

1 Mitochondrial Genotype Alters the Impact of Rapamycin on the
2 Transcriptional Response to Nutrients in *Drosophila*

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17 **Abstract**

18 **Background:** In addition to their well characterized role in cellular energy production, new
19 evidence has revealed the involvement of mitochondria in diverse signaling pathways that
20 regulate a broad array of cellular functions. The mitochondrial genome (mtDNA) encodes
21 essential components of the oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) pathway whose expression
22 must be coordinated with the components transcribed from the nuclear genome. Mitochondrial
23 dysfunction is associated with disorders including cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, yet
24 the role of the complex interactions between the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes are poorly
25 understood.

26
27 **Results:** Using a *Drosophila* model in which alternative mtDNAs are present on a common
28 nuclear background, we studied the effects of this altered mitonuclear communication on the
29 transcriptomic response to altered nutrient status. Adult flies with the 'native' and 'disrupted'
30 genotypes were re-fed following brief starvation, with or without exposure to rapamycin, the
31 cognate inhibitor of the nutrient-sensing target of rapamycin (TOR). RNAseq showed that
32 alternative mtDNA genotypes affect the temporal transcriptional response to nutrients in a
33 rapamycin-dependent manner. Pathways most greatly affected were OXPHOS, protein
34 metabolism and fatty acid metabolism. A distinct set of testis-specific genes was also
35 differentially regulated in the experiment.

36
37 **Conclusions:** Many of the differentially expressed genes between alternative mitonuclear
38 genotypes have no direct interaction with mtDNA gene products, suggesting that the mtDNA
39 genotype contributes to retrograde signaling from mitochondria to the nucleus. The interaction
40 of mitochondrial genotype (mtDNA) with rapamycin treatment identifies new links between
41 mitochondria and the nutrient-sensing mTORC1 (mechanistic target of rapamycin complex 1)
42 signaling pathway.

43

44 **Keywords:** mitochondrial introgression, mitonuclear genotype, rapamycin, mTORC1

45

46 **Introduction**

47 Mitochondria are specialized energy producing organelles known for their role in eukaryotic
48 cellular energy production through oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS). Regulation of this
49 essential process has an additional level of complexity relative to other cellular functions in that
50 the components of the respiratory chain are encoded by two genomes, the nuclear genome and
51 the mitochondrial genome (mtDNA). Four of the five OXPHOS complexes have components
52 encoded by the mtDNA. These 13 complex subunits are the only protein coding genes in the
53 mitochondrial genome with the remaining ~1200 proteins of the mitochondrial proteome
54 encoded by the nuclear genome [1]. This results in a system that requires coordinated gene and
55 protein expression between the two genomes to regulate mitochondrial function. Mitochondrial
56 and nuclear genomes from the same population or species co-evolved due to shared
57 inheritance [2]. When mtDNA from a distinct population or species is placed in a 'foreign'
58 nuclear genetic background, coordinated functions may be disrupted resulting in unfavorable
59 epistatic interactions. The extent to which such negative 'mitonuclear interactions' could impact
60 natural metabolic signaling is not well characterized.

61

62 Mitochondrial functional capacity is closely monitored and regulated through a network of
63 mitonuclear communication signals. Retrograde signals are those generated by the
64 mitochondria, and anterograde signals are those generated by the nucleus and other organelles
65 to regulate mitochondrial function. Since mitochondria play such a critical role in cellular
66 homeostasis, any deficiencies in this mitonuclear communication network become particularly
67 relevant during times of limited nutrient availability. Nutrients need to be readily available for
68 metabolism at all times in order to provide a constant supply of substrates for the OXPHOS

69 pathway, regardless of organismal nutrient intake levels. In situations where nutrient intake is
70 not sufficient to fuel glycolysis, cellular signaling can promote utilization of fatty acids and amino
71 acids as alternative energy sources. This function requires efficient and coordinated
72 responsiveness to changes in nutrient availability in order to shift metabolite utilization.

73

74 An integral component of the metabolic homeostasis signaling network is the target of
75 rapamycin (TOR) kinase. When functioning in the heteromeric protein complex mTORC1, it
76 regulates autophagy, cellular growth and proliferation through a diverse array of functional
77 pathways [3]. In regulating these functions to meet cellular needs, mTORC1 is inherently
78 integrated into the network of mitonuclear communication. Studies using the mTOR specific
79 inhibitor rapamycin have demonstrated the role of mTORC1 in mitochondrial anterograde
80 signaling. These anterograde signaling effects include mediating mitochondrial function,
81 mitochondrial respiration, ROS production, mitophagy, mitochondrial morphology and
82 mitochondrial biogenesis [4-10]. Conversely, retrograde signals generated by mitochondria have
83 been shown to regulate mTORC1 activity. Mitochondrial retrograde signaling has been defined
84 as the cellular response to changes in the functional state of mitochondria [11]. These include
85 changes in AMP:ATP levels through AMP kinase, cytosolic calcium levels through calmodulin-
86 dependent protein kinase kinase- β (CaMKK2), and mitochondrially generated reactive oxygen
87 species (ROS) ([12-19]). The diversity of metabolites that monitor and modify mitochondrial
88 functional reflects the complexity of the metabolic regulation associated with the growth
89 promoting function of mTORC1 while maintaining metabolic homeostasis.

90

91 Our study was designed to test the hypothesis that mitonuclear genotype impacts the cell's
92 capacity to respond to metabolic stress. To test this, we utilized a *Drosophila* mitochondrial
93 introgression strain that has an mtDNA genotype from the species *D. simulans* (sm21 mtDNA
94 haplotype) and a nuclear genome from the *D. melanogaster* line Oregon R. The generation of

95 this introgression line was made possible by the unusual ability of female *D. simulans* C167.4 to
96 produce progeny with male *D. melanogaster* [20]. The progeny of these mating events were
97 then extensively backcrossed to achieve an isogenic *D. melanogaster* Oregon R nuclear
98 genome carrying the *D. simulans* sm21 mtDNA [21, 22]. Since our mitochondrial introgression
99 strain has mtDNA from one species and a nuclear genome from another, we use it as a model
100 for a disrupted mitonuclear genetic interaction relative to a *D. melanogaster* Oregon R strain
101 carrying its own native mtDNA. We examined the transcriptomic response to re-feeding in
102 eviscerated abdomen samples from these lines over several time points, with and without
103 exposure of the flies to rapamycin. Our aim was to determine if mitonuclear interactions alter the
104 response to nutrient flux in a TOR-dependent manner. Our results show that alternative
105 mitonuclear genotypes have a significant impact on the transcriptional responsiveness to re-
106 feeding post starvation that is exaggerated with rapamycin treatment.

107

108 **Results**

109 *Mitochondrial Introgression Alters the Transcriptomic Response to Rapamycin During* 110 *Refeeding*

111 In order to examine the effect of altered mitonuclear genetic interactions on metabolic stress
112 response pathways, we performed a time course transcriptome analysis on two *Drosophila*
113 mitonuclear genotypes (raw reads are publicly available from the NCBI Sequence Read Archive
114 (SRA) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) under BioProject accession: PRJNA610872 and the
115 aligned gene read count table is available as Supplementary Table S1). We studied four time
116 points starting from a starved state and ending after four hours of refeeding with or without
117 rapamycin treatment (Figure 1A). Conducting the experiment across these short treatment times
118 was critical for addressing the innate responsiveness of each genotype to significant shifts in
119 nutrient availability. Since our focus is on the interaction between mitonuclear genetic
120 interactions and mTORC1 signaling networks, we performed a western blot analysis to detect

121 levels of phosphorylated ribosomal protein S6 kinase-1 (phospho-P70S6K1) at each timepoint
122 and treatment in both genotypes (Figure 1B and Supplementary Figure S1). Increased levels of
123 phospho-P70S6K1 are an indicator of increased mTORC1 activity that is inhibited by treatment
124 with Rapamycin ([23], [24], [25]). This analysis shows increased mTORC1 activity in flies refed
125 with the control diet, but not in flies refed with Rapamycin treatment, when compared to those
126 from the fasted state. The increase in mTORC1 activity was observed within the first hour of
127 treatment, demonstrating that both the refeeding and drug are inducing an effect within the first
128 hour suggesting that gene expression could be changing in a similar time frame. Notably,
129 mTORC1 activity is distinctly increased in response to refeeding after fasting compared to the
130 fed state indicating a critical role of mTORC1 in this metabolic stress state (Supplementary
131 Figure S1).

132
133 Because gene expression differences across such a short time course and treatment time could
134 be difficult to detect in the whole fly, we decided to focus our analysis on a subset of tissues to
135 increase the concentration of significant regulatory effects. We chose to measure expression in
136 the eviscerated abdomen which, in *Drosophila*, is where many of the tissues responsible for
137 maintaining metabolic homeostasis are located including the fat body, heart and muscle tissue
138 ([26]). The transcriptome analysis was done on male eviscerated abdomens from the “home
139 team” line (OreR;OreR; *D. melanogaster Oregon R* mtDNA and nuclear genome, following the
140 notation: mtDNA;nuclearDNA) and the mitochondrial introgression “away team” line
141 (sm21;OreR; *D. simulans sm21* mtDNA and *D. melanogaster Oregon R* nuclear genome).
142 Males were chosen over females to limit variation in nutrient stress response since it has been
143 demonstrated that mating status and egg production can have a significant impact on nutrient
144 intake that is in part mediated by mTOR signaling ([27-29]). Since the two genotypes have
145 isogenic nuclear genomes but different mitochondrial genomes (mtDNA), any differences in the

transcriptional response to refeeding and rapamycin treatment between the two lines can be attributed to the presence of a non-native mitonuclear genetic interaction.

148

The transcriptome analysis was performed specifically to take advantage of our time course model while capturing the responsive elements to refeeding and rapamycin. Individual time points were tested for genes with significant differential expression within their respective genotype by treatment (GxT) combination (four combinations of two alternative mtDNAs x rapamycin or control food treatments) using the R package EdgeR (Supplementary Table S2 A-E) [30]. A direct comparison between the two genotypes in the fasted state found that there are no significantly differentially expressed genes between the two genotypes suggesting that they are similarly affected. Alternatively, to determine the general effect of treatment at different timepoints, individual time points were tested relative to the starved state for each GxT combination. Volcano plots (Supplementary Figure S2 A-D) show the direction and magnitude of significantly differentially expressed genes at individual time points. Interestingly, each individual time point comparison had a distinct response pattern with no two GxT comparisons having similar effects of re-feeding. This is consistent with the presence of a transcriptional impact of rapamycin treatment and also of the mtDNA genotype on the overall response to re-feeding.

164

The time course design allowed us to detect variation between samples at any given time point, with each comparison addressing a distinct expression pattern between two conditions. By comparing individual treatment times between genotypes (Supplementary Figure S3), we see there is a transient difference in response to 2 hours of refeeding with control food, but the response is observed by both genotypes at the next time point. However, in response to refeeding with rapamycin there is a sustained difference between genotypes that reflects the treatment response observed in sm21;OreR, but not OreR;OreR, at the early time points. These

172 pairwise comparisons suggest a dynamic transcriptional response over time, but the volcano
173 plots in Figure S2 make it difficult to demonstrate the nature of the transcriptional responses of
174 the GxT effects across the multiple time points. The differences in expression levels between
175 the 1 hour and 4 hour refeeding timepoints were validated using qPCR on samples prepared in
176 an independent repeat experiment as described in the methods. To characterize the temporal
177 aspects of the data, we utilized the R package ImpulseDE2 [31]. This program was designed
178 specifically for the analysis of longitudinal data sets. It enabled us to test for genes whose
179 expression changed significantly across time points within a time course, instead of merging
180 data from analyses of individual time points. Using this method, we first examined the individual
181 time course for each GxT combination to find genes that significantly changed in response to
182 the re-feeding treatment (Figure 1C, Supplementary Table S3). We then compared different
183 pairs of GxT conditions for significant variation across time to test for effects of mtDNA genotype
184 and rapamycin treatment in response to metabolic stress. In OreR;OreR, the total number of
185 time-responsive genes was appreciably reduced with rapamycin treatment. This corresponded
186 with the results of the analysis of individual time points (Figure 1C left vs Supplementary Figure
187 S2 A-B). Interestingly, the sm21;OreR genotype showed the opposite effect of rapamycin
188 treatment, with fewer genes differentially expressed under the control diet than the treated diet.
189 Note that when ImpulseDE2 detects significant differential expression in response to treatment
190 for a gene, it does not indicate an increase or decrease in expression since it is incorporating
191 multiple time points. Instead, it indicates that there is a significant shift in expression pattern
192 across the time course.

193

194 To test for an impact of genotype on the transcriptional response to both refeeding and
195 rapamycin, we compared the longitudinal data between two genotype or treatment conditions
196 using ImpulseDE2. Instead of testing if a gene responded significantly to treatment over time
197 relative to no change in a single time course, this approach identified genes whose response to

198 refeeding differed between two time courses distinguished by a single factor. We began by
199 looking at the effect of rapamycin treatment within a genotype by comparing the response within
200 a genotype to refeeding with control food to the response to refeeding with rapamycin-
201 containing food. Our analysis revealed that there were many more genes with different
202 responses to rapamycin treatment in the OreR;OreR genotype than in the sm21;OreR
203 genotype, indicating a greater impact of rapamycin treatment on the transcriptional response to
204 refeeding in the “home team” line than in the “away team” line (Figure 1D). We next examined
205 the effect of mtDNA genotype by comparing the response in OreR;OreR samples to the
206 response in sm21;OreR samples within a single treatment. While there were very few genes
207 that responded differently between the two genotypes when refeeding with control food, there
208 were over 4000 genes with a significantly different response to refeeding with rapamycin (Figure
209 1E). The different results from pairwise comparisons in edgeR vs. time course comparisons in
210 ImpulseDE highlight the importance of the distinct dynamics of each transcriptional response for
211 the mitonuclear genotypes and rapamycin treatment. It is important to note that the magnitude
212 of transcriptional changes in the time course can be small in terms of fold-change, but the
213 significance comes from the difference from a flat-line of no temporal response. This distinction
214 contributes to the different patterns observed in volcano plots compared to ImpulseDE2
215 analyses. Together these data suggest that mtDNA genotype alone does not have a notable
216 impact on the transcriptional response to refeeding post starvation under control conditions, but
217 it distinctly alters the response to refeeding in flies that were exposed to rapamycin.

218

219 **Figure 1: Time course transcriptome analysis evaluating the effect of mitochondrial**
220 **introgression on the transcriptional response to rapamycin during refeeding.** (A) Male
221 flies were fasted for 12 hours followed by treatment for 30 minutes with 200uM rapamycin or
222 ethanol control on agar followed by refeeding with regular lab food containing 200uM rapamycin
223 or ethanol. Samples were collected for transcriptome analysis at 4 time points including 0 (12

224 hour fasting), 1 (30 minute agar + treatment followed by 30 minute food + treatment), 2 and 4
 225 hours post starvation. (B) Western blot analysis of total phosphorylated-P70S6K1 for
 226 OreR;OreR (red) and sm21;OreR (blue) flies in response to fasting (left), refeeding with control
 227 diet (center) or refeeding with food containing 200uM Rapamycin (right). The analysis was
 228 performed on whole fly samples in triplicate and the levels were normalized to total actin.
 229 Significant differences between the levels found in treated samples and fasted samples were
 230 determined using an unpaired t-test p-value cutoff of 0.05 (* = $p < 0.05$). (C) Total genes
 231 detected by ImpulseDE2 that show a significant response pattern to refeeding over the full 4
 232 hour time course within each GxT condition. Genotype by treatment time course conditions from
 233 left to right: OreR;OreR control (left blue); OreR;OreR rapamycin (right blue); sm21;OreR control
 234 (left red); sm21;OreR rapamycin (right red). (D) Total genes detected by ImpulseDE2 that show
 235 a significantly different response pattern to refeeding with and without rapamycin treatment over
 236 the full 4 hour time course within a mitonuclear genotype. Left/blue: The total number of genes
 237 with a significant difference between the OreR;OreR control and OreR;OreR rapamycin treated
 238 time courses. Right/red: The total number of genes with a significant difference between the
 239 sm21;OreR control and sm21;OreR rapamycin treated time courses. (E) Total genes detected
 240 by ImpulseDE2 that show a significantly different response pattern between mitonuclear
 241 genotypes over the full 4 hour time course within control or rapamycin treated conditions.
 242 Right/red: The total number of genes with a significant difference between the OreR;OreR
 243 rapamycin treated and sm21;OreR rapamycin treated time courses. For all data, a Benjamini-
 244 Hochberg FDR adjusted p-value (adj. p-value < 0.05) was used for determining significant
 245 differential gene expression.

246

247 *Mitonuclear Genotype Induces Distinct Expression Profiles for Genes in Core Metabolic*
 248 *Pathways in Response to Metabolic Stress*

249 Having characterized genes with significantly different temporal patterns of expression between
250 genotypes and treatments, we sought to identify clusters of genes with similar expression
251 patterns that could help infer the functional significance of the transcriptional changes. To do
252 this, we utilized the model based clustering R package MBCluster.seq [32] to perform
253 expression profile clustering on the subset of genes determined to have a significant temporal
254 response pattern by ImpulseDE2 in any of the conditions. The genes were stratified broadly into
255 five expression clusters to observe general expression trends across large groups of genes (see
256 methods for details on clustering, Supplementary Table S4). The clusters were organized in a
257 heatmap (Figure 2A) where the rows are each of the time points in a GxT condition and the
258 columns are the individual genes. The rows are partitioned by GxT condition such that the four
259 time points are sequential with starved state at the bottom and 4 hours post starvation at the
260 top. The columns are partitioned by cluster, and each cluster is manually assigned a color code
261 for referencing the distinct expression profile in the remaining analyses. The mean data for each
262 row within a cluster was plotted to visualize the general expression trend of the genes across
263 the four condition time courses (Figure 2B).

264
265 The resulting analysis showed distinct differences in mean expression profiles across genotypes
266 and rapamycin treatments within a cluster (note reversal of 'red' cluster in sm21;OreR genotype
267 under rapamycin). We interpreted this as indicating that the genes determined to have a
268 significantly different response to a treatment or genotype condition could share common
269 regulatory elements that are being differentially affected.

270

271 **Figure 2: Model based clustering of time course expression profiles for differentially**
272 **expressed genes.**(A) All genes found to have significantly different response patterns by
273 ImpulseDE2 in any of the different comparative analyses were clustered using the R package
274 MBCluster-seq. The clustering is organized in the heatmap such that the rows are the individual

275 conditions at each time point and the columns are the individual genes. The rows are grouped
276 by Genotype x Treatment (GxT) condition ordered from 0 hours (bottom) to 4 hours (top) of
277 refeeding after starvation. The gray-scale of each column is the log-fold change of the
278 normalized expression data standardized to the zero sum mean for a gene. Each expression
279 pattern cluster has been associated with a given color and number for reference. (B) Mean
280 values are plotted for expression across all genes within each cluster at each time point. Line
281 color is used to identify the represented cluster.

282

283 *Mitochondrial Genetic Interactions Alter the Expression of Genes in Core Metabolic Pathways*

284 We next performed treatment-specific pathway enrichment analysis using the KEGG (Kyoto
285 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes) pathway database (Supplementary Table S5). We did so
286 in order to investigate the function of genes with genotype mediated differential expression [33-
287 35]. As a baseline response, we analyzed KEGG pathway enrichment for the 2987 genes with
288 a significant time course response for the “home team” OreR;OreR mitochondrial genotype in
289 response to refeeding with control food (Figure 1C). These genes were enriched for functional
290 categories associated with mTORC1 signaling including purine metabolism, protein processing
291 in endoplasmic reticulum, glycolysis, phagosome, pyruvate metabolism, longevity regulating
292 pathway, and the citrate cycle. To determine the functional enrichment of genes with
293 significantly different expression profiles between genotypes, we performed KEGG pathway
294 enrichment analysis on the 215 genes found to have significant differential expression patterns
295 between OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR in response to refeeding without rapamycin, and also on
296 the 4,271 genes with significant differential expression between genotypes in response to
297 refeeding with rapamycin treatment (see Figure 1E). We observed a complete absence of
298 KEGG pathway enrichment for the control treatment genes. In contrast, the rapamycin
299 treatment analysis detected 22 significantly enriched KEGG pathways with the most statistically
300 significant being OXPHOS (Table 1). These pathways encompassed core metabolic functions

involved in utilization of a diverse group of substrates. Interestingly, there were few genes found in these KEGG categories that had significant genotype-mediated differential expression in response to refeeding without rapamycin, implying that rapamycin enhances the transcriptional effect of the alternative mtDNAs on specific metabolic pathways.

KEGG Category	OreR ;OreR vs sm21;OreR Rapa			OreR;OreR vs sm21;OreR Control		
	DE in Cat.	All in Cat.	adj p-value	DE in Cat.	All in Cat.	adj p-value
Oxidative phosphorylation	104	127	4.79E-22	0	127	1.00E+00
Proteasome	43	52	4.50E-09	0	52	1.00E+00
Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis	42	54	7.00E-08	0	54	1.00E+00
Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)	31	41	1.62E-05	0	41	1.00E+00
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation	26	33	4.70E-05	0	33	1.00E+00
Fatty acid degradation	25	33	1.73E-04	0	33	1.00E+00
Pentose phosphate pathway	19	23	1.83E-04	0	23	1.00E+00
Galactose metabolism	27	37	3.15E-04	0	37	1.00E+00
Propanoate metabolism	22	29	4.35E-04	0	29	1.00E+00
Starch and sucrose metabolism	24	33	5.04E-04	2	33	1.00E+00
Phagosome	49	83	5.47E-04	2	83	1.00E+00

Fatty acid biosynthesis	12	13	7.52E-04	0	13	1.00E+00
Pyruvate metabolism	29	43	8.11E-04	0	43	1.00E+00
Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism	23	33	1.42E-03	0	33	1.00E+00
Peroxisome	49	85	1.64E-03	0	85	1.00E+00
Fructose and mannose metabolism	21	29	1.96E-03	0	29	1.00E+00
Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum	68	131	2.89E-03	3	131	1.00E+00
Mitophagy	29	47	5.66E-03	1	47	1.00E+00
Vitamin B6 metabolism	6	6	2.23E-02	0	6	1.00E+00
Amino sugar and nucleotide sugar metabolism	27	47	2.63E-02	0	47	1.00E+00
Longevity regulating pathway - multiple species	27	51	2.66E-02	0	51	1.00E+00

309

310 **Table 1: KEGG categories that are significantly enriched in mitonuclear response genes.**

311 The R package GOseq [36] was used to test for the enrichment of KEGG categories among the
312 sets of genes found to have a significantly different response to refeeding with (left column) or
313 without (right column) rapamycin between the OreR;OreR and sm21:OreR genotypes. The rows
314 are the KEGG pathways found to be significantly enriched among the genes differentially
315 expressed between genotypes in response to refeeding with rapamycin. The table sub-columns
316 indicate as follows: "DE in Cat." is the total number of significant responsive genes detected by
317 ImpulseDE2 in that category; "All in Cat." is the number of genes in the category that were used
318 in the GOseq test; and the "adj. p-value" is the Benjamini-Hochberg corrected p-value for
319 significant over representation in the category. A Benjamini-Hochberg FDR adjusted p-value
320 (adj. p-value < 0.05) was used for determining significant KEGG pathway enrichment.

321

322 To understand how these pathways were being differentially regulated by the two genotypes in
323 response to refeeding and rapamycin, we analyzed the expression patterns of the genes
324 enriched in each KEGG category. Expression data for KEGG pathway-specific gene sets were
325 stratified by their associated expression profile cluster generated by MBCluster-seq (Figure 2)
326 and then plotted as heatmaps to observe relative shifts in expression (Figure 3A and
327 Supplementary Figure S4). The majority of genes in 15 of the 22 enriched KEGG categories
328 were primarily represented by expression profile clusters 1 and 5, as can be seen for OXPHOS,
329 the most significantly enriched pathway (Figure 3A). While the genes in these clusters both
330 contributed to the same KEGG pathway, they showed distinctly different expression profiles for
331 the rapamycin treated samples. Specifically, these expression clusters showed two instances of
332 inverse directionality that have particularly significant implications when interpreting the data.
333 First, this inverse dynamic was observed in cluster 1 (Figure 3B) and also in cluster 5 (Figure
334 3C), where changes in transcript levels for OreR;OreR during the response to rapamycin were
335 opposite the changes observed in the sm21;OreR rapamycin treated samples. For both of
336 these expression profiles, the most drastic difference in total gene expression was observed as
337 a transient shift in the 1 and 2 hour post-starvation time points. This instance of an opposite
338 transient response suggested that the short term response to rapamycin was altered by
339 mitonuclear genotype in both sets of genes. Second, there was an inverse relationship between
340 the expression profiles of rapamycin treated samples between the two clusters. This opposite
341 transcriptional response was detected when comparing the gene expression profiles for
342 OreR;OreR or sm21;OreR treated with rapamycin in cluster 1 (Figure 3B) to the expression
343 profile of genes from the same sample in cluster 5 (Figure 3C). This was again an instance of
344 opposite transient response, but this relationship implies that the gene sets themselves were
345 responding oppositely to rapamycin treatment in both mitonuclear genotypes. Taken together,

these two clusters represented gene sets that were differentially responsive to rapamycin treatment and mitonuclear genotype.

Figure 3: Mitonuclear genotype alters the transcriptional response of rapamycin sensitive OXPHOS genes. (A) A heatmap of the genes found to have significantly different response patterns to refeeding with rapamycin treatment between the OreR;OreR (OO) and sm21;OreR (SO) mtDNA genotypes. On the x-axis, the genes are organized and color coded according to the expression profiles established by MBCluster-seq while on the y-axis samples are separated into the four GxT condition time courses. The mean expression data is normalized by row, with the cell color indicating the z-score for the gene at a specified GxT time point. (B-C) Normalized expression data for the OXPHOS genes in cluster 1 (B) and cluster 5 (C) plotted as grey lines with the cluster means overlaid in blue for control treated samples and red for rapamycin treated samples.

Functional Roles for Genes in Opposing Expression Profile Clusters Have Overlapping Nodes in KEGG Pathways

In order to determine if the observed opposing expression profiles within KEGG categories were associated with distinct functional roles, we mapped the genes to their enriched functional pathway using KEGG mapper [37] (Figure 4). By coloring the nodes of the KEGG pathway diagram to correlate with the expression profile cluster, this mapping allowed us to visualize the connection between altered transcriptional response patterns and position in the network of biochemical pathways. Examination of the OXPHOS pathway revealed that the genes associated with each expression profile cluster were not segregated into distinct functional roles. Instead, genes from each cluster were found distributed throughout each of the five OXPHOS enzyme complexes (Figure 4). Additionally, several nodes were found to have associated genes from both cluster 1 and cluster 5 due to mapping of functional isoforms such

372 as gene duplications. This suggested that even though the OXPHOS genes associated with
373 cluster 1 and cluster 5 have opposite transcriptional patterns in response to rapamycin, they
374 code for products with similar functional roles.

375

376 **Figure 4: Functional mapping of opposing expression profiles in OXPHOS genes.** The
377 functional roles of OXPHOS genes with mitonuclear genotype mediated significant differential
378 expression in response to refeeding with rapamycin. Genes were visualized in the OXPHOS
379 metabolic pathway using the Kaneisha Laboratories online tool KEGG mapper
380 (https://www.kegg.jp/kegg/tool/map_pathway2.html) [37]. KEGG pathway nodes are color-coded
381 to correspond with their expression profile. Red nodes indicate that only genes from the “cluster
382 1” expression profile were associated, blue nodes indicate only “cluster 5”, purple nodes
383 indicate both “cluster 1” and “cluster 5”, grey nodes indicate genes encoded by the mtDNA,
384 green nodes indicate the associated genes were not differentially expressed and white nodes
385 indicate there are no associated *D. melanogaster* genes. Copyright permission for image
386 publication was obtained from Kanehisa Laboratories for KEGG pathway map ID 00190
387 “Oxidative Phosphorylation” copyright Kanehisa Laboratories [33-35, 37].

388

389 *Co-expressed Rapamycin Sensitive Genes in Clusters with Opposite Expression Profiles are*
390 *Associated with Male Specific Transcriptional Regulation*

391 The detection of multiple genes that map to the same KEGG pathway node led us to the
392 observation that many of the OXPHOS genes in cluster 1 were paralogs of genes in cluster 5.
393 Further investigation revealed that the paralogs in cluster 1 were the predicted results of gene
394 duplication events from the genes in cluster 5. Previous studies have demonstrated an
395 association of young gene duplications, particularly duplication of OXPHOS genes, with testis
396 specific expression patterns [38, 39]. Based on this association, we examined the gene sets
397 from cluster 1 and cluster 5 for development stage-specific and tissue-specific expression

Deleted: a

399 patterns. We utilized the modEncode Developmental Transcriptome Profile data set [40] to
400 analyze gene sets for expression patterns across 30 different developmental stages. Our
401 analysis of the genes from cluster 1 revealed a distinct difference in expression levels between
402 adult males and females, but this sexually dimorphic expression pattern was not detected in the
403 genes from cluster 5 (Figure 5A).

404

405 To determine if the gene sets from cluster 1 and 5 had tissue specific transcriptional regulation
406 patterns, we used the FlyAtlas2 database to assess tissue specific enrichment of gene
407 expression [41]. We observed a higher median enrichment of expression in the testes than all
408 other tissues tested for the genes in cluster 1. This trend was not observed for the genes in
409 cluster 5 (Figure 5B). Together, these data suggested that the expression profile observed for
410 cluster 1 corresponded to a male specific set of genes with enriched expression in the testes.

411

412 **Figure 5: Developmental stage-specific and tissue-specific expression for genes in**
413 **different co-expressed clusters.** Genes identified as having differential expression between
414 mitonuclear genotype in response to refeeding with rapamycin from the cluster 1 and cluster 5
415 expression profiles were independently analyzed for enrichment of expression at different
416 developmental stages or in different tissues. (A) The *Drosophila* modEncode Developmental
417 Transcriptome Profile data set [40] was used to examine development stage specific gene
418 expression. Expression levels provided by the public data set for genes in cluster 1 (left) and
419 cluster 5 (right) were normalized to the mean level of all genes measured at the specified
420 developmental stage. Displayed are the normalized expression levels observed for male (blue)
421 and female (red) samples at 1, 5 and 30 days post eclosion. (B) The FlyAtlas2 database [41]
422 was used to examine tissue specific gene expression patterns. Expression levels for the cluster
423 1 (left) and cluster 5 (right) genes were collected for each of the 15 different tissues measured in

424 the public dataset, and normalized to the level observed in the whole body sample. Displayed
425 are the normalized FPKM expression levels for each of the 15 male tissues investigated.

426

427 *Mitonuclear genotype differentially alters tissue specific regulation of distinct functional*
428 *pathways.*

429 Due to the distinct differences between cluster 1 and cluster 5 expression profiles, we
430 performed functional analyses on these two co-expression gene sets separately. KEGG
431 enrichment analysis was done using the supervised set of differentially expressed genes from
432 cluster 1 or cluster 5 independently in order to address the dichotomous impact of mitonuclear
433 genotype on these transcription profiles. There were nine KEGG categories significantly over-
434 represented in the cluster 1 gene set whose function could be broadly characterized as
435 carbohydrate-mediated metabolism and spermatogenesis (Figure 6A-B). The genes from
436 cluster 1 also showed significant enrichment for sperm associated gene ontology categories
437 with the most over-represented category being “male gamete generation” as detected by
438 GOseq analysis (Supplementary Table S5E). The gene set associated with the cluster 5
439 expression profile was also enriched for nine KEGG categories. Unlike the functions associated
440 with cluster 1, these categories corresponded with metabolism of proteins and lipids, but were
441 also highly enriched for OXPHOS and autophagy genes (Figure 6D-E).

442

443 Together, these analyses showed associated distinct functional categories with two co-
444 expressed gene sets that had inverse mitonuclear sensitive transcriptional response to
445 rapamycin treatment. In order to test if these differences could be correlated with specific
446 transcriptional regulators, we performed transcription factor enrichment analysis using the R-
447 package RCisTarget [42]. Our analysis found several overrepresented transcription factor
448 binding motifs in the genes from both cluster 1 and cluster 5. The cluster 1 gene set was
449 enriched for the hox gene *Abdominal B (Abd-B)* (Supplementary Table S6A) which has enriched

450 expression in the testis, consistent with the testis specific gene expression detected for these
451 co-expressed genes. These *Abd-B* associated genes were found in all nine cluster 1 enriched
452 KEGG categories (Figure 6C). The genes in cluster 5 were significantly enriched for motifs
453 associated with 28 different transcription factors (Supplementary Table S6B), none of which
454 were found in the analysis of the cluster 1 gene set. Two of the most highly enriched
455 transcription factors for cluster 5 were *Dref* (DNA replication-related element factor) which has
456 been shown to function in response to mTOR activity and *gt* (*giant*) which, through previous
457 work from our lab, has been associated with mitonuclear genotype sensitive gene expression
458 [43, 44]. Together, *Dref* and *gt* were associated with 185 of the 258 genes in the enriched
459 KEGG pathways for cluster 5 (Figure 6F).

460

461 **Figure 6: Mitonuclear genotype differentially alters expression of genes associated with**
462 **distinct functional pathways and transcription factors.** KEGG pathway enrichment was
463 performed using the R package Goseq [36] on the gene set from the cluster 1 (top) and cluster
464 5 (bottom) expression profiles. Expression levels for genes in cluster 1 (A) or cluster 5 (D) that
465 are associated with the significantly enriched KEGG categories for that cluster were
466 standardized to have zero mean and standard deviation of 1 across all samples. The mean of
467 the standardized expression levels for all genes at each time point were plotted in blue for
468 OreR;OreR samples and red for sm21;OreR samples with control time points plotted on the left
469 and rapamycin treated samples on the right. Error bars are standard deviation among replicate
470 libraries. (B,E) Significantly over-represented KEGG categories in the cluster 1 (B) and cluster 5
471 (E) gene sets are displayed in the tables. (C,F) Network diagrams generated using the R
472 package visNetwork [42] showing the relationship between enriched transcription factors and
473 KEGG categories for cluster 1 (C) and cluster 5 (F). (C) Genes from cluster 1 enriched KEGG
474 categories that are associated with the transcription factor *Abd-B* (red) or not (yellow). (F)

475 Genes from cluster 5 enriched KEGG categories that are associated with the transcription factor
476 *Dref* (blue), *giant* (red) or neither (yellow).

477

478 **Discussion**

479 In recent years it has become apparent that mitochondria are more than energy producing
480 organelles, playing a diverse role in regulation of cellular functions such as redox regulation,
481 nutrient signaling, protein homeostasis, lipid metabolism, apoptosis, nucleotide biosynthesis,
482 and regulation of chromatin accessibility [45-48]. Altered regulation of these functions has been
483 linked to disorders such as cancer and neurodegenerative diseases [49, 50]. Cellular regulation
484 of mitochondrial OXPHOS activity is largely maintained through metabolite availability and
485 mitochondrial quantity. The TOR signaling pathway has an established role in mediating
486 metabolic homeostasis through regulation of nutrient signaling, protein synthesis, and
487 autophagy [51]. Modulation of TOR signaling has been demonstrated to regulate mitochondrial
488 function and mitochondrial biogenesis [10, 52]. Many studies prioritize focus on TOR kinase
489 activity through post-translational effects; however, several TOR-mediated mitochondrial
490 regulatory mechanisms function through activation of transcription factors [53, 54]. In order to
491 modulate mitochondrial activity, signals relaying mitochondrial status must be communicating
492 with the regulator through retrograde mitochondrial signaling. The mechanisms underlying this
493 communication with TOR signaling, including how TOR mediated transcriptional regulation is
494 coordinated with that of the mtDNA encoded components, are poorly understood.

495

496 In this work, we have taken a genetic approach to understanding retrograde signaling by testing
497 metabolic responsiveness in mitochondrial introgression lines to address two hypotheses. Our
498 first hypothesis was that mtDNA genotype would alter transcriptional responsiveness to dietary
499 flux. Our second hypothesis was that mtDNA genotype would alter the transcriptional
500 responsiveness to rapamycin under conditions of dietary flux. Both of these hypotheses address

501 the impact of communication between the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes on critical stress
502 response mechanisms. Our results provide limited support for the first hypothesis, but strong
503 support for the second hypothesis. The impact of alternative mtDNA genotypes on the
504 transcriptional response of components of core metabolic pathways was much more
505 pronounced during nutrient influx under rapamycin treatment than under control conditions.

506

507 The impact of alternative mtDNA genotypes on refeeding under control conditions was minimal.
508 In the comparison between the OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR in response to refeeding without
509 rapamycin treatment, there were 215 genes detected to have a differential response pattern
510 across the two time courses. Analysis of these genes revealed no significantly enriched KEGG
511 pathways. On the other hand, the comparison between mtDNA genotypes in response to
512 refeeding with rapamycin revealed over 4,000 differentially responding genes that represented
513 several, significantly enriched KEGG pathways. The most highly enriched genes were found in
514 core metabolic pathways that connect the nutrient utilization pathways glycolysis, fatty acid
515 degradation, and protein degradation to the TCA cycle and OXPHOS. The expression profiles
516 for these genes demonstrated distinct regulatory patterns between mtDNA genotypes that
517 converge onto a similar level of expression. This implies a difference in mechanism for reaching
518 homeostasis, presumably a compensation to maximize efficiency.

519

520 Our analysis revealed that the genes with different responses to mtDNA genotype had two
521 distinctly different transcriptional profiles contributing to the functionally enriched KEGG
522 categories. Gene sets in expression profile cluster 1 and cluster 5 displayed opposite
523 directionality across the time course between genotypes in response to refeeding plus
524 rapamycin, and were the largest contributors to 15 of the 22 enriched KEGG categories. Many
525 of the genes in these two co-expression clusters were mapped to the same functional KEGG
526 pathway node. For OXPHOS, we found this was due to the presence of gene duplicates.

527 According to the “out of testes” hypothesis, young duplicate genes are prone to have testis-
528 specific expression enrichment due to increased chromatin accessibility during meiosis and the
529 increased evolutionary pressure to use mutated genes [38, 39]. Interestingly, when we analyzed
530 the entire cluster 1 gene set using modEncode and flyatlas2 data sets, we found an expression
531 pattern across developmental stages and isolated tissues consistent with testis specific
532 expression. This testis specific expression pattern was found for all of the genes in cluster 1, not
533 just those in OXPHOS and not only those that we identified as gene duplicates. Functional
534 analysis of cluster 1 genes showed that they were significantly enriched for KEGG categories
535 related to carbohydrate-dependent aerobic energy production and spermatogenesis, and for GO
536 terms associated with spermatogenesis. Although we determined that these genes were being
537 co-regulated differently than the cluster 5 genes in a testis-specific manner and were enriched
538 for spermatogenesis associated functions, a precise mechanism was unclear. As previously
539 stated, chromatin accessibility during meiosis is predicted to be a major contributor to testis-
540 specific transcription. Interestingly, it has been demonstrated that rapamycin can inhibit the
541 initiating steps of spermatogenic meiosis [55-57]. Our data for the genes in cluster 1 shows that
542 OreR;OreR has an inhibited transcriptional response to refeeding when treated with rapamycin,
543 but an amplified response in the sm21;OreR line. If transcription of the genes in this cluster are
544 related to a meiotic chromatin state, then the differential expression between genotypes is
545 consistent with rapamycin inhibiting spermatogenesis in OreR;OreR but not sm21;OreR.

546

547 While our experiment was not designed to detect transcriptional responsiveness in the testis,
548 the findings from our analysis have several significant implications for further research focused
549 on this testis specific gene set. First, the response observed in control samples suggest testis
550 specific genes are regulated differently in response to refeeding than other tissues. It is
551 important to note that the genes in cluster 5 are also likely expressed in testis, but it is beyond
552 the scope of our experiment to determine if the cluster 5 genes are similarly regulated in the two

553 tissue types. Our observation that the two gene sets are enriched for different transcription
554 factors however indicates that the cluster 1 genes could represent a tissue specific gene
555 expression response to refeeding. Second, this work suggests that these testis specific genes
556 are sensitive to rapamycin treatment in a mitonuclear genotype dependent manner. While
557 mitonuclear genotype alone did not significantly alter gene expression levels during refeeding
558 for the genes in cluster 1 or cluster 5, it did have a significant effect on gene expression during
559 refeeding with rapamycin. Again, our experimental design does not give us the power to
560 determine the response profile of cluster 5 genes in the testis, but the different interaction of the
561 genes in these two clusters is consistent with a different regulatory mechanism. That is, not only
562 do they have a different response to refeeding alone, but the mitonuclear genotype alters the
563 transcription profile in response to rapamycin differently as well (transient decrease in cluster 1
564 genes and transient increase in cluster 5 genes). Third, we detected a distinct enrichment of
565 OXPHOS genes that are proposed products of duplication events in cluster 1. The testis specific
566 expression of gene duplicates and paralogs has been well established, but many of their
567 functions and regulatory mechanisms are still unclear [38, 39, 58, 59]. Altogether, these findings
568 present novel insight into the regulation of testis specific genes associated spermatogenesis
569 and metabolism pathways by identifying a role for mitonuclear genetic interactions and
570 metabolic stress.

571

572 The comparison between genotypes revealed the most significant differences in the rapamycin-
573 treated expression profiles in the earliest time points when the flies were also responding to
574 refeeding after fasting for 12 hours. We did not observe a significant difference between
575 genotypes in response to refeeding under control conditions, suggesting the mitonuclear
576 genotype specific response is mediated by the rapamycin treatment and not refeeding. Unlike
577 cluster 1, the genes in cluster 5 were not found to be more highly expressed in testis. This
578 suggests that this gene set better represents the significant differentially responding genes

579 between mitonuclear genotypes in response to rapamycin treatment since they are expressed
580 throughout the majority of somatic tissues assessed. The KEGG functional analysis of cluster 5
581 genes revealed enrichment for pathways that are considered the key canonical outputs of
582 mTORC1 function including protein metabolism, fatty acid metabolism, autophagy and
583 OXPHOS. Notably, these pathways included all of the baseline response pathways observed in
584 the OreR;OreR response to refeeding with control food indicating the mitonuclear genotype is
585 specifically disrupting the refeeding response. This functional assessment supports our
586 hypothesis that mtDNA genotype alters the transcriptional responsiveness to rapamycin under
587 conditions of dietary flux. However, the transcriptional response profile was unexpected. An
588 anticipated outcome was that rapamycin treatment would inhibit TOR-mediated signaling during
589 refeeding since both rapamycin treatment and nutrient deprivation are known to inhibit TOR
590 activity [51]. This appears to be the case in OreR;OreR, where the altered expression of genes
591 with a significant response to refeeding was delayed or less intense in the presence of
592 rapamycin. However, in the sm21;OreR line, significant upregulation of the expression of these
593 genes was stimulated by refeeding plus rapamycin. This occurred more rapidly than a similar
594 shift in expression that was seen with refeeding under control conditions. The expression levels
595 of these genes culminated in similar levels for both mitonuclear genotypes by the fourth hour of
596 rapamycin treatment. These findings were unexpected for two reasons. First, we did not
597 anticipate that rapamycin treatment would heighten sensitivity to refeeding. Second, we
598 expected a shift in expression levels at the end of the time course. Instead, these genes in the
599 sm21;OreR genotype demonstrated increased responsiveness to nutrient flux in the presence of
600 rapamycin before ultimately displaying a transcriptional response similar to the OreR;OreR
601 rapamycin samples.

602

603 These transcriptional data shed light on our earlier metabolomic data comparing these same
604 genotypes exposed to control and rapamycin-containing diets [4]. In that study, the metabolite

605 profiles of control and rapamycin-treated sm21;OreR genotype overlapped in principal
606 component space for carbohydrates and proteins, while the OreR;OreR genotype had distinct
607 metabolite profiles on these two treatments. We interpreted this as a form of metabolic
608 reprogramming induced by the 'disrupted' sm21;OreR mitonuclear genotype that was not
609 induced in the 'native' mitonuclear genotype [4]. While the association of those metabolite data
610 and the new transcriptional data requires further experimental analyses (the prior study used
611 females treated for 10 days, while the current study used males treated for four hours), it is
612 notable that the metabolites showing these effects represented canonical TOR functions, as
613 indicated above.

614

615 While we were able to demonstrate a distinct impact of mtDNA genotype on canonical mTORC1
616 pathways and testis specific genes, we were unable to identify specific causal mechanisms for
617 the observed transcriptional responsiveness. In the gene sets from our major co-expression
618 clusters, cluster 1 and cluster 5, there was a distinct shift in expression at the earliest time point
619 examined post starvation for the sm21;OreR samples when re-fed with rapamycin. It is puzzling
620 that treatment with an mTOR inhibitor would activate canonical mTORC1 outputs more readily
621 than refeeding alone. One possibility is that the observed shift in responsiveness across
622 pathways is due to differential regulation of specific transcription factors. Our data found that
623 cluster 1 and cluster 5 gene sets were distinctly enriched for transcription factor binding sites. In
624 cluster 1, binding site motifs for the testis expressed transcription factor *Abd-B* was found
625 significantly enriched. *Abd-B* has been shown to play a role in spermatogenesis with higher
626 levels inhibiting germ line stem cell differentiation in an epigenetic dependent manner [60]. In
627 this study, we observed a decrease in transcript level for inferred *Abd-B* targets in response to
628 refeeding with rapamycin for sm21;OreR but not for OreR;OreR. This could indicate that the
629 functional consequences of altered mitonuclear interactions is influencing mTOR's role in
630 regulating spermatogenesis and that this is due to differences in the epigenetic state.

631

632 Two of the transcription factors found enriched in the cluster 5 gene set, *Dref* and *gt*, have
633 particularly conspicuous relevance to our experimental conditions. *Dref* has been shown to
634 function downstream of mTOR and mediate processes associated with nutrient deprivation such
635 as ribosomal biogenesis and lipid metabolism [43]. Since the genes in cluster 5 with proposed
636 *Dref* regulation are upregulated in the sm21;OreR early response to rapamycin but not in
637 OreR;OreR, this suggests that the functional consequences of altered mitonuclear genotype
638 influences mTOR's regulation of *Dref*. While Killip et al (2012) studied larval fat body in a *Dref*
639 knockdown model, and our results are from eviscerated abdomen samples of adults with altered
640 mitochondrial genotypes, our shared findings point to *Dref* as an important factor in the
641 coordination between mTOR and mitochondrial function.

642

643 The transcription factor *gt* was previously detected in work from our laboratory as a mitonuclear
644 genotype sensitive transcription factor [44]. It is notable that, while this previous study was also
645 conducted to compare the effects of mitonuclear genetic interactions, it was done so using
646 different mitonuclear genotypes than our current study. Together, these findings suggest that *gt*
647 may be a conserved component of the retrograde signaling pathway.

648

649 Another possibility is that the difference in transcriptional responsiveness is due to epigenetic
650 modification and chromatin remodeling. Increased DNA accessibility could explain the observed
651 early transcriptional response to refeeding with rapamycin. Recent studies have implicated
652 reactive oxygen species, NAD⁺/NADH ratios, ATP/ADP ratios, acetyl CoA availability and
653 components of the mitochondrial unfolded protein response (UPR_{mt}) as likely sources of
654 mitochondrial signals that alter nuclear transcriptional states through epigenetic modifications
655 and chromatin remodeling [45, 61-63]. However, none of these studies have used alternative
656 mtDNAs in their analyses. Our analysis of differentially expressed genes between mitonuclear

657 genotypes revealed OXPHOS to be one of the most significantly enriched pathways, which, if
658 functionally altered, could contribute to differences in these mitochondrial signals that induce
659 epigenetic modifications. Histone modifications and the UPRmt have also been shown to be
660 activated by mitochondrial dysfunction factors such as mtDNA mutation, the mitochondrial stress
661 response pathway and altered proteostasis [47, 64, 65]. While our model is not utilizing a
662 dysfunctional mtDNA, it could still potentially be detected as such due to altered interactions
663 with the nuclear genome. Taken together, we interpret our results as indicating that mitonuclear
664 genotype affects metabolic factors that are known to modulate the epigenetic state, possibly
665 explaining the rapamycin-mediated increase in transcriptional responsiveness for the
666 sm21;OreR genotype.

667

668 **Conclusions**

669 In summary, we have demonstrated that the presence of an alternative mtDNA can induce a
670 large-scale disruption of gene expression. We consider it likely that this is accounted for by
671 treatment with rapamycin since refeeding alone resulted in similar shifts in expression between
672 genotypes. Our analysis of the temporal response to refeeding revealed distinct response
673 patterns that would have been otherwise undetectable in single time point comparisons. The
674 effects of rapamycin on gene expression were observed as a transient differential shift between
675 genotypes followed by a convergence to similar levels at the final time point. Because of this
676 difference between genotypes at each refeeding time point, these patterns would have not only
677 gone undetected, but could have been misleading. Detection of this temporal response revealed
678 an important role for mitonuclear communication in achieving homeostasis through canonical
679 mTORC1 mediated signaling pathways. It also allowed us to uncover an impact of mitonuclear
680 genotype by identifying testis specific genes with differential expression between the two
681 genotypes. While it will be important to examine additional combinations of nuclear and

mitochondrial genotypes, our findings provide a new context for future work on mitochondrial retrograde signaling and its relationship to TOR signaling.

Methods

Overview of experimental design.

To investigate the effect of mtDNA genotype on the transcriptional response to metabolic stress, we performed transcriptome analysis on eviscerated abdomens. We used males from the Oregon R *Drosophila* line and also the mitochondrial introgression line that has a sm21 mtDNA haplotype and an Oregon R isogenic nuclear genome. This mitochondrial introgression line was developed as described in [21]. The *Drosophila* strains referred to using the mtDNA;nucDNA notation, with the Oregon R line referred to as OreR;OreR and the introgression line referred to as sm21;OreR. We chose to focus on the eviscerated abdomen due to its enrichment of tissues with innate responsiveness to variations in nutritional state such as muscle and fat body. The experimental metabolic stress was designed to capture the effect of mtDNA genotype on the transcriptional response to drastic metabolic variation (Figure 1A). OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR flies were starved overnight to induce a metabolically stressed state and to inhibit mTORC1 activity. The 12 hour starved state is the starting condition for our time course. Post starvation, flies were treated for 30 minutes with 200 μ M rapamycin or ethanol vehicle but no food. After the 30 minute treatment period, the flies were given access to lab food containing rapamycin or ethanol vehicle. Flies were collected at 0 (12 hour fasting), 1 (30 minute agar + treatment followed by 30 minute food + treatment), 2 and 4 hours post starvation for transcriptome analysis. To summarize, the time course treatment was initiated with 21 vials of 30 adult males of each genotype for a total of 42 vials. At each time point, three vials of flies were frozen for each genotype and treatment. Each genotype had only a single time point 0 condition (denote condition) that shared for each rapamycin time course for that genotype. Thus, the design is: 2 genotypes x 2 treatments (vehicle or rapamycin) x 3 timepoints x 3 replicates = 36 post

708 starvation samples, plus 3 time point 0 samples (denote condition) for each genotype, for a total
709 for 42 independent samples. Transcriptome analysis was then conducted on 10 eviscerated
710 abdomens collected from each sample for a total of 420 dissected flies.

711

712 *Drosophila Stocks*

713 We utilized the two fly stocks OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR with common nuclear genomes and
714 different mtDNA haplotypes (notation is as follows: mtDNA;nuclearDNA). These stocks were
715 generated using balancer chromosome replacement crosses where the *D. melanogaster*
716 OregonR (OreR) chromosomes were placed onto distinct cytoplasmic backgrounds. This was
717 achieved using crosses where the female cytoplasm was derived from lines carrying different
718 mtDNAs, and the nuclear chromosomes were introduced through the male parent. Details of
719 this process are described in Montooth et al 2010. The sm21;OreR introgression line has been
720 regularly backcrossed with the control OreR;OreR line in an effort to maintain an isogenic
721 nuclear genome. This is done by crossing virgin introgression females with Oregon-R control
722 males for several generations. Flies were maintained on a 12 hour light-dark cycle on our
723 standard lab diet containing 5.2% cornmeal, 2% yeast, 11% sugar and .9% agar. Egg lays were
724 conducted with 20 mating pairs of age matched adults for 48 hours. Progeny are collected 12
725 days after the egg lay and maintained on lab food until they reach 5 days post-eclosion at which
726 point they are considered adults.

727

728 *Refeeding Scheme*

729 Adult flies were starved overnight for 12 hours on 2% agar before being refed with or without
730 rapamycin. This was done using 5-6 day post-eclosion mated male flies from the Oregon R
731 control genotype and sm21;Oregon R introgression lines maintained on standard lab diet.
732 Cohorts of 30 flies were transferred to starvation diet vials (2% Bacto agar prepared with
733 distilled water) overnight for 12 hours. They were then transferred to agar vials with 200 μ M

734 rapamycin or ethanol vehicle for 30 minutes followed by transfer to standard lab fly food
735 containing 200 μ M rapamycin or ethanol vehicle. A cohort from each genotype was collected
736 and flash frozen at 4 different time points. The initial "starved" time point was collected just
737 before refeeding followed by collecting of samples at 1, 2 and 4-hour post-starvation (Figure
738 1A). This was done for both genotypes in control and rapamycin treatments for a total of 14
739 different conditions. The flies were flash frozen and stored at -80C.

740

741 *Western Blot*

742 Protein was extracted from frozen whole flies using 400ul lysis buffer (10mM Tris-base, pH7.6,
743 5mM EDTA, 50mM sodium chloride, 30mM sodium pyrophosphate, 50mM sodium fluoride and
744 100uM sodium orthovanadate, 10ug/ml aprotinin, 10ug/ml leupeptin, 0.14mM AEBSF, 1ug/ml
745 microcystin, and 1% Triton-100) per 30 flies. Protein concentrations were measured using the
746 Pierce BCA Protein Assay (Thermo Scientific Franklin, MA). Equal amounts of protein (40ug)
747 was loaded onto 10% SDS-PAGE gels. Gels were transferred to PVDF membranes, blocked in
748 5% milk for 1 hour at 37°C and incubated overnight with primary antibody to phospho-
749 *Drosophila* p70 S6 Kinase (Thr398) (Cell Signaling #9209, Danvers, MA). ECL Prime (GE
750 Healthcare, Marlborough, MA) was used to develop the blots. Multiple exposures were
751 acquired using the ChemiDoc-It imaging system (UVP, Upland, CA).

752

753

754 *Total RNA Extraction and Sequencing*

755 For each of the 42 samples, total RNA was extracted from 10 eviscerated abdomens using a
756 phenol-chloroform extraction followed by ethanol precipitation. A total of 420 male flies were
757 dissected on an ice cold dissection block removing the head, thorax and loose components of
758 the abdomen. The eviscerated abdomens were then placed in chilled TRIzol and homogenized
759 at 30hz for 4 minutes in a TissueLyser®. Total RNA was extracted from cell lysates with

760 chloroform using phase lock gel tubes (VWR, Rednor, PA) followed by alcohol precipitation and
761 resuspension in molecular biology grade water. DNA was removed using a Turbo DNA free kit
762 and a final cleanup was done using a Zymo clean and concentrator-5 kit. Concentration and
763 contamination was assessed by nanodrop analysis with additional quality control steps
764 performed by Genewiz, Inc. (South Plainfield, NJ). Transcriptome sequencing was done by
765 Genewiz using an Illumina HiSeq2500 at 6 samples per lane with 50 base pair single end reads.

766

767 *Transcriptome Analysis*

768 Quality control of each transcriptome library was assessed using the program FastQC version
769 0.10.1 [66]. The reads were aligned to the *D. melanogaster* BDGP R5/dm3 genome assembly
770 using Tophat version 2.1.1 [67]. The BAM files containing the read alignment data were
771 compiled into read count tables using the program HTSeq [68]. Genetic quality control for the
772 isogenic backgrounds was manually examined with the Integrative Genomic Viewer (IGV) to
773 detect single nucleotide polymorphism differences between the two mtDNA genotype nuclear
774 backgrounds [69-71]. We analyzed the libraries using an MDS distance matrix to quantify the
775 level of similarity between replicates and identify outlier libraries. This revealed several outliers
776 resulting in the exclusion of a single replicate library from each genotype x treatment x time
777 point condition. This resulted in 2 libraries per time point x 4 time points = 8 libraries for each
778 experimental time course. Comparative analysis between transcriptomes of individual conditions
779 at specific time points was performed using the R package EdgeR [30]. Additionally, we used
780 the R package ImpulseDE2 [31] which utilizes DESeq2 modeling to test longitudinal data sets
781 for differential expression trajectories. The significance cutoff for differential gene expression
782 with EdgeR or ImpulseDE2 was set to a Benjamini-Hochberg false-discovery rate corrected p-
783 value of 0.05. Differentially expressed genes were subjected to model based clustering with the
784 R package MBCluser.Seq [32] to segregate them into similar expression trajectory profiles.
785 Gene ontology enrichment analysis was done using the R package Goseq [36]. Pathway

786 visualization using native KEGG html files was performed using the KEGG mapper function
787 provided by [Kanehisa](https://www.kegg.jp/) Laboratories (<https://www.kegg.jp/>).
788

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789 *RT-qPCR*

790 Total RNA was prepared following the same protocol used for transcriptome sequencing on
791 eviscerated abdomens from sm21;OreR samples refed with rapamycin treated food for 1 or 4
792 hours after fasting. RNA was reverse transcribed using a Maxima H Minus First Strand cDNA
793 Synthesis Kit (Thermo Scientific Franklin, MA). The qPCR reaction was performed using
794 PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix (Thermo Scientific Franklin, MA). Gene targets and primer
795 details are listed in Supplementary Table S7A.

796

797

798 *Development Stage and Tissue Specific Expression Analysis*

799 Gene expression enrichment across developmental stages was analyzed using the publicly
800 available modEncode Developmental Transcriptome Profile data set [40]. For a given gene, the

801 FPKM expression level at each developmental stage was normalized to the total gene
802 expression at that stage. The data was downloaded from [https://github.com/modENCODE-](https://github.com/modENCODE-DCC/www/tree/master/html/docs/flyscores)
803 [DCC/www/tree/master/html/docs/flyscores](https://github.com/modENCODE-DCC/www/tree/master/html/docs/flyscores).

Deleted: a

804 The tissue specific gene expression analysis was generated using the publicly available
805 FlyAtlas2 database [41]. Gene expression collected from tissue specific RNA-seq analyses was
806 normalized to the level observed in whole fly samples for each gene of interest. The FlyAtlas2
807 data set was downloaded from motif.gla.ac.uk/downloads/FlyAtlas2_19.10.15.sql.

808

809 *Transcription Factor Binding Motif Analysis*

810 Enrichment of transcription factor binding motifs within our gene sets was generated using the R
811 package Rcis Target [42]. The motif to annotation database v8 was downloaded from

814 <https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/motif2tf/motifs-v8-nr.flybase-m0.001-o0.0.tbl> and the
815 motif ranking database was downloaded from
816 https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/databases/drosophila_melanogaster/dm6/flybase_r6.02/mc8nr/gene_based/dm6-5kb-upstream-full-tx-11species.mc8nr.feather. Transcription factors
817 with a normalized enrichment score > 3 were considered significantly enriched.
818
819
820

821 **Supplementary information**

822 **Table S1. Count table.** Read count data before normalization. (CSV)

823 **Table S2 (A-L). Individual time point differential expression analysis.** Output files from the
824 edgeR analysis of individual contrasts between refed conditions and starved state. The file
825 contains the specific contrast in the tab name. (XLS)

826 **Table S3 (A-H). Longitudinal time course differential expression analysis.** ImpulseDE2
827 analysis output for individual time courses and comparisons between time courses. The file has
828 the time course condition(s) that were analyzed denoted in the tab name. (XLS)

829 **Table S4. MBCluster.seq heatmap data and cluster assignment.** Output file from the model-
830 based clustering generated by MBCluster.seq including the relative expression used for the
831 heatmap and cluster assignment for individual genes. (XLS)

832 **Table S5. Gene ontology and KEGG pathway enrichment analysis.** Output file from the GO
833 term and KEGG pathway enrichment analysis for specified gene sets. The file has the output
834 files for the following analyses in tabs A-H: (A-B) Output file from the GO term (A) and KEGG
835 pathway (B) enrichment analysis of genes found significantly different response profiles
836 between the OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR control treatment time courses. (C-D) Output file from
837 the GO term (C) and KEGG pathway (D) enrichment analysis of genes found significantly
838 different response profiles between the OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR Rapamycin treatment time
839 courses. (E-F) Output file from the GO term (E) and KEGG pathway (F) enrichment analysis of

840 genes found in the cluster 1 gene set. (G-H) Output file from the GO term (G) and KEGG
841 pathway (H) enrichment analysis of genes found in the cluster 5 gene set. (XLS)
842

843 **Table S6 (A-B). Transcription factor binding motif analysis.** Output file for genes in cluster 1
844 (A) or cluster 5 (B) from Rcis-Target that includes the enrichment score data for transcription
845 factors and the associated genes. (XLS)

846 **Table S7. RT-qPCR Results.** (A) Table with gene targets and primer sequences used. (B)
847 Table of Ct values for genes used in the time course validation. Transcript abundance was
848 measured for four genes that displayed a significant difference in expression between the
849 sm21;OreR samples treated for 1 hour with rapamycin and those treated for 4 hours. The table
850 contains the gene symbol, flybase gene id, sample condition, biological replicate number, Ct
851 (mean of technical replicates) and the read counts per million detected for the transcript in the
852 RNAseq experiment. (XLS)

853 **Figure S1. Western blot analysis.** The raw western blot images of three biological replicates
854 (replicate 1 on left, replicate 2 center and replicate 3 on right) probed for phosphorylated S6K1
855 (top) and then probed for B-Actin (bottom) as an additional loading control. Each biological
856 replicate included all conditions used in the RNAseq experiment. In addition, there are
857 rapamycin treated and untreated non-fasted positive controls for each genotype. The labels for
858 sample conditions indicate the refeeding duration (0, 1, 2 or 4 hours of refeeding or non-fasted
859 positive control), the food treatment type (control food (C) or rapamycin treated food (R)) and
860 the genotype (OreR;OreR (O) or sm21;OreR (S)). (PNG)

861 **Figure S2. Volcano plots of individual time point differential expression analysis relative**
862 **to the fasted state.** Volcano plots visualizing the analysis of differential expression for each
863 post-refeeding condition relative to the time 0 starved state was performed using edgeR. Log
864 fold change in expression from time 0 is plotted on the x-axis and the -log₁₀ FDR is on the y-

axis. Genes with significant differential expression (FDR adjusted p-value < 0.05, red trendline) are colored red and all others black. (PNG)

Figure S3. Volcano plots of inter-genotype differential expression analysis. Volcano plots visualizing the analysis of differential expression between genotypes at single time point x treatment conditions (top, transient response) or combined time point comparisons (bottom, sustained response). (A) Total number of differentially expressed genes in the transient response analysis detected by EdgeR (Control refeeding in red and Rapamycin refeeding in blue). (B-H) Volcano plots of the EdgeR results from the transient response analysis. Log fold change in expression from time 0 is plotted on the x-axis and the -log₁₀ FDR is on the y-axis. edgeR analysis. Genes with significant differential expression (FDR adjusted p-value < 0.05, red trendline) are colored red and all others black. Treatment x time point conditions being compared in each volcano plot: (B) sm21;OreR fasted vs OreR;OreR fasted (C) sm21;OreR 1 hour control diet vs OreR;OreR 1 hour control diet (D) sm21;OreR 2 hour control diet vs OreR;OreR 2 hour control diet (E) sm21;OreR 4 hour control diet vs OreR;OreR 4 hour control diet (F) sm21;OreR 1 hour rapamycin diet vs OreR;OreR 1 hour rapamycin diet (G) sm21;OreR 2 hour rapamycin diet vs OreR;OreR 2 hour rapamycin diet (H) sm21;OreR 4 hour rapamycin diet vs OreR;OreR 4 hour rapamycin diet. (I) Total number of differentially expressed genes in the sustained response analysis detected by EdgeR (Control refeeding in red and Rapamycin refeeding in blue). (J-M) Volcano plots of the EdgeR results from the sustained response analysis. Log fold change in expression from time 0 is plotted on the x-axis and the -log₁₀ FDR is on the y-axis. edgeR analysis. Genes with significant differential expression (FDR adjusted p-value < 0.05, red trendline) are colored red and all others black. Treatment x time point conditions being compared in each volcano plot: (J) sm21;OreR 1 and 2 hour control diet vs OreR;OreR 1 and 2 hour control diet (K) sm21;OreR 2 and 4 hour control diet vs OreR;OreR 2 and 4 hour control diet (L) sm21;OreR 1 and 2 hour rapamycin diet vs OreR;OreR 1 and 2 hour

890 rapamycin diet (M) sm21;OreR 2 and 4 hour rapamycin diet vs OreR;OreR 2 and 4 hour
891 rapamycin diet. (PNG)

892 **Figure S4 (A-U). Heatmaps of gene expression in enriched KEGG pathways.** Each of the
893 22 KEGG categories enriched in the genes found to have significantly different response
894 patterns to refeeding with rapamycin treatment between the OreR;OreR and sm21;OreR mtDNA
895 genotypes. The x-axis is the genotype by treatment condition for each time point. The y-axis
896 shows the genes in the KEGG category that were found to have significantly different
897 expression between genotypes when treated with rapamycin on the right and the colors on the
898 left denote the expression profile cluster for the gene. Gene expression is displayed as the row
899 normalized z-score. (PNG)

900

901 **Abbreviations**

902 OXPHOS: oxidative phosphorylation; mtDNA: mitochondrial DNA; TOR: target of rapamycin;
903 GxT: genotype by treatment; GxE: genotype by environment; KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of
904 Genes and Genomes; GO: gene ontology

905

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910

911

912 **Author's contributions**

913 JCS performed the *Drosophila* work, RNAseq preparation and Bioinformatics analyses. FAL
914 contributed to experiments and managed *Drosophila* stock preparation and maintenance. DMR,
915 JCS and PAG designed the experiments. PAG and DMR wrote a proposal that provided partial

916 support for the analyses. JMB performed the Western blot analyses. JCS and DMR wrote the
917 initial draft and DMR, PAG JAS and JMB aided in the interpretation of bioinformatics analyses
918 and contributed to the final manuscript.

919

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924

925 **Availability of data and materials**

926 The raw RNA-seq reads generated in this study are available from the NCBI Sequence Read
927 Archive (SRA) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) under BioProject accession: PRJNA610872.
928 The dm3 genome assembly is freely available through the Ensembl genome browser at
929 https://oct2014.archive.ensembl.org/Drosophila_melanogaster/Info/Index or directly via ftp at
930 ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-77/fasta/drosophila_melanogaster/dna [72]. The modEncode
931 Developmental Transcriptome Profile data set is publicly available at
932 <https://github.com/modENCODE-DCC/www/tree/master/html/docs/flyscores> [40]. The FlyAtlas2
933 database with gene expression data collected from tissue specific RNA-seq analyses was
934 downloaded from motif.gla.ac.uk/downloads/FlyAtlas2_19.10.15.sql [41]. The motif to
935 annotation database and the motif ranking database used in the R-cis target transcription factor
936 binding motifs enrichment analysis can be downloaded from
937 <https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/motif2tf/motifs-v8-nr.flybase-m0.001-o0.0.tbl> and
938 https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/databases/drosophila_melanogaster/dm6/flybase_r6.02/mc8nr/gene_based/dm6-5kb-upstream-full-tx-11species.mc8nr.feather respectively [42]. R
939 scripts used in the analyses are available upon request, and are posted at
940 <https://github.com/DavidRandLab/Santiago-et-al-2021-BMC-Genomics>.
941

942

943 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

944 Not applicable.

945

946 **Consent for publication**

947 Not applicable.

948

949 **Competing interests**

950 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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