

# AABC Webinar

## *Updates in Neuroimaging*

### 12/9/19

Make sure you have a solid internet connection.  
Use a headset/earbuds for the best audio experience.

Please ask questions by typing them in on the bottom of the screen at “Q&A”.  
Q&A will be 5:50 p.m.



**Michael Ewers, PhD**  
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*Functional Connectomics to Predict Tau Spreading and Cognitive Resilience in Alzheimer's disease*



**Beau Ances, MD, PhD, MSc**  
**bances@wustl.edu**

*Neuroimaging Insights from the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN)*



**Liana Apostolova, MD, MSc, FAAN**  
**lapostol@iu.edu**

*Improving our understanding of Alzheimer's disease heterogeneity: LEADS neuroimaging component*

# Functional connectomics to predict tau spreading and cognitive resilience in Alzheimer's disease

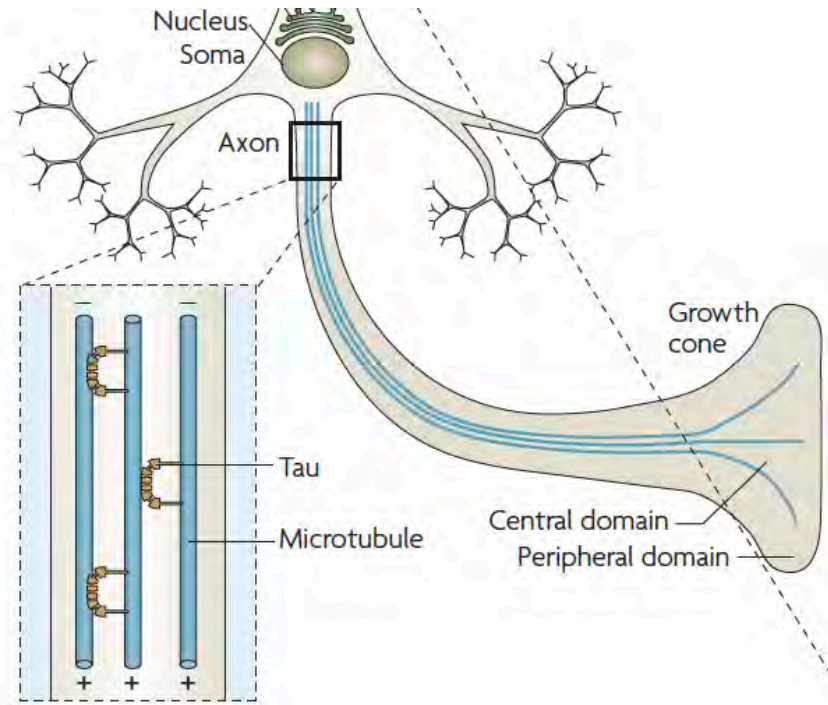
Michael Ewers

Institute for Stroke and Dementia Research (ISD)

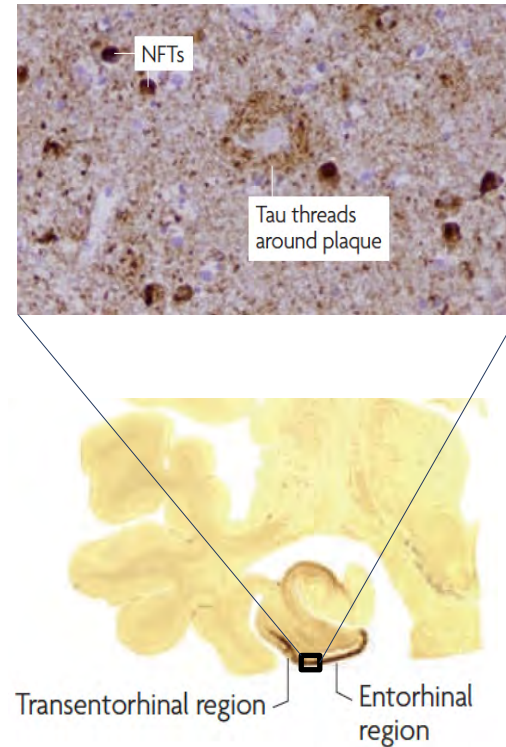
Ludwig Maximilian University, LMU Munich

# Tau pathology in Alzheimer's disease

Tau protein stabilizes microtubules



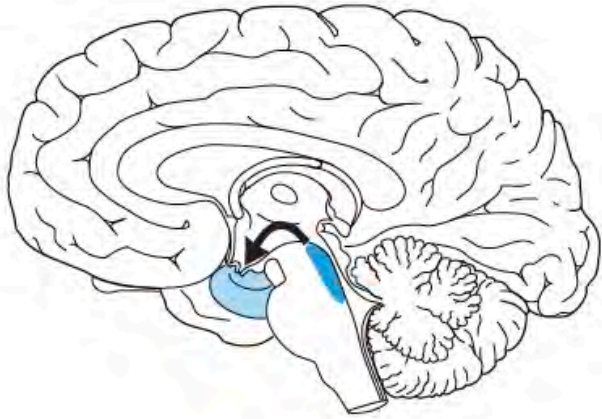
Fibrillar tau



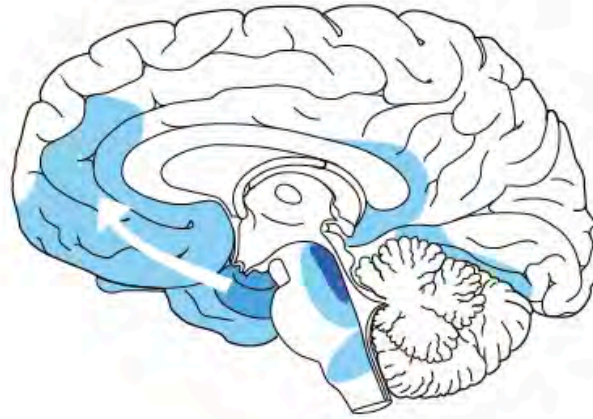
# Braak Staging of progressive tau pathology

## Pathologic Tau

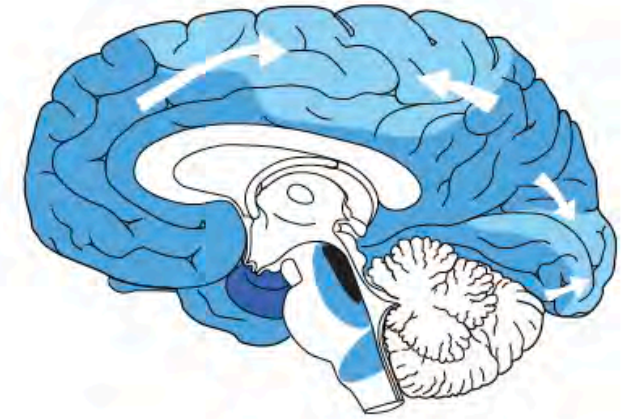
Stage I-III



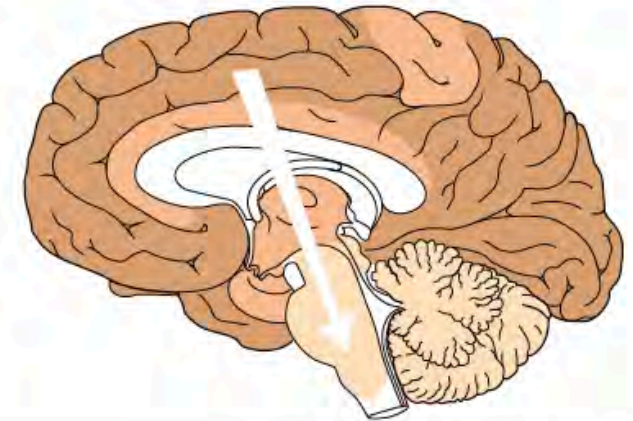
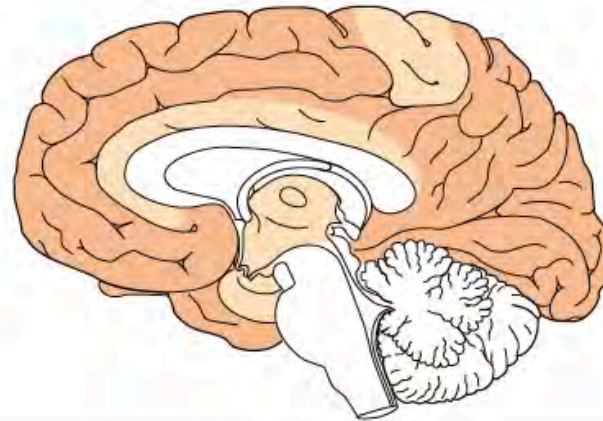
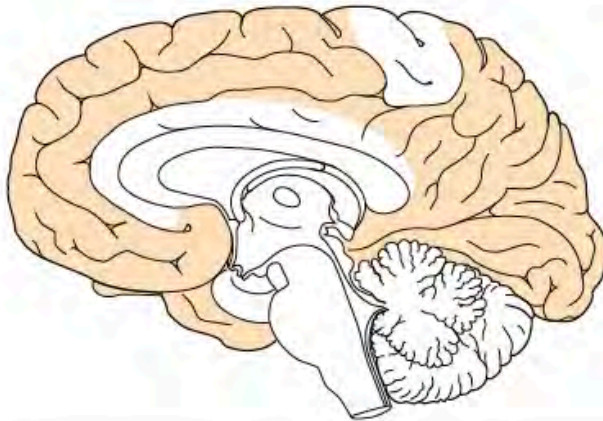
Stage III- IV



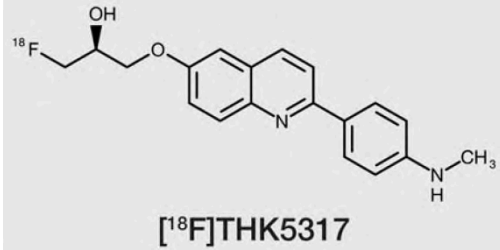
Stage V - VI



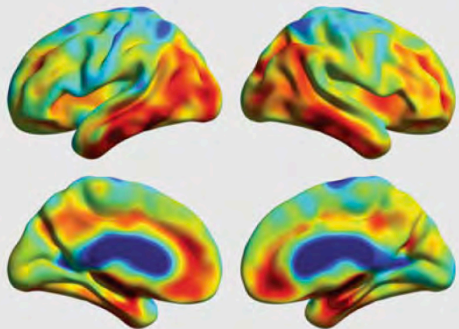
## A $\beta$



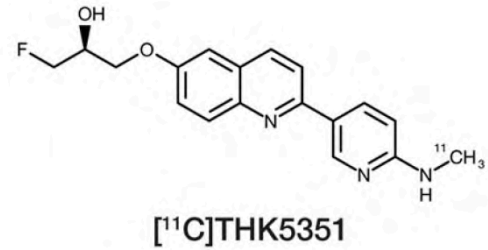
# PET-Tracer of fibrillar Tau



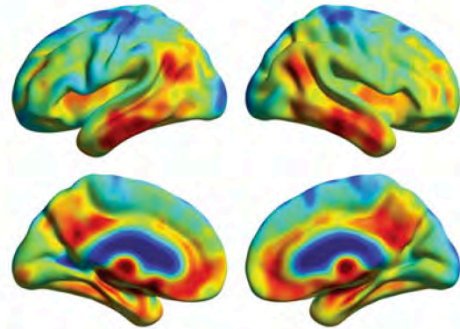
AD dementia, 75 yrs, MMSE 24



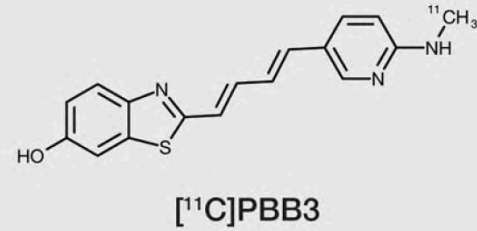
0.5 DVR 1.5



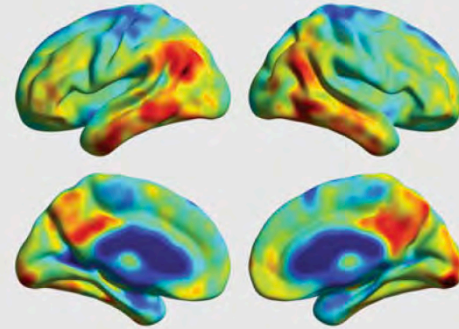
Prodromal AD, 70 yrs, MMSE 30



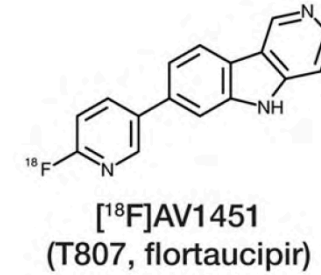
0.5 DVR 2.2



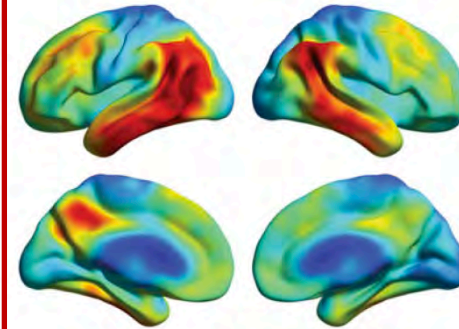
Prodromal AD, 70 yrs, MMSE 30



0.6 DVR 1.6

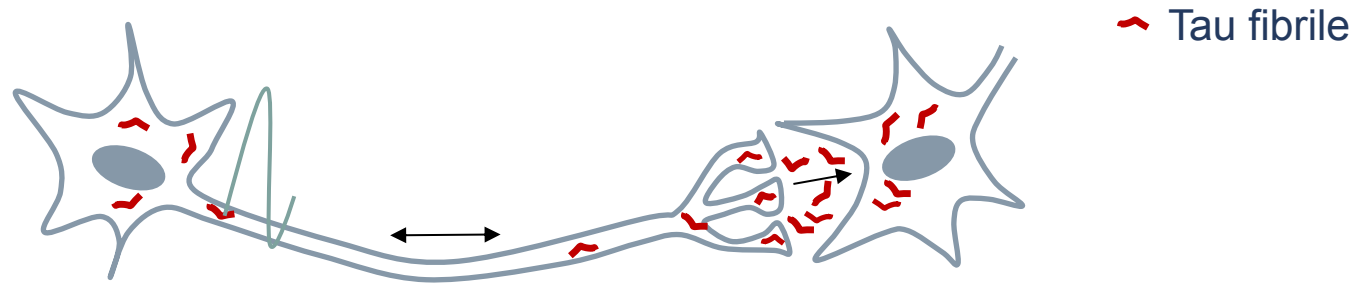


AD dementia, 74 yrs, MMSE 14



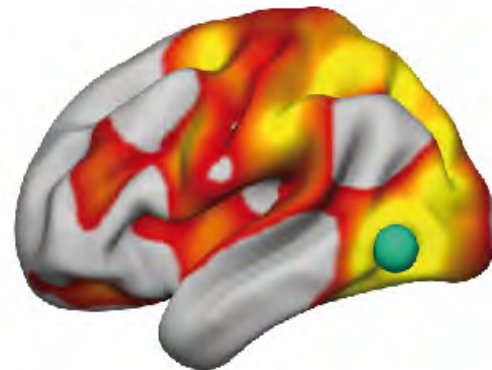
0.0 SUVR 3.5

# Tau spreading | functional connectivity

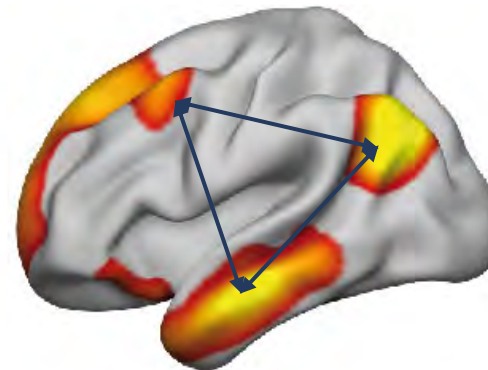


## Resting state fMRI detected functional networks

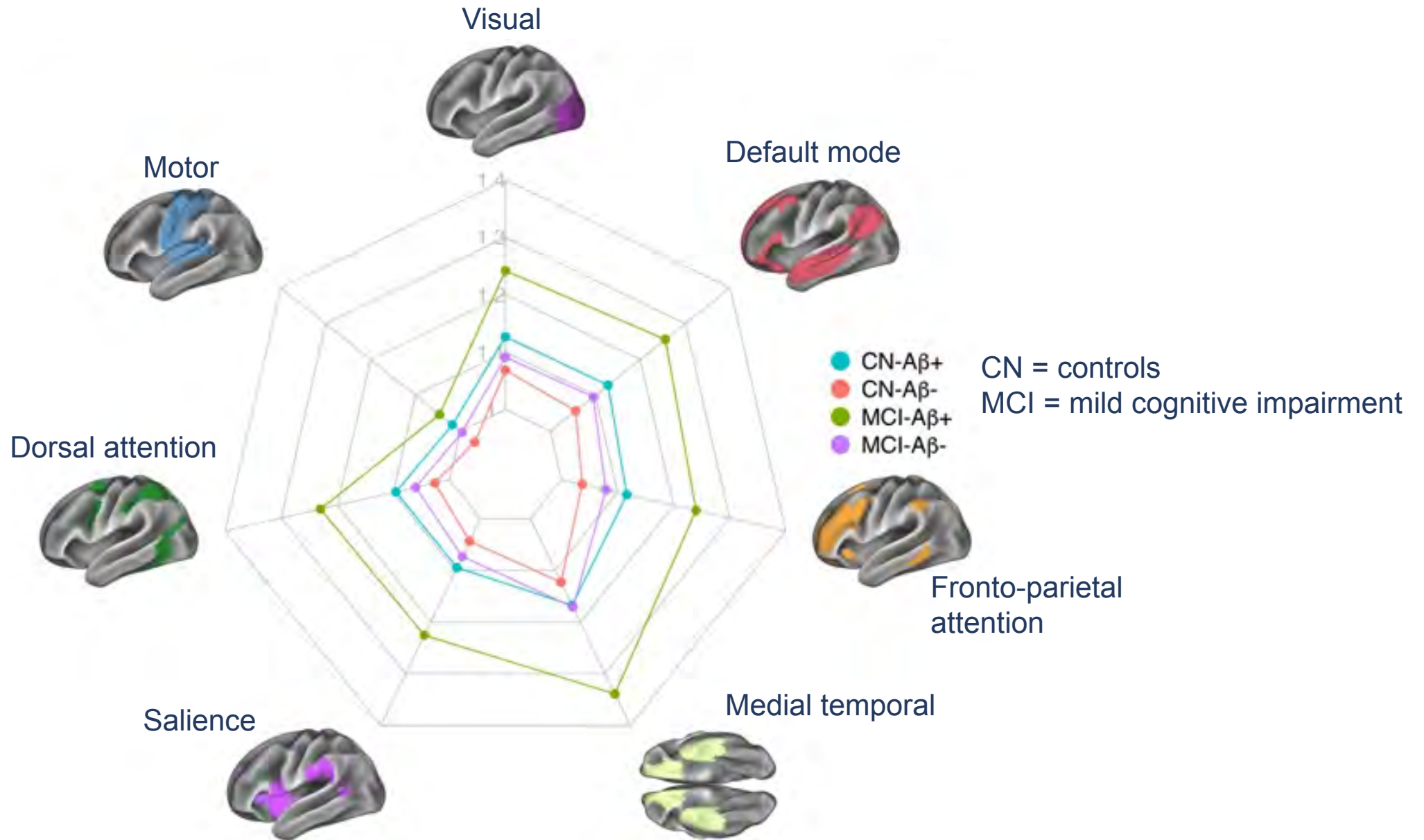
Dorsal attention



Default Mode



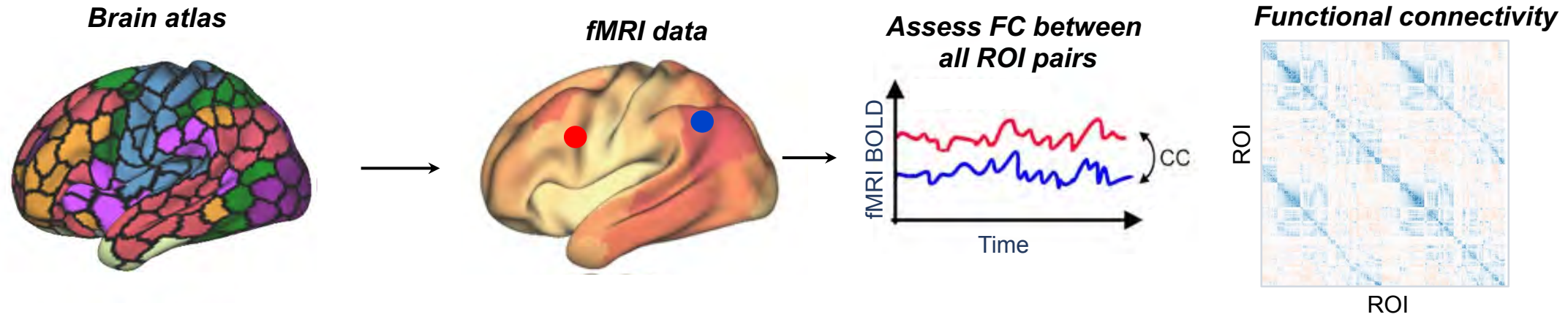
# Tau PET | Functional Networks



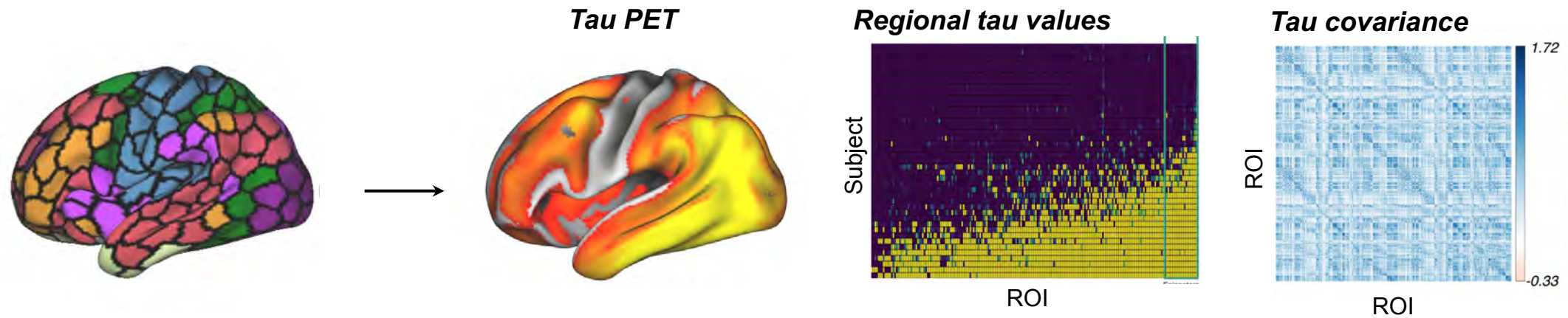


# Assessing connectivity

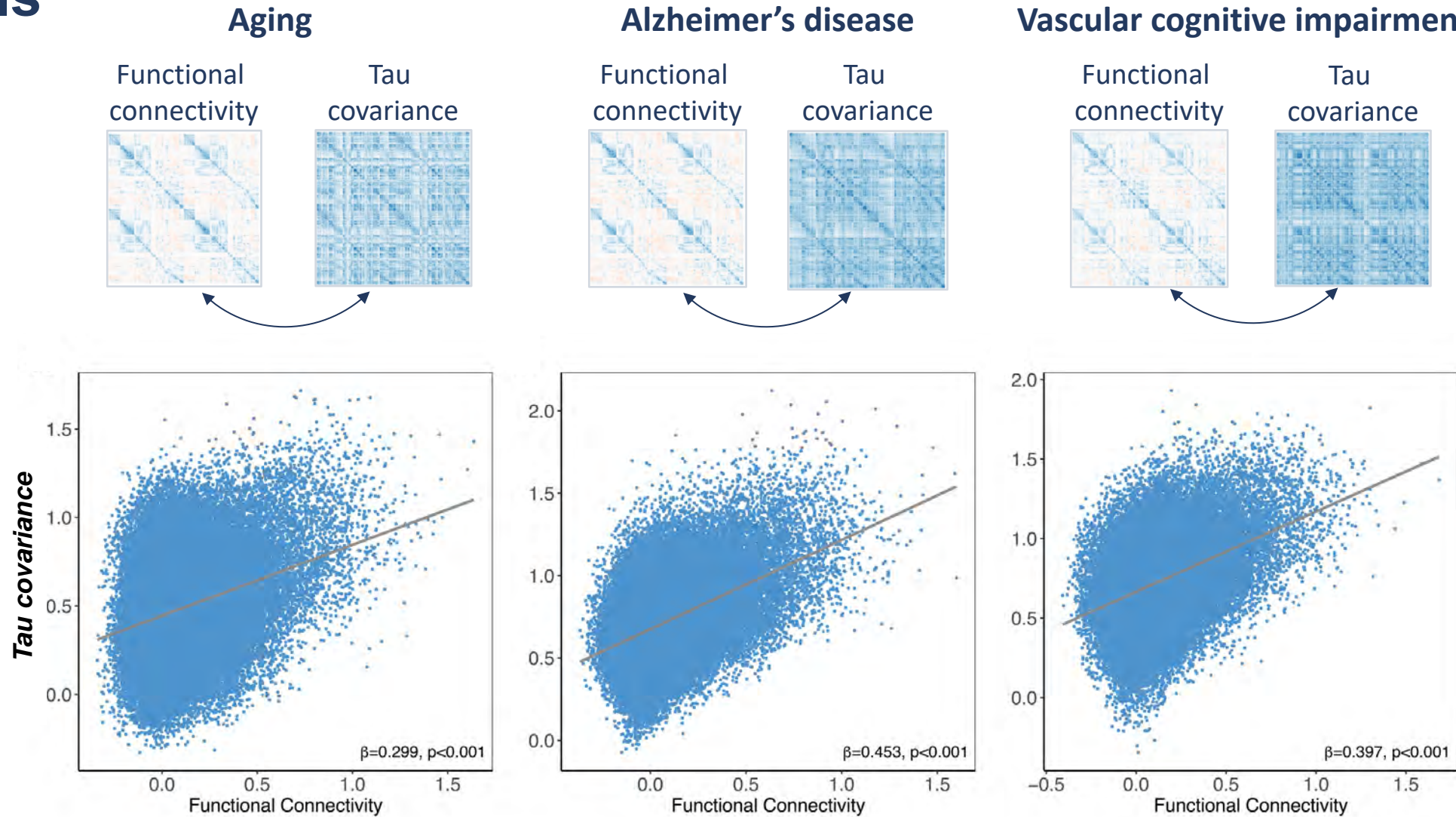
## Resting state fMRI – functional connectivity (FC)



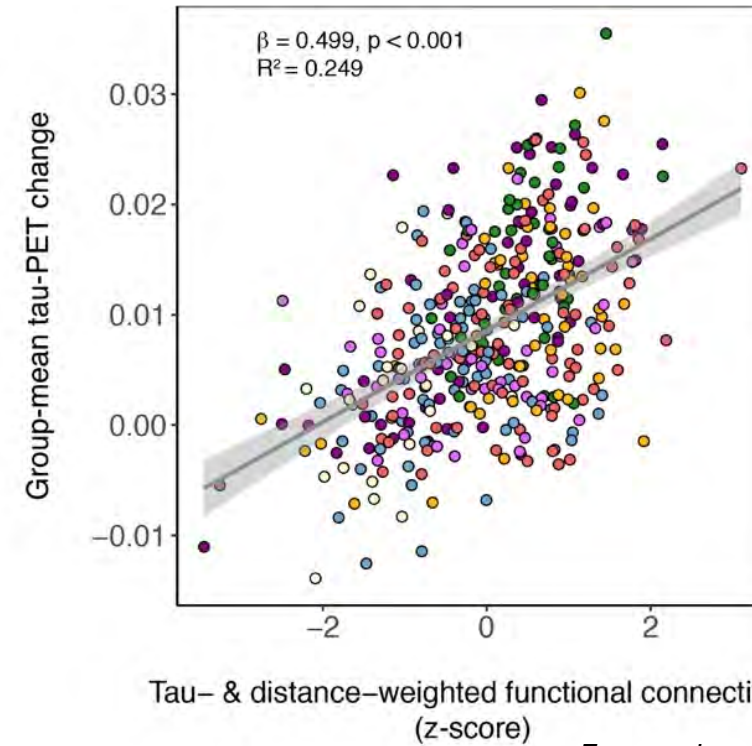
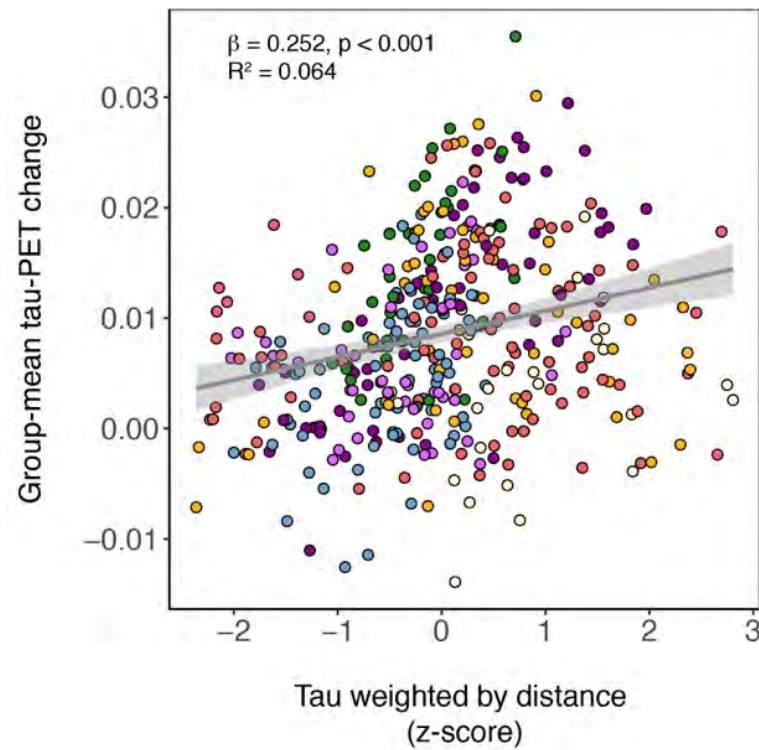
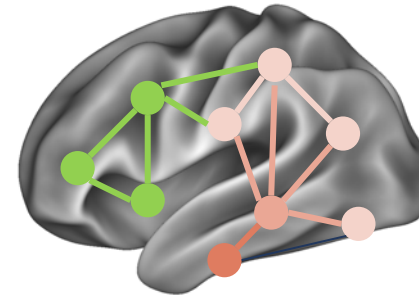
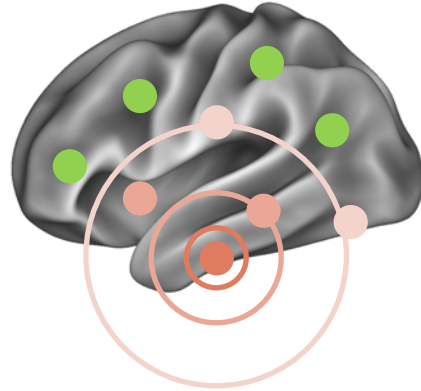
## Tau PET covariance



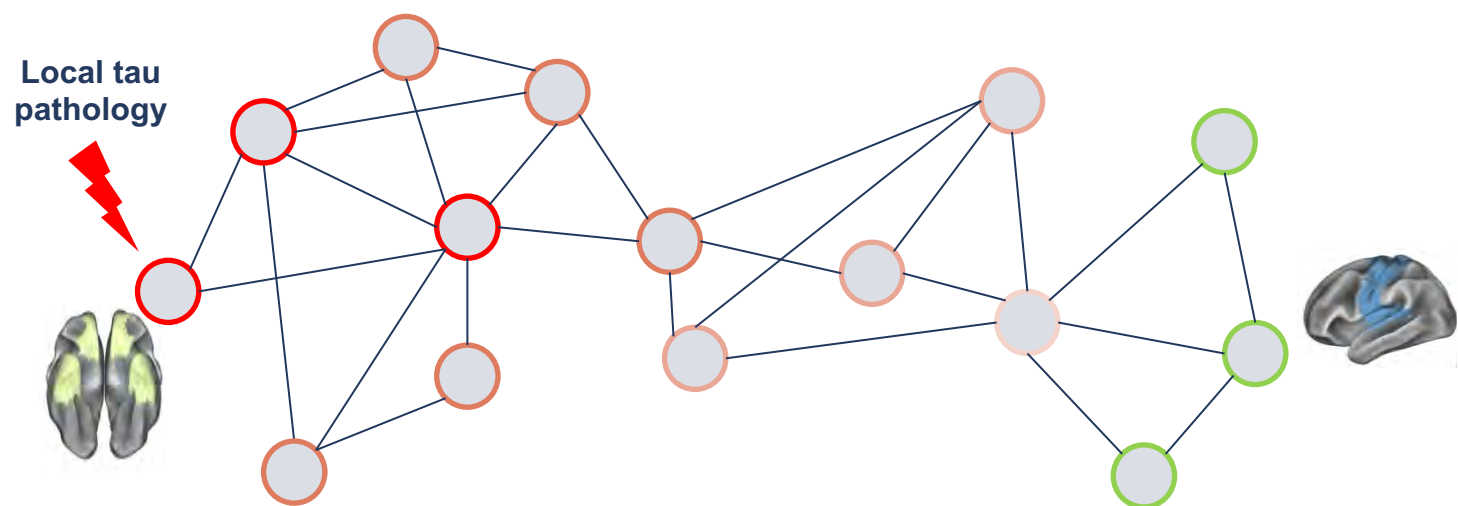
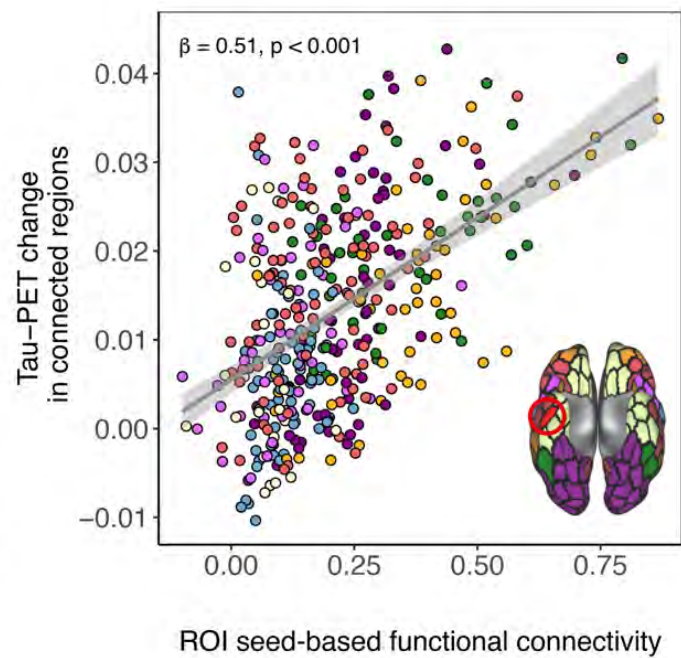
# Regions with high functional connectivity show covarying tau levels



# Modeling future tau accumulation

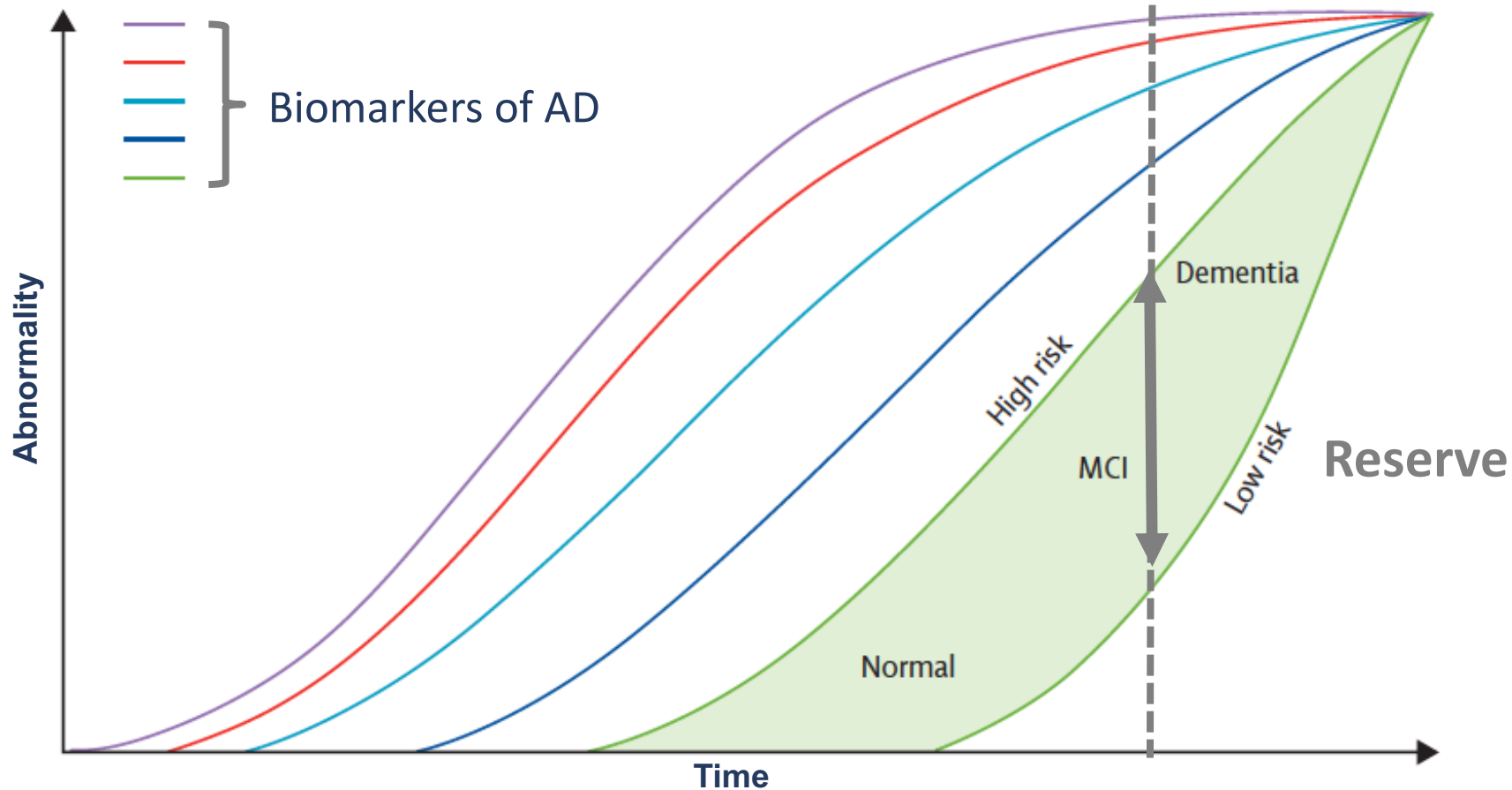


# Summary



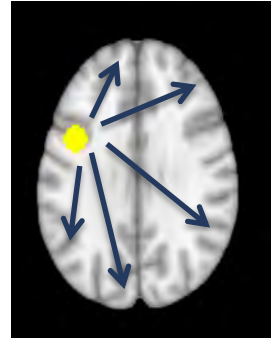
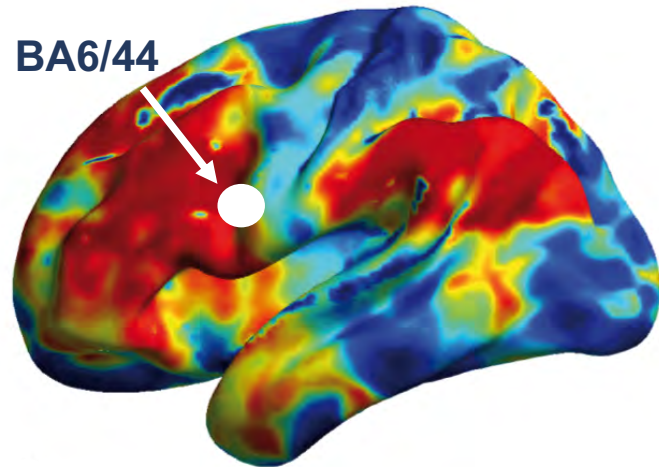
# Reserve | cognitive decline

Reserve: Ability to maintain cognition relatively well at a given level of pathology

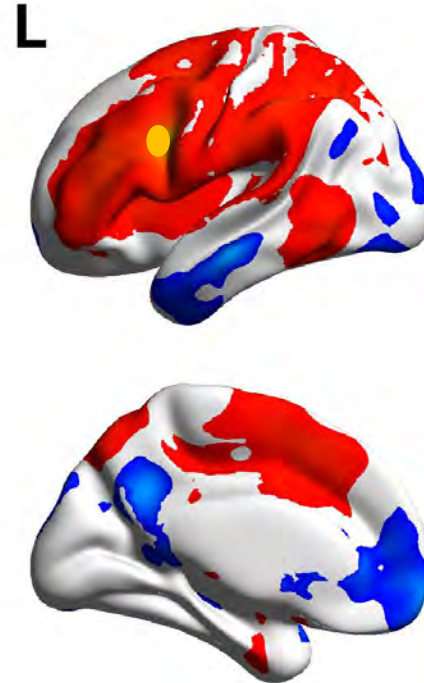


# Hub connectivity in the left lateral frontal cortex as a putative substrate of reserve

## Distribution of brain hubs



## Left frontal cortex (LFC) hub connectivity

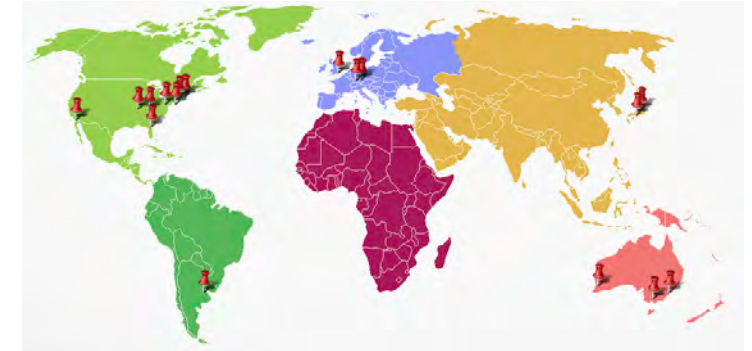


- Associated with higher IQ in young subjects

# LFC connectivity in sporadic and genetically caused AD

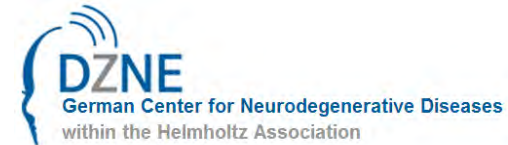
## Genetically caused AD from DIAN (N = 129)

| DIAN                | Mutation (n=74) | Controls (n=55) | p-value |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| <b>Age</b>          | 37.49 (10.05)   | 37.84 (10.31)   | 0.848   |
| <b>Gender (f/m)</b> | 42/32           | 34/21           | 0.563   |
| <b>MMSE</b>         | 27.04 (5.1)     | 29.45 (1.02)    | < 0.001 |



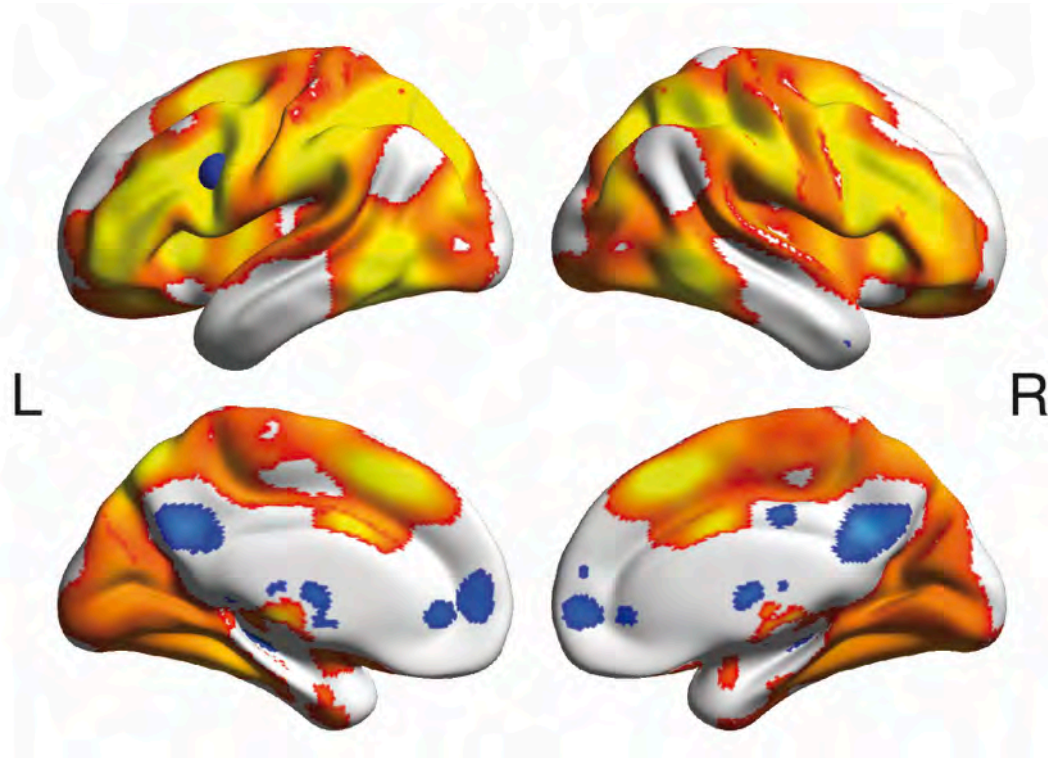
## Sporadic late-onset AD from DELCODE (N = 75)

| DELCODE             | CN (n=25)    | SCD (n=23)   | MCI (n=14)   | AD dementia (n=13) | p-value |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Age</b>          | 57.76 (5.23) | 72.26 (4.16) | 74.64 (5.34) | 71.31 (6.18)       | < 0.001 |
| <b>Gender (f/m)</b> | 16/9         | 10/13        | 5/9          | 9/4                | 0.164   |
| <b>MMSE</b>         | 29.20 (0.96) | 29.39 (0.78) | 27.71 (1.68) | 23.85 (2.82)       | < 0.001 |

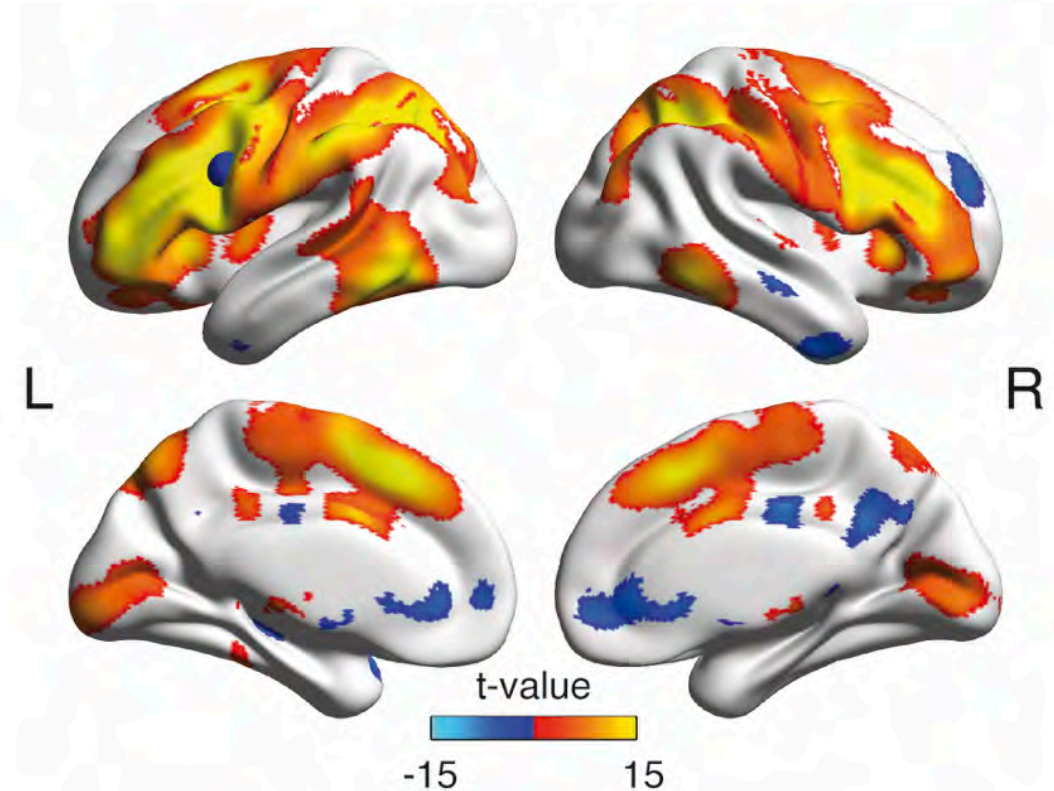


# LFC connectivity maps

DIAN

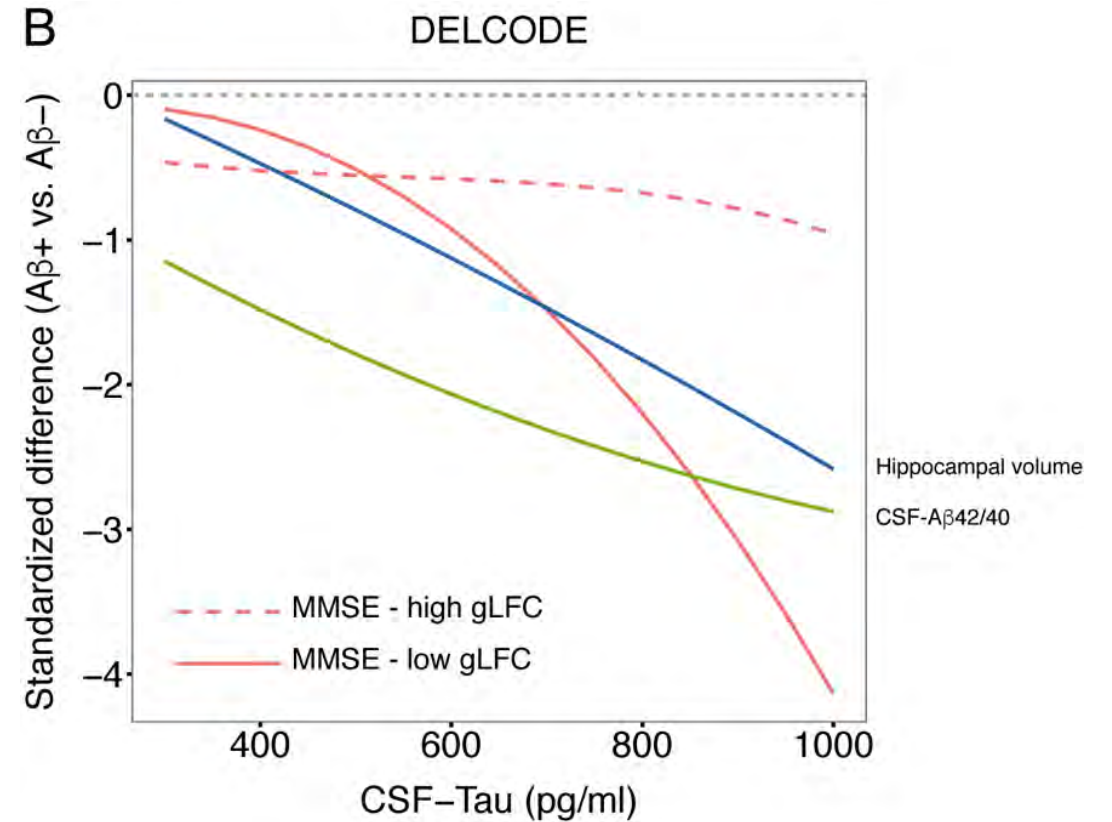
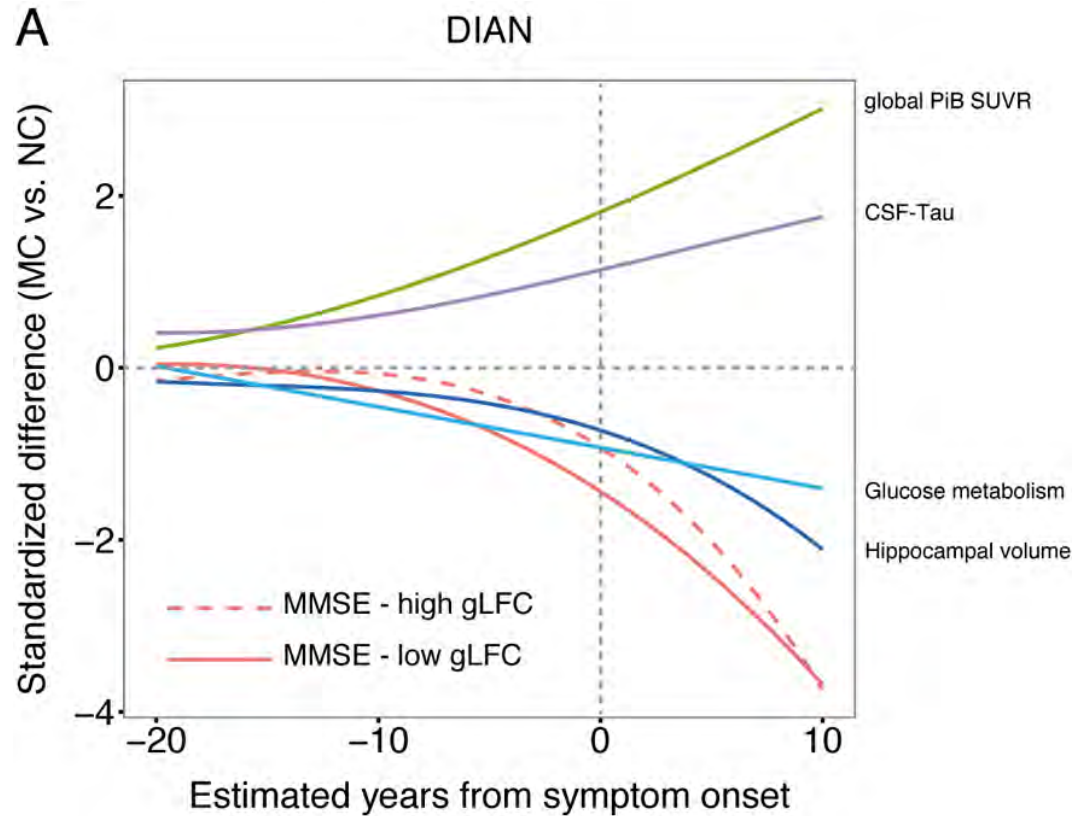


DELCODE





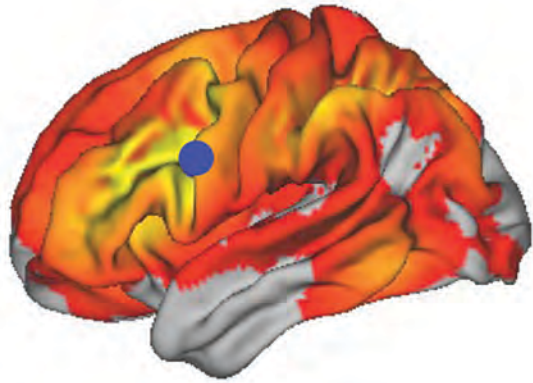
# Modeling the impact of global LFC connectivity on cognition



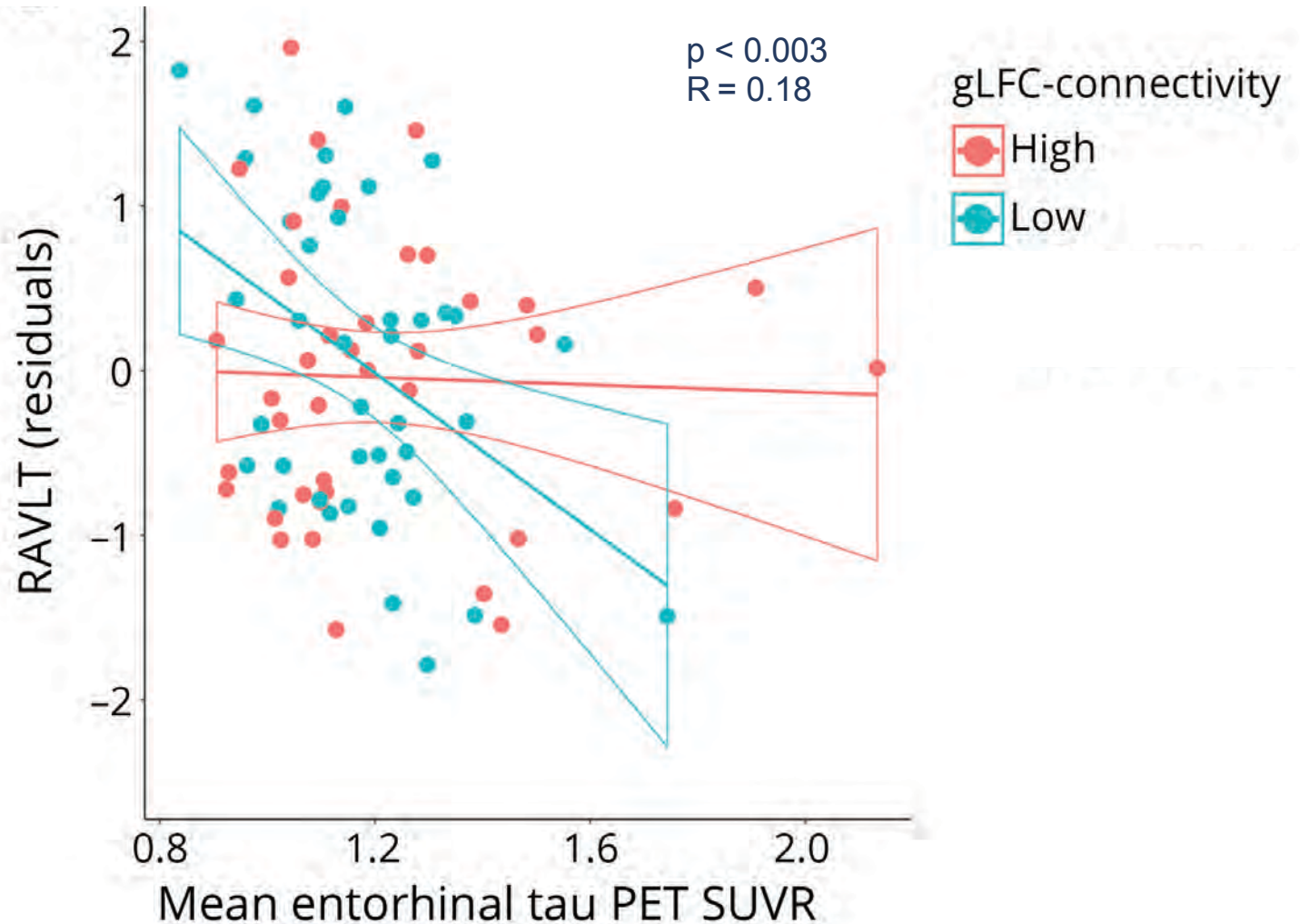
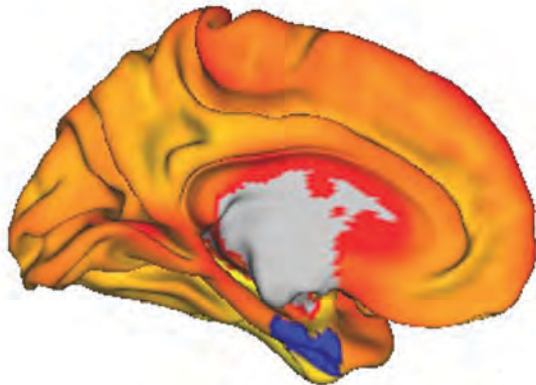
# Left frontal hub connectivity modulates effect of tau on memory

82 controls & 43 MCI

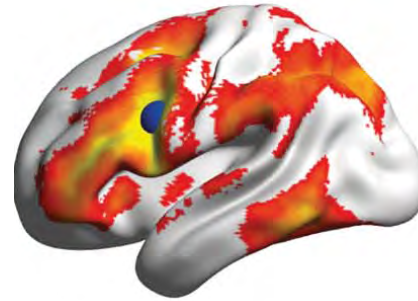
## Left frontal hub connectivity



## Entorhinal tau PET ROI



# Model of functional brain mechanism underlying reserve



**Protective factors  
(Education)**

*Franzmeier et al. Brain, 2018*  
*Franzmeier et al. Neurology, 2017*  
*Ewers et al. Neurology, 2013*



**LFC hub connectivity  
Control network**



**Network  
efficiency**

*Franzmeier et al. Alz Res Therapy, 2018*

**AD pathology**

*Neitzel et al. Neurology, 2019*  
*Franzmeier et al. Brain, 2018*  
*Franzmeier et al. Neurology, 2017*



**Cognitive  
impairment**

# Acknowledgements

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Anna Rubinski  
Lukas Frontzkowski  
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## **Technische Universität München**

Christian Sorg  
Katja Koch

# Neuroimaging Insights from the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN)



**Beau M. Ances MD, PhD, MSc, FANA, FAAN**

Daniel J Brennan MD Professor of Neurology

Departments of Neurology, Radiology, and Biomedical Engineering

Washington University in Saint Louis (WUSTL)



AABC Updates in Neuroimaging Webinar

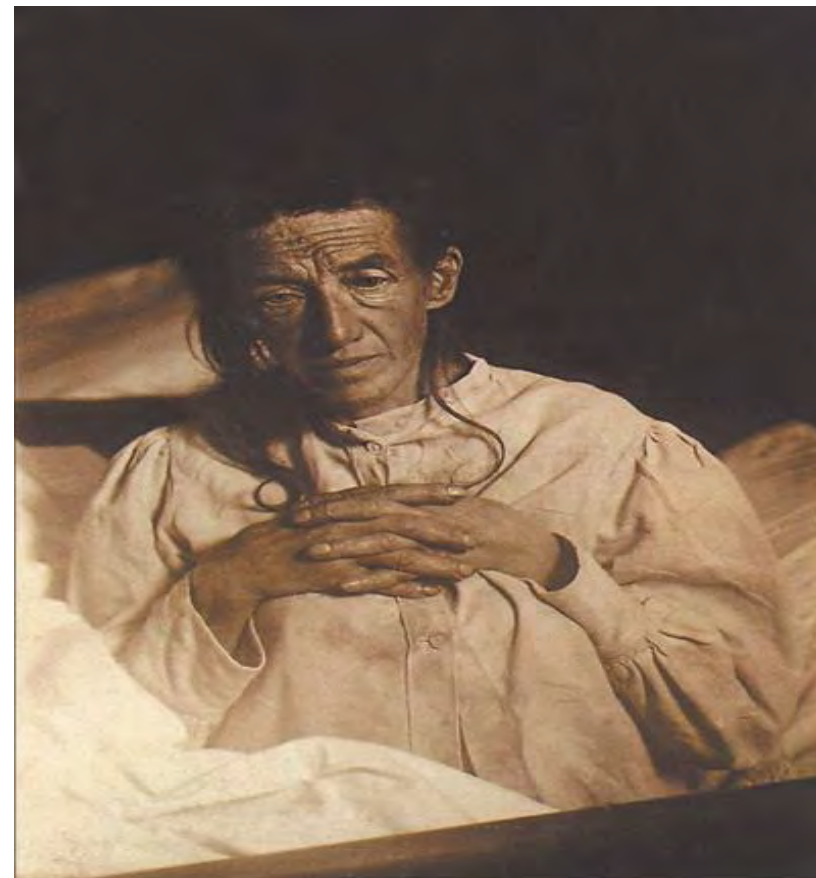
December 9, 2019

**Dr. Ances has no financial disclosures**



# Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer Disease (ADAD)

- A rare form of Alzheimer's disease (AD)
  - Less than 1% of AD cases result from ADAD mutations
- Caused by an inherited gene mutation in one of three genes directly involved in amyloid beta ( $A\beta$ ) production
  - Amyloid precursor protein (*APP*)
  - Presenilin 1 (*PSEN1*)
  - Presenilin 2 (*PSEN2*)
- 50% chance of passing the gene to a child
- Individuals with ADAD develop symptoms earlier in life
- Mutations cause predictable age of onset and allows for determination of estimated years to onset (EYO)



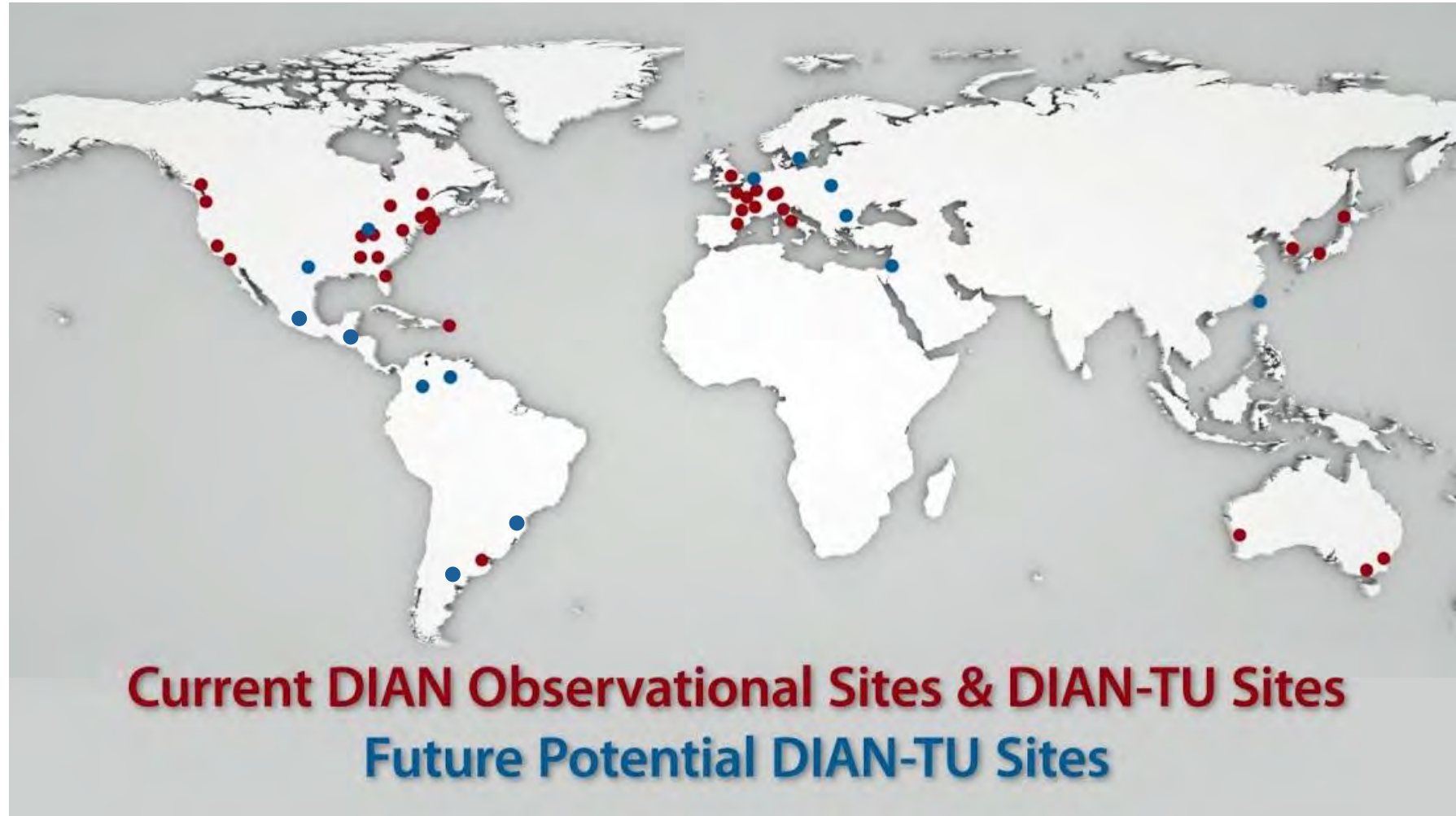
Auguste D., the first AD patient described by Dr. Alois Alzheimer, was later found to have an ADAD mutation in Presenilin 1 (F176L)

# Comparison of ADAD and Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease (LOAD)

|  | ADAD   | LOAD   |
|--|--|--|
| Clinical presentation                      | Amnestic   | Amnestic   |
| Cognitive deterioration                    | Memory, frontal/executive, generalized cognitive decline | Memory, frontal/executive, generalized cognitive decline |
| Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)           | Hippocampal atrophy and whole brain atrophy              | Hippocampal atrophy and whole brain atrophy              |
| Amyloid positron emission tomography (PET) | Cortex <b>plus basal ganglia</b>                         | Cortex   |
| Flurodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET                | Parieto-occipital hypometabolism                         | Parieto-occipital hypometabolism                         |
| Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) Aβ 42            | Decreased by 50%   | Decreased by 50%   |
| CSF tau                                    | Increased by 2-fold                                      | Increased by 2-fold                                      |

**Scientific data supports drug trial for ADAD to potentially translate to LOAD.**

# DIAN Observational Sites Throughout the World



DIAN observational study has enrolled more than 550 participants.



# DIAN Observational Cohort Demographics

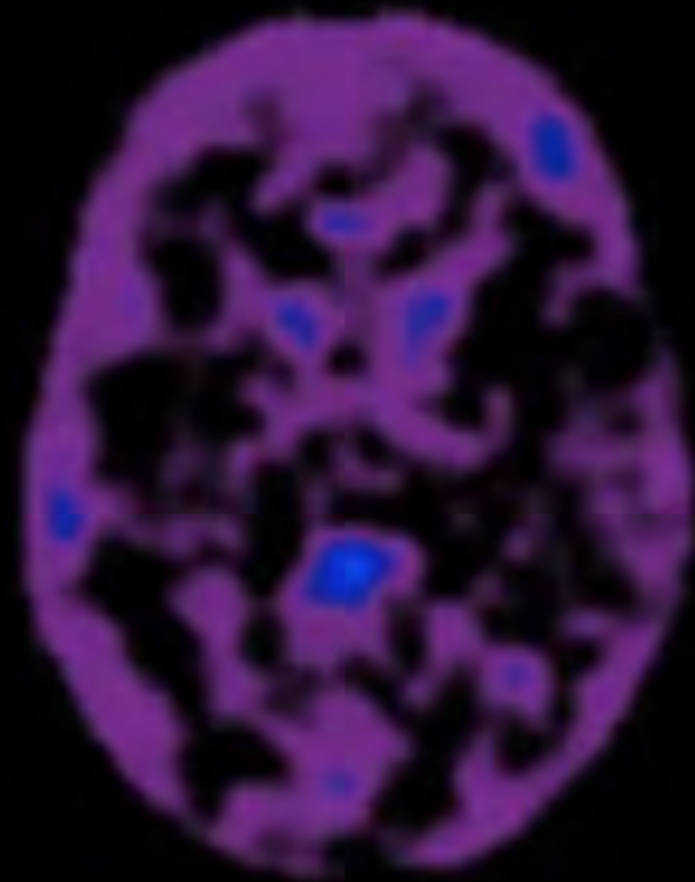
| N = 562* (Target<br>80% Asymptomatic, 20%<br>Symptomatic) (*Table<br>based on 534 participants.<br>28 Mutations in Process) | Asymptomatic<br>415 (73.8%)<br>391 with confirmed<br>mutation status |                     | Symptomatic<br>145 (25.8%)<br>141 with confirmed mutation<br>status |                     |            |
|---|--|---------------------|---|---------------------|------------|
|   | 199 (NC)<br>(50.9%)  | 192 (MC)<br>(49.1%) | 11 (NC)<br>(7.8%)   | 130 (MC)<br>(92.2%) |            |
| Age, Mean (SD)  | 43.9 (12.1)  | 40.0 (10.0)         | 50.1 (11.0)   | 52.4 (9.5)          |            |
| Gender (% Female)   | 118 (59.3%)  | 107 (55.7%)         | 6 (54.5%)   | 74 (56.9%)          |            |
| Parental Age of Onset,<br>Mean (SD)   | 47.2 (6.6)   | 48.5 (7.1)          | 48.1 (5.9)  | 45.6 (8.6)          |            |
| Education,<br>Mean (SD)   | 15.0 (2.8)   | 14.9 (2.8)          | 11.3 (3.8)  | 13.5 (3.3)          |            |
| MMSE,<br>Mean (SD)  | 29.2 (1.2)   | 29.0 (1.2)          | 28.2 (1.6)  | 19.4 (8.4)          |            |
| ApoE4+  | 1 E4   | 60 (30.2%)          | 56 (29.2%)  | 3 (27.3%)           | 32 (24.6%) |
|   | 2 E4   | 3 (1.5%)            | 1 (0.5%)  | 0 (0%)              | 7 (5.4%)   |

- >560 participants enrolled since 2008
- Biomarker collection rate >80-90%
- More than 52% of participants are 10 years or more prior to EYO

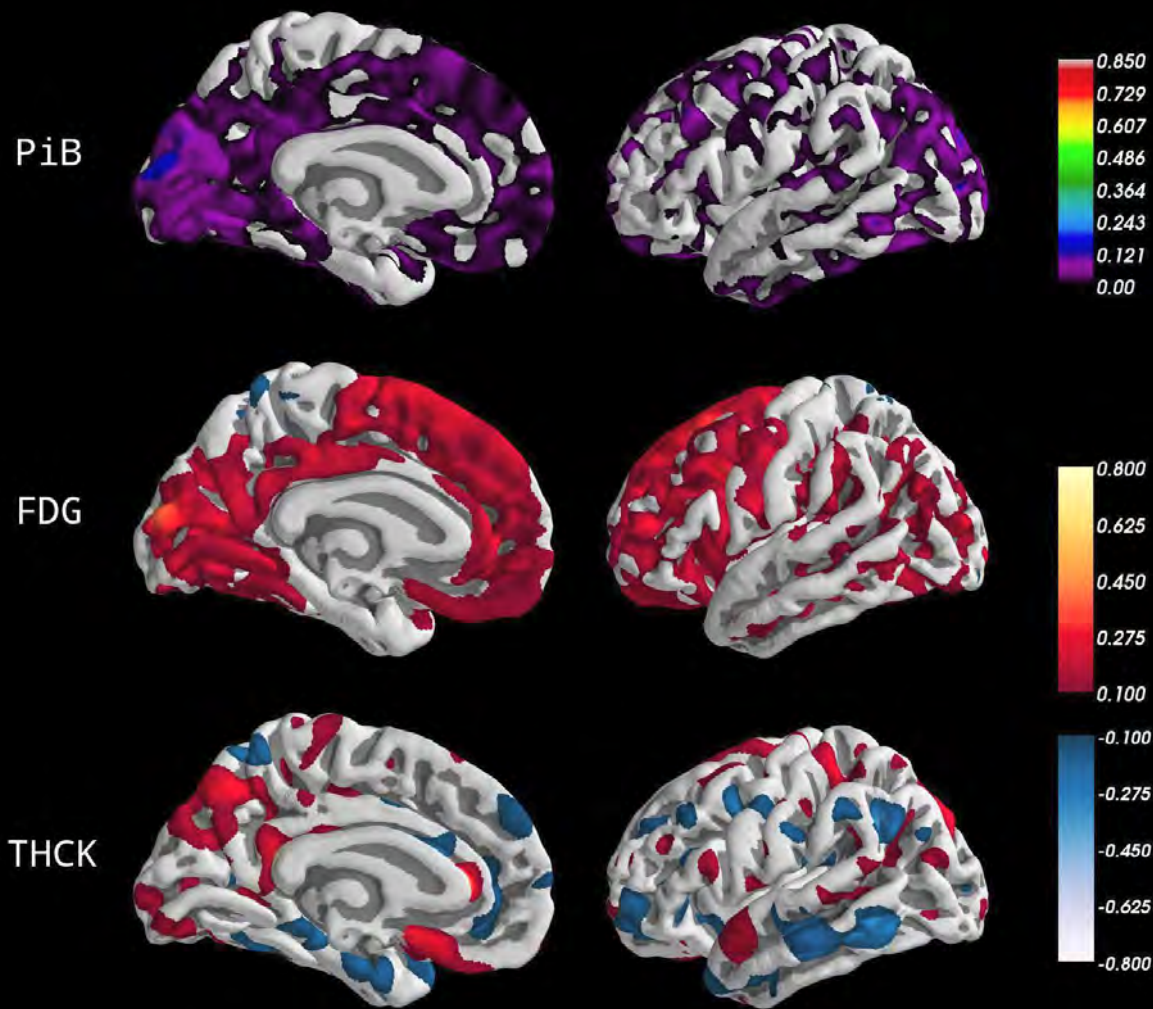
MC = Mutation Carrier; NC = Non-carrier

\*Table statistics based on 534 participants with confirmed mutation data available as of 03/01/2019. Of them 323 (60.5%) are mutation carriers (of these, CDR score is missing for 1), 211 (39.5%) are mutation non-carriers (of these, CDR score is missing for 1)

# Amyloid PET Deposition, Hypometabolism on FDG PET, and Cortical Atrophy on MRI by EYO

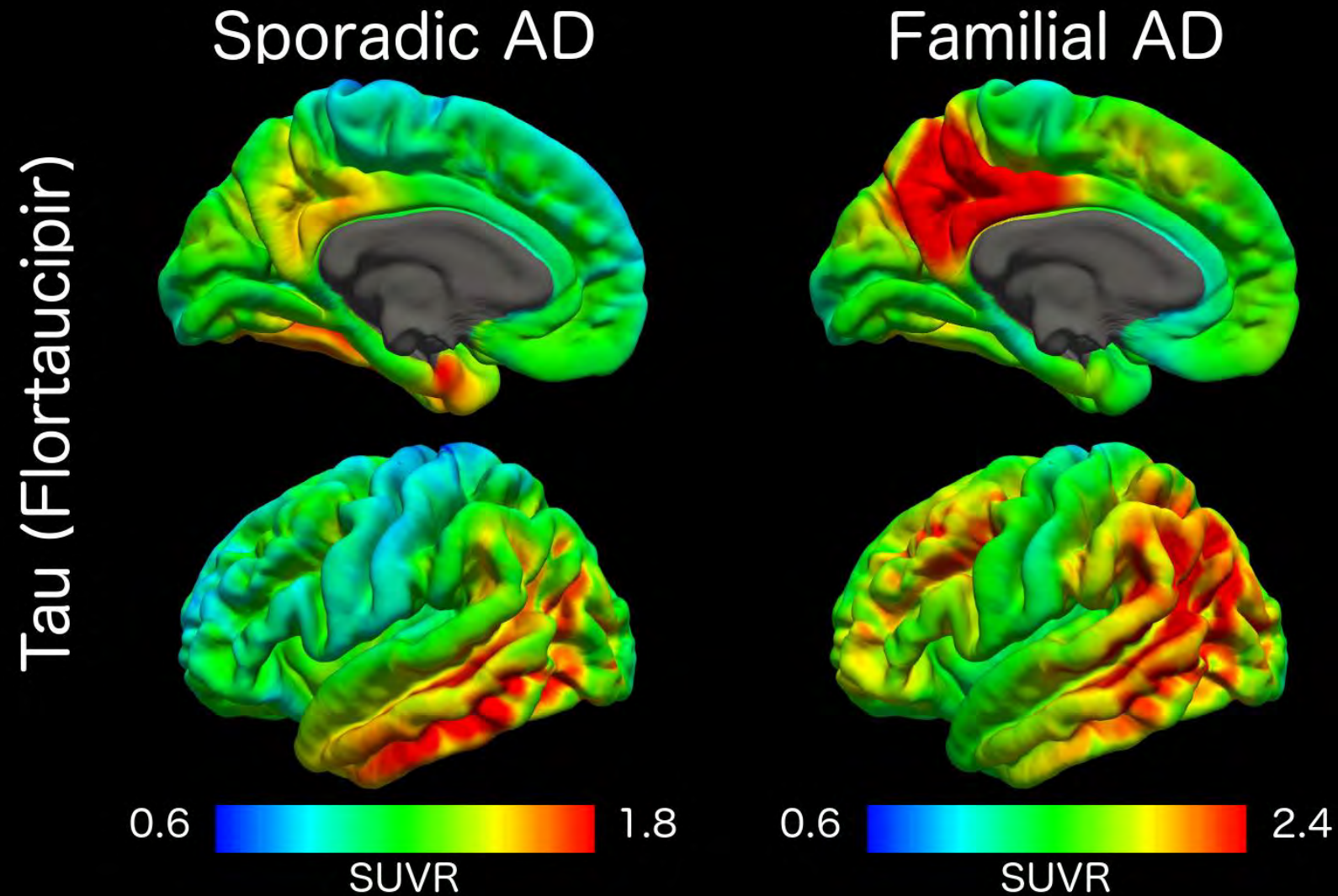


Estimated Age of Onset = -25

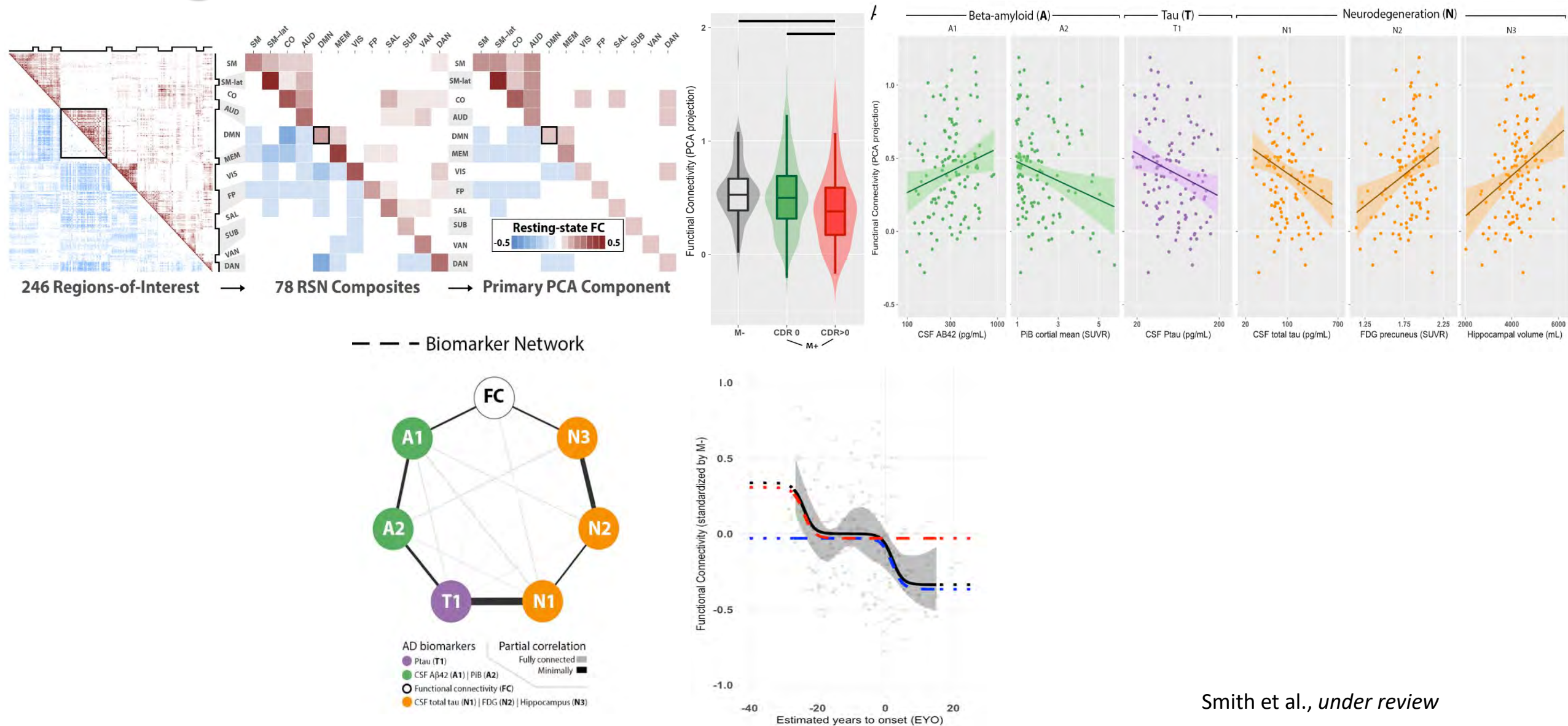


Estimated Years to Onset = -25.0

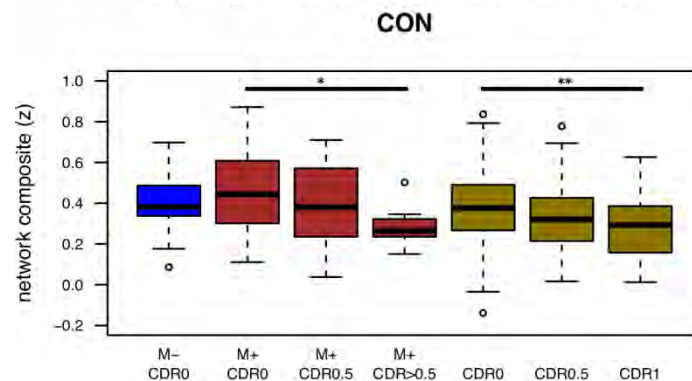
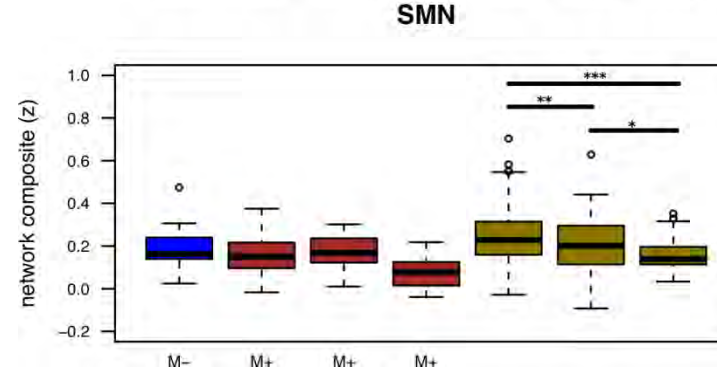
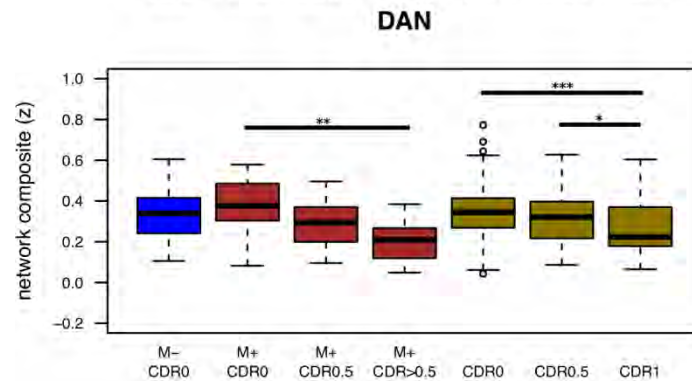
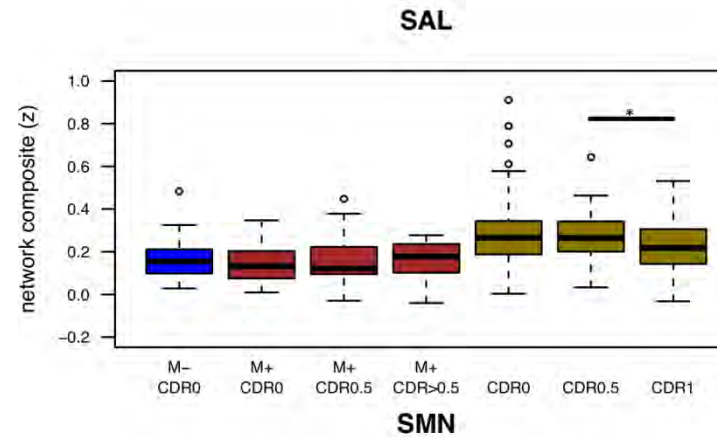
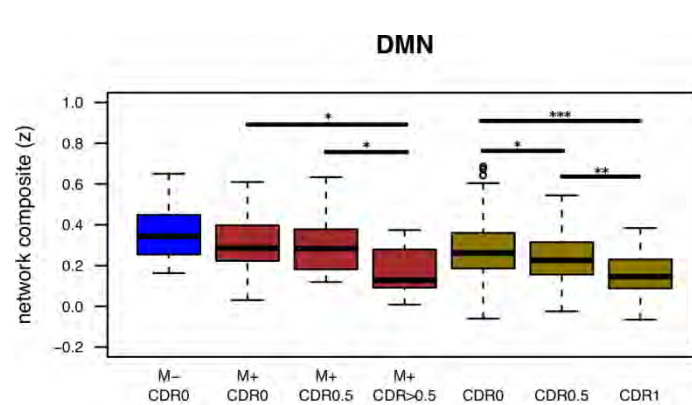
# Comparison Between ADAD and LOAD Using Tau PET



# Global Resting State Functional Connectivity (Rs-fc) Signature Relative to Other Biomarkers in ADAD



# Loss of Intra-Network Rs-fc in ADAD is Similar to LOAD



M- CDR 0= 30

M+ CDR 0= 25

M+ CDR 0.5 =12

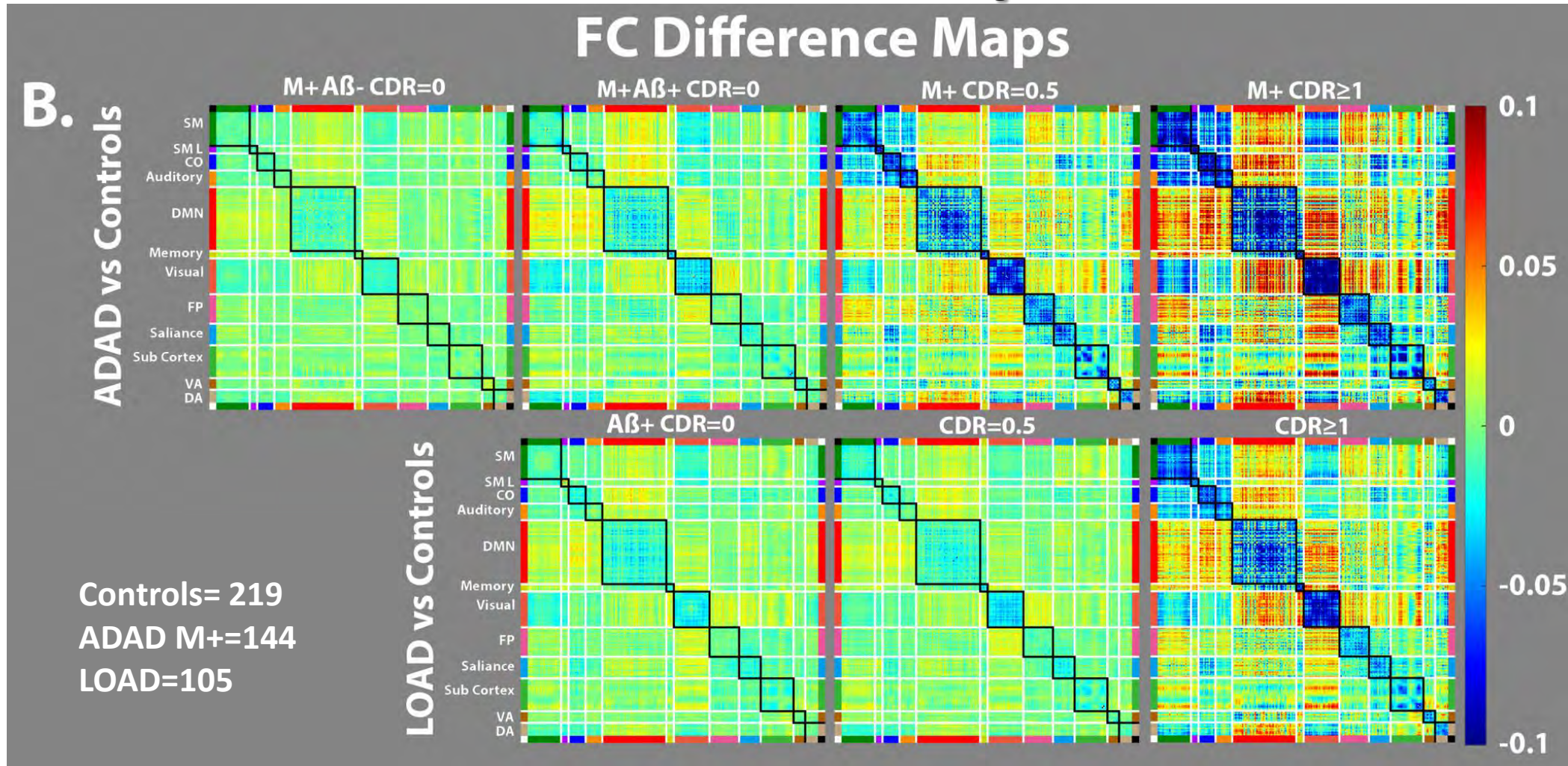
M+ CDR ≥ 1= 7

SAD CDR 0= 300

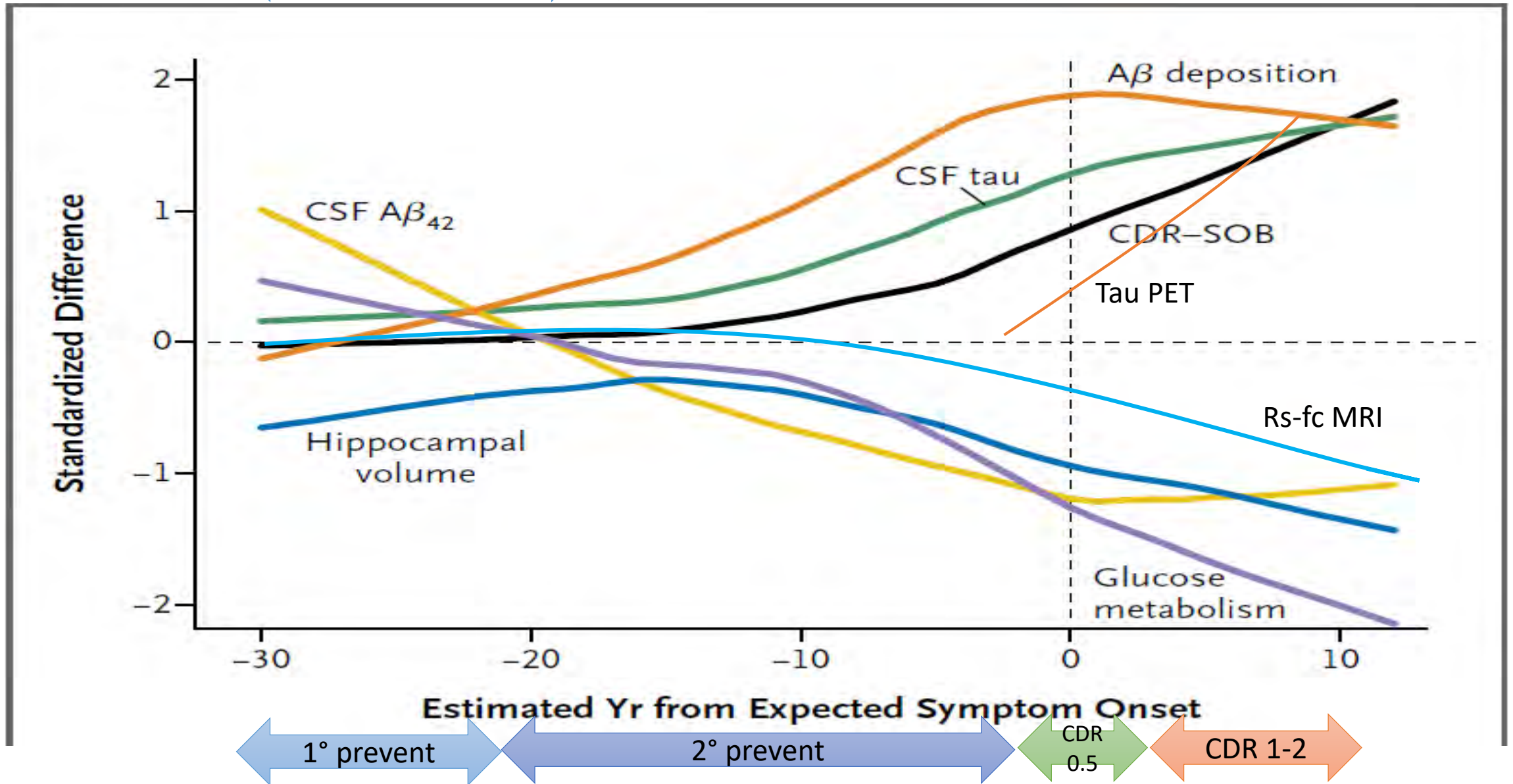
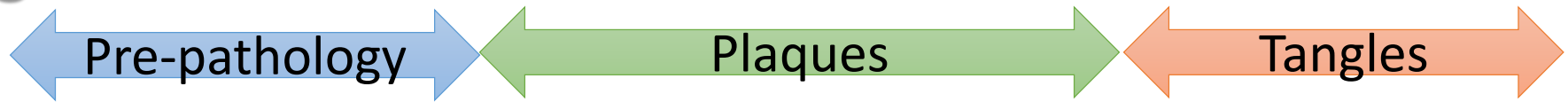
SAD CDR 0.5 =62

SAD CDR ≥ 1= 10

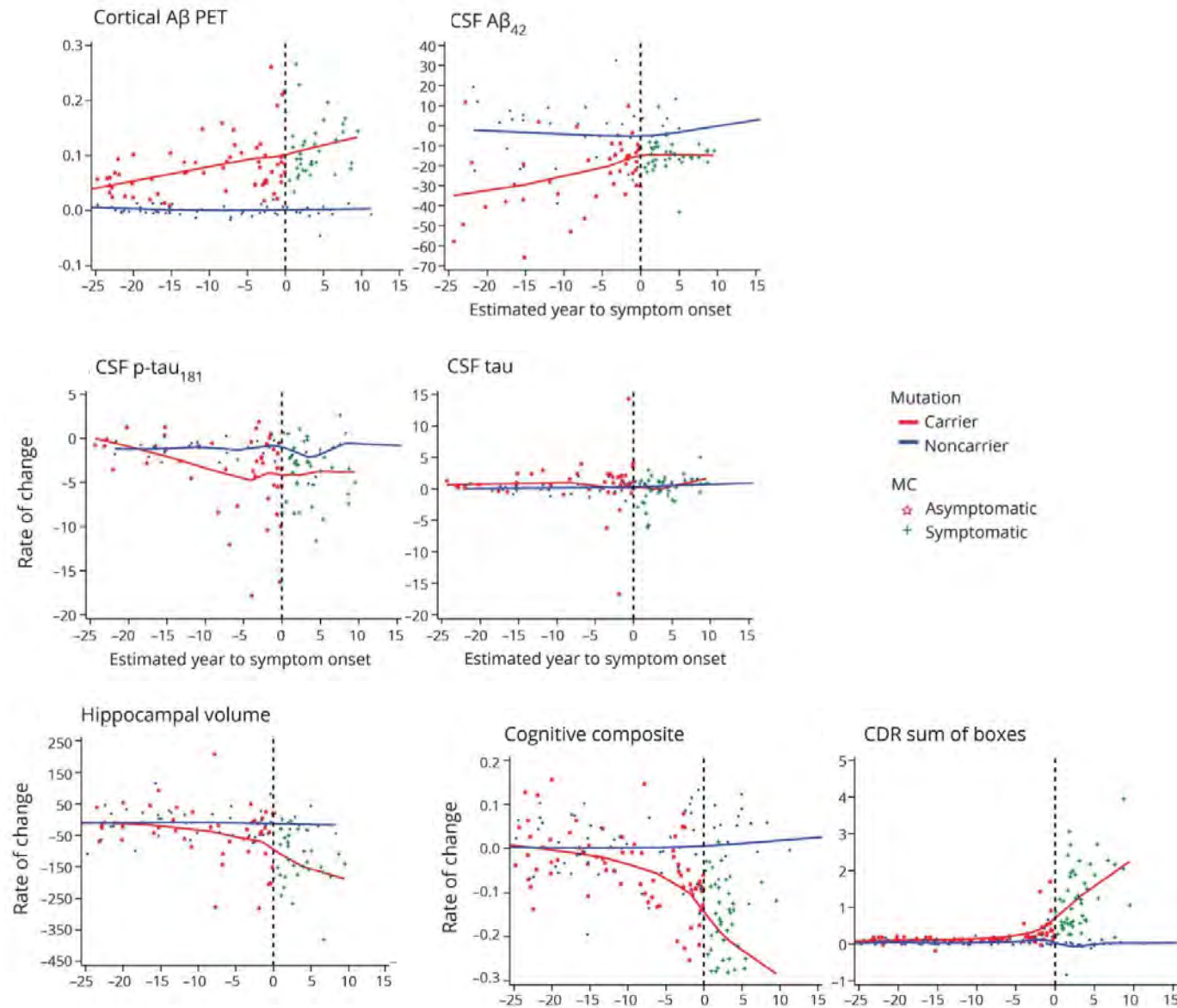
# The Spatial Topography of ADAD is Similar But Is Accelerated When Compared to LOAD



# Stages of ADAD Based on Cross Sectional Data

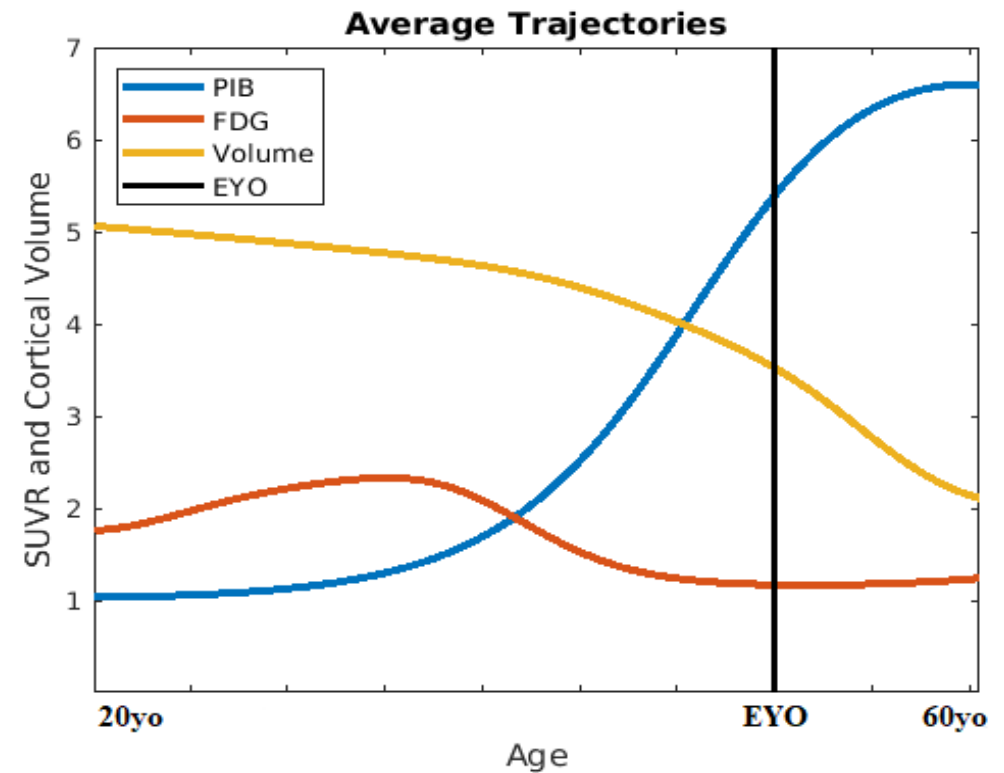
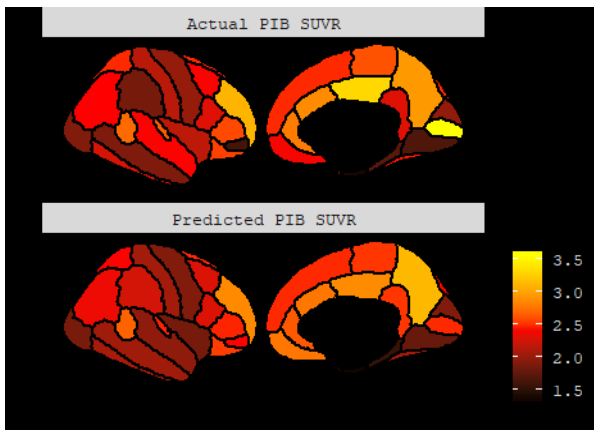
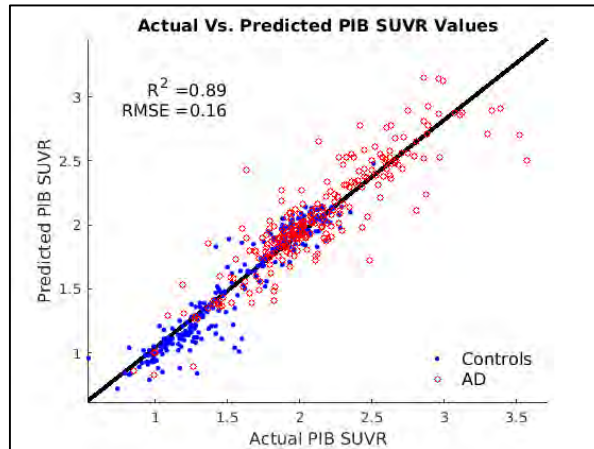


# Longitudinal Changes in Biomarkers in ADAD





# Artificial Neural Network Modeling of the Progression of Disease in ADAD Using Longitudinal Biomarkers



# DIAN- Trials Unit (TU) Trial Platform Design

- Tests **multiple drugs with diverse mechanisms of action** in parallel
  - **Amyloid-beta** - with monoclonal antibodies and BACE inhibitors
  - **Tau** – anti-bodies, genetic-based therapies, small molecule aggregation inhibitors
  - **Novel targets**
  - **Combination therapy**
- **Pooled placebo** (including DIAN Observational Study Data)
- **Adaptive** in response to new findings
  - Dose adjustment to increase drug effect
  - Addition of novel biomarkers (e.g. tau PET imaging, neurofilament light chain (NfL))
  - Sensitive ADAD-specific cognitive composite endpoint
  - ADAD-specific statistical model

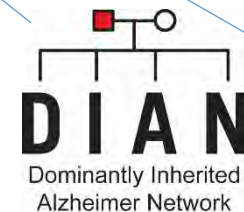
*Through public/private support and partnership, the DIAN-TU has launched trials to provide advancement of treatments, scientific understanding and improvements in the approach to Alzheimer's disease drug developments.*



\*Financial support has also been provided by anonymous sources.

**Accelerating Medicines Partnership /  
Foundation for the National Institutes of Health**

**GHR  
Foundation**



**Cogstate  
Bracket**

**Alzheimer's Association**

**DIAN-TU Pharma Consortium**

*Current Members*

**Biogen  
Eisai  
Eli Lilly & Co./Avid Radiopharmaceuticals  
Janssen  
Hoffman La-Roche/Genentech  
United Neuroscience**

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National Institutes of Health**  
U01 AG042791, R01 AG046179,  
R01/R56 AG053267, R13 AG055232,  
U01 AG059798

# Resources

## Websites:

- DIAN & DIAN-TU: <https://dian.wustl.edu/>
- DIAN Expanded Registry: <https://dian.wustl.edu/our-research/registry/>

## Contact Information:

- DIAN EXR email: [dianexr@wustl.edu](mailto:dianexr@wustl.edu)
- DIAN EXR Coordinator: **844-DIAN-EXR (844-342-6397)**
- DIAN Observational Deputy Director **314-747-1940**

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- David Hass PhD- Vanderbilt
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## • Global Collaborators

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- Edwina Wright MD- Monash University, Australia
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our amazing  
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- Riney Family
- Brennan Family

# Thank you for your attention

Ances Bioimaging Laboratory (ABL)  
at Washington University in St. Louis



[http://neuro.wustl.edu/labs/ances\\_b](http://neuro.wustl.edu/labs/ances_b)

*Please contact with questions or if interested in  
collaborations:*

[bances@wustl.edu](mailto:bances@wustl.edu)



# Improving Our Understanding of Alzheimer's Disease Heterogeneity: **LEADS** neuroimaging component

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Clinical Core Leader, Indiana Alzheimer's Disease Center

Department of Neurology

Indiana University School of Medicine

# Funding Sources

- R56/U01 AG057195
- R01 AG057739
- R01 AG040770
- K02 AG048240
- P30 AG010133





# Case 1: FORGETFUL

- 75 yo woman
- Progressive short-term memory loss - repeats herself
- Difficulty recalling names and word searching pauses
- Got lost a couple of times when driving but managed to get to her destination
- Has been forgetting to pay bills and paid one twice
- Buying duplicates
- Quieter in social situations



## Case 2: “I Can’t See”

- 59 yo woman
- **Many** ophthalmologic exams and prescription changes later – no better
- Husband came back from deployment to find notes with directions all over the house
- Trouble driving – veering off
- Difficulty finding items that are right in front of her
- Confuses left and right
- Problems writing and doing math
- Memory intact

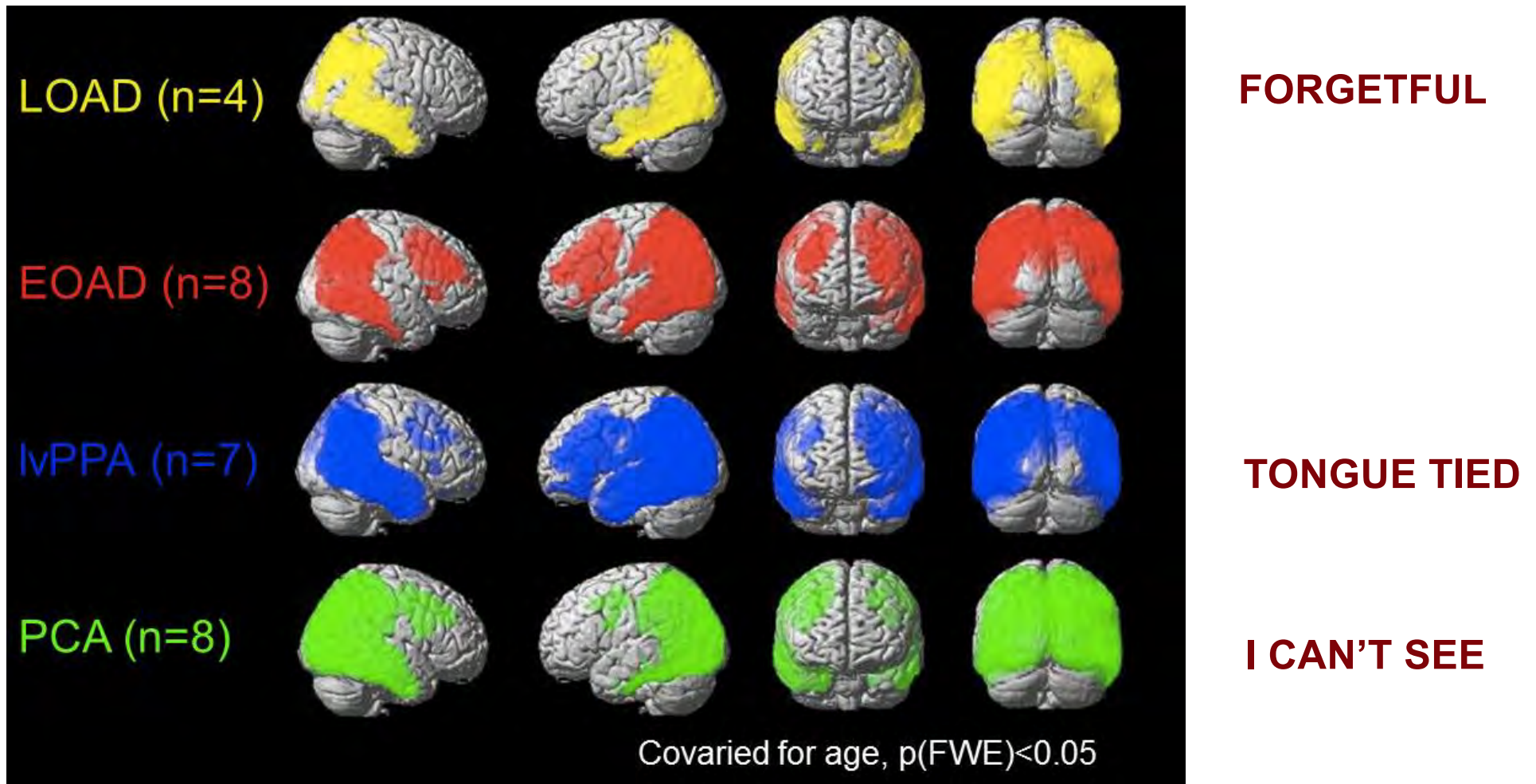


# Case 3: Tongue Tied

- 76 yo man
- Significant word finding issues
- Circumlocutions
- Empty speech with heavy use of filler words (“it”, “that thing”, “there”)
- Mispronouncing and misusing words
- Tonsils - “the things in my throat”
- Stethoscope - “you stick that in your ears and you plug it up against someone else”
- Difficulty repeating



# Atrophy and Tau PET Patterns Correlate with AD Phenotype



# Major AD Initiatives in the US

Ages of People with Alzheimer's Dementia, 2019

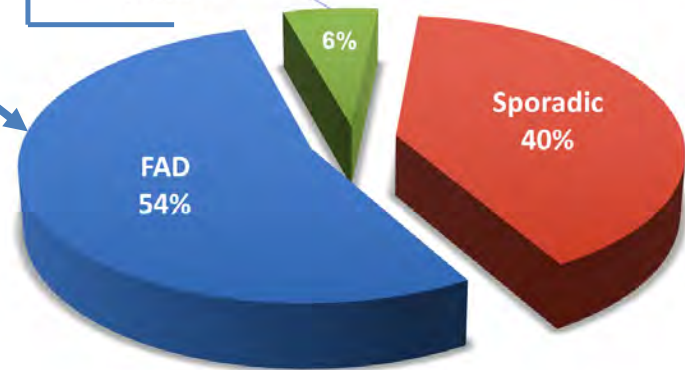


- <65 years:  
0.2 million (3%)
- 65-74 years:  
0.9 million (16%)
- 75-84 years:  
2.6 million (45%)
- 85+ years:  
2.1 million (36%)

ADNI

DIAN

Autosomal  
Dominant  
Forms



Created from data from Hebert et al.<sup>A2,51</sup>



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# Demographics and Social Impact

- Approximately 3-5% of the 5.6 million Americans with AD (200,000-300,000)
- The second most common early onset dementia – FTD, affects ~20,000-30,000 Americans Knopman and Roberts, 2011
- Devastating consequences for patients and their families
  - Still in the workforce, not ready to retire, primary bread winners for their families
  - Many are still raising children
  - Not eligible for Medicare
- Much more aggressive disease course

Fujimori 1998, Seltzer 1983, Koss 1996, Filey 1986, Ioring 1985, Jacobs 1994

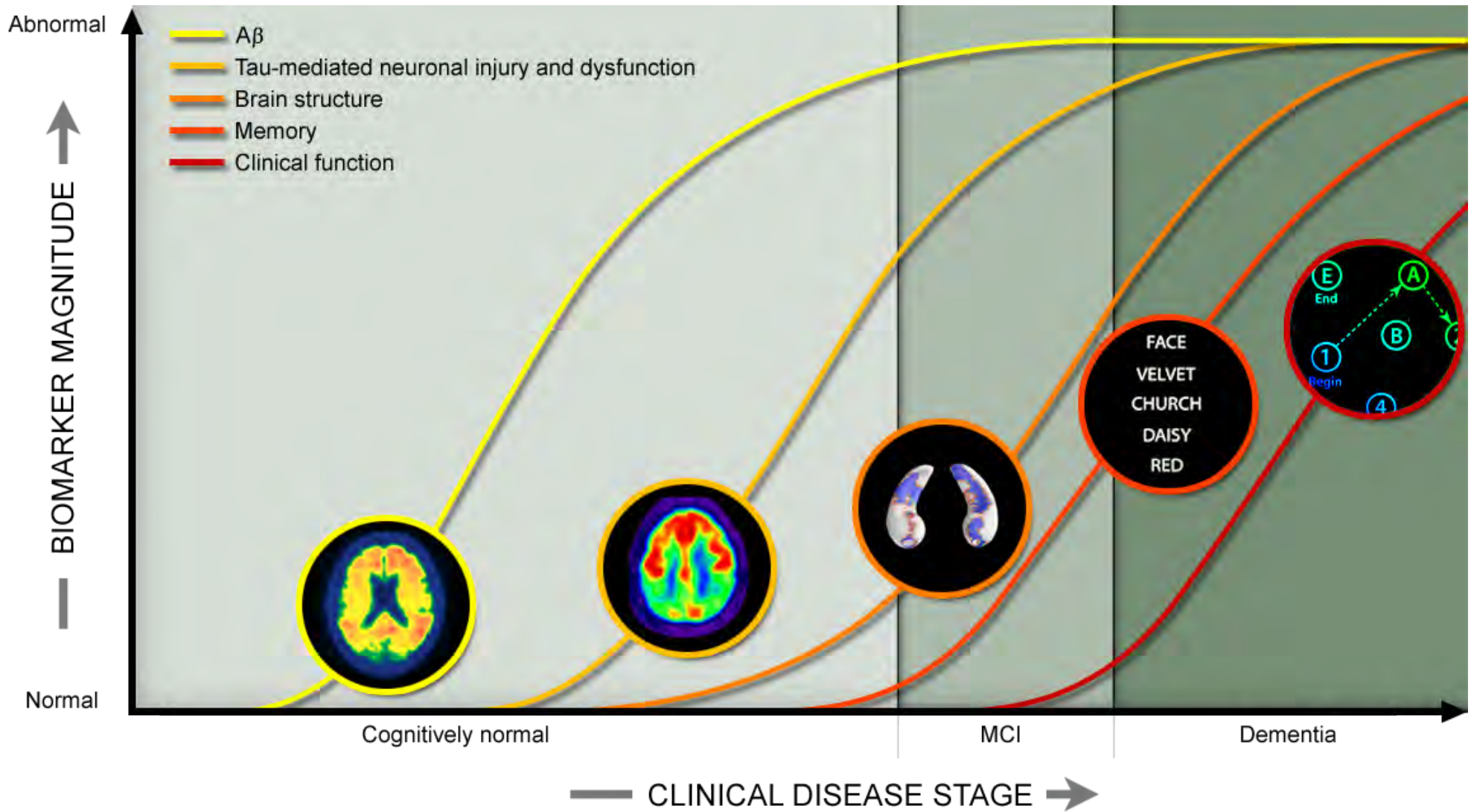


# Diagnostic Challenges

- Atypical presentations are very common
    - 33-50% of EOAD present with memory decline as the initial symptom compared to 75-78% of LOAD
- Mendez 2012; Jacobs1994; Koedam 2010
- Atypical variants are commonly misdiagnosed
    - Posterior cortical atrophy – vision problems, psychiatric, malingering
    - Logopenic aphasia – stroke, VaD, FTD
    - Frontal variant – FTD, TBI, psychiatric d/o



# Biomarker Cascade in AD



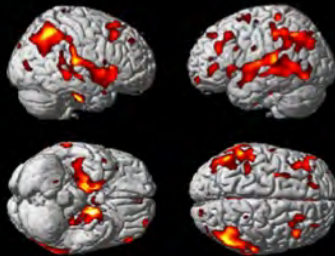


# MRI

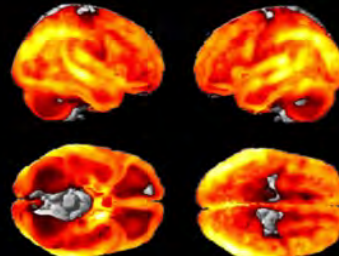


Significance Maps ( $p < 0.001$  uncorr., cluster threshold  $\geq 50$  voxels)

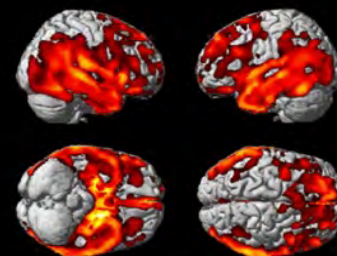
EO-MCI vs. NC



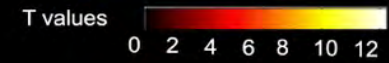
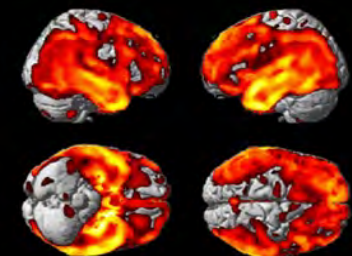
EO-DEM vs. NC



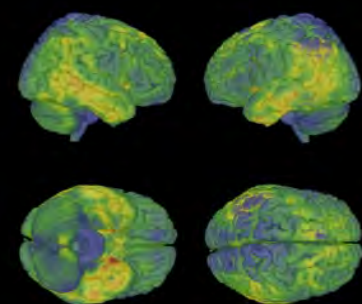
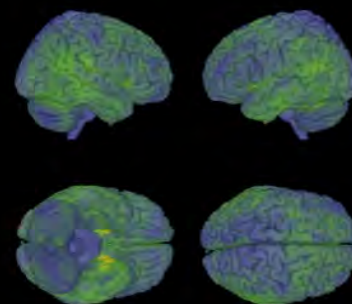
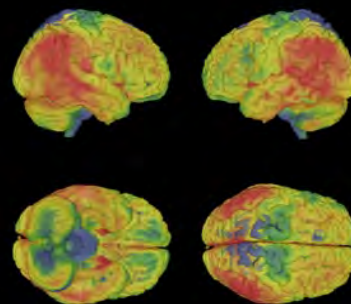
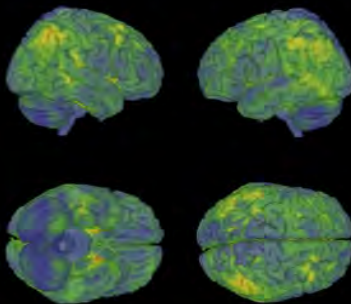
LO-MCI vs. NC



LO-DEM vs. NC



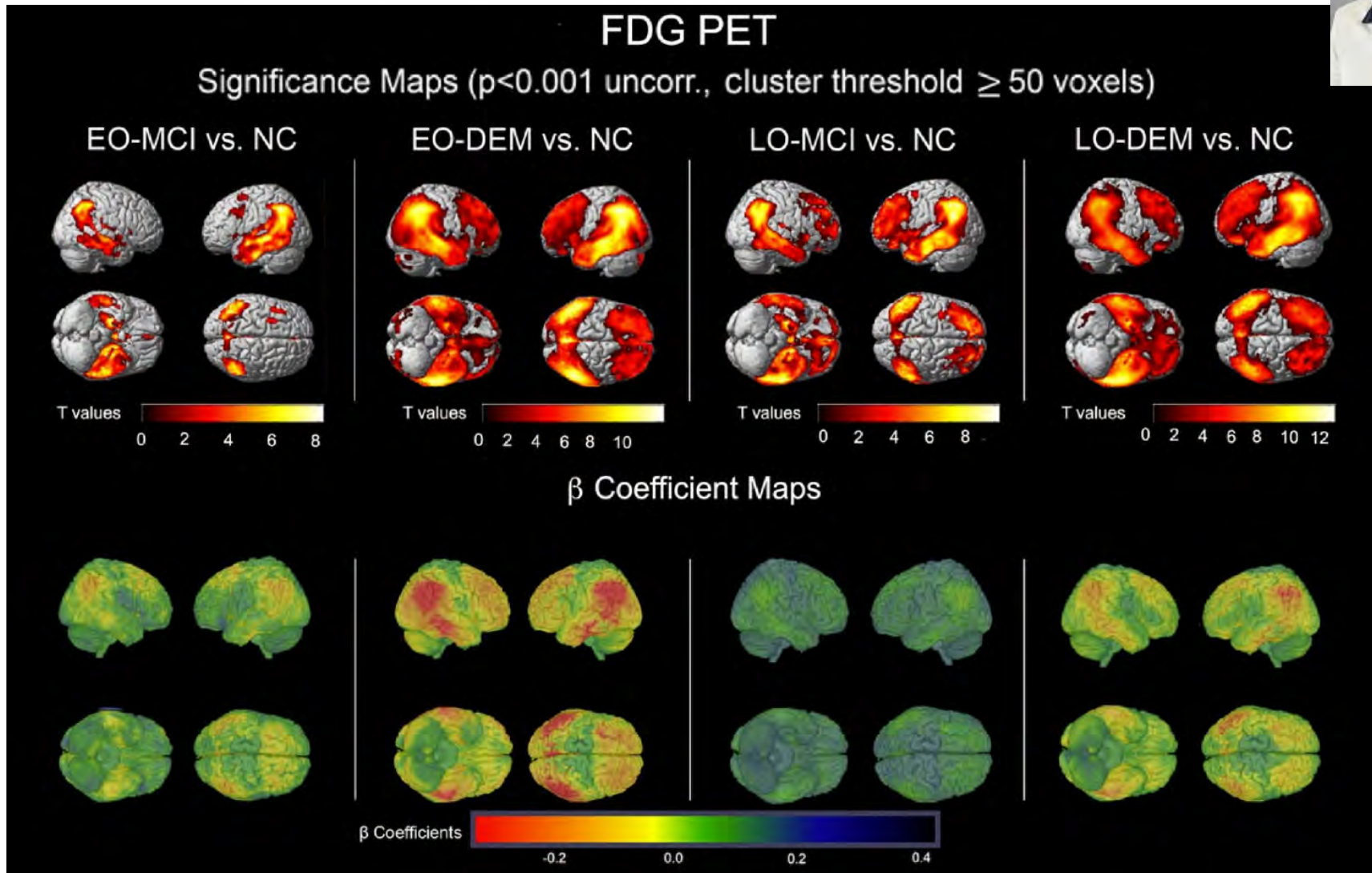
$\beta$  Coefficient Maps



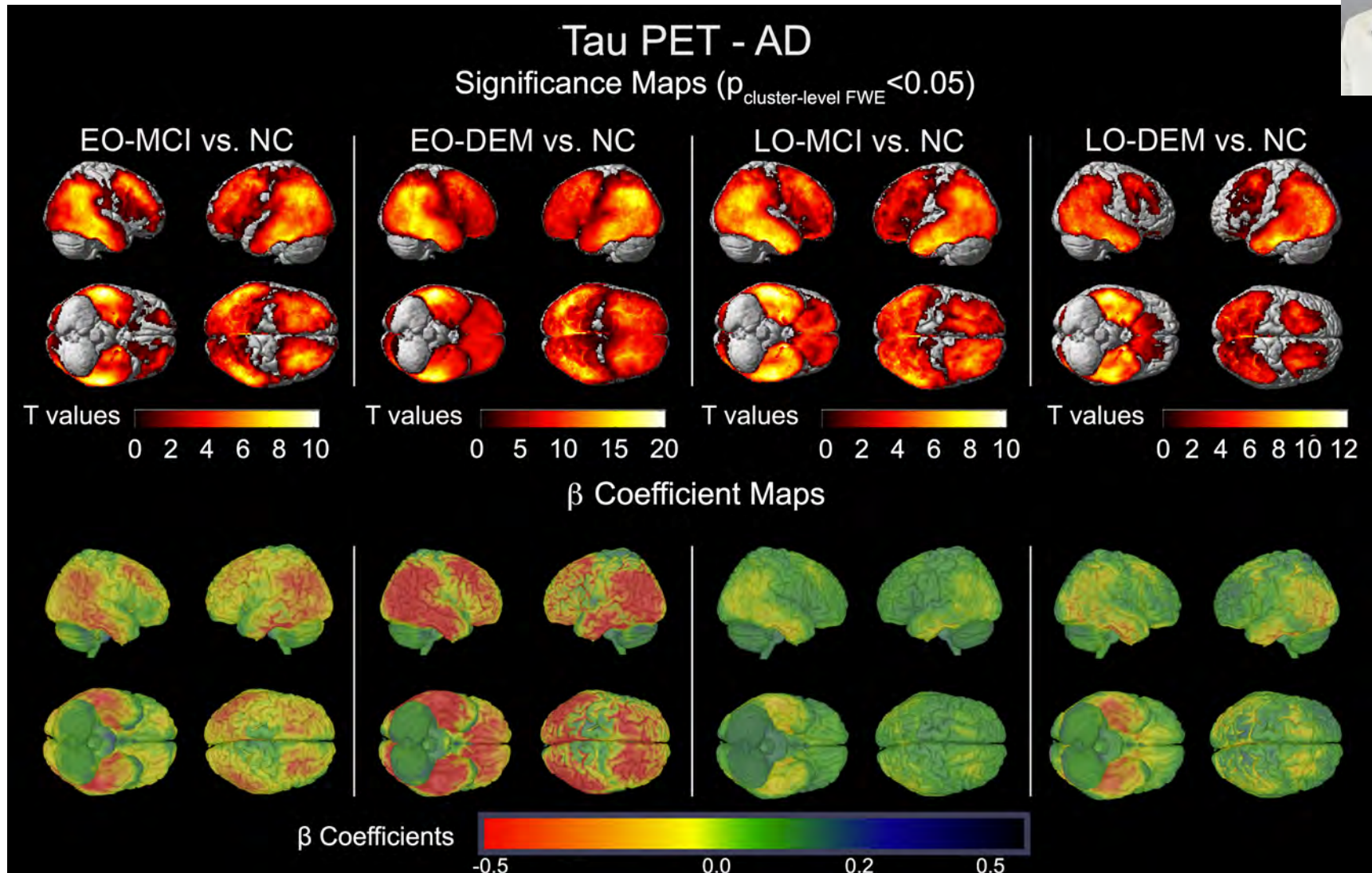
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Stage et al, submitted

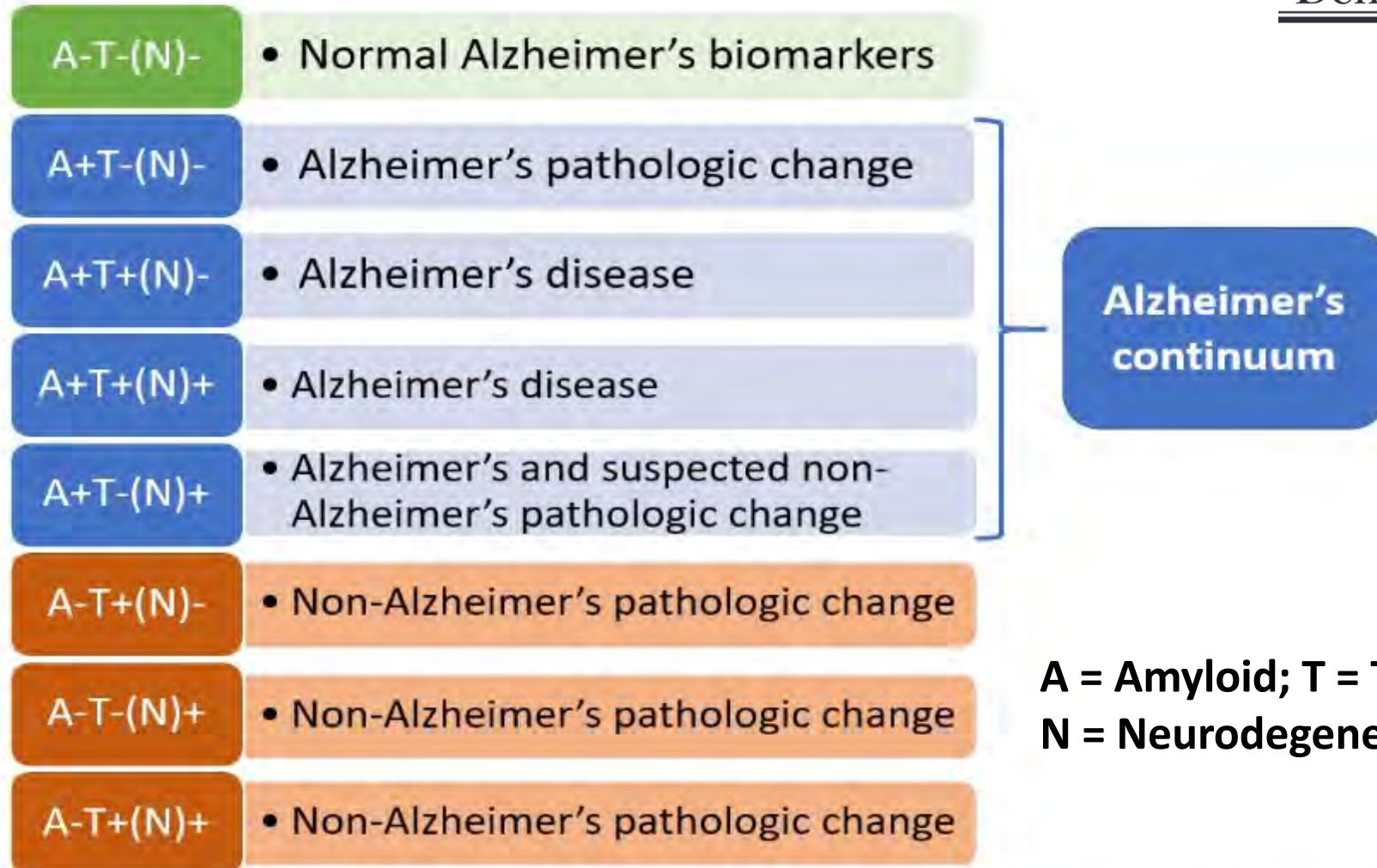
# FDG PET



# Tau PET



# 2018 NIA-AA Research Framework



# LEADS

Longitudinal Early-Onset  
Alzheimer's Disease Study



**R56 / U01 AG057195**

**PI Team:**

Liana Apostolova



Gil Rabinovici



Brad Dickerson



Maria Carrillo



UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences  
Memory and Aging Center



alzheimer's  
association



Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute

# Recruitment

- 20 US academic institutions
- 15 sites across the US
- Recruitment goals:
  - 400 subjects meeting NIA-AA criteria for MCI due to AD or AD dementia ages 40-64 with global  $CDR \leq 1$ 
    - Subjects meeting criteria for lvPPA, PCA or frontal variant AD will be allowed
    - Subjects with *APP*, *PSEN1*, *PSEN2* mutation will be excluded
  - 100 cognitively normal subjects ages 40-64
  - NEW: Will also follow amyloid-negative group - N=200

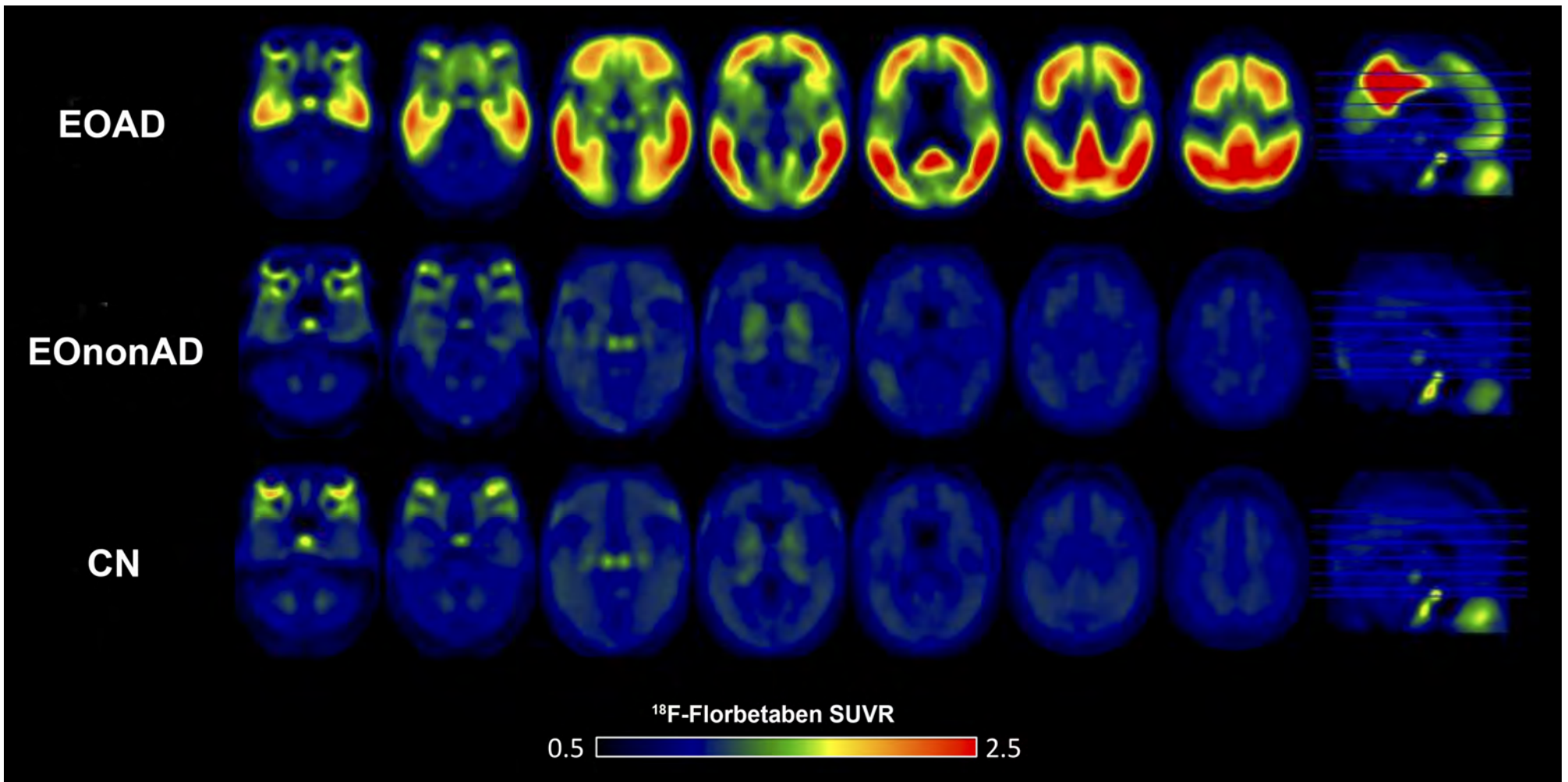


# Demographics

|                        | <b>CN</b>  | <b>EOAD</b> | <b>EAnonAD</b> | <b>EOADvsCN</b>  | <b>EOnonADvsCN</b> | <b>EOAD vs. EOnonAD</b> |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>N</b>               | 47         | 77          | 23             | -                | -                  | -                       |
| <b>Age</b>             | 54.4 (6.0) | 58.3(4.0)   | 58.0 (6.0)     | <b>0.0016</b>    | <b>0.022</b>       | NS                      |
| <b>Sex (M/F)</b>       | 16/31      | 32/45       | 17/6           | NS               | <b>0.0039</b>      | <b>0.013</b>            |
| <b>Education, yrs.</b> | 16.9 (2.4) | 15.6(2.6)   | 15.6(2.5)      | <b>0.048</b>     | <b>0.043</b>       | NS                      |
| <b>MMSE</b>            | 29.3 (0.8) | 21.9(4.9)   | 26.0(2.5)      | <b>&lt;0.001</b> | <b>&lt;0.001</b>   | <b>&lt;0.001</b>        |

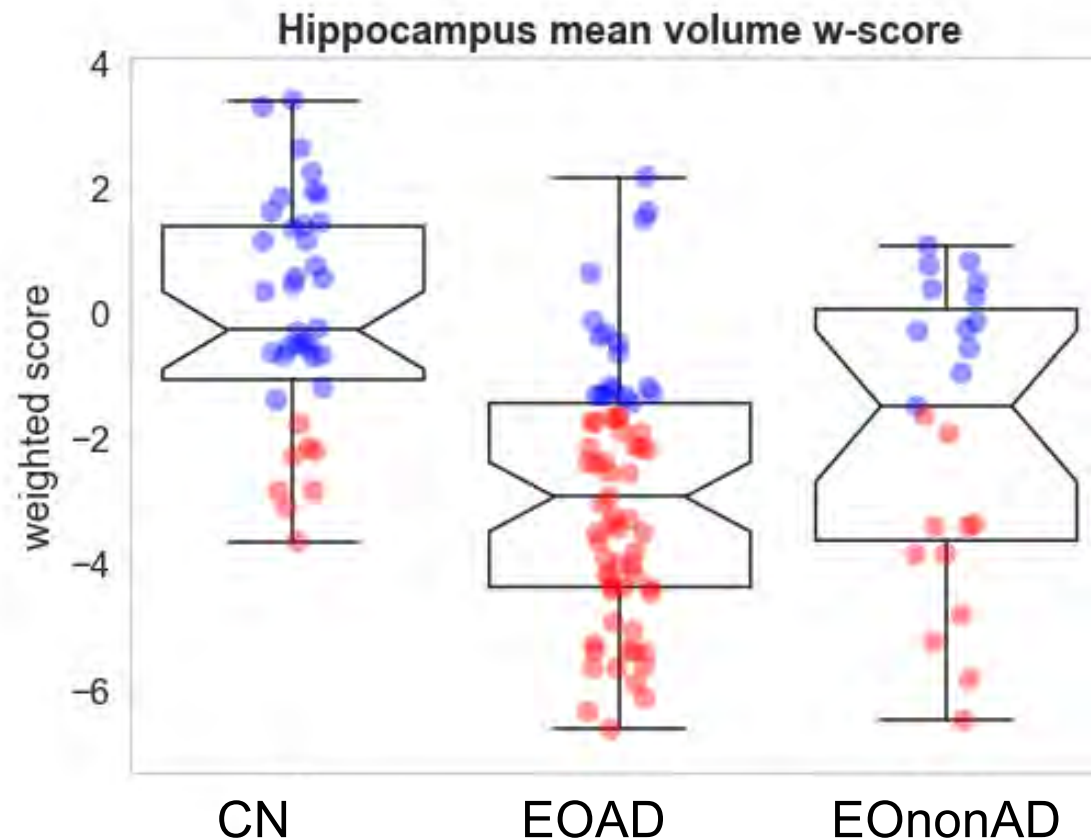


# Amyloid PET – Mean SUVR





# MRI Results - Hippocampus

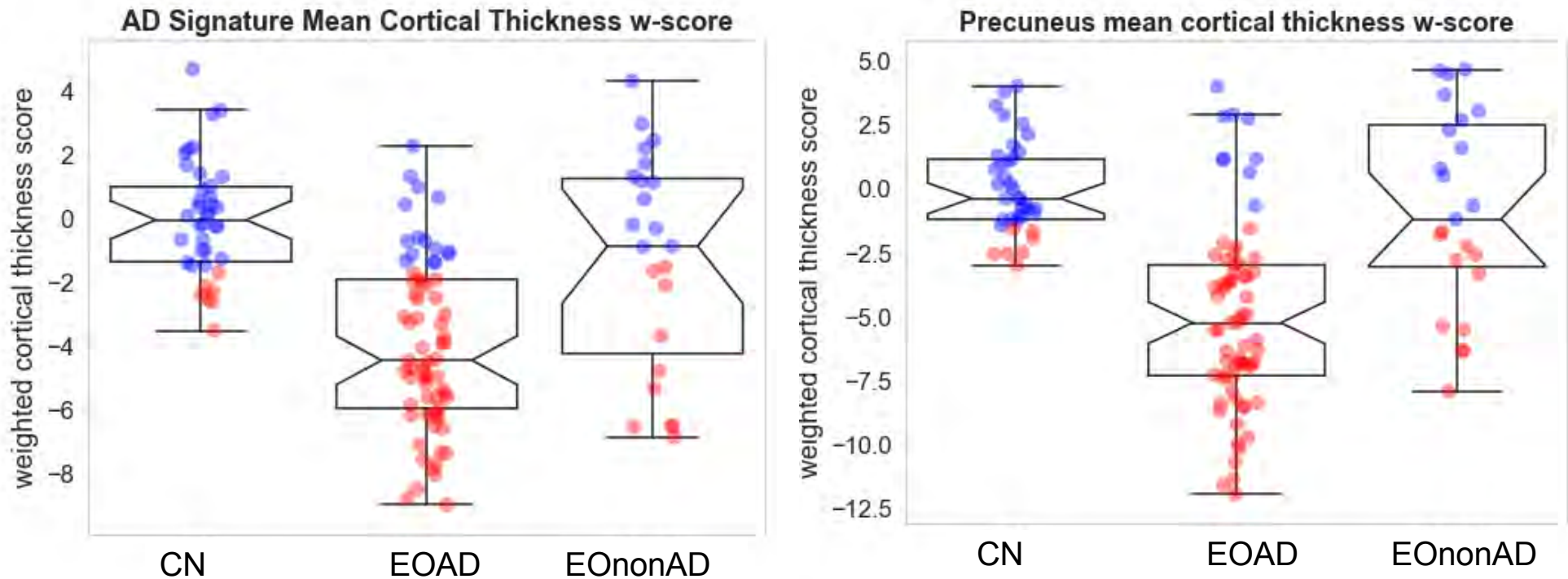


**% of subjects 1.5 SD below control mean: EOAD 74% EOnonAD 48%**



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# MRI Results – Cortical Thickness



**% of subjects 1.5 SD below control mean:**

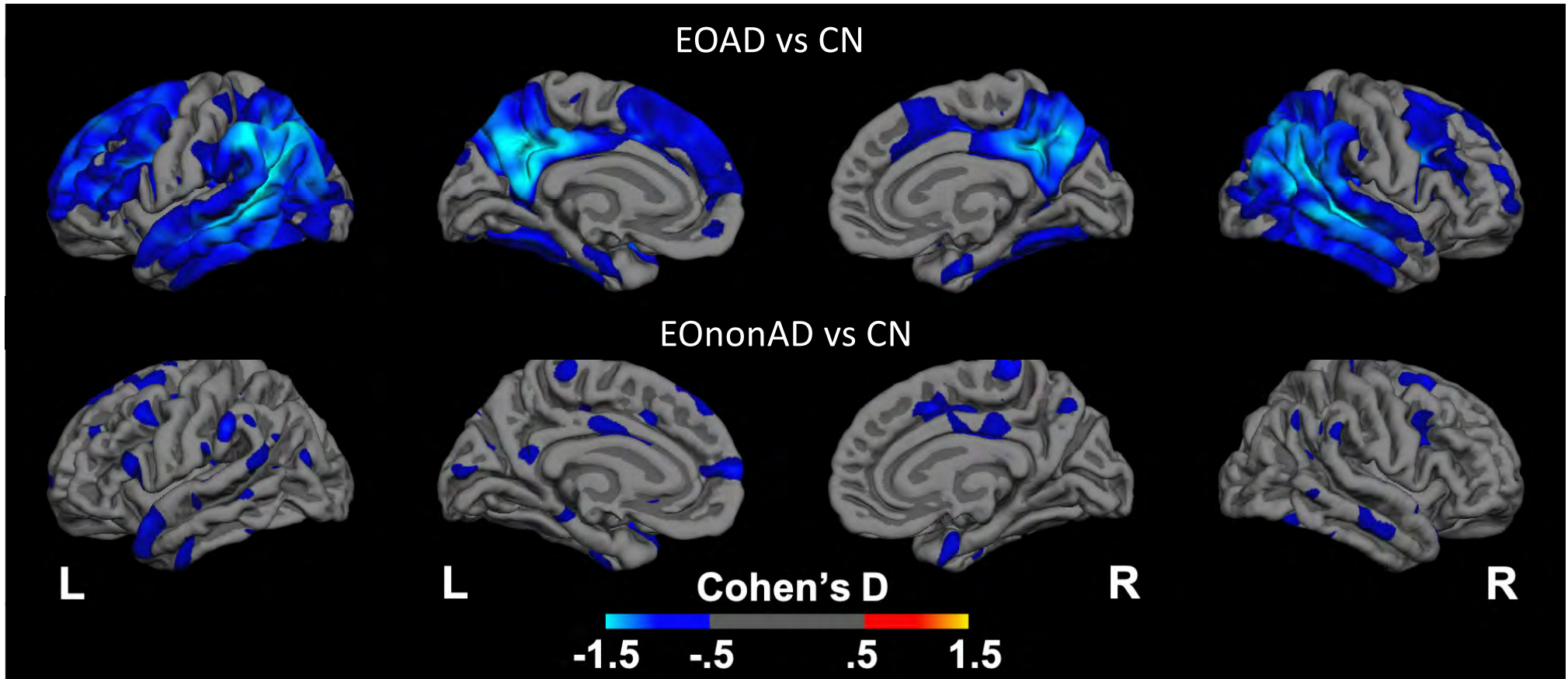
AD signature: EOAD 78% EOnonAD 43%

Precuneus: EOAD 87% EOnonAD 48%



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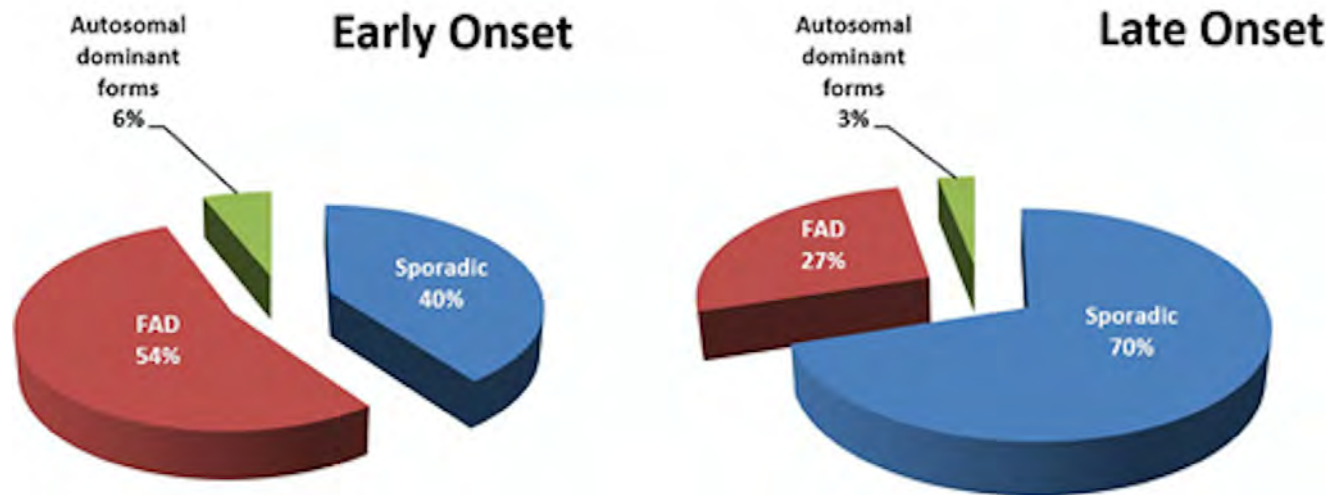
# MRI Results - Cortical Thickness





# Genetic Heterogeneity in EOAD

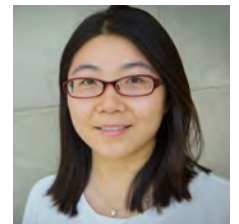
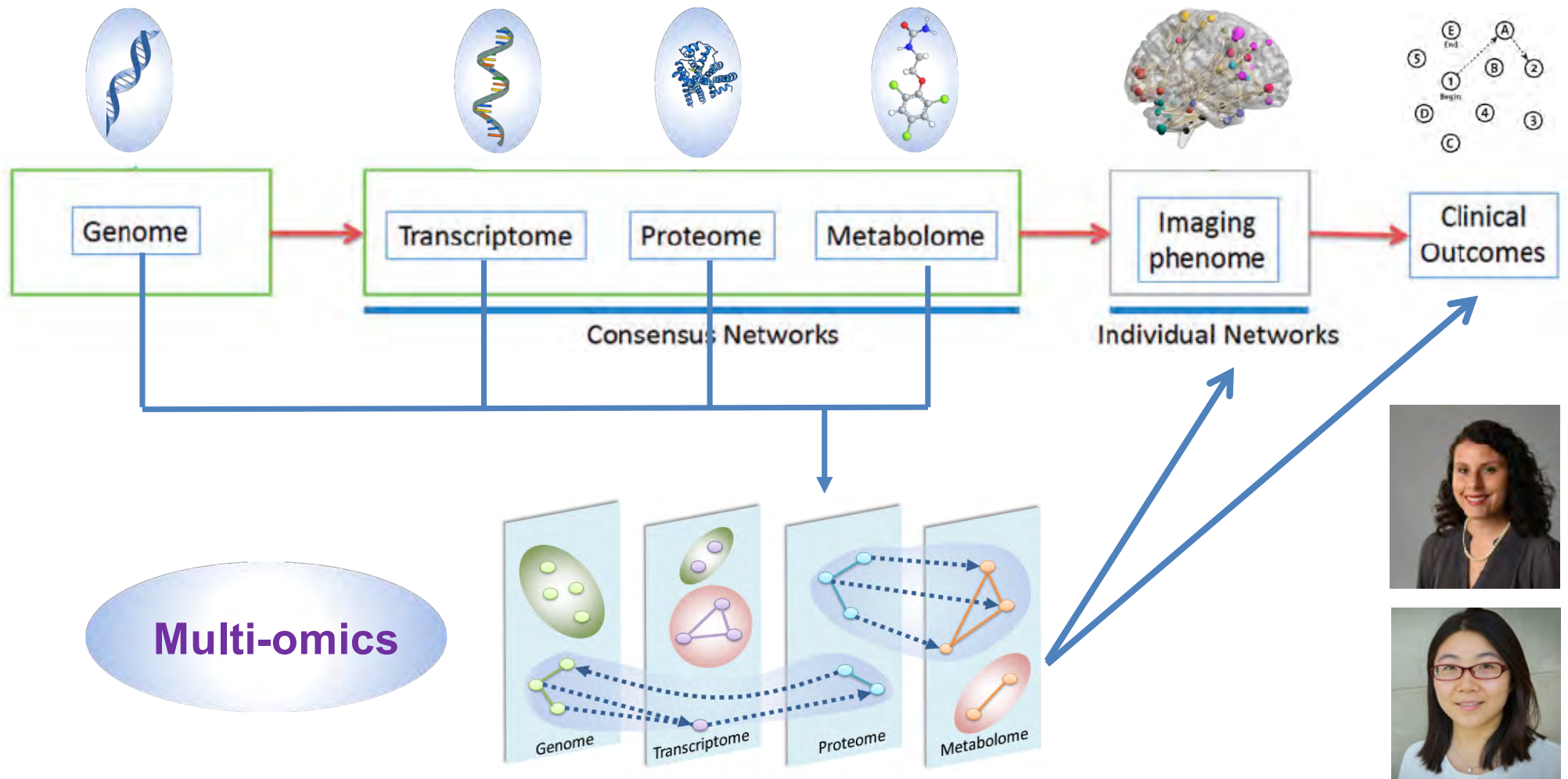
- Common misconception: All EOAD cases are autosomal dominant



- Greater heritability in EOAD compared to LOAD suggests an enrichment for yet unknown genetic risk factors
  - 92%-100% heritability in EOAD vs. 70%-80% LOAD
  - fewer EOAD compared to LOAD carry *ApoE4*

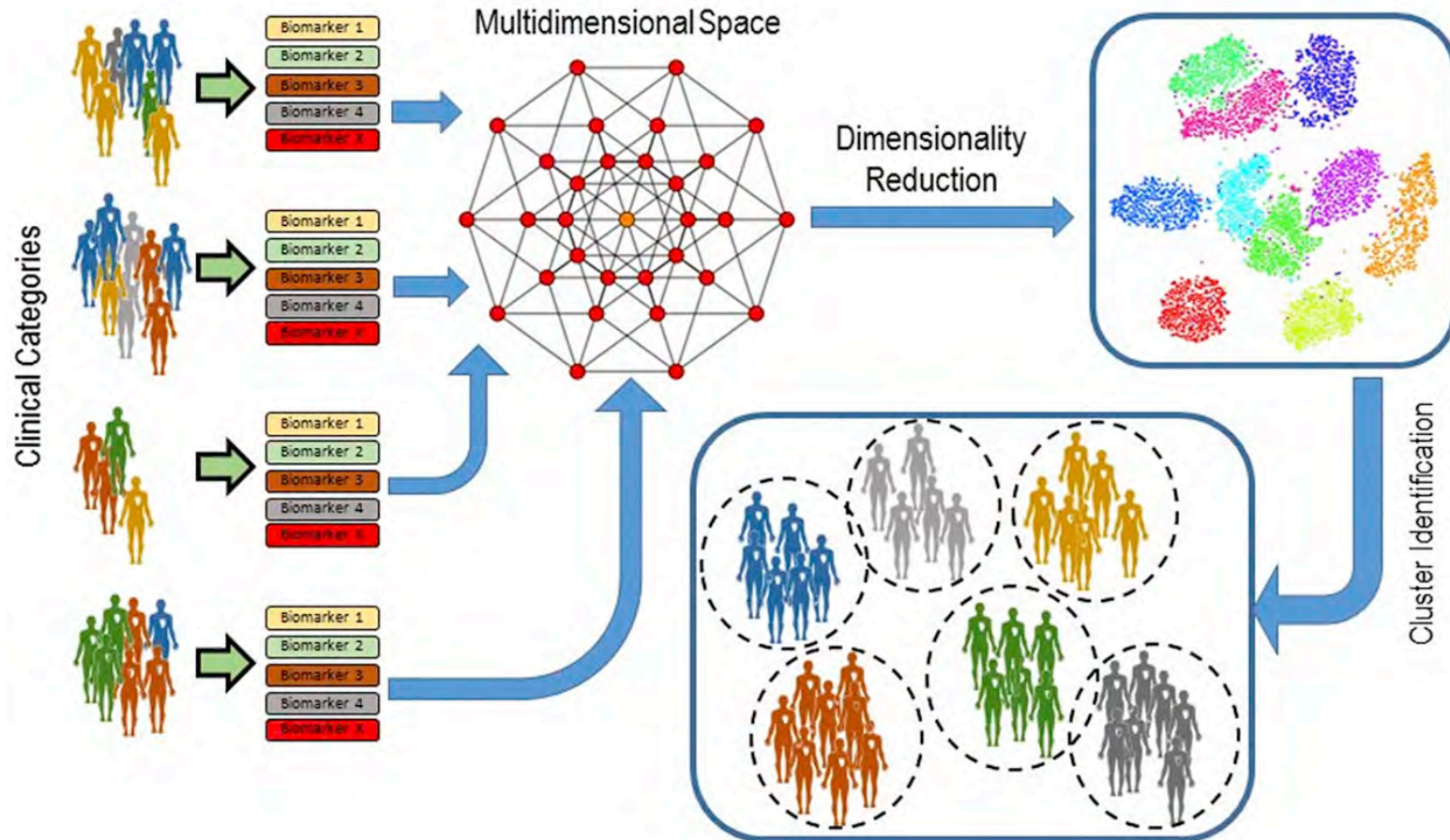


# Towards Precision Medicine



# Towards Precision Medicine

Overall Workflow of the Clustering Strategy



# LEADS Study Investigators



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