

# Non-Motor Symptoms Associated with Parkinson Disease

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Albany Med Faculty Physicians

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# Disclosures

Nothing to disclose



“I don’t have any choice whether or not I have Parkinson’s, but surrounding that non-choice is a million other choices that I can make.”

*–Michael J. Fox*



# Importance of Non-Motor Symptoms in Parkinson disease (PD)

- Non-motor symptoms in PD can be more disabling than motor symptoms
  - Associated with poorer quality of life
  - Some non-motor symptoms are more predictive of nursing home admissions than motor symptoms

(Pfeiffer RF, *Parkinsonism and Relat Dis*, 2016)



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# Parkinson Disease Prodrome

NON-MOTOR SYMPTOMS THAT PRECEDE  
MOTOR FEATURES OF PARKINSON  
DISEASE BY MANY YEARS



Hyposmia (reduced sense of smell),  
Reduced taste



Constipation,  
Postprandial fullness

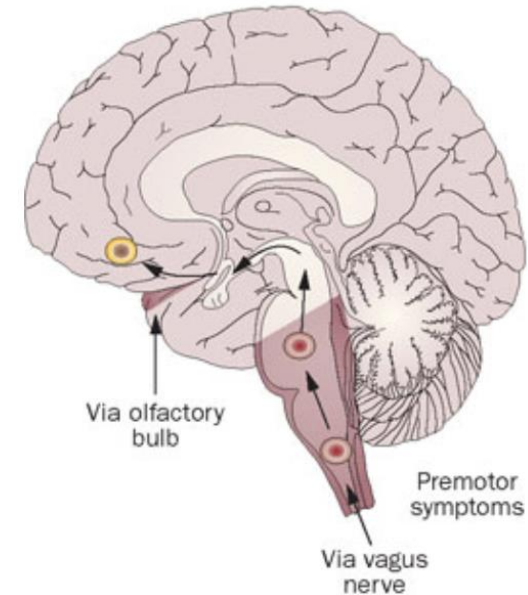


REM sleep behavioral disorder  
(acting out dreams)



Mood/personality changes

Braak stages 1 and 2  
Autonomic and olfactory  
disturbances



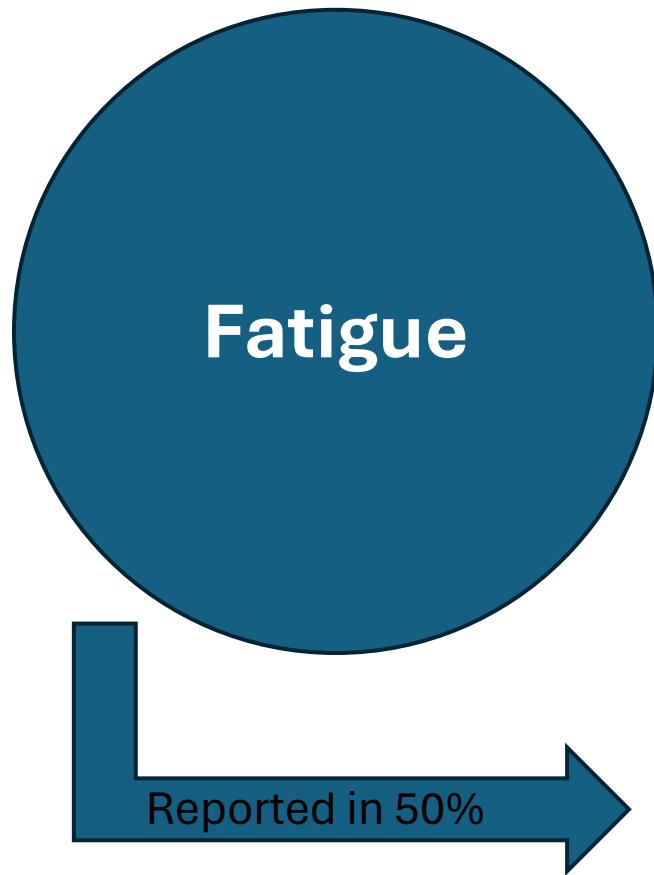
(Pont-Sunyer C et al, *Mov Dis*, 2015)



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# General symptoms

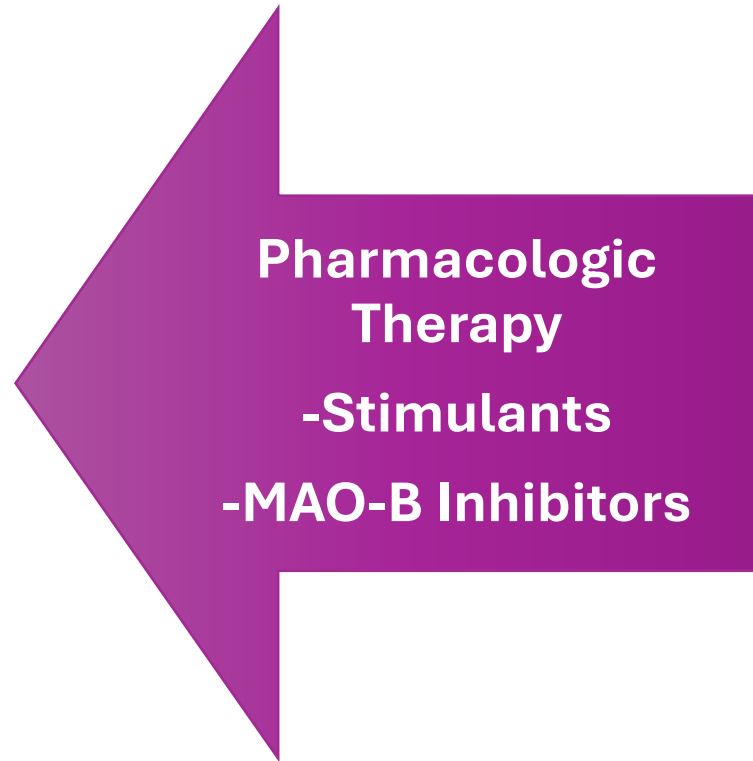
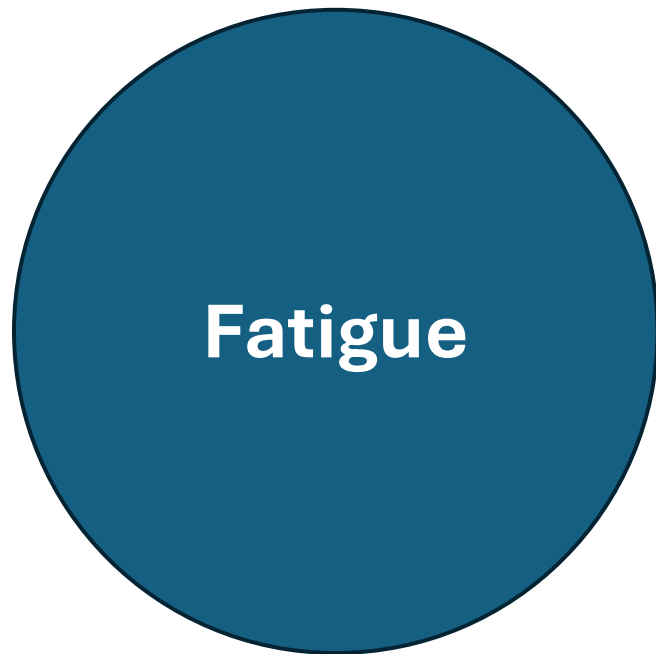




- FATIGUE SEVERITY WAS INDEPENDENT OF
  - DEPRESSION
  - COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT
  - TREATED VERSUS UNTREATED PEOPLE
- ONLY ½ OF STUDIES SHOWED A CORRELATION WITH DISEASE SEVERITY AND FATIGUE
- FATIGUE IS ASSOCIATED WITH
  - OLDER AGE
  - CO-MORBID ANXIETY
  - SLEEP DISTURBANCES

(Siciliano M et al., *Mov Dis*, 2018)









## Sensory Changes

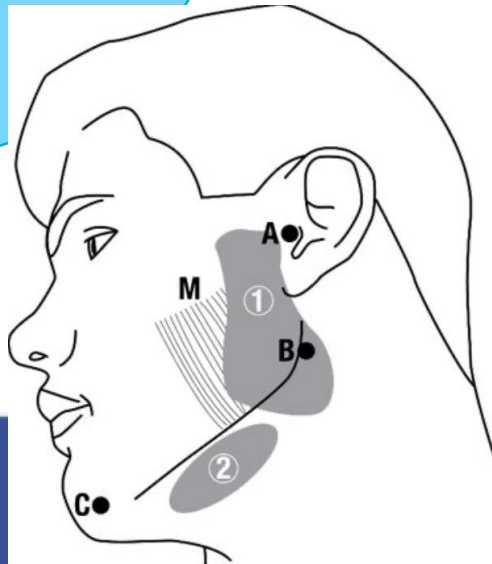
- Pain has been reported in about 75% of people with PD
  - musculoskeletal, neuropathic, dystonia-related, central parkinsonian pain, or akathitic discomfort
- Context and physical examination important for treating pain

(Pfeiffer RF, Parkinsonism and Relat Dis, 2016)



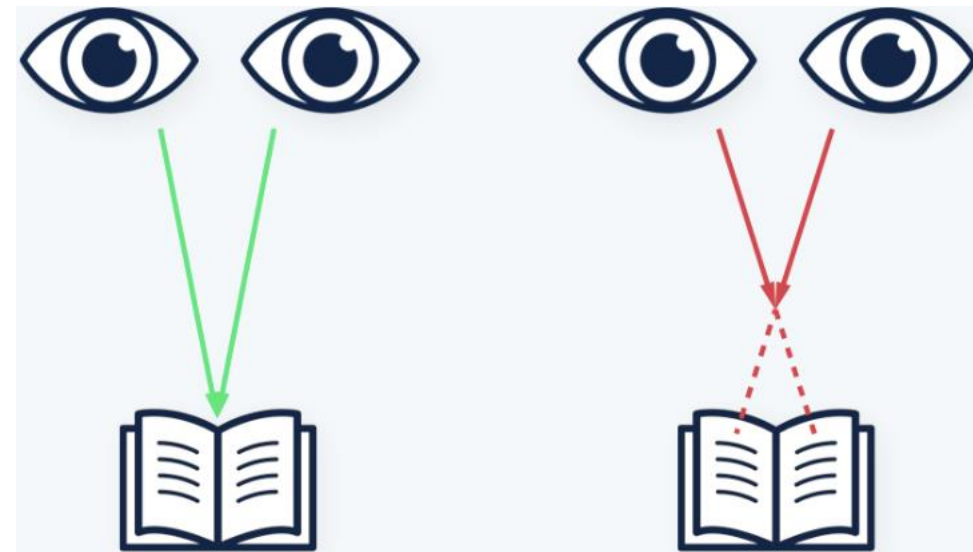
## Excess Saliva

- Reported in 32-74% of people with PD
- No necessarily due to increased saliva production
- Treatments
  - Botulinum toxin injections (Typically serotype B)
  - glycopyrrolate
    - Caution recommended due to potential side effects



# Eye Changes

- Reduced blinking
  - Dry eye
- Reduced contrast sensitivity
- Reduced near and far visual acuity
- Convergence insufficiency



# Mood/Personality Symptoms



# Parkinson Disease & Mood Disorders

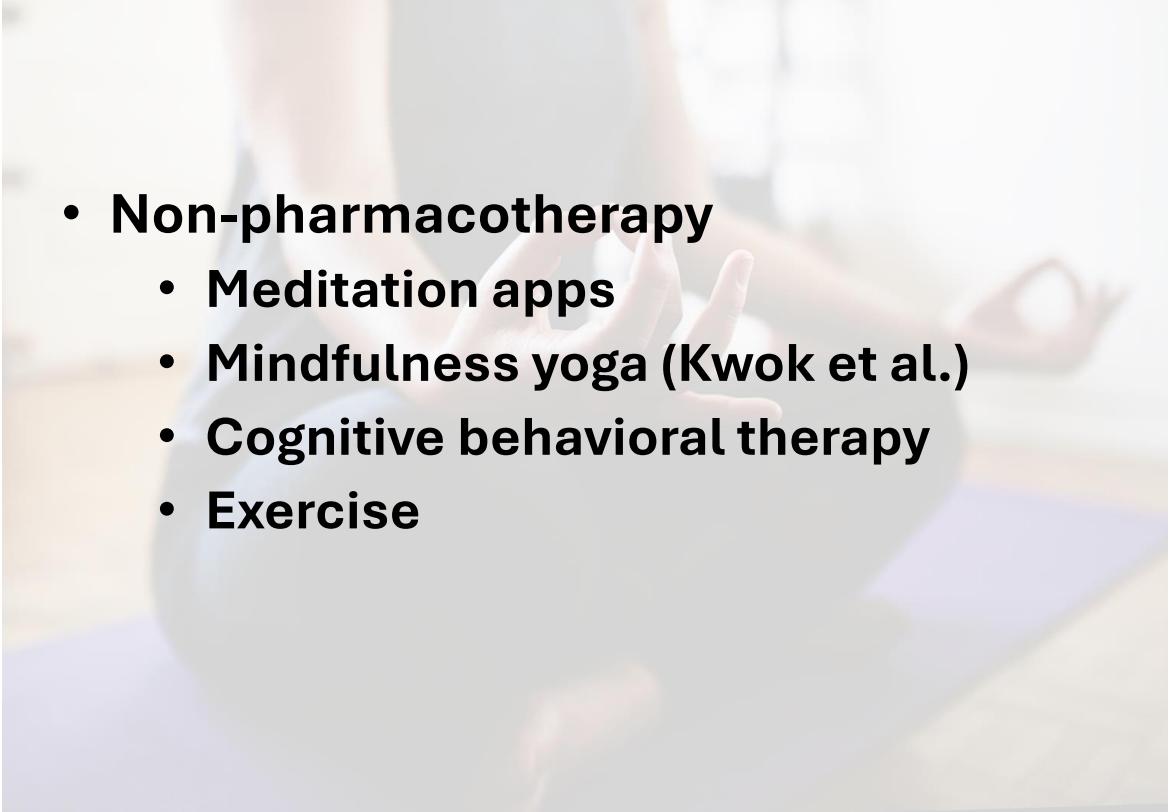
- Anxiety and depression are the most common mood disorders associated with Parkinson disease
  - Affects 30-50% people with PD
  - Can occur before the onset of motor symptoms
  - Let your doctor know if you have depressed mood or anxiety

(Kwok et al, *JAMA Neuro*, 2019)



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# Therapies for mood changes

- 
- **Non-pharmacotherapy**
    - **Meditation apps**
    - **Mindfulness yoga (Kwok et al.)**
    - **Cognitive behavioral therapy**
    - **Exercise**

- 
- **PHARMACOTHERAPY**
    - **TRADITIONAL MEDICATIONS**
      - **SSRIs, SNRIs, DNRI**
    - **MEDICATIONS THAT ALSO HELP WITH SLEEP**
      - **TRAZODONE, MIRTAZAPINE**



# Personality changes & PD

## Apathy

Lack of motivation

Feeling of indifference

Prevalence 40% in people with PD

Exercise and mindfulness are recommended non-pharmacological treatments

More pharmacological treatments need to be studied  
Some evidence for rivastigmine and DA agonists

## Impulsivity

Failure to resist a drive or temptation that results in self harm or harm to others

Symptoms: excessive eating, excessive purchases, hypersexuality, hobbyism

Treatment: Stop the offending drug  
Cognitive behavioral therapy

Opioids antagonist

# Symptoms accompanying motor fluctuations

5 years after therapy	%
Smooth, good response	25
Troublesome fluctuations	43
Troublesome dyskinesias	20

- Non-motor symptoms also co-occur with motor fluctuations
  - Anxiety 35%
  - Depressive symptoms 35%
  - Panic 37%

(van der Velden RMJ et al, *Mov Dis*, 2018)





# Sleep Disturbances



# Sleep complications in PD

- Greatly prevalent, up to 90% people with PD
- Sleep fragmentation is the most common presentation
- Sleep can be impacted by
  - mechanics (difficulty turning)
  - frequent nighttime urination
  - motor/sensory restlessness
  - medication side effects
  - mood disorders



Excessive daytime  
sleepiness

Restless leg  
syndrome

REM sleep behavioral  
disorder

Sleep fragmentation



## REM sleep behavioral disorder

- Melatonin
- Clonazepam

## Excessive daytime sleepiness

- Morning caffeine
- Exercise
- Scheduled naps
- Stimulants

## Sleep fragmentation

- Evaluate the underlying cause
  - Mechanical? Motor symptoms? Frequent urination? Sleep apnea? RLS? Anxiety or depression?

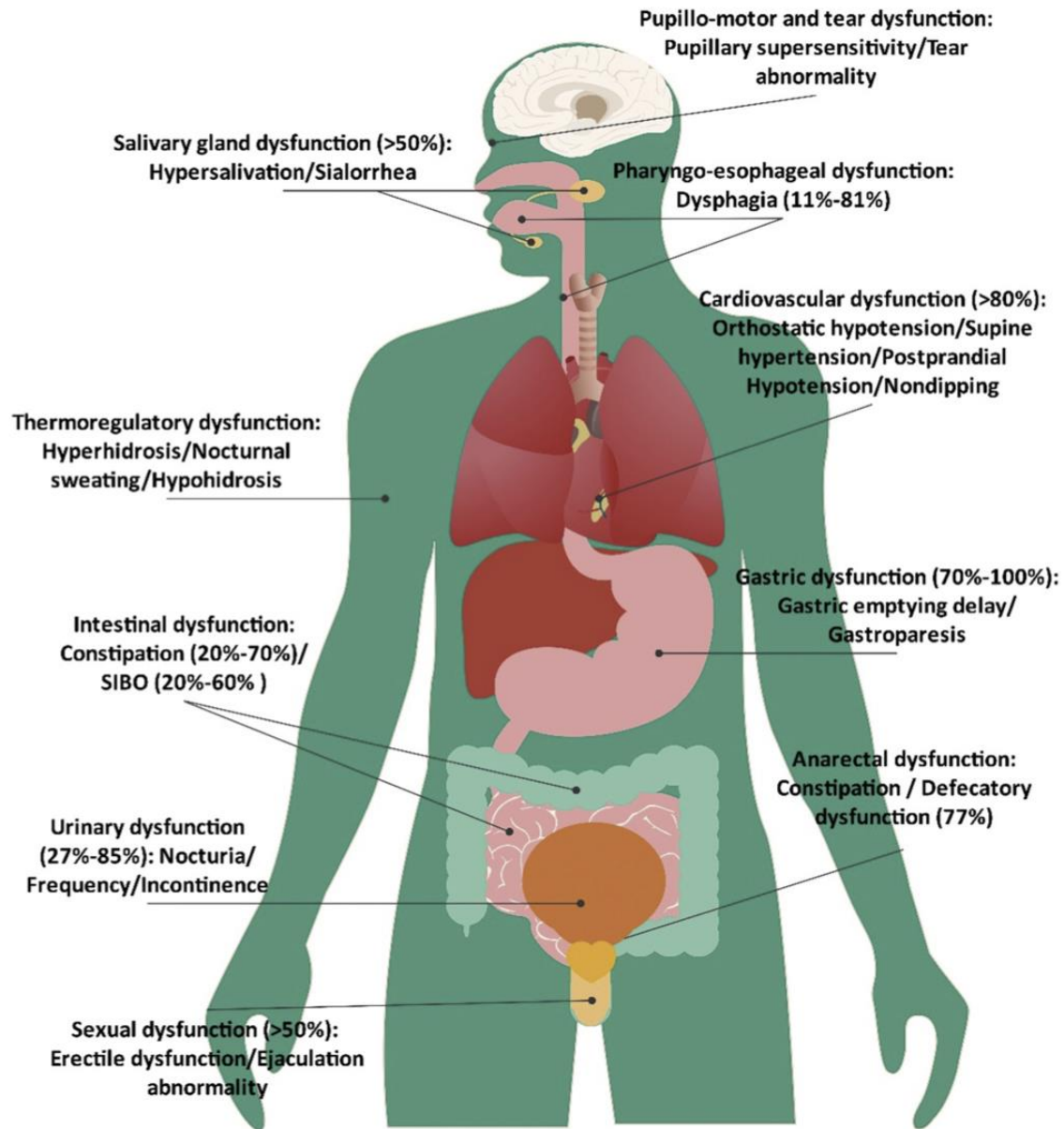
## Restless leg syndrome

- Dopaminergic medications
- Gabapentin



# Autonomic system (“flight or fight”) dysfunction



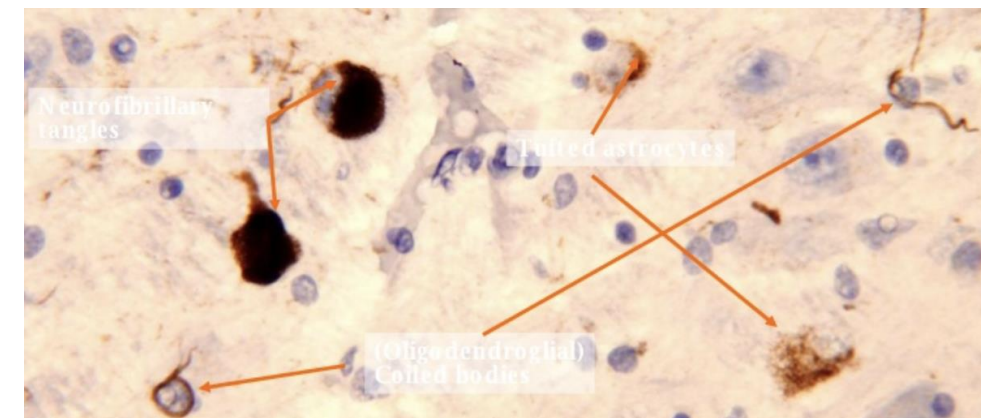
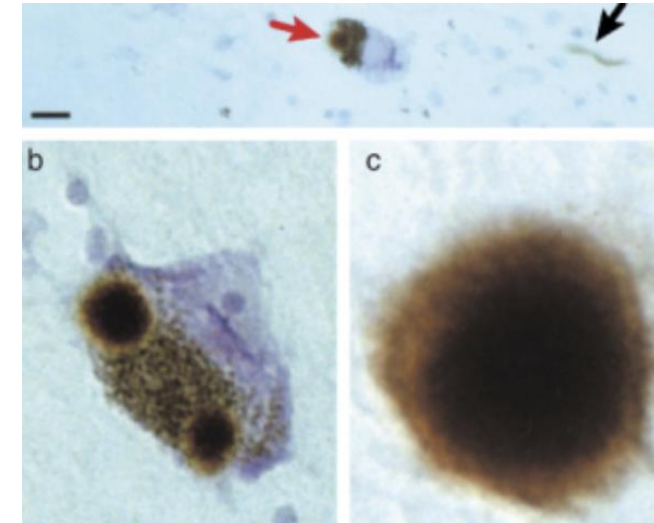


(Chen Z et al, *Neurobiol Dis*, 2020)



# Causes of autonomic dysfunction

- Loss of brain cells (neurons) in the brainstem important in autonomic control
- Lewy body deposition in dorsal vagal nucleus, the myenteric plexus of the intestines, and even in the cardiac sympathetic plexus





# Orthostatic hypotension

- Blood pressure and/or heart rate reduction upon standing
  - Dizziness, passing out, interruptions of cognition
- Occurs in 30-40% of people with Parkinson disease
- Can worsen after meals
- Treatments
  - Increase salt and water intake
  - Eat smaller more frequent meals
  - Compression stockings/abdominal binders
  - Medications





# Urinary/sexual Dysfunction

Frequent  
nighttime  
urination

Incomplete  
bladder  
emptying

Accidental  
loss of urine

Reduced  
sexual drive

Erectile  
dysfunction

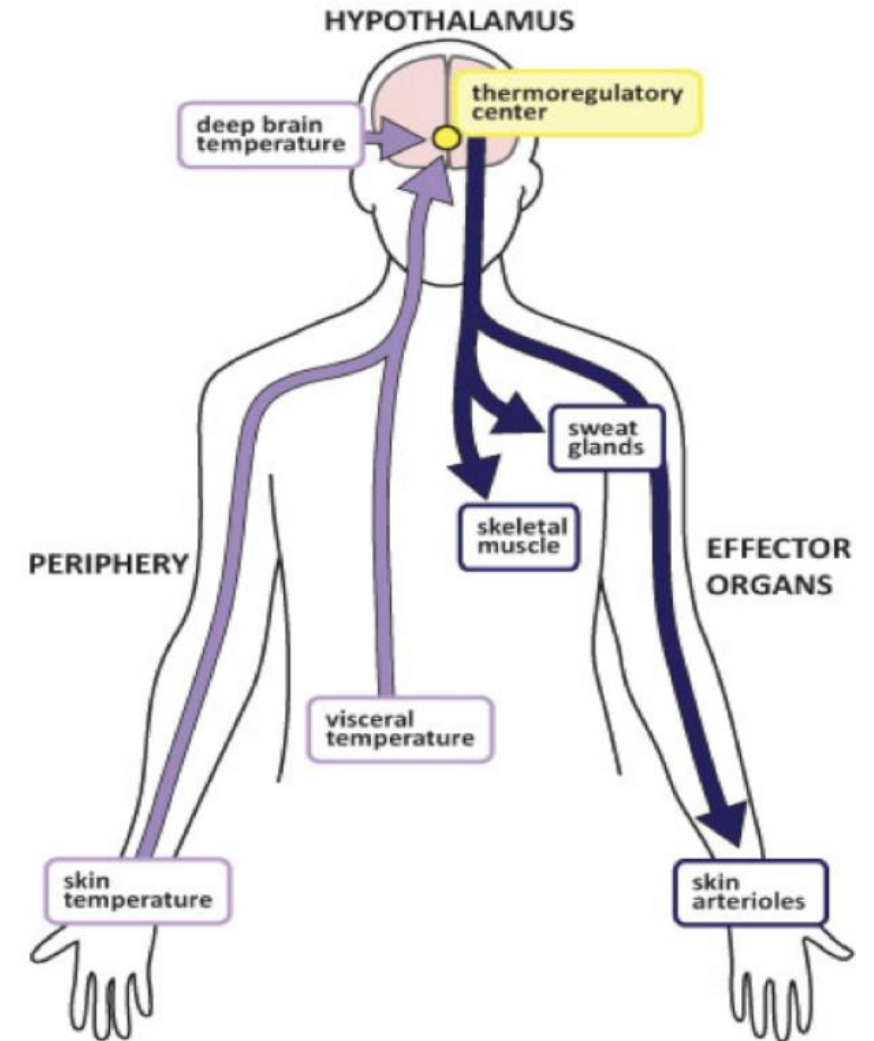


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# Heat/cold regulation

- Excessive sweating
- Nighttime sweating

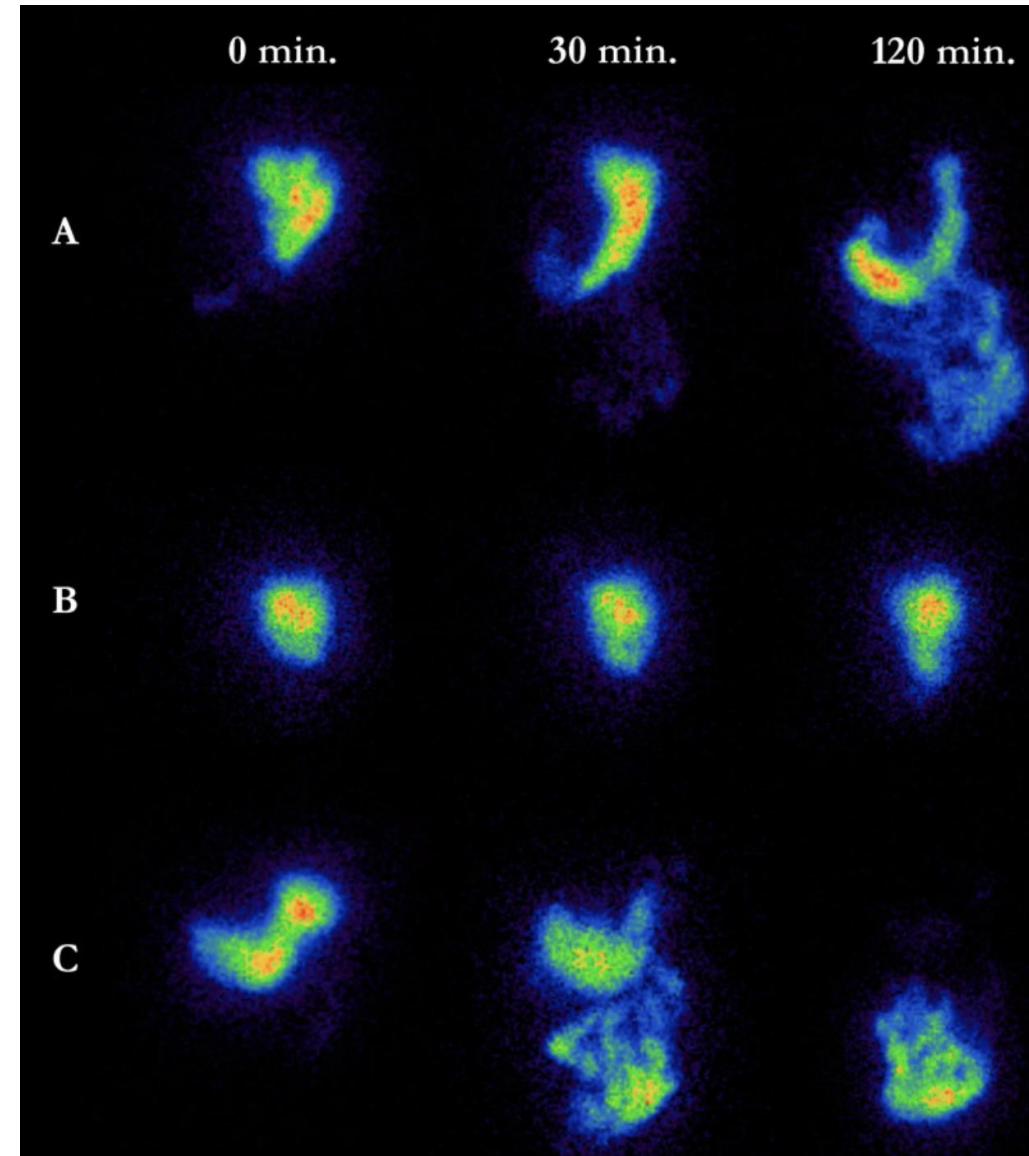


# Gastrointestinal dysfunction



# GI dysfunction in PD

- Alpha-synuclein deposition occurs in the GI system → Slower transit time
  - Constipation
  - Feeling of fullness soon after eating
  - Abdominal discomfort
  - Reduced absorption rate of medications
  - Unpredictable ON and/or OFF symptoms
  - May lead to gastroparesis



(Skjærbæk C et al., *J Clin Med*, 2021)



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# Parkinson Disease & Constipation

- 60-70% of people with PD have constipation
- Treatment
  - Increase dietary fiber
  - Increase water intake
    - > 50 ounces/day
  - Probiotics and prebiotics
  - Medications
    - Sennokot and Dulcolax: stimulant
    - Miralax, milk magnesium: osmotic laxative
    - Docusate: stool softener, usually serves as adjuvant
    - Refractory cases: Linzess

Mix together:

- 1 cup apple sauce
- 1 cup oat bran or unprocessed wheat bran
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup prune juice

<https://medicine.umich.edu/sites/default/files/content/downloads/constipation-recipe.pdf>

### Constipation Fighting Foods

Dried fruits

Fresh fruits

High fiber substances: berries, beans, bran, peas, whole grains

Probiotics: miso, sauerkraut, yogurt, kefir, kombucha

Prebiotics: artichokes, asparagus, bananas, garlic, onions, whole grains



# Non-Motor Symptoms in Parkinson disease

- Non-motor symptoms are as important as motor symptoms in pd
- if you are experiencing these non-motor symptoms, please discuss with your physician



Thank you for your attention



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What is  
Help For Parkinson's?

Jud Eson





HOME

RESOURCES

EXERCISE CLASSES

SUPPORT GROUPS

COMMUNICATION

DONATE

# SERVING ALBANY AND THE NEW YORK GREATER CAPITAL REGION

(Counties of Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Warren, Fulton, Montgomery, Washington)

[www.HelpForPD.org](http://www.HelpForPD.org)

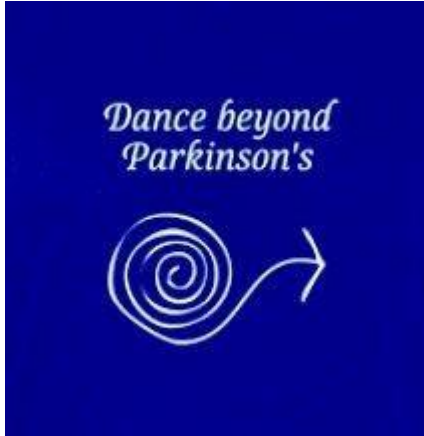
# BOXING FOR PD



It is free for all attendees

because **it is funded by Help For PD.**

# DANCE BEYOND PD



**It is free for all attendees  
because it is funded by Help For PD.**

# Ping Pong for PD



**It is free for YMCA members, discounted for others because it is funded by Help For PD.**

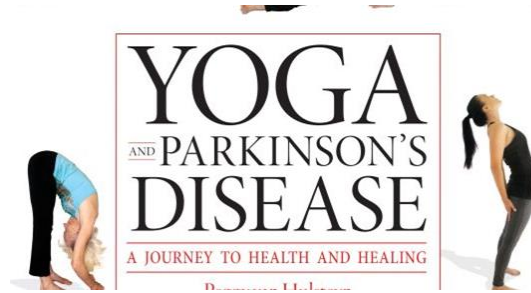




## Neuromotor Wellness

**It is free for YMCA members  
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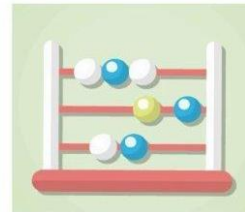
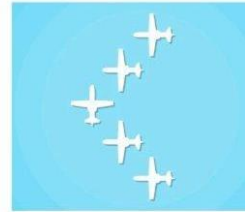
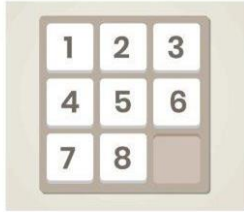
# YOGA FOR PD



**It is free for all attendees**

**because it is funded by Help For PD.**

# BRAIN TRAINING



**It is free for all attendees**

**because it is funded by Help For PD.**



**Stand up to Parkinson's will be holding a golf tournament on August 26th at the Colony Country Club.**



# Community / awareness events like this one held at the Clifton Park YMCA in April



# Save the date of October 19th when Help for Parkinson's will host the Hope Soars Gala

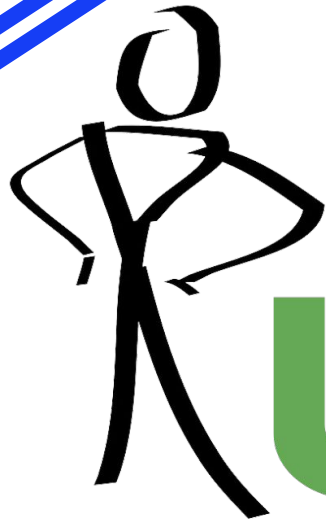


*You Will Make  
a Difference*

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**DONATE  
TODAY**

[www.HelpForPD.org](http://www.HelpForPD.org)



# STAND UP TO PARKINSON'S

Stand Up to Parkinson's is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and helping local Parkinson's patients live more rewarding lives.





To date.....



Since founded in 2019, Stand Up to Parkinson's has donated over **\$250,000** to local Parkinson's research at **Albany Medical Center** and **Capital Region patient support services**, such as **Help for Parkinson's**.



## Our beginning.....

A short time after being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in **2017**, **Tim Lange's** focus moved to helping others, as he had done throughout his life in his role as teacher, mentor, coach, administrator, friend, brother, husband, and father. In **2019**, Tim and his wife Dawn founded **Stand Up to Parkinson's**, with the goal of raising funds to assist local researchers in their mission to find a cure.

Tim and Dawn reached out to **my wife Lisa and I**, as well as **Rodger and Kelly Wyland** and asked us to join him as founding officers, and shortly after that in the fall of **2019** the **1st Annual Stand Up to Parkinson's Golf Tournament** took place.

Since that first event, **Stand Up to Parkinson's** has continued to grow as a fundraising organization that not only supports local research at **Albany Medical Center**, but has also begun to support other **regional programming** that assists current Parkinson's patients in the Capital Region live more fulfilling lives.



The founders.....





Change.....

Upon Dawn's retirement in 2022, Tim and Dawn **relocated to Arizona** where they are currently enjoying the active Arizona lifestyle. They keep **very busy** meeting new friends, playing softball and golf, attending professional sporting events, and **enjoying their time together** in the beautiful Arizona landscape.

In December of **2023**, because of their distance from the Albany area, **Tim (President)** and **Dawn(Secretary)** stepped aside from their active roles with SUTP, and "**passed on**" the organization's leadership to their longtime friends.





Today and forward....

Today, the current officers and the expanded board of directors **(January 2024 - we added 7 new community leaders were to our board)** are not only **committed to continuing the work** that Tim and Dawn began, but also to **expanding the reach of our organization** in Tim's vision.

Our goals moving forward are to continue to **raise funds in support of local research, expand our financial support of patient related programs**, but we also hope to develop **SUTP** into a trusted resource for Capital Region Parkinson's patients to rely on for **information related to local PD programs and services.**



**Rodger Wyland - Board Chair & President**

**Dan Smith - Vice Chair & Vice President**

**Lisa Smith - Secretary**



## Board of Directors



**Kerry DeWitt**

**Jon Foshee**

**Mark L. Fruiterman, M.D.**

**Donna Goldslager**

**Matt Phelps**

**Jeffrey Sperber - *Fundraising Chair & Director of Development***

**Greg D. Weitzman, Rabbi**



2024

# Stand Up to Parkinson's Pickleball Championship



*Sponsored By:*



Raffle Items: \$20 per ticket/10 tickets \$100

## Golf (2)

Colonie Golf & Country Club

- Golf for 4 w/carts
- Dinner for 4 • \$1,000 value



## Pickleball True Pickelball

Birthday Party Celebration Package

- 2 hrs. - Concord Large
- 2 hrs. - Court time (courts 5/6)  
(Court 6 Championship Court)
- Pizza/Salad - 16 People

Demo Paddles  
Included  
\$600 value



## Fitness

Metabolic Fitness

6 Month Membership

\$1,000 value



# 5th Annual Stand Up to Parkinson's Golf Tournament

Monday, August 26, 2024

**Colonie Golf & Country Club  
13 Country Club Lane  
Voorheesville, NY 12186**





Contact.....

Website

[standuptoparkinsons.org](http://standuptoparkinsons.org)




Email

[standuptoparkinsons@gmail.com](mailto:standuptoparkinsons@gmail.com)



We meet at 7 PM on the second Thursday of most months. Most meetings are in-person at the Glen Eddy Senior Living Community in Niskayuna, NY and by ZOOM.

*We welcome new members and guests. Please join us.*

-  **Speakers**
-  **Support**
-  **Activities**

Subscribe to our announcement email list using the form at [www.cdparkinsons.org](http://www.cdparkinsons.org) in order to receive meeting reminders and other useful links about once a month. Read more at our website



[www.cdparkinsons.org](http://www.cdparkinsons.org)





# The Importance of Biomarkers in PD

**Eric Molho MD**  
**Professor of Neurology**  
**Riley Family Chair in**  
**Parkinson's Disease**



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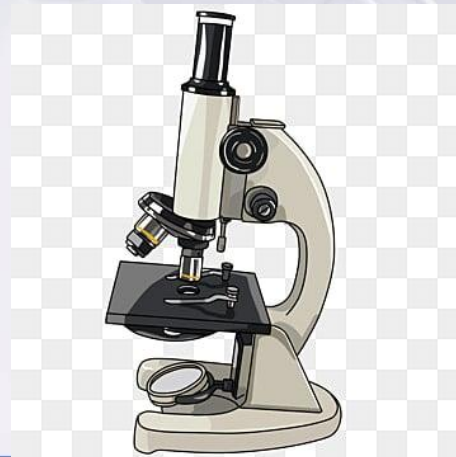
# Disclosures

- **Consulting:** Neurocrine Biosciences (blinded-video rater)
- **Clinical trial grant:** CHDI/HSG, Cerevel Therapeutics, Parkinson Study Group/NIH #U01NS119562, Cerevance Beta inc.,
- **Speaker's bureau:** None
- **Educational grant (fellowship):** Abbott, AbbVie, Amneal, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Merz North America
- **Sponsors of this symposium:**



# What are biomarkers?

- (BY-oh-MAR-ker) A measurable or detectable biological finding that is a reliable sign of a normal or abnormal process, condition or disease.
  - Molecule found in blood, other body fluids
  - Specific finding on microscopic tissue analysis
  - Imaging abnormality



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# Why are biomarkers useful?

- Diagnosis of disease
- Prediction of disease
- Measuring progression of disease/  
detecting response to treatment
- Understanding prognosis
- \*\*Critical for the conduct of valid, rigorous,  
reproducible clinical trials designed to slow  
or stop the progression of PD



# Why are biomarkers useful?

- Diagnosis of disease
  - “Hey doc, do I have PD?”
- Prediction of disease
- Measuring progression of disease/  
detecting response to treatment
- Understanding prognosis





# How is PD diagnosed now?

- Taking a careful history
  - Gradual onset of slowness, stiffness, shaking
- Performing a careful examination
  - Bradykinesia, rigidity, tremor, posture changes
- Confirming the presence of the parkinsonian syndrome
- Ruling out imitators of PD
- Observation over time
  - Response to Ldopa
  - Typical progression

Parkinson's Disease Symptoms



# What's new in PD diagnosis?

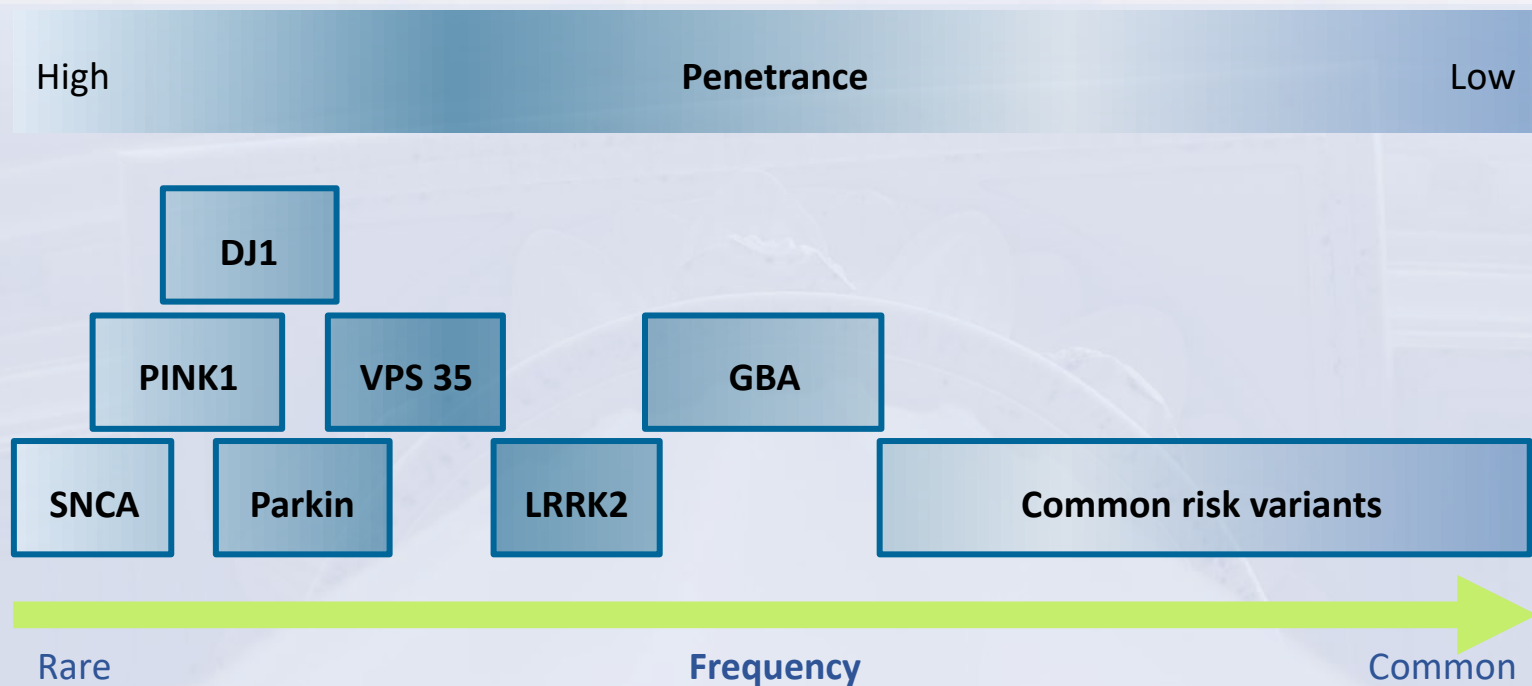
## (Biomarkers)

- Genetic testing
- Brain dopamine imaging (DaTscan)
- Alpha-synuclein assays
- Man's best friend?  
(don't worry Asher..)





# Sporadic PD vs Genetic PD



Cherian A and Divya KP. Acta Neurol Belg. 2020;120:1297–1305



# PD GENERation



- Sponsored by **Parkinson Foundation** (PF) and Parkinson Study Group (PSG)
- **Tests for 7 most common genetic causes of PD:**
  - SNCA, GBA, LRRK2, PRKN, VPS35, PINK1, PARK7
- **No cost** to study participants
- Large scale effort to expand knowledge about genetic forms of PD and enrich the population of potential research subjects for development of new disease slowing treatments



# Can we use genetics to diagnose PD?

- The 7 genes tested for only account for a small percentage of cases of PD (depending on population <5% - 30%)
- We don't know who to test in presymptomatic/prodromal disease
- Having a gene mutation doesn't reliably predict disease

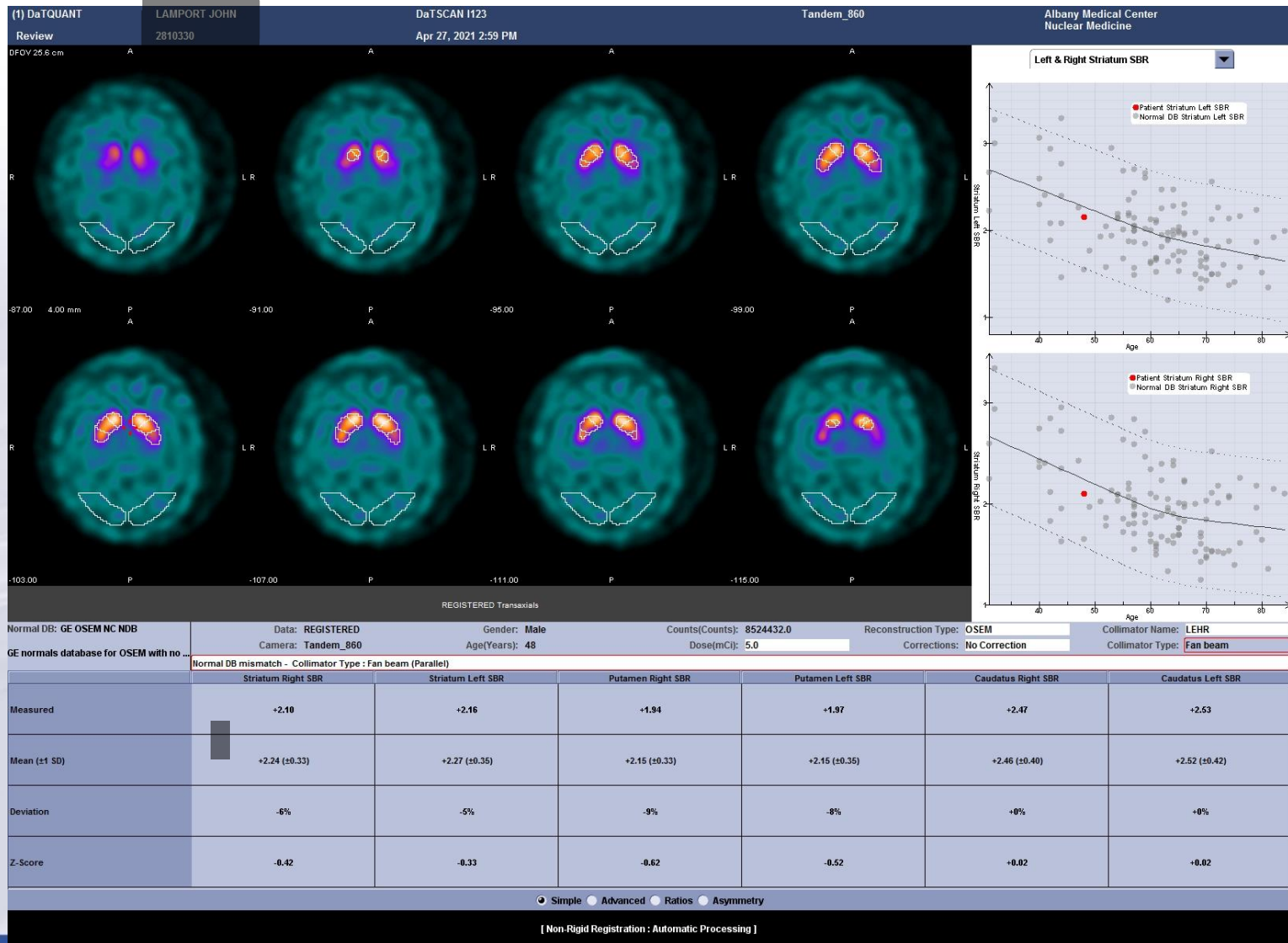


# DaTscan (dopamine transporter scan)

- Nuclear medicine imaging of dopamine activity in the brain region most effected by PD
- Reflects the integrity of the dopamine producing brain cells
- Abnormal scan confirms a degenerative cause of PDism
- Does not separate PD from atypical forms of PDism (MSA, PSP, DLB)
- Can still have PDism with normal scan (drug-induced PDism)
- Not a reliable way to predict prognosis or measure progression



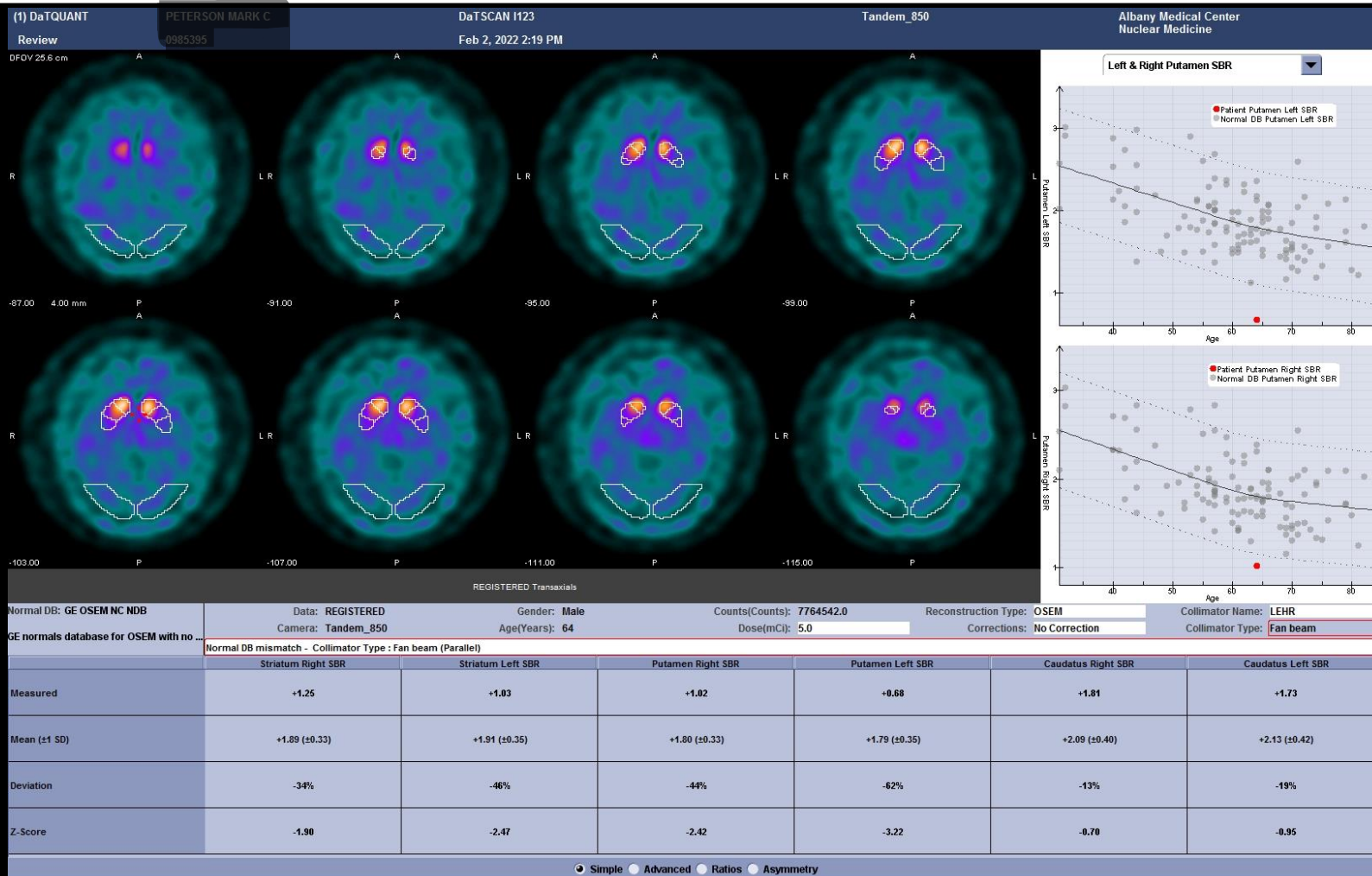
# DaTscan - normal



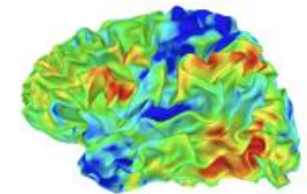


# DaTscan

-reduced DA activity = loss of DA brain cells  
 -doesn't distinguish between PD, DLB, MSA or PSP



# Web-based Automated Imaging Differentiation of Parkinsonism



**AIDP**

- Multicenter study developed by UF Gainesville/  
sponsored by NIH
- AMC is one of 21 study sites in USA\*
- Clinical examinations/video exam = clinical best  
diagnosis (PD vs MSA vs PSP)
- Brain MRI with special imaging sequences and  
computer analysis (machine learning) = imaging  
diagnosis
- Hopefully will be accurate, non-invasive way to  
diagnose different forms of PDism

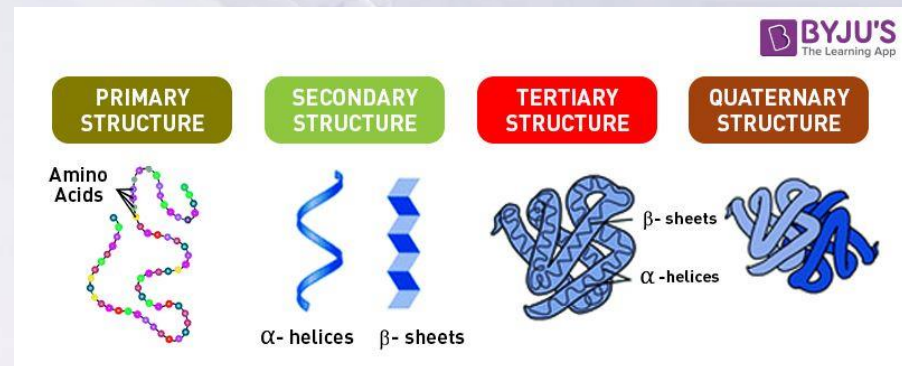
**\* Most awesome site!**





# What is alpha-synuclein?

- A complex protein used throughout the brain
- Abnormal forms are part of PD pathology
- 2 genetic causes of PD involve the alpha-synuclein gene
- Abnormal forms seem to be toxic to brain cells and can spread from sick cells to healthy cells
  - Phosphorylated
  - Aggregated/clumped



# Where is abnormal alpha-synuclein found outside the brain?

- Peripheral nervous system (PNS)
  - GI tract - colonoscopy biopsies
  - Salivary glands
  - Skin
- Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)
- Blood???

## Submandibular gland needle biopsy for the diagnosis of Parkinson disease

**Conclusions:** This study demonstrates the feasibility of performing needle core biopsies of the submandibular gland in living patients with PD to assess LTS. Although this was a small study, this tissue biopsy method may be important for tissue confirmation of PD in patients being considered for invasive procedures and in research studies of other PD biomarkers. *Neurology*® 2014;82:858-864

REVIEW ARTICLE

EJN European Journal of Neurology FENS WILEY

### How close are we to a breakthrough? The hunt for blood biomarkers in Parkinson's disease diagnosis

Cheng Liu | Yang Su | Xiaolong Ma | Yao Wei | Rui Qiao

Peking University Third Hospital, Beijing, China

**Correspondence**  
Rui Qiao, Peking University Third Hospital, Beijing, China  
Email: qiaoru@bjmu.edu.cn

**Funding information**  
: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (program no. 82072352).

Edited by: Yoland Smith

**Abstract**  
Parkinson's disease (PD), being the second largest neurodegenerative disease, poses challenges in early detection, resulting in a lack of timely treatment options to effectively manage the disease. By the time clinical diagnosis becomes possible, more than 60% of dopamine neurons in the substantia nigra (SN) of patients have already degenerated. Therefore, early diagnosis or identification of warning signs is crucial for the prompt and timely beginning of the treatment. However, conducting invasive or complex diagnostic procedures on asymptomatic patients can be challenging, making routine blood tests a more feasible approach in such cases. Numerous studies have been conducted over an extended period to search for effective diagnostic biomarkers in blood samples. However, thus far, no highly effective biomarkers have been confirmed. Besides classical proteins like  $\alpha$ -synuclein ( $\alpha$ -syn), phosphorylated  $\alpha$ -syn and oligomeric  $\alpha$ -syn, other molecules involved in disease progression should also be given equal attention. In this review, we will not only discuss proposed biomarkers that are currently under investigation but also delve into the mechanisms underlying the disease, focusing on processes such as  $\alpha$ -syn misfolding, intercellular transmission and the crossing of the blood-brain barrier (BBB). Our aim is to provide an updated overview of molecules based on these processes that may potentially serve as blood biomarkers.

Figure 1 Needle biopsy of the submandibular gland



Albany  
Over 300

# Skin Biopsy Detection of Phosphorylated $\alpha$ -Synuclein in Patients With Synucleinopathies

Christopher H. Gibbons, MD, MMSc; Todd Levine, MD; Charles Adler, MD, PhD; Bailey Bellaire, BS; Ningshan Wang, PhD; Jade Stohl, BA; Pinky Agarwal, MD; Georgina M. Aldridge, MD, PhD; Alexandru Barbot, MD; Virgilio G. H. Evidente, MD; Douglas Galasko, MD; Michael D. Geschwind, MD, PhD; Alejandra Gonzalez-Duarte, MD; Ramon Gil, MD; Mark Gudesblatt, MD; Stuart H. Isaacson, MD; Horacio Kaufmann, MD; Pravin Khemani, MD; Rajeev Kumar, MD; Guillaume Lamotte, MD, MMSc; Andy J. Liu, MD, MS; Nikolaus R. McFarland, MD, PhD; Mitchell Miglis, MD; Adam Reynolds, MD; Gregory A. Sahagian, MD; Marie-Helene Saint-Hillaire, MD, PhD; Julie B. Schwartzbard, MD; Wolfgang Singer, MD, PhD; Michael J. Soifreau, MD; Steven Vemino, MD, PhD; Oleg Yersteln, MD; Roy Freeman, MD

Table 2. Primary Outcomes

Diagnosis	Participants, No.		Proportion of participants positive for P-SYN, % (95% CI)
	P-SYN positive <sup>a</sup>	P-SYN negative <sup>b</sup>	
Synucleinopathy	213	10	95.5 (91.9-97.8)
Parkinson disease	89	7	92.7 (85.6-97.0)
Multiple system atrophy	54	1	98.2 (91.7-99.9)
Dementia with Lewy bodies	48	2	96.0 (86.3-99.5)
Pure autonomic failure	22	0	100 (84.6-100)
No synucleinopathy	4	116	3.3 (1.3-8.0)

► SCIENCE NEWS

## A Skin Test Could Detect Parkinson's and Related Diseases

May 02, 2024



Parkinson's Foundation  
**Science News**  
PARKINSON.ORG/BLOG

*New research indicates that a skin biopsy could possibly lead to accurate diagnosis of Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases.*

**SYN-ONE TEST®**



# A NEW MILESTONE IN DIAGNOSING PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS

The Syn-One Test is the first commercially available test of its kind, applying world-class science and proven laboratory techniques to detect and visualize abnormal alpha-synuclein in cutaneous nerves. Delivers greater than 95% sensitivity and specificity as reported in multiple studies.



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# Limitations of peripheral nervous system biopsy techniques

- May not be reliable in early/pre-symptomatic disease
- May not reliably separate from PD from related conditions (DLB, MSA)
- Doesn't measure progression, prognosis
- Cost/insurance coverage
- No better than DaTscan?





# Spinal Fluid Biomarkers for PD

Why We Exist ▾

Understanding Parkinson's ▾

For Researchers ▾

Take Action ▾

< Podcasts

## Major Research Breakthrough: A New Biomarker for Parkinson's (Webinar Audio)

April 26, 2023

▶ 0:00 / 58:59 ◀



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# Assessment of heterogeneity among participants in the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative cohort using $\alpha$ -synuclein seed amplification: a cross-sectional study



*Andrew Siderowf\*, Luis Concha-Marambio\*, David-Erick Lafontant, Carly M Farris, Yihua Ma, Paula A Urenia, Hieu Nguyen, Roy N Alcalay, Lana M Chahine, Tatiana Foroud, Douglas Galasko, Karl Kieburtz, Kalpana Merchant, Brit Mollenhauer, Kathleen L Poston, John Seibyl, Tanya Simuni, Caroline M Tanner, Daniel Weintraub, Aleksandar Videnovic, Seung Ho Choi, Ryan Kurth, Chelsea Caspell-Garcia, Christopher S Coffey, Mark Frasier, Luis M A Oliveira, Samantha J Hutten, Todd Sherer, Kenneth Marek, Claudio Soto, on behalf of the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative†*

**Lancet Neurol 2023; 22: 407-17**

- Taken from **PPMI** cohort: 545 PD, 163 HC, 51 prodromal (RBD, anosmia), 310 non-manifesting gene carriers
- Analysis (SAA) done on spinal fluid (required spinal tap)
- $\alpha$ -syn SAA had a sensitivity of 87.7% in PD, 96.3% in HC
- May be able to detect prodromal PD
- Not as accurate in PD with LRRK2 or without anosmia
- Specificity for PD vs Lewy body dementia/other atypical forms of Pdism is unclear but appears not to be associated with MSA
- Testing is technically demanding and not widely available





# Paws for thought: dogs sniff out Parkinson's disease with 90% hit rate

Author: Almaz OhenePublished: 27 October 2016



*Dogs involved in a groundbreaking pilot study have detected Parkinson's disease on sample clothing with a successful hit rate of up to 90% – no we're not barking mad!*



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# Why are biomarkers useful?

- Diagnosis of disease
- Prediction of disease
  - “Hey doc, should I worry about getting parkinsons?”
- Measuring progression of disease/  
detecting response to treatment
- Understanding prognosis



# Can we predict who is going to get PD?

- Genetic testing
  - Monogenetic forms only account for small percentage of cases
  - Having a gene mutation doesn't always predict disease
- Prodromal features
  - Anosmia, REM sleep behavior disorder, chronic constipation
- Pre-symptomatic application of blood, CSF, imaging biomarkers?
- Short answer: Not yet.



# Why are biomarkers useful?

- Diagnosis of disease
- Prediction of disease
- Measuring progression of disease/  
detecting response to treatment
  - “Hey doc, am I getting worse?”
- Understanding prognosis



# How can we measure disease progression?

- Very important for understanding success or failure of experimental disease modifying/slowing treatments
- Clinical measures not reliable enough, especially in treated patients (ldopa)
- Imaging measures (DaTscan) haven't always agreed with clinical measures in studies
- Biochemical signs of neurodegeneration might measure progression in near future (NFL)
- Clearly, more work to be done here



# Why are biomarkers useful?

- Diagnosis of disease
- Prediction of disease
- Measuring progression of disease/  
detecting response to treatment
- **Understanding prognosis**
  - “Hey doc, am I going to develop dementia?”





# Can we predict which patients will develop advanced disease complications and when?

- Dementia
  - Psychosis
- Imbalance/freezing gait
  - Falling
  - Hip fractures
- Loss of independence
- Short answer: No





# How about prevention of advance disease complications?

- No disease modifying medications yet
- No dietary supplement proven to slow or prevent disease yet (in humans)
- **Exercise has been shown to slow progression in PD and reduce dementia risk in PD and AD!!**



# How about preventing hip fractures?

Join a Parkinson's Disease and parkinsonism Study without ever leaving your home

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

**TOPAZ**  
TRIAL OF PARKINSON'S AND ZOLEDRONIC ACID



#### Did you know?

People with Parkinson's Disease and parkinsonism have a higher risk of fractures (breaking bones).

#### Help us find a solution.

The TOPAZ study will test if a medicine called zoledronate can prevent fractures in people with Parkinson's Disease and parkinsonism. A team of doctors who are experts in bone health and Parkinson's Disease are leading the study. The use of zoledronate in this study is investigational.

#### You can join if you:

- Have Parkinson's Disease or parkinsonism.
- Are 60 years old or older.

#### This study is done from your home!

- If you are eligible for the study, a nurse will come to your home to give you a short exam.
- You'll receive a one-time dose of the study treatment (either zoledronic acid or a placebo).
- During the study, we will contact you every four months to check if you have had any new fractures.

Earn \$100 upon enrollment & \$50 per year during the study.

Want to learn more about joining TOPAZ?

Ready to join? Visit [topazstudy.org](http://topazstudy.org) and enter invitation code

or call:  
**1-800-4PD-INFO**  
(1-800-473-4636)

This study is endorsed by:

 Parkinson's Foundation

 PSG  
PARKINSON STUDY GROUP

# Study Assessments

- **Online Screening**
  - Determine eligibility
- **Nurse home visit**
  - Premedication with Vit D x 1 month
  - Premedication with acetaminphen 1000mg
  - Finger stick for kidney function
  - Mouth exam
  - Infusion over 45 minutes
- **Remote follow up**
  - Every 4 months via phone, email, mail, online

# Biomarkers in PD - Conclusions

- Much progress made
- Much work to be done
- Biomarker development will play a critical role in the effort to cure PD
  - Early identification of PD – prodromal, presymptomatic
  - Accurate measurement of PD progression
  - Successful disease modifying therapies will have to be applied in very early disease and we will need to have an accurate way to show slowed progression





Thank you for your attention!

