

Novel Strategies and Mechanisms to Target APOE and Alzheimers Disease

<https://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/novel-strategies-and-mechanisms-to-target-apoe-and-alzheimers-disease/>

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Country

USA

Title of project or programme

Novel Strategies and Mechanisms to Target APOE and Alzheimers Disease

Source of funding information

NIH (NIA)

Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 2,546,061.47

Start date of award

15/08/2014

Total duration of award in years

3

The project/programme is most relevant to:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Keywords

Acquired Cognitive Impairment... Aging... Alzheimer's Disease... Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)... Biotechnology... Brain Disorders... Dementia... Neurodegenerative... Neurosciences... Prevention

Research Abstract

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): APOE genotype is by orders of magnitude the strongest genetic risk factor for late-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD). The ϵ 4 allele increases risk of AD by \sim 3.7 fold and 2 copies \sim 12 fold; the ϵ 2 allele decreases risk by \sim 50%. Evidence strongly suggests that a major reason underlying these effects is related to the ability of the apoE protein to interact with the amyloid- β (A β) peptide and in an isoform-dependent fashion influence A β clearance and aggregation. ApoE may also influence brain function and dysfunction via additional mechanisms such as influencing synaptic/network activity and lipid metabolism. It is not yet clear how to target apoE biology to develop therapeutic strategies. Our preliminary data suggest the hypothesis that apoE4, when present in the brain interstitial fluid (ISF), reduces A β clearance and enhances A β oligomerization/fibrillization, as well as synaptic damage. Increasing apoE2, E3, and E4 via gene delivery methods decreases, is neutral, or increases A β aggregation and its associated toxicity. Decreasing the amount of toxic apoE/A β complexes might serve as a therapeutic approach. In fact, our preliminary data utilizing monoclonal antibodies to apoE shows strong effects of decreasing A β pathology and improving brain network function possibly via microglial-mediated clearance of A β aggregates. We hypothesize that 1) decreasing A β aggregation and toxicity may be possible by increasing apoE2 levels in the ISF of the brain; 2) targeting apoE/A β aggregates with anti-apoE antibodies may serve as a potential therapeutic approach; and 3) that apoE in the ISF and at the synapse may play important non-A β related functions, which will be critical to understand in the context of any therapeutics based on an apoE mechanism. The specific aims are: 1) To determine whether altering apoE isoform level in specific compartments in the brain influences A β pathology and associated A β -dependent brain dysfunction in an isoform-specific and A β -dependent manner. 2) To explore the effects of anti-apoE antibodies and their mechanism of action in human APP transgenic (Tg) mice expressing human apoE isoforms. 3) To explore potential effects of apoE isoforms on synaptic structure/network function in human apoE knockin mice, wild-type, and apoE knockout mice +/- A β .

Lay Summary

PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Alzheimer's disease is a major public health problem with no treatments that delay, slow, or prevent the disease. In this application, we are determining if we can target the major genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, APOE, to enable new approaches to develop novel treatments.

Further information available at:

Types:

Investments > €500k

Member States:

United States of America

Diseases:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Years:

2016

Database Categories:

N/A

Database Tags:

N/A