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A Novel Role for Adipose Tissue Macrophages in Iron Metabolism

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Adipose tissue is now known to be a hotbed of inflammatory immune interactions in obesity, thus contributing to the insulin resistance and cardiometabolic disease associated with obesity. Less well understood is the role of adipose tissue immune cells, such as macrophages, in local and systemic metabolic regulation. Our recent data suggests that resident M2-like macrophages may play a role in iron metabolism in adipose tissue, and that their ability to handle iron becomes impaired in obesity. These exciting findings have opened up a new area of research for our group to assess the impact of macrophage iron handling on adipose tissue homeostasis.