



*15th International Conference for Strategic  
Studies in Radiology Berlin/DE, August 24-26, 2023*



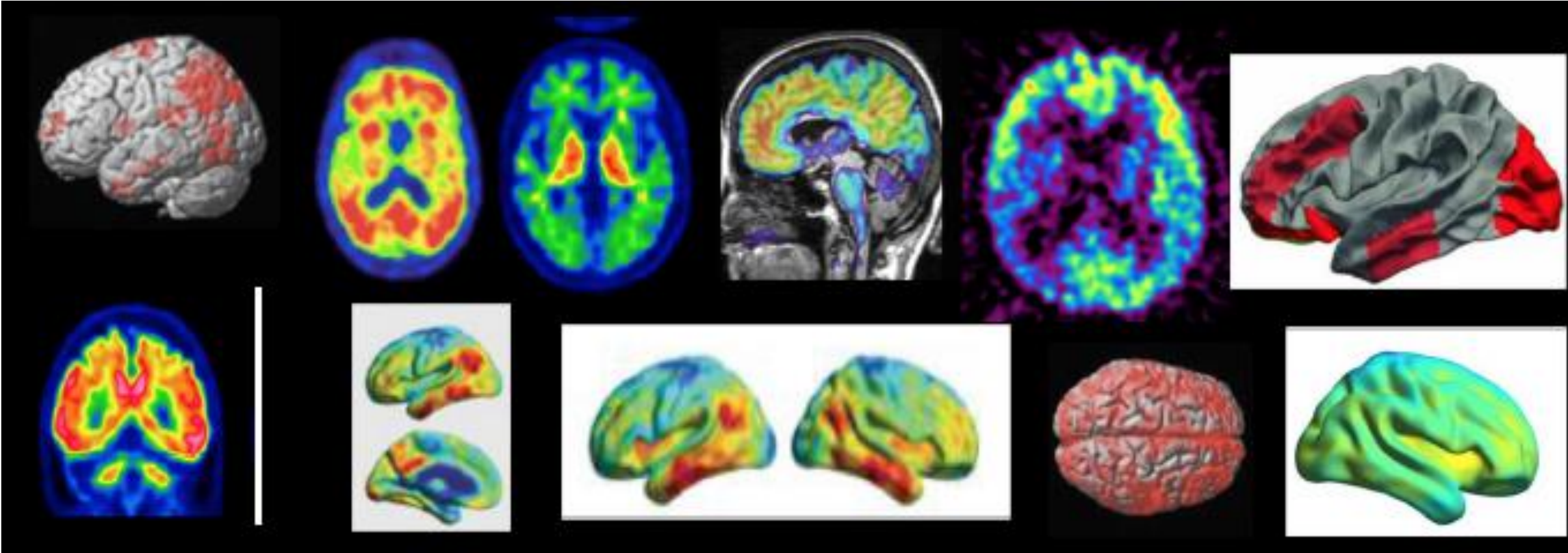
# **Molecular\*Brain\*Imaging\*in\*Neurodegenerative\*\*Diseases:\* Exemplar\*for\*Biomarker\*Discovery\*and\*Clinical\*Translation**

**Agneta Nordberg\***  
MD' PhD' Professor

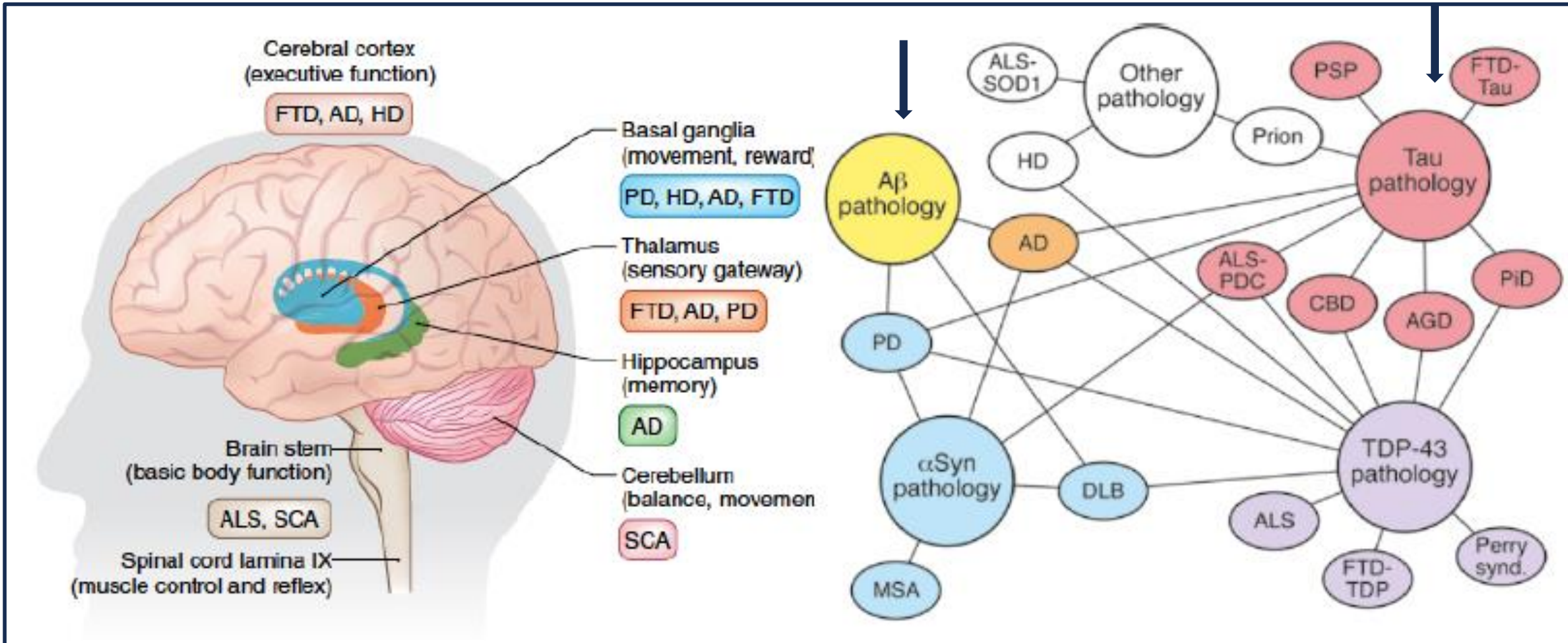
Center for Alzheimer' Research  
Karolinska' Institutet , Karolinska' University' Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden'



**MOLECULAR BRAIN IMAGING** is rapidly developing and providing new unique insights into pathophysiological mechanisms and development of diagnostic biomarkers with implication in drug treatments and clinical praxis.



# Neurodegenerative Disorders are Characterized by Different Proteinopathies



*NEW IMAGING TECHNIQUES CREATE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR EARLY DETECT AND TO DIAGNOSE DIFFERENT PROTEINOPATHIES*

# PROTEINOPATHIES

## Synucleinopathy

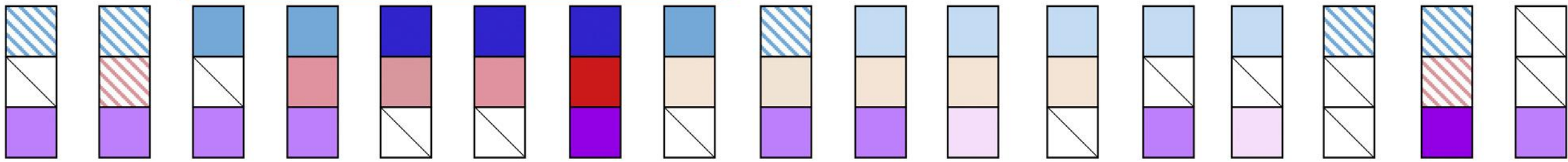
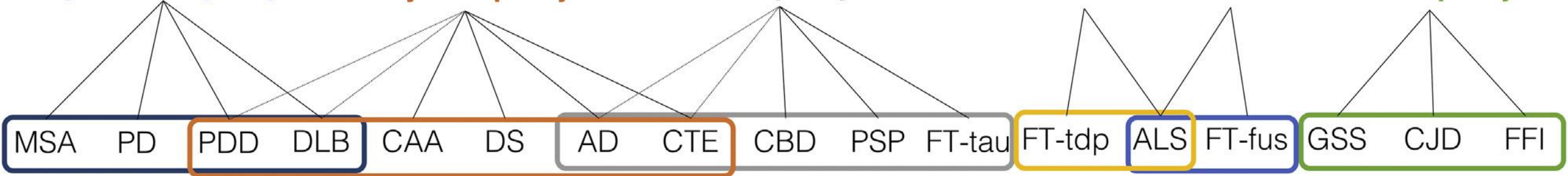
## Amyloidopathy

## Tauopathy

## TDP-43

## FUS

## Prionopathy

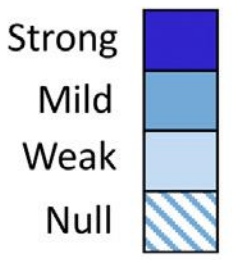


### Amyloid-PET

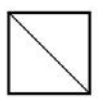
### Tau-PET

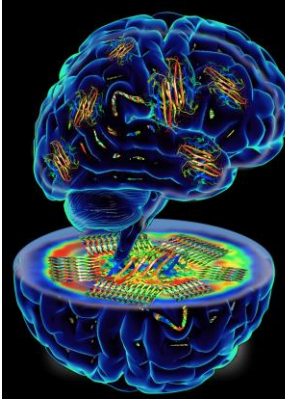
### Neuroinflammation-PET

*Magnitude of Alteration*

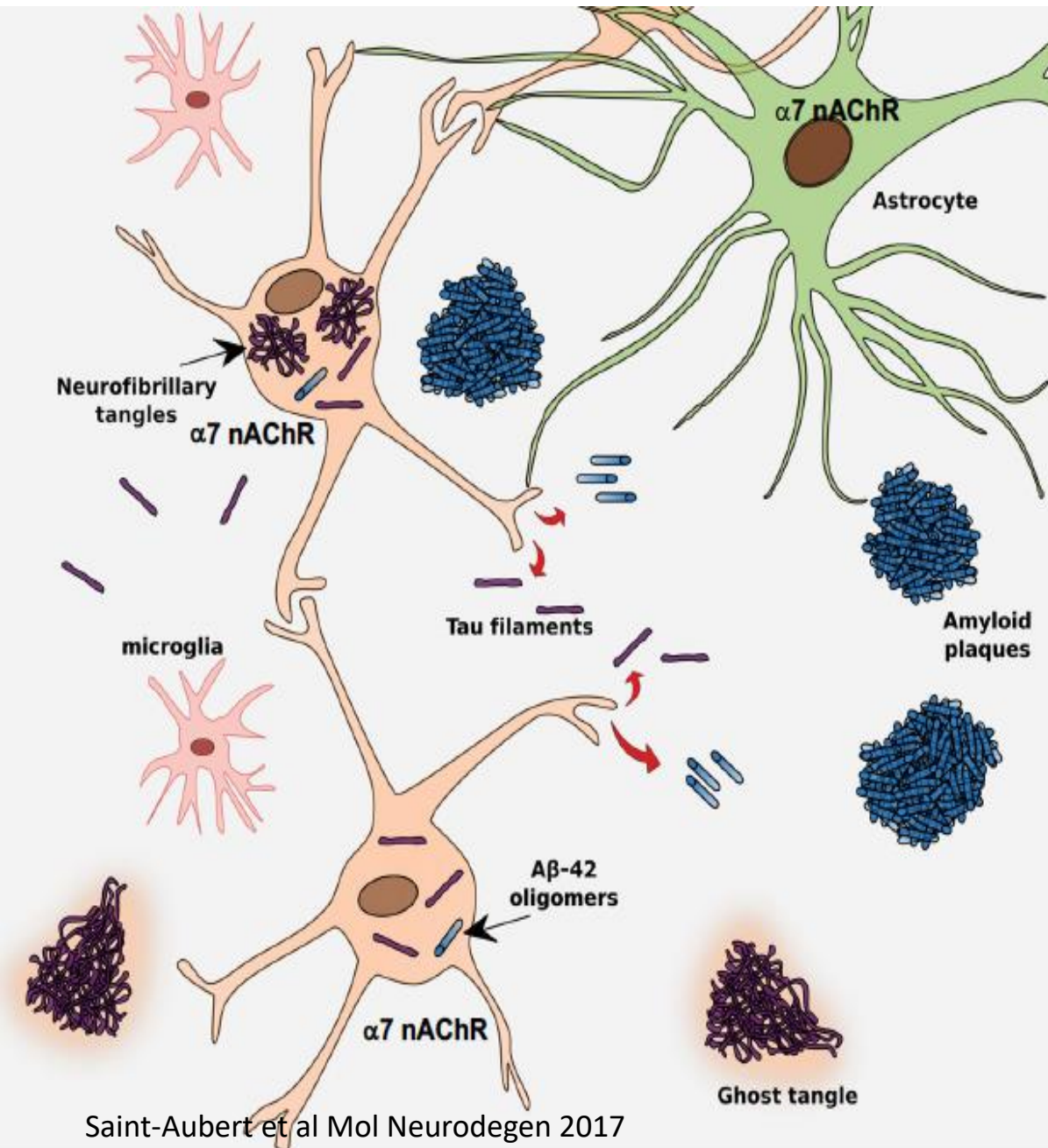


Not evaluated

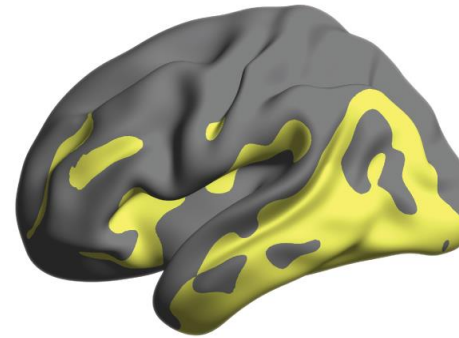




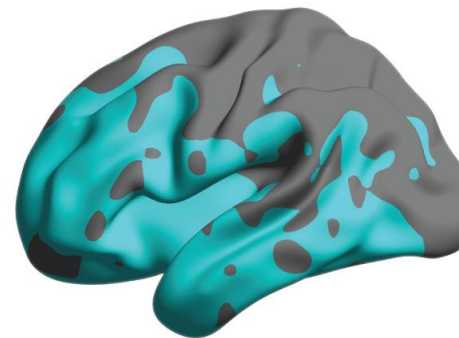
Alzheimer's disease is characterized by complexed pathophysiological mechanisms that we need to further understand.



Tau



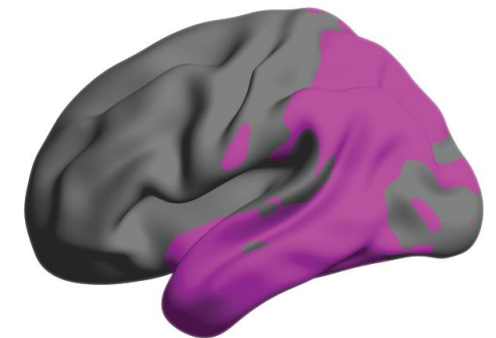
Neuroinflammation



Amyloid-beta



Neurodegeneration

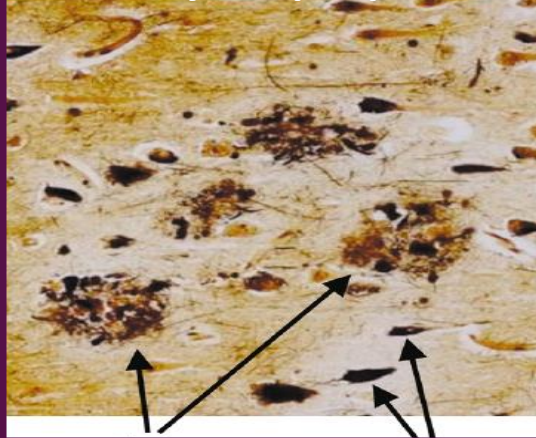


# PET imaging can detect Alzheimer pathology in vivo !

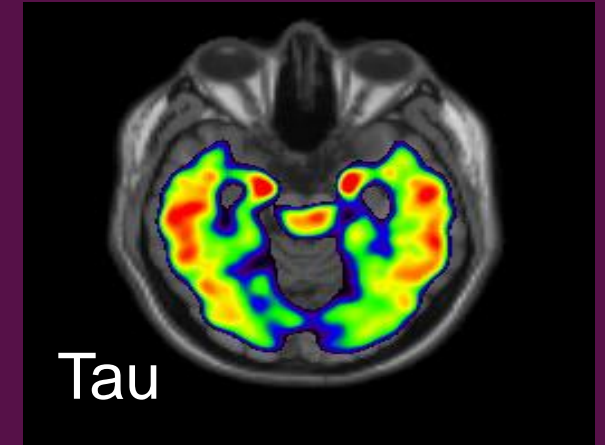
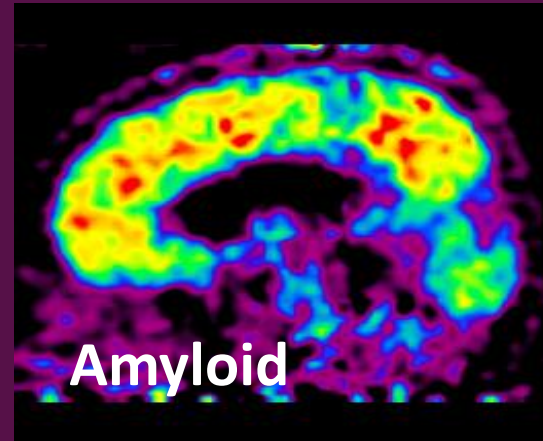
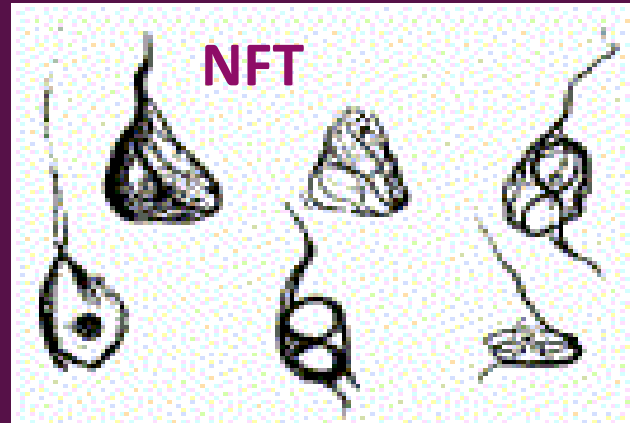
AD Pathology at autopsy

AD Pathology in vivo by PET

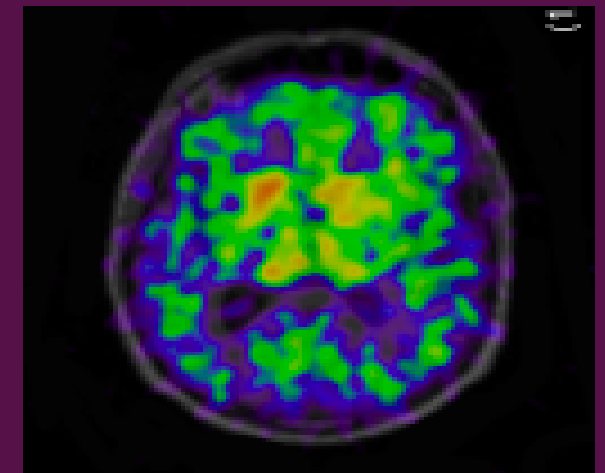
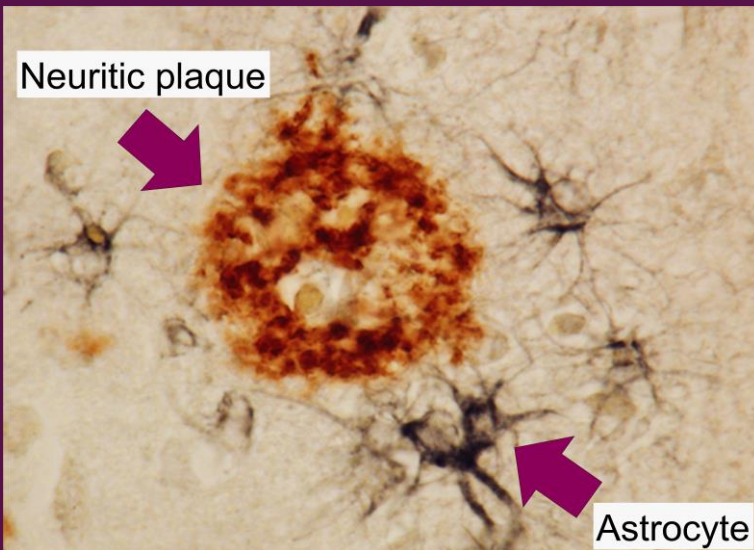
Amyloid plaques



TAU



Neuritic plaque

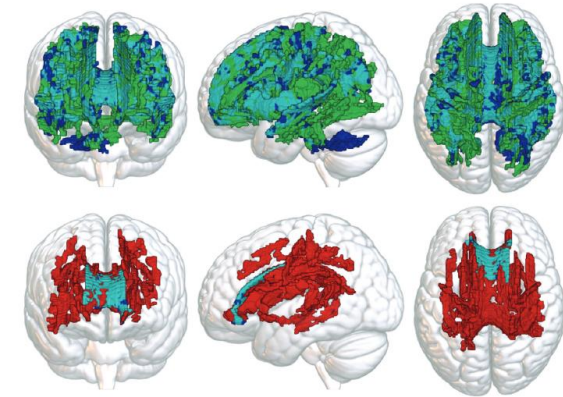
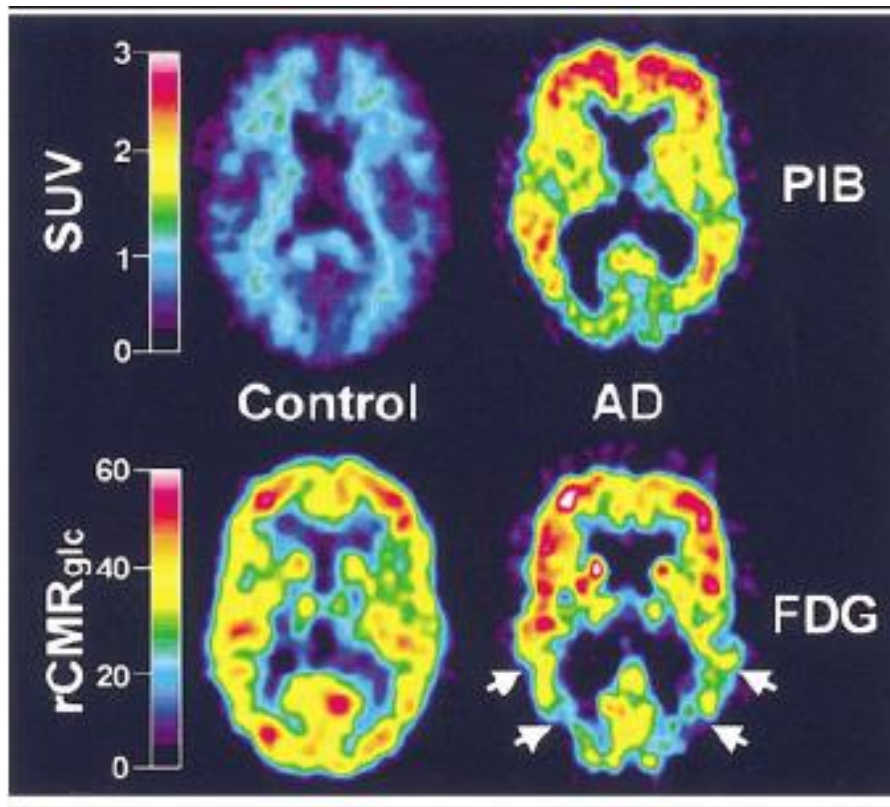


Astrocytes

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

# Imaging Brain Amyloid in Alzheimer's Disease with Pittsburgh Compound-B

William E. Klunk, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Henry Engler, MD,<sup>2</sup> Agneta Nordberg, MD, PhD,<sup>3,4</sup> Yanming Wang, PhD,<sup>5</sup> Gunnar Blomqvist, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Daniel P. Holt, BS,<sup>5</sup> Mats Bergström, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Irina Savitcheva, MD,<sup>2</sup> Guo-feng Huang, PhD,<sup>5</sup> Sergio Estrada, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Birgitta Ausén, MSCI,<sup>4</sup> Manik L. Debnath, MS,<sup>1</sup> Julien Barletta, BS,<sup>6</sup> Julie C. Price, PhD,<sup>5</sup> Johan Sandell, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Brian J. Lopresti, BS,<sup>5</sup> Anders Wall, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Pernilla Koivisto, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Gunnar Antoni, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Chester A. Mathis, PhD,<sup>5</sup> and Bengt Långström, PhD<sup>2,6</sup>



EDITORIAL

## The Proteomics of Positron Emission Tomography

Over the past decade, research into the biology of neurodegeneration has evolved from emphasizing dysfunction of neurotransmitter systems to include investigations of protein abnormalities. This is especially clear in the study of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in which the well-known findings concerning cholinergic dysfunction that led to the first specific therapies have been augmented by research suggesting key roles for amyloid and tau in the cause and pathogenesis of the disease. Indeed, the aggregation, altered processing, and abnormal folding of proteins that may disrupt neural function is now a widespread theme that echoes throughout the study of many neurodegenerative diseases.

The application of positron emission tomography (PET) to the study of AD parallels this shift in emphasis. Although most clinicians and scientists are familiar with the use of PET to measure fundamental physiological processes such as blood flow and glucose me-

In this issue of the *Annals*, Klunk and colleagues report the results of the next step in the evolution of PET in the application to AD: development of a radioligand targeted to the amyloid protein itself.<sup>7</sup> The compound, *N*-methyl-[<sup>11</sup>C]-2-(4'-methylaminophenyl)-6-hydroxybenzothiazole (nicknamed PIB), is structurally related to the thioflavin-T molecule, a dye that has long been used to label amyloid in histological studies. Klunk and colleagues present a substantial amount of data that support the use of this compound as a marker of brain amyloid deposition. Previous work by this group demonstrated rapid blood-brain barrier permeability, with labeling of both amyloid angiopathy and plaques in transgenic mouse models of AD,<sup>8</sup> as well as in vitro binding to AD brain and synthetic amyloid fibrils but not to neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs).<sup>9</sup> The work reported here extends these observations to in vivo human studies

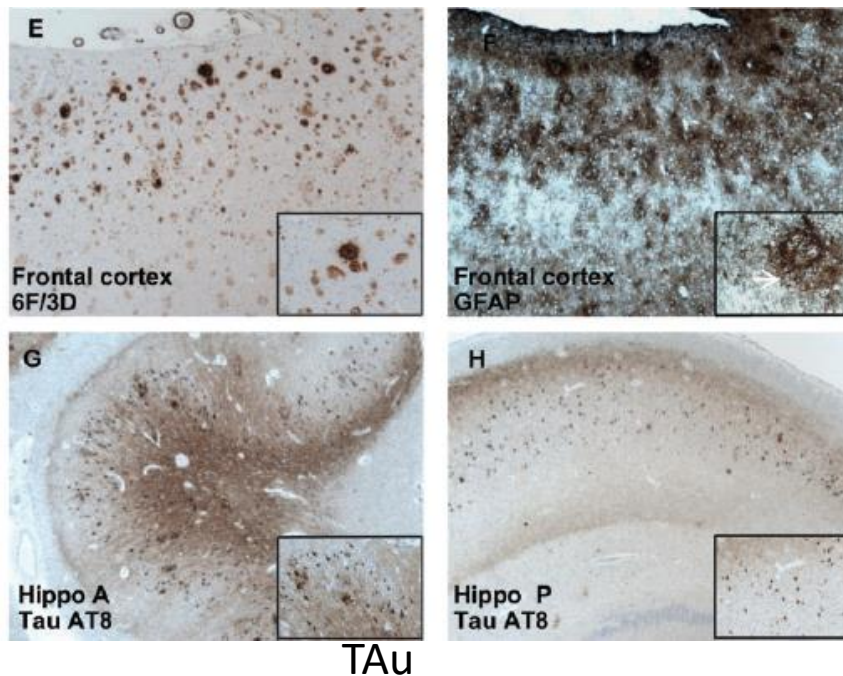
## OCCASIONAL PAPER

# Positron emission tomography imaging and clinical progression in relation to molecular pathology in the first Pittsburgh Compound B positron emission tomography patient with Alzheimer's disease

Ahmadul Kadir,<sup>1,\*</sup> Amelia Marutle,<sup>1,\*</sup> Daniel Gonzalez,<sup>1</sup> Michael Schöll,<sup>1</sup> Ove Almkvist,<sup>1,2</sup> Malahat Mousavi,<sup>1</sup> Tamanna Mustafiz,<sup>1</sup> Taher Darreh-Shori,<sup>1</sup> Inger Nennesmo<sup>3</sup> and Agneta Nordberg<sup>1,2</sup>

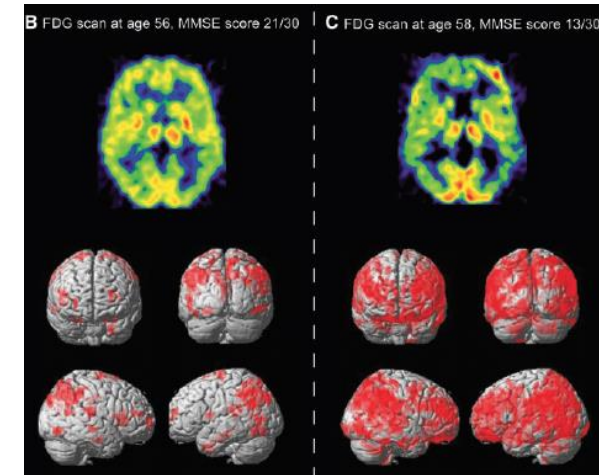
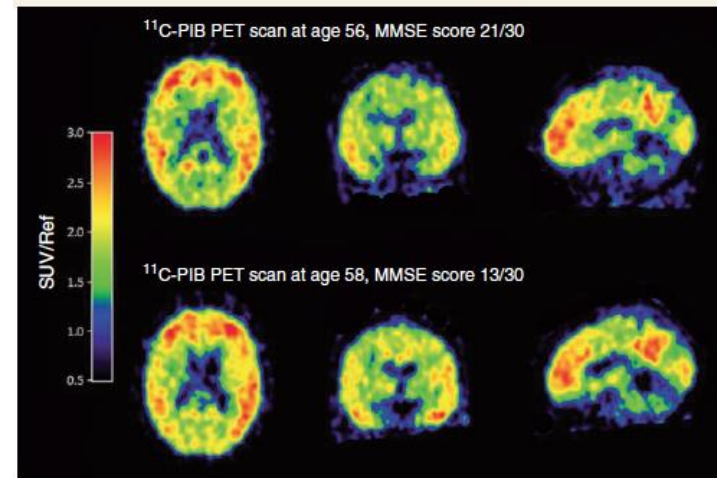
Amyloid plaques

GFAP

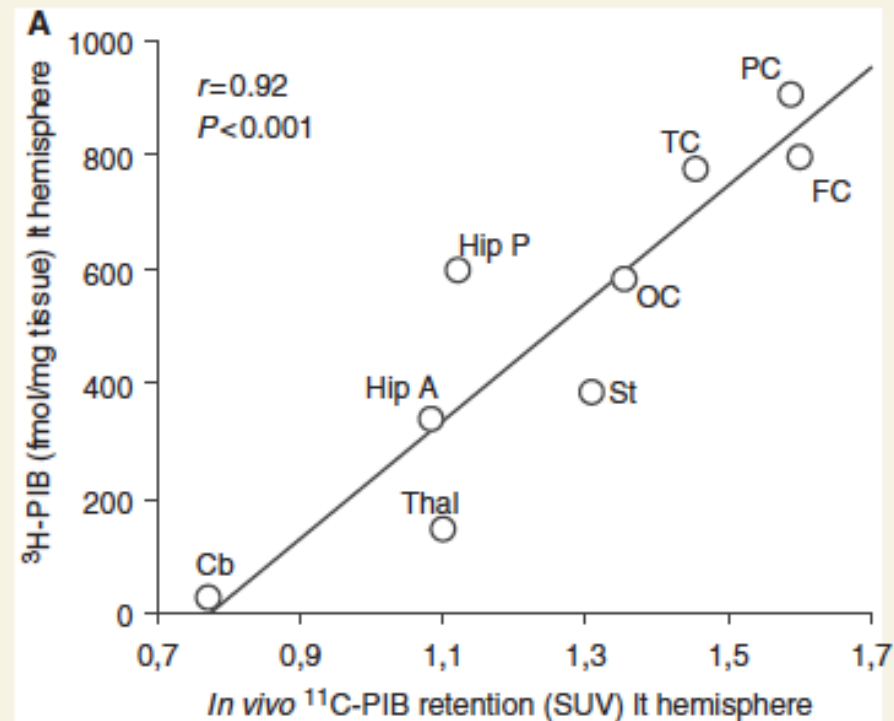


2 years follow-up  
[11C]-PIB Amyloid →

[18F] FDG uptake ↓



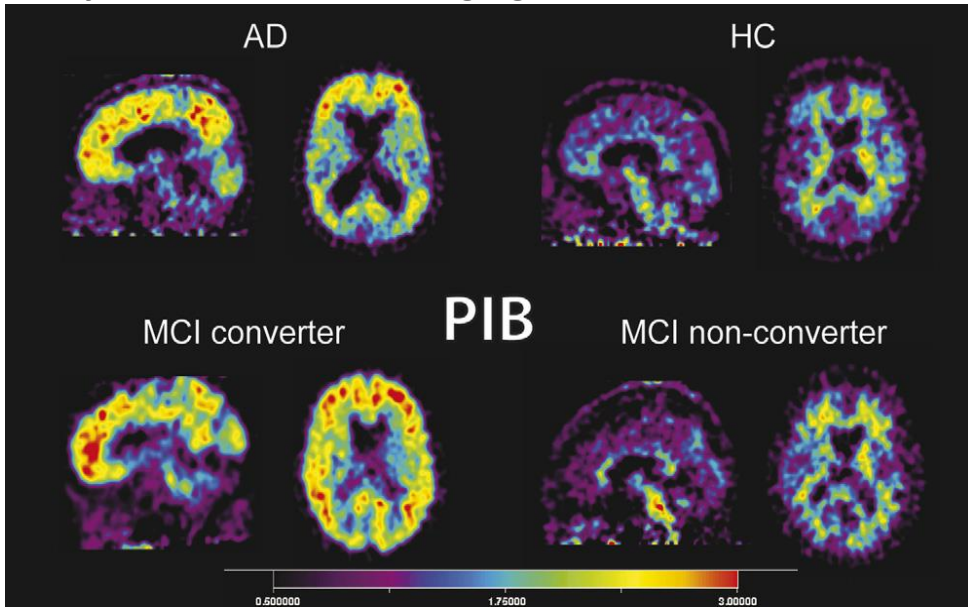
In vitro



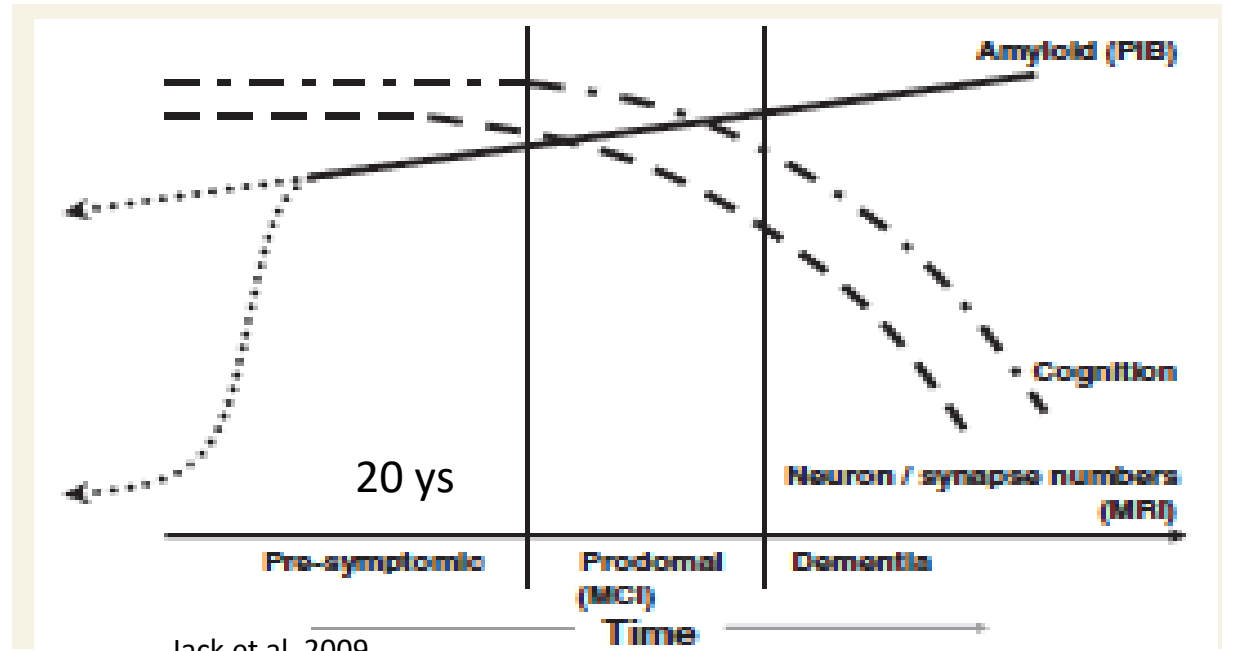
Positive Correlation Between *In vivo/in vitro* PIB Binding in Different Brain Regions



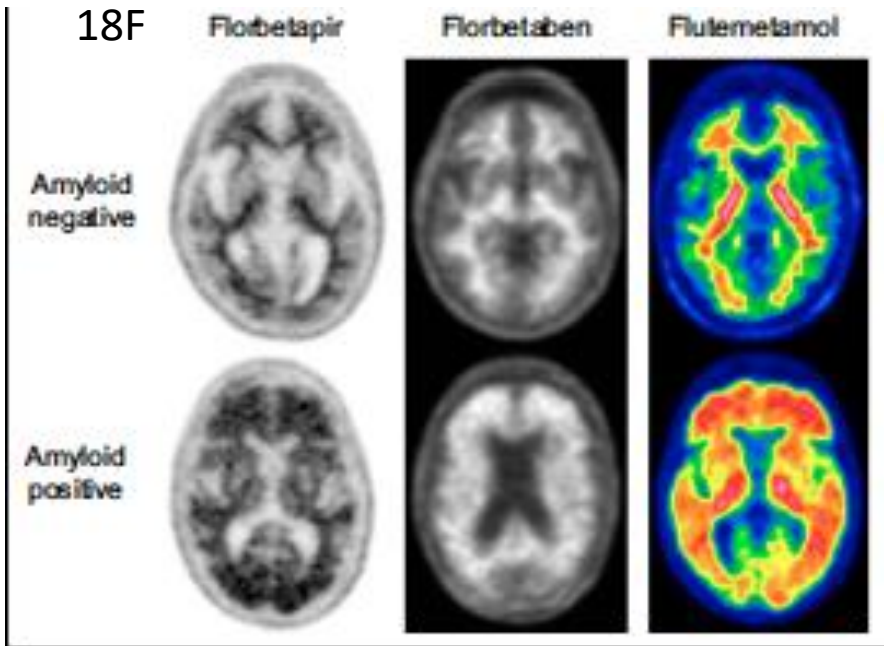
**Amyloid 11C-PIB PET imaging in AD and MCI** MCI=mild cognitiv impairment



Forsberg et al. Neurobiol Aging 2008

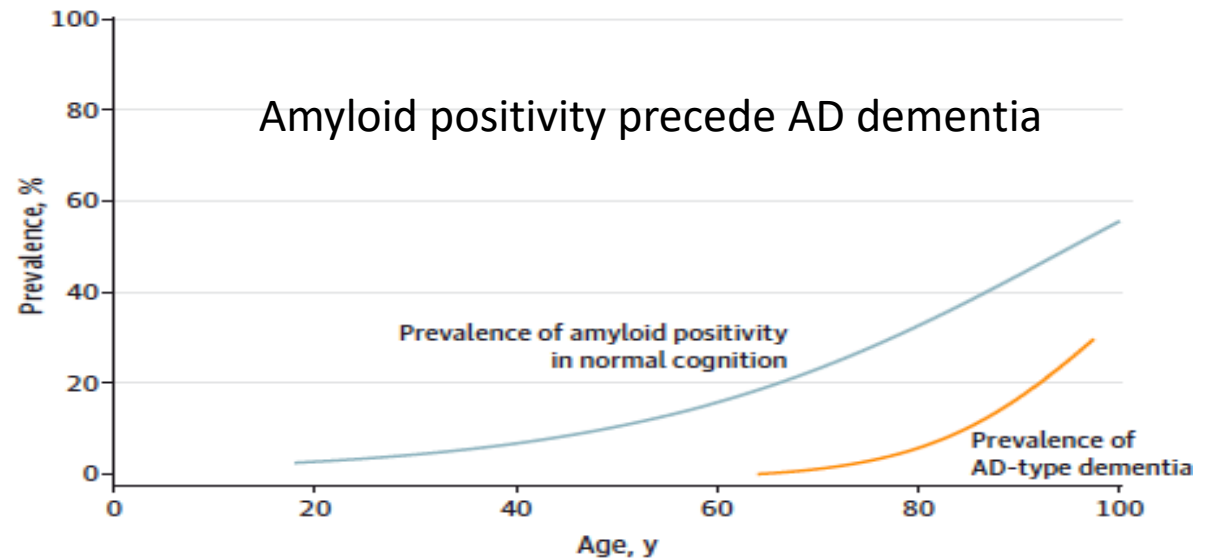


Jack et al. 2009



Loose et al 2023

**A** Prevalence of Alzheimer disease and amyloid positivity

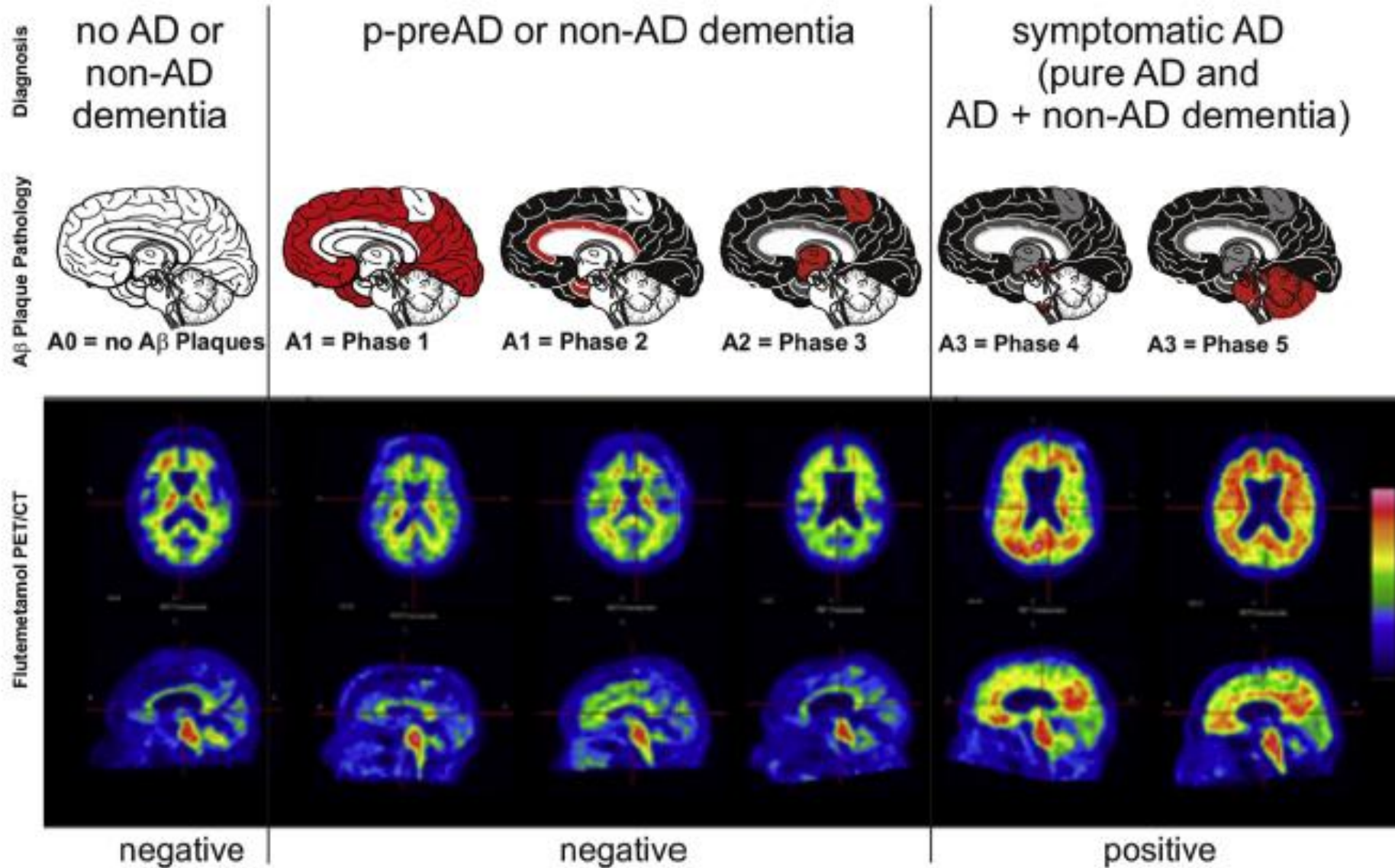


Jansen et al JAMA 2015

# Pathology amyloid stages and corresponding Amyloid PET outcome

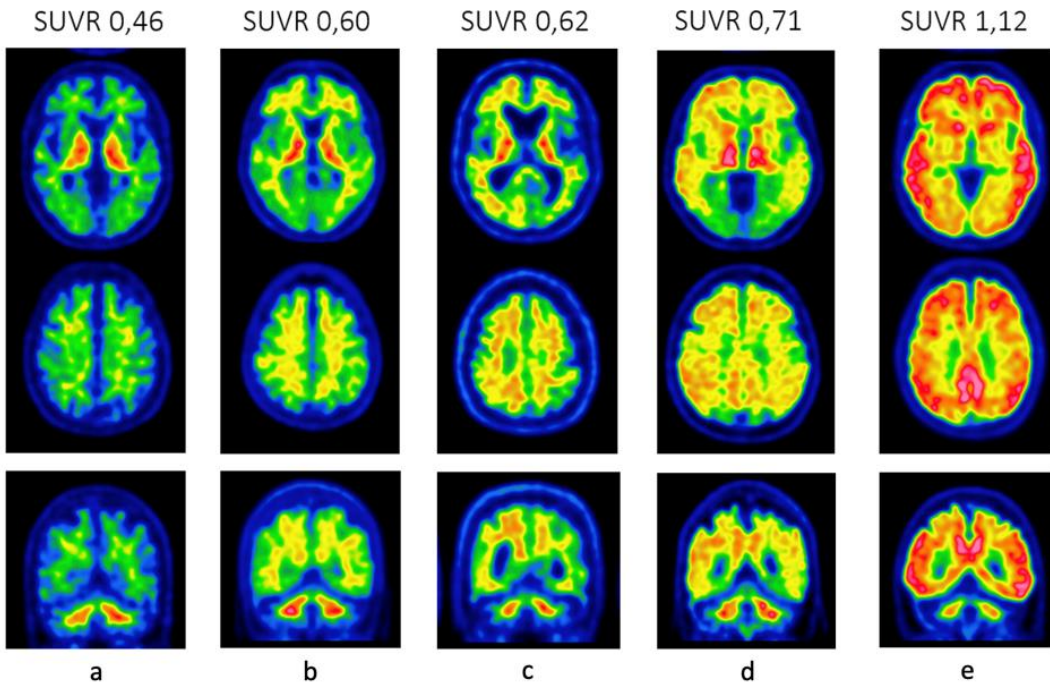
*D.R. Thal et al. / Alzheimer's & Dementia 11 (2015) 975-985*

983



# Practical experience of integrating visual and quantitative image interpretation in clinic

## Examples of [<sup>18</sup>F]Flutemetamol PET scans with different patterns of uptake



## The Centiloid scale: quantitative amyloid plaque estimation allows earlier detection

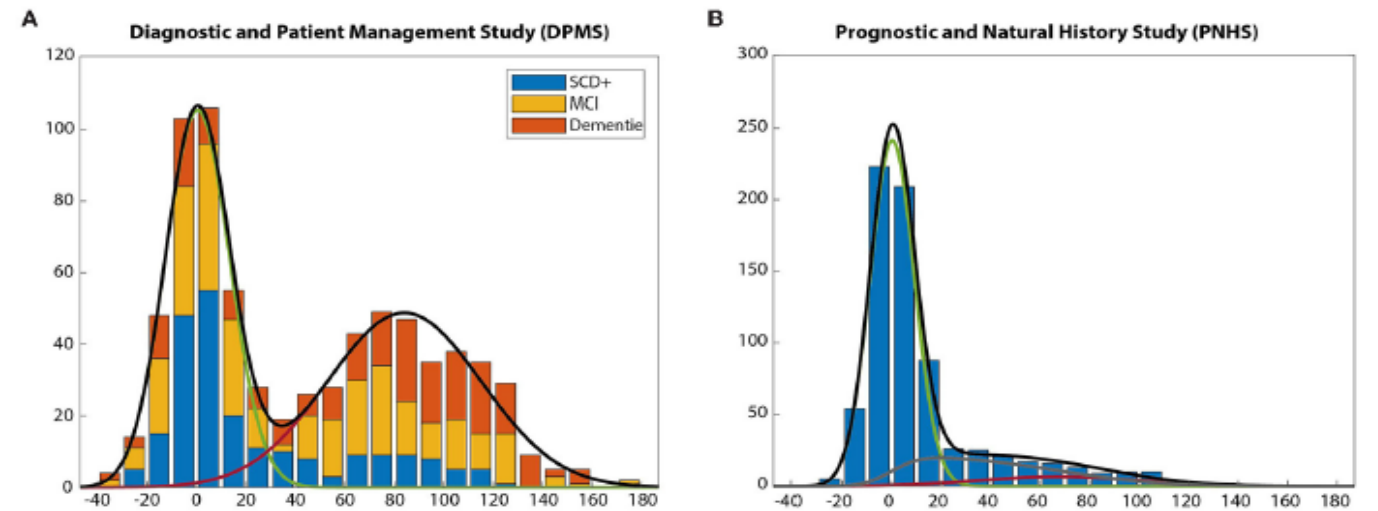


FIGURE 2  
Centiloid distributions across DPMS and populations. (A) Centiloid distribution across patient populations, reflecting a bi-modal distribution. (B) Centiloid distribution across per-dementia subjects, mostly cognitively unimpaired, skewed toward lower amyloid burden.

Centiloid scale

Collij et al 2023

Blue= subjective memory impairment  
 Yellow= mild cognitive impairment  
 Red= Alzheimer dementia



The Imaging Dementia – Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) Study will determine the clinical usefulness and impact on patient-oriented outcomes of a brain positron emission tomography (PET) scan that detects amyloid plaques, a core feature of Alzheimer's disease, in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia of uncertain cause.

A total of 18,488 Medicare beneficiaries meeting specific Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) will be enrolled over 24 months at sites throughout the United States as part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) research program.

**JAMA | Original Investigation**

## Association of Amyloid Positron Emission Tomography With Subsequent Change in Clinical Management Among Medicare Beneficiaries With Mild Cognitive Impairment or Dementia

Gil D. Rabinovici, MD; Constantine Gatsonis, PhD; Charles Apgar, MBA; Kiran Chaudhary, MS; Ilana Gareen, PhD; Lucy Hanna, MS; James Hendrix, PhD; Bruce E. Hillner, MD; Cynthia Olson, MBA; Orit H. Lesman-Segev, MD; Justin Romanoff, MA; Barry A. Siegel, MD; Rachel A. Whitmer, PhD; Maria C. Carrillo, PhD

**JAMA** April 2, 2019 Volume 321, Number 13

• Sample size 11,050 patients

• Patient management changed in 60 % of patients.

• Most common change was in use of AD medications (Increased in A $\beta$  PET+, decreased in A $\beta$  PET-).

• Diagnosis changed in 35.6% of patients.

- Increase in diagnostic confidence.
- Decreased utilization of alternative diagnostics.

900 memory clinic patients, 3100 preclinical or prodromal AD subjects, total 600

- Barcelonabeta Brain Research Center, Spain
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Toulouse, France
- Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- Stichting Katholieke Universiteit, Netherlands
- Stichting VUmc, Netherlands
- The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- Université de Genève, Switzerland
- University College London, United Kingdom
- University Hospital of Cologne, Germany
- Alzheimer Europe



innovative  
medicines  
initiative

- GE Healthcare Ltd, United Kingdom
- Janssen, Belgium
- Piramal Imaging Ltd, United Kingdom

Received: 16 September 2021 | Revised: 11 March 2022 | Accepted: 29 April 2022  
DOI: 10.1002/alz.12696

**FEATURED ARTICLE**

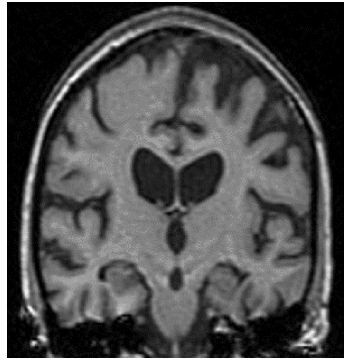
**Alzheimer's & Dementia**  
THE JOURNAL OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

### Description of a European memory clinic cohort undergoing amyloid-PET: The AMYPAD Diagnostic and Patient Management Study

Daniele Altomare<sup>1,2</sup> | Lyduine Collij<sup>3</sup> | Camilla Caprioglio<sup>1,2</sup> | Philip Scheltens<sup>4</sup> | Bart N.M. van Berckel<sup>3</sup> | Isadora Lopes Alves<sup>3</sup> | Johannes Berkhof<sup>5</sup> | Yvonne de Gier<sup>3</sup> | Valentina Garibotto<sup>6,7</sup> | Christian Moro<sup>1,2</sup> | Léa Poitrine<sup>1,2</sup> | Julien Delrieu<sup>8,9</sup> | Pierre Payoux<sup>10,11</sup> | Laure Saint-Aubert<sup>10,12</sup> | José Luis Molinuevo<sup>13,14</sup> | Oriol Grau-Rivera<sup>13,15,16</sup> | Juan-Domingo Gispert<sup>13,15,17</sup> | Carolina Minguillón<sup>13,15,16</sup> | Karine Fauria<sup>13,16</sup> | Marta Felez Sanchez<sup>13</sup> | Andreea Rădoi<sup>13</sup> | Alexander Drzezga<sup>18,19,20</sup> | Frank Jessen<sup>21</sup> | Claus Escher<sup>21</sup> | Philip Zeyen<sup>21</sup> | Agneta Nordberg<sup>22,23</sup> | Irina Savitcheva<sup>24</sup> | Vesna Jelic<sup>25</sup> | Zuzana Walker<sup>26,27</sup> | Ho-Yun Lee<sup>27</sup> | Lean Lee<sup>26</sup> | Jean-François Demonet<sup>28</sup> | Sonia Plaza Wuthrich<sup>28</sup> | Rossella Gismondi<sup>29</sup> | Gill Farrar<sup>30</sup> | Frederik Barkhof<sup>3,31</sup> | Andrew W. Stephens<sup>29</sup> | Giovanni B. Frisoni<sup>1,2</sup> | on behalf of the AMYPAD Consortium

# Memory Assessment at Karolinska Hospital

Tertiary ,memory clinic



MRI/CT Structural investigation

Clinical examination

Neuropsychological tests

History  
Hereditiy

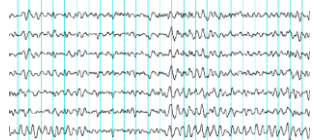
MMSE  
MOCA  
RUDAS

Functional analysis

Speech assessments

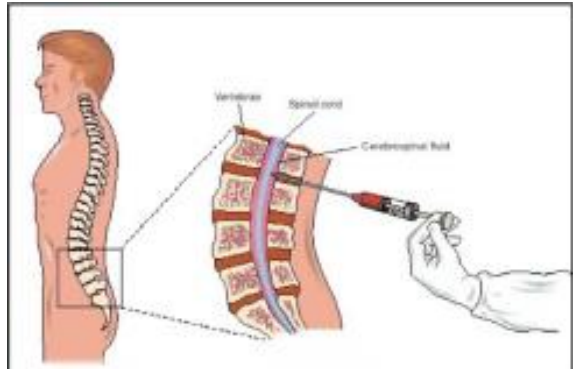
Optional

EEG



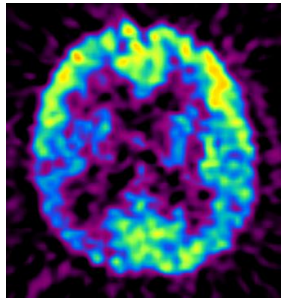
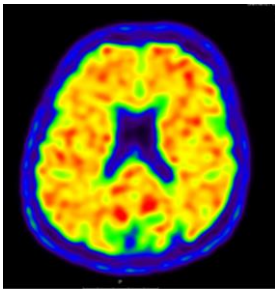
CSF

A $\beta$ 42 A $\beta$ 42/40  
T-tau, p-tau NFL



blod/plasma

If the diagnosis still unclear? PET imaging is an option (18F-flutemetamol, 18F-FDG)





# Clinical impact of [<sup>18</sup>F]flutemetamol PET among memory clinic patients with an unclear diagnosis

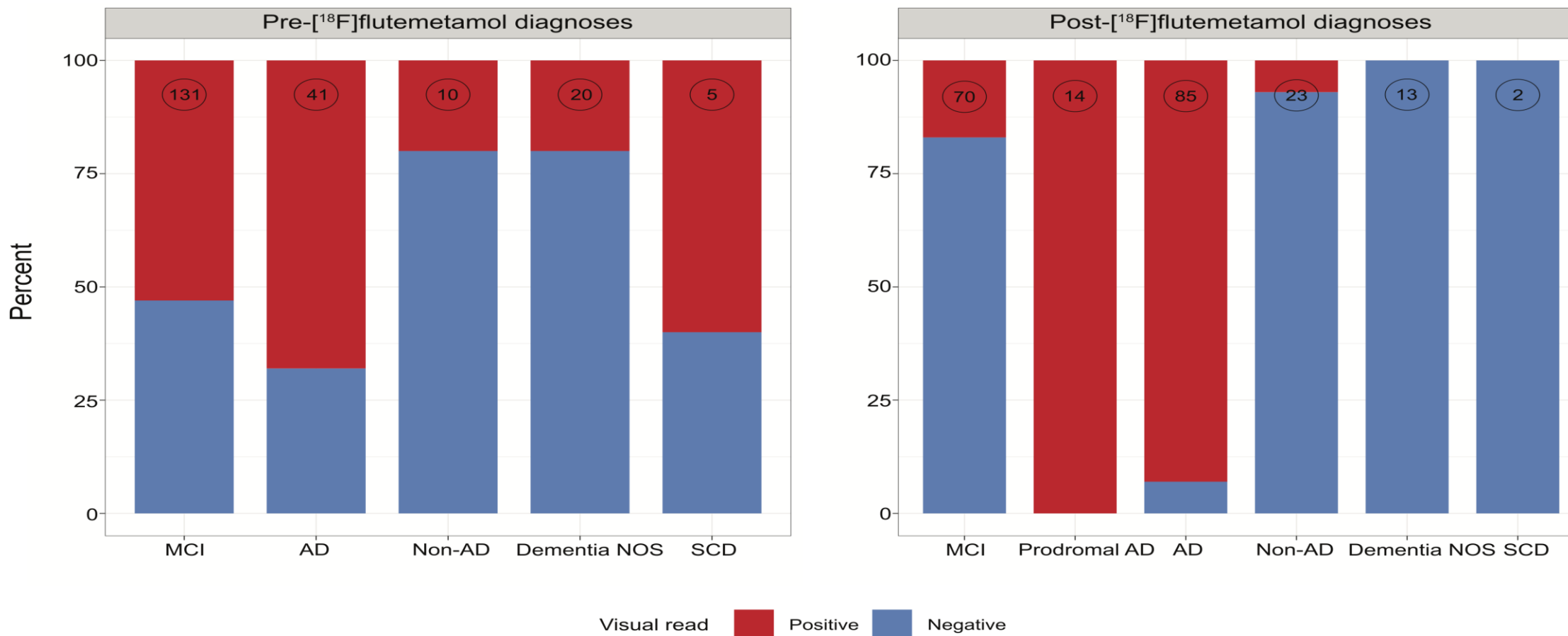
Antoine Leuzy<sup>1</sup> · Irina Savitcheva<sup>2</sup> · Konstantinos Chiotis<sup>1</sup> · Johan Lilja<sup>3,4</sup> · Pia Andersen<sup>5</sup> · Nenad Bogdanovic<sup>5</sup> · Vesna Jelic<sup>1,5</sup> · Agneta Nordberg<sup>1,5</sup>



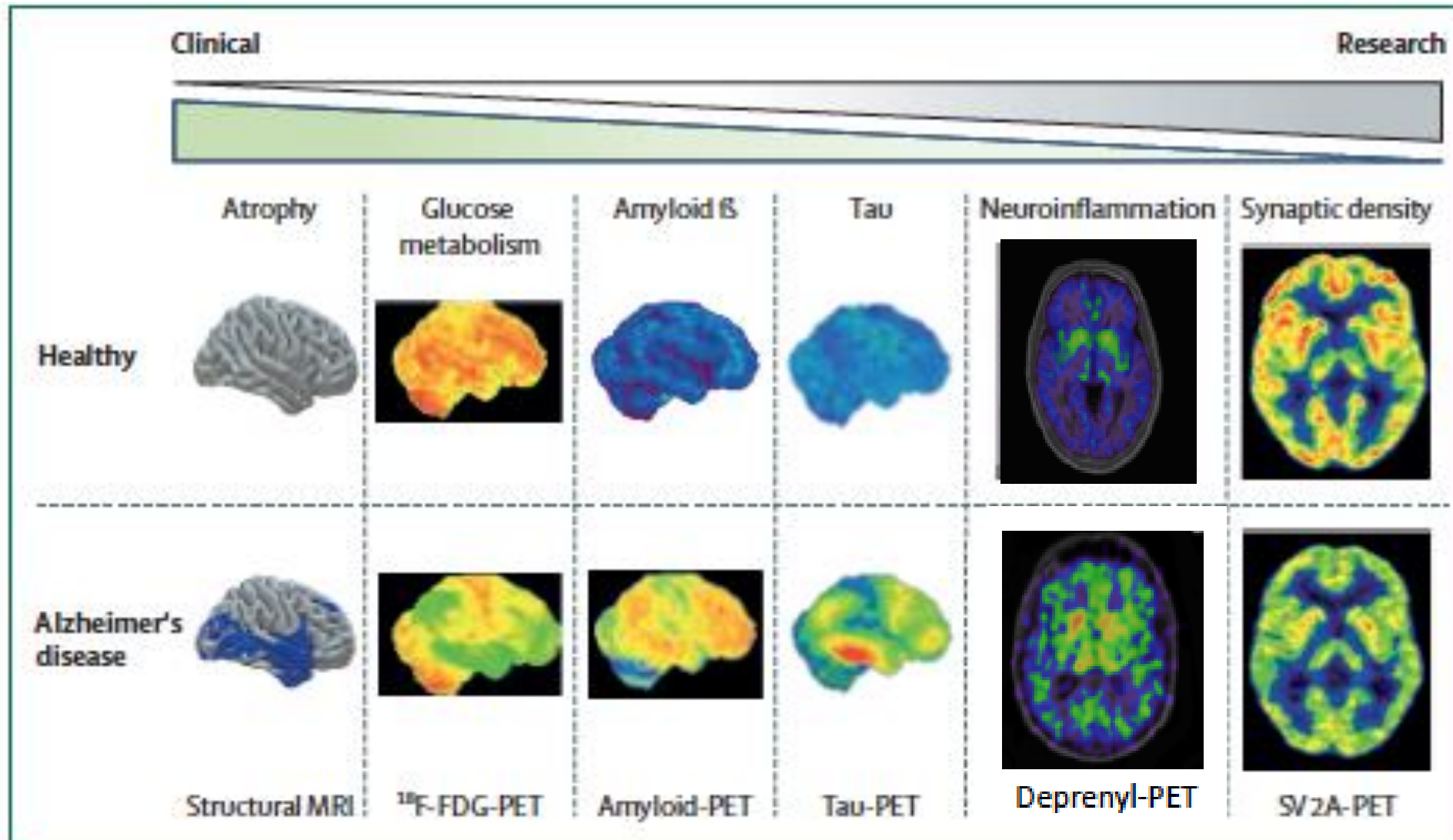
Change in diagnosis 44 %  
of cases

N=207 patients

Increase in AD drug treatment  
218% in prodromal AD, AD

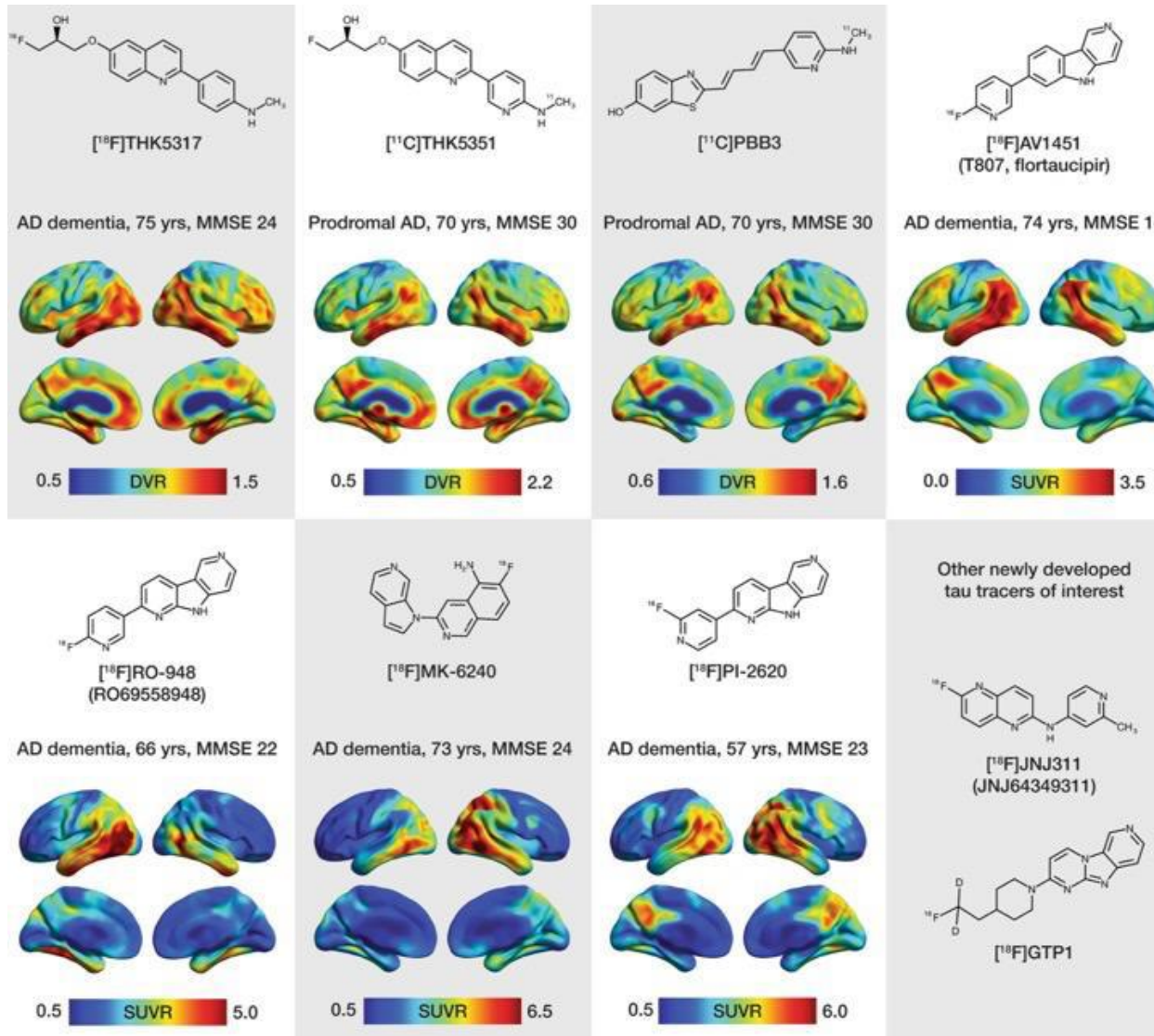


# MOLECULAR imaging of pathological hallmarks in Alzheimer's disease

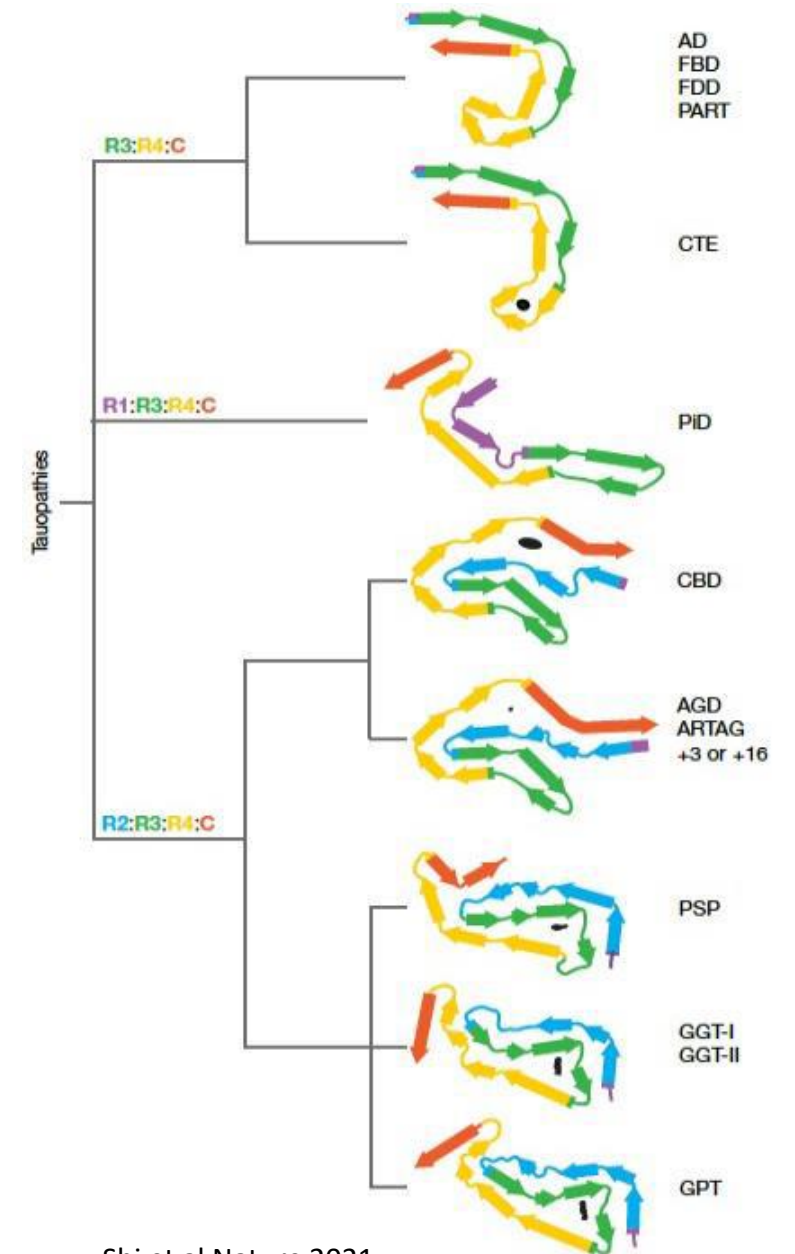


# First and second generation Tau PET tracers

# Cryo-EM tau fibril structures for 3R,3/4R, 4R tauopathies



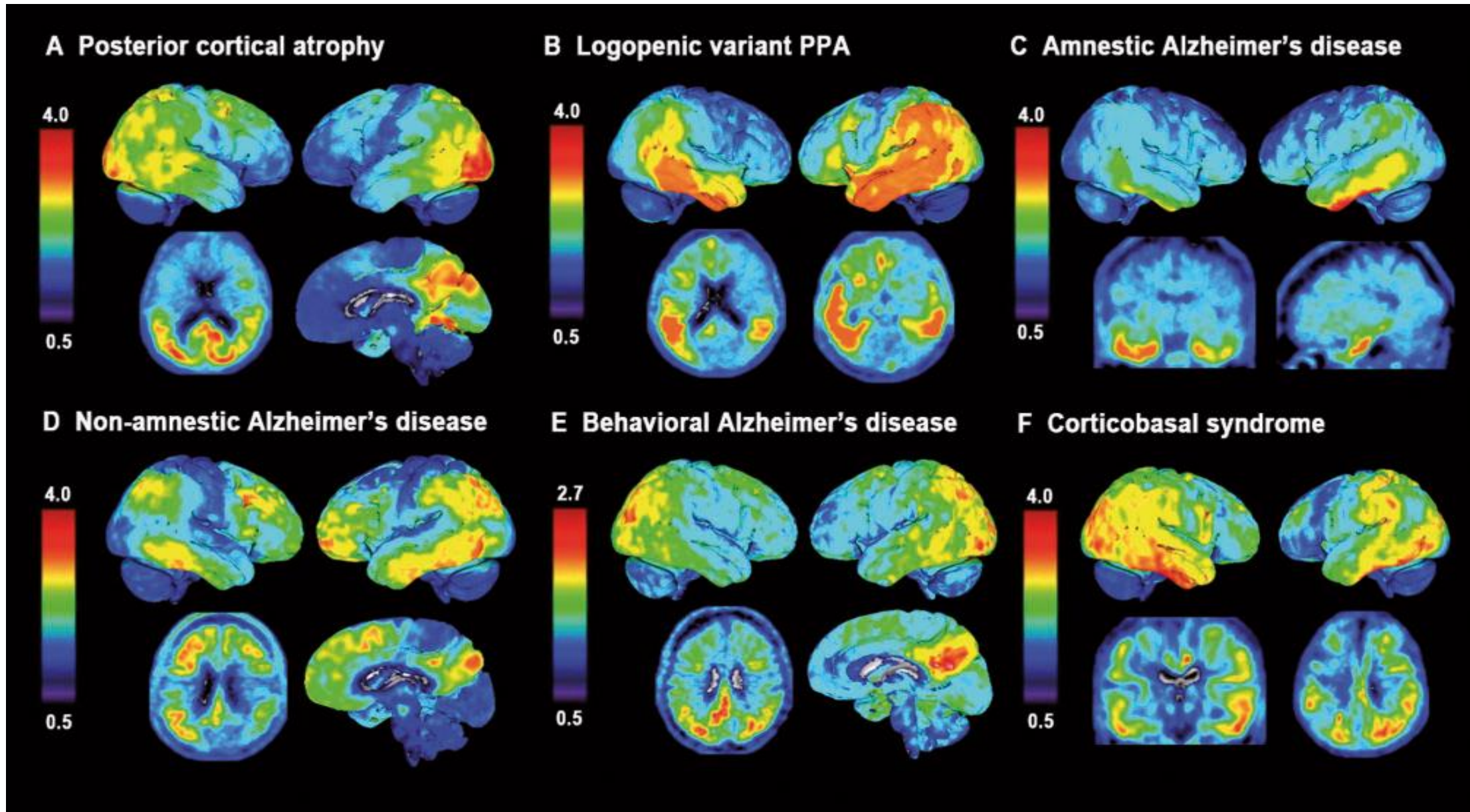
Leuzy, Chiotis et al Molecular Psychiatry 2019



Shi et al Nature 2021



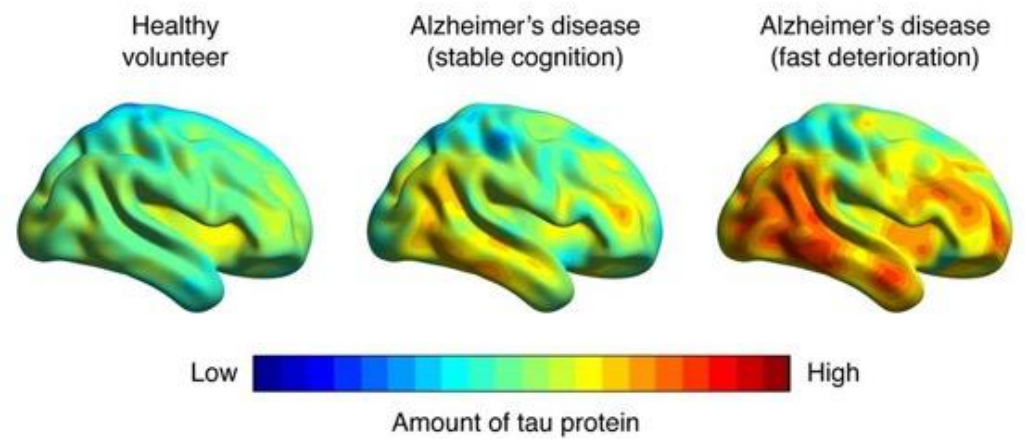
# Different AD phenotypes with different regional Tau deposition



$[^{18}\text{F}]$ -Flortaucipir PET

Ossenkoppele et al. Brain 2016

# TAU PET imaging can better predict cognitive decline than CSF biomarkers or FDG-PET



Chiotis et al. 2021

www.nature.com/mp

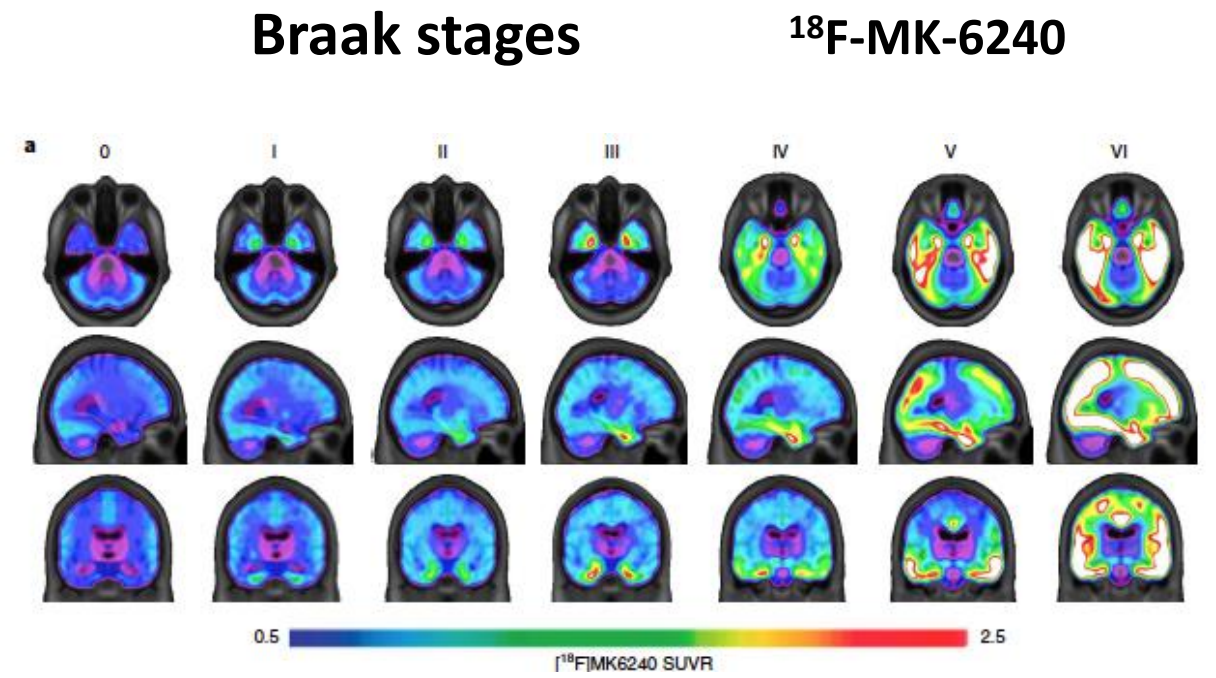
Molecular Psychiatry  
2021

ARTICLE OPEN

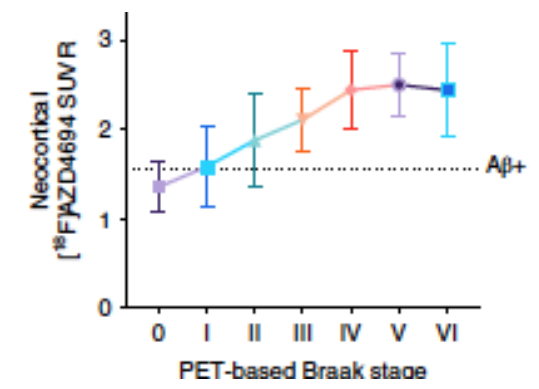
## Alzheimer's disease profiled by fluid and imaging markers: tau PET best predicts cognitive decline

Marco Buccì<sup>1</sup>, Konstantinos Chiotis<sup>1,2</sup> and Agneta Nordberg<sup>1,3</sup> for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative

# Biomarker modelling of AD using PET-based Braak staging with tau PET ligand 18F-MK-6240

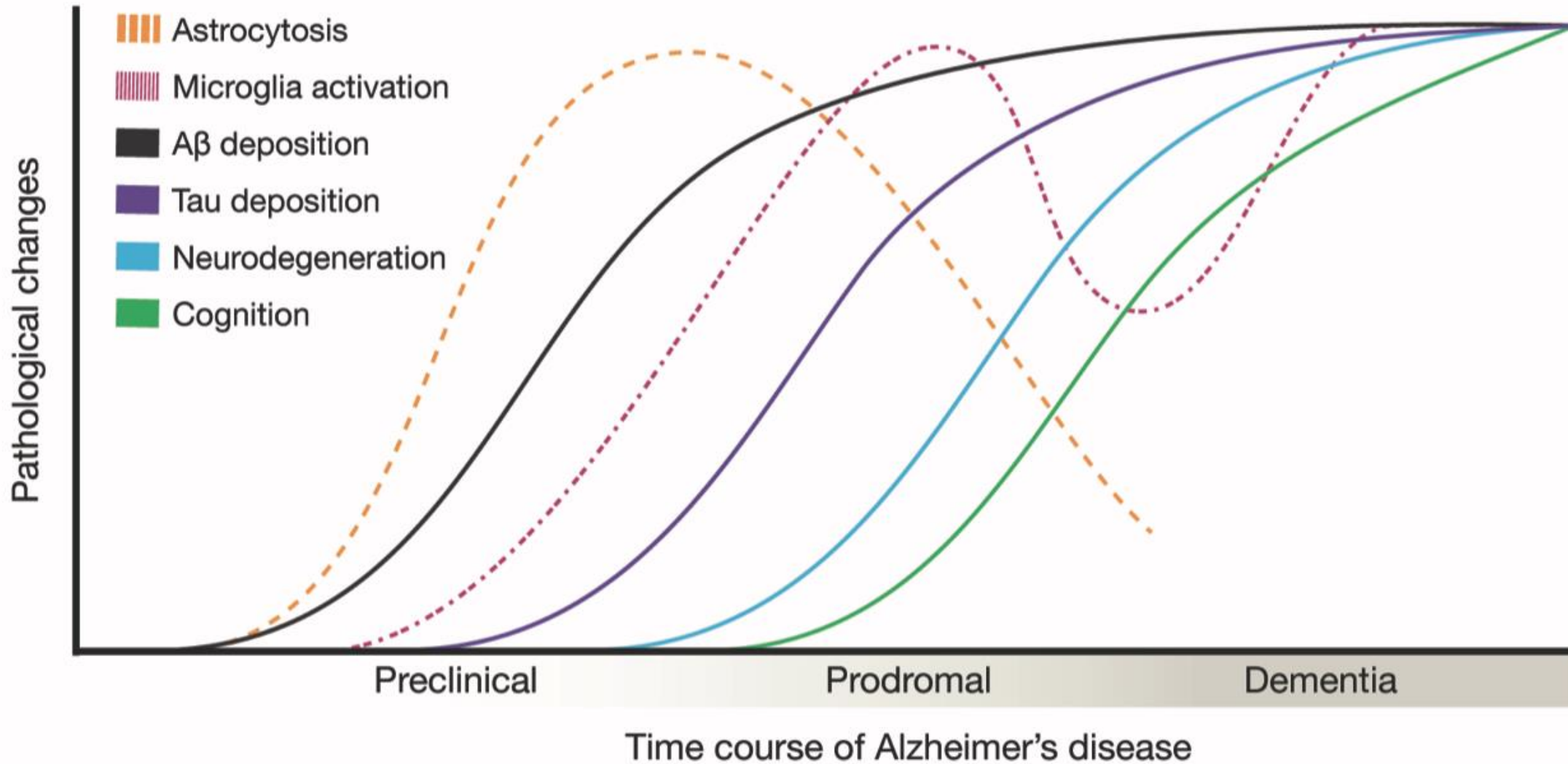


Therrialut et al. 2022



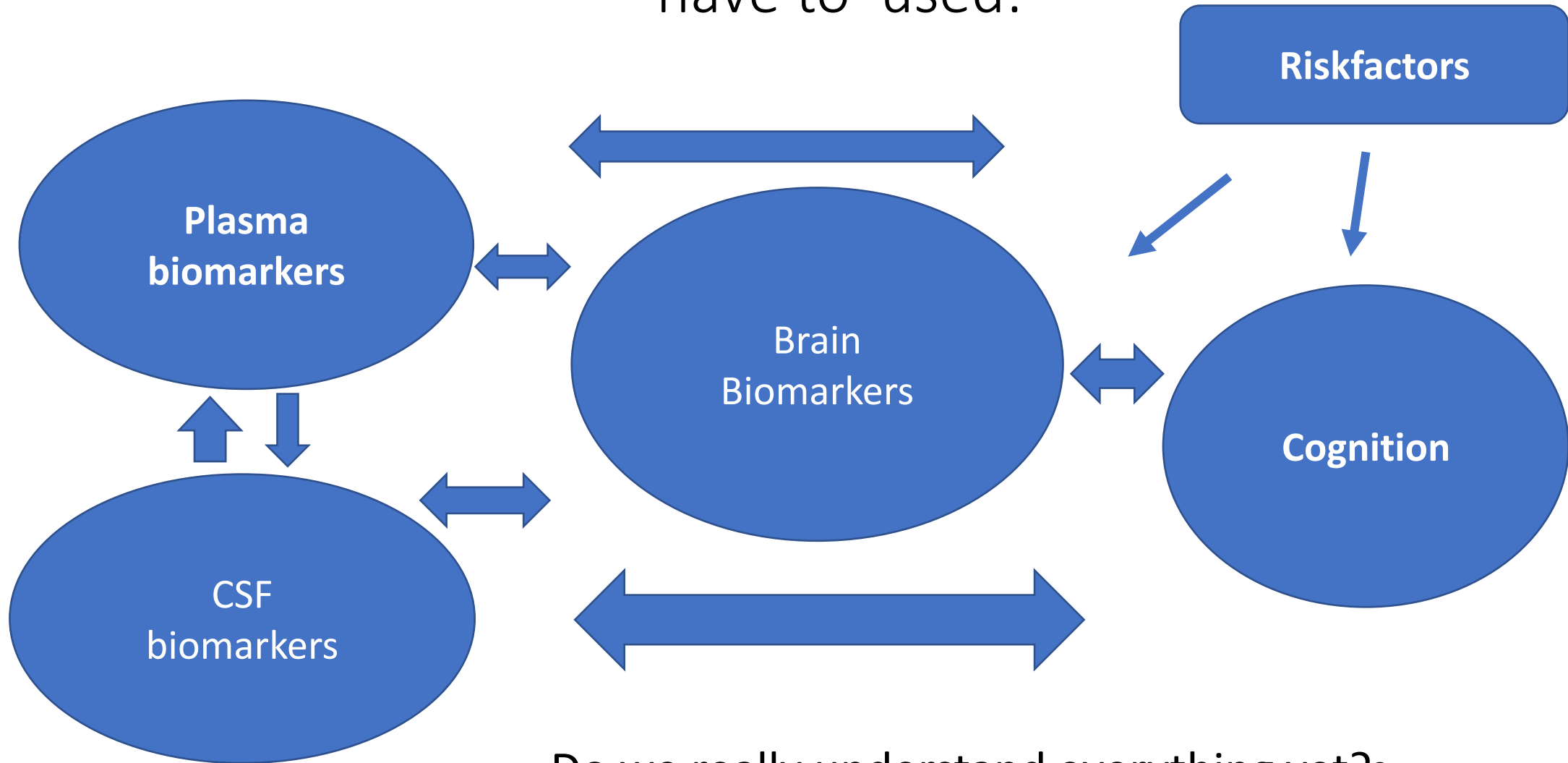
Amyloid PET

# What multi-tracer PET molecular imaging might tell us.....

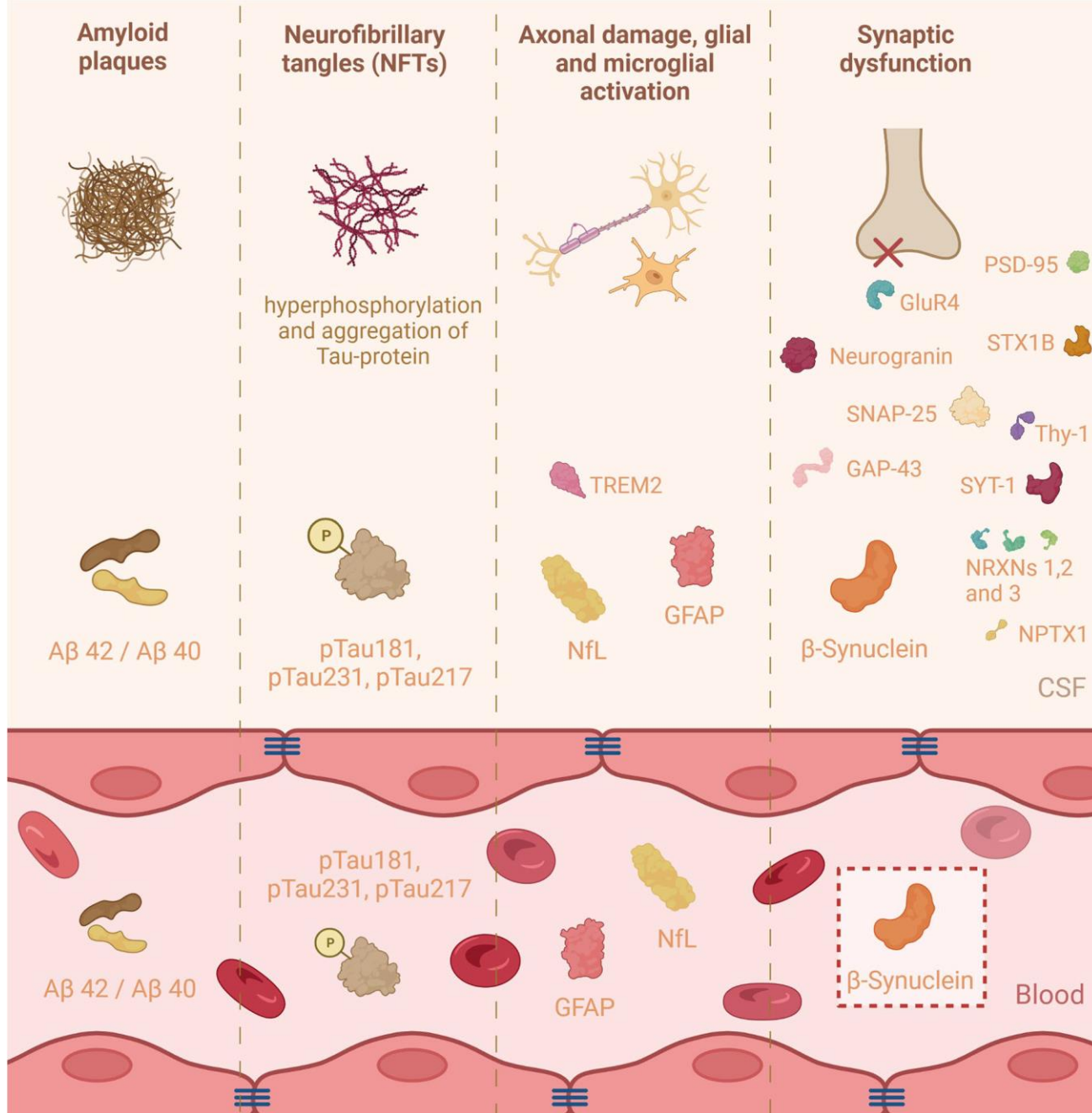


**MOLECULAR IMAGING** is rapidly developing and is now also coming into clinical praxis

To unravel the AD continuum different type of biomarkers have to used:



Do we really understand everything yet??



Mohaupt et al.2022

**Are the various biomarkers comparable?**

## Imaging and fluid biomarkers

### Brain

Amyloid PET

Tau Pet

Astrocyte PET

FDG PET

### CSF

Aβ 42

Aβ42/40

pTau

t-Tau

NFL

β-Synuclein

### Plasma biomarkers

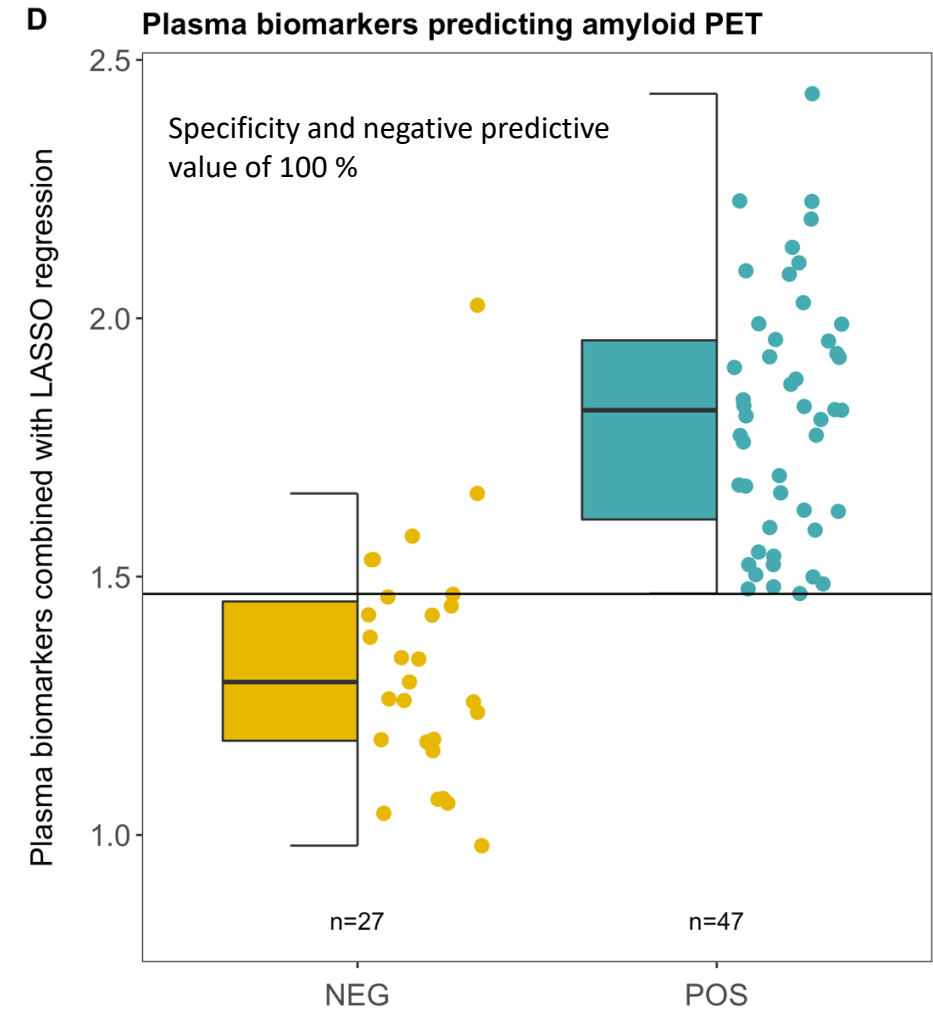
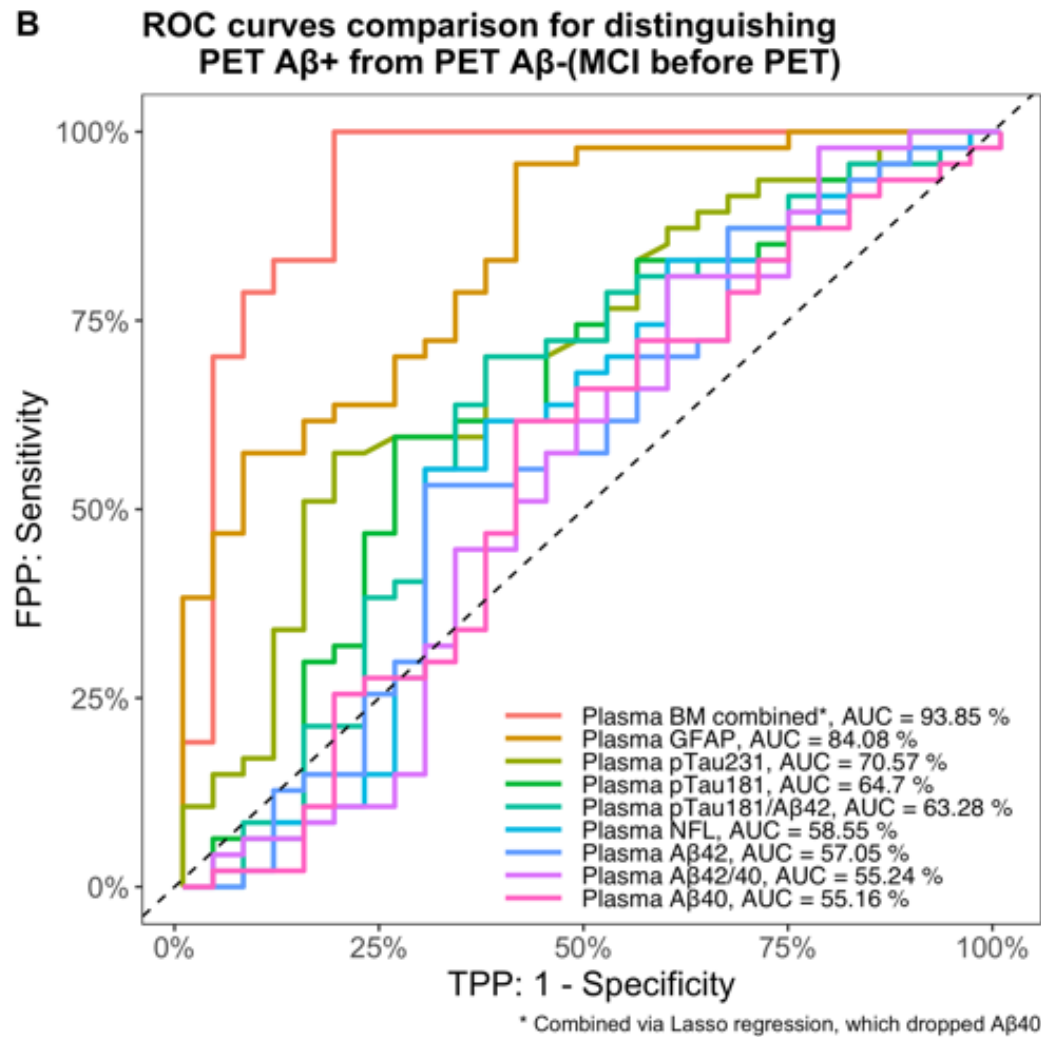
Aβ 42/40

p-Tau 181, p-Tau 231, p-Tau 217

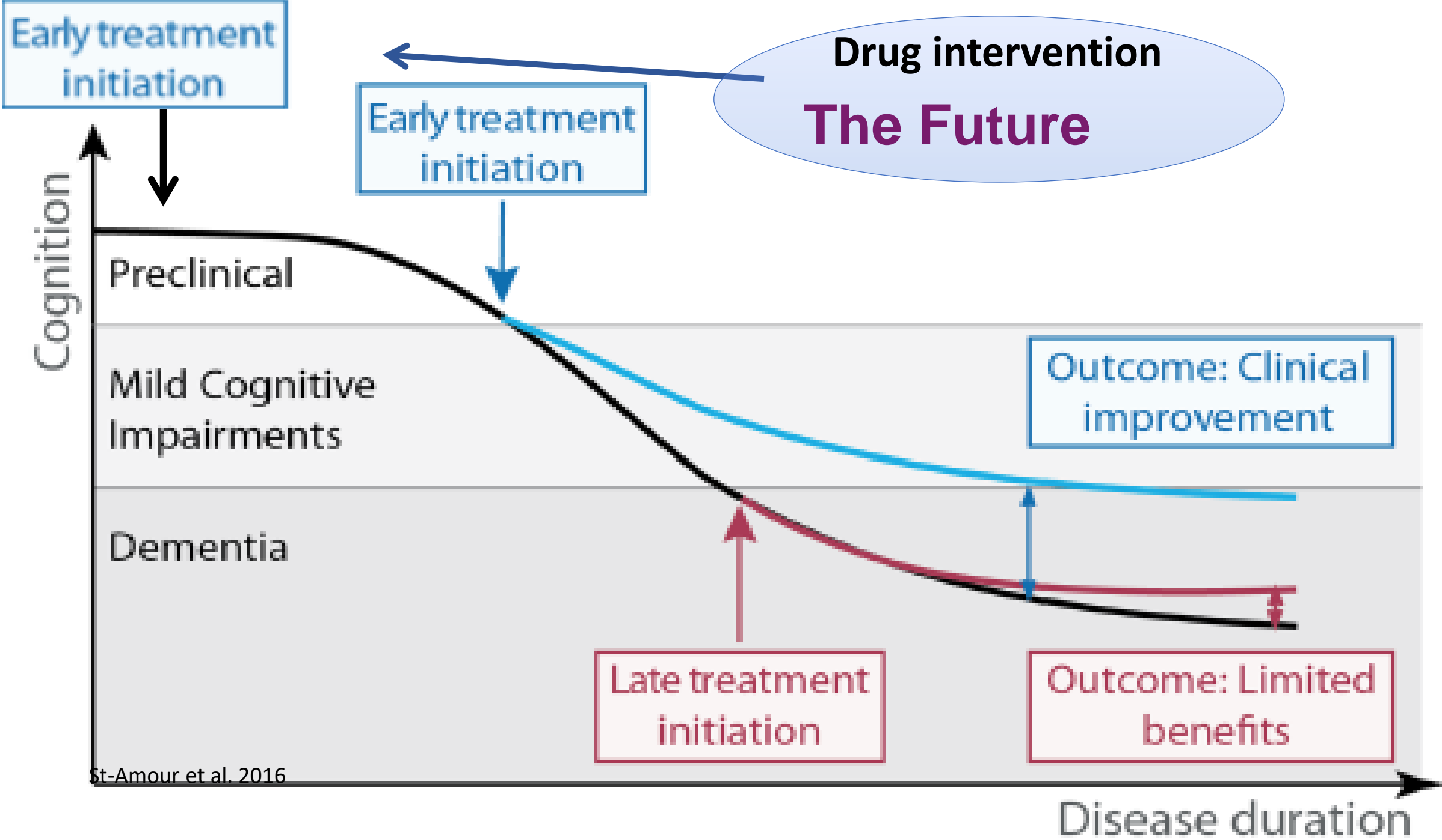
GFAP

NFL

β-Synuclein



Plasma biomarkers combined result in superior AUC to plasma biomarkers alone. Plasma GFAP and Plasma pTau231 important contributors to the pooled variables.



# New amyloid immunization therapy in Alzheimer's disease

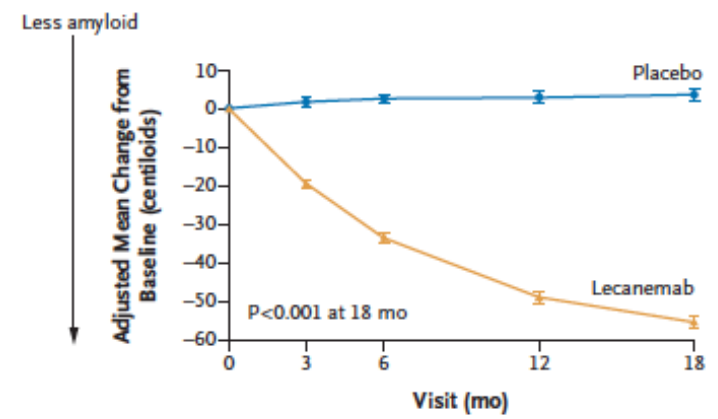
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Lecanemab in Early Alzheimer's Disease

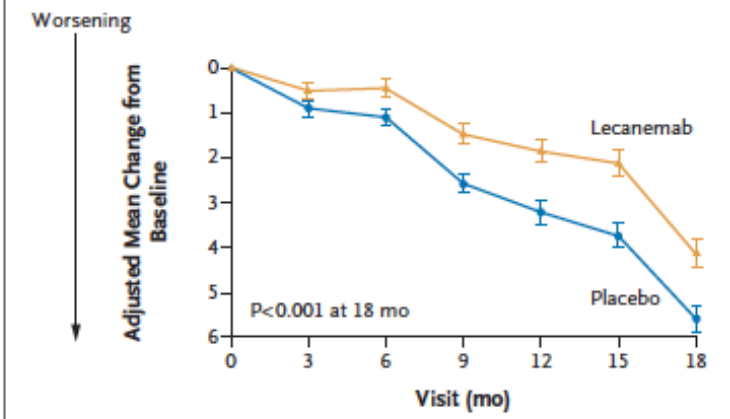
C.H. van Dyck, C.J. Swanson, C. Chen, M. Gee, M. Kanekiyo, D. Li, L. Reyderman, M. Sabbagh, B. Vellas, D. Watson, S. Dhadda, M. Irizarry, L.D. Kramer, and T. Iwatsubo

B Amyloid Burden on PET



No. of Participants	0	3	6	12	18
Lecanemab	354	296	275	276	210
Placebo	344	303	286	259	205

C ADAS-Cog14 Score



No. of Participants	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Lecanemab	854	819	793	771	753	730	703
Placebo	872	844	823	807	770	762	738

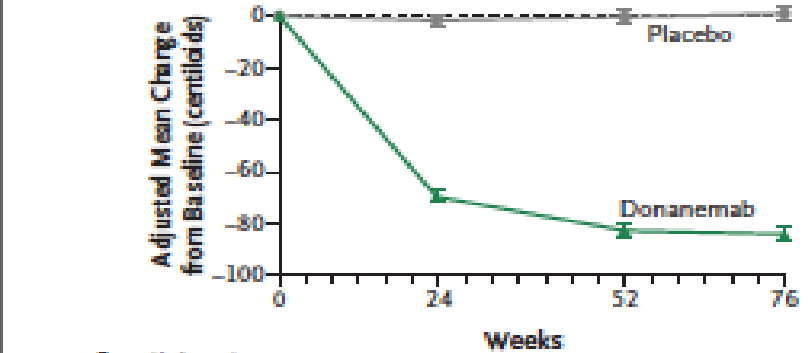
## The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

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## Donanemab in Early Alzheimer's Disease

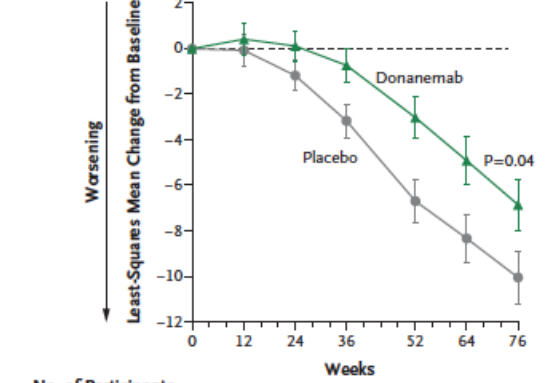
Mark A. Mintun, M.D., Albert C. Lo, M.D., Ph.D., Cynthia Duggan Evans, Ph.D., Alette M. Wessels, Ph.D., Paul A. Ardayfio, Ph.D., Scott W. Andersen, M.S., Sergey Shcherbinin, Ph.D., JonDavid Sparks, Ph.D., John R. Sims, M.D., Miroslaw Brys, M.D., Ph.D., Liana G. Apostolova, M.D., Stephen P. Salloway, M.D., and Daniel M. Skovronsky, M.D., Ph.D.

A Amyloid Plaque Level on Florbetapir PET



No. of Participants	0	24	52	76
Donanemab	121	115	92	90
Placebo	112	111	91	91

A Primary Outcome: iADRS Score



No. of Participants	0	12	24	36	52	64	76
Donanemab	125	120	112	102	88	89	93
Placebo	120	113	110	103	90	90	91



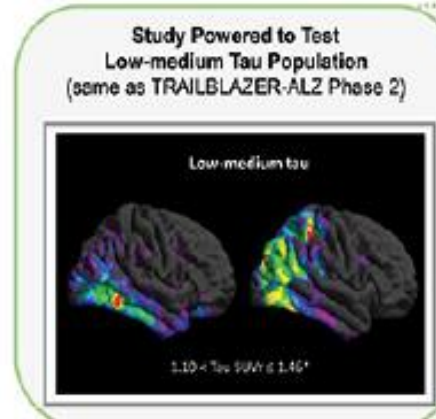
# Donanemab in Early Symptomatic Alzheimer Disease The TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 2 Randomized Clinical Trial

John R. Sims, MD; Jennifer A. Zimmer, MD; Cynthia D. Evans, PhD; Ming Lu, MD, MS, MPH; Paul Ardayfio, PhD; JonDavid Sparks, PhD; Alette M. Wessels, PhD; Sergey Shcherbinin, PhD; Hong Wang, PhD; Emel Serap Monkul Nery, MD; Emily C. Collins, PhD; Paul Solomon, PhD; Stephen Salloway, MD; Liana G. Apostolova, MD; Oskar Hansson, MD, PhD; Craig Ritchie, MD, PhD; Dawn A. Brooks, PhD; Mark Mintun, MD; Daniel M. Skovronsky, MD, PhD; for the TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 2 Investigators

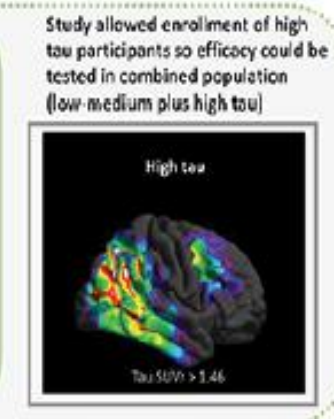
## TAU PET prior treatment



No tau



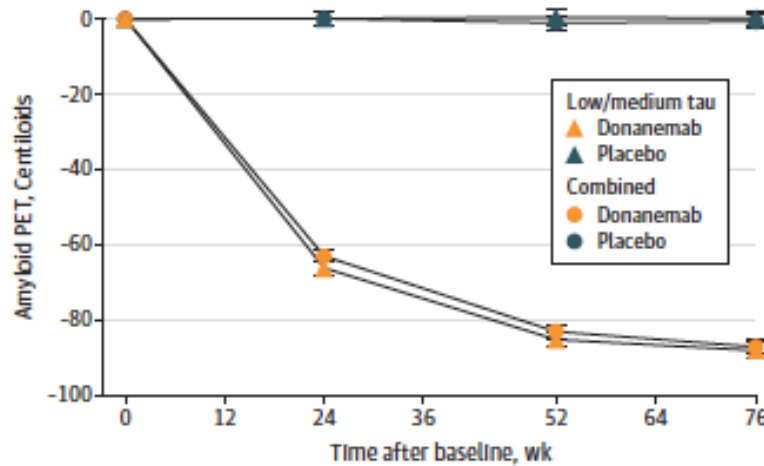
Low-medium tau



High tau

**A** Adjusted mean change (95% CI) in amyloid PET

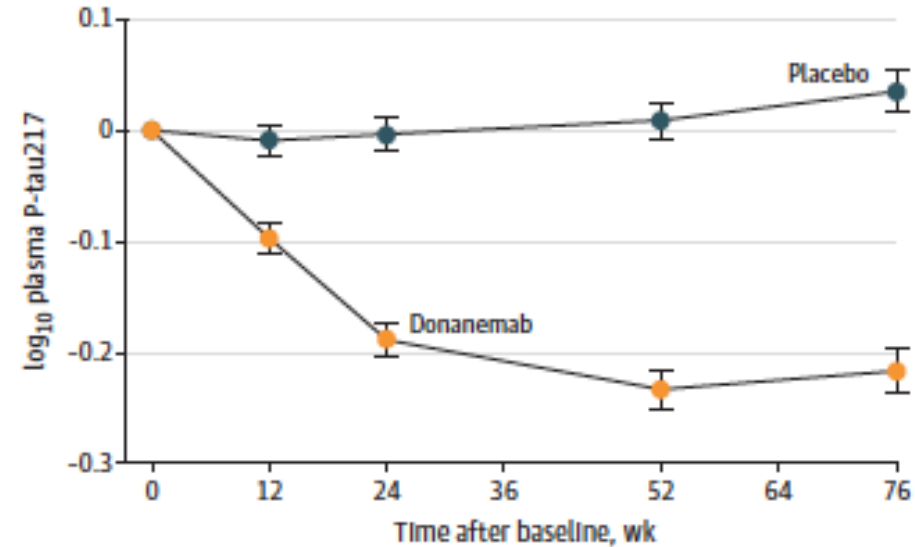
## Amyloid PET



No. of participants	0	24	52	76	76-wk value, Centiloids	Difference from baseline %
Low/medium tau Donanemab	525	521	463	433	-88.0	-85.5
Low/medium tau Placebo	556	552	498	470	0.2	0.2
Combined Donanemab	765	760	670	614	-87.0	-83.7
Combined Placebo	812	805	729	690	-0.7	-0.7

**C** Adjusted mean change (95% CI) of log<sub>10</sub> plasma P-tau217 in low/medium tau population

## Plasma P-tau217



No. of participants	0	12	24	52	76
Placebo	537	517	511	449	429
Donanemab	522	493	464	410	395



No effect of donanemab treatment on Tau PET (18F-flortaucipir)

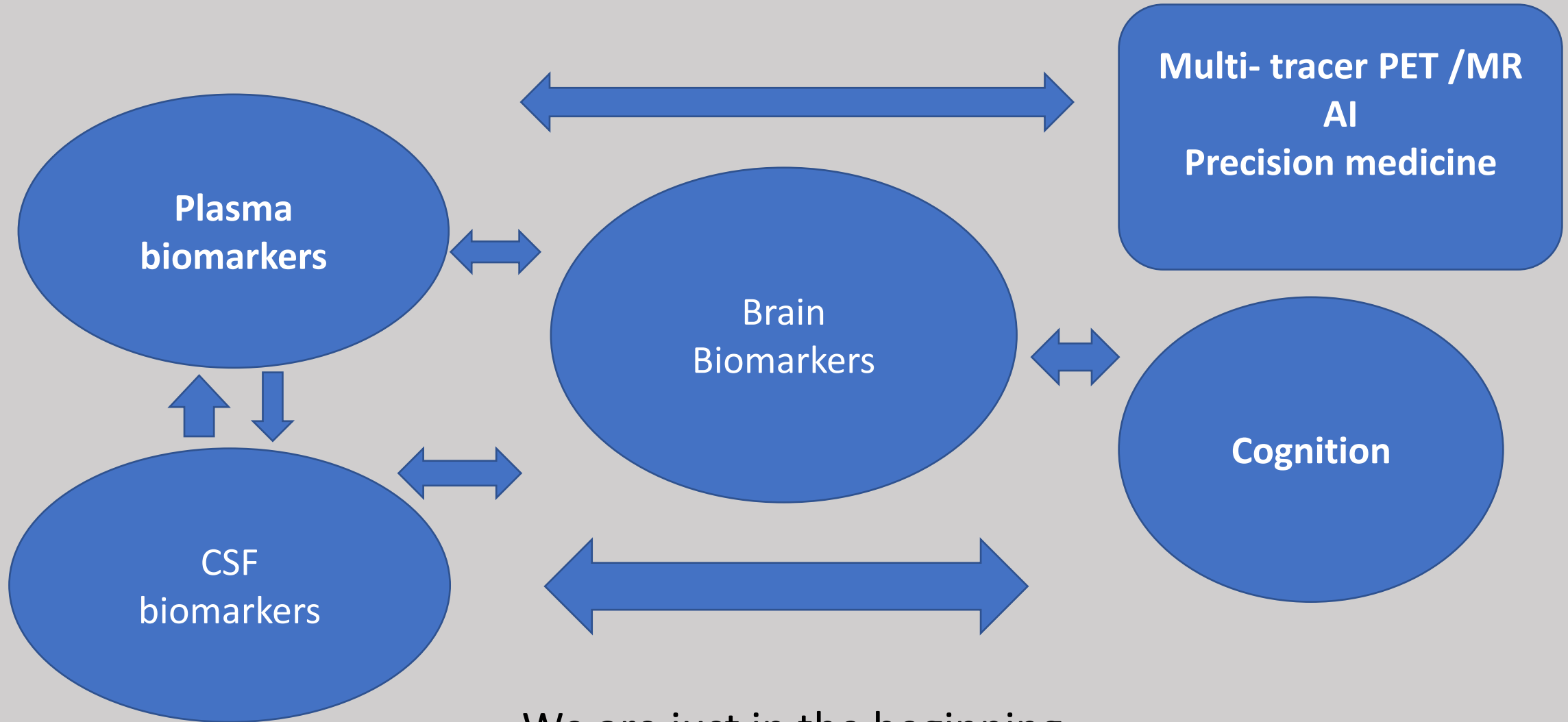
# Can We Use Blood Biomarkers as Entry Criteria and for Monitoring Drug Treatment Effects in Clinical Trials? A Report from the EU/US CTAD Task Force

*D. Angioni<sup>1</sup>, O. Hansson<sup>2</sup>, R.J. Bateman<sup>3</sup>, C. Rabe<sup>4</sup>, M. Toloue<sup>5</sup>, J.B. Braunstein<sup>6</sup>, S. Agus<sup>7</sup>, J.R. Sims<sup>8</sup>, T. Bittner<sup>4</sup>, M.C. Carrillo<sup>9</sup>, H. Fillit<sup>10</sup>, C.L. Masters<sup>11</sup>, S. Salloway<sup>12</sup>, P. Aisen<sup>13</sup>, M. Weiner<sup>14</sup>, B. Vellas<sup>1-15</sup>, S. Gauthier<sup>16</sup> and the EU/US/CTAD Task force*

**Table 1. Some examples of BBMs use in clinical trials as entry criteria**

PRE-SCREENING						
Study	Clinicaltrial.gov Identifier	Phase	Population	Drug	BBM	Confirmatory Exam
AUTONOMY	NCT04619420	II	Early symptomatic AD	JNJ-63733657	p-tau217	Tau PET
INVOKE-2	NCT04592874	II	Early symptomatic AD	AL002	PrecivityAD™ (algorithm derived from Aβ 42/40, ApoE and Age)	Amyloid PET or CSF
PROSPECT-ALZ	NCT05063539	II	Early symptomatic AD	LY3372689	p-tau217	Amyloid PET Tau PET
TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 2	NCT04437511	III	Early symptomatic AD	Donanemab	p-tau181	Amyloid PET Tau PET
AHEAD 3-45	NCT04468659	III	Preclinical AD	Lecanemab	Aβ42/40 ratio	Amyloid PET
SKYLINE	NCT05256134	III	Preclinical AD	Gantenerumab	p-tau181 and ApoE	Amyloid PET or CSF
SCREENING						
Study	Clinicaltrial.gov Identifier	Phase	Population	Drug	BBM	
TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 3	NCT05026866	III	Preclinical AD	Donanemab	p-tau217	

# Molecular brain imaging a promising future key-player for biomarker discovery and clinical translation in neurodegenerative diseases



We are just in the beginning.....