Reconstructing disease trajectories of alphasynucleinopathies using in vivo seeding models

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# Alpha-synuclein misfolding is a central feature of multiple neurodegenerative disorders



- Histopathological Present in synucleinopathies (PD, PDD/DLB, MSA, and AD)
- Lewy pathology follows dynamic yet predictable pattern(s) that parallel disease progression and symptoms

Braak et al., 2003; Jellinger et al., 2009; Dickson et al., 2010; Goedert 2012

## Lewy pathology develops in predictable pattern(s) that parallel disease progression



Long-term goal: interrogate the intermediate processes of synucleinopathy through cellular and in vivo models

•

heterogeneity

## aSyn pathology and disease can be transmitted in vivo



## Leveraging the self-templating properties of aSyn fibrils



Forno et al, 1996

Giasson et al, 2002





### Non-neuronal cells HEK293, SH-SY5Y, HeLa, COS7, SK-MEL-5... (+ liposome)





## Internalized fibrils seed the conversion of endogenously-expressed aSyn



In vivo (non-Tg) C57BI/6, CD-1, S129, C3H, DBA Rats, NHP Human LBs PFF-injected nTg G pSynHsp90 pSvn



Volpicelli-Daley et al, *Neuron* 2011 Luk et al, *J Exp Med* 2012 Luk et al, *Science* 2012

## A working model of seeded aSyn pathology & transmission



## aSyn pathology leads to progressive DA cell loss rodents and NHPs



### Marmoset/Macaque



Rat









Luk et al, Science 2012 Recasens et al, Ann Neurol 2014 Paumier et al, Neurobiol Dis 2015 Shimozawa et al, Acta Neuropath Comm 2017 Chu et al, Brain 2019

## Seeding-competent aSyn species are present in human synucleinopathies

### DenAccess Proper Access BRIEF COMMUNICATION Alpha-synuclein RT-QuIC in the CSF of patients with alpha-synucleinopathies Graham Fairfoul<sup>1</sup>, Lynne I. McGuire<sup>1</sup>, Suvankar Pal<sup>1,2</sup>, James W. Ironside<sup>1</sup>, Juliane Neumann<sup>3</sup>, Sharon Christie<sup>4</sup>, Catherine Joachim<sup>4</sup>, Margaret Esiri<sup>4</sup>, Samuel G. Evetts<sup>3</sup>, Michal Rolinski<sup>3</sup>, Fahd Baig<sup>3</sup>, Claudio Ruffmann<sup>3</sup>, Richard Wade-Martins<sup>5</sup>, Michele T. M. Hu<sup>3</sup>, Laura Parkkinen<sup>3</sup> & Alison J. E. Green<sup>1</sup>

# Assessment of heterogeneity among participants in the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative cohort using $\alpha$ -synuclein seed amplification: a cross-sectional study

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#### nature medicine

Article

# Propagative $\alpha$ -synuclein seeds as serum biomarkers for synucleinopathies

Received: 1 July 2022	Ayami Okuzumi® <sup>1</sup> , Taku Hatano® <sup>1</sup> , Gen Matsumoto <sup>2</sup> , Shuko Nojiri <sup>3</sup> , Shin-ichi Ueno® <sup>1</sup> , Yoko Imamichi-Tatano® <sup>1</sup> , Haruka Kimura® <sup>1</sup> , Soichiro Kakuta® <sup>4</sup> , Akihide Kondo® <sup>5</sup> , Takeshi Fukuhara <sup>6</sup> , Yuanzhe Li <sup>1</sup> , Manabu Funayama® <sup>1</sup> , Shinji Saiki® <sup>17</sup> , Daisuke Taniguchi <sup>1</sup> , Taiji Tsunemi <sup>1</sup> , Deborah McIntyre <sup>8</sup> , Jean-Jacques Gérardy <sup>8</sup> , Michel Mittelbronn <sup>9</sup> , Rejko Kruger <sup>810</sup> , Yasuo Uchiyama <sup>11</sup> , Nobuyuki Nukina <sup>12</sup> & Nobutaka Hattori®
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#### PFF-injected mouse brain tissue



### In vivo pathogenicity established for:

**DLB** → Masuda-Suzukake, *Brain* 2013

PD/PDD → Recasens, Ann Neurol 2014

MSA → Watts, PNAS 2013; Peng, Nature 2018

**ampLB** → Uemura, *Nat Communications* 2023

## PD is not "simply" a prion disorder



## Progressive spread of α-Syn pathology in PFF-treated non-Tg mice





Rahayel et al, Brain 2022

## Global monitoring of α-Syn pathology trajectories in the mouse CNS

### A. Seeding in different sites









B. Pathology quantification and atlas registration



### C. Determining fit against observed spatiotemporal datasets



HIP

ACB

Publically available datasets e.g. Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas Gene Expression Atlas



Spatial distribution of aSyn pathology points to multiple dynamic processes after an initial seeding event



Site of initial pathology determines the evolution of synucleinopathy in vivo



## Local fluctuations in synucleinopathy mirror neuron loss



# Synucleinopathy originating from different CNS regions elicit distinct cell loss patterns and phenotypes



## Seeded synucleinopathy induce regional transcriptomic signatures





## Agent-based modeling of aSyn pathology spread



<u>Susceptible-Infected-Removed (SIR) model</u> Production / Clearance / Misfolding / Propagation



## An agent-based (S-I-R) model closely recapitulates in vivo aSyn pathology spread





Rahayel et al, Brain 2022

*Snca* levels predict vulnerability to aSyn pathology among hippocampal glutamatergic neuron subtypes



## aSyn S-I-R models approximate atrophy patterns in iRBD patients



Rahayel et al, Brain 2022b

Connectivity and local aSyn expression are major (but not the only) drivers of pathological spread

# Spread of $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology through the brain connectome is modulated by selective vulnerability and predicted by network analysis

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### Spread is likely determined by

**ARTICLES** 

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- Trans-synaptic spread of pathological aSyn
- Connectivity and network structure (necessary but not sufficient)

nature

neuroscience

• Local (likely cellular) factors - aSyn levels

Additional network and/or cellular determinants?

#### SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### NEUROSCIENCE

## Determinants of seeding and spreading of $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology in the brain

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## Using contextual seeding to retrace the paths of synucleinopathy





# Subcoeruleus/SLD synucleinopathy induces RBD-like phenotypes in mice





Zhang et al, Aging and Disease 2020; Dugger et al, Neuropath App Neurobiol 2012

# RBD-like phenotype correlates with aSyn-seeded proteinopathy in the subcoeruleus (SLD)











#### Hansoo Yoo [Penn/Yonsei University], Russell Luke [Peever Lab, U of Toronto], unpublished

# Higher levels of REM phasic muscle activity following PFF-seeding in SLD



Hansoo Yoo [Penn/Yonsei University], Russell Luke [Peever Lab, U of Toronto], unpublished

## Summary

**Cell-to-cell transmission** of aSyn pathology and **local cellular heterogeneity** likely combine to produce the idiosyncratic patterns of neurodegeneration observed in synucleinopathy

Contextual seeding approaches can potentially provide advance our understanding of mechanisms underlying human synucleinopathies and their heterogeneity

## Summary

Example prodromal

phenotypes





Berg et al, Nat Rev Neurol 2021

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