COMBINING DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS PIONEERING PRECISION MEDICINE

State-of-the-art of treatment and diagnosis of alphasynuclein pathologies: Opening remarks Andrea Pfeifer, PhD | ADPD 2024 | March 2024



# Recent Developments in the Diagnosis of Synucleinopathies

#### Werner Poewe

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MEDIZINISCHE UNIVERSITÄT INNSBRUCK

## OUTLINE

➢The Concept of ,Synucleinopathy'

Diagnostic Challenges

➢Moving towards a 'Biological' Definition

### A Large Kindred with Autosomal Dominant Parkinson's Disease

Lawrence I. Golbe, MD,\* Giuseppe Di Iorio, MD,† Vincenzo Bonavita, MD,† Douglas C. Miller, MD, PhD,‡ and Roger C. Duvoisin, MD\*

Ann Neurol 1990;27:276-282

#### Mapping of a Gene for Parkinson's Disease to Chromosome 4q21–q23

Mihael H. Polymeropoulos,\* Joseph J. Higgins, Lawrence I. Golbe, William G. Johnson, Susan E. Ide, Giuseppe Di Iorio, Giuseppe Sanges, Edward S. Stenroos, Lana T. Pho, Alejandro A. Schaffer, Alice M. Lazzarini, Robert L. Nussbaum, Roger C. Duvoisin

SCIENCE • VOL. 274 • 15 NOVEMBER 1996

# Mutation in the $\alpha$ -Synuclein Gene Identified in Families with Parkinson's Disease

Mihael H. Polymeropoulos,\* Christian Lavedan†, Elisabeth Leroy†, Susan E. Ide, Anindya Dehejia, Amalia Dutra, Brian Pike, Holly Root, Jeffrey Rubenstein, Rebecca Boyer, Edward S. Stenroos, Settara Chandrasekharappa, Aglaia Athanassiadou, Theodore Papapetropoulos, William G. Johnson, Alice M. Lazzarini, Roger C. Duvoisin, Giuseppe Di Iorio, Lawrence I. Golbe, Robert L. Nussbaum

SCIENCE • VOL. 276 • 27 JUNE 1997



# Defining PD as a ,Synucleinopathy'

- Missense mutations in SNCA sufficient to cause dominantly inherited PD<sup>1,3</sup>
- Increase in SNCA wild-type gene dose (duplication; triplication) causes PD (or PDD)<sup>4</sup>
- Sequence variations in regulatory region of SNCA associated with PD risk <sup>5</sup>
- Lewy bodies and Lewy neurites in sporadic PD immunoreactive for  $\alpha$  -synuclein  $^2$

1.Polymeropoulos &al.,Science. 1997 Jun 27;276(5321):2045-7; 2.Spillantini &al.,Nature. 1997 Aug 28;388(6645):839-40. 3.Krüger &al.,Nat Genet. 1998 Feb;18(2):106-8; 4.Singleton &al., Science. 2003 Oct 31;302(5646):841; 5.Blauwendraat &al., Lancet Neurol. 2020 Feb;19(2):170-178. Clinical Entities defined by α-Synuclein Pathology

- Parkinson's Disease (PD)
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB)/ PDD
- Multiple System Atrophy
- Pure Autonomic Failure (PAF)

# • Idiopathic REM Sleep Behaviour Disorder

# Diagnosing PD on the Street

,....I have seen such patients everywhere on the streets of Rome, of Amsterdam, in Spain – it is always the same picture. They can be identified from afar, you do not need a medical history....'



Charcot, Lecons du Mardi 1888 (quoted in: Lees A; Brain 2017:40:843-848)

### MDS Clinical Diagnostic Criteria for Parkinson's Disease

1: Presence of a parkinsonian syndrome:

Bradykinesia,

plus at least one of :

- Limb rigidity
- •4 6 Hz Rest Tremor

2: Presence of supportive criteria for PD 3: Absence of Exclusion Criteria REVIEW

MDS Clinical Diagnostic Criteria for Parkinson's Disease

Ronald B. Postuma, MD, MSc,<sup>1+</sup> Daniela Berg, MD,<sup>2+</sup> Matthew Stem, MD,<sup>3</sup> Wemer Poewe, MD,<sup>4</sup> Waren Olanow, MD, FRCPC,<sup>5</sup> Wolfgang Oertel, MD,<sup>6</sup> José Obeso, MD, PhD,<sup>7</sup> Kenneth Marek, MD,<sup>6</sup> Fene Litvan, MD,<sup>9</sup> Anthony E. Lang, OC, MD, FRCPC,<sup>10</sup> Glenda Haliday, PhD,<sup>12</sup> Christopher G. Goetz, MD,<sup>13</sup> Thomas Gasser, MD,<sup>2</sup> Buno Dubois, MD, PhD,<sup>14</sup> Fiu Chan, MD, PhD,<sup>15</sup> Bastiaan R. Bloem, MD, PhD,<sup>16</sup> Charles H. Adler, MD, PhD,<sup>17</sup>

and Günther Deuschl. MD1

CME

# Accuracy of a Clinical Diagnosis of PD

• Meta-Analysis of 11 clinico-pathological studies

> Non MD experts

MD experts - 1st visit

➢ MD experts - after FU

Use of formal UKBB criteria

Pooled diagnostic accuracy of 80.6 %

73.8 % {67.8-79.6}

79.6 % {46.0-95.1}

83.9 % {69.7-92.6}

82.7 % {62.6-93.0}



Rizzo & al, Neurology 2016

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### Pathological Validation of the MDS Criteria for the Diagnosis of Multiple System Atrophy

Sasivimol Virameteekul, MD, MSc,<sup>1,2</sup> Tamas Revesz, PhD, FRCPath,<sup>1</sup> Zane Jaunmuktane, MD, FRCPath,<sup>1</sup> Thomas T. Warner, FRCP, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> and Eduardo De Pablo-Fernández, MD, PhD<sup>1,2\*</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>

#### 318 consecutive cases of sporadic, adult-onset parkinsonism or cerebellar ataxia

SBB (2009-2019)	Dx Criteria	Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy
	Late Disease (final visit)			
03 MSA vs 215 non-MSA	MDS probable	95.1	94.0	94.3
48 with parkinsonism 0 with cerebellar ataxia	MDS established	51.5	100.0	84.3
	2nd Consensus possible	96.1	81.9	86.5
	2nd consensus probable	75.7	96.7	89.9
	Clinical	90.3	91.2	90.9

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### Pathological Validation of the MDS Criteria for the Diagnosis of Multiple System Atrophy

Sasivimol Virameteekul, MD, MSc,<sup>1,2</sup> Tamas Revesz, PhD, FRCPath,<sup>1</sup> Zane Jaunmuktane, MD, FRCPath,<sup>1</sup> Thomas T. Warner, FRCP, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> and Eduardo De Pablo-Fernández, MD, PhD<sup>1,2\*</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>

#### 318 consecutive cases of sporadic, adult-onset parkinsonism or cerebellar ataxia

103 MSA vs 215 non-MSA

248 with parkinsonism

QSBB (2009-19)

70 with cerebellar ataxia

Dx Criteria	Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy
Early disease (<3yrs)			
MDS probable	62.1	95.3	84.6
MDS established	20.4	100.0	74.2
2nd Consensus possible	60.2	88.4	79.2
2nd consensus probable	39.8	97.7	78.9
Clinical	40.8	93.5	76.4

# Imaging Methods to Diagnose Synucleinopathies

Radiotracer Imaging

#### **MR Imaging**



TCS



diopathic REM sleep behaviour disorder Parkinson's disease

Healthy control

Multimodal Imaging

Nature Reviews | Disease Primers

# Structural MRI at 1.5T in MSA (vs PD)

"RED FLAGS": MSA signs (Sensitivity >50%; Specificity >90%)

- putaminal atrophy
- putaminal hypointensity
- putaminal rim sign,
- pontocerebellar atrophy,
- MCP atrophy a./o. hyperintensity
- hot cross bun sign,
- **↑** putaminal diffusivity
- hypointensity on GRE T2\* or SWI at higher field strengths



Diagnostic potential of automated subcortical volume segmentation in atypical parkinsonism



Scherfler et al. 2016

Automated Analysis of Diffusion-Weighted Magnetic Resonance Imaging for the Differential Diagnosis of Multiple System Atrophy from Parkinson's Disease

Florian Krismer, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> <sup>(D)</sup> Vincent Beliveau, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> Klaus Seppi, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Christoph Mueller, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Georg Goebel, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Elke R. Gizewski, MD,<sup>2,4</sup> Gregor K. Wenning, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Werner Poewe, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> and Christoph Scherfler, MD<sup>1,2\*</sup> <sup>(D)</sup>





#### **Overall diagnostic accuracy: 91.4 %**

MD = mean diffusivity

# Multimodal MRI to distinguish PD from MSA

- > 26 PD vs 29 MSA vs 26 HC
- Multimodal 3-T MRI incl. T1, R2\*, DWI
- Whole brain voxel-based analysis
- Significant differences between MSA and PD in cerebellum, putamen, MCP, corona radiata

### Combination of 2 markers in logistic regression yielded > 95% discrimination

Peran & al., Movement Disorders 2018; 33: 600-8



# MR Imaging of S. Nigra Pathology



Vaillancourt etal, Neurology, 2009; de Marzi et al, Ann Neurol 2016; Erminger et al BRAIN 2016; Poston et al JPD (2020); Ryman et al (2020) PRD, Mitchell et al JAMA Neurology 2021; Zhang et al; JPD 2022

# ,Nigrosome-1' Imaging (loss of DNH) in Prodromal PD

Loss of Dorsolateral Nigral Hyperintensity on 3.0 Tesla Susceptibility-Weighted Imaging in Idiopathic Rapid Eye Movement Sleep Behavior Disorder

Roberto De Marzi, MD,<sup>1</sup> Klaus Seppi, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Birgit Högl, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christoph Müller, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christoph Scherfler, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Ambra Stefani, MD,<sup>1</sup> Alex Iranzo, MD,<sup>3</sup> Eduardo Tolosa, MD,<sup>3</sup> Joan Santamarìa, MD,<sup>3</sup> Elke Gizewski, MD,<sup>2,4</sup> Michael Schocke, MD,<sup>2,4</sup> Elisabeth Skalla, MD,<sup>2,4</sup> Christian Kremser, PhD,<sup>2,4</sup> and Werner Poewe, MD<sup>1,2</sup>

We assessed loss of dorsolateral nigral hyperintensity (DNH) on high-field susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI), a novel magnetic resonance imaging marker for Parkinson's disease (PD), in 15 subjects with idiopathic rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder (iRBD) and compared findings to 42 healthy controls (HCs) and 104 PD patients. We found loss of DNH in at least two thirds of iRBD subjects, which approaches the rate observed in PD and is in contrast to findings in HCs. We propose that absence of DNH on high-field SWI could identify prodromal degenerative parkinsonism in iRBD.

ANN NEUROL 2016;79:1026-1030

of Clinical and Translational Neurology



Annals of Clinical and Translational

Neurology 2020; 7(1): 26-35

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Nigrosome 1 imaging in REM sleep behavior disorder and its association with dopaminergic decline

Thomas R. Barber<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ludovica Griffanti<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Kevin M. Bradley<sup>5</sup>, Daniel R. McGowan<sup>6</sup>, Christine Lo<sup>1,2</sup>, Clare E. Mackay<sup>1,3</sup>, Michele T. Hu<sup>1,2</sup> & Johannes C. Klein<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

### Loss of DNH signal: PD 92%/96% , RBD 27%/77% , HC 3%/8%



# Diagnostic Potential of Radiotracer Imaging in Degenerative Parkinsonism



### DAT-SPECT as a Biomarker for Synucleinopathies?





Scherfler& al. Mov Disord. 2007; 22:1239-48

# Predicting Conversion in PD Risk Subjects by DAT-Binding Deficit

iRBD





Jennings et al. JAMA Neurology 2017;

Chahine et al. Ann Clin Trans Neurology 2021; 8: 201-12

Miyamoto et al.J Neurol Sci 414 (2020) 116821

iRBD

#### nature communications

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Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-42305-3

#### The α-synuclein PET tracer [18F] ACI-12589 distinguishes multiple system atrophy from other neurodegenerative diseases

Received: 17 May 2023	Ruben Smith (1,2,15, Francesca Capotosti (1,3,15, Martin Schain <sup>1,4,5</sup> ,
Accepted: 6 October 2023	Tomas Ohlsson <sup>6</sup> , Efthymia Vokali <sup>3</sup> , Jerome Molette <sup>®</sup> <sup>3</sup> , Tanja Touilloux <sup>3</sup> , Valerie Hliva <sup>® 3</sup> , Ioannis K, Dimitrakopoulos <sup>3</sup> , Andreas Puschmann <sup>2,7,8</sup> .
Published online: 27 October 2023	Jonas Jögi <sup>9</sup> , Per Svenningsson <sup>©</sup> <sup>10</sup> , Mattias Andréasson <sup>10</sup> , Christine Sandiego <sup>11</sup>
Check for updates	David S. Russell <sup>®</sup> '', Patricia Miranda-Azpiazu' <sup>2</sup> , Christer Halldin <sup>12</sup> , Erik Stomrud <sup>1,13</sup> , Sara Hall <sup>®</sup> <sup>1,13</sup> , Klas Bratteby <sup>®</sup> <sup>6</sup> , Elina Tampio L'Estrade <sup>6</sup> ,
	Ruth Luthi-Carter <sup>3</sup> , Andrea Pfeifer <sup>3</sup> , Marie Kosco-Vilbois <sup>3</sup> , Johannes Streffer <b>9</b> <sup>3,14</sup> 🖂 & Oskar Hansson <b>9</b> <sup>1,13</sup> 🖂

n= 13 MSA (mean age 61+ 8yrs) n= 8 Ctrls. (mean age 63+ 11yrs)  $n= 8 \text{ PD} \quad (mean age 68+ 6yrs)$   $n= 2 \text{ DLB} \quad (mean age 81+ 1yrs)$ 





C Cerebellar white matter SUVRocc

d Cerebellar white matter Vt (Logan)



# Diagnostic Performance of CSF α-Synuclein SAA (PD/DLB vs. Ctrls.)



specificity : 96%

Grossauer et al; Mov Dis Clin Pract, 2023

Distinct Molecular Structures of α-Synuclein Assemblies in MSA vs LB-Diseases

PD/DLB  $\alpha$ -syn filaments = single protofilaments vs. MSA  $\alpha$ -syn filaments = 2 protofilaments





Schweighauser et al. Nature 2020

Yang et al. Nature 2022

# α-Synuclein SAA's: Can they distinguish between Synucleinopathies?

**Table 3** Diagnostic Performances of α-Syn SAAs in Differentiating Among Synucleinopathies

		Matrix	Sens	Spec	Reference
MSA (65)	PD (88)	CSF	94% <sup>a</sup>	97% <sup>a</sup>	Shahnawaz et al. (2020) <sup>23</sup>
MSA <sup>b</sup> (31)	PD (71)	CSF	94%	94%	Rossi et al. (2020) <sup>22</sup>
MSA (11)	PD (18)	ОМ	65%	84%	De Luca et al. (2020) <sup>30</sup>
MSA <sup>b</sup> (65)	PD (116)	CSF	91%	96%	Quadalti et al. (2021) <sup>44</sup>
MSA-C (10)	MSA-P (20)	ОМ	90%	100%	Bargar et al. (2021) <sup>35</sup>
MSA-P (20)	PD (13)	ОМ	82%	100%	Bargar et al. (2021) <sup>35</sup>
MSA (18)	PD (75)	Saliva	61%	94%	Luan et al. (2022) <sup>38</sup>

Abbreviations: MSA = multiple system atrophy; MSA-C = multiple system atrophy cerebellar variant; MSA-P = multiple system atrophy parkinsonian variant; OM = olfactory mucosa; PD = Parkinson disease.

<sup>a</sup> Calculated on positive SAA samples.

<sup>b</sup> MSA provided an overall negative response.

# **Sensitivity of serum** $\alpha$ **-synuclein IP/RT-QuIC**

#### biomarkers for synucleinopathies Table 2 | Serum $\alpha$ -synuclein IP/RT-QuIC results and α-synuclein IP/RT-QuIC assay characteristics per diagnosis Received: 1 July 2022 Avami Okuzumi 🛯 1. Taku Hatano 🕄 1. Gen Matsumoto<sup>2</sup>. Shuko Nojiri Shin-ichi Ueno 🐵<sup>1</sup>, Yoko Imamichi-Tatano 😕<sup>1</sup>, Haruka Kimura 👁<sup>1</sup>, Accepted: 21 April 202 ioichiro Kakuta 🛛 4. Akihide Kondo 🖾 5. Takeshi Fukuhara<sup>6</sup>. Yuanzhe Li<sup>1</sup> Published online: 29 May 202 Manabu Funayama 🛛 1. Shinii Saiki 🖾 1.7. Daisuke Taniquchi 1. Taiji Tsuner Diagnosis IP/RT-QuIC results +/-**Positive results** Deborah McIntyre<sup>8</sup>, Jean-Jacques Gérardy<sup>9</sup>, Michel Mittelbronn<sup>9</sup> n Check for update teiko Kruger<sup>8,10</sup>, Yasuo Uchiyama<sup>11</sup>, Nobuyuki Nukina<sup>12</sup> & Nobutaka PD MSA **Synucleinopathies** PD 221 210/11 95% 100-100 -39 MSA 25/14 64% AUC 0.95 AUC 0.64 80 80-DI B 10 9/1 90% Sensitivity Sensitivity 60-RBD 9 4/5 44% 60-Non-synucleinopathies 10-40-PSP 30 1/29 3% 20 20-AD 25 4/21 16% 0 0/17 PRKN 17 0% 0 0 20 40 60 80 100 20 0 40 60 80 Controls 128 11/117 8.5% 1-Specificity 1-Specificity

Data are presented as numbers. n, number of participants who received IP/RT-QuIC.

PD: Parkinson's disease MSA: Multiple system atrophy DLB: Dementia with Lewy bodies Propagative  $\alpha$ -synuclein seeds as serum

nature medicine

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https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02358-9

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### $\alpha$ -Synuclein Seeding Amplification Assays (SAA): Performance in Prodromal PD

Detection of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in CSF by RT-QuIC in patients with isolated rapid-eye-movement sleep behaviour disorder: a longitudinal observational study 52 & 45 iRBD vs 40 & 55 Alex Iranzo, Graham Fairfoul, Anutra Chumbala Na Ayudhaya, Monica Serradell, Ellen Gelpi, Isabel Vilaseca, Raquel Sanchez-Valle, Carles Gaig, Joan Santamaria, Eduard Tolosa, Renata L Riha, Alison J E Green matched HC's А 100 80 Ο 60. 40 α-Synuclein negative — α-Synuclein positive 20 Log-rank p=0.028 HR 0.143 (95% CI 0.019-1.063) 10 Number at risk (number censored) α-Synuclein negative 5 (0) 5 (0) 4 (1) 3(1) 1(3) 5 (0) α-Synuclein positive 32 (1) 25(1) 14 (9) 6 (11) 1 (15) 47(0)100 80 e-free 60 -40 -20 Log-rank p<0.0001 HR 0.024 (95% CI 0.003-0.177) 10 Time from lumbar puncture (years) Number at risk Ο (number censored)

22 (18)

9 (12)

30 (11)

17 (10)

10 (30)

3 (17)

Baseline CSF a-syn RT-QuIC Long term follow-up 64%-90% of iRBD vs 4%-10% of HC's RT-QuIC pos 31%-62% vs 0 HC's of iRBD converted to PD/DLB 64% -97% of converters RT-QuIC positive at baseline



Diagnostic value of cerebrospinal fluid alpha-synuclein seed quantification in synucleinopathies

Ilaria Poggiolini,<sup>1,†</sup> Vandana Gupta,<sup>1,†</sup> Michael Lawton,<sup>2</sup> Seoyun Lee,<sup>1</sup> Aadil El-Turabi,<sup>3</sup> Agustin Querejeta-Coma,<sup>1</sup> Claudia Trenkwalder,<sup>4,5</sup> Friederike Sixel-Döring,<sup>5,6</sup> Alexandra Foubert-Samier,<sup>7,8</sup> Anne Pavy-Le Traon,<sup>9</sup> Giuseppe Plazzi,<sup>10,11</sup> OFrancesco Biscarini, <sup>12</sup> Jacques Montplaisir, <sup>13,14</sup> Jean-François Gagnon, <sup>13,15</sup> Ronald B. Postuma, <sup>13,16</sup> Elena Antelmi, <sup>17</sup> Wassilios G. Meissner, <sup>8,18</sup> Brit Mollenhauer, <sup>4,5</sup> Yoav Ben-Shlomo,<sup>2</sup> Michele T. Hu<sup>1</sup> and OLaura Parkkinen<sup>1</sup>



Lancet Neurol 2021; 20: 203-12

41(0)

36(1)

32 (9)

28(2)

41(0)

51(0)

a-Synuclein negative

α-Synuclein positive

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

Andrew Siderowf<sup>\*</sup>, Luis Concha-Marambio<sup>\*</sup>, David-Erick Lafontant, Carly M Farris, Yihua Ma, Paula A Urenia, Hieu Nguyen, Roy N Alcalay, Lana M Chahine, Tatiana Foroud, Douglas Galasko, Karl Kieburtz, Kalpana Merchant, Brit Mollenhauer, Kathleen L Poston, John Seibyl, Tanya Simuni, Caroline M Tanner, Daniel Weintraub, Aleksandar Videnovic, Seung Ho Choi, Ryan Kurth, Chelsea Caspell-Garcia, Christopher S Coffey, Mark Frasier, Luis M A Oliveira, Samantha J Hutten, Todd Sherer, Kenneth Marek, Claudio Soto, on behalf of the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative<sup>†</sup>

Lancet Neurol 2023; 22: 407–17

- 1123 PPMI Study Participants 2010-2019
  545 early PD
  163 healthy controls
- 51 ,prodromal PD' subjects (Hyposmia, RBD)
   310 asymptomatic LRRK2 or GBA carriers
   86% of ,prodromal' subjects SAA positiv



Figure 2: Association between dopamine transporter binding, olfaction, and α-synuclein SAA results among prodromal and non-manifesting carriers of either LRRK2 or GBA variants

Among prodromal and at-risk groups, 44 (86%) of 51 of participants with RBD or hyposmia had positive α-synuclein SAA (16 of 18 with hyposmia, and 28 of 33 with RBD). 25 (8%) of 310 non-manifesting carriers (14 of 159 [9%] LRRK2 and 11 of 151 [7%] GBA) were positive.

# Are we Ready for a Biological Definition of Parkinson's Disease ?

#### • S = $\alpha$ - Synuclein pathology

- Positive seeding assay (CSF, skin, olfactory mucosa, blood)
- (Positive  $\alpha$  Synuclein-PET)

### • G = genetic marker

- Monogenic mutation (SNCA, LRRK2, VPS35, CHCHD2; Parkin, PINK1, DJ-1)
- Risk-Genes (GBA, polygenic risk scores)

### • N = Neurodegeneration

- dopaminergic deficit in molecular imaging (FP-CIT Spect, Fluorodopa-PET, 11C-PE2I-PET)
- MR Indices of nigral pathology (DHN, NM –Imaging)
- cardiosympathetic denervation (MIBG-Spect)

#### A biological classification of Parkinson's disease: the SynNeurGe research diagnostic criteria

Günter U Höglinger, Charles H Adler, Daniela Berg, Christine Klein, Tiago F Outeiro, Werner Poewe, Ronald Postuma, A Jon Stoessl, Anthony E Lang

With the hope that disease-modifying treatments could target the molecular basis of Parkinson's disease, even before the Lancet Neurol 2024; 23: 191–204 onset of symptoms, we propose a biologically based classification. Our classification acknowledges the complexity and See Comment pages 130 and 133 heterogeneity of the disease by use of a three-component system (SynNeurGe): presence or absence of pathological Department of Neurology, α-synuclein (S) in tissues or CSF; evidence of underlying neurodegeneration (N) defined by neuroimaging procedures; University Hospital, Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) and documentation of pathogenic gene variants (G) that cause or strongly predispose to Parkinson's disease. These three and German Center for components are linked to a clinical component (C), defined either by a single high-specificity clinical feature or by Neurodegenerative Diseases, multiple lower-specificity clinical features. The use of a biological classification will enable advances in both basic and Munich, Germany clinical research, and move the field closer to the precision medicine required to develop disease-modifying therapies. (Prof G U Höglinger MD); Munich Cluster for Systems We emphasise the initial application of these criteria exclusively for research. We acknowledge its ethical implications, its Neurology (SyNergy), Munich, limitations, and the need for prospective validation in future studies. Germany (Prof G U Höglinger);



#### A) Biological status

Aj biological status		
Genetic PD <sup>1</sup>	G <sub>F</sub> +	
Genetic predisposition <sup>2</sup>	G <sub>p</sub> +	
Genetically indeterminate <sup>3</sup>	G-	
Parkinson's type synucleinopathy	S-	S+
Synuclein-negative PD <sup>4</sup>	S-	
Neurodegeneration	N-	N <sup>+</sup>
B) Clinical status		
Manifestation	С	C+

► NSD Genetic risk → R <sup>L</sup> : Presence of low risk genetic variants	<ul> <li>Neuronal alpha-Synuclein Disease</li> </ul>						
R <sup>H</sup> : Presence of high risk genetic variants							
	Stage 0: Fu	lly penetrant S	NCA variant				
		Stage 1A/B:	Biomarkers of	pathology and d	lopaminergic dy	ysfunction	
		Stage 2 A/B: Clinical signs and symptoms					
		Stages 3-6: Functional impairment					
				Stage 3: Slight	Stage 4: Mild	Stage 5: Moderate	Stage 6: Severe
Anchors: • Genetic risk variants – low (R <sup>L</sup> ) vs. high (R <sup>H</sup> ) age adjusted risk	Anchors: • Fully penetrant genetic variant (SNCA)	Anchors: • Asyn pathology • Dopamine dysfunction/ degeneration	Anchors: • Clinical signs or symptoms (non motor/ motor) • No functional impairment	Anchors: • Emergence and v	vorsening of functio	nal impairment	

### **A biological definition of neuronal α-synuclein disease:** towards an integrated staging system for research

Tanya Simuni\*, Lana M Chahine\*, Kathleen Poston, Michael Brumm, Teresa Buracchio, Michelle Campbell, Sohini Chowdhury, Christopher Coffey, Luis Concha-Marambio, Tien Dam, Peter DiBiaso, Tatiana Foroud, Mark Frasier, Caroline Gochanour, Danna Jennings, Karl Kieburtz, Catherine M Kopil, Kalpana Merchant, Brit Mollenhauer, Thomas Montine, Kelly Nudelman, Gennaro Pagano, John Seibyl, Todd Sherer, Andrew Singleton, Diane Stephenson, Matthew Stern, Claudio Soto, Caroline M Tanner, Eduardo Tolosa, Daniel Weintraub, Yuge Xiao, Andrew Siderowf, Billy Dunn, Kenneth Marek

Lancet Neurol 2024; 23: 178-90 Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies are currently defined by their clinical features, with  $\alpha$ -synuclein

# Summary

- Synucleinopathies are currently defined as clinical entities
- Clinical diagnostic criteria have major shortcomings
  - Suboptimal accuracy
  - Insensitive for early disease
  - Do not capture prodromal or pre-clinical disease
  - Agnostic ref pathogenetic subtypes

#### Biomarkers offer major advances for research & clinical practice

- Enhance diagnostic accuracy
- Enable pathogenetic subtyping
- Allow for a ,biological' definition of disease
- Facilitate disease-modification trials
- May ultimately enable disease-prevention programs for PD

COMBINING DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS PIONEERING PRECISION MEDICINE

From the clinical utility of a-synuclein PET imaging in Multiple System Atrophy to the possible diagnosis of Parkinson's disease

Francesca Capotosti, PhD | ADPD 2024 | March 2024



#### Disclaimer

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#### Disclosures

Francesca Capotosti is an employee of AC Immune entitled to stock options.

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### A-syn<sup>1</sup> PET<sup>2</sup> tracers can improve the diagnosis and treatment of NDD<sup>3</sup>

Needed to best enable precision medicine for a-synucleinopathies

Early diagnosis and treatment is key in NDD



- Neuronal damage/death is presently an irreversible event
- Approved disease-modifying agents for NDD showed improved efficacy in early disease stages

Early diagnosis of a-syn-opathies<sup>4</sup> is not possible with current techniques



- DaTscan does not support early diagnosis
- Genetic testing is ineffective in idiopathic cases
- Fluid biomarkers, including SAA<sup>5</sup>, are not yet quantitative

Benefits of PET tracers for imaging have been validated



- Better designed clinical trials using PET tracer for recruitment and monitoring
- May enable combination treatment of copathologies

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Neurodegenerative disease; (4) Alpha-synucleinopathies; (5) Seeding amplification assay





### Precision medicine approach enabled by the Morphomer® platform

Developing a suite of PET<sup>1</sup> tracers against emerging targets in NDD<sup>2</sup>



#### Leverage the Morphomer® small molecule platform:

- Non-peptidic, small molecules with CNS-drug properties for brain penetration
- Conformation-specificity (pathologic protein species)
- Selectivity against co-pathologies (Abeta, Tau, TDP-43)
- Pharmacokinetics suitable for brain PET imaging

(1) Positron emission tomography; (2) Neurodegenerative disease; (3) Neurofibrillary tangles; (4) Alpha synuclein; (5) TAR DNA binding protein-43



### ACI-12589: a promising a-syn<sup>1</sup> PET<sup>2</sup> tracer

[3H]ACI-12589 specific binding on brain tissue from different a-synucleinopathy cases





Disease	MSA	Familial PD	PD#1	PD#2
Target density (nM)	~350	133	80	14
Affinity (nM)	28	17	65	38
Target occupancy	13	8	1	0.4

- ACI-12589 displays a clear autoradiography signal across different synucleinopathy cases which correlates with the presence of pathological a-syn
  - Target occupancy depends on the levels of pathological a-syn and varies from ≤ 1 in idiopathic PD to ≥ 10 in MSA

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Parkinson's disease with G51D SNCA mutation; (4) Parkinson's disease with dementia; (5) Idiopathic Parkinson's disease; (6) Multiple system atrophy; (7) Lewy Body variant of Alzheimer's disease; (8) Immunohistochemistry; (9) Frontal cortex; (10) Amygdala; (11) Cerebellum



In collaboration with Prof. A. Varrone Ref.: Smith, Capotosti, et al., Nature Communications 2023
### [18F]ACI-12589 uptake in monkey models of a-syn pathology

Longitudinal brain uptake in two different a-syn inoculation models



A longitudinal increase in [18F]ACI-12589 uptake is observed in two a-syn monkey models

(1) PBS; (2) A-syn amplified by Protein misfolding Cyclic amplification from human PD seeds injected in the striatum at baseline and 6 months; (3) Adeno-associated virus expressing human a-syn with the A53T mutation injected in the Subtantia Nigra at baseline; (4) Standardized uptake value ratio with whole cerebellum as reference



#### A-syn PET precedes dopaminergic loss

Comparison of [18F]FE-PE2I dopaminergic imaging and [18F]ACI-12589 PET



- The loss of dopaminergic neurons follows the appearance of a-syn pathology
- The a-syn PET signal increases as the dopaminergic loss progress

(1) A-syn amplified by Protein misfolding Cyclic amplification from human PD seeds injected in the striatum; (2) Adeno-associated virus expressing human a-syn with the A53T mutation injected in the Subtantia Nigra



Collaboration with



**O**Invicro

## [18F]ACI-12589: the first PET<sup>1</sup> tracer to image a-syn<sup>2</sup> in humans

Demographics of FiH<sup>3</sup> study

	Control	PD <sup>4</sup>	MSA <sup>5</sup>	DLB <sup>6</sup>	AD <sup>7</sup>	PSP <sup>8</sup>	Ataxias
n (43)	8	8	13	2	5	3	3
Sex (M/F)	5/3	7/1	7/6	2/0	4/1	3/0	2/1
Age (± SD)	63±11	68±6	61±8	81±1	69±4	72±9	54±14
Inj Dose (MBq)	314±39	308±56	297±13	289±1	296±5	298±8	267±67
UMSARS I + II	N/A	N/A	53±23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UPDRS-III	N/A	65±16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

[18F]ACI-12589 was evaluated in a total of 54 participants; 23 with a-syn-related disorders of which 13 MSA cases

The initial 25 subjects underwent dynamic 0-90 min scans and the vast majority had arterial blood sampling while following scans were performed with shorter scan time

(1) Positron emission tomography; (2) Alpha-synuclein; (3) First in Human; (4) Idiopathic Parkinson's disease; (5) Multiple system atrophy; (6) Dementia with Lewy Bodies; (7) Alzheimer's disease; (8) Progressive supranuclear palsy





## [18F]ACI-12589 uptake in MSA cases compared to controls

SUVR 60-90 min using occipital cortex as reference region



- Clear tracer retention in cerebellar white matter and cerebellar peduncles in MSA-C cases
- Increased basal ganglia uptake in MSA-P cases in comparison to controls and PD cases
- Overall, a good correspondence observed between the PET signal and the expected pathological a-syn distribution based on clinical presentation

4.0



Control, 68

PD, 73







Control, 68 y.o.















MSA-C, 62 y.o.





PD, 69 y.o. \*Saf







PD, 78 y.o. \*Ras

Control, 69 y.o.



DLB, 81 y.o.

Control, 71 y.o.







PD-SNCA, 59 y.o.

MSA-C, 57 y.o.



MSA-C, 61 y.o.

MSA-P

MSA-P, 52 y.o.



MSA-C,63 y.o.

MSA-P, 79 y.o.

MSA-C, 67 y.o.

0.0

SUVR



MSA-C, 74 y.o.

4.0

















MSA-C











































### [18F]ACI-12589 is ready to be evaluated in longitudinal studies

[18F]ACI-12589 dosimetry in healthy volunteers (3 males and 3 females)



Based on whole-body data of [18F]ACI-12589:

- Elimination occurs mainly via the hepatobiliary route
- Target organ with highest exposure is colon
- The effective dose per 185 MBq (5 mCi) injection is 3.7 mSv for a adult male and 4.09 for an adult female

[18F]ACI-12589 dosimetry exposure data in line with other 18F-ligands routinely used in clinical practise

Clinical organ dosimetry data permits several scans per year allowing longitudinal evaluations



### [18F]ACI-12589 will improve MSA<sup>1</sup> diagnosis and support precision medicine



- significantly improve the diagnosis of MSA
- enable Precision Medicine and biomarker-based development in MSA

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Alpha-synuclein; (3) Positron emission tomography; (4) Neurodegenerative disease



Improved target occupancy on brain tissue from different a-synucleinopathy cases



The newly identified ligand, ACI-15916, shows significantly improved target occupancy on pathological a-syn aggregates in brain homogenates and sections from different a-synucleinopathies

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Parkinson's disease; (4) Parkinson's disease with dementia; (5) Lewy body variant of Alzheimer's disease; (6) Immunohistochemistry

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Specific binding on brain tissue from different a-synucleinopathy cases



 ACI-15916 shows significantly improved specific binding to pathological a-syn aggregates in brain sections from different a-synucleinopathies

1) Alpha-synuclein: (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Parkinson's disease; (4) Nonspecific binding (5) Parkinson's disease with dementia; (6) Lewy body variant of Alzheimer's disease; (7) Immunohistochemistry



🕖 AC Immune

Selectivity assessment using Alzheimer's disease tissue

#### Radiobinding with AD<sup>4</sup> brain homogenates

(Frontal Cortex)

## High-resolution ARG<sup>6</sup> on Tau rich AD sections (Entorhinal Cortex)



ACI-15916 is selective versus common PET tracer off-targets such as MAO-A nor MAO-B

(1) Alpha-synuclein; (2) Positron emission tomography; (3) Parkinson's disease; (4) Alzheimer's disease (5) Not determined; (6) Autoradiography; (7) Neurofibrillary tangles





The newly identified [18F]ACI-15916 has the potential to detect synucleinopathies including PD, having:

- significantly improved target occupancy on pathological a-syn
- capability to detect very small aggregates
- excellent selectivity versus potential co-pathologies and no off-target binding *in vitro*
- a pharmacokinetic profile in monkey suitable for its use as brain imaging agent



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THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION

FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

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## [18F]ACI-12589 uptake in genetic PD<sup>1</sup> cases

SUVr 60-90 minutes using cerebellar grey as reference region



- Signal retention is observed in disease-relevant brain regions in genetic PD cases (SNCA duplication carriers)
- The retention is higher in the more advanced symptomatic case
- Signal distribution pattern is compatible with specificity of the signal for pathological a-syn

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Dementia with Lewy Body; (3) Mild cognitive impairment





### [18F]ACI-12589 uptake discriminate MSA from other synucleinopathies

Signal quantification in the cerebellar white matter



Cerebellar uptake clearly discriminates MSA cases from controls and other synucleinopathy cases

Similar results obtained with different quantification methods





**Fabrizio Stocchi** Department of Neurology University San Raffaele Rome, Italy

# Future Treatment of Parkinson's disease:

# Disclosures: Prof Stocchi received consultant honorarium from:

- Chiesi Ltd.
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- Lundbeck Ltd
- Teva UK Limited
- UCB Pharma Ltd
- Merck & Co. Inc
- Zambon Pharma
- Novartis AG

- Sunovion
- Neuroderm
- Abbvie
- Britannia
- Lusofarmaco
- Ever pharma
- BIAL pharma
- ROCHE
- BIOGEN
- IRLAB

# Decreasing the expression of a-synuclein

- Manipulation of α-syn levels by gene silencing with RNA interference has been shown to be beneficial in normalizing α-syn expression and improve motor function in experimental studies.
- Fine-tuned balance is necessary to avoid nigrostriatal neurotoxicity caused by excess downregulation
- DNA methylation at SNCA intron 1 is a regulator of the  $\alpha$ -syn transcription, providing a target for tight of  $\alpha$ -syn expression levels.
- Novel clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats technology has been successfully used in fine tuning the downregulation of SNCA expression in stem cell-derived dopaminergic neurons, suggesting a new approach
- McCormack et al. 2010; Takahashi et al. 2015, Kantor et al. 2018

### Alpha-synuclein targeting SMEs

Small molecules	Development status
UCB0599 UCB/Novartis	Phase 2
ATH434 Alterity Therapeutics/Takeda	Phase 2
Anle138b Modag	Phase 1b
Mor a-syn small molecule aggregation inhibitors AC Immune	Preclinical



Figure 6. Inhibiting  $\alpha$ -Syn aggregation. Schematic representation of the different mechanisms

# ORKESTRA study (NCT04658186), with daily oral administration of UCB0599

- UCB0599 is a small-molecule  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation inhibitor.
- UCB0599 is a cyclic peptidomimetic compound designed to interact with the C-terminal domain of α-synuclein and prevent it from binding to membranes and oligomerizing there.
- UCB0599, aka NPT-200-11, is a second-generation compound, optimized for oral bioavailability and brain entry.
- In phase I/IB study conducted on PD patients UCB0599 was generally well tolerated with no significant safety or tolerability concerns

# ATH434 Alterity therapeutics

- ATH434 (formally called PBT434) in preclinical models of Parkinson's disease and shown that it is brain-penetrant, reduces iron accumulation and iron-mediated redox activity, provides neuroprotection, inhibits alpha synuclein aggregation and lowers the tissue levels of alpha synuclein.
- The compound was well-tolerated in a first-in-human oral dosing study in healthy and older volunteers with a favorable, dose-dependent pharmacokinetic profile.
- Phase II study on MSA patients is ongoing

• Finkelstein J Parkinsons Dis. 2022

# Anle138b: general inhibitor of protein aggregation

 Anle138b is an oral, brain-penetrant, general inhibitor of protein aggregation. It was identified in a high-throughput screen for smallmolecule inhibitors of α-synuclein and prion protein oligomerization. The compound is being developed for treatment of the rapidly progressing synucleinopathy multiple-system atrophy (MSA) and for Parkinson's disease (PD). It could potentially be applied to other synucleinopathies, such as dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB).

# Efficacy and Safety of Buntanetap (Annovis BIO) Compared With Placebo in PD (phase II)

- Buntanetap is an orally bioavailable small molecule derived via a biochemical synthetic pathway, which was discovered at the National Institutes of Aging (Bethesda, Maryland).
- Buntanetap suppresses the translation of the mRNAs of APP, tau, αSYN and other neurotoxic aggregating proteins by enhancing the binding of the atypical iron response element (IRE) in those neurotoxic proteins' mRNAs' 5'UTR regions to iron regulatory protein 1 (IRP1) in high iron.
- A treatment strategy that targets toxic species points to the possibility that better clinical outcomes for PD and AD might be achieved by reducing the levels of toxic species found in both

# Small molecules

- Heat shock proteins (HSPs) are small molecular chaperones that serve in protein homeostasis and prevent protein aggregation and toxicity in conditions of cellular stress.
- Several HSPs have been observed as components of Lewy body inclusions, and manipulation of their expression in in-vitro and in-vivo models has been shown to modulate  $\alpha$ -syn aggregation

• Sinnige et al. 2020

# Stimulation of the degradation of extracellular $\alpha\mbox{-syn}$ aggregates

• α-syn extracellular degradation can be stimulated through active and passive immunotherapies



George S, et al. Immunotherapy in Parkinson's disease: micromanaging alpha-synuclein aggregation. *J Parkinsons Dis.* 2015;5(3):413-424. doi: 10.3233/JPD-150630.

### Alpha-synuclein targeting immunotherapies in clinical development



Jun Sung Lee et al., Journal of Movement Disorders 2016

Active immunotherapy	Development status			
ACI-7104.056 AC Immune	Phase 2			
UB-312 Vaxxinity	Phase 1			

Monocloncal antibodies	Development status			
Prasinezumab Prothena / Roche	Phase 2			
Lu AF82422 Lundbeck / Genmab	Phase 2			
MEDI-1341 Medimmune / Takeda	Phase 1			
BAN0805 BioArctic / AbbVie	Phase 1			
UCB7853 UCB / Novartis	Phase 1			

## Active immunisation for Parkinson's disease: AFFITOPE PD01A/PD03A (ACI-7104.056)

- Novel anti α-syn vaccines are being tested in a phase 1 clinical trial
- The synthetic C-terminal peptides (PD01A and/or PD03A) mimic the peptide sequence of  $\alpha$ -syn
- The clinical trial showed induced production of antibodies targeting  $\alpha\text{-syn}$  and reduced  $\alpha\text{-syn}$  aggregates
- The antigenic complex KLH-peptide was used to stimulate an immunologic response by B cells, but not by T cells, avoiding an autoimmune response

Mandler M, et al. Next-generation active immunization approach for synucleinopathies: implications for Parkinson's disease clinical trials. *Acta Neuropathol.* 2014;127(6):861-879. doi: 10.1007/s00401-014-1256-4.

# Active immunisation: UBITh

- Synthetic T helper peptides
- Linked to target epitopes
- Overcames immune tolerance
- Induces B-cell humoral response
- No T-cell-mediated toxicity
- Data on human study were published by Hui Jing Yu et al. on Movement Disorders Jul 2022

# **Passive immunisation**

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Trial of Prasinezumab in Early-Stage Parkinson's Disease

G. Pagano, K.I. Taylor, J. Anzures-Cabrera, M. Marchesi, T. Simuni, K. Marek, R.B. Postuma, N. Pavese, F. Stocchi, J.-P. Azulay, B. Mollenhauer, L. López-Manzanares, D.S. Russell, J.T. Boyd, A.P. Nicholas, M.R. Luquin, R.A. Hauser, T. Gasser, W. Poewe, B. Ricci, A. Boulay, A. Vogt, F.G. Boess, J. Dukart, G. D'Urso, R. Finch, S. Zanigni, A. Monnet, N. Pross, A. Hahn, H. Svoboda, M. Britschgi, F. Lipsmeier, E. Volkova-Volkmar, M. Lindemann, S. Dziadek, Š. Holiga, D. Rukina, T. Kustermann, G.A. Kerchner, P. Fontoura, D. Umbricht, R. Doody, T. Nikolcheva, and A. Bonni, for the PASADENA Investigators and Prasinezumab Study Group\*

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Trial of Cinpanemab in Early Parkinson's Disease

 A.E. Lang, A.D. Siderowf, E.A. Macklin, W. Poewe, D.J. Brooks, H.H. Fernandez, O. Rascol, N. Giladi, F. Stocchi, C.M. Tanner, R.B. Postuma, D.K. Simon, E. Tolosa, B. Mollenhauer, J.M. Cedarbaum, K. Fraser, J. Xiao, K.C. Evans, D.L. Graham, I. Sapir, J. Inra, R.M. Hutchison, M. Yang, T. Fox, S. Budd Haeberlein, and T. Dam, for the SPARK Investigators\*

# Prasinezumab reduced clinical decline in motor signs compared to placebo based on MDS-UPDRS Part III score



CI, confidence interval; DaT-SPECT, dopamine transporter imaging with single-photon emission computed tomography; MAO-B, monoamine oxidase B; MCID, Minimal Clinically Important Difference; MDS-UPDRS, Movement Disorder Society-Unified PD Rating Scale; MMRM, mixed-effect model repeated measures; PD, Parkinson's disease. \* Patients who started symptomatic PD treatment contribute until the last visit before symptomatic PD treatment is started. Bars represent 80% CI. Estimates are based on an MMRM with the following covariates: MAO-B inhibitor at baseline (yes/no), treatment, week, age <60 versus ≥60, sex, DaT-SPECT putamen binding ratio (contralateral to most clinically affected side), baseline MDS-UPDRS corresponding endpoint. Pooled-dose analysis is a pre-specified exploratory analysis. 4500 mg for ≥65 kg; 3500 mg for <65 kg. Data readout correct based on snapshot from January 2020. 1. Pagano G, et al. *Eur J Neurol.* 2021; 21:Suppl 1 (OPR-104). Presented at virtual EAN 2021. 2. Pagano G, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2021; In submission.

# Prasinezumab reduced clinical decline confirmed by digital measures of progression (slope analysis)

#### Digital measures included in the Roche Parkinson's Disease Mobile Application v2



ACTIVE TESTS									
Bradykinesia			Tremor/ Bradykinesia	Tremor			Rigidity/ Postural Instability		Cognition
Draw A Shape	Dexterity	Hand Turning	Speech	Phonation	Postural Tremor	Rest Tremor	Balance	U-Turn	Cognitive Test (SDMT)
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Bradykinesia Days (Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day)		Alternating		Tremor and Stability Days (Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day)			Fortnightly		

Digital PASADENA Motor Score<sup>1</sup>



Probled: -0.030, 80% CI=(-0.050, -0.010); **-25.0%** Prasinezumab 1500 mg: -0.040, 80% CI=(-0.063, -0.017); **-30.3%** Prasinezumab 4500 mg: -0.029, 80% CI= (-0.052, -0.006); **-21.5%** 

CI, confidence interval; MDS-UPDRS, Movement Disorder Society Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale; PD, Parkinson's disease; SDMT, Symbol Digit Modalities Test. Pooled-dose analysis is a pre-specified exploratory analysis. 4500 mg for ≥65 kg; 3500 mg for <65 kg.

•The digital PASADENA motor score was built from 80% bradykinesia features and 20% resting tremor features using blinded data from 150 PASADENA patients prior to unblinding.

•1. Horvath K, et al. Mov Disord. 2015; 21:1421–1426.

#### Adjusted mean change from baseline in MDS-UPDRS Part III in OFF state Prasinezumab versus PPMI coort, Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative; RWD, real-world data



Pagano G. et al. Nature Neurology 2024

# UCB7853 UCB/Novartis

UCB7853 is an  $\alpha$ -synuclein antibody

A phase I: Safety and Pharmacokinetics Study of UCB7853 in Healthy Study Participants and Study Participants With Parkinson's Disease (PD) has been completed

# Lu AF82422 (Lundbeck)

Lu AF82422 is an anti-aSyn human IgG1 mAb, which binds all known forms of aSyn, including aggregated and/or C-terminal truncated aSyn.

The anti-alpha-synuclein antibody Lu AF82422 was safe and well tolerated in a FIH-SAD study in healthy subjects and patients with PD

L. Buur, J. Wiedemann, abstract at MDS 2022

A phase II study on MSA patients has been conducted in Japan in 2022/2023

# ABBV-0805

- $\bullet$  ABBV-0805 is a humanized monoclonal antibody targeting  $\alpha$  -synuclein
- On April 20 2022, BioArctic announced that AbbVie had terminated its collaboration on α-synuclein antibodies, including ABBV-0805 (press release). BioArctic said it is looking for ways to continue development.

# MEDI1341/TAK341

- high-affinity monoclonal antibody to a C-terminal epitope on monomeric and aggregated α-synuclein, originally developed by AstraZeneca.
- Safety concern
- Takeda plan to run a study on MSA
# Active versus passive immunisation: Pros and Cons

#### • Pros

- Long lasting immune response
- Large interdose intervals
- Sc/im administration

#### • Cons

- Possible immune tolerance
- Robust immune response
- Avoid T.cell mediated toxicity

## BIIB122/DNL151 phase IIb in PD (LUMA)

- Increased LRRK2 kinase activity is thought to impair lysosomal function and drive Parkinson's disease (PD) pathogenesis. Inhibition of LRRK2 kinase activity is a promising new approach to treat PD with a LRRK2 mutation and sporadic PD.
- DNL151 is a potent, selective, CNS-penetrant LRRK2 kinase inhibitor
- Oral administration
- The phase II LUMA study is ongoing

• Jennings D et al. Movement Disorders 2023

#### Solving the mechanism of αSyn aggregate propagation and identification of Toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2) as a receptor for the aggregates



#### Elucidation of pathogenic roles of extracellular a Syn aggregates

- · Exocytosis of αSyn aggregate from neuronal cells
- Transfer of extracellular αSyn aggregates to neurons (propagation) and induction of glial cell activation (neuroinflammation)
- PNAS (2009), Nature Reviews Neurology (2014)

#### Identification of TLR2 as a receptor for extracellular αSyn aggregates

- · Regulation of PD pathologies by TLR2 in in vitro and in vivo experimental systems
- Inhibition of aggregate propagation and neuroinflammation by TLR2 antibody in vivo
- Nature Communications (2013), Cell Reports (2015), Molecular Neurodegeneration (2018)

#### TLR2 and aggregate propagation are drug targets for Parkinson's disease

NM-101 (Tomaralimab) is a humanized IgG4 monoclonal antibody to the human TLR2. (Neuramedy)

#### NLRP3 inflammasome Role in neuroinflammation

Inflammasomes can be activated in the CNS in response to accumulation of misfolded or aggregated proteins in the brain (e.g., alphasynuclein in Parkinson's disease).

Inflammasome activation results in caspase-1-mediated cleavage of pro-IL-1b and pro-IL-18, and the subsequent release of the mature cytokines.

High levels of IL-1b and IL-18 can be detected in many neurodegenerative conditions and are considered to be crucial for the establishment of a chronic inflammatory environment, leading to neuronal dysfunction and eventually neurodegeneration.



# Scientific rationale for NLRP3 inhibition in PD

- Post mortem, in vivo and preclinical evidence suggest a key role of NLRP3 inflammasome/microglia activation in PD
- Preclinical evidence suggest that NLRP3 inhibition may be beneficial in PD patients
- Inzomelid (Inflazome/Roche) is an inhibitor of NLRP3 which may reduce neurodegeneration of dopaminergic system and Alfa-Syn aggregation leading to slow down disease progression in PD

#### **GBA** parkinsonism

The GBA gene encodes the protein glucocerebrosidase (GCase), a lysosomal hydrolase, which converts glucosylceramide to ceramide and glucose.

The accumulation of undegraded substrates by compound heterozygous or homozygous GBA mutations has been linked to the lysosomal storage disorder Gaucher's disease (GD).

## BIAL BIA 28-6156 activator of the GCase enzyme

 BIA 28-6156 is the first activator of the GCase enzyme to have been tested in clinical studies. It is designed to target the GCase enzyme to increase activity and improve glycosphingolipid metabolism in the lysosome. Preclinical studies have shown that BIA 28-6156 easily crosses the blood-brain-barrier and accesses the GCase enzyme within the brain and central nervous system. BIA 28-6156 is under development as a novel, first-in-class drug compound for the potential treatment of patients with GBA-AP.

#### Surgical approaches to disease modification in Parkinson disease



**Fig. 1** Surgical methods of disease modification. Disease-modifying surgical strategies include cell replacement therapy, infusion or gene therapy of dopamine neurotrophic growth factors (both intraventricular and intraparenchymal administration), early subthalamic deep brain stimulation, and abdominal vagotomy.

# Gene therapies

- Gene therapy is a rapid evolving, genome editing technology aiming to treat a disease by genetically modifying populations of cells that are either directly functionally impaired or capable of relieving disease symptoms.
- The technology is based on the use of a vector to carry DNA, RNA, antisense oligonucleotides or DNA- or RNA-editing enzymes into specific cells to modulate gene expression.
- Increasing clinical evidence of viral vector-based gene therapy approaches is available in PD

• Borel et al. 2014; Haggerty et al. 2020; Han et al. 2019; Hudry et al. 2019

# Gene therapy clinical trials in PD: main targeted approaches

- restoring dopamine synthesis,
- neuroprotection
- genetic neuromodulation
- addressing disease-specific pathogenic variants (pathogenic GBA variants ).

# Stem Cells

- Bluerock is performing a phase I trial with human derived stem cells neurones
- Phase II studies with neurones implanted in the striatum of PD patients will start early 2024
- The prestudy selection is ONGOING

#### Current non-pharmaceutical disease-modifying aproaches



Fig. 1 Potential neuroprotective mechanisms of novel targeted therapies in Parkinson's disease.

AAV adeno-associated virus, AP area postrema, A2AR adenosine A2A receptor, Cd caudate nucleus, DA cell dopaminergic cell, DBS deep brain stimulation, dMSN direct pathway medium spiny neurons, D1R dopamine D<sub>1</sub> receptor; D2R dopamine D<sub>2</sub> receptor; GAD glutamate decarboxylase; GCase glucocerebrosidase, GDNF glial cell-line derived neurotrophic factor, GLP1R glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor, GPe globus pallidus externa, GPi globus pallidus interna, iMSN indirect pathway medium spiny neurons; KI kinase inhibitor, LB lewy body, LRRK2 leukine-rich repeat kinase 2, MG microglia, NM neuromelanin; PrCG pre-central gyus, Pu putamen; SNC substantia nigra pars compacta, SNR substantia nigra pars reticulata, STN subthalamic nucleus, TMS transcranial magnetic stimulation

Ntetsika et al., Molecular Medicine, 2021

# CONCLUSION

- Different approach are under evaluation to achieve disease modification and neuroprotection in Parkinson's disease
- Ongoing studies involve:
- - active and passive immunisation
- immunomodulation and treatment of inflammation
- - Gene therapy
- - Cells replacements

COMBINING DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS PIONEERING PRECISION MEDICINE

Morphomer<sup>®</sup> small molecules targeting alphasynuclein for the treatment of Parkinson's disease

Elpida Tsika, PhD | ADPD 2024 | March 2024



#### Disclaimer

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#### Conflict of interest disclosure

Elpida Tsika is an employee of AC Immune entitled to stock options.

#### Funding

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#### Parkinson's disease

Pathological deposition of alpha-synuclein



Most common neurodegenerative movement disorder Affects ~1% of the population over 65 years



**Etiology** 5-10% genetic, 90-95% idiopathic, unknown cause



**Cardinal motor symptoms** Tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia



**Common non-motor symptoms** Sleep disorder, depression, cognitive impairment



#### Pathological hallmarks

Neuron loss, alpha-synuclein aggregates – Lewy bodies

#### Main component of Lewy bodies: Alpha-synuclein



#### **Progression of pathology**



Braak *et al.* 2003



## **Proprietary Morphomer<sup>®</sup> platform**

Targeting alpha-synuclein aggregation with small molecules



- Robust library of conformation-specific, non-peptidic small molecules with desirable CNS<sup>1</sup> properties constructed and continually refined and expanded over many years
- Comprehensive screening, rational design and early validation processes rapidly generate highly specific hit compounds
- Clinically validated with two diagnostic and one therapeutic candidate in clinical development

(1) Central nervous system



## A-syn<sup>1</sup>-targeting Morphomer<sup>®</sup> designed to stop disease progression



- Targeting aggregation and seeding intracellularly
- Combining with inhibition of extracellular spreading for full control of disease
- Synergizing with the a-syn PET tracer program enabling precision medicine

(1) Alpha-synuclein



#### Inhibition of pathological a-syn aggregation

ACI-15896 in hPFF<sup>1</sup>-seeded HEK<sup>2</sup> cells overexpressing human a-syn with eGFP<sup>3</sup> reporter



PFF addition to HEK-a-syn-eGFP cells<sup>4</sup> leads to accumulation of detergent-insoluble, intracellular aggregates

Treatment of cells with ACI-15896 results in reduction of intracellular aggregates

(1) Human preformed fibrils; (2) Human embryonic kidney; (3) Enhanced green fluorescent protein; (4) Cell line provided by Prof. Outeiro, University Medical Center Goettingen



#### Inhibition of pathological a-syn aggregation in neurons

Evaluating ACI-15896 in primary neurons seeded with MSA<sup>1</sup>-derived brain material



- Rat primary neurons seeded by brain-derived a-syn develop pS129<sup>2</sup>-positive inclusions
- ACI-15896 treatment reduces burden of intracellular a-syn aggregates with IC<sub>50</sub> in nanomolar range

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Phospho-Serine 129



#### Evaluation of potency in a model of Parkinson's disease

a-syn hPFF<sup>1</sup> model on the M83 line



Group	Inoculum	Treatment			
А	PBS	Vehicle (normal chow)			
В	hPFF	Vehicle (normal chow)			
С	hPFF	100mg/kg ACI-15896			
D	hPFF	60mg/kg ACI-15896			

- Two treatment doses administered via medicated chow
- Used therapeutic paradigm by starting treatments 48h post-inoculation of pathological a-syn

(1) Human preformed fibrils; (2) Phospho-Serine 129; (3) Immunohistochemistry



#### Inhibition of aggregation in a model of Parkinson's disease

ACI-15896 inhibits the formation of pathological a-syn aggregates



#### pS129<sup>1</sup> a-syn levels

Hippocampus



Tsika *et al.* ADPD<sup>TM</sup> 2023

- Dose-dependent effect on pathological a-syn with ACI-15896 treatment
- Significant decrease of 41% and 51% in contralateral entorhinal cortex and hippocampus, respectively

(1) Phospho-Serine 129



#### Evaluating compounds in the neuronal seeding assay

Improved potency to inhibit of a-syn aggregation in MSA<sup>1</sup>-derived seeded neurons



Rat primary neurons seeded by brain-derived a-syn develop pS129-positive inclusions

Compound treatment reduces burden of intracellular a-syn aggregates with IC<sub>50</sub> in nanomolar range

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Phospho-Serine 129



#### Evaluating compounds in seed amplification neuronal assay

Potent inhibition of aggregation mediated by neuron-amplified MSA<sup>1</sup>-derived material



- Aggregates resulting from MSA material passaged twice in neurons maintain their seeding capacity and serve as a model for pathology propagation
- nM potency is maintained independent of using brain-derived or 2<sup>nd</sup> generation seeds

(1) Multiple system atrophy; (2) Phospho-Serine 129

a-syn pS129<sup>2</sup>

#### Assessing intracellular aggregation mediated by MSA<sup>1</sup>-derived seeds Delayed treatment effect in primary neurons



Reduction of aggregate burden even when compound treatment delayed by several days after seeding

Demonstrates compound treatment prevents de novo aggregation intracellularly

(1) Multiple system atrophy



#### Evaluating in vivo pharmacokinetics

Achieve exposure levels in CNS above the *in vitro* efficacious concentration

PK profiles after single 20 mg/kg p.o. administration vs potency in vitro



• Compounds have nM potency *in vitro* and favorable pharmacokinetic properties

Target engagement achieved up to 8 hours after single dose of 20mg/kg



#### Target engagement on PD<sup>1</sup>-derived aggregates

Using Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR)



• ACI-21018 demonstrates binding to a-syn aggregates derived from PD as well as MSA patient brain tissue

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Multiple system atrophy; (3) Surface Plasmon Resonance

SPR setup:

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#### Common binding site of ACI-21018 and a-syn PET<sup>1</sup> tracer, ACI-12589

Accelerating and de-risking clinical development in MSA<sup>2</sup>



Common binding site with an a-syn PET tracer provides two key clinical endpoints:

- Target engagement: PET scan with drug on-board in target occupancy study for dose selection
- Pharmacodynamic biomarker: PET scan after drug washout to evaluate effect on pathology

(1) Positron emission tomography; (2) Multiple system atrophy



## Common binding site with next generation a-syn tracer, ACI-15916

Accelerating and de-risking clinical development in PD<sup>1</sup>



- Shared binding site with the next generation PET candidate, ACI-15916, having the potential to detect synucleinopathies including Parkinson's disease
- Tracer will be used for target engagement and as pharmacodynamic biomarker in studies for PD

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Parkinson's disease dementia; (3) Immunohistochemistry



#### Conclusions

First-in-class	<ul> <li>Morphomer<sup>®</sup> a-syn therapeutics are first-in-class, orally active, CNS penetrant small molecules that target pathological intracellular a-syn</li> </ul>
Precision medicine	<ul> <li>Morphomer<sup>®</sup> a-syn therapeutics:</li> <li>Demonstrate target engagement on PD and MSA-derived a-syn aggregates</li> <li>Common binding site with AC Immune's PET tracers enables precision medicine &amp; accelerated development</li> </ul>
Reduction of pathology	<ul> <li>Proven efficacy by reducing a-syn pathology in a model of Parkinson's disease</li> </ul>
Lead optimization	<ul> <li>Identified compounds with improved potency and affinity for pathological a-syn currently being tested in vivo</li> </ul>



## Acknowledgements



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All the donors and their families for their indispensable contributions to research



COMBINING DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS PIONEERING PRECISION MEDICINE

VacSYn : a biomarker-based Phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate ACI-7104.056, a novel active immunotherapy for Parkinson's disease Nuno Mendonça, MD | ADPD 2024 | March 2024



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## Global prevalence of Parkinson's disease on the rise

Prevention the best avenue to long-term preservation of function





Parkinson's disease prevalence rises with an aging population

PD prevention through combination of earlier diagnosis with disease-modifying therapies

(1) Source: Michael J Fox Foundation; (2) Limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy; (3) Nelson et al. Brain 2019; (4) in the USA - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke





#### Active immunotherapy: clear advantages for long-term use

Provides opportunity to prevent AND treat neurodegenerative diseases globally

# ACTIVE O

Solution Constant and the second seco

- Solution Limited annual dosing (once or twice) after priming year
- Safety profile well suited to long-term use
- ⊘ Cost-effective (attractive healthcare economics across global populations)
- Improved access (ease of administration, simple logistics)

Active immunotherapy is potentially the only option for global prevention of NDDs<sup>2</sup>

(1) Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities; (2) Neurodegenerative diseases





Vaccines stimulate the patient's immune system to produce antibodies

Active immunotherapy

Passive immunotherapy

Externally generated monoclonal antibodies require administration every two to four weeks



#### Broad and robust pipeline in neurodegenerative diseases

Driven by validated proprietary technology platforms for sustained growth

#### **Clinical Stage Programs**

CLASS	PRODUCT CANDIDATE	INDICATION	Discovery	Preclinical	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	News	Partner
Active Immunotherapy	ACI-24.060 (anti-Abeta)	AD <sup>1</sup> treatment						data H1 '24 <sup>3</sup> data H2 '24	
		AD treatment (Down syndrome <sup>2</sup> )							
	<b>ACI-7104.056</b> (anti-α-syn <sup>4</sup> )	PD <sup>5</sup> , $\alpha$ -synucleinopathies						data H2 '24	
	ACI-35.030 (anti-pTau)	AD treatment							Janssen Bistoria (Johanna)
Small Molecule Morphomer®	Tau-PET <sup>6</sup> tracer	AD diagnostic							
		PSP <sup>7</sup> diagnostic							LI C Molecular Imaging
	$\alpha$ -syn-PET tracer	α-synucleinopathies (e.g. MSA <sup>8</sup> )							
	Tau aggregation inhibitor	Rare Tauopathies treatment							I.an
		AD treatment							Lilly
Monoclonal antibody	Semorinemab* (anti-Tau)	AD treatment (mild-to-moderate)							
	Crenezumab* (anti-Abeta)	AD prevention							

(1) Alzheimer's disease; (2) Down syndrome-related Alzheimer's disease; (3) Refers to expected readouts from the ABATE Phase 1b/2 trial of ACI-24.060 in patients with AD; (4) alpha-synuclein; (5) Parkinson's disease; (6) Positron emission tomography; (7) Progressive supranuclear palsy; (8) Multiple system atrophy; \* licensed to Genentech (a member of the Roche Group) until April 19, 2024


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Ē	ACI-35.030 (anti-pTau)	AD treatment							Janssen)
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		PSP <sup>7</sup> diagnostic							Molecular Imaging
	α-syn-PET tracer	α-synucleinopathies (e.g. MSA <sup>8</sup> )							
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### Anti-a-syn ACI-7104-based active immunotherapy is clinically validated<sup>1</sup>

Phase 1 results support best-in-class profile



Safe and well tolerated with no safety concerns noted in patients followed for more than 3.5 years

2

Induced strong and boostable antibody responses

3

Evidence of target engagement: 50% reduction in pathological (oligomeric)  $\alpha$ -syn<sup>2</sup> in the CSF<sup>3</sup>



UPDRS III<sup>4</sup> scores correlated with reductions in oligomeric α-syn

## THE LANCET Neurology

Safety and immunogenicity of the α-synuclein active immunotherapeutic PD01A in patients with Parkinson's disease: a randomised, single-blinded, phase 1 trial

Dieter Volc, Werner Poewe, Alexandra Kutzelnigg, Petra Lührs, Caroline Thun-Hohenstein, Achim Schneeberger, Gergana Galabova, Nour Majbour, Nishant Vaikath, Ornar El-Agnaf, Dorian Winter, Eva Mihailovska, Andreas Mairhofer, Carsten Schwenke, Günther Staffler, Rossella Medori

> Please visit for more details poster P0996 / #1513 presented by Guenther Staffler

(1) Volc et al., Lancet Neurol. 2020; (2) Alpha-synuclein; (3) Cerebrospinal fluid; (4) Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale



## VacSYn: an adaptive biomarker-based Phase 2 study of ACI-7104 in early PD<sup>1</sup>

Placebo-controlled Phase 2 Study Overview (NCT06015841)

#### Part 1: Safety & PD<sup>2</sup>



- Motor and Non-Motor Functioning (UPDRS<sup>6</sup> based)
- Degeneration of dopaminergic terminals (DaT SPECT<sup>7</sup> imaging)
- Advanced MRI (including ASL<sup>8</sup> and DTI<sup>9</sup>)
- Digital biomarkers of motor and non-motor function
- Functional and patient reported outcomes



All participants from Part 1 will contribute to final analysis

(1) Parkinson's disease; (2) Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics; (3) Participants must have idiopathic PD and be stable on up to 300 mg of L-Dopa treatment and dopaminergic deficit determined by Dopamine Transporter Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography; (4) alpha-synuclein; (5) Proof-of-concept; (6) Unified Parkinson's disease rating scale; (7) Dopamine Transporter Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography; (8) Arterial spin labeling; (9) Diffusion tensor imaging



🕖 AC Immune

## VacSYn an adaptive biomarker-based Phase 2 study of ACI-7104 in early PD

**Key Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria** 

#### **Key Inclusion Criteria**

- Aged ≥40 to ≤75 years
- Diagnosis of clinically established early PD (confirmed by DaT-SPECT)
- ≤ 2 years from time of onset motor symptoms
- H&Y Stage I to II
- Monotherapy treatment with L-Dopa at 300 mg per day or treatment naïve

#### **Key Exclusion Criteria**

- carriers of certain familial PD gene mutations
- Parkinsonian syndrome other than idiopathic PD
- Significant CNS disease



Enrolment status: 26 patient from sites in Spain (14), Germany (2) and UK (10)

## Baseline characteristics of VacSYn trial

Variable	Total
Total number of patients, n	26
Age (years), mean (std)	62.2 (7.34)
Sex, n (%)	
Male Female	16 (61.5%) 10 (38.5%)
PD Treatment, n (%)	
treatment-naïve on L-Dopa 300mg/day	9 (34.62%) 17 (65.38%)
Hoehn and Yahr stage, n (%)	
Stage I Stage II	8 (30.7%) 18 (69.23%)
MDS-UPDRS scores, mean (std)	
Part 1: Non-motor experiences of daily living Part 2: Non-motor experiences of daily living Part 3: Motor examination	4.00 (2.859) 4.52 (3.084) 23.00 (10.253)
DaTSCAN type, n (%)	
Туре 1	9 (34.62%)
Type 2 Type 3	9 (34.62%) 8 (30.77%)

#### DaTSCAN type vs Hoehn and Yahr stage



For more details, please attend:

presentation by **Dymitr Kostrica** on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Advances in PD and LBD drug development symposium



## Blinded Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events (TEAE) summary<sup>1</sup>



(1) Cut-off date: March 1st, 2024

NASDAQ: ACIU | ADPD Presentation, March 2024



## Conclusions

Clinical trial	<ul> <li>Phase 2 study in early PD subjects based on innovative two-part trial design</li> </ul>
Adaptability	<ul> <li>Approach designed for early de-risking and simultaneously allowing acceleration with rapid entry into a pivotal clinical phase</li> </ul>
Patient selection	<ul> <li>Targeting early PD population</li> </ul>
Safety status	<ul> <li>Good safety and tolerability profile with no safety concerns identified thus far</li> </ul>
Progress update	<ul> <li>Finishing randomization to Part 1 scheduled for March 2024</li> </ul>





Nuno Mendonça Dymitr Kostrica Jonathan Wagg Just Genius Nicolas Fournier Tanja Touilloux Erika Borcel Elena Valatsou Olivier Sol Valérie Hliva Marija Vukicevic Günther Staffler Marie Kosco-Vilbois Andrea Pfeifer

We want to thank the study participants, their families for their participation and commitment, as well as all Investigators and Site personnel for their active participation and support.





# VacSYn baseline characteristics consistent with population earlier than PPMI<sup>1</sup> and in line with recent PD<sup>2</sup> trials



- PPMI<sup>1</sup> natural history cohort leveraged for optimal design of the VacSYn study
- Selected population has a measurable and predictable rate of progression over a 1-year period

(1) PPMI - Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative; (2) Parkinson's disease.



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