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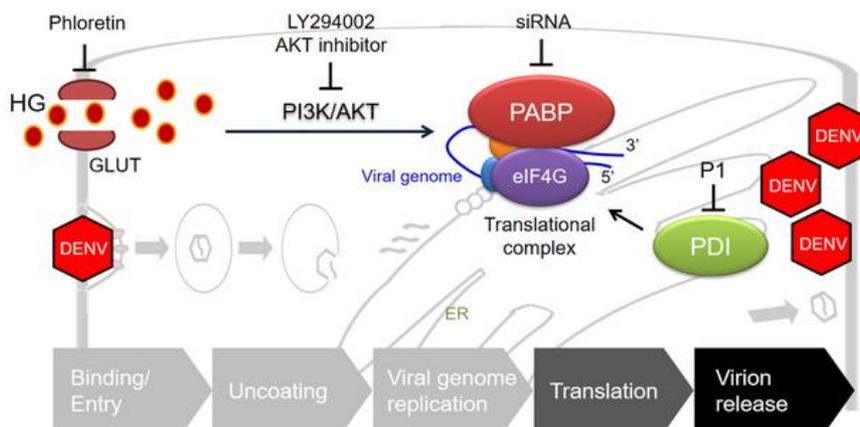
Hyperglycemia exacerbates dengue virus infection by facilitating poly(A)-binding protein-mediated viral translation

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1 **Hyperglycemia exacerbates dengue virus infection by**
2 **facilitating poly(A)-binding protein-mediated viral translation**

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27

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32 **Abstract**

33 Diabetes mellitus (DM) is highly comorbid with severe dengue diseases;
34 however, the underlying mechanisms are unclear. DM patients display a 1.61-
35 fold increased risk of developing dengue hemorrhagic fever. In search of host
36 factors involved in DENV infection, this study utilizes high glucose (HG)
37 treatment and shows that HG increases viral protein expression and virion
38 release but has no effects on the early stages of viral infection. Following HG
39 stimulation, DEN-Luc-transfected assay and cellular replicon-based assay
40 display increased viral translation, while using the glucose uptake inhibitor
41 phloretin blocks this effect. HG treatment increases the translational factor
42 poly(A)-binding protein (PABP) in a glucose transporter-associated PI3K/AKT-
43 regulated manner. Silencing PABP significantly decreases HG-prompted virion
44 production. HG enhances the formation of the PABP-eIF4G complex, which is
45 regulated by protein-disulfide isomerase. Hyperglycemia increases PABP
46 expression, mortality, viral protein expression, and viral loads in streptozotocin-
47 induced DM mice. Overall, hyperglycemic stress facilitates DENV infection by
48 strengthening PABP-mediated viral translation.

49 **Introduction**

50 *Aedes* mosquitoes transmit the dengue virus (DENV) and cause outbreaks
51 worldwide, especially in tropical and subtropical regions. They are estimated to
52 have infected 390 million people and induce millions of fatal cases each year
53 (1, 2). The disease severity has a broad spectrum, ranging from mild febrile
54 illness, called dengue fever (DF), to the more severe dengue diseases,
55 including dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), dengue shock syndrome (DSS),
56 central nervous system (CNS) impairment, and multiple organ involvement (3).
57 Unfortunately, it is difficult to develop vaccines to protect humans from
58 secondary infection because of antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of
59 infection, which may cause severe disease from different DENV serotypes (4,
60 5). Additionally, there are no effective antiviral drugs to treat dengue patients
61 due to the delayed treatment and side effects of chemical agents (6). Therefore,
62 it is urgent to identify and target pathogenic factors to defend against DENV
63 infection.

64 Underlying diseases, such as diabetes mellitus (DM) and cardiovascular
65 dysfunction, are reported to be comorbid with high prevalence in patients with
66 severe DENV infection (7, 8). Type 1 DM is a metabolic disease in which
67 individuals lose the ability to produce insulin due to autoimmune destruction of
68 insulin-producing β cells. Type 2 DM is generally due to genetic defects, aging,
69 not enough exercise, and obesity that lead to insulin resistance and the
70 deficiency of insulin production (9). Dengue patients with diabetes have an
71 elevated risk of developing severe organ involvement outcomes compared to
72 dengue patients without diabetes (10-13). For viral infections, high glucose (HG)
73 enhances human immunodeficiency virus type 1 entry into T cells by increasing

74 C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4 expression (14). Hyperglycemic stress
75 facilitates West Nile virus infection and induces paralysis-related mortality by
76 impairing immune responses in type 2 diabetic mice (15). Moreover, a higher
77 odds ratio of in-hospital death in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-infected
78 patients with DM was noticed (16). Hyperglycemia is suggested to exacerbate
79 COVID-19 infection by potentially increase the concentrations of glycosylated
80 angiotensin-converting enzyme receptor 2 (ACE2) and glycosylated viral spike
81 protein (17). Hyperglycemia, a diabetic condition that is defined by an increase
82 in blood glucose, may promote DENV infection and pathogenesis. However,
83 the possible pathogenic mechanisms of HG-exacerbated DENV infection are
84 still unclear.

85 After binding to and entering host cells, DENV is uncoated to replicate
86 its genome in the cytoplasm accompanied by the translation of viral proteins in
87 the endoplasmic reticulum. DENV virions are then packaged and released from
88 infected cells (18). Host factors such as RNA-binding proteins are required for
89 DENV replication. Nuclear factor 90 (NF90/ILF3), polypyrimidine tract-binding
90 protein (PTB), and heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein (hnRNP) C1/C2 promote
91 DENV replication by assisting RNA synthesis (19, 20). Moreover, the silencing
92 of hnRNP K results in reduced DENV multiplication (21). Human eukaryotic
93 translation elongation factor 1A (eEF1A) and human La autoantigen can
94 interact with the 3'-untranslated region (UTR) region of DENV to favor viral RNA
95 replication (22). In contrast with the repressive role of Y box-binding protein 1
96 (YB-1), P100 and poly(A)-binding protein (PABP) interact with the 3' stem-loop
97 of DENV to enhance the efficacy of viral translation (23-25). PABP is a host
98 translational factor that interacts with eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4G

99 (eIF4G) and eIF4B to stabilize the translational complex (26). Due to its crucial
100 role in protein translation, PABP also has roles in viral infection. The influenza
101 virus protein NS1 enhances viral translation by interacting with eIF4G, PABP1,
102 and viral mRNA (27). The PABP-eIF4G interaction also stimulates the internal
103 ribosome entry site (IRES)-dependent translation of rotavirus infection (28).
104 PABP also interacts with protein-disulfide isomerase (PDI), followed by binding
105 to the 5'-UTR of insulin mRNA to increase protein translation and the production
106 of insulin in β cells under HG stimulation (29). In this study, we attempted to
107 investigate the possible host factors that promote DENV infection in HG-treated
108 cells and further evaluate potential antiviral strategies by blocking glucose
109 uptake in vitro and in vivo.

110 **Results**

111 *Patients with DM have an increased risk of developing severe DENV disease.*

112 Subjects of this study were obtained from the National Health Insurance
113 Research Database (NHIRD) depending on records from the Taiwan Centers
114 for Disease Control (CDC). We screened 31,270 dengue subjects (case group)
115 from 1998 to 2014 and enrolled 30,944 subjects into this study according to the
116 criteria described in the Materials and Methods. Of these eligible patients, 3,299
117 had a confirmed DM diagnosis (DM exposed) one year before the DENV
118 infection date, and 27,645 cases were non-DM subjects (DM unexposed). For
119 the control group, we enrolled 123,776 subjects who had no dengue disease
120 diagnosis from 2000 to 2014. Among these eligible subjects, 12,579 subjects
121 had confirmed DM diagnosis one year before the index date, while 111,197
122 cases were not DM patients. The case group was 1:4 matched to the control
123 group for age, gender, and residence (Supplemental Figure 1). For these
124 subjects, the mean age was comparable ($P = 0.99$), with both groups at 44.72
125 years old. There was also no significant difference between the case and
126 control group for gender ($P = 1.00$). The Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI)
127 score was 0.68 and 0.63 for the case and control groups, respectively ($P <$
128 0.001), indicating the high association of comorbidity and DENV infection.
129 Hypertension (19.35%), hyperlipidemia (14%), and DM (10.66%) were the most
130 associated comorbidities in DENV-infected individuals ($P < 0.001$)
131 (Supplemental Table 1). We further analyzed the prevalence of DENV infection
132 among DM patients. Of all patients with DM, 3,299 cases were diagnosed with
133 DENV infection, and 12,579 cases were classified as controls (OR: 1.06).
134 Among the DENV-infected patients with DM, 3,182 cases were diagnosed with

135 DF (OR: 1.05), and 117 cases were diagnosed with DHF (OR: 1.61). After
136 adjusting for age, gender, residence, and CCI score, although the multivariable
137 analysis showed a decreased OR (0.96) of diagnosis with the mild DENV
138 disease DF patients with DM, there was still a notable 1.44-fold increased risk
139 (OR: 1.44) of DHF diagnosis among all patients with DM (Table 1). These
140 results reveal that DM is comorbidity highly associated with severe DENV
141 disease and that hyperglycemia may promote DENV infection.

142 *HG enhances DENV infection.* To mimic DENV infection under
143 hyperglycemic stress, one month-maintained baby hamster kidney fibroblast
144 BHK-21 cells were persistently treated with 5.5 mM glucose in culture medium
145 or alternatively treated with 25 mM glucose for 48 hours (Supplemental Figure
146 2A). MTT (Supplemental Figure 2B) and LDH (Supplemental Figure 2C) assays
147 showed that HG neither affected cell growth nor induced cytotoxicity. The virion
148 productivity was not significantly affected by the one month-maintained cell
149 culture process in both BHK-21 cells (Supplemental Figure 2D) and human lung
150 epithelial A549 cells (Supplemental Figure 2E). Notably, as shown by western
151 blot analysis, treatment of 25 mM glucose in culture medium significantly
152 enhanced the expression of viral NS4B protein in BHK-21 cells ($P < 0.001$) as
153 well as in A549 cells ($P < 0.05$) under DENV infection (Figure 1A). Plaque
154 assays further demonstrated a significant increase in virion release in 25 mM
155 glucose medium-treated cells compared to 5.5 mM glucose medium-treated
156 cells ($P < 0.001$) and 25 mM mannose medium-treated cells ($P < 0.01$) (Figure
157 1B), although a minor enhancement in virion release was also observed in the
158 25 mM mannose-treated DENV-infected BHK-21 cells, suggesting the
159 significant enhancing effect of glucose stress. In addition to BHK-21 cells,

160 plaque assays of DENV-infected A549 cells also showed that 25 mM glucose
161 stimulation significantly ($P < 0.01$) enhanced viral particle production (Figure
162 1C). The data show that HG promotes DENV infection in vitro.

163 *HG treatment does not affect innate responses, viral binding/entry, and*
164 *viral genome replication.* Type 1 interferon (IFN) is crucial to restrict viral
165 infections (30, 31). Western blotting showed that HG caused comparable
166 protein of phosphorylated interferon regulatory factor 3 (pIRF3)/IRF3 in BHK-
167 21 cells (Supplemental Figure 3A) and phosphorylated signal transducer and
168 activator of transcription 1 (pSTAT1)/STAT1 in A549 cells (Supplemental Figure
169 3B). These results suggest that HG did not alter the host antiviral responses to
170 affect virus infection in the host cells.

171 Flow cytometry analysis of fluorescence-labeled DENV in BHK-21, as
172 well as A549 cells, showed that neither viral binding (infection at 4°C) nor viral
173 entry (infection at 37°C) was affected by 5.5 or 25 mM glucose-containing
174 culture medium (Figure 2A). A single cell image obtained from confocal
175 microscopy further showed that DENV could infect both 5.5 and 25 mM glucose
176 medium-treated cells (Figure 2B). These results indicate that HG has no effects
177 on DENV binding and entry.

178 After binding to the cell surface receptor, DENV infects into host cells
179 through endocytosis. Then, DENV conducts viral capsid uncoating, viral
180 genome release to the cytosol, viral RNA replication, viral translation, and viral
181 protein pr-M cleavage. Finally, the mature DENV virion is packaged and
182 released from cells (18). Considering that HG treatment elevated V-ATPase
183 activity (32), a key enzyme required for endosomal acidification, fluorescent
184 microscopy analysis of acridine orange staining showed no difference in

185 endosomal acidification in 5.5 or 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells
186 (Figure 2C). Protonophore FCCP-treated cells served as a control to suppress
187 endosomal acidification (33). The results indicate that HG does not affect
188 endosomal acidification, suggesting that HG is unable to alter the early stages
189 of DENV infection.

190 To investigate the effects of HG on the uncoating process during DENV
191 infection, cells were infected with DENV at 4°C for 2 hours for viral binding or
192 incubated at 37°C for further 2 hours for viral entry, respectively. Time-course
193 samples were harvested and analyzed by western blotting (Figure 2D). Our
194 results showed an identical manner of capsid protein expression in both 5.5 and
195 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells. According to the results, capsid
196 proteins could be detected at 0 hour postinfection (h.p.i.); however, there was
197 no detectable protein expression from 1 to 12 h.p.i. until 24 to 48 h.p.i.,
198 suggesting no effect of HG on DENV uncoating processes. Therefore, we
199 further examined viral replication by immunofluorescence staining of double-
200 stranded RNA (dsRNA) (Figure 2E). Viral dsRNA expression could be detected
201 at 3 h.p.i. and was significantly ($P < 0.001$) increased at 6 h.p.i. in both the 5.5
202 and 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells. These results indicate that
203 HG has no striking effects on host innate antiviral responses and causes fewer
204 effects during the early steps of viral infection.

205 *HG promotes DENV viral translation.* Because HG stimulation did not
206 affect the early viral infectious steps from binding/entry to genome replication,
207 we next assessed whether HG increases viral translation. Applying the DEN-
208 FLuc assay which mimics DENV viral RNA translation (Figure 3A), the
209 luciferase activity of BHK-21 cells containing DEN-FLuc was significantly ($P <$

210 0.05) increased by 25 mM glucose medium stimulation (Figure 3B).
211 Furthermore, the luciferase activity of D2-Fluc-SGR-Neo 1-harbored BHK-21
212 cells (BHK-21-SGR cells), a cellular replicon-based reporter assay (Figure 3C)
213 (34), showed that glucose treatment caused a significant increase in activity in
214 a dose-dependent manner (Figure 3D). MTT and LDH assays confirmed that
215 HG treatment did not affect cell growth (Supplemental Figure 4A) or cytotoxicity
216 (Supplemental Figure 4B) in BHK-21-SGR cells. To block the HG-enhanced
217 translational activity, phloretin (Phl, 2',4',6'-trihydroxy-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-
218 propiophenone), a glucose transporter blocker (35), was used in this study. Phl
219 treatment significantly ($P < 0.05$) reduced the luciferase activity in HG-
220 stimulated BHK-21-SGR cells (Figure 3E). Plaque assays further confirmed the
221 significant blockade effect of Phl treatment on HG-enhanced virion release in
222 BHK-21 cells ($P < 0.001$) (Figure 3F). Thus, HG treatment increases translation,
223 which enhances viral production.

224 *HG increases viral translation by enhancing the translational factor*
225 *PABP to promote DENV infection.* To explore the possible mechanisms of how
226 HG promotes viral translation, we investigated the involvement of host factors
227 that are reported to contribute to DENV translation, including PABP, NF90,
228 hnRNP, eEF1A, PTB, and YB-1 (36). Western blot analysis showed that only
229 PABP expression was significantly increased ($P < 0.001$) in 25 mM glucose
230 medium-treated BHK-21 cells (Figure 4A) and A549 cells (Supplemental Figure
231 5). A time-course analysis of PABP protein expression was also demonstrated
232 by western blotting (Figure 4B). To investigate the regulation of PABP induction,
233 the phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K)-AKT-mammalian target of rapamycin
234 (mTOR) signaling cascade was targeted regarding its roles in regulating cell

235 metabolism (37, 38). As shown by western blot analysis, treatment with the
236 PI3K inhibitor LY294002 and an AKT inhibitor, but not the mTOR inhibitor
237 rapamycin, significantly ($P < 0.05$) blocked PABP expression in 25 mM glucose
238 medium-treated BHK-21 cells (Figure 4C). The results of quantitative real-time
239 polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) also showed elevated relative quantification
240 (RQ) of PABP mRNA, which was significantly ($P < 0.001$) reduced by either the
241 PI3K or AKT inhibitor in 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells (Figure
242 4D). To further determine the critical role of PABP in DENV infection, a short
243 interfering RNA (siRNA)-based approach was used to knock down PABP, as
244 shown by western blot analysis (Figure 4E). Plaque assays showed notable
245 inhibition of virion release in 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells with
246 siPABP (Figure 4F). Together, these results demonstrate that HG promotes
247 PABP expression to enhance viral translation for DENV infection.

248 *Increased PABP-facilitated viral translation requires protein-disulfide*
249 *isomerase (PDI).* PDI is a crucial regulator of DENV infection by interacting with
250 DENV NS1 in a viral translational complex, promoting DENV replication and
251 infection (39, 40). Interestingly, under HG, PABP requires PDI to form an RNA-
252 binding complex to promote insulin mRNA translation in β cells (29). To explore
253 the role of PDI in PABP-modulated viral infection, we utilized P1, a cell-
254 permeable small molecule PDI inhibitor, to inhibit PDI activity (41). P1 treatment
255 at a dose of 10 μ M did not induce cytotoxicity, which was shown by LDH assay
256 (Figure 5A). Notably, P1 treatment did not reduce PDI and PABP protein
257 expression (Figure 5B), but significantly ($P < 0.01$) decreased virion release in
258 25 mM glucose medium-treated BHK-21 cells under DENV infection (Figure
259 5C). Coimmunoprecipitation demonstrated an increased interaction between

260 eIF4G and PABP, which was reduced by P1 treatment in 25 mM glucose
261 medium-treated BHK-21 cells (Figure 5D). These findings show that PDI, at
262 least in part, contributes to the formation of the PABP-eIF4G translational
263 complex as well as DENV replication.

264 *Hyperglycemia exacerbates mortality and viral replication in DENV-*
265 *infected mice.* To mimic hyperglycemia in vivo, streptozotocin (STZ), a
266 compound that is toxic to pancreatic islet β cells, was administered three times
267 by intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection to immunocompetent outbred ICR mice
268 (Supplemental Figure 6A) to induce diabetic hyperglycemia as monitored by
269 blood sugar levels. The results showed higher blood sugar levels in STZ-
270 injected mice than in vehicle-injected mice (Supplemental Figure 6B). We next
271 verified the hyperglycemic effect on PABP expression as well as DENV
272 infection in vivo using several types of cell lysate. Using western blot analysis
273 (Supplemental Figure 6C), there was no remarkable difference in PABP protein
274 expression in the heart, lung, spleen, kidney, brain, and spinal cord between
275 vehicle-treated and STZ-treated mice. In these organs/tissues, no DENV NS1
276 viral protein was detected. However, the expression of viral NS1 protein
277 showed an increasing trend while there was no significant difference of the
278 protein expression of PABP in the liver of STZ-treated mice (Supplemental
279 Figure 6D). These data indicate the enhanced effect of diabetic hyperglycemia
280 on DENV infection in vivo.

281 To further investigate the effects of hyperglycemic stress on DENV
282 infection in vivo and on viral pathogenesis, we utilized a murine model of DENV
283 infection that can be injected into the mouse brain to induce encephalitis-like
284 symptoms and mortality (42-46). STZ was i.p. injected into pregnant ICR mice

285 to produce a hyperglycemic environment in mice. After birth, seven-day-old
286 suckling mice were concurrently inoculated with DENV 2 by intracranial and i.p.
287 injection (Figure 6A). Although the blood sugar (Supplemental Figure 7A) did
288 not show remarkable difference of pups delivered by vehicle- and STZ-treated
289 mice, the liver PABP expression (Supplemental Figure 7B) levels of 1-day-old
290 suckling mice bred from STZ-treated mice were higher ($P < 0.05$) than those in
291 corresponding mice without STZ stimulation. Monitoring the survival rates
292 showed that hyperglycemic mice showed a 50% death rate at 7 d.p.i. compared
293 with the nonhyperglycemic mice ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 6B). Moreover, viral NS1
294 protein expression (Figure 6C), as well as virion production (Figure 6D), was
295 significantly ($P < 0.05$) increased in the hyperglycemic mice infected with DENV.
296 These results indicate that hyperglycemic stress exacerbates DENV infection
297 by promoting viral replication, subsequently inducing mouse death.

298 **Discussion**

299 DM is a chronic inflammatory disease that torments millions of people
300 worldwide. Hyperglycemia shapes hyperpermeability in vessel systems and
301 impairs immune responses, which are considered possible reasons for the
302 progression of severe dengue disease in DM patients. Here, we revealed a
303 molecular mechanism whereby HG promotes DENV infection. According to our
304 findings, HG treatment had no effects on viral attachment/entry and antiviral
305 interferon responses. Still, it enhanced viral titer and viral protein expression by
306 promoting the host translational factor PABP. Further therapeutic strategies that
307 target HG-induced PABP through blockade of PI3K/AKT signaling and direct
308 knockdown of PABP by inhibiting glucose uptake and interrupting translational
309 complex formation could reduce DENV replication. DM-conditioned mice further
310 showed higher mortality, viral protein expression, and brain viral loads. These
311 results indicate that hyperglycemic stress promotes the infectivity of DENV by
312 facilitating viral translation.

313 We showed that HG stimulation increased the mRNA level of PABP
314 (Figure 4D); however, the transcriptional enhancement by HG stimulation is still
315 unclear. The adenine-rich PABP 5'-UTR serves as a repressive autoregulatory
316 sequence to inhibit PABP expression (47). In response to growth and nutritional
317 stimulation, the terminal oligopyrimidine tract motif in the PABP 5'-UTR can
318 mediate its translational control (48), indicating the self-regulation of PABP
319 translation. For transcriptional regulation, the chromosomal location of PABPC1
320 is 8q22.2-q23 (49) where the top transcription factor binding sites by QIAGEN
321 in the PABPC1 gene promoter are AP-2 α , AP-2 α A, AP-2 β , AP-2 γ , Brachyury,
322 E47, Elk-1, HFH-1, Pax-5, and TBP. Our data of microarray analysis showed

323 the expression of these predicted transcriptional factors are mostly up-
324 regulated in HG-treated A549 cells (Supplemental Table 2), suggesting that HG
325 enhances PABP by potentially promoting these relevant transcription factors of
326 PABP.

327 The PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway may modulate PABP expression under
328 environmental stimulation via growth factors, hormones, and cytokines (37).
329 The PI3K/AKT pathway has been reported to be triggered by DENV to maintain
330 the survival of infected cells, which could be inhibited by AR-12, a celecoxib
331 derivative that suppresses PI3K/AKT signaling and GRP78 expression to limit
332 DENV replication (50, 51). Consistently, our data also showed that blockade of
333 PI3K/AKT could abolish HG-induced PABP mRNA and protein expression
334 (Figure 4C and D). Therefore, these findings provide further evidence of the
335 PI3K/AKT/PABP-mediated amplification of DENV replication and a possible
336 strategy to inhibit DENV replication by targeting HG-induced PI3K/AKT/PABP
337 axis signaling.

338 During infection, type 1 IFNs could be induced through the recognition
339 of viral RNA by the host pattern recognition receptors TLR3, RIG-I, and MDA-
340 5. The IFN-triggered antiviral responses could eliminate early viral replication
341 and spread (52, 53). In addition to their immune roles, type 1 IFNs have been
342 shown to inhibit DENV by blocking viral translation in a protein kinase R-
343 independent pathway (54). Youichi Suzuki et al. further revealed that *C19orf66*,
344 an IFN-stimulated gene, inhibits DENV replication by blocking PABP-mediated
345 translation (55), indicating the crucial role of PABP in promoting DENV
346 translation. Balinsky C. A. et al. also found that *C19orf66* is upregulated after
347 DENV infection in an IFN-dependent manner. Moreover, they found that the

348 RNA binding protein C19orf66 associates with the DENV replication complex
349 and colocalizes with P bodies, sites where RNAs decay (56). Although HG
350 treatment did not alter the type 1 IFN-related signaling molecules pSTAT1 and
351 pIRF3 (Supplemental Figure 3A and B), we found that exogenous IFN- α
352 treatment markedly inhibits the luciferase activity of HG-treated BHK-21-SGR
353 replicons (Supplemental Figure 8), indicating that type 1 IFNs effectively abolish
354 viral translation, probably by targeting PABP. Collectively, IFN-induced
355 C19orf66 inhibits DENV replication by potentially abrogating PABP-mediated
356 viral translation but also by hijacking DENV and PABP to the P bodies for
357 degrading viral RNA.

358 Phloretin, a natural phenol that belongs to the chalcone class of
359 flavonoids, is currently considered as a DM therapy due to its action on glucose
360 transporter regulation. In the human triple-negative breast cancer cell line MDA-
361 MB-231, Phl directly targets GLUT2, which results in the deprivation of glucose
362 uptake (57). Phl is also a glucose transporter blocker similar to other glucose
363 antagonists, including Quercetin, WZB117, and STF31. Inhibiting extracellular
364 glucose uptake reduces glycolysis, which is characterized by decreased lactate
365 production and increased cell apoptosis (58). Another anti-type 2 DM drug,
366 metformin, has also been reported to reduce hepatic gluconeogenesis and is,
367 therefore, a joint anti-hyperglycemic agent in recent decades (59). Importantly,
368 a clinical observation study showed that the use of metformin reduces the risk
369 of developing severe dengue diseases; it has been hypothesized that
370 metformin reduces the risk of severe bleeding in DENV-infected patients (60).
371 According to our findings in this study, the anti-diabetic agent Phl can use as a
372 potential therapy for DENV infection because treatment with the compound

373 shows significant inhibition of DENV replication by targeting the glucose
374 regulator.

375 In conclusion, this study provides a possible mechanism by which HG
376 promotes severe DENV infection by potentially inducing PABP to facilitate viral
377 translation. Targeting PABP and the translational complex or inhibiting glucose
378 uptake can reduce viral replication. PABP also plays a pivotal role in many viral
379 infections, such as influenza virus, rotavirus, and human cytomegalovirus (61).
380 This evidence raises caution that infections may be exacerbated by an
381 abundance of PABP in an HG environment, which requires further exploration.
382 Overall, this study reveals the pathogenic role of HG-induced PABP in DENV
383 infection and further demonstrates a potential antiviral strategy of inhibiting
384 PABP-mediated viral replication.

385 **Methods**

386 *Ethics statement and Data collection.* For the epidemiological analysis,
387 the data from 31,270 DENV-infected subjects and 123,776 subjects who have
388 no DENV disease diagnosis were obtained from the National Health Insurance
389 Research Database (NHIRD) according to the records from the Taiwan Centers
390 for Disease Control (CDC). Briefly, suspected dengue cases were confirmed by
391 the detection of anti-dengue IgM, viral nucleotide sequence, virion presence, or
392 DENV NS1 antigen. The dengue disease severity was categorized as dengue
393 fever (DF) or dengue hemorrhage fever (DHF) based on the World Health
394 Organization 1997 criteria (62). The control groups were collected and
395 processed by the NHIRD and department of statistics, Ministry of Health and
396 Welfare. The DM group contained both type 1 and type 2 DM patients. Type 1
397 DM patients were involved according to the record of Registry for Catastrophic
398 Illness Patient Database. Type 2 DM patients were defined that the outpatient
399 department patients who have confirmed the diagnosis with type 2 DM for 2
400 visits within 6 months (every visit interval time was more than 30 days).

401 *Cell, virus, and mice.* The baby hamster kidney (BHK)-21 fibroblasts
402 (ATCC, CCL10) and human lung epithelial A549 cells (ATCC, CCL185) were
403 cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; Thermo Fisher
404 Scientific) containing 5.5 mM glucose (11 mmol/L), 10% heat-inactivated fetal
405 bovine serum (FBS; Biological Industries), 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin (Thermo
406 Fisher Scientific) and 1% sodium pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 37°C
407 in 5% CO₂. For high glucose, cells were cultured in DMEM containing 25 mM
408 (50 mmol/L) glucose, 10% heat-inactivated FBS, 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin,
409 and 1% sodium pyruvate at 37°C in 5% CO₂. BHK-21 cells harboring a

410 luciferase-expressing DENV replicon (BHK-D2-Fluc-SGR-Neo-1) were
411 maintained in DMEM containing 5.5 mM glucose (11 mmol/L), 10% heat-
412 inactivated FBS, 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin, 1% sodium pyruvate and 0.4
413 mg/ml G418 agent (Sigma-Aldrich) at 37°C in 5% CO₂. *Aedes albopictus* clone
414 mosquito C6/36 cells (ATCC, CRL1660) were maintained in Minimum Essential
415 Media (MEM; Thermo Fisher Scientific) containing 10% heat-inactivated FBS,
416 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin, 1% sodium pyruvate, 1% 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-
417 piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES; Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 1% non-
418 essential amino acids (NEAA; Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 28°C in 5% CO₂.
419 The monolayer of C6/36 cells was infected with dengue virus serotype 2
420 (DENV2, strain PL046, from Taiwan CDC) at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of
421 0.01 and incubated at 28°C in 5% CO₂ for 5 days. The viral supernatants were
422 collected and filtered with a 0.22 µm filter followed by stored at -80°C until use.
423 Viral titer was determined by plaque assay using BHK-21 cell monolayers.
424 Alexa Fluor 594 NHS ester-conjugated DENV particles were prepared
425 according to a previous study (Molecular Probes) (63). ICR mice were
426 purchased from BioLASCO Taiwan.

427 *Antibodies and reagents.* Antibodies against eEF1A1 (Cat# GTX102285),
428 PDI (clone RL77; Cat# GTX25484), DENV NS1 (Cat# GTX124280), NS4B
429 (Cat# GTX103349), and capsid (Cat# GTX103343) were purchased from
430 GeneTex, San Antonio, TX; antibody against PABP (clone 10E10; Cat# NB120-
431 6125; Novus Biologicals); antibody against dsRNA (Cat# 10010200; SCICONs);
432 antibody against phospho-IRF3^{Ser396} (Cat# bs-3195R; Bioss, Woburn, MA,
433 USA); antibody against β-actin (Cat# A5441; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO);
434 antibodies against IRF3 (clone D83B9; Cat# 4302), phospho-STAT1^{Tyr701}

435 (clone 58D6; Cat# 9167), STAT1 (Cat# 9172), horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-
436 conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Cat# 7074S), HRP-conjugated horse anti-
437 mouse IgG (Cat# 7076S) were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology,
438 Beverly, MA; antibodies against hnRNP A2B1 (Cat# ab24409), and eIF4G1
439 (Cat# ab2609) were purchased from Abcam; antibodies against YB-1 (clone A-
440 16; Cat# sc-18057), NF90 (clone N-18; Cat# sc-22530-R), and HRP-conjugated
441 donkey anti-goat IgG (Cat# sc-2020) were purchased from Santa Cruz
442 Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA; antibodies against PTBP1 (clone 1; Cat# 32-
443 4800), mouse IgG2b kappa isotype control (clone eBMG2b; Cat# 14-4732-85),
444 Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (Cat# A-11029) were
445 purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. Dimethyl
446 sulfoxide (DMSO; Cat# AD0470; Bionovas); PI3K inhibitor 2-(4-Morpholinyl)-8-
447 phenyl-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one hydrochloride (LY294002; Cat# 70920;
448 Cayman); P1 (Cat# 5127; Tocris Bioscience); Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated
449 phalloidin (Cat# A12379; Invitrogen); 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI;
450 Cat# D9542), streptozotocin (STZ; Cat# S0130), carbonyl cyanide-p-
451 trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone (FCCP; Cat# C2920), acridine orange hemi
452 (zinc chloride) salt (Cat# A6014), phloretin (Cat# P7912), rapamycin (Cat#
453 553210), cycloheximide (Cat# C4859), and AKT inhibitor 5-(2-Benzothiazolyl)-
454 3-ethyl-2-[2-(methylphenylamino)ethenyl]-1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazolium iodide
455 (Cat# B2311) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO. MTT assay
456 and LDH assay were conducted by using Thiazolyl blue tetrazolium bromide
457 (Cat# T0793; Bio Basic) and cytotoxicity detection kit (Cat# 11644793001;
458 Roche), respectively.

459 *Western blotting.* Proteins from collected cells were extracted with lysis
460 buffer containing protease inhibitor mixture (Sigma-Aldrich). Extracted proteins
461 from cell lysates were separated by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
462 followed by transfer to a polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane (Millipore).
463 The membrane was blocked with 5% nonfat milk in Tris-buffered saline
464 containing 0.05% Tween-20 (TBS-T) at room temperature for 1 hour. Then, the
465 membrane was washed three times with TBS-T buffer followed by incubation
466 with the indicated antibodies at 4°C overnight. After three washes with TBS-T
467 buffer, the membrane was incubated with the indicated HRP-conjugated
468 secondary antibodies. The antibody-protein complexes on the PVDF
469 membrane were detected using an ECL Western blot detection kit (Cat#
470 ORT2655; PerkinElmer). The ImageJ software (Fiji Software) was used to
471 calculate the relative densities of the identified proteins.

472 *Plaque assay.* BHK-21 cells were plated into 12-well plates in numbers
473 of 1×10^5 cells per well and cultured in DMEM at 37°C in 5% CO₂ overnight.
474 Monolayers of BHK-21 cells were infected with a serially diluted viral solution
475 for 2 hours, followed by replaced with fresh DMEM containing 4% FBS and
476 0.5% methylcellulose (Cat# M0512; Sigma-Aldrich) for 5 days. The
477 methylcellulose medium was removed, and the wells were washed by 2 ml PBS
478 per well three times. Then, the cells were fixed and stained with crystal violet
479 solution containing 1% crystal violet (Cat# C0775; Sigma-Aldrich), 0.64% NaCl,
480 and 2% formaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) overnight. Subsequently, the plates
481 were water-washed and air-dried.

482 *FACS analysis.* Cells were harvested and washed twice with 2 ml iced
483 staining buffer (PBS + 2% FBS + 0.1% NaN₃) and then immuno-blocked with

484 5% bovine serum albumin (BSA; Sigma-Aldrich) blocking buffer at 4°C. After
485 30 minutes, the cells were washed with 2 ml iced staining buffer and fixed with
486 200 µl 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) at room temperature for 15
487 minutes. After fixation and washing, the cells were immunohybridized with
488 specific primary antibodies at 4°C for 40 minutes. Then, the cells were washed
489 with 2 ml iced staining buffer followed by staining with target
490 immunofluorescence-conjugated secondary antibodies at 4°C for 30 minutes.
491 The cells were washed with 2 ml staining buffer and then resuspended in 300
492 µl iced staining buffer. The resuspended cells were analyzed with a BD
493 FACSCalibur™ system and the FlowJo software.

494 *Immunofluorescence staining.* BHK-21 cells were placed in monolayers
495 on sterile glass slides overnight, followed by treated medium containing
496 indicated Glu concentration for 48 hours. Then, cells were infected with Alexa
497 594-conjugated DENV 2 for 2 hours. After a wash with iced PBS 3 times, cells
498 were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) at room temperature for
499 15 minutes. Then, cells were washed 3 times with iced PBS and permeabilized
500 with permeabilization buffer (PBS + 1% Triton X-100) at room temperature for
501 5 minutes. The cells were then washed 3 times with iced PBS and immuno-
502 blocked with blocking buffer (PBS +1% BSA + 0.01% Triton X-100) at 4°C. After
503 30 minutes, cells were washed 3 times with iced PBS and stained with Alexa
504 488-conjugated phalloidin (Invitrogen) as well as DAPI (Sigma-Aldrich) at room
505 temperature for 15 minutes. Cells were washed with iced PBS for 3 times then
506 visualized with the laser-scanning confocal microscope (TCS SP5 Confocal
507 Spectral Microscope Imaging System). The pixel format and gains used of the
508 captured field were 1024 × 1024 and 590.0V, respectively. The three-

509 dimensional images from a series of confocal images together with the z-axis
510 of the cells and the analysis of the z-stacks were reconstructed using the Leica
511 Confocal Software. DAPI was used for nuclear staining.

512 *Double-strained (ds) RNA staining.* Cells were washed with iced PBS 3
513 times and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) at room
514 temperature for 15 minutes. Then, the cells were washed 3 times with iced PBS
515 and permeabilized with permeabilization buffer (PBS + 1% Triton X-100) at
516 room temperature for 5 minutes. The cells were then washed 3 times with iced
517 PBS and immuno-blocked with blocking buffer (PBS + 1% BSA + 0.01% Triton
518 X-100) at 4°C for 30 minutes. Next, cells were washed 3 times with iced PBS
519 and immunohybridized with mouse anti-dsRNA J2 primary antibody at 4°C
520 overnight. Subsequently, the cells were washed 3 times with iced PBS and
521 stained with Alexa Flour 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (Thermo
522 Fisher Scientific) and DAPI at room temperature for 15 minutes. The cells were
523 washed 3 times with iced PBS and then visualized with fluorescent or confocal
524 microscopy. DAPI was used for nuclear staining.

525 *Acridine orange staining.* Cells were washed with Hank's Balanced Salt
526 Solution (HBSS; Thermo Fisher Scientific) once then stained with acridine
527 orange agent (Sigma-Aldrich) and Hoechst 33258 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in
528 the incubator at 37°C in 5% CO₂. After 45 minutes, cells were washed with
529 HBSS once and rinsed with HBSS. Subsequently, cells were visualized with
530 fluorescent microscopy. Hoechst 33258 was used for nuclear staining.

531 *DEN-FLuc assay.* A DEN-FLuc assay kit mimicking DENV viral RNA
532 translation was developed by Dr. Chia-Yi Yu (National Institute of Infectious
533 Diseases and Vaccinology, National Health Research Institutes, Miaoli,

534 Taiwan). The plasmids of DEN-FLuc (3,333 bps), which contains DENV viral
535 RNA fused with firefly luciferase (FLuc) under the transcriptional control of the
536 T7 promoter, and pCAG-T7pol (Addgene, Plasmid #59926) were co-
537 transfected into Glu 5.5 mM medium-maintained BHK-21 cells by TurboFect
538 Transfection Reagent (Cat# R0531; Thermo Fisher Scientific). Then, the cells
539 were seeded in 96-well plates at 3,000 cells per well and stimulated with DMEM
540 containing Glu 5.5 or 25 mM at 37°C in 5% CO₂ for 48 hours. The luciferase
541 activity was detected using the Dual-Glo® luciferase assay system (Cat# E2940;
542 Promega) according to a previous study (42).

543 *Reporter assay.* The BHK-21-SGR cells were kindly provided by Dr.
544 Huey-Nan Wu (Institute of Molecular Biology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan).
545 Briefly, the D2-Fluc-SGR-Neo-1 was transfected into BHK-21 cells by
546 electroporation. By G418 addition, the DENV replicon-harboring stable BHK-21
547 cells were established (Figure 3C) (34). Cells were seeded in 96-well plates at
548 3,000 cells per well and cultured in DMEM at 37°C in 5% CO₂ overnight. After
549 the treatments, the luciferase activity was detected using the Dual-Glo®
550 luciferase assay system (Cat# E2940; Promega) according to a previous study
551 (42).

552 *Reverse-transcription (RT)-polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and*
553 *Quantitative (q)PCR.* Cells were extracted using TRIZol (Invitrogen) RNA
554 extraction reagent. According to the manufacturer's instructions,
555 complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized with an RT reaction using a
556 High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Cat# 4368814; Thermo Fisher
557 Scientific). The concentration of cDNA was determined by spectrophotometer
558 at 260 nm. One thousand ng/μl cDNA was applied to conduct qPCR using 2x

559 qPCR BIO SyGreen Mix Hi-ROX (Cat# PB20.12; PCRBIOSYSTEMS). The PCR
560 was performed using a StepOnePlus™ real-time PCR system (Applied
561 Biosystems, Foster City, CA) with the following pairs of specific primers: primer
562 sequences for *PABP* (forward): 5'-CCCAGCTGCTCCTAGACC-3' and
563 (reverse): 5'-GAGTAGCTGCAGCGGCT-3'; for *DENV NS1* (forward): 5'-
564 ATGAATTCACGCAGCACC-3' and (reverse): 5'-
565 TTATCGGGTCCTGAGCATTTC-3'; for *β-actin* (forward): 5'-
566 TCCTGTGGCATCCACGAAACT-3' and (reverse): 5'-
567 GAAGCATTGCGGTGGACGAT-3'.

568 *siRNA knockdown.* The chemically synthesized 21-mer *PABP* siRNA
569 duplexes were purchased from Dharmacon Inc. The *PABP* siRNA sequences
570 used in this study are as follows: 5'-GAAAGGAGCUCAAUGGAAAUU-3' (sense)
571 and 5'-UUUCCAUUGAGCUCCUUUCUU-3' (antisense). The control siRNA
572 Stealth RNAi™ siRNA Negative Control was purchased from Invitrogen™ (Med
573 GC, Cat# 12935). For transfection, briefly, cells were plated into 12-well plates
574 at 1×10^5 cells per well and transfected with the corresponding siRNA using
575 the TurboFect™ Transfection Reagent (Cat# R0531; Thermo Fisher Scientific)
576 following the manufacturer's instructions in 5.5 mM glucose-containing medium.
577 Twenty-four hours after transfection, the cells were treated with a 5.5 or 25 mM
578 glucose-containing medium for 48 hours. Then, based on the different
579 experimental designs, the cells were either collected or further infected with
580 DENV.

581 *Co-immunoprecipitation.* One mg of cell lysates were incubated with
582 anti-eIF4G antibody (Cat# ab2609; Abcam) and protein A agarose beads (Cat#
583 16-156; Merck Millipore) at 4°C for 16 hours. The pull-downed samples were

584 further applied to western blotting and hybrid with the anti-PABP antibody
585 (clone 10E10; Cat# NB120-6125; Novus Biologicals).

586 *Hyperglycemic adult mouse model.* STZ was freshly dissolved in 0.05 M
587 citric acid buffer (pH 4.5) and used within 30 minutes. All of the ICR mice have
588 fasted for 6 hours before the injection. Then, mice of the study group were
589 intraperitoneally (i.p.) injected with STZ at a dose of 200 mg/mouse body weight
590 (kg) every 4 days for a total of 3 injections. Mice of the control group treated
591 with an equal volume of citrate buffer (pH 4.5) by i.p. injection. After every
592 injection, all mice were supplied with 10% sucrose water for 24 hours (64, 65).
593 The blood glucose values of the hyperglycemic group should increase to
594 greater than 250 mg/dL. Then, the mice were infected with DENV serotype 2
595 (PL046) by i.p. inoculation with 1×10^7 PFU/ml virus. At the indicated days,
596 mice were sacrificed to collect samples. Organs were harvested and
597 homogenized in PBS to determine the protein expression and tissue viral load
598 by western blotting and plaque assay, respectively.

599 *Hyperglycemic suckling mouse model.* The same approach was applied
600 to induce hyperglycemia-conditioned ICR mice at gestation days 8, 12, and 16.
601 The blood glucose levels of newborn pups were measured and recorded. The
602 DENV-infected suckling murine model was created according to our previous
603 study (45). Briefly, 2.5×10^5 PFU/ml of DENV 2 (PL046) were intracranially (i.c.)
604 injected into the lambda area, the point at the intersection of the sagittal and
605 lambdoid suture, of seven-day-old ICR mice. Concomitantly, mice were i.p.
606 infected with 7.5×10^5 PFU/ml of DENV 2. The mice were monitored, and the
607 time-kinetic changes in survival rate were recorded. At the indicated days, mice
608 were sacrificed to collect samples. Organs were harvested and homogenized

609 in PBS to determine the protein expression and tissue viral load by western
610 blotting and plaque assay, respectively.

611 *Study approval.* The human research protocol was approved by the
612 Taipei Medical University-Joint Institutional Review Board (N201602014).
613 Animal studies of this project were performed according to the Animal
614 Protection Act of Taiwan. All protocols, according to guidelines established by
615 the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan, were approved by the
616 Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee of Ministry of Science and
617 Technology (IACUC-19-018).

618 *Statistics.* Clinical data were collected and designed by Nested Case-
619 Control studies then analyzed by conditional logistic regression. Experimental
620 data were analyzed using GraphPad Prism (Version 8.3.0). Unpaired *t*-test and
621 one-way ANOVA (Tukey's multiple comparisons test) were used to determine
622 experiments involving two and various groups, respectively. The survival rate
623 followed a log-rank test. Values are means \pm standard deviation (SD). All *P*
624 values are for two-tailed significance tests. A *P*-value of <0.05 is considered
625 statistically significant.

626 **Author contributions**

627 TJS performed most of the experiments and interpreted the results. CLC
628 performed the confocal microscopy. CFL, CLC, and TTT participated in the
629 design and supervision of the projects. MKJ and PCT helped with the mouse
630 experiments, DENV stock preparation and DEN-FLuc assay. CHB, YCY, and
631 CWT contributed to analyzing the epidemiological data. CYL provided the
632 epidemiological data from the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control. TJS and
633 CFL designed the concept of the project and wrote the manuscript. All authors
634 reviewed and approved the manuscript.

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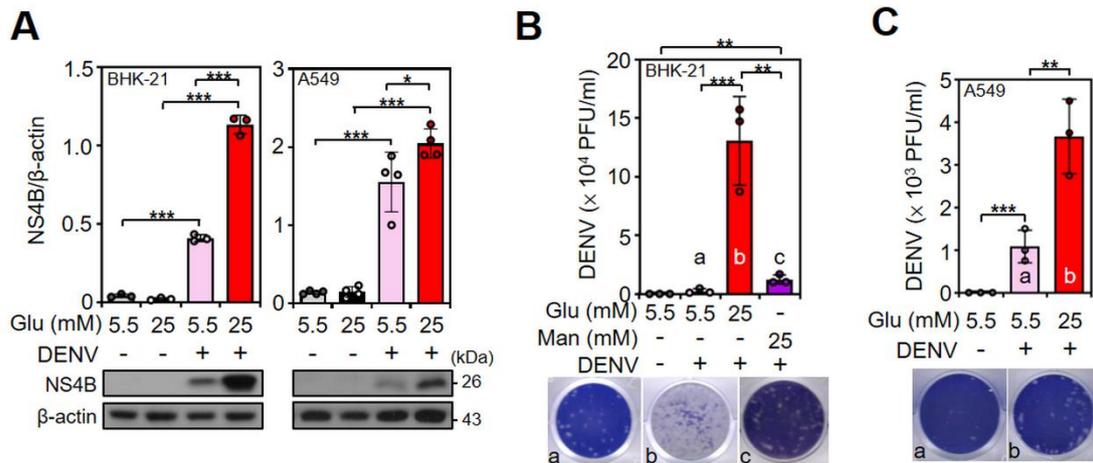
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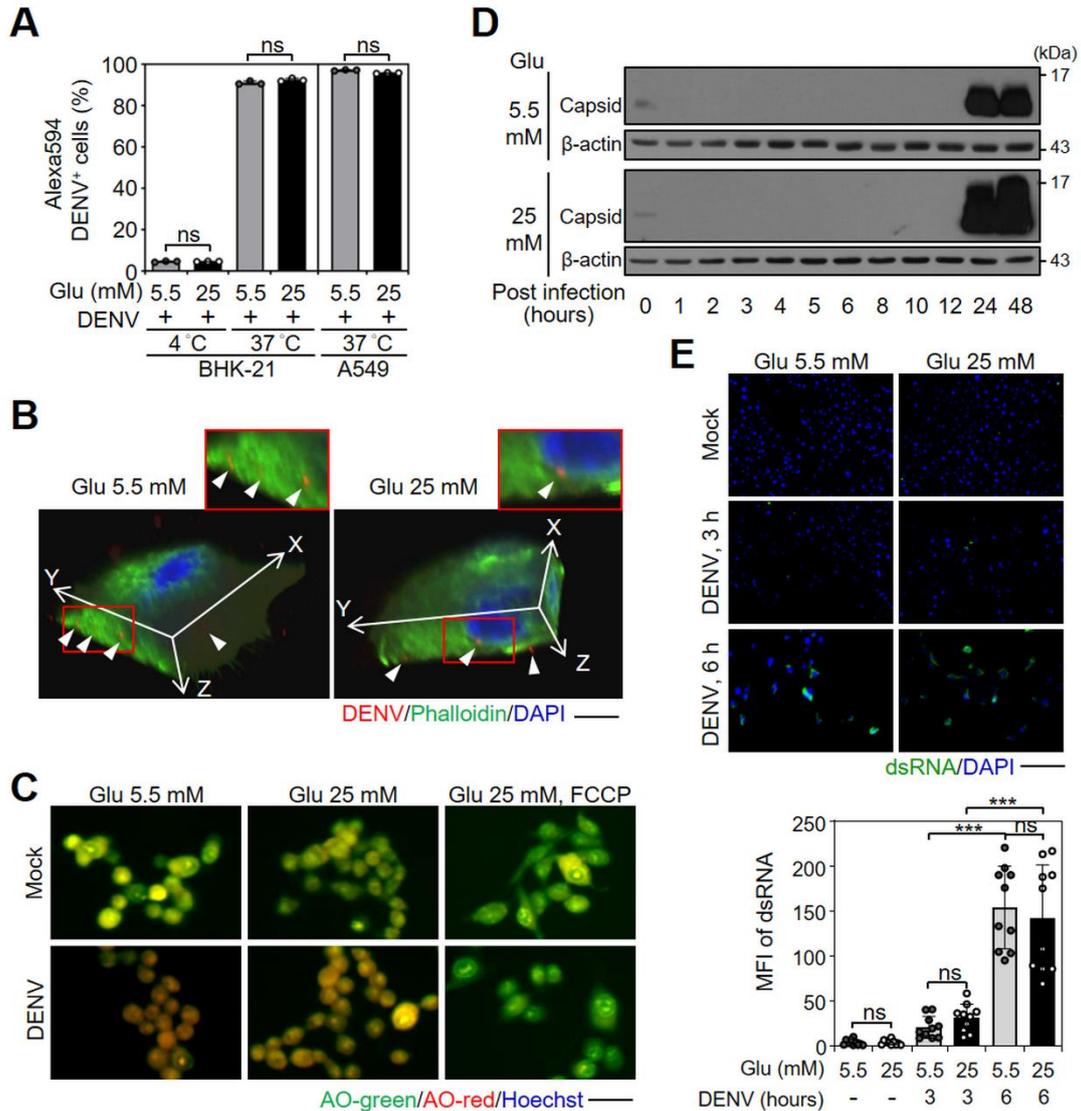
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844 **Figures and figure legends**



845

846 **Figure 1. HG treatment increases DENV NS4B expression and virion**
 847 **release. (A)** Representative western blot showing the expression of the viral
 848 protein NS4B in BHK-21 cells and A549 cells pretreated with 5.5 or 25 mM
 849 glucose (Glu)-containing medium for 48 hours and then infected with DENV for
 850 48 hours. Plaque assays were conducted to determine the viral titer in BHK-21
 851 **(B)** and A549 **(C)** cells. Mannose (Man) was used as a control. Quantitative
 852 data showed the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments. * P <
 853 0.05, ** P < 0.01, and *** P < 0.001. ns, not significant.



854

855 **Figure 2. HG treatment does not significantly affect the early stage of**

856 **DENV infection.** BHK-21 and A549 cells were treated with 5.5 or 25 mM Glu-

857 containing medium for 48 hours and then infected with DENV 2 for 2 hours. **(A)**

858 Flow cytometry determined the binding (at 4°C and 0 hour postinfection) and

859 entry (at 37°C and 2 hours postinfection) of Alexa594-conjugated DENV 2 to

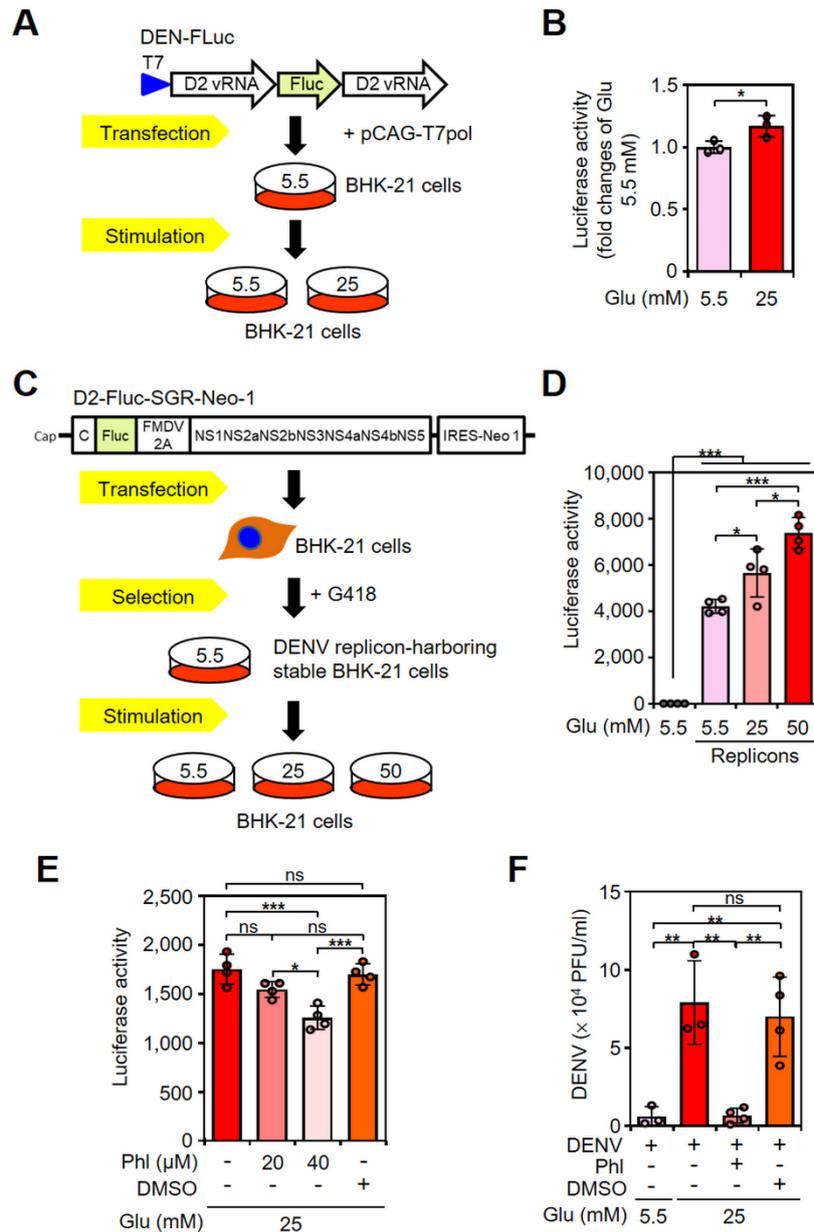
860 cells (MOI = 10). **(B)** Confocal microscopy showed Alexa594-conjugated DENV

861 2 (red) in infected BHK-21 cells (at 37°C and 2 hours postinfection). Phalloidin

862 (green) and DAPI (blue) staining indicated the actin filaments and nuclei,

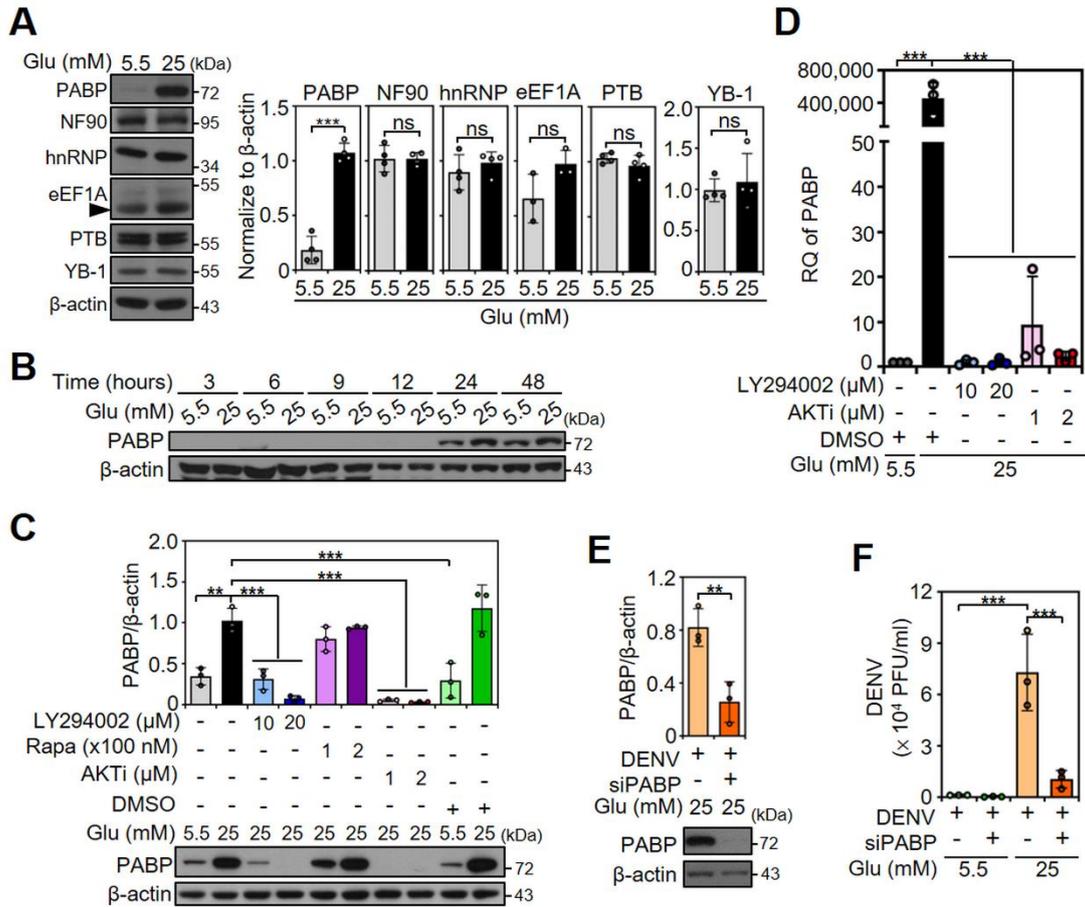
863 respectively. Scale bar: 20 μ m. **(C)** Fluorescent images of acridine orange

864 staining in infected BHK-21 cells (at 37°C and 2 hours postinfection). Scale bar:
865 100 µm. **(D)** Western blot analysis showed the expression of the DENV 2 viral
866 capsid protein in a time-kinetic manner. **(E)** Immunocytochemistry images
867 showed the viral dsRNA (green) in infected BHK-21 cells. Scale bar: 200 µm.
868 The quantitative mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) was also shown. The
869 individual data points indicated the MFI ratio of viral dsRNA positive area (green)
870 to DAPI counts (blue) from at least 3 random areas under microscopy
871 observation. Quantitative data showed the mean ± SD of at least three
872 independent experiments. *** $P < 0.001$. ns, not significant.



873 **Figure 3. Inhibiting glucose uptake reduces HG-enhanced viral translation**
 874 **and virion production. (A)** Glu 5.5 mM medium-maintained BHK-21 cells were
 875 co-transfected with DEN-FLuc and pCAG-T7pol following stimulated with
 876 medium containing Glu 5.5 or 25 mM for 48 hours. **(B)** Luciferase activity of
 877 DEN-FLuc-contained BHK-21 cells were detected and analyzed. **(C)** BHK-21
 878 cells were transfected with D2-Fluc-SGR-Neo-1 and selected by G418 addition.
 879 **(D)** The luciferase activity assay showed translation activity in parental BHK-21

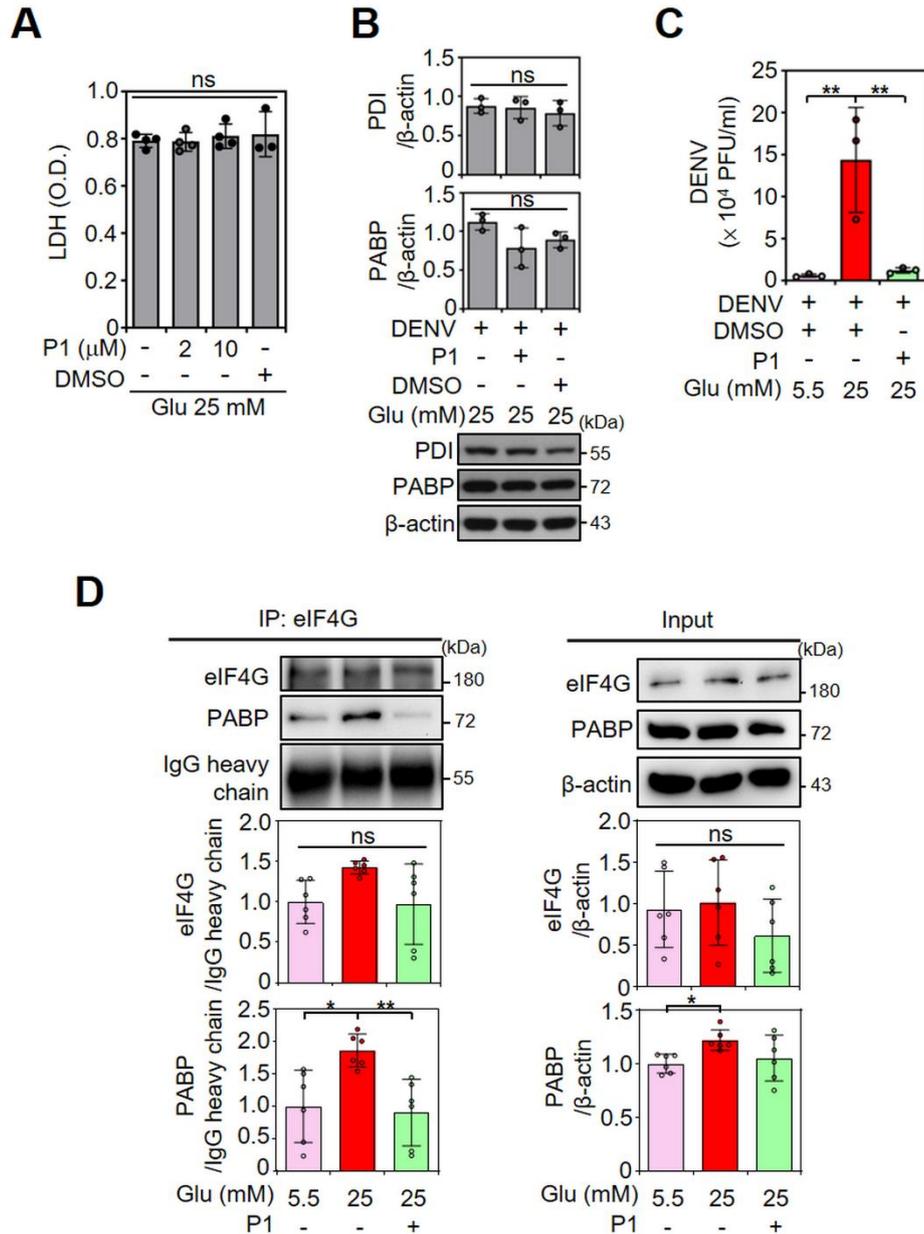
880 and BHK-D2-Fluc-SGR-Neo-1 cells (replicons) treated with indicated
881 concentrations of Glu for 48 hours. **(E)** Luciferase activity of replicons was
882 determined with or without PhI treatment for 48 hours. **(F)** Plaque assays were
883 conducted to determine the viral titer in DENV-infected BHK-21 cells treated
884 with Glu and/or 40 μ M PhI. DMSO was used as a control. Quantitative data
885 showed the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments. * P < 0.05,
886 ** P < 0.01, and *** P < 0.001. ns, not significant.



887

888 **Figure 4. PI3K/AKT signaling contributes to HG-induced PABP expression,**
 889 **which promotes DENV infection. (A)** Western blot showed the expression of
 890 PABP, NF90, hnRNP, eEF1A, PTB, YB-1, and β -actin in 5.5 or 25 mM Glu
 891 medium-treated BHK-21 cells for 48 hours. **(B)** Furthermore, the time-course
 892 expression of PABP protein was also shown. **(C)** Western blot showed PABP
 893 protein expression in BHK-21 cells that were pretreated with or without PI3K
 894 inhibitor (LY294002), the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin (Rapa), or AKT inhibitor for
 895 1 hour followed by 5.5 or 25 mM Glu-containing medium treatment for 48 hours.
 896 **(D)** Quantitative real-time PCR assays showed the expression of PABP mRNA
 897 in 5.5 or 25 mM Glu-treated BHK-21 cells that were pretreated with or without
 898 LY294002 and an AKT inhibitor for 1 hour and subsequently maintained in
 899 medium containing 5.5 or 25 mM Glu for 48 hours. **(E)** Western blot showed

900 PABP protein expression in BHK-21 cells pretreated with PABP siRNA for 48
901 hours, followed by incubation with medium containing 25 mM Glu. Cells without
902 control siRNA pretreatment were used as negative control. **(F)** Plaque assays
903 were conducted to determine the viral titer of BHK-21 cells that were pretreated
904 with PABP siRNA for 48 hours and then infected with DENV 2 (MOI = 1) for an
905 additional 48 hours in 5.5 or 25 mM Glu-containing medium. DMSO was used
906 as a control. Quantitative data showed the mean \pm SD of at least three
907 independent experiments. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. ns, not
908 significant.



909

910 **Figure 5. PABP-facilitated viral translation requires PDI-mediated PABP-**

911 **eIF4G translational complex formation. (A)** The LDH assay showed cell

912 cytotoxicity in BHK-21 cells cultured in medium containing 25 mM Glu with or

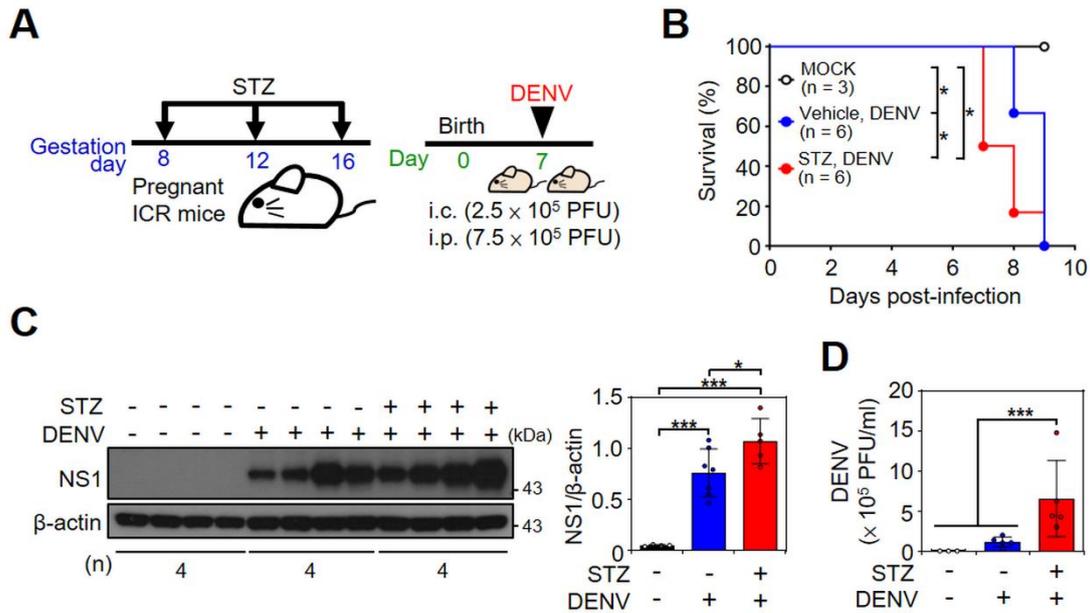
913 without P1 cotreatment for 48 hours. O.D., optical density. **(B)** Representative

914 western blot showed the protein expression of PABP and PDI in BHK-21 cells

915 pretreated with P1 for 3 hours, followed by DENV 2 (MOI = 1) infection for an

916 additional 48 hours. **(C)** Plaque assays were conducted to determine the viral

917 titer of BHK-21 cells that were pretreated with P1 for 3 hours and then infected
918 with DENV 2 (MOI = 1) for an additional 48 hours. DMSO was used as a control.
919 **(D)** BHK-21 cells were pretreated with or without P1 for 3 hours and then further
920 cultured in medium containing 25 mM Glu for 48 hours. Cell lysates were
921 immunoprecipitated with anti-eIF4G antibody and then analyzed by western
922 blotting. The inputs represented the original cell lysates. Quantitative data
923 showed the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments. * $P < 0.05$.
924 ** $P < 0.01$. ns, not significant.



925

926 **Figure 6. STZ-induced hyperglycemic mice show increased mortality and**

927 **viral replication under DENV infection. (A)** Pregnant ICR mice were i.p.

928 injected three times with vehicle or STZ as indicated. Seven-day-old ICR

929 suckling mice were concurrently i.c. and i.p. inoculated with DENV 2. **(B)** The

930 time-kinetic changes in the survival rates of the mice were monitored. **(C)**

931 Western blot analysis showed viral NS1 protein expression in the brain of mice

932 at 8 days postinfection. **(D)** Plaque assays were conducted to determine the

933 viral titer. Each data point represents 1 mouse. The survival rate followed a log-

934 rank test, and the values are presented as the mean \pm SD. Quantitative data

935 showed the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments. * $P < 0.05$

936 and *** $P < 0.001$.

937 **Table 1. The analysis of the DM prevalence among DENV diseases.**

	No. Dengue	No. Control	Univariate analysis ^a			Multivariate analysis ^b		
			OR	95% CI	p value	OR	95% CI	p value
All								
DM unexposed	27,645	111,197	1			1		
DM exposed	3,299	12,579	1.06	(1.02 - 1.11)	0.0057	0.97	(0.93 - 1.02)	0.2000
DF								
DM unexposed	27,280	109,609	1			1		
DM exposed	3,182	12,239	1.05	(1.01 - 1.10)	0.0264	0.96	(0.92 - 1.01)	0.0859
DHF								
DM unexposed	365	1,588	1			1		
DM exposed	117	340	1.61	(1.24 - 2.09)	0.0004	1.44	(1.09 - 1.91)	0.0107

938 DF, dengue fever; DHF, dengue hemorrhage fever; DM, diabetes mellitus;

939 OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval. ^aUnivariate conditional logistic

940 regression model matched the age, gender, and residence. ^bMultivariate

941 conditional logistic regression model matched age, gender, residence, and

942 adjusted by CCI score, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, myocardial infarction,

943 congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, cerebrovascular

944 disease, and renal disease.