



Neuroimagerie et recherche translationnelle... from bed to bench* et vice versa

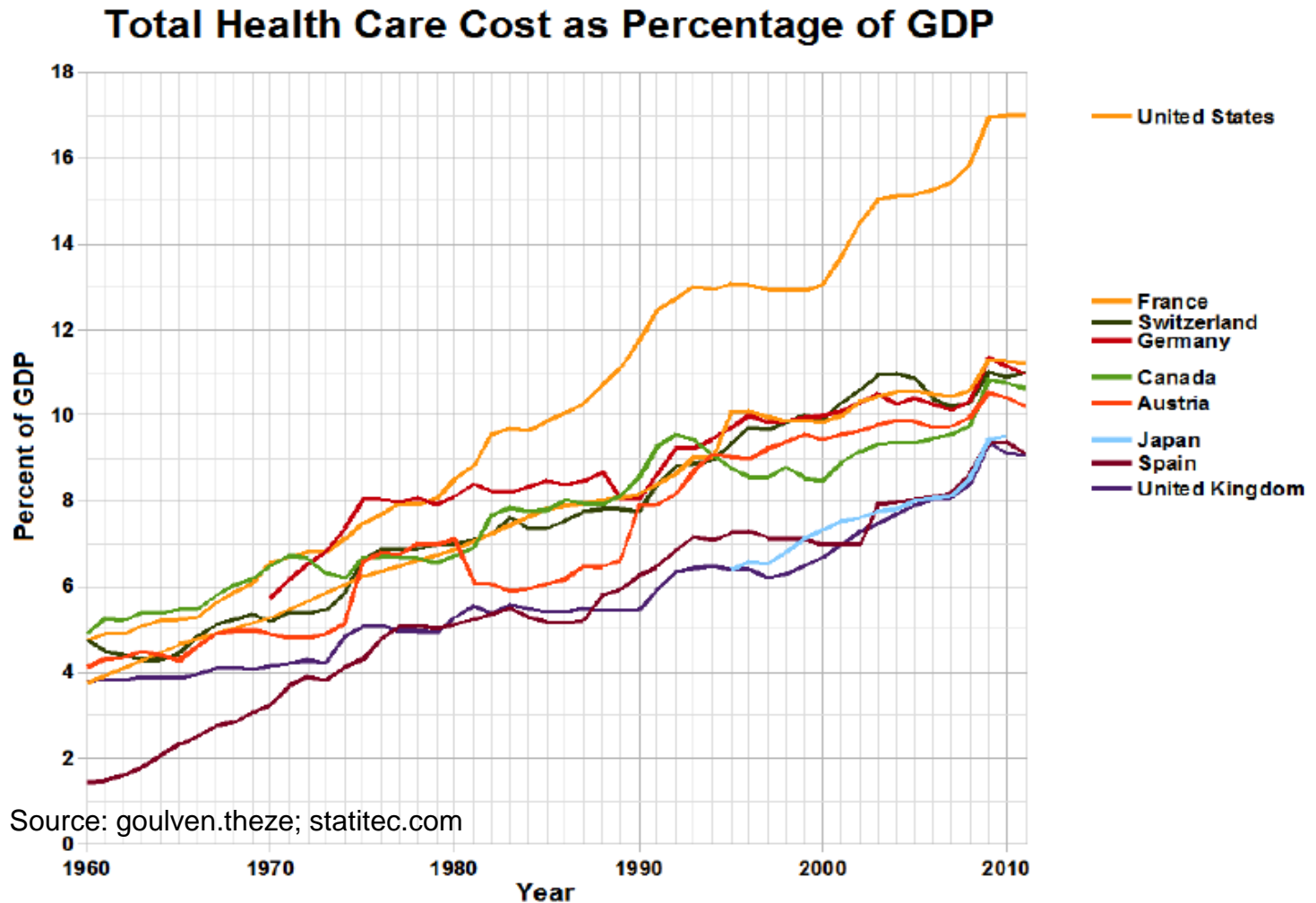
Marc Dhenain

**URA CEA CNRS 2210 – MIRCen - Fontenay aux Roses
UC Davis, Davis, CA, USA**

**Multimodal Imaging
of Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapies**

Alzheimer's Disease Group:
Modelization, Biomarkers, Preclinical Imaging

Increase healthcare costs since 50 years



High price of new drug development

After

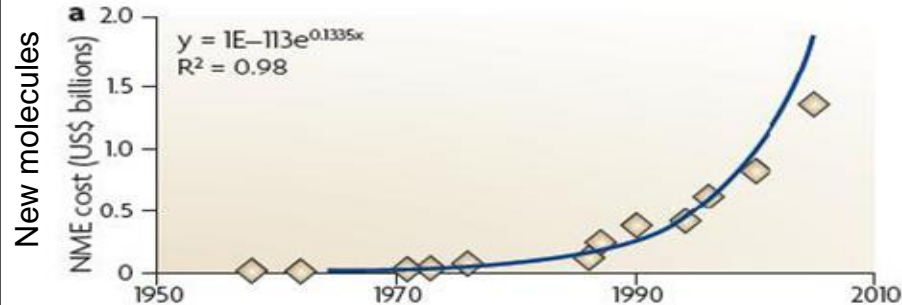
>15 years

>10⁹ €

>3000 patients

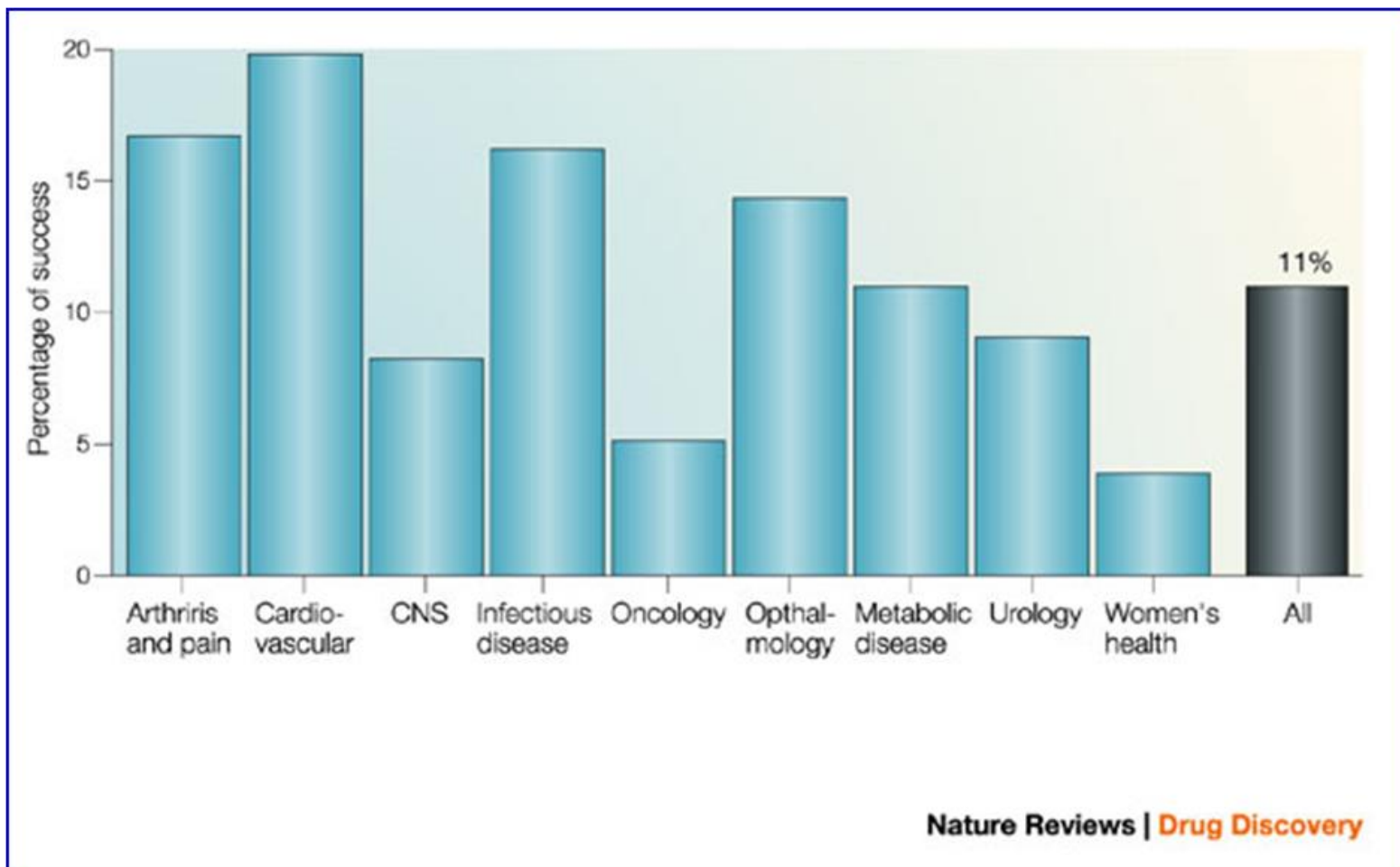


Increased investissements in drug discovery



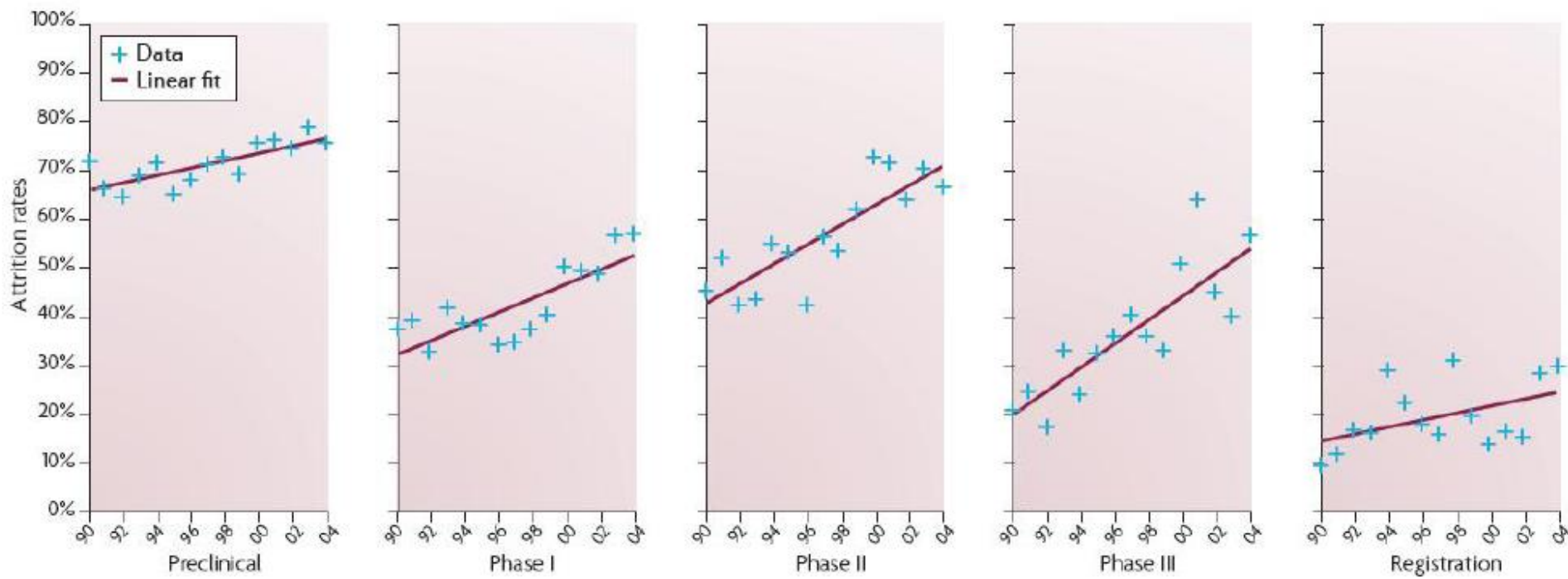
Source : Munos, B. (2009). Lessons from 60 years of pharmaceutical innovation. *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, 8(12), 959-968.

But high attrition in drug development

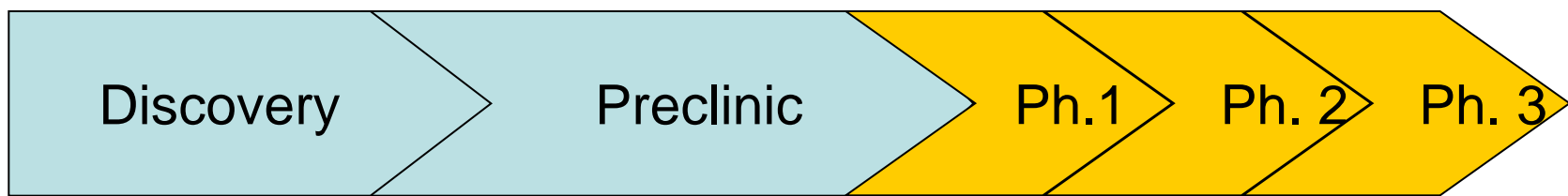


Attrition rate increases with time

- Attrition rate increases in phases 2-3

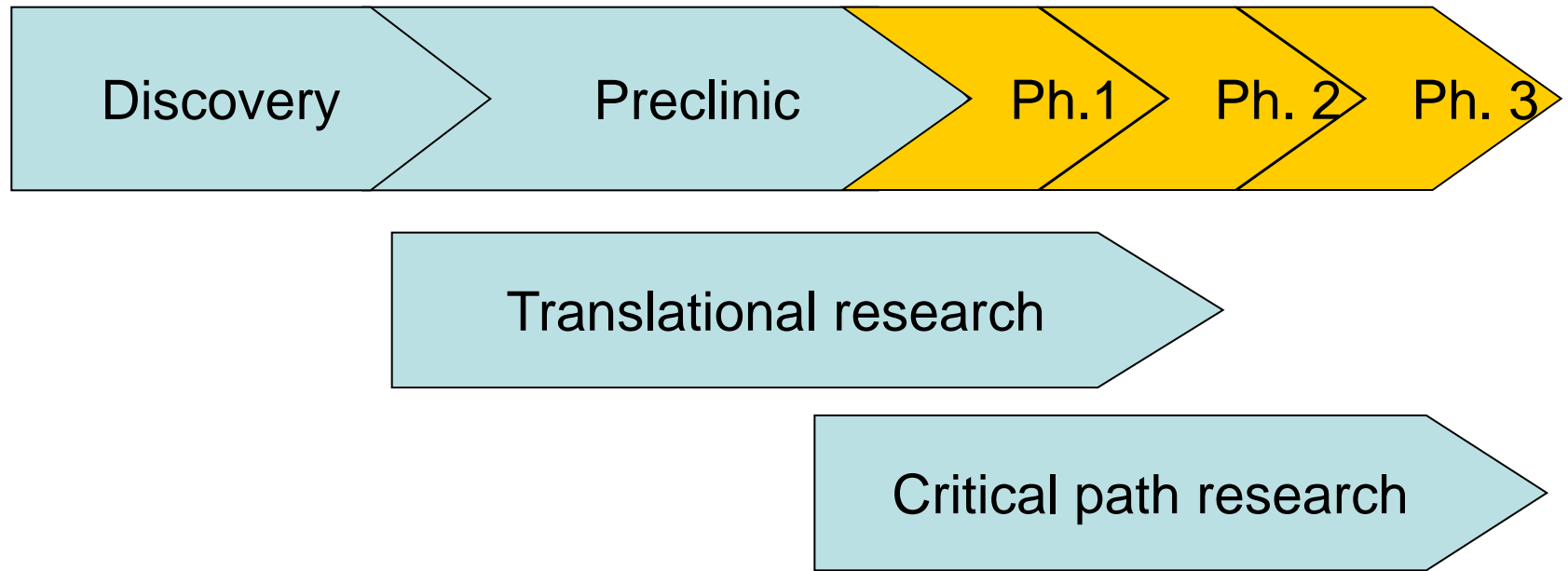


- Drug development pipeline



How to improve the discovery process?

NIH definitions



G Finkelstein R, T Miller, and R Baughman, "The Challenge of Translational Research—A Perspective from the NINDS," *Nature neuroscience supplement*, Vol.5, **2002**.



**INNOVATION THÉRAPEUTIQUE ET RECHERCHE
TRANSLATIONNELLE DANS LES MALADIES DU
SYSTÈME NERVEUX:
COMMENT ÉTABLIR UN LIEN ENTRE LA RECHERCHE
EXPÉRIMENTALE ET CLINIQUE?**

Faculté de Médecine du Kremlin-Bicêtre, Université Paris-Sud

Strategies to modify the clinical outcome?

Isolate a target



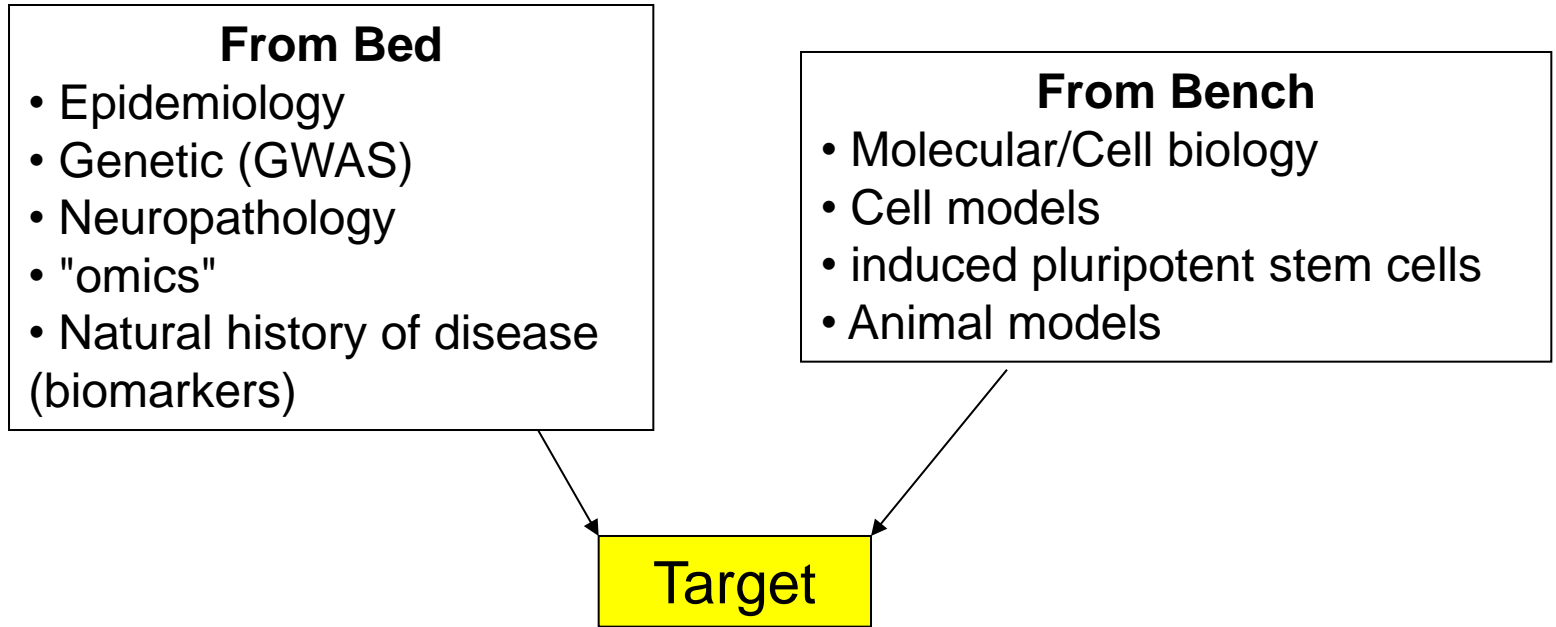
Validation

 **EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY**
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

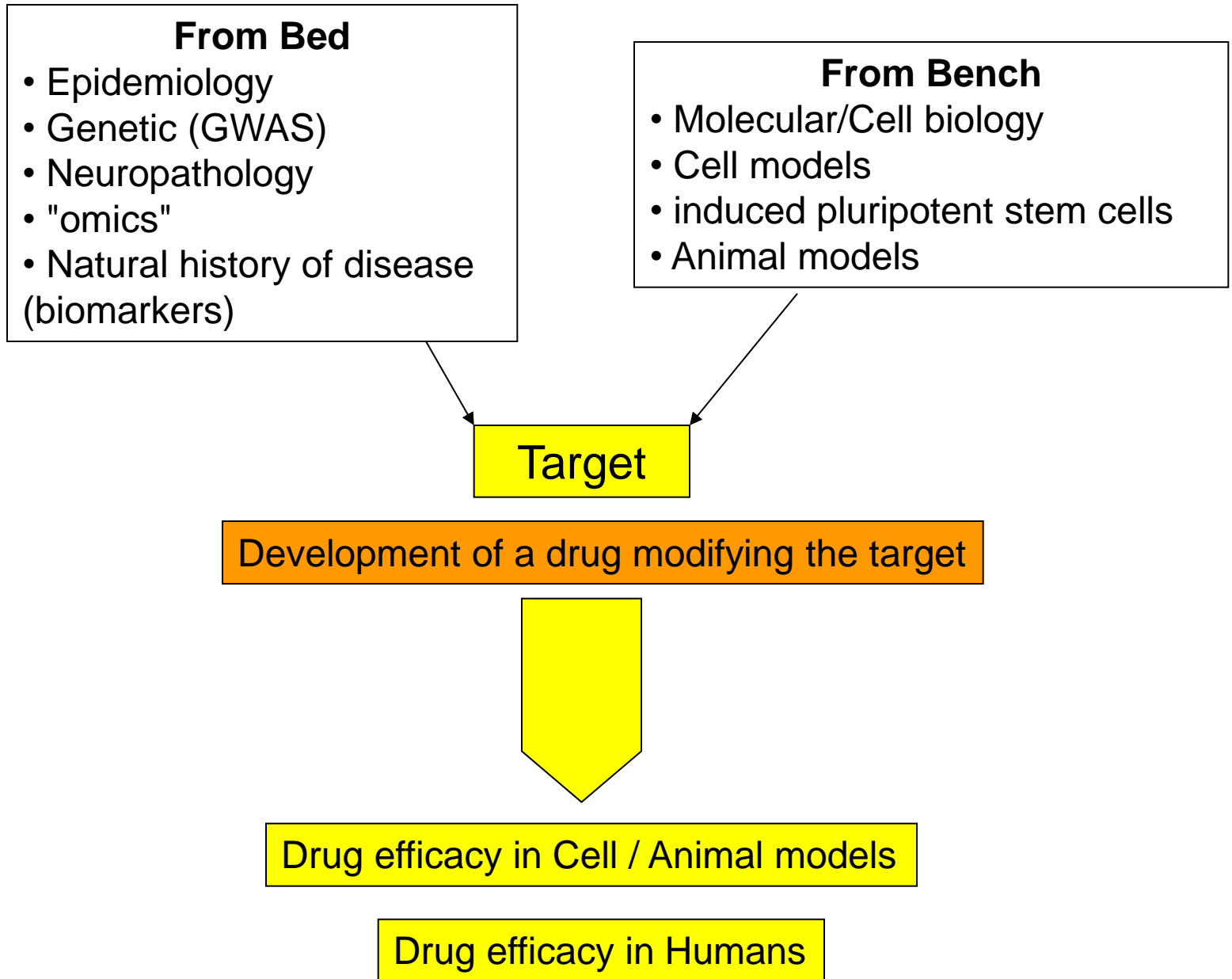
 **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**
Protecting and Promoting Your Health

How to select / validate a target ?

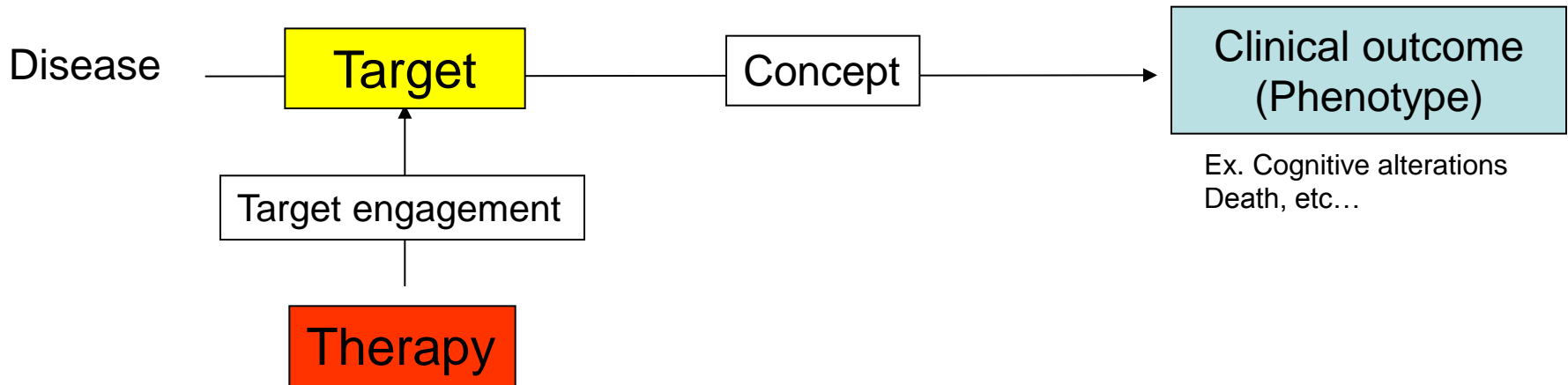
Selection



How to select / validate a target ?



From drug to target, and from target to disease



- ❖ Identify a target ?
- ❖ Is my therapy modifying/reaching the target ?
 - Target engagement, proof of mechanism (POM)
- ❖ If I modify the target, do I modify the clinical outcome ?
 - Proof of concept (POC)

Example in Alzheimer's disease

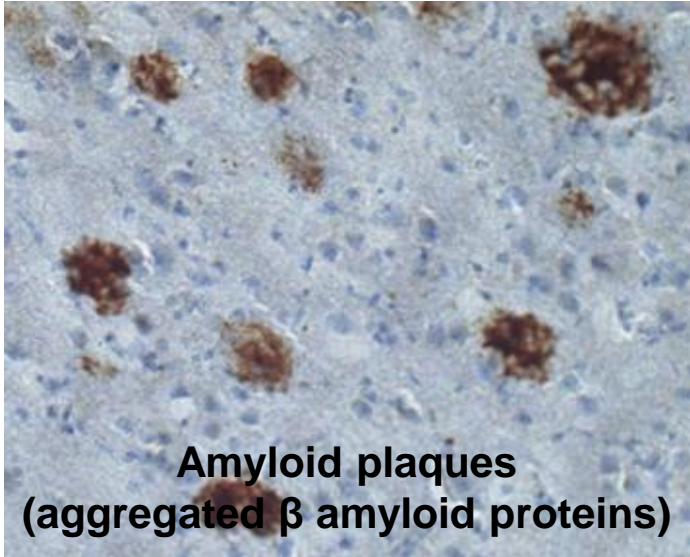


Alzheimer

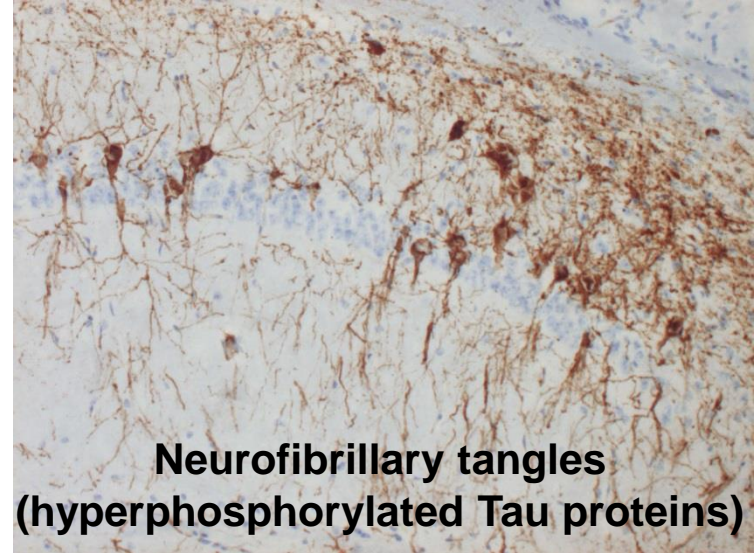
cea

mirCen

- Two main microscopic lesions



Amyloid plaques
(aggregated β amyloid proteins)

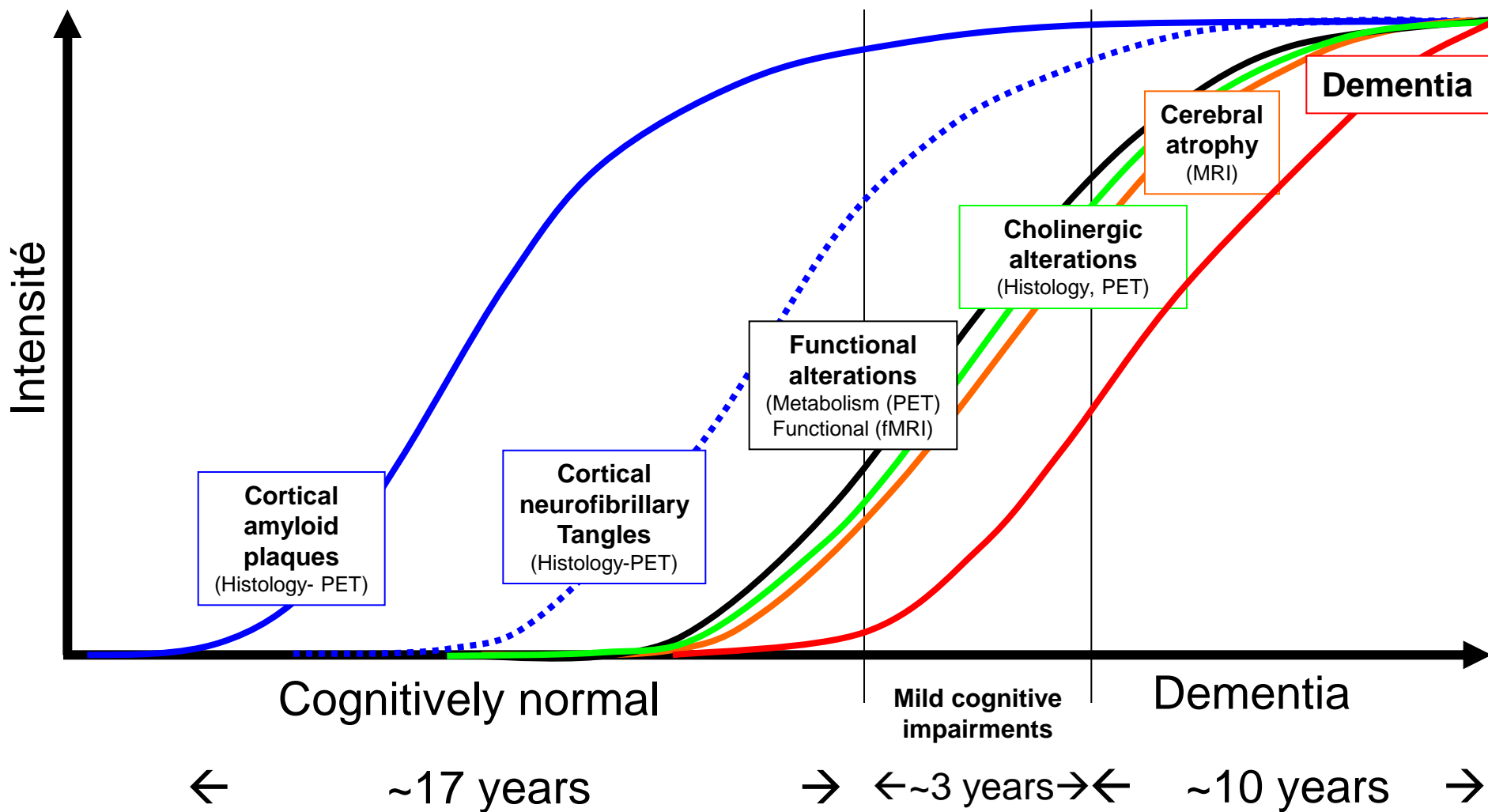


Neurofibrillary tangles
(hyperphosphorylated Tau proteins)

- No curative treatment
 - ❖ How can we discover a curative treatment ?

Natural history of Alzheimer's disease → amyloid as a target

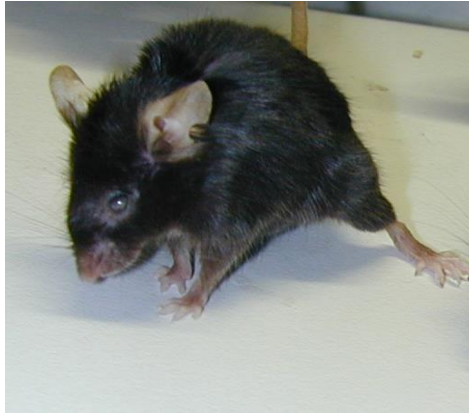
A biomarker based history



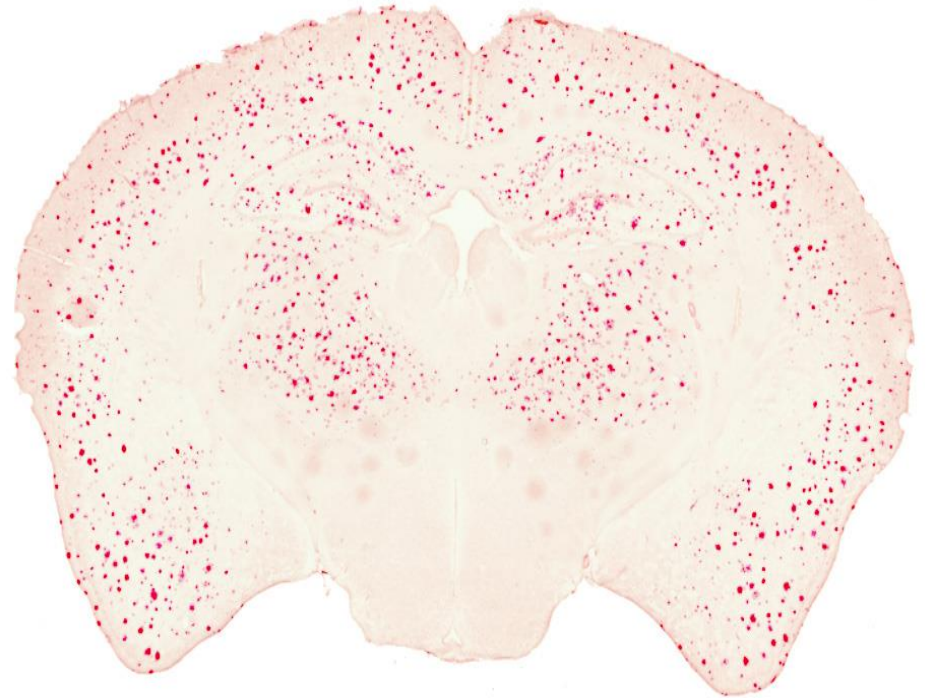
From bed to bench...



Mouse model of amyloid



APP/PS1



Model of amyloidosis
→ Evaluation of anti-amyloid drugs

Amyloid induce cognitive alterations in animals

Improvement with therapies



Cognitive alterations

Amyloid



Immunotherapies

Cognitive improvement

(Morgan et al., 2000)



(Schenk et al, 1999)



2010-2013 : Failure of anti-amyloid therapies in humans



■ Immunotherapies

- ❖ Bapineuzumab: antiA β 1-5 (Wyeth/Elan – Pfizer/Janssen)
 - Fall in phase III - 2012
- ❖ Solaneuzumab: antiA β 13-5 (Eli Lilly)
 - Fall in phase III - 2012
- ❖ Gammagard : immunoglobulin I.V. (IVIG) (Baxter International Inc.)
 - Fall in phase III - 2013

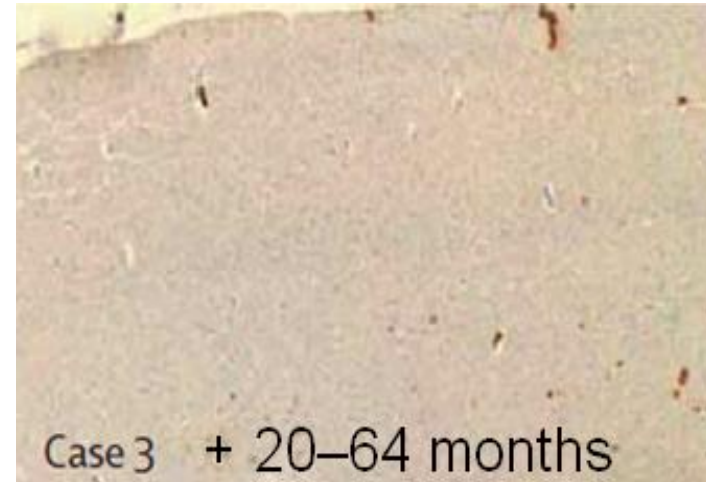
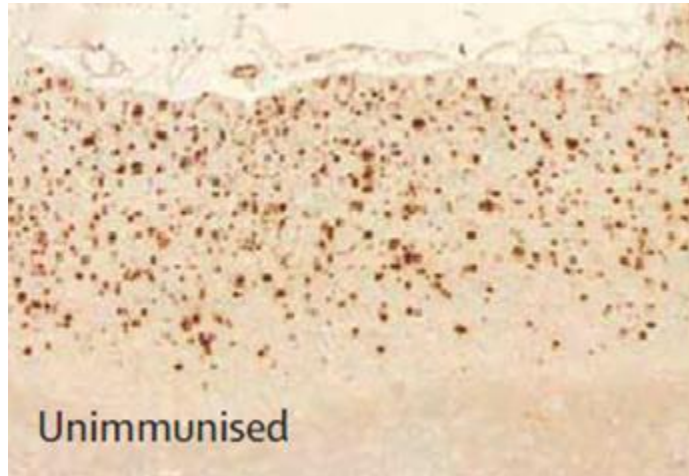
■ Other anti-amyloid therapies

- ❖ γ -secretase inhibitor (LY450139 - Semagacestat - Eli Lilly)
 - Fall in Phase III - 2010
- ❖ β -secretase inhibitor (LY2886721 - Eli Lilly)
 - Fall in Phase II - 2013



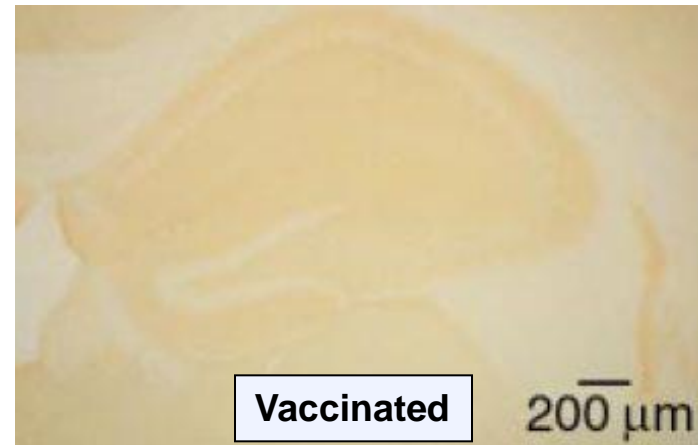
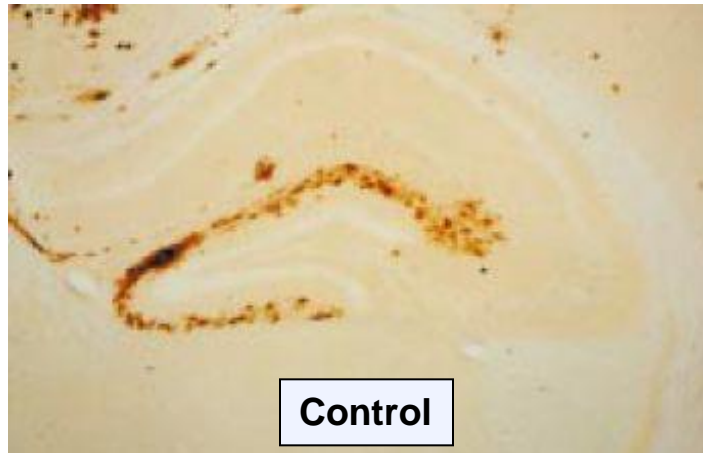
These therapies are able to reduce amyloid load in humans

Humans



(Holmes et al, 2008)

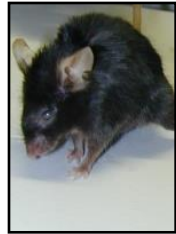
Mice



(Schenk et al, 1999)

→ Effect on the target
→ No effect on clinical outcome

Different origin of cognitive alterations in animals and humans



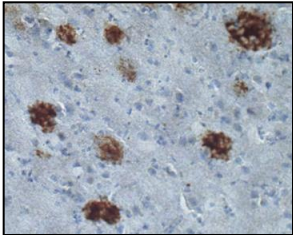
Animal

Cognitive alterations
(non homologous
To human alterations)

oligomers

Lack of Tau

Amyloid



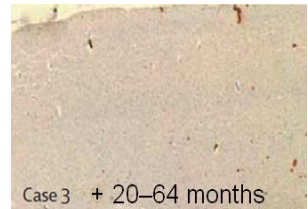
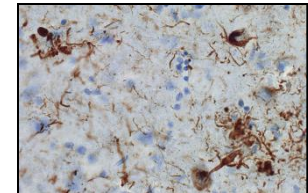
~~Homol~~
~~Predictive~~

Homme

Cognitive alterations

Tau

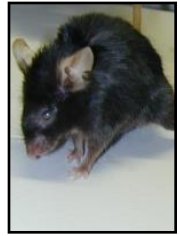
Amyloid



Homol
Predictive

Case 3 + 20-64 months

Biomarkers and animal/human comparisons



Animal

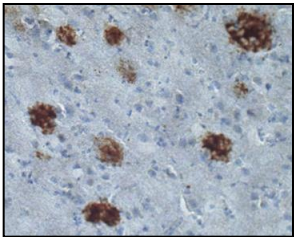
Cognitive alterations
(not homologous
To human alterations)

Atrophy

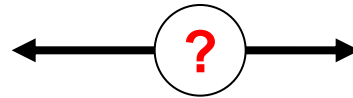
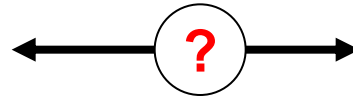
Functional
alterations

Lack of Tau

Amyloid



~~Homol
Predictive~~



Homol
Predictive

Human

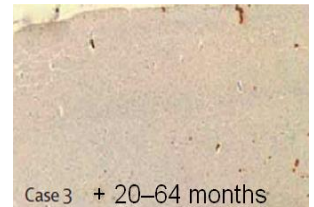
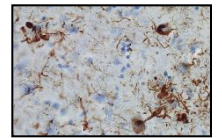
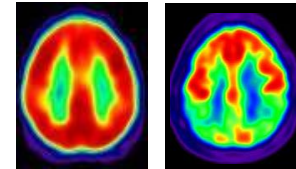
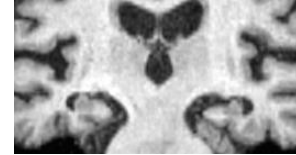
Cognitive alterations

Atrophy

Functional
alterations

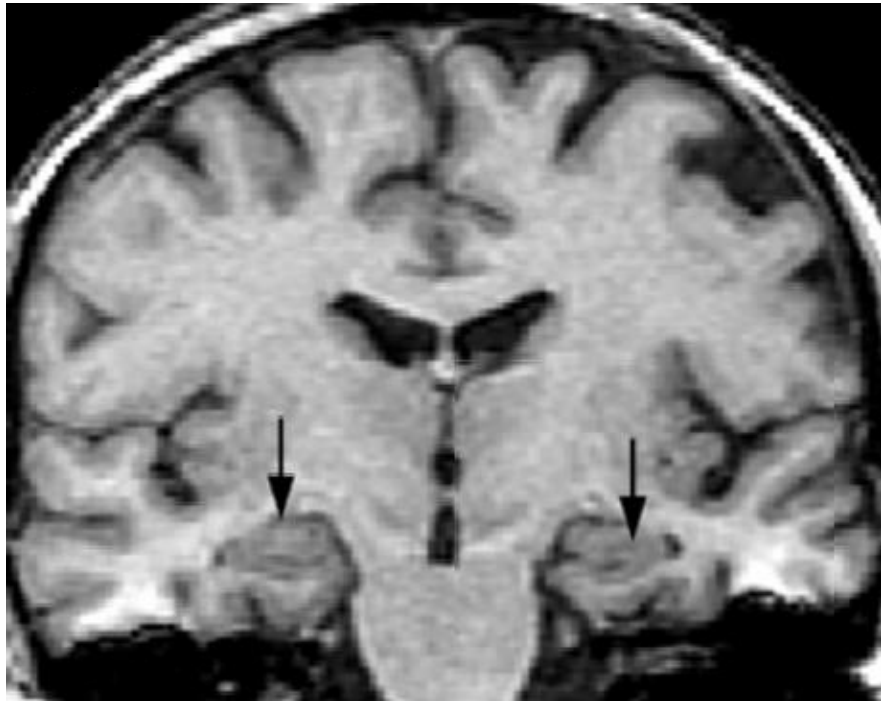
Tau

Amylod



Case 3 + 20-64 months

Cerebral atrophy in humans with Alzheimer



Normal aging



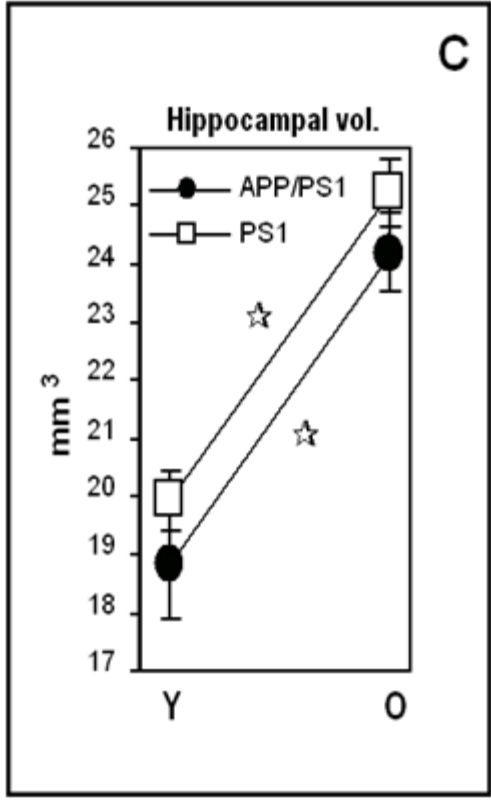
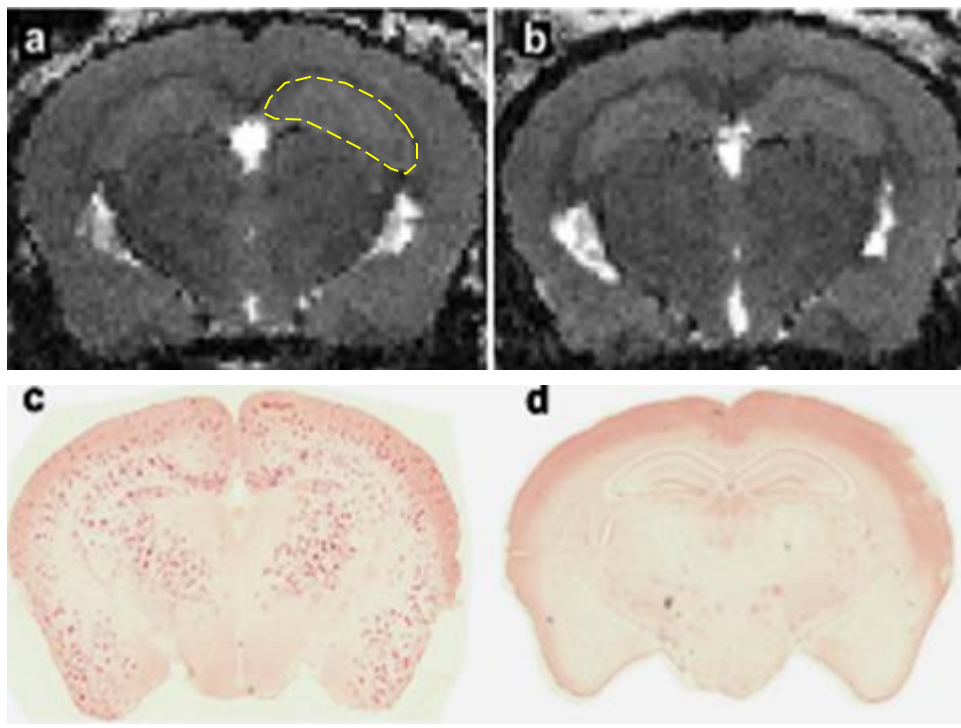
Alzheimer

Starts in the hippocampus then spreads all over the brain



Evaluation of cerebral atrophy in animal models of AD

Cerebral atrophy in transgenic mouse model of amyloidosis



Brain and hippocampal growth
even in the presence of amyloid deposits...

Cerebral atrophy

Animal



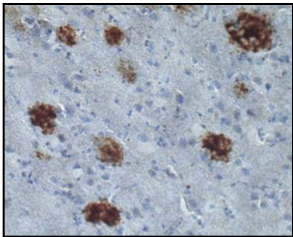
Cognitive alterations
(not homologous
To human alterations)

Atrophy

Functional
alterations

Lack of Tau

Amyloid



Human



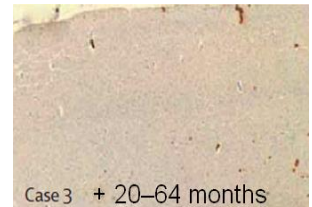
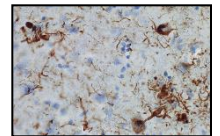
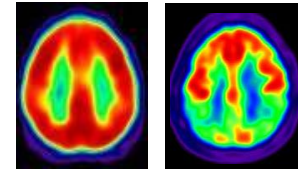
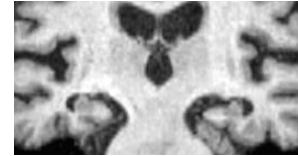
Cognitive alterations

Atrophy

Functional
alterations

Tau

Amyloid



~~Homol
Predictive~~

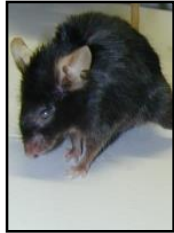
~~Homol
Predictive~~

Homol
Predictive

Functional alterations ?

Animal

Human



Cognitive alterations
(not homologous
To human alterations)

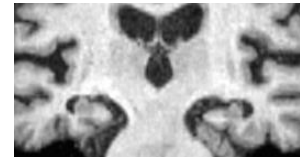
Cognitive alterations

~~Homol
Predictive~~

Atrophy

Atrophy

~~Homol
Predictive~~

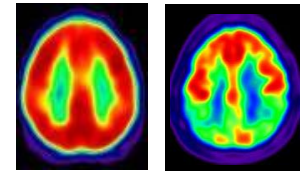


Functional alterations

Functional alterations

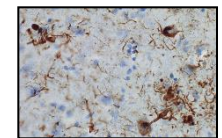
Perfusion MRI

FDG Pet



Lack of Tau

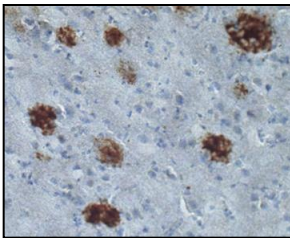
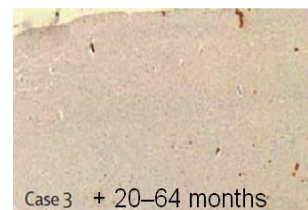
Tau



Amyloid

Amyloid

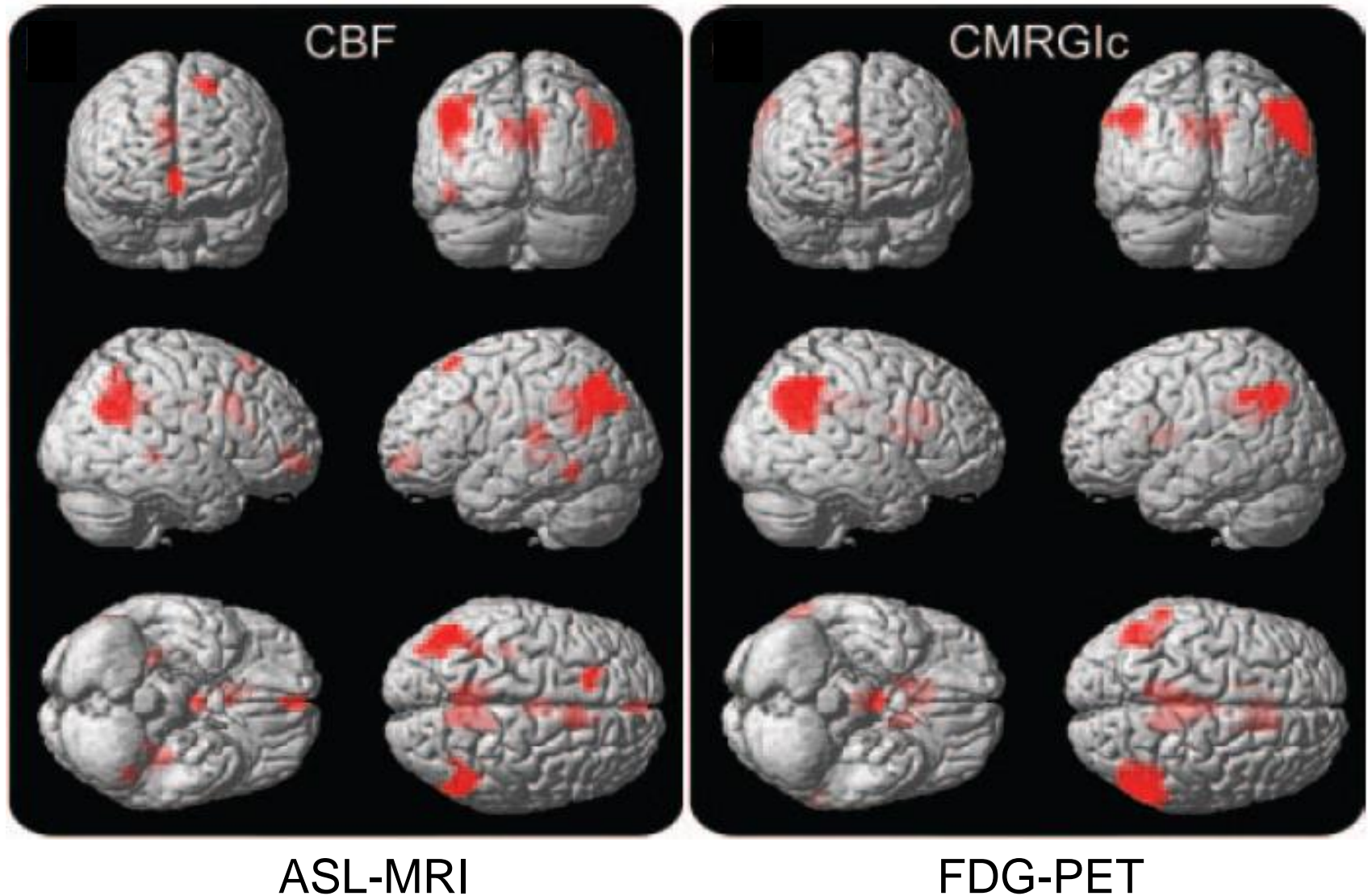
Homol
Predictive



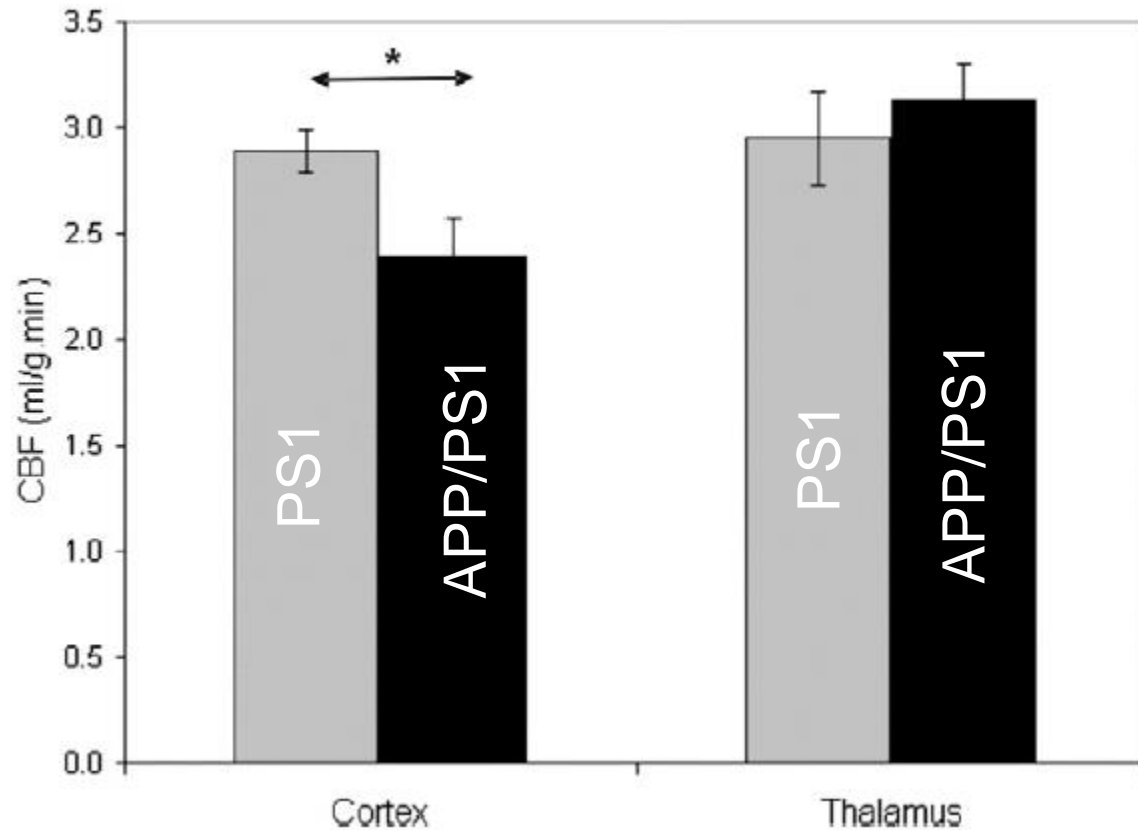
Case 3 + 20-64 months

Perfusion measurements from MRI

ASL-MRI provides overlapping information with FDG-PET

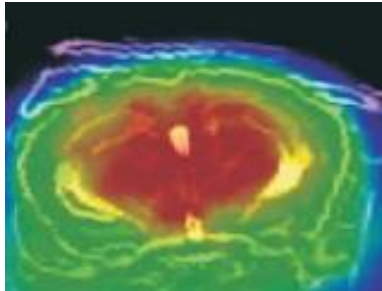


Effects of amyloid on cerebral perfusion?

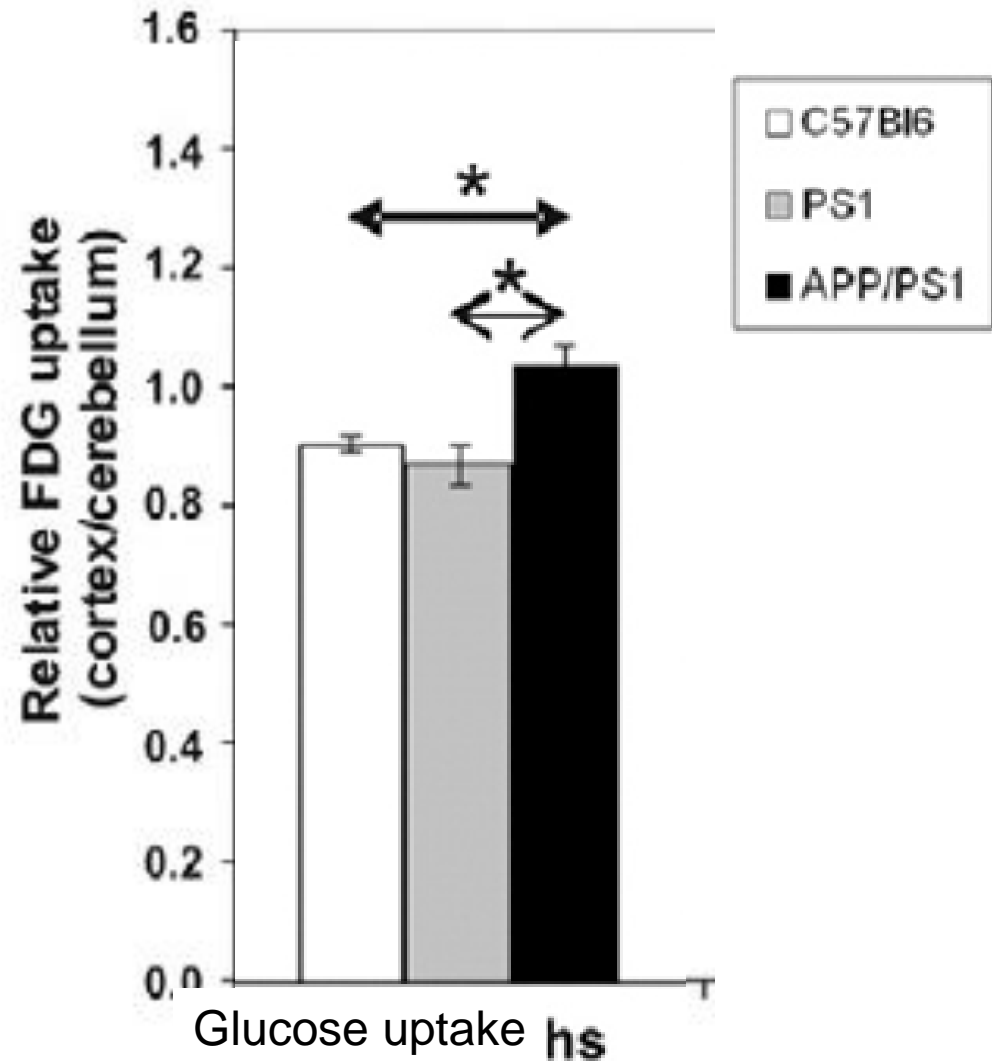


Amyloid induce cortical hypoperfusion

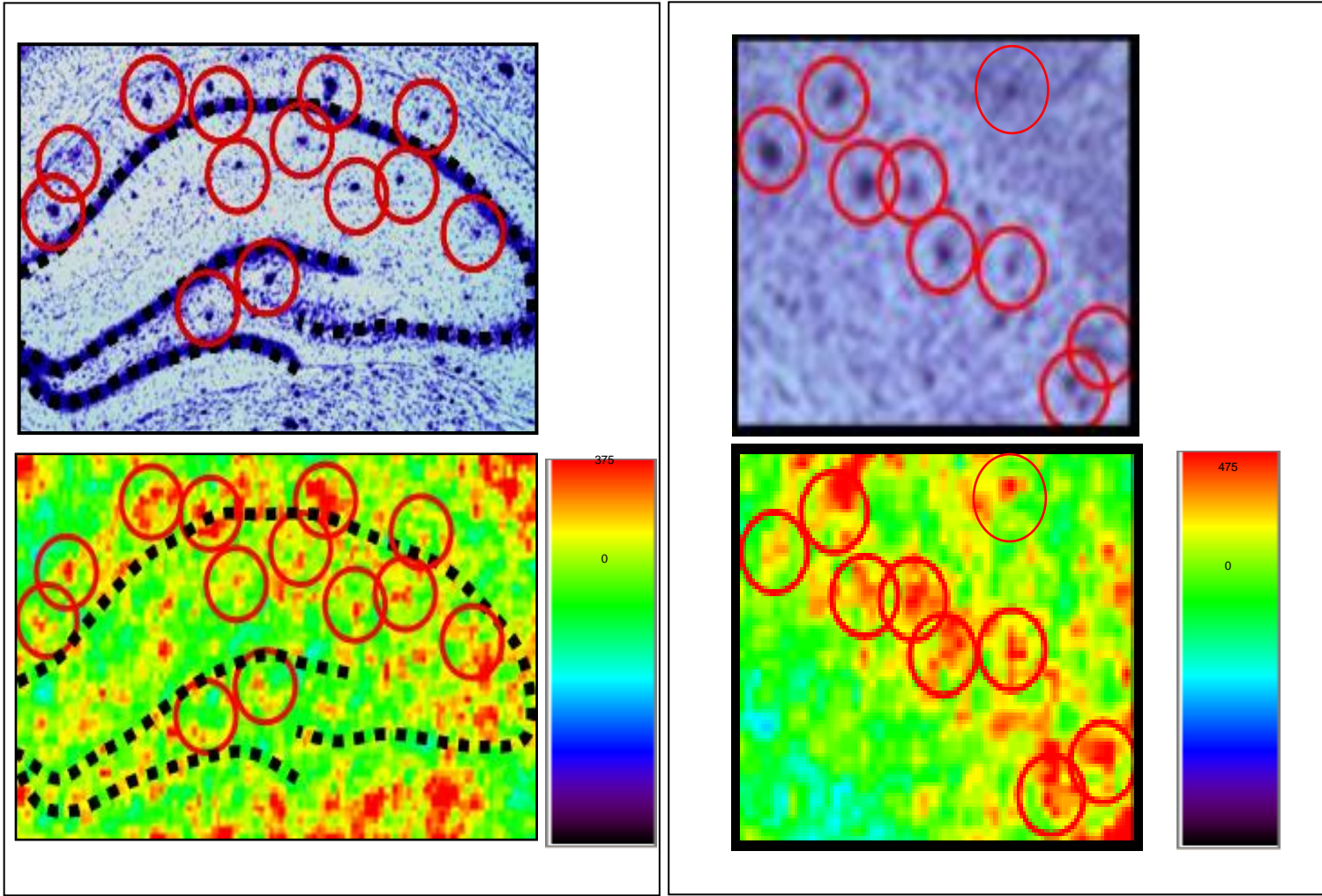
Dissociation between perfusion and glucose uptake in mouse models of amyloidosis



PET-FDG



Increased glucose uptake in regions surrounding amyloid plaques in mice



2DG autoradiography

MR Imaging from bench to bed... (maybe)

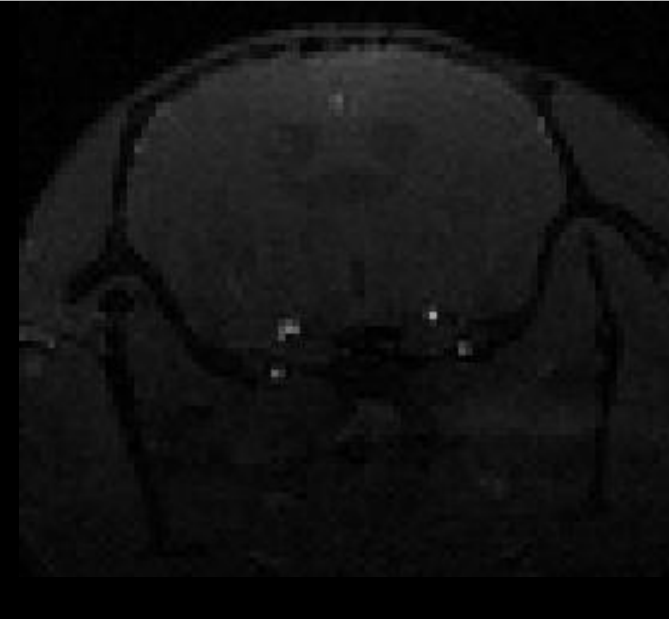
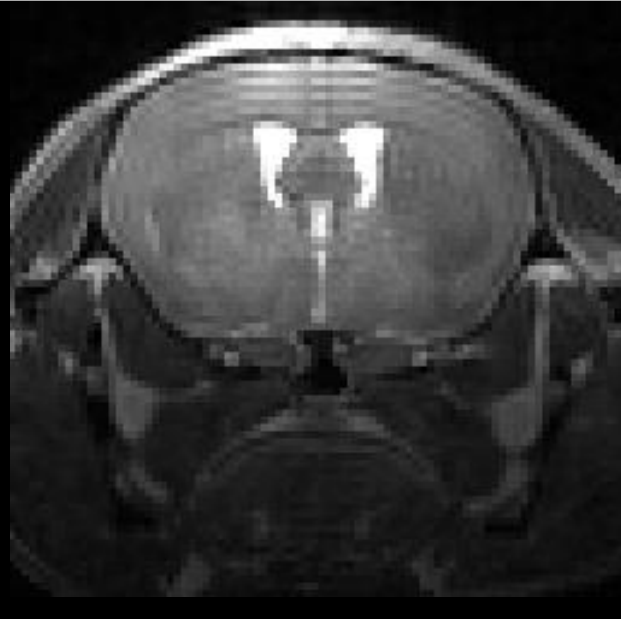
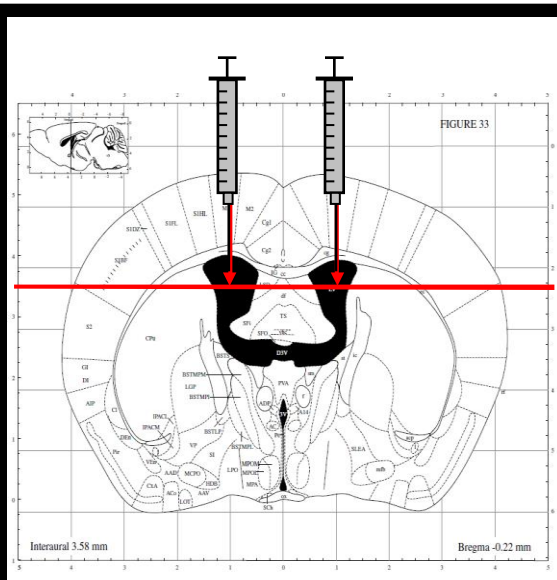


In vivo Gadolinium-Staining method

- Intra-cerebro-ventricular (ICV) administration of Gadolinium contrast agent
 - ❖ Commonly used procedure in experimental research

ICV-Gd-Staining

Control



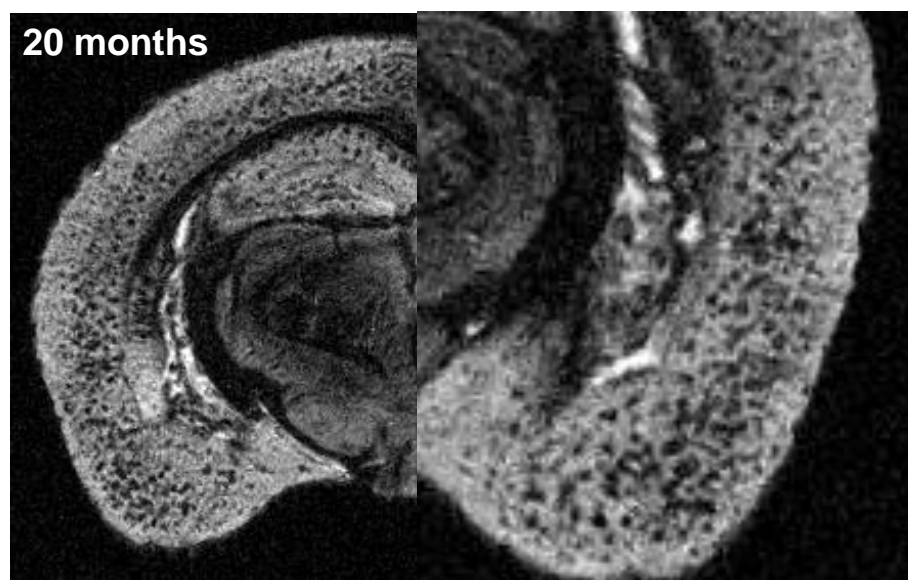
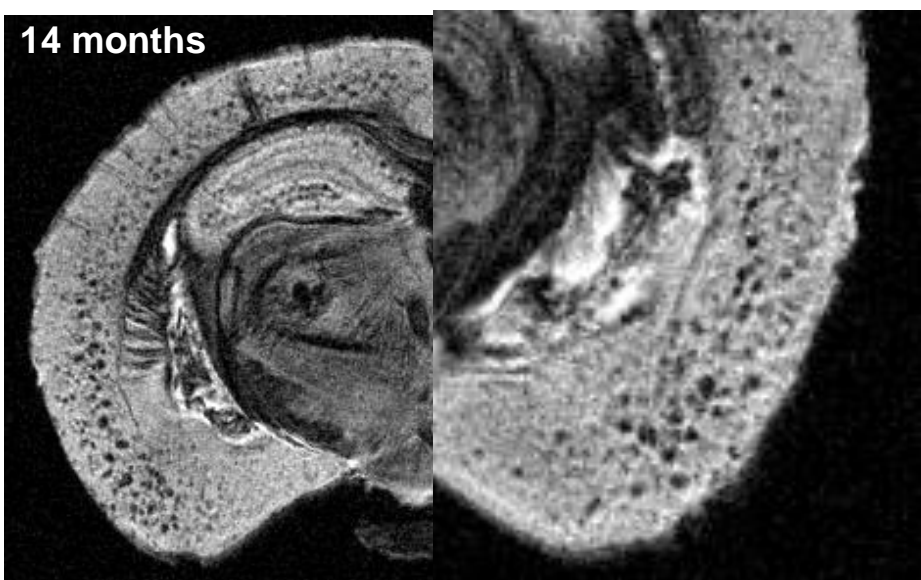
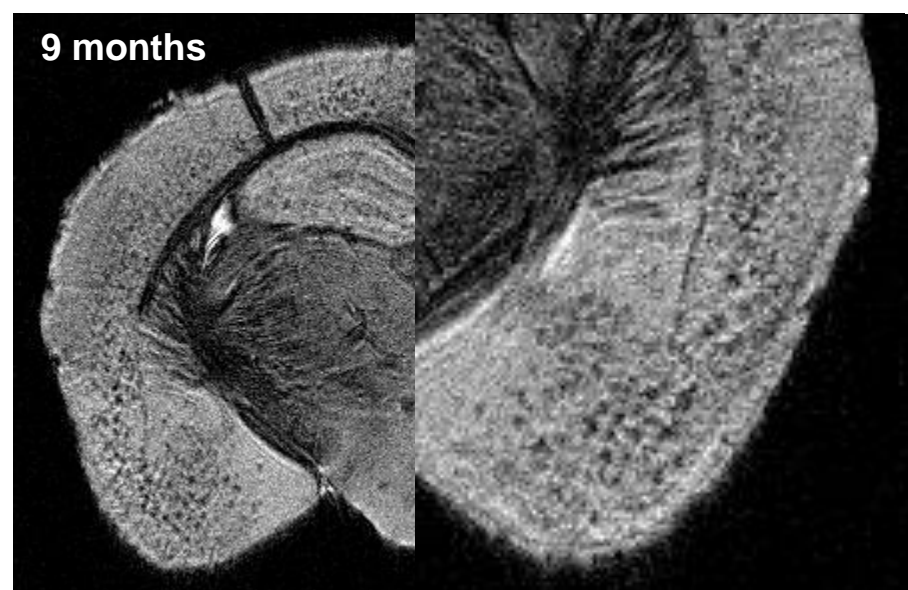
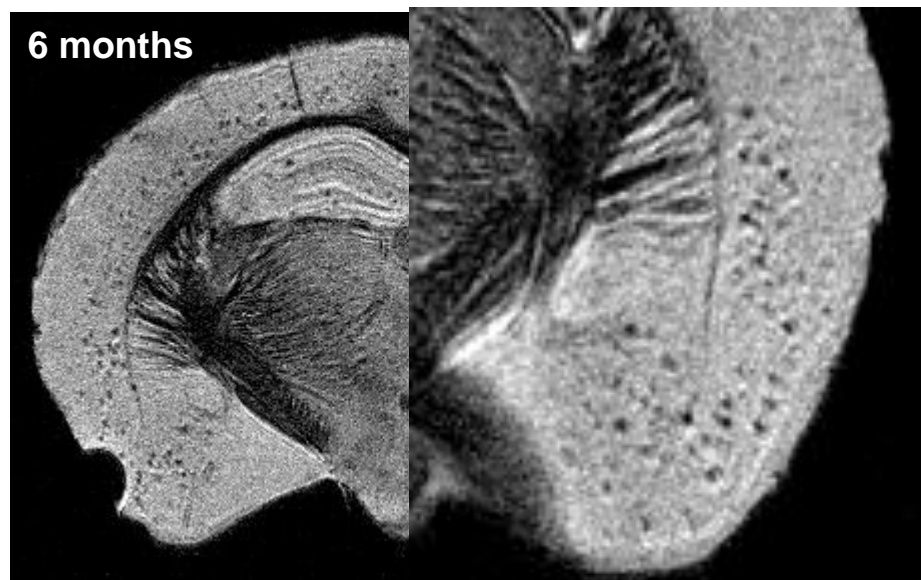
- Diffusion of Gadolinium in the brain
- Increased signal to noise ratio

Detection of amyloid plaques thanks to non targeted contrast agents



- Increase the signal in the brain
 - ❖ Allow to record images with a better resolution or faster
- Increase the contrast between amyloid plaques and the parenchyma

Detection of amyloid plaques by MR microscopy

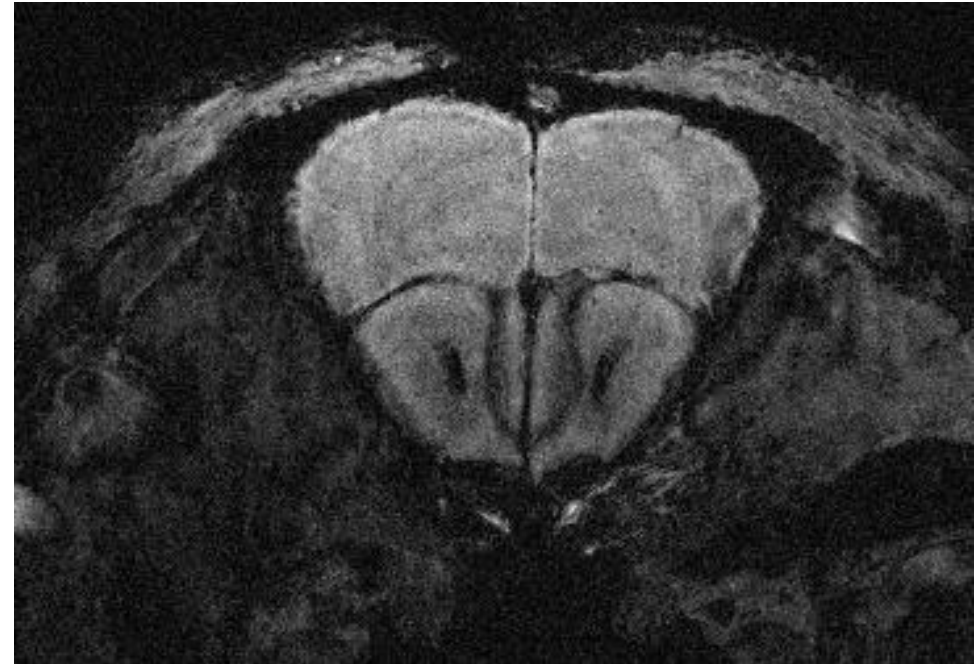


In-vivo follow-up of amyloid load

Detection of amyloid plaques by "*In-vivo* Gadolinium staining"



APP/PS1



Control

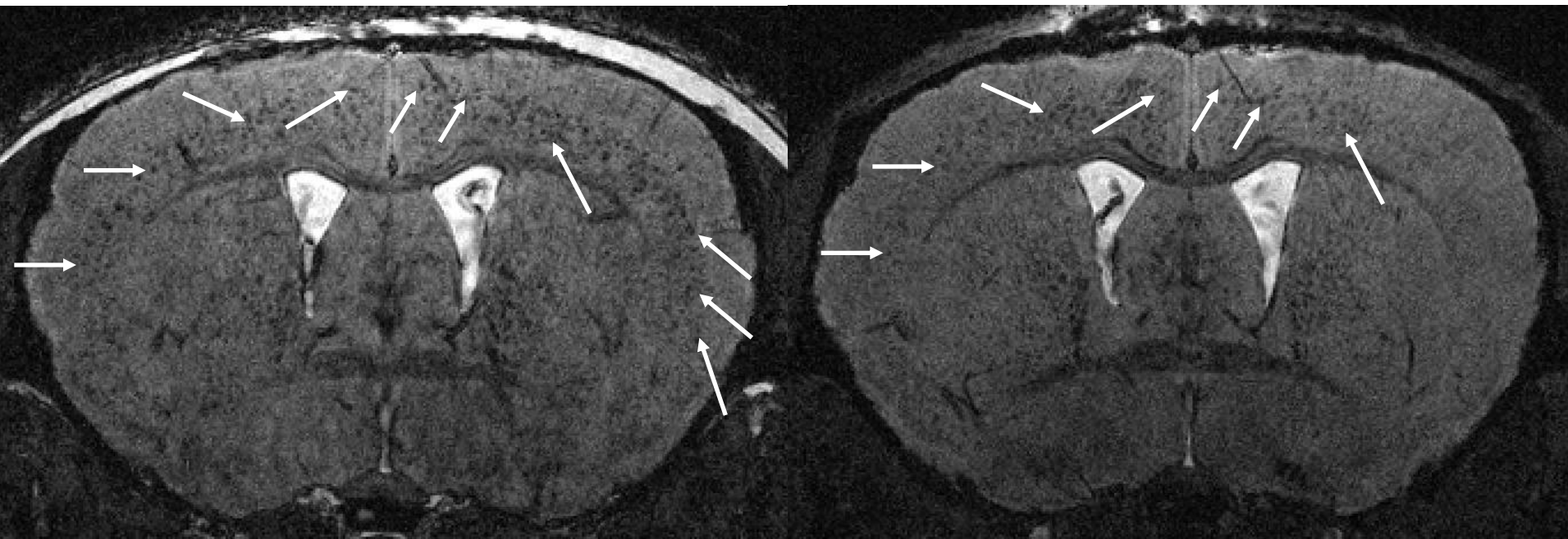
$29*29*117 \mu\text{m}^3$
Acq Time can be 32 min

How to by-pass the blood brain barrier after IV injection?

- Opening of the blood brain barrier thanks to ultrasounds and microbubbles
 - ❖ *Hynynen K. et al. Noninvasive MR imaging-guided focal opening of the blood-brain barrier in rabbits. Radiology 2001, 220, 640-6.*



Comparison with ICV-Gd staining



US-Gd-Staining

ICV-Gd-Staining

Conclusion



- Do not use the term "animal model of Alzheimer's disease"
 - ❖ Prefer "model of amyloidosis"
- Do not limit exploration of animal models to phenotypes
 - ❖ Endophenotypes, revealed by biomarkers are critical
- Accept and assume that clinical outcome can not be predicted with current models
- Possibility to detect amyloid plaques by MRI

Magritte



Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

Ceci n'est pas un patient

Ceci n'est pas une souris



Ceci est une cible

Merci ...