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# Neurodegenerative diseases as a model for other pathologies

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Neurology Department  
Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona  
November 23, 2023

**cib**er | NED

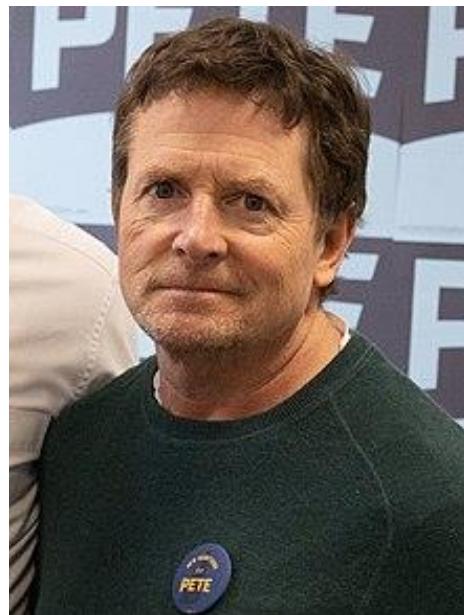
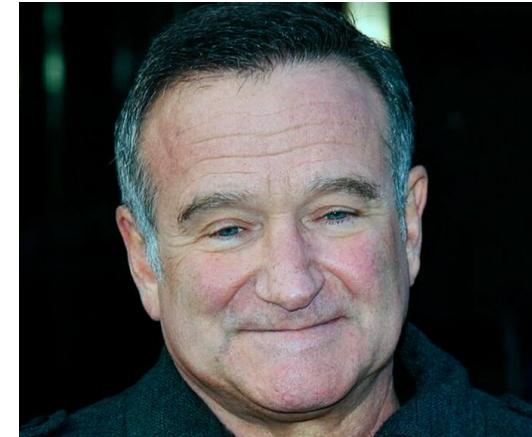
# Disclosures

Fees for advisory board meetings from Eisai, Fujirebio-Europe, Grifols, Novartis, Roche Diagnostics, Otsuka Pharmaceutical, Nutricia, NovoNordisk, Zambón and Biogen

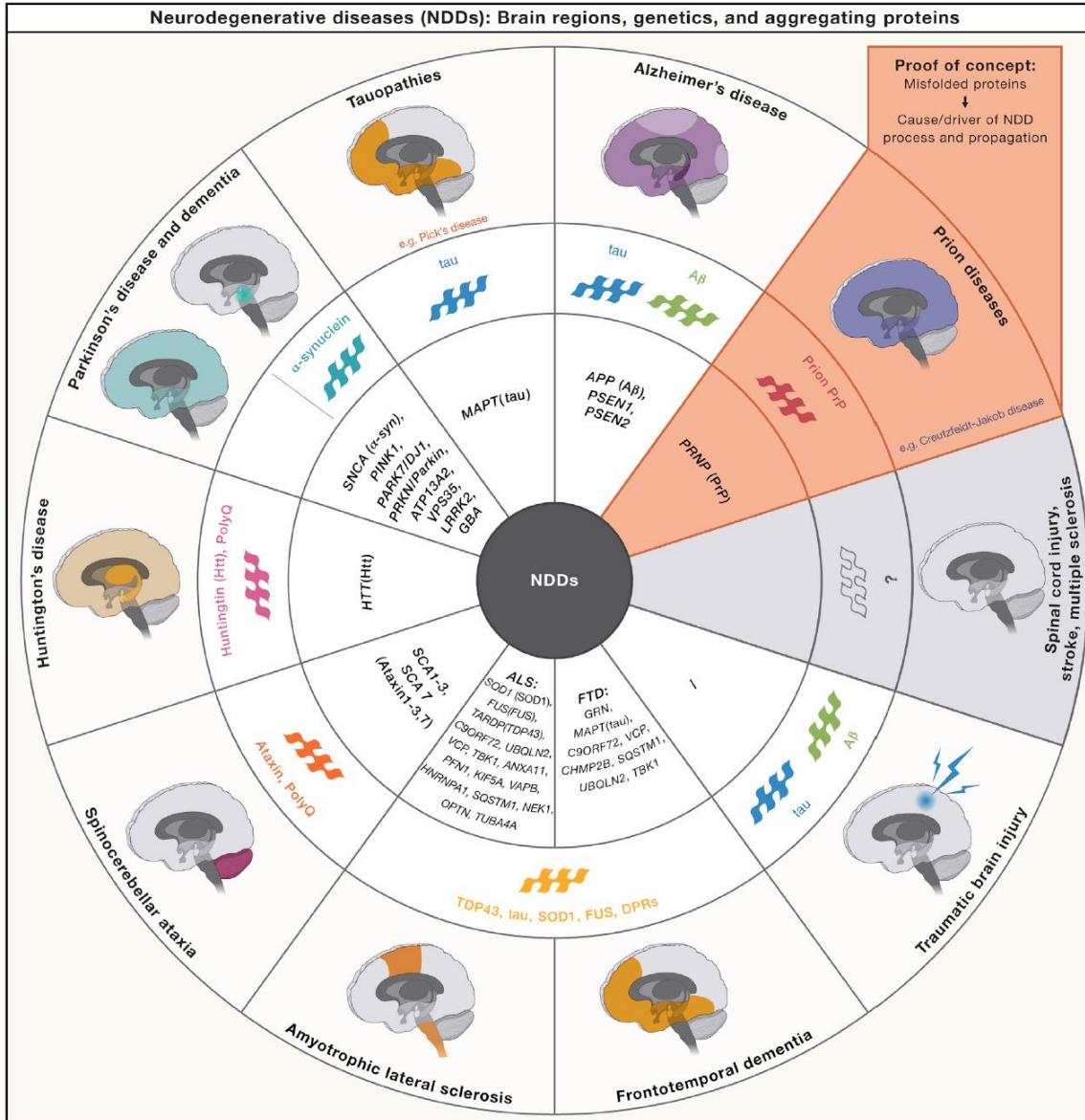
Speaker honoraria from Lilly, Biogen, KRKA, Novartis and Zambon

Co-author of a patent on markers of synaptopathy in neurodegenerative diseases (Nº: EP18382175.0, PCT/EP2019/056535)

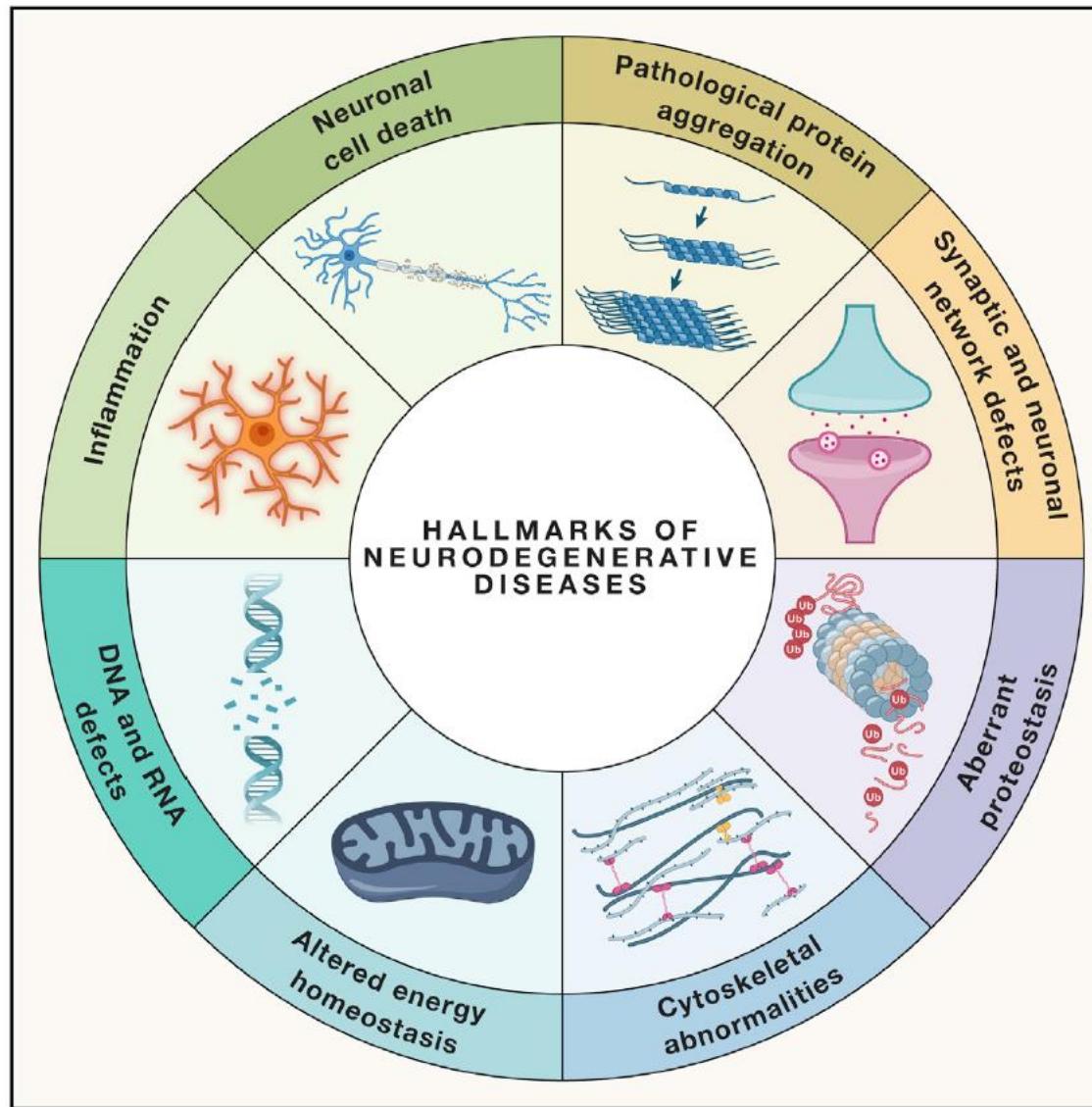
# Common diseases with social stigma



# Main neurodegenerative diseases

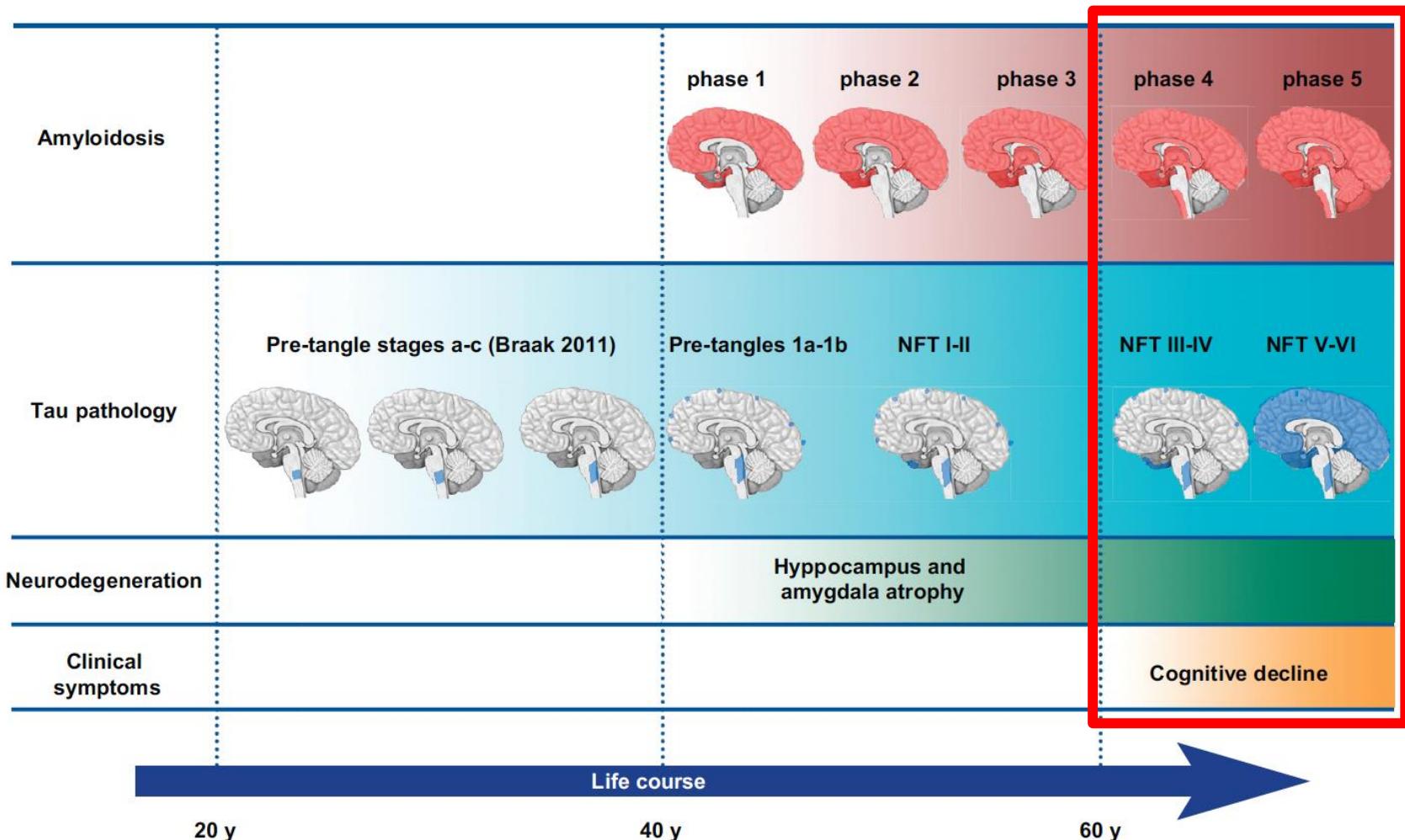


# Hallmarks of neurodegenerative diseases

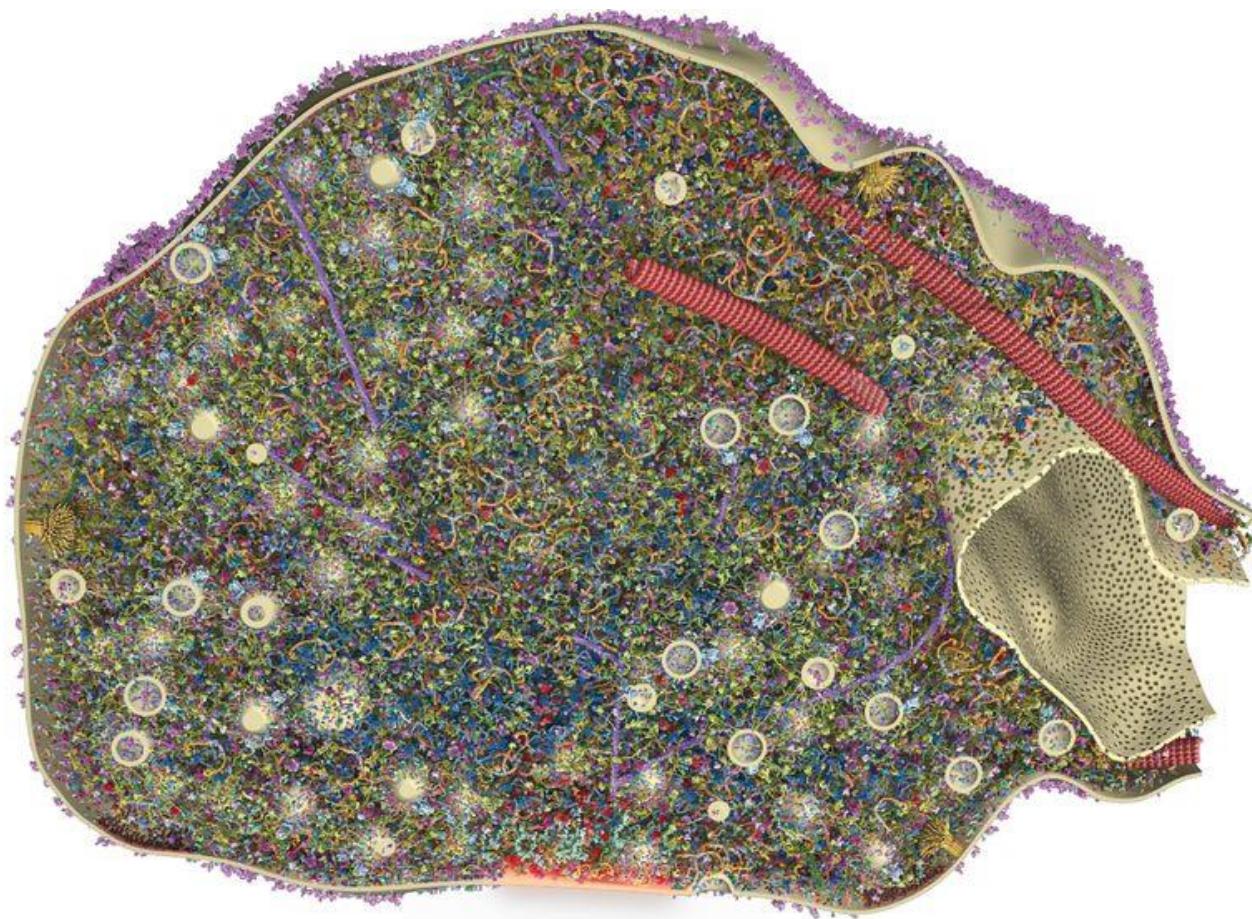


# Long incubation phase

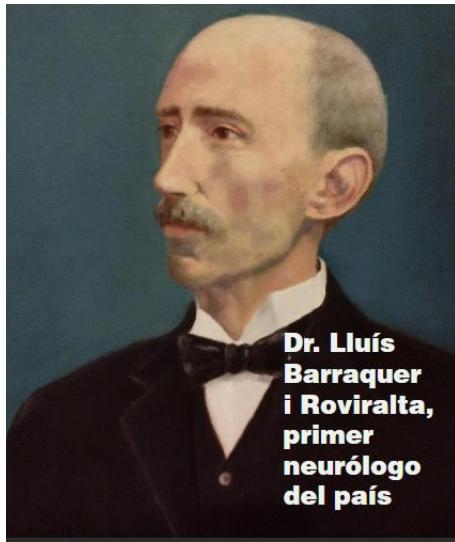
## Alzheimer's disease



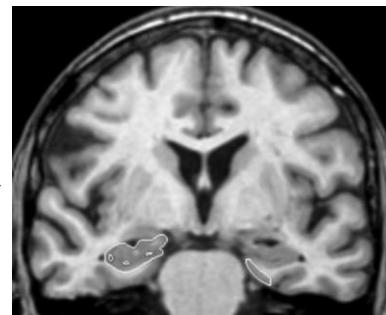
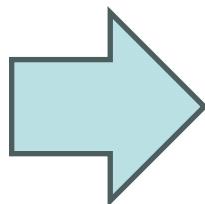
# Neuronal and synapse loss



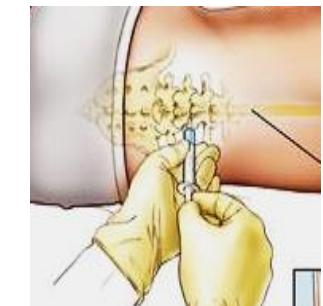
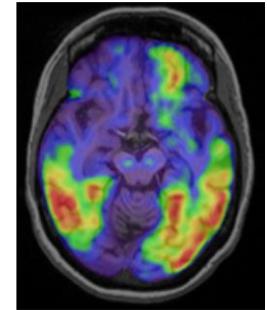
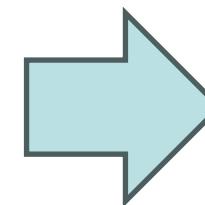
# New paradigm in diagnosis



Clinical diagnosis



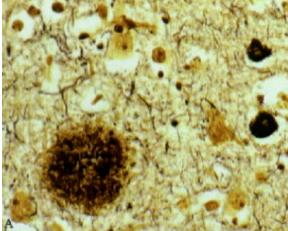
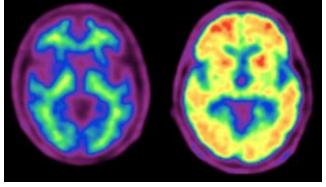
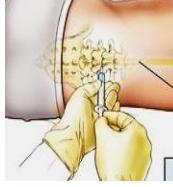
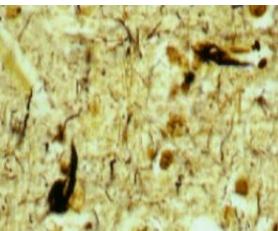
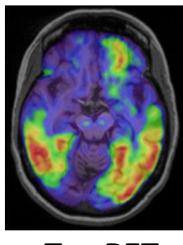
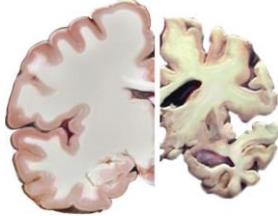
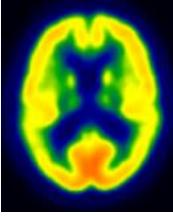
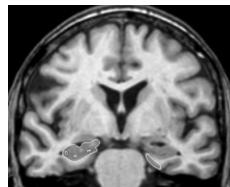
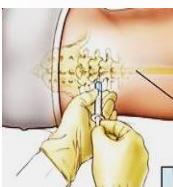
Structural Imaging



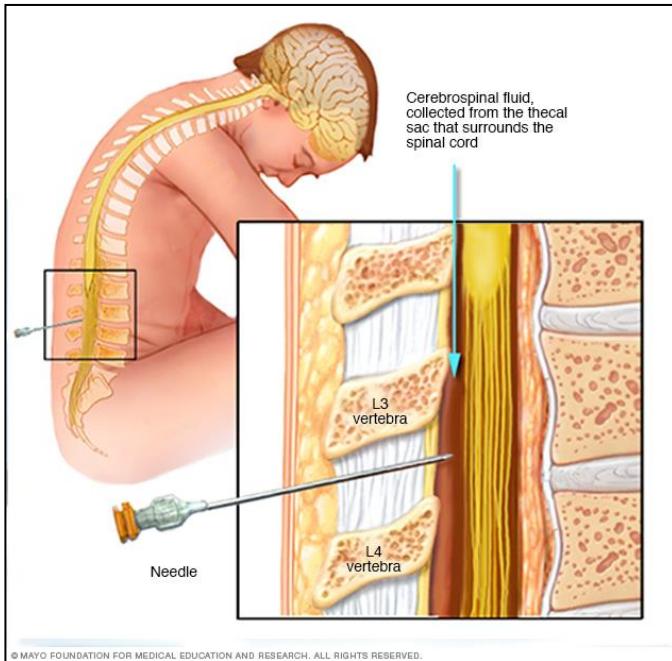
Molecular Imaging  
Fluid markers

# Main Alzheimer's disease biomarkers

## AT (N)

Pathophysiology	Imaging	Fluid
	<p>A+</p> <p>Brain Amyloidosis</p>  <p>Amyloid PET</p>	 <p>CSF <math>\text{A}\beta_{42}/\text{A}\beta_{40}</math> ratio</p> <p>Plasma <math>\text{A}\beta_{42}/\text{A}\beta_{40}</math> ratio</p>
	<p>T+</p> <p>Tau Pathology</p>  <p>Tau PET</p>	 <p>CSF pTau<sub>181</sub></p> <p>Plasma pTau<sub>181</sub></p>
	<p>N+</p> <p>Neurodegeneration</p>  <p>FDG PET</p>  <p>Structural MRI</p>	 <p>CSF NfL (t-tau)</p> <p>Plasma NfL</p>

# CSF in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease



Daniel Alcolea, M.D.

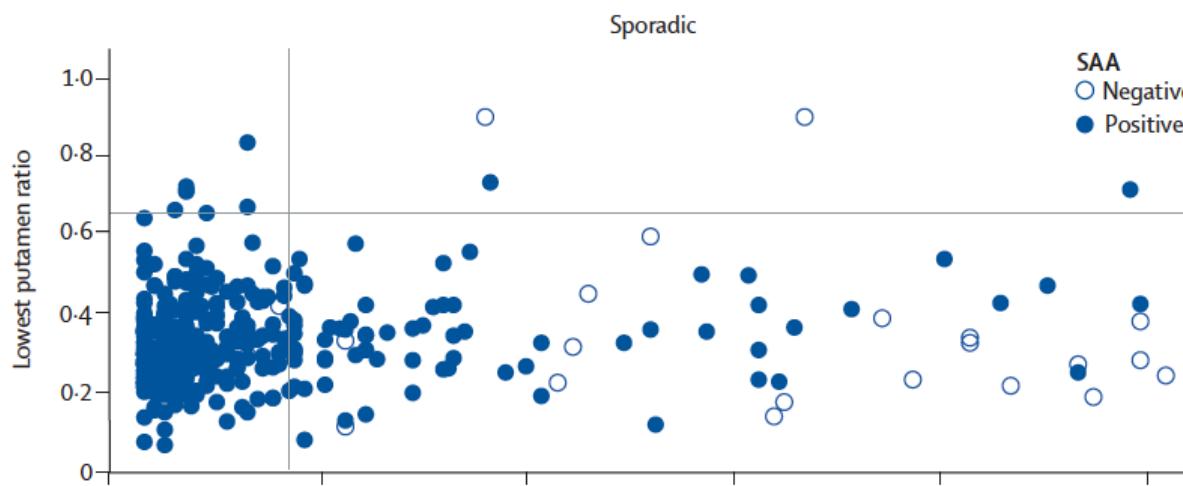
$\downarrow$   $A\beta_{42}$   
 $A\beta_{42/40}$        $\uparrow$   $t\text{-tau}$   
                         $p\text{-tau}$

“AD signature”

Lleo A et al, Nat Rev Neurol 2015;11:41-55  
Alcolea D et al, Neurology 2023; 101(4):172-180

# CSF markers in the diagnosis of Parkinson disease

## $\alpha$ -synuclein Seed Amplification Assay (SAA)



AUC

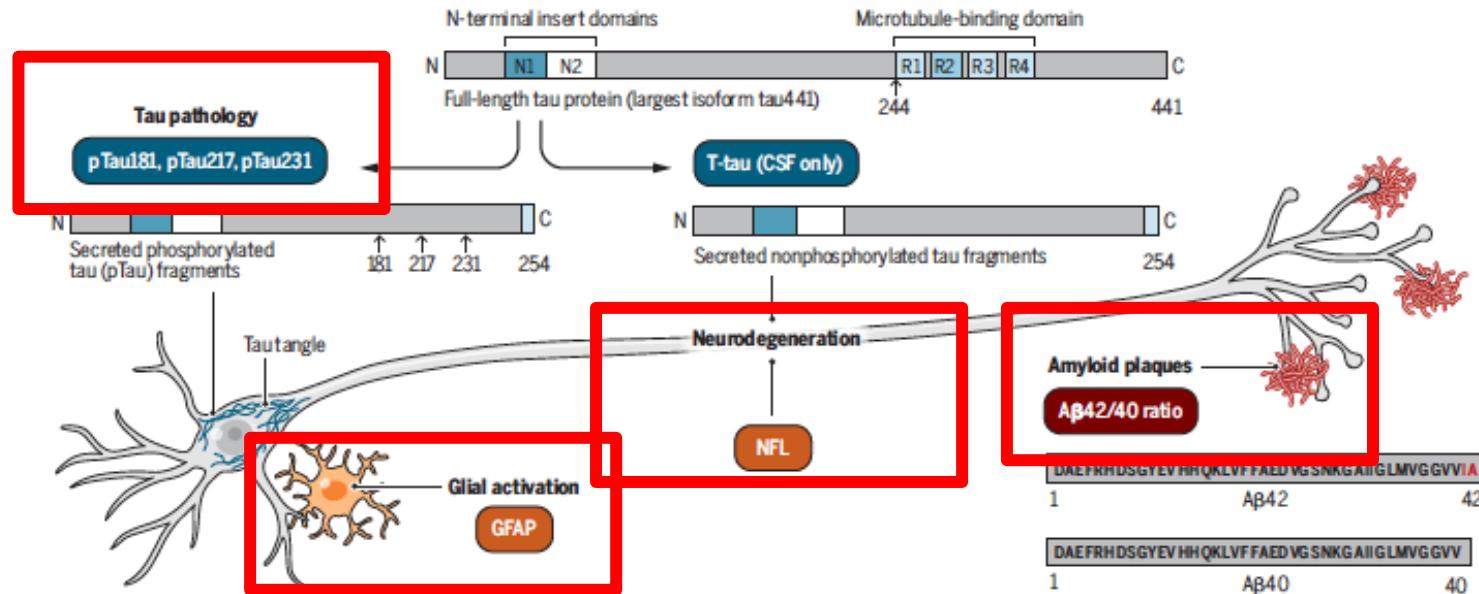
All PD = 87.7% (84.9–90.5)

Sporadic PD = 93.3% (90.8–95.8)

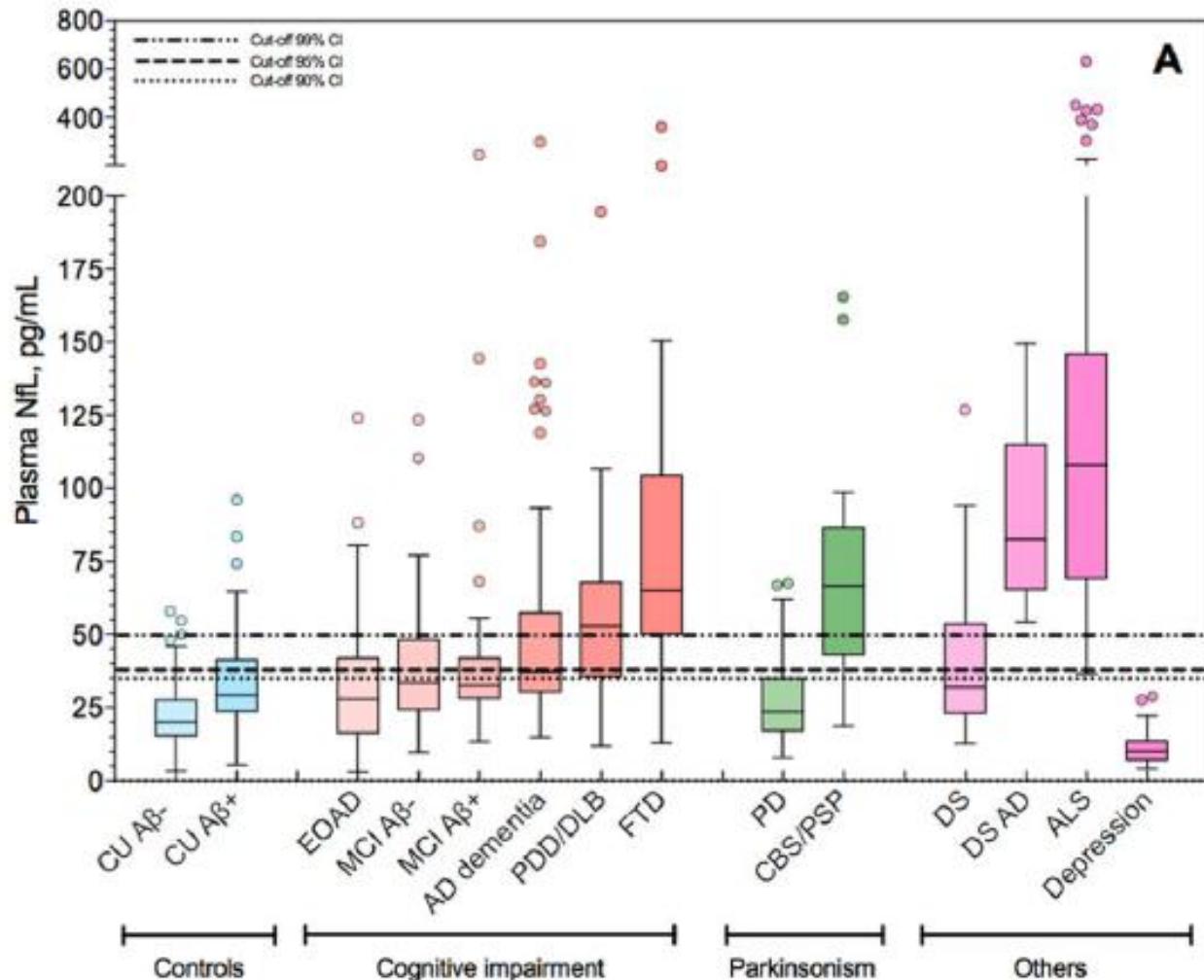
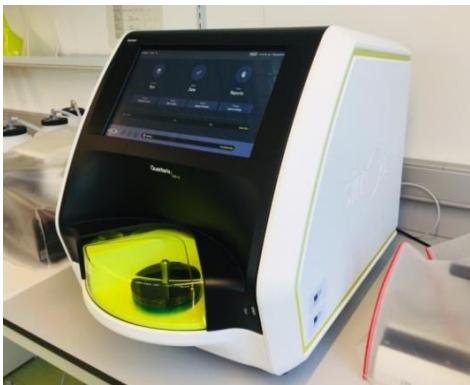
n=1123

Siderowf et al, Lancet Neurol 2023

# Plasma markers in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

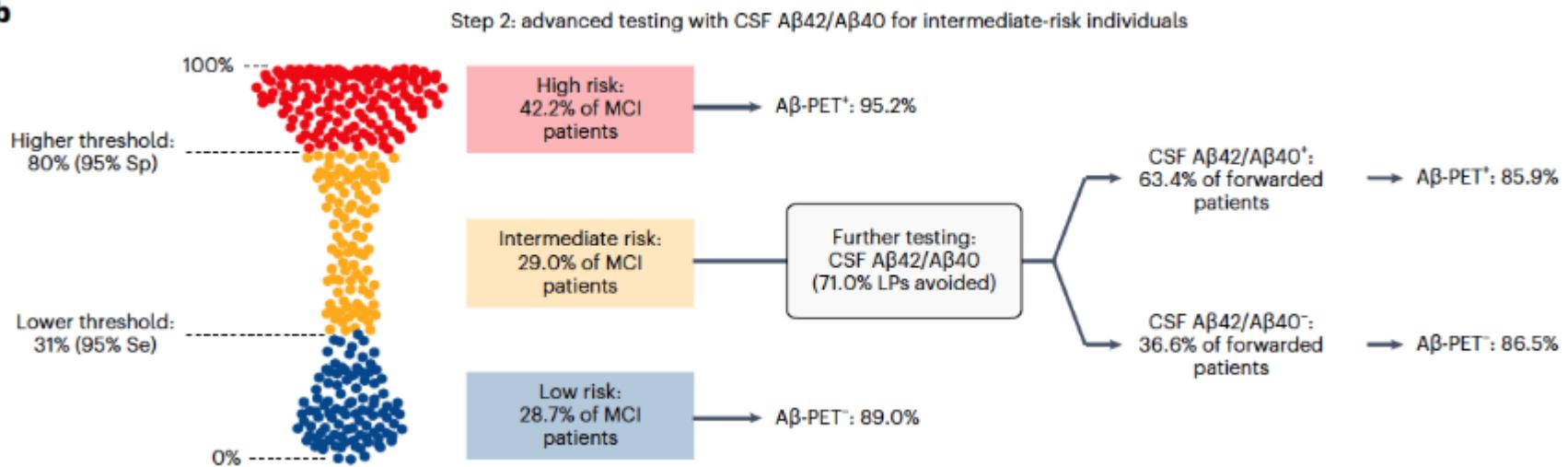


# Plasma markers in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease



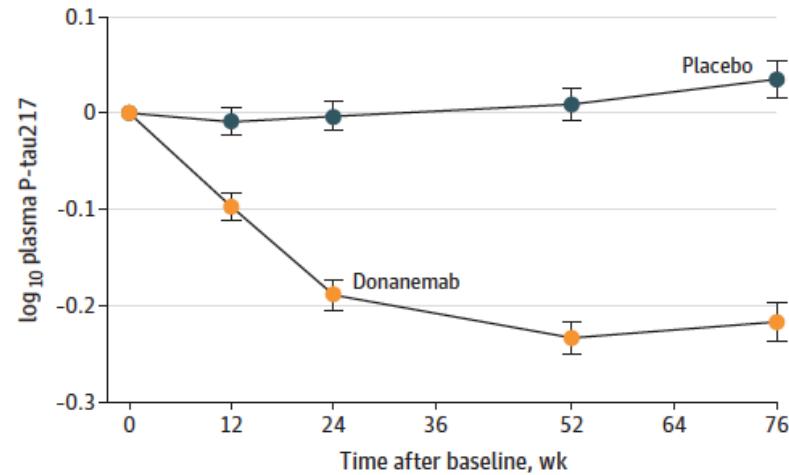
# P-tau217 in plasma in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

b



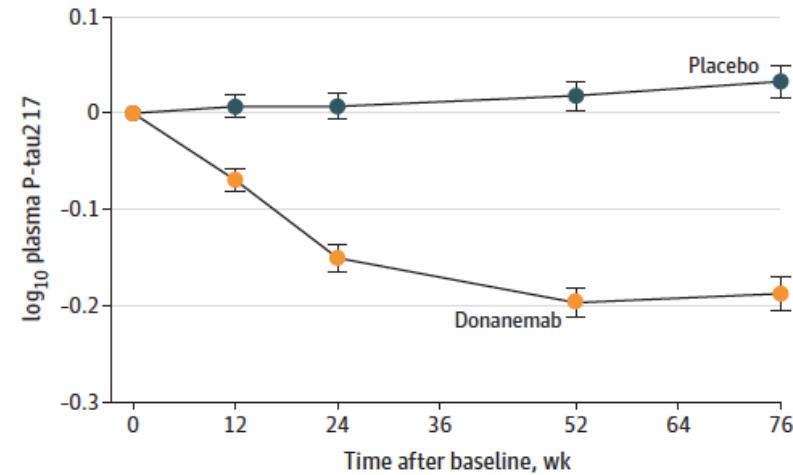
# P-tau217 in plasma in Alzheimer's disease trials

C Adjusted mean change (95% CI) of  $\log_{10}$  plasma P-tau217 in low/medium tau population



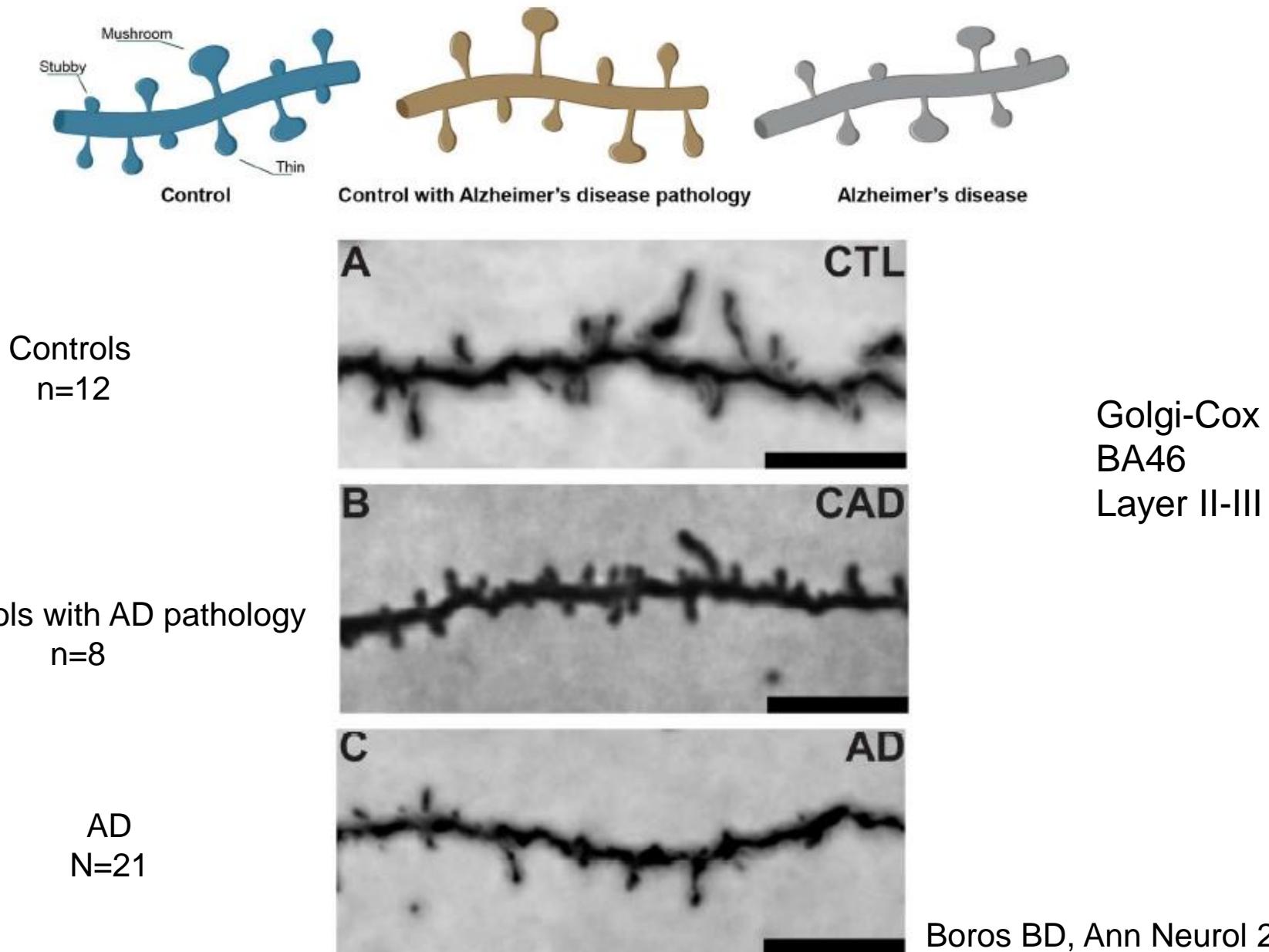
No. of participants	Placebo	Donanemab
Placebo	537	522
Donanemab	517	493

D Adjusted mean change (95% CI) of  $\log_{10}$  plasma P-tau217 in combined population



No. of participants	Placebo	Donanemab
Placebo	786	758
Donanemab	717	686

# Loss of synapses in Alzheimer's disease



## COEN Pathfinder

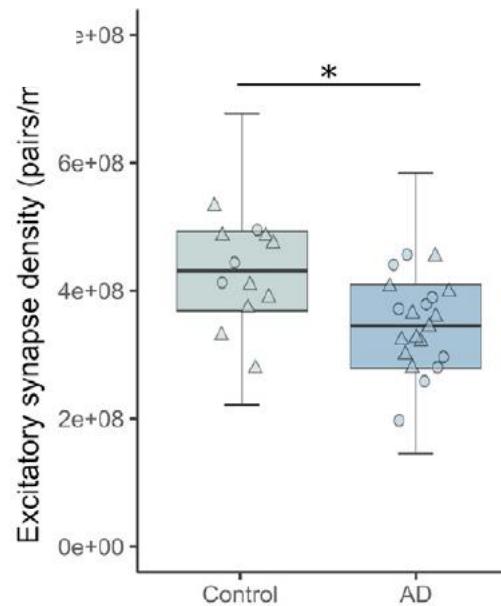
Article

# Synaptic oligomeric tau in Alzheimer's disease – A potential culprit in the spread of tau pathology through the brain

Martí Colom-Cadena,<sup>1,8</sup> Caitlin Davies,<sup>1,8</sup> Sònia Sirisi,<sup>2,3</sup> Ji-Eun Lee,<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth M. Simzer,<sup>1</sup> Makis Tzioras,<sup>1</sup> Marta Querol-Vilaseca,<sup>2,3</sup> Érika Sánchez-Aced,<sup>2,3</sup> Ya Yin Chang,<sup>1</sup> Kristjan Holt,<sup>1</sup> Robert I. McGeachan,<sup>1</sup> Jamie Rose,<sup>1</sup> Jane Tulloch,<sup>1</sup> Lewis Wilkins,<sup>1</sup> Colin Smith,<sup>5</sup> Teodora Andrian,<sup>6</sup> Olivia Belbin,<sup>2,3</sup> Silvia Pujals,<sup>7</sup> Mathew H. Horrocks,<sup>4</sup> Alberto Lleó,<sup>2,3,\*</sup> and Tara L. Spires-Jones<sup>1,9,\*</sup>

1.315.583 individual synapses  
24 AD cases  
19 Controls

BA 20/21 (Inf Temporal cortex)  
BA17 (Visual cortex)



1.2 Fold decrease

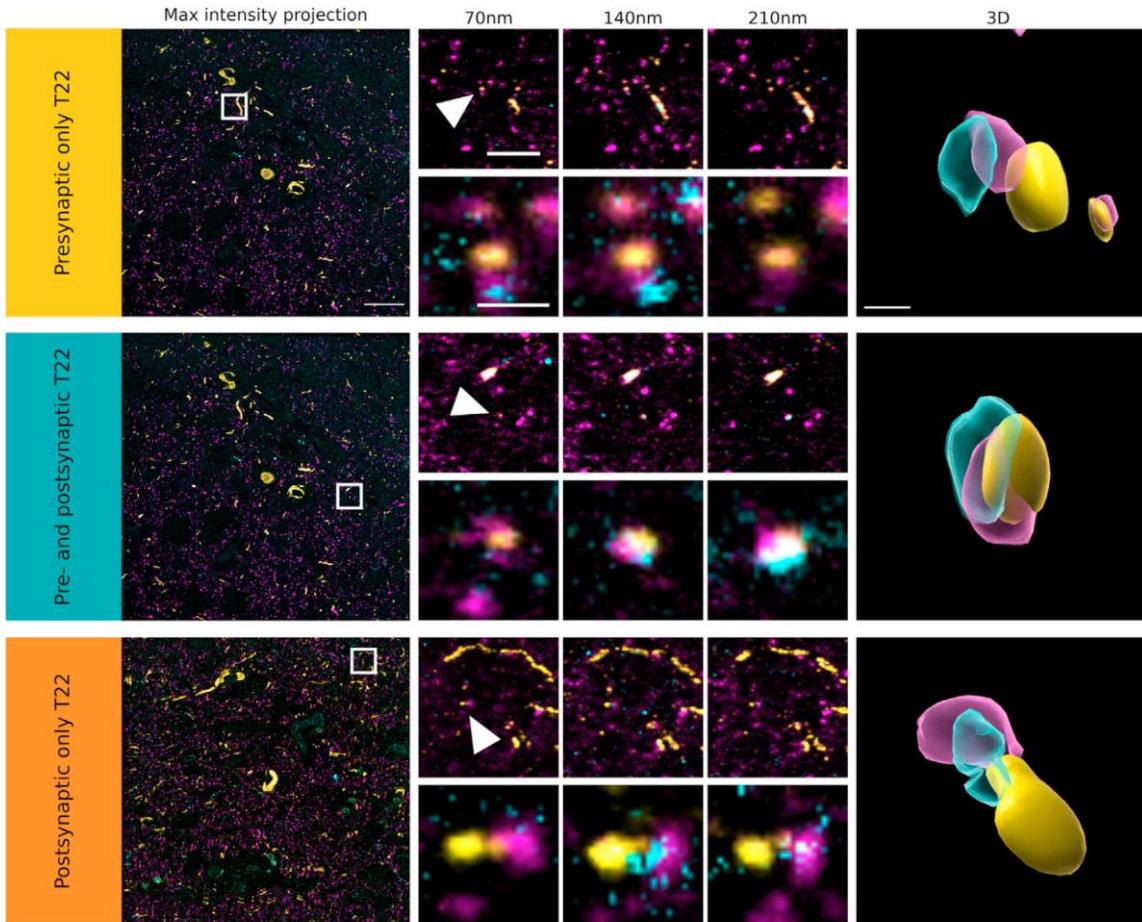


Sonia Sirisi, PhD

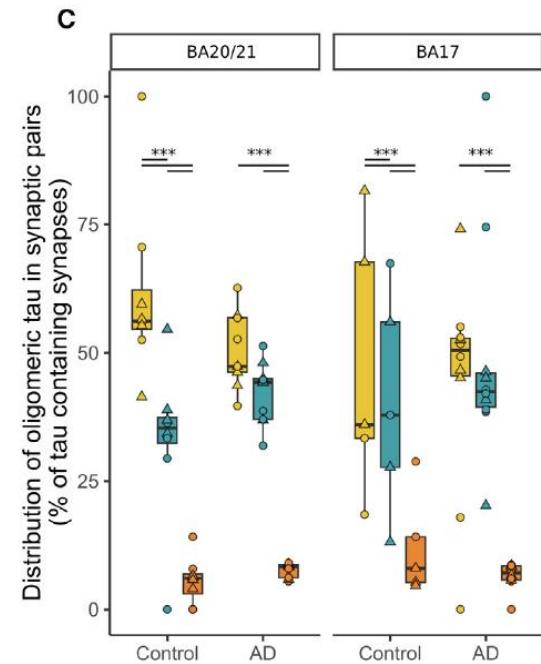


Erika Sánchez, MSC

# Synaptic tau localization in Alzheimer's disease



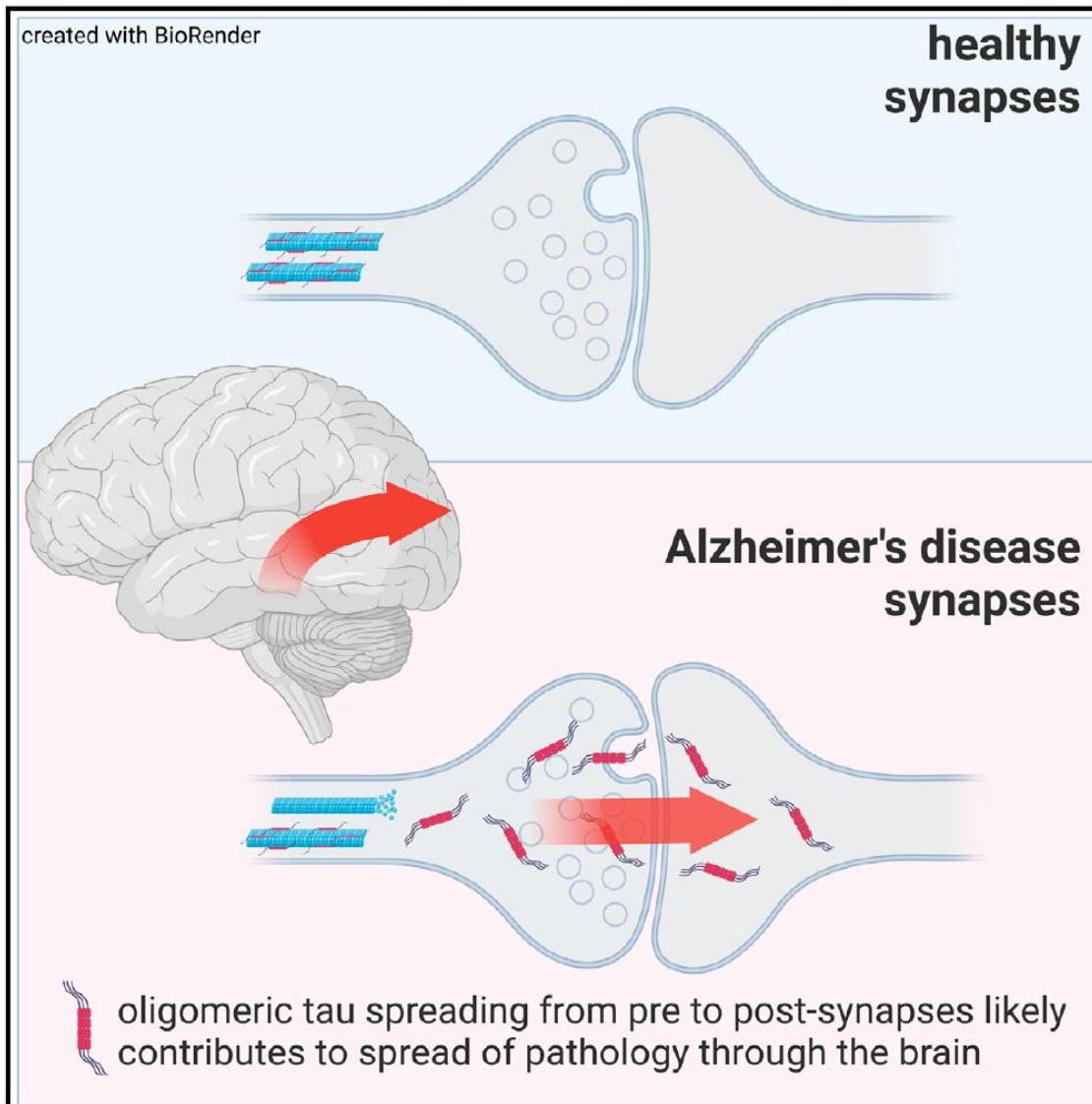
1.315.583 individual synapses



Synaptic localisation

- Presynaptic only
- Pre- and postsynaptic
- Postsynaptic only

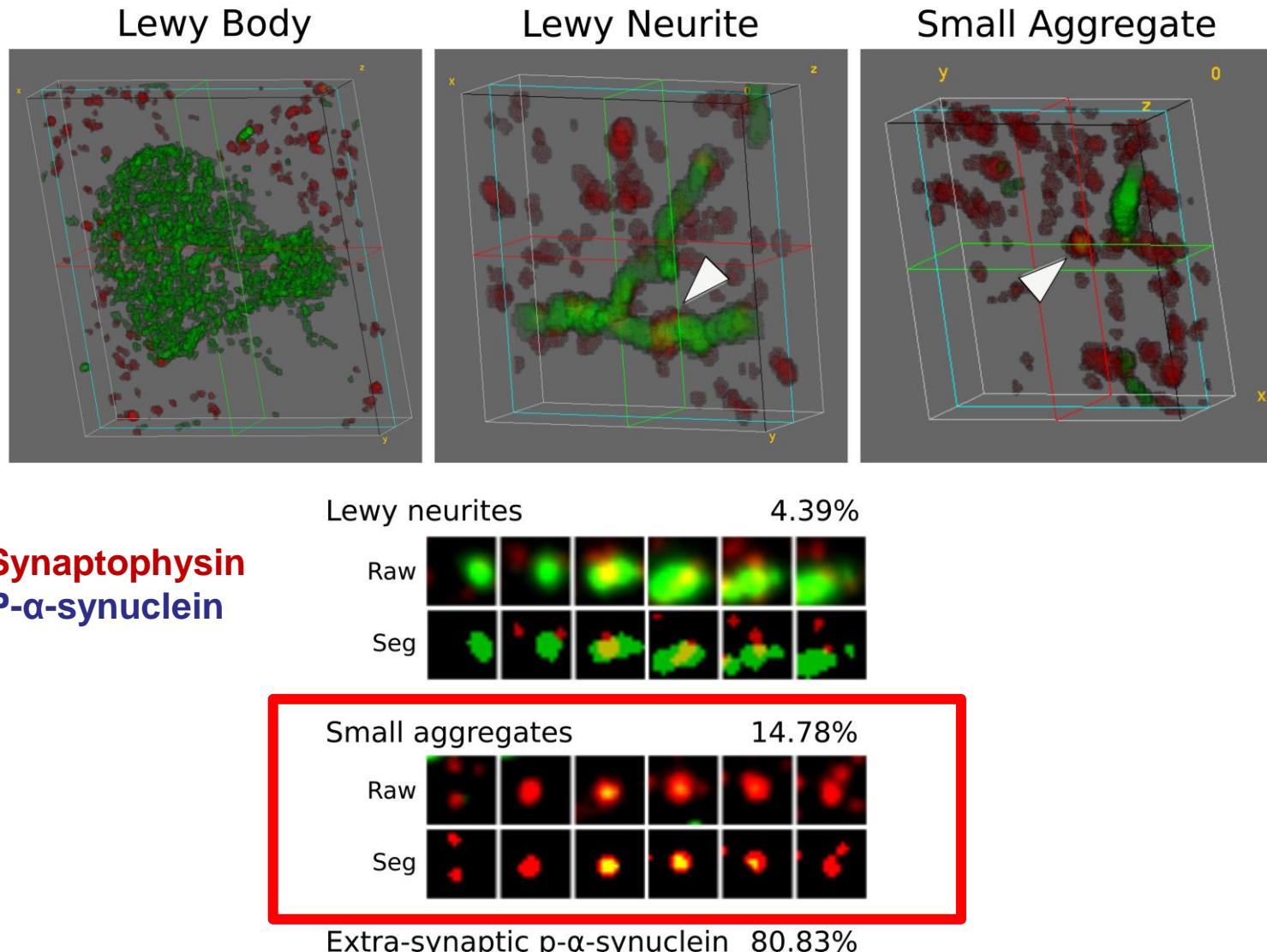
# Synaptic oligomeric tau in Alzheimer's disease



1.315.583 individual synapses

Colom-Cadena M et al, Neuron 2023

# P- $\alpha$ -synuclein is found at pre-synaptic terminals in dementia with Lewy bodies



# Emerging therapies: Antisense oligonucleotides in Spinal Muscular Atrophy

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

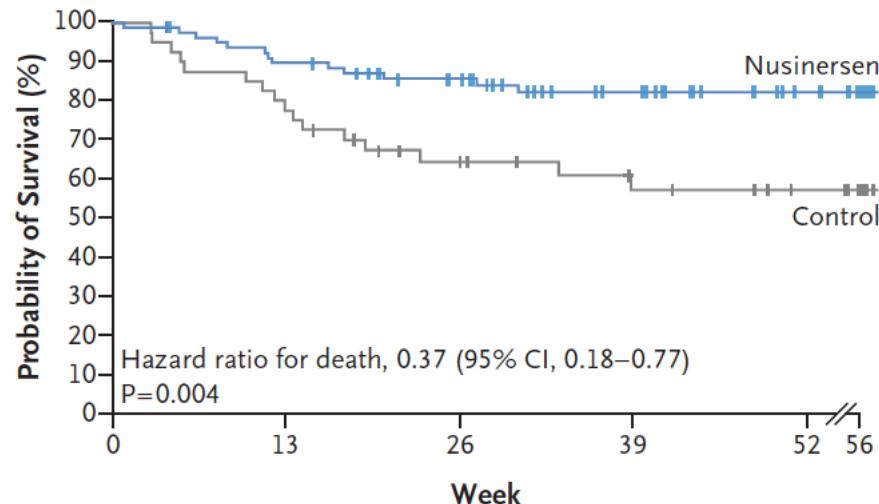
ORIGINAL ARTICLE



## Nusinersen versus Sham Control in Infantile-Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy

R.S. Finkel, E. Mercuri, B.T. Darras, A.M. Connolly, N.L. Kuntz, J. Kirschner, C.A. Chiriboga, K. Saito, L. Servais, E. Tizzano, H. Topaloglu, M. Tulinius, J. Montes, A.M. Glanzman, K. Bishop, Z.J. Zhong, S. Gheuens, C.F. Bennett, E. Schneider, W. Farwell, and D.C. De Vivo, for the ENDEAR Study Group\*

### B Overall Survival

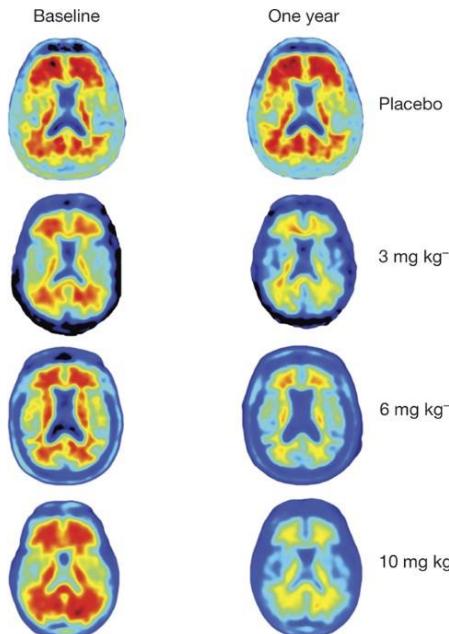


#### No. at Risk

Nusinersen	80	71	58	41	28	23
Control	41	33	23	17	12	10

# A new era in Alzheimer's disease

## Aducanumab

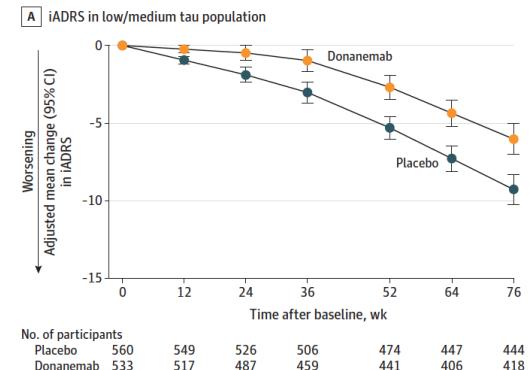


## Lecanemab



Lars Lannfelt  
mAb158

## Donanemab

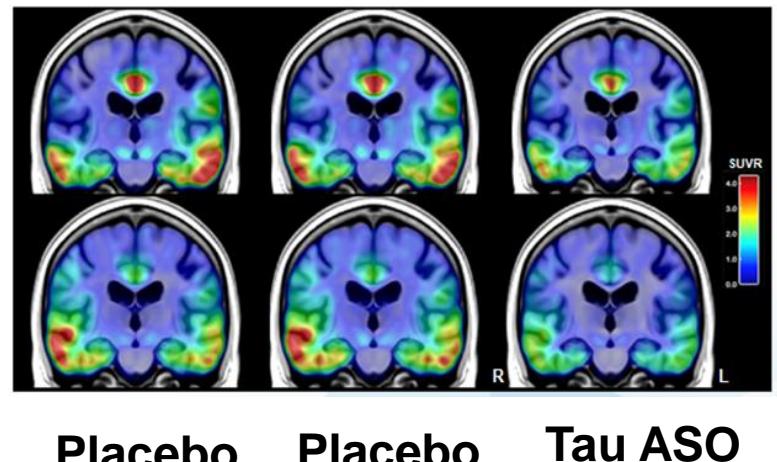
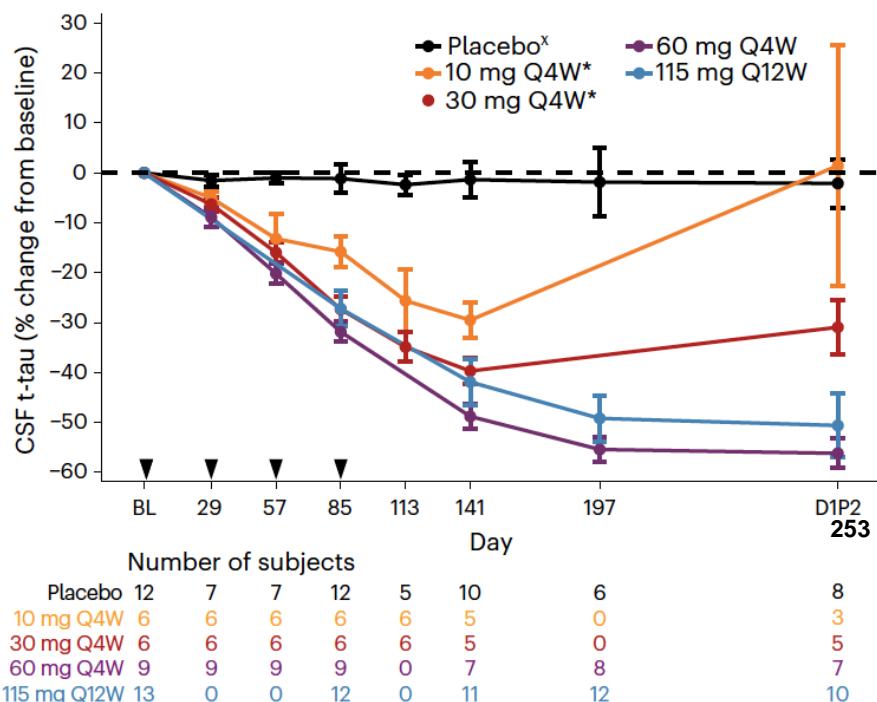


# BIB080: Antisense-oligonucleotide in Alzheimer's disease

Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02326-3>

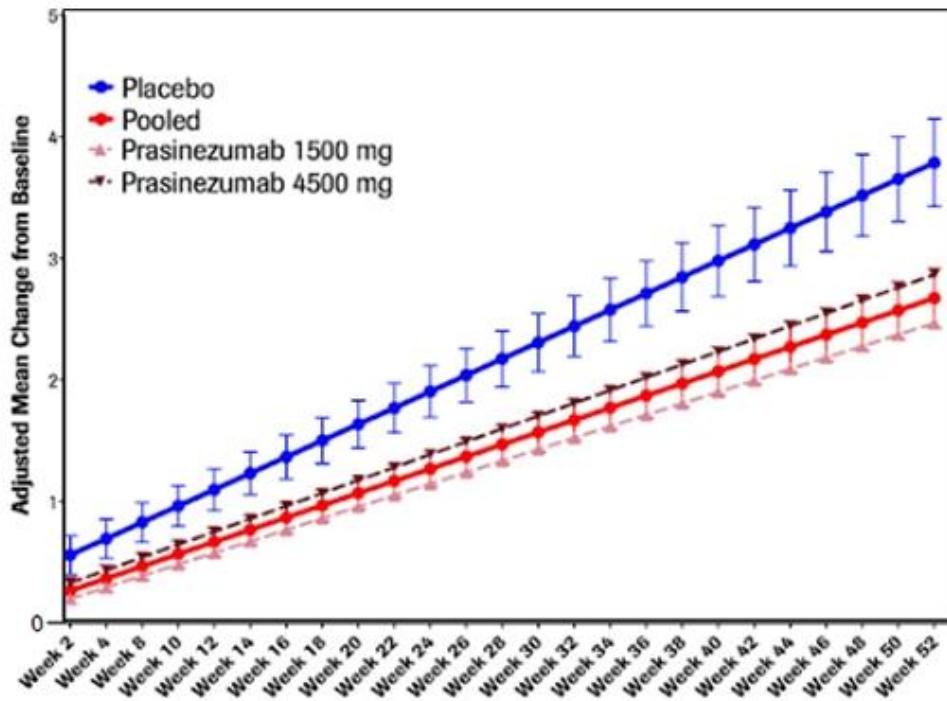
## Tau-targeting antisense oligonucleotide MAPT<sub>Rx</sub> in mild Alzheimer's disease: a phase 1b, randomized, placebo-controlled trial



# Emerging data of efficacy of immunotherapy in Parkinson disease

Prasinezumab ( $\alpha$ -synuclein monoclonal antibody)

## Digital PASADENA Motor scores



Pooled: -0.030, 80% CI=(-0.050, -0.010); **-25.0%**

Prasinezumab 1500 mg: -0.040, 80% CI=(-0.063, -0.017); **-30.3%**

Prasinezumab 4500 mg: -0.029, 80% CI= (-0.052, -0.006); **-21.5%**

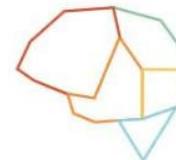
# Conclusions

- Neurodegenerative diseases have entered a new era
- Novel fluid diagnostic biomarkers (CSF and plasma) have been instrumental
- Synaptic pathology is an early and key event
- Immunotherapy will be mainstay
- Antisense oligonucleotide and genetic therapy for genetic cases
- Many other drug targets in the horizon



# Thank you! Gracias!

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## Collaborators:

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- Tara Spires-Jones. Univ. Edimburg.
- Bradley Hyman. MGH. Boston.
- Silvia Pujals. IQAC. Barcelona.



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