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Published in:
Nature

DOI:
[10.1038/nature23275](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature23275)

Publication date:
2017

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Zhang, C-S., Hawley, S. A., Zong, Y., Li, M., Wang, Z., Gray, A., ... Lin, S-C. (2017). Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate and aldolase mediate glucose sensing by AMPK. *Nature*, 548(7665), 112-116.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature23275>

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Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate and aldolase mediate glucose sensing by AMPK

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The major energy source for most cells is glucose, from which ATP is generated via glycolysis and/or oxidative metabolism. Glucose deprivation activates AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)¹, but it has been unclear whether this occurs solely via changes in AMP or ADP, the classical activators of AMPK²⁻⁵. Here, we uncover a mechanism that triggers AMPK activation via an AMP/ADP-independent mechanism sensing absence of FBP, with AMPK being progressively activated as extracellular glucose and intracellular FBP decrease. When unoccupied by FBP, aldolases promote the formation of lysosomal complexes containing the v-ATPase, Ragulator, AXIN, LKB1 and AMPK, previously shown to be required for AMPK activation^{6,7}. Knockdown of aldolases activates AMPK even in cells with abundant glucose, while the catalysis-defective D34S aldolase mutant, which still binds FBP, blocks AMPK activation. Cell-free reconstitution assays show that addition of FBP disrupts association of AXIN/LKB1 with v-ATPase/Ragulator. Importantly, in some cell types AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios remain unchanged during acute glucose starvation, and intact AMP-binding sites on AMPK are not required for AMPK activation. These results establish that aldolase, as well as a glycolytic enzyme, is a sensor of glucose availability that regulates AMPK.

Mammalian AMPK is activated by glucose deprivation, and it has often been assumed that impaired production of ATP from reduced glucose metabolism triggers this by increasing levels of AMP/ADP^{1,8}. Recently, glucose deprivation has been shown to trigger formation of a complex at the lysosomal surface involving the v-ATPase, Ragulator, AXIN, LKB1 and AMPK, promoting AMPK phosphorylation by LKB1 at the activating phosphorylation site, Thr172^{6,7}. However, these findings did not reveal

how glucose deprivation was sensed. To study this, we grew mouse embryo fibroblasts (MEFs) in standard medium, and then replaced the medium with reduced glucose, with other components unchanged. When glucose fell below 5 mM, progressive increases in immunoprecipitated AMPK activity occurred (Fig. 1a), correlating with phosphorylation of AMPK (p-AMPK α) and its downstream target acetyl-CoA carboxylase (pACC) (Extended Data Fig. 1a). Surprisingly, this was not associated with any increase in cellular AMP:ATP or ADP:ATP ratios, although both were increased by the mitochondrial inhibitor berberine (Fig. 1b), which caused comparable AMPK/ACC phosphorylation as complete lack of glucose (Extended Data Fig. 1a). Similar results were obtained in HEK293T cells (Extended Data Fig. 1b, c). No changes in adenine nucleotide ratios were observed in livers of mice starved for 16 h either, despite blood glucose dropping from 9 to 3 mM with accompanying increases in AMPK and ACC phosphorylation (Extended Data Fig. 1d-f). Combined starvation of MEFs for glucose, glutamine and serum (leaving them with no major carbon source) caused a rapid, 1.8-fold activation of AMPK within 15 min, followed by a much larger activation up to 2 h, while only the initial activation was observed if glutamine was still present (Fig. 1c); these changes correlated with phosphorylation of AMPK and ACC (Extended Data Fig. 1g, h). Intracellular AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios were not significantly altered on removal of glucose alone, but on removing glucose and glutamine they increased after 30 min, correlating with the delayed AMPK activation (Fig. 1d; Extended Data Fig. 1i). Interestingly, we found the presence or absence of serum yielded different patterns of AMPK activation upon starvation for glucose or glucose plus glutamine (compare Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1j; see Supplementary Note 1). We also studied HEK293 cells that stably expressed FLAG-

tagged wild type (WT) AMPK γ 2 or the R531G (RG) mutant, which is not activated by treatments that increase cellular AMP/ADP⁹. In RG cells the rapid effect of removing glucose was still present, while the delayed effect of also removing glutamine was essentially absent (Fig. 1e-h; Extended Data Fig. 1k, l; Supplementary Note 2). Thus, glucose starvation activates AMPK by an AMP/ADP-independent mechanism, whereas removal of all carbon sources activates AMPK by the canonical AMP/ADP-dependent mechanism. The latter effect takes place after a delay of 20-30 minutes, which may represent the time taken to metabolize pyruvate in the medium and/or cellular nutrient reserves.

We next tested the effects of nutrient removal in *AXIN*^{-/-} or *LAMTOR1*^{-/-} MEFs, and found that acute (20 min) AMPK activation on removal of glucose or glucose plus glutamine was completely abolished, while the larger effects of removing both carbon sources at 2 h were unaffected (Fig. 2a, b; Extended Data Fig. 2a-c). Unlike WT AMPK β 2, re-introduction to knockout HEK293 cells of a G2A mutant (which prevents the N-myristoylation required for glucose starvation to cause AMPK accumulation in “perinuclear speckles”^{8,10}) did not restore the ability of glucose removal to activate AMPK or promote its translocation to lysosomes (Fig. 2c, d, Extended Data Fig. 2e, f). Similar results were obtained with AMPK β 1 (Extended Data Fig. 2g). By contrast, knock-down of *CaMKK2* (the alternate upstream kinase for AMPK), expression of the AMPK β 2-S108A mutation that disrupts the “ADaM” binding site for allosteric activators such as A769662 and 991^{11,12}, or of the LKB1-C433S mutation that prevents the C-terminal farnesylation essential for maximal AMPK activation by energy stress¹³, had no effect on glucose starvation-induced AMPK activation (Fig. 2c, e; Extended Data Fig. 2d). Thus, by several criteria AMPK

activation by glucose removal occurs via a mechanism distinct from that involved in effects of energy stress or ADaM site ligands.

We next analyzed whether it is lack of glucose itself, or deficiency of a downstream metabolite (Extended Data Fig. 3a), that is responsible for AMPK activation. We first knocked down hexokinases (HK1/HK2) in HEK293T cells, which caused marked phosphorylation of AMPK and ACC even in high glucose (Fig. 3a). However, intermediates in the pentose phosphate, serine biosynthesis or hexosamine pathways did not appear to be involved in AMPK regulation (Extended Data Fig. 3b-d). Since AMPK was still activated by glucose deprivation even in medium containing 1 mM pyruvate (Fig. 1; Extended Data Fig. 1), this left a glycolytic intermediate as the most likely regulator of AMPK. To address this, we used cell-free reconstitution assays involving complex formation between LAMTOR1, AXIN/LKB1 and AMPK⁶. Of the eleven intermediates from glucose to pyruvate, only FBP caused dissociation of AXIN/LKB1 and AMPK α from LAMTOR1 in a fraction containing lysosomal membranes from glucose-starved MEFs (Fig. 3b; Extended Data Fig. 4a, b). The intracellular levels of FBP in mouse liver decreased markedly, from 9.7 ± 1.9 to 2.3 ± 1.2 μ M, after starvation for 16 h (Extended Data Fig. 4c). Significantly, 10 μ M FBP was able to cause complete dissociation of AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 (Fig. 3c). Interestingly, the relationship between the concentrations of medium/plasma glucose and intracellular FBP was linear, both in MEFs and in liver *in vivo* (Extended Data Fig. 4d-h).

To confirm that FBP represses AMPK activation, we introduced it into glucose-starved cells permeabilized with streptolysin O (SLO) (Extended Data Fig. 4i). Addition of 10 μ M FBP to the SLO-treated cells reduced AMPK phosphorylation

under glucose starvation conditions (Fig. 3d). Interestingly, addition of intermediates upstream or downstream of FBP had similar effects except for pyruvate, which cannot be converted back to FBP in these cells (Extended Data Fig. 4j). However, intermediates upstream of FBP failed to suppress AMPK in SLO-permeabilized MEFs with knockdown of phosphofructokinase-1 (PFK1-KD, triple knockdown of *PFKP*, *PFKM* and *PFKL*), while intermediates downstream of FBP failed to suppress AMPK in SLO-permeabilized MEFs with knockdown of triose-phosphate isomerase (TPI-KD) (Extended Data Fig. 4k, l). Furthermore, inhibiting FBP production by knocking down *PFK1* or over-expressing fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase (FBP1) led to AMPK phosphorylation even in high glucose (Extended Data Fig. 5a, b). By contrast, promoting formation of FBP by over-expressing PFKP impaired AMPK activation in low glucose (Extended Data Fig. 5c). Knockdown of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) had no effect on AMPK activation (Extended Data Fig. 5d).

We next asked which protein acts as the FBP sensor responsible for regulating AMPK. FBP is a substrate for aldolases (ALDOA-C) and an allosteric activator of pyruvate kinase (PK)¹⁴. Knockdown of aldolases causes cell death¹⁵, so ALDOA-C was first expressed under a doxycycline-inducible promoter before successive knockdown of the three endogenous isoenzymes, and doxycycline was then withdrawn to trigger almost complete aldolase depletion (Extended Data Fig. 6a-c). The triple knockdown (ALDO-TKD) caused AMPK activation even in high glucose (Fig. 4a; Extended Data Fig. 6d), while knocking down pyruvate kinases (*PKM/PKLR*) had no effect (Extended Data Fig. 6e). Triple knockdown of aldolases did not alter AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP levels (Extended Data Fig. 6f). Moreover, the effects of aldolase knockdown on AMPK activation and formation of AMPK-activating complexes were

blocked in *AXIN*^{-/-}, *LAMTOR1*^{-/-} and *LKB1*^{-/-} MEFs, but intact in *CaMKK2*^{-/-} MEFs (Fig. 4b; Extended Data Fig. 6g-k and 7), confirming that aldolase exerts its effects through the lysosomal pathway. Importantly, FBP, even at 200 μ M, failed to dissociate AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 in light organelles isolated from glucose-starved, aldolase-deficient MEFs, or to block glucose starvation-induced AMPK activation in SLO-permeabilized, aldolase-deficient MEFs (Extended Data Fig. 6l, m). These results show that aldolase is required for FBP to prevent AMPK activation. Neither fructose-1-phosphate (an alternate aldolase substrate) nor fructose-2,6-bisphosphate dissociated AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 (Extended Data Fig. 6n), indicating that FBP is the unique intermediate that modulates aldolase to sense availability of glucose.

As final confirmation, we made use of an ALDOA mutation (D34S) that does not significantly affect K_m for FBP, but dramatically reduces the k_{cat} for conversion of FBP to DHAP and G3P^{16,17}. FBP would therefore accumulate in the active site of this mutant, even when glucose availability was low. Supporting this, intracellular levels of FBP were slightly (but significantly) higher on glucose starvation of HEK293T cells expressing the D34S mutant than wild type ALDOA (Extended Data Fig. 8a). As expected, AMPK activation and formation of the Ragulator-AXIN/LKB1-AMPK complex were markedly impaired in HEK293T cells or ALDO-TKD MEFs expressing this mutant (Fig. 4c; Extended Data Fig. 8b, c). Furthermore, the levels of p-AMPK/p-ACC were greatly reduced in starved mice injected with adenovirus expressing the D34S mutant compared to WT aldolase (Extended Data Fig. 8d). By contrast, when WT ALDOA was expressed in ALDO-TKD MEFs, it restored the response of AMPK to glucose availability, whereas the K230A mutant, which cannot form the initial Schiff base with FBP and would thus not undergo the conformational change induced by

FBP^{16,18,19}, failed to do this (Fig. 4d; Extended Data Fig. 8e-g).

This study defines FBP as the critical metabolite that signals glucose availability, and provides strong evidence that aldolases are the sensors that transmit the signal to AMPK. In MEFs and HEK293T cells, FBP was almost entirely derived from glucose (Extended Data Fig. 9), and the intracellular concentrations of FBP correlated with medium/plasma glucose (Extended Data Fig. 4g, h). We propose that aldolase, as a natural FBP receptor, transmits the effects of glucose shortage to AMPK via the v-ATPase-Ragulator-AXIN/LKB1 complex (Extended Data Fig. 10a). Knockdown of aldolase triggers formation of this complex even in high glucose, like pharmacological inhibition of v-ATPase⁶. Intriguingly, yeast and mammalian aldolases (Fba1 and ALDOA/B/C) physically interact with various subunits of the v-ATPase and are required for assembly and activity of the v-ATPase complex²⁰⁻²³. Our co-precipitation assays confirmed that aldolase interacts with v-ATPase and Ragulator in HEK293T cells (Extended Data Fig. 10b).

According to our model, aldolase would function as a surveillance system, sensing a fall in glucose availability before any fall in cellular energy status occurs, and activating AMPK in an AMP/ADP-independent manner. Aldolases may be ideal sensors of glucose availability because they are not saturated with FBP at normal glucose concentrations, so that FBP availability can be sensed across the entire physiological range (Supplementary Note 3). Once activated, AMPK would promote alternate catabolic pathways to generate ATP, such as fatty acid oxidation. Our findings that cellular energy status was not compromised by glucose removal in MEFs, unless glutamine was also removed, suggest that glucose-deprived MEFs simply switch to oxidative metabolism from glutamine. While AMP promotes the interaction of

AMPK with AXIN⁷, low, basal levels of AMP may be sufficient for AMPK activation via the lysosomal mechanism⁶, whereas higher concentrations (sufficient to cause binding at site 3, the low affinity site disrupted by the RG mutation²⁴) may be necessary to trigger the canonical energy-sensing mechanism. Finally, since the budding yeast AMPK orthologue is activated by glucose starvation but is not regulated by AMP²⁵, while the interaction between aldolase and v-ATPase is modulated by glucose availability in yeast²², we propose that the mechanism for AMPK regulation identified here may reflect its ancestral role in glucose sensing.

Online Content Methods, along with any additional Extended Data display items and Source Data, are available in the online version of the paper; references unique to these sections appear only in the online paper.

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Supplementary Information is available in the online version of the paper.

Acknowledgements

We thank all other members of the S-CL laboratory for suggestions and technical assistance, and the proteomics team at the University of Dundee (Douglas Lamont, Abdel Atrih, Wenzhang Chen and Kenneth Beattie) for LC:MS analyses of nucleotides. DGH was supported by an Investigator Award from the Wellcome Trust (097726) and a Programme Grant from Cancer Research UK (C37030/A15101). S-CL was supported by grants from the National Key Research and Development Project of China (2016YFA0502001) and National Natural Science Foundation of China (#31430094, #31690101, #31571214, #31601152 and #J1310027).

Author Contributions

C.-S.Z., S.A.H., Y.Z., M.L., D.G.H. and S.-C.L. conceived the study. C.-S.Z., S.A.H., Y.Z. and M.L. performed most experiments with assistance from T.M., J.C., J.-W.F., A.G., Y.-Q.W., T.Y.L. and S.-Y.L. Y.Z. and Z.W. performed the CE-MS-based analysis of metabolites, and S.A.H., M.L. and M.Z. performed the analysis of adenylates. Z.Y., S.-Y.L., H.Y. and H.-L.P. helped with discussion and interpretation of results. D.G.H. and S.-C.L. wrote the manuscript.

Author Information

Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints. The authors declare no competing financial interests. Readers are welcome to comment on the online version of the paper. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to D.G.H. (d.g.hardie@dundee.ac.uk) or S.-C.L. (linsc@xmu.edu.cn).

Figure legends

Figure 1 | Glucose deprivation activates AMPK via an AMP/ADP independent mechanism.

a, MEFs were grown in full medium and then switched to medium containing reduced concentrations of glucose for 4 h, or full medium with 300 μ M berberine (Ber) for 1 h, and AMPK activity in immunoprecipitates was measured (mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; asterisks show significant differences from 25 mM glucose). **b**, MEFs were incubated as in **(a)** and intracellular AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios determined by LC:MS. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; asterisks show significant differences from control with 25 mM glucose. **c**, MEFs were grown in full medium and then incubated overnight in the same medium but with 5 mM glucose. At time zero, medium was removed and replaced with the same medium (+Glc+Gln), medium lacking glucose only (-Glc+Gln), or medium lacking glucose and glutamine (-Glc-Gln), all without serum. AMPK was isolated by immunoprecipitation (IP) and kinase activity determined. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 4$; asterisks show significant differences from control (+Glc+Gln); daggers (\dagger) show significant differences between -Glc+Gln and -Glc-Gln samples at the same time point. **d**, AMP:ATP ratios in an experiment as in **c**. Results are mean \pm SD ($n = 3$); statistical significance as in **c**. **e**, **g**, as **c**, but using HEK293 cells expressing wild type (WT) FLAG-tagged AMPK- γ 2 (**e**) or an AMP/ADP-insensitive R531G (RG) mutant⁹ (**g**). Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 4$; statistical significance as in **c**. **f**, **h**, as **d**, but using HEK293 cells expressing WT or RG mutant. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; statistical significance as in **c**. All experiments were performed at least twice.

Figure 2 | Glucose starvation activates AMPK by a lysosomal mechanism

different from energy stress. a-b, Rapid effect of glucose removal on AMPK, but not the delayed effect of removal of glucose and glutamine, is dependent on AXIN and LAMTOR1. Experiments were performed in MEFs without serum as in Fig. 1c, except that cells carried homozygous floxed alleles of the AXIN (*AXIN^{F/F}*) (**a**) or LAMTOR1 (*LAMTOR1^{F/F}*) (**b**) genes. Prior to the experiment (36 h), MEFs were pre-treated with adenoviral vector expressing either Cre recombinase or empty vector. Samples were taken for AMPK assay; results in the top panels are mean \pm SD, $n = 4$. The lower panels show western blotting of cell lysates using the indicated antibodies. **c**, Endogenous AMPK β 2 was knocked out in HEK293 cells by CRISPR-Cas9, and WT β 2, or G2A or S108A mutants, were re-expressed by transient transfection. Cells were then treated by removing glucose, or glucose plus glutamine, for 20 min as in **a**, or with 5 μ M 991 or 300 μ M berberine for 1 h, all without serum. AMPK β 2 complexes were immunoprecipitated and AMPK activity determined. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 4$; asterisks or exact P values indicate means significantly different from controls (left-hand columns) of the same genotype. **d**, Glucose starvation causes translocation of AMPK β 2 to the lysosome in HEK-293 cells that is dependent on N-myristoylation. The data are derived from the experiment shown in Extended Data Fig. 2f. Pearson correlations between red (lysosomes) and green (AMPK- β 2) stain across the cytoplasm were determined; results are for 7-9 cells under each condition, with horizontal bars representing mean \pm SD. **e**, MEFs expressing WT LKB1 or a C433S knock-in¹³ were incubated \pm glucose and/or glutamine for 20 min, or with DMSO, A769662 (300 μ M) or berberine (300 μ M) for 1 h, all without serum. Endogenous AMPK was immunoprecipitated and assayed (top) or lysates were analysed by Western blotting using the indicated antibodies (bottom). Results in the top panel are

mean \pm SD, $n = 4$; asterisks or exact P values show results significantly different from controls in full medium (removal of glucose and/or glutamine) or DMSO controls (A769662 and berberine). All experiments were performed at least twice.

Figure 3 | Absence of fructose-1,6-bisphosphate (FBP) defines a starvation signal for AMPK activation. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, HEK293T cells were infected with lentivirus expressing indicated siRNAs; the cells were then starved for glucose for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **b**, Cytosol from unstarved MEFs was mixed with light organelles purified from glucose-starved MEFs. Various glycolytic intermediates (200 μ M) as indicated were individually added to the mixture. The mixtures were then dissolved and LAMTOR1 was immunoprecipitated. **c**, FBP at physiologically relevant concentrations completely dissociates AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1. **d**, FBP (10 μ M) was added to the 2-h-glucose-starved MEFs pre-incubated with streptolysin O (SLO) for 5 min. After incubating for another 15 min, cells were lysed and were analyzed by immunoblotting. Experiments in **a**, **b** and **d** were performed 3 times, and the experiments in **c** twice.

Figure 4 | Aldolase is the receptor for FBP physically linking glucose deprivation to AMPK activation. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, **b**, ALDO-TKD MEFs were generated from WT MEFs (**a**) or *AXIN*^{-/-} MEFs (**b**) following the procedures depicted in Extended Data Fig. 6a. The cells were then incubated in the DMEM medium with or without glucose for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **c**, **d**, Activation of AMPK in

HEK293T cells stably expressing ALDOA-D34S (**c**), or in ALDO-TKD MEFs stably expressing ALDOA-K230A (**d**) were analyzed as in **a**. The experiment in **a** was performed 4 times, that in **b** and **d** twice, and that in **c** 3 times.

METHODS

Data reporting. No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size. The experiments were not randomized. The investigators were not blinded to group allocation and outcome assessment.

Mouse studies. *AXIN*^{F/F}, *LAMTOR1*^{F/F} mice were generated and maintained as described⁶. *LKBI*^{F/F} mice were obtained from Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research provided by Dr. Ron DePinho. *CaMKK2*^{-/-} mice were obtained from The Jackson Laboratory, provided by Dr. Talal Chatila. Male C57BL/6J littermate mice of 6-week old were used in this study. Mice were housed with free access to water and standard diet (65% carbohydrate, 11% fat, 24% protein). The light was on from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Adenovirus was propagated in AD293 (Adeno-X 293) cells and purified by cesium chloride density gradient ultracentrifugation. Adenoviruses (1.3×10^9 plaque-forming units) were injected via the tail vein five days before analysis. For starvation, the diet was withdrawn from the cage at 5 p.m. and mice were sacrificed at 9 a.m. the next day by cervical dislocation. Unless stated otherwise, liver tissues were dissected and instantly frozen in liquid nitrogen for further use. Protocols for all animal experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and the Animal Committee of Xiamen University.

Plasmids. Point mutations of ALDOA were performed by a PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis method using PrimeSTAR HS polymerase (Takara). Expression plasmids for various proteins were constructed in the pCDNA3.3 vector for transient transfection, in pBOBI for lentivirus packaging (stably expression), or in pLVX-IRES for doxycycline-inducible expression. PCR products were verified by sequencing (Invitrogen, China). The lentivirus-based vector pLL3.7 was used for expression of

siRNA in HEK293T and MEFs. The 19-nucleotide sequence for each siRNA is as follows: 5'-CCAAGTGGCGCTGTGTGCT-3' (#1) and 5'-GCCATGGGCCTTGACTTTC-3' (#2) for mouse *ALDOA*, 5'-GCTCTCTGAGCAGATCCAT-3' (#1) and 5'-GGCAGTTCCGAGAACTCCT-3' (#2) for mouse *ALDOB*, 5'-GAGTCTAGAGC TTATGTCT-3' (#1) and 5'-CAGTTACCCTTGATGGTAT-3' (#2) for mouse *ALDOC*, 5'-GGGACATCAAACCTTCCAA-3' for mouse *CaMKK2*, 5'-GATGAAAGGGAAG CTGGCA -3' for mouse *TPI*, 5'-CCGAGAACACCGAGGAGAA-3' for human *ALDOA*, 5'- CCAAAGCCCTGGAAACTAA -3' for human *ALDOB*, and 5'- CCTCAAACGTTGTCAGTAT -3' for human *ALDOC*. The siRNAs against human *HK1*, *HK2*, *PFKM*, *PFKL*, *PFKP*, *G6PD* (#1) and *PHGDH* (#1) were constructed and validated as described previously²⁶. The siRNA against mouse *GAPDH* was constructed as described previously²⁷. Human *ALDOA* and *ALDOA-D34S* were constructed in pAdEasy-1 (Stratagene) for adenovirus packaging. Sequences of all oligonucleotides used in this study are available upon request.

CRISPR knockout of AMPK- β 1 and β 2. The genes (*PRKAB1* and *PRKAB2*) were deleted from HEK293 cells using the CRISPR-Cas9 system²⁸. Targeting nucleotides for β 1 were caccGTGAGCGCGCCGCGCTGGAG (a.a. 6-13) and caccGTGGCC ATAAGACGCCCCGG (a.a. 15-22) and for β 2 were caccGCCAAGGCTGCACG CTCCGA (a.a. 15-27) and caccGTCGCTGGTGGTGTTCCTCA, (a.a. 1-7). Nucleotides were annealed to their complements containing the cloning tag aaac, and inserted into the back-to-back BbsI restriction sites of pSpCas9(BB)-2A-Puro (PX459) and pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP (PX458) (Addgene plasmids #48139 and #48138). Cells were transfected with a 1:1 mixture of GFP and Puro constructs

containing the CRISPR oligonucleotides, using 2-3 μg DNA in Fugene 6 transfection reagent per well of a 6 well plate. After 24 h, transfection was verified by fluorescence microscopy and cells trypsinised from the plates and re-plated into 15 cm dishes in the presence of puromycin (0.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$). After 24 h the medium was changed, fresh puromycin added and cells grown for a further 48 h, at which time cells were transferred to medium without puromycin and allowed to grow until colonies formed. Colonies (20-30) were picked and expanded until large enough to allow freezing of stocks and analysis of AMPK- β 2 expression by Western blot and immunoprecipitate kinase assay.

Reagents. Rabbit polyclonal antibody against LAMTOR1 was raised and validated as described previously⁶, and was diluted 1:100 for immunoprecipitation (IP) or 1:500 for immunoblotting (IB). Rabbit polyclonal antibody against PFKM was raised and validated as described previously²⁶ and was diluted 1:500 for IB. Rabbit anti-phospho-AMPK α -T172 (cat. #2535, 1:1000 for IB), anti-AMPK α (cat. #2532, 1:1000 for IB), anti-phospho-ACC-Ser79 (cat. #3661, 1:1000 for IB), anti-ACC (cat. #3662, 1:1000 for IB), anti-LKB1 (cat. #3047, 1:1000 for IB), anti-AXIN1 (cat. #2074, 1:1000 for IB), anti-HK1 (cat. #2024, 1:1000 for IB), anti-HK2 (cat. #2867, 1:1500 for IB), anti-PFKP (cat. #8164, 1:1000 for IB), anti-PFKL (cat. #8175, 1:1000 for IB), anti-G6PD (cat. #12263, 1:1000 for IB), anti-PKM1/2 (cat. #3190, 1:1000 for IB), anti-ALDOA (cat. # 8060, 1:2000 for IB), anti- β -tubulin (cat. #2128, 1:1000 for IB), anti-AMPK β 1 (cat. #12063), anti-AMPK β 2 (cat. #4148), anti-HIS (cat. #12698, 1:500 for IB), and HRP-conjugated mouse anti-rabbit IgG

(conformation specific, cat. #5127, 1:2000 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology. In Figs. 1, 2 and Extended Data Fig. 1f, total ACC was detected using IR dye 800 conjugated streptavidin (Rockland, cat. #S000-32). Rabbit anti-ALDOB (cat. 18065-1-AP, 1:1000 for IB) and anti-CaMKK2 (cat. 11549-1-AP, 1:500 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Proteintech. Mouse anti-ALDOC (cat. AM2215b, 1:2000 for IB) antibody was purchased from Abgent. Rabbit anti-PKLR (cat. ab38240, 1:500 for IB), rat anti-LAMP2 (cat. ab13524; 1:120 for IF), mouse anti-LAMP1 [cat. ab25630, 1:120 for immunofluorescent staining (IF)], mouse anti-aldolase (cat. ab54770, 1:50 for IP), and goat anti-TPI (cat. ab28760, 1:1000 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Abcam. Mouse anti-PHGDH (cat. AMAB90786, 1:1000 for IB) and rabbit anti-GAPDH (cat. G9545, 1:1000 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Sigma. Goat anti-AXIN (cat. sc-8567, 1:100 for IP and 1:60 for IF), mouse anti-HA (cat. sc-7392, 1:2000 for IB), anti-LKB1 (cat. sc-32245, 1:100 for IP), and anti-goat IgG-HRP (cat. sc-2354, 1:5000 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. The HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (cat. 115-035-003, 1:5000 for IB) and HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (cat. 111-035-003, 1:5000 for IB) antibodies were purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch. Glucose (cat. G7021), G3P (cat. G5251), DHAP (cat. D7137), 3PG (cat. P8877), 2PG (cat. 19710), PEP (cat. P7002), N-acetylglucosamine (cat. A3286), octyl β -D-glucopyranoside (ODG, cat. O8001) and SLO (cat. S5265) were purchased from Sigma. G6P (cat. sc-210728), F6P (cat. sc-202563) and FBP (cat. sc-214805) were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. BPG was customized

from Triveni Interchem Pvt Ltd. GlutamaxTM (cat. 35050) and sodium pyruvate (cat. 11360) was purchased from Gibco. Doxycycline (cat. S4163) was purchased from Selleckchem. Protease inhibitor cocktail was purchased from Roche (cat. 04693116001). [U-¹³C]glucose (cat. CLM-1396-PK) and [U-¹³C]FBP (cat. CLM-8962-0) were purchased from Cambridge isotope laboratories. Full names for glycolytic intermediates: Glc, glucose; G6P, glucose-6-phosphate; F6P, fructose-6-phosphate; G3P, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate; DHAP, dihydroxyacetone phosphate; BPG, 1,3-bisphosphoglycerate; 3PG, 3-phosphoglycerate; 2PG, 2-phosphoglycerate; PEP, phosphoenolpyruvate; Pyr, pyruvate.

Cell culture, transient transfection and lentivirus infection. HEK293T, HEK293, AD293 cells and MEFs were maintained in Dulbecco' s modified Eagle' s medium (DMEM, Gibco, cat. 11965) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 IU penicillin, 100 mg/ml streptomycin at 37 °C in a humidified incubator containing 5% CO₂. Polyethylenimine (Polysciences, Inc., Cat. #23966) at a final concentration of 10 μM was used to transfect HEK293T cells. Total DNA for each plate was adjusted to the same amount by using relevant empty vector. Transfected cells were harvested at 24 h after transfection. Lentivirus for infection of the MEFs was packaged in HEK293T cells using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen, Cat. 11668-027) transfection. At 30 h post transfection, medium was collected and added to the cells. The cells were incubated for another 24 h. *LAMTOR1^{F/F}*, *AXIN^{F/F}*, *LKBI^{F/F}* or *CaMKK2^{-/-}* MEFs were established by introducing SV40 T antigen into primary cultured embryonic cells from a litter of corresponding mice. *LAMTOR1^{-/-}*, *AXIN^{-/-}* or *LKBI^{-/-}* MEFs were generated by infecting *LAMTOR1^{F/F}*, *AXIN^{F/F}* or *LKBI^{F/F}* MEFs with adenoviruses expressing Cre recombinase for 12 h. The infected cells were then incubated in the fresh DMEM for

another 8 to 10 h before further treatments. HEK293T cells were obtained from ATCC. HEK293 cells were obtained from Invitrogen. AD293 cells were obtained from Clontech. Cells were verified to be free of mycoplasma contamination and authenticated by STR sequencing. For starvation, cells were rinsed twice with PBS, and then incubated in glucose-free DMEM (Gibco, cat. 11966) supplemented with 10% FBS and 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Gibco, cat. 11360) for desired periods of time at 37 °C. For starvation for glucose plus glutamine, cells were incubated in DMEM without glucose, glutamine, phenol red or pyruvate (Gibco cat. A14430-01) with the addition of 1 mM pyruvate (Lonza cat. BE 13-11 SE) with or without Glutamax™ (Gibco cat. 35050-038) and D-glucose (Gibco cat. A2494001). For determining the effect of different glycolytic intermediates on affecting AMPK activation in cells, the cells were first permeabilized with SLO as described previously²⁹ (incubated with SLO for 5 min). After incubating for another 15 min, cells were lysed and were analyzed by immunoblotting.

Immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting. IP was carried out as described previously⁶. Briefly, 10 × 15 cm dishes of MEFs (grown to 80% confluence) for immunoprecipitating LAMTOR1 or 4 × 15 cm dishes of MEFs (grown to 80% confluence) for immunoprecipitating AXIN in each lane were collected and lysed with 750 µl/dish of ice cold ODG buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 2% ODG, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol with protease inhibitor cocktail). Cell lysates were incubated with respective antibodies overnight. Overnight protein aggregates were pre-cleared by centrifugation at 20,000g for 10 min, and protein A/G beads (1:100 for immunoprecipitating AXIN and 1:250 for LAMTOR1) were then added into the lysates and mixed for another 3 h. The beads were washed

with 100 times volume of ODG buffer for 3 times at 4 °C and then mixed with an equal volume of 2× SDS sample buffer for immunoblotting. To analyze the levels of p-AMPK α and p-ACC in MEFs, cells grown to 70-80% confluence in a well of a 6-well dish were lysed with 250 μ l of ice cold lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1% Triton X-100, 2.5 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 1 mM β -glycerolphosphate, with protease inhibitor cocktail). The lysates were then centrifuged at 20,000g for 10 min at 4 °C and an equal amount of 2× SDS sample buffer was into the supernatant. The levels of p-AMPK α and p-ACC were then analyzed by immunoblotting. To analyze the levels of p-AMPK α and p-ACC in liver, the freshly excised liver tissues were added with ice cold lysis buffer (10 μ l/mg liver weight), followed by homogenization and centrifugation as described above. The lysates were then mixed with 2× SDS sample buffer and then subjected to immunoblotting. Levels of total proteins and the levels of phosphorylation of proteins were analyzed on separate gels. The band intensities on developed films were quantified using Image J software (National Institutes of Health Freeware).

Fluorescence microscopy. Cells were grown on glass coverslips in 6-well dishes and were cultured to 60-80% confluence. Cells were fixed with 1 ml of 4% formaldehyde (diluted in PBS) at room temperature for 20 min. They were rinsed 2x with 1 ml of PBS (room temperature) and then permeabilized with 1 ml of 0.1% Triton X-100 (diluted in PBS) for 5 min at 4 °C. Cells were rinsed 2x with 1 ml of PBS, and were incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C. The cells were then rinsed 3x with 1 ml of PBS, and then incubated with Alexa-Fluor 488-conjugated anti-goat secondary antibody (Molecular Probes, A11058; diluted 1:100 in PBS) and Alexa-Fluor 594-conjugated anti-rat secondary antibody (Molecular Probes, cat. A21209;

diluted 1:100 in PBS)/Alexa-Fluor 594-conjugated anti-mouse secondary antibody (Molecular Probes, cat. A11032; diluted 1:100 in PBS) for 8 h at room temp in the dark. They were washed for 4 times with 1 ml of PBS, and then mounted on slides by ProLong Diamond Antifade Mountant (Molecular Probes, cat. P36970). Cells were imaged under a Zeiss LSM 780. Samples were excited with Ar gas laser (Zeiss, laser module LGK 7812) using a 488-nm laser line for Alexa-Fluor 488 dye (green channel), and with HeNe gas laser (Zeiss, LGK 7512 PF) using a 594-nm laser line for Alexa-Fluor 594 dye (red channel). Confocal microscope pictures were taken with a 63 \times oil objective. The parameters, including PMT voltage, Offset, Pinhole and Gain were kept unchanged between each picture taken. For quantitative analyses in Fig. 2d, Pearson's correlations were performed using Volocity 5.2 software, analyzing the whole cell but excluding the nucleus. For quantitative analyses in Extended Data Fig. 7a and 7b, colocalization percentages (determined by Mander's overlap coefficient-the number of pixels from the red channel that overlap with pixels from the green channel divided by the total number of pixels detected in the red channel above the threshold value) were calculated by ZEN 2010 software (Zeiss). Thresholds were set automatically by the software using the method of Costes et al (2004)³⁰.

AMPK assays. AMPK was assayed using the *AMARA* peptide as substrate in resuspended immunoprecipitates made using a equal mixture of anti-AMPK α 1 and -AMPK α 2 antibodies⁹, except for the assays in Fig 2c and Extended Data Fig. 2e where we immunoprecipitated using anti-AMPK β 2 and AMPK β 1 antibodies respectively, and Fig. 1g and 1i where we immunoprecipitated using anti-FLAG antibodies.

Aldolase assays. Aldolase enzymatic assay was performed as described previously³¹, in which 3-phosphoglyceraldehyde reacts with hydrazine to form hydrazone that absorbs

at 240 nm. Briefly, MEFs (80% confluence grown in a 10-cm dish) were collected, washed with PBS, and lysed with 500 μ l of digitonin solution (100 μ g/ml PBS). Some 5 μ l of cell lysate was incubated with EDTA (0.1 mM final concentration), iodoacetate (0.2 mM final concentration) and hydrazine (2.33 mM final concentration), and the digitonin solution was added to make a final volume of 300 μ l. A blank read was taken at 240 nm. FBP (5 mM final concentration) were added and the OD₂₄₀ was determined in 1 min intervals by a SpectraMax M5 microplate reader (Molecular Device). Enzymatic activity was determined in triplicate and normalized to the control.

***In vitro* reconstitution for lysosomal binding assays.** The assays were performed as described previously⁶. Full length His-tagged AXIN was expressed and purified as described previously⁷. In general, each reconstitution reaction requires light organelles from two 15-cm dishes of MEFs and cytosol from four 15-cm dishes. Cells were scraped and spun down at 200g at room temperature, and then resuspended in 750 μ l per 15-cm dish of fractionation buffer [50 mM KCl, 90 mM K-Gluconate, 1 mM EGTA, 5 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM sucrose, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, supplemented with 2.5 mM ATP, amino acids (Gibco, cat. 11130-077) and protease inhibitor cocktail] at room temperature, and were mechanically broken by spraying 6 times through a 22G needle, then yielding a post-nuclear supernatant (PNS) by spun at 2,000g for 5 min. The PNS was then spun at max speed for 15 min in a tabletop centrifuge. The light organelles (the pellets) were thus separated from the cytosol (the supernatants). Light organelles were then re-suspended with 100 μ l of fractionation buffer containing glycolytic intermediates as indicated and were incubated at 37 °C, in the thermomixer at 400 r.p.m. for 15 min. Some 500 μ l of cytosol or 1 μ g of His-AXIN was then added to the mixture,

followed by incubation at 37 °C for another 25 min. The mixtures were lysed with 800 µl of ODG buffer, followed by IP with antibody against LAMTOR1.

CE-MS-based analysis of metabolites. Sample preparation for CE (capillary electrophoresis)-MS was carried out as described previously^{32,33}, with some modifications. In general, each measurement requires cells collected from a 10-cm dish (60-70% confluence) or 100 mg of liver tissue. For analysis of metabolites, cells were rinsed with 20 ml of 5% mannitol solution (dissolved in water) and instantly frozen in liquid nitrogen. Cells were then lysed with 1 ml of methanol containing internal standards 1 [IS1 (Human Metabolome Technologies, H3304-1002, 1:200), used to standardize the metabolite intensity and to adjust the migration time], and were scrapped off from the dish. For analysis of metabolites in liver, the freshly excised tissue was freeze-clamped first, then washed in pre-cooled 5% mannitol solution and grinded in 1 ml of methanol with 50 µM IS1. The lysate was then mixed with 1 ml of chloroform and 400 µl of water by 20 s of vortexing. After centrifugation at 15,000g for 15 min at 4 °C, 450 µl of aqueous phase was collected and was then filtrated through a 5 kDa cutoff filter (Millipore, cat. UFC3LCCNB-HMT) by centrifuging at 10,000g for 3 h at 4 °C. Simultaneously, the quality control (QC) sample was prepared by combining 100 µl of the aqueous phase from each samples and then filtered. The filtered aqueous phase was then freeze-dried in a vacuum concentrator and then dissolved in water containing internal standards 3 [IS3 (Human Metabolome Technologies, H3304-1104, 1:200), to adjust the migration time]. 20 µl of re-dissolved solution was then loaded into an injection vial with a conical insert for CE-TOF MS (Agilent Technologies 7100, equipped with 6224 mass spectrometer) analysis. Instrumental analysis and data processing were performed as described

previously. For quantifying absolute concentrations of FBP, [U-¹³C]FBP (10 µg/mL) was used as internal standard. A standard curve and a two parameter polynomial equation were generated by plotting the ratios of unlabeled FBP:labelled FBP (peak area:peak area) against the concentrations of unlabeled FBP. The amount of FBP was then estimated according to the equation. The total concentrations of FBP in mouse liver ([FBP]_{liver}) were obtained by dividing the values of the amount of FBP by the estimated volume of liver. The concentrations of free-state FBP were then estimated, according to the value of [FBP]_{liver}, as described previously.

ATP, ADP and AMP detection by LC-MS. The three compounds (ATP, ADP and AMP) levels were measured using a TSQ Quantiva interfaced with Ultimate 3000 Liquid Chromatography system (ThermoScientific), equipped with a porous graphitic carbon column (HyperCarb 30x1mm ID 3 µm; Part No: C-35003-031030, ThermoScientific). Mobile phase buffer A consisted of 0.3% (v/v) formic acid adjusted to pH 9 with ammonia prior to a 1/10 dilution. Mobile phase buffer B was 80% (v/v) acetonitrile. The column was maintained at a controlled temperature of 30°C and was equilibrated with 10% buffer B for 5 minutes at a constant flow rate of 0.06 mL/min. Aliquots of 1 µL of each sample were loaded onto the column and compounds were eluted from the column with a linear gradient of 10%-60% buffer B over 9 min. Buffer B was then increased to 100% within 1 min, and the column was washed for a 5 min with 100% Buffer B. Eluents were sprayed into the TSQ Quantiva using Ion Max NG ion source with ion transfer tube temperature set to 350°C and vaporizer temperature 125°C. The TSQ Quantiva was run in negative mode with a spray voltage of 2600, sheath gas 40 and Aux gas 10. Levels of ATP, ADP and AMP were measured using multiple reactions monitoring mode (MRM) with optimised collision energies and

radio frequencies previously determined by infusing pure compounds. Three transitions were used to monitor each of the three compounds, ATP (505.92>158.98, 505.92>408.12 and 505.92>426.12), ADP (426.98>158.98, 426.98>328.78 and 426.98>409.09) and AMP (345.96>134.20, 345.96>151.27 and 345.96>211.12).

Statistical analysis. For experiments in Fig. 1 and 2 and Extended Data Fig. 1 and 2, 1-way or 2-way ANOVA was performed with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparison test (by GraphPad Prism 6 for MacOS), unless specified otherwise. For all other experiments, 1-way or 2-way ANOVA with post hoc analysis was used to compare values among different experimental groups. For experiments with only two groups, a two-tailed Student's *t* test was used as specified in the figure legends. For ANOVA, the homogeneity of variance was tested by Levene's test. If the results are similar, the Tukey's test was preceded, and if not, the Games-Howell's test was preceded. Similar procedures were followed when Student's *t* test was performed. No samples or animals were excluded from the analysis. Tests were performed with SPSS Statistics 17.0 program, and $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. Where exact P values are not shown, statistical significance is shown as */† $P < 0.05$, **/†† $P < 0.01$, ***/††† $P < 0.001$, ****/†††† $P < 0.0001$.

Data availability. The authors declare that all data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper and the Supplementary Information files.

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Legends for Extended Data Figures

Extended Data Figure 1 | Glucose deprivation activates AMPK via an AMP/ADP

independent mechanism. **a**, Phosphorylation of AMPK (pT172) and ACC (pACC)

analyzed by immunoblotting from the experiment shown in Fig. 1a; the upper panel shows quantification of the pT172:AMPK α ratios (mean \pm SD, $n = 2$). **b-c**, Glucose

deprivation rapidly activates AMPK without altering cellular AMP:ATP or ADP:ATP ratios in HEK293T cells. Cells were grown in full medium (25 mM glucose, 4 mM alanyl-glutamine, 1 mM pyruvate, 10% serum) and then switched to medium without glucose, with other components unchanged, for 15 min or 2 h. AMPK activation was monitored by immunoblotting for p-AMPK α and p-ACC (**a**), and intracellular AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios determined by CE:MS (**b**, results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$).

d, Adenine nucleotide ratios are unaltered in mouse liver after starvation. Mice were fed *ad libitum* or fasted for 16 h, freeze-clamped liver samples prepared, and AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios measured by CE-MS. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 6$; ns, not significant by Student's *t*-test.

e, Decrease in plasma glucose concentrations induced by fasting mice for 16 h. Mice from the same experiment shown in Fig. 1d were either fed *ad libitum* or were deprived of food for 16 h and plasma glucose determined. Circles are individual data points and horizontal lines are means \pm SD, $n = 6$; *P* value computed by Student's *t* test.

f, Extracts were prepared from livers of mice treated as in **d** (6 mice per group) and analysed by Western blotting using the indicated antibodies. **g**, Western blots from the same experiment shown in Fig. 1c. Although shown as separate panels, the blots with each antibody were from the same gel scanned at the same time, and are therefore directly comparable. **h**, quantification of blots in **g**.

Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 2$. **i**, ADP:ATP ratios determined by LC:MS, from the

same experiments shown in Fig. 1c and d. **j**, Time course of effects of starving MEFs for glucose only, or glucose and glutamine, in the presence of serum. The experiment was as in Fig. 1c except that the medium contained 10% fetal calf serum throughout. **k, l**, ADP:ATP ratios determined by LC:MS, from the experiments shown in Figs. 1e-h. All experiments were performed at least twice.

Extended Data Figure 2 | Glucose deprivation activates AMPK by a mechanism distinct from energy stress. a, b, d, *AXIN*^{-/-} (**a**), *LAMTOR1*^{-/-} (**b**) and CaMKK2 knockdown (**d**) MEFs were incubated with DMEM containing indicated concentrations of glucose for 2 h. The levels of p-AMPK α and p-ACC in the cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting. **c**, AMP:ATP and ADP:ATP ratios in *AXIN*^{-/-} and *LAMTOR1*^{-/-} MEFs, generated as in Fig. 2a, b. **e**, Validation of monoclonal anti- β 2 antibody for use in immunofluorescence microscopy. Parental wild type HEK293 cells, or β 2 KO cells, were stained with DAPI (blue, nuclei) and anti- β 2 antibody (green). Representative merged images are shown, obtained using identical intensity settings. **f**, Glucose starvation causes translocation of AMPK β 2 to the lysosome in HEK-293 cells that is dependent on N-myristoylation. The experiment was performed in β 2 KO cells as in Fig. 1c, except that the lysosomal marker LAMP1 (tagged with RFP) was co-expressed with the WT or AMPK- β 2 mutants. Upper panels show merged images stained blue [4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), nuclei], red (LAMP1, lysosomes) and green (AMPK- β 2, detected using antibody validated in Extended Data Fig. 2e), in cells incubated with or without glucose for 20 min. Lower small panels are magnifications of the areas indicated by dashed boxes in the upper panels, showing (L to R) red and green channels and merged images. **g**, Experiment identical to that

shown in Fig. 2c, but expressing AMPK- β 1, either WT, G2A or S108A mutants, in β 1 KO cells. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 4$. All experiments were performed at least twice.

Extended Data Figure 3 | Glycolytic intermediate(s) is responsible for repression of AMPK in the presence of glucose. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, Summary of glycolysis pathway and pathways branching off it. PPP, pentose phosphate pathway; SSP, serine synthesis pathway; HP, hexosamine pathway. **b**, **c**, Knockdown of *G6PD* (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase) (**b**) or *PHGDH* (phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase) (**c**) has no effect on AMPK activation. HEK293T cells were infected with lentivirus expressing siRNA against *G6PD* (**b**) or *PHGDH* (**c**), or siRNA against *GFP* as a control; the cells were then incubated in the DMEM medium with (25 mM) or without glucose for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **d**, The hexosamine pathway is not involved in AMPK regulation under glucose deprivation. MEFs were incubated for 2 h in the DMEM medium containing GlcNAc (N-acetylglucosamine), an supplement of hexosamine pathway which cannot be converted back to glucose³⁴, at indicated concentrations and 25 mM or 0 mM glucose. Cells were then subjected to immunoblotting. Experiments in **b** and **c** were performed twice, and that in **d** 3 times.

Extended Data Figure 4 | Absence of fructose-1,6-bisphosphate (FBP) defines a starvation signal for AMPK activation. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, FBP dissociates AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 *in vitro*. The same experiment identical to that in Fig. 3b was performed

except that the bacterially expressed His-tagged AXIN was used in lieu of AXIN-containing cytosol, incubating with light organelles purified from MEFs glucose-starved for 2 h. **b**, FBP modulates the interaction between AMPK and LKB1. Cytosol from unstarved MEFs was mixed with light organelles purified from 2-h-glucose-starved ALDO-TKD MEFs or WT MEFs, followed by addition of 200 μ M FBP. The mixtures were then dissolved and LKB1 was immunoprecipitated. **c**, Concentrations of FBP in mouse liver after starvation for 16 h. FBP levels from mouse livers were determined by CE-MS. The amounts of FBP were estimated according to the standard curve generated by plotting the peak-area ratios of unlabeled:¹³C-labelled FBP (derived from [U-¹³C]FBP used as internal standard) against the concentrations of unlabeled FBP. The results were obtained by dividing its amount by the estimated volume of liver, and the concentrations of free-state FBP were then estimated as described previously³⁵. Values are presented as mean \pm SEM, $n = 5$ for each condition, $P = 9.627 \times 10^{-5}$ (Student's *t*-test). **d**, **e**, Intracellular FBP levels were measured by CE-MS in MEFs after incubation in medium containing different concentrations of glucose (**d**), or in glucose-free DMEM for the indicated time periods (**e**). Values are presented as mean \pm SD, $n = 3$ for each treatment; $*P = 0.0187$, FBP levels in cells incubated in 10 mM glucose were compared to those in cells incubated with medium containing 5 mM glucose; $\dagger P = 0.0102$, cells incubated with medium containing 5 mM to 3 mM glucose; $P = 0.831$, cells incubated with medium containing 25 mM to 10 mM glucose; $P = 0.00577$, comparison of incubation in glucose-free medium for 0 min to 15 min (ANOVA). **f**, Plasma glucose concentrations (left panel) and intracellular FBP levels (right panel) in mouse liver. FBP were determined by CE-MS analysis. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 6$ for each condition; P value by Student's *t*-test. **g**, **h**, Linear

correlation between extracellular glucose concentrations and intracellular FBP levels. FBP levels in MEFs, measured at 2 h of incubation in medium containing various concentrations of glucose as shown in **d**, and in the starved mouse liver shown in **f**, were plotted against their corresponding glucose concentrations in the culture medium (**g**) and plasma (**h**), respectively. **i**, FBP levels in SLO-permeabilized MEFs. Levels of FBP in regularly cultured SLO-permeabilized MEFs (left panel), or glucose-starved SLO-permeabilized MEFs treated with exogenous FBP (right panel), were determined by CE-MS analysis. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$ for each condition; P value by Student's t -test (left panel) and ANOVA (right panel). Experiments shown in left and right panels were performed simultaneously and shared a single control (SLO-permeabilized MEFs incubated in medium containing 25 mM glucose). **j-l**, Addition of exogenous FBP to permeabilized MEFs blocks glucose starvation-induced AMPK activation. Various glycolytic intermediates (200 μ M) as indicated were individually added to the 2-h-glucose-starved WT (**j**), *PFKI*-KD (**k**) or *TPI*-KD (**l**) MEFs pre-incubated with SLO for 5 min. After incubating for another 15 min, cells were lysed and were analyzed by immunoblotting. Experiments in this figure were performed twice.

Extended Data Figure 5 | Modulation of FBP controls AMPK activation. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, Knockdown of *PFKI* activates AMPK in unstarved cells. HEK293T cells were infected with lentivirus expressing *PFKP*, *PFKL* and *PFKM* siRNA, or *GFP* siRNA as a control, and were incubated in the DMEM medium with or without glucose for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **b**, **c**, Effects of overexpression of

FBP1 and PFKP on AMPK activation. HEK293T cells were infected with lentivirus expressing FBP1 (**b**) or PFKP (**c**), and were then incubated in the DMEM medium with indicated glucose concentrations for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **d**, Knockdown of *GAPDH* has no effect on AMPK activation. MEFs were infected with lentivirus expressing *GAPDH* siRNA, or *GFP* siRNA as a control, and were glucose-starved for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. Experiments in this figure were performed twice.

Extended Data Figure 6 | Knockdown of aldolase renders AMPK activation constitutive. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, Schematic diagram showing the strategy for knocking down the three aldolases (isozymes ALDOA-C) in MEFs. In detail, MEFs carrying doxycycline-inducible expression of ALDOA-C were cultured in medium containing doxycycline (Dox, 100 ng/ml), and were infected with lentivirus expressing siRNA against *ALDOA*, *ALDOB* and *ALDOC* sequentially, or *GFP* siRNA as a control, followed by incubation in doxycycline-free medium for another 12 h. For Fig. 4a and 4b, #1 siRNAs targeting each enzyme were used. **b**, Validation of the efficiency and specificity of siRNAs targeting *ALDOA-C* in MEFs. Cell lysates from MEFs expressing siRNAs against *ALDOA*, *ALDOB*, *ALDOC* or *GFP* as a control (minus) were immunoblotted as indicated. **c**, Validation of aldolase-knockdown efficiency by measuring the activity of aldolase in ALDO-TKD cells. Aldolase activities in cell lysates prepared from ALDO-TKD and WT MEFs were measured. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; P value by ANOVA. **d**, Knockdown of the three aldolase isozymes renders AMPK activation constitutive. In an experiment identical to Fig. 4a for knocking down the aldolases, the

#2 siRNAs targeting each isozyme were used. **e**, Pyruvate kinase (PK) is not involved in regulation of AMPK. HEK293T cells were infected with lentivirus expressing *PKM* and *PKLR* siRNA, or *GFP* siRNA as a control; the cells were then incubated in the DMEM medium with or without glucose for 2 h, followed by analysis of p-AMPK α and p-ACC levels. **f**, Knockdown of aldolase does not alter the energy status in MEFs. AMP:ATP/ADP:ATP ratios in WT and ALDO-TKD MEFs were measured by CE-MS. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; N.S., not significant by Student's *t*-test. **g-i**, Aldolase regulates AMPK through the lysosomal pathway. Aldolases in *LKB1*^{-/-} (**g**), *LAMTOR1*^{-/-} (**h**) and *CaMKK2*^{-/-} (**i**) MEFs were knocked down following the procedures described in **a**, and were incubated with DMEM medium with 25 mM glucose. The levels of p-AMPK α and p-ACC in the cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting. **j**, Triple knockdown of aldolases promotes the formation of Regulator-AXIN/LKB1-AMPK complex. Endogenous LAMTOR1 in regularly cultured or glucose-starved ALDO-TKD MEFs were immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting. **k**, Knockdown of aldolase enhances the interaction between AMPK and LKB1. Experiment identical to that shown in **j**, but the endogenous LKB1 was immunoprecipitated. **l**, FBP fails to dissociate AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 on light organelles purified from starved ALDO-TKD MEFs. Cytosol from unstarved MEFs was mixed with light organelles purified from 2-h-glucose-starved ALDO-TKD MEFs or WT MEFs as a control, and 200 μ M FBP was then added to the mixture. The mixtures were then solubilized and LAMTOR1 was immunoprecipitated. **m**, Addition of exogenous FBP fails to block glucose starvation-induced AMPK activation in permeabilized ALDO-TKD MEFs. FBP (200 μ M) was added to the 2-h-glucose-starved ALDO-TKD MEFs or WT MEFs that had been pre-incubated with SLO for 5

min. After incubating for another 15 min, cells were subjected to immunoblotting. **n**, FBP is the unique intermediate that modulates aldolase for sensing the availability of glucose. FBP, fructose-2,6-bisphosphate (F26P), and fructose-1-phosphate (F1P) at 200 μ M were individually added to light organelles purified from 2-h-glucose-starved MEFs. The mixtures were then solubilized and LAMTOR1 was immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting to determine co-precipitated proteins. Experiments in **b**, **e**, **g-l** were performed 3 times, and that in **c**, **d**, **f**, **m** and **n** twice.

Extended Data Figure 7 | AXIN is constitutively localized to lysosomes in aldolase-deficient MEFs and HEK293T cells. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, **b**, Immunofluorescent staining in WT and ALDO-TKD MEFs (**a**) and HEK293T cells (**b**) was performed. Rat anti-LAMP2 antibody and goat anti-AXIN antibody were used for staining MEFs (**a**), and mouse anti-LAMP1 antibody and goat anti-AXIN antibody for HEK293T cells (**b**). The antibodies had been validated previously⁶. **c**, **d**, Mander's overlap coefficients of **a** and **b** were graphed in **c** and **d**, respectively, as mean \pm SD, $n = 61$ (siGFP, unstarved), 54 (siGFP, GS), 60 (siALDOA-C, unstarved), 58 (siALDOA-C, GS) (**c**) and $n = 57$ (siGFP, unstarved), 48 (siGFP, GS), 52 (siALDOA-C, unstarved), 51 (siALDOA-C, GS) (**d**) for each group; *P* value by ANOVA. N.S., not significant. The experiment was performed twice.

Extended Data Figure 8 | Effects of aldolase mutants on AMPK activation. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, ALDOA-D34S mutant increases intracellular FBP levels under glucose starvation.

HEK293T cells stably expressing ALDOA or its D34S mutant were incubated in DMEM with or without glucose for 2 h, followed by measuring FBP levels. Results are mean \pm SD, $n = 3$; P value by ANOVA. N.S., not significant. **b**, D34S mutant of ALDOA that still binds FBP in glucose-free medium exhibits reduced AMPK activation. ALDO-TKD MEFs stably expressing ALDOA-D34S, or wild type ALDOA as control, were incubated in DMEM medium with or without glucose for 2 h, followed by immunoblotting. **c**, ALDOA-D34S blunts the formation of Ragulator-AXIN/LKB1-AMPK complex. HEK293T cells stably expressing ALDOA and ALDOA-D34S were lysed and the endogenous LAMTOR1 was immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting. **d**, Adenovirus-mediated expression of the D34S mutant in mouse liver blocks AMPK activation after starvation. Adenovirus expressing ALDOA-D34S, or WT ALDOA as control, was injected into the tail veins of 6-week-old mice. Five days later, mice were fasted for 16 h. Phosphorylation of AMPK α and ACC were then determined by immunoblotting. **e**, K230A mutant of aldolase promotes the formation of Ragulator-AXIN/LKB1-AMPK complex. Endogenous LAMTOR1 in unstarved or glucose-starved WT MEFs and ALDOA-K230A MEFs were immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting. **f**, FBP fails to dissociate AXIN/LKB1 from LAMTOR1 on light organelles purified from starved ALDOA-K230A MEFs. Cytosol from unstarved MEFs was mixed with light organelles purified from 2-h-glucose-starved ALDOA-K230A MEFs or WT MEFs as a control, and 200 μ M FBP was then added to each mixture. The mixtures were then dissolved and LAMTOR1 was immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting. **g**, Addition of exogenous FBP fails to block glucose starvation-induced AMPK activation in permeabilized ALDO-K230A expressed, TKD-MEFs (ALDOA-K230A MEFs). FBP

(200 μ M) was added to the 2-h-glucose-starved ALDOA-K230A MEFs or WT MEFs that had been pre-incubated with SLO for 5 min. After incubating for another 15 min, cells were subjected to immunoblotting. Experiments in **c** and **f** were performed 3 times, and that in **a**, **b**, **d**, **e** and **g** twice.

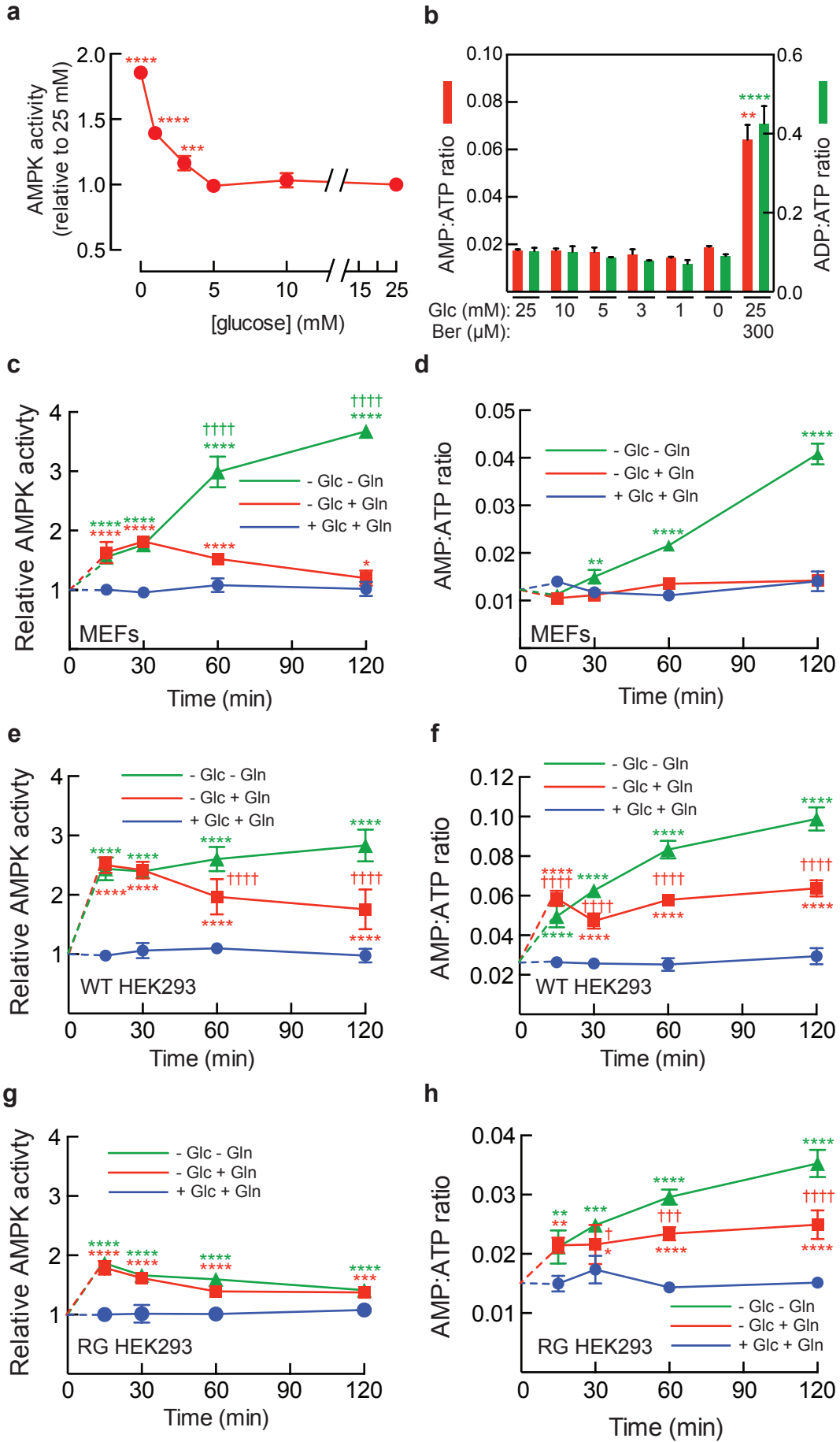
Extended Data Figure 9 | FBP is predominantly derived from glucose. All intact cell experiments in this Figure were performed in the presence of 10% serum. **a**, Isotopomeric distribution of metabolites derived from D-[U- 13 C]glucose. 13 C atoms are marked as filled circles. Note that FBP can be converted from various substrates besides glucose, but the conversion of glucose to F6P and then to FBP (grey-shaded area) is the only way that yields completely M+6 labelled FBP. **b**, **c**, MEFs (**b**) or HEK293T cells (**c**) were incubated in DMEM medium without glucose for 4 h. The medium was then added with 25 mM D-[U- 13 C]glucose. After 15 min or 4 h of incubation, the labeled FBP levels in cells were measured by CE-MS. The results shown that FBP produced after re-addition of glucose to the MEFs was almost entirely M+6 labelled. The experiment was performed twice.

Extended Data Figure 10 | Aldolase interacts with the v-ATPase-Ragulator complex. **a**, A simplified model depicting that aldolase is a sensor of glucose availability that directly links glucose shortage to activation of AMPK. **b**, HEK293T cells were lysed and the endogenous aldolase was immunoprecipitated, followed by immunoblotting. The experiment was performed twice.

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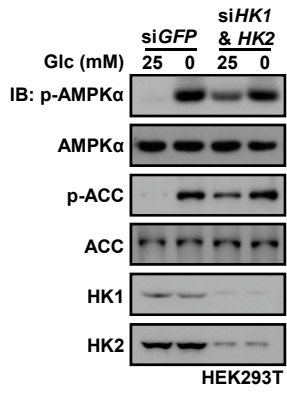
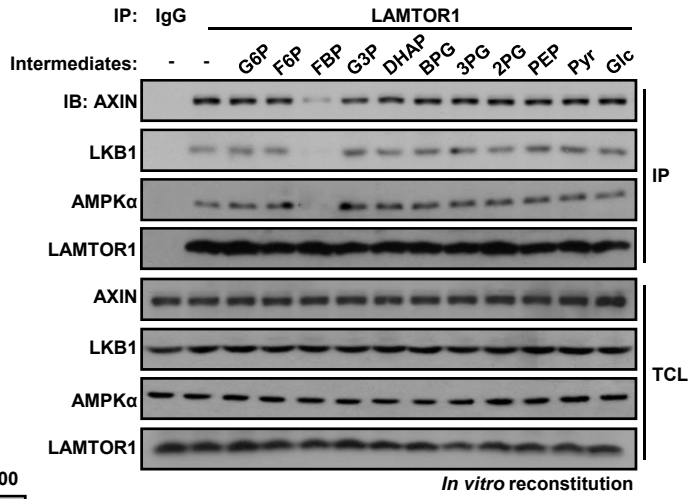
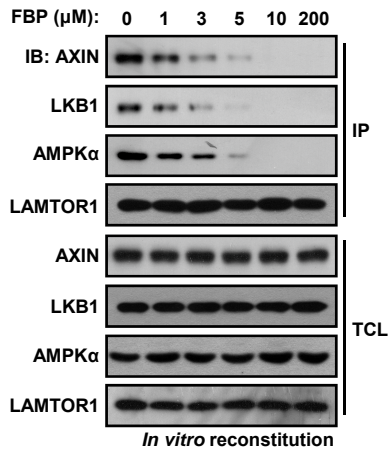
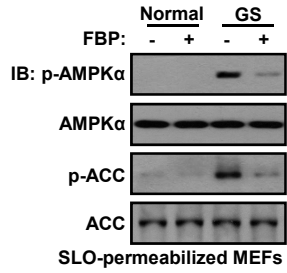
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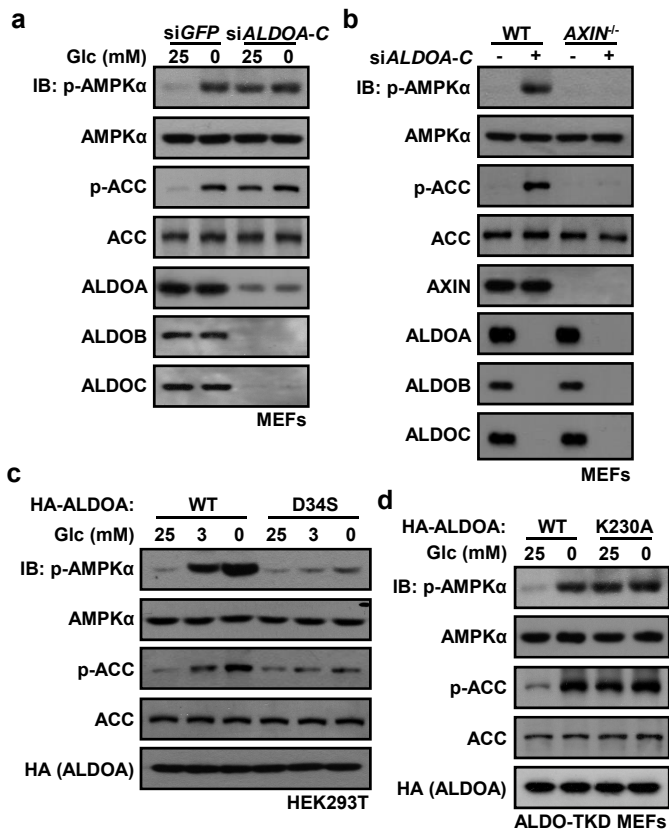
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a**b****c****d**

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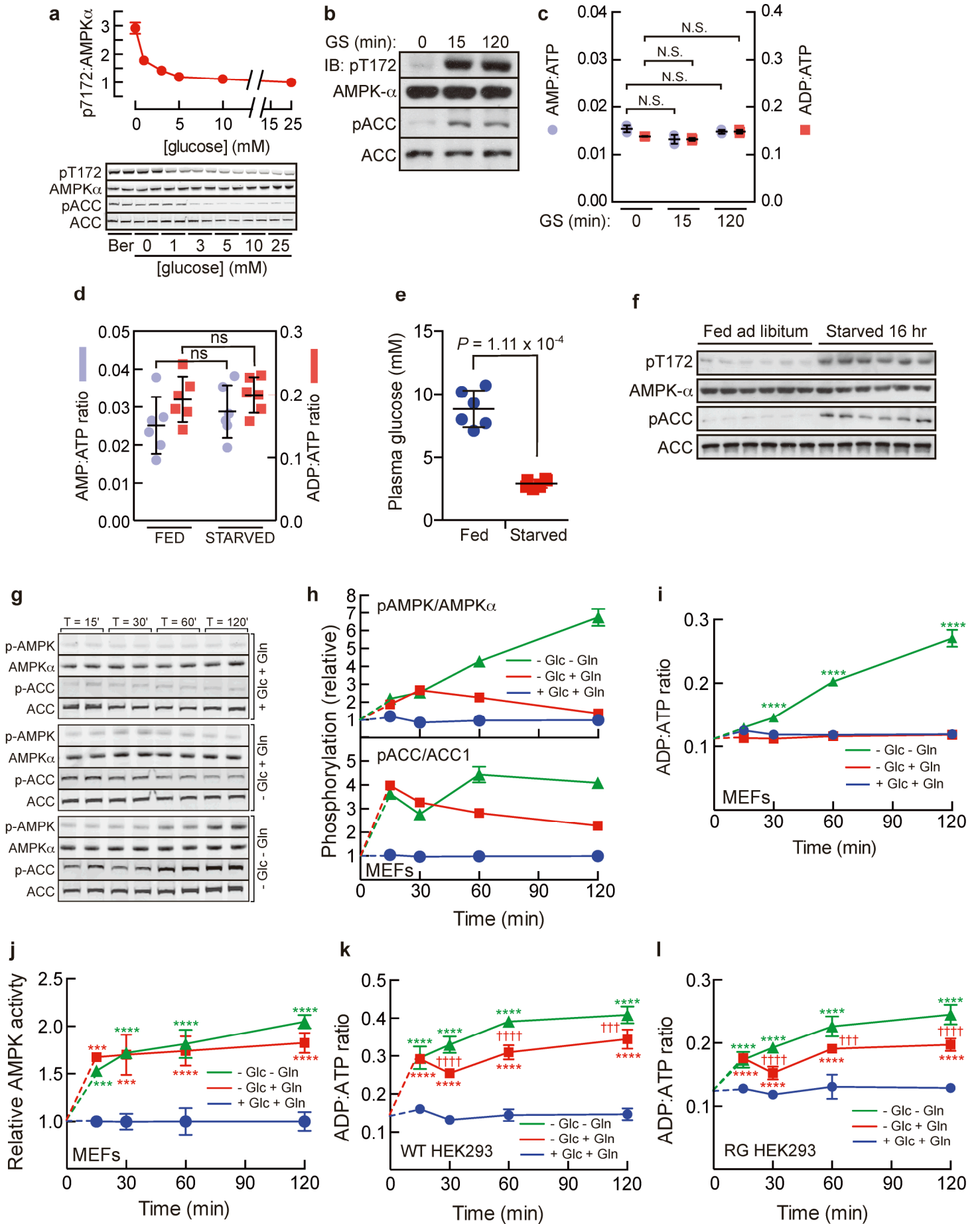


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EXTENDED DATA Figure 1



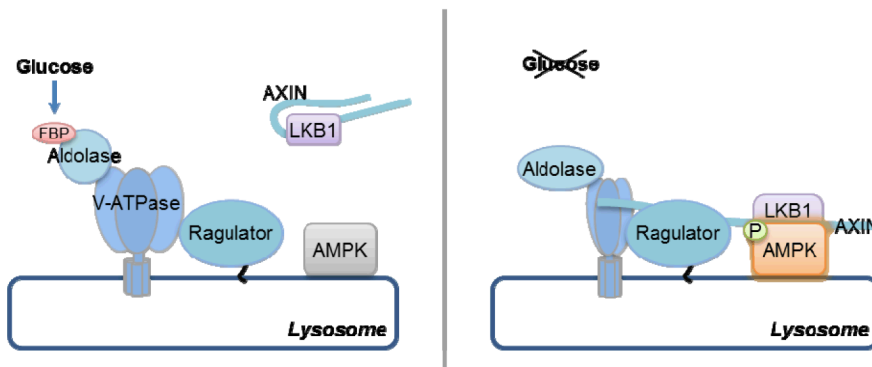
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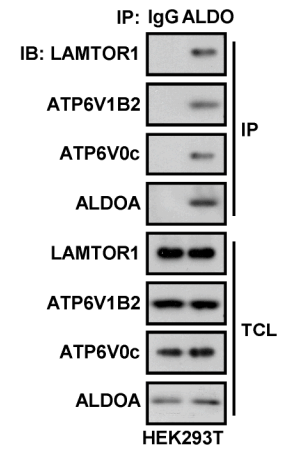
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b

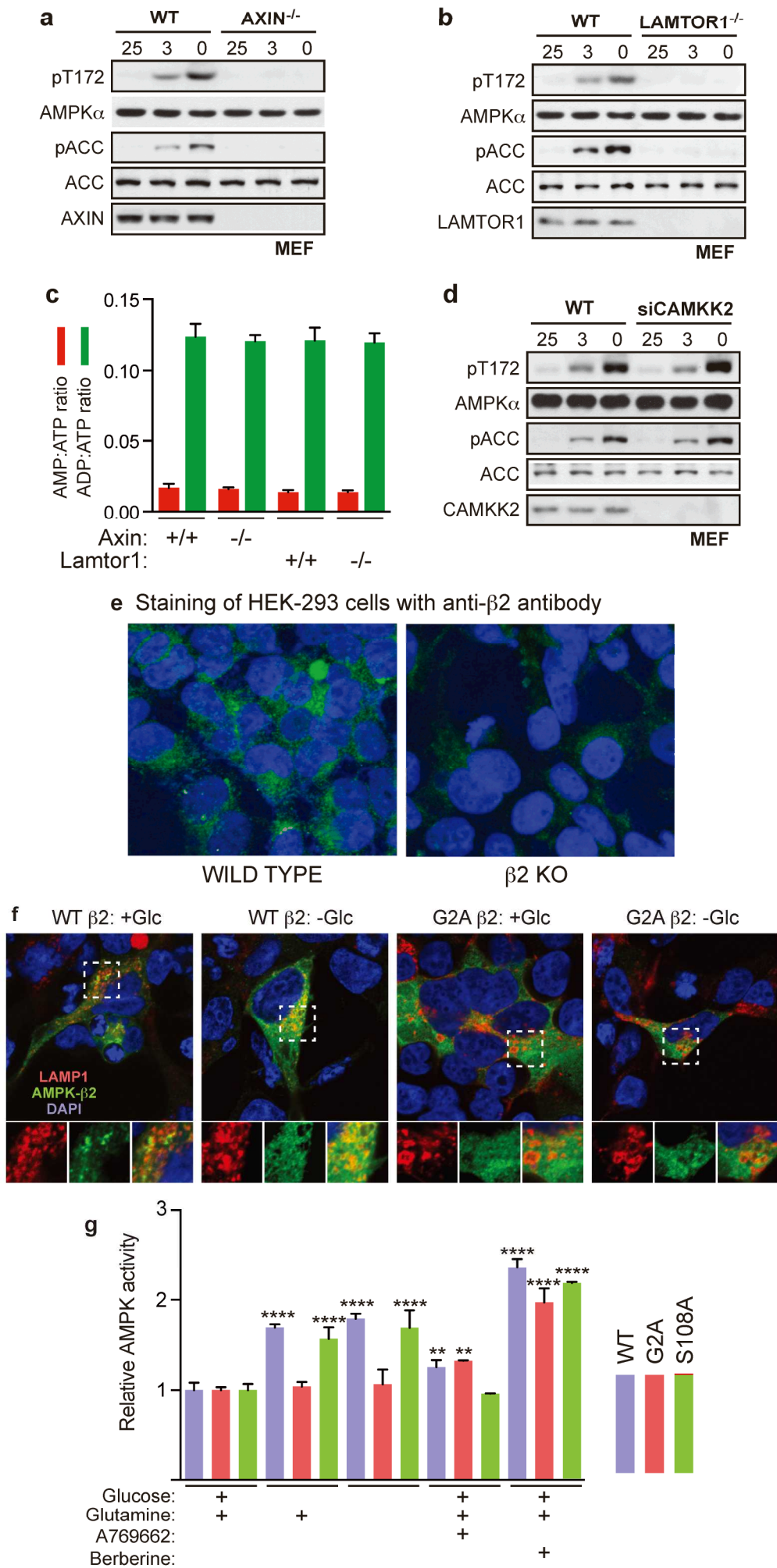


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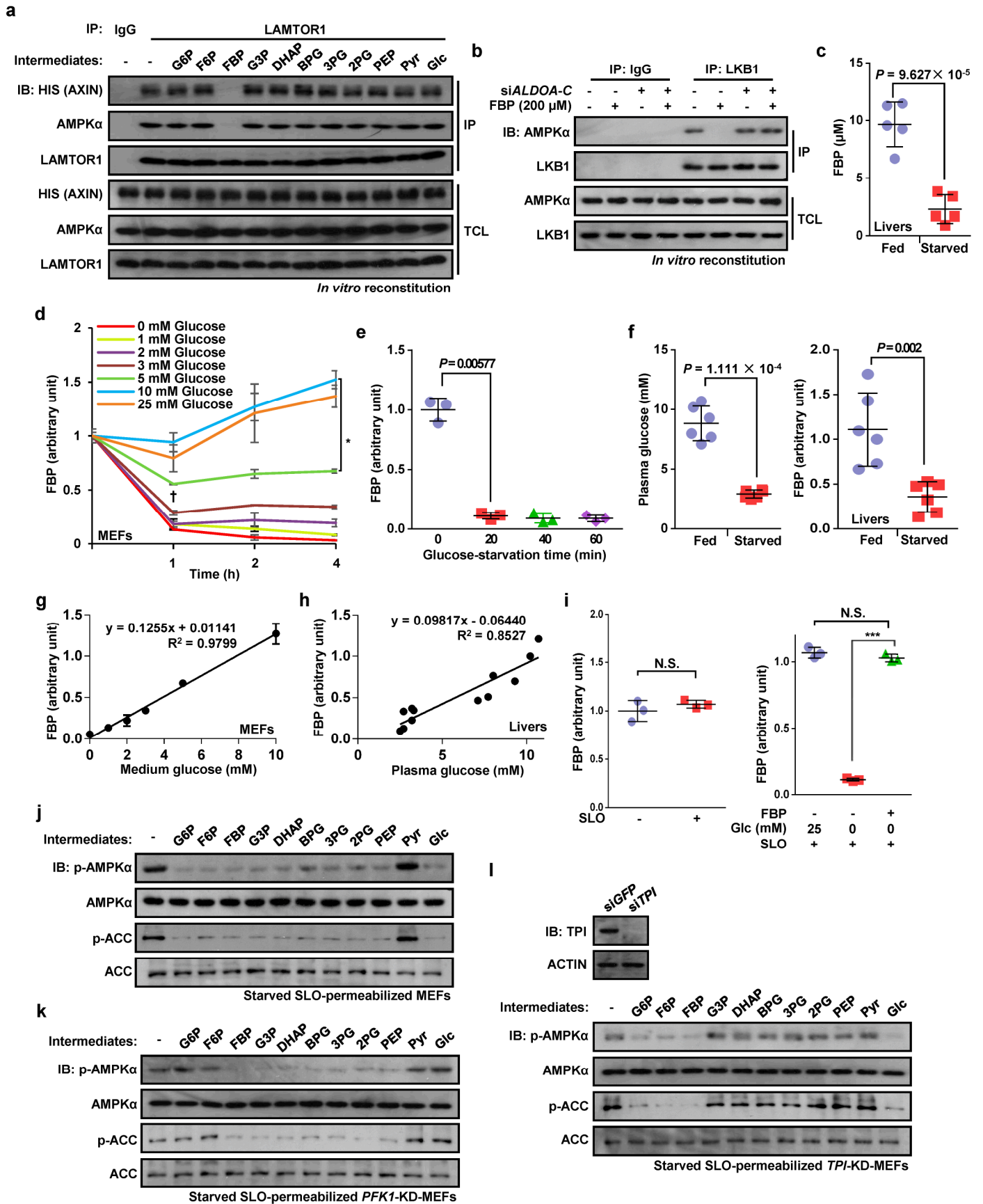
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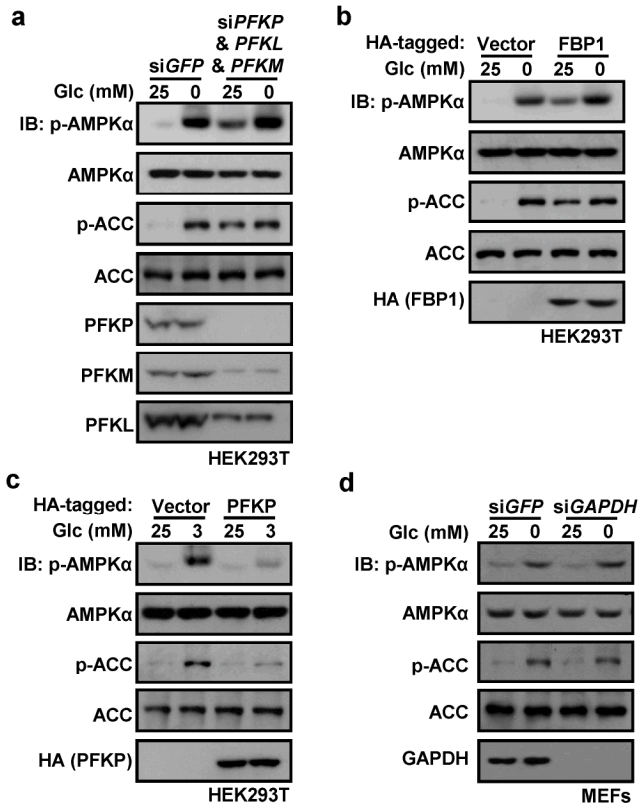
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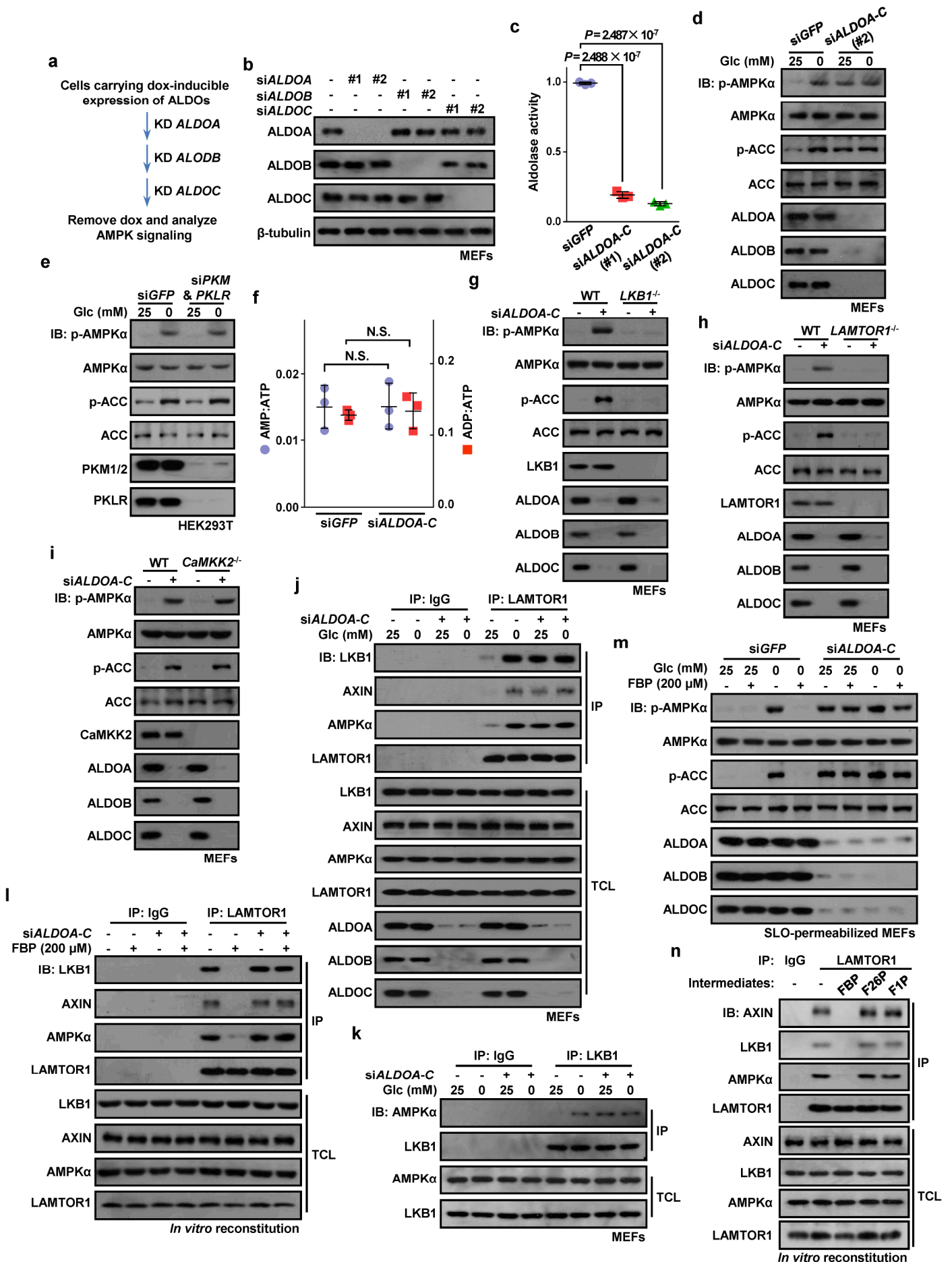
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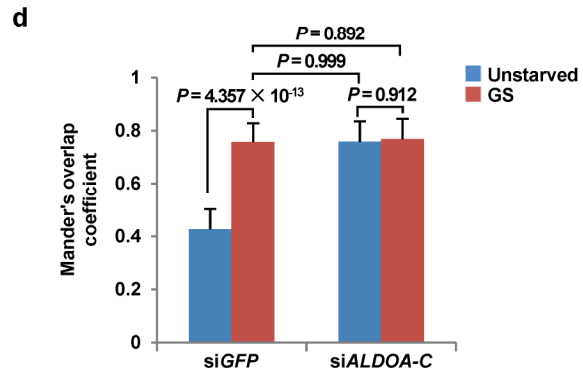
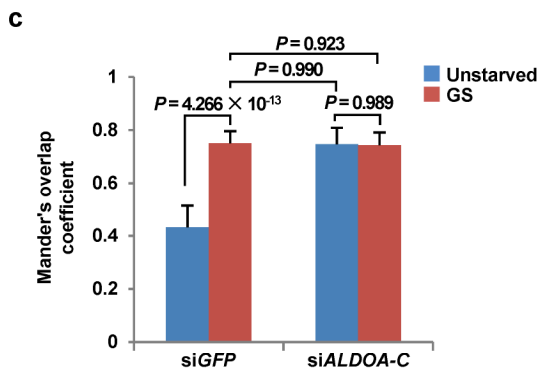
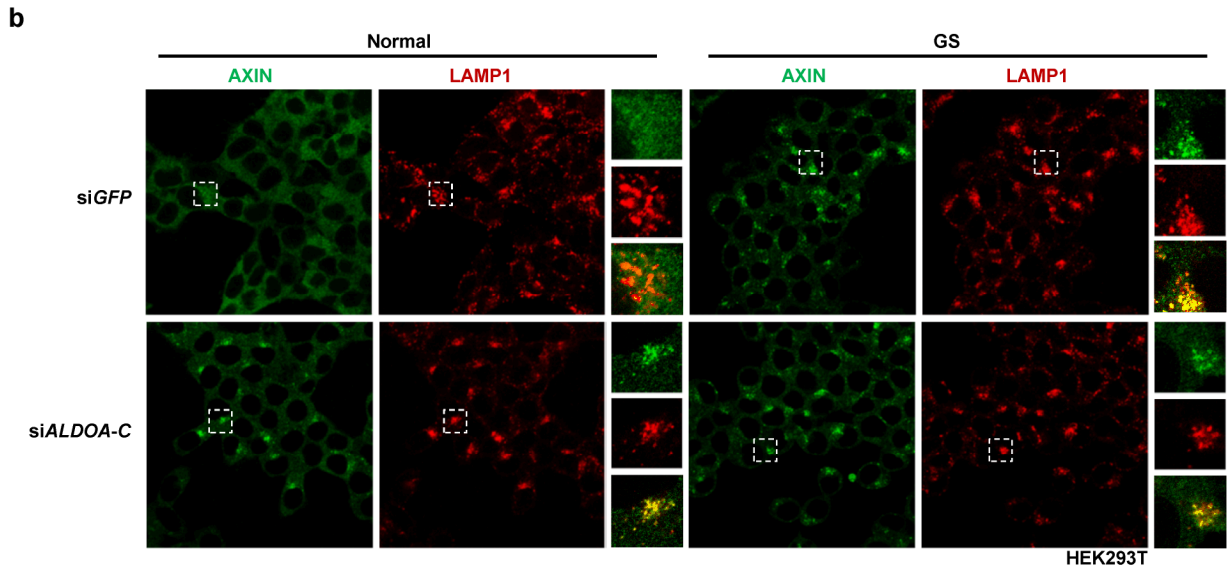
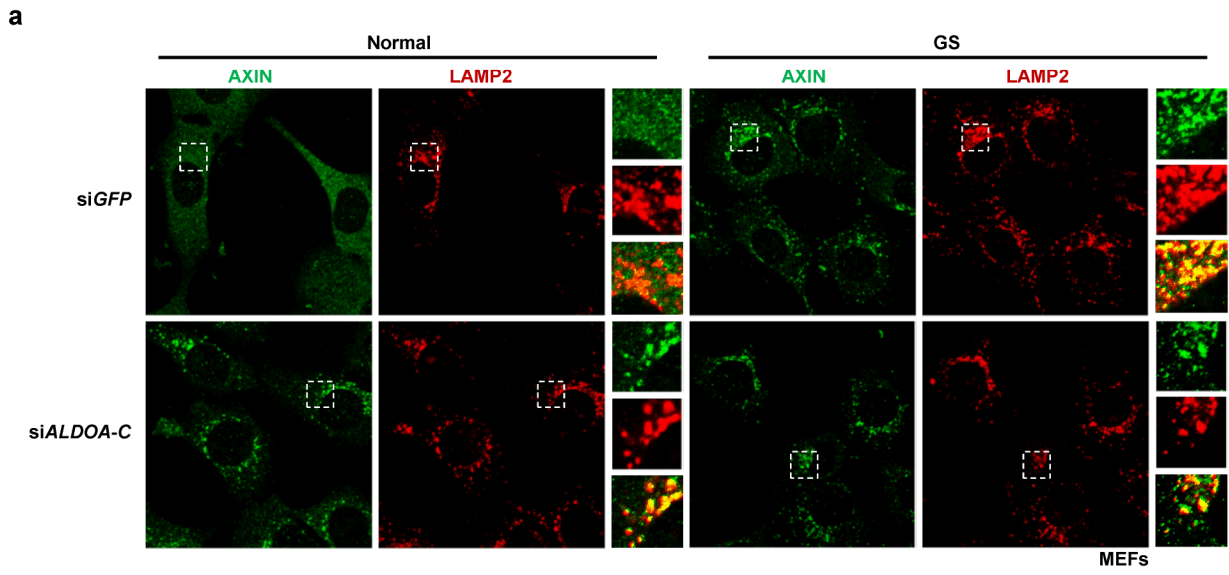
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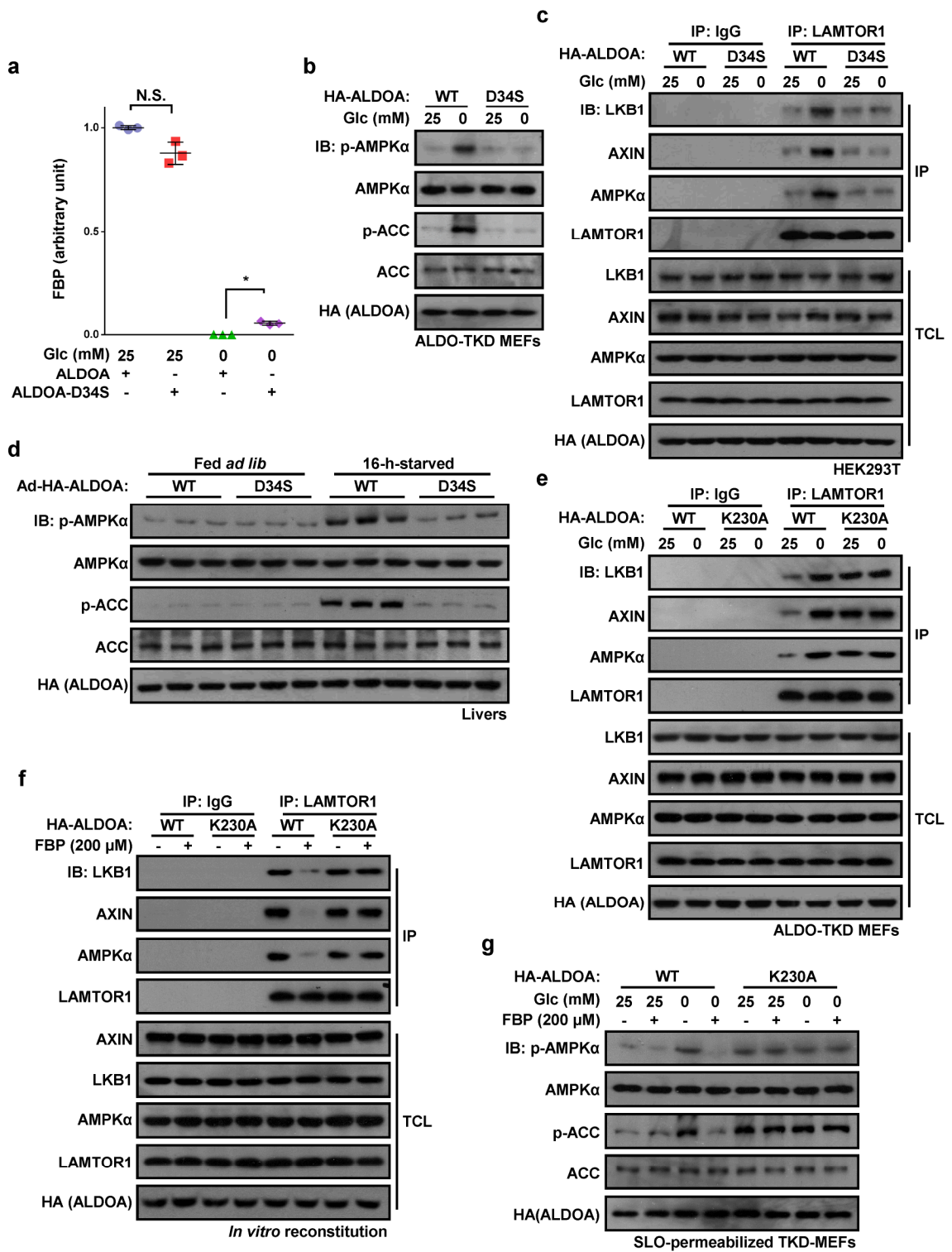
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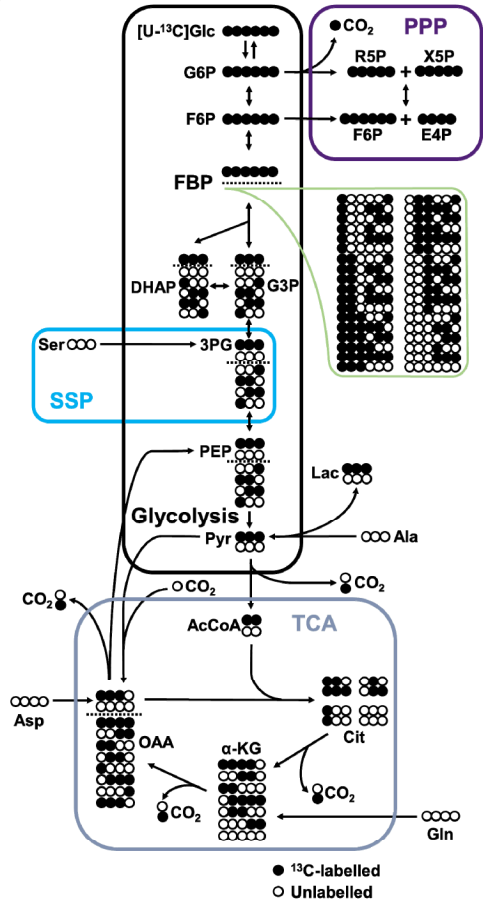


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a



b

FBP	Technical replicates	Peak area (15 min)	FBP	Technical replicates	Peak area (4 h)
M+0	1	undetectable	M+0	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+1	1	undetectable	M+1	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+2	1	undetectable	M+2	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+3	1	undetectable	M+3	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+4	1	undetectable	M+4	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+5	1	undetectable	M+5	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+6	1	114767	M+6	1	130299
	2	112704		2	145178
	3	130442		3	124090

MEFs

c

FBP	Technical replicates	Peak area (15 min)	FBP	Technical replicates	Peak area (4 h)
M+0	1	undetectable	M+0	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+1	1	undetectable	M+1	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+2	1	undetectable	M+2	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+3	1	undetectable	M+3	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+4	1	undetectable	M+4	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+5	1	undetectable	M+5	1	undetectable
	2	undetectable		2	undetectable
	3	undetectable		3	undetectable
M+6	1	286961	M+6	1	350502
	2	312845		2	223652
	3	310485		3	345997

HEK293T