

THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IN OBESITY

ENERGY IN > ENERGY OUT

Table 1. Protocol for Long-Term Overfeeding of Monozygotic Twins

- A. Twelve pairs of young adult male identical twins were sequestered.
- B. Baseline daily caloric intake at a stable body weight was established during a 14 day observation period.
- C. During the next 100 days each subject consumed 1,000 kcal more than his baseline intake for 6 days a week.
- D. The total excess amount each subject consumed was 84,000 kcal.

Table 2. Effect of 100 Days of Overfeeding in 12 Pairs of Male Monozygotic Twins

Averages*	
Gain in body weight	8.1 ± 2.4 kg (SD)
Range	4.3 to 13.3 kg
Ratio of fat mass to fat free mass	0.13 increased to 0.22
Estimated change in subcutaneous fat	76 increased to 129 mm
*Statistical significance P < 0.00	1 for all above values
Gain in fat mass	5.4 kg or 52, 220 kcal
Gain in fat free mass	2.7 kg or 2,754 kcal

LEPTIN - FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY

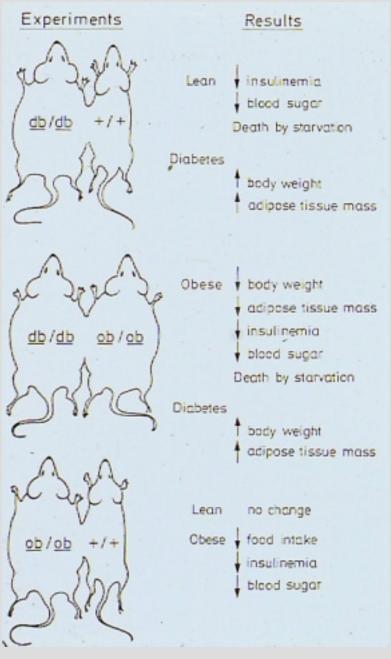
1953 - Kennedy postulates that body weight is regulated through a lipostatic mechanism involving interaction between the hypothalamus and some factor in equilibrium with stored fat.

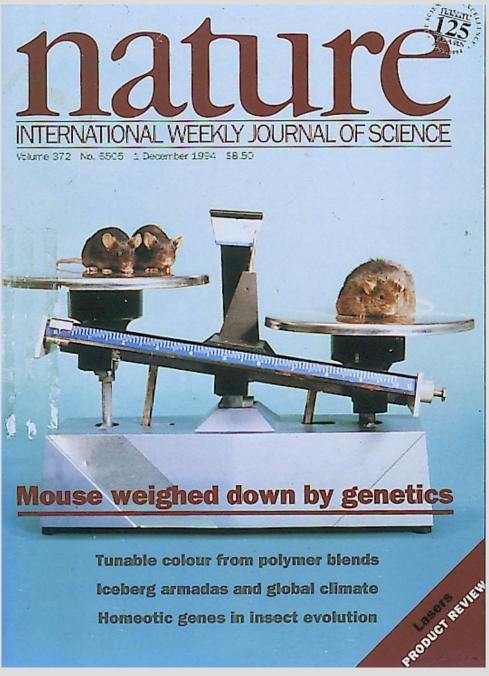
1959 - Hervey surgically links normal rats (parabiosis) and electrically lesions the hypothalamus of one member of the pair. The lesioned animal becomes hyperphagic and obese while the partner develops anorexia and dies of starvation. Hervey concludes that with increased adiposity a humoral factor accumulates and serves to control food intake by a feedback interaction with the hypothalamus.

McGarry 7



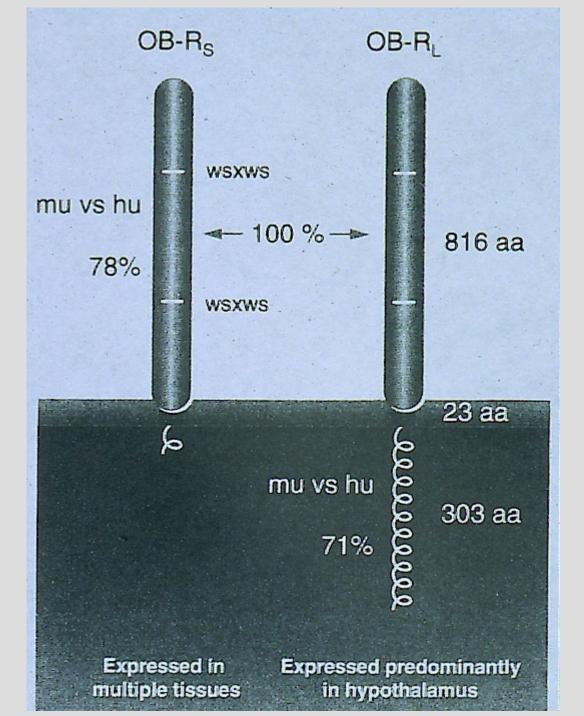
1973 - Coleman parabioses genetically obese ob/ob and db/db mice with each other and with lean mice. He concludes that the ob/ob mouse lacks the circulating satiety factor while the db/db strain fails to respond to it.

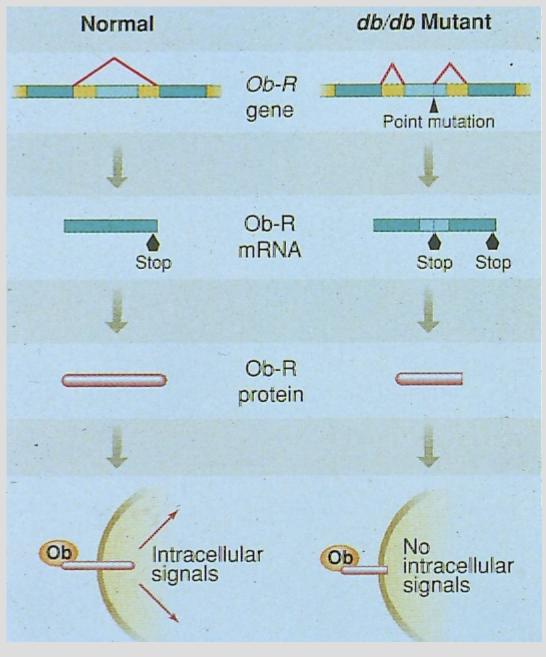




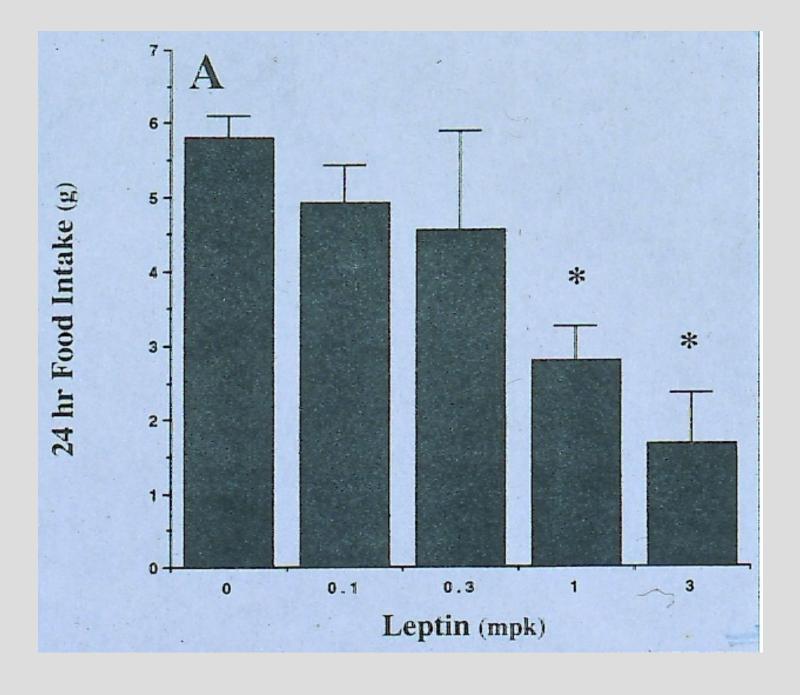
1994 - Friedman and colleagues clone the murine and human ob genes and define the mutations in two strains of ob/ob mice. The gene is expressed only in fat tissue. The predicted size of the nascent OB protein is ~18 kDa. The presence of a 2 kDa leader sequence suggests that the mature 16 kDa protein is secreted from fat depots.

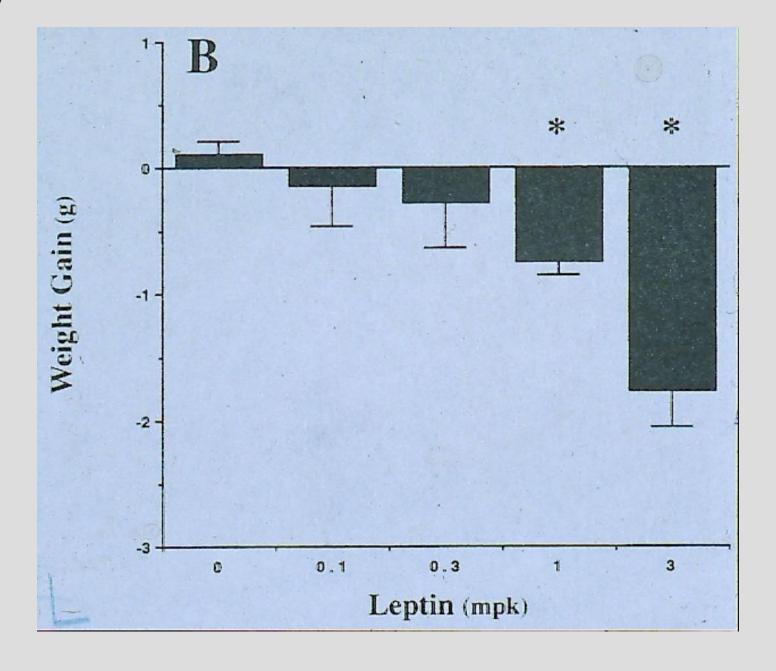
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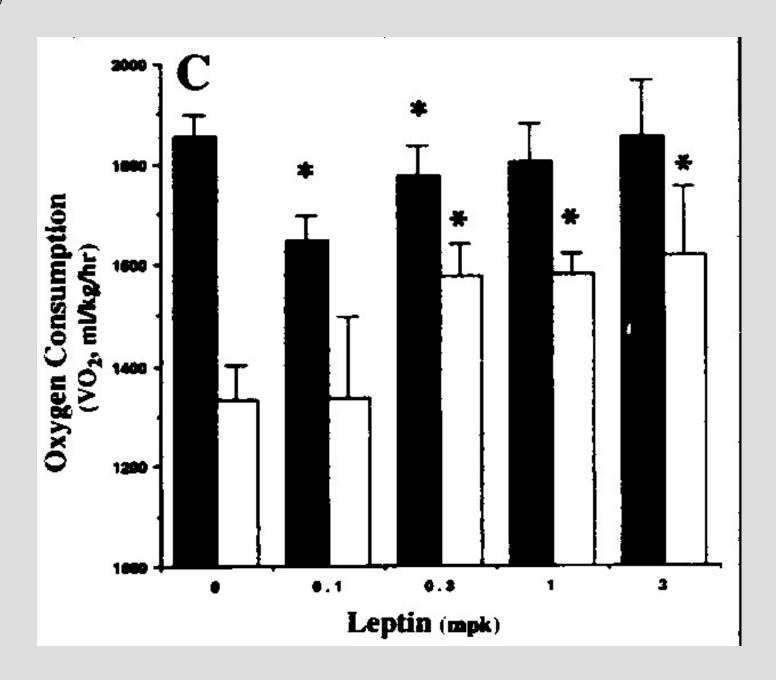


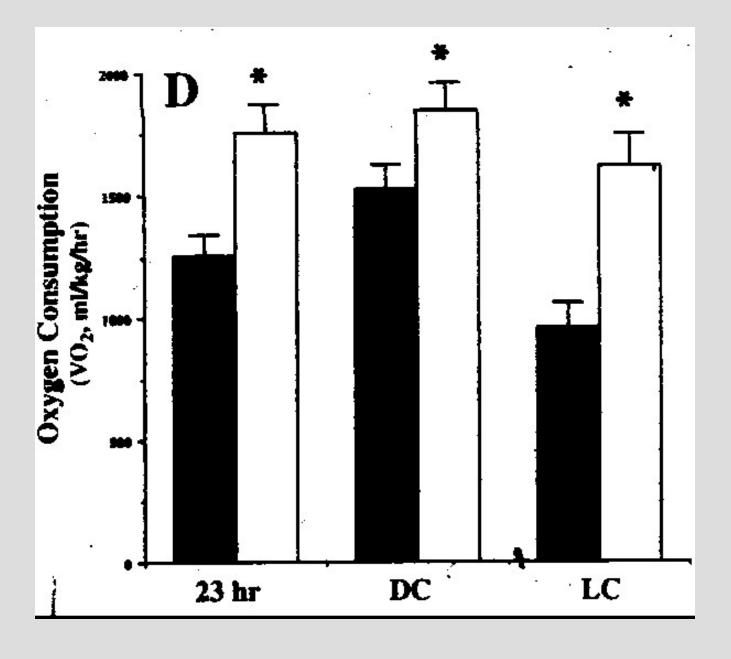


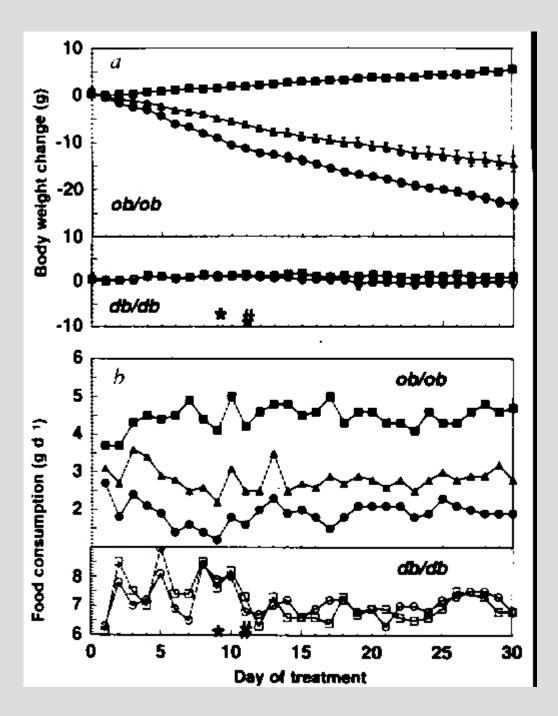
1995 - Pellymounter et al. (Amgen), Halaas et al. (Rockefeller) and Campfield et al. (Hoffman-La Roche) find that treatment of ob/ob mice with recombinant OB protein (leptin) corrects their hyperphagia and obesity. Similar results obtained in mice with dietary-induced obesity. No effect of leptin in db/db mice. No leptin in plasma of ob/ob mice - high levels in db/db animals.

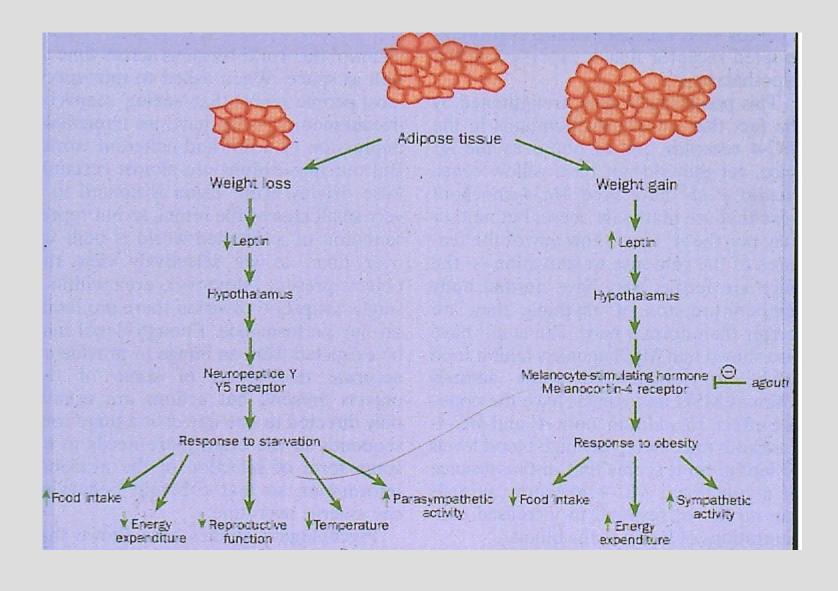












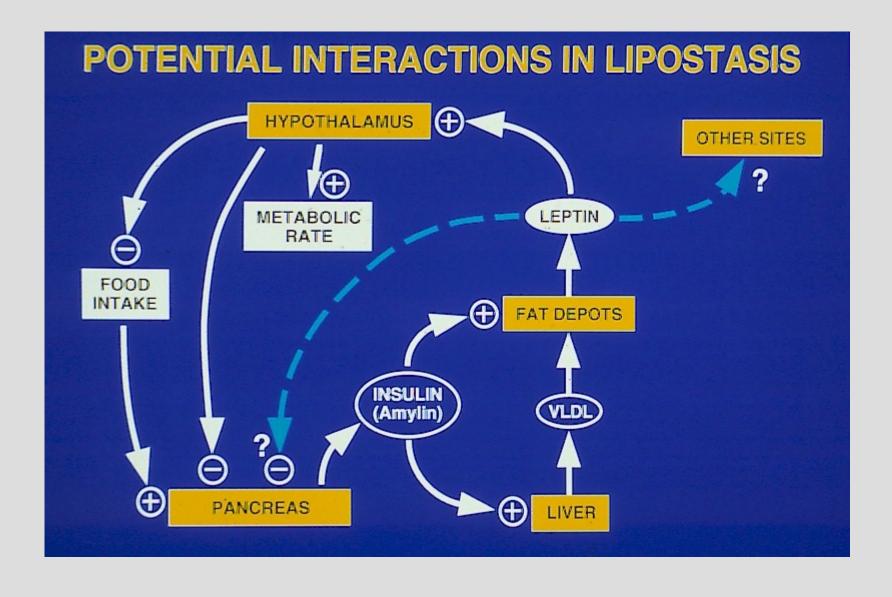


Table 3. Possible derangements in human obesity.

- 1. Defect in leptin's accessibility to its hypothalamic receptor.
- 2. Failure of leptin to suppress hypothalamic neuropeptide Y (NPY) synthesis.
- Abnormalities in the melanocyte stimulating hormone (MSH) melanacortin 4 (MC-4) receptor system in the hypothalamus.
- 4. Mutations in the β_3 -adrenergic receptor on fat cells and possibly other tissues.
- 5. Defects at the level of uncoupling proteins (UCP1, 2, 3...).