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1
2 **A review about lycopene-induced nuclear hormone**
3 **receptor signalling in inflammation and lipid metabolism**
4 **via still unknown endogenous apo-10'-lycopenoids**
5

6
7 ***Dedicated in memoriam to Paola Palozza (†21.05.2013)***
8

9 Short title: Lycopene and nuclear hormone receptor mediated signalling
10

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29

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41

42 **Abstract:**

43

44 Lycopene is the red pigment in tomatoes and tomato products and is an
45 important dietary carotenoid found in the human organism. Lycopene-
46 isomers, oxidative lycopene metabolites and apo-lycopenoids are found in
47 the food matrix. Lycopene intake derived from tomato consumption is
48 associated with alteration of lipid metabolism and a lower incidence of
49 cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Lycopene is mainly described as a potent
50 antioxidant but novel studies are shifting towards its metabolites and their
51 capacity to mediate nuclear receptor signalling. *Di-/tetra*-hydro-derivatives of
52 apo-10'-lycopenoic acid and apo-15'-lycopenoic acids are potential novel
53 endogenous mammalian lycopene metabolites which may act as ligands for
54 nuclear hormone mediated activation and signalling. In this review, we
55 postulate that complex lycopene metabolism results in various lycopene
56 metabolites which have the ability to mediate transactivation of various
57 nuclear hormone receptors like RARs, RXRs and PPARs. A new mechanistic
58 explanation of how tomato consumption could positively modulate
59 inflammation and lipid metabolism is discussed.

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65 **1. Health beneficial effects of lycopene are linked to various nuclear hormone**
66 **receptor signalling pathways**

67

68 High consumption of fruit and vegetables is associated with a lower risk of
69 CVD (Leenders et al., 2013). Dietary carotenoids, in particular lycopene, are
70 among the constituents in various fruits and vegetables and their dietary
71 intake and serum levels are linked to these protective effects. Mechanistic
72 explanations to lycopene effects are mainly focused on its well established
73 antioxidant activity via inhibition and scavenging of reactive oxygen species
74 (ROS) production. However, current research is exploring novel mechanisms
75 such as modulation of inflammatory responses (Palozza et al., 2010) and
76 activation of nuclear hormone receptors (Aydemir et al., 2012; Aydemir et al.,
77 2013; Ben-Dor et al., 2001; Eroglu and Harrison, 2013; Harrison et al., 2012;
78 Lindshield et al., 2007; Stahl and Sies, 1996).

79

80 Epidemiological studies suggest a negative association between low serum
81 lycopene concentrations and high risk of coronary events and stroke (Karppi
82 et al., 2012; Rissanen et al., 2001), although this has been refuted by others
83 (Karppi et al., 2013; Sesso et al., 2005). In a cross-sectional study, biomarkers
84 for the risk of coronary biomarkers (total cholesterol and total cholesterol:HDL
85 ratio) were clinically improved in women consuming 24.3 mg of
86 lycopene/day of tomato rich products compared to women consuming the
87 lowest intake of 3.6 mg lycopene/day (Sesso et al., 2012). To further explain
88 this, evidence from experimental studies suggests that lycopene may act
89 through modulation of inflammation in atherosclerotic processes and obesity
90 (Palozza et al., 2010).

91

92 Key regulators of metabolic pathways linked to adipogenesis as well as to
93 inflammation mechanisms in the cardiovascular system are the Peroxisome
94 Proliferator Activated Receptors (PPAR α , γ , δ/β)(Menendez-Gutierrez et al.,
95 2012). Synthetic ligands of PPAR's have shown to exert beneficial effects
96 identified by lower CVD risk markers (Millar, 2013). PPAR α agonists are limiting

97 postprandial lipoprotein responses and increase HDL-cholesterol via lowering
98 of chylomicron production (Colin et al., 2012). PPAR γ agonists down-regulate
99 inflammation via immunomodulation of adipose tissue which results in
100 improved insulin sensitivity (Cipolletta et al., 2012). PPAR δ/β agonists inhibit
101 macrophage foam cell formation leading to lower inflammatory responses
102 induced by very low density lipoprotein (Bojic et al., 2012). PPAR's also
103 respond to diet-related ligands (reviewed in (Schupp and Lazar, 2010)) and
104 can therefore modulate target gene expression. This regulation has the
105 potential to modify lipid metabolism and inflammation pathways.

106

107 Cell studies using human macrophages have already shown that lycopene is
108 able to lower the formation of atherosclerotic plaques by lowering pro-
109 inflammatory responses via NF- κ B activation and ROS production (Lorenz et
110 al., 2012; Palozza et al., 2011b). Lycopene also attenuates foam cell formation
111 during cholesterol homeostasis via prevention of PPAR γ activation (Palozza et
112 al., 2011a). These cell studies are further supported by evidence from animal
113 models. Lycopene supplementation in atherosclerotic rabbits induced by
114 high cholesterol diet showed a reduction in total and LDL cholesterol in serum
115 but no modifications in aortic lesions (Lorenz et al., 2012). These results support
116 further evidence from human intervention trials on endothelial function
117 (Stangl et al., 2011).

118

119 Lycopene activity may be related to PPAR-mediated signalling, thus we
120 suggest that lycopene-metabolites could act as ligands of PPAR's which can
121 activate transcriptional signalling. Consequently, the activated PPAR forms
122 together with an RXR are, in our case, the major active transcription factors in
123 diet induced gene expression. Here we describe the current evidence on
124 these novel mechanisms with the aim to propose an explanation focused on
125 inflammation and lipid metabolism to evaluate how lycopene intake is
126 related to beneficial health effects.

127

128 **2. Lycopene and lycopene-metabolites in the food matrix**

129

130 The main source of lycopene in Western diets is tomato (*Solanum*
131 *lycopersicum* L.), the second most consumed vegetable in the world. In the
132 USA, it has been estimated that 80% of lycopene is consumed through
133 tomatoes and tomato products (Clinton, 1998). Lycopene content in tomato
134 can vary depending on the variety of the fruit, its ripeness degree, but also on
135 the environmental conditions (temperature, soil, etc.) (Dumas et al., 2003).

136

137 In red tomatoes, lycopene is usually present in its most thermodynamic stable
138 form, the (all-E)-form. Tomato and tomato based products also contain
139 various geometric lycopene-isomers, hydroxy- / oxo- / epoxy-metabolites in
140 addition to apo-lycopenoids (Figure 1), though in lower concentrations than
141 (all-E)-lycopene. (All-E)-lycopene can undergo isomerisation during
142 processing and various lycopene isomers are detectable in processed
143 tomato products (Chanforan et al., 2006). Lycopene 1,2-epoxide and 5,6-
144 epoxide have been found in fresh tomato (Ben-Aziz et al., 1973), whereas only
145 lycopene 1,2-epoxide was found in tomato paste and juice (Khachik et al.,
146 1998). Another lycopene epoxide, namely the 2,6-cyclolycopene-1,5 epoxide
147 has been found in its 2 diastereoisomeric forms in these tomato food products
148 (Khachik et al., 1998). This molecule could be the precursor of 2,6-
149 cyclolycopene-1,5 diol, previously detected in tomato paste (Tonucci et al.,
150 1995). Other oxidative lycopene-metabolites containing alcohol groups
151 (Yokota et al., 1997) were isolated in low quantity from tomato puree and
152 identified as 1,5-di-hydroxy-iridanyl-lycopene and 2,6-cyclolycopene-1-
153 methoxy-5-ol and 1,16-di-dehydro-2,6-cyclolycopene-5-ol (Yokota et al.,
154 2003).

155

156 Lycopene or oxidative lycopene-metabolites can further be converted to
157 apo-lycopenoids via targeted enzymatic cleavage or via unspecific
158 chemical cleavage of lycopene's hydrocarbon structure. Long-chain apo-
159 lycopenoids, i.e. apo-6'-lycopenal and apo-8'-lycopenal have been found in
160 extracts of tomato paste (Winterstein et al., 1960) with an estimated content

161 of 5 µg/g. Later, these were also found in lower levels in raw tomatoes, and in
162 addition further three apo-lycopenals (apo-6'-, apo-8'-, apo-10'-, apo-12'-
163 and apo-14'-lycopenals) were partly identified and partly predicted to be
164 present in tomato paste and in lower levels in raw tomatoes (Kopec et al.,
165 2010).

166

167

168 **3. Lycopene metabolism and molecular mechanisms of action**

169

170 Lycopene mechanism of action in biological systems has been thoroughly
171 studied and mainly described as being related to its antioxidant activity
172 (Erdman et al., 2009; Stahl and Sies, 1996). In addition, lycopene activity could
173 be mediated through its known and still unknown metabolites (Aydemir et al.,
174 2012; Aydemir et al., 2013; Ben-Dor et al., 2001; Dela Sena et al., 2013; Eroglu
175 and Harrison, 2013; Ferreira et al., 2003; Stahl et al., 2000). These unknown
176 metabolites could be the relevant bioactive molecules because they are
177 comparable to the structure of the retinoic acids which are the major
178 biologically active metabolites of β-carotene. The possibility that lycopene
179 and/or its metabolites act as ligands to initiate nuclear hormone receptor
180 mediated signalling has not been a major research focus but recent
181 observations by us and others point towards this direction (Aydemir et al.,
182 2012; Aydemir et al., 2013; Gouranton et al., 2011). Using reporter animals for
183 the retinoic acid reporter element (RARE), we found that lycopene can
184 activate RARE-mediated signalling in various organs in a similar fashion to that
185 of retinoic acids (Aydemir et al., 2012). Based on our own observations
186 (Aydemir et al., 2013), we hypothesized that retinoid-like lycopene
187 metabolites could act as bioactive molecules which can interact with
188 RAR/RXR (Aydemir et al., 2013; Gouranton et al., 2011). Recently, we identified
189 the endogenous RXR-ligand, 9-cis-13,14-dihydroretinoic acid which may also
190 indirectly originate from tomatoes and tomato products (Rühl et al., 2015).
191 RXR-ligands can also activate various heterodimers like RXR-LXR's and RXR-
192 PPAR's. These are involved in glucose and lipid homeostasis (Dawson and Xia,

193 2011; Perez et al., 2011; Shulman and Mangelsdorf, 2005; Shulman et al., 2004).
194 Thus, RAR and RXR-ligands derived from tomato provide an alternative
195 mechanistic explanation to the beneficial effects of lycopene intake on CVD
196 prevention (Dawson and Xia, 2011; Liu et al., 2000; Miyazaki et al., 2010; Perez
197 et al., 2011). We propose that based on lycopene-mediated RAR- and RXR-
198 pathways the key lycopene derived substances responsible for these RAR-
199 and RXR-mediated effects are the apo-15'-carotenoid acids, in particular *di-*
200 */tetra*-hydro-apo-15'-lycopenoic acids (figure 2). These are linear retinoic
201 acid analogues comparable to β -carotene metabolites which are potent
202 activators of several cell and receptor mediated mechanisms.

203
204 Other lycopene derivatives such as apo-10'-lycopenoic acid (Aydemir et al.,
205 2013; Ford et al., 2010; Gouranton et al., 2011) and in particular *di-/tetra-*
206 *hydro*-apo-10'-lycopenoids can also act as ligands of nuclear hormone
207 receptors. Relevant receptors to focus upon as a potential target for these
208 ligands are the PPAR's. PPAR's bind a large variety of PUFAs and their
209 metabolites (Forman et al., 1997; Forman et al., 1995; Kliewer et al., 1995;
210 Shiraki et al., 2005). Many of these PUFAs and PUFA-metabolites are of longer
211 chain length than the apo-15'-lycopenoids. PUFA-metabolite chain length is
212 more in the range of apo-10'-lycopenoids or apo-12'-lycopenoids, which
213 suggest that these structures are more likely potential ligands. Apo-10'-
214 carotenoids are described as BCO2-metabolites originating from excentric
215 cleavage of carotenoids and lycopene seems to be a good substrate for this
216 metabolic cleavage pathway (Hu et al., 2006; Lobo et al., 2012). Apo-10'-
217 lycopenoic acid may origin from dietary lycopene either as products of
218 oxidation (via BCO2-cleavage) or isomerisation and oxidation (figure 2)
219 (Amengual et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2006). To date, apo-10'-lycopenoic acid has
220 not been identified to be present endogenously (Gouranton et al., 2011; Hu
221 et al., 2006), but recently 7,8-*di*-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acid has been
222 proposed as a potential endogenous lycopene metabolite in mammals
223 (Gouranton et al., 2011). In addition, apo-10'-lycopenal has been predicted
224 to be present together with other apo-lycopenals in human blood serum

225 after tomato juice consumption for 8 weeks (Kopec et al., 2010). Apo-10'-
226 lycopenal and apo-10'-lycopenoic acid have been synthesized (Reynaud et
227 al., 2011) and further tested in various *in vitro* and *in vivo* models for nuclear
228 receptor activation potential (Catalano et al., 2013; Gouranton et al., 2011;
229 Reynaud et al., 2011). To support the potential role of these lycopene
230 metabolites as PPAR ligands we present novel results of interaction studies of
231 apo-10'-lycopenoic and apo-10'-lycopenal with RXR and PPAR's in two
232 different systems (Figure 3 and 4).

233

234

235 **4. Novel activities of lycopene metabolites and potential lycopene** 236 **metabolites**

237

238 In this review, we show novel data originating from COS1-based reporter cell
239 lines. We observed no RXR and PPAR α , δ/β and γ activation potential for apo-
240 10'-lycopenal and apo-10'-lycopenoic acids, neither in a potential
241 physiological or nutritional relevant range at lower nM concentrations (data
242 not displayed, because treatments ranging from 10^{-9} , 10^{-8} , 10^{-7} and 10^{-6} M
243 were all comparable to control-treatments) nor at higher concentrations of
244 10^{-5} M (figure 3). This indicates no biological relevant direct interaction with
245 nuclear receptors RXR and PPAR α , δ/β , γ .

246

247 However, when other indirect *in vitro* reporter techniques like target gene
248 expression analysis in MM6 cells (figure 4) were used, we observed that one
249 common PPAR-target gene, namely ADRP / PLIN2, was significantly induced
250 by apo-10'-lycopenal or -lycopenoic acid at 10^{-5} M (figure 4a) to an extent
251 comparable to the PPAR α synthetic ligand GW7647 used at relevant active
252 concentrations of 10^{-6} M (figure 4b). Contrary, the expression of other PPAR /
253 RXR-target genes like the enzymes BCO1 (Boulanger et al., 2003) and BCO2
254 (Gericke et al., 2013) were either non-affected or non-conclusively regulated
255 by these metabolites, this was also confirmed in studies by our groups
256 (Reynaud et al., 2011). This shows that PPAR-mediated signalling of apo-10'-

257 lycopeneoids needs further attention, in particular for apo-10'-lycopenal and
258 apo-10'-lycopenoic acid metabolites.

259

260 Apo-10'-lycopenoic acid has not been found yet as an endogenous
261 metabolite *in vivo* and apo-10'-lycopenal has been predicted to be present
262 in human plasma at a concentration of $0.28 \pm 0.10 \cdot 10^{-9}$ M following a
263 supplementation diet with tomato juice for 8 weeks (Kopeck et al., 2010). The
264 concentrations we used in MM6 cell model were higher than the nutritional
265 relevant levels but comparable to concentrations used in the COS1-based
266 reporter cell models. We hypothesize based on our results (Gouranton et al.,
267 2011) and based on results from other studies (Ip et al., 2013; Ip et al., 2015;
268 Lian and Wang, 2008; Lian et al., 2007; Tan et al., 2014), that further metabolic
269 activation may lead to novel biological active metabolites of apo-10'-
270 lycopenal, apo-10'-lycopenoic acid and/or lycopene. We additionally
271 postulate that these novel metabolites can further directly interact and
272 initiate PPAR α , δ/β or γ -RXR mediated signalling in lower relevant endogenous
273 or nutritional concentrations. These novel potential metabolites of apo-10'-
274 lycopeneoids have not yet been identified, but we are in the process of further
275 identification and investigation in regard to their physiological and nutritional
276 relevance.

277

278 In summary, the lycopene metabolite apo-10'-lycopenal and the potential
279 lycopene-metabolite apo-10'-lycopenoic acid were not able to directly
280 activate the nuclear hormone receptors RXR and PPARs in reporter cell lines.
281 We speculate that further metabolites of apo-10'-lycopenal or apo-10'-
282 lycopenoic acid can interact with PPARs and RXR, as indicated by increased
283 ADPR / PLIN2 (representing a PPAR-RXR target gene) expression in MM6-cell
284 lines.

285

286

287 **5. Carotenoid metabolites as nuclear hormone receptor mediated signalling**
288 **agonists: RXR / PPAR α , δ/β , γ**

289

290 Based on simulation experiments using ligand-docking strategies, our groups
291 are currently working to identify lycopene-metabolites which may have the
292 potential to directly interact with nuclear hormone receptors. Using in silico
293 docking studies, we suggest that *di*- or *tetra*-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acids
294 may be present endogenously or after nutritional interventions with tomato
295 and its products (Gouranton et al., 2011). We propose that *di*- or *tetra*-hydro-
296 apo-10'-lycopenoic acids derivatives may also obtain PPAR-activating
297 potential. Our hypothesis is based on the fact that these derivatives have
298 similar shape and structure elements to those of PPAR-activators as shown in
299 figure 5. Comparison of the docking poses (AutoDoc: (Morrison et al., 1999))
300 of the endogenous PPAR γ -ligand 15-deoxy-d12,14-prostaglandin J2 (15-
301 deoxy-d12,14-PgJ2) and a potential lycopene-metabolite *tetra*-hydro-apo-
302 10'-lycopenoic acid after removal of the fibrate ligand (Nolte et al., 1998)
303 shows similar organization in the PPAR γ -binding pocket (figure 6). These
304 observations let us postulate the potential of comparable shaped lycopene-
305 metabolites to be physiologically relevant for PPAR-mediated signalling.
306 Several solutions for the docking of the more flexible lycopene metabolite
307 were found. These multiple binding options are compatible with the large Y-
308 shaped ligand binding pocket of the PPAR subtypes (Markt et al., 2008).

309

310

311 **Conclusion**

312

313 We previously described the potential metabolite 7,8-*di*-hydro-apo-10'-
314 lycopenoic acid (Gouranton et al., 2011) originating from apo-10'-lycopenoic
315 acid as a relevant lycopene metabolite derived from a food matrix and
316 related to tomato / lycopene ingestion. PPAR-mediated systemic effects on
317 lipid and glucose metabolism (in particular insulin sensitivity) are relevant to
318 CVD risk factors. Based on our observations we postulate a connection
319 between tomato intake, lycopene intake, lycopene metabolism and nuclear
320 hormone receptor activation with a focus on the activation of RXR and

321 PPAR α , δ/β , γ mediated pathways by lycopene metabolites. These novel
322 potential lycopene metabolites are suggested to be *di-/tetra*-hydro-
323 derivatives of apo-15'-lycopenoic acid and apo-10'-lycopenoic acid. These
324 metabolites may directly activate RXRs and PPARs in relevant endogenous or
325 nutritional levels and may therefore alter gene expression which could result in
326 physiological events related to inflammation processes, and/or lipid and
327 glucose metabolism. These proposed interactions and pathways are a novel
328 explanation for the protective health effects of lycopene and tomato, in
329 particular those related to lipid metabolism, inflammation and insulin
330 sensitivity. Our hypothesis guarantees to perform further targeted
331 investigations to test and further elucidate these proposed mechanisms.

332

333 Our groups will focus on the identification of various bioactive lycopene
334 metabolites namely *di-/tetra*-hydro-derivatives of apo-15'-lycopenoic acid
335 and apo-10'-lycopenoic acid using mainly HPLC-MS techniques.
336 Unfortunately, the commonly used animal models, mice and rats, are not
337 ideal models for carotenoid metabolism to be extrapolated to humans due to
338 their different carotenoid nutri-kinetic. Nevertheless, gerbils can be an
339 alternative because they are a model more suitable for comparisons with
340 humans (Lee et al., 1999). When novel bioactive endogenous lycopene
341 metabolites are identified, targeted organic synthesis can make them
342 available in larger quantities for further biological testing in *in vitro* as well as *in*
343 *vivo* models. We expect that via our planned experimental strategies soon we
344 will find important new pathways to explain how tomatoes and tomato-
345 products can influence and prevent various chronic diseases relevant to
346 humans. Targeted strategies based on identification of levels of these
347 bioactive compounds derived from food intake can be used as disease
348 biomarkers and will help to develop and plan better nutritional strategies for
349 prevention of various chronic diseases based on altered lipid metabolism and
350 inflammation.

351

352

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356 Facultad de Química, Vigo, Spain).

357

358 **Figure legends:**

359

360 **Figure 1:** Representative examples of lycopene-metabolites present in the
361 human diet and organism: Lycopene isomers, oxidative lycopene metabolites
362 and apo-lycopenoids.

363

364 **Figure 2:** Lycopene metabolism and potential mediation of nuclear hormone
365 receptor activation. Retinoic acid receptor (RAR), retinoid X receptor (RXR),
366 Peroxisomal proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR).

367

368 **Figure 3:** Relative induction of PPAR α , PPAR β/δ , PPAR γ and RXR activation in
369 reporter cell lines by apo-10'-lycopenoic acid (apo10L-ac), apo-10'-
370 lycopenal (apo10L-ald) or PPAR-selective synthetic or endogenous activators
371 of each specific receptor. WY14643 (PPAR α), RSG (Rosiglitazone, PPAR γ),
372 GW0742 (PPAR β/δ) or 9CRA (RXR), each n=4..

373

374 *Used methodologies: COS1 cells were maintained in DMEM medium with 10%*
375 *FBS, 5% L-glutamine, 1% penicillin streptomycin in 24-well plates and*
376 *transfections were carried out in triplicates. Cells were transfected with equal*
377 *amounts of relevant plasmids including Gal-RXR α -LBD for RXR-reporter line or*
378 *Gal-PPAR $\alpha\delta\gamma$ -LBD and Gal-RXR α -LBD for PPAR-RXR reporter line, a reporter*
379 *plasmid (luciferase MH100-TKLuc reporter construct with GAL-binding site*
380 *(Nagy et al., 1999) and beta-galactosidase (for transfection efficiency*
381 *calculation). The resulting normalized values are plotted as a bar graph \pm the*
382 *standard error. For details of transfection and measurements see (Rühl et al.,*
383 *2015).*

384

385 **Figure 4:** a) Fold induction of ADRP expression by apo-10'-lycopenoic acid
386 (apo10L-ac), apo-10'-lycopenal (apo10L-ald), each n=3 or b) synthetic and
387 selective activators of PPAR α , β/δ and γ (WY14643 (PPAR α), GW7845 (PPAR γ),
388 GW1516 (PPAR β/δ), each n=3.

389

390 Used methodologies; target gene analysis in Mono Mac 6 (MM6) cell in vitro:
391 MM6 cells were maintained in RPMI-1640 medium containing 10% foetal
392 bovine serum, 5% L-glutamine, supplemented with 0.1 % penicillin-
393 streptomycin and kept under controlled atmosphere at 37 °C and 5% CO₂.
394 Cells were subcultured every two days at a density of approximately 10⁶ cells/
395 ml. Prior plating and counted by means of a Bürker chamber, centrifuged at
396 1000 rpm with a Jouan C312 centrifuge and the obtained cell pellets were
397 resuspended in RPMI-1640 medium containing 10% charcoal stripped serum,
398 5% L-glutamine, supplemented with 0.1% penicillin-streptomycin. Cells were
399 incubated for 6 hours and apo10L-ac, apo10L-ald and PPAR α , δ/β , γ -selective
400 synthetic agonists (at relevant active concentration of 10⁻⁶M) were added in
401 an amount of 3 μ l / well. Cells were incubated for 48 hours at 37 °C and 5 %
402 CO₂. Total RNA was isolated from cultured cells using Tri reagent solution
403 according to the manufacturer's instructions. Before real-time quantitative
404 PCR (QRT-PCR), total RNA was reverse transcribed into cDNA using the Super
405 Script II First-Standard Synthesis System (Invitrogen). QRT-PCR was carried out
406 in triplicate using Taqman probes on an ABI Prism 7900. mRNA levels were
407 normalized to the level of cyclophilin, which served as an internal control for
408 the amount of RNA used in each reaction. The resulting normalized values are
409 plotted as a bar graph \pm the standard error. Sequence Detector software
410 (version 2.1) was used for data analysis.

411
412 **Figure 5:** PPAR activators: 15-deoxy-d12,14-PgJ2 (endogenous relevant PPAR γ
413 activator), Rosiglitazone (synthetic PPAR γ activator) and 7,8,11,12-tetra-hydro-
414 apo-10'-lycopenoic acid (as a potential lycopene-derived PPAR activator).

415
416 **Figure 6:** Docking poses of 15-deoxy-d12,14-PgJ2 (grey structure) and
417 7,8,11,12-tetra-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acid (yellow structure) bound to
418 PPAR γ (PDB code 2i4j). 7,8,11,12-tetra-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acid binds in
419 a similar way that others agonists of PPAR γ such as the fibrate derivative and
420 the carboxylic acid have contact with Tyr473 and His 323 and His 449 and
421 Ser289 (not shown for clarity).

422 DOCKING METHODS: The genetic algorithm (Morrison et al., 1999)
423 implemented in AutoDock with the fibrate-bound PPAR γ crystal structure
424 ((PDB code 2i4j) (Nolte et al., 1998) upon removal of the ligand was used to
425 generate different PPAR γ 15-deoxy-d12,14-PGJ2 and 7,8,11,12-tetra-hydro-
426 apo-10'-lycopenoic acid conformers by randomly changing torsion angles
427 and the overall orientation of the molecules. A volume for exploration was
428 defined in the shape of a three-dimensional cubic grid with a spacing of 0.3 Å
429 that enclosed the residues that are known to make up the inhibitors binding
430 pocket. At each grid point, the receptor's atomic affinity potentials for carbon
431 and hydrogen atoms present in the studied ligands were pre-calculated for
432 rapid intra- and intermolecular energy evaluation of the docking solutions for
433 each inhibitor. To obtain additional validation of the proposed binding mode
434 for the ligands, program GRID (<http://www.moldiscovery.com>) was also used
435 to search for sites on the enzyme that could be complementary to the
436 functional groups present in this inhibitor. The probes used were C3 (methyl
437 CH3 group), COO- (aliphatic carboxylate). For the GRID calculations, a 18Å ×
438 21Å × 21Å lattice of points spaced at 0.5 Å was established at the binding site.
439 The dielectric constants chosen were 4.0 for the macromolecule and 80.0 for
440 the bulk water. Several solutions for the docking of the more flexible 7,8,11,12-
441 tetra-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acid were found and are compatible with
442 the large Y-shaped LBP of the PPAR subtypes (Markt et al., 2008).

443

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664 **Figure 1:**
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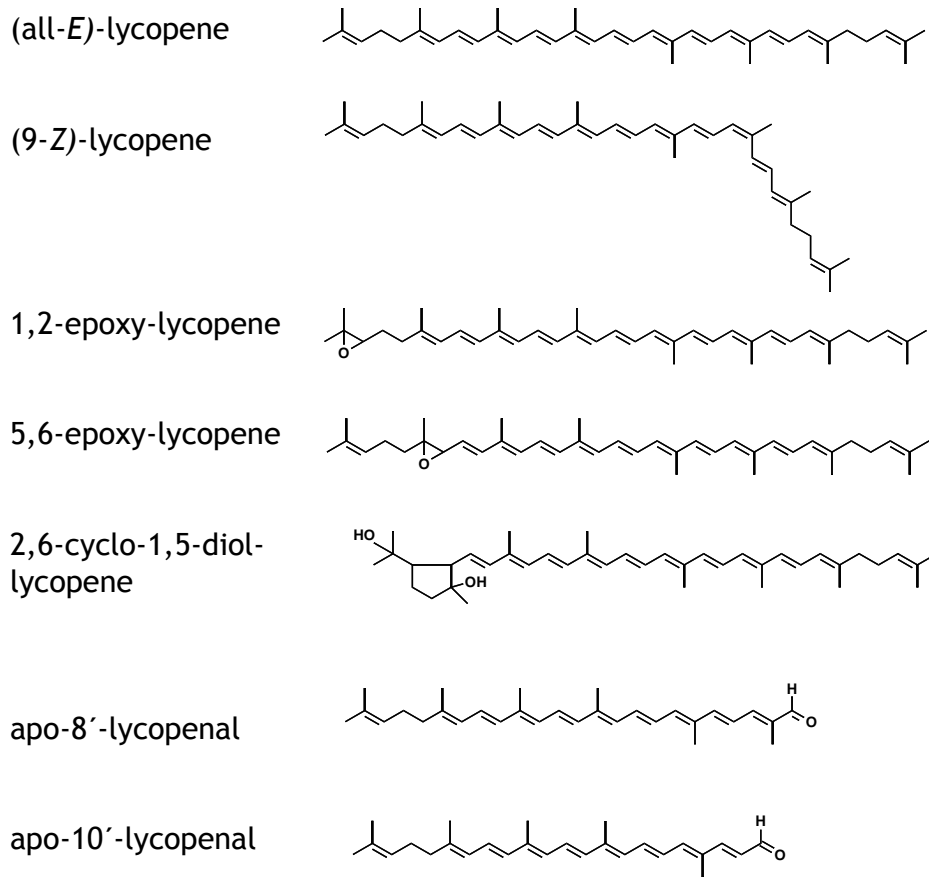
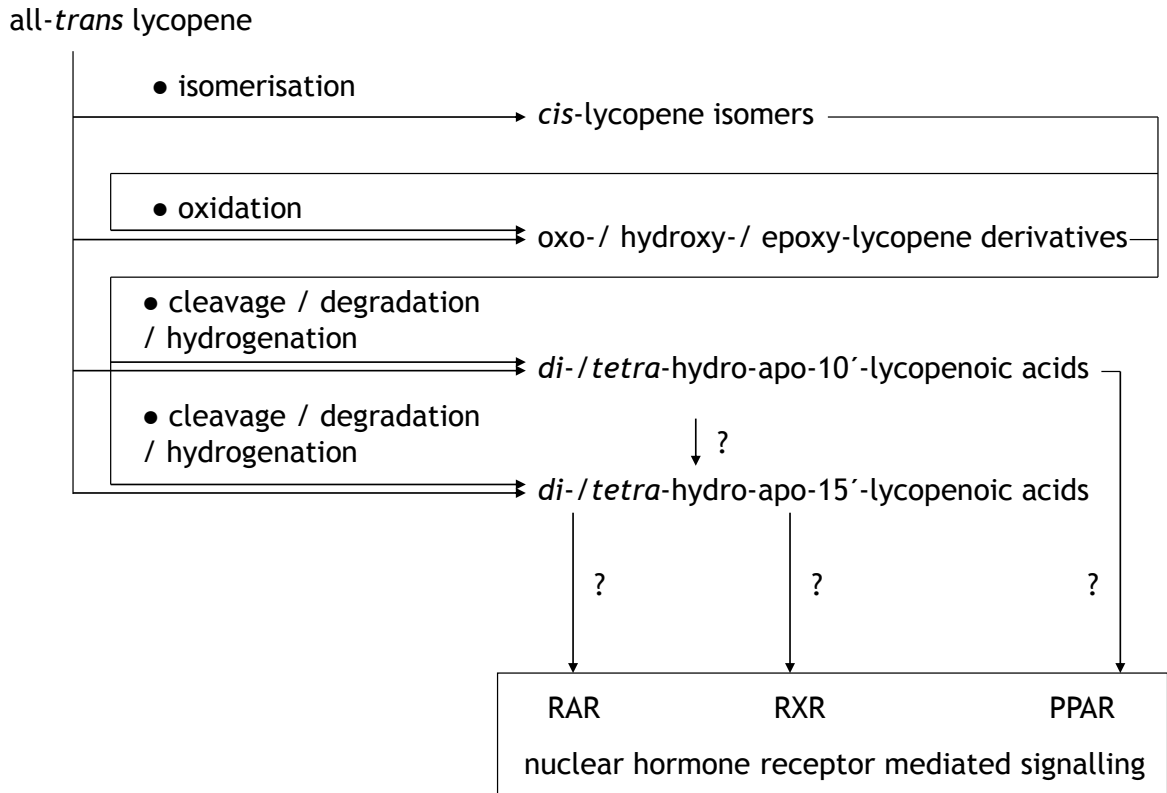


Fig. 1

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669 **Figure 2:**
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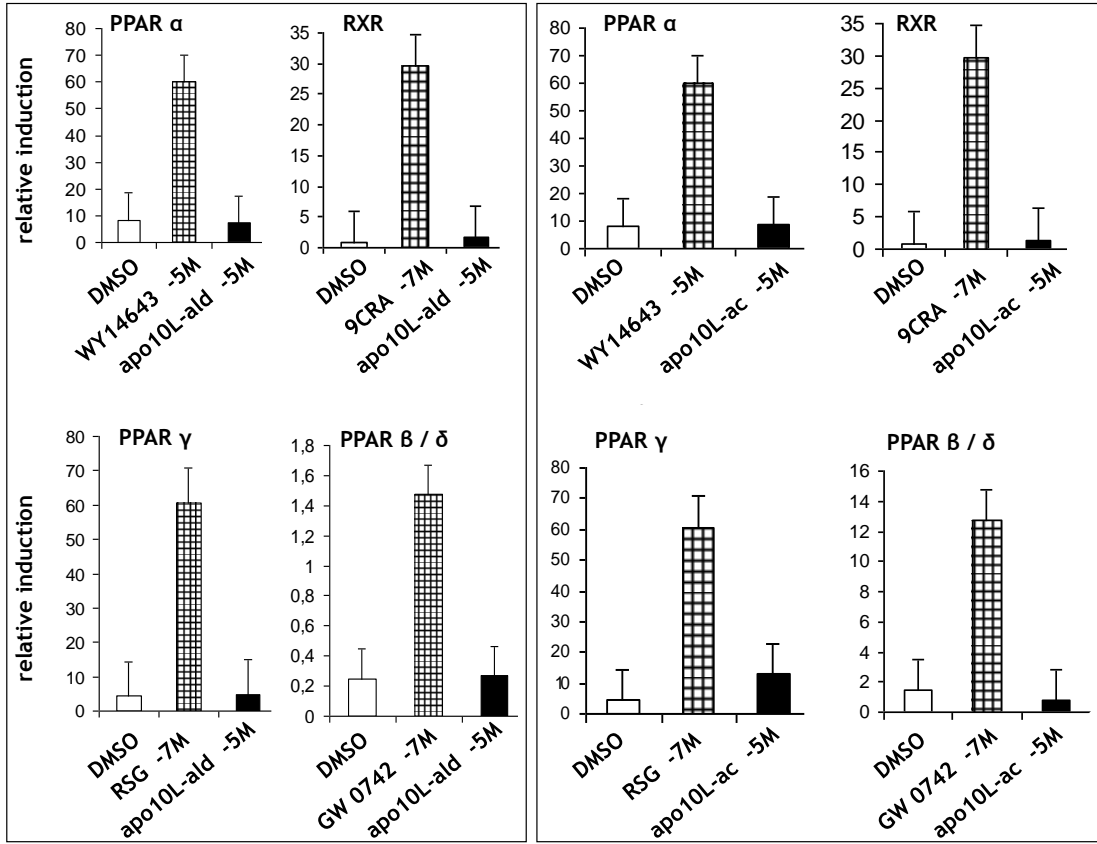
Fig. 2



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Figure 3:



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Figure 4:

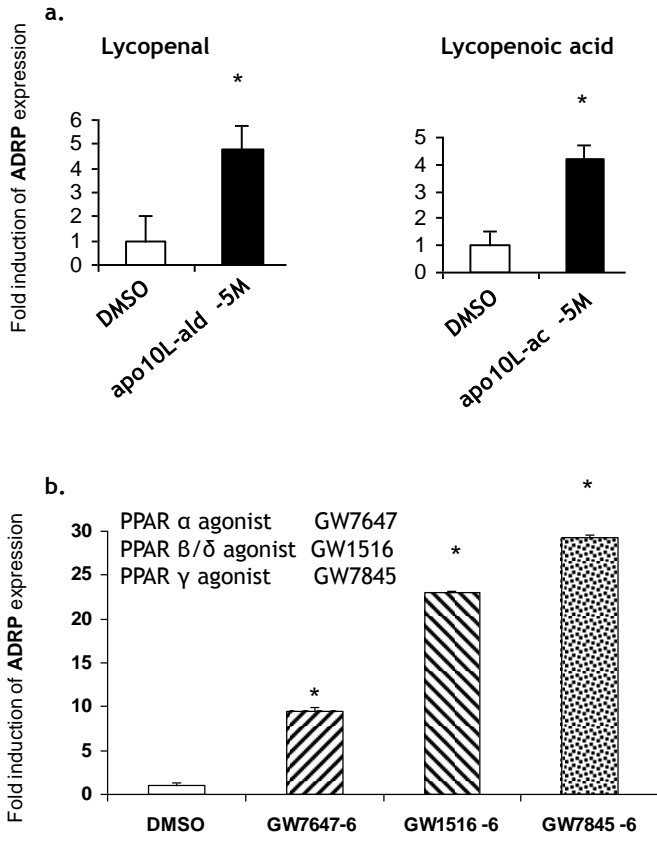
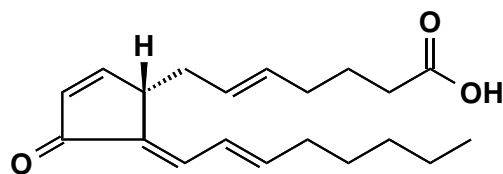


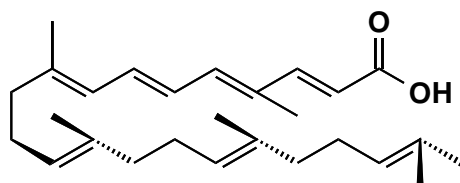
Fig. 4

680 **Figure 5:**
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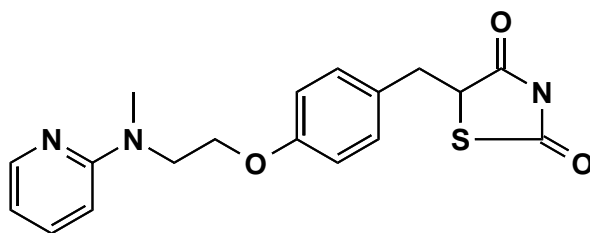
Fig. 5



15-deoxy-d12,14-PgJ2



7,8,11,12-*tetra*-hydro-apo-10'-lycopenoic acid



Rosiglitazone

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Figure 6:

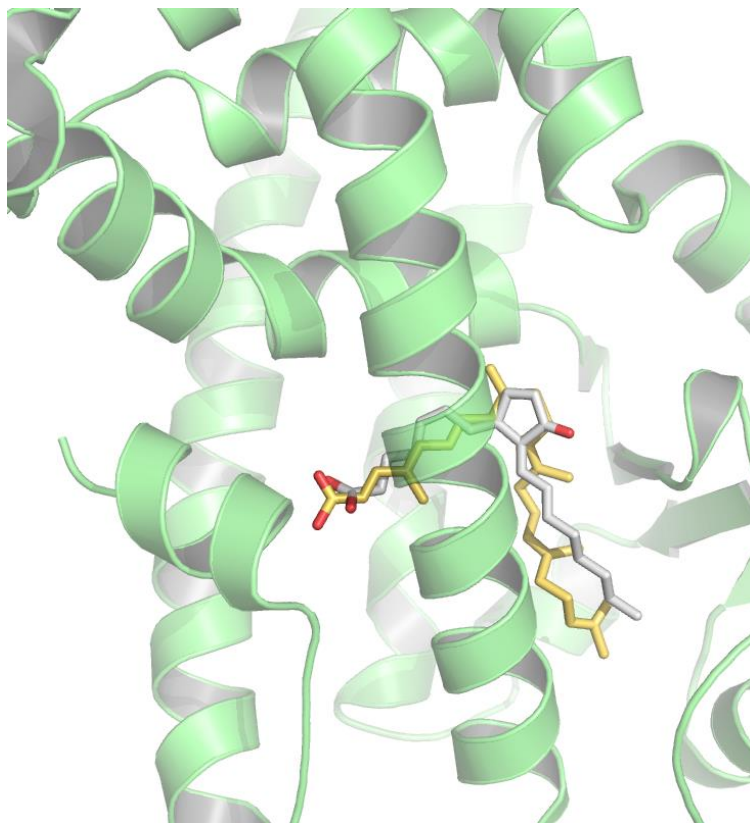


Fig. 6

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