



# PhD Thesis

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## **The Ageing Skeletal Muscle:** *Effects of Training and Protein supplementation*

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## 1.0 Preface

This thesis is written on data derived from the interdisciplinary CALM-study which was conducted at the Institute of Sports Medicine at Bispebjerg Hospital from 2014-2018. It is written in order to obtain the PhD degree from the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Copenhagen.

I started my Ph.D. in 2017 where the inclusion of participants was completed. During my 3-years I have had the primary responsibility for the daily management in completing the study. Due to the large-scale and interdisciplinary nature of the CALM-study, I have been involved in many different tasks varying from conducting the human experiments and the laboratory work of preparing and analyzing blood and muscle tissue samples to communicate and collaborate with scientist from very different fields such as chemistry, agriculture, physiology, ethnologist and anthropologist.

The work presented in this thesis investigates the effect of 12 months of supplementation with proteins of different qualities and different types of training on the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass, glucose tolerance, skeletal muscle protein synthesis and the skeletal muscle metabolome within healthy elderly. Further, it uses the interdisciplinary nature of the CALM study design for the exploration of the relationship between the metabolism of the aging skeletal muscle and general measurements of metabolic health.

The work conducted is published or expected to be published in the 4 following papers:

- Paper I: **Jacob Bülow**, Stanley J. Ulijaszek, Lars Holm  
*Rejuvenation of the term Sarcopenia, DOI: 10.1152/jappphysiol.00400.2018*
- Paper II: Kenneth H. Mertz, Søren Reitelshødt, Rasmus Bechshøft, **Jacob Bulow**, Grith Højfeldt, Mikkel Jensen, Simon R. Schacht, Mads Vendelbo Lind, Morten A. Rasmussen, Ulla R. Mikkelsen, Inge Tetens, Søren B. Engelsens, Dennis S. Nielsen, Astrid P. Jespersen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of daily protein supplementation with or without resistance training for 1 year on muscle size, strength and function in healthy older adults. A Randomized Clinical Trial*
- Paper III: **Jacob Bülow**, Mie Cecilie Faber Zillmer, Grith Højfeldt, Rasmus Bechshøft, Jakob Agergaard, Peter Schjerling, Lars Holm  
*Recommended long-term nutritional supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training does not affect glucose tolerance differently than carbohydrate supplementation in healthy elderly: the CALM cohort*

-Paper IV: **Jacob Bülow**, Bekzod Khakimov, Søren Reitelseder, Rasmus Bechshøft, Søren Balling Engelsen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of long-term nutritional supplementation with or without different types of training on the skeletal muscle protein synthesis rate and metabolome in healthy elderly: the CALM study.*

In addition, I have been involved in the following spin-off papers which are not included in this thesis:

J.L. Castro-Mejía, B. Khakimov, Ł. Krych, **J. Bülow**, R.L. Bechshøft, G. Højfeldt, K.H. Mertz, E.S. Garne, S.R. Schacht, H.F. Ahmad, W. Kot, L.H. Hansen, F.J.A. Perez-Cueto, M.V. Lind, A.J. Lassen, I. Tetens, T. Jensen, S. Reitelseder, A.P. Jespersen, L. Holm, S.B. Engelsen & D.S. Nielsen. *Physical fitness in community dwelling older adults is linked to dietary intake, gut microbiota and metabolomic signatures*, *Aging Cell* (2020), e13105. (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ace1.13105>)

Schacht SR, Lind MV, Mertz KH, **Bülow J**, Bechshøft R, Højfeldt G, Schucany A, Hjulmand M, Sidoli C, Andersen SB, Jensen M, Reitelseder S, Holm L, Tetens I. *Development of a Mobility Diet Score (MDS) and Associations With Bone Mineral Density and Muscle Function in Older Adults*. *Front Nutr.* 2019 Sep 4; 6:114. (DOI: [10.3389/fnut.2019.00114](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2019.00114))

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## 2.0 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my principal supervisor Michael Kjær for letting me be a part of the inspiring and exceptional research environment that you have created at the Institute of Sports Medicine at Bispebjerg and for introducing me to Lars Holm 8 years ago.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all of my co-supervisors. Lars Holm, from the first day I went into your office 8 years ago as a young medical student, you have continued to inspire me with your enthusiastic and positive nature. You have always taken the time to critically discuss any of my ideas and supported me in pursuing the best of them. To you I owe most of what I have accomplished so far within research. Søren Balling Engelsen, I am grateful for the support you gave on my interest in conceptual ideas and the philosophy of science when it was most needed. Thank you for introducing me to the world of chemometrics and the multivariate nature of biology and for letting me be a part of your very inspiring department. With regards to the CALM study, I would like to thank all the participants and all of the scientific staff who have been involved. Especially, I want to express my gratitude towards those of you who were part of the CALM office as long as it lasted. A special thanks to Grith for all the (sometimes) good intellectual and personal discussion and for never abandoning me despite of my sometimes annoying nature. Søren Reitelseder, I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for me. You have taught me how to run experiments properly, the joy of running and so many other things during the last 8 years. Kenneth, thank you for always listening to all of my stories and complaining's and for all the good scientific discussion through the last 7 years. For all the help that I received from all of the secretaries and especially Else and Maria I am very grateful. I would also like to thank both Camilla and Anja for all the help in the lab and for making the long days of sample preparation full of good stories. Bekzod Khakimov, thank you for all your help with setting up the measurements at Science and analyzing the data. You made my time at Science very fun and fruitful. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my family for always supporting me and cheering me up in the darkest hours. To Emilie, thank you for being a constant reminder of all the good that I have in my life, your patience with my fluctuating mood and for your ability to always make me smile and laugh at the end of long day. To Otto and Augusta, you have not made anything easier but thankfully you have made everything more meaningful.

Jacob Bülow, Copenhagen March 31<sup>st</sup>

### 3.0 List of abbreviations

AA	Amino acids
ASCA	ANOVA-simultaneous component analysis
ASM	Appendicular skeletal muscle mass
ASMI	Appendicular skeletal muscle mass index
AUC	Area under the curve
BCAA	Branch chain amino acids
BIA	Bio impedance analysis
CALM	Counter-acting Age-related Loss of Muscle mass
CSA	Cross-sectional area
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CT	Computed tomography
DXA	Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
EAA	Essential amino acids
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EULAR	European League Against Rheumatism
FBR	Fractional breakdown rate
FEV1	Forced Expired Volume in the first second
FSR	Fractional synthesis rate
FVC	Forced Expiratory Volume
GC-MS	Gas chromatography – mass spectrometry
GC-C-IRMS	Gas chromatography- combustion- isotope ratio mass spectrometry
HOMA	Homeostasis model assessment
ITT	Intention to treat
LBM	Lean body mass
LC-MS/MS	Liquid chromatography - tandem mass spectrometry
MPB	Muscle protein breakdown
MPS	Muscle protein synthesis
MPT	Muscle protein turnover
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MSI-CE-MS	Multisegment injection-capillary electrophoresis-mass spectrometry
NB	Net balance
NNR	Nordic nutritional recommendations
OGTT	Oral glucose tolerance test
PCA	Principal component analysis
PP	Per protocol
qCSA	Quadriceps cross sectional area
RM	Repetition maximum
ROI	Region of interest
RT	Resistance training
SARC-F	Strength, Assistance walking, Rise from a chair, Climb stairs, and Falls screening tool
SD	Standard deviation
SEM	Standard error of the mean
SPPB	Short physical performance battery
UPLC-MS	Ultra performance liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry
WAT	White adipose tissue
WHO	World Health Organization

## 4.0 Abstracts

The phenomenon of Sarcopenia, originally defined as the age-related loss of muscle mass, has gained interest across several different scientific disciplines within the last three decades due to its association to increased morbidity and mortality. Several different explanations as well as interventions to counteract the sarcopenic process has been suggested and investigated in both epidemiological and short-term interventions studies. Especially different types of exercise and increased daily protein intakes has been investigated as strategies with promising results in the pursuit of maintaining skeletal muscle mass with age. However, most of these studies have been highly controlled and of shorter duration hereby questioning whether or not these results would be rediscovered in more applied studies of longer duration.

First, this thesis presents an analysis of the changes in the definition of Sarcopenia that has occurred since its introduction in 1989 and its consequences; Secondly, this thesis report different outcomes from the CALM study which is a large interdisciplinary study designed to investigate the effect of one-year of protein supplementation with or without different types of training in healthy older adults above 65 years of age. 208 healthy elderly above 65 years of age were randomized into one of following 5 groups: (CARB (20g of maltodextrin + 10g of sucrose) COLL (20g of collagen hydrolysate + 10g of sucrose) WHEY (20g of whey hydrolysate +10g of sucrose) LITW (Home-based light intensity training 3-5 times pr. week + the whey supplement) and HRTW (Center-based heavy resistance exercise 3 times pr. week+ the whey supplement). The participants were instructed to take the supplements twice daily at breakfast and lunch or in relation to their training sessions. The primary outcome in the CALM study were the cross-sectional area of the quadriceps muscle of the mid-thigh. Further, the effect of the different intervention on the glucose tolerance and body composition was evaluated. In a subgroup (n=66) of the 208 participants included, the effect of the intervention on the skeletal muscle protein synthesis in response to protein intake were also investigated. Lastly, we attempted to measure the skeletal muscle metabolome and exploratorily investigate the effect of the intervention.

The current definitions of Sarcopenia due no longer cover the phenomenon of age-related loss of muscle mass but are now including the two partially depending phenomena of muscle strength and physical function. No scientifically acceptable argument for the change in definition is forwarded and the primary argument of clinical relevance is tautological. Therefore, we suggest a return to the original definition.

We did not find any effect of one-year prolonged supplementation with proteins in comparison to an iso-caloric carbohydrate supplement with respect to the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass. The participants increased their body weight, fat% and HbA1c and no effect on the muscle protein synthesis nor the muscle metabolome were observed. One-year of prolonged heavy resistance exercise on top of protein supplementation had a minor effect on the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass in comparison to protein supplementation alone and home-based light load resistance exercise had no effect despite an observed higher adherence in comparison to the adherence in the heavy resistance exercise group.

In conclusion, the findings across the different measurements presented in this thesis were consistent and provide strong evidence against further increases in recommended daily protein intake within healthy and active elderly. It provides solid evidence for making realistically estimates of the long-term effects of resistance exercise in combination with protein supplementation. Further, light load resistance training is not enough if gains in muscle mass and function are desired within this population of healthy and active elderly. The results from the acute trial suggest that the measurement of muscle protein synthesis without measuring breakdown is not a usable method for investigating muscle development over time. Lastly, our analysis platform for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome showed promising results for future studies.

## 5.0 Dansk resumé

I løbet af de foregående tre årtier er interessen for fænomenet Sarkopeni, oprindeligt defineret som alders-relateret tab af muskelmasse, inden for adskillige forskellige videnskabelige discipliner steget markant pga. fænomenets påviste sammenhæng med øget risiko for morbiditet og mortalitet. Flere forskellige forklaringer på fænomenet samt forslåede interventioner til at modvirke den sarkopene proces er blevet undersøgt i epidemiologiske og interventions studier af kortere varighed. Især forskellige typer af træning samt en øgning i det daglige protein indtag er blevet undersøgt med positive resultater i forsøget på at modvirke det alders-relaterede tab af muskelmasse. Størstedelen af de tidligere studier er dog yderst kontrollerede og af kortere varighed, og det er derfor stadig uvist, hvorvidt disse fund kan overføres til længevarende studier af mere repræsentativ karakter for dagligdagen hos ældre.

Denne afhandling præsenterer først en analyse af ændringerne i definitionen af fænomenet Sarkopeni der er forekommet siden begrebets introduktion i 1989 og de heraf følgende konsekvenser. Dernæst rapporteres forskellige resultater fra CALM-studiet, som er et stort interdisciplinært studie designet til at undersøge effekten af 1 års daglig proteintilskud med og uden træning i raske aktive ældre. 208 raske ældre blev randomiseret til én af de følgende fem grupper: CARB (20g maltodextrin + 10g sukrose) COLL (20g kollagen hydrolysat + 10g sukrose) WHEY (20g valle hydrolysat +10g sukrose) LITW (Hjemmebaseret let styrketræning 3-5 gange ugentligt + the tilskuddet) og HRTW (Centerbaseret tung styrketræning 3 gange ugentligt + valle tilskuddet). Deltagerne blev instrueret i at indtage tilskuddet to gange dagligt i forbindelse med morgenmad og frokost eller i forbindelse med træningssessionerne. Det primære endemål for CALM -studiet var ændringer i tværsnitsarealet af m. quadriceps målt midt på låret. Yderligere undersøgte vi effekten af interventionen på glukosetolerancen samt kropskompositionen. I en undergruppe bestående af 66 ud af de 208 deltagere undersøgte vi effekten af interventionen på muskelproteinsynteseresponset til protein indtag i akutte studier før og efter interventionen. Derudover forsøgte vi at måle muskelmetabolomet samt foretage en eksplorativ analyse af, hvorvidt interventionen havde en effekt på dette.

De nuværende definitioner af Sarkopeni dækker ikke længere udelukkende over fænomenet alders-relateret tab af muskelmasse men inkluderer nu yderligere de to delvist afhængige fænomener muskelstyrke og fysisk funktionalitet. Der er ikke fremført nogle videnskabelige acceptable argumenter for ændringen i definitionen, og argumentet angående de

nye definitioners kliniske relevans, hviler på tautologisk argumentation. På baggrund af dette, foreslår vi at gå tilbage til den oprindelige definition af fænomenet.

Vi fandt ingen effekt at 1-års proteintilskud i sammenligning med et isokalorisk kulhydratstilskud i forhold til bibeholdelse af muskelmasse. Deltagerne øgede deres kropsvægt, fedt% samt HbA1c som en effekt af tiden, og vi fandt ingen ændringer i hverken muskelproteinsyntesen eller muskelmetabolomet. Vi fandt en lille effekt at 1-års tung styrketræning i kombination med dagligt proteintilskud på bibeholdelsen af muskelmasse i sammenligning med dagligt proteintilskud alene, og hjemmebaseret let styrketræning havde ingen effekt på trods af en højere grad af adhærens til interventionen i forhold til den tunge styrketrænings gruppe.

Fundene i CALM-studiet var konsistente henover de forskellige mål, og de samlede resultater fremviser således solid evidens mod yderligere stigninger i det anbefalede daglige indtag af protein for raske aktive ældre. Yderligere giver resultaterne grobund for realistiske estimater for langtidseffekten af tung styrketræning. Derudover viser disse resultater at let hjemmebaseret styrketræning ikke er nok, hvis man vil øge muskelmassen i en population af raske aktive ældre. Resultaterne fra akutstudierne viser at muskelproteinsyntesemål uden samtidige mål af proteinnedbrydning ikke er en brugbar metode til at undersøge udviklingen i muskelmasse henover tid. Endvidere viste vores anvendte metode til at måle muskelmetabolomet lovende resultater med henblik på brugbarheden i fremtidige studier.



## 6.0 Introduction

As a kid I wakened each morning  
with the world streaming toward me  
like a sparkling boulevard.  
Now I have to get up in winter darkness  
and bring it in bit by bit  
on my thin legs

*Søren Ulrik Thomsen*<sup>1</sup>

The poem by Søren Ulrik Thomsen beautifully expresses the essence of old age, with the comparison of the easiness and velocity of youth with the laborious work of just getting through the daily tasks of an older individual. In addition, the last line points towards one of the anatomical hall marks of aging which is perceived as one of the contributors to the essence of old age, namely the thin legs, i.e. the lowered mass of skeletal muscle.

The scientific interest in the age-related loss of skeletal muscle mass has gained a lot of attention during the last 3 decades. The societal legitimization of research within this field has found its main argument in the function of skeletal muscle mass with regards to bodily movement<sup>2-7</sup>. Further, the loss of physical function that follows the loss of muscle mass has been associated with increased risk of both morbidity, mortality and low quality of life<sup>8-10</sup>.

Besides playing a crucial role in moving body limbs, the skeletal muscle is gradually being acknowledged its vital function in the maintenance of metabolic homeostasis. Due to its proportion of the total body weight (approximately 40 % in healthy lean individuals)<sup>11</sup> and the fact that it is the primary tissue responsible for variations in resting energy expenditure of normal healthy individuals<sup>12</sup>, the alteration of the skeletal muscle metabolism has started to receive attention as a prognostic factor within several different diseases as well as within healthy aging<sup>13-16</sup>.

This, in combination with the increased proportion of elderly citizens within the Westernized societies, has facilitated a still increasing interest in how to attenuate the loss of skeletal muscle mass in order to maintain physical function and metabolism.

The CALM study (Counteracting Age-related Loss of Muscle mass) was initiated in the pursuit of ways to prevent the loss of muscle mass<sup>17</sup>. The study was conducted with the purpose of clarifying whether or not recommending daily protein supplementations with or without different types of muscular resistance training would be a feasible strategy in counteracting the loss of skeletal muscle mass with age. Hence, the primary outcome was quadriceps muscle cross-sectional area (CSA) measured by golden standard methodology, MRI. Multiple other measurements were made ranging from imperceptibly physiological measurements such as the gut microbiome, muscle protein synthesis and the metabolome, to personal factors such as independence and quality of life. This thesis will introduce the concept of sarcopenia and address the results from the CALM study with a special emphasis on the metabolism of the aging skeletal muscle. Beside the primary outcome measures, data derived from the oral glucose tolerance test performed before and after the intervention by all participants, as well as the blood and muscle tissue samples obtained in a sub-group of participants completing an acute trial before and after the intervention will be used.

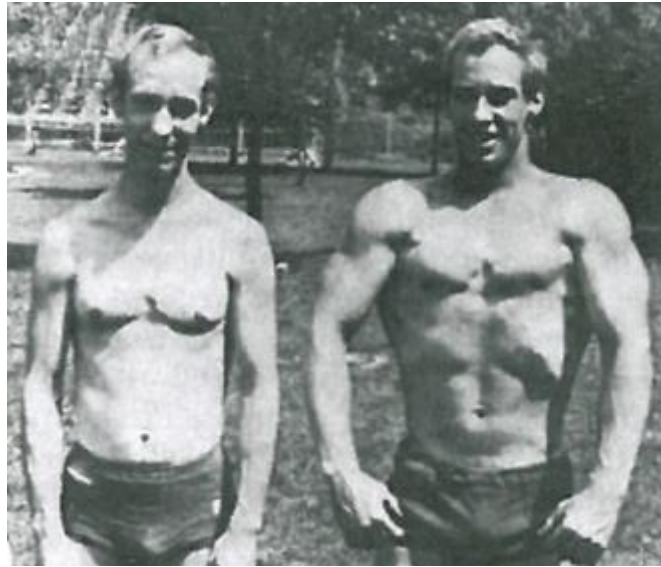
## **7.0 Background**

### **7.1 The human skeletal muscle – structure and function**

Skeletal muscle is a central organ within the human body. It is responsible for the movement of body limbs by contraction and is highly important in the maintenance of metabolic homeostasis. It consists of bundles of cells which are called fibers, and these fibers are kept together by sheets of connective tissue. A single fiber is consisting of a cell membrane with several nuclei distributed underneath the membrane along the length of the fiber. The cytoplasm of the muscle cell is constituted of thousands of myofibrils, which are the same length as the muscle fiber and is made up by small contractile units called sarcomeres. Sarcomeres are composed of actin and myosin filaments which during contractions slides across each other shortening the length of the fiber and hereby shortening the length of muscle leading to the movements of body limbs. In the human skeletal muscle, there are three different types of muscle fibers defined by 3 different isoforms of myosin which gives the fiber its functional and metabolic characteristics. Type I fibers, i.e. slow fibers, are characterized by a relative slow speed of contraction compared to Type IIX fibers, i.e. fast fibers, and Type IIA which are somewhere in between with regards to contraction velocity. Further, Type I fibers are relying on aerobic metabolism where especially Type IIX relies on anaerobic metabolism. As we age we experience a loss of muscle fibers. Since muscle fibers are unable to divide and form new fibers, the only way of gaining muscle mass is by increasing the diameter of the individual fiber. In addition, with advancing age the morphology of the muscle fibers are changing from being angular into having a more rounded shape as well as the clear differentiation between Type I and II fibers are lost<sup>18</sup>. The alteration in fiber type composition and distribution and the loss of fibers are thought to be partially responsible for the decline in physical performance seen with age.

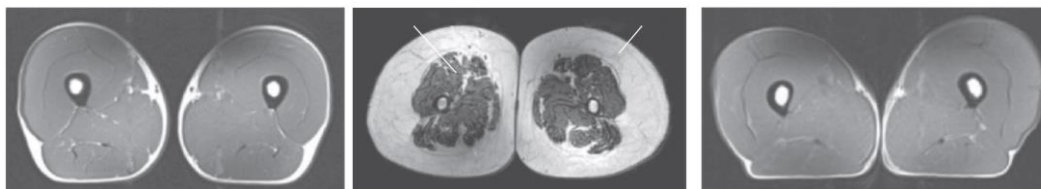
The human skeletal muscle has at least 3 different functions. First, it is responsible for bodily movements in collaboration with the nervous system, bones, joints and tendons. By contraction, the muscle is shortened, decreasing the length between the adhering ends of the muscle fibers, which are connected to bone and spanning across at least one joint hereby moving parts of the body. Secondly, it is vital for the maintenance of metabolic homeostasis. Under normal healthy conditions, the skeletal muscle mass is responsible for ~65% of the glucose disposal in response to insulin secretion<sup>19</sup>, and it serves as the body's amino acid reservoir during fasting and states of disease<sup>12</sup>. Thirdly, it has recently (within the last 20 years) been acknowledge as a secretory endocrine organ, communicating with other organs through myokines<sup>20</sup>.

Lastly, the skeletal muscle mass plasticity is another very important aspect. Even though there may be genetic factors limiting maximal attainable physical performance of a given individual, the picture underneath of two genetic twins (one is a marathon runner and the other one a heavy resistance exercise trained) highlight the skeletal muscles adaptability to different environmental stimulus.



**Picture 1.** Genetic identical twins. To the left a marathon runner, to the right a heavy resistance exercise trained. Adopted from Keul et al.<sup>21</sup>

This plasticity is not only present in young but is to some extent preserved throughout life. This is illustrated in the comparison of MRI cross-sectional scans of the thigh of a 40-year old triathlete, a 70-year-old sedentary and a 70-year-old triathlete illustrated underneath. In the 70-year-old triathlete the muscle structure is similar to the 40-year-old were the sedentary 70-year-old has a general loss of mass and a changed structure with massive fat infiltration and connective tissue.



**Picture 2.** MRI cross-sectional scans of the mid-thigh. To the left a 40-year-old triathlete, in the middle a 70-year-old sedentary, and to the right a 70-year-old triathlete. Adopted from Harridge et al.<sup>22</sup>

In conclusion, due to the skeletal muscle's various functions, its importance in both health and disease and its adaptability to different stimuli, makes it a highly relevant research

topic for both clinical and basic research. The significant decrease in skeletal muscle mass with age does not make it less interesting with respect to both society and the individual.

## 7.2 Sarcopenia

In 1989 the phenomenon of age-related loss of skeletal muscle mass, which had been known for centuries, were given the name Sarcopenia by Irwin Rosenberg<sup>23</sup>. He suggested the Greek name Sarcopenia (Sarco= Flesh, Penia= lack of) in order fuel research interest and general awareness of this phenomenon because as he wrote:

*“There may be no single feature of age-related decline that could more dramatically affect ambulation, mobility, calorie intake, and overall nutrient intake and status, independence, breathing, etc. “*

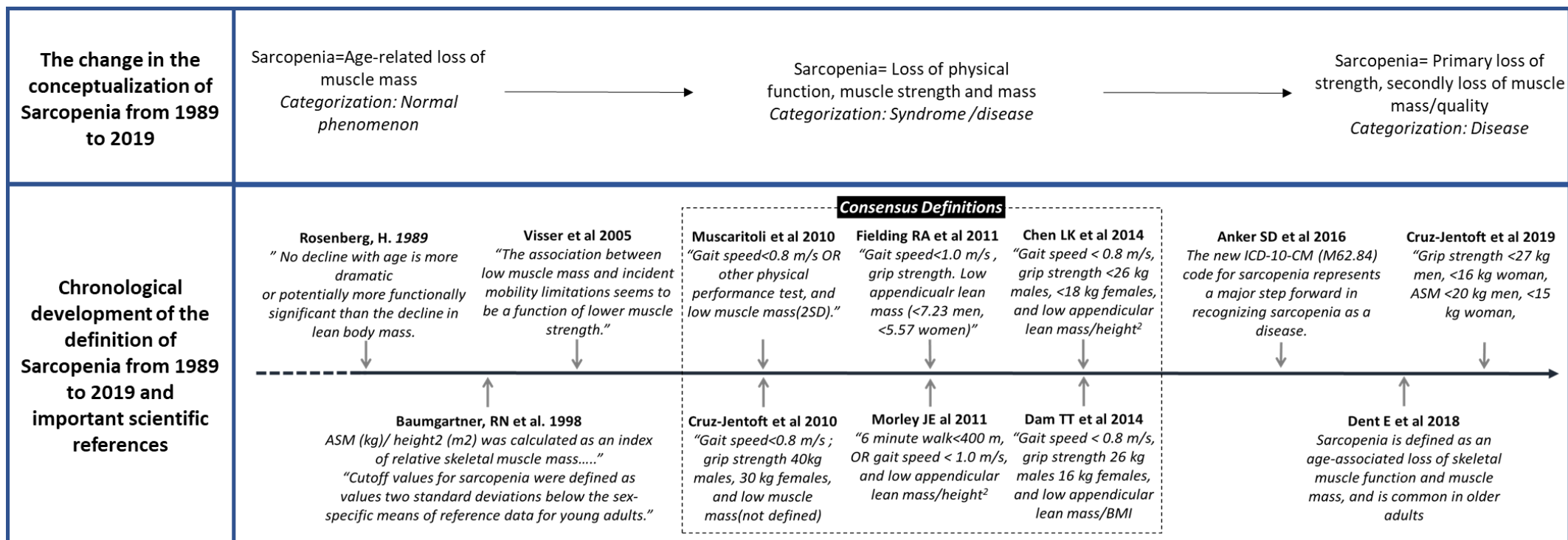
The baptism immediately sparked an increased interest in the phenomenon of age-related loss of muscle mass within the scientific communities and in 1998 Baumgartner reported an operational definition legitimized by its association to decreased physical function and mortality<sup>24</sup>. However, from around 2000 the focus changed from muscle mass to physical function and strength. The Health ABC study showed that muscle strength rather than muscle mass predicted loss of physical function and mortality<sup>25,26</sup>, and based on these and other findings researchers suggested a separate name, Dynapenia (dynamis=power, penia=lack of), for the phenomenon of age-related loss of muscle strength<sup>27,28</sup>. They argued that the literature had put too much emphasis on muscle size in the attempt to explain the loss of physical function with age. Nevertheless, the 6 consensus definitions published between 2010 and 2014 kept the name sarcopenia but changed the definition instead<sup>2-7</sup>. These definitions broadly define Sarcopenia as a condition with low muscle mass and either low muscle strength or /and physical performance, and in 2016 the condition described using these definitions were assigned an ICD-10 code acknowledging it as a disease<sup>29</sup>. Recently an updated version of the most cited consensus definition, EWGSOP, were published categorizing Sarcopenia as a disease (the original from 2010 categorized it as a syndrome) with a new operational definition putting even more emphasis on the aspect of strength and making muscle mass and the undefined term muscle quality a secondary criteria<sup>30</sup>.

Despite the vast amount of consensus articles and a newly published guideline for clinical practitioners<sup>31</sup>, the concept of sarcopenia and especially how to define the phenomenon

is still controversial<sup>32</sup>. The consensus definitions are problematic in several ways. Firstly, the unambiguous name (i.e. loss /lack of flesh) is misleading according to the consensus definitions unspecific nature which includes three separate phenomena, i.e. loss of strength, loss of performance/functionality, loss of mass/quality, which provides a breeding ground for confusion. Secondly, the three separate phenomena are only partially related, which makes the separation of cause and effect practically impossible, e.g. practically any changes in health status can result in a decrease in physical activity which would secondly affect both strength and mass and vice versa. Thirdly, the very important role of skeletal muscle mass in the overall metabolic homeostasis of the human body and its crucial role in the state of disease is easily overlooked due to the current definitions primary criteria of strength and physical function. Lastly, the documentation of Sarcopenia being an independent state of disease is not convincing which is again due to the included phenomena's partially relation. Therefore, treating it as such could be problematic with regards to both scientific investigation and clinical practice. The development of the concept of Sarcopenia is illustrated in fig. 1.

Consequently, in this thesis the term Sarcopenia will refer to the very well documented natural phenomenon of age-related loss of muscle mass<sup>26,33-35</sup>. In this perspective, it is important to stress that Sarcopenia should be conceptualized as a dynamic process rather than a static condition. This process begins years before the individual will become aware of its possible negative consequences. Interventions strategies that is thought to attenuate the Sarcopenic process were the primary focus of the CALM-study. These strategies have the character of prevention rather than treatment, which again explain the included study population of otherwise healthy elderly. The included participants were not expected to fulfil the current non validated diagnostic criteria of Sarcopenia, but instead be representable of elderly people undergoing a sarcopenic process. Further, the included participants should be representing healthy elderly that are both capable and willingly to follow general health recommendations by the Danish authorities.

**Figure 1.** The change in the conceptualization of Sarcopenia and the chronological development of the definition and important scientific references from 1989 to 2019<sup>2,4-7,23,24,29-31,36,37</sup>.



### 7.3 The CALM study - background

A linear decline in muscle mass in humans from the mid 30ties or mid 40ties until the mid 60ties have been reported by several studies<sup>34,38-41</sup>. Depending on the measurement, study- design and population, the annual rate of loss of muscle mass is estimated to be around 1-2%. After the age of 65 the deterioration starts to be progressive<sup>34</sup> with an increased rate above 2% in the lower limbs<sup>42</sup>. The loss of skeletal muscle mass is accompanied by a loss in physical performance<sup>43</sup> and a loss of muscle strength<sup>26</sup> which again has been associated with an increased mortality risk<sup>44</sup> and a decreased satisfaction with life<sup>9</sup>. Several explanations for the loss of muscle mass and function have been suggested ranging from insufficient intake of nutrients, changes in endocrine function, chronic low-grade inflammation, deterioration of the blood flow and simple disuse and lack of physical activity<sup>45-48</sup>.

Regarding the otherwise healthy part of the elderly population, especially the possibility of adjusting daily protein intake has served as one of the main areas of interest in the quest of preventing or attenuating the sarcopenic process. Cross-sectional studies have shown an association between daily intake of protein and skeletal muscle mass in elderly males and females. Geirsdottir et al observed a difference in LBM of 2.3 kg between the highest (Q4 =  $1.36 \pm 0.19$  g/kg/day) and lowest (Q1  $0.63 \pm 0.08$  g/kg/day) quartiles of protein intake in 237 (age 65-92 years) community-dwelling healthy adults<sup>49</sup>, Morris et al observed a positive linear relationship between daily protein intake and ASMI in physical active elderly  $\geq 50$  years in 636 obese participants<sup>50</sup>, and Sahni et al observed a positive association ( $r=0.10$ ,  $p=0.005$ ) of leg lean mass and protein intake in 2675 healthy participants with a mean age of  $59.2 \pm 9.5$  years (29-86 years)<sup>51</sup>. Further, in a prospective cohort with 2066 participants Houston et al found that the quantile (1.2g/kg/day) having the highest energy adjusted daily protein intake lost app. 40% less ALM compared to the lowest quantile (0.8g/kg/day) i.e. 0.5 kg and 0.88 kg respectively during a period of 3 years<sup>52</sup>. However, it is important to notice that these observed differences are most prominent when comparing the participants with the lowest to the highest intake, and that the lowest quartile in both Geirsdottir et al and Houston et al are having a protein intake below or exactly on the recommended level of 0.8g/kg/day.

These observational studies are supported by acute studies investigating the attenuated responsiveness of the aging skeletal muscle to the anabolic stimulus of protein intake<sup>53</sup>. Briefly since this will be elaborated in section 7.4, several studies have shown that



elderly requires a larger amount of amino acids compared to young in order maximize the skeletal muscle protein synthesis<sup>54-56</sup>. In a retrospective study, Moore et al compared the responsiveness to different doses of high quality dietary proteins intake in healthy older adults (~71 years) and young (~22 years)<sup>57</sup>. They observed, that healthy elderly needed ~0.40g/kg compared to ~0.24g/kg in young in order to maximize their MPS.

The observational data showing a higher LBM with higher intakes of protein in combination with the results from the acute studies have led committees and research groups to suggest changes in the nutritional recommendations adjusting the recommended daily intake of protein within elderly above 65 years of age<sup>58-60</sup>. The NNR recommends otherwise healthy elderly to have a daily intake of protein of 1.2g of protein/ kg BW/day<sup>58</sup> instead of the 0.83 g of protein/kg BW/day recommended by WHO<sup>61</sup>. However, studies investigating the effect of an increase in daily protein intake have shown diverse results<sup>62-66</sup>, which is suggested to be at least partially explained by the duration of the studies being 6 months or less<sup>60</sup>.

Therefore, the effect of increasing daily protein intake on both muscle mass and strength is still a debated topic though leaning towards an adjustment of recommendations towards an increase in daily intake<sup>59,67,68</sup>. Nonetheless, there is still a need for long-term human intervention studies investigating the effect of an adjusted protein intake within healthy elderly. Since it is difficult to change the diet composition without changing the diet habits, using protein supplements seems like a more feasible strategy in order to enhance the adherence to recommendations rather than selectively adjusting the individual's diet composition. Further, these studies should account for the possible difference between a recommendation and an actual effect of an adjusted protein intake in order to either refute or support the current trend for the increased recommended daily protein intake within elderly.

Another and very potent way of attenuating the sarcopenic process, is different kinds of physical activity. Conducting heavy resistance exercise is known to be the most effective way of stimulating muscle growth naturally within young as well as elderly<sup>69-71</sup>. Despite being the most potent way of stimulating muscle growth, it is needless to say that the growth is only achieved if the exercise is conducted at sufficient intensity and frequency. But, especially the adherence to different exercise interventions within elderly is an issue, which has not so far found any good solution<sup>72</sup>. In addition, it has been shown that some older adults prefer exercise modalities of lower intensity, lesser cost and more convenient when it comes to

locations on which the training is conducted such as a home-based setting<sup>73,74</sup>. Further, exercise modalities of lower intensity have actually shown capable of increasing muscle mass. Holm et al observed an increase of 3% in quadriceps cross-sectional area by MRI after completing 10 sets of 36 repetition (isolated knee extensions) at 15% 1RM 3 times a week for 12 weeks in healthy young sedentary<sup>75</sup>, and Watanabe et al found an increase in the cross sectional area of the mid-thigh by MRI of 5% after completing 3 sets of 13 repetitions (isolated knee extensions) at 30% 1RM twice a week for 12 weeks<sup>76</sup>. Taking the adherence-issue into account and the fact that otherwise healthy and independently living elderly above 65 years are not seeking to maximize but instead maintaining their respective mass, lower intensity training modalities could therefore show to be an equally or better strategy than heavy resistance training in preventing or attenuating the progression of sarcopenia. Additionally, from the perspective of prevention and with respect to general recommendations by health authorities, home-based training modalities have the advantages of easiness with regards to implementation and costs in comparison to center-based training regimes.

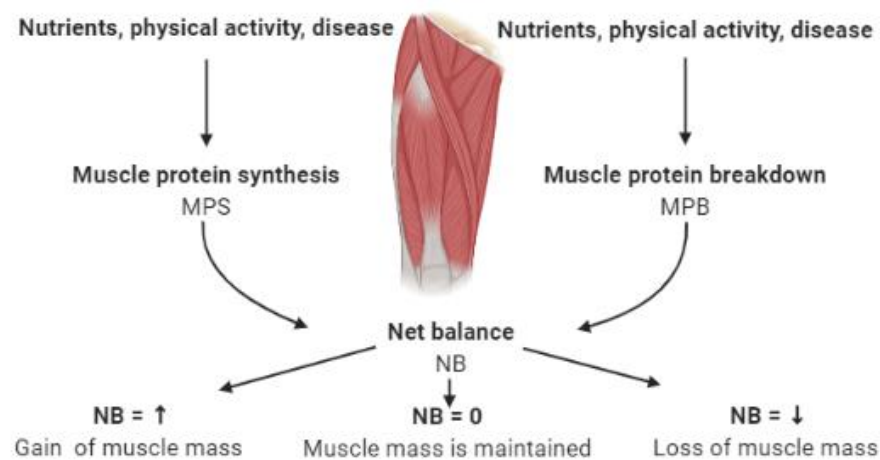
It should be noted however, that most of the studies investigating the effect of different types of training are short-term ( $\leq 6$  months) and often very strictly monitored. Long-term and more applied studies representing daily living are lacking.

#### **7.4 Skeletal muscle protein synthesis**

Skeletal muscle contains around 40% of the total amount of protein in an adult human body and with ~65% of the total amounts of muscle protein being the structural proteins actin and myosin<sup>77</sup>. The skeletal muscle is estimated to have a turnover rate around 1-2% pr. day<sup>11</sup>, which is relatively low compared to plasma proteins such as albumin with a turnover rate of ~8.5% pr. day<sup>78</sup>. Despite this relatively slow turnover rate, the skeletal muscle still accounts for around 30-50% of the total protein turnover in the body and the synthesis and breakdown of proteins are responsible for 20% of the resting energy expenditure<sup>11</sup>.

Muscle protein turnover (MPT) consist of the two different processes, muscle protein synthesis (MPS) and muscle protein breakdown (MPB). MPS and MPB fluctuates through the day due to different stimulus and it is the net balance (NB) between the two that determines whether we maintain our muscle mass (0 NB), gain muscle mass (+NB) or lose muscle mass (-NB)<sup>79</sup> (see illustration 1). MPS and MPB is under conditions of health in general affected by physical activity levels, feeding status (fed/fasted) and different hormones<sup>80</sup>. In

relation to the protein kinetics, the focus in this thesis will be on the anabolic effect of protein on MPS measured in the CALM acute studies.



**Illustration 1.** Simple illustration of the theory of MPS, MPB and NB for the gain, loss and maintenance of skeletal muscle mass

The MPS of skeletal muscle can be measured by different methodologies with the use of tracers. A tracer is a compound that can be distinguished from the normal occurring compound (tracee) but do not differ with regards to metabolic or chemical properties<sup>81</sup>. Measuring the MPS, stable isotope labelled amino acids is used, which only differs from the normal occurring amino acids with respect to a slightly higher mass due to the extra neutron(s) in its nucleus. With different kinds of mass spectrometry, the tracer appearance, dilution or incorporation in different pools or body compartments can hereby be measured and synthesis and breakdown rates can be estimated based on different assumptions. A common way of measuring the MPS is by the direct incorporation technique. The direct incorporation technique measures the incorporation of a given tracer into the structural proteins of the muscle during a specific time period. Based on the protein-bound tracer abundance at specific time points, knowledge on the abundance of tracer in the precursor pool for protein synthesis and several different underlying assumptions, the fractional synthesis rate (FSR) can be measured<sup>79</sup>. Despite there being several other ways of estimating muscle protein synthesis, the following will focus on studies using this method, since this is the method used in CALM.

The literature on FSR distinguishes between basal FSR representing the protein synthesis in the fasted state and response FSR which represents the protein synthesis after a given intervention such as protein intake or exercise. Therefore, any alteration in either basal or

response FSR with age could lead to a negative NB and hereby a loss of muscle mass the MPB is not altered in the opposite direction.

With regards to basal FSR the literature is inconsistent. While some have found a decreased basal FSR in older individuals compared to young<sup>82,83</sup>, others have only found a tendency towards a decrease<sup>84</sup> and some has been unable to see any difference<sup>85,86</sup>. This discrepancy could be a result of methodological differences, e.g. choice of tracer, measuring period, etc.<sup>87</sup> or several other individual factors. Some studies has also found that middle aged females has a higher basal FSR in comparison with males<sup>88,89</sup>, despite not differing on whole body protein turnover<sup>90</sup>. Nonetheless, most studies investigating FSR have been conducted on males, and there is a general lack of studies investigating differences between the genders in all age-groups<sup>91</sup>, and this should be kept in mind when converting or extrapolating the interpretations of acute studies into recommendations.

It is well-known that protein intake leads to an increase in muscle FSR. FSR has been shown to be stimulated in dose-dependent but saturable way following amino-acid infusion or protein ingestion within both young and elderly<sup>57,92</sup>, but the responsiveness with respect to FSR seems to be blunted in older individual compared to young<sup>55-57,93,94</sup>. Moore et al showed in a retrospective analysis of previous studies conducted by their research group that the FSR in both old and young exhibited this relationship only differing with respect to the amount of protein necessary to elicit maximal FSR<sup>57</sup>. Where young healthy males (n=65, 22y [18-37]) needed ~0.24g of protein pr. kg BW (0.25g/kg LBM) to maximize FSR and older males (n=43, 71y [65-80]) needed ~0.4g of protein pr. kg BW (0.61g/kg LBM) to maximize FSR<sup>57</sup>. These studies in combination, support the epidemiological studies described in section 7.3 on the relationship between protein intake and muscle mass. If the aging skeletal muscle is becoming less sensitive to protein intake with regards to FSR this would eventually lead to a more negative NB if the elderly is consuming the same amount of protein as young. Further, the increases in FSR after consumption of protein and the increased availability of amino acids in the circulation have been shown to last for at least 2-3 hours dependent on protein type provided<sup>68,85</sup>, which makes the potential anabolic stimulus repeatable several times a day. However, ~50% of the daily protein intake in elderly is consumed at dinner, which results in the total amount of protein consumed at breakfast and lunch being below the levels that have shown to maximize muscle protein synthesis<sup>68,95</sup>. Taking this into considerations, it has been suggested that any

recommendations regarding protein intake within healthy elderly should be pr. meal instead of pr. day<sup>96</sup>.

Despite these studies being highly valuable for our understanding of the development of sarcopenia, there are several limitations to their interpretations. An increase or decrease in either basal or response FSR is difficult to interpret with respect to its impact on NB since any changes in MPB needs to be accounted for. The specific measuring of MPB is unfortunately more difficult due to several different methodological circumstances<sup>79</sup>. However, with the respect to the reported negligible effect of AA and insulin on MPB, this issue with respect to the interpretation of FSR-data is thought of being a minor concern<sup>97</sup>. Even though, recently Kim IY et al found that not only alterations in PS relation to meal intake but also PB contributed significantly to the positive NB observed<sup>98</sup>. As stated by the authors, these findings illustrate that only measuring PS could lead to erroneous conclusion with respect to evaluating the anabolic response to a given stimulus or intervention. In addition, it is of interest that it has been impossible to link either basal or response FSR to muscle mass or hypertrophy. To my knowledge, only Mitchell et al has investigated a possible link with a negative result showing no association<sup>99</sup>. There could be several good explanations for the lack of congruence, but it raises the concern that the clinical or physiological relevance of the FSR measures have been overemphasized by the supporters of increased daily protein recommendations within elderly above 64 years of age<sup>59,60,68,100-102</sup>. Nonetheless, studies evaluating the FSR measurement with respect to its interpretation are highly needed. However, the regulation of FSR and the impaired FSR seen in response to different interventions with age is an indication of a loss of anabolic sensitivity, which may be one out of several causes of Sarcopenia.

## **7.5 The relation between the skeletal muscle and glucose metabolism**

Under normal condition, the skeletal muscle mass is responsible for ~65% of the glucose disposal in response to insulin secretion<sup>19</sup>. Further, during physical activity the skeletal muscle mass is responsible of 95% of the increased energy expenditure which if rigorous can increase up to 25 fold compared to the resting metabolic rate.<sup>103</sup> This ability demands a high degree of flexibility and adaptability when it comes to substrate utilization. The mechanisms by which this change in substrate utilization is controlled, and the ability of the organism to change between substrates for fuel production has been investigated using the theoretical concept of metabolic flexibility<sup>103</sup>. Metabolic flexibility is basically referring to the organism's ability to

adapt to changes in metabolic or energy demands in the transition from fasted to fed or inactive to active, and is in general a specific application of Walter B. Cannon's broader concept of physiological homeostasis from 1929<sup>104</sup>. With age and disease it has been shown that the metabolic flexibility of especially the skeletal muscle is impaired<sup>103,105</sup>.

An important argument for the concept of metabolic flexibility are the glucose and fatty acid cycle first described by Randl et al. In 1963 Randl et al showed how the selection of substrate in fuel production and storage within skeletal muscle and white adipose tissue (WAT) were not only controlled by hormonal regulation but affected selectively by the specific substrates used for fuel production, i.e. glucose and fatty acids<sup>106</sup>. Through several different animal studies, Randl et al showed the inhibitory effects of glucose and insulin on the release and oxidation of fatty acids in both skeletal muscle and WAT and the suppression of glucose oxidation during periods of carbohydrate deprivation. Further, they showed that in a diabetic rat model this cycle was disturbed with an accelerated oxidation of fatty acids despite a delivery of both glucose and insulin leading to an impaired glucose uptake, glycolysis and impaired glucose oxidation. These results have since been proven, extended to other tissues within both animals and humans, and expanded in terms of both impact and the variety of mechanism by which fuel selection is controlled in conditions of health and disease<sup>107</sup>.

Due to its known importance for metabolic homeostasis, the loss of skeletal muscle mass and quality is thought to play a crucial role in the decreasing metabolic flexibility seen with age. It is known that the glucose tolerance is lowered with advancing age<sup>108</sup> and that ~25% of all elderly between 75-80 years are fulfilling the criteria of being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes<sup>109</sup>. In type 2 diabetic patients, the accumulation of intramyocellular lipids are thought to be partially responsible for the loss of insulin sensitivity seen with this condition. The aging skeletal muscle show a somewhat similar characteristics with increased intramyocellular lipids<sup>110</sup>. Further, a lower skeletal muscle area of the abdominal muscles has been associated with an increasing plasma lipids and cholesterol levels<sup>111</sup>. However, a recent study by Chee et al. showed that inactivity rather than age is causing the lipid accumulation and insulin resistance observed in elderly<sup>112</sup>. Supporting these findings, resistance exercise training (RT) and muscle activity enhances insulin sensitivity<sup>113-116</sup>, and light muscular intensity training such as aerobic training improves fasting plasma glucose levels, decreasing both glucose- and insulin AUC during an OGTT<sup>117</sup> in prediabetic patients. It is however, difficult to separate the effect of physical activity

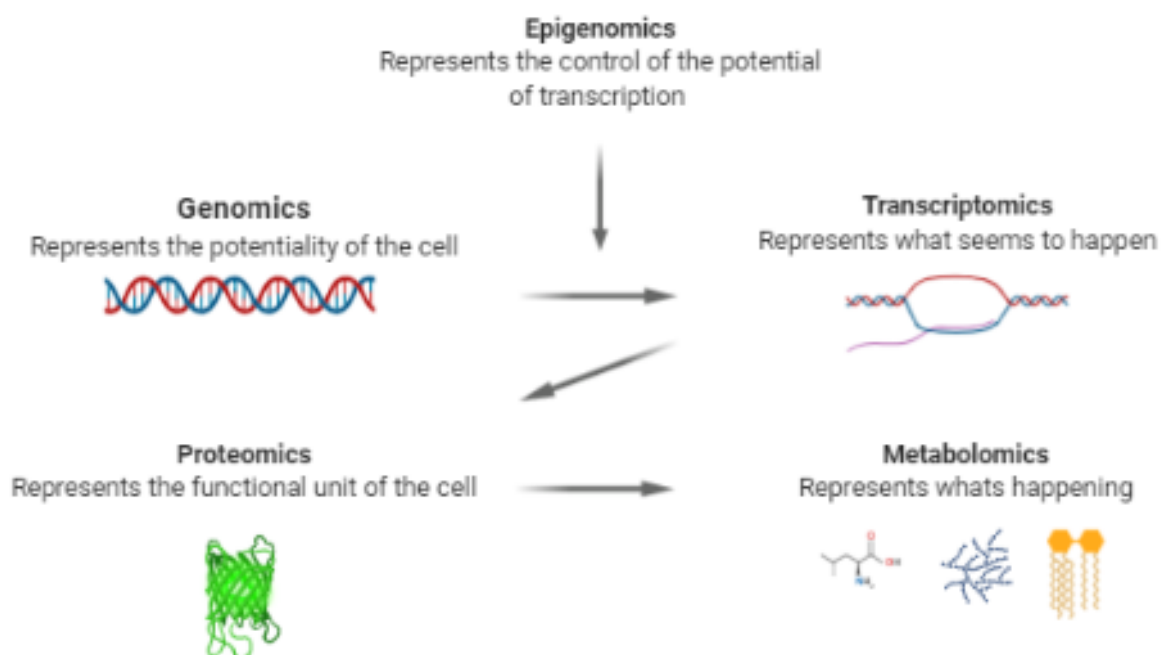
from the effect of muscle mass and quality per se on both insulin sensitivity and increased intramyocellular lipids, since muscle mass and quality is decreasing with inactivity and vice versa<sup>45</sup> and that activity levels are known to decrease with advancing age. Interestingly, Solerte et al showed that 6 month of AA supplementation (8g/day) increased muscle mass and insulin sensitivity in 41 elderly non diabetic sarcopenic elderly (66-84years)<sup>118</sup>, supporting that muscle mass per se might be important for the maintenance glucose homeostasis in this population. Further, Manders et al<sup>119</sup> showed a positive effect of protein consumption (0.3g/kg casein + 0.1g/kg leucine) on reducing post-meal hyperglycemia in 11 long-standing type 2 diabetic patients (58±1 years) underpinning that AA also work by other mechanism than its effect on skeletal muscle secondly improving insulin sensitivity as suggested by Solerte et al, such as the well-known insulinotropic effects of branched chain amino acids (BCAA)<sup>120</sup>.

Therefore, the effect of different types of interventions such as exercise and protein supplementation thought to counteract sarcopenia might also be beneficial for improving glucose tolerance within elderly either by its direct effect on insulin secretion, the lowering of the concentration of intramyocellular lipids, or secondarily by the increase of muscle mass. However, it is important to notice that even though protein supplementation has shown to be beneficial with respect to glucose tolerance in short-term studies, high circulating plasma AA levels have recently also been associated with the risk of developing diabetes<sup>121</sup>. This in combination highlights that interventions studies investigating the long-term effect of different strategies expected to counteract sarcopenia should be aware of how these interventions affect the glucose tolerance.

## **7.6 The Omics-disciplines and the skeletal muscle metabolome**

For the last three decades the omics disciplines have evolved dramatically, starting with genomics in the 1990ties and now including epigenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics and microbiomics<sup>122</sup>. Omics is derived from the Greek suffix-ome, which in the science of cellular and molecular biology refers to all constituents considered collectively within a given area of interest. The development of the different omics disciplines has primarily been driven by technological development making high-throughput analysis cost-efficient. However, the development has equally been depending on the ability to handle, analyze and interpret large and complex data-sets<sup>123</sup>. These analyses are based on pattern-recognition methods also known as multivariate data analysis or chemometrics<sup>124</sup>. An important aspect of the omics-disciplines is

the altered approach to biology, which is due to the analysis's strategy rather than the creation of big-data sets per se and could be categorized as a top-down in contrast to the traditional bottom-up approach, meaning that instead of starting with investigating specific parts of a given system and then use these results to inductively support the probability of a certain conclusion, the whole system is considered collectively, and the results are then used deductively for further interrogating specific parts of the system. If the underlying assumptions of the omics discipline is accepted, i.e. that the whole is actually measured, this new approach is offering a rejuvenation of the deterministic scientific approach and conceptual framework, which has otherwise been questioned and criticized<sup>125,126</sup>. Within this thesis going too much into detail with this theoretical discussion is beyond the scope, but it is important to keep these essentially different scientific approaches and their respective cons and pros in mind since both approaches are used (Traditional: Paper II+III (IV), Multivariate: Paper IV). The different omics disciplines and their respective relevance in interpreting biology is illustrated underneath.



**Illustration 2.** Overview of the different omics-disciplines and their relation to biology.

A difficulty in measuring tissue specific metabolomes are the amount of tissue available. However, due to relatively recent advances within technology it is now possible to measure the



skeletal muscle metabolome despite the low amount of tissue normally available from human experiments<sup>127</sup>. Fazelzadeh et al show differences in the skeletal muscle metabolome between young, healthy elderly and frail elderly in a study using different targeted platforms. They showed differences in the metabolome at rest within metabolites related to mitochondrial function, fiber type and tissue turnover<sup>128</sup>, and changes within both young and frail elderly with respect to the amino acid metabolism as an effect of 6 month of progressive resistance exercise. Using un-targeted platforms, Sato and colleagues observed daily variation and response to a 5 day high fat or high carbohydrate diets in the skeletal muscle metabolome in middle aged men (30-45 years of age)<sup>129</sup>, and Saoi et al showed an effect of bicarbonate ingestion prior to strenuous interval exercise on different metabolic pathways in comparison to placebo in 7 active young men<sup>130</sup>. These three studies underline the possibilities of new insights in the metabolism of the skeletal muscle offered by the tissue specific application of metabolomics. It is important to note, that these studies were using both targeted<sup>128</sup> as well as un-targeted<sup>130,131</sup> platforms. In general, the aim of targeted platforms is to investigate known metabolites whereas un-targeted platforms seeks to acquire as many metabolites as possible<sup>132</sup>. The targeted approach has the advantage when it comes to absolute quantification, however it will only measure already identified metabolites. Contrary, the un-targeted approach is unbiased, meaning that it actually measures what is in the sample and not only the targeted metabolites, which may result in the discovery of new and unknown metabolites. The disadvantage using un-targeted metabolomics are both identification and its relative and not absolute quantification. One could argue, that targeted metabolomics are not true to its name, i.e omics  $\approx$  the whole, in comparison to un-targeted metabolomics, which at least is measuring as many as technically possible. Further, un-targeted metabolomics are more in line with the overall omics theory described above where the focus is on doing inductive hypothesis generating research rather than the classical hypothesis driven research.

As already demonstrated by the three previous studies measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome, this methodology is promising for understanding alterations in the skeletal muscle metabolism as well as for discovering new metabolites. Further, metabolites are as illustrated (illustration 2) the end point in the production chain starting with the genome. It is therefore thought, that the metabolome of a given tissue are closer related to the phenotype than the measured substances of the other omics disciplines, and it has therefore also great potential when it comes to the discovery of new biomarkers and for phenotyping patients within different

disease categories. Establishing and validating protocols for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome can therefore contribute to both understanding of normal as well as diseased skeletal muscle and the diagnostics of different muscle diseases.

## 8.0 Aims and hypothesis

The aim of this PhD project was to evaluate the effect of 12 month of supplementation with or without different types of training on several different parameters related to the skeletal muscle within healthy males and females above 65 years of age representing the part of population anticipated of being both capable and willing to follow general health recommendations. The study was designed as an intention to treat study in order to make any possible findings transferable into general health recommendations. Further, the PhD project aimed at using the interdisciplinary design and the many test and measures performed to explain any differences possible observed as an effect of the intervention.

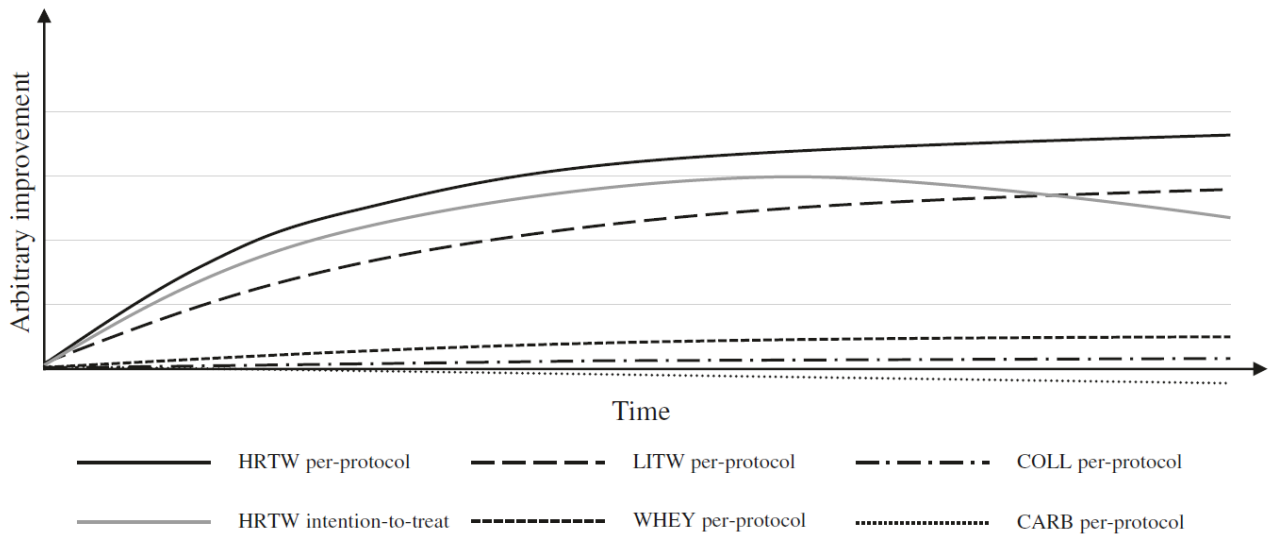
The primary study questions were as follows:

- 1) How is Sarcopenia defined? What is the argument for changing the definition? And what are the implications of the current definitions? (Paper I)
- 2) Is protein supplementation with or without different types of training an effective way of preventing or attenuating the sarcopenic process with respect to muscle mass and muscle strength? (Paper II)
- 3) How does supplementation with or without different types of training affect the glucose tolerance within healthy elderly? (Paper III)
- 4) How does prolonged supplementation with or without different types of training affect the MPS and the skeletal muscle metabolome and how should changes in muscle FSR be interpreted? (Paper IV)

Briefly, the hypothesis with respect to the primary outcome for the CALM-study were as follows. We hypothesized that for the PP-analysis, changes in qCSA in the training arm would be: HRTW > LITW > WHEY; and in the nutritional arm: WHEY>COLL>CARB

However, due to the hypothesis that the adherence would be higher in LITW compared to HRTW during the 12 months of intervention, the hypothesis of the ITT analysis for the training arm were: LITW $\geq$ HRTW>WHEY.

The hypothesis is illustrated in the figure 2 underneath.



**Figure 2.** Hypothesized improvements over time with different interventions. Black lines mark the expected effect of per-protocol analysis: HRTW (solid line), LITW (long-dashed line), WHEY (short-dashed line), COLL (dashed-dotted line), and CARB (dotted line) interventions when analyzed per protocol. The gray line marks the expected effect intention-to-treat analysis of HRTW. Adopted from Bechshøft et al.<sup>17</sup>

## 9.0 Study design

### 9.1 The CALM study

The CALM study was designed as a randomized controlled trial investigating the effect of 5 different interventions thought to affect the skeletal muscle mass for 12 months. The 5 different interventions were split into two intervention arms. A nutritional arm containing 3 groups receiving a supplement 2 times daily for 12 months:

- 1) 20g of maltodextrin + 10g of sucrose (CARB-group)
- 2) 20g of collagen hydrolysate +10g of sucrose (COLL-group)
- 3) 20g of whey hydrolysate+10g of sucrose (WHEY-group)

And a training arm containing 3 groups (WHEY-group is reused due to practical limitations) all receiving the whey supplement two times daily in addition to conducting either:

- 4) Home-based light intensity training 3-5 times pr. week. Supervised and adjusted monthly (LITW)
- 5) Center-based heavy resistance exercise 3 times pr. week. Continuously adjusted. (HRTW)

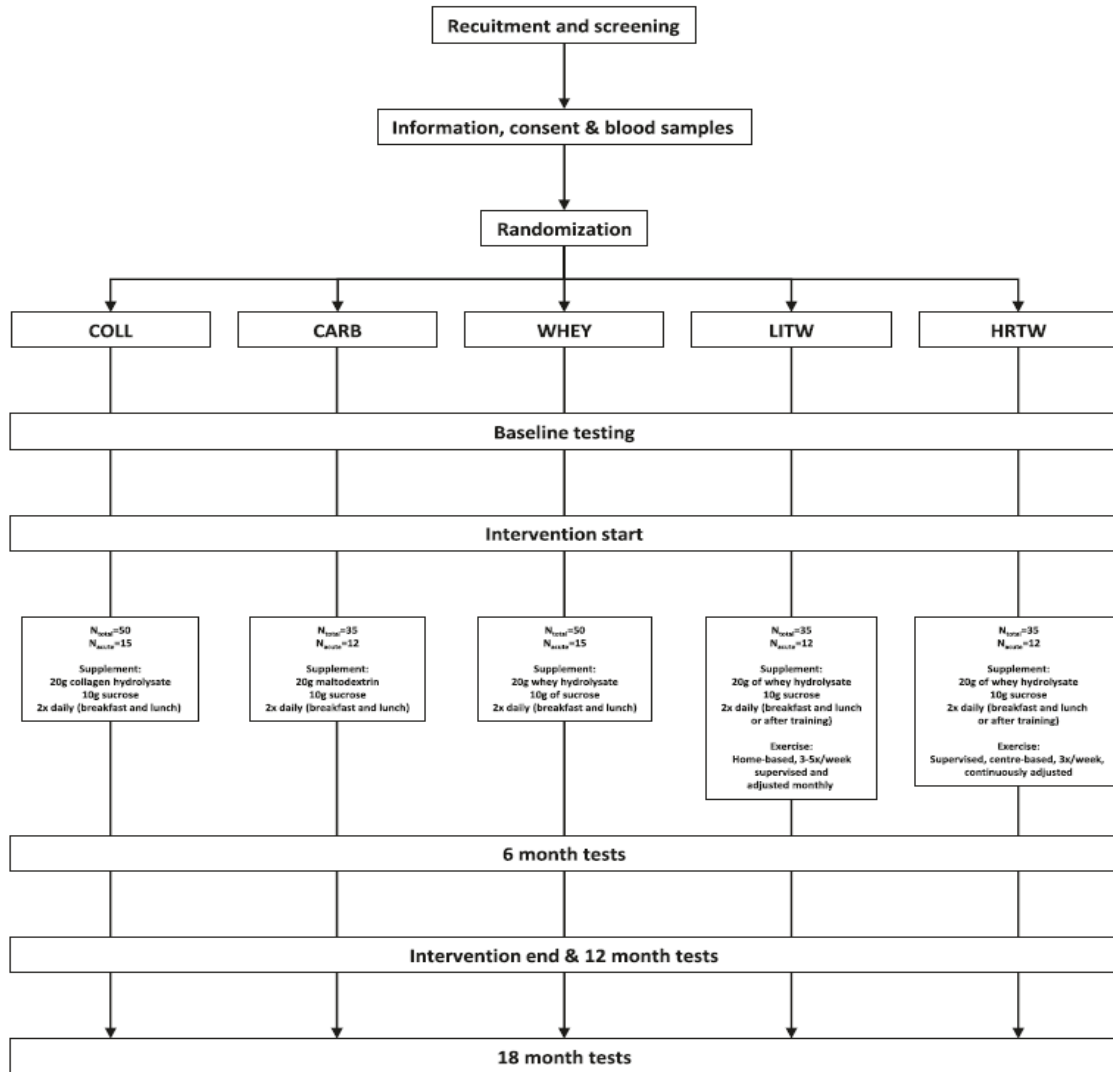
The nutritional supplementation arm (CARB, COLL, WHEY) investigated the effect of protein supplementing two times daily and the impact of protein quality in comparison to an isocaloric control. The participants were instructed to ingest the supplements before or during breakfast and lunch in order to increase satiety and thereby limiting a potential excessive calorie intake.

The training arm (HRTW, LITW, WHEY) investigated the effect of resistance training at two different intensities in combination with whey protein supplementation in comparison to supplementation with whey protein alone (WHEY group is reused as the control group in the training arm). The HRTW-group performed a supervised center-based heavy resistance exercise program 3 times weekly. The intensity was periodized into 3-months cycles, increasing the load progressively from 3-sets of 12 repetition maximum (RM) with 2 minutes break in between, to 5 sets of 6 RM with 2 minutes break in between, in each cycle. The training

program consisted of 5 exercises, leg extension, leg press, leg curl, shoulder pull-down and arm push-up. The LITW-group performed light load home-based resistance training 3-5 times weekly (average of 4 times a week) using body weight and TheraBand® rubber bands (Hygenic Corp., Akron, OH, USA). The training sessions were supervised once a week for the first month and once a month for the remaining 11 months of the intervention in order to ensure correct execution. The training program consisted of 5 exercises, leg extension (1 minute exercise, 1 min break), chair stand/squat (1 minute exercise, 1 min break), leg curl (1 minute exercise, 1 min break), shoulder pull (1.5 minute exercise, 1.5 min break) and arm stretch (1.5 minute exercise, 1.5 min break).

Adherence to the supplementation and the training intervention in the LITW-group were registered by the participants in hard-copy diaries and the adherence to the training in the HRTW-group were registered by the training personnel. Participants with a registered supplementation adherence >75% corresponding to the consumption of 1.5 supplement pr. day were included in the PP-analysis. Participants with a registered training adherence >65% corresponding to participating in 2 training sessions per week in the HRTW-group and 3 training sessions per week in the LITW-group were included in the PP-analysis.

The study was designed as an modified intention-to-treat analysis in order to make the results applicable for future recommendations. This means that participants not following the intervention could continue their participation through-out the trial. However, adherence registrations were collected in order to conduct a per protocol analysis as well. It was conducted at the Institute of Sports Medicine at Bisbjerg Hospital from 2014-2018. The study design is illustrated in figure 3.

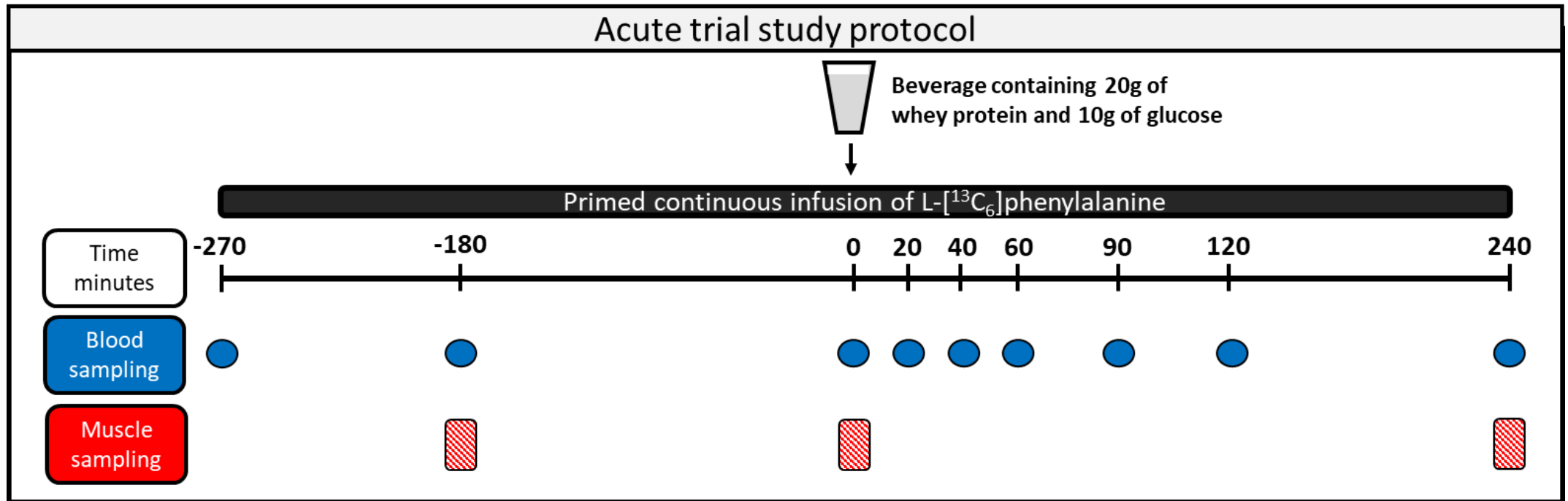


**Figure 3.** Participant flow.  $N_{total}$  represents the expected number of inclusions in each group.  $N_{acute}$  represents the expected number of participants who will complete the measurements of fractional synthesis rate at 0 and 12 months. COLL Collagen supplementation, CARB Carbohydrate supplementation, WHEY Whey supplementation, LITW Light intensity resistance training and whey supplementation, HRTW Heavy resistance training and whey supplementation. Adopted from Bechshøft et al.<sup>17</sup>

## 9.2 The acute trial

In addition to the general test battery, a subgroup of 66 participants (12 in COLL, LITW and HRTW, and 15 in CARB and WHEY) were also participating in an acute infusion trial at baseline and after the 12 months of intervention. Figure 4 shows an overview of the acute trial

**Figure 4.** Acute study conducted at baseline and after 12 months of intervention in a randomly selected sub-set of participants from each study group. Adopted from paper IV.

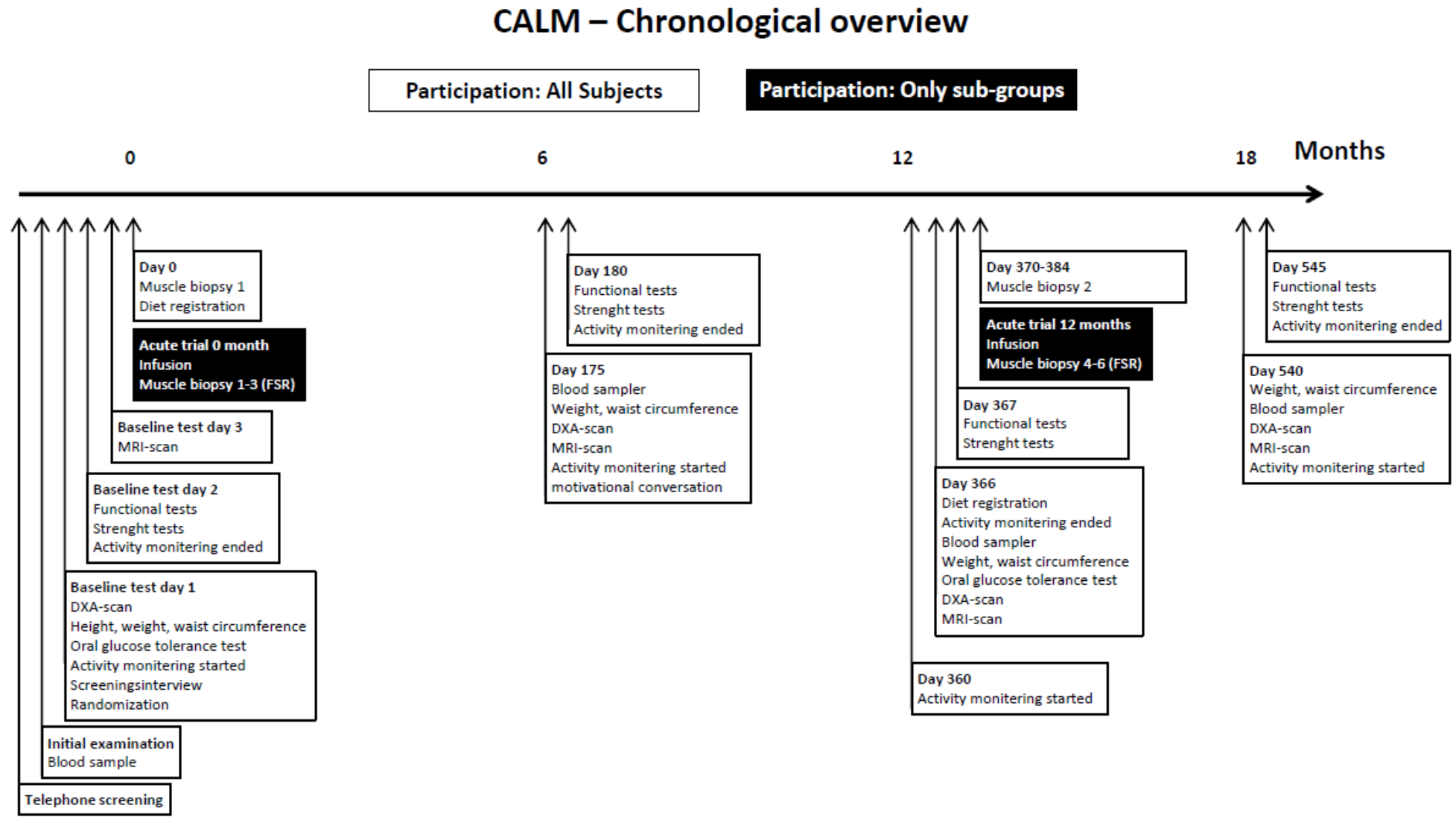


### **9.3 Test and measures performed**

As mentioned in section 1.0, the CALM study was conducted in collaboration between three different faculties at the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Humanities. Due to the involvement of scientists from many different disciplines and interdisciplinary nature of the study great variety of different measurements and observation were performed at several different timepoints. For a chronological overview of the test performed in the CALM-study that are used in this thesis see figure 5 underneath. For the complete list see Bechshøft et al<sup>17</sup>.



**Figure 5.** Chronological overview of the test conducted CALM



## **10.0 Methods and methodological considerations**

### **10.1 Study population, exclusion criteria and randomization**

We carried out the study in 208 otherwise healthy elderly (both males and females) living in the Greater Copenhagen area. We advertised for the project in local newspapers, magazines, radio programs, social media, senior centres and public events. Inclusion were started in 2014 and ended in 2016. Participants were excluded from participants by the following criteria:

- Care dependency
- Disability in lower extremities
- Arthritis or arthrosis in knee or hip joints, arthritis requiring medication, or other rheumatic diseases potentially affecting joints or muscles
- Diagnosed or suspected knee osteoarthritis (based on EULAR criteria: three symptoms and three signs); excluded if more than one of the following three symptoms are found: morning stiffness <30 minutes, persistent knee pain, or functional limitations
- Bilateral knee alloplastic and hip alloplastic material
- Connective tissue disorders
- Severe COPD (FEV1/FVC ratio <70 % and FEV1 < 50 % of predicted value (GOLD stage 3 or 4)
- Unstable cardiac arrhythmias or decreased LVEF (<60 %)
- Gut diseases affecting food absorption
- Surgical diseases affecting ability to conduct heavy load strength exercise
- Embodied magnetic metal
- Endocrinological diseases potentially affecting muscles (diabetes mellitus, growth hormone-treated, sex hormone-treated, or untreated thyroid diseases)
- Alcohol consumption >21 U/week for men and 14 U/week for women (1 U = 15.2 ml of alcohol)
- Participation in studies using the same stable isotopically labeled tracers as this study (i.e., L-[ring-13C6] phenylalanine) within the last 6 months
- >1 h of weekly heavy strength training
- Dementia or other severe cognitive impairment

- Not holding Danish citizenship or not fluent in Danish

Further participants were excluded if they used the following medications:

- Systemic corticosteroids
- Sex hormone therapy, anti-sex hormone therapy,
- Anticoagulants (thrombin inhibitors, K-vitamin antagonists, heparins, pentasaccharides, factor Xa inhibitors, thrombocyte inhibitors except nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and acetylsalicylic acid).

Participants were initial screened by telephone. Participants not excluded underwent a physical examination including measuring of blood pressure and blood samples to determine if the participants could participate in the intervention safely. The participants also completed a 30-s chair stand test used for stratifying the randomization. The participants enrolled were then randomized into one of the 5 interventions groups described in section 9.1 using MinimPy 0.3<sup>17,133</sup>. Randomization was stratified by sex and number of completed repetitions on the 30-s chair stand test (<16 or ≥16). Participants in the supplement groups (WHEY, COLL, CARB), were blinded to which supplement they received. Training interventions were not blinded to the participants.

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of the included participants by group. Adopted from Paper II.

	CARB	COLL	WHEY	LITW	HRTW
<b>Variable</b>	(n = 36)	(n = 50)	(n = 50)	(n = 36)	(n = 36)
<b>Demographics, Mean (SD)</b>					
Age, y	69.6 (3.9)	70.4 (4.1)	70.3 (4.3)	70.4 (4.0)	70.3 (3.1)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	26.0 (3.9)	25.4 (6.0)	25.2 (3.6)	25.7 (3.1)	25.9 (3.5)
Daily activity, Steps/day	10894 (5165)	10590 (3996)	10118 (3590)	10119 (3450)	9777 (3574)
Protein intake, g/kg/day	1.2 (0.3)	1.2 (0.4)	1.1 (0.3)	1.0 (0.3)	1.1 (0.4)
Energy intake, kJ/day	8442 (1804)	8150 (1952)	8529 (2092)	7445 (2220)	8268 (2146)
<b>Body Composition</b>					
Fat free mass, kg	48.5 (7.8)	49.2 (8.6)	50.0 (8.5)	48.1 (9.3)	48.8 (9.9)
Fat percentage, %	33.2 (9.3)	32.0 (9.1)	32.7 (7.5)	34.3 (7.5)	34.7 (7.1)

Quadriceps size, cm <sup>2</sup>	56.6 (11.3)	56.0 (13.9)	54.5 (11.0)	56.7 (11.4)	55.4 (13.1)
<b>Strength and function</b>					
400 m gait time, s	248 (42)	243 (38)	242 (30)	242 (30)	251 (27)
30 s chair stand, reps	19.9 (5.7)	20.1 (5.3)	19.4 (4.6)	20.1 (4.6)	18.9 (4.9)
Leg extensor power, W	183.1 (56.2)	191.2 (67.2)	189.6 (59.6)	190.8 (61.4)	194.2 (65.8)
MVIC, Nm	158.9 (41.1)	169.0 (53.4)	177.6 (47.0)	171.5 (44.4)	165.0 (50.8)
<b>SF-36</b>					
MCS	59.3 (3.2)	57.3 (4.3)	57.6 (3.6)	57.1 (4.7)	57.5 (4.4)
PCS	55.3 (4.7)	56.0 (4.7)	56.8 (3.1)	56.4 (4.0)	56.5 (4.2)
<b>Laboratory data</b>					
HbA1c, mmol/mol	36.0 (2.2)	35.8 (3.4)	36.2 (3.5)	35.8 (2.9)	35.8 (2.7)
Total cholesterol, mmol/L	5.6 (0.9)	5.7 (1.0)	6.0 (1.2)	5.5 (1.0)	5.8 (0.9)
HDL Cholesterol, mmol/L	1.9 (0.5)	2.0 (0.6)	1.8 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)
LDL Cholesterol, mmol/L	3.1 (0.8)	3.2 (1.0)	3.4 (0.9)	3.0 (1.0)	3.4 (1.0)
Triglycerides, mmol/L	1.3 (0.6)	1.4 (0.8)	1.7 (0.8)*	1.4 (0.6)	1.4 (0.6)
Creatinine, µmol/L	76.8 (14.7)	81.4 (15.9)	80.5 (11.6)	78.8 (14.7)	77.0 (12.7)

## 10.2 Quadriceps cross sectional area – Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

The primary outcome of the CALM-study was changes in cross-sectional area of the m. quadriceps of the dominant thigh. Any changes would directly reflect the different interventions ability to affect the skeletal muscle mass.

MRI were chosen as the imaging modality due to its high sensitivity and validity<sup>134</sup> and its superiority to other modalities such as DXA scans<sup>135</sup>. MRI is an imaging modality which work by employing a strong magnetic field which align the protons in the body with the field. A radiofrequency current is then pulsed through the patient to make the protons spin out of equilibrium. The radiofrequency field is then turned off and the protons will then realign with the magnetic field under the release of energy. The time it takes for the protons to realign in combination with the energy released is measured by the MRI sensors and used for discriminating between different chemical molecules. Different tissues have different chemical molecules and by computational analysis of the measured signals by the MRI sensors specific and detailed imaging of different tissues can be produced<sup>136</sup>.

The cross-sectional area of the m. quadriceps was chosen due to its importance for physical functionality and for the comparison between other measurements (e.g. biopsies) and studies. Scans were performed at baseline, 6, 12 and 18 months (see fig. 5). Participants were instructed to abstain from vigorous physical activity for 48 hours prior to each scan. The following description is adopted from paper II with minor modifications.

MRI scans of both thighs were performed in a Siemens Verio 3 Tesla scanner by blinded radiographers. Participants were scanned in supine position using a dedicated 32-channel body coil, and a phantom was placed parallel to the femur during the scans. The following protocol was used; 3 plane GRE scout (matrix res. 1.2.0x1.6x6.0 mm, FOV 330mm, TE 3.69ms, TR 7.8ms, scan time 27s); Axial T1 tse from the medial tibia plateau to the pubic symphysis (matrix res. 0.8x0.8x8.0mm, FOV 400mm, TE 8.4ms, TR 500, scan time 3:26).

Each scan consisted of six 8-mm thick axial slices separated by 60-mm gap, with the first slice being placed on the medial tibia plateau. Slice 4 was used for assessing the qCSA and all analysed scans were performed by the same blinded investigator using OsiriX v. 5.5.2 (OsiriX medical imaging software, Geneva, Switzerland). Each scan was analysed twice, showing a mean coefficient of variation between measurements of 0.7%. The mean of the two measurements were used for further analysis. Staff performing and analysing the MRI images as well as the strength and functional tests were blinded towards the interventions and time points of the scans.

The primary outcome was the assessment of the time interval between baseline and after 12 months of intervention. Scans performed at 6 months after the intervention start and scans performed at 18 months (6 months after ending the intervention) will not be reported in this thesis.

### **10.3 Body composition - Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA)**

DXA scans were performed to assess body composition at baseline 6, 12 and 18 months and bone mineral density at baseline and 12 months. Changes in body composition due to the intervention is of interest, but especially the interpretational information it provides with respect to other measures conducted in CALM is also highly valuable.

DXA scanners has the advantage of being less requiring with respect to costs, trained personnel and time in comparison to more advanced technology such as MRI or computed tomography (CT). Further, due to the low dose of radiation it is safe to use, and scans

can be conducted repeatedly, making it a valuable method in many different clinical as well as research settings. It was originally developed for assessing the bone mineral density in osteoporotic patients but are now also widely used for assessing body composition. Despite anthropometric data such as height, weight, waist circumference being strongly correlated with different tissue quantities, DXA-scans are preferred to assess body composition in trials of shorter duration due to its higher sensitivity<sup>137</sup>.

The DXA-scan is an imaging modality which work by the attenuations of dual x-ray radiation energy range. By placing an individual between the x-ray emission source and an x-ray radiation detector it is possible to estimate the composition and mass of three different kind of tissues, i.e. bone-, fat-free- and fat mass. The mass and composition is determined by differences in attenuation of the x-ray beam in comparison to a known reference material<sup>138</sup>. The following description of the DXA scan procedure is adopted from paper III and slightly modified.

All DXA scans was performed in a Lunar DPX-IQ DXA scanner (GE Healthcare, Chalfont St. Giles, UK), and analyzed with the enCORE v.16 software package (Lunar iDXA; GE Medical Systems) by an investigator blinded to participants ID, time and intervention. At baseline and at 12 months, participants arrived in the morning having refrained from solid foods from 21:00 the day before, and the scanning was performed between 08:00 and 10:00. At the 12-month time point DXA scans were performed between 48 hours and 14 days after last training session. The DXA scans performed at 6 and 18 months were performed in the fed state at all time during the day with participants being euhydrated and instructed to void prior to the scan.

The DXA scan were auto segmented by the software and the regions of interest (ROI). This were then secondly adjusted by the blinded investigator according to predefined anatomically fixed points. For the upper body the most distal part of the chin, the armpit and caput humerus were used to separate the head, torso and arms. For the lower body a triangle was placed upside down with the two proximal corners being parallel with the most proximal part of the hip and the distal tip placed so the lines followed the lateral part of ramus ischiadikum in order to separate the legs. Unblinded personnel performed DXA scans and blood sampling, but analyses and interpretation of the data output from these were done by blinded researchers.

Measures of total fat free mass, leg and arm fat free mass, appendicular fat free mass (ASM), total fat mass, total fat %, visceral fat % and bone mass generated by the DXA-

scans a baseline and 12 months were used in this thesis. The appendicular skeletal muscle mass index (ASMI) were calculated as ASM/ height<sup>2</sup>.

#### **10.4 Oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) – Insulin ELISA**

An OGTT was performed at baseline and at 12 months in order to assess changes in glucose tolerance as an effect of the intervention. Any changes would be highly relevant with respect to the overall question of whether or not the interventions could have relevance for recommendations with respect to prevention of Sarcopenia.

The OGTT has previously and is still being used as an important test in diagnosing and monitoring diabetes, even though it was replaced by HbA1c as the primary diagnostic measurement in type 2 diabetes in 2011<sup>139</sup>. However, where HbA1c is a static measurement representing the mean glucose level in plasma across a timespan of ~3 months, i.e. the lifespan of an erythrocyte, the OGTT is a dynamic measurement of a 2-hours response period to 75 g of orally ingested glucose. The amount of blood samples drawn during an OGTT can vary, depending on the desired time resolution but normally include at least 2, e.g. a fasting value and the 2-hour post glucose intake value. HbA1c  $\geq$  48 mmol/mol / 6.5%, fasting plasma glucose  $\geq$  7.0 mmol/L or 2-hour OGTT plasma glucose  $\geq$  11.1 mmol/L are the current diagnostic cut-off values that defines type 2 diabetes.

Besides its diagnostic use, the OGTT can be used to estimate the insulin sensitivity. The euglycemic insulin clamp technique is considered being the golden standard regarding the measurement of insulin sensitivity. However, the euglycemic insulin clamp is a demanding and time-consuming technique in comparison to a simple OGTT due to its use of insulin and glucose infusions which requires experienced personnel and tightly monitoring. Matthews et al were the first to develop and validate an equation of estimating the insulin sensitivity based on fasting plasma glucose and insulin concentrations, known as the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA)<sup>140</sup>. Even though fairly good correlated with insulin-sensitivity ( $r=0.69$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), Matsuda et al. developed and validated a calculation to derive estimates of insulin sensitivity based on insulin and glucose concentrations during an OGTT which correlated better ( $r=0.73$ ,  $p<0.0001$ )<sup>141</sup>. In this thesis the following equations are used:

$$\text{HOMA-IR: } \frac{\text{Insulin}_0 * \text{Glucose}_0}{22.5}$$

Where  $Insulin_0/Glucose_0$  is fasting plasma concentrations. Insulin concentrations are in  $\mu IU/mL$  and fasting glucose is in  $mmol/L$ .

Matsuda:

$$\frac{10,000}{\sqrt{(Insulin_0 * (Glucose_0 * 18) * ((mean\ OGTT\ insulin\ concentration) * (mean\ OGTT\ glucose\ concentration)))}}$$

Where  $Insulin_0$  is the fasting insulin concentration in plasma,  $Glucose_0$  is the fasting glucose concentration in plasma, mean OGTT insulin/glucose concentration is the mean insulin/glucose concentration calculated by dividing the AUC during the OGTT with 120min, using the timepoints 0,45 and 120min from the OGTT trial. Further, the Matsuda index were also calculated using the reduced timepoints equation from DeFronze et al<sup>142</sup> :

$$\frac{10,000}{\sqrt{(Insulin_0 * (Glucose_0 * 18) * (Glucose_{120} * 18) * Insulin_{120})}}$$

Where  $Insulin_0/Glucose_0$  is the fasting insulin/glucose concentrations in plasma and  $Insulin_{120}/Glucose_{120}$  is the 120min insulin/glucose concentrations in plasma. In both equations' glucose concentration is multiplied by 18 to get the concentration in  $mg/dL$ . Insulin concentrations is in  $\mu IU/mL$ .

The following description is adopted from paper III with minor modifications. The OGTT at baseline and 12 months were both conducted at Bispebjerg Hospital in the fasted state after the participants had completed the DXA-scan. An antecubital venous catheter was inserted, and a two basal venous blood sample was drawn. Then 75 g of anhydrous glucose dissolved in 250 ml of tap water was administered and 2 sets of blood samples were drawn in K3-EDTA vials at 45 and 120 min after the glucose consumption. One set of the plasma samples was sent to the biochemical department at the hospital and analyzed for glucose, HbA1c and proinsulin C-peptide. The other sample set were cooled on ice for 15 min and then centrifuged for 10 min at 3172 g at 4°C to isolate the plasma and aliquots was stored at -80°C for insulin analysis.

Glucose concentrations were measured at the biochemical department at Bispebjerg Hospital with absorption photometry using cobas® 8000 modular analyser, Roche Diagnostics.



The insulin concentrations were measured using an insulin enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay kit (ELISA) (ALPCO Diagnostics, Windham, NH, USA). The procedure was as follows: 200  $\mu\text{L}$  plasma was converted to serum by adding 5  $\mu\text{L}$  0.2unit/ $\mu\text{L}$  thrombin solution (T6884 – Sigma Aldrich). Samples were vortexed, left for 10 min at room temperature and spun at 1600 g for 10 min. The supernatant was collected for the insulin analysis. The ELISA was performed according to the manufacture's instruction. The kit was equilibrated to room temperature and 25  $\mu\text{L}$  of each standard, control, and sample were loaded into each well followed by 100  $\mu\text{L}$  Detection Antibody. All samples were loaded in duplicates and samples from the same subject were loaded on the same plate. Samples from subjects in the different groups were randomized on each plate. Standards and controls were loaded in triplicates. The plates were incubated for 1 h at room temperature, shaken at 800 rpm on a microplate shaker followed by 6 times washing. Thereafter, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of TMB substrate was added to each well to activate the fluorophore, the plate was incubated for further 15 min at room temperature shaking at 800 rpm on a microplate shaker. 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of stop solution was added to each well and the plate was analyzed immediately after at 450 nm in the microplate reader (Multiskan FC, Fisher Scientific).

The area under the curve (AUC) for insulin and glucose concentrations were calculated using the trapezoidal method and used in the Matsuda and HOMA-IR equations to estimate changes in insulin sensitivity.

### **10.5 Muscle protein synthesis**

The muscle protein synthesis was measured at baseline and at 12 months using the direct incorporation technique. We measured FSR during a period of 3 hour in a fasted state (basal FSR) and response period of 4 hour to a protein and carbohydrate drink containing 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of glucose (response FSR). Any differences between basal FSR and response FSR as well as any difference across the 12 months of intervention could provide valuable information with respect to explaining any observed differences in muscle mass as an effect of the intervention. Further, the number of individuals included as well as the inclusion of both males and females is very unique due to the high costs of experiments of this kind. Lastly, an evaluation regarding the interpretation of the FSR measure is also possible due to the diversity of measurements conducted in CALM.

### 10.5.1 Tracers

Tracer techniques has been used within metabolic research for around 100 years. Rudolf Schoenheimer were one of the pioneers within this field and his definition of a tracer is still holding today. In his well renowned thesis “The dynamic state of body constituents” he wright:

*“In order to mark a compound for biological studies the label has to be of such nature that no change of physiological properties is affected by its introduction, but the experimenter must be able to estimate it in small amounts. Labels that satisfactorily fulfill these requirements are isotopes of elements that occur in organic matter: namely the less abundant isotopes of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen.”*<sup>81</sup>

All atoms exist in various forms depending on the number of neutrons in the nucleus of the atom. These different variations of the same atoms are named isotopes. Isotopes can be divided into two forms, e.g. radioactive and stable isotopes. Stable isotopes have the advantage in comparison to the radioactive, that they do not disintegrate under the emission of radiation and are therefore safe to use in experiments. Further, the different stable isotopes natural abundance is very different. As an example, the stable isotope  $^{12}\text{C}$  natural abundance is 98.9% in comparison to 1.1% for  $^{13}\text{C}$ , which has one neutron more in its nucleus<sup>81</sup>. In stable isotope tracer techniques, the used properties are the low natural occurrence in combination with the slightly higher mass due to the extra neutron in the nucleus. In principle, a certain compound such as an amino acid can be marked with one or more  $^{13}\text{C}$ , making the amino acid distinguishable from the natural occurring amino acid due to its slightly higher mass which can be measured by mass spectrometry. The tracer can either be administered orally or as an infusion, and by subsequently sampling from different tissues its path and destiny can be traced.

A wide range of stable isotopic labeled compounds exist, and selection of the tracer depends on the question (tissue, nutrient, metabolic pathway) of interest. Since skeletal muscle proteins consist of amino acids, MPS is measured by using different stable isotope labeled amino acids. For the direct incorporation technique (see section 10.5.5) by which it is possible to measure the FSR, leucine and phenylalanine with different stable isotope labeling are the most commonly used tracers. Despite that in theory, the measurement should be indifferent of the tracer used, it has been shown that the absolute FSR values obtained vary. Therefore,

results from studies using different infusion protocols cannot be compared directly. The variation is both due to the specific tracer used but also the choice of precursor and the period of time between biopsies<sup>87</sup>. However, changes in FSR are in general consistent with respect to both choice of tracer and infusion protocol.

In CALM we use L-[ring-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] phenylalanine was used as tracer. Herein, all six carbon atoms of the aromatic ring are labelled, <sup>13</sup>C.

### *10.5.2 Acute trial protocol and tissue sampling*

The following description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. Participants arrived at the facility 8 a.m. in the morning by car or public transportation to avoid physical activity in an overnight fasted state from 9 p.m. the day before. They were instructed to abstain from strenuous physical activity 3 days prior to the trial. The participants were placed in a bed in a supine position and two venous catheters were inserted in an antecubital vein in each arm and a background blood sample were taken. Hereafter, at -270 minutes (see fig. 4), a continuous infusion with L-ring[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] phenylalanine tracer (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Tewksbury, MA, USA) at an infusion rate of 6.0  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg FFM}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  was started after injection of a priming dose 6.0  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg FFM}^{-1}$  over 2 minutes. The tracers were dissolved in sterile saline water and filtered through 0.20- $\mu\text{m}$ -pore disposal filters (Minisart, Sartorius Stedium Biotech, Gottingen, Germany) in the morning of the experiment. The tracer infusion rate was set to obtain a venous tracer-to-tracee ratio (TTR) of ~10%. After reaching steady state at -180 minutes another blood sample and the first biopsy were taken. The participants continued to rest in the supine position until another blood sample and biopsy were taken at 0 minutes. Immediately after, a drink containing 20 g of whey hydrolysate and 10 g of glucose was provided and finished immediately. Then blood samples were taken a 20 min, 40 min, 60 min, 90 min, 120 min and 240 min. At 240 min the last biopsy was taken, and the infusion stopped.

All blood samples were collected in 9 mL plasma Vacutainers containing EDTA, put at rest on ice for  $\geq 10$  min, and spun down at 3,200 g for 10 min at 4°C. Plasma were then transferred to eppendorf tubes and stored at -80°C until further analysis.

All three biopsies were obtained from vastus lateralis with individual incisions with ~3cm in-between with a 4-mm biopsy needle (Bergström, Stockholm, Sweden) using manual suction. At the beginning of the trial, the skin was shaved, and the thigh muscle were inspected and the incision sites for the three biopsies were marked. Before obtaining each biopsy, the area

was disinfected and local anesthetic (1% lidocaine) was administered. An ~1.5 cm incision was made before inserting the needle and obtaining the biopsy. An elastic band with a compression pad was used to compress the incision site for 30 min in order to avoid intramuscular hematoma. Before compression, the incisions were strapped with SteaStrips and covered with waterproof plaster. The muscle specimens were quickly cleansed from any visible blood, fat and connective tissue under a microscope, and then frozen in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and stored at -80°C until further analysis.

### *10.5.3 Sample preparation – FSR*

The following description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. The muscle specimens were prepared for GC-C-IRMS analysis as follows. ~20 mg of the muscle sample was transferred to 2 mL lysing tube containing 10 lysing beads and two silicon carbide crystals. 1 mL of 4°C homogenizing buffer (Tris 0.02 M [pH 7.4], NaCl 0.15M, ED(G)TA 2 mM, TritonX-100 0.5%, sucrose 0.25 M) were added and the sample were homogenized 4 · 45 sec at speed 5.5 m·sec<sup>-1</sup> with 2min pause in between (FastPrep 120A-230; Thermo Savant, Holbrook, NY, USA). The samples then rested for 3 hours at 5°C. They were then spun at 800 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatant discarded. 1.0mL of 4°C homogenizing buffer were added to the pellet and the sample were once again homogenized for 1 · 45sec at speed 5.5m·sec<sup>-1</sup>, left for 30 min at 5°C and then spun 800 g for 20 min at 5°C. The supernatant was again discarded and 1.5 mL KCl-buffer (KCl 0.7M, pyrophosphate (Na<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>) 0.1M) added and the samples were vortexed and left overnight at 5°C. The sample were then vortex and spun at 1,600 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatant (the myofibrillar protein fraction) was then transferred to a Scot-glass and 2.3 mL ethanol 99% was added. The samples were then vortexed and left for 2 hours at 5°C. After a spin 1,600 g for 20 min at 5°C the supernatant was discarded and 1mL 70% ethanol was added to the pellet containing the myofibrillar protein fraction. The samples were vortexed and then spun at 1600 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatants were once again discarded. To hydrolyze the myofibrillar proteins 1 mL of 6 M HCL was added and the sample, vortexed and left overnight at 110°C. The constituent amino acids were then purified over Dowex resin (AG 50W-X8 resin; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) columns using 2 M NH<sub>4</sub>OH for elution and put under N<sub>2</sub> flow at 70°C until dried. Hereafter, the hydrolyzed the amino acids were derivatized as the N-acetyl-propyl (NAP) derivative. Briefly, the samples were dried under N<sub>2</sub> flow. Then 200 µL propyl acetate and 100 µL boron trifluoride propanol were added. Samples were then vortex and heated for 30 min at 120°C. The samples were then dried under N<sub>2</sub> flow.

Then 50  $\mu\text{L}$  acetonitrile, 26  $\mu\text{L}$  1,4-dioxane, 38  $\mu\text{L}$  triethylamine and 24  $\mu\text{L}$  were added with vortex mixing in between. Samples were then heated in an oven at 55  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 15 minutes and then transferred to a 1.5 mL eppendorf tube. 50  $\mu\text{L}$  chloroform and 2 x 75  $\mu\text{L}$  0.001 M  $\text{NaCHO}_3$  was added with vortex mixing in between. Samples were then spun, and the top aqueous layer were removed, and the sample were stored as -20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  until GC-C-IRMS analysis.

#### 10.5.4. Mass spectrometry – GC-C-IRMS

As mentioned in section 10.5.1. the measurement of the abundance of tracer is conducted by the use of mass spectrometry (MS) coupled to different kind of separation modules. In CALM we use the gas chromatography-combustion-isotope ratio mass spectrometry (GC-C-IRMS) system for measuring the enrichment in myofibrillar protein fraction.

The GC-C-IRMS system is a combination of three separate modules, the GC module, the combustion oven, and the IRMS. The GC has the function of separating all of the metabolites injected to the column. The sample is injected with a carrier gas to the column and the gaseous compound interacts with the column wall and is then trapped until the column temperature reaches a certain level. During the heating of the oven in which the column is placed, the chemical compounds will be released from the column at different timepoints due to the physical and chemical interaction with the coating of the inner wall of the column. This is called the retention time. By knowing the retention time, the specific compounds of interest can then be followed through the next steps. After separation, the compound is then lead into the combustion oven with a temperature of 940  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , yielding in the case of amino acids:  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$ . The last step is the IRMS which is capable of measuring the  $^{13}\text{CO}_2/^{12}\text{CO}_2$  ratio which is referenced to a calibration curve. When the  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  is entering the IRMS it is bombarded with electrons to make the molecule charged. The molecule is then accelerated before it is lead into the magnetic field which will bend the curvature. Depending on the magnets current, either  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  or  $\text{H}_2$  will be analyzed. The curvature of a given molecule is depending on its mass, and different masses are measured by detectors spaced from each other hereby giving the  $^{13}\text{CO}_2/^{12}\text{CO}_2$  ratio. It is very important that the separation of molecules in the GC module is complete, since there is no further separation by mass in the following modules. In addition, using multiple labelling is clearly an advantage using IRMS, since the  $^{13}\text{CO}_2/^{12}\text{CO}_2$  ratio becomes markedly different, despite the relatively small amounts of tracer infused during the acute trial.

For the analysis described above we used the GC-C-IRMS system provided by Hewlett Packard 5890-Finnigan GC combustion III-Finnigan Deltaplus; Finnigan MAT; Bremen; Germany. For a detailed description of settings etc. see the publication by Bornø et al.<sup>143</sup>.

#### *10.5.5. The direct incorporation technique – FSR calculation*

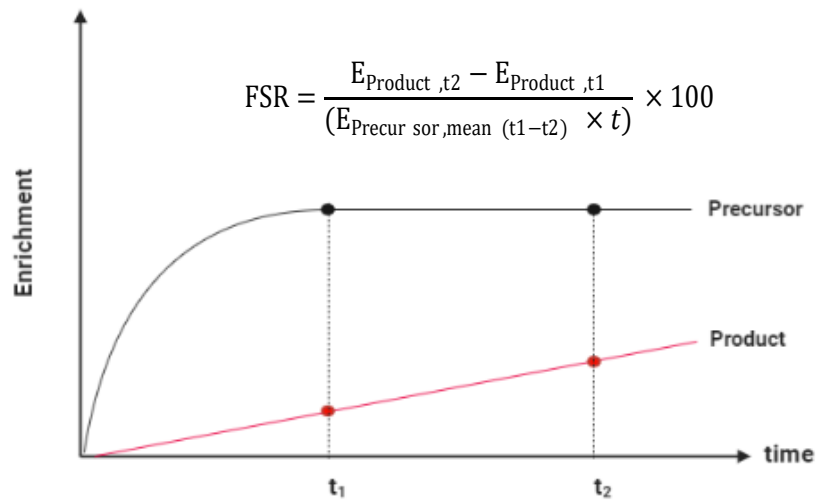
The direct incorporation technique also known as the precursor-product used in CALM for calculating the FSR is the preferred way of measuring protein(s) specific changes. Basically, in order to calculate the FSR using this technique the following measures are needed:

1. The enrichment level in the precursor,
2. The enrichment level in the product.

The enrichment levels are normally given in mole per excess (MPE) which is calculated using the tracer-to-tracee ratio (TTR) measured by the IRMS as follows:

$$MPE = \frac{TTR}{1 + TTR}$$

The enrichment in the precursor represents the amount of tracer that has been available for the specific protein synthesis of interest. The enrichment level in the product represents the amount of tracer that has been incorporated into the specific proteins(s) of interest. For calculating a rate, a minimum of two samples is required. Depending on the choice of precursor, the number of samples can vary. A simple illustration of the precursor product model can be found underneath.



**Illustration 3.** A simple illustration of the precursor product technique. An infusion of a given tracer is started. Sampling is beginning after reaching steady state in the precursor level. Since time to reach steady state in the product is far longer than the precursor, the difference in enrichment between  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  will represent the synthesis rate. Black and red dots represent sampling from the precursor as well as the product pool. E is enrichment, t is time

Different assumption underlies the interpretation of FSR calculation as being representative of the specific protein synthesis<sup>79</sup>:

1. That the rate of incorporation of the tracee is constant during the incorporation period of tracer.
2. The tracer incorporated will not reappear due to breakdown during the time of the infusion protocol
3. The pool size of tracee bound protein is constant through the experiment
4. No significant time delay in the incorporation of amino acids into protein
5. The measured enrichment of the precursor is the actual enrichment of the true precursor.

These assumptions need to be considered when interpreting the certainty of any measurement of FSR actually representing the true synthesis of a given protein. However, in short term studies such as the acute trial in CALM measuring protein with a relatively slow turnover rate the assumptions are reasonable.

In CALM we use the L-[ring-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] phenylalanine as the tracer. We use a weighted mean of the plasma enrichment levels as precursor, since we did not have the possibility of measuring intracellular precursor enrichment level at more than one timepoint due to small tissue samples. Despite not qualifying for the 5<sup>th</sup> assumption listed above, there is some advantages of using the plasma enrichment instead of the intracellular enrichment in phenylalanine which is otherwise known as the best estimate of the true precursor<sup>144</sup>. Since, the time resolution is much higher due to the number blood samples obtained (7) in comparison to muscle samples (3), any unintended fluctuation in enrichment levels during the infusion trial will be captured using the plasma enrichment. The final equation for measuring the FSR in CALM were as follows:

$$\text{FSR} = \frac{E\Delta_{\text{Myofibrillar protein, Phe}}}{(E_{\text{Plasma mean, Phe}} \times t)} \times 100$$

Where  $E\Delta_{\text{Myofibrillar protein, phe}}$  is the difference in enrichment level between two biopsies either  $M_{240\text{min}} - M_{0\text{min}}$  or  $M_0 - M_{180\text{min}}$ ,  $E_{\text{plasma mean, phe}}$  is the weighed mean of the plasma enrichment levels and  $t$  is the time between the biopsies in hours. A factor of 100 were used to express the FSR in %/h.

## 10.6 Amino acids (AA)

The plasma AA concentrations as well as the plasma enrichment with L-[ring-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] phenylalanine was measured at baseline and at 12 months. Both were measured in plasma samples obtained at -180, 0, 20, 40, 60, 90 and 240min during the infusion trial. The enrichment levels were used for calculating the FSR as described above. The AA concentrations would provide coarse information on uptake and metabolism kinetics for each individual after the ingestion of 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of glucose. Again, the number of individuals included as well as the inclusion of both males and females is very unique due to the high costs of experiments of this kind. The AA-profile is used as documentation of protein intake/uptake in study IV. Since, I have not been directly involved in the preparation of samples and measurements it will not be described in detail.

The plasma enrichments were analyzed using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) using internal standards. LC-MS/MS is using liquid chromatography for separation of metabolites before the samples is lead into the MS/MS module. The metabolites



are sprayed into an interface (ESI probe, electron spray ionization) in order to make the metabolites charged. Then, they pass on through the first MS/MS modules which further separates and fragmentize the metabolites before they reach the detector. The plasma samples were prepared as follows. 100 µL of plasma was mixed with 100 µL combined internal standard and 120 µL of 50% acetic acid (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) For more detailed description of the preparation and instrumentation see Bornø et al 2014<sup>145</sup>.

For each time point listed above the following 20 AA were measured: Aspartic acid (Asp), Glutamic acid (Glu), Serine (Ser), Glycine (Gly), Asparagine (Asn), Glutamine (Gln), Histidine (His), Threonine (Thr), Alanine (Ala), Proline (Pro), Arginine (Arg), Tau-Methylhistidine (Tau-MeHis), Tyrosine (Tyr), Valine (Val), Methionine (Met), Isoleucine (Ile), Leucine (Leu), Tryptophan (Trp) Phenylalanine (Phe) and Lysine (Lys).

### **10.7 Skeletal muscle metabolome**

The skeletal muscle metabolome was measured at timepoint 0 min and 240 min at baseline and at 12 months using the biopsies obtained during the acute-infusion protocol. As described in section 7.6 few studies have investigated the skeletal muscle metabolome. The use of targeted<sup>128</sup> as well as untargeted<sup>130,131</sup> platforms has been used previously. All of them uses the same sample preparation protocol validated by Alves et al<sup>127</sup> with minor variations, but different MS-modalities (MSI-CE-MS, UPLC-MS, GC-MS). We use untargeted GC-MS TOF (time of flight) and a similar preparation protocol to the previous studies for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome in CALM. Before analyzing the samples from the CALM study, we ran several tests runs with different preparation protocols using samples we had in excess from previous studies conducted by our research group. This were done in order to ensure that the preparation protocol as well as the GC-MS TOF protocol performed as expected.

Since the skeletal muscle metabolome analysis was not included as part of the original test battery planned in CALM, we were limited by the amount of tissue that was left after the planned analysis were conducted. Therefore, our main focus (paper IV) were:

- 1) to report on the methodological aspects of measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome using untargeted GC-MS TOF,
- 2) to explore whether or not we were capable of seeing an effect of the 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of glucose after 4 hours and

3) to explore if there were any alteration in the skeletal muscle metabolome as an effect of the intervention.

It should be noted, that the effect of the intervention was only explored in the supplemental arm (CARB n=6, COLL n=6, WHEY n=6), since we did not have enough samples in the training arm (LITW n=3, HRTW n=3).

### *10.7.1 Sample preparation*

The following description are adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. Muscle samples were extracted using a similar method as described by Alves et al 2015<sup>127</sup>, which is based methanol/chloroform/water at Vol:Vol ratio of X:Y:Z, respectively. The muscle specimens were prepared and analyzed as followed. The description is adopted from paper IV. ~25 mg of frozen muscle tissue was put into 2 mL lysing tubes containing 10 lysing beads and two silicon carbide crystals. 0.5 mL of 5°C solvent (50% methanol containing 20 ppm ribitol) was added. The biopsies were homogenized 4 x 1 min with 2 min pause in between at speed 5.5 m·sec<sup>-1</sup> at 5°C (FastPrep 120A-230; Thermo Savant, Holbrook, NY, USA). Then, 300 µL of chloroform was added and the homogenized samples were vigorously vortexed for 10 min at room temperature. The samples rested on ice for 20 min and was then centrifugated for 15 min at 5°C at 16,000 g. 60 uL of the upper part of the aliquot (methanol part) and 40 uL of the lower part of the aliquot (chloroform part) was put into 200 uL glass inserts. The glass inserts were then dried under vacuum using a SpeedVac (Labogene, Lyngø, Denmark) at 40°C for 3 hours. Samples were then derivatized in two steps, first by addition of 10 uL 20 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup> methoxamine hydrochloride in dry pyridine (90 min at 45°C by agitating at 750 rpm) followed by trimethylsilylation (TMS) using trimethylsilyl cyanide (TMSCN), as described previously<sup>146</sup>. TMS derivatization was performed by addition 40 uL TMSCN and by agitating at 750 rpm for 40 min at 45°C. A total of 226 number of samples were analyzed in a randomized order in GC-MS, Y samples originate from this study design and Z samples were pooled control muscle samples run every 10<sup>th</sup> sample in the sequence.

The control muscle sample were prepared as follows. 20 skeletal muscle samples of ~25mg frozen muscle tissue from previous studies were prepared as described above. However, the upper part of the aliquot (50% MeOH part) of all twenty 2 mL lysing tubes were transferred and mixed vigorously before 60 uL were transferred to each of the twenty 200 uL glass inserts. The lower part of the aliquot (Chloroform part) of all twenty 2 mL lysing tubes were mixed in

the same way before 40 uL were transferred to each of the twenty 200 uL glass inserts. This were done in order to secure that the samples were as similar as possible.

#### *10.7.2 Gas chromatography - mass spectrometry – time of flight (GC/MS-TOF)*

The GC/MS-TOF is basically functioning the same way as the variants of mass spectrometry modalities described above. Briefly, the samples are injected into the column using and inlet carrier gas. The column is then heated and depending on the chemical properties of the different metabolites they will be released at different timepoints and led forward to the MS-TOF. Here the metabolites will be ionized and accelerated to the same speed by an electric field. Then they pass to a chamber of vacuum with no electric field, and the ions with a high mass-to-charge ( $m/z$ ) ratio will move slower than those with a low  $m/z$  ratio hereby separating the ions. The GC/MS-TOF has the advantaged that the flight times are very short for all of the ions making it possible to accumulate several thousand mass spectra in one second. This rapid accumulation of spectra leads to better reproducibility and signal-to-noise ratios and a better use of small quantities of samples.

Our samples were analyzed as follows. The description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. Sample derivatization and injection of 1 uL derivatized aliquot were automated using a Dual-Rail MultiPurpose Sampler (MPS) (Gerstel, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany) as described previously<sup>147</sup>. The GC–MS consisted of an Agilent 7890B gas chromatograph (GC) (Agilent Technologies, California, USA) coupled with a time-of-flight mass spectrometer, HT Pegasus TOF-MS, (LECO Corporation, Saint Joseph, USA). A GC column used was Restek ZB 5% Phenyl 95% Dimethylpolysiloxane column (30 m with I.D. 250  $\mu$ m and film thickness 0.25  $\mu$ m) with a 5 m inactive guard column (Phenomenex, Torrance, USA). A hydrogen generator, Precision Hydrogen Trace 500 (Peak Scientific Instruments Ltd, Inchinnan, UK) was used to supply a carrier gas at the constant column flow rate of 1.0 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>. The initial temperature of the GC oven was set to 40 °C and held for 2 min followed by heating at 12 °C·min<sup>-1</sup> to 320 °C and kept for an additional 8 min, making the total run time 33.3 min. A post run time at 40 °C was set to 5 min. Mass spectra was recorded in the range of 45–600  $m/z$  with a scanning frequency of 10 scans sec<sup>-1</sup>, and the MS detector and ion source was switched off during the first 6.4 min of solvent delay time. The transfer line and ion source temperature were set to 280 °C and 250 °C, respectively. The mass spectrometer was tuned according to manufacturer’s recommendation using perfluorotributylamine (PFTBA). The MPS and GC–MS

was controlled using vendor software Maestro (Gerstel, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany) and ChromaTOF (LECO Corporation, Saint Joseph, USA).

### *10.7.3 Assignments and analysis strategy*

The following description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. We processed and assigned the metabolites as follows. The raw GC-TOF-MS data was processed using Statistical Compare toolbox of the ChromaTOF software (Version 4.50.8.0) with following settings; the raw data was used without smoothing prior to peak deconvolution, baseline offset was set to 0.8, expected averaged peak width was set to 1.2 sec, signal-to-noise was set to  $\geq 5$ , peak areas were calculate using deconvoluted mass spectra, common m/z ions of derivatization products were determined as 73, 75, and 147. Deconvoluted mass spectra were also used for peak identification using LECO-Fiehn and NIST11 libraries. The library search was set to return top 10 hits with EI-MS match of  $>75\%$  using normal-forward search and with a mass threshold of 20. Deconvoluted peaks were aligned across all samples using following settings; retention time shift allowance of  $<3$  sec, EI-MS match of  $>90\%$ , mass threshold of  $>25$ , and present in  $>90\%$  of all pooled samples.

In paper IV our analysis strategy was chosen in order to assess the following three questions: First and foremost, we wanted to validate and report the methodological aspect of measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome using untargeted GC/MS-TOF. Secondly, we investigated if we were able to detect any differences as an effect of 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of sucrose between the metabolome of the 0 min biopsy and the 240 min biopsy. Thirdly, we wanted to investigate whether or not we could detect any differences between the groups at 12 months. However, we categorized the last analysis as an exploratory analysis instead of a confirmatory due to the low number of samples available.

## **10.8 Statistical analysis**

For all the planned analysis (Paper II, III and IV(only FSR)) we used the statistical analysis described in Bechshøft et al<sup>17</sup>. The sample size (paper II and III) was calculated based on our detection limit for the primary outcome of qCSA. We aimed to detect between-group differences in qCSA changes of 2% over the intervention period, corresponding to approximately 80 mm<sup>2</sup>. Based on previous data from our lab<sup>148</sup>, an SD of  $\sim 1.4$  cm<sup>2</sup> for qCSA was expected. Thus, applying a level of significance of 0.05 and a power of 0.80, a group size of 30 participants

was required. Taking dropout rate into account we included 36 participants in HRTW, LITW and CARB groups and 50 participants in WHEY and COLL groups since we expected a higher dropout rates in these two groups due to taste issues and the lack of motivation to complete with no training<sup>17</sup>. The power calculation of sample size for the subgroups participating in the acute trial were based on previous data obtained in healthy elderly participants by our group since we are not aware of on any other data on MPS responsiveness over time. We used the following parameters for conducting a power calculation of the sample size in the sub groups: based on previous data we expected an average 4-h postprandial responsiveness to protein intake from basal condition of  $0.016 \% \cdot h^{-1}$  which would approximately correspond to an increase in muscle protein FSR of 50 % with an interparticipant SD on the increase of  $0.017 \% \cdot h^{-1}$ . We aimed to be able to detect a change in responsiveness of 50% within a group after the 12-months intervention corresponding to a change of  $0.008 \% \cdot h^{-1}$  in the increase in the muscle protein FSR from  $0.016 \% \cdot h^{-1}$  to  $0.024 \% \cdot h^{-1}$ . The SD for the change in responsiveness were set to  $0.006 \% \cdot h^{-1}$  based on previous findings. When including 10–12 participants, a power of at least 0.80 to detect a statistically significant difference within each intervention group over time would be obtained. When taking an the expected dropout into account, it were decided to include 15 in the WHEY and COLL groups 12 participants in the HRTW, LITW and CARB group.

We performed all analysis as intention-to-treat and per protocol in paper II, III and IV. Intention-to-treat analysis were performed on all participants completing the study irrespective of adherence to the intervention. Per protocol analysis were performed on the participants with a supplementation adherence  $>75\%$  corresponding to 1.5 supplement pr. day and a training adherence  $>3$  sessions pr. week for the LITW-group and  $>2$  sessions pr. week in the HRTW-group. The following descriptions are adopted from their respective papers with minor modifications.

### *10.1 Paper II*

Baseline data are summarized by group means  $\pm$  standard deviations (SD) unless otherwise stated (table 1.). Effects of the interventions were investigated within each study arm, separately. The individual treatment effects are reported as the mean change and associated 95% confidence intervals (CI) during the intervention. Between-treatment effects are reported as mean difference in treatment effect and associated 95% CI. The level of significance was set to

<0.05. The effects of the interventions were analysed as a modified intention-to-treat, including all participants that completed at least one test at the 12-month timepoint, irrespective of adherence to the interventions.

Changes from baseline to 12 months were investigated separately in the supplementation arm and in the training arm of the study, using a longitudinal mixed model with time (baseline and 12 month) and intervention group (three levels) as fixed predictors, including their interaction, and person as random term. Treatment inferences were based on significance test of the interaction term, and further investigated by contrasts of intervention group changes from baseline to 12 months between all pairs (CARB vs COLL vs WHEY, and WHEY vs LITW vs HRTW) of group combinations.

R (version 3.5.1) with the function `lm()` from the stats package (ver 3.5.1), `lmer()` from the lme4 package (ver. 1.1-20) and `glth()` from the multcomp package (ver. 1.4-8) were used for data analysis.

### *10.2 Paper III*

Data was tested for normality by the Shapiro-Wilks normality test and for equal variance by the Brown-Forsythe test. All insulin, HOMA, proinsulin C-peptid and Matsuda data were log<sub>2</sub>-transformed to obtain normal distribution. Data was analyzed using two-way ANOVA with repeated measurements followed by the post Holm- Sidak test. P-values below 0.05 were considered significant and trends are reported for p-values between 0.05 and 0.1.

In the intention to treat group, we analyzed if changes in any of the measured parameters were associated with changes in HbA1c, insulin AUC, and glucose AUC. Furthermore, we looked for associations at baseline between our measured parameters and HbA1c, insulin AUC, and glucose AUC from a cross sectional perspective. Therefore, all subjects are pooled in this analysis. Due to multiple testing a p-value below 0.001 was considered significant. For the cross-sectional associations, we used the Bonferroni Correction for multiple testing  $\alpha/45 = 0.05 / 45 = 0.001$ . Therefore, a p-value below 0.001 was considered significant. All tests were performed in Prism (GraphPad) and all data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard error (SE).

### *10.3 Paper IV*

FSR data were analyzed with a one-way ANOVA on each intervention arm separately comparing the difference between delta fractional synthesis rates at 0month and at 12months ( $\Delta$ delta FSR). Further, a paired t-test between the basal and response were performed at 0month for males and females separately. All FSR analysis were performed using GraphPad Prism version 8.0.0 for Windows (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California, USA).

The MM data was subjected to univariate and multivariate statistical analysis prior to investigate possible effects according to the study design factors, including visit (0m and 12m), treatment (basal and response) and the intervention (CARB, COLL, WHEY, LITW and HRTW). Principal component analysis (PCA)<sup>149</sup> was performed prior to explore the MM data and evaluate an overall variation present in the dat. ANOVA-simultaneous component analysis (ASCA)<sup>150</sup> with permutation test, as described previously<sup>151</sup>, was used to study significance of study design factors and their explained variations . Further, any single metabolite difference according to the design factors were analyzed using an ANOVA adjusted for multiple testing using false discovery rate (FDR) rate of 10%. Prior to PCA, ASCA and ANOVA, the MM data was normalized to the internal standard (ribitol) peak area. The MM data was mean centered (the mean of each column was subtracted from the corresponding variable) and divided by its standard deviation, also called “auto scaling” before PCA and ASCA. All statistical data analysis was conducted using MATLAB ver. 2016b (The Mathworks, Inc. USA) and custom MATLAB scripts written by the authors.

## 11.0 Results and discussion

### 11.1 Paper I (results and discussion)

This study investigates the current definitions made by several different consensus groups on sarcopenia and their given arguments. The primary study question in paper I were:

How has the definition of Sarcopenia changed over time? What is the argument for changing the definition? And what are the implications of the current definitions?

As outlined in figure 1, the definition of Sarcopenia has changed significantly since its introduction in 1989. From pointing to the self-evident and natural phenomenon of age-related loss of muscle mass it is now considered as a clinical condition of disease with its own ICD-10 diagnostic code. According to the latest consensus report<sup>30</sup> and clinical guideline<sup>31</sup>, published after Paper I, Sarcopenia is now defined by the following diagnostic algorithm:

1. Find case – Use the SARC-F screening questionnaire or clinical suspicion
2. Assess – Muscle strength (grip strength or chair stand test)
3. Confirm – Muscle quantity or quality (DXA, BIA, CT, MRI)
4. Severity – Physical performance (gait speed, SPPB)

If muscle strength (step 2) is below a certain reference value, the diagnosis should be confirmed by a measure of either muscle quantity or quality (step 3). The severity should then be categorized by the patient's physical performance (step 4). The latest algorithm is not markedly different from the previous consensus definitions except for changing the categorization from syndrome to disease and the clarity when it comes to clinically assessing possible patients.

Only three of the different consensus reports provide an argument for changing the definition of Sarcopenia from the original, i.e. low muscle mass, namely the lack of clinical relevance<sup>3,4,6</sup>. This argument is disconcerting for at least two reasons. First, if a well-defined phenomenon is not clinically relevant, changing the definition does not make it become clinically relevant. Instead, it changes the phenomenon under consideration. Secondly, every definition can become clinically relevant by adding a clinically relevant criteria to its definition.

Baumgartner et al proposed the first operational definition in 1998 which exclusively focused on muscle mass (fig. 1). They qualified the definition through its association to lowered physical function and morbidity. This changed the focus from 2000 and forth from concentration on the loss of muscle mass to be centered on the robustness of its association with



decreased physical function and mortality. At glance, this appears reasonable from a clinical perspective, e.g. to focus on the phenomenon with the strongest association to a negative health outcome. However, with the changed definition the outcome and the phenomenon are almost, if not exactly, the same. This completely undermines the argument of the new definition being clinically relevant due to the use of tautological reasoning which can be illustrated by the following three points:

1. **Definition:**

Sarcopenia = Decreased physical function/strength + low mass

2. **Argument for its clinical relevance:**

Sarcopenia is associated with decreased physical capability/function and mortality

3. **1(def.) + 2(argument):**

Decrease in physical function/strength is associated with decreased physical capability/function

From a scientific perspective, the argument for including strength and physical function into the definition is therefore invalid.

The consequences of the changed definition are several. According to the algorithms the muscle mass/quality is secondary to strength/physical function and only of value if the first criteria is fulfilled. The crucial role of the skeletal muscle in maintaining metabolic homeostasis and its endocrine functions are likely overlooked clinically when the primary criteria inclusion criteria is strength/physical function. Likewise physical function is at risk of being reduced to the question of muscle mass/quality when both are directly coupled in the definition<sup>27</sup>. Furthermore, it reduces the relevance of the term in other clinical specialties such as nephrology, endocrinology and oncology, where muscle mass per se could be of clinical importance for both categorizing patients as well as in selecting treatment. Beside the reductionist understanding of the three different phenomena, i.e. loss of mass, loss of strength, loss of function, the new definitions also lead to general confusion of what is meant by the term sarcopenia, since it no longer covers one but three phenomena.

In conclusion, solid scientific research demands a high degree of control as well as clarity with respect to the definition of the phenomenon of interest. The current change in

definition has not contributed to neither clarity nor the possibility of conducting controlled experiments with homogeneity amongst included participants. This is underpinned by investigators reporting it to be a major challenge to recruit research participants who match the criteria for primary Sarcopenia<sup>152</sup>. Based on this, one could fairly speculate whether the loss of muscle mass is clinically relevant or at all a phenomenon of disease. This of course depends on the definition of disease, which again is a very difficult to define<sup>153,154</sup>. However, it seems troublesome to define phenomena in a way that makes them clinically relevant since all phenomena eventually could turn into being phenomena of disease. Instead, phenomena which are clinically relevant should be defined based on their phenotypical manifestations ensuring that the phenomenon of interest is clinically manifest, relevant and detectable.

## **11.2 Results - Paper II, III IV**

### *11.2.1 Results Paper II*

Paper II reports on the primary outcome of the CALM study. The study was designed in order to answer the following question:

Is recommending protein supplementation with or without different types of training an effective way of preventing or attenuating the sarcopenic process with respect to muscle mass and muscle strength? (Paper II)

With the intention-to-treat study design the main purpose of the CALM study was to investigate the effect of recommendation rather than the intervention per se. Nevertheless, both an ITT as well as PP-analysis were conducted. Results descriptions are adopted from Paper II with minor modifications.

We had 1285 contacts from potential participants. 1148 were screened via telephone. Out of the 1148, 280 participants had a planned on-site screening visit of which 39 participants declined to participate and 33 were excluded prior to enrolment. Out of the 208 participants included and randomized into one of the five intervention groups. A total of 184 out of the 208 participants included completed the 12-month test-battery. In total, 24 participants dropped out during the study. 11 of the participants dropped out due to illness or injury unrelated to the intervention. 5 participants dropped out due to disliking the supplement. 3 participants dropped out due to the test-battery being too extensive, and participants dropped out 5 due to personal reasons. A consort diagram can be found in paper II.

*Adherence and dietary registrations:*

The adherence to the training and supplementation intervention can be seen in table 2. The adherence to the training intervention were significantly lower in the HRTW compared to the LITW group ( $P < 0.01$ ). The adherence to the supplement did not differ significantly between groups ( $P < 0.11$ ). However, it is important to notice that a relatively large fraction of the participants (34 subject) failed to report their supplement intake throughout the intervention. All of these participants came to our facilities as planned and received additional supplements, but they are not included in the adherence values due to their insufficient registration of supplement intake.

**Table 2.** Overview of the adherence to the intervention, supplements-non reporters and drop outs. Number are medians and [interquartile range] in percentage. Adopted from paper II

	CARB		COLL		WHEY		LITW		HRTW	
	ITT	PP	ITT	PP	ITT	PP	ITT	PP	ITT	PP
Training compliance	-	-	-	-	-	-	89% [77%, 96%]	94% [88%, 97%]	72% [62%, 78%]	78% [75%, 82%]
Supplement compliance	95% [77%, 97%]	96% [89%, 98%]	96% [86%, 99%]	96% [86%, 99%]	88% [82%, 93%]	90% [85%, 96%]	90% [77%, 94%]	93% [85%, 100%]	87% [79%, 97%]	94% [87%, 98%]
Supplement non-reporters (n=)	7		11		14		1		1	
Drop outs (n=)	2		6		6		6		4	
Included subjects (n=)	34	22	44	31	44	25	30	20	32	19

The changes between the collected 3-day (Wednesday to Friday) weighed dietary registrations at baseline and 11 months after intervention start can be seen in table 3 (and the full table can be found in paper II). A detailed description of the dietary assessment is published by Rønnow et al<sup>155</sup>. Comparing the pre-intervention and 11-month dietary registration protein intake was increased at 11 month for COLL ( $29.0 \pm 3.9 \text{ g} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ), WHEY ( $25.7 \pm 5.0 \text{ g/day}$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ), LITW ( $23.8 \pm 4.2 \text{ g} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ), and HRTW ( $26.7 \pm 3.8 \text{ g} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ), while energy intake did not change significantly (COLL:  $408 \pm 266 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P = 0.13$ ; LITW:

$474 \pm 437 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P = 0.29$ ; HRTW:  $-41 \pm 324 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P = 0.9$ . Energy intake increased for CARB, with no change in protein intake (Energy:  $948 \pm 428 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P=0.04$ ; Protein:  $-4.9 \pm 5.3 \cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $P=0.37$ ).

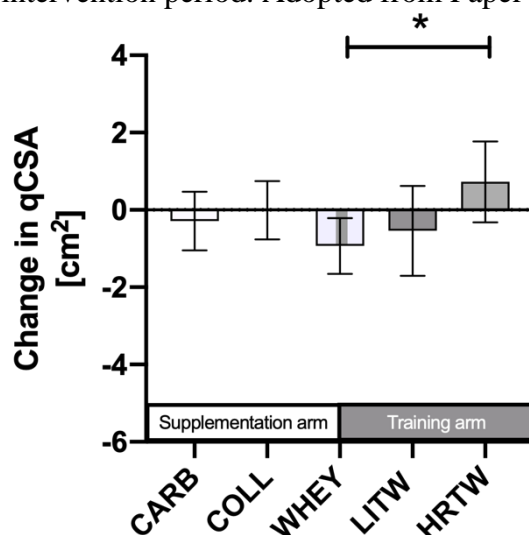
**Table 3.** Changes in protein and energy intake at baseline and 11 months after intervention start. \* denotes a significant change from baseline p<0.05. Adopted and modified from paper II.

	CARB		COLL		WHEY		LITW		HRTW	
	ITT (n = 34)	PP (n=22)	ITT (n = 44)	PP (n=31)	ITT (n = 44)	PP (n=25)	ITT (n = 36)	PP (n=20)	ITT (n = 36)	PP (n=19)
<b>Changes from 0-12m</b>										
Protein intake, g/day	-4.9 (5.3)	3.9 (5.9)	29.0 (3.9)*	27.2 (4.5)*	25.7 (5.0)*	31.4 (6.3)*	23.8 (4.2)*	26.9 (4.7)*	26.7 (3.8)*	34.6 (4.0)*
Protein intake excluding supplement, g/day	-4.9 (5.3)	3.9 (5.9)	-8.3 (3.6)	-9.8 (4.2)	-6.4 (4.3)	-5.0 (6.1)	-9.6 (3.9)	-9.8 (4.7)	-5.8 (3.2)	-2.3 (4.3)
Energy intake, kJ/day	948 (428)*	865.9 (474)*	408 (266)	343 (313)	517 (413)	900 (608)	474 (437)	874 (551)	-41 (324)	348 (418)
Energy intake excluding supplement, g/day	-81 (425)	-196 (466)	-649 (260)	-703 (304)	-389 (397)	-130 (603)	-472 (427)	-161 (550)	-961 (315)	-695 (431)

### qCSA by MRI:

We did not observe any between-group differences in changes in qCSA, ( $P=0.17$ , figure 6) in the nutritional supplementation arm. In the training arm, HRTW was associated with a different change in qCSA compared to WHEY (Between-group difference [mean, 95% CI]:  $1.68$ ,  $0.41$  to  $2.95$   $\text{cm}^2$ ,  $P=0.03$ ), but not compared to LITW ( $1.29$   $\text{cm}^2$ ,  $-0.08$  to  $2.67$   $\text{cm}^2$ ,  $P=0.16$ ) and LITW was not significantly different compared to WHEY ( $0.39$ ,  $-0.88$  to  $1.66$   $\text{cm}^2$ ,  $P=0.82$ ). When tested within each group separately with a t-test, neither HRTW ([mean, 95% SD]: 0-12-month change:  $+0.73$ ,  $-0.32 \pm 1.77$   $\text{cm}^2$ ) nor LITW ([mean, 95% SD]:  $-0.54$ ,  $-1.70 \pm 0.62$   $\text{cm}^2$ ) exhibited significant changes in qCSA whereas a significant decrease was observed for WHEY ([mean, 95% SD]:  $-0.93$ ,  $-1.65 \pm 0.21$   $\text{cm}^2$ ).

**Figure 6.** Changes from baseline to 12 months in m. quadriceps cross-sectional area (qCSA) measured by MRI. \*: Significant between-group difference in changes over the intervention period. Adopted from Paper II.



### 11.2.2 Results Paper III

Paper III report the results from the OGTT, DXA scans and the fasting blood sample obtained prior to the OGTT. The primary research question was:

How does supplementation with or without different types of training affect the glucose tolerance within healthy elderly?

The purposes of measuring OGTT were twofold. First, whether or not 1-year of protein supplementation with or without training would improve glucose tolerance. Secondly, to

discover potential negative effect of especially the one year of supplementation. Results descriptions are adopted from Paper III with minor modifications.

Out of the 184 completing the study (see section 11.2) 164 participants completed the OGTT before and after the intervention. The intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis included all of the participants (164) who completed the OGTT before and after the trial and the per protocol (PP) analysis included 100 participants with an registered self-reported supplementation adherence  $\geq 75\%$  and an average training adherence during the intervention  $\geq 2.0$  for the HRTW group and  $\geq 3.0$  for the LITW group. 34 participants out of the 164 participants were excluded from the PP analysis due to lack of registrations and 30 were excluded due to lack of adherence to the respective interventions.

*Nutritional intervention arm (body composition, fasting blood samples, OGTT):*

*Body composition:* The nutritional supplementation groups increased body weight (BW) ( $p=0.008$ ) (WHEY  $0.5\pm 0.4$  kg, COLL  $0.5\pm 0.3$  kg, CARB  $1.2\pm 0.6$  kg) and BMI ( $p=0.008$ ) (WHEY  $0.2\pm 0.1$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, COLL  $0.2\pm 0.1$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, CARB  $0.4\pm 0.2$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>) as a main effect of time with no group x time interaction after 12 months of nutritional supplements within the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 4). The same was true when analyzing the participants qualified for the per protocol (PP) analysis with respect to BW ( $p=0.040$ ) (WHEY  $0.2\pm 0.4$  kg, COLL  $0.3\pm 0.4$  kg, CARB  $1.3\pm 0.6$  kg) and BMI ( $p=0.034$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.1$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, COLL  $0.1\pm 0.1$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, CARB  $0.4\pm 0.2$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>) (Table 3). In addition, there was an increase in fat% in ITT ( $p=0.003$ ) (WHEY  $0.6\pm 0.3\%$ , COLL  $0.5\pm 0.3\%$ , CARB  $0.4\pm 0.2\%$ ) and PP ( $p=0.017$ ) (WHEY  $0.5\pm 0.4\%$ , COLL  $0.4\pm 0.4\%$ , CARB  $0.8\pm 0.4\%$ ) analysis as a main effect of time and no change in lean body mass were observed. Again, there was no significant difference between the groups. There were no changes in ASMI or daily step count neither between groups nor over time (Table 4, Table 5).

*Fasting plasma samples:* Fasting plasma glucose, proinsulin C-peptide and insulin concentrations were not different before and after the 12 months nutritional interventions and there was no difference between the groups within the participants included in the ITT analysis. HbA1c increased significantly with a main effect of time ( $p=0.001$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.4$  mmol/mol, COLL  $1.1\pm 0.4$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, CARB  $1.2\pm 0.6$  mmol/mol) with no difference between the groups within the participants included in the ITT analysis. (Table 4). The PP analysis showed no changes in fasting plasma glucose, insulin concentration, or proinsulin C-peptide (Table 5) but

the HbA1c showed a significant main effect of time ( $p=0.002$ ) (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol, COLL  $1.2\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, CARB  $1.7\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 5). Again, we saw no differences between the groups (Table 5).

*OGTT*: The plasma glucose AUC during the OGTT was not different between the nutritional supplement groups but the plasma glucose AUC increased as a main effect of time ( $p=0.049$ ) (WHEY  $21\pm 15$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, COLL  $33\pm 20$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, CARB  $18\pm 28$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min) after 12 months of nutritional supplements within the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 4) and the plasma insulin AUC decreased as a main effect of time ( $p=0.032$ ) (WHEY  $-691\pm 414$  uIU·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, COLL  $228\pm 390$  uIU·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, CARB  $-121\pm 370$  uIU·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min) with no differences between the groups (Table 4). No changes in HOMA-IR index and the Matsuda index after 12 months of nutritional supplementation within the participants included in the ITT analysis were observed (Table 4). No changes over time in the plasma glucose AUC, but a trend ( $p=0.051$ ) for a main effect of time for a decrease in the insulin AUC (Table 5) were observed in the PP analysis. No effect of the interventions on the HOMA-IR or Matsuda indexes were observed (Table 5)



**Table 4.** Intention to treat analysis of the nutritional supplementation interventions. Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. COLL, collagen; CARB, carbohydrate; WHEY, whey. Adopted paper III

Nutrition arm ITT	WHEY, N=39 (22 males, 17 females)						COLL, N=39 (23 males, 16 females)						CARB, N= 29 (15 males, 14 females)						ANOVA p-value		
	0 M		12 M		Delta change, number (%)		0 M		12 M		Delta change, number (%)		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																					
Age (year)	69.9 $\pm$ 0.7						69.8 $\pm$ 0.6						69.7 $\pm$ 0.8							n.s.	
Body mass (kg)	74.0 $\pm$ 2.1	74.5 $\pm$ 2.2	0.5(0.7%)	$\pm$ 0.4(0.5%)			75.1 $\pm$ 2.1	75.5 $\pm$ 2.1	0.5(0.7%)	$\pm$ 0.3(0.5%)			73.6 $\pm$ 2.3	74.8 $\pm$ 2.5	1.2(1.5%)	$\pm$ 0.6(0.8%)		0.008	n.s.	n.s.	
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.6 $\pm$ 0.6	24.8 $\pm$ 0.6	0.2(0.7%)	$\pm$ 0.1(0.5%)			25.1 $\pm$ 0.7	25.2 $\pm$ 0.7	0.2(0.7%)	$\pm$ 0.1(0.5%)			25.4 $\pm$ 0.7	25.8 $\pm$ 0.8	0.4(1.5%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.8%)		0.008	n.s.	n.s.	
Fat mass (%)	32.0 $\pm$ 1.2	32.6 $\pm$ 1.2	0.6(2.3%)	$\pm$ 0.3(1.1%)			30.8 $\pm$ 1.4	31.2 $\pm$ 1.5	0.5(1.6%)	$\pm$ 0.3(1.1%)			31.6 $\pm$ 1.7	32.4 $\pm$ 1.8	0.8(2.7%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.2%)		0.003	n.s.	n.s.	
Lean mass (kg)	48.6 $\pm$ 1.4	48.5 $\pm$ 1.4	-0.1(-0.1%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.3%)			50.0 $\pm$ 1.4	50.0 $\pm$ 1.4	-0.1(-0.1%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.3%)			48.4 $\pm$ 1.4	48.5 $\pm$ 1.5	0.1(0.2%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.46 $\pm$ 0.18	7.46 $\pm$ 0.18	-0.002(0.02%)	$\pm$ 0.003(0.4%)			7.66 $\pm$ 0.20	7.68 $\pm$ 0.20	0.01(0.2%)	$\pm$ 0.03(0.4%)			7.63 $\pm$ 0.20	7.65 $\pm$ 0.21	0.02(0.3%)	$\pm$ 0.03(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Daily steps	10515 $\pm$ 590	10003 $\pm$ 533	-343(-1.8%)	$\pm$ 604(5.5%)			10607 $\pm$ 675	10450 $\pm$ 774	3(4.8%)	$\pm$ 574(7.2%)			11404 $\pm$ 1008	10107 $\pm$ 863	2274(-10.7%)	$\pm$ 1030(7.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																					
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.4 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	0.12(2.3%)	$\pm$ 0.08(1.5%)			5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	-0.02(-0.2%)	$\pm$ 0.07(1.3%)			5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	0.04(0.8%)	$\pm$ 0.08(1.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	4.9 $\pm$ 0.5	4.1 $\pm$ 0.4	-0.8(-2.7%)	$\pm$ 0.3(6.9%)			4.9 $\pm$ 0.5	4.9 $\pm$ 0.6	0.1(4.3%)	$\pm$ 0.3(6.9%)			4.4 $\pm$ 0.5	4.7 $\pm$ 0.6	0.2(3.8%)	$\pm$ 0.3(7.0%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
ProInsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	758 $\pm$ 48	738 $\pm$ 44	-27(0.1%)	$\pm$ 28(3%)			680 $\pm$ 35	703 $\pm$ 44	22(3%)	$\pm$ 24(3%)			686 $\pm$ 47	715 $\pm$ 68	29(4%)	$\pm$ 38(5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	36.2 $\pm$ 0.6	36.3 $\pm$ 0.6	0.1(0.4%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.0%)			35.3 $\pm$ 0.5	36.5 $\pm$ 0.5	1.1(3.6%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.5%)			35.7 $\pm$ 0.4	36.9 $\pm$ 0.3	1.2(3.6%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.1%)		0.001	n.s.	n.s.	
<b>OGTT</b>																					
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	870 $\pm$ 22	891 $\pm$ 25	21(2.6%)	$\pm$ 15(1.7%)			895 $\pm$ 25	928 $\pm$ 25	33(4.9%)	$\pm$ 20(2.4%)			926 $\pm$ 24	944 $\pm$ 30	18(2.8%)	$\pm$ 28(3.0%)		0.049	n.s.	n.s.	
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.6 $\pm$ 0.3	8.7 $\pm$ 0.3	0.1(1.9%)	$\pm$ 0.2(2.2%)			8.8 $\pm$ 0.3	9.0 $\pm$ 0.3	0.2(4.1%)	$\pm$ 0.3(3.1%)			9.2 $\pm$ 0.3	9.3 $\pm$ 0.3	0.1(3.0%)	$\pm$ 0.3(3.2%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 $\pm$ 0.2	6.6 $\pm$ 0.3	0.3(5.7%)	$\pm$ 0.2(3.5%)			6.5 $\pm$ 0.3	7.1 $\pm$ 0.3	0.6(12.8%)	$\pm$ 0.3(4.1%)			6.7 $\pm$ 0.2	7.0 $\pm$ 0.4	0.3(4.0%)	$\pm$ 0.4(5.0%)		0.01	n.s.	n.s.	
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	5066 $\pm$ 718	4375 $\pm$ 512	-691(-1.9%)	$\pm$ 414(6.9%)			4645 $\pm$ 532	4873 $\pm$ 623	228(8.9%)	$\pm$ 390(7.3%)			4047 $\pm$ 394	3926 $\pm$ 661	-121(-8.1%)	$\pm$ 370(6.9%)		0.032	n.s.	n.s.	
HOMA-IR	1.21 $\pm$ 0.14	1.05 $\pm$ 0.11	-0.15(-0.9%)	$\pm$ 0.07(6.8%)			1.21 $\pm$ 0.14	1.23 $\pm$ 0.16	0.02(5.6%)	$\pm$ 0.09(7.8%)			1.08 $\pm$ 0.13	1.19 $\pm$ 0.18	0.10(5.0%)	$\pm$ 0.09(6.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	9.6 $\pm$ 1.0	10.1 $\pm$ 1.0	0.5(15.0%)	$\pm$ 0.7(6.0%)			9.2 $\pm$ 0.9	9.5 $\pm$ 1.0	0.3(6.8%)	$\pm$ 0.6(6.7%)			9.1 $\pm$ 0.9	10.1 $\pm$ 1.9	2.6(21.0%)	$\pm$ 1.3(10.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	11.8 $\pm$ 1.4	10.7 $\pm$ 0.9	-1.1(3.4%)	$\pm$ 0.9(6.0%)			11.3 $\pm$ 1.3	10.7 $\pm$ 1.5	-0.6(4.7%)	$\pm$ 1.0(12.4%)			10.1 $\pm$ 0.9	12.6 $\pm$ 2.0	2.5(18.6%)	$\pm$ 1.5(11.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	

**Table 5.** Per protocol analysis of the nutritional supplementation interventions. Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. COLL, collagen; CARB, carbohydrate; WHEY, whey. Adopted paper III

Nutrition arm PP	WHEY, N= 21 (10 males, 11 females)						COLL, N=28 (16 males, 12 females)						CARB, N=15 (9 males, 6 females)						ANOVA			
	0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		p-value			
																			Time	Group	Interaction	
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																						
Age (year)	69.7 $\pm$ 0.8						69.5 $\pm$ 0.6						69.1 $\pm$ 0.9							n.s.		
Body mass (kg)	72.6 $\pm$ 3.2	72.8 $\pm$ 3.1	0.2(0.5%)	$\pm$ 0.4(0.6%)			76.0 $\pm$ 2.5	76.3 $\pm$ 2.6	0.3(0.4%)	$\pm$ 0.4(0.6%)			72.2 $\pm$ 3.1	73.5 $\pm$ 3.1	1.3(1.9%)	$\pm$ 0.6(0.8%)		0.040	n.s.	n.s.		
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.1 $\pm$ 0.8	24.2 $\pm$ 0.7	0.1(0.5%)	$\pm$ 0.1(0.6%)			25.4 $\pm$ 0.9	25.5 $\pm$ 0.9	0.1(0.4%)	$\pm$ 0.1(0.6%)			24.3 $\pm$ 0.9	24.7 $\pm$ 0.9	0.4(1.9%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.8%)		0.034	n.s.	n.s.		
Fat mass (%)	31.0 $\pm$ 1.6	31.5 $\pm$ 1.6	0.5(1.7%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.4%)			31.6 $\pm$ 1.7	32.0 $\pm$ 1.7	0.4(1.7%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.4%)			29.1 $\pm$ 2.1	30.0 $\pm$ 2.0	0.9(3.9%)	$\pm$ 0.4(1.6%)		0.017	n.s.	n.s.		
Lean mass (kg)	48.2 $\pm$ 2.1	48.3 $\pm$ 2.0	0.1(0.3%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)			50.0 $\pm$ 1.5	49.9 $\pm$ 1.5	-0.1(-0.3%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)			49.3 $\pm$ 2.1	49.7 $\pm$ 2.1	0.4(0.8%)	$\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.36 $\pm$ 0.23	7.39 $\pm$ 0.22	0.04(0.6%)	$\pm$ 0.04(0.6%)			7.64 $\pm$ 0.24	7.64 $\pm$ 0.24	0.00(0.0%)	$\pm$ 0.3(0.5%)			7.60 $\pm$ 0.35	7.61 $\pm$ 0.36	0.02(0.2%)	$\pm$ 0.04(0.6%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Daily steps	11354 $\pm$ 771	10362 $\pm$ 797	-697(-1.1%)	$\pm$ 916(8.1%)			11021 $\pm$ 753	10370 $\pm$ 975	-440(-2.7%)	$\pm$ 676(7.7%)			10183 $\pm$ 1175	11055 $\pm$ 1256	323(8.8%)	$\pm$ 822(9.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																						
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.3 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.2	0.1(2.7%)	$\pm$ 0.1(2.3%)			5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	5.4 $\pm$ 0.1	-0.04(-0.7%)	$\pm$ 0.1(1.3%)			5.6 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	-0.1(-1.2%)	$\pm$ 0.1(1.9%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	3.9 $\pm$ 0.6	3.4 $\pm$ 0.4	-0.5(6.3%)	$\pm$ 0.3(11.9%)			4.7 $\pm$ 0.5	4.9 $\pm$ 0.6	0.2(5.3%)	$\pm$ 0.3(8.5%)			4.6 $\pm$ 0.8	4.5 $\pm$ 0.9	-0.1(1.5%)	$\pm$ 0.4(9.5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
ProInsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	694 $\pm$ 68	675 $\pm$ 50	-19(3.6%)	$\pm$ 42(5.7%)			680 $\pm$ 41	705 $\pm$ 51	25(4.0%)	$\pm$ 25(3.9%)			696 $\pm$ 70	739 $\pm$ 79	42(8.2%)	$\pm$ 32(6.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	34.8 $\pm$ 0.7	35.2 $\pm$ 0.8	0.4(1.3%)	$\pm$ 0.5(1.5%)			35.3 $\pm$ 0.6	36.5 $\pm$ 0.7	1.2(3.7%)	$\pm$ 0.5(1.9%)			35.4 $\pm$ 0.5	37.1 $\pm$ 0.4	1.7(4.9%)	$\pm$ 0.5(1.7%)		0.002	n.s.	n.s.		
<b>OGTT</b>																						
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	834 $\pm$ 27	860 $\pm$ 35	27(3.1%)	$\pm$ 20(2.4%)			910 $\pm$ 30	930 $\pm$ 29	20(3.4%)	$\pm$ 24(2.9%)			951 $\pm$ 39	960 $\pm$ 39	9(2.3%)	$\pm$ 41(4.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.0 $\pm$ 0.3	8.2 $\pm$ 0.4	0.1(0.02%)	$\pm$ 0.3(0.03%)			9.0 $\pm$ 0.4	9.0 $\pm$ 0.3	-0.04(1.8%)	$\pm$ 0.3(3.6%)			9.6 $\pm$ 0.5	9.7 $\pm$ 0.3	0.1(3.2%)	$\pm$ 0.5(4.9%)		n.s.	0.013	n.s.		
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 $\pm$ 0.3	6.6 $\pm$ 0.4	0.4(7.7%)	$\pm$ 0.3(5.3%)			6.5 $\pm$ 0.3	7.1 $\pm$ 0.3	0.6(12.7%)	$\pm$ 0.3(5.4%)			6.6 $\pm$ 0.4	6.8 $\pm$ 0.6	0.2(2.5%)	$\pm$ 0.5(6.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	4540 $\pm$ 1052	3442 $\pm$ 541	-1098(-6.7%)	$\pm$ 616(10.4%)			5154 $\pm$ 719	5394 $\pm$ 844	240(11.0%)	$\pm$ 550(10.2%)			4188 $\pm$ 655	4138 $\pm$ 1119	-51(-9.6%)	$\pm$ 558(8.8%)		(0.0505)	n.s.	n.s.		
HOMA-IR	0.93 $\pm$ 0.16	0.86 $\pm$ 0.14	-0.07(7.9%)	$\pm$ 0.06(11.4%)			1.17 $\pm$ 0.13	1.22 $\pm$ 0.17	0.05(6.2%)	$\pm$ 0.10(9.4%)			1.13 $\pm$ 0.21	1.13 $\pm$ 0.25	-0.01(0.1%)	$\pm$ 0.10(9.3%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	11.7 $\pm$ 1.5	12.1 $\pm$ 1.4	0.5(16.6%)	$\pm$ 1.2(9.4%)			8.7 $\pm$ 1.0	8.8 $\pm$ 1.1	0.1(5.9%)	$\pm$ 0.7(7.3%)			8.6 $\pm$ 1.0	10.6 $\pm$ 1.7	2.0(21.5%)	$\pm$ 1.3(14.5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	14.3 $\pm$ 2.2	12.6 $\pm$ 1.3	-1.7(0.5%)	$\pm$ 1.5(8.8%)			11.0 $\pm$ 1.5	10.2 $\pm$ 1.7	-0.8(4.9%)	$\pm$ 1.3(16.9%)			9.6 $\pm$ 1.0	11.5 $\pm$ 1.9	1.9(13.0%)	$\pm$ 1.3(16.9%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.		

*Training intervention arm (body composition, fasting blood samples, OGTT):*

*Body composition:* No changes in body mass, BMI and fat% over time in the training intervention arm in either the ITT or PP analysis were observed (Table 6, Table 7). An increase in lean body mass over time were observed in the PP analysis ( $p=0.033$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.2$  kg, LITW  $0.3\pm 0.3$  kg, HRTW  $0.6\pm 0.3$  kg) and no effect in the ITT analysis. This could indicate an effect of actual exercise. An effect of time on ASMI were observed in the HRTW group only ( $p=0.001$ ) (HRTW  $0.15\pm 0.04$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>) in the ITT analysis (Table 6). A main effect of time on ASMI ( $p=0.001$ ) (WHEY  $0.04\pm 0.04$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, LITW  $0.12\pm 0.05$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>, HRTW  $0.18\pm 0.06$  kg·m<sup>-2</sup>) and no differences between the groups (Table 7) were seen in the PP analysis. No changes in daily step count were observed during the intervention (Table 6, Table 7).

*Fasting blood samples:* Fasting plasma glucose, plasma insulin, and proinsulin C-peptide concentrations did not change after 12 months nutritional and exercise interventions in the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 2). HbA1c concentration increased as a main effect of time ( $p=0.005$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.4$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, LITW  $1.4\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, HRTW  $0.5\pm 0.3$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>) in the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 6). No changes in fasting plasma glucose, plasma insulin or proinsulin C-peptide concentrations were observed after the interventions in the PP analysis (Table 7). A main effect of time in the HbA1c concentrations ( $p=0.023$ ) (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, LITW  $1.1\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>, HRTW  $0.6\pm 0.5$  mmol·mol<sup>-1</sup>) were observed in the participants included in the PP analysis (Table 7).

*OGTT:* Plasma glucose and insulin AUC during the OGTT showed no effect of the 12 months interventions in the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 6). No changes in the HOMA-IR and the Matsuda index were observed in the participants included in the ITT analysis (Table 6). A significant effect of time on the glucose AUC ( $p=0.037$ ) (WHEY  $27\pm 20$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, LITW  $29\pm 16$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min, HRTW  $35\pm 36$  mmol·mL<sup>-1</sup> x 120min), the glucose 2h concentration ( $p=0.019$ ) (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.3$  mmol·L<sup>-1</sup>, LITW  $0.5\pm 0.3$  mmol·L<sup>-1</sup>, HRTW  $0.4\pm 0.3$  mmol·L<sup>-1</sup>) and a trend for a main effect of time for a decrease in the insulin AUC ( $p=0.06$ ) were observed in the PP analysis (Table 7). No changes were observed in the HOMA-IR and the Matsuda indexes in the PP analysis (Table 7)

**Table 6:** Intention to treat analysis of the exercise and whey supplementation interventions. Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and a significant effect of the HRTW intervention on ASMI using the Holm-Sidak post hoc test  $p=0.001$  (indicated by \* in the table). HRTW, high resistance training + whey; LITW, low intensity training + whey; WHEY, whey. Adopted paper III

Training arm ITT	WHEY, N=39 (22 males, 17 females)			LITW, N=28 (14 males, 14 females)			HRTW, N=29 (17 males, 12 females)			ANOVA		
	0 M	12 M	Difference	0 M	12 M	Difference	0 M	12 M	Change [absolute (%)]	Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>												
Age (year)	69.9 $\pm$ 0.7			70.6 $\pm$ 0.8			70.8 $\pm$ 0.6				n.s.	n.s.
Body mass (kg)	74.0 $\pm$ 2.1	74.5 $\pm$ 2.2	0.5(0.7%) $\pm$ 0.4(0.5%)	73.9 $\pm$ 1.9	74.7 $\pm$ 2.0	0.2(1.0%) $\pm$ 0.2(0.8%)	78.5 $\pm$ 2.6	78.7 $\pm$ 2.5	0.2(0.4%) $\pm$ 0.5(0.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.6 $\pm$ 0.6	24.8 $\pm$ 0.6	0.2(0.7%) $\pm$ 0.1(0.5%)	25.4 $\pm$ 0.6	25.6 $\pm$ 0.6	0.8(1.0%) $\pm$ 0.6(0.8%)	26.0 $\pm$ 0.7	26.1 $\pm$ 0.7	0.1(0.4%) $\pm$ 0.2(0.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fat mass (%)	32.0 $\pm$ 1.2	32.6 $\pm$ 1.2	0.6(2.3%) $\pm$ 0.3(1.1%)	33.2 $\pm$ 1.4	33.7 $\pm$ 1.5	0.5(1.8%) $\pm$ 0.4(1.4%)	33.8 $\pm$ 1.3	33.7 $\pm$ 1.4	-0.1(-0.4%) $\pm$ 0.3(1.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Lean mass (kg)	48.6 $\pm$ 1.4	48.5 $\pm$ 1.4	-0.1(-0.1%) $\pm$ 0.2(0.3%)	48.0 $\pm$ 1.7	48.1 $\pm$ 1.7	0.1(0.3%) $\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)	50.3 $\pm$ 1.9	50.7 $\pm$ 1.9	0.4(0.8%) $\pm$ 0.2(0.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.5 $\pm$ 0.2	7.5 $\pm$ 0.2	-0.002(0.02%) $\pm$ 0.003(0.4%)	7.55 $\pm$ 0.21	7.63 $\pm$ 0.22	0.08(1.1%) $\pm$ 0.05(0.6%)	7.72 $\pm$ 0.25	7.87 $\pm$ 0.26*	0.15(2.0%) $\pm$ 0.04(0.5%)	0.001	n.s.	0.02
Daily steps	10515 $\pm$ 590	10003 $\pm$ 533	-343(-1.8%) $\pm$ 604(5.5%)	10371 $\pm$ 679	9482 $\pm$ 476	-530(0.6%) $\pm$ 625(6.6%)	9599 $\pm$ 653	8982 $\pm$ 660	-595(-4.0%) $\pm$ 436(4.9%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>												
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.4 $\pm$ 0.1	5.5 $\pm$ 0.1	0.12(2.3%) $\pm$ 0.08(1.5%)	5.6 $\pm$ 0.1	5.6 $\pm$ 0.1	-0.01(0.5%) $\pm$ 0.1(2.0%)	5.6 $\pm$ 0.1	5.7 $\pm$ 0.1	0.1(1.6%) $\pm$ 0.1(1.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	4.9 $\pm$ 0.5	4.1 $\pm$ 0.4	-0.8(-2.7%) $\pm$ 0.3(6.9%)	4.2 $\pm$ 0.4	4.6 $\pm$ 0.4	0.4(19.2%) $\pm$ 0.4(11.0%)	4.5 $\pm$ 0.5	4.4 $\pm$ 0.5	-0.01(4.4%) $\pm$ 0.4(7.3%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Proinsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	758 $\pm$ 48	738 $\pm$ 44	-27(0.1%) $\pm$ 28(3%)	661 $\pm$ 41	711 $\pm$ 41	50(14.3%) $\pm$ 45(7.0%)	682 $\pm$ 43	714 $\pm$ 48	35(6.0%) $\pm$ 29(4.2%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	36.2 $\pm$ 0.6	36.3 $\pm$ 0.6	0.1(0.4%) $\pm$ 0.4(1.0%)	35.5 $\pm$ 0.6	36.9 $\pm$ 0.7	1.4(4.1%) $\pm$ 0.5(1.4%)	35.7 $\pm$ 0.5	36.2 $\pm$ 0.5	0.5(1.6%) $\pm$ 0.3(1.0%)	0.005	n.s.	n.s.
<b>OGTT</b>												
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	870 $\pm$ 22	891 $\pm$ 25	21(2.6%) $\pm$ 15(1.7%)	909 $\pm$ 28	933 $\pm$ 30	25(3.2%) $\pm$ 16(1.9%)	909 $\pm$ 25	922 $\pm$ 37	13(1.5%) $\pm$ 27(3.3%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.6 $\pm$ 0.3	8.7 $\pm$ 0.3	0.1(1.9%) $\pm$ 0.2(2.2%)	8.6 $\pm$ 0.4	8.9 $\pm$ 0.4	0.2(4.7%) $\pm$ 0.3(3.5%)	8.9 $\pm$ 0.3	8.8 $\pm$ 0.4	-0.1(0.1%) $\pm$ 0.4(4.5%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 $\pm$ 0.2	6.6 $\pm$ 0.3	0.3(5.7%) $\pm$ 0.2(3.5%)	7.1 $\pm$ 0.3	7.4 $\pm$ 0.3	0.3(5.0%) $\pm$ 0.2(3.1%)	6.6 $\pm$ 0.3	7.0 $\pm$ 0.4	0.4(6.7%) $\pm$ 0.3(4.5%)	0.025	n.s.	n.s.
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	5066 $\pm$ 718	4375 $\pm$ 512	-691(-1.9%) $\pm$ 414(6.9%)	3988 $\pm$ 449	3510 $\pm$ 422	-479(-4.0%) $\pm$ 274(8.1%)	4154 $\pm$ 809	3843 $\pm$ 449	-311(9.6%) $\pm$ 663(11.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HOMA-IR	1.21 $\pm$ 0.14	1.05 $\pm$ 0.11	-0.15(-0.9%) $\pm$ 0.07(6.8%)	1.05 $\pm$ 0.10	1.14 $\pm$ 0.12	0.09(21.7%) $\pm$ 0.10(12.8%)	1.14 $\pm$ 0.15	1.16 $\pm$ 0.14	0.03(6.7%) $\pm$ 0.10(7.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	9.6 $\pm$ 1.0	10.1 $\pm$ 1.0	0.5(15.0%) $\pm$ 0.7(6.0%)	9.3 $\pm$ 0.9	10.5 $\pm$ 1.6	1.2(24.5%) $\pm$ 1.5(20.7%)	9.4 $\pm$ 0.9	10.3 $\pm$ 1.2	0.8(15.1%) $\pm$ 0.9(11.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	11.8 $\pm$ 1.4	10.7 $\pm$ 0.9	-1.1(3.4%) $\pm$ 0.9(6.0%)	9.5 $\pm$ 0.8	9.2 $\pm$ 1.3	-0.3(3.1%) $\pm$ 1.3(13.7%)	10.4 $\pm$ 0.9	10.7 $\pm$ 1.1	0.3(9.8%) $\pm$ 0.9(11.6%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

**Table 7:** Per protocol analysis of the exercise and whey supplementation interventions. Values are mean ± SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. HRTW, high resistance training + whey; LITW, low intensity training + whey  
Adopted paper III

Training arm PP	WHEY, N=21 (10 males, 11 females)						LITW, N=19 (9 males, 10 females)						HRTW, N=17 (10 males, 7 females)						ANOVA		
	0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																					
Age (year)	69.7 ± 0.8						70.2 ± 0.9						70.7 ± 0.8							n.s.	
Body mass (kg)	72.6 ± 3.2	72.8 ± 3.1	0.2(0.5%)	±	0.4(0.6%)		72.8 ± 2.2	73.6 ± 2.0	0.8(1.2%)	±	0.6(0.9%)		77.9 ± 3.5	78.1 ± 3.4	0.2(0.5%)	±	0.8(1.0%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.1 ± 0.8	24.2 ± 0.7	0.1(0.5%)	±	0.1(0.6%)		25.2 ± 0.8	25.4 ± 0.7	0.2(1.2%)	±	0.2(0.9%)		26.1 ± 0.9	26.2 ± 0.9	0.1(0.5%)	±	0.3(1.0%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Fat mass (%)	31.0 ± 1.6	31.5 ± 1.6	0.5(1.7%)	±	0.4(1.4%)		34.0 ± 1.8	34.5 ± 1.8	0.5(2.0%)	±	0.5(1.6%)		33.3 ± 1.7	33.0 ± 1.9	-0.3(-1.2%)	±	0.5(1.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Lean mass (kg)	48.2 ± 2.1	48.3 ± 2.0	0.1(0.3%)	±	0.2(0.4%)		46.6 ± 1.8	46.9 ± 1.8	0.3(0.6%)	±	0.3(0.5%)		50.3 ± 2.6	50.9 ± 2.6	0.6(1.2%)	±	0.3(0.6%)	0.033	n.s.	n.s.	
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.36 ± 0.23	7.39 ± 0.22	0.04(0.6%)	±	0.04(0.6%)		7.35 ± 0.24	7.47 ± 0.24	0.12(1.6%)	±	0.05(0.7%)		7.73 ± 0.35	7.91 ± 0.36	0.18(2.4%)	±	0.06(0.7%)	0.001	n.s.	n.s.	
Daily steps	11354 ± 771	10362 ± 797	-697(-1.1%)	±	916(8.1%)		10376 ± 833	9846 ± 604	128(4.5%)	±	568(6.2%)		9573 ± 972	8981 ± 812	-592(-3.0)	±	420(4.5%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																					
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.3 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.2	0.1(2.7%)	±	0.1(2.3%)		5.7 ± 0.1	5.6 ± 0.1	-0.1(-0.6%)	±	0.1(2.4%)		5.7 ± 0.1	5.8 ± 0.1	0.1(1.6%)	±	0.1(1.5%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	3.9 ± 0.6	3.4 ± 0.4	-0.5(6.3%)	±	0.3(11.9%)		4.3 ± 0.5	4.6 ± 0.5	0.4(0.2%)	±	0.6(0.2%)		4.3 ± 0.7	4.2 ± 0.7	-0.1(1.7%)	±	0.5(10.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
ProInsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	694 ± 68	675 ± 50	-19(3.6%)	±	42(5.7%)		678 ± 54	737 ± 52	60(17.8%)	±	62(9.8%)		657 ± 56	711 ± 56	54(0.1%)	±	39(0.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	34.8 ± 0.7	35.2 ± 0.8	0.4(1.3%)	±	0.5(1.5%)		35.3 ± 0.8	36.4 ± 0.8	1.1(3.4%)	±	0.5(1.6%)		36.0 ± 0.7	36.6 ± 0.7	0.6(1.8%)	±	0.5(1.4%)	0.023	n.s.	n.s.	
<b>OGTT</b>																					
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	834 ± 27	860 ± 35	27(3.1%)	±	20(2.4%)		924 ± 40	953 ± 38	29(3.8%)	±	16(1.9%)		916 ± 34	951 ± 46	35(4.4%)	±	36(4.4%)	0.037	n.s.	n.s.	
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.0 ± 0.3	8.2 ± 0.4	0.1(0.02%)	±	0.3(0.03%)		8.8 ± 0.5	9.0 ± 0.5	0.2(4.1%)	±	0.3(3.2%)		8.8 ± 0.4	9.1 ± 0.5	0.3(4.0%)	±	0.4(5.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 ± 0.3	6.6 ± 0.4	0.4(7.7%)	±	0.3(5.3%)		7.1 ± 0.3	7.6 ± 0.4	0.5(7.5%)	±	0.3(3.7%)		6.9 ± 0.4	7.3 ± 0.4	0.4(7.9%)	±	0.3(5.8%)	0.019	n.s.	n.s.	
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	4540 ± 1052	3442 ± 541	-1098(-6.7%)	±	616(10.4%)		4135 ± 556	3701 ± 574	-433(-4.0%)	±	322(10.4%)		4431 ± 1310	3856 ± 610	-575(5.6%)	±	1026(10.8%)	(0.0595)	n.s.	n.s.	
HOMA-IR	0.93 ± 0.16	0.86 ± 0.14	-0.07(7.9%)	±	0.06(11.4%)		1.08 ± 0.12	1.16 ± 0.14	0.08(25.4%)	±	0.15(18.7%)		2.01 ± 0.22	1.11 ± 0.19	-0.01(3.5%)	±	0.14(10.9%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	11.7 ± 1.5	12.1 ± 1.4	0.5(16.6%)	±	1.2(9.4%)		8.8 ± 0.9	10.6 ± 2.2	1.8(32.1%)	±	2.2(29.2%)		9.9 ± 1.3	11.1 ± 1.8	1.2(18.0%)	±	1.4(16.6%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	14.3 ± 2.2	12.6 ± 1.3	-1.7(0.5%)	±	1.5(8.8%)		8.4 ± 0.7	9.3 ± 1.8	0.9(12.7%)	±	1.8(19.8%)		10.5 ± 1.4	10.4 ± 1.4	-0.1(10.0%)	±	1.3(17.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	

### *Correlations (BMI, ASMI, VAT, Fat% and daily steps):*

We conducted an exploratory correlation analysis of different health parameters (BMI, ASMI, visceral adipose tissue%(VAT), fat%, Steps/day) with HbA1c, InsulinAUC and GlucoseAUC. AUC both as a delta between 0 and 12 month (suppl. 1) and at baseline (suppl. 2, 3 and 4). No correlation between changes in BMI, ASMI, VAT%, Fat%, Steps/day and changes within HbA1c, Insulin AUC and Glucose AUC after the 12 months of intervention (suppl. 1 in paper III). HbA1c was only significantly correlated with VAT in females ( $p=0.0004$ ) at baseline. Further, InsulinAUC were correlated with both BMI and fat% for both males and females ( $p<0.0001$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), and with VAT ( $p<0.0001$ ) in males at baseline. No significant correlation between GlucoseAUC and the measured parameters were observed. For figures see supplemental figures in Paper III.

### *11.2.3 Results Paper IV*

Paper IV report the FSR and skeletal muscle metabolome results from the acute trial. The primary research question was:

How does prolonged protein supplementation with or without different types of training affect the MPS and the skeletal muscle metabolome and how should changes in muscle FSR be interpreted?

The purposes of measuring FSR were first and foremost to investigate the effect of prolonged interventions thought to affect the skeletal muscles anabolic sensitivity. Secondly, we wanted to evaluate the interpretation of the acute FSR, since the theoretical concept of anabolic resistance is partially relying on this interpretation. Further, we wanted to evaluate the measurement of the skeletal muscle metabolome using small amount of tissue samples on an un-targeted GC/MS-TOF platform. Lastly, we wanted to investigate the effect of an oral intake of 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10 g of glucose after 4 hours on the skeletal muscle metabolome, and the effect of the one-year intervention on the fasting skeletal muscle metabolome. The following results descriptions are adopted from Paper IV with minor modifications. Baseline characteristics of the subjects participating in the acute trial can be found in paper IV.

We included 66 participants (29 females and 37 males) with a mean age of 70 years [range; 65-80years]. Baseline subject characteristics for the 5 different intervention groups can be found in paper IV (table 1). All included subjects participated in the acute trial at 0 month and 64 out of the 66 participants completed it. 2 participants (1 COLL, 1 LITW) had not the 240min

biopsy taken due to complications during the trial and they did therefore not participate in the acute trial at 12 months. 9 subjects did not participate in the acute trial at 12 months (1 (CARB), 3 (COLL), 2 (WHEY), 2 (LITW), 1 (HRTW)) due to complications or discomfort after the acute trial at baseline. This resulted in 55 subjects with complete sample sets at both baseline and 12 months. 6 participants in the HRTW-group had an adherence below 66%, 2 subjects had a supplementary adherence below 75%, and 2 subjects conducted their acute trial more than 14 days after the last training session. In the HRTW-group for both FSR and MM measures, only 3 subjects out of the 11 subjects had completed the acute trial at baseline and 12 months with sufficient adherence and time between intervention stop and the acute trial at 12 months to be included in the per protocol (PP) analysis. The training and supplementary mean adherence for these 3 subjects were 80% (SD±11%) respectively 86% (SD±10%). 4 participants in the LITW-group had an adherence below 66%, 2 participants had no training or supplementary registrations, and 2 participants conducted their acute trial more than 14 days after the last training session. In the LITW-group, for FSR only 4 and for the MM measures only 3 participants out of the 9 participants that had completed the acute trial at baseline and 12 months with sufficient adherence and time between intervention stop and the acute trial to be included in a PP analysis. The training and supplementary mean adherence for the 4 participants were 86% (SD±7%) 86% (SD±5%), respectively. In the WHEY-group, 8 participants completed the acute trial at baseline and 12month with sufficient adherence to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR measurements and 6 participants for the MM measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for the 8 participants were 94% (SD±5%). In the COLL-group, 9 subjects completed the 0 and 12month acute trial with sufficient adherence to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR measurements and 6 for the MM measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for these 9 participants were 91% (SD±7%). In the CARB-group, 8 participants completed the acute trial at baseline and 12 months with sufficient adherence to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR measurements and 6 participants for the MM measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for these 8 participants were 87% (SD±9%). All participants are included at baseline in the following analysis, and only those participants with an acceptable adherence are included in the analysis testing the effect of the intervention at 12 months.

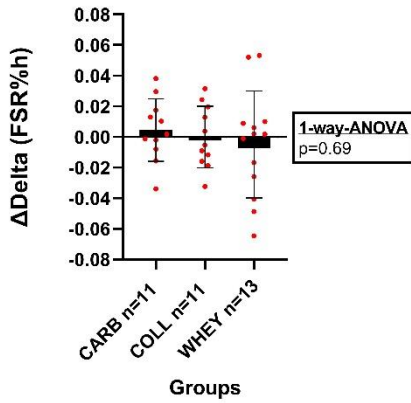
## FSR

The description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. No difference was seen irrespective of adherence to the intervention when we compared the  $\Delta$ delta ( $\Delta$ delta =  $(^{12\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{response}} - ^{12\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}}) - (^{0\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{response}} - ^{0\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}})$ ) FSR between groups in the nutrition supplementation arm (ITT:  $p=0.69$ ; PP:  $p=0.26$ ) (ITT,  $\text{mean}[\% \pm \text{SEM}]$ : CARB  $0.0045 \pm 0.006$ , COLL  $-0.0001 \pm 0.006$ , WHEY  $-0.0049 \pm 0.01$ ) (PP,  $\text{mean}[\% \cdot h^{-1} \pm \text{SEM}]$ : CARB  $0.0094 \pm 0.008$ , COLL  $0.0013 \pm 0.006$ , WHEY  $-0.0032 \pm 0.011$ ) (figure 7a,7b). No difference was seen in the ITT-analysis when comparing the  $\Delta$ delta FSR between groups in the training arm ( $p=0.98$ ) (ITT,  $\text{mean}[\% \pm \text{SEM}]$ : WHEY  $-0.0049 \pm 0.01$ , LITW  $-0.0022 \pm 0.009$ , HRTW  $-0.0039 \pm 0.009$ ; (figure 7c). Due to the low number of participants fulfilling the PP-criteria, we were not able to perform a PP analysis in the training arm (LITW:  $n=4$ ; HRTW:  $n=3$ ). A difference was observed between the basal and response period but only within females at baseline (Female:  $p=0.0002$ ; males:  $p=0.16$ ) (Females,  $\text{mean}[\% \cdot h^{-1} \pm \text{SEM}]$ :  $\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}}$   $0.035 \pm 0.002$ ;  $\text{FSR}_{\text{response}}$   $0.041 \pm 0.002$ ) (Males,  $\text{mean}[\% \cdot h^{-1} \pm \text{SEM}]$ :  $\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}}$   $0.034 \pm 0.002$ ;  $\text{FSR}_{\text{response}}$   $0.037 \pm 0.002$ ) (figure 7d,7e).

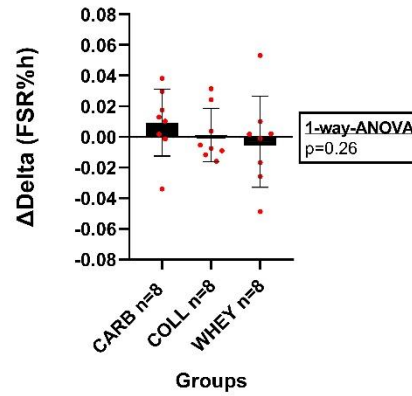


**Figure 7.** 7a) ITT analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the nutritional arm, 7b) PP analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the nutritional arm, 7c) ITT analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the training arm, 7d) Females basal vs. response FSR at 0month, 7e) Males basal vs. response FSR at 0month. \* denotes significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). Boxes are means  $\pm$  SEM for all plots. Figure is adopted from Paper IV

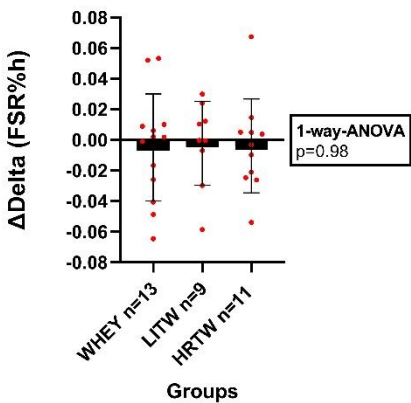
**7a.** ITT Nutrition Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



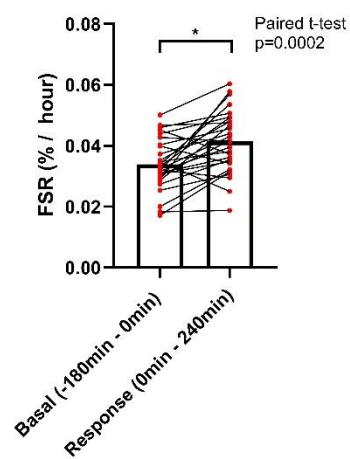
**7b.** PP Nutrition Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



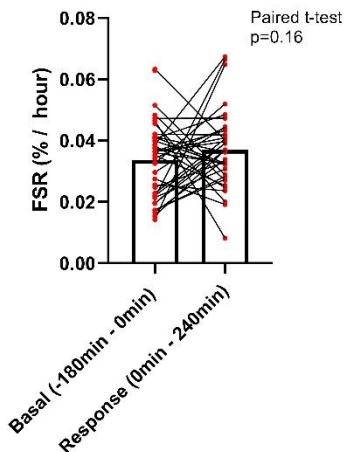
**7c.** ITT Training Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



**7d.** Females, FSR 0 month (means  $\pm$  SEM), n=36



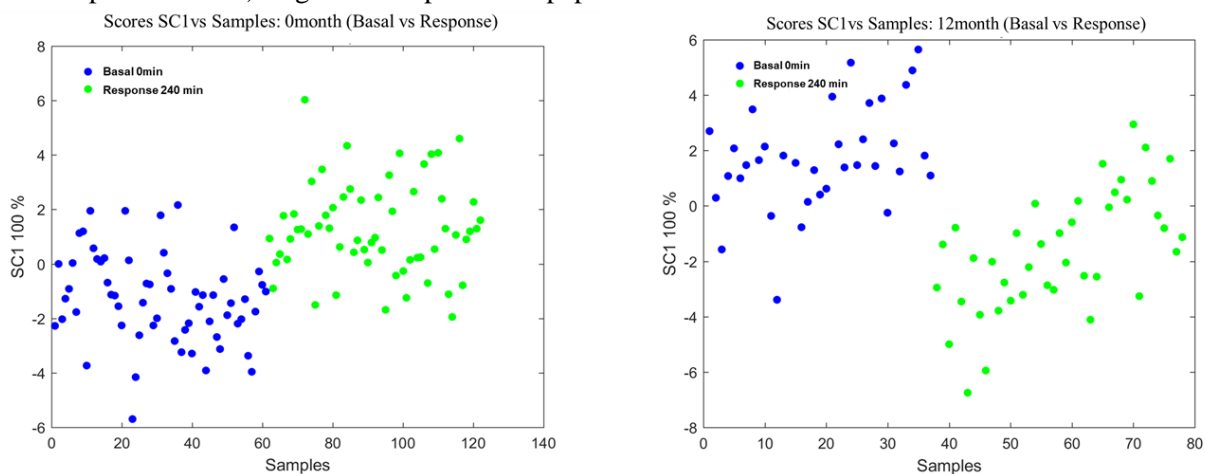
**7e.** Males, FSR 0 month (means  $\pm$  SEM), n=36



*Skeletal muscle metabolome:*

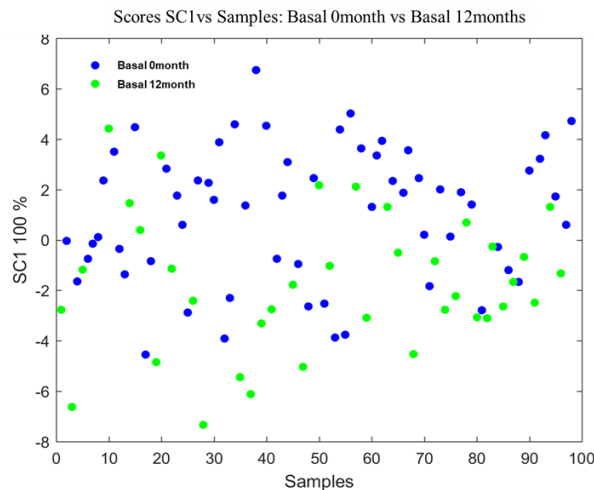
The description is adopted from paper IV with minor modifications. The final metabolite data (MM) contained 191 peaks resolved from the GC-MS data. Out of the 191 metabolites, we were able to identify 74 at level 2 based on Metabolomics Standards Initiative<sup>156</sup>. The identification criteria was set to EI-MS match of  $\geq 750$ , RI match of  $\pm 20$  and metabolites with labile protons being trimethylsilylated (TMS). The metabolites found corresponded to 17 amino acids, 12 fatty acids, 11 sugars, 9 organic acids, 7 sugar alcohols, 3 phenolics, and 10 other metabolites including 2 indole derivatives, ibuprofen, uric acid, and cholesterol (see S1 in paper IV for metabolite table). The principal component analysis (PCA) of the MM shows that up to 25% of variation is captured by the first three principal components of the PCA model. We saw no trend of separation of samples was observed according to visit, treatment, sex or the CALM intervention design in the PCA model as illustrated in figure 8. Supporting the lack of separation in the PCA model, an ASCA analysis revealed no effect of the treatment meaning that the basal (0 min) MM did not differ from the response MM (240 min) measured 240min after the ingestion of 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of sucrose at baseline (0 month) ( $p=0.42$ ,  $n = 61$ ). Neither were there any differences in the MM between 0 min and 240 min at the acute trial at 12 months ( $p=0.20$   $n= 37$ ). This is illustrated in the SC1 plots in figure 9 showing no good separation between the metabolome at basal and at 240 min at either baseline (0month) or at 12 months.

**Figure 9.** SC1 scores at 0 and 12months coloured by basal(0min) and response(240min). The ASCA did not show any difference between the basal and response muscle metabolome (0month:  $p=0.42$ ,  $n=61$ ; 12month:  $p=0.20$   $n= 37$ ). Figure is adopted from paper IV.



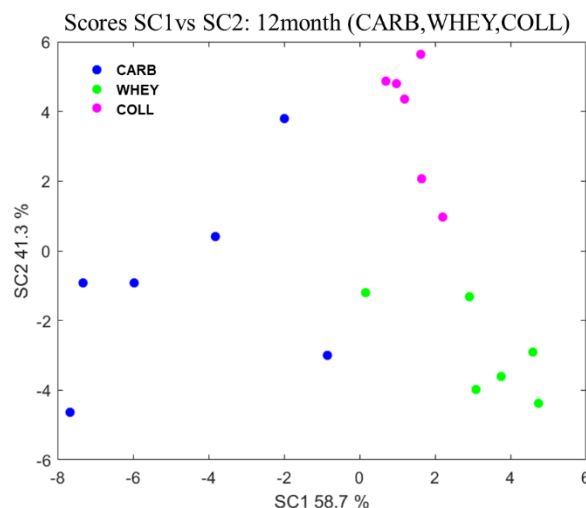
Although, two metabolites, 3-hydroxybutyric acid and 2-butenedioic acid, were significantly lower at 240min at both visits (ANOVA, 0m:  $p=0.0025$ , effect-size=13.8%;  $N=61$ ; 12m:  $p=0.019$ ; effect-size=18.1%;  $N=39$ ; respectively 0m:  $p=0.0025$ ; effect-size=14.69;  $N=61$ ; 12m:  $p=0.049$ ; effect-size=14.75%;  $N=39$ ) Similarly, ASCA analysis revealed no sign of significant effect in relation to the visit (basal 0 month versus basal 12 month) ( $p=0.62$ ,  $n=61$ ). This is illustrated in the SC1 plot in figure 10 showing no clear separation of the basal (0min) metabolome between baseline and 12 months.

**Figure 10.** SC1 scores for basal (0min) samples coloured by basal(0month) vs basal(12month). The ASCA did not show any difference between the basal 0 vs 12month ( $p=0.62$ ,  $n=61$ ) Figure is adopted from paper IV.

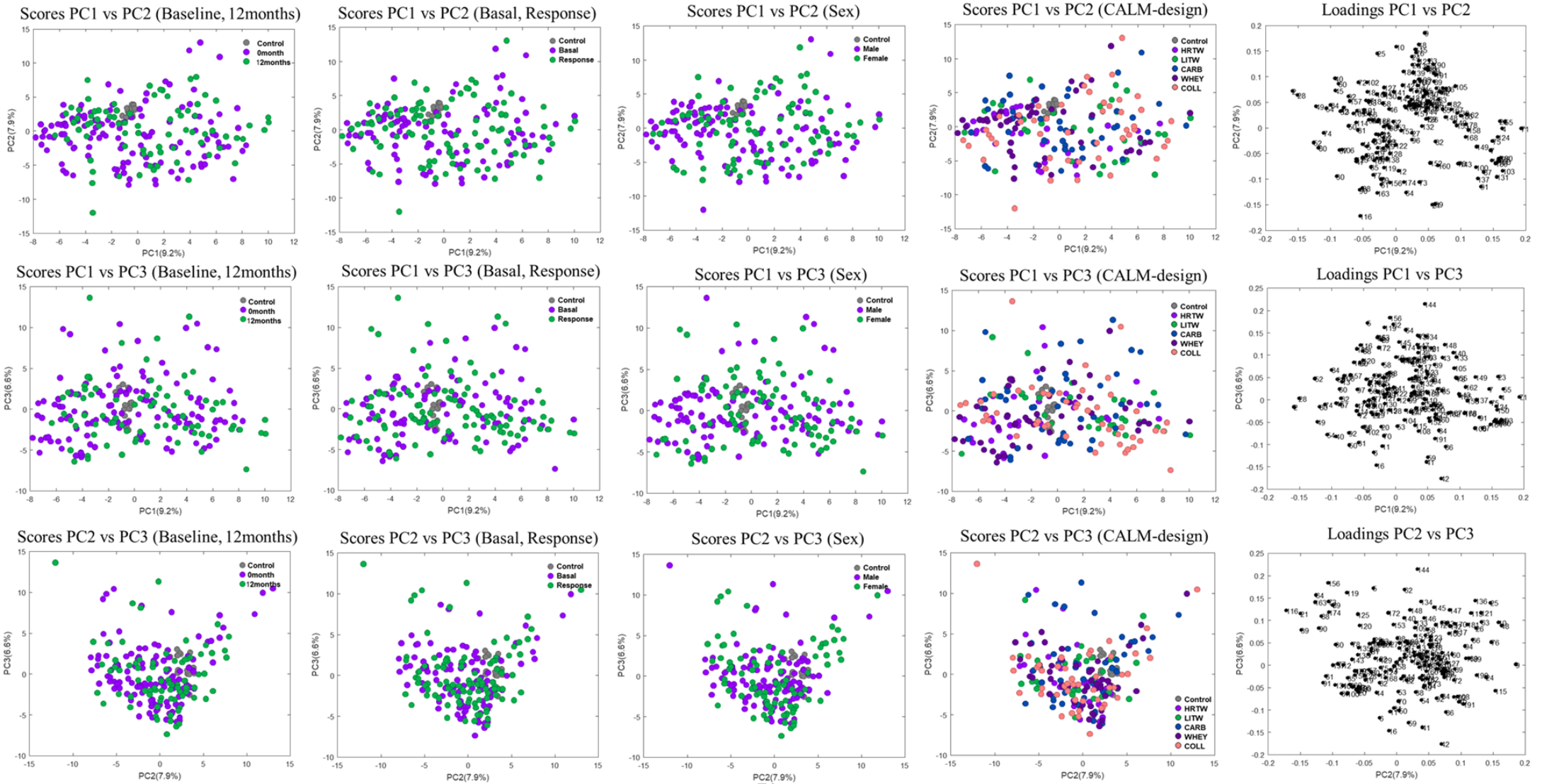


Further, an ASCA analysis investigating any differences in the basal MM after 12 months as an effect of the intervention showed no effect ( $p=0.68$ , CARB  $n=6$ , COLL  $n=6$ , WHEY  $n=6$ ). Due to low number of participants in the training arm (LITW=3, HRTW=3) this analysis was only conducted in the nutritional intervention. The SC1 vs SC2 score plot is seen in figure 11.

**Figure 11.** SC1 vs SC2 scores at 12months coloured by nutritional groups (CARB  $n=6$ , WHEY  $n=6$ , COLL  $n=6$ ). The ASCA did not show any significant differences between the groups ( $p=0.68$ ). Figure is adopted from paper IV.



**Figure 8.** PCA model of the MM. Scores for PC1 vs PC2 (1<sup>st</sup> row), PC1 vs PC3 (2<sup>nd</sup> row), PC2 vs PC3 (3<sup>rd</sup> row) colored according to baseline vs 12months (1<sup>st</sup> column), basal vs response (2<sup>nd</sup> column), sex (3<sup>rd</sup> column) and CALM design (4<sup>th</sup> column). Loadings are presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> column. 25% of variation is captured by the first three principal components of the PCA model, although no trend of separation of samples was observed according to visit, treatment, sex or the CALM intervention design. Control samples are grey and are clustered well in the PCA model. Adopted from paper IV.



## 11.4 Discussion

The purpose of the CALM study was first and foremost to evaluate the effect of recommending increased daily protein intake by supplementation with or without different types of exercise on the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass within otherwise healthy elderly. Secondly, the study were designed as an interdisciplinary study with various measurements ranging from ethnological field studies of social and everyday life to imperceptibly physiological measurements such as the metabolome and protein turnover which would allow for not only an in depth physiological interpretation of any changes with respect to the primary outcome, i.e. muscle mass, but also providing explanations and knowledge on how elderly perceive and why they act or do not act on such interventions. In order to evaluate the effect off recommendation the study was designed as a randomized controlled trial and the collected data were planned to be analysed as a modified ITT as well PP. The following will discuss the results presented above.

### 11.4.1 The nutritional intervention

In this study, no beneficial effects of increasing daily protein intake (from  $\sim 1.1 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  to  $\sim 1.5 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ) by protein supplementations were observed on the preservation of skeletal muscle mass measured by MRI in a population of healthy independently living elderly Danes. These results were irrespective of the analysis, i.e. ITT (figure 6) and PP (supplemental, paper II). This contrasts with the previous epidemiological studies showing an association between the daily protein intake and the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass in elderly<sup>49-52</sup>. However, it should be noticed that these studies only observers a clear effect of a higher protein intake when comparing the lowest quantile with the highest as described in section 7.3. As an example, Houston et al<sup>52</sup> did only detect significant differences between the highest ( $1.2 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ) and the lowest quantile ( $0.8 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ) with respect to changes in ASM over 3 years. The results from the CALM study provides strong evidence against the benefits of increased protein intakes on the maintenance of muscle mass, suggesting that the relationship observed in these studies may be caused by the lowest quantile protein intake being too low indicating a saturated rather than a linear relationship. It could be argued that the daily protein intake of the population included in this study were too high and not representative of the elderly population in general therefore resulting in the lack of effect of increased protein intake. However, Bhasin et al investigated the effect of 6 months of increased protein ( $0.8 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  to  $1.2 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ) intake on

skeletal muscle mass in 92 functionally limited men  $\geq 65$  years with a habitual protein intake of  $\leq 0.83$  g·kg<sup>-1</sup> with or without testosterone therapy. This study is particularly interesting regarding the hypothesized positive effects of increasing protein intake on the maintenance of muscle mass within elderly, since it could be categorized as a proof of concept study due to its included population and intervention. If we assume that protein intake above the current RDA would benefit muscle mass, we would expect to see the largest effect in a population habitually having a (too) low intake. However, they found no effect of increased protein intake irrespective of additional testosterone therapy. These findings are in line with Gade et al<sup>157</sup> which did not find any effect of increased daily protein intake in combination with low-intensity resistance exercise on skeletal muscle mass in geriatric patients during and 12 weeks after hospitalization. Combined, the findings by Gade et al<sup>157</sup> and Bhasin et al<sup>66</sup> supports the results in CALM despite the different study populations investigated supporting the conclusion that increased protein intake is not a feasible strategy in counteracting the sarcopenic process.

The results from the DXA scan revealed an increase in fat percentage in all groups within the nutritional arm. This is in contrast with the findings by Bhasin et al<sup>66</sup> showing a loss of fat mass as an effect increased protein intake. However, in contrast to the CALM study the calorie intake we kept constant between the different intervention. This could indicate that the participants in the CALM study did not adjust their daily energy intake despite this only being significant different from baseline in the CARB group (table 3). This were in contrast to our hypothesis that the ingestion of a protein supplement would lead to a decreased energy intake in the following meal due to the previously shown satiety effect of protein intake<sup>158</sup>. Another explanation to the increased fat% could be changes in physical activity between baseline and after 12months. However, we did not observe any differences between daily step counts between baseline and 12 months on the 4 days accelerometer-based physical activity monitoring (table 4-7), suggesting that the increase in fat% observed were due to an increase in total energy intake rather than a decrease in physical activity. Nevertheless, since we did not include a group maintaining normal eating behaviour, we cannot exclude that this change could be due to the effect of one year of age rather than the effect of supplementation.

In general, one year of protein supplementation did not affect the glucose tolerance (HbA1c and insulin secretion and blood glucose during a glucose tolerance test) differently than supplementing with carbohydrates. We saw an increase in the HbA1c levels in the nutritional groups as an effect of time irrespective of analysing the data as ITT or PP (table 4 and 5) with a

gross average of  $\sim 1\text{mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ . Across all groups the numerical changes in HbA1c were larger in the participants following the intervention (PP) which could indicate that it is the intervention rather than age causing this increase. Further, the increase of  $\sim 1\text{mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  in the HbA1c levels after one year is relatively large compared to the descriptive literature reporting similar increase pr. decade<sup>159</sup>. In addition, none of the participants had a HbA1c above the diagnostic threshold of  $48\text{mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  at 12 months, indicating that this change is not clinically relevant. However, it is important to notice that even though clinicians work with diagnostic thresholds the condition of impaired glucose tolerance is a physiologically continuum. If assumed that the increases seen in this study are truly an effect of the intervention and not just age and random variation,  $\sim 30\%$  of the included study population would fulfil the diagnostic criteria of type 2 diabetes within 10 years if they continued the intervention. Despite these indications, it is important to emphasize that we cannot exclude that this increase was due to age rather than the intervention since we did not include a group that did not receive any supplement. Nevertheless, this still stress the importance of measuring possible unintended side effects or harms when investigating and evaluating interventions of treatments, which is often forgotten and potentially leading to the phenomenon of overdiagnosis<sup>160</sup>. We did not see any changes in either HOMA-IR or any of the two Matsuda indexes which is could be explained by the inclusion of participants with normal glucose tolerance since these indexes were developed to assess insulin sensitivity in diabetic patients<sup>140,141</sup>. We only saw an increase in the 2h glucose concentration and glucose AUC and a decrease in Insulin AUC as an effect of time in the ITT and not the PP analysis. This differences between the analysis could be due to the reduced number of participants.

We did not find any effect of the one-year protein supplementation on the skeletal muscle protein synthetic response to protein intake in comparison to the iso-caloric control. In contrast, Oikawa et al<sup>161</sup> have recently reported an acutely increased effect of whey protein in comparison to collagen protein on the FSR. However, no studies have to my knowledge investigated whether the effects of age and high- or low-quality proteins observed in acute settings are consistent before and after interventions. Further, it has so far not been possible to establish any correlations between these acute measurements of protein synthesis and muscle mass<sup>162</sup> or any other easy interpretable outcome. This, in combination with the recent findings by Kim et al<sup>98</sup> emphasizing the importance of measuring FBR when evaluating interventions thought to positively affect the NB, suggest that the measurement of FSR only may not be usable method for investigating the long-term effects on muscle mass. Its further questions the current

interpretation of the lack of responsiveness in FSR to protein ingestion observed in elderly as negative per se regarding the maintenance of skeletal muscle based on the results in CALM and the listed reasons above. It is important to notice, that these results further weaken the arguments for increasing protein recommendations since these are typically justified by the epidemiological studies in combination with the current interpretation of FSR with respect to muscle mass<sup>59,68</sup>.

At baseline, we observed an increase in FSR in response to protein intake compared to basal FSR. However, this difference was only observed within females (figure 7D+E). This difference could be explained by the amount of protein pr.kg LBM they received during the acute trial. As described in section 7.4, Moore et al<sup>57</sup> showed that that a protein intake of ~0.61 g/kg LBM is needed in order to maximize the FSR in response in elderly. The amount of protein pr kg LBM significantly (un-paired t-test,  $p < 0.0001$ ) differed between males ( $n=36$ :  $0.36 \pm 0.04$  g/kg LBM; mean $\pm$ SD) and females ( $n=29$ :  $0.50 \pm 0.05$  g/kg LBM; mean $\pm$ SD) during the acute trial, as a result of all participants receiving 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of glucose. Females were hereby closer to receiving the amount of protein suggested to elicit the maximal response in FSR according to more. The lack of response within males, are in line with the previous studies showing an impaired/lack of response in FSR to hypoaminoacidemia<sup>55,94</sup> and ingestion of EAA<sup>56,93</sup>. We did not observe any differences in the basal FSR between males and females (un-paired t-test,  $p=0.75$ ; males:  $0.034 \pm 0.013\%/h$ ; females:  $0.035 \pm 0.009\%/h$ , mean $\pm$ SD). This is an interesting observation since previous studies has shown such sex dimorphism. Differences in basal FSR between males and females in both young and old has been reported by Henderson et al<sup>88</sup>, and Smith<sup>89</sup> has found sex differences within elderly. The discrepancy between the previous and our results could be explained by the differences in the BMI (Henderson et al: ~38, Smith et al: ~26, CALM: ~25) of the study populations, since increased adiposity has been associated with increases in protein metabolism<sup>163</sup>. However, the power in CALM is high, emphasizing that any sex dimorphism regarding basal FSR is highly unlikely.

The measuring of the human skeletal muscle metabolome has to my knowledge only been measured three times previously. Fazelzadeh et al<sup>128</sup> measured the skeletal muscle metabolome using targeted UPLC-MS/MS and GC-MS yielding 96 different metabolites. Saoi et al<sup>130</sup> found 84 metabolites using un-targeted MSI-CE-MS and Sato et al<sup>129</sup> found 625 metabolites using un-targeted GC-MS and UPLC-MS/MS. All of the three studies showed significant differences in the skeletal muscle metabolome as an effect of their respective interventions. As



described in the section 10.7 we used a similar sample preparation protocol but an untargeted GC-MS platform. We found 191 different metabolites which is more than two out of the three previous studies. This is fairly good taking into considerations we only used on analysis platform. The control samples are clearly centered in the PCA model and the first three components captures 25% of the variance in the dataset. In combination with the relatively high number of participants (n=65), this highlights the robustness of both the preparation protocol as well as the analysis platform. We did not observe any differences in the skeletal muscle metabolome as an effect of the protein and carbohydrate intake during the acute trial. This were consistent between baseline and 12months after the intervention and could be explained by one of the following two. First, that the amount of protein and glucose ingested were not server enough to elicit any alteration in the metabolome after 240 min; Secondly, that the measurement were not sensitive enough. However, the first explanation seems most plausible for the following reasons. Despite the increase in circulating plasma AA concentration following the nutrient intake, the concentrations peaks after ~60 minutes and are almost back to baseline levels after 240 min (see figure S2 in paper IV). In addition, we only see an increase in the FSR in females supporting that the effect of the nutrient intake on the protein synthesis was minor. Despite no global differences we observed a decrease in two metabolites, 3-hydroxybutyric acid and 2-butenedioic acid, 240 min after the intake. This finding was consistent between baseline and 12 months after the intervention. Keeping in mind that the subjects have been fasting for ~15 hours and that 3-hydroxybutyric acid is a ketone produced by the liver and used in extrahepatic tissue during fasting or glucose deprivations<sup>164</sup> it is therefore plausible that a substantial part of the nutrients provided has been used in supporting vital organs rather than stimulating muscle protein synthesis and hereby altering the skeletal muscle metabolism. Based on this, it is my conviction that the lack of effect of the nutrient intake regarding the metabolome is more likely to be caused by the intervention applied rather than the sensitivity of the analysis. What happened earlier in the postprandial period were not possible to assess due to the restricted number of biopsies obtained in the acute trial, but it is important to take these findings into considerations when designing future studies. We did not have enough samples to fully investigate the effect of the CALM design. Therefore, we were only capable of conducting an exploratory investigation within the nutritional arm using the 0 min biopsy at 12 months comparing the metabolome between groups. The ASCA analysis investigating the differences between the basal metabolome at 12 months between the CARB, COLL and WHEY group did

not show any significant differences, but this could be due to the low number of samples (n=6 for each group).

The findings in the nutritional arm of the CALM study were overall consistent across the different measurements showing no effect of one-year prolonged protein supplementation in comparison to an iso-caloric control group receiving carbohydrates. It is my conviction that the included study population reflects the part of the elderly population (at least in Denmark) which would both be capable and willing to follow recommendations by the authorities. Therefore, the results presented and discussed are providing strong evidence against further increases in the recommended daily protein intake for otherwise healthy older adults >65 years of age. Further, the results indicate that changing the recommendations might actually have unintended negative effects such as the increase in BW, BMI and fat%. This underlines the importance of being cautious when changing recommendations and that such changes need to consider any possible unintended harms that this might cause.

#### *11.4.2 The training intervention*

This study also investigated the one-year effect of home-based light load and center based heavy resistance exercise in combination with whey supplementation on skeletal muscle mass. Surprisingly, we did not see any significant changes in the qCSA measured by MRI. We observed a difference between HRTW and WHEY but not between HRTW and LITW nor LITW and WHEY. We only observed changes in qCSA from baseline in the WHEY group indicating that the between group differences were driven by the decrease in qCSA in this group rather than an increase in the HRTW group. This is in contrast to previous studies, which have shown increases of 5-10% in qCSA in studies of shorter duration (3-4 months)<sup>165,166</sup>, despite that some studies have also had difficulties to induce muscle hypertrophy in elderly populations<sup>167,168</sup>. However, the results from this study seem as more realistic estimates of the effects of recommending resistance exercise for elderly due to the following: Despite, the median training adherence corresponded to an average of ~2 training sessions in the HRTW group, the training were interrupted by prolonged breaks since most of the participants were on vacation for 3-4 weeks during the intervention, which could potentially attenuate the increases in skeletal muscle mass. Further, the studies of shorter duration are more likely to maintain a high intensity throughout the study period than studies of longer duration. The increases of 5-10% in qCSA are therefore unlikely to be observed under real-life conditions with several different factors

interfering with both adherence and training intensity. Contrary to the hypothesis in CALM (see figure 2), regardless of the higher adherence in the LITW group we did not observe any changes in qCSA and the effects on the strength measures (not reported in this thesis, see paper II) were scarce and inferior to the those seen in the HRTW group. Therefore, these results suggest that LITW is not a feasible strategy for improving muscle mass, strength and function within this population, and instead future studies should focus on increasing the adherence to heavy resistance training programs. Again, it is important to emphasize that these results should not be extrapolated to other population groups such as frail or less active elderly.

In contrast to the results from the MRI scans, the DXA scans actually revealed a significant increase in the ASMI in the ITT analysis as an effect of time and a significant effect of the HRTW intervention (table 6). In the PP analysis, an increase in both ASM and LBM were observed as an effect of time. This discrepancy between the results from MRI and DXA can be explained by their different ROI's. The DXA were measuring whole body and limb specific changes in LBM where the MRI did only measure changes in qCSA. Even though the training intervention were focused on the lower limbs, two upper body exercises were included which could explain why we observed an effect of time in training arm on DXA but not MRI. Further, the results from the DXA scan indicates that the training intervention also prevented the increased BW, BMI and fat% since we did not observe a similar effect of time as in the nutritional arm. Again, this could be due to general changes in physical activity but as in the nutritional intervention arm, the activity levels were not different between baseline and 12 months suggesting an actual effect of the intervention.

Interestingly, the effect of time on ASMI and LBM observed did not affect the HbA1c levels which also increased as an effect of time in the training arm with a gross average of  $\sim 0.7 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ . This result was supported by the cross-sectional analysis only showing an association between BMI, fat% and VAT and not ASMI with respect to changes in the glucose metabolism (for figures see S1-4 in paper III). This contrasted with our hypothesis of a secondary positive effect increasing muscle mass on glucose tolerance and previous suggestions that improvements in glucose homeostasis might be due to an increase in lean body mass<sup>118</sup>. However, this discrepancy might be explained by a possible negative effect of the supplement outweighing the positive effects of an increased muscle mass, since we did not include a training group without supplementation. In addition, it should be noticed that the included study population were not diabetic and in general very active ( $>10.000 \text{ steps} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ ) and the results

should not be extrapolated to other population groups. Again, we cannot exclude that the changes observed with respect to the HbA1c levels were due to one-year of age rather than the intervention, since we did not include a group without training or supplementation.

Unfortunately, we were only able to investigate the effect of the training intervention on the FSR with an ITT analysis due to the low numbers of participants completing the training intervention with an acceptable adherence, time from last training session to the acute trial, and missing samples due to complications during the acute trial. The ITT analysis did not show any significant changes in FSR as an effect of the training intervention. As discussed above (section 11.4.1), these results suggest that the measurement of FSR only may not be a usable method for investigating the long-term effects on muscle mass.

In general, the results from the training arm in the CALM study were consistent across the different measurements showing small effects of one-year of heavy resistance exercise in combination with whey hydrolysate supplementation in comparison to supplementing alone. In line with our hypothesis, the adherence to home-based light load resistance exercise were higher compared to center-based heavy resistance exercise. Contrary to our hypothesis, the higher adherence did not result in improvements in comparison to high resistance exercise or supplementation alone, suggesting that heavy resistance exercise is needed for improving functional capacity in this healthy and highly active study population. However, it should be stress that these findings are not transferable to individuals in less active or healthy populations groups.

#### *11.4.3 Limitations*

There are several different limitations in the CALM study. Firstly, the inclusion of healthy and active elderly with an average daily protein intake above the current RDA in their habitual diet<sup>155</sup>. Hence, these results cannot be transferred other parts of the elderly population with either lower protein and energy intake and lower levels of activity. However, the study was designed to test the effect of changes in recommendation and not the effect of similar interventions in populations which are unlikely to follow recommendations from authorities. Further, we did not include a control group with no supplementation and a group conducting exercise alone. Therefore, we were not able to distinguish the effect of supplementation from the effect of one-year of age nor were we able to distinguish the effect of training with supplementation from training alone. The changes observed as an effect of the training

intervention may not only be attributed to the training but the interaction between supplementation and training, but due to the study design we were not capable of distinguishing between such possible interaction. Despite the increase in calorie intake and increases in BW, BMI and fat% we cannot exclude that this is an effect of age rather than the intervention, which is a clear restriction regarding the interpretation of the results.

Regarding the acute trial, the number of participants completing the acute trial at 12 months with and without an acceptable adherence were lower than expected due to both complications during the acute trial as well as practical and logistic circumstances conducting such a large trial. Therefore, we were not able to conduct a PP analysis on the FSR in the training arm, and the risk of the study being underpowered in the analysis investigating the changes as an effect of the intervention were at risk of being underpowered. Further, it has recently been shown that the underlying assumptions of the calculations of the FSR, i.e. no recycling of tracer, may not be fulfilled with the tracer used in the CALM study<sup>169</sup>. This was supported by the observation of a higher degree of variation during the basal period at 12 months compared to 0 months, which could be explained by a recycling of the tracer that has been incorporated during the acute trial at baseline.

## **12.0 Conclusion and perspectives**

The investigation of the current definitions of Sarcopenia shows that these are not scientifically justified due to tautological reasoning as well as lack of evidence for Sarcopenia being a distinct phenotype with disease like characteristics and not just a natural phenomenon of aging. Further, the current definitions contribute to confusion due to the inclusion of three separate phenomena making the separation of cause and effect impossible when scientifically investigating different interventions. Therefore, it is suggested to discard the current definition and use the original definition of the concept instead, i.e. age-related loss of skeletal muscle mass, in order to restore the scientific functionality of the concept of Sarcopenia. This study does not exclude that Sarcopenia in the future could be scientifically justified as a separate phenomenon of clinical relevance, but the current approach of making it so by incorporating clinically relevant measures into the definition are not scientifically valid. In addition, the lack of clinical relevance is not an argument against research within Sarcopenia but instead it should change the focus of interest from treatment to prevention in future studies.

In the CALM study, we did not observe any relevant differences 12 months of protein supplementation in comparison to iso-caloric carbohydrate supplement irrespective of the different methods applied in this thesis. However, we observed an unintended effect of time on both HbA1c, body weight and increases in fat% indicating that the participants did not adjust their calorie intake as expected. However, it was not possible to exclude that these changes were due to age rather than the intervention since we did not include a control group without supplementation. We only saw a minor effect of 12 months of protein supplementation in addition with heavy resistance exercise on the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass in comparison to protein supplementation alone. These results are probably more realistic estimates of the possible effects of heavy resistance exercise with respect to muscle mass and strength that can be expected if such types of training were recommended by the authorities than the effects observed in previous studies of shorter durations.

We did not find any changes in muscle protein synthesis in response to protein intake as an effect of the nutritional intervention. This provide some evidence against the frequent extrapolated interpretation of increases in FSR as positive per se with respect to muscle protein net balance and muscle mass. Further, our results suggest that the measurement of FSR without measuring FBR is not a usable method for investigating long-term developments in skeletal muscle mass. Interestingly, we were not capable of confirming the previous findings of sex dimorphism with respect to the basal FSR period in our study population. However, more studies specifically designed to investigate such differences are still needed. Unfortunately, we were not able to fully test the effect of the training intervention on the FSR due to low number of participants completing the 12 months acute trial with sufficient adherence.

We were able to measure the skeletal muscle metabolome using the relatively small amount of tissue normally available and hereby confirming the possibility of measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome from previous studies. Different to the previous studies, we used an un-targeted GC-MS as the analysis platform which yielded a relatively high amount metabolites (191) when accounting for the use of only one analysis platform. This underpins our analysis platform as promising for future studies. Interestingly, we consistently did not see any alterations in the skeletal muscle metabolome 240 min after the ingestion of 20g of whey and 10g of glucose. This finding should be taking into considerations when planning future studies investigating the effect on the skeletal muscle metabolome of different interventions.

In conclusion, the findings across the different measurements were consistent in both the nutritional and training intervention arm. This study provides strong evidence against the current trend of increasing recommendations of daily protein intake in the quest of preventing Sarcopenia defined as the age-related loss of muscle mass. Further, it provides solid evidence for making realistically estimates of the long-term effects of resistance exercise in combination with protein supplementation. Lastly, light load resistance training is not enough if gains in muscle mass and function are desired within this population of healthy and active elderly. Importantly, these findings due not exclude the possibilities of light load resistance training being an effective tool in other study populations.

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## 14.0 Papers

- Paper I:     **Jacob Bülow**, Stanley J. Ulijaszek, Lars Holm  
*Rejuvenation of the term Sarcopenia, DOI: 10.1152/jappphysiol.00400.2018*
- Paper II:     Kenneth H. Mertz, Søren Reitelseder, Rasmus Bechshøft, **Jacob Bulow**, Grith Højfeldt, Mikkel Jensen, Simon R. Schacht, Mads Vendelbo Lind, Morten A. Rasmussen, Ulla R. Mikkelsen, Inge Tetens, Søren B. Engelsen, Dennis S. Nielsen, Astrid P. Jespersen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of daily protein supplementation with or without resistance training for 1 year on muscle size, strength and function in healthy older adults. A Randomized Clinical Trial*
- Paper III:    **Jacob Bülow**, Mie Cecilie Faber Zillmer, Grith Højfeldt, Rasmus Bechshøft, Jakob Agergaard, Peter Schjerling, Lars Holm  
*Recommended long-term nutritional supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training does not affect glucose tolerance differently than carbohydrate supplementation in healthy elderly: the CALM cohort*
- Paper IV:    **Jacob Bülow**, Bekzod Khakimov, Søren Reitelseder, Rasmus Bechshøft, Søren Balling Engelsen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of long-term nutritional supplementation with or without different types of training on the skeletal muscle protein synthesis rate and metabolome in healthy elderly: the CALM study*

**Paper I:** **Jacob Bülow**, Stanley J. Ulijaszek, Lars Holm  
*Rejuvenation of the term Sarcopenia, DOI: 10.1152/jappphysiol.00400.2018*

## VIEWPOINT

# Rejuvenation of the term sarcopenia

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It is our viewpoint that the recent consensus definitions of sarcopenia are dysfunctional for clinical and experimental practice as well as in theory. In 1989, the term sarcopenia was introduced to describe the phenomenon of age-related loss of lean body mass (10). Since 2010, six consensus definitions have been presented, and in 2016, it was assigned its own ICD-10 code (1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11). A comparison of the original definition with the new consensus definitions clarifies how the term sarcopenia no longer describes the phenomenon it originally addressed. Rather, the term is now caught in tautological association, which causes confusion and hinders rather than helps understanding of this condition.

### *The Original Definition*

In 1989, Rosenberg (10) observed that the phenomenon of decreasing lean body mass with older age had not been given the scientific attention it deserved and drew attention to it by suggesting a name combining the two words *sarco* (meaning flesh) and *penia* (meaning loss) in accordance with the characteristic that it described. The focus of this original definition was the loss of muscle mass as a discrete phenomenon, with a leading interest in legitimizing clinical and scientific attention to it (10). This definition of sarcopenia was used descriptively with the purpose of defining and articulating the loss of skeletal muscle mass, as a concrete object.

### *The New Consensus Definitions*

Between 2011 and 2014, six consensus definitions of sarcopenia were agreed upon (3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11). These shifted the focus from the original phenomenon of loss of skeletal muscle mass to that of physical function. All of these definitions employ an algorithm with the same logic. Physical function capability is initially assessed (gait speed or grip strength) and, only if function is impaired below a cut-point, is muscle mass (as the appendicular lean mass) secondarily evaluated. Hence, low muscle mass is not a single stand-alone determinant by which sarcopenia is defined, and having only a low muscle mass is not an adequate criterion by which to be defined as being sarcopenic. Physical function is not synonymous with muscle function, although the concepts are sometimes used interchangeably in the six consensus articles. Physical function

is an interplay between multiple organ systems that can be estimated through tests like gait speed, whereas skeletal muscle, other than having the capability of contracting and allowing movement, has many functions in metabolism and as an endocrine organ.

The consensus definitions were made by working groups, with representatives from different societies within the geriatric field in Europe, the United States, and Asia, two of them receiving partial funding from the pharmaceutical industry. Discussion surrounding these definitions focuses most strongly on determination of the exact cut-off values for both physical function tests and muscle mass measurements. Surprisingly, the theoretical framework underpinning the definitions is not discussed thoroughly in any of the articles and arguments for the inclusion of physical function is found in only three (5, 8, 11) of the six papers. They share one main argument only, that the original definition is not clinically relevant.

### *Questioning the Reasoning for Changing the Definition*

The main argument for including physical function in the definition is at least twofold. First, if a well-defined phenomenon is not clinically relevant, changing the definition does not make it become clinically relevant. Instead, it changes the phenomenon under consideration. Second, every definition can become clinically relevant by adding a criterion that is clinically relevant, as in this case with physical function. The linking of loss of skeletal muscle mass to physical function reflects the logic behind the change of focus in the research field of sarcopenia, which is notably absent from the consensus articles. During the 1990s there was a research drive to develop operational criteria for cutoff values for categorizing adults as suffering from sarcopenia. The initial suggestion for an operational criterion and cutoff value was established by Baumgartner in 1998 (2), who legitimized the criterion by showing its association with a decrease in physical function and mortality. This initiated the shift in focus from muscle mass to physical function. From around 2000, the research focus shifted to considerations of how muscle strength and physical function such as gait speed have stronger association than low muscle mass to a decrease in physical function and mortality. Instead of concentrating on the loss of muscle mass, research interest centered on the robustness of the phenomenon's association with decreased physical function and mortality, thereby making physical function the primary object of interest.

From a clinical perspective it appears reasonable to focus on the phenomenon with the strongest association to a negative

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health outcome. However, in this case, the outcome and the phenomenon is almost, if not exactly, identical, and the argument for the change of focus from muscle mass to physical function is a tautology—arguing that there should be a change in focus from decreased muscle mass to decreased physical function, since a decrease in physical function has a stronger association with a decrease in physical function.

There are several consequences of the change in definition. According to the algorithms used in the consensus definitions, skeletal muscle is only of value to the definitions if it is associated with bodily movement. If gait speed is not reduced, presence of a low muscle mass is irrelevant according to the consensus definitions. This is despite the fact that skeletal muscle is the largest metabolic organ of the body and is crucial in the endocrine regulation of metabolism as well as being the body's largest reservoir of amino acids (7). Such functions are likely to be overlooked clinically when the primary inclusion criterion for sarcopenia is physical function and not muscle mass. Likewise, physical function is at risk of being reduced to the question of muscle mass when both are directly coupled in the definition (4). Furthermore, it reduces the relevance of the term in other clinical specialties such as nephrology and endocrinology, where muscle mass per se could be of clinical importance for both categorizing patients as well as in selecting treatment. Beside the reductionist understanding of the two different phenomena, the new definitions also lead to general confusion of what is meant by the term sarcopenia, since it no longer covers one but two phenomena.

### Conclusion

Since the reasoning behind the change in definition of sarcopenia rests upon a tautological association and that the meaning of the term has become misleading as it no longer corresponds with the phenomenon that it addresses, we suggest a return to the use of the original definition for future research. 'Sarcopenia' should exclusively be used as a descriptive term addressing age-related loss of muscle mass. This would return focus onto uncovering the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, and clinicians will hereby have an unambiguous and useful term. Perhaps returning to the original definition could cause confusion in relation to acceptance of age-related loss of muscle mass as a clinical relevant phenomenon. However, the theoretical foundations of the consensus definitions are tautological, and we anticipate that the consequences of these definitions would continue to create confusion. There may be other and better definitions than the original but since nobody will benefit from the current consensus definitions, breaking out of the tautology is necessary to allow science and clinical practice to move on.

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### DISCLOSURES

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### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

J.B. conceived and designed research; J.B., S.J.U., and L.H. drafted manuscript; J.B., S.J.U., and L.H. edited and revised manuscript; J.B., S.J.U., and L.H. approved final version of manuscript.

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**Paper II:** Kenneth H. Mertz, Søren Reitelseder, Rasmus Bechshoeft, **Jacob Bulow**, Grith Højfeldt, Mikkel Jensen, Simon R. Schacht, Mads Vendelbo Lind, Morten A. Rasmussen, Ulla R. Mikkelsen, Inge Tetens, Søren B. Engelsen, Dennis S. Nielsen, Astrid P. Jespersen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of daily protein supplementation with or without resistance training for 1 year on muscle size, strength and function in healthy older adults.*  
*A Randomized Clinical Trial*

1 The effect of daily protein supplementation with or without resistance training for 1  
2 year on muscle size, strength and function in healthy older adults.

3 A randomized controlled trial

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19 Clinicaltrials.gov identifier: NCT02034760

20 Registration URL: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02034760>

21 Data described in the article will be made available upon request pending application to the CALM trial.

## 22 ABSTRACT

23

24 **Background:** Protein supplementation alone or combined with resistance training have been  
25 proposed to be effective strategies to counteract age-related losses of muscle mass and strength.

26 **Objective:** To investigate the effect of protein supplementation alone or combined with light  
27 intensity or heavy load resistance exercise on muscle size, strength and function in older adults.

28 **Methods:** In a 1-year randomized controlled trial (The CALM study), 208 healthy older adults (>65  
29 years) were randomly assigned to one of five interventions: 1) Carbohydrate supplementation  
30 (CARB), 2) Collagen protein supplementation (COLL), 3) Whey protein supplementation (WHEY), 4)  
31 Home-based light-intensity resistance training with whey protein supplementation (LITW), 5)  
32 Center-based heavy-load resistance training with whey protein supplementation (HRTW). All  
33 intervention groups received the supplement twice daily. The primary outcome measure was  
34 change in m. quadriceps cross-sectional area (qCSA), assessed by magnetic resonance imaging.  
35 Secondary outcomes included isometric knee extensor strength (MVIC), 400 m gait speed, 30-s  
36 chair stand test, leg extensor power, and body composition.

37 **Results:** Protein supplementation did not affect qCSA, strength, body composition, or functional  
38 capabilities compared to CARB. Compared to WHEY, HRTW improved qCSA ([Between-group  
39 difference, 95% CI]; 1.68, 0.41 to 2.95 cm<sup>2</sup>, P = 0.03) and MVIC (23.9, 14.2 to 33.6 Nm, P < 10<sup>-5</sup>).  
40 LITW did not improve any measured parameter compared to WHEY.

41 **Conclusions:** Protein supplementation alone did not affect muscle size, strength or function. Based  
42 on this study, recommending protein supplementation as a stand-alone intervention for older  
43 individuals already exceeding daily protein intakes of >1.0 g·kg<sup>-1</sup>·day<sup>-1</sup> appears to be ineffective in  
44 improving any of these parameters. Only HRTW was effective in preserving muscle mass and

45 increasing strength. Thus, we recommend that future studies aim to investigate strategies to  
46 increase long-term compliance to heavy resistance exercise in healthy older adults. This trial was  
47 registered at [Clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) as NCT02034760

48

49 Keywords: Protein supplementation, ageing, skeletal muscle, resistance training, randomized  
50 controlled trials, exercise

## 51 BACKGROUND

52 Progressive decline of muscle mass is a hallmark of ageing and is accompanied by decrements in  
53 muscle strength<sup>1-3</sup>. The loss of strength leads to a risk of developing functional limitations<sup>4</sup>, with  
54 potential detrimental effects on health and autonomy of the individual. Thus development of  
55 feasible strategies to maintain muscle mass and strength is of great importance<sup>5-7</sup>.

56 The progressive decline in muscle mass and function<sup>8,9</sup> has extensively been suggested to be  
57 counteracted by a higher protein intake and usage of muscle through exercise<sup>10,11</sup>. Cross-sectional  
58 and prospective cohort studies have shown that protein intake above the current recommended  
59 daily allowance (RDA) of 0.83 g·kg<sup>-1</sup>·day<sup>-1</sup><sup>12</sup> is associated with higher muscle mass<sup>13-19</sup>, as well as a  
60 better preservation of muscle mass in older adults (>65 years)<sup>20-22</sup>. The latter leading to increased  
61 recommendations of 1.1-1.3 g protein·kg<sup>-1</sup>·day<sup>-1</sup> for older adults in the recent edition of the Nordic  
62 Nutrition Recommendations<sup>23</sup>. However, intervention studies investigating the effect of increasing  
63 protein intake on muscle mass show mixed results<sup>24-32</sup>. The duration of intervention studies are  
64 generally short (≤6 months), and the discrepant findings might therefore be related to inadequate  
65 intervention lengths<sup>33</sup>. Furthermore, the importance of protein quality (evaluated by the  
66 digestible indispensable amino acid score, DIAAS<sup>34,35</sup>), when supplied as part of a mixed diet, is not  
67 known. Oikawa and colleagues<sup>36</sup> recently found that supplementation with a high quality protein  
68 supplement (whey) induced greater increases in both acute and 6-days integrated muscle protein  
69 synthesis compared to a lower-quality protein supplement (collagen). However, to the present  
70 authors' knowledge, it has not been investigated whether whey protein supplementation results  
71 in better preservation of muscle mass compared to collagen during long-term supplementation.  
72 Thus, the impact of increasing dietary protein intake on muscle mass and strength in older adults

73 remains a debated topic, with an urgent need for long-term, well-conducted, human intervention  
74 studies<sup>33,37-40</sup>.

75 While heavy resistance training is the most potent exercise modality to increase muscle mass and  
76 strength<sup>41-44</sup>, some older adults prefer exercise interventions of lower intensity, expensiveness,  
77 and situated in more convenient locations like a home-based setting<sup>45,46</sup>. Lower intensity training  
78 modalities can be effective in enhancing muscle mass<sup>47-49</sup> and when accounting for adherence, a  
79 home-based low intensity exercise program might therefore be an equally (or more) effective  
80 long-term exercise intervention as heavy resistance exercise for older adults.

81 The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of protein supplementation and  
82 resistance training by conducting a 1-year randomized controlled trial, partly single-blinded/partly  
83 double-blinded. The hypotheses were:

84 1) Supplementation with higher quality whey protein will benefit muscle size and strength more  
85 than supplementation with lower quality collagen protein in healthy older adults.

86 2) Adherence to home-based, light intensity resistance exercise is higher than adherence to  
87 center-based heavy resistance training, and thus exerts an equally beneficial long-term strategy  
88 for gaining/preserving muscle mass and strength.

## 89 METHODS

90 The Counteracting Age-Related Loss of Muscle Mass (CALM) trial was conducted at Bispebjerg  
91 Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark between 2014 and 2018. The design of the trial and detailed  
92 descriptions of methods and exclusion criteria has been published previously<sup>50</sup>. The regional ethics  
93 committee approved the trial protocol (H-4-2013-070), and the subjects gave their written

94 informed consent to participate. The trial was registered at Clinicaltrials.gov (Identifier:  
95 NCT02034760).

96 *Study participants:*

97 208 community-dwelling adults aged 65 years and older were recruited. To be included the  
98 participants were not allowed to partake in >1 hour of heavy resistance training per week.  
99 Participants were not included if they had any medical condition potentially preventing them from  
100 safely completing the 1-year intervention<sup>50</sup>.

101 *Participant recruitment:*

102 Recruitment was done through advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and social media, as  
103 well as presentations at senior centres and public events. After a brief telephone screening for  
104 exclusion criteria, the participants underwent a physical examination including blood samples and  
105 measurements of blood pressure to determine if the participants could perform the interventions  
106 safely. Subjects also performed a 30-s chair stand test that was used for stratifying randomization.

107 *Randomization:*

108 Following screening and health examination, participants were enrolled in the study and  
109 randomized into one of the following five groups using MinimPy 0.3<sup>50,51</sup>: 1) Carbohydrate  
110 supplementation (CARB; 20 g maltodextrin + 10 g sucrose), 2) Whey protein supplementation  
111 (WHEY; 20 g whey protein hydrolysate + 10 g sucrose), 3) Collagen protein supplementation (COLL;  
112 20 g bovine collagen protein hydrolysate + 10 g sucrose), 4) Heavy resistance training with whey  
113 protein supplementation (HRTW), 5) Light-intensity training with whey protein supplementation  
114 (LITW). Randomization was done by an investigator not involved in interventions or not sensitive  
115 to blinding. We employed a stratified, biased coin minimization with 0.95 base probability, and



116 used allocation ratios corresponding to the group sizes (see sample size). Randomization was  
117 stratified by sex and number of completed repetitions on the 30-s chair stand test (<16 or ≥16).

118 *Interventions:*

119 The five intervention groups comprised the two arms of the study; A supplementation arm and a  
120 training arm. The supplementation arm investigated the effect of twice daily protein  
121 supplementation, and the impact of protein quality (WHEY, COLL, and CARB intervention groups).  
122 Subjects were instructed to ingest the supplements twice daily, at morning and midday, preferably  
123 just before or during meals to increase satiety, thereby limiting potential excessive caloric intake.  
124 All supplements were developed and packaged by Arla Foods Ingredients Group P/S, Viby J,  
125 Denmark. The other arm of the study, the training arm, investigated the effect of resistance  
126 training at two different intensities combined with whey protein supplementation against whey  
127 protein without training (HRTW, LITW, and WHEY). HRTW performed heavy resistance training 3  
128 times weekly under supervision of trained personnel. Training intensity was periodized into 3-  
129 month cycles, increasing the load progressively from 12 repetition maximum (RM) to 6 RM in each  
130 cycle. LITW performed light load home-based resistance 3-5 times weekly, using TheraBand®  
131 rubber bands (Hygenic Corp., Akron, OH, USA) and bodyweight. To ensure proper execution, study  
132 personnel supervised LITW sessions once per week during the first month, and once per month  
133 during the remainder of the intervention. Training sessions were mainly focused on the lower  
134 extremities, but also included exercises for the shoulders and arms (see Bechshøft et al 2016)<sup>50</sup>.  
135 Adherence to HRTW was registered by staff, whereas LITW and supplementation interventions  
136 were registered by the participants in hard-copy diaries.

137 *Primary outcome:*

138 The primary outcome was change in midthigh m. quadriceps cross-sectional area (qCSA) of the  
139 dominant leg, measured by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. MRI is considered the gold  
140 standard for measuring muscle size, and detecting age-related atrophy<sup>52,53</sup>. MRI scans were  
141 performed in a Siemens Verio 3 Tesla scanner by blinded radiographers. Participants were scanned  
142 in supine position using a dedicated 32-channel body coil, and a phantom was placed parallel to  
143 the femur during the scans. The following protocol was used; 3 plane GRE scout (matrix res.  
144 1.2.0x1.6x6.0 mm, FOV 330mm, TE 3.69ms, TR 7.8ms, scan time 27s); Axial T1 tse from the medial  
145 tibia plateau to the pubic symphysis (matrix res. 0.8x0.8x8.0mm, FOV 400mm, TE 8.4ms, TR 500,  
146 scan time 3:26). Subjects were instructed to avoid vigorous physical activity for 48 hours prior to  
147 the scans. Each scan consisted of six axial slices, with the first slice being placed in the medial tibia  
148 plateau. Each slice was 8 mm thick, separated by a 60 mm gap. Slice 4 on the dominant leg was  
149 used for assessing quadriceps cross-sectional area (qCSA). All scans were analysed by the same  
150 blinded investigator using OsiriX v. 5.5.2 (OsiriX medical imaging software, Geneva, Switzerland).  
151 Each scan was analysed twice, showing a mean coefficient of variation between measurements of  
152 0.7%. The mean of the two measurements were used for further analysis.

153 *Secondary outcomes:*

154 To assess lower extremity strength, maximal voluntary isometric contraction (MVIC) of the knee  
155 extensors were measured at 70° knee flexion (0° = full extension) in an isokinetic dynamometer  
156 (Kinetic Communicator, model 500-11, Chattanooga, TN, USA). Furthermore, leg extensor power  
157 was measured in the Nottingham Power Rig (Queens Medical Center, Nottingham University,  
158 UK)<sup>54</sup>. The functional capabilities of the participants were assessed using the 400 m walk test<sup>55</sup> and  
159 30-s chair stand test<sup>56</sup>. Assessments of functional capabilities as well as measures of lower

160 extremity strength and power have been described in detail elsewhere<sup>57</sup> Self-perceived quality of  
161 life was measured using the Danish version of the 36-item Short Form Health Survey<sup>58</sup>. We report  
162 the physical (PCS) and mental component scores (MCS) for baseline characteristics.

163 Body composition was assessed using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (Lunar iDXA, GE Medical  
164 Systems, Pewaukee, WI, USA). Study participants arrived fasting from 21:00 the night before and  
165 refrained from strenuous activities for 48 hours prior to the test. All scans were performed  
166 between 08:00 and 10:00. From these scans we obtained lean tissue mass (LTM) as well as body  
167 fat percentage. Regions of interest (ROIs) for the extremities and visceral body parts were set  
168 based on the default definitions provided by the scanner software. The same examiner controlled  
169 the default positioning of all regions, which were adjusted slightly when appropriate to take into  
170 account inter-individual differences in body placement and body size.

171 Daily activity levels were measured by mounting an accelerometer-based activity monitor (activPal  
172 3<sup>TM</sup>, activPal 3c<sup>TM</sup>, or activPal micro; PAL technologies, Glasgow, UK) mounted on the anterior  
173 surface of the thigh<sup>59</sup>. The monitor was worn for 96 continuous hours covering a full weekend.  
174 Data are represented as the average number of steps per day.

175 A detailed description of the dietary assessment can be found elsewhere<sup>60</sup>. Briefly, participants  
176 weighed their dietary intake for three consecutive days (Wednesday to Friday), and wrote down  
177 the information in food logs. Trained staff then quantified nutrient intake using a dietary  
178 assessment tool (VITAKOST<sup>TM</sup>, MADLOG ApS, Kolding, Denmark). Dietary assessments were  
179 performed prior to the intervention, and after 11 months of the intervention. Nutrient intake was  
180 assessed for foods only. Protein and Energy intake from the supplement was manually calculated  
181 by multiplying the compliance to the supplement with the dietary content of the supplement. For

182 the participants who failed to report their compliance to the supplement, but who were still  
183 receiving the supplement, we used the median compliance rate from the respective groups.

184 Lastly, HbA1c, blood cholesterol and triglycerides, as well creatinine concentrations were  
185 monitored.

186 *Blinding:*

187 Participants in the supplement-only groups (WHEY, COLL, CARB), were blinded to which  
188 supplement they received. Training interventions were not blinded to the participants. Staff  
189 performing and analysing the MRI images as well as the strength and functional tests were blinded  
190 towards the interventions. Unblinded personnel performed DXA scans and blood sampling, but  
191 analyses and interpretation of the data output from these were done by blinded researchers.

192 *Sample sizes:*

193 We aimed to detect between-group differences in qCSA changes of 2% over the intervention  
194 period, corresponding to approximately 0.8 cm<sup>2</sup>. Based on previous data from our lab<sup>61</sup>, an SD of  
195 ~1.4 cm<sup>2</sup> for qCSA was expected. Thus, applying a level of significance of 0.05 and a power of 0.80,  
196 a group size of 30 participants was required. Taking dropout rate into account we included 36  
197 participants in HRTW, LITW and CARB groups and 50 participants in WHEY and COLL groups<sup>50</sup>.

198 *Statistical analyses:*

199 Baseline data are summarized by group means  $\pm$  standard deviations (SD) unless otherwise stated.  
200 Effects of the interventions were investigated within each study arm, separately. The individual  
201 treatment effects are reported as the mean change and associated 95% confidence intervals (CI)  
202 during the intervention. Between-treatment effects are reported as mean difference in treatment

203 effect and associated 95% CI. The level of significance was set to  $<0.05$ . The effects of the  
204 interventions were analysed as a modified intention-to-treat, including all participants that  
205 completed at least one test at the 12-month timepoint, irrespective of adherence to the  
206 interventions.

207 Changes from baseline to 12 months were investigated separately in the supplementation arm  
208 and in the training arm of the study, using a longitudinal mixed model with time (baseline and 12  
209 month) and intervention group (three levels) as fixed predictors, including their interaction, and  
210 person as random term. Treatment inferences were based on significance test of the interaction  
211 term, and further investigated by contrasts of intervention group changes from baseline to 12  
212 months between all pairs (CARB vs COLL vs WHEY, and WHEY vs LITW vs HRTW) of group  
213 combinations.

214 R (version 3.5.1) with the function `lm()` from the stats package (ver 3.5.1), `lmer()` from the lme4  
215 package (ver. 1.1-20) and `glth()` from the multcomp package (ver. 1.4-8) were used for data  
216 analysis.

## 217 RESULTS

218 In total, we had 1285 contacts from potential participants of which 1148 were screened via  
219 telephone. 280 participants were scheduled for an on-site screening visit of which 39 participants  
220 declined to participate. 33 were excluded prior to enrollment in the study. Consort diagram is  
221 shown in **Figure 1**. 208 participants were randomized and 184 completed the 12-month tests  
222 Characteristics of the included subjects are presented in Table 1. 24 participants dropped out  
223 during the study; 11 due to illness or injury unrelated to the intervention, 5 due to disliking the  
224 supplement, 3 due to the testing being too extensive, and 5 due to personal reasons.

## 225 *Compliance*

226 Compliance to training was significantly higher in LITW compared to HRTW ([Median [Interquartile  
227 range]], LITW: 89% [77%, 96%]; HRTW: 72% [62%, 78%];  $P < 0.01$ ) (see **supplemental table 1**).

228 Supplement compliance did not differ significantly between groups (CARB: 95% [77%, 97%]; COLL:  
229 96% [86%, 99%]; WHEY: 88% [82%, 93%],  $P=0.11$ ), however, a total of 34 participants failed to  
230 report their intake of the supplements throughout the intervention (supplemental table 1). These  
231 participants all came to the research facilities to receive additional supplements as planned, but  
232 they are not included in the compliance values due to their insufficient reporting of supplement  
233 intake.

234 Protein intake increased for COLL ([mean, 95% CI] +29.0, +21.1 to +36.8 g/day), WHEY (+25.7,  
235 +15.6 to +35.8 g/day), LITW (+23.9, +15.2 to +32.5 g/day), and HRTW (+26.7, +18.9 to +34.5 g/day)  
236 over the intervention period, while energy intake did not change significantly (COLL: +408, -130 to  
237 +947 kJ/day; WHEY: +518, -322 to +1358 kJ/day; LITW: +474, -427 to +1375 kJ/day; HRTW: -41, -  
238 707 to +625 kJ/day, (see **supplemental table 2**). Energy intake increased for CARB, with no change  
239 in protein intake (Energy: +948, +62 to +1835 kJ/day; Protein: -4.9, -15.8 to +6.1 g/day).

## 240 *Quadriceps size*

241 In the supplementation arm, we observed no between-group differences in changes in qCSA,  
242 ( $P=0.17$ , **Figure 2A**). In the training arm, HRTW was associated with a more positive change in  
243 qCSA compared to WHEY (Between-group difference [mean, 95% CI]: 1.68, 0.41 to 2.95 cm<sup>2</sup>,  
244  $P=0.03$ ), but not compared to LITW (1.29 cm<sup>2</sup>, -0.08 to 2.67 cm<sup>2</sup>,  $P=0.16$ ). Changes in qCSA were  
245 not significantly different for LITW compared to WHEY (0.39, -0.88 to 1.66 cm<sup>2</sup>,  $P=0.82$ ). Neither  
246 HRTW (0-12 month change: +0.73, -0.32 to +1.77 cm<sup>2</sup>) nor LITW (-0.54, -1.70 to +0.62 cm<sup>2</sup>)

247 exhibited marked changes in qCSA, whereas a decrease was observed for WHEY (-0.93, -1.65 to -  
248 0.21 cm<sup>2</sup>).

#### 249 *Lower body strength and power*

250 No between-group differences were observed in the supplementation arm for neither MVIC (P =  
251 0.13, **Figure 2B**) or leg extensor power (P = 0.94, **Figure 2C**). In the training arm, changes in MVIC  
252 differed between groups, with HRTW inducing greater gains in MVIC compared to LITW (Between-  
253 group difference: 16.8, 6.1 to 27.4 Nm, P = 0.01) and WHEY (23.9, 14.2 to 33.6 Nm, P < 10<sup>-5</sup>).  
254 However, changes in MVIC for LITW were not significantly different from WHEY (7.1 Nm, -2.8 to  
255 17.1 Nm, P = 0.34). No between-group differences in changes in leg extensor power were  
256 observed within the training arm (P = 0.73).

#### 257 *Functional capabilities*

258 In the supplementation arm, between-group differences were observed in changes in 400 m gait  
259 time (P = 0.99, **Figure 2D**), or number of repetitions on the 30 s chair stand test (P = 0.30, **Figure**  
260 **2E**). In the training arm, changes in 400 m gait times were not significantly different between  
261 groups (P = 0.14). However, gait times decreased for HRTW (0-12 months change: -7.8, -15.1 to -  
262 0.45 s) and decreased nominally for LITW (-4.7, -9.9 to +0.6 s), with no apparent change in WHEY  
263 (+0.1, -5.0 to +5.2 s). Changes in number of repetitions on the 30 s chair stand test did not differ  
264 between groups in training arm (P = 0.82).

#### 265 *Body composition*

266 In the supplementation arm, changes in fat percentage (P = 0.95, **Figure 2F**) and LTM (P = 0.29,  
267 **Figure 2G**) did not differ between groups. However, in all supplementation groups increases fat  
268 percentage were observed (CARB: +0.7, +0.1 to +1.5 percentage points (pp); COLL: +0.6, +0.0 to

269 +1.2pp; WHEY: +0.7, +0.1 to +1.2pp), with no marked changes in LTM (CARB: +0.18, -0.18 to +0.54  
270 kg; COLL: -0.04, -0.32 to +0.25 kg; WHEY: -0.17, -0.48 to +0.14 kg). In the training study, between-  
271 group differences in changes in LTM did not reach significance (P = 0.09). Nominal increases in  
272 LTM were observed in HRTW (+0.39, -0.01 to +0.79 kg), whereas no apparent change was  
273 observed for LITW (+0.10, -0.33 to +0.54 kg). Between-group differences in changes in fat  
274 percentage did also not reach significance in the training arm (P = 0.10).

## 275 DISCUSSION

276 This study investigated the effect of two modifiable strategies to counteract age-related loss of  
277 muscle mass in older adults; protein supplementation alone and or combined with resistance  
278 exercise. Increasing daily protein intake from  $\sim 1.1 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  to  $\sim 1.5 \text{ g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  by providing daily protein  
279 supplements to healthy home-dwelling older individuals had no beneficial effects in any of the  
280 performed measures. These results provide strong evidence that an increase in protein intake  
281 does not add a benefit in preserving muscle mass or strength in healthy older adults living  
282 independently and eating in accordance with current guidelines. Increasing protein content in an  
283 iso-caloric diet has been shown to result in loss of fat mass<sup>24</sup>, but in the present study  
284 supplementation of any kind was associated with an increase in fat percentage. Although this  
285 finding was not controlled against normal eating behavior, gaining fat mass indicate that the older  
286 adults in the present study did not adjust energy intake and/or expenditure accordingly when  
287 supplemented with extra calories, irrespective of the source of supplemented calories  
288 (protein/carbohydrate).

289 Contrary to our hypothesis, WHEY was not associated with more positive changes in qCSA  
290 compared to the COLL or CARB. This finding is surprising and contradicts our hypothesis that



291 supplements with high-quality protein should be superior to lower-quality protein supplements in  
292 maintaining muscle mass. In a recent study from Oikawa and colleagues<sup>36</sup>, it was found that whey  
293 protein supplementation induced greater acute and 6-day integrated muscle protein synthesis  
294 compared to collagen supplementation in healthy older women. While these findings are  
295 contradictory, it should be noted that acute changes in muscle protein synthesis are not well  
296 correlated with long-term changes in muscle mass<sup>62</sup>. Thus, while whey protein supplementation  
297 might increase muscle protein turnover to a greater extent than collagen protein  
298 supplementation, the present results indicate that this has no functional long-term effect in  
299 healthy older adults.

300 The impact of resistance exercise on top of whey supplementation was also investigated. The  
301 effects of LITW were sparse and inferior to those of HRTW, despite the higher compliance to LITW.  
302 While HRTW was effective in increasing muscle strength and the increments in MVIC were  
303 comparable to what has been previously observed<sup>43,63-65</sup>, the lack of change in muscle mass was  
304 unexpected. Surprisingly, 1 year of supervised resistance training did not elicit significant increases  
305 in qCSA, which have been shown in several studies reporting 5-10% increments in qCSA after 3-4  
306 months of training<sup>66-68</sup>. However, a number of other studies have also struggled to induce muscle  
307 hypertrophy in older adults<sup>69-73</sup>. In the present study, median training compliance corresponded  
308 to an average of ~2 training sessions per week in HRTW, which has been shown previously to  
309 induce hypertrophy in older adults<sup>74</sup>. However, during the present study, most participants went  
310 on vacation for 3-4 weeks during the intervention, causing prolonged breaks from training. These  
311 breaks from training are likely to attenuate the increases in muscle size, and thus could potentially  
312 explain the insignificant hypertrophy observed in the present results. Compared to the very  
313 intense 3-4 month training studies previously reported<sup>66-68</sup>, we suggest that the present results

314 are more realistic estimates of the effects when recommending older adults to complete  
315 resistance training for prolonged periods of time.

316 While our statistical analysis revealed no between-group differences in changes in functional  
317 capabilities, it should be noted that we observed that HRTW improved 400 m gait times. The 400  
318 m gait test has previously been shown to be a strong predictor of both functional capabilities and  
319 risk of future mobility limitations in healthy older adults<sup>55</sup>. Furthermore, we have previously  
320 shown that strength is a good predictor of functional capabilities in our cohort of older adults<sup>57</sup>.  
321 Albeit speculative in relation to the present results, our findings suggest that heavy resistance  
322 exercise is capable of improving functional capacity even in active older adults.

#### 323 LIMITATIONS

324 We recruited well-functioning home-dwelling healthy older adults with a rather active lifestyle. As  
325 a group, they were well-nourished and ingested on average above current RDA of protein in their  
326 habitual diet<sup>60</sup>. Hence, the present data cannot be extrapolated to other, more frail elderly people  
327 and/or some eating less energy/protein in their normal diet.

328 Our study did not include training groups not receiving protein supplementation. Therefore, the  
329 obtained results in the training groups therefore may not be solely attributed to the training per  
330 se, and any interaction between protein supplementation and resistance training cannot be  
331 derived from the present study. However, while protein supplementation has been shown to be  
332 effective in improving adaptations to resistance training in young individuals<sup>44</sup>, the additive effects  
333 seem to be minor in older adults<sup>44,75</sup>.

## 334 CONCLUSION

335 This 1-year intervention study does not support the hypothesis that protein supplementation  
336 benefits preservation of muscle mass and strength in healthy older adults already reaching daily  
337 protein intakes of  $>1.0 \text{ g protein}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ . Despite seemingly higher compliance, the addition of  
338 light resistance home-based training is not as effective as heavy load resistance training in  
339 increasing strength and function. Future research and innovation efforts should focus on  
340 improving long-term compliance to heavy resistance exercise in healthy older adults to obtain  
341 greater muscular benefits.

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357

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## 598 FIGURE LEGENDS

599 Figure 1: **CONSORT diagram showing the flow of participants in the CALM trial.**

600 CARB: Carbohydrate supplementation; COLL: Collagen protein supplementation; WHEY: Whey  
601 protein supplementation; LITW: Light-intensity training with whey protein supplementation;  
602 HRTW: Heavy resistance training with whey protein supplementation.

603

604 Figure 2: **Changes in muscle size, strength and function over the intervention period.**

605 Changes from baseline to 12 months in A) m. quadriceps cross-sectional area (qCSA). B) Knee  
606 extensor maximal voluntary isometric contraction (MVIC) C) Lean tissue mass (LTM). D) Fat  
607 percentage. E) 400 m gait time. F) Leg extensor power. G) Reps on the 30-s chair stand test.

608 Results are shown as mean changes [ $\pm$  95% CI] from baseline to 12 months of intervention. \*:

609 Significant between-group difference in changes over the intervention period. CARB: Carbohydrate

610 supplementation; COLL: Collagen protein supplementation; WHEY: Whey protein

611 supplementation; LITW: Light-intensity training with whey protein supplementation; HRTW: Heavy

612 resistance training with whey protein supplementation.

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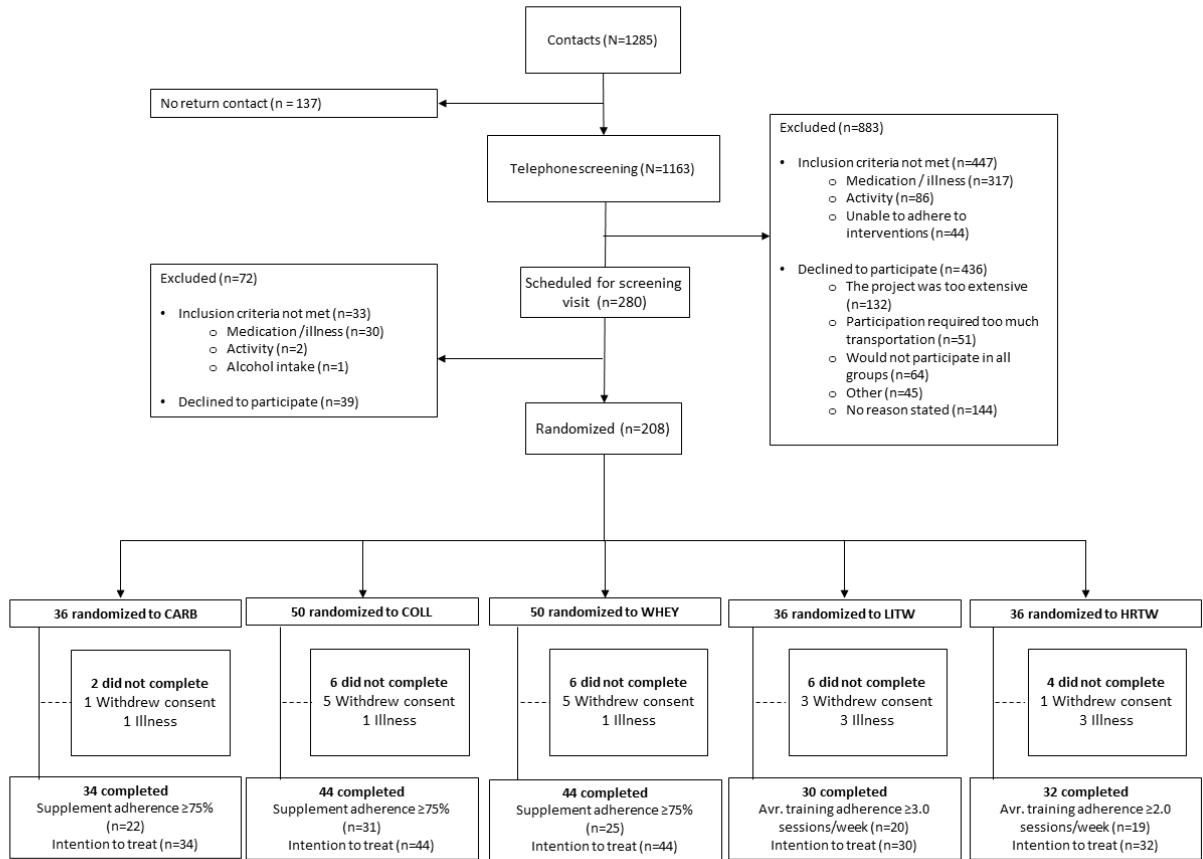


617 **Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the included participants by group.**

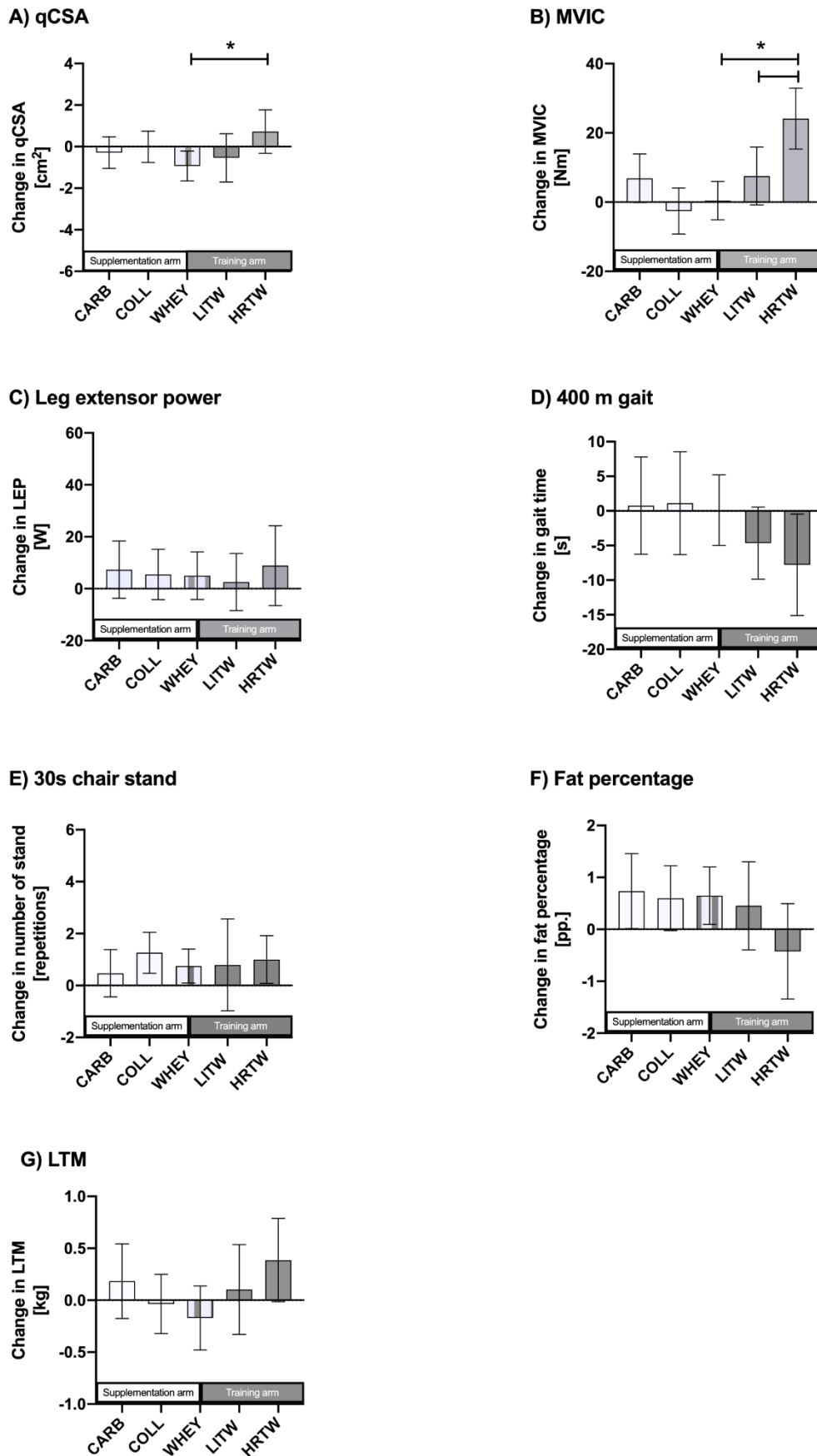
	CARB	COLL	WHEY	LITW	HRTW
<b>Variable</b>	(n = 36)	(n = 50)	(n = 50)	(n = 36)	(n = 36)
<b>Demographics, Mean (SD)</b>					
Age, y	69.6 (3.9)	70.4 (4.1)	70.3 (4.3)	70.4 (4.0)	70.3 (3.1)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	26.0 (3.9)	25.4 (6.0)	25.2 (3.6)	25.7 (3.1)	25.9 (3.5)
Daily activity, Steps/day	10894 (5165)	10590 (3996)	10118 (3590)	10119 (3450)	9777 (3574)
Protein intake, g/kg/day	1.2 (0.3)	1.2 (0.4)	1.1 (0.3)	1.0 (0.3)	1.1 (0.4)
Energy intake, kJ/day	8442 (1804)	8150 (1952)	8529 (2092)	7445 (2220)	8268 (2146)
<b>Body Composition</b>					
Lean tissue mass, kg	48.5 (7.8)	49.2 (8.6)	50.0 (8.5)	48.1 (9.3)	48.8 (9.9)
Fat percentage, %	33.2 (9.3)	32.0 (9.1)	32.7 (7.5)	34.3 (7.5)	34.7 (7.1)
Quadriceps size, cm <sup>2</sup>	56.6 (11.3)	56.0 (13.9)	54.5 (11.0)	56.7 (11.4)	55.4 (13.1)
<b>Strength and function</b>					
400 m gait time, s	248 (42)	243 (38)	242 (30)	242 (30)	251 (27)
30 s chair stand, reps	19.9 (5.7)	20.1 (5.3)	19.4 (4.6)	20.1 (4.6)	18.9 (4.9)

Leg extensor power, W	183.1 (56.2)	191.2 (67.2)	189.6 (59.6)	190.8 (61.4)	194.2 (65.8)
MVIC, Nm	158.9 (41.1)	169.0 (53.4)	177.6 (47.0)	171.5 (44.4)	165.0 (50.8)
<b>SF-36</b>					
MCS	59.3 (3.2)	57.3 (4.3)	57.6 (3.6)	57.1 (4.7)	57.5 (4.4)
PCS	55.3 (4.7)	56.0 (4.7)	56.8 (3.1)	56.4 (4.0)	56.5 (4.2)
<b>Laboratory data</b>					
Hba1c, mmol/mol	36.0 (2.2)	35.8 (3.4)	36.2 (3.5)	35.8 (2.9)	35.8 (2.7)
Total cholesterol, mmol/l	5.6 (0.9)	5.7 (1.0)	6.0 (1.2)	5.5 (1.0)	5.8 (0.9)
HDL Cholesterol, mmol/l	1.9 (0.5)	2.0 (0.6)	1.8 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)
LDL Cholesterol, mmol/l	3.1 (0.8)	3.2 (1.0)	3.4 (0.9)	3.0 (1.0)	3.4 (1.0)
Triglycerides, mmol/l	1.3 (0.6)	1.4 (0.8)	1.7 (0.8)*	1.4 (0.6)	1.4 (0.6)
Creatinine, $\mu$ mol/l	76.8 (14.7)	81.4 (15.9)	80.5 (11.6)	78.8 (14.7)	77.0 (12.7)

619 Figure 1: CONSORT diagram showing the flow of participants in the CALM trial.



620 Figure 2: Changes in muscle size, strength and function over the intervention period.



Supplemental table 1. **Overview of compliance to interventions.**

	<u>CARB</u>		<u>COLL</u>		<u>WHEY</u>		<u>LITW</u>		<u>HRTW</u>	
	<b>ITT</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>ITT</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>ITT</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>ITT</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>ITT</b>	<b>PP</b>
Training compliance (Median [IQR])	-	-	-	-	-	-	89% [77%, 96%]	94% [88%, 97%]	72% [62%, 78%]	78% [75%, 82%]
Supplement compliance (Median [IQR])	95% [77%, 97%]	96% [89%, 98%]	96% [86%, 99%]	96% [86%, 99%]	88% [82%, 93%]	90% [85%, 96%]	90% [77%, 94%]	93% [85%, 100%]	87% [79%, 97%]	94% [87%, 98%]
Supplement non-reporters (n=)	7		11		14		1		1	
Drop outs (n=)	2		6		6		6		4	
Included subjects (n=)	34	22	44	31	44	25	30	20	32	19

Participants were included in per protocol analysis if supplement compliance exceeded 75%, and training compliance exceeded 75% for LITW and 66% for HRTW. ITT: Intention -to-treat analysis. PP: Per protocol analysis. CARB: Carbohydrate supplementation. COLL: Collagen protein supplementation. WHEY: Whey protein supplementation. LITW: Light intensity training with whey protein supplementation. HRTW: Heavy resistance training with whey protein supplementation.



Hba1c, mmol/mol	1.06 (0.33)	1.52 (0.42)	0.98 (0.40)	1.03 (0.50)	0.16 (0.33)	0.48 (0.44)	1.27 (0.47)	1.10 (0.51)	0.50 (0.35)	0.42 (0.51)
Total cholesterol, mmol/l	-0.38 (0.12)	-0.41 (0.17)	-0.57 (0.11)	-0.74 (0.12)	-0.54 (0.10)	-0.67 (0.13)	-0.62 (0.09)	-0.69 (0.12)	-0.59 (0.1)	-0.58 (0.14)
HDL Cholesterol, mmol/l	-0.12 (0.05)	-0.17 (0.06)	-0.21 (0.03)	-0.23 (0.04)	-0.14 (0.05)	-0.22 (0.07)	-0.20 (0.05)	-0.20 (0.06)	-0.10 (0.05)	-0.10 (0.06)
LDL Cholesterol, mmol/l	-0.14 (0.10)	-0.12 (0.15)	-0.23 (0.12)	-0.36 (0.13)	-0.16 (0.08)	-0.25 (0.1)	-0.28 (0.08)	-0.34 (0.12)	-0.33 (0.09)	-0.28 (0.15)
Triglycerides, mmol/l	-0.23 (0.07)	-0.24 (0.10)	-0.40 (0.08)	-0.41 (0.10)	-0.52 (0.08)*	-0.43 (0.09)	-0.29 (0.09)	-0.28 (0.12)	-0.39 (0.09)	-0.47 (0.11)
Creatinine, $\mu$ mol/l	3.71 (1.41)	4.14 (1.88)	3.37 (1.17)	2.19 (1.24)	-0.41 (1.07) \$	-0.96 (1.25)	0.87 (1.20)	-0.35 (1.63)	2.50 (1.13)	0.47 (1.09)

\* P < 0.05 vs  
CARB  
 \$ P < 0.05 vs  
COLL  
 & P < 0.05 vs  
WHEY  
 § P < 0.05 vs  
LITW

Participants were included in per protocol analysis if supplement compliance exceeded 75%, and training compliance exceeded 75% for LITW and 66% for HRTW. ITT: Intention-to-treat analysis. PP: Per protocol analysis. CARB: Carbohydrate supplementation. COLL: Collagen protein supplementation. WHEY: Whey protein supplementation. LITW: Light intensity training with whey protein supplementation. HRTW: Heavy resistance training with whey protein supplementation.



# PHD-THESIS DECLARATION OF CO-AUTHORSHIP

The declaration is for PhD students and must be completed for each conjointly authored article. Please note that if a manuscript or published paper has ten or less co-authors, all co-authors must sign the declaration of co-authorship. If it has more than ten co-authors, declarations of co-authorship from the corresponding author(s), the senior author and the principal supervisor (if relevant) are a minimum requirement.

1. Declaration by	
Name of PhD student	Jacob Bülow
E-mail	jacob.bulow@live.dk
Name of principal supervisor	Michael Kjær
Title of the PhD thesis	The Ageing Skeletal Muscle: Effects of Training and Protein supplementation

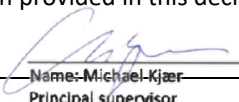
2. The declaration applies to the following article	
Title of article	The effect of daily protein supplementation with or without resistance training for 1 year on muscle size, strength and function in healthy older adults. A randomized controlled trial
Article status	
Published <input type="checkbox"/>	Accepted for publication <input type="checkbox"/>
Date:	Date:
Manuscript submitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript not submitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Date: 6.3.2020	
If the article is published or accepted for publication, please state the name of journal, year, volume, page and DOI (if you have the information).	

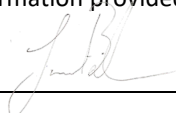
3. The PhD student's contribution to the article (please use the scale A-F as benchmark)	A, B, C, D, E, F
<u>Benchmark scale of the PhD-student's contribution to the article</u> A. Has essentially done all the work (> 90 %) B. Has done most of the work (60-90 %) C. Has contributed considerably (30-60 %) D. Has contributed (10-30 %) E. No or little contribution (<10 %) F. Not relevant	
1. Formulation/identification of the scientific problem	F
2. Development of the key methods	F
3. Planning of the experiments and methodology design and development	F
4. Conducting the experimental work/clinical studies/data collection/obtaining access to data	C
5. Conducting the analysis of data	E
6. Interpretation of the results	D
7. Writing of the first draft of the manuscript	E
8. Finalisation of the manuscript and submission	D
Provide a short description of the PhD student's specific contribution to the article. <sup>i</sup> The PhD student has been the primary responsible of the daily management of the CALM study and been involved in both the clinical studies and the collection of data. The PhD student has discussed the results with Kenneth Mertz during the analysis and assisted with the interpretation. Further, the PhD student has contributed with critical revisions from the first drafts to the submitted manuscript	



4. Material from another thesis / dissertation <sup>ii</sup>	
Does the article contain work which has also formed part of another thesis, e.g. master's thesis, PhD thesis or doctoral dissertation (the PhD student's or another person's)?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please state name of the author and title of thesis / dissertation.	
If the article is part of another author's academic degree, please describe the PhD student's and the author's contributions to the article so that the individual contributions are clearly distinguishable from one another.	

5. Signatures of the co-authors <sup>iii</sup>				
	Date	Name	Title	Signature
1.	25/3-20	Kenneth Hudlebusch Mertz	Msc	<i>Kenneth Mertz</i>
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6. Signature of the principal supervisor
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 30-3-2020 Principal supervisor: Michael Kjær  Name: Michael Kjær Principal supervisor

7. Signature of the PhD student
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 27-03-2020 PhD student: Jacob Bülow 

Please learn more about responsible conduct of research on the [Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences' website](#).

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<sup>i</sup> This can be supplemented with an additional letter if needed.

<sup>ii</sup> Please see Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions (PhD Order) § 12 (4):

*“Any articles included in the thesis may be written in cooperation with others, provided that each of the co-authors submits a written declaration stating the PhD student's or the author's contribution to the work.”*

<sup>iii</sup> If more signatures are needed please add an extra sheet.

**Paper III:** **Jacob Bülow**, Mie Cecilie Faber Zillmer, Grith Højfeldt, Rasmus Bechshøft, Jakob Agergaard, Peter Schjerling, Lars Holm  
*Recommended long-term nutritional supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training does not affect glucose tolerance differently than carbohydrate supplementation in healthy elderly: the CALM cohort*

1 **Title Page**

2

3 **Title**

4 Recommended long-term nutritional supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training  
5 does not affect glucose tolerance differently than carbohydrate supplementation in healthy elderly:  
6 the CALM cohort

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36

37 **Word count**

38 4701 incl. references

39

40

41 **Conflict of interest declaration**

42 None of the authors declared any conflict of interest.

43

44 **ABSTRACT:**

45 *Aim:*

46 The aim was to determine whether long-term nutritional protein supplements and exercise  
47 administered to counteract age-related loss of muscle mass in healthy elderly subjects benefits  
48 glucose regulation.

49

50 *Methods:*

51 164 healthy elderly subjects were recruited to complete 52 weeks of either nutritional  
52 supplementation (30 g carbohydrate (CARB),20 g whey (WHEY) or collagen (COLL) hydrolysate  
53 added 10 g sucrose) or training interventions (low (LITW) or high (HRTW) load resistance exercise  
54 training, both supplemented with 20 g whey hydrolysate and 10 g sucrose). Before and after the  
55 intervention period, the subjects completed a DXA scan and an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT).  
56 Blood samples were collected before, at 45 min and 120 min after intake of 75 g glucose (OGTT).  
57 The results were analyzed both as intention to treat (ITT) and per protocol (PP).

58

59 *Results:*

60 In the nutritional supplementation arm (CARB,COLL,WHEY) general increases in body weight,  
61 BMI, fat%, and HbA1c in both ITT and PP analyses were observed as an effect of time.  
62 Furthermore, glucose area under the curve (AUC) and 120 min glucose level increased while  
63 insulin AUC decreased in the ITT analysis after one year in the nutritional supplementation arm. In  
64 the training arm (WHEY,HRTW,LITW) we observed an increase in appendicular skeletal muscle  
65 index (ASMI), HbA1c, and 120min glucose concentrations in ITT analysis, whereas LBM, ASMI,  
66 HbA1c, glucose AUC and 120min glucose increased in the PP analysis.

67

68 *Conclusion:*

69 The present results showed no improvement on the glucose regulation after 52 weeks of whey,  
70 collagen, or carbohydrate supplementation or whey combined with different training interventions  
71 in healthy and physically active older adults. The nutritional supplements resulted in increases in  
72 body weight, BMI and fat %. Therefore, recommending protein supplements to healthy older adults  
73 could have negative consequences.

74

75 **Keywords:**

76 Glucose metabolism - aging – nutritional supplementation – training – body composition

77

78

79

## 80 **Introduction**

81 Glucose tolerance is known to decrease with advancing age<sup>1</sup>, and at age 75-80 years ~25% of all  
82 older adults meet the criteria of type 2 diabetes<sup>2</sup>. Inactivity, increasing adipose tissue, and low grade  
83 inflammation are factors contributing to increased insulin resistance with aging<sup>3</sup>. Skeletal muscle is  
84 the primary tissue of insulin-dependent glucose uptake and a reduced muscle mass could therefore  
85 further impair the insulin sensitivity<sup>4</sup>. Thus, sarcopenia defined as age-related loss of muscle mass<sup>5</sup>  
86 might be closely related to insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes<sup>6</sup>.

87 Two strategies currently acknowledged to counteract the sarcopenic processes are higher protein  
88 intake<sup>7</sup> and heavy-load resistance exercise.

89 The positive effects of a high protein intake, is mainly seen when compared to intakes in the lowest  
90 quintile of protein intake<sup>8</sup>, and may be dependent on the protein source<sup>9</sup>. In this perspective, the  
91 quality of the protein has been in focus. One way of evaluating protein quality is by using the  
92 digestible indispensable amino acid score (DIAAS) where the digestibility and the amino acid  
93 composition are the primary factors determining the score<sup>10</sup>. Based on DIAAS, milk proteins are  
94 high quality proteins particularly the whey fraction which is both easily digested and absorbed and  
95 has a favorable amino-acid composition with regards to the composition of essential amino acids  
96 (EAA) in comparison to other proteins<sup>11</sup>. With benefits to older people, EAA alone have been  
97 shown to stimulate protein synthesis<sup>12</sup> and supplementation with EAA reduces insulin resistance in  
98 both elderly subjects with sarcopenia<sup>13</sup> and with type 2 diabetes<sup>14</sup>. The effect is suggested to be  
99 mediated by an increased muscle protein synthesis and utilization of amino acids for restoring  
100 muscle mass and an increasing energy expenditure sensitizing the muscle to insulin and increasing  
101 the glucose uptake. Further, some essential amino acids have insulinotropic effects enhancing the  
102 insulin secretion<sup>15</sup> reducing the prevalence of hyperglycemia in people with long-standing type 2  
103 diabetes<sup>16</sup>. Although there is evidence of positive effects of supplementing elderly with high quality

104 protein or EAA on glucose tolerance the long-term effect of supplementation on glucose tolerance  
105 remains un-investigated.

106 Resistance exercise training (RT) is another approach to increase lean body mass in elderly<sup>17,18</sup> and  
107 muscle activity enhances insulin sensitivity<sup>19-22</sup> emphasizing the high potential for short-term RT  
108 +to lower insulin resistance in the aged population. Even though heavy resistance training is  
109 without doubt the most efficient way to stimulate muscle growth, the tolerability and adherence is  
110 considered to challenge long-term feasibility<sup>23</sup>. Adherence to physical activities that are convenient  
111 and exercises of moderate intensity are associated with increased participation<sup>24</sup> and some evidence  
112 seems to exist for the beneficial effect of moderate resistance training regimes in stimulating muscle  
113 growth as intention-to-treat analysis<sup>25</sup> in elderly men. While light intensity training such as aerobic  
114 training improves fasting plasma glucose levels, decreasing both glucose- and insulin AUC during  
115 an OGTT<sup>26</sup>, it is not known whether long-term resistance training with light-load intensity impacts  
116 glucose tolerance.

117

118 This study investigates the long-term (52 weeks) effect of protein supplements with different  
119 quality and different exercise regimens on glucose metabolism during an OGTT, fasting glucose  
120 metabolism biomarkers and body composition measured with DXA scans. We hypothesized that the  
121 glucose metabolism would improve when comparing supplementation of proteins of different  
122 quality with an isocaloric carbohydrate drink. Furthermore, we hypothesized that low intensity or  
123 high resistance training plus the high-quality whey protein would lead to further improvements  
124 compared to whey protein alone on the glucose metabolism in the elderly. We performed intention  
125 to treat (ITT) and per protocol (PP) analysis to test the effect of both the different recommendations  
126 and interventions.

127

128 **Methods**

129

130 **Study design**

131 The study protocol was approved by The Danish Regional Committees of the Capital Region on the  
132 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 (number H-4-2013-070) and all participants gave their written informed consent in  
133 accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki II. The results presented in this paper are part of the  
134 CALM study<sup>27</sup> registered at clinicaltrials.gov journal number: NCT02115698

135

136 Participants were randomized into one of five intervention groups consisting of nutritional  
137 supplements or nutritional supplements and exercise comprising the two analytical arms presented  
138 in this paper. The nutritional arm consists of carbohydrate supplementation (CARB; 20 g  
139 maltodextrin + 10 g sucrose), collagen supplementation (COLL; 20 g bovine collagen protein  
140 hydrolysate (Atpro-200) + 10 g sucrose), and whey supplementation (WHEY; 20 g whey protein  
141 hydrolysate (LACPRODAN DI-9224, + 10 g sucrose). All supplements were packaged by Arla  
142 Foods Ingredients Group P/S, Viby J, Denmark. The training arm includes all groups supplemented  
143 with the whey supplements, either without training (WHEY; the same group used in the  
144 supplementation arm), with light load home-based resistance training four times weekly (LITW), or  
145 with center-based heavy resistance training three times weekly (HRTW). The training protocols are  
146 described in detail elsewhere<sup>27</sup>. The supplements were consumed twice daily, in the morning and at  
147 midday, just before or during meals. On training days, participants in the exercise groups were  
148 asked to ingest one of the supplements immediately after exercise. Adherence to nutritional  
149 supplements and exercise was registered in diaries by the participants. Per-protocol analysis was  
150 made on subjects with >75% supplements adherence corresponding to 1.5 or more drinks per day



151 and 2 or more training sessions per week for HRTW and 3 or more training sessions per week for  
152 LITW training adherence.

153

#### 154 **Assessments**

155 Body composition was determined by whole-body DXA performed in a Lunar DPX-IQ DXA  
156 scanner (GE Healthcare, Chalfont St. Giles, UK), and analyzed with the enCORE v.16 software  
157 package (Lunar iDXA; GE Medical Systems). The investigator was blinded to participant, time-  
158 point and intervention. When the DXA-scans were performed at baseline and 12-month, the  
159 participants arrived in the morning having refrained from solid foods from 21:00 the day before,  
160 and the scanning was performed between 08:00 and 10:00. At the 12-month time point DXA scans  
161 were performed between 48 hours and 14 days after the last training session. Immediately after the  
162 subjects completed the DXA-scan they underwent the OGTT.

163 The OGTT was performed as described in Bechshøft et al. 2016<sup>27</sup>. An antecubital venous catheter  
164 was inserted, and a set of basal venous blood sample was drawn. Then 75 g of anhydrous glucose  
165 dissolved in 250 ml of tap water was administered and 2 sets of blood samples were drawn in K3-  
166 EDTA vials at 45 and 120 min after the glucose consumption, respectively. One set of the plasma  
167 samples was analyzed for glucose, HbA1c and proinsulin C-peptide at the Department of Clinical  
168 Biochemistry, Bispebjerg Hospital. HbA1c and proinsulin C-peptide were only measured in the  
169 basal sample. The other set of samples was cooled on ice for 15 min and then centrifuged for 10  
170 min at 3172 g at 4°C to isolate the plasma and aliquots was stored at -80°C for insulin analysis.

171

#### 172 **Analyses**

173 The DXA scans were auto segmented by the software and the regions of interest (ROI) were  
174 secondly adjusted by the blinded investigator according to predefined anatomically fixed points. For

175 the upper body the most distal part of the chin, the armpit and caput humeri were used to separate  
176 the head, torso and arms. For the lower body a triangle was placed upside down with the two  
177 proximal corners being parallel with the most proximal part of the hip and the distal tip placed so  
178 that the lines followed the lateral part of ramus ischiadicum in order to separate the legs. The  
179 appendicular skeletal muscle mass index (ASMI) were calculated as appendicular lean  
180 mass/height<sup>2</sup>.

181 Insulin was measured using the Insulin ELISA kit (ALPCO Diagnostics, Windham, NH, USA). 200  
182 µl plasma was converted to serum by adding 5 µl 0.2 unit/µl thrombin solution (T6884, Sigma  
183 Aldrich, MO, USA). Samples were vortexed, left for 10 min at room temperature and spun at 1600  
184 g for 10 min. The supernatant was collected for the insulin analysis. The ELISA was performed  
185 according to the manufacture's instruction. The kit was equilibrated to room temperature and 25 µl  
186 of each standard, control, and sample were loaded into each well followed by 100 µl Detection  
187 Antibody. All samples were loaded in duplicates and samples from the same subject were loaded on  
188 the same plate. Samples from subjects in the different groups were randomized on each plate.  
189 Standards and controls were loaded in triplicates. The plates were incubated for 1 h at room  
190 temperature, shaken at 800 rpm on a microplate shaker followed by 6 times washing. Thereafter,  
191 100 µl of TMB substrate was added to each well to activate the fluorophore, the plate was incubated  
192 for further 15 min at room temperature shaking at 800 rpm on a microplate shaker. 100 µl of stop  
193 solution was added to each well and the plate was analyzed immediately after at 450 nm in a  
194 microplate reader (Multiskan FC, Fisher Scientific, MA, USA). AUCs of the glucose and insulin  
195 curves were calculated by the trapezoid method. HOMA-IR and Matsuda indices were calculated  
196 based on the obtained glucose and insulin values. HOMA-IR was calculated using the equation by

197 Matthews et al<sup>28</sup>: 
$$HOMA\ IR = \frac{Fasting\ insulin \times fasting\ glucose}{22.5}$$

198 where insulin concentration is in µIU/ml and fasting glucose is in mmol/L.

199 Matsuda index for timepoints 0, 45 and 120 min was calculated using the equation from Matsuda  
200 and DeFronzo 1999<sup>29</sup>:

$$201 \frac{10,000}{\sqrt{(Insulin_0 * (Glucose_0 * 18) * (mean OGTT insulin concentration * (mean OGTT glucose concentration)))}}$$

202

203 Matsuda index for timepoints 0 and 120 min was calculated using the equation from DeFronzo and  
204 Matsuda 2010<sup>30</sup>:

$$205 \frac{10,000}{\sqrt{(Insulin_0 * (Glucose_0 * 18) * (Glucose_{120} * 18) * Insulin_{120})}}$$

206

207

208 Where insulin is in  $\mu$ IU/mL and glucose is mmol/L. The glucose concentration is multiplied with 18  
209 to get the glucose concentration in mg/dL, and the mean insulin- and mean glucose concentration is  
210 calculated by dividing the AUC during the OGTT by 120. Our Matsuda Index is calculated based  
211 on an oral glucose tolerance test with only three timepoints (0, 45min and 120min) and it should be  
212 noted that the obtained Matsuda values should only be compared to values calculated based on the  
213 same time points<sup>31</sup>.

214

## 215 **Associations**

216 In the intention to treat group, changes in any of the measured parameters were associated with  
217 changes in HbA1c, insulin AUC, and glucose AUC. Furthermore as a cross sectional at baseline,  
218 associations between the measured parameters and HbA1c, insulin AUC, and glucose AUC was  
219 performed. Therefore, all subjects are pooled in this analysis. Due to multiple testing a p-value  
220 below 0.001 was considered significant.

221

## 222 **Statistical analyses**

223 All insulin, HOMA-IR, proinsulin C-peptid and Matsuda data were log<sub>2</sub>-transformed to obtain  
224 normal distribution. Data was tested for normality by the Shapiro-Wilks normality test and for equal  
225 variance by the Brown-Forsythe test. Data was analyzed using two-way ANOVA with repeated  
226 measurements for time. Significant effects of group, time or group x time interaction were followed  
227 by the post-hoc Holm-Sidak test. P-values below 0.05 were considered significant and trends are  
228 reported for p-values between 0.05 and 0.1. For the cross-sectional associations, Bonferroni  
229 Correction for multiple testing was applied;  $\alpha/45 = 0.05 / 45 = 0.001$ . Therefore, a p-value below  
230 0.001 was considered significant. All tests were performed in Prism (GraphPad, CA, USA) and all  
231 data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard error (SE).

232

## 233 **Results**

234 To the study, 208 participants were randomized of which 184 participants completed the 12-month  
235 tests (further information see Mertz et al(UNPUBLISHED). The intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis  
236 included the participants (n=164) who completed the OGTT before and after the trial. The per  
237 protocol (PP) analysis included the participants (n=100) with self-reported adherence to the  
238 supplementation  $\geq 75\%$  and an average training adherence  $\geq 2.0$  for the HRTW group and  $\geq 3.0$   
239 for the LITW group. 34 out of the 164 participants were excluded from the PP analysis due to lack  
240 of registrations and 30 participants were excluded due to lack of adherence to the respective  
241 interventions.

242

### 243 **Nutrition intervention arm (body composition):**

244 For the ITT analysis, the nutritional supplementation groups increased body weight (BW) (p=0.008)  
245 (WHEY 0.5 $\pm$ 0.4 kg, COLL 0.5 $\pm$ 0.3 kg, CARB 1.2 $\pm$ 0.6 kg) and BMI (p=0.008) (WHEY 0.2 $\pm$ 0.1

246 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, COLL 0.2±0.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, CARB 0.4±0.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) as a main effect of time with no group x time  
247 interaction after 12 months of nutritional supplements (Table 1). The same was true for the per  
248 protocol (PP) analysis BW (p=0.040) (WHEY 0.2±0.4 kg, COLL 0.3±0.4 kg, CARB 1.3±0.6 kg)  
249 and BMI (p=0.034) (WHEY 0.1±0.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, COLL 0.1±0.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, CARB 0.4±0.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Table 3).  
250 Furthermore, there was an increase in fat% in ITT (p=0.003) (WHEY 0.6±0.3%, COLL 0.5±0.3%,  
251 CARB 0.4±0.2%) and PP (p=0.017) (WHEY 0.5±0.4%, COLL 0.4±0.4%, CARB 0.8±0.4%)  
252 analysis as a main effect of time and no change in lean body mass. Again, there was no significant  
253 difference between the groups. There were no changes in ASMI or daily step count neither between  
254 groups nor over time (Table 1, Table 3).

255

#### 256 **Training intervention arm (body composition):**

257 Body mass, BMI and fat% did not change significantly over time in the training intervention arm in  
258 either the ITT or PP analysis (Table 2, Table 4). We found an increase in lean body mass over time  
259 in the PP analysis (p=0.033) (WHEY 0.1±0.2 kg, LITW 0.3±0.3 kg, HRTW 0.6±0.3 kg) and no  
260 effect in the ITT analysis. The ITT analysis of ASMI showed an effect of time in the HRTW group  
261 only (p=0.001) (HRTW 0.15±0.04 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Table 2). PP analysis showed a main effect of time on  
262 ASMI (p=0.001) (WHEY 0.04±0.04 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, LITW 0.12±0.05 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, HRTW 0.18±0.06 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and  
263 no differences between the groups (Table 4). The daily step count did not change over time (Table  
264 2, Table 4).

265

#### 266 **Nutrition intervention arm (fasting blood samples):**

267 In the ITT analysis, fasting plasma glucose and insulin concentrations were not different before and  
268 after the 12 months nutritional interventions and there was no difference between the groups.

269 Fasting proinsulin C-peptide did not change either. In contrast, HbA1c increased significantly with

270 a main effect of time ( $p=0.001$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.4$  mmol/mol, COLL  $1.1\pm 0.4$  mmol/mol, CARB  
271  $1.2\pm 0.6$  mmol/mol) with no difference between the groups (Table 1). The PP analysis showed no  
272 changes in fasting plasma glucose, insulin concentration, or proinsulin C-peptide (Table 3). Like in  
273 the ITT analysis, HbA1c showed a significant main effect of time ( $p=0.002$ ) (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.5$   
274 mmol/mol, COLL  $1.2\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol, CARB  $1.7\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol) (Table 3). Again, we saw no  
275 differences between the groups (Table 3).

276

277 **Training intervention arm (fasting blood samples):**

278 In the ITT analysis, the fasting plasma glucose, plasma insulin, and proinsulin C-peptide  
279 concentrations did not change after 12 months nutritional and exercise interventions (Table 2).  
280 HbA1c concentration increased as a main effect of time ( $p=0.005$ ) (WHEY  $0.1\pm 0.4$  mmol/mol,  
281 LITW  $1.4\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol, HRTW  $0.5\pm 0.3$  mmol/mol) (Table 2). The PP analysis showed no  
282 changes in fasting plasma glucose, plasma insulin or proinsulin C-peptide concentrations after the  
283 interventions (Table 4). There was a main effect of time in the HbA1c concentrations ( $p=0.023$ )  
284 (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol, LITW  $1.1\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol, HRTW  $0.6\pm 0.5$  mmol/mol) (Table 4).

285

286 **Nutrition intervention arm (oral glucose tolerance test):**

287 In the ITT analysis, the plasma glucose AUC during the OGTT was not different between the  
288 nutritional supplement groups but the plasma glucose AUC increased as a main effect of time  
289 ( $p=0.049$ ) (WHEY  $21\pm 15$  mmol/Lx120min, COLL  $33\pm 20$  mmol/Lx120min, CARB  $18\pm 28$   
290 mmol/Lx120min) after 12 months of nutritional supplements (Table 1). Furthermore, the plasma  
291 insulin AUC decreased as a main effect of time ( $p=0.032$ ) (WHEY  $-691\pm 414$  uIU/mLx120min,  
292 COLL  $228\pm 390$  uIU/mLx120min, CARB  $-121\pm 370$  uIU/mLx120min) with no differences between  
293 the groups (Table 1). The HOMA-IR index and the Matsuda index did not change after 12 months

294 of nutritional supplementation (Table 1). The PP analysis showed no changes over time in the  
295 plasma glucose AUC, but a trend ( $p=0.051$ ) for a main effect of time for a decrease in the insulin  
296 AUC (Table 3). The PP analysis showed no effect of the interventions on the HOMA-IR or  
297 Matsuda indexes (Table 3).

298

#### 299 **Training intervention arm (oral glucose tolerance test):**

300 The ITT analysis of the plasma glucose and insulin AUC during the OGTT showed no effect of the  
301 12 months interventions (Table 2). The HOMA-IR index and the Matsuda index did not change  
302 either (Table 2). The PP analysis showed a significant main effect of time on the glucose AUC  
303 ( $p=0.037$ ) (WHEY  $27\pm 20$  mmol/Lx120min, LITW  $29\pm 16$  mmol/Lx120min, HRTW  $35\pm 36$   
304 mmol/Lx120min). For the glucose 120 min concentration ( $p=0.019$ ) (WHEY  $0.4\pm 0.3$  mmol/L,  
305 LITW  $0.5\pm 0.3$  mmol/L, HRTW  $0.4\pm 0.3$  mmol/L) a trend for a main effect of time was seen as a  
306 decrease in the insulin AUC ( $p=0.06$ ) (Table 4). Interestingly, the HOMA-IR and the Matsuda  
307 indexes did not change after the interventions in the PP analysis (Table 4).

308

#### 309 **Correlations (BMI, ASMI, VAT, Fat% and Daily Steps):**

310 We also conducted an exploratory correlation analysis of different health parameters (BMI, ASMI,  
311 visceral adipose tissue%(VAT), fat%, Steps/day) with HbA1c, Insulin AUC and Glucose AUC,  
312 both as a delta between 0 and 12 month (suppl. 1) and at baseline (suppl. 2, 3 and 4). We found no  
313 correlation between changes in BMI, ASMI, VAT%, Fat%, Steps/day and changes within HbA1c,  
314 Insulin AUC and Glucose AUC after the 12 months of intervention (suppl. 1). At baseline, HbA1c  
315 was only significantly correlated with VAT in females ( $p=0.0004$ ), Insulin AUC were correlated  
316 with both BMI and fat% for both males and females ( $p<0.0001$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), and with VAT

317 (p<0.0001) in males. We found no significant correlation between Glucose AUC and the measured  
318 parameters.

319

## 320 **Discussion**

321 The current study investigated the effects of one year of different nutritional and exercise  
322 interventions on HbA1c and glucose metabolism. Both an intention to treat (ITT) and per protocol  
323 (PP) analysis was applied allowing us to test the effect of a recommendation and an actual  
324 intervention of nutrient/protein supplementation with or without training on the glucose in healthy  
325 elderly. The main finding is that long-term protein supplementation does not affect glucose  
326 tolerance (HbA1c and insulin secretion and blood glucose during a glucose tolerance test)  
327 differently than long-term isocaloric carbohydrate in healthy elderly individuals. Moreover, there  
328 was no difference in HbA1c and glucose regulation when adding long-term training on top of whey  
329 supplements in healthy elderly adults.

330 In general, the HbA1c levels increased with  $\sim 1 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  (gross avr of all groups) after 12 months  
331 of intervention. Looking at the numerical changes in the ITT to PP analysis, the numerical increase  
332 in HbA1c were higher in the PP analysis in the WHEY (0.1 and 0.4 mmol/mol, respectively),  
333 COLL (1.1 and 1.2 mmol/mol, respectively) CARB (1.2 and 1.7 mmol/mol, respectively) and  
334 HRTW (0.5 and 0.6 mmol/mol, respectively) suggesting an effect of the intervention rather than  
335 time on the HbA1c levels.

336 We would have expected that the increased protein intake would regulate the overall daily caloric  
337 intake due to a satiating effect<sup>32</sup>. However, we observed a significant increase in fat% in the  
338 nutritional intervention arm where BW and BMI also increased significantly. In the training arm, no  
339 significant changes were observed, which seemed to be driven by the HRTW group since both  
340 WHEY and LITW numerically increased the fat%, BW and BMI. Further, HRTW is the only



341 group with numerical reduction with respect total fat% compared to WHEY and LITW.  
342 Furthermore, the significant effect of time regarding the increase in LBM and ASMI in the PP  
343 analysis of the training intervention arm, suggests that the HRTW intervention has a positive effect  
344 on the body composition compared to the other interventions. However, this change in body  
345 composition in HRTW is not reflected in the HbA1c values of neither the ITT nor PP analysis.  
346 Fasting glucose was not affected by any of the interventions, but the 120 min glucose AUC in the  
347 OGTT tended to increase in all groups. Contrary to our hypothesis, the glucose tolerance was in  
348 general not positively affected by the nutritional or training interventions. There are several  
349 potential reasons for the lack of positive changes in the glucose metabolism; inclusion of healthy,  
350 independent older adults with adequate protein intake of  $\sim 1.1 \text{ g} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ <sup>33</sup> and general high  
351 activity levels represented by a daily step count above 10.000 steps. Shorter exercise interventions  
352 in middle-aged and older men did not affect the glucose tolerance, but only increased insulin  
353 sensitivity<sup>20-22</sup>. In contrast to our study, these subjects did not receive any nutritional  
354 supplementation. The addition of protein supplementation with the addition of 10 g of glucose to  
355 the training groups in our study might explain why we see a decrease in glucose tolerance as  
356 reflected by an increase in glucose AUC response to the OGTT. This decrease in glucose tolerance  
357 was further supported by an increase in 120 min glucose levels for both ITT and PP analysis of the  
358 training intervention arm and ITT analysis of the nutritional intervention arm. Thus, while the  
359 increase in LBM in the PP analysis of the training arm was hypothesized to improve glucose  
360 tolerance, this appeared inadequate to counteract the impairing effect of concomitant protein  
361 supplementation.  
362 The insulin response to an OGTT seemed to change after the 12-month intervention, irrespective of  
363 intervention arms. All groups receiving whey protein had a numerical decrease in mean insulin  
364 AUC after the interventions, which could be explained by whey protein supplementation being

365 suggested to have insulin lowering effect<sup>34</sup>. No changes in glucose AUC or insulin AUC in the ITT  
366 analysis of the training intervention arm compared to the PP analysis was observed, indicating an  
367 effect of the intervention rather than an effect of age on these parameters.

368 Changes in the insulin response to an OGTT can be affected by insulin clearance<sup>35</sup> or beta cell  
369 function<sup>36</sup>. Interestingly, the changes in insulin sensitivity was not translated into positive effects on  
370 the glucose tolerance in general, and a decrease in insulin AUC and an increase in glucose AUC  
371 may be an early sign of decreased beta cell function and insulin secretion/production<sup>37</sup>. C-peptide  
372 concentrations could have revealed an indication of beta cell function as the insulin levels also can  
373 be affected by the rate of clearance<sup>38</sup>. Unfortunately, we did not measure the proinsulin C peptide  
374 levels during the OGTT. The Matsuda Index and HOMA-IR values did not change after the  
375 interventions indicating no changes in the general glucose metabolism. Again, it should be  
376 mentioned that the research participants were healthy and relatively active. Whether similar effects  
377 will be present in T2D patients, elderly with inadequate protein intake or low physical activity or  
378 sarcopenic elderly remain to be determined. At least, results from this type of individuals should not  
379 be extrapolated to other population groups.

380 Strengths of the present study are the high number of participants and a long intervention period.  
381 Furthermore, in the present study both ITT and PP analyses are being reported allowing for analysis  
382 of both the recommendation and the actual effects of the interventions. A limitation of the present  
383 study is the lack of ability to distinguish between the effect of time and the supplement itself as we  
384 did not include a group receiving nothing . Further, the power calculation was made based on  
385 another outcome of this study<sup>27</sup>.

386 We also exploratorily analyzed the data for any associations between changes in glucose  
387 metabolism, body composition, physical activity, and fat metabolism from a cross sectional  
388 perspective (see supplemental figures 1-4). No association between changes in BMI, ASMI, fat%,

389 VAT and daily steps after correcting for multiple testing was seen (supplemental fig. 1A). A general  
390 difference between males and females can be seen on the baseline cross sectional supplemental  
391 figures (supplemental fig. 2-4). Associations between BMI and HbA1c ( $r^2=0.056$ ,  $p=0.0006$ ,  
392 supplemental fig. 2A), VAT and Glucose AUC ( $r^2=0.129$ ,  $p<0.0001$ , supplemental fig. 4C), Fat%  
393 and insulin AUC ( $r^2=0.185$ ,  $p<0.0001$ , supplemental fig. 3D) were observed. This suggests that the  
394 changes in BMI, fat% and VAT rather than lean mass affect changes in glucose metabolism. This  
395 contrasts with what have previously been proposed<sup>13,14</sup>, namely that improvements in glucose  
396 homeostasis might be due to an increase in lean body mass. Therefore, one should aim for a  
397 reduction in fat%, when trying to improve the glucose metabolism. This support weight loss and  
398 increased physical activity as the predominant approach to treat type 2 diabetes in older adults  
399 already being rather physically active<sup>39</sup>.

400 In summary, we found deteriorations in HbA1c and glucose tolerance after one year in healthy older  
401 adults, irrespective of supplementing with high or low protein quality or isocaloric carbohydrate or  
402 conducting resistance exercise training with heavy or low intensity. In conclusion, protein  
403 supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training, does not affect glucose metabolism  
404 differently than carbohydrate supplementation.

405

## 406 **Acknowledgement**

407 Author contributions: Bülow and Zillmer had full access to all the data in the present study and take  
408 responsibility for the integrity of the data analysis. Study design: Bechshøft and Holm. Acquisition  
409 of data: Bülow, Bechshøft, Højfeldt and Zillmer. Analysis and interpretation of data: Bülow,  
410 Zillmer, Schjerling and Holm. Drafting of manuscript: Bülow and Zillmer. All authors critically  
411 revised the manuscript and had the opportunity to comment on the interpretation of results.

412 Statistical analysis: Bülow, Zillmer Schjerling and Holm. Obtained funding: Bülow, Bechshøft and

413 Holm.

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**Table 1:**

Nutrition arm ITT	WHEY, N=39 (22 males, 17 females)						COLL, N=39 (23 males, 16 females)						CARB, N= 29 (15 males, 14 females)						ANOVA		
	0 M		12 M		Delta change, number (%)		0 M		12 M		Delta change, number (%)		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																					
Age (year)	69.9 ± 0.7						69.8 ± 0.6						69.7 ± 0.8							n.s.	
Body mass (kg)	74.0 ± 2.1	74.5 ± 2.2		0.5(0.7%)	± 0.4(0.5%)		75.1 ± 2.1	75.5 ± 2.1		0.5(0.7%)	± 0.3(0.5%)		73.6 ± 2.3	74.8 ± 2.5		1.2(1.5%)	± 0.6(0.8%)		0.008	n.s.	n.s.
BMI (kg/m2)	24.6 ± 0.6	24.8 ± 0.6		0.2(0.7%)	± 0.1(0.5%)		25.1 ± 0.7	25.2 ± 0.7		0.2(0.7%)	± 0.1(0.5%)		25.4 ± 0.7	25.8 ± 0.8		0.4(1.5%)	± 0.2(0.8%)		0.008	n.s.	n.s.
Fat mass (%)	32.0 ± 1.2	32.6 ± 1.2		0.6(2.3%)	± 0.3(1.1%)		30.8 ± 1.4	31.2 ± 1.5		0.5(1.6%)	± 0.3(1.1%)		31.6 ± 1.7	32.4 ± 1.8		0.8(2.7%)	± 0.4(1.2%)		0.003	n.s.	n.s.
Lean mass (kg)	48.6 ± 1.4	48.5 ± 1.4		-0.1(-0.1%)	± 0.2(0.3%)		50.0 ± 1.4	50.0 ± 1.4		-0.1(-0.1%)	± 0.2(0.3%)		48.4 ± 1.4	48.5 ± 1.5		0.1(0.2%)	± 0.2(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
ASMI (kg/m2)	7.46 ± 0.18	7.46 ± 0.18		-0.002(0.02%)	± 0.003(0.4%)		7.66 ± 0.20	7.68 ± 0.20		0.01(0.2%)	± 0.03(0.4%)		7.63 ± 0.20	7.65 ± 0.21		0.02(0.3%)	± 0.03(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Daily steps	10515 ± 590	10003 ± 533		-343(-1.8%)	± 604(5.5%)		10607 ± 675	10450 ± 774		3(4.8%)	± 574(7.2%)		11404 ± 1008	10107 ± 863		2274(-10.7%)	± 1030(7.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																					
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.4 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.1		0.12(2.3%)	± 0.08(1.5%)		5.5 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.1		-0.02(-0.2%)	± 0.07(1.3%)		5.5 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.1		0.04(0.8%)	± 0.08(1.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	4.9 ± 0.5	4.1 ± 0.4		-0.8(-2.7%)	± 0.3(6.9%)		4.9 ± 0.5	4.9 ± 0.6		0.1(4.3%)	± 0.3(6.9%)		4.4 ± 0.5	4.7 ± 0.6		0.2(3.8%)	± 0.3(7.0%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Proinsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	758 ± 48	738 ± 44		-27(0.1%)	± 28(3%)		680 ± 35	703 ± 44		22(3%)	± 24(3%)		686 ± 47	715 ± 68		29(4%)	± 38(5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	36.2 ± 0.6	36.3 ± 0.6		0.1(0.4%)	± 0.4(1.0%)		35.3 ± 0.5	36.5 ± 0.5		1.1(3.6%)	± 0.4(1.5%)		35.7 ± 0.4	36.9 ± 0.3		1.2(3.6%)	± 0.4(1.1%)		0.001	n.s.	n.s.
<b>OGTT</b>																					
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	870 ± 22	891 ± 25		21(2.6%)	± 15(1.7%)		895 ± 25	928 ± 25		33(4.9%)	± 20(2.4%)		926 ± 24	944 ± 30		18(2.8%)	± 28(3.0%)		0.049	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.6 ± 0.3	8.7 ± 0.3		0.1(1.9%)	± 0.2(2.2%)		8.8 ± 0.3	9.0 ± 0.3		0.2(4.1%)	± 0.3(3.1%)		9.2 ± 0.3	9.3 ± 0.3		0.1(3.0%)	± 0.3(3.2%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 ± 0.2	6.6 ± 0.3		0.3(5.7%)	± 0.2(3.5%)		6.5 ± 0.3	7.1 ± 0.3		0.6(12.8%)	± 0.3(4.1%)		6.7 ± 0.2	7.0 ± 0.4		0.3(4.0%)	± 0.4(5.0%)		0.01	n.s.	n.s.
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	5066 ± 718	4375 ± 512		-691(-1.9%)	± 414(6.9%)		4645 ± 532	4873 ± 623		228(8.9%)	± 390(7.3%)		4047 ± 394	3926 ± 661		-121(-8.1%)	± 370(6.9%)		0.032	n.s.	n.s.
HOMA-IR	1.21 ± 0.14	1.05 ± 0.11		-0.15(-0.9%)	± 0.07(6.8%)		1.21 ± 0.14	1.23 ± 0.16		0.02(5.6%)	± 0.09(7.8%)		1.08 ± 0.13	1.19 ± 0.18		0.10(5.0%)	± 0.09(6.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	9.6 ± 1.0	10.1 ± 1.0		0.5(15.0%)	± 0.7(6.0%)		9.2 ± 0.9	9.5 ± 1.0		0.3(6.8%)	± 0.6(6.7%)		9.1 ± 0.9	10.1 ± 1.9		2.6(21.0%)	± 1.3(10.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	11.8 ± 1.4	10.7 ± 0.9		-1.1(3.4%)	± 0.9(6.0%)		11.3 ± 1.3	10.7 ± 1.5		-0.6(4.7%)	± 1.0(12.4%)		10.1 ± 0.9	12.6 ± 2.0		2.5(18.6%)	± 1.5(11.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Intention to treat analysis of the nutritional supplementation interventions. Values are mean ± SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. COLL, collagen; CARB, carbohydrate;

**Table 2:**

Training arm ITT	WHEY, N=39 (22 males, 17 females)			LITW, N=28 (14 males, 14 females)			HRTW, N=29 (17 males, 12 females)			ANOVA p-value		
	0 M	12 M	Difference	0 M	12 M	Difference	0 M	12 M	Change [absolute (%)]	Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>												
Age (year)	69.9 ± 0.7			70.6 ± 0.8			70.8 ± 0.6					n.s.
Body mass (kg)	74.0 ± 2.1	74.5 ± 2.2	0.5(0.7%) ± 0.4(0.5%)	73.9 ± 1.9	74.7 ± 2.0	0.2(1.0%) ± 0.2(0.8%)	78.5 ± 2.6	78.7 ± 2.5	0.2(0.4%) ± 0.5(0.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.6 ± 0.6	24.8 ± 0.6	0.2(0.7%) ± 0.1(0.5%)	25.4 ± 0.6	25.6 ± 0.6	0.8(1.0%) ± 0.6(0.8%)	26.0 ± 0.7	26.1 ± 0.7	0.1(0.4%) ± 0.2(0.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fat mass (%)	32.0 ± 1.2	32.6 ± 1.2	0.6(2.3%) ± 0.3(1.1%)	33.2 ± 1.4	33.7 ± 1.5	0.5(1.8%) ± 0.4(1.4%)	33.8 ± 1.3	33.7 ± 1.4	-0.1(-0.4%) ± 0.3(1.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Lean mass (kg)	48.6 ± 1.4	48.5 ± 1.4	-0.1(-0.1%) ± 0.2(0.3%)	48.0 ± 1.7	48.1 ± 1.7	0.1(0.3%) ± 0.2(0.4%)	50.3 ± 1.9	50.7 ± 1.9	0.4(0.8%) ± 0.2(0.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.5 ± 0.2	7.5 ± 0.2	0.002(0.02%) ± 0.003(0.4%)	7.55 ± 0.21	7.63 ± 0.22	0.08(1.1%) ± 0.05(0.6%)	7.72 ± 0.25	7.87 ± 0.26*	0.15(2.0%) ± 0.04(0.5%)	0.001	n.s.	0.02
Daily steps	10515 ± 590	10003 ± 533	-343(-1.8%) ± 604(5.5%)	10371 ± 679	9482 ± 476	-530(0.6%) ± 625(6.6%)	9599 ± 653	8982 ± 660	-595(-4.0%) ± 436(4.9%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>												
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.4 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.1	0.12(2.3%) ± 0.08(1.5%)	5.6 ± 0.1	5.6 ± 0.1	-0.01(0.5%) ± 0.1(2.0%)	5.6 ± 0.1	5.7 ± 0.1	0.1(1.6%) ± 0.1(1.1%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	4.9 ± 0.5	4.1 ± 0.4	-0.8(-2.7%) ± 0.3(6.9%)	4.2 ± 0.4	4.6 ± 0.4	0.4(19.2%) ± 0.4(11.0%)	4.5 ± 0.5	4.4 ± 0.5	-0.01(4.4%) ± 0.4(7.3%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Proinsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	758 ± 48	738 ± 44	-27(0.1%) ± 28(3%)	661 ± 41	711 ± 41	50(14.3%) ± 45(7.0%)	682 ± 43	714 ± 48	35(6.0%) ± 29(4.2%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	36.2 ± 0.6	36.3 ± 0.6	0.1(0.4%) ± 0.4(1.0%)	35.5 ± 0.6	36.9 ± 0.7	1.4(4.1%) ± 0.5(1.4%)	35.7 ± 0.5	36.2 ± 0.5	0.5(1.6%) ± 0.3(1.0%)	0.005	n.s.	n.s.
<b>OGTT</b>												
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	870 ± 22	891 ± 25	21(2.6%) ± 15(1.7%)	909 ± 28	933 ± 30	25(3.2%) ± 16(1.9%)	909 ± 25	922 ± 37	13(1.5%) ± 27(3.3%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.6 ± 0.3	8.7 ± 0.3	0.1(1.9%) ± 0.2(2.2%)	8.6 ± 0.4	8.9 ± 0.4	0.2(4.7%) ± 0.3(3.5%)	8.9 ± 0.3	8.8 ± 0.4	-0.1(0.1%) ± 0.4(4.5%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 ± 0.2	6.6 ± 0.3	0.3(5.7%) ± 0.2(3.5%)	7.1 ± 0.3	7.4 ± 0.3	0.3(5.0%) ± 0.2(3.1%)	6.6 ± 0.3	7.0 ± 0.4	0.4(6.7%) ± 0.3(4.5%)	0.025	n.s.	n.s.
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	5066 ± 718	4375 ± 512	-691(-1.9%) ± 414(6.9%)	3988 ± 449	3510 ± 422	-479(-4.0%) ± 274(8.1%)	4154 ± 809	3843 ± 449	-311(9.6%) ± 663(11.4%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HOMA-IR	1.21 ± 0.14	1.05 ± 0.11	-0.15(-0.9%) ± 0.07(6.8%)	1.05 ± 0.10	1.14 ± 0.12	0.09(21.7%) ± 0.10(12.8%)	1.14 ± 0.15	1.16 ± 0.14	0.03(6.7%) ± 0.10(7.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	9.6 ± 1.0	10.1 ± 1.0	0.5(15.0%) ± 0.7(6.0%)	9.3 ± 0.9	10.5 ± 1.6	1.2(24.5%) ± 1.5(20.7%)	9.4 ± 0.9	10.3 ± 1.2	0.8(15.1%) ± 0.9(11.7%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	11.8 ± 1.4	10.7 ± 0.9	-1.1(3.4%) ± 0.9(6.0%)	9.5 ± 0.8	9.2 ± 1.3	-0.3(3.1%) ± 1.3(13.7%)	10.4 ± 0.9	10.7 ± 1.1	0.3(9.8%) ± 0.9(11.6%)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Intention to treat analysis of the exercise and whey supplementation interventions. Values are mean ± SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and a significant effect of the HRTW intervention on ASMI using the Holm-Sidak post hoc test p=0.001 (indicated by \* in the table). HRTW, high resistance training + whey; LITW, low intensity training + whey;

**Table 3:**

Nutrition arm PP	WHEY, N= 21 (10 males, 11 females)						COLL, N=28 (16 males, 12 females)						CARB, N=15 (9 males, 6 females)						ANOVA		
	0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																					
Age (year)	69.7 ± 0.8						69.5 ± 0.6						69.1 ± 0.9							n.s.	
Body mass (kg)	72.6 ± 3.2	72.8 ± 3.1	0.2(0.5%)	±	0.4(0.6%)		76.0 ± 2.5	76.3 ± 2.6	0.3(0.4%)	±	0.4(0.6%)		72.2 ± 3.1	73.5 ± 3.1	1.3(1.9%)	±	0.6(0.8%)		0.040	n.s.	n.s.
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.1 ± 0.8	24.2 ± 0.7	0.1(0.5%)	±	0.1(0.6%)		25.4 ± 0.9	25.5 ± 0.9	0.1(0.4%)	±	0.1(0.6%)		24.3 ± 0.9	24.7 ± 0.9	0.4(1.9%)	±	0.2(0.8%)		0.034	n.s.	n.s.
Fat mass (%)	31.0 ± 1.6	31.5 ± 1.6	0.5(1.7%)	±	0.4(1.4%)		31.6 ± 1.7	32.0 ± 1.7	0.4(1.7%)	±	0.4(1.4%)		29.1 ± 2.1	30.0 ± 2.0	0.9(3.9%)	±	0.4(1.6%)		0.017	n.s.	n.s.
Lean mass (kg)	48.2 ± 2.1	48.3 ± 2.0	0.1(0.3%)	±	0.2(0.4%)		50.0 ± 1.5	49.9 ± 1.5	-0.1(-0.3%)	±	0.2(0.4%)		49.3 ± 2.1	49.7 ± 2.1	0.4(0.8%)	±	0.2(0.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
ASMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.36 ± 0.23	7.39 ± 0.22	0.04(0.6%)	±	0.04(0.6%)		7.64 ± 0.24	7.64 ± 0.24	0.00(0.0%)	±	0.3(0.5%)		7.60 ± 0.35	7.61 ± 0.36	0.02(0.2%)	±	0.04(0.6%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Daily steps	11354 ± 771	10362 ± 797	-697(-1.1%)	±	916(8.1%)		11021 ± 753	10370 ± 975	-440(-2.7%)	±	676(7.7%)		10183 ± 1175	11055 ± 1256	323(8.8%)	±	822(9.8%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																					
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.3 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.2	0.1(2.7%)	±	0.1(2.3%)		5.5 ± 0.1	5.4 ± 0.1	-0.04(-0.7%)	±	0.1(1.3%)		5.6 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.1	-0.1(-1.2%)	±	0.1(1.9%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	3.9 ± 0.6	3.4 ± 0.4	-0.5(6.3%)	±	0.3(11.9%)		4.7 ± 0.5	4.9 ± 0.6	0.2(5.3%)	±	0.3(8.5%)		4.6 ± 0.8	4.5 ± 0.9	-0.1(1.5%)	±	0.4(9.5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
ProInsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	694 ± 68	675 ± 50	-19(3.6%)	±	42(5.7%)		680 ± 41	705 ± 51	25(4.0%)	±	25(3.9%)		696 ± 70	739 ± 79	42(8.2%)	±	32(6.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	34.8 ± 0.7	35.2 ± 0.8	0.4(1.3%)	±	0.5(1.5%)		35.3 ± 0.6	36.5 ± 0.7	1.2(3.7%)	±	0.5(1.9%)		35.4 ± 0.5	37.1 ± 0.4	1.7(4.9%)	±	0.5(1.7%)		0.002	n.s.	n.s.
<b>OGTT</b>																					
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	834 ± 27	860 ± 35	27(3.1%)	±	20(2.4%)		910 ± 30	930 ± 29	20(3.4%)	±	24(2.9%)		951 ± 39	960 ± 39	9(2.3%)	±	41(4.4%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.0 ± 0.3	8.2 ± 0.4	0.1(0.02%)	±	0.3(0.03%)		9.0 ± 0.4	9.0 ± 0.3	-0.04(1.8%)	±	0.3(3.6%)		9.6 ± 0.5	9.7 ± 0.3	0.1(3.2%)	±	0.5(4.9%)		n.s.	0.013	n.s.
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 ± 0.3	6.6 ± 0.4	0.4(7.7%)	±	0.3(5.3%)		6.5 ± 0.3	7.1 ± 0.3	0.6(12.7%)	±	0.3(5.4%)		6.6 ± 0.4	6.8 ± 0.6	0.2(2.5%)	±	0.5(6.7%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	4540 ± 1052	3442 ± 541	-1098(-6.7%)	±	616(10.4%)		5154 ± 719	5394 ± 844	240(11.0%)	±	550(10.2%)		4188 ± 655	4138 ± 1119	-51(-9.6%)	±	558(8.8%)		(0.0505)	n.s.	n.s.
HOMA-IR	0.93 ± 0.16	0.86 ± 0.14	-0.07(7.9%)	±	0.06(11.4%)		1.17 ± 0.13	1.22 ± 0.17	0.05(6.2%)	±	0.10(9.4%)		1.13 ± 0.21	1.13 ± 0.25	-0.01(0.1%)	±	0.10(9.3%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	11.7 ± 1.5	12.1 ± 1.4	0.5(16.6%)	±	1.2(9.4%)		8.7 ± 1.0	8.8 ± 1.1	0.1(5.9%)	±	0.7(7.3%)		8.6 ± 1.0	10.6 ± 1.7	2.0(21.5%)	±	1.3(14.5%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	14.3 ± 2.2	12.6 ± 1.3	-1.7(0.5%)	±	1.5(8.8%)		11.0 ± 1.5	10.2 ± 1.7	-0.8(4.9%)	±	1.3(16.9%)		9.6 ± 1.0	11.5 ± 1.9	1.9(13.0%)	±	1.3(16.9%)		n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Per protocol analysis of the nutritional supplementation interventions. Values are mean ± SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. COLL, collagen; CARB, carbohydrate;

**Table 4:**

Training arm PP	WHEY, N=21 (10 males, 11 females)						LITW, N=19 (9 males, 10 females)						HRTW, N=17 (10 males, 7 females)						ANOVA		
	0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Difference		0 M		12 M		Change [absolute (%)]		Time	Group	Interaction
<b>Subject characteristics</b>																					
Age (year)	69.7 ± 0.8						70.2 ± 0.9						70.7 ± 0.8							n.s.	
Body mass (kg)	72.6 ± 3.2	72.8 ± 3.1	0.2(0.5%)	± 0.4(0.6%)			72.8 ± 2.2	73.6 ± 2.0	0.8(1.2%)	± 0.6(0.9%)			77.9 ± 3.5	78.1 ± 3.4	0.2(0.5%)	± 0.8(1.0%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
BMI (kg/m2)	24.1 ± 0.8	24.2 ± 0.7	0.1(0.5%)	± 0.1(0.6%)			25.2 ± 0.8	25.4 ± 0.7	0.2(1.2%)	± 0.2(0.9%)			26.1 ± 0.9	26.2 ± 0.9	0.1(0.5%)	± 0.3(1.0%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fat mass (%)	31.0 ± 1.6	31.5 ± 1.6	0.5(1.7%)	± 0.4(1.4%)			34.0 ± 1.8	34.5 ± 1.8	0.5(2.0%)	± 0.5(1.6%)			33.3 ± 1.7	33.0 ± 1.9	-0.3(-1.2%)	± 0.5(1.4%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Lean mass (kg)	48.2 ± 2.1	48.3 ± 2.0	0.1(0.3%)	± 0.2(0.4%)			46.6 ± 1.8	46.9 ± 1.8	0.3(0.6%)	± 0.3(0.5%)			50.3 ± 2.6	50.9 ± 2.6	0.6(1.2%)	± 0.3(0.6%)			0.033	n.s.	n.s.
ASMI (kg/m2)	7.36 ± 0.23	7.39 ± 0.22	0.04(0.6%)	± 0.04(0.6%)			7.35 ± 0.24	7.47 ± 0.24	0.12(1.6%)	± 0.05(0.7%)			7.73 ± 0.35	7.91 ± 0.36	0.18(2.4%)	± 0.06(0.7%)			0.001	n.s.	n.s.
Daily steps	11354 ± 771	10362 ± 797	-697(-1.1%)	± 916(8.1%)			10376 ± 833	9846 ± 604	128(4.5%)	± 568(6.2%)			9573 ± 972	8981 ± 812	-592(-3.0)	± 420(4.5%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Fasting blood analysis</b>																					
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.3 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.2	0.1(2.7%)	± 0.1(2.3%)			5.7 ± 0.1	5.6 ± 0.1	-0.1(-0.6%)	± 0.1(2.4%)			5.7 ± 0.1	5.8 ± 0.1	0.1(1.6%)	± 0.1(1.5%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	3.9 ± 0.6	3.4 ± 0.4	-0.5(6.3%)	± 0.3(11.9%)			4.3 ± 0.5	4.6 ± 0.5	0.4(0.2%)	± 0.6(0.2%)			4.3 ± 0.7	4.2 ± 0.7	-0.1(1.7%)	± 0.5(10.7%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Proinsulin C-peptid (pmol/l)	694 ± 68	675 ± 50	-19(3.6%)	± 42(5.7%)			678 ± 54	737 ± 52	60(17.8%)	± 62(9.8%)			657 ± 56	711 ± 56	54(0.1%)	± 39(0.1%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	34.8 ± 0.7	35.2 ± 0.8	0.4(1.3%)	± 0.5(1.5%)			35.3 ± 0.8	36.4 ± 0.8	1.1(3.4%)	± 0.5(1.6%)			36.0 ± 0.7	36.6 ± 0.7	0.6(1.8%)	± 0.5(1.4%)			0.023	n.s.	n.s.
<b>OGTT</b>																					
Glucose AUC (mmol/L x 120 min)	834 ± 27	860 ± 35	27(3.1%)	± 20(2.4%)			924 ± 40	953 ± 38	29(3.8%)	± 16(1.9%)			916 ± 34	951 ± 46	35(4.4%)	± 36(4.4%)			0.037	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 45 min (mmol/L)	8.0 ± 0.3	8.2 ± 0.4	0.1(0.02%)	± 0.3(0.03%)			8.8 ± 0.5	9.0 ± 0.5	0.2(4.1%)	± 0.3(3.2%)			8.8 ± 0.4	9.1 ± 0.5	0.3(4.0%)	± 0.4(5.4%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Glucose 2h (mmol/L)	6.2 ± 0.3	6.6 ± 0.4	0.4(7.7%)	± 0.3(5.3%)			7.1 ± 0.3	7.6 ± 0.4	0.5(7.5%)	± 0.3(3.7%)			6.9 ± 0.4	7.3 ± 0.4	0.4(7.9%)	± 0.3(5.8%)			0.019	n.s.	n.s.
Insulin AUC (uIU/ml x 120 min)	4540 ± 1052	3442 ± 541	-1098(-6.7%)	± 616(10.4%)			4135 ± 556	3701 ± 574	-433(-4.0%)	± 322(10.4%)			4431 ± 1310	3856 ± 610	-575(5.6%)	± 1026(10.8%)			(0.0595)	n.s.	n.s.
HOMA-IR	0.93 ± 0.16	0.86 ± 0.14	-0.07(7.9%)	± 0.06(11.4%)			1.08 ± 0.12	1.16 ± 0.14	0.08(25.4%)	± 0.15(18.7%)			2.01 ± 0.22	1.11 ± 0.19	-0.01(3.5%)	± 0.14(10.9%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,45,120 min)	11.7 ± 1.5	12.1 ± 1.4	0.5(16.6%)	± 1.2(9.4%)			8.8 ± 0.9	10.6 ± 2.2	1.8(32.1%)	± 2.2(29.2%)			9.9 ± 1.3	11.1 ± 1.8	1.2(18.0%)	± 1.4(16.6%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Matsuda Index (0,120 min)	14.3 ± 2.2	12.6 ± 1.3	-1.7(0.5%)	± 1.5(8.8%)			8.4 ± 0.7	9.3 ± 1.8	0.9(12.7%)	± 1.8(19.8%)			10.5 ± 1.4	10.4 ± 1.4	-0.1(10.0%)	± 1.3(17.1%)			n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Per protocol analysis of the exercise and whey supplementation interventions. Values are mean ± SEM. The ANOVA showed significant effects of time and no significant effects of the different interventions. HRTW, high resistance training + whey; LITW, low intensity training + whey

**Supplemental figure 1:** Correlations between changes from baseline to 12 months after intervention start in BMI, ASMI, VAT, Fat%, and daily steps and a) changes in HbA1c, b) changes in insulin AUC, and c) changes in glucose AUC from pre intervention to post intervention. P-values below 0.001 were considered significant.

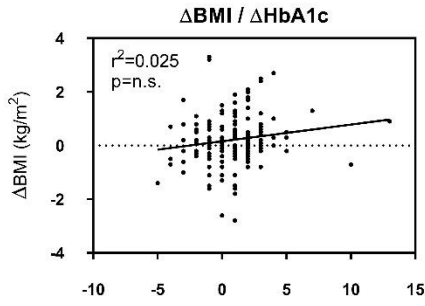
**Supplemental figure 2:** Correlations between a) BMI, b) ASMI, c) VAT, d) Fat%, and e) daily steps and HbA1c at baseline in females and males. P-values below 0.001 were considered significant.

**Supplemental figure 3:** Correlations between a) BMI, b) ASMI, c) VAT, d) Fat%, and e) daily steps and insulin AUC response to an OGTT at baseline in females and males. P-values below 0.001 were considered significant.

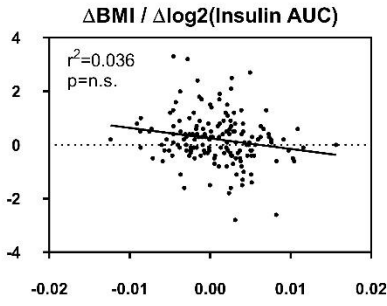
**Supplemental figure 4:** Correlations between a) BMI, b) ASMI, c) VAT, d) Fat%, and e) daily steps and glucose AUC response to an OGTT at baseline in females and males. P-values below 0.001 were considered significant

# Supplemental figure 1

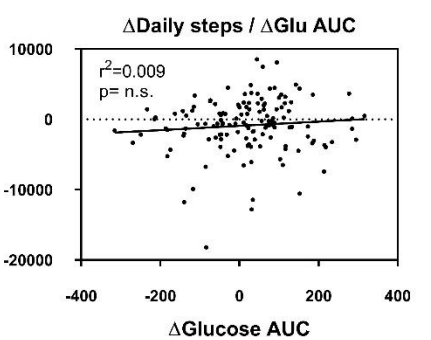
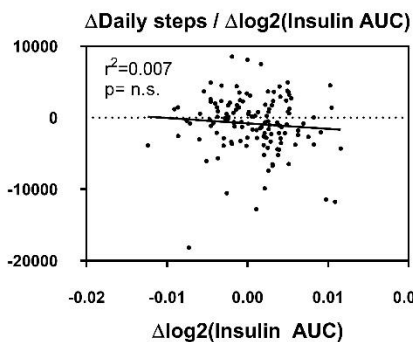
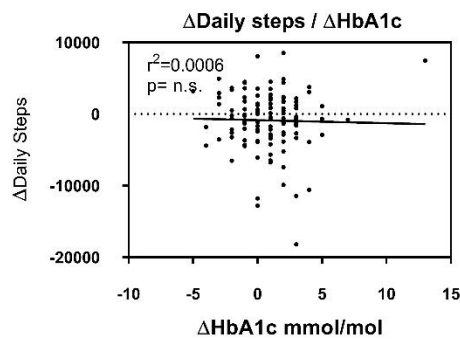
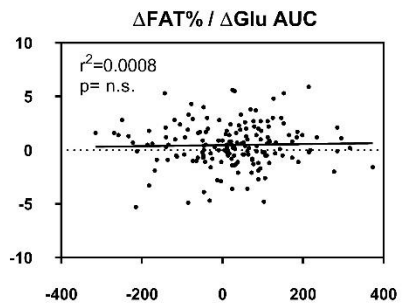
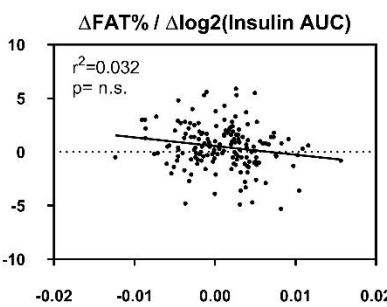
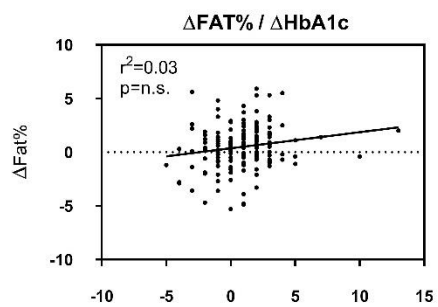
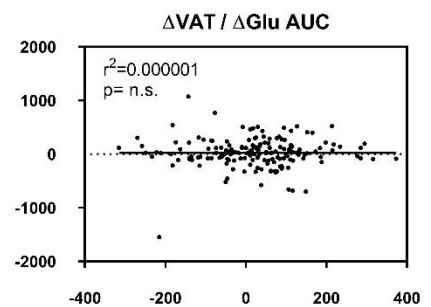
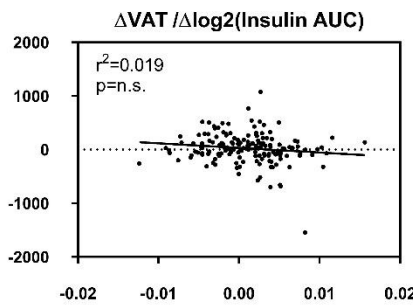
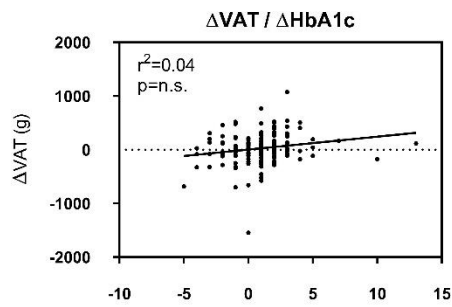
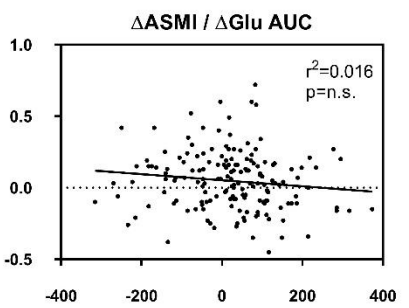
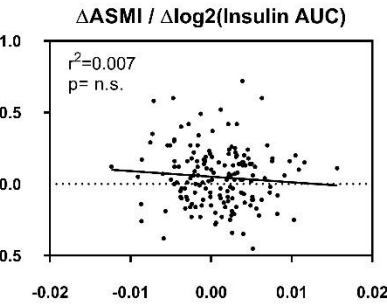
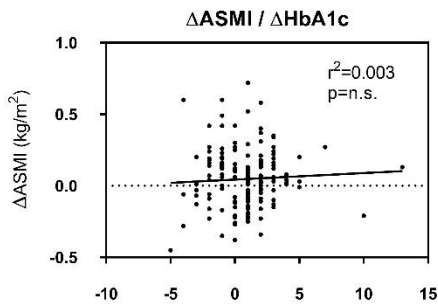
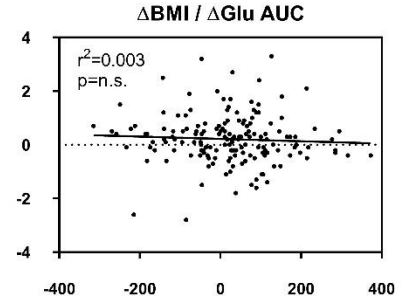
## A)



## B)

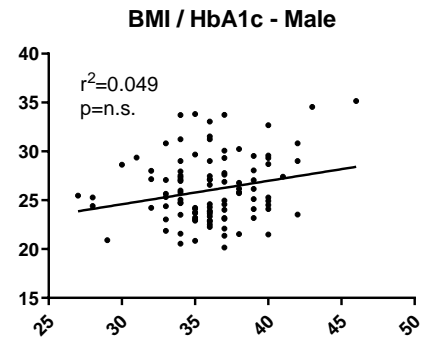
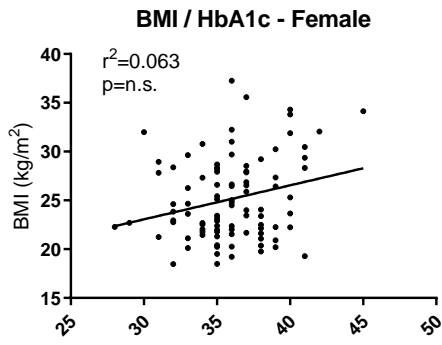


## C)

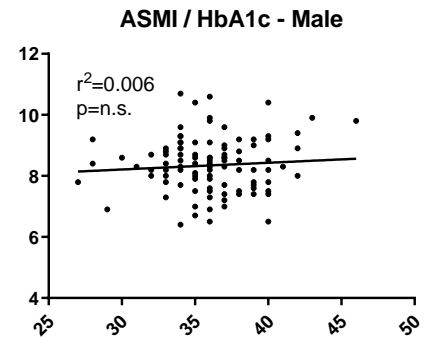
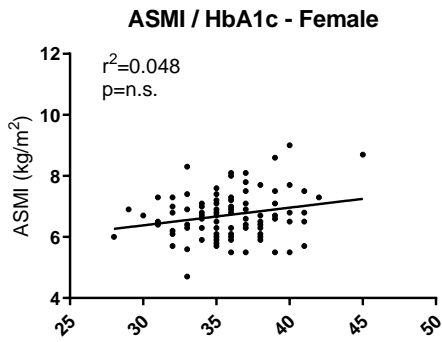


# Supplemental figure 2

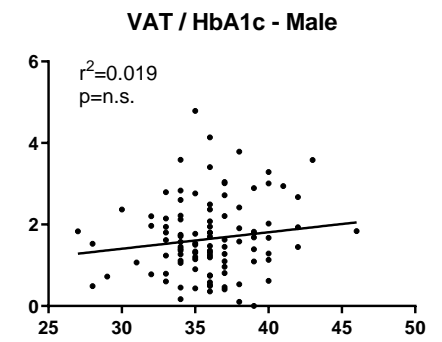
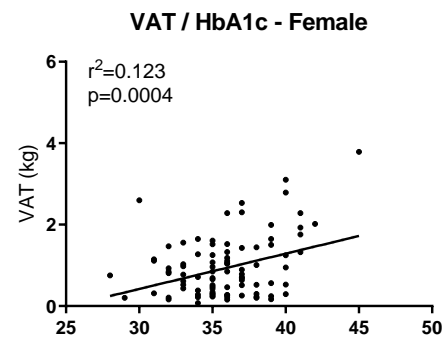
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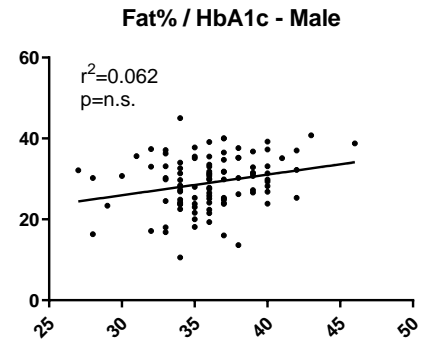
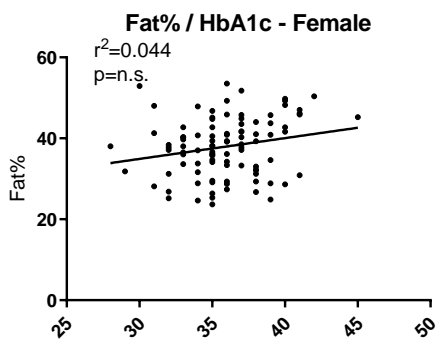
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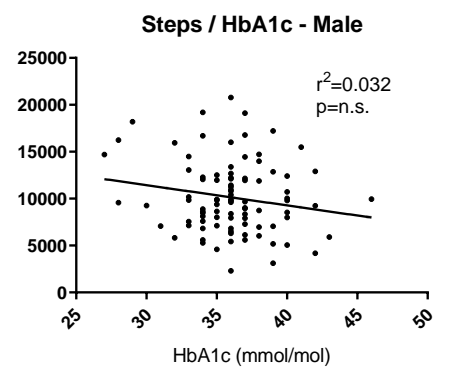
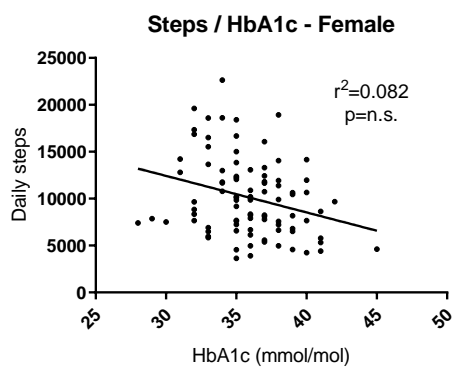
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D)



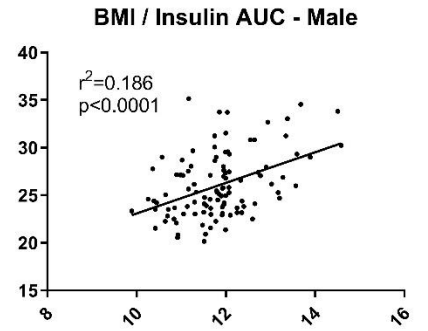
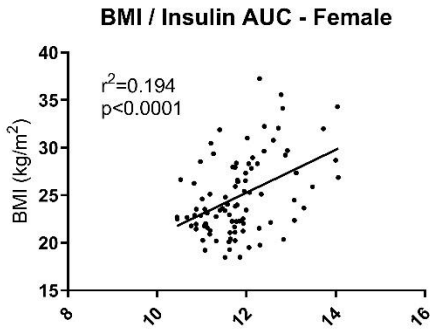
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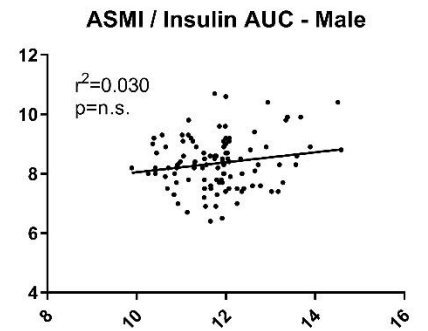
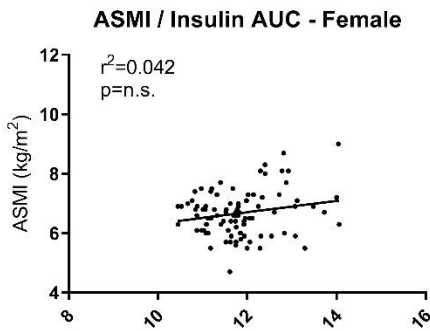


# Supplemental figure 3

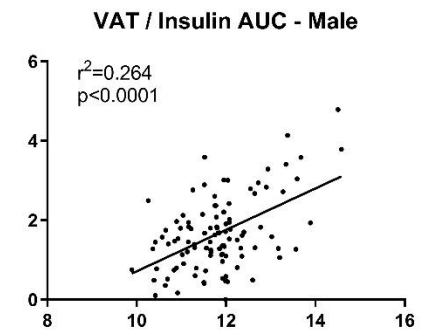
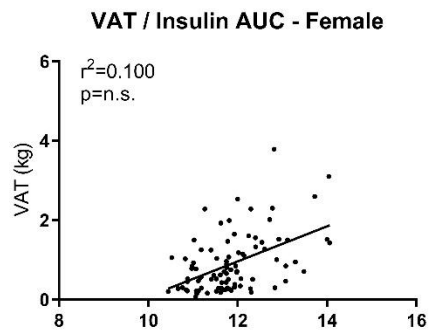
A)



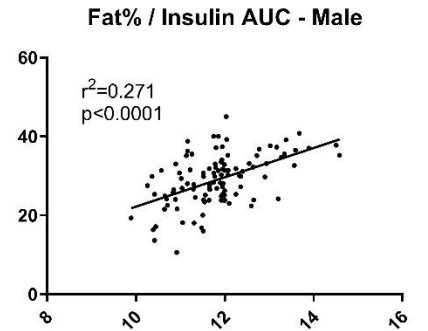
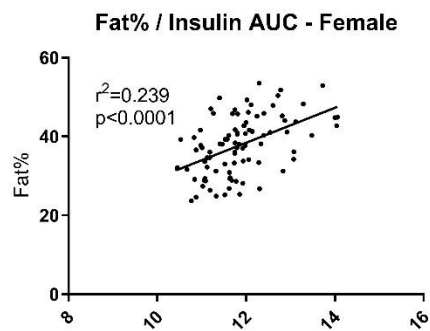
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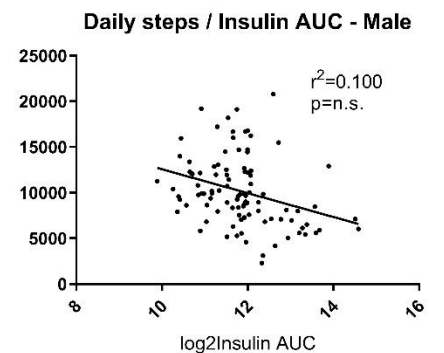
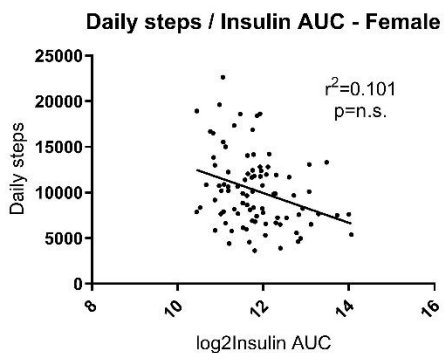
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D)

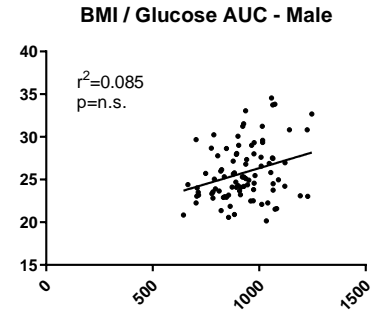
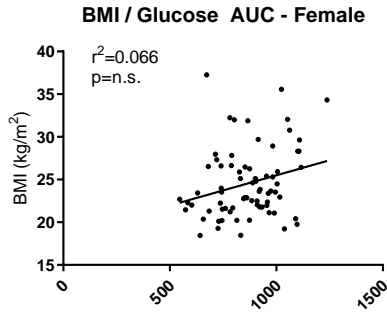


E)

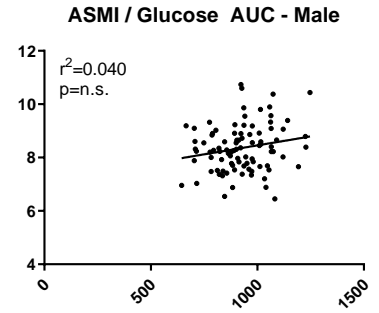
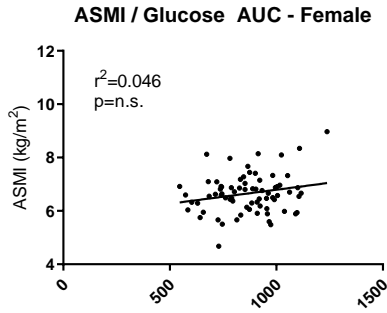


# Supplemental figure 4

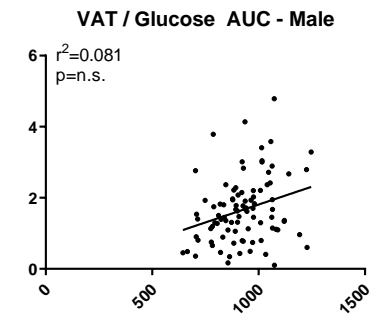
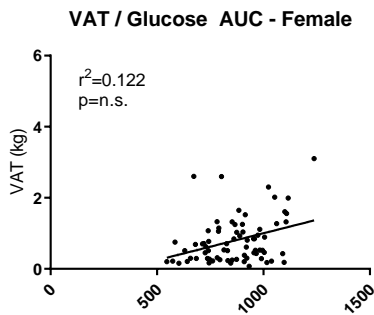
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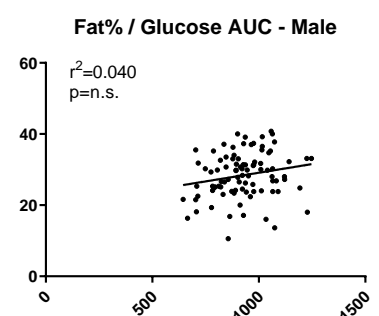
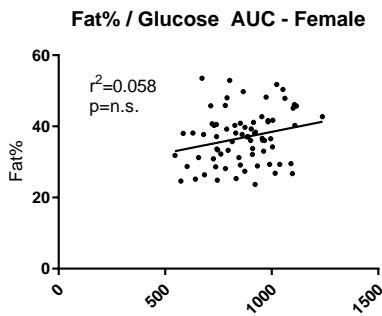
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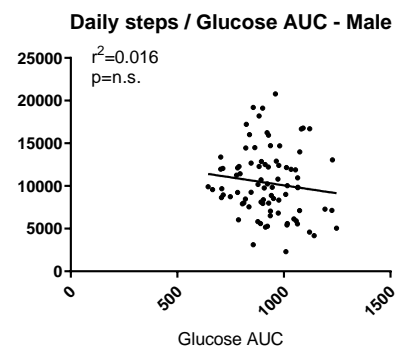
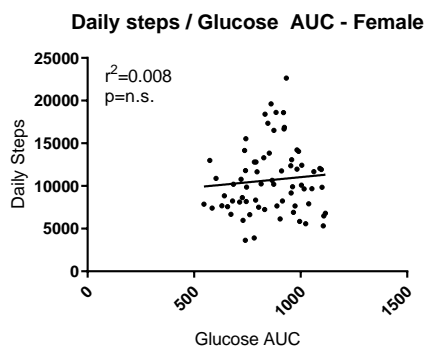
C)



D)



E)





# PHD-THESIS DECLARATION OF CO-AUTHORSHIP

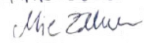
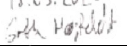


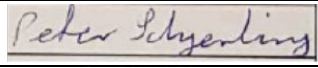
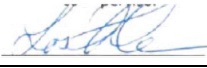
The declaration is for PhD students and must be completed for each conjointly authored article. Please note that if a manuscript or published paper has ten or less co-authors, all co-authors must sign the declaration of co-authorship. If it has more than ten co-authors, declarations of co-authorship from the corresponding author(s), the senior author and the principal supervisor (if relevant) are a minimum requirement.


1. Declaration by	
Name of PhD student	Jacob Bülow
E-mail	jacob.bulow@live.dk
Name of principal supervisor	Michael Kjær
Title of the PhD thesis	The Ageing Skeletal Muscle: Effects of Training and Protein supplementation


2. The declaration applies to the following article	
Title of article	Recommended long-term nutritional supplementation, irrespective of quality and additional training does not affect glucose tolerance differently than carbohydrate supplementation in healthy elderly: the CALM cohort
Article status	
Published <input type="checkbox"/>	Accepted for publication <input type="checkbox"/>
Date:	Date:
Manuscript submitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript not submitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date:	
If the article is published or accepted for publication, please state the name of journal, year, volume, page and DOI (if you have the information).	

3. The PhD student's contribution to the article (please use the scale A-F as benchmark)	A, B, C, D, E, F
<u>Benchmark scale of the PhD-student's contribution to the article</u>	
A. Has essentially done all the work (> 90 %) B. Has done most of the work (60-90 %) C. Has contributed considerably (30-60 %) D. Has contributed (10-30 %) E. No or little contribution (<10 %) F. Not relevant	
1. Formulation/identification of the scientific problem	C
2. Development of the key methods	C
3. Planning of the experiments and methodology design and development	E
4. Conducting the experimental work/clinical studies/data collection/obtaining access to data	C
5. Conducting the analysis of data	B
6. Interpretation of the results	B
7. Writing of the first draft of the manuscript	A
8. Finalisation of the manuscript and submission	B
Provide a short description of the PhD student's specific contribution to the article. <sup>i</sup>	
The PhD student has been the primary responsible of the daily management of the CALM study and been involved in both the clinical studies and the collection of data. The PhD student did all of the analysis in collaboration with co-author Mie Zillmer, wrote the first draft and incorporated the feed-back from co-authors into the manuscript.	

4. Material from another thesis / dissertation <sup>ii</sup>	
Does the article contain work which has also formed part of another thesis, e.g. master's thesis, PhD thesis or doctoral dissertation (the PhD student's or another person's)?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please state name of the author and title of thesis / dissertation.	
If the article is part of another author's academic degree, please describe the PhD student's and the author's contributions to the article so that the individual contributions are clearly distinguishable from one another.	

5. Signatures of the co-authors <sup>iii</sup>				
	Date	Name	Title	Signature
1.		Mie Cecilie Faber Zillmer	msc	18-MAR-2020 
2.		Grith Højfeldt	PhD	18.03.2020 
3.	18-3-2020	Rasmus Bechschøft	MD, PhDD	
4.		Jakob Agergaard	PhD	20/3-20 
5.	18-3-2020	Peter Schjerling	PhD	
6.	21-3-2020	Lars Holm	Professor	
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

6. Signature of the principal supervisor
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 30-3-2020 Principal supervisor: Michael Kjær
 Name: Michael Kjær Principal supervisor

7. Signature of the PhD student
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 22-3-2020 PhD student: Jacob Bülow


Please learn more about responsible conduct of research on the [Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences' website](#).

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<sup>i</sup> This can be supplemented with an additional letter if needed.

<sup>ii</sup> Please see Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions (PhD Order) § 12 (4):

*“Any articles included in the thesis may be written in cooperation with others, provided that each of the co-authors submits a written declaration stating the PhD student's or the author's contribution to the work.”*

<sup>iii</sup> If more signatures are needed please add an extra sheet.

**Paper IV:** **Jacob Bülow**, Bekzod Khakimov, Søren Reitelseder, Rasmus Bechshøft, Søren Balling Engelsen, Lars Holm  
*The effect of long-term nutritional supplementation with or without different types of training on the skeletal muscle protein synthesis rate and metabolome in healthy elderly: the CALM study*

1 **Title Page**

2

3 **Title**

4 The effect of long-term protein supplementation with or without different types of training on the  
5 skeletal muscle protein synthesis rate and metabolome in healthy elderly Danes: the CALM study.

6

7 **Authors**

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37 of Copenhagen. Grant provided by P. Carl Petersen Fond, Stipend from RegionH.

38

39 **Word count**

40

41

42 **Conflict of interest declaration**

43 None of the authors declared any conflict of interest.

44

45 **ABSTRACT:**

46 *Background:*

47 The suggestion of increasing the recommended daily protein intake in elderly <65 years to  
48 counteract sarcopenia has partly been justified by acute studies indicating a positive effect of  
49 increased protein intake with or without exercise on muscle protein synthesis. However, this effect  
50 has not previously been investigated in long-term intervention studies

51 *Objective:*

52 To investigate, the effect of long-term protein supplementation with or without exercise on muscle  
53 protein synthesis and the acute effect of protein and carbohydrate intake on the skeletal muscle  
54 metabolome.

55 *Methods:*

56 We randomized a subgroup of 66 healthy elderly from the CALM study to participate in an acute  
57 trial before and after 12 months of either 1) Carbohydrate supplementation (CARB), 2) Collagen  
58 protein supplementation (COLL), 3) Whey protein supplementation (WHEY), 4) Home-based light-  
59 intensity resistance training with whey protein supplementation (LITW), 5) Center-based heavy-  
60 load resistance training with whey protein supplementation (HRTW), all receiving the supplement  
61 twice daily. At the acute trial we measured the basal and postprandial FSR in response to 20g of  
62 whey hydrolysate and 10g of glucose. Further, we measured the skeletal muscle metabolome by  
63 GC-MS at basal and 4 hours after the protein and carbohydrate intake

64 *Results:*

65 1 year of protein supplementation in comparison to carbohydrate did not affect the muscle protein  
66 synthesis. No difference in basal FSR between males and females were observed, which is in  
67 contrast to previous findings ( $p=0.75$ ; males:  $0.034 \pm 0.013\%/h$ ; females:  $0.035 \pm 0.009\%/h$ ,  
68 mean $\pm$ SD). No alterations in the skeletal muscle metabolome were observed 4h after the intake of  
69 protein and carbohydrate.

70 *Conclusion:*

71 12 months of protein or carbohydrate supplementation did not alter the basal and protein-stimulated  
72 postprandial muscle protein synthesis rate in healthy elderly above 65 years of age. In contrast to  
73 previous findings, no differences in basal protein synthesis rates between males and females were  
74 observed. The applied methodology for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome by GC-MS were  
75 robust and provided measurement of 191 metabolites of which 74 were identified at level 2. It  
76 seems as a promising method for future muscle metabolome investigations.

77

78 **Keywords:**

79 Muscle metabolome – protein synthesis - aging – protein supplementation – training – body  
80 composition – GC-MS.

81

82

83



## 84 **Introduction**

85 As we age, our physiological functions are gradually declining eventually compromising health,  
86 function and independence at old age<sup>1,2</sup>. Sarcopenia defined as the loss of skeletal muscle mass with  
87 age<sup>3</sup> is a crucial part in the explanation of the age-related functional decline due to its important role  
88 in both metabolism and physical functionality<sup>4-6</sup> Therefore, the maintenance of a well-functioning  
89 muscle mass is vital in the quest to remain independent, prevent falling<sup>7</sup> and to sustain quality of  
90 life at old age<sup>8</sup>.

91 It is well known that both intake of proteins as well as exercise are required for maintaining and  
92 improving muscle mass and when absent detrimental muscle loss follows<sup>2,5</sup>. Muscle mass and  
93 changes herein are determined by the balance between muscle protein breakdown and synthesis,  
94 which are processes affected differently by various actions and interventions during the day<sup>9</sup>. Both  
95 intake of proteins as well as conduction of exercise are effective ways of stimulating of muscle  
96 protein synthesis processes in both young and old age<sup>10,11</sup> and consensus exist that such  
97 interventions primarily stimulate synthesis rates and that this is the main responsible for  
98 determining the net balance under such conditions<sup>12</sup>. The increase from basal condition rate in  
99 muscle protein synthesis after intake of a sub-optimal protein amount appears diminished in older  
100 people compared to young peers<sup>13</sup>. In accordance, observational studies reveal that elderly people  
101 with a higher than currently recommended daily protein intake have a larger lean body mass  
102 compared to those with a low protein intake<sup>14-16</sup>. Thus, some indications exist supporting a need for  
103 a high(er) protein intake for older adults.

104 Conduction of exercise also has a significant impact of muscle protein synthesis rates<sup>10</sup>. Fasting  
105 muscle protein synthesis rates are enhanced acutely, within hours<sup>17,18</sup>, and prolonged, up to 72  
106 hours<sup>19</sup>, after completion of resistance exercise and postprandial increments in muscle protein

107 synthesis are enhanced for up to 48 hours in an exercised muscle<sup>20</sup>. Thus, when intervened acutely  
108 in research participants, exercise has an acute and a prolonged effect on muscle protein synthesis.

109           However, the responsiveness across a long-term intervention with high protein and  
110 exercise on the basal overnight fasted as well as the postprandial response to protein intake on  
111 muscle protein synthesis is unknown. We recently showed in elderly men, that the acute whole-  
112 body response to a standardized meal was impaired when habituated for three weeks to a diet high  
113 in protein intake compared to a diet with recommended protein intake (Højfeldt et al IN  
114 REVISION). Hence, muscle protein synthesis could be susceptible for adaptation and studies  
115 investigating the long-term effects of increased protein intakes as well as exercise on the protein  
116 synthesis are important in order to interpret the muscle protein synthesis process correctly.

117           Protein turnover in general is a demanding process in a cell and hence, changes in the  
118 skeletal muscle myofibrillar protein synthesis rate should be reflected in the general metabolome of  
119 the muscle. Yet, the literature on general alterations in the metabolome of the skeletal muscle in  
120 humans is scarce. Due to recent advances within the field of metabolomics and analytical  
121 technology it is however now possible to measure the muscle tissue specific metabolome despite the  
122 low amount of tissue available from human trials<sup>21</sup>. Fazelzadeh et al were able to show differences  
123 in the skeletal muscle metabolome between young, healthy elderly and frail elderly at rest within  
124 metabolites related to mitochondrial function, fiber type and tissue turnover<sup>22</sup>. Further, they did also  
125 show changes within the amino acid metabolism as an effect of 6 month of progressive resistance  
126 exercise in both healthy and frail elderly. Sato and colleagues also recently reported daily variation  
127 and response to a 5 day high fat or high carbohydrate diets in the skeletal muscle metabolome in  
128 middle aged men (30-45 years of age)<sup>23</sup>. Both of these studies underline the possibilities of new  
129 insights in the metabolism of the skeletal muscle offered by the tissue specific application of  
130 metabolomics.

131           The aim of the present study is to investigate the changes in the muscle protein  
132 synthesis rate in healthy elderly above 65 years of age after 12 months of intervention with daily  
133 protein supplementation in comparison to an isocaloric control. Furthermore, the effect of 12 month  
134 of resistance exercise with high or low intensity with protein supplementation in comparison to  
135 protein supplementation alone is investigated. We hypothesized i) that basal and protein-stimulated  
136 postprandial muscle protein synthesis rates are elevated in the exercise training groups after 12  
137 months of intervention; ii) that prolonged intake of protein of different quality would not affect the  
138 acute muscle protein synthetic response to protein intake. In addition, the impact of the different  
139 interventions on the skeletal muscle metabolome is explored using untargeted GC-MS  
140 metabolomics adapted to muscle tissue<sup>24</sup>. Metabolic effects from dietary interventions are usually  
141 not trivial and multivariate data analysis is typically required to reveal effects from such  
142 investigations<sup>25</sup>.

143

## 144 **Methods**

145 The CALM trial (Counteracting Age-Related Loss of Muscle Mass) was conducted at Bispebjerg  
146 Hospital between 2014 and 2018. It is designed as an intention-to-treat randomized controlled  
147 study. The study reported in this paper was conducted on a subgroup of subjects which in addition  
148 to the general measurements performed in the CALM trial also participated in an acute trial before  
149 and after the intervention. Further information and detailed description of purpose, methods and  
150 exclusion criteria in the CALM trial has been published previously<sup>26</sup>. The trial protocol (H-4-2013-  
151 070 and H-4-2013-070.3) was approved by the regional ethics committee and all participants  
152 provided written informed consent. The trial protocol for this study is registered at [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov)  
153 journal number: NCT02115698

154

155 *Participants*

156 We included 66 healthy elderly above 65 years of age. All participants were screened by a  
157 physician prior to enrollment. Participants were excluded if they performed >1 hour of heavy  
158 resistance training per week and if they had any medical condition potentially preventing them from  
159 completing the 1-year intervention. Participants were allowed to be medicated against hypertension,  
160 hypercholesterolemia and thyroid dysfunction. For an exact list of accepted medication see the trial  
161 protocol.

162

163 *Study design*

164 After enrollment, participants were randomized and stratified by sex and number of completed  
165 repetitions on the 30-s chair stand test (<16 or ≥16) into one of five intervention groups. 1)  
166 Carbohydrate supplementation (CARB; 20g maltodextrin + 10g of sucrose), 2) Collagen protein  
167 supplementation (COLL; 20g bovine collagen protein hydrolysate (ATpro 200) + 10g sucrose), 3)  
168 Whey protein supplementation (WHEY; 20g whey protein isolate (LACPRODAN, Aral Foods  
169 Ingredients P/S, Viby J, Denmark) +10g of sucrose), 4) Heavy resistance training with whey protein  
170 supplementation (HRTW), 5) Light-intensity training with whey protein supplementation (LITW).  
171 All groups were instructed to take their respective supplement 2 times daily at breakfast and at  
172 lunch. All supplements were developed and packaged by Arla Foods Ingredients Group P/S, Viby J,  
173 Denmark. The HRTW group were offered a supervised center-based progressive heavy resistance  
174 exercise program 3 times weekly and the LITW group were instructed to do a homebased non-  
175 supervised progressive light-load resistance training program 3-5 times weekly using TheraBand®  
176 rubber bands (Hygenic Corp., Akron, OH, USA) and bodyweight. For further details see prior  
177 publication (Mertz 2020). Before and after the intervention all participants went through a thorough

178 test battery (for further information see previous publication<sup>26</sup>) and an acute stable isotope labeled  
179 infusion trial. The present paper is primarily reporting results from the acute trials (see below).

180

### 181 *Acute trial*

182 Participants arrived at the facility 8 a.m. in the morning by car or public transportation to avoid  
183 physical activity in an overnight fasted state from 9 p.m. the day before. They were instructed to  
184 abstain from strenuous physical activity 3 days prior to the trial. The participants were placed in a  
185 bed in a supine position and two venous catheters were inserted in an antecubital vein in each arm  
186 and a background blood sample were taken. Hereafter at -270 minutes (see figure 1), a continuous  
187 infusion with L-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] phenylalanine tracer (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Tewksbury, MA,  
188 USA) at an infusion rate of 6.0 μmol·kg FFM<sup>-1</sup>·h<sup>-1</sup> was started after injection of a priming dose 6.0  
189 μmol·kg FFM<sup>-1</sup> over 2 minutes. The tracers were dissolved in sterile saline water and filtered  
190 through 0.20-μm-pore disposal filters (Minisart, Sartorius Stedium Biotech, Gottingen, Germany) in  
191 the morning before the participants arrived. The tracer infusion rate was set to obtain a venous  
192 tracer-to-tracee ratio (TTR) of ~ 10%. After reaching steady state at -180 minutes another blood  
193 sample and the first biopsy were taken. The participants continued to rest in the supine position  
194 until another blood sample and biopsy were taken at 0 minutes. Immediately after, a drink  
195 containing 20 g of whey hydrolysate and 10 g of glucose was provided and finished immediately.  
196 Then blood samples were taken a 20 min, 40 min, 60 min, 90 min, 120 min and 240 min. At 240  
197 min the last biopsy was taken, and the infusion stopped.

### 198 *Blood samples*

199 All blood samples were collected in 9-mL plasma Vacutainers containing EDTA, put at rest on ice  
200 for ≥10 min, and spun down at 3,200 g for 10 min at 4°C. Plasma were then transferred to  
201 eppendorf tubes and stored at -80°C until further analysis.

202 *Muscle Biopsies*

203 All three biopsies were obtained from vastus lateralis with individual incisions with ~3cm in-  
204 between with a 4-mm biopsy needle (Bergström, Stockholm, Sweden) using manual suction. At the  
205 beginning of the trial, the skin was shaved, and the thigh muscle were inspected and the incision  
206 sites for the three biopsies were marked. Before obtaining each biopsy, the area was disinfected and  
207 local anesthetic (1% lidocaine) was administered. An ~1.5cm incision was made before inserting  
208 the needle and obtaining the biopsy. An elastic band with a compression pad was used to compress  
209 the incision site for 30 min in order to avoid intramuscular hematoma. Before compression, the  
210 incisions were strapped with SteaStrips and covered with waterproof plaster. The muscle specimens  
211 were quickly cleansed from any visible blood, fat and connective tissue under a microscope, and  
212 then frozen in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and stored at -80°C until further analysis.

213 *FSR*

214 The muscle protein fractional synthesis rate (FSR) were calculated for two periods (see figure 1)  
215 using the precursor-product model as illustrated:

216 
$$\text{FSR} = \frac{E\Delta_{\text{Myofibrillar protein, Phe}}}{(E_{\text{Plasma mean, Phe}} \times t)} \times 100$$

217 Where  $E\Delta_{\text{Myofibrillar protein, Phe}}$  is the change in myofibrillar protein bound phenylalanine  
218 enrichment between two consecutive biopsies with  $t$  hours in-between;  $E_{\text{Plasma mean, Phe}}$  is the  
219 plasma weighted mean phenylalanine enrichment between the two biopsies. The 3-hour basal  
220 synthesis rate was calculated using the biopsies and blood samples at -180 min and 0 min, and the  
221 4-hour synthesis rate in response to protein intake using the biopsies at 0 min and 240 min and a  
222 weighed mean of the plasma enrichment levels measured in the blood samples from 0, 20, 60, 90  
223 and 240 min. A factor of 100 were used to express FSR in percent per hour ( $\% \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$ )<sup>27</sup>. The muscle  
224 specimens were prepared as follows. ~20 mg of the muscle sample was transferred to 2 mL lysing  
225 tube containing 10 lysing beads and two silicon carbide crystals. 1 mL of 4°C homogenizing buffer

226 (Tris 0.02M [pH 7.4], NaCl 0.15M, ED(G)TA 2mM, TritonX-100 0.5%, sucrose 0.25M) were  
227 added and the sample were homogenized 4 · 45 sec at speed 5.5 m·sec<sup>-1</sup> with 2 min pause in  
228 between (FastPrep 120A-230; Thermo Savant, Holbrook, NY, USA). The samples then rested for 3  
229 hours at 5°C. They were then spun at 800 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatant discarded. 1.0 mL  
230 of 4°C homogenizing buffer were added to the pellet and the sample were once again homogenized  
231 for 1 · 45sec at speed 5.5 m·sec<sup>-1</sup>, left for 30 min at 5°C and then spun 800 g for 20 min at 5°C. The  
232 supernatant was again discarded and 1.5 mL KCl-buffer (KCl 0.7M, pyrophosphate (Na<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>)  
233 0.1M) added and the samples were vortexed and left overnight at 5°C. The sample were then vortex  
234 and spun at 1,600 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatant (the myofibrillar protein fraction) was  
235 then transferred to a Scot-glass and 2.3 mL ethanol 99% was added. The samples were then  
236 vortexed and left for 2 hours at 5°C. After a spin 1,600 g for 20 min at 5°C the supernatant was  
237 discarded and 1mL 70% ethanol was added to the pellet containing the myofibrillar protein fraction.  
238 The samples were vortexed and then spun at 1600 g for 20 min at 5°C and the supernatants were  
239 once again discarded. To hydrolyze the myofibrillar proteins 1mL of 6M HCL was added and the  
240 sample, vortexed and left overnight at 110°C. The constituent amino acids were then purified over  
241 Dowex resin (AG 50W-X8 resin; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) columns using 2M NH<sub>4</sub>OH  
242 for elution and put under N<sub>2</sub> flow at 70°C until dried. Hereafter, the amino acids were derivatized as  
243 the N-acetyl-propyl (NAP) derivative as described in detail previously<sup>28</sup>. After derivatization, the  
244 samples were analyzed using a gas chromatography combustion isotope ratio mass spectrometry  
245 (GC-C-IRMS) system (Hewlett Packard 5890-Finnigan GC combustion III-Finnigan Deltaplus;  
246 Finnigan MAT; Bremen; Germany). Briefly, 1 µL of sample were injected using a solvent split  
247 mode programmed-temperature vaporization (PVT) inlet. A detailed description of settings etc. has  
248 been published previously<sup>27</sup>. The plasma enrichments were analyzed using liquid chromatography-

249 tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Plasma samples were prepared and analyzed as described  
250 by Bornø et al 2014<sup>29</sup>.

### 251 *Muscle Metabolome*

252 The muscle metabolome was measured using biopsies at time point 0 min and 240 min, both at 0  
253 month and after 12 months of intervention. Muscle samples were extracted using a similar method  
254 as described by Alves et al 2015<sup>21</sup>, which is based methanol/chloroform/water at Vol:Vol ratio of  
255 X:Y:Z, respectively. The muscle specimens were prepared and analyzed as followed. ~25 mg of  
256 frozen muscle tissue was put into 2 mL lysing tubes containing 10 lysing beads and two silicon  
257 carbide crystals. 0.5 mL of 5°C solvent (50% methanol containing 20 ppm ribitol) was added. The  
258 biopsies were homogenized 4 x 1 min at speed 5.5 m·sec<sup>-1</sup> at 5°C (FastPrep 120A-230; Thermo  
259 Savant, Holbrook, NY, USA) with 2 min pause in between to avoid heating. Then, 300 µL of  
260 chloroform was added and the homogenized samples were vigorously vortexed for 10 min at room  
261 temperature. The samples rested on ice for 20 min and was then centrifugated for 15 min at 5°C at  
262 16,000 g. 60 uL of the upper part of the aliquot (methanol part) and 40 uL of the lower part of the  
263 aliquot (chloroform part) was put into 200 uL glass inserts. The glass inserts were then dried under  
264 vacuum using a SpeedVac (Labogene, Lyngø, Denmark) at 40°C for 3 hours. Samples were then  
265 derivatized in two steps, first by addition of 10 uL 20 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup> methoxamine hydrochloride in dry  
266 pyridine (90 min at 45°C by agitating at 750 rpm) followed by trimethylsilylation (TMS) using  
267 trimethylsilyl cyanide (TMSCN), as described previously<sup>30</sup>. TMS derivatization was performed by  
268 addition 40 uL TMSCN and by agitating at 750 rpm for 40 min at 45°C. A total of 206 number of  
269 samples were analyzed in a randomized order in GC-MS, Y samples originate from this study  
270 design and Z samples were pooled control muscle samples run every 10<sup>th</sup> sample in the sequence.  
271 Sample derivatization and injection of 1 uL derivatized aliquot were automated using a Dual-Rail  
272 MultiPurpose Sampler (MPS) (Gerstel, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany) as described previously<sup>31</sup>.



273 The GC–MS consisted of an Agilent 7890B gas chromatograph (GC) (Agilent Technologies,  
274 California, USA) coupled with a time-of-flight mass spectrometer, HT Pegasus TOF-MS, (LECO  
275 Corporation, Saint Joseph, USA). A GC column used was Restek ZB 5% Phenyl 95%  
276 Dimethylpolysiloxane column (30 m with I.D. 250  $\mu\text{m}$  and film thickness 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with a 5 m  
277 inactive guard column (Phenomenex, Torrance, USA). A hydrogen generator, Precision Hydrogen  
278 Trace 500 (Peak Scientific Instruments Ltd, Inchinnan, UK) was used to supply a carrier gas at the  
279 constant column flow rate of 1.0  $\text{mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ . The initial temperature of the GC oven was set to 40°C  
280 and held for 2 min followed by heating at 12°C·min<sup>-1</sup> to 320°C and kept for an additional 8 min,  
281 making the total run time 33.3 min. A post run time at 40°C was set to 5 min. Mass spectra was  
282 recorded in the range of 45–600 m/z with a scanning frequency of 10 scans·sec<sup>-1</sup>, and the MS  
283 detector and ion source was switched off during the first 6.4 min of solvent delay time. The transfer  
284 line and ion source temperature were set to 280°C and 250°C, respectively. The mass spectrometer  
285 was tuned according to manufacturer’s recommendation using perfluorotributylamine  
286 (PFTBA). The MPS and GC–MS was controlled using vendor software Maestro (Gerstel, Mülheim  
287 an der Ruhr, Germany) and ChromaTOF (LECO Corporation, Saint Joseph, USA). The raw GC-  
288 TOF-MS data was processed using Statistical Compare toolbox of the ChromaTOF software  
289 (Version 4.50.8.0) with following settings; the raw data was used without smoothing prior to peak  
290 deconvolution, baseline offset was set to 0.8, expected averaged peak width was set to 1.2 sec,  
291 signal-to-noise was set to  $\geq 5$ , peak areas were calculate using deconvoluted mass spectra, common  
292 m/z ions of derivatization products were determined as 73, 75, and 147. Deconvoluted mass spectra  
293 were also used for peak identification using LECO-Fiehn and NIST11 libraries. The library search  
294 was set to return top 10 hits with EI-MS match of >75% using normal-forward search and with a  
295 mass threshold of 20. Deconvoluted peaks were aligned across all samples using following settings;

296 retention time shift allowance of <3 sec, EI-MS match of >90%, mass threshold of >25, and present  
297 in >90% of all pooled samples.

298

### 299 *Statistical Analysis*

300 FSR were analyzed according to the clinical trial registration with a one-way ANOVA on each  
301 intervention arm separately comparing the difference between delta fractional synthesis rates at  
302 0month and at 12months ( $\Delta$ delta FSR). Further, a paired t-test between the basal and response were  
303 performed at 0month for males and females separately. All FSR analysis were performed using  
304 GraphPad Prism version 8.0.0 for Windows (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California, USA).  
305 The muscle metabolome data was subjected to univariate and multivariate statistical analysis prior  
306 to investigate possible effects according to the study design factors, including visit (0m and 12m),  
307 treatment (basal and response) and the intervention (CARB, COLL, WHEY, LITW and HRTW).  
308 Principal component analysis (PCA)<sup>32</sup> was performed prior to explore the MM data and evaluate an  
309 overall variation present in the dat. ANOVA-simultaneous component analysis (ASCA)<sup>33</sup> with  
310 permutation test, as described previously<sup>24</sup>, was used to study significance of study design factors  
311 and their explained variations. Further, any single metabolite difference according to the design  
312 factors were analyzed using an ANOVA adjusted for multiple testing using false discovery rate  
313 (FDR) rate of 10%. Prior to PCA, ASCA and ANOVA, the MM data was normalized to the internal  
314 standard (ribitol) peak area. The muscle metabolome data was mean centered (the mean of each  
315 column was subtracted from the corresponding variable) and divided by its standard deviation, also  
316 called “auto scaling” before PCA and ASCA. All statistical data analysis was conducted using  
317 MATLAB ver. 2016b (The Mathworks, Inc. USA) and custom MATLAB scripts written by the  
318 authors.

319

320 **Results**

321 *Participants*

322 Out of the 66 participants included, 29 were females and 37 were males with a mean age of 70 years  
323 [range; 65-80years]. Baseline subject characteristics for the 5 different intervention groups are  
324 presented in table 1. 66 subjects participated in the acute trial at 0 month and 64 completed it. 2  
325 participants (1 COLL, 1 LITW) had not the 240 min biopsy taken due to complications during the  
326 trial and they did not participate in the acute trial at 12 months. Further, 9 subjects did not  
327 participate at 12 months (1 CARB, 3 COLL, 2 WHEY, 2 LITW, 1 HRTW) due to complications or  
328 discomfort after the acute trial at 0 month, resulting in 55 subjects with complete sample sets. In the  
329 HRTW-group 6 subjects had an adherence below 66% corresponding to 2 training sessions pr.  
330 week, 2 subjects had a supplementary adherence below 50% corresponding to 1 supplement pr. day,  
331 and 2 subjects conducted their acute trial more than 14 days after the last training session. In the  
332 HRTW-group for both FSR and MM measures, only 3 subjects out of the 11 subjects had  
333 completed 0 and 12month acute trial with sufficient compliance and time between intervention stop  
334 and the acute trial to be included in a per protocol (PP) analysis. The training and supplementary  
335 mean adherence for these 3 subjects were 80% (SD±11%) respectively 86% (SD±10%). In the  
336 LITW-group 4 subjects had an adherence below 66% corresponding to 3 training sessions pr. week,  
337 2 subjects had no training or supplementary registrations, and 2 subjects conducted their acute trial  
338 more than 14 days after the last training session. In the LITW-group, for FSR only 4 and for the  
339 MM measures only 3 subjects out of the 9 subjects that had completed 0- and 12-months acute trial  
340 with sufficient compliance and time between intervention stop and the acute trial to be included in a  
341 PP analysis. The training and supplementary mean adherence for these 4 subjects were 86%  
342 (SD±7%) 86% (SD±5%), respectively. In the WHEY-group, 8 subjects completed the 0 and  
343 12month acute trial with sufficient compliance to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR

344 measurements and 6 for the MM measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for these 8  
345 subjects were 94% (SD±5%). In the COLL-group, 9 subjects completed the 0 and 12month acute  
346 trial with sufficient compliance to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR measurements and 6 for  
347 the MM measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for these 9 subjects were 91%  
348 (SD±7%). In the CARB-group, 8 subjects completed the 0 and 12month acute trial with sufficient  
349 compliance to be included in a PP analysis for the FSR measurements and 6 for the MM  
350 measurements. The supplementary mean adherence for these 8 subjects were 87% (SD±9%). All  
351 subjects are included at 0month in the following analysis, and only those subjects with an  
352 acceptable compliance are included in the analysis testing the effect of the intervention at 12  
353 months.

#### 354 *FSR*

355 Comparing the  $\Delta$ delta ( $\Delta$ delta = ( $^{12\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{response}} - ^{12\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}}$ ) - ( $^{0\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{response}} - ^{0\text{month}}\text{FSR}_{\text{basal}}$ )  
356 FSR between groups in the nutrition supplementation arm, no difference was seen irrespective of  
357 adherence to the intervention (ITT: p=0.69; PP: p=0.26) (ITT, mean[%±SEM]: CARB 0.0045±0.006  
358 , COLL -0.0001±0.006, WHEY -0.0049±0.01) (PP, mean[%±SEM]: CARB 0.0094±0.008, COLL  
359 0.0013±0.006, WHEY -0.0032±0.011) (figure 2a,2b). Comparing the  $\Delta$ delta FSR between groups  
360 in the training arm, no difference was seen for the ITT-analysis (p=0.98) (ITT, mean[%±SEM]:  
361 WHEY -0.0049±0.01, LITW -0.0022±0.009, HRTW -0.0039±0.009; (figure 2c). The PP analysis  
362 were not possible to perform in the training arm due to the low number of participants fulfilling the  
363 PP-criteria (LITW: n=4; HRTW: n=3). At 0 month, a difference was observed between the basal  
364 and response period but only within females (Female: p=0.0002; males: p=0.16) (Females,  
365 mean[%±SEM]: FSR<sub>basal</sub> 0.035±0.002; FSR<sub>response</sub> 0.041±0.002) (Males, mean[%±SEM]: FSR<sub>basal</sub>  
366 0.034±0.002; FSR<sub>response</sub> 0.037±0.002) (figure 2d,2e).

#### 367 *Muscle Metabolome*

368 The metabolite data of the muscle metabolome contained 191 peaks resolved from the GC-MS data.  
369 Out of these, 74 were identified at level 2 based on Metabolomics Standards Initiative<sup>34</sup>, and  
370 identification criteria was set to EI-MS match of  $\geq 750$ , RI match of  $\pm 50$  and metabolites with  
371 labile protons being trimethylsilylated (TMS). These metabolites corresponded to 17 amino acids,  
372 12 fatty acids,  
373 11 sugars, 9 organic acids, 7 sugar alcohols, 3 phenolics, and 10 other metabolites including 2  
374 indole derivatives, ibuprofen, uric acid, and cholesterol (Table S1). A PCA of the metabolite table  
375 shows that up to 25% of variation is captured by the first three principal components of the PCA  
376 model, although no trend of separation of samples was observed according to visit, treatment, sex or  
377 the CALM intervention design (figure 3). Supporting the above results, ASCA analysis also  
378 revealed no effect of the treatment, 0 min did not differ at 240min after the ingestion of 20g of whey  
379 hydrolysate and 10g of sucrose at the 0month visit ( $p=0.42$ ,  $n = 61$ ) (figure 4a). Neither were there  
380 any differences in the muscle metabolome between 0min and 240min at 12month visit ( $p=0.20$   $n=$   
381 37) (figure 4b). Although, two metabolites, 3-hydroxybutyric acid and 2-butenedioic acid, were  
382 significantly lower at 240min at both visits (ANOVA, 0m:  $p=0.0025$ , effect-size=13.8%;  $N=61$ ;  
383 12m:  $p=0.0194$  ; effect-size=18.1% ;  $N=39$ ; respectively 0m:  $p=0.0025$ ; effect-size=14.69;  $N=61$ ;  
384 12m:  $p=0.0494$ ; effect-size=14.75%;  $N=39$ ) Similarly, ASCA analysis revealed no sign of a  
385 significant effect in relation to the visit (basal 0 month versus basal 12 month) ( $p=0.62$ ,  $n=61$ )  
386 (figure 4c). Further, ASCA analysis showed no effect when comparing the different groups at 12  
387 months ( $p=0.68$ , CARB  $n=6$ , COLL  $n=6$ , WHEY  $n=6$ ) (figure 4d).

388

## 389 **Discussion**

390 This study investigates the one-year effect of two applicable strategies for counteracting sarcopenia,  
391 i.e. supplementation with proteins alone or in combination with resistance exercise, on the skeletal

392 muscle protein synthesis rates at basal overnight fasting level and the 4-hour postprandial response  
393 to 20 g of whey hydrolysate and 10 g of glucose. Further, we wanted to explore the impact of the  
394 different interventions, i.e. one-year effect and the effect of 20g of whey hydrolysate and 10g of  
395 glucose on the skeletal muscle metabolome after 4 hours. We did not find any impact of the 1-year  
396 supplementation with proteins of different quality or the addition of training on the muscle protein  
397 synthetic response to protein intake in comparison to the iso-caloric control irrespective of the  
398 choice of analysis (ITT for both protein and training interventions, PP for only protein  
399 interventions). Unfortunately, we were not able to perform an PP analysis in the training arm due to  
400 low number of participants fulfilling the PP criteria.

401 Regarding the characterization of the skeletal muscle metabolome, we were first of all able to  
402 confirm the possibility of measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome using a low amount of tissue  
403 samples (~25mg). This was done by application of an un-targeted GC-MS platform, which to our  
404 knowledge has only been done once before<sup>35</sup>. This led to the semi-quantitative characterization of  
405 the muscle metabolome, including 191 metabolite of which 74 were directly identified. However,  
406 we were not able to detect any effect on the skeletal muscle metabolome 4 hour post an intake of 20  
407 g of whey hydrolysate and 10 g of glucose, neither before or after 12 month of intervention.

408 Moreover, the analysis of the muscle metabolome did not reveal any effect of the nutritional  
409 supplementation group on the skeletal muscle metabolome after 12 months.

410 Evaluating the impact of intake of 20 g whey protein and 10 g glucose at inclusion to the study, we  
411 saw an increased FSR in response protein intake compared to the basal period, but only in women.  
412 The difference between males and females could be explained by the amount of protein pr. kg lean  
413 body mass they received during the acute trial. It has previously been shown, that an amount of 0.61  
414 g/kg LBM (95% CI[0.32;0.89]) is needed in order to maximize the FSR in response to protein  
415 intake in healthy elderly males<sup>36</sup>. In this study, females received significantly (un-paired t-test,

416  $p < 0.0001$ ) more protein pr. kg LBM than males (females,  $n=29$ :  $0.50 \pm 0.05$  g/kg LBM; males,  $n=36$ :  
417  $0.36 \pm 0.04$  g/kg LBM; mean $\pm$ SD) and were hereby closer to receive the amount of protein suggested  
418 to maximize the FSR response. The indication, that the males may not have received a sufficient  
419 amount of protein to stimulate protein synthesis is further supported by studies showing an impaired  
420 protein synthesis in response to hyperaminoacidemia<sup>37,38</sup> or orally intake of essential amino  
421 acids<sup>39,40</sup> in elderly. Another important observation in this study, is the lack of difference in basal  
422 FSR between males and females. In general, only few of the studies investigating differences  
423 between elderly and young analysis sex-differences separately. Henderson et al<sup>41</sup> found a difference  
424 in the basal FSR between males and females in both young (18-31 years) and old ( $\geq 60$  years), and  
425 Smith et al<sup>42</sup> found a difference in basal FSR between elderly(65-80 years) males and females.  
426 However, we did not find any difference in basal FSR between males and females (un-paired t-test,  
427  $p=0.75$ ; males:  $0.034 \pm 0.013\%/h$ ; females:  $0.035 \pm 0.009\%/h$ , mean $\pm$ SD). This discrepancy could be  
428 explained by different study populations since the BMI of the participants in the two studies were  
429 higher (BMI:  $\sim 38$ <sup>42</sup>,  $\sim 26$ <sup>41</sup>) than the participants in this study ( $\sim 25$ ), since it has been shown that  
430 adiposity is associated with increased protein metabolism<sup>43</sup>. The power in the present comparison is  
431 high, which emphasize that in the investigated cohort it is very unlikely that there is a sex  
432 difference. Nonetheless, studies specifically designed to investigate potential sex dimorphism are  
433 required if this should be explored in depth.

434 Contrary to our hypothesis, we did not find any effect of the different interventions with respect to  
435 the FSR. We did not see any sign of adaptations after one-year of intervention irrespective of the  
436 different supplements. Even though Oikawa et al<sup>44</sup> recently demonstrated an acute increased effect  
437 on FSR with respect to proteins of different quality, no studies have to our knowledge investigated  
438 if the measured differences between high and low quality proteins or the difference between young  
439 and old measured in acute settings is consistent over time or after a certain intervention period. In

440 addition, no studies have so far been able to demonstrate any correlation between the acutely  
441 measured FSR, muscle mass<sup>45</sup> or any other easy interpretable outcome. Despite that the  
442 maintenance of muscle mass depends on the balance of both synthesis and breakdown, fractional  
443 breakdown rates (FBR) are less frequently reported due to the notorious methodological difficulties  
444 of measuring FBR compared to the FSR. However, Kim et al recently demonstrated the importance  
445 of measuring muscle protein breakdown rates when evaluating the effect of an intervention with  
446 respect to muscle protein net balance<sup>46</sup>. This suggest that the measurement of FSR without  
447 measuring FBR may not be a usable method for investigating long-term effects on muscle mass  
448 development, and that the current interpretation of the lack of responsiveness in FSR to protein  
449 ingestion seen in elderly cannot be deemed either positive or negative in term of muscle mass  
450 development. In conclusion, these findings suggest that the transferability of FSR measurement and  
451 the responsiveness into general recommendations of living and eating is invalid and may have been  
452 overemphasized in the literature.

453 To our knowledge, only three studies measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome in humans have so  
454 far been conducted<sup>22,35,47</sup>. Fazelzadeh et al<sup>22</sup> found 96 different metabolites using targeted platforms  
455 (UPLC-MS/MS, GC-MS) in young (n=30m), healthy (n=47m/19f) and frail elderly (n=25m/18f),  
456 Sato et al<sup>35</sup> found 625 different metabolites using un-targeted GC-MS and UPLC-MS/MS in 7  
457 overweight (BMI>27) middle aged men, and Saoi<sup>47</sup> found 84 metabolites using un-targeted MSI-  
458 CE-MS. We found 191 metabolites using un-targeted GC-MS, which is more than previous studies,  
459 despite the fact that we only used one analysis platform. Furthermore, we had a relatively high  
460 number of participants (n=65 (36m/29f) at baseline) which highlights the robustness of our analysis.  
461 Interestingly, we did not find any difference between the fasting biopsy and the biopsy taken 240  
462 min post protein and glucose intake, with the result being consistent at both 0 and 12 months. This  
463 can be explained by two factors. Firstly, that our measurement is not sensitive enough; Secondly,



464 that the food supplement may not have been sufficient to alter the metabolome of the skeletal  
465 muscle after 240 min. We adhere to the second explanation due to the following: Even though we  
466 observed a significant increase in the plasma AA concentration during the acute trial, the plasma  
467 concentrations peaks after ~60 minutes and are almost down to fasting levels at 240 min (Figure  
468 S2). Further, we only saw an increase in FSR in females indicating that the effect of the protein and  
469 glucose intake on the muscle protein turnover was minor, although it could have affected other  
470 metabolic pathways in the muscle. The only alteration of the muscle metabolome was the decrease  
471 in the two metabolites 3-hydroxybutyric acid and 2-butenedioic acid concentrations in 240 min  
472 biopsy, which were consistent between 0 and 12 months. 3-hydroxybutyric acid is a ketone  
473 produced by the liver and used in extrahepatic tissue during fasting or glucose deprivations<sup>48</sup>.  
474 Keeping in mind that the subjects have been fasting for ~15 hours when receiving the protein and  
475 glucose drink, it is plausible that a substantial part of the nutrients has been used in supporting vital  
476 organs rather than stimulating muscle protein synthesis and hereby altering the skeletal muscle  
477 metabolism. The lack of findings is therefore not per se an argument against the sensitivity, but are  
478 more likely caused by the intervention applied, i.e. the acute trial. However, the finding emphasizes  
479 that the limited intake in terms of energy (CALC how much in kJ and relate it to their normal daily  
480 intake from dietary recordings) had very little impact on the muscle metabolome 240 min after  
481 intake. What has happened earlier in the postprandial period, we cannot of cause say anything  
482 about.

483 Unfortunately, we did not have enough samples at 12 months to fully investigate the effect of the  
484 intervention on the muscle metabolome. We conducted an exploratory analysis in the nutritional  
485 arm where we had six 0 min samples in each of the three groups which did not display any  
486 significant differences. This is in contrast to the previous studies all finding effects of their  
487 respective interventions on the skeletal muscle metabolome<sup>22,35,47</sup>. This can be explained by the

488 severity of the interventions applied in comparison to the intervention in this study, and the  
489 relatively low number of samples available in this study. However, when including both 0 min and  
490 240 min biopsies in an ASCA analysis, there is an effect of group at 12 months ( $p=0.04$ ) but not at  
491 baseline ( $p=0.30$ ), which could indicate that there might be an effect that we cannot detect due to  
492 too low power. However, these indications should be cautiously interpreted since the analysis does  
493 not account for the representation of each subject twice in the data set. This again suggest, that the  
494 method is robust, and the lack of alterations in the skeletal muscle metabolome are rather caused by  
495 the intervention and study design applied. In conclusion, this study yielded a relatively high number  
496 of metabolites in comparison to the previous studies despite the use of only one analysis platform.  
497 This in combination with the simple sample preparation protocol and the low amount of tissue  
498 makes it a promising method for future investigation of the skeletal muscle metabolome.

499

## 500 **Limitations**

501 There are some limitations to this study. The number of participants completing the 12-months  
502 acute trial with an acceptable adherence to the intervention were lower than expected. We were  
503 therefore not able to conduct a PP analysis on the FSR in the training arm as originally planned.  
504 Further, the power calculations conducted prior to the investigation were not based on similar  
505 studies since they do not exist. It is therefore likely, that this study is under-powered. Lastly, it has  
506 recently been pointed out that there could be issues regarding the assumptions of recycling for the  
507 FSR calculations<sup>49</sup>. We observed a larger variation in the basal period at 12 months, which could be  
508 caused by the tracer incorporated in the structural proteins at 0 month are being recycled at 12  
509 months. This should be taking into considerations when planning future studies.

510

## 511 **Conclusions**

512 12 months of protein or carbohydrate supplementation did not alter the basal and protein-stimulated  
513 postprandial muscle protein synthesis rate in healthy elderly above 65 years of age. Unfortunately,  
514 we were not able to evaluate the effect of 12 months of exercise on the FSR due to lower  
515 completion and adherence than expected. In contrast to previous findings, no differences in basal  
516 protein synthesis rates between males and females were observed. The applied GC-MS  
517 methodology for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome were robust, and it seems as a  
518 promising method for future investigation.

519

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534

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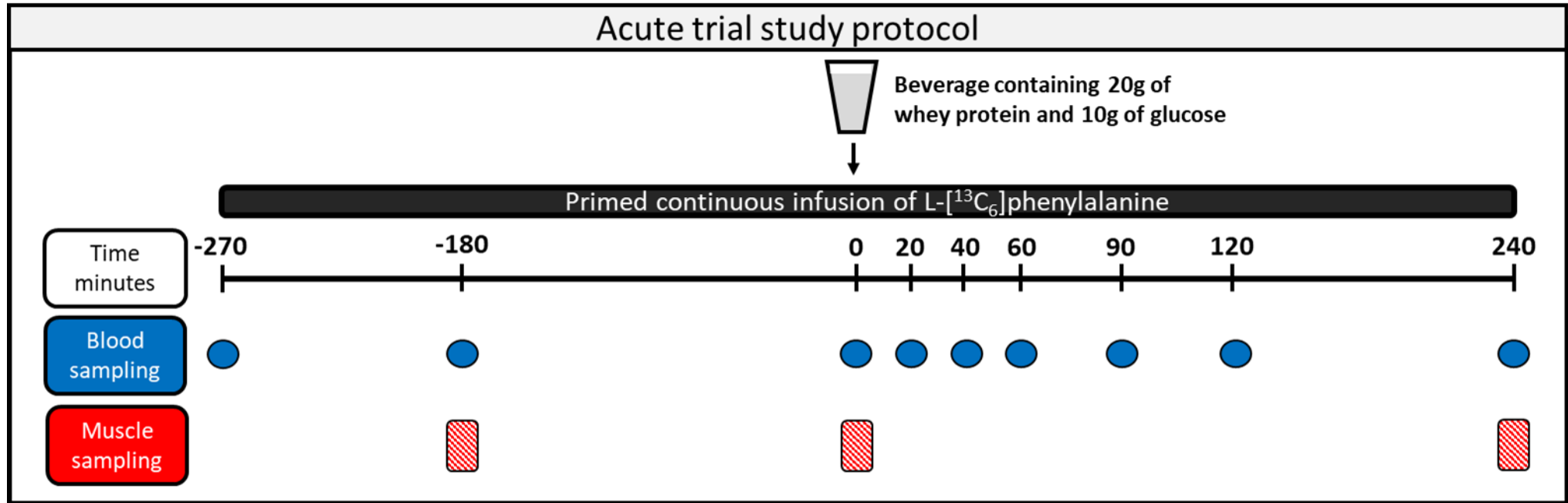
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**Figure 1.** Acute trial study protocol conducted at before and after the 12month of intervention.



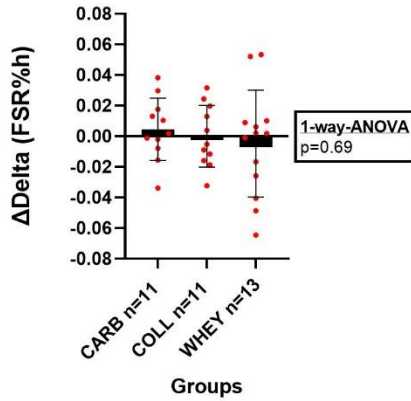


**Table 1.** Subject characteristics baseline. Means  $\pm$  SD

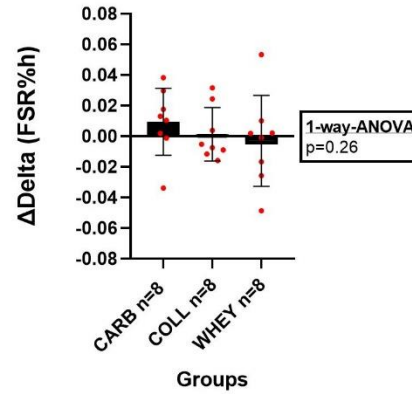
<b>Subject characteristics at baseline (0 m)</b>	<b>CARB</b>	<b>COLL</b>	<b>WHEY</b>	<b>LITW</b>	<b>HRTW</b>	<b>One-way ANOVA</b>
<b>N (males /females)</b>	12 (6/6)	15 (8/7)	15 (9/6)	12 (6/6)	12 (8/4)	
<b>Age (y)</b>	69 $\pm$ 4	70 $\pm$ 4	71 $\pm$ 5	69 $\pm$ 3	69 $\pm$ 3	<i>P</i> = 0.71
<b>Height (m)</b>	1.70 $\pm$ 0.06	1.72 $\pm$ 0.07	1.74 $\pm$ 0.07	1.72 $\pm$ 0.09	1.74 $\pm$ 0.09	<i>P</i> = 0.66
<b>Weight (kg)</b>	74.3 $\pm$ 11.3	77.0 $\pm$ 11.4	70.7 $\pm$ 8.5	73.2 $\pm$ 9.8	78.1 $\pm$ 14.7	<i>P</i> = 0.43
<b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	25.6 $\pm$ 3.6	26.2 $\pm$ 3.5	23.3 $\pm$ 1.9	24.8 $\pm$ 2.4	25.5 $\pm$ 3.3	<i>P</i> = 0.12
<b>Fat free mass (kg)</b>	48.3 $\pm$ 7.2	49.6 $\pm$ 9.3	48.2 $\pm$ 8.0	47.7 $\pm$ 10.4	52.8 $\pm$ 10.4	<i>P</i> = 0.64
<b>30s chair rise test (repetitions)</b>	21 $\pm$ 7	19 $\pm$ 4	19 $\pm$ 4	20 $\pm$ 4	21 $\pm$ 3	<i>P</i> = 0.74
<b>Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)</b>	154 $\pm$ 15	146 $\pm$ 24	145 $\pm$ 17	144 $\pm$ 19	149 $\pm$ 24	<i>P</i> = 0.74
<b>Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)</b>	91 $\pm$ 10	82 $\pm$ 9	80 $\pm$ 9	85 $\pm$ 11	84 $\pm$ 9	<i>P</i> = 0.06
<b>Glucose fasted (mmol/L)</b>	5.5 $\pm$ 0.5	5.6 $\pm$ 0.4	5.5 $\pm$ 0.5	5.4 $\pm$ 0.3	5.6 $\pm$ 0.5	<i>P</i> = 0.78
<b>Glucose 2 h OGTT (mmol/L)</b>	6.8 $\pm$ 1.3	6.6 $\pm$ 1.5	6.1 $\pm$ 1.0	6.6 $\pm$ 1.1	6.0 $\pm$ 1.2	<i>P</i> = 0.40
<b>Haemoglobin A1c (mmol/mol)</b>	36 $\pm$ 2	36 $\pm$ 4	35 $\pm$ 3	34 $\pm$ 3	36 $\pm$ 2	<i>P</i> = 0.35
<b>Total cholesterol (mmol/L)</b>	5.9 $\pm$ 1.1	5.8 $\pm$ 1.3	5.7 $\pm$ 0.8	5.7 $\pm$ 0.9	5.9 $\pm$ 0.6	<i>P</i> = 0.97
<b>HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)</b>	1.9 $\pm$ 0.5	1.9 $\pm$ 0.5	2.0 $\pm$ 0.6	1.8 $\pm$ 0.4	1.9 $\pm$ 0.5	<i>P</i> = 0.90
<b>LDL cholesterol (mmol/L)</b>	3.4 $\pm$ 1.0	3.2 $\pm$ 1.2	3.1 $\pm$ 0.6	3.4 $\pm$ 1.0	3.5 $\pm$ 0.6	<i>P</i> = 0.78

**Figure 2.** 2a) ITT analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the nutritional arm, 2b) PP analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the nutritional arm, 2c) ITT analysis of  $\Delta$ delta FSR in the training arm, 2d) Females basal vs. response FSR at 0 month, 2e) Males basal vs. response FSR at 0 month. \* denotes significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). Boxes are means  $\pm$  SEM for all plots.

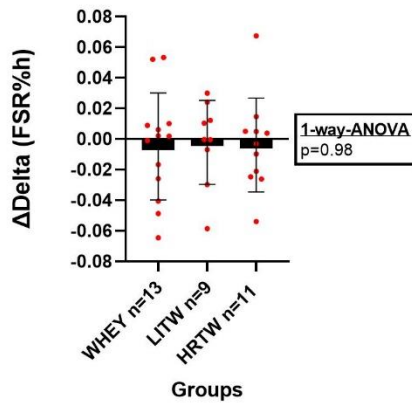
**2a.** ITT Nutrition Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



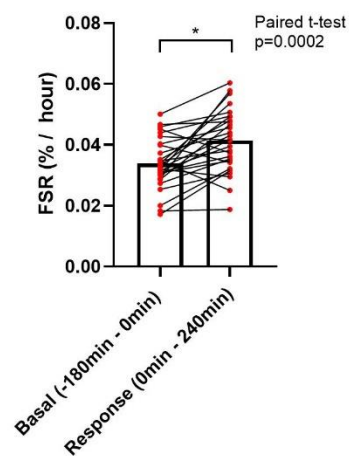
**2b.** PP Nutrition Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



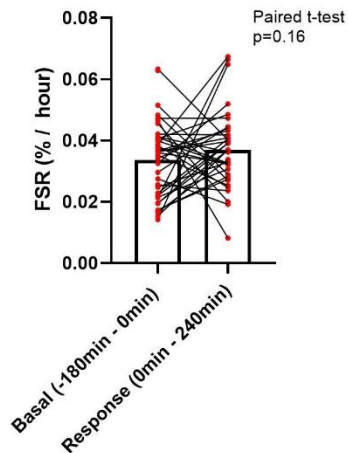
**2c.** ITT Training Groups  $\Delta$ Delta (means  $\pm$  SEM)



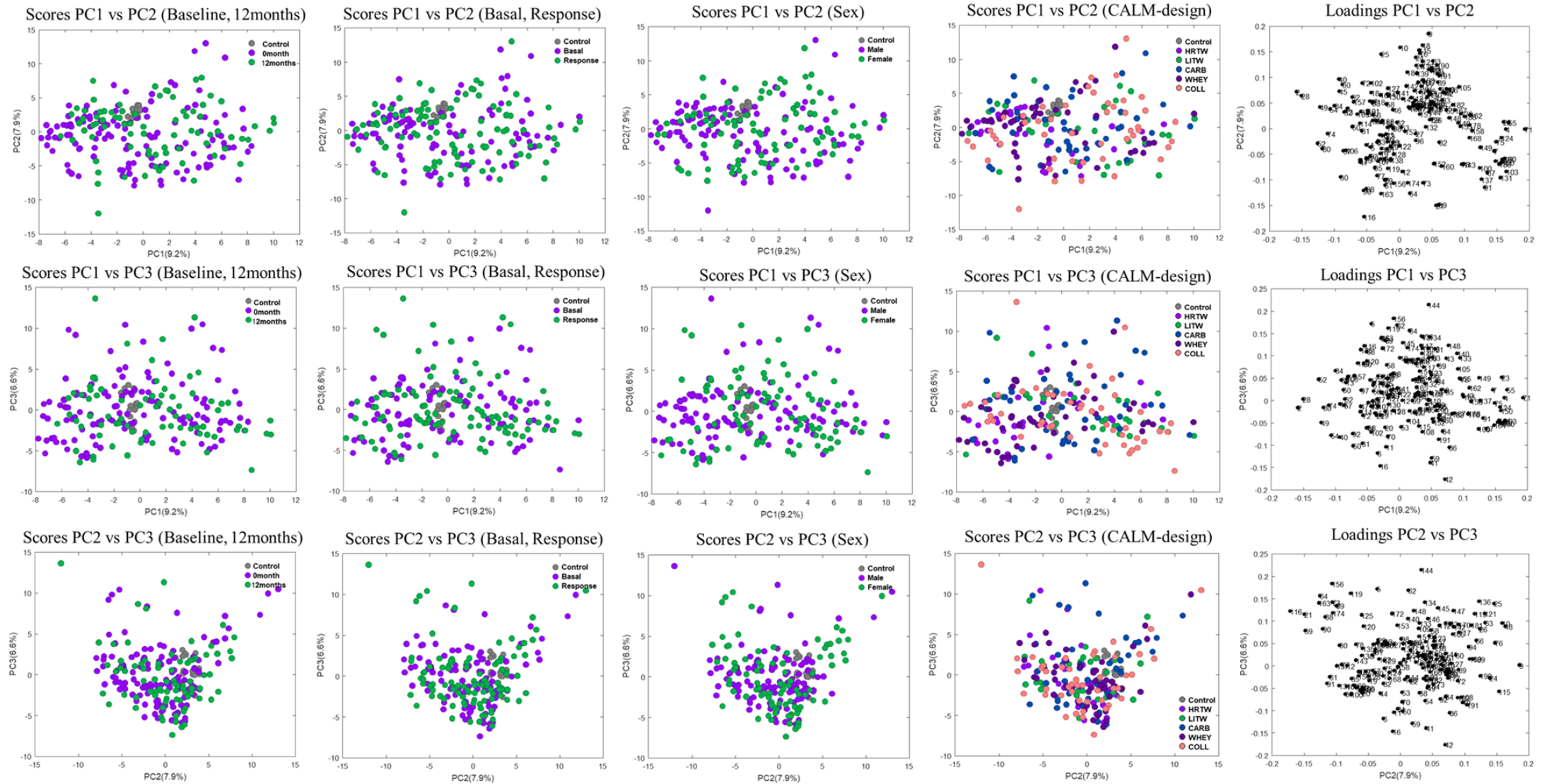
**2d.** Females, FSR 0 month (means  $\pm$  SEM), n=36



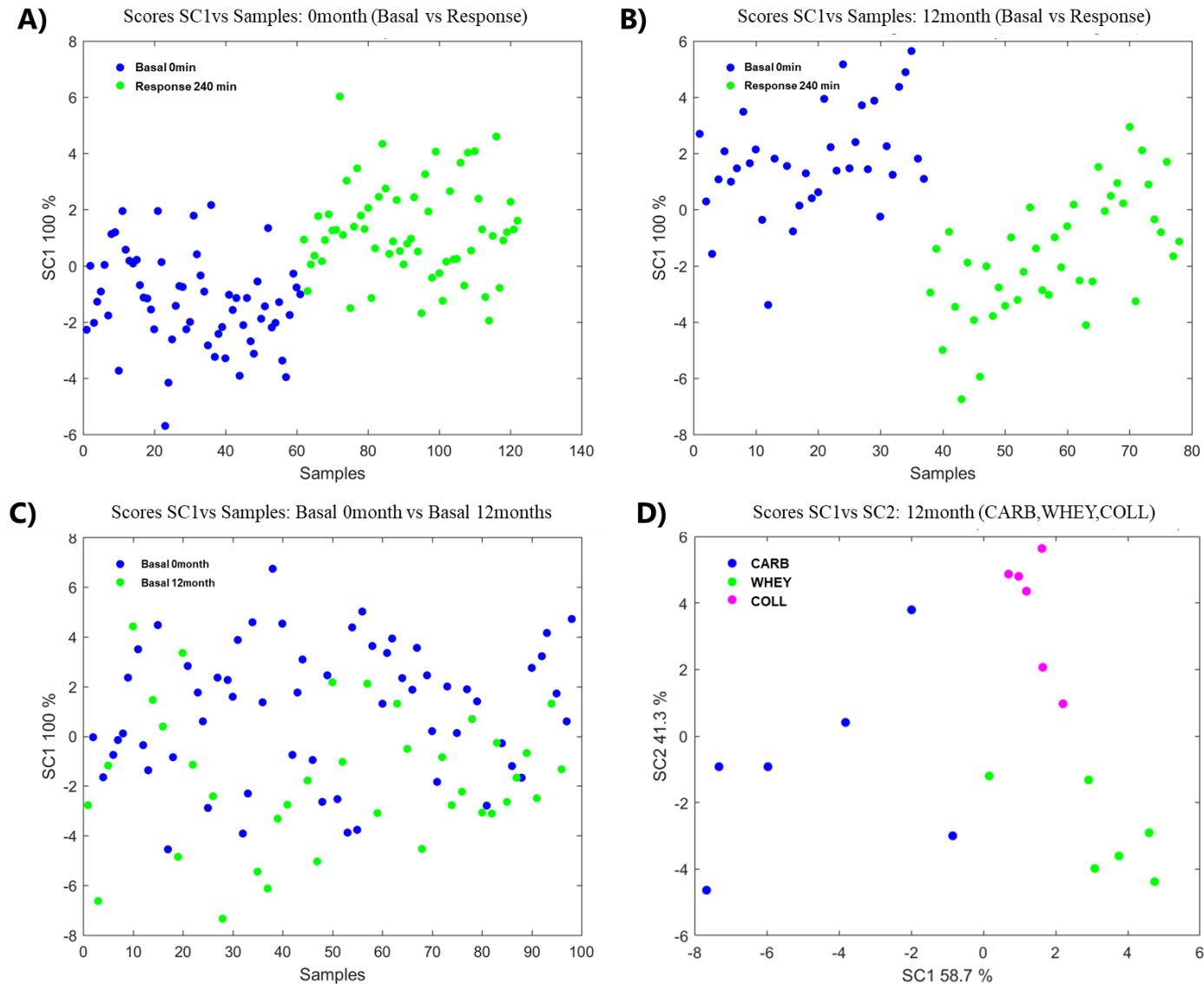
**2e.** Males, FSR 0 month (means  $\pm$  SEM), n=36



**Figure 3.** PCA model of the MM. Scores for PC1 vs PC2 (1<sup>st</sup> row), PC1 vs PC3 (2<sup>nd</sup> row), PC2 vs PC3 (3<sup>rd</sup> row) colored according to baseline vs 12months (1<sup>st</sup> column), basal vs response (2<sup>nd</sup> column), sex (3<sup>rd</sup> column) and CALM design (4<sup>th</sup> column). Loadings are presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> column. 25% of variation is captured by the first three principal components of the PCA model, although no trend of separation of samples was observed according to visit, treatment, sex or the CALM intervention design. Control samples are grey and clustered well in all plots.



**Figure 4.** **A)** Scores SC1 0 month colored according to basal and 240 min response (ASCA:  $p=0.42$ ). **B)** Scores SC1 12 month colored according to basal and 240 min response (ASCA:  $p=0.20$ ). **C)** Scores SC1 colored according to basal at 0 and 12 months ( $p=0.62$ ). **D)** Scores SC1 vs SC2 of basal at 12 months nutritional arm only colored according to CALM study design (ASCA:  $p=0.68$ )



**Supplemental 1.** Metabolite table. We measured 191 metabolite. 74 metabolites were identified at level 2 according to Sumner et al<sup>34</sup>.

Variable #	Tentative Names	Final Names	Peak #	RI	RT	M/Z	good_mets_id	occurrence	EI-MS from # samples	SN	
1	Disiloxane, hexamethyl-	U1	2	1000.0013	412.4112	174	2	75.1111	87	0.95723	197.3424
2	N-(Trimethylsilyl)acetamide	Formamide, N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)-	3	1000.0013	414.8244	116	3	53.7778	86	0.97851	563.1332
3	Analyte 2	U2	4	1000.0013	415.0115	237	4	72.4444	152	0.74302	965.8242
4	1-Hexene, 4,5-dimethyl-	2-Nonene, 3-methyl-, (E)-	5	1000.0013	415.761	71	5	55.5556	73	0.97476	154.5201
5	Disilathiane, hexamethyl-	Disilathiane, hexamethyl-	6	1000.0013	418.5392	163	6	97.7778	220	0.98845	1096.4126
6	Silanamine, N,N'-methanetetraylbis[1,1,1-tri	Disilathiane, hexamethyl-	8	1000.0013	420.0501	171	8	98.6667	210	0.99869	51706.7642
7	Analyte 17	U3	9	1000.0013	420.8275	77	9	53.7778	120	0.9579_a	228.6778
8	Disiloxanamine, 1,1,3,3,3-pentamethyl-N-(tri	U4	10	1010.7212	430.5673	132	12	98.2222	143	0.9503	1348.5896
9	Cyclotetrasiloxane, octamethyl-	Cyclotetrasiloxane, octamethyl-	11	1012.9426	432.2824	281	13	99.5556	223	0.89556	518.0359
10	Tris(trimethylsilyl)borate	1,2-Bis(trimethylsiloxy)ethane	12	1014.9958	433.8675	221	14	96.4444	196	0.96871	461.9426
11	Analyte 35	U5	13	1016.5895	435.098	114	15	92.4444	178	0.88552	1828.2895
12	Silane, (hexyloxy)trimethyl-	Silane, (hexyloxy)trimethyl-	14	1019.4351	437.2949	159	17	69.3333	149	0.92185	163.5263
13	Disiloxane, hexamethyl-	2-Pentenoic acid, 4-oxo-, methyl ester	15	1024.1669	440.9481	113	18	81.3333	177	0.8604	289.3013
14	1,2-Bis(trimethylsiloxy)ethane	U6	16	1024.9713	441.5691	235	19	33.7778	55	0.93516	39.9603
15	Analyte 51	U7	18	1028.746	444.4833	89	21	60	117	0.92386	190.8439
16	Propanetriol, 2-methyl-, tris-O-(trimethylsilyl)	Propane, 2-methyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-	19	1029.8347	445.3239	219	22	70.6667	152	0.97673	1324.2764
17	Analyte 52	U8	20	1032.3829	447.2913	281	23	90.2222	175	0.71655	150.0853
18	Analyte 53	U9	21	1033.2973	447.9972	185	24	59.5556	123	0.7436	140.7024
19	Analyte 55	U10	22	1035.9711	450.0615	133	25	56	98	0.88658	56.9422
20	Analyte 56	U11	24	1038.4447	451.9712	59	27	84.8889	137	0.94346	179.8458
21	Analyte 58	U12	26	1043.1102	455.5732	232	29	56.8889	125	0.91093	525.6997
22	Disiloxane, hexamethyl-	U13	29	1046.4524	458.1536	172	32	93.3333	206	0.88996	318.4354
23	Methyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane	U14	30	1057.6349	466.787	207	33	55.5556	122	0.99427	3731.1869
24	Cyclohexene, 1-methyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)	Cyclohexene, 1-methyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)	31	1059.8603	468.5051	68	35	97.7778	201	0.94964	135.5719
25	Analyte 81	U15	32	1065.0809	472.5357	140	36	59.1111	66	0.76839	88.4013
26	Methyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane	U16	33	1066.7717	473.8411	207	38	100	224	0.98122	3451.1413
27	Propanoic acid, 2-[(trimethylsilyloxy)-, trimethylsilyloxy]-, trimethylsilyloxy-	lactic acid-1TMS	34	1067.4143	474.3372	117	39	38.2222	36	0.9622	498.1359
28	Methyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane	U17	35	1074.108	479.5051	207	40	43.5556	98	0.99453	2522.5536
29	Propanoic acid, 2-[(trimethylsilyloxy)-, trimethylsilyloxy]-, trimethylsilyloxy-	lactic acid-2TMS	36	1076.0516	481.0056	117	42	99.1111	221	0.9949	8003.9569
30	Bis-N,N-(trimethylsilyl)formamide	Oxalamic acid	39	1079.7819	483.8857	190	45	99.1111	133	0.99081	1380.7159
31	Silane, (2-ethoxyethoxy)trimethyl-	U18	40	1082.7713	486.1935	103	46	68.8889	112	0.98559	1090.8986
32	Mercaptoacetic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl)-	Borane, tris(trimethylsiloxy)-	41	1083.2468	486.5607	221	47	92.4444	206	0.96123	1517.4936
33	Hexanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Hexanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	42	1088.8573	490.8922	173	48	77.3333	150	0.89433	137.3451
34	Analyte 108	U19	45	1093.163	494.2165	102	52	49.7778	90	0.90979	119.3774
35	Analyte 112	U20	46	1098.4823	498.3233	91	54	38.6667	74	0.91308	39.4518
36	Analyte 118	U21	49	1106.2117	504.2908	154	60	83.1111	179	0.92139	218.186
37	Acetic acid, [(trimethylsilyloxy)-, trimethylsilyloxy]-, trimethylsilyloxy-	Oxalic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	50	1114.4143	510.6236	204	61	39.1111	66	0.8767	79.1863
38	l-Alanine, N-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsilyl ester	Alanine, di-TMS	51	1114.6831	510.8311	116	62	91.1111	204	0.98851	3501.8802
39	Analyte 128	U22	52	1118.2932	513.6183	100	64	41.3333	68	0.88925	140.9357
40	Glycine, N-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsilyl ester	Glycine, N-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsilyl ester	57	1131.4653	523.7878	102	69	76.4444	83	0.98507	1159.8716

41	Tris(trimethylsilyl)amine	U23	58	1133.7484	525.5504	218	71	99.1111	122	0.9907	9462.1483
42	4,6-Dioxa-5-aza-2,3,7,8-tetrasilanonane, 2,2	U24	61	1141.6424	531.645	206	76	100	225	0.97151	776.1931
43	Cyclopentasiloxane, decamethyl-	U25	63	1146.7702	535.6039	267	80	34.2222	66	0.94417	52.9492
44	Analyte 155	U26	64	1148.2488	536.7455	124	81	97.7778	136	0.98729	295.6754
45	l-Leucine, trimethylsilyl ester	l-Isoleucine, trimethylsilyl ester	67	1164.3424	549.1706	86	87	42.6667	93	0.92856	189.0649
46	(R)-3-Hydroxybutyric acid, trimethylsilyl eth	Butanoic acid, 3-[(trimethylsilyl)ox	68	1166.1256	550.5473	117	88	82.2222	166	0.93757	112.0263
47	Toluene	n-Amylbenzene	70	1170.9506	554.2724	91	91	59.5556	89	0.9401	56.7897
48	Trisiloxane, 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexamethyl-3,3-bis[(	U27	73	1175.1538	557.5175	281	94	98.6667	218	0.97929	428.0411
49	Butanoic acid, 2-[(trimethylsilyl)amino]-, tri	Butanoic acid, 2-[(trimethylsilyl)an	74	1177.1609	559.0671	130	96	42.2222	93	0.91378	203.627
50	Phenyl-pentamethyl-disiloxane	Phenyl-pentamethyl-disiloxane	75	1180.8902	561.9463	209	97	56.8889	120	0.85335	185.4223
51	Phosphoric acid, bis(trimethylsilyl)monome	O-Methyl phosphate	76	1182.0225	562.8205	241	98	93.7778	208	0.84539	453.5068
52	Analyte 193	U28	79	1184.32	564.5942	246	102	57.7778	109	0.74039	110.18
53	Analyte 199	U29	82	1191.0181	569.7655	211	106	89.3333	189	0.83194	134.0948
54	Analyte 201	U30	83	1194.7806	572.6703	168	107	45.3333	93	0.91564	67.0471
55	Analyte 205	U31	85	1196.7206	574.1681	115	109	51.5556	104	0.94919	75.6103
56	Analyte 208	trans-3-Hexen-1-ol, tert-butyl dime	86	1200.5028	577.047	157	111	76.8889	150	0.79034	58.3689
57	Analyte 209	U32	87	1204.2559	579.6366	246	112	91.1111	195	0.94687	188.2408
58	Trisiloxane, 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexamethyl-3,3-bis[(	U33	88	1211.2947	584.4933	281	116	100	224	0.9878	420.6674
59	Analyte 214	U34	89	1215.8733	587.6526	185	117	98.6667	196	0.96313	597.7134
60	L-Valine, N-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsilyl es	L-Valine, N-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimet	90	1218.7471	589.6355	144	118	68.8889	102	0.82544	310.2387
61	1-Dimethyl(isopropyl)silyloxypropane	Carnitine	91	1220.0865	590.5597	117	119	99.5556	222	0.98631	1647.6422
62	Analyte 220	U35	92	1223.6883	593.045	227	120	50.6667	73	0.97705	56.4725
63	Trisiloxane, 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexamethyl-3,3-bis[(	U36	93	1229.3458	596.9486	281	121	97.3333	214	0.96653	217.4709
64	Analyte 228	U37	95	1238.9058	603.545	100	123	66.6667	143	0.96039	432.6445
65	Benzothiazole	Benzothiazole	96	1241.9154	605.6217	135	124	49.7778	85	0.90744	64.5704
66	Hydrazine, 1-ethyl-1-(2-methylpropyl)-	Diethylene glycol, bistrimethylsilyl	97	1246.0593	608.4809	73	125	78.6667	113	0.96931	72.0553
67	Benzoic acid trimethylsilyl ester	Benzoic acid trimethylsilyl ester	98	1252.1097	612.6557	179	127	99.5556	148	0.94651	232.8145
68	Urea, N,N'-bis(trimethylsilyl)-	Serine, bis(trimethylsilyl)-	99	1260.1907	618.2316	116	129	81.3333	97	0.926	116.9786
69	Octanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Octanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	101	1267.5612	623.3172	117	132	94.2222	122	0.94226	80.0922
70	Silanol, trimethyl-, phosphate (3:1)	phosphate	103	1275.933	629.0938	133	134	97.7778	87	0.97986	5429.2322
71	Analyte 255	U38	104	1279.7839	631.7509	169	135	61.3333	138	0.99804	1197.6674
72	l-Threonine, O-(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsilyl	l-Threonine, O-(trimethylsilyl)-, tri	106	1297.1555	643.7373	130	138	78.6667	101	0.95368	112.9623
73	Glycine, N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)-, trimethylsil	Glycine, N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)-, tri	108	1309.1282	651.9985	174	140	36.4444	47	0.93843	216.4993
74	Analyte 267	U39	109	1310.0961	652.6663	84	141	53.7778	43	0.97633	135.5397
75	Analyte 271	U40	110	1311.0712	653.3391	197	142	41.7778	62	0.85815	63.2841
76	Butanedioic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	Butanedioic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl)	112	1315.2085	656.1939	75	144	100	98	0.98316	186.1413
77	Analyte 285	Oxamidic acid	114	1330.1281	666.4884	102	146	91.1111	158	0.9463	248.9708
78	á-Hydroxypyruvic acid, trimethylsilyl ether, U	U41	116	1337.1286	671.3188	103	148	35.5556	73	0.96109	62.1547
79	Analyte 294	U42	117	1341.5974	674.4022	198	149	96	172	0.99342	4034.0694
80	Analyte 297	U43	118	1347.036	678.1549	320	152	59.5556	109	0.90136	51.4646
81	2-Butenedioic acid (E)-, bis(trimethylsilyl) es	2-Butenedioic acid (Z)-, bis(trimet	119	1350.9194	680.8344	245	153	87.5556	190	0.84111	207.0125
82	Analyte 306	U44	120	1353.1108	682.3464	111	154	46.6667	45	0.96026	75.0194
83	N,N-Dimethylglycine, trimethylsilyl ester	U45	121	1356.8062	684.8963	58	157	99.1111	223	0.9953	2976.2553
84	Mercaptoacetic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl)-	U45	122	1359.7636	686.9369	221	159	88	183	0.96719	108.2735
85	Nonanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Nonanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	123	1361.7391	688.3	117	160	100	183	0.99223	468.0082
86	Analyte 317	U46	124	1370.3921	694.2706	131	162	100	200	0.99306	6903.4971
87	Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-2-[(trimethylsilyl)ox	U47	125	1379.9302	700.8519	201	165	48	87	0.96107	263.9235
88	Analyte 328	U48	127	1390.2501	707.9726	126	169	97.3333	218	0.99664	2920.0345
89	Hexasiloxane, tetradecamethyl-	U49	128	1391.3129	708.7059	221	170	61.7778	132	0.93818	121.7981
90	Analyte 334	U50	131	1396.6395	712.3813	83	173	97.7778	214	0.97236	398.8362

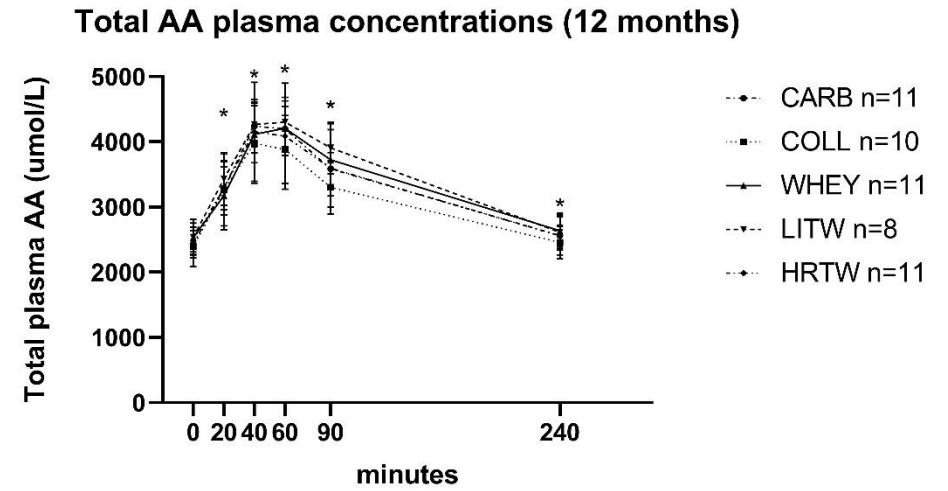
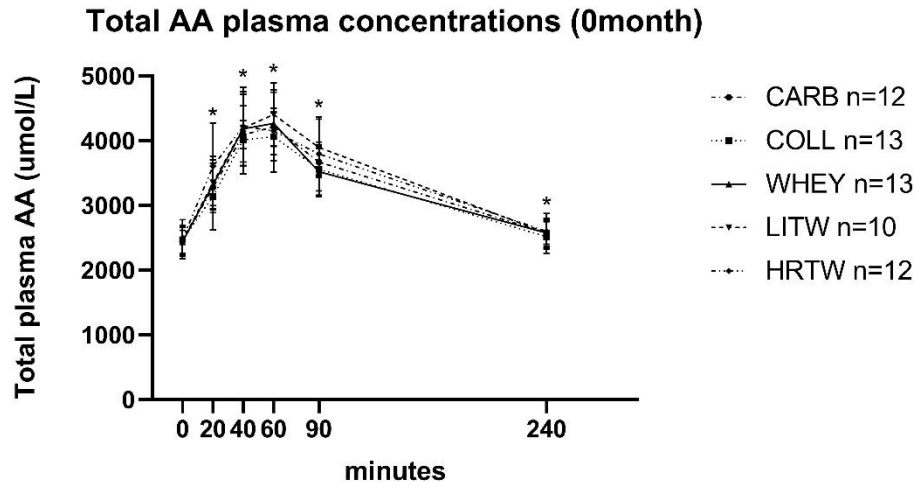


91	Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-2-[(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] ester	U51	132	1398.6609	713.776	145	174	55.5556	68	0.97373	217.9278
92	L-Aspartic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	L-Aspartic acid, bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	136	1422.7863	728.9688	160	180	39.1111	63	0.92274	80.9993
93	Analyte 364	U52	139	1441.4076	740.6295	153	185	49.5556	222	0.99916	2717.9881
94	Decanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Decanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	140	1457.9687	751	117	187	90.2222	180	0.93037	59.804
95	3-Isopropoxy-1,1,1,7,7,7-hexamethyl-3,5,5-trimethylbutanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	U53	143	1474.032	761.0588	281	193	90.6667	165	0.96881	68.884
96	Butanedioic acid, [(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	U54	144	1487.2593	769.3418	101	196	92	75	0.97748	85.32
97	Analyte 392	U55	145	1491.8492	772.216	221	198	65.3333	123	0.9761	64.6886
98	Analyte 393	3,4-Dimethylbenzoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	146	1493.789	773.4307	163	199	56.8889	102	0.76693	40.1995
99	Benzoic acid, 4-[(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	Benzoic acid, 4-[(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] bis(trimethylsilyl) ester	147	1496.0387	774.8394	209	200	60.8889	120	0.75619	107.3734
100	Analyte 409	U56	151	1509.191	783.0754	159	205	51.5556	84	0.96023	365.3134
101	L-Proline, 5-oxo-1-(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	L-Proline, 5-oxo-1-(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	152	1520.0352	789.866	156	208	99.1111	221	0.99045	2528.0312
102	Analyte 422	U57	154	1530.6018	796.4829	84	210	77.7778	89	0.97639	434.8738
103	Analyte 430	U58	157	1537.7336	800.9488	173	214	36.8889	51	0.97061	192.7489
104	Analyte 435	1,3-Benzoxazol-2-amine-ditrimethylsilyl ether	158	1539.559	802.0919	263	216	95.5556	209	0.93392	324.6661
105	Disiloxane, hexamethyl-	U59	161	1549.5305	808.336	221	219	89.7778	189	0.96364	94.6367
106	2,3,4-Trihydroxybutyric acid tetrakis(trimethylsilyl) ester	U60	164	1557.5457	813.3551	73	222	39.1111	60	0.97822	109.8483
107	Analyte 453	U61	165	1564.4673	817.6894	225	223	100	168	0.99852	369.0536
108	Diethyl Phthalate	Diethyl Phthalate	167	1589.0069	833.0561	149	228	100	219	0.99549	1483.561
109	Analyte 472	U62	170	1605.0321	842.7494	204	233	93.7778	208	0.98044	1497.2565
110	Benzothiazole, 2-(methylthio)-	Benzothiazole, 2-(methylthio)-	171	1614.6977	848.1457	181	234	93.7778	135	0.96048	400.2211
111	Decamethyltetrasiloxane	U63	173	1632.2023	857.9185	221	238	39.5556	36	0.97525	61.7908
112	Cyclooctasiloxane, hexadecamethyl-	U64	174	1634.3875	859.1386	355	239	57.3333	93	0.97037	71.9338
113	Propanoic acid, 2-oxo-, trimethylsilyl ester	Dodecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	175	1650.635	868.2095	117	241	92	187	0.94811	72.2378
114	Analyte 502	U65	177	1662.2526	874.6956	276	243	99.1111	122	0.98754	662.8052
115	Analyte 505	U66	178	1673.4057	880.9224	153	244	97.3333	149	0.99833	405.8138
116	Analyte 510	U67	180	1693.16	891.9512	225	246	99.1111	210	0.99879	1930.7747
117	Analyte 515	U68	181	1703.1347	897.5201	221	250	85.7778	174	0.96272	61.6405
118	3-Pentanamine	U69	186	1733.9243	914.7099	58	259	58.2222	114	0.99799	513.3305
119	Phosphoric acid, bis(trimethylsilyl) 2,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	U70	189	1759.2783	928.8651	299	263	89.7778	73	0.98715	432.9142
120	Disiloxane, hexamethyl-	Ribitol, 1,2,3,4,5-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	197	1826.5924	965.0757	73	272	65.3333	66	0.97812	120.5407
121	Tetradecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Tetradecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	201	1846.497	975.1623	117	276	98.2222	200	0.96503	198.4957
122	1,5-Anhydro-D-sorbitol, tetrakis(trimethylsilyl) ether	U71	203	1849.0281	976.445	217	278	88.8889	174	0.98011	82.4511
123	Analyte 570	U72	204	1853.4108	978.6659	221	279	73.3333	136	0.97668	54.9598
124	D-Pinitol, pentakis(trimethylsilyl) ether	U73	206	1861.8967	982.9662	149	281	37.7778	32	0.93783	66.0444
125	2-Propanamine, N-methyl-	U74	208	1877.9959	991.1244	58	283	99.1111	223	0.99819	1393.2382
126	Analyte 581	D-Glucose, 2,3,4,5,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	209	1890.42	997.4203	204	284	40.4444	72	0.95514	210.6592
127	Nonadecane, 2-methyl-	U75	213	1914.7673	1009.7583	71	290	50.2222	74	0.93043	37.0309
128	Ribitol, 1,2,3,4,5-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-5-trimethylsilyloxy-1,3-dioxane	Ribitol, 5TMS	216	1926.605	1015.7571	205	293	90.6667	66	0.98352	40.1469
129	D-Mannitol, 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	D-Galactose, 2,3,4,5,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	218	1935.518	1020.2738	205	295	99.5556	117	0.99792	3630.1913
130	Heptacosane	Nonadecane, 2-methyl-	220	1956.712	1031.0138	71	298	33.7778	49	0.9309	26.4561
131	Ethanol, 2-ethoxy-	Pentanamide	222	1971.2372	1038.3745	59	301	37.7778	72	0.98946	237.238
132	á-D-Glucopyranose, 1,2,3,4,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	D-Glucose, 2,3,4,5,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	223	1974.7217	1040.1402	204	302	42.2222	80	0.98094	249.9379
133	Analyte 615	U76	226	1999.4109	1052.6515	221	306	74.2222	124	0.97933	51.4754
134	10-Undecenoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Oleic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	228	2021.4848	1062.8985	117	309	58.2222	85	0.93952	70.9589
135	Inositol, 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	Chizo-Inositol, per(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	229	2025.062	1064.555	217	311	99.1111	171	0.99676	258.9738
136	Hexadecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Hexadecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	231	2044.3862	1073.503	117	313	100	220	0.99826	4517.9033
137	1-Undecene, 11-nitro-	9-Octadecenal	236	2081.9537	1090.8987	122	320	36.4444	62	0.93584	86.7878
138	Myo-Inositol, 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	Myo-Inositol, 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexakis-O-(trimethylsilyl) ether	237	2090.5201	1094.8653	217	321	99.5556	215	0.99764	2681.6539
139	Dodecane, 2-methyl-	U77	239	2125.8815	1111.2394	71	323	94.6667	124	0.97628	92.8165
140	Analyte 653	U78	242	2145.6229	1120.3807	221	326	70.6667	128	0.98435	46.13

141	2-Bromotetradecane	Stearyl iodide	245	2167.1	1130.3256	71	329	79.5556	79	0.95114	45.6706
142	Analyte 660	U79	246	2172.197	1132.6858	191	330	75.1111	56	0.84872	68.1501
143	Pentanamide	U80	247	2179.8223	1136.2167	59	331	70.6667	150	0.98791	277.7702
144	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, trimethylsilyl ester	U80	249	2207.7212	1148.8415	79	334	92.8889	47	0.97543	314.6022
145	Oleic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	trans-Oleic acid	250	2214.4616	1151.7062	117	335	99.5556	113	0.99515	1283.8822
146	Oleic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	cis-9-Octadecenoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	251	2220.7465	1154.3772	129	336	74.2222	45	0.93991	212.1862
147	Octadecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	Octadecanoic acid, trimethylsilyl ester	252	2241.7283	1163.2945	117	337	100	197	0.99772	2321.6506
148	Analyte 682	U81	254	2287.8517	1182.897	221	340	82.6667	142	0.93591	59.0387
149	Analyte 685	U82	255	2302.6018	1189.1658	57	341	37.7778	59	0.92143	32.6326
150	Analyte 688	U83	256	2315.8502	1194.7963	165	342	35.1111	74	0.96953	383.5612
151	2-methyltetracosane	Sulfurous acid, dodecyl pentyl ester	257	2336.8628	1203.7267	71	343	86.2222	127	0.94775	75.2394
152	9-Octadecenamide, (Z)-	U84	264	2364.4945	1215.4702	59	351	79.5556	93	0.96202	944.7889
153	Sulfurous acid, 2-ethylhexyl hexyl ester	U85	267	2377.5574	1221.0219	57	354	39.5556	33	0.94293	34.6045
154	Hexanedioic acid, bis(2-ethylhexyl) ester	Hexanedioic acid, bis(2-ethylhexyl) ester	268	2389.1892	1225.9654	129	355	99.1111	222	0.98995	2178.6528
155	Analyte 717	U86	272	2500.6786	1239.9936	221	360	76.8889	151	0.97499	48.9042
156	Glycerol, tris(trimethylsilyl) ether	Diglycerol	275	2596.0701	1248.9318	103	363	85.3333	175	0.9579_b	117.7555
157	Analyte 728	U87	277	2617.7604	1257.3899	207	366	63.1111	104	0.84174	29.2871
158	Diethylene glycol dibenzoate	U88	278	2620.577	1258.6728	105	367	55.1111	84	0.95431	101.3647
159	Heptasiloxane, 1,1,3,3,5,5,7,7,9,9,11,11,13,13-tetramethyl-	U89	279	2622.478	1259.5388	73	368	53.3333	105	0.99331	100.9203
160	Analyte 734	U90	281	2632.0813	1263.913	233	370	87.5556	98	0.98118	1034.7701
161	Tetradecane, 1-iodo-	U91	283	2664.9552	1278.8871	57	373	76.4444	53	0.94995	64.0469
162	Analyte 749	U92	285	2674.8164	1283.3789	221	376	85.3333	182	0.97951	54.0882
163	Hexadecanoic acid, 2,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	Hexadecanoic acid, 2,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	287	2687.5374	1289.1733	371	379	96.4444	98	0.98181	107.4469
164	1-Iodo-2-methylundecane	U93	288	2698.8474	1294.325	57	380	43.5556	48	0.94822	58.4199
165	Analyte 760	U94	289	2706.244	1297.6942	73	381	70.6667	76	0.995	148.2395
166	Analyte 763	U95	291	2721.4763	1304.6324	465	383	98.2222	143	0.99495	116.2192
167	Analyte 769	U96	292	2748.6061	1316.9901	221	384	89.7778	191	0.98182	59.2824
168	Nonadecane	U97	293	2753.0107	1318.9964	57	385	36.8889	41	0.98612	90.0926
169	Analyte 774	U98	294	2764.6882	1324.3155	141	386	85.7778	175	0.905	70.1041
170	Analyte 775	U99	295	2769.595	1326.5505	243	387	52	112	0.84993	65.1106
171	Analyte 777	U100	296	2773.2404	1328.211	221	388	67.1111	138	0.98797	78.2023
172	1-Monooleoylglycerol trimethylsilyl ether	Oleoylglycerol	297	2776.8977	1329.8769	101	389	41.7778	19	0.88527	34.75
173	Heptacosane	U101	298	2779.7786	1331.1891	69	391	77.3333	52	0.92242	28.6583
174	Octadecanoic acid, 2,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl ester	Stearin, 1-mono-	299	2788.0811	1334.9709	73	392	84.4444	92	0.93167	43.689
175	9-Octadecenamide, (Z)-	U102	300	2793.22	1337.3117	59	393	96.8889	173	0.97899	421.4532
176	Heptacosane	U103	301	2800.9412	1340.5954	57	394	35.1111	62	0.98169	94.1214
177	Squalene	Squalene	302	2818.1035	1344.1592	69	395	99.5556	219	0.99452	453.3256
178	Analyte 790	U104	303	2820.529	1344.6628	221	396	78.2222	168	0.95762	63.1773
179	Heptasiloxane, hexadecamethyl-	U105	304	2865.8365	1354.071	73	398	74.6667	88	0.99328	90.5812
180	Analyte 799	U106	305	2899.341	1361.0282	71	399	40.8889	46	0.97611	54.9109
181	Analyte 801	U107	306	2915.515	1364.3867	243	400	47.1111	55	0.90848	43.7324
182	Heptasiloxane, hexadecamethyl-	U108	308	2945.0145	1370.5123	221	402	84.8889	173	0.97055	58.1095
183	Heptadecane, 2,6,10,15-tetramethyl-	U109	309	2964.855	1374.6321	71	403	64.4444	57	0.92805	39.7517
184	Heptasiloxane, hexadecamethyl-	U110	310	2988.1251	1379.4642	73	404	67.1111	74	0.99176	83.6331
185	Analyte 817	U111	312	3066.6099	1397.6399	221	406	72	133	0.9586	46.4073
186	Heptadecane, 2,6,10,15-tetramethyl-	U112	313	3096.4772	1404.6842	57	407	34.2222	40	0.97019	47.8818
187	Heptasiloxane, hexadecamethyl-	U113	314	3103.1264	1406.2524	73	408	52.4444	61	0.9869	54.4761
188	Analyte 822	alpha-Tocopherol	316	3143.6793	1415.8168	237	410	50.6667	88	0.94127	56.4285
189	Analyte 823	U114	317	3153.7416	1418.19	119	411	93.7778	184	0.98659	377.9998
190	Cholesterol trimethylsilyl ether	Cholesterol trimethylsilyl ether	318	3174.9029	1423.1808	129	412	99.5556	223	0.99756	1538.1991
191	Analyte 846	U115	326	3582.2998	1561.5376	57	424	96.4444	194	0.99368	286.2417



**Supplemental 2.** Total plasma amino acid concentrations at timepoint 0, 20, 40, 60, 90 and 240 min at 0 and 12 months. No effect of groups were observed at 0 month ( $p=0.58$ ) or 12 months ( $p=0.44$ ). \* denotes significantly different from 0 min,  $p<0.0001$ . Analyzed using mixed effects analysis with Dunnett's multiple comparison test in GraphPad Prism v. 8.0.0.





# PHD-THESIS DECLARATION OF CO-AUTHORSHIP


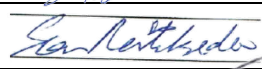
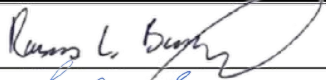

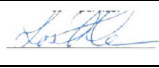
The declaration is for PhD students and must be completed for each conjointly authored article. Please note that if a manuscript or published paper has ten or less co-authors, all co-authors must sign the declaration of co-authorship. If it has more than ten co-authors, declarations of co-authorship from the corresponding author(s), the senior author and the principal supervisor (if relevant) are a minimum requirement.

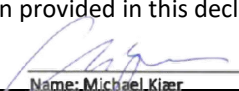
1. Declaration by	
Name of PhD student	Jacob Bülow
E-mail	jacob.bulow@live.dk
Name of principal supervisor	Michael Kjær
Title of the PhD thesis	The Ageing Skeletal Muscle: Effects of Training and Protein supplementation

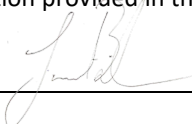
2. The declaration applies to the following article	
Title of article	The effect of long-term protein supplementation with or without different types of training on the skeletal muscle protein synthesis rate and metabolome in healthy elderly Danes: the CALM study.
Article status	
Published <input type="checkbox"/>	Accepted for publication <input type="checkbox"/>
Date:	Date:
Manuscript submitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript not submitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date:	
If the article is published or accepted for publication, please state the name of journal, year, volume, page and DOI (if you have the information).	

3. The PhD student's contribution to the article (please use the scale A-F as benchmark)	A, B, C, D, E, F
<u>Benchmark scale of the PhD-student's contribution to the article</u>	
A. Has essentially done all the work (> 90 %) B. Has done most of the work (60-90 %) C. Has contributed considerably (30-60 %) D. Has contributed (10-30 %) E. No or little contribution (<10 %) F. Not relevant	
1. Formulation/identification of the scientific problem	F
2. Development of the key methods	B
3. Planning of the experiments and methodology design and development	F
4. Conducting the experimental work/clinical studies/data collection/obtaining access to data	C
5. Conducting the analysis of data	A
6. Interpretation of the results	A
7. Writing of the first draft of the manuscript	A
8. Finalisation of the manuscript and submission	F
Provide a short description of the PhD student's specific contribution to the article. <sup>i</sup>	
The PhD student has been the primary responsible of the daily management of the CALM study and been involved in both the clinical studies and the collection of data. The PhD student has been involved in the collecting and preparation of half of the samples for FSR analysis. The PhD student has been involved in the development used for measuring the skeletal muscle metabolome. The PhD student has conducted all of the analysis regarding the FSR. The PhD student has been assisted by Bekzod Khakimov on the practical aspects of the analysis of the skeletal muscle metabolome. The PhD student has conducted the interpretation and writing of the manuscript	

4. Material from another thesis / dissertation <sup>ii</sup>	
Does the article contain work which has also formed part of another thesis, e.g. master's thesis, PhD thesis or doctoral dissertation (the PhD student's or another person's)?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please state name of the author and title of thesis / dissertation.	
If the article is part of another author's academic degree, please describe the PhD student's and the author's contributions to the article so that the individual contributions are clearly distinguishable from one another.	

5. Signatures of the co-authors <sup>iii</sup>				
	Date	Name	Title	Signature
1.	28-03-2020	Bekzod Khakimov	PhD	
2.	27-03-2020	Søren Reitelseder	PhD	
3.	28-3-2020	Rasmus Bechshøft	MD, PhD	
4.	26-03-2020	Søren Balling Engelsen	Professor	
5.	25.03.2020	Lars Holm	Professor	
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

6. Signature of the principal supervisor
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 30-3-2020 Principal supervisor: Michael Kjær  Name: Michael Kjær Principal supervisor

7. Signature of the PhD student
I solemnly declare that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Date: 28-3-2020 PhD student: Jacob Bülow 

Please learn more about responsible conduct of research on the [Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences' website](#).

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<sup>i</sup> This can be supplemented with an additional letter if needed.

<sup>ii</sup> Please see Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions (PhD Order) § 12 (4):

*“Any articles included in the thesis may be written in cooperation with others, provided that each of the co-authors submits a written declaration stating the PhD student's or the author's contribution to the work.”*

<sup>iii</sup> If more signatures are needed please add an extra sheet.