Evaluating the Translational Validity of Mouse Models of Late-Onset AD (LOAD) through Deep-Phenotyping

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Evaluating the Translational Validity of Mouse Models of Late-Onset AD (LOAD) through Deep-Phenotyping

MODEL-AD Consortium - Disease Modeling Project (DMP)

- General strategy for model development and phenotyping platforms.
- Examples of hA β -KI (completed) and hTau-KI (in progress).
- Phenotyping of *APOE4*, *Trem2*^{*R47H*} models.
- Effect of mouse genetic background on development of pathology.











Concerns with Existing Animal Models of AD

Difficulties in Relating Behavioral Deficits Observed in Mouse Models to Human AD



Using genome engineering to generate mouse models of Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease (LOAD)

- Use CRISPR/Cas9 to introduce coding and conserved non-coding LOAD GWAS risk-variants into cognate loci in mouse genome – e.g. *Trem2*^{R47H}
- Overcomes limitations associated with -
 - Random integration of transgenes.
 - Supra-physiologic expression.
 - Lack of availability of matched negative controls.
- Accelerated production compared with previous HR / ES-cell based strategies.
- Improve reproducibility and reduce experimental variability by using consistent genetic background (C57BL/6J, initially).











Using advanced genome engineering to generate mouse models of Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease (LOAD) – UCI DMP

- Use CRISPR/Cas9 with long (~ 2kb) ssDNA homology dependent repair (HDR) templates to introduce non-conserved LOAD GWAS risk-variants into cognate loci in mouse genome – e.g. humanizing non-conserved regions of mouse clusterin locus (*Clu*).
- Use of Recombinase Mediated Cassette Exchange (RMCE) to humanize entire loci – e.g. hTau-KI, hClu-KI.
- Generate LOAD mouse models on consistent genetic background (C57BL/6J, initially).
- Maximize researcher access to all models available to both academics and pharma from Jackson Lab AD Mouse Model Resource, with minimal restrictions.











A humanized platform for introduction of GWAS AD-risk variants to generate mouse models of LOAD



B6J. hAβ-KI; APOE^{ε4/ε4}; hTau-KI

base platform

Long-term goal

- Introduce different combinations of GWAS human LOAD risk alleles into hAβ-KI; APOE^{ε4}; hTau-KI via CRISPR/Cas9 or assisted reproduction.
 - Perform initial screen, then deep-phenotyping on subset to analyze effects.
 - *Trem2* ^{*R47H*}
 - Abca7 A1527G
 - Plcg2 M28L
 - Mthfr A222V



Available now



In development







Goal - alignment of mouse models with clinical measures



Assessing reproducibility of findings at different sites

- Phenotype = Genes + Environment
- Harmonize environment and methodology to extent possible at each site.
- Assess reproducibility of data generated from deep-phenotyping.



e.g. IU v JAX mice nanoString Analysis











Deep phenotyping pipeline for LOAD models – UCI DMP

Pathology	Biochemistry	Functional Phenotyping	Network Analysis	
Aβ/plaque load: Thio-S, 6E10	Soluble and insoluble brain fractions (Aβ38, Aβ40, Aβ42) - MSD	Behavior / Cognition	Gene expression via RNA-seq	
Tau/NFT load: HT7, AT8, Gallyas	Tau, phospho-Tau	Long Term Potentiation (LTP)	-	
Glial densities/activation: Microglia (Iba1, CD68) Astrocytes (Gfap, S100b)	Soluble brain fractions (Inflammatory cytokines) -MSD	_	_	
Neurodegeneration: Brain Volume, Neuronal Loss	Plasma Biomarkers	4, 8, 12, 18 mo	onth timepoints	
Vascular Damage: CD31/fibrin	Colon / Fecal Sampling for Microbiome*	18M / 18F available per timepo * proposed		
MODEL-AD	Ψ Л	The Jackson Laboratory	UCI University of California, Irvine	

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Model Characterization at UCI – 4,8,12,18 month timepoints

Neuropathology and Neurodegeneration







ThioS-GFAP

220-

180-

140

(% bas

slope

EPSP :











120

100

(%) 80 Network analysis: **Molecular Profiling** (RNA-Seq)

Behavioral and Cognitive Phenotyping





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50-60 min post TBS









5xfAD

Electrophysiology



Generation of mice expressing a *cre-loxP* conditional allele of humanized wild-type A $\beta \Box hA\beta$ -loxP-KI model – UCI DMP

- No published allele of mouse App expresses normal human Aβ.
- Exon 16 humanized Aβ sequence is floxed, enabling cre-mediated cKO of humanized allele.
- IU/JAX has generated mice with complementary hAβ-KI allele without *loxP* sites.
- Important models to investigate inherent difference in Aβ biology, plus provide platform for LOAD modeling.













Mice expressing humanized wild-type Aβ display age-related altered cognition, electrophysiology and gene-expression



Program, Approved Format, and original ID	Session Name, Date, Time	Presentation Title	Accept	Decline	Role	Presentation Time
Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)	O1-01 Development of New Models and Analysis Methods: Novel Model Systems to Study Dementia, <i>Sunday, July 22, 2018:</i> <i>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM, McCormick Place, Room - 184</i>	O1-01-04 Haβ-KI: A Knock-in Mouse Model for Sporadic Alzheimer's Disease	• David I	⊖ Bagliett	Presenting Author O-Vargas	8:45 AM- 9:00 AM











Timeline for Development of Pathology in Mouse AD MODELS













Strategy to humanize mouse *Mapt* (TAU), *Clu* and other loci using Recombinase Mediated Cassette Exchange (RMCE)













hTau-KI mice - humanization of mouse Mapt via RMCE



IU/JAX Disease Modeling Project: 40 new models of LOAD



B6J.APOE^{E4/E4}TREM2^{R47H/R47H} Common name: B6J.hAT Early goals of IU/JAX DMP

- Characterize commonly used EOAD models
 - APP/PS1 (Borchelt)
 - 5xFAD (Vassar)
 - hTau (Davies)
- Characterize newly created B6J.hAT LOAD model
- Introduce known GWAS human variants into APOE/TREM 'sensitizer' strain.
- Characterize and stage F344-Tg(PrP-APP, PrP-PS1) – rat model of EOAD











Clinically-relevant deep phenotyping

AMP-AD, ADNI etc.	MODEL-AD			
Assay	Primary Screening 2, 6,12 months 24 models	Deep Phenotyping 4, 8, 12, (18 months) Prioritized models		
Amyloid and tau pathology	•	•		
Neuroinflammation	•	•		
Neuronal cell loss	•	•		
Biomarkers	•	•		
Biomarkers (Quanterix)		•		
Transcriptomes (NanoString)	•			
Transcriptomes (RNA-seq)		•		
Transcriptomes (scRNA-seq)		pilot study*		
Proteomics		pilot study*		
Metabolomics		pilot study*		
Imaging (FDG, PET/MRI)		•		
Cognitive tests		•		



Pilot studies

using B6J.5xFAD and B6J.hAT

scRNA-seq: de Jager

Proteomics: Seyfried

Metabolomics: Kaddurah-Daouk











Clinically-relevant deep phenotyping

	4mo	8mo	12mo	(18+ mo)
Aspects of deep phenotyping occurs at IU and JAX for reproducibility	Behavioral battery -CSF collection -Serum collection -Fecal sample -Brain dissection -Eye collection			
12M/12F per genotype at each time point for scientific rigor	-Biomarker assessment -RNAseq -Histological analysis - <i>In vivo</i> imaging	-Biomarker assessmen -RNAseq -Histological analysis - <i>In vivo</i> imaging	t -Biomarker assessment -RNAseq -Histological analysis -In vivo imaging	-Biomarker assessment -RNAseq -Histological analysis - <i>In vivo</i> imaging

In vivo imaging by MR/PET: Amyloid: 18F-AV45 Tau: 18F-1451	Biomarkers : AB, Tau Nfl	Histology: Gross morphology/white matter: Luxol fast blue and Cresol Violet Neurons: NeuN and CTIP	Pilots : Proteomic and metabolomics profiling Considering: Microbiome
Glucose: 18F-FDG Blood flow: 64Cu-PTSM	Neurogranin sTREM2	Plaques, dystropic neurites and myeloid cells: X34, LAMP1 and IBA1 TAU: AT8 and H&E	
		Neuroinflammation: IBA1 and GFAP	

Vascular health: CD31 and IBA1











B6J.*hAT:* No differences in hippocampal working memory between genotypes and ages













Female

Female



B6J.hAT: Differences in lipid profiles driven by APOE^{E4}



B6J.hAT: PET/MR imaging (3T) with 18F-FDG

0.68 1.3 2.03 0.0 2.7 18F-FDG SUVR (Region/Cerebellum) 0.2 2.7

0.68 2.03 1.35 18F-FDG SUVR (Region/Cerebellum)



Preliminary findings: No significant changes across 27 brain regions comparing all genotypes at 4 and 8 mos











B6J.hAT⁻ Summary and Future plans

- APOE^{E4}-dependent changes in lipid profiles
- No age-dependent decline in glucose uptake across all genotypes
- No evidence of cognitive decline (measured using spontaneous alternation) up to 12 months of age
- Analyses of RNA sequence data of half brains underway
- Histological and biochemical assessment of tissue underway
 - Neuroinflammation, cerebrovascular health, amyloid and Tau











Next step: Deep phenotyping *B6J.APOE*^{4/4} *TREM2*^{<*R47H>*} mice with humanized *APP*













Primary screen of novel variants on sensitized genetic background



B6J.hAT



- New strains created and in the primary screening pipeline
 - Abca7^{A1527G}, Il1rap^{KO}, Ceacam1^{KO}, Plcg2^{M28L}, Mthfr^{A222V}
- Ten others in CRISPR pipeline using B6J.APOE^{4/4} TREM2<R47H>
- Up to 40 variants to be created with 24 to be screened











A primary screen to prioritize candidate variants for deep phenotyping



Promising strains prioritized for deep phenotyping











A nanoString panel to align mouse models to human data: AMP-AD panel

- Panel of 770+30 mouse gene probes
 - Maximize coverage of 30 AMP-AD modules
 - Include top AMP-AD candidates (Top 30, AGORA targets)
 - Genes ranked by
 - representation of module PCs (gene score)
 - ortholog expressed in mouse brain at 6 months of age
 - \circ 10 housekeeping genes









Coverage ranges from 76-278 genes per module



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Genetic context is important



APP/PS1 on B6J and wild-derived strains











Transcriptome analyses by WGCNA shows variation in amyloid response between strains



Genes in module

ltgb2	Tbxas1
Cd52	Tyrobp
Spi1	Tgfbr2
Ptpn6	Arpp21
Ctsd	Vav1
Ctsz	Cd84
Abi3	Ctss
Cd68	Gpr34
Cd180	Cd53
Fyb	Irf8
Арр	Fam46c
Pros1	Tlr7
Trem2	Mpeg1
Csf1r	Gpr84
Cndp2	Csf2rb
Ptprc	Prnp
Slamf9	
Laptm5	2900079G21Rik











Strain-specific transcriptome analyses shows variation in genetic 'drivers' of AD

Generalized linear modeling CAST PWK IRF8 CTSZ **B6 WSB** 887 1065 C1QA 135 C3AR1 **CD84** 97 93 CTSD 925 751 CSF3R TGFBR1 PLEK 25 36 SEN1 CTSS ITGB2 49 Ccl6 CSF2RB TGAM CX3CR1 85 72 GPR34 SLCO2B1 CD68 15 16 CD180 FCGR2A PRNP PTPRC CD86 GRN 68 Sage **University of** ackson California, Irvine

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Summary: Evaluating the Translational Validity of Mouse Models of LOAD by clinically relevant deep phenotyping

- Creating up to 50 mouse models relevant to Alzheimer's disease
 - Includes creating a humanized platform (APP, TAU, APOE) for testing novel variants
 - Approximately 20 models created or in progress including AB-KI, hAT
- Perform clinically-relevant deep phenotyping of key (>10) models
 - Including in vivo imaging (MR/PET) and RNA-seq
 - Data available for 4 existing (5xFAD, 3xTG, APP/PS1, hTau) and 2 new models (hAB-KI, APOE4/TREM2<R47H>)
 - Pilots for proteomics and metabolomics underway
- All data and mouse strains made available through Synapse and JAX mouse repository (as well as other sources)
 - 23 models either available to order, available for preorder, or in preparation
 - ~265 RNA-seq data files submitted/being submitted to Synapse (many more to











Strains and data available from model-ad.org



The MODEL-AD Consortium

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