

# Model Organism Development and Evaluation for Late-onset Alzheimer's Disease (MODEL-AD) Consortium

Translational Infrastructure for Next-Gen Animal Models Development  
and  
Rigorous Preclinical Efficacy Testing:  
Overview of MODEL-AD Capabilities

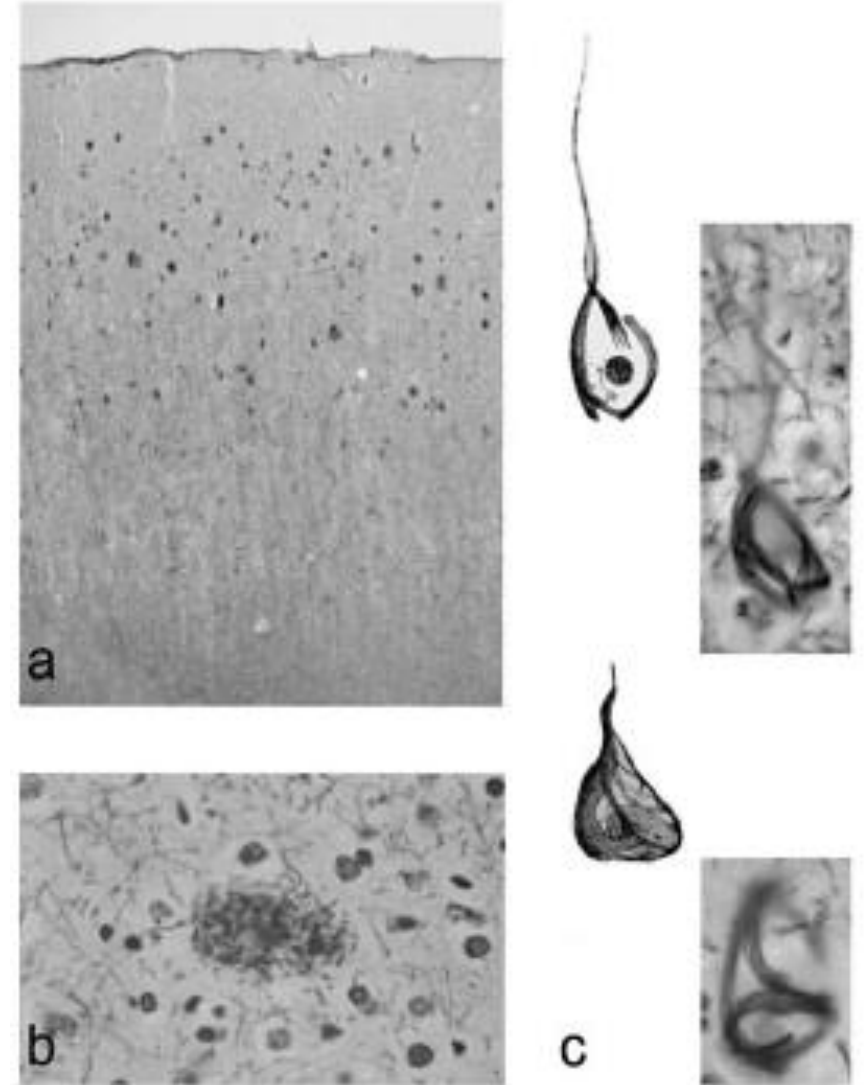
Bruce Lamb

Frank M. LaFerla



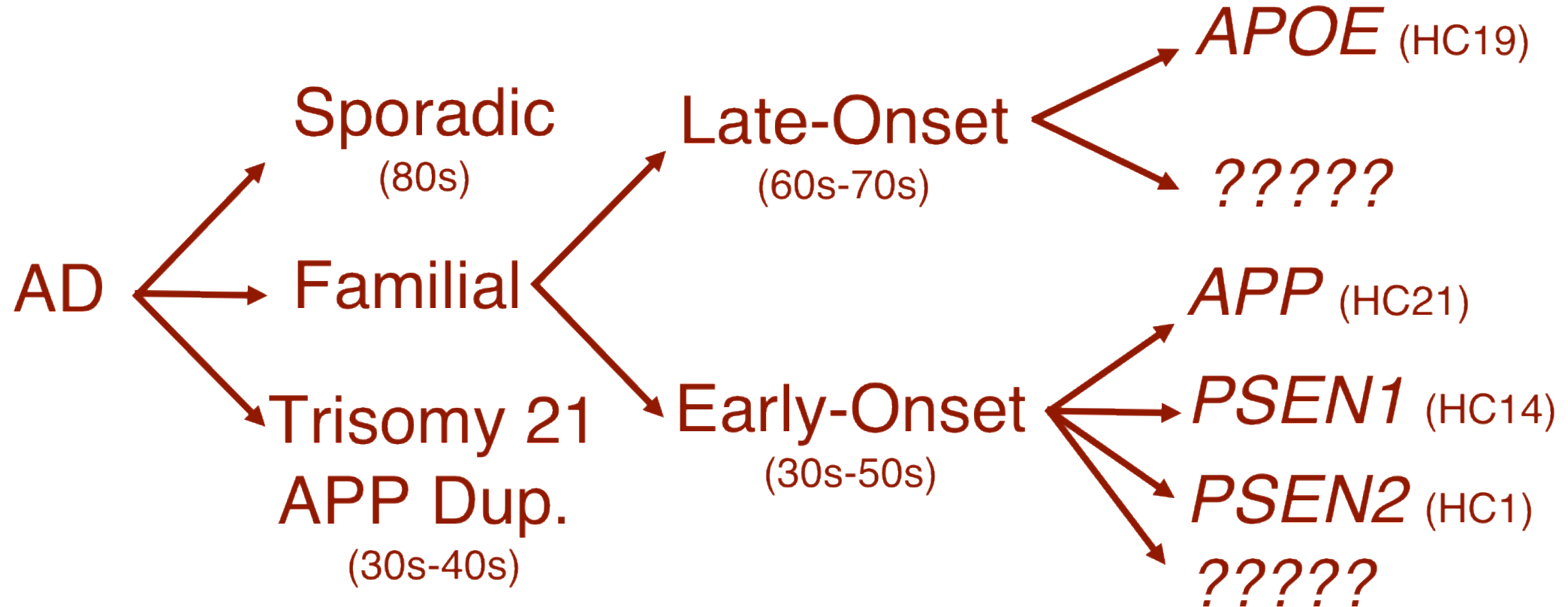
# Alzheimer's Disease Is Defined by Distinctive Brain Pathology

- ◆ **Senile Plaques**
  - ✓ Extracellular Deposition of Fibrillar  $\beta$ -Amyloid ( $A\beta$ ) Peptide
- ◆ **Neurofibrillary Tangles (NFTs)**
  - ✓ Intracellular Accumulation of Hyperphosphorylated MAPT Protein
  - ✓ Also Observed in Other Neurodegenerative Diseases (FTDP, PSP, etc.)

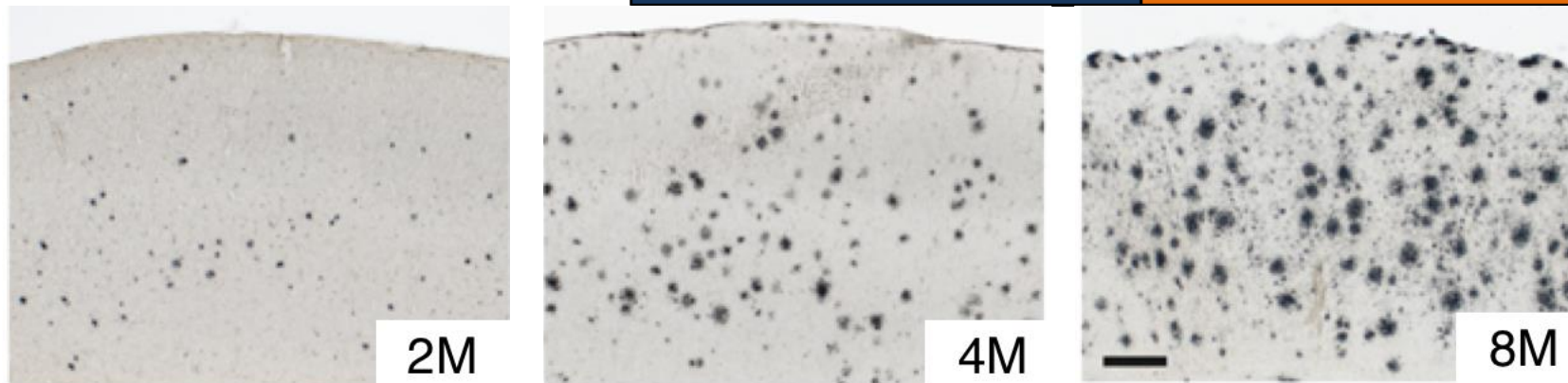
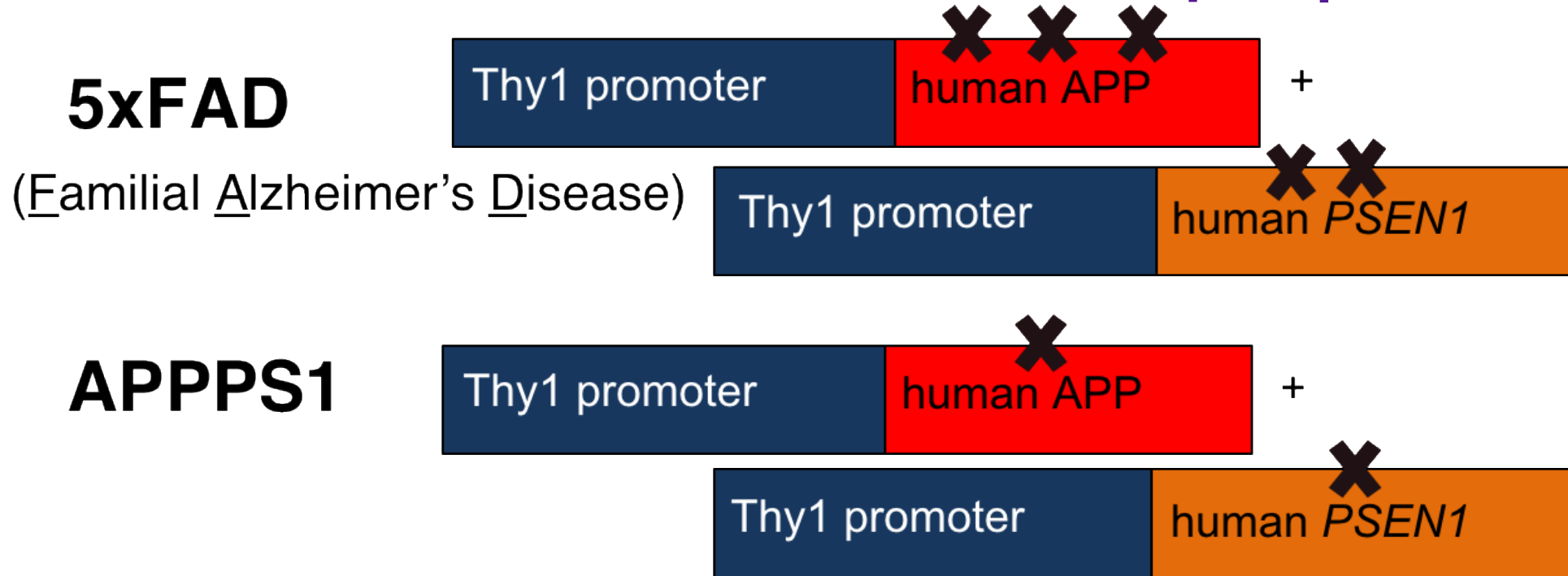


# Alzheimer's Disease Genetics

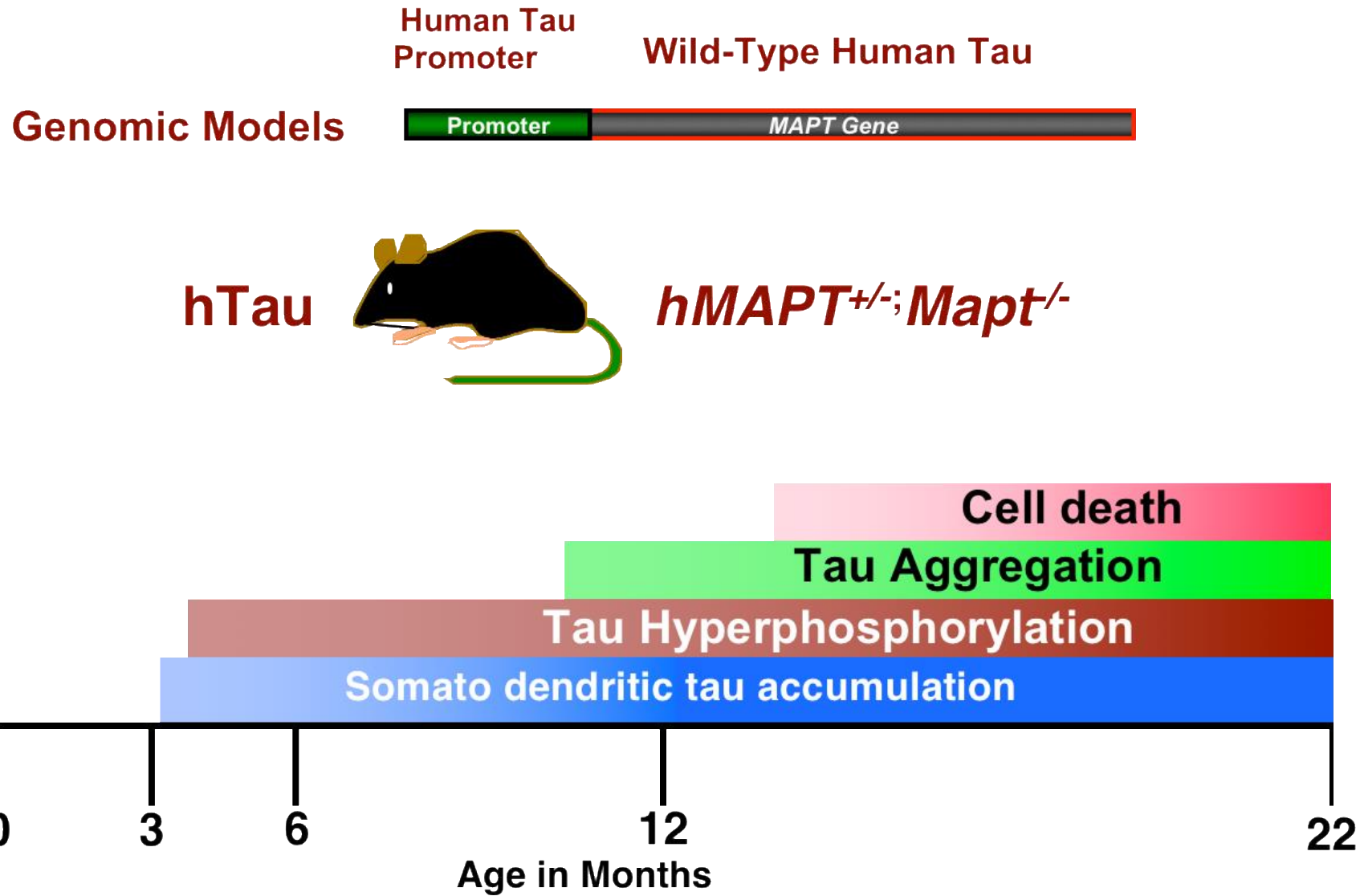
## Genes/Loci



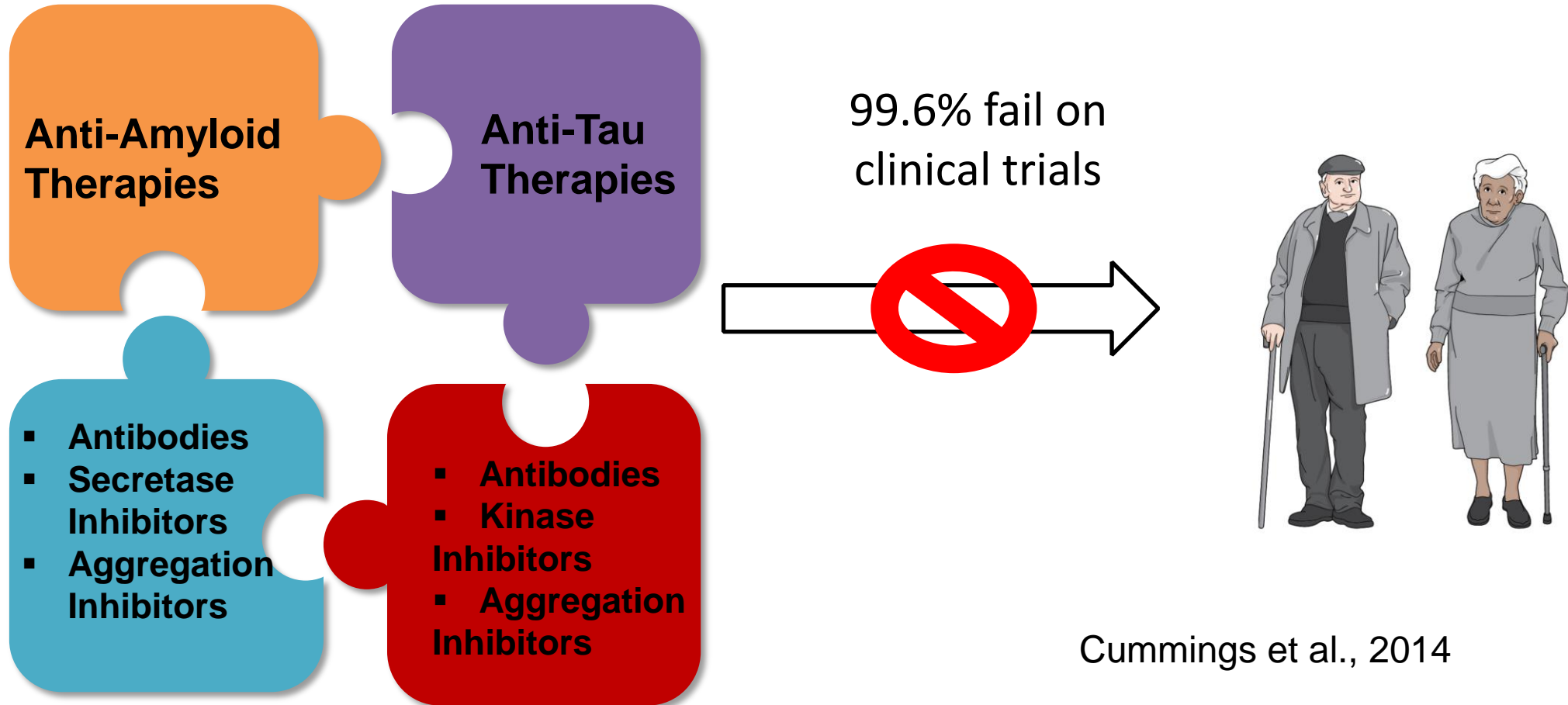
# Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Models: A $\beta$ Deposition



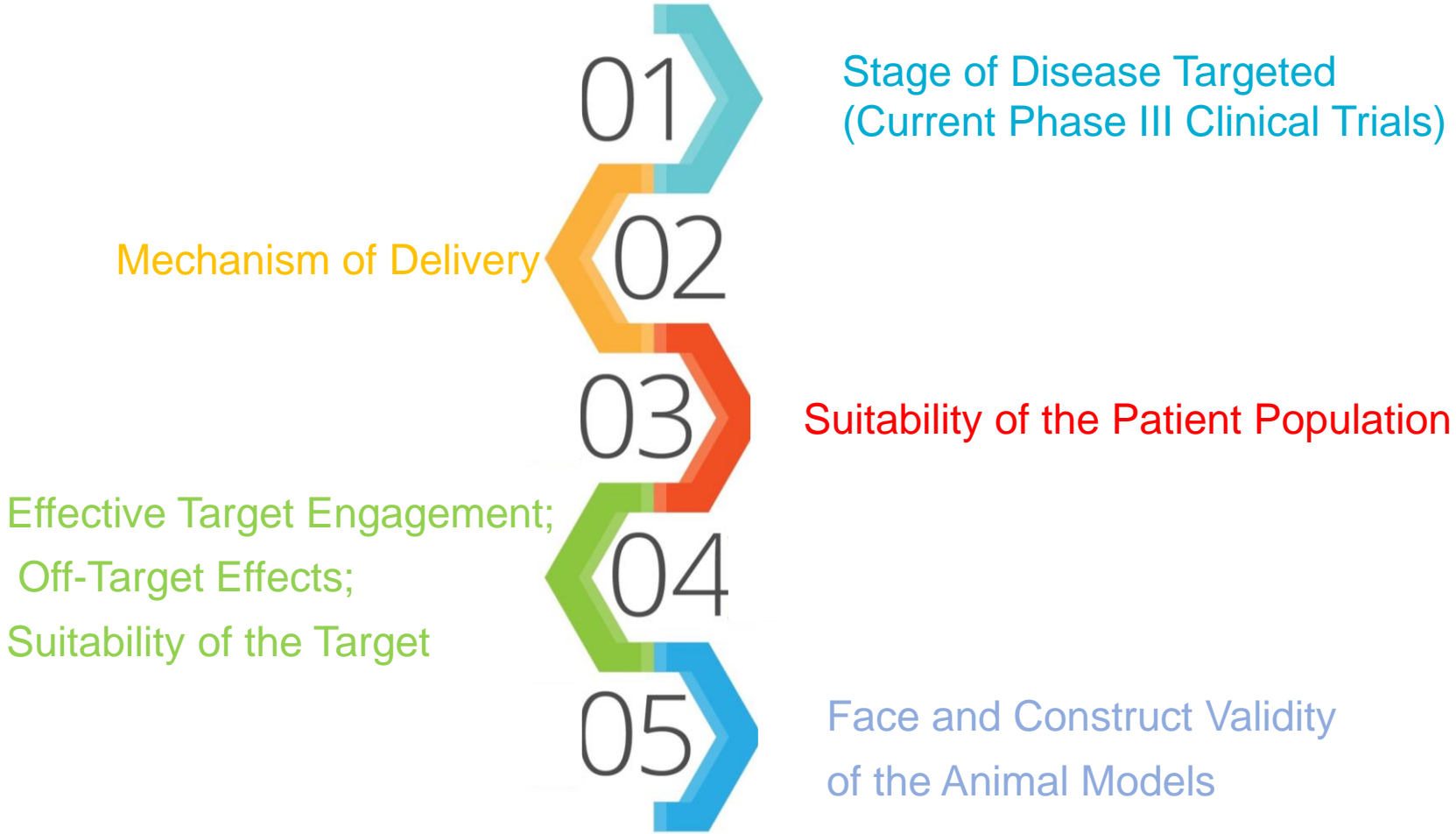
# Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Models: Tau Pathology



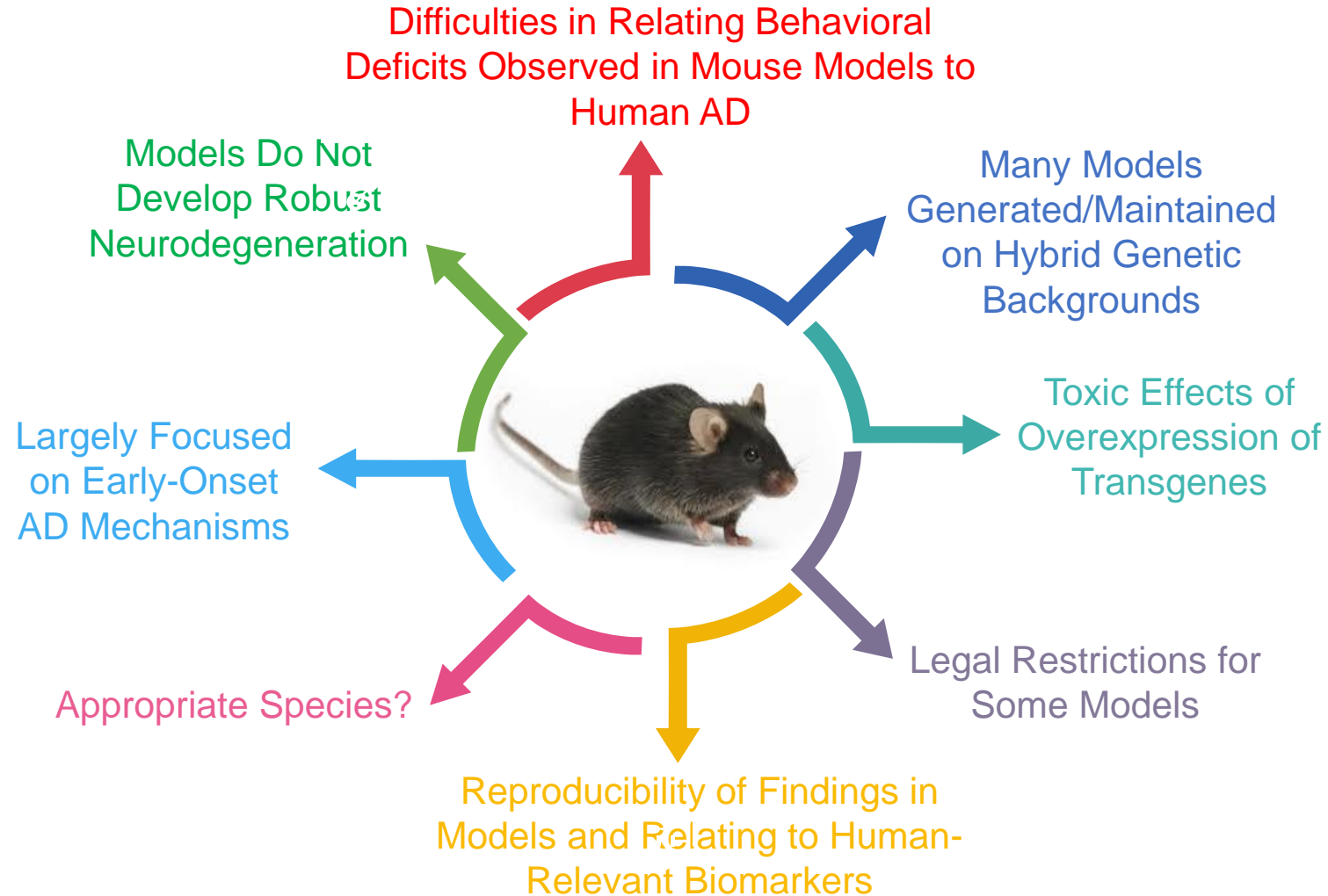
# Therapies Developed in Mouse Models of AD



# Reasons for Clinical Trials Failure?



# Concerns with Existing Animal Models





# Recommendations from 2015 AD Summit

- Develop the **next generation of *in vivo* models based on human data** to explore Alzheimer's and related dementia
- Establish a **standardized and rigorous process for the development and characterization of animal models**, and ensuring their **maximal and rapid availability** to all researchers for preclinical drug development
- Align the pathophysiological features of AD animal models with the corresponding stages of clinical disease using **translatable biomarkers**
- Establish guidelines **for rigorous preclinical testing** in animal models and **reporting of both positive and negative findings**



NIA Funding Initiative RFA AG16-04



## MODEL-AD Consortium

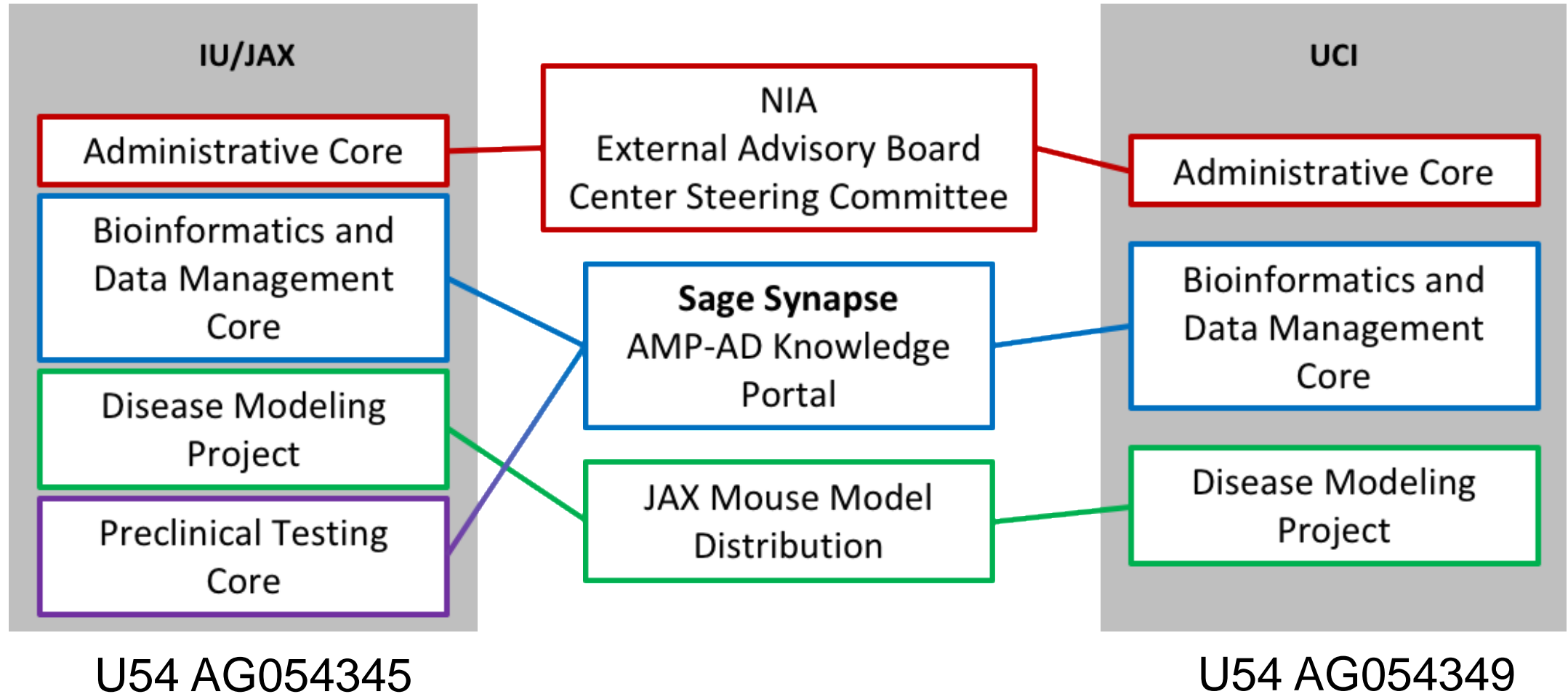
**M**odel **O**rganism **D**evelopment and **E**valuation for  
**L**ate-onset **A**lzheimer's **D**isease

**U54 AG054345 (IU/JAX), U54 AG054349 (UCI)**

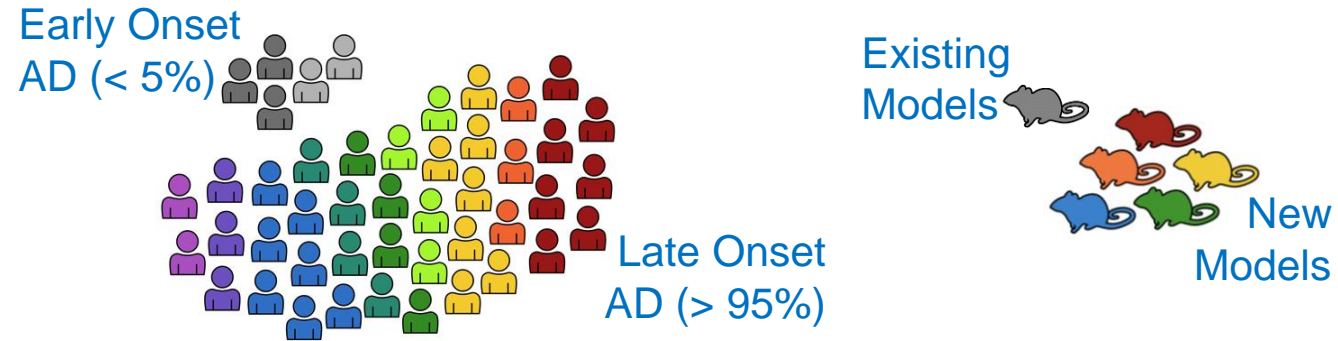
Expand animal model resources for basic research and preclinical testing of candidate therapeutics with 50 new mouse models of AD and AD pathology.



# MODEL-AD Consortium



# Overall MODEL-AD Goals



- Prioritize LOAD variants for animal modeling
- Create new mouse models with CRISPR (piloting rat models)
- High-capacity screening of all models, deep phenotyping of promising models
- Alignment of mouse and human phenotypes (neuropath, 'omics, imaging)
- Preclinical testing of the most promising models and therapeutics
- Broad, unrestricted distribution of all data and models

## Bioinformatics and Data Management Core

The Jackson Lab Sage  
Bionetworks  
Indiana U UC Irvine

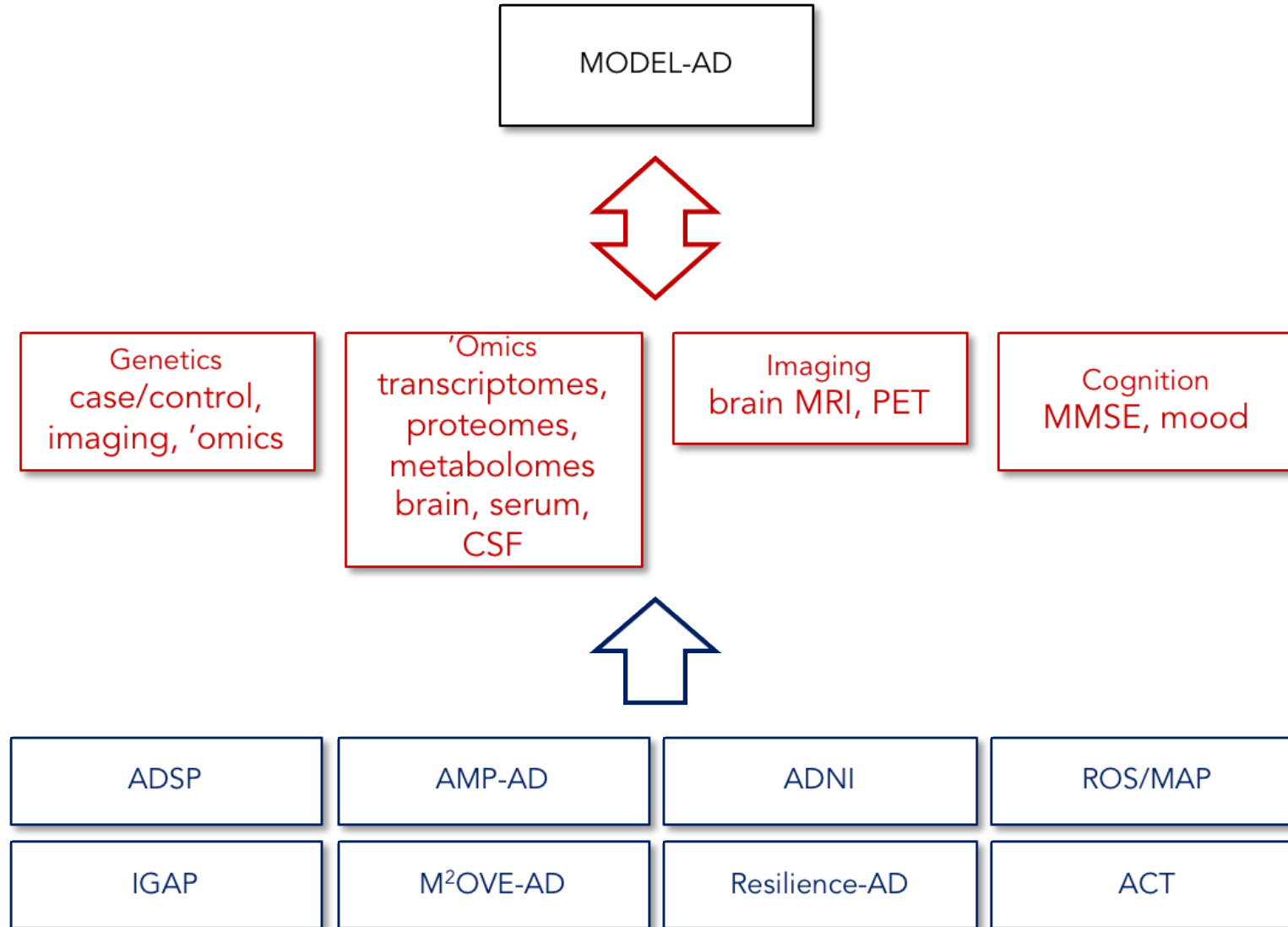
## Disease Modeling Project

The Jackson Lab  
Indiana U UC Irvine

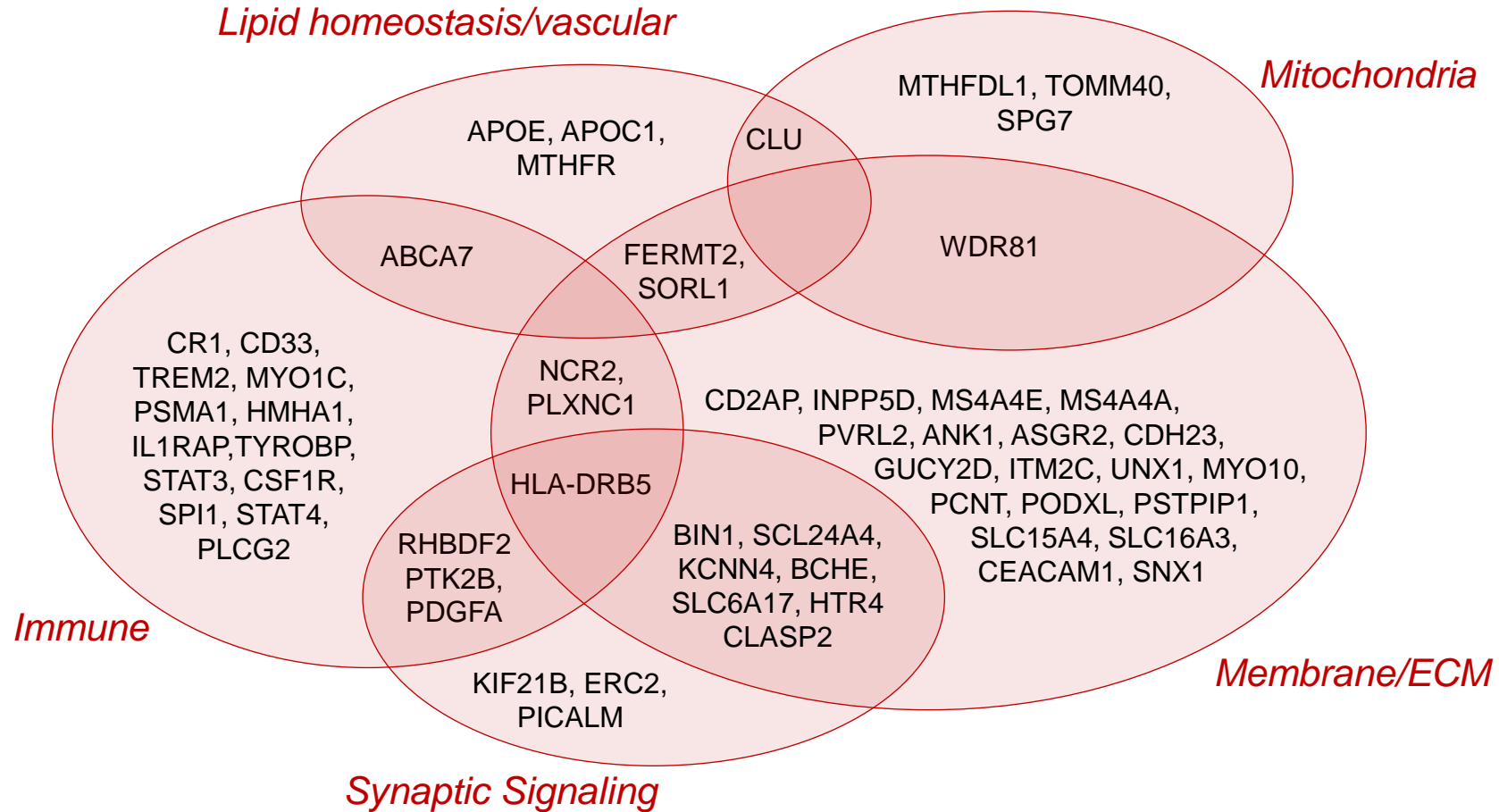
## Preclinical Testing Core

Indiana U The Jackson Lab  
Sage Bionetworks

# Leveraging the AD Data Universe



# IU/JAX: Variant Prioritization



- Significance in multiple studies
- Predicted effect on function

- Human-mouse sequence conservation
- Differential expression in AD

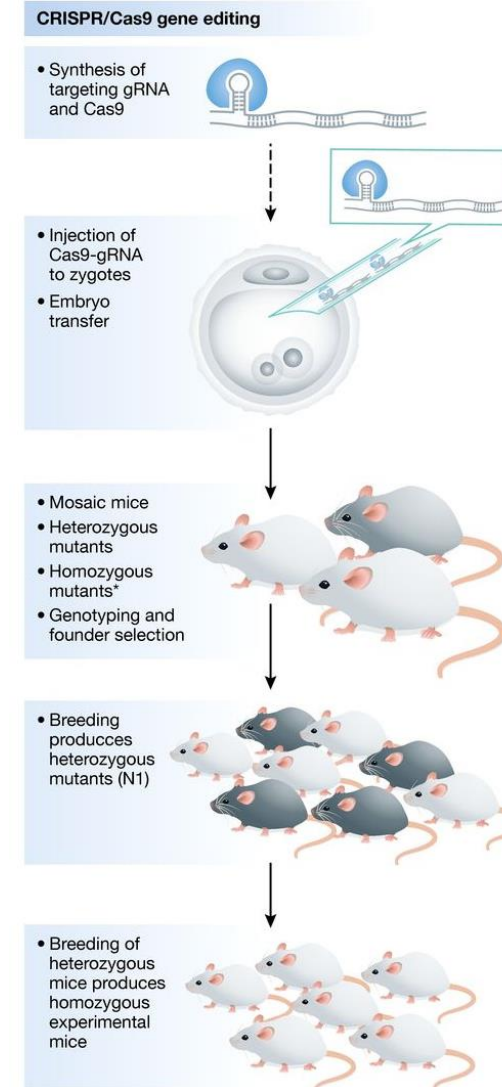
# IU/JAX: Model Creation and Dissemination

## Now available:

- Humanized *APP* (hA $\beta$  KI)
- *APOE* allele series ( $\epsilon$ 2,  $\epsilon$ 3,  $\epsilon$ 4)
- *TREM2* variants: *R47H*, *Y38C*, KO, floxed
- *APOE* <sup>$\epsilon$ 4/ $\epsilon$ 4</sup> *Trem2*<sup>*R47H/R47H*</sup>

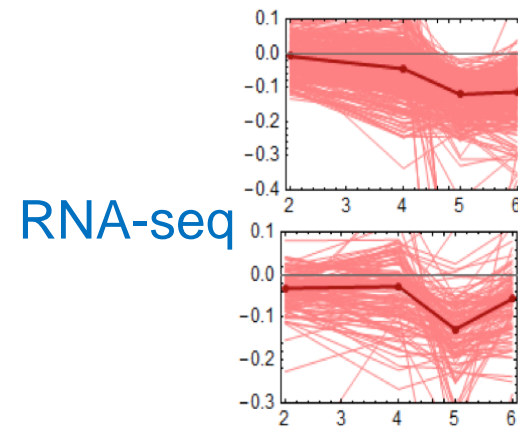
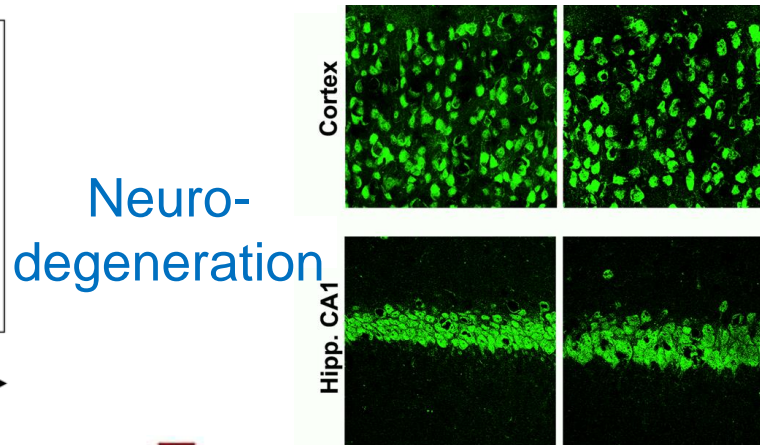
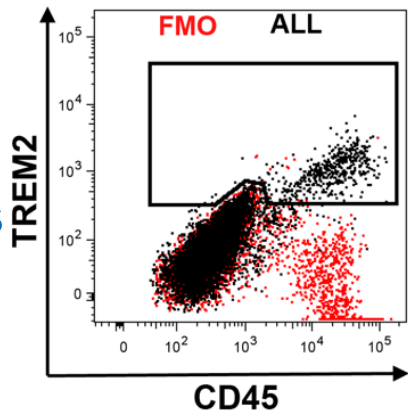
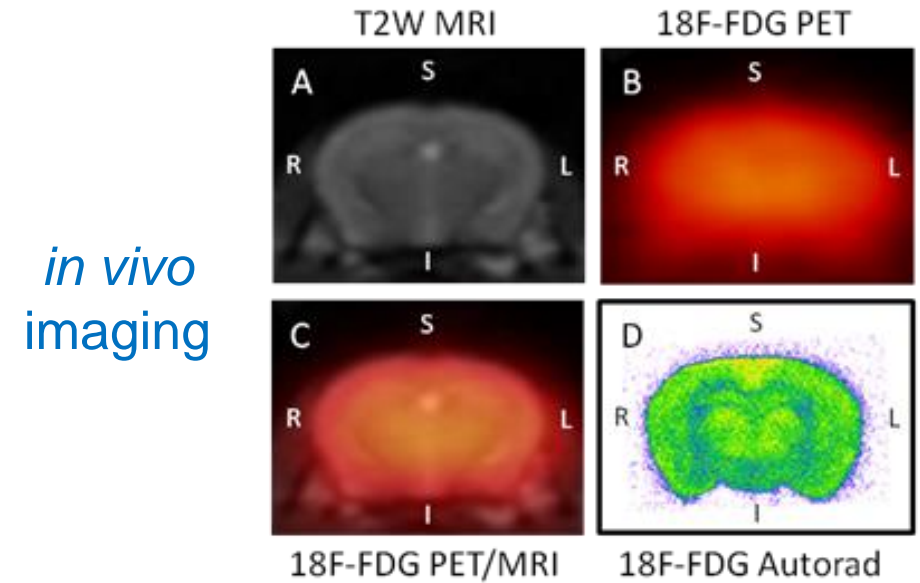
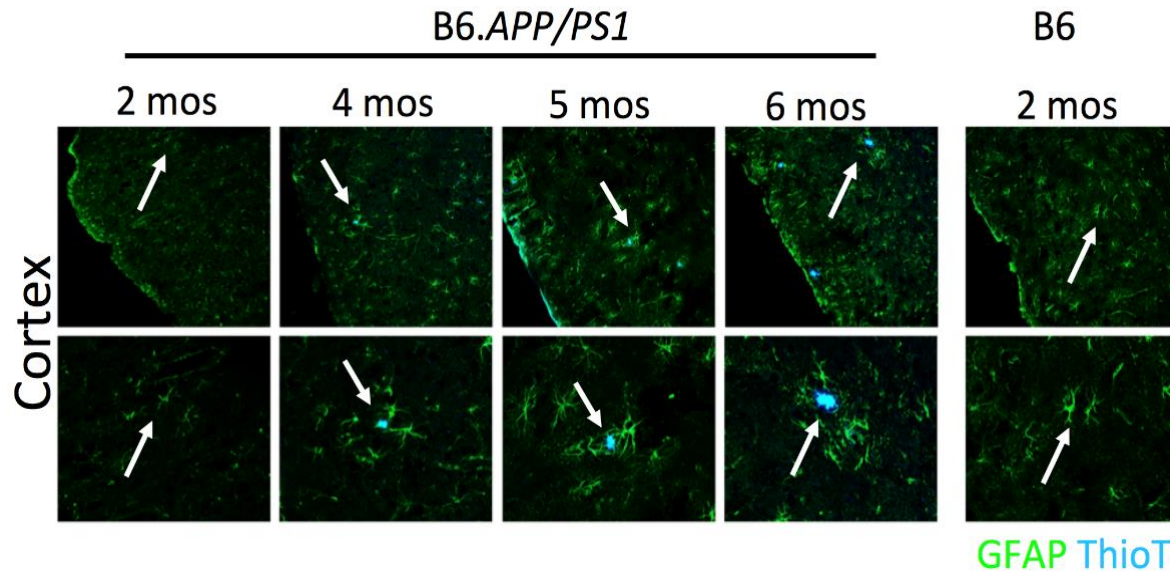
## Additional variants to CRISPR:

- 8 variants per year for 5 years
  - New models now available:
    - ✓ *Abca7* (KO and A1527G)
    - ✓ *Ceacam1* (KO)
    - ✓ *Ilarap* (KO)
    - ✓ *Plcg2* (KO and M28L)
- Combinations of variants for broad pathology



**CRISPR/Cas9  
enabled**

# IU/JAX: Model Characterization



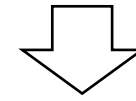
neurogenesis	$3 \times 10^{-19}$
neuron differentiation	$9 \times 10^{-19}$
long-term potentiation	$3 \times 10^{-5}$

nervous system development	$1 \times 10^{-6}$
Jak-STAT signaling pathway	$3 \times 10^{-4}$

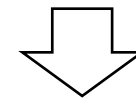
# IU/JAX: Preclinical Testing

- Efficacy determined by primary and secondary markers specific to the compound
- Standardization of protocols, strains, and outcome measures shared via AMP-AD Knowledge Portal
- Develop drug prioritization criteria/schema
- Compounds nominated by scientific community and External Advisory Board
- One strain, 1-2 compounds per year over five years

**New Model**  
genetic model with  
associated molecular  
pathology



**Pharmacokinetics (PK)**  
dose-response  
blood, CSF, and tissue analysis  
biomarker assays



**Pharmacodynamics (PD)**  
PET, MRI imaging  
molecular signatures ('Omics)  
histopathology  
functional/behavioral tests



# IU/JAX MODEL-AD Supplements

- **PTC Supplement (2017):** These supplemental funds will be used to develop and validate a preclinical testing pipeline for assessing candidate compounds in Alzheimer's disease rodent models.
- **Rat F344 (2017):** These supplemental funds are being used to characterize and Stage the F344 rat model of Early Onset Alzheimer Disease.
- **Metabolomics (2017):** These studies will directly complement ongoing studies in AMP-AD led by Dr. Rima Kaddurah-Daouk at Duke University, with whom we will collaborate to allow seamless comparison between the model and clinical metabolomes. Animal models used in this study: 5xFAD, APOE4;Trem2R47H; B6.
- **Nanostring (2018):** Using AMP-AD data, we propose here to work with NanoString to develop an AD-specific panel to evaluate mouse models of AD.
- **Drug Selection Criteria (2018):** We will develop a front end web portal that will allow users to nominate compounds for the PTC pipeline.



# IU/JAX MODEL-AD Presentations at AAIC

## Sunday July 22

Poster P1-130

*MODEL-AD: Characterization of Familial AD Models (5xFAD, APP/PS1, hTau, 3xTg-AD)*

Poster P1-131

*MODEL-AD: Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Models*

## Monday July 23

8:00-8:20AM

S2-02-01

Room 183

*New In Vivo Models for Alzheimer's Disease – MODEL-AD*

Poster P2-045

*The MODEL-AD Consortium Preclinical Testing Pipeline: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Prophylactic Treatment with Leviteracetam in the 5XFAD Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease*



# IU/JAX MODEL-AD Presentations at AAIC

Wednesday July 25

9:15-9:30

O4-01-06

Room 185

*Whole-Exome Analysis of Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Reveals Novel Candidate Genes Involved in Cognitive Function*

Poster P4-028

*Characterizing the APOE4/Trem2\*R47H Mouse Model for Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease*

Poster P4-031

*Novel Models of Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Based on GWAS*

Poster P4-045

*Biological Pathways and Related Protein Biomarkers of Clinical Progression in Early Alzheimer's Disease*

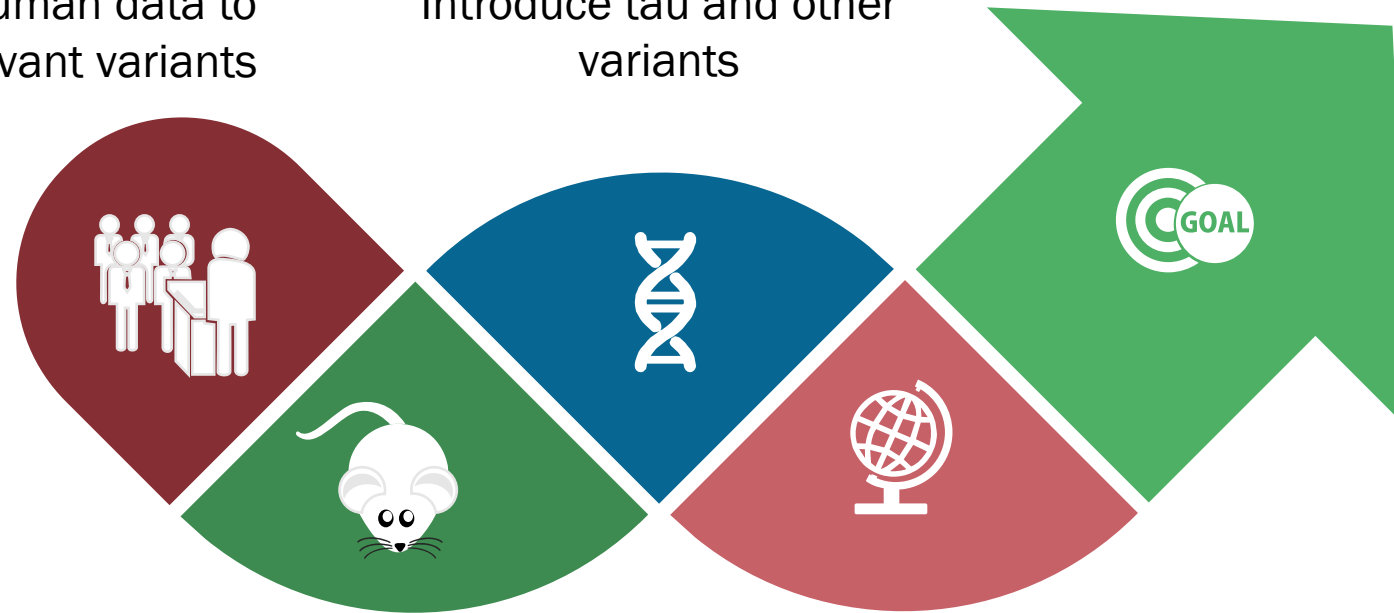


# UCI: Overview of Preclinical Model Development for LOAD

**Human Data**  
Maximize human data to identify relevant variants

**Other Variants**  
Introduce tau and other variants

**Validate and Share**



**A $\beta$**   
Use hA $\beta$  mice as platform

**Environmental & Diet**  
Introduce risk factors

# UCI: Goals for the Next Generation Models

Physiological levels of AD relevant protein such as  $A\beta$  or tau (no ectopic or over-expression).



Better concordance with human pathology.



Identification of potential targets for therapeutic intervention



Analysis of risk factors (*i.e.*, genetic, environmental, co-morbid conditions, etc)



# UCI: Rationale for Humanizing A $\beta$ in Mice

01



## A $\beta$ | human v. rodent

Rodent A $\beta$  doesn't aggregate as readily  
(3 amino acid differences: position 5, 10, 13)

02



## Wild-type human A $\beta$ KI

Regardless of pathway causing s-AD, a mouse with human A $\beta$  will be required

03



## Physiological expression

Mice express physiological levels of APP under the endogenous promoter

04



## Cre/loxP

Engineered loxP sites for option to determine if pathways are A $\beta$ -dependent

05

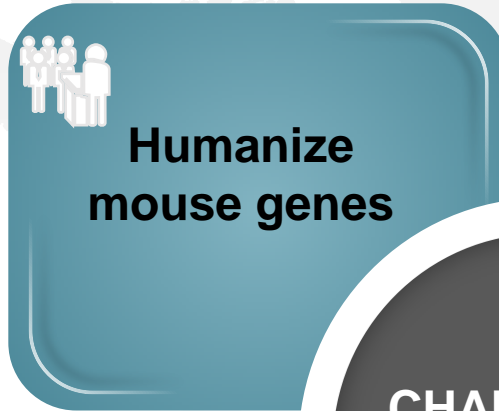


## Platform

hA $\beta$  KI: used as a platform to introduce other relevant AD genes  
(e.g., tau, ApoE, TREM2, GWAS)

# UCI: Key Challenges Modeling in Late Onset Alzheimer's

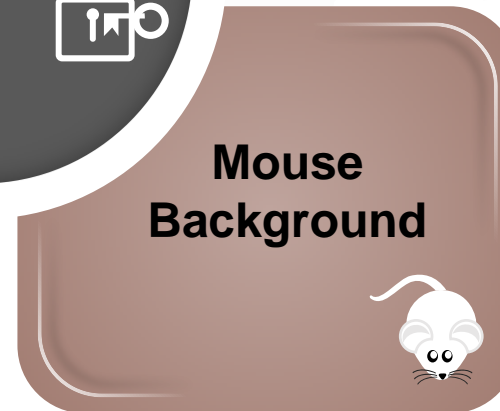
Likely require the "humanization" of several key AD related genes



Pathology should ensue from aging/ environmental factors vs. overexpression or FAD mutations



Not all human pathologies may occur in a single mouse model



Mouse genetic background may have a profound impact on phenotype.

# UCI: Strategy of Animal Model Development

## GWAS variants

1. Spi1/PU.1
2. Clusterin



## Crosses

1. hA $\beta$ -KIxTrem2
2. hA $\beta$ -KIxApoE
3. hA $\beta$ -KIxTrem2xApoE

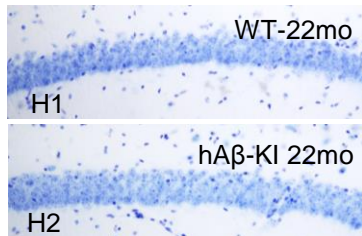
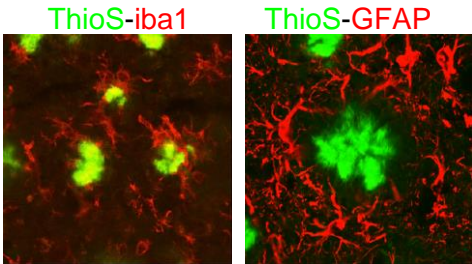
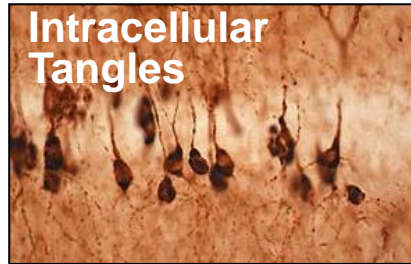
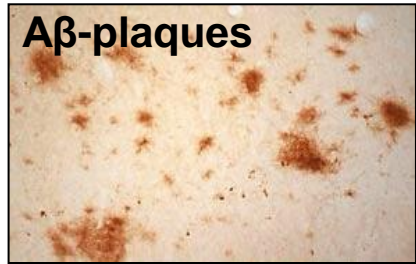
## Additional variants in development

- Humanized *MAPT* (TAU) via substitution of mouse *Mapt* locus with human H1c *MAPT*.
- Humanized *CLU* via substitution of mouse *Clu* locus with human *CLU*.
- GWAS variants of *SPI1* (PU.1) via CRISPR.

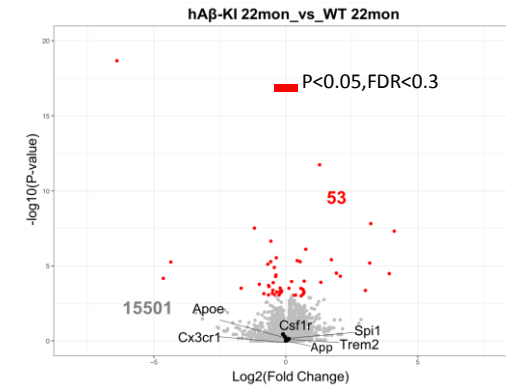


# UCI: Phenotypic Evaluation

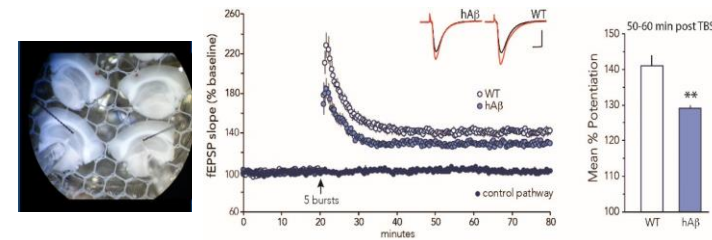
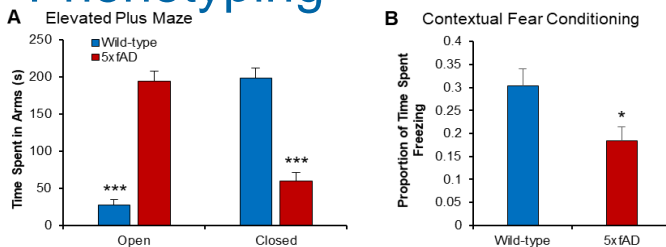
## Neuropathology and Neurodegeneration



## Network analysis: Molecular Profiling (RNA-Seq)



## Behavioral and Cognitive Phenotyping



# UCI Supplements

## Single-cell RNA-seq

Guide human-mouse analyses and selection of mouse targets.

## Behavior

Harmonize with data generated by IU/Jax and extend the LTP and cognitive phenotype

## Neuroimaging

Combine approaches in standard use in human imaging with novel ultrahigh resolution *in vivo* and *ex vivo* imaging aimed at histopathological validation, including plaque imaging using MRI.

## Quantify hTau

Mice that express human TAU (hTAU) at physiological levels, with equivalent expression of the 3R and 4R hTAU isoforms, are being generated.

# UCI: Model Production and Dissemination

## Now available:

- Mouse *App* expressing humanized A $\beta$  (floxed).



**B6(SJL)-*App*<sup>tm1.1Aduci</sup>/J**

**Stock No:** 030898 | hAbeta-loxP-KI on mixed B6J and B6NJ

**Alzheimer's Association  
International  
Conference (AAIC)**  
O #23414

**O1-01** Development of New Models and Analysis Methods:  
Novel Model Systems to Study Dementia, Sunday, July 22,  
2018: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

**O1-01-04** Ha $\beta$ -KI: A Knock-in  
Mouse Model for Sporadic  
Alzheimer's Disease



# Resource Sharing

Enabling researchers to find the right model

## Data

- Mouse genetic information: variant(s), strain background
- Mouse phenotype data: RNA-seq, imaging, etc.
- Preclinical data: standards, protocols, results
- Preclinical results searchable on AlzPED

## Mice

- Available from JAX mouse repository without restrictions

The image shows a screenshot of the AMPAD Knowledge Portal interface. At the top, it displays "AMPAD Knowledge Portal" with a search bar, a user profile for "Greg Carter (gregcarter)", and navigation links for "Help" and "Project Settings". Below this, it shows identifiers: "Synapse ID: syn2580853", "DOI: doi:10.7303/syn2580853", and "Storage Location: Synapse Storage". The main content area features the "AlzPED" logo with the tagline "Transparent. Reproducible. Translatable." and the subtitle "ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PRECLINICAL EFFICACY DATABASE". Navigation links for "HOME", "CONTACT US", and "LOGIN" are visible. Below the AlzPED banner is the "The Jackson Laboratory" logo and a search bar for "Search the site and JAX® Mice". At the bottom of the screenshot, a large blue banner reads "ALZHEIMER'S MOUSE MODEL RESOURCE".



# MODEL-AD

MODEL ORGANISM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION  
FOR LATE-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The MODEL-AD consortium consisting of a Center at Indiana University, The Jackson Laboratory, and Sage Bionetworks and a Center at the University of California Irvine has been established by the National Institute on Aging to:

- Develop the next generation of *in vivo* AD models based on human data
- Institute a standardized and rigorous process for characterization of animal models
- Align the pathophysiological features of AD models with corresponding stages of clinical disease using translatable biomarkers
- Establish guidelines for rigorous preclinical testing in animal models
- Ensure rapid availability of animal models, protocols and validation data to all researchers for preclinical drug development



**MODEL-AD**  
MODEL ORGANISM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION  
FOR LATE-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



INDIANA UNIVERSITY



The Jackson  
Laboratory



Sage  
BIONETWORKS

**UCI** University of  
California, Irvine

## RECENT POSTS

[MODEL-AD presentations at AAIC 2018](#)

[MODEL-AD presentations at ICMN](#)

[Indiana U. Alzheimer's symposium](#)

[New method for identifying candidate loci for late-onset Alzheimer's disease published.](#)

[Workshop on the use of mouse models to study neurodegenerative disease](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[AMP-AD Knowledge Portal](#)

[JAX AD Models](#)

# The MODEL-AD Consortium

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## National Institute on Aging

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