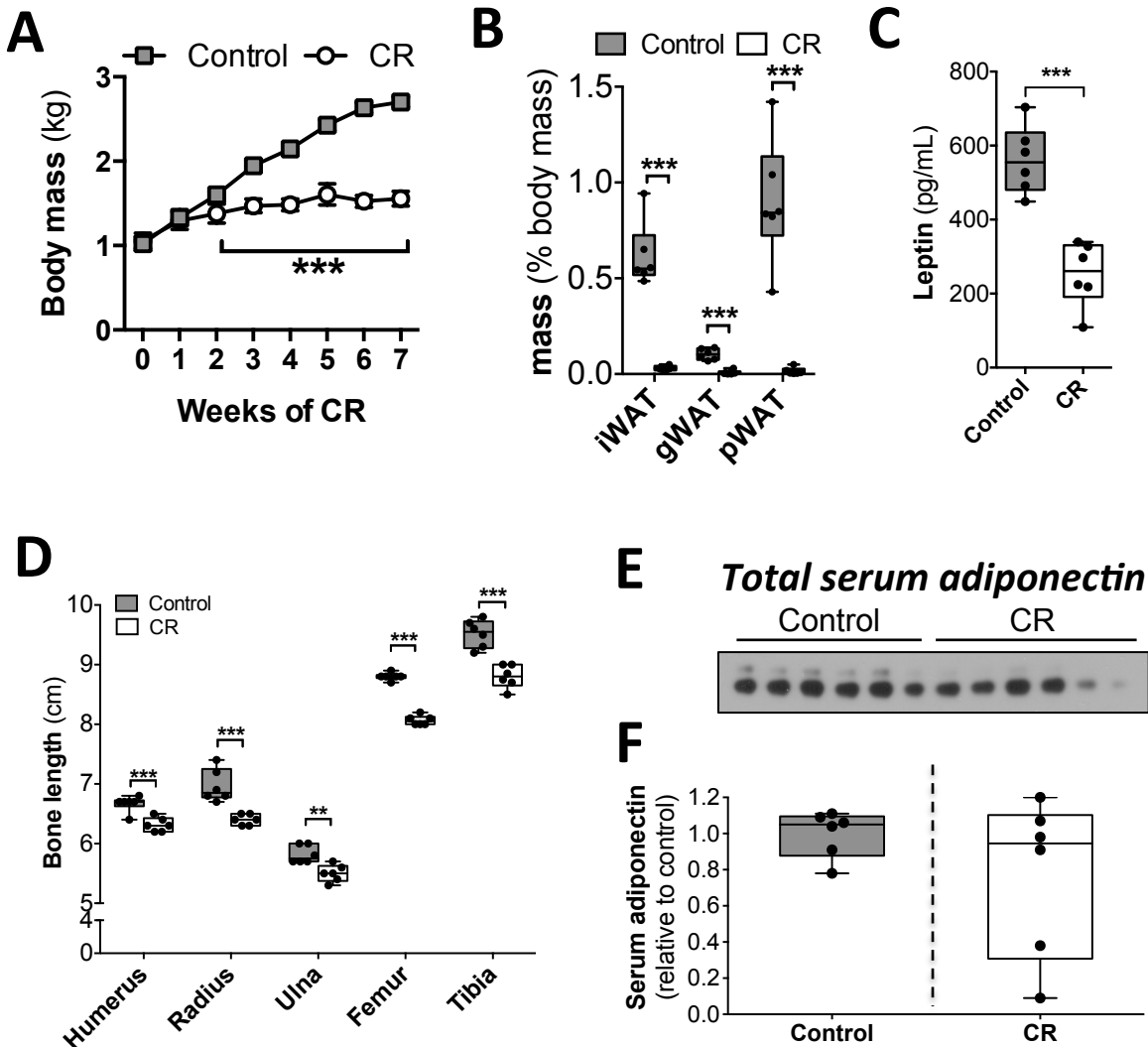


Figure 4 – BM adipocyte size is decreased during extensive CR in rabbits

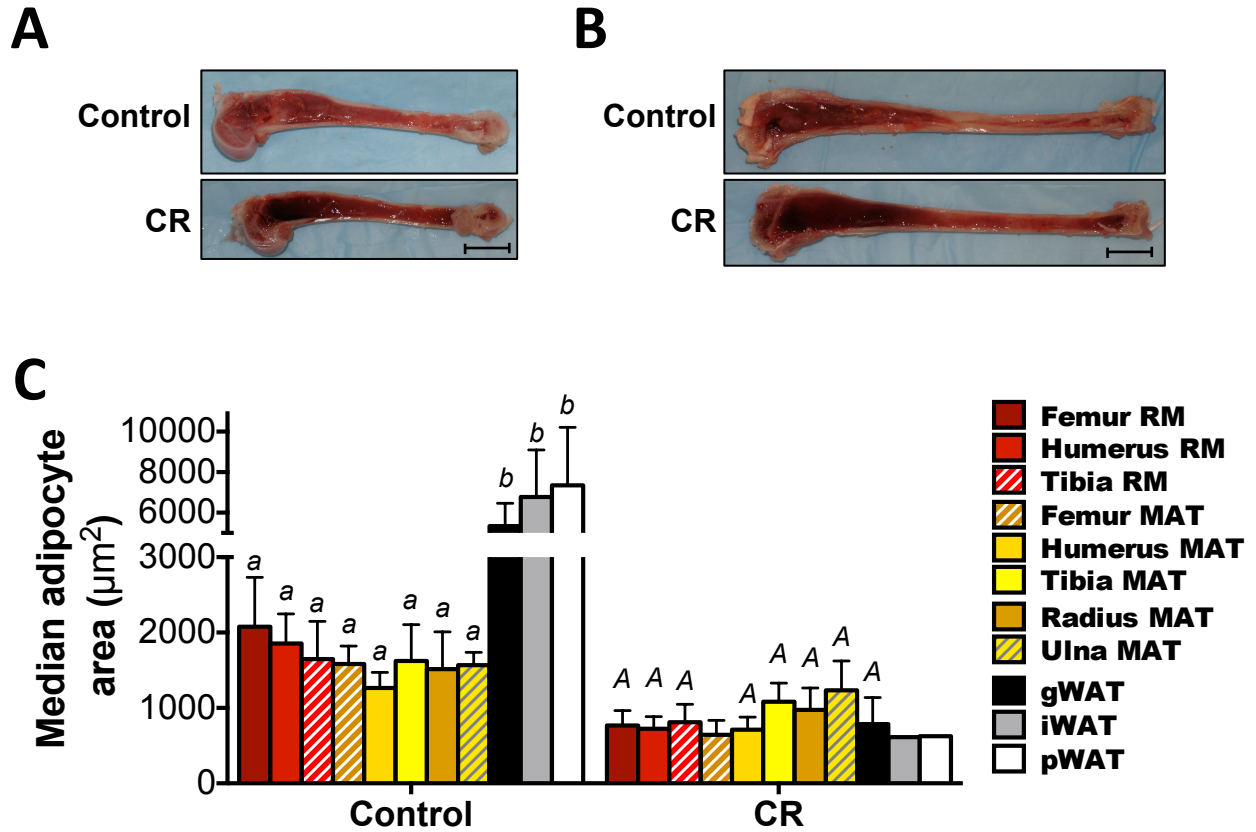


Figure 5 – In female mice CR increases MAT without decreasing circulating leptin

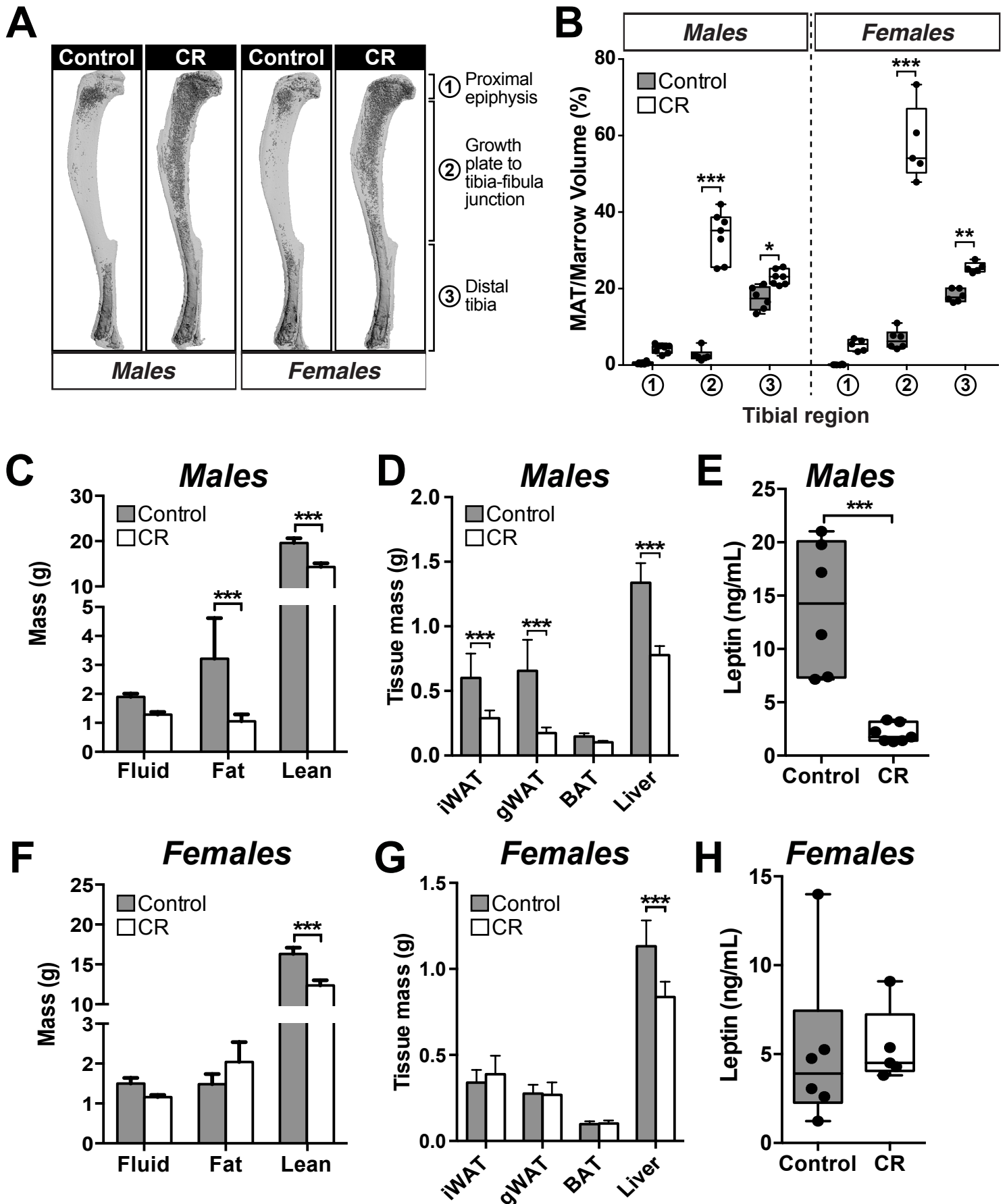
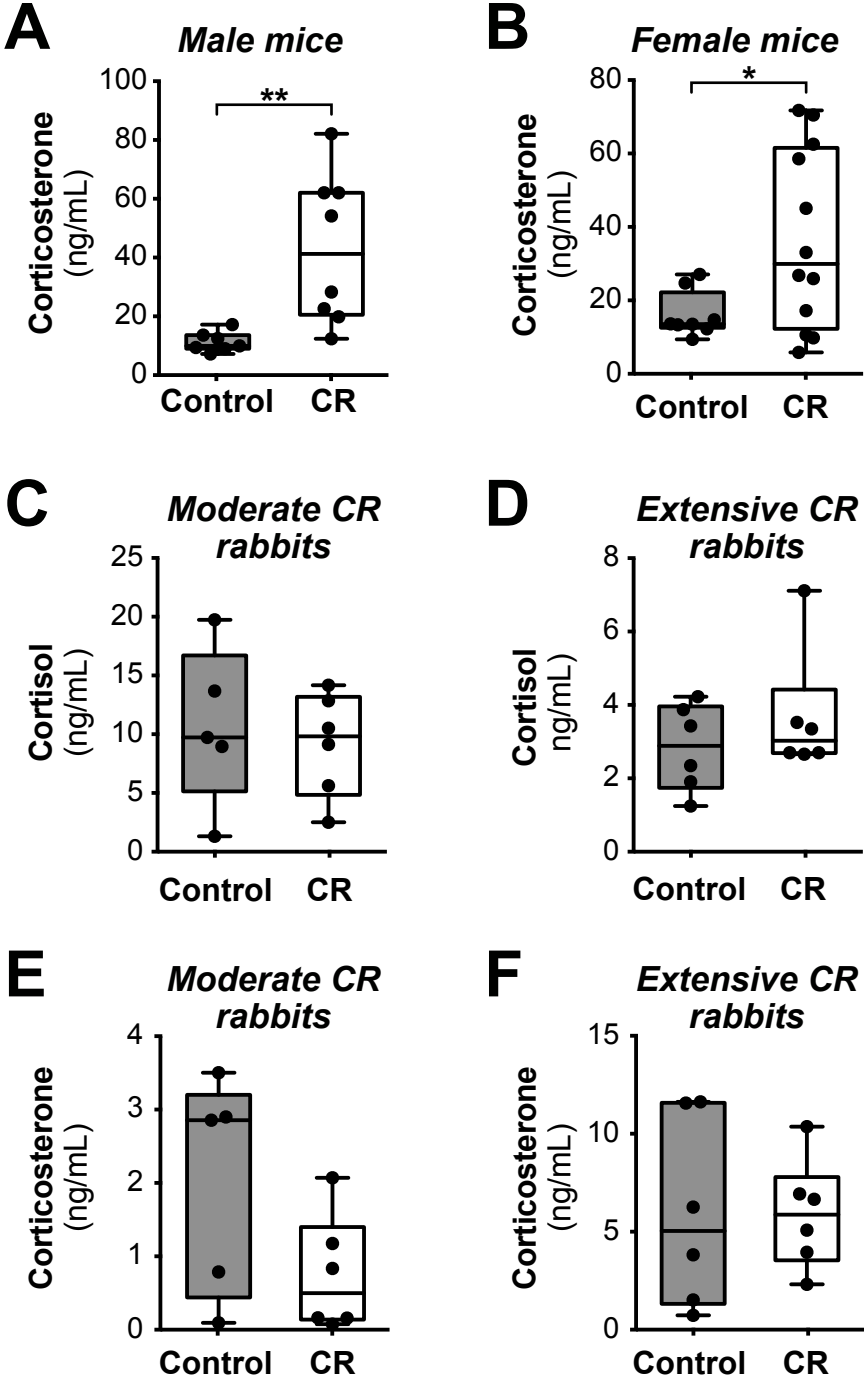
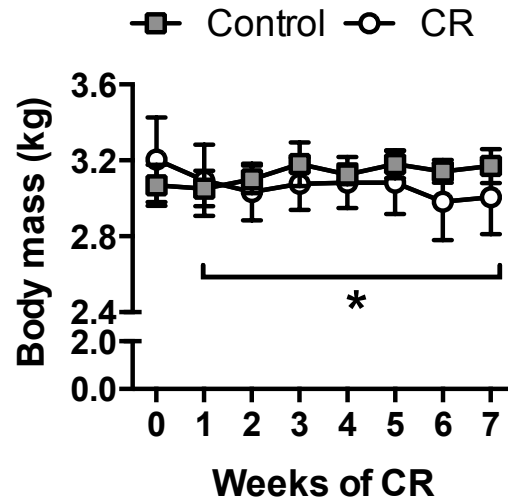


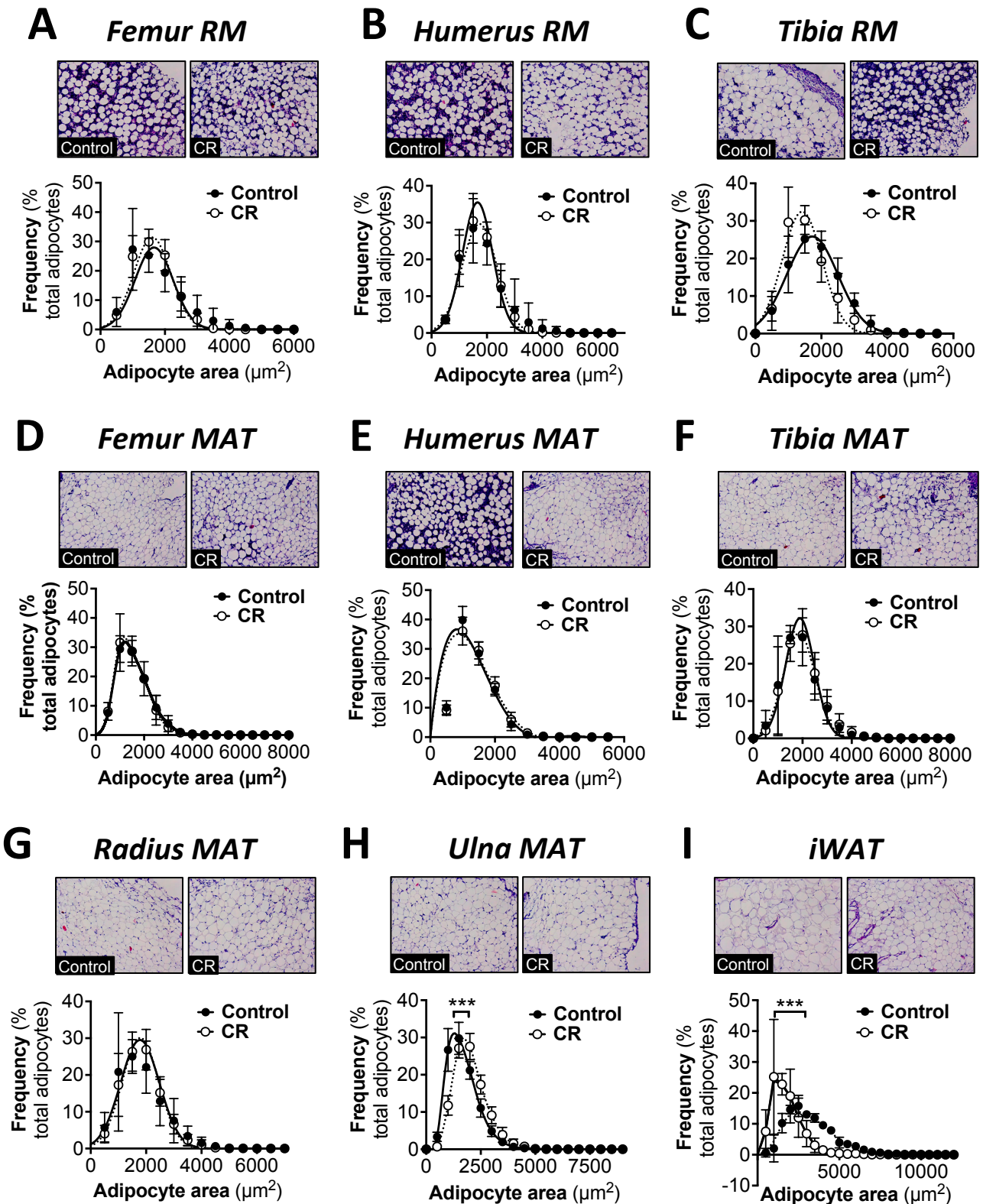
Figure 6 – MAT expansion during CR is associated with changes in circulating glucocorticoids



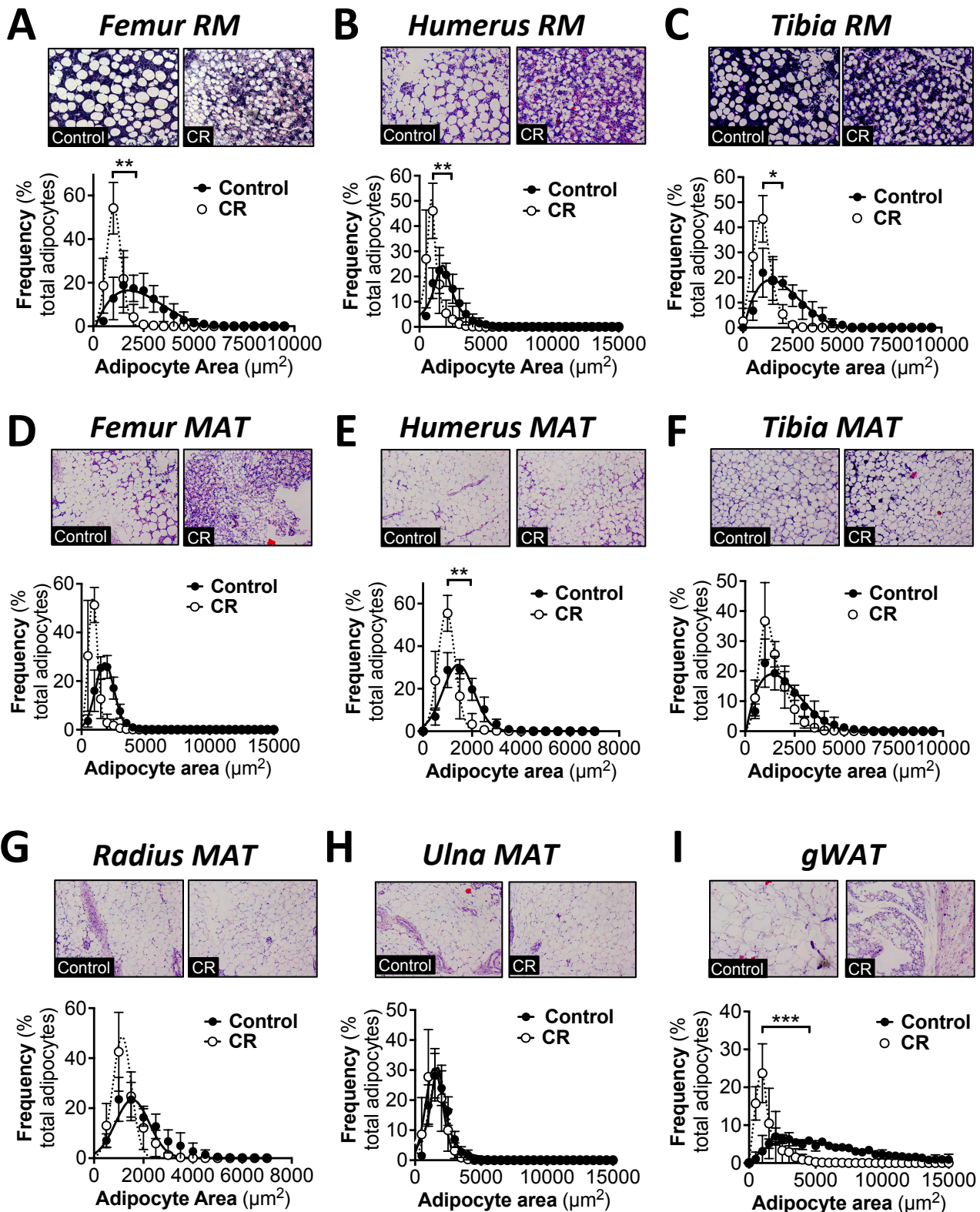
Supplemental Figure 1 – Body mass decreases during moderate CR in rabbits



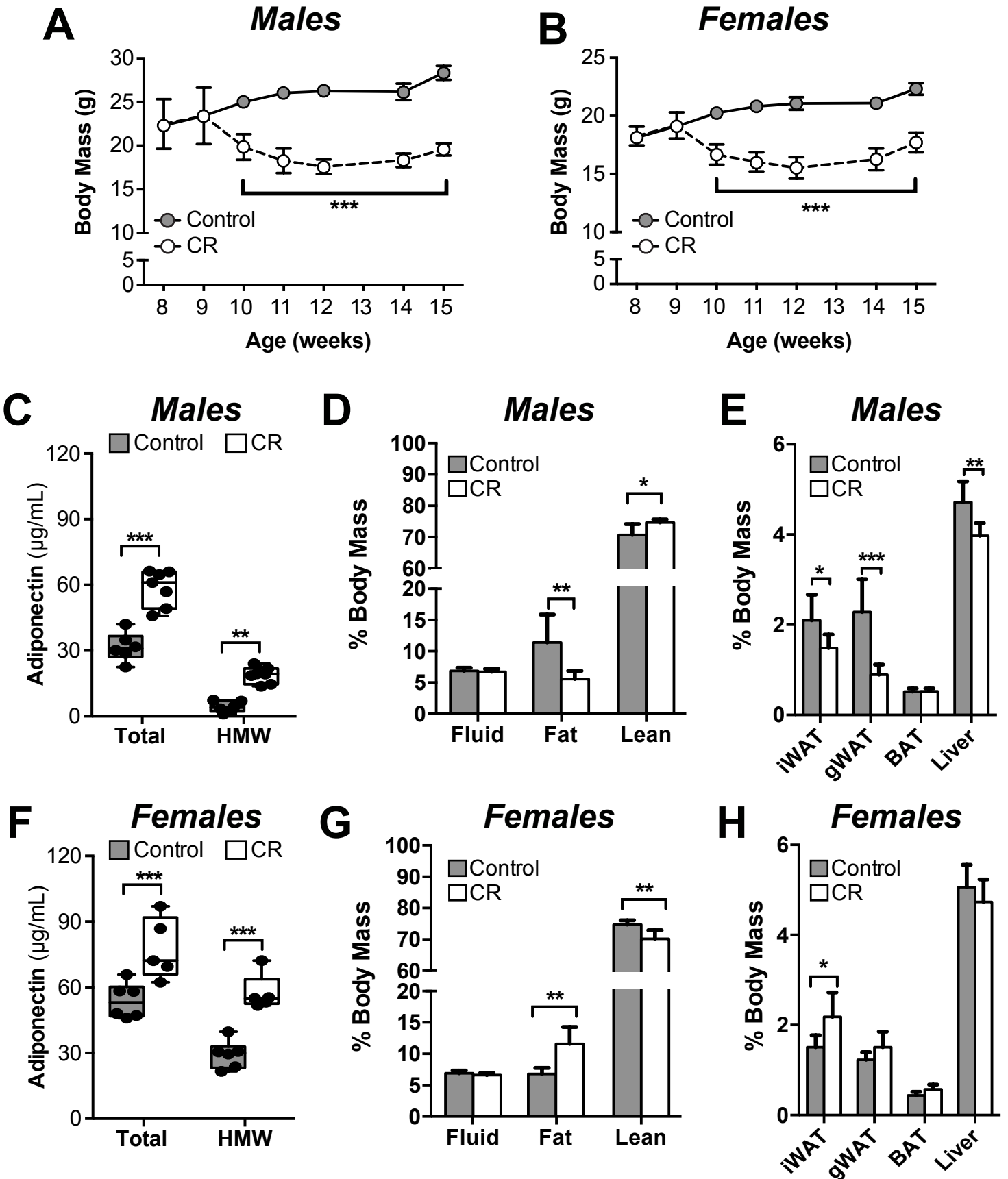
Supplemental Figure 2 – Effects of Moderate CR on adipocyte sizes in BM and iWAT



Supplemental Figure 3 – Effects of extensive CR on adipocyte sizes in BM and gWAT



Supplemental Figure 4 – Changes in body mass, body composition, tissue mass and circulating adiponectin during CR in mice



Supplemental Data – Figure legends

Supplemental Figure 1 – Body mass decreases during moderate CR in rabbits. Adult male rabbits were fed a control or 30% CR diet from 15 to 22 weeks of age, as described for Figure 1 and in the *Materials and Methods*. Body mass was measured weekly and is reported as mean \pm SD of 5 control and 6 CR rabbits. Statistically significant differences between control and CR-fed rabbits were determined by 2-way ANOVA. The average body mass of control rabbits did not significantly differ to that of CR-fed rabbits at each time point; however, body mass of CR-fed rabbits was significantly lower at weeks 1-7 of CR than at baseline (week 0), whereas body mass of control-fed rabbits did not differ over the course of the study.

Supplemental Figure 2 – Effects of moderate CR on adipocyte sizes in BM and iWAT. RM, MAT, and WAT were sampled from the indicated depots and processed for histological analysis. Representative micrographs of H&E-stained sections of each tissue are shown. For each tissue, adipocyte sizes were quantified by histomorphometry. Corresponding graphs of adipocyte size distribution are shown, with the frequency of adipocytes within each size range presented as mean \pm SD of the following number of rabbits: femur RM - 5 control, 6 CR; humerus RM - 5 control, 6 CR; tibia RM - 3 control, 5 CR; femur MAT - 5 control, 5 CR; humerus MAT - 4 control, 6 CR; tibia MAT - 5 control, 6 CR; radius MAT - 5 control, 6 CR; ulna MAT - 4 control, 6 CR; iWAT - 5 control, 6 CR. Significant differences in median adipocyte size between control and CR rabbits are indicated as follows: * = $P < 0.05$; ** = $P < 0.01$; *** = $P < 0.001$.

Supplemental Figure 3 – Effects of extensive CR on adipocyte sizes in BM and gWAT.

Samples were processed and data are presented as described for Supplemental Figure 1. For each tissue, data are presented as mean \pm SD of the following numbers of rabbits: femur RM - 6 control, 4 CR; humerus RM - 5 control, 4 CR; tibia RM - 5 control, 4 CR; femur MAT - 4 control, 2 CR; humerus MAT - 4 control, 4 CR; tibia MAT - 6 control, 4 CR; radius MAT - 5 control, 5 CR; ulna MAT - 6 control, 5 CR; gWAT - 5 control, 3 CR. Because femur MAT for the CR group is from only two rabbits, the SD of this group represents 0.7071 times the range of the two data points. Significant differences in median adipocyte size between control and CR rabbits are indicated as described for Supplemental Figure 2. Data for femoral MAT is from only two CR rabbits, and therefore ANOVA could not be used to assess statistical significance for these samples owing to uncertainty over the normality of data distribution.

Supplemental Figure 4 – Changes in body mass, body composition, tissue mass and circulating adiponectin during CR in mice.

Male and female C57BL/6J mice were fed *ad libitum* or a 30% CR diet from 9-15 weeks of age, as described for Figure 5. **(A,B)** Body mass was recorded weekly. **(C,F)** Blood was sampled from the lateral tail vein of 15-week-old live mice. Serum was isolated and concentrations of total and HMW adiponectin were determined by ELISA. **(D,G)** Body composition of 15-week-old live mice was determined by NMR. **(E,H)** Masses of the indicated tissues were recorded at necropsy and their percentage of total body mass was determined. Data in **(A-B)**, **(D-E)** and **(G-H)** are reported as mean \pm SD of the following numbers of mice: male control, n = 6; male CR, n = 7; female control, n = 6; female CR, n = 5. Data in **(C)** and **(F)** are box and whisker plots. For each sex, statistically significant differences between control and CR animals are reported as described for Figure 1.