

Prevention of Amyloidogenic Peptide-Induced Network and Cognitive Deficits by Activation of Peptide Degradation Mechanisms – A Drug Discovery and Translational Project Proposal

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Country

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Title of project or programme

Prevention of Amyloidogenic Peptide-Induced Network and Cognitive Deficits by Activation of Peptide Degradation Mechanisms - A Drug Discovery and Translational Project Proposal

Source of funding information

Swedish Research Council

Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 435,256

Start date of award

01/01/2015

Total duration of award in years

4

Keywords

Research Abstract

Amyloid diseases encompass some of the most devastating conditions such as Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD) and Huntington's disease (HD). Common to all is cognitive decline in patients and, on the molecular level, the aggregation of disease-typical

peptides such as amyloid b-peptide (AD), a-synuclein (PD), huntingtin (HD), and tau (several neurodegenerative diseases). Cognitive decline in patients is paralleled by a decrease of the gamma oscillations and neuronal desynchronization. The cellular mechanisms responsible for this neuronal dysfunction are unclear. Under physiological conditions the brain prevents excessive amyloid formation using defense mechanisms such as BRICHOS domain, or removes excessive peptide through the ubiquitin-proteosomal or the autophagy-lysosomal peptide clearing systems. Whether these protection and clearing mechanisms are actively degraded in AD, PD and HD, or just overwhelmed, is currently unknown. Based on extensive pilot data we will investigate the aggregation process of amyloidogenic peptides and describe the functional consequences on the cellular, synaptic, network and behavioral level. We aim to develop and refine compounds that interfere with peptide aggregation or activate the peptide removal machinery of the cell (proteosome/lysosome) and test whether they are able to prevent and/or rescue the functional impairment on the cellular, synaptic, network and behavioral level caused by peptide aggregation.

Further information available at:

Types:

Investments < €500k

Member States:

Sweden

Diseases:

N/A

Years:

2016

Database Categories:

N/A

Database Tags:

N/A