

# **3RAIN Lab**

BRAin Imaging and Neurogenetics Laboratory Kapping ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER The University of Kansas Medical Center

#### Integrating Brain Imaging and Genetics to Uncover Risk for Alzheimer's Disease

Robyn A. Honea, DPhil Assistant Professor, KUMC Department of Neurology Supported by NIA K01AG035042, KU Alzheimer's Disease Center P30AG035982, and NIA R01AG033673

#### Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease Risk = Nuclear Genes + Mitochondrial Genes + Environment



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### We Need Complex Tools for a Complex Disease; Imaging Genetics



#### "Imaging Genetics" A model to study complex diseases

- Characterize Disease Using Imaging
- Define Imaging Endophenotype- \*a heritable trait
- Identify Genetic Variants
- Study Impact of Genetic Variation on Disease Endophenotype, or quantifiable trait

#### Heritability of Brain Morphometry

#### Gray matter volume

#### Cortical Thickness and Surface Area



Seyed Amir Hossein Batouli et al. Neurobiology of Aging, 2014; <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurobiolaging.2013.10.079</u> Winkler et al, NeuroImage, Volume 53, Issue 3, 2010, 1135 - 1146



# Multilocus genetic profiling to empower drug trials and predict brain atrophy $\overset{\bigstar}{\nleftrightarrow}$



Omid Kohannim <sup>a</sup>, Xue Hua <sup>a</sup>, Priya Rajagopalan <sup>a</sup>, Derrek P. Hibar <sup>a</sup>, Neda Jahanshad <sup>a</sup>, Joshua D. Grill <sup>b</sup>, Liana G. Apostolova <sup>b</sup>, Arthur W. Toga <sup>a</sup>, Clifford R. Jack Jr. <sup>c</sup>, Michael W. Weiner <sup>d,e</sup>, Paul M. Thompson <sup>a,\*</sup>, for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative <sup>1</sup>



Honea et al. in preparation

#### **BDNF-** also associated Brain Atrophy

- Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor is a neurotrophins that regulates cortical neuron survival, proliferation, and synaptic growth.
- Study: 645 participants from ADNI
- Six SNPs were significantly associated with hippocampal and/or whole brain atrophy, including Val66Met, which affects intracellular packing and secretion of neurotrophin





Honea et al. Plos One 2013

### Family History of Dementia

- 25% of all people over 55 have a family history of dementia (Loy C, Lancet 2014)
- Nuclear Genes....are contributed by both parents
- However, more often subjects have an affected mother than an affected father AD (Heyman A 1983, Edland SD 1996)

Table 2

Reference	AD cases	No affected parents	FH-	FHm	FHp	Mother:father ratio
Heyman et al.81	68	11	84%	10%	6%	1.8:1
Duara et al.77	311	69	78%	17%	5%	3.6:1
Edland et al.78	118	24	80%	16%	4%	3.8:1
Farrer et al.70	251	61	76%	16%	8%	1.9:1
Gomez-Tortosa <i>et al.</i> 80	2594	817	68%	23%	9%	2.6:1

Prevalence of maternally vs paternally inherited late-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD)

FH- = No family history of AD; FHm = maternal history of AD; FHp = paternal history of AD.

# Maternal Family History and Imaging Phenotypes of Alzheimer's

- -progressive atrophy in AD-regions (Honea et al., Neurology 2010, 2011)
- -reduced glucose consumption (PET) (Mosconi et al. PNAS 2007)

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- -progressive reductions in glucose metabolism over time (Mosconi et al. Neurology 2009)
- Increased amyloid-beta load in key brain areas (Mosconi et al. PNAS 2010, Honea et al. JAD 2012)
- -Hypoperfusion (reduced cerebral blood flow) in hippocampal and parietofrontal regions (Okonkwo OC et al. Cerebral Cortex 2014)
- -Alterations in Resting State Connectivity (Wang et al. 2012; Honea et al in preparation)
- -MCI with a maternal family history have more markers of AD pathophysiology (CSF, PiB, glucose metabolism) (Honea et al. JAD 2012, Mosconi et al. JAD 2014)



Honea et al., Neurology 2010, 2011

So, many nuclear genes relate to brain morphometry...

- What about the mitochondrial genome?
- Maternally inherited mutations of mtDNA may play a role in AD....but it is still unclear



### Mitochondrial Haplogroups



Haplogroups are the major branch points on the mitochondrial phylogenetic tree which began with Mitochondrial Eve in Africa.

Nature Reviews | Genetics

# Association between Mitochondrial Genes and Temporal Cortex Atrophy

- ADNI longitudinal volume and thickness data
- Haplotype-based Treescanning approach to analyze evolutionarily meaningful groups of genes together for their association with phenotype
- 4 significant clades in Haplogroups U and K
- Next step, Next Generation mtDNA sequencing of 500 individuals from our KU Alzheimer's Disease Center



## Gene X Environment Interactions

BDNF CLU PICLAM APOE MtDNA





Slowed Alzheimer's Disease?

 Analyzing data from two 6 month exercise interventions, one in healthy elderly (R01AG033673-Burns PI) and one in Alzheimer's Disease (R01AG34614- Burns PI) with imaging and genetic data

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#### Cognitively healthy individuals with a maternal family history have more AD-like cortical thinning patterns

Left Hemisphere

**Right Hemisphere** 

