

Integrative translational discovery of vascular risk factors in aging and dementia

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Molecular Mechanisms of the Vascular Etiology of AD (M²OVE-AD)

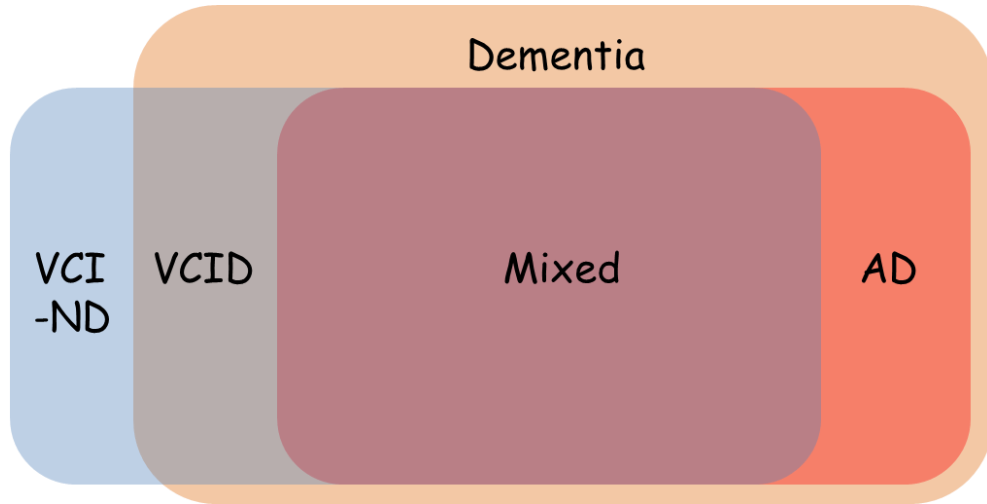
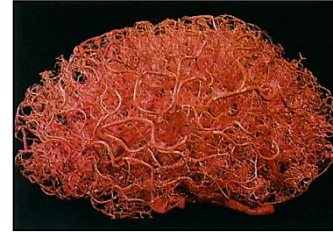
**NIA-AA Symposium: Enabling precision medicine for
Alzheimer's disease through open science**

July 19-July 20, 2018; Chicago

MAYO
CLINIC



Cerebrovascular contribution to dementia

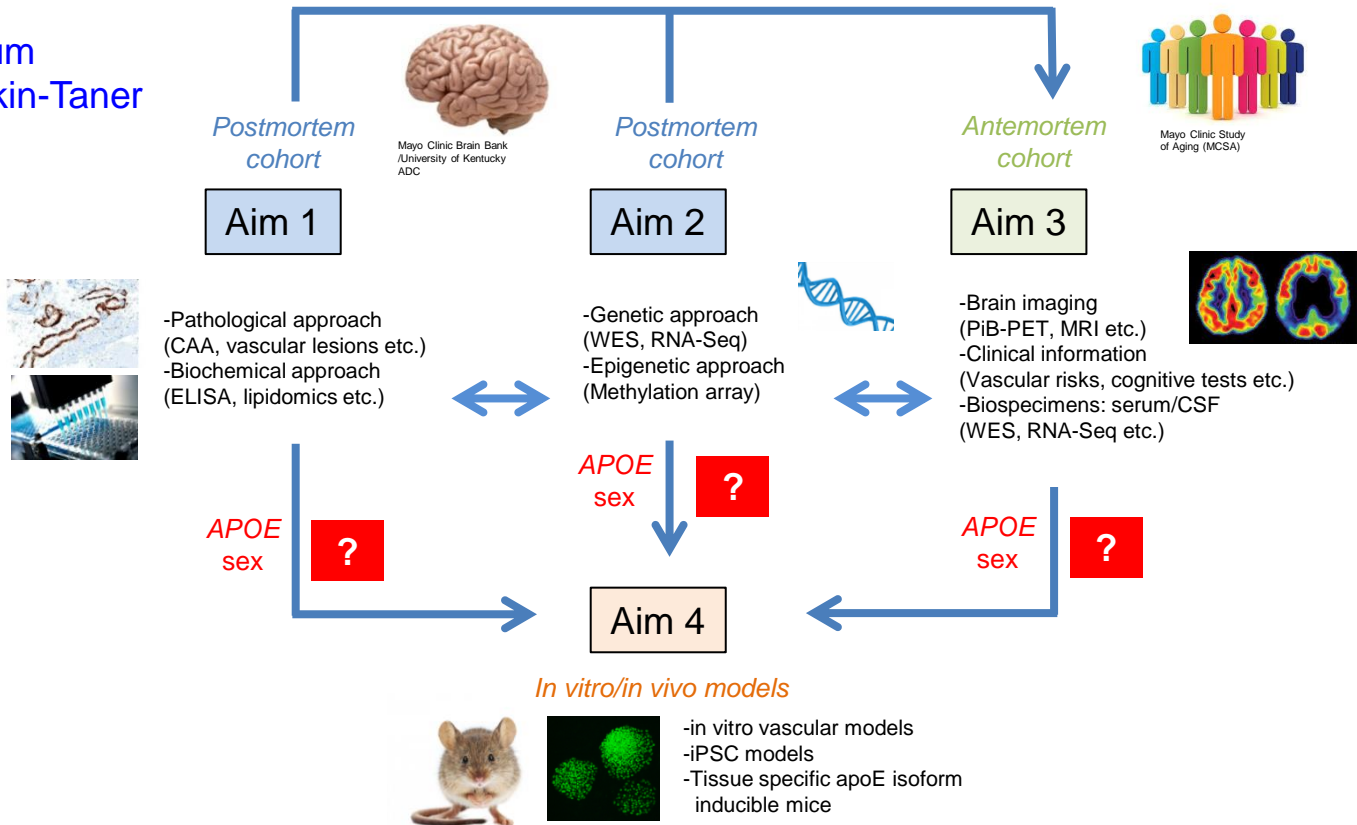


- AD is the most common cause of dementia accounting for 60-80% of dementia cases.
- In individuals with Alzheimer's dementia, ~90% of cases have cerebrovascular lesions including cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA).

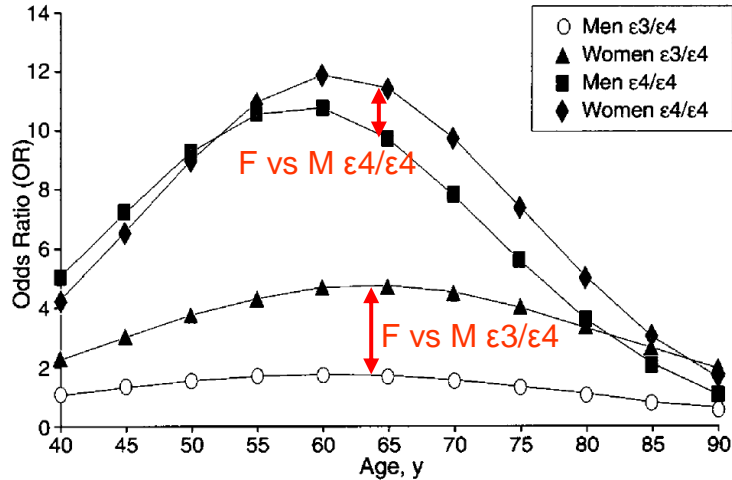
How vascular pathology and risk factors converge with AD?

Multidisciplinary approaches to define vascular risk factors in aging, AD and dementia

M²OVE-AD Consortium
 Multi-PI: Bu and Ertekin-Taner
 RF1AG051504
 RF1AG051504-01S2

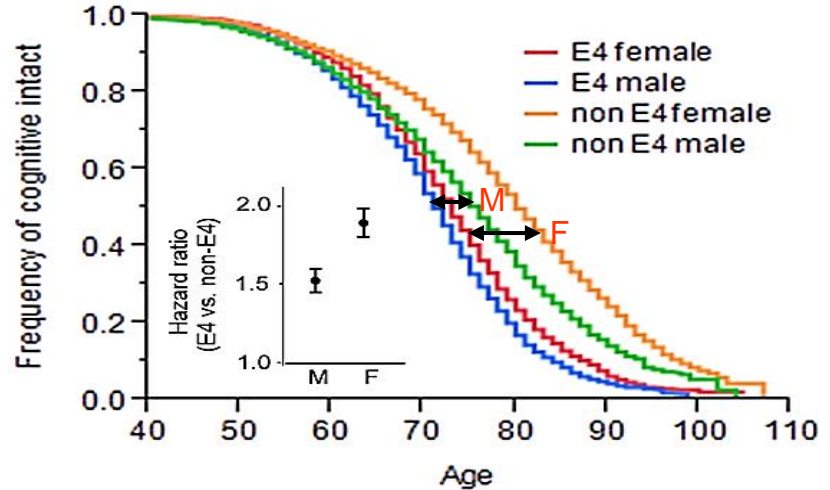


***APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele has a greater effect on AD risk/cognitive decline in females than males – sex-dependent effects**



- Peak effect ages: 55-70
- Greater ORs in females than in males

Farrer et al., JAMA, 1997



Cross sectional analysis of 21,531 subjects from National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC)

Shinohara et al., Ann Neurol, 2016

Impact of *APOE* and sex on vascular pathologies: Pathological, biochemical, and multi-omics studies using postmortem brains

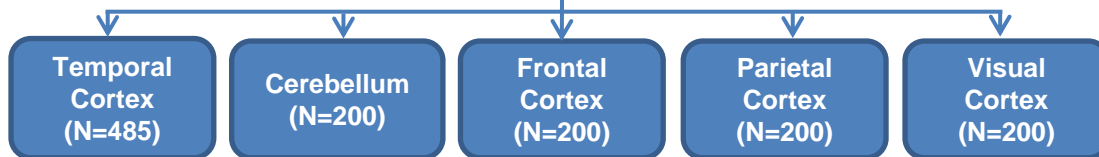
Aim: Determine pathological, biochemical and multi-omics correlations in postmortem Alzheimer's brains with varying amounts of CAA and other vascular lesions

Post-mortem cohort 1:
Mayo Clinic Brain Bank Temporal Cortex (N=428)

Post-mortem cohort 2:
Mayo Clinic Brain Bank
N=485 (temporal cortex) N=200 (other 4 brain regions)

- Pathological information; Braak stage/ Thal phase/CAA/Others (N=428)
- RNA-Seq (N=75)
- Biochemical (ELISA/WB): A β , apoE, AD/CAA related (N=99)
- GWAS (N=94)
- Lipidomics (N=55)

Data are either deposited or ready to be deposited



A β , apoE, AD/CAA related (ELISA), N=1285	Biochemistry 1	Biochemistry 1	Biochemistry 1	Biochemistry 1	Biochemistry 1
Microvessel density/intracranial atherosclerosis (Histology), N=1285	Vascular pathology 1	Vascular pathology 1	Vascular pathology 1	Vascular pathology 1	Vascular pathology 1
Tight junction (ELISA)/BBB (immunostaining), N=685	Vascular pathology 2	Vascular pathology 2			
Sex hormones (LC/MS)/receptors (ELISA/WB), N=685	Biochemistry 2	Biochemistry 2			

<https://www.synapse.org>

Subject Characteristics - Postmortem Human Brain Cohort 1

Pathologically-confirmed AD cases

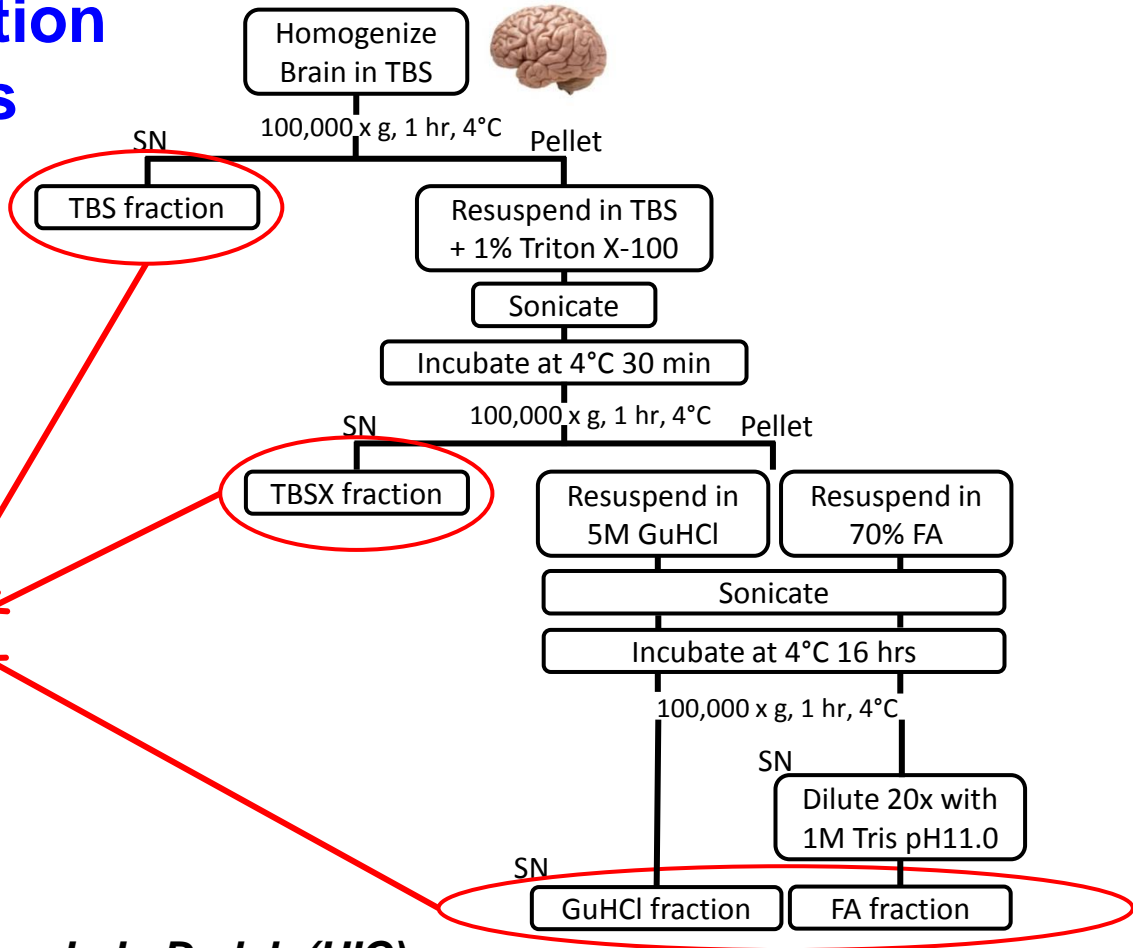
	<i>APOE4</i> non-carrier		<i>APOE4</i> carrier	
	Female (N=103)	Male (N=68)	Female (N=143)	Male (N=114)
Age	81 (75, 88)	80 (73, 85)	83 (78, 88)	79 (73, 83)
Braak Stage				
<5	12 (12)	8 (12)	11 (8)	10 (9)
5-5.5	39 (38)	27 (40)	39 (27)	45 (39)
6	52 (50)	33 (49)	93 (65)	59 (52)
Thal Stage				
Missing	1	0	2	2
<4	11 (11)	6 (9)	8 (6)	11 (10)
4	8 (8)	7 (10)	11 (8)	10 (9)
5	83 (81)	55 (81)	122 (87)	91 (81)

Median and interquartile range (IQR) shown for age; number (%) shown for Braak and Thal stages.

$\epsilon 2/\epsilon 3$	$\epsilon 2/\epsilon 4$	$\epsilon 3/\epsilon 3$	$\epsilon 3/\epsilon 4$	$\epsilon 4/\epsilon 4$	total
n=12	n=9	n=159	n=188	n=60	n=428

Three-step extraction of brain tissues

Biochemical analysis



Associations of sex and *APOE4* with CAA score

Covariate	Subgroup	Sex and <i>APOE4</i> in model ^c		Additionally adjusting for age, Braak stage and Thal stage ^c	
		Effect (95% CI)	p-value ^d	Effect (95% CI)	p-value ^d
Male	All ^a (n=428)	0.25 (0.10, 0.40)	<.001	0.27 (0.12, 0.42)	<.001
	<i>APOE4</i> - ^b (n=171)	0.27 (0.03, 0.51)	0.027	0.29 (0.05, 0.53)	0.017
	<i>APOE4</i> + ^b (n=257)	0.24 (0.05, 0.43)	0.014	0.26 (0.06, 0.46)	0.010
<i>APOE4</i>+	All ^a (n=428)	0.23 (0.08, 0.38)	0.003	0.22 (0.06, 0.37)	0.005
	Females ^b (n=246)	0.24 (0.04, 0.44)	0.017	0.23 (0.03, 0.43)	0.024
	Males ^b (n=182)	0.21 (-0.02, 0.45)	0.074	0.20 (-0.03, 0.43)	0.095
<i>APOE4</i> allelic dose	All ^a	0.30 (0.20, 0.41)	<.001	0.30 (0.19, 0.40)	<.001
	Females ^b	0.30 (0.16, 0.44)	<.001	0.29 (0.15, 0.43)	<.001
	Males ^b	0.30 (0.15, 0.46)	<.001	0.31 (0.15, 0.46)	<.001

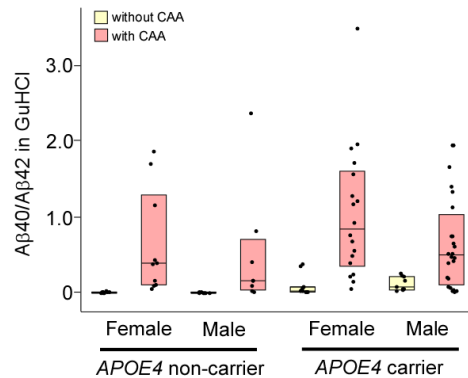
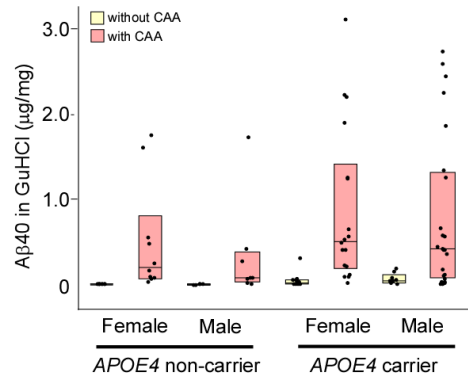
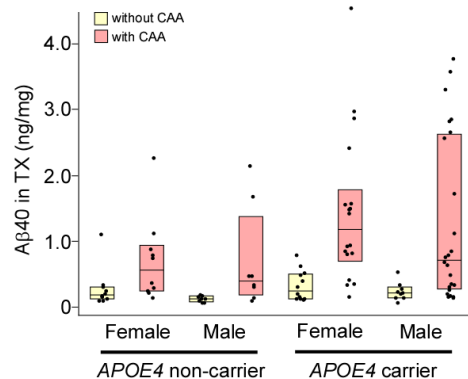
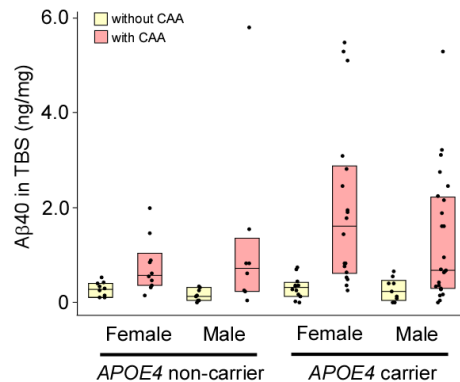
^a Results from models with no interaction terms. ^b Results from models with interaction of *APOE4* and sex. ^c Age is included as a continuous variable, Braak stage as dichotomous (6 vs. <6), and Thal as dichotomous (5 vs. <5). ^d Wald p-value.

Associations of CAA, sex, and APOE4 with A β and apoE in temporal cortex

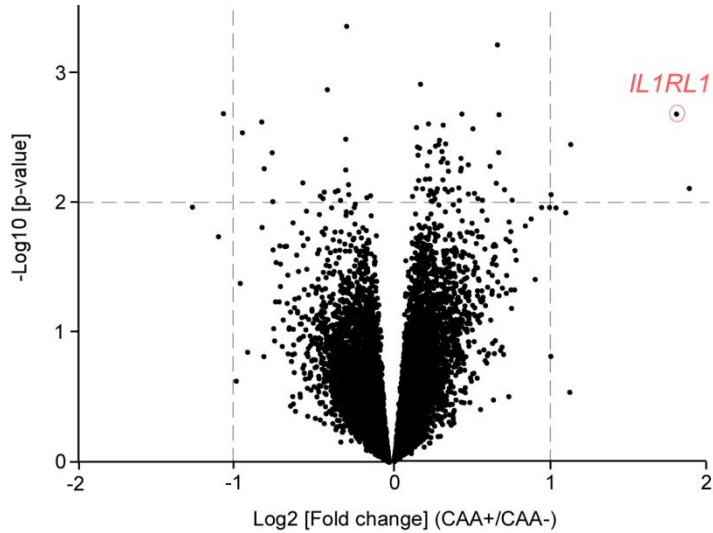
	TBS		TX		GuHCl	
	Relative Level ^a (95% CI)	p-value ^b	Relative Level ^a (95% CI)	p-value ^b	Relative Level ^a (95% CI)	p-value ^b
Aβ40						
CAA+	3.50 (2.45, 5.00)	<.001	3.64 (2.37, 5.59)	<.001	17.55 (10.17, 30.29)	<.001
Sex; Male	0.71 (0.50, 1.00)	0.053	0.77 (0.51, 1.16)	0.213	0.68 (0.40, 1.17)	0.161
APOE4+	1.71 (1.20, 2.46)	0.003	1.61 (1.06, 2.47)	0.027	3.99 (2.30, 6.92)	<.001
Aβ42						
CAA+	0.88 (0.67, 1.17)	0.377	1.74 (0.99, 3.07)	0.053	1.22 (0.98, 1.51)	0.077
Sex; Male	1.10 (0.83, 1.45)	0.513	0.99 (0.57, 1.73)	0.978	1.15 (0.93, 1.42)	0.208
APOE4+	0.92 (0.69, 1.22)	0.575	1.26 (0.72, 2.22)	0.423	1.10 (0.88, 1.37)	0.387
Aβ40/Aβ42						
CAA+	3.97 (2.67, 5.92)	<.001	2.30 (1.43, 3.69)	<.001	14.43 (8.74, 23.83)	<.001
Sex; Male	0.64 (0.43, 0.96)	0.029	0.91 (0.57, 1.44)	0.676	0.59 (0.36, 0.97)	0.038
APOE4+	1.86 (1.24, 2.78)	0.003	1.13 (0.70, 1.81)	0.624	3.62 (2.18, 6.01)	<.001
ApoE						
CAA+	1.08 (0.94, 1.25)	0.275	1.07 (0.92, 1.24)	0.409	1.69 (1.15, 2.48)	0.007
Sex; Male	1.09 (0.95, 1.26)	0.231	1.15 (0.99, 1.34)	0.068	0.74 (0.51, 1.08)	0.119
APOE4+	0.80 (0.69, 0.93)	0.003	0.96 (0.83, 1.13)	0.649	1.69 (1.15, 2.49)	0.008

^a Analyses use logarithm of biochemical measures as response variable in linear regression analyses including variables CAA group (severe versus none), sex (male vs. female) and APOE4 (presence vs. absence) and also adjusting for age; estimated effects are exponentiated to provide effect expressed as a relative level or fold change. ^b Wald p-value.

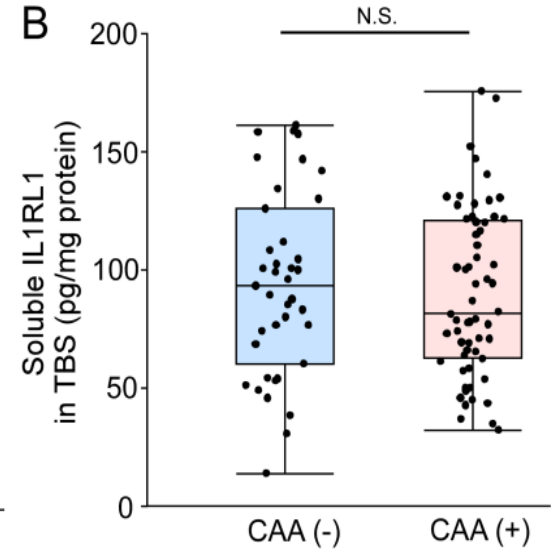
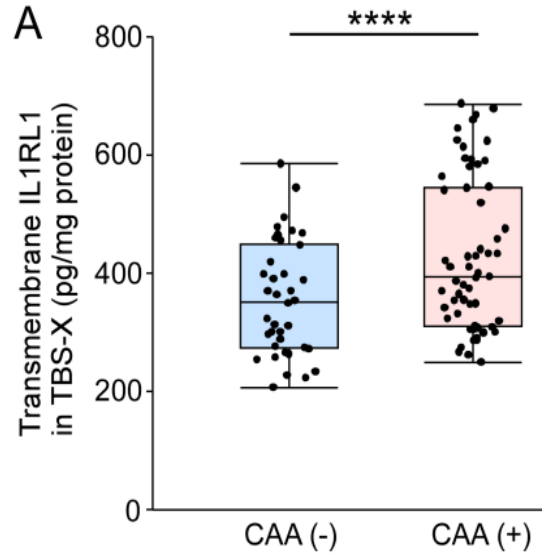
CAA-, sex- and APOE4-dependent effects on A β 40 in the temporal cortex



IL1RL1 expression is upregulated in AD cases with CAA: transcriptomics studies

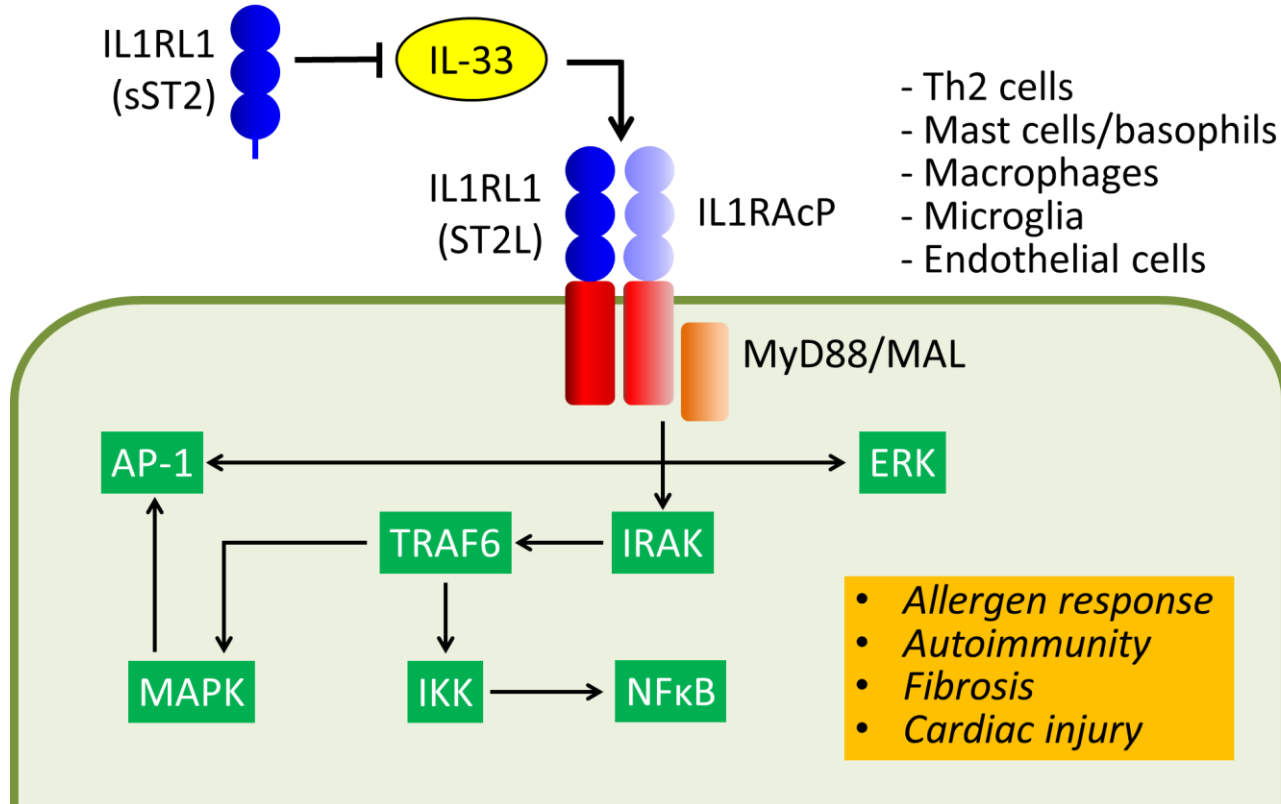


Transcripts in the temporal cortex from AD cases with severe CAA (n=43) or without CAA (n=32) were analyzed by RNA-seq.



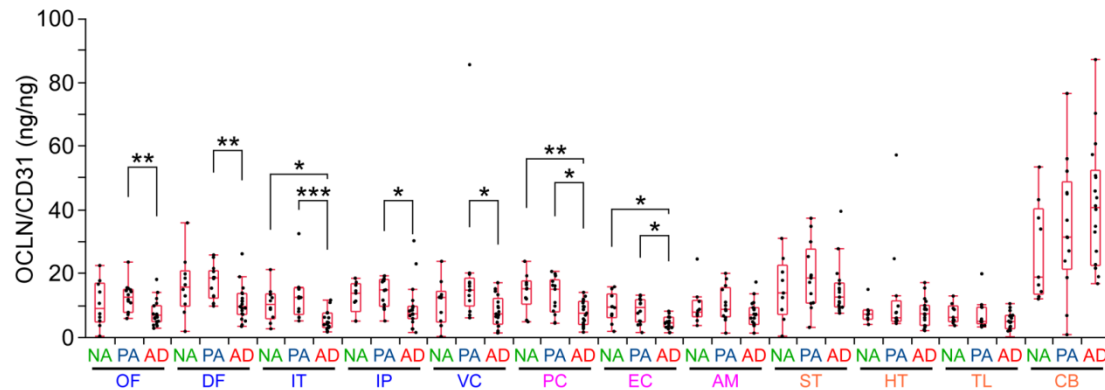
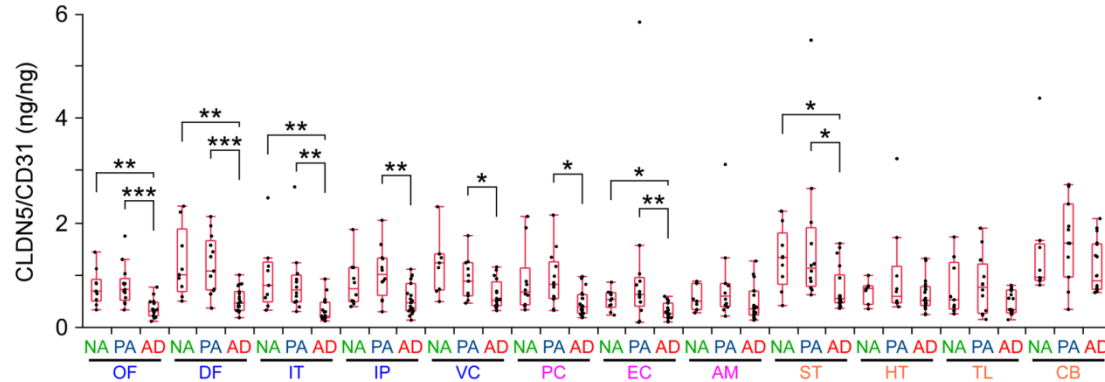
The Mayo Clinic AD-CAA RNA-Seq (MC-CAA) study
<https://www.synapse.org/#!/Synapse:syn9779506>

IL1RL1/IL-33 pathway

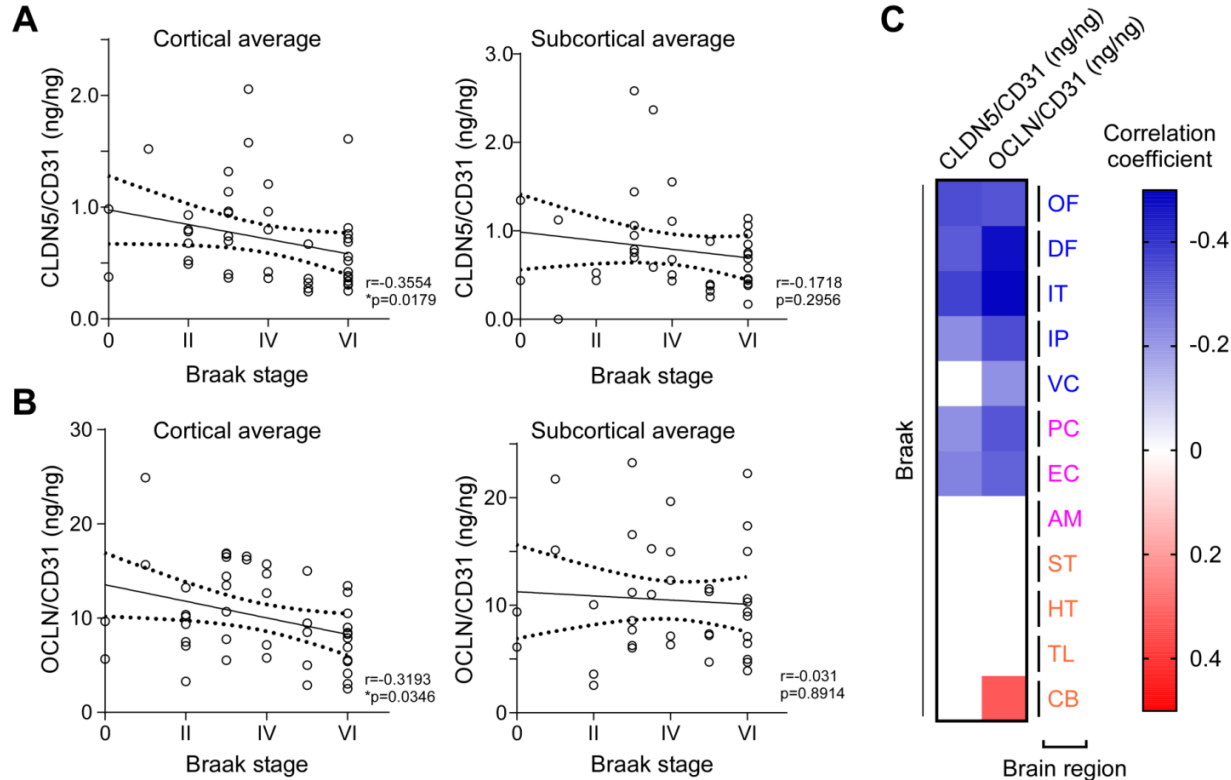


R. Kakkar, R.T. Lee, *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, 7 (2008), pp. 827-840

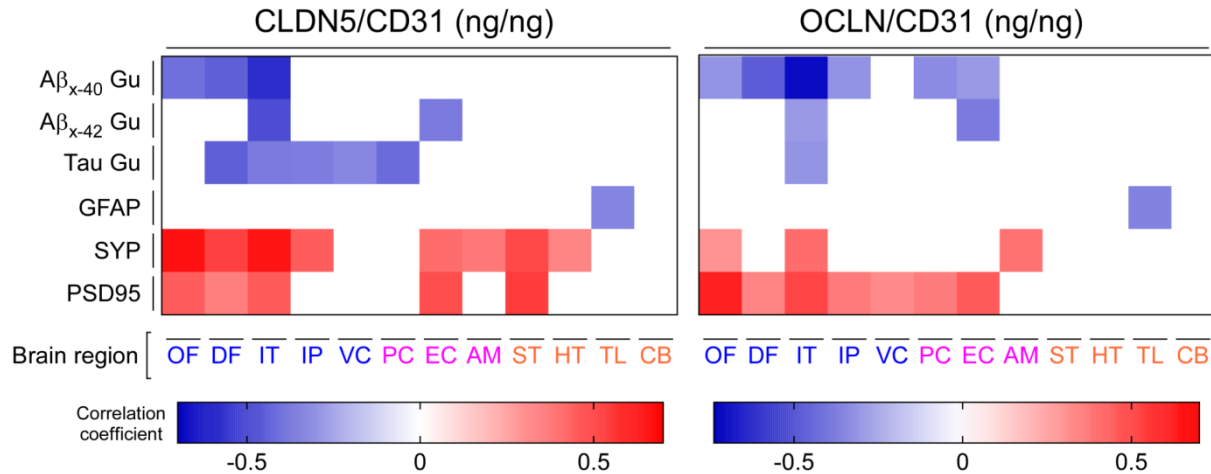
Tight junction proteins are selectively decreased in cortical regions during AD progression



Brain region-dependent correlations between Braak stage and TJ proteins



Brain region-dependent correlations between TJ proteins and AD-related molecules



	CLDN5/CD31		OCLN/CD31	
	Synaptophysin	PSD95	Synaptophysin	PSD95
Aβ _{x-40}	-0.71 (0.4798)	-0.72 (0.4752)	-0.89 (0.3779)	-0.93 (0.359)
Aβ _{x-42}	-1.14 (0.2605)	-0.92 (0.3633)	-1.26 (0.2160)	-1.09 (0.2836)
Tau	-0.11 (0.9954)	0.30 (0.7650)	0.12 (0.9035)	0.43 (0.6667)
TJs/CD31	1.12 (0.2695)	2.43 (0.0201)	0.67 (0.5089)	2.04 (0.0491)

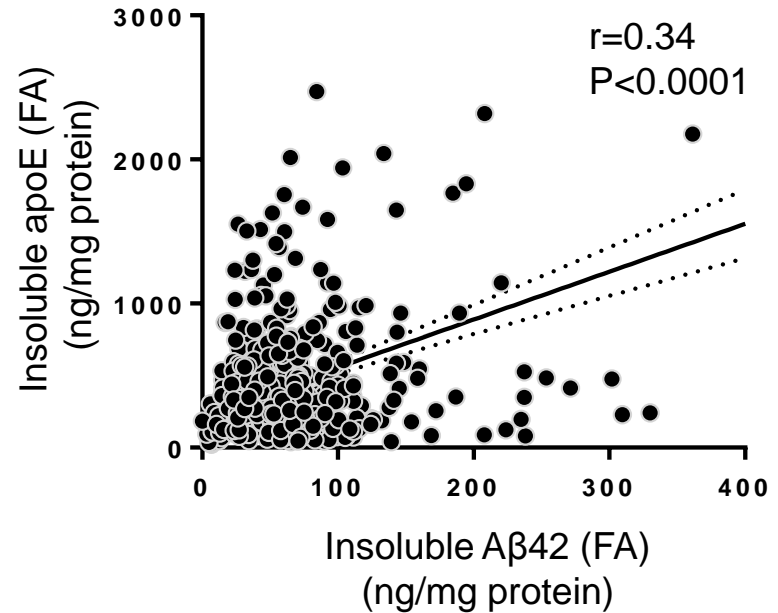
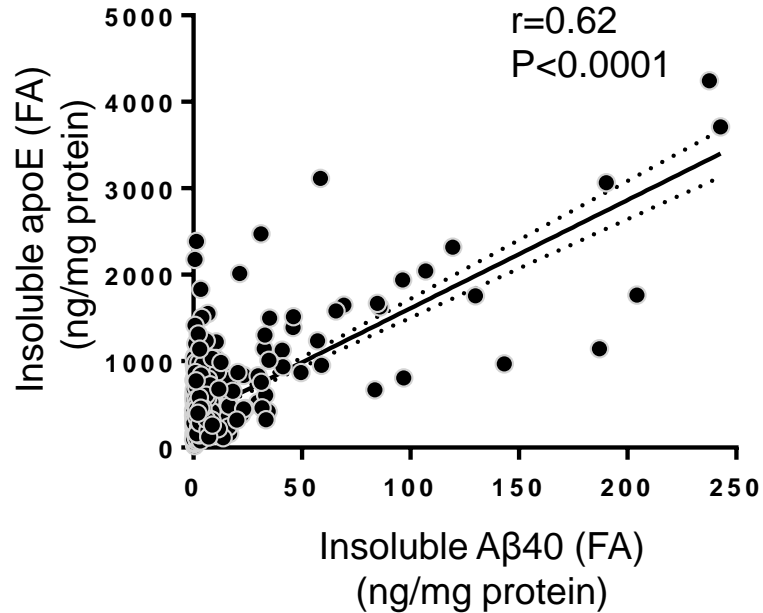
Human postmortem brain cohort 2: effects of *APOE4* and sex

(Adjacent to brain sections for genomics and transcriptomics by Ertekin-Taner Lab)

Subject characteristics of AD brain samples

	<i>APOE4</i> non-carrier		<i>APOE4</i> carrier		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Case number	82	83	164	140	469
Age	82.20	77.06	81.12	79.22	82 (55, 100)
Braak stage					
IV	11	18	21	25	75 (16.0%)
V	34	38	48	49	169 (36.0%)
VI	37	27	95	66	225 (48.0%)
Thal phase					
2	1	1	1	0	3 (0.7%)
3	7	10	7	8	32 (7.6%)
4	4	8	20	11	43 (10.2%)
5	65	60	116	104	345 (81.6%)
CAA score					
Average	0.54 (0, 2.2)	0.7 (0, 2.2)	1.06 (0, 4)	1.16 (0, 3)	0.7 (0.2, 3)

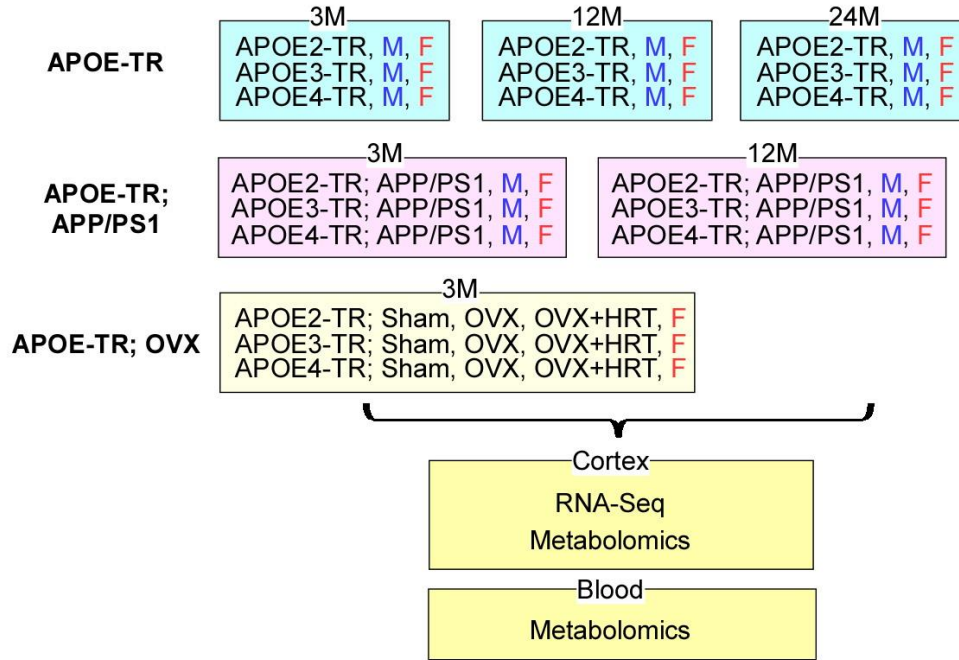
Insoluble apoE is positively correlated with insoluble A β



Tight junction molecule CLDN5 is negatively associated with apoE and A β 42

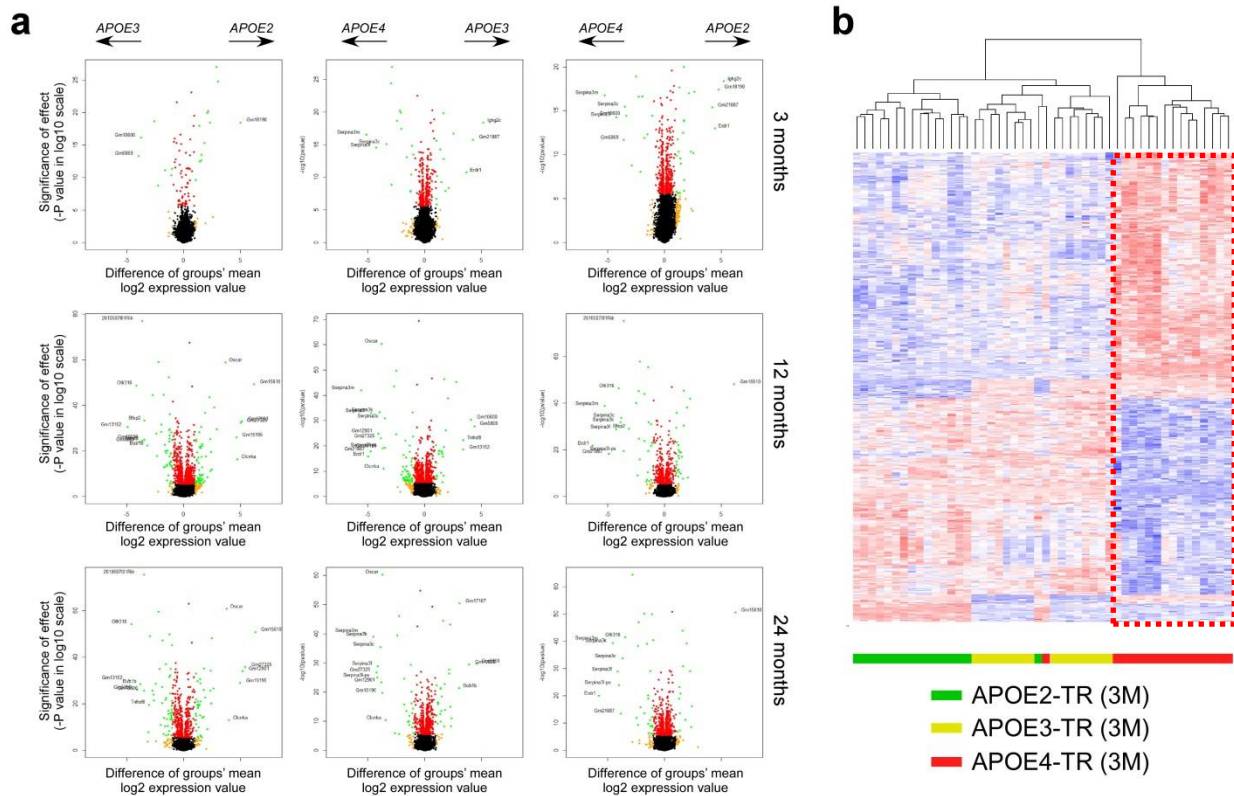
	<i>APOE4</i> non-carrier		<i>APOE4</i> carrier		Female		Male		
	CLDN5/CD31		CLDN5/CD31		CLDN5/CD31		CLDN5/CD31		
	<i>r</i>	p value	<i>r</i>	p value	<i>r</i>	p value	<i>r</i>	p value	
ApoE TBS	-0.279	0.0003	-0.258	<.0001	ApoE TBS	-0.264	<.0001	-0.309	<.0001
ApoE TX	-0.199	0.0108	-0.155	0.0072	ApoE TX	-0.198	0.0018	-0.132	0.0508
ApoE FA	-0.219	0.0049	-0.087	0.1324	ApoE FA	-0.151	0.0177	-0.146	0.0289
Aβ40 TBS	-0.094	0.2294	-0.029	0.6193	Aβ40 TBS	-0.052	0.4145	-0.064	0.3416
Aβ40 TX	-0.079	0.3145	-0.006	0.9242	Aβ40 TX	-0.031	0.6236	-0.071	0.2879
Aβ40 FA	-0.077	0.3271	-0.017	0.7675	Aβ40 FA	-0.067	0.2931	-0.034	0.6085
Aβ42 TBS	-0.175	0.0254	-0.091	0.116	Aβ42 TBS	-0.137	0.0313	-0.131	0.0505
Aβ42 TX	0.135	0.0841	-0.101	0.0821	Aβ42 TX	-0.063	0.3242	-0.044	0.5103
Aβ42 FA	-0.054	0.4921	0.021	0.7213	Aβ42 FA	-0.065	0.307	0.012	0.8586

Identification of transcriptome/metabolome signatures associated with APOE, sex and aging using systems-based, non-targeted approaches



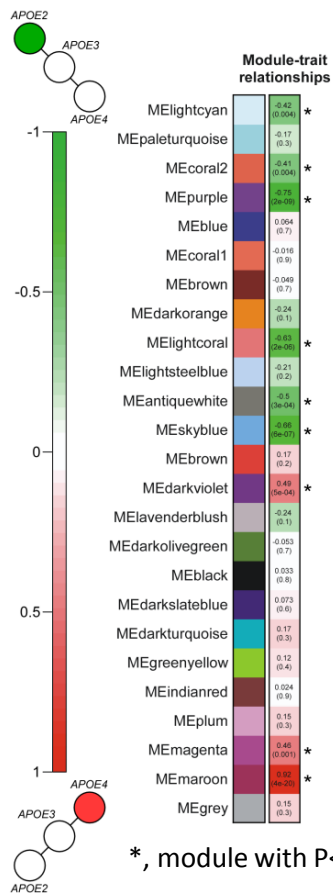
- **8 brain and serum samples/group/sex**
- **RNA-Seq**
 - Mayo Clinic Medical Genome Facility
- **Metabolomics**
 - Duke University Medical Center-Dr. Rima Kaddurah-Daouk
- **Network analysis**
 - WGCNA, multi-omics data integration and others (Mayo and Mount Sinai Bioinformatics Teams)

Volcano plots and hierarchical clustering of DEGs showing distinct transcriptomic signatures in *APOE4-TR* mice



(n = 16/genotype/age, M/F ratio = 1)

Bioinformatics identification of AD-relevant *APOE* genotype effectors



Synaptic transmission, neurogenesis and neuronal projection

GO terms enriched in module (logP)

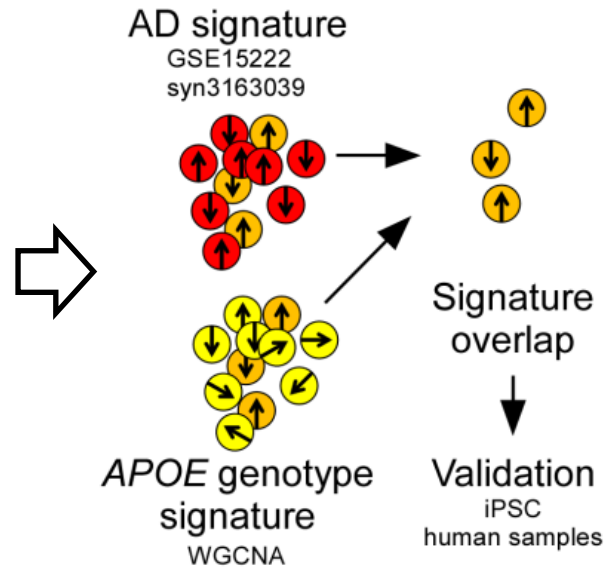
- ATP binding (-4)
- adenyl ribonucleotide binding (-3)
- adenyl nucleotide binding (-3)
- phospholipid biosynthetic process (-3)
- neurogenesis (-6)
- generation of neurons (-6)
- nervous system development (-5)
- cell periphery (-5)
- neuron differentiation (-5)
- axon development (-5)
- receptor complex (-5)
- signaling (-5)
- cell development (-5)
- plasma membrane (-5)
- N/A
- histone modification (-7)
- microtubule cytoskeleton (-7)
- microtubule organizing center (-6)
- nucleoplasm (-6)
- chromatin modification (-6)
- mRNA processing (-6)
- chromatin organization (-6)
- centrosome (-6)
- nuclear lumen (-5)
- cilium organization (-5)
- neuron projection (-3)
- N/A

APOE2-associated

APOE4-associated

- RNA binding (-18)
- poly(A) RNA binding (-18)
- intracellular ribonucleoprotein complex (-17)
- ribonucleoprotein complex (-17)
- ribosome (-14)
- nucleic acid binding (-13)
- ribosomal subunit (-12)
- RNA processing (-11)
- intracellular membrane-bounded organelle (-11)
- RNA splicing (-10)
- integral component of membrane (-10)
- intrinsic component of membrane (-10)
- extracellular region (-8)
- vesicle (-8)
- fatty acid beta-oxidation (-7)
- lipid oxidation (-7)
- membrane-bounded vesicle (-7)
- oxidation-reduction process (-7)
- cell surface (-7)
- response to interferon-beta (-9)
- RNA binding (-8)
- cellular response to interferon-beta (-8)
- membrane-bounded organelle (-7)
- nucleus (-7)
- nuclear part (-6)
- intracellular membrane-bounded organelle (-6)
- poly(A) RNA binding (-6)
- ligase activity, forming aminoacyl-tRNA and related compounds (-6)
- tRNA aminoacylation for protein translation (-6)

RNA processing, metabolism, lipid oxidation and inflammation



(3 months, n = 16/genotype/age, M/F ratio = 1)

Module-trait relationships

MEsalmon	-0.44 (0.002)	*
MEgreen	0.18 (0.2)	
MEyellow	-0.78 (1e-10)	*
MEdarkgreen	-0.0011 (1)	
MEpurple	-0.28 (0.06)	
MEmidnightblue	0.24 (0.1)	
MEdarkred	-0.042 (0.6)	
MEgrey60	-0.024 (0.9)	
MEturquoise	-0.11 (0.5)	
MElightyellow	0.63 (3e-06)	*
MEroyalblue	0.46 (0.001)	*
MEblack	0.73 (8e-09)	*
MEbrown	-0.0074 (1)	
MEmagenta	-0.039 (0.8)	
MEpink	-0.5 (4e-04)	*
MElightcyan	0.084 (0.6)	
MEblue	0.35 (0.02)	
MEtan	0.23 (0.1)	
MEcyan	-0.0069 (1)	
MEgreenyellow	0.0093 (1)	
MEdarkturquoise	0.25 (0.09)	
MElightgreen	0.14 (0.4)	
MEred	0.043 (0.8)	
MEgrey	-0.35 (0.02)	

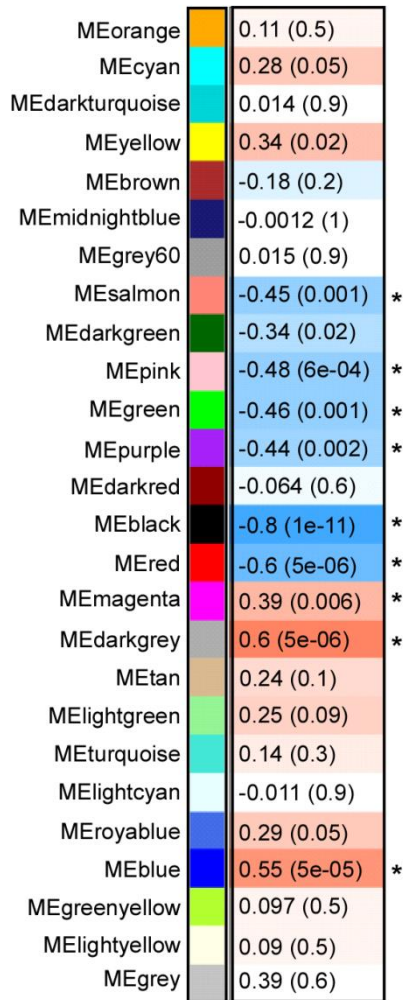
*, module with P<0.01

Immune response pathways are upregulated in APOE4-TR mice at 12 months of age

Rank	GO term ID	Term name
1	GO:0002376	immune system process
2	GO:0002682	regulation of immune system process
3	GO:0006955	immune response
4	GO:0002443	leukocyte mediated immunity
5	GO:0002699	positive regulation of immune effector process
6	GO:0050900	leukocyte migration
7	GO:0050776	regulation of immune response
8	GO:0002685	regulation of leukocyte migration
9	GO:0030595	leukocyte chemotaxis
10	GO:0002684	positive regulation of immune system process

(12 months, n = 16/genotype, M/F ratio = 1)

Module-trait relationships



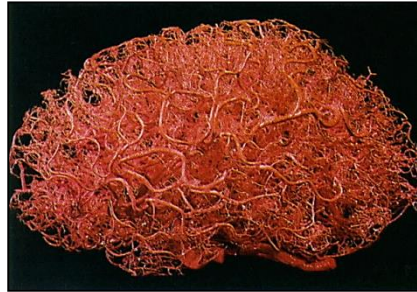
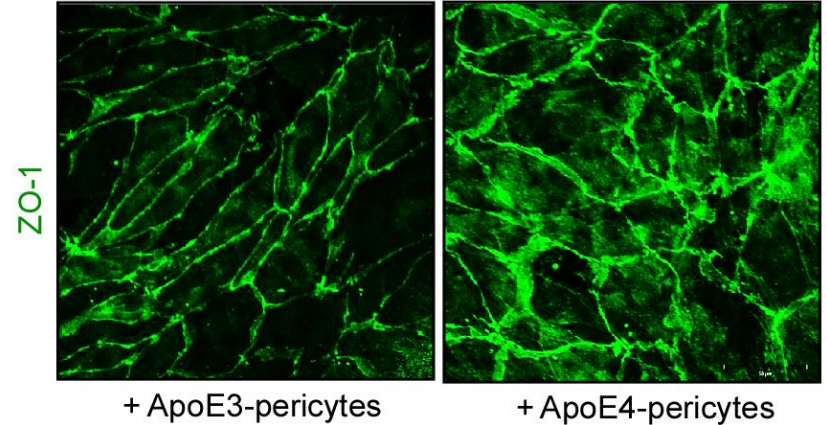
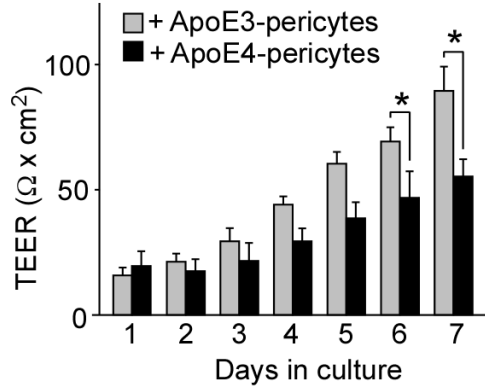
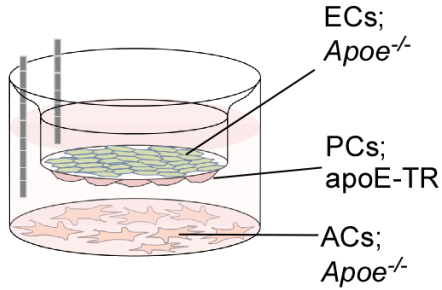
Immune response pathways are upregulated in APOE4-TR mice at 24 months of age

Rank	GO term ID	Term name
1	GO:0045087	innate immune response
2	GO:0006955	immune response
3	GO:0006952	defense response
4	GO:0098542	defense response to other organism
5	GO:0051707	response to other organism
6	GO:0009607	response to biotic stimulus
7	GO:0002376	immune system process
8	GO:0009615	response to virus
9	GO:0051607	defense response to virus
10	GO:0035456	response to interferon-beta

*, module with P<0.01

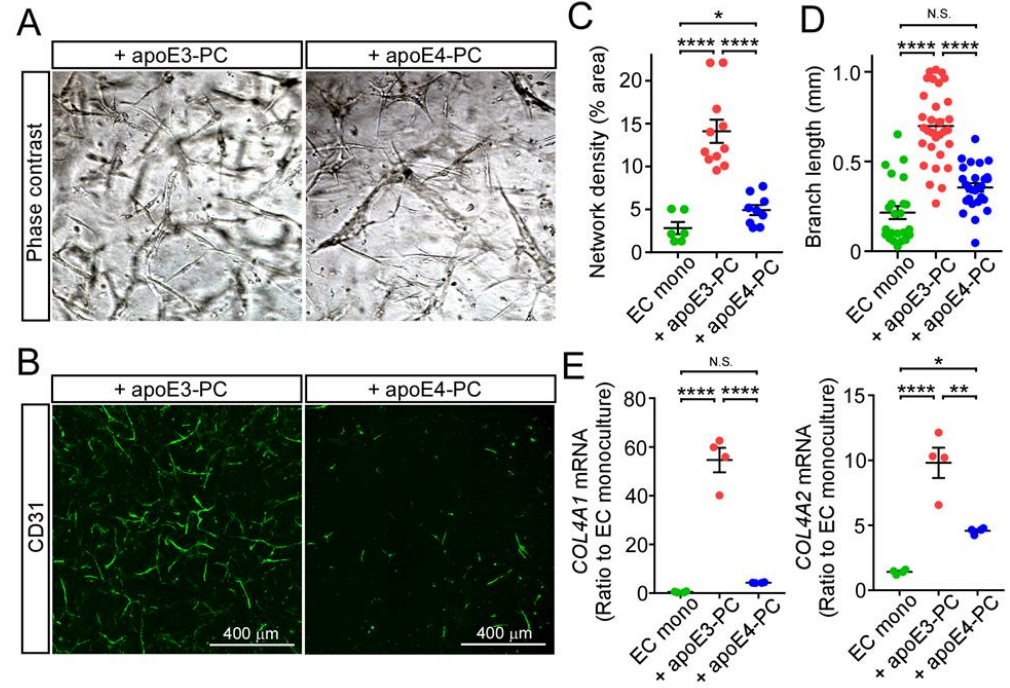
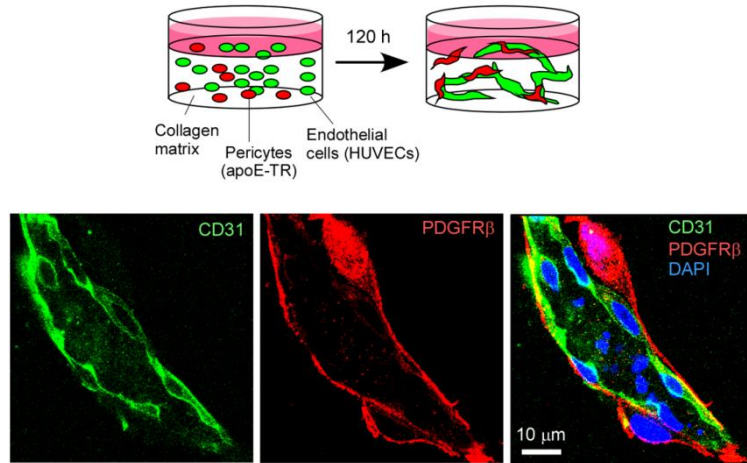
(24 months, n = 16/genotype, M/F ratio = 1)

ApoE in cerebrovasculature: ApoE4-pericytes are less efficient in supporting endothelial barrier formation in an *in vitro* BBB model

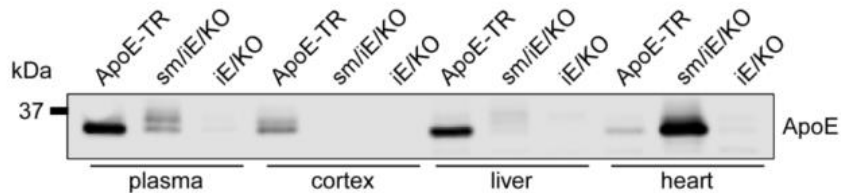
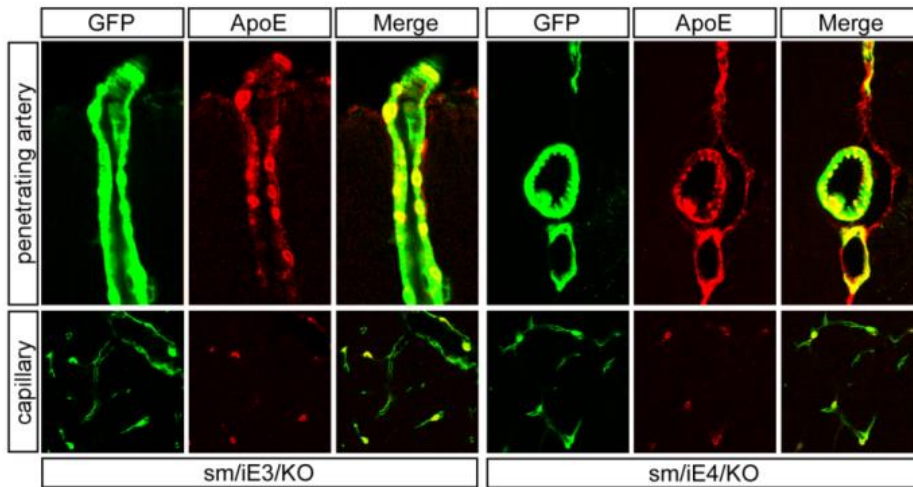
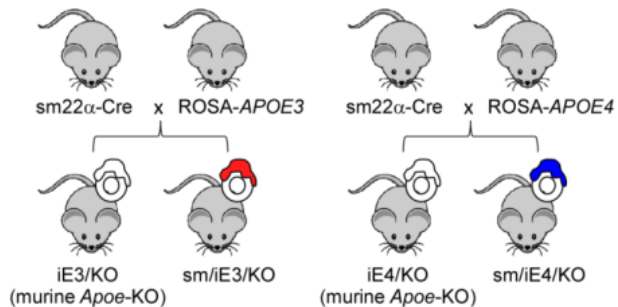
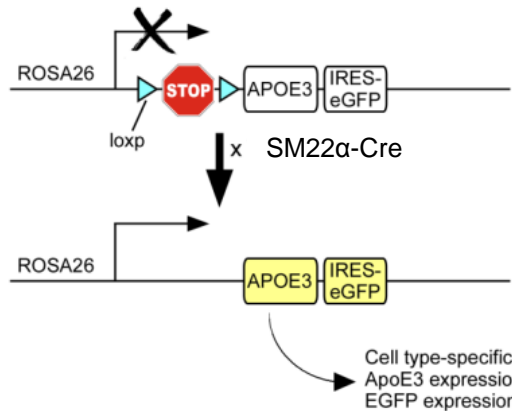


ApoE is abundantly expressed in vascular mural cells: SMC and pericytes

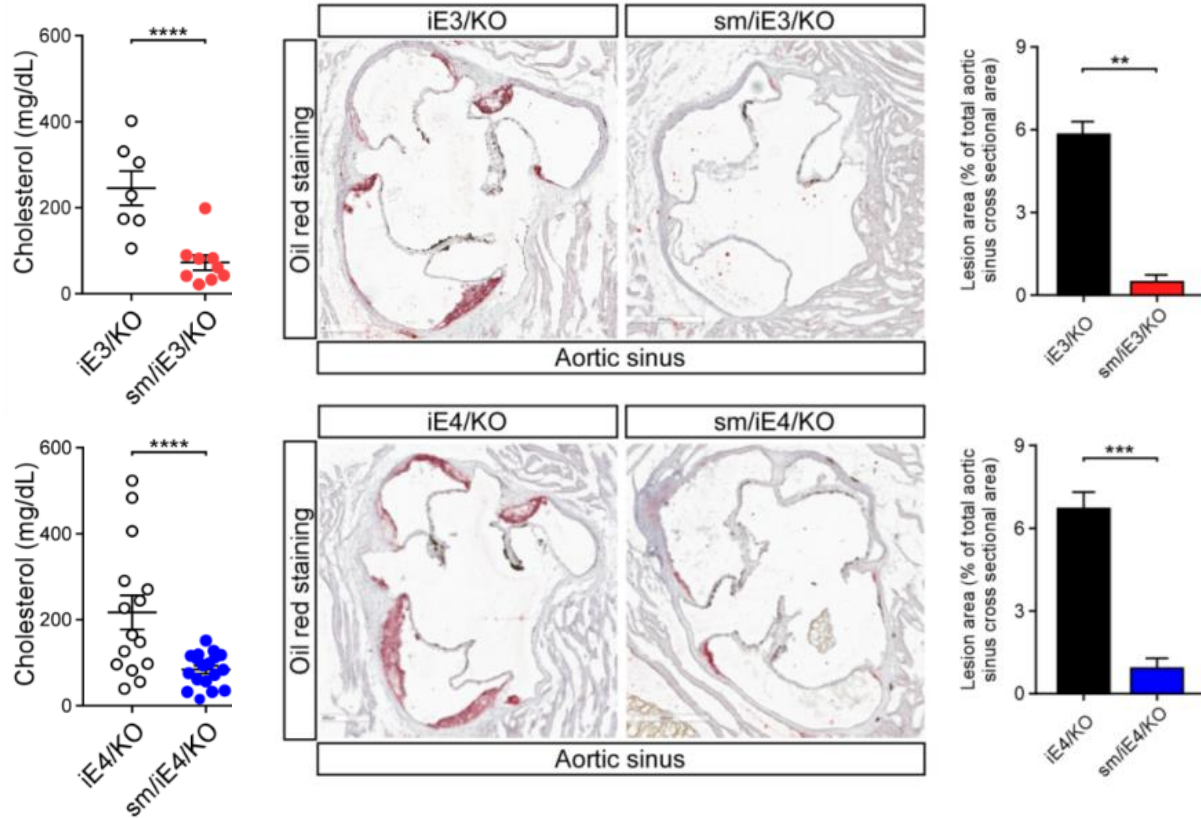
ApoE4-pericytes are less efficient in stimulating endothelial lumenogenesis in a 3-D co-culture system



Conditional expression of human apoE3 or apoE4 in VMCs using SM22 α -Cre in *ApoE*-KO background



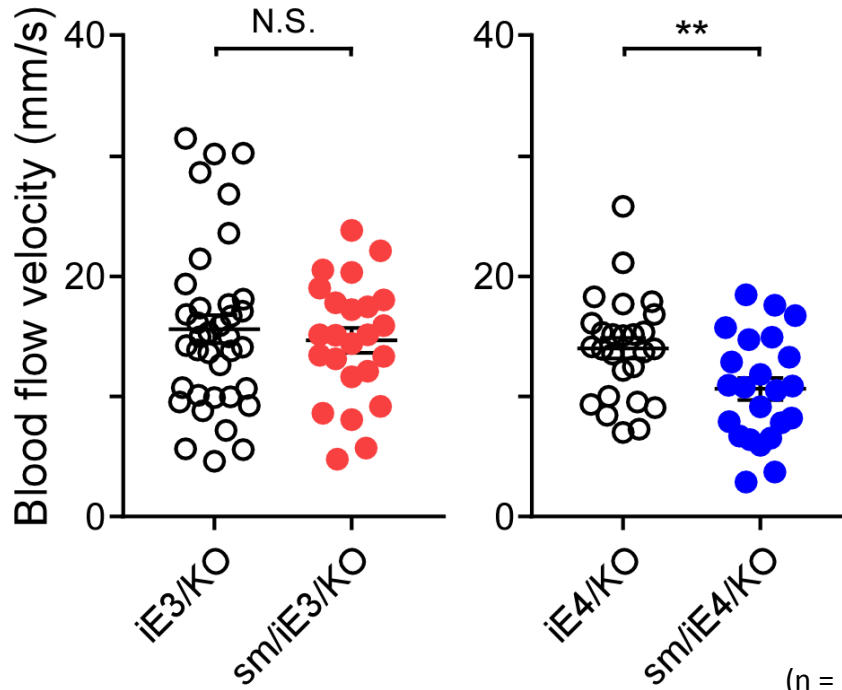
Conditional expression of human apoE3 or E4 in VMCs rescues lipid and atherosclerotic phenotypes resulted from murine *ApoE* deficiency



Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. **** P < 0.0001, *** P < 0.001 and ** P < 0.01, t-test

Yamazaki et al., unpublished

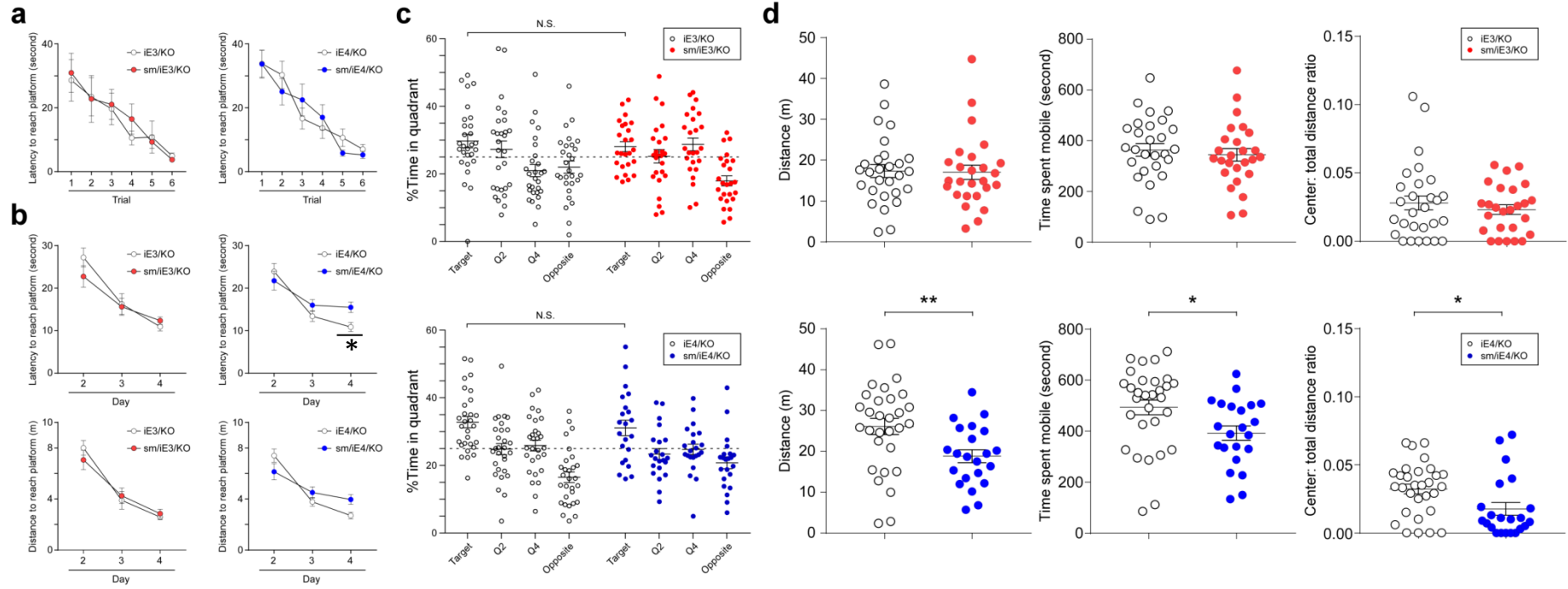
Arteriole blood flow measured by *in vivo* 2-photon imaging is decreased in *sm/iE4/KO* mice



(n = 24 -48 arterioles from 3 mice/group)

Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. ** $P < 0.01$, t-test. N.S., not significant.

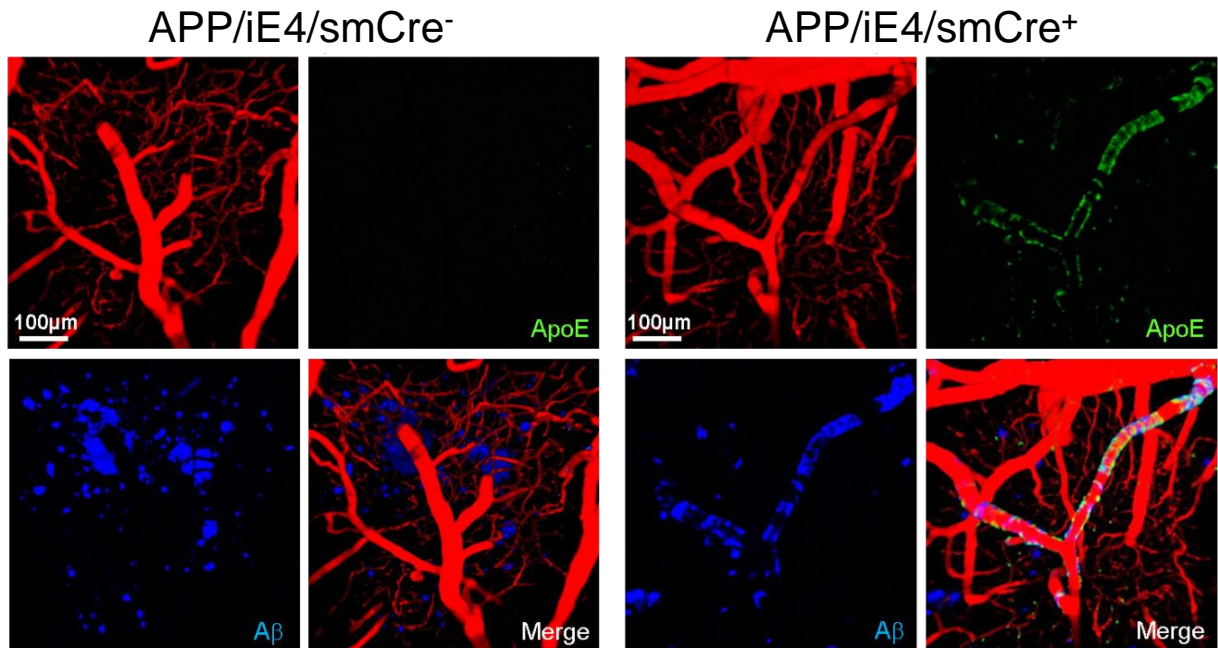
Conditional expression of apoE4 in VMCs leads to increased anxiety-like behavior and impaired spatial learning



Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. ** $P < 0.01$ and * $P < 0.05$, t-test. N.S., not significant.

Yamazaki et al., unpublished

Expression of apoE4 in vascular mural cells redistributed A β into the vasculature as CAA



- SM22 α -Cre, vascular-specific in *ApoE*-KO background
- Bred to APP/PS1 amyloid model mice
- Two-photon images (collaboration with Betty Kim lab)
- Vascular apoE seeds CAA

Summary

Postmortem brain studies

- *APOE4* and male sex are correlated with increased severity of CAA in AD.
- $A\beta_{40}$ and $A\beta_{40}/A\beta_{42}$ are selectively increased in AD brains with CAA in a sex- and *APOE4*-dependent manner
- Endothelial tight junction markers are progressively decreased in AD.

Animal model omics studies

- Transcriptomic signature in *APOE4*-TR mice is distinct from that of *APOE2*-TR or *APOE3*-TR mice at different ages.
- AD relevance of *APOE* genotype-related signatures will be determined through a comparison with human transcriptomic datasets available from the AMP-AD Knowledge Portals.
- Identified AD-relevant “*APOE* effectors” will further be validated using iPSC and human samples (i.e., CSF, postmortem brains).

In vitro and *in vivo* functional studies

- ApoE in pericytes regulates endothelial expression of ECM in an isoform-dependent manner, which influences vasculogenesis in a 3-D culture system.
- Conditional expression of apoE4 in VMCs leads to an increased anxiety-like phenotype, impaired learning, and reduced arteriolar blood flow.
- Expression of apoE4 in vascular mural cells redistributed $A\beta$ into the vasculature as CAA.

[Data either are deposited or will be deposited shortly at https://www.synapse.org](https://www.synapse.org)

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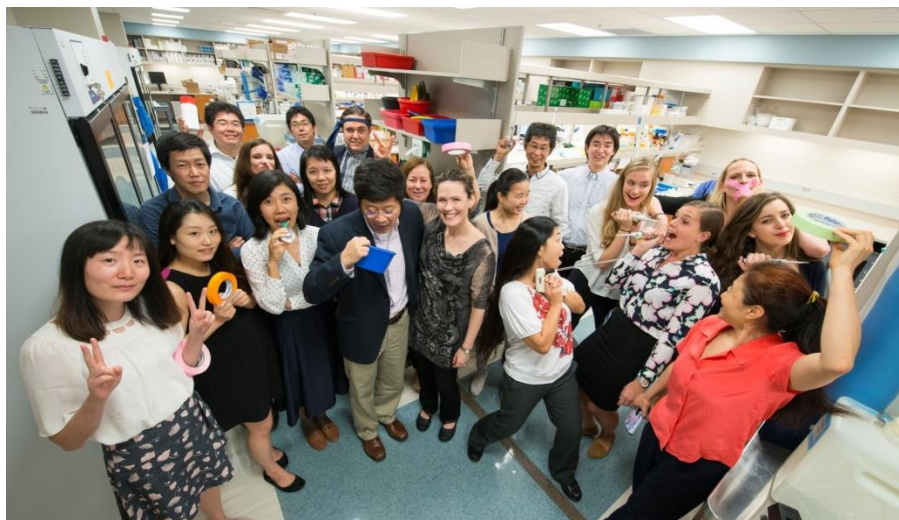
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Acknowledgements



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