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**Early Detection of Parkinson's Disease**  
**will begin shortly...**

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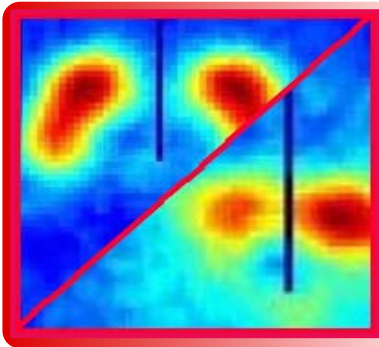
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# Science Webinar Series

## Early Detection of Parkinson's Disease

### The Challenges and Potential of New Biomarkers

April 27, 2011

Brought to you by the *Science*/AAAS Business Office

## Participating Experts:



**Andrew Siderowf, M.D., MSCE**

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
Philadelphia, PA



**Michael G. Schlossmacher, M.D., FRCPC**

University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ontario



**Norbert Schuff, Ph.D.**

University of California and VA Medical Center, San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA



**Kenneth Marek, M.D.**

Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders  
New Haven, CT

**Moderator:** Todd Sherer, Ph.D., The Michael J. Fox Foundation\  
for Parkinson's Research; New York, NY



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# Parkinson's disease: overview and current treatments

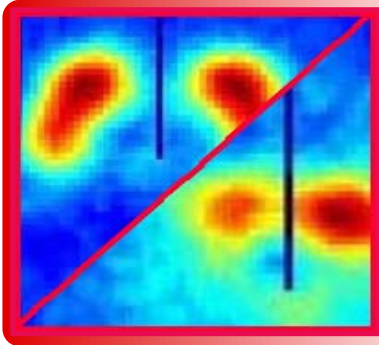
- Progressive, neurodegenerative disorder marked predominantly by motor symptoms; non-motor symptoms are also present
- Characterized by selective loss of nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons and presence of alpha-synuclein positive aggregates (Lewy Bodies)
- Current therapies, based on dopamine replacement, treat some motor symptoms, but lose effectiveness over time and are marked by side effects

# Biomarkers are critical for developing disease modifying therapies

- Disease modifying therapeutics that target the underlying disease process remain a major unmet need
- Current clinical trial design requires large sample size, long duration
- Trials rely on subjective, clinical outcomes that are influenced by medications
- PD biomarkers would accelerate PD therapeutic development
  - Identify patients at earliest stages of disease
  - Improve patient selection for clinical trials, example DATscan
  - Assess efficacy of new therapies
  - Monitor disease progression

# Today's webinar

- Studying individuals at risk for developing PD – Andrew Siderowf
- Overview of promising biological markers of PD – Michael Schlossmacher
- Overview of new neuroimaging methods as PD biomarkers – Norbert Schuff
- Addressing the challenges in developing PD biomarkers – the PPMI study – Ken Marek



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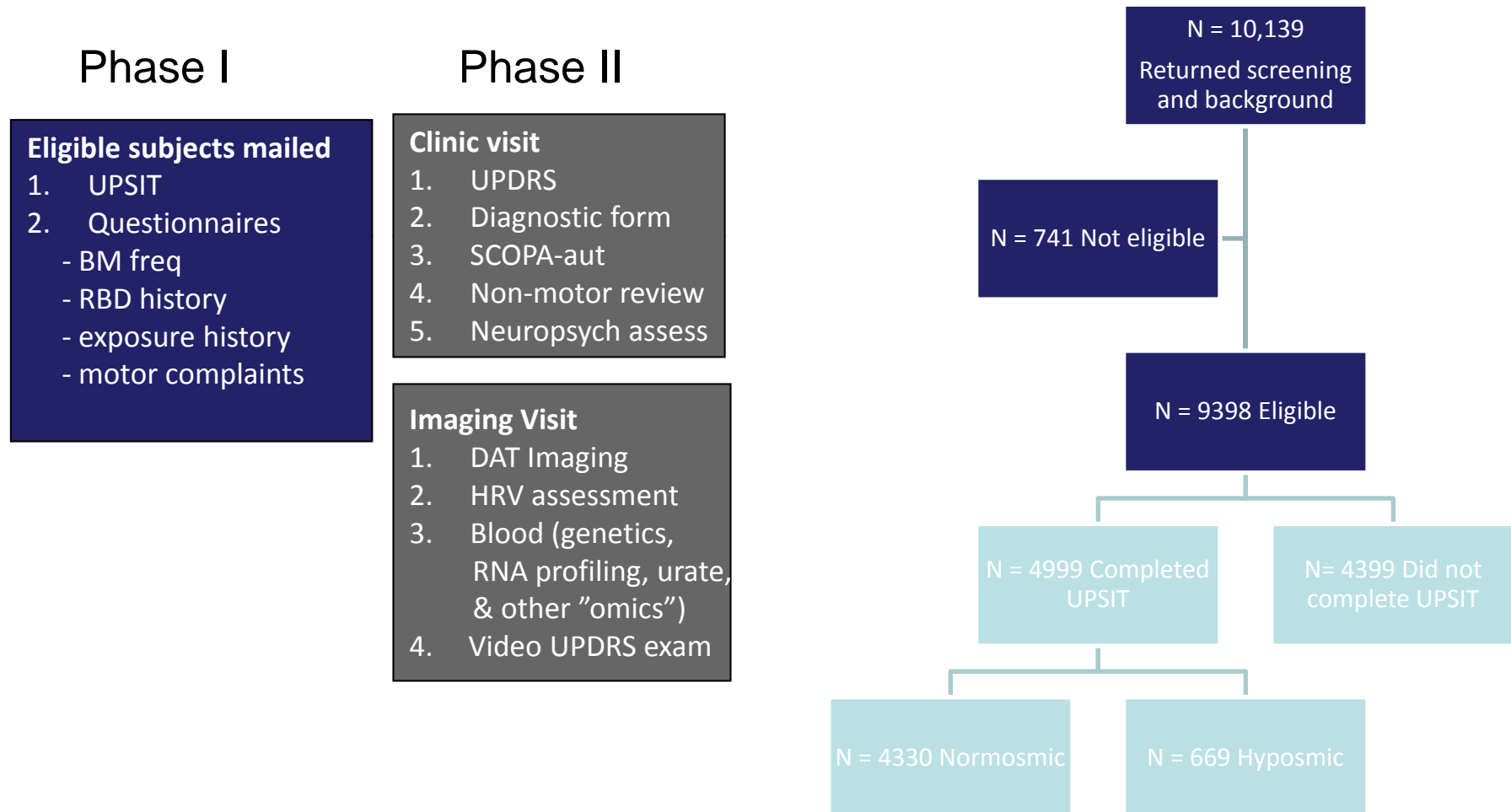
# Prevention is the ultimate therapeutic goal in PD

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## PARS study objectives

- To determine the feasibility of screening for Parkinson's disease using a combination
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: olfactory testing
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: DAT imaging
- To assess clinical and biological features pre-motor PD (defined based on biomarker profile)
- To develop a pre-motor cohort that would be eligible for a preventive interventions

# Screening for PD requires large numbers of potential subjects



*A large number of subjects were initially screened with simple, relatively inexpensive tests*

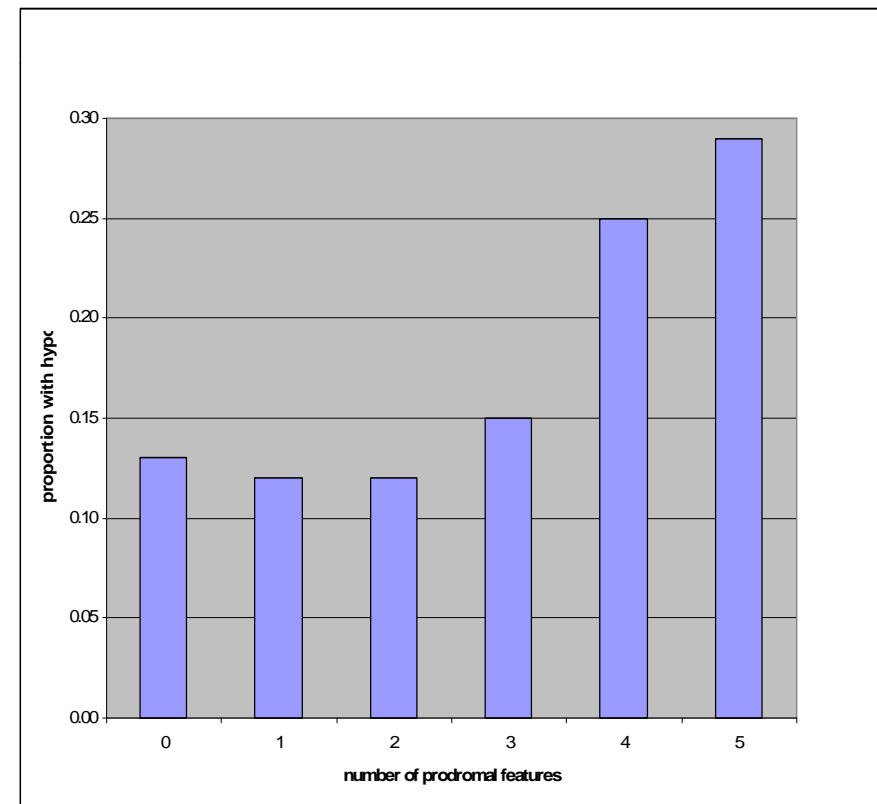


# Identifying and targeting highest risk cases improves efficiency

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Prodromal PD features cluster in hyposmic individuals,  
n = 4999

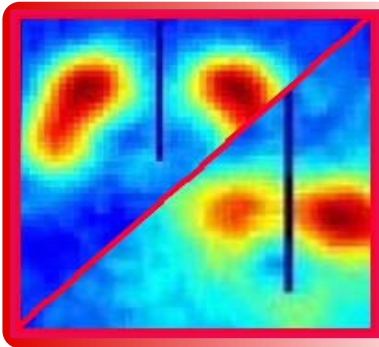
	OR	CI
Constipation	1.37	1.11, 1.68
Depression	1.93	1.55, 2.41
Anxiety	1.38	1.14, 1.67
Motor complaint	1.66	1.36, 2.02
REM sleep behavior	1.62	1.21, 2.15



# Two-staged process is reasonably accurate and reduces costs

- Hyposmics have increased risk of abnormal DAT imaging
- Normosmics have very low risk of abnormal DAT imaging
- Two staged process reduces # of imaging studies by 80-90%

	Normosmics	Hyposmics	p-value
Age expected uptake in lowest putamen	N = 100	N = 203	
No DAT deficit ≥80%	92 (92%)	146 (72%)	
65 – 80%	7 (7%)	34 (17%)	
<65%	1 (1%)	23 (11%)	<0.0001
<80%	8 (8%)	57 (28%)	<0.0001



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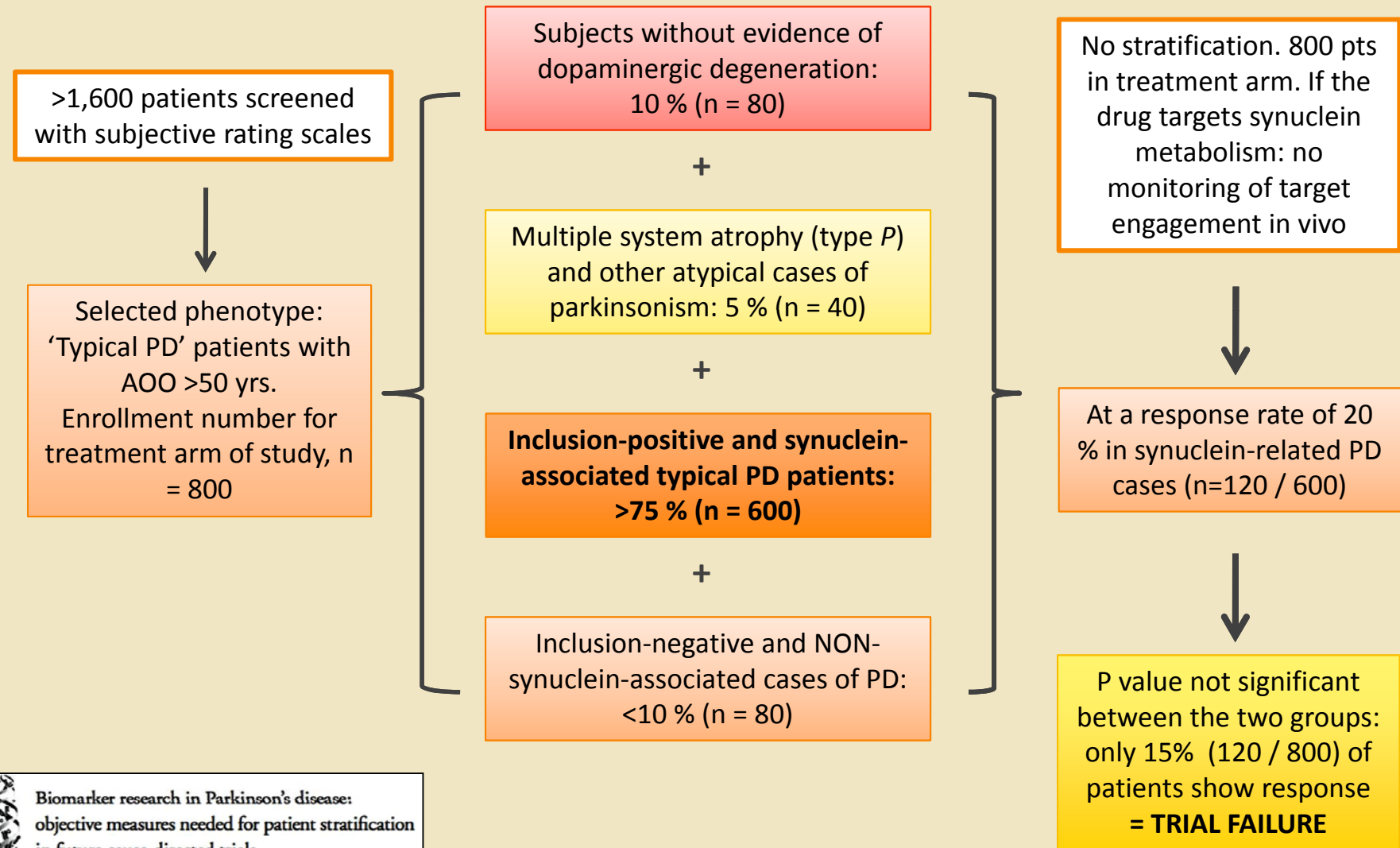


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# Example of patient enrollment in past PD trials without biomarkers



**Marker candidates** awaiting validation and / or definition: genetically linked proteins in biological fluids, e.g.,  $\alpha$ -synuclein (total, oligomeric, modified variants); DJ-1; sequence variants, e.g., *GBA1*, *SNCA*, *LRRK2*; urate in CSF and plasma (? progression); metabolome markers in plasma; transcriptome changes in blood cells (e.g., *ST13* mRNA levels); and exploration of dementia-associated tau and amyloid  $\beta$  protein species as markers of cognitive changes in PD subjects.

**Biomarkers in Medicine**

**Biomarker research in Parkinson's disease**

*Biomarkers in Medicine* special focus issue: *Biomarker research in Parkinson's disease* publishing **October 2010!**

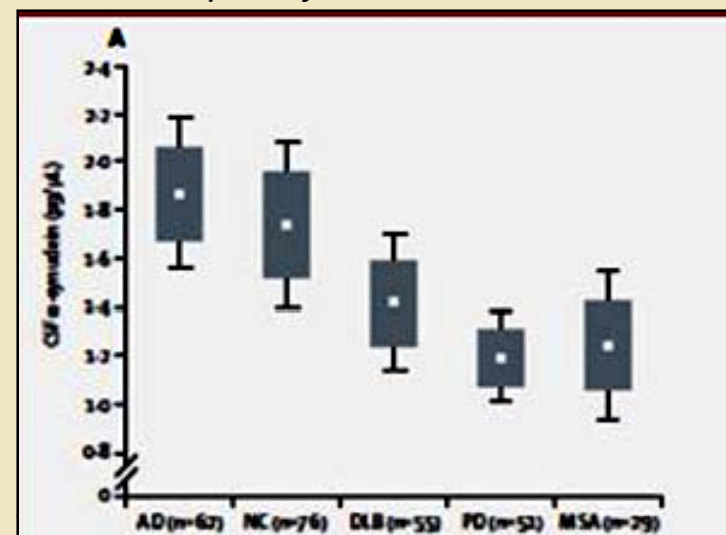
Find out more at:

[www.futuremedicine.com/loi/bmm](http://www.futuremedicine.com/loi/bmm)

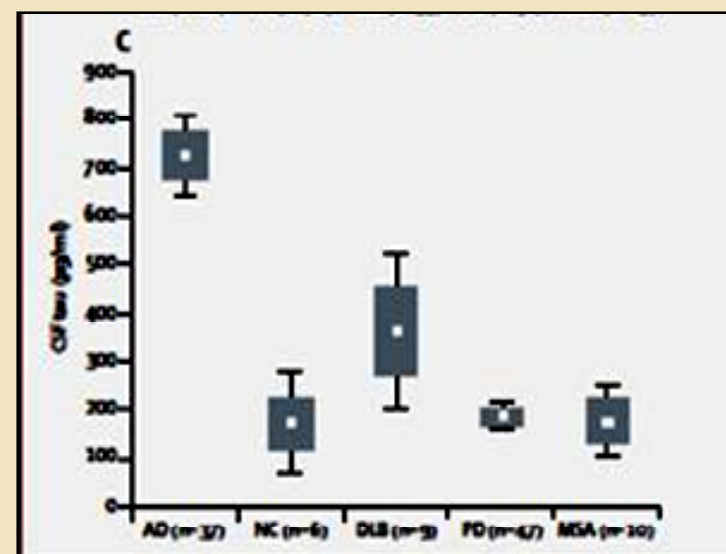




Total alpha-synuclein levels in CSF



Total tau concentration in CSF



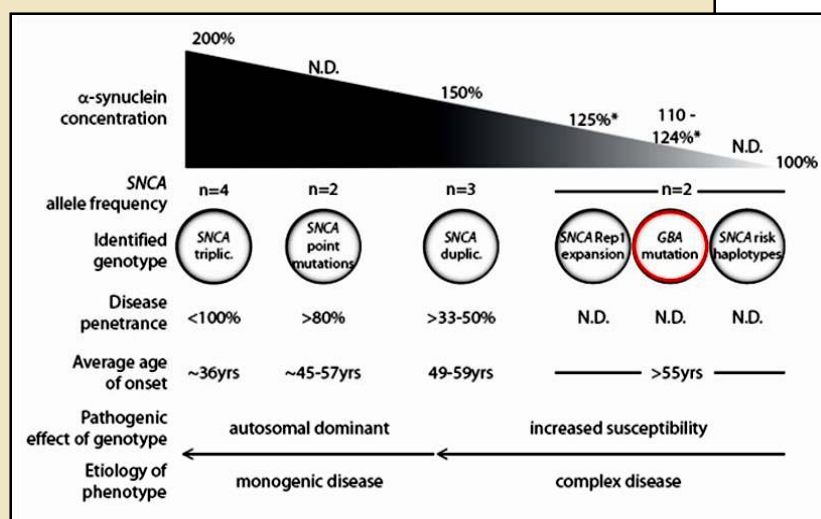
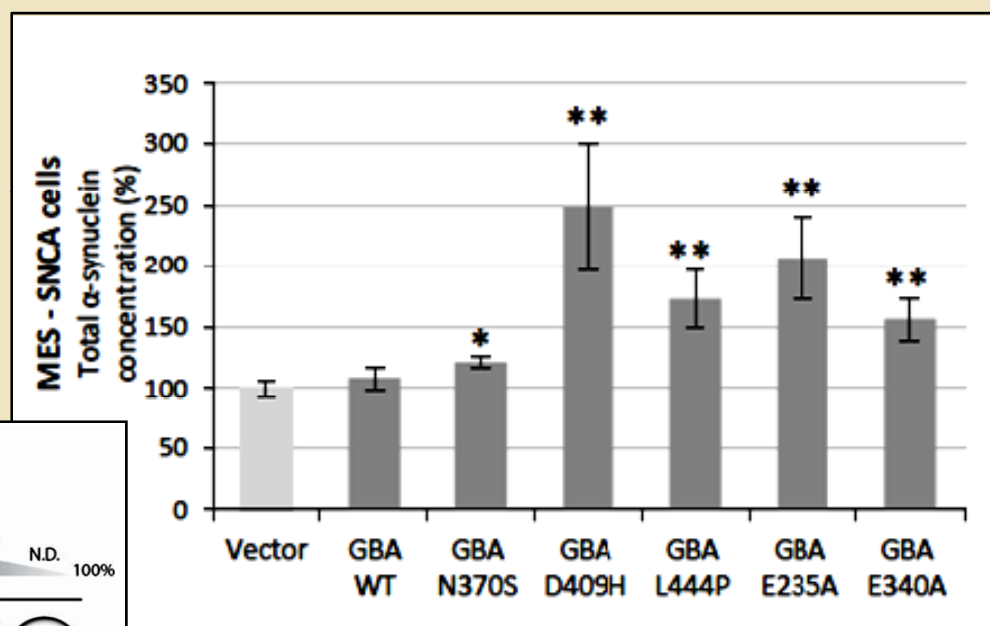
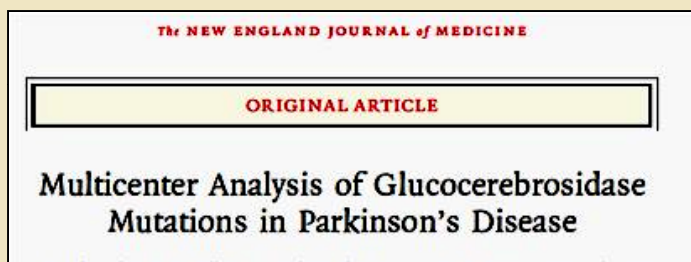
e.g., Hong et al., 2010;  
Tokuda et al., 2010; Mollenhauer et al., 2011

8-20% of typical PD patients carry a mutation in one **GBA1** allele; all these subjects feature  $\alpha$ -synuclein-positive Lewy body pathology at autopsy. Mutant GBA proteins appear to elevate neural  $\alpha$ -synuclein. Thus, *GBA1* carrier status in PD (and DLB) can be considered a reliable surrogate for the process of synucleinopathy in the brain.

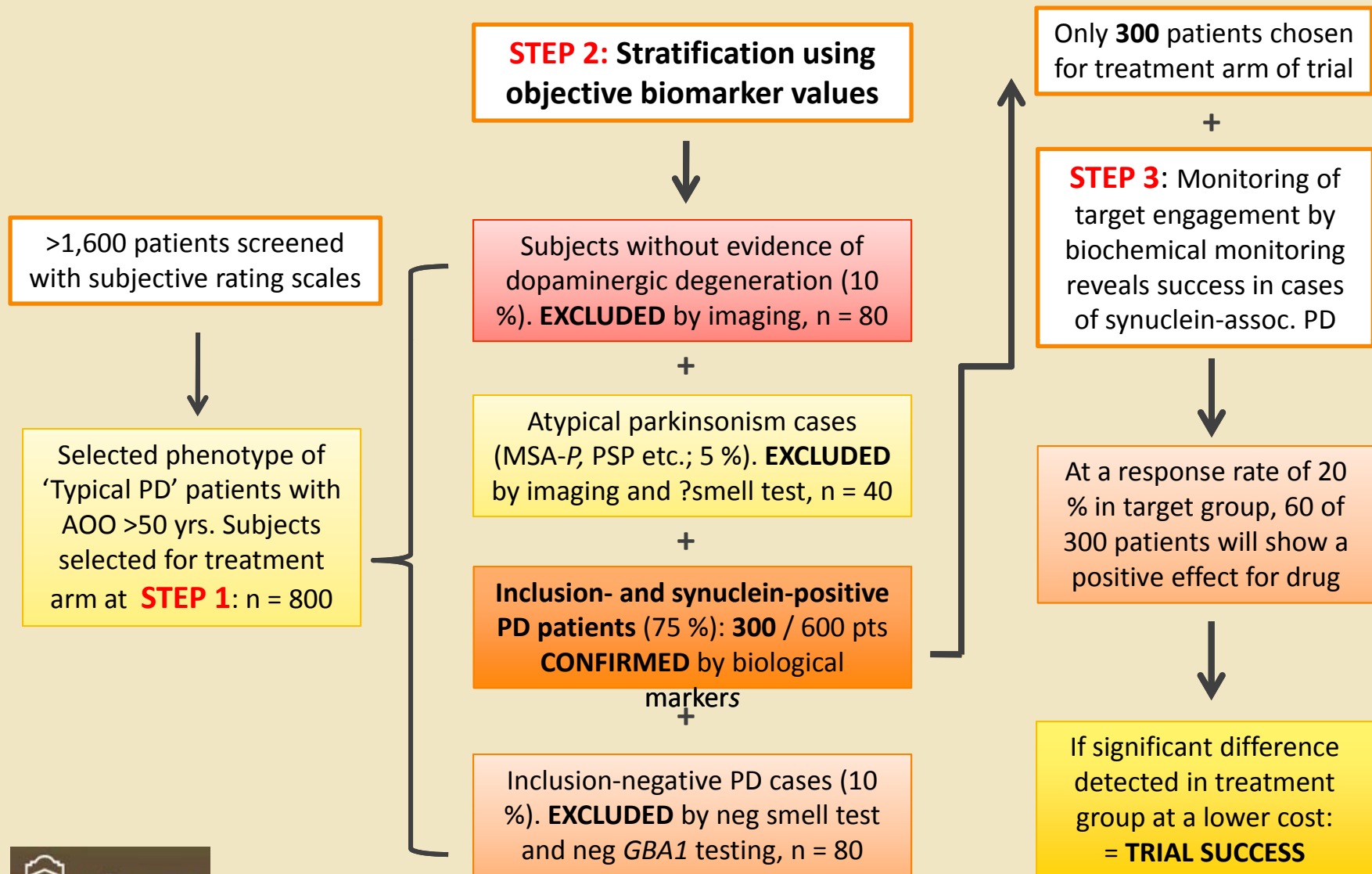
*Eblan N et al., NEJM 2005*

*Goker-Alpan O et al., Neurology 2006*

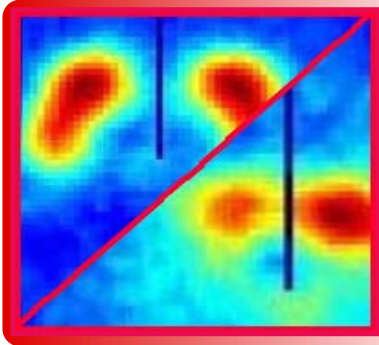
*Neumann J et al., Brain 2009*



# Scenario for a biomarker-supported clinical trial of PD in the future







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# Approaches In Neuroimaging

## ⦿ Functional Changes

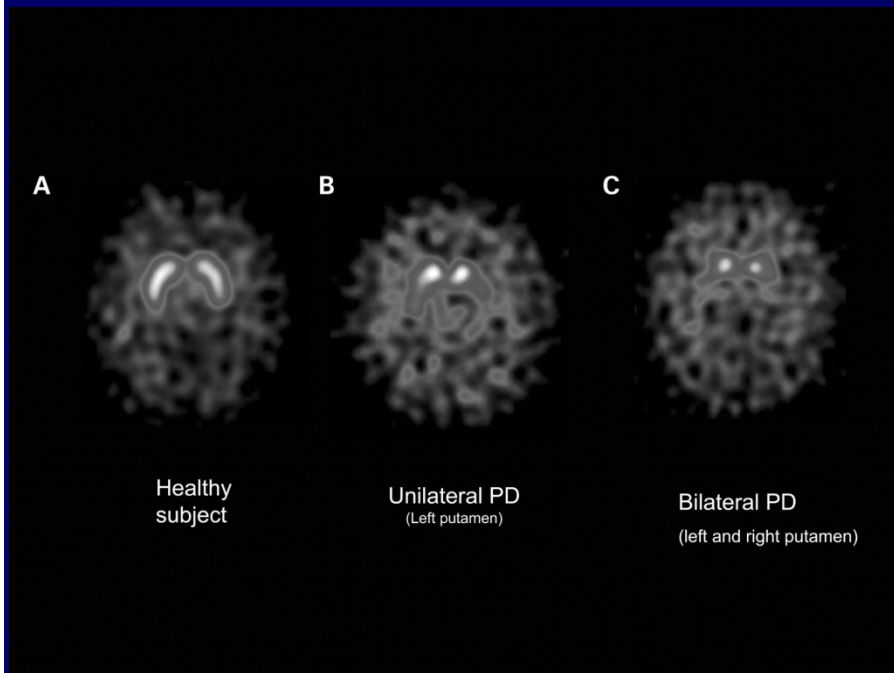
- Receptor availability for neurotransmitters (SPECT, PET)
- Cerebral metabolism and blood flow (PET, SPECT, MRI)
- Brain networks (functional MRI)

## ⦿ Morphological Changes

- Regional brain volumes (MRI)
- Brain iron content (MRI, Transcranial sonography)
- Tissue microstructure (DTI)
- Brain connectivity (DTI-tractography)
- $\beta$ -amyloid deposition (PET)

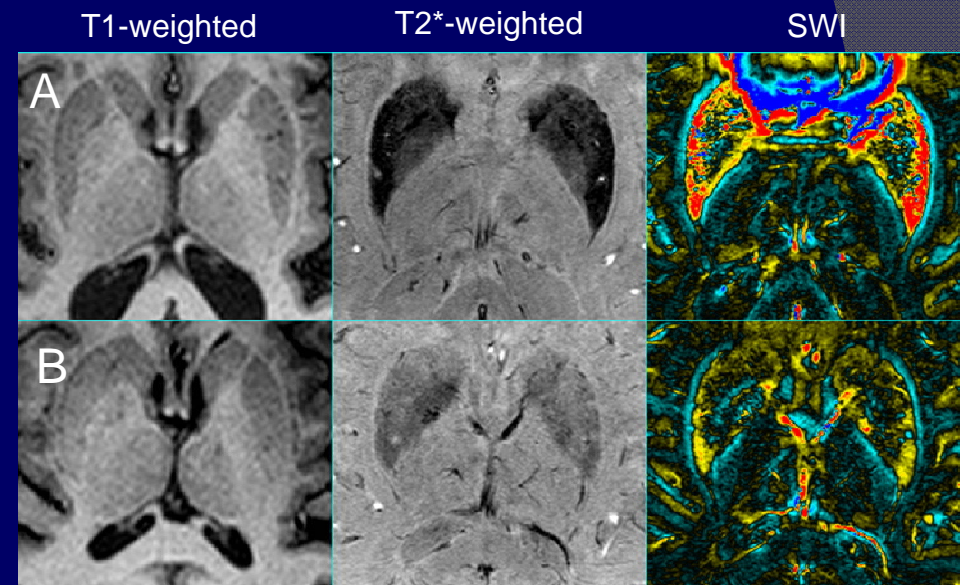
# Some Existing Imaging Methods

## Dopamine Transporter SPECT



With permission: BMJ Publishing Group Ltd  
Kägi G et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2010;81:5-12

## MRI



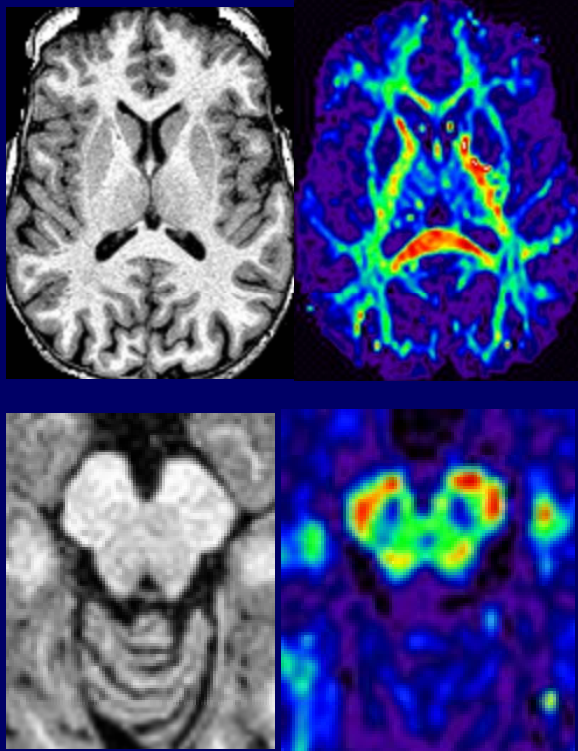
A: Patient with multiple system atrophy  
B: Patient with Parkinson's disease

SWI = susceptibility weighted imaging ; sensitive to brain iron content

# Some Emerging Imaging Methods

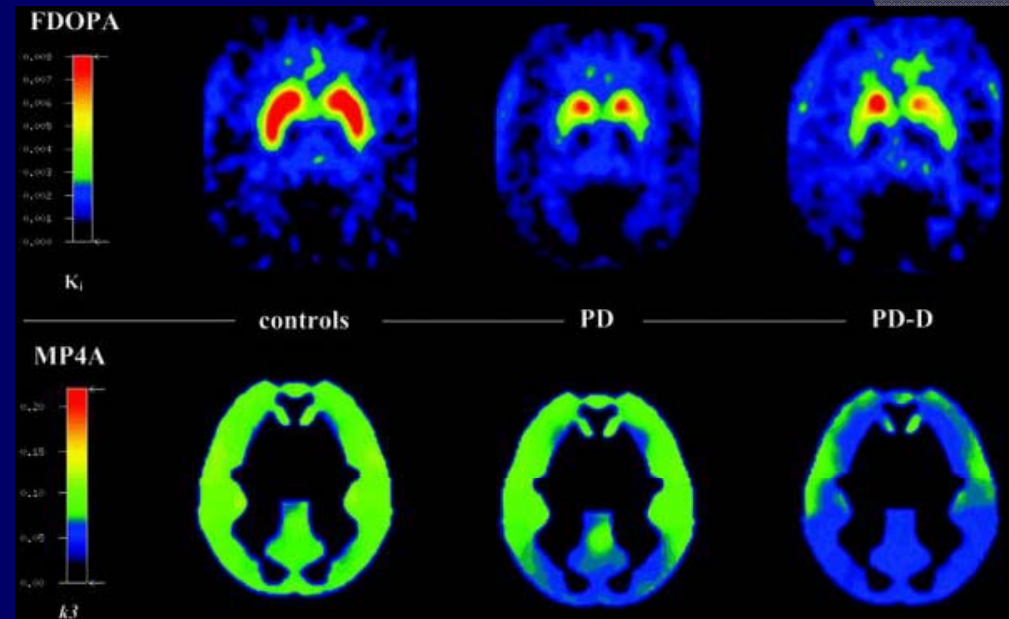
MRI

DTI\*



\*maps of fractional anisotropy (FA), an index of microstructural integrity. Smaller FA of the substantia nigra completely separated PD patients from controls (Vaillancourt et al. Neurology, 2009, 21;72(16):1378-84

PET: Dopaminergic and glutaminergic pathways



Averaged FDOPA (first row) and MP4A k3 images (second row) of the study subgroups. Note the severe global k3 reduction in Parkinson disease dementia, whereas only a slight parieto-occipital k3 decrease is obvious in Parkinson disease. Hilker, R; et al, Neurology. 65(11):1716-1722, December 13, 2005.

With permission: AAN Enterprises, Inc. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc.



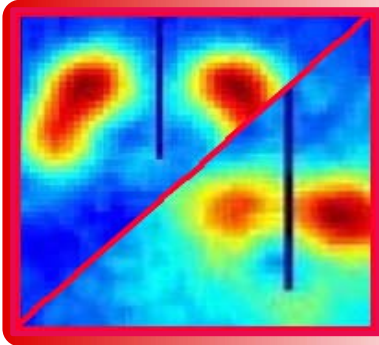
# Key Points: Neuroimaging Markers For PD

## Existing methods

- DAT SPECT and PET are reasonably effective in identifying dopamine deficits but not reliable for a differentiation of idiopathic PD from atypical PD.
- MRI mapping of structural changes in PD are valuable but a large overlap with normal values remains

## Emerging methods

- New PET ligands will be useful to study the effect of PD on other neurotransmitters
- $\beta$ -amyloid PET will be useful to study the role of amyloid in PD
- DTI has potential as an early marker for PD and to study the impact of PD on white matter
- Resting state functional MRI will be useful to study the consequences of dopamine depletion on brain functional connectivity



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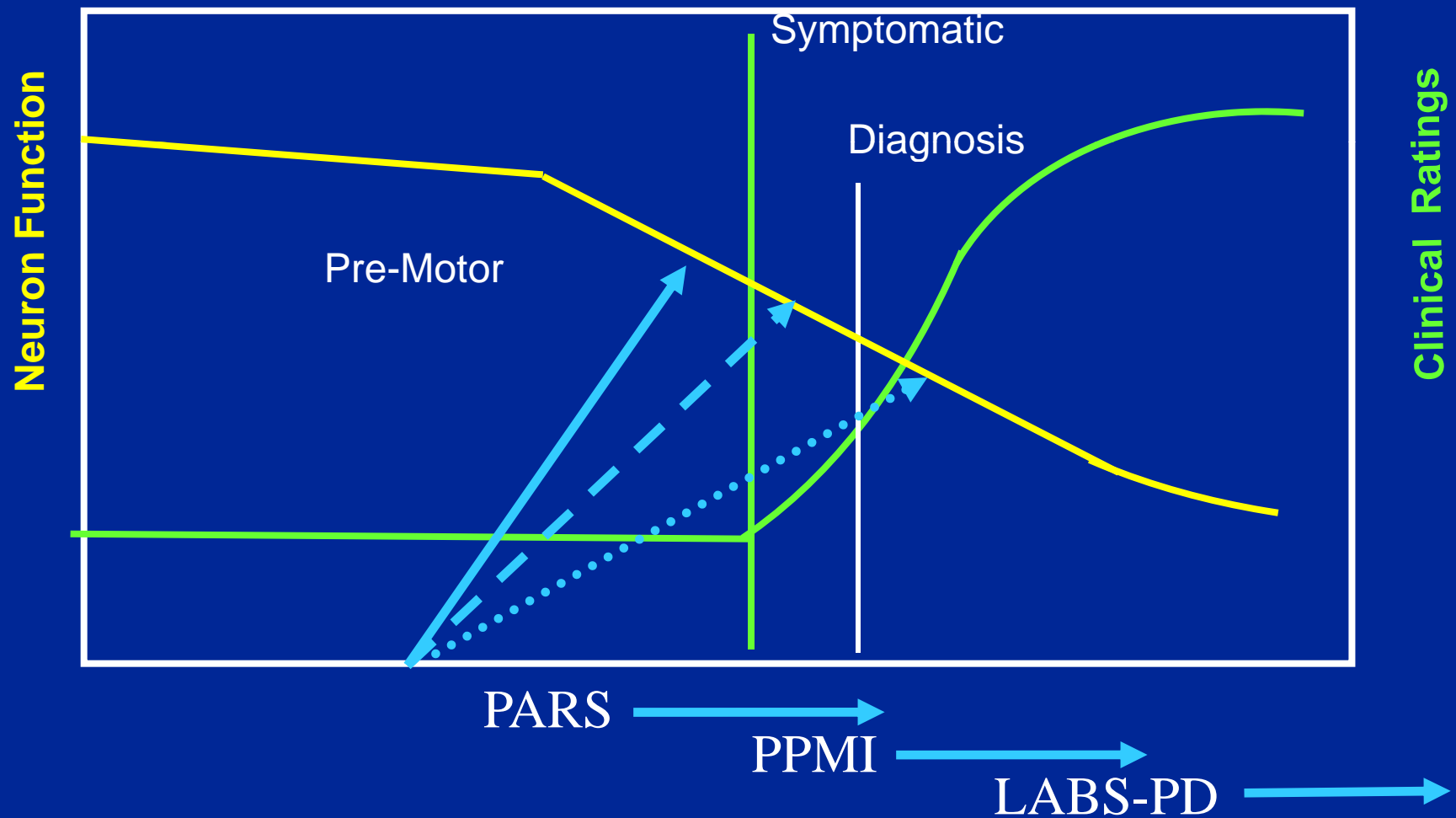
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# **Utility of biomarkers in clinical trials**

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- **Disease mechanism**
  - **Drug mechanism**
  - **Dosage determination**
  - **Study eligibility-early/accurate diagnosis**
  - **Pre-motor diagnosis**
  - **Monitoring disease progression**
  - **Stratification into PD sub-types**
  - **Correlation with clinical signals**
- 
- **Disease modifying PD therapeutics remain a major unmet need**
  - **Biomarkers will potentially shorten study duration, reduce study sample size, limit study costs.**

**Biomarkers likely have a temporal pattern**  
**Biomarkers can be used to define and inform at**  
**different disease stages**



# Developing the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative

**PPMI- A biomarker focused Parkinson disease progression study – comprehensive, longitudinal, cooperative – Public private partnership - MJ Fox, Industry, Government, Academic, Patients and Families**

## **Requirements for Biomarker Infrastructure**

### **Specific Data Set**

- 400 early stage PD and 200 controls
- Clinical (motor/non-motor) and imaging data
- Corresponding biologic samples (DNA, blood, CSF)

### **Standardization**

- Uniform acquisition of data and samples
- Uniform storage of data and samples
- Strict quality control/quality assurance

### **Access/Sharing** [www.ppmi-info.org](http://www.ppmi-info.org)

- Data available to research community → data mining, hypothesis generation & testing
- Samples available for studies



**PARKINSON'S  
PROGRESSION  
MARKERS  
INITIATIVE**

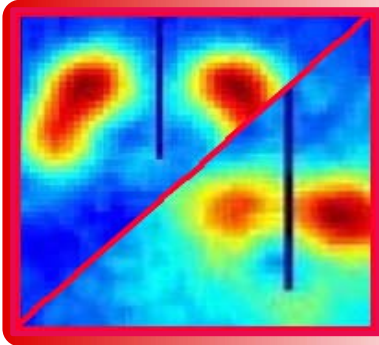
Play a Part in Parkinson's Research



# PPMI Study Details: Synopsis

<b>Study population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>400 <i>de novo</i> PD subjects (newly diagnosed and unmedicated)</li> <li>200 age- and gender-matched healthy controls</li> <li>Subjects will be followed for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 5 years</li> </ul>
<b>Assessments/ Clinical data collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor assessments</li> <li>Neuropsychiatric/cognitive testing</li> <li>Olfaction</li> <li>DaTSCAN imaging, MRI</li> </ul>
<b>Biologic collection/</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DNA collected at screening</li> <li>Serum and plasma collected at each visit; urine collected annually</li> <li>CSF collected at baseline, 6mo 12 mo and then annually</li> <li>Samples aliquotted and stored in central biorepository</li> </ul>
<b>Initial Verification studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead biologic candidates to be tested:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpha-synuclein (CSF)</li> <li>DJ-1 (CSF and blood)</li> <li>Urate (blood)</li> <li>Abeta 1-42 (CSF)</li> <li>Total tau, Phospho-tau (p-181) (CSF)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>PD treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>De novo</i> for ~6 months</li> <li>Can participate in other clinical trials (including interventional trials) after 12 months</li> </ul>





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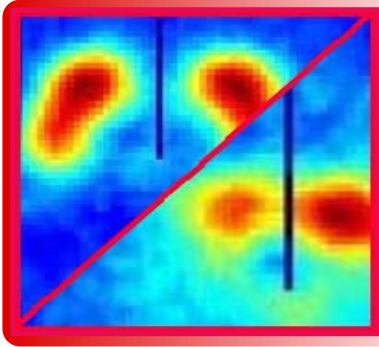
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