

TDP-43 acetylation as a pathogenic modification in ALS & related proteinopathies

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/tdp-43-acetylation-as-a-pathogenic-modification-in-als-related-proteinopathies/>

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Country

USA

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TDP-43 acetylation as a pathogenic modification in ALS & related proteinopathies

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NIH (NIA)

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15/06/2014

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3

The project/programme is most relevant to:

Motor neurone diseases|Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Keywords

protein TDP-43, DNA-Binding Proteins, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Acetylation, Frontotemporal Lobar Degenerations

Research Abstract

7 Project Summary/Abstract Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a devastating motor neuron

disease with a 35 year survival rate and no disease modifying therapies. TAR DNA binding protein of 43kD (TDP43) is a nuclear RNA and DNA binding protein that becomes abnormally aggregated in the brain and spinal cord of most ALS patients as well as a subset of dementia patients (frontotemporal lobar degeneration with TDP43 pathology, or FTLDTDP), placing ALS and FTLDTDP within a spectrum of diseases known as TDP43 proteinopathies. Although TDP43 pathology has been implicated in disease onset and progression, little is known about how TDP43 becomes aggregated leading to progressive neurodegeneration. My long term goal is to uncover the pathogenic mechanisms that promote TDP43 aggregation, which will provide insights for future therapies against these debilitating diseases. Post translational modifications have been implicated in the progression of neurodegenerative diseases. Using my background in acetylation biology, I previously demonstrated that acetylation of the tau protein promotes tangle formation in Alzheimer's disease and related tauopathies (Nat Commun. 2011~2:252). I have now demonstrated that TDP43 is subject to acetylation, thus highlighting a new TDP43 modification that is potentially linked to ALS and related proteinopathies. The central hypothesis of this proposal is to determine whether acetylation of TDP43 promotes aggregation and neurodegeneration. To accomplish this goal, I will acquire expertise in neuropathology from the mentoring laboratory and analyze TDP43 acetylation in ALS and FTLDTDP post-mortem brain and spinal cord as well as TDP43 transgenic mice characterized by TDP43 pathology and neurodegeneration. To directly determine whether acetylated TDP43 promotes disease, primary neuronal cultures and transgenic mice expressing acetylated TDP43 will be evaluated for hallmarks, toxicity, and neurodegeneration that recapitulate human TDP43 proteinopathies. Having established the disease relevance of TDP43 acetylation, the independent phase will utilize cell-based approaches to investigate the biological significance of acetylation in causing TDP43 binding to target genes and RNAs, leading to a TDP43 loss of function. Finally, as investigator, I will utilize K99 phase training in neurodegenerative disease to generate a hyper-acetylated TDP43 and determine the ALS phenotype in both brain and skeletal muscle. These innovative studies will highlight TDP43 acetylation as a critical modification linked to the progression of ALS and related TDP43 proteinopathies.

Lay Summary

Project narrative Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD-TDP) represent two major TDP43 proteinopathies with no effective treatment strategies. The proposed studies will provide insights into the underlying mechanism of TDP 43 aggregation and highlight acetylated TDP 43 as a therapeutic target and potential biomarker for patients with ALS and related TDP43 proteinopathies.

Further information available at:

Types:

Investments > €500k

Member States:

United States of America

Diseases:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias, Motor neurone diseases

Years:

2016

Database Categories:

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