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National Institute of
Neurological Disorders
and Stroke

Parkinson Disease Treatment Research Pipeline

Codrin Lungu MD

Program Director, Office of Clinical Research

Chief, NIH Parkinson Clinic

NINDS, NIH

THANK YOU

James A. Shannon
Building

Disclosures

- I receive payments from MAPMG for clinical work and from Elsevier, inc. for editorial work.
- I have worked on research projects sponsored by Medtronic, inc., BCN Peptides Llc, and Allergan, inc.

Major Needs in the PD and Movement Disorders Field

- Reliable diagnosis and biomarkers
- Pre-symptomatic diagnosis and risk profiling
- Therapy guidance and improved symptomatic therapies
- Disease-modifying or curative therapies

The Search for Biomarkers



The NINDS Parkinson's disease biomarkers program

Liana S. Rosenthal MD^{1,*}, Daniel Drake PhD², Roy N. Alcalay MD, MS³, Debra Babcock MD, PhD⁴, F. DuBois Bowman PhD², Alice Chen-Plotkin MD⁵, Ted M. Dawson MD, PhD^{1,6}, Richard B. Dewey Jr. MD⁷, Dwight C. German PhD⁸, Xuemei Huang MD, PhD⁹, Barry Landin BS¹⁰, Matthew McAuliffe PhD¹⁰, Vladislav A. Petyuk PhD¹¹, Clemens R. Scherzer MD¹², Coryse St. Hillaire-Clarke PhD⁴, Beth-Anne Sieber PhD⁴, Margaret Sutherland PhD⁴, Chi Tam PhD¹³, Andrew West PhD¹⁴, David Vaillancourt PhD¹⁵, Jing Zhang MD, PhD¹⁶, Katrina Gwinn MD⁴ and on behalf of the PDBP consortium

Issue



Article first published online: 7 OCT 2015



PARKINSON'S
PROGRESSION
MARKERS
INITIATIVE

Play a Part in Parkinson's Research



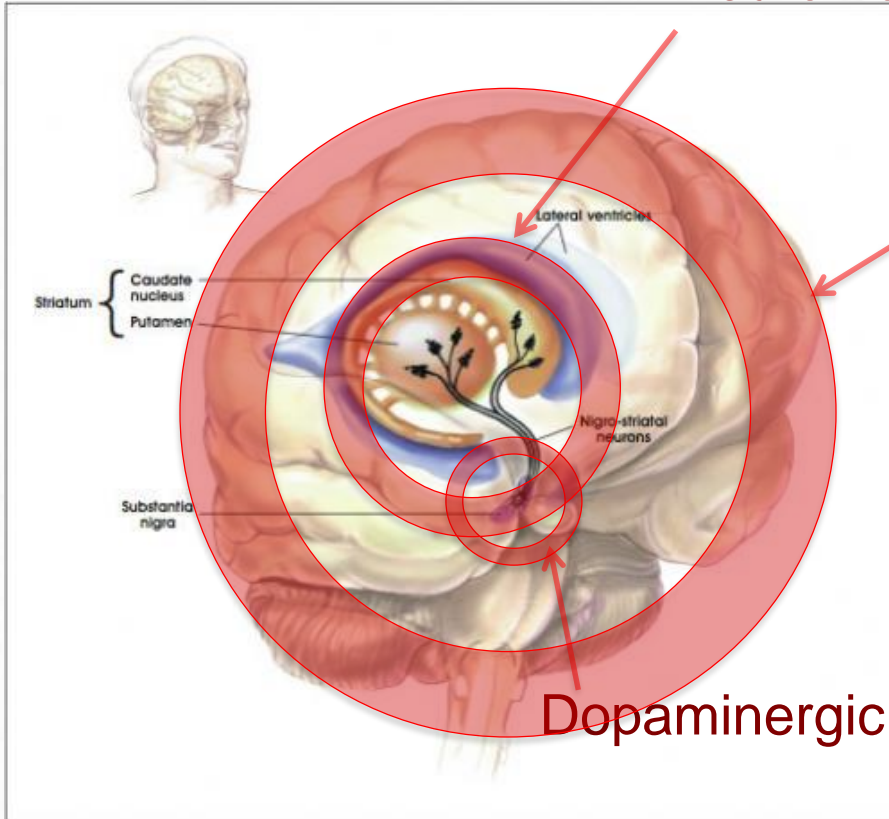
THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

Therapy Research

- Symptomatic therapy
 - Drug therapy
 - Dopaminergic
 - Non-dopaminergic (and peripheral-acting)
 - Surgical and neuromodulation therapy
 - Other non-pharmacologic, non-invasive therapies
- Disease-modifying therapy

Therapy Research

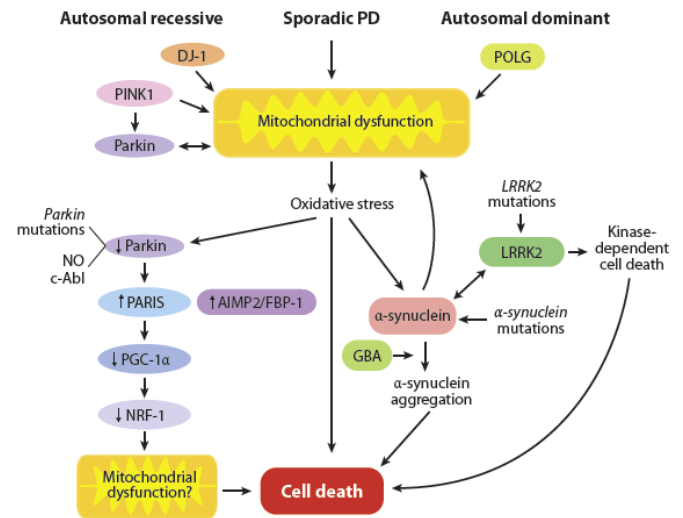
Neuromodulation



Dopaminergic therapy

Cozzens, Dis Mon 2007

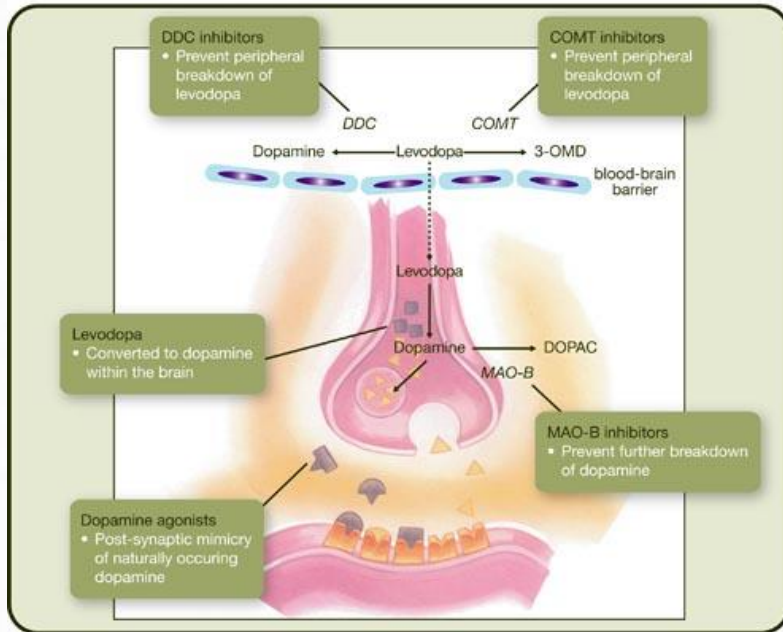
Disease modifying/ neuroprotective



Martin I et al. Annu Rev Genomics Hum Genet. 2010

Current Symptomatic Treatment

Figure 14. Mode of action of anti-parkinsonian therapies



COMT=catechol-O-methyltransferase; DDC=dopa decarboxylase; DOPAC=dihydroxyphenylacetic acid; MAO-B=monoamine oxidase-B; 3-OMD=3-O-methyldopa

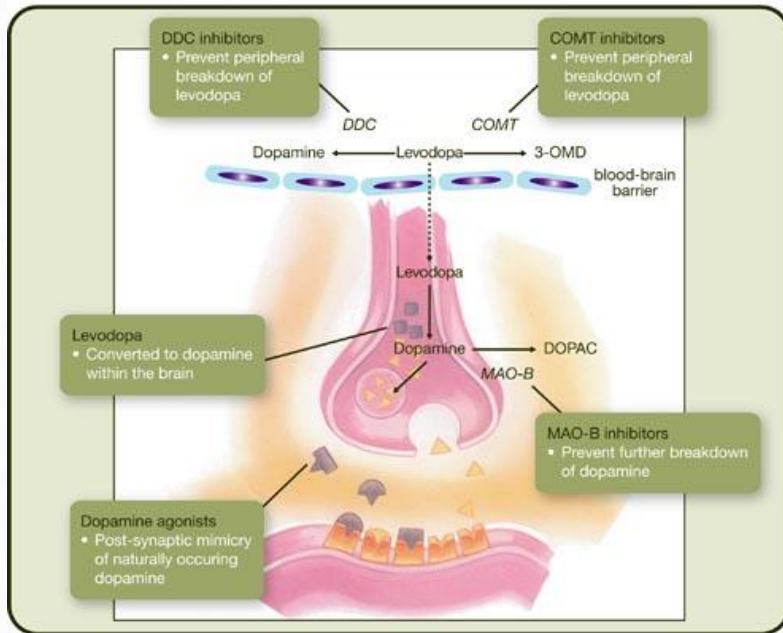
Levodopa:

Carbidopa/Levodopa;
Sinemet®; Rytary®:
Provides the missing
dopamine, combined with
COMT inhibition. Side
effects: dyskinesia;
nausea

DA agonists: Pramipexole –
Mirapex®; Ropinirole –
Requip®; Rotigotine –
Neupro® etc. Mimic the
effects of dopamine by
activating the same
receptors. Side-effects:
psychiatric; sleep-related

Current Symptomatic Treatment

Figure 14. Mode of action of anti-parkinsonian therapies



COMT=catechol-O-methyltransferase; DDC=dopa decarboxylase; DOPAC=dihydroxyphenylacetic acid; MAO-B=monoamine oxidase-B; 3-OMD=3-O-methyldopa

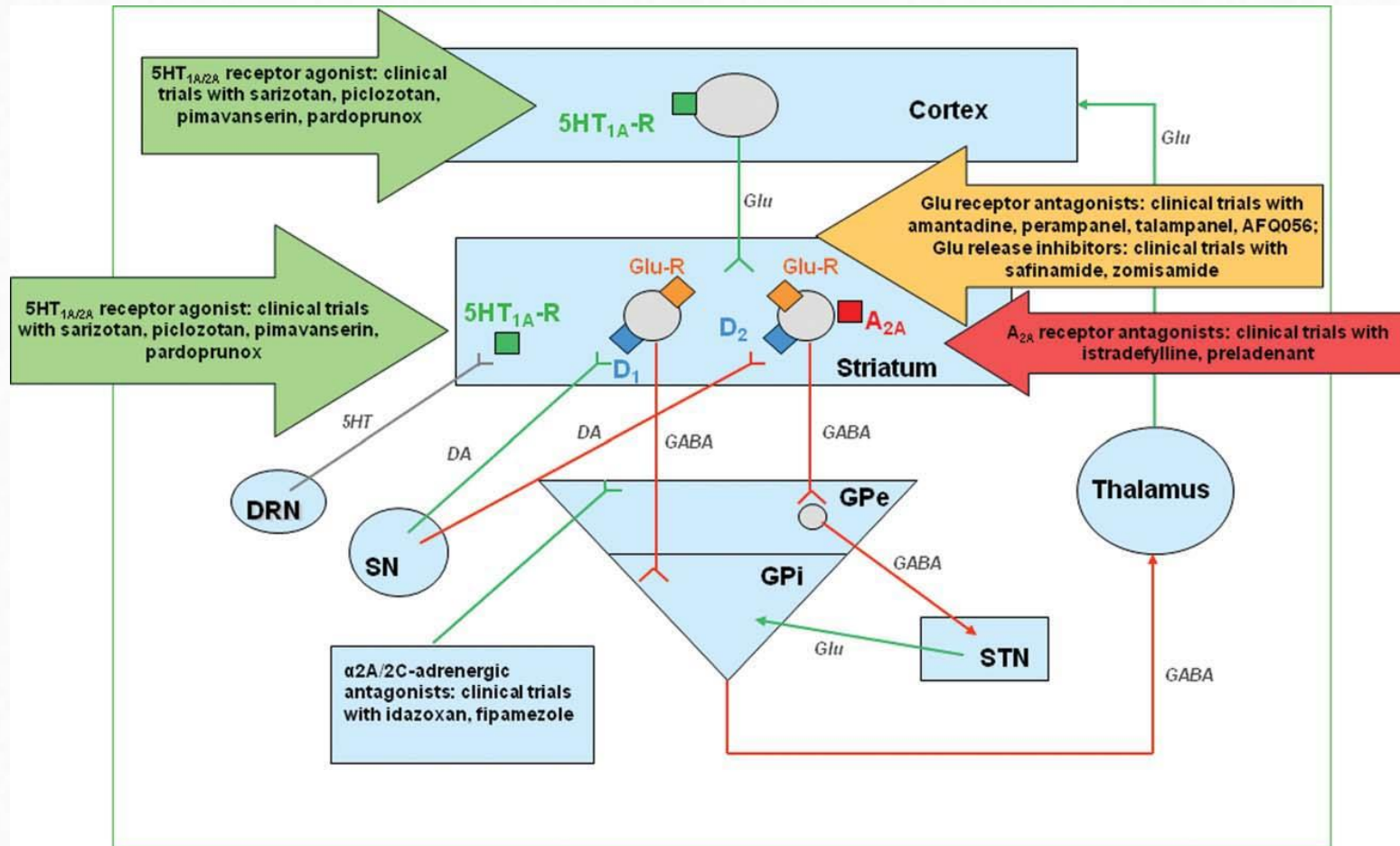
Anticholinergics:

Trihexyphenidyl – Artane®
etc: Act on the cholinergic system, for tremor. Side-effects: cognitive slowing

MAO-inhibitors: Rasagiline – Azilect®; Selegiline – Zelapar® etc.: prevent breakdown of dopamine. Studied for disease-modifying effect. Side-effects: concern for interaction with anti-depressants

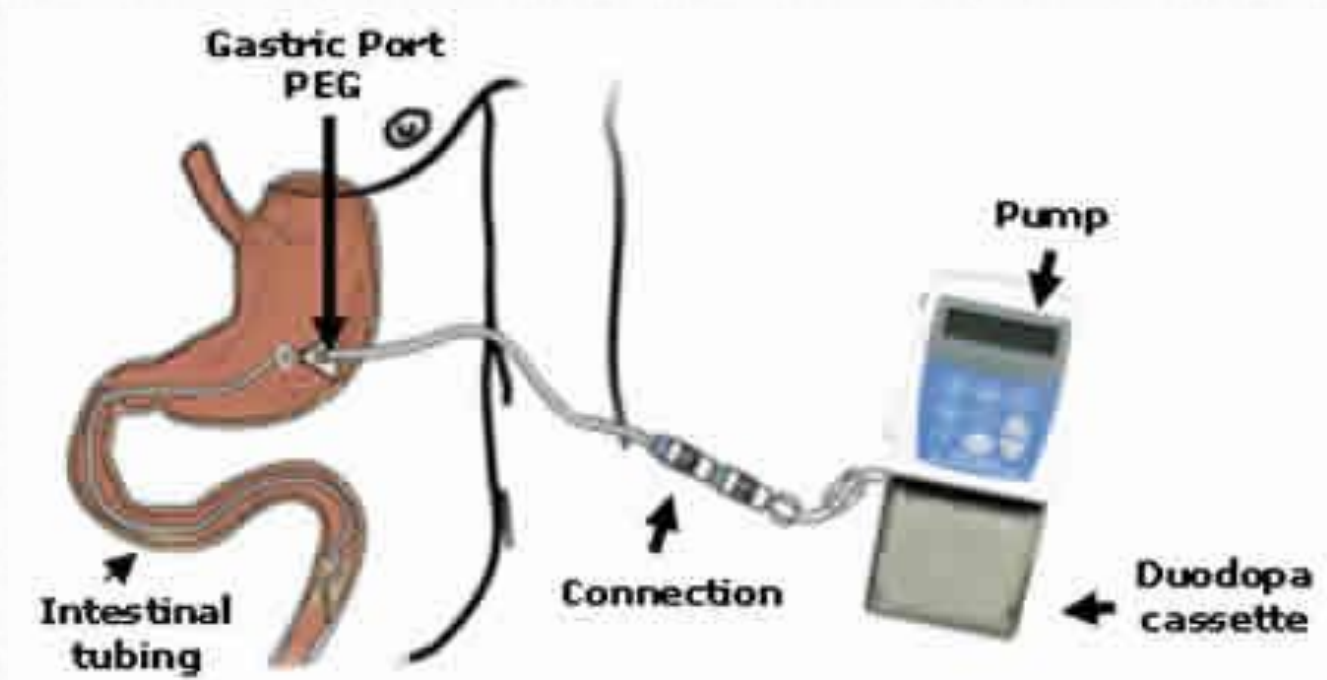
Amantadine – Symmetrel®:
unclear mechanism of action. Can help dyskinesia. Side-effects: cognitive slowing

Non-Dopaminergic Symptomatic Therapy



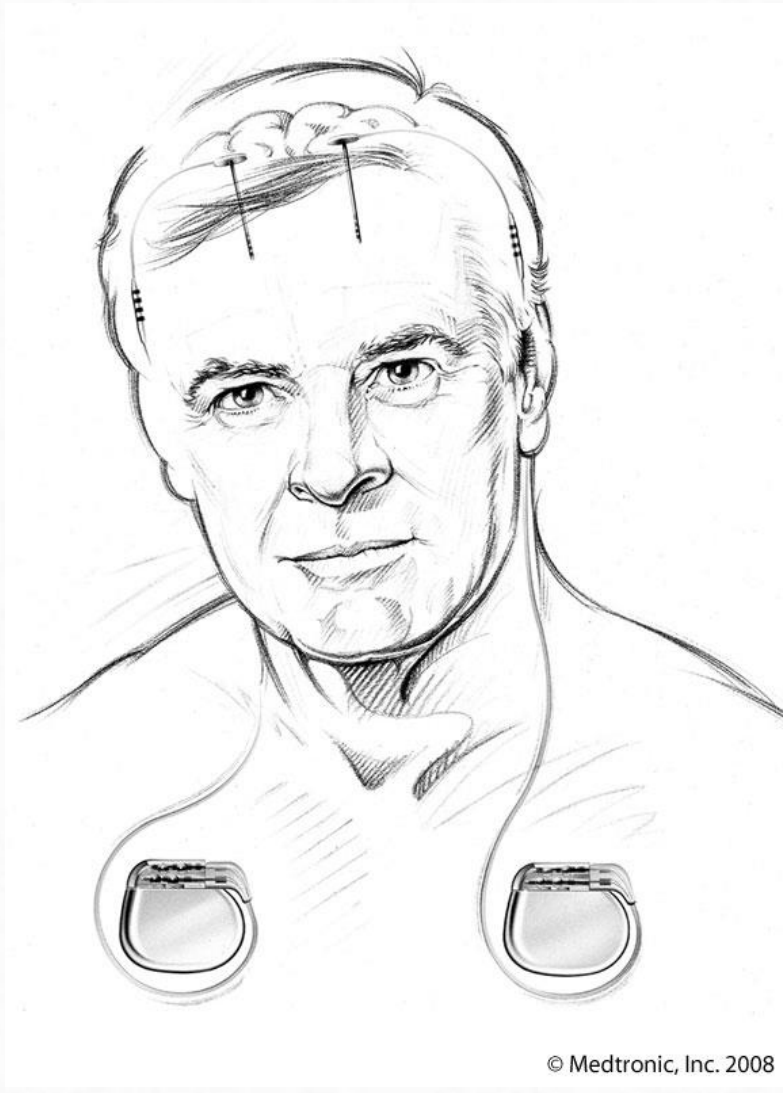
Symptomatic continuous dopaminergic therapy: Duodopa

- Uses a pump to deliver the medication into the intestine



- Recently approved in the US.
- Has similar goals to DBS, but different and possibly more frequent side-effects

Surgery: Deep Brain Stimulation.

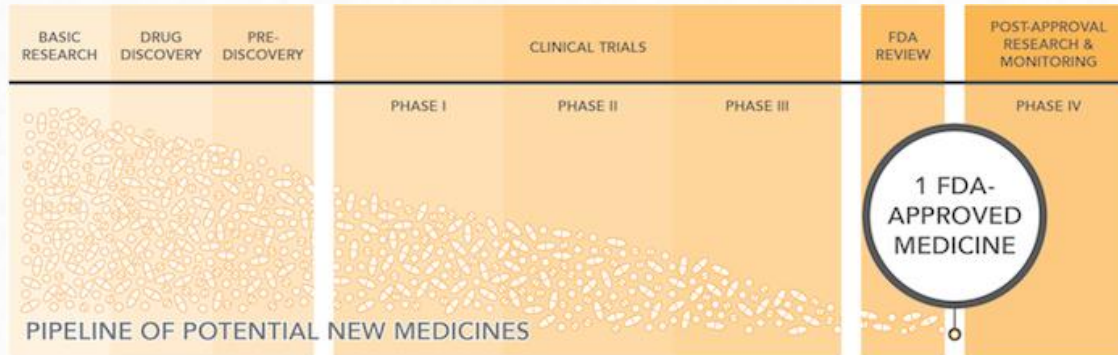


Delivers external current patterns that override and replace the abnormal ones

These propagate through the brain circuits in both directions

Overall consequence is a new regular activity, locked to stimulation in a complex way, resulting in reduction in cardinal PD symptoms of bradykinesia, rigidity and tremor

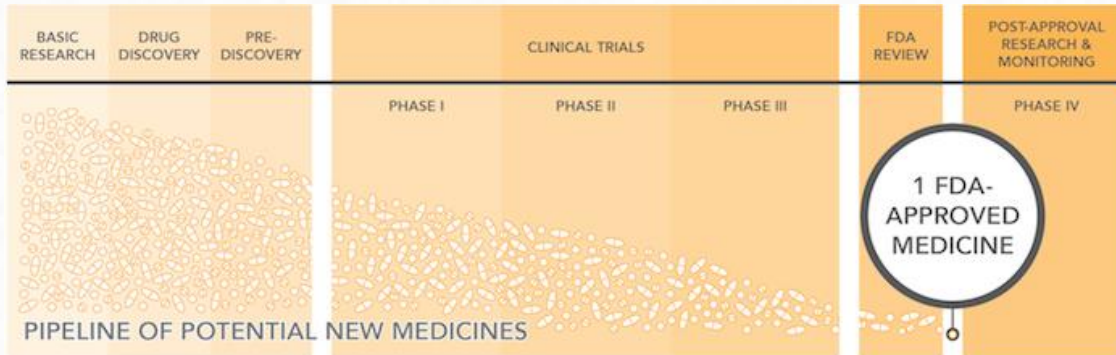
Therapy Development Pipeline



Recent successes:

- Rytary: dopaminergic symptomatic therapy, L-DOPA with extended efficacy
- Duopa: dopaminergic symptomatic therapy, surgical delivery of continuous dopaminergic stimulation
- Pimavanserin (Nuplazid): non-dopaminergic symptomatic therapy, first drug approved for PD psychosis

Therapy Development Pipeline



Recent successes:

- Droxidopa (Northera): Peripheral-acting dopaminergic for orthostatic hypotension
- Safinamide (Xadago): dopaminergic symptomatic (MAO inhibitor). Approved on 3/21/2017!

Symptomatic Therapy, Non-Pharmacologic: Exercise and PT

Multiple lines of evidence for benefit

Movement disorders

RESEARCH PAPER

JNNP 03/2017

Phase II randomised controlled trial of a 6-month self-managed community exercise programme for people with Parkinson's disease

Johnny Collett,¹ Marloes Franssen,^{1,2} Andy Meaney,¹ Derick Wade,^{1,3} Hooshang Izadi,^{1,4} Martin Tims,¹ Charlotte Winward,^{1,5} Marko Bogdanovic,⁶ Andrew Farmer,² Helen Dawes^{1,7}

Several on-going studies

Evaluation of a Personalized Physical Activity Coaching Program in Parkinson's Disease (APA-PARK)

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified June 2016 by University Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand

Sponsor:

University Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand

Collaborators:

AME2P
UFR STAPS

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

University Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT02816619

First received: June 3, 2016

Last updated: June 27, 2016

Last verified: June 2016

[History of Changes](#)

Rhythmic Auditory Stimulation Optimization for Gait Improvement in Parkinson's Disease - BeatPark Study (BeatPark)

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified January 2016 by University Hospital, Montpellier

Sponsor:

University Hospital, Montpellier

Collaborator:

Université Montpellier

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

University Hospital, Montpellier

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT02438124

First received: April 30, 2015

Last updated: January 7, 2016

Last verified: January 2016

[History of Changes](#)

Symptomatic Non-Dopaminergic Therapy: SAGE-127

SAGE-127 is a GABA-A receptor modulator, studied for treatment of tremor

A Study to Evaluate SAGE-217 in Patients With Parkinson's Disease of Moderate Severity

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified March 2017 by Sage Therapeutics

Sponsor:

Sage Therapeutics

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

Sage Therapeutics

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT03000569

First received: November 28, 2016

Last updated: March 1, 2017

Last verified: March 2017

[History of Changes](#)

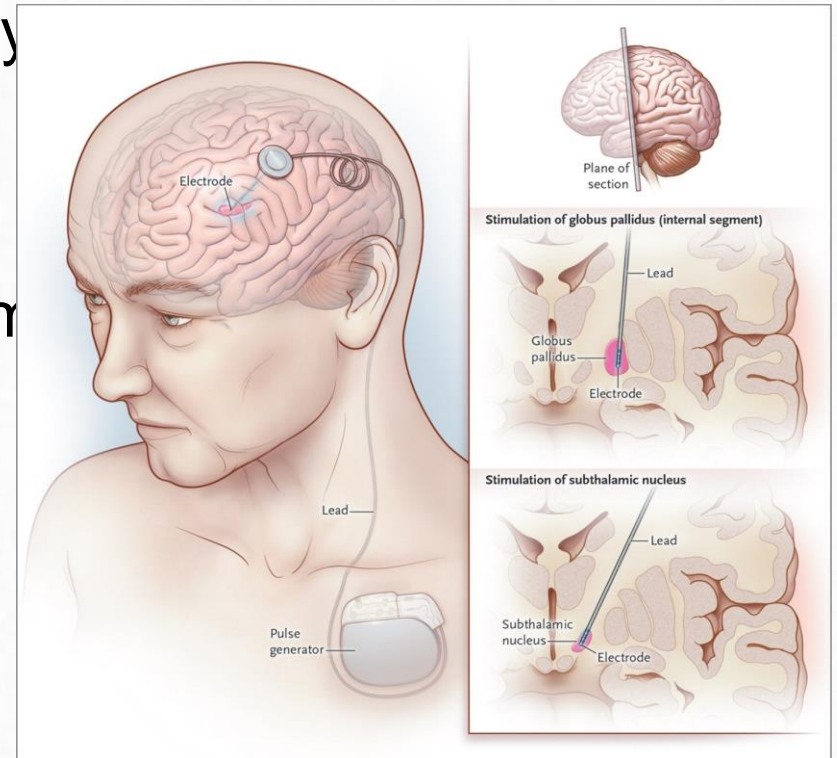
Early phase trials in progress

Deep Brain Stimulation

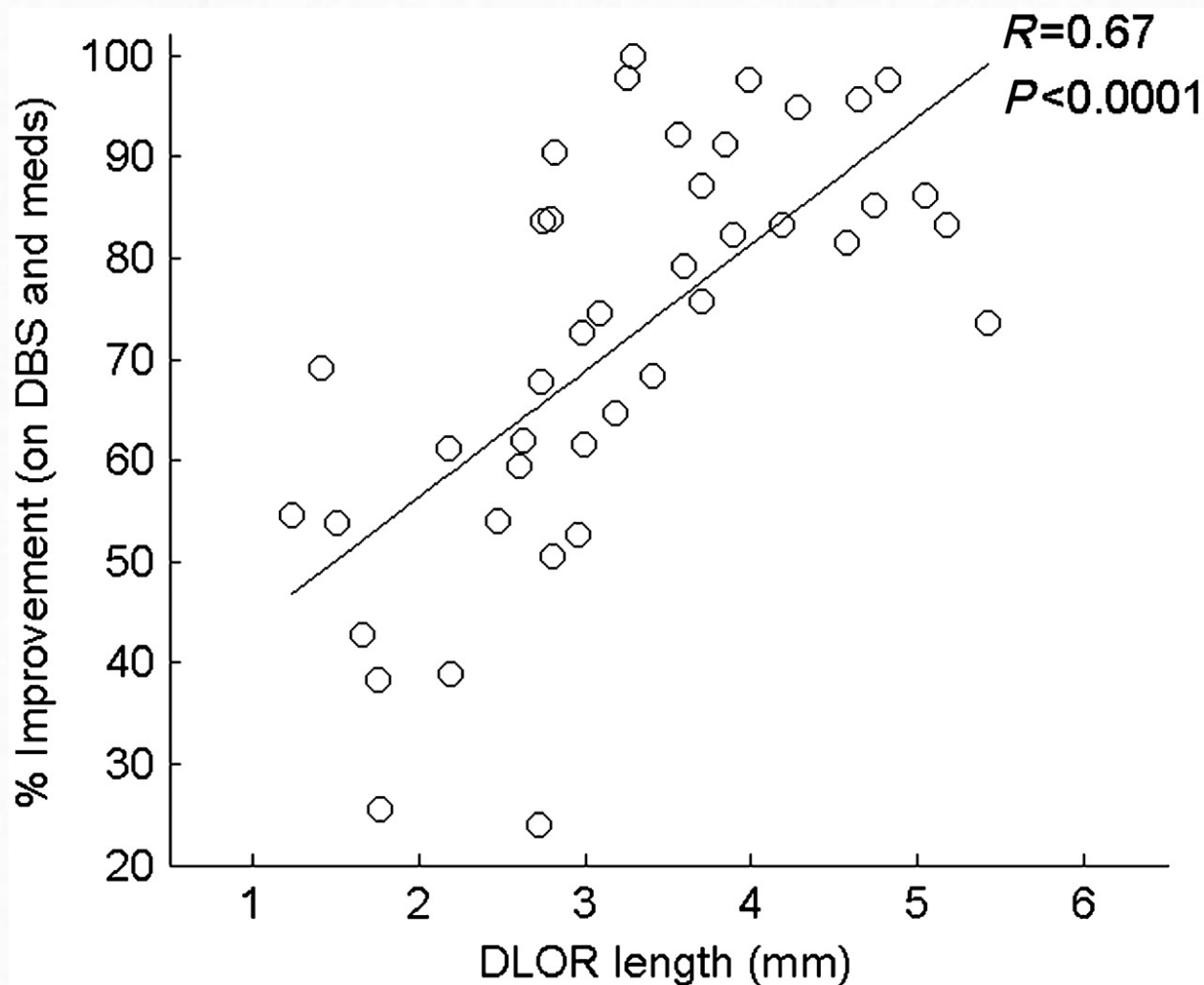
Major Current Directions

(no pun intended)

- Tailoring therapy to abnormal electrical activity
- Constant current, new delivery paradigms
- Current steering
- Understanding the mechanism of action
- Guiding programming
- New targets



The spatial extent of STN β oscillations predicts the outcome of STN DBS



Zaidel A et al. Brain 2010;133:2007-2021

Beta-HFO PAC Could Predict Efficacy

Neurobiology of Disease

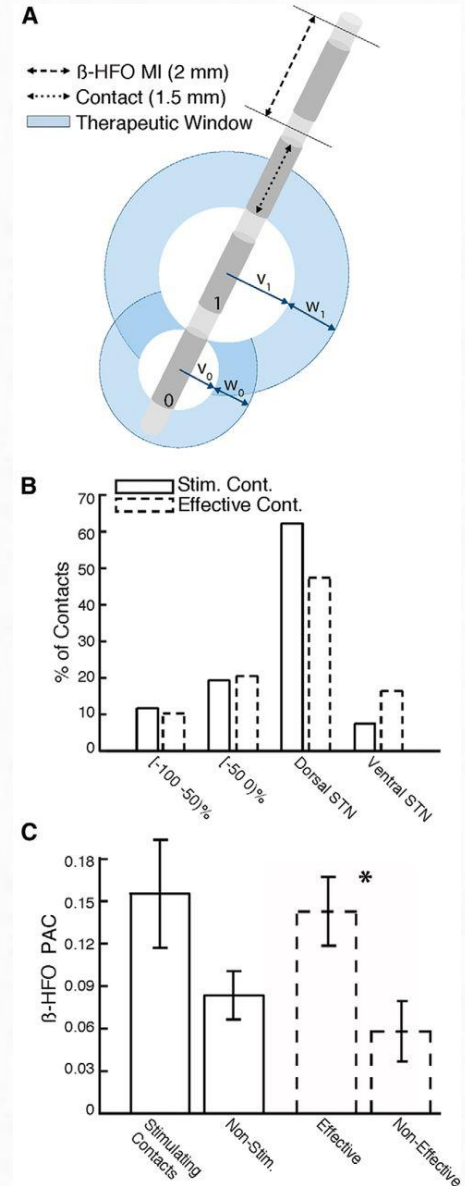
Beta-Coupled High-Frequency Activity and Beta-Locked Neuronal Spiking in the Subthalamic Nucleus of Parkinson's Disease

Andrew I. Yang¹, Nora Vanegas^{2,3}, Codrin Lungu², and Kareem A. Zaghloul¹

+ Show Affiliations

Author contributions: A.I.Y. and K.A.Z. designed research; A.I.Y., N.V., C.L., and K.A.Z. performed research; A.I.Y., N.V., and K.A.Z. analyzed data; A.I.Y., N.V., C.L., and K.A.Z. wrote the paper.

The Journal of Neuroscience, 17 September 2014, 34(38): 12816-12827; doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1895-14.2014



Stimulating at the right time: phase-specific deep brain stimulation

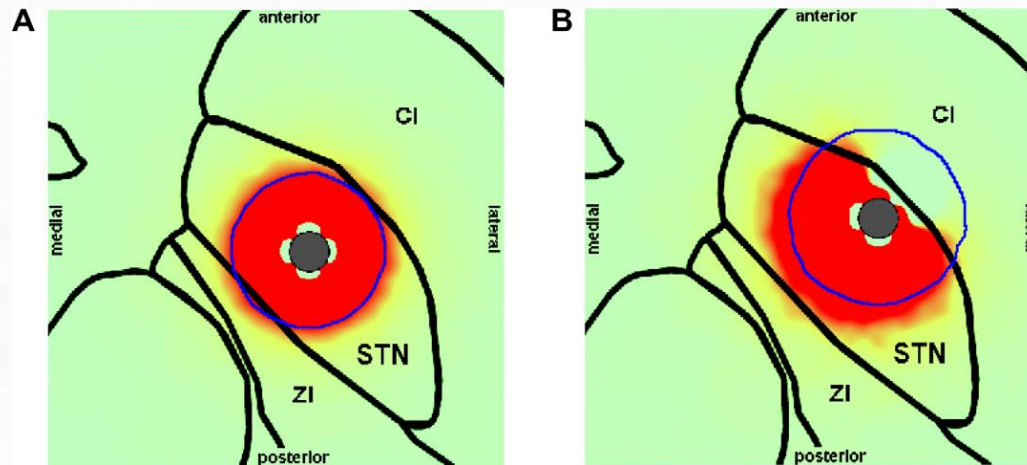
Hayriye Cagnan,^{1,2,3} David Pedrosa,^{2,3} Simon Little,¹ Alek Pogosyan,^{2,3} Binith Cheeran,² Tipu Aziz,² Alexander Green,² James Fitzgerald,² Thomas Foltynie,¹ Patricia Limousin,¹ Ludvic Zrinzo,¹ Marwan Hariz,¹ Karl J. Friston,¹ Timothy Denison⁴ and Peter Brown^{2,3}



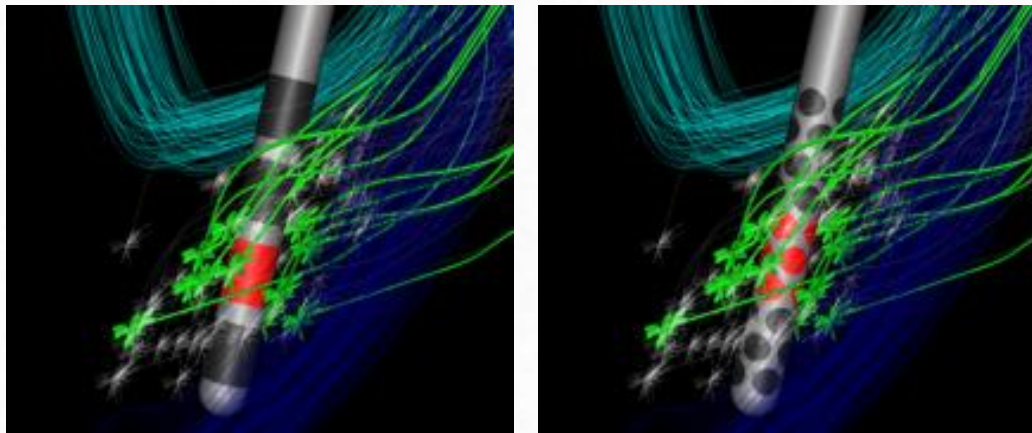
Stimulation locked to specific phase of tremor oscillation is more efficient than continuous stimulation

Current Steering

Uses DBS array electrodes in place of the cylindrical electrodes currently in use; allows targeting the VTA in cardinal directions

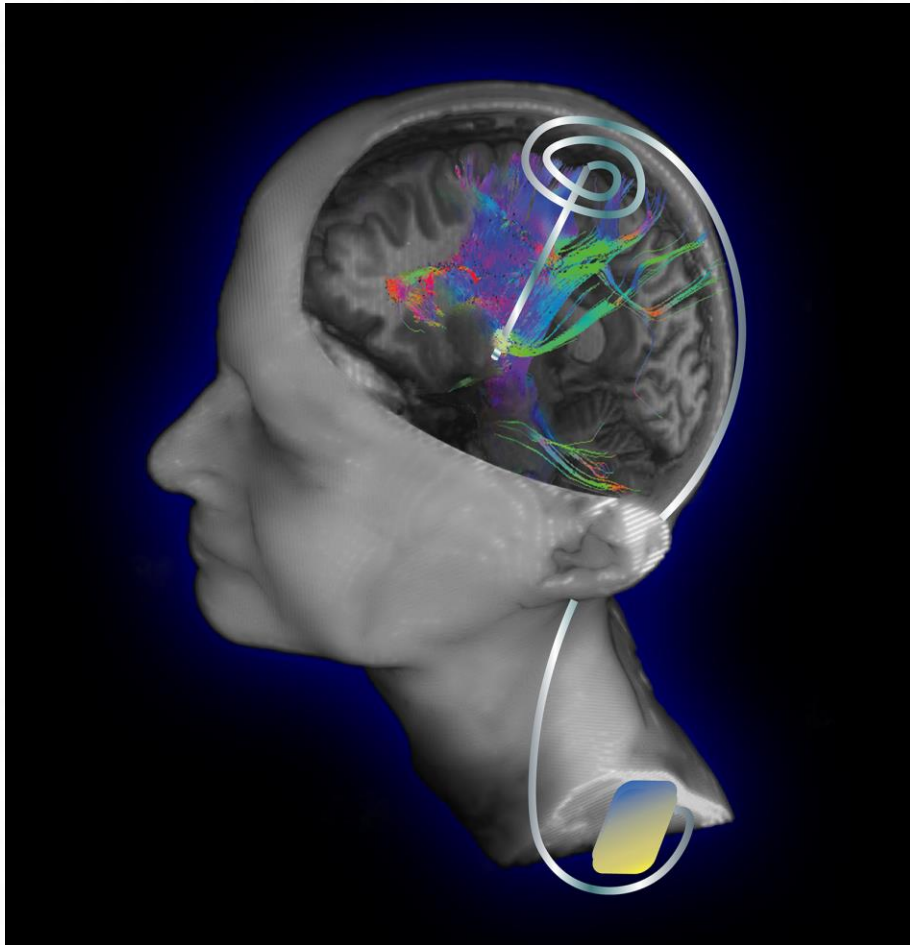


Martens et al., Clin. Neurophysiol. 2011



Lead design constantly evolving

Using DTI Imaging to Study DBS Effects and Refine Therapeutic Paradigms

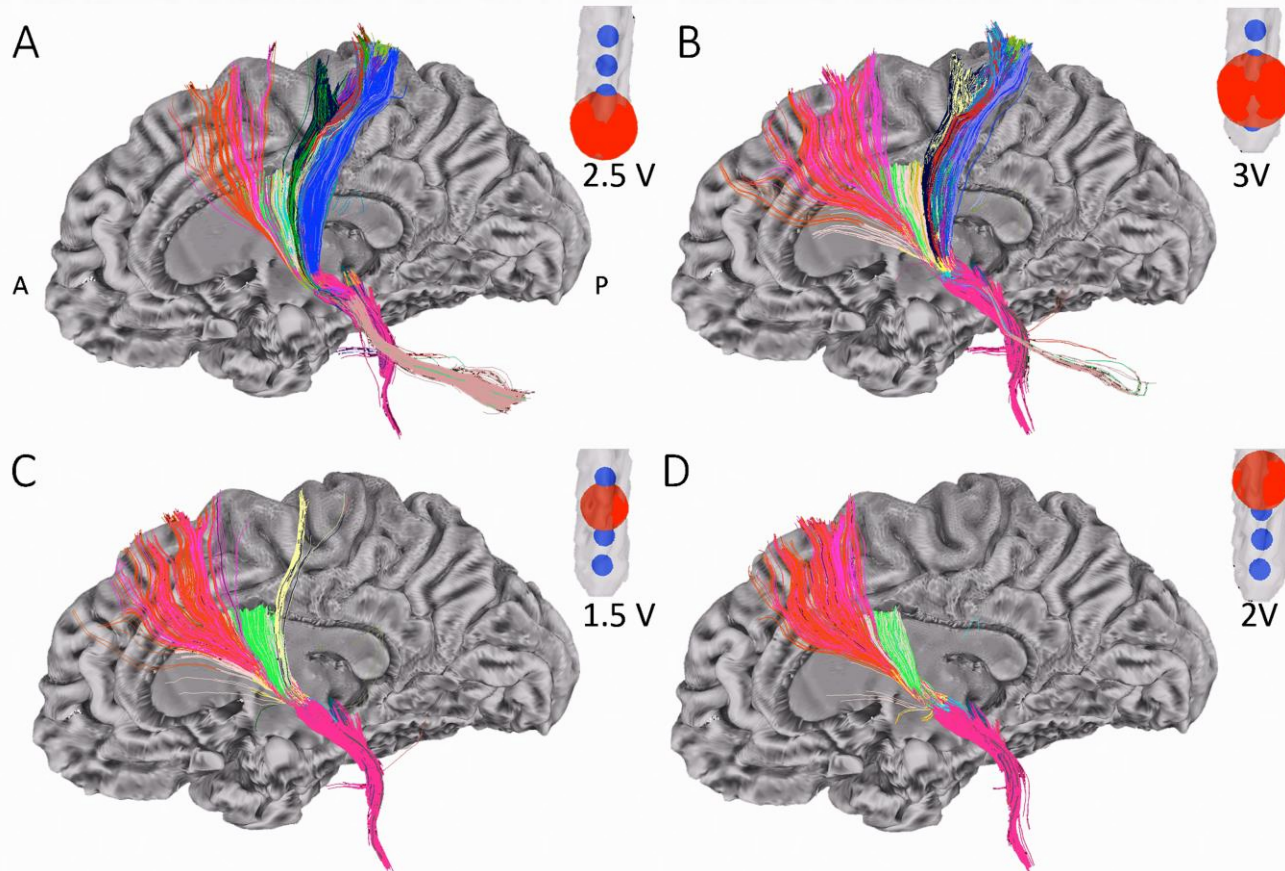


Tractography Patterns of Subthalamic Nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation.

Vanegas-Arroyave N, Lauro P, Huang L, Hallett M, Horovitz S, Zaghoul K, Lungu C. Brain 2016

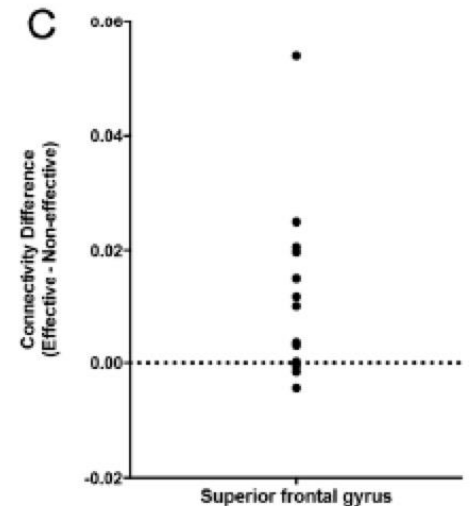
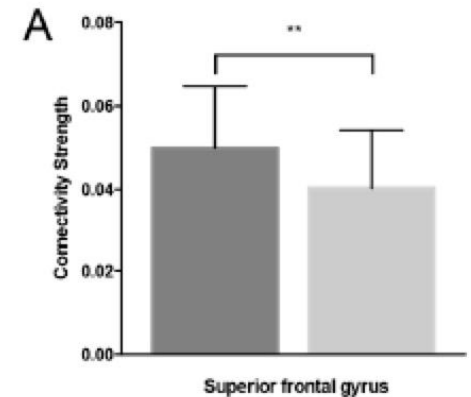
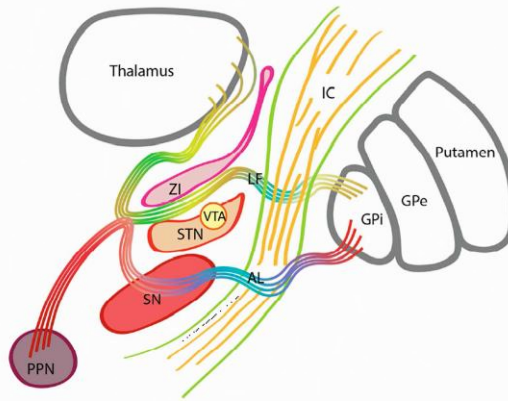
Individual Tractographic Patterns

Different tractographic patterns of effective and non-effective contacts on an example lead



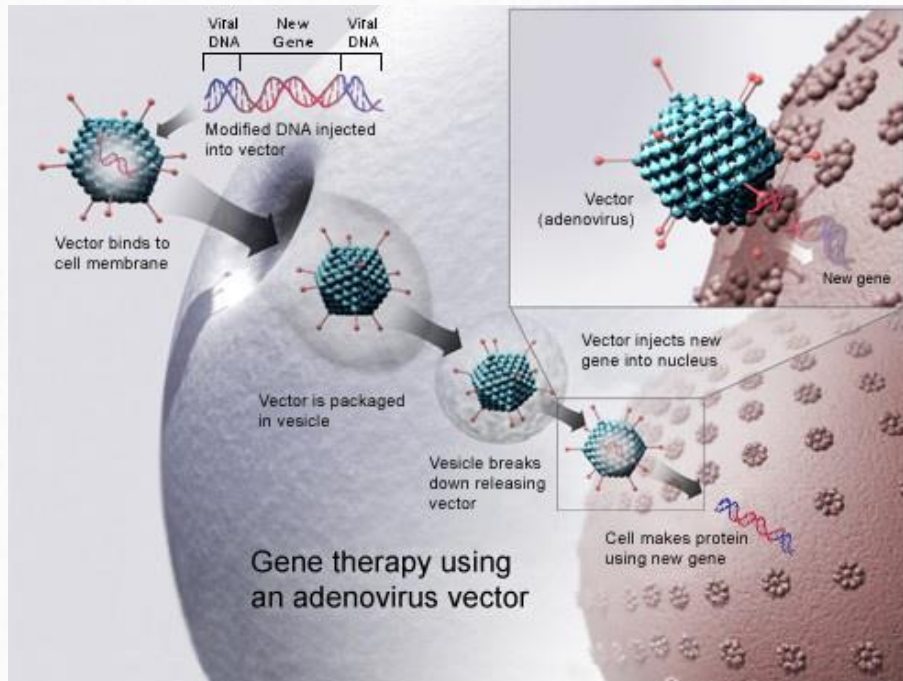
Results Summary and Significance

- SFG, thalamus connectivity associate with effective contacts, discriminant power 0.89, 0.80 respectively
- Potential for pre-programming identification of effective contacts
- This likely represents activation of hyperdirect pathway and pallidothalamic fibers respectively

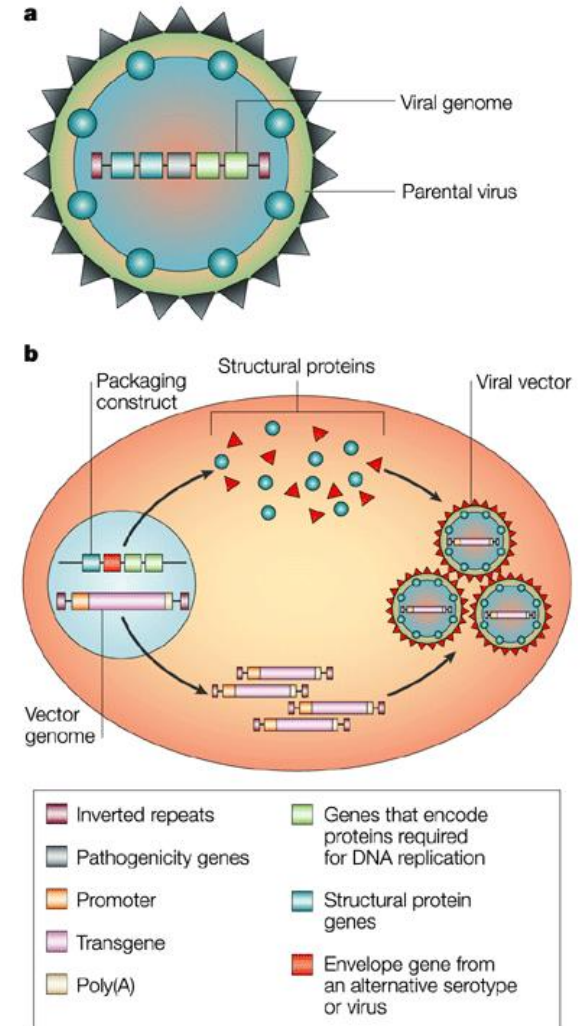


Viral Vector Gene Therapy

Surgically delivered constructs

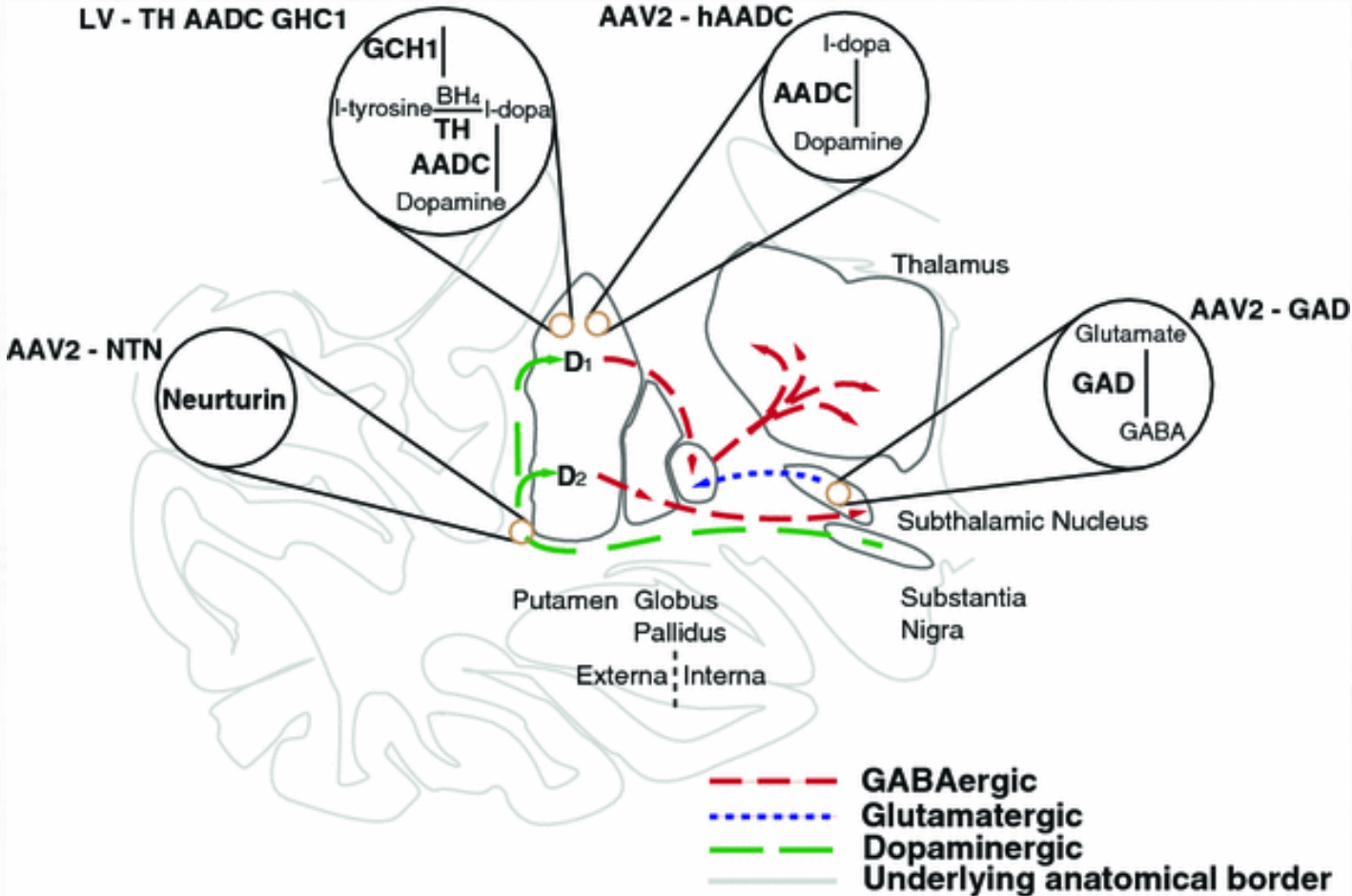


NLM public domain



Nature Reviews | Genetics

Relevant PD Pathogenic Pathways Including Symptomatic Approaches



Berry and Foltynie, J Neurol 2011

Symptomatic Gene Therapy: ProSavin Trial

Long-term safety and tolerability of ProSavin, a lentiviral vector-based gene therapy for Parkinson's disease: a dose escalation, open-label, phase 1/2 trial

Stéphane Palfi, Jean Marc Gurruchaga, G Scott Ralph*, Helene Lepetit*, Sonia Lavissee, Philip C Buttery, Colin Watts, James Miskin, Michelle Kelleher, Sarah Deeley, Hirokazu Iwamuro, Jean Pascal Lefaucheur, Claire Thiriez, Gilles Fenelon, Cherry Lucas, Pierre Brugières, Inanna Gabriel, Kou Abhay, Xavier Drouot, Naoki Tani, Aurelie Kas, Bijan Ghaleh, Philippe Le Corvoisier, Patrice Dolphin, David P Breen, Sarah Mason, Natalie Valle Guzman, Nicholas D Mazarakis, Pippa A Radcliffe, Richard Harrop, Susan M Kingsman, Olivier Rascol, Stuart Naylor, Roger A Barker, Philippe Hantraye, Philippe Remy, Pierre Cesaro, Kyriacos A Mitrophanous*

Interpretation ProSavin was safe and well tolerated in patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. Improvement in motor behaviour was observed in all patients.

Symptomatic Gene Therapy: AAV2-AADC Trial

AAVC Gene Therapy for Parkinson's Disease

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified February 2015 by University of California, San Francisco

Sponsor:

Krystof Bankiewicz

Collaborator:

Oregon Health and Science University

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

Krystof Bankiewicz, University of California, San Francisco

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

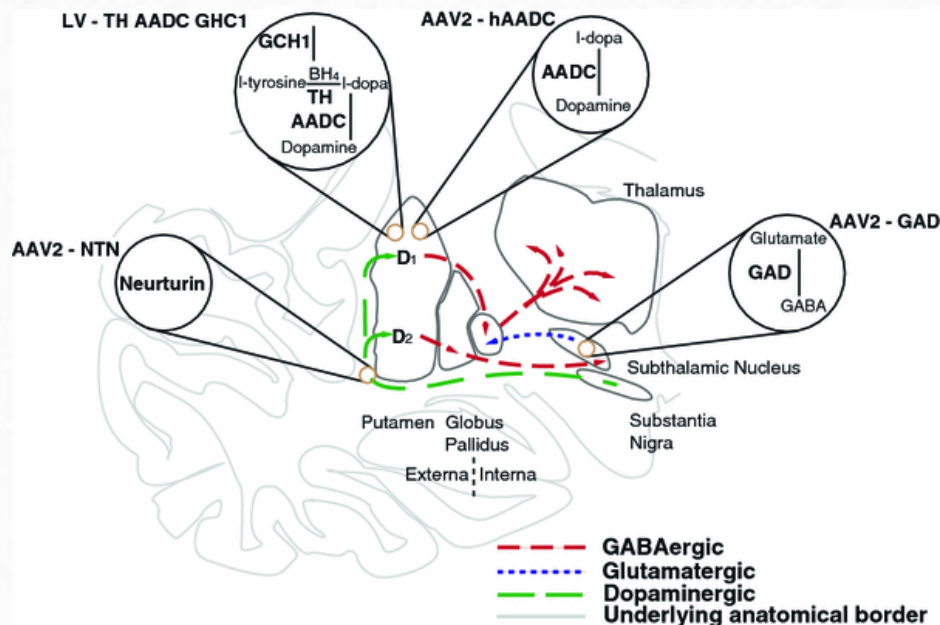
NCT01973543

First received: October 25, 2013

Last updated: February 12, 2015

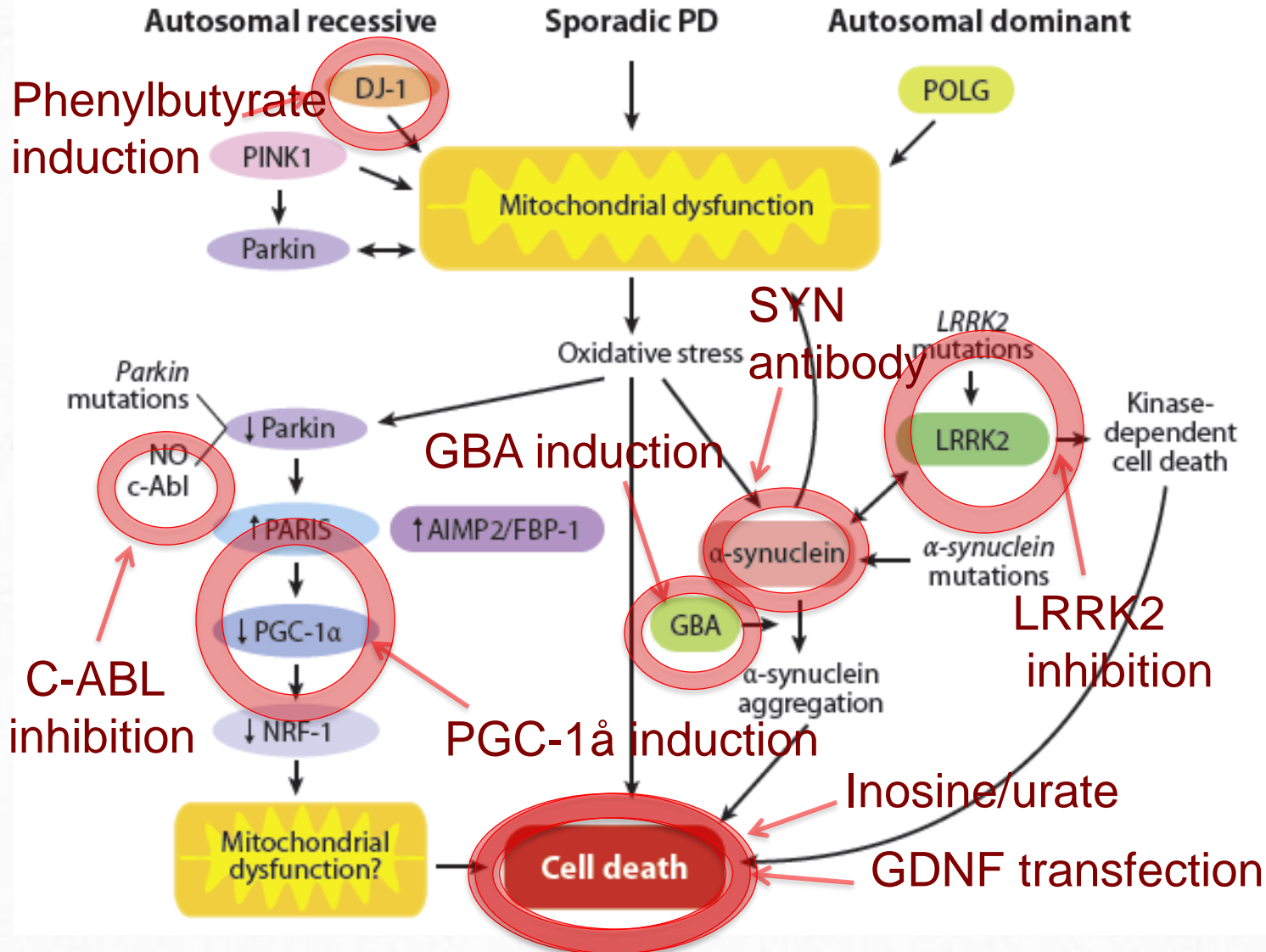
Last verified: February 2015

[History of Changes](#)

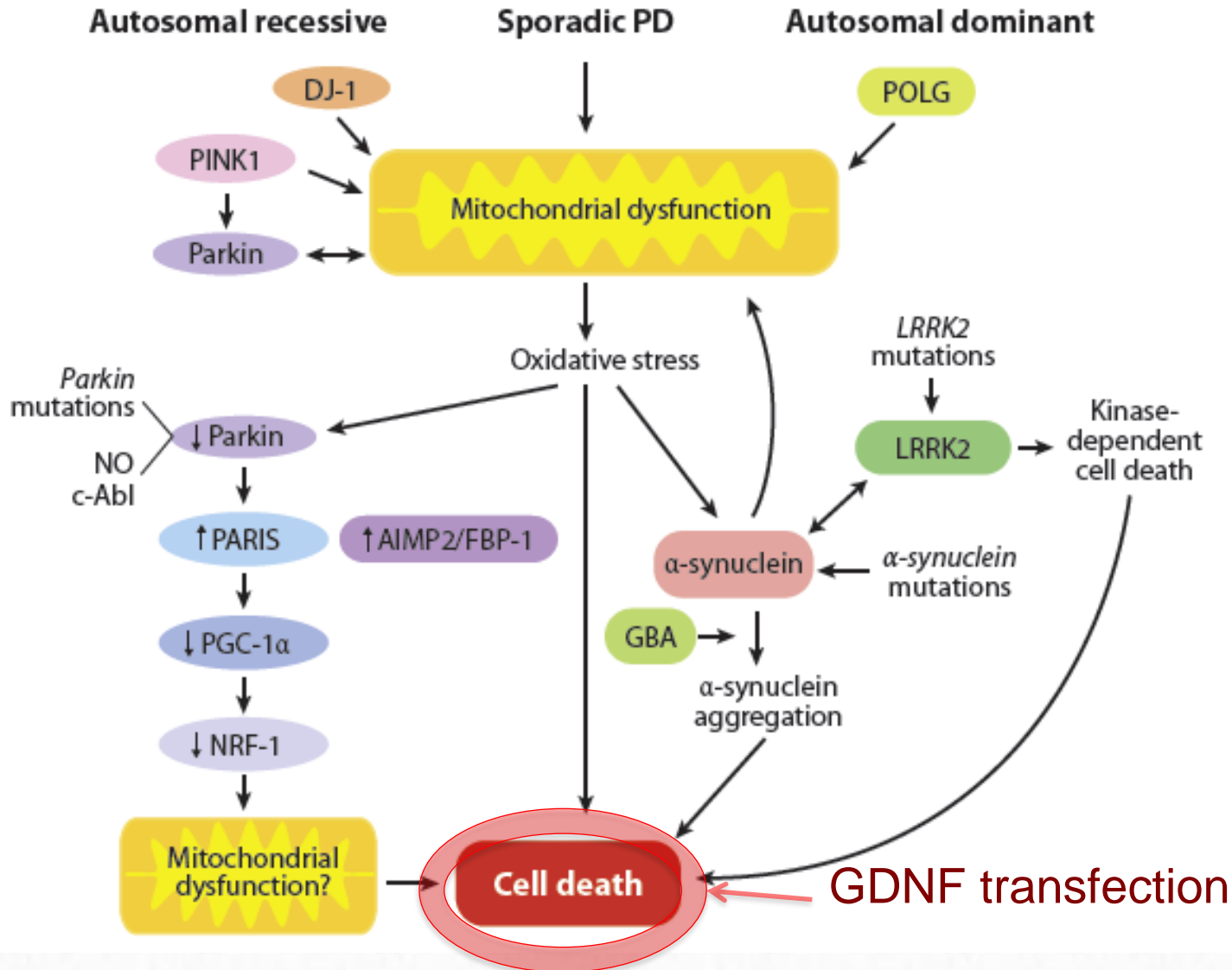


- Uses a similar delivery method to the NIH GDNF study
- Ongoing

Molecular-Targeted Therapy



Molecular-Targeted Therapy



Potential Disease-Modifying Therapy: GDNF

One of several known NTFs, which mediate neuronal survival (Aron and Klein, Trends Neurosci 2011)

Isolated from the B49 cell line based on its ability to promote the survival of embryonic DA neurons in vitro

Proposed neuroprotective/neurorestorative therapy in PD

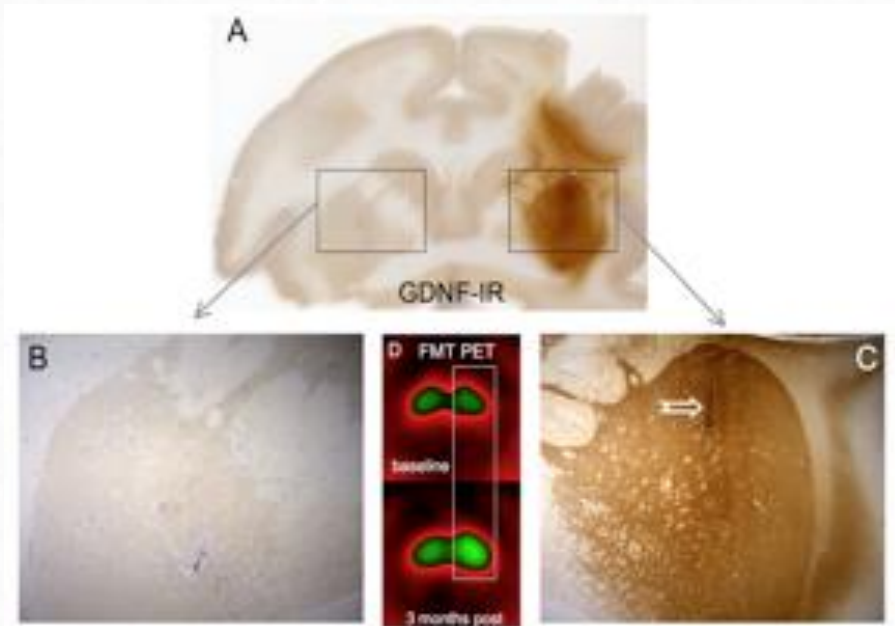
Neurturin (NTN) shares functional homology and a physiologic action pathway – but diffusivity is limited

Both are part of the GDNF family of ligands (GFLs)

GDNF pre-clinical data

GDNF has been shown to be neuroprotective, to encourage neuronal fiber outgrowth, and to improve motor function when delivered into the cerebral ventricles or directly into the striatum or nigra in both rodent and primate models

of PD (reviewed in Rangasamy SB et al, Prog Brain Res. 2010)



Courtesy of Dr Russell Lonser

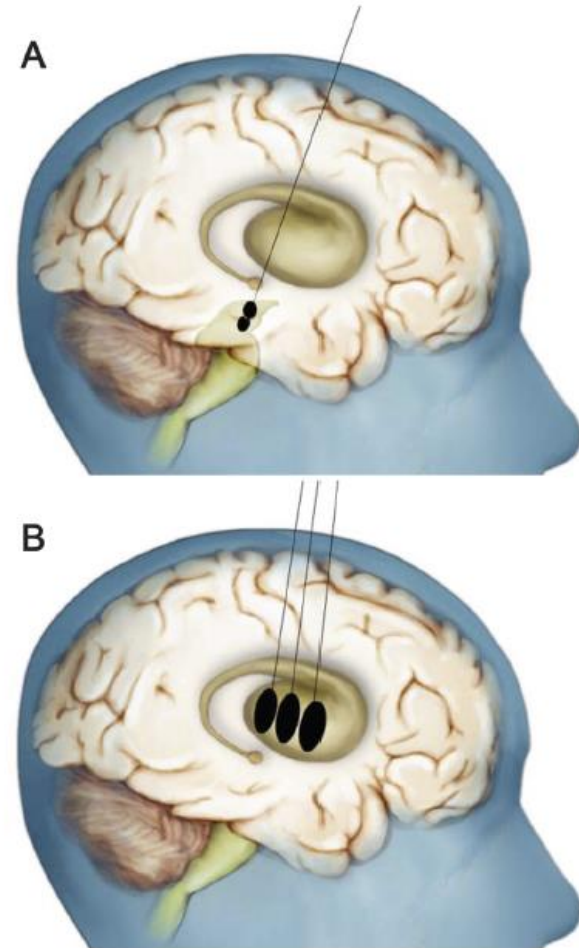
Cere 120 Trial

Neurology®

Safety/feasibility of targeting the substantia nigra with AAV2-neurturin in Parkinson patients

Raymond T. Bartus, Tiffany L. Baumann, Joao Siffert, et al.
Neurology; Published online before print April 10, 2013;
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182904faa

Figure Artist's rendition of the dosing scheme employed to bilaterally target the substantia nigra and putamen with AAV2-NRTN (CERE-120)



GDNF Early Clinical Data and Next Steps

- 4 GDNF and 2 NTN trials conducted so far
- Variable efficacy, limited primarily by the efficacy of drug delivery
- New trial ongoing at the NIH, intramural – extramural collaboration
- Convection-enhanced delivery of AAV2-GDNF allows much better distribution of the gene product to the striatum
- 4 sequential dosing cohorts planned

GDNF Trial at the NIH

Two dosing cohorts completed

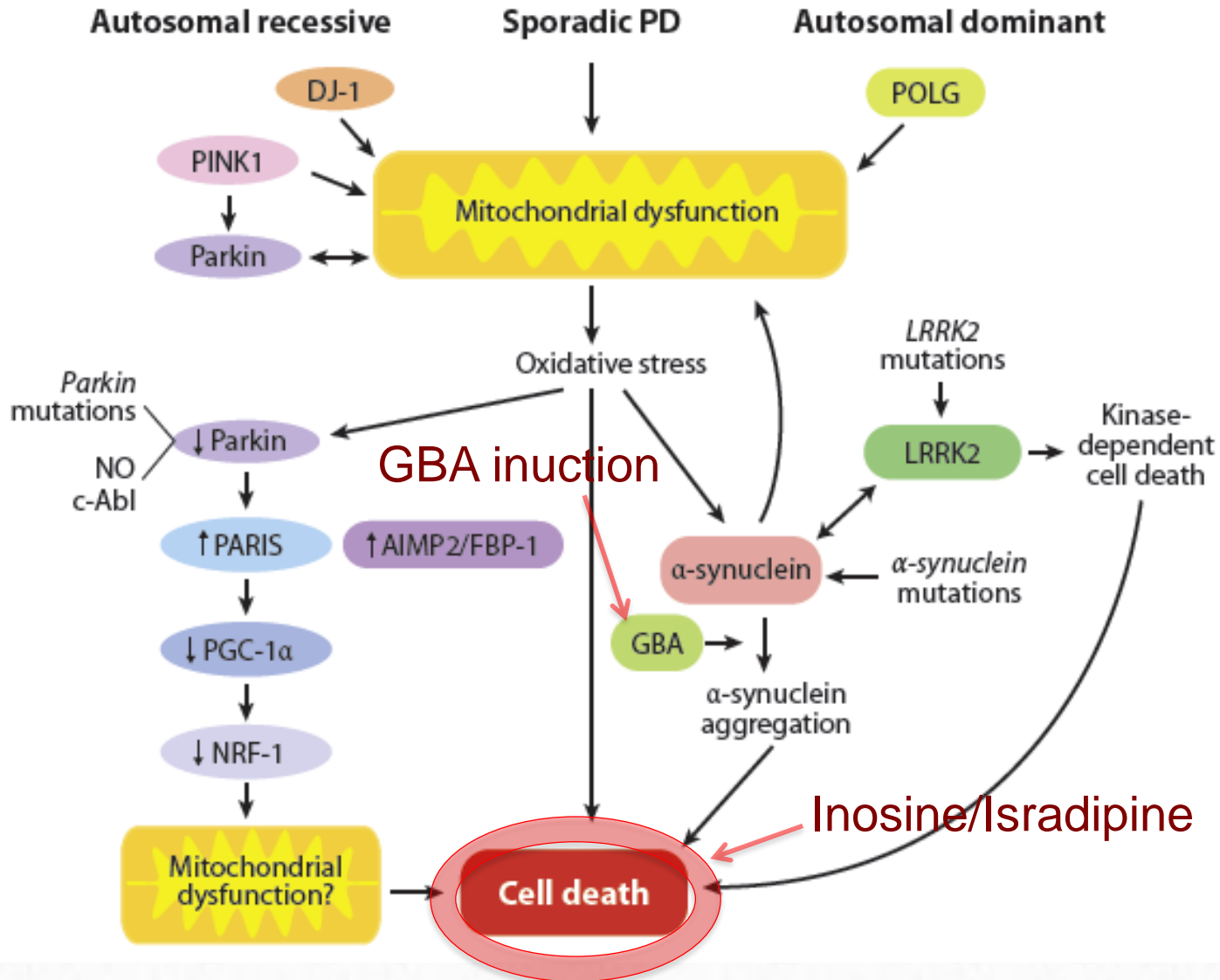
No significant problems reported

Proceeding per protocol

Still recruiting and looking for candidates

Safety data very good, potentially encouraging other preliminary data

Molecular-Targeted Therapy



Potential Disease-Modifying Therapy: Inosine

Inosine to Increase Serum and Cerebrospinal Fluid Urate in Parkinson Disease

A Randomized Clinical Trial **FREE**

The Parkinson Study Group SURE-PD Investigators

JAMA Neurol. 2014;71(2):141-150. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2013.5528.

Text Size: **A** / *A*

Inosine is a precursor of urate, shown to be neuroprotective in vivo and animal models



Phase 3 trial of inosine for Parkinson's disease CCC

Schwarzschild, Michael A.

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, United States

Potential Disease-Modifying Therapy: Isradipine



Research Article

Phase II safety, tolerability, and dose selection study of isradipine as a potential disease-modifying intervention in early Parkinson's disease (STEADY-PD)

Parkinson Study Group 

First published: 30 September 2013 [Full publication history](#)

Isradipine is a calcium channel blocker, shown to protect nigral dopaminergic cell in vitro.

STEADY-PD III phase III multicenter trial on-going

Potential Disease-Modifying Therapy: Deferiprone

Study of Parkinson's Early Stage With Deferiprone (SKY)

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified January 2017 by ApoPharma

Sponsor:

ApoPharma

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

ApoPharma

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT02728843

First received: March 31, 2016

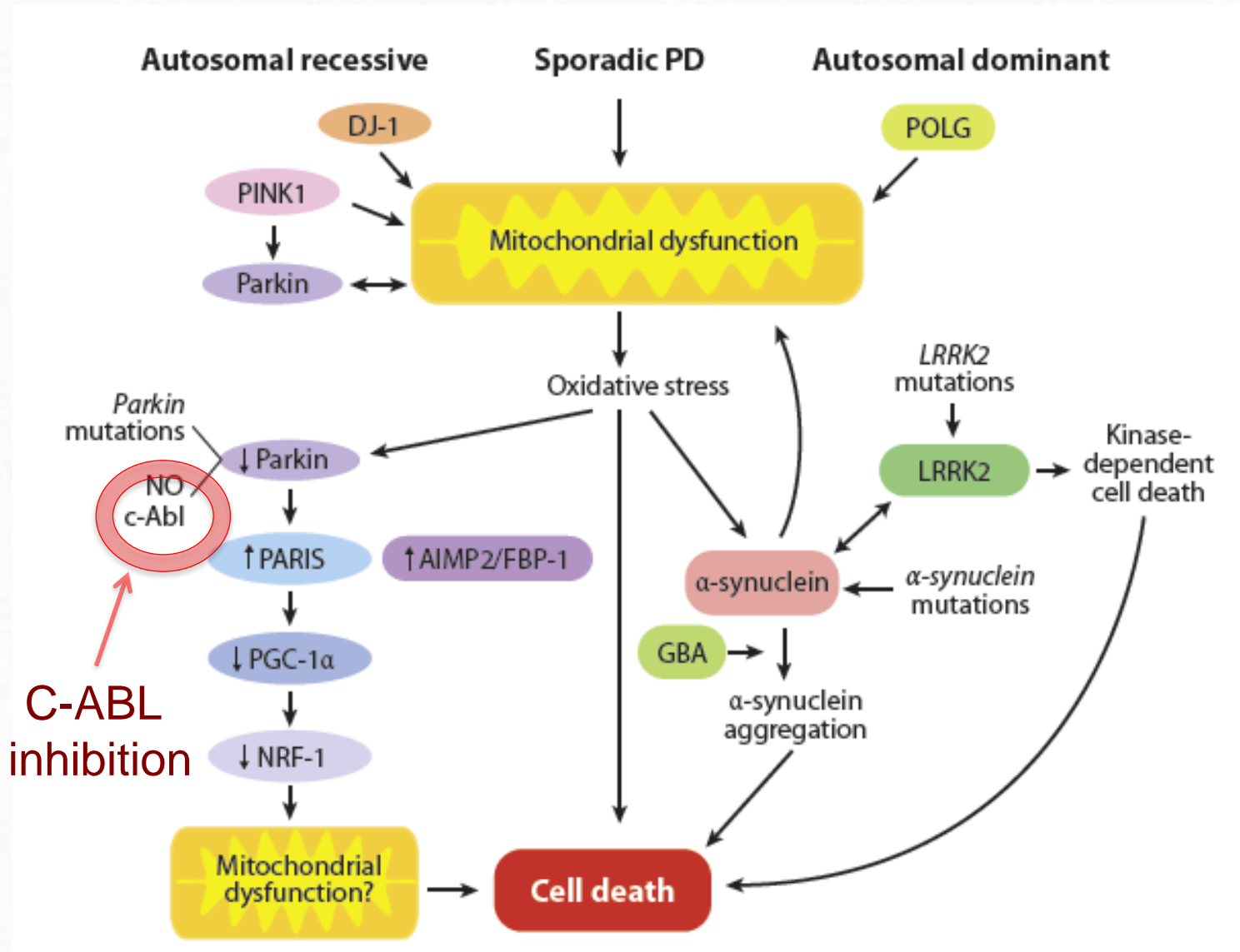
Last updated: March 1, 2017

Last verified: January 2017

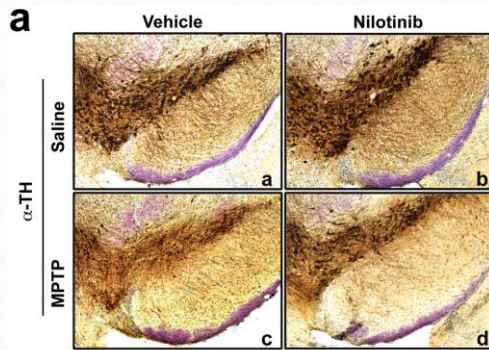
[History of Changes](#)

Deferiprone is an iron chelator, targeting abnormal iron accumulation and mitochondrial dysfunction in the substantia nigra.

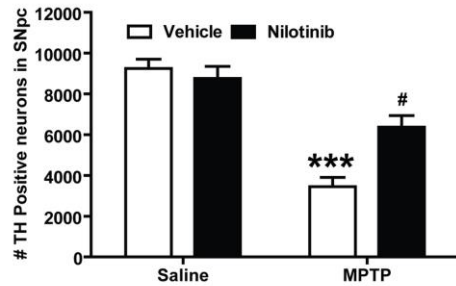
Molecular-Targeted Therapy



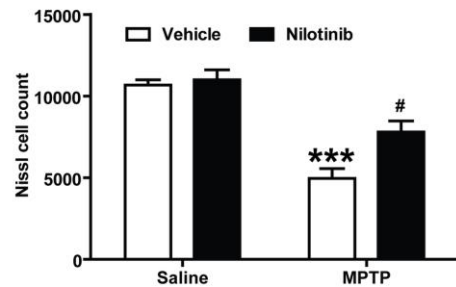
C-ABL as target



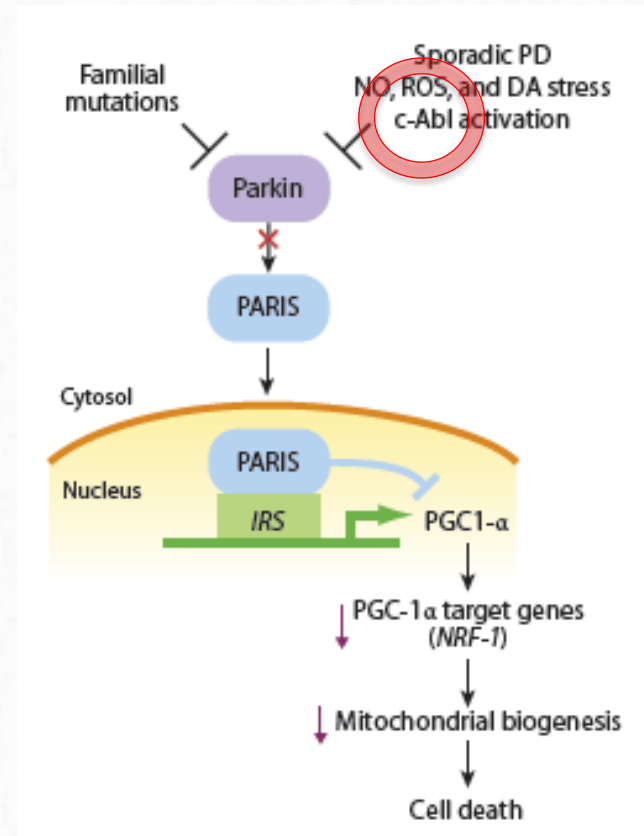
b



c



Karuppagounder
Sci Rep 2014

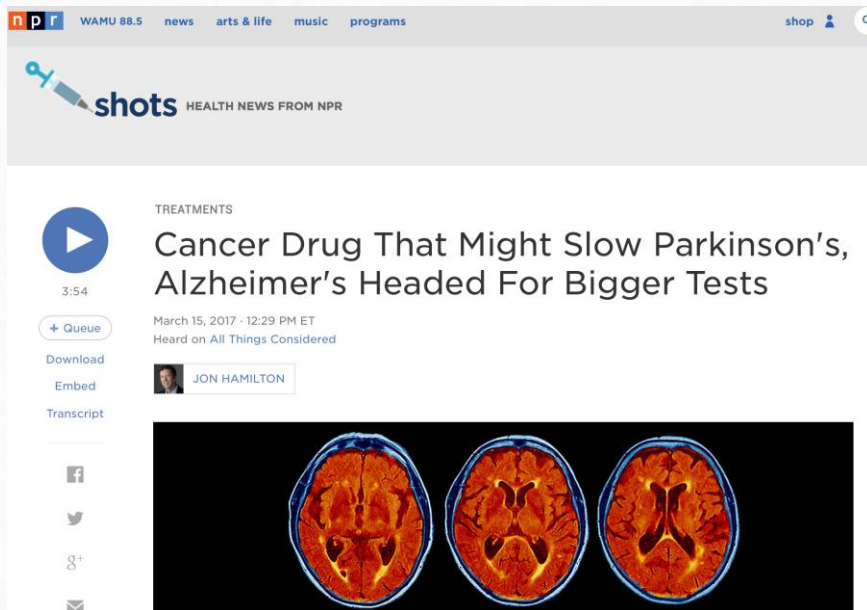


Martin I et al. Annu Rev
Genomics Hum Genet. 2011

- C-ABL inhibits Parkin's protective effect
- C-ABL KO protects against MPTP-induced loss of DA neurons as dose nilotinib

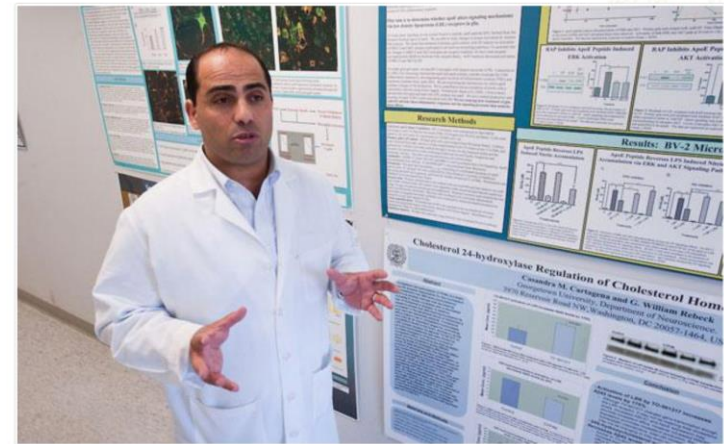
C-ABL as target

- C-ABL inhibitors exist and can be delivered systemically
- Studies in progress



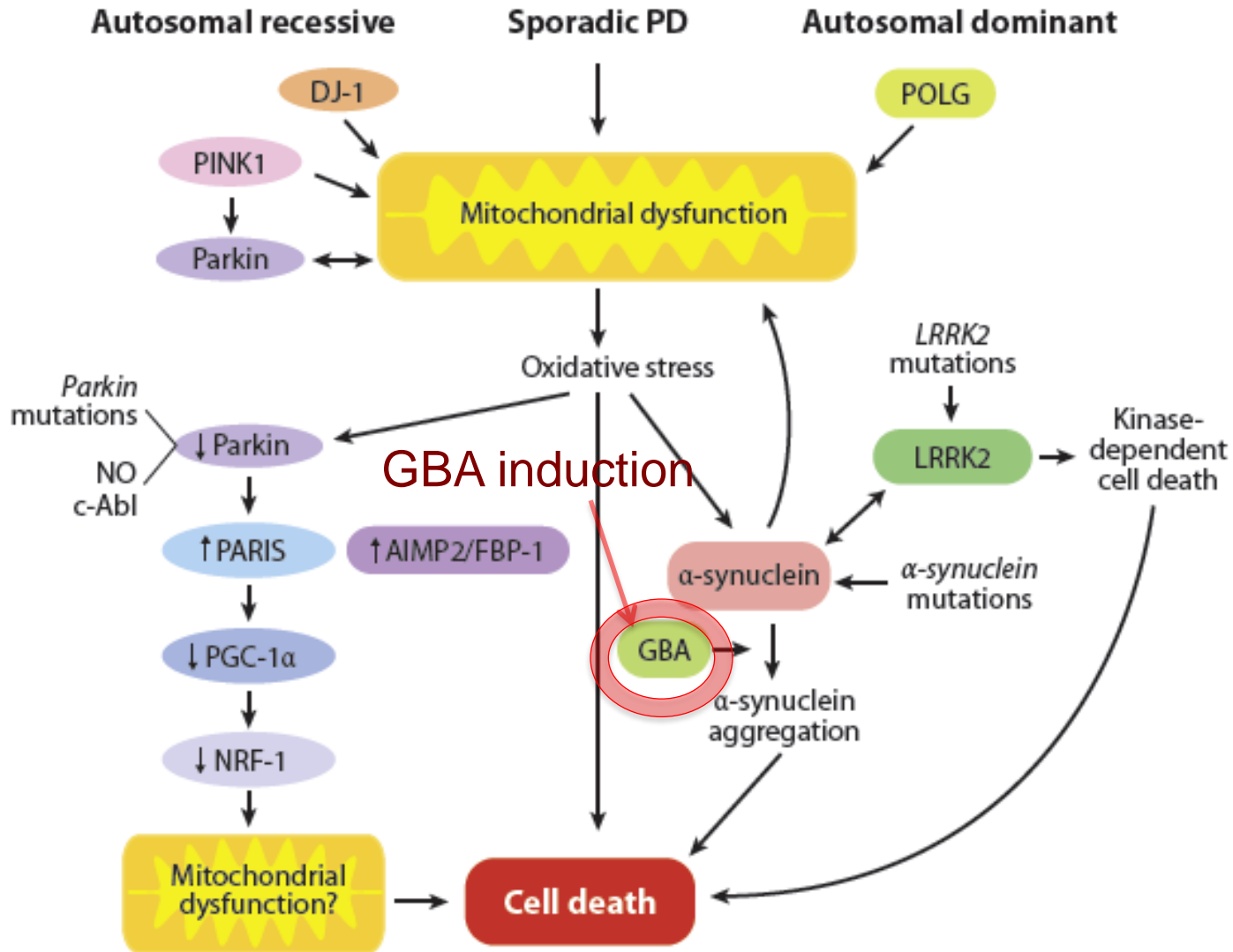
The screenshot shows the NPR Shots website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'news', 'arts & life', 'music', and 'programs'. The main content area features a play button icon, a video duration of 3:54, and a 'Queue' button. Below this, the article title 'Cancer Drug That Might Slow Parkinson's, Alzheimer's Headed For Bigger Tests' is displayed, along with the date 'March 15, 2017 · 12:29 PM ET' and the author 'JON HAMILTON'. At the bottom of the article preview, there are three axial brain scan images showing a cross-section of the brain with highlighted areas.

STUDY WILL LEAD TO HUMAN TRIAL OF CANCER DRUG TO PREVENT PARKINSON'S



Charbel Elhadj Moussa, head of the Laboratory of Dementia and Parkinsonism at Georgetown, says no one has tried treating neurodegenerative diseases with cancer drugs until now.

Molecular-Targeted Therapy



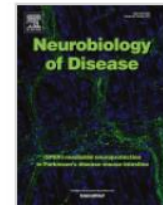
Targeting GBA

- GBA mutations are the most common genetic risk factor for PD, associated with reduced GCase activity



Neurobiology of Disease

Volume 82, October 2015, Pages 495–503



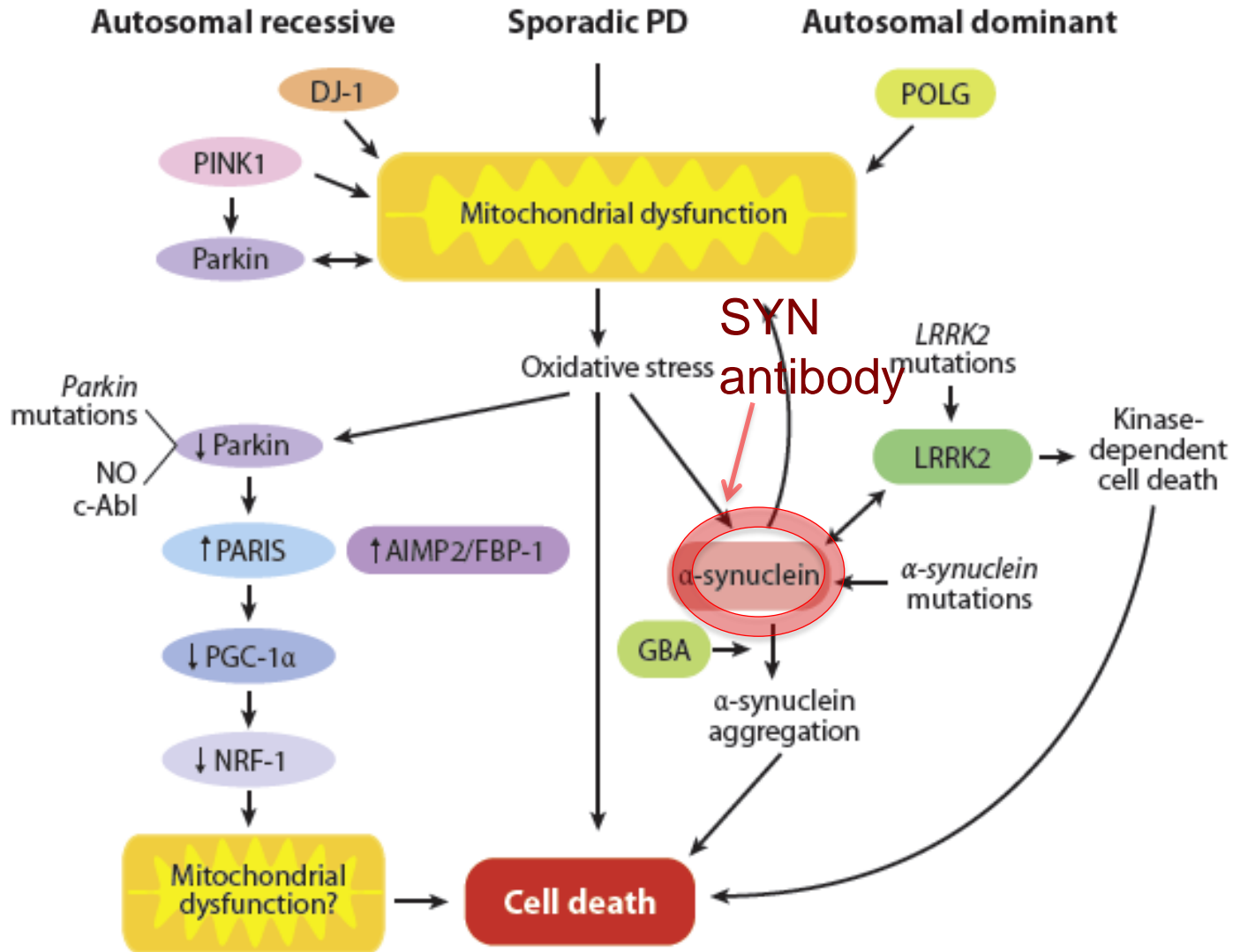
Glucocerebrosidase gene therapy prevents α -synucleinopathy of midbrain dopamine neurons

Emily M. Rocha^{a, 1}, Gaynor A. Smith^{a, 1}, Eric Park^b, Hongmei Cao^b, Eilish Brown^b, Melissa A. Hayes^a, Jonathan Beagan^a, Jesse R. McLean^a, Sarah C. Izen^a, Eduardo Perez-Torres^a, Penelope J. Hallett^a, , 
, Ole Isacson^a, , 

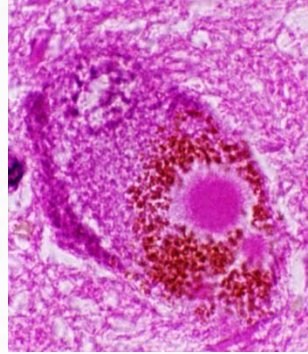
Rocha, Neurobiol Dis 2015

- AAV-GBA gene delivery prevented α -synuclein-mediated degeneration of nigrostriatal dopamine neurons

Molecular-Targeted Therapy



Targeting Synuclein



First-in-Human Assessment of PRX002, an Anti- α -Synuclein Monoclonal Antibody, in Healthy Volunteers

Dale B. Schenk, PhD,^{1†} Martin Koller, MD, MPH,¹ Daniel K. Ness, DVM, PhD,¹ Sue G. Griffith, MD, PhD, MRCP,² Michael Grundman, MD, MPH,^{3,4} Wagner Zago, PhD,¹ Jay Soto, BS,¹ George Atiee, MD,⁵ Susanne Ostrowitzki, MD, PhD,⁶ and Gene G. Kinney, PhD^{1*}

Mov Disord 03/2017

The study in healthy volunteers showed safety and good immunogenicity. Further studies, as well as complementary approaches, are in progress.

Where to Find Information

<https://clinicaltrials.gov>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/nih-clinical-research-trials-you/finding-clinical-trial>

<https://foxtrialfinder.michaeljfox.org>

More Studies Are Needed



“Human clinical trials start in six months.
Sooner if we run out of mice.”

Summary and Conclusions

- Biomarkers remain an important focus, with slow but steady progress. Genetic markers may be the key to presymptomatic diagnosis. Instrumented assessments can provide useful *targeted* information
- New techniques can refine old therapies, like DBS
- Targeting specific pathogenic pathways may yield disease-modifying or curative therapies

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