Nature Reviews Endocrinology **9**, 628 (2013); published online 27 August 2013;
doi:10.1038/nrendo.2013.173;
doi:10.1038/nrendo.2013.174;
doi:10.1038/nrendo.2013.175;
doi:10.1038/nrendo.2013.176

IN BRIEF

OBESITY

Maternal obesity and premature mortality in adult offspring

Maternal obesity is associated with increased cardiometabolic risk factors in offspring, but effects on the mortality of offspring are unclear. Reynolds *et al.* analysed the medical records of 28,540 women (4% of whom had maternal obesity) and their 37,709 offspring. After adjustment for confounders, all-cause mortality and hospital admissions for a cardiovascular event were increased in adult offspring of women with maternal obesity, compared with those in offspring of women with a normal BMI during pregnancy.

Original article Reynolds, R. M. *et al.* Maternal obesity during pregnancy and premature mortality from cardiovascular event in adult offspring: follow-up of 1323275 person years. *BMJ* doi:10.1136/bmj.f4539

ADRENAL FUNCTION

Adrenal vein sampling findings are not affected by somatic mutations of APAs

German researchers analysed the potential effect of different somatic mutations of aldosterone-producing adrenal adenomas (APAs) on steroid gradients in adrenal vein sampling (AVS). Of 59 patients with APAs studied, 19 had *KCNJ5* mutations, eight had mutations in genes that encode ATPases and 32 had none of these mutations. The somatic mutations studied did not effect steroid gradients in AVS, leading the investigators to conclude that AVS is an accurate diagnostic methods for patients with APAs with or without somatic mutations.

Original article Osswald, A. *et al.* Lack of influence of somatic mutations on steroid gradients of adrenal vein sampling in aldosterone producing adenomas. *Eur. J. Endocrinol.* doi:10.1530/EJE-13-0551

METABOLISM

Beclin-2 plays a part in the degradation of G-protein-coupled receptors and autophagy

In vitro studies by He *et al.* show that a previously uncharacterized protein, beclin-2, is involved in regulating the degradation of several G-protein-coupled receptors via its interaction with Gasp1, and that it also has a separate role in autophagy. Furthermore, in heterozygous knockout mice, autophagy is affected and body weight and insulin resistance are increased. He *et al.* suggest a potential role for beclin-2 in the regulation of body weight and glucose homeostasis in humans.

Original article He, C. *et al.* Beclin 2 functions in autophagy, degradation of G protein-coupled receptors, and metabolism. *Cell* doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.07.035

NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY

HPA activation might suppress appetite in anorexia nervosa

Increased hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis signalling might contribute to the pathogenesis of anorexia nervosa, report US researchers. In the study, 36 women with anorexia nervosa had higher levels of fasting and postprandial cortisol than 13 healthy women. Cortisol levels were negatively associated with subjective assessments of appetite in the women, independent of depressive symptoms. Food-motivation brain circuits were also altered in women with active and weight-recovered anorexia nervosa.

Original article Lawson, E. A. *et al.* Increased hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal drive is associated with decreased appetite and hypoactivation of food motivation neurocircuitry in anorexia nervosa. *Eur. J. Endocrinol.* doi:10.1530/EJE-13-0433