

## **Human GLP1R variants affecting GLP1R cell surface expression are associated with impaired glucose control and increased adiposity**

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36

37 **Running title:** Functional diversity of *GLP1R* variants  $\frac{37}{38}$ 

40

#### 41 **Abstract**

42 The glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor (GLP1R) is a major drug target with several agonists being 43 prescribed in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D) and obesity <sup>1, 2</sup>. The impact of genetic variability 44 of *GLP1R* on receptor function and its association with metabolic traits are unclear with 45 conflicting reports. Here, we performed a functional profiling of 60 *GLP1R* variants across four 46 signaling pathways and revealed an unexpected diversity of phenotypes ranging from defective 47 cell surface expression to complete or pathway-specific gain- (GoF) and loss-of-functions (LoF). 48 The defective insulin secretion of *GLP1R* LoF variants was rescued by allosteric GLP1R ligands 49 or high concentrations of exendin-4/semaglutide in INS-1 823/3 cells. Genetic association studies 50 in 200K participants from the UK Biobank show that impaired GLP1R cell surface expression 51 contributes to poor glucose control and increased adiposity with increased HbA1c, BMI and 52 diastolic blood pressure. This study defines impaired GLP1R cell surface expression as a risk 53 factor for T2D- and obesity-associated traits and provides potential treatment options for *GLP1R* 54 LoF variant carriers.

55

#### 56 **MAIN**

57 While GLP1R<sup>3</sup> is a major T2D and obesity drug target, the consequences of *GLP1R* variants on 58 receptor function and metabolic traits have remained poorly defined<sup>1</sup>. Conflicting results have 59 been reported for frequent variants, including *GLP1R* LOF variants that are not associated with 60 metabolic diseases<sup>4, 5, 6</sup> and causality with disease risk was difficult to establish as these 61 variants were in linkage disequilibrium with other genes. Here, we performed large-scale 62 functional genetics of rare *GLP1R* variants enabling putative causality. Among the 132 *GLP1R* 63 variants available in the ExAC browser in 2016, we selected 34 rare missense *GLP1R* variants 64 *i.* which are predicted to be of moderate to high impact based on their evolutionary action (EA)

 $65$  scores<sup>7,8</sup>, *ii.* for which literature data was available on the functional consequences of alanine 66 mutations<sup>9</sup>, *iii.* which were located in transmembrane and intracellular domains, known to be 67 important for receptor activation and signal transduction (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 1a and 68 Supplementary Table 1). In parallel, we sequenced *GLP1R* in 8,672 participants from the 69 . RaDiO study<sup>10</sup>. Among 46 detected missense variants, we selected 25 rare variants and a 70 common one encoding p.A316T because of their high predicted functional impact (Fig. 1a, 71 Extended Data Fig. 1b and Supplementary Table 1). In total, 60 *GLP1R* variants were selected 72 for functional analyses (Fig. 1b). 73 We first determined the abundance of wild-type (WT) and each mutant GLP1R at the cell surface 74 in HEK293T cells which do not endogenously express *GLP1R*, and in rat insulinoma INS-1 823/3 75 (*Glp1r* KO) cells deleted of its endogenous *Glp1r* gene<sup>11</sup>. Transfection of WT GLP1R with a N-76 terminal SNAP-flag-tag resulted in expression levels similar to endogenous GLP1R levels found 77 in mouse pancreatic islets<sup>12</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 2a-d). Similar results were obtained with non-78 tagged WT GLP1R (Extended Data Fig. 2e). In HEK293T cells, total expression of 22 mutants 79 was significantly lower than WT GLP1R (Fig. 1c (color code)). For a subset of mutants, 80 trafficking to the cell surface was in addition significantly affected resulting in 31 variants with 81 significantly reduced surface expression (Fig. 1c (size of bubbles) and Supplementary Table 2a). 82 In INS-1 823/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells total and surface expression was detectable for all mutants 83 except for p.N320Y and p.I400R (Extended Data Fig. 2f and Supplementary Table 2b). Surface 84 levels matched well in both cell types with occasional deviations for some variants but without 85 any systematic trend towards higher or lower expression in either cell system (Fig. 1d). Defects 86 in receptor trafficking and total expression contributed both to impaired surface expression 87 (Extended Data Fig. 2g,h). Collectively, 22 out of 60 mutants showed significantly reduced cell 88 surface expression in both INS-1 823/3 (*Glp1r* KO) and HEK293T cells.

89 We next established the signaling profile of WT GLP1R and 60 mutants on four signaling 90 pathways (cAMP accumulation,  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization, ERK activation, and β-arrestin 2 (β-arr2) 91 recruitment) in HEK293T cells. No spontaneous receptor activity was observed in the absence 92 of ligand for any pathway for WT GLP1R (Extended Data Fig. 3a-d, f) and the mutants (data not 93 shown). Ex-4 concentration-response curves were generated for the different signaling pathways 94 (Extended Data Fig. 3a-f). To account for differences in cell surface expression levels of GLP1R 95 mutants, we determined the correlation between GLP1R cell surface expression and Emax and 96 EC50 values for Ex-4 at different WT GLP1R expression levels (Extended Data Figs. 4a-c and 5) 97 and we performed experiments with expression-matched WT GLP1R (Extended Data Fig. 4d-98 g). EC<sub>50</sub> values were unaffected by the surface expression (Extended Data Figs. 4c and 5c,f,i) 99 and Emax values correlated positively with surface expression with a saturation observed for the 100 cAMP pathway at  $10 \pm 3$  % cell surface expression (Extended Data Figs. 4b and 5b,e,h).

101 For the cAMP pathway LoF and GoF variants were observed (Fig. 2 and Extended Data Fig. 6 102 and Supplementary Table 3a). Most LoF mutants can be explained by impaired cell surface 103 expression impacting either EC50 or Emax (Extended Data Fig. 4h-k). Interestingly, p.R380C 104 shows normal surface expression but the most severe loss in Ex-4 affinity of all variants (1.5 105 logs; IC50=400 nM) (Fig. 2b and Extended Data Fig. 7). GoF mutants show increased Emax values 106 despite normal surface expression.  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization is affected in 2/3 of the studied GLP1R 107 mutants with both LoF and GoF in Emax (Fig. 2 and Extended Data Fig. 6 and Supplementary 108 Table 3b). Twenty-seven mutants showed significantly impaired ERK1/2 activation and one 109 mutant (p.S258L) increased ERK1/2 activation (Fig. 2 and Extended Data Fig. 6 and 110 Supplementary Table 3c). The β-arr2 pathway represents the pathway for which most of the 111 mutants are affected with diminished EC<sub>50</sub> and/or E<sub>max</sub> (Fig. 2 and Extended Data Fig. 6 and 112 Supplementary Table 3d). GoF was not observed for this pathway. Based on all these functional 113 analyses we grouped the mutants into eight categories: those with severely impaired cell surface 114 expression (less than  $10 \pm 3\%$ ), those with all four or two or three pathways impaired, those with 115 specific defects only in β-arr2 recruitment or ERK1/2 signaling, those exhibiting a gain-of-116 function (GoF) in cAMP or  $Ca^{2+}$  signaling, and those similar to WT GLP1R (Fig. 2a-h and 117 Extended Data Fig. 6a-h).

118 To further evaluate the overall signaling efficiencies of each mutant, we determined their 119 transduction coefficient  $log(\tau/K_a)$ , and compared the values of the WT receptor and each mutant 120 by subtracting the corresponding transduction coefficient and expressed it as  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_a)$ 121 (Supplementary Table 3a-d). We then plotted radial graphs containing  $Δlog(τ/K<sub>a</sub>)$  together with 122 E<sub>max</sub> values for all pathways to generate a visible signaling signature for each mutant (Fig. 3 and 123 Extended Data Fig. 6). When excluding the mutants with severely impaired cell surface 124 expression, the cAMP pathway turned out to be the most affected pathway, with eight mutants 125 displaying  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_a)$  values of up to -3.16, which is significantly different from zero, the 126 reference value (Supplementary Table 3a), followed by β-arr2 recruitment (Supplementary Table 127 3d) with seven mutants with modest  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_a)$  values (between -1.00 and -1.54). Only three and 128 zero mutants showed statistically significant  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_a)$  values for  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization 129 (Supplementary Table 3b) and ERK1/2 activation (Supplementary Table 3c), respectively.

130 Interestingly, some of the variants showed signaling bias. Five variants encoding p.R227C, 131 p.Y291C, p.R310Q, p.I357F and p.E408G (Extended Data Fig. 6) were G protein-biased with l 32 loss of β-arr2 recruitment but activation of the Gs/cAMP pathway and the Gq/11/ Ca<sup>2+</sup> pathway 133 (Supplementary Table 3b). Among these, p.E408G showed even GoF for  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization and 134 p.Y291C for both  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization and cAMP production. None of the mutants were biased 135 towards β-arr2. Three variants encoding p.H173P, p.R190Q (Extended Data Fig. 6) and p.R380C

- 136 (Fig. 2b) were strictly Gs/cAMP biased, as activation of all other pathways were undetectable.
- 137 Another remarkable finding of our study was that, for many mutants, GoF or LoF was not a 138 general feature of the mutant but was restricted to specific signaling pathways, leading to

139 complex and different signaling signatures for each variant. In some cases, GoF and LoF 140 phenotypes were observed for the same mutants, as exemplified by five mutants with LoF for β-141 arr2 recruitment combined with GoF for  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization (p.E408G, p.W417G), for cAMP 142 production (p.I357F) or for both pathways (p.Y291C, p.A316T) (Extended Data Fig. 6d,g,f, Fig.  $143$  2g).

144 We next performed an unbiased cluster analysis of those mutants for which signaling data were 145 obtained for at least one pathway (56 variants) (Fig. 3). Non-negative matrix factorization (nnmf) 146 and k-means were used to unbiasedly group the variants. To have a unique measure representing 147 the signaling signatures of each variant, we defined the "phenotype score" as the positive-sum 148 average of 12 signaling parameters. The mutants with different signaling profiles fitted best into 149 three distinct clusters (Fig. 3a). Mutants in the first cluster (red, 13 variants) are characterized by 150 complete loss of β-arr2 response and drastically reduced potency of the cAMP response. They 151 also lost mid to high range of efficacy in ERK1/2. In the second cluster (blue, seven variants), β-152 arr2 responses are detectable, but with drastic losses in  $E_{\text{max}}$  and  $\tau/K$ a. They also show reduced 153 ERK1/2 efficacy, while increased ERK1/2 potency. Signaling impairments varied in Cluster 3 154 (black, 36 variants) with the variants with the lowest phenotypic scores belonging to this group 155 (Fig 3a,b). The overlay of the different members of each cluster is shown in Fig 3c.

156 We then compared the experimentally obtained phenotypic score for those mutations located in 157 the transmembrane region with six different scoring algorithms including EA, REVEL, CADD, 158 SIFT, PolyPhen2, and MutationAssessor (Extended Data Fig. 8). CADD and EA scores showed 159 the best R squares (0.46 and 0.42). The EA score showed the steepest slope (x-160 coefficient=0.0101), meaning the best discriminatory information, and showed also the lowest 161 number of false positives (mutants with high predicted score (>80) but low phenotypic score) 162 confirming the high value of the EA score in predicting the effect of variants on receptor fitness 163 (Fig. 3d).



189 HbA1c, BMI and diastolic blood pressure levels. Impaired β-arr2 recruitment seems to have 190 rather a beneficial effect on these phenotypes, most likely by limiting GLP1R trafficking<sup>16</sup>. 191 We then measured incretin promoted glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS) in INS-1 823/3 192 (*Glp1r* KO) cells. Expression of WT GLP1R restored a functional response by Ex-4 (pEC<sub>50</sub> of 193 10.35  $\pm$  0.28; *n*=4) and semaglutide (a clinically used GLP1R agonist<sup>17</sup>) (pEC<sub>50</sub> of 11.20  $\pm$  0.38; 194 n=4) (Fig. 4a,b and Extended Data Fig. 10a,b). As expected, expression of mutants with LoF on 195 all pathways and severely impaired cell surface expression (*i.e.* p.H180Y, p.N320Y, p.G361R 196 and p.I400R) did not restore an Ex-4 response despite successful expression, even though lower 197 than for WT receptor (Fig. 4c,d, see also Fig. 2b). Expression of mutants in the categories 198 'Severely surface exp defective' and 'All pathways defective' but with some residual activity on 199 the cAMP pathway (p.H173P, p.R310Q, p.R380C) did not elicit a response at a low Ex-4 200 concentration, considered as saturating for WT GLP1R (0.1 nM), and most likely not at 201 physiological GLP-1 concentraton. However, the same variants were fully responsive at 100 nM 202 Ex-4 (Fig. 4b, Fig. 4e-g). Similar rescue was observed for p.H173P with 100 nM semaglutide 203 (Fig. 4h). Positive allosteric modulators (PAM) are another potential way to improve the 204 defective response of LoF mutants to orthosteric ligands <sup>4</sup>. Co-stimulation of the p.R380C mutant 205 with 0.1 nM Ex-4 and the GLP1R PAM Compound 2  $(10 \mu M)^{18, 19, 20}$  restored a response similar 206 to the incubation with 100 nM Ex-4 alone (Fig. 4i). Compound 2 alone did not have a significant 207 effect on the p.R380C mutant (Fig. 4i). A similar pattern was observed for BETP (10  $\mu$ M), 208 another GLP1R PAM, which was also effective on its own revealing its agonistic activity in 209 addition to its allosteric activity (Fig. 4j). Compound 2 and BETP similarly potentiated the 210 response of semaglutide at low concentrations (Fig. 4k,l). Mutants with defective β-arr2 211 recruitment showed WT-like GSIS (Extended Data Fig. 10c-f) indicating that defects in this 212 pathway do not inhibit GSIS. GoF mutants, either of the cAMP pathway alone (p.S261A) or in 213 combination with the  $Ca^{2+}$  pathway (p.Y291C, p.A316T) showed GSIS similar to WT GLP1R

214 and endogenous GIP receptors (Extended Data Fig. 4g-i) indicating that the improved signaling

215 had no notable consequences on GSIS in our experimental settings.

216 Taken together, in this study we discovered an unexpected high diversity and impact in terms of 217 functional properties in 56 out of 60 rare GLP1R mutants. Our results identify defective cell 218 surface expression and cAMP pathway activation as major determinants of GLP1R mutants for 219 defective insulin secretion. This defect can be recovered by two pharmacological paradigms 220 (higher agonist concentrations or a combination of low agonist concentration and allosteric 221 modulators) for some mutants. Carriers of these LoF *GLP1R* variants migh thus not only benefit 222 from the latest generations of GLP1R agonists including unimolecular GLP1R/GIPR dual 223 agonists,<sup>21</sup> but also from recently developed GLP1R positive allosteric modulators<sup>22, 23</sup>. LoF 224 *GLP1R* variants were associated with impaired glucose homeostasis and increased adiposity. 225 Exclusion of LoF mutants for β-arr2 recruitment reinforced this association. This observation 226 supports the concept that β-arr-dependent internalization limits the action of GLP1R activation 227 on insulin secretion and suggests that carriers of LoF variants not associated with β-arr could 228 benefit from Gs-biased ligands<sup>24</sup>.

229 This study has some limitations as we did not further explore the fact that rare GLP1R variants 230 are heterozygous and may either impact the phenotype through haplo-insufficiency or have a 231 dominant negative effect on the signalling by the co-expressed WT receptor. Aspects that should 232 be addressed in future studies are the demonstration that PAMs can improve the actions of 233 GLP1R agonists in *GLP1R* variant carriers, the impact of mutants on GLP1R signaling from 234 intracellular locations, on the recruitment of β-arr1, known to be also involved in insulin secretion 235 and β-cell apoptosis<sup>25, 26</sup>, and on physiological functions of GLP1R other than insulin secretion, 236 such as  $\beta$ -cell proliferation or inhibition of food intake<sup>1</sup>.

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#### 238 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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261

#### 262 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 263 W.G., L.L., R.S., A.B., J.L., and R.J. conceived and designed experiments. Z.F., and G.H. made
- 264 constructions of variant plasmids and L.H. the non-tagged WT GLP1R plasmid. W.G., L.L.,
- 265 F.G., E.C., M.O., A.H. performed biochemical experiments. E.H. and O.L. did the clustering
- 266 analysis. A.P. performed variant impact score analyses. A.B. and P.F. conceived and designed
- 267 the next-generation sequencing study. A.B., M.D. and M.B. performed the genetic analyses.
- 268 G.C., M.M., A.B., P.F. and B.B. contributed DNA samples from patients. W.G., L.L., A.B., O.L.,
- 269 J.D. and R.J. analyzed data. A.B., P.F., J.L., RJ obtained the funding. W.G., A.B., and R.J. wrote
- 270 the manuscript that was edited and/or approved by all authors.
- 271

#### 272 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

273 The authors declare no competing interes

#### 274 **FIGURES AND LEGENDS**

275

# 276 **Figure 1. Selection Process of** *GLP1R* **Variants and Expression of WT and Mutant GLP1R**  277 **in Cell Models. a,** Selection of 34 rare non-synonymous variants in *GLP1R* (NM\_002062.5) 278 from ExAC browser and 25 rare and one frequent *GLP1R* variants from the RaDiO study<sup>10</sup>. EA, 279 evolutionary action algorithm; TM, transmembrane domain; ICD, intracellular domain. **b,** 280 Location of the 60 *GLP1R* variants. Mutant positions are labeled in red. The borders of the 281 membrane domain are delineated by the blue box. C-ter, carboxyl-terminal domain; e1 to e3, 282 extracellular loops 1 to 3; i1 to i3, intracellular loops 1 to 3; N-ter, amino-terminal domain. LoF, 283 loss-of-function; T2D, type 2 diabetes. **c,d**, Surface (Sur) and total (To) expression in HEK293T 284 and INS-1 823/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells was determined by ELISA. (**c**) Expression of WT and mutant 285 GLP1R in HEK293T cells. Cell surface expression is shown at X-axis, total receptor expression 286 as color gradient and the Sur/To ratio as size of the bubble. Statistical significance of differences 287 (compared with WT GLP1R) was determined by one-way analysis of variance and Dunnett's 288 post-test. Sur: \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\**P* < 0.0001; Ratio: #*P* < 0.05, ##*P* < 0.001, ###*P* < 289 0.0001; Tot: (a) *P* < 0.05, (b) *P* < 0.001, (c) *P* < 0.0001. (**d**) Comparison of cell surface expression 290 of mutants in HEK293T and INS-1 823/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells. Statistical significance of differences 291 between two cell types was determined by two-way analysis of variance and Sidak's multiple 292 comparisons test  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $*P < 0.01$ ,  $*+P < 0.0001$ . 3-5 technical replicates of 3-13 293 independent biological replicates for each mutant; each mutant expressed as % WT. See also 294 Extended Data Fig. 2 and table S2 for complete data sets.



307

#### 308 **Figure 3. 56 Mutants Clustered into Three Groups are Correlated to the Level of**

309 **Phenotypic Pb. a,** Non-Negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) and K-means analysis 310 clustered 56 mutants into 3 groups as shown in three dendrograms (red, blue, and black). The

311 normalized difference values from phenotypic assays are represented in each radial plot and

312 color-coded blue (Gain-of-Function, GoF) to red (Loss-of-Function, LoF). Phenotype scores

313 were set from -1 to +1. WT GLP1R was set as zero, values of mutants ranging from 0 to +1

314 represent enhanced properties, and from 0 to -1 impaired properties. **b,** The box plot shows

315 the distribution of the mutants into three clusters based on their phenotype score defined in

316 the 'Methods' section. **c,** Superimposed radial graphs of mutants belonging to the same

317 cluster. Cluster 1 is characterized by a complete loss of  $\beta$ -arr2 response and also drastically

- 318 reduced potency of the cAMP response. They also lost mid to high ERK efficacy. Cluster 2
- 319 shows detectable  $\beta$ -arr2 function but drastic losses in Emax and log( $\tau$ /KA). These mutants
- 320 also have reduced ERK efficacy but increased ERK potency. Member of Cluster 3 shows



- *< 0.05, ###P < 0.0001*. Ex-4, Exendin-4; G-ctrl, glucose control; Comp 2, Compound 2;
- 347 Sema, Semaglutide.

#### 349 **METHODS**

#### 350 *Studies in cellular models*

351 HEK293T cells (RRID: CVCL 0063) were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium 352 (DMEM, GIBCO, 10566) consisting of 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 353 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin. INS-1 832/3 cells lacking endogenous Glp1r after deletion by CRISPR- $354$  Cas9<sup>11</sup>, a gift from Dr Jacqueline Naylor, were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Invitrogen), 355 supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin, 1 mM sodium 356 pyruvate, 10 mM HEPES and 50  $\mu$ M 2-mercaptoethanol. Cells were incubated in a humidified 357 air incubator containing 5% CO2 at 37°C.

#### 358 *GLP1R gene sequencing*

359 Participants included in the RaDiO study were previously described (Nat Med. 2019 360 Nov;25(11):1733-1738. // Nat Metab. 2020 Oct;2(10):1126-1134.). DNA sequencing of *GLP1R* 361 (NM\_002062.5) was performed by next-generation sequencing as previously described (Nat 362 Med. 2019 Nov;25(11):1733-1738. // Nat Metab. 2020 Oct;2(10):1126-1134.). Briefly, 363 NimbleGen SeqCap EZ Choice XL target enrichment (Roche, Pleasanton, USA) was performed 364 according to the manufacturer's protocol for next-generation sequencing on the HiSeq 4000 365 system (Illumina, San Diego, USA), using a paired-end  $2\times150$  bp protocol. The demultiplexing 366 of sequence data was performed using bcl2fastq Conversion Software (Illumina; v2.17). 367 Sequence reads were then mapped to the human genome (hg19/GRCh37) using Burrows-368 Wheeler Aligner (v0.7.13). The variant calling was performed using Genome Analysis ToolKit 369 (GATK; v3.3). Only variants with a coverage higher than 8 reads were kept for further analyses. 370 The annotation of variants was performed using the Ensembl Perl Application Program Interfaces 371 (v75) and custom Perl scripts to include data from both dbSNP (version 135) and dbNSFP (v3.0) 372 databases. All coding variants had a QUAL score higher than 50. Furthermore, no variant had

373 more than 5% missing genotype (with a coverage below 8 reads or a QUAL score below 50) 374 across the participants.

375 In UK Biobank (Application #67575), we analyzed up to 187,743 samples, with available exome 376 sequencing data and clinical data. More specifically, we used exome data from pVCF format 377 (field #23156). Only variants with a coverage higher than 10 reads and quality GQ score higher 378 than 20 were kept for further analyses. Annotation of variants in *GLP1R* (NM\_002062.5) was 379 done using the Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor (VEP) tool version 103 (RefSeq). Subsequently, 380 the analysis was focused on loss-of-function variants. No loss-of-function variant had more than 381 5% missing genotype (*i.e.* with a coverage below 10 reads or a GQ score below 20) across the 382 participants.

#### 383 *Selection of GLP1R coding variants for functional in vitro analysis*

384 In 2016, the ExAC browser (previous version of Genome Aggregation Database [GnomAD]) 385 included 132 nonsynonymous variants in *GLP1R* (NM\_002062.5), including five common 386 variants with a MAF higher than 1% (Fig. 1 and table S1). To predict the functional impact of 387 these variants in silico, we determined their evolutionary action (EA) score  $^7$  (Extended Data Fig. 388 1). The EA has been shown to usefully predict the functional impact of mutations in genes  $389$  encoding GPCRs <sup>14, 27</sup>. It takes into account the relative importance of each residue position 390 estimated with the evolutionary trace method based on phylogenetic divergences  $\delta$ , combined 391 with the likelihood to observe a given amino acid substitution at that position in receptor 392 homologs across evolution <sup>7</sup>. We selected 44 missense *GLP1R* variants predicted to be of 393 moderate to high impact based on their EA scores. Available literature data on the functional 394 consequences of alanine mutations at 11 positions among the positions of the 132 variants guided 395 us further in the selection of the most impactful variants (Fig. 1). To further narrow down the 396 number of variants we focused on mutations located in the TM and intracellular domains, both 397 known to be important for receptor activation and signal transduction. At the end this selection

398 process, we focused on 34 rare variants with high predicted functional impact (Fig. 1, Extended 399 Data Fig. 1a and table S1). In parallel, we performed sequencing of *GLP1R* exons 400 (NM 002062.5) in 8,672 participants from the RaDiO study <sup>10</sup>. We identified 46 nonsynonymous 401 variants of which we selected 25 rare variants and a common one encoding p.A316T because of 402 their high predicted functional impact (Fig. 1, Extended Data Fig. 1b and table S1). In total, 60 403 *GLP1R* variants were selected for *in vitro* functional analyses (see Fig. 1b for positions in the 404 receptor).

#### 405 *Receptor mutagenesis and constructs*

406 GLP1R cDNA construct containing an N-terminal SNAP tag fused to a FLAG tag were obtained 407 from Cisbio Bioassays (Codolet, France). GLP1R mutants were generated by site-directed 408 mutagenesis using QuikChange Lightning Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent Technologies, 409 210518) according to the manufacturer's protocols. The non-tagged GLP1R was generated by 410 replacing the SNAP-flag cassette and by an oligonucleotide reconstituting the N-terminal 411 methionine residue. All constructs were verified with Eurofins sequencing.

#### 412 *Transfection of plasmids and siRNA*

413 HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with plasmid DNA by the reagent JetPEI (101-10N, 414 Polyplus, New York, NY, USA) and transfected with siRNA using INTERFERin® (101000028, 415 Polyplus, Illkirch, FRANCE) according to the manufacturer's instructions. INS-1 832/3 (*Glp1r* 416 KO) cells were transiently transfected with Lipofectamine® LTX & Plus Reagent (15338-100, 417 Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Generally, cells were 50–70% confluent 418 at the time of transfection. At least forty-eight hours after transfection, both HEK293T and INS-419 1 832/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells were experimentally manipulated for all the ELISA and signaling 420 assays. The double-stranded 5′-ACCUGCGCCUUCCGCUAUG-3′ siRNA sequence 421 (Eurogentec) was used to simultaneously target both βarr-1 and βarr-2, as described previously  $422$   $^{28}$ .

#### 423 *Cell surface and total receptor expression*

424 HEK293T and INS-1 832/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells were transfected with GLP1R or mutant receptor 425 cDNA construct containing an N-terminal SNAP tag fused to a FLAG tag. After 24h, the cells 426 were seeded into 96-well white Optiplates (6005680, Perkin Elmer) and cultured overnight at 427 37°C in 5% CO2. To measure the surface expression, the ELISA cells were washed with 1x PBS 428 and fixed with 2% paraformaldehyde (PFA) at room temperature for 10 min. For total receptor 429 measurement, cells washed with 1x PBS and fixed with methanol/acetone (1: 1) at room 430 temperature for 1 min and then additionally treated with 0.2% Triton X-100 at room temperature 431 for 10 min. The cells are blocked over 1 hour by 3% BSA for surface expression and 3% BSA 432 containing 0.2% Triton X-100 for total expression. Receptor expression was then measured using 433 a rabbit anti-flag antibody (F7425, Sigma-Aldrich) and a horseradish peroxidase-conjugated 434 rabbit immunoglobulin G (IgG) secondary antibody (Cell signaling, 7074S). Luminata<sup>TM</sup> Forte 435 ELISA HRP substrate (ELLUF0100, Merck Millipore) was used for the reaction to generate 436 luminescence. Luminescence was read with a Tecan Infinite M500 microplate reader (Tecan 437 Group, Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland). No interference of the N-terminal SNAP-flag-tag was 438 observed as similar results were observed with the non-tagged and the SNAP-flag-tagged WT 439 GLP1R in INS-1 823/3 (Glp1r KO) and HEK293T cells (Extended Data Fig. 3g-j).

440 For internalization assays cells are incubated with 100 nM exendin-4 (Bachem, Weil am Rhein,

441 Germany) at 37°C in 5% CO2 for the indicated times. The amount of surface and total receptors

- 442 were then determined by ELISA.
- 443 *LUXendin Flow cytometry*
- 444 12 week-old C57/BL6 (Janvier, France) male mouse islet isolation was performed as described 445 previously<sup>29</sup>. Islets were cultured in RPMI 1640 (#61870-010, Thermo Fisher Scientific) 446 containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS CVFSVF00-01, Eurobio, Les Ulis, France) and 447 penicillin/streptomycin (#15140122, ThermoFisher Scientific) at 37°C, 5% CO2. Islets were

448 incubated with 100 nM of LUXendin<sup>12</sup> (Celtarys CELT111), or with 10  $\mu$ M Exendin-4 (Bachem, 449 Weil am Rhein, Germany) for 1h. Islets were then dissociated in single cell suspensions using 450 Accutase (#07922, Stemcell technologies, Vancouver, Canada). GLP1R or Mock transfected 451 INS-1 832/3 (*Glp1r* KO) and HEK293T were incubated with 100 nM of LUXendin for 1h and 452 detached with trypsin. Cell sorting was carried out using a FACSAria III (BD Bioscience). Data 453 were analyzed using FlowJo™ Software (RRID:SCR\_008520, BD Life Sciences). LUXendin-454 positive cells were sorted in several sequential steps as described in Supplementary Figure 1.Data 455 were normalized by substracting background staining (Mock transfected INS-1 832/3 (*Glp1r* 456 KO) and HEK293T or Exendin-4 excess (GLP1R+ beta-cells) and are expressed as Mean 457 Fluorescent Intensity (MFI) per cell.

458

#### 459 *cAMP accumulation measurement*

460 Ligands-mediated cAMP accumulation assays were performed using the cAMP Gi kit  $461$  (62AM9PEB, Cisbio Bioassays) as previously described<sup>30</sup>. Cells transiently expressed GLP1R 462 WT or mutants. Forty-eight hours post-transfection, cells were suspended in stimulation buffer 463 from kit and distributed to a 384-well white ProxiPlate (6008280, Perkin Elmer) at a density of 464 7500 cells per well. Increasing concentration of ligands was added to cell suspension. After 465 30min stimulation, cAMP d2 antibody and cAMP Eu-cryptate reagent were added. After one 466 hour of stimulation, cAMP measurements were performed in triplicates and were read in Tecan 467 Infinite M500 microplate (Tecan Group, Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland).

468 *ERK activation measurement* 

469 Intracellular phospho-ERK1/2 was measured using the AlphaLISA Surefire pERK kit as 470 described previously<sup>31</sup> (ALSU-PERK-A500, PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA). HEK293T cells 471 transiently expressed GLP1R WT or one of the 60 GLP1R mutants. The cells are starved 472 overnight prior to stimulation. An increasing concentration of ligands diluted in DMEM 473 (Invitrogen) free FBS, was added at 37°C for the indicated times to generate full concentration-474 response curves. Cellular lysates were generated by adding the lysis buffer. Four μl cellular 475 lysates were transferred to a 384-well white ProxiPlate (6008280, Perkin Elmer). After the 476 reaction mixture was added and the signal was detected using the Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO 477 microplate reader (Tecan Group, Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland) with excitation at 680nm (α-478 laser) and emission at 520-620nm.

- 479 Exendin-4 induced ERK1/2 phosphorylation kinetics was determined over 1 h. At 5min, the
- 480 exendin-4-mediated pERK1/2 was maximal for HEK293T cells. Accordingly, pERK1/2 dose-
- 481 response experiments were performed at 5 min. At 5 min the Gs/cAMP/PKA pathway was the
- 482 predominant input pathway (Extended Data Fig. 3k-n).
- 483

#### 484 *Intracellular calcium mobilization measurement*

485 Intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilization detected in HEK293T cells was performed as previously 486 described. Briefly, cells were pre-incubated with the  $Ca^{2+}$ -sensitive Fluo-4 AM (Thermo Fisher 487 Scientific) in 37°C incubator for 1 h before measuring in the multi-mode microplate reader 488 (FlexStation 3, Molecular Devices). The fluorescence signals (excitation at 485 nm and emission 489 at 525 nm) were then measured for 60 s. After the first 20 s, compounds were added automatically 490 into the plate to treat the cells. The  $Ca^{2+}$  response was given as the agonist-induced fluorescence 491 increase (maximum signal after agonist addition subtracts the mean value of the first 20 s). The 492 dependence of the Ca response on Gq/11 proteins was addressed by preincubating cells for 30 493 min with the Gq/11 protein specific YM-254890 inhibitor in the presence of Ex-4 (100 nM) 494 (Extended Data Fig. 3o).

495 *β-arr2 recruitment (BRET) measurement* 

496 β-arr2 recruitment by GLP1R at the cell surface was assessed by measuring BRET between

497 RlucII-β-arr2 and rGFP-CAAX (prenylation CAAX box of KRas) upon treatment of HEK 293T

498 cells cotransfected with GLP1R. Transfected cells were plated in 96-well white Optiplates 499 (6005680, Perkin Elmer). Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were washed with 500 Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline, and then Tyrode's buffer was added. After 5 min 501 incubation with Deep blue C Coelenterazine  $(2.5 \mu M, \text{ Nanolight Technology})$ , the cells were 502 incubated for 5 more minutes with exendin-4 at 37°C. Then, luminescence and fluorescence were 503 measured simultaneously using plates and were read on the Mithras LB 940 with  $480 \pm 10$  nm 504 (Rluc) and  $540 \pm 20$  nm (YFP) emission filters and BRET ratios were calculated.

505 *Insulin secretion measurement* 

506 INS-1 832/3 (*Glp1r* KO) cells were seeded into 24-well plates coated with poly-L-lysine 507 hydrobromide (P6282, Sigma-Aldrich). GLP1R or one of the 60 GLP1R mutants were 508 transfected one day after. The cultured medium was changed by fresh cultured medium 24 h prior 509 to glucose-dependent insulin secretion. On the day of the experiment, the cells were washed three 510 times by low-glucose (2.8 mM) Krebs Ringer buffer (2.6 mM CaCl2, 98.5 mM NaCl, 4 mM KCl, 511 1.2 mM KH2PO4, 1.2 mM MgSO4, 20 mM HEPES, 25.9 mM NaHCO3, 0.2% BSA, pH 7.4) 512 and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in low-glucose (2.8 mM) Krebs Ringer buffer. The supernatant 513 was removed, and cells were incubated for 1 h at 37°C in high-(8.3 mM) glucose Krebs Ringer 514 buffer  $\pm$  exendin-4 or GIP or semaglutide <sup>11</sup>. The supernatant was collected and insulin 515 concentration was measured in 10 µL using the Insulin Ultra Sensitive assay (62IN2PEG, Cisbio 516 Bioassays). According to the manufacturer's instructions, supernatant, insulin  $Eu^{3+}$  Cryptate 517 antibody and insulin XL665 antibody were distributed in a 384-well microplate (6007290, Perkin 518 Elmer). After 24 hours incubation, the signal was read in Tecan Infinite M500 microplate (Tecan 519 Group, Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland).

#### 520 *TR-FRET-based ligand competition binding measurement*

521 The affinity of GLP1R WT and GLP1R mutants for exendin-4 were determined by TR-FRET-

522 based ligand competitive binding assay. Forty-eight hours post-transfection, HEK293T cells

523 expressing SNAP-GLP1R WT or mutants were immediately placed on the ice to avoid the rapid 524 receptor internalization. After washes, the cells were incubated with substrate (100 nM) 525 conjugated to the long-lived fluorophore Terbium cryptate (Tb; Lumi4-Tb, SSNPTBX, Cisbio 526 Bioassays) in Tag-lite labeling medium (1 h, on ice, LABMED, Cisbio Bioassays). After several 527 washes, cells were dissociated by enzyme-free cell dissociation buffer (C5789; Sigma-Aldrich) 528 and resuspended in Tag-lite buffer. The cells are distributed into a 384-well plate, whose then 529 were used to detect fluorescence signal at 620 nm for verification of the efficiency of fluorescent 530 labeling of SNAP. An increasing concentration of exendin-4 was incubated with cells in the 531 presence or absence of the exendin-4 derivative labeled with a red-emitting HTRF fluorescent 532 probe (L0030RED, Cisbio Bioassays) at final reaction volume of 14 μL. The incubation last two 533 hours at room temperature and the TR-FRET signal was read in the Tecan Infinite M500 534 microplate reader (Tecan Group, Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland) following settings: excitation at 535 340 nm (Tb, energy donor), emission at 665 nm (d2, acceptor); and 620 nm (donor); delay of 536 150 μs; and integration time of 500μs. Data is expressed as TR-FRET ratio (acceptor/donor) or 537 normalized as % when indicated (maximal TR-FRET ratio =  $100\%$ , non-specific binding =  $0\%$ ).

#### 538 *Western blotting*

539 HEK293T cells were seeded in 6-well plates and transiently expressed GLP1R and silenced by 540 using siRNA targeting both β-arr1 and β-arr2 according to the manufacturer's instructions. The 541 cells were then washed with PBS carefully. Lysis buffer composed of 62.5mM Tris/HCl pH 6.8, 542 5% SDS, 10% glycerol, 0.005% bromophenol blue are applied to denature proteins in cells over 543 2 hours. Samples were then sonicated for 5s, three times, and heated for 5 min at 95 °C. Denatured 544 protein samples were resolved in SDS-PAGE and then transferred to nitrocellulose membranes. 545 The immunoblottings were carried out with primary antibodies against the Flag tag (F7425, 546 Sigma-Aldrich) and β-arr1/2 (4674, Cell Signaling Technology). Immunoreactivity was revealed 547 using a secondary antibody coupled to 680 or 800 nm fluorophores (LI-COR Biosciences, 548 Lincoln, NE, USA), and readings were performed with the Odyssey LI-COR infrared fluorescent 549 scanner (LI-COR Biosciences).

550 *NMF/K-mean Clustering Analysis* 

551 To characterize the phenotypic effects of the GLP1R mutants, we applied the Non-Negative 552 Matrix Factorization (NMF) and K-means clustering analysis described in  $27$ . Among the 60 553 mutants tested on GLP1R, four mutants (p.H180Y, p.N320Y, p.G361R, and p. I400R) were 554 excluded because their experimental data were undetectable. To initiate the clustering, an input 555 matrix was generated with 56 mutants and 4 different signaling pathways (β-arr2,  $Ca^{2+}$ , cAMP, 556 and ERK) measured by 3 parameters each ( $E_{\text{max}}$ ,  $EC_{50}$ , and  $Δlog(τ/K<sub>A</sub>)$ ), which resulted in matrix 557 size of 56 x 12. To establish the robustness of the results, experimental errors were propagated 558 by iteratively sampling values within one standard deviation of the mean of the phenotypic 559 measurement. This generated a background of 300 input matrices that were independently 560 processed by NMF/K-mean clustering. Before applying the clustering algorithm, each 561 phenotypic measurement was normalized against WT:

562 Normalized Difference Value<sub>ij</sub> = 
$$
\frac{x_{ij} - WT_j}{x_{ij} + WT_j} + 1
$$
 (1),

563 where xij indicates the j phenotypic measurement on mutant i, and WTj indicates wild type values 564 on the j phenotypic measurement. Therefore, each value ranged from 0 to 2, where 1 indicates 565 an activity similar to WT. NMF was performed in the normalized matrix from 566 sklearn.decomposition package in python to reduce dimensionality [K (basis factor) x H (number 567 of mutants)]. We applied K-means analysis to the result of dimension reduction, using the 568 sklearn.cluster package in python, across K=2 to K=5, where K is basis factor for NMF and the 569 number of clusters for K-means (KNMF=KKmean). For each input matrix, NMF/K-means was 570 iteratively applied 300 times. Thus, the final clustering frequency was determined by averaging 571 90,000 outcomes (300 input matrix times 300 clustering iteration) and converted into Euclidean 572 distance matrix, using the scipy.cluster package in python.

#### 573 *Evolutionary Action Scores*

574 The Evolutionary Action (EA) of a mutation is computed with an equation  $\frac{7}{1}$ :

$$
575 \t\t d\phi = \nabla f \cdot d\gamma. (2),
$$

576 where f is a fitness function that maps genotypes,  $γ$ , to phenotypes,  $φ$ , so that we may write 577 f(γ) = ϕ. In practice, Eqn 2 can be computed by estimating dϕ as the magnitude of a mutation 578 from evolutionary odds matrices of amino acid substitutions, and estimating ∇f, which as the 579 gradient of the evolutionary function represent the functional sensitivity to mutations at each 580 sequence positions, with the Evolutionary Trace  $\delta$ . The result is the EA, d $\phi$ , which varies 581 continuously from 0 (a neutral mutation with no fitness effect) to 100 (a maximally deleterious 582 mutation that causes a functional knockout). EA scores below 30 tend to be harmless, but tend 583 to impact function progressively more above that threshold. The GLP1R mutants EA scores were 584 given from http://eaction.lichtargelab.org/eaction. To evaluate EA score prediction with the 585 experimental data, phenotypic score was calculated thus:

$$
586 \t \t \text{Phenotypic Score}_i = \sum_{j=0}^{n} |y_{ij}|
$$

$$
y_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - WT_j}{x_{ij} + WT_j},
$$

#### 588 *Statistical analysis*

589 *Statistical analyses for genetic association studies***.** In UK Biobank, the rare variants were 590 analyzed as single clusters using the mixed-effects score test (MiST) method (Sun, J., Zheng, Y. 591 & Hsu, L. A unified mixed-effects model for rare-variant association in sequencing studies. 592 *Genet. Epidemiol.* **37**, 334–344 (2013)). MiST provides a score statistic  $S(\pi)$  for the mean effect 593 (π) of the cluster, and a score statistic  $S(τ)$  for the heterogeneous effect (τ) of the cluster. Let the 594 equation of the model be:  $Y = \alpha X + \pi GZ$ , where Y is the trait of interest, X is the matrix of 595 covariates (*i.e.* age, sex, body mass index [BMI], ancestry [*i.e.* PC1 to PC5; field #22009] for

596 assessing diastolic blood pressure, systolic blood pressure, high-density lipoprotein, low-density 597 lipropretin and age, sex, ancestry for assessing BMI and glycated hemoglobin A1c), G is the 598 matrix of *OPRD1* variants and Z is a vector of ones repeated *n* times, with *n* the number of rare *OPRD1* variants, leading to:  $\pi GZ = \pi \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i$ . BMI was log-transformed before analysis. As 600 none of the association studies had significant heterogeneity, we only showed the *P*-values 601 associated with the mean effect  $(\pi)$  of the cluster. These statistical analyses were performed using 602 R software (v4.0.2).

603 *The surface and total expression determined by ELISA*. All values are expressed as means  $\pm$ 604 SEM of at least three independent experiments. Statistical significance of differences was 605 determined by one-way analysis of variance and Dunnett's post-test.

606 *Insulin secretion measurement.* The agonist-induced response for every GLP1R mutant was 607 normalized to its glucose control (set at 1). The fold ratio is expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM of at least 608 three independent experiments and compared to the WT receptor in parallel with the receptor 609 mutant. Statistical significance of differences was determined by one-way analysis of variance 610 and Dunnett's post-test. Log $EC_{50}$  is defined as the log of the concentration of initiating half of 611 the maximal response was determined by nonlinear regression with a variable Hill slope using 612 GraphPad Prism software (version 7.0).

613 *TR-FRET-based ligand competition binding measurement.* LogIC50 is defined as the log of the 614 concentration of red-emitting Ex-4 that results in half-way of decreasing of Ex-4 binding. logIC50 615 was determined by nonlinear regression with a variable Hill slope using GraphPad Prism 616 software (version 7.0). LogIC<sub>50</sub> is expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM of at least three independent 617 experiments. The data were analyzed by comparing independent fits with a global fit that shares 618 the selected parameter and by two-way analysis of variance and Sidak post-test.

619 *cAMP accumulation, ERK activation, Ca2+ mobilization and β-arr2 recruitment*  620 *measurement.* Agonist-induced Emax is defined as the maximal response generated by agonists. 621 LogEC<sub>50</sub>, and agonist-induced  $E_{\text{max}}$  values were determined by nonlinear regression with a 622 variable Hill slope using GraphPad Prism software (version 7.0).

623 For these assays, the agonist-induced Emax value for every GLP1R mutant was normalized as a 624 percentage of the maximal Ex-4 stimulated response of the WT receptor (set at 100) monitored 625 in parallel with the receptor mutant. LogEC<sub>50</sub> and agonist-induced  $E_{\text{max}}$  are expressed as means  $626 \pm SEM$  of at least three independent experiments. The data were analyzed by comparing 627 independent fits with a global fit that shares the selected parameter and by two-way analysis of 628 variance and Sidak post-test. The concentration-response curves were fitted to an operational 629 model of agonism designed by Kenakin and Christopoulos <sup>32, 33</sup> to obtain log( $\tau$ /K<sub>A</sub>) values for 630 the WT receptor and its mutants. Normally, an agonist is set as a reference agonist, against which 631 within pathway comparisons for the same receptor to other agonists can be made and expressed 632 as Δlog(τ/KA). Here, withinpathway comparisons were made between GLP1R mutants and the 633 WT receptor. Normalized difference was calculated on values corresponding to agonist-induced 634 Emax, and  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_A)$  to fit a -1 to +1 scale using the following formula: (mutant – WT)/(mutant 635  $+ WT$ ). In the case of  $\Delta log(\tau/K_A)$ , before normalization, the antilogs were first calculated and 636 then were fitted to the following formula: (mutant – WT)/(mutant + WT). Positive and negative 637 values represent mutations with better or worst responses, respectively than those of the WT 638 receptor. Subsequently,  $\Delta \log(\tau/K_A)$  values were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM of the indicated 639 number of experiments (n). Statistical analysis for  $\Delta$ log( $\tau$ /K<sub>A</sub>) ratios was performed by one-640 sample t test to examine the mean differences between WT GLP1R and its mutants.

641 All the correlation studies are analyzed by linear regression and define  $R^2$  using GraphPad Prism 642 software (version 7.0). The statistical significance of differences was determined by linear 643 regression.











**Figure 2** 

















