

Protein may provide the key to arresting development of diabetes

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The STK25 protein contributes to cell growth. Researchers at Sahlgrenska Academy have discovered that the protein also affects metabolism, demonstrating that elevated levels accelerate the progress of diabetes in mice.

Provided by University of Gothenburg

Researchers at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg have discovered a protein that may open the door to a new method of treating type 2 diabetes and other diseases caused by [metabolic disorders](#).

Current methods not effective

Emmelie Cansby's doctoral thesis has shown that the reduction of STK25 protein in cell cultures improves metabolism. The studies also found that mice that have elevated STK25 levels and are fed a high-fat diet are more likely to develop symptoms of diabetes.

"Current methods for treating diabetes are not effective enough," Emmelie Cansby says. "Furthermore, they have various adverse effects, including hypoglycemia, weight gain, edema and [gastrointestinal problems](#). New, supplementary drugs for type 2 diabetes are badly needed."

Potential treatment

Her thesis concludes that the STK25 protein offers the potential for an entirely new way of treating diabetes.

"Future treatment of [diabetes](#) and other metabolic disorders will hopefully include drugs that inhibit the action of STK25," she says.

More information: Emmelie Cansby will present her thesis, Regulation of metabolism and inflammation by two protein kinases – AMPK and STK25, on September 5. Link to thesis: hdl.handle.net/2077/35938

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