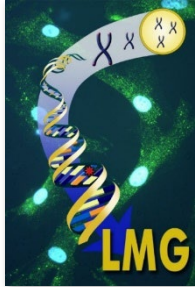
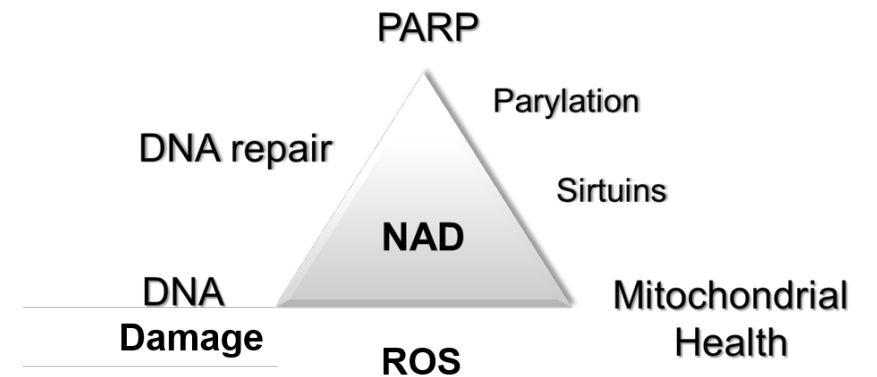
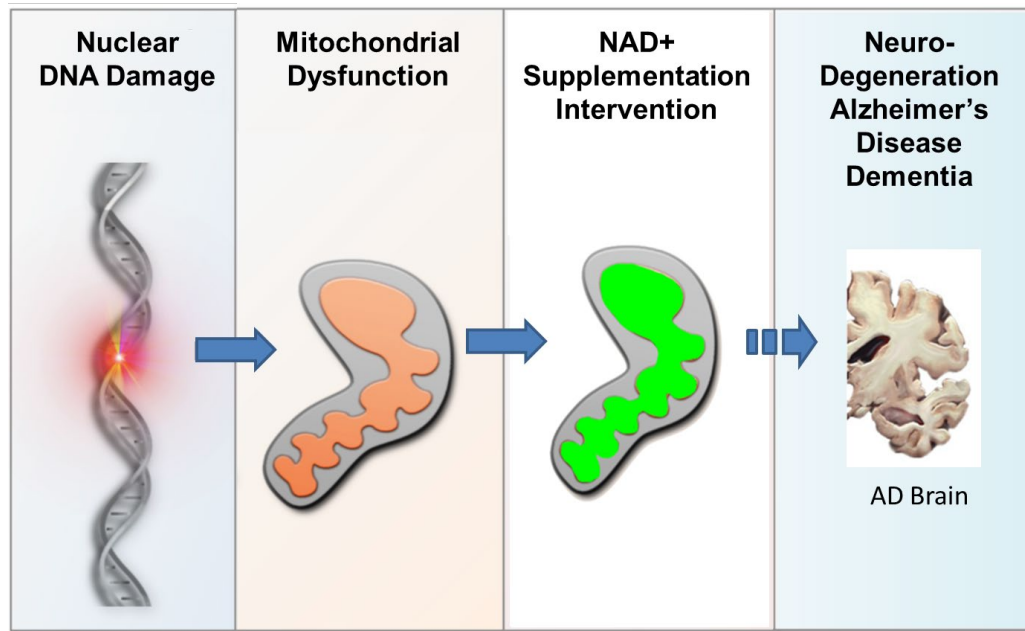


DNA damage signaling to mitochondria in neurodegeneration and aging



Vilhelm A. Bohr, M.D., Ph.D.

DNA Repair Section, National Institute on Aging, NIH
National Institute on Aging, Baltimore, MD



1978-82 MD Copenhagen

Meningitis clin study

DNA repair, PARP

Residencies, Neurology

1982-86 Stanford

Preferential DNA repair

Transcription coupled DNA repair

1986-92 NCI

Transcription coupled DNA repair

Repair of different lesions

Mitochondrial DNA repair

1992-NIA

Transcription coupled DNA repair

Premature aging diseases

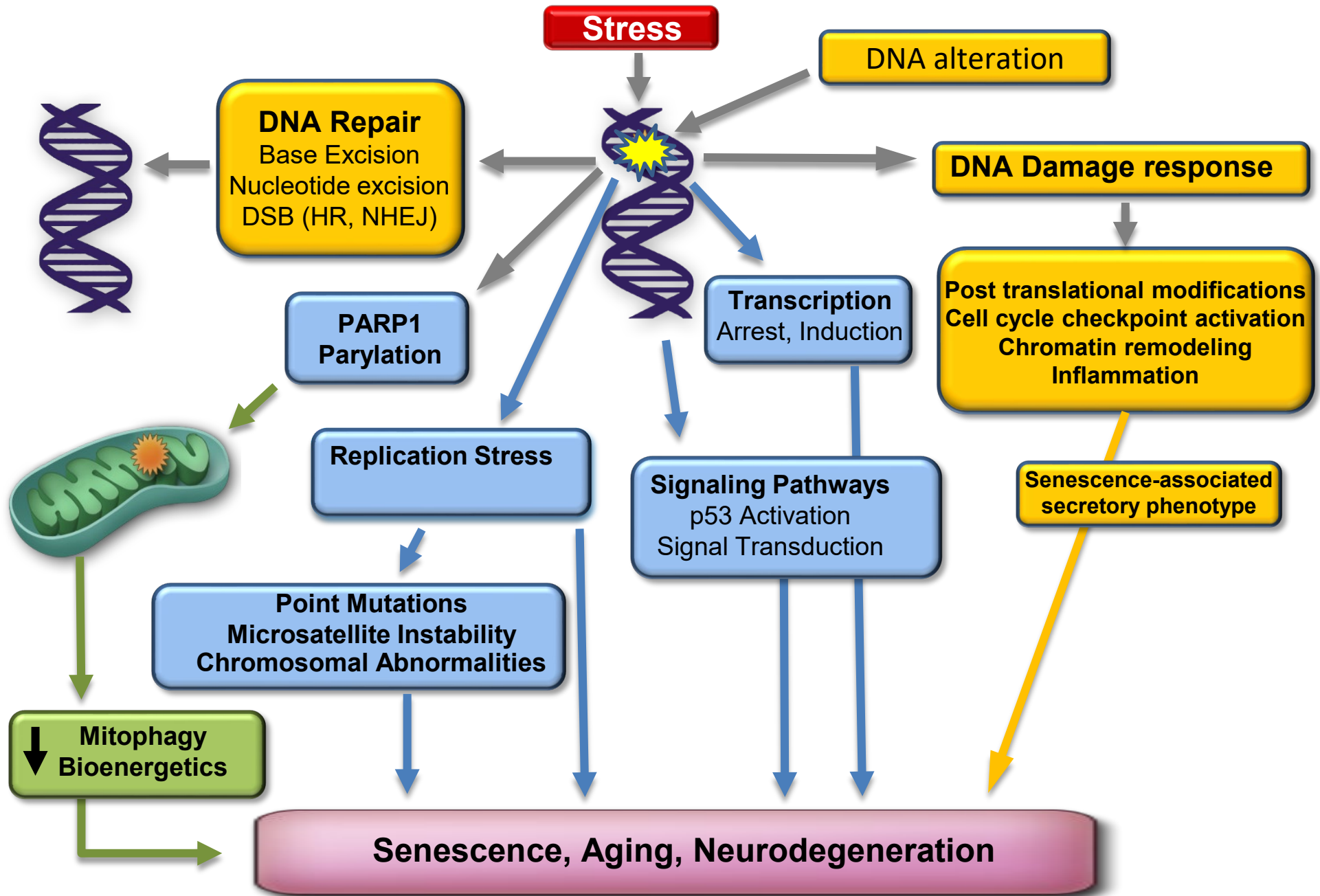
RecQs, CS, WS

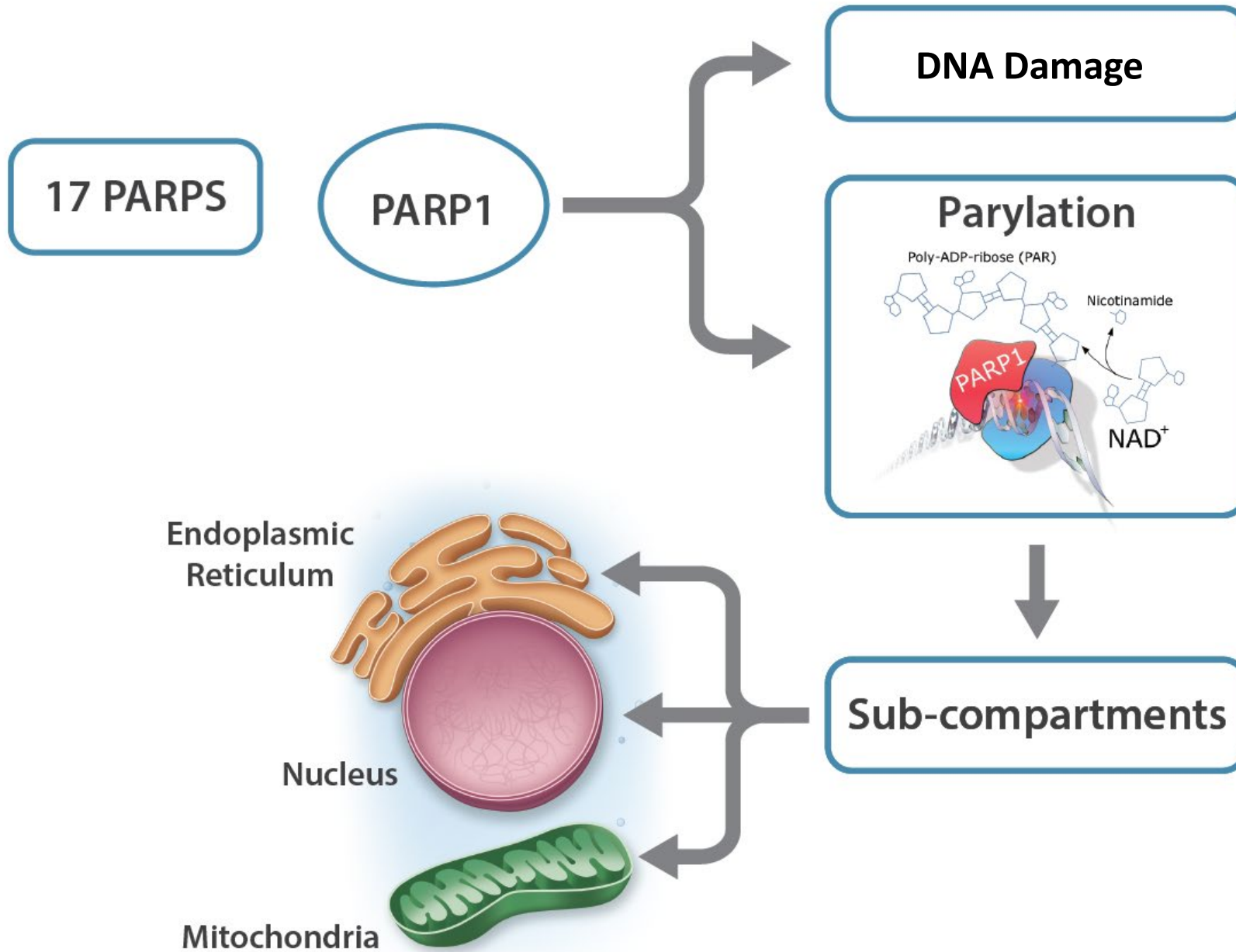
Mitochondrial DNA repair

Neurodegeneration

Moving to more Translation, NAD
supplementation, Intervention

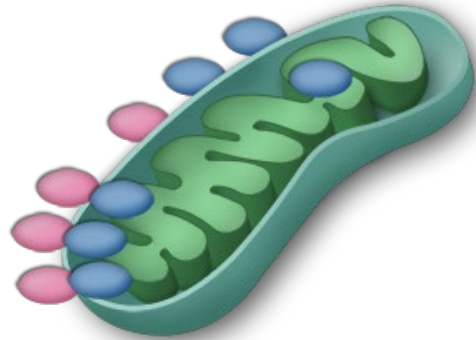
DNA Damage Responses





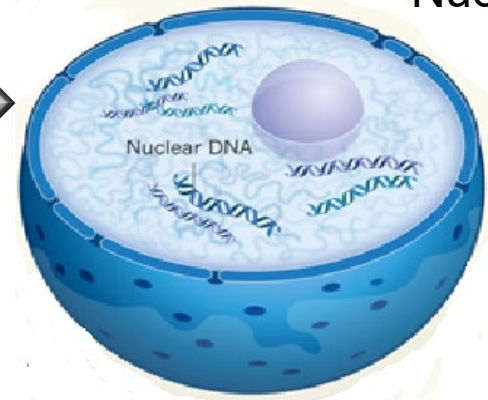
Nuclear-Mitochondrial Signaling

Mitochondria



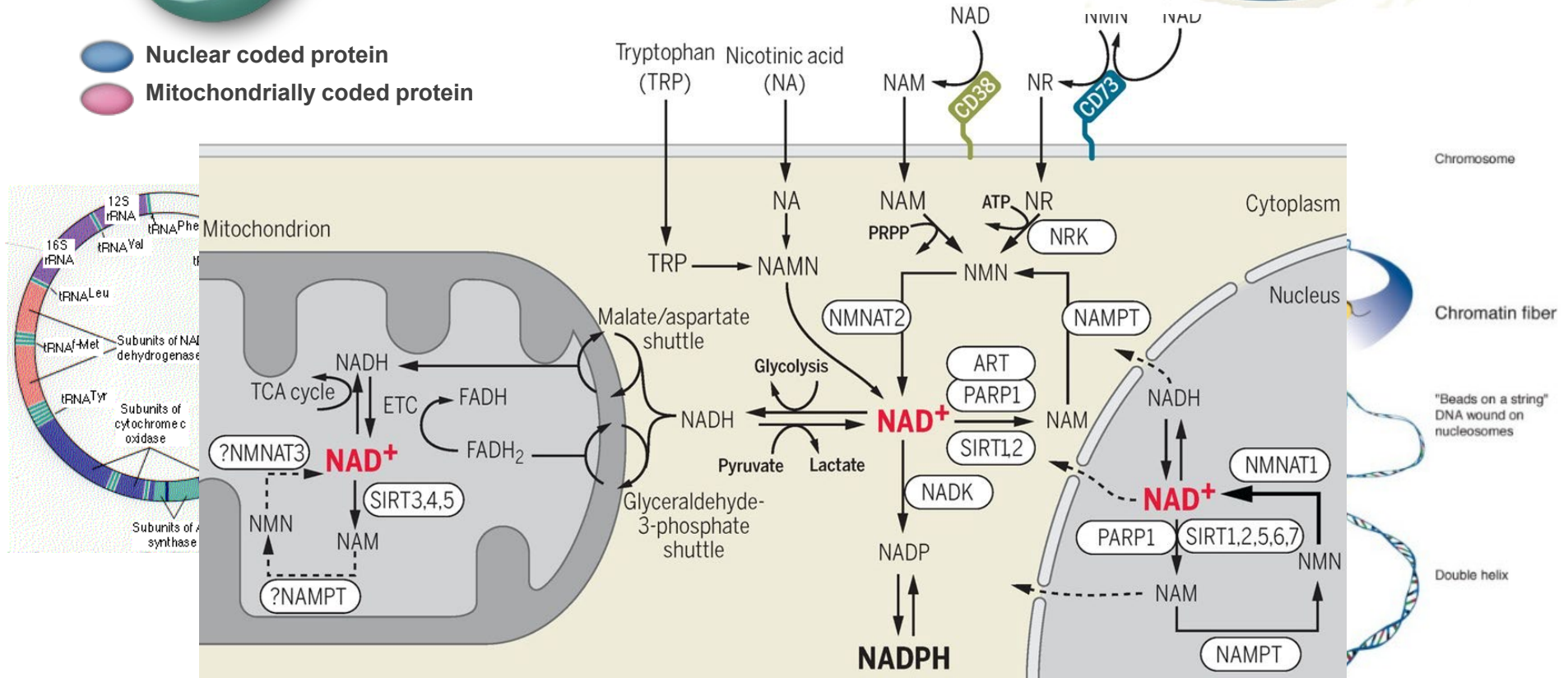
- Nuclear coded protein
- Mitochondrially coded protein

Nucleus



ROS, Metabolites, UPR

P53, SIRT6, PGC1 α



Segmental Progerias: Premature Aging Disorders

Premature Aging



14 Years



48 Years

Werner Syndrome
Cockayne Syndrome
Xeroderma Pigmentosum
Bloom Syndrome
Rothmund Thomson Syndrome
Hutchinson Gilford Progeria
Ataxia Telangiectasia

GOOD model systems for the study of aging

Genetic defects can be complemented in
biochemical and cellular studies

Elite Aging



The oldest person

Jeanne Calment
122.5 Yrs

Cockayne
Syndrome



All these conditions are defective in DNA repair

Segmental Progerias: Premature Aging Disorders

Premature Aging



14 Years



48 Years

Severe Neurodegeneration

Cockayne Syndrome
Xeroderma Pigmentosum grp A
Ataxia Telangiectasia

Cockayne
Syndrome



Nuclear DNA Damage leads to Mitochondrial Dysfunction

Cockayne Syndrome



Xeroderma Pigmentosum, Group A



Ataxia Telangiectasia



Diseases with DNA
repair defects

premature aging

**severe
neurodegeneration**

Studies across Species

Scheibye-Knudsen et al. *J. Exp Med.* 2012
Scheibye-Knudsen et al., *Aging*, 2013
Fang, Scheibye-Knudsen et al., *Cell* 2014
Scheibye-Knudsen et al, *Cell Metabolism* 2014
Scheibye-Knudsen, Fang et al, *Autophagy* 2014
Scheibye-Knudsen, Fang et al., *Trends Cell Biol* 2015
Fang et al, *Nature Reviews, MCB* 2016
Fang et al, *Cell Metabolism*, 2016
Fang et al, *Trends in Molecular Medicine*, 2017
Scheibye-Knudsen et al, *PNAS* 2017

Damaged
Mitochondrion



www.mito.db
Welcome to the
mitochondrial
disease database

DNA repair deficiency leads to mitochondrial dysfunction

Premature aging diseases with deficient DNA repair:

Ataxia telangiectasia

Xeroderma pigmentosum Grp A

Cockayne syndrome

Human cells

Mouse models

Nematodes

Bioinformatics

Cell Biology

Biochemistry

Behavior

- INCREASED PARYLTATION
- INCREASED MITOCHONDRIAL ROS
- INCREASED MITOCHONDRIAL MEMBRANE POTENTIAL
- DECREASED MITOPHAGY
- LOWER NAD⁺
- DECREASED SIRTUIN ACTIVITIES
- MANY CLINICAL FEATURES SIMILAR TO MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE

Werner syndrome

Aprataxia

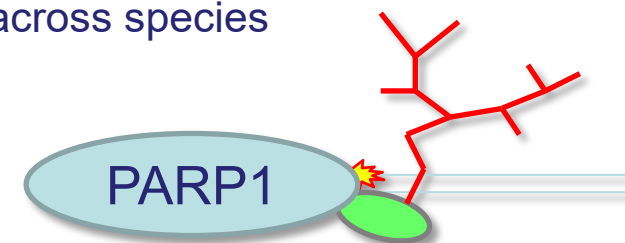
Alzheimers Disease



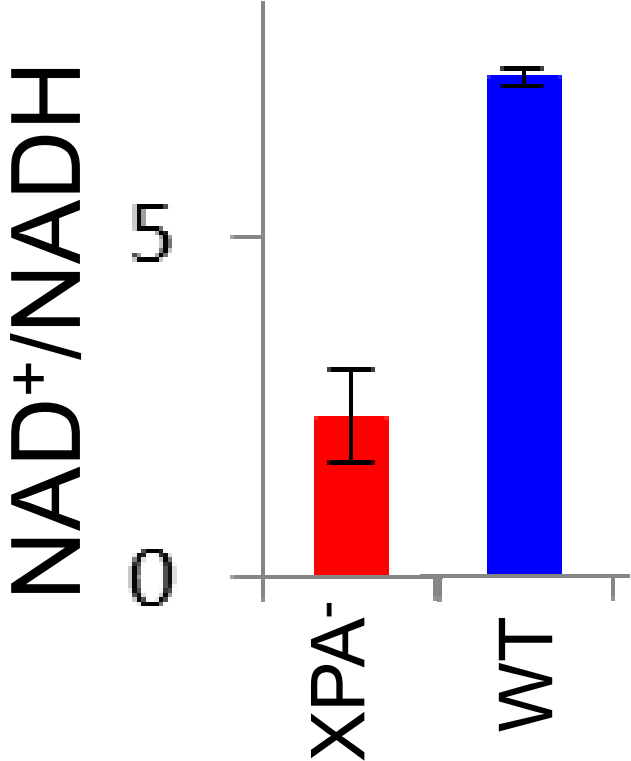
PARylation across species in DNA Repair Disorders



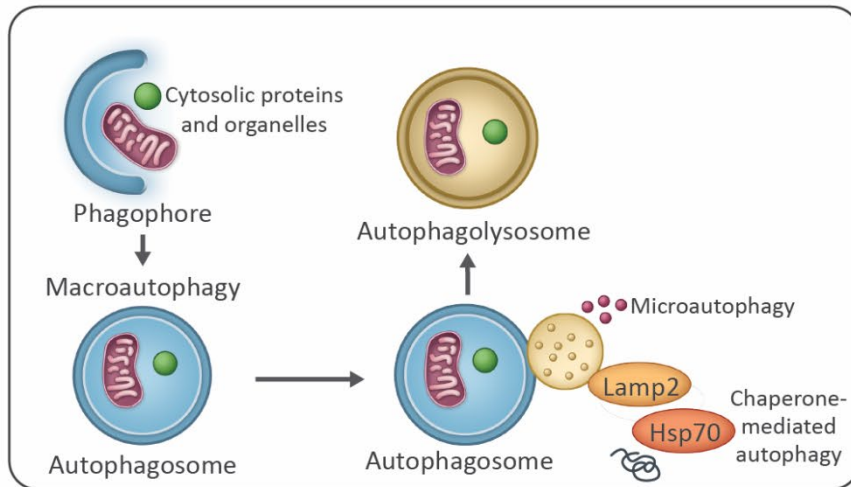
- Increased PARylation in DNA repair deficient disorders across species
- PARylation increases with age in the worm
- Lower Sirt1 expression across species



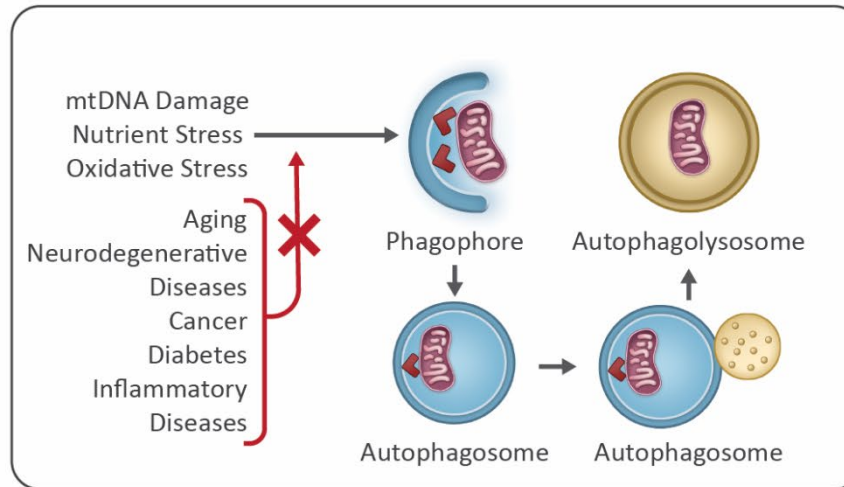
Decreased NAD⁺/NADH in XPA⁻ Cells



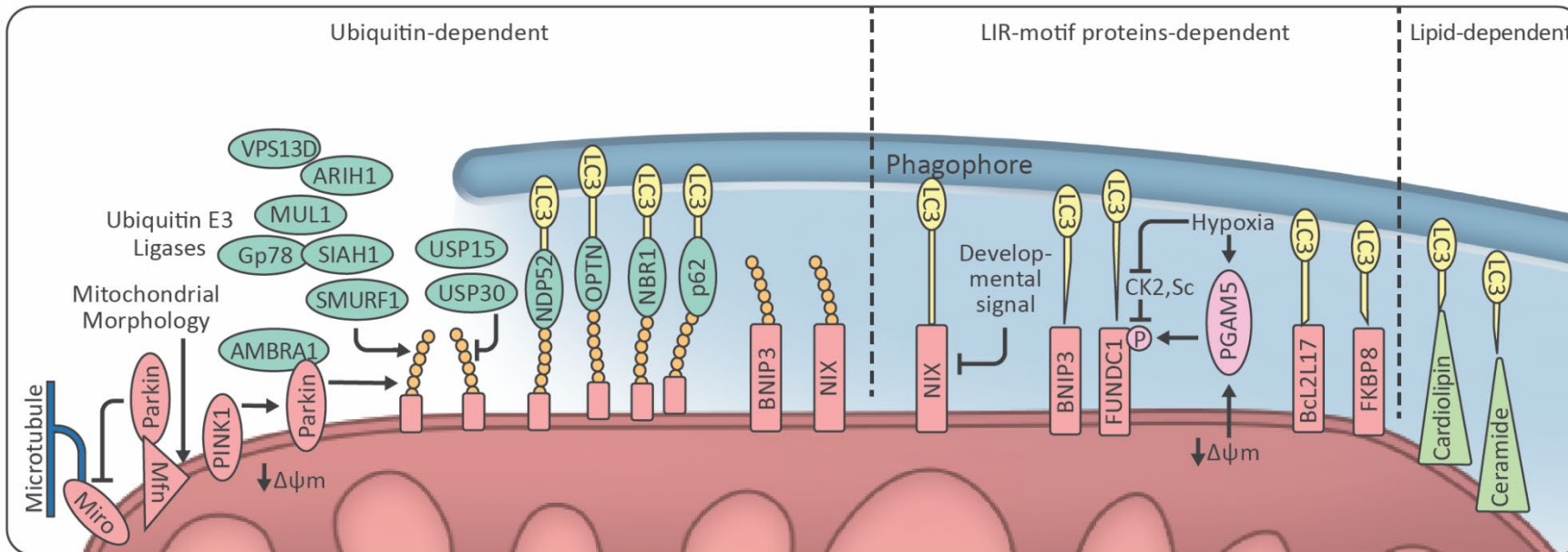
Autophagy



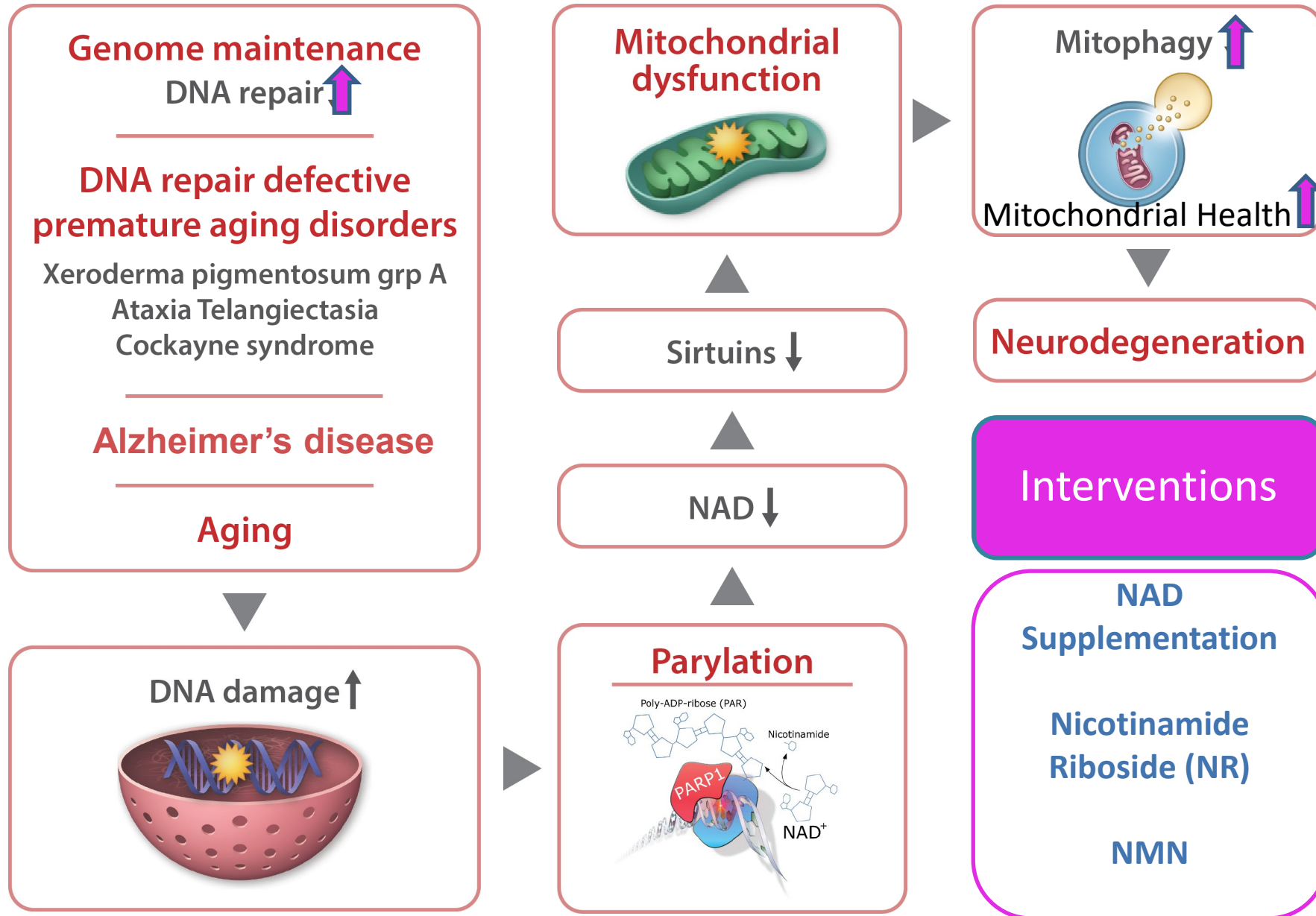
Mitophagy



Mitophagy Mechanism



Linking Nuclear DNA Damage to Mitochondrial Dysfunction

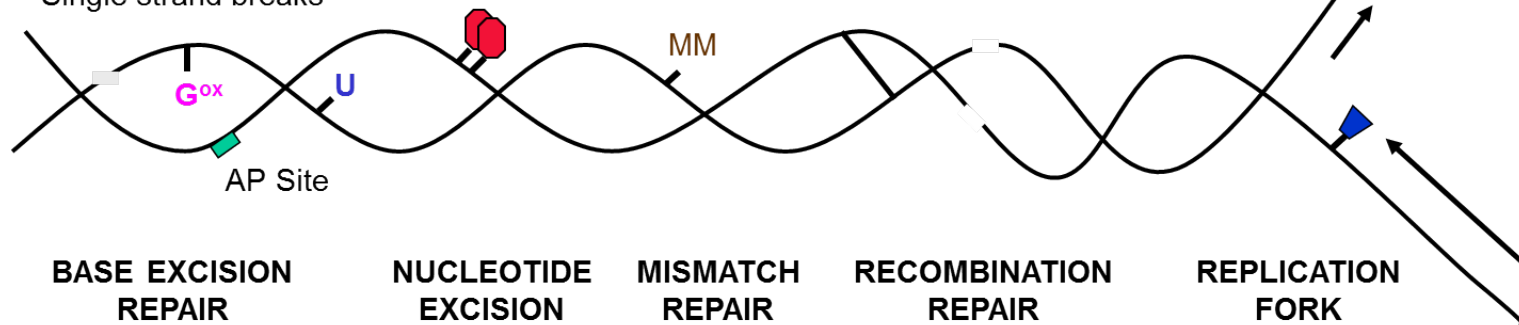


Mammalian DNA Repair

Reactive Oxygen Species
AID, X-rays,
Alkylating Agents
Spontaneous Decay
Single strand breaks

UV Light
Carcinogens

X-rays
DNA Crosslinkers



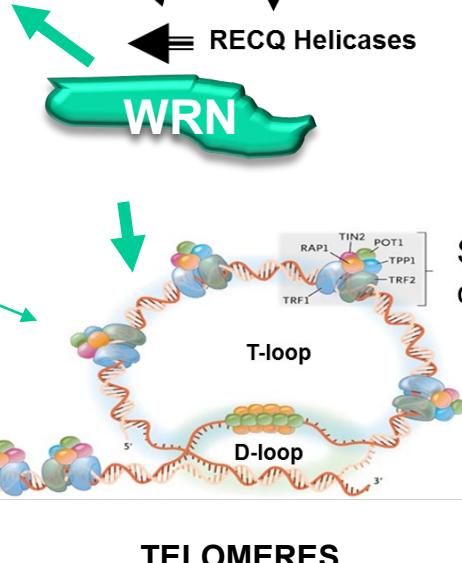
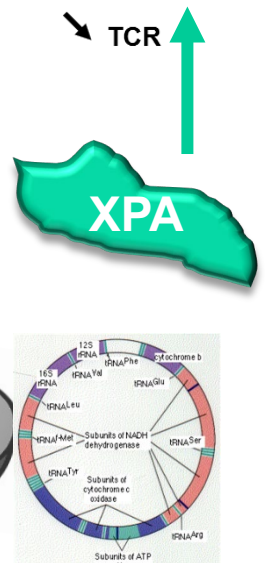
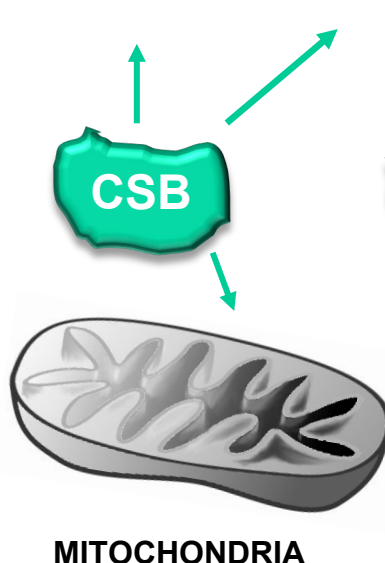
BASE EXCISION REPAIR
Short-patch Long-patch SSBR

NUCLEOTIDE EXCISION REPAIR
Gene-Specific Global

MISMATCH REPAIR

RECOMBINATION REPAIR
Homologous NHEJ
Alt-NHEJ

REPLICATION FORK ARREST
Various DNA Structures

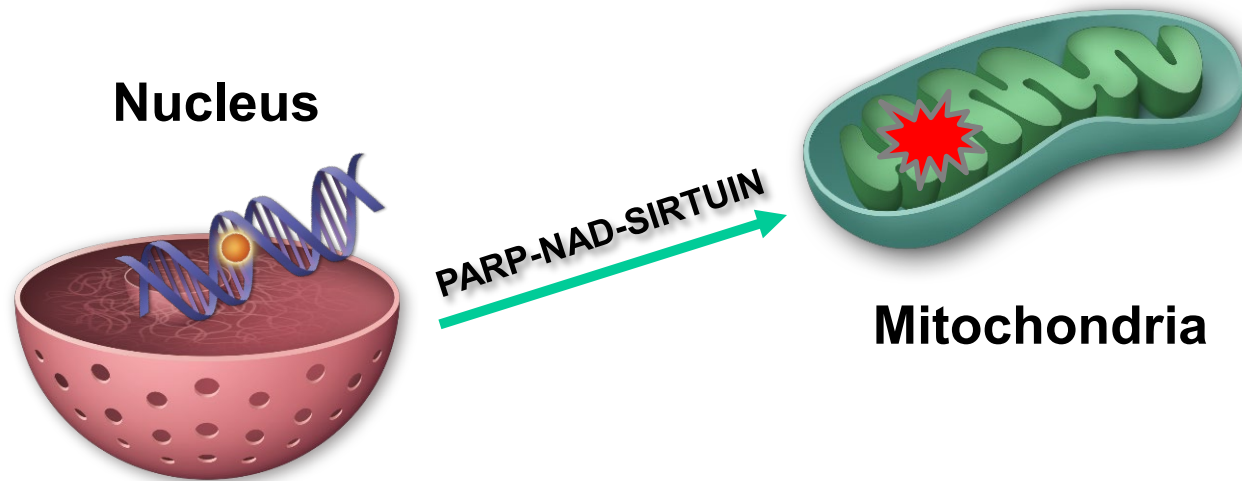


MITOCHONDRIA

TELOMERES

Shelterin complex

NUCLEAR DNA damage and mitochondrial dysfunction: EXTERNAL and INTERNAL signaling to mitochondria



PRESENT IN THE NUCLEUS

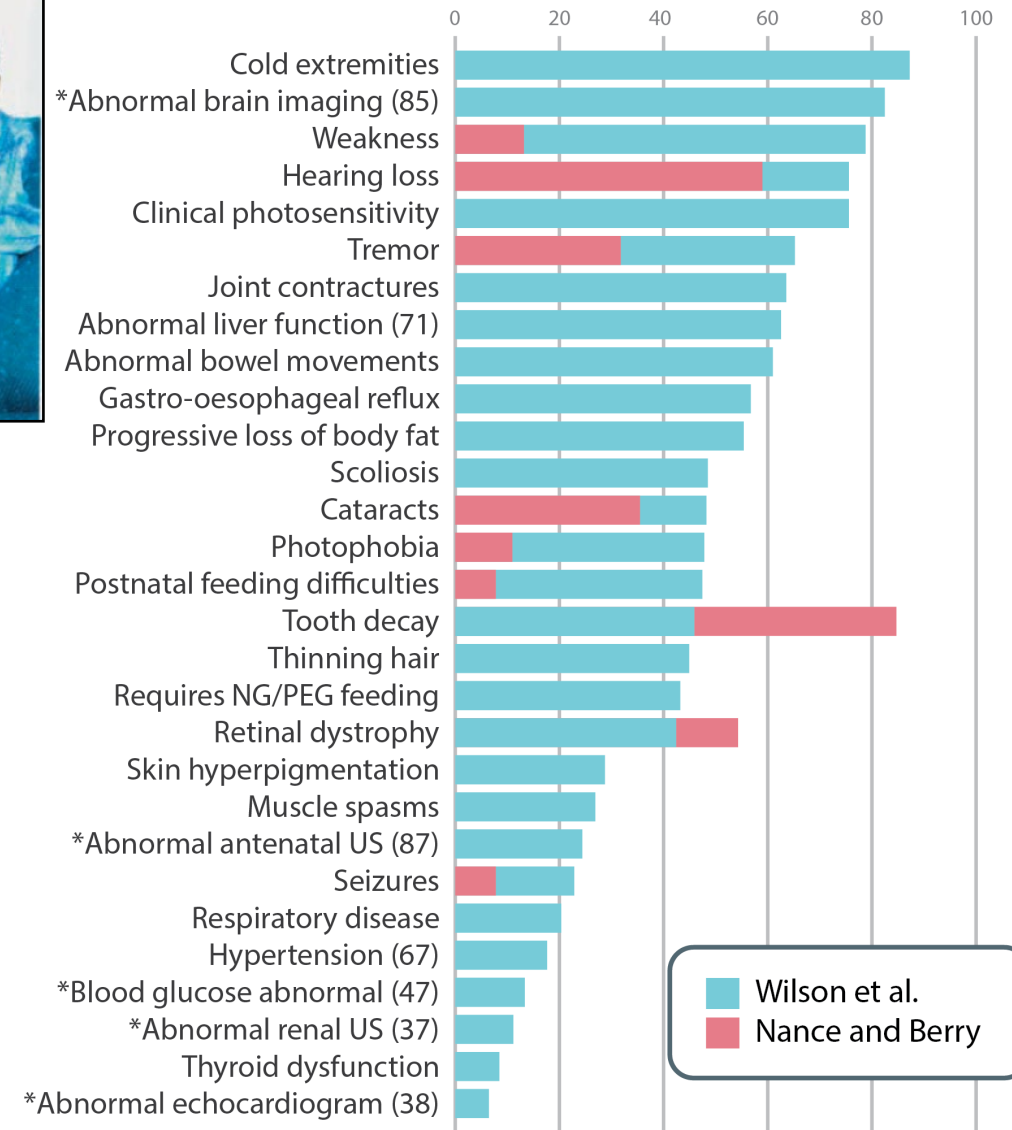
XPA	YES
CSB/CSA	YES
ATM	YES
DNA POL β	YES
WRN	YES

PRESENT IN MITOCHONDRIA

XPA	NO
CSB/CSA	YES
ATM	??
DNA POL β	YES
WRN	NO

Cockayne syndrome

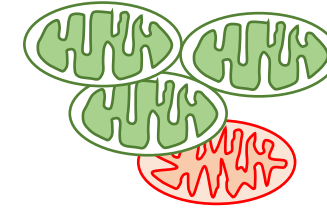
- Accelerated aging disorder
- Rare autosomal recessive disease
- Clinical manifestations:
 - Neurodegeneration
 - Ataxia, **sensorineural hearing loss, retinitis pigmentosum**, seizures, muscle weakness, CNS lactic acidosis, cataracts, dental caries
 - Cerebellar atrophy and calcification
 - Cachectic dwarfism
 - Photosensitivity, but no cancer
- Mutation in CSB, 80%, and CSA, 20%
- CSA and CSB have similar phenotypes
 - **Important to find convergences of CSA & CSB**
 - **Transcription coupled NER, transcription, rDNA, mitochondrial dysfunction**



CSA and CSB are linked to multiple biological functions



DNA repair
TC-NER, BER



Mitochondrial
abnormalities

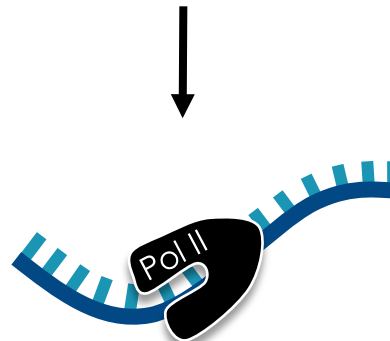
Okur et al. *Aging Cell*, 2020

Scheibye-Knudsen et al. *J Exp Med*, 2012



rRNA synthesis

Okur et al. *Nucleic Acid Research*, 2020



Transcription

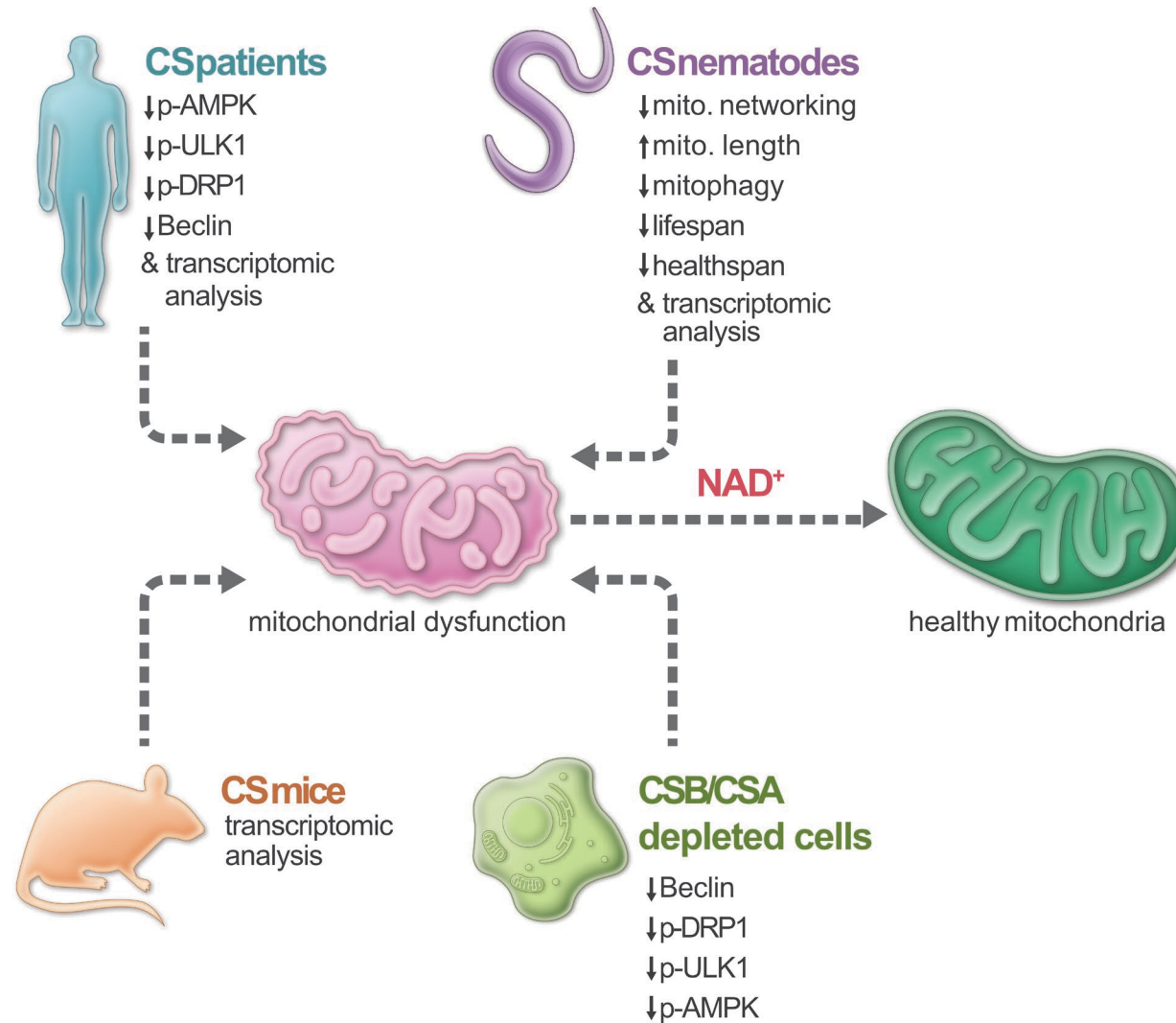
Epanchintsev et al. *Mol Cell*. 2017



Chromatin Remodeling

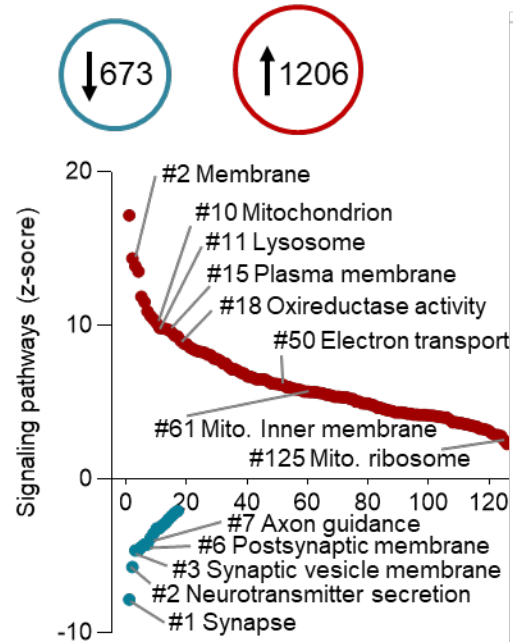
Fousteri et al. *Mol Cell*. 2006

Cross species mitochondrial phenotype in Cockayne syndrome Restoration with NR

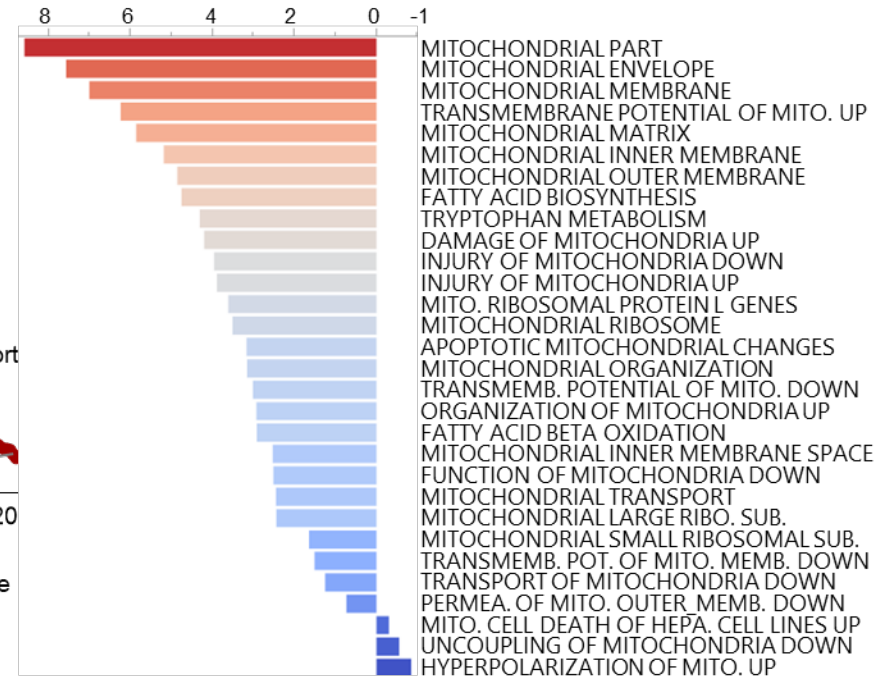


Transcriptomic analysis in CS patient postmortem brain tissue

a. CS vs Control (Human)

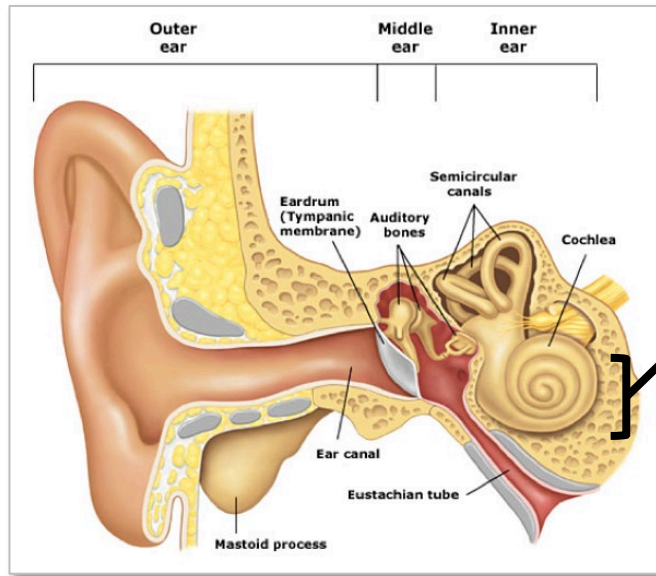


c.

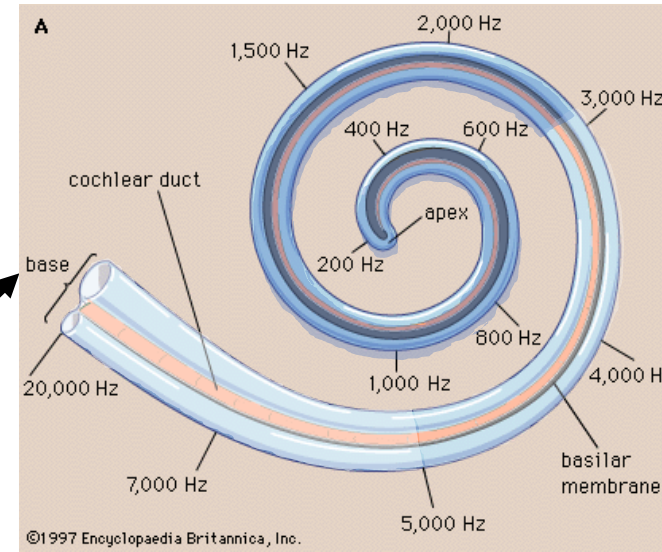


NAD⁺ Levels Are Reduced in Cochlea of CSA & CSB Mice

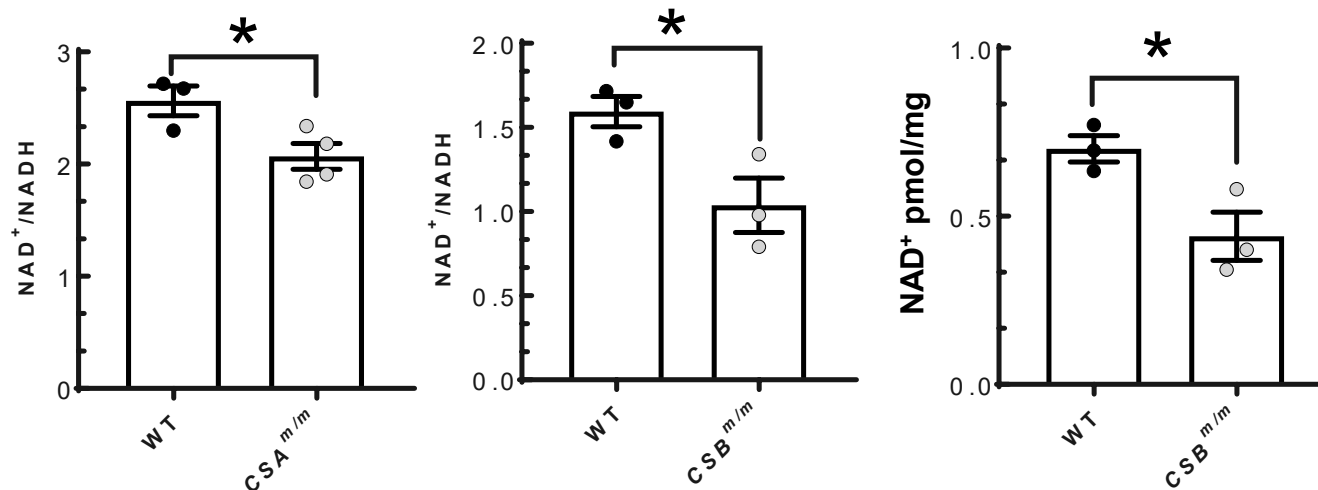
Ear Structure



Cochlea

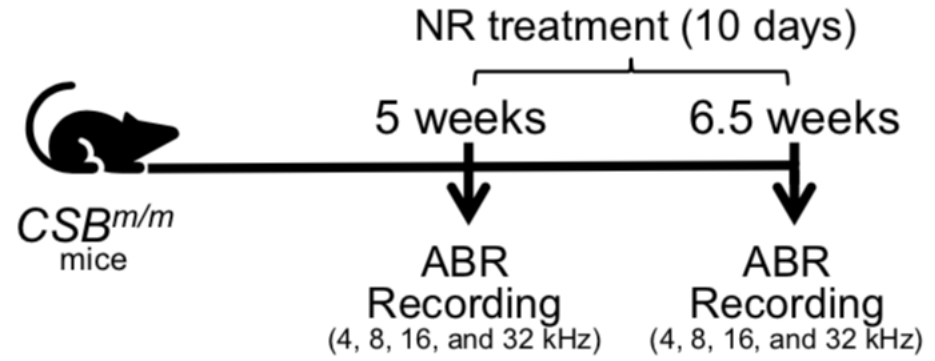


CS cochlea



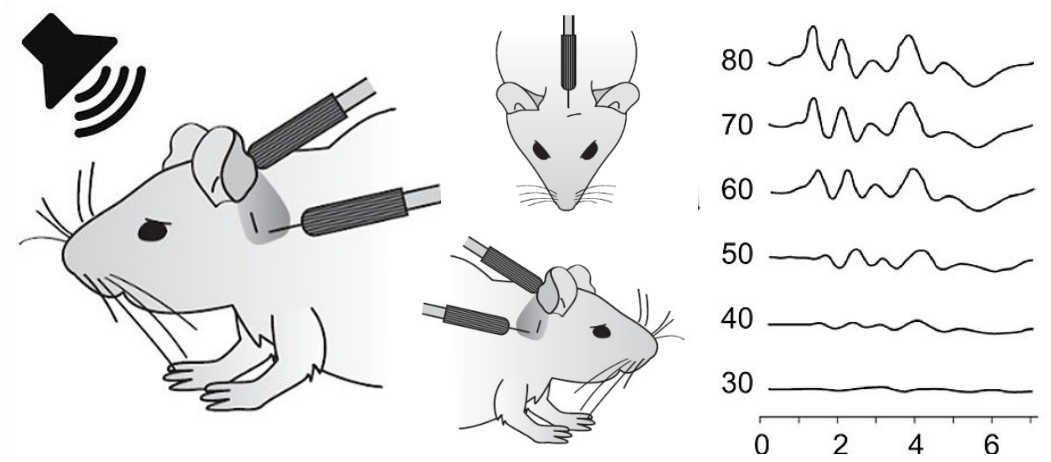
Age: 6-7 months

Short-term Treatment of CS Mice with Nicotinamide Riboside (NR)



CSB and CSA mice treated with 12 or 24 mM NR in drinking water

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) is used to measure hearing capacity in mice

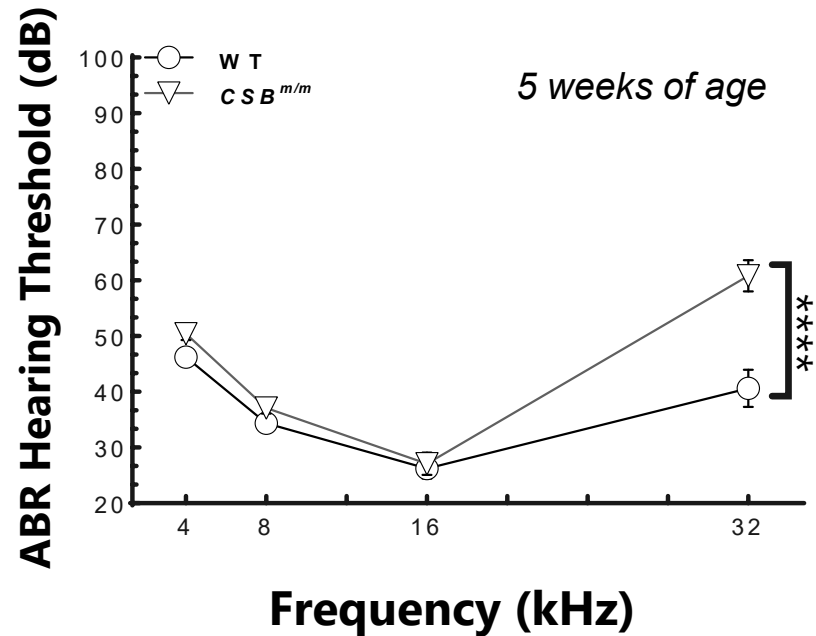


Brain wave activity over time (ms)

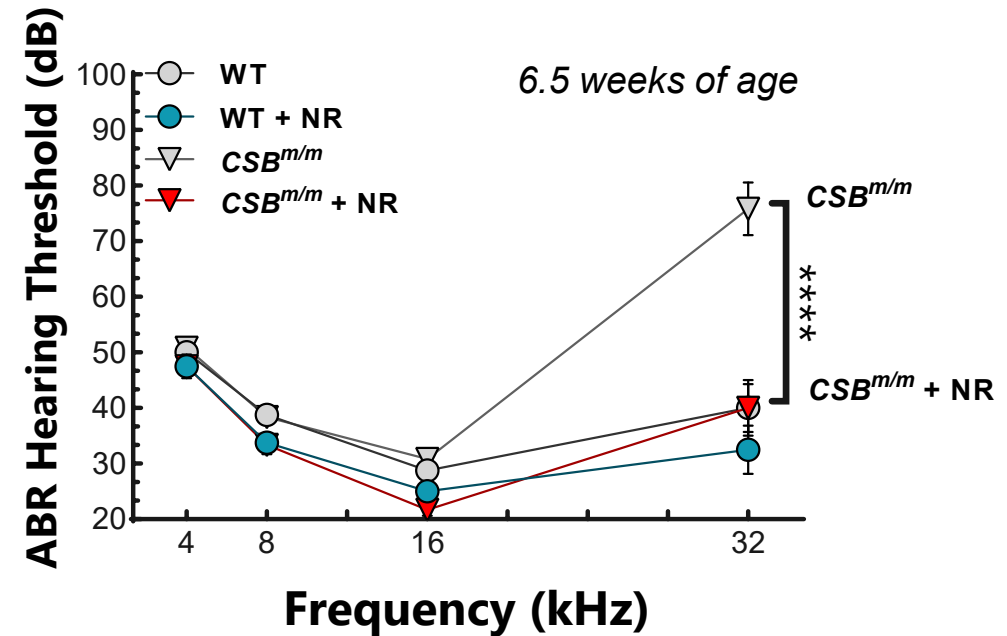
ABR reveals **hearing thresholds**, which are the sound levels below which the ear is unable to detect any sound.

NR Intervention Reduces ABR Thresholds in CSB Mice

Pre-NR treatment



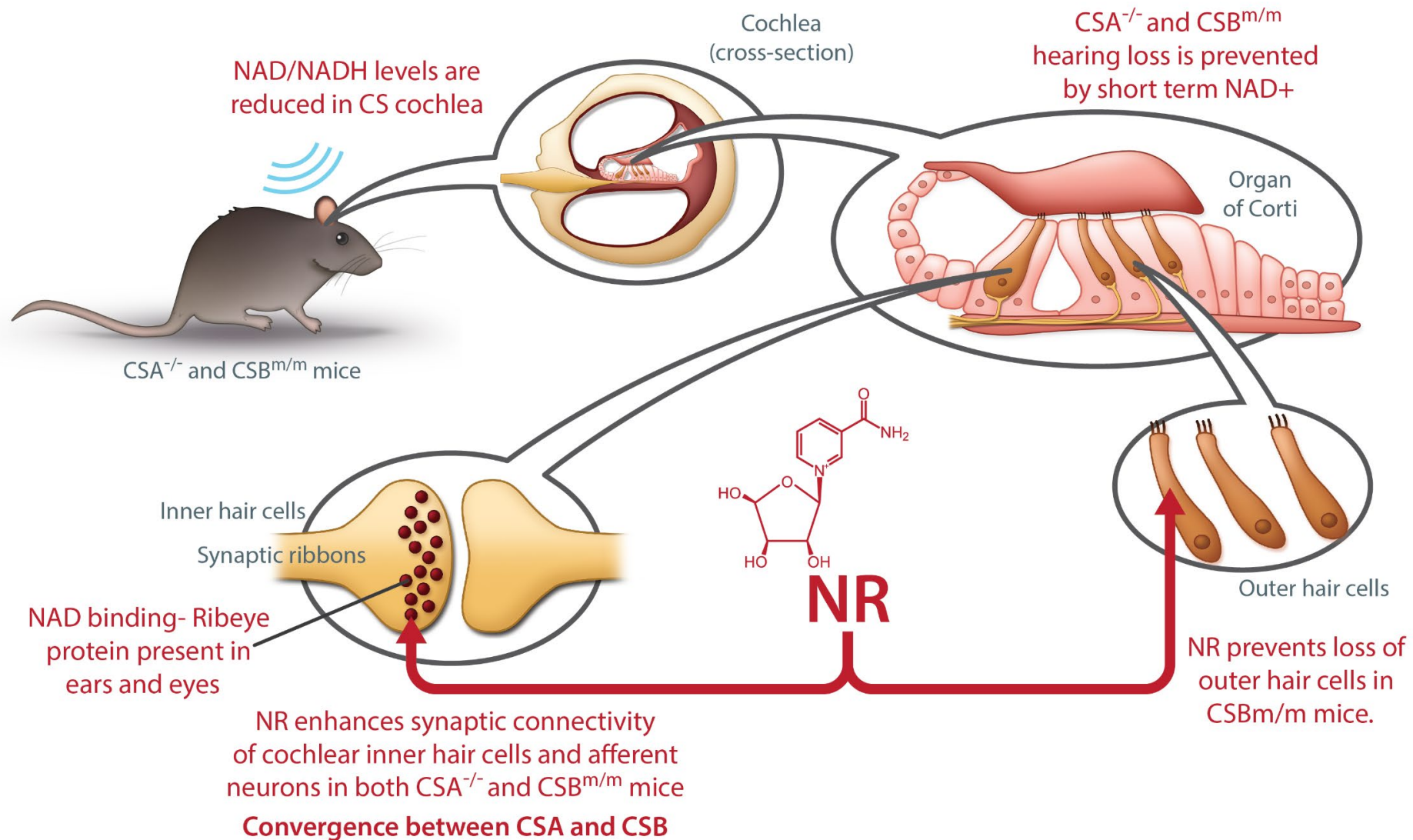
Post-NR treatment



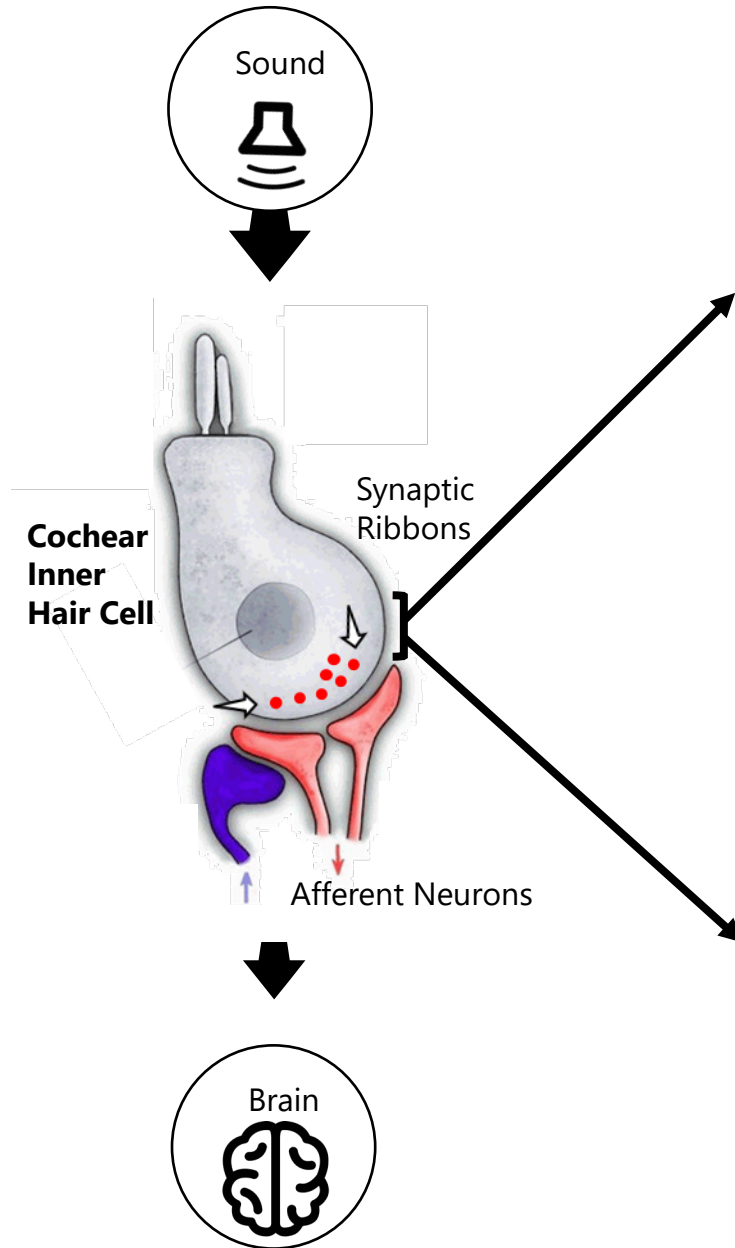
Mean \pm S.E., $p^{****} < 0.0001$,

Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test was used to determine significant difference

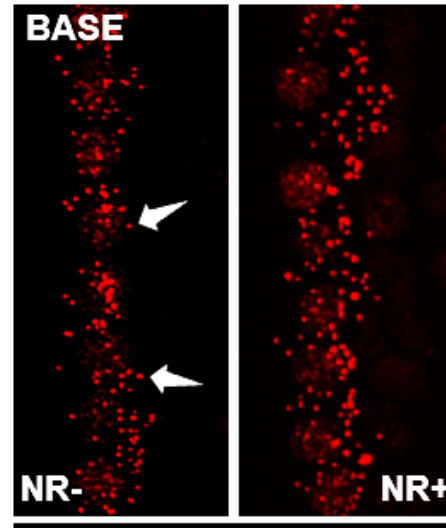
Conclusions



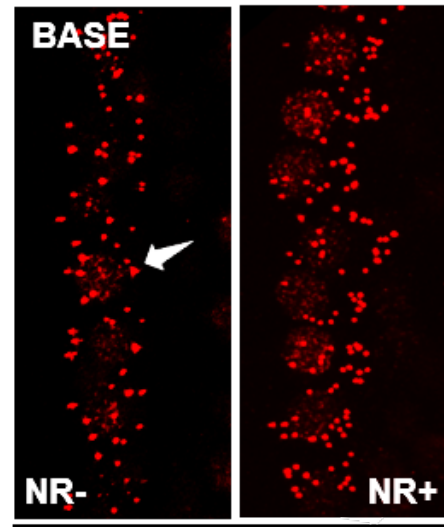
NR enhances synaptic connectivity in the cochlea of CS mice



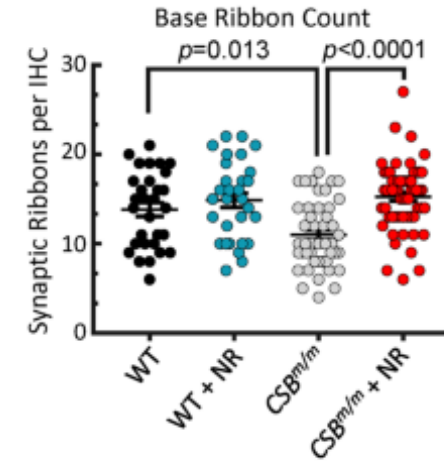
Inner hair cels



WT

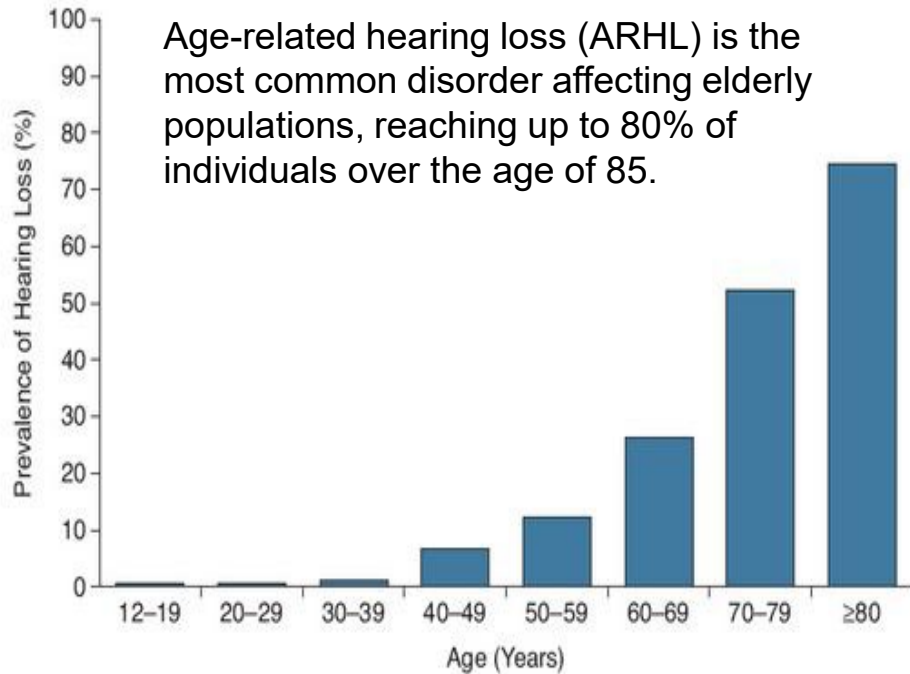


CSB



Anti-Ctbp2 : ribbon synapse marker

Age-related Hearing Loss



Yamasoba et al., 2013 Hearing Research

Age related hearing loss

And

The hearing loss in Cockayne syndrome

Are both *Sensorineural hearing loss*

Clinical Intervention studies in Cockaynes and Werner syndromes

Werner syndrome

Chiba, Japan

Prospective, single-center, cross-over trial to verify safety and effectiveness of nicotinamide riboside for patients with Werner syndrome

M. Koshizaka Y. Maezawa, K. Yokote

Single-center, placebo-controlled, randomized, double-blind, cross-over studies

15-30 patients

Cockayne syndrome

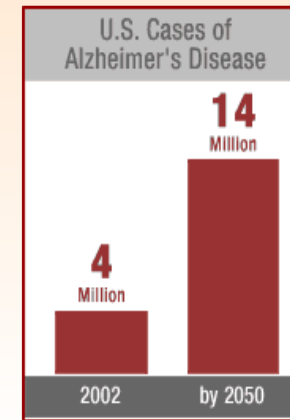
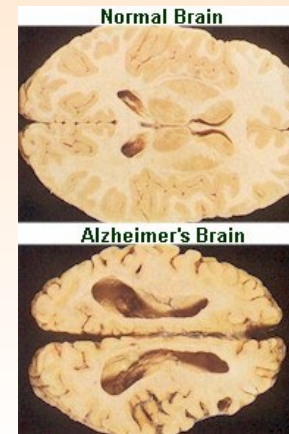
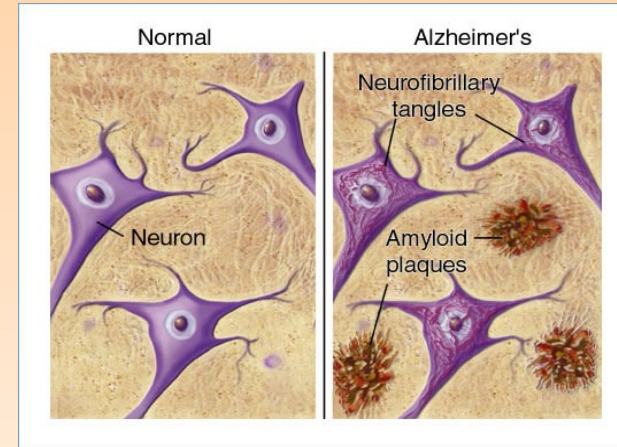
NIA

A. Karikkinith

Chromadex

Alzheimer's Disease

- Tau pathology
- Beta cascade
- Vascular
- Transmission defects, **glutamate**
- **DNA damage**
- **Mitochondrial dysfunction**
- **Senescence (all brain cell types)**
- Protein misfolding

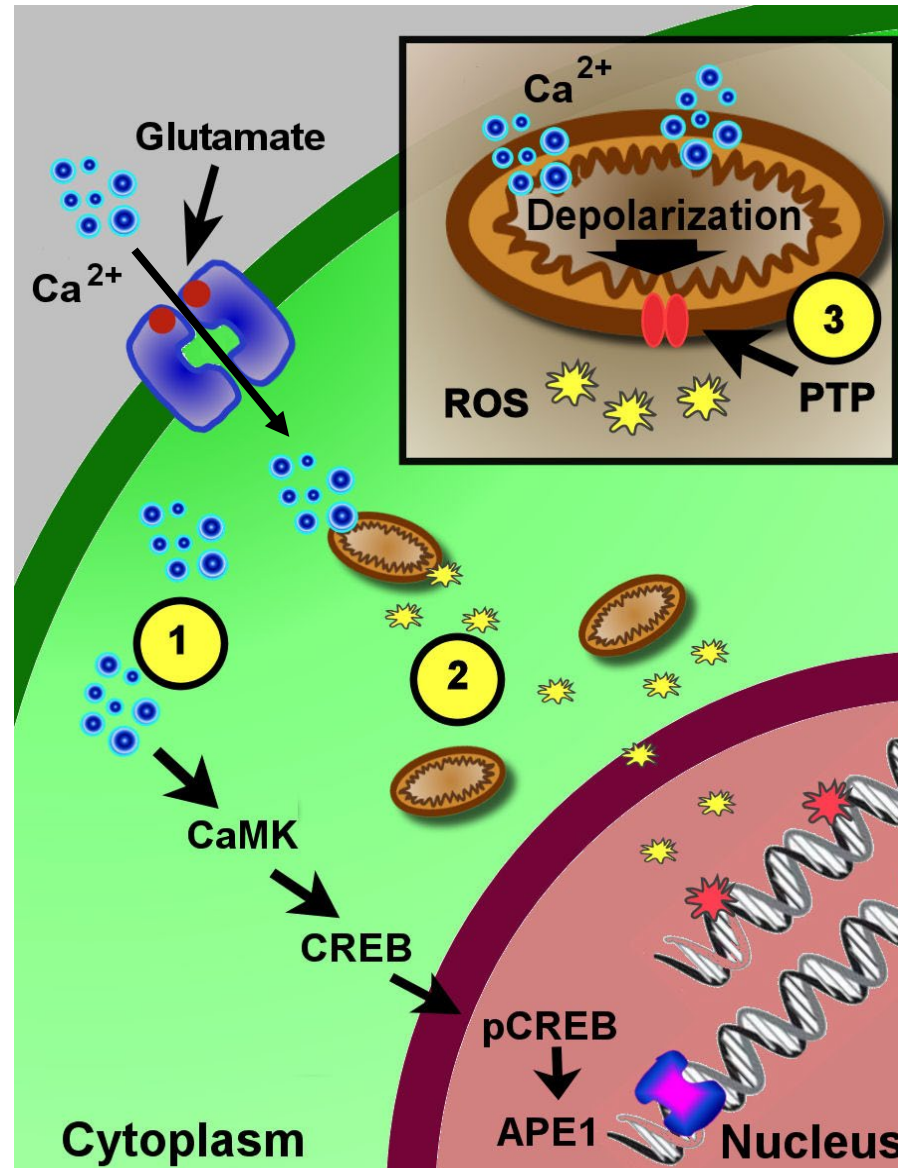


Source: Statistics About Alzheimer's Disease, ©2003 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association.

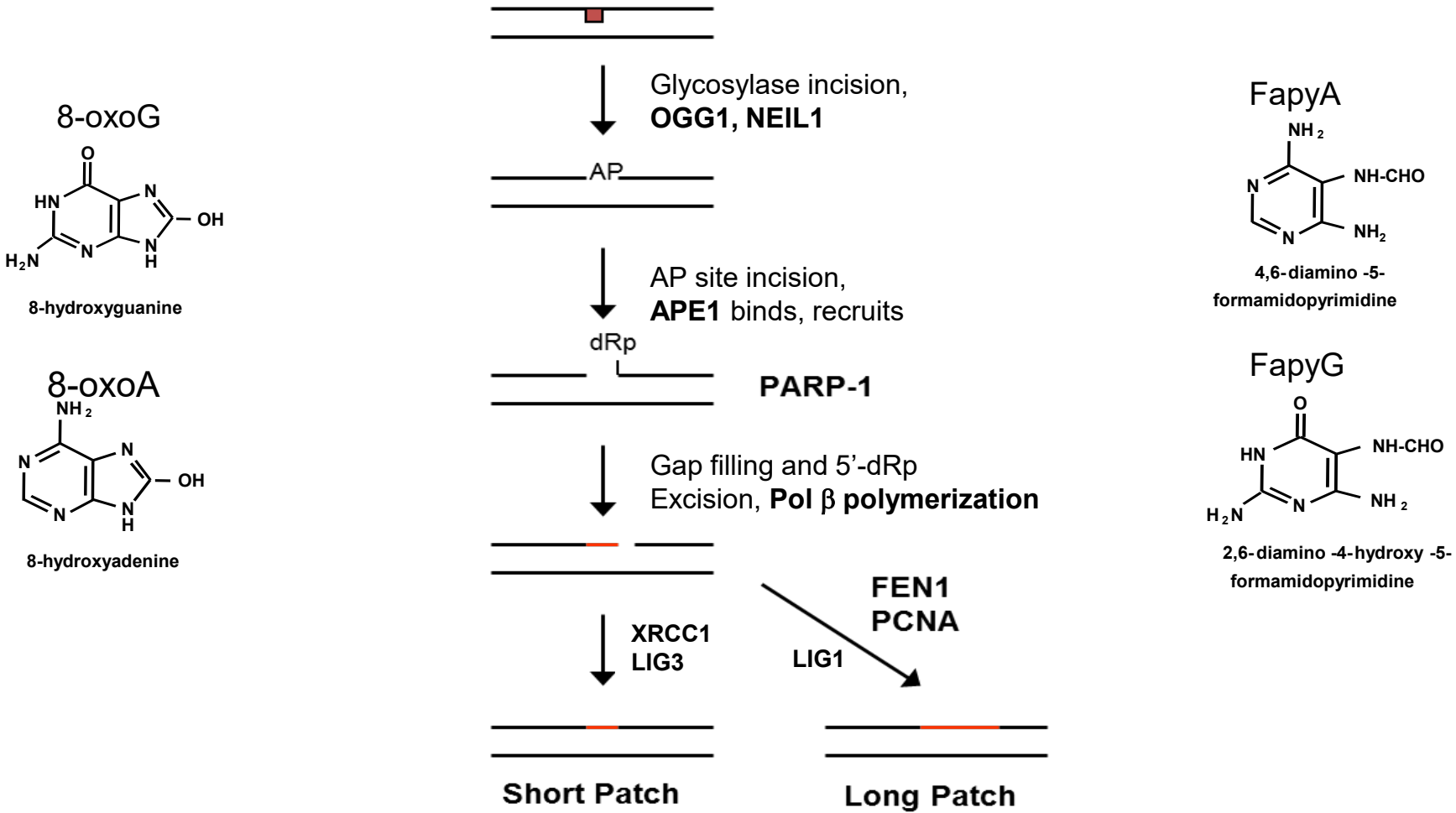
DNA Damage and Repair in Alzheimer Disease

- Increased nuclear and mitochondrial DNA damage in postmortem brains from AD and Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) patients (Lowell and Markesbury)
AD > MCI > Control
- Increased oxidative stress in AD
- Dysregulation of DNA repair enzymes

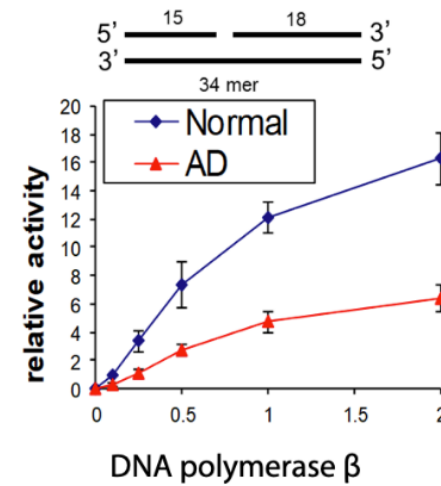
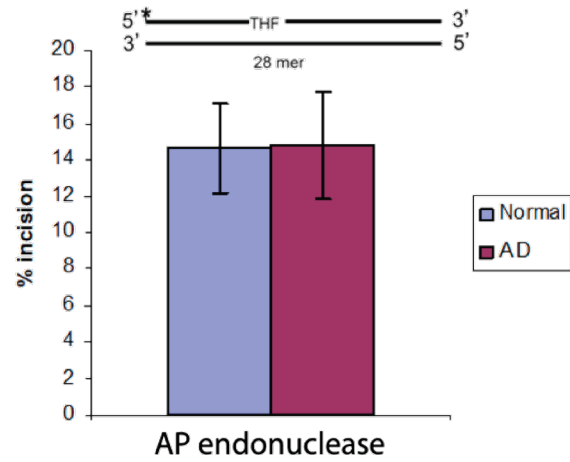
Physiological levels of glutamate stimulate a DNA repair pathway



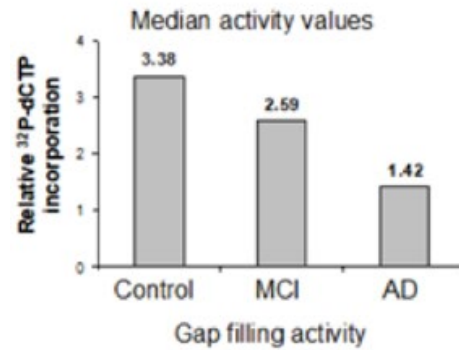
Repair of Endogenous DNA Damage by Base Excision Repair (BER)



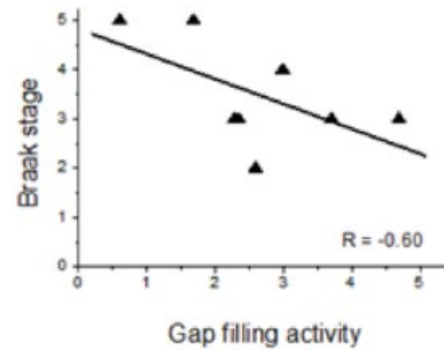
DNA repair declines in postmortem brain of AD and Mild Cognitive Impair patients relative to controls



DNA Repair Activity

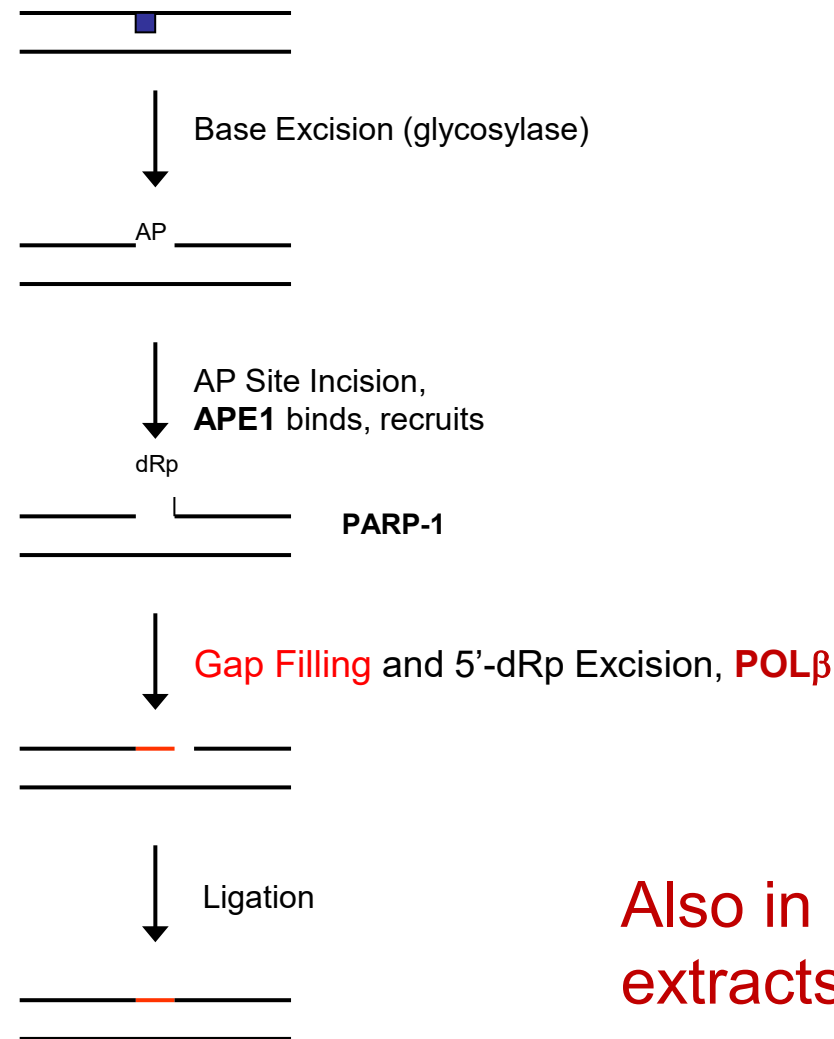


DNA repair correlates negatively to Braak stage



Is BER a Disease Modifier for AD?

Pol β gap-filling step is deficient in AD postmortem brains



Also in mitochondrial extracts from AD brains

Alzheimers Disease, DNA repair and Intervention

New Mouse 3xTg AD POL β ^{-/+}

Sykora et al. 2015

Masiak et al. 2017

Increased neuronal cell death
Decreased hippocampal volume
Deficient neurogenesis
Loss of synaptic plasticity
Memory loss

- Metabolic alteration
- Loss of olfaction
- Increased neuroinflammation
- Dysfunction of mitochondrial pathways and stress signaling



Alzheimers Disease, DNA repair and Intervention

New Mouse **3xTg AD POL β ^{-/+}**

Sykora et al. 2015
Masiak et al. 2017

Increased neuronal cell death
Decreased hippocampal volume
Deficient neurogenesis
Loss of synaptic plasticity
Memory loss

- Metabolic alteration
- Loss of olfaction
- Increased neuroinflammation
- Dysfunction of mitochondrial pathways and stress signaling

NAD Supplementation

Hou et al, 2018
Fang et al, 2019

Reduced neuroinflammation
Decreased p-tau
Improved LTP

- Improved memory and learning
- Improved DNA repair
- Increased mitophagy

Alzheimers Disease, DNA repair and Intervention

New Mouse 3xTg AD POL β ^{-/+}

Sykora et al. 2015
Masiak et al. 2017

Increased neuronal cell death
Decreased hippocampal volume
Deficient neurogenesis
Loss of synaptic plasticity
Memory loss

- Metabolic alteration
- Loss of olfaction
- Increased neuroinflammation
- Dysfunction of mitochondrial pathways and stress signaling

NAD Supplementation

Hou et al, 2018
Fang et al, 2019

Reduced neuroinflammation
Decreased p-tau
Improved LTP

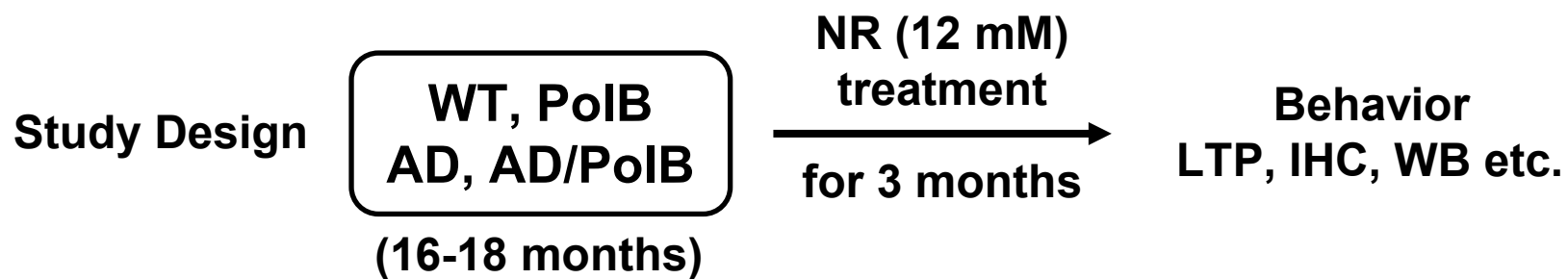
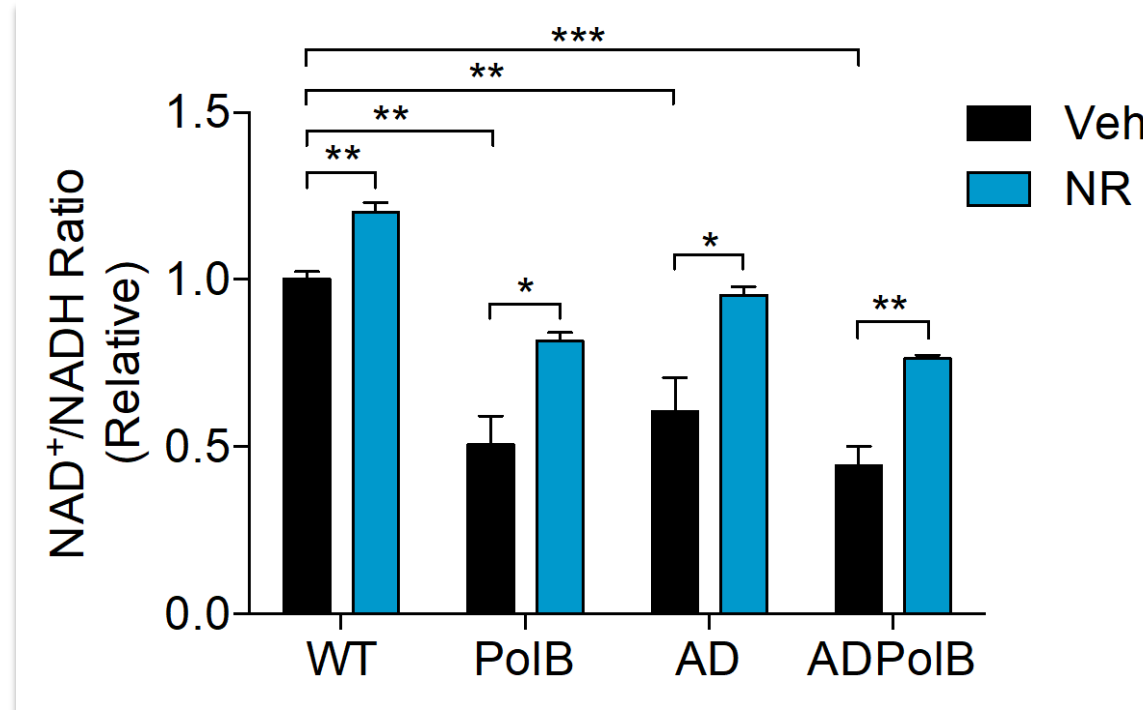
- Improved memory and learning
- Improved DNA repair
- Increased mitophagy

Precision Medicine

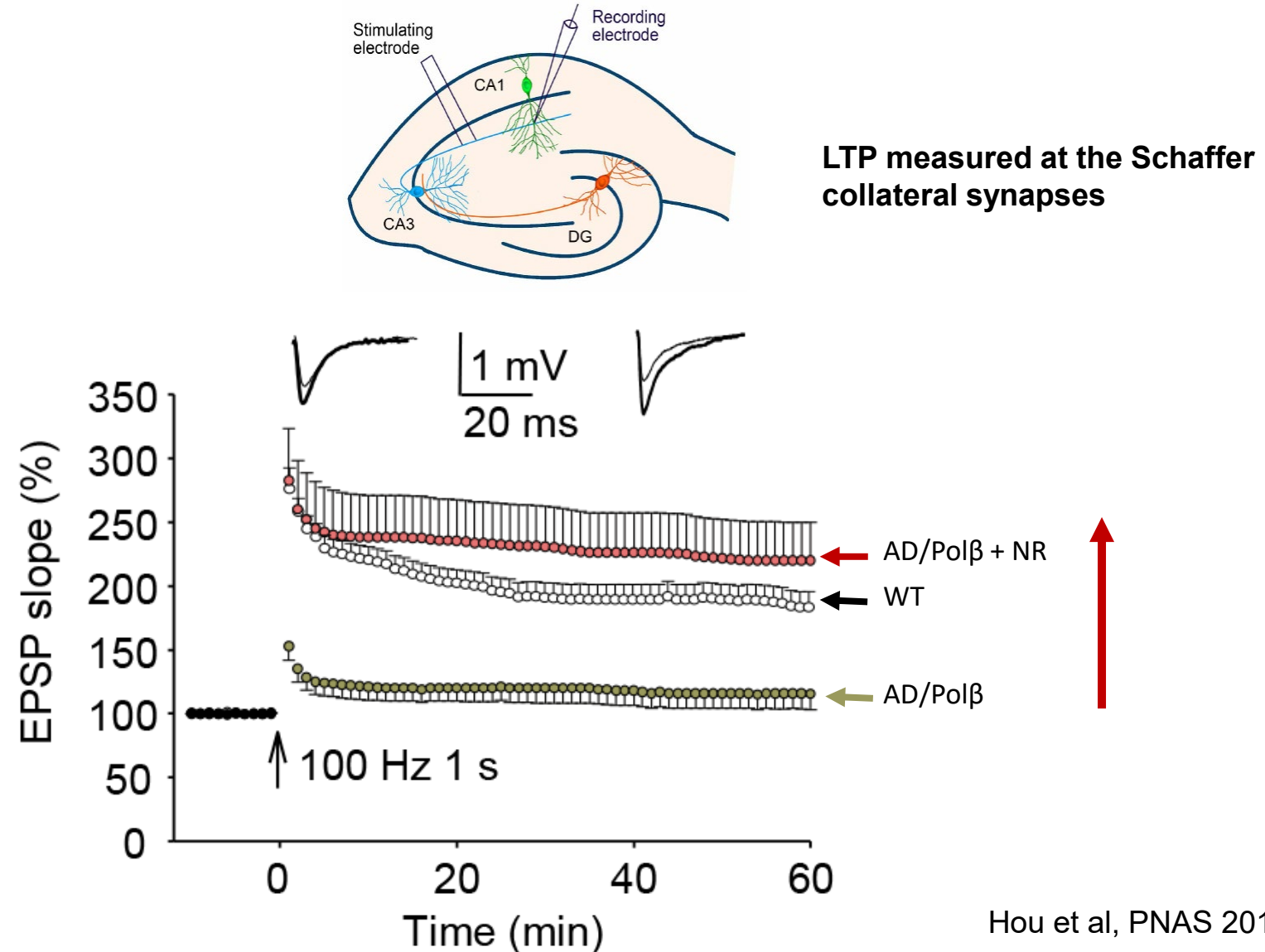
Demarest et al. 2020

Decreased complex 1 function in hippocampal mitochondria and metabolic shift in **females**

NAD⁺/NADH ratio in brain is lower in AD mice and increases after Nicotinamide Riboside (NR) treatment



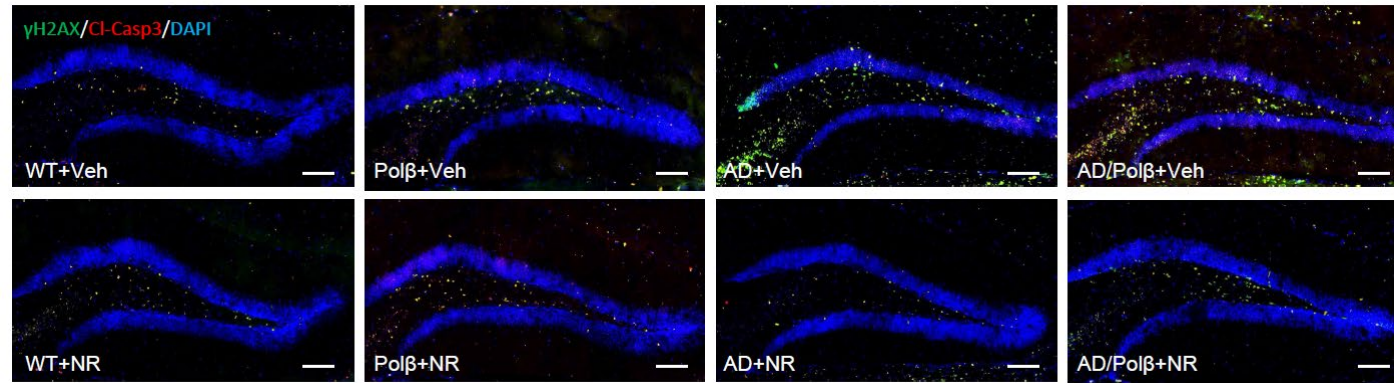
NR Normalizes Synaptic Function, Memory in Long-Term Potentiation (LTP) Assay



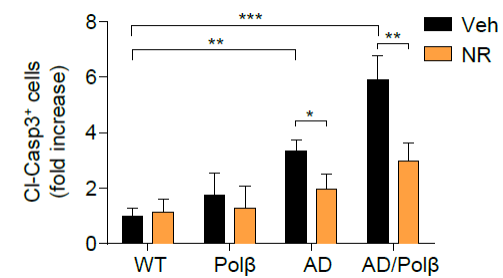
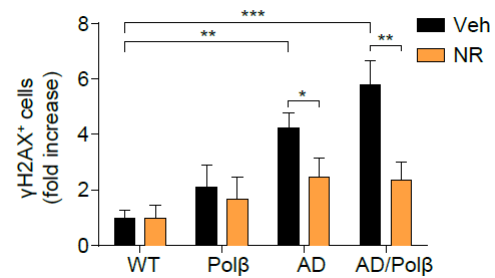
Intervention Study with NAD supplementation in the 3xTgAD-Pol β ^{+/-} mouse

- NAD⁺/NADH is normalized
- NR improves learning & memory, and Long term potentiation
- NR increases neurogenesis and decreases neuroinflammation
- NR decreases tau phosphorylation
- DNA damage decreased after NR treatment

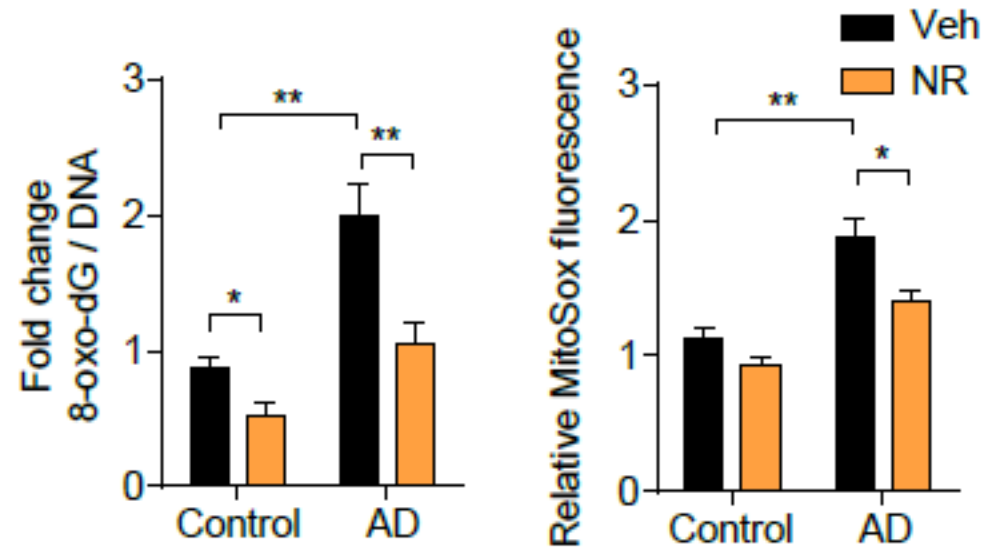
DNA damage is decreased after NR treatment in 3xTgAD and 3xTgAD/Pol β ^{+/-} mice



Scale bars, 100 μm.



Reduction of 8-oxoG and Mito ROS in human AD fibroblasts



Abnormal mitochondria in human AD brain

Mitochondria are critical for neuronal development, neuroplasticity, and survival

Disrupted mitochondrial health and neuronal metabolism are early features of AD

Mitochondrial dysfunction precedes A β and Tau pathologies. A β and Tau pathologies exacerbate mitochondrial dysfunction

Accumulation of damaged mitochondria are evident in AD human brain samples, possibly due to impaired mitophagy

Kerr et al., Gregi, Mattson, Bohr, Fang, Trends in Neurosciences, 2017
Mattson MP et al., Neuron, 2008
Mattson MP et al., Cell Metabolism, 2012



Baloyannis SJ, in book Neurodegenerative diseases

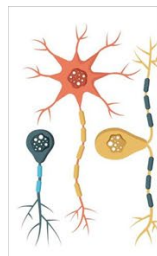
Mitophagy inhibits amyloid- β and tau pathology and reverses cognitive deficits in models of Alzheimer's disease

Evandro F. Fang^{1,2,12*}, Yujun Hou^{1,12}, Konstantinos Palikaras^{3,4,12}, Bryan A. Adriaanse⁵, Jesse S. Kerr¹, Beimeng Yang¹, Sofie Lautrup¹, Md Mahdi Hasan-Olive², Domenica Caponio^{1,2}, Xiuli Dan¹, Paula Rocktäschel⁵, Deborah L. Croteau¹, Mansour Akbari⁶, Nigel H. Greig⁷, Tormod Fladby^{8,9}, Hilde Nilsen², M. Zameel Cader⁵, Mark P. Mattson^{10,11}, Nektarios Tavernarakis^{3,4} and Vilhelm A. Bohr^{1,6*}

Cross-species studies in Alzheimers disease (AD)



AD postmortem brain



AD iPSCs



AD worms



AD mice

**Mitophagy,
conserved mechanisms
And intervention**

ALZ.ORG

nature DRUG
REVIEWS DISCOVERY

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT · 04 MARCH 2019

Turning up mitophagy in Alzheimer disease

Katie Kingwell



Accumulation of damaged mitochondria in neurons is a hallmark of neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer disease (AD). A new study in *Nature Neuroscience* reports impaired mitophagy – the process that removes damaged mitochondria – in patients and mouse models of AD, and identifies small-molecule mitophagy-inducing agents that improve AD signs and symptoms in preclinical models.

RELATED ARTICLES

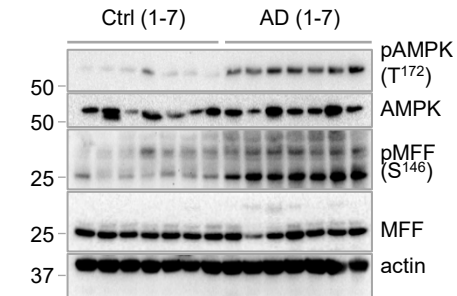
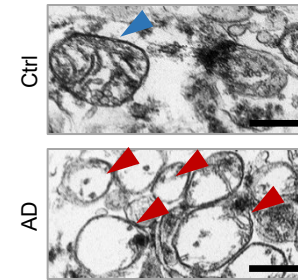
Mitochondria
therapeutic ta
common path

OF

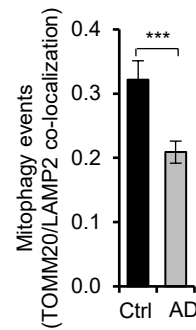
Mitochondrial dysfunction and defective mitophagy in AD postmortem patient brain

mitochondrial parameters from EM images in postmortem human hippocampal tissues from AD patients and age-matched healthy controls (n=7 individuals); representative set of EM

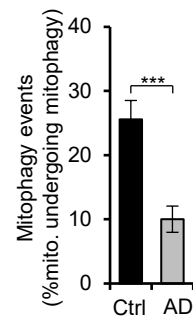
Mito. parameters	Human hippocampal tissues	
	Healthy ctrl. (n=203 mito.)	AD (n=300 mito.)
Mito. length (nm)	709±13	531±10***
Mito. diameter (nm)	567±8	409±7***
Area (µm ²)/mitochondrion	0.346±0.010	0.194±0.006***
% Damaged mito.	21.7±1.7	71.9±2.8***



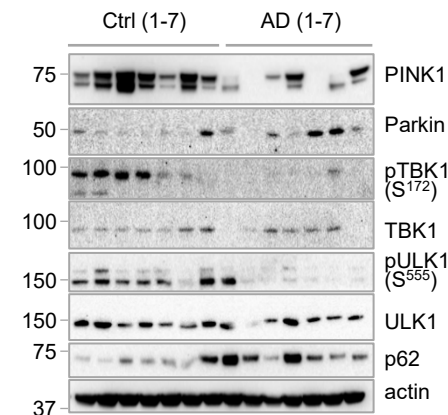
Proteins implicated in the AMPK pathway in postmortem human hippocampal tissues from AD patients and age-matched healthy controls



co-localization of the mitochondrial protein TOMM20 and the lysosomal protein LAMP2 protein using immunohistochemistry

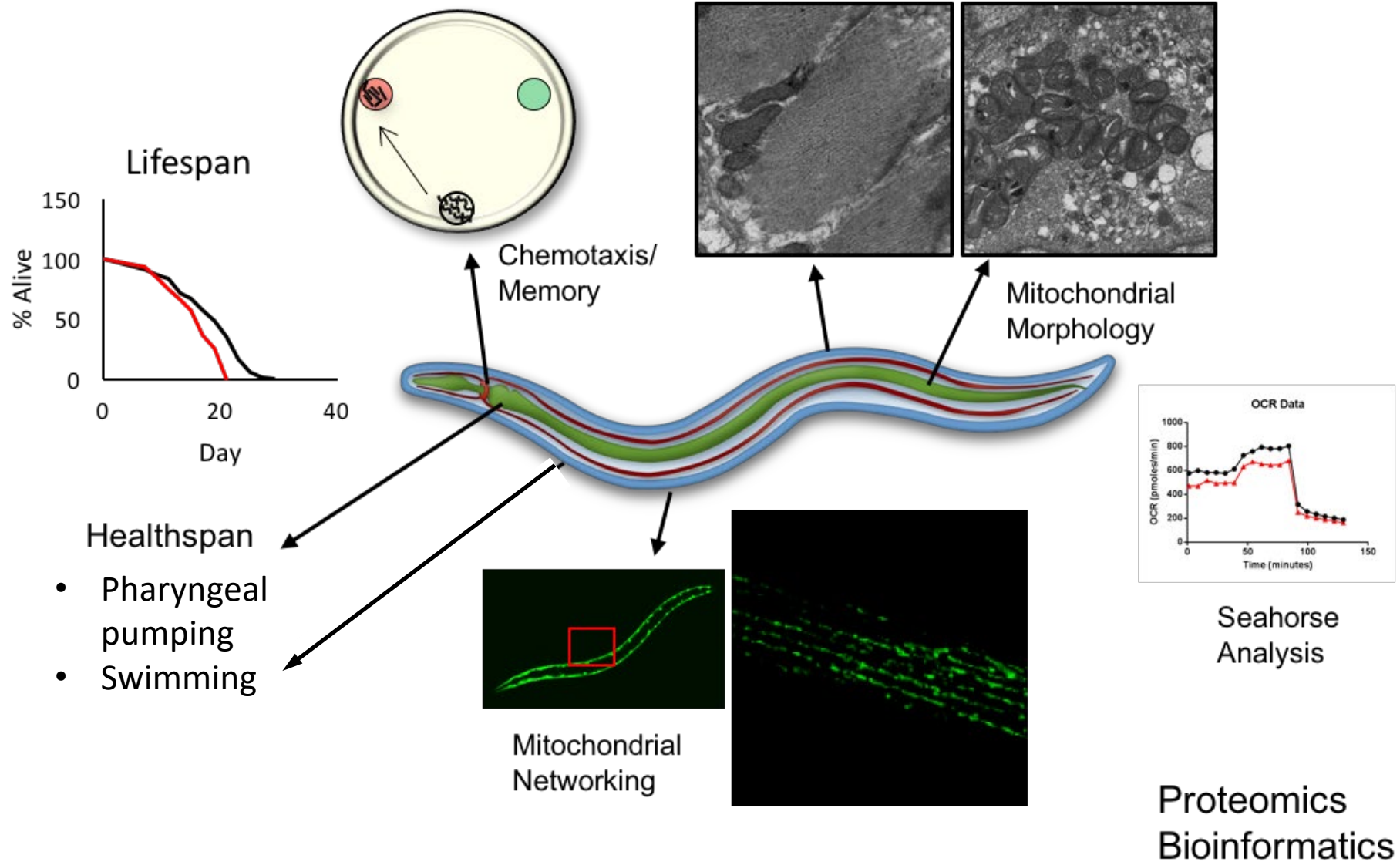


mitophagy-like events using EM images in postmortem human hippocampal tissues between AD patients and age-matched healthy controls



Changes in mitophagy proteins in postmortem human hippocampal tissues from AD patients and age-matched healthy controls (n=7 individuals)

Nematode studies



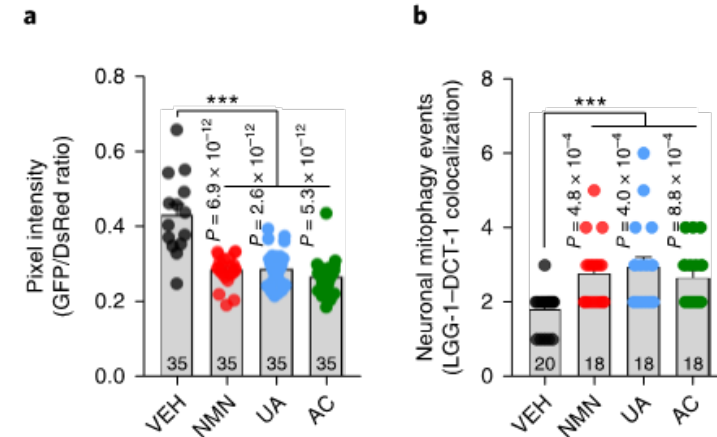
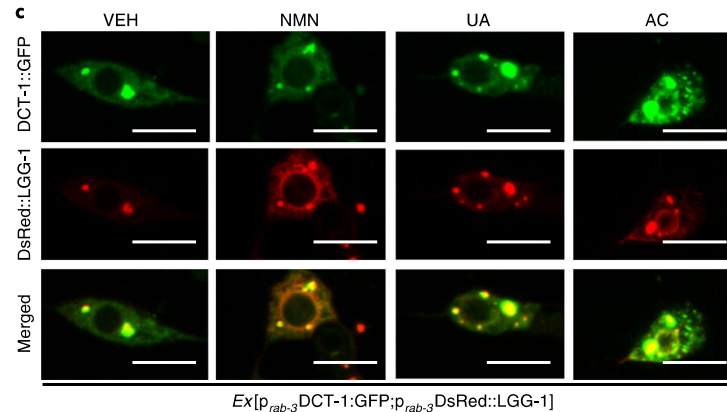
Alzheimers worms

- Nematodes (c.elegans worms) are good models for AD (tau and abeta have memory loss)
 - Screening for compounds that stimulate mitophagy

Quantification of Mitophagy in *C. elegans*

To quantify mitophagy dysfunction we use two distinct mitophagy biosensors:

- I. Colocalization of DsRed-LGG-1 and GFP-DCT-1
- II. MtRosella's ratio of fluorescence intensity - GFP/DsRed

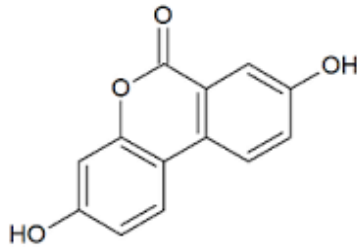


We identified NMN, NR and Urolithin A as strong inducers

Alzheimers worms

- Nematodes (c.elegans worms) are good models for AD (tau and abeta have memory loss
 - Screening for compounds that stimulate mitophagy

Urolithin A



Urolithin A is a metabolite compound resulting from the transformation of ellagitannins by the gut bacteria.

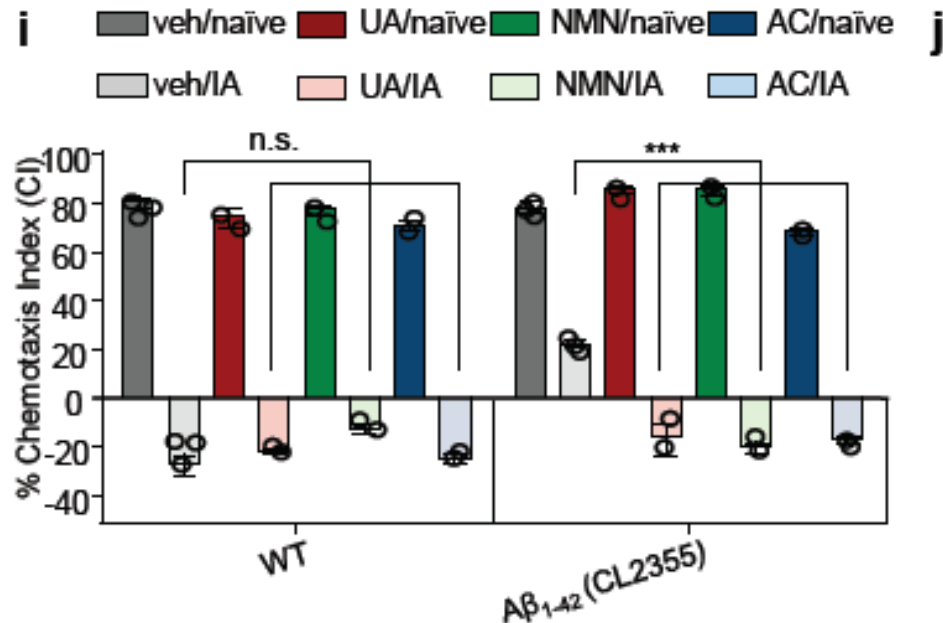
Ellagitannins are reported in [dicotyledoneous](#) angiospermes, and notably in species in the order [Myrtales](#), such as the [pomegranate](#).^{[4][5]}



Alzheimers worms

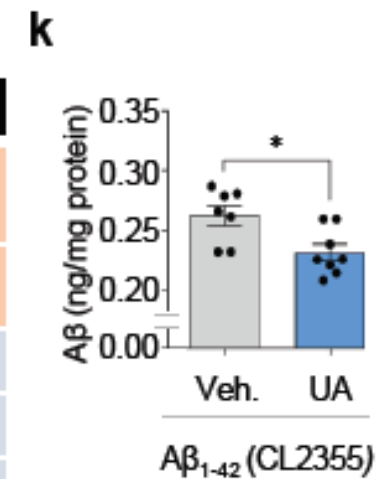
- Nematodes (c.elegans worms) are good models for AD (tau and abeta have memory loss)

Mitophagy inducers, Urolithin A and Actinonin improve memory in A β worms in a pathway dependent manner



j

A β_{1-42} (CL2355)			
Mitophagy inducers	Mitophagy gene (memory dependent)		
	<i>pink-1</i>	<i>pdr-1</i>	<i>dct-1</i>
NMN	yes	yes	yes
UA	yes	yes	no
AC	yes	yes	no



Dct1-BNIP3
Pdr-1-PARKIN

AD mice and iPSC cells

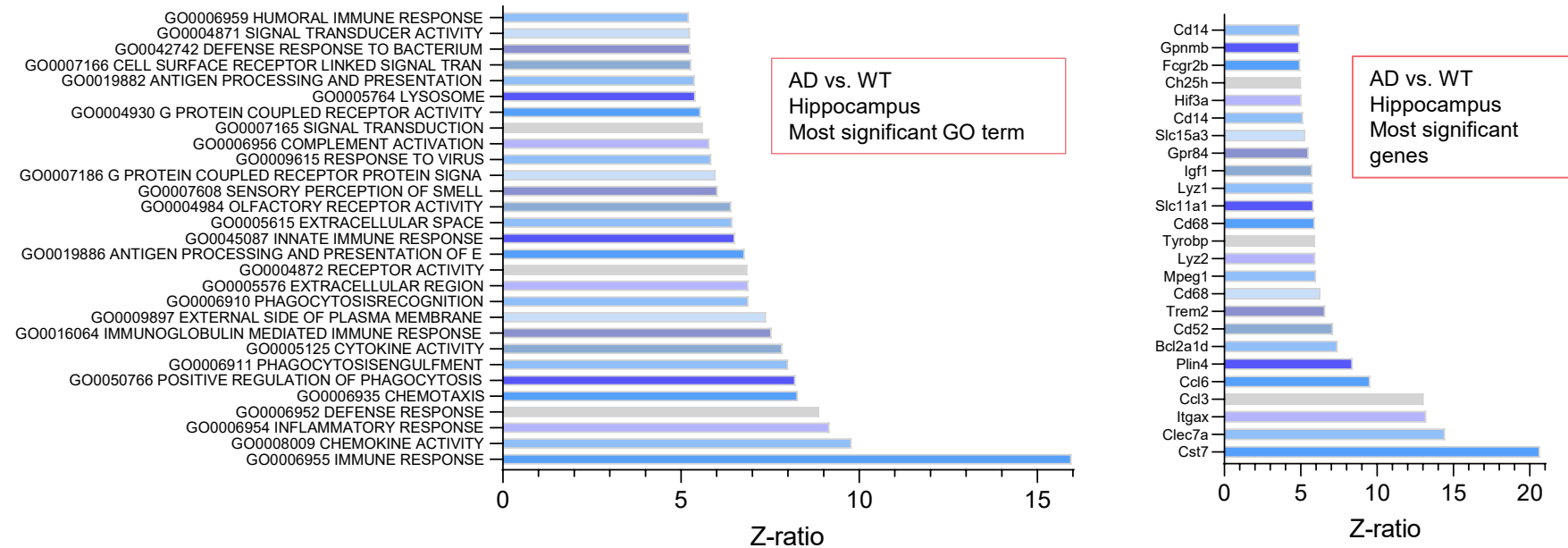
- Urolithin A (and NR and NMN) strongly improves learning and memory in AD mice
- Urolithin A improves mitochondrial function in human iPSC stem cells

Mitophagy stimulation as future potential intervention in AD

UA vs NR

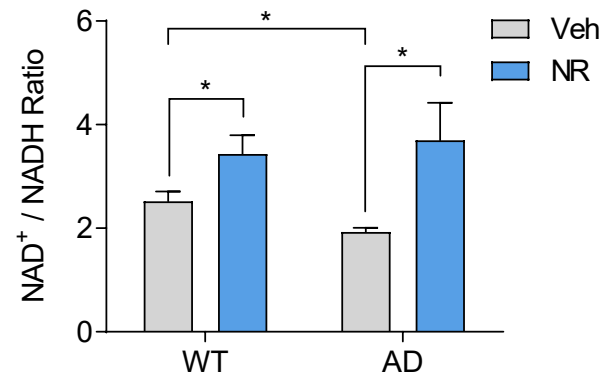
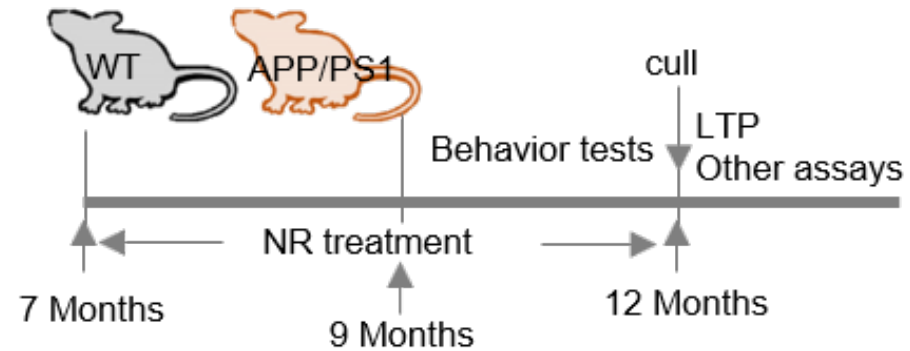
- Mice, cells, worms, flies
- RNA seq, Nanostring, verification, Westerns, activity
- Bioinformatics
- Mitophagy and DNA repair pathway intersections

Microarray analysis of the hippocampus reveals abnormal neuroinflammation in APP/PS1 AD mice

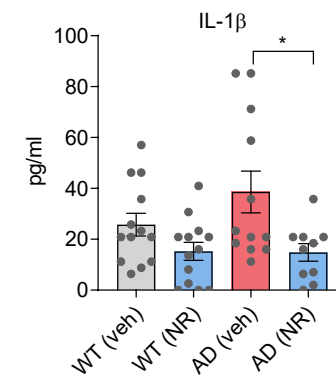
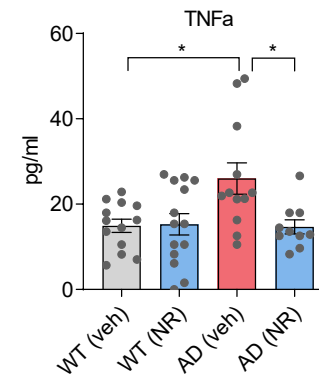
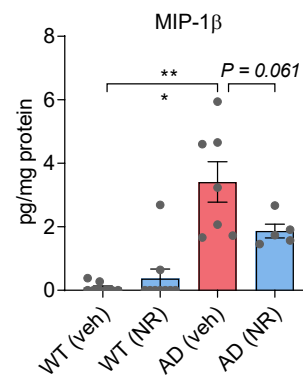
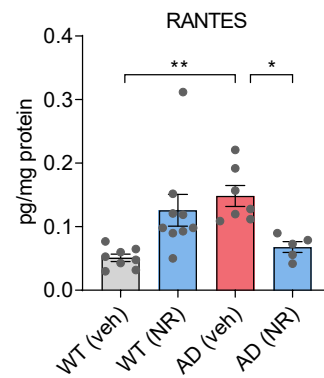
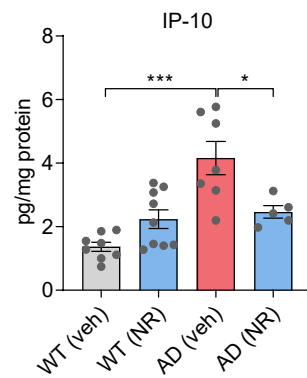
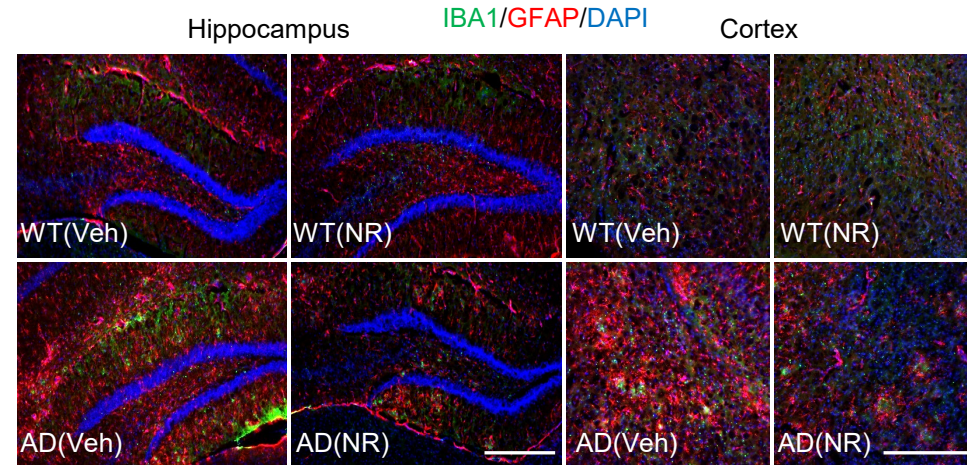
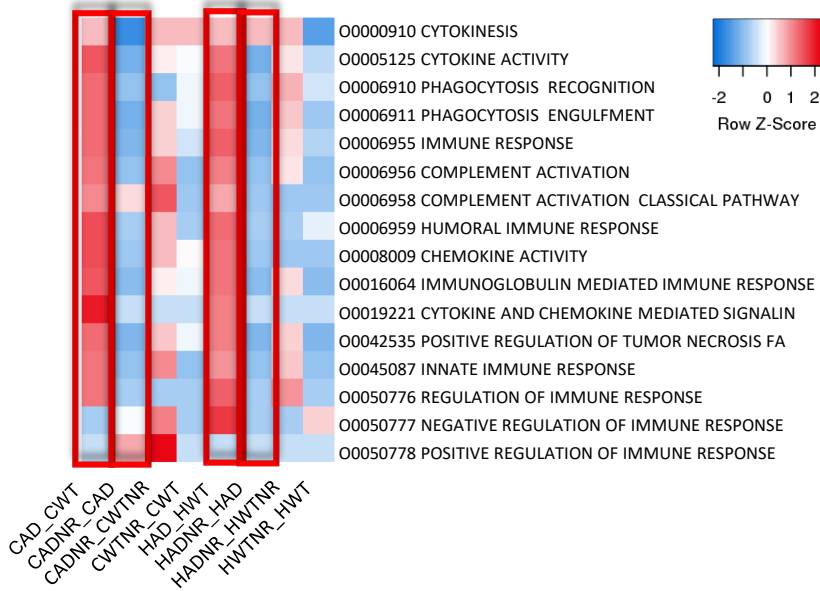


- The most changed pathways are all immune-related pathways, from the most: Immune response, chemokine activity, inflammatory response...
- The most changed genes are all microglia-related genes: Cst7, Clec7a, Itgax, Ccl3, Ccl6,...

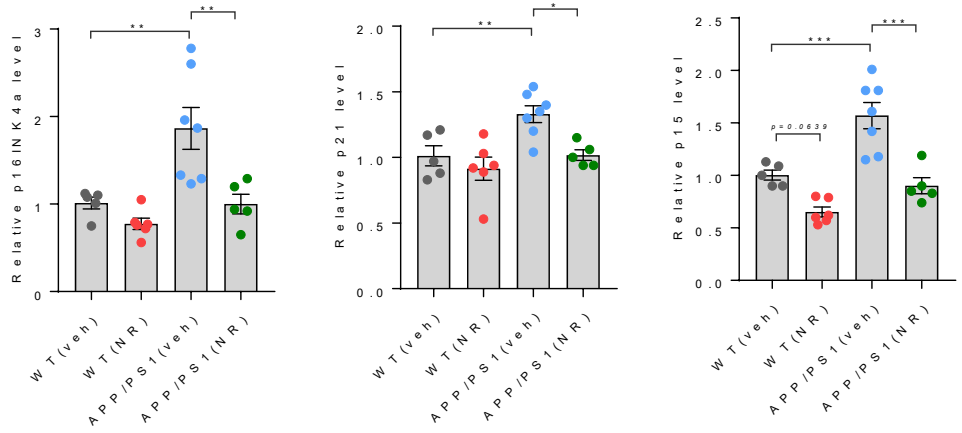
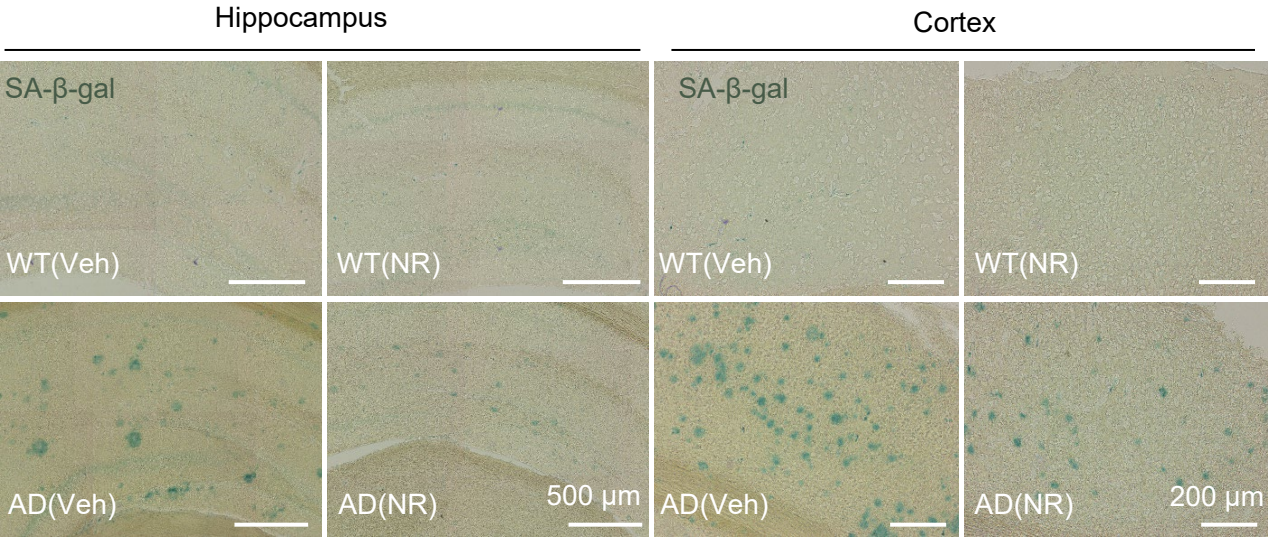
NR treatment increased NAD⁺/NADH in WT and APP/PS1 mouse brains



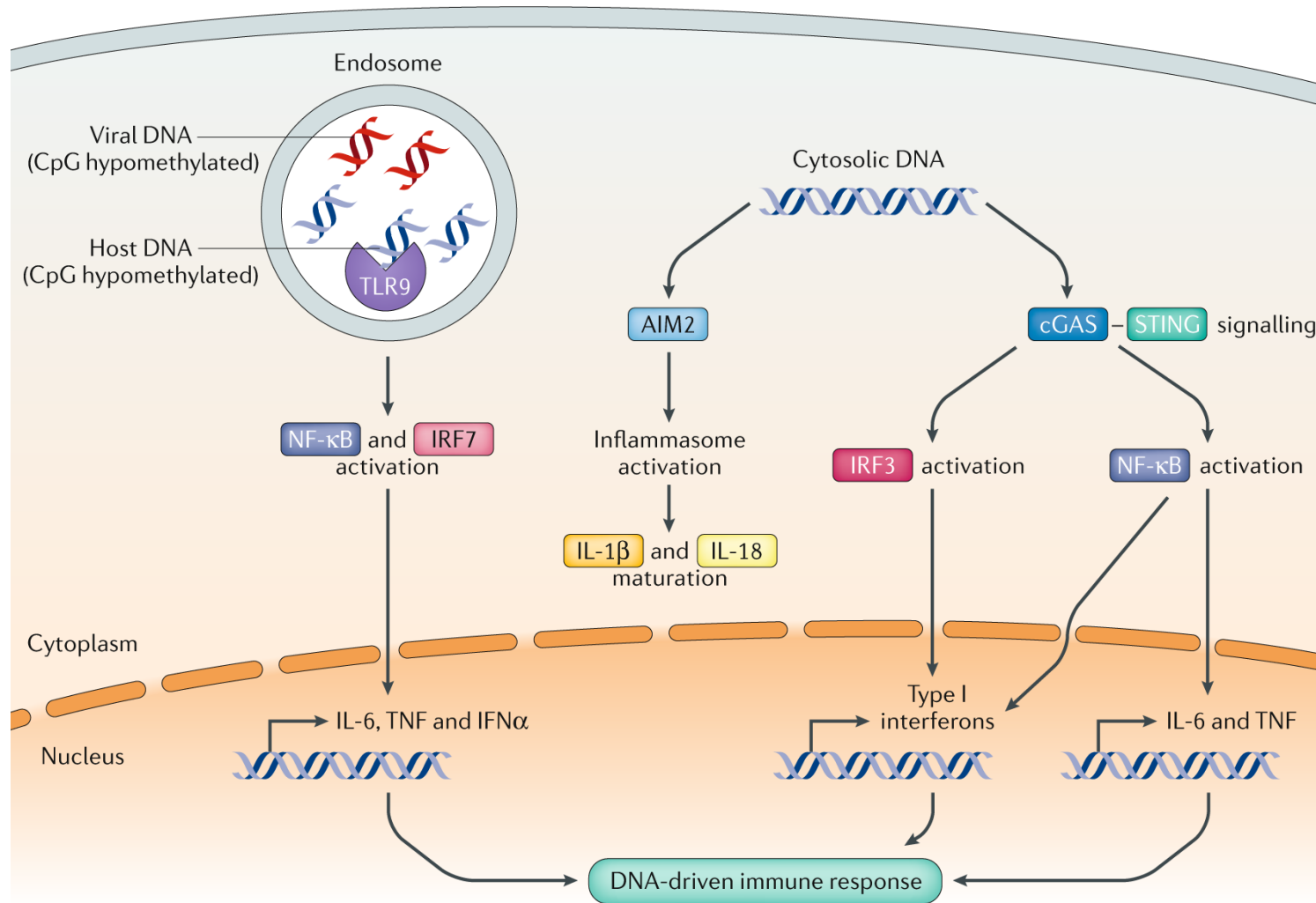
NR decreases abnormally activated astrocytes and microglia, and pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines



NR decreases cellular senescence in AD mice brains

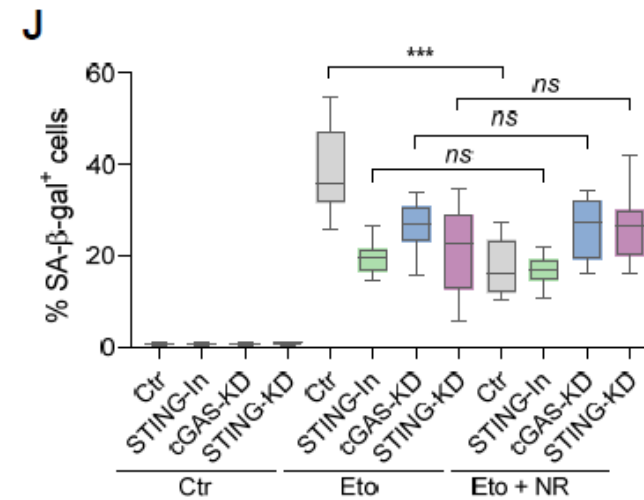
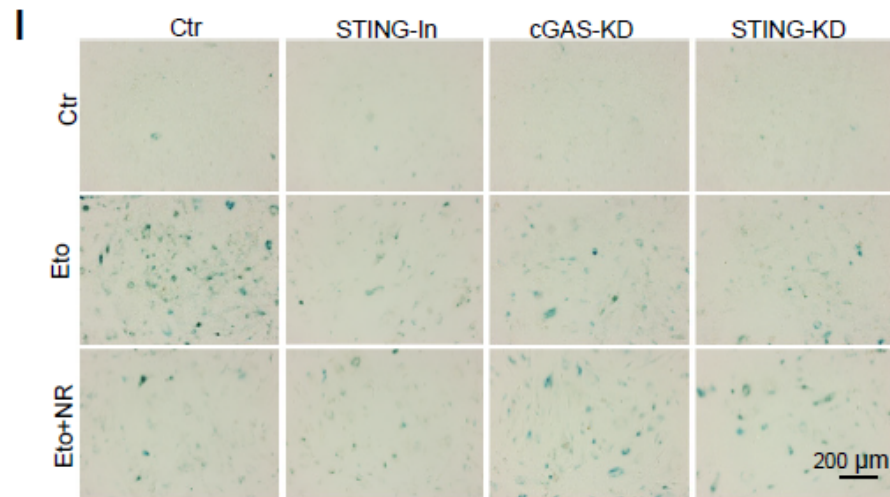


GAS STING signaling and cytoplasmic DNA

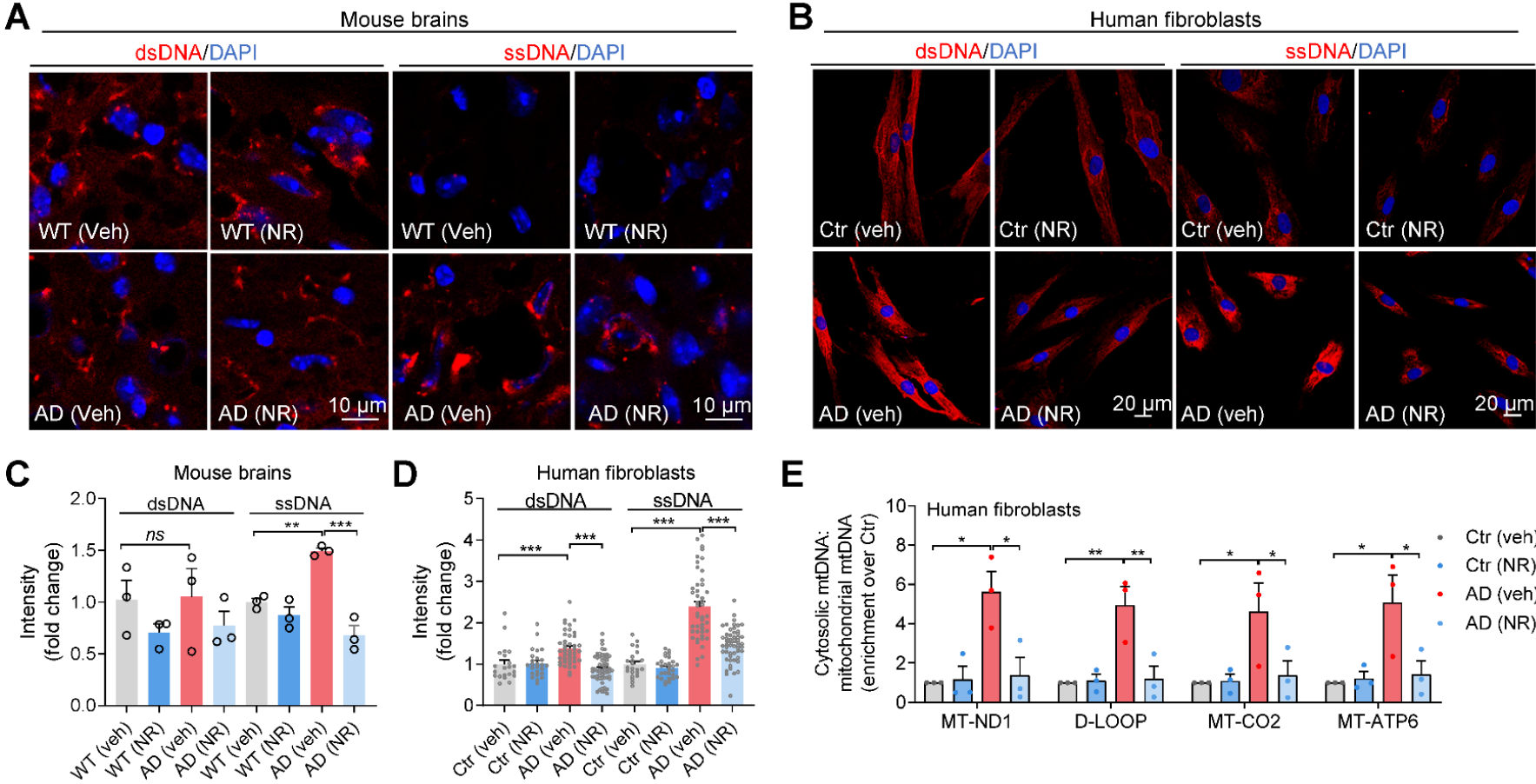


Motwani M et al, 2019
Paul, Snyder and Bohr, 2021

NR lowers cellular senescence in AD mouse brain through cGas-Sting



NR decreases cytosolic DNA in mouse brain and human fibroblasts



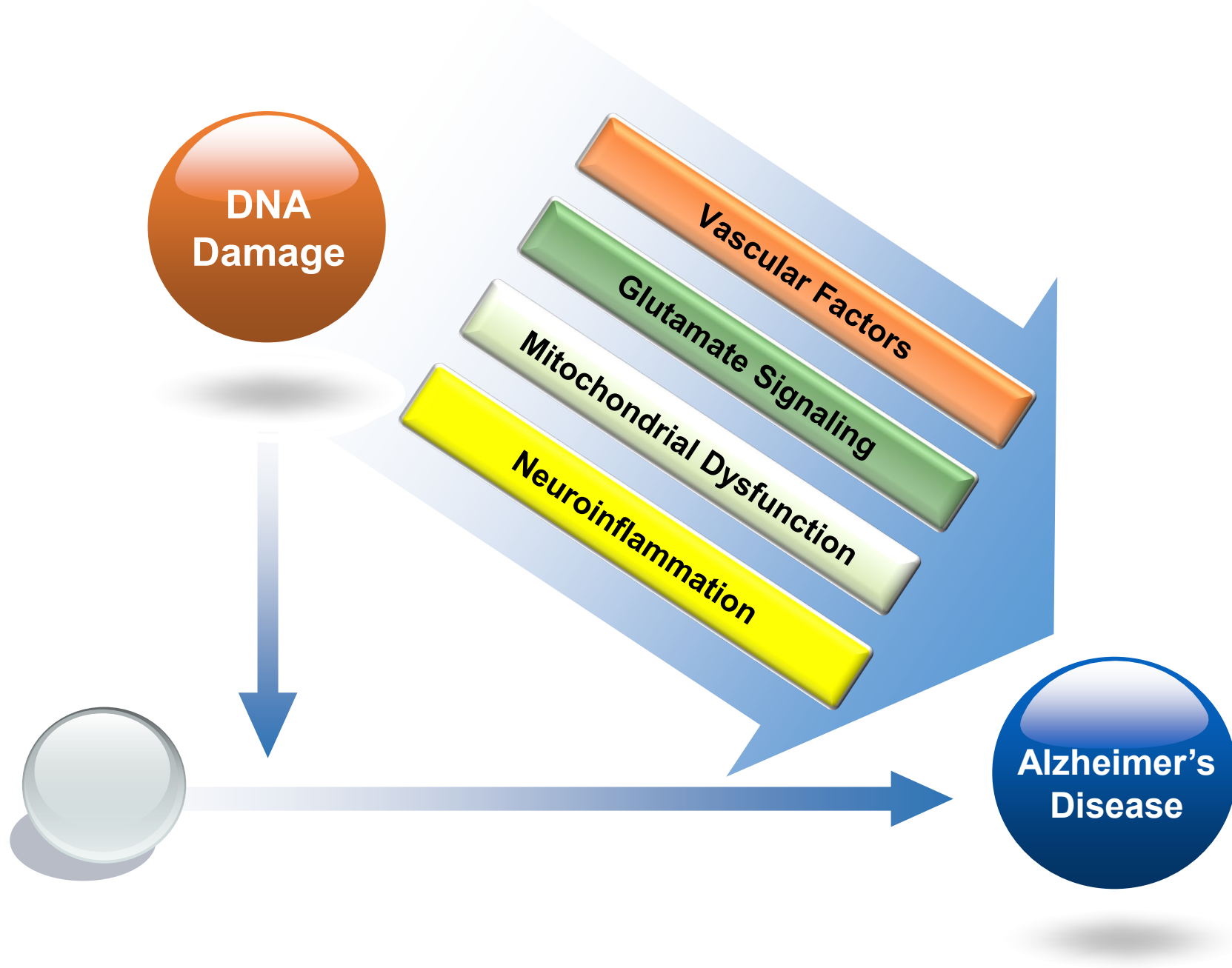
Conclusions

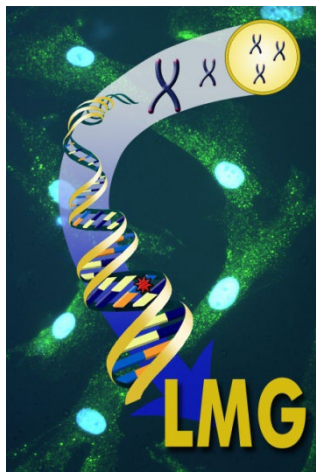
NR treatment attenuates neuroinflammation through downregulation of cGas Sting

NR treatment reduces cytosolic DNAs in AD mouse brain and human AD fibroblasts

NR induces mitophagy in AD mouse brain

NR treatment normalizes cellular senescence in AD mouse brain





*Danish Center for Healthy
Aging, Copenhagen*

Lene Juel Rasmussen

Mansour Akbari

Helena Borland Madsen
Zhiquan Li

Funding support: NIA-NIH,
Nicotinamide Riboside is from ChromaDex

DNA Repair Section

National Institute on Aging, NIH

www.grc.nia.nih.gov/Branches/Laboratory of Molecular Gerontology

Vilhelm A. Bohr

- **Deborah Croteau**
- **Evandro Fang, Oslo**
- **Jong-Hyuk Lee**
- **Yujun Hou**
- Sofie Lautrup
- **Peter Sykora**
- **Mustafa Okur**
- Jae-Hyeon Park
- Mansoor Akbar Ali
- Burcin Sahbaz
- Seoyun Choi
- Xixia Chu
- Xiuli Dan
- Vinod Tiwari
- Beverly Baptiste
- Tomasz Kulikowicz
- Alfred May

Mark Mattson, NIA

Mark Wilson, NIA

Hilde Nilsen, Oslo

Palikaras K, Greece,
Tavernarakis N. Greece

WRN Group, Chiba, Japan

Sam Gray

Elisabeth Buvarp

Komal Pekhale

Caleb Elwell

