



# Olaparib induces browning of in vitro cultures of human primary white adipocytes

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## ABSTRACT

Mitochondrial biogenesis is a key feature of energy expenditure and organismal energy balance. Genetic deletion of PARP1 or PARP2 was shown to induce mitochondrial biogenesis and energy expenditure. In line with that, PARP inhibitors were shown to induce energy expenditure in skeletal muscle. We aimed to investigate whether pharmacological inhibition of PARPs induces brown or beige adipocyte differentiation. SVF fraction of human pericardial adipose tissue was isolated and human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white and beige adipocytes. A subset of hADMSCs were differentiated to white adipocytes in the presence of Olaparib, a potent PARP inhibitor currently in clinical use, to induce browning. Olaparib induced morphological changes (smaller lipid droplets) in white adipocytes that is a feature of brown/beige adipocytes. Furthermore, Olaparib induced mitochondrial biogenesis in white adipocytes and enhanced UCP1 expression. We showed that Olaparib treatment inhibited nuclear and cytosolic PAR formation, induced NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio and consequently boosted SIRT1 and AMPK activity and the downstream transcriptional program leading to increases in OXPHOS. Olaparib treatment did not induce the expression of beige adipocyte markers in white adipocytes, suggesting the formation of brown or brown-like adipocytes.

PARP1, PARP2 and tankyrases are key players in the formation of white adipose tissue. Hereby, we show that PARP inhibition induces the transdifferentiation of white adipocytes to brown-like adipocytes suggesting that PARP activity could be a determinant of the differentiation of these adipocyte lineages.

## 1. Introduction

In light of the recent advances the white and brown dichotomy of adipose tissue was revisited upon the discovery of beige adipocytes [1]. Apparently, adipose tissue is a versatile organ that can perform lipid storage, energy expenditure and other biological roles contributing to energy homeostasis to meet the needs of the organism [2,3]. There are two types of adipocytes with considerable oxidative phosphorylation

(OXPHOS) capacity, brown and beige adipocytes that are responsible for facilitating energy expenditure, while white adipocytes are primarily lipid storing cells. Classical brown adipocytes are mitochondria-rich multilocular cells in which active OXPHOS and ATP synthesis is uncoupled. These cells are typically found in the interscapular region of newborn humans and around major arteries later in life [4,5]. Unstimulated beige cells reside in white adipose tissue depots and have similar morphology to white adipocytes [6]. Beige adipocytes can efficiently

**Abbreviations:** ACC, acetyl-CoA carboxylase; AMPK, AMP-activated kinase; ADPR, ADP-ribose; hADMSCs, human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells; NA, nicotinamide; OLA, Olaparib; OXPHOS, oxidative phosphorylation; OCR, oxygen consumption rate; PAR, poly(ADP-ribose); PARP, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase; PGC-1 $\alpha$ , peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated cofactor-1 $\alpha$ ; SVF, stromal vascular fraction; UCP1, uncoupling protein-1.

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induce mitochondrial biogenesis in response to adrenergic stimulus in a similar fashion and efficiency as classical brown adipocytes [1,7] that seems protect against obesity and diabetes [8–10].

Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerases (PARPs) represent a 17-member protein family [11,12]. Although, PARPs were originally described as DNA repair proteins, recent investigations pointed out that these enzymes also have a significant impact on cellular and organismal metabolism [13] and within that, in regulating mitochondrial metabolism [14–17]. There are several molecular pathways through which PARPs exert their effects on the mitochondria (for review see [14]). From the perspective of the current study, two energy pathways have high relevance. PARPs are enzymes that cleave  $\text{NAD}^+$  to build long branched poly(ADP-ribose) (PAR) chains on target proteins. The vast majority of PARP activity can be attributed to PARP1 and PARP2 [18] and they represent a heavy burden on cellular  $\text{NAD}^+$  levels [19,20]. PARP1 and PARP2, therefore, compete with other  $\text{NAD}^+$ -dependent enzymes, such as Sirt1 and, hence, impact on mitochondrial physiology [19–21]. Pharmacological or genetic inhibition of PARP1 or PARP2 induces SIRT1 activity through inducing cellular  $\text{NAD}^+$  levels that leads to mitochondrial biogenesis through activating transcriptional programs driven by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated cofactor (PGC)-1 $\alpha$  and FOXO1 [22,23]. PARP1 also has multifaceted interactions with another key energy sensor, AMP-activated kinase (AMPK) [24–27].

PARP-mediated changes to bioenergetics impacted on the (central) nerve system, skeletal, cardiac and smooth muscle, the liver, endothelial cells, cancers and the white and the brown adipose tissue [13,15,26,28–35]. Consequently, a plethora of metabolic diseases are associated with the PARP-mediated derailment of bioenergetics [13,36]. Genetic deletion of PARP1 can induce heat generation and cold tolerance in mice that is attributed to brown adipocytes [19]. Moreover, the above detailed PARP-mediated elements of the energy homeostasis (e.g. AMPK, Sirt1) were shown to be key mediators of white, brown and beige adipocyte development or function [37–39]. In the current study we set out to assess whether PARP inhibition by Olaparib, a pan-PARP inhibitor [40] can cause a transdifferentiation of white adipocytes to beige or brown adipocytes.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Chemicals

Chemicals were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) unless stated otherwise.

### 2.2. Ethical statement

The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Debrecen (Hungary) and the National Medical Research Council Committee of Human Reproduction (ETT TUKEB). All experiments were carried out in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and the approved ethical guidelines and regulations. Written informed consent from all participants was obtained before the surgical procedure.

### 2.3. Isolation, culture and differentiation of hADMSCs

From human pericardial/mediastinal adipose tissue of patients undergoing a planned cardiac surgery (e.g. valve surgery, coronary bypass surgery, Batista operation) stromal vascular fraction (SVFs) was isolated and from the SVF human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were cultivated. No exclusions were applied regarding BMI, age, gender or medications of the patients.

On the day of heart surgery the mediastinal adipose tissue specimens were processed as described in [41]. Samples were digested in

PBS with 120 U/ml collagenase for 1 h at 37 °C and filtered through a sieve with a pore size of 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . Isolated hADMSCs were resuspended in DMEM-F12 HAM medium containing 10% FBS and seeded to the appropriate vessels. After cell culture reached confluency, differentiation was initiated by using FBS free medium. White adipogenic differentiation was carried out using the protocol described by Fischer-Posovszky and co-workers [42]. To induce beige adipogenic differentiation cells were treated according to Elabd and co-workers [43]. To assess the result of PARP inhibition, white adipocytes were differentiated in the presence of 1  $\mu\text{M}$  Olaparib (Selleckchem, Munich, Germany). This concentration was determined by testing our cell model (hADMSCs) with Olaparib for toxicity in a range of 100 nM–4  $\mu\text{M}$  for toxicity. Cells were assayed after 14 days after the induction of differentiation.

### 2.4. Microscopic analysis of differentiated hADMSC

After 2-weeks of differentiation microscopic images were acquired with an OPTIKA XDS-3 trinocular inverted microscope (Science Services, Munich, Germany) using IOS LWD 20X/0.40 Ph (w.d. 7.66 mm) objective at 25 °C and images were processed using SharpCap 2.8 software.

### 2.5. Confocal microscopy

hADMSCs were seeded on glass coverslips and differentiated as described in 2.3. For the visualization of lipid droplets, on the last day of the differentiation cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde for 20 min at 37 °C then rinsed three times with 1  $\times$  PBS. Following the fixation cells were stained for 20 min at room temperature with Nile Red dye diluted in 1x PBS in concentration of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . Cells were washed once with PBS and once with water.

On the last day of the differentiation the other set of cells were stained with Mitotracker Red (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) to assess the mitochondrial network using a working concentration of 100 nM for 30 min at 37 °C. Cells were washed once with PBS and cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde for 20 min at 37 °C then rinsed three times with 1  $\times$  PBS.

The nuclei were stained with DAPI special formation (NucBlue® Fixed Cell Stain ReadyProbes™ reagent, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and rinsed in 1  $\times$  PBS again.

Confocal images were acquired with a Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) using an HC PL APO CS2 63  $\times$  /1.40 OIL immersion objective on a DMI6000 CS microscope at 25 °C. The following lasers were applied: OPSL 488 for Mitotracker Red and for Nile Red, and 405 visible for DAPI. Images were processed using LASX 2.0.1.14392 software. The number of mitochondria was analyzed by using CellProfiler software (The Broad Institute of MIT, MA).

### 2.6. Gene expression and RT-qPCR

Reverse transcription-coupled real time quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) reactions were performed similarly as in [44]. Briefly, total RNA was prepared using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, then reverse transcription was performed (High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA). 10  $\times$  diluted cDNA was used for RT-qPCR reactions (PCRBIO SYSTEMS, qPCRBIO SyGreen Mix Lo-ROX, London, United Kingdom). The RT-qPCR reactions were performed using the Light-Cycler system (Roche Applied Science, Mannheim, Germany). Primers are summarized in Table 1. Expression was normalized to the geometric mean of three control genes (cyclophilin,  $\beta$ -actin, 36B4 or YWAHZ).

**Table 1**  
Primers used in RT-qPCR reactions.

Gene		Forward primer	Reverse primer
36B4	Human	5'-CCATTGAAATCCTGAGTGATGTG-3'	5'-GTCGAACACCTGCTGGATGAC-3'
$\beta$ -actin	Human	5'-GACCCAGATCATGTTTGAGACC-3'	5'-CATCAGCATGCCAGTGGTAC-3'
Cyclophilin A	Human	5'-GTCTCCTTTGAGCTGTTTGACAGAC-3'	5'-CTTGCCACCAAGTCCATTATG-3'
PGC1 $\alpha$	Human	5'-TTCTCTGACCCAGAGTCACC-3'	5'-TTGCAAGAGGACTTCAGCTTTGG-3'
PPAR $\gamma$	Human	5'-GTGGCCGCGAGATTGAAAGAAG-3'	5'-CCATGGTCATTTTCGTTAAAGGCTG-3'
PRDM16	Human	5'-CACTGTGTCAGGCAGGCTAAGAA-3'	5'-AGAGGTGGTTGATGGGGTAAA-3'
TBX1	Human	5'-TCCACCTTCCAAGTGAAGCTC-3'	5'-CACGATTGCTTCATCCACTGC-3'
TMEM26	Human	5'-ACCTCCCATGTGTGGACATCCT-3'	5'-ACCAACAGCACCAACAACCTCA-3'
SIRT1	Human	5'-TGGCAAAGGAGCAGATTAGTAGGC-3'	5'-TGGACTCTGGCATGTCCACT-3'
UCP1	Human	5'-AACGAAGGACCAACGGCTTTC-3'	5'-GGCAGAGTCCATAGTCTGCCTTG-3'
YWAHZ	Human	5'-CCGCCAGGACAAACAGTAT-3'	5'-ACTTTTGGTACATTGTGGCTTCAA-3'

## 2.7. Protein extraction and Western blotting

The isolation of cytoplasmic and nuclear fraction of proteins from hADMSCs and the subsequent Western blotting are described in [45]. Blots were probed with the antibodies summarized in Table 2.

Signals were detected using enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL) and were captured by ChemiDoc Touch (Bio-Rad Laboratories, CA, USA).

## 2.8. Determination of NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio

NAD/NADH Quantification Kit (Sigma) was used for the determination of NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio following the manufacturer's instructions. NAD<sup>+</sup> and NADH content was normalized for protein content.

## 2.9. Determination of the size and number of lipid droplets

Preadipocytes were seeded and differentiated on PerkinElmer 96-well black clear bottom plate. On the last day of the differentiation cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde for 20 min at 37 °C then rinsed two times with 1 × PBS. Following the fixation cells were stained with Nile Red dye using a working concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/ml and diluted in 1 × PBS for 20 min at room temperature (diluted from 10 mg/ml stock solution). The dye charges the lipid droplets enabling the visualization of the pattern and size of lipid droplets in adipocytes. Cells were washed once with PBS and once with water. The nuclei were stained with DAPI special formation (NucBlue® Fixed cell Stain

ReadyProbes™ reagent, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and rinsed in 1 × PBS again. Images were acquired with an Opera Phenix™ High-Content Screening System (PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA, USA) 40 × water immersion objective at 25 °C. 488 nm laser was used for the detection of Nile Red and 405 nm laser for DAPI. Images were processed using Harmony software and analyzed by Image J software [46]. We calculated the ratio of differentiation by counting the cells containing at least two large lipid droplets (differentiated) and those that did not (undifferentiated).

## 2.10. Determination of oxygen consumption (OCR)

Oxygen consumption rate was determined using XF96 Flux Analyzer (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA). hADMSCs were seeded in 96-well assay plates, then differentiated as described previously. After recording the baseline oxygen consumption, cells received a single bolus dose of dibutyril-cAMP (500  $\mu$ M final concentration) simulating adrenergic stimulation. Then OCR was recorded every 5 min for 30 min. As a last step, cells received a single bolus dose of antimycin A (10  $\mu$ M) and rotenone (2.5  $\mu$ M) for distinguishing the mitochondrial from non-mitochondrial oxygen consumption. After the measurement cells were fixed and Sulphorhodamine B assay was used for the determination of total protein content. OCR values were normalized to protein content and normalized readings were analyzed and plotted.

## 2.11. Immunoprecipitation

Cells were lysed in RIPA lysis buffer (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X100, 0.5% sodium deoxycolate, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM NaF and protease inhibitor cocktail). FOXO1 acetylation levels were analyzed by immunoprecipitation from lysates with anti-FOXO1 (1:1000, Cell Signalling, Danvers, MA, USA) followed by Western blot using an acetyl-lysine antibody (1:500, Cell Signalling) that was normalized to total FOXO1 levels.

## 2.12. Statistical analysis

Throughout the text *n* refers to the number of donors (biological replicates) assessed. All data is represented as average  $\pm$  SEM, unless stated otherwise. Data were analyzed by using GraphPad Prism 3 software and statistical analysis was performed by using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Olaparib induces mitochondrial biogenesis in white adipocytes

In the study we used white adipose tissue-derived stem cells (hADMSCs) that were differentiated into white or beige adipocytes; a

**Table 2**  
List of antibodies used in the study.

Primary antibodies				
$\beta$ -Actin–Peroxidase (Sigma Aldrich)	mouse	polyclonal	1:25000	
ACC (C83B10) (Cell Signaling)	rabbit	monoclonal	1:1000	
Phospho-ACC(Serine <sup>79</sup> ) (Cell Signaling)	rabbit	polyclonal	1:1000	
AMPK $\alpha$ (D63G4) (Cell signaling)	rabbit	monoclonal	1:1000	
Phospho- AMPK $\alpha$ (Threonine <sup>172</sup> ) (40H9) (Cell signaling)	rabbit	monoclonal	1:1000	
FOXO1 (C29H4) (Cell Signaling)	rabbit	monoclonal	1:1000	
Histone H3 (Cell Signaling)	rabbit	polyclonal	1:1000	
LaminB1 (Cell signaling)	rabbit	monoclonal	1:1000	
PGC1 $\alpha$ (Thermo Fisher Scientific)	rabbit	polyclonal	1:1000	
Poly(ADP-ribose) (PAR) (Enzo Life Science)	mouse	monoclonal	1:500	
TBX1 (Gene Tex)	rabbit	polyclonal	1:500	
UCP1 (Sigma Aldrich)	mouse	monoclonal	1:1000	
Secondary antibodies				
HRP-linked anti-rabbit IgG (Cell Signaling)	goat	polyclonal	1:2000	
Peroxidase conjugated anti-mouse IgG (Sigma Aldrich)	rabbit	polyclonal	1:80000	

subset of the progenitor cells that differentiated into white adipocytes received OLA, a potent PARP inhibitor that is used in the clinical practice. First, we assessed the morphology of the cells, as in previous studies smaller lipid droplets were characteristic for beige differentiation [47–49]. Beige adipocytes and OLA-treated white adipocytes had smaller lipid droplets as compared to white adipocytes (Fig. 1A–D). We assessed the rate of differentiation, too. Beige differentiation and OLA treatment decreased the rate of differentiation as compared to white adipocytes (Fig. 1E).

Next, we assessed mitochondrial content using Mitotracker red staining. Beige adipocytes had markedly higher mitochondrial content than white adipocytes (Fig. 2A, B). OLA treatment also significantly induced mitochondrial content in white adipocytes (Fig. 2A, B). Increases in mitochondrial content was translated into increased mitochondrial oxygen consumption rates (OCR) in beige adipocytes and in OLA-treated white adipocytes when induced by a membrane-permeable cAMP analogue (500  $\mu$ M dibutyryl-cAMP), mimicking adrenergic stimulus (Fig. 2C). Finally, we assessed the expression of uncoupling protein-1 (UCP1), the major molecular marker of brown and beige adipocytes which is responsible for mitochondrial uncoupling. UCP1 mRNA and protein expression was induced in beige adipocytes and OLA-treated white adipocytes as compared to white adipocytes (Fig. 2D).

Taken together, OLA, similarly to the previous observations [19–21,50,51], induces mitochondrial biogenesis and probably uncoupling in our cellular model.

### 3.2. Olaparib treatment induces Sirt1 and AMPK

We assessed the molecular pathways that can be responsible for the induction of mitochondrial biogenesis. Sirt1 activation had been linked to PARP inhibition by numerous prior studies [19,21,50–53] and Sirt1 activation was shown to play a major role in beige and brown differentiation [54–56]. OLA inhibited PARP activity in the nuclear and cytosolic fractions (Fig. 3A). Interestingly, beige differentiation decreased cytosolic PAR formation (Fig. 3A). Decreased PARP activity slightly increased  $\text{NAD}^+$  levels, significantly reduced NADH levels that culminated in an increased  $\text{NAD}^+/\text{NADH}$  ratio in beige adipocytes and OLA-treated white adipocytes (Fig. 3B) that is a known activator of SIRT1 [57]. We next assessed the expression of Sirt1 and its downstream targets. Interestingly, in beige adipocytes we observed decreased the expression of SIRT1 (Fig. 3C) and FOXO1 (Fig. 3D), while PGC1 $\alpha$  protein expression was drastically induced (Fig. 3F) when compared to white adipocytes. OLA treatment did not change the expression of SIRT1, FOXO1, in turn, PGC1 $\alpha$  expression was induced as compared to the white adipocyte control (Fig. 3C–D, F). Importantly, OLA treatment decreased the acetylation of FOXO1 suggesting increased SIRT1 activity (Fig. 3F).

Another pathway that can induce mitochondrial biogenesis is AMPK. We assessed AMPK activity through assessing key phosphorylation events. AMPK is a trimeric enzyme that is phosphorylated upon activation at Threonine<sup>172</sup> of the  $\alpha$  subunit [58], AMPK phosphorylation levels at  $\alpha$  Threonine<sup>172</sup> were higher in beige cells as compared to white adipocytes (Fig. 4A). Acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACC) is phosphorylated by AMPK at Serine<sup>79</sup> and is, therefore, considered a suitable marker of AMPK activation. ACC phosphorylation were induced drastically in beige as compared to white adipocytes (Fig. 4B). AMPK phosphorylation was induced upon OLA treatment in white adipocytes to similar levels as in beige adipocytes (Fig. 4A) and we observed trend for higher pACC levels, too (Fig. 4B).

### 3.3. PARP inhibition yields brown-like adipocytes

Finally, we assessed markers of beige adipocyte differentiation, PRDM16, TMEM26, PPAR $\gamma$ 1 and TBX1 [1,59,60]. The expression of all markers were higher in beige adipocytes than in white adipocytes (Fig. 5). Nevertheless, the expression of these markers was not induced in OLA-treated white adipocytes as compared to control white adipocytes (Fig. 5).

## 4. Discussion

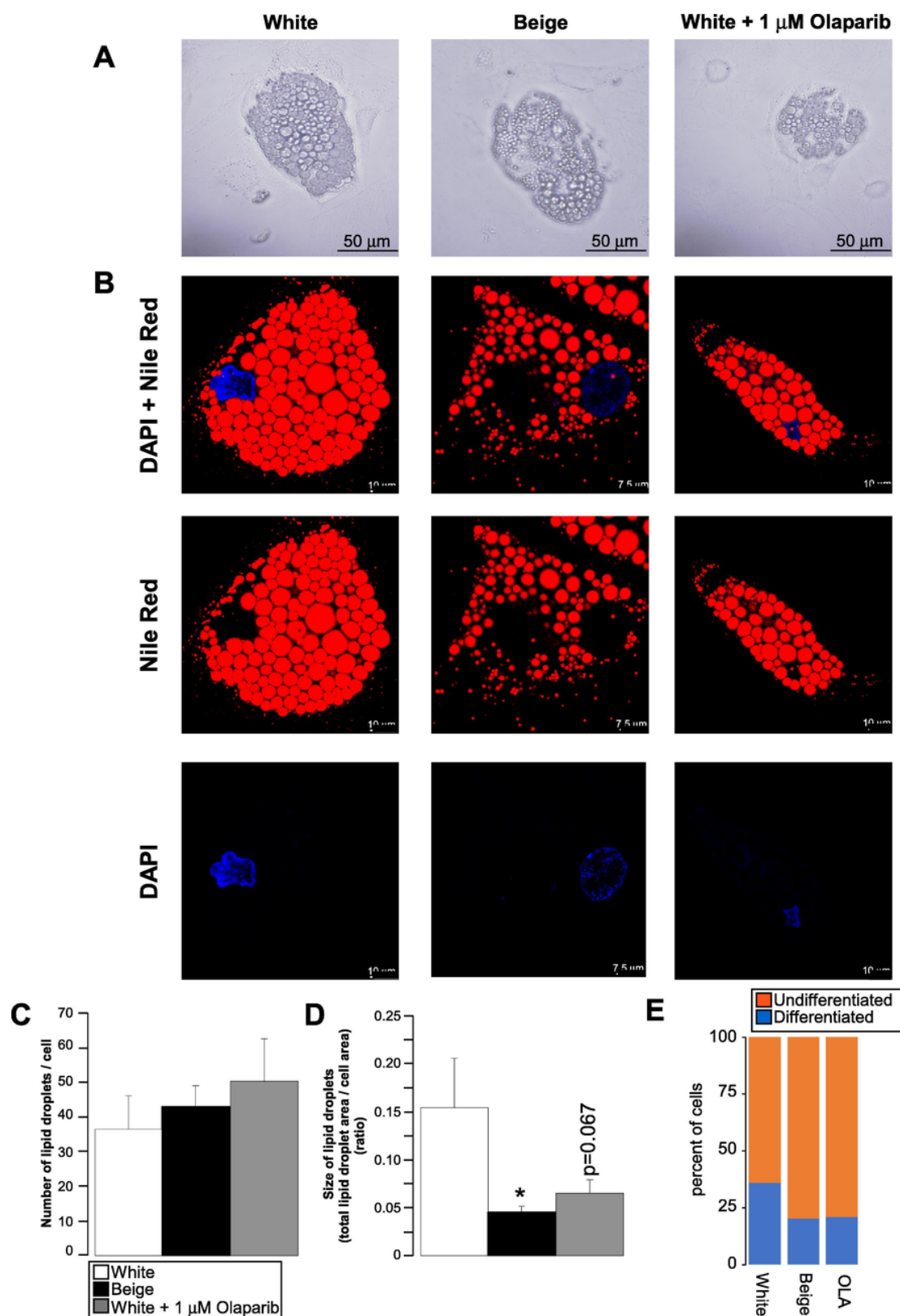
In this study we provided evidence that Olaparib (OLA), induces mitochondrial biogenesis and, hence, browning in human white adipocytes. OLA is a pan-PARP inhibitor, inhibiting all members of the PARP family [40]. PARP1 [15,19,20,27,28,50,51,61–63], PARP2 [20,21,31], PARP7 [64], PARP10 [34], tankyrases [65] are all implicated in regulating mitochondrial metabolism. The vast majority of PARP activity is attributed to PARP1 and PARP2 [18,31,66] making it likely that PARP1 and PARP2 are responsible for mitochondrial biogenesis upon OLA treatment. Nevertheless, the drastic inhibition of PARP activity in the cytoplasm suggest the involvement of other, yet uncovered, PAR(P)-dependent pathways in OLA-elicited effects. It is of note that studies using other, structurally different PARP inhibitors are necessary to validate our observations in the context of beige/brown differentiation, however, in different model systems other pharmacological PARP inhibitors and genetic PARP inhibition was shown to induce mitochondrial biogenesis [15,19,20,27,28,50,51,61–63].

The involvement of PARPs in mitochondrial physiology was first shown in 1998 by Virág et al. [17], since then a plethora of pathways converging on mitochondrial metabolism were shown to be PARP-dependent (reviewed in [14]). In this study we found the upregulation of two pathways by OLA, namely, the induction of SIRT1 and AMPK.

Pharmacological PARP inhibition was shown to increase  $\text{NAD}^+$  levels and hence induce SIRT1 that subsequently drives mitochondrial biogenesis in skeletal muscle [19,50]. Our study extends these observations by showing that brown adipose tissue is also a subject of induction of mitochondrial biogenesis by PARP inhibition. While previous studies showed the upregulation of SIRT1 activity in beige differentiation [37–39,56,67], in our model (SVF from pericardial adipose tissue), in beige adipocytes we found a downregulation of the expression of SIRT1 and FOXO1, nevertheless, SIRT1 activity was induced. These changes are puzzling in light of the previous literature, nevertheless, can be an intrinsic feature of the pericardial adipose tissue, indeed, the metabolic behavior of the adipose tissue from different anatomical locations is known [68–70] and mediastinal/pericardial adipose tissue stem cells exhibit beige characteristics [71] that may explain discrepancies between other studies [38,39,48,72,73]. Nonetheless, OLA treatment readily induced SIRT1 activity and its downstream targets enabling efficient induction of mitochondrial biogenesis.

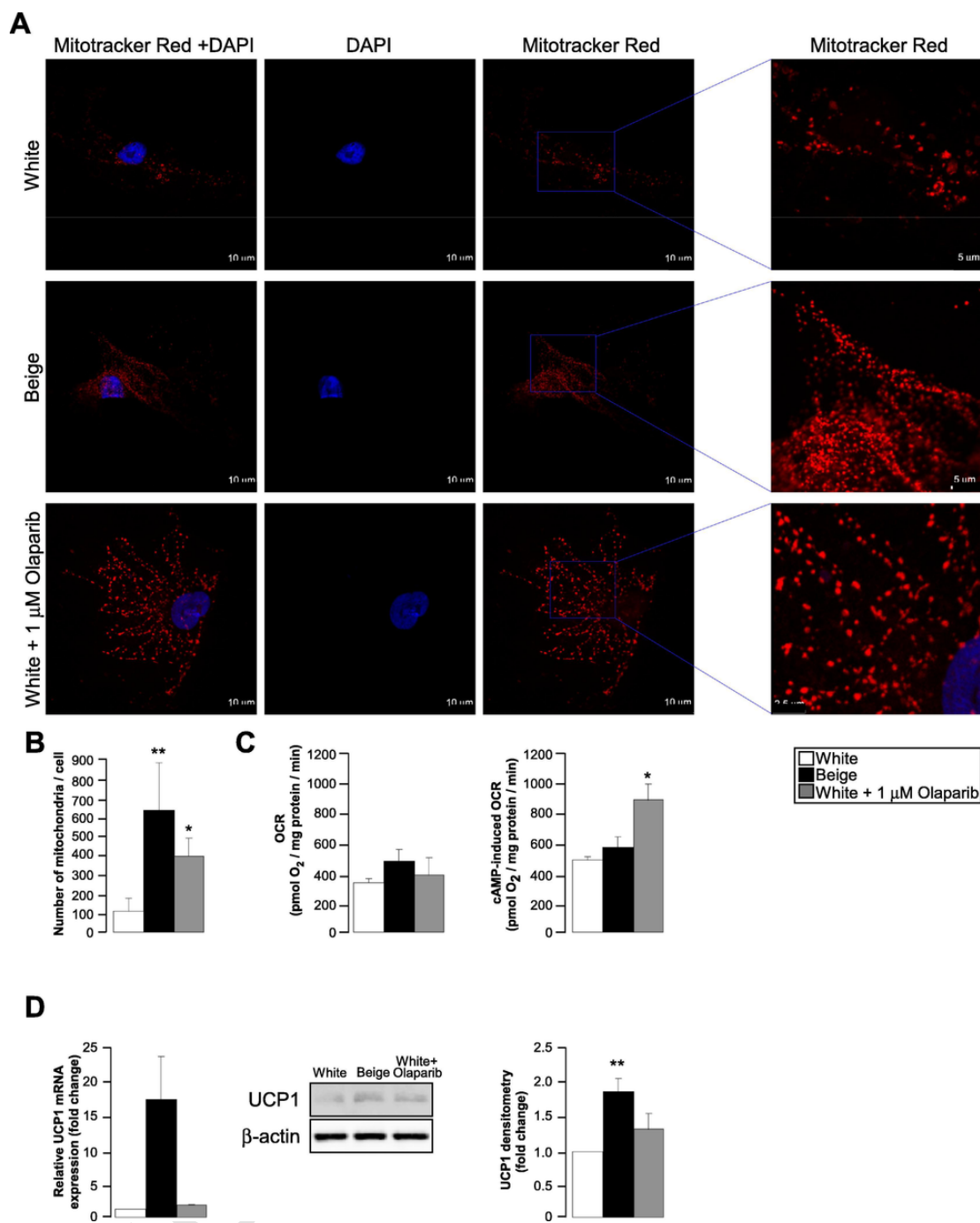
AMPK activation was very pronounced in beige and OLA-treated white adipocytes as compared to untreated white adipocytes. AMPK was shown to be key player in driving brown adipose tissue and beige adipocyte differentiation and function [38,39,72–74]. AMPK is an upstream regulator of SIRT1 [75] suggesting close collaboration between the two pathways. AMPK and PARP1 has an intricate and multifaceted interactions [14,24–27].

When we assessed the differentiation markers, PRDM16, PPAR $\gamma$ 1 and TBX1 did not show major increase in OLA-treated white adipocytes as compared to beige adipocytes. Nevertheless, OLA-treatment induced browning, characterized by mitochondrial biogenesis and increases in UCP1 expression, features of brown and beige adipocytes. These data make it likely that OLA rather induces the differentiation of brown or brown-like adipocytes than true beige cells. The other explanation



**Fig. 1.** Olaparib treatment brings about morphological changes in white adipocytes that renders them similar to brown adipocytes. Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white adipocytes, beige adipocytes and white adipocytes treated with Olaparib (OLA) ( $n = 3/3/3$ ). Differentiated cells were photographed (A) using phase-contrast microscope (B) and after Nile Red (red) and DAPI staining (blue) using a confocal microscope. Contrast and brightness were adjusted to pictures represented only DAPI staining. In the same cells the (C) count and (D) the size of the lipid droplets was measured using Image J software. (E) The ratio of differentiated (cells with more than 2 large lipid droplet) and undifferentiated adipocytes was calculated. \* indicate statistically significant difference between the group of white adipocytes and the any of the other two groups as indi-

cated, at  $p < 0.05$ . On the graphs average  $\pm$  SEM was plotted. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

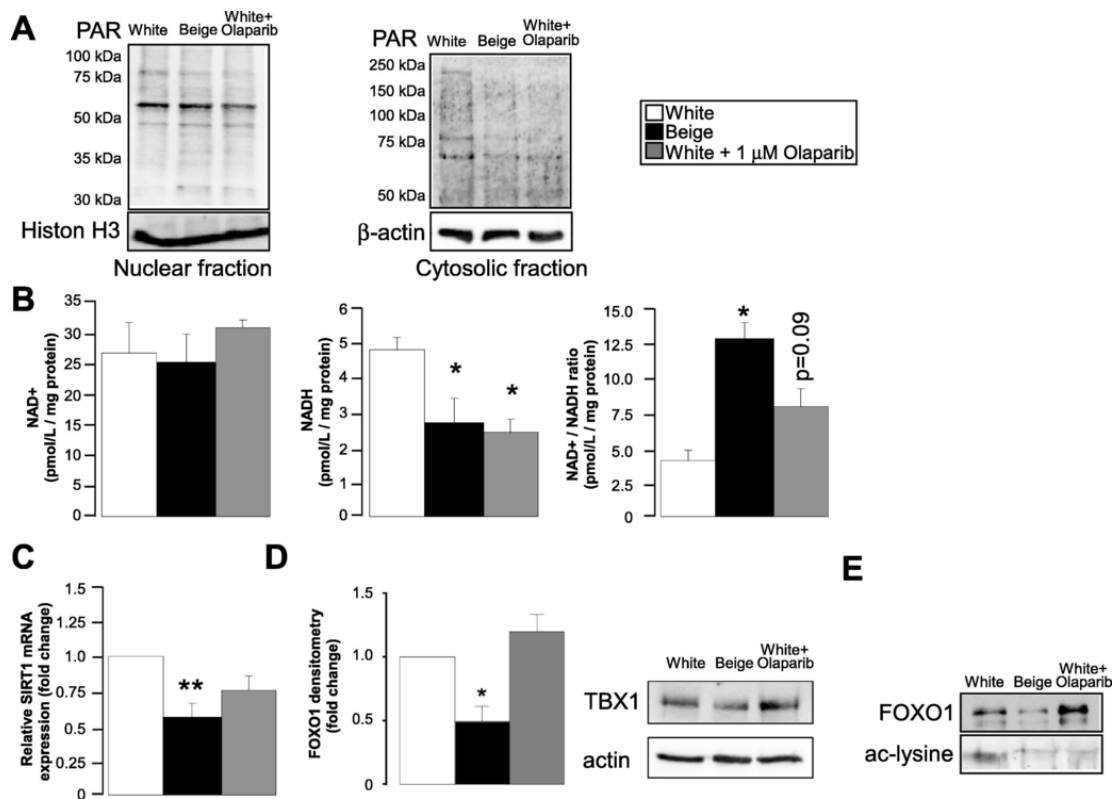


**Fig. 2.** Olaparib treatment induces browning in white adipocytes. Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white adipocytes, beige adipocytes and white adipocytes treated with Olaparib (OLA). (A) Differentiated cells were charged with Mitotracker Red (in red) and the nuclei were visualized by DAPI (in blue). (B) These confocal pictures were further analyzed by using CellProfiler and the number of mitochondria was determined. (C) Basal and cAMP-induced cellular oxygen consumption rate (OCR) were determined by Seahorse extracellular flux analyzer ( $n = 3$ ). (D) UCP1 mRNA levels ( $n = 5$ ) by RT-qPCR and protein levels in cytoplasmic fraction by western blotting ( $n = 5$ ) were determined. A representative blot is shown. \* and \*\* indicate statistically significant difference between the group of white adipocytes and the any of the other two groups as indicated, at  $p < 0.05$  or  $p < 0.01$ , respectively. On the graphs average  $\pm$  SEM was plotted. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

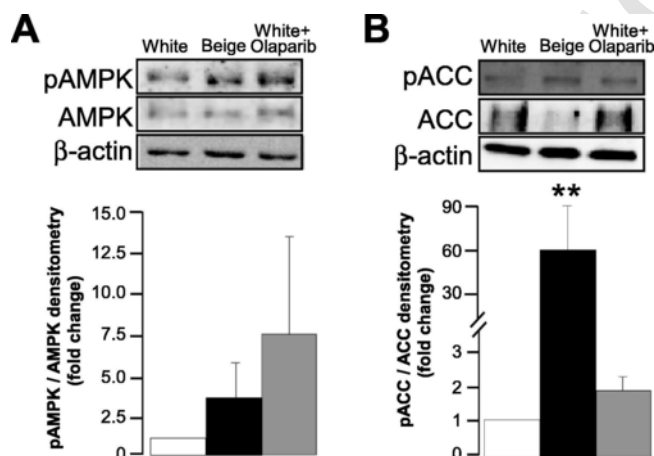
could be, as mentioned earlier, that mediastinal/pericardial adipose tissue stem cells inherently exhibit beige characteristics [71], therefore, beige characteristics cannot be further induced in these cells.

In this study we show that inhibition PARP enzyme activity induces browning in white adipocytes. A large set of previous studies have

shown that PARP1 and PARP2 are necessary for efficient white adipocyte differentiation [35,65,76–80]. In good agreement with that, OLA treatment and beige differentiation decreased the rate of differentiation. It is tempting to speculate that PARP activation could be vital for making the decision on the course of adipocyte differentiation be-



**Fig. 3.** PARP inhibition induces SIRT1 in white adipocytes. Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white adipocytes, beige adipocytes and white adipocytes treated with Olaparib (OLA). (A) PAR levels were assessed in the nucleus and in the cytosol by Western blotting. Representative images are shown. (B) Cellular NAD<sup>+</sup> and NADH content, as well as NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio were determined by using NAD/NADH Quantification Kit (n = 5). (C) SIRT1 mRNA levels were determined by RT-qPCR (n = 5). (D) FOXO1 protein levels were determined by Western blotting (n = 5). A representative blot is shown. (E) FOXO1 acetylation levels were determined by immunoprecipitating FOXO1 and probing the immunoprecipitated protein for FOXO1 and acetyl-lysine in Western blot (n = 1). \* and \*\* indicate statistically significant difference between the group of white adipocytes and the any of the other two groups as indicated, at p < 0.05 or p < 0.01, respectively. On the graphs average  $\pm$  SEM was plotted.



**Fig. 4.** Olaparib induces AMPK in white adipocytes. Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white adipocytes, beige adipocytes and white adipocytes treated with Olaparib (OLA), then (A) AMPK phosphorylation on Threonine<sup>172</sup> (n = 4) (B) and ACC phosphorylation on Serine<sup>79</sup> were investigated in western blot measurements (n = 3). On the graphs average  $\pm$  SEM was plotted. A representative images are shown.

tween the white and brown/beige lineages. Along the same logic, as high fat feeding can induce PARP activity [19], in obesity or in insulin resistance PARP activation may hamper brown or beige adipocytes deregulating organismal energy balance and, hence, may play pathophysiological role in these diseases.

#### Data availability

All primary data is uploaded to <https://figshare.com/s/78810e13d8ad50b1b58d> (DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.7868417)

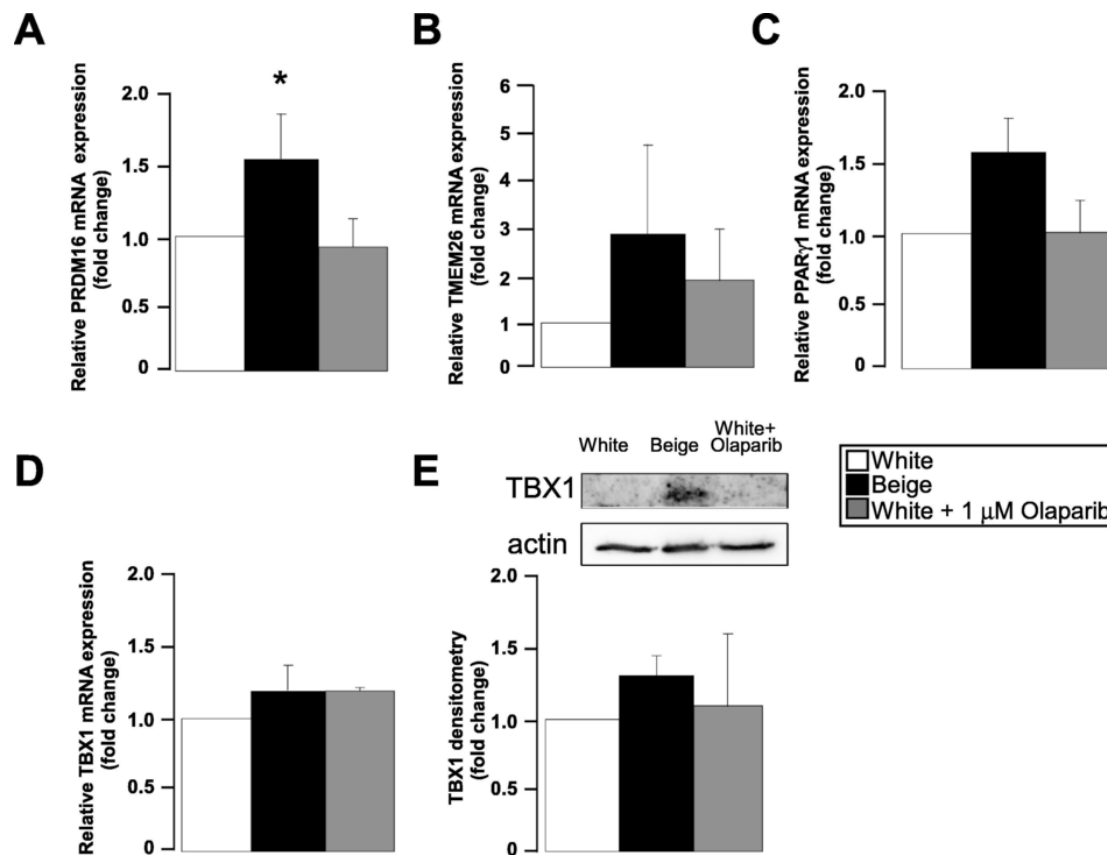
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#### Authorship contributions

Performed experiments: LN, BR, NB, GU, GK, OAR.  
Analyzed data: LN, BR, NB, GU, GK, OAR.  
Provided human samples: TS, TD, AH, TM, PC.  
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**Fig. 5.** Markers of beige adipocyte differentiation. Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hADMSCs) were differentiated to white adipocytes, beige adipocytes and white adipocytes treated with Olaparib (OLA), then the mRNA levels of (A) PRDM16 ( $n = 3$ ), (B) TMEM26 ( $n = 4$ ), (C) PPARγ1 ( $n = 1$ ), and the error bars represent  $\pm$  SD) and (D) TBX1 ( $n = 3$ ) were assayed in RT-qPCR measurements. (E) In the same cells TBX1 protein levels were assessed by Western blotting in nuclear fraction ( $n = 3$ ). A representative blot is shown. \*, \*\* and \*\*\* indicate statistically significant difference between the group of white adipocytes and the other two groups, beige and Olaparib-treated white adipocytes, at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$  or  $p < 0.001$ , respectively. On the graphs average  $\pm$  SEM was plotted except for PPARγ1, as indicated above.

## Conflict of interest statement

The authors have no competing financial or non-financial interests to declare.

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