

Publish or perish:

**How the rush to publish
risks misleading
research and delays in
cure discovery ?**

EPFL Parkinson's disease by numbers

Prevalence:
10 millions
patients
2024



worldwide

~25 millions
2050
+112%

60% increase in the number of cases over 20 years
20'000 euros/patient/year

Cost:
€250
billions
annual

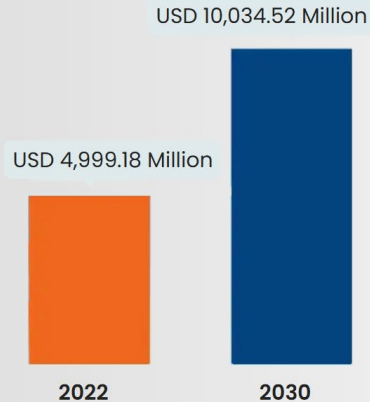
EPFL Parkinson's Disease in numbers

Pharma point of view

Global Parkinsons Disease Treatment Market

Market Size in USD Billion

CAGR : 9.10% 



Forecast Period

2023 –2030



Market Size (Base Year)

USD 4,999.18 Million



Market Size (Forecast Year)

USD 10,034.52 Million



CAGR

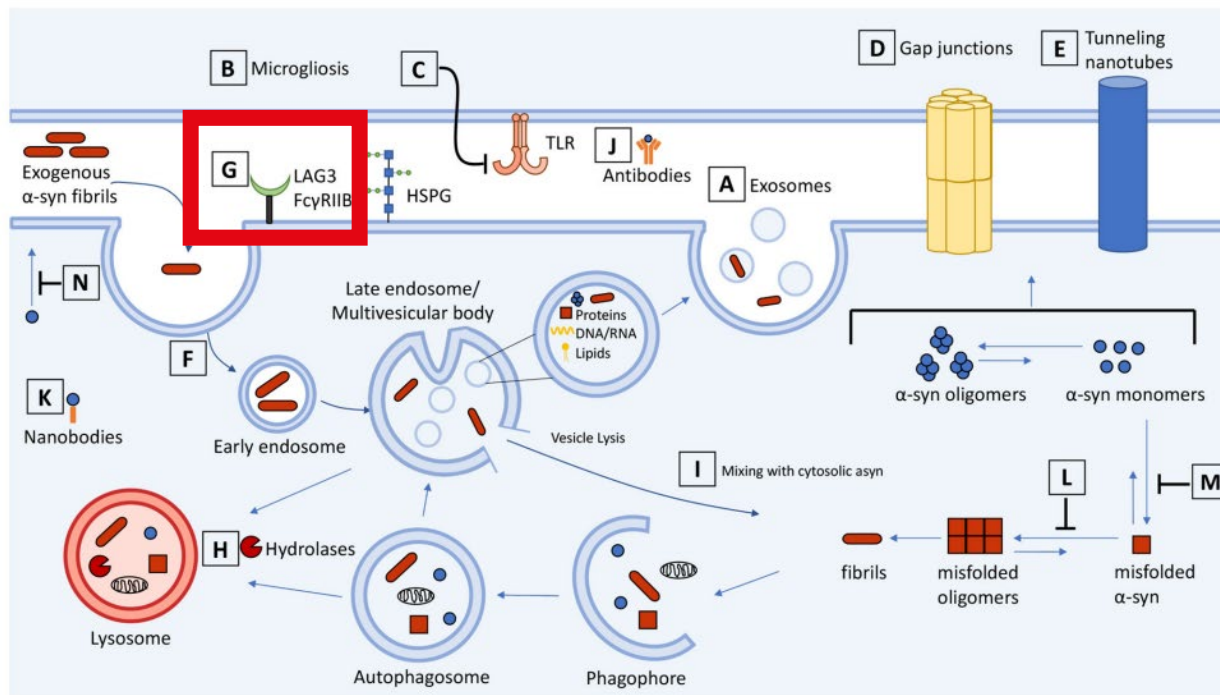
9.10 %



Major Markets Players

- GlaxoSmithKline plc.
- Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
- Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH.
- Impax Laboratories LLC
- AbbVie Inc.

EPFL Cell-to-cell transmission, internalization, and trafficking of aSyn and therapeutic targets along the pathways



Menon et al., 2022

TABLE 1 | Therapeutic targets and drugs from Figure 1.

| Target | Drugs |
|--|---|
| 1) Inhibitors of microglial activation Figure 1B | Hypoestoxide Lenalidomide Candesartan cilxetil |
| 2) Microglial toll-like receptor inhibitors Figure 1C | NPT520-34 CU-CPT22 |
| 3) Gap junction blockers Figure 1D | CBX Gap3211 Gap2409 Gap2605 |
| 4) Endocytosis inhibitors Figure 1F | Dynasore Sertraline |
| 5) Autophagy and lysosome inducers Figure 1H | Rapamycin Metformin Trehalose Nilotinib KYP-2407 Ambroxol AR7 |
| 6) Misfolding inhibitors Figures 1L,M | NPT200-11 Citr01 EGCG Anle1386 Plant extracts and phytochemicals SynuClean-D Apigenin |
| 7) Lipid-induced aggregation inhibitors Figure 1N | ENT-01 Trodsuene NPT200-11 |

Comparing two scientific papers that present contradictory conclusions on the same topic

1

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY

NEURODEGENERATION

Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3

Xiaobo Mao, Michael Tianhao Ou, Senthilkumar S. Karuppagounder, Tae-In Kam, Xiling Yin, Yulan Xiong, Preston Ge, George Essien Umanah, Saurav Brahmachari, Joo-Ho Shin, Ho Chul Kang, Jianmin Zhang, Jinchong Xu, Rong Chen, Hyejin Park, Shaida A. Andrabi, Sung Ung Kang, Rafaella Araújo Gonçalves, Yu Liang, Shu Zhang, Chen Qi, Sharon Lam, James A. Keiler, Joel Tyson, Donghoon Kim, Nikhil Panicker, Seung Pil Yun, Creg J. Workman, Dario A. A. Vignali, Valina L. Dawson,* Han Seok Ko,* Ted M. Dawson*

2

Article

Chec

SOURCE DATA
 TRANSPARENT PROCESS
 OPEN ACCESS

EMBO
 Molecular Medicine

LAG3 is not expressed in human and murine neurons and does not modulate α -synucleinopathies

Marc Emmenegger^{1,†} , Elena De Cecco^{1,†} , Marian Hruska-Plochan^{2,†} , Timo Eninger^{3,4}, Matthias M Schneider⁵ , Melanie Barth^{3,4}, Elena Tantardini² , Pierre de Rossi², Mehtap Bacioglu^{3,4} , Rebekah G Langston⁶, Alice Kaganovich⁶, Nora Bengoa-Vergniory⁷ , Andrés Gonzalez-Guerra¹, Merve Avar¹ , Daniel Heinzer¹ , Regina Reimann¹, Lisa M Häslér^{3,4}, Therese W Herling⁵, Naunehal S Matharu⁵, Natalie Landeck⁶ , Kelvin Luk⁸ , Ronald Melki⁹ , Philipp J Kahle^{3,10}, Simone Hornemann¹ , Tuomas P J Knowles^{5,11}, Mark R Cookson⁶ , Magdalini Polymenidou², Mathias Jucker^{3,4} & Adriano Aguzzi^{1,*}

PDFs are in the [Moodle Bio480/Folder « Impact of publication in therapeutic strategy »](#)

Carefully read both papers in the indicated order (1 then 2) and find the controversy and how this can impact therapeutic strategies!

■ Bio480 – Impact of publication in therapeutic strategy

Comparing two scientific papers that present contradictory conclusions on the same topic

For each paper, identify and summarize the following components:

A. Identify key components:

- **Research question:** What question or problem is the paper trying to address?
- **Hypothesis:** What is the hypothesis or hypotheses stated in the paper?
- **Methodology:** *What methods were used to conduct the research? Consider sample size, experimental design, data collection methods, and any controls.*
- **Results:** What were the key findings of the study? Summarize the results briefly.
- **Conclusions:** What conclusions did the authors draw from their results?
- **Strengths and weaknesses:** *What are the strengths and weaknesses of each paper? Consider aspects such as sample size, methodological rigor, potential biases, and the validity of the conclusions.*

B. Compare and contrast:

- **Differences in methodology:** How do the methodologies differ between the two studies? How might these differences affect the results and conclusions?
- **Contradictory results:** What are the key points of contradiction between the results and conclusions of the two papers?
- **Evaluation of evidence:** Evaluate the evidence presented in each paper. Which paper do you find more convincing and why? Consider the reliability and validity of the data and the soundness of the arguments presented.
- **Bias and limitations:** Are there any apparent biases or limitations in either paper that could affect the results? Discuss any potential conflicts of interest, funding sources, or other factors that could introduce bias.

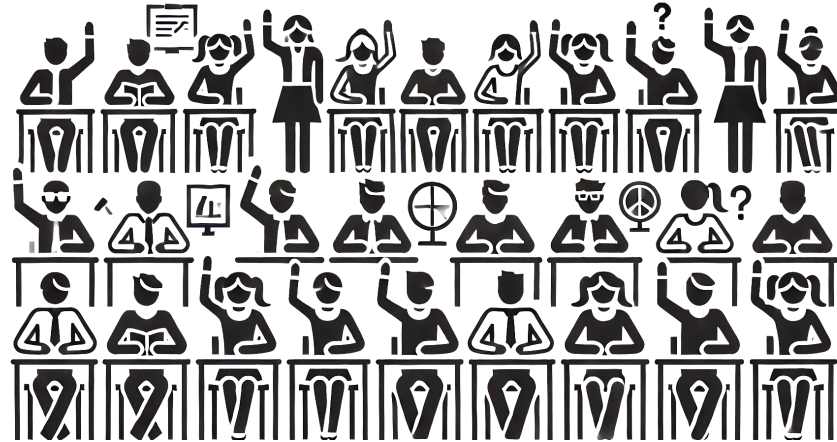
EPFL Learn how to engage in critical thinking: **Tips and Hints**

Comparing two scientific papers that present contradictory conclusions on the same topic

| Title | Authors (1st and last) | Keywords | Methods | Main results | Conclusions | Key figures | Others comments |
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How to read a scientific paper efficiently?

Practical exercises



Paper 1: Pathological aSyn transmission initiated by binding LAG3

Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3

Xiaobo Mao, Michael Tianhao Ou, Senthilkumar S. Karuppagounder, Tae-In Kam, Xiling Yin, Yulan Xiong, Preston Ge, George Essien Umanah, Saurav Brahmachari, Joo-Ho Shin, Ho Chul Kang, Jianmin Zhang, Jinchong Xu, Rong Chen, Hyejin Park, Shaida A. Andrabi, Sung Ung Kang, Rafaella Araújo Gonçalves, Yu Liang, Shu Zhang, Chen Qi, Sharon Lam, James A. Keller, Joel Tyson, Donghoon Kim, Nikhil Panicker, Seung Pil Yun, Creg J. Workman, Dario A. A. Vignali, Valina L. Dawson,* Han Seok Ko,* Ted M. Dawson*

| Title | Authors (1st and Last) | Keywords | Rationale | Methods | Main results | Key Figures | Conclusions | What's next ? | Key Figures | Others comments |
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- **Keywords:**
Parkinson's disease; alpha-synuclein; LAG3; receptor; internalization; transmission; spreading; brain
- **Methods:**
Cellular and in vivo models:
mammalian cells (SH-SY5Y), primary neurons (cortical), in vivo mice model
Read-out:
immunocytochemistry/immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy (imaging), Western Blot (biochemistry), ELISA, IP

Paper 1: Pathological aSyn transmission initiated by binding LAG3

Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3

Xiaobo Mao, Michael Tianhao Ou, Senthilkumar S. Karuppagounder, Tae-In Kam, Xiling Yin, Yulan Xiong, Preston Ge, George Essien Umanah, Saurav Brahmachari, Joo-Ho Shin, Ho Chul Kang, Jianmin Zhang, Jinchong Xu, Rong Chen, Hyejin Park, Shaida A. Andrabi, Sung Ung Kang, Rafaella Araújo Gonçalves, Yu Liang, Shu Zhang, Chen Qi, Sharon Lam, James A. Keller, Joel Tyson, Donghoon Kim, Nikhil Panicker, Seung Pil Yun, Creg J. Workman, Dario A. A. Vignali, Valina L. Dawson,* Han Seok Ko,* Ted M. Dawson*

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- **Conclusions:**

- Targeting LAG3 may offer a potential therapeutic strategy to slow or prevent the spread of alpha-synuclein and, consequently, Parkinson's disease progression.

- **What's next ?:**

- Test or develop pharmaceutical compounds that block LAG3

How to read a scientific paper efficiently?

Paper 2: LAG3 is not expressed in human and murin neurons and does not modulate synucleinopathies

LAG3 is not expressed in human and murine neurons and does not modulate α -synucleinopathies

Marc Emmenegger^{1,†}, Elena De Cecco^{1,†}, Marian Hruska-Plochan^{2,†}, Timo Eninger^{3,4}, Matthias M Schneider⁵, Melanie Barth^{3,4}, Elena Tantardini², Pierre de Rossi², Mehtap Baciglu^{3,4}, Rebekah G Langston⁶, Alice Kaganovich⁶, Nora Bengoa-Vergniory⁷, Andr s Gonzalez-Guerra¹, Merve Avar¹, Daniel Heinzer¹, Regina Reimann¹, Lisa M H sler^{3,4}, Therese W Herling⁹, Naunehal S Matharu⁵, Natalie Landeck⁸, Kelvin Luk⁸, Ronald Melki⁹, Philipp J Kahle^{3,10}, Simone Hornemann¹, Tuomas P J Knowles^{5,11}, Mark R Cookson⁶, Magdalini Polymenidou², Mathias Jucker^{3,4} & Adriano Aguzzi^{1,†}

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- Keywords:**

Parkinson's disease; alpha-synuclein; LAG3; receptor; internalization; transmission; spreading; brain

- Methods:**

Cellular and in vivo models:

mammalian cells (SH-SY5Y), primary neurons (cortical), in vivo mice model

Read-out:

immunocytochemistry/immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy (imaging), Western Blot (biochemistry), scRNAseq, RT-QPCR, ELISA, IP

How to read a scientific paper efficiently?

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LAG3 is not expressed in human and murine neurons and does not modulate α -synucleinopathies

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- **Rationale:**

The rationale of this paper is to investigate the expression of LAG3 in human and murine neurons and to assess its potential role in modulating alpha-synucleinopathies. The study aims to clarify whether LAG3 is involved in the transmission and progression of alpha-synuclein-related neurodegenerative processes, such as those seen in Parkinson's disease, challenging previous findings that suggested LAG3 plays a significant role in these diseases.

- **Main results and key Figures:**

- LAG3 is not detected in human or mouse neurons (Fig.1 and 2)
- Deleting or blocking LAG3 in mouse models does not affect the spread or pathology of aSyn aggregates (Fig 4 and 5).
- LAG3 does not contribute to the development or progression of alpha-synucleinopathies, including Parkinson's disease, in experimental models (Fig 4 and 5).

How to read a scientific paper efficiently?

Paper 2: LAG3 is not expressed in human and murin neurons and does not modulate synucleinopathies

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Marc Emmenegger^{1,†}, Elena De Cecco^{1,†}, Marian Hruska-Plochan^{2,†}, Timo Eninger^{3,4}, Matthias M. Schneider⁵, Melanie Barth^{3,4}, Elena Tantardini², Pierre de Rossi², Mehtap Bacioglu^{3,4}, Rebekah G Langston⁶, Alice Kaganovich⁶, Nora Bengoa-Vergniory⁷, Andr s Gonzalez-Guerra¹, Merve Avar¹, Daniel Heinzer¹, Regina Reimann¹, Lisa M H sler^{3,4}, Therese W Herling³, Naunehal S Matharu³, Natalie Landeck⁸, Kelvin Luk⁸, Ronald Melki⁹, Philipp J Kahle^{3,10}, Simone Hornemann¹, Tuomas P J Knowles^{5,11}, Mark R Cookson⁶, Magdalini Polymenidou², Mathias Jucker^{3,4} & Adriano Aguzzi^{1,†}

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• Conclusions:

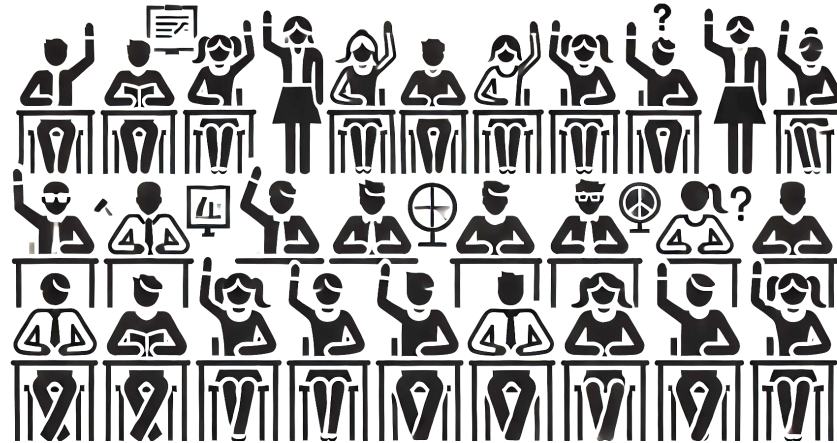
- The study concludes that LAG3 is not expressed in human or mouse neurons and does not play a role in the transmission or pathology of alpha-synuclein in neurodegenerative diseases.
- Previous findings suggesting that LAG3 facilitates the spread of alpha-synuclein are not supported by the current data.
- The role of LAG3 in alpha-synucleinopathies is likely minimal or nonexistent, indicating that LAG3 is not a viable therapeutic target for treating aSyn-related neurodegenerative diseases.

• What's next ?:

- Further research is needed to identify the actual mechanisms and receptors involved in the spread of alpha-synuclein pathology.

EPFL How to read a scientific paper (efficiently) ?

Engage in critical thinking – always try to be constructive



Who is right ? Who is wrong ?

EPFL How to read a scientific paper (efficiently) ?

Engage in critical thinking – always try to be constructive

- **Study design and methodology, statistical significance and effect size** : Evaluate the robustness of each study's design, sample size, controls, and statistical analysis.
- **Quality of evidence**: Evaluate the overall quality and consistency of the evidence presented.
- **Biological plausibility**: Assess whether the findings align with current scientific understanding and known mechanisms.
- **Journal and author credibility**: Consider the reputation of the journals and expertise of the (last) authors.

<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/basic-search>

Ted Dawson

Highly Cited Award Recipient
(Dawson, Ted M.) | Johns Hopkins University

Identifiers
Web of Science ResearcherID: AFQ-7553-2022
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6459-0893>

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Organizations
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Web of Science Core Collection metrics

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| 154 | 634 |
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AA Adriano Aguzzi

(Honnemann, Simone) | University of Zurich

Identifiers
Web of Science ResearcherID: A-3351-2008

Published names
Aguzzi, Adriano Aguzzi, A AGUZZI, A Aguzzi, A. Aguzzi, Alessia Show more

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| 0 | Dissertations or Theses |
| 2 | Non-indexed publications |
| 0 | Verified peer reviews |
| 0 | Verified editor records |

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| H Index | Publications |

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- Publications indexed in Web of Science (856)
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EPFL Journal credibility: Impact factors and metrics

<https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr/home>

SCIENCE

2023 JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

44.7

EMBO Molecular Medicine

2023 JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

9.0

Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3

XIAOBO MAO, MICHAEL TIANHAO QIU, SENTHILKUMAR S. KARUPPAGOUNDUR, TAE IN KAM [-], AND TED M. DAWSON

+27 authors [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE · 30 Sep 2016 · Vol 353, Issue 6307 · DOI:10.1126/science.125374

5,217 410

Metrics

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Total Citations 410

Last 6 Months 0

Last 12 Months 3

stract

(PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder and leads to slow-

LAG3 is not expressed in human and murine neurons and does not modulate α -synucleinopathies

Marc Emmenegger, Elena De Cecco, Marian Hruska-Plochan, Timo Enlinger, Matthias M Schneider, Melanie Barth, Elena Tantardini, Pierre de Rossi, Mehtap Bacloğlu, Rebekah G Langston, Alice Kaganovich, Nora Bengoa-Vergniory, Andrés Gonzalez-Guerra, Merve Avar, Daniel Heizer, Regina Reilmann, Lisa M Häslér, Therese W Herling, Naunehal S Matharu, Natalie Landeck, Kelvin Luk, Ronald Meiki, Philipp J Kahle, Simone Hornemann, Tuomas P J Knowles, and Adriano Aguzzi

[AUTHOR INFORMATION](#)

EMBO Mol Med [2021] 13: e14745 | <https://doi.org/10.15252/emmm.202114745>

[Peer Review](#)

Abstract

While the initial pathology of Parkinson's disease and other α -synucleinopathies is often confined to circumscribed brain regions, it can spread and progressively affect adjacent and distant brain locales. This process may be controlled by cellular receptors of α -synuclein fibrils, one of which was proposed to be the LAG3 immune

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- **Journal and author credibility**: Consider the reputation of the journals and expertise of the authors.
- **Conflicts of interest**: Identify any potential biases from funding sources or affiliations (check this section in the paper).
- **Reproducibility**: Check if findings have been independently replicated by other studies.
- **Community consensus**: Consider expert opinions and the overall consensus in the scientific community.
- **Follow-up research**: Look for further studies that clarify or resolve conflicting findings.

EPFL How to read a scientific paper (efficiently) ?

Engage in critical thinking – reproducibility across independent studies

Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3

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¹Neuroregeneration and Stem Cell Programs, Institute for Cell Engineering, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. ²Department of Neurology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. ³Kelowna Health/McLean Medical Research Foundation, New Okwan, 18-7030-3605, USA. ⁴Division of Pharmacology, Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Samsung Biomedical Research Institute, Suwon 440-740, South Korea. ⁵Department of Physiology, Kyu University School of Medicine, Suwon 443-745, South Korea. ⁶Department of Neurology, Kim Il-Sung Hospital affiliated to Shengqi Jiaotong University School of Medicine, Shengqi 026000, China. ⁷Yonsei Institute for NanoBio Technology, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea. ⁸Department of Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA. ⁹Tumor Microenvironment Center, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA. ¹⁰Department of Physiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. ¹¹Solomon H. Snyder Department of Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. ¹²Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.

LAG3 is not expressed in human and murine neurons and does not modulate α -synucleinopathies

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¹Institute of Neuropathology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
²Department of Quantitative Biomedicine, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
³German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Tübingen, Germany
⁴Department of Cellular Neurology, Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
⁵Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry, Centre for Addiction Diseases, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
⁶Cell Biology and Gene Expression Section, Laboratory of Neurogenetics, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA
⁷Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, Oxford Parkinson's Disease Center (OPDC), Oxford University, Oxford, UK
⁸Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Centre for Neurodegenerative Disease Research, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA
⁹Laboratory of Neurodegenerative Diseases, CNRS, Institut François Jacob (IMRC), CEA, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France
¹⁰Department of Neurodegeneration, Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
¹¹Cavendish Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
[†]Corresponding author: Tel: +41 44 255 21 07; E-mail: adriano.aguzzi@uzh.ch
[†]These authors contributed equally to this work

Studies gain more power and credibility when a **consortium of independent laboratories** from **different locations** around the world replicate the same findings. This approach, known as **translational validation**, ensures that results are not specific to one lab's conditions, techniques, or biases, but rather reflect a more universal scientific truth.

By confirming findings across various settings and labs, the scientific community can be more confident in the **robustness** and applicability of the results. Additionally, global collaboration can pool resources, expertise, and unique perspectives, further enhancing the **quality and impact of research**.

How to read a scientific paper (efficiently) ?

Engage in critical thinking – Community consensus

Search online to see if there is any debate, or published response/review regarding studies with opposing findings.

In general
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For the neurodegenerative diseases
field of research:

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Mao X, Ou MT, Karuppagounder SS, Kam TL, Yin X, Xiong Y, Ge P, Umanah GE, Brahmachari S, Shin JH, Kang HC, Zhang J, Xu J, Chen R, Park H, Andrabi SA, Kang SU, Goncalves RA, Liang Y, Zhang S, Qi C, Lam S, Keller JA, Tyson J, Kim D, Fanicker N, Yun SB, Workman CJ, Vignali DA, Dawson VL, Ko HS, Dawson TM. **Pathological α -synuclein transmission initiated by binding lymphocyte-activation gene 3. *Science*. 2016 Sep 30;353(6307) PubMed.**


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COMMENTS

 **Todd E. Golde**
Goizueta Institute @ Emory Brain Health
Posted: 03 Oct 2016
News: Immune Receptor May Smuggle α -Synuclein into Neurons, Hasten Proteopathy


These data look quite interesting and the binding rather compelling. But I would caution that LAG3 is an immune checkpoint molecule whose expression in mice is thought to be largely restricted to T-cells and, in the ... [MORE](#)

 **Patrik Brundin**
Associate Director of the Van Andel Research Institute, and Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Science
Posted: 05 Oct 2016
News: Immune Receptor May Smuggle α -Synuclein into Neurons, Hasten Proteopathy

The study by Mao and collaborators is extremely interesting. It addresses the issue of whether specific mechanisms govern neuronal uptake of α -synuclein fibrils from the extracellular space. The demonstrations that lymphocyte-activation gene 3 (LAG3) protein is a surface protein that binds α -synuclein fibrils, specifically in neurons, and that it is involved in the endocytosis of the ... [MORE](#)

 **Ted Dawson**
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Posted: 07 Oct 2016
News: Immune Receptor May Smuggle α -Synuclein into Neurons, Hasten Proteopathy

Todd Golde suggests that LAG3 expression is largely restricted to T-cells and, in the brain, microglia. It is true that LAG3 is expressed in both T-cells and the brain. Indeed, one of the first papers characterizing LAG3 showed that it is ... [MORE](#)

 **Todd E. Golde**
Goizueta Institute @ Emory Brain Health
Posted: 14 Oct 2016
News: Immune Receptor May Smuggle α -Synuclein into Neurons, Hasten Proteopathy

Our consortium RNAseq data is available at synapse.org, along with other groups' data.

This data and RNAseq data from Ben Barres and colleagues at Stanford is consistent and pretty unequivocal. In humans, Lag3 RNA levels are ~500- to 1000-fold lower in the brain than APLP1. In the single study by Barres and colleagues, LAG3 RNA is almost undetectable. In mice it's about 100-fold lower ... [MORE](#)

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BioENG-430 – How to read a scientific paper efficiently?

Original Investigation

March 20, 2024

Skin Biopsy Detection of Phosphorylated α -Synuclein in Patients With Synucleinopathies

Christopher H. Gibbons, MD, MMSc¹; Todd Levine, MD^{2,3}; Charles Adler, MD, PhD⁴; et al

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. 2024;331(15):1298-1306. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.0792

Comment & Response

July 29, 2024

Detection of Phosphorylated α -Synuclein in Patients With Synucleinopathies

Hengjia Tu, MD¹; Yuzhuo Zhang, MD¹; Zhixuan You, MD³

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. 2024;332(8):671. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.11920

To the Editor We have some concerns about a recent study¹ about phosphorylated α -synuclein as a diagnostic biomarker for synucleinopathies.

First, the use of skin biopsy for detection of phosphorylated α -synuclein (P-SYN) raises questions about the procedure's sensitivity and specificity, which are important for its potential clinical applicability. While the authors reported a positive rate of P-SYN detection in clinically confirmed cases, the variability in biopsy site selection and the limitations of immunohistochemical techniques may introduce bias and affect the reproducibility of results. Prior research has highlighted the heterogeneity of α -synuclein pathology within the skin, suggesting that a single biopsy may not be representative.² Multiple biopsies from various anatomical sites or incorporation of complementary diagnostic methods may have enhanced diagnostic accuracy.

Second, the study's statistical analysis, particularly the handling of missing data and the application of post hoc exploratory analysis, could have potentially affected the interpretation of the primary outcomes.

Third, the decision-making process behind the exclusion of certain participants for subgroup analysis needs to be clarified to ensure the findings' validity.

Fourth, while detection of P-SYN in skin biopsies could represent a breakthrough in diagnostics, the clinical relevance of these findings—such as their effect on disease prognosis, treatment decisions, and patient quality of life—remains unclear. Future research should correlate biopsy findings with clinical outcomes in the treatment of patients with synucleinopathies.

July 29, 2024

Detection of Phosphorylated α -Synuclein in Patients With Synucleinopathies—Reply

Christopher H. Gibbons, MD, MMSc¹; Todd Levine, MD²; Roy Freeman, MD³

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. 2024;332(8):671-672. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.11923

Related Articles

In Reply We appreciate the Letter by Dr Tu and colleagues about our article on skin biopsy detection of P-SYN.¹ We agree that P-SYN deposition within the skin is variable, and that a single skin biopsy may not be sufficient in all patients. In prior work, we determined that the use of 3 skin biopsies from anatomically different locations optimally balanced sensitivity, specificity, and convenience, while providing information on the topographic distribution of synuclein deposition.² In the present study, 28% of cases had only a single skin biopsy positive for P-SYN, 36% had 2 of 3 positive for P-SYN, and 36% had 3 of 3 positive for P-SYN. Thus, we continue to recommend that 3 skin biopsies, from 3 distinct and standard locations, be used.

We agree with Tu and colleagues about the importance of research into complementary diagnostic techniques. At present, the seed amplification assay is a potential candidate; however, when performed on cerebrospinal fluid, there is no added sensitivity, specificity, or patient convenience. When performed on skin biopsies, seed amplification assay has lower specificity without increased sensitivity.³ Future studies such as measurement of extracellular vesicle-associated α -synuclein should also be considered.

We also agree with the need to ensure unbiased handling of missing data and a rigorous approach to study design. In this study,¹ all outcomes (primary, secondary, and exploratory) were prespecified and previously published.⁴ The reclassification of patients who did not meet defined entry criteria into a secondary analysis cohort was an integral feature of our study design. An expert panel was established to review medical records and ensure that all patients met the prespecified individual disease diagnostic criteria and reclassified those who did not. The panel was blinded to pathology test results to avoid any bias.⁵ There were no missing primary data within this study. The amount of missing secondary data in this study was very small (<0.05% of total data) and did not materially alter any study results.

Tu and colleagues also raise important questions about the clinical utility of this potential diagnostic test. The current study was specifically designed to answer questions about the sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of skin biopsy detection of P-SYN in the synucleinopathies. We agree with the need for future studies to address important questions such as the effect of this diagnostic test on disease prognosis, treatment decisions, and patient quality of life. These questions have increasing relevance in an era of advancing therapeutics that target neurodegenerative diseases and address the increasing need for reliable, reproducible, accessible, and cost-effective biomarkers. Several longitudinal trials are ongoing that will aid in understanding the role of skin biopsy detection

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ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-019-0423-2>

Lewy pathology in Parkinson's disease consists of crowded organelles and lipid membranes

Sarah H. Shahmoradian^{1,2}, Amanda J. Lewis¹, Christel Genoud², Jürgen Hench³, Tim E. Moors⁴, Paula P. Navarro¹, Daniel Castaño-Díez¹, Gabriel Schweighauser³, Alexandra Graff-Meyer², Kenneth N. Goldie¹, Rosmarie Sütterlin¹, Evelien Huisman⁴, Angela Ingrassia⁴, Yvonne de Gier⁴, Annemieke J. M. Rozemuller⁵, Jing Wang¹, Anne De Paepe⁶, Johannes Erny⁷, Andreas Staempfli⁷, Joerg Hoernschemeyer⁷, Frederik Großeruschkamp⁸, Daniel Niedieker⁸, Samir F. El-Mashtoly⁹, Marialuisa Quadri⁹, Wilfred F. J. Van IJcken¹⁰, Vincenzo Bonifati⁹, Klaus Gerwert⁸, Bernd Bohrmann¹¹, Stephan Frank³, Markus Britschgi^{11,13}, Henning Stahlberg^{11,13*}, Wilma D. J. Van de Berg^{4,13*} and Matthias E. Lauer^{4,13*}

Neurobiology of Disease 141 (2020) 104876

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Review

Do Lewy bodies contain alpha-synuclein fibrils? and Does it matter? A brief history and critical analysis of recent reports

Hilal A. Lashuel

Laboratory of Molecular and Chemical Biology of Neurodegeneration, Brain Mind Institute, EPFL, Lausanne, CH 1015, Switzerland



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Thomas Südhof



Südhof in 2024

Born Thomas Christian Südhof
December 22, 1955 (age 68)
Göttingen, Germany

Nationality German
American^{[3][4]}

Alma mater RWTH Aachen University
University of Göttingen (PhD)

Known for Presynaptic Neuron
Synaptic Transmission

Spouse Lu Chen

Awards Lasker Award (2013)
Nobel Prize (2013)

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Neurexin-2: An inhibitory neurexin that restricts excitatory synapse formation in the hippocampus

Pei-Yi Lin, Lulu Y. Chen, Man Jiang, Justin H. Trotter, Erica Seigneur, Thomas C. Südhof

Science Advances (2023)

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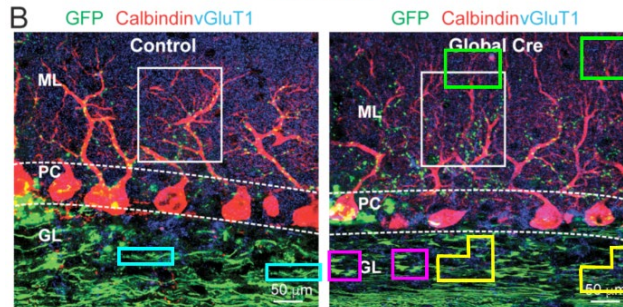
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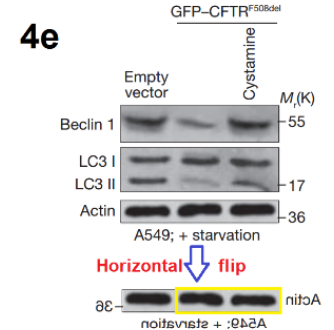
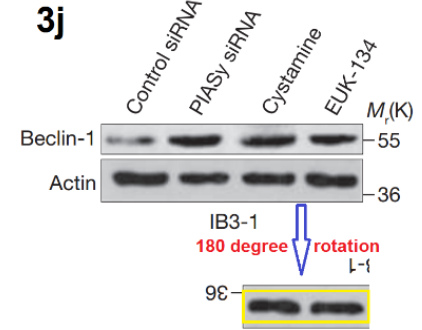
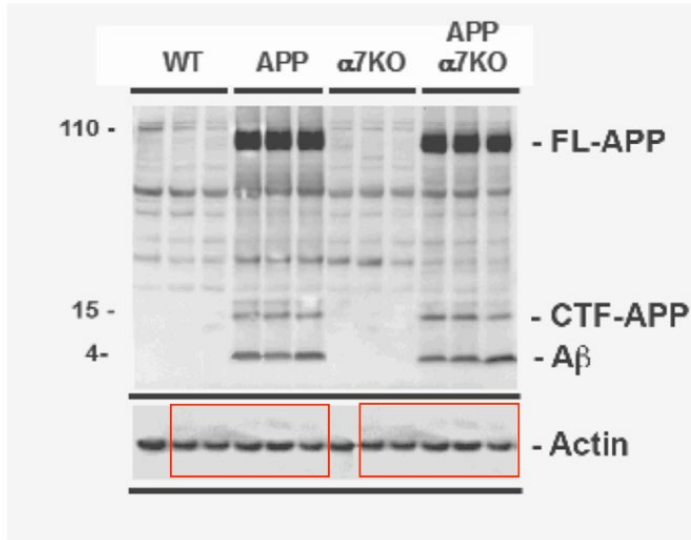
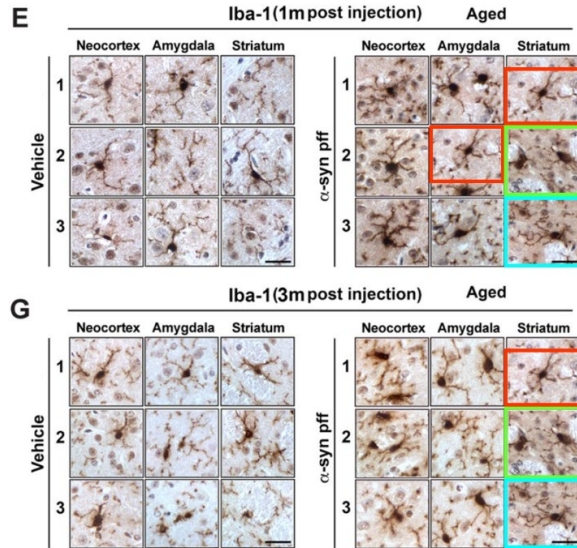


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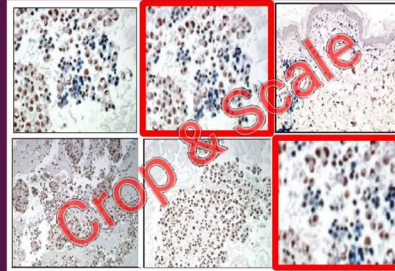
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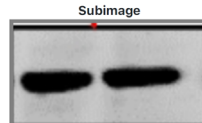


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