



COMBINING DIAGNOSTICS AND
THERAPEUTICS
**PIONEERING
PRECISION MEDICINE**

**An integrated approach to target Parkinson's
disease and other Synucleinopathies**

Elpida Tsika, PhD | October 28th, 2025



Outline

- Why alpha-synuclein
- Active immunotherapy
- Targeting intracellular aggregates
- Diagnostic PET tracer

Parkinson's disease (PD)

An unmet clinical need



Most common neurodegenerative movement disorder

Fastest growing prevalence and disability neurological disease¹



Etiology

5-10% genetic, 90-95% idiopathic, unknown cause



Cardinal motor symptoms

Tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia



Common non-motor symptoms

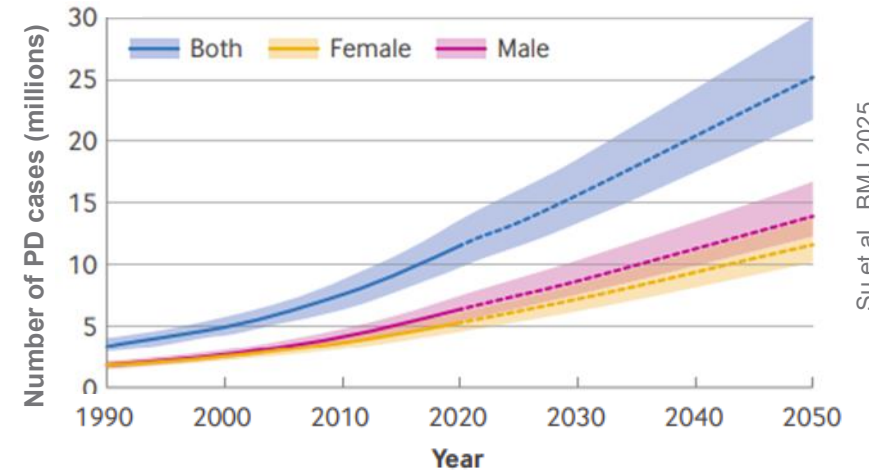
Sleep disorder, depression, cognitive impairment



Pathological hallmarks

Neuron loss, alpha-synuclein aggregates – Lewy bodies

Estimated trends in number of PD cases globally

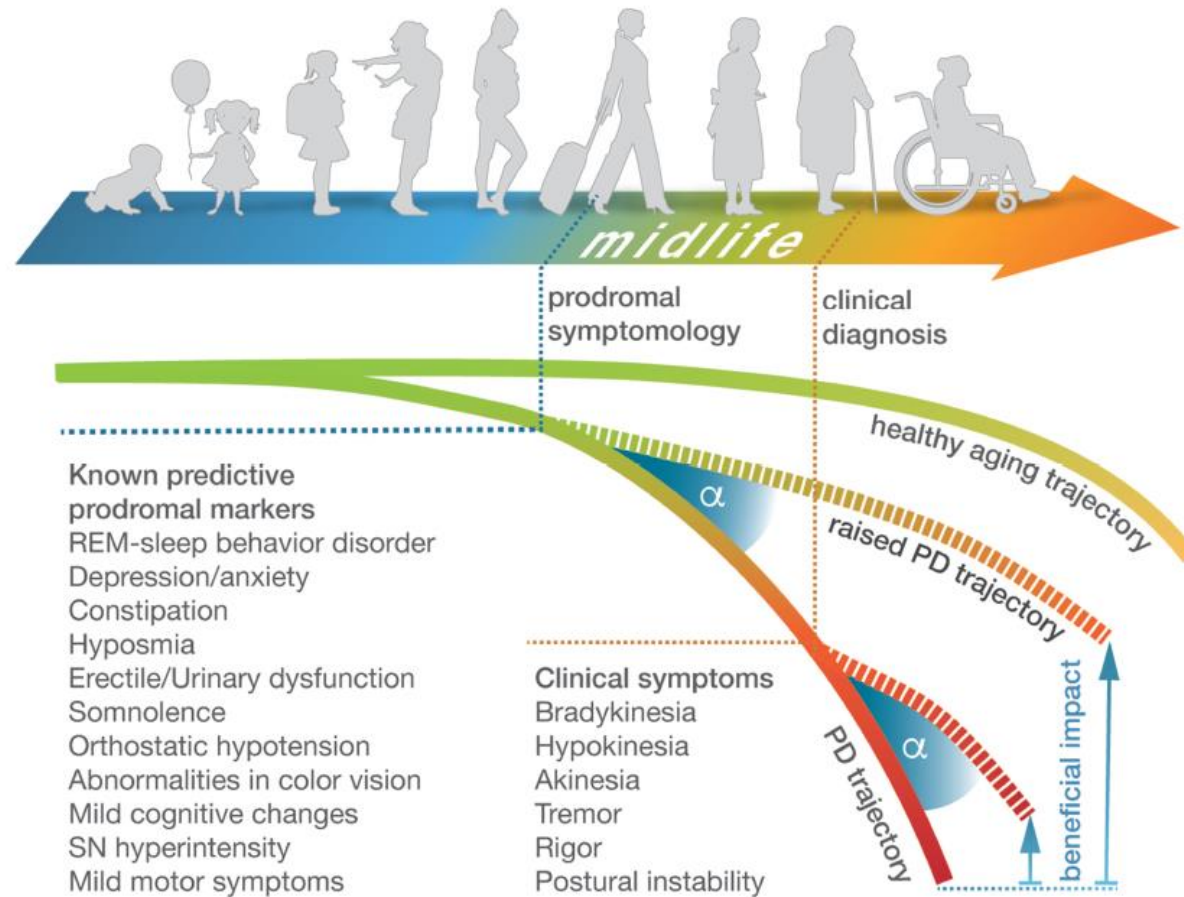


Su et al., BMJ 2025

(1) GBD 2015 Neurological Disorders Collaborator Group. Lancet Neurol 2017

Parkinson's disease prodromal and clinical symptoms

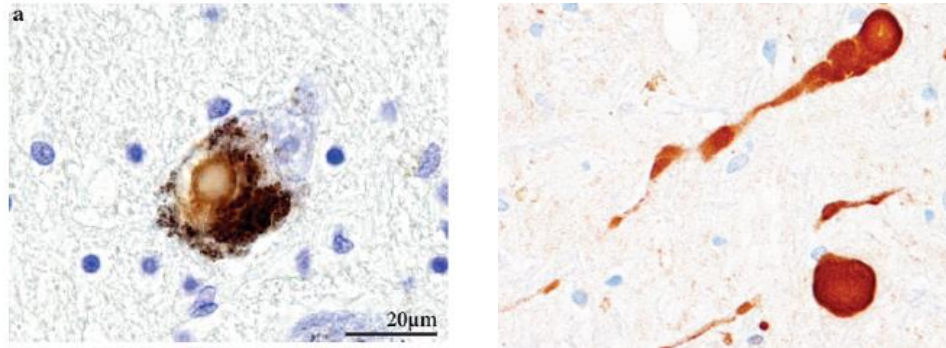
Earlier diagnosis for greater beneficial impact of disease-modifying therapies



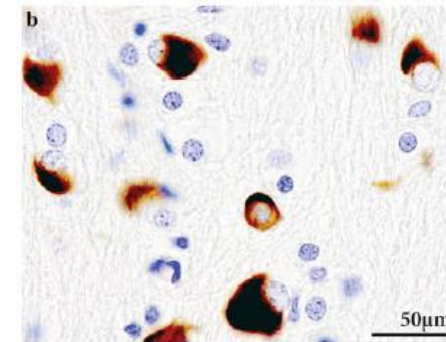
Synucleinopathies

Alpha-synuclein pathology across neurodegenerative diseases

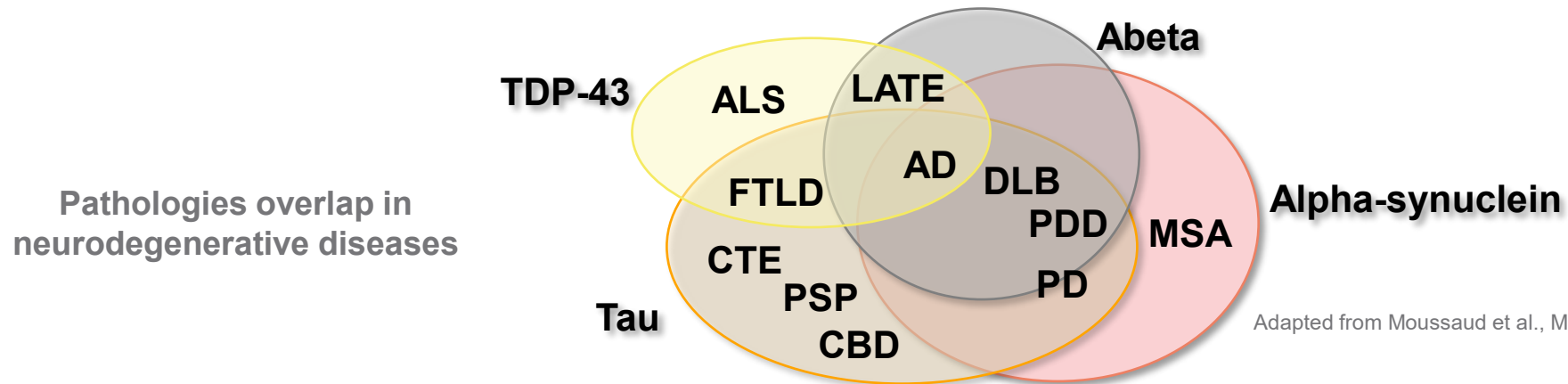
**Lewy body and Lewy neurites
Parkinson's disease (PD)**



**Glial cytoplasmic inclusions
Multiple System Atrophy (MSA)**



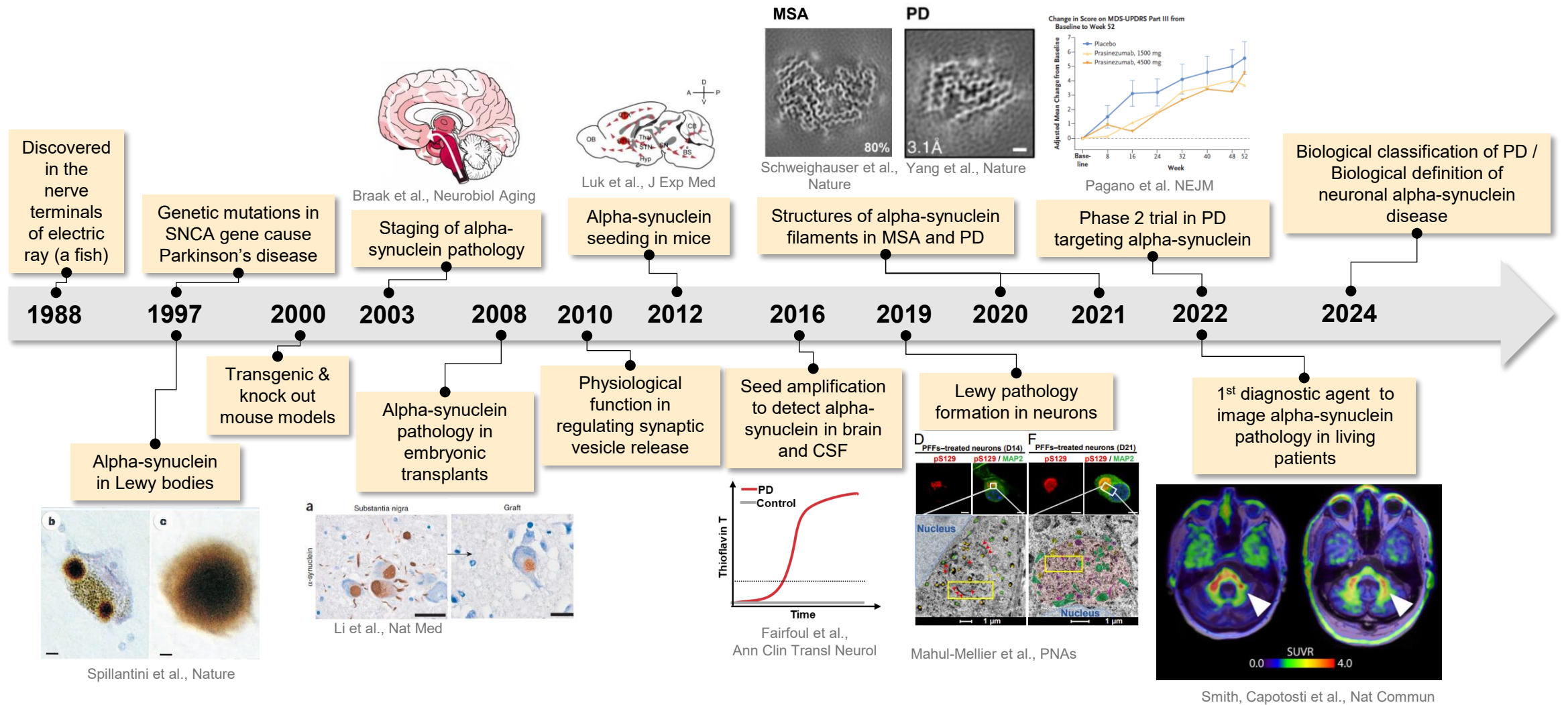
Halliday et al., Acta Neuropathol 2011



AD: Alzheimer's disease; ALS: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; CBD: Corticobasal Degeneration; CTE: Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy; DLB: Dementia with Lewy bodies; FTLT: Frontotemporal Dementia; LATE: Limbic-predominant Age-related TDP-43 Encephalopathy; MSA: Multiple System Atrophy PD: Parkinson's disease; PDD: Parkinson's disease with Dementia; PSP: Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

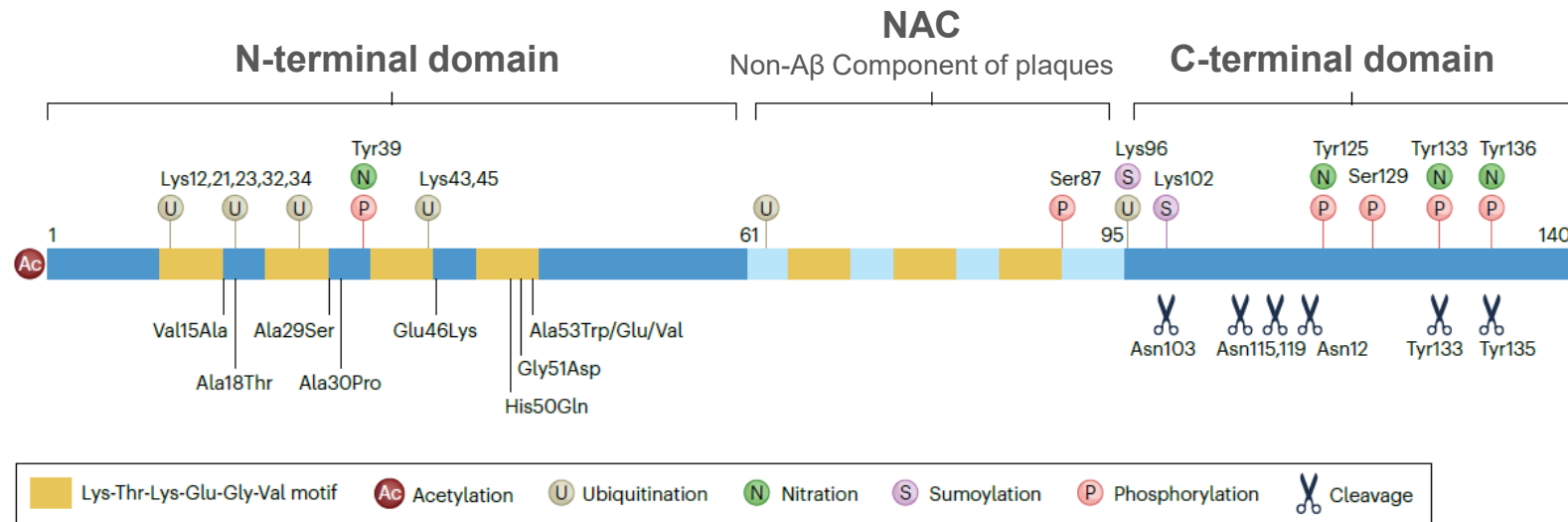
Alpha-synuclein research highlights

From its discovery to defining the disease



Alpha-synuclein structure

Post-translational modifications and genetic mutations

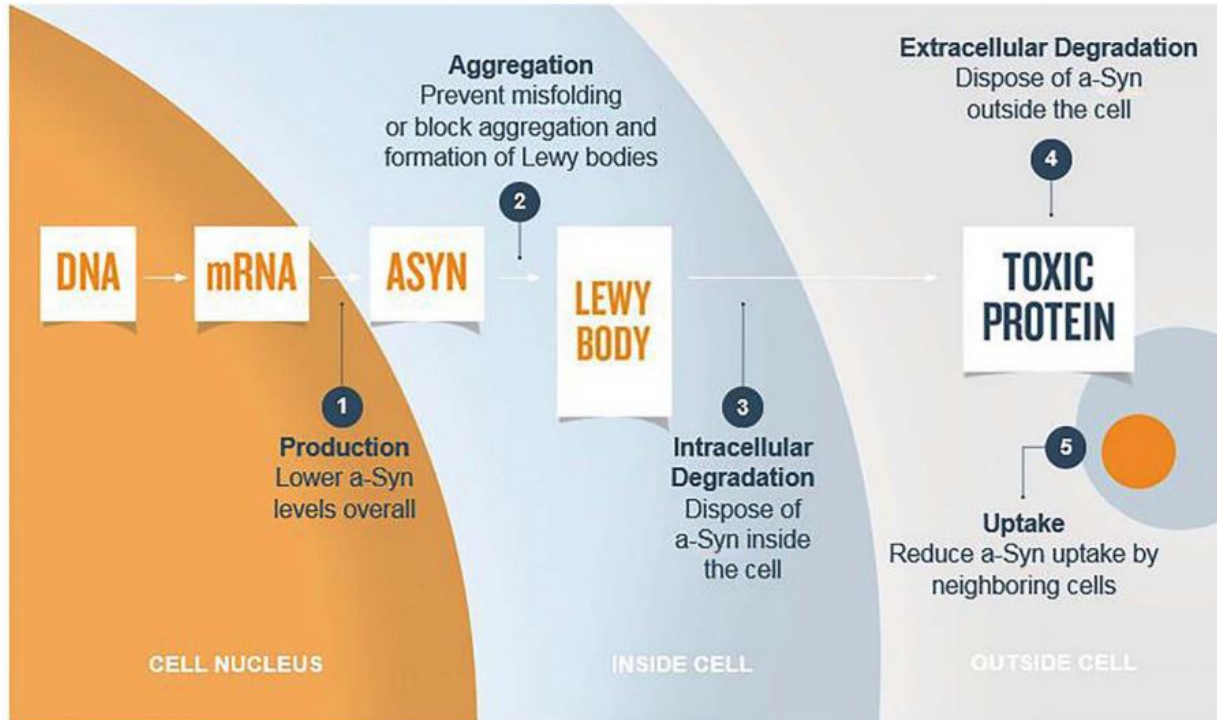


Park et al., Nat Rev Neurol 2025

- Point-mutations in N-terminus and multiplications of its gene cause autosomal dominant Parkinson's disease
- Undergoes several post-translational modifications, their physiological or pathological roles are being debated; aggregates found in synucleinopathies contain nitrated, truncated, and phosphorylated alpha-synuclein (e.g., phosphoserine 129)
- Expressed in CNS, localized in presynaptic terminals, but also in other tissues
- Intrinsically disordered, adopts helical structure upon association with membranes, binds to synaptic vesicles
- Propensity to aggregate and form β -sheet-rich amyloid fibrils through the central NAC region (non-A β component of amyloid plaques)

Therapeutic approaches targeting alpha-synuclein pathology

Intervention at different stages of the pathological pathway



Brundin et al., Exp Neurol. 2017

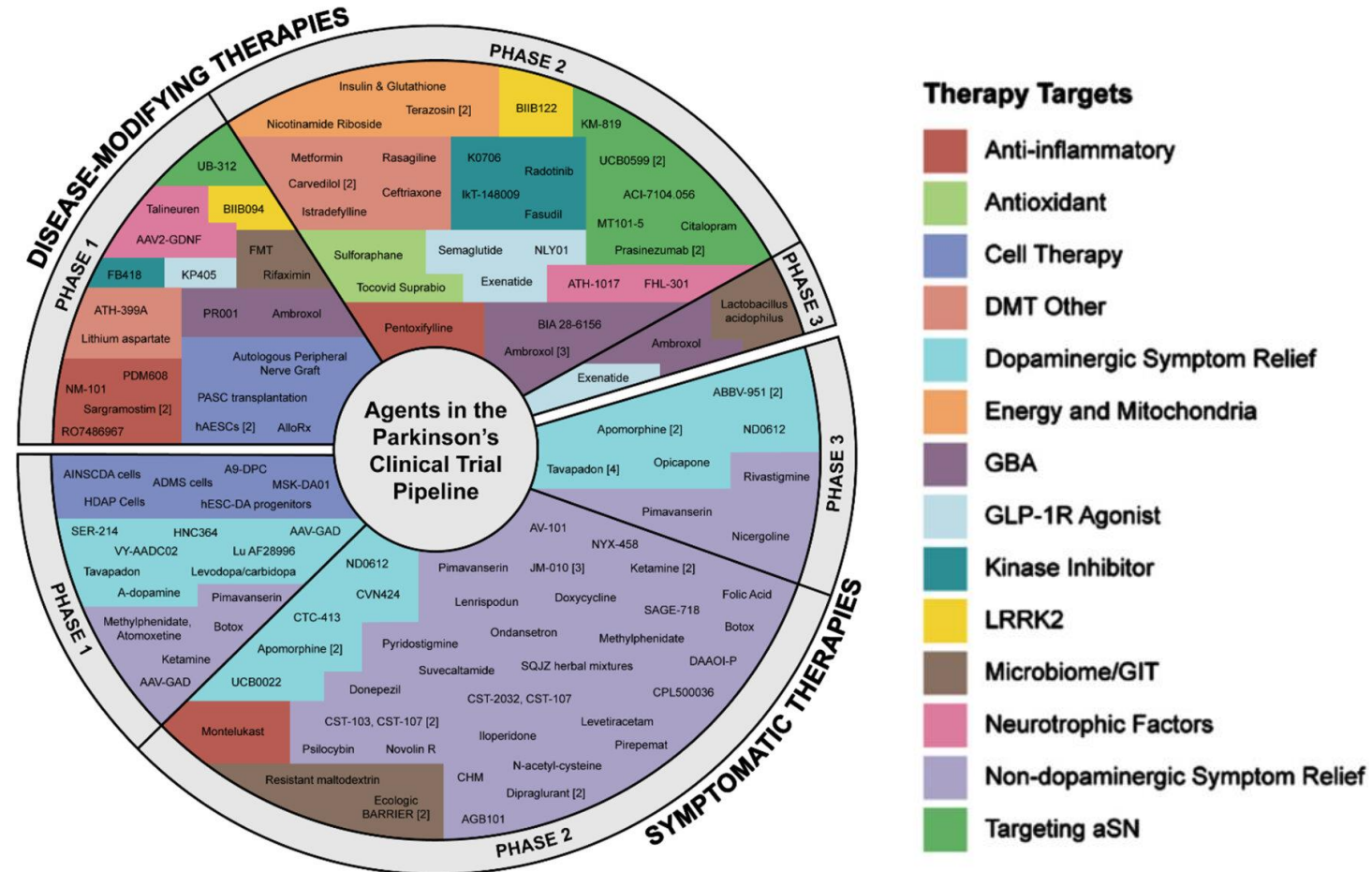
Examples of strategies:

- 1. Lowering alpha-synuclein protein synthesis**
siRNA, anti-sense nucleotides
- 2. Inhibiting aggregation intracellularly**
Small molecule inhibitors
- 3. Degrading aggregates**
Targeted protein degraders such as PROTAC¹, LYTAC²
- 4. Inhibiting propagation**
Active & Passive immunotherapy

(1) Proteolysis-targeting chimera; (2) Lysosome-targeting chimera

Parkinson's disease clinical trials

All active clinical trials as of January 2024

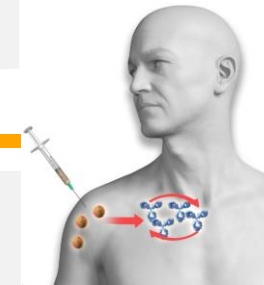


Active immunotherapy: clear advantages for long-term use

Provides opportunity to prevent AND treat neurodegenerative diseases globally

ACTIVE Immune Therapy

- ✓ Long-lasting specific immunity for pathological target, consistent, boostable, durable
- ✓ Limited annual dosing (once or twice) after priming year
- ✓ Safety profile well suited to long-term use
- ✓ Cost-effective (attractive healthcare economics across global populations)
- ✓ Improved access (ease of administration, simple logistics)

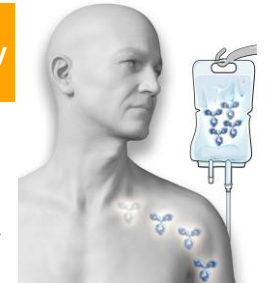


Active immunotherapy

Vaccines stimulate the patient's immune system to produce antibodies

Passive immunotherapy

Externally generated monoclonal antibodies require administration every two to four weeks



- Active immunotherapy is potentially the only option for global prevention of neurodegenerative diseases

Immunological potential of ACI-7104

The optimized alpha-synuclein peptide-conjugate formulation



Generates
target-specific
antibody response

Safely engages
target-unrelated
T-cells to enhance &
maintain response

Key outcomes

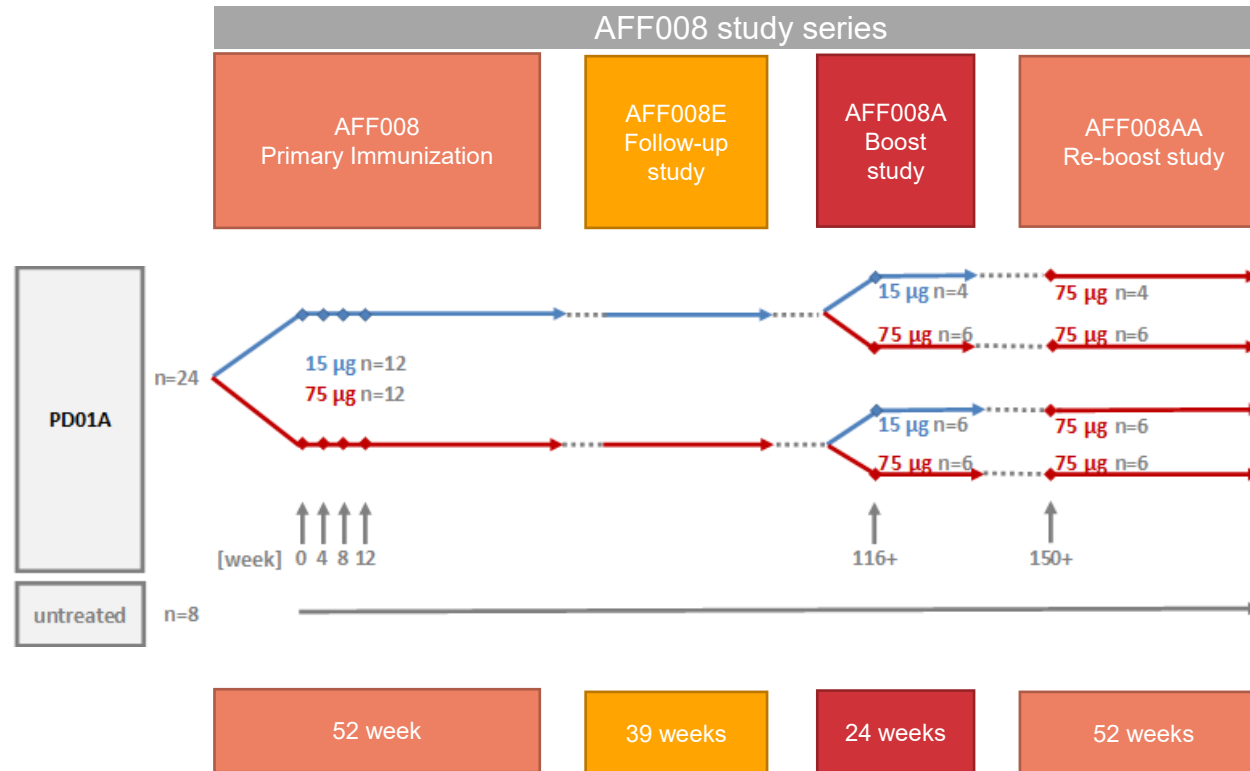
Immunogenicity	✓ _≡
Target specificity	✓ _≡
Selective for aggregated α-syn	✓ _≡
Sustained antibody response	✓ _≡
Boosting	✓ _≡
Evidence of memory B cells	✓ _≡
Preclude activation of T cells specific for α-syn	✓ _≡

- ACI-7104: optimized formulation delivers the clinical validated PD01A peptide¹ which provided:
 - Robust alpha-synuclein immunogenicity with a well tolerated profile in PD patients
 - Long lasting antibody responses supporting a disease prevention approach

(1) Volc et al., Lancet Neurol. 2020;

Phase 1 study series outline

Early PD patients were followed for over 3.5 years

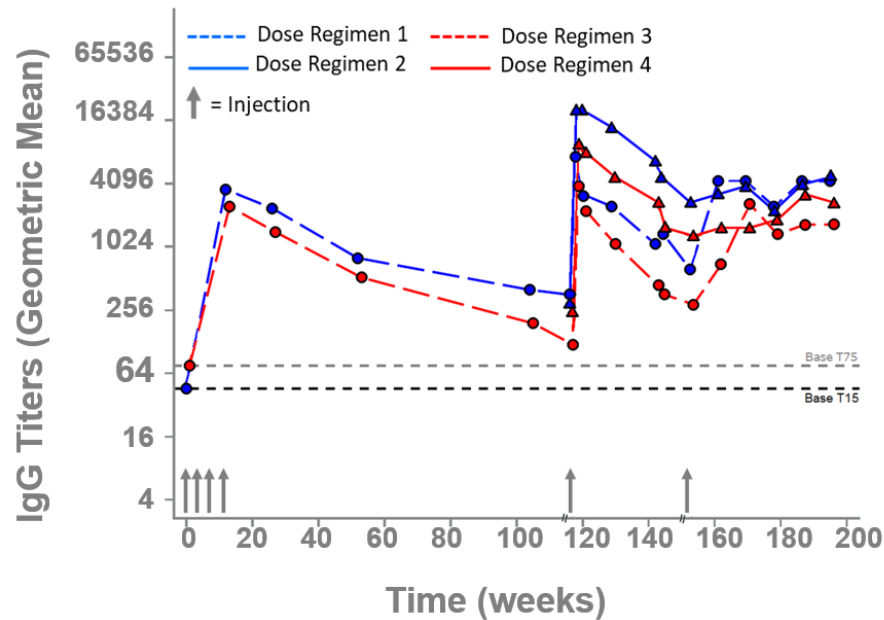


- A randomized, controlled, parallel group, patient-blinded, single-center, Phase I pilot study to assess tolerability and safety of repeated subcutaneous administration of two doses of PD01 vaccine, ACI-7104 predecessor, to patients with early PD

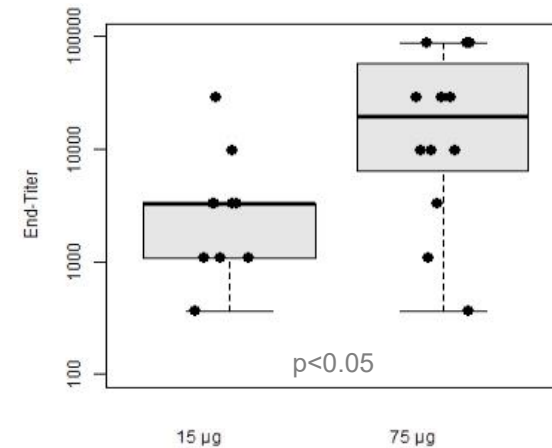
Phase 1 results in Parkinson's disease

Good safety, potent immunogenicity, evidence of target engagement and efficacy

Strong and boostable antibody response



Significant higher titers after the booster application with high dose



Patients were grouped according to the booster dose they received

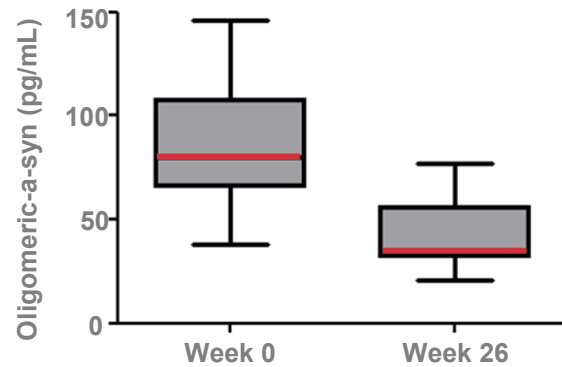
Volc et al., Lancet Neurol. 2020

- Induced strong and boostable antibody response
- Significantly higher titers after the booster application with the high dose

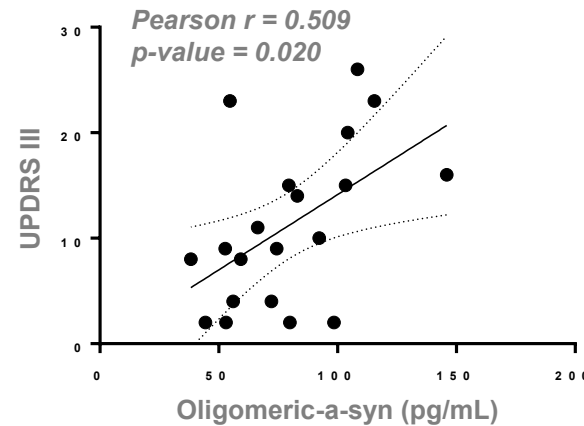
Phase 1 results in Parkinson's disease

Good safety, potent immunogenicity, evidence of target engagement and efficacy

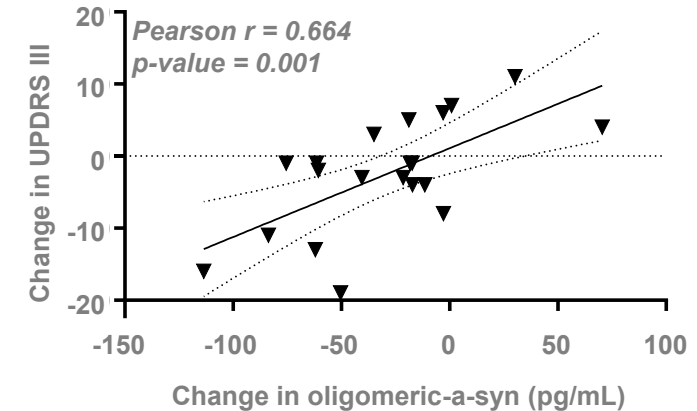
50% reduction⁴ of pathological a-syn in CSF



UPDRS III and oligo-a-syn in CSF correlate at baseline



Changes⁵ in oligo-a-syn and UPDRS III correlate



Volc et al., Lancet Neurol. 2020

- Evidence of target engagement as shown by a 50% reduction in pathological (oligomeric) a-syn¹ in the CSF²
- Signal of clinical efficacy as shown by a correlation between reductions in oligomeric a-syn and stabilization of UPDRS III³ scores

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Cerebrospinal fluid; (3) Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale; (4) Data from 75 µg dose group; (5) Change in oligomeric a-syn calculated at week 26, change in UPDRS III calculated at week 100

VacSYn: an adaptive biomarker-based Phase 2 study of ACI-7104 in early PD¹

Placebo-controlled Phase 2 Study Overview (NCT06015841)

Part 1: Safety & PD²

- Key immunogenicity measures
- Measures of pathological α -syn⁴ (a-syn oligomers and aggregates)

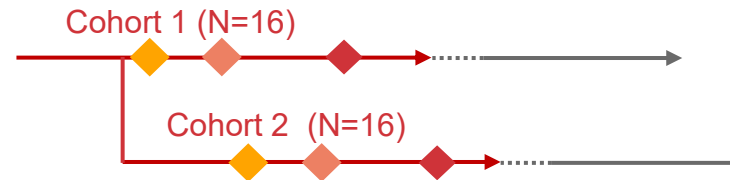
Screening up to 8 weeks &
Randomized 3:1
N=32

Treatment in PD³
(18 months)

Follow up
(6 months)

Interim analyses

- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Antibody titers
- ◆ α -syn assay pharmacodynamics



Part 2: Clinical PoC⁵

- Motor and Non-Motor Functioning (UPDRS⁶ based)
- Degeneration of dopaminergic terminals (DaT SPECT⁷ imaging)
- Advanced MRI (including ASL⁸ and DTI⁹)
- Digital biomarkers of motor and non-motor function
- Functional and patient reported outcomes

Screening up to 8 weeks &
Randomize 2:1
N = up to 150

Treatment in PD
(18 months)

Follow up
(6 months)

Expansion cohort (up to 150 subjects)
Dose previously tested in Part 1

All participants from Part 1 will contribute to final analysis

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Pharmacodynamics; (3) Participants must have idiopathic PD and be stable on up to 300 mg of L-Dopa treatment and dopaminergic deficit determined by Dopamine Transporter Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography; (4) alpha-synuclein; (5) Proof-of-concept; (6) Unified Parkinson's disease rating scale; (7) Dopamine Transporter Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography; (8) Arterial spin labeling; (9) Diffusion tensor imaging

Anti-alpha-synuclein active immunotherapy: ACI-7104

Conclusions

Safety & Immunogenicity

- Safe and well tolerated with no safety concerns noted in patients
- Induced strong and boostable antibody responses

Target engagement

- Evidence of target engagement: 50% reduction in pathological (oligomeric) alpha-synuclein in the CSF¹

Signal of clinical efficacy

- Stabilization of UPDRS III² scores correlated with reductions in oligomeric alpha-synuclein

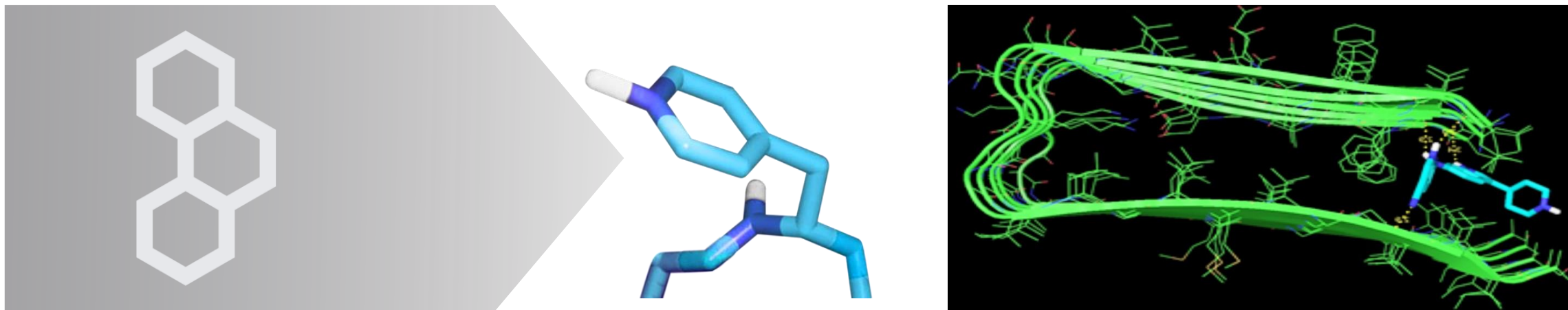
Status

- Phase 2 study in early PD subjects based on innovative biomarker-based two-part trial design is ongoing

(1) alpha-synuclein; (2) Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale Part III

Targeting intracellular α -syn aggregation with small molecules

Proprietary Morphomer[®] platform



- Robust library of conformation-specific, non-peptidic small molecules with desirable CNS¹ properties constructed and continuously expanded *via* rational design over many years
- Used with comprehensive screening assays of high translational value to rapidly generate highly specific hits
- Clinically validated platform with two diagnostic PET tracers showing excellent target engagement

(1) Central nervous system

Intracellular targeting of misfolded α -syn¹ with Morphomers[®]

Key advantages and opportunities

- α -syn¹ pathological aggregates accumulate intracellularly forming:
 - ✓ Lewy bodies within neurons in PD²
 - ✓ Glial cytoplasmic inclusions in MSA³

Acting where it matters

Competitive advantages

- Over gene-silencing / mAbs⁶:
 - ✓ No interference with physiological α -syn
 - ✓ Acting intra- and extra-cellularly
 - ✓ Easy administration as orally available

α -syn¹
Intracellular
Targeting

Optimal
CNS
delivery

Apt for fast
progressing
disease

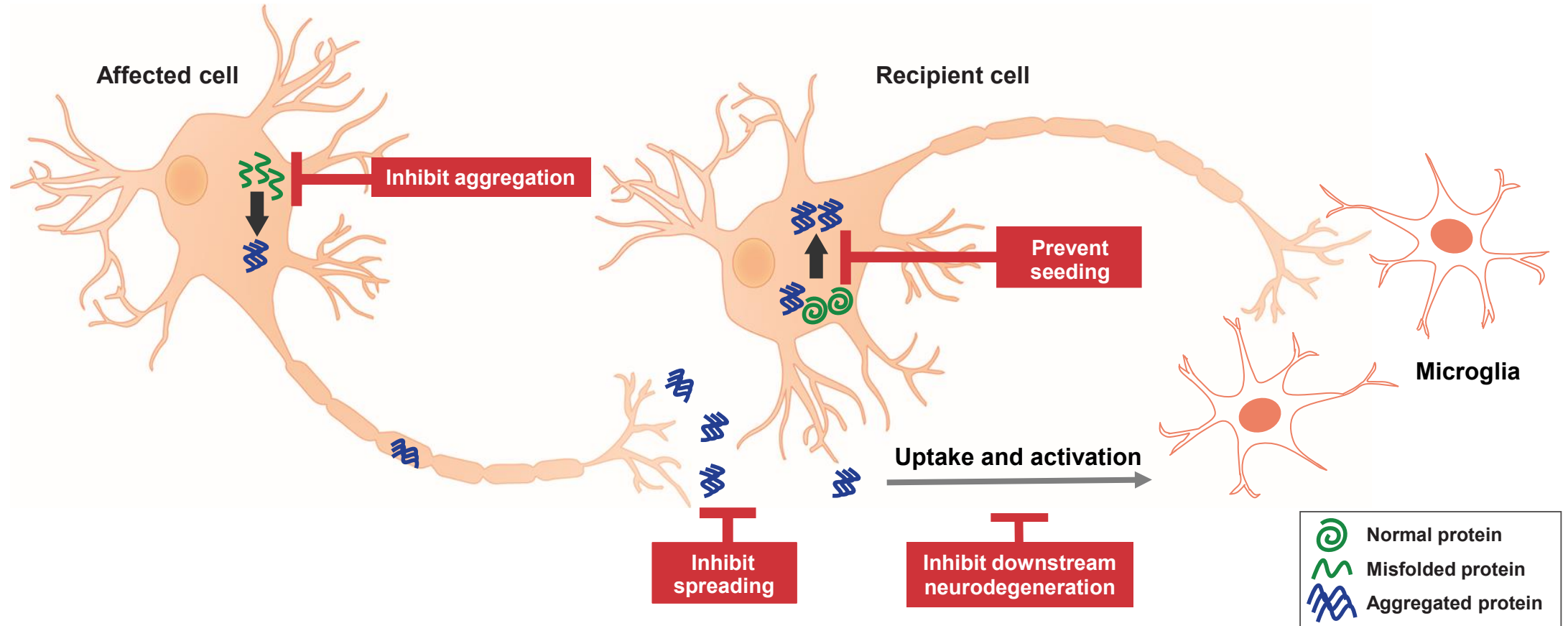
- α -syn targeting Morphomers[®] are designed to be:
 - ✓ highly CNS⁵ penetrant
 - ✓ plasma membrane permeable

- Full control of pathological processes by inhibiting:
 - ✓ Intracellular aggregation
 - ✓ Seeding within cells
 - ✓ Cell-to-cell spreading

- Potential to halt disease progression by blocking pathogenic pathways leading to aggregation
- Can be used as a stand-alone therapy or in combination with other therapeutic approaches

(1) alpha-synuclein; (2) Parkinson's disease; (3) Multiple System Atrophy; (4) Small molecular entities; (5) Central nervous system; (6) Monoclonal antibodies

A-syn¹-targeting Morphomers[®] may halt pathology at multiple points



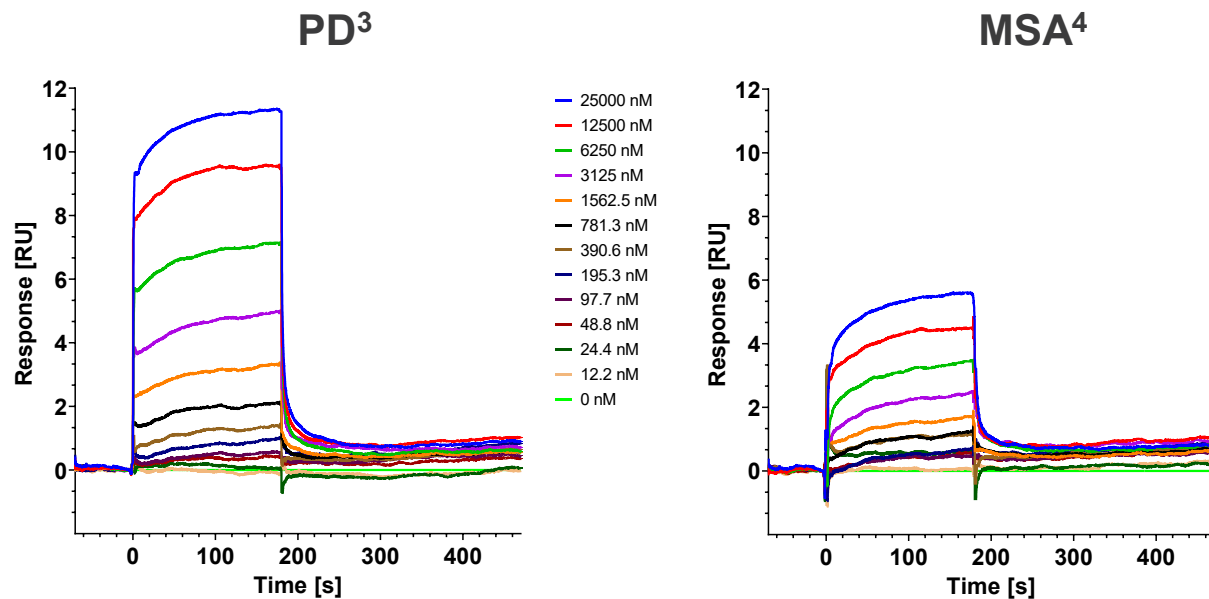
- Intracellular targeting of aggregation and seeding
- Combined with inhibition of extracellular spreading offers full control of disease pathology
- Synergy with AC Immune's a-syn PET tracer program enables our precision medicine approach

(1) Alpha-synuclein

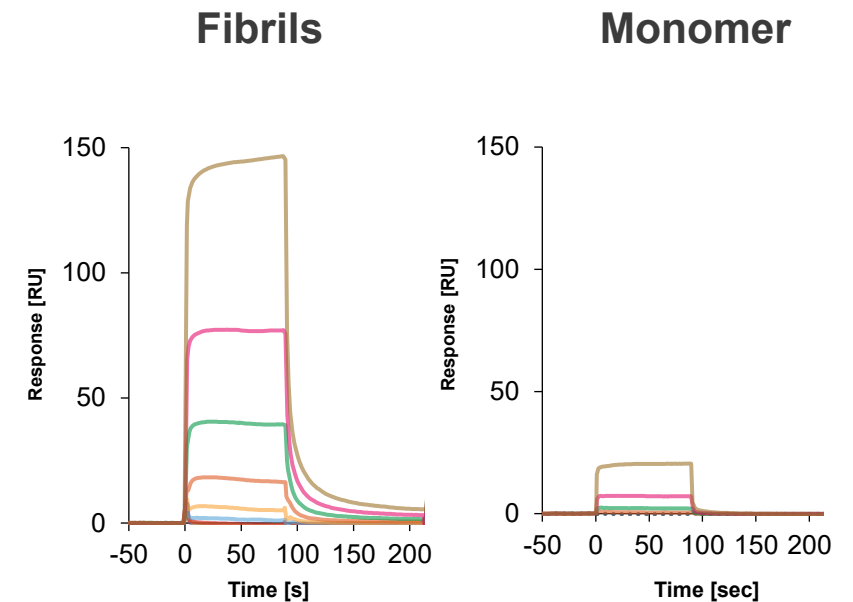
Specific binding of Morphomers[®] to a-syn aggregates over monomers

Demonstrated target engagement to PD and MSA derived a-syn aggregates by SPR¹

Brain-derived homogenates²



Recombinant a-syn⁵

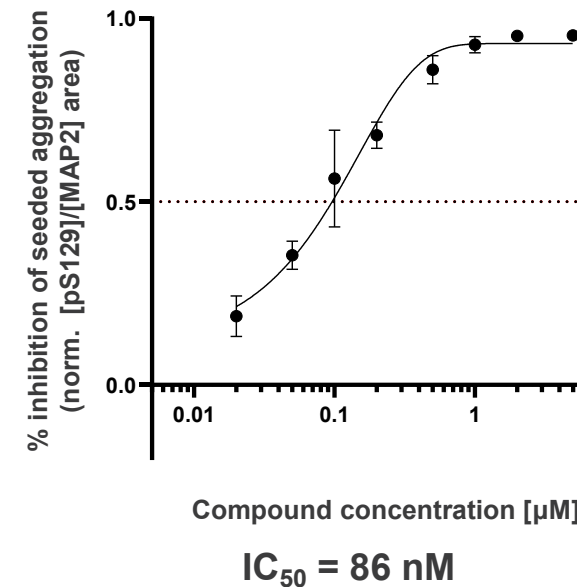
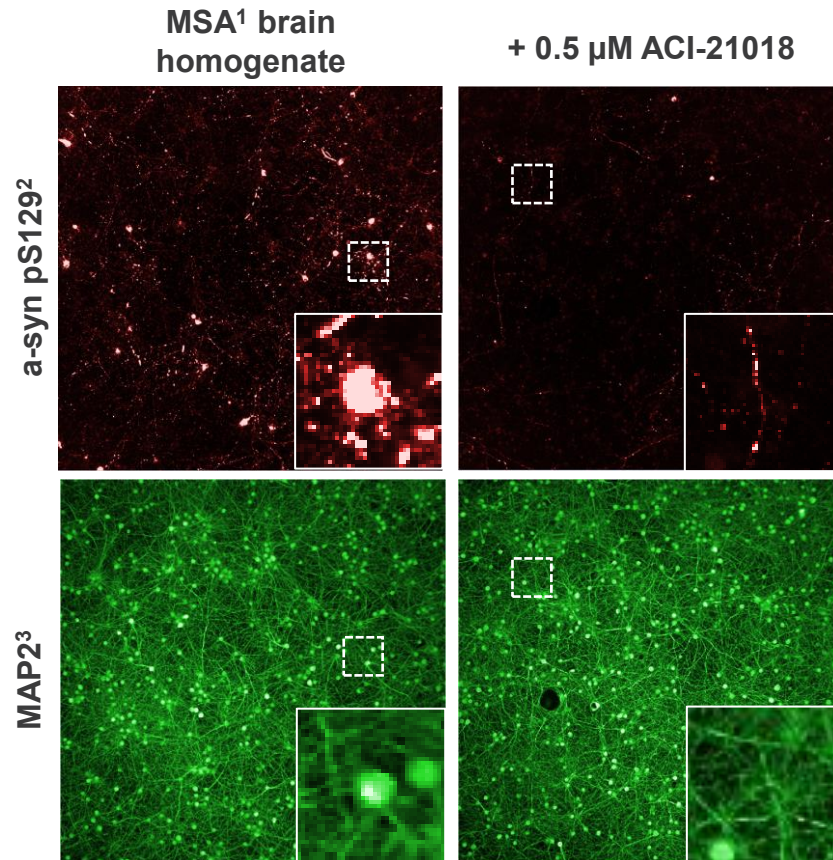


- Morphomers[®] bind pathological a-syn forms from different diseases with specificity for aggregates over monomers
- Strongly suggesting that Morphomers[®] will not interfere with the physiological functions of a-syn

(1) Surface Plasmon Resonance; (2) ACI-21018; (3) Parkinson's disease; (4) Multiple System Atrophy; (5) ACI-15896

Morphomers[®] halt a-syn aggregation

Potent inhibition using disease brain¹-derived a-syn aggregates as seeds



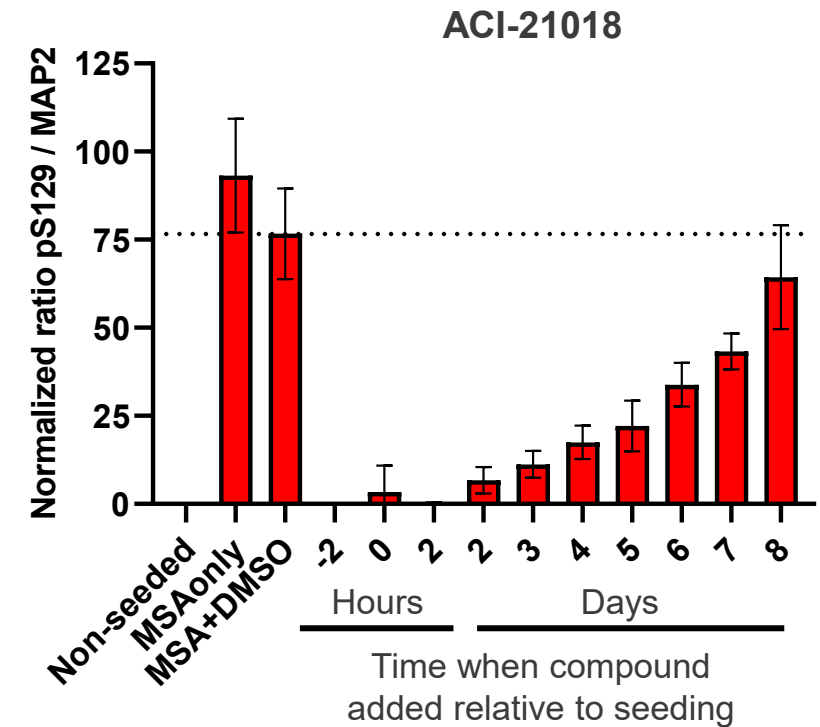
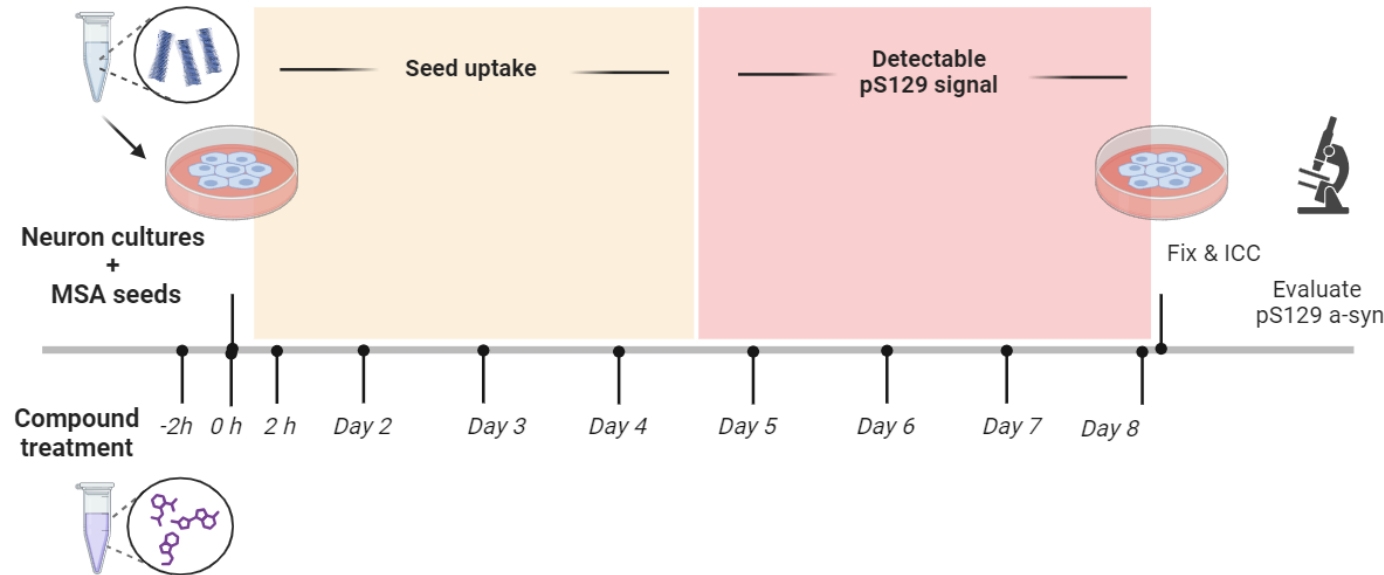
- Morphomers[®] reduce intracellular a-syn² inclusions, indicating a potent effect at blocking seeding and therefore spreading of the a-syn pathology

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Phospho-Serine 129; (3) Microtubule associated protein 2

Assessing intracellular aggregation mediated by MSA¹-derived seeds

Delayed treatment effect in primary neurons

Experimental timeline

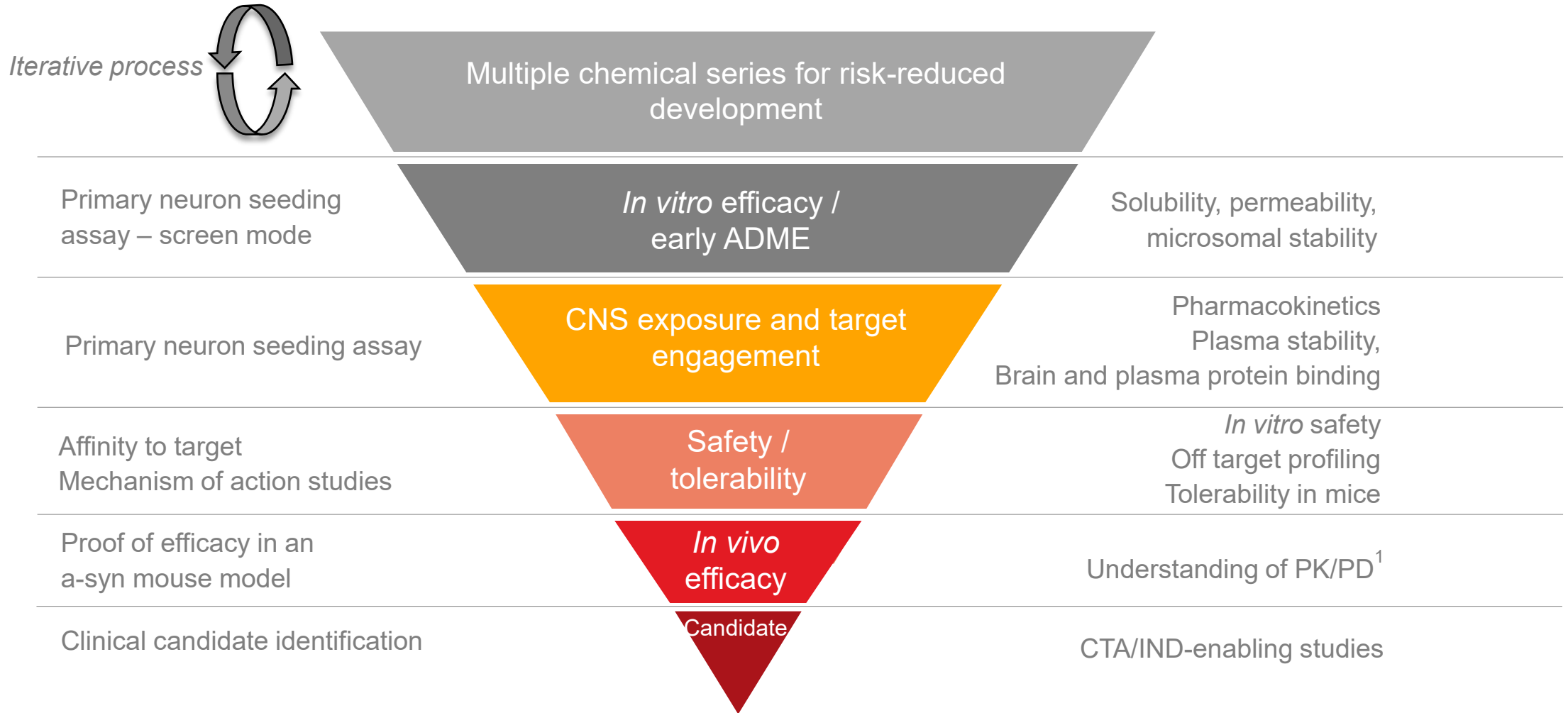


- Reduction of aggregate burden even when compound treatment delayed by several days after seeding
- Demonstrates compound treatment prevents *de novo* aggregation intracellularly

(1) Multiple system atrophy

Comprehensive screening to identify a-syn aggregation inhibitors

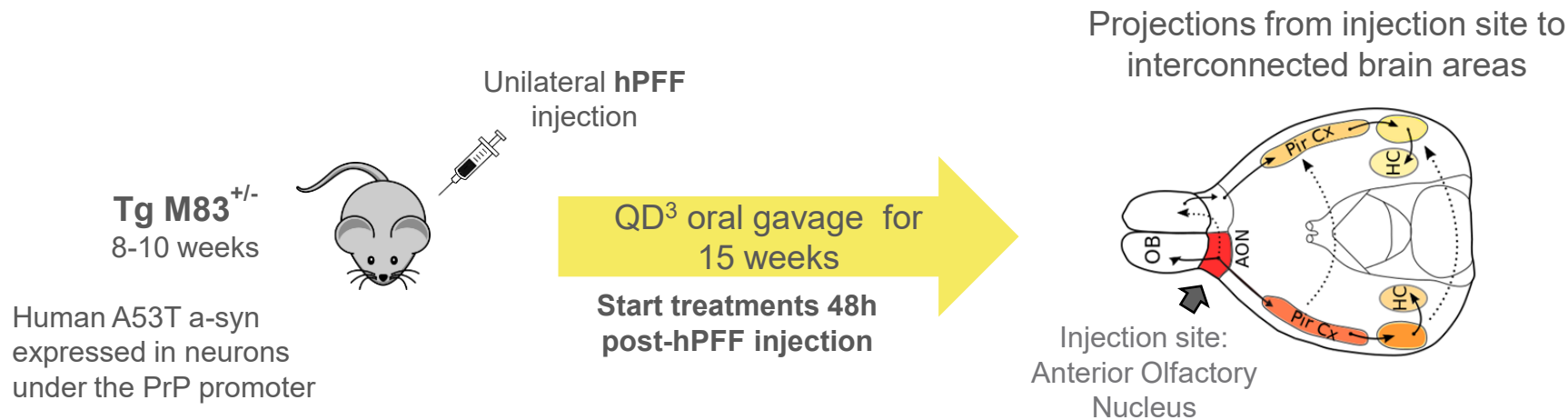
Compound flow progression



(1) Pharmacokinetic / Pharmacodynamic

Evaluation of ACI-21018 *in vivo* efficacy in a model of PD¹

Study design using the a-syn hPFF² model



Group	Inoculum	Treatment
1	PBS	Vehicle
2	hPFF	Vehicle
3	hPFF	ACI-21018 – 50mg/kg
4	hPFF	ACI-21018 – 100mg/kg

Readouts:

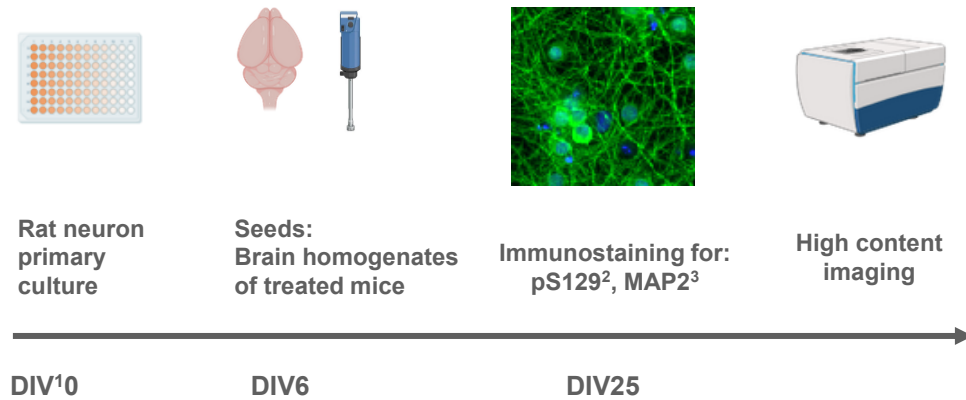
- Propagating a-syn aggregates by *ex vivo* seeding of brain lysates in primary neurons
- Neurodegeneration by neuronal marker, NeuN IHC⁴
- Brain regional volume by MRI⁵

- Therapeutic paradigm used starting treatment 48h post-inoculation of pathological a-syn
- Doses selected to reach unbound brain concentration covering IC₅₀ and IC₈₀ of the neuronal seeding assay over the dosing interval

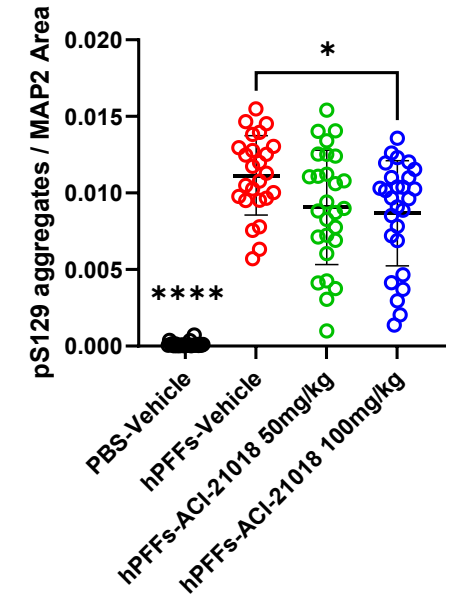
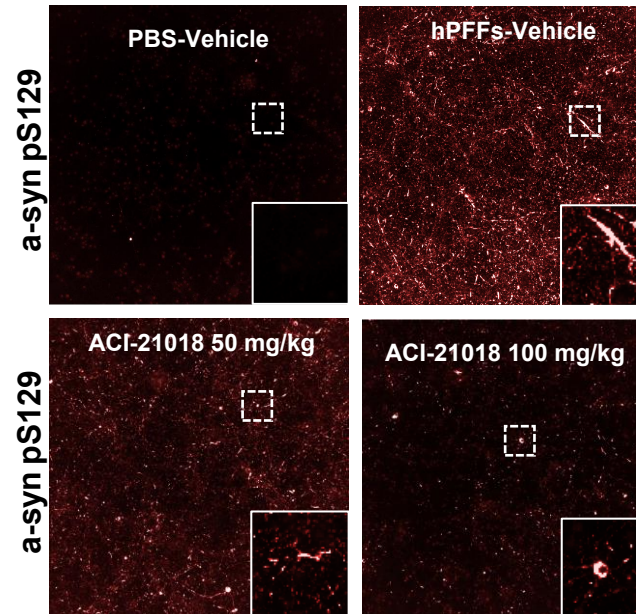
(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) human preformed fibrils; (3) Once a day; (4) Immunohistochemistry; (5) Magnetic resonance imaging

ACI-21018 reduces seeding-competent a-syn species in the brain

Ex vivo seeding with brain homogenates of treated mice



Ex vivo seeding of primary rat neurons with total brain homogenates from treated mice



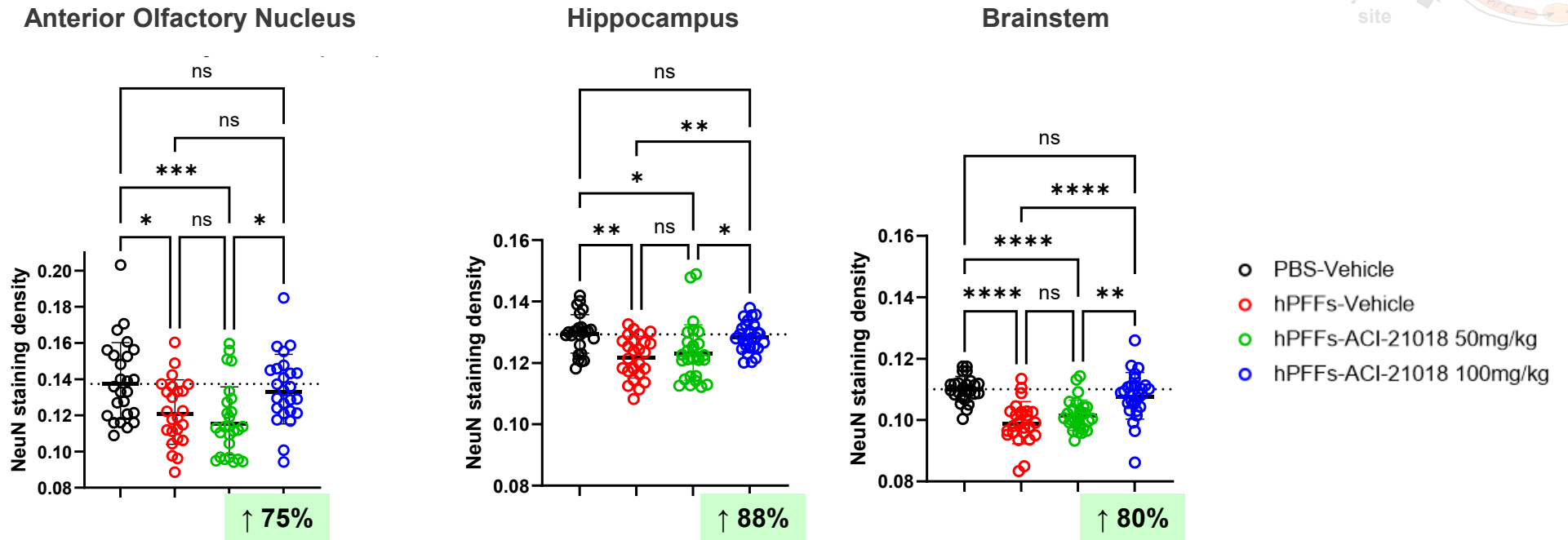
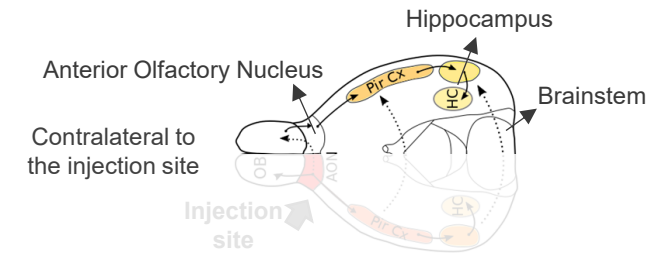
Mean ± SD
One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post-hoc test
*p<0.05; ***p<0.0001

- Brain homogenates of hPFF-a-syn mice are inducing the misfolding of endogenous a-syn acting as seeds
- Seeding potential of brain homogenates measures pathology-propagating a-syn species
- Significant reduction of propagating a-syn seeding species in brains of mice treated with ACI-21018

(1) Days *in vitro*; (2) phosphorylated a-syn at Ser129; (3) Microtubule-associated protein 2 – neuronal marker

ACI-21018 treatment prevents neuronal loss

NeuN (neuronal marker) in the contralateral regions of interest



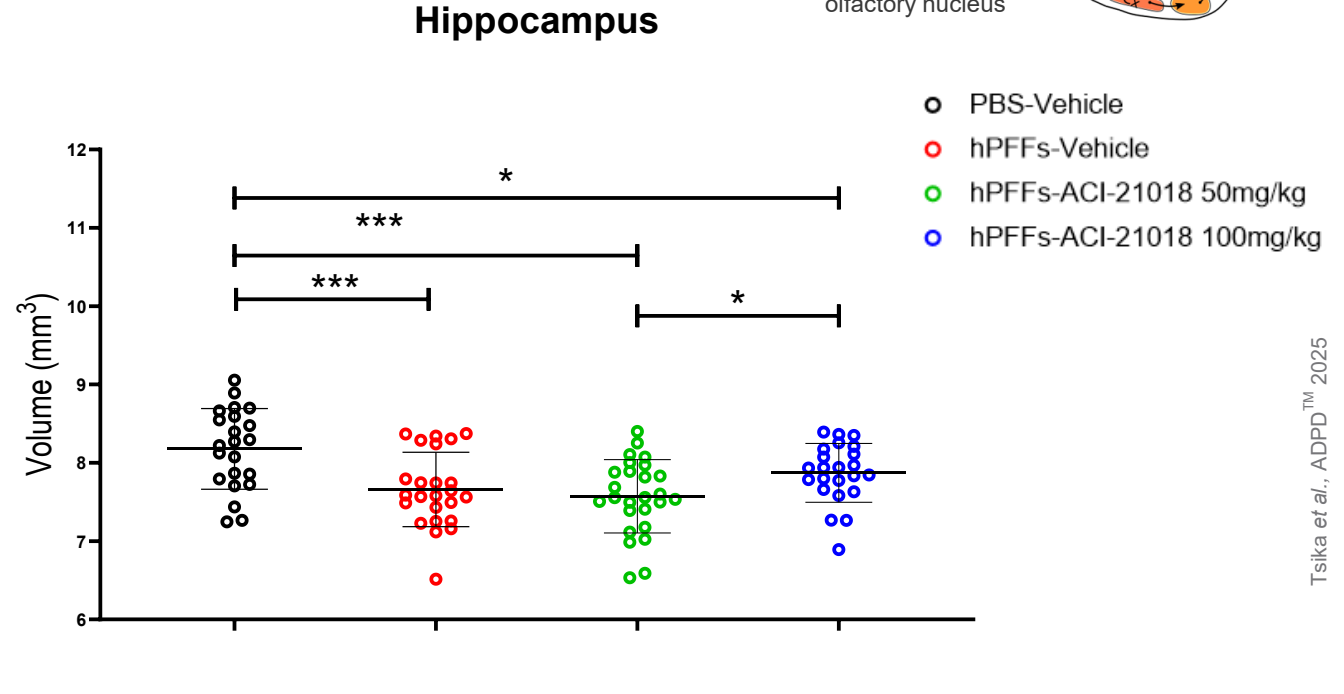
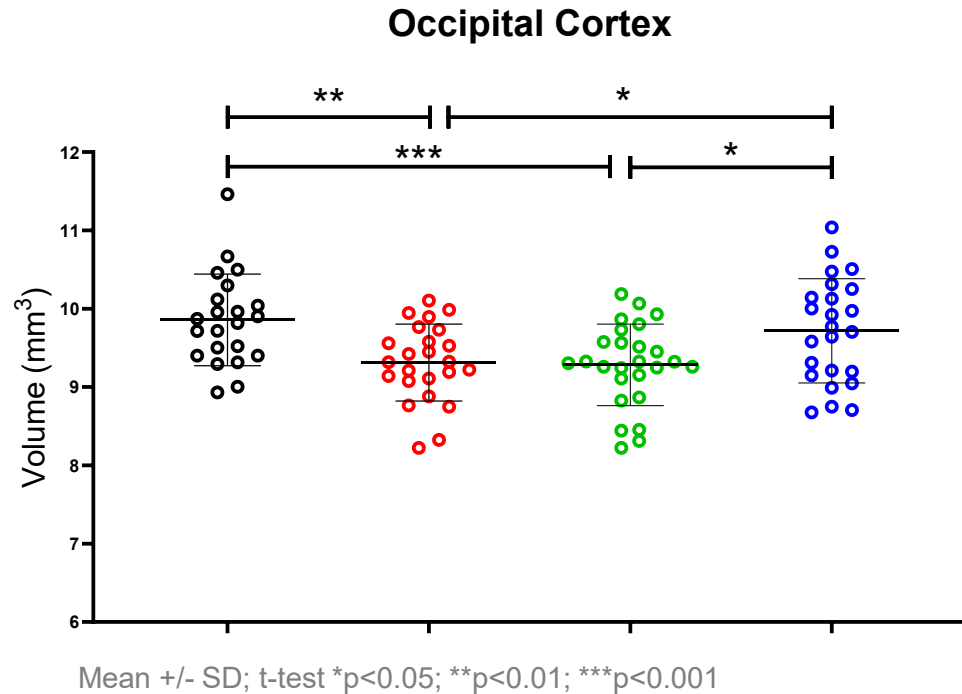
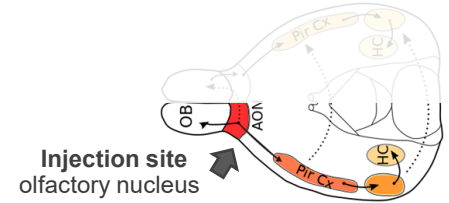
Geometric means \pm geometric SD, One-Way ANOVA; Post-hoc Tukey's test; ns: non-significant, * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; **** $p < 0.0001$
 % change from hPFF-vehicle (relative to PBS-vehicle), group mean values

- ACI-21018 treatment prevents neurodegeneration across the brain
- Significant rescue achieved (to the level of healthy mice) in brain regions proximal and distal to the injection site

(1) human preformed fibrils

ACI-21018 prevents regional brain atrophy

MRI¹ analysis of regional brain volumes ipsilateral to the injection site²



Tsika et al., ADPD™ 2025

- ACI-21018 treatment resulted in broad neuroprotective effects, close to the levels of healthy mice
- This neuroprotective effect can be measured by MRI, ensuring high translational value of these results

(1) Magnetic resonance imaging; (2) human a-syn preformed fibrils injected in olfactory nucleus

Targeting intracellular a-syn aggregation with small molecules

Conclusions

First-in-class

- First-in-class, orally available, CNS³-penetrant small molecules that target pathological a-syn intracellularly

Intracellular targeting

- Excellent CNS and cell permeability enabling the drug to reach the sites of pathology
- Inhibition of a-syn aggregation and seeding with potential to halt the disease
- No expected interference with the physiological functions of a-syn

Precision medicine

- Common binding site(s) with AC Immune's a-syn PET⁴ tracer offers a unique opportunity for a derisked and accelerated development

Therapeutic potential

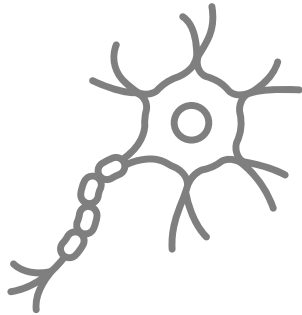
- Broad recognition of a-syn pathological forms across multiple synucleinopathies
- Preclinical therapeutic efficacy demonstrated with translationally relevant biomarkers
- a-syn Morphomers[®] potential therapeutic benefit even in fast progressing diseases, e.g. MSA

(1) alpha-synuclein; (2) Multiple system atrophy; (3) Central nervous system; (4) Positron emission tomography

A-syn¹ PET² tracers can improve the diagnosis and treatment of NDD³

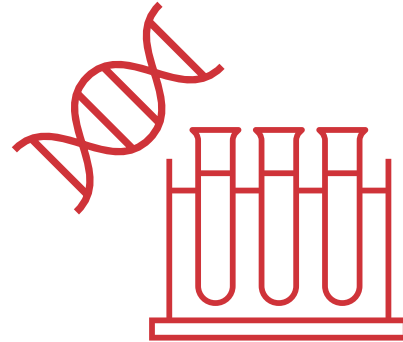
Needed to enable precision medicine for synucleinopathies

Early diagnosis and treatment is key in NDD



- Neuronal damage/death is presently an irreversible event
- Approved disease-modifying agents for NDD showed improved efficacy in early disease stages

Early diagnosis of a-syn-opathies⁴ is not possible with current techniques



- DaTscan does not support early diagnosis
- Genetic testing is ineffective in idiopathic cases
- Fluid biomarkers, including SAA⁵, are not yet quantitative

Benefits of PET tracers for imaging have been validated

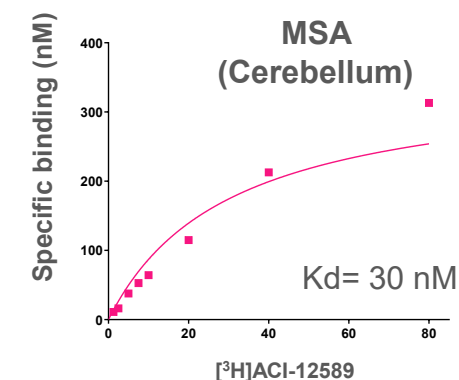
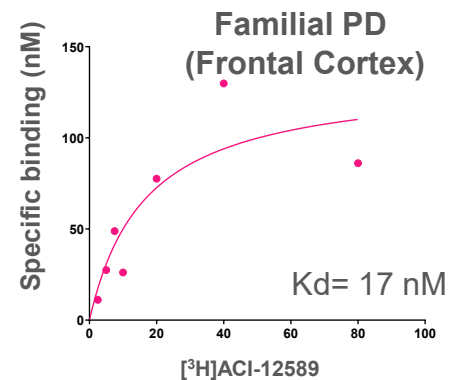
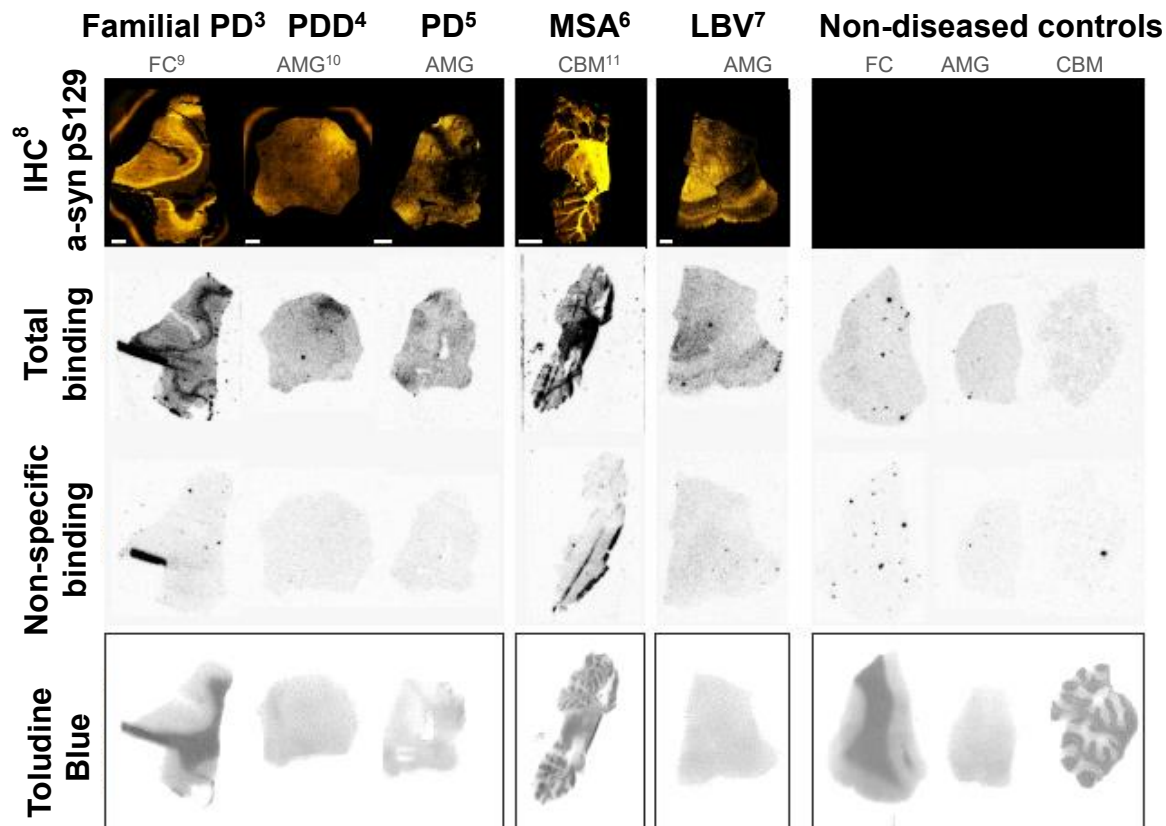


- Better designed clinical trials using PET tracer for recruitment and monitoring
- May enable combination treatment of co-pathologies

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Neurodegenerative disease; (4) Alpha-synucleinopathies; (5) Seed amplification assay

ACI-12589: a promising a-syn¹ PET² tracer

[³H]ACI-12589 specific binding on brain tissue from different synucleinopathy cases



Binding / Disease	MSA	Familial PD	PD#1	PD#2
Target density (nM)	~350	133	80	14
Affinity (nM)	28	17	65	38
Target occupancy	13	8	1	0.4

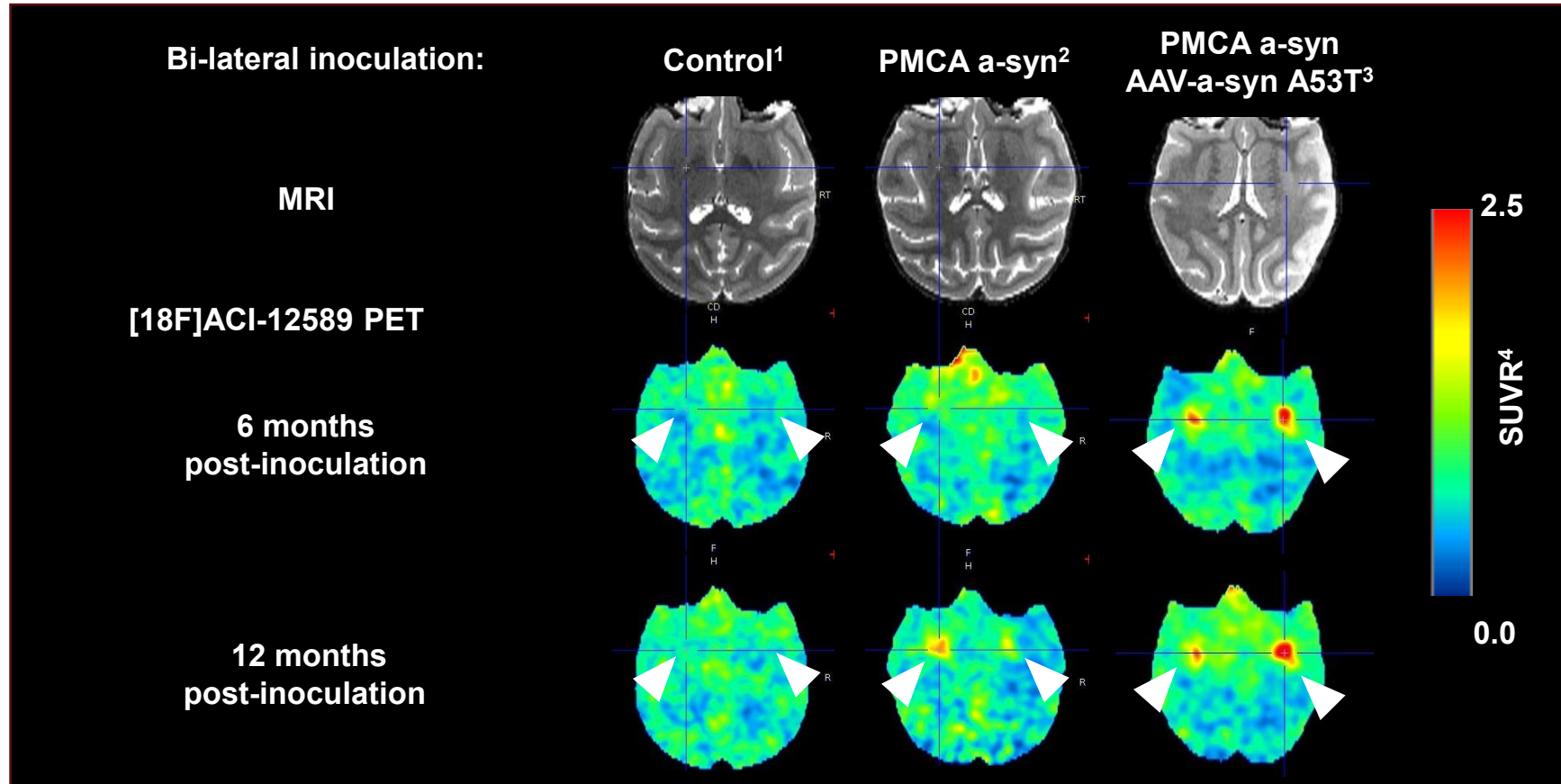
- ACI-12589 displays a clear autoradiography signal across different synucleinopathy cases which correlates with the presence of pathological a-syn
- Target occupancy depends on the levels of pathological a-syn and varies from ≤ 1 in idiopathic PD to ≥ 10 in MSA

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Parkinson's disease with G51D SNCA mutation; (4) Parkinson's disease with dementia; (5) Idiopathic Parkinson's disease; (6) Multiple system atrophy; (7) Lewy Body variant of Alzheimer's disease; (8) Immunohistochemistry; (9) Frontal cortex; (10) Amygdala; (11) Cerebellum

In collaboration with Prof. A. Varrone Smith, Capotosti, et al., Nature Communications 2023

[18F]ACI-12589 uptake in monkey models of a-syn pathology

Longitudinal brain uptake in two different a-syn inoculation models



A-syn models developed by:



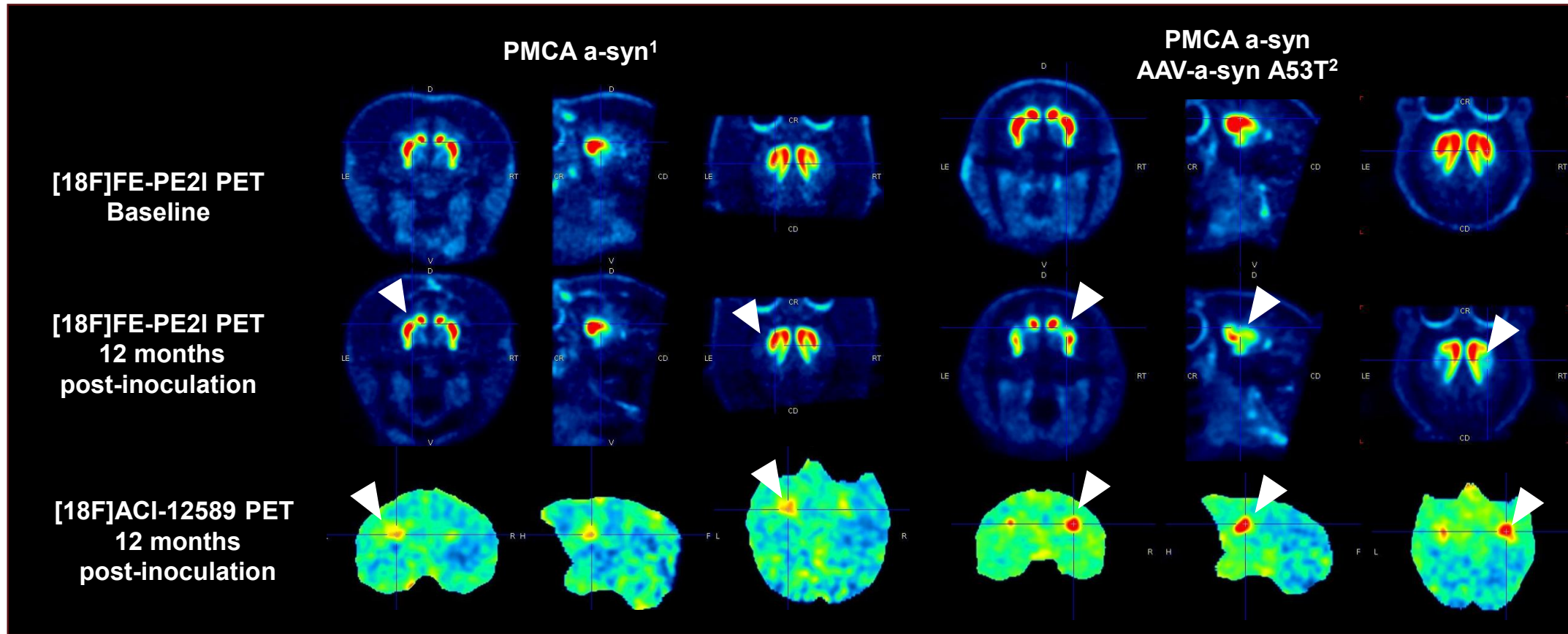
In collaboration with CEA / MIRCent
Capotosti et al., ADPD™ 2024

- Higher retention observed in the PMCA-AAV model suggests that the intensity of the PET signal is related to the pathological a-syn load
- A longitudinal increase in [18F]ACI-12589 uptake is observed in two a-syn monkey models

(1) PBS; (2) A-syn amplified by Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification from human PD seeds injected in the striatum at baseline and 6 months; (3) Adeno-associated virus expressing human a-syn with the A53T mutation injected in the substantia nigra at baseline; (4) Standardized uptake value ratio with whole cerebellum as reference

A-syn PET precedes dopaminergic loss

Comparison of [18F]FE-PE2I dopaminergic imaging and [18F]ACI-12589 PET



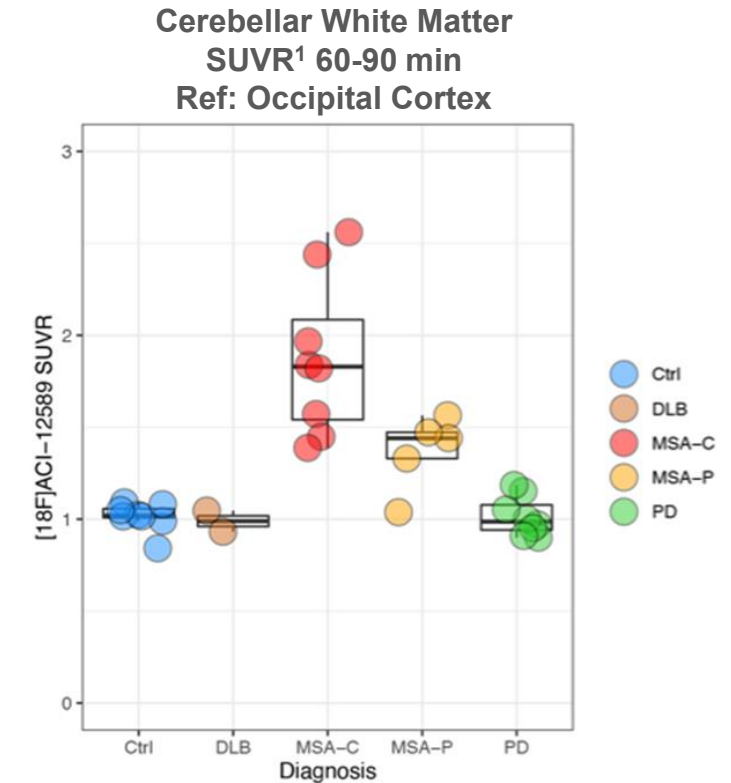
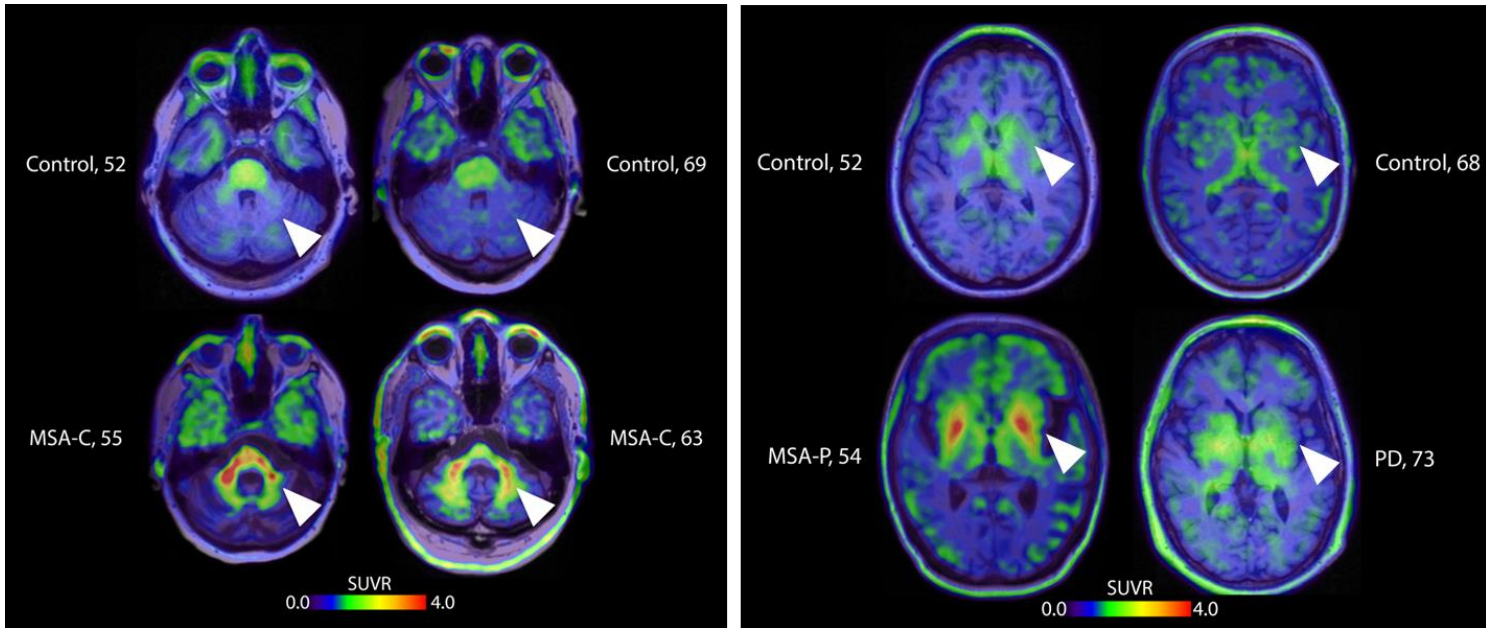
In collaboration with CEA / MIRGen
Capotosti et al., ADPD™ 2024

- The loss of dopaminergic neurons follows the appearance of a-syn pathology
- The a-syn PET signal increases as the dopaminergic loss progress

(1) A-syn amplified by Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification from human PD seeds injected in the striatum; (2) Adeno-associated virus expressing human a-syn with the A53T mutation injected in the substantia nigra

[18F]ACI-12589 uptake in MSA cases compared to controls

SUVR 60-90 min using occipital cortex as reference region

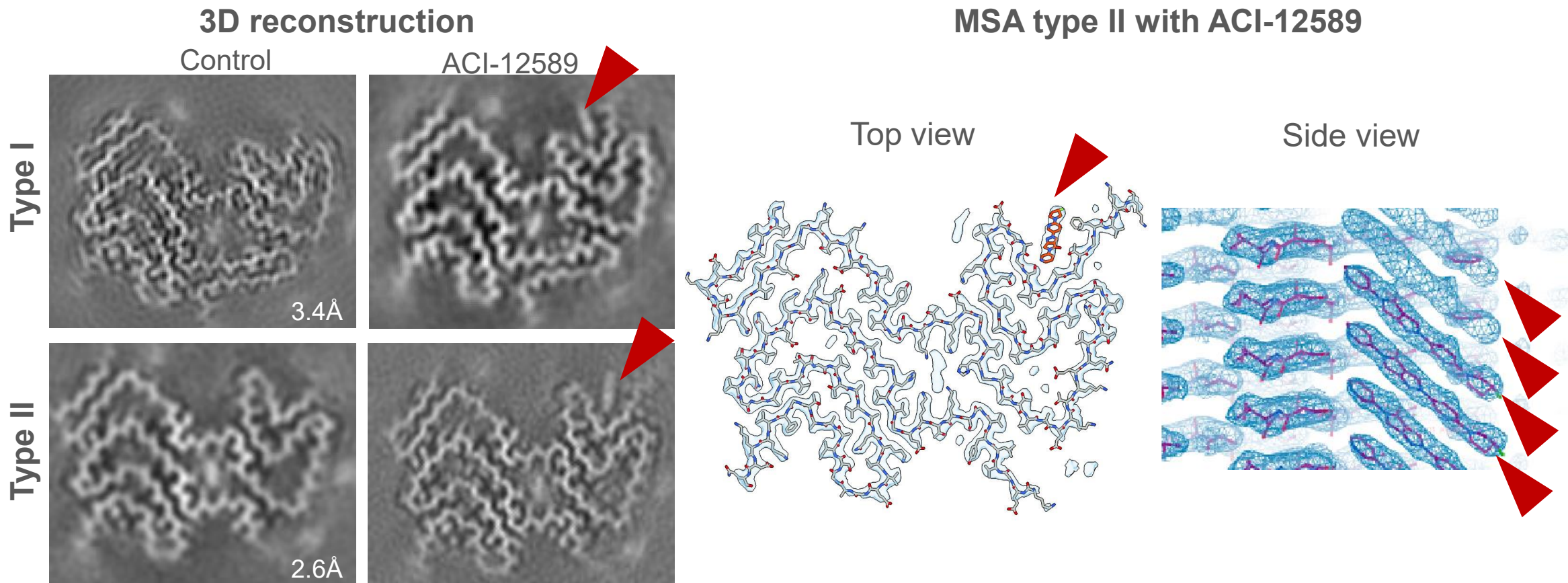


- Clear tracer retention in cerebellar white matter and cerebellar peduncles in MSA-C cases
- Increased basal ganglia uptake in MSA-P cases in comparison to controls and PD cases
- Excellent discrimination between MSA cases and controls as well as other synucleinopathies, including Parkinson's disease and Dementia with Lewy bodies

(1) Standardized uptake value ratio with occipital cortex reference region

ACI-12589 binding to MSA fibrils by high-resolution cryo-EM

Binding of ACI-12589 across the stack of the Type I and II MSA a-syn filaments



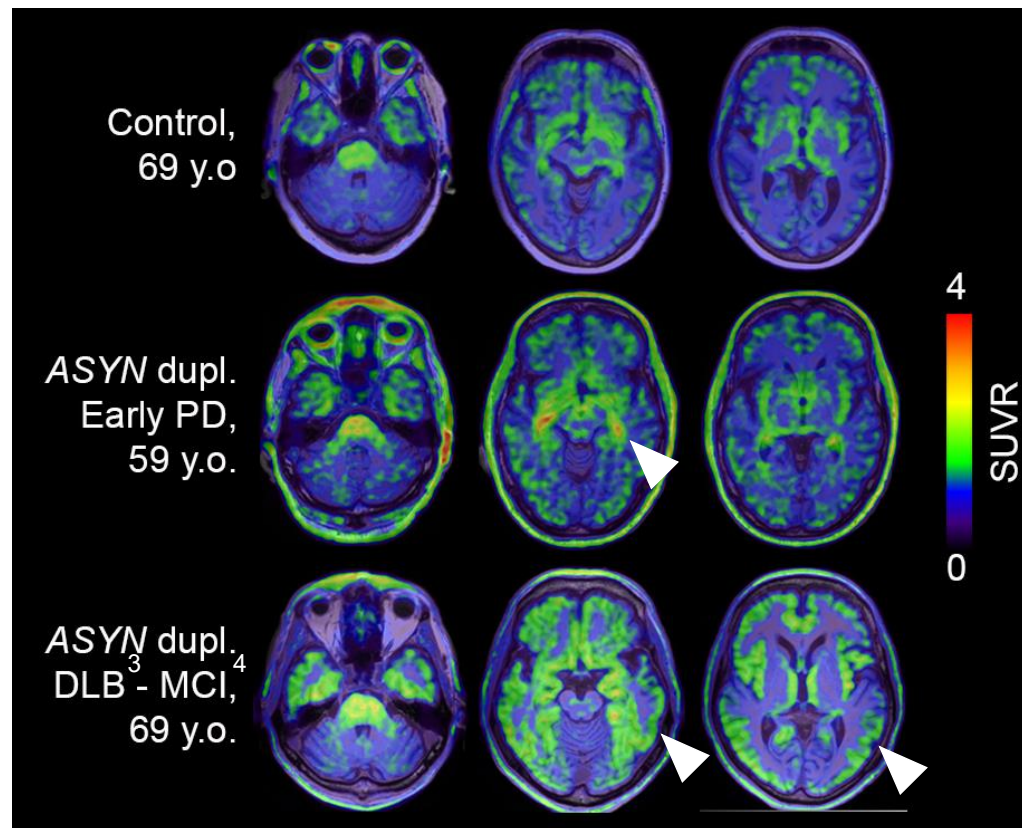
In collaboration with Dr. Yang Yang Capotosti et al., Grand Challenges in Parkinson's disease 2024



- Mapping of ACI-12589 to MSA filaments by Cryo-EM reveals that it binds:
 - to the C-terminus of the protofilament A of the Type I and II MSA a-syn folds
 - along the stack of the fibrils; one ACI-12589 molecule per rung

[18F]ACI-12589 uptake in genetic PD¹ cases

SUVR² 60-90 minutes using cerebellar grey as reference region



- Signal retention is observed in disease-relevant brain regions in genetic PD cases (SNCA duplication carriers)
- The retention is higher in the more advanced symptomatic case
- Signal distribution pattern is compatible with specificity of the signal for pathological a-syn

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Standardized Uptake Value Ratio; (3) Dementia with Lewy Bodies; (4) Mild Cognitive Impairment

Why [18F]ACI-12589 works *in vivo* in MSA but not in idiopathic PD?

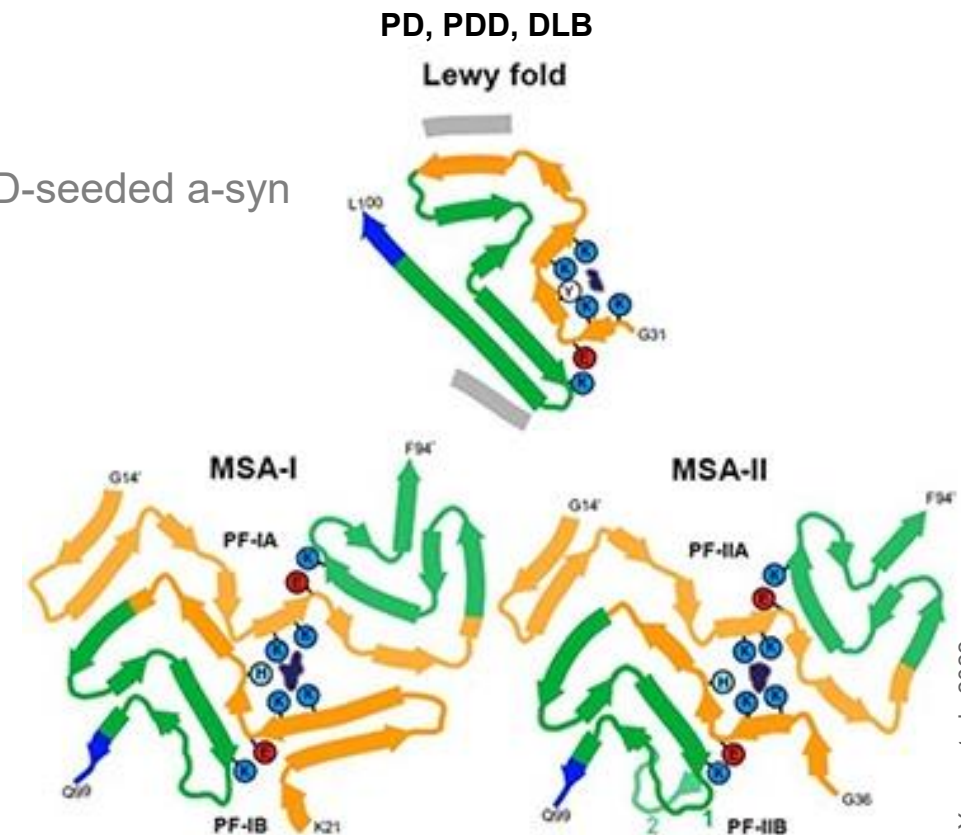
Target density and/or a-syn fibrils folding?

Arguments in favour of the higher target density:

- ACI-12589 binds *in vitro* to a-syn inclusions in PD, PDD¹, and DLB²
- [18F]ACI-12589 shows signal retention in SNCA duplication carriers
- [18F]ACI-12589 shows signal retention in a NHP model injected with PD-seeded a-syn

However:

- A-syn fibril fold is very different in MSA from PD:
 - Glial Cytoplasmic Inclusions are more densely packed than Lewy Bodies and contain two protofilaments
- This difference in folding could impact the binding

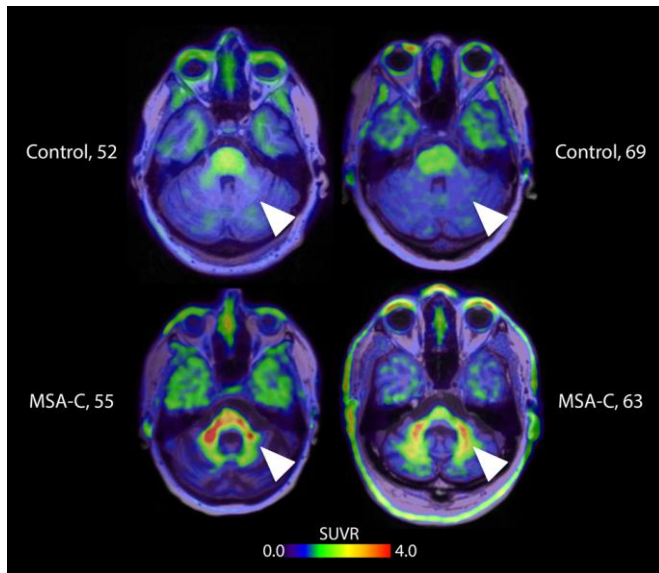


(1) Parkinson's disease with dementia; (2) Dementia with Lewy Bodies

Accelerating and derisking clinical development in MSA¹

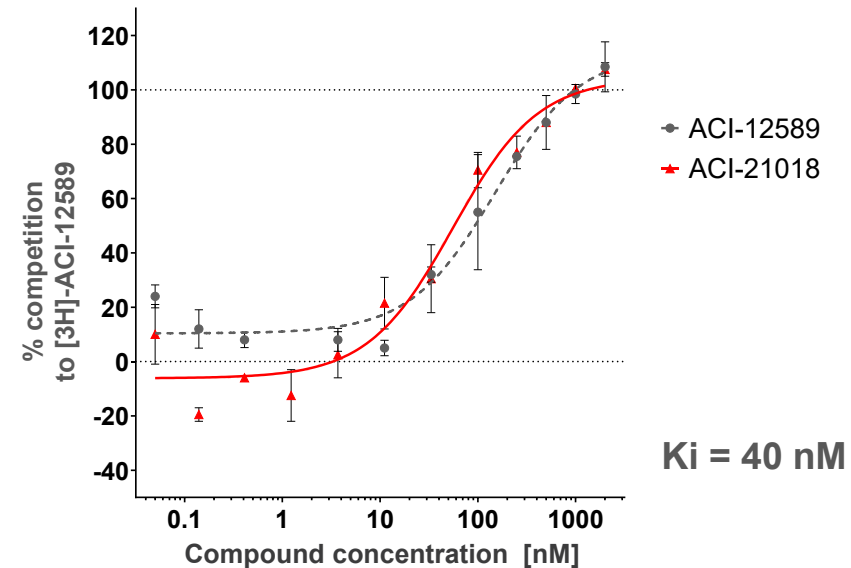
Unique opportunity to combine AC Immune's a-syn PET² tracer and therapeutic Morphomers[®]

a-syn PET ligand ACI-12589
is clinically validated in MSA



Smith, Capotosti et al., Nat. Com., 2023

a-syn PET and therapeutic Morphomers[®]
share a common binding site



Tsika et al., ADPD™ 2024

Shared binding site(s) with AC Immune's a-syn PET tracer allowing optimized clinical translatability to:

- Assess target engagement in Phase 1b study to inform dose selection
- Provide a pharmacodynamic biomarker to evaluate effect on intracellular a-syn pathology

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Positron emission tomography

[18F]ACI-12589 a clinically validated PET tracer for MSA¹

Conclusions

First-in-class

- The first tracer detecting pathologic a-synuclein in patients differentiating MSA cases from other synucleinopathies and neurodegenerative diseases

Specificity and selectivity

- Binds specifically and selectively to alpha-synuclein pathology across NDDs²
- Longitudinally increased uptake in a-syn³ NHP⁴ models and appearance of PET⁵ signal prior dopaminergic loss

Precision medicine

- Significantly improves the diagnosis of MSA
- Enables Precision Medicine and biomarker-based development in MSA

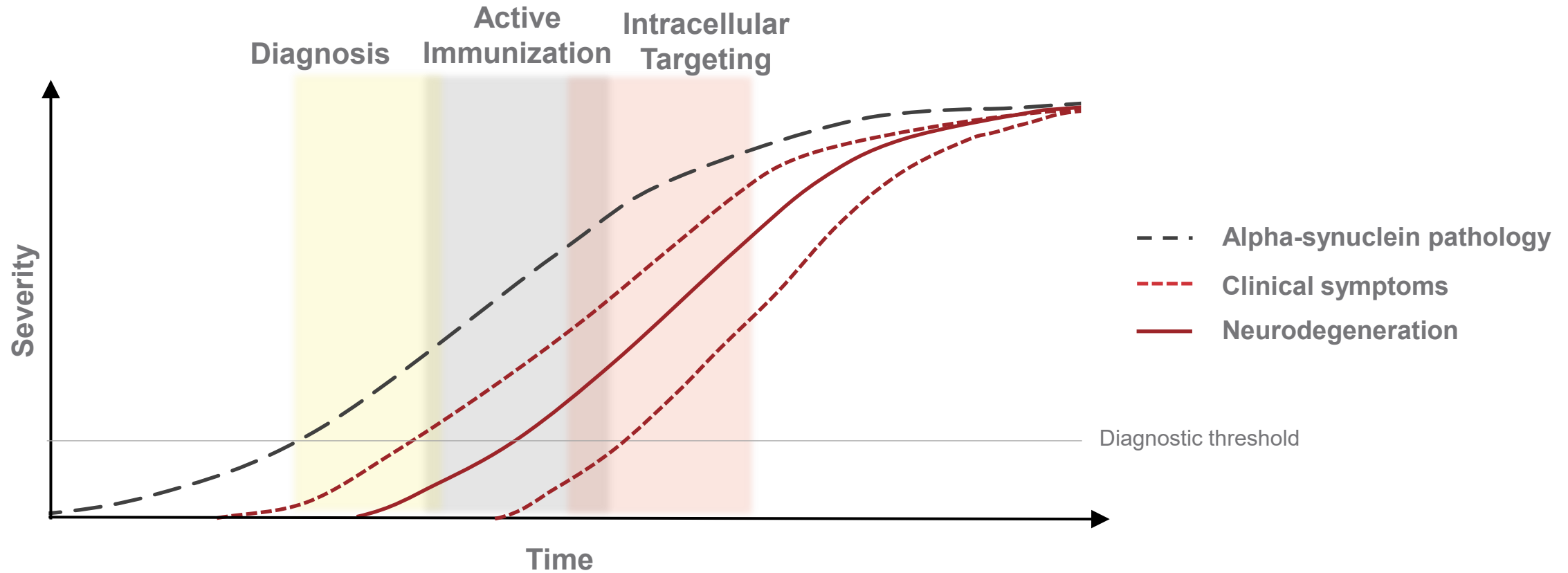
Status

- Currently being evaluated in longitudinal clinical studies

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Neurodegenerative diseases; (3) Alpha-synuclein; (4) Non-human primate; (5) Positron emission tomography

An integrated approach to target alpha-synuclein pathology

Earlier diagnosis for higher beneficial impact of disease-modifying therapies



Adapted from Simuni et al., Lancet Neurol 2024

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AC Immune: Pioneering science and precision medicine

Shifting the treatment paradigm for neurodegenerative disease towards precision medicine and disease prevention