

Preclinical Assessment of BBB-Crossing Amyloid- β Oligomer-Targeting Peptide Using PET, MRI and CSF Biomarkers

**Human Health Therapeutics, National Research Council, Canada
KalGene Pharmaceuticals, Canada**

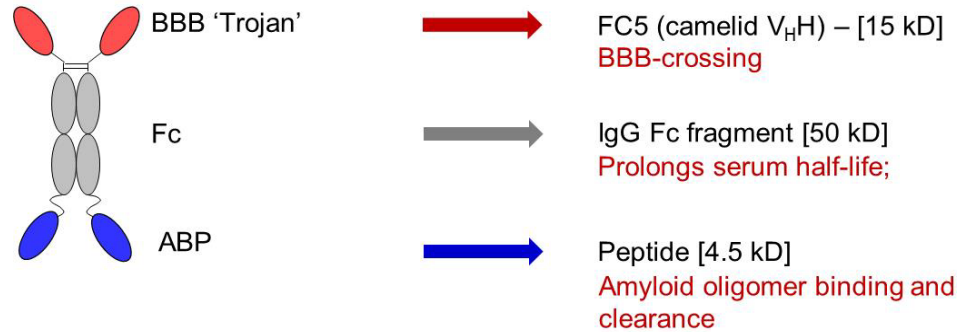
Balu Chakravarthy
September 8th, 2017



Translational Challenges

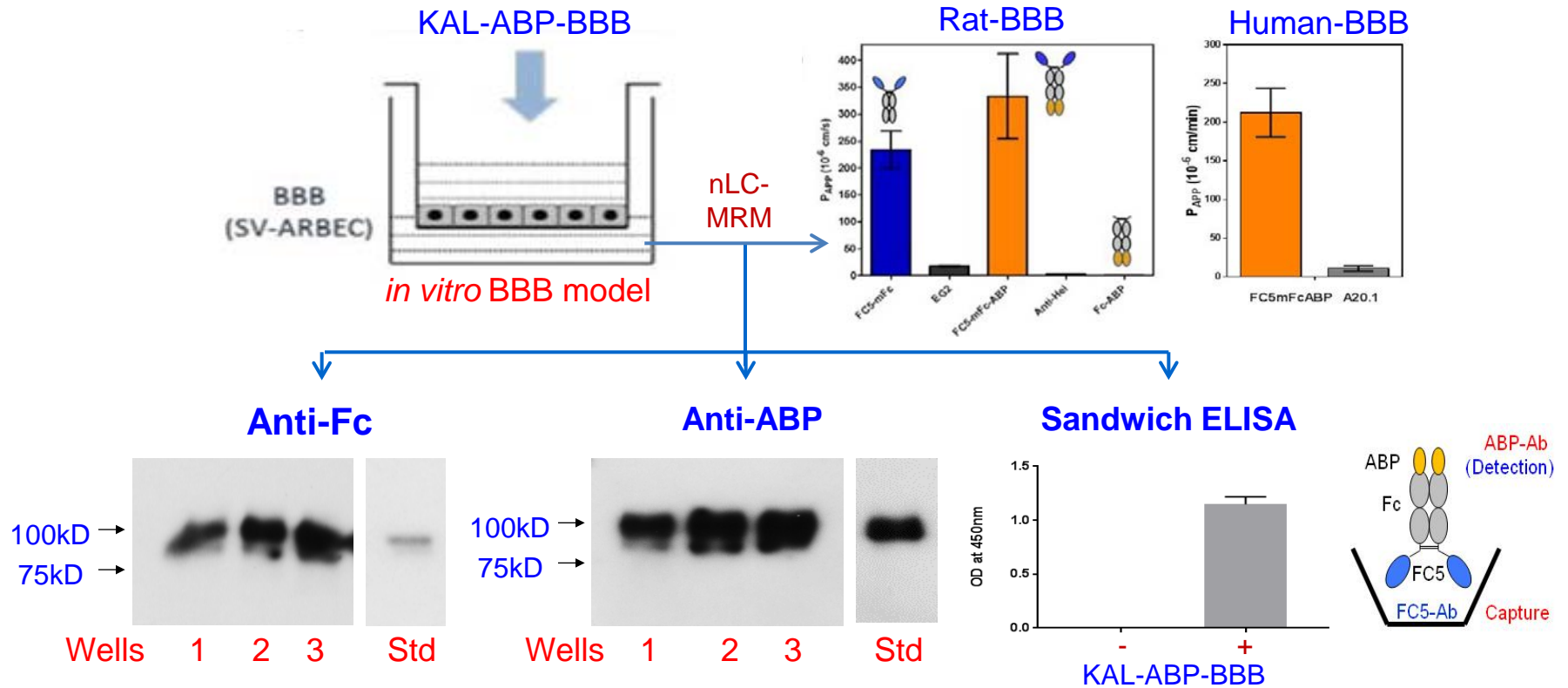
- **Animal models – translation across species (mouse, rat, dog)**
- **Design of target engagement and efficacy preclinical study that ‘mirrors’ typical clinical study design**
- **Use of imaging (PET, MRI) and CSF biomarkers in preclinical study**
- **Translational PK/PD modeling (small brain to large brain)**
- **Analytics that support translation**

Therapeutic Molecule (KAL-ABP-BBB)

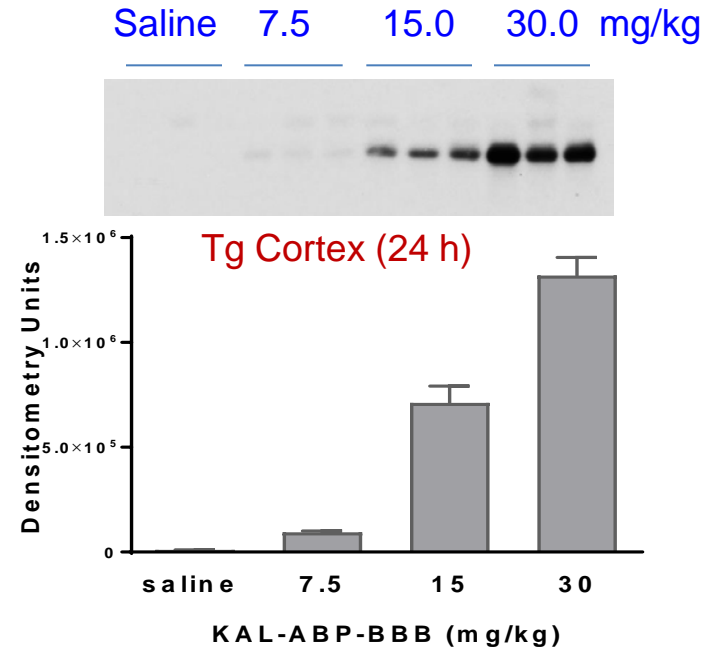
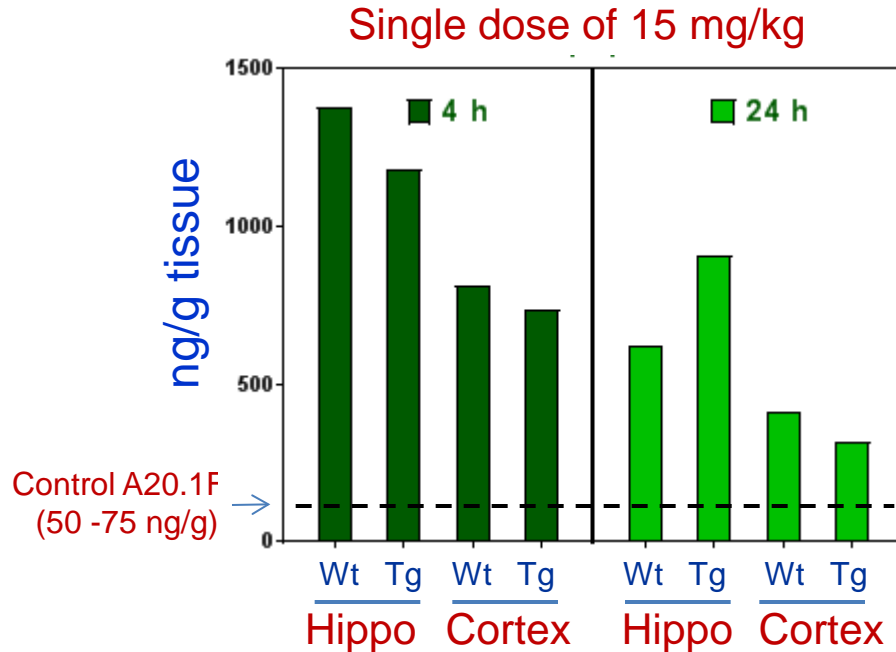


Molecule	Molecule Development	Detection (Analytics)
ABP (4 kD)	Amyloid binding regions from human PCM-1; binds oligomeric A β with nM affinity	C-terminus-specific monoclonal antibody (ELISA, WB); specific peptides for nanoLC-SRM
FC5 (13 kD)	BBB-crossing V _H H; species cross-reactive; humanized	FC5-specific mouse monoclonal antibody (ELISA, WB); specific peptides for nanoLC-SRM
FC5-Fc-ABP-M (90 kD)	Surrogate molecule for rodent studies: mouse Fc; camelid FC5	Anti-mouse Fc antibody (ELISA, WB); specific peptides for nanoLC-SRM
FC5-Fc-ABP-H (90 kD)	Human studies: humanized FC5, engineered human Fc	Anti-human Fc antibody (ELISA, WB); specific peptides for nanoLC-SRM

KAL-ABP-BBB crosses *in vitro* BBB intact

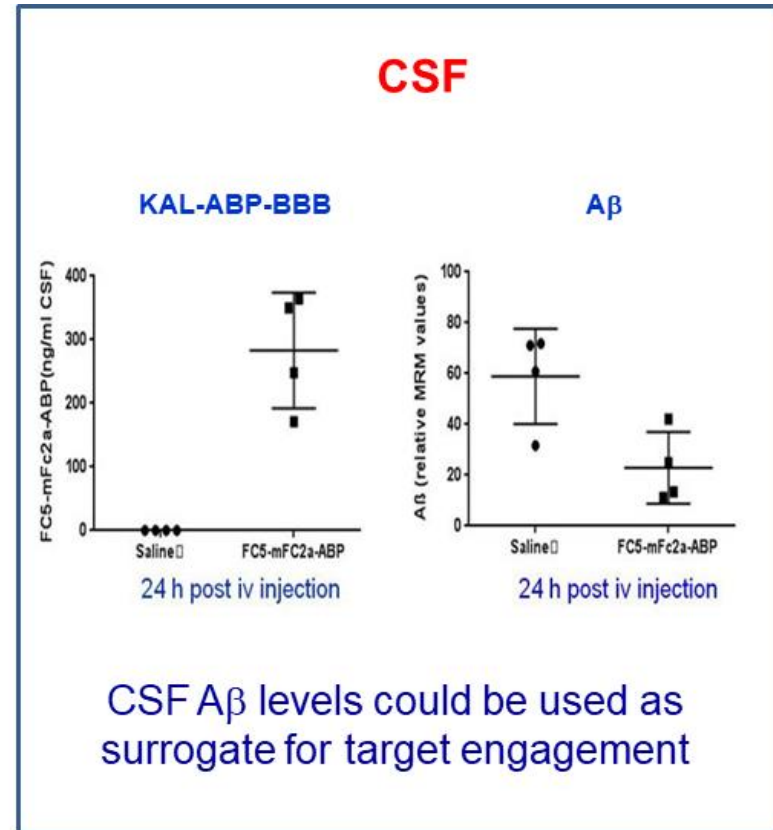
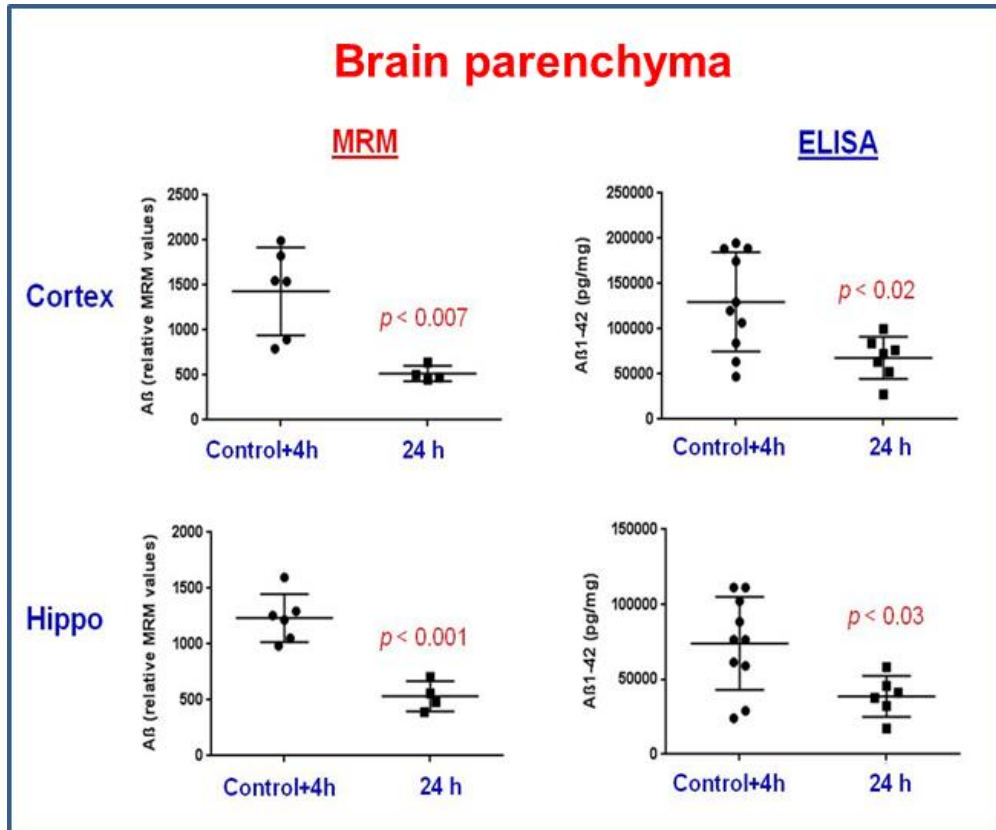


Enhanced **Brain Exposure** of KAL-ABP-BBB transgenic mice



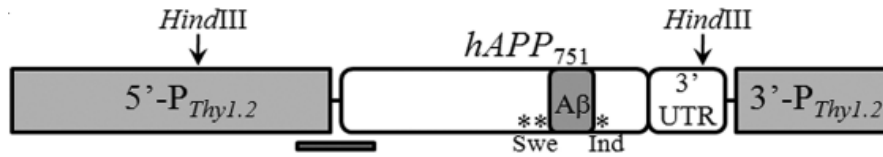
Time- and dose-dependent appearance of KAL-ABP in the tissue indicates delivery of ABP to target regions of the brain by FC5

Reduction of Amyloid- β levels in KAL-ABP-BBB treated Tg mice

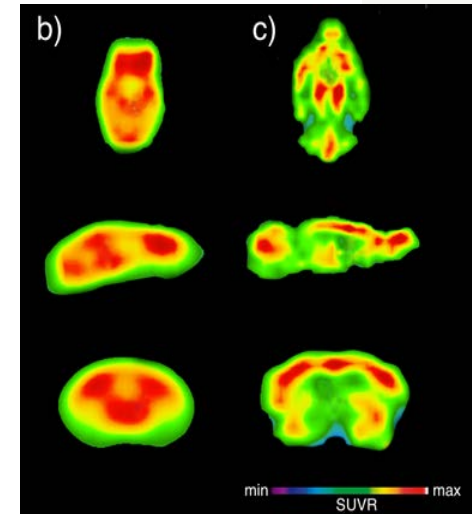
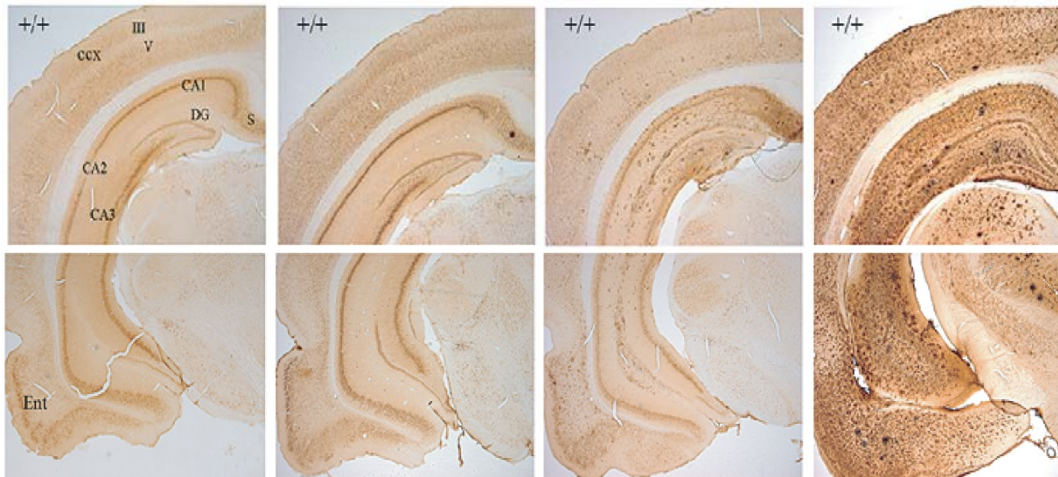


Preclinical Efficacy Study Design: **Animal model**

McGill-R-Thy1-APP Tg Model (Claudio Cuello)



3 months 6 months 13 months 20 months



Leon *et al.*, J Alzheimers Dis 2010

Preclinical Efficacy Study Design: Longitudinal Biomarker Assessment



CSF/Plasma

FC5

hFc

ABP

$A\beta$

A gloved hand performing a lumbar puncture to collect CSF.

PET

[^{18}F]NAV4694
($A\beta$ load)

A PET scan image showing brain slices with color-coded regions representing amyloid load.

MRI

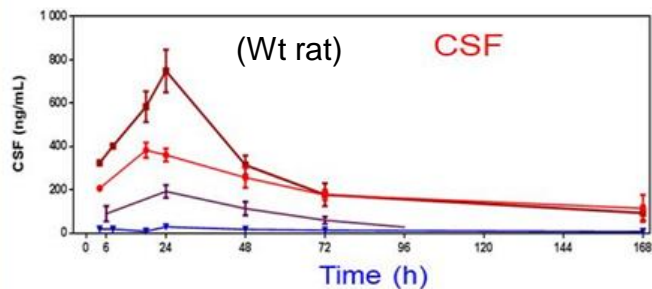
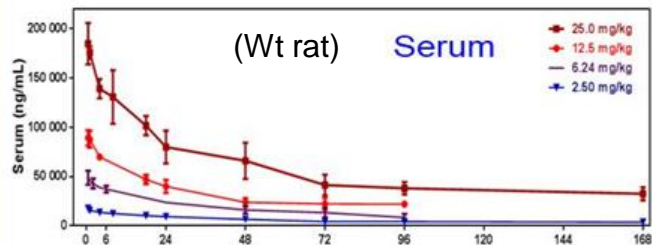
Hippocampal volume

rsfMRI

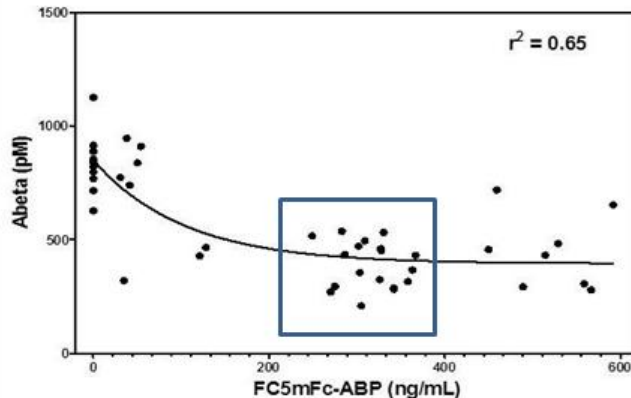
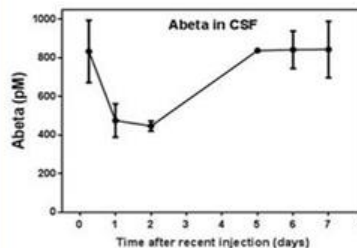
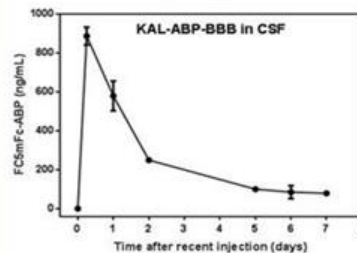
Two MRI images: one showing a hippocampal volume in red and another showing rsfMRI data with color-coded regions.

PK and CSF Biomarker (A β) Profile

- KAL-ABP-BBB serum PK similar to that of a mAb
- CSF exposure 25-fold higher than that of a mAb

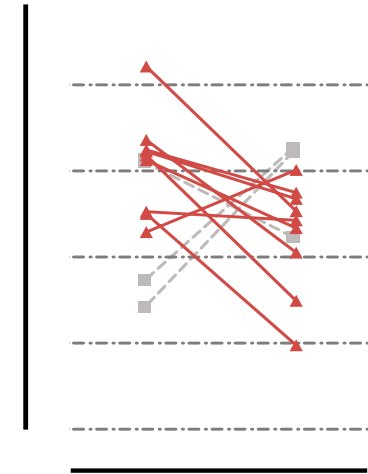
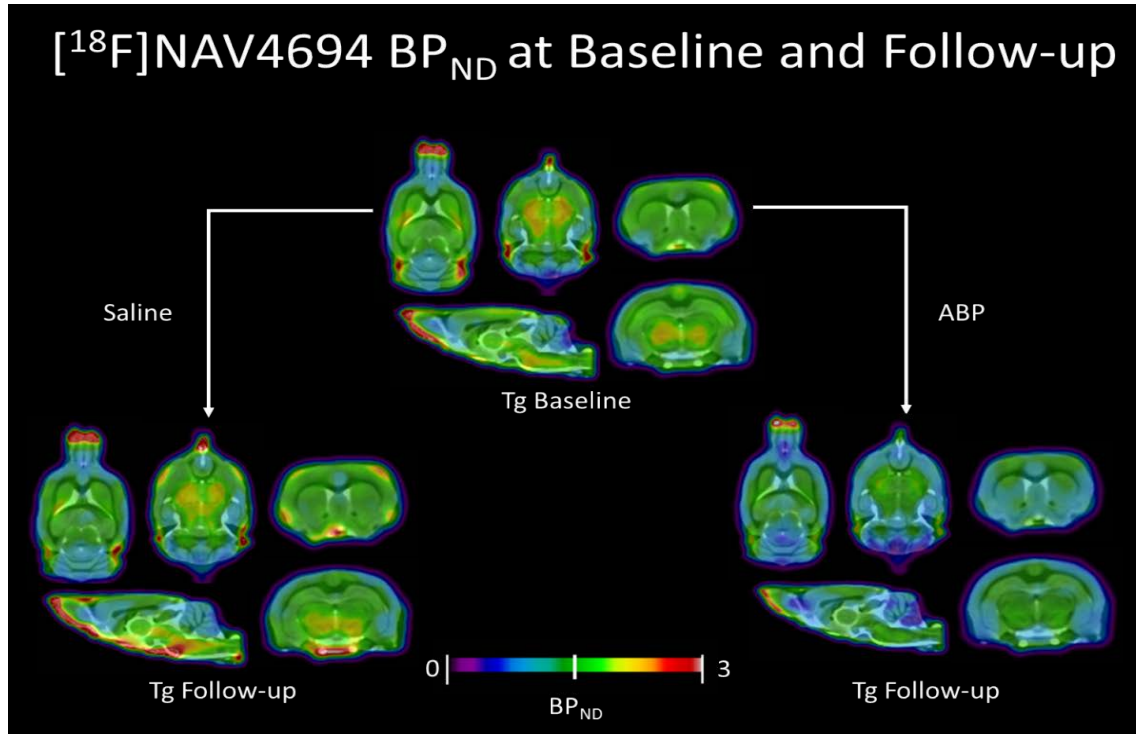


CSF levels of A β inversely correlate with KAL-ABP-BBB levels in transgenic rats



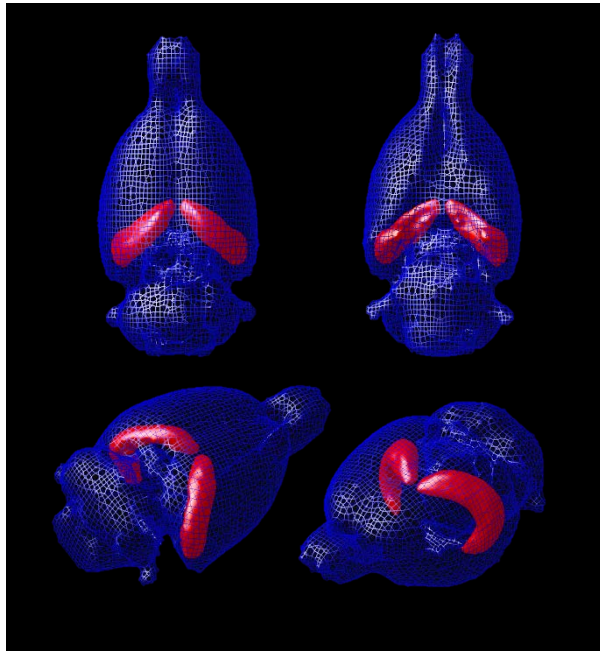
Drug Efficacy: A β load is significantly reduced

[¹⁸F]NAV4694 BP_{ND} at Baseline and Follow-up

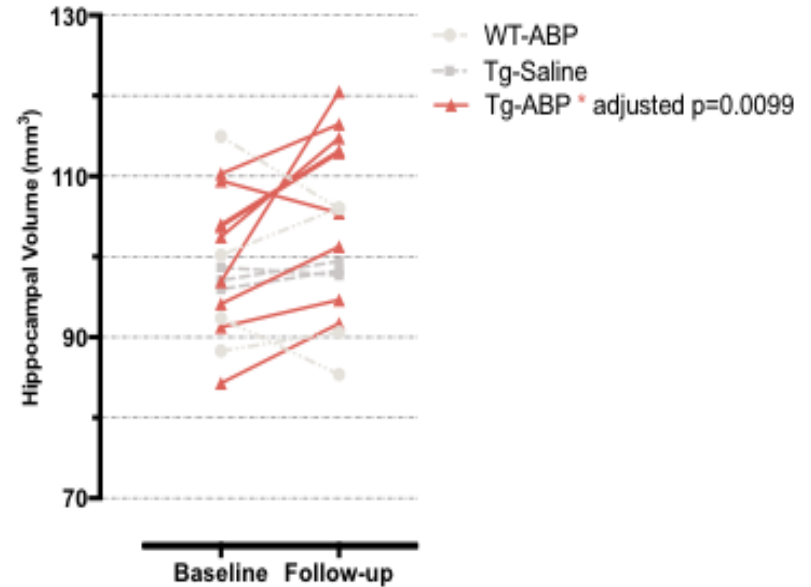


Drug Efficacy: Hippocampal volume is increased

- Increased hippocampal volume only in Tg-ABP group

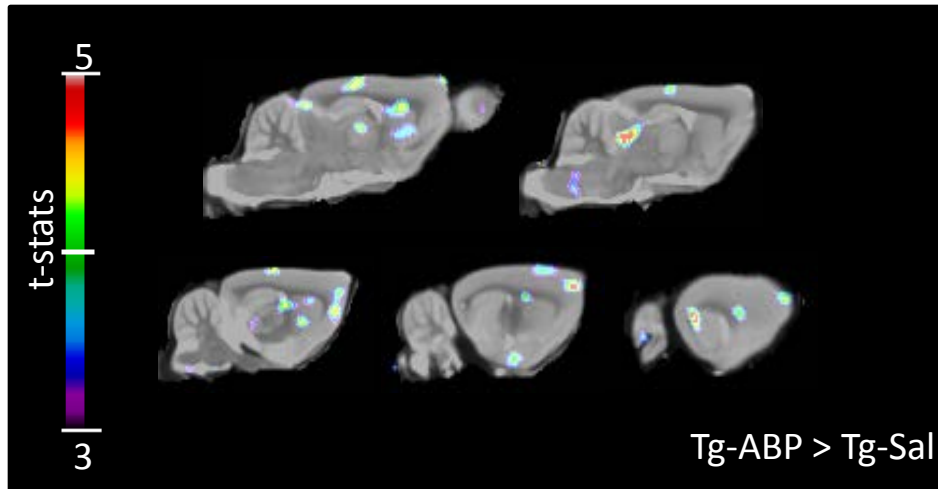


Kal-ABP increases hippocampal volume in Tg



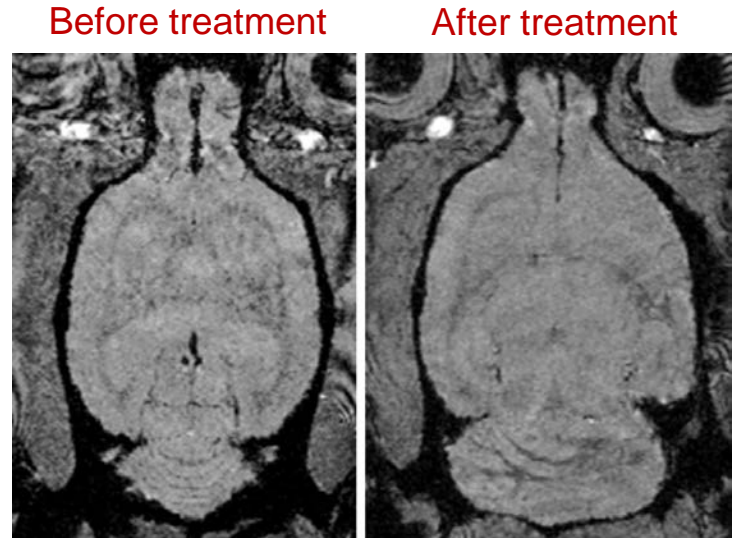
Secondary Drug Efficacy: rs-fMRI ACC Connectivity

- Tg-ABP showed greater ACC connectivity compared to Tg-Sal treatment



Drug Safety: Microhemorrhage

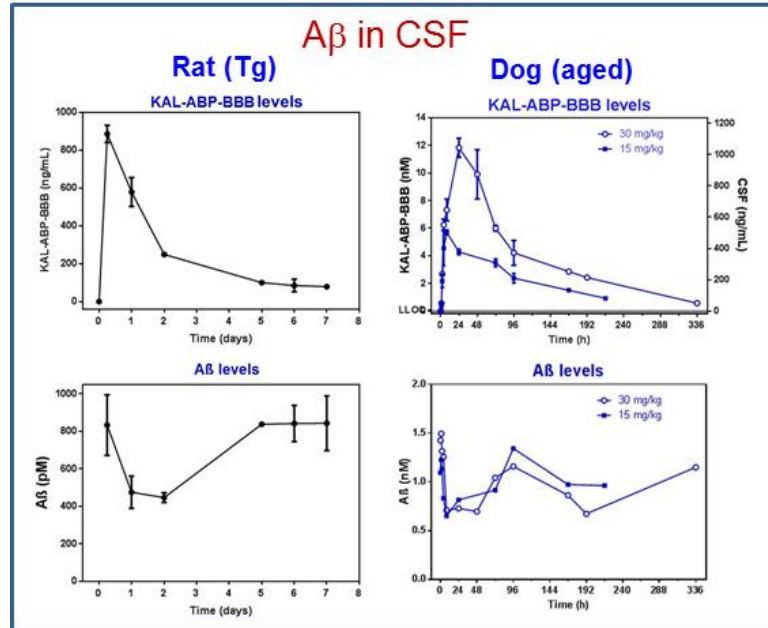
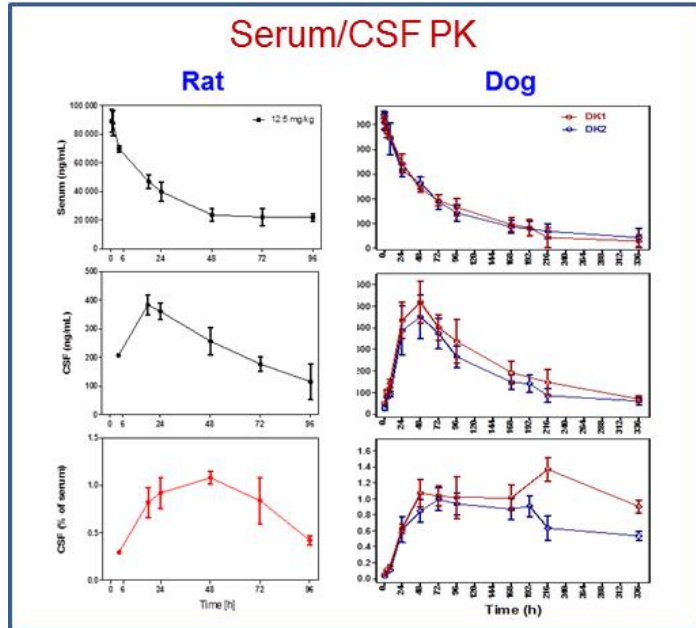
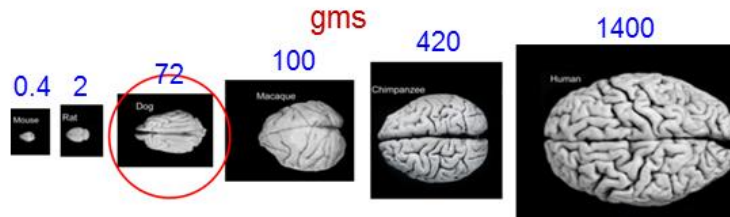
- No evidence of drug-induced microhemorrhage



Summary of longitudinal studies in AD rat model

- 27% reduction in global amyloid load
- 7% Increased hippocampal volume
- Restoring rs-fMRI ACC Connectivity
- No evidence of microhaemorrhage

Translation from **small to large brain**



Acknowledgements



Dr. Danica Stanimirovic
Dr. Yves Durocher
Dr. Arsalan Haqqani
Dr. Etienne Lessard
Dr. Kerry Rennie
Dr. Mahmud Bani

Dr. Nathan Yoganathan

Michael Waterson

Dr. Pedro Rosa-Neto
Dr. Serge Gauthier
Min Su Kang
Monica Shin
Dr. Gassan Massarweh
Dr. Jean-Paul Soucy

