

# Role of T-cells in a model of tau-mediated neurodegeneration

David M. Holtzman, MD  
Professor of Neurology  
Washington University School of Medicine

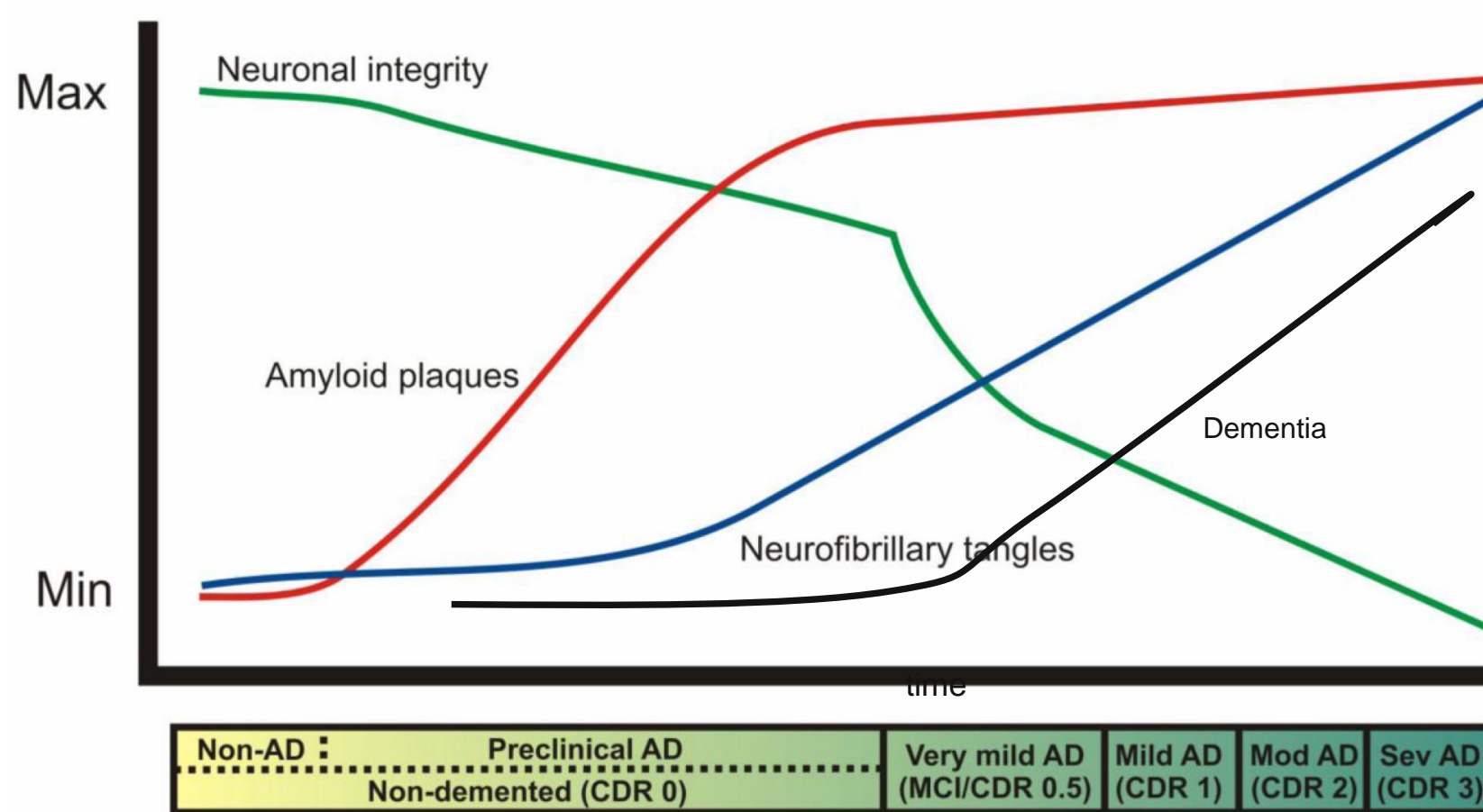


 Washington  
University in St. Louis  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

  
hopecenter  
for neurological disorders

**Knight**  
**ADRC**  
*Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ST. LOUIS

# Tau pathology and inflammation is critical in the clinical and pathological progression of Alzheimer's disease



Modified from Perrin, Fagan, and Holtzman *Nature*, 2009

# P301S mutant tau transgenic mice (PS19)

## **P301S mutation**

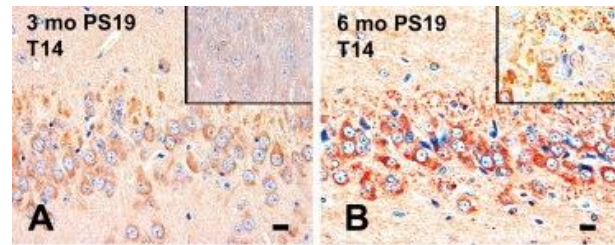
In humans causes early-onset FTDP-17.

## **P301S tau transgenic mice (express human P301S tau)**

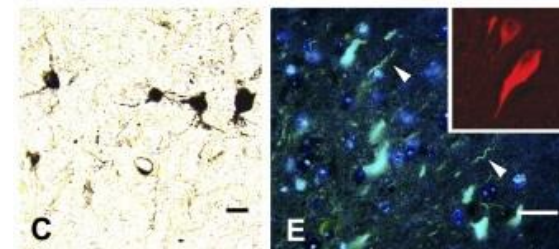
Strong **tau positive neuronal staining** at 6 months of age.

Strong **microglial “activation”** coincident with tau accumulation.

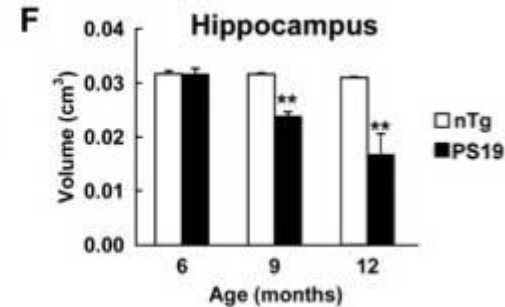
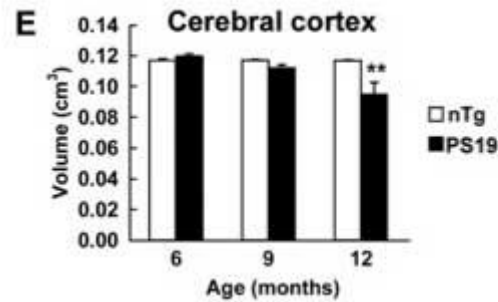
Show **neuronal loss ~ 8months of age** followed by **regional brain atrophy**



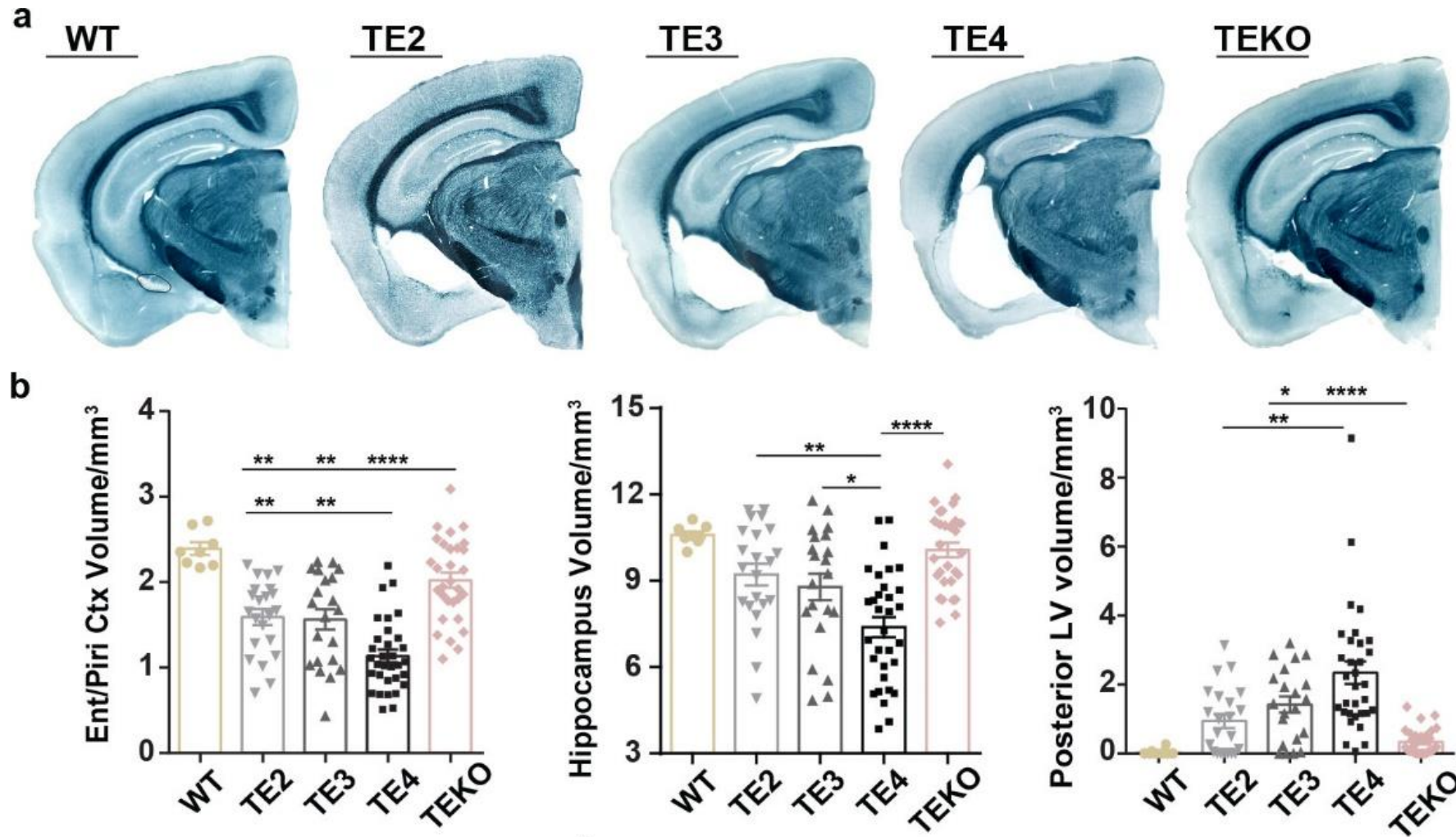
Hippocampus staining of tau



Gallyas silver staining (C) and thioflavin S staining (E)



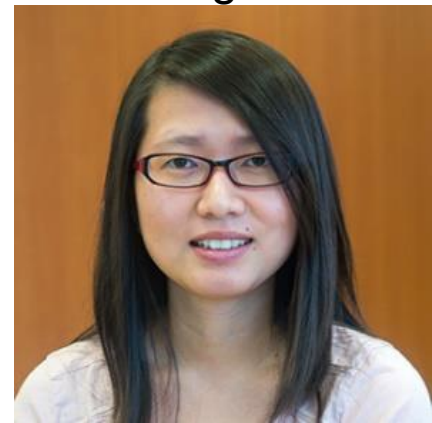
**Marked increase in cortical and hippocampal atrophy in P301S/E4 Tau Tg mice at 9 months of age: Little to no injury in the absence of ApoE**



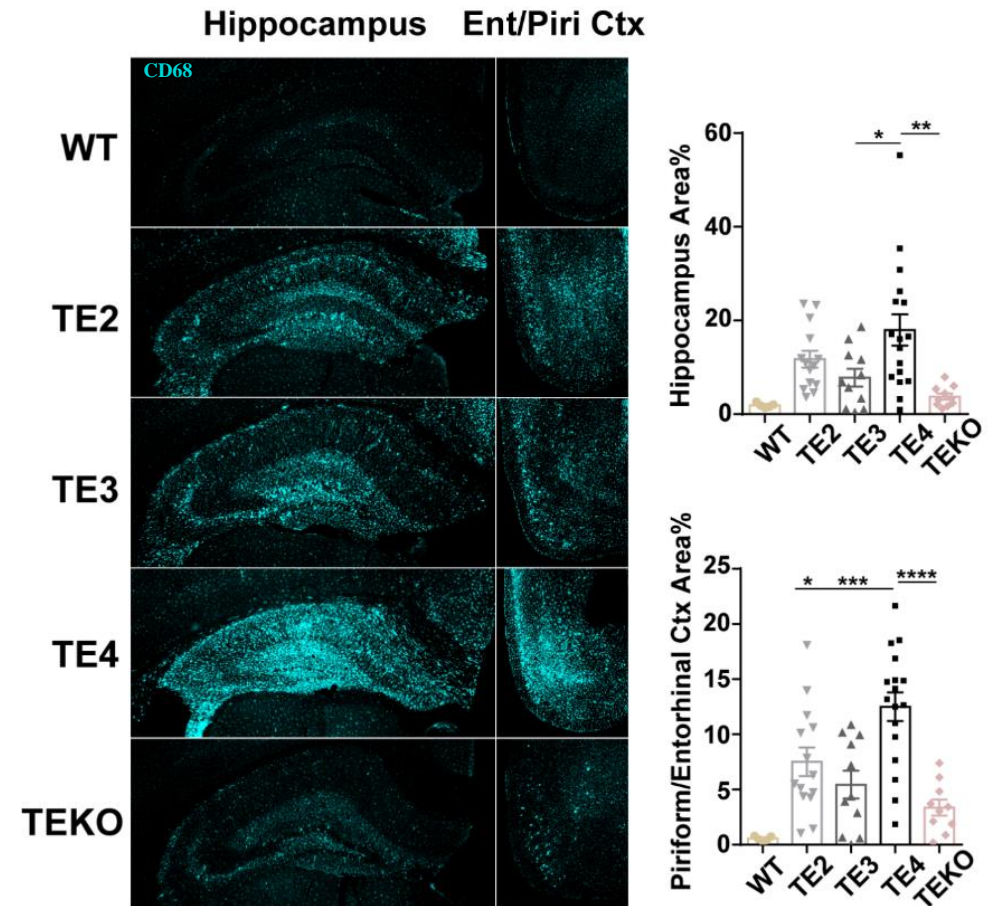
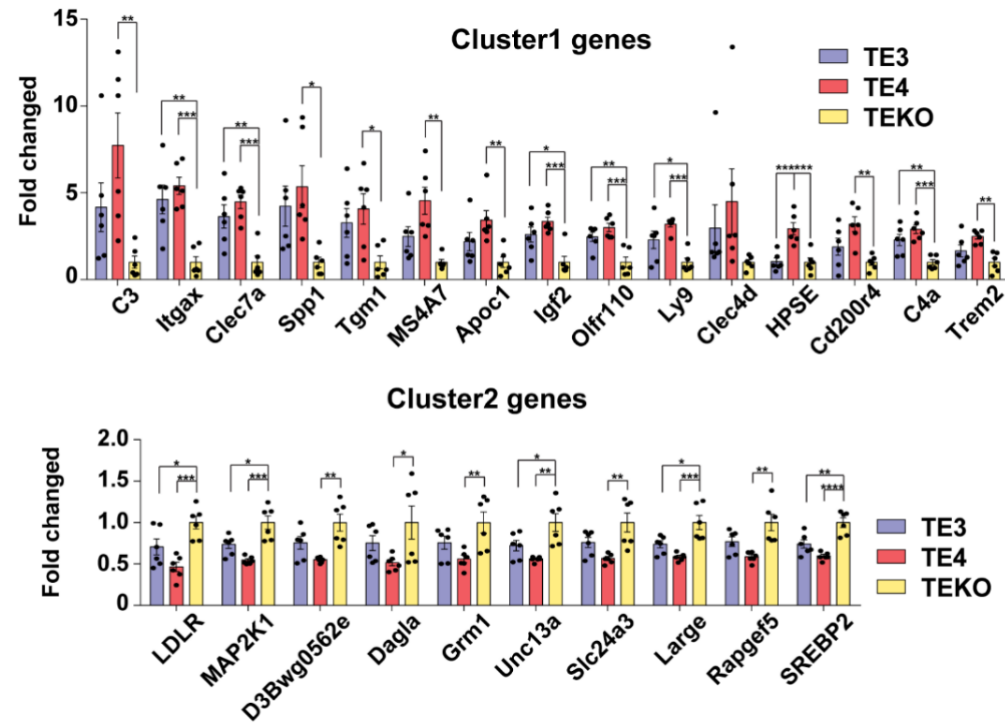
TE: P301S/ApoE  
 WT: Non-tau transgenic

Shi et al. Nature 2017. Sep 28;549(7673):523-527.

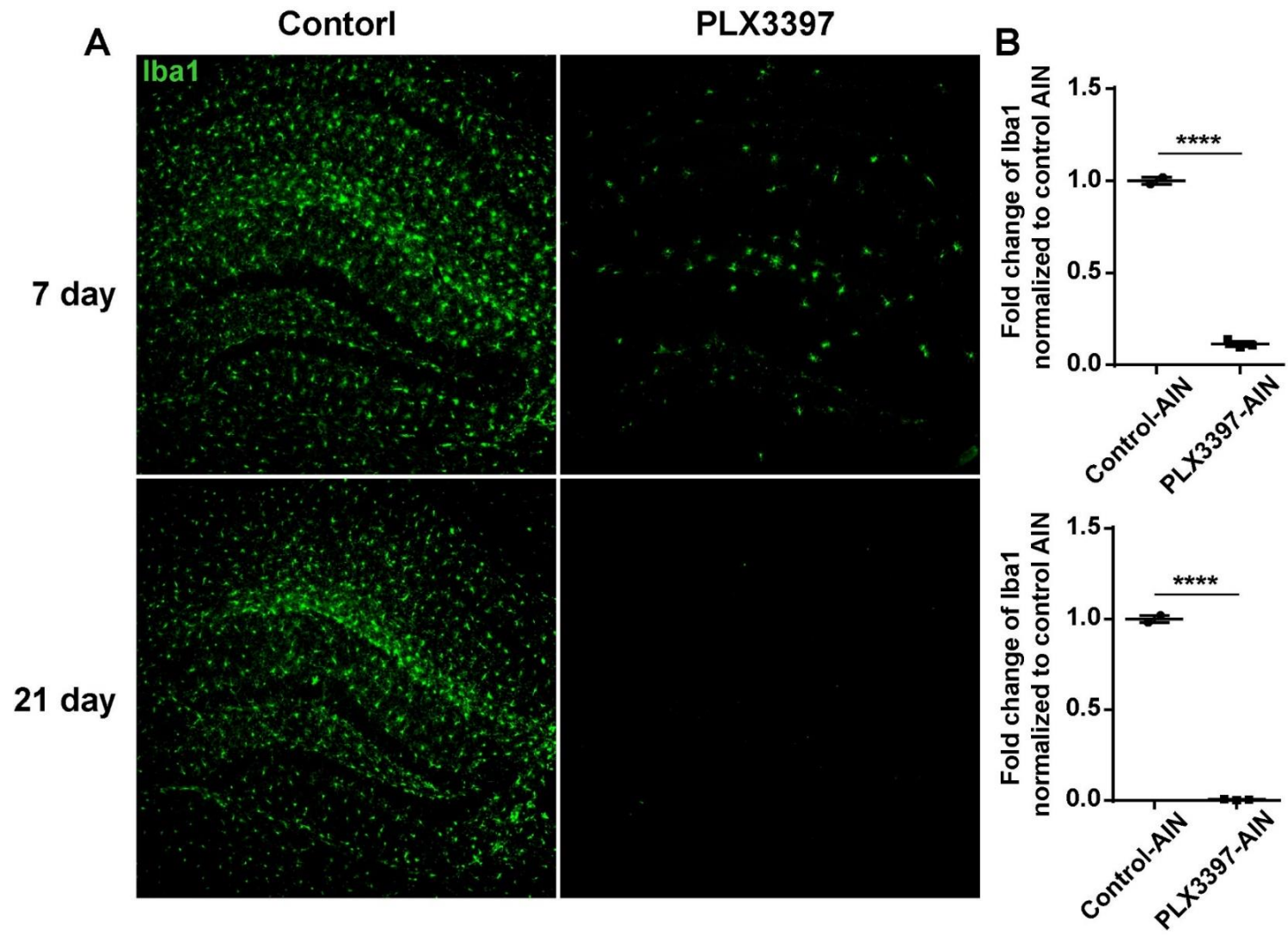
Yang Shi



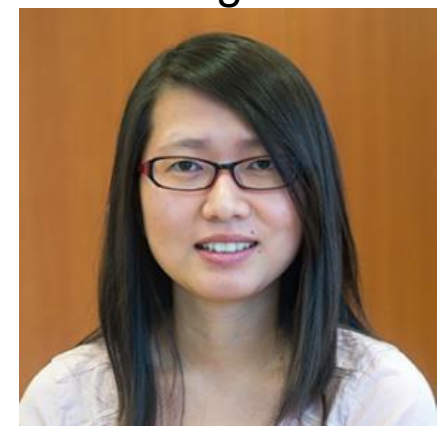
# Marked increase in inflammatory microglial genes and down regulation of microglial homeostatic genes in P301S Tau Tg mice expressing human apoE4



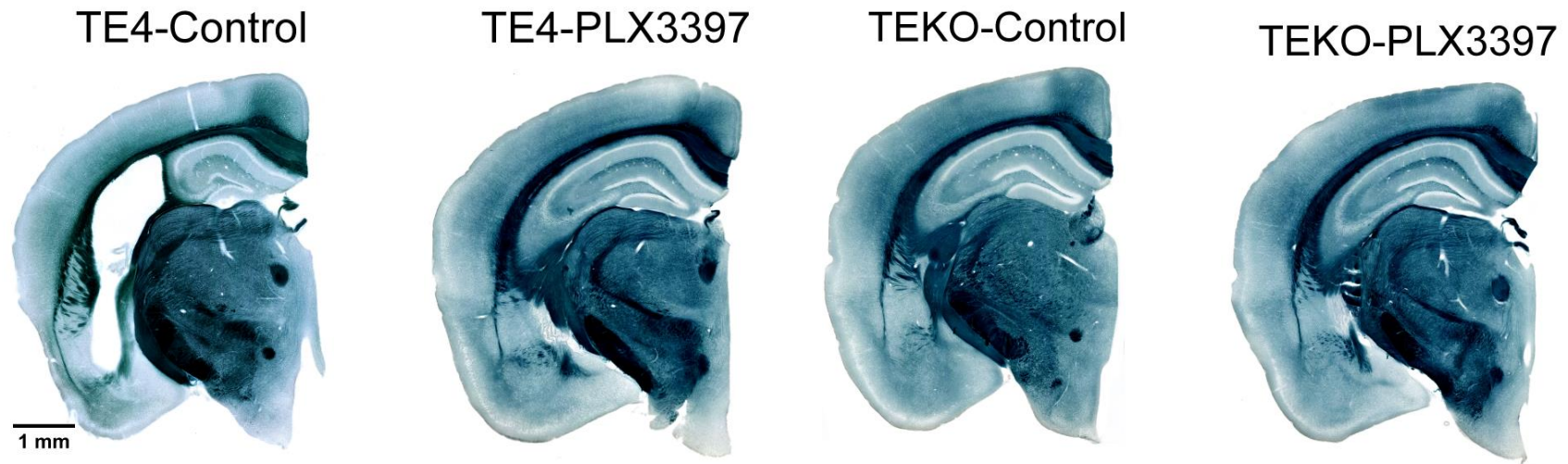
# ChoPLX3397 (500 mg/kg) virtually ablates virtually all microglia by 21 days



Yang Shi



# Microglia drive APOE-dependent neurodegeneration in a tauopathy model



Shi Y et al. *J Exp Med*. 2019 Nov 4;216(11):2546-2561. doi: 10.1084/jem.20190980

Similar results reported in:

Mancuso R, et al. *Brain*. 2019 Oct 1;142(10):3243-3264. doi: 10.1093/brain/awz241.

**Article**

---

# **Microglia-mediated T cell infiltration drives neurodegeneration in tauopathy**

---

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05788-0>

---

Received: 17 January 2022

---

Accepted: 3 February 2023

---

Published online: 08 March 2023

---

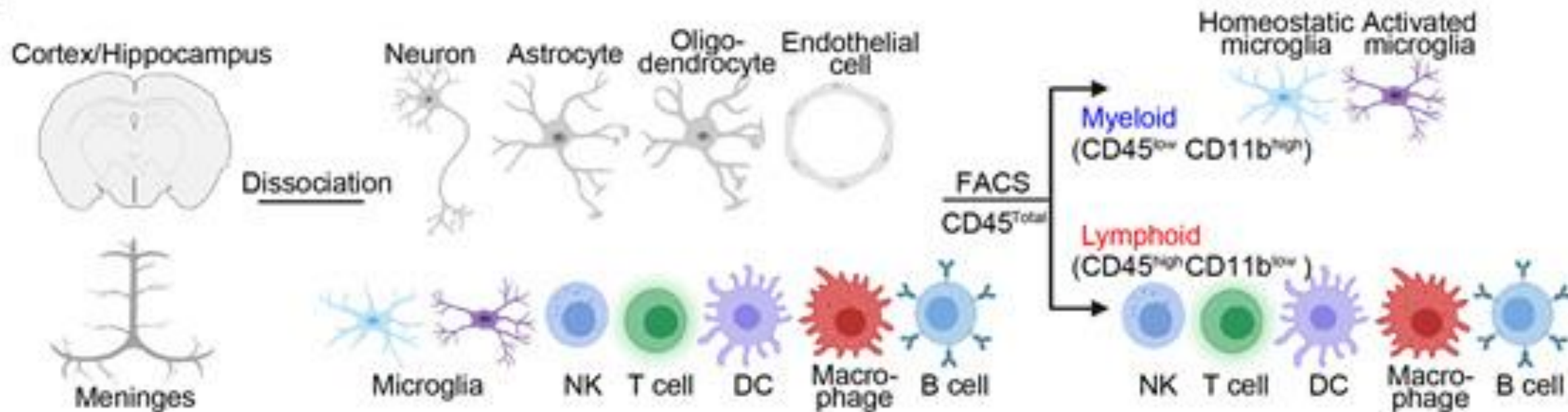
**Xiaoying Chen<sup>1</sup>, Maria Firulyova<sup>2</sup>, Melissa Manis<sup>1</sup>, Jasmin Herz<sup>3,4</sup>, Igor Smirnov<sup>3,4</sup>, Ekaterina Aladyeva<sup>3</sup>, Chanung Wang<sup>1</sup>, Xin Bao<sup>1</sup>, Mary Beth Finn<sup>1</sup>, Hao Hu<sup>1</sup>, Irina Shchukina<sup>3</sup>, Min Woo Kim<sup>3,4</sup>, Carla M. Yuede<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Kipnis<sup>1,3,4</sup>, Maxim N. Artyomov<sup>3</sup>, Jason D. Ulrich<sup>1</sup> & David M. Holtzman<sup>1,4</sup>✉**

Nature. 2023 Mar 8. doi: 10.1038/s41586-023-05788-0. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36890231



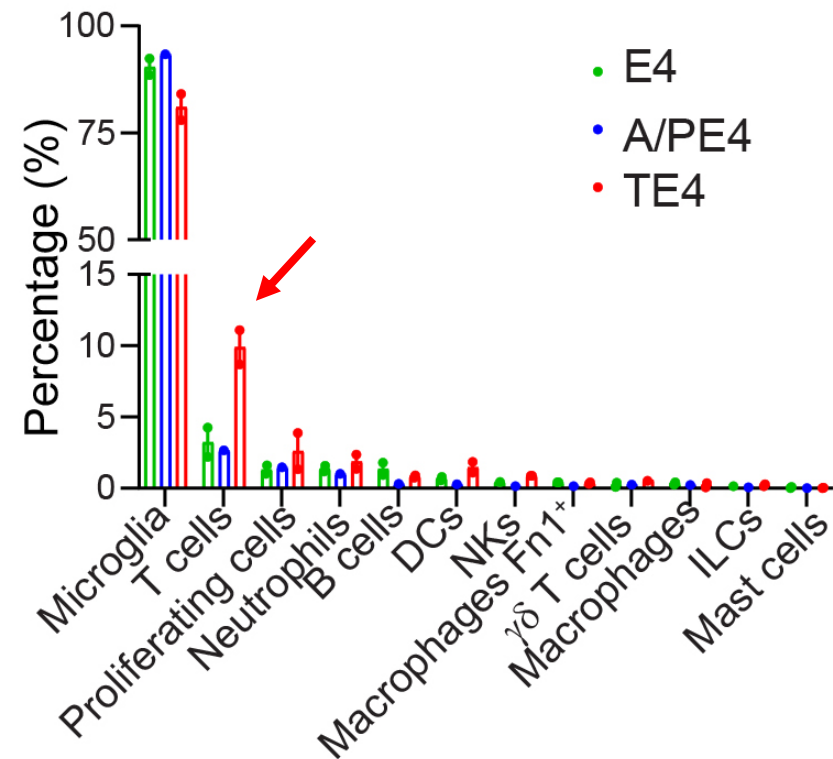
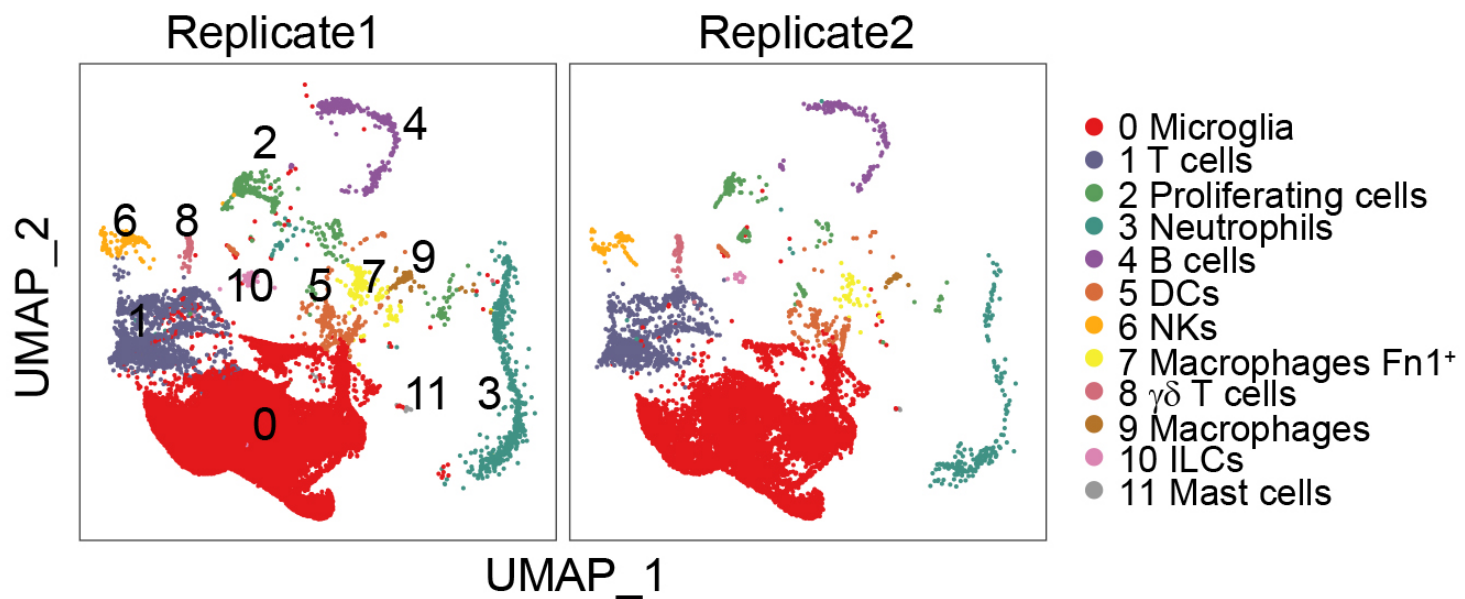
# What happens more globally to the immune cell populations in the presence of amyloid vs. in the setting of tau-mediated neurodegeneration?

e



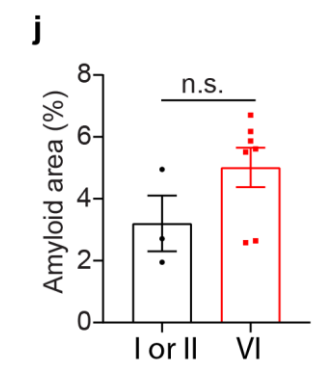
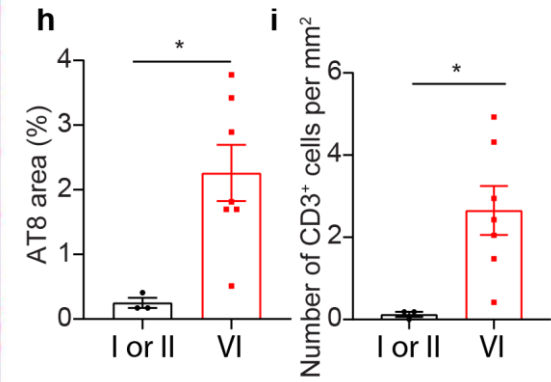
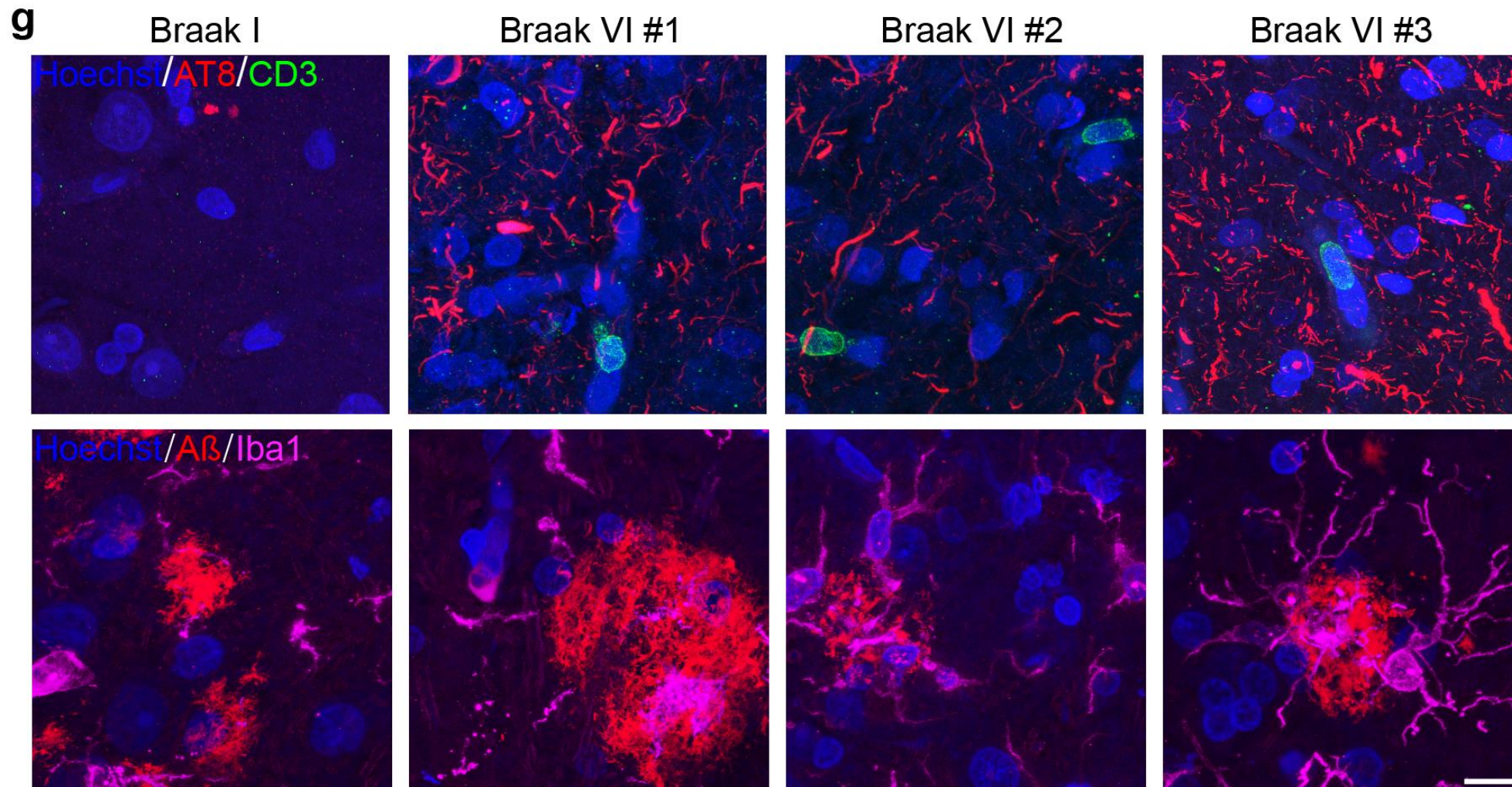
# Single immune cell RNA profiling reveals large increase in T cells in the presence of tau but not amyloid pathology

Parenchyma (CD45<sup>Total</sup>)





# Increase in CD3-positive T-cells in areas of the AD brain with a large burden of tauopathy



# T cells enter the brain in the presence of tauopathy

Neuro-  
degenerative  
Diseases

## Brief Communication

Neurodegener Dis 2018;18:49–56  
DOI: 10.1159/000486200

Received: July 7, 2017  
Accepted after revision: December 8, 2017  
Published online: February 7, 2018

## Extravascular CD3+ T Cells in Brains of Alzheimer Disease Patients Correlate with Tau but Not with Amyloid Pathology: An Immunohistochemical Study

**BRAIN**  
A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

## Hippocampal T cell infiltration promotes neuroinflammation and cognitive decline in a mouse model of tauopathy

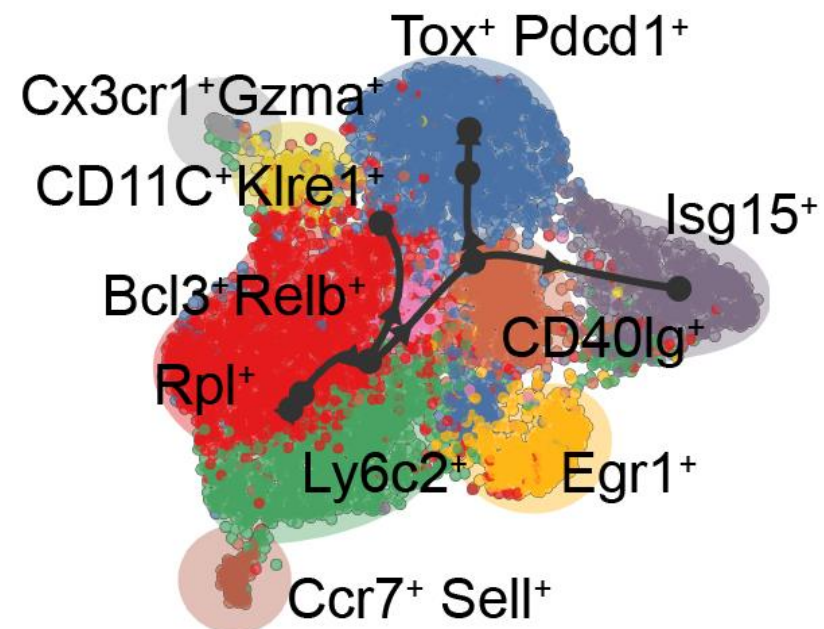
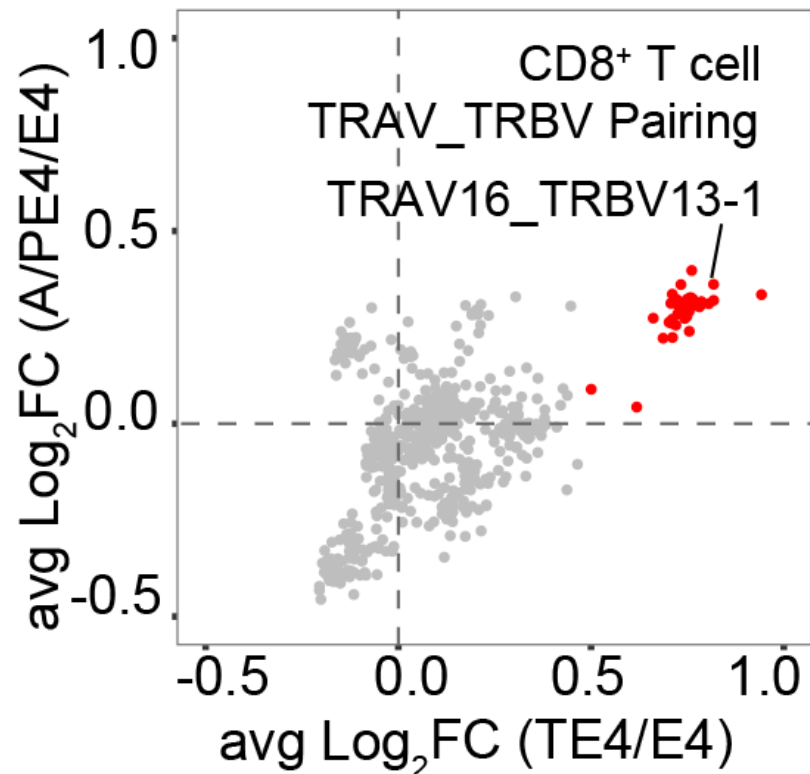
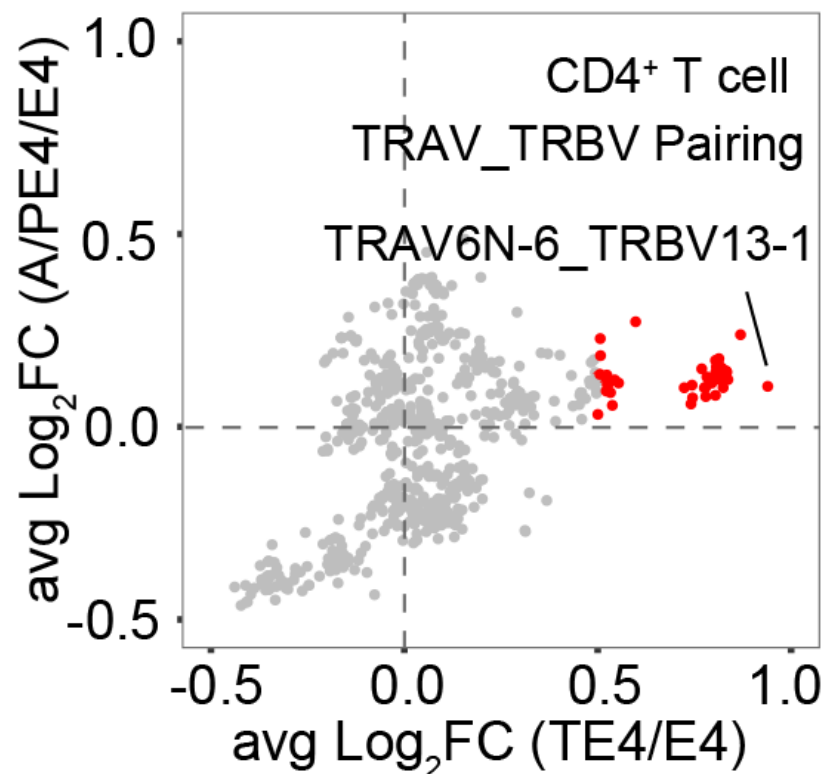
Cyril Laurent,<sup>1</sup> Guillaume Dorothee,<sup>2,3,\*</sup> Stéphane Hunot,<sup>4,5,6,7,\*</sup> Elodie Martin,<sup>4,</sup> Yann Monnet,<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> Marie Duchamp,<sup>2,3</sup> Yuan Dong,<sup>2,3</sup> François-Pierre Légeron,<sup>4,5,</sup> Antoine Leboucher,<sup>1</sup> Sylvie Burnouf,<sup>1</sup> Emilie Faivre,<sup>1</sup> Kévin Carvalho,<sup>1</sup> Raphaëlle C Nadège Zommer,<sup>1</sup> Dominique Demeyer,<sup>1</sup> Nathalie Jouy,<sup>1,8</sup> Veronique Sazdovitch Susanna Schraen-Maschke,<sup>1</sup> Cécile Delarasse,<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> Luc Buée<sup>1,#</sup> and David Blum<sup>1,</sup>

*Nature*. 2020 January ; 577(7790): 399–404. doi:10.1038/s41586-019-1895-7.

## Clonally expanded CD8 T cells patrol the cerebrospinal fluid in Alzheimer's disease

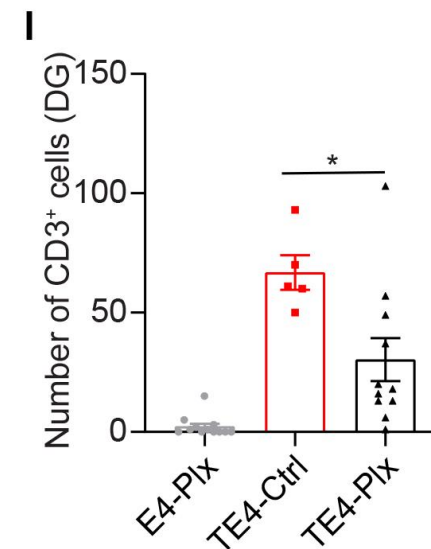
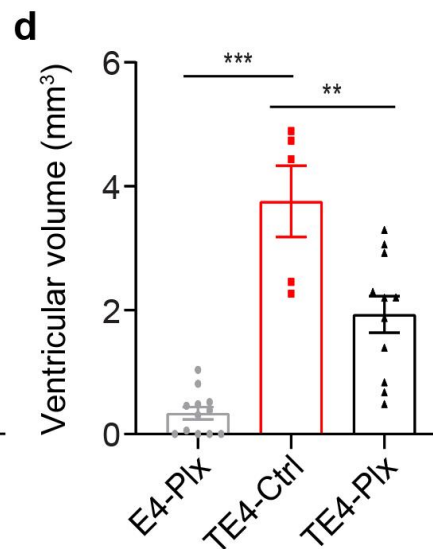
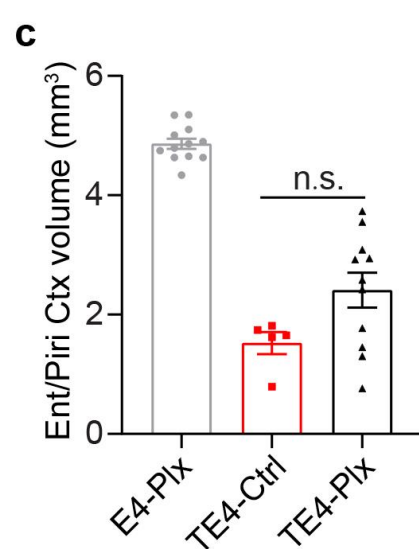
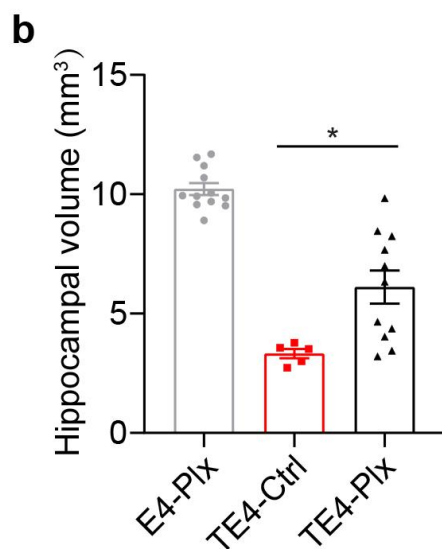
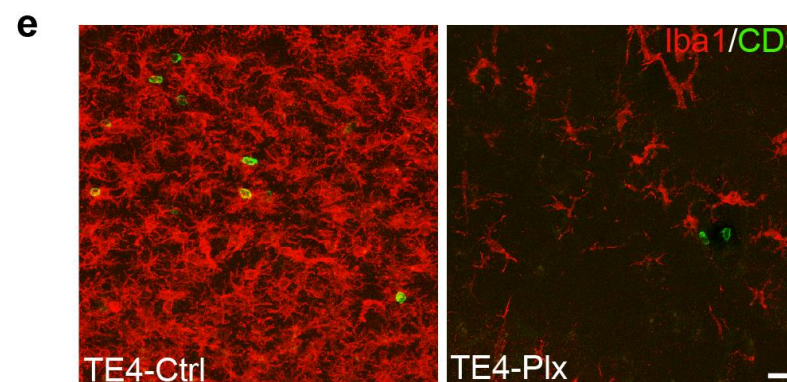
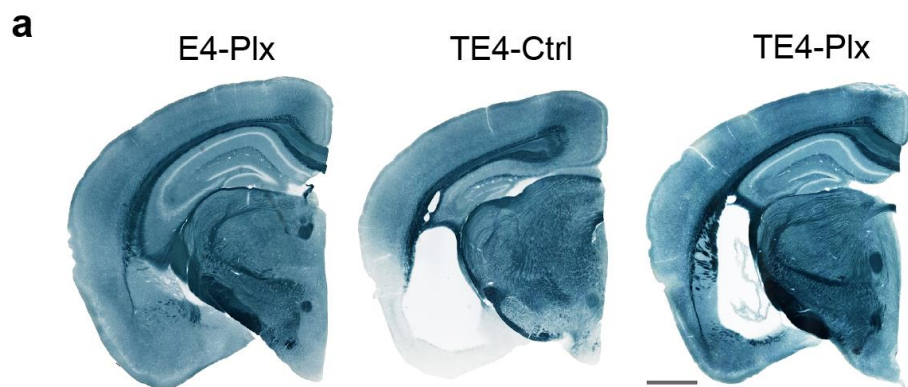
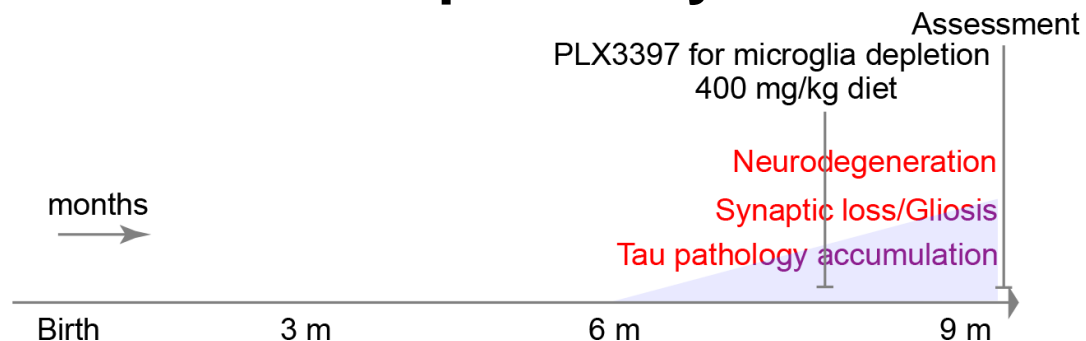
David Gate<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Naresha Saligrama<sup>3</sup>, Olivia Leventhal<sup>1</sup>, Andrew C. Yang<sup>4,5</sup>, Michael S. Unger<sup>6,7</sup>, Jinte Middeldorp<sup>1,2,8</sup>, Kelly Chen<sup>1</sup>, Benoit Lehallier<sup>1,2</sup>, Divya Channappa<sup>1</sup>, Mark B. De Los Santos<sup>1</sup>, Alisha McBride<sup>1,2</sup>, John Pluvinage<sup>1,9,10</sup>, Fanny Elahi<sup>11</sup>, Grace Kyin-Ye Tam<sup>1,12</sup>, Yongha Kim<sup>1,12</sup>, Michael Greicius<sup>1,12</sup>, Anthony D. Wagner<sup>13,14</sup>, Ludwig Aigner<sup>6,7</sup>, Douglas R. Galasko<sup>15</sup>, Mark M. Davis<sup>3,16,17</sup>, Tony Wyss-Coray<sup>1,2,5,14,18,\*</sup>

# Shift of T cells from activated to exhausted states with unique TCR clonal expansion in tauopathy

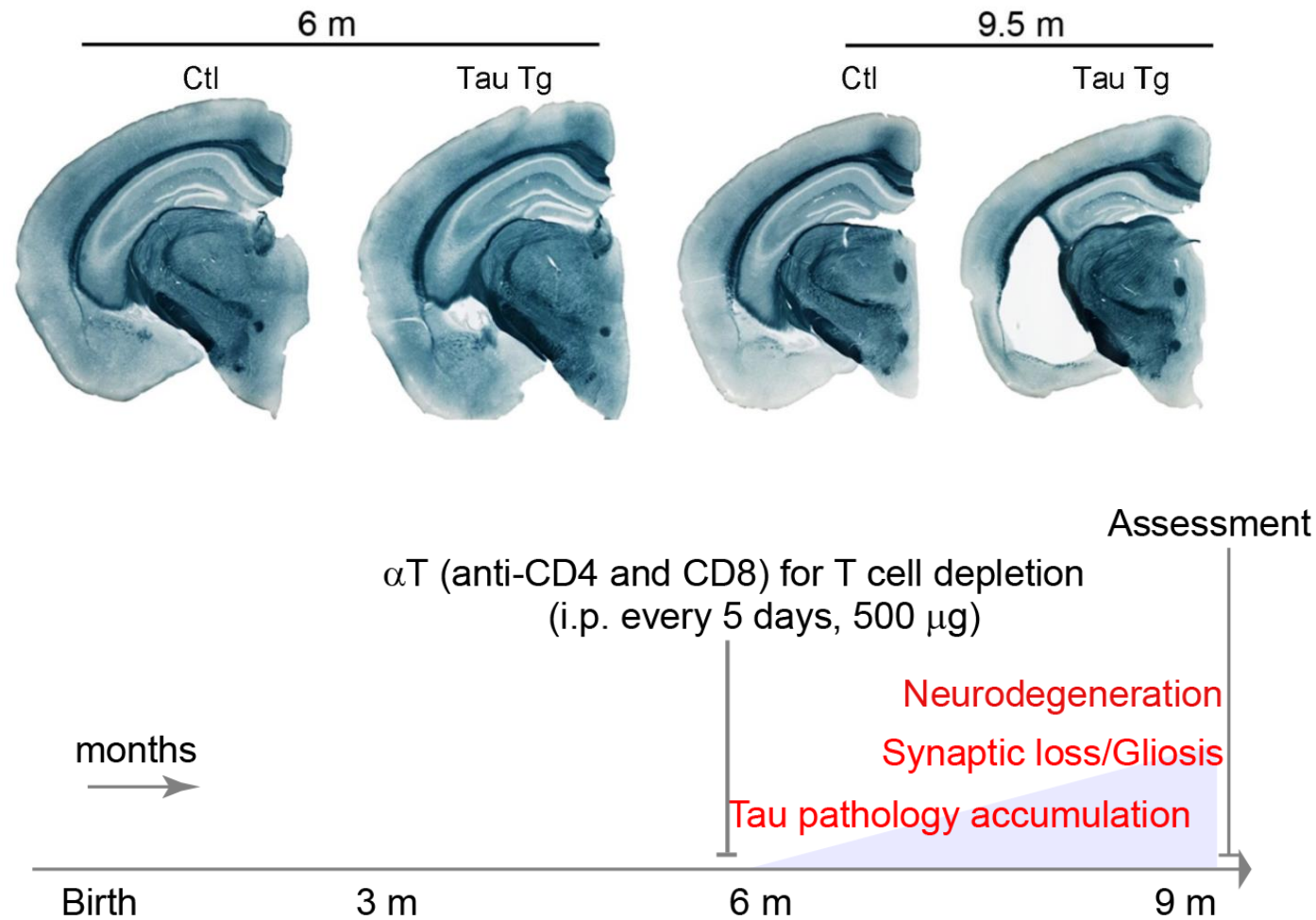


# Activated microglia recruit T cells into the brain parenchyma

Activated microglia → T cells

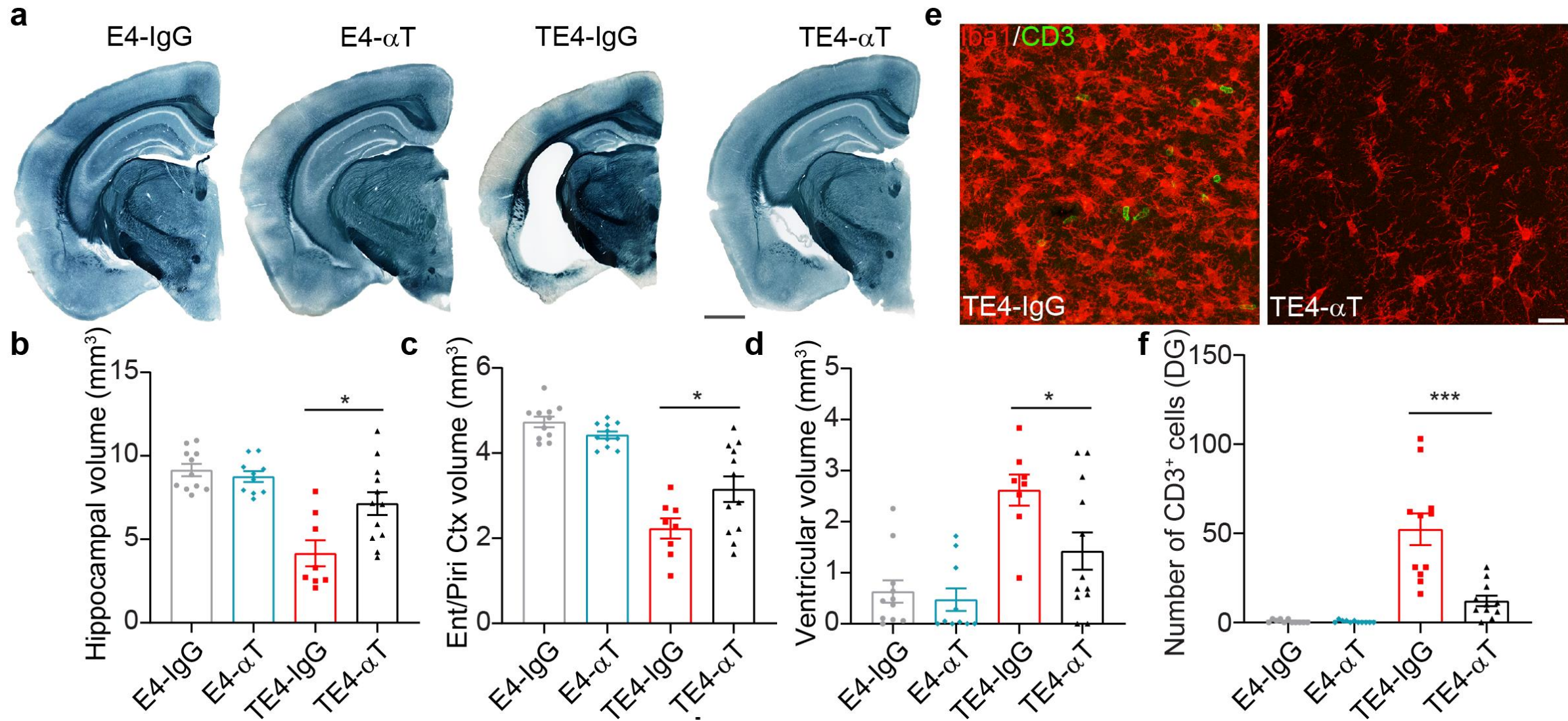


# Does infiltration of T cells directly lead to neurodegeneration?

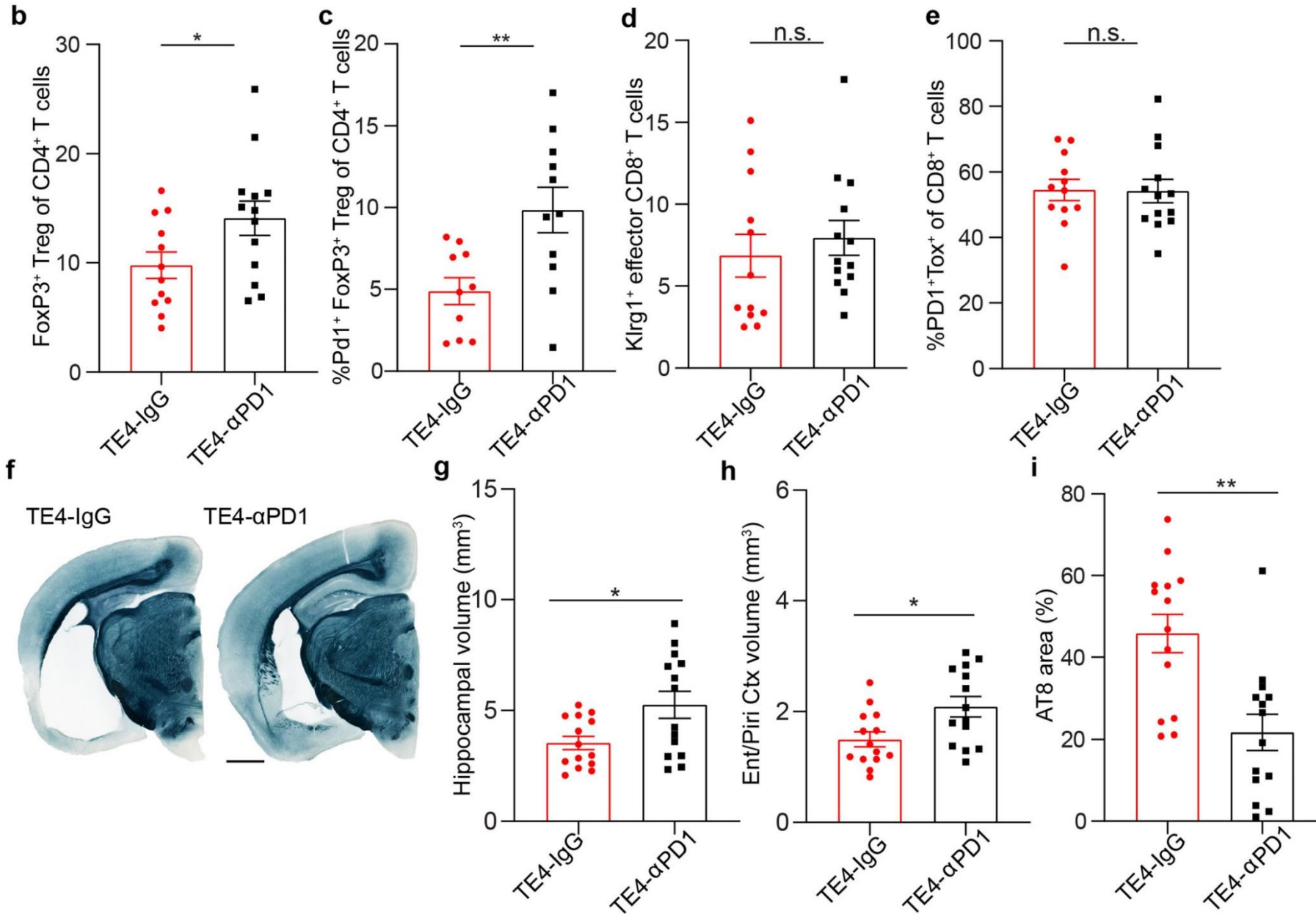


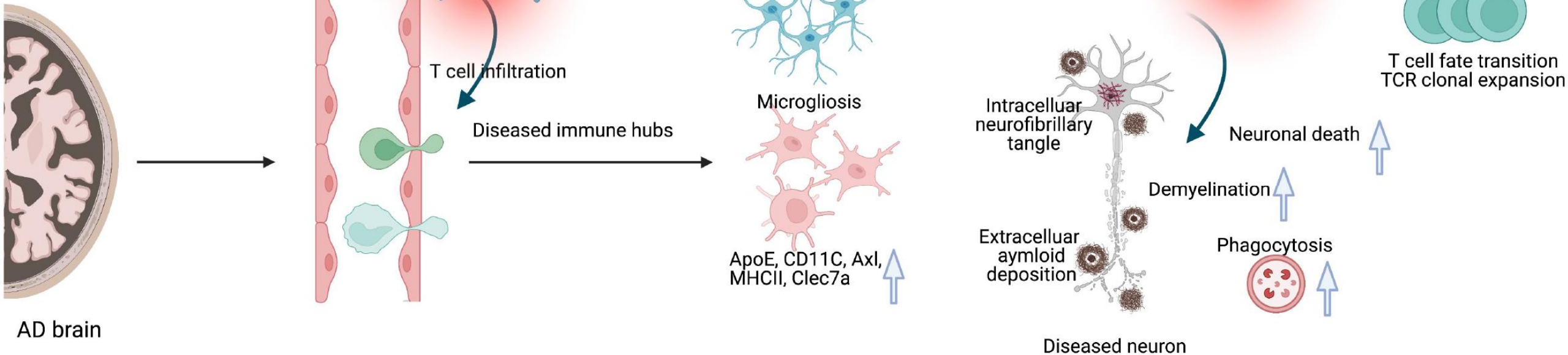


# T cell depletion protects against brain atrophy



# Anti-PD1 antibody increases T regs in brain and decreases Tau-mediated neurodegeneration





## Summary

- ✓ T cells increase in areas with tauopathy in AD brain.
- ✓ T cells have a unique TCR clonal expansion.
- ✓ T cells interact with activated microglia.
- ✓ T cell depletion protects against tauopathy

## Some of many Future Questions

- How do T cells contribute to neurodegeneration?
- Do ApoE isoforms enable differential T-cell response to antigen?
- Which cells are antigen presenting?
- What are the antigens?

## Holtzman lab

Jason Ulrich  
Chao Wang  
Travis Tabor  
Xiaoying Chen  
Hong Jiang  
Melissa Manis  
Mary Beth Finn  
Melissa Manis  
Hao Hu  
Maud Gratuze  
Javier Remolina-Serrano  
Chanung Wang  
Xin Bao  
Megan Bosch  
Yun Chen  
Emily Franke

## Collaborators

Maria Firulyova  
Jasmin Herz  
Xiaoqing Zhang  
Jonathan Kipnis  
Maxim Artyomov  
Prabhakar Sairam Andhey  
Caitlin Schroeder  
Zhuoran Yin  
Charlotte Madore  
Oleg Butovsky  
Patrick Sullivan  
Shane Liddelow

Justin Long  
Ramya Chengalvala  
Sheryl Eveland  
Qing Fu  
Nimansha Jain  
Chonghee Lee  
Sasha Litvinchuk  
Aishwarya Nambiar  
Samira Parhizkar  
Emmanuel Perez  
Fareeha Saadi  
Wade Self  
Lakshita Senthil  
Dong-oh Seo  
Crystal Song  
Michael Strickland  
Cindy Lawrence  
Kally Coleman



**Holtzman lab: December, 2022**

Funding: NIH-NIA-NINDS, Rainwater Foundation, BrightFocus, The JPB Foundation  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Good Ventures, Novartis, Ionis, NextCure, Eli Lilly.