

1        **HUMAN AND RODENT TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY IS CHARACTERIZED BY**  
2        **CHANGES IN O-GLCNAC HOMEOSTASIS THAT CAN BE REVERSED TO DAMPEN**  
3        **EPILEPTIFORM ACTIVITY**

4        Richard G. Sanchez, BS<sup>1</sup>, R. Ryley Parrish, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Megan Rich, BS<sup>1</sup>, William M. Webb, BS<sup>1</sup>,  
5        Roxanne M. Lockhart, BS<sup>1</sup>, Kazuhito Nakao<sup>1</sup>, PhD, Lara Ianov, PhD<sup>7</sup>, Susan C. Buckingham, PhD<sup>1</sup>,  
6        Mark Cunningham, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Devin R. Broadwater, MD<sup>5</sup>, Alistair Jenkins MB, ChB, MD, FRCS<sup>6</sup>,  
7        Nihal C de Lanerolle, MD<sup>3</sup>, Tore Eid, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Kristen Riley, MD<sup>2</sup>, and Farah D. Lubin, PhD<sup>1†</sup>

8        **Affiliations:**

9        <sup>1</sup>Department of Neurobiology, University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL, <sup>2</sup>Department of  
10        Neurosurgery, University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL, <sup>3</sup>Department of Laboratory Medicine and  
11        of Neurosurgery, Yale School of Medicine – New Haven, CT, <sup>4</sup>Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle  
12        University- Newcastle UK, <sup>5</sup>School of Medicine, University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL,  
13        <sup>6</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP, UK,  
14        <sup>7</sup>Civitan International Research Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL  
15        †Address correspondence to: Dr. Farah D. Lubin, Department of Neurobiology, University of  
16        Alabama – Birmingham, 1825 University Boulevard, Birmingham, AL, 35294, Phone: (205) 996-  
17        6084, FAX: (205) 934-6571, E-mail: [flubin@uab.edu](mailto:flubin@uab.edu)

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24 **Abstract:** Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) is frequently associated with changes in protein  
25 composition and post-translational modifications (PTM) that exacerbate the disorder. O-linked- $\beta$ -N-  
26 acetyl glucosamine (O-GlcNAc) is a PTM occurring at serine/threonine residues that integrate  
27 energy supply with demand. The enzymes O-GlcNActransferase (OGT) and O-GlcNAcase (OGA)  
28 mediate the addition and removal, respectively, of the O-GlcNAc modification. The goal of this  
29 study was to determine whether changes in OGT/OGA cycling and disruptions in protein O-  
30 GlcNAcylation occur in the epileptic hippocampus. We observed reduced global and protein specific  
31 O-GlcNAcylation and OGT expression in the kainate rat model of TLE and in human TLE  
32 hippocampal tissue. Inhibiting OGA with Thiamet-G elevated protein O-GlcNAcylation, and  
33 decreased both seizure duration and epileptic spike events, suggesting that OGA may be a  
34 therapeutic target for seizure control. These findings suggest that loss of O-GlcNAc homeostasis in  
35 the kainate model and in human TLE can be reversed via targeting of O-GlcNAc related pathways.  
36 **Keywords:** Hippocampus, Magnetic resonance imaging, Thiamet-G, Electroencephalogram,  
37 Electrophysiology, Mass Spectrometry

## 38 **1 Introduction:**

39 Temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) is a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent,  
40 unprovoked seizures. Previous studies in TLE have revealed changes in cytoskeleton modifications,  
41 synaptic proteins, mitochondrial proteins, ion channels, and chaperone proteins [1, 2]. Although  
42 proteomic studies have investigated the role of post-translational modifications (PTM) in these  
43 proteins, these studies have focused mainly on phosphorylation. While associations between O-  
44 GlcNAcylation and hyper-excitability have been reported, this study examines the relationship  
45 between protein O-GlcNAcylation and epilepsy and considers O-GlcNAc-related pathways as a  
46 potential therapeutic target in epilepsy [3, 4].

47 Protein expression and function is a dynamic process that requires precise regulation in order  
48 to maintain cellular homeostasis under changing conditions. One process by which cells regulate  
49 these parameters is PTMs, where enzymes add functional groups to modulate protein dynamics. In  
50 TLE, several of these modifications are disrupted, with the majority of studies to date revealing  
51 irregularities in the extent of protein phosphorylation and its downstream effects on neuronal  
52 homeostasis [5-7]. Because of its similarities to phosphorylation, O-GlcNAcylation, has recently  
53 gained attention in hyper-excitability studies [8-10]. O-GlcNAcylation depends on cellular  
54 metabolism in order to synthesize the substrate, UDP-GlcNAc, which is then used by O-GlcNAc  
55 Transferase (OGT) to add O-GlcNAc to serine and threonine residues [8-10]. The removal of this  
56 modification is regulated by O-GlcNAcase (OGA) [8-10]. Together, OGT and OGA regulate global  
57 levels of O-GlcNAcylation across a variety of cellular stresses in order to preserve homeostasis [11].  
58 Unlike phosphorylation, in which numerous kinases and phosphatases target many of the same  
59 proteins, O-GlcNAcylation relies on only OGT and OGA [12]. Importantly, OGA can be selectively  
60 inhibited by Thiamet-G, a purine analog that can cross the blood-brain barrier [13]. By inhibiting  
61 OGA, Thiamet-G can thus be used to increase global levels of O-GlcNAcylation within eukaryotic  
62 cells [13]. Recently, several studies have focused on O-GlcNAcylation in neurological disorders  
63 such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, Schizophrenia, and other nervous system processes  
64 such as appetite, LTD, hyper-excitability and protein structure [14-23]. However, the role of  
65 OGT/OGA cycling and protein O-GlcNAcylation in the epileptic hippocampus and the question of  
66 whether O-GlcNAc pathways could be targeted for treatment of TLE remains to be determined.

67 In the present study, we investigated the role of O-GlcNAcylation both in a rodent model of  
68 TLE and also in human epileptic brain tissue, asking whether targeted manipulation of this  
69 modification could ameliorate epileptiform brain activity. We identified global decreases in O-

70 GlcNAcylation in epileptic rats and in human patients with TLE. Mass spectrometry studies  
71 revealed that O-GlcNAcylation marks were irregularly expressed on specific proteins in the  
72 hippocampi of epileptic rats compared to age-matched non-epileptic controls.

73 Furthermore, we found that inhibition of OGA in rodents using Thiamet-G resulted in  
74 improved seizure behavior and decreased interictal spike frequency. Similarly, electrophysiological  
75 recordings from human TLE samples showed decreased spike events with OGA inhibition compared  
76 to recordings taken in vehicle-treated controls. Collectively, these results support a critical role for  
77 protein O-GlcNAcylation in epilepsy and its novel therapeutic potential in the treatment of chronic  
78 seizures.

## 79 **2 Material and Methods:**

80 **2.1 Antibodies:** The following antibodies were used: 1:500 anti-O-GlcNAc (CTD110.6,-MMS-248R  
81 from Covance, Princeton, NJ, USA), 1:500 anti-O-GlcNAc Transferase (O6264, Sigma, St. Louis,  
82 MO, USA), 1:20000 goat-anti-mouse (926-32350, Licor, Lincoln, NE, USA), 1:20000 goat-anti-  
83 rabbit (926-32211, Licor), 1:1000 anti-Actin (ab1801, Abcam, Cambridge, UK), 1:1000 anti-NeuN  
84 (MAB377, Abcam), 1:1000 anti-GFAP (ab7260, Abcam).

85 **2.2 Electroencephalogram (EEG):** 4 weeks following the administration of kainic acid, rats  
86 underwent an electrode implantation. Electrodes (MS333/1-B/SPC, Plastics One, Ranoke, VA,  
87 USA) for EEG recordings were trimmed to 1.75 mm in length and fitted into three holes so that they  
88 contacted the dura and the connector was flush with the skull. The ground wire was placed into the  
89 most caudal hole. For EEG recordings, animals were transferred to individual housing in custom-  
90 designed and constructed plexiglass cages at 5 weeks. EEG data were acquired using 8 Biopac  
91 Systems amplifiers and AcqKnowledge 4.1 EEG Acquisition and Reader Software (BIOPAC  
92 Systems, Inc., Goleta, CA, USA). Data were stored and analyzed in digital format. Each cage was

93 also equipped with an IR Digital Color CCD camera (Lorex Technology, Inc., Linthicum, MD,  
94 USA) and animals are recorded concurrently with EEG monitoring. Baseline recordings were done  
95 for 24hrs then 10mg/kg of Thiamet-G dissolved in 0.1% w/v saline (SD Chemmolecules, Owings  
96 Mills, MD, USA) was administered intraperitoneal (I.P) and then 10mg/kg after each post-injection.  
97 Both saline and kainic acid, cohorts were injected with Thiamet-G. After 24 hrs of EEG recording  
98 post-injection, a second treatment with the same dosage was administered. Animals were recorded  
99 via EEG for 24 hrs after each injection of Thiamet-G. Animals received a total of three independent  
100 treatments at same dosage of the drug.

101 Tissue for Western blots was collected from 4 weeks of age using the previously-described  
102 methods. The whole hippocampus was collected and then sub-dissected. All EEG data were  
103 analyzed manually using Matlab by an observer blinded to the sample's identity. Abnormalities in  
104 the recordings indicative of epileptic activity are aligned chronologically with the corresponding  
105 video in order to confirm seizures.

106 **2.3 Immunofluorescence:** Animals were sacrificed by rapid decapitation; brains were removed, and  
107 fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde overnight at 4°C. The next day the samples were washed with 1x PBS  
108 5x five minutes each time before incubating with 30% sucrose (w/v) overnight at 4°C. The tissue  
109 was then flash frozen on dry ice and mounted in O.C.T. (VWR, Randor, PA, USA ) 10-micron  
110 Sections (10 $\mu$ M) were taken throughout the dorsal hippocampus and mounted onto slides. Antigen  
111 retrieval was done by boiling in citric acid buffer followed by washing in 1x PBS. Slices were then  
112 blocked for 1hr (4% normal goat serum, 4% normal donkey serum and 0.3% Triton-X in PBS) and  
113 incubated in primary antibody for O-GlcNAc (1:200 CTD110.6, MMS-248R, Covance), NeuN  
114 (1:1000, MAB377, Millipore), and GFAP (1: 1000, ab7260, Abcam), overnight at 4°C. The  
115 following day sections were rinsed with 1x PBS and incubated in Alexa Fluor 488-labeled (1:500,

116 #111-545-003, Jackson Immuno Research, West Grove, PA, USA) or Rhodamine-labeled (TRITC,  
117 1:500, #715-025-150, Jackson Immuno Research) secondary antibodies for 2hrs and, rinsed with 1x  
118 PBS and then coverslipped with Vectashield mounting media with DAPI (H-1500, Vector  
119 Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA). Images were taken on a Zeiss Axio Imager microscope and  
120 analyzed using Image J.

121 **2.4 Human Tissue Samples:** Pharmacologically-resistant hippocampal and cortical tissue samples  
122 from human TLE patients were provided by Tore Eid, MD from the Departments of Laboratory  
123 Medicine and of Neurosurgery, at Yale School of Medicine. Additional tissue was provided by  
124 Kristen O. Riley, MD from the Department of Neurology and Yancy G. Gillespie, MD from the  
125 Wallace Tumor Institute at UAB. Acquisition and processing of control human tissue were  
126 performed by the Alabama brain collection  
127 <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/psychiatry/research/resources-0/alabama-brain-collection>. Patient  
128 demographics and pharmacological history are described in table 2.

129 **2.5 Kainate Treatment:** Animals were injected with kainic acid (KA) [10 mg/kg; (Tocris Cookson  
130 Inc., Ellisville, MO, USA)] or saline (vehicle) intraperitoneally (IP). The severity of behavioral  
131 seizures following KA injection was scored according to the Racine scale [24]: a five-point scale  
132 which takes the five following behaviors as indicative of respectively increasing seizure severity:  
133 mouth and face clonus and head nodding (1); clonic jerks of one forelimb (2); bilateral forelimb  
134 clonus (3); forelimb clonus and rearing (4); forelimb clonus with rearing and falling (5). The onset of  
135 status epilepticus (SE) was defined as the time from KA injection to the occurrence of continuous  
136 seizure activity (Racine score 4-5) over a period of 4 hours. All control animals were handled in the  
137 same manner as the KA-treated animals but injected with saline. For tissue collection, the  
138 hippocampus was removed and oxygenated (95%/5% O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>) in ice-cold cutting solution (110 mM

139 sucrose, 60 mM NaCl, 3 mM KCl, 1.25 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 28 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 0.5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 7 mM  
140 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5mM glucose, 0.6 mM ascorbate). The *cornu ammonis* (all CA regions), and the dentate  
141 gyrus (DG) region were microdissected and frozen immediately on dry ice. The hippocampus was  
142 bisected with the dorsomedial half being divided into four pieces. Using anatomic landmarks, each  
143 piece was dissected into CA and DG region. The CA and DG were dissected with a cut along the  
144 hippocampal fissure. The tissue was then stored at -80°C for RNA and DNA extraction.

145 **2.6 Small Animal Magnetic Resonance Imaging:** *T*<sub>1</sub>- and *T*<sub>2</sub>-weighted images were collected on a  
146 9.4T Bruker BioSpin horizontal small bore animal MRI scanner. The imaging parameters were set  
147 as follows: 1 mm slice thickness, 1 mm between slice distance, 0.1 x 0.1 x 1 mm voxel size, 30 x 30  
148 mm FOV, 27 images per acquisition. *T*<sub>2</sub>-weighted hippocampal intensities were normalized to  
149 within-slice cortical intensity using ImageJ software (n=5/group).

150 **2.7 Western Blotting:** Protein concentrations were estimated by Bradford Assay (Biorad), and 25µg  
151 of total protein/sample was reduced in 5x sample loading buffer (0.1 M Tris-HCl, 4% SDS, 20%  
152 glycerol, 0.2% β-mercaptoethanol, 0.2% bromphenol blue), boiled for 10 min, separated by 10%  
153 SDS-PAGE, and transferred onto PVDF membranes using Trans-Blot Turbo transfer system  
154 (1704155, BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA). Membranes were activated with methanol for three  
155 minutes before transfer, blocked for 1hr at room temperature and incubated overnight at 4°C with  
156 primary antibodies following the transfer. Three washes were done with 1x PBST (PBS and 0.01%  
157 Tween) between primary and secondary antibodies and after stripping. The membranes were  
158 blocked with 1:1 Licor Blocking buffer (P/N 927-40003, Licor) and PBST for one hour at room  
159 temperature after transfers and stripping. Imaging was done using Licor Odyssey scanner at 700/800  
160 channel, and Licor Odyssey software. Image analysis was done using Image Studio Lite Ver. 3.1.

161 **2.8 Sample Preparation for mass spectrometry:** Protein was extracted from rat dorsal hippocampus  
162 CA using M-PER (78501, Thermo Fisher Scientific) and quantified using Pierce BCA Protein Assay  
163 Kit (23225, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Extracts were diluted in LDS PAGE buffer (NP0007,  
164 Invitrogen) followed by reduction, heat denaturing, and separation on an SDS Bis-Tris gel (4-12%,  
165 NP0323BOX, Invitrogen). The gels were stained overnight with colloidal blue (89871, Invitrogen).  
166 The entire lane comprising each sample was cut into 12 MW fractions and equilibrated in 100 mM  
167 ammonium bicarbonate (AmBc). Gel slices were reduced, carboxymethylated, dehydrated, and  
168 digested with Trypsin Gold (V5280, Promega, Madison, WI, USA) as per manufacturers'  
169 instructions. Following digestion, peptides were extracted, the volume was then be reduced in a  
170 SpeedVac to near dryness, and resuspended to 20 $\mu$ l using 95% ddH<sub>2</sub>O/ 5% ACN/ 0.1% formic acid  
171 (FA) prior to analysis by 1D reverse phase LC-ESI-MS2 (as outlined below).

172 **2.9 HPLC-electrospray tandem mass spectrometry:** Peptide digests were injected onto a 1260  
173 Infinity HPLC stack (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and separated using a 75 micron I.D. x 15 cm  
174 pulled tip C-18 column (00G-4053-E0, Jupiter C-18 300 Å, 5 micron, Phenomenex, Torrance, CA,  
175 USA). This system runs in-line with a Thermo Orbitrap Velos Pro hybrid mass spectrometer,  
176 equipped with a nano-electrospray source (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and all data was collected in  
177 CID mode. The HPLC was configured with binary mobile phases that include solvent A (0.1%FA in  
178 ddH<sub>2</sub>O), and solvent B (0.1%FA in 15% ddH<sub>2</sub>O / 85% ACN), programmed as follows; 10min @  
179 0%B (2 $\mu$ L/ min, load), 120min @ 0%-40%B (0.5nL/ min, analyze), 15min @ 0%B (2 $\mu$ L/ min,  
180 equilibrate). Following each parent ion scan (350-1200m/z @60k resolution), fragmentation data  
181 (MS2) was collected on the topmost intense 15 ions. For data dependent scans, charge state  
182 screening and dynamic exclusion were enabled with a repeat count of 2, repeat duration of 15.0s,  
183 and exclusion duration of 60.0s.



184 **2.10 Mass Spectrometry Data Conversion and Searches:** The XCalibur RAW files were collected  
185 in profile mode, centroided and converted to MXML using ReAdW v. 3.5.1. The mgf files were then  
186 created using MzXML2Search (included in TPP v. 3.5) for all scans. The data was searched using  
187 SEQUEST, which was set for two maximum missed cleavages, a precursor mass window of 20ppm,  
188 trypsin digestion, variable modification C at 57.0293, and M at 15.9949. Searches were performed  
189 with a species-specific subset of the UniRef100 database.

190 **2.11 Peptide Filtering, Grouping, and Quantification:** The list of peptide IDs generated based on  
191 SEQUEST search results were filtered using Scaffold (Protein Sciences, Portland, OR, USA).  
192 Scaffold filters and groups all peptides to generate and retain only high confidence IDs while also  
193 generating normalized spectral counts (N-SC's) across all samples for the purpose of relative  
194 quantification. The filter cut-off values were set with minimum peptide length of >5 AA's, with no  
195 MH+1 charge states, with peptide probabilities of >80% C.I., and with the number of peptides per  
196 protein  $\geq 2$ . The protein probabilities are then set to a >99.0% C.I., and an FDR<1.0. Scaffold  
197 incorporates the two most common methods for statistical validation of large proteome datasets, the  
198 false discovery rate (FDR) and protein probability [25-27]. Relative quantification across  
199 experiments were then performed via spectral counting, and when relevant, spectral count  
200 abundances were then normalized between samples [28-30].

201 **2.12 Proteomics Analysis:** For the proteomic data generated, two separate non-parametric statistical  
202 analyses are performed for each pair-wise comparison. These non-parametric analyses include 1) the  
203 calculation of weight values by significance analysis of microarray (SAM; cut off  $>|0.6|$  combined  
204 with 2) T-Test (single tail, unequal variance, cut off  $p < 0.05$ ), which then were sorted according to  
205 the highest statistical relevance in each comparison. For SAM, whereby the weight value (W) is a  
206 statistically derived function that approaches significance as the distance between the means ( $\mu_1 - \mu_2$ )

207 for each group increases, and the SD ( $\delta_1$ - $\delta_2$ ) decreases using the formula,  $W=(\mu_1-\mu_2)/(\delta_1-\delta_2)$ [31,  
208 32]. For protein abundance ratios determined with N-SC's, we set a 1.5-2.0 fold change as the  
209 threshold for significance, determined empirically by analyzing the inner-quartile data from the  
210 control experiment indicated above using ln-ln plots, where Pierson's correlation coefficient (R) was  
211 0.98, and >99% of the normalized intensities fell between +/-1.5 fold. In each case, any two of the  
212 three tests (SAM, Ttest, or fold change) had to pass.

213 Gene ontology assignments and pathway analysis were carried out using MetaCore (GeneGO  
214 Inc., St. Joseph, MI, USA). In addition, the final proteins list is analyzed using the auto-expand  
215 algorithm within MetaCore using the default setting (i.e. expanded by 50 nodes). In parallel, the  
216 expand-by-one algorithm is used to identify connections to the neighboring proteins, known drug  
217 interactions, and any known correlation to a disease, or specific biological process. Interactions  
218 identified within MetaCore are manually correlated using full-text articles. Detailed algorithms have  
219 been described previously [33, 34].

220 **2.13 Human Electrophysiology:** The electrophysiological data obtained from slice studies were  
221 derived from patients with medically intractable epilepsy undergoing elective neurosurgical tissue  
222 resection for the removal of a sclerotic hippocampus. All patients gave their informed consent,  
223 before surgery, for the use of the resected brain tissue for scientific studies. This study was approved  
224 by the Newcastle and the North Tyneside 2 Local Research Ethics Committee (06/Q1003/51) (date  
225 of review 03/07/06) and had clinical governance approved by the Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals  
226 NHS Trust (CM/PB/3707).

227 **2.14 In vitro human neocortex recordings:** Briefly, human cortical samples were derived from  
228 material removed as part of the surgical treatment of medically intractable cortical epilepsy from the  
229 mesial temporal lobe regions with the written informed consent of the patients. Slices were prepared

230 from these samples using methods as previously described [35-37]. The time between resection and  
231 slice preparation was <5 min. Extracellular recordings (DC–500 Hz) were conducted with ACSF-  
232 filled glass microelectrodes (2 M $\Omega$ ) connected to an extracellular amplifier (EXT-10-2F, npi  
233 electronic GmbH, Tamm, Germany). Signals were digitized (5 kHz) and recorded on a computer and  
234 then extracellular field recordings were analyzed to detect events using a custom-written code in  
235 Matlab2015b (Mathworks, MA, USA).

236 **2.15 siRNA Infusion:** For electrophysiological studies, hippocampal slices were collected from 6-8  
237 week old, male Sprague-Dawley rats. All rats had previously undergone stereotactic cranial infusion  
238 of siRNA according to previously described methods [38]. Briefly, animals were anesthetized by  
239 way of intraperitoneal injection of dexmedetomidine-ketamine and received bilateral infusions of  
240 Accell SMARTpool siRNAs (Thermo) targeting either OGT (#E-080125-00-05) or scrambled,  
241 negative controls (#D-001910-10-05) in the dorsal hippocampus using the following stereotaxic  
242 coordinates relative to bregma: A/P -3.6mm, M/L $\pm$ 1.7mm, D/V -3.6mm. Infusions were delivered at  
243 a constant rate of 0.1 uL per minute using a linear actuator for a total volume of 1 uL per side. Non-  
244 targeting, fluorescent Accell siRNA (#D-001960-01) were used to confirm targeted delivery of  
245 siRNA to the dorsal hippocampus. For all conditions, fresh stocks of siRNA (100  $\mu$ M) were re-  
246 suspended in Accell siRNA resuspension buffer to a concentration of 4.5  $\mu$ M immediately prior to  
247 surgery.

248 **2.16 Electrophysiology:** Following surgery, each rat was allowed five days of recovery time after  
249 which its brain was harvested and hippocampal slices were collected for further testing. High-  
250 frequency stimulation of the Schaffer collateral/commissural pathway (CA3-CA1) was conducted  
251 using four trains of 100 pulses at 100 Hz, spaced 60 seconds apart. The initial slope of the field

252 excitatory postsynaptic potential (EPSP) was measured as an index of synaptic strength. %fEPSP  
253 slopes were averaged after 20 min of baseline recording. Electrophysiological data are reported as  
254 means  $\pm$ SEM, where n represents the number of slices.

255 **2.17 Statistical Analysis for Biochemistry studies:** Data is expressed as mean  $\pm$ S.E.M and  
256 compared by a Student-test and Man-Whitney. Shapiro-Wilk and Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics  
257 were done to take into account any age, sex, race, and post-mortem interval information, none of the  
258 listed factors are contributing to our results for the OGT or O-GlcNAc protein levels for the human  
259 experiments. Statistically significant differences between groups were defined as  $p < 0.05$ .

## 260 **3 Results**

### 261 **3.1 Hippocampal O-GlcNAcylation and OGT activity is decreased in epileptic rats**

262 KA induced epilepsy has been shown to alter a variety of PTMs in proteins of the  
263 hippocampus. Therefore we sought to quantify global O-GlcNAcylation levels in the hippocampus 8  
264 weeks post-SE when the animals had become fully epileptic and experienced self-convulsive  
265 seizures (**Fig 1a**). Analysis of protein O-GlcNAcylation in the CA regions of the hippocampus  
266 revealed significant decreases of O-GlcNAcylation in epileptic animals compared to controls  
267 ( $t_{(4)}=13.02$ ,  $p=0.0002$ ,  $t_{(8)}=2.363$ ,  $p=0.0457$ ; **Fig 1b-c**). To investigate this decrease further, we  
268 measured OGT protein levels in the same region and observed a significant decreased in OGT  
269 protein levels in the epileptic rats when compared to controls(  $t_{(4)}=13.02$ ,  $p=0.0002$ ,  $t_{(8)}=2.363$ ,  
270  $p=0.0457$ ; **Fig. 1d**). In light of these results, we wanted to understand whether loss of OGT  
271 contributed to neuronal hyper-excitability. Following siRNA-mediated knockdown of OGT and  
272 high-frequency stimulation of the Schaffer collateral/commissural pathway (**Supplemental Fig. 1a-**  
273 **c**), we detected a trend toward increasing percent fEPSP and fEPSP slope, findings which suggest an

274 increased rate of neuronal firing with reduction of OGT. At the same time, no changes were detected  
275 in the paired-pulse facilitation between groups, indicating that any changes in neuronal firing were  
276 due to changes in the postsynaptic neuron. Taken together, these results indicate a reduction of O-  
277 GlcNAc and OGT protein levels in the epileptic hippocampus and suggest a correlation between  
278 epilepsy and protein O-GlcNAcylation.

### 279 **3.2 Global protein O-GlcNAcylation changes in epileptic rats.**

280 Next, we sought to investigate specific proteins that displayed differential O-GlcNAcylation  
281 expression associated with TLE pathology. Using HPLC-electrospray tandem mass spectrometry we  
282 measured the abundance of proteins that had significantly altered O-GlcNAcylation in the CA  
283 regions of the hippocampus at 8 weeks post-SE. We found that 59 proteins were significantly  
284 differentially expressed in TLE, with seventeen of these 59 proteins exhibiting changes in O-  
285 GlcNAc marks. Gene ontology analysis revealed that the majority of diseases associated with  
286 differential expression of these proteins were neurodegenerative or cytoskeletal in nature.  
287 Additionally, among these seventeen proteins, twelve had been reported to be associated with  
288 epilepsy in the literature[3] (**Table1**) (**Fig 2a**).

289 In addition to measuring O-GlcNAcylation, we also measured phosphorylation and  
290 discovered increases in protein phosphorylation, particularly on those proteins that had shown  
291 decreases in protein O-GlcNAcylation. We next analyzed overall protein expression against protein  
292 phosphorylation and protein O-GlcNAcylation (**Supplemental Fig.2a-b**) revealing two distinct  
293 cluster groups. These clusters indicated that increased protein expression was positively correlated  
294 with increased protein phosphorylation, and only a few of the more highly expressed proteins also  
295 had changes in O-GlcNAcylation. In contrast to phosphorylation, increased protein O-  
296 GlcNAcylation was predominantly seen in proteins with decreased in expression. These clusters

297 persisted when O-GlcNAcylation and phosphorylation were plotted against each other  
298 (**Supplemental Fig.2c**). The Z-scores were plotted from each biological replicate against either  
299 modification to demonstrate the contrast between their fold change (**Supplemental Fig.2d-e**). Taken  
300 together our mass spectrometry analysis corroborated our findings that overall protein O-  
301 GlcNAcylation was decreased in the epileptic animal hippocampus while highlighting the particular  
302 proteomic ontologies affected by this loss. Additionally, our findings revealed that certain proteins  
303 actually show increased O-GlcNAcylation in the epileptic hippocampus. Collectively, these findings  
304 provide evidence that differentially expressed proteins and changes in PTMs are associated with  
305 TLE and other disease states highlighting the importance of protein PTM in homeostasis.

### 306 **3.3 OGA inhibition in the epileptic hippocampus via acute Thiamet-G treatment reduces** 307 **epileptiform activity.**

308 The observed global loss of O-GlcNAcylation and OGT prompted additional experiments to  
309 determine the role of this PTM in epilepsy. Using the KA model of epilepsy, we recorded cortical  
310 brain activity and seizures with EEG one month post-SE. We then administered Thiamet-G  
311 (10mg/kg/day), a known OGA inhibitor used to increase O-GlcNAcylation, once a day for three  
312 consecutive days in order to measure its effect on epileptiform brain activity (**Fig 3a**). We measured  
313 baseline EEG activity between control animals and epileptic animals and found that epileptic  
314 animals demonstrating higher power than the controls indicating more epileptiform activity (**Fig 3b-**  
315 **c**). The epileptic rats presented with sharp spikes and larger amplitudes than the control animals that  
316 depicted synchronous activity or seizures in the spectrogram with warmer colors. These epileptic  
317 animals then underwent a daily regimen of OGA inhibition for three days while having their brain  
318 activity measured (**Fig 3-d**). Following three days of Thiamet-G treatment, epileptic rats displayed a  
319 reduction in epileptic waveform and a decrease in the number of seizures experience per day and

320 seizure duration ( $t_{(7)}=1.999, p=0.858$ ,  $t_{(34)}=3.497, p=0.0013$ ; **Fig. 3e-f**). We then unraveled the  
321 spectrogram using a power spectrum in order to measure the significant changes in power between  
322 frequencies for each day of Thiamet-G treatment. (**Fig. 3g**). The frequencies were divided into bands  
323 of brainwaves that are characterized by their range in frequency and behavioral characteristics. For  
324 instance, lower band frequencies such as delta and theta waves are associated with sleep, while  
325 higher frequency bands such as gamma are more closely associated with consciousness and  
326 attentiveness [39]. These bands can be used to characterize seizure severity. In this study, OGA  
327 inhibition helped restore the power of the lower frequencies (delta-alpha) more so than the higher  
328 frequencies (beta-gamma) to the baseline of the control group.

329 We furthered analyzed each frequency type against their relative power. As expected the  
330 largest powers for each given frequency band were from the epileptic rat recordings prior to  
331 treatment ( $t_{(32-52)}=$ ,  $p=0.0016 < 0.0001$ ; **Fig 3h**). By the first day of treatment, these bands showed a  
332 reduction in power and began to mirror the power levels of the non-epileptic rats, with the exception  
333 of the gamma frequency. This discrepancy between the gamma frequency and the trend from the  
334 other bands could be explained by a local measure of activity and not by an overall global cortical  
335 network due to a single measurement of activity with an electrode. With each day of treatment, the  
336 relative power of each band decreased with the exception of the theta band which plateaued  
337 immediately after the first treatment of Thiamet-G. This band is typically characterized by the  
338 excitatory regular spiking, and intrinsic bursting pyramidal neurons, suggesting that inhibition of  
339 OGA via Thiamet-G may preferentially target this group of neurons more readily.

#### 340 **3.4 Chronic inhibition of OGA activity in epileptic rats increases hippocampal atrophy**

341 Although OGA inhibition dampened epileptiform activity and seizure duration in a wide  
342 spectrum of frequencies, we sought to determine if there were any morphological changes associated

343 with the Thiamet-G treatment over a prolonged period of usage. Hippocampal scarring and/or gliosis  
344 is often observed in animal models of TLE as well as in humans, where it leads to hippocampal  
345 atrophy. Hippocampal atrophy in TLE patients is observed using MRI T<sub>2</sub> weighted scans where the  
346 ventricles adjacent to the hippocampus expand due to a reduction of size in the hippocampus. We  
347 created epileptic rats as previously described, and scanned these animals in an MRI machine at eight  
348 weeks post-injection in order to record their ventricular volumes prior to treatment. We then began a  
349 two-week treatment regimen for these animals with either saline or Thiamet-G (10mg/kg/day) and  
350 measured their ventricular volumes after treatment (**Fig 4a**). Coronal T<sub>2</sub> pre/post scans were taken of  
351 saline and Thiamet-G injected rodents (**Fig.4b**). Voxels were quantified and compared to non-  
352 epileptic with saline injections for their respected time points (pre or post) (One way ANOVA,  
353  $F=10.05$ ,  $p= 0.0002$  **Fig. 4c**). Epileptic rats displayed significantly higher voxel area units prior to  
354 treatment compared to non-epileptic controls. Following two weeks of treatment, voxel area  
355 increased in both Thiamet-G and saline-treated animals with no significant differences between the  
356 two groups. These scans suggest that Thiamet-G does little to inhibit or slow the progression of  
357 ventricular expansion seen in epilepsy [40-43].

358         Following MRI scans, animals were sacrificed and brain tissue was processed for  
359 immunohistochemistry experiments. We stained brain slices for GFAP as a marker for gliosis  
360 (**Supplemental Fig3a**) and for O-GlcNAcylation (**Supplemental Fig3b**). We observed increases in  
361 O-GlcNAcylation with Thiamet-G treatment as expected. However, with regards to GFAP, Thiamet-  
362 G increased its protein expression in healthy control rats but seemed to reduce GFAP expression in  
363 epileptic animals. Taken together, these experiments suggest that OGA inhibition does not stop or  
364 reverse epileptic hippocampal atrophy, but it may increase reactive astrocyte levels. These findings  
365 leave open the possibility that Thiamet-G treatment may slow the progression of hippocampal



366 atrophy if it is begun earlier in the disease course. However, OGA inhibition does not appear to  
367 restore atrophied tissue.

368 **3.5 Chronic Thiamet-G treatment in epileptic animals differentially alters OGA protein**  
369 **expression and O-GlcNAc substrates.**

370 Seeing as Thiamet-G treatment resulted in increased O-GlcNAcylation and decreased GFAP  
371 expression in epileptic animals we next wanted to understand how chronic treatment with Thiamet-G  
372 would affect O-GlcNAcylation levels on proteins shown to be differentially expressed in TLE.  
373 Specifically, we wanted to ask whether OGA's expression was altered in epilepsy, and if so, whether  
374 Thiamet-G treatment restored OGA expression to homeostatic levels. We first looked at OGA  
375 protein expression in our epileptic animals that were treated for two weeks with Thiamet-G, (One  
376 way ANOVA  $F=1.852$   $p=0.085$  **Fig. 5a-b**). We noticed no significant changes in OGA protein  
377 expression in control animals treated with Thiamet-G. Although not significant, we did notice a  
378 trend in increased OGA protein expression in epileptic animals. When these animals were treated  
379 with Thiamet-G, levels of OGA expression resembled those of saline-treated controls.

380 Based on our proteomic analysis (**Fig.2a**), we identified Sortilin-Related Receptor (SORL1)  
381 and tropomodulin 2 (Tmod2) as proteins that undergo increased and decreased protein O-  
382 GlcNAcylation in TLE, respectively (**Supplemental Fig.4**). SORL1 is a receptor that binds to LDL  
383 and transports it into the cells via endocytosis, a process that is subject to inhibition upon binding to  
384 the receptor-associated protein (RAP) [44]. SORL1 has also been implicated in APP trafficking to  
385 and from the Golgi apparatus and in Alzheimer's disease [45, 46]. Tmod2 is an actin-binding protein  
386 that stabilizes ADP-bound actin monomers onto actin filaments and is downregulated in epilepsy  
387 [47, 48]. To test the effect of Thiamet-G administration on these proteins' PTMs we used  
388 immunoprecipitation followed by Western blot to interrogate the levels of O-GlcNAcylation on these

389 proteins specifically. We observed no differences in O-GlcNAcylation on immunoprecipitated  
390 SORL1, nor did we find any differences in association with OGT (**Fig 5c**). Immunoprecipitation of  
391 Tmod2 revealed slight increases in O-GlcNAcylation in animals treated with Thiamet-G, along with  
392 decreases of total O-GlcNAcylation in the inputs, or the raw unimmunoprecipitated samples (**Fig**  
393 **5d**). Furthermore, no differences were observed in the degree of association between Tmod2 and  
394 OGT. These results suggest that Thiamet-G cannot restore the decreased levels of O-GlcNAcylation  
395 of SORL1 and Tmod2 specifically in epileptic rats, a finding which led us to ask whether these  
396 observations are similar in human, resected TLE samples and whether Thiamet-G might have a  
397 greater impact on human O-GlcNAcylation than it did on rats.

398 **Table 2: Human demographics from resected hippocampal tissue from TLE patients.**

### 399 **3.6 Deficits in O-GlcNAcylation and OGT in patients with TLE**

400 Our initial rodent studies have shown that O-GlcNAcylation and OGT are downregulated in  
401 the hippocampi of epileptic rats, but we were unsure of how O-GlcNAcylation and OGT might  
402 behave in human TLE tissue. We began by measuring O-GlcNAcylation and OGT expression in  
403 resected human hippocampus from TLE patients and compared them to age-matched controls from  
404 post-mortem human hippocampus tissue (**Fig. 6a**). We observed a significant loss of O-  
405 GlcNAcylation and OGT expression ( $t_{(18)}=3.198, p=0.0050, t_{(11)}=1.941, p=0.0783$  **Fig 6b-c**) in TLE  
406 patients in comparison to postmortem tissue as seen in our epileptic rats. After recapitulating this  
407 loss of OGT and global O-GlcNAcylation in human tissue, we next asked whether SORL1 and  
408 Tmod2 were being modified in the same manner as we had seen in our epileptic rats. We  
409 immunoprecipitated SORL1 and Tmod2 and, in the rats, we observed no differences in O-  
410 GlcNAcylation of the proteins, nor any differences in their interaction with OGT (**Fig 6d**).

411 **3.7 OGA inhibition in human TLE resected tissue decreases spike events and increases O-**  
412 **GlcNAcylation.**

413         Seeing as human TLE patient samples exhibited decreases in O-GlcNAcylation, we then  
414 wanted to know if restoring O-GlcNAcylation with Thiamet-G would decrease seizure spike events  
415 as observed in the rats treated with Thiamet-G. To test this hypothesis we obtained samples from  
416 TLE patients undergoing surgical resection. We immediately placed these samples in oxygenated  
417 ACSF, sectioned the tissue, and allowed them to acclimate to the bath for 1hr (**Fig 7a**). Following a  
418 1hr incubation at room temperature, we recorded baseline activity for 1hr, finding that each slice  
419 exhibited spontaneous interictal-like activity. After 1 hr, slices were bathed in Thiamet-G (100  $\mu$ M)  
420 for 3 hrs and the samples frozen for later molecular processing.

421         Prior to treatment with Thiamet-G, these slices exhibited an average of 66 spikes per minute,  
422 a rate which decreased to an average of 40 spikes per minute after one hour of treatment in Thiamet-  
423 G solution (**Fig7b-d**). Importantly, slices that were not treated with Thiamet-G showed no change in  
424 average spikes per minute over time. In this way, we showed that bath application of Thiamet-G to  
425 hyper-excitable human hippocampus significantly decreased spike frequency, recapitulating the  
426 similar effect that we observed *in vivo* in our epileptic rats.

427         We next examined the O-GlcNAcylation, OGT, and OGA levels in these tissues (**Fig 7e**).  
428 Protein O-GlcNAcylation generally increased with Thiamet-G treatment and decreased with vehicle  
429 control treatment depending on whether the tissue had electrophysiological recordings performed.  
430 (**Fig 7f**). OGT levels increased with recording and Thiamet-G treatment but not with Thiamet-G  
431 treatment alone; OGA, which is enzymatically inhibited by Thiamet-G increased during our  
432 electrophysiology recordings but showed little change with Thiamet-G treatment alone. Overall, we  
433 find that O-GlcNAcylation and OGT levels are decreased in epilepsy, but promoting this PTM

434 pharmacologically resulted in decreased seizure frequency and, spikes, as well as increased protein  
435 O-GlcNAcylation.

#### 436 **4 Discussion**

437 The current study demonstrates that O-GlcNAcylation and OGT are decreased in the  
438 CA1/CA3 regions of the hippocampus in a rodent model of epilepsy. By pharmacologically targeting  
439 this modification through pharmacological inhibition of OGA, we were able to raise global protein  
440 O-GlcNAcylation levels, not only in epileptic rats but in resected human hippocampus tissue as well.  
441 To our knowledge, this is the first demonstration of a role for protein O-GlcNAcylation and its  
442 mediators in epilepsy. This is further supported by prior studies suggesting that this PTM is involved  
443 in prolonged seizure activity [3, 4]. Granted that O-GlcNAcylation is critical in modulating cellular  
444 homeostasis, we submit that this PTM shows promise as a new therapeutic target in epilepsy or TLE  
445 and other chronic seizures disorders [8-10]. Indeed, O-GlcNAc signaling has been characterized in  
446 numerous pathologies outside of the nervous system [49-52]. To date, O-GlcNAc has been limited to  
447 studies in the nervous system only with respects to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease,  
448 Huntington's disease, schizophrenia, seizures, appetite, and synaptic plasticity [14-20, 53, 54]

449 Additionally, we demonstrated that the loss of OGT and O-GlcNAcylation does not present a  
450 homogeneous expression profile. We showed that although the majority of proteins showed  
451 decreased O-GlcNAcylation levels, there were some proteins that showed an increased in this PTM.  
452 Moreover, we demonstrated that proteins that have been associated with epilepsy had differentially  
453 expressed O-GlcNAc levels, changes that potentially alter their structure and function in TLE.  
454 Finally, we identified a novel biological target, OGA, which can be successfully depressed by  
455 Thiamet-G to promote O-GlcNAcylation levels and decrease the number of seizures and spikes *in*  
456 *vivo* both in rats and in human tissue. Although chronic inhibition of OGA in epileptic rats did not

457 prevent or reverse ventricular expansion we did find that Thiamet-G treatment in epileptic animals  
458 and humans tissue could be used to reduce seizures and spike frequency. In future studies, it may be  
459 of interest to treat these rodents with Thiamet-G during earlier stages of epilepsy pathogenesis,  
460 during the onset of status epilepticus to investigate whether Thiamet-G can delay or halt  
461 epileptogenesis as a preventative treatment.

462 In summary, our results suggest that protein O-GlcNAcylation and its mediators play a  
463 previously unknown role in TLE and its animal models (**Fig 8**). These findings shed new light on the  
464 disorder and recommend novel therapeutic targets that warrant further study. Seeing as protein O-  
465 GlcNAcylation is closely tied to broader cellular metabolism, a program of treatment recognizes O-  
466 GlcNAcylation's role in epileptic pathophysiology could employ many potential therapies targeting  
467 related pathways. These therapeutic candidates range from glucosamine to metformin and even the  
468 ketogenic diet, a therapy that would have fewer side effects compared to conventional AED's [21,  
469 55, 56].

## 470 **5 Figure legends:**

### 471 **Figure 1: Hippocampus O-GlcNAcylation and OGT are decreased in epileptic rats. (a)**

472 Experimental design. Rats were either injected with saline or kainic acid in order to induce status  
473 epilepticus (SE). The animals were then sacrificed eight weeks later post kainic at which point these  
474 animals had become epileptic and the hippocampus was collected for protein analysis. (b)

475 Representative O-GlcNAcylation as well as OGT and actin western blots for controls and epileptic  
476 rats. (c) Global O-GlcNAcylation was decreased in epileptic rats in comparison to control. (n=4-6  
477 per group) (d) OGT protein levels were significantly reduced in epilepsy (n=4-6 per group). \*

478 denotes P <0.05 from controls, \*\*\* denotes P<0.001 from controls. Unpaired T-Test Error bars are  
479 SEM

480 **Figure 2: Global protein O-GlcNAcylation changes in Epileptic rats is protein dependent.** (a)

481 The heatmap illustrates all differentially expressed proteins ( $p < 0.05$ ) in epileptic rats (green bar)  
482 relative to controls (orange) bar. Each row is a protein indicated by the RefSeq accession number  
483 and each column in a biological replicate where the row and column order was determined by the  
484 Euclidian clustering method shown by the dendrograms. The protein values are shown as  
485 standardized z-scores, where the color indicates the standard deviation increasing (yellow) or  
486 decreasing (blue) relative to the mean (black). Grey blocks indicate missing values for the respective  
487 biological replicate. Further, for each protein, the top five disorders and GO terms (adjusted p-  
488 value  $< 0.05$ ) are annotated in pink and purple respectively. Lastly, the phosphorylation (phospho)  
489 fold change and O-GlcNAc levels are indicated for each differentially expressed protein.

490 **Table 1: Differentially expressed proteins and their O-GlcNAcylation levels in epilepsy.**

491 **Figure 3: OGA inhibition decreases seizure duration and epileptiform activity.** (a) Experimental

492 outline. Epileptic rats were created using kainic acid. Four weeks post kainate the rats underwent  
493 EEG surgery where cortical electrodes were placed and the animals had a week to recover from the  
494 surgery before recordings were initiated. Baseline recordings were taking for 24hrs and Thiamet-G  
495 treatment ensued immediately after for three consecutive days followed by euthanization. (b)  
496 Cortical baseline EEG spectrogram of a saline (control) treated rat. (c) Cortical baseline EEG  
497 spectrogram of an epileptic rat during a seizure. (d) Cortical EEG spectrogram of the same epileptic  
498 rat following three days of Thiamet-G treatment. (e) The number of seizures decreased after three  
499 days of Thiamet-G treatment between the pre and post-treated animals. (f) Thiamet-G significantly  
500 decreased seizure duration by the second day of treatment and continued to decrease seizure duration  
501 up to the last day of treatment. (g) A power spectrum analysis demonstrated that the frequencies that  
502 were most dampened by Thiamet-G intervention were theta through gamma bands (h) Quantification

503 of the power spectrum illustrates which frequencies were significantly decreased after treatment in  
504 comparison to control non-epileptic animals. \* denotes  $P < 0.05$  from controls, \*\* denotes  $P < 0.01$   
505 from controls, \*\*\* denotes  $P < 0.001$  from controls, \*\*\*\* denotes  $P < 0.0001$  from controls. ^ denotes  
506  $P < 0.10$  One-way ANOVA, Error bars are SEM

507 **Figure 4: Thiamet-G treatment has no reduction in ventricle expansion and O-GlcNAcylation.**

508 (a) Experimental outline of animal model and treatment. Epileptic animals were created with kainic  
509 acid. Eight weeks post-kainate the animals had their first T2 scans were taken. Immediately  
510 following the scan, animals were treated with Thiamet-G (10mg/kg/day) for 2 weeks at the same  
511 time each day. The animals then had a final T2 scan where they were then sacrificed and the  
512 hippocampus was collected. (b) Representative pre/post T2 weighted images of epileptic and non-  
513 epileptic rats that were treated with either saline or Thiamet-G for two weeks. The CSF is bright  
514 white in the T2 MRI images demonstrating ventricle expansion with epilepsy and a more severe  
515 expansion with Thiamet-G treatment. (c) Quantification of T2 MRI images showing significant  
516 ventricle sizes between controls and epileptics before Thiamet-G treatment. Ventricle sizes  
517 significantly differed between the epileptic Thiamet-G treated group and the rest of the other group's  
518 post-treatment. (n=8/group), \* and – denotes  $P < 0.05$  from controls. One-way ANOVA. Error bars are  
519 SEM

520 **Figure 5: Thiamet-G treatment decreases OGA expression but leaves SORL1 and Tmod2**

521 **unmodified with O-GlcNAc.** (a) Representative western blots of OGA and actin for the two-week  
522 saline or Thiamet-G treated epileptic and non-epileptic rats. (b) statistical analysis of the two-week  
523 saline or Thiamet-G treated epileptic and non-epileptic rats normalized to actin. (c)  
524 Immunoprecipitation of SORL1 with immunoblotting for O-GlcNAc (top membrane), SORL1  
525 (middle membrane), and OGT (bottom membrane). (d) Immunoprecipitation of Tmod2 with

526 immunoblotting for O-GlcNAc (top membrane), Tmod2 (middle membrane), and OGT bottom  
527 (membrane). (n=6-7/group) ^denotes  $P<0.10$  One-way ANOVA. Error bars are SEM.

528 **Table 2: Human sample demographics and clinical description/history.**

529 **Figure 6: Deficits in O-GlcNAcylation and OGT in patients with TLE** (a) Western blot

530 membrane with TLE human tissue and post-mortem non-epileptic alternating from left to right. The  
531 top membrane was probed with CTD110.6 antibody to show O-GlcNAc levels between both groups.

532 The middle membrane was stripped and probed with OGT and the bottom membrane represents the  
533 level of actin between both groups. (b) Desensitization of O-GlcNAc levels between control and

534 TLE individuals were quantified and actin was used to normalize O-GlcNAc. (n=11-13 per group)

535 (c) Desensitization of OGT levels between control and TLE where taken and normalized to actin.

536 (n=11-13 per group). (d) Immunoprecipitation of SORL1 and Tmod2 on resected TLE patients and

537 postmortem tissue. Immunoblotting was performed with O-GlcNAc (top membrane), SORL1

538 (middle membrane), Tmod2 (middle membrane), and OGT (bottom membrane). Unpaired T-Test.

539 \*\* denotes  $P<0.01$  ^ denotes  $P<0.10$  Error bars are SEM.

540 **Figure 7: Thiamet-G bath application on human resected hippocampal focal site reduces**

541 **seizures and decreases OGA protein expression and increases O-GlcNAcylation.** (a)

542 Experimental outlined. Samples were taken from patients that had gone temporal lobectomy that

543 were unresponsive to AED. Samples were immediately placed in oxygenated ACSF and allowed to

544 acclimate for 1hr. Baseline recording of activity was taken for 1hr followed by bath application of

545 Thiamet-G. Samples were flash frozen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . (b) Representative spike recording of

546 resected hippocampus before Thiamet-G administration (c) Representative spike recording of the

547 resected hippocampus after Thiamet-G bath application. (d) Quantification of spiking events per

548 min of tissue slices at baseline and Thiamet-G administration. (e) Protein O-GlcNAcylation OGT



549 and OGA were measured using western blots in order to ascertain Thiamet-G effects on the samples.  
550 (f) Quantification of western blot. O-GlcNAc and OGA were normalized to actin and compared to  
551 stimulated untreated group (n=4/group). \* denotes  $P < 0.05$ . Fisher LSD test. Error bars are SEM.

552 **Figure 8: Protein O-GlcNAcylation in the epileptic hippocampus.** We observed global losses of  
553 O-GlcNAcylation in human and rat TLE. However analyzing specific proteins and their  
554 modifications there were few that had increases namely SORL1, with the majority have losses of O-  
555 GlcNAc. In addition, we observe loss of OGT protein expression with epilepsy. By inhibition OGA  
556 we observed decreases in seizures and a restoration of protein O-GlcNAcylation homeostasis, in  
557 addition to increases in OGT.

558

#### 559 **Supplemental Material**

560 **Figure 1: siRNA knockdown of OGT in the rat CA1 electrophysiological recordings.** High-  
561 frequency stimulation of the Schaffer collateral/commissural pathway (CA3-CA1) was conducted  
562 using four trains of 100 pulses at 100Hz, spaced at 60 seconds apart. (a) The initial slope of the field  
563 excitatory postsynaptic potential (EPSP) as an index of synaptic strength. Recordings were taken for  
564 180 minutes. (b) Percent fEPSP slopes were averaged after 20 minutes of baseline recording  
565 between input and output. (c) Paired-Pulse facilitation remained unchanged throughout the entire  
566 inter-event interval.

567 **Figure 2: Relationship among protein expression, phosphorylation, and O-GlcNAc levels.** For  
568 each differentially expressed protein, the phosphorylation and O-GlcNAc levels were shown in the  
569 scatter plots. The relationship is illustrated in (a) protein fold change and phosphorylation fold  
570 change (b) protein fold and O-GlcNAc levels and (c) phosphorylation fold and O-GlcNAc levels. To

571 further demonstrate the relationship between protein levels and each modification, the z-scores from  
572 the proteins for each biological replicate are shown in contrast to (d) phosphorylation fold change  
573 and (e) O-GlcNAc levels.

574 **Figure 3: Immunohistochemistry staining of GFAP from two-week chronic Thiamet-G**  
575 **treatment on epileptic rats two-months post kainate.** (a) Hippocampal CA region GFAP staining  
576 of two-month post kainate epileptic rats treated chronically with Thiamet-G or saline for two-weeks  
577 at 20x magnification (b) IHC staining of O-GlcNAcylation of the CA region of the hippocampus at  
578 20x magnification of these animals post-Thiamet-G treatment illustrates increases in O-  
579 GlcNAcylation. (n=8/group).

580 **Figure 4: Sortilin-Related Receptor (SORL1) protein and Tropomodulin (Tmod2)**  
581 **Phosphorylated sites.**

582 (a) SORL1 peptide <sup>1977</sup>TDRSYKVR<sup>1984</sup> ms (m/z 755.85) for controls (left) and epileptic (right) CA  
583 hippocampus showed differentially O-GlcNAcylation on serine 1980. With an overall trend towards  
584 an increase in epilepsy. (b) SORL1 peptide; single letters represent the amino acid which has been  
585 cited as phosphorylated and the numbers represent the location of that amino acid on the protein.  
586 Colored bars represent domains: purple- sortilin-vsp10 domain, green- sortilin C domain, red- LDL  
587 receptor B domain, blue- LDL receptor A domain, light blue- Fibronectin type III domain, turquoise-  
588 peptide from our mass spectrometry, brown-transmembrane domain, grey- low complexity domain.  
589 (c) Tmod2 peptide <sup>217</sup>EFAKALETNTHVRK<sup>230</sup> MS (m/z 923.99) for controls (left) and epileptic  
590 (right) hippocampus that demonstrated overall decreases in O-GlcNAcylation at threonine 225 (d)  
591 Tmod2 peptide; single letters represent the amino acid which has been cited as phosphorylated and  
592 the numbers represent the location of that amino acid on the protein. Colored bars represent  
593 domains: black-tropomodulin domain, turquoise- peptide from our mass spectrometry.

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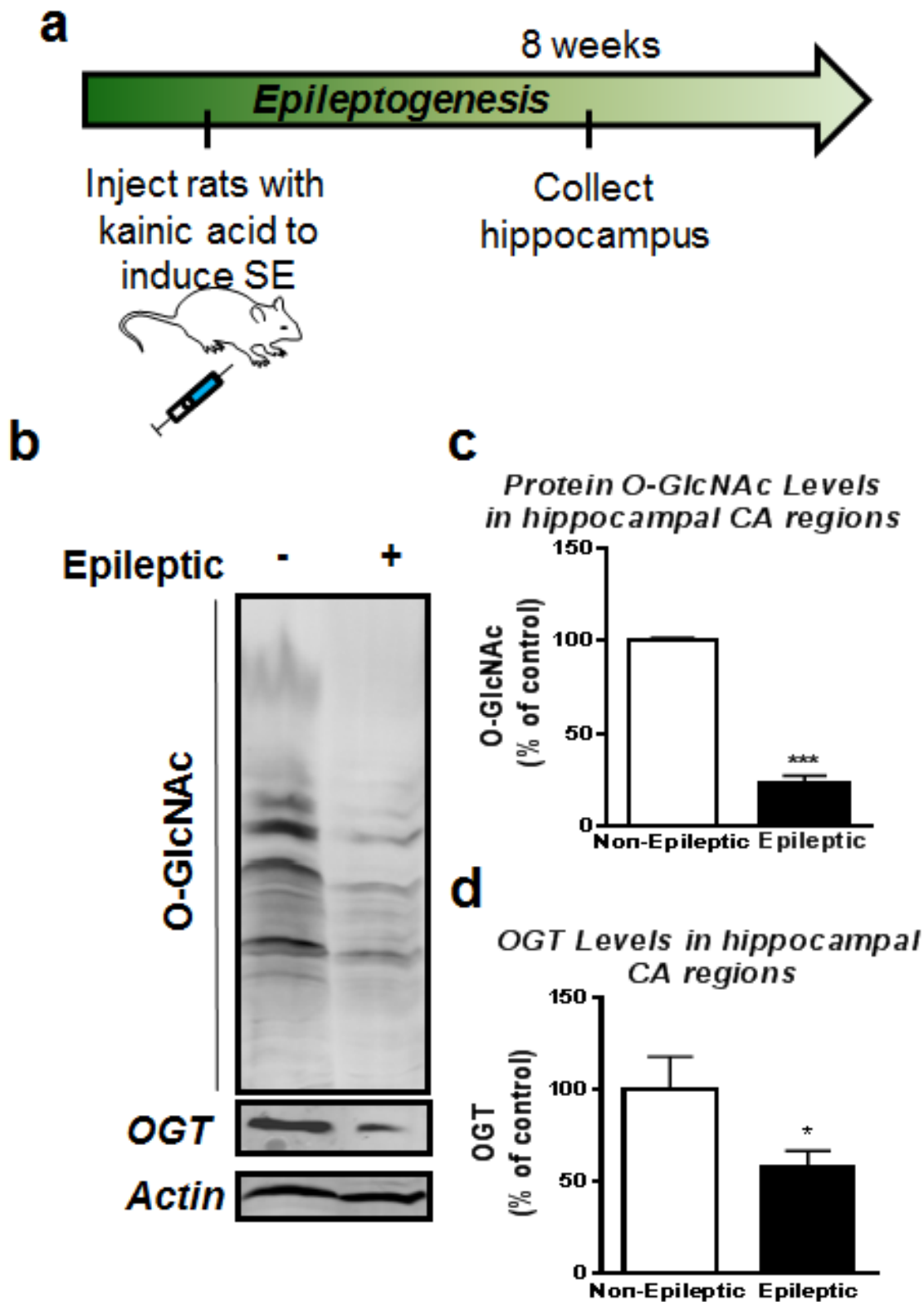
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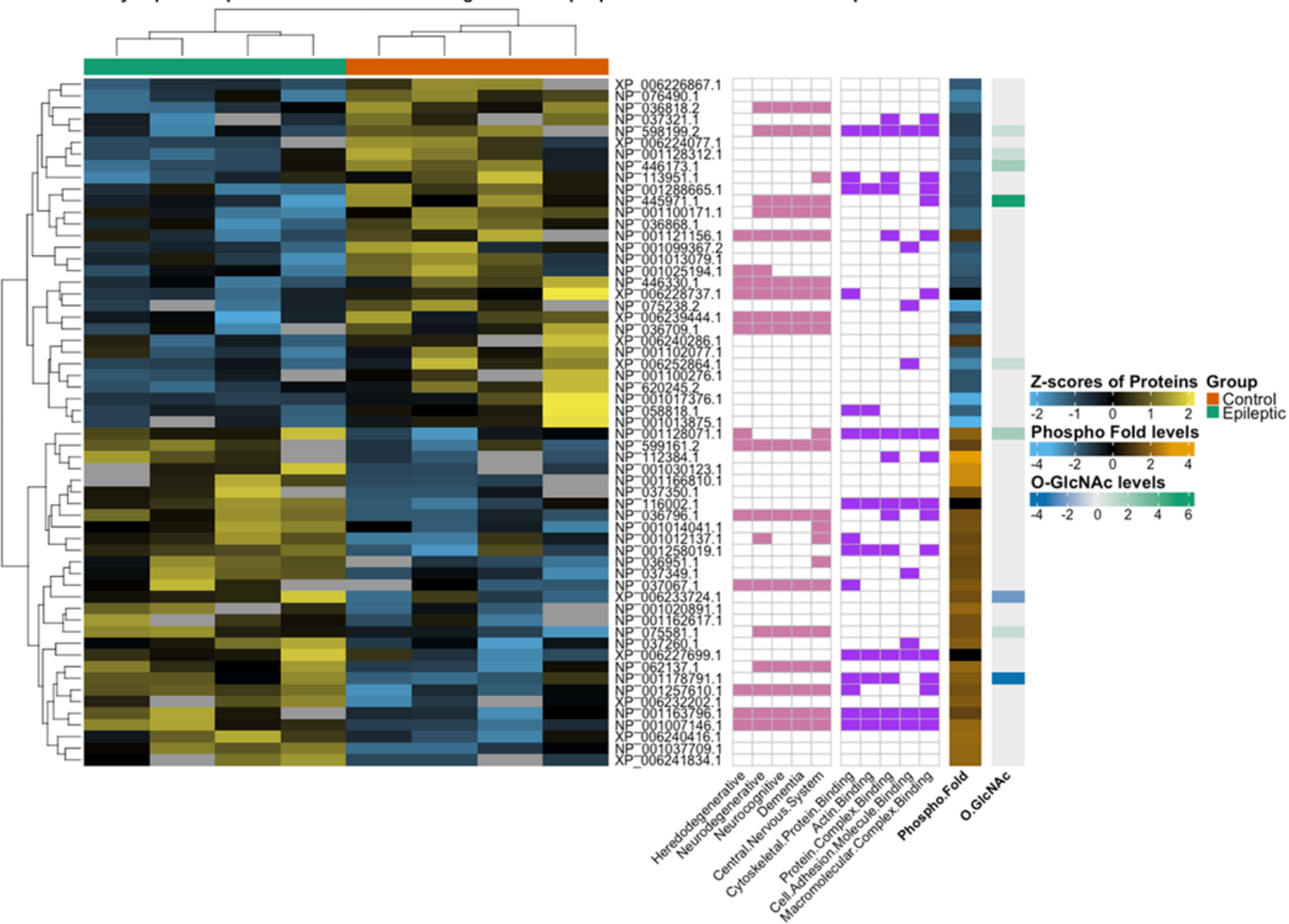
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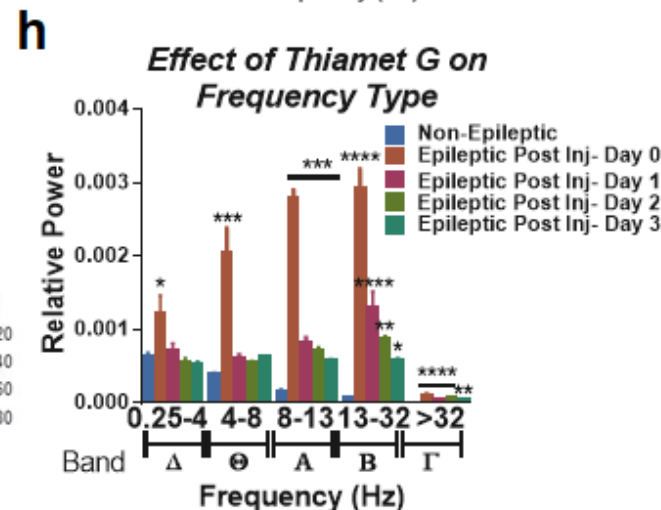
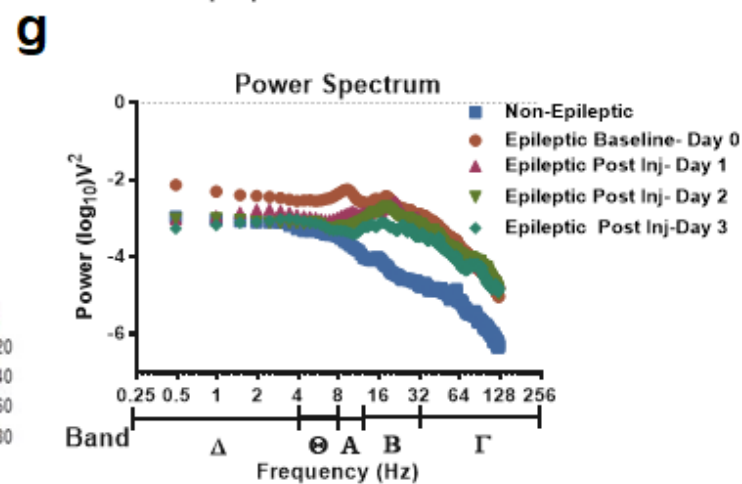
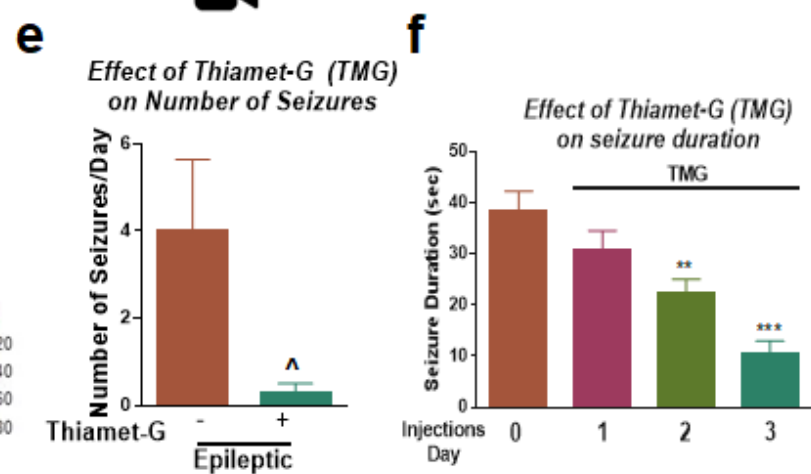
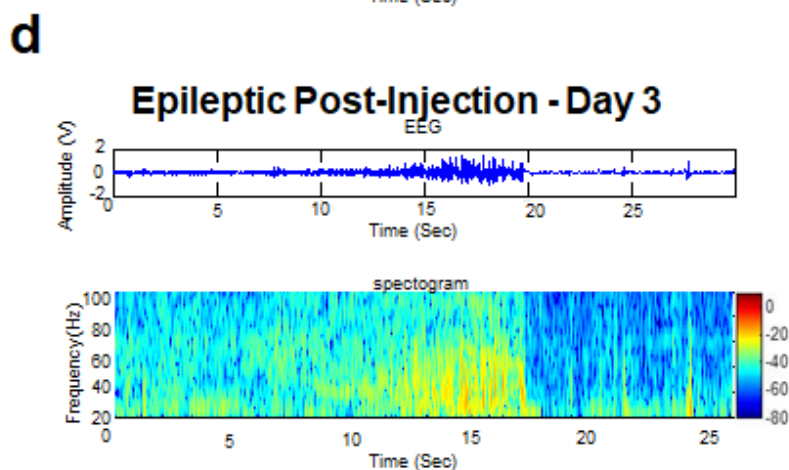
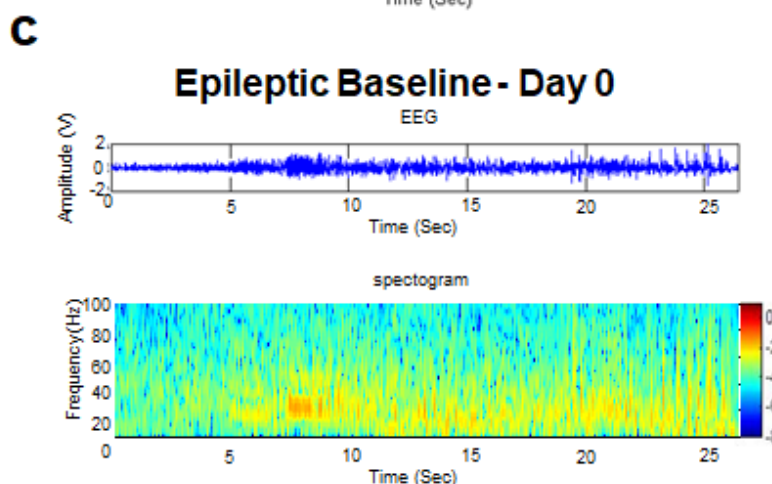
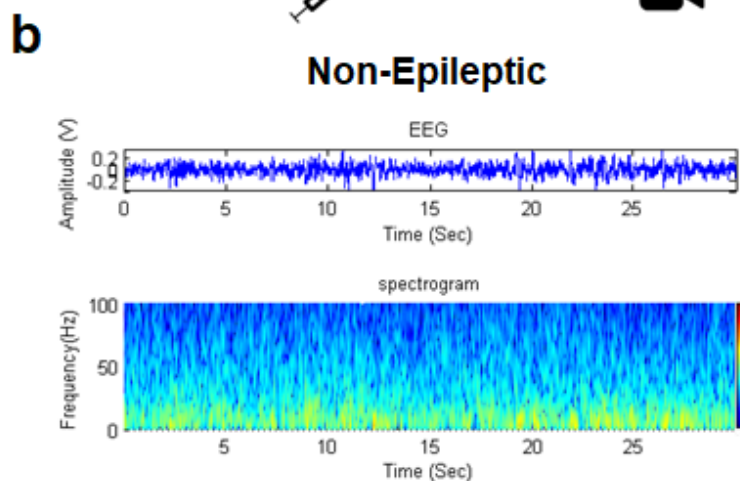
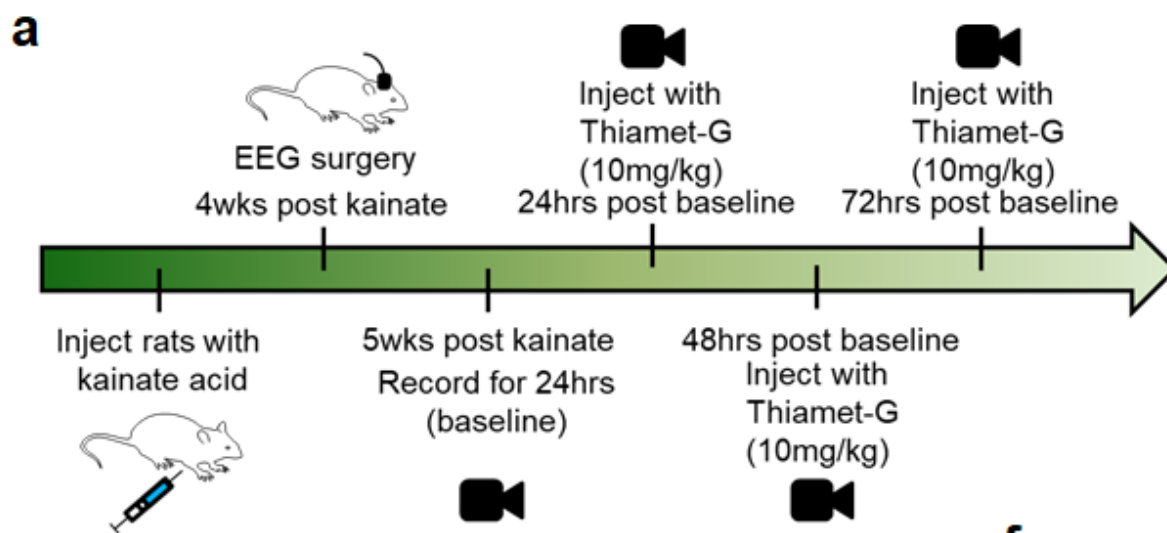


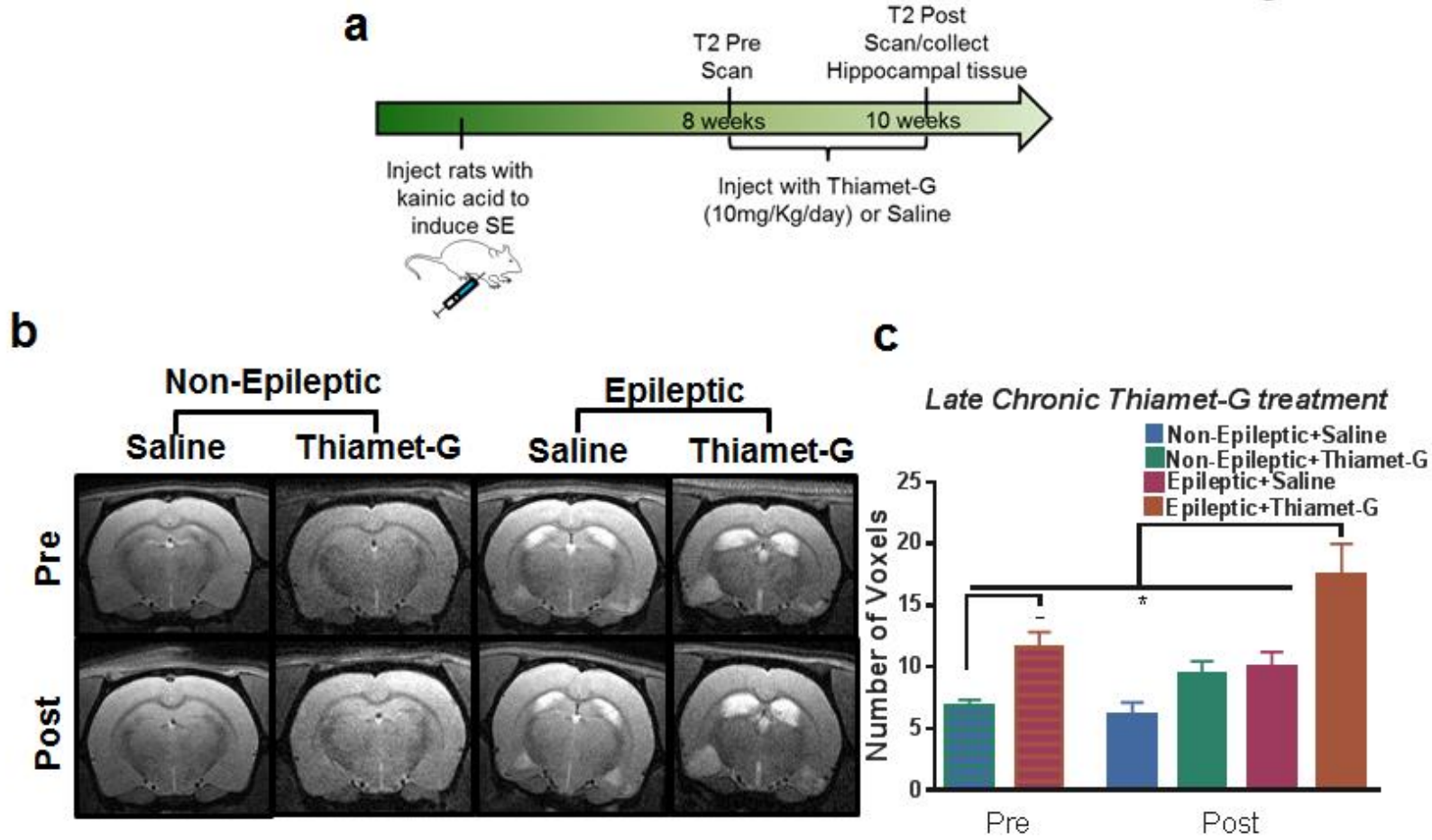
**a**

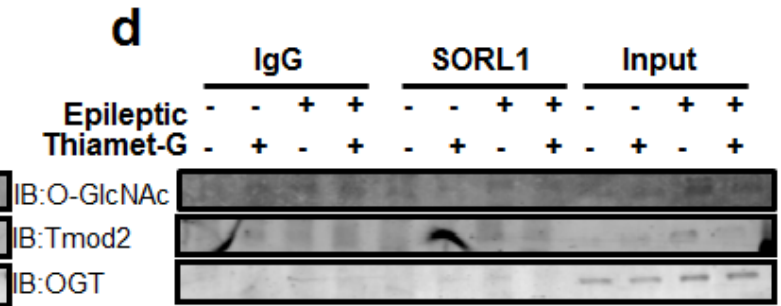
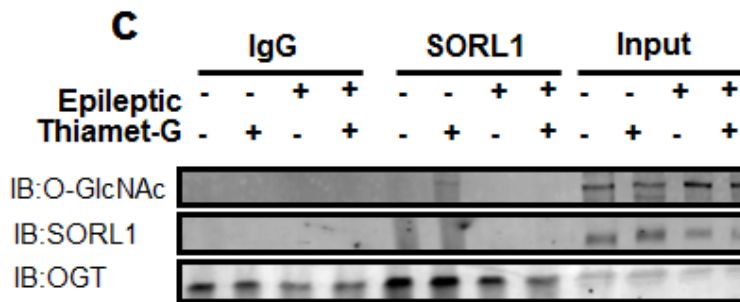
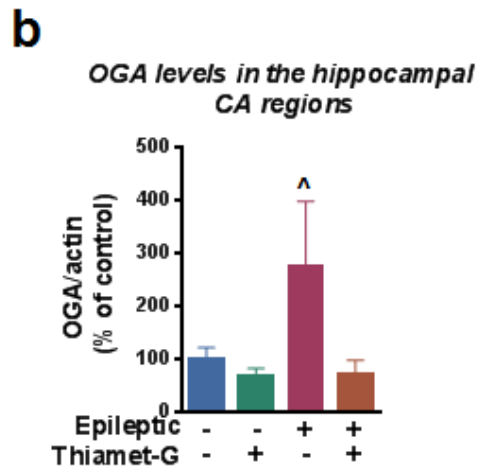
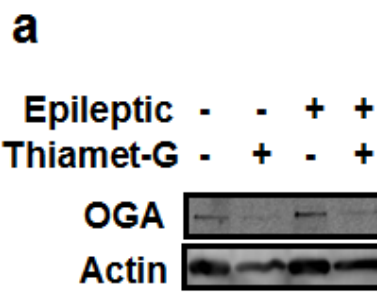
Differentially expressed proteins in the CA1 & CA3 regions from Epileptic rats

Disorders Top GO terms

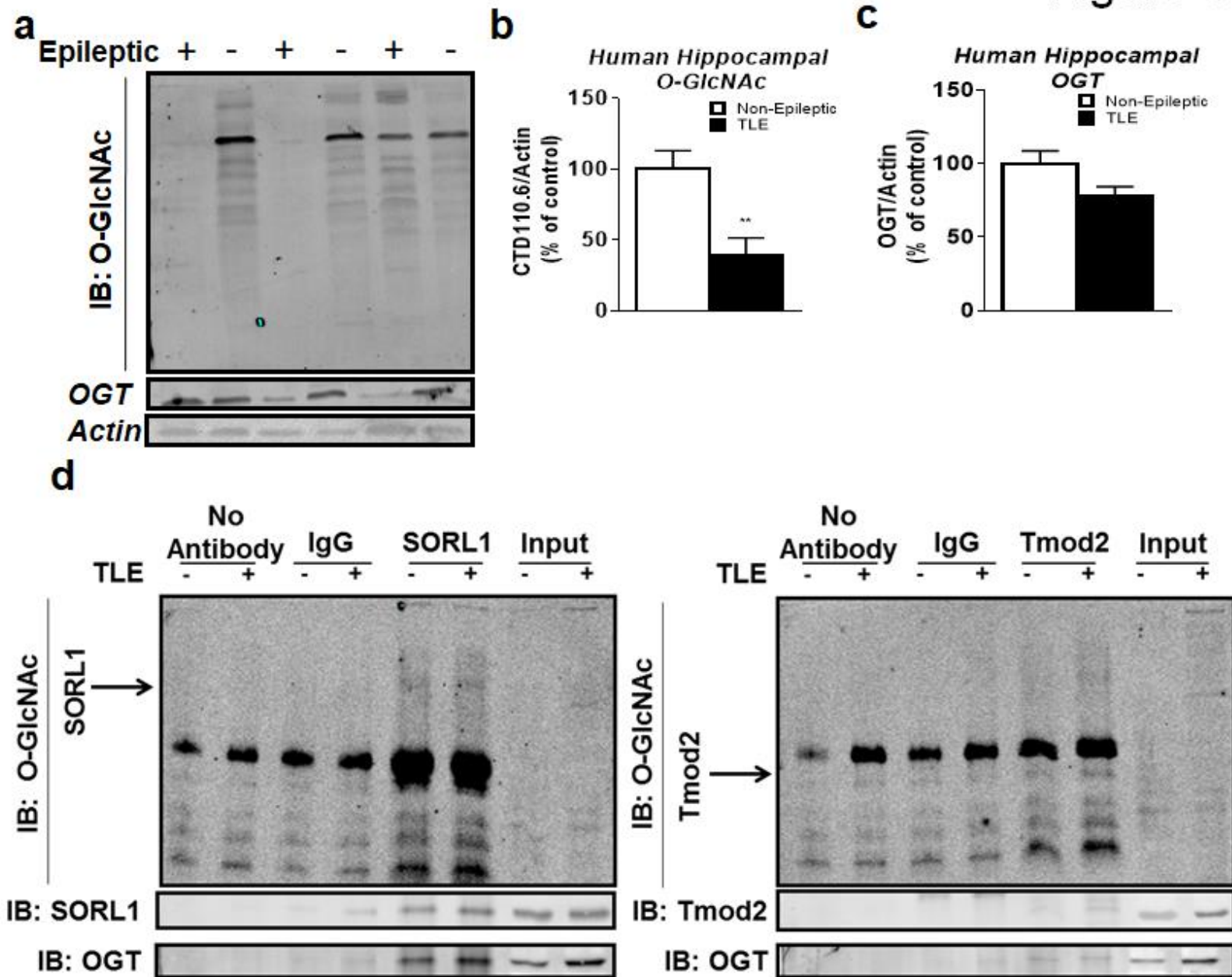


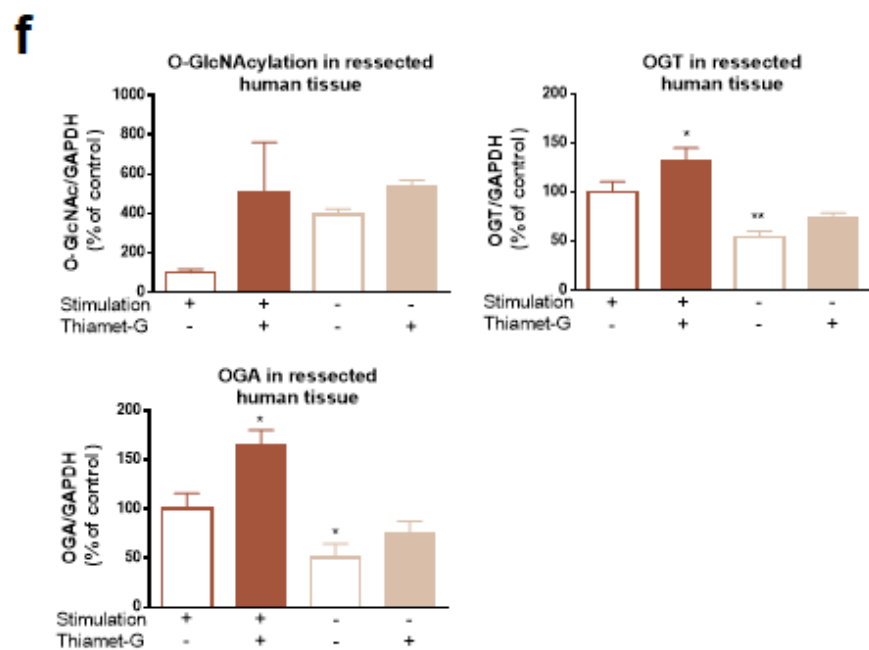
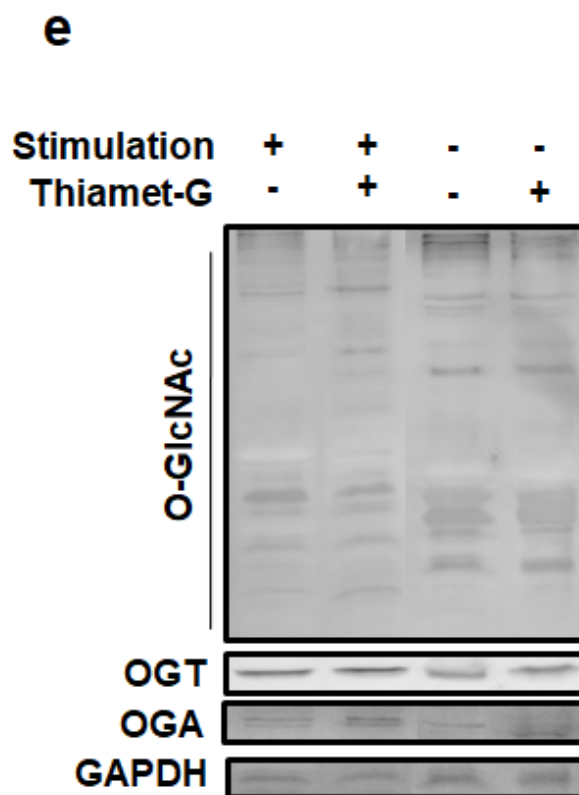
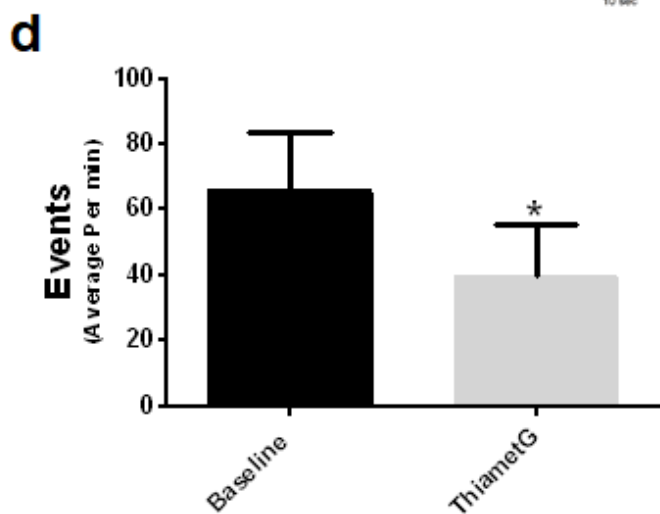
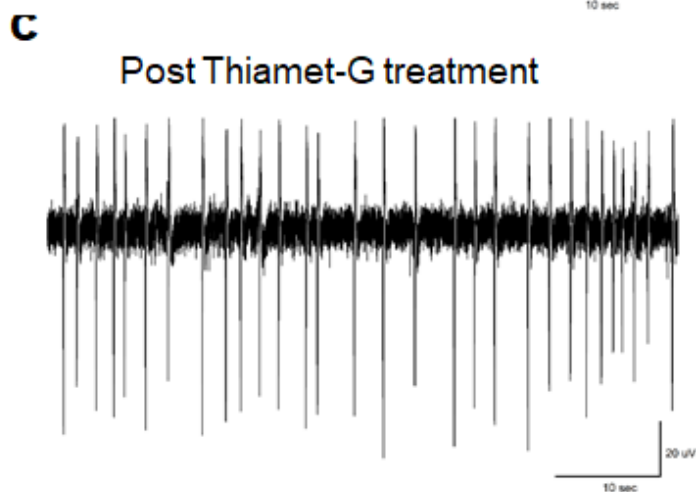
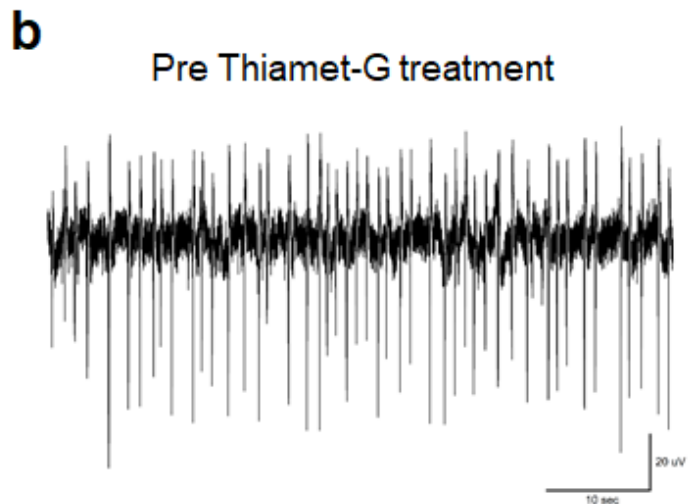
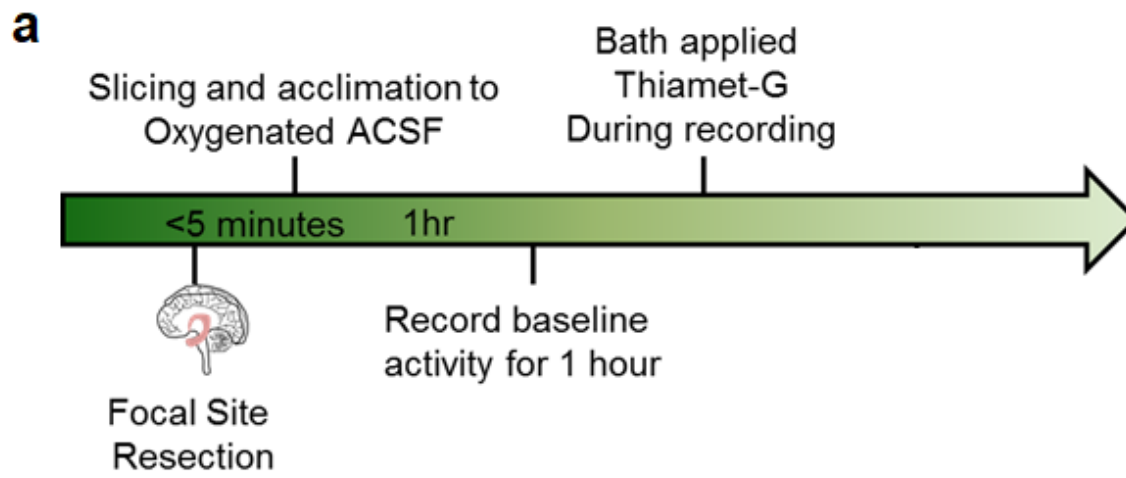










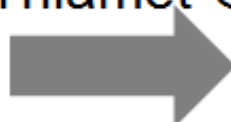




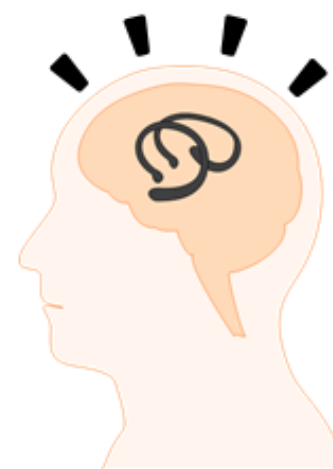
Epileptic



Thiamet-G



Epileptic with  
Thiamet-G



↑ Seizures

↑ SORL1 O-GlcNAcylation

↓ Tmod2 O-GlcNAcylation

↓ Global O-GlcNAcylation

↓ OGT

↓ Seizures

↓ SORL1 O-GlcNAcylation

↑ Tmod2 O-GlcNAcylation

↑ Global O-GlcNAcylation

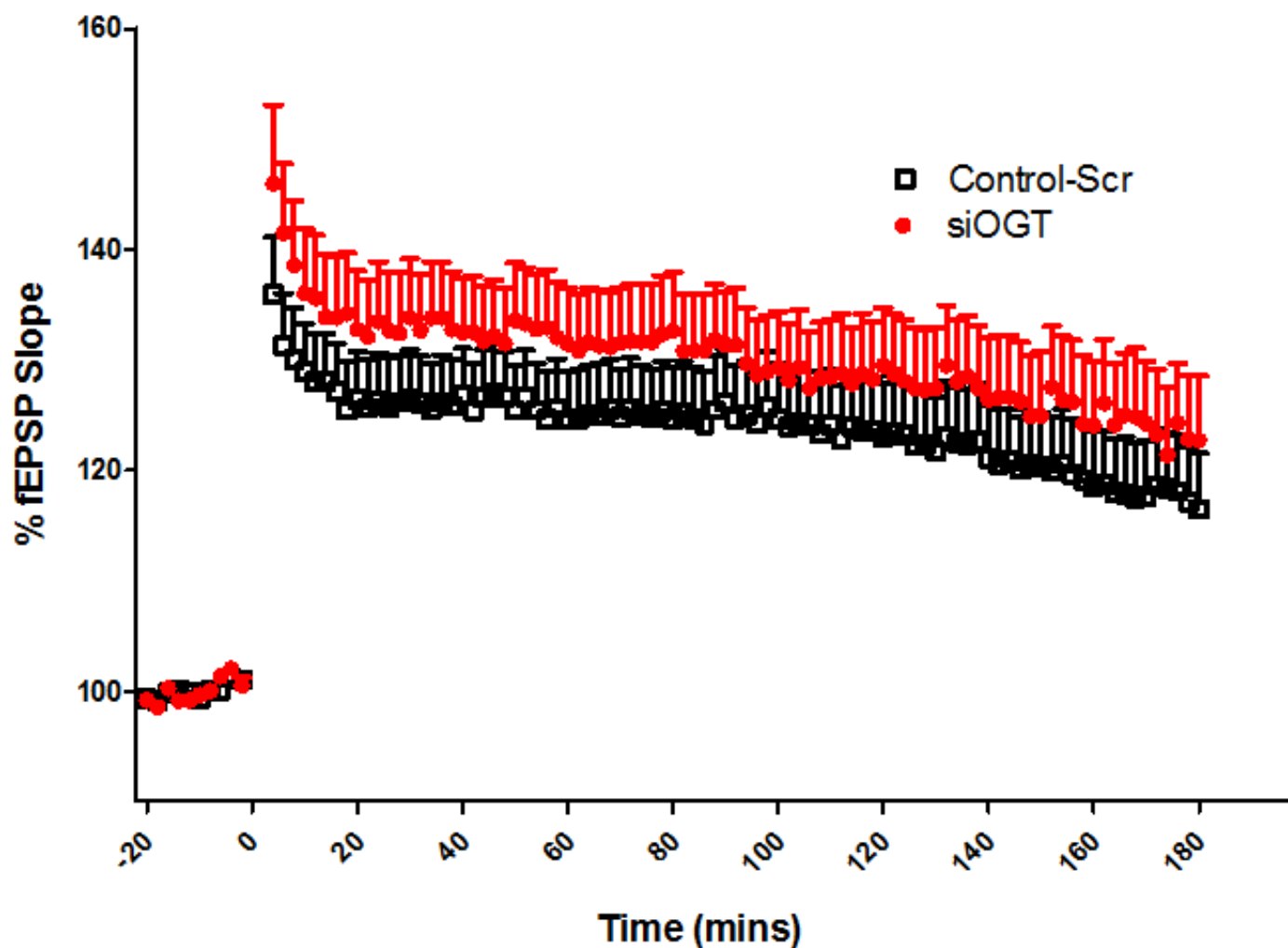
↑ OGT

Protein	NP#	Role	O-GlcNAcylation	References
Acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2, mitochondrial	NP_001030125.1	Catalyzes the initial reaction in fatty acid metabolism; thioester with CoA	↑	
Catenin, alpha 1	NP_001007146.1 (+1)	RNA binding structural molecule	↓	
Mitochondrial import receptor subunit TOM34	NP_001037709.1	Aids in imports from cytosol to mitochondria	↓	
Filamin C	NP_001178791.1 (+1)	Actin-cross-linking protein	↓	Lee et al, Petrecca et al
Filamin A	NP_001128071.1 (+1)	Actin binding protein	=	Parini et al, Sheen et al, Hehr et al
Found in sarcoma RNA-binding protein	NP_001012157.1 (+1)	Binds to RNA, and interacts with nuclear pore and transcription initiation factors	↓	Neuman et al, Wolfe et al
Afadin	NP_037349.1	Ras target that regulates cell-cell adhesions	↓	Yamamoto et al
ATP synthase subunit alpha, mitochondrial	NP_015581.1	Produces ATP	=	Zsuda et al
Cathepsin D	NP_399161.2	Lysosomal aspartyl protease	↑	Herman et al, Zhao et al
CCR4-NOT transcription complex, subunit 1	NP_001128312.1	Part of the CCR4-NOT complex that deadenylates mRNA's	↑	
EH- Domain containing protein 3	NP_620245.2	Membrane tubulation/endocytic transport	↓	
Sorulin-related receptor precursor	NP_445971.1	Endocytic receptor, possibly for lipoproteins, and proteins	↑	VonDemn et al, Friedman et al, Volosin et al, Hveron et al
Dual specificity mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 4	NP_001025194.1	MAP kinase	↓	Choi et al, Waltereit et al, Salzman et al
Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	NP_056868.1	Enzyme that plays a role in lipid biosynthesis	↑	Essi et al, Link et al
A-kinase anchor protein 5	NP_398199.2	May anchor PKA to the cytoskeleton/organelles	↑	Kay et al, Zhang et al, Tonquist et al
Protein kinase C substrate 80K-H	NP_001100276.1 (+2)	Regulatory subunit of glucosidase II	↓	De Praeter et al, Dardis et al
Ras-specific guanine nucleotide-releasing factor 2	NP_446173.1	Guanine nucleotide releasing factor for RAS	↑	Zhu et al

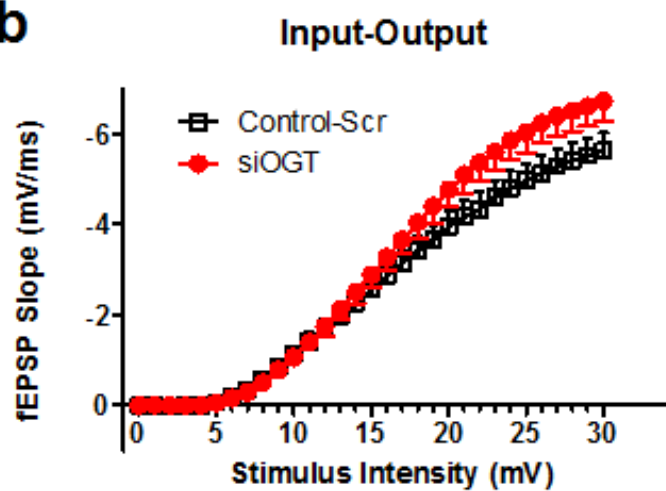
Patient and Classification	Sex	Race	Age of Onset (years)	Age at resection (years)	Years since first unprovoked seizure	AEDs at Surgery	MRI findings	Hippocampus Pathology	Lateral Temporal Cortex Pathology	Amygdala Pathology
UAB 1	M	White	17	28	11	LEV, OXC	Unremarkable	Focal Cortical Dysplasia Type IIA	Focal cortical dysplasia, type IIA	Mild chronic neuronal loss and gliosis
UAB 2	M	White	5	22	17	LEV, LCM, VPA	Signal hyperintensity and atrophy of the right hippocampus	Hippocampal Sclerosis	Focal cortical dysplasia, type IIA	Astrogliosis
UAB 3	M	Black	7	47	40	LTC, TPM	Left hippocampal signal hyperintensity	Severe hippocampal sclerosis	Astrogliosis and Focal cortical dysplasia, type IIA	Astrogliosis
UAB 4	M	White	24	37	13	CBP, LCP, OXC, VPA	Unremarkable	Focal cortical dysplasia, type IIA	Focal cortical dysplasia, type IIA	Mild chronic neuronal loss and gliosis
UAB 5	F	Black	3	27	24	LCM, LEV, LTC	Left asymmetric loss of hippocampal internal architecture clarity, slight signal hyperintensity	Hippocampal Sclerosis	Focal cortical dysplasia, type Ib	Gliosis
Yale 1	M	White	12	50	38	PB, PHT	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 2	F	White	6	31	25	CBZ	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 3	M	White	4	32	28	CBZ	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 4	F	White	3	39	36	CBZ, PRM	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 5	M	White	3	23	20	PHT	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 6	M	White	14	26	12	CBZ	--	Hippocampal Sclerosis	--	--
Yale 7	F	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NU 1	F	White	9	37	-	PRM, CBZ	Seizure semiology right temporal lobe onset with rapid propagation resulting in bilateral supplementary motor area involvement	Hippocampal Sclerosis	-	-

## LTP and OGT-Knockdown

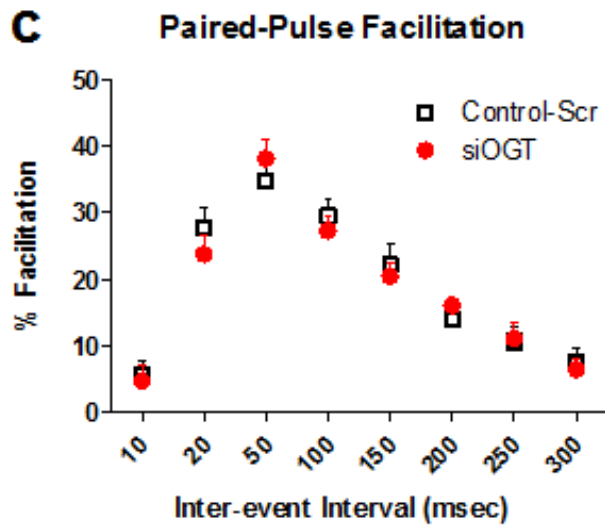
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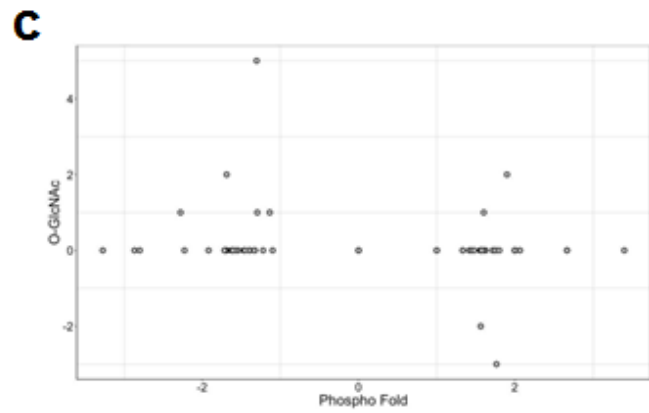
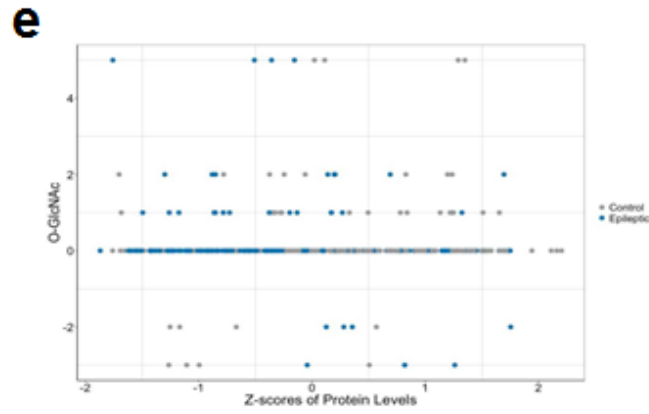
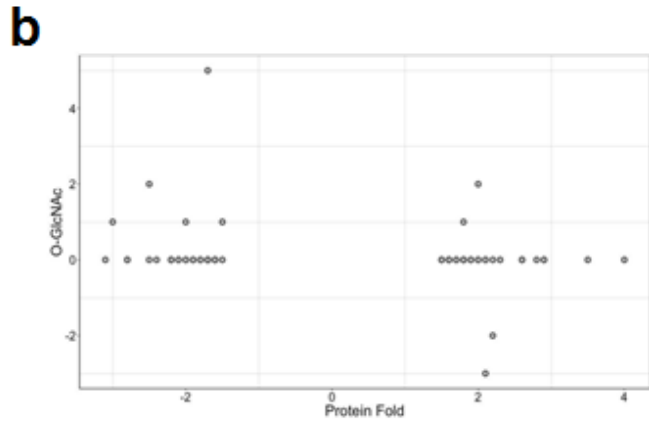
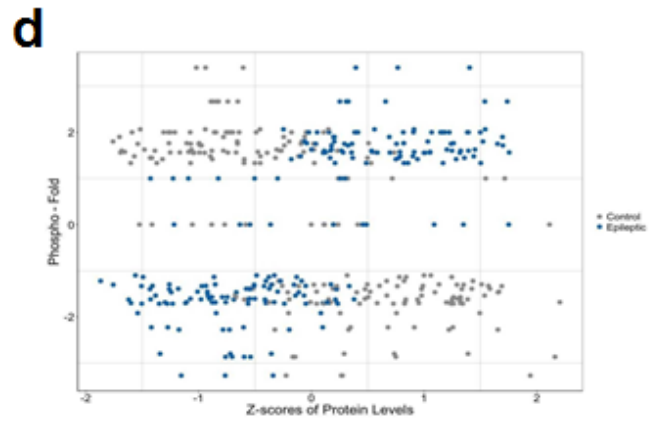
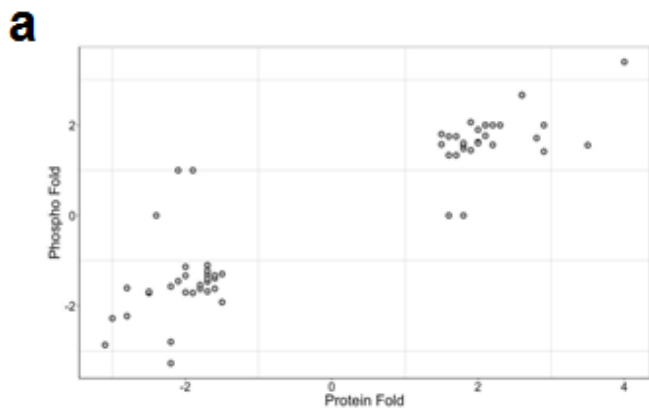


**b**

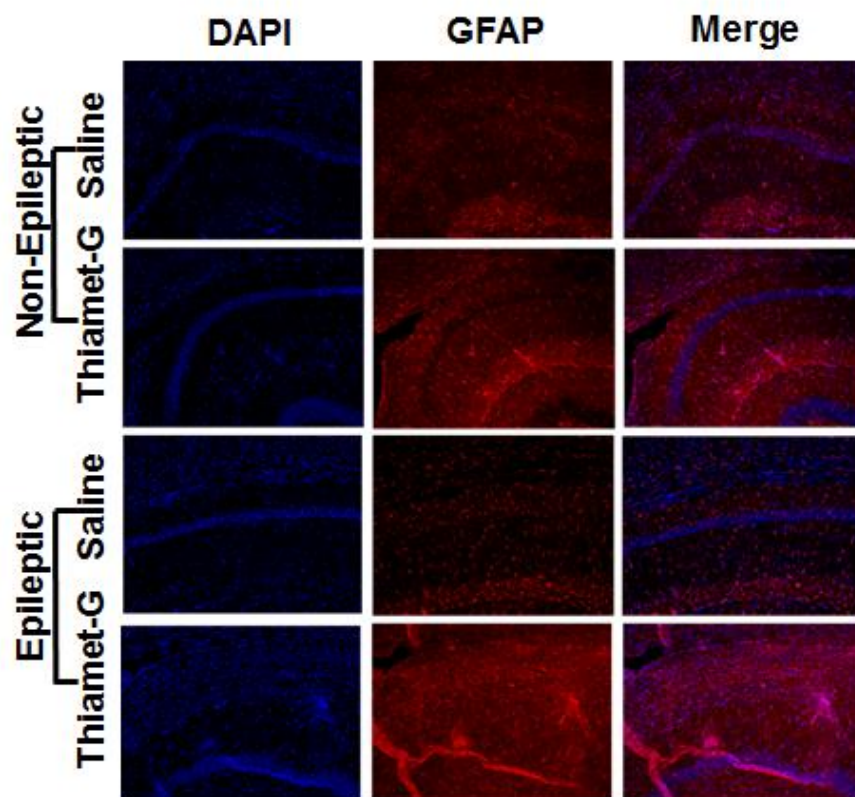


**c**





**a**



**b**

