## Metabolism II



**Aim**: understand the principles of TCA cycle, electron transport chain, oxidative phosphorylation, metabolism of fatty acid







# Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex (PDC)





Tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA cycle)

- What are the functions of TCA cycle?
- What are the reactions of TCA cycle?
- How does mitochondrion look like?



## Summary

For each acetyl-CoA molecule oxidized, TCA cycle generates:

- -2 molecules of  $CO_2$
- 3 molecules of NADH
- one FADH<sub>2</sub>
- one GTP







# Electron Transport Chain (ETC)

Series of electron carriers that operate together to transfer electrons from NADH and FADH<sub>2</sub> to a terminal electron acceptor

Electrons flow from carriers with more negative  $E_0$  to carriers with more positive  $E_0$ 



Approximate position in chain

As electrons are transferred, energy is released.

In eucaryotes, ETC is located in the inner mitochrondrial membrane









#### The redox loop mechanism for electron transport– linked H<sup>+</sup> translocation



## **Procaryotic ETCs**

Located in plasma membrane

Some resemble mitochondrial ETC, but many are different

- different electron carriers
- may be branched
- may be shorter
- may have lower P/O ratio

#### Electron Transport Chain of E. coli

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

stationary phase and low aeration

#### **Branched pathway**

log phase and high aeration

## **Oxidative Phosphorylation**

Peter Mitchell

Process by which ATP is synthesized as the result of electron transport

# Proton motive force (PMF) drives ATP synthesis

Diffusion of protons back across membrane (down gradient) drives formation of ATP

ATP synthase

 enzyme that uses PMF down gradient to catalyze ATP synthesis

![](_page_17_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_2.jpeg)

### ETC, PMF and Oxidative phosphorylation

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Importance of PMF

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Lipid catabolism

## Triglycerides

- common energy sources
- hydrolyzed to glycerol and fatty acids by lipases
  - glycerol degraded via glycolytic pathway
  - fatty acids often oxidized via β-oxidation pathway

![](_page_22_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### **Lipase reactions**

The enzyme lipase catalyses the hydrolysis of two of the fatty acids in the intestine.

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

Triacylglycerol is hydrolyzed to fatty acids and glycerol, which can be used in other cells

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

Degradation of fatty acid has three steps:

- 1. Activation
- 2. Transport into mitochondrion
- **3**.  $\beta$ -oxidation

Activation of the fatty acid consists of esterification to CoA at the expense of ATP

![](_page_25_Figure_5.jpeg)

#### Transport of fatty acid into mitochondrion

The acyl group is transported into mitochondrion using carnitine. A translocase brings in acyl-carnitine and expels carnitine. Acyl-CoA is regenerated inside mitochondrion.

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### How much ATP can be formed by oxidation of fatty acid?

It is now possible to calculate the amount of ATP formed during complete oxidation of a fatty acid, e.g. palmitic acid

8 Acetyl-CoA in the tricarboxylic acid cycle: 8 x 3 = 24 NADH 8 x 1 = 8 FADH<sub>2</sub> 8 x 1 = 8 GTP

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β-Oxidation yields: 7 NADH
7 FADH<sub>2</sub>
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In total: 7 + 24 = 31 NADH corresponds to 31 x 2,5 = 77,5 ATP 7 + 8 = 15 FADH<sub>2</sub> corresponds to 15 x 1,5 = 22,5 ATP 8 GTP corresponds to 8 ATP

Summarised: 8 + 77,5 + 22,5 = 108 ATP

Two ATP are used during the initial activation of the fatty acid The total ATP-yield will be **106** 

### Fatty acid synthesis

- Fat is an efficient way to store energy
- It is usually surplus of carbohydrates that are converted to fat
- The reactions are in principle a reversed  $\beta$ -oxidation

Synthesis of fatty acid starts with the carboxylation of acetyl-CoA to malonyl-CoA. This is the committed step, malonyl CoA can only be used for synthesis of fatty acid.

![](_page_29_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Summary

- Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex bridges glycolysis and TCA cycle
- TCA cycle is the central hub of metabolism, 8 steps, produces 3 NADH + 1 FADH<sub>2</sub> + 1 GTP
- Electron transport chain proton motive force oxidative phosphorylation
- Lipid metabolism: β-oxidation of fatty acid
- Lipid metabolism: fatty acid synthesis, NADPH as cofactor