

1 **Lipase-mediated selective hydrolysis of lipid droplets in phase separated-liposomes**

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32 **ABSTRACT**

33 The membrane-protein interface in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) is important for their *in vivo*
34 behavior. Better understanding may assist to evolve current drug delivery methods to more
35 precise, cell- or tissue-specific nanomedicine. Previously, we demonstrated how phase
36 separation can drive liposomes to cell specific accumulation *in vivo*, through the selective
37 recognition of phase-separated liposomes by triacylglycerol lipases (TGLs). This exemplified
38 how liposome morphology can determine the preferential interaction of nanoparticles with
39 biologically relevant proteins. Here, we investigate in detail the lipase-induced morphological
40 changes of phase separated liposomes - which bear a lipid droplet in their bilayer - and unravel
41 how lipase recognizes and binds to the particles at a molecular level. We find that phase
42 separated liposomes undergo selective lipolytic degradation of their lipid droplet while overall
43 nanoparticle integrity remains intact. Next, we combined MD simulations and *in vitro*
44 experiments to identify the Tryptophan-rich loop of the lipase – a region which is involved
45 endogenously in lipoprotein binding – as the region through which the enzyme binds to the
46 particle. We demonstrate that this preferential binding is due to the lipid packing defects
47 induced on the membrane by phase separation. These findings are a significant example of
48 selective LNP – protein communication and interaction, aspects that may further the control of
49 the *in vivo* behavior of lipid nanoparticles.

50

51 INTRODUCTION

52 Lipid-based nanomedicine is undoubtedly a research field of growing importance. Various
53 liposomal drug formulations have been marketed and used in the clinic over the last decades.¹
54 More recently, the development of RNA-based lipid nanoparticles has shown great potential,
55 paving the way for future innovations.²⁻⁶ To push this technology forward, towards simpler, yet
56 more efficient and tissue specific formulations for drug delivery, there is a need for a greater
57 understanding of the *in vivo* behavior of such lipid nanoparticles (LNPs). A key step is to study
58 the interactions of LNPs with biologically relevant proteins at the nano-bio interface, since it is
59 well known that such interactions i.e., lead to the formation of a protein corona, which can
60 determine the *in vivo* fate of LNPs to a great extent⁷⁻¹⁰; or they can lead to preferential protein
61 binding or induce morphological changes in the membrane and affect the supramolecular
62 assembly^{11,12}, which in turn could also affect their *in vivo* fate.

63 Previously¹³, in a liposome screening study in zebrafish embryos, a novel formulation (named
64 PAP3) was found to selectively interact with (capillary) lumen-bound triglyceride lipases
65 (TGLs), enzymes involved in lipid transport and metabolism. The interaction led to the selective
66 accumulation of PAP3 liposomes in (endothelial) cell subsets rich in TGLs. Liposome-lipase
67 interactions are mediated solely through a unique phase-separated LNP morphology, in which
68 liposomes bare a single lipid droplet in each bilayer (**Figure 1a**). This aspect was found to be
69 the key element for the specific accumulation and for interaction with TGLs. This is, to our
70 knowledge, the first time that phase-separation is used to target specific cells *in vivo*. PAP3
71 liposomes consist of an equimolar mixture of 1,2-distearyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine
72 (DSPC) – a naturally occurring phospholipid – and 2-hydroxy-3-oleamidopropyl-oleate
73 (DOaG), a synthetic lipid structurally analogous to the monounsaturated diacylglycerol,
74 dioleoylglycerol (DOG) (**Figure 1b**). Diacylglycerols (DAGs) are endogenous signaling lipids
75 and their local accumulation in the cell membrane induces morphological changes, which in
76 turn orchestrate signaling, *e.g.*, activation of Protein Kinase C (PKC) or Phospholipase C.¹⁴⁻¹⁶
77 Their conical shape, attributed to the small polar hydroxyl group and bulky fatty acid tails, is
78 associated with negative curvature. When added to phospholipid membranes, they are known
79 to perturb lamellar bilayers and even induce phase separation and formation of non-bilayer
80 phases (i.e., lipid droplets) above a threshold (miscibility) concentration.^{17,18} Our particular
81 liposomal formulation follows the same principles and is a great example of how DAG
82 analogues can generate a lipid droplet by their local accumulation between the DSPC leaflets.
83 Another important aspect of DAGs is that they increase the spacing between adjacent

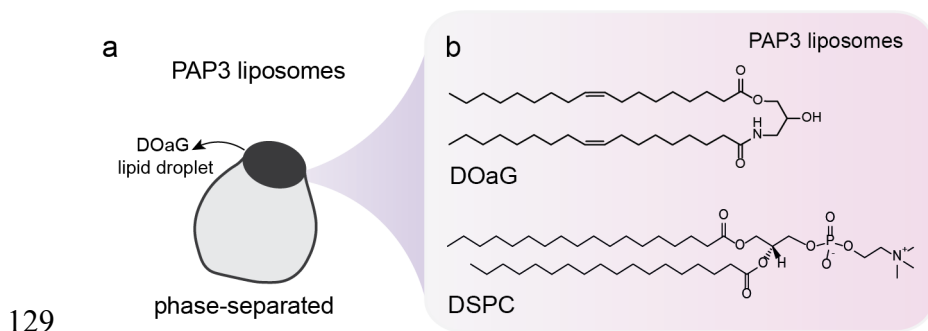
84 phospholipid headgroups in a lipid membrane, even below the threshold concentration, an
85 effect that is amplified by curvature.¹⁹ The transient domains that form as a consequence of
86 such packing frustrations and transiently expose the apolar domain of the lipid membrane, are
87 known as lipid packing defects.^{18,20–22} Some membrane peripheral proteins have been proposed
88 to rely on these hydrophobic lipid packing defects - caused by factors such as phase separation,
89 lateral tension, or membrane curvature - for membrane binding and activation.^{23,24} Examples
90 include the Golgi-associated protein ArfGAP1, that senses curvature-induced packing defects
91 through an amphipathic lipid packing sensor motif^{25,26} and the CTP:phosphocholine
92 cytidyltransferase (CCT), that binds to large packing defects on lipid droplets.²⁷ Also, the
93 toxin Equinatoxin-II²⁸ and several lipases^{29,30} have been found to sense packing defects, induced
94 by DAGs in particular.

95 Triglyceride lipases (TGLs) are lipolytic enzymes bound at the luminal surface of capillaries,
96 and are involved in lipid transport and metabolism, primarily through their interaction with
97 freely circulating lipoproteins. They either hydrolyze tri- and di-acylglycerols and cholesteryl
98 esters or phospholipids, remodeling lipoprotein particles and promoting influx of fatty acids
99 into the cell; or they act as bridging molecules to facilitate lipoprotein uptake.^{31,32} The family
100 consists mainly of hepatic lipase (HL)³³, lipoprotein lipase (LPL)³⁴ and endothelial lipase
101 (EL).³⁵ The main functional domains – the lipid binding domain for substrate binding, the lid
102 region containing the catalytic triad of Serine (Ser), Aspartate (Asp), Histidine (His) and the
103 heparin binding domain - are all structurally homologous throughout the lipase protein family
104 (see^{36,37} and **Figure S23** for protein alignment). The lipid binding domain is rich in hydrophobic
105 residues, mainly tryptophans (Trp), forming a hydrophobic Trp-rich loop that is responsible for
106 insertion of the protein in the hydrophobic lipid core of lipoproteins.^{33,38–41} Importantly, lipases
107 have been found to depend on lipids on the lipoprotein membrane, but not apolipoproteins, for
108 binding.⁴²

109 Therefore, in this study, we combine experimental characterization and (coarse-grained)
110 molecular dynamics (MD) simulations to investigate the molecular mechanism through which
111 the TGL lipoprotein lipase (LPL) interacts with the PAP3 phase-separated liposomes and the
112 subsequent morphological changes of the liposomes upon incubation. First, by combining
113 morphological liposome analysis by Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscopy (Cryo-TEM)
114 with enzymatic activity analysis of LPL, we observe selective lipolytic degradation of the lipid
115 droplet of PAP3 liposomes (rich in DOaG), while the overall nanoparticle integrity and
116 structure is maintained. Mass spectrometry analysis confirms the selective hydrolysis of DOaG

117 over DSPC, consistent with the known preference of LPL for hydrolyzing Tri- and Di-
 118 acylglycerols. Next, we built upon earlier insight in the role of defects for protein binding^{23,24}
 119 and study lipid packing defects in PAP3 liposomes and their role in recognition and binding of
 120 LPL. By combining Cryo-TEM with molecular dynamics (MD) simulations we confirm and
 121 quantify increased packing defects on the curved DSPC monolayer surrounding the DOaG lipid
 122 droplet, leading to the insight that (induced) curvature and DOaG availability are the two likely
 123 ingredients for selective LPL binding. Finally, free energy calculations and enzymatic activity
 124 analysis reveal that the Trp-rich loop of LPL acts as a lipid packing defect sensing motif, that
 125 prefers to interact with a PAP3 membrane (DSPC/DOaG) over the (flat) pure DSPC
 126 counterpart.

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130 **Figure 1. Molecular details of PAP3 liposomes. a)** Schematic representation of phase separated
 131 liposomes (named PAP3). **b)** Molecular structures of DOaG and DSPC combined in an equimolar
 132 mixture (50:50) to form PAP3 liposomes.

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135 RESULTS

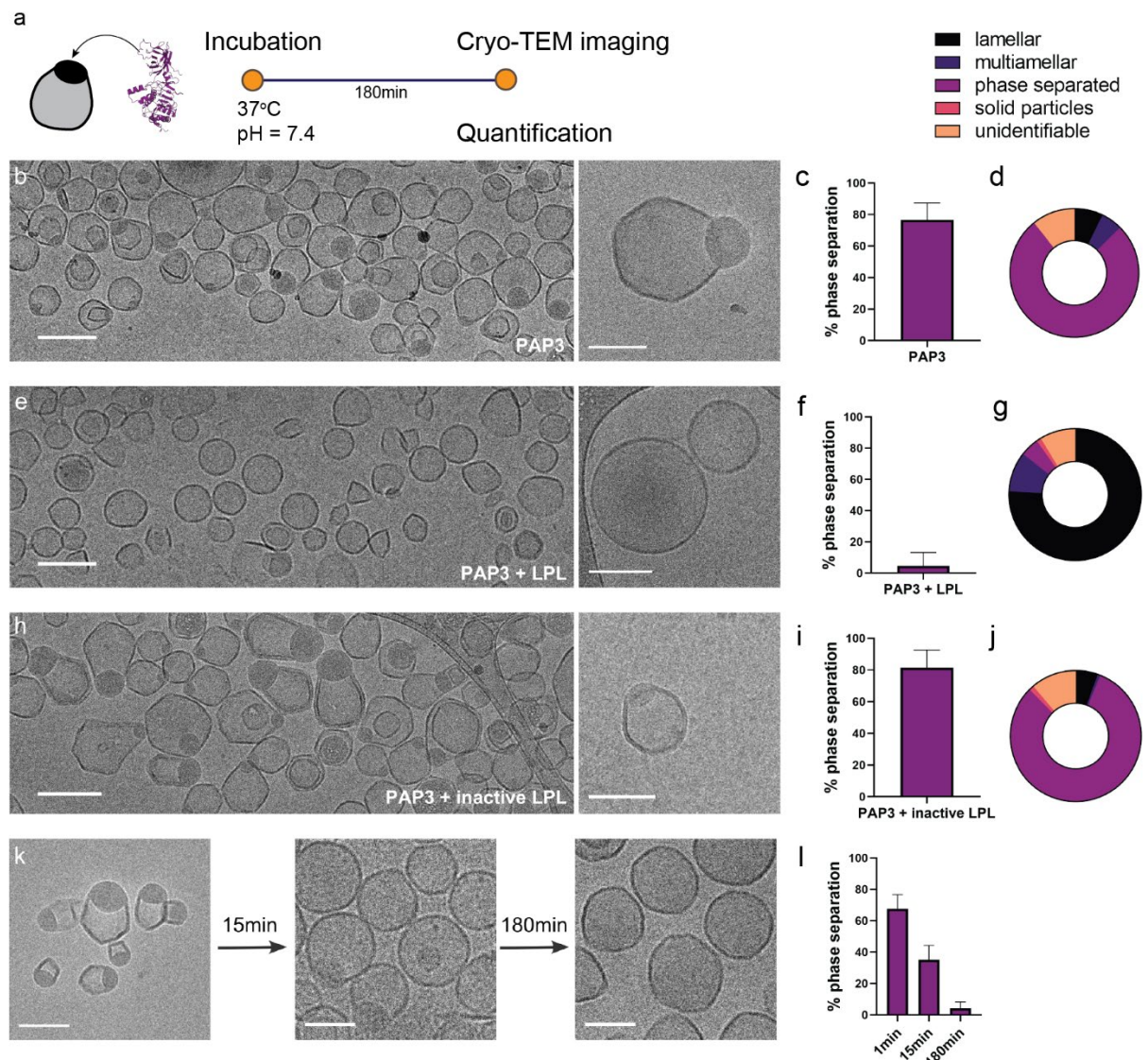
136 DOaG lipid droplet selectively depleted by Lipoprotein Lipase

137 To determine any morphological changes on PAP3 liposomes upon incubation with a TGL, the
 138 phase separated liposomes were incubated with LPL at physiological conditions (pH = 7.4,
 139 37°C) for 3 h and changes in the morphology were assessed by Cryo-TEM imaging (**Figure**
 140 **2a**). As expected without addition of LPL, nearly 80 % of PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C
 141 for 3 h were phase separated (**Figure 2b-d** and **Figure S1a**) with only ~20 % of the population
 142 having another morphology, either (multi-) lamellar, solid-lipid or unidentifiable. Strikingly,
 143 when PAP3 liposomes were incubated with LPL, liposomes were now lacking the lipid droplet
 144 (**Figure 2e** and **Figure S1b**), and less than 10 % of the population appeared now to be phase

145 separated (**Figure 2f, g**), with almost 80 % of the population being now lamellar. This indicated
146 that LPL could deplete the phase separated droplet possibly through its lipolytic activity,
147 therefore selectively hydrolyzing the DOaG lipid. Accordingly, when the denatured and
148 therefore inactive form of LPL was added to the PAP3 liposomes, no change of the phase
149 separated morphology or the percentage in the population was observed (**Figure 2h-j** and
150 **Figure S1c**), implying the catalytically active LPL to be responsible for the selective droplet
151 digestion. Interestingly, despite the major morphological change on PAP3 liposomes, the
152 nanoparticles remained intact in terms of structural integrity, retaining their size of about 120
153 nm over time (**Figure S2** and **table S1**). Of note, liposomes without DOaG, (i.e., 100 % DSPC),
154 did not display any changes in morphology or size before and after addition of LPL (**Figure S3**
155 and **table S1**) suggesting no interaction, and as before signifying that LPL is selective for DOaG
156 or the phase separation induced by DOaG.

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 160 **Figure 2. Selective depletion of DOaG lipid droplets in PAP3 liposomes.** **a)** Schematic for conditions
 161 and timeline of cryo-TEM imaging. **b)** Low and high magnification cryo-TEM images depicting PAP3
 162 liposomes at 37 °C incubating for 180 min. **c)** Percentage of phase separation on PAP3 liposomes based
 163 on cryo-TEM quantification (N=200) and **d)** Quantification of all populations found on PAP3 liposomal
 164 formulation incubating at 37 °C for 180 min. **e)** Low and high magnification cryo-TEM images depicting
 165 PAP3 liposomes incubating with LPL for 180 min. **f)** Percentage of phase separation on PAP3 liposomes
 166 based on cryo-TEM quantification (N=200) and **g)** Quantification of all populations found on the
 167 formulation after incubation with LPL for 180 min. **h)** Low and high magnification cryo-TEM images
 168 depicting PAP3 liposomes incubating with inactive LPL for 180 min. **i)** Percentage of phase separation
 169 on PAP3 liposomes based on cryo-TEM quantification (N=200) and **j)** Quantification of all populations
 170 found on the formulation after incubation with inactive LPL for 180 min. **k)** Cryo-TEM images of PAP3
 171 liposomes incubating with LPL for 1, 15 and 180 min. **l)** Percentage of phase separation on PAP3
 172 liposomes based on cryo-TEM quantification (N=200) after incubation with LPL for 1, 15 and 180 min.
 173 Scale bars: 200 nm for b, e, h and 100 nm for k and insets on b, e, h.

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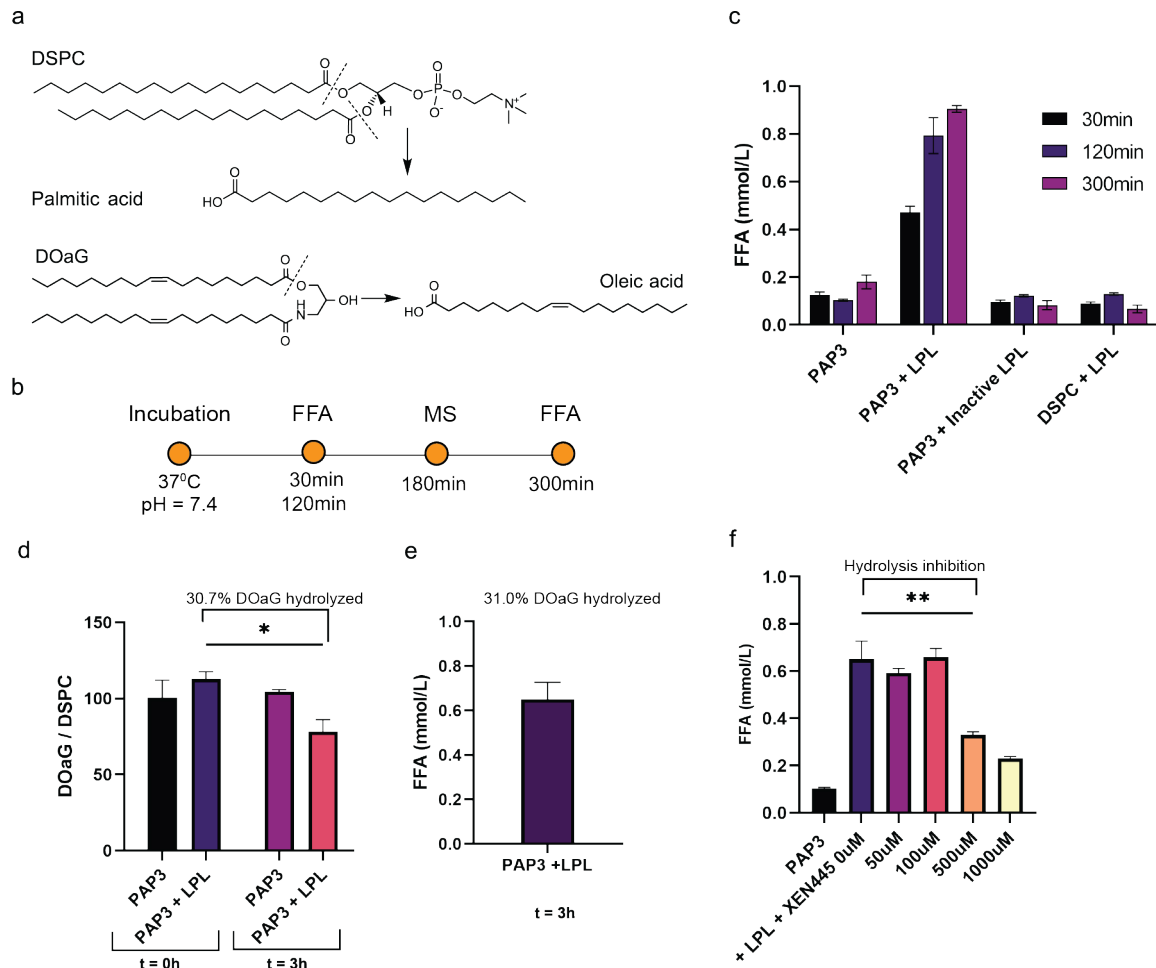
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176 **LPL selectively hydrolyzes DOaG but not DSPC**

177 Subsequently, to assess the evolution and timeline of the observed morphological change, PAP3
178 liposomes were imaged after incubating for 1, 15 and 180 min with LPL and the percentage of
179 phase separation was found to progressively decrease over time (**Figure 2k-l** and **Figure S4**).
180 This indicated that the observed phenomenon was a dynamic process, and that lipolysis could
181 be monitored overtime by quantifying the amount of free fatty acids (FFA),^{43,44} released as
182 metabolite products from the hydrolysis of the co-formulants DOaG and/or DSPC (**Figure 3a**).
183 For this, a non-esterified free fatty acid measurement kit (NEFA-kit) was used, along with mass
184 spectrometry which was used to determine which lipid is preferentially hydrolyzed (**Figure**
185 **3b**). As expected, PAP3 liposomes incubated with LPL released ~0.9 mmol/L of FFA over a
186 period of 300 min (**Figure 3c**) and hydrolysis continued beyond this point (**Figure S5**).
187 Incubation of PAP3 liposomes without LPL, or incubation of PAP3 liposomes with inactivated
188 LPL, as well as incubation of 100% DSPC liposomes with LPL, did not release any significant
189 amount of FFA over the same period, again indicating the specificity of LPL for DOaG in
190 mixed and/or phase separated membranes (**Figure 3c**). Here, to also verify the LPL preference
191 on naturally occurring DAGs - along with DOaG as a DAG analogue - we formulated phase-
192 separated liposomes consisting of DOG and DSPC. Subsequently, we monitored the FFA
193 release and structural changes of the DSPC/DOG liposomes upon LPL incubation (**Figure S6**).
194 The results showed similar preference of LPL on DOG-containing liposomes as on PAP3.
195 Similarly, to assess the influence of LPL on liposomes that are known to freely circulate *in vivo*
196 and not particularly interact with cells types and proteins,⁸ a formulation based on the clinically
197 approved Myocet®⁴⁵ (composition: POPC:CHO_55:45) was also incubated at 37 °C with LPL
198 for 180 min, which did not result in FFA release, indicating no interaction with LPL (**Figure**
199 **S7**). Next, mass spectrometry analysis was used to investigate the hydrolysis of the lipids in the
200 PAP3 formulation. The DOaG/DSPC ratio was measured before and after addition of LPL,
201 indicating a decrease only for the DOaG lipid after addition of LPL and signifying that 30.7%
202 of DOaG was hydrolyzed (**Figure 3d** and **Figure S8**). Given that DOaG is the only lipid
203 hydrolyzed, FFA was again measured immediately after the mass spectrometry and found to
204 correspond to 31% of hydrolyzed DOaG, in agreement with the mass spectrometry value
205 (**Figure 3e**). In our previous studies¹³, lipase-mediated uptake of PAP3 liposomes was inhibited
206 *in vivo* (zebrafish embryos and adult mice) by the TGL inhibitor XEN445.⁴⁶ Therefore, we
207 investigated the influence of XEN445 on the lipolytic activity of LPL on PAP3. LPL was
208 incubated with XEN445 at room temperature for 30 min, prior to the addition of LPL to PAP3

209 liposomes, and DOaG hydrolysis was found to be inhibited by ~50% at 500uM XEN445
 210 (Figure 3f and Figure S9).

211



212

213 **Figure 3. Hydrolysis of lipids in PAP3 liposomes. a)** Potential hydrolysis of DSPC and/or DOaG co-

214 formulators by LPL resulting in free fatty acid (FFA) release *i.e.*, palmitic or oleic acid, respectively. **b)**

215 Timeline of measurement of LPL hydrolytic activity. Incubation of liposomal formulation at 37 °C, pH

216 = 7.4 and measurement of hydrolysis via quantification of released FFA (after 30,120 and 300 min) or

217 mass spectrometry (after 180 min). **c)** Quantification of released FFA after incubation of PAP3

218 liposomes without and with LPL, or PAP3 with inactive LPL, or DSPC liposomes with LPL after 30,

219 120, and 300 min. **d)** Quantification of DOaG / DSPC lipid ratio in PAP3 liposomes as measured by

220 mass spectrometry at t=0 and t=3h incubating at 37 °C with and without LPL. DOaG / DSPC ratio of

221 PAP3 at t=0h was set as 100. Analysis indicated the % of DOaG hydrolyzed. **e)** Quantification of

222 released FFA in PAP3 liposomes incubating with LPL at 37°C for 3h, indicating the % of DOaG

223 hydrolyzed. FFA release was measured immediately after the mass spectrometry analysis. The

224 difference on the released FFA of PAP3 between Figure 3c and 3e is attributed to the different

225 concentrations of LPL used for each measurement and therefore hydrolysis must be designated as a

226 range (0.6-0.9 mmol/L). **f)** XEN445 mediated inhibition of LPL and effect on FFA release after PAP3

227 liposomes incubated with LPL and 0, 50, 100, 500 or 1000uM XEN445. Statistical significance was

228 evaluated using a two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. ns: not significant ($P > 0.05$). Significantly
229 different: * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$. Exact P value for d : 0.0337 and for f : 0.0020.

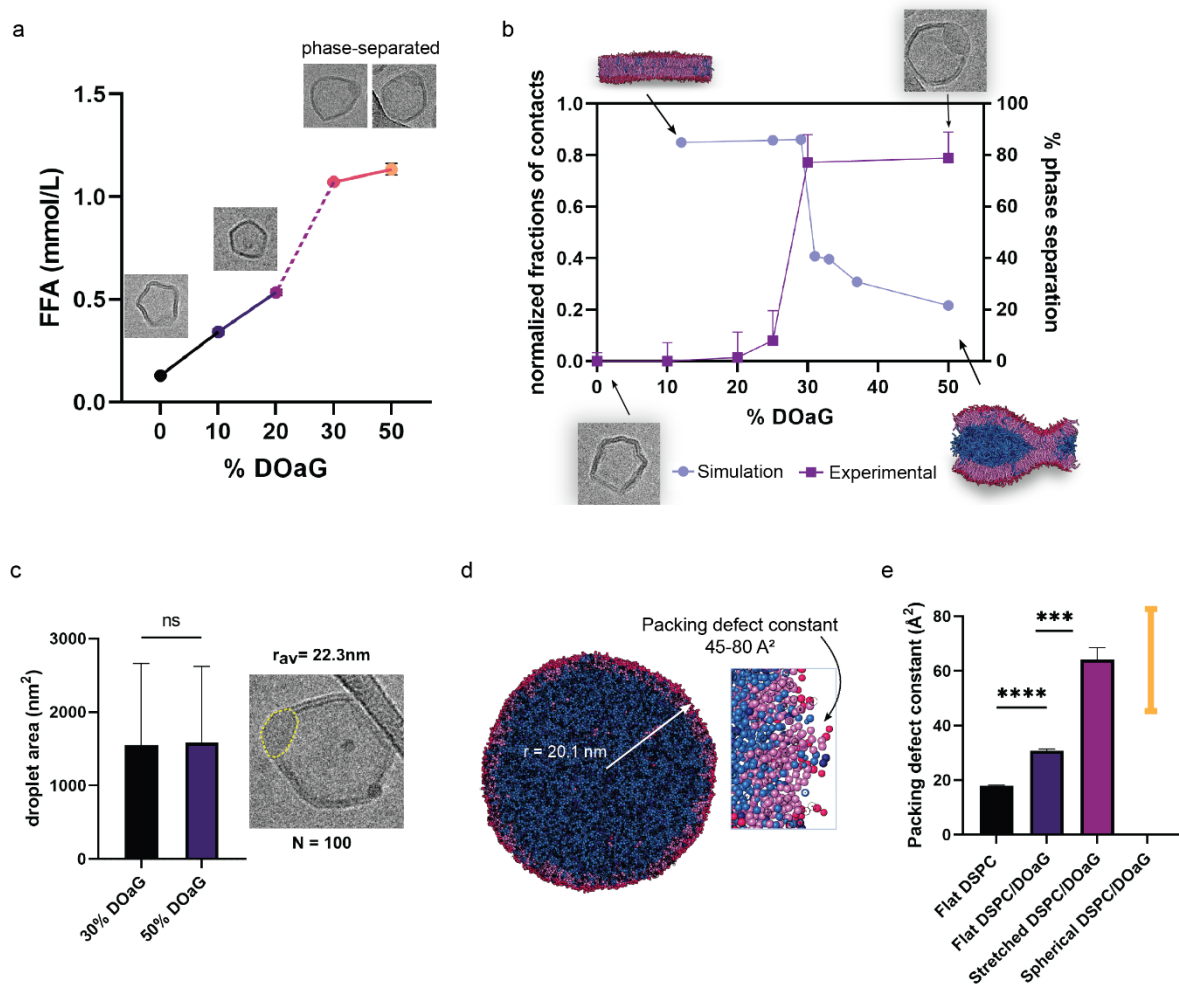
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231 **Simulations confirm lipase binds on PAP3 liposomes through lipid packing defects and** 232 **via its Trp-rich lipoprotein binding domain**

233 Having confirmed that LPL selectively hydrolyzes liposomes containing DOaG, we sought to
234 investigate the role of the characteristic phase-separated morphology. Previously, we showed
235 that the concentration of DOaG lipid in the PAP3 formulation determines whether liposomes
236 phase separate. When PAP3 was formulated with DSPC and 0, 10, or 20 % mol DOaG,
237 liposomes did not show phase separation, while above 30 % mol DOaG liposomes were found
238 phase separated, causing a directed *in vivo* biodistribution towards TGL rich endothelial cells.¹³
239 Therefore, we hypothesized phase separation to be essential, or at least preferable, for TGL
240 recognition. To assess this hypothesis, released FFA after LPL incubation was measured for
241 liposomes with varying % mol of DOaG. Up to 20 % mol, i.e. for mixed membranes, FFA
242 release increased linearly (**Figure 4a, solid line**), but it steeply increased after this point (**Figure**
243 **4a, dashed line**). This suggested enhanced LPL action for PAP3 liposomes with ≥ 30 % mol
244 DOaG, which coincides with the concentration threshold relating to phase separation as
245 quantified by Cryo-TEM (**Figure 4a insets, Figure 4b right y-axis** and **Figure S10**). The
246 finding that the phase change coincides with a non-linear jump in the LPL-induced FFA release,
247 signifies the role of phase separation in LPL hydrolysis.

248 As reported earlier for DAGs, increasing the DOaG content in a PC bilayer across a phase
249 boundary, could substantially increase the membrane curvature in the surroundings of the lipid
250 droplet. Curvature is known to notably increase the lipid packing defect number and area, an
251 effect that has been suggested to promote protein binding.^{17,47} Moreover, compared to a mixed
252 membrane, the local concentration of DOaG in the curved membrane around the lipid droplet
253 is also significantly higher. Therefore, to quantify the role of phase separation, curvature and
254 packing defects at a molecular level - that is not directly accessible by experiments or atomistic
255 MD due to long time scales - we generated a coarse-grained (CG) representation for
256 DSPC/DOaG at different DOaG concentrations (**snapshots** in **Figure 4b** and **Figure S11a**). As
257 detailed in the SI (sections **S12-S15**), the CG DOaG lipid representation was adapted from the
258 similar DOG lipid.⁴⁸ In agreement with standard practice, we employed the observed phase
259 separation onset at 29 % mol (**Figure 4b, left y-axis**) to match the experimental findings. Phase
260 separation in CGMD was quantified by the (time-averaged) relative fraction of contacts
261 between the DOaG lipid and the DSPC lipid (see Materials and Methods for more details and

262 **Figure S14)** following a recently developed method.⁴⁹ The DOaG parametrization described
 263 here was used for all simulations in the remainder of this study.
 264



265
 266 **Figure 4. Experimental findings and simulations confirm phase-separation as an important aspect**
 267 **for LPL preferential binding on PAP3 liposomes** **a)** Quantification of released FFA of formulations
 268 containing DSPC and varying % mol of DOaG after incubation with LPL for 120 min. Insets show the
 269 morphology of liposomes at a particular % mol DOaG (0 % = gel phase, 20 % = small droplet indicate
 270 initiation of phase-separation, 30-50% = phase-separated). **b)** Double plot showing correlation of
 271 experimental and simulation data. Phase separation starts after 25 %mol DOaG according to cryo-TEM
 272 quantification (N=200) and 29 % according to the coarse-grained simulation. DOaG is shown in blue
 273 and DSPC is shown in pink/red. **Correlation of simulated PAP3 droplet and experimental values. c)**
 274 Average radius of phase separated PAP3 liposomes (containing 30 % or 50 % mol DOaG) as calculated
 275 by cryo-TEM quantification of the droplet area (N=100). Area was measured in Fiji software, by
 276 drawing the perimetry of each droplet (yellow dashed line) according to the electron density.
 277 Experimental values were obtained to correlate the simulation data for the PAP3 model droplet. **d)**
 278 Simulated PAP3 droplet with radius approximately matching the experimental value and zoom-in inset
 279 depicting the lipid packing defects. Packing defect constant determined as the effective average area of
 280 hydrophobic defects and calculated to be 45-80 Å² for the spherical droplet. DOaG is shown in blue
 281 and DSPC is shown in pink/red. **e)** Packing defect constants of flat DSPC, flat DSPC/DOaG, stretched
 282 DSPC/DOaG and packing defect constant range (in orange) of spherical DSPC/DOaG (see d). Statistical

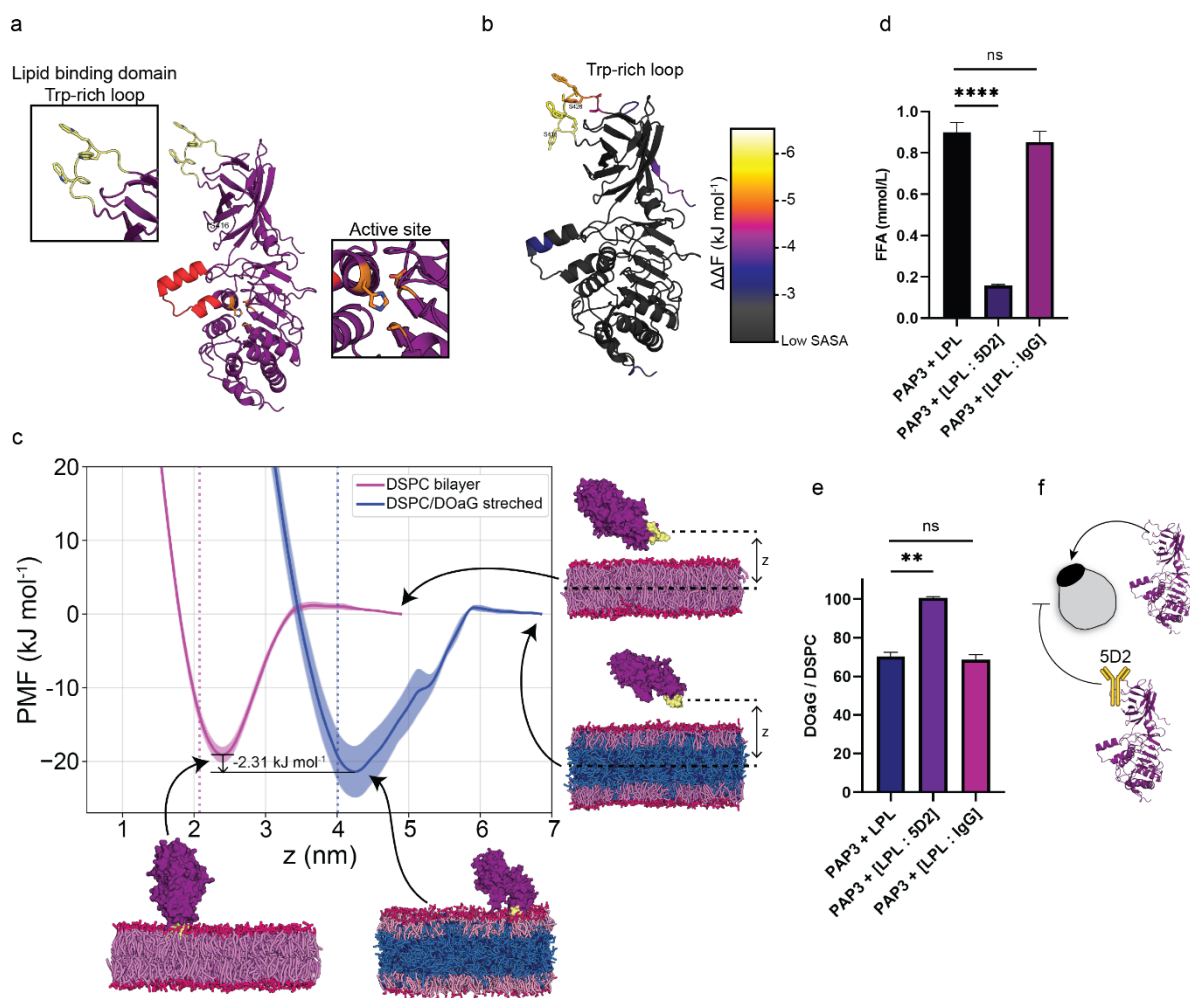
283 significance was evaluated using a two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. ns: not significant ($P > 0.05$).
284 Significantly different: * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$. Exact P value for c: 0.8152, e: 0.0002 and
285 < 0.0001 . For graphs in a and b, lines were drawn for the clear visualization of the phase separation point.

286

287 To capture the role of curvature and to quantify the defect characteristics for a DSPC monolayer
288 embedding the DOaG droplet of a typical diameter - i.e. an average of 22.3 nm for ≥ 30 %mol
289 DOaG (see **Figure 4c**) as quantified by cryo-TEM - we performed a droplet simulation with
290 this initial radius for a 82/18 DOaG/DSPC ratio (**Figure 4d** and **Figure S11b**). Since demixing
291 is strongly diffusion limited, we started from a pre-structured droplet and performed 2
292 microsecond of simulated annealing, to quickly reach a stable structure, with the droplet radius
293 stabilizing to 20.1 nm. Using a modified protocol (see materials and methods), we calculated
294 the packing defect constant, which is a measure of the effective average area of hydrophobic
295 defects (**Figure 4d, e** and **Figure S16**). For flat DSPC the constant was found to be $\sim 18 \text{ \AA}^2$
296 while adding the DOaG to the system increased the constant to $\sim 30 \text{ \AA}^2$ indicating phase
297 separation increases the packing defects. Also adding curvature - calculating the defect constant
298 on the curved droplet - increases the packing defect constant even further. For the latter,
299 however, we can only give a range since the lipid composition in the droplet monolayer varies,
300 depending on the starting configuration and size, and because there is an uncertainty in the
301 fitting parameter. The range for the packing defect constant found was between 45 to 80 \AA^2 ,
302 showing that the packing defects in the curved droplet are more prevalent than in the flat pure
303 DSPC and flat DSPC/DOaG membranes (**Figure 4d zoom in, and Figure 4e**). We next used
304 this value range as a reference value for the simulation of LPL binding to stretched
305 DOaG/DSPC membranes (**Figure 4e and 5c**) as a proxy for curvature⁵⁰ (*vide infra*).

306 Following the proof that the DOaG droplet increases both the number and area of lipid packing
307 defects in the curved DSPC monolayer - due to the condensing of DOaG and the accompanying
308 high curvature of the outer leaflet - we next sought to investigate whether LPL specifically
309 binds to PAP3 via these packing defects. The structure of LPL is well studied and identified by
310 X-ray crystallography⁵¹ and Cryo-TEM⁵² (**Figure 5a** and **Figure S15**). Functional parts include
311 the lipoprotein binding domain which is rich in Trp as mentioned previously (hence called the
312 Trp-rich loop, **Figure 5a, inset**) and the catalytic lid with the active site (**Figure 5a, inset**). The
313 C-terminus, where the lipoprotein binding domain is located, is responsible for substrate
314 binding but not for heparin binding or catalysis.⁵³ We first proceeded to investigate which
315 regions of the LPL protein may be involved in interacting with the lipid packing defects of the
316 phase separated membrane. Hereto, we employed a recently developed neural network (NN)

317 model that is trained on MD data and is able to predict the lipid packing defect sensing free
 318 energy ($\Delta\Delta F$) for peptide sequences.⁵⁴ $\Delta\Delta F$ is defined as the difference in free energy of a
 319 peptide binding to a tensionless membrane versus a stretched membrane that bares lipid packing
 320 defects, such as the curved lipid monolayer around a lipid droplet. The higher the magnitude of
 321 the $\Delta\Delta F$ value, the more favorably it binds to the defected membrane. We first used a sliding
 322 window of 15 residues to fragmentize the LPL protein structure and then predicted the $\Delta\Delta F$ for
 323 the overlapping fragments. From this, we derived a per-residue average $\Delta\Delta F$ (given the residue
 324 is solvent accessible, see section S17 and Figure S18) and color-coded the protein structure
 325 accordingly (Figure 5b).
 326



327
 328 **Figure 5. LPL binds to PAP3 liposomes via its Trp-loop.** **a)** Structure of LPL (*Bos Taurus*). Insets
 329 indicate the Trp-rich loop (yellow) - which comprises the lipoprotein binding domain - and active site
 330 (orange). Lid region indicated in red. **b)** Color-map of predicted lipid packing defect sensing regions on
 331 LPL (all values are given in S19). Bright colors indicate putative sensing motifs, according to NN-
 332 predicted relative binding free energy ($\Delta\Delta F$) and SASA values. **c)** Potential of mean force (PMF)
 333 profiles of LPL binding to a DSPC membrane (in red-pink) and a DSPC/DOaG phase separated
 334 membrane (in red-pink/blue). The US reaction coordinate is the z-distance between the center-of-mass
 335 (COM) of the Trp-rich loop (in yellow) and the COM of the lipids (*i.e.*, center plane of the membrane).

336 Snapshots are the final frames of the trajectories and indicate that the protein is completely unbound at
337 high z (free energy = 0 kJ mol⁻¹) and membrane-bound through the Trp-rich loop at the minima. Dotted
338 lines indicate the position of the DSPC head groups (NC3 beads). **d)** Quantification of released FFA
339 from PAP3 liposomes after incubation for 120 min with LPL, LPL + 5D2 antibody and LPL + IgG
340 control antibody. **e)** Mass spectrometry quantification of DOaG / DSPC ratio of PAP3 liposomes
341 incubating for 120 min with LPL, LPL+ 5D2 antibody and LPL + IgG control antibody. DOaG/DSPC
342 ratio of liposomes that did not undergo hydrolysis incubating with LPL + 5D2 was set as 100. **f)**
343 Schematic of LPL binding to PAP3 liposomes via its Trp-rich loop and 5D2 mediated inhibition of
344 binding. Statistical significance was evaluated using a two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. ns: not
345 significant ($P > 0.05$). Significantly different: * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$. Exact P value for d
346 : < 0.0001 and 0.3222 and for e : 0.0029 and 0.5654 .

347
348 Residues Ser416-Ser426, comprising the Trp-rich loop, was the highest scoring solvent-
349 accessible peptide motif we identified (**Figure 5b** and section **S19**). As previously described in
350 the context of membrane curvature sensing, Trp residues can indeed play a key role in
351 complementing the hydrophobic lipid packing defects on lipid leaflets,²⁵ and we argue that the
352 Trp-rich loop of LPL might fulfill a similar function. Notably, this argument is in line with the
353 Trp-rich loop being part of the lipoprotein binding domain of LPL, which is responsible for
354 endogenous lipoprotein binding.³⁸⁻⁴⁰

355 To further investigate lipid packing defect sensing by LPL and to see whether the Trp-loop is
356 preferably binding to defected membranes such as the PAP3 liposomes, we calculated the
357 potential of mean force (PMF) profiles for the entire LPL protein binding to the PAP3 phase
358 separated membrane - with lipid packing defect constants that are in the same range as those
359 for the earlier considered PAP3 droplet (*vide supra*, **Figure 4e**). We performed umbrella
360 sampling (US) simulations with the z -distance between the Trp-rich loop and the center plane
361 of the membrane as the reaction coordinate. The resulting potential of mean force (PMF)
362 profiles showed LPL binding to the PAP3 phase-separated membrane (having enhanced lipid
363 packing defects) is indeed more favorable than binding to a flat pure DSPC bilayer, with a small
364 free energy difference of 2.31 kJ mol⁻¹ (~ 1 k_BT) between the minima (**Figure 5c**). The
365 propensity for binding that is observed for the flat pure DSPC membrane (about 20 kJ mol⁻¹)
366 corresponds exactly to the curvature sensing transition point from a recent study⁵⁴, which
367 showed that a 2 kJ mol⁻¹ increase in binding free energy has a pronounced effect on the
368 membrane binding probability. Moreover, although a conformational change in the binding
369 domain may contribute a few kJ mol⁻¹ to the actual binding affinity⁵⁵, this shift is likely very
370 similar for both membranes. Beyond this binding preference, the enzymatic preference of LPL
371 to hydrolyze DAGs over phospholipids⁵⁶ *is not* captured by our MD simulations but *does*

372 contribute to our experimental observations. From the MD trajectories, it is clear that LPL
373 indeed interacts with the membranes through its Trp-rich loop (**snapshots in Figure 5c**), in line
374 with the NN-predictions (**Figure 5b**), and mechanistically similar to previously reported lipid
375 droplet sensing proteins.^{57,58}

376 To experimentally assess the involvement of the Trp-rich loop in the recognition and hydrolysis
377 of PAP3 liposomes, we measured the hydrolytic activity of LPL on PAP3 liposomes, while
378 blocking the Trp-rich loop with the monoclonal anti-LPL antibody 5D2. The 5D2 monoclonal
379 antibody has been identified to bind specifically to the Trp-loop of the lipid binding domain of
380 LPL, inhibiting binding and catalysis of lipoproteins.^{40,59-61} Indeed, after incubation of LPL with
381 5D2 in a 1:1 ratio at room temperature for 30 min and subsequent addition to PAP3 liposomes,
382 hydrolysis of DOaG as quantified by the release of FFA and mass spectrometry was strongly
383 reduced (**Figure 5d-f**). To ensure that inhibition of hydrolysis was due to the specific inhibition
384 of the Trp-rich loop by the 5D2 antibody, a negative isotype control antibody (matching 5D2
385 antibody's host species and class - IgG1) was used to measure the non-specific binding in LPL
386 and non-specific interactions with PAP3. As expected, the control antibody did not inhibit the
387 hydrolysis (**Figure 5d, e**), supporting the specific interaction of LPL with PAP3 liposomes
388 through its Trp-rich loop. Similarly, when a non-mammalian LPL (derived from *Burkholderia*
389 *sp.*) - which lacks the conserved lipoprotein binding domain of mammalian TGLs - was used
390 with the 5D2 antibody (**Figure S20** for complete sequence), hydrolysis was not inhibited
391 (**Figure S21**), indicating again the specificity of 5D2 to the Trp-rich loop. Despite the
392 hydrolysis of PAP3 liposomes taking place with the non-mammalian lipase, it appears to occur
393 via a different mechanism, and it is therefore not relevant for the study of mammalian LPL
394 species. It *does* however signify that 5D2 inhibits the Trp-loop specifically, and non-specific
395 interactions between antibody-protein-liposomes do not take place.

396

397 **DISCUSSION**

398 In this work, we combine experimental findings and MD simulation data to describe the
399 selective lipolytic degradation of lipid droplets in phase-separated liposomes by LPL. We show
400 LPL recognizes the enhanced lipid packing defects on the liposomal membrane induced by
401 phase separation. The liposomes, named PAP3, consist of the naturally occurring DPSC and
402 the synthetic DAG analogue DOaG, which is responsible for the phase separation and
403 constitution of a lipid droplet within each liposome bilayer. PAP3 liposomes have been seen to

404 specifically interact with TGLs *in vivo*¹³, a phenomenon attributed to their phase separated
405 morphology. Therefore, the observation of their structural evolution after interaction with LPL,
406 as well as the mechanism of enzyme binding was of great interest. Here, we confirm the
407 selective hydrolysis of DOaG by LPL, leading to degradation of the DOaG droplet and to
408 reorganization of the assembly to a lamellar bilayer, while the overall integrity of the
409 nanoparticle is maintained. Contrarily, the other co-formulant – DSPC – does not undergo
410 hydrolysis. These observations exemplify selective nanoparticle-protein interactions and
411 subsequent nanoparticle rearrangement. As TGLs endogenously remodel lipoproteins without
412 nanoparticle collapse – *i.e.*, LPL remodels very low-density lipoproteins to low-density
413 lipoproteins^{34,62,63} - here we similarly show the depletion of a large part of the nanoparticle
414 without bilayer disruption.

415 Additionally, we show that LPL is selective for PAP3 liposomes (DSPC/DOaG) and for
416 liposomes containing the natural DAG counterpart (DSPC/DOG). LPL does not hydrolyze
417 100% DSPC liposomes, or typical spherical LUVs with high circulation lifetimes *in vivo* (*i.e.*,
418 Myocet®-like, POPC/CHO). One reason for this could be the inherent preference of LPL to
419 hydrolyze DAGs and therefore DAG analogues such as DOaG. Synergistically, another reason
420 could be the preference of LPL to recognize membranes with high curvature - and thus higher
421 packing defect constants - induced by phase separation.^{15,16,24} This hypothesis is supported by
422 the non-linear, increased hydrolysis on liposomes consisting of ≥ 30 % DOaG (phase separated)
423 over liposomes consisting of < 25 %mol DOaG (non-phase separated). Lipid packing defects
424 were then quantified in our coarse-grained MD simulations and found to be higher when phase
425 separation and high curvature are present in the membrane system. Finally, we show that LPL
426 preferentially binds to the defected membrane of PAP3 liposomes and we identified the Trp-
427 rich loop of LPL as a lipid packing defect sensing motif. Preventing the Trp-loop to bind to
428 PAP3 (by blocking the region with the selective antibody 5D2⁵⁹), abolishes the lipolysis and
429 confirms the involvement of the Trp-rich loop in the recognition of PAP3 liposomes. Hereby,
430 we expand our knowledge of the Trp-rich loop to act as a lipid packing defect sensor, beyond
431 its role in lipoprotein binding.³⁸ PAP3 liposomes appear to hijack the natural pathway in which
432 LPL recognizes lipoproteins via its Trp-rich loop, by their exposed lipid packing defects that
433 arise upon phase separation.

434 Additionally, we have previously shown that PAP3 liposomes are endocytosed by a TGL-
435 mediated pathway *in vivo*.¹³ A possible pathway for this could be the selective recognition of
436 DOaG by TGL - with a significantly higher chance of DOaG being transiently exposed to the
437 aqueous environment due to the increased packing defects in the phase separated membrane -

438 and subsequent endocytosis. Our current study shows the selective lipolysis and remodeling of
439 the particle by LPL, something that may also occur *in vivo* before nanoparticle uptake by the
440 cell. However, given the complex *in vivo* environment and the spatiotemporal regulation of
441 lipase function in lipid metabolism, further studies should be performed *in vivo* and in real time
442 to solidly prove this.

443 Another noteworthy observation are the visible remnants of the hydrolyzed droplet on some
444 nanoparticles (**Figure S22, arrows**). Such thickness mismatches in Cryo-TEM have been
445 recently described as nanodomains in liposomal membranes.^{64,65} Therefore, although liposomes
446 can be seen as lamellar and non-phase separated macromolecularly, a more in-depth
447 investigation of the molecular details, e.g. the existence of nanodomains or lipid rafts remaining
448 after LPL hydrolysis, is required. The question that arises here is whether such nanodomains
449 can be still recognizable by TGLs *in vivo*.

450 Finally, the selection of LPL as a representative TGL was purely due to the extensive literature
451 on LPL structure, regulation and function in health and disease, and therefore was the most
452 relevant protein to base our studies on. However, all (mammalian) lipases from the TGL family
453 have very similar amino acid sequences (³⁶ and **Figure S23** for protein alignment), structural
454 homology, and similar functional roles on triglyceride metabolism.^{33,66-68} This allows the
455 assumption that other TGLs will behave similarly on PAP3 liposomes as the LPL studied here.
456 On the same note, the LPL chosen for these studies was derived from bovine milk (*Bos Taurus*),
457 yet the sequence homology with human LPL (*Homo Sapiens*) is > 90 %, with high structural
458 similarity and a conserved Trp-loop (see **Figure S24-S25** for protein structure alignment),
459 which allows to assume that it will similarly affect PAP3 liposomes as bovine LPL. To support
460 this, we show that incubating PAP3 liposomes with human LPL releases a substantial amount
461 of FFA (**Figure S26**). Also, similar PMF profiles were calculated for human LPL interacting
462 with the DOaG/DSPC phase separated membrane and a flat DSPC bilayer through its Trp-rich
463 loop, showing even a more substantial binding preference for the phase-separated system in
464 terms of the free energy difference between the minima (13.48 kJ mol⁻¹) (**Figure S27**).

465 Overall, this study explains in detail the how and the why of the preferential interaction of TGLs
466 with unique phase separated liposomes induced by DAGs and DAG analogues, an interaction
467 which is responsible for cell specific targeting *in vivo*. It emphasizes the importance of
468 understanding the nanoparticle / protein interface, an aspect that determines the *in vivo* behavior
469 and fate of nanoparticles and if exploited further, it could lead to more precise nanomedicines
470 in the future.

471

472 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

473 **Liposome formulation**

474 Large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) were formed through extrusion (mini extruder, Avanti Polar
475 Lipids) above the T_m of all lipids (*i.e.* 65-70 °C) in 10mM Tris Buffer pH = 7.4 and at a total
476 lipid concentration of 5 mM (3.5 mg/mL), unless if stated otherwise. Individual lipids as stock
477 solutions (10 mM) in chloroform, were combined to the desired molar ratios and dried to a thin
478 film, first under N_2 stream, then >1 h under vacuum. Lipid films were hydrated with 1mL Tris
479 Buffer above the T_m of all lipids (65-70 °C), with gentle vortexing, to form a suspension.
480 Hydrated lipids were passed 11 times through 2 x 400 nm polycarbonate (PC) membranes
481 (Nucleopore Track-Etch membranes, Whatman), followed by 11 times through 2 x 100 nm PC
482 membranes. All liposomes were stored at 4 °C and used within 5 days.

483 **Liposome - Lipase Incubation**

484 Liposomes (3.5 mg/mL, in 10mM Tris Buffer, pH = 7.4) were transferred in a low protein
485 binding tube (3 mg/mL final lipid concentration after lipase incubation) and subsequently
486 Lipoprotein Lipase (in 10mM Tris Buffer pH = 7.4) was added to the tube to reach 0.03 mg/mL
487 final concentration. Liposomes – lipase mixture was left to incubate at 37 °C in a thermomixer
488 for up to 20 h with gentle occasional mixing.

489 **FFA release measurement**

490 For each time point of interest, the amount of FFA released in the sample was measured with a
491 non-esterified fatty acid assay kit (NEFA kit – Fujifilm Wako Chemicals) with a protocol
492 provided for 96 well plates (Greiner) using a microplate spectrophotometer set to 37 °C
493 (Infinite®, M1000 pro, TECAN). Briefly and for each sample, 9 μ L were taken and diluted 2x
494 in Tris Buffer 10 mM (pH = 7.4). 5 μ L were then put in each well and mixed with 200 μ L of
495 Reagent 1 and incubated for 5 min. The absorbance (Abs1) was then measured in each well at
496 550 nm (Sub: 660 nm). Immediately after, 100 μ L of Reagent 2 was added and the mixture was
497 incubated for another 5 min. The absorbance (Abs2) was again then measured in each well at
498 550 nm (Sub: 660 nm). Final absorbance was calculated by subtracting Abs1 from Abs2.
499 Concentration of FFA (mmol/L) was calculated by constructing each time a new calibration
500 curve. All measurements were the average of three measurements.

501 **Cryogenic Transmission Electron Microscopy**

502 Freshly glow-discharged carbon grids supported on Cu (Lacey carbon film, 200 mesh, Electron
503 Microscopy Sciences, Aurion, The Netherlands) were used for vitrification inside a Vitrobot

504 plunge-freezer (FEI VitrobotTM Mark III, Thermo Fisher Scientific) regulating steady
505 temperature and humidity conditions (22 °C or 37 °C and 99 % humidity). Liposomes
506 incubating with LPL at 37 °C were immediately taken and applied to the grid and the excess
507 liquid was blotted for 3 s and subsequently plunge frozen in liquid ethane below -160 °C to
508 ensure formation of vitreous ice. Cryo-EM images were collected on a Talos L120C (NeCEN,
509 Leiden University) operating at 120 kV or on a Titan Krios (TU Eindhoven) operating at 300
510 kV, with working temperature below -180 °C. Images were recorded manually at a nominal
511 magnification of 13500x, 22000x or 36000x yielding a pixel size at the specimen of 7.41, 4.44,
512 or 2.86 ångström (Å), respectively.

513 **Simulation details**

514 All simulations were performed with GROMACS 2019.3⁷⁰ and the Martini 3.0.0 force field⁴⁸,
515 at a 20-fs time step. Temperature ($T = 303.15$ K, $\tau_T = 1$ ns) and pressure coupling
516 (compressibility = $4.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ bar⁻¹, $\tau_p = 12$ ns) were applied by the velocity rescaling thermostat
517 and the Berendsen barostat, respectively. The neighbor list was updated every 20 steps. A 1.1
518 nm cutoff was used for the Van der Waals interactions (shifted Verlet cutoff scheme) and
519 Coulomb interactions (reaction-field electrostatics).

520

521 **Coarse-grained model for PAP3 liposomes**

522 Phase separation on PAP3 liposomes was determined from the MD trajectories, using the time-
523 averaged contact fraction between the DOaG and the DSPC lipid. Following a general
524 procedure⁴⁹, a relative contact fraction was calculated by counting contacts between DOaG and
525 DSPC lipids and dividing it by the total number of DOaG contacts (see sections **S12-S15** for
526 details). A cutoff of 1.1 nm was used to identify contacts between lipids via selected beads on
527 both lipid types that are roughly at the same depth within the membrane. In addition, we
528 normalized by the total concentration of DOaG to enable direct comparison for different DOaG
529 concentrations. Consequently, complete phase separation always corresponds to a value of zero,
530 and ideal mixing to unity.

531 **Droplet simulation**

532 For the simulation of the droplet, the droplet configuration was made with PackMol⁷¹ with - on
533 the inside - purely DOaG and on the outside a monolayer of DSPC. The simulated annealing
534 was run for 1.5 μ s, with a starting temperature of 450 K and cooled to a temperature of 303 K,
535 after which the temperature was kept stable for 500 ns at the final temperature. After the

536 simulated annealing the droplet was ran for analysis for 1.5 μ s at the same temperature and
537 settings as the bilayer simulations.

538 **Packing defects on spherical systems**

539 While previous work used the PackMem package⁷² to identify a linearly increasing defect size
540 constant with total curvature for both single component and mixed membranes¹⁹, the role of
541 (de)mixing remains less quantified. Here, we developed a new computational protocol to clarify
542 this relation for our highly curved DOaG/DSPC membranes of arbitrary (non-symmetric)
543 shapes. Packing defect constants for the simulated PAP3 droplet can in principle be determined
544 using standard PackMem routines, by employing a spherical instead of the usual rectangular
545 grid.¹⁹ However, since droplets do not necessarily adopt a purely spherical shape, even tiny
546 mismatches in the determination of the relevant reference interface may bias the calculated
547 constants in a non-predictable fashion. For this reason, we developed a protocol that can deal
548 with arbitrary shapes. Briefly, a closed 2D interface is fitted through the positions of relevant
549 GL beads, subsequently triangulated, and used as a reference for identifying shallow and deep
550 defects following the recommended PackMem settings.⁷² Details and examples of this
551 procedure will be published in a separate study.

552 553 **Protein modeling and lipid packing defect sensing prediction**

554 The 3D models of human and bovine LPL were downloaded from the AlphaFold2 database.^{73,74}
555 Both structures closely overlap with the human crystal structure⁵¹ (**Figure S25**). The
556 unstructured N-terminal signal sequence (residue 1-34) was excluded. To predict which regions
557 of the protein may play a role in lipid packing defect sensing, a previously developed neural
558 network model was applied.⁵⁴ A sliding window of 15 residues was used to predict binding
559 free energy values ($\Delta\Delta F$) for peptide motifs along the sequence of the bovine LPL protein
560 (section **SI7-S19**). In order to exclude buried protein regions (that are unavailable to interact
561 with membranes), only peptide motifs with an average solvent-accessible surface area (SASA,
562 as calculated using BioPython⁷⁵) of greater than 0.8 nm² were considered. To visualize putative
563 regions of interest, the B-factor field in the PDB file format was used to adjust the coloring
564 accordingly.

565 566 **Umbrella sampling**

567 A DSPC bilayer (361 molecules per leaflet) was prepared using the *insane* python script⁷⁶ and
568 the Martini 3 CG force field.⁴⁸ After solvation with Martini 3 water and ions (0.15 M NaCl),

569 steepest decent energy minimization and 10 ns of semiisotropic NpT equilibration ($p_{\text{ref}} = 1$ bar)
570 were performed. Next, a layer of 1444 randomly oriented DOaG molecules was inserted
571 between the two DSPC leaflets. The resulting 1:2 DSPC:DOaG trilayer was energy minimized
572 and equilibrated. A 75 bar·nm surface tension was applied to the trilayer system to match the
573 lipid packing defects (measured by PackMem with the recommended settings⁷²) to the ones
574 found on a DSPC/DOaG spherical lipid droplet (see **Figure S16**). A CG Martini representation
575 of the LPL protein was obtained with Martinize2/VerMOUTH.⁷⁷ Secondary structure was
576 predicted with DSSP⁷⁸ and constrained by an elastic network between the backbone beads (k_{force}
577 = 500 kJ mol⁻¹). The CG protein was inserted into the bilayer/trilayer systems with ~4 nm
578 separation between the Trp-rich loop of the protein (Ile413-Pro427) and the upper leaflet's lipid
579 head groups. The resulting set-ups were resolvated with water and ions (0.15 M NaCl). After
580 steepest decent energy minimization, both systems were equilibrated for 100 ns with position
581 restraints ($k_{\text{force}} = 1,000$ kJ mol⁻¹) on all protein beads. The initial frames for umbrella sampling
582 (US) were generated by running a pulling simulation in which the z-distance between the
583 centers-of-mass (COM) of the Trp-rich loop and the lipids was decreased gradually, and then
584 selecting 24 frames that span the range from the solvated to the membrane-bound state with 0.2
585 nm increments. For each umbrella window, a 50 ns equilibration followed by a 2 μ s production
586 run was performed in which the Lipid-Trp-rich loop COM z-distance was constrained to its
587 initial value ($k_{\text{force}} = 500$ kJ mol⁻¹). To dampen membrane deformations during US runs, a soft
588 harmonic flat-bottom potential ($k_{\text{force}} = 100$ kJ mol⁻¹) was applied on the lipid head groups to
589 restrain the lipids within its initial thickness range (+0.5 nm on each side of the membrane).
590 Free energy profiles were obtained through umbrella integration⁷⁹ with 10,000 bins. Averages
591 and standard deviations were calculated by using block-averaging over 3 blocks.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for

Lipase-mediated selective hydrolysis of lipid droplets in phase separated-liposomes

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Supplementary figures

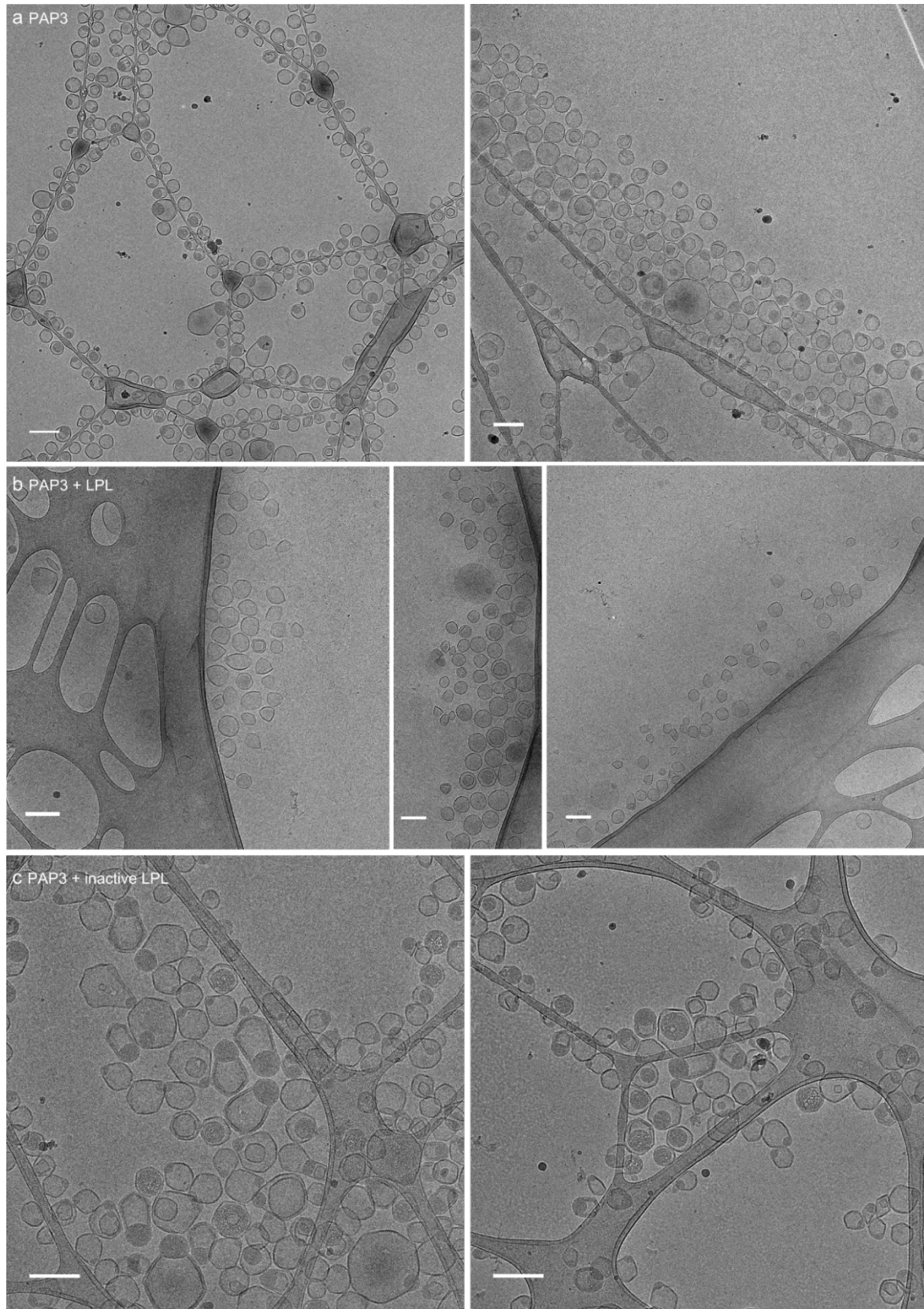


Figure S1. Cryo-TEM images of PAP3 liposomes a) without LPL, b) with LPL and c) with inactive LPL incubating for 180 min at 37 °C. Images as chosen for quantification of the whole population. Scale bars: 200 nm.

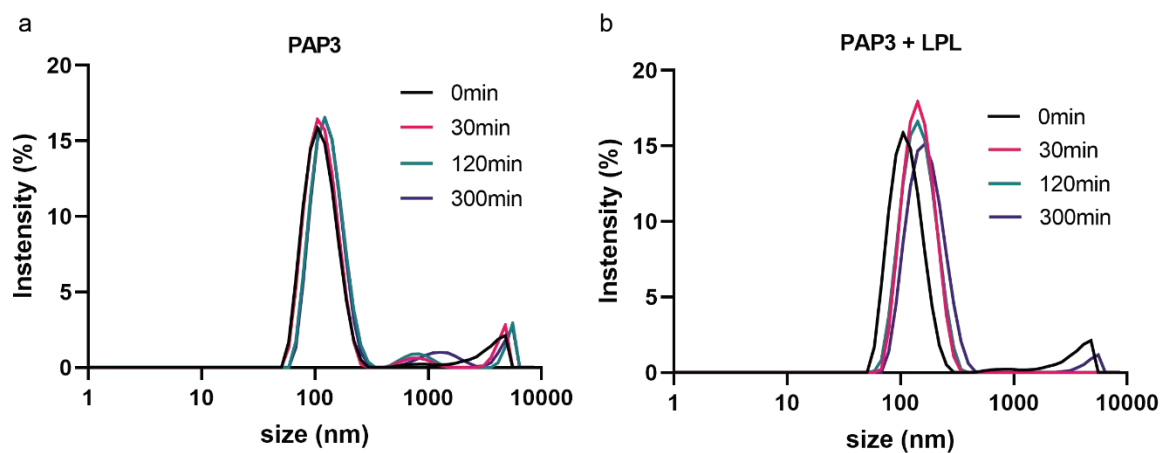


Figure S2. Size of PAP3 liposomes overtime as measured by dynamic light scattering (DLS). a) before and **b)** after addition of LPL. Liposomes incubating at 37 °C for up to 300 min.

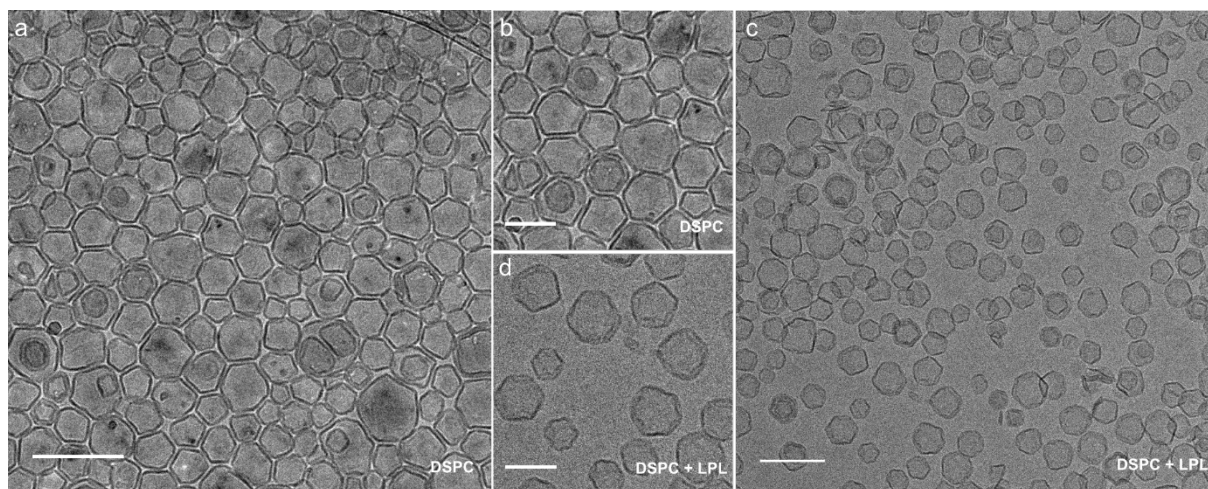


Figure S3. Cryo-TEM images of DSPC liposomes a-b) before and **c-d)** after addition of LPL. Liposomes incubating at 37 °C for 180 min. Scale bars : 200 nm for a, c and 100 nm for b, d.

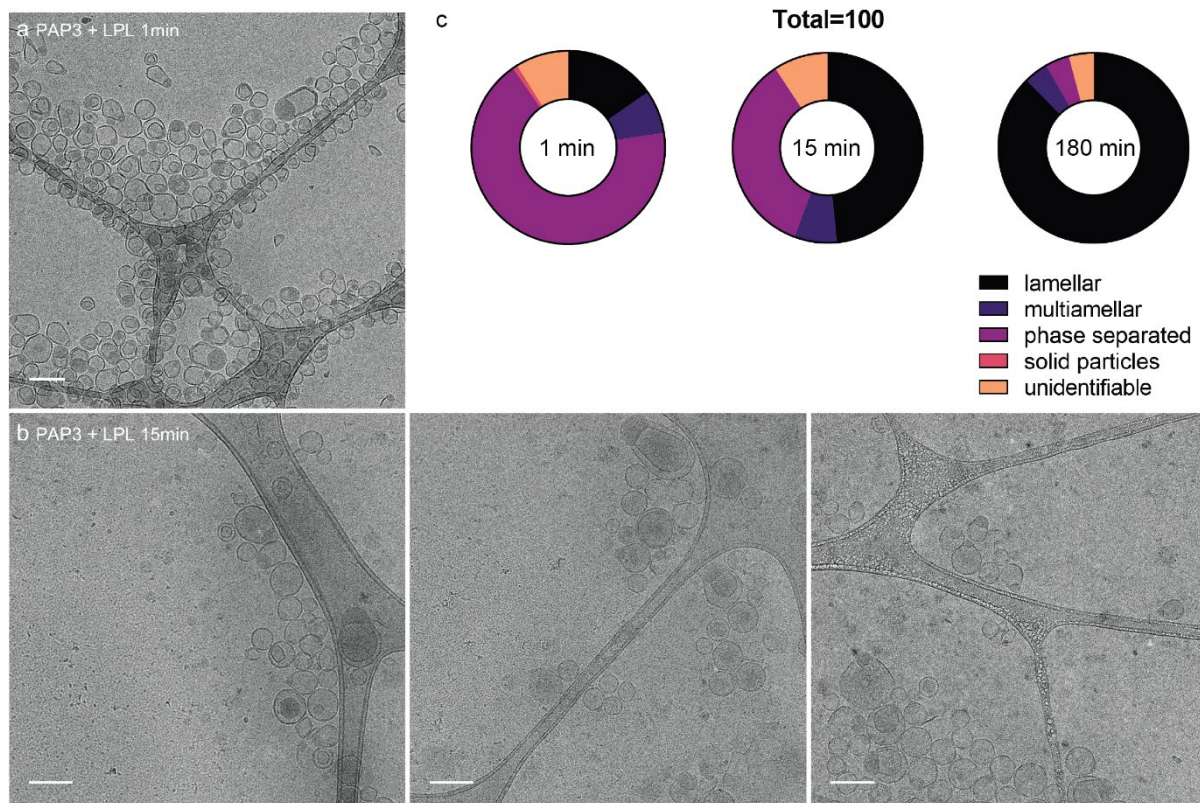


Figure S4. Cryo-TEM images of PAP3 liposomes with LPL incubating at 37°C for a) 1min or b) 15 min and c) Quantification of the whole population of PAP3 liposomes with LPL incubating at 37 °C for 1, 15 and 180 min. Images as chosen for quantification. Scale bars: 200 nm.

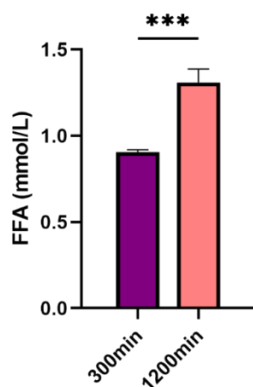


Figure S5. Release of FFA from PAP3 liposomes incubating with LPL. PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C with LPL for 300 and 1200 min. Statistical significance was evaluated using a two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. ns: not significant ($P > 0.05$). Significantly different: * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$. Exact P value 0.0009.

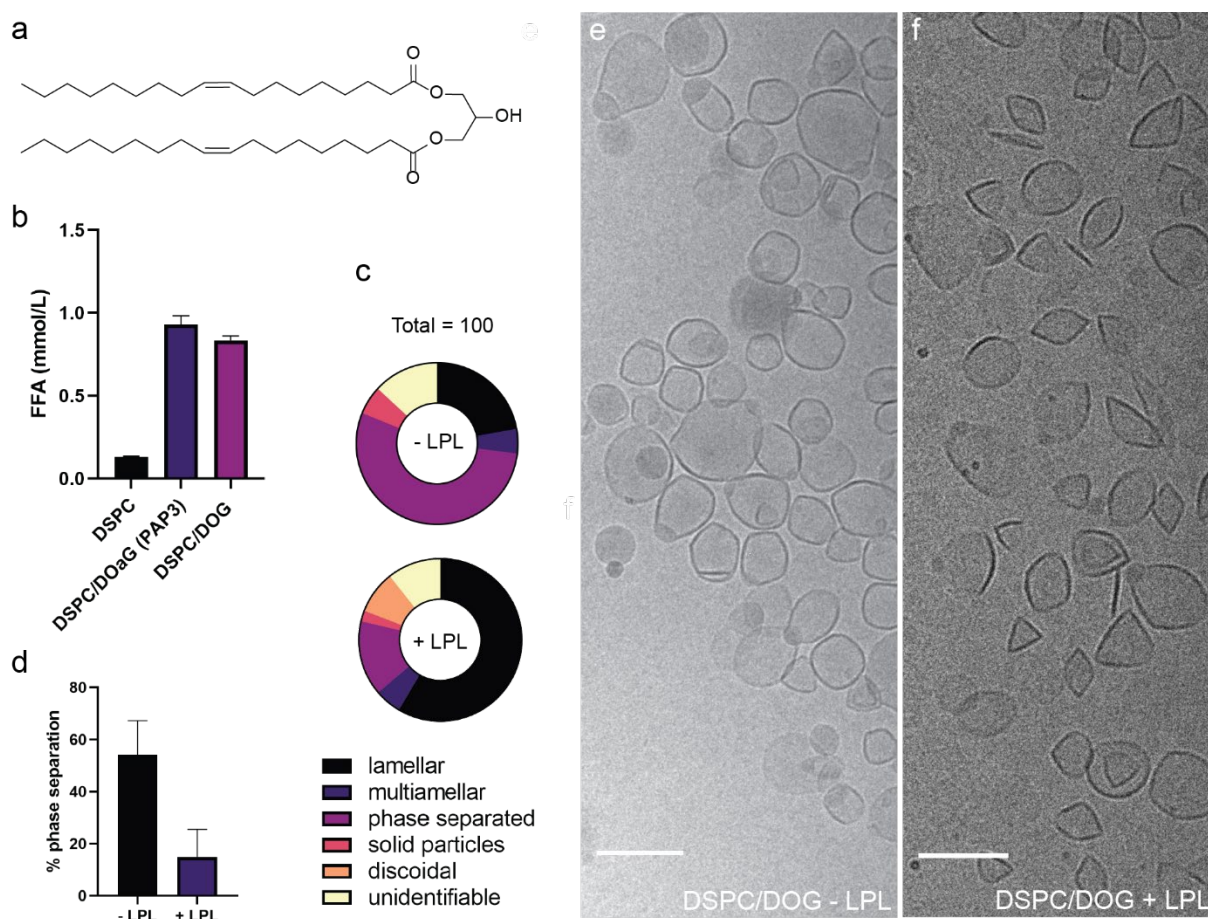


Figure S6. Effect of LPL on DOG containing liposomes. **a)** Molecular structure of dioleoylglycerol (DOG). **b)** Release of FFA from liposomes containing DSPC (100 %), DSPC/DOaG (50:50), or DSPC/DOG (50:50) after incubation with LPL at 37 °C for 120 min. **c)** Quantification of the whole population of liposomes consisting of DSPC/DOG (50:50) without LPL or with LPL, incubating at 37 °C for 120 min. **d)** Percentage of phase separation of liposomes consisting of DSPC/DOG (50:50) incubating at 37 °C for 120 min without or with LPL. **e)** Cryo-TEM images of liposomes consisting of DSPC/DOG (50:50) incubating at 37 °C for 120 min without LPL and **f)** with LPL. Scale bars: 200 nm.

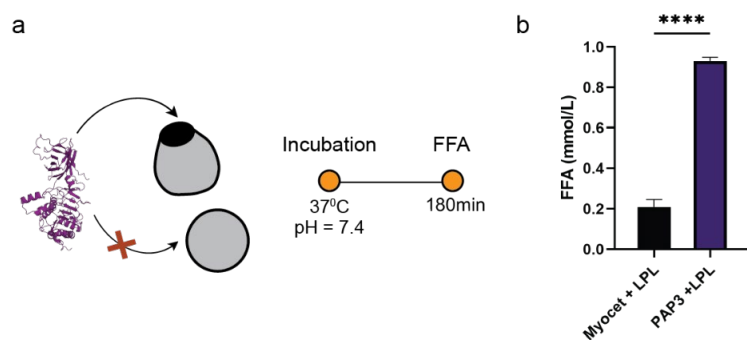


Figure S7. Release of FFA from Myocet®-based formulation in comparison to PAP3 liposomes. a) Schematic of LPL interacting with PAP3 or Myocet®-like liposomes and timeline of measurement of released FFA. b) Quantification of released FFA from Myocet®-like or PAP3 liposomes after incubating with LPL at 37 °C for 180 min. Statistical significance was evaluated using a two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test. ns: not significant ($P > 0.05$). Significantly different: * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$. Exact P value : < 0.0001 .

			DOaG/DSPC	% Abundance
PAP3	.-LPL	t = 0h	0,830483	86,50863
PAP3	.-LPL	t = 0h	0,977713	101,8451
PAP3	+.LPL	t = 0h	1,046577	109,0185
PAP3	+.LPL	t = 0h	0,984694	102,5723
PAP3	.-LPL	t = 3h	0,932472	97,13248
PAP3	.-LPL	t = 3h	0,950282	98,98767
PAP3	+.LPL	t = 3h	0,753585	78,49848
PAP3	+.LPL	t = 3h	0,65356	68,07916

Figure S8. Mass spectrometry analysis of PAP3 liposomes (DOaG:DSPC_50:50). Analysis table of DOaG/DSPC ratio before and after addition of LPL at t = 0 h and t = 3 h (at 37 °C). Abundance (%) was determined by normalizing all PAP3 data against PAP3 at t = 0 h (average of the two measurements was set as 100 %).

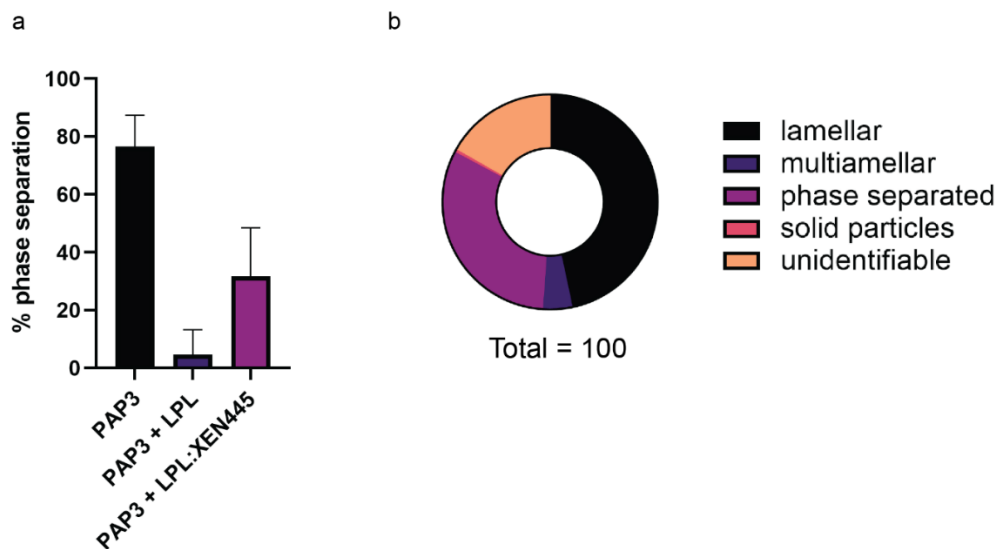
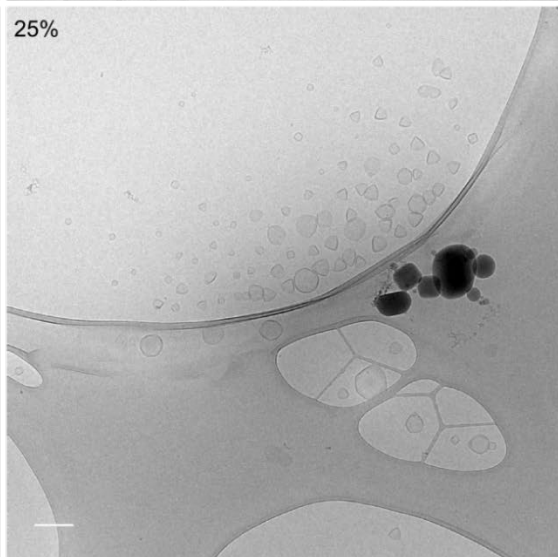
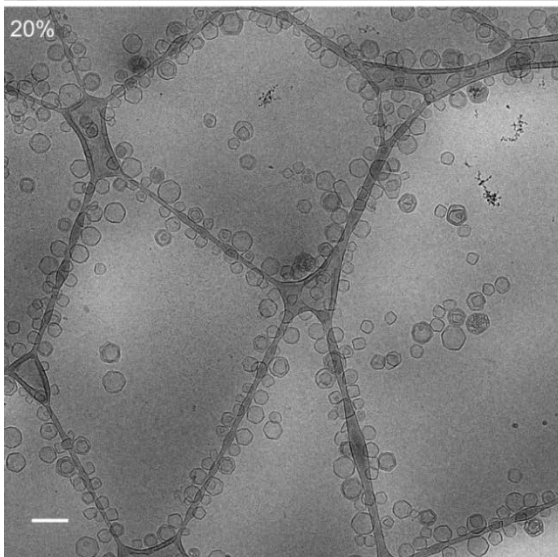
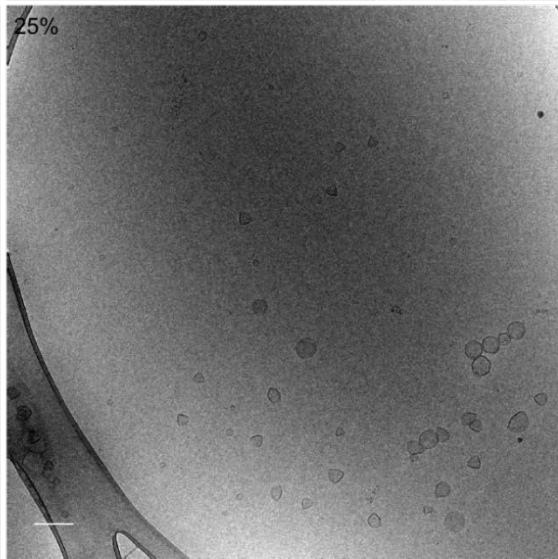
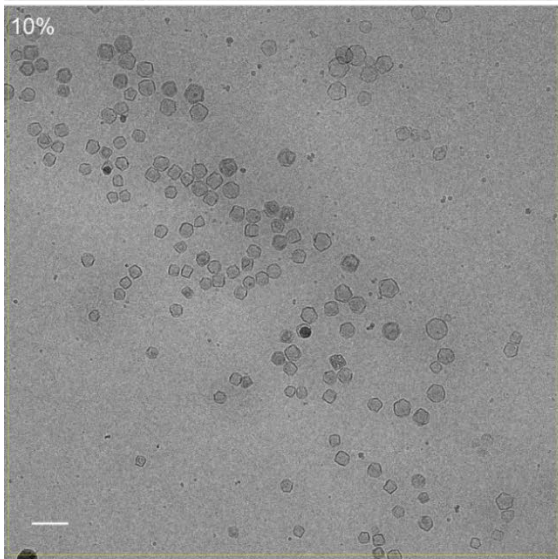
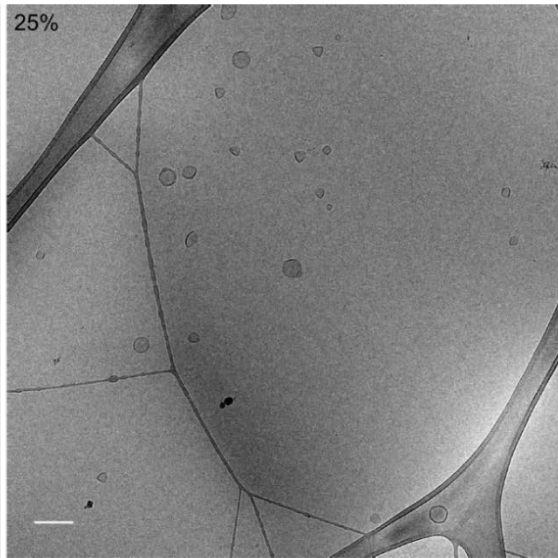
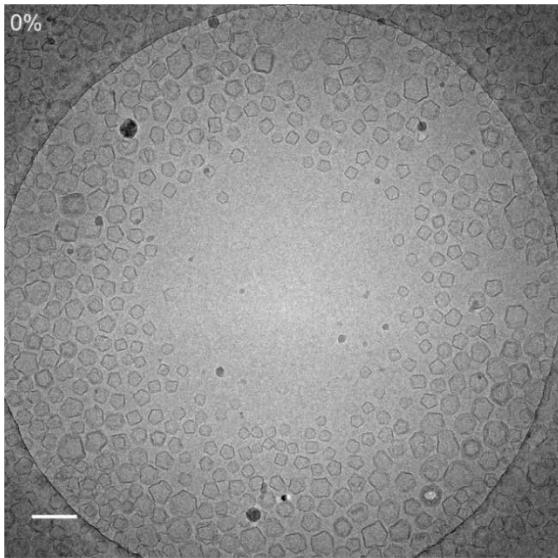


Figure S9. Effect of XEN445 on LPL lipolytic activity. a) Percentage of phase separation of PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C for 120 min without, or with LPL, or with LPL after addition of 1000 μ M XEN445 inhibitor. **b)** Quantification of all populations found on PAP3 liposomal formulation incubating with LPL for 120 min after addition of 1000 μ M XEN445 inhibitor. Quantification based on cryo-TEM particle count (N=200).



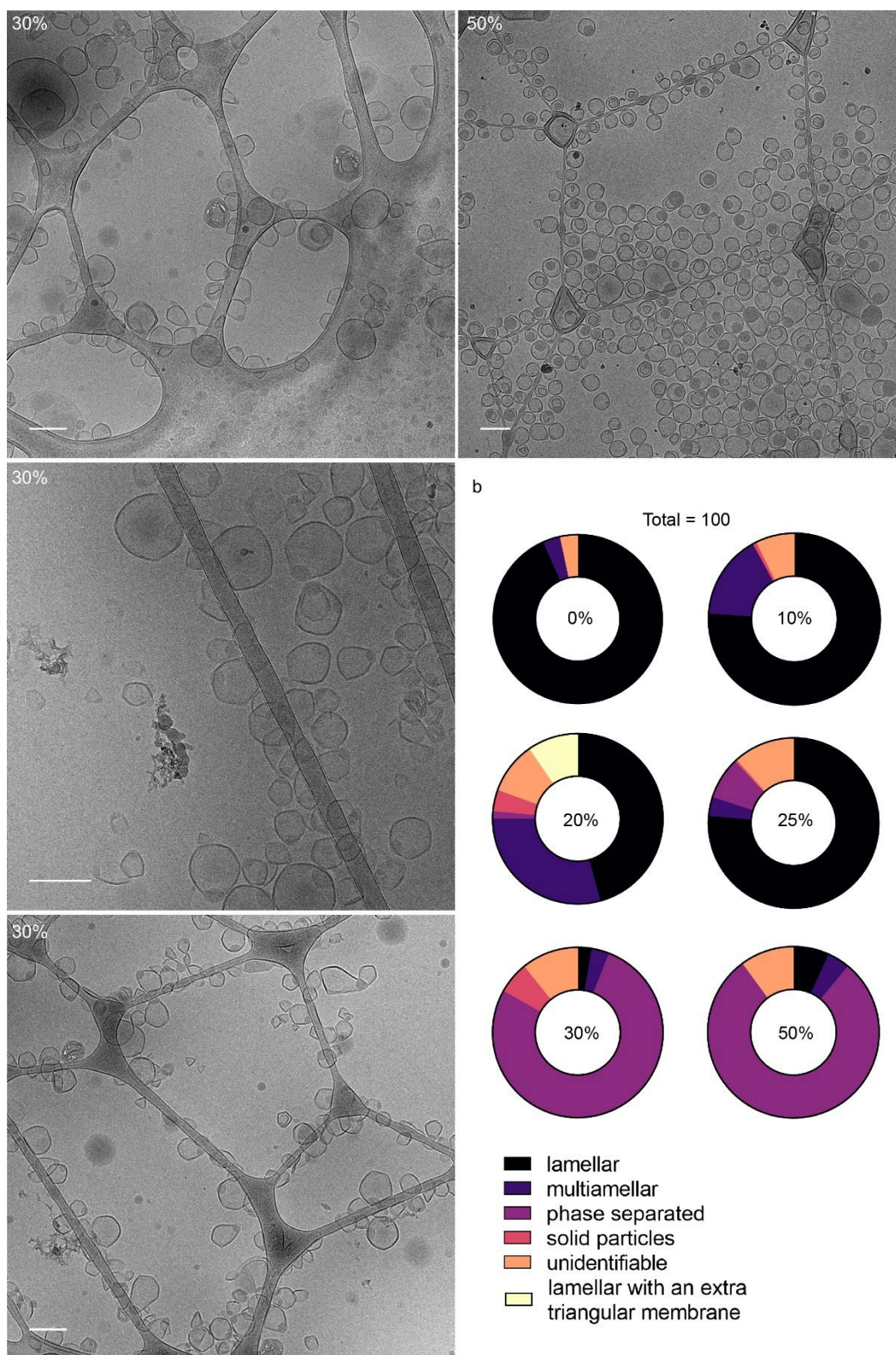


Figure S10. Cryo-TEM images and quantification of PAP3 liposomes formulated at varying molar ratios. **a)** Cryo-TEM images of liposomes composed of DSPC and 0, 20, 25, 30 and 50 mol % DOaG. Images as chosen for quantification of the whole population. Scale bars: 200 nm. **b)** Quantification of the whole population of liposomes composed of DSPC and 0, 20, 25, 30 and 50 mol % DOaG. Total of each circle chart = 100.

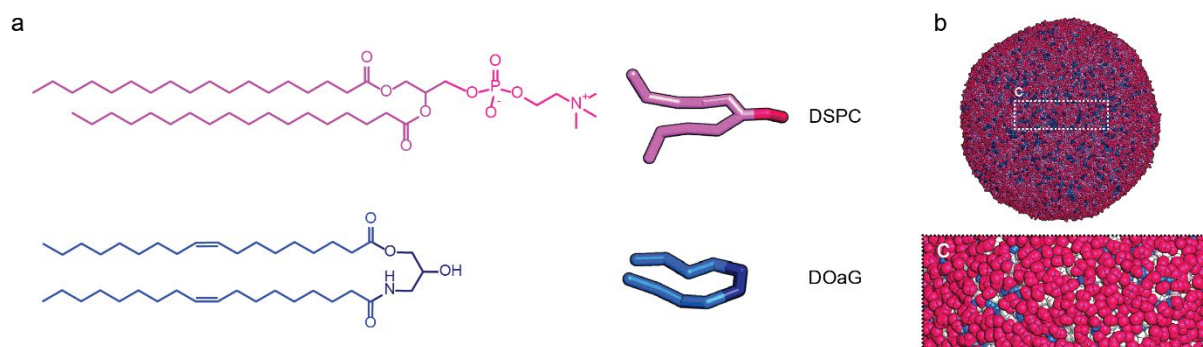


Figure S11. Lipids used for the coarse-grained representation of PAP3 liposomes. a) Molecular structures of DSPC and DOaG lipids and simulated representations. b) Modeled lipid droplet of PAP3 liposomes. c) Zoom in of b showing the lipid packing defects and the high spacing between DSPC headgroups exposing the DOaG (grey/blue). Size of droplet radius 20.1 nm.

SI 12 Coarse-Grained model

While several lipids have been parametrised within the Martini context, including DSPC, a representation of DOaG is lacking and should be parametrised. Our starting point is an existing representation for a diacylglycerol lipid (DOG), which is very similar to DOaG. Observations by cryo-EM are used as a reference, and indicate that phase separated liposomes are formed for mixtures containing > 25 mol % of DOaG, assuming that DOaG is evenly distributed over all liposomes. The ambiguity in the CG representation of DOaG is in the choice of the head beads, i.e. in the non-bonded interactions that are usually estimated from relative partitioning in two different solvents, and we may use the experimental data for phase separation *in silico*, the contact fraction between DOaG and DSPC is used:

$$f_{DOaG-DSPC} = \frac{c_{DOaG-DMPC}}{c_{DOaG-DMPC} + c_{DOaG-DOaG}} \times \frac{1}{\phi_{DOaG}}$$

with c_{i-j} representing the number of contacts between two lipid species, and ϕ_{DOaG} the fraction of DOaG lipids. The normalisation by the DOaG fraction, which is not used in the original formulation¹, is introduced to enable a direct comparison of membranes with different fractions of DOaG, i.e. by normalizing the maximum of the contact fraction to unity. To determine if two lipids are in direct contact, the standard distance threshold of 1.1 nm was used for the GL1 bead (if the lipid is a DSPC lipid) and the GLA bead (in case of DOaG). Density profiles, see **Figure S13**, along the membrane normal indicate that these beads reside roughly at the same depth within the monolayer.

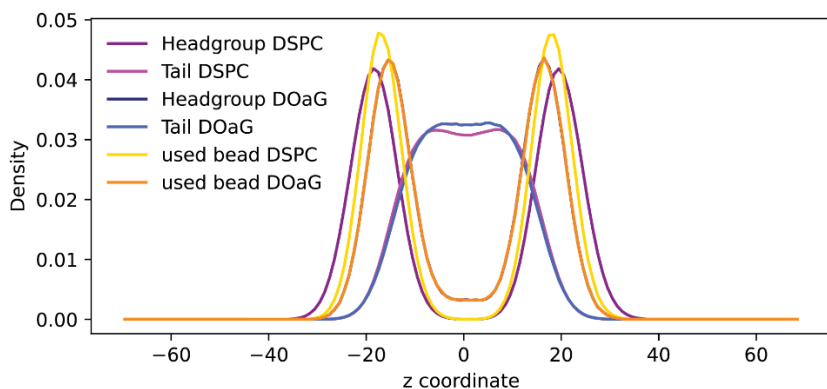


Figure S13. Density profiles of selected bead types across the membrane (along the normal).

The contact fraction was subsequently employed to monitor the degree of phase separation for varying DOaG fractions and for different bead-type representations of the DOaG head group in CG Martini. We considered both Martini 2 and 3. Based on the best fit to the experimental data, the DOaG representation with N6a and N6d beads was selected as most appropriate. DPPC = DSPC

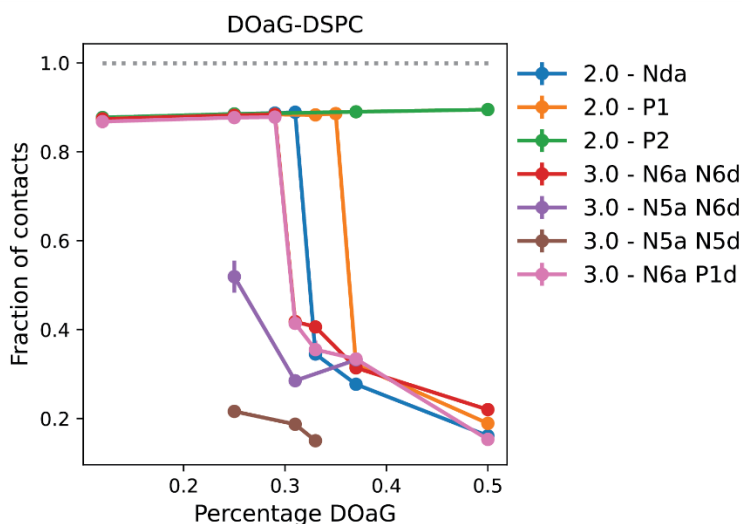


Figure S14. Fractions of contact for increasing composition fractions of DOaG as calculated from CG membrane simulations. Contact fractions have been determined by averaging over the last μs of a $2 \mu\text{s}$ simulation trajectory.

SI 15. Input file for the CG Martini representation for DOaG used in this study:

```
[moleculetype]; molname  nrexcl  
DOAG      1
```

```
[atoms]; id      type  resnr  residu  atom  cgnr  
1   N6a  1     DOAG  GLA   1     0  
2   N6d  1     DOAG  NAB   2     0  
3   C1   1     DOAG  C1A   3     0  
4   C4h  1     DOAG  D2A   4     0  
5   C1   1     DOAG  C3A   5     0  
6   C1   1     DOAG  C4A   6     0  
7   C1   1     DOAG  C1B   7     0  
8   C4h  1     DOAG  D2B   8     0  
9   C1   1     DOAG  C3B   9     0  
10  C1   1     DOAG  C4B  10     0
```

```
[bonds];  
i      j      funct  length  force.c.  
1  2      1      0.312  2500  
1  3      1      0.47   5000  
3  4      1      0.47   3800  
4  5      1      0.47   3800  
5  6      1      0.47   3800  
2  7      1      0.47   3600  
7  8      1      0.47   3800  
8  9      1      0.47   3800  
9 10      1      0.47   3800
```

```
[angles];  
i  j  k      funct  angle  force.c.  
1  3  4      2      180.0  35.0  
3  4  5      2      120.0  35.0  
4  5  6      2      180.0  35.0  
2  7  8      2      180.0  35.0  
7  8  9      2      120.0  35.0  
8  9 10      2      180.0  35.0
```

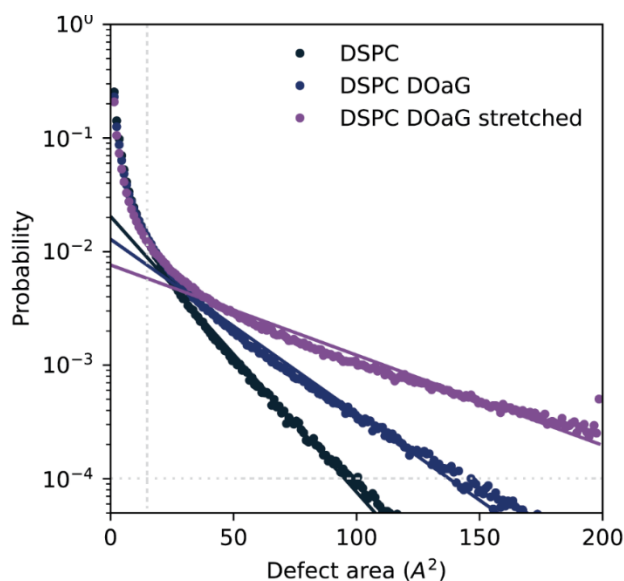


Figure S16. Standard practice when using PackMem is retrieving the packing defect constant from fitting the probability to find a defect of a certain area. This probability of finding a defect of a certain area is given by the formula: $P(A) = b e^{-\frac{A}{\pi}}$, where $P(A)$ is the probability of finding a defect area of area A^2 , b is a constant and π is the packing defect constant. The fit is performed on all datapoints where the area of the defect is bigger than 15 \AA^2 and the probability is higher than $1e^{-4}$. The fit for the flat DSPC, flat but phase-separated DSPC/DOaG layer and for the stretched phase-separated DSPC/DOaG layer, are shown in this figure. The solid line of the same color is the fit through the data, which gives the packing defect constant for each system.

SI 17 Identifying lipid packing defect sensing motifs on LPL protein structure

Our previously developed neural network (NN) model is able to predict the relative free energy of a peptide binding to a stretched membrane (high packing defect constant) versus a tensionless membrane (low packing defect constant)², only requiring the amino acid sequence. To identify putative regions with lipid packing defect sensing ability within a 3D protein structure of LPL, we used a python script that employs a sliding window of length 15 to screen the protein sequence and predict $\Delta\Delta F$ for every segment. Since the segments overlap, every individual residue is part of more than one segment (except for the termini). By taking the average of these overlapping segment scores at every position we obtained a “per-residue” $\Delta\Delta F$ which can be interpreted as the contribution of that single amino acid to the overall lipid packing defect sensing ability of the respective protein region (Figure S18a).

For a residue to bind to a membrane’s lipid packing defects, it must be located at the outer shell of the protein structure, *i.e.*, it must be exposed to the solvent. We accounted for this by calculating the solvent-accessible surface area (SASA) for every individual residue (using BioPython³), based on the 3D protein structure. Then, we calculated the average SASA of the direct vicinity: a 9 amino acid stretch ($n-4 - n+4$) around the respective residue at position n (Figure S18b). If this averaged SASA exceeded a threshold value of 0.8 nm^2 , we considered that residue to be sufficiently solvent exposed to potentially contribute to lipid packing defect sensing ability. If not, that residue was labeled inactive.

By taking both the averaged per-residue $\Delta\Delta F$ and SASA values into account, we mapped and color-coded the predicted lipid packing defect sensing ability onto the 3D protein structure, as we show in

Figure 5b in the main text. For this, we used the B-factor field in the PDB file, applying the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } SASA < 0.8: \quad & Bfactor = 0.0 \\ \text{if } SASA \geq 0.8: \quad & Bfactor = \frac{x - x_{max}}{x_{min} - x_{max}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

In which x is the per-residue $\Delta\Delta F$ score and x_{max} and x_{min} are the maximal and minimal value of x for the entire protein. This formula yields a maximal B-factor of 100.0 for the highest score (most negative $\Delta\Delta F$, $x=x_{min}$) and the minimal B-factor of 0.0 for the lowest score ($x=x_{max}$). Note that $\Delta\Delta F$ values are always negative.

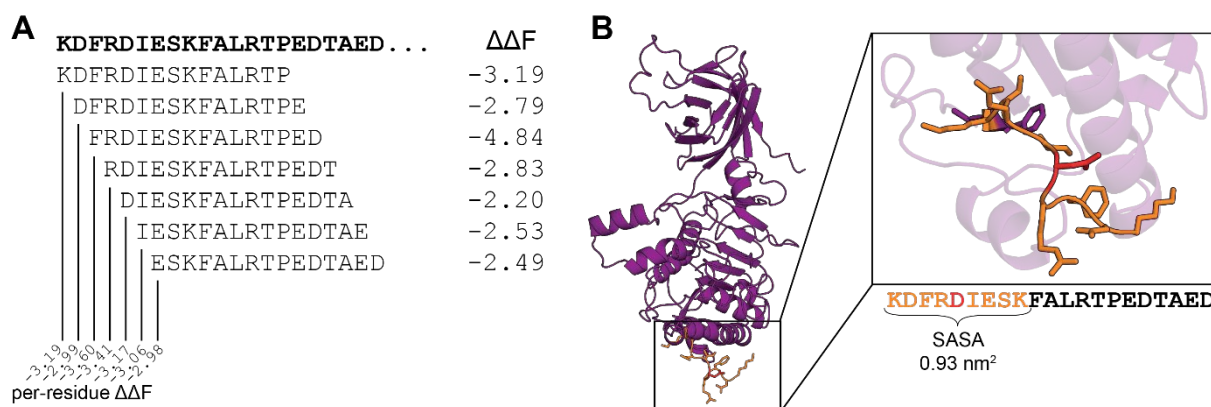


Figure S18. a) An example of NN-predicted $\Delta\Delta F$ values for overlapping 15-residue fragments of LPL (*Bos Taurus*) N-terminal region. The average of the overlapping scores yields the per-residue $\Delta\Delta F$ at every position. **b)** For every amino acid in the 3D protein structure, the individual SASA is calculated. Then, for every position, we compute the average SASA of the 9-residue vicinity (in orange) and assign that value (0.93 nm² in this case) to the middle residue (Asp39 in this example, in red).

S19 Residue scores. Per-residue SASA, $\Delta\Delta F$, and resulting B-factors for LPL (*Bos Taurus*).

		SASA	$\Delta\Delta F$	B-factor
35	K	1.20	-3.19	22.20
36	D	1.05	-2.99	17.42
37	F	1.04	-3.60	31.98
38	R	0.92	-3.41	27.45
39	D	0.93	-3.17	21.72
40	I	0.73	-3.06	0.00
41	E	0.64	-2.98	0.00
42	S	0.61	-3.00	0.00
43	K	0.39	-3.00	0.00
44	F	0.34	-3.06	0.00
45	A	0.39	-3.00	0.00
46	L	0.46	-3.05	0.00
47	R	0.50	-3.05	0.00
48	T	0.42	-3.06	0.00
49	P	0.47	-3.08	0.00
50	E	0.59	-3.08	0.00
51	D	0.62	-3.09	0.00
52	T	0.73	-2.94	0.00
53	A	0.71	-2.97	0.00
54	E	0.70	-3.05	0.00
55	D	0.52	-3.10	0.00
56	T	0.56	-3.16	0.00
57	C	0.55	-3.20	0.00
58	H	0.55	-3.29	0.00
59	L	0.49	-3.41	0.00
60	I	0.50	-3.46	0.00
61	P	0.51	-3.51	0.00
62	G	0.48	-3.45	0.00
63	V	0.42	-3.45	0.00
64	T	0.49	-3.37	0.00
65	E	0.52	-3.44	0.00
66	S	0.51	-3.44	0.00
67	V	0.63	-3.51	0.00
68	A	0.59	-3.61	0.00
69	N	0.60	-3.78	0.00
70	C	0.57	-3.91	0.00
71	H	0.68	-4.06	0.00
72	F	0.70	-4.17	0.00
73	N	0.69	-4.15	0.00
74	H	0.57	-4.05	0.00
75	S	0.56	-4.16	0.00
76	S	0.39	-4.21	0.00
77	K	0.37	-4.42	0.00
78	T	0.31	-4.55	0.00
79	F	0.23	-4.73	0.00
80	V	0.11	-4.77	0.00
81	V	0.18	-4.86	0.00
82	I	0.11	-4.88	0.00
83	H	0.20	-4.76	0.00
84	G	0.30	-4.64	0.00
85	W	0.32	-4.57	0.00
86	T	0.45	-4.49	0.00
87	V	0.53	-4.44	0.00
88	T	0.56	-4.54	0.00
89	G	0.62	-4.77	0.00

		SASA	$\Delta\Delta F$	B-factor
90	M	0.54	-4.92	0.00
91	Y	0.54	-5.02	0.00
92	E	0.48	-5.01	0.00
93	S	0.49	-5.08	0.00
94	W	0.47	-5.05	0.00
95	V	0.33	-5.06	0.00
96	P	0.31	-5.05	0.00
97	K	0.27	-5.05	0.00
98	L	0.20	-5.09	0.00
99	V	0.22	-5.01	0.00
100	A	0.39	-4.94	0.00
101	A	0.41	-4.82	0.00
102	L	0.34	-4.76	0.00
103	Y	0.43	-4.62	0.00
104	K	0.55	-4.35	0.00
105	R	0.52	-4.13	0.00
106	E	0.52	-3.90	0.00
107	P	0.52	-3.82	0.00
108	D	0.50	-3.65	0.00
109	S	0.33	-3.64	0.00
110	N	0.28	-3.61	0.00
111	V	0.27	-3.77	0.00
112	I	0.19	-3.90	0.00
113	V	0.09	-4.01	0.00
114	V	0.15	-4.18	0.00
115	D	0.16	-4.28	0.00
116	W	0.16	-4.47	0.00
117	L	0.26	-4.47	0.00
118	S	0.35	-4.41	0.00
119	R	0.50	-4.40	0.00
120	A	0.52	-4.37	0.00
121	Q	0.59	-4.38	0.00
122	Q	0.64	-4.29	0.00
123	H	0.57	-4.26	0.00
124	Y	0.56	-4.17	0.00
125	P	0.60	-4.04	0.00
126	V	0.59	-3.76	0.00
127	S	0.50	-3.56	0.00
128	A	0.46	-3.48	0.00
129	G	0.48	-3.32	0.00
130	Y	0.41	-3.31	0.00
131	T	0.33	-3.25	0.00
132	K	0.42	-3.43	0.00
133	L	0.42	-3.55	0.00
134	V	0.38	-3.65	0.00
135	G	0.30	-3.76	0.00
136	Q	0.37	-3.92	0.00
137	D	0.26	-4.10	0.00
138	V	0.19	-4.34	0.00
139	A	0.21	-4.57	0.00
140	K	0.23	-4.87	0.00
141	F	0.13	-5.19	0.00
142	M	0.15	-5.34	0.00
143	N	0.24	-5.42	0.00
144	W	0.35	-5.56	0.00

		SASA	$\Delta\Delta F$	B-factor
145	M	0.33	-5.62	0.00
146	A	0.48	-5.54	0.00
147	D	0.48	-5.46	0.00
148	E	0.53	-5.45	0.00
149	F	0.52	-5.70	0.00
150	N	0.57	-5.73	0.00
151	Y	0.60	-5.77	0.00
152	P	0.51	-5.71	0.00
153	L	0.42	-5.62	0.00
154	G	0.36	-5.46	0.00
155	N	0.22	-5.28	0.00
156	V	0.21	-5.27	0.00
157	H	0.15	-5.26	0.00
158	L	0.15	-5.31	0.00
159	L	0.10	-5.37	0.00
160	G	0.04	-5.37	0.00
161	Y	0.04	-5.55	0.00
162	S	0.02	-5.55	0.00
163	L	0.02	-5.58	0.00
164	G	0.02	-5.29	0.00
165	A	0.02	-5.15	0.00
166	H	0.02	-4.90	0.00
167	A	0.01	-4.78	0.00
168	A	0.02	-4.59	0.00
169	G	0.09	-4.47	0.00
170	I	0.17	-4.38	0.00
171	A	0.20	-4.08	0.00
172	G	0.31	-3.93	0.00
173	S	0.47	-3.70	0.00
174	L	0.57	-3.53	0.00
175	T	0.56	-3.33	0.00
176	N	0.61	-3.10	0.00
177	K	0.61	-2.92	0.00
178	K	0.54	-2.82	0.00
179	V	0.45	-2.72	0.00
180	N	0.43	-2.76	0.00
181	R	0.32	-2.84	0.00
182	I	0.16	-2.90	0.00
183	T	0.06	-2.93	0.00
184	G	0.06	-3.10	0.00
185	L	0.01	-3.19	0.00
186	D	0.04	-3.36	0.00
187	P	0.15	-3.50	0.00
188	A	0.15	-3.63	0.00
189	G	0.17	-3.70	0.00
190	P	0.34	-3.80	0.00
191	N	0.36	-3.81	0.00
192	F	0.52	-3.95	0.00
193	E	0.55	-3.89	0.00
194	Y	0.66	-3.94	0.00
195	A	0.66	-3.83	0.00
196	E	0.59	-3.73	0.00
197	A	0.58	-3.67	0.00
198	P	0.57	-3.63	0.00
199	S	0.45	-3.46	0.00

		SASA	$\Delta\Delta F$	B-factor
200	R	0.56	-3.33	0.00
201	L	0.41	-3.22	0.00
202	S	0.37	-3.04	0.00
203	P	0.33	-2.94	0.00
204	D	0.29	-2.85	0.00
205	D	0.26	-2.75	0.00
206	A	0.27	-2.95	0.00
207	D	0.27	-2.95	0.00
208	F	0.22	-3.11	0.00
209	V	0.10	-3.10	0.00
210	D	0.09	-3.19	0.00
211	V	0.11	-3.26	0.00
212	L	0.06	-3.36	0.00
213	H	0.25	-3.38	0.00
214	T	0.30	-3.41	0.00
215	F	0.35	-3.45	0.00
216	T	0.43	-3.40	0.00
217	R	0.44	-3.38	0.00
218	G	0.67	-3.34	0.00
219	S	0.67	-3.34	0.00
220	P	0.72	-3.32	0.00
221	G	0.71	-3.13	0.00
222	R	0.51	-2.96	0.00
223	S	0.51	-2.91	0.00
224	I	0.52	-2.99	0.00
225	G	0.49	-2.98	0.00
226	I	0.47	-3.05	0.00
227	Q	0.25	-3.03	0.00
228	K	0.26	-3.17	0.00
229	P	0.19	-3.24	0.00
230	V	0.19	-3.28	0.00
231	G	0.19	-3.35	0.00
232	H	0.15	-3.42	0.00
233	V	0.08	-3.45	0.00
234	D	0.06	-3.57	0.00
235	I	0.07	-3.70	0.00
236	Y	0.07	-3.77	0.00
237	P	0.10	-3.82	0.00
238	N	0.16	-3.85	0.00
239	G	0.16	-3.79	0.00
240	G	0.21	-3.77	0.00
241	T	0.25	-3.79	0.00
242	F	0.26	-3.92	0.00
243	Q	0.32	-3.94	0.00
244	P	0.46	-3.96	0.00
245	G	0.51	-3.99	0.00
246	C	0.53	-4.01	0.00
247	N	0.48	-4.05	0.00
248	I	0.60	-4.06	0.00
249	G	0.67	-3.99	0.00
250	E	0.68	-3.86	0.00
251	A	0.73	-3.82	0.00
252	L	0.73	-3.82	0.00
253	R	0.72	-3.73	0.00
254	V	0.87	-3.72	34.84

		SASA	ΔF	B-factor
255	I	0.84	-3.66	33.41
256	A	0.98	-3.49	29.36
257	E	0.96	-3.27	24.11
258	R	0.93	-3.10	20.05
259	G	0.95	-2.97	16.95
260	L	0.98	-2.94	16.23
261	G	1.00	-2.83	13.60
262	D	0.92	-2.70	10.50
263	V	0.79	-2.65	0.00
264	D	0.79	-2.59	0.00
265	Q	0.68	-2.69	0.00
266	L	0.58	-2.69	0.00
267	V	0.51	-2.67	0.00
268	K	0.46	-2.67	0.00
269	C	0.38	-2.72	0.00
270	S	0.27	-2.81	0.00
271	H	0.22	-2.93	0.00
272	E	0.17	-3.00	0.00
273	R	0.13	-3.09	0.00
274	S	0.09	-3.23	0.00
275	V	0.10	-3.34	0.00
276	H	0.10	-3.48	0.00
277	L	0.08	-3.68	0.00
278	F	0.08	-3.78	0.00
279	I	0.15	-3.79	0.00
280	D	0.21	-3.72	0.00
281	S	0.28	-3.67	0.00
282	L	0.47	-3.70	0.00
283	L	0.57	-3.69	0.00
284	N	0.59	-3.56	0.00
285	E	0.59	-3.48	0.00
286	E	0.65	-3.47	0.00
287	N	0.64	-3.47	0.00
288	P	0.56	-3.44	0.00
289	S	0.62	-3.31	0.00
290	K	0.53	-3.17	0.00
291	A	0.51	-3.11	0.00
292	Y	0.44	-2.99	0.00
293	R	0.50	-2.95	0.00
294	C	0.59	-2.88	0.00
295	N	0.55	-2.86	0.00
296	S	0.55	-2.89	0.00
297	K	0.64	-2.84	0.00
298	E	0.65	-2.87	0.00
299	A	0.63	-2.94	0.00
300	F	0.58	-2.96	0.00
301	E	0.57	-2.88	0.00
302	K	0.49	-2.91	0.00
303	G	0.42	-2.88	0.00
304	L	0.43	-2.96	0.00
305	C	0.59	-2.92	0.00
306	L	0.71	-2.86	0.00
307	S	0.68	-2.80	0.00
308	C	0.81	-2.70	10.50
309	R	0.72	-2.68	0.00

		SASA	ΔF	B-factor
310	K	0.70	-2.69	0.00
311	N	0.71	-2.66	0.00
312	R	0.69	-2.61	0.00
313	C	0.65	-2.54	0.00
314	N	0.52	-2.48	0.00
315	N	0.37	-2.42	0.00
316	M	0.29	-2.40	0.00
317	G	0.25	-2.31	0.00
318	Y	0.35	-2.29	0.00
319	E	0.39	-2.26	0.00
320	I	0.53	-2.27	0.00
321	N	0.59	-2.26	0.00
322	K	0.82	-2.26	0.00
323	V	1.01	-2.29	0.72
324	R	1.01	-2.32	1.43
325	A	1.01	-2.35	2.15
326	K	1.00	-2.40	3.34
327	R	0.89	-2.58	7.64
328	S	0.85	-2.64	9.07
329	S	0.69	-2.79	0.00
330	K	0.66	-2.98	0.00
331	M	0.43	-3.26	0.00
332	Y	0.29	-3.37	0.00
333	L	0.29	-3.52	0.00
334	K	0.42	-3.55	0.00
335	T	0.43	-3.73	0.00
336	R	0.51	-3.86	0.00
337	S	0.51	-4.09	0.00
338	Q	0.57	-4.33	0.00
339	M	0.55	-4.62	0.00
340	P	0.57	-4.82	0.00
341	Y	0.50	-4.94	0.00
342	K	0.45	-4.90	0.00
343	V	0.33	-4.98	0.00
344	F	0.24	-5.04	0.00
345	H	0.25	-4.88	0.00
346	Y	0.23	-4.68	0.00
347	Q	0.26	-4.58	0.00
348	V	0.25	-4.47	0.00
349	K	0.25	-4.43	0.00
350	I	0.27	-4.26	0.00
351	H	0.42	-4.20	0.00
352	F	0.53	-4.01	0.00
353	S	0.66	-3.80	0.00
354	G	0.63	-3.50	0.00
355	T	0.72	-3.30	0.00
356	E	0.71	-3.11	0.00
357	S	0.81	-3.07	19.33
358	N	0.91	-2.97	16.95
359	T	0.90	-2.89	15.04
360	Y	0.77	-2.95	0.00
361	T	0.64	-2.93	0.00
362	N	0.55	-2.98	0.00
363	Q	0.48	-2.94	0.00
364	A	0.40	-2.97	0.00

		SASA	ΔF	B-factor
365	F	0.34	-2.98	0.00
366	E	0.26	-2.95	0.00
367	I	0.16	-3.08	0.00
368	S	0.24	-3.18	0.00
369	L	0.32	-3.38	0.00
370	Y	0.36	-3.46	0.00
371	G	0.43	-3.59	0.00
372	T	0.45	-3.52	0.00
373	V	0.54	-3.61	0.00
374	A	0.63	-3.55	0.00
375	E	0.62	-3.56	0.00
376	S	0.71	-3.59	0.00
377	E	0.64	-3.66	0.00
378	N	0.62	-3.80	0.00
379	I	0.59	-3.93	0.00
380	P	0.58	-4.13	0.00
381	F	0.65	-4.38	0.00
382	T	0.54	-4.38	0.00
383	L	0.46	-4.44	0.00
384	P	0.46	-4.39	0.00
385	E	0.44	-4.32	0.00
386	V	0.52	-4.28	0.00
387	S	0.50	-4.30	0.00
388	T	0.53	-4.28	0.00
389	N	0.46	-4.28	0.00
390	K	0.40	-4.32	0.00
391	T	0.42	-4.32	0.00
392	Y	0.42	-4.35	0.00
393	S	0.50	-4.35	0.00
394	F	0.41	-4.39	0.00
395	L	0.44	-4.29	0.00
396	L	0.40	-4.11	0.00
397	Y	0.46	-4.05	0.00
398	T	0.42	-4.03	0.00
399	E	0.44	-4.13	0.00
400	V	0.48	-4.34	0.00
401	D	0.49	-4.59	0.00
402	I	0.47	-4.87	0.00
403	G	0.51	-5.07	0.00
404	E	0.38	-5.33	0.00
405	L	0.40	-5.54	0.00
406	L	0.31	-5.78	0.00
407	M	0.38	-5.89	0.00
408	L	0.35	-5.92	0.00
409	K	0.34	-5.94	0.00
410	L	0.36	-6.15	0.00
411	K	0.44	-6.31	0.00
412	W	0.46	-6.41	0.00
413	I	0.67	-6.45	0.00
414	S	0.74	-6.33	0.00
415	D	0.76	-6.35	0.00
416	S	0.89	-6.16	93.08
417	Y	0.91	-6.11	91.89
418	F	1.00	-6.01	89.50
419	S	1.23	-5.86	85.92

		SASA	ΔF	B-factor
420	W	1.24	-5.72	82.58
421	S	1.31	-5.56	78.76
422	N	1.12	-5.42	75.42
423	W	1.03	-5.26	71.60
424	W	1.03	-5.06	66.83
425	S	0.83	-4.75	59.43
426	S	0.86	-4.54	54.42
427	P	0.71	-4.36	0.00
428	G	0.47	-4.16	0.00
429	F	0.44	-4.11	0.00
430	D	0.30	-3.83	0.00
431	I	0.44	-3.72	0.00
432	G	0.41	-3.51	0.00
433	K	0.41	-3.50	0.00
434	I	0.43	-3.35	0.00
435	R	0.37	-3.19	0.00
436	V	0.42	-3.06	0.00
437	K	0.48	-3.02	0.00
438	A	0.36	-2.96	0.00
439	G	0.42	-3.04	0.00
440	E	0.36	-3.04	0.00
441	T	0.37	-3.08	0.00
442	Q	0.39	-3.12	0.00
443	K	0.38	-3.22	0.00
444	K	0.41	-3.24	0.00
445	V	0.38	-3.37	0.00
446	I	0.49	-3.43	0.00
447	F	0.63	-3.49	0.00
448	C	0.78	-3.34	0.00
449	S	0.74	-3.36	0.00
450	R	0.74	-3.37	0.00
451	E	0.82	-3.57	31.26
452	K	0.82	-3.72	34.84
453	M	0.85	-3.95	40.33
454	S	0.89	-4.05	42.72
455	Y	0.73	-4.18	0.00
456	L	0.61	-4.22	0.00
457	Q	0.51	-4.19	0.00
458	K	0.50	-4.16	0.00
459	G	0.50	-4.20	0.00
460	K	0.43	-4.21	0.00
461	S	0.43	-4.26	0.00
462	P	0.43	-4.34	0.00
463	V	0.44	-4.44	0.00
464	I	0.49	-4.47	0.00
465	F	0.55	-4.57	0.00
466	V	0.51	-4.48	0.00
467	K	0.58	-4.37	0.00
468	C	0.64	-4.25	0.00
469	H	0.61	-4.09	0.00
470	D	0.74	-4.02	0.00
471	K	0.92	-3.97	40.81
472	S	1.08	-4.14	44.87
473	L	1.13	-4.23	47.02
474	N	1.18	-4.24	47.26

		SASA	$\Delta\Delta F$	B-factor
475	R	1.25	-4.22	46.78
476	K	1.26	-4.18	45.82
477	S	1.35	-3.83	37.47
478	G	1.56	-3.49	29.36

Triacylglycerol lipase

Superfamily [abH15 - Burkholderia lipases](#)
 Homologous family [abH15.02 \(Burkholderia cepacia lipase like\)](#)
 Organism [Burkholderia sp.](#)
 Sequences 1
 Structures 0

Source DB

gi [78063020](#)

Reference Sequence

[download](#)

MAKTMRSRVV AGAVACAMSI APFAGTTVAM TLATTHAAMA ASSPADGYTA TRYPIILVHG L SGTDKYAGV LEYWYGIQED	80
LQQNGATVYV ANLSGFQSDD GPNGRGEQLL AYVKTVLAAT GATKVNLVGH S GGGLTSRYV AAVAPDLVAS VTTIGTPHRG	160
SEFADFVQNV LAYDPTGLSS SVIAAFVNVF GILTSSSHNT NQDALAALQT LTTARAATYN QNYPSAGLGA PGSCQTGAPT	240
ETVGGNTHLL YSWAGTAIQP TLSLFGVTGA TDTSTIPVVD PANALDLSTL ALYGTGTVMI NRSSGQ L GL VSKCSALYGK	320
VLSTSYKMN E LDEINQLLGV RGAYAEDPVA VIRTHANRLK LAGV	364

Figure S20. Sequence of Triacylglycerol lipase derived from *Burkholderia sp.* Sequence was obtained by the Lipase engineering Database.⁴ Sequence does not indicate a Trp-rich domain. BLAST run does not designate significant matches of the protein with any human protein species.

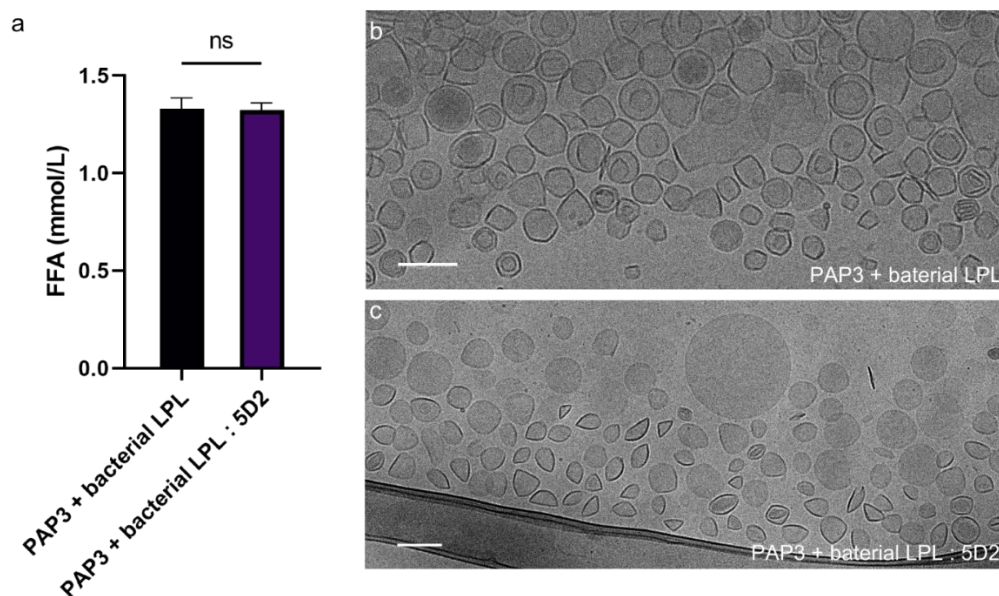


Figure S21. Effect of non-mammalian LPL on PAP3 liposomes with and without 5D2 antibody. a) Release of FFA from PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C with non-mammalian LPL (derived from *Burkholderia sp.*) and non-mammalian LPL + 5D2 antibody (1:1) for 120 min. Cryo-TEM images of PAP3 liposomes after incubating at 37 °C for 120 min with b) non-mammalian LPL and c) non-mammalian LPL + 5D2 antibody (1:1).

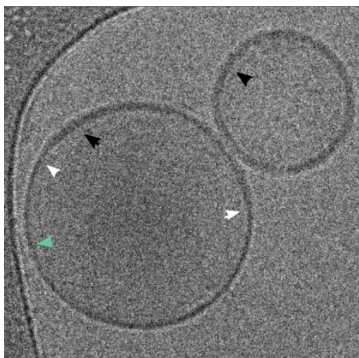


Figure S22. Cryo-TEM image of PAP3 liposomes after incubation with LPL at 37 °C for 180min. Difference of bilayer thickness is indicated with black (thicker part) or green (thinner part) arrows. The point of thickness mismatch is indicated with white arrows.


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sp|P11151|LIPL_BOVIN
sp|P06858|LIPL_HUMAN

MESKALLLLALSVCQLSQTIVSRGGLVAADRITGGKDFRDIESKFALRTPEDTAEDTCHLI 60
MESKALLVLTAVLWQLSQTASRGGVAAADQ---RRDFIDIESKFALRTPEDTAEDTCHLI 57
*****:*:*:* *****.*****:.**: :** *****

PGVTESVANCHFNHSSKTFVVIHGWTVTGMYESWVPKLVAAALYKREPDSNVIVVDWLSRA 120
PGVAESVATCHFNHSSKTFMVIHGWTVTGMYESWVPKLVAAALYKREPDSNVIVVDWLSRA 117
***:*****.******:*****

QQHYPVSAAGYTKLVGQDVAKFMNWMMADEFNYPLGNVHLLGYSLGAHAAGIAGSLTNKKVN 180
QEHPVSAAGYTKLVGQDVARFINWMEEEFNYPIDNVHLLGYSLGAHAAGIAGSLTNKKVN 177
*:*****:*:*:* :*****.******

RITGLDPAGPNFEYAEAPSRLSPDDADFVDVLHTFTTRGSPGRSIGIQKPVGHVDIYPNGG 240
RITGLDPAGPNFEYAEAPSRLSPDDADFVDVLHTFTTRGSPGRSIGIQKPVGHVDIYPNGG 237
*****

TFQPGCNIGEALRVIAERGLGDVDQLVKCSHERSVHLFIDSLLEENPSKAYRCNSKEAF 300
TFQPGCNIGEALRVIAERGLGDVDQLVKCSHERSIHLFIDSLLEENPSKAYRCSSKEAF 297
*****:******:*****.*****

EKGLCLSCRKNRCNNMGYEINKVRAKRSSKMYLKTRSQMPYKVFHYQVKIHFSGTESNTY 360
EKGLCLSCRKNRCNNLGYEINKVRAKRSSKMYLKTRSQMPYKVFHYQVKIHFSGTESETH 357
*****:******:*****

TNQAFEISLYGTVAESENIPFTLPEVSTNKTYSFLLYTEVDIGELLMLKWKWISDSYFSSW 420
TNQAFEISLYGTVAESENIPFTLPEVSTNKTYSFLLIYTEVDIGELLMLKWKWISDSYFSSW 417
*****:******:*****

SNWSSSPGFDIGKIRVKAGETQKKVIFCSREKMSYLQKKGSPVIFVKCHDKSLNRKSG 478
SDWSSSPGFQAIQKIRVKAGETQKKVIFCSREKVSHLQKKGAPAVFVKCHDKSLNKKSG 475
*:***** * *****:*****:*.*:*****:***

```

Figure S24. Sequence alignment of LPL derived from *Bos Taurus* (bovine) and *Homo Sapiens* (Human). Sequence alignment was run by an alignment tool provided by Uniprot.org database showing 92.21% homology. Uniprot IDs: P11151 for Bovine LPL (in blue) and P06858 for Human LPL (in black). Conserved amino acids indicated with *. Similar amino acids indicated with “:”, somewhat similar amino acids indicated with “.”. Tryptophan-rich loop indicated in purple box.

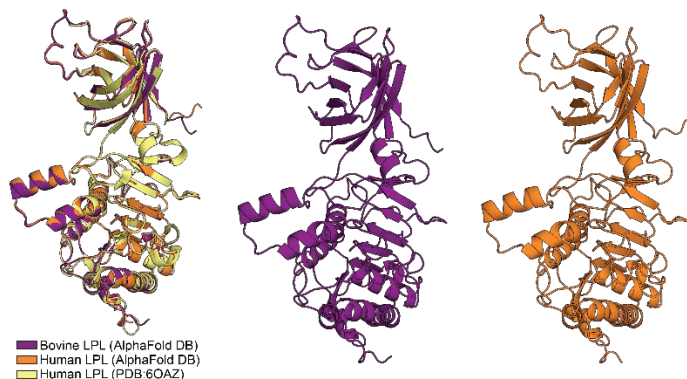


Figure S25. AlphaFold and X-ray protein structures overlap. The AlphaFold DB^{5,6} models of bovine and human LPL closely overlap with the human LPL crystal structure (PDB: 6OAZ)⁷.

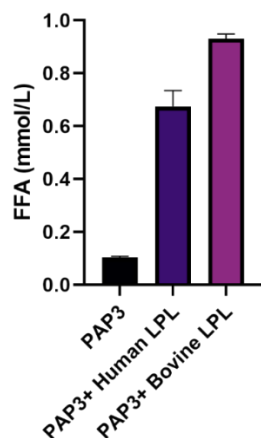


Figure S26. Release of FFA from PAP3 liposomes incubating with Human LPL and Bovine LPL. PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C with LPL for 120 min.

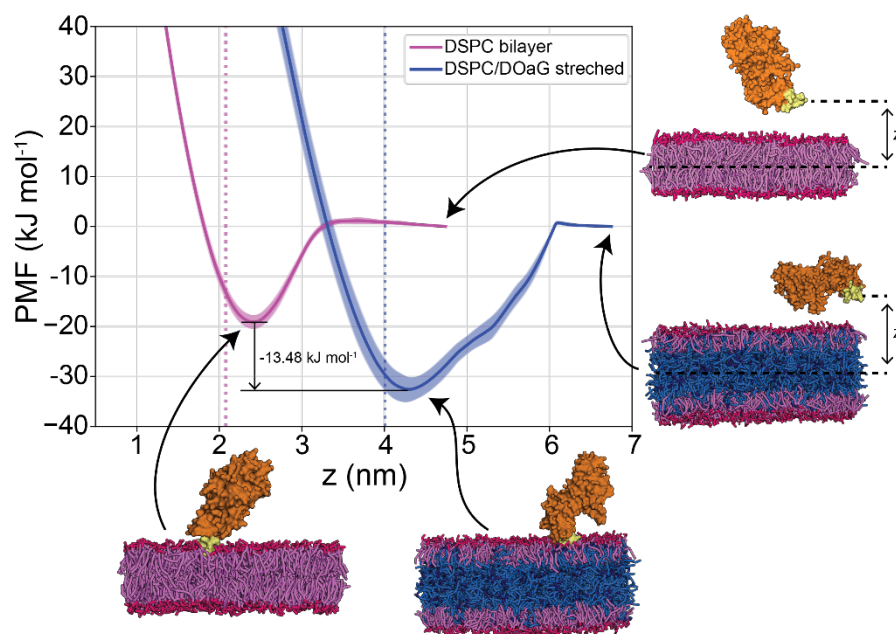


Figure S27. Potential of mean force (PMF) profiles of human LPL binding to a DSPC bilayer (in red-pink) and a DSPC/DOaG phase separated membrane (in red-pink/blue). The US reaction coordinate is the z-distance between the COM of the Trp-rich loop (in yellow) and the COM of the lipids (i.e. center plane of the membrane). Snapshots are the final frames of the trajectories and indicate that the protein is completely unbound at high z (free energy = 0 kJ mol⁻¹) and membrane-bound through the Trp-rich loop at the minima. Dotted lines indicate the position of the DSPC head groups (NC3 beads).

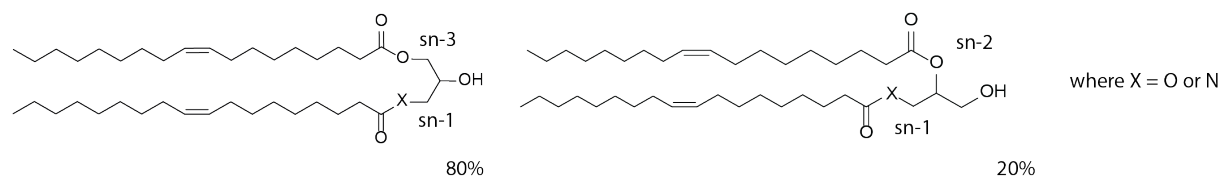
Materials and Methods

General reagents

1,2-distearoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine (DSPC), was purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids (Alabaster, AL, US). Additional DSPC was purchased from Lipoid GmbH. XEN445, Lipoprotein Lipase derived from Bovine milk and Lipoprotein Lipase derived from *Burkholderia Sp.* was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Human LPL (recombinant derived from CHO cells) was purchased from R&D systems, Bio-technie. Non-Esterified Fatty Acid measurement kit (NEFA-HR2, FUJIFILM Wako chemicals) was purchased from Sopachem, the Netherlands. Anti-lipoprotein lipase monoclonal antibody - 5D2 clone and negative IgG isotype control - was purchased from Biorad, United Kingdom. All other chemical reagents were purchased at the highest grade available from Sigma Aldrich and used without further purification. All solvents were purchased from Biosolve Ltd. Ultrapure MilliQ[®] water, purified by a MilliQ Advantage A10 water purification system from MilliPore, was used throughout.

Synthesis of DOaG and DOG lipids

DOaG and DOG lipids were synthesized as previously reported⁸ and isolated as regioisomeric mixtures: 80% isomer where acyl chains substituting the *sn*-1 and *sn*-3 positions of the backbone and 20% isomer where acyl chains substituting the *sn*-1 and *sn*-2 positions of the backbone):



Lipoprotein Lipase

Lipoprotein Lipase (from bovine milk, Sigma-Aldrich) in ammonium sulfate suspension was centrifuged in a low protein binding tube (DNA Lobind, Eppendorf) for 15 min at 15.000 g (at 4 °C) and the supernatant was removed. The precipitate was then dissolved gently in Tris Buffer 10mM, pH 7.4 and spun again for 15 min at 15.000 g. The supernatant containing the dissolved protein was then kept and concentrated with spin filtration (Amicon, MWCO 10 kDa). The new concentration was determined using a NanoDrop[™] One/One^C Microvolume UV-Vis Spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific) according to Lambert's beer equation ($A = \epsilon b c$) with an extinction coefficient $\epsilon = 71040$ L/mol.

To ensure retrieval of all LPL from the manufacture's bottle, any leftover precipitate in the bottle was dissolved in Tris Buffer (10 mM, pH = 7.4) and dialyzed against the same buffer to remove residual ammonium sulfate. The solution was then centrifuged at 15000 g for 15 min and the supernatant was kept, concentrated and concentration was determined as stated above. LPL was then aliquoted in low protein binding tubes (DNA Lobind, Eppendorf) and kept at -80 °C until usage.

Lipoprotein Lipase (Human, derived from CHO cells) was firstly dialyzed against Tris Buffer 10 mM pH = 7.4 and then concentrated. The new concentration was determined as described above. Similarly, it was kept at -80 °C aliquoted for further use.

Inactivation of LPL

Lipase in Tris Buffer (10mM, pH=7.4) was added in a low protein binding tube (DNA LoBind, Eppendorf) and heated up to 95 °C for 10 min in a thermomixer (Eppendorf) to ensure denaturation.

Inhibition of LPL by XEN445 inhibitor

To inhibit the catalytic activity of LPL before incubation with PAP3 liposomes, the lipase was incubated for 30 min at room temperature with the TGL inhibitor XEN445 at different concentrations (titration). The inhibitor was freshly dissolved in DMSO as a stock solution of 10 mM and subsequently added to a low-protein binding Eppendorf tube (DNA-LoBind) containing LPL, to reach final concentration of 0, 50, 100, 500 or 1000 μM and at a constant DMSO content of 5% v/v. LPL concentration was so that it would reach 0.03 mg/mL final concentration after incubation with liposomes, as stated previously.

Cryo-TEM Quantification

Software Fiji (ImageJ) was used for image processing and quantification. Individual low magnification images (up to 3 images per sample) were used to provide a big population of at least 200 nanoparticles. Particles were then counted and divided into categories (lamellar, multilamellar, phase separated, solid particles), according to their morphology. Liposomes whose morphology was not able to be identified (due to image quality) were marked as “unidentifiable” and the value obtained was used as standard deviation for the rest of population. Liposomes that were seen to be on top or in close contact with the copper grid or overlapping with each other, were excluded from the quantification. Particles consisting of two distinct liposomal cores and one lipid droplet (i.e., sharing the droplet) were quantified as one individual phase-separated particle. For quantification and calculation of the radius of the PAP3 droplet, the area A (nm^2) of each individual droplet ($N = 100$) was measured by the 2D projection of liposomes as obtained by cryo-TEM imaging. The average droplet radius r (nm) was then calculated from the formula: $A = \pi r^2$.

Mass spectrometry analysis

Analysis of DSPC and DOaG by LC-MS/MS

Solutions of DSPC and DOaG (1 pmol/ μ L) were prepared in 5 mM ammonium formate, in methanol. The compounds were introduced in the mass spectrometer and the tuning conditions for both compounds were determined as indicated below.

MS/MS parameters

Mass Spectrometer	Xevo TQ-S micro (Waters)				
Capillary voltage	3.50 kV				
Source temperature	150°C				
Desolvation temperature	450°C				
Cone gas	50 L/h				
Desolvation gas	950 L/h				

Compound	Retention time (min)	Parent (m/z)	Daughter (m/z)	Cone Voltage (V)	Collision energy (V)
DOaG	2.51	620.9	602.9	15	15
DSPC	4.45	790.7	184.0	15	20

Lipid extraction

For the MS analysis and for each time point, 9 μ L of each sample (PAP3 liposomes incubating at 37 °C with or without LPL) was flash frozen in liquid nitrogen to ensure discontinuation of the hydrolysis. Subsequently the samples were extracted by a modified Bligh and Dyer extraction⁹ using acidic buffer (100 mM ammonium formate buffer, pH = 3.1). In an Eppendorf tube, 400 μ L methanol and 200 μ L of chloroform were added to the sample. The sample was vortexed for 30 min at room temperature and centrifuged for 10 min at 15,700 g to spin down precipitated protein. The supernatant was transferred to a new Eppendorf tube and 200 μ L chloroform and 350 μ L water were added for extraction of the lipids. After centrifugation (5 min at 15,700 g), the lower (organic) phase was transferred to a clean Eppendorf tube and the upper (aqueous) phase was re-extracted by adding 400 μ L of chloroform. Organic phases were pooled and taken to dryness at 45 °C under a nitrogen stream. Next, the residue was dissolved in 600 μ L of butanol and 600 μ L of water, mixed and centrifuged for 10 min at 15,700 g. The butanol phase was transferred to a clean tube and taken to dryness in Eppendorf Concentrator Plus at 45 °C. The residue was dissolved in 100 μ L methanol, stirred and sonicated in a bath for 30 s and centrifuged for 10 min at 15,700 \times g. Finally, 10 μ L of the supernatant was applied to the UPLC-MS/MS. Data are the average of 2 experiments.¹⁰

LC-MS/MS

Measurements were performed by reverse-phase liquid chromatography using a Waters UPLC-Xevo-TQS micro and a BEH C18 column, 2.1 × 50 mm with 1.7 μm particle size (Waters, USA), by applying an isocratic elution of methanol containing 10 mM ammonium formate. The UPLC program was applied for 7 min at a flow rate of 0.250 mL/min. The temperature of the column and of the autosampler were kept at 23°C and 10°C, respectively, during the run. Data were analyzed with Masslynx 4.2 Software (Waters Corporation; Milford MA).

Liposome characterization

Size and polydispersity measurements

Particle size and polydispersity were measured using a Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS (operating wavelength = 633 nm). Measurements were carried out at room temperature (25 °C) or at 37 °C in Tris Buffer 10 mM, pH = 7.4 and at a total lipid concentration of approx. 100 μM. All reported DLS measurements are the average of three measurements.

Table S1. Physicochemical properties of liposomes

Formulation	Size (nm)	PDI	T	Formulation	Size (nm)	PDI	T
PAP3	± 143.2	0.294	25	PAP3 + LPL:XEN445 0uM	±147.5	0.124	37
PAP3 30 min	± 151.8	0.330	37	PAP3 + LPL:XEN445 50uM	±146.9	0.117	37
PAP3 120 min	± 154.4	0.370	37	PAP3 + LPL:XEN445 100uM	±147.4	0.110	37
PAP3 300 min	± 150.8	0.350	37	PAP3 + LPL:XEN445 500uM	±141.2	0.116	37
PAP3 + LPL 30 min	± 159.5	0.085	37	PAP3 + LPL:XEN445 1000uM	±136.7	0.099	37
PAP3 + LPL 120 min	± 158.5	0.104	37	PAP3 (10% DOaG)	±97.5	0.051	25
PAP3 + LPL 300 min	± 166.0	0.200	37	PAP3 (20% DOaG)	±139.3	0.230	25
PAP3 + inactive LPL 30 min	± 146.3	0.275	37	PAP3 (30% DOaG)	±109.3	0.140	25
PAP3 + inactive LPL 120 min	± 141.5	0.256	37	PAP3 (10% DOaG) + LPL	±106.5	0.072	37
PAP3 + inactive LPL 300 min	± 140.4	0.269	37	PAP3 (20% DOaG) + LPL	±104.5	0.047	37
DSPC	± 135.7	0.344	37	PAP3 (30% DOaG) + LPL	±115.3	0.103	37
DSPC + LPL 30 min	± 142.0	0.265	37	PAP3 + LPL:5D2	±151.8	0.184	37
DSPC + LPL 120 min	± 148.4	0.382	37	PAP3 + LPL:IgG	±158.7	0.182	37
DSPC + LPL 300 min	± 128.1	0.208	37	PAP3 + bacterial LPL	±155.0	0.156	37
Myocet®-like (POPC:CHO_55:45) + LPL	± 114.2	0.065	37	PAP3 + bacterial LPL:5D2	±149.4	0.143	37

References

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