Insulin, the Podocyte and Diabetic Nephropathy

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This talk will present data that the podocyte is an insulin sensitive cell in the glomerulus of the kidney, and that this response is biologically important. It will speculate on the biological advantage of podocyte insulin sensitivity and present further data that loss of podocyte/glomerular insulin signaling is an early event in the development of diabetic nephropathy. Diabetic Nephropathy is the leading cause of kidney failure in the world and this work suggests that enhancing the insulin responses of the podocyte may have therapeutic potential for this major healthcare problem in the future.

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