

Contribution of neuropathology to the diagnosis of dementias

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Disclosure slide

- Nothing to disclose
- No conflict of interest

Neuropathology and dementia

- Neurodegenerative disorders
- Vascular disease
- Inflammatory and infectious conditions
- Toxic-metabolic causes
- Miscellaneous causes: trauma, neoplasia, normal pressure hydrocephalus

Geographical area

Age group of patients

Focus of the neurology department/outpatient clinic

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Learning objectives

1. Definition of neurodegenerative diseases
2. Understanding the concepts of classification of neurodegenerative diseases
3. Neuropathological features of major disease-entities
4. Clinicopathological correlation
5. The concept of concomitant pathologies

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1

Definition of neurodegenerative diseases

- Neurodegenerative disorders are characterised by regionally distinct neuronal loss and astrogliosis, **and**
- Deposition of proteins** with altered physicochemical properties

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graph TD
    A[Deposition of proteins] --> B[EXTRACELLULAR]
    A --> C[INTRACELLULAR]
    C --> D["Cytoplasmic/Cell process  
or Intranuclear"]
    C --> E["Not only neurons  
but also in glial cells"]
  
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2

Classification

- Clinical
- Anatomical predominance of neuronal degeneration
- Predominant protein
- Localisation in the CNS: intra-, extracellular, subcellular and cell-type specific differences

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2

Clinical presentations

- Alzheimer-type dementia
- Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- Dementia/FTD associated with movement disorder
- Rapidly progressive dementia

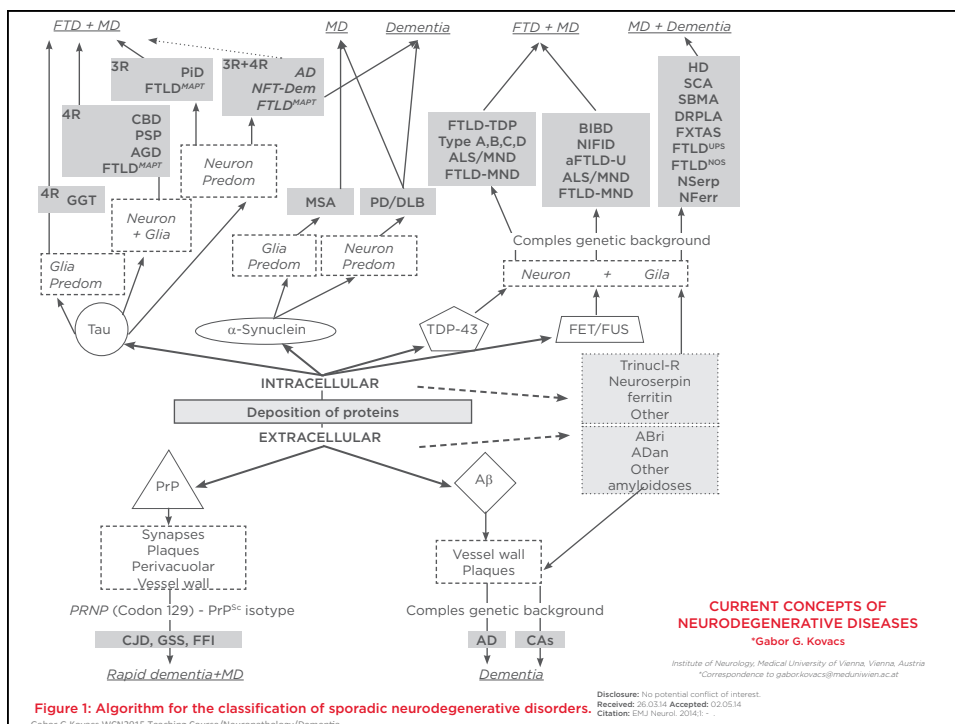
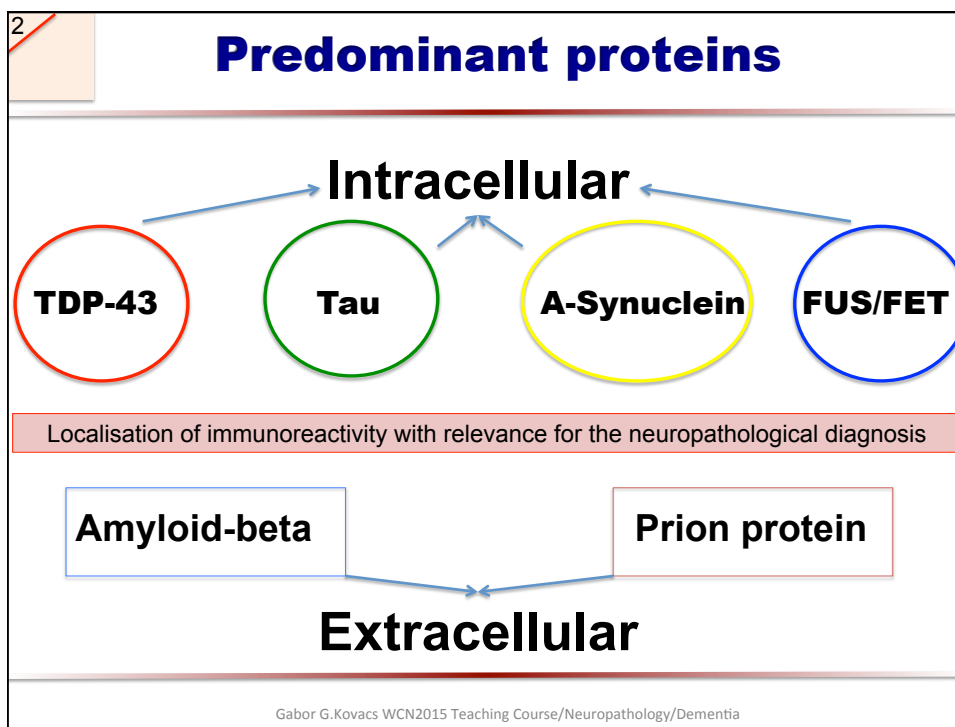
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2

Clinical presentations Anatomical predominance

Alzheimer type dementia Entorhinal Cx-Hippocampus-Medial temporal lobe-Neocortex	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral variant of FTD (bvFTD) → Prefrontal and anterior temporal regions atrophic • Semantic dementia (SD) → Temporal regions atrophic • Progressive non-fluent aphasia (PNFA) → Dominant frontotemporal region atrophic • Logopenic progressive aphasia (LPA) • FTD and corticobasal syndrome (CBS) • FTD and progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) • FTD and parkinsonism • FTD and motor neuron disease (MND) → Fronto-temporal + Subcortical regions 	<p>FTD (clinical)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>FTLD (macroscopy/MRI)</p>
Rapid dementia-Prion disease Neocortex + Subcortical regions (Hippocampus spared)	

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3.1 Definition of Alzheimer's disease

- Neuronal/Synaptic loss in anatomical areas that are important for memory and cognition

+

- Neurofibrillary degeneration (intracellular-tau protein)

Hematoxin-Eosin *Bielschowsky silver* *Immunostaining for phospho-Tau ("maturation")*

"Senile plaques" (beta-amyloid protein)

Hematoxin-Eosin *Bielschowsky silver* *Immunostaining for A-beta*

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3.1 Neuropathological diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

Semiquantitative score of "neuritic plaques" (silver staining)-CERAD criteria
+
Immunostaining for A-beta: phases of plaque deposition (Thal et al.)
+
Stages of neurofibrillary degeneration (Braak & Braak stages)

↓

Acta Neuropathol (2012) 123:1–11
DOI 10.1007/s00401-011-0910-3

CONSENSUS PAPER

National Institute on Aging–Alzheimer's Association guideline for the neuropathologic assessment of Alzheimer's disease: a practical approach

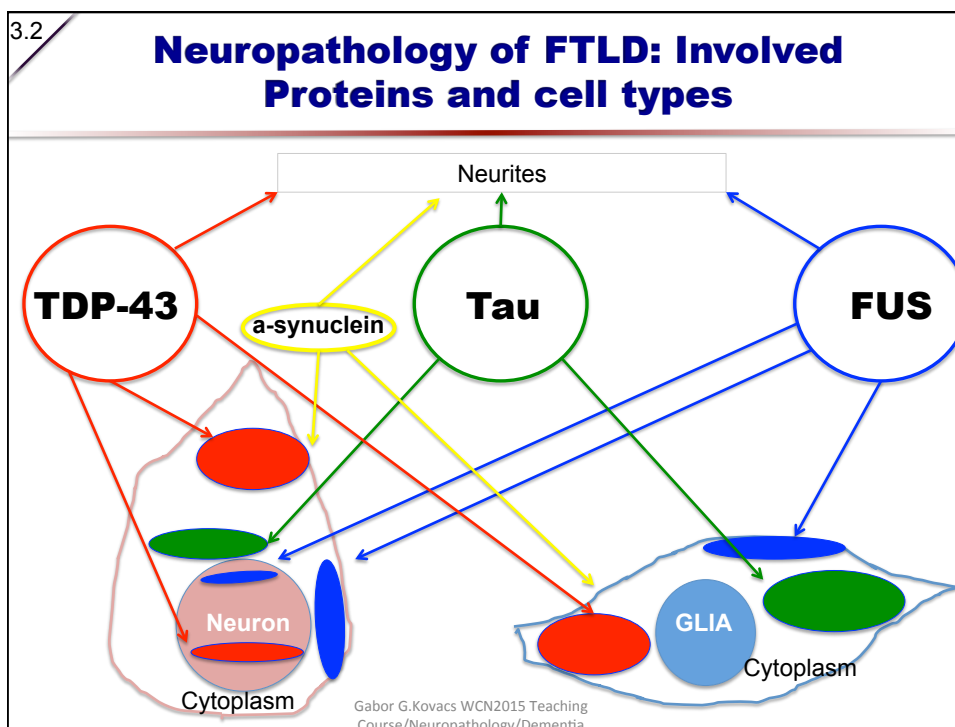
Thomas J. Montine · Creighton H. Phelps · Thomas G. Beach · Eileen H. Bigio · Nigel J. Cairns · Dennis W. Dickson · Charles Duyckaerts · Matthew P. Frosch · Eliezer Masliah · Suzanne S. Mirra · Peter T. Nelson · Julie A. Schneider · Dietmar Rudolf Thal · John Q. Trojanowski · Harry V. Vinters · Bradley T. Hyman

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Table 2 "ABC" score for AD neuropathologic change

"A"	Thal Phase for Aβ plaques [57]	"B"	Braak and Braak NFT stage [14,15]	"C"	CERAD neuritic plaque score [41]
0	0	0	None	0	None
1	1 or 2	1	I or II	1	Sparse
2	3	2	III or IV	2	Moderate
3	4 or 5	3	V or VI	3	Frequent

AD neuropathologic change		B ^a		
A ^b	C ^c	0 or 1	2	3
0	0	Not ^d	Not ^d	Not ^d
1	0 or 1	Low	Low	Low ^e
	2 or 3 ^f	Low	Intermediate	Intermediate ^g
2	Any C	Low ^h	Intermediate	Intermediate ^g
	0 or 1	Low ^h	Intermediate	Intermediate ^g
3	2 or 3	Low ^h	Intermediate	High

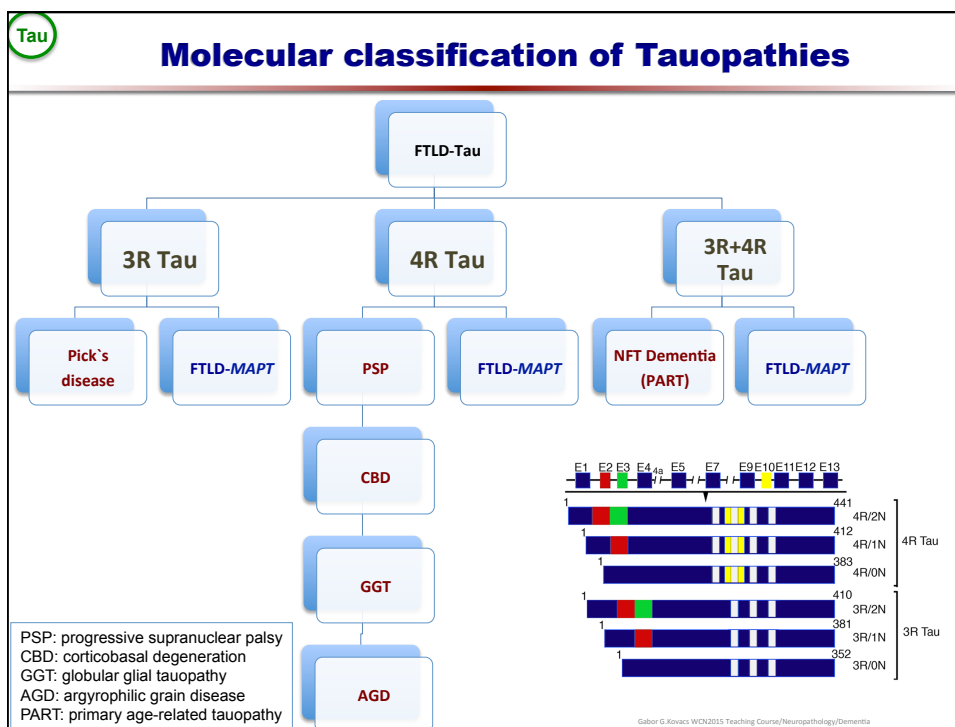


Tau

Neuropathological phenotypes: Tauopathies

- Pick`s disease (FLTD-Tau with Pick bodies)
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Corticobasal degeneration
- Globular glial tauopathies
- FTLD with MAPT mutations
- *Argyrophilic grain disease*
- *NFT dementia*

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Pick's Disease: Summary

Neuronal predominant tau pathology

Frontotemporal cortical and hippocampus involvement

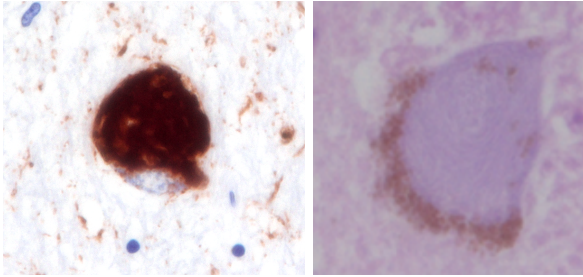
3R tauopathy

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PSP: neuropathology

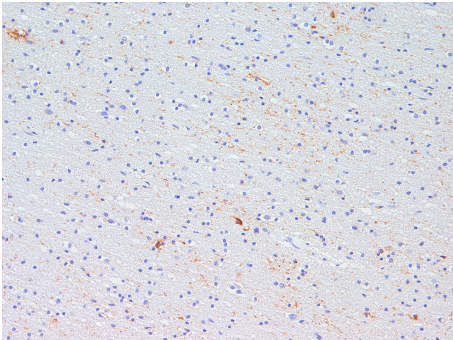
Neuronal lesions

Globose neurofibrillary tangle



Threads

Cortex
&
White matter

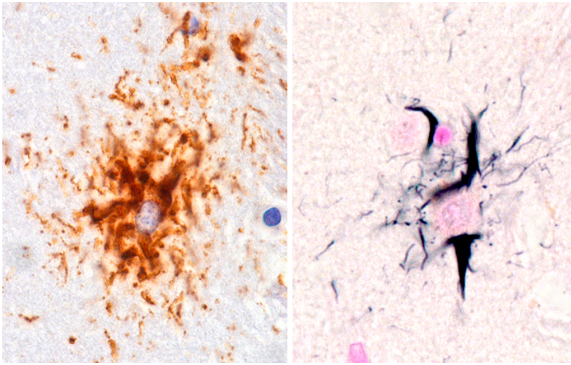


PSP: neuropathology

Glial immunoreactivity

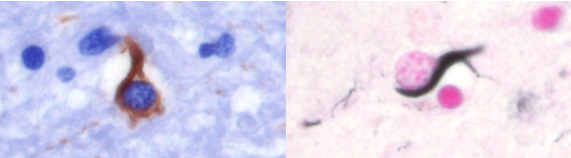
Astrocyte

TUFTED ASTROCYTE



Oligodendroglia

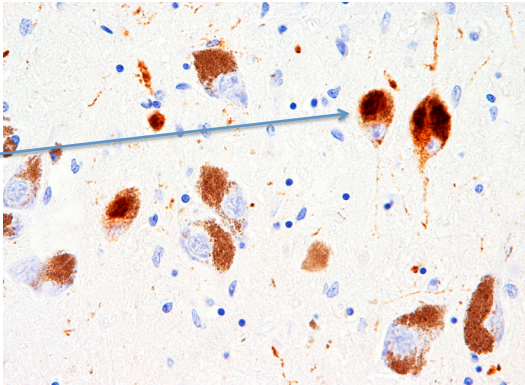
COILED BODY



CBD: neuropathology

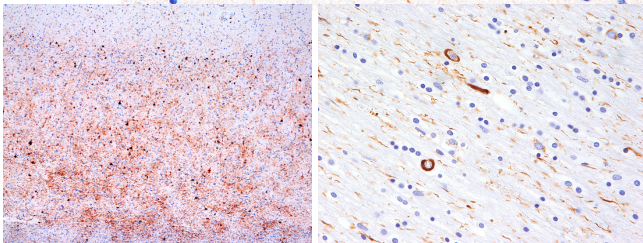
Neuronal lesions

Small spherical inclusions („CBD bodies“)
&
Diffuse granular cytoplasmic
Tau immunoreactivity



Threads

Cortex
White matter

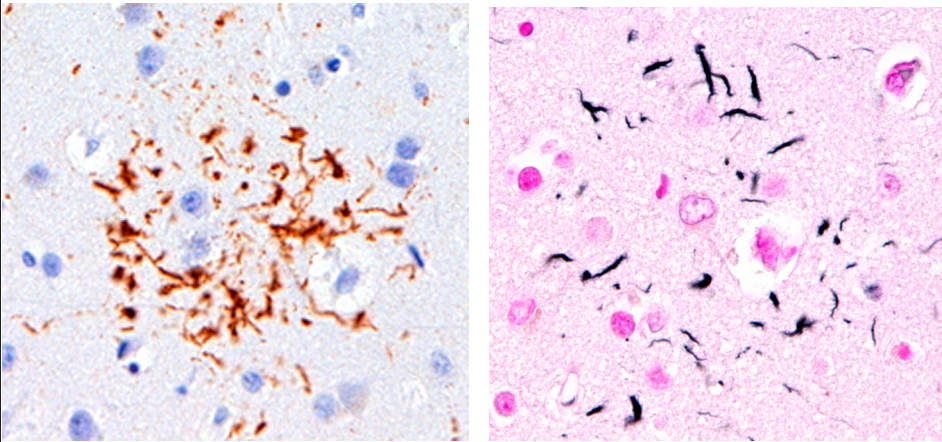


The top image shows a high-magnification view of neurons with brown-stained cytoplasmic inclusions and diffuse granular cytoplasmic tau immunoreactivity. A blue arrow points from the text 'Small spherical inclusions („CBD bodies“)' to one of these inclusions. The bottom-left image shows a low-magnification view of the cortex with brown-stained threads. The bottom-right image shows a low-magnification view of the white matter with brown-stained threads.

CBD: neuropathology

Glial immunoreactivity

Astrocyte: ASTROCYTIC PLAQUE



The left image shows a high-magnification view of an astrocytic plaque, characterized by a dense, brown-stained mass of astrocytes. The right image shows a low-magnification view of an astrocytic plaque, characterized by a dense, pink-stained mass of astrocytes.

Tau **Globular Glial Tauopathies: Summary**

- Recent studies have highlighted a group of 4-repeat (4R) tauopathies that are characterised neuropathologically by widespread, globular glial inclusions (GGIs).
- These cases are associated with a range of clinical presentations, which correlate with the severity and distribution of underlying tau pathology and neurodegeneration.
- Significant degeneration of the white matter is a feature of all GGT subtypes.
- Three (I-III) subtypes are recognized

Acta Neuropathol
DOI 10.1007/s00401-013-1171-0
CONSENSUS PAPER

Globular glial tauopathies (GGT): consensus recommendations

Zeshan Ahmed · Eileen H. Bigio · Herbert Budka · Dennis W. Dickson · Isidro Ferrer · Bernardino Ghetti · Giorgio Giaccone · Kimmo J. Haltia · Janice L. Holton · Keith A. Joseph · James Powers · Salvatore Spina · Hiroshi Takahashi · Charles L. White III · Tamas Revesz · Gabor G. Kovacs

Molecular
↓
Molecular subtypes
↓
Pathological entity
↓
Pathological subtypes
↓
Clinical spectrum

Tauopathies
↓
3+4 repeat 4-repeat 3-repeat
↓ ↓ ↓
CBD PSP GGT FTLD-MAPT AGD
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Type I Type III Type II Others?
↓ ↓ ↓
FTD FTD & MND MND
+/- extrapyramidal features

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Tau **Argyrophilic Grain Disease**

Gallyas silver staining **AT8 tau staining**

Stage I
A
Stage II
B
Stage III
C


More neuronal and less glial tau pathology

Limbic system involvement

4R tauopathy

Saito et al. JNEN 2004; 63: 911-918

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PART/NFT-dementia

Acta Neuropathol (2014) 128:755–766
DOI 10.1007/s00401-014-1494-0

CONSENSUS PAPER


Primary age-related tauopathy (PART): a common pathology associated with human aging

John F. Cray · John Q. Trojanowski · Julie A. Schneider · Jose F. Abisambra · Erin L. Abner · Irina Alafuzoff · Steven E. Arnold · Johannes Attems · Thomas G. Beach · Eileen H. Bigio · Nigel J. Cairns · Dennis W. Dickson · Martha Gearing · Leo L. Grinberg · Patrick R. Hof · Bradley T. Hyman · Kurt Jellinger · Gregory A. Jicha · Gabor G. Kovacs · David S. Knopman · Julia Kohler · Walter A. Kukull · Ian R. Mackenzie · Elzener Masliah · Ann McKee · Thomas J. Montine · Melissa F. Murray · Janna H. Nelner · Imael Santa-Maria · William W. Seeley · Alberto Serrano-Pozo · Michael L. Shelanski · Thor Stein · Masaki Takao · Dietmar R. Thal · Jonathan B. Toledo · Juan C. Troncoso · Jean Paul Vonsattel · Charles E. White 3rd · Thomas Wisniewski · Randall L. Woltjer · Masahito Yamada · Peter T. Nelson

“We propose a new term, “primary age-related tauopathy” (PART), to describe a **pathologic continuum** ranging from focally distributed neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) observed in **cognitively normal aged** individuals, through the pathology observed in **persons with dementing illnesses** that have been referred to as “tangle-predominant senile dementia” (TPSD), “tangle-only dementia”, “preferential development of NFT without senile plaques”, and “senile dementia of the neurofibrillary tangle type” (SD-NFT), among other names.“

Feature	PART (NFT dementia)	Alzheimer disease
ApoE	e3 or e2 very rare e4	frequent e4
Braak Stage (NFT)	Only up to IV	V-VI
Amyloid plaques	Virtually absent	Frequent
Amyloid angiopathy	Rare	Frequent
Glial tau pathology	Rather frequent	Rare

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Neuropathological phenotypes: TDP-43

Classification according to:

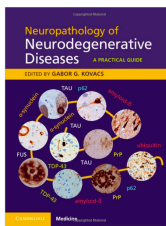
- Sampathu et al. (1,2,3)
- Mackenzie et al. (1,2,3,4)
- Consensus (A,B,C,D)

Acta Neuropathol (2011) 122:111–113
DOI 10.1007/s00401-011-0845-8

CONSENSUS LETTER

A harmonized classification system for FTL-D TDP pathology

Ian R. A. Mackenzie · Manuela Neumann · Atik Baherie · Deepak M. Sampathu · Daniel Du Plessis · Evelyn Jaros · Robert H. Perry · John Q. Trojanowski · David M. A. Mann · Virginia M. Y. Lee



Molecular pathology	Subtype	Gene
FTLD-Tau	FTD PSP CBD GCI AGD ^a NFT-dementia ^a FTLD with MAPT mutation	MAPT
FTLD-TDP	Type A Type B Type C Type D ALS-FTLD-TDP	GRN C9orf72 VCP TARDBP ^b
FTLD-FUS	sFTLD ^a NFRD ^a SIBD ^a ALS-FTLD-FUS	FUS
FTLD-LPS	FTD-3	CHMP2B
FTLD-NOS	DLBD	

Central element in the classification is the recognition of

neuritic (DN), neuronal cytoplasmic (NCI) and neuronal nuclear inclusions (NNI) in particular anatomical regions

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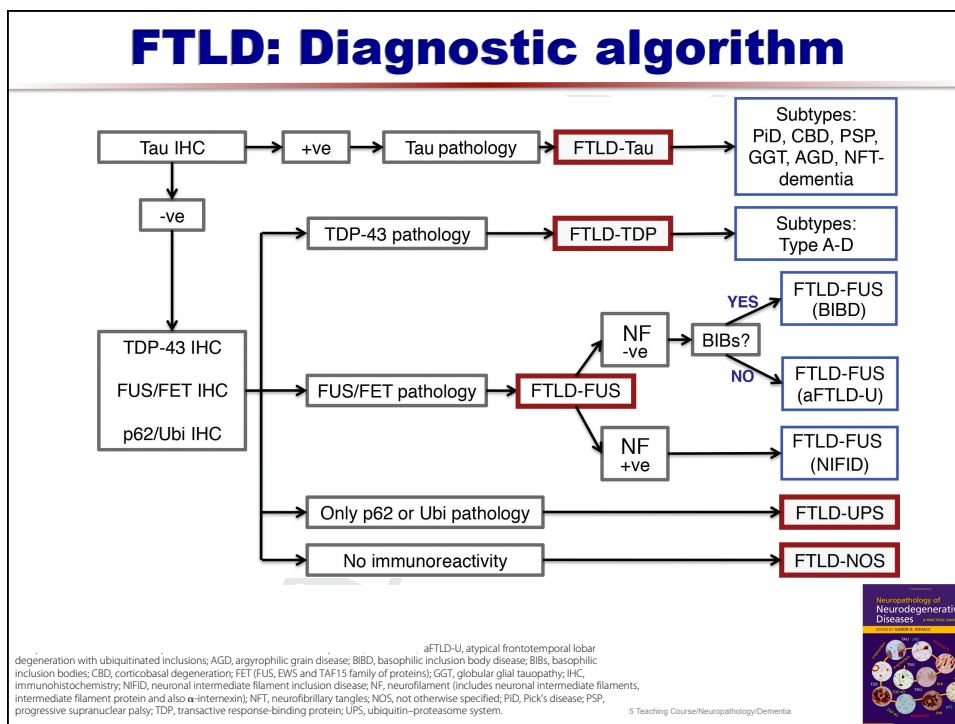
FUS

Neuropathological phenotypes: FUS proteinopathies

- Atypical FTLD-U
- Basophilic inclusion body disease
- Neuronal intermediate filament disease (*alpha-internexin and neuronal intermediate filament positive ALSO*)

These are negative for tau, a-synuclein, TDP-43
 Clinical: bvFTD and extrapyramidal symptoms (+MND)

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Clinical-molecular-pathological correlations

Acta Neuropathol (2011) 122:137–153
DOI 10.1007/s00401-011-0839-6

REVIEW

Neuropathological background of phenotypical variability in frontotemporal dementia

Keith A. Josephs · John R. Hodges · Julie S. Snowden · Ian R. Mackenzie · Manuela Neumann · David M. Mann · Dennis W. Dickson

frontiers in
AGING NEUROSCIENCE

REVIEW ARTICLE
published: 03 August 2011
doi: 10.3389/fnagi.2011.00204

Therapeutic and diagnostic challenges for frontotemporal dementia

Simon D'Alton* and Jada Lewis

Department of Neuroscience, Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease, College of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

Clinical FTD subtype	TDP-43 Type A	TDP-43 Type B	TDP-43 Type C	PSP	CBD	PiD
FTD-MND	~10%	~10%	~80%	0%	0%	0%
bvFTD	~10%	~10%	~10%	~10%	~10%	~50%
PNFA	~10%	~10%	~10%	~10%	~10%	~50%
SD	~10%	~10%	~80%	0%	0%	0%
PSPS	0%	0%	0%	~100%	0%	0%
CBS	0%	0%	0%	~10%	~10%	~80%

FIGURE 2 | Relationship between clinical FTD phenotype and underlying FTLD disease neuropathology. For each clinical subtype on the left, the bar is divided to show the approximate proportion of cases which are underpinned by the indicated disease neuropathology. Profound neuropathological heterogeneity exists for many clinical subtypes, particularly bvFTD and PNFA. This figure is based on data from Josephs et al. (2011).

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FTLD-synuclein

MSA may present clinically and pathologically as a frontotemporal lobar degeneration.

Acta Neuropathol (2015) 130:93–105
DOI 10.1007/s00401-015-1442-z

ORIGINAL PAPER

Atypical multiple system atrophy is a new subtype of frontotemporal lobar degeneration: frontotemporal lobar degeneration associated with α -synuclein

Naoya Aoki¹ · Philip J. Boyer² · Cheryl Lums³ · Wen-Liang Liu³ · Shamsuke Koga⁴ · Owen A. Ross⁵ · Myron Weiner⁶ · Anne Lipton⁶ · James M. Powers⁷ · Charles L. White III⁸ · Dennis W. Dickson⁹

Acta Neuropathol (2015) 130:295–300
DOI 10.1007/s00401-015-1455-7

CORRESPONDENCE

Screening for α -synuclein immunoreactive neuronal inclusions in the hippocampus allows identification of atypical MSA (FTLD-synuclein)

Zdenek Rohan^{1,2} · Jasmijn Rahimi³ · Serge Weik⁴ · Istvan Kapur⁵ · Eduard Andl⁶ · Nenad Mitrović⁷ · Pavel P. Liberski⁸ · Beata Sikorska⁹ · Radostar Matijević¹⁰ · Gabor G. Kovacs¹¹

Classical Papp-Lantos bodies (glial cytoplasmic inclusions)

+ neuronal α -synuclein pathology in the FT lobe and hippocampus!

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Dementia with Lewy bodies

TERM	Remark
Lewy body disease	Neuropathological term: includes all diseases
Diffuse/transitional/brainstem-predominant Lewy body disease	Neuropathological term: describes the distribution
Dementia with Lewy bodies	Clinical term: the neuropathology associated with it is mostly Lewy body disease
AD with amygdala Lewy bodies	Diagnostic category
AD with incidental Lewy bodies	Clinical and neuropathological features
Parkinson disease dementia	Clinical term; There is no gold standard for the neuropathological diagnosis of DLB or Parkinson's disease dementia

Modified from: Lowe J and Kalaria R. *Dementia*; In: Love S, Budka H, Ironside JW, Perry A: *Greenfield's Neuropathology, 9th Edition, CRC Press*

Classification of Lewy body disease

Acta Neuropathol (2012) 123:1–11
DOI 10.1007/s00401-011-0910-3

CONSENSUS PAPER

National Institute on Aging–Alzheimer's Association guidelines for the neuropathologic assessment of Alzheimer's disease: a practical approach

Thomas J. Montine · Creighton H. Phelps · Thomas G. Beach · Eileen H. Bigio · Nigel J. Cairns · Dennis W. Dickson · Charles Duyckaerts · Matthew P. Frosch · Eliezer Masliah · Suzanne S. Mirra · Peter T. Nelson · Julie A. Schneider · Dietmar Rudolf Thal · John Q. Trojanowski · Harry V. Vinters · Bradley T. Hyman

None	No LBs or related changes in IHC for α-synuclein
Brainstem-predominant	LBs in medulla, pons, or midbrain
Limbic (Transitional)	LBs in cingulate or entorhinal cortices, usually with brainstem involvement
Neocortical (Diffuse)	LBs in frontal, temporal, or parietal cortices usually with involvement of brainstem and limbic sites, which may include amygdala
Amygdala-predominant	LBs in amygdala with paucity of LBs in the above regions

Dementia with Lewy bodies

McKeith et al. Protocol-2005

Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies: Third report of the DLB consortium

I. G. McKeith, D. W. Dickson, J. Lowe, M. Emre, J. T. O'Brien, H. Feldman, J. Cummings, J. E. Duda, C. Lippa, E. K. Perry, D. Aarsland, H. Arai, C. G. Ballard, B. Boeve, D. J. Burn, D. Costa, T. Del Ser, B. Dubois, D. Galasko, S. Gauthier, C. G. Goetz, E. Gomez-Tortosa, G. Halliday, L. A. Hansen, J. Hardy, T. Iwatsubo, R. N. Kalaria, D. Kaufer, R. A. Kenny, A. Korczyn, K. Kosaka, V.M.Y. Lee, A. Lees, I. Litvan, E. Lodos, O. I. Lopez, S. Minoshima, Y. Mizuno, J. A. Molina, E. B. Muketova-Ladinska, F. Pasquier, R. H. Perry, J. B. Schulz, J. Q. Trojanowski, M. Yamada and for the Consortium on DLB
Neurology 2005;65:1863-1872; originally published online Oct 19, 2005; DOI: 10.1212/01.wnl.0000187889.17253.b1

Semiquantitative rating of Lewy body pathology

Table 2 Assignment of Lewy body type based upon pattern of Lewy-related pathology in brainstem, limbic, and neocortical regions

Lewy body type pathology	Brainstem regions			Basal forebrain/limbic regions				Neocortical regions		
	IX-X	LC	SN	nbM	Amygdala	Transentorhinal	Cingulate	Temporal	Frontal	Parietal
Brainstem-predominant	1-3	1-3	1-3	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-1	0	0	0
Limbic (transitional)	1-3	1-3	1-3	2-3	2-3	1-3	1-3	0-2	0-1	0
Diffuse neocortical	1-3	1-3	1-3	2-3	3-4	2-4	2-4	2-3	1-3	0-2

Assessment of the likelihood

Table 3 Assessment of the likelihood that the pathologic findings are associated with a DLB clinical syndrome

Lewy body type pathology	Alzheimer type pathology		
	NIA-Reagan Low (Braak stage 0–II)	NIA-Reagan Intermediate (Braak stage III–IV)	NIA-Reagan High (Braak stage V–VI)
Brainstem-predominant	Low	Low	Low
Limbic (transitional)	High	Intermediate	Low
Diffuse neocortical	High	High	Intermediate

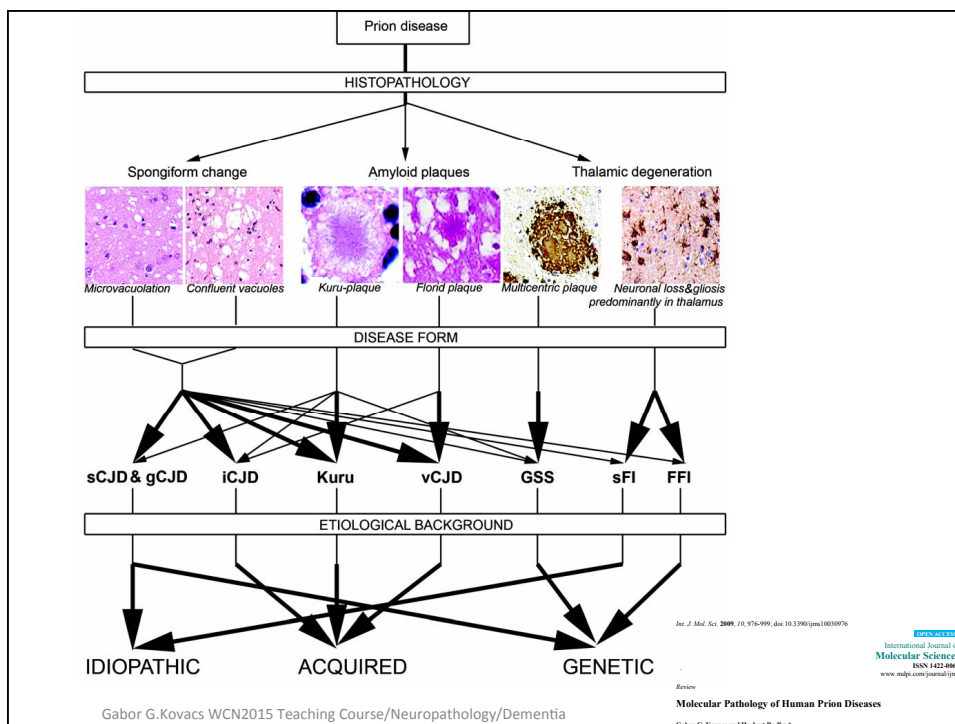
3.4

Human prion diseases

Name	Abbreviation	Etiology	Remark
Sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	sCJD	Idiopathic	Molecular subtypes
Sporadic fatal insomnia	sFI	Idiopathic	Subtype of sCJD
Variably Protease-Sensitive Prionopathy	PsPsen	Idiopathic	Novel form
Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	vCJD	Acquired	Associated with BSE
Iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	iCJD	Acquired	Associated with: Hu GH Hu GonatrophinH Dura transplant Neurosurgery Cornea transplant Deep electrodes
Kuru	Kuru	Acquired	Associated with cannibalism
Genetic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	gCJD	PRNP mutation	> 30 mutations
Fatal familial Insomnia	FFI	PRNP mutation	1 mutation
Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker disease	GSS	PRNP mutation	> 10 mutations Amyloidosis
PrP cerebral amyloid angiopathy	PrP-CAA	PRNP mutation	Vascular amyloid

I. Quadrio, A. Perret-Liaudet, G. G. Kovacs.
Molecular diagnosis of human prion disease.
Expert Opin Med Diagn.
2011;5:291-306

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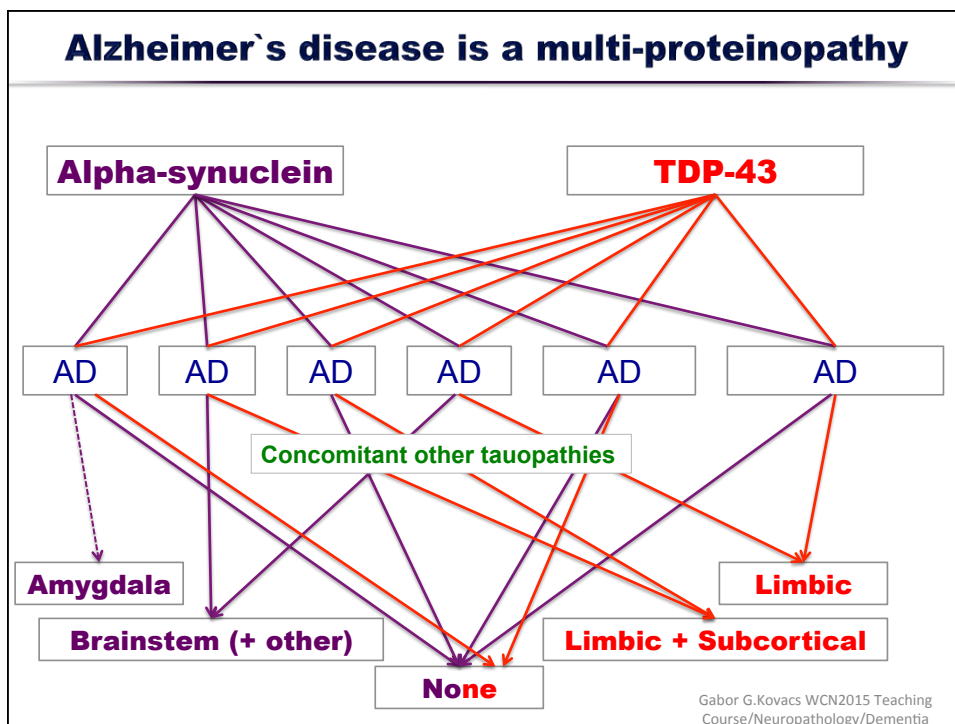
Sporadic CJD: clinicopathological / molecular subtypes

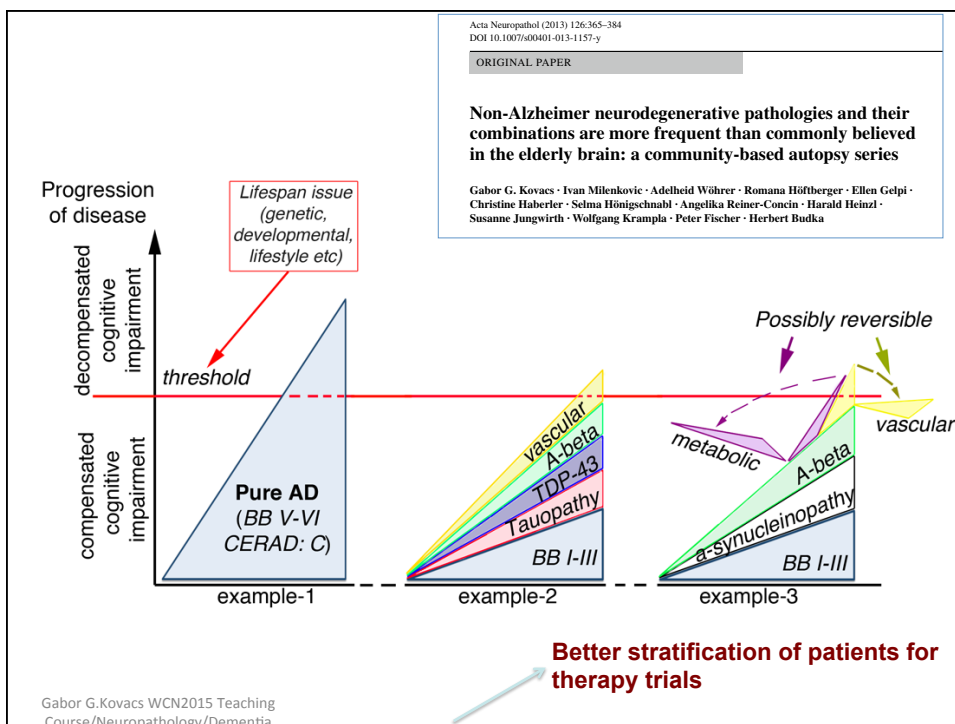
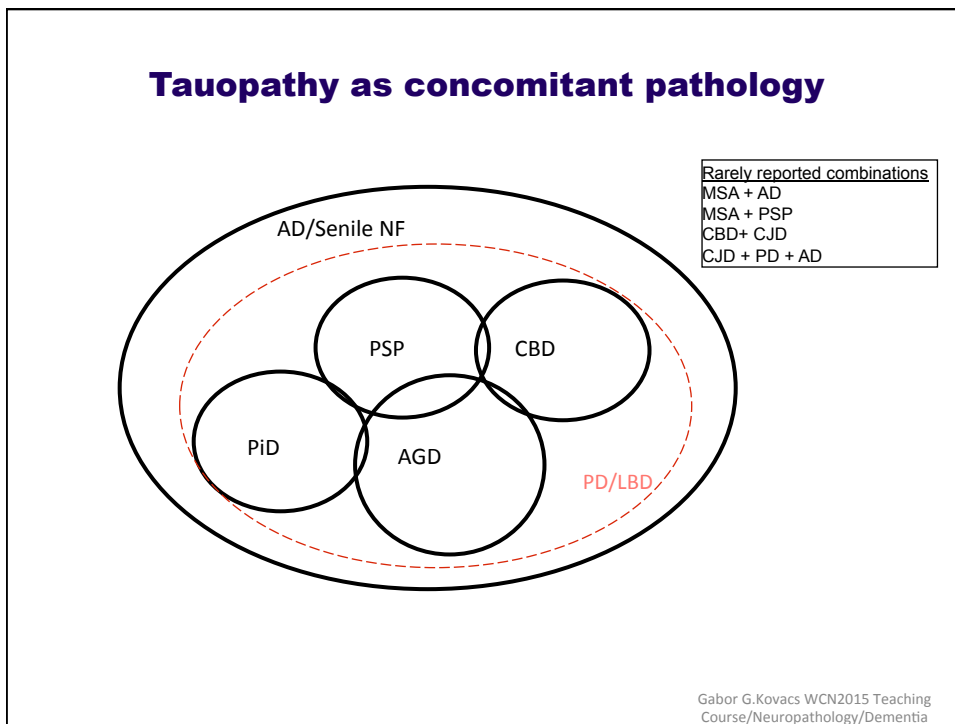
Feature/Subtype	MM-1	MV-1	MM/MV-2 C	MM-2 T	MV-2K	VV-1	VV-2
Clinical features	Rapidly progressive dementia, myoclonus, ataxia, and visual impairment		Cognitive impairment, myoclonus, and pyramidal signs	Insomnia, psychomotor hyperactivity, ataxia and motor signs	Ataxia and dementia long clinical duration	Progressive dementia with myoclonus and pyramidal signs	Ataxia at onset, dementia in later stage
Typical duration	4 (1-24) / 3,8		20 (12-36)	15,5 (8-24)	15,8 (5-48)	15,3 (14-16)	6,3 (3-18)
Age at Onset	70 (48-86)		67,8 (61-75)	52,3 (36-71)	65,4 (48-81)	39,3 (24-49)	64,5 (45-83)
14-3-3 sensitivity	91	86	61	/	71	90	95
	92	91	78	/	65	100	90
	94	100	70	/	57	100	84
MRI: signals in	BG / Cx		Widespread cortical	No typical sign	BG / thalamus	Widespread cortical	BG / thalamus
EEG	PSWCs		no PSWCs	no PSWCs	no PSWCs	no PSWCs	no PSWCs
Topography	Neocortex		Neocortex	Thalamus	Basal ganglia	Neocortex	Basal ganglia
	Basal ganglia			Inferior olives	Thalamus	Basal ganglia	Thalamus
	Cerebellum			(Atrophy)	Cerebellum		Cerebellum
					Neocortex		Cortex deep layers
					Hippocampus		Hippocampus
					Brainstem		Brainstem
Type of vacuoles	Small vacuoles		Large and confluent	Focal small in cortex	Small vacuoles	Medium sized	Small vacuoles
Amyloid plaques	No		No	No	Yes	No	No
PrP IR	Diffuse synaptic		Patchy/perivacuolar	Focal synaptic	Plaque-like	Focal synaptic	Plaque-like
					Perineuronal		Perineuronal
					Focal deposits		Focal deposits

Isabelle Quadrio, Armand Perret-Liaudet A, Gabor G. Kovacs. Molecular diagnosis of human prion disease. *Expert Opin Med Diagn.* 2011;5:291-306

Based on the polymorphic codon 129 and Western blot pattern of protease resistant PrP

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Recommended literature

- **Protein-based classification:**

Kovacs GG, Botond G, Budka H. Protein coding of neurodegenerative dementias. *Acta Neuropathol.* 2010 Apr;119(4):389-408.

- **Alzheimer's disease:**

Montine TJ, et al.; National Institute on Aging; Alzheimer's Association. National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association guidelines for the neuropathologic assessment of Alzheimer's disease: a practical approach. *Acta Neuropathol.* 2012 Jan;123(1):1-11

- **PART:**

Crary JF et al. Primary age-related tauopathy (PART): a common pathology associated with human aging. *Acta Neuropathol* (2014) 128:755–766

- **Tauopathies:**

Kovacs GG: Invited review: Neuropathology of tauopathies: principles and practice. *Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol* 2015;41:3-23.

- **Synucleinopathies**

Jellinger KA. Neuropathology of sporadic Parkinson's disease: evaluation and changes of concepts. *Mov Disord* 2012;27:8-30.

- **Update on FTLD:**

Rosa Rademakers, Manuela Neumann and Ian R. Mackenzie. Advances in understanding the molecular basis of frontotemporal dementia. *Nat. Rev. Neurol.* 2012; 8, 423–434

- **Prion disease:**

Isabelle Quadrio, Armand Perret-Liaudet A, Gabor G. Kovacs. Molecular diagnosis of human prion disease. *Expert Opin Med Diagn.* 2011;5:291-306

- **Neuropathological diagnostic approach:**

Kovacs GG, Budka H. Current concepts of neuropathological diagnostics in practice: neurodegenerative diseases. *Clin Neuropathol.* 2010;29:271-88.

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