

The Domestic Chicken: a Feathered Model of Human Obesity and Insulin Resistance?

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Dr. Jean Simon recently retired from a 42-year career with the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) where, for the last 17 years, he held the position of Research Director of the Station de Recherches Avicoles at Nouzilly, France. Dr. Simon's work focuses on the unique and comparative aspects of insulin action in the domestic chicken, a model that is naturally hyperglycemic and prone to obesity, much like humans at risk for type 2 diabetes. He has been involved in a number of international collaborations, including an extended sabbatical working with Dr. Derek Leroith at the Diabetes Branch of the NIH. He also coordinated the French component of a USDA consortium dedicated to functional annotation of the chicken genome. He has been a member of numerous international scientific committees and advisory boards in the areas of agricultural endocrinology and human obesity. Dr. Simon will present an overview of insulin actions in chicken, including its peculiarities in comparison to rodents, and evidence suggesting that chicken is a useful model organism for the study of obesity and insulin resistance in humans