ß-cells persist in some T1DM pancreata without evidence of ß-cell turnover nor insulin-glucagon coexpression

Daniel R. Jacobson, Matthew M. Rankin, Alisa B. Schiffman, Changhong Li, Jake A. Kushner





ß-cell function persists in T1DM patients, even in some with longstanding disease

What is the developmental mechanism of functional ß-cell persistence?

We used high throughput imaging techniques to acquire and quantify ß-cell mass and turnover, and islet composition





#### Do ß-cells persist in T1DM pancreata?





#### ß-cells were absent from many T1DM pancreata

Network for Pancreatic Organ

Donors with Diabetes

nPOD 6033 (40 year old, T1DM 28 years) DAPI Insulin Synaptophysin ß-cells were absent from many T1DM pancreata

Network for Pancreatic Organ

**Donors** with Diabete

nPOD 6033 (40 year old, T1DM 28 years) DAPI Insulin

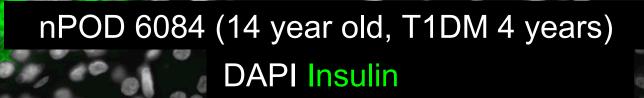
#### However ß-cells persisted in some T1DM pancreata

nPOD 6084 (14 year old, T1DM 4 years) DAPI Insulin Synaptophysin

nPOD Network for Pancreatic Organ

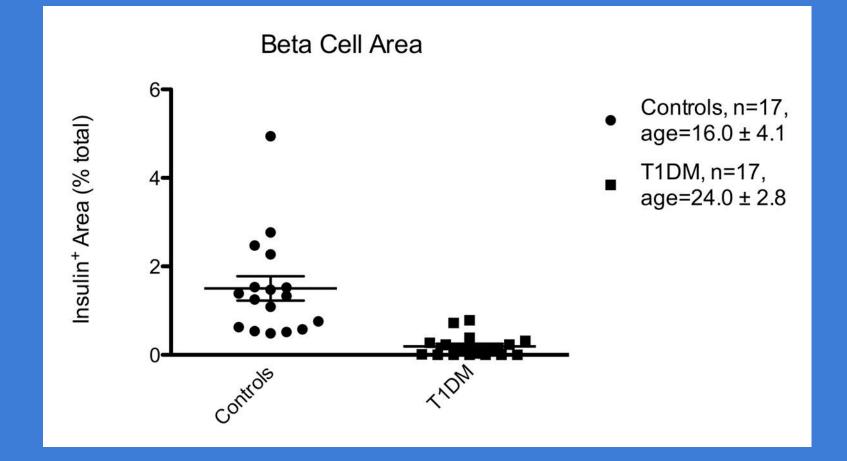
Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes

#### However ß-cells persisted in some T1DM pancreata



Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes

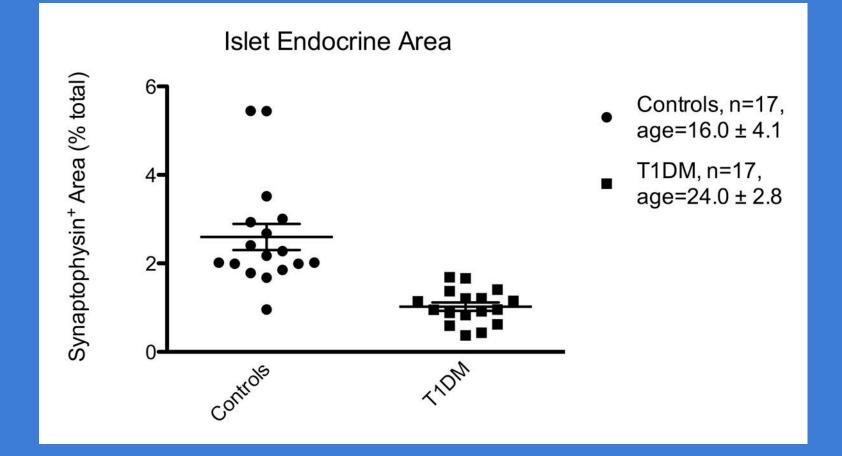
#### ß-cell area is profoundly reduced in T1DM pancreata







#### Islet endocrine area is also reduced in T1DM pancreata







## What is the developmental basis for persistence of ß-cell function in T1DM?



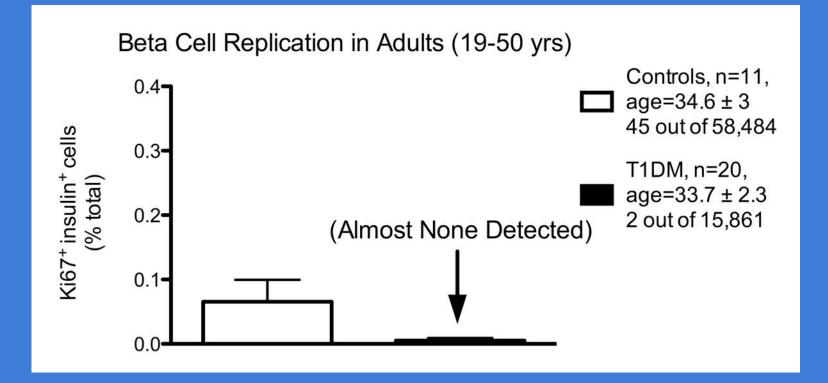


# Is ß-cell replication increased in T1DM pancreata?





# No! ß-cell replication is extremely low in control pancreata and actually reduced in T1DMs







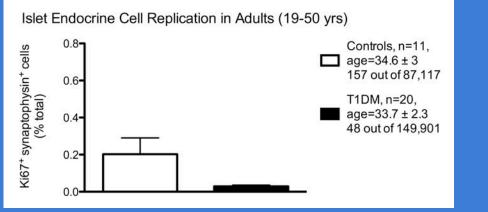
## Is islet endocrine cell replication altered in T1DM pancreata?





# Islet endocrine replication is reduced in adult T1DM pancreata

# However, adolescent islet endocrine cell replication is strongly increased!



Islet Endocrine Cell Replication in Adolescents (11-18 yrs)





Islet endocrine cells replicated in some adolescent T1DM pancreata

> nPOD 6084 (14 year old, T1DM 4 years) DAPI Synaptophysin Ki67

nPOD Network for Pancreatic Organ

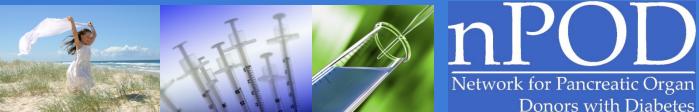
Donors with Diabetes

#### Islet endocrine cells replicated in some adolescent T1DM pancreata



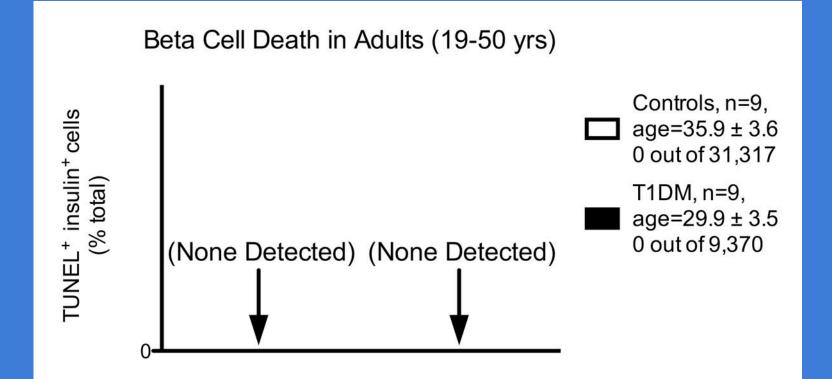
nPOD 6084 (14 year old, T1DM 4 years) Synaptophysin Ki67

### Is ß-cell death increased in T1DM pancreata?





### ß-cell death was virtually undetectable in both Control and in T1DM pancreata





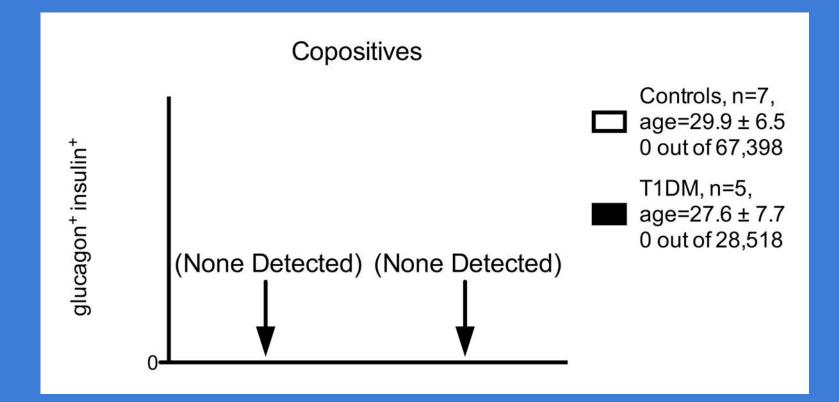


### Where do persistent ß-cells come from? Could α-cells transdifferentiate into ß-cells in T1DM pancreata?





# No! α-cells do not co-express insulin and glucagon in T1DM pancreata







## α-cells do not co-express insulin and glucagon in T1DM pancreata



#### nPOD 6052 (12 year old, T1DM 1 years)

**DAPI** Insulin

### α-cells do not co-express insulin and glucagon in T1DM pancreata



#### nPOD 6052 (12 year old, T1DM 1 years)



Glucagon

### α-cells do not co-express insulin and glucagon in T1DM pancreata



### nPOD 6052 (12 year old, T1DM 1 years)

**DAPI Insulin Glucagon** 

#### Summery

- β-cells persist in some T1DM pancreata.
- β-cell and islet endocrine cell area is reduced in T1DM pancreata.
- T1DM pancreata exhibit very little β-cell replication or death.
- α-cells do not transdifferentiate into βcells.





#### Acknowledgements:

Mark Atkinson, Martha Campbell-Thompson, and the nPOD team.

Patient donors and their families.

Matthew Rankin Alisa Schiffman Changhong Li Jake Kushner

Carol Lam Kourtney King

Robert and Janice McNair Foundation NIH/NIDDK State of Penn. Tobacco Fund Merck, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson

The BCM Section of Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology The Texas Children's Diabetes and Endocrinology Center



