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NanoSIMS Analysis of Intravascular Lipolysis and Lipid Movement Across Capillaries and into Cardiomyocytes

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SUMMARY

The processing of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins (TRLs) in capillaries provides lipids for vital tissues, but our understanding of TRL metabolism is limited, in part because TRL processing and lipid movement have never been visualized. To investigate the movement of TRL-derived lipids in the heart, mice were given an injection of [²H]triglyceride-enriched TRLs, and the movement of ²H-labeled lipids across capillaries and into cardiomyocytes was examined by NanoSIMS. TRL

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

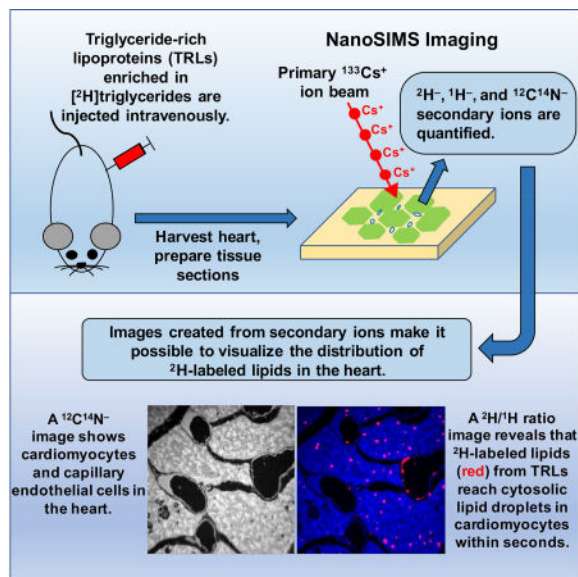
C.H. designed, performed, and analyzed experiments, prepared figures and the initial draft of the manuscript; T.A.W. performed electron microscopy and prepared tissue sections for NanoSIMS; R.S.J. performed experiments and analyzed NanoSIMS data; P.H. managed the mouse colony and performed mouse experiments; M.L. performed isolated heart studies; X.H. performed NanoSIMS studies; C.M.A. performed immunohistochemistry studies; P.T., K.R., M.P., and A.P.B. advised on experimental design and data analysis; A.H., M.K., and P.G. assisted with NanoSIMS; D.A.F. performed lipidomics studies; L.G.F. and S.G.Y. analyzed data and prepared the manuscript; H.J. performed NanoSIMS and BSE imaging, analyzed data, and assisted with figures and the manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

processing and lipid movement in tissues was extremely rapid. Within 30 sec, TRL-derived lipids appeared in the subendothelial spaces and in the lipid droplets and mitochondria of cardiomyocytes. ^2H enrichment in capillary endothelial cells was not greater than in cardiomyocytes, implying that endothelial cells may not be a control point for lipid movement into cardiomyocytes. Remarkably, a deficiency of the putative fatty acid transport protein CD36, which is expressed highly in capillary endothelial cells, did not impede entry of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes.

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XXX et al used NanoSIMS to visualize the movement of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins (TRLs)-derived lipids mitochondria and lipid droplets within seconds. Also, loss of CD36 did not impede entry of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes.

INTRODUCTION

The lipolytic processing of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins (TRLs) by lipoprotein lipase (LPL) is the central event in plasma lipid metabolism, providing lipid nutrients for adipose tissue, heart, skeletal muscle, and other tissues (Havel, 2010; Havel and Kane, 2001; Kane and Havel, 2001). The processing of TRLs has been studied for decades (Havel and Gordon, 1960; Korn, 1955a; Korn, 1955b), but only recently have key mechanisms fallen into place (Fong et al., 2016). LPL is synthesized by parenchymal cells and secreted into the interstitial spaces, where it is captured by glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored high density lipoprotein-binding protein 1 (GPIHBP1) on endothelial cells and transported to the lumen of capillaries (Beigneux et al., 2007; Davies et al., 2010). GPIHBP1 moves bidirectionally across endothelial cells (Davies et al., 2012), with each excursion providing an opportunity to pick up LPL and move it to the capillary lumen. In the setting of GPIHBP1 deficiency, LPL is stranded within the interstitial spaces (Davies et al., 2010), where it is useless for intravascular TRL processing. GPIHBP1 and GPIHBP1-bound LPL are located only on

capillary endothelial cells and are absent from endothelial cells of arterioles and venules (Beigneux et al., 2007; Davies et al., 2010).

Aside from shuttling LPL to the capillary lumen, GPIHBP1 plays two additional functions in intravascular lipolysis. First, the GPIHBP1–LPL complex is crucial for the margination of TRLs along capillaries (Goulbourne et al., 2014), making it possible for LPL-mediated TRL processing to proceed. Second, the binding of LPL to GPIHBP1 stabilizes the structural integrity of LPL's hydrolase domain and preserves its enzymatic activity, even in the presence of physiologic inhibitors (*e.g.*, ANGPTL4), and by doing so GPIHBP1 serves to focus LPL activity in capillaries (Fong et al., 2016; Mysling et al., 2016a; Mysling et al., 2016b).

While recent studies have clarified functions of GPIHBP1 and LPL in TRL processing, other topics in the realm of intravascular lipolysis have remained enigmatic. In particular, no one understands the mechanisms by which the fatty acid products of TRL processing move across endothelial cells and into parenchymal cells (Hagberg et al., 2013). An early electron microscopy (EM) study (Scow et al., 1976) suggested that the products of lipolysis move across endothelial cells in “channels,” but the existence of such channels is questionable and has never been substantiated. In recent years, several groups have proposed that fatty acid movement across endothelial cells is regulated and requires transporter proteins (*e.g.*, CD36, fatty acid transporters) (Hagberg et al., 2013). The movement of fatty acids across capillaries has been proposed to involve fatty acid entry into the endothelial cell cytoplasm and formation of acyl-coenzyme-A derivatives (Hagberg et al., 2013). Also, endothelial cells have been proposed to be a “control point” for regulating fatty acid movement, protecting parenchymal cells from excessive lipid uptake (Hagberg et al., 2013). According to the latter view, one could easily imagine that TRL-derived lipids might accumulate in endothelial cells before moving to parenchymal cells. On the other hand, others have proposed that fatty acids simply diffuse freely across mammalian cells without assistance from protein transporters (Guo et al., 2006; Hamilton et al., 2001; Xu et al., 2013). Another enigma has been the itinerary of TRL-derived fatty acids after entering parenchymal cells. It remains controversial whether fatty acids can enter mitochondria directly or whether they first must enter cytosolic triglyceride droplets.

Understanding how lipids move across capillaries and into surrounding parenchymal cells represents an important issue in lipoprotein physiology, but thus far the insights into this process have been limited and have depended on cell culture models or indirect evidence (*e.g.*, drawing inferences from transcript levels for putative lipid-transport proteins or measuring lipid stores within tissue extracts) (Bharadwaj et al., 2010; Hagberg et al., 2013; Hagberg et al., 2010; Jang et al., 2016). We suspected that it would be possible to gain additional insights into TRL processing and lipid movement by imaging TRL processing within capillaries.

In the current studies, we used nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry (NanoSIMS) to visualize both TRL processing in heart capillaries and the fate of TRL-derived lipids in adjacent cardiomyocytes. NanoSIMS imaging uses a Cs⁺ beam to bombard a tissue section, releasing secondary ions that can be analyzed by mass spectrometry and used to create

images based solely on the isotopic content of the tissue (He et al., 2017a; He et al., 2017b; Jiang et al., 2014a; Jiang et al., 2014b). After giving mice an injection of TRLs enriched in [^2H]triglycerides, NanoSIMS imaging makes it possible to visualize the ^2H -labeled products of TRL processing in endothelial cells, the subendothelial spaces, the mitochondria and/or cytosolic lipid droplets of cardiomyocytes. In NanoSIMS imaging studies, all of the secondary ion data are available for quantitative analyses. In the current studies, we show that the movement of TRL-derived lipids across endothelial cells and into cytosolic lipid droplets and mitochondria of cardiomyocytes is extraordinarily rapid, occurring within seconds. We found no evidence that capillary endothelial cells are a substantial barrier to the movement of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes. Also, we found no evidence that CD36 deficiency impedes the entry of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes.

RESULTS

The Lipolytic Processing of Triglyceride-Rich Lipoproteins (TRLs) and Lipid Movement into Cardiomyocytes Is Rapid

^2H -enriched TRLs (^2H -TRLs) were harvested from the plasma of *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice after administering [^2H]fatty acids by gastric gavage. The ^2H content of TRLs harvested from *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice was quite high, as judged by the fact that their density exceeded 1.006 g/ml (*i.e.*, virtually all of the ^2H -TRLs were on the bottom of the ultracentrifuge tube when spun at $d = 1.006$ g/ml). Quantitative lipidomics studies confirmed that large percentages of the fatty acyl chains in the ^2H -TRLs were deuterated (Table S1). Indeed, the majority of the linoleic acid was deuterated. We observed consistent findings by NanoSIMS. When the ^2H -TRL particles were analyzed by NanoSIMS, the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in the larger TRLs was ~3,000–6,000-times the natural abundance of ^2H , such that about one-third of all hydrogens in the lipoprotein particles were ^2H (Figure S1).

The ^2H -TRLs (40 μg triglycerides in a volume of 200 μl) were injected intravenously into wild-type mice. After 30 sec, 2 min, or 30 min, the mice were euthanized; perfused extensively with PBS; and then perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde. [Carbodiimide is effective in fixing carboxylate-containing small molecules in cells or tissues (Dallwig and Deitmer, 2002; Takei et al., 2012; Tymianski et al., 1997), and our studies, in which [^3H]oleic acid was added to CHO-K1 cells, revealed 60–75% greater [^3H]oleic acid fixation with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde than with glutaraldehyde alone.] After fixation, the left ventricular apex was embedded in epoxy resin, sectioned, and analyzed by NanoSIMS. Images from $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ ions (a cluster secondary ion that reveals tissue nitrogen content) were useful for visualizing tissue morphology; composite $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ images identified regions of ^2H enrichment (Figure 1). In the composite images, the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ scale ranges from 0.0002 to 0.01 (from slightly above ^2H natural abundance to ~70-times natural abundance). Margination of ^2H -TRLs along the luminal surface of capillary endothelial cells was detectable 30 sec and 2 min after the injection of ^2H -TRLs (Figures 1A and 1B, *white* arrows), but “marginated TRLs” were not encountered in capillaries at the 30-min time point. The $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in the marginated lipoproteins at 30 sec and 2 min ranged from 15–450-times natural abundance, suggesting that processing had removed some of the [^2H]triglycerides from the particles. ^2H enrichment within

cardiomyocyte lipid droplets (40–50-times natural abundance) was observed as early as 30 sec after injecting ^2H -TRLs (Figure 1, *yellow arrows*).

The margination of TRLs along capillaries is mediated by the LPL–GPIHBP1 complex (Goulbourne et al., 2014); thus, there is little doubt that the “marginated TRLs” in Figure 1 were undergoing processing by LPL. Interestingly, we were unable to document streaming of ^2H -labeled lipids away from marginated TRLs and into endothelial cells or cardiomyocytes (Figure 2). When we quantified the ^2H content of marginated TRLs and the ^2H content of immediately adjacent regions of endothelial cells and cardiomyocytes, we observed a “fall-off” in ^2H enrichment with increasing distance from the TRL (Figure 2). One might have easily jumped to the conclusion that the “fall-off” in ^2H enrichment represented streaming of fatty acids away from the TRL, but we do not believe that this was the case, simply because we observed a similar “fall-off” in ^2H enrichment with increasing distance into the capillary lumen. In our tissue sections, the capillary lumen is filled with epoxy resin, which is rich in ^{12}C but devoid of ^{14}N . We suspect that the appearance of ^2H enrichment in the lumen of heart capillaries (which had been thoroughly perfused before fixation) was the result of short-distance diffusion of triglycerides into the resin-filled capillary lumen during tissue processing. Because of this observation, we do not believe that we observed *bona fide* streaming of fatty acids away from TRLs and into endothelial cells or cardiomyocytes. We suspect that the streaming of fatty acids away from TRLs, which obviously must occur physiologically, is so rapid that it was not detectable by NanoSIMS at the 30-sec or 2-min time points. In support of that reasoning, we never observed higher levels of ^2H enrichment in segments of cardiomyocytes that were immediately adjacent to capillaries (Figure 1), implying that movement of ^2H -labeled lipids into and across cardiomyocytes is quite rapid.

The Entry of ^2H -TRL-Derived Lipids into Cardiomyocytes Depends on Intravascular Processing of ^2H -TRLs by LPL

To be confident that the rapid appearance of ^2H in cytosolic lipid droplets of cardiomyocytes (Figure 1) was secondary to LPL-mediated ^2H -TRL processing, we performed experiments in isolated, perfused mouse hearts, which allowed us to compare ^2H entry into cardiomyocytes in the presence or absence of an LPL inhibitor. We also examined ^2H uptake into hearts of *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice (where LPL is absent from the luminal surface of capillaries) (Davies et al., 2012; Davies et al., 2010). In perfused hearts of wild-type mice treated with a nonspecific lipase inhibitor (tetrahydrolipistatin), the appearance of ^2H into cardiomyocytes was lower than in the absence of the inhibitor (Figures 3A and 3B). ^2H enrichment of cardiomyocytes was also lower in the setting of *Gpihbp1* deficiency (Figures 3A and 3B). In wild-type hearts that had been treated with the LPL inhibitor, numerous ^2H -TRLs were found along endothelial cells, reflecting an accumulation of marginated but unprocessed ^2H -TRLs in capillaries (Figure 3A). As expected, ^2H enrichment was lower in endothelial cells of *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} hearts (Figure 3), where TRL margination does not occur (Goulbourne et al., 2014). When we measured the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in endothelial cells of wild-type mice (focusing exclusively on segments devoid of marginated TRLs) with the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in endothelial cells of *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice, we found a lower $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} endothelial cells, reflecting reduced TRL processing (Figure 3B). In both wild-type and *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice, the

$^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in endothelial cells was similar to the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in surrounding cardiomyocytes (Figure 3B).

Investigating the Fate of TRL-derived Lipids Within Cardiomyocytes

The mitochondria of cardiomyocytes could be identified in backscattered electron (BSE) images and in $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$, $^{16}\text{O}^-$, and $^{31}\text{P}^-$ NanoSIMS images (Figure 4A). Visualizing mitochondria with $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images was particularly helpful because the NanoSIMS 50L instrument is capable of recording $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$, $^2\text{H}^-$, and $^1\text{H}^-$ ions simultaneously. In Figure 4B, we show high-resolution $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ NanoSIMS images of the heart after injecting ^2H -TRLs. The $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ scale in these images differs from those in Figure 1, ranging from slightly above ^2H natural abundance to ~7-times natural abundance. When the mice were sacrificed 30 sec or 2 min after the injection of ^2H -TRLs, marginated TRLs could be identified in the capillary lumen, and there was ^2H enrichment in both mitochondria and cytosolic lipid droplets of cardiomyocytes (Figure 4C). At the 30-min time point, we did not find marginated TRLs in capillaries; ^2H enrichment persisted in cardiomyocyte mitochondria and lipid droplets, but the amount of ^2H enrichment in mitochondria was lower in the 30-min images than in the 30-sec or 2-min images (Figures 4C and 4D), almost certainly reflecting mitochondrial catabolism of ^2H -fatty acids in the 30-min time span after the injection of ^2H -TRLs. We found no evidence, at any of the time points, that ^2H enrichment in endothelial cells was greater than in adjacent cardiomyocytes (Figures 1–3; data not shown), implying that TRL-derived lipids do not accumulate in endothelial cells before moving into parenchymal cells.

In some experiments, ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids were given to mice by gastric gavage for several days before administering the intravenous injection of ^2H -TRLs. In these studies, we once again observed ^2H -TRLs margination in endothelial cells and ^2H enrichment in cardiomyocyte lipid droplets 30 sec after injecting ^2H -TRLs (Figure 5A). ^2H -labeled lipids invariably entered cytosolic lipid droplets that were already labeled with ^{13}C (Figure 5A), and the levels of ^2H and ^{13}C enrichment in lipid droplets were positively correlated ($p < 0.001$) (Figure 5B). Of note, however, the percentages of the labels in cytosolic lipid droplets were different. Approximately 50% of cardiomyocyte ^2H was located in cytosolic lipid droplets, whereas only ~5% of the ^{13}C was in lipid droplets (Figures 5C and 5D). This difference was not particularly surprising because ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids (administered a day earlier) would be expected to contribute to membrane phospholipids. Also, fatty acid metabolites are used for synthesis of nonessential amino acids (Sidossis et al., 1995). Indeed, the fact that metabolites from [^{13}C]fatty acids contribute to protein synthesis was illustrated by NanoSIMS images of brown adipose tissue. As expected, the cytosolic lipid droplets in brown adipocytes were enriched in ^{13}C but devoid of nitrogen (*i.e.*, as judged by the $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images) (Figure S2). Interestingly, the hemoglobin in one erythrocyte (almost certainly a newly released erythrocyte) was enriched in ^{13}C , but ^{13}C enrichment was negligible in older blood cells (two leukocytes and one erythrocyte) (Figure S2). The nitrogen-rich cytoplasm of brown adipocytes was also enriched in ^{13}C , but to a lesser degree than cytosolic lipid droplets (Figure S2).

The adult mouse brain primarily uses glucose for fuel, and TRL margination is absent in the capillaries of the brain (Goulbourne et al., 2014). For those reasons, we were skeptical that we would detect significant amounts of ^{13}C or ^2H enrichment in the brain after administering ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids or ^2H -TRLs. Indeed, after administering ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids by gastric gavage and subsequently administering ^2H -TRLs intravenously, we were unable to detect ^{13}C or ^2H enrichment in the cerebral cortex (Figure S3A).

NanoSIMS instruments have extraordinarily accurate mass resolution, making it nearly impossible to mistake one isotope for another. However, to be confident that we identified $^2\text{H}^-$ and $^{13}\text{C}^-$ ions correctly, we created NanoSIMS images from the heart of a mouse that had not been given ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids or ^2H -TRLs. We had no difficulty in generating $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ NanoSIMS images of heart tissue, but as expected there was no enrichment in ^{13}C or ^2H (Figure S3B).

Detecting ^2H -labeled Lipids in the Subendothelial Spaces

The TRL-derived lipids that enter cardiomyocytes obviously must have traversed the subendothelial spaces around capillaries. After administering an intravenous injection of TRLs and then staining heart tissue with OsO_4 and imidazole, we observed irregular, darkly-stained structures in the subendothelial spaces around capillaries. [Imidazole is a nitrogen-rich mordant that increases OsO_4 binding to lipids (Angermüller and Fahimi, 1982).] The irregular darkly staining structures were frequent at the 30-sec and 2-min time points but were uncommon at the 30-min time point (Figure 6A). To determine if the darkly-staining subendothelial structures contained TRL-derived lipids, we performed correlative BSE/NanoSIMS imaging on OsO_4 /imidazole-stained heart tissue harvested 30 sec after an intravenous injection of ^2H -TRLs. BSE images revealed irregular, darkly stained structures in the subendothelial spaces (Figures 6B and S4A); NanoSIMS imaging of the same sections revealed that these structures were enriched in ^2H (Figures 6B and S4A) from ^2H -TRL processing. Because these structures were stained with imidazole, they were enriched in nitrogen, as judged by $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images (Figures 6B and S4A).

Staining of lipids by imidazole was also evident in NanoSIMS images of cardiomyocytes from mice that had been given [^{13}C]fatty acids by gastric gavage (Figure S4B). Normally, ^{13}C -enriched cytosolic lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes are devoid of nitrogen and appear “black” in a $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ NanoSIMS image. When the same tissue was stained with imidazole, the cytosolic lipid droplets became nitrogen-rich and were “white” in a $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ image (Figure S4B).

The irregular OsO_4 /imidazole-stained structures were less common around larger blood vessels, where GPIHBP1 and LPL are absent (Davies et al., 2010; Fong et al., 2016). In the electron micrograph shown in Figure 6C, many irregular, darkly stained structures were found in and around a capillary, but not in the vicinity of an arteriole (Figure 6C and S4C). By NanoSIMS, we could not detect ^2H enrichment in the subendothelial spaces surrounding arterioles, even though ^2H -labeled lipids from TRL processing were present in adjacent cardiomyocytes and in the smooth muscle cells of nearby arterioles (Figures 6D).

Assessing the Impact of CD36 Deficiency on the Entry of TRL-derived Lipids into Cardiomyocytes

NanoSIMS imaging opens the door to examining the functional relevance of specific proteins in the movement of TRL-derived lipids into and across capillaries. CD36, a putative fatty acid transporter, is expressed at high levels in heart capillary endothelial cells (Greenwalt et al., 1995) (Figure S5) and has been hypothesized to play a role in the movement of fatty acids into cardiomyocytes (Bharadwaj et al., 2010; Hagberg et al., 2013). In the current study, we focused on testing whether a deficiency of CD36 might impede the movement of ^2H -TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes. Wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} mice were injected intravenously with equivalent amounts of ^2H -TRLs, and heart sections were prepared for NanoSIMS imaging. At 1.5- and 2-min time points, ^2H enrichment in cardiomyocytes was equivalent in wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} mouse hearts (Figures 7A and 7B), but the amount of ^2H in cytosolic lipid droplets was lower in *Cd36*^{-/-} hearts (as a percentage of total ^2H in cells) (Figures 7A and 7C). When we administered [^{13}C]fatty acids to wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} mice by gastric gavage, we observed consistent findings—similar amounts of ^{13}C in wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes (Figures 7D, 7E) but reduced amounts of ^{13}C in cytosolic lipid droplets of *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes (as a percentage of total ^{13}C in cells) (Figures 7D and 7F). In addition to reduced amounts of total ^{13}C in lipid droplets, the $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio in lipid droplets was lower in *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes (Figure 7G). Interestingly, $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio was slightly higher in *Cd36*^{-/-} mitochondria (Figure 7G). In another series of NanoSIMS studies, we once again found similar amounts of ^{13}C enrichment in wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes (Figure S6A and S6B), but the percentage of total ^{13}C in lipid droplets was lower in *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes (Figure S6C). CD36 deficiency has been reported to be associated with lower levels of acyl-CoA in cells (Bharadwaj et al., 2010), but whether that finding is due to the reduced amounts of ^2H in cytosolic lipid droplets of *Cd36*^{-/-} mice is unknown. We considered the possibility that the lipid droplets in *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes were simply too small to be visualized by NanoSIMS (where the lateral resolution is ~40–50 nm). By electron microscopy, the average area of cytosolic lipid droplets in *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes was lower than in wild-type cardiomyocytes (Figure S7), but this difference was small, probably too small to explain the paucity of lipid droplets in the NanoSIMS images of *Cd36*^{-/-} cardiomyocytes.

DISCUSSION

We used NanoSIMS imaging along with electron microscopy to visualize intravascular TRL processing and the fate of TRL-derived lipids in cardiomyocytes. We gleaned three insights from our studies. First, TRL processing and the uptake of TRL lipids by cardiomyocytes is extremely rapid—occurring within seconds after TRLs enter the bloodstream. Second, during active TRL processing, we observed no evidence that ^2H -TRL-derived lipids accumulate to higher levels in capillary endothelial cells than in adjacent cardiomyocytes. Third, we found no evidence that CD36 deficiency substantially impedes entry of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes.

For decades, the lipid metabolism field has recognized that the half-life of TRLs is measured in minutes (Havel and Kane, 2001), but we were nevertheless quite surprised by how rapidly

TRL-derived lipids traverse capillary endothelial cells and enter cardiomyocytes. NanoSIMS imaging showed that ^2H -TRL-derived lipids appear in cardiomyocytes within seconds (preferentially in cytosolic lipid droplets but also in mitochondria). Other features of the NanoSIMS images were consistent with extremely rapid movement of fatty acids into and across tissues. For example, we never observed more ^2H enrichment in capillary endothelial cells than in cardiomyocytes, nor did we observe greater ^2H enrichment in regions of cardiomyocytes adjacent to capillaries. Also, ^2H rapidly entered arteriolar smooth muscle cells, despite the fact that TRL processing in arterioles is almost certainly negligible, owing to an absence of GPIHBP1 and LPL (Davies et al., 2010). All of these observations appear to be consistent with the proposal that fatty acids diffuse rapidly across cells (Guo et al., 2006; Hamilton et al., 2001; Xu et al., 2013) or alternatively that there is a yet-to-be-identified abundant high-capacity transport system for fatty acid movement across endothelial cells. Before reaching cardiomyocytes, the products of lipolysis obviously must traverse subendothelial spaces. In imidazole-stained heart tissue, we observed darkly-staining structures in the subendothelial spaces, and those structures contained ^2H -labeled lipids from ^2H -TRL processing.

An attractive feature of NanoSIMS analysis is that the secondary ion data are available for quantitative analyses, pixel by pixel, with $>260,000$ pixels/image. In our studies, quantitative analyses revealed that an LPL inhibitor drug or a deficiency of GPIHBP1 is accompanied by reduced uptake of ^2H -TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes. Quantitative analyses also allowed us to quantify the distribution of ^2H -TRL-derived lipids within cardiomyocytes. 30 sec or 2 min after an injection of ^2H -TRLs, $\sim 50\%$ of the ^2H in cardiomyocytes was located in cytosolic lipid droplets—4–6-fold more than in mitochondria. After 30 min, ^2H enrichment was ~ 12 -fold greater in lipid droplets than in mitochondria, likely reflecting intervening oxidation of ^2H -labeled fatty acids in mitochondria. We also examined ^{13}C distribution in cardiomyocytes one day after administering [^{13}C]fatty acids by gavage. Only $\sim 5\%$ of the ^{13}C in cardiomyocytes was located in cytosolic lipid droplets, likely reflecting the use of fatty acids for membrane phospholipids and the use of fatty acid metabolites in the synthesis of nonessential amino acids.

CD36 is expressed at high levels in capillary endothelial cells (Greenwalt et al., 1995) and is often assumed to play a role in uptake of fatty acids by cells and tissues (Tanaka et al., 1997; Yang et al., 2007). When radioiodinated fatty acid derivatives are injected intravenously into humans, they are taken up by the heart. Uptake of those radiopharmaceuticals by the heart is reduced in subjects with CD36 deficiency (Hwang et al., 1998; Tanaka et al., 1997). Also, when *Cd36*^{-/-} mice are fasted, fatty acids accumulate in the plasma and triglyceride accumulation in the heart is reduced (Bharadwaj et al., 2010). These observations suggest that CD36 could be important for the uptake of free fatty acids in the plasma compartment, but it is unclear whether CD36 deficiency influences uptake of TRL-derived nutrients by cardiomyocytes. Bharadwaj *et al.* (Bharadwaj et al., 2010) loaded human VLDL with [^{14}C]triglycerides *in vitro* and then injected the TRLs into wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} mice; they found reduced amounts of ^{14}C in heart tissue extracts from *Cd36*^{-/-} mice. On the other hand, *Cd36* deficiency appeared to have little effect on the uptake of lipids from TRLs that had been endogenously labeled with ^{14}C (^{14}C -TRLs prepared in *Lpl*-deficient mice). In the current study, we used NanoSIMS to assess the effect of *Cd36* deficiency on the fate of ^2H -

TRL-derived lipids in the heart. After 1.5 or 2 min, ^2H entry into wild-type and $Cd36^{-/-}$ cardiomyocytes was nearly identical, indicating that CD36 deficiency has little effect on the movement of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes. [This observation seems consistent with an absence of impaired cardiac performance in $Cd36^{-/-}$ mice (Koonen et al., 2007).] However, we observed reduced entry of ^2H into cardiomyocyte lipid droplets in $Cd36^{-/-}$ mice. The cytosolic lipid droplets were slightly smaller in $Cd36^{-/-}$ mice, but we are skeptical that their smaller size prevented us from detecting them by NanoSIMS. $Cd36$ deficiency has complex effects on cardiomyocytes, including effects on insulin and calcium signaling, fatty acyl-CoA levels, and fatty acid esterification (Abumrad and Goldberg, 2016; Bharadwaj et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2013), and those effects presumably could contribute, directly or indirectly, to changes in the distribution of ^2H -TRL-derived lipids within cardiomyocytes.

NanoSIMS analyses are particularly helpful when, as in the current study, there are anatomical questions to address (*i.e.*, an interest in defining the distribution of an isotope in different cell types or different subcellular compartments). NanoSIMS imaging will continue to be a useful approach in sorting out factors that regulate lipolysis and lipid movement within tissues. In the past, others have concluded, based largely on perturbations of lipid stores in knockout mice, that vascular endothelial growth factor-B (VEGF-B) is crucial for regulating fatty acid transport across capillary endothelial cells (Hagberg et al., 2010). Fatty acid binding proteins and fatty acyl-CoA synthetases have also been proposed to play a role in the delivery of lipids to myocytes (Hagberg et al., 2013; Hagberg et al., 2010). Recently, a valine metabolite, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate, was proposed to regulate fatty acid transport across endothelial cells (Jang et al., 2016), based largely on *in vitro* models and measurements of lipid stores in tissues. NanoSIMS imaging could be useful for defining the impact of both specific genes and small molecules in lipid movement into and across capillaries. The utility of NanoSIMS imaging for metabolism research will extend well beyond TRL metabolism. For example, NanoSIMS could simultaneously quantify the uptake and subcellular distribution of ^2H -labeled glucose (or 2-deoxyglucose), ^{15}N -labeled glutamine, and ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids in solid tumors, making it possible to define metabolic heterogeneity in tumor cells, stromal cells, and endothelial cells.

There are certain limitations to our study. One is that the number of mice that we studied was low, and the number of images generated per mouse was rather limited. NanoSIMS imaging is very expensive, slow, and technically demanding. In a 24-h period, only 8–12 images could be obtained from one very small region of the heart. While each image is generated from an extraordinary amount of quantitative data on secondary ions, it is simply not feasible to image many mice per group, many different lines of mice, or many different tissues. That is why we believe that NanoSIMS is most suitable for addressing an anatomical issue and less suitable when scientific questions can be addressed by measuring tritium-labeled lipids in tissue extracts. Another limitation of our study is that it is conceivable that there was some fatty acid diffusion within tissues during the PBS perfusion (prior to perfusion-fixation with carbodiimide and glutaraldehyde) or some fatty acid diffusion after fixation during the preparation of tissues for NanoSIMS imaging. However, this type of lipid diffusion could not explain the rapid entry of deuterium into neutral lipids of cytosolic lipid droplets of cardiomyocytes. Our NanoSIMS images uncovered deuterium-labeled lipids in

the subendothelial spaces of the heart, but it is likely that the patchy localization of those lipids was due to imidazole and osmium binding. Also, even though the deuterium-enriched, imidazole-staining patches were primarily located around small capillaries, we cannot fully exclude the possibility that some of the deuterium-labeled lipids moved into the subendothelial spaces during tissue processing. Finally, we would point out that the ^{13}C NanoSIMS images (obtained at least 22 h after the administration of ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids) should not be interpreted as exclusively showing lipid distribution, given that some of the ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids were metabolized and used to generate amino acid substrates for protein synthesis.

STAR★METHODS

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

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EXPERIMENTAL MODEL DETAILS

Mice—*Cd36*-deficient mice (*Cd36*^{-/-}) (Febbraio et al., 1999) and wild-type mice were obtained from The Jackson Laboratory (strain C57BL/6). *Gpihbp1*-deficient mice (*Gpihbp1*^{-/-}) (strain C57BL/6) have been described previously (Beigneux et al., 2007). Mice were housed in a barrier facility with a 12-h light-dark cycle and unless otherwise noted were fed a standard chow diet. All studies were approved by UCLA's Animal Research Committee.

METHOD DETAILS

^2H -labeled Triglyceride-rich Lipoproteins—*Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice (6–12-months-old) were placed on a fat-free (62% sucrose) diet (Envigo). After 10 days, 67 μl of ^2H -labeled mixed fatty acids (^2H -FA; 1.0 mg/ μl ; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) and 13 μl sunflower oil were administered by gastric gavage every 12 h for 4.5 days. The deuterated mixed fatty acids from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories contain 35–55% palmitic acid, 10–15% palmitoleic acid, 20–35% oleic acid, and 10–20% linoleic acid. This acyl chain distribution is similar to the composition of the acyl chains in the lipids of mouse plasma lipoproteins (~20% palmitic acid, ~3% palmitoleic acid, 18% oleic acid, and 27% linoleic acid) (Yao G., 2000). Four hours after the last dose, blood was withdrawn from the inferior vena cava into a syringe containing EDTA. The plasma was adjusted to a density of 1.02 g/ml and spun at $539,511 \times g$ in a Beckman TLA-100.3 rotor for 2 h at 10°C. The ^2H -TRLs were collected, added to 2.5 ml of a 1.02 g/ml density solution, and spun again at $539,511 \times g$ at 10°C for 2 h. ^2H -TRLs were collected and stored at 4°C and used promptly. The size of TRLs isolated from *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice is 50–150 nm (Weinstein et al., 2010). The percentages of fatty acyl chains in ^2H -TRLs that were deuterated was determined by quantitative proteomics. ^2H -TRLs in suspension (10 μl) were subjected to Bligh-Dyer extraction (Bligh and Dyer, 1959). Extracted lipid was then subjected to either base hydrolysis or thin-layer chromatography using silica gel G as solid phase and petroleum ether/ethyl ether/acetic acid (80/20/1, v/v/v) to resolve total phospholipid (origin) from triglyceride ($R_f = 0.6$). Silica associated with

phospholipid and triglyceride from thin-layer chromatography was subsequently extracted and subjected to base hydrolysis. Base hydrolysis products (free fatty acids) were then converted to pentafluorobenzyl esters and quantified by gas chromatography in negative-ion chemical ionization mode with methane (Shao and Ford, 2014; Quehenberger et al., 2010).

Administration of [¹³C]Fatty Acids and ²H-TRLs to Mice—Wild-type and *Cd36*^{-/-} mice were given 80 μl of [¹³C]fatty acids (about 1 mg/μl; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) by gastric gavage. In other experiments, mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine and given an intravenous injection of 200 μl of ²H-TRLs (40 μg triglycerides) through the inferior vena cava (for the 30-sec, 1.5-min, and 2-min time points) or the tail vein (for the 30-min time point). After the injection of ²H-TRLs, the diaphragm was cut to stop the heart at the indicated time points. Immediately thereafter, the mice were perfused with 10 ml of ice-cold PBS at 3 ml/min (5 ml through the right ventricle and 5 ml through the left ventricle). Next, mice were perfusion-fixed through the left ventricle with ice-cold 4% *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N'*-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (“carbodiimide;” Sigma-Aldrich) (mass/vol) and 0.4% glutaraldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences) (vol/vol) in a 0.1 M phosphate buffer. The apex of the left ventricle was collected and cut into 1-mm³ pieces. The tissue was then placed in a 0.1 M phosphate buffer containing 4% carbodiimide and 2.5% glutaraldehyde overnight at 4°C.

Isolated Mouse Heart Experiments—Wild-type and *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice were euthanized and perfused with 10 ml of Tyrode’s buffer [136 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 0.33 mM NaH₂PO₄, 1 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 10 mM glucose] containing 1 mM CaCl₂ (5 ml through the right ventricle and 5 ml through the left ventricle). The hearts were removed, cannulated, and submerged in PBS (with Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺). Next, hearts were perfused with 3 ml of Tyrode’s buffer containing 1 mM CaCl₂, 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA), and either 1 mM tetrahydrolipistatin (THL) or vehicle (DMSO) alone. Hearts were perfused with 1 ml of Tyrode’s buffer containing 1 mM CaCl₂, 1% BSA, and ²H-TRLs (45 μg of triglyceride) and incubated for 5 min at room temperature. The hearts were then perfused with 3 ml of PBS (without Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺) to remove unbound ²H-TRLs. Hearts were then perfusion-fixed with 3 ml of ice-cold 4% carbodiimide and 0.4% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer. The apex of the left ventricle was collected, cut into 1-mm³ pieces, and placed in 4% carbodiimide and 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer overnight at 4°C.

Preparation of Tissue Sections for Electron Microscopy and NanoSIMS

Imaging—After fixation, 1-mm³ pieces of heart tissue were rinsed three times in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer, pH 7.4 (10 min each) and placed in 1% OsO₄ (Electron Microscopy Sciences) at room temperature for 45 min. The samples were then rinsed three times with distilled water (10 min each) and stained with 2% uranyl acetate (SPI-Chem) at 4°C overnight. On the following day, the samples were processed and embedded in Spurr’s resin as described previously (Goulbourne et al., 2014). For imidazole staining, tissue samples were rinsed twice with 0.1 M sodium cacodylate (10 min each) and twice with 0.2 M imidazole (Sigma) (15 min each) after fixation. The samples were then post-fixed with 2% OsO₄ in 0.1 M imidazole for 40 min at room temperature. The samples were washed,

stained with uranyl acetate, processed, and embedded in Spurr's resin (Goulbourne et al., 2014).

NanoSIMS and Backscattered Electron (BSE) Imaging—Resin-embedded tissues were trimmed and sectioned (500-nm thick) and placed on silicon wafers. The sections were coated with 5 nm of platinum and analyzed with NanoSIMS 50L or NanoSIMS 50 instruments (CAMECA). A 16-KeV $^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ beam was used to bombard the sample, and secondary electrons (SEs) and secondary ions ($^1\text{H}^-$, $^2\text{H}^-$, $^{12}\text{C}^-$, $^{13}\text{C}^-$, $^{16}\text{O}^-$, $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$, $^{31}\text{P}^-$) (not all secondary ions were analyzed simultaneously) were collected. A $40 \times 40\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ region of the section was presputtered with a $\sim 1.2\text{-nA}$ beam current (primary aperture D1=1) for ~ 3 min to remove the platinum coating and implant $^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ to achieve a steady state of secondary ion release. For low-magnification images, a $\sim 30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ region was imaged with a $\sim 1.6\text{-pA}$ beam current (primary aperture D1=2) and a dwell time of 10 ms/pixel per frame. Both 256×256 - and 512×512 -pixel images were obtained. To obtain high-magnification images, a $\sim 10 \times 10\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ region was imaged with a $\sim 0.3\text{-pA}$ – 0.65-pA beam current (primary aperture D1=3) and a dwell time of 20 ms/pixel per frame. Multiple frames and 512×512 -pixel images were also obtained. The best lateral resolution for NanoSIMS images is approximately 40 nm. The Cs^+ beam gradually vaporizes tissues, releasing secondary ions that are collected by the NanoSIMS instrument. The depth of tissue that is vaporized is only a few nm (less than the thickness of a lipid bilayer). Images were adjusted for contrast with the OpenMIMS plugin in ImageJ. For image quantification, $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ ions and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios in regions-of-interest were measured with the OpenMIMS plugin and processed by GraphPad Prism 7.0.

For correlative NanoSIMS and backscattered electron (BSE) imaging, sections mounted on silicon wafers were initially examined with an FEI Verios scanning electron microscope. BSE images were recorded with a 1–2-KeV incident beam with a current of $\sim 100\text{-pA}$ (Jiang et al., 2014a; Jiang et al., 2014b). The sections were then transferred to the NanoSIMS instrument, and the same regions were analyzed by NanoSIMS (Jiang et al., 2014a; Jiang et al., 2014b).

Transmission Electron Microscopy—Resin-embedded tissues were trimmed and sectioned to 65 nm with a Leica UC6 ultramicrotome. Sections were picked up on 100-mesh copper grids that were coated sequentially with formvar and carbon and then glow-discharged. The sections on grids were then stained with Reynold's lead citrate for 9 min and imaged at 200 kV with an FEI T20 iCorr microscope equipped with an Eagle 2K CCD camera. To visualize lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes, $Cd36^{+/+}$ and $Cd36^{-/-}$ mice were fasted for 16 h or fed an *ad libitum* diet. Mice were sacrificed, perfused with 10 ml of PBS, and then perfusion-fixed with 5 ml of 2% glutaraldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences) (vol/vol), 3.7% paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences) (vol/vol), and 2.1% sucrose in 0.1 M phosphate buffer. The left ventricular apex was collected and cut into 1-mm^3 pieces. The tissue pieces were then incubated in the same fixation buffer for 2 h at room temperature. Next, the tissue was rinsed twice in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate (10 min each) and twice in 0.2 M imidazole (Sigma) (15 min each). The samples were then post-fixed with 2% OsO_4 and 0.1 M imidazole for 40 min at room temperature. The samples were

then washed, stained with uranyl acetate, processed, and embedded in Spurr's resin (Goulbourne et al., 2014).

Transmission Electron Microscopy of Negatively Stained Lipoproteins—

Staining was carried out under 100% humidity. 5 μ l aliquots of TRLs were applied to a glow-discharged carbon-coated copper grid for 1 min; excess liquid was removed with a Whatman filter paper. Next, 5 μ l of 2% uranyl acetate was added and blotted off; another 5 μ l of 2% uranyl acetate was added for 1 min and again blotted off. The grids were allowed to air-dry before being imaged with an FEI T20 transmission electron microscope at 200 kV equipped with an Eagle 2K CCD camera.

Immunohistochemistry—Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and perfused with PBS followed by 3% paraformaldehyde. The heart was harvested and embedded in OCT medium on dry ice. Tissue sections (7- μ m) were fixed with 3% paraformaldehyde at room temperature for 15 min, permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 for 5 min, and blocked at room temperature with 5% donkey serum and 0.2% BSA in PBS/Mg/Ca. Tissues were incubated overnight at 4°C with a rabbit polyclonal antibody against mouse CD36 (Abcam; 5 μ g/ml), followed by a 45-min incubation at room temperature with Alexa647-conjugated anti-GPIHBP1 antibody 11A12 [2 μ g/ml; (Beigneux et al., 2009)] and Alexa568-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit IgG (ThermoFisher Scientific; 1:200). After washing, the tissues were fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde for 5 min and stained with DAPI to visualize DNA. Images were recorded with an Axiovert 200M microscope and processed with Zen 2010 software (all from Zeiss). Within each experiment, the exposure conditions were identical.

Statistics—Differences were assessed by a Student's *t* test or by ANOVA with multiple comparisons (GraphPad Prism software).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Intravascular lipolysis can be visualized by NanoSIMS.
- Lipoprotein-derived lipids enter cardiomyocytes within seconds.
- Lipoprotein-derived lipids do not accumulate in endothelial cells.
- CD36 deficiency does not prevent entry of TRL-derived lipids into cardiomyocytes.

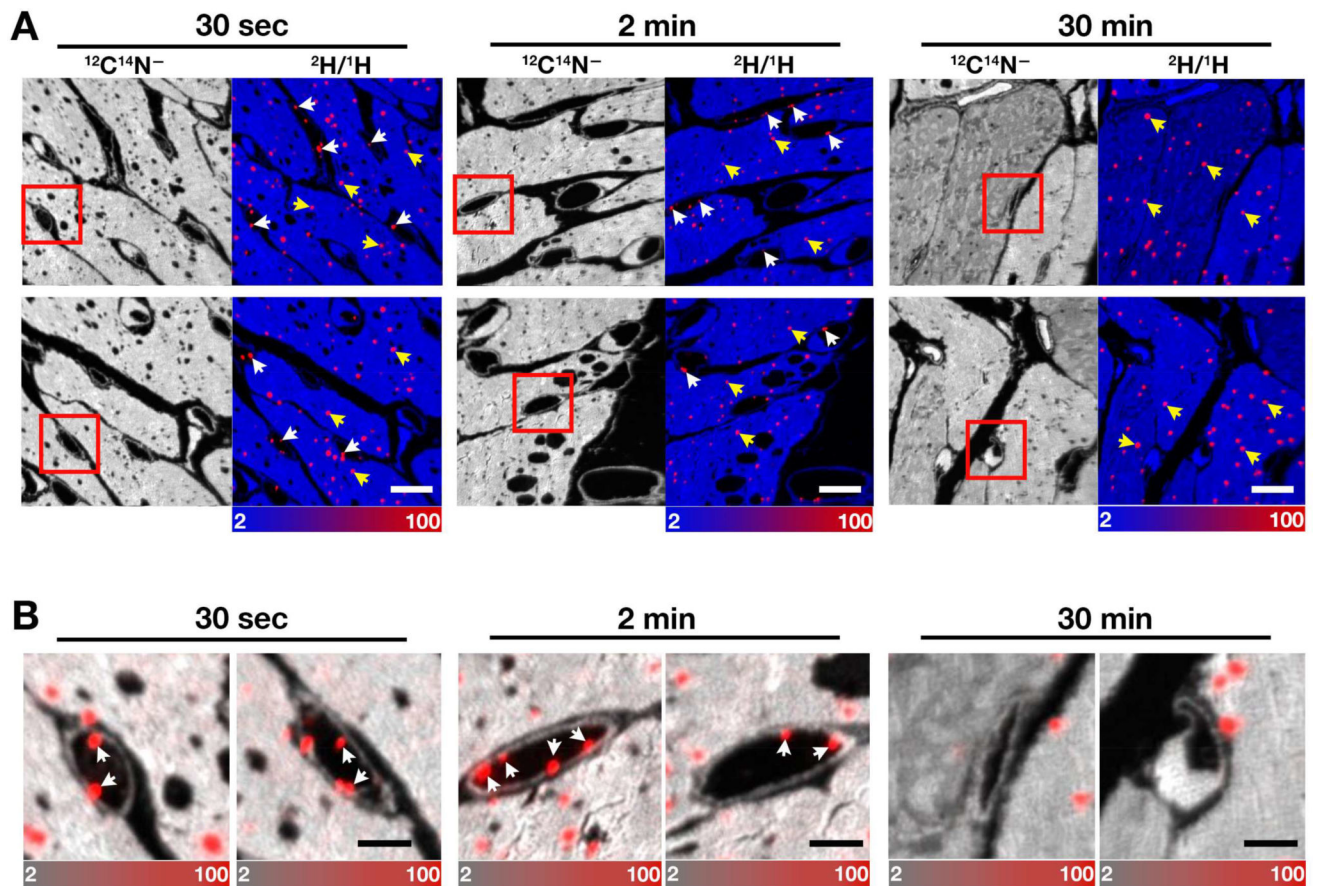


Figure 1. NanoSIMS Images of Triglyceride-rich Lipoproteins (TRLs) Along Heart Capillary Endothelial Cells

Four-month-old wild-type female mice were fasted for 4 h and then injected with 200 μ l of ^2H -TRLs containing 40 μ g triglycerides (produced in *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice after administering [^2H]fatty acids by gavage). After 30 sec, 2 min, or 30 min, mice were euthanized and perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde; sections were prepared for NanoSIMS imaging. Three mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point.

(A) $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ NanoSIMS images were generated to visualize tissue morphology; composite $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ (blue) and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio (red) images revealed ^2H -TRLs that had margined along capillary endothelial cells (white arrows) and ^2H -enriched cytosolic lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes (yellow arrows). The scale shows the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio multiplied by 10,000. The ^2H natural abundance, relative to ^1H , is 0.000156. Scale bar, 6 μm .

(B) The boxed areas in panel A images are shown at higher magnification to reveal capillary endothelial cells. Composite $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ (gray) and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio (red) images show margined lipoproteins (arrows) in the capillary lumen and ^2H -enriched cytosolic lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes. Scale bar, 2 μm . See also Figure S1.

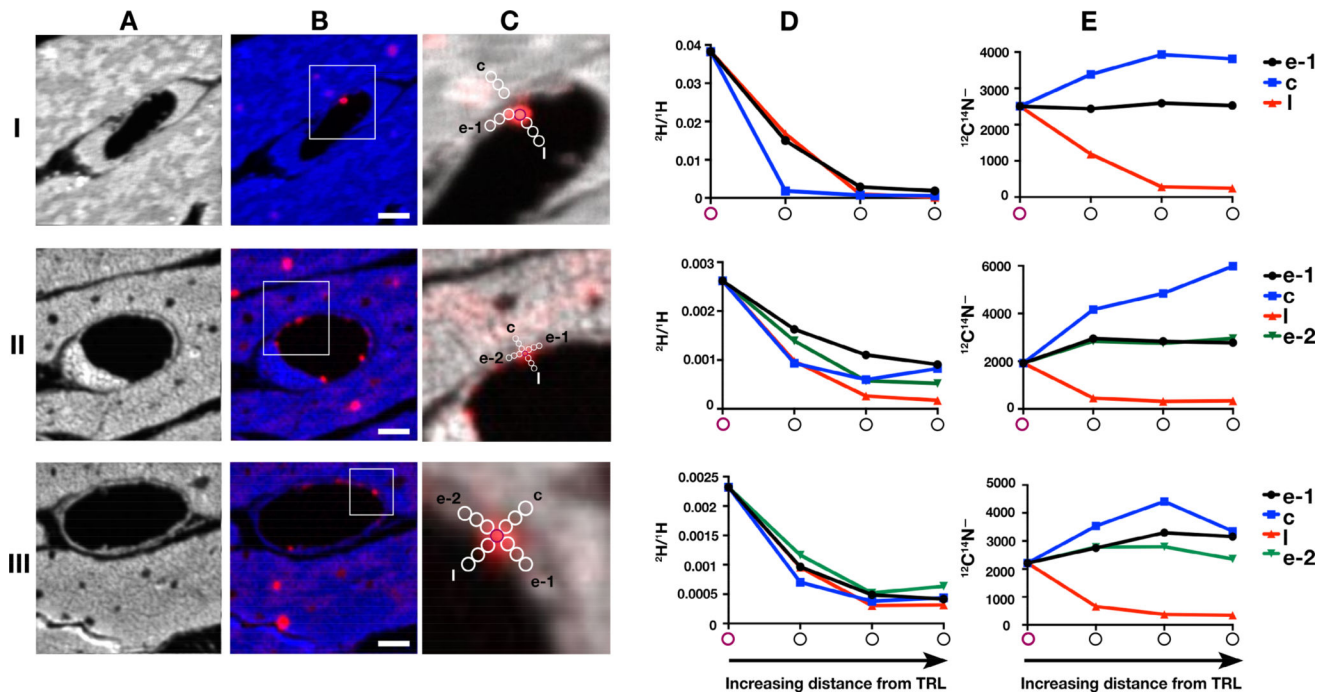


Figure 2. Movement of Lipids from ^2H -TRLs to Surrounding Cardiomyocytes

Four-month-old female wild-type mice were fasted for 4 h and then given an intravenous injection of 200 μl of ^2H -TRLs containing 40 μg triglycerides. After 30 sec or 2 min, mice were euthanized and perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde; tissue sections were prepared for NanoSIMS. Images from three regions (I, II, III) of the left ventricular apex were recorded. Two mice were used in this experiment.

(A) $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ NanoSIMS images to show tissue morphology. Section I was prepared from tissue that had been stained with imidazole.

(B and C) Composite $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ (blue in B and grey in C) and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio (red) images were generated to visualize ^2H -enriched TRLs in the capillary lumen and ^2H -enriched lipid droplets within cardiomyocytes. The boxed area of the composite image is shown at higher magnification in panel C. $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ ions and the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio were measured in a TRL particle (purple circle) along the luminal surface of a capillary endothelial cells and in regions (white circles) extending into the endothelial cell (e-1, e-2), an adjacent cardiomyocyte (c), or into the capillary lumen (l). Scale bar, 2 μm .

(D) Graph showing a progressive decrease in the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio—starting with the TRL particle in the capillary lumen and extending into the endothelial cell, the adjacent cardiomyocyte, and the capillary lumen.

(E) Graph showing $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ ions in the TRL particle and in regions extending into the endothelial cell, the cardiomyocyte, and the capillary lumen.

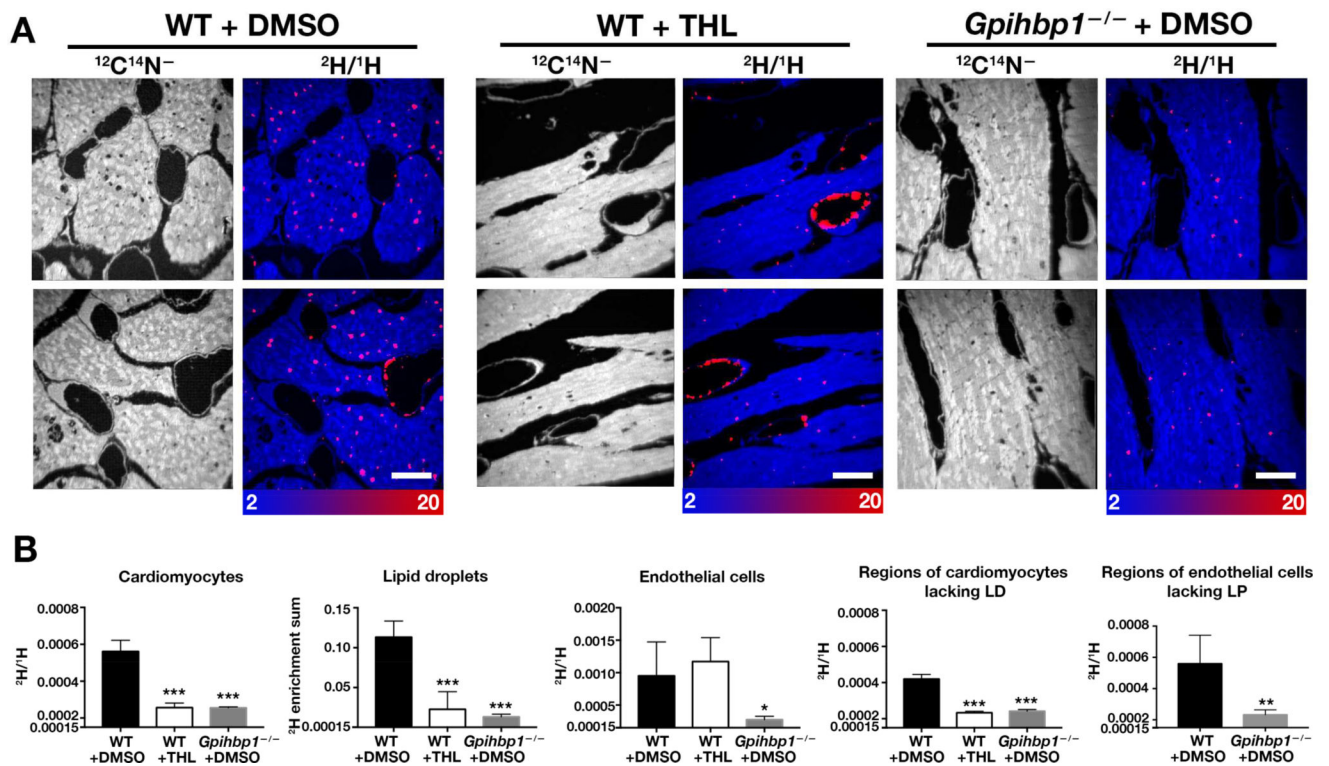


Figure 3. The ²H-enriched Lipids That Enter Cardiomyocytes Are Derived from LPL-mediated Intravascular Lipolysis, as Judged by Studies in Isolated, Perfused Hearts

Hearts from 4-month-old female wild-type or *Gpihbp1*^{-/-} mice were isolated and cannulated. Beating hearts were perfused with Tyrode's buffer containing CaCl₂ and either an LPL inhibitor (1 mM tetrahydrolipistatin) or vehicle (DMSO) alone. Next, hearts were perfused with ²H-TRLs. After 5 min, the hearts were perfused with PBS (to remove non-margined TRLs) and then perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde. Sections of hearts were prepared for NanoSIMS. Three mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point.

(A) ¹²C¹⁴N⁻ images were created to visualize morphology (*left panels*); composite ¹²C¹⁴N⁻ (*blue*) and ²H/¹H ratio (*red*) images (*right panels*) were used to visualize ²H-TRLs in capillaries and ²H-enriched lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes. The scale shows the ²H/¹H ratio multiplied by 10,000. Scale bar, 2 μm.

(B) Bar graphs show ²H/¹H ratios in cardiomyocytes; the sum of ²H/¹H ratios in cytosolic lipid droplets; ²H/¹H ratios in capillary endothelial cells; ²H/¹H ratios in regions of cardiomyocytes devoid of lipid droplets (LD); and ²H/¹H ratios in regions of endothelial cells devoid of margined lipoproteins (LP). In each graph, the y axis starts at 0.00015 (natural abundance of ²H). **p* < 0.05; ***p* < 0.01; ****p* < 0.0005. Each graph represent quantification of four 30 × 30-μm images. Data are presented as mean ± SD and were analyzed with one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons.

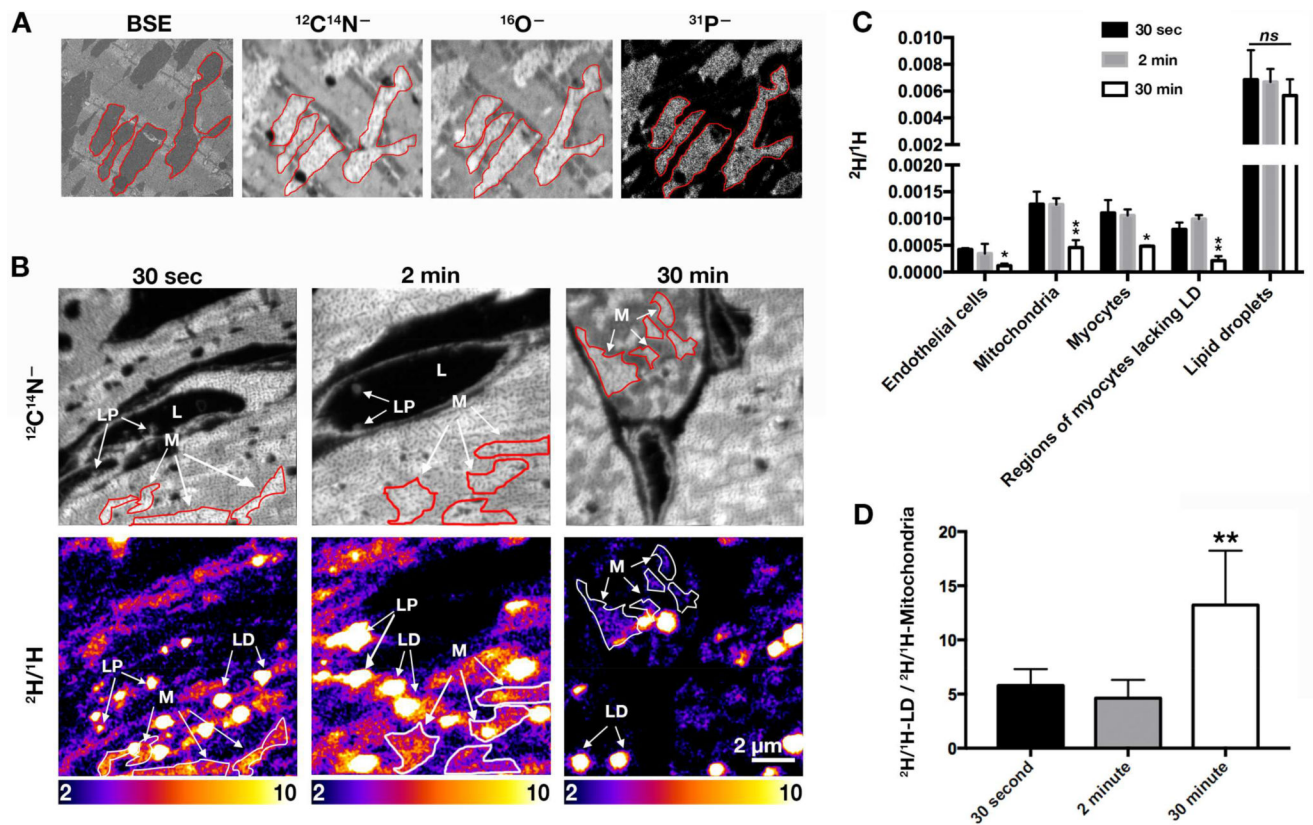


Figure 4. NanoSIMS Imaging to Visualize Lipids Released from ^2H -enriched TRLs

Three-month-old female wild-type mice were fasted for 4 h and then given an intravenous injection of 200 μl of ^2H -TRLs (40 μg triglycerides). After 30 sec, 2 min, or 30 min, the mice were euthanized and perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde. Tissue sections were prepared for NanoSIMS and backscattered electron (BSE) imaging. Three mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point.

(A) NanoSIMS images ($^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$, $^{16}\text{O}^-$, $^{31}\text{P}^-$) from tissue not stained with imidazole. A BSE image of the same region was useful for morphology. Several mitochondria are outlined in red.

(B) NanoSIMS images of heart sections 30 sec, 2 min, or 30 min after the injection of ^2H -TRLs. $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images to visualize cell and tissue morphology (top panels); $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio images (bottom panels) to visualize the fate of lipids released from ^2H -TRLs. LP, lipoproteins; L, capillary lumen; M, mitochondria; LD, lipid droplets. The scale shows the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio multiplied by 10,000.

(C) Bar graph showing the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio in endothelial cells, mitochondria, myocytes, regions of myocytes lacking lipid droplets (LD), and lipid droplets at different time points. Three $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ images (each containing a minimum of 2–3 cardiomyocytes) were analyzed at each time point (endothelial cells, $n = 8\text{--}13$; mitochondria, $n = 24\text{--}73$; cardiomyocytes, $n = 7\text{--}18$; regions of myocytes lacking lipid droplets, $n = 40$; lipid droplets, $n = 40\text{--}90$). Data are presented as mean \pm SD. Differences were assessed with one-way ANOVA. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; ns, nonsignificant.

(D) Bar graph depicting $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ in lipid droplets divided by $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ in mitochondria at each time point (mean \pm SD). Each graph represent data from two $10 \times 10\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ images and three $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ images. Data are presented as mean \pm SD and were analyzed with one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons. $**p < 0.01$. See also Figure S2.

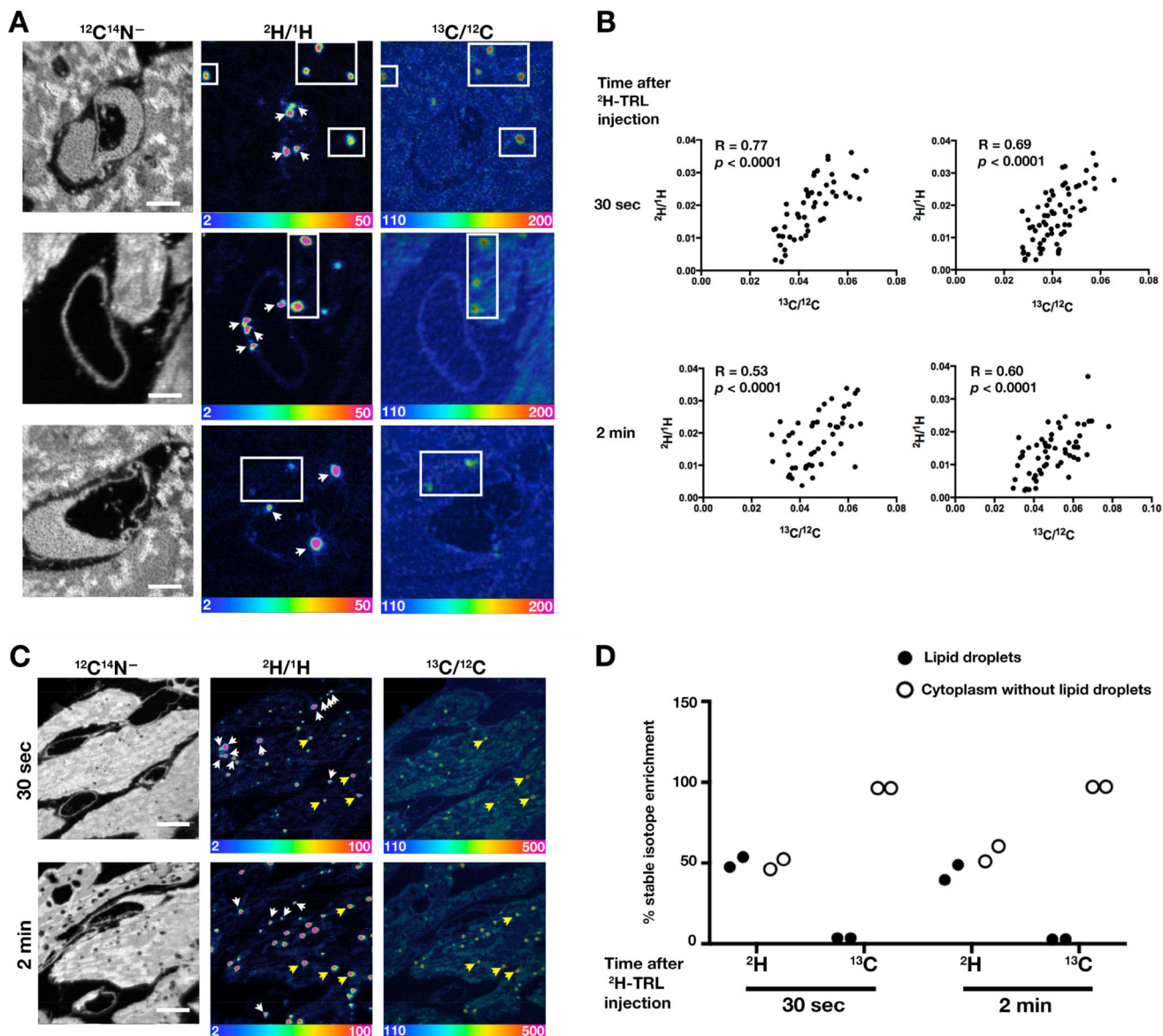


Figure 5. NanoSIMS Images of Heart Tissue from Mice That Had Been Given [^{13}C]Fatty Acids by Gastric Gavage and on the Following Day an Intravenous Injection of ^2H -TRLs

[^{13}C]Fatty acids were administered to 3–4-month-old female wild-type mice by gastric gavage (two 80-mg doses 12 h apart). Twenty-two h after the second dose, mice were fasted for 4 h and then injected with 200 μl of ^2H -TRLs containing 40 μg triglycerides. Thirty sec or 2 min after the injection, the mice were euthanized and perfusion-fixed with carbodiimide/glutaraldehyde; sections of heart were prepared for NanoSIMS imaging. Two mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point.

(A) NanoSIMS images of heart tissues 30 sec after the injection of ^2H -TRLs. $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images were useful for morphology; $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio images revealed marginated ^2H -TRLs in capillaries (*white* arrows) and ^2H -enriched lipids in lipid droplets of cardiomyocytes (boxed regions). $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio images show ^{13}C distribution. $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio scales are multiplied by 10,000. Scale bar, 2 μm .

(B) Scatter plots comparing $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios in the center of cardiomyocyte lipid droplets. Data were obtained from lipid droplets ($n = 50\text{--}60$) in two NanoSIMS images ($31 \times 31 \mu\text{m}$).

(C) NanoSIMS images showing ^2H enrichment in marginated lipoproteins in capillaries (*white* arrows) and cardiomyocyte lipid droplets (several indicated by *yellow* arrows). $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images show tissue morphology; $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio images show the distribution of ^2H 30 sec or 2 min after the injection of ^2H -TRLs; $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio images show ^{13}C distribution one day after giving ^{13}C -labeled fatty acids by gastric gavage. The same lipid droplets were identified in both $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ images. $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio scales are multiplied by 10,000. Scale bar, $5 \mu\text{m}$.

(D) Plot depicting the percentage of cellular ^2H and ^{13}C in cytosolic lipid droplets, relative to ^1H and ^{12}C , respectively (two $35 \times 35\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ NanoSIMS images analyzed at each time point). See also Figure S3.

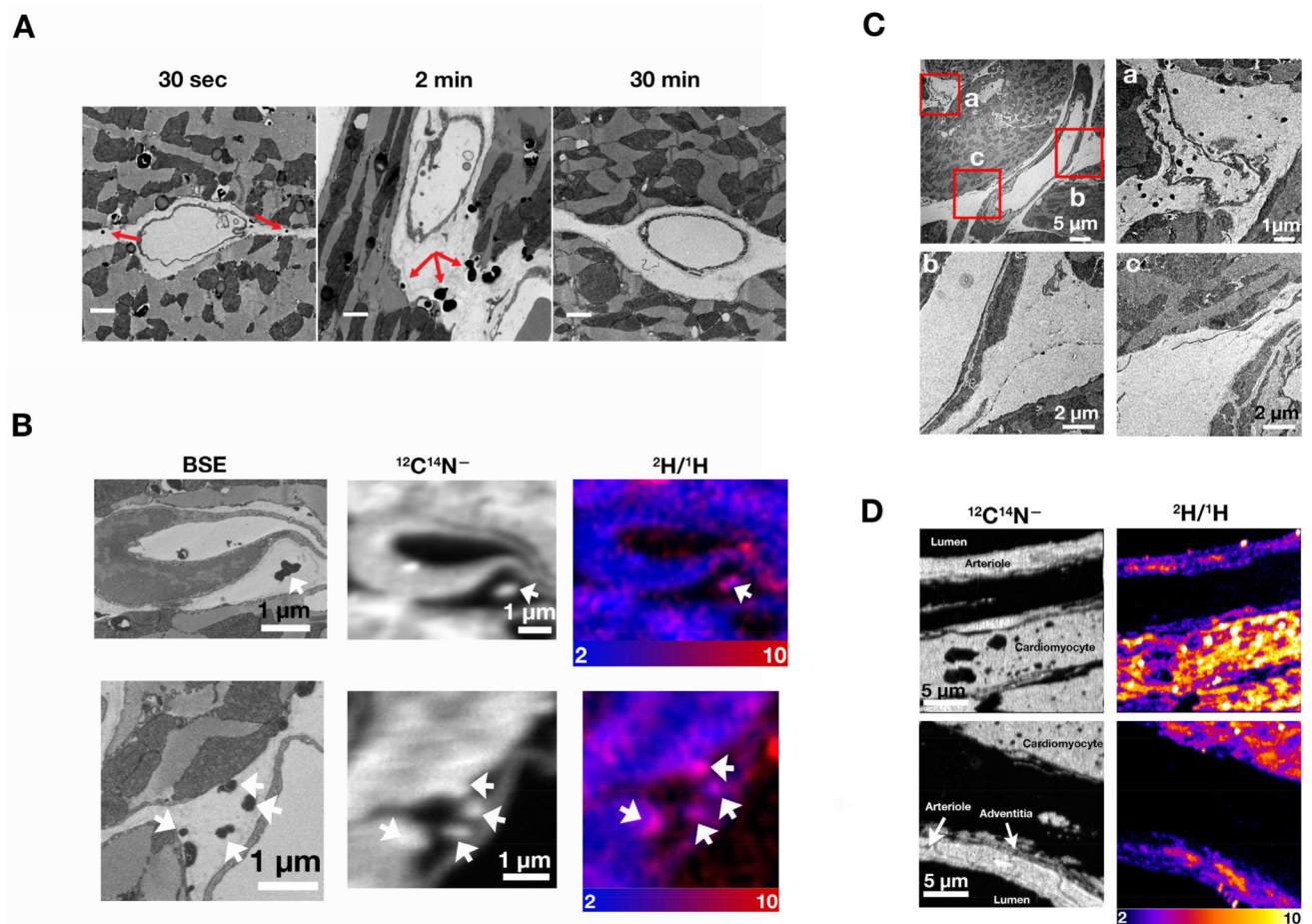


Figure 6. The Lipid Products of TRL Processing Can Be Identified in the Subendothelial Spaces (A) Transmission electron micrographs of the left ventricular apex from 4-month-old female wild-type mice 30 sec, 2 min, or 30 min after an intravenous injection of 200 μ l of TRLs. Irregular, darkly stained structures were observed in the subendothelial spaces (*red* arrows) in $\text{OsO}_4/\text{imidazole}$ -stained tissue; these structures were more common at the 30-sec and 2-min time points. Scale bar, 1 μ m. $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio scales were multiplied by 10,000. Three mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point. (B) Visualizing irregular, darkly stained structures in the subendothelial spaces by NanoSIMS and BSE imaging. A 4-month-old female wild-type mouse was fasted for 4 h, injected with 200 μ l of ^2H -TRLs and sacrificed 30 sec later. Heart tissue was stained with $\text{OsO}_4/\text{imidazole}$ and processed for NanoSIMS and BSE imaging. The irregular, darkly staining subendothelial structures in the BSE images (*left* panel) were enriched in nitrogen ($^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ ions, *middle* panels), reflecting the high nitrogen content of imidazole, and were enriched in ^2H judged by composite $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ (*blue*) and $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio (*red*) images (*right* panels). (C) The irregular, darkly staining subendothelial structures were found in the subendothelial spaces around capillaries (a) but not in the vicinity of a large blood vessel (b and c). (D) NanoSIMS images of an arteriole and an adjacent cardiomyocyte 2 min after an injection of ^2H -TRLs. ^2H enrichment was observed in mitochondria and cytosolic lipid

droplets of cardiomyocytes and in the mitochondria of arteriolar smooth muscle cells, but ^2H enrichment was not observed in the interstitial spaces around the arteriole. See also Figure S4.

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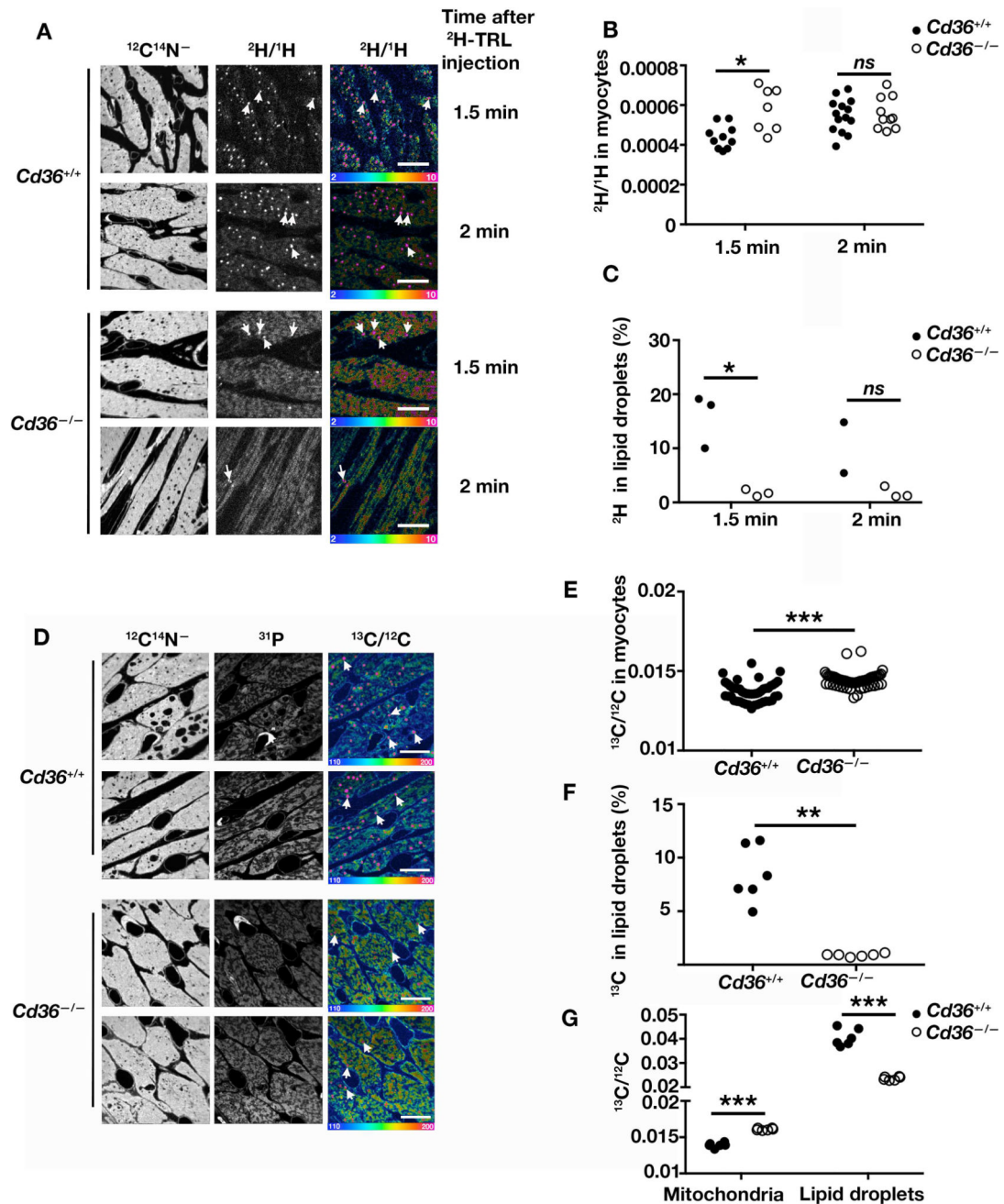


Figure 7. TRL-derived Lipids Move Across Endothelial Cells and Enter Cardiomyocytes in Both Wild-type and *Cd36*-deficient Mice

NanoSIMS analyses of $^2\text{H}^-$ ions in the heart after administering an intravenous injection of 200 μl of ^2H -TRLs to 4-month-old female wild-type (*Cd36*^{+/+}) and *Cd36*^{-/-} mice. 1.5 or 2 min after the injection, hearts were harvested and sections were prepared for NanoSIMS. Differences in quantitative NanoSIMS data were analyzed with a Student's *t* test with Welch's correction. Four mice were used in this experiment, one for each time point. (A) $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ images (*left*) were used to define tissue morphology; the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratio images (*middle*) and the $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ hue saturation images (*right*) show sites of ^2H enrichment. White

arrows indicate examples of cytosolic lipid droplets. Ratio scales were multiplied by 10,000. Scale bar, 10 μm .

(B) $^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ ratios in cardiomyocytes of *Cd36^{+/+}* and *Cd36^{-/-}* mice. Each data point represents one cardiomyocyte in two or three $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ NanoSIMS images. * $p < 0.05$; ns, nonsignificant.

(C) ^2H in cytosolic lipid droplets as a percentage of total ^2H in cardiomyocytes. Graphs were generated by quantifying two or three $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ NanoSIMS images for each time point. NanoSIMS analyses of $^{13}\text{C}^-$ ions in the heart after feeding [^{13}C]fatty acids by gavage (three 80-mg doses 12 h apart). 24 h after the last dose, mice were fasted for 4 h, and hearts were harvested and prepared for NanoSIMS.

(D) $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ NanoSIMS images were used to visualize morphology; ^{31}P images were used to visualize mitochondria; $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio images show sites of ^{13}C enrichment. Arrows indicate examples of cytosolic lipid droplets. Ratio scales were multiplied by 10,000. Scale bar, 10 μm . * $p < 0.05$; ns, nonsignificant.

(E) $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio in cardiomyocytes of *Cd36^{+/+}* and *Cd36^{-/-}* mice. Each data point represents one cardiomyocyte in six $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ NanoSIMS images. *** $p < 0.0005$.

(F) ^{13}C enrichment in cardiomyocyte lipid droplets as a percentage of total ^{13}C in cardiomyocytes. Graphs were generated by quantifying six $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ images for each sample. ** $p < 0.01$. See also Figure S5, S6, and S7.

(G) $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio in mitochondria and lipid droplets of *Cd36^{+/+}* and *Cd36^{-/-}* mice. Six $30 \times 30\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ NanoSIMS images were analyzed. Each data point shows the mean $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio in the mitochondria and lipid droplets in each image (>50 mitochondria and 5–50 lipid droplets were analyzed per image). *** $p < 0.0005$.