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Review Article

The 2013 SFRBM discovery award: Selected discoveries from the butterfield laboratory of oxidative stress and its sequela in brain in cognitive disorders exemplified by Alzheimer disease and chemotherapy induced cognitive impairment



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 30 April 2014

Received in revised form

5 June 2014

Accepted 10 June 2014

Available online 1 July 2014

Keywords:

2013 SFRBM Discovery Award
Alzheimer disease (AD) and its earlier forms (amnestic MCI and preclinical AD)
A β (1–42) associated oxidative stress
Redox proteomics
Chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment (“chemobrain”)
Plasma-derived elevated TNF α and its sequela in brain

ABSTRACT

This retrospective review on discoveries of the roles of oxidative stress in brain of subjects with Alzheimer disease (AD) and animal models thereof as well as brain from animal models of chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment (CICI) results from the author receiving the 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine. The paper reviews our laboratory's discovery of protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation in AD brain regions rich in amyloid β -peptide (A β) but not in A β -poor cerebellum; redox proteomics as a means to identify oxidatively modified brain proteins in AD and its earlier forms that are consistent with the pathology, biochemistry, and clinical presentation of these disorders; how A β in *in vivo*, *ex vivo*, and *in vitro* studies can lead to oxidative modification of key proteins that also are oxidatively modified in AD brain; the role of the single methionine residue of A β (1–42) in these processes; and some of the potential mechanisms in the pathogenesis and progression of AD.

CICI affects a significant fraction of the 14 million American cancer survivors, and due to diminished cognitive function, reduced quality of life of the persons with CICI (called “chemobrain” by patients) often results. A proposed mechanism for CICI employed the prototypical ROS-generating and non-blood brain barrier (BBB)-penetrating chemotherapeutic agent doxorubicin (Dox, also called adriamycin, ADR). Because of the quinone moiety within the structure of Dox, this agent undergoes redox cycling to produce superoxide free radical peripherally. This, in turn, leads to oxidative modification of the key plasma protein, apolipoprotein A1 (ApoA1). Oxidized ApoA1 leads to elevated peripheral TNF α , a proinflammatory cytokine that crosses the BBB to induce oxidative stress in brain parenchyma that affects negatively brain mitochondria. This subsequently leads to apoptotic cell death resulting in CICI. This review outlines aspects of CICI consistent with the clinical presentation, biochemistry, and pathology of this disorder. To the author's knowledge this is the only plausible and self-consistent mechanism to explain CICI.

These two different disorders of the CNS affect millions of persons worldwide. Both AD and CICI share free radical-mediated oxidative stress in brain, but the source of oxidative stress is not the same.

Continued research is necessary to better understand both AD and CICI. The discoveries about these disorders from the Butterfield Laboratory that led to the 2013 Discovery Award from the Society of Free Radical and Medicine provide a significant foundation from which this future research can be launched.

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Abbreviations: A β , amyloid β -peptide; AD, Alzheimer disease; ApoA1, apolipoprotein A1; BBB, blood brain barrier; CICI, chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment; CSF, cerebral spinal fluid; Dox, doxorubicin; DS, Down syndrome; FAEE, ferulic acid ethyl ester; GCEE, gamma-glutamylcysteine ethyl ester; HNE, 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal; LTP, long-term potentiation; NAC, N-acetylcysteine; NFT, neurofibrillary tangles; PCAD, preclinical AD; PtdSer, phosphatidylserine; SP, senile plaques

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Introduction

Being presented the 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine at its annual national meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2013 ranks as one of the significant highlights of my academic career along with my being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring by President Clinton in the White House in 1998, being elected a Fellow of SFRBM in 2012, and receiving the Alkmeon International Prize for Progress in Science from the European Brain Research Institute in 2014 in Rome, Italy.

Counting my 3 years as a Ph.D. student and 3 years as a NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at Duke University or Duke University School of Medicine in Physical Chemistry and Neuroscience, respectively, I have been involved in academic biomedical research for nearly 44 years, with most of this time at the University of Kentucky. Highly talented graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, visiting scientists, and undergraduate students, along with outstanding University of Kentucky collaborators and collaborators worldwide, have contributed greatly to the research that led to the Discovery Award and that has led to over 580 refereed scientific publications from my laboratory. I trained more than 60 Ph.D. and M.S. students, over 150 undergraduates, 30 postdoctoral scholars, and visiting scientists, and all have been critical to the success of the laboratory in making discoveries about oxidative stress in brain in subjects with neurodegenerative disorders and in patients following certain chemotherapy regimens. So, to this outstanding group of scientists, including University of Kentucky and worldwide collaborators, this grateful scientist is highly appreciative and dedicates this review to each of you.

Our laboratory has been involved in the beginning with discovering oxidative stress in brains from subjects with aged-related neurodegenerative disorders, especially Alzheimer disease (AD) through all its stages, and also in model systems of AD, Parkinson disease, Huntington disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In addition, we have investigated oxidative stress in various tissues from patients with chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment (CICI, often called “chemobrain” by patients) and models thereof. The organization of this review will highlight

some significant discoveries and achievements from humans and model systems related first to AD and then to CICI.

Since the Discovery Award was presented to me based on research in our laboratory, I will focus this review on mostly our own work. Other laboratories have made highly important contributions related to oxidative stress in AD, and omission of citation of references of such work is not meant to convey any message other than this review focuses on aspects of our own laboratory's work related to AD associated with the 2013 Discovery Award from SFRBM. Therefore, with any unintended hubris, I respectfully ask the indulgence of all appropriate researchers.

Oxidative stress indices and redox proteomics employed in our laboratory

Oxidative stress is a condition that arises when free radical production exceeds biochemical means of scavenging these free radicals, and is manifested, among other ways, by protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation [1]. For markers for protein oxidation, protein carbonyls [2] and 3-nitrotyrosine [3] are the most prominently used, and while several markers of lipid peroxidation are available [4], protein-bound HNE (4-hydroxy-2-nonenal) [5] is most often used in our laboratory (Table 1). Protein carbonyls arise as a consequence of at least four processes involving free radical reactions [2]: (a) cleavage of the peptide backbone to produce carbon-centered radicals that combine rapidly with paramagnetic oxygen; (b) oxidation of specific protein side chains, for example, Lys, His, and Thr; (c) covalent modification by reactive products of lipid peroxidation, e.g., alkenals like HNE via Michael addition; and (d) glycoxidation of oligosaccharide chains. HNE is produced from a lipid acyl chain hydroperoxide, particularly that from arachidonic acid. The hydroperoxide is formed following free radical attack on allylic H atoms of these acyl chains and subsequent chain reaction involving oxygen reaction with carbon-centered free radicals and further attack on allylic H atoms on acyl chains of lipids [1]. 3-Nitrotyrosine is formed by reaction of tyrosine with peroxynitrite (ONOO⁻), the latter, in turn, formed following reaction of nitric oxide and superoxide free radical and subsequent involvement of carbon dioxide [3].

Table 1
Commonly used indices of protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation, two key markers of oxidative stress, employed in the Butterfield Laboratory ^a

Index	Comments
Protein oxidation Protein carbonyls (PC)	3-Nitrotyrosine (3-NT) PC quantified by immunochemical detection of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone adduct to proteins. 3-NT is produced following formation of ONOO ⁻ from reaction of NO and superoxide radical anion. Subsequent involvement of CO ₂ and scission of nitrosoperoxy carbonate leads to .NO ₂ . 3-NT is detected immunochemically.
Lipid Peroxidation Protein-bound 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal (HNE)	HNE is formed from oxidized arachidonic acid and binds to Cys, His, and Lys on proteins via Michael addition.

^a See Butterfield and Stadtman [2] for more details.

Redox proteomics, pioneered in the Butterfield Laboratory [6], is that branch of the field of proteomics used to identify proteins oxidatively modified by one or more of the processes noted above. Detailed methodology for protein identification and caveats of the methods are given in recent reviews [6–8] (see Fig. 1).

Alzheimer disease

Brief background of AD

The cause of the largest fraction (about 70–75%) of dementia in the United States, AD is an age-dependent progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by loss of cognition, including reasoning and memory. Approximately 5.5 million Americans currently are diagnosed with AD, and recent studies suggest that with proper coding of the actual cause of death of AD patients would rank AD as the 3rd or 4th leading cause of death in the United States [9]. Pathology may occur at least 20 years before the onset of symptoms, so diagnostic biomarkers are clearly needed for this devastating disease. The three major characteristic neuropathological hallmarks of AD include the presence of senile plaques (SP, composed of a core of amyloid β -peptide (A β) surrounded by dystrophic neuritis with several associated proteins), neurofibrillary tangles (NFT, composed of hyperphosphorylated tau protein) [10], and the loss of synapses in brain parenchyma [11]. A β , a 39–43 amino acid peptide (Fig. 2), is formed by proteolytic cleavage of amyloid precursor protein (APP) by β -secretase and γ -secretase (Fig. 3).

Mild cognitive impairment [12,13], particularly amnesic MCI, is arguably a prodromal form of AD. Patients with amnesic MCI have memory loss but normal activities of daily living. Preclinical AD (PCAD) is gaining acceptance as the earliest form of AD [14]. Patients with PCAD have normal indices of cognition but significant AD-relevant pathology in their brains.

The amyloid cascade hypothesis, suitably updated, has provided a framework for understanding clinical presentation and pathology of AD [15]. Although SP density does not correlate with performance on instruments of cognition, A β (1–42) oligomer density does [15]. Oligomers of A β (1–42) injected into mice brain significantly diminish long-term potentiation (LTP), which is needed for learning and memory [16]. Many other detrimental biological effects of A β (1–42) oligomers are known, and most researchers in the AD field accept that oligomers are the toxic species of A β (1–42) [17].

Our laboratory along with the late William R. Markesbery developed the notion of another complementary component of AD pathogenesis, namely, the involvement of free radical oxidative stress in the pathogenesis and progression of AD [18,19], with our laboratory emphasizing the role of A β (1–42) oligomers in this oxidative stress [20,21].

This part of this invited review associated with the 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine will highlight some discoveries from our laboratory of the role of A β (1–42)-associated oxidative stress in the pathogenesis and progression of AD.

Studies of oxidative stress in brain of subjects of AD and its earliest stages from the Butterfield Laboratory

We demonstrated for the first time that protein oxidation indexed by elevated protein carbonyls was localized to brain regions of subjects with AD that were rich in A β (1–42), viz hippocampus and inferior parietal lobule, but not in brain regions poor in A β , e.g., cerebellum [22]. Subsequently, we, showed that elevated protein-bound HNE was observed in AD brain [4,23–25], complementing research by Markesbery and colleagues, who showed that free HNE was elevated in AD brain [26]. We also demonstrated that 3-NT was elevated in AD brain in the same regions in which protein carbonyls were elevated [27,28]. Similar studies in brain of subjects with amnesic MCI demonstrated elevated levels of protein carbonyls [29,30], protein-bound HNE [31,32], and 3-NT [33]. Similar studies in early AD revealed elevated protein-bound HNE [34]. The inferior parietal lobule region from subjects with PCAD in our hands did not show evidence of oxidative stress [35], while others reported only HNE elevation in hippocampus from PCAD subjects [36]. Taken together, our studies suggested that oxidative stress in brain occurred early in the progression of AD.

The lipid peroxidation products HNE and A β (1–42) were shown by us to cause loss of phospholipid asymmetry in synaptic membranes [37,38]. The loss of lipid asymmetry in brain membranes caused by A β (1–42) was prevented by several antioxidant compounds (Structures given in Fig. 4). Exposure of phosphatidylserine (PtdSer) to the outer bilayer lamella normally invokes a response by membrane-bound flippase, an ATP-dependent enzyme with a critical cysteine in its active site, to return PtdSer to its normal location, the inner lamella of the lipid bilayer. Loss of lipid asymmetry by HNE and A β (1–42)-produced HNE conceivably results from binding of this alkenal to the active site cysteine of flippase. Using this information, we determined that synaptic membranes from AD and amnesic MCI inferior parietal lobule had lost lipid asymmetry, i.e., greater exposure of PtdSer to the outer bilayer lamella [39], which is a marker of apoptotic cells. These results showed that loss of lipid asymmetry occurred early in the progression of AD and were correlated with levels of A β (1–42). Similar studies with the human double mutant APP/PS-1 knock-in mouse model of AD showed that loss of lipid asymmetry in brain synaptic membranes occurred as a function of age, reaching a maximum loss with the onset of A β (1–42) deposition [40].

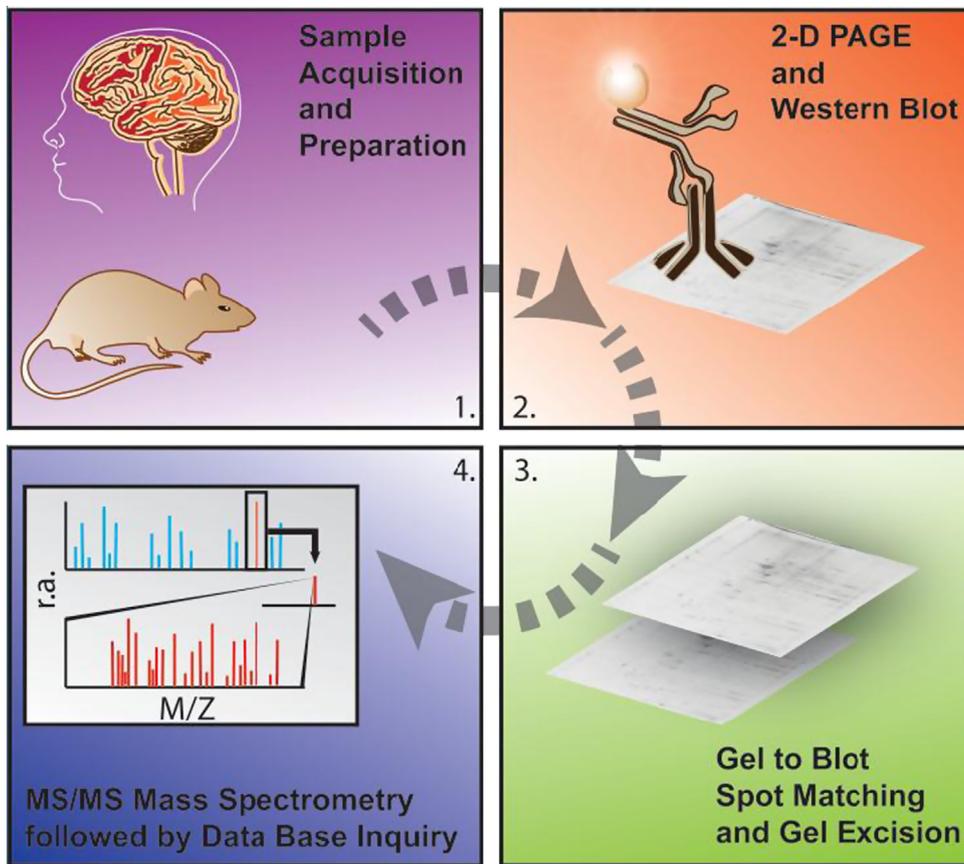


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the major methodological steps involved in redox proteomics. For more details see recent reviews in [6,7]. The figure, used with permission from Elsevier Science Publishers, is taken from Ref. [122].

Redox proteomics, pioneered in our laboratory, is a subset of the field of proteomics that leads to the identification of oxidatively modified and, almost always, dysfunctional proteins [7,8,41,42]. Metabolic proteins were identified by redox proteomics as oxidatively dysfunctional in AD and aMCI brain, consistent with the observation that glucose utilization is markedly depressed in both conditions, with the AD brain showing greater effects than the former [6,25,27,29,32,43–49]. Among these proteins were various glycolytic enzymes, TCA enzymes, and components of ATP synthase. Lack of ATP is consistent with altered synaptic function in AD and induced by A β (1–42) oligomers [16]. Diminution of ATP also would greatly affect cellular and mitochondrial potential, glutamate neurotransmission, learning and memory, and maintenance of lipid asymmetry.

All these functions are lost in AD and aMCI, demonstrating again that redox proteomics-identified proteins often mirror the pathology and clinical presentation of this disease. One such protein that appears oxidatively modified at all stages of AD is enolase [50]. This protein is not only involved in glycolysis, but plays roles in activation of plasminogen, which in turn is activated to plasmin, a protease that, among other proteins, targets A β (1–42) for destruction. Moreover, enolase through c-myc activates prosurvival pathways involving ERK1/2. Thus, oxidatively dysfunctional enolase in AD would lead to elevated neurotoxic A β (1–42) and to loss of prosurvival processes [50], both effects consistent with observations in AD brain. Moreover, comparison of brain from subjects with PCAD, who have no cognitive loss, to those of subjects with amnesic MCI, who have only memory loss but no dementia, revealed that enolase is oxidatively modified in aMCI brain [51], consistent with the notion that this protein is involved in memory, and its oxidation may be associated with loss of memory in this early form of AD.

Amyloid- β 1-42

DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGL-**M**-VGGVVIA

Amyloid- β 1-42 (M35Nleu)

DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGL-**NLeu**-VGGVVIA

Amyloid- β 1-42 (I31P)

DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKG**A-P**-IGLMVGGVVIA

Amyloid- β 1-42 (M35C)

DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGL-**C**-VGGVVIA

Amyloid- β 1-42 (G37D)

DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGLMV-**D**-GVVIA

Fig. 2. Sequences of A β (1–42) and variants of this sequence noted in this retrospective paper. Note the key methionine residue at position 35 of A β (1–42).

Other classes of proteins identified by redox proteomics or Western blot methods in our laboratory as oxidatively modified and likely dysfunctional in AD and/or aMCI brain include proteins that normally function as chaperones [52]; metabolic proteins [53]; proteins involved in neurite extension [54]; proteasomal degradation of damaged, aggregated proteins [54]; glutathionylation [55–57] proteins involved in antioxidant defense [27,28,45,47,58,59], cell cycle proteins [60,61], p53-mediated nontranscriptional apoptosis [62,63], glycoproteins [64–66], proteins associated with PSD95 [67]; LRP-1, a major clearance protein that removes A β (1–42) from brain to blood [68]; heme oxygenase-1 that degrades prooxidant heme forming biliverdin [69]; biliverdin reductase, which rapidly converts biliverdin to the antioxidant and

denitrifying molecule, bilirubin, is involved in various prosurvival signaling pathways [70,71]; lipoamide dehydrogenase-mediated reduction of lipoic acid [72]; and protein synthesis [25].

These oxidatively modified and dysfunctional proteins are consonant with the clinical presentation and pathology of AD and various stages thereof. They also represent potentially important targets for therapeutic intervention in early stages of AD. And these numerous proteins, involved in many pathways, are consistent with a free radical source in AD in which any protein modified by free radicals or free radical reaction products (i.e., HNE) would be oxidatively modified, of altered structure [73], and consequently dysfunctional.

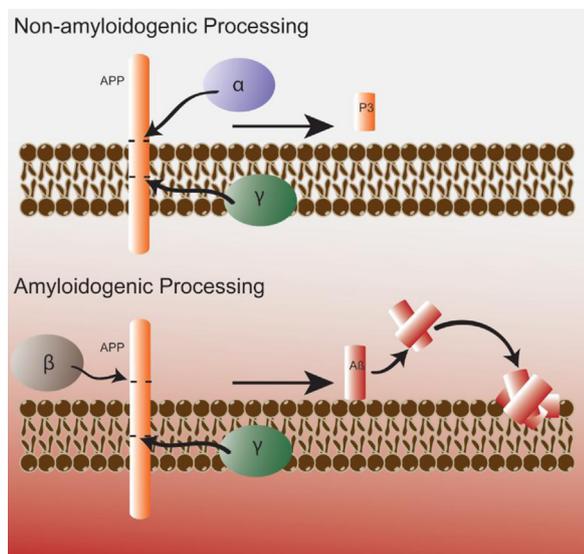


Fig. 3. Nonamyloidogenic (Top) and amyloidogenic (Bottom) pathways of APP processing. Note the latter leads to oligomeric $A\beta(1-42)$ that enters the lipid bilayer leading to damaging lipid peroxidation and its sequelae as discussed in the text. The figure, used with permission from Elsevier Science Publishers, is taken from Ref. [122].

An initial redox proteomics study of brain in familial AD was conducted by our laboratory in collaboration with Ralph Martins, now of Edith Cowan University in Australia. Brain proteins associated with energy metabolism, nitric oxide utilization, the ubiquitin-proteasome system, and the spectrin actin cytoskeletal network were found to be oxidatively modified [74]. Some of these proteins were identified as oxidatively modified and dysfunctional in brain of sporadic AD and amnesic MCI as noted above.

Down syndrome (DS) is a consequence of trisomy of chromosome 21. With improvements in medical care, persons with DS often live to the sixth decade of life or longer. At approximately 40–45 years of age, Alzheimer-like dementia appears coincident with AD-like neuropathology [75]. In collaboration with Prof. Elizabeth Head at the University of Kentucky and Prof. Marzia Perluigi of the University of Rome-La Sapienza, we determined that elevated oxidative stress occurred in frontal cortex [76] and other brain regions of DS subjects with AD-like pathology [75]. In addition, redox proteomics analyses identified brain proteins, including those associated with a dysfunctional proteostasis network, as oxidatively modified and likely dysfunctional in DS subjects with AD-like pathology [77–79]. The APP gene is located on chromosome 21; consequently, there is a dose effect of $A\beta(1-42)$ in DS that likely contributes to the oxidative stress of this disorder. Other moieties like Cu,Zn-SOD also are coded for on chromosome 21 and also may contribute to oxidative stress in this disorder. However, oxidative stress and redox proteomics-identified oxidatively modified proteins also are found early in DS: for example, amniotic fluid from mothers carrying a DS fetus had elevated indices of oxidative stress and increased oxidative modification of key proteins such as apolipoprotein A1 [80].

Potential biomarkers of AD and its earlier forms

Ideally, biomarkers of AD and its earlier forms would be found in plasma or at least cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) [81,82]. Given that oxidative stress may be an integral aspect of the pathogenesis of AD [21,24], oxidatively modified proteins potentially may be among such biomarkers. The Butterfield Laboratory in collaboration with

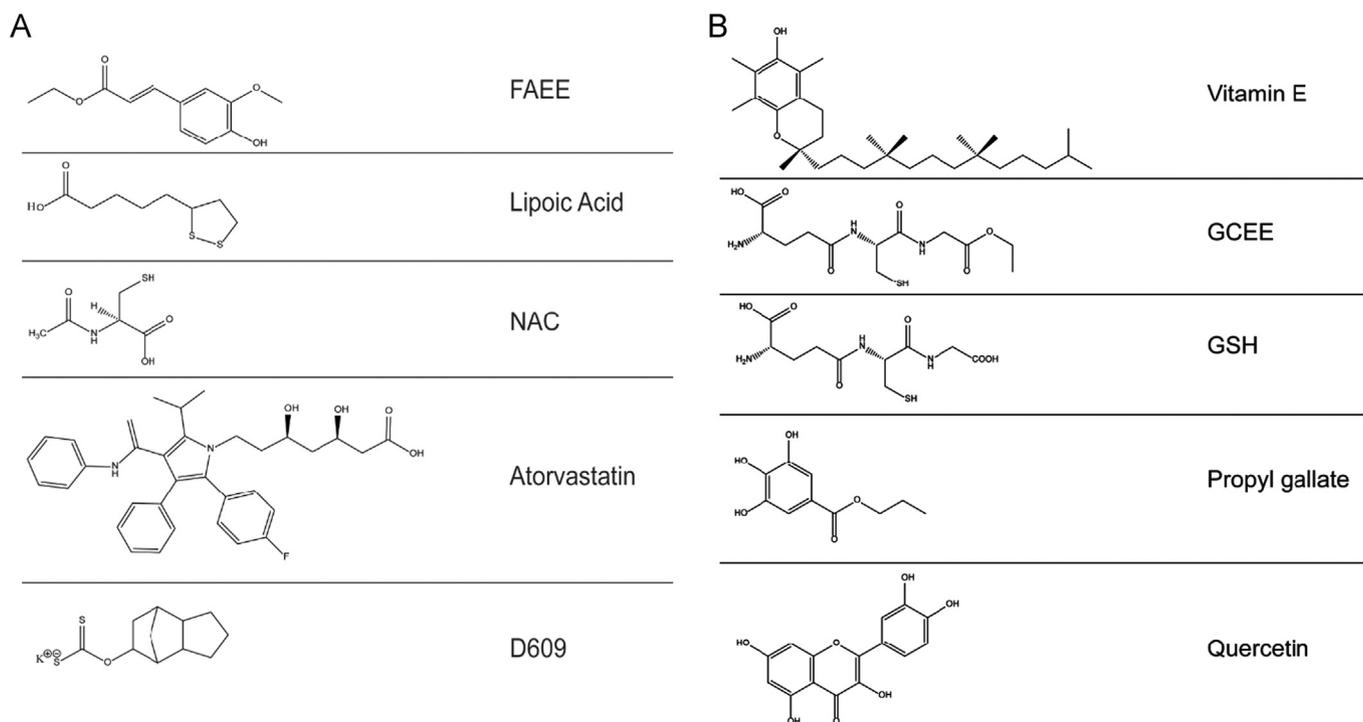


Fig. 4. (A,B) Structures of antioxidant compounds noted in this retrospective paper.

the Perluigi Laboratory of the University of Rome-La Sapienza demonstrated decreased expression and increased oxidation of plasma haptoglobin in AD patients [83] and alterations of the HO-1/BVR-A system in plasma of probable AD patients and MCI patients [84], suggesting that these damaged proteins could be part of a panel of altered proteins to serve as a potential biomarker in AD and its earlier forms.

In addition to plasma and CSF, we proposed that oxidatively damaged mitochondria isolated from peripheral lymphocytes potentially could contribute to a biomarker for AD and MCI [85,86]. That elevated indices of oxidative damage to mitochondria isolated from lymphocytes inversely correlated with performance on measures of cognitive function in both AD and MCI, and that proteomics analysis of these mitochondria demonstrated differential levels of key proteins involved in ATP production, protection against oxidative stress, and other pathways previously identified by our proteomics studies of brains of subjects with AD and MCI noted above, support our hypothesis that mitochondria isolated from peripheral lymphocytes potentially could be part of a biomarker for AD and its earlier forms.

In vivo studies of models of Alzheimer disease

As noted above, oligomeric A β (1–42) is viewed by many (most) AD researchers as underlying the pathology and clinical presentation of this dementing disorder. Accordingly, we performed *in vivo* studies of models of AD to assess the role of A β (1–42) to induce oxidative stress and oxidize specific proteins. Moreover, we investigated the role of antioxidant compounds administered *in vivo* on oxidative stress induced by A β (1–42) *in vivo* and *ex vivo*.

Using a muscle promoter, DNA corresponding to human A β (1–42) was inserted into *Caenorhabditis elegans*, and oxidative stress was measured [87]. The phenotype observed in this constitutive A β (1–42) expression system was paralysis of the worms, and elevated protein carbonyls were demonstrated. Subsequent studies using a temperature-sensitive mutant of *C. elegans* that allowed for controlled temporal expression of A β (1–42) showed that elevated protein carbonyls occurred precisely when the paralysis phenotype occurred and prior to deposition of fibrillar A β (1–42), suggesting that A β (1–42)-induced oxidized muscle proteins led to the paralysis and that oligomeric A β (1–42) was the causative agent [88]. Redox proteomics analysis identified worm orthologues of human brain proteins in *C. elegans* expressing human A β (1–42) that had been identified previously [89]. If the codon for Met-35 of human A β (1–42) were mutated to Cys, no oxidative stress was found [87].

Human double mutant APP/PS-1 knock-in mice (APPNLh/APPNLh \times PS-1P264L/PS-1P264L) were studied for oxidative stress in brain [90,91]. Use of knock-in mice obviates any putative compensatory responses in the mouse, since the mouse gene is knocked out, but the mouse promoter remains. This means that human mutant APP and PS-1 genes are inserted, resulting in the correct amount and correct location of the human proteins, albeit with mutations that lead to A β (142) deposition beginning at 6 months, becoming more obvious at 9 months of age, and displaying frank neuritic plaques at 12 months of age [40,92]. Elevated protein carbonyls, protein-bound HNE, and 3-NT were observed in brain at all ages of the APP/PS-1 human double mutant knock-in mouse, including embryonic neurons [93], suggesting that oxidative stress is a prominent and perhaps fundamental aspect of pathology in this AD mouse model. Consistent with this notion, this mouse model was treated *in vivo* with N-acetylcysteine (NAC, Fig. 4) in the drinking water, which provided the rate-limiting substrate for glutathione (GSH) elevation in brain [91]. The time of treatment spanned 5 months beginning at either 4 months or 7 months of age, terminating at

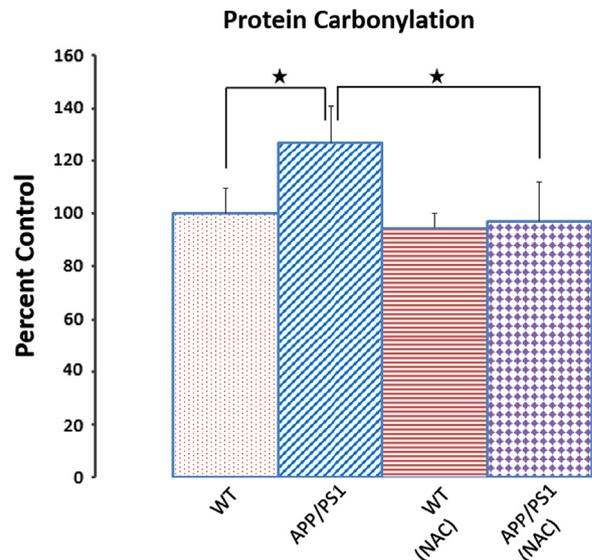


Fig. 5. N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) given in drinking water inhibits oxidative stress in brain at 9 months of age of the APP/PS-1 human double mutant knock-in mouse model of AD. Protein oxidation in brain assessed by protein carbonyls is shown. The figure is adapted from [91].

the time of A β deposition or at the time of frank neuritic plaque formation, respectively. Decreased protein carbonyls in brain were found in both cases, with the magnitude of the decrease greater in brain of mice whose treatment began at an earlier age (Fig. 5). These results are consistent with the idea that elevated GSH might be a good therapeutic strategy in AD and that earlier stage treatment (amnesic MCI, for example) may be more beneficial. Proteomics studies of brain from APP/PS-1 mice as a function of age identified oxidatively modified proteins in the same pathways as those found in AD and MCI brain noted above [92].

Similar studies of another AD mouse model, the transgenic PDAPP(Swe/Ind) mouse, also called the J20 mouse, that has two mutations in APP, showed elevated levels of human A β (1–42) and elevated oxidative stress in brain [94]. NAC treatment also led to decreased oxidative stress in this mouse model of AD as this antioxidant molecule did in the APP/PS-1 human double mutant knock-in mouse noted above, and proteomics identified brain proteins in this mouse that likely contributed to this neuroprotection following treatment with NAC [95].

In a different kind of *in vivo* study of A β (1–42), this neurotoxic peptide was injected into the nucleus basalis of Meynert in the forebrain of rats in collaboration with Giancarlo Pepeu of the University of Florence, his a well-known laboratory with expertise in cholinergic neurons [96]. This brain region is highly involved in AD with dramatic neuronal loss and innervated by cholinergic neurons, many axons of which project to the outer molecular layer of the hippocampus. Coupled to the known diminution of choline acetyltransferase activity in AD brain [97], the cholinergic hypothesis of AD was developed [98]. One week post injection of A β (1–42) to the NBM region, we determined in the hippocampus that elevated protein oxidation was present, but not in saline-injected rats. Further, redox proteomics analyses identified many oxidatively modified hippocampal proteins in A β (1–42)-treated rats that mirrored those in AD and MCI brain. These results are consistent with the notions that A β causes oxidative stress *in vivo* and that oxidative stress in one brain region can be directed to another connected brain region [96]. The senescence-accelerated mouse, type 8 (SAMP8), is a good model of AD as demonstrated by age-related cognitive decline and deposition of A β (1–42) [99,100]. Treatment of aged SAMP8 mice with lipoic acid and/or NAC led to significantly decreased oxidative damage in brain [101].

Quantitative proteomics identified brain proteins of differential levels and oxidative modification in aged SAMP8 mice [102], and redox proteomics studies identified which brain proteins were less oxidized by lipoic acid [103]. These latter proteins were largely those found in pathways we had identified to be damaged in AD and MCI as noted above. Diminution of brain proteins thought to be involved in the pathogenesis of AD by use of antisense oligonucleotide treatment led to significantly decreased oxidative stress and decreased markers of AD pathology but increased learning and memory in aged SAMP8 mice [104–106]. In particular, antisense directed against *APP* [104], *PS-1* [105], or *glycogen synthase kinase-3 β* [106] led to decreased levels of A β (1–42) deposition and phosphorylated tau protein, respectively. These studies strongly support the notion that these proteins, known to be fundamental to pathological alterations in AD, can be reduced by appropriate treatments, and such treatments improve cognitive behavior of this AD mouse model. These results support the notion that these proteins may be potential therapeutic targets in AD and MCI. The beagle dog deposits A β (1–42) of identical sequence as that of human A β (1–42) in the form of plaques as the animal ages. Consequently, we hypothesized that the aged beagle dog brain would show evidence of oxidative stress and that dietary intervention with a high antioxidant diet and program of behavioral enrichment would lower this oxidative damage. Drs. Carl Cotman and Elizabeth Head of the University of California at Irvine had fed 12-year-old beagles over a 3-year period with a diet rich in antioxidants, including lipoic acid and polyphenols, and provided behavioral enrichments to a cohort of these dogs. These researchers demonstrated a markedly reduced error rate in learning and memory of such treated then 15-year-old dogs compared to dog chow-fed beagles of the same age [107]. Dr. Head relocated to the University of Kentucky and provided brains of these treated dogs. We found elevated protein oxidation in brain of dog chow-fed 15-year-old dogs and significantly reduced protein oxidation in brain of the dogs fed a high antioxidant diet and put on a program of behavioral enrichment [108]. Both interventions were necessary to produce the decreased oxidative stress in brain, and this lower oxidative stress correlated with significantly improved learning and memory performance, to the extent that both the oxidative stress and the cognitive improvement were reminiscent of brain from a 4-year-old beagle. If this paradigm is translatable to humans, it would suggest that people strongly consider eating a healthy, high antioxidant diet and remain intellectually engaged throughout their life span, and, as they are able, to engage in regular exercise to increase the probability of a healthy brain and lower one's risk of AD as one ages. Statins, such as atorvastatin, do not cross the blood brain barrier in a significant amount; yet, statins may have neuroprotective effects [109]. How can this neuroprotection occur? In collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Head's Laboratory, we used the beagle dog to investigate further the neuroprotective effects of atorvastatin. Middle-aged dogs were treated over a year with atorvastatin or vehicle. Several important findings were determined: (a) There was decreased oxidative stress in brain of atorvastatin-treated dogs relative to vehicle-treated dogs, and the former had elevated levels of inducible heme oxygenase-1 that correlated with improved learning and memory [110]. (b) Since biliverdin is produced by HO-1, we examined the enzyme biliverdin reductase-A from atorvastatin- and vehicle-treated dog brains and determined that in the former treatment this enzyme is much less oxidatively modified and is phosphorylated on Ser and Thr residues, the latter required to activate the reductase activity of this enzyme [111]. The BVR-A product, bilirubin, is a good antioxidant at low levels, and protection of brain-resident BVR-A by atorvastatin therapy was correlated with improved learning and memory. (c) Inhibition of HMG-CoA reductase by statins also reduces synthesis of coenzyme Q₁₀,

which is an electron carrier in the electron transport chain. Hence, we treated atorvastatin-treated dogs also with CoQ₁₀ and found improved learning and memory function [112]. Based on these studies in beagle dogs taken together, we hypothesize that statins are neuroprotective in brain of AD patients not necessarily because of cholesterol lowering, but due to decreased oxidative stress in brain associated with upregulation and decreased oxidative damage to the HO-1/BVR-A system in brain regions of relevance to AD and MCI [109,113].

Ex vivo studies of A β -induced oxidative stress

Aging is the single most risk factor for AD, but another prominent risk factor for AD is inheritance of the gene, *apolipoprotein E, allele 4 (ApoE)*. This gene has three alleles, *ApoE2*, *ApoE3*, and *ApoE4*. Persons who inherit two copies of *ApoE4* have as much as a 70% chance of developing AD, while persons who inherit two copies of *ApoE2* are highly unlikely to develop AD. To investigate the roles of A β peptide and *ApoE* allele status, we performed several studies. First, synaptic membranes from *ApoE* knock-out mice were treated with A β (1–40), and these synaptosomes were more susceptible to oxidative stress than synaptosomes from WT mice [114]. In a second, direct test of the hypothesis that *ApoE4* would confer a greater risk of oxidative stress induced by A β (1–42), synaptic membranes from human *ApoE2*, *ApoE3*, or *ApoE4* targeted-replacement (mouse gene knocked out, human gene knocked in) mice were treated with A β (1–42). In all measures of oxidative stress, synaptic membranes from *ApoE4* targeted-replacement mice were significantly more elevated following addition of A β (1–42) compared to those from *ApoE2* and *ApoE3* targeted-replacement mice [115]. Taken together, these results are consistent with the notion that the greater risk of developing AD by inheritance of *ApoE4* may be related to the significantly more elevated oxidative stress in brain associated with A β (1–42).

The xanthate, tricyclodecan-9-yl-xanthogenate (D609) (Fig. 4), is a powerful antioxidant [116] that works through the thiol functionality of the molecule. Indeed, during the scavenging of radicals, the disulfide is formed, and this disulfide in turn is a substrate for glutathione reductase to recycle back to the reduced thiol [117]. Gerbils were injected i.p. with D609 or saline and synaptosomes were isolated. We demonstrated that A β (1–42) addition to the synaptosomes from saline-injected rodents led to significantly elevated protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation, both prevented in D609-injected rodents [118]. Also, mitochondria isolated from brain of the D609- or saline-injected rodents were treated with A β (1–42) and those of saline-treated rodents had significantly elevated oxidative stress that was prevented in brain mitochondria isolated from D609-treated animals [119]. It is unlikely that free D609 could be responsible for this neuroprotection, since in order to produce synaptosomes or to isolate mitochondria numerous centrifugation and washing steps are required. Rather, we hypothesize that D609 induces a cellular stress response that leads to upregulation of protective genes, likely through a Nrf-2 response. A similar hypothesis was confirmed in an analogous study involving ferulic acid ethyl ester (FAEE) (Fig. 4). Ferulic acid has the structure of essentially half of curcumin, and the ethyl ester functionality permits transfer across the BBB [118]. Synaptic membranes were obtained from rodents treated i.p. with FAEE and treated with A β (1–42) or saline. Elevated protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation were demonstrated in synaptic membranes from saline-treated rodents but prevented in FAEE-treated rodents [118]. *In vivo* treatment of D609 or FAEE protected synaptic membranes from loss of A β (1–42)-mediated lipid asymmetry [38]. This neuroprotection was associated with elevated levels of heat shock protein 70, heme oxygenase-1, and decreased levels of i-NOS, a result that also was

observed in primary neuronal membranes treated with A β (1–42) and FAEE [120], suggesting a cellular stress response (sometimes called hormesis).

The unifying theme of *in vivo* and *ex vivo* studies of A β (1–42) is that this neurotoxic peptide is associated with free radical oxidative stress in brain. It is our laboratory's contention that this peptide contributes extensively and may be the critical aspect of the significant oxidative stress under which brain of amnesic MCI and AD patients exists [21,24,121,122].

In vitro studies of A β -mediated oxidative stress and neurotoxicity

We demonstrated that incubation of A β or A β oligomers caused protein oxidation and neurotoxicity in rat embryonic neuronal cultures that were abrogated by the antioxidants propylgallate, vitamin E, quercetin, upregulation of glutathione, D609, or FAEE [87,120,123–129]. A β addition to neuronal cultures led to altered expression of creatine kinase BB isoform and altered levels of mRNA for Cu,Zn-superoxide dismutase and Mn-superoxide dismutase [125]. Protein carbonyls were elevated on glutamine synthetase and creatine kinase as well as other antioxidant enzymes by A β peptides [130–132]. Loss of activity of these enzymes in AD brain due to oxidative modification would have profound negative effects on free radical scavenging, mitochondrial dysfunction, neurotransmission, ammonia levels and pH balance, and glucose metabolism, all of which are observed in AD brain [121]. Redox proteomics studies of synaptosomes treated with A β (1–42) identified a number of oxidatively modified proteins that had been identified in AD and/or MCI brain using this method [133].

Several transport systems are known to be altered in AD brain [134]. A β (1–42) addition to synaptic preparations or neuronal cultures was able to reproduce this oxidative modification. For example, the glutamate transporter EAAT2 (Glt-1) was found to be oxidatively modified by the lipid peroxidation product HNE in AD brain and separately by addition of A β (1–42) to synaptic preparations that contain EAAT2 [23], likely accounting for the loss of activity in AD and following addition of this peptide to astrocytic cultures [135–137]. These results are consistent with the notion that glutamate-mediated excitotoxicity is one means of neuronal death in AD.

The activities of both Na⁺,K⁺-ATPase and Ca²⁺-ATPase in hippocampal neuronal cultures and in human autopsy material from normal controls were inhibited following addition of A β (1–40) or A β (25–35) [138]. Dyshomeostasis of Ca²⁺ and cell death were observed in neuronal cultures by inhibition of these ion-motive ATPases. Taken together, these above-cited results are consistent with A β -associated free radical-mediated oxidative stress and have relevance to the protein oxidation present in AD and MCI brain [24,121].

As noted above, lipid peroxidation is a prominent feature of brain from subjects with AD and amnesic MCI [24,25,49,139]. Our laboratory first demonstrated lipid peroxidation in synaptic membranes following exposure to A β indexed by protein-bound HNE or other means [140]; [23], and vitamin E, a lipid-soluble, chain-breaking antioxidant, prevented A β -mediated lipid peroxidation and ROS formation [127,141]. A β -induced lipid peroxidation was subsequently demonstrated in neuronal cultures and prevented by overexpression of the antiapoptotic protein Bcl-2 [142] or by antioxidants such as those listed above in the discussion of A β -induced protein oxidation. Mitochondrial lipid peroxidation also was evident following A β (1–42) addition [119]. A β (25–35) led to loss of the phosphatidylethanolamine pool of lipids [143], which also was observed in AD brain [144]. Such changes may have relevance to a recent report that altered lipid composition may be able to diagnose AD up to 3 years prior to onset of clinical

symptoms [145]. When covalently modified by HNE, synaptic membrane proteins have altered conformation, and therefore likely altered function [73]. Such changes are consistent with the known alterations of synaptic functions in AD and MCI brain that may significantly contribute to the cognitive deficits in both disorders [16].

Taken together, these results are consistent with the notion that the known elevation of lipid peroxidation in AD and amnesic MCI has a significant contribution from free radical processes associated with A β (1–42) [4,21] and that these alterations occur early in the progression of AD [4,49].

Role of the single methionine residue of A β (1–42) in oxidative stress associated with this neurotoxic peptide

Given that neurotoxic oligomers of A β (1–42) are associated with oxidative stress how does this occur? We hypothesized that the single methionine (Met) residue at position 35 of A β (1–42) is critical to the oxidative stress associated with this peptide [146–148]. Key to this hypothesis is the reasonable assertion that in order for lipid peroxidation to occur, a free radical source must be localized to the lipid bilayer near allylic H atoms of acyl chains of phospholipids: a reactive free radical localized outside the bilayer would simply be too reactive to diffuse into the lipid bilayer to encounter a lipid resident allylic H atom. The free radical-mediated mechanism of lipid peroxidation is shown in Fig. 6. In this case oligomeric A β (1–42) must be in the bilayer, consistent with the model for methionine-mediated, oxidative stress-associated neurotoxicity shown in Fig. 6.

Support for the hypothesis stated above comes from both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies outlined below:

- (A) In contrast to native A β (1–42), no neurotoxicity nor protein oxidation occurred in neuronal cultures treated with A β (1–42M35Norleucine) [20]. This latter peptide has a substitution of the Met S atom by CH₂, resulting in no net change in length or dipole moment of the Met residue, but simply lacking the S atom of Met. This is a one-atom change in an approximately 4000 MW peptide. Moreover, if other amino acids of A β (1–42) were critical to the oxidative stress associated with this peptide, then the resulting norleucine-substituted peptide also should have elicited oxidative stress, but this did not occur [87].
- (B) Substitution of Gly-37 to Asp in A β (1–42) has the effect of having a highly negative charge in the lipid bilayer, i.e., a medium of low dielectric constant. Consequently, this substituted A β peptide Met would be removed from the bilayer. That is, even though A β (1–42)G37D has a Met residue, localization of the Met region of the peptide to outside the lipid bilayer removed the allylic H targets for the Met-resident sulfuranyl free radical to attack and hence no lipid peroxidation [149].
- (C) The great majority of proteins and peptides that reside in the lipid bilayer adopt a helical secondary structure. Given the *i*+4 rule of alpha-helices, this means Ile at residue 31 of A β (1–42) interacts with Met at residue 35. Indeed, high resolution NMR studies show that the carbonyl oxygen of Ile-31 is within a van der Waals distance of the S atom of Met-35 [147,150]. Since O is more electronegative than S, the lone pairs of electrons on the S atom of Met would be drawn to the O of Ile-31, loosening the influence of the positive charges on the protons in the S nucleus and making the lone pairs of electrons on the S atom of Met-35 vulnerable to a one-electron oxidation [20,42,122,151]. The ultimate identity of the oxidant is unknown, but two possibilities among other conceivable moieties are molecular oxygen and Cu²⁺ bound to the Met-35 residue, resulting in superoxide free radical and Cu⁺, respectively. Paramagnetic molecular oxygen has zero dipole

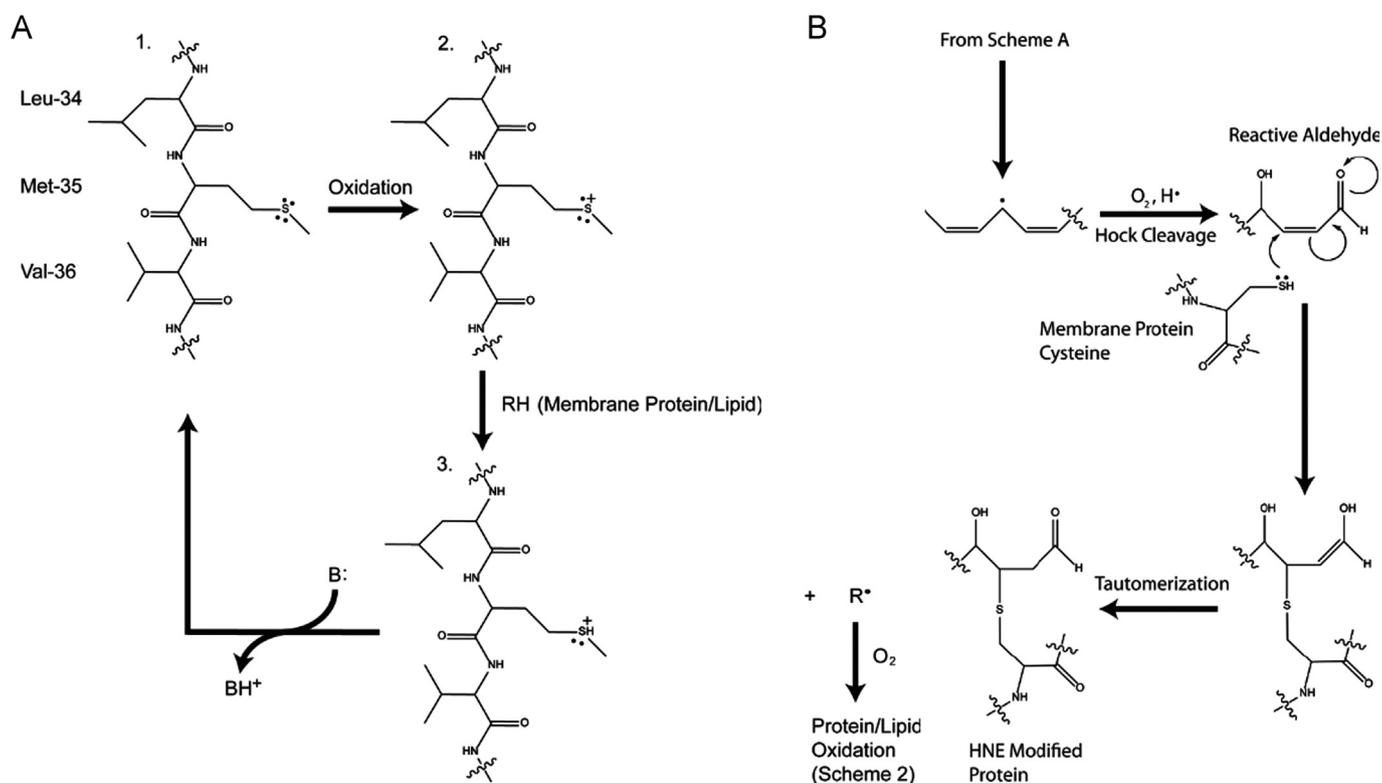


Fig. 6. (A,B) Role of the single methionine residue of A β (1–42) in lipid peroxidation, whose mechanism is shown. Note the HNE formed by lipid peroxidation forms Michael adducts with protein-resident Cys, His, or Lys residues, changing the conformation and decreasing function of the HNE-modified proteins.

moment so is highly soluble in the low dielectric environment of the lipid bilayer. Cu²⁺ has relatively low affinity for Met, but only weak binding is necessary for electron transfer to take place. Consistent with Fig. 7 above, the attack of the resulting sulfuranyl free radical on labile allylic H atoms of acyl chains of the lipid bilayer would form an acid on the S atom of Met-35 and a C-centered free radical on the acyl chain from which the allylic H atom originated. This C-centered free radical would immediately bind molecular oxygen in a rapid radical–radical recombination reaction forming a lipid peroxy free radical. The latter would attack another acyl chain resident allylic H atom to form a lipid hydroperoxide, from which HNE and other reactive alkenals, as well as isoprostanes, can form. This chain reaction process will continue as long as there are allylic H atoms available, and this process is consistent with the observation that a “chain-breaking” antioxidant like vitamin E can prevent lipid peroxidation as noted above. The acid formed on the S atom of Met of A β (1–42) following allylic H-atom abstraction has a pK_a of minus 5, meaning that any base would immediately remove the H⁺ from the S atom in Met-35, reforming the original Met residue. That is, this whole process is catalytic and explains why even a small amount of total A β (1–42) in the lipid bilayer that undergoes this one-electron oxidation has its oxidative effect greatly amplified by lipid peroxidation resulting from the chain reaction process described above, yielding in significant protein and lipid damage. Moreover, this process can solve the quandary of explaining the observation that clioquinol, a divalent cation chelator previously proposed by others to remove Cu²⁺ from A β plaques and hence dissolve them from brain, can work even though Cu²⁺ binding to A β -bound Cu²⁺ is reportedly attomolar [152], while Cu²⁺ binding to clioquinol is nanomolar [153]. If instead of the Cu²⁺ tightly bound to the three His residues (at positions 6,13,14) of A β (1–42), the Cu²⁺ chelated by clioquinol is weakly (micromolar) bound to Met-35, then that latter Cu²⁺ could participate in an electron transfer reaction with one of the lone pair electrons on the S atom

of Met-35, producing the sulfuranyl free radical discussed above and Cu⁺ [20,42,151]. The latter both could participate in Fenton chemistry producing damaging free radicals and could potentially impart a SOD-like characteristic for A β (1–42) as has been proposed [154].

- (D) Spin trapping studies using ultrapure [repeatedly recrystallized] spin trap phenyl-*t*-butyl nitron (PBN) in buffers made with deionized water that had been treated overnight with chelex-100 beads and containing desferal to chelate as many adventitious metal ions as possible led to EPR spectra of a trapped radical when treated with A β (1–42) but no EPR spectrum of either the PBN alone or with A β (1–42)M35Norleucine in which the S atom of Met-35 was replaced by a CH₂ group [20]. This latter peptide, as noted above, was nonreactive and nonneurotoxic. Moreover, this norleucine-substituted peptide was produced by the same company as native A β (1–42), presumably having the same amount of any metal ion bound to it and suggesting that it is the Met-35 S atom that contributes to the oxidative stress associated with this peptide. Absence of molecular oxygen from the buffer solution prevented formation of an EPR spectrum [155], suggesting that in this *in vitro* system O₂ could be an oxidant to oxidize the S atom of Met-35.
- (E) As noted above, A β (1–42) oligomers in the lipid bilayer of neuronal plasma membranes adopt a helical structure, and this secondary structure contributes to the reactivity of the peptide [156]. Also noted above, alpha helices obey the *i*+4 rule of amino acid interaction. Thus, we substituted the alpha-helix breaking amino acid proline for Ile at position 31. Addition of A β (1–42)I31P to neuronal cultures no longer led to protein oxidation or to neuronal cell death [156].
- (F) Substitution of the codon of Cys for Met-35 in the DNA of A β (1–42) in *C. elegans* led to a peptide that deposited to the same extent as the native peptide within the nematode, but resulted in no elevated protein oxidation, in marked contrast to native A β (1–42) [87]. Using the J20 mouse described above, addition

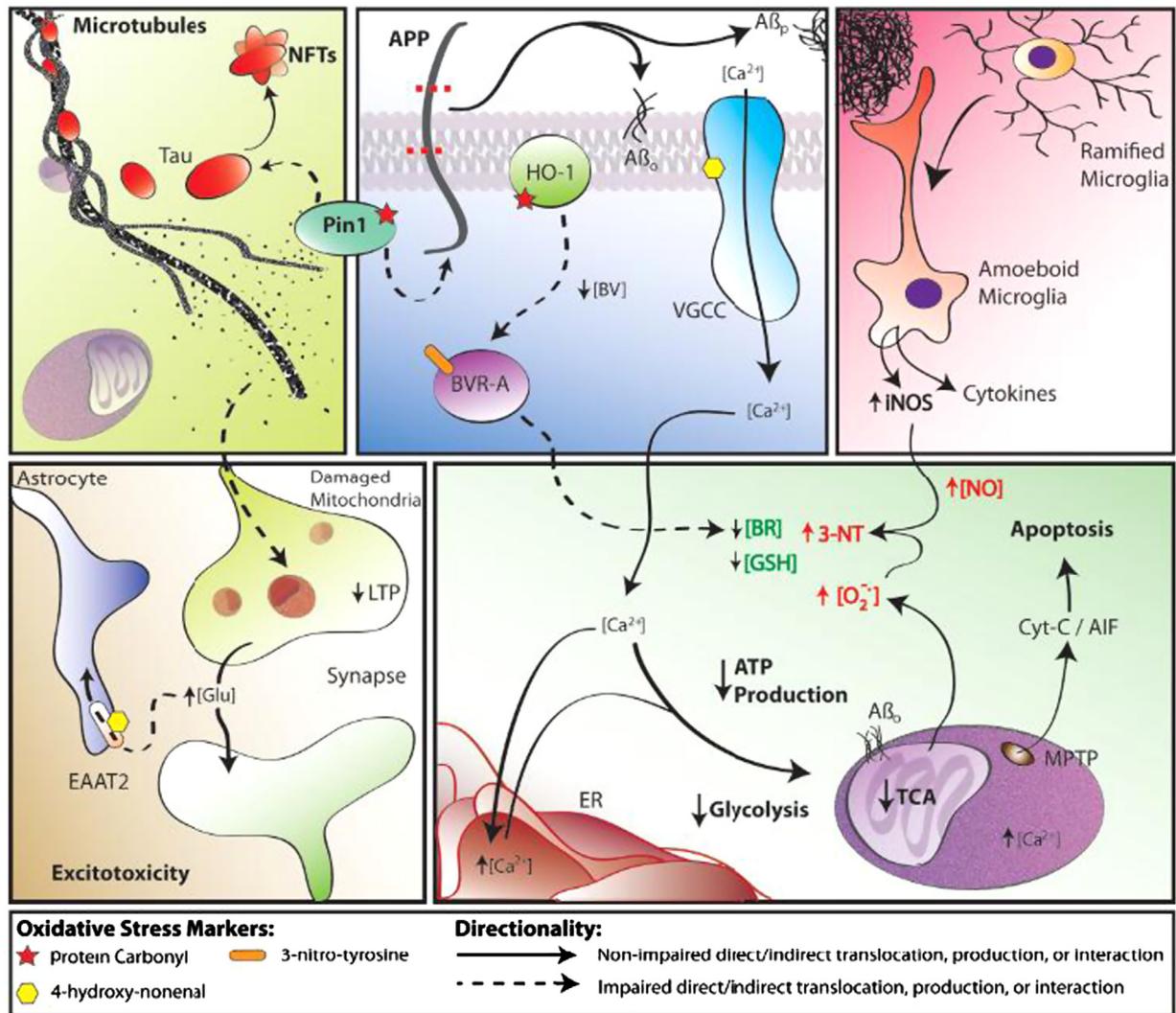


Fig. 7. Some findings and discoveries related to $A\beta(1-42)$ oligomer-induced oxidative stress and its sequelae published from the Butterfield Laboratory that contribute to a unifying oxidative stress centric hypothesis for neuronal death in AD that is consistent with the pathology, biochemical alterations, and clinical presentation in this disorder. Amyloid β -peptide, produced by β - and γ -secretase (top, middle panel), aggregates into extracellular fibrils forming the core of SP or aggregates into hydrophobic oligomers that insert into the plasma membrane. One-electron oxidation of the S atom of Met-35 of $A\beta(1-42)$ [see text] initiates the chain reaction of lipid peroxidation (LPO), greatly amplifying the damage of the initial free radical on the peptide. HNE, produced by LPO, binds to and causes dysfunction of key proteins in the PM and cytosol. Among the former are ion-motive ATPases, e.g., Na,K-ATPase and Ca-ATPase. The resultant loss of cell potential opens voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels, leading to a massive influx of Ca^{2+} to the cytosol (bottom, right panel), and subsequent attempts to sequester this Ca^{2+} in ER and mitochondria. However, this massive overload of Ca^{2+} causes ER to undergo unfolded protein response and damage and decreases protein synthesis. Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} overload causes swelling of mitochondria and opening of the MPTP with release of cytochrome c to initiate the intrinsic pathway for apoptosis (bottom, right panel). The intracellular Ca^{2+} also activates numerous degradative enzymes such as calpains, PLA2, and endonucleases, causing necrotic mechanisms to engage (see text). The oxidative stress in cytosol and mitochondria leads to damage to many glycolytic, TCA, and ETC enzymes or complexes, resulting in dramatic loss of ATP production (bottom, right panel), which leads to loss of many important neuronal functions, ranging from axonal transport to neurotransmission (bottom, left panel), as well as maintaining the cellular and organelle potentials. This oxidative stress also damages Pin1, which regulates both APP and Tau (top, left/middle panels), but also a key tau kinase (GSK-3 β) and a tau phosphatase (PP2A). The resultant hyperphosphorylated tau falls off microtubules (MT) [top, left panel], leading to cessation of anterograde and retrograde transport. Among other detrimental consequences of this, synaptic-resident mitochondria are no longer able to produce the required ATP to maintain presynaptic function, including loss of LTP, needed for learning and memory (bottom, left panel). Note that Pin1 is involved in three major neuropathological hallmarks of AD: SP, NFT, and synapse loss. The intracellular detritus resulting from all these aberrant processes is not removed, since the proteostasis network of the ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS), ER, and autophagy are all damaged by oxidative stress (see text). The $A\beta(1-42)$ -initiated oxidative stress also leads to damage to heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and biliverdin reductase-A (BVR-A), which decreases intracellular antioxidant bilirubin (top, middle panel; bottom, right panel). Moreover, glutathione (GSH) is decreased because of elevated oxidative stress and since its rate-limiting synthetic enzyme, γ -Glu-Cys ligase, is damaged by oxidative stress. There are many other processes associated with oxidative stress on which we and others have published. However, this schematic diagram outlines some of the key processes involved in neuronal death in AD that fit the pathology, biochemical alterations, and clinical presentations observed in AD that were published from our laboratory based on neurochemical, oxidative stress, and proteomics studies of AD and its earlier forms.

of a third mutation to APP to form PDAPP^{M631L} led to a mouse containing Leu in place of the Met residue at position 631 of APP, a position that corresponds to residue 35 of $A\beta(1-42)$. Comparison of oxidative stress parameters in brain of the J20 mouse with those of the J20^{M631L} mouse demonstrated significant oxidative stress in the former but no oxidative stress of the latter mouse at 9 months of age [157]. Proteomics studies identified differential levels and decreased oxidation of brain

proteins in the J20^{M631L} mouse compared to the J20 mouse [94,158].

Taken together, these *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies strongly support the hypothesis that the S atom of the single Met residue of $A\beta(1-42)$ is key to the oxidative stress associated with this neurotoxic peptide.

Conclusions related to discoveries in AD from the Butterfield Laboratory

Two major interrelated discoveries from our laboratory relevant to Alzheimer disease are that the vast majority of evidence outlined above supports the notion that A β (1–42) is associated with oxidative stress and neurotoxicity, and that such oxidative stress is abundant in the brain of subjects with AD and amnesic MCI. These discoveries have contributed to changing the paradigm of AD pathogenesis to include oxidative stress as a fundamental factor in the pathology and progression of this disorder (Fig. 7) [18,19,21,122]. Lipid peroxidation and its sequelae, e.g., HNE, bind to and damage key proteins that contribute to Ca²⁺ dyshomeostasis and subsequent neuronal death. Redox proteomics, pioneered by our laboratory, identified oxidatively modified proteins in brain from AD and its earlier forms, whose dysfunction likely contributes to the pathology, biochemistry, and clinical presentation of the disease. Moreover, new potential therapeutic targets to slow the progression of AD have emerged from these studies. Future investigations from the Butterfield Laboratory are aimed at utilizing these discoveries to engage in disease-modifying approaches that slow onset and progression of this devastating dementing disorder.

Chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment

Brief background of CICI

With 14 million cancer survivors in the United States alone, chemotherapy-associated cognitive dysfunction is an increasing concern. A significant number experience CICI, called “chemobrain” by patients [159]. CICI reduces their quality of life with serious, even devastating, symptoms such as diminished executive function and intellectual impairment. There is an urgent, important need for treatment interventions that lead to a high quality of life for cancer survivors—projected to number 18 million within 10 years. Depending on the study, CICI affects up to 70% of cancer survivors, whose chemotherapy-induced neurological deficits result in loss of executive function, inability to multitask, and slowness in intellectual reasoning [159]. Furthermore, symptoms can be relatively long lasting, up to 10 years postchemotherapy. Associated with these symptoms are significant MRI-determined volumetric diminution of the hippocampus [160], altered white [161–163] and gray [164] matter, and decreased glucose utilization assessed by PET scanning [165].

A now well-recognized condition, CICI seriously limits the quality of life of cancer survivors [166]. Currently, no evidence-based treatment or preventative intervention for CICI exists, as the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. Particularly perplexing is that CICI often is associated with ROS generating chemotherapeutic agents that do not cross the BBB.

ROS-mediated mitochondrial injury is an important mechanism of chemotherapy-induced injury in tissues with high-energy demand, such as heart and brain. Doxorubicin, often used in therapy for solid tumors and leukemia, undergoes redox cycling involving its quinone structure to produce superoxide free radicals (Fig. 8), which are thought to underlie Dox-induced cardiomyopathy and limit its lifetime therapeutic dosage [1]. Dox, one of approximately 50% of FDA-approved chemotherapeutic agents associated with ROS, does not cross the BBB [167].

Oxidative stress in brain and plasma following ROS-associated chemotherapy

Intraperitoneal injection of Dox led to elevated oxidative damage to brain [168,169]. How can oxidative stress occur in brain by a drug that does not cross the BBB? To investigate this key

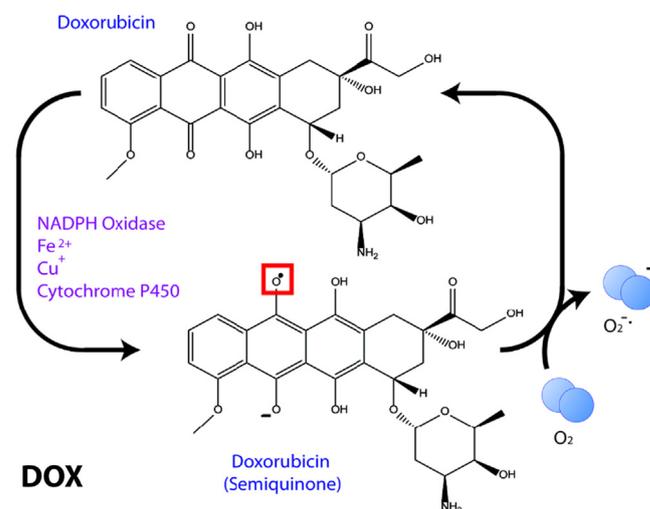


Fig. 8. Redox cycling of Dox to produce superoxide free radical. See text for more details.

question, we determined that i.p. administration of Dox led to elevated levels of the proinflammatory cytokine TNF α in plasma and in brain [170]. Moreover, this treatment led to translocation of p53 to mitochondria where it bound to the antiapoptotic protein, Bcl-2, consistent with induction of apoptosis, which we also demonstrated via cytochrome c release, TUNEL staining, and elevation of caspase 3. Mitochondria also are dysfunctional based on loss of respiration following Dox treatment [170]. If animals were injected i.p. by the glutathione precursor, gamma-glutamylcysteine ethyl ester (GCEE, Fig. 4), brain GSH levels increase and Dox-induced, TNF α -mediated oxidative stress in brain is prevented [169]. Of course, such an approach could not be used therapeutically, since elevated glutathione would be conjugated to the chemotherapeutic agent by glutathione-S-transferase and exported from the cancer cell by the multidrug resistant protein, MRP-1 [171,172]. However, this study does demonstrate again that oxidative stress is induced in brain by Dox treatment in the periphery. Plasma of Dox-treated wild-type mice showed evidence of oxidative stress that was blocked by treatment with GCEE, [81].

That peripheral (plasma) TNF α is involved in this process was demonstrated by the abrogation of all these processes noted above when anti-TNF α antibody was administered along with Dox [170]. This result is consistent with the notion it is TNF α , among the many proinflammatory cytokines, that is key to Dox-induced oxidative stress in brain. This concept is strengthened by our observation using a cytokine array that only TNF α was statistically significantly elevated in plasma from persons receiving Dox therapy [173].

Role of nitrosative stress in Dox-induced, TNF α -mediated damage to brain

Given that respiration is compromised in brain mitochondria isolated from Dox-treated mice [170], that MnSOD is fundamental to mitochondrial function [174], and that 3-NT is elevated in brain of Dox-treated WT mice [169], we performed studies of brain mitochondria isolated from Dox-treated i-NOS knock-out mice [175]. Fig. 9 shows that absence of i-NOS (and hence no NO produced from NOS2) abrogates loss of brain mitochondrial respiration, nitration of MnSOD, and diminution of MnSOD activity. Consequently, since i-NOS is downstream from NF κ -B activation [176], which, in turn, is activated by TNF α , we hypothesize that damaged mitochondria and apoptotic cell death in brain are

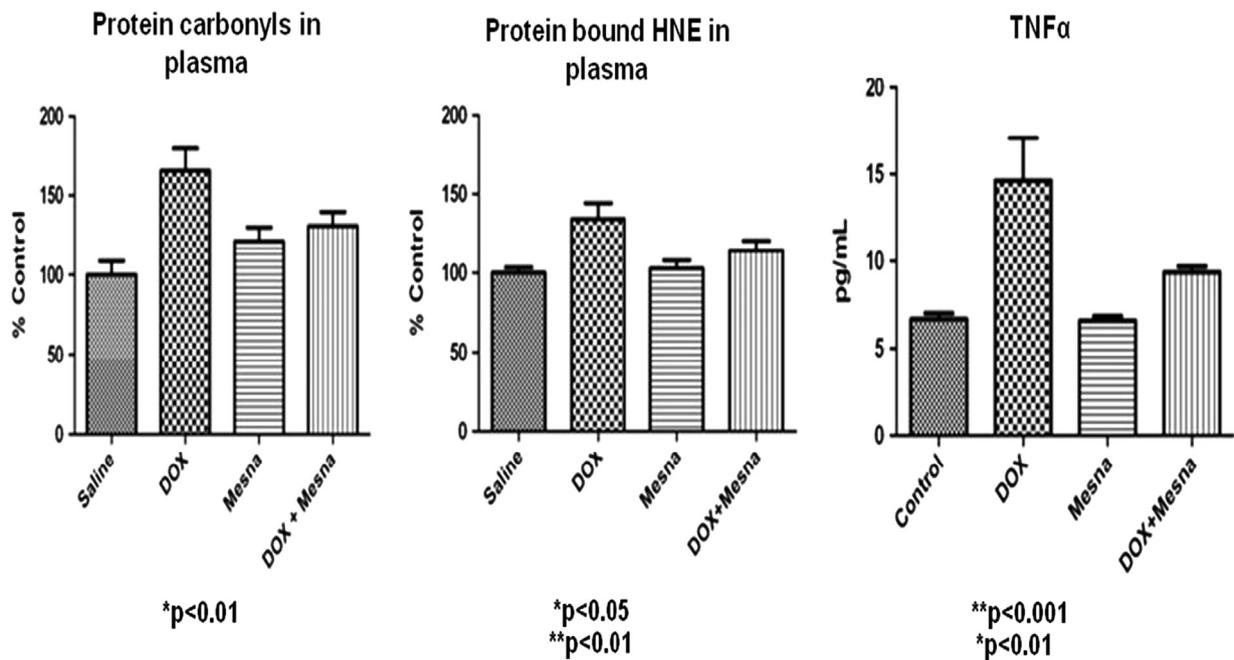


Fig. 9. Dox administration to WT mice (i.p.) leads in plasma to protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation (assessed by protein carbonyls and protein-bound HNE, respectively), and to elevated TNF α . Concomitant administration of Mesna significantly depresses these markers to essentially control levels. The figure, used with permission from Elsevier Science Publishers, is taken from Ref. [173].

secondary to TNF α accumulation in brain following Dox administration and in the sequence:

Dox → Increased TNF α in plasma → Increased TNF α in brain → NF κ -B activation → Increased i-NOS → Elevated NO → Nitrosative stress → Damaged Mitochondria → Apoptotic brain cell death

Nitric oxide reacts with superoxide radical anion to form peroxynitrite that in the presence of CO₂ leads to 3-NT formation [2].

Plasma ApoA1 involvement in Dox-induced, TNF α -mediated oxidative stress in brain

Using redox proteomics, apolipoprotein A1 was identified as an oxidized protein in plasma of children with lymphoma treated with Dox [173]. ApoA1 is a major component of the high density lipoprotein particle and is involved with cholesterol transport away from tissues. Importantly, ApoA1 normally keeps TNF α levels low in plasma both by preventing monocyte-T cell interactions and by interaction with ABCA1, the cholesterol transporter [177]. Going from bedside to bench, we confirmed in plasma of Dox-treated mice that ApoA1 was oxidatively modified (assessed by protein carbonyls). Further, addition of native ApoA1 to macrophage culture did not lead to TNF α elevation, but addition of oxidized ApoA1 to macrophage culture did result in significant TNF α release [173]. We speculate that, due to a changed conformation secondary to oxidation [2], oxidized ApoA1 interacts with ABCA1 differently and does not suppress TNF α elevation.

Prevention by Mesna of biochemical alterations in brain following Dox treatment

Protein oxidation was clearly apparent in plasma from children with lymphoma treated with Dox, but, surprisingly, not so with lipid peroxidation assessed by protein-bound HNE [173]. However, examination of the medical records demonstrated that about half the patients studied had been given Mesna (2-mercaptoethane-1

sulfonate, Na⁺ salt). Segregation of the data from the Mesna-treated group from the non-Mesna-treated group of patients showed

significant suppression of lipid peroxidation in the former and significant elevation of lipid peroxidation of the latter, i.e., the sum of changes in the two groups was about zero compared to control [173].

Mesna is often given in therapeutic regimens containing ifosfamide and/or cyclophosphamide to prevent hemorrhagic cystitis in the bladder secondary to acrolein, formed as a metabolic by-product of these two drugs [178]. An important feature of Mesna is its negative charge that prevents this molecule from entering cancer cells to interfere with cancer chemotherapy. This is an important distinction with other thiol compounds, for example, NAC, which as described above if given to patients would have the effect of leading to export of the chemotherapeutic agent from cancer cells, thereby harming the cancer patient. Mesna does not suffer this fate, as it does not penetrate cancer cells and does not interfere with cancer chemotherapy [179].

Again pursuing a bedside to bench strategy, we treated WT mice with both Mesna and Dox and found plasma levels of protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation, and, importantly, TNF α levels were suppressed to levels similar to those in plasma from saline-treated mice and in marked contrast to Dox-treated mice in the absence of Mesna [173] (Fig. 10). Based on these exciting results, and this time going from bench to bedside, our team of basic scientists and clinicians recently have conducted a NCI-sponsored pilot study of oxidative biomarkers and TNF α signature in plasma from patients with breast cancer or lymphoma randomized in the first cycle to Mesna or saline and the second cycle to the opposite treatment. The results of this latter study will be reported in a separate publication after statistical analyses are completed, but initial results are promising.

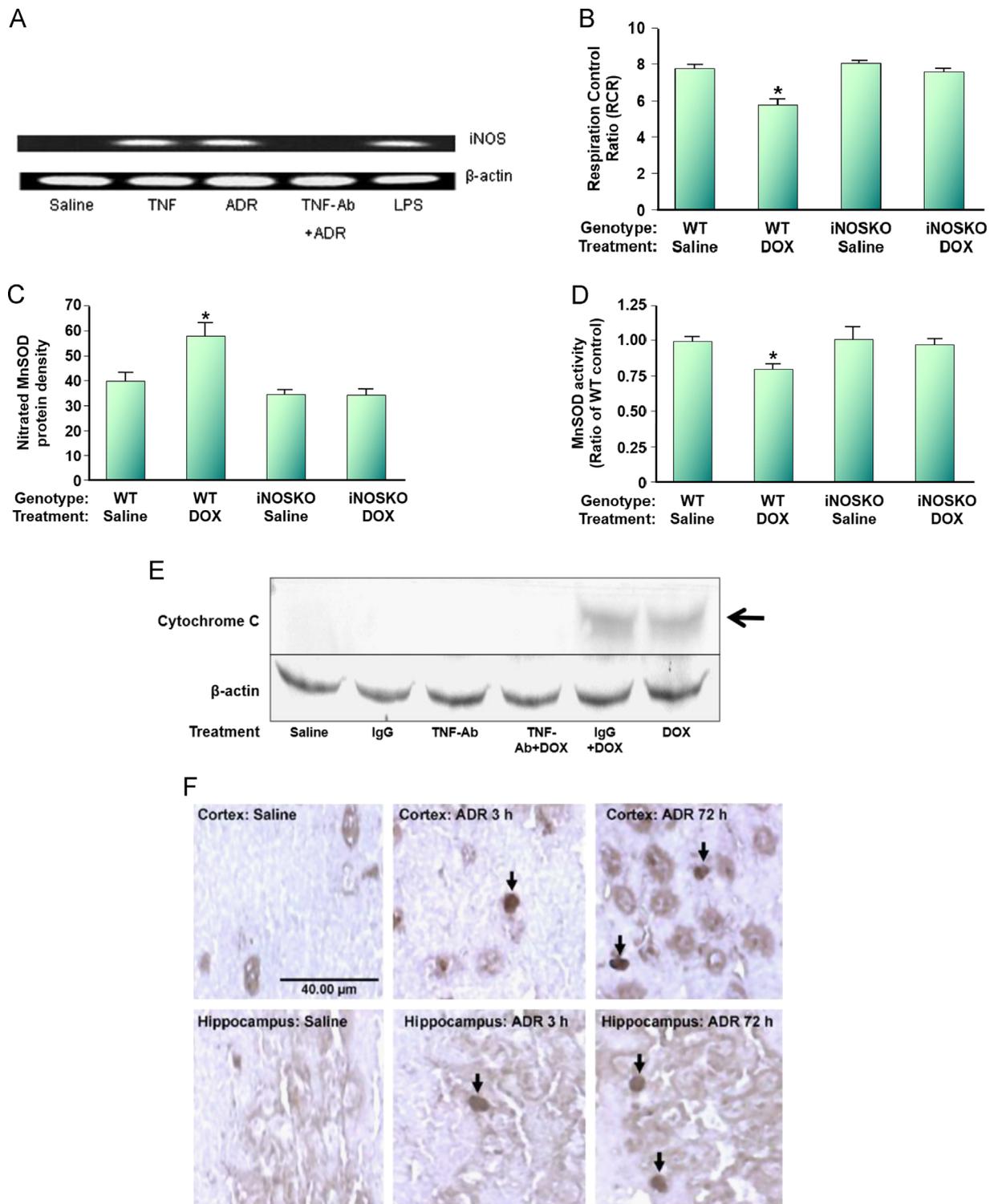


Fig. 10. Dox (also called adriamycin, ADR) induces nitrosative stress in brain mitochondria. WT mice were injected i.p. with Dox. (A). i-NOS message was induced, but anti-TNF α antibody prevents i-NOS induction following ADR treatment. (B). The RCR, a measure of oxygen consumption, in brain mitochondria isolated from ADR-treated WT mice is significantly depressed, but not in i-NOS knock-out mice. (C). Mitochondrial-resident MnSOD is nitrated following ADR addition to WT mice, but not in i-NOS knock-out mice. (D). MnSOD activity is significantly depressed in mitochondria isolated from brain of ADR-treated WT mice, but not in i-NOS knock-out mice. (E). Mitochondria isolated from brain of ADR-treated WT mice lead to cytochrome *c* release, but not in mice also treated with anti-TNF α antibody. Note that ADR-treated WT mice also treated with IgG still lead to cytochrome *c* release from mitochondria isolated from brain, suggesting specificity of the anti-TNF α treatment. (F). Consistent with the results of (E), apoptosis occurs in brain of ADR-treated WT mice as assessed by TUNEL staining even at 3 h post-ADR treatment, and pronounced apoptosis at 72 h post-ADR treatment occurred. This latter time is the time at which oxidative stress in brain is maximal. The figure, used with permission from Elsevier Science Publishers, was modified from Ref. [170].

Conclusions and discussion of CICI, with overall model

Based on our studies in humans and mice treated with Dox, we have developed the following model that for the first time provides a rational molecular mechanism for CICI. Fig. 11 shows the model. Redox cycling of Dox leads to superoxide free radicals to cause plasma protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation that, in turn, lead to oxidation of the key plasma lipoprotein, ApoA1. The proinflammatory cytokine TNF α is elevated in plasma as a consequence of ApoA1 oxidation. These processes are blocked by coadministration of Mesna. The plasma resident elevated TNF α is transported to the brain parenchyma via receptor-mediated endocytosis. This process is blocked by coadministration of anti-TNF α antibody. Once in brain, TNF α through a series of biochemical events, including activation of i-NOS, leads to mitochondrial dysfunction, cytochrome c release, and apoptosis. When enough neurons have died, symptoms of CICI appear.

Overall summary

Alzheimer disease and chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment each affect millions of persons worldwide. Both disorders are united by cognitive issues likely deriving from, or at least associated with, free radical events. But each disorder is unique: AD is associated with A β -associated oxidative stress within the brain parenchyma, leading to lipid peroxidation and protein oxidation (among other oxidative stress indices), which damages mitochondria, leads to oxidative dysfunction of key proteins involved in numerous pathways, including glucose metabolic proteins and death of neurons; in contrast, CICI involves oxidative stress events originating in the plasma that lead to TNF α elevation and subsequent transfer to brain glia and neurons, which in turn leads to more oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, and cell death. Neither condition is fully understood, and while pharmacological suppression of CICI shows initial promise, this still remains elusive in the case of AD. Continued studies of molecular mechanisms involved in AD and CICI and translational investigations in models of both disorders are ongoing in our laboratory.

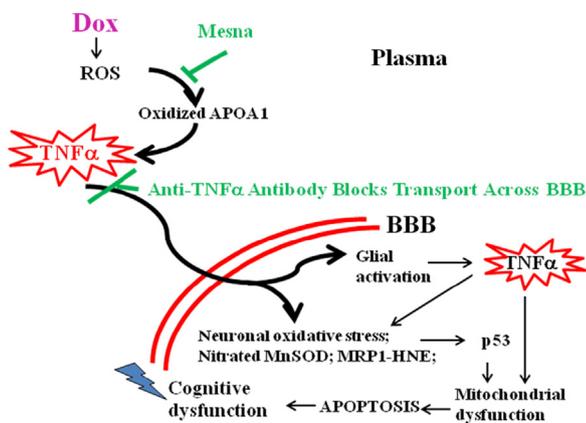


Fig. 11. Model for CICI (“chemobrain”) based on demonstrated results from our laboratory. Dox (ADR), as a prototypical ROS-generating agent that does not cross the BBB, causes oxidation of ApoA1 in plasma, which leads to increased levels of TNF α . This cytokine crosses the BBB to enter glia and neurons, generating even more TNF α . Subsequent biochemical events lead to brain mitochondrial dysfunction and resultant apoptosis as explained more in the text. Mesna, which does not interfere with cancer chemotherapy, blocks Dox-mediated oxidation of ApoA1 and elevation of TNF α . Anti-TNF α antibody blocks elevated TNF α from crossing the BBB. Both treatments inhibit the biochemical events that otherwise cause neuronal death. See text and [168–170,173,175,180,181] for more details.

Acknowledgments

The results noted in this paper were obtained with support by NIH grants and by funds from the UK Markey Cancer Center. The 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine was presented to me for discoveries that emanated from my laboratory related to fundamental free radical processes in both AD and CICI. However, I am first to state that this recognition is in large part due to the great fortune and opportunity I have had to train immensely talented and motivated Ph.D., M.S., and undergraduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and visiting scientists, as well as collaborate with generous and supportive faculty at the University of Kentucky and elsewhere. It is to this entire group of wonderful people that I am grateful and appreciative. The 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine is a highlight of my career. I would like to mention a few University of Kentucky collaborators for special thanks. First I wish to acknowledge the late William R. Markesbery, M.D., a consummate gentleman and outstanding neuropathologist, who made a number of seminal contributions to the field of AD and provided me with important guidance throughout my career. Others to thank for their assistance and collaboration with my laboratory in the field of AD include Mark Mattson, Ph.D., James Geddes, Ph.D., Stephen Scheff, Ph.D., Steven Estus, Ph.D., M. Paul Murphy, Ph.D., Elizabeth Head, Ph.D., Peter Nelson, M.D., and Linda Van Eldik, Ph.D. In our studies of CICI, I thank Daret K. St. Clair, Ph.D., Jeffrey A. Moscov, M.D., Mary Vore Iwamoto, Ph.D., John Hayslip, M.D., Heidi Weiss, Ph.D., Subbaro Bondada, Ph.D., and B. Mark Evers, M.D., each a highly respected scientist or physician-scientist. Together we formed a team, without which our progress in CICI could not have occurred. This group provided enormous assistance and friendship for which I will always be grateful.

I thank Ms. Mollie Frain for secretarial assistance with this manuscript and many others throughout my career.

Lastly, I want to give special thanks to my wife of 46 years, Marcia T. Butterfield, B.A., R.N. Marcia has always been supportive of my career that often involved long days and nights, and extensive travel away from Lexington. Moreover, she always understood the concentration and effort required during grant proposal writing periods. Marcia always has been my inspiration and I am truly grateful to have her in my life.

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