

1 **Continuous variable response, kinetic gating and connectivity that govern IS topology are**
2 **perturbed in hyperinsulinemia**

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11 **Abstract**

12 Understanding kinetic control of biological processes is as important as identifying
13 components that constitute pathways. Insulin-signaling (IS) is central for almost all
14 metazoans and its perturbations are associated with various diseases and aging. While
15 temporal phosphorylation changes and kinetic constants have provided some insights,
16 constant or variable parameters that establish and maintain signal topology are poorly
17 understood. Our iterative experimental and mathematical simulation-based approaches
18 reveal novel kinetic parameters that encode concentration and nutrient dependent
19 information. Further, we find that pulsatile fasting insulin rewires IS akin to memory and in
20 anticipation of a fed response. Importantly, selective kinetic gating of signals and maximum
21 connectivity, between metabolic and growth-factor arms under normo-insulinemic states,
22 maintains network topology. In addition to unraveling kinetic constraints that determine
23 cascade architecture, our findings will help in identifying novel therapeutic strategies that
24 conserve coupling between metabolic and growth-factor arms, which is lost in diseases and
25 conditions of hyperinsulinemia.

26 Introduction

27 Signaling cascades are essential for regulating cellular processes and decades of
28 work has unraveled molecular and biochemical mechanisms that constitute them. However,
29 kinetic parameters that define emergent properties of signaling networks and therefore
30 predict regulatory nodes are poorly understood. While independent experimental and
31 mathematical approaches have provided valuable insights (Behar et al., 2008; Faro et al.,
32 2017; Kubota et al., 2012; Shinar et al., 2007; Somvanshi et al., 2019; Vinod and Venkatesh,
33 2009; Wilson et al., 2017), studies that capture dynamics and complexities of signaling
34 architecture vis-à-vis physiological variations in input strengths are far fewer. Not only
35 would these reveal fundamental kinetic considerations that determine signal topology but
36 also inform about reactions/entities that could emerge as therapeutic targets.

37 Insulin signaling (IS), an evolutionarily conserved mechanism is essential for
38 cellular/organismal metabolism and growth (Boucher et al., 2014; Haeusler et al., 2018;
39 Saltiel and Kahn, 2001). Aberrant IS is associated both causally and consequentially with
40 growth abnormalities, inflammation, accelerated aging and diseases including metabolic
41 disorders and cancer (Arcidiacono et al., 2012; Guo, 2014; Hill and Milner, 1985;
42 Shimobayashi et al., 2018; Shoelson et al., 2006; Vigneri et al., 2020). Genetic perturbations
43 and omics-based studies have elucidated importance of key phosphorylation events in
44 response to insulin stimulation (Humphrey et al., 2015; Krüger et al., 2008; Schmelzle et al.,
45 2006; Yugi et al., 2014). Recent reports have provided crucial insights into physical protein
46 interactomes, temporal changes in phospho-proteome and kinetic constants, viz $T_{1/2}$ and
47 EC_{50} (Kubota et al., 2018; Vinayagam et al., 2016). However, kinetic parameters that govern
48 network properties of IS as a function of normo-insulinemic and hyper-insulinemic states

49 that could collectively determine physiological and pathophysiological outcomes is still
50 lacking.

51 Our current understanding largely stems from studies, which have used either supra-
52 physiological or static concentrations of insulin. It is important to note that circulating
53 insulin concentrations vary drastically from being low/pulsatile to high/biphasic in fasted
54 and fed states respectively (Krishnan et al., 2018; Lu et al., 2012; Pørksen, 2002; Vander
55 Haar et al., 2007). Moreover, hyper-insulinemia is associated with metabolic disorders such
56 as diabetes and obesity (Menge et al., 2011; Satin et al., 2015; Schmelzle et al., 2006). These
57 are key considerations since kinetic criteria that either encode fasted-to-fed transitions or
58 drive pathological manifestations of IS are unknown. Furthermore, IS can be broadly divided
59 into metabolic and growth factor arms (Mendoza et al., 2011; Petersen and Shulman, 2018).
60 In this regard, while biased signaling is implicated in diseases, if/how the flow of information
61 is stratified and maintained remains to be unraveled.

62 Mathematical approaches to model cellular signaling have gained traction in the
63 recent past to understand the dynamics and also to provide predictive parameters that
64 define topology of signaling network (Cedersund et al., 2008; Dalle Pezze et al., 2016; Di
65 Camillo et al., 2016; Sedaghat et al., 2002; Sonntag et al., 2012). Earlier such attempts to
66 determine kinetics of insulin signaling have largely employed “averaged” measures to define
67 the behavior of the system (Kubota et al., 2018). Importantly, given the fluctuations in
68 insulin levels and inherent noise in signaling, there are no reports that have computed
69 kinetic parameters, which capture emergent properties of IS. Specifically, while there have
70 been simulation based approaches to define dose-to-duration effects and kinetic insulation

71 on synthetic signaling networks (Behar et al., 2007), such principles have not been applied
72 to complex cascades such as insulin signaling.

73 In this regard, our current study addresses how connectedness among signaling
74 components as well as overall network topology is maintained under physiological
75 concentrations of insulin. We further highlight the concentration dependency of barriers in
76 the signaling cascade which maintain hierarchy. Additionally, our study puts emphasis on
77 the importance of dynamic range and pulsatility in signaling which generates memory as
78 well as couples the metabolic and growth factor arms.

79

80 **Results**

81 **Distinct kinetics of signaling in response to physiological and non-physiological** 82 **concentrations of insulin**

83 Although previous reports have attempted to elucidate dynamics of insulin signaling,
84 kinetic parameters that define signaling architecture in response to physiologically relevant
85 insulin concentrations remain to be unraveled. This is particularly important since circulating
86 concentrations of insulin vary between 0.1 nM and 1.0 nM during normal fed-fast cycles.
87 Moreover, insulin signaling achieves both nutrient uptake and its utilization via anabolic
88 processes, whose perturbations are associated with diseases and accelerated aging. Thus,
89 we wanted to assess the kinetics of signaling through nodal kinases in the cascade, which
90 govern both the metabolic and growth factor arms (Figure 1A). Given the importance of
91 liver in modulation of insulin action and integration of whole-body physiology, we employed
92 primary hepatocytes. Towards this, primary hepatocytes isolated from mice livers were

93 treated with different concentrations of insulin as described in Figure 1B. Our paradigm
94 ensured that the kinetic evaluation did not have any bearing from either residual signals or
95 nutrient inputs alone, as illustrated in Figure 1B and Figure 1- figure supplement 1, A-D.

96 As reported by others (Borisov et al., 2009; Kubota et al., 2012; Kubota et al., 2018;
97 Noguchi et al., 2013) insulin treatment led to a rapid activation of downstream signaling and
98 was consistent with a fed response (Figure 1C-E, Figure 1- figure supplement 1E-F and Figure
99 1- figure supplement 2A-B). Expectedly, overall signal intensities (i.e. area under the curve:
100 AUC), for all the phosphorylation events scored in our assay, were positively correlated with
101 insulin concentration (Figure 1- figure supplement 2C). We define true discovery rate as a
102 statistical measure to compare changes in phosphorylations across time and insulin
103 concentrations. This parameter further validates the statistical robustness of our
104 measurements (Figure 1- figure supplement 2D). It was striking to see that the kinetic
105 behavior of nodal kinases in the cascade, AKT and ERK, was markedly different (Figure 1D-E,
106 Figure 1- figure supplement 1E-F, 2A-B and 3C), which has not been highlighted in any of the
107 previous studies. Importantly, we observe non-linear and non-monotonic association of
108 signal intensities w.r.t insulin concentrations, across the cascade, both in terms of extent of
109 phosphorylation and temporal behavior.

110 For example, activation-inactivation kinetics was starkly different for AKT (T³⁰⁸ and
111 S⁴⁷³) and ERK. In addition to this, while the final intensity of AKT phosphorylation
112 approached baseline by 120 minutes, ERK phosphorylation showed a distinct second wave
113 of activation (Figure 1D-E, Figure 1- figure supplement 1E-F, 2A-B and 3C). Similarly, we
114 found that initial induction of phosphorylation of GSK3 β and S6K was phase delayed in
115 response to 0.1 nM and 1.0 nM insulin treatments and continued to remain elevated long

116 after phosphorylation on AKT started to extinguish (Figure 1- figure supplement 1E-F, 2A-B
117 and 3A-B).

118 Further, on comparing both fed and fasted insulin concentrations, it was apparent
119 that maximal phosphorylation and its sustenance varied drastically for nodal kinase AKT, as
120 can be seen in Figure 1D-E. These clearly indicated that insulin-dependent programming of
121 signaling kinetics was distinct and prompted us to investigate the kinetic parameters that
122 defined this behavior. We adopted an iterative experimental-cum-mathematical approach
123 to gain further insights.

124 **Mathematical modelling of signaling kinetics and predictive assessment of key** 125 **phosphorylation-dephosphorylation dynamics**

126 Based on our experimental results, we modeled the signaling cascade using
127 mathematical methods with an aim to extract kinetic parameters that define the network.
128 We considered the insulin signaling network as a set of coupled biochemical reactions and
129 used ordinary differential equations (ODE) to describe the system (Aoki et al., 2013; Arkun,
130 2016; Borisov et al., 2009; Dalle Pezze et al., 2016; Dalle Pezze et al., 2012; Di Camillo et al.,
131 2016; Ho et al., 2015; Huang et al., 2014; Kubota et al., 2012; Kubota et al., 2018; Noguchi et
132 al., 2013; Sedaghat et al., 2002; Zhao et al., 2017). Importantly, we set out to not only test
133 the robustness of our mathematical simulation using experimental results, but also predict
134 the behavior of components that were not measured experimentally.

135 As shown in Figure 1F-1G and Figure 1 – figure supplement 3D-F, the simulation results for
136 $\text{pAKT}^{\text{T308}}$, pAKT^{S73} , $\text{pGSK3}\beta^{\text{S9}}$, $\text{pS6K}^{\text{T389}}$ and $\text{pERK}^{\text{T202/Y204}}$ were consistent and nearly
137 overlapping with the experimental data, across insulin concentrations. Next, using

138 experimentally optimized parameters as input, we simulated the phosphorylation dynamics
139 of insulin receptor (IR), mTORC1 and mTORC2 (Figure 1 – figure supplement 3G).

140 While downstream components scaled with insulin concentration, the most upstream event
141 of insulin receptor phosphorylation was rapid and transient. Intriguingly, kinetics of mTORC1
142 and mTORC2 were starkly different (Figure 1 – figure supplement 3G). Moreover, even
143 though mTORC2 is not directly downstream to IR, we found their responsivity to be similar
144 qualitatively. To our best knowledge this is one of the first attempts that delineates
145 temporal variations in activation of mTOR complexes. Given that mTORC2 is the primary
146 kinase for S⁴⁷³ phosphorylation, the discordant dynamics of mTORC2 phosphorylation and
147 pAKT^{S473} predicts additional regulatory steps in controlling activation of AKT (Figure 1D and
148 Figure 1 – figure supplement 3G).

149 We also used stochastic simulations to provide an alternative approach to validate
150 our mathematical predictions, which qualitatively resembled the deterministic approach for
151 quantities as described in Figure 1H. In addition to predicting the response at a population
152 level, this allowed us to determine the fluctuations in the system and compare it with
153 signaling topology (see below).

154 In order to score the robustness of our simulation data, we computed the z-score for
155 all components assessed in the signaling cascade across concentrations (Figure 1I). It is
156 important to note that our iterative toggling between computational and experimental
157 determination of phosphorylation gave highly consistent results. Further, low values of false
158 discovery rate calculations suggested statistical similarity between simulation and
159 experimental data (Figure 1 – figure supplement 3H).

160 **AKT-dependent responsivity to insulin is determined by phosphorylation at S⁴⁷³**

161 Several reports have highlighted the necessity of dual phosphorylation of AKT at T³⁰⁸
162 and S⁴⁷³ for its activity (Bertuzzi et al., 2016; Manning and Toker, 2017; Sarbassov et al.,
163 2005). Despite this it is still unclear as to which of these provides the gain in terms of signal
164 strength and responds to dynamic changes in insulin concentrations. Thus, we computed
165 percentage gain in signal against physiological insulin concentrations of 0.1 and 1 nM for
166 pAKT^{T308} and pAKT^{S473} (Figure 2A). pAKT^{T308}, that is directly downstream to insulin receptor,
167 showed comparable activation with no change in peak intensity across fasted and fed insulin
168 concentrations. On the contrary, pAKT^{S473}, which is indirectly dependent on insulin via
169 mTORC2, displayed dose responsiveness to insulin concentrations and variable kinetics
170 (Figure 2A-B). This finding posits that while pAKT^{T308} may serve to prime the signaling,
171 pAKT^{S473} determines the extent of overall activation in response to fed insulin doses.

172 **Non-concordant peak and final amplitudes define dynamic range of nodal signaling events**

173 Threshold of activation and dynamic range are key determinants of responsivity in
174 signaling, especially when the inputs are dynamic, as in the case of IS. We wanted to
175 determine (a) the relationship between peak intensity and decay kinetics, and (b) dynamic
176 range and threshold activation, which collectively dictate the physiological output. Phase
177 diagram depicting peak amplitudes and decay time of phosphorylation events highlighted
178 non-concordance between these for AKT but not for pGSK3 β and pS6K (Figure 2B).

179 Most experimental approaches in the past have assayed for signaling in response to
180 very high inputs, which is rarely physiological. Such deterministic evaluation of signaling also
181 masks threshold kinetics, which is critical to encode biological response. Therefore, on
182 simulating the phosphorylation events across concentrations from 0.1 nM to 1.0 nM, we
183 found disparate dynamic ranges for activation (Figure 2C). While AKT phosphorylations

184 (both at S⁴⁷³ and T³⁰⁸) displayed large and nearly overlapping dynamic range, pS6K^{T389} and
185 pGSK3 β ^{S9} reach saturation at lower concentrations of insulin (Figure 2C-D). Taken together
186 with dose-dependency of pAKT^{S473} (Figure 2A), these results clearly suggest that while dual
187 phosphorylation of AKT is important for its activity, pAKT^{S473} is a crucial regulatory node
188 during fast to fed transitions.

189 Since our simulations predicted non-saturation dynamics for pAKT^{S473}, we wanted to
190 experimentally verify if this was indeed the case. We specifically chose 0.3 nM and 0.6 nM,
191 as the response is linear at 0.3 nM and begins to plateau at 0.6 nM insulin. As shown in
192 Figure 2 – figure supplement 1A-B, our experimental results were consistent with the
193 mathematical predictions and clearly indicated that pAKT^{S473} indeed displayed a large
194 dynamic range to insulin inputs.

195 Interestingly, the variability in dynamic range was independent of the final
196 amplitudes (Figure 2 – figure supplement 1C) as it returned to the same level at 120min, for
197 all the phosphorylations assessed. Such non-concordance between peak and final
198 amplitudes across signaling components raised the exciting possibility of existence of (a)
199 kinetic insulation of signals and (b) memory of fasted insulin inputs, which together would
200 define the fed insulin response.

201 **Diverse insulin inputs generate differential kinetic gates and signal noise**

202 In a multi-component and multi-step signaling cascade, such as insulin signaling, it is
203 important to determine parameters that (a) define the topology or the information flow
204 through the network and (b) those that maintain robustness of the network/topology.
205 Kinetic insulation has been proposed as one of the key determinants of non-uniform flow of
206 information. Although inferred by mathematical approaches (Behar et al., 2007; Behar et al.,

207 2008) on a synthetic cellular signaling cascade, it has not been applied to a dynamic
208 physiological system such as insulin signaling.

209 In this context, we used our experimental data and mathematical simulations
210 (methods) to deduce kinetic gates that define topology of insulin signaling. To reveal kinetic
211 gating/insulation we computed rate constants for phosphorylation events, which included
212 known feed-forward and feed-back regulatory inputs (Figure 3- figure supplementary 1A-B).
213 A simple-minded assumption was that very high or low ratios of K_{ON}/K_{OFF} would constitute
214 kinetic “gates” that determined differential flow of signals. A phase diagram of K_{ON}/K_{OFF}
215 ratios for key phosphorylation events is depicted in Figure 3A, wherein we applied $10^{+/-1}$ as
216 the threshold or barrier.

217 Interestingly, at insulin concentration of 1 nM, which mimics a physiologically fed state,
218 most reactions were not gated and were unlike the response to very low and very high
219 insulin concentrations. For example, AKT activation (reaction 5) was more sensitive at lower
220 insulin concentration i.e. there was a negative barrier while at 1 and 10 nM there was no
221 gating. On the contrary, activation of GSK3 β (reaction 10) was highly gated at both very low
222 and very high insulin concentrations. We also observed a peculiar pattern between nodal
223 priming events {viz. reactions 1 (Ins+IR \rightleftharpoons p1IRC), 6 (ppAKT+mTORC1 \rightleftharpoons ppAKT+pmTORC1),
224 10 (ppAKT+GSK3 β \rightleftharpoons ppAKT+pGSK3 β) and 11 (p1IRC+Raf \rightleftharpoons p1IRC+Raf*)} and their effector
225 or downstream phosphorylations {reactions 4 (p1IRC+pAKT^{S473} \rightleftharpoons p1IRC+ppAKT), 5
226 (pmTORC2+pAKT^{T308} \rightleftharpoons pmTORC2+ppAKT) and 12 (Raf*+ERK \rightleftharpoons Raf*+ppERK)} vis-à-vis
227 kinetic gates specifically at 0.1 nM. Together, it was striking to see that strong negative and
228 positive barriers were differentially associated with metabolic and growth factor arms of the
229 cascade in response to fasted, fed and supra-physiological insulin inputs.

230 Since phosphorylation of AKT is one of the central events that is used as surrogate
231 for IS, and given the differential dynamics of $\text{pAKT}^{\text{T308}}$ and $\text{pAKT}^{\text{S473}}$, we wanted to assess
232 their individual contributions to functional flexibility. We went ahead to compute noise in
233 their signaling (fluctuations on mathematically determined concentrations; see methods).
234 This is relevant as often noise in biology becomes important for mounting a robust response
235 in addition to generating functional heterogeneity and flexibility especially in a dynamic
236 system like IS (Bowsher et al., 2013; Silva-Rocha and de Lorenzo, 2010; Thattai and Van
237 Oudenaarden, 2001). As shown in Figure 3B, we observed that lower concentrations of
238 insulin generate more noise than higher concentration across time points assessed. While
239 being in general agreement with similar measurements of other biological parameters, this
240 also indicated that the differential phosphorylation dynamics of AKT^{T308} and AKT^{S473} were
241 independent of noise. In summary, the results described in this section clearly indicated that
242 differential insulin inputs mounted diverse kinetic responses, which together could possibly
243 exert a control over topology of the cascade.

244 **Robust IS topology is achieved at physiological insulin inputs**

245 Topology and robustness of a network is governed by the degree of connectedness
246 among the network components and is defined by how correlated their responses are.
247 Therefore, we set out to ask if supra-/physiological inputs of insulin had any bearing on
248 signaling topology.

249 Computing Pearson coefficient across time for different insulin concentrations gave
250 us a correlation matrix comparing each phosphorylation event with the other (Figure 3C).
251 We observed that maximal correlations are lost under supraphysiological concentration of
252 10 nM compared to physiological concentrations of insulin.

253 Next, we checked if high degree of correlation in response to fed and fasted insulin
254 inputs had any impact on the topology of the network. For a maximally connected network
255 of “n” nodes the maximum number of edges would be $n(n-1)/2$; while the minimum number
256 of edges would be $(n-1)$. Applying this to a five-component system (as in our case) should
257 give a maximum of 10 connections, although 34 undirected non-isomorphic graphs can be
258 realized. We found that when 5 nodes (vertices) corresponding to pAKT^{S473}, pAKT^{T308},
259 pS6K^{T389}, pGSK3 β ^{S9}, pERK^{T202/Y204} were used, maximum connectivity was obtained at
260 physiological concentrations of insulin (at 0.1 nM and 1.0 nM) (Figure 3D and Figure 3 -
261 figure supplement 1C). Distinctively the network broke at 10 nM insulin and the node
262 corresponding to pERK was disconnected, which indicated decoupling of the metabolic and
263 growth factor arms with possible pathophysiological implications.

264 To understand which of the nodes control topology of the network, we substituted
265 individual nodes of 0.1 and 1 nM insulin network with that of 10 nM while keeping the rest
266 unperturbed. Perturbation of every component changed network properties with a
267 reduction in both the number of nodes as well as edges (Figure 3E and Figure 3- figure
268 supplement 2 and 3A-D). Interestingly, while perturbation of pAKT^{S473} caused disappearance
269 of some edges, perturbation of pAKT^{T308} completely broke the network, bringing the
270 connections down from 6 to 2 (Figure 3E and F).

271 **Pulsatile fasting insulin rewires response to fed insulin inputs akin to memory**

272 Uniquely, insulin is released in a pulsatile manner during a fasted state (O'Meara et
273 al., 1993; O'Rahilly et al., 1988), which is followed by a biphasic secretion in response to fed
274 nutrient inputs. As mentioned earlier, while most studies on signaling dynamics have used
275 high concentrations of insulin, there are no reports that have investigated kinetics and

276 topology vis-à-vis pulsatile fasted insulin inputs. Moreover, if/how a fasted input shapes
277 signaling architecture in a fed state has not been addressed, thus far.

278 To this end, we pulsed hepatocytes with 0.1 nM insulin and then subsequently treated with
279 1 nM insulin as a proxy to physiological dynamics of fasted and fed insulin inputs, as
280 indicated (Figure 4A). Surprisingly, we found that there was neither sustenance nor an
281 enhanced response to consequent insulin pulses, for pAKT^{T308 and S473} (Figure 4B-C and Figure
282 4 – figure supplement A), which was unanticipated. This striking loss of pAKT signal by the
283 end of 4th pulse (at 0') was distinct from a continuous step treatment as described earlier
284 (Figure 1D-E) and indicated a memory of signaling. This behavior was not seen for pERK
285 (Figure 4D and Figure 4 – figure supplement B). Interestingly, pAKT levels reached a new
286 baseline following pulsatile insulin stimulation (Figure 4B-C). This new reset point of pAKT
287 also changed the kinetics following 1 nM insulin treatment, which was distinct from pERK,
288 pGSK3 β and pS6K phosphorylation (Figure 4D and Figure 4- figure supplement 1B-F). These
289 results clearly indicated that fasted insulin pulses created a memory to possibly enhance the
290 response to fed insulin inputs. In support of this hypothesis, network analyses of this
291 pulsatile adapted fed IS showed more connectedness (as compared to 1 nM alone) (Figure
292 4E and Figure 4 – figure supplement 1G). Additionally, we also looked at the transcription of
293 genes downstream of a pulsatile adapted system. In line with the signaling data, the
294 transcription of target genes was also more robust post adaptation (Figure 4F).

295 **Repeated stimulation by fed insulin abrogates the synergy between the metabolic and** 296 **mitogenic arms of signaling**

297 Although continuous exposure to higher levels of circulating insulin is known to
298 cause resistance and thus metabolic diseases, the kinetic basis for such a signalling has not

299 been investigated. In this context, we repeat stimulated hepatocytes with 1 nM insulin, as
300 indicated in Figure 5A. This led to an anomalous response vis-à-vis both metabolic (pAKT)
301 and mitogenic (pERK) arms of signalling. While pAKT levels decreased drastically, amplitude
302 of pERK peaks increased following repeated stimulation (RS1 and 2) of fed insulin inputs
303 (Figure 5B-D and Figure 5- figure supplement 1A). Network analysis following this paradigm
304 showed complete loss of connections among signalling components (Figure 5E and Figure 5-
305 figure supplement 1D). This was also apparent with the dynamics of pGSK3b and pS6K,
306 which remain upregulated despite a downregulation in AKT signalling (Figure 5- figure
307 supplement 1A-C). Interestingly, repeated stimulation of fed insulin also led to a loss in
308 transcriptional robustness (Figure 5F).

309

310 **Discussion**

311 Coupling nutrient inputs to cellular metabolism, survival and growth is intrinsically
312 dependent upon Insulin signalling (IS). Hypo- and hyper- activation of IS leads to various
313 patho-physiologies including diabetes, accelerated aging and cancer, which are attributed to
314 under- or over-phosphorylation of certain IS components (Arcidiacono et al., 2012; Guo,
315 2014; Hill and Milner, 1985; Shimobayashi et al., 2018; Shoelson et al., 2006; Vigneri et al.,
316 2020). Despite this our ability to tweak the cascade to restore balance between metabolic
317 and mitogenic arms has been limited by paucity of information vis-à-vis parameters that
318 govern network topology. In this study, using mathematical and experimental approaches,
319 we have provided fundamental insights into kinetic parameters that dictate emergent
320 properties of IS and its architecture, under various physiological contexts.

321 Given the contribution of the liver in maintaining whole organismal physiology and
322 insulin action, including development of metabolic diseases, we have specifically utilized
323 primary hepatocytes for deciphering kinetic constants or determinants that exert a control
324 over IS. It should be noted that while it is nearly impossible to recreate paradigms that
325 mirror in-vivo conditions, we have employed insulin treatment regimens that mimic normo-
326 and hyper-insulinemic states. Moreover, in-vivo complexity of insulin-dependent endocrine
327 and paracrine networks would severely confound attempts to unveil kinetic determinants.
328 Our study has revealed novel insights into kinetic control of insulin signalling and also
329 provides a model to capture such parameters in other cells or tissue types, including by
330 coupling other endocrine/paracrine inputs.

331 While genetic, biochemical and pharmacological perturbations have described inter-
332 dependence of IS phosphorylation events, recent phospho-proteomic analyses have
333 unravelled their temporal behaviour. However, the extent to which phosphorylation
334 dynamics encode information as a function of insulin concentration and/or time is still
335 unclear. For example, even though hypo-/hyper-phosphorylations at T³⁰⁸ and S⁴⁷³ are
336 considered as proxy markers for AKT activity and signalling downstream to insulin, whether
337 or not their kinetic differentials contribute to insulin responsiveness remains unknown.
338 Here, we surprisingly found that while the gain and kinetics of pT³⁰⁸ (IR/PDK1 dependent)
339 was independent of input strength, phosphorylation of S⁴⁷³ (downstream to mTORC2)
340 correlated with change in ligand concentration and displayed highest gain in signal in
341 response to a fed insulin input.

342 Further, in contrast to net gain in specific phosphorylation, dynamic range, which is
343 undetermined for many signalling networks including IS, has been proposed to be a better

344 predictor of cellular response. In this regard, our simulation and experimental data together
345 revealed a large dynamic range for pAKT^{T308} and pAKT^{S473}, which was nearly overlapping.
346 This suggests that both these phosphorylations are equally responsive to relative change in
347 insulin inputs vis-à-vis physiological fed-fast cycles wherein circulating concentrations vary
348 between 0.1nM and 1.0 nM. Surprisingly, we also found that pT³⁰⁸ is a key determinant of
349 network topology, which also highlights distinct properties of AKT phosphorylations in
350 contributing to flow of information. Taken together these also raise the possibility of pT³⁰⁸
351 and pS⁴⁷³ acting as low pass and high pass filters with former being a permissive cue, which
352 was hitherto unknown.

353 Noise in biology is generally regarded to be beneficial for regulating functional
354 flexibility and has been well studied in the context of gene transcription. Given limited
355 knowledge in this regard for signalling cascades (especially for IS), we checked for input
356 versus variance in signal response for the nodal kinase AKT. It was interesting to note that
357 noise in signaling was apparent at physiological concentrations of insulin (0.1-1 nM) while it
358 was substantially diminished in hyper-insulinemic regimes. This hinted towards reduced
359 flexibility in signaling under hyper-insulinemic states.

360 Signal stratification is crucial for sustenance of downstream information even upon
361 input extinction. We discovered that signals are stratified with differential gating, in an
362 insulin concentration dependent manner, with kinetic barriers/gates emerging at both low
363 and hyper-insulinemic concentrations. These bring to the fore the need to address
364 mechanisms that contribute to these kinetic barriers by affecting K_{ON}/K_{OFF} ratios of
365 phosphorylation events, in the future. We propose such components would be very

366 attractive candidates for therapeutic interventions to regulate insulin signalling and
367 maintain network properties.

368 In addition to differential kinetic gating, connectedness between signalling
369 components determines topology of the network. Despite several studies on signalling
370 cascades across biological systems, little is known about if/how these parameters contribute
371 to topology, except in cases where simulations have been carried out for artificial signalling
372 systems. Our iterative experimental-simulation approach has revealed that maximum
373 connectivity between the signalling nodes, which is often used as a measure of network
374 robustness, is achieved at physiological concentrations of insulin. Conversely, the network
375 breaks at hyper-insulinemic states. Importantly, we also underscore the significance of each
376 of the phosphorylations in maintaining the robustness of the topology under normo-
377 insulinemic states.

378 Others and we have found that metabolic cues under fasting conditions elicit
379 anticipatory molecular mechanisms to mount an efficient fed response (Chattopadhyay et
380 al., 2020; Maniyadath et al., 2019; Shaw et al., 2020). Given that fasting insulin (0.1nM) is
381 pulsatile with a frequency of 10-15min, our findings have shown that this rewires fed IS
382 dynamics. Strikingly, we found that coupling low pulsatile inputs with 1.0nM insulin
383 stimulation, as in the case of fasted to fed transition, enhanced net gain in phosphorylation
384 of some (pAKT^{T308 and S473} and pGSK3 β ^{S9}) but not all components, akin to memory or
385 anticipation. Conversely, insulin resistance is associated with repeated insulin/nutrient
386 inputs and hyperinsulinemia. Our study also describes kinetic changes in IS dynamics, which
387 can be either causal or consequential to reduced sensitivity under these conditions. Notably,
388 we found that repeated stimulation with fed concentrations of insulin damped the AKT

389 response while upregulating pERK indicating a disbalance between metabolic and mitogenic
390 arms. This is important because overactivation of either metabolic and/or the mitogenic
391 arm has been described in literature as a driver of metabolic diseases and cancer (Altomare
392 and Testa, 2005; Burotto et al., 2014; De Luca et al., 2012; Shaw and Cantley, 2006). Here,
393 we would like to specifically highlight that the signaling network is most robust in response
394 to fed insulin inputs, which is pulse primed by fasting insulin. Our findings posit that
395 repeated and/or high insulin inputs, including in a clinical setting could lead to perturbed
396 networks with possible pathological manifestations.

397 In conclusion, our results unravel hitherto unknown kinetic constraints that exert
398 control over components of insulin signaling. Notably, we illustrate that these kinetic
399 parameters are intrinsically linked to insulin concentrations as in normo- and hyper-
400 insulinemic states. Given that a discordant signal flow between metabolic and growth-factor
401 arms is associated with diseases, our findings provide fundamental insights into factors that
402 govern this coupling. Our study also raises the possibility of impaired biological outputs in
403 the context of therapeutic interventions using insulin, which have been largely guided by
404 glycemic control. We highlight the importance of discovering novel regulatory
405 parameters/nodes to complete our understanding of signaling cascades under both normal
406 and pathological conditions.

407

408 **Materials and Methods**

409 **Animals**

410 2.5-3 month old C57BL/6NCr mice were used for hepatocyte isolation. The animals were
411 housed under standard animal house conditions with a 12h day and night cycle. All

412 procedures were done in accordance with the institute animal ethics committee (IAEC)
413 guidelines.

414 **Primary Hepatocyte Isolation and culture**

415 Male mice were sedated by giving intraperitoneal Thiopentone (Neon Laboratories Ltd.,
416 Mumbai, India) injection. Liver perfusion was done via inferior vena cava using 30mL Hank's
417 Balanced Salt Solution, HBSS (5.33 mM Potassium chloride, 0.44 mM KH_2PO_4 , 4.16 mM
418 NaHCO_3 , 137.93 mM NaCl, 0.338 mM Na_2HPO_4 , pH 7.4) containing 5.5 mM Glucose (Sigma-
419 Aldrich G8769), 25mM HEPES pH 7.2 (USB 16926) and 100mM EGTA (Sigma-Aldrich E3889).
420 Hepatic portal vein was cut at one end in order to drain out the blood. Perfused liver was
421 digested using collagenase (Sigma-Aldrich C5138) dissolved in 50mL Digestion medium
422 {DMEM-LG (Sigma-Aldrich D5523), 15mM HEPES pH 7.2 (USB 16926) and Anti-Anti (Sigma-
423 Aldrich A5955)}. Liver was cut into pieces, minced and incubated in Digestion Medium for
424 5min. The cells were strained using a 70 μm cell strainer and centrifuged at 50G for 5min.
425 Cell pellet was washed twice with DMEM-HG (Sigma-Aldrich D7777) and re-suspended in
426 DMEM-HG containing 10% FBS (Gibco 16000044) for plating. Trypan blue staining was done
427 to check cell viability. Cells were plated at a density of 7.5×10^5 cells/60mm plate in collagen
428 (Sigma-Aldrich C3867) coated plates (5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$). Cells were grown at 37°C and 5% CO_2 .
429 Medium was changed 6h post plating to ensure proper cell adherence.

430 **Insulin Treatments**

431 24h post plating, the hepatocyte medium was changed to 5% FBS containing DMEM-HG for
432 11h. Medium was changed to Earle's Balanced Salt Solution, EBSS (Sigma-Aldrich E2888) for
433 6h to get a baseline (0m) signal. For one step insulin stimulation experiments, 0.1-100nM
434 Insulin (Sigma-Aldrich I0516) in DMEM-HG was added to the hepatocytes and cells were

435 collected at time points as described in the results. For pulsatile insulin treatments and
436 repeated insulin stimulation, paradigm modifications are mentioned in Figure 4A and 5A.
437 Every media change was preceded with a PBS wash to remove residual contamination.

438 **Protein Lysate Preparation**

439 Hepatocytes were lysed in RIPA lysis buffer (50mM Tris pH 8.0, 150mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS,
440 0.5% Sodium deoxycholate, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 1 mM PMSF, Protease inhibitor
441 cocktail and phosphatase inhibitor- Sigma-Roche 4906845001) for 30min. Cell debris were
442 pelleted by centrifuging at 12,000rpm at 4°C for 15min. BCA assay kit (Sigma-Aldrich 9643)
443 was used for protein estimation. Protein samples were boiled in a loading buffer (8% SDS,
444 40% glycerol, 240mM Tris pH 6.8, 0.2g bromophenol blue and 3.05g DTT) and stored at -
445 20°C.

446 **Western Blotting**

447 50µg of protein was loaded onto SDS gel and run at 90V for stacking and 120V for resolving.
448 Gels were transferred to ethanol activated PVDF membranes (Merck IPVH00010-IN) at 90V
449 for 2h. Protein blotted membranes were blocked in 5% skimmed milk. Blots were cut
450 according to protein molecular weight as indicated by pre-stained ladder (Abcam ab116028)
451 and incubated overnight with the respective primary antibodies: AKT (CST 9272), pAKT^{S473}
452 (CST 4060), pAKT^{T308} (CST 13038), ERK1/2 (CST 4695), pERK1/2^{T202/Y204} (CST 4376), GSK3β
453 (CST 12456), pGSK3β^{S9} (CST 5558), pS6K^{T389} (CST 9234) and S6K (CST 2708). Blots were
454 incubated with appropriate secondary antibodies (Anti-Rabbit IgG- Peroxidase Sigma-Aldrich
455 A0545 and Anti-Mouse IgG- Peroxidase Sigma-Aldrich A9044) and imaged using GE
456 Amersham Imager 600.

457 **RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR**

458 RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and real time PCR was performed as per manufacturer's
459 instructions. Briefly, total RNA was extracted from hepatocytes using TRIzol reagent
460 (Ambion-Invitrogen 15596-018) and 1ug of RNA was used to make cDNA using SuperScript
461 IV RT Kit (Invitrogen 18090010). Quantitative PCR was done using KAPA SYBR® FAST
462 Universal 2X qPCR Master Mix (KAPA Biosystems KK4601) and LightCycler 96 instrument
463 (Roche). The list of primers used are depicted in the table below:

Gene Name	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
FOS	GTCAACACACAGGACTTTTG	AGATAGCTGCTCTACTTTCA
EGR1	CACTGACATTTTTCTGAGC	TAGTGGATAGTGGAGTGAGC
c-JUN	TACACGACTACAACTCCTG	GGGGTAAAAGTACTGTCCC
SRF	GAGCCAGATCTCACCTACCAG	CTGACACTAGCAGACACTG
ChREBP	CATCTCCAGCCTCGTCTTC	CTTGGTCTTAGGGTCTTCAGG
LPK	CTTGCTCTACCGTGAGCCTC	ACCACAATCACCAGATCACC
GLUT2	GTCACTATGCTCTGGTCTCTG	CAAGAGGGCTCCAGTCAATG
PEPCK	GTTCCAGGGTGCATGAAAG	AGGGCGAGTCTGTCAGTTCAA
PPARG	AGGGCGATCTTGACAGGAAA	TCTCCATCATTAAAGGAATTCATG
SCD1	CTGACCTGAAAGCCGAGAAG	AGAAGGTGCTAACGAACAGG
ACC	AAGGCTATGTGAAGGATGTGG	CTGTCTGAAGAGGTTAGGGAAG
CPT1A	ACTCCGCTCGCTCATTCCG	CACACCACCACCACGATAA
GCK	CAACTGGACCAAGGGCTTCAA	TGTGGCCACCGTGCATTC
GLUT1	CCCCCAGAAGGTTATTGAG	CCAACAGGTTTCATCAGC

LDHA	ACAGTTGTTGGGGTTGGTGC	CGCAGTTACACAGTAGTCTTTG
Aldolase A	GCTATCAACAAGTGCCCCCT	GCTGCCTTCAGGTTCTCCTT
DGAT2	CTGTGCTCTACTTCACCTGGCT	CTGGATGGGAAAGTAGTCTCGG
ACLY	AGGAAGTGCCACCTCCAACAGT	CGCTCATCACAGATGCTGGTCA
LXRa	CTGAAGCGGCAAGAAGAGGA	CTGTGGCAGGACTTGAGGAG
18S	TTTCGAGGCCCTGTAATTGG	CCCAAGATCCAACACTACGAGC

464

465 **Data Processing**

466 Intensity measurements from the blots were done using Fiji-ImageJ software with
467 corresponding background correction.

468 **Network Analysis**

469 Network construction, visualization and analysis was performed using Cytoscape (version
470 3.7.2) using Pearson correlation data obtained from GraphPad Prism (version 8).

471 **Quantitation and Statistical Analysis**

472 Data are expressed as means \pm standard error of means (SEM). Statistical analyses were
473 performed using Microsoft Excel (2013) and GraphPad Prism (version 8). Statistical
474 significance was determined by the Student's t test. A value of $p \leq 0.05$ was considered
475 statistically significant. * $p \leq 0.05$; ** $p \leq 0.01$; *** $p \leq 0.001$.

476 **Calculation of z-score and true/false discovery rate (TDR/FDR)**

477 Z-score was calculated by computing the difference between experimental and simulation
478 for each time point. Like in a paired t-test or z-test, we computed the z-value by calculating
479 the mean of the differences and dividing by the standard deviation. If $z < 1.96$, the null

480 hypothesis — that the experimental and simulation mean values are statistically the same
481 was accepted. For computing FDR, difference between experimental and simulation data
482 was divided by standard errors for different insulin concentrations and z-values were
483 calculated. $z > 1.96$ it is was rejected and counted as false discovery and further averaged to
484 obtain the false discovery rate. For two different insulin concentrations, we define a true
485 discovery rate, which is calculated by taking difference between mean values and dividing by root of
486 sum of square of standard errors. If $z > 1.96$, the null hypothesis is rejected and counted as true
487 discovery and averaged to obtain the true discovery rate.

488 **Estimation of Parameters for Deterministic Simulations**

489 The proposed pathway of insulin signaling is modelled in terms of ordinary differential
490 equations by using mass action kinetics (Alon, 2019; Klipp et al., 2016) . The set of equations
491 that is used to define the insulin signaling network, which is considered both single (denoted
492 by 'p') and double phosphorylation (denoted by 'pp') events and feedback inhibitions, are
493 depicted in Figure S3. We have solved these sets of ordinary differential equations using
494 MatLab version R2015b, Math Works. The parameters of the model (rate constants of
495 reactions and initial amounts of proteins) were decided such that the model fitted with the
496 experimental data. The constrained nonlinear optimization technique was implemented
497 using the 'fmincon' function in MatLab to provide parameters that fit best with the available
498 data. That is, we optimized (minimized) the function:

$$499 \quad S = \sum_{i,j} [E(i,j) - S(i,j)]^2$$

500 where, $E(i, j)$ and $S(i, j)$ are the experimental and simulation data, respectively, for the i^{th}
501 protein component at j^{th} time point. The function essentially measures the deviation of the
502 experimental data, and is defined as the sum of the squares of the differences between

503 experimental measurements and simulated trajectories over all the measured proteins. We
504 took 100 independent runs of the program to estimate these parameters. We choose the
505 parameters that correspond to a minimum objective function value resulting in a good fit.
506 All parameters were obtained for different insulin concentrations.

507 **Parameters used in Stochastic Simulations**

508 This reaction network is simulated by using the kinetic Monte Carlo based Doob-Gillespie
509 Algorithm (Doob, 1942, 1945; Gillespie, 1976, 1977). The rate constants of respective
510 reactions are taken from the deterministic model proposed earlier. These rate constants are
511 converted to stochastic framework by using appropriate conversion factors. For
512 unimolecular reactions, the deterministic rate constants (k_j) and stochastic rate constants
513 (c_j) are numerically equal. For bimolecular reactions, when two reactants correspond to
514 different proteins, the stochastic rate constants (c_j) are equal to k_j/V , where V is the system
515 volume (Gillespie, 1976, 1977). The concentration of proteins from a deterministic regime
516 are converted to the number of proteins per cell by multiplying the concentrations by $N_a \times$
517 V , where N_a is the Avogadro's number and $V = 3 \times 10^{-12}$ liters is the estimated volume of a
518 cell. During the simulation, in any particular iteration from a given reaction network a single
519 bio-chemical reaction and the subsequent time step is chosen randomly. In this way, a single
520 stochastic trajectory is generated by running the simulation for a desired time. Further,
521 many more realizations of this trajectory are generated to compute different moments (e.g.
522 mean, standard deviation) of the probability distributions.

523 Estimation of Insulin Molecules: To estimate the number of insulin molecules from
524 concentration, we assumed a spherical shell (around the cell membrane) of 20nm size and
525 computed the corresponding volume. Assuming a spherical cell of volume $V = 3 \times 10^{-12}$ litres

526 the volume of this shell is $\Delta V = 0.0199 \times 10^{-12}$ litres. Hence the number of insulin molecules
527 are estimated by calculating $N_a \times \Delta V$, where N_a is the Avogadro's number.

528 (i) For 0.1 nM Insulin: the number of insulin molecules are found to be

529 1.1985 molecules per spherical shell (1 insulin per spherical shell)

530 (ii) For 1 nM Insulin: the number of insulin molecules are found to be

531 11.9857 molecules per spherical shell (12 insulin molecules per spherical shell)

532 (iii) For 10 nM Insulin: the number of insulin molecules are found to be

533 119.8577 molecules per spherical shell (120 insulin molecules per spherical shell)

534 **Calculation of decay rate**

535 Decay times are calculated for dynamic protein concentrations measured and simulated in
536 our studies by fitting an exponential function (e^{-kt}) from the time point at which peak
537 intensity is maximum to the final time point at which the intensity falls down.

538 **Calculation of parameters in kinetic gating**

539 The kinetic gating in the signaling cascade is studied by taking the ratio of phosphorylation
540 rate constant (K_{ON}) and the de-phosphorylation rate constant (K_{OFF}) of each biochemical
541 reaction. In case of the degradation reactions, their rate constants are incorporated by
542 averaging with the rate constants of appropriate reactions.

543

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554 **Competing interests**

555 The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

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719 Zhao, G., Wirth, D., Schmitz, I., and Meyer-Hermann, M. (2017). A mathematical model of
720 the impact of insulin secretion dynamics on selective hepatic insulin resistance. *Nature*
721 *communications* *8*, 1-10.

722

723 **Figure Legends**

724 **Figure 1: Iterative experimental-mathematical approach reveals distinct insulin signaling**

725 **kinetics**

726 (A) Schematic of the insulin/IGF signaling pathway. Components involved in metabolic and
727 mitogenic arms are shown in blue and green, respectively. Phosphorylations measured in
728 this study are highlighted in red. (B) Experimental paradigm and workflow for assaying
729 signaling in response to one step stimulation. (C) Representative blots for levels of
730 pAKT^{T308} and pAKT^{S473} following insulin stimulation, as indicated. Total AKT and actin were
731 used for normalization. See more in Figure 1- figure supplement 1E-F and 2A-B. (D) and
732 (E) Quantitation for temporal changes in pAKT^{S473} (D) and pAKT^{T308} (E) from experimental
733 data shown in C. Fold changes for each concentration are with respect to their own 0m
734 time point. Data presented is mean \pm s.e.m. (N=4, n=4). (F) and (G) Quantitation for
735 temporal changes in pAKT^{S473} (F) and pAKT^{T308} (G) from mathematical simulations using
736 differential equations. (H) Kinetic behavior of phosphorylated pAKT^{T308} and
737 pAKT^{S473} molecules at 1 nM insulin from stochastic simulations. The band represents
738 standard deviation. (I) z-score giving degree of concordance between simulated and
739 experimental data.

740 **Figure 2: Continuous variable parameters and high/low pass filters determine**
741 **concentration dependent insulin response**

742 (A) Extent of change in phosphorylation at pAKT^{T308} and pAKT^{S473} across time points
743 between 0.1 and 1 nM insulin. (B) Phase diagram depicting relationship between
744 peak intensity and decay time from simulated data. (C) Estimated peak amplitude for

745 signaling components as a function of varying insulin concentrations depicts dynamic range.

746 (D) Dynamic range for signaling components computed from (C), as labeled.

747 **Figure 3: Kinetic gates and maximum connectedness is associated with robust topology**

748 **under normo-insulinemic states**

749 (A) K_{ON}/K_{OFF} ratios for phosphorylations across the signaling cascade. Insulin concentrations

750 of 0.1-10 nM are depicted separately. Numbers on the x-axis represent phosphorylation

751 events as detailed in Figure 3 – figure supplement 1A. Yellow band refers to the kinetic

752 barrier applied between 0.1-10, representing a 10-fold change. (B) Noise in signal for

753 phosphorylation at pAKT^{T308} and pAKT^{S473} in response to different insulin concentrations, as

754 indicated. (C) Correlation matrix depicts degree of relatedness between phosphorylation

755 events and their evolution with increasing insulin concentration. (D) Network analysis

756 depicting degree of connectedness across insulin concentrations, as indicated. Dashed line

757 represents negative correlation. Significance in correlation: White ($p < 0.05$) < Blue ($p < 0.005$)

758 < Green ($p < 0.0005$) < Yellow ($p < 0.00001$) as observed by Student's t-test. (E) Number of

759 edges and nodes in a 1 nM network substituted with 10 nM values, as indicated. (F)

760 Network maps of 1 nM insulin perturbed with 10 nM pAKT^{T308} (a) and pAKT^{S473} (b)

761 **Figure 4: Pulsatile fasting insulin rewires response to fed insulin inputs akin to memory**

762 (A) Experimental paradigm for mimicking fasted and fed insulin stimulation. P1-P4 indicate

763 0.1 nM insulin pulses. (B-D) Quantitation for temporal changes in phosphorylations at

764 pAKT^{T308} (B), pAKT^{S473} (C) and pERK^{T202/Y204} (D) following insulin treatment as in A. Fold

765 changes for each concentration are with respect to their own 0m time point. Data

766 presented is mean \pm s.e.m. (N=4). (E) Network analysis showing connectivity among

767 signaling components after treatment with 1 nM insulin following fasted insulin inputs, as in

768 A. Dashed line represents negative correlation. Significance in correlation: White ($p < 0.05$)

769 <Blue ($p < 0.005$) <Green ($p < 0.0005$) <Yellow ($p < 0.00001$) as observed by Student's t-test. (F)
770 Heat maps for changes in gene expression downstream to insulin signaling in response to
771 constant 0.1 nM and 1 nM, and 1 nM insulin following fasted insulin inputs (1 nM adapted,
772 as in A) (N=2, n=3)

773 **Figure 5: Repeated stimulation by fed insulin abrogates the synergy between the**
774 **metabolic and mitogenic arms of signaling**

775 (A) Experimental paradigm for repeated stimulation with 1nM insulin. (B-D) Quantitation for
776 temporal changes in phosphorylations at pAKT^{T308} (B), pAKT^{S473} (C) and pERK^{T202/Y204} (D)
777 following repeated insulin stimulation. Fold changes for each concentration are with
778 respective to their own 0m time point. Data presented is mean \pm s.e.m. (N=4). (E) Network
779 analysis showing connectivity among signaling components after repeated insulin
780 stimulation, as in A. Dashed line represents negative correlation. Significance in correlation:
781 White ($p < 0.05$) <Blue ($p < 0.005$) <Green ($p < 0.0005$) <Yellow ($p < 0.00001$) as observed by
782 Student's t-test. (F) Heat maps for changes in gene expression downstream to insulin
783 signaling in response to repeated insulin stimulation (N=2, n=3)

784 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 1:**

785 (A-B) Normalization controls to correct for baseline signal. Representative samples were
786 loaded to ensure that zero-minute time points across experiments were similar. (B) was
787 over-exposed to get signal at zero minute. (C) Control for experimental paradigm to score
788 for insulin inputs. Treatment with only high/low glucose and amino acid containing culture
789 medium does not activate AKT signaling and indicates that the changes in phosphorylation
790 are insulin dependent. (D) Quantitation for temporal changes in phosphorylations for C. (E
791 and F) Representative blots for levels of pERK^{T202/Y204}, pS6K^{T389} and pGSK3 β ^{S9} following

792 insulin stimulation of 0.1 and 1 nM, as indicated. Respective total proteins and actin were
793 used for normalization

794 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 2**

795 (A and B) Representative blots for levels of pERK^{T202/Y204}, pS6K^{T389} and pGSK3β^{S9} following
796 insulin stimulation of 10 and 100 nM, as indicated. Respective total proteins and actin were
797 used for normalization. (C) Comparison of area under the curve (AUC) with increasing insulin
798 concentration. Asterisk depicts p values (*p<0.05, **p<0.005 and ***p<0.0005) as observed
799 by Student's t-test. (D) True discovery rates computed across insulin concentrations, see
800 methods.

801 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3**

802 (A-C) Quantitation for temporal changes in pGSK3β^{S9}(A), pS6K^{T389} (B) and pERK^{T202/Y204} (C)
803 from experimental data shown in Figure 1 – figure supplement 1E-F and 2A-B. Fold changes
804 for each concentration are with respect to their own 0m time point. Data presented is
805 mean ± s.e.m. (N=4, n=4). (D-F) Quantitation for temporal changes in pGSK3β^{S9} (D),
806 pS6K^{T389} (E) and pERK^{T202/Y204} (F) from mathematical simulations using differential equations.
807 (G) Simulated temporal changes in pIR, pmTORC1 and pmTORC2 following insulin
808 stimulation, as indicated. (H) False discovery rates giving degree of concordance between
809 simulated and experimental data, see methods

810 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1**

811 (A) Representative blots for level of pAKT^{S473} kinetics under insulin concentrations of 0.3 and
812 0.6 nM. Total AKT and actin were used for normalization. (B) Concordance between
813 experimental and simulated data for extent of phosphorylation at pAKT^{S473} following
814 stimulation by intermediate insulin concentrations. (C) Estimated final amplitude for
815 signaling components at 120m as a function of varying insulin concentrations

816 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 1**

817 (A) Reactions corresponding to numbers on y-axis in Figure 3A. (B) Ordinary differential
818 equations corresponding to reactions mentioned in A. (C) Pearson r and corresponding p
819 values used for computing networks in Figure 3D. and Figure 3- figure supplement 2

820 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 2**

821 Pearson r and corresponding p values used for computing networks in Figure 3F and Figure
822 3- figure supplement 3

823 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 3**

824 (A) Network maps of 1 nM insulin perturbed with 10 nM pAKT^{T308 and S473} (a), pERK^{T202/Y204} (b),
825 pGSK3b^{S9} (c) and pS6K^{T389} (d). (B) Number of edges and nodes in a 0.1 nM network
826 substituted with 10 nM values, as indicated. (C) Network maps of 0.1 nM insulin perturbed
827 with 10 nM pAKT^{T308} (a) and pAKT^{S473} (b). (D) Network maps of 0.1 nM insulin perturbed
828 with 10 nM pAKT^{T308 and S473} (a), pERK^{T202/Y204} (b), pGSK3b^{S9} (c) and pS6K^{T389} (d).

829 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 1**

830 (A-D) Representative blots for levels of pAKT^{T308} (A), pAKT^{S473} (A), pERK^{T202/Y204} (B),
831 pS6K^{T389} (C) and pGSK3β^{S9} (D) following pulsatile insulin stimulation, as indicated in Figure
832 4A. Respective total proteins and actin were used for normalization kinetics. (E and F)
833 Quantitation for temporal changes in phosphorylations at pGSK3β^{S9} (E) and pS6K^{T389} (F)
834 following insulin pulses. Fold changes for each concentration are with respect to their
835 own 0m time point. Data presented is mean ± s.e.m. (N=4)

836 **Figure 5 – figure supplement 1**

837 (A-D) Representative blots for levels of pAKT^{T308} (A), pAKT^{S473} (A), pERK^{T202/Y204} (B),
838 pS6K^{T389} (C) and pGSK3β^{S9} (D) following repeated insulin stimulation, as indicated in Figure
839 5A. Respective total proteins and actin were used for normalization kinetics. (E and F)

840 Quantitation for temporal changes in phosphorylations at pGSK3 β ^{S9} (E) and pS6K^{T389} (F)
841 following repeated insulin stimulation. Fold changes for each concentration are with
842 respective to their own 0m time point. Data presented is mean \pm s.e.m. (N=4).

843 **Source Data**

844 **Figure 1 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for pAKT^{S473} and pAKT^{T308}

845 **Figure 1 – source data 2:** Values for pAKT^{S473} and pAKT^{T308} from deterministic simulations
846 used for plotting Figure 1F-G

847 **Figure 1 – source data 3:** Values for pAKT^{S473} from stochastic simulations used for plotting
848 Figure 1H

849 **Figure 1 – source data 4:** z-score computation for concordance between simulated and
850 experimental data

851 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 1 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for Figure 1 -
852 figure supplement 1C-D

853 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 2 – source data 1:** Calculations for computing area under the
854 curve

855 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 2 – source data 2:** TDR computation for comparison across
856 insulin concentration

857 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for
858 pGSK3 β ^{S9}, pS6K^{T389} and pERK^{T202/Y204} used for plotting Figure 1 – figure supplement 3A-C

859 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3 – source data 2:** Values for pGSK3 β ^{S9}, pS6K^{T389} and
860 pERK^{T202/Y204} from deterministic simulations used for plotting Figure 1 – figure supplement
861 3D-F

862 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3 – source data 3:** Values for pIR, pmTORC1 and pmTORC2
863 from deterministic simulations used for plotting Figure 1 – figure supplement 3G

864 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3 – source data 4:** FDR calculations for degree of concordance
865 between simulated and experimental data

866 **Figure 2 – source data 1:** Percentage gain computation w.r.t. Figure 2A

867 **Figure 2 – source data 2:** Values for peak intensity and decay time used for plotting Figure

868 2B

869 **Figure 2 – source data 3:** Values for peak intensity used to plot Figure 2C

870 **Figure 2 – source data 4:** Computation of dynamic range for Figure 2D

871 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for extent of

872 phosphorylation at pAKT^{S473} following stimulation by intermediate insulin concentrations in

873 Figure 2- figure supplement 1A-B

874 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1 – source data 2:** Values for final intensity at 120min. used to

875 plot Figure 2- figure supplement 1C

876 **Figure 3 – source data 1:** K_{ON}/K_{OFF} used for plotting Figure 3A

877 **Figure 3 – source data 2:** Coefficient of variation used for plotting Figure 3B

878 **Figure 3 – source data 3:** Computations for Pearson r and statistical significance used to

879 construct Figure 3C

880 **Figure 3 – source data 4:** Values for edges and nodes corresponding to Figure 3E and

881 Figure3- figure supplement 3B

882 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 1 – source data 1:** Rate constants corresponding to equations

883 in Figure 3- figure supplement

884 **Figure 4 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for extent of phosphorylation at

885 pAKT^{S473}, pAKT^{T308} and pERK^{T202/Y204} corresponding to Figure 4B-D

886 **Figure 4 – source data 2:** Computations for Pearson r and statistical significance used to

887 construct Figure 4E

888

889 **Figure 4 – source data 3:** Ct values for changes in gene expression corresponding to Figure

890 4F

891 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 1 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for extent of
892 phosphorylation at pGSK3 β ^{S9} and pS6K^{T389} corresponding to Figure 4- figure supplement 1E-
893 F

894 **Figure 5 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for extent of phosphorylation at
895 pAKT^{S473}, pAKT^{T308} and pERK^{T202/Y204} corresponding to Figure 5B-D

896 **Figure 5 – source data 2:** Computations for Pearson r and statistical significance used to
897 construct Figure 5E

898 **Figure 5 – source data 3:** Ct values for changes in gene expression corresponding to Figure
899 5F

900 **Figure 5 – figure supplement 1 – source data 1:** Blot intensity and quantitation for extent of
901 phosphorylation at pGSK3 β ^{S9} and pS6K^{T389} corresponding to Figure 5- figure supplement 1B-
902 C

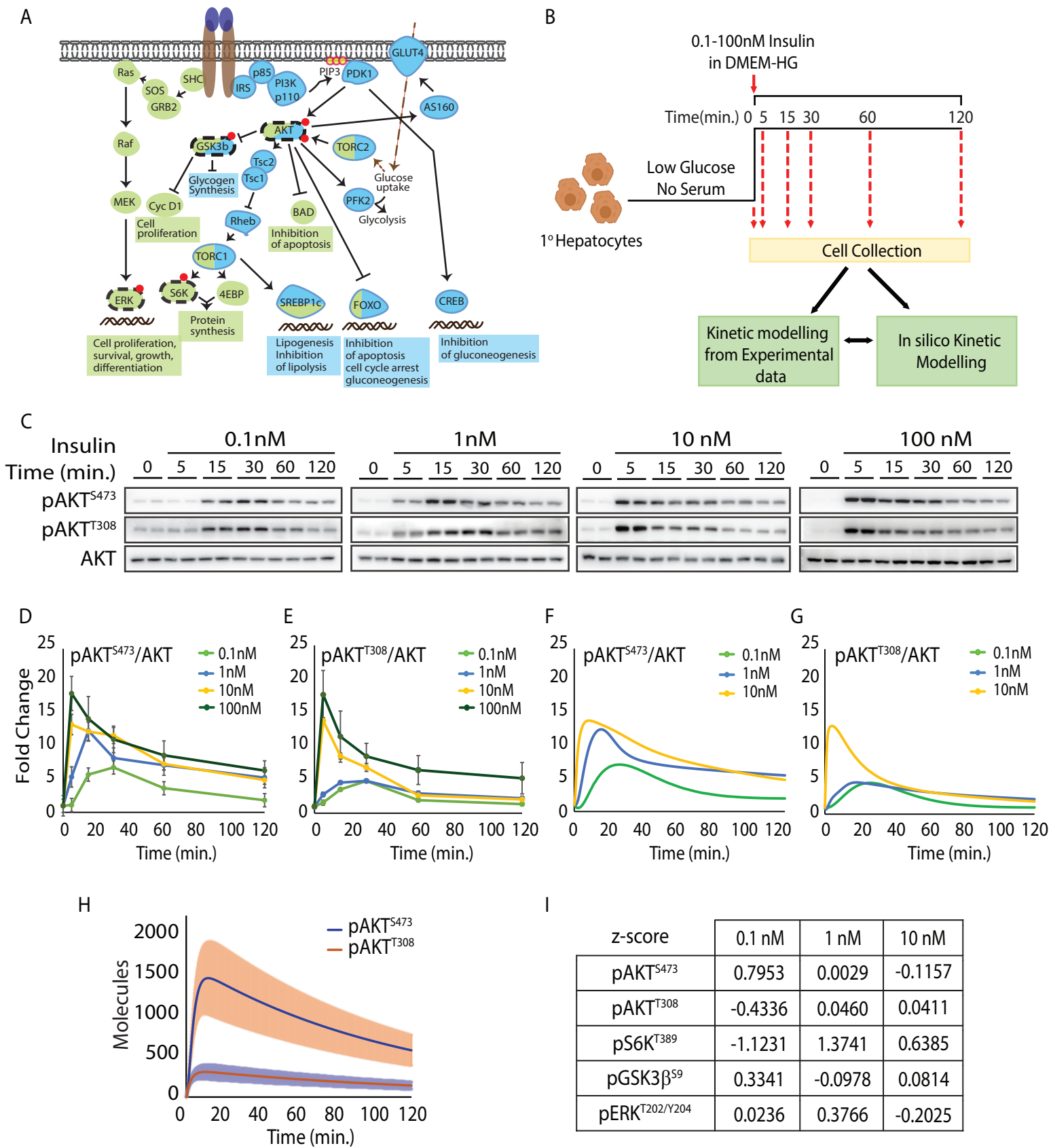


Figure 1

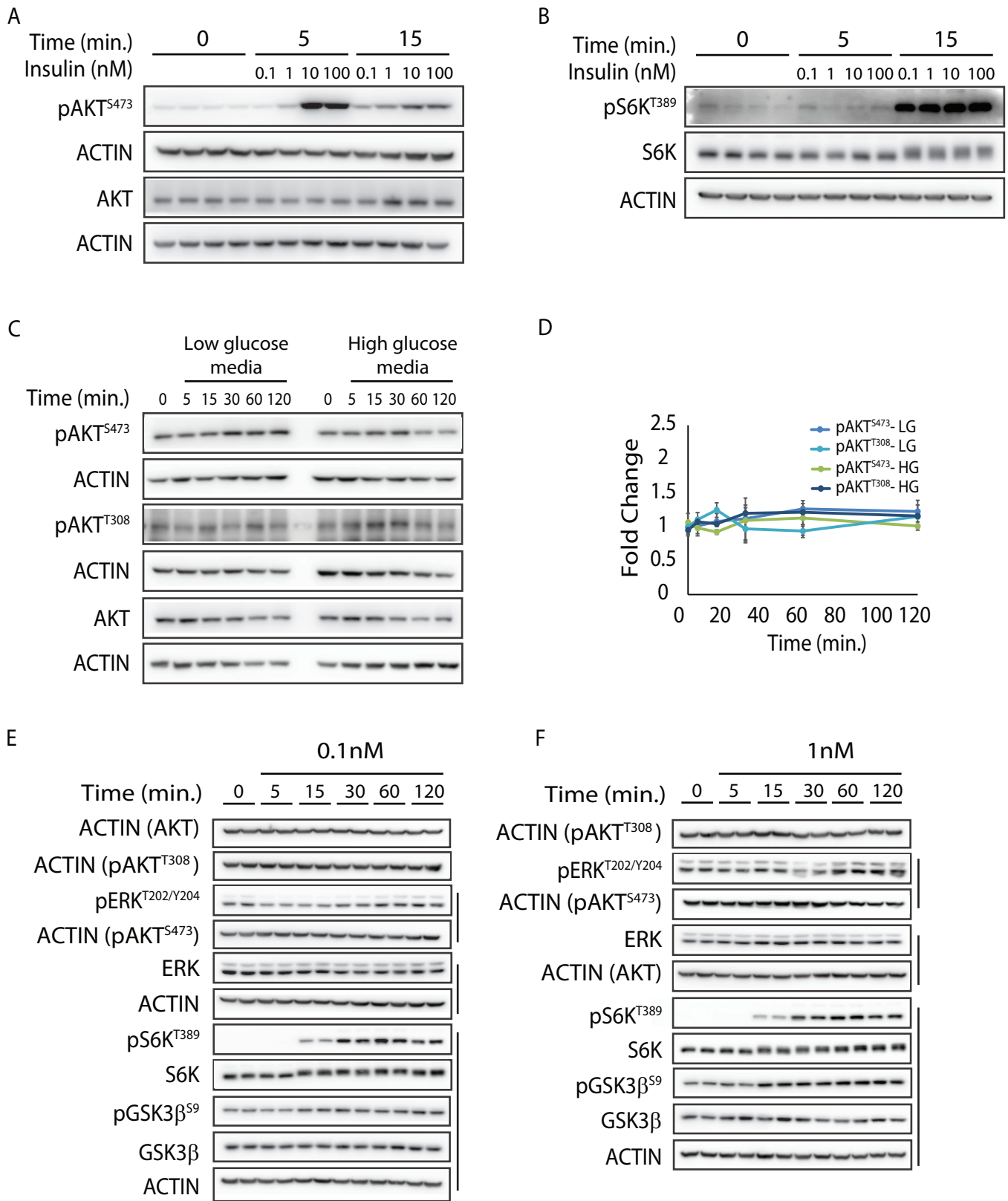
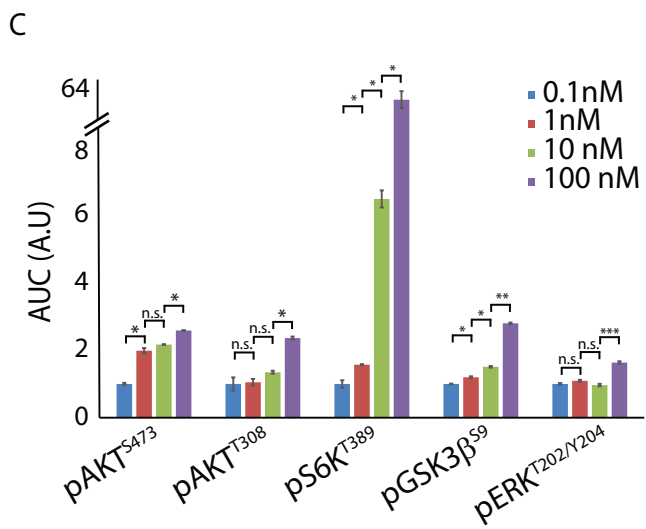
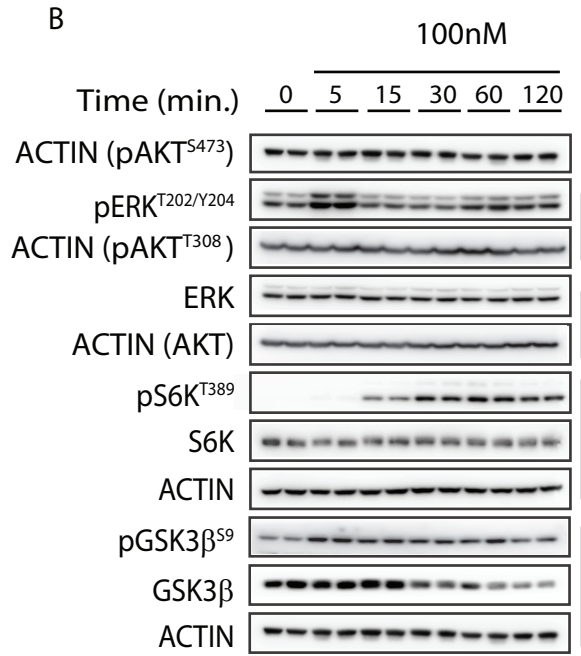
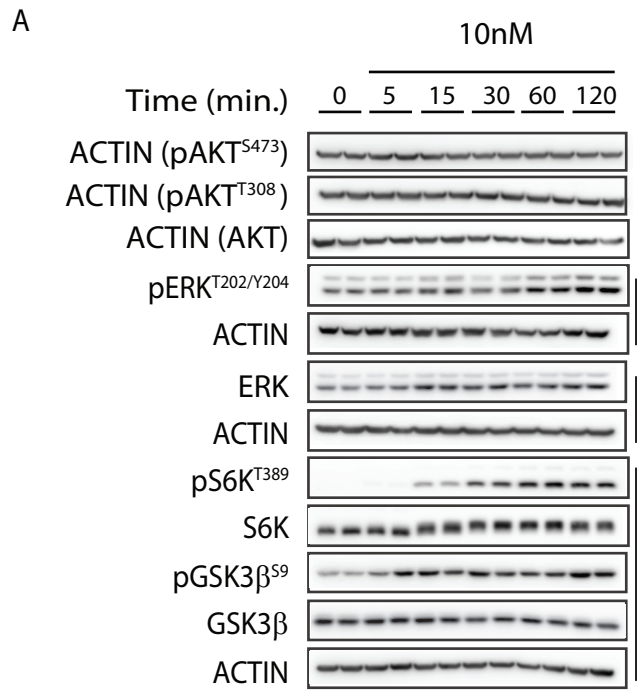


Figure 1 - figure supplement 1



D

TDR	0.1nM vs. 1nM	0.1nM vs. 10nM	0.1nM vs. 100nM	1nM vs. 10nM	1nM vs. 100nM	10nM vs. 100nM
pAKT ^{S473}	0.8	1	1	0.4	0.2	0
pAKT ^{T308}	0.8	1	0.6	0.6	0.2	0
pS6K ^{T389}	1	1	1	1	1	0.2
pGSK3β ^{S9}	0.8	1	1	0.4	0.2	0.2
pERK ^{T202/Y204}	0.8	1	1	0.4	0.2	0.2

Figure 1 - figure supplement 2

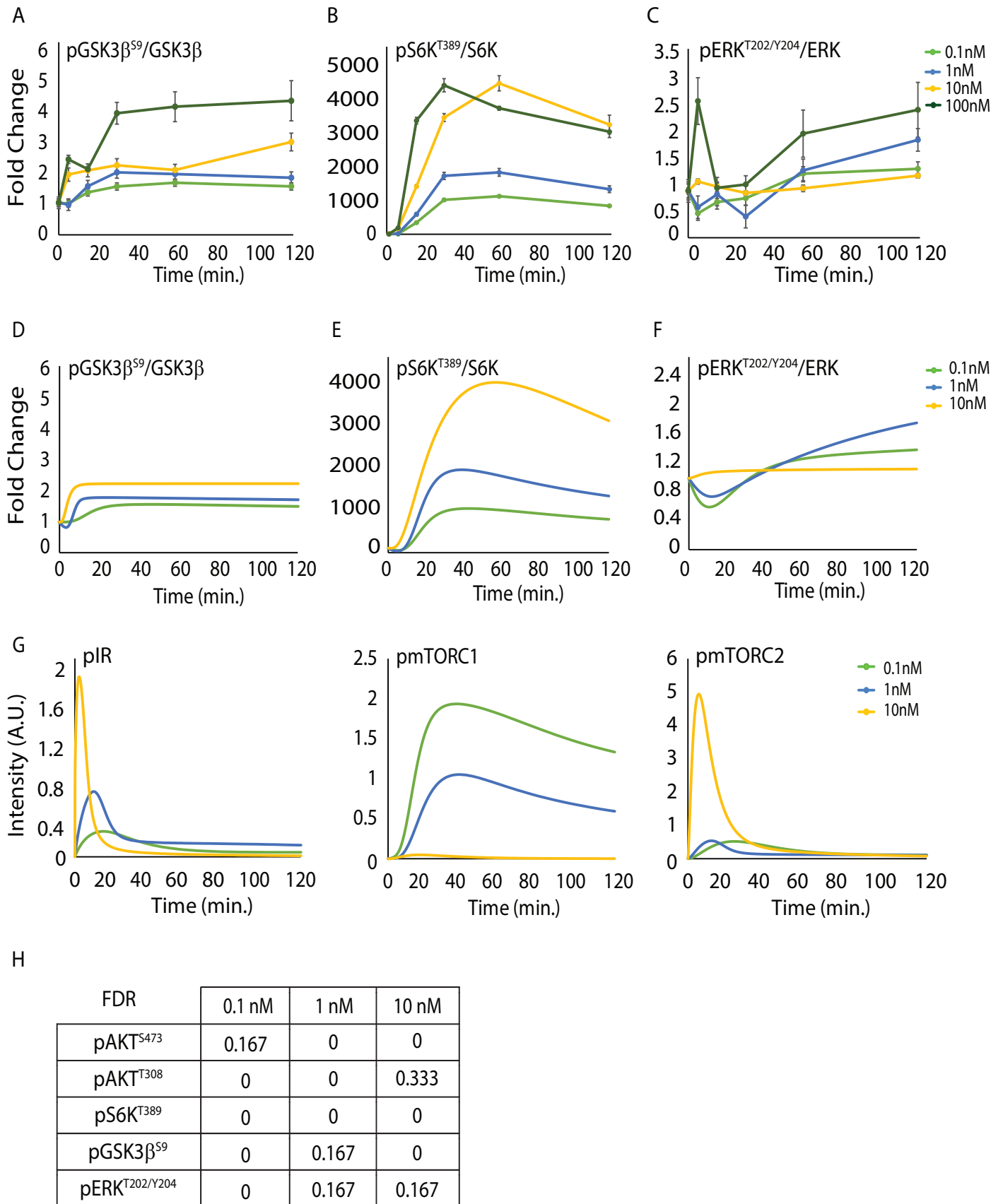


Figure 1 - figure supplement 3

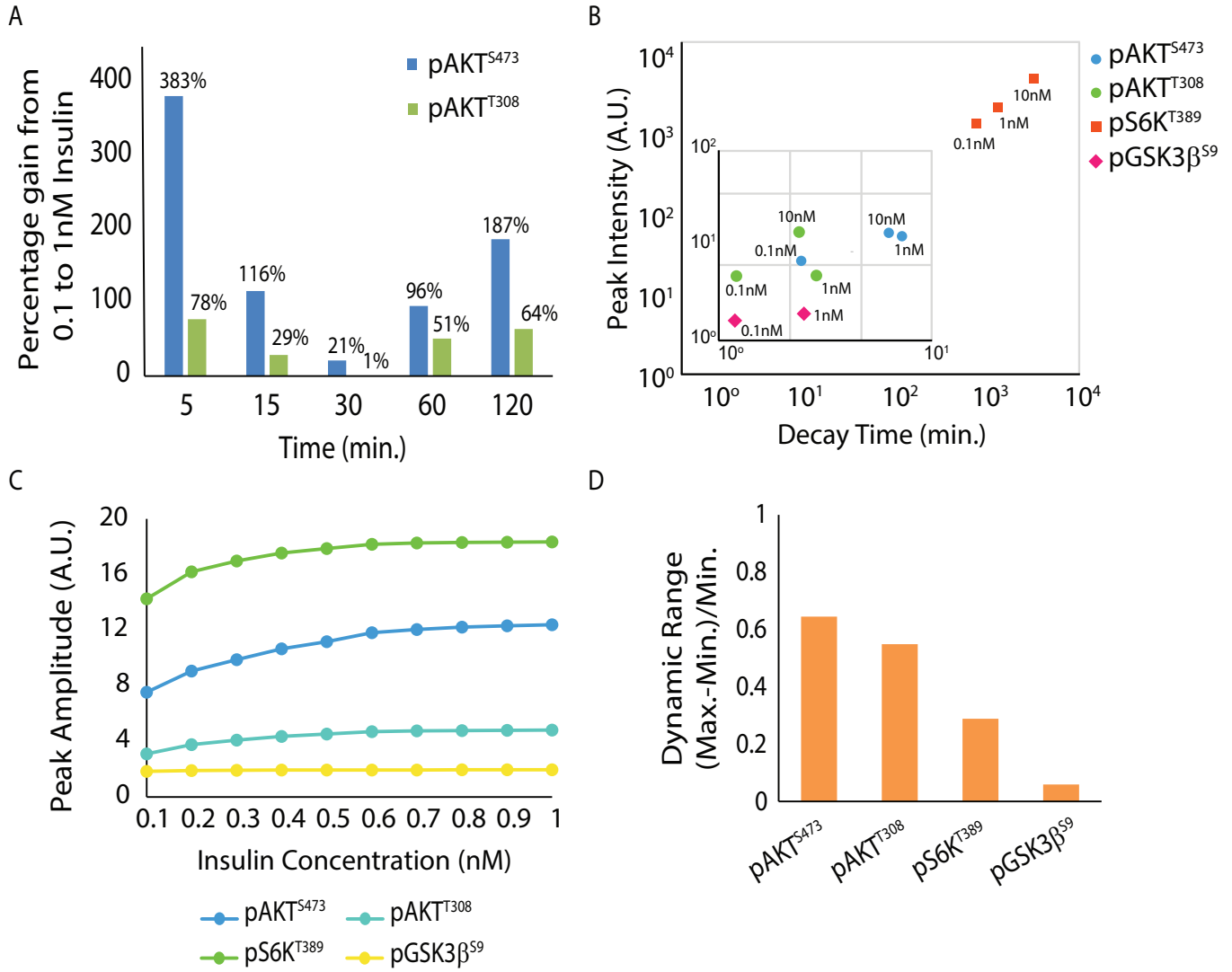


Figure 2

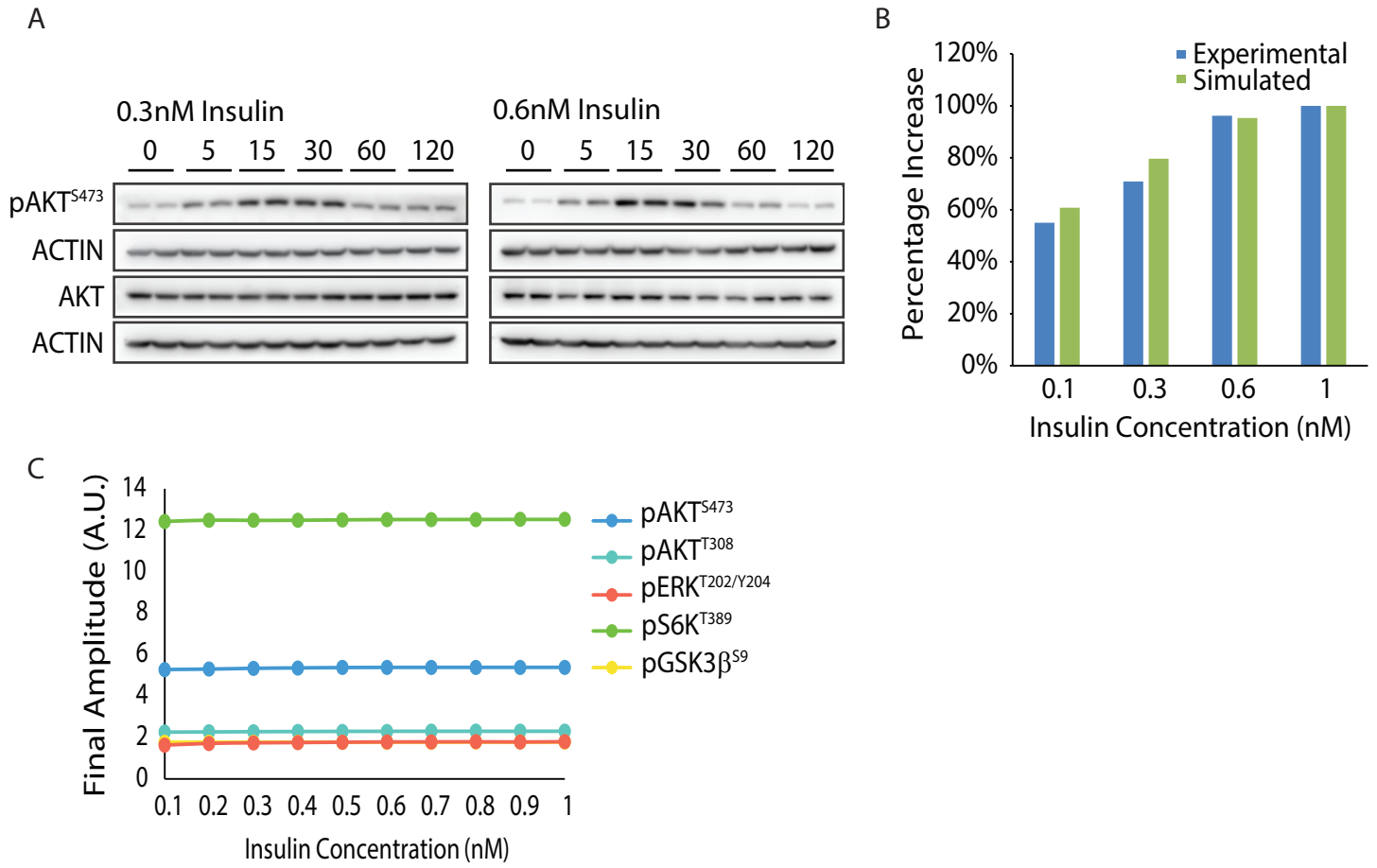


Figure 2 - figure supplement 1

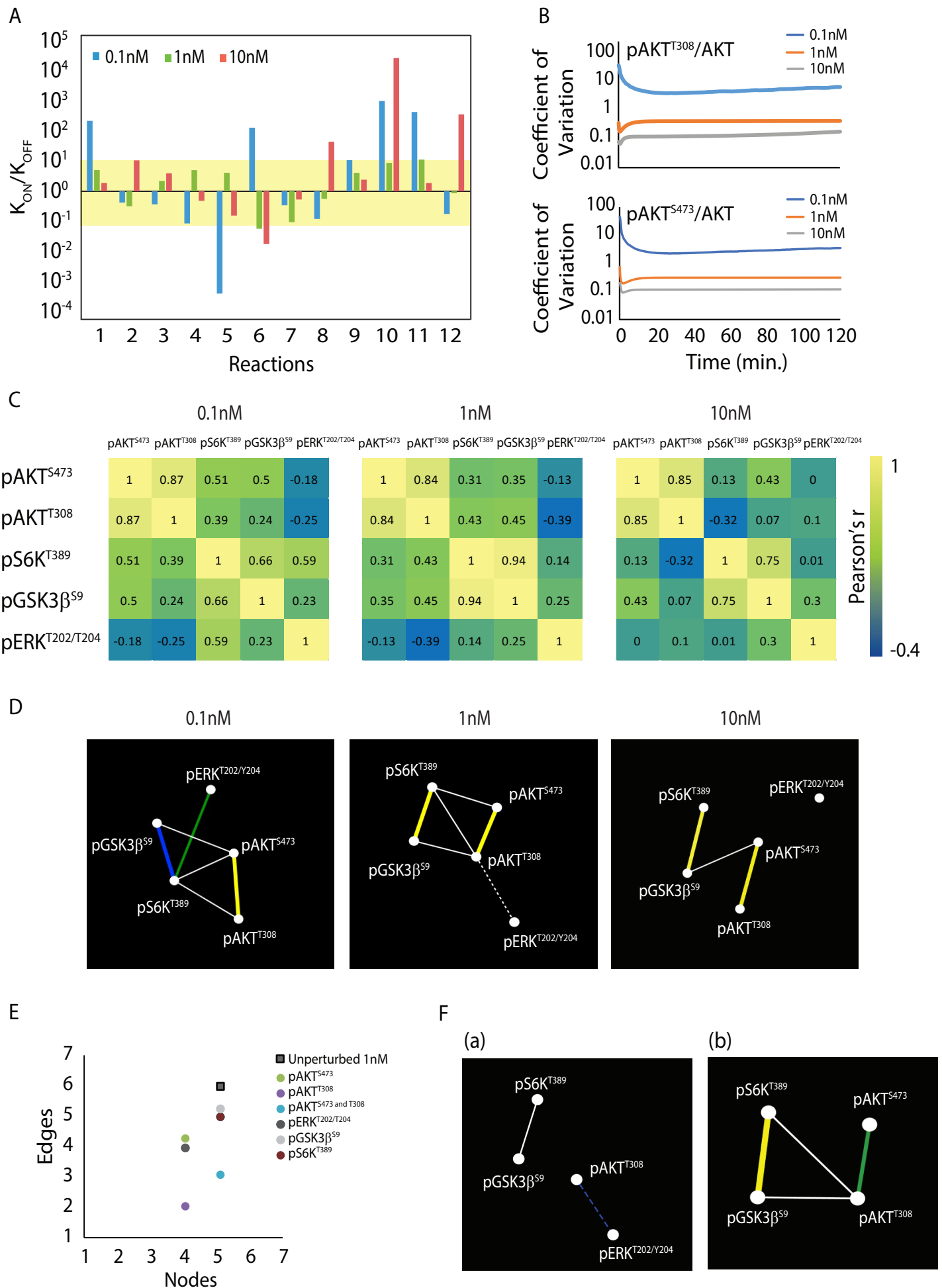
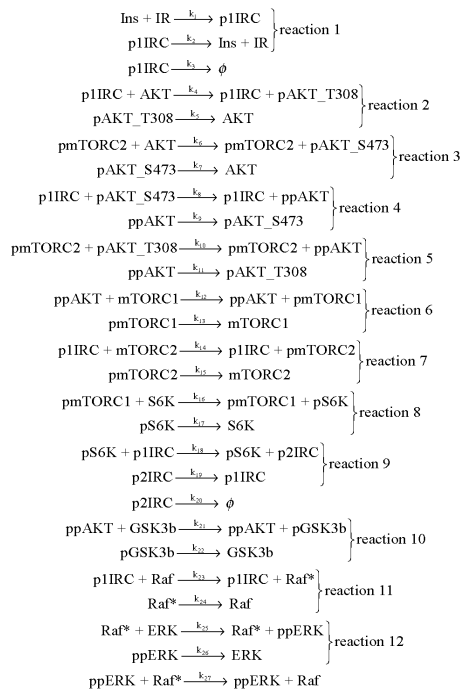


Figure 3

A



B

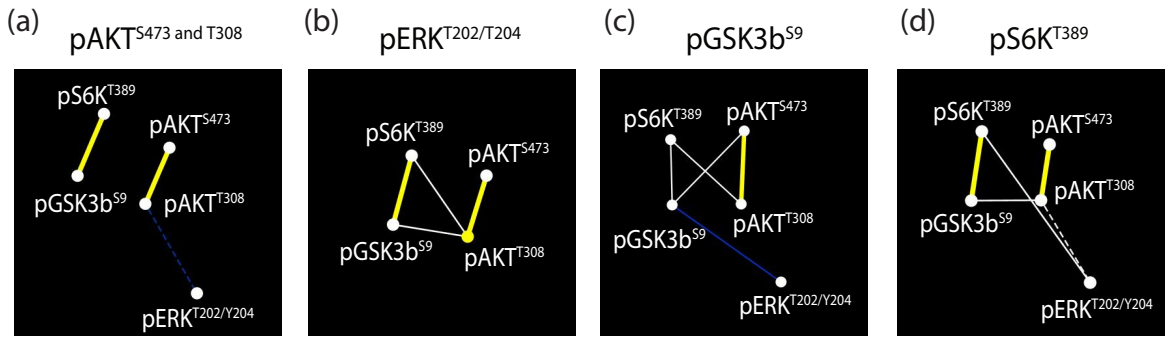
$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d[\text{IR}]}{dt} &= -[\text{IR}] \cdot [\text{Ins}] \cdot k_1 + [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot k_2 \\
 \frac{d[\text{p1IRC}]}{dt} &= [\text{IR}] \cdot [\text{Ins}] \cdot k_1 - [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot k_2 - [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot k_3 - [\text{pS6K}] \cdot [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot k_{18} \\
 &\quad + [\text{p2IRC}] \cdot k_{19} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pAKT_T308}]}{dt} &= [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot ([\text{AKT}] - [\text{pAKT_T308}] - [\text{pAKT_S473}] - [\text{ppAKT}]) \cdot k_4 \\
 &\quad - [\text{pAKT_T308}] \cdot k_5 - [\text{pmTORC2}] \cdot [\text{pAKT_T308}] \cdot k_{10} + [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot k_{11} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pAKT_S473}]}{dt} &= [\text{pmTORC2}] \cdot ([\text{AKT}] - [\text{pAKT_T308}] - [\text{pAKT_S473}] - [\text{ppAKT}]) \cdot k_6 \\
 &\quad - [\text{pAKT_S473}] \cdot k_7 - [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot [\text{pAKT_S473}] \cdot k_8 + [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot k_9 \\
 \frac{d[\text{ppAKT}]}{dt} &= [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot [\text{pAKT_S473}] \cdot k_8 - [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot k_9 \\
 &\quad + [\text{pmTORC2}] \cdot [\text{pAKT_T308}] \cdot k_{10} - [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot k_{11} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pmTORC1}]}{dt} &= [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot ([\text{mTORC1}] - [\text{pmTORC1}]) \cdot k_{12} - [\text{pmTORC1}] \cdot k_{13} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pmTORC2}]}{dt} &= [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot ([\text{mTORC2}] - [\text{pmTORC2}]) \cdot k_{14} - [\text{pmTORC2}] \cdot k_{15} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pS6K}]}{dt} &= [\text{pmTORC1}] \cdot ([\text{S6K}] - [\text{pS6K}]) \cdot k_{16} - [\text{pS6K}] \cdot k_{17} \\
 \frac{d[\text{p2IRC}]}{dt} &= [\text{pS6K}] \cdot [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot k_{18} - [\text{p2IRC}] \cdot k_{19} - [\text{p2IRC}] \cdot k_{20} \\
 \frac{d[\text{pGSK3b}]}{dt} &= [\text{ppAKT}] \cdot ([\text{GSK3b}] - [\text{pGSK3b}]) \cdot k_{21} - [\text{pGSK3b}] \cdot k_{22} \\
 \frac{d[\text{Raf}^*]}{dt} &= [\text{p1IRC}] \cdot ([\text{Raf}] - [\text{Raf}^*]) \cdot k_{23} - [\text{Raf}^*] \cdot k_{24} - [\text{ppERK}] \cdot [\text{Raf}^*] \cdot k_{27} \\
 \frac{d[\text{ppERK}]}{dt} &= [\text{Raf}^*] \cdot ([\text{ERK}] - [\text{ppERK}]) \cdot k_{25} - [\text{ppERK}] \cdot k_{26}
 \end{aligned}$$

C

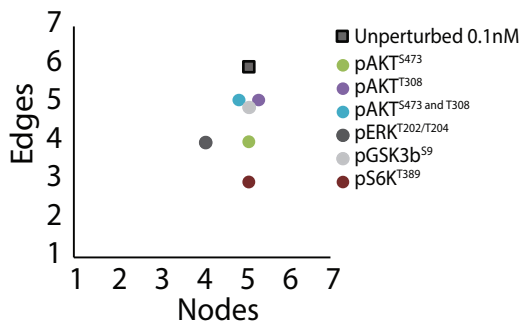
0.1nM					1nM					10nM				
Source	Target	Interaction	Pearson r	p value	Source	Target	Interaction	Pearson r	p value	Source	Target	Interaction	Pearson r	p value
pAKT ^{S473}	pAKT ^{T308}	pc	0.8732	0.0001	pAKT ^{S473}	pAKT ^{T308}	pc	0.8408	0.0001	pAKT ^{S473}	pAKT ^{T308}	pc	0.8451	0.0001
pAKT ^{S473}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.5068	0.0115	pAKT ^{S473}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.3085	0.1425	pAKT ^{S473}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.1315	0.5403
pAKT ^{S473}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.4997	0.0129	pAKT ^{S473}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.3549	0.0888	pAKT ^{S473}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.4332	0.0345
pAKT ^{S473}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.1768	0.4086	pAKT ^{S473}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.125	0.5607	pAKT ^{S473}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.001001	0.9963
pAKT ^{T308}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.3899	0.0596	pAKT ^{T308}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.4316	0.0352	pAKT ^{T308}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	-0.3187	0.1291
pAKT ^{T308}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.2441	0.2503	pAKT ^{T308}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.4546	0.0256	pAKT ^{T308}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.0665	0.7575
pAKT ^{T308}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.2486	0.2415	pAKT ^{T308}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.3916	0.0584	pAKT ^{T308}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.1014	0.6375
pS6K ^{T389}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.6607	0.0004	pS6K ^{T389}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.9363	0.0001	pS6K ^{T389}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.747	<0.0001
pS6K ^{T389}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.588	0.0025	pS6K ^{T389}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.1423	0.5072	pS6K ^{T389}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.0102	0.9623
pGSK3b ^{S9}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.2302	0.2791	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.2495	0.2397	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.3045	0.148

Figure 3 - figure supplement 1

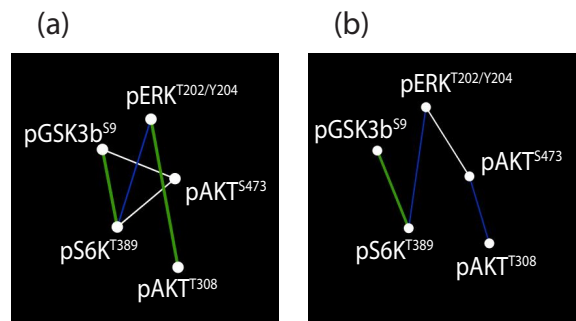
A



B



C



D

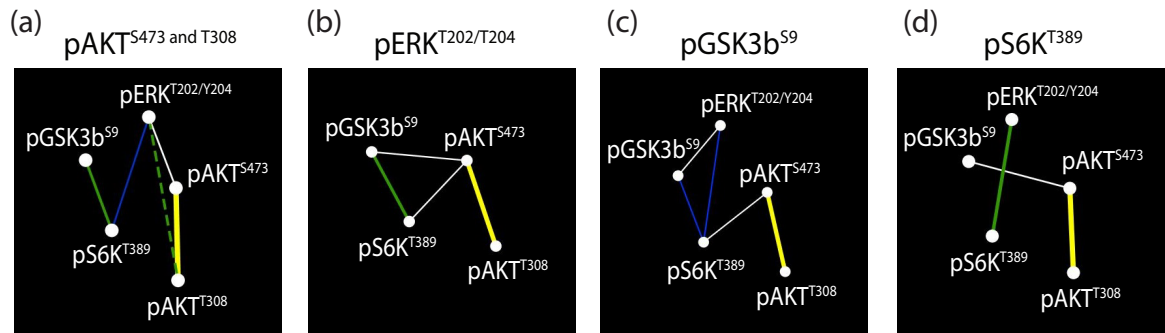


Figure 3 - figure supplement 3

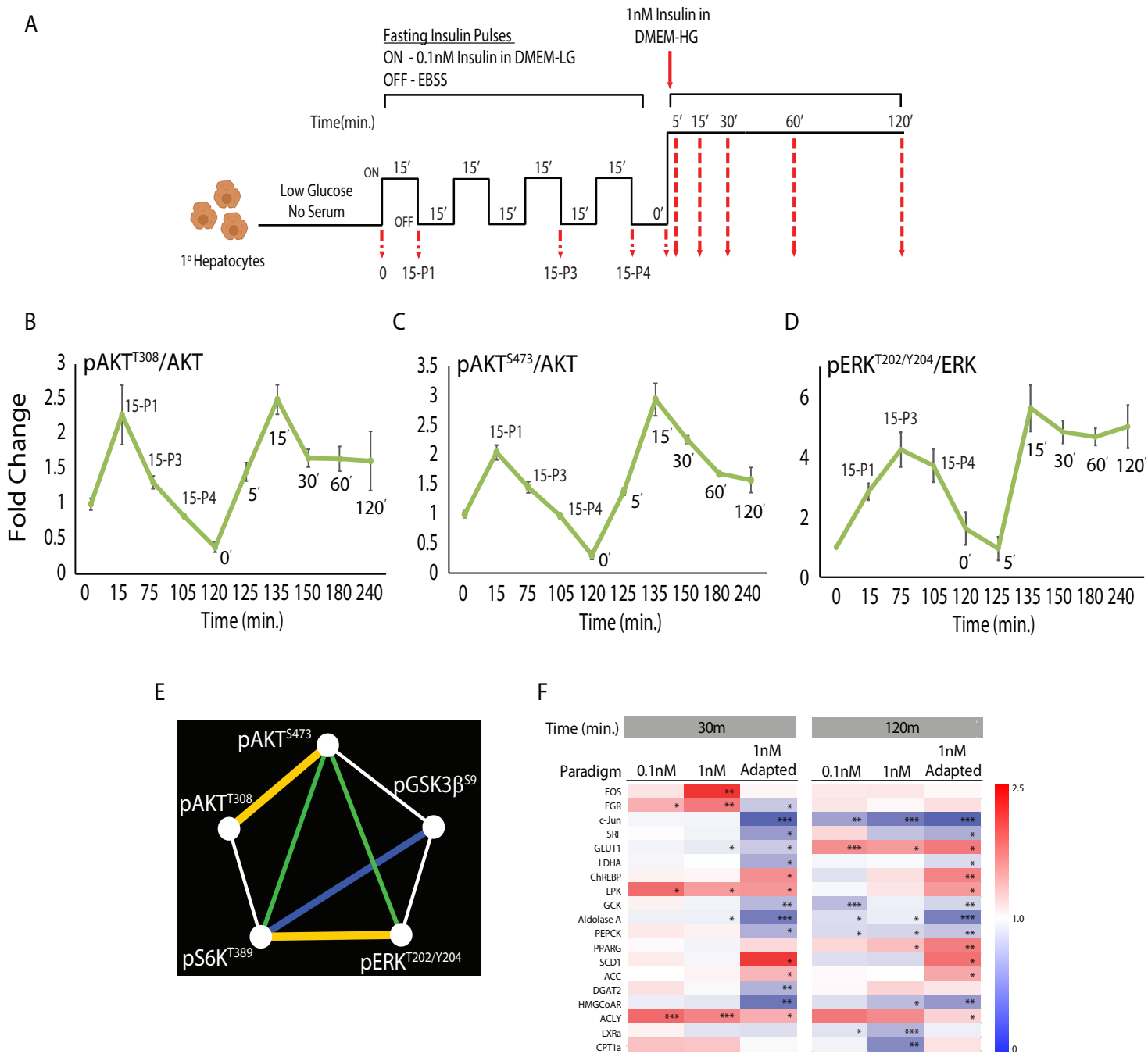
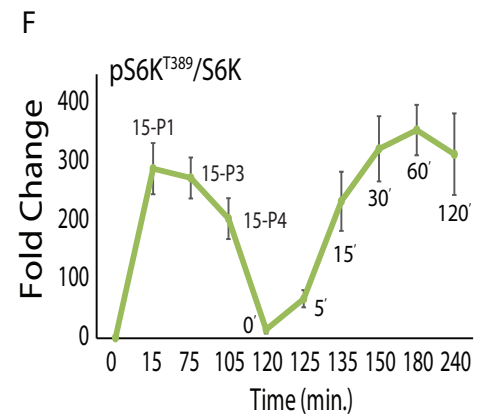
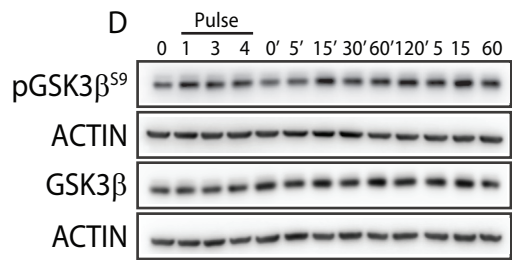
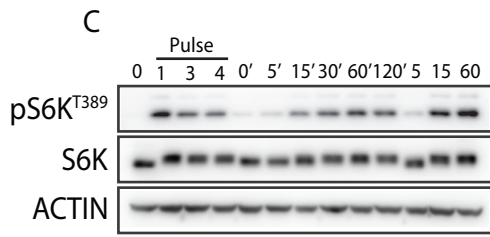
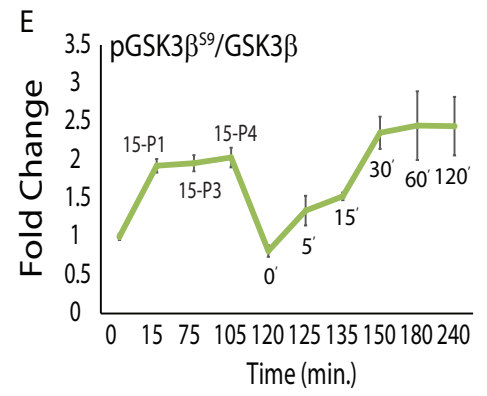
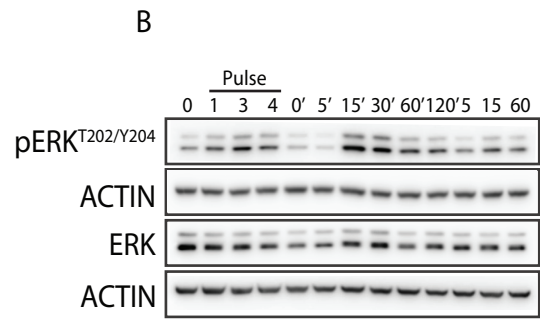
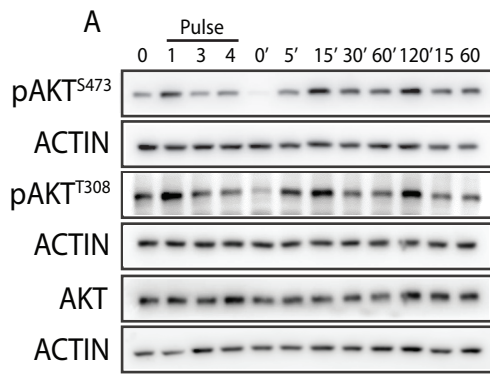


Figure 4



G

Source	Target	Interaction	Pearson r	p value
pAKT ^{S473}	pAKT ^{T308}	pc	0.8762	0.0001
pAKT ^{S473}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.6081	0.0074
pAKT ^{S473}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.4746	0.0466
pAKT ^{S473}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.6549	0.0032
pAKT ^{T308}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	0.5071	0.0317
pAKT ^{T308}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.419	0.0835
pAKT ^{T308}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.4368	0.1908
pS6K ^{T389}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.7692	0.0002
pS6K ^{T389}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.8068	0.0001
pGSK3b ^{S9}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.4866	0.0406

Figure 4 - figure supplement 1

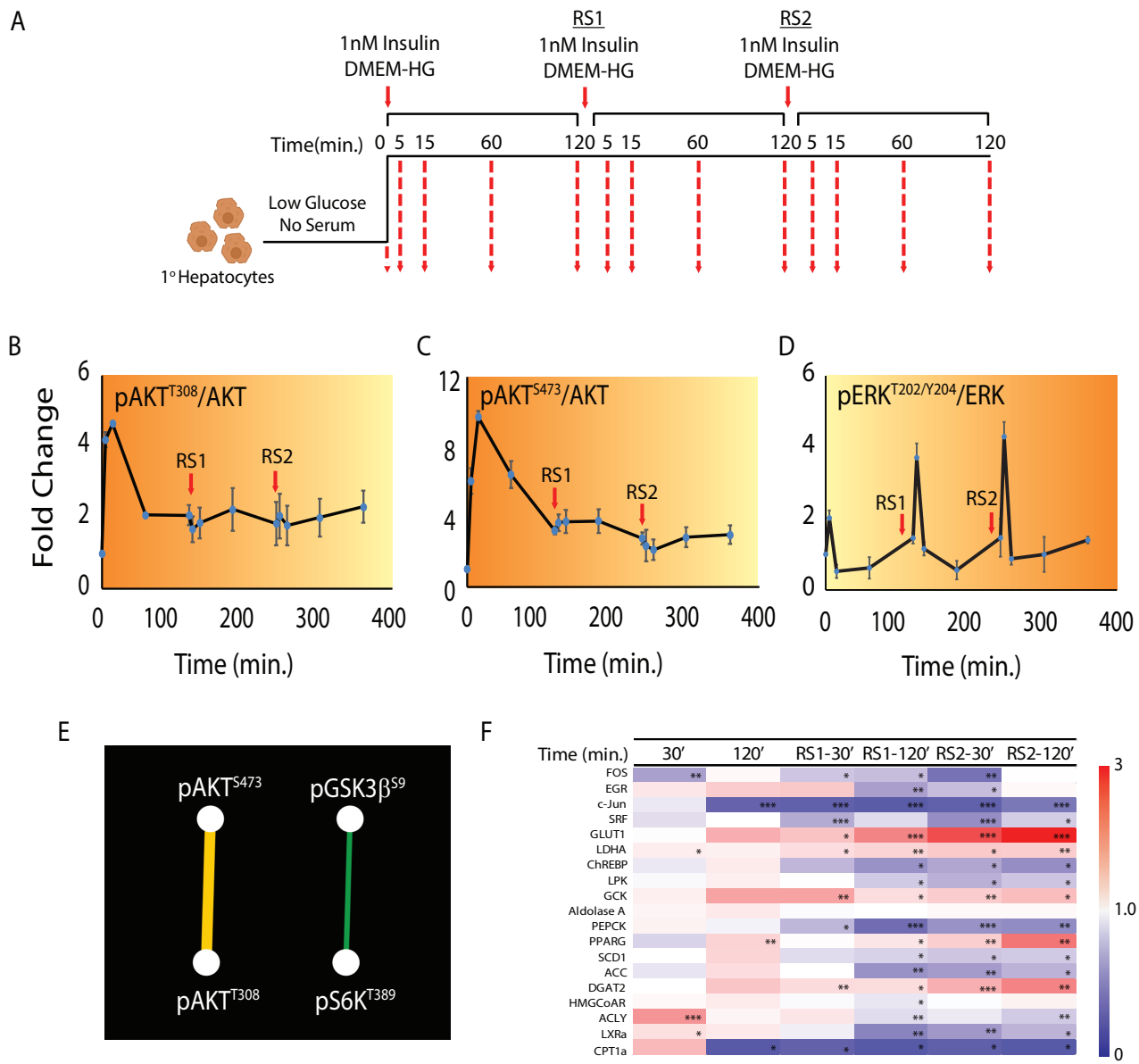
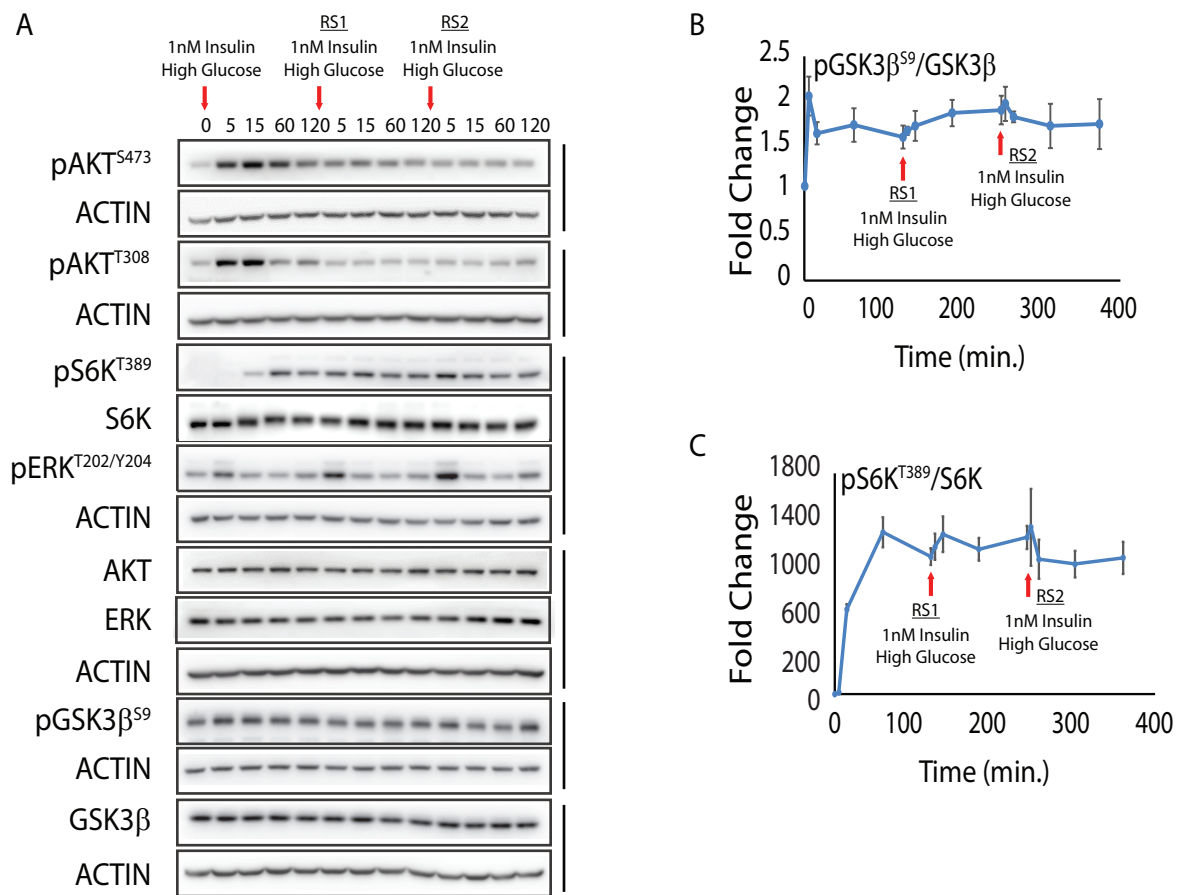


Figure 5



C

Source	Target	Interaction	Pearson r	p value
pAKT ^{S473}	pAKT ^{T308}	pc	0.7641	0.0001
pAKT ^{S473}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	-0.05917	0.72
pAKT ^{S473}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.1098	0.5059
pAKT ^{S473}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.2116	0.1959
pAKT ^{T308}	pS6K ^{T389}	pc	-0.246	0.1312
pAKT ^{T308}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.03422	0.8361
pAKT ^{T308}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	-0.1189	0.471
pS6K ^{T389}	pGSK3b ^{S9}	pc	0.3354	0.0369
pS6K ^{T389}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.157	0.3399
pGSK3b ^{S9}	pERK ^{T202/Y204}	pc	0.2648	0.1033

Figure 5 - figure supplement 1