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# 1 A local insulin reservoir in *Drosophila* alpha cell homologs ensures developmental 2 progression under nutrient shortage

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## 16 **Summary** (189 words)

17 Insulin/IGF signalling (IIS) controls many aspects of development and physiology. In *Drosophila*, a  
18 conserved family of insulin-like peptides called Dilps is produced by brain neurosecretory cells and  
19 regulates organismal growth and developmental timing. To accomplish these systemic functions, the Dilps  
20 are secreted into the general circulation and signal to peripheral tissues in an endocrine fashion. Here, we  
21 describe the local uptake and storage of Dilps in the Corpora Cardiacia (CC), an endocrine organ composed  
22 of *alpha* cell homologs known to produce the glucagon-like Adipokinetic hormone (AKH). We show that  
23 Dilp uptake by the CC relies on the expression of an IGF-binding protein called Impl2. Following their  
24 uptake, immuno-gold staining demonstrates that Dilps are co-packaged with AKH in dense-core vesicles  
25 for secretion. In response to nutrient shortage, this specific Dilp reservoir is released and activates IIS in a  
26 paracrine manner in the prothoracic gland. This stimulates the production of the steroid hormone  
27 ecdysone and initiates entry into pupal development. We therefore uncover a sparing mechanism  
28 whereby insulin stores in CC serve to locally activate IIS and the production of ecdysone in the PG,  
29 accelerating developmental progression in adverse food conditions.

## 30 **Keywords**

31 insulin, ecdysone, nutrition, hormone secretion, *Drosophila*

32

### 33 Introduction

34 Insulin and insulin-like growth factors (IGFs) are conserved modulators of growth and metabolic  
35 homeostasis. They are produced by specific endocrine organs in response to nutrient availability and  
36 stimulate peripheral tissues through two main routes. Circulating insulins and IGFs act in an endocrine  
37 manner on distant organs through mechanisms of secretion and action that have been extensively studied  
38 <sup>1-3</sup>. In several instances, insulin/IGFs are also produced and act locally. This is the case for IGF-I produced  
39 in peripheral organs like bone chondrocytes, which acts in an autocrine manner <sup>4</sup>. Local insulin/IGF  
40 signalling is also key for the development and homeostasis of the central nervous system, which is  
41 separated from the systemic circulation by the blood-brain barrier <sup>5</sup>. In mammalian brains, IGF-I  
42 expression is spatially and temporally controlled, participating in the rapid proliferation of neural stem  
43 cells (NSCs) <sup>6</sup>. IGF-I is expressed in neurons, astrocytes and NSCs, contributing to both paracrine and  
44 autocrine signaling <sup>7</sup>.

45 In the *Drosophila* model, a subset of insulin/IGFs called *Drosophila* insulin-like peptides (Dilps) is expressed  
46 in neurosecretory cells and contributes to systemic activation of insulin/IGF signaling (IIS). Similar to  
47 mammals, local brain expression of Dilps in glial cells also contributes to coupling NSC proliferation with  
48 systemic metabolic status <sup>8,9</sup>.

49 In parallel, local activation of IIS can be triggered by alternative routes, providing the possibility to  
50 uncouple insulin/IGF signaling from nutrient availability. The role of this uncoupling is exemplified in the  
51 case of “brain sparing” a phenomenon observed in many species, including human, whereby moderate  
52 nutrient deprivation affects primarily body growth, while brain growth is preserved <sup>10</sup>. The molecular  
53 mechanism of brain sparing has been addressed in *Drosophila*. It is associated with the specific activation  
54 of neuroblast growth through local production of the ligand Jelly belly (Jeb) and activation of the  
55 Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (Alk) receptor upstream of PI-3-kinase, even in the absence of nutrients <sup>11</sup>.

56 Here, we unravel a distinct mechanism locally uncoupling insulin release from the presence of nutrients  
57 and leading to the maintenance of IIS activation in a key endocrine organ during development. The initial  
58 observation of a pool of Dilps accumulating in neurosecretory cells called the corpora cardiaca (CC) <sup>12</sup>,  
59 suggested the possibility that these insulins could activate IIS under specific conditions, in a way distinct  
60 from their systemic function. Indeed, the CC cells do not produce insulins, but rather a glucagon-like  
61 hormone called AKH, whose release is stimulated by nutrient shortage. Our present work unravels some  
62 features of the mechanism of uptake of insulins by the CC. We show that, conversely to systemic insulins,  
63 CC insulins are released in response to nutrient deprivation. We further demonstrate that the local release  
64 of CC insulins upon starvation maintains high IIS levels in the prothoracic gland (PG), which produces the

65 steroid ecdysone. Finally, we establish that the local activation of IIS in the PG secures a fast transition to  
66 pupal development in absence of nutrients.  
67 Therefore, our work uncovers a distinct mechanism of organ-sparing, whereby a pre-accumulated store of  
68 Dilps is released in adverse food conditions and ensures fast developmental progression through steroid  
69 production.

70

## 71 Results

### 72 Corpora cardiaca cells take up Dilp2 and 5

73 The Corpora Cardiaca (CC) is part of the ring gland (RG), a composite endocrine organ located in  
74 the vicinity of the larval central nervous system (CNS) (Figure 1A). Apart from the CC, two other endocrine  
75 tissues - the prothoracic gland (PG), which synthesizes ecdysone, and the corpora allata (CA), which  
76 synthesizes the juvenile hormone – together form the RG (Figure 1A). CC cells are neurosecretory in  
77 nature and extend processes that terminate in the larval aorta and the PG (Figure 1A). The IPCs, located in  
78 the pars intercerebralis of the larval brain, also project to the aorta (Figure 1A). Previous work describes a  
79 strong accumulation of anti-Dilp2 immunoreactivity in the corpora cardiaca (CC)<sup>12</sup>, in addition to the one  
80 observed in the cell bodies of IPCs<sup>13</sup>. However, whether CC cells express the Dilp2 gene has not been  
81 investigated.

82 In order to clarify the presence and production of Dilp2 in CC cells, we co-labelled the IPC  
83 projections by over-expressing a GFP-tagged Synaptotagmin-1 (*SYT1-GFP*) using a *dilp2-gal4* driver  
84 (*IPC>SYT1-GFP*, Figure 1B) and anti-Dilp2 immunostaining. We confirmed the presence of IPC processes  
85 containing DILP2 and innervating the aorta (Figure 1B). Additionally, Dilp2 could also be detected without  
86 GFP colocalization in the CC (Figure 1B). Expressing *SYT1-GFP* using a CC-specific GAL4 driver (*akh-gal4*),  
87 we confirmed that Dilp2 indeed co-localizes with GFP in CC cells and their processes projecting on the PG  
88 and the aorta (Figure 1C). The CC also stain for anti- Dilp5, and both Dilp2 and Dilp5 show high degree of  
89 subcellular colocalization, suggesting that these two Dilps may serve a common function in the CC (Figure  
90 1D, anti-HRP antibodies stain neuronal membranes in *Drosophila*<sup>14</sup> and serve to highlight the CC ).  
91 Presence of Dilp2 and Dilp5 in the soma of the CC cells could either be due to a transient expression in the  
92 CC or their uptake by the CC from a pool initially produced by the IPCs. To address this point, we  
93 specifically knock-down *DILP2* or *DILP5* expression in the IPCs. This led to their loss in CC cells (Figures 1E-  
94 H), indicating that the IPCs are the only source of Dilp production, followed by their specific uptake in the  
95 CC. Of note, the knock-down of Dilp5 expression in the IPCs did not affect the Dilp2 signal in the CC (Figure  
96 S1), suggesting that these two Dilps are taken up separately in these cells.

97

## 98 **ImpL2 mediates the uptake of Dilp2 and Dilp5 in the Corpora cardiaca**

99 In addition to the canonical insulin receptor (dInR), *Drosophila* larvae express another insulin-binding  
100 protein called ImpL2. ImpL2 binds circulating Dilp2 and Dilp5, resulting in the downregulation of  
101 insulin/IGF- signalling (IIS) in target tissues<sup>15,16</sup>. Beside tumorous imaginal discs and fat body<sup>16,17</sup>, which  
102 produce a circulating form of ImpL2, a subset of neurons in the larval brain express the *ImpL2* gene<sup>15</sup>.  
103 Using specific anti-ImpL2 antibodies, we also detected ImpL2 in the CC (Figure 2A). Similar staining  
104 patterns between ImpL2 and Dilp2 suggests that they may be partially bound inside the CC. Staining for  
105 ImpL2 in *Dilp2/Dilp5* double knock-out larvae ruled out a possible staining artefact due to cross-reactivity  
106 of the respective antibodies (Figure S2A,B). Additionally, our results show that the presence of ImpL2 in  
107 the CC is independent of Dilp2 and 5 production (Figure S2A,B).

108 ImpL2 binds to Dilps but, unlike dInR, does not have a trans-membrane domain<sup>18</sup>. A previous study<sup>19</sup>  
109 showed that a membrane-associated form of ImpL2 produced in a few brain neurons binds Dilp2 and  
110 facilitates its contact with dInR, resulting in activation of intracellular IIS signalling. While dInR is recycled  
111 to the membrane after endocytosis, the ImpL2-Dilp2 complex is then degraded<sup>19</sup>. In order to clarify the  
112 mechanism of Dilp uptake by the CC, we knocked-down dInR and ImpL2 and compared the amount of  
113 Dilps present in CC cells. dInR and ImpL2 knock-down were first controlled for their efficacies in the wing  
114 disc and CC respectively (Figure S2C-D and S2E-F). While silencing *dInR* in CC had no effect on Dilp2  
115 localization, *ImpL2* knock-down significantly reduced Dilp2 staining in the soma of CC cells (Figures 2b and  
116 2c). Similar results were obtained for Dilp5 localisation (Figure S2G). The knock-down of *dInR* reduces CC  
117 cell area and shows a slight increase in mean intensities of Dilp2 (Figures 2c) and 5 (Figure S2G). Silencing  
118 ImpL2 in CC did not affect expression of ImpL2 in brain neurons (Figures S2F). We conclude from these  
119 experiments that CC cells require ImpL2, but not dInR, to take up Dilps. Next, we ensured that preventing  
120 Dilp uptake in the CC does not affect endogenous glucagon-like AKH production by staining CC with anti-  
121 AKH antibodies (Figures 2d and 2e). Therefore, ImpL2 silencing in CC cells is an efficient tool to study the  
122 physiological function of the pool of Dilps present in the CC. Of note, other DILP2-containing projections  
123 run from the brain to the Corpora Allata (CA)<sup>20</sup> (Figure S3). However, these are not affected when  
124 preventing Dilp uptake in CC cells (Figure S3).

125

## 126 **Corpora cardiaca act as a functional Dilp store**

127 Larvae lacking Dilp2 and Dilp5 show reduced growth during larval stages, require extended time to  
128 develop and produce smaller adults<sup>21</sup>. To evaluate the contribution of the CC store of Dilp2 and Dilp5 to  
129 general IIS, we measured the developmental time, larval growth and adult size of animals devoid of ImpL2  
130 in CC cells, therefore lacking Dilp accumulation in CC. We observed that larvae of the *CC>ImpL2-RNAi*

131 genotype pupariated approx. 10 hr in advance compared to controls (Figure 3A). However, pupal volume  
132 (a measure of total larval growth), adult mass and wing area were not modified (Figure 3B-D). This  
133 indicates that animals devoid of their CC-Dilp store experience accelerated growth without affecting final  
134 size. Measuring larval mass across the L3 stage, we indeed found that removal of CC-Dilps leads to an  
135 increase in larval growth rate (Figure 3E). Accelerated growth was previously observed upon a general  
136 increase in intracellular IIS<sup>22</sup> or over-expression of *DILP2*<sup>23,24</sup> during larval development. When measuring  
137 circulating Dilp2 from *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* larvae, we found it doubling compared to controls (Figure 3F). To  
138 support this finding, we also found elevated levels of fat body IIS at 104hr AEL compared to control  
139 genotypes, measured as the relative distribution of the transcription factor dFOXO between nucleus and  
140 cytoplasm (Figure 3G and 3H). Therefore, preventing Dilp uptake in the CC increases circulating Dilp2  
141 levels and accelerates growth.

142

#### 143 **CC-Dilps are packaged for co-secretion with the Glucagon homolog AKH**

144 Our previous results indicate that approximately equal amounts of Dilp circulate in the hemolymph and  
145 are sequestered in the CC cells (Figure 3F). We therefore examined the secretion of this major pool of CC-  
146 Dilp. Based on colocalization using light microscopy, it was previously proposed that ImpL2/Dilp2  
147 complexes are degraded through the late endosomal route in *ImpL2*-expressing neurons<sup>19</sup>. Given the  
148 small size of the soma of CC cells, we used electron microscopy to identify Dilp-containing structures  
149 inside the CC cells (Figure 4A). Stitching several high-resolution images from a single tissue section (Figure  
150 S4) shows the overall organization of the cytoplasm of a CC cell, i.e. large networks of ER, occasionally  
151 interspersed with Golgi complexes, and clusters of dense-core secretory vesicles (DCVs) occupying the  
152 perinuclear space (Figure 4B). This architecture is in line with the capacity of CC cells to secrete the  
153 glucagon-like hormone AKH, and similar observations have been made in other insects<sup>25</sup>. When probed  
154 for Dilp5 using immuno-gold staining, CC cells showed high reactivity in clusters of DCVs compared to the  
155 rest of the cytoplasm (Figures 4C and 4D). Probing simultaneously for Dilp2 and 5 using gold particles of  
156 two different sizes, we observed a co-localization of both Dilps not only in DCVs, but also in multi-vesicular  
157 bodies (MVBs) (Figure 4E). MVBs form in the late endocytic pathway and are responsible for recycling and  
158 degradation of endocytic compartments<sup>26,27</sup>. Alternatively, they also give rise to secretory granules<sup>28</sup>. Our  
159 results therefore suggest that Dilp2 and 5 are taken up and packaged into secretory DCVs, making the CC  
160 cells a potential alternative source of circulating insulin in the larva.

161 CC cells produce the glucagon-like hormone AKH and release it under nutrient-limiting conditions<sup>12</sup>.  
162 When probing CC cells for AKH and Dilp2 using two differently-sized gold particles, we found that AKH and  
163 Dilp2 co-localize in the same DCVs (Figure 4F). We confirmed the two distinct gold particle populations by

164 plotting the size distribution (Figure 4F). Therefore, two functionally antagonistic hormones, AKH and  
165 Insulin, are co-packaged in the same secretory structures, raising the intriguing possibility that they are  
166 released by CC cells in the same physiological context (i.e. limiting nutrients).

167

#### 168 **CC-Dilps control the time to pupariation under limiting nutrients.**

169 What could be the physiological role of the pool of CC-insulin? During the late larval period,  
170 holometabolous insects pass through two pre-metamorphosis checkpoints, called critical weight and  
171 minimal viable weight, which ensure that energy stores are sufficient before transiting to the non-feeding  
172 pupal stage<sup>29</sup>. During *Drosophila* development, these two checkpoints are reached at the same larval  
173 weight and therefore collectively referred to as nutrient restriction checkpoint (NRC)<sup>30</sup>. When starved  
174 before the NRC, *Drosophila* larvae do not grow and never pupariate. By contrast, early observations  
175 indicate that when starved after the NRC, *Drosophila* larvae pupariate significantly earlier than fed  
176 controls (Figure 5A,B and S5)<sup>31,32</sup>.

177 Several lines of evidence suggest that the pool of CC-Dilps induces early pupariation upon starvation post-  
178 NRC. First, we noticed that, when comparing fed and starved conditions, the acceleration observed for  
179 *CC>w1118* controls is absent in the *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* background (Figure 5C). As described before (see  
180 Figure 3A,E), fed *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* larvae pupariate earlier than fed *CC>* controls due to increased  
181 circulating Dilps and accelerated growth. In *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* larvae, the difference between fed and  
182 starved conditions is abrogated (marked as a grey area in Figures 5B,C and S5). We then found that CC-  
183 Dilp pool completely disappears upon starvation (Figure 5D,E). Inactivating the CC by expressing Kir2.1  
184 resulted in retention of Dilp2 (Figure 5F,G), thus confirming that starvation stimulates the release of CC  
185 insulin, reminiscent of what is observed in case of AKH secretion<sup>33</sup>. The transition into pupal development  
186 requires a surge of ecdysone production and previous work indicate that activation of IIS is required for  
187 ecdysone biosynthesis by the PG<sup>34,35</sup>. Therefore, our observation that CC cells send projections to the PG  
188 raises the possibility of a local delivery of Dilps to the PG in response to starvation. To test this hypothesis,  
189 we compared the levels of circulating Dilp2 in *CC>* and *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* larvae under different nutritional  
190 conditions. In fed conditions, suppressing the CC-Dilp pool leads to an increase in circulating Dilp2 (Figure  
191 5H). However, during starvation post-NRC, no circulating Dilp2 is detected either in *CC>* or *CC>ImpL2*  
192 conditions (Figure 5I), indicating that the release of the CC pool of Dilp2 does not contribute to increasing  
193 systemic Dilp2. In parallel, we measured the nucleus/cytoplasm ratio of dFOXO in fat cells as a marker of  
194 peripheral IIS (Figure 5J,K). Again, no difference in adipose IIS was observed between *CC>* and *CC>ImpL2-*  
195 *RNAi* larvae starved after the NRC, indicating that under these conditions CC-Dilp2 does not contribute to  
196 general IIS. In contrast, we observed that post-NRC starvation induces an increase in nuclear localization

197 of dFOXO in PG cells of *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* but not of *CC>* control animals (Figure 5L,M). This indicates that  
198 CC-Dilps contribute to maintaining a high level of IIS activation in the PG in response to post-NRC  
199 starvation. To confirm the role of IIS in the PG on ecdysone production, we checked for ecdysone target  
200 gene expression upon starvation (Figure 5N). Starved *CC>* control larvae showed an upregulation of early  
201 ecdysone targets like *broad* and *DHR4*<sup>36,37</sup>, compared to fed *CC>* controls (Figure 5N). However,  
202 *CC>ImpL2-RNAi* larvae did not show any significant change in early ecdysone target genes expression  
203 between fed and starved conditions. Notably, late ecdysone target genes like *E74A* and *ftz-f1*<sup>38</sup> showed  
204 no change in expression level between conditions and genotypes within this 12-hour time frame. Finally,  
205 In line with our finding that starved *CC>* control larvae pupariate earlier under these conditions, we  
206 conclude that the pool of CC-Dilps contributes to a local activation of IIS in PG cells, maintaining their  
207 capacity to synthesize ecdysone and allowing a premature transition into pupal development in response  
208 to late starvation.

209

## 210 Discussion

211 In this study, we re-evaluate a previous observation whereby glucagon-producing cells take up insulin  
212 peptides, and demonstrate the relevance of this phenomenon during *Drosophila* larval development. In  
213 the course of early studies on *Drosophila* insulin-producing cells<sup>12</sup>, it was indeed noted that larval CC cells  
214 strongly label for Dilp2 peptides. This puzzling observation suggested that the larval CC could serve the  
215 role of a so-called “neurohemal” organ, storing Dilps for delivery in the general circulation under specific  
216 conditions. However, the mechanistic and functional aspects of this Dilp store were unknown. Our study  
217 now sheds new light on the role of CC-Dilps, linking them to another unexplained observation, the  
218 starvation-induced, premature transition of *Drosophila* larvae into pupal development (Beadle et. al.,  
219 1938).

220

### 221 Accelerating development upon post-critical weight starvation

222 *Drosophila* populations can suffer episodes of nutrient limitation, particularly during the larval period  
223 when mobility of individuals is limited, preventing them from exploring alternative food sources. When  
224 larvae endure full starvation passed the so-called nutrient restriction checkpoint (NRC), an acceleration of  
225 pupariation is observed and animals transit faster to an adult reproductive state, with a trade-off on  
226 individual size. This contrasts with the observation that Dilp secretion is inhibited by starvation<sup>24</sup>, leading  
227 to a reduction of circulating hormone levels. Such reduction should indeed affect the production of  
228 ecdysone, which relies on IIS in PG cells<sup>34</sup>. Our present work indicates that upon limiting nutrients, CC



229 cells secrete stored Dilps to the PG in a paracrine fashion (through PG-specific projections) without  
230 affecting systemic IIS. The CC-derived Dilps sustain IIS in PG cells, providing the necessary signalling input  
231 for ecdysone production and accelerated pupariation. Indeed, IIS activation could prevent starvation-  
232 induced autophagy in PG cells, which has been shown to block ecdysone production in condition of a pre-  
233 NRC starvation, by shunting cholesterol away from the biosynthetic pathway<sup>39</sup>. Recent evidence suggests  
234 that alternative nutrient-independent growth factors such as Jelly-belly (Jeb) can also act on PG cells to  
235 stimulate IIS and ecdysone production<sup>40</sup>. Jeb and Dilps could constitute separate inputs on ecdysone  
236 production, explaining why removal of CC Dilps only affects acceleration upon nutrient restriction but  
237 does not delay pupariation. Whether CC-Dilps are uniquely targeted to the PG, and through which  
238 mechanism, are still open questions.

239 Our observation of a co-packaging of Dilps and AKH in core dense vesicles in CC cells opens the possibility  
240 that the two hormones are released concomitantly on PG cells. In line with this, a recent study by  
241 Hughson and colleagues<sup>41</sup> identifies AKH-positive CC projections on PG cells, and shows that adding AKH  
242 to PG explants stimulates calcium signalling in PG cells. In addition, silencing AKH receptor specifically in  
243 PG cells delays the larva-to-pupa transition<sup>41</sup>. However, whether AKH participates in the physiological  
244 response to nutrient deprivation identified here for CC-Dilps was not tested experimentally.

245

#### 246 **Storing Dilps away from general circulation**

247 We find that preventing CC-Dilp storage increases circulating levels by 2-fold. This leads to an increase in  
248 animal mass during the late larval stages, when circulating Dilp levels wane (compare [Figures 3F and 5H](#) ;  
249 also see Okamoto and Nishimura<sup>42</sup>). We also noted that such accelerated larval growth does not affect  
250 adult size due a compensatory advance in pupariation. This result suggests an interaction between the  
251 two Dilp reservoirs, where the CC-Dilp store forms from IPC-produced insulins that are rerouted from the  
252 general circulation in conditions of optimal nutrition. It has been described previously that the IPC project  
253 their termini in proximity of the CC onto the aorta. Whether CC-Dilp accumulates through local delivery of  
254 IPC-produced Dilps or by uptake from the general circulation is still unknown.

255 Insulins bind to their cognate receptor InR in target tissues and are then co-endocytosed and later  
256 degraded<sup>26,43</sup>. Our study demonstrates that the uptake of Dilps by CC cells does not rely on InR but rather  
257 Imp-L2, an alternative insulin-binding protein previously shown to bind circulating Dilps.—This result  
258 contrasts with the previously described case of Imp-L2-producing *Hugin* neurons in the larval CNS, where  
259 both InR and Imp-L2 are required for Dilp uptake<sup>19</sup>. This difference might have important functional  
260 consequences. In contrast to endocytosed Dilps/InR complexes, which are prone to degradation,  
261 endocytosed ImpL2/Dilp complexes are routed towards storage in DCV, in the absence of local activation

262 of IIS. Dilps are co-packaged with AKH in DCVs, possibly during the DCV maturation phase. This phase is  
263 characterized by cargo exchange between endo-lysosomal compartments and immature vesicles budding  
264 off from the trans-Golgi network <sup>44</sup>. Recent studies <sup>28,45</sup> suggest that RAB2 and associated proteins are  
265 involved in this exchange. However, we do not know if these components participate in routing DILPs and  
266 AKH to DCVs in the CC. Furthermore, Dilps are anterogradely transported along the axonal projections in  
267 the PG. This process is similar to the transcytosis of various trophic factors and pathogens observed in  
268 mammalian nervous systems <sup>46</sup>. Unlike simultaneous uptake and release previously demonstrated in other  
269 neuron types <sup>47-49</sup>, we show here that Dilp uptake and release are temporally separated during larval  
270 development. In all, this sheds light on the unique ability of CC neurosecretory cells to convert an  
271 endocrine signal like insulin into a paracrine one.

272  
273 In conclusion, we describe here a mechanism of organ sparing relying on the storage and release of  
274 insulins, allowing the maintenance of IIS activation and ecdysone production in an endocrine organ. The  
275 existence of such mechanism opens the intriguing possibility that local pools of insulin/IGF could be used  
276 in response to environmental signals to maintain IIS signalling in spared organs in other models.

277

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288

## 289 **Author contributions**

290 Conceptualization, S.G., S.E., P.L., Methodology, S.G., S.E., P.L., Investigation, S.G., W.L., M.W.-B., M.B.-V.  
291 Writing and editing, S.G., P.L., Funding Acquisition, S.E.; Supervision, S.G., S.E., P.L.

292

293

294 **Declaration of interests**

295 The authors declare no competing interests.

296

297 **Figure legends**

298 **Figure 1. IPC-derived DILPs 2 and 5 accumulate in the corpora cardiaca.**

299 **(A)** Neuroanatomy of the larval central nervous system and ring gland complex showing innervation of  
300 insulin-producing cells(IPC) and the corpora cardiaca(CC).

301 **(B-C)** Maximum z-volume projection of brain and ring gland complex of larvae expressing Synaptotagmin-  
302 1-GFP **(B.i and C.i, green)** specifically in the **(B)** IPC (*dilp2-gal4*) or the **(C)** CC (*akh-gal4*). Tissues are co-  
303 stained for DILP2 **(B.ii and C.ii, magenta)**. **Solid arrows** denote aortal projections from **(B)** IPC (**white arrow**)  
304 and **(D)** CC (**yellow arrow**). **Open arrows** (yellow) show CC projections to the PG. Merged channels **(B.iii and**  
305 **C.iii)** channel show colocalization. Scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m

306 **(D)** Wild-type soma of CC cells stained for neuronal marker HRP **(D.i ; gray)**, DILP2 **(D.ii, green)** and DILP5  
307 **(D.iii, magenta)**. Merged channel **(D.iv)** show DILP2 and DILP5 colocalization. **R** = pixel-based Pearson's  
308 correlation coefficient between the same. Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m.

309 **(E,G)** Soma of CC cells of IPC-specific(*dilp2-gal4*) **(E.iv-vi)**DILP2 RNAi in Dicer2-expressing background or  
310 **(G.iv-vi)** DILP5 RNAi together with wild-type controls **(E.i-iii and G.i-iii)**. Stained for neuronal marker  
311 HRP**(E.i, E.iv, G.i and G.iv, gray)** and **(E)**DILP2 **(E.ii and E.v, green)** or **(G)**DILP5 **(G.ii and G.v, green)**. Merged  
312 channels **(E.iii, E.vi, G.iii and G.iv)** for clarity. Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m

313 **(F, H)** Average fluorescence intensity of **(E)**DILP2 or **(G)**DILP5 normalized to the control mean. Each point  
314 represents a single soma of the CC. n =3-7; \*\*= p<0.01, Student's t-test.

315 See Figure S1 and Table S1 for further information.

316

317 **Figure 2. ImpL2 in the corpora cardiaca is necessary for DILP uptake.**

318 **(A)** Soma of the CC specifically expressing(*akh-gal4*) Synaptotagmin-1-GFP **(A.i, yellow)**; stained for nuclei  
319 **(A.i,blue)**, ImpL2 **(A.ii, gray)** and DILP2 **(A.iii, green)**.

320 **(B)** CC-specific(*akh-gal4*) RNAi-mediated knockdown of insulin receptor **(B.iv-vi)**, ImpL2 **(B.vii-ix)** and wild-  
321 type control **(B.i-iii)**. Stained for neuronal marker HRP **(B.i, B.iv, and B.vii, gray)** and DILP2 **(B.ii, B.v and B.viii,**  
322 **green)**. Merged channels **(B.iii, B.iv and B.ix)** for clarity.

323 **(D)** CC-specific(*akh-gal4*) RNAi-mediated knockdown of ImpL2 **(d.vii-ix)** and wild-type control **(b.i-iii)**.  
324 Stained for neuronal marker HRP **(b.i, b.iv, and b.vii, gray)** and AKH **(d.ii, and d.iv , blue)**.

325 (C, E) Average fluorescence intensity of (C)DILP2 or (E)AKH normalized to the control mean. Each point  
326 represents a single soma of the CC. n =3-5; \*\*= p<0.01, ns = p>0.01; Student's t-test.

327 Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m

328 See Figures S2, S3 and Table S1 for further information.

329

330

331 **Figure 3. Corpora cardiaca sequesters circulating DILPs.**

332 (A) Percentage pupariated of indicated genotype at various timepoints. Dashed line indicates 50%  
333 pupariation. Significance values represent CC>IMPL2-RNAi compared pairwise with each control. Control  
334 genotypes are not significantly different from each other (p>0.01). AEL= after egg-laying. n= 3-6 for each  
335 genotype.

336 (B) Pupal volume (n= 24), (C) adult weight (n=7, 9) and (D) adult wing area (n=55, 20) normalized to  
337 control. Each point represents a larva/fly in the case of pupal volume or wing area, and mean of a cohort  
338 of 8-15 flies in case of weight measurements.

339 (E) Larval mass of indicated genotype at specified developmental time (n=8-12). Each point represents  
340 mean of cohorts of 13-15 larvae. Significance values represent CC>IMPL2-RNAi compared pairwise with  
341 each control. Control genotypes are significantly different from each other (p<0.01).

342 (F) DILP2-HA-FLAG concentration in larval hemolymph of indicated genotype using driver line *akh-gal4*  
343 containing the *dilp2-HF* construct (n=7,5).

344 (G) Fat body of indicated genotype stained for nuclei (G.i and G.iii, blue) and mCherry (G.ii and G.iv, red).  
345 White dashed outlines show the position of some nuclei in the mCherry channel. Scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m.(h)

346 Boxplots showing ratio of nuclear to cytoplasmic mCherry intensity in fat bodies. Lower ratio indicates  
347 higher insulin activity. (n= 10)

348 Bar plots show mean and error bars indicate standard deviation. AEL= after egg-laying. \*\*= p<0.01, ns =  
349 p>0.01, (B-E) Student's t-test and (A,F,H) two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test.

350 See Table S1 for further information.

351

352 **Figure 4. DILPs and AKH colocalize in corpora cardiaca dense-core vesicles.**

353 (A) Schematic representation of experimental approach.

354 Electron micrograph of

355 (B) the soma of a CC cell (epon-embedded sections). N = nucleus, G = Golgi complex, ER = endoplasmic  
356 reticulum, and DCV= dense-core vesicle. Scale bar = 500nm.

357 (C) Part of cytoplasm in the soma of the CC (methylacrylate sections). DILP5 labelled with immunogold  
358 particles of 5nm diameter. Dashed red line indicates area occupied by DCVs. Scale bar = 500nm (d)  
359 Quantification of gold particle density (no. of particles/ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) from DCV area (dashed red line) or rest of the  
360 cytoplasm (solid black line) from multiple acquisitions (n=4). Bar plot indicates mean.  
361 High-resolution electron micrographs of  
362 (E) a multi-vesicular body (MVB, E.i) and a dense-core vesicle(DCV, E.ii) in soma of the CC. DILP2 and DILP5  
363 are stained by 10nm (closed arrow) and 5nm (open arrow) immunogold particles respectively. Scale =  
364 100nm.  
365 (F) DCV area stained for DILP2 (10nm gold particle, closed yellow arrow) and AKH (5nm gold particle, open  
366 gray arrow). Scale bar = 100nm.  
367 (G) Histogram showing immunogold particle size vs. frequency distribution of DILP2 (yellow) and AKH  
368 (gray)in (F) .  
369 See Figure S4 and Table S1 for further information.

370  
371 **Figure 5. Corpora cardiaca DILPs enable starvation-induced accelerated pupariation.**  
372 (A) Experimental setup for larval starvation  
373 (B-C) Means of percentage pupariation connected across timepoints for the indicated genotype- starved  
374 (dashed line) or kept feeding (solid line) as shown in (A). Fed controls are the same as shown in Figure 3a.  
375 w1118 > UAS-Impl2-RNAi control fed and starved curves are shown in Figure S7.  
376 n=6 for each curve; p-value from two-way ANOVA with repeated measures and Bonferroni's post t-test for  
377 multiple comparisons. Error bars indicate +/- S.D. \*\*= p<0.01 and ns = p>0.01  
378 (D,F) Soma of CC cells of genotype (D) *akh>w1118* and (D) *akh>KIR2.1* stained for HRP(D.i,D.iv, F.i and F.iv;  
379 gray ) and DILP2 (D.ii, D.v, F.ii and F.v; green). KIR2.1 expression inactivates neurons. Scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
380 (E,G) Average fluorescence intensity of DILP2 normalized to the mean of fed controls. Each point  
381 represents a single soma of the CC. n =3-5.  
382 (H-I) DILP2-HA-FLAG concentration in larval hemolymph of indicated genotype using driver line *akh-*  
383 *gal4,dilp2-HF* (n=4-5).  
384 (J) Fat body of indicated genotype stained for nuclei (J.i and J.iii; blue) and mCherry (J.ii and J.iv; red).  
385 White dashed outlines show the position of some nuclei in the mCherry channel. Scale bar = 50 $\mu\text{m}$ . (K)  
386 Boxplots showing ratio of cytoplasmic to nuclear mCherry intensity in fat cells (n=5).  
387 (L) Prothoracic gland of indicated genotype stained for nuclei (L.i, L.iii, L.v and L.vii; blue) and mCherry (L.ii,  
388 L.iv, L.vi and L.viii; red). White dashed outlines show the position of some nuclei in the mCherry channel.

389 Scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$  . **(M)** Boxplots showing ratio of nuclear to cytoplasmic mCherry intensity in prothoracic  
390 gland cells. n=4-8.

391 **(N)** Bar graph showing mean fold changes of ecdysone target genes of indicated genotype and treatment,  
392 with respect to mean of wild-type fed control (CC>w1118). Expression data normalized to housekeeping  
393 gene *rp49*. Each point represents a replicate. (n = 6)

394 AEL= after egg-laying. \*\*=  $p < 0.01$ , ns =  $p > 0.01$ , **(E-G)** Student's t-test and **(H,I,K,M,N)** two-tailed Mann-  
395 Whitney U test.

396 See Figure S5 and Table S1 for further information.

397

## 398 **STAR Methods:**

399

### 400 **Resource availability**

#### 401 **Lead contact**

402 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by  
403 the Lead Contact, Pierre Leopold (pierre.leopold@curie.fr )

404

#### 405 **Material availability**

406 This study did not generate new unique reagents.

407

#### 408 **Data and code availability**

409 All data reported in this paper will be shared by the lead contact upon request.

410 This paper does not report original code. Fiji/ImageJ macros used in this study are simple (plug-in based)  
411 and/or already available in public repositories listed in the Key Resources Table.

412 Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead  
413 contact upon request.

414

### 415 **Experimental Model and Subject Details**

416 All *Drosophila melanogaster* lines/crosses were maintained and grown on standard media containing  
417 cornmeal, molasses, agar and yeast extract under a 12hour light/dark cycle at 25°C (unless explicitly stated  
418 otherwise).

419 Female larvae, pupae and flies were used for all size and weight measurements to prevent sex-dependent  
420 variation. In all other cases, sex was not differentiated and larvae were randomly collected. For crosses,

421 20-25 virgin females were crossed with 5-7 healthy males. Within 0-2 hours of hatching, not more than 30  
422 L1 larvae were transferred to food vials to ensure absence of larval crowding.  
423 Complete list of fly strains used in this study have been listed in the Key Resources Table. Fly strains dilp2-  
424 Gal4,>dcr2 , akh-Gal4,Foxo-mCherry , akh-Gal4,gdilp2-HF and ap-Gal4,tub-Gal80TS,Foxo-mCherry were  
425 generated in this paper by crossing the listed lines.

426

## 427 **Method Details**

### 428 **Developmental timing and starvation**

429 Fly crosses were fed fresh yeast paste and allowed to lay eggs for 3 hours on apple-juice agar plates.  
430 Following egg-laying, the plates were stored at 25°C. After 18-24 hours of incubation, freshly hatched L1  
431 larvae were collected in PBS in intervals of 2 hours. In order to prevent overcrowding, no more than 20-30  
432 larvae were transferred into a single food vial using a micropipette and shifted to the incubator at 25°C  
433 with 12/12 day-night cycle. At specified time after egg-laying, larvae were carefully washed out of the  
434 food using PBS. Subsequently they were quickly transferred to 1% agar vials (same quantity as food). Fed  
435 controls were not washed out, and left to feed in their original vials. Both starved and fed control vials  
436 were returned to the same incubator. For pupariation timing, number of pupae including white pre-pupae  
437 were manually counted at fixed intervals as indicated. Counting was stopped when there was no increase  
438 for 3-4 consecutive time points. The same dataset have been used in Figure 3a, and to depict fed controls  
439 in Figure 5b,c. For all other starvation experiments, starved and fed control larvae were washed out of the  
440 1% agar or food with PBS, rinsed and used in respective assays.

441

### 442 **Weight measurements**

443 To measure larval weight at specified developmental stage, larvae were collected from food/agar in PBS,  
444 washed 3x times to remove stuck food and cold-anesthetized. Female larvae were selected under the  
445 microscope to prevent sex-dependent size variation. Cohorts of 13-15 larvae were blotted on a tissue  
446 paper (to ensure no extra liquid) and transferred to a pre-weighed 1.5ml micro-centrifuge tube using  
447 forceps. The tube with larvae was then weighed using a fine balance (Sartorius). To measure adult weight,  
448 virgin females (2 days after eclosion) were anesthetized and collected in pre-weighed 1.5ml micro-  
449 centrifuge in cohorts of 10 flies per tube. The tube with adult flies was weighed using a fine balance  
450 (Sartorius). Average weight in each case was calculated by dividing the weight difference with the number  
451 of larvae/flies in each tube.

452

453 **Size determination**

454 To measure adult wing area, females (1 day after eclosion) were collected and stored in isopropanol. Prior  
455 to dissection, flies were transferred to a cavity dissection-glass. Care was taken to keep flies submerged in  
456 adequate isopropanol at all times. One wing from each fly was dissected using fine forceps (Dumont,  
457 No.5-SA) and transferred to a glass slide along with a small amount of isopropanol (in forceps due to  
458 capillary action). It is important to keep wings flat on the slide surface. This can be achieved by repeatedly  
459 moistening the wings with isopropanol, using forceps. Once the desired number of wings were obtained,  
460 30ul of Euparal (Roth, cat#7356.1) was pipetted on the slide. Next, a glass coverslip (22mm/22mm/17µm)  
461 was placed covering the entire area on the slide occupied by wings. To ensure absence of air bubbles and  
462 minimum displacement in the wings, it is important to place the coverslip starting from one edge.  
463 Following mounting, the slides were left to dry for 2 hours prior to imaging. Single wing images were taken  
464 using Zeiss Sv11 dissection scope fitted with a CCD camera (Jenoptik ProgRes C10).

465 To measure pupal volume, pupae (24-30-hours APF) were collected using a wet brush. Following which,  
466 they were washed with PBS to dislodge attached food and glue. Each pupa was then transferred to a  
467 single well of a transparent 24-well plate and imaged using Zeiss Sv11 dissection scope fitted with a CCD  
468 camera (Jenoptik ProgRes C10). Sex determination was done post-eclosion and only females were taken  
469 for analysis.

470

471

472

473 **Quantitative real-time PCR**

474 Total RNA was extracted from homogenized L3 larvae using Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit (cat #74104), from  
475 which cDNA was subsequently prepared using SuperScript III RT-PCR kit( Thermo Fisher, cat#12574026).  
476 Purity of RNA and DNA were checked by measuring absorbance using a NanoDrop 2000 (Thermo Fisher  
477 scientific). qRT-PCR was performed using SYBR green (Roche FastStart Essential, cat#06402712001) on a  
478 Roche LightCycler 96 instrument. Data analysis was done using LightCycler 4.1 software (Roche).  
479 Standard curves were generated for each primer pair. Primers were adapted from a recent publication<sup>50</sup>.  
480 All expression levels were normalized to the housekeeping gene *rp49*. The fold changes in expression  
481 were calculated using relative quantification function. Expression values are represented as fold changes  
482 as compared to the control.

483

484

485



486 **Dilp2-HF ELISA**

487 Nunc MaxiSorp Flat-Bottom plates (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were coated with anti-FLAG M2 antibody  
488 (Sigma, cat#F1804) diluted in BupH Carbonate-Bicarbonate Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, cat#28382)  
489 overnight at 4°C. The plates were washed 2x in wash buffer – PBS + 0.2% Tween20 (Sigma, cat#P7949)  
490 and blocked in 2% filter-sterilized BSA in PBS overnight at 4°C. 1µL of hemolymph was collected by  
491 bleeding 5-8 heterozygous gDilp2-HF larvae on a clean cavity slide. The hemolymph was diluted in 55mL  
492 PBS and centrifuged at 10,000rpm for 10 minutes to remove hemocytes and debris. 50mL supernatant  
493 and 1mL of anti-HA-HRP antibody (Roche, cat#12013819001) solution (1:500) was incubated in the coated  
494 wells overnight at 4°C. 100 ml of 1-Step-Ultra TMB-ELISA Substrate (Thermo Fisher, cat#34028) was  
495 pipetted to each well and incubated for 30 minutes in dark at room temperature. Reaction was stopped  
496 by adding 100 ml of 2M sulfuric acid per well. The samples colorized instantly and the absorbance was  
497 measured immediately at 450nm using a plate reader (BMG Labtech). Standard curve was generated by  
498 self-generated FLAG(GS)HA peptide. The detailed method is described here <sup>51</sup>.

499

500 **Immunofluorescence**

501 Freshly dissected tissue in PBS was fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (cat#16005, Aldrich) for 20 minutes.  
502 After fixation, tissues were thoroughly washed 3-4 times with PBS. The following protocol was used  
503 depending on tissue type. For brain, ring gland and fat body, tissues were permeabilized with PBS  
504 containing 0.2%(v/v) Triton X-100(Serva Electrophoresis GmbH, cat#37240.01) for 2 hours at room  
505 temperature with shaking. Primary incubation with antibody was done overnight in incubation buffer- PBS  
506 with 0.2% Triton X-100 (PBST) and 1mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA) (Sigma, cat#A2153). Incubation  
507 was followed by 3x15 minute washes with the same incubation buffer without antibodies. Secondary  
508 incubation was done with antibody diluted in incubation buffer supplemented with 4%(v/v) normal goat  
509 serum (NGS) overnight at 4°C. Tissues were then washed 4X15 minutes in 0.2%PBST and mounted on glass  
510 slides using VectaShield H-1000(cat# H-1000-10) mounting medium. Wing discs were permeabilized with  
511 PBS containing 0.05%(v/v) Triton X-100 supplemented with 1mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA) and  
512 250mM NaCl for 3X10 minutes at room temperature with shaking. Primary incubation with antibody was  
513 done overnight in incubation buffer- PBS with 0.05% Triton X-100 (PBST) and 1mg/ml bovine serum  
514 albumin (BSA). Incubation was followed by 3x15 minute washes with the same incubation buffer without  
515 antibodies. Secondary incubation was done with antibody diluted in incubation buffer supplemented with  
516 4%(v/v) normal goat serum (NGS) for 2-3 hours. Wing discs were then washed 3X15 minutes in 0.1%PBST  
517 and mounted on glass slides using VectaShield H-1000 mounting medium. All washing and incubation

518 steps were performed on a shaker. Fat bodies from late larval stages disintegrate easily and requires extra  
519 care while handling, preferably shaking at a low rpm.

520  
521 **Confocal laser scanning microscopy**  
522 Three imaging setups were used in this paper. First, Olympus FV1000 laser scanning confocal microscope  
523 on Olympus BX61 inverted stand and driven by FV10-ASW 1.7 software. Brain and ring gland whole  
524 mounts were imaged with Olympus UApochromat 40x 1.3NA oil immersion objective. Corpora cardiaca  
525 cells were imaged with Olympus UApochromat 60x 1.35 NA oil immersion objective. Second, Andor  
526 spinning disc confocal microscope on Olympus IX81 inverted stand using Andor iXON 897 EMCCD camera  
527 with Yokogawa CSUX1 scanhead, running on Andor software. Some fat bodies were imaged with Olympus  
528 U Plan SApo 60x/ 1.35NA oil immersion objective. Third, Olympus FV3000 laser scanning confocal  
529 microscope on Olympus IX83 inverted stand and driven by FV31S-SW acquisition software. Corpora  
530 cardiaca cells and wing discs were imaged with Olympus UPLXApochromat 60x 1.42 NA oil immersion  
531 objective.

532  
533 **Electron microscopy**  
534 **Morphology:** Dissected brain-ring gland complexes were initially fixed in PBS with 2%PFA (cat#16005,  
535 Aldrich) and 1% glutaraldehyde (cat#G5882, Sigma) for 2 hours at room temperature followed by  
536 overnight incubation at 4°C. Then the samples were post-fixed with 1% OsO4 (cat# 19190, EMS) and 1.5%  
537 potassium ferrocyanide (cat#: P9387, Sigma-Aldrich) in water on ice for 1 hour. En bloc staining was done  
538 in the dark with 1% UA (cat# 21447, Polyscience Europe GmbH) in water at 4°C overnight. Following  
539 infiltration and embedding, 70nm sections were cut on a Leica Ultracut UCT (Leica Microscopy systems)  
540 and picked up with formvar (cat# 15800, EMS) coated slot grids (cat# G2010-Cu, EMS). All samples were  
541 then post-stained with 1% UA (cat# 21447, Polysciences Europe GmbH) in water for 10 minutes and  
542 0.04% lead citrate (cat# 17800, EMS) for 5 minutes. Electron micrographs were obtained at 80kV using  
543 Morgagni (Emsis Morada CCD camera, formerly Sys/Olympus) and 100kV using Tecnai 12 (TVIPS F416  
544 camera) electron microscopes (both from Thermo Fisher Scientific (formerly FEI/Philips)). **Immunogold**  
545 **labelling:** Dissected brain-ring gland complexes were initially fixed in PBS with 4% PFA and 0.05%  
546 glutaraldehyde for 20 minutes at room temperature. Post-fixation was done in 1:1 dilution of the initial  
547 fixative overnight at 4°C. Ring glands were then embedded with 12% gelatin (cat# G-2500, Sigma-Aldrich)  
548 in PBS and infiltrated with 2.3M sucrose (cat# 21600, EMS) in PBS overnight at 4°C. The sucrose infiltrated  
549 Ring gland in gelatin was mounted on an aluminum pin and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and  
550 cryosectioned on a Leica Ultracut EM UC6 ultramicrotome (Leica Microscopy systems). 70nm Sections

551 were picked up using a 1 :1 mixture of 2.3M sucrose and 2% methyl cellulose (cat# M-6385, Sigma-  
552 Aldrich) as a pick-up solution and sections were transferred to carbon and formvar coated mesh grids  
553 (cat# H100-Cu, EMS). After removal of gelatin by incubation on PBS at 37 °C, sections were labelled with  
554 rabbit-anti-Dilp2/Dilp5 or goat-anti-AKH Antibody (diluted 1 to 20 or 1 to 100 from original antibody  
555 solution) followed by secondary antibody coupled to 10-nm gold (British Biocell or Bbion Solutions) and  
556 secondary fluorescence antibodies (donkey-anti-rat AlexaFluor-594 cat# A-21209, Molecular Probes  
557 Europe B.V., goat-anti-rabbit AlexaFluor- 488 cat# A-21206, Mol. Probes Europe B.V.) The sections were  
558 first imaged with epifluorescence on a Zeiss upright ApoTome microscope with AxioCam506 camera to  
559 locate regions of interest in individual sections (Figure S4) and contrasted with a mixture of 1.9% methyl  
560 cellulose/0.3% UA for 10min on ice and the corresponding regions of interest were observed by using a  
561 Morgagni or Tecnai12 electron microscope.

562

## 563 Quantification and Statistical Analysis

564 **Whole cell:** Individual cells from multiple samples were manually segmented and mean intensity was  
565 measured using Fiji/ImageJ <sup>52</sup>. **Co-localization :** Single confocal images from two different channels were  
566 used in Coloc 2 plugin in Fiji/ImageJ. **Nuclear and cytoplasmic intensity ratio:** Regions of interest were  
567 manually drawn on respective tissues. Nuclear to cytoplasmic intensity ratio was then calculated using a  
568 Fiji/ImageJ macro developed by Volker Baecker at Montpellier RIO Imaging (Intensity Ratio Nuclei  
569 Cytoplasm Tool, RRID:SCR\_018673). Documentation can be accessed here . Same analysis parameters  
570 were used across samples compared. **Electron micrographs:** For morphological sections, composite  
571 images were assembled in Fiji <sup>52</sup> using ImageJ TrackEM2 plugin <sup>53</sup>. For immunogold labelling, regions of  
572 interest were visually determined and gold particles were hand-counted in Fiji/ImageJ. **Wing area:** Each  
573 wing blade was hand segmented and area measured in pixels using a self-written macro on Fiji/ImageJ.  
574 **Pupal volume:** Using a self-written Fiji/ImageJ macro, an ellipse was fitted to the pupa. Volume was  
575 calculated assuming an ellipsoid using the formula below (minor axis length as the height) -

576 
$$\text{Volume} = 0.75\pi * (\text{major-axis}) * (\text{minor-axis})^2.$$

577 Data wrangling was done using Microsoft Excel and R-Studio (version 1.3.1093). R-Studio was also used for  
578 plotting. Packages used in R- plyr, dplyr, ggplot2 and xlsx. Plots generated through R were then formatted  
579 using Adobe Illustrator 2021. Illustrations were generated using BioRender (www.biorender.com).  
580 Statistical analysis was done using Microsoft Excel, GraphPad Prism 5.0 and online through  
581 <https://www.socscistatistics.com> . Information about sample sizes and statistical tests used in this study  
582 can be found in the respective figure legends. Detailed information on sample size and replicates have  
583 also been summarized in **Table S1** of the supplementary material.

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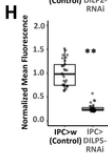
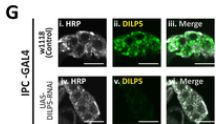
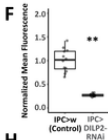
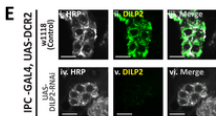
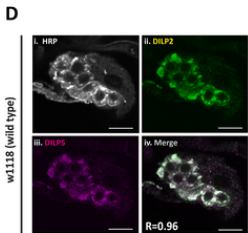
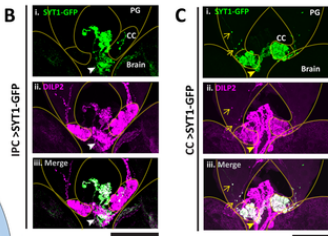
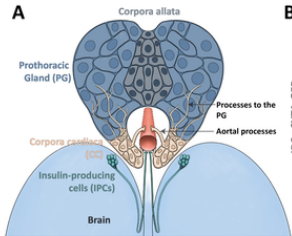
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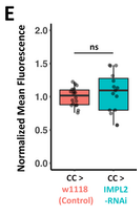
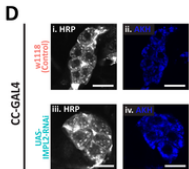
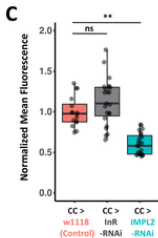
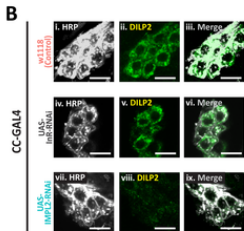
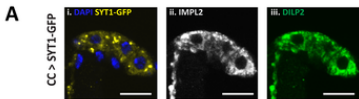
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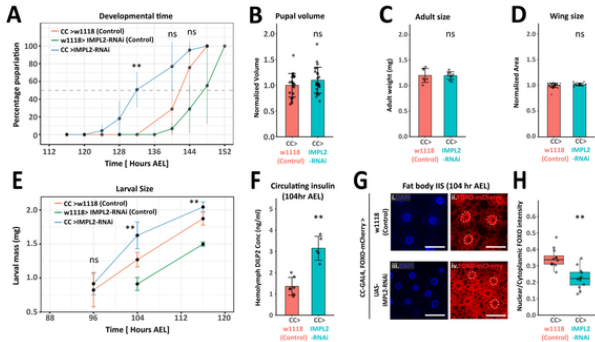
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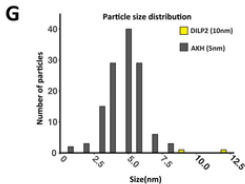
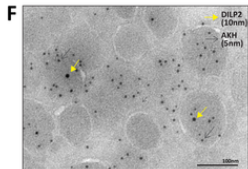
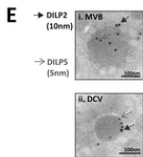
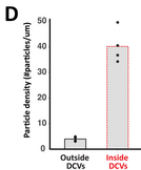
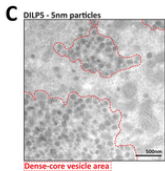
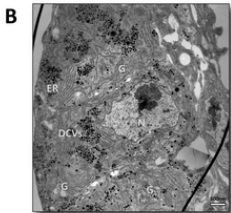
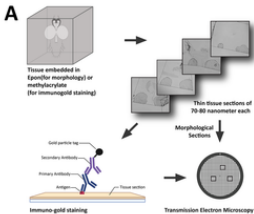
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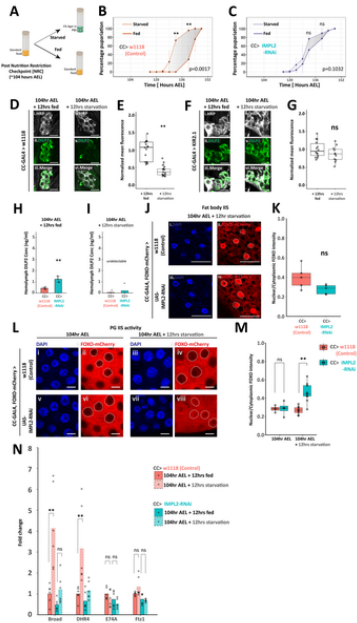




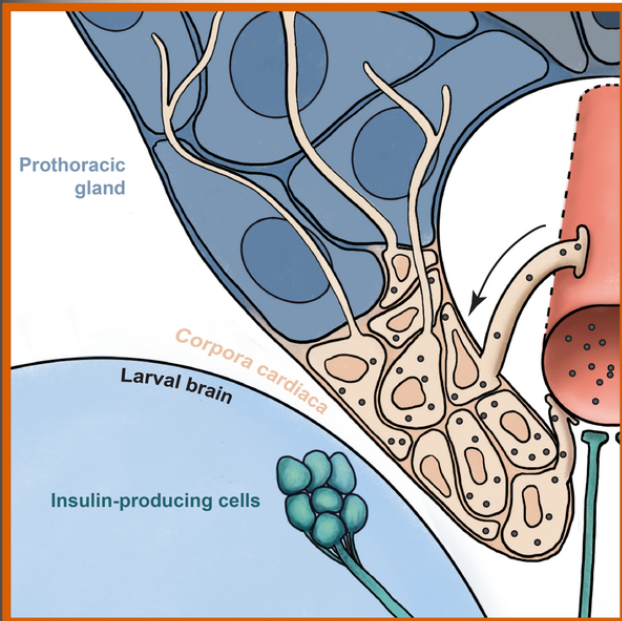




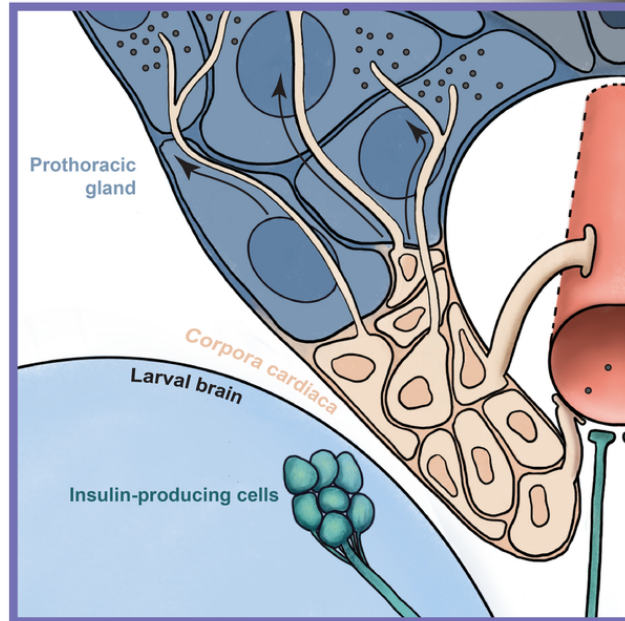




## Fed



## Starvation



**Circulating insulin**



**CC insulin storage**



**CC insulin secretion**



**PG ecdysone release**

