

# Smart Diaspora 2023

10 - 13 Aprilie 2023,  
Timișoara

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al Președintelui României



# British-Romanian Academic Institute of Neuroscience (BRAIN), why it is such a mandatory need? Why now?

Roxana Carare MD, PhD  
Professor of Clinical Neuroanatomy  
University of Southampton, UK

UMFST “G.E. Palade” Targu Mures, Romania

# No efficient cure for any neurological/psychiatric disorder

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## The burden of neurological diseases in Europe: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017



*Günther Deuschl, Ettore Beghi, Franz Fazekas, Timea Varga, Kalliopi A Christoforidi, Eveline Sipido, Claudio L Bassetti, Theo Vos, Valery L Feigin*



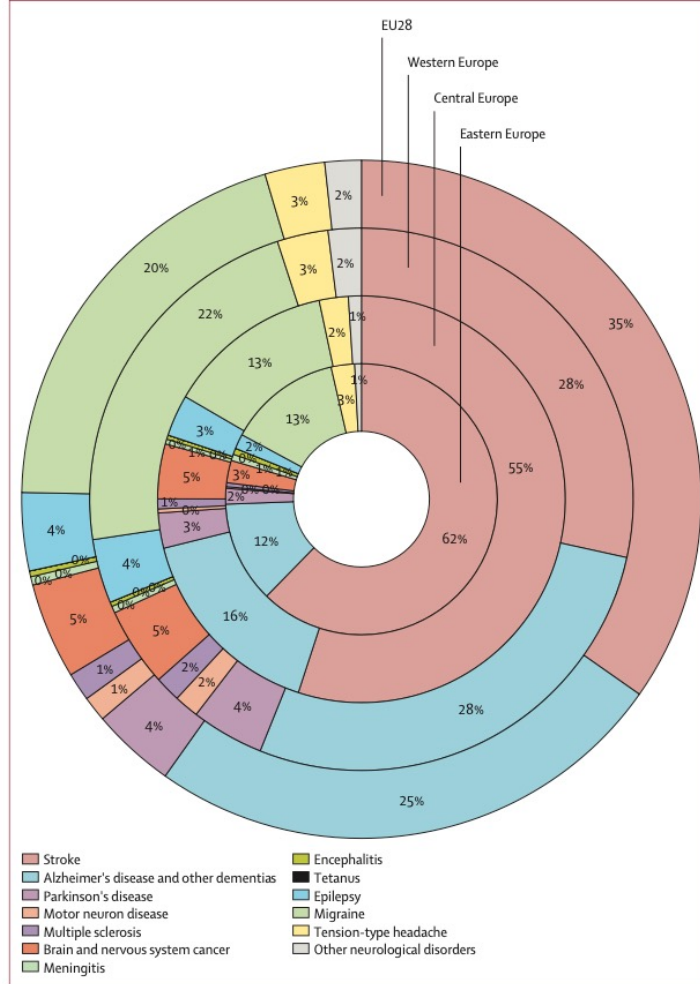
### Summary

**Background** Neurological disorders account for a large and increasing health burden worldwide, as shown in the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) Study 2016. Unpacking how this burden varies regionally and nationally is

*Lancet Public Health 2020;  
5: e551-67*

### Results

In 2017, the total population in the EU28 was 512·4 million and the population of WHO Europe region was 925·6 million. In the same year, 307·9 million neurological diseases were counted in the EU28,



**Figure 1: Contribution of each disease to the overall burden of neurological disorders in the EU28, western, central, and eastern Europe in 2017**  
 Percentages represent proportion of DALYs. DALYs=disability-adjusted life-years. EU28=the 27 countries in the EU plus the UK.

Complex, multifactorial diseases =  
interdisciplinary creative high risk, high gain  
actions

**<https://brain.umfst.ro>**

BRAIN

# British - Romanian Academic Institute of Neurosciences

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BRAIN: Neurology, Neurorehabilitation,  
Neurosurgery, Psychiatry meet  
Genetics, Mathematics, Physics, Computer  
science, Engineering

Romania also needs new  
recognized independent specialities: Neuropathology,  
Palliative Care

## **Antisense Oligonucleotide Therapies for Neurodegenerative Diseases**

**C. Frank Bennett<sup>1</sup>, Adrian R. Krainer<sup>2</sup>, Don W. Cleveland<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Carlsbad, California 92010, USA

<sup>2</sup>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724, USA

<sup>3</sup>Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093, USA

### **Abstract**

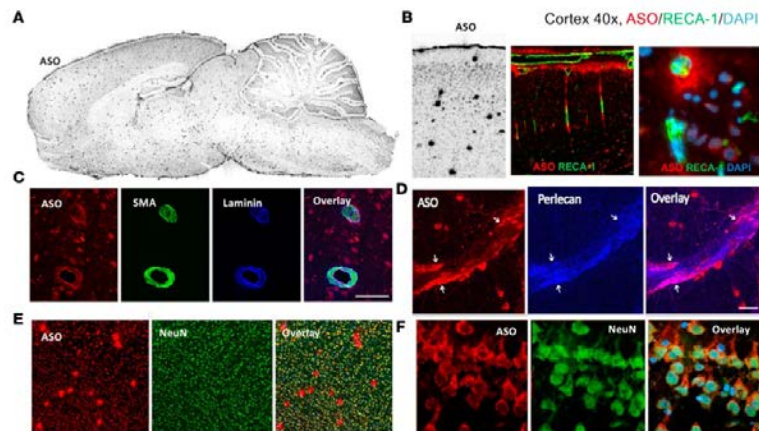
Antisense oligonucleotides represent a novel therapeutic platform for the discovery of medicines that have the potential to treat most neurodegenerative diseases. Antisense drugs are currently in development for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease, and Alzheimer's disease, and multiple research programs are underway for additional neurodegenerative diseases. One antisense drug, nusinersen, has been approved for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy. Importantly, nusinersen improves disease symptoms when administered to symptomatic patients rather than just slowing the progression of the disease. In addition to the benefit to spinal muscular atrophy patients, there are discoveries from nusinersen that can be applied to other neurological diseases, including method of delivery, doses, tolerability of intrathecally delivered antisense drugs, and the biodistribution of intrathecal dosed antisense drugs. Based in part on the early success of nusinersen, antisense drugs hold great promise as a therapeutic platform for the treatment of neurological diseases.



# Brain pharmacology of intrathecal antisense oligonucleotides revealed through multimodal imaging

Curt Mazur,<sup>1</sup> Berit Powers,<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Zasadny,<sup>2</sup> Jenna M. Sullivan,<sup>2,3</sup> Hemi Dimant,<sup>2</sup> Fredrik Kamme,<sup>1</sup> Jacob Hesterman,<sup>2</sup> John Matson,<sup>1</sup> Michael Oestergaard,<sup>1</sup> Marc Seaman,<sup>2</sup> Robert W. Holt,<sup>2</sup> Mohammed Qutaish,<sup>2</sup> Ildiko Polyak,<sup>2</sup> Richard Coelho,<sup>2</sup> Vijay Gottumukkala,<sup>2</sup>Carolynn M. Gaut,<sup>2</sup> Marc Berridge,<sup>4</sup> Nazira J. Albargothy,<sup>5</sup> Louise Kelly,<sup>5</sup> Roxana O. Carare,<sup>5</sup> Jack Hoppin,<sup>2</sup> Holly Kordasiewicz,<sup>1</sup> Eric E. Swayze,<sup>1</sup> and Ajay Verma<sup>3</sup>

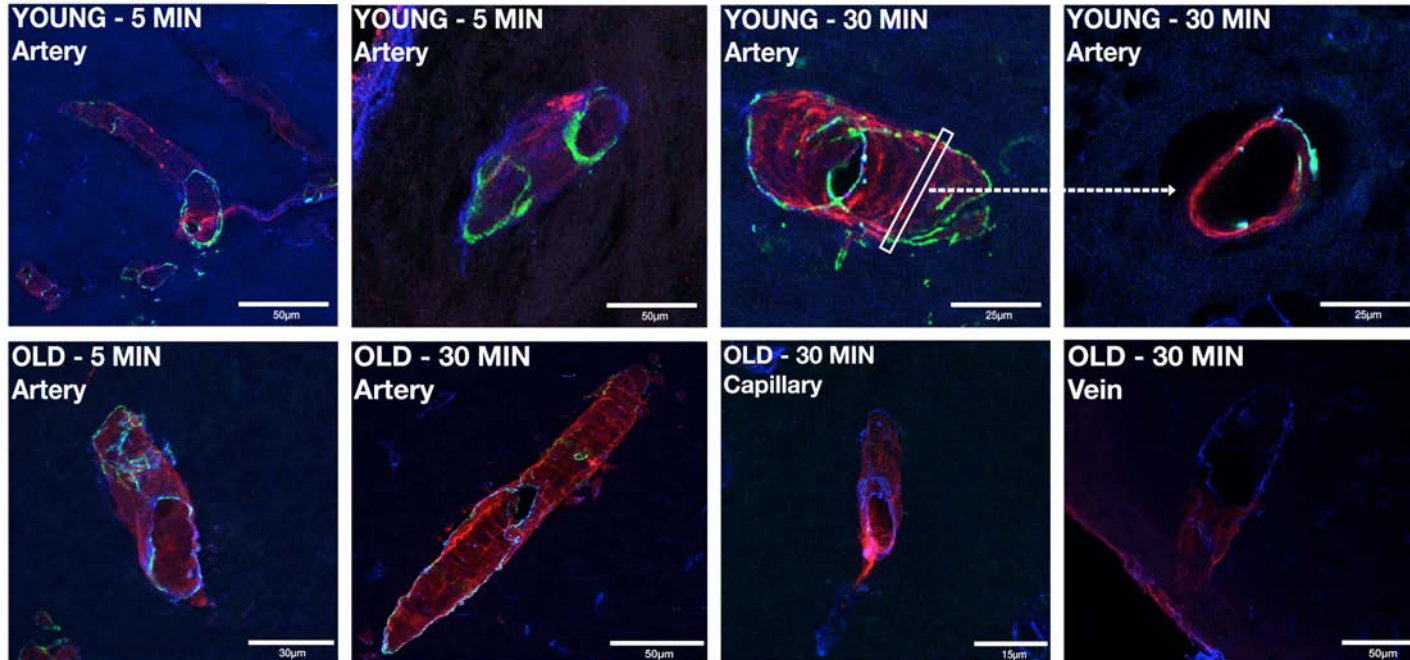
<sup>1</sup>Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Carlsbad, California, USA. <sup>2</sup>Invivo, LLC, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. <sup>3</sup>Biogen, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. <sup>4</sup>3D Imaging, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA. <sup>5</sup>University of Southampton, Hampshire, United Kingdom.



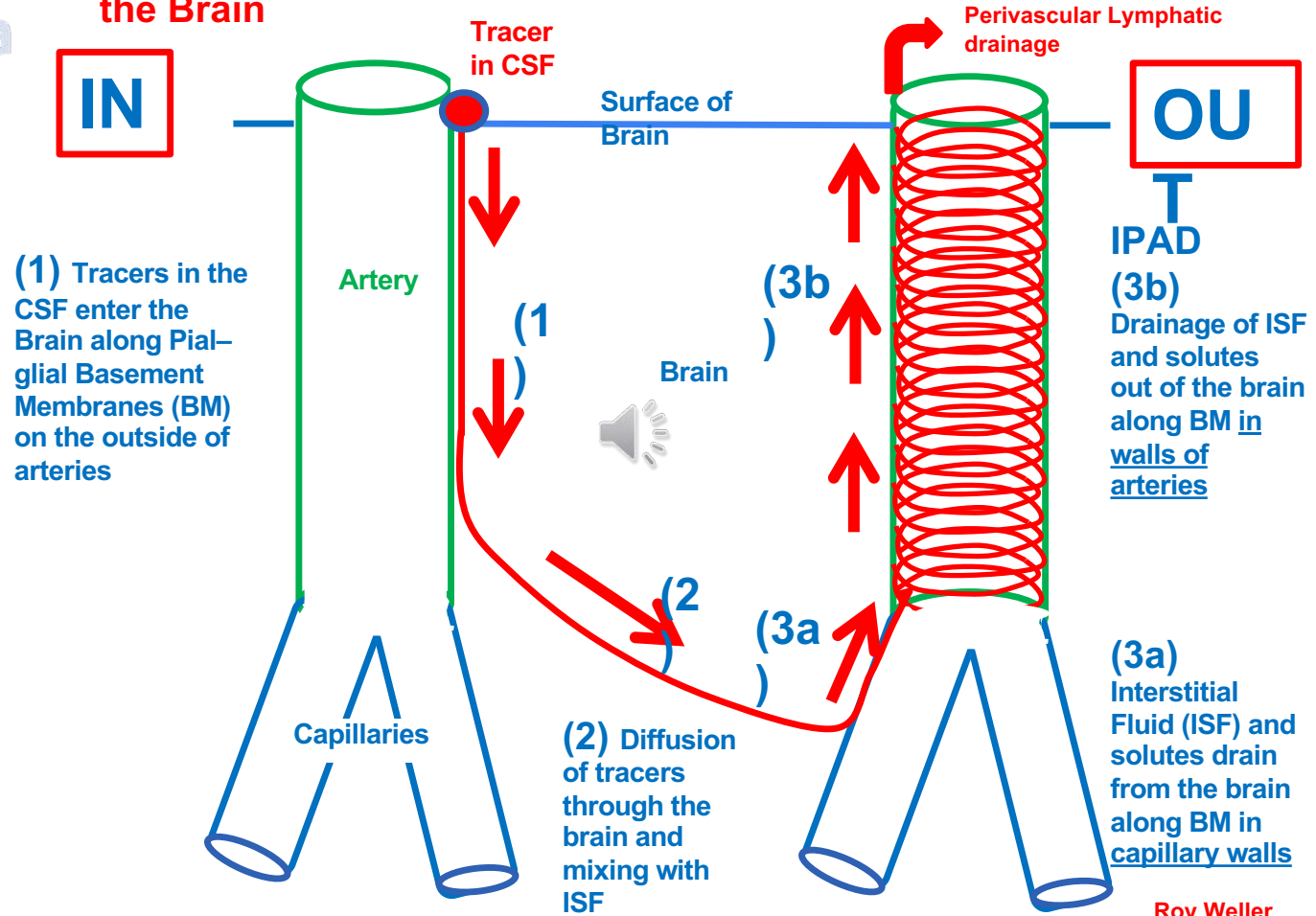
**Figure 7. Perivascular and neuronal association of ASO 24 hours after dosing.** (A) Punctate perivascular staining of ASOs by IHC throughout brain at 24 hours after IT dosing. (B) Colocalization of ASOs and the vascular endothelial marker Recl in cerebral cortex ( $\times 10$  magnification left 2 images,  $\times 40$  magnification right image). (C) Colocalization of Cy7-ASO with vascular  $\alpha$ -smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ SMA) and basement membrane component laminin  $\alpha 2$  ( $\times 20$  magnification). (D) Colocalization of ASOs with basement membrane component perlecan ( $\times 20$  magnification). (E) ASO colocalization with neurons and vessels in cerebral cortex ( $\times 10$  magnification). (F) ASO colocalization with neuronal cells in hippocampus ( $\times 40$  magnification).

## Convective influx/lymphatic system: tracers injected into the CSF enter and leave the brain along separate periarterial basement membrane pathways

Nazira J. Albargothy<sup>1</sup> · David A. Johnston<sup>1</sup> · Matthew MacGregor-Sharp<sup>1</sup> · Roy O. Weller<sup>1</sup> · Ajay Verma<sup>2</sup> · Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>3</sup> · Roxana O. Carare<sup>1</sup>



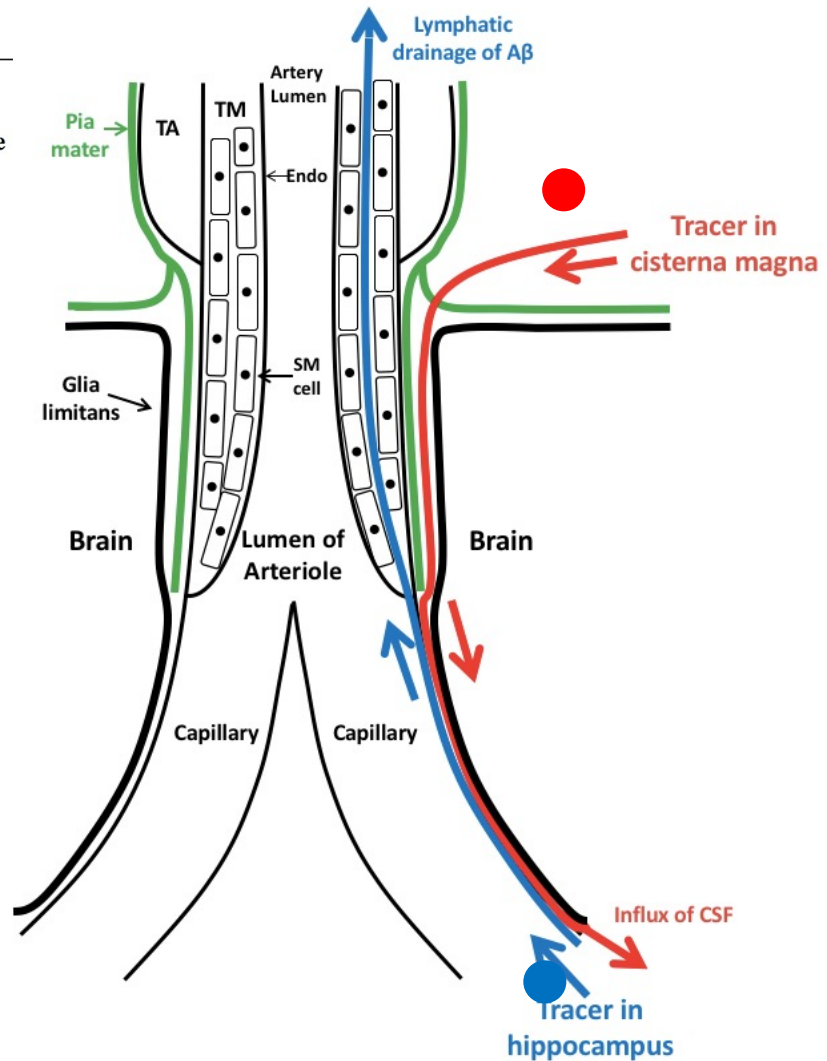
**Tracers in the CSF: entry into the brain and drainage out of the Brain**



## Vascular basement membranes as pathways for the passage of fluid into and out of the brain

Alan W. J. Morris<sup>1</sup> · Matthew MacGregor Sharp<sup>1</sup> · Nazira J. Albargothy<sup>1</sup> · Rute Fernandes<sup>1</sup> · Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>3</sup> · Ajay Verma<sup>2</sup> · Roy O. Weller<sup>1</sup> · Roxana O. Carare<sup>1</sup>

- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in subarachnoid space
  - Convective influx/lymphatic flow
- Interstitial fluid (ISF) in brain parenchyma
  - Intramural periarterial drainage (IPAD)
- Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA)
  - Mirrors IPAD pathway



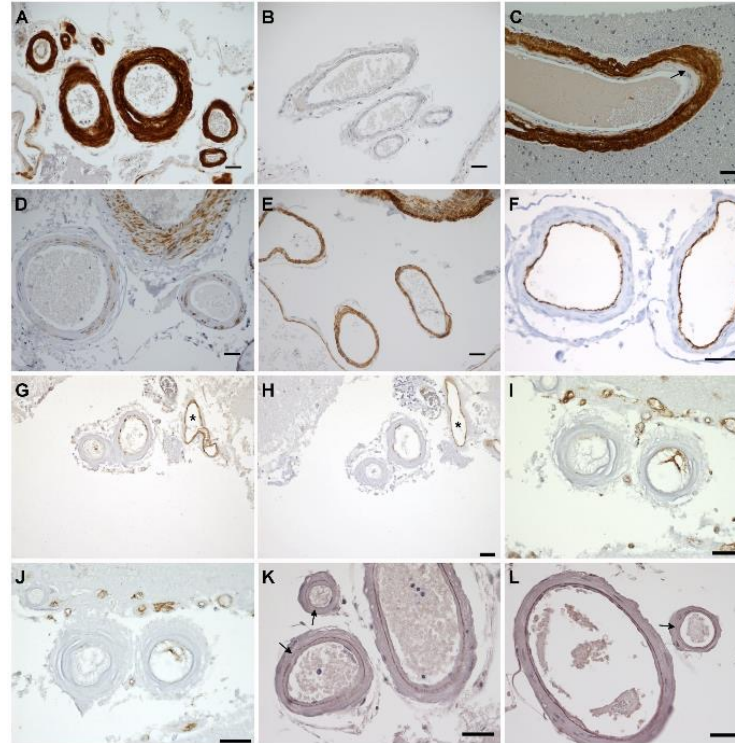
Smart  
Diaspora  
2022

Hawkes et al, Brain Pathology 2015

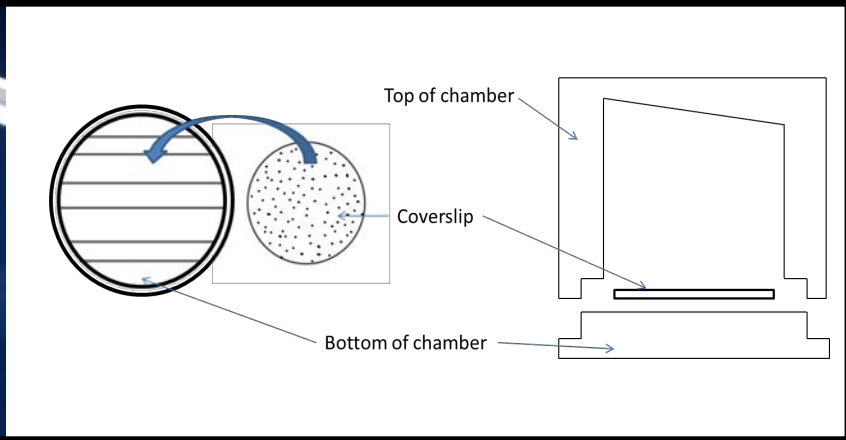
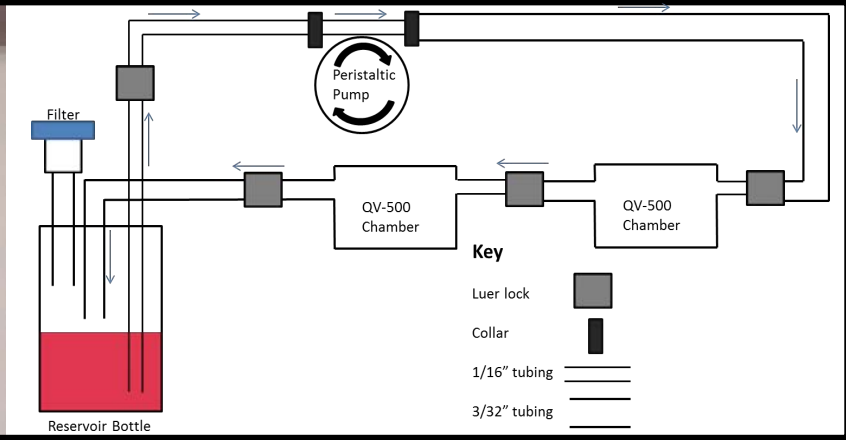


Snorraddottir AO et al, Brain Research 2013

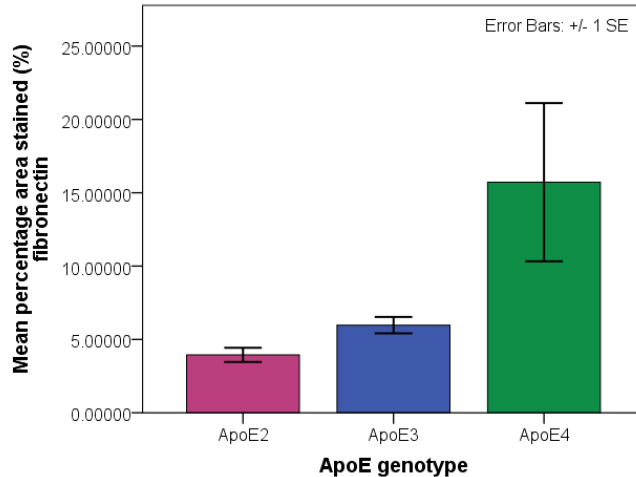
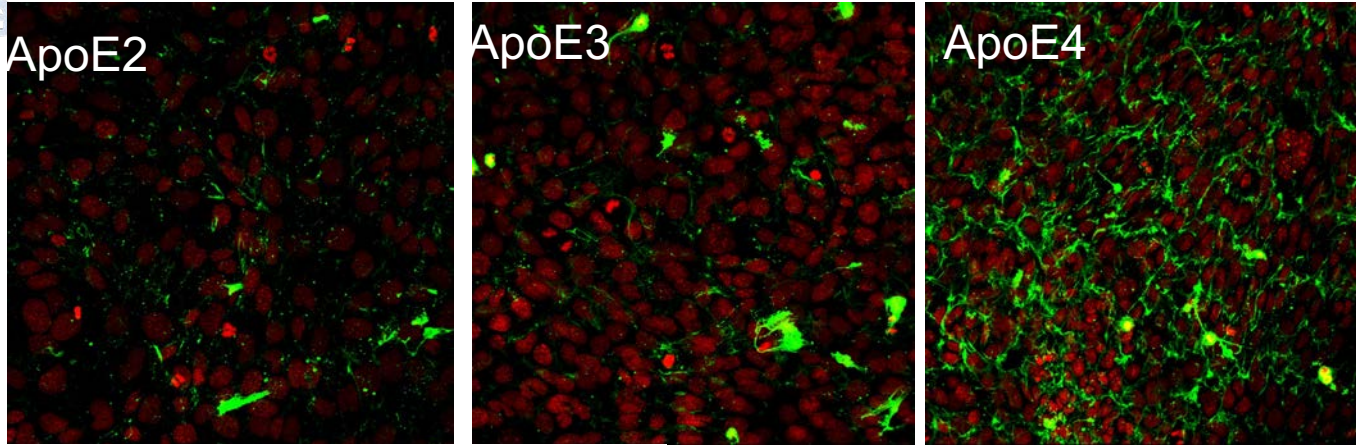
## Cystatin C



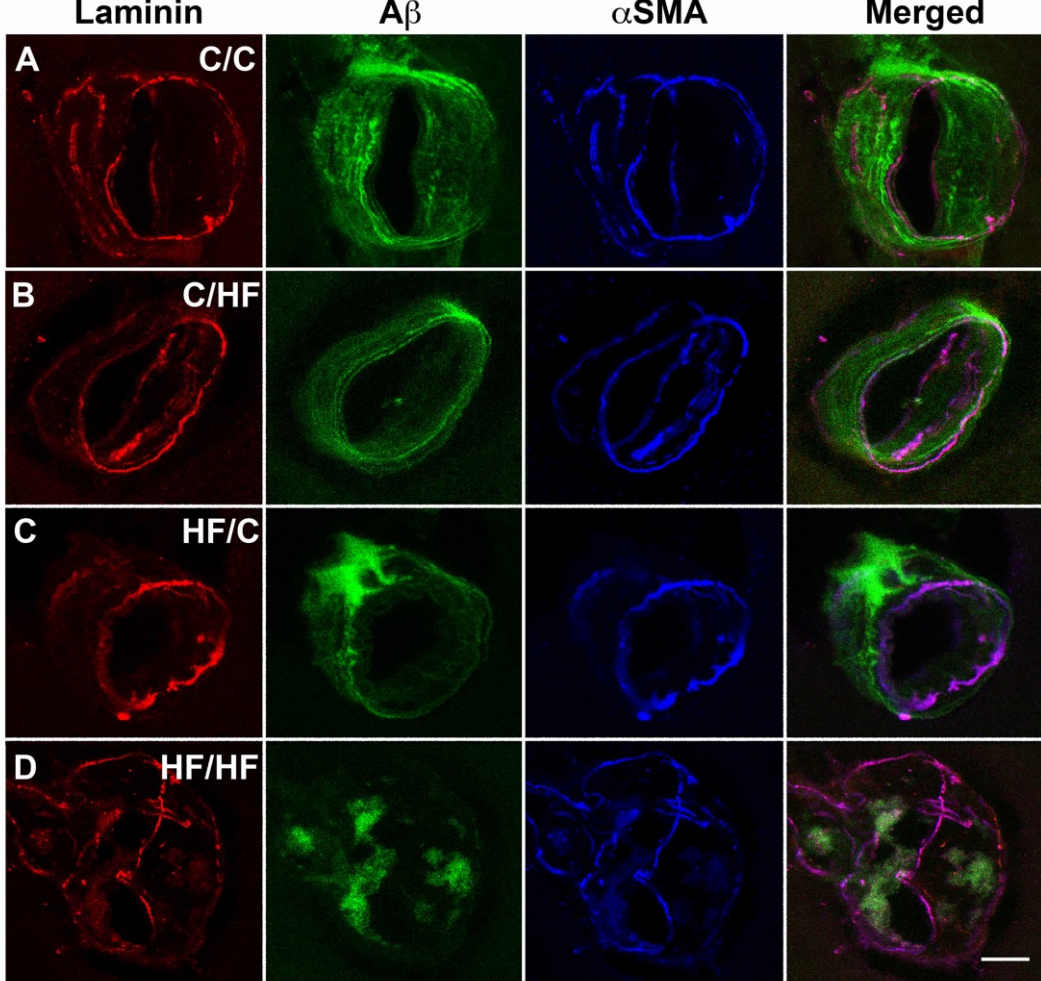
# The Kirkstall Quasi Vivo System: an invitro model for IPAD



## Fibronectin immunostaining



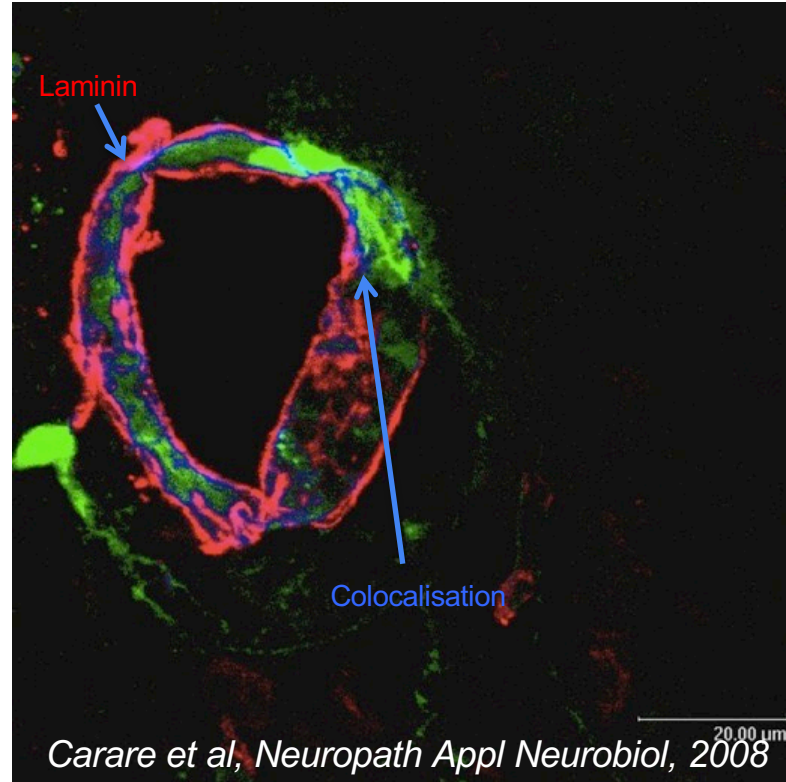
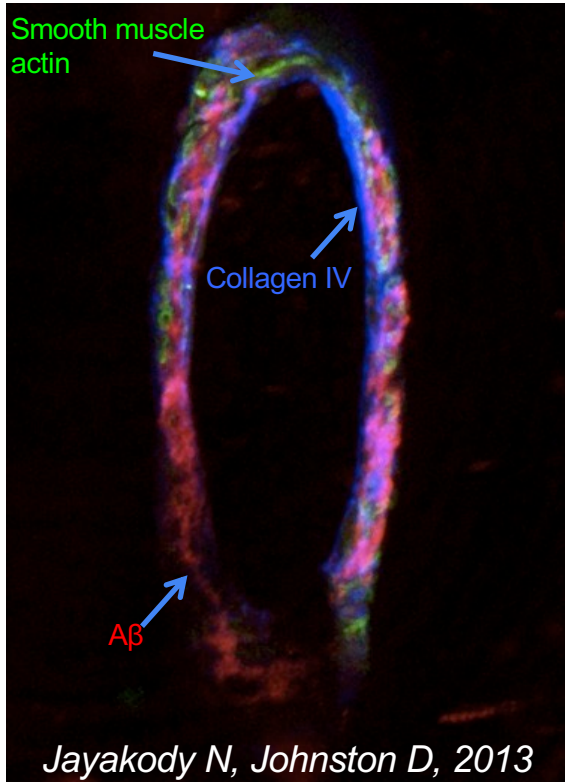
When cells are grown to confluence (all at the same cell density but different times) the amount of **fibronectin** expressed by the ApoE4 astrocytes is significantly higher than astrocytes expressing ApoE2 or E3



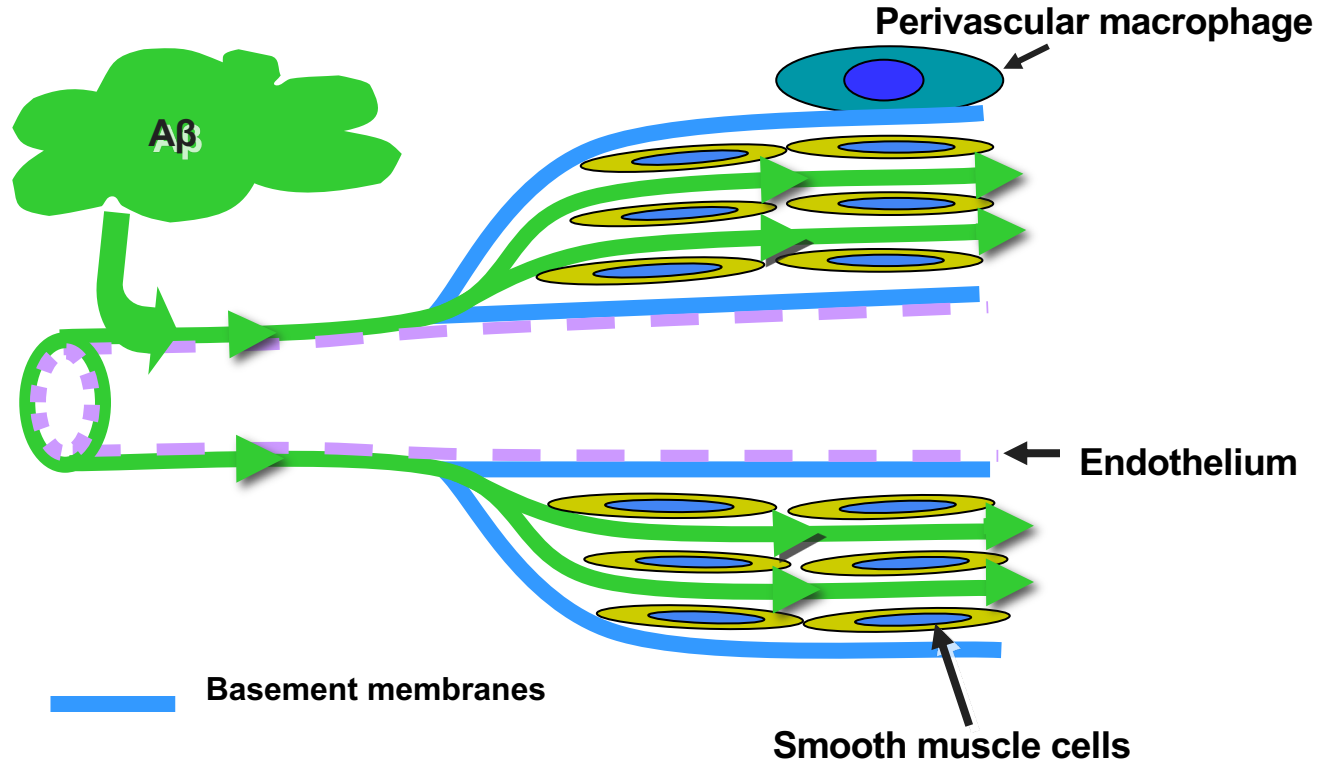


**CAA=failure of perivascular drainage of A $\beta$**

Carare R, 2008, 2013, Neuropathology and Applied Neurobiology



# CAA: failure of elimination of A $\beta$ along the walls of arteries & capillaries



## Perivascular drainage of solutes is impaired in the ageing mouse brain and in the presence of cerebral amyloid angiopathy

Cheryl A. Hawkes · Wolfgang Härtig · Johannes Kacza · Reinhard Schliebs · Roy O. Weller · James A. Nicoll · Roxana O. Carare

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



## Disruption of Arterial Perivascular Drainage of Amyloid- $\beta$ from the Brains of Mice Expressing the Human APOE $\epsilon$ 4 Allele

Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>1</sup>, Patrick M. Sullivan<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Hands<sup>3</sup>, Roy O. Weller<sup>1</sup>, James A.R. Nicoll<sup>1</sup>, Roxana O. Carare<sup>1\*</sup>

Journal of Pathology

*J Pathol* 2015; 235: 619–631

Published online 7 January 2015 in Wiley Online Library

(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/path.4468

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Prenatal high-fat diet alters the cerebrovasculature and clearance of $\beta$ -amyloid in adult offspring

Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>1\*</sup>, Steve M. Gentleman<sup>2</sup>, James A.R. Nicoll<sup>1</sup>, and Roxana O. Carare<sup>1,3</sup>

# Therapeutic targets for IPAD

1) **Chaperone molecules** for transport of proteins across basement membranes: ApoJ

IPNAS

## Loss of clusterin shifts amyloid deposition to the cerebrovasculature via disruption of perivascular drainage pathways

Aleksandra M. Wojtas<sup>1,2</sup>, Silvia S. Kang<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin M. Olley<sup>4</sup>, Maureen Gatherer<sup>5</sup>, Mitsuru Shinohara<sup>6</sup>, Patricia A. Lozano<sup>7</sup>, Chia Chen Liu<sup>8</sup>, Aishe Kurji<sup>9</sup>, Keboey E. Baker<sup>10</sup>, Dennis W. Dickson<sup>11</sup>, Mei Yue<sup>12</sup>, Leonard Petrucelli<sup>13</sup>, Guojun Bu<sup>14</sup>, Roxana O. Carare<sup>15</sup>, and John D. Fryer<sup>16,17</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neuroscience, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL 32224 <sup>2</sup>Neurobiology of Disease Graduate Program, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of

2) **Improving the motive force** for IPAD by acting upon the smooth muscle cells



RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Phosphodiesterase III inhibitor promotes drainage of cerebrovascular $\beta$ -amyloid

Takakuni Maki<sup>1,2</sup>, Yoko Okamoto<sup>1,3</sup>, Roxana O. Carare<sup>4</sup>, Yoshiki Hase<sup>1</sup>, Yorito Hattori<sup>1,5</sup>, Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>4</sup>, Satoshi Saito<sup>1,5</sup>, Yumi Yamamoto<sup>5</sup>, Yasukazu Terasaki<sup>2</sup>, Hatsue Ishibashi-Ueda<sup>3</sup>, Akihiko Taguchi<sup>6</sup>, Ryoosuke Takahashi<sup>1</sup>, Taihei Miyakawa<sup>7</sup>, Raj N. Kalaria<sup>8</sup>, Eng H. Lo<sup>2</sup>, Ken Arai<sup>2</sup> & Masafumi Ihara<sup>1,9</sup>

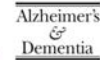
<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

<sup>2</sup>Departments of Radiology and Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Massachusetts

<sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Osaka, Japan



Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions 2 (2016) 250-257



Featured Article

A multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled trial for cilostazol in patients with mild cognitive impairment: The COMCID study protocol

Satoshi Saito<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Shinsuke Kojima<sup>5</sup>, Naoya Oishi<sup>1,6</sup>, Ryoosuke Kakuta<sup>1</sup>, Takakuni Maki<sup>7</sup>, Fumihiko Yasuno<sup>8</sup>, Kazuyuki Fukushima<sup>9</sup>, Haruko Yamamoto<sup>10</sup>, Hidenao Fukuyama<sup>11</sup>, Masanori Fukushima<sup>12</sup>, Masafumi Ihara<sup>13,14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Suita, Japan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Neurology, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan

<sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, Translational Research Informatics Center, Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation, Kobe, Japan

<sup>4</sup>Shonan Brain Research Center, Keio University Graduate School of Medicine, Keio, Japan

<sup>5</sup>Center for the Promotion of Interdisciplinary Education and Research, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Department of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Suita, Japan

<sup>7</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Niigata Medical University, Niigata, Japan

<sup>8</sup>Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Sciences, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Suita, Japan

Acting upon the 1) adrenergic and cholinergic receptors present on the vascular smooth muscle cells; 2) mitochondria (carbonic anhydrase inhibitors)



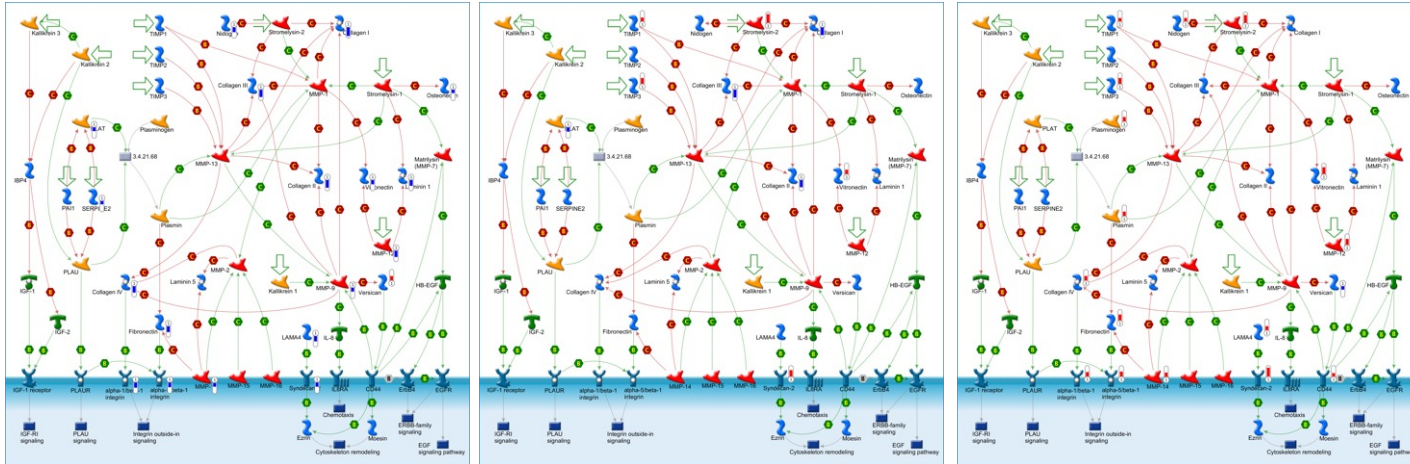
Article

## Vascular $\alpha$ 1A Adrenergic Receptors as a Potential Therapeutic Target for IPAD in Alzheimer's Disease

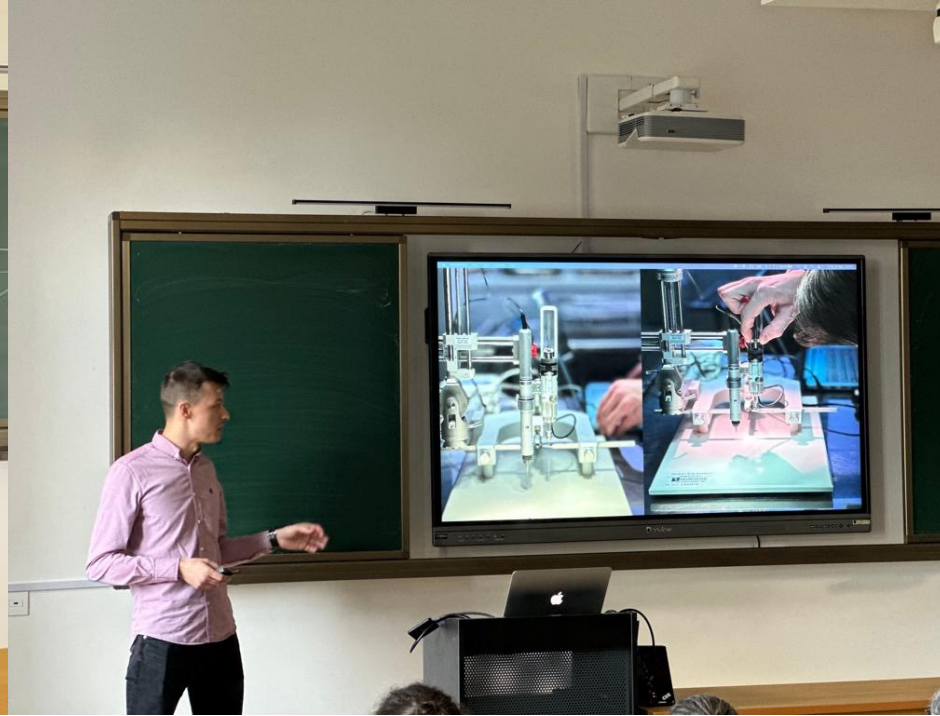
Miles Frost<sup>1</sup>, Abby Keable<sup>1</sup>, Dan Baseley<sup>1</sup>, Amber Sealy<sup>1</sup>, Diana Andreea Zbarcea<sup>1</sup>, Maureen Gatherer<sup>1</sup>, Ho Ming Yuen<sup>1</sup>, Matt MacGregor Sharp<sup>1,2</sup>, Roy O. Weller<sup>1</sup>, Johannes Attems<sup>3</sup>, Colin Smith<sup>3</sup>, Paul R. Chiarot<sup>4,5</sup> and Roxana O. Carare<sup>1,6</sup>

# Systems proteomics analysis reveals that clusterin and TIMP3 increase in leptomeningeal arteries affected by CAA

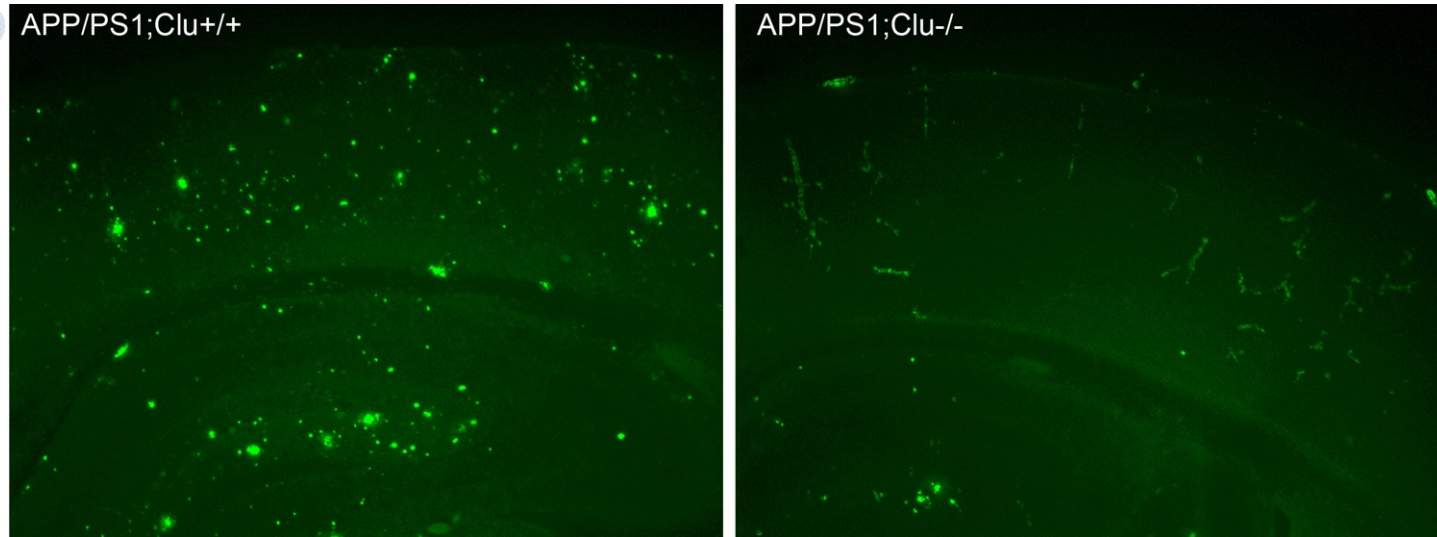
Manousopoulou A et al, NAN 2016



# Smart Diaspora 2023



# A look to the future: Chaperone molecules facilitating clearance of A $\beta$ : clusterin



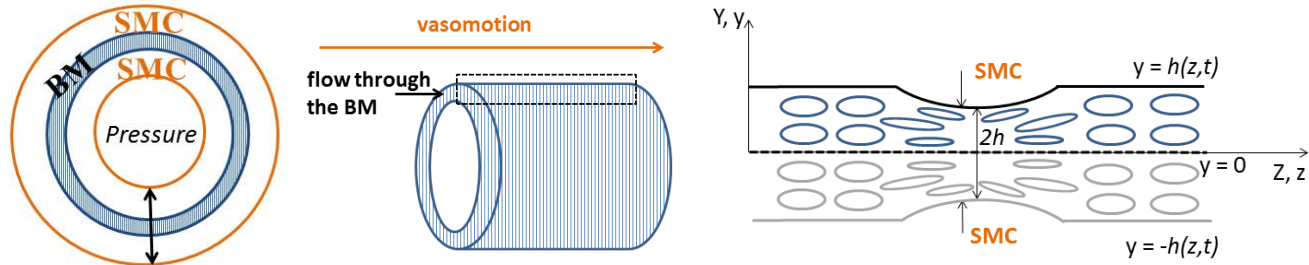
Retana et al. *Alzheimer's Research & Therapy* (2019) 11:42  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13195-019-0498-8>

Re

## RESEARCH

Peripheral administration of human recombinant ApoJ/clusterin modulates brain beta-amyloid levels in APP23 mice

Driving force for IPAD  
Aldea R et al  
Frontiers in Aging Neurosci 2019



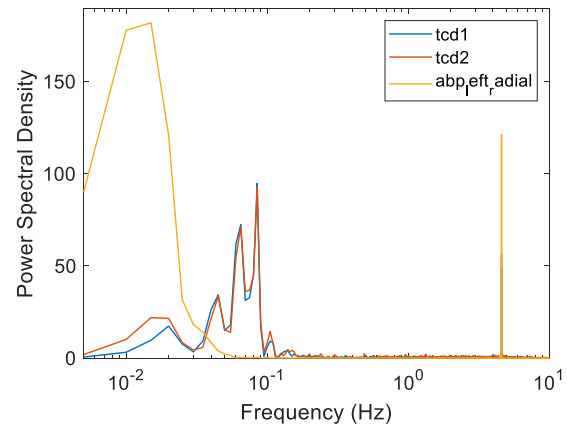
Fluid drainage rate along one compartment of basement membrane by V-IPAD is **FIVE ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE ( $10^5$ ) HIGHER** than that driven by arterial pulsations

The **vasomotion-driven IPAD** process may take between 45 minutes and 3.5 hours, depending on the BM elasticity and contractile abilities of the SMCs



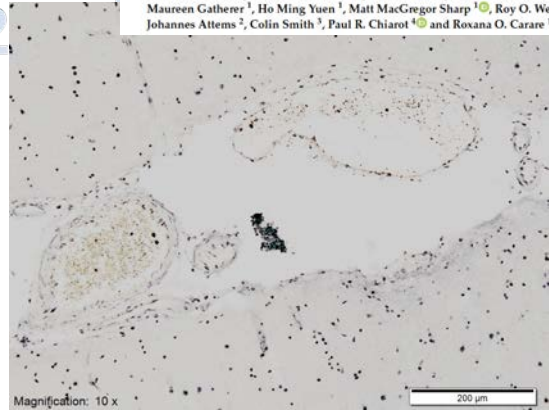


Vasomotion: 0.1-0.3Hz

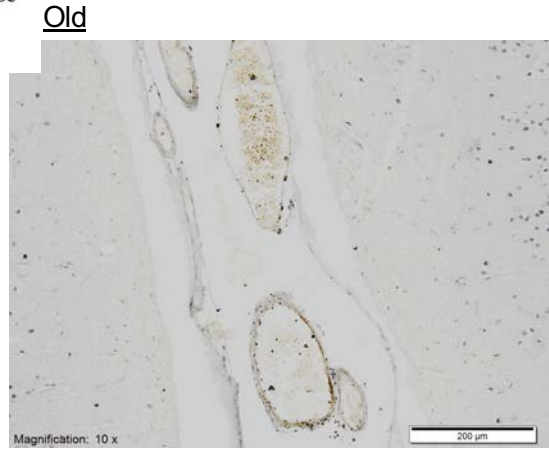
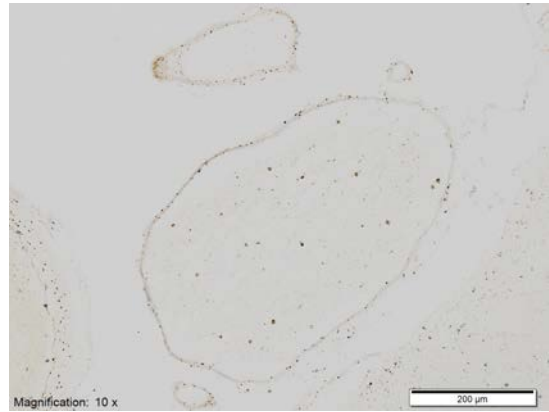


Article  
**Vascular  $\alpha$ 1A Adrenergic Receptors as a Potential Therapeutic Target for IPAD in Alzheimer's Disease**

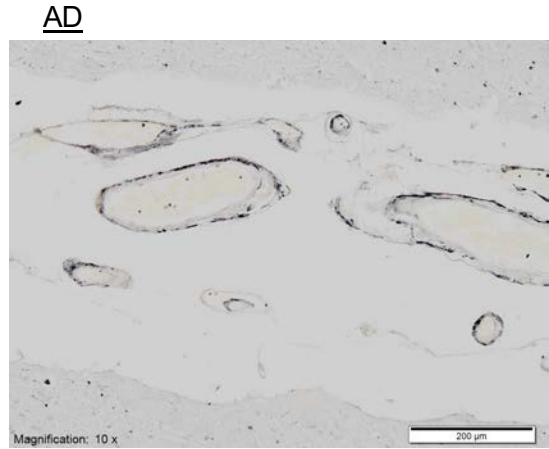
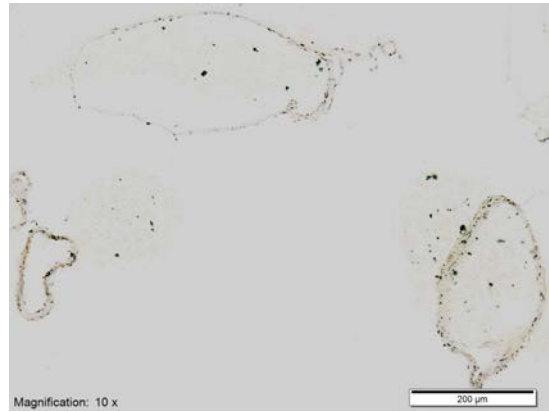
Miles Frost <sup>1</sup>, Abby Keable <sup>1</sup>, Dan Baseley <sup>1</sup>, Amber Sealy <sup>1</sup>, Diana Andreea Zbarcea <sup>1</sup>, Maureen Gatherer <sup>1</sup>, Ho Ming Yuen <sup>1</sup>, Matt MacGregor Sharp <sup>1</sup>, Roy O. Weller <sup>1</sup>, Johannes Attems <sup>2</sup>, Colin Smith <sup>3</sup>, Paul R. Chiarot <sup>4</sup> and Roxana O. Carare <sup>1,\*</sup>



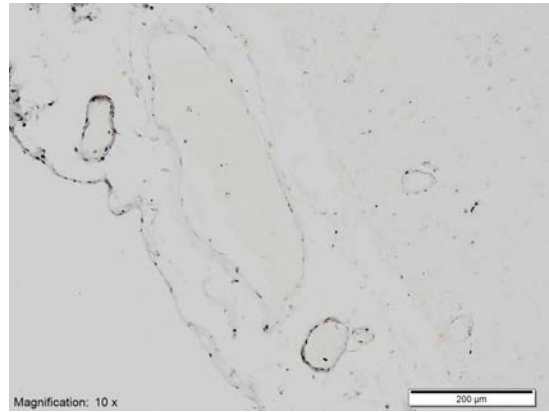
Distinct, punctate staining that is well defined throughout the vessel wall



Punctate staining pattern but less evenly spread through the vessel, clustering in regions of the wall



Clustered staining gives uniform pattern of staining around vessel circumference





Interdisciplinary Dementia and Ageing Centre  
Southampton



Institute  
for Life Sciences

**'The strength in iDeAC is the close collaboration between basic scientists (testing ideas), NHS staff (involved in day-to-day diagnosis and care), engineers (developing technology), mathematicians (modelling processes that cannot be seen with any current method) and industry (developing new treatments)'**

[www.ideac.org](http://www.ideac.org)

## CEREBROSPINAL FLUID BIOMARKERS

## Clearance of interstitial fluid (ISF) and CSF (CLIC) group—part of Vascular Professional Interest Area (PIA)

Cerebrovascular disease and the failure of elimination of Amyloid- $\beta$  from the brain and retina with age and Alzheimer's disease-Opportunities for Therapy

Roxana O. Carare<sup>1</sup> | Roxana Aldea<sup>2</sup> | Nivedita Agarwal<sup>3</sup> | Brian J. Bacskai<sup>4</sup> |  
Ingo Bechman<sup>5</sup> | Delphine Boche<sup>1</sup> | Guojun Bu<sup>6</sup> | Diederik Bulters<sup>1,7</sup> |  
Alt Clemens<sup>4</sup> | Scott E. Counts<sup>8</sup> | Mony de Leon<sup>9</sup> | Per K. Eide<sup>10</sup> | Silvia Fossati<sup>11</sup> |  
Steven M. Greenberg<sup>4</sup> | Edith Hamel<sup>12</sup> | Cheryl A. Hawkes<sup>13</sup> |  
Maya Koronyo-Hamaoui<sup>14</sup> | Atticus H. Hainsworth<sup>15</sup> | David Holtzman<sup>16</sup> |  
Masafumi Ihara<sup>17</sup> | Angela Jefferson<sup>18</sup> | Raj N. Kalaria<sup>19</sup> | Christopher M. Kipps<sup>1,7</sup> |  
Katja M. Kanninen<sup>20</sup> | Ville Leinonen<sup>20</sup> | JoAnne McLaurin<sup>21</sup> | Scott Miners<sup>22</sup> |  
Tarja Malm<sup>20</sup> | James A. R. Nicoll<sup>1,6</sup> | Fabrizio Piazza<sup>23</sup> | Gesine Paul<sup>24</sup> |  
Steven M. Rich<sup>25</sup> | Satoshi Saito<sup>17</sup> | Andy Shih<sup>26</sup> | Henrieta Scholtzova<sup>27</sup> |  
Heather Snyder<sup>28</sup> | Peter Snyder<sup>29</sup> | Finnbogi Rutur Thormodsson<sup>30</sup> | Susanne J. van  
Veluw<sup>4</sup> | Roy O. Weller<sup>1</sup> | David J. Werring<sup>31</sup> | Donna Wilcock<sup>32</sup> |  
Mark R. Wilson<sup>33</sup> | Berislav V. Zlokovic<sup>34</sup> | Ajay Verma<sup>35</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Southampton, Southampton, UK

<sup>2</sup> Roche Innovation Center Basel, Basel, Switzerland

# Smart Diaspora 2023



# Thank you

James Nicoll  
Hugh Perry  
Neil Smyth

Roy Weller

Professor of Neuropathology

Ajay

Verma

Cheryl Hawkes

Maureen Gatherer

Matthew Sharp

Alan Morris

Nazira Albargothy

David Johnston

Antigoni

Manousopoulou

Jacqui Nimmo

Amy Willetts



Mony de Leon, Raj Kalaria, Johannes Attems-University of Newcastle

David Werring, UCL

Masafumi Ihara, Osaka Japan

research  
into ageing fund



Biogen



Rosetrees Trust

Supporting the best in medical research

Alzheimer's  
ResearchUK  
Defeating Dementia



Wessex Medical Research  
Funding research to fight disease

United Neuroscience