

LECTURE 14-FATTY ACID & CHOLESTEROL BIOSYNTHESIS & REGULATION

Monday, May 12, 2008 9:49 AM

GSI REVIEW SESSION

WED. 2:30 to ~4:30 105 N.GATE HALL

Metabolism Lecture 14 — FATTY ACID & CHOLESTEROL BIOSYNTHESIS & REGULATION — Restricted for MCB102, UC Berkeley, Spring 2008 ONLY

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MCB 102, Spring 2008, Metabolism Lecture 14  
Reading: Ch. 21 of *Principles of Biochemistry*, "Lipid Biosynthesis."

**Energy Requirements for Fatty Acid Synthesis**

For C<sub>16</sub> palmitic acid starting with Acetyl-CoA and a generous pool of NADPH:

7 ATP to charge Acetyl-CoA → Malonyl-CoA

14 NADPH for the reductions of C=C and C=O bonds

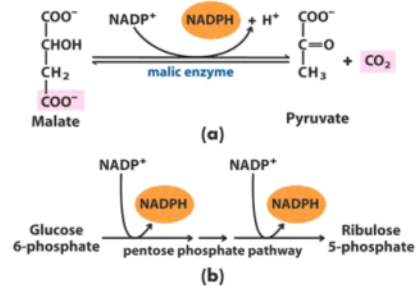
A lot of energy is required to make a fatty acid.

**Why?**

- Fatty Acids are made in the cytosol and NAD<sup>+</sup> is favored 10<sup>5</sup>-fold more than NADH there.
- By having largely separate cytosolic NADPH and mitochondrial NADH pools, anabolic pathways do not draw on the pools needed to produce ATP (by Ox. Phos.)

**How?**

- Mainly, pentose phosphate pathway.
- Malic enzyme may be used to steal reducing equivalents from the mitochondria (but this is a secondary pathway).



**Acetyl-CoA requirements for Fatty Acid Synthesis are also high**

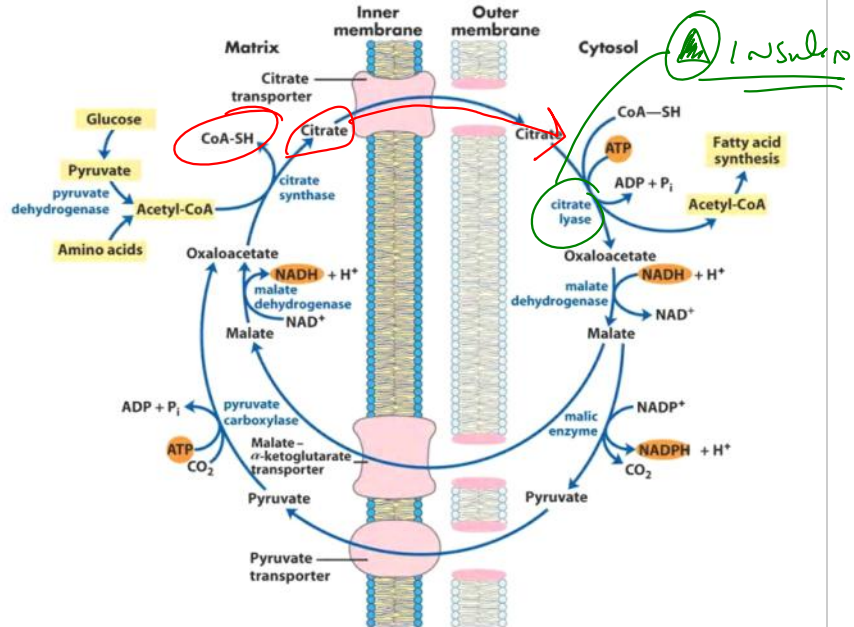
- For a C<sub>N</sub> fatty acid there are N/2 Acetyl-CoA required.
- Acetyl-CoA comes from pyruvate dehydrogenase and fatty acid oxidation (inside mitochondria).
- Citrate must be pumped out of mitochondria and cleaved using 1 ATP. There is a citrate lyase in the cytosol to break the citrate into Acetyl-CoA and oxaloacetate but it costs ATP.

\*\*\*So starting from citrate the process cost 1 additional ATP per Acetyl-CoA\*\*\*

**+1 ATP**

→ There are a lot of transport steps summarized in the following figure [on left].

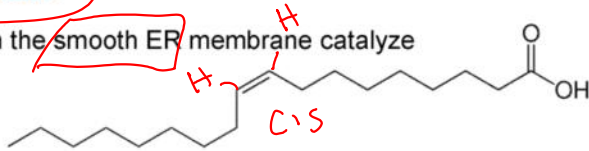
→ Know also that a high sugar meal will kick in insulin, and insulin upregulates Citrate



Lyase, which leads to fatty acid synthesis, turning all those sweets into fat.

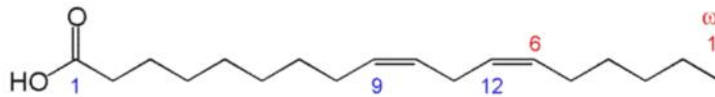
### Unsaturated Fatty Acids

- We need unsaturated fatty acids to maintain the fluidity of the membrane.
- This is done using an enzyme called **desaturase**.
- Electron transfer reactions to cytochromes in the smooth ER membrane catalyze desaturation.

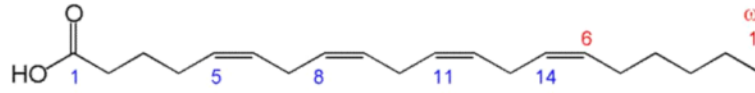


### Essential Fatty Acids

- We cannot make all desaturations and so some required unsaturated fatty acids are required from diet, e.g., **linoleate**, which we get from plants.



- Linoleate ( $\Delta^{9,12}$ ) with two double bonds, or linolenate ( $\Delta^{9,12,15}$ ) with three double bonds
- Linoleate, for example, gives rise to **arachidonic acid**, which is a  $C_{20}$  fatty acid that is made by elongation of linoleate. It forms four double bonds. Arachidonic acid is used in the generation of local signals like **prostaglandin**, which are important for inflammation.



Arachidonic Acid

### Regulation of Fatty Acid Biosynthesis & Degradation.

- The regulated / committed step is the generation of **malonyl-CoA**. Once you generate malonyl-CoA, you use it purely for fatty acid biosynthesis.

- **Malonyl-CoA synthetase** is the enzyme that gets phosphorylated by the cAMP cascade.

→ If liver cells are stimulated by the presence of glucagon/epinephrine, then malonyl-CoA synthetase gets phosphorylated. When it gets phosphorylated, its activity is then inhibited.

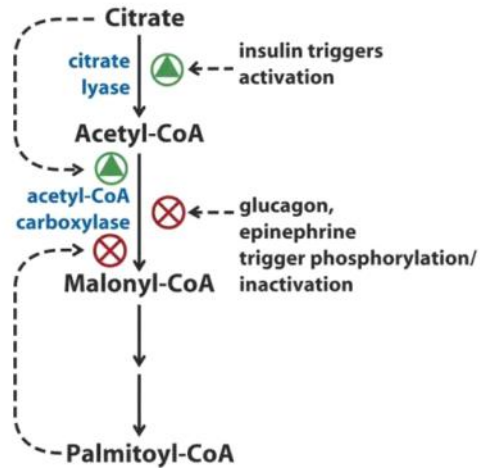


### Allosteric regulation of malonyl-CoA synthetase

- When the sugar level in your blood is high, insulin is present, then the liver tends to get rid of that glucose by activating glycolysis and generating acetyl-CoA and citrate.

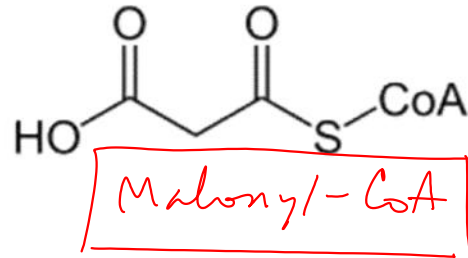
- Citrate & acetyl-CoA activate malonyl-CoA synthetase, and fatty acid biosynthesis becomes activated.

↑ citrate      ↑ Acetyl-CoA



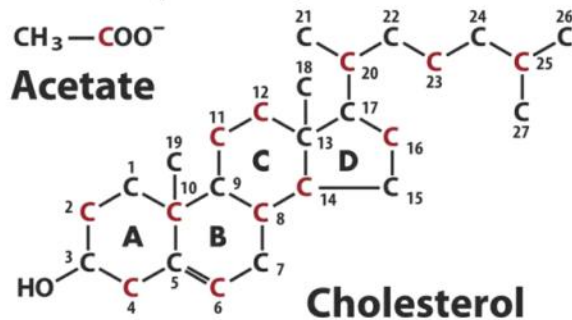
### Allosteric regulation of Fatty Acid Degredation by Malonyl-CoA

- If fatty acid synthesis and degradation were to continue simultaneously then a futile cycle would develop, which wastes energy.
- BUT  $\beta$  oxidation is inhibited by malonyl-CoA, because transport via carnitine cannot occur, as the carnitine acyl-transferase activity is inhibited by malonyl-CoA.
- Compartmentalization of synthesis and degradation supports well this type of control mechanism.



### Cholesterol Biosynthesis

- People are worried about eating cholesterol due to a relationship to coronary heart disease.
- Dietary restrictions of cholesterol ~~in fact~~ <sup>in fact</sup> does not solve this problem, since we make most of the cholesterol in our bodies (~70% on average).
- We need cholesterol: it maintains membrane fluidity and forms the basic skeleton for steroids and hormones.
- From the looks of it, you may think that this must come from a lot of different carbon skeletons. Nope.





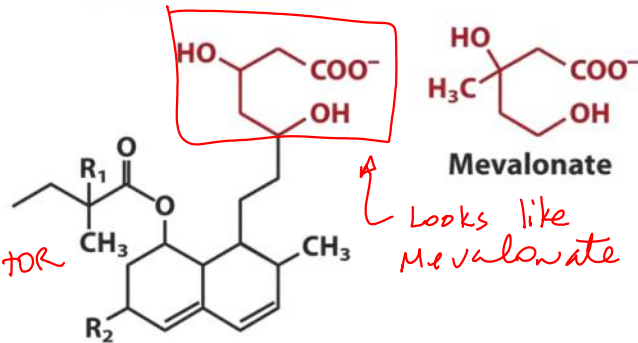


**Natural & Pharmaceutical-based Regulation of Cholesterol / Sterol Production**

- Cholesterol synthesis is an energy-expensive complex process in the cell. Thus it is heavily regulated.
- The major committed, rate-limiting step of sterol production is the formation of Mevalonate from  $\beta$ -Hydroxy- $\beta$ -methyl-glutaryl-CoA by the enzyme **HMG-CoA reductase**.

• HMG-CoA reductase is, therefore, popular target of many drugs, called **statins**.

• Statins and all derivative of fungal natural products; they are blockbuster billion dollar a year drugs.



Original STATIN INHIBITOR DERIVED FROM FUNGUS.

$R_1 = H$	$R_2 = H$	<b>Compactin</b>
$R_1 = CH_3$	$R_2 = CH_3$	<b>Simvastatin (Zocor)</b>
$R_1 = H$	$R_2 = OH$	<b>Pravastatin (Pravachol)</b>
$R_1 = H$	$R_2 = CH_3$	<b>Lovastatin (Mevacor)</b>



### Natural Regulation of Cholesterol Biosynthesis

- Transcriptional regulation.
- Hormonal regulation: glucagon and insulin change activity of HMG-CoA reductase.
- Excess cholesterol stimulates proteolysis of HMG-CoA reductase.

END OF CLASS.

GOOD LUCK ON THE FINAL!

