

TDP-43 acetylation as a pathogenic modification in ALS & related proteinopathies

<https://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/tdp-43-acetylation-as-a-pathogenic-modification-in-als-related-proteinopathies-2/>

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Country

USA

Title of project or programme

TDP-43 acetylation as a pathogenic modification in ALS & related proteinopathies

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NIH (NINDS)

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15/06/2014

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1

The project/programme is most relevant to:

Motor neurone diseases

Keywords

protein TDP-43, DNA-Binding Proteins, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Acetylation, Frontotemporal Lobar Degenerations

Research Abstract

7.Project?Summary/Abstract?? ? Amyotrophic? Lateral? Sclerosis? (ALS)? is? a? devastating?

motor neuron disease with a 3-5 year survival rate and no disease-modifying therapies. TAR DNA-binding protein of 43kD (TDP43) is a nuclear RNA and DNA binding protein that becomes abnormally aggregated in the brain and spinal cord of most ALS patients as well as a subset of dementia patients (frontotemporal lobar with TDP43 pathology, or FTLDTDP), placing ALS and FTLDTDP within a spectrum of diseases

known as TDP43 proteinopathies. Although TDP43 pathology has been implicated in cell and progression, little is known about how TDP43 becomes aggregated leading to progressive

neurodegeneration. My long term goal is to uncover the pathogenic mechanisms that promote aggregation, which will provide insights for future therapies against these debilitating diseases. Post-translational modifications have been implicated in the progression of neurodegenerative

diseases. Using my background in acetylation biology, I previously demonstrated that acetylated tau protein promotes tangle formation in Alzheimer's disease and related tauopathies (Nat Commun.

2011;2:252). I have now demonstrated that TDP43 is subject to acetylation, thus highlighting TDP43 modification that is potentially linked to ALS and related proteinopathies.

The central hypothesis of this proposal is to determine whether acetylation of TDP43 promotes aggregation and neurodegeneration. To accomplish this goal, I will acquire expertise in neuropathology from the mentoring laboratory and analyze TDP43 acetylation in ALS and FTLDTDP post-mortem brain and spinal cord as well as TDP43 transgenic mice characterized by TDP43 pathology and neurodegeneration. To directly determine whether acetylated TDP43 promotes disease, primary

neuronal cultures and transgenic mice expressing acetylated TDP43 will be evaluated for hallmarks, toxicity, and neurodegeneration that recapitulate human TDP43 proteinopathies. Having

established the disease relevance of TDP43 acetylation, the independent phase will utilize cell-based approaches to investigate the biological significance of acetylation in causing TDP43 binding to target genes and RNAs, leading to a TDP43 loss of function. Finally, as investigator, I will utilize K99 phase training in neurodegenerative disease to generate a set of hyperacetylated TDP43 and determine the ALS phenotype in both brain and skeletal muscle. These innovative studies will highlight TDP43 acetylation as a critical modification linked to the

progression of ALS and related TDP43 proteinopathies.

Lay Summary

8. Project narrative

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLDTDP) are major TDP43 proteinopathies with no effective treatment strategies. The proposed study provides insights into the underlying mechanism of TDP43 aggregation and highlights acetylated TDP43 as a potential therapeutic target and potential biomarker for patients with ALS and related TDP43 proteinopathies.

Further information available at:

Types:

Investments > €500k

Member States:

United States of America

Diseases:

Motor neurone diseases

Years:

2016

Database Categories:

N/A

Database Tags:

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