Vitellogenin (vg) expression was elevated in bees that had experienced starvation as larvae. This may be counterintuitive, as vg can play a role as a storage protein and plays a role in immunity (Harwood et al 2017). However, upregulation of vg has also been implicated as a hormetic response to stress. Hormesis occurs when low levels of stress induce mechanisms that protect against future stress (Gems and Partridge 2008). For example, dietary restriction can result in increased lifespan in many animals, including *Drosophila*, *C. elegans* (Gems and Partridge 2008) and honey bees (Ihle et al 2014). In *Bombyx mori* heat stress causes upregulation of vg, even when the heat stress is ultimately lethal; thus, stressed individuals appear to be shifting resources towards vg, presumably because of its broad protective properties (Harwood et al 2017). In our starved bees, which experienced a mild nutrition perturbation during development, this may also be the case; the low-level stress stimulus results in greater allocation of resources towards vitellogenin. While this may provide greater protection against some stimuli, like oxidative stress or some pathogens, it did not appear to provide defense against IAPV replication or mortality.