



**HAL**  
open science

## Plasma lysosphingolipids in GRN-related diseases: Monitoring lysosomal dysfunction to track disease progression

Walid Khrouf, Dario Saracino, Benoit Rucheton, Marion Houot, Fabienne Clot, Daisy Rinaldi, Joana Vitor, Marie Huynh, Evelyne Heng, Dimitri Schlemmer, et al.

### ► To cite this version:

Walid Khrouf, Dario Saracino, Benoit Rucheton, Marion Houot, Fabienne Clot, et al.. Plasma lysosphingolipids in GRN-related diseases: Monitoring lysosomal dysfunction to track disease progression. *Neurobiology of Disease*, 2023, 181, 10.1016/j.nbd.2023.106108 . hal-04072526

**HAL Id: hal-04072526**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04072526>**

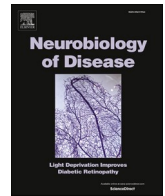
Submitted on 18 Apr 2023

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License



## Plasma lysosphingolipids in *GRN*-related diseases: Monitoring lysosomal dysfunction to track disease progression

Walid Khrouf<sup>a,1</sup>, Dario Saracino<sup>b,c,d,1</sup>, Benoit Rucheton<sup>a</sup>, Marion Houot<sup>b,d,e</sup>, Fabienne Clot<sup>f</sup>, Daisy Rinaldi<sup>b,d</sup>, Joana Vitor<sup>b</sup>, Marie Huynh<sup>a</sup>, Evelyne Heng<sup>a</sup>, Dimitri Schlemmer<sup>a</sup>, Florence Pasquier<sup>g</sup>, Vincent Deramecourt<sup>g</sup>, Sophie Auriacombe<sup>h</sup>, Carole Azuar<sup>d</sup>, Richard Levy<sup>b,d</sup>, Stéphanie Bombois<sup>g</sup>, Claire Boutoleau-Brétonnière<sup>i</sup>, Jérémie Pariente<sup>j,r</sup>, Mira Didic<sup>k,1</sup>, David Wallon<sup>m</sup>, Frédérique Fluchère<sup>n</sup>, Stéphane Auvin<sup>o</sup>, Imen Ben Younes<sup>a</sup>, The French clinical and genetic research network on FTD/FTD-ALS<sup>2</sup>, the Predict-PGRN study group<sup>3</sup>, Yann Nadjar<sup>p</sup>, Alexis Brice<sup>b</sup>, Bruno Dubois<sup>b,d</sup>, Dominique Bonnefont-Rousselot<sup>a,q</sup>, Isabelle Le Ber<sup>b,d,\*</sup>, Foudil Lamari<sup>a,b,\*\*,4</sup>

<sup>a</sup> AP-HP.Sorbonne Université, DMU Biogem-Metabolic Biochemistry department, Neurometabolic and Neurodegenerative Unit - Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, 75013 Paris, France

<sup>b</sup> Sorbonne Université, Paris Brain Institute – Institut du Cerveau – ICM, Inserm U1127, CNRS UMR 7225, APHP - Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

<sup>c</sup> Aramis Project Team, Inria Research Center of Paris, Paris, France

**Abbreviations:** CDR + NACC FTLD, Clinical Dementia Rating plus scale plus National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration; CLN-11, neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis-11; EYO, expected years to onset; FTD, frontotemporal dementia; FTD-C9orf72, FTD patients carrying a heterozygous *C9orf72* expansion; FTD-GRN, FTD patients carrying heterozygous *GRN* mutations; FTD-ng, FTD patients without any identifiable genetic cause; GCASE,  $\beta$ -glucocerebrosidase; HC, healthy controls; LGB3, lysoglobotriaosylceramide; LGL1, glucosylsphingosine d18:1; LSD, lysosomal storage disease; LSM18:1, lysosphingomyelin d18:1; LSM509, lysosphingomyelin 509; lysoSPL, lysosphingolipids; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PGRN, progranulin; PSAP, prosaposin; PS-GRN, presymptomatic heterozygous *GRN* carriers; QC, quality control; SPL, sphingolipids; SPMase, sphingomyelinase; UPLC, ultraperformance liquid chromatography..

<sup>1</sup> These authors equally contributed to this work as co-first authors.

<sup>2</sup> The French clinical and genetic research network on FTLD/FTLD-ALS includes: Sophie Auriacombe (Pellerin University Hospital, Bordeaux), Serge Belliard (Rennes University Hospital, Rennes), Frédéric Blanc (Hôpitaux Civils, Strasbourg), Claire Boutoleau-Brétonnière (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes), Alexis Brice (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Mathieu Ceccaldi (La Timone University Hospital, Marseille), Philippe Couratier (Limoges University Hospital, Limoges), Mira Didic (La Timone University Hospital, Marseille), Bruno Dubois (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Frédérique Etcharry-Bouyx (Angers University Hospital, Angers), Maïté Formaglio (Lyon University Hospital, Lyon), Véronique Golfier (Rennes University Hospital, Rennes), Didier Hannequin (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), Lucette Lacomblez (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Julien Lagarde (Hôpital Sainte-Anne, Paris), Isabelle Le Ber (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Richard Levy (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Bernard-François Michel (Sainte-Marguerite University Hospital, Marseille), Jérémie Pariente (Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse), Florence Pasquier (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Daisy Rinaldi (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Carole Roué-Jagot (Hôpital Sainte-Anne, Paris), François Sellal (Colmar Hospital, Colmar), Christel Thauvin-Robinet (Dijon University Hospital, Dijon), Catherine Thomas-Antérion (Hôpital Plein-Ciel, Lyon), and Martine Vercelletto (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes).

<sup>3</sup> The Predict-PGRN study group includes: Mira Didic (La Timone University Hospital, Marseille), Nadine Girard (La Timone University Hospital, Marseille), Eric Guedj (Marseille University Hospital, Marseille), Michèle Puel (Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse), Jérémie Pariente (Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse), Isabelle Berry (Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse), Pierre Payoux (Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse), Martine Vercelletto (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes), Claire Boutoleau-Brétonnière (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes), Elisabeth Auffray-Calvier (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes), Amandine Pallardy (Laennec University Hospital, Nantes), Florence Pasquier (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Vincent Deramecourt (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Stéphanie Bombois (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Thibaud Lebouvier (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Adeline Rollin (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Gregory Kuchinski (Lille University Hospital, Lille), Didier Hannequin (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), Olivier Martinaud (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), David Wallon (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), Emmanuel Gerardin (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), Pierre Vera (Charles Nicolle University Hospital, Rouen), Daisy Rinaldi (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Agnès Camuzat (ICM, Paris), Alexis Brice (ICM, Paris), Marie Chupin (ICM, Paris), Eric Bardinnet (ICM, Paris), Aurélie Kas (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Valérie-Causse Lemerrier (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Merry Masmanian (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris), Hervé Oya (Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris).

<sup>4</sup> These authors equally contributed as co-last authors.

\* Correspondence to: I L Ber, Institut du Cerveau Paris (ICM), AP-HP - Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, 47-83 boulevard de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris, France.

\*\* Correspondence to: F Lamari, AP-HP.Sorbonne Université, DMU Biogem-Metabolic Biochemistry department, Neurometabolic and Neurodegenerative Unit - Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, 47-83 boulevard de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris, France.

E-mail address: [isabelle.leber@upmc.fr](mailto:isabelle.leber@upmc.fr) (I. Le Ber).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2023.106108>

Received 21 February 2023; Received in revised form 22 March 2023; Accepted 27 March 2023

Available online 30 March 2023

0969-9961/© 2023 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

<sup>d</sup> AP-HP - Reference Centre for Rare or Early onset Dementias, IM2A, Department of Neurology, Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

<sup>e</sup> Centre of Excellence of Neurodegenerative Disease (CoEN), Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

<sup>f</sup> AP-HP.Sorbonne Université, Department of Genetics, UF of Molecular and Cellular Neurogenetics, - Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, 75013 Paris, France

<sup>g</sup> Univ Lille, Inserm 1172 LiNCOG, CHU Lille, CNR-MAJ, DistAlz, LiCEND 59000 Lille, France

<sup>h</sup> CMRR Nouvelle Aquitaine / Institut des Maladies Neurodégénératives clinique (IMNc), CHU de Bordeaux Hôpital Pellegrin, Bordeaux, France

<sup>i</sup> Centre Mémoire Ressource et Recherche (CMRR), Département de Neurologie, CHU Nantes, 44093 Nantes, France

<sup>j</sup> Department of Neurology, Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse, France

<sup>k</sup> Aix Marseille Univ, INSERM, INS, Inst Neurosci Syst, Marseille, France

<sup>l</sup> APHM, Timone, Service de Neurologie et Neuropsychologie, APHM Hôpital Timone Adultes, Marseille, France

<sup>m</sup> Univ Rouen Normandie, Inserm U1245 and CHU Rouen, Department of Neurology, CNR-MAJ, F 76000 Rouen, France

<sup>n</sup> APHM, Department of Neurology and Movement Disorders. La Timone, Clinical Neuroscience Unit, Aix-Marseille University, France

<sup>o</sup> AP-HP, Robert-Debré University Hospital, Department of Pediatric Neurology, Paris, France

<sup>p</sup> AP-HP.Sorbonne Université, Neurology Department, Reference Center for Lysosomal Diseases, Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

<sup>q</sup> Université Paris Cité, UTCBS, U 1022 Inserm, UMR 8258 CNRS, Paris University, Paris, France

<sup>r</sup> ToNIC, Toulouse NeuroImaging Centre, Inserm, UPS, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France

## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)  
Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis-11 (CLN-11)  
Progranulin  
Lysosphingolipids  
Lysosome  
Lysosomal storage disease (LSD)

## ABSTRACT

*GRN* mutations are among the main genetic causes of frontotemporal dementia (FTD). Considering the progranulin involvement in lysosomal homeostasis, we aimed to evaluate if plasma lysosphingolipids (lysoSPL) are increased in *GRN* mutation carriers, and whether they might represent relevant fluid-based biomarkers in *GRN*-related diseases.

We analyzed four lysoSPL levels in plasmas of 131 *GRN* carriers and 142 non-carriers, including healthy controls and patients with frontotemporal dementias (FTD) carrying a *C9orf72* expansion or without any mutation. *GRN* carriers consisted of 102 heterozygous FTD patients (FTD-*GRN*), three homozygous patients with neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis-11 (CLN-11) and 26 presymptomatic carriers (PS-*GRN*), the latter with longitudinal assessments. Glucosylsphingosin d18:1 (LGL1), lysosphingomyelins d18:1 and isoform 509 (LSM18:1, LSM509) and lysoglobotriaosylceramide (LGB3) were measured by electrospray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry coupled to ultraperformance liquid chromatography.

Levels of LGL1, LSM18:1 and LSM509 were increased in *GRN* carriers compared to non-carriers ( $p < 0.0001$ ). No lysoSPL increases were detected in FTD patients without *GRN* mutations. LGL1 and LSM18:1 progressively increased with age at sampling, and LGL1 with disease duration, in FTD-*GRN*. Among PS-*GRN* carriers, LSM18:1 and LGL1 significantly increased over 3.4-year follow-up. LGL1 levels were associated with increasing neurofilaments in presymptomatic carriers.

This study evidences an age-dependent increase of  $\beta$ -glucocerebrosidase and acid sphingomyelinase substrates in *GRN* patients, with progressive changes as early as the presymptomatic phase. Among FTD patients, plasma lysoSPL appear to be uniquely elevated in *GRN* carriers, and thus might serve as suitable non-invasive disease-tracking biomarkers of progression, specific to the pathophysiological process. Finally, this study might add lysoSPL to the portfolio of fluid-based biomarkers, and pave the way to disease-modifying approaches based on lysosomal function rescue in *GRN* diseases.

## 1. Introduction

Frontotemporal dementias (FTD) are neurodegenerative diseases mainly affecting behavior, social cognition, executive functions and language, usually beginning between the age of 50 and 65 years (Moore et al., 2020), and are most frequently associated with abnormal TDP-43-positive neuronal inclusions. Heterozygous loss-of-function mutations in *GRN*, the gene coding for progranulin (PGRN) protein, are the most frequent genetic causes of the familial forms of FTD (Baker et al., 2006; Cruets et al., 2006), together with *C9orf72* repeat expansions (DeJesus-Hernandez et al., 2011; Renton et al., 2011). Most pathogenic *GRN* mutations cause PGRN haploinsufficiency, heterozygous carriers having less than half of normal circulating PGRN levels in plasma (Ghidoni et al., 2008; Sellami et al., 2020). Besides, homozygous *GRN* mutations, associated with undetectable plasma PGRN, cause neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis-11 (CLN-11), a rare childhood/juvenile lysosomal storage disease (LSD) (Smith et al., 2012; Huin et al., 2020).

Progranulin is involved in inflammation, tumorigenesis, neuronal survival and outgrowth (Bateman and Bennett, 2009; Paushter et al., 2018). In addition, PGRN plays a role in lysosomal homeostasis, and several findings support the contribution of lysosomal dysfunction to the pathomechanism of *GRN*-related diseases (Götlz et al., 2014; Kao et al., 2017; Valdez et al., 2017; Ward et al., 2017; Arrant et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2019; Huang et al., 2020; Boland et al., 2022). Noteworthy, PGRN is processed in the lysosome, and it promotes the delivery of prosaposin (PSAP) to the lysosome, thereby indirectly regulating the biological

activity of lysosomal enzymes (Zhou et al., 2015, 2017). Indeed, inside the lysosome, PSAP is cleaved into saposin peptides that serve as activators of lysosomal enzymes implicated in the degradation of sphingolipids (SPL). PGRN deficiency is associated with decreased saposin levels (Paushter et al., 2018), leading to impaired degradation of SPL and their accumulation in brains of heterozygous *GRN* patients and *Grn*<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Zhou et al., 2015, 2019; Arrant et al., 2019; Feng et al., 2020). In addition, lysosomal dysfunction caused by PGRN deficiency impairs effective ganglioside clearance, resulting in accumulation of different ganglioside species in both human brains and murine models (Boland et al., 2022).

Elucidating the pathophysiology of *GRN*-related diseases, and identifying appropriate disease-tracking biomarkers are major challenges, as therapeutic options targeting progranulin deficiency are upcoming (Boeve et al., 2022). In complex inherited LSD such as Gaucher, Fabry and Niemann-Pick type A/B diseases, specific SPL, and their deacylated derivatives lysosphingolipids (lysoSPL), accumulate in brain and other tissues due to severely decreased enzymatic activity. In the aforementioned sphingolipidoses, lysoSPL are detectable in plasma, and their levels have been validated as diagnostic biomarkers and to monitor treatment effectiveness (Dekker et al., 2011; Pettazzoni et al., 2017; Piraud et al., 2018; Hurvitz et al., 2019; Polo et al., 2019). We hypothesized that lysoSPL levels might be increased also in blood of *GRN* carriers, and might serve as potential biomarkers in *GRN* diseases too. To support this hypothesis, we investigated plasma levels of four lysoSPL in a large cohort of FTD patients carrying heterozygous *GRN* mutations

(FTD-GRN), in three patients with CLN-11 and, longitudinally, at the early stage of GRN disease in presymptomatic heterozygous carriers.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Participants

The studied population consisted of 131 individuals carrying GRN mutations and 142 non-carriers. GRN carriers included 102 FTD-GRN patients, 3 patients with CLN-11 related to homozygous GRN mutations and 26 presymptomatic heterozygous GRN carriers (PS-GRN). GRN mutations are listed in Supplementary Table 1. Plasma progranulin dosage was performed in all carriers and 138 non-carriers using ELISA method with the progranulin-human-ELISA kit (Adipogen, Coger SAS, France), according to the manufacturer's instructions and as described previously (Sellami et al., 2020).

The 102 FTD-GRN patients have been investigated in the context of standard clinical care in expert centers within the French research network on FTD (Sellami et al., 2020). Their demographic and clinical characteristics are summarized in Table 1. All patients fulfilled diagnostic criteria for behavioral variant FTD (Rascovsky et al., 2011). For descriptive purposes, we also included three CLN-11 homozygous GRN patients reported elsewhere (Huin et al., 2020). Their mean age at onset and sampling were much lower than those of FTD-GRN, as expected for a childhood/juvenile disease (Table 1).

The 26 PS-GRN (asymptomatic relatives of FTD-GRN patients) were enrolled in a prospective study (Predict-PGRN, clinicalTrials NCT04014673) (Saracino et al., 2023). Among them, 17 had two blood samplings, with mean interval of  $3.4 \pm 1.5$  years between the first and the second sample. Proximity to prodromal and clinical onset was estimated with the Clinical Dementia Rating plus NACC FTLD (CDR + NACC FTLD) (global score, sum of boxes) (Miyagawa et al., 2020). None developed clinical symptoms during this time interval.

The group of 142 non-GRN mutation carriers included 43 healthy controls (HC), 44 FTD patients carrying a heterozygous *C9orf72* expansion (FTD-C9orf72), and 55 patients without any identifiable genetic cause (FTD-ng), after extensive genetic evaluations including NGS.

All participants gave written informed consent, and the study was approved by the local ethics committees of Paris-Necker Hospital and of "Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris" Ile de France VI.

### 2.2. Plasma sampling

Blood samples were collected in EDTA tubes using the same protocol for all participants in fasting state. All samples were analyzed in the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital laboratory, involved in the diagnosis of both LSD and neurodegenerative diseases. Samples were centrifuged at 2000g for 20 min at  $+4$  °C, aliquoted by fraction of 500  $\mu$ L, and then frozen in polypropylene tubes at  $-80$  °C until assay. All plasma measurements were performed using standardized procedures, blinded to the clinical and genetic status.

### 2.3. Plasma lysosphingolipid measurements

SPL are mainly divided into ceramides, phosphosphingolipids (mostly represented by sphingomyelins), glycosphingolipids, and their deacylated derivatives lysoSPL, including glucosylsphingosine, lysosphingomyelin and lysoglobotriaosylceramide. Glucosylsphingosine d18:1 (LGL1), lysoglobotriaosylceramide (LGB3), lysosphingomyelin d18:1 (LSM18:1) and its carboxylated analog lysosphingomyelin 509 (LSM509), are increased in the plasma of patients suffering from Gaucher (LGL1), Fabry (LGB3) and Niemann-Pick type A/B and C (lysosphingomyelins) diseases.

LSM18:1, LSM509, LGL1, LGB3 were measured simultaneously in plasma by electrospray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry (TQD, Waters), coupled to ultraperformance liquid chromatography (UPLC-

Acquity, Waters). Briefly, in polypropylene tubes, 100  $\mu$ L of plasma were mixed with 200  $\mu$ L of a mixture of internal standards in methanol, consisting of LSM-d17:1, Glycine-lysoGb3 and  $^{13}$ C6-lysoGGL1. The mixture was vortexed during 1 min, standing 15 min at room temperature, and then centrifuged 10 min at 10000g. The supernatant was injected in the UPLC – Tandem Mass Spectrometry system. Reverse phase liquid chromatography was performed on an UPLC C18 Ethylene Bridged Hybrid (BEH) column (2.1  $\times$  50 mm, 1.7  $\mu$ m) at 45 °C (mobile phase A: ultrapure water, mobile phase B: 100% methanol, 0.02% acetic acid). To separate LGL1 from galactosylsphingosine, plasmas were also analyzed by using a Hydrophilic Interaction Chromatography – UPLC BEH column (2.1  $\times$  50 mm, 1.7  $\mu$ m), as reported (Sidhu et al., 2018). LysoSPL were detected in a positive mode with multiple reaction monitoring. For lysoSPL quantification, calibration curves were made by a serial dilution of a mixture of LSM18:1, LGL1 and LGB3.

The precision of the method was investigated by the intra-day and inter-assay imprecision, assessed by analyzing quality control (QC) samples at two different nominal concentrations (high QC and low QC). The results of QC samples demonstrated acceptable accuracy and precision (Supplementary Table 2). One patient with Niemann-Pick type A/B, one with Gaucher, and one with Fabry disease were used as "positive controls" for the method, and had elevated plasma levels of the corresponding lysoSPL compared to HC (Supplementary Table 3).

### 2.4. Plasma NfL measurements

Plasma neurofilament light chain (NfL) measurements were performed in 54 carriers (35 FTD-GRN patients, 19 PS-GRN) included in the study using Single Molecule Array (Quanterix, USA), as previously described (Saracino et al., 2021).

### 2.5. Statistical analysis

We first compared the three groups of non-GRN carriers (HC, FTD-C9orf72 and FTD-ng) between them, to exclude any differences in demographic characteristics and plasma lysoSPL levels. We then compared GRN carriers – including PS-GRN, FTD-GRN and CLN-11 – and non-carriers. Additional comparisons were performed between the three groups of FTD patients (GRN, C9orf72 and non-genetic). Non-parametric tests were used as data were not normally distributed.

Demographic and clinical characteristics were compared using Kruskal-Wallis test and Fisher's exact test when appropriate. Dunn's test and pairwise Fisher's exact test were then performed for pairwise comparisons using Benjamini-Hochberg correction.

Plasma lysoSPL were compared between the studied groups and the GRN mutation types using either Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test or Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's test for post-hoc analyses. The associations of lysoSPL levels with age at sampling, age at onset and disease duration (for FTD-GRN), or expected years to onset (EYO, for PS-GRN) were evaluated using Spearman's correlation test. Among GRN carriers, the correlations of plasma lysoSPL between each other and with plasma NfL levels, and CDR + NACC FTLD scores, were analyzed with Spearman's test as well.

For the individuals who underwent repeated blood samplings over time we used linear mixed effects models to test for significant differences between the two time-points, with age at first sampling as covariate.

All results were considered significant for  $p$ -values  $\leq 0.05$ . Multiple testing of plasma lysoSPL was handled with Benjamini-Hochberg method. Statistical analyses were performed with the R 4.2.2 software (The R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Population of GRN carriers and non-carriers

There were no differences in demographic characteristics and lysoSPL levels between the three groups of non-GRN mutation carriers (Supplementary Table 4), allowing to merge them into a unique group for further comparisons with GRN carriers. Among non-carriers, plasma LSM18:1, LSM509, LGL1 and LGB3 levels did not differ according to the gender, and did not vary with the age at sampling (Supplementary Fig. 1).

Characteristics and comparisons between non-carriers, PS-GRN, FTD-GRN and CLN-11 are summarized in Table 1. As expected, the mean age at sampling was higher in FTD-GRN compared to CLN-11 and to PS-GRN ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and plasma progranulin levels were lower in all GRN carriers compared to non-carriers ( $p < 0.0001$ , Table 1).

#### 3.2. Plasma lysosphingomyelins and glucosylsphingosine levels are increased in GRN carriers

Among the four lysoSPL analyzed, plasma LSM18:1, LSM509 and LGL1 levels were significantly higher in the 131 GRN carriers compared to non-carriers (Table 1 and Fig. 1). LGB3 levels did not differ according to GRN mutation status, nor between the different groups of GRN carriers, and were not considered, therefore, in further analyses. As in non-carriers, none of the lysoSPL differed according to the gender in GRN carriers.

Lysosphingomyelins (LSM18:1 and LSM509) were elevated in each group of GRN carriers, regardless of their clinical status. LSM509 was even higher in CLN-11 patients, even if the reduced sample size precluded further comparisons. On the other hand, LGL1 levels were only increased in GRN patients, and not different between PS-GRN and non-carriers (Fig. 1).

There was no impact of the different mutation types (nonsense, frameshift, splice site) on the levels of any of the lysoSPL (Supplementary Fig. 2). Moreover, there was a slight trend in favor of higher lysoSPL levels in individuals with lower plasma progranulin dosage, though not reaching statistical significance (Supplementary Fig. 3).

**Table 1**

Demographic characteristics, plasma lysoSPL and progranulin levels in the studied populations.

	Non-carriers (a)	PS-GRN (b)	FTD-GRN (c)	CLN-11 (d)	p-value	corrected p-value
<b>Number of cases</b>	142	26	102	3	–	–
<b>Gender (F/M)</b>	78/64	14/12	50/52	2/1	0.78	–
<b>Age at sampling (years)</b>	b,d	a,c	b,d	a,c		
Mean $\pm$ SD	61 $\pm$ 11.3	38.8 $\pm$ 11.0	62.2 ( $\pm$ 7.2)	38.3 ( $\pm$ 23.6)	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>	–
Median (Q1; Q3)	63.5 (56; 69)	39 (32.3; 45)	63 (58; 67)	36 (26; 49.5)		
<b>LSM18:1 (nM)</b>	b,c,d	a	a	a		
Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	2.3 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	3.7 ( $\pm$ 1.6)	3.1 ( $\pm$ 1.1)	4.8 ( $\pm$ 2.2)	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>
Median (Q1; Q3)	2.2 (1.9; 2.7)	3.6 (2.5; 4.7)	3.0 (2.3; 3.4)	4.9 (3.8; 5.9)		
<b>LSM509 (nM)</b>	b,c,d	a,d	a,d	a,b,c		
Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	0.3 ( $\pm$ 0.2)	0.5 ( $\pm$ 0.5)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.3)	1.3 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>
Median (Q1; Q3)	0.2 (0.2; 0.3)	0.3 (0.2; 0.6)	0.3 (0.2; 0.7)	1.0 (1.0; 1.5)		
<b>LGL1 (nM)</b>	c,d	c,d	a,b	a,b		
Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	1.2 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	1.3 ( $\pm$ 0.7)	2.4 ( $\pm$ 1.4)	3.5 ( $\pm$ 1.2)	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>
Median (Q1; Q3)	1.1 (0.8; 1.5)	1.3 (1.0; 1.6)	2.1 (1.4; 3.0)	3.3 (2.9; 4.1)		
<b>LGB3 (nM)</b>						
Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.2)	0.3 ( $\pm$ 0.1)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.3)	0.5 ( $\pm$ 0.1)	0.43	0.43
Median (Q1; Q3)	0.4 (0.3; 0.5)	0.3 (0.2; 0.4)	0.4 (0.3; 0.5)	0.6 (0.5; 0.6)		
<b>Progranulin (ng/mL)</b>	b,c,d	a	a	a		
Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	119.4 ( $\pm$ 29.6)	39 ( $\pm$ 13.8)	36.0 ( $\pm$ 11.4)	0	<b>&lt; 0.0001*</b>	–
Median (Q1; Q3)	113.0 (98.3; 131)	38.5 (27.8; 49.5)	35.0 (29.0; 43.0)	0		

Data are given as mean ( $\pm$  SD) and as median (Q1; Q3). Significant differences are indicated in bold, and the groups (a,b,c or d) compared to which the difference is significant are indicated in the top of the table cells. CLN-11: neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 11 patients with homozygous GRN mutations; FTD-GRN: frontotemporal dementia patients with heterozygous GRN mutations; F; females; M: males; PS-GRN: presymptomatic heterozygous GRN carriers; Q1: first quartile; Q3: third quartile; SD: standard deviation.

#### 3.3. Glucosylsphingosine and lysosphingomyelins in FTD-GRN patients

LSM18:1 and LGL1 plasma levels increased with age at onset ( $\rho = 0.254$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ; and  $\rho = 0.203$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ) and age at sampling ( $\rho = 0.294$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ; and  $\rho = 0.268$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ) in FTD-GRN patients (Fig. 2A), whereas no such effect was observed for age at sampling in non-carriers (Supplementary Fig. 1). Only LGL1 levels increased with disease duration in the FTD-GRN group ( $\rho = 0.239$ ,  $p = 0.016$ ) (Fig. 2B).

To determine if the increase in plasma lysoSPL levels is a GRN gene-specific pathological process, we directly compared their levels between FTD-GRN, FTD-C9orf72 and FTD-ng (Table 2 and Fig. 3). Plasma levels of LGL1, LSM18:1 and LSM509 were all significantly higher in FTD-GRN than in FTD patients not carrying GRN mutations, whose levels were not different from those found in HC, as already shown.

#### 3.4. LSM18:1 and LGL1 longitudinally increase in presymptomatic GRN carriers

In the group of 26 PS-GRN, LSM18:1 and LSM509 levels were in the same range as those observed in patients, whereas LGL1 levels were similar to those of non-carriers (Table 1). There was no association between any of the lysoSPL and the age at sampling or the EYO (data not shown).

In the 17 PS-GRN who underwent follow-up plasma sampling after a mean interval of  $3.4 \pm 1.5$  years, LSM18:1 and LGL1 levels displayed a significant increase over time ( $p < 0.0001$  and  $p = 0.0002$ , respectively) (Fig. 4 and Supplementary Table 5).

Plasma lysoSPL levels were not associated with changes in the CDR + NACC FTLD scores; however, all PS-GRN remained asymptomatic during their follow-up.

#### 3.5. Correlations of plasma lysoSPL between each other

In the overall population of GRN carriers, LSM18:1 and LSM509 levels were significantly correlated to each other ( $\rho = 0.438$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ), whereas there was no such association with LGL1 levels (Supplementary Fig. 4).



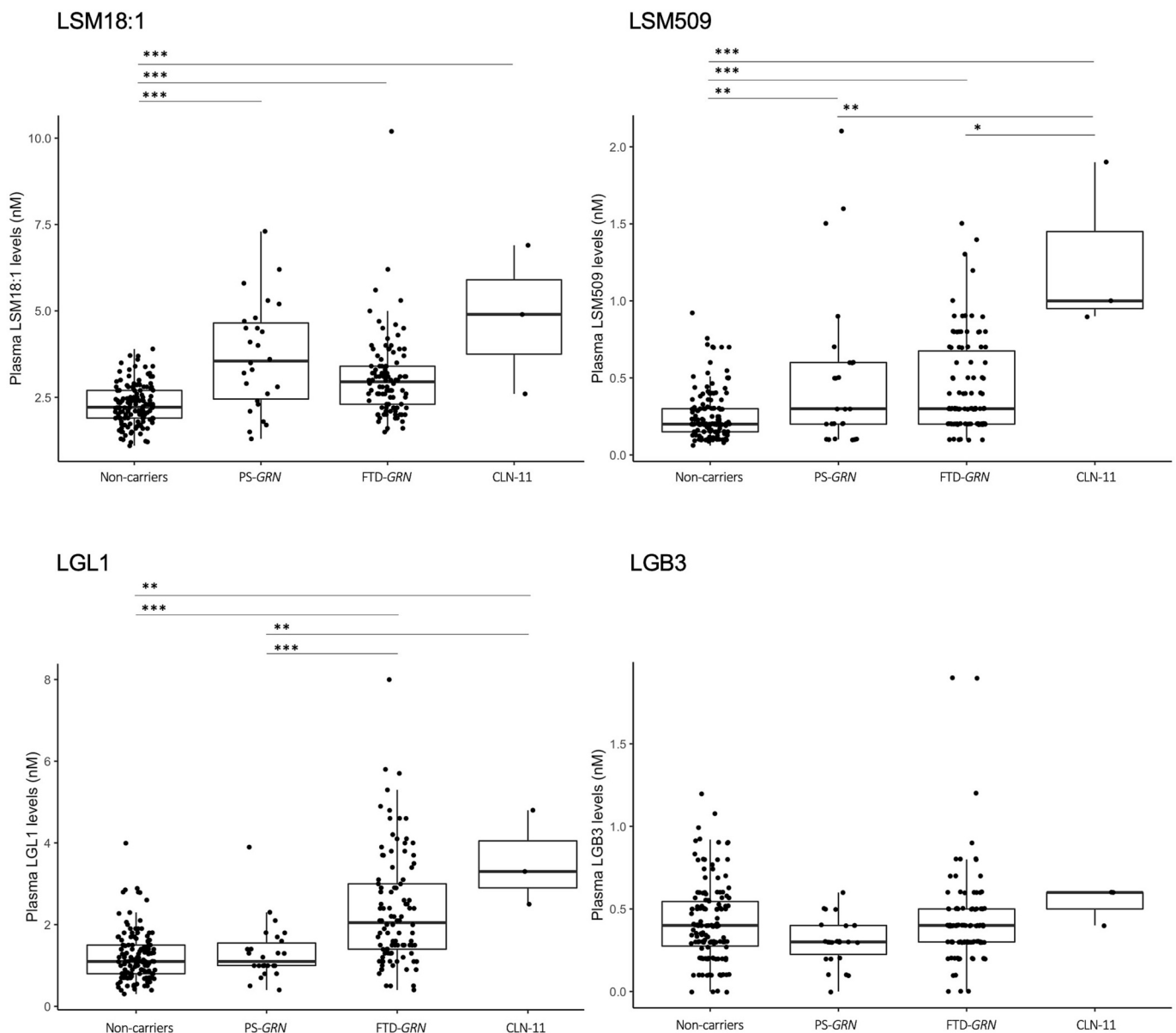
### 3.6. Correlations of plasma lysoSPL with markers of disease severity

To evaluate the association of plasma lysoSPL with the progression of the neurodegenerative process, we studied their correlation with plasma NfL levels, a well-known marker of neuroaxonal degeneration. Plasma NfL measured  $7.2 \pm 2.8$  pg/mL in PS-GRN and  $90.2 \pm 44.6$  pg/mL in FTD-GRN. In PS-GRN, NfL levels were higher in individuals who were closer to phenoconversion, based to their EYO ( $\rho = 0.355$ ;  $p = 0.039$ ). On the other hand, plasma NfL were not correlated with age at onset ( $\rho = -0.294$ ;  $p = 0.10$ ), age at sampling ( $\rho = -0.232$ ;  $p = 0.19$ ), or disease duration ( $\rho = 0.207$ ;  $p = 0.24$ ) in patients (Supplementary Fig. 5A). In PS-GRN there was a significant association between plasma LGL1 and NfL levels ( $\rho = 0.347$ ;  $p = 0.038$ ), whereas no significant associations emerged between any of the lysoSPL and NfL levels in patients (Supplementary Fig. 5B).

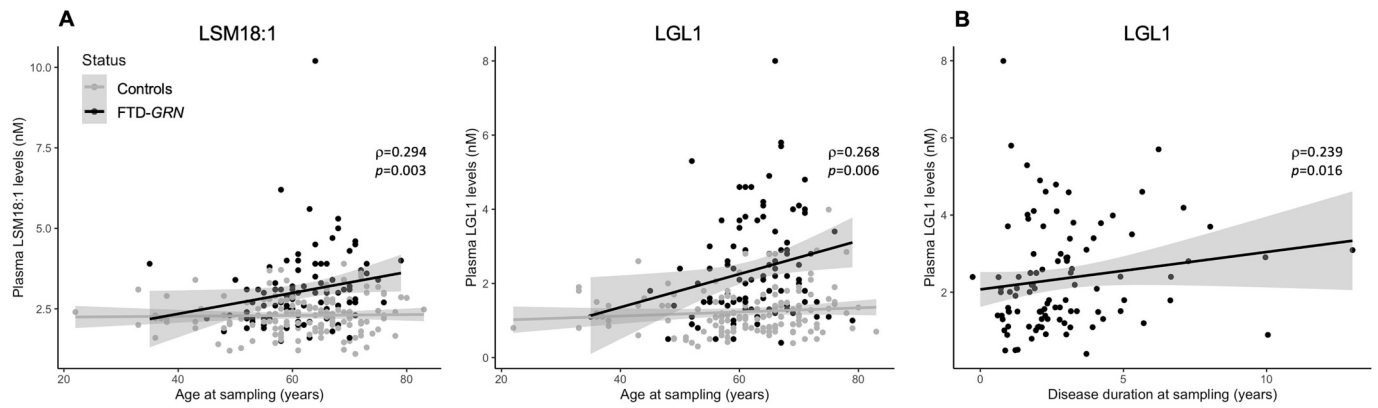
## 4. Discussion

Among the consequences of progranulin deficiency, lysosomal dysfunction may play a relevant role in the pathomechanism common to FTD and CLN-11 (Paushter et al., 2018; Arrant et al., 2019; Boland et al., 2022). To determine whether progranulin deficiency in GRN carriers is accompanied by changes in the levels of storage products in plasma, as in LSD, we measured four lysoSPL in plasma from 131 patients and presymptomatic individuals carrying GRN mutations. Notably, this study also included three patients with CLN-11 disease, an extremely rare condition linked to homozygous GRN mutations and complete loss of progranulin.

Plasma lysosphingomyelins (LSM18:1 and LSM509) were significantly higher in all GRN mutation carriers compared to non-carriers, whereas LGL1 was only increased in FTD-GRN and CLN-11 patients, but not in presymptomatic carriers. Of note, LSM509 levels were even higher in homozygous CLN-11 patients compared to heterozygous



**Fig. 1.** Plasma lysoSPL levels in the studied population. Plasma LSM18:1, LSM509, LGL1 and LGB3 levels in 131 GRN carriers and 142 non-carriers. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between the groups after post-hoc Dunn's test (\*\*\* for  $p < 0.001$ , \*\* for  $p < 0.01$ , \* for  $p < 0.05$ ). CLN-11: neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 11 patients with homozygous GRN mutations; FTD-GRN: frontotemporal dementia patients with heterozygous GRN mutations; PS-GRN: presymptomatic heterozygous GRN carriers.



**Fig. 2.** Association of plasma lysoSPL levels with age at sampling and disease duration in FTD-GRN. A. A positive correlation was found for plasma LSM18:1 levels ( $\rho = 0.294$ ;  $p = 0.003$ ) and LGL1 levels ( $\rho = 0.268$ ;  $p = 0.006$ ) in FTD-GRN patients. Notably, no lysoSPL levels correlated with age at sampling in controls (see also Supplementary Fig. 1). B. Plasma LGL1 levels were positively correlated with disease duration in FTD-GRN patients ( $\rho = 0.239$ ;  $p = 0.016$ ). FTD-GRN: frontotemporal dementia patients with heterozygous *GRN* mutations.

**Table 2**

Comparison of plasma lysoSPL levels between the three groups of FTD patients, including *GRN* mutation carriers, *C9orf72* expansion carriers and patients with non-genetic FTD.

	FTD-GRN	FTD-C9orf72	FTD-ng	p-value	corrected p-value
Number of cases	102	44	55	–	–
Gender (F/M)	50/52	24/20	28/27	0.83	–
Age at sampling (years)				0.52	–
Mean	62.2	62.0	64.1		
(±SD)	(±7.2)	(±7.9)	(±8.9)		
Median	63 (58; 67)	64 (57.8; 67.3)	64 (57.5; 71)		
(Q1; Q3)					
LSM18:1 (nM)	b,c	a	a		
Mean	3.1	2.3	2.3		
(±SD)	(±1.1)	(±0.5)	(±0.6)	<	< 0.0001*
Median	3.0 (2.3; 3.4)	2.3 (2.0; 2.6)	2.3 (1.9; 2.8)	0.0001*	
(Q1; Q3)					
LSM509 (nM)	b,c	a	a		
Mean	0.4	0.3	0.3		
(±SD)	(±0.3)	(±0.1)	(±0.2)	<	< 0.0001*
Median	0.3 (0.2; 0.7)	0.2 (0.2; 0.3)	0.2 (0.2; 0.4)	0.0001*	
(Q1; Q3)					
LGL1 (nM)	b,c	a	a		
Mean	2.4	1.3	1.2		
(±SD)	(±1.4)	(±0.5)	(±0.7)	<	< 0.0001*
Median	2.1 (1.4; 3.0)	1.1 (1.0; 1.7)	1.1 (0.7; 1.3)	0.0001*	
(Q1; Q3)					

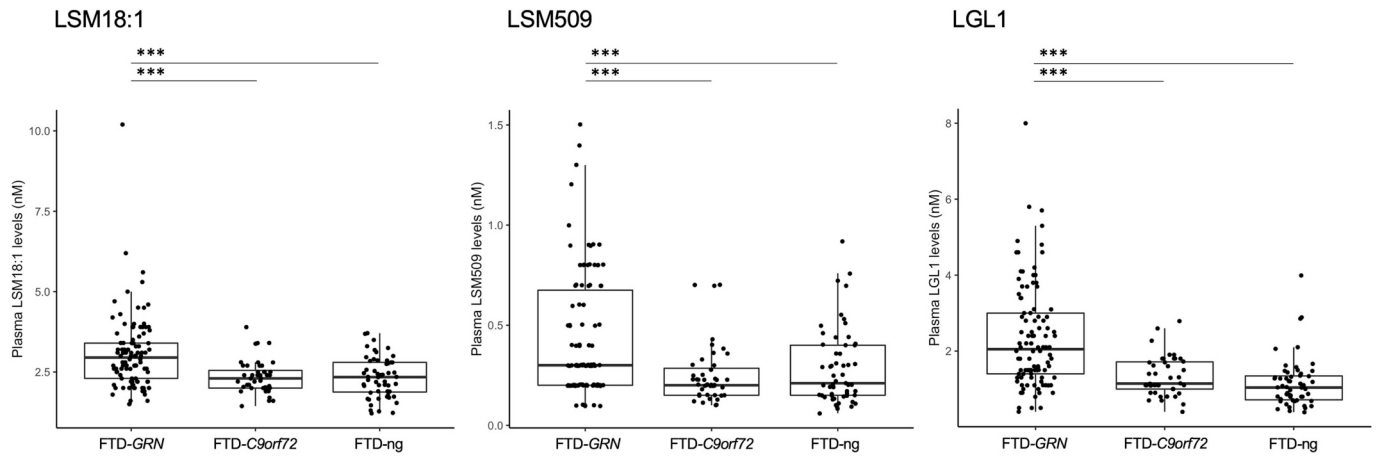
Data are given as mean (±SD) and as median (Q1; Q3). Significant differences are indicated in bold, and the groups (a,b or c) compared to which the difference is significant are indicated in the top of the table cells. F; females; FTD-C9orf72: patients carrying *C9orf72* repeat expansion; FTD-GRN: frontotemporal dementia patients with heterozygous *GRN* mutations; FTD-ng: patients with non-genetic FTD; M: males; Q1: first quartile; Q3: third quartile; SD: standard deviation.

carriers, whilst a similar trend, not reaching statistical significance, was present for the other lysoSPL species. A fourth analyte, LGB3, did not differ between groups. These results provide supportive evidence that sphingolipid degradation defects are associated to the pathophysiology of *GRN*-related diseases, possibly throughout previously demonstrated abnormal lysosomal enzymatic activities (Zhou et al., 2019; Valdez et al., 2020). Notably, LGL1, LSM18:1 and LSM509 levels were not different from control subjects in FTD patients carrying *C9orf72* expansions – the other major genetic cause of FTD with TDP-43 aggregation – or with non-genetic forms of FTD. Thus, increased levels of those analytes are not common to all forms of FTD, nor are they linked to abnormal neuronal TDP-43 aggregation, but rather lysoSPL elevation

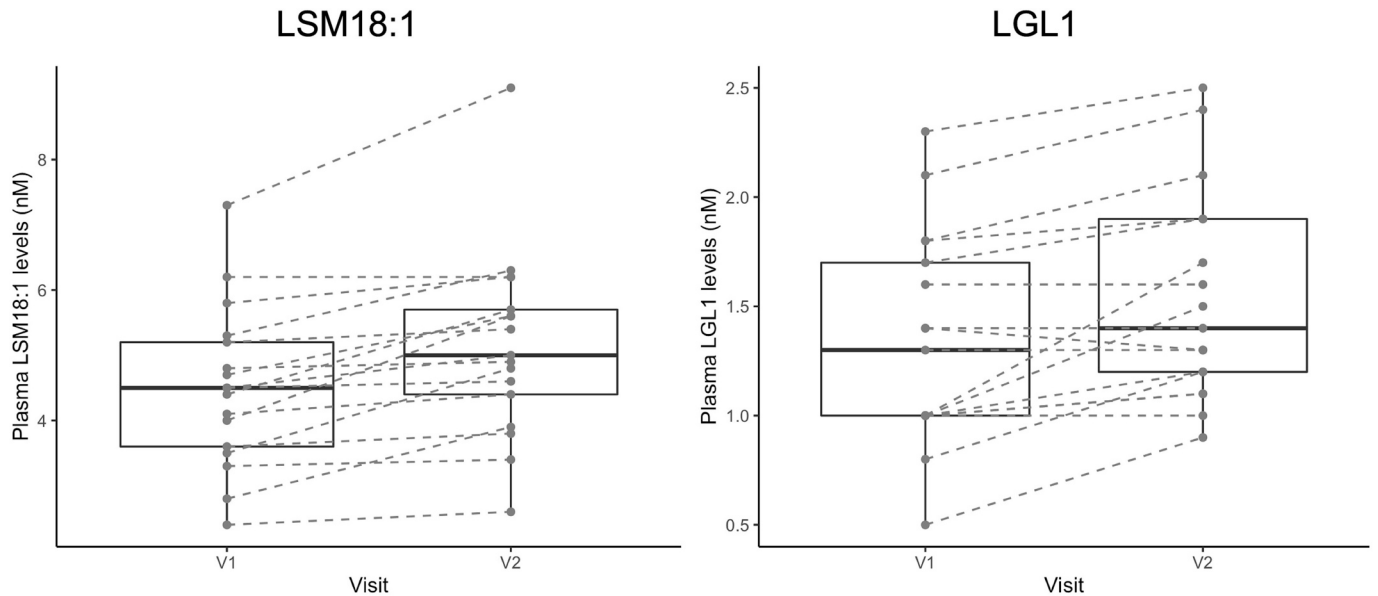
more likely represents a process related to *GRN* haploinsufficiency. Importantly, there was no association between lysoSPL and age at sampling in controls, as previous works already pointed out (Murugesan et al., 2016; Kubaski et al., 2022). Taken together, these observations suggest that the increase of lysosomal storage products is not related to normal ageing, but could be triggered by PGRN deficiency.

The mechanisms by which the activity of lysosomal enzymes is impaired by progranulin deficiency are not fully understood, and may involve the interactions with other pivotal proteins in the intralysosomal network, such as PSAP and pro-cathepsin D (Tayebi et al., 2020). PGRN is involved in PSAP internalization into the lysosome (Zhou et al., 2015, 2017). PSAP is then cleaved by cathepsin D into mature saposins (A to D) which are essential coactivators of several lysosomal enzymes including, but not limited to,  $\beta$ -glucocerebrosidase, acid sphingomyelinase, and galactocerebrosidase (Paushter et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2019; Arrant et al., 2019; Tayebi et al., 2020; Valdez et al., 2020). Additionally, PGRN enhances the maturation of pro-cathepsin to its active form cathepsin D which, in turn, activates saposins (Valdez et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2018; Butler et al., 2019; Tayebi et al., 2020). Therefore, PGRN deficiency likely results in reduced mature saposins which could, in turn, impair the aforementioned enzymatic activities leading to the increase of SPL and lysoSPL levels (Fig. 5). This is supported by impaired lysosomal enzyme activities in brain, fibroblasts and iPSC-derived cortical neurons from heterozygous *GRN* patients (Götzl et al., 2014; Valdez et al., 2017, 2020; Ward et al., 2017; Arrant et al., 2019; Boland et al., 2022), and lysosomal vacuolization and lipofuscin accumulation in brain of *Grn*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, a model of *GRN*-related FTD (Ahmed et al., 2010; Tanaka et al., 2014). Since lysosomes are ubiquitously expressed in all cells except red blood cells, the impairment of lysosomal activities in the presence of PGRN deficit concerns all cells and tissues, including circulating leukocytes (Dekker et al., 2011; Polo et al., 2019), which makes plasma lysoSPL concentrations raise accordingly, though at a lesser degree.

Accumulation of LGL1 results from decreased activity of  $\beta$ -glucocerebrosidase (GCase) in lysosomes. GCase activity is reduced in a context of PGRN deficit, as shown in frontal cortex of FTD-GRN patients and in *Grn*<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Arrant et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2019), possibly due to decreased saposins levels (Zhou et al., 2019; Valdez et al., 2020), lysosomal mislocalization, or incomplete glycosylation of GCase (Arrant et al., 2019). The partial recovery of GCase activity with the addition of PGRN-derived peptides in mouse and human models of *Gba1*/*GBA1* mutations further supports the crucial role of PGRN in GCase activity (Zhao et al., 2023). Our results are thus consistent with reduced GCase activity in *GRN* disease, suggesting the use of plasma LGL1 as a repeatable and non-invasive assay to monitor this lysosomal enzymatic dysfunction.



**Fig. 3.** Comparison of plasma lysoSPL levels between FTD patients carrying heterozygous *GRN* mutations, *C9orf72* expansions and with non-genetic forms. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between the groups after post-hoc Dunn's test (\*\*\*) for  $p < 0.001$ ). FTD-*C9orf72*: patients carrying *C9orf72* repeat expansion; FTD-*GRN*: frontotemporal dementia patients with heterozygous *GRN* mutations; FTD-ng: patients with non-genetic FTD.



**Fig. 4.** Longitudinal increases in plasma LSM18:1 and LGL1 levels in PS-*GRN* undergoing follow-up sampling. Linear mixed effect models including baseline age as covariate disclosed statistically significant increases over time ( $p < 0.0001$  for LSM18:1 and  $p = 0.0002$  for LGL1, after Benjamini-Hochberg correction). PS-*GRN*: presymptomatic heterozygous *GRN* carriers; V1: visit 1; V2: visit 2.

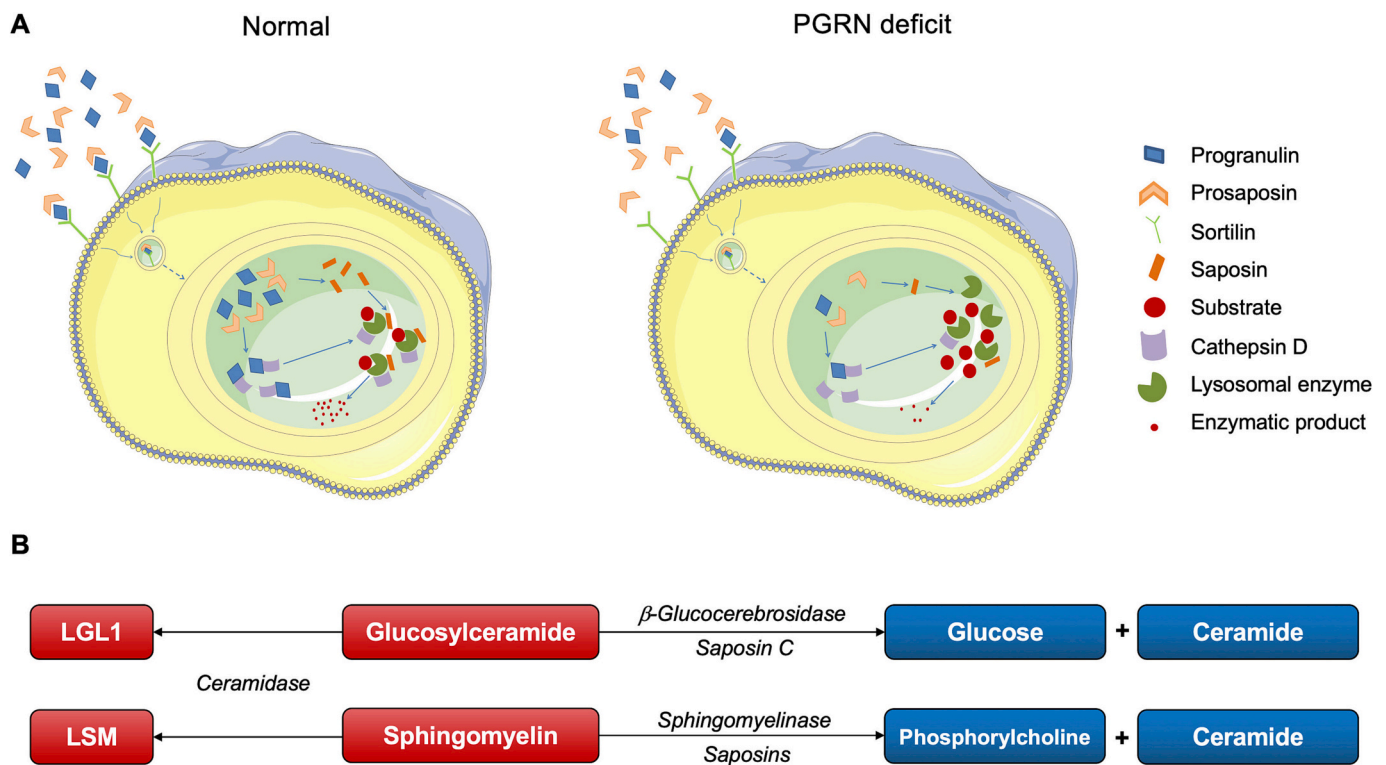
Additionally, our study suggests that PGRN deficit not only affects GCase function, but also likely impairs lysosomal acid sphingomyelinase (SPMase) activity in a similar manner, possibly based on the reduced availability of functional saposins in the lysosome. Indeed, *GRN* mutation carriers displayed increased levels of plasma LSM18:1 and LSM509 compared to non-carriers. Lysosphingomyelins are increased, at higher level, in Niemann-Pick type A/B diseases caused by SPMase deficiency, another enzyme which needs saposin co-activation (Ni and Morales, 2006; Xiong et al., 2016). Moreover, elevated plasma lysosphingomyelins in all *GRN* carriers regardless of their clinical stage indicates greater vulnerability of SPMase activity to PGRN deficiency, even long before phenoconversion, and suggests that the dysregulation of different enzymatic activities may be a dynamic process throughout the overall disease course. The evidence of significant changes in plasma PSAP/saposin levels in association with lysoSPL increases would strengthen the hypothesized relationship between progranulin deficit, impaired prosaposin cleavage, and reduced enzymatic activities in *GRN* carriers.

However, the PGRN/PSAP pathomechanism is not unequivocal for

all lysosomal enzymes. Indeed, there was no detectable accumulation of LGB3, a substrate of  $\alpha$ -galactosidase, in *GRN* carriers, which is in line with normal  $\alpha$ -galactosidase activity reported in brain tissues from FTD-*GRN* patients (Arrant et al., 2019). The latter study and the present findings suggest that this enzyme is not, or only mildly, affected by PGRN deficiency, and that impaired PSAP processing may not be the only factor contributing to disease pathogenesis. Our results collectively suggest that several intertwined mechanisms linking PGRN deficit to elevated lysoSPL are likely involved, thus resulting in different effects on the levels of lysosomal metabolic byproducts. Overall, a wider unbiased metabolomic approach may be necessary to evidence even more relevant differences in other lipid-based markers.

Another finding of this study is the age-dependent increase of LSM18:1 and LGL1 levels in FTD-*GRN* patients, whereas no such association emerged in non-*GRN* carriers. This suggests that lysosomal dysfunction gradually worsens with the progression of the pathological process at the clinical stage of the disease, which is further supported by the higher LGL1 levels in patients with the more advanced disease at





**Fig. 5.** Schematic model of the role of progranulin in the lysosome and possible mechanism leading to lysoSPL accumulation in presence of progranulin deficit. **A.** In a normal cell, internalization of PSAP, via endosome, is mediated by the binding of PGRN-PSAP complex to sortilin. Once in the lysosome, PGRN enhances the maturation of pro-cathepsin to its active form cathepsin D. PSAP is then cleaved by cathepsin D into saposins that are key activators for lysosomal enzymes activity and SPL degradation. In *GRN*-mutated cells, the PGRN haploinsufficiency leads to lower PSAP internalization resulting in the impairment of the enzymatic activities and substrates (SPL, lysoSPL) accumulation. **B.** Scheme of the enzymatic pathways involved in SPL degradation and lysoSPL production. LysoSPL: lysosphingolipids; PGRN: progranulin; PSAP: prosaposin; SPL: sphingolipids.

sampling. Although needing replication in independent cohorts, these results hold promise for a role of plasma LGL1 and LSM18:1 as potential biomarkers for tracking disease trajectory at the full-blown stage. Due to their direct link with the pathophysiological process, plasma lysoSPL appear to be uniquely increased in *GRN* mutation carriers, thus serving as innovative easily-accessible, non-invasive biomarkers of progression in *GRN*-related diseases, in addition to or in combination with other, less specific biological markers such as NFL, neuronal pentraxins, and glial fibrillary acidic protein (van der Ende et al., 2019, 2020; Heller et al., 2020).

To further test the hypothesis of an ongoing alteration of sphingolipid metabolism throughout the overall disease process, we longitudinally analyzed the same lysoSPL levels in a group of *GRN* carriers at the presymptomatic phase. Two analytes, LSM18:1 and LGL1, displayed longitudinal increases in PS-*GRN*, over a mean follow-up time of 3.4 years. Of note, this change was already detectable long before clinical conversion, PS-*GRN* carriers being at a relatively young age at baseline on average (<40 years) and without any noticeable clinical progression during their follow-up. LSM18:1 was higher compared to non-carriers at baseline, and displayed the more sustained increases. On the other hand, LGL1 was less impacted in the presymptomatic phase, its levels being lower at baseline and displaying a smoother increase over time. This is in line with the observation of normal GCase activity in the brain tissue at presymptomatic stage in *GRN* carrier (Arrant et al., 2019). Of note, LGL1 levels were higher in presymptomatic carriers with elevated NFL levels, whose increase heralds phenoconversion (van der Ende et al., 2019; Rojas et al., 2021; Staffaroni et al., 2022). Not surprisingly, LGL1 levels were not associated with NFL levels in patients, as NFL massively increase around the phenoconversion, then their levels do not reflect disease progression in symptomatic individuals (van der Ende et al., 2019). Although preliminary, these results point out a different dynamic of

impaired lysoSPL degradation in the presence of PGRN deficiency, and suggest a dysregulation of plasma lysoSPL in a time-dependent manner along the entire course of *GRN* disease. In particular, lysosphingomyelin levels might serve as early tracers of preclinical stage, whereas LGL1 increases may occur smoothly and at a later stage, with sustained increases during the clinical phase.

The current study has some limitations. Firstly, the group sizes were limited but nevertheless they do represent large cohorts for rare genetic diseases. In particular, the inclusion of three CLN-11 was rather unique, as CLN-11 cases are exceptional, with very few families described worldwide (Huin et al., 2020). Our results suggest a dose effect of PGRN deficiency on the impairment of lysoSPL degradation, but this cannot be ascertained owing to the rarity of CLN-11 cases. Secondly, longitudinal samples were available for a limited number of presymptomatic carriers. Overall, though promising, these results need to be validated in larger independent cohorts to confirm the magnitude of lysoSPL change over time, in particular in carriers undergoing phenoconversion. Additionally, the concentrations of lysoSPL in *GRN* carriers were of moderate amplitude, not comparable to those in LSD patients (Polo et al., 2019). This was however expected, as the mechanism of lysosomal enzyme dysfunction is indirect and mediated by PGRN haploinsufficiency, rather than directly related to homozygous mutations in genes coding for the corresponding enzymes. Nonetheless, differences in our population were significant and, notably, in the same range as those found in patients with Parkinson's disease carrying heterozygous *GBA1* mutations (Pchelina et al., 2018).

In conclusion, our study provides important findings demonstrating increased levels of LGL1, LSM18:1 and LSM509 in the plasma of *GRN* carriers, thereby reinforcing the hypothesis that lysosomal dysfunction contributes to some extent to the mechanism of *GRN*-pathogenesis. Overall, our work suggests that plasma lysoSPL may become useful,

easily accessible progression biomarkers in FTD caused by *GRN* mutations. Identifying novel candidates in the fast-moving context of innovative biomarkers is a major challenge for monitoring forthcoming therapeutic trials and measuring drug response. This study sheds light on lysoSPL assay in research settings for *GRN*-related diseases, and paves the way to new disease-modifying or preventive approaches based on lysosomal dysfunction rescue or substrate reduction.

## Disclosure

ILB served as a member of advisory board for Prevail Therapeutics, Alector, and received research grants from Pfizer ANR, DGOS, PHRC, ARSla Association, Fondation Plan Alzheimer outside of the present work. FL received travel support from Amicus Therapeutics, Shire, Sanofi-Genzyme, lecture fees from Actelion Pharmaceuticals and research grants from Fondation pour la recherche sur Alzheimer, outside of the present work. YN received travel grants and/or honoraria from Actelion Pharmaceuticals, outside of the present work. WK, DS, BR, MH, FC, DR, MH, EH, FP, VD, S. Auriacombe, CA, RL, SB, CBB, JP, MD, DW, FF, S. Auvin, IBY, AB, BD, DBR report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript or outside the present work.

## Credit author statement

Walid Khrouf: Conceptualization, Investigation, Formal analysis, Writing – Original draft.

Dario Saracino: Conceptualization, Investigation, Formal analysis, Writing – Original draft.

Benoit Rucheton: Data curation, Investigation.

Marion Houot: Data curation, Formal analysis.

Fabienne Clot: Formal analysis.

Daisy Rinaldi: Data curation.

Joana Vitor: Data curation.

Marie Huynh: Data curation.

Evelyne Heng: Data curation.

Dimitri Schlemmer: Data curation.

Florence Pasquier: Investigation, Resources.

Vincent Deramecourt: Investigation, Resources.

Sophie Auriacombe: Investigation, Resources.

Carole Azuar: Investigation, Resources.

Richard Levy: Investigation, Resources.

Stéphanie Bombois: Investigation, Resources.

Claire Boutoleau-Brétonnière: Investigation, Resources.

Jérémy Pariente: Investigation, Resources.

Mira Didic: Investigation, Resources.

David Wallon: Investigation, Resources.

Frédérique Fluchère: Investigation, Resources.

Stéphane Auvin: Investigation, Resources.

Imen Ben Younes: Data curation.

the French clinical and genetic research network on FTD/FTD-ALS and the Predict-PGRN study group: Resources.

Yann Nadjar: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing.

Alexis Brice: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing.

Bruno Dubois: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing.

Dominique Bonnefont-Rousselot: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing.

Isabelle Le Ber: Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Project administration, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing.

Foudil Lamari: Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Project administration, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing.

## Funding

The research leading to these results received funding from the Investissements d'Avenir ANR-11-INBS-0011. This work was partially funded by the Programme Hospitalier de Recherche Clinique (PHRC)

Predict-PGRN (to ILB, promotion by Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris), the PHRC FTLD-exome (to ILB, promotion by Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris), the Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer (FR-17035, to ILB) and the funding “Intéressement DMU BIOGEM” (RCIN23BIOG/1, to FL).

## Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Mrs. Kathy Larcher (UF de Neurogénétique, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris), Sandrine Noël (UF de Neurogénétique, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris), and Isabelle David (UF de Neurogénétique, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris) for their technical assistance. We thank the DNA and cell bank of the ICM for the technical assistance, notably Philippe Martin-Hardy and Sylvie Forlani (DNA and cell bank, ICM). We also thank Dr. Armand Bottani (Department of Medical Genetics, University Hospital of Geneva) for his contribution to clinical data. The study was conducted with the support of the Centre d'Investigation Clinique Neuroscience (CIC 1422), Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris.

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2023.106108>.

## References

- Ahmed, Z., Sheng, H., Xu, Y., Lin, W.-L., Innes, A.E., Gass, J., Yu, X., Hou, H., Chiba, S., Yamanouchi, K., Leissring, M., Petrucelli, L., Nishihara, M., Hutton, M.L., McGowan, E., Dickson, D.W., Lewis, J., 2010. Accelerated lipofuscinosis and ubiquitination in granulin knockout mice suggest a role for progranulin in successful aging. *Am. J. Pathol.* 177, 311–324. <https://doi.org/10.2353/ajpath.2010.090915>.
- Arrant, A.E., Roth, J.R., Boyle, N.R., Kashyap, S.N., Hoffmann, M.Q., Murchison, C.F., Ramos, E.M., Nana, A.L., Spina, S., Grinberg, L.T., Miller, B.L., Seeley, W.W., Roberson, E.D., 2019. Impaired  $\beta$ -glucocerebrosidase activity and processing in frontotemporal dementia due to progranulin mutations. *Acta Neuropathol. Commun.* 7, 218. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40478-019-0872-6>.
- Baker, M., Mackenzie, I.R., Pickering-Brown, S.M., Gass, J., Rademakers, R., Lindholm, C., Snowden, J., Adamson, J., Sadvnick, A.D., Rollinson, S., Cannon, A., Dwoh, E., Neary, D., Melquist, S., Richardson, A., Dickson, D., Berger, Z., Eriksen, J., Robinson, T., Zehr, C., Dickey, C.A., Crook, R., McGowan, E., Mann, D., Boeve, B., Feldman, H., Hutton, M., 2006. Mutations in progranulin cause tau-negative frontotemporal dementia linked to chromosome 17. *Nature* 442, 916–919. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature05016>.
- Bateman, A., Bennett, H.P.J., 2009. The granulin gene family: from cancer to dementia. *BioEssays* 31, 1245–1254. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bies.200900086>.
- Boeve, B.F., Boxer, A.L., Kumfor, F., Pijnenburg, Y., Rohrer, J.D., 2022. Advances and controversies in frontotemporal dementia: diagnosis, biomarkers, and therapeutic considerations. *Lancet Neurol.* 21, 258–272. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(21\)00341-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(21)00341-0).
- Boland, S., Swarup, S., Ambaw, Y.A., Malia, P.C., Richards, R.C., Fischer, A.W., Singh, S., Aggarwal, G., Spina, S., Nana, A.L., Grinberg, L.T., Seeley, W.W., Surma, M.A., Klose, C., Paulo, J.A., Nguyen, A.D., Harper, J.W., Walther, T.C., Farese, R.V., 2022. Deficiency of the frontotemporal dementia gene GRN results in gangliosidosis. *Nat. Commun.* 13, 5924. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-33500-9>.
- Butler, V.J., Cortopassi, W.A., Argouarch, A.R., Ivry, S.L., Craik, C.S., Jacobson, M.P., Kao, A.W., 2019. Progranulin stimulates the in vitro maturation of pro-cathepsin D at acidic pH. *J. Mol. Biol.* 431, 1038–1047. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2019.01.027>.
- Chen, Y., Sud, N., Hettinghouse, A., Liu, C., 2018. Molecular regulations and therapeutic targets of Gaucher disease. *Cytokine Growth Factor Rev.* 41, 65–74. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cytogfr.2018.04.003>.
- Cruts, M., Gijselink, I., van der Zee, J., Engelborghs, S., Wils, H., Pirici, D., Rademakers, R., Vandenberghe, R., Dermaut, B., Martin, J.-J., van Duijn, C., Peeters, K., Sciot, R., Santens, P., De Poeter, T., Mattheijssens, M., Van den Broeck, M., Cuijt, I., Vennekens, K., De Deyn, P.P., Kumar-Singh, S., Van Broeckhoven, C., 2006. Null mutations in progranulin cause ubiquitin-positive frontotemporal dementia linked to chromosome 17q21. *Nature* 442, 920–924. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature05017>.
- DeJesus-Hernandez, M., Mackenzie, I.R., Boeve, B.F., Boxer, A.L., Baker, M., Rutherford, N.J., Nicholson, A.M., Finch, N.A., Flynn, H., Adamson, J., Kouri, N., Wojtas, A., Sengdy, P., Hsiung, G.-Y.R., Karydas, A., Seeley, W.W., Josephs, K.A., Coppola, G., Geschwind, D.H., Wszolek, Z.K., Feldman, H., Knopman, D.S., Petersen, R.C., Miller, B.L., Dickson, D.W., Boylan, K.B., Graff-Radford, N.R., Rademakers, R., 2011. Expanded GGGGCC hexanucleotide repeat in noncoding

- region of C9ORF72 causes chromosome 9p-linked FTD and ALS. *Neuron* 72, 245–256. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2011.09.011>.
- Dekker, N., van Dussen, L., Hollak, C.E.M., Overkleeft, H., Scheij, S., Ghauharali, K., van Breemen, M.J., Ferraz, M.J., Groener, J.E.M., Maas, M., Wijburg, F.A., Speijer, D., Tylki-Szymanska, A., Mistry, P.K., Boot, R.G., Aerts, J.M., 2011. Elevated plasma glucosylsphingosine in Gaucher disease: relation to phenotype, storage cell markers, and therapeutic response. *Blood* 118, e118–e127. <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2011-05-352971>.
- Feng, T., Mai, S., Roscoe, J.M., Sheng, R.R., Ullah, M., Zhang, J., Katz, I.I., Yu, H., Xiong, W., Hu, F., 2020. Loss of TMEM 106B and PGRN leads to severe lysosomal abnormalities and neurodegeneration in mice. *EMBO Rep.* 21, e50219 <https://doi.org/10.15252/embr.202050219>.
- Ghidoni, R., Benussi, L., Ghionna, M., Franzoni, M., Binetti, G., 2008. Low plasma progranulin levels predict progranulin mutations in frontotemporal lobar degeneration. *Neurology* 71, 1235–1239. <https://doi.org/10.1212/01.wnl.0000325058.10218.fc>.
- Götzl, J.K., Mori, K., Damme, M., Fellerer, K., Tahirovic, S., Kleinberger, G., Janssens, J., van der Zee, J., Lang, C.M., Kremmer, E., Martin, J.-J., Engelborghs, S., Kretschmar, H.A., Arzberger, T., Van Broeckhoven, C., Haass, C., Capell, A., 2014. Common pathobiochemical hallmarks of progranulin-associated frontotemporal lobar degeneration and neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis. *Acta Neuropathol.* 127, 845–860. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00401-014-1262-6>.
- Heller, C., Foiani, M.S., Moore, K., Convery, R., Bocchetta, M., Neason, M., Cash, D.M., Thomas, D., Greaves, C.V., Woollacott, I.O., Shafei, R., Van Swieten, J.C., Moreno, F., Sanchez-Valle, R., Borroni, B., Laforce Jr., R., Masellis, M., Tartaglia, M.C., Graff, C., Galimberti, D., Rowe, J.B., Finger, E., Synofzik, M., Vandenberghe, R., de Mendonça, A., Tagliavini, F., Santana, I., Ducharme, S., Butler, C.R., Gerhard, A., Levin, J., Danek, A., Frisoni, G., Sorbi, S., Otto, M., Heslegrave, A.J., Zetterberg, H., Rohrer, J.D., 2020. Plasma glial fibrillary acidic protein is raised in progranulin-associated frontotemporal dementia. *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* 91, 263–270. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2019-321954>.
- Huang, M., Modeste, E., Dammer, E., Merino, P., Taylor, G., Duong, D.M., Deng, Q., Holler, C.J., Gearing, M., Dickson, D., Seyfried, N.T., Kukar, T., 2020. Network analysis of the progranulin-deficient mouse brain proteome reveals pathogenic mechanisms shared in human frontotemporal dementia caused by GRN mutations. *Acta Neuropathol. Commun.* 8, 163. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40478-020-01037-x>.
- Huin, V., Barbier, M., Bottani, A., Lohrinus, J.A., Clot, F., Lamari, F., Chat, L., Rucheton, B., Fluchère, F., Auvin, S., Myers, P., Gelot, A., Camuzat, A., Caillaud, C., Joréna, L., Forlani, S., Saracino, D., Duyckaerts, C., Brice, A., Durr, A., Le Ber, I., 2020. Homozygous GRN mutations: new phenotypes and new insights into pathological and molecular mechanisms. *Brain* 143, 303–319. <https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/awz377>.
- Hurvitz, N., Dinur, T., Becker-Cohen, M., Cozma, C., Hovakimyan, M., Oppermann, S., Demuth, L., Rolfs, A., Abramov, A., Zimran, A., Revel-Vilk, S., 2019. Glucosylsphingosine (lyso-Gb1) as a biomarker for monitoring treated and untreated children with Gaucher disease. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 20, 3033. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms20123033>.
- Kao, A.W., McKay, A., Singh, P.P., Brunet, A., Huang, E.J., 2017. Progranulin, lysosomal regulation and neurodegenerative disease. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 18, 325–333. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn.2017.36>.
- Kubaski, F., Burlina, A., Pereira, D., Silva, C., Herbst, Z.M., Trapp, F.B., Michelin-Tirelli, K., Lopes, F.F., Burin, M.G., Brusius-Facchin, A.C., Netto, A.B.O., Poletto, E., Bernardes, T.M., Carvalho, G.S., Sorte, N.B., Ferreira, F.N., Perin, N., Clivati, M.R., de Santana, M.T.S., Lobos, S.F.G., Leão, E.K.E.A., Coutinho, M.P., Pinos, P.V., Santos, M.L.S.F., Penatti, D.A., Lourenço, C.M., Polo, G., Giugliani, R., 2022. Quantification of lysosphingomyelin and lysosphingomyelin-509 for the screening of acid sphingomyelinase deficiency. *Orphanet J. Rare Dis.* 17, 407. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13023-022-02560-x>.
- Miyagawa, T., Brushhaber, D., Syrjanen, J., Kremers, W., Fields, J., Forsberg, L.K., Heuer, H.W., Knopman, D., Kornak, J., Boxer, A., Rosen, H., Boeve, B., on Behalf of the ARTFL/LEFFTDS Consortium, 2020. Use of the CDR® plus NACC FTLD in mild FTLD: data from the ARTFL/LEFFTDS consortium. *Alzheimers Dement.* 16, 79–90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2019.05.013>.
- Moore, K.M., Nicholas, J., Grossman, M., McMillan, C.T., Irwin, D.J., Massimo, L., Van Deerlin, V.M., Warren, J.D., Fox, N.C., Rossor, M.N., Mead, S., Bocchetta, M., Boeve, B.F., Knopman, D.S., Graff-Radford, N.R., Forsberg, L.K., Rademakers, R., Wszolek, Z.K., van Swieten, J.C., Jiskoot, L.C., Meeter, L.H., Doppler, E.G., Papma, J. M., Snowden, J.S., Saxon, J., Jones, M., Pickering-Brown, S., Le Ber, I., Camuzat, A., Brice, A., Caroppo, P., Ghidoni, R., Pievani, M., Benussi, L., Binetti, G., Dickerson, B. C., Lucente, D., Krivensky, S., Graff, C., Öijerstedt, L., Fallström, M., Thonberg, H., Ghoshal, N., Morris, J.C., Borroni, B., Benussi, A., Padovani, A., Galimberti, D., Scarpini, E., Fumagalli, G.G., Mackenzie, I.R., Hsiung, G.-Y.R., Sengdy, P., Boxer, A. L., Rosen, H., Taylor, J.B., Synofzik, M., Wilke, C., Sulzer, P., Hodges, J.R., Halliday, G., Kwok, J., Sanchez-Valle, R., Lladó, A., Borrego-Ecija, S., Santana, I., Almeida, M.R., Tábuas-Pereira, M., Moreno, F., Barandiaran, M., Indakoetxea, B., Levin, J., Danek, A., Rowe, J.B., Cope, T.E., Otto, M., Anderl-Straub, S., de Mendonça, A., Maruta, C., Masellis, M., Black, S.E., Couratier, P., Lautrette, G., Huey, E.D., Sorbi, S., Nacmias, B., Laforce, R., Tremblay, M.-P.L., Vandenberghe, R., Damme, P.V., Rogalski, E.J., Weintraub, S., Gerhard, A., Onyike, C.U., Ducharme, S., Papageorgiou, S.G., Lyn, A.S., Brodtmann, A., Finger, E., Guerreiro, R., Bras, J., Rohrer, J.D., Heller, C., Convery, R.S., Woollacott, I.O., Shafei, R.M., Graff-Radford, J., Jones, D.T., Dheel, C.M., Savica, R., Lapid, M.I., Baker, M., Fields, J.A., Gavrilova, R., Domoto-Reilly, K., Poos, J.M., Van der Ende, E.L., Panman, J.L., Donker Kaat, L., Seelaar, H., Richardson, A., Frisoni, G., Mega, A., Fostinelli, S., Chiang, H.-H., Alberici, A., Arighi, A., Fenoglio, C., Heuer, H., Miller, B., Karydas, A., Fong, J., João Leitão, M., Santiago, B., Duro, D., Ferreira, Carlos, Gabilondo, A., De Arriba, M., Tainta, M., Zulaica, M., Ferreira, Catarina, Semler, E., Ludolph, A., Landwehrmeyer, B., Volk, A.E., Miltenberger, G., Verdelho, A., Afonso, S., Tartaglia, M.C., Freedman, M., Rogava, E., Ferrari, C., Piaceri, I., Bessi, V., Lombardi, G., St-Onge, F., Doré, M.-C., Bruffaerts, R., Vandenbulcke, M., Van den Stock, J., Mesulam, M.M., Bigio, E., Koros, C., Papatriantafyllou, J., Kroupis, C., Stefanis, L., Shoesmith, C., Robertson, E., Coppola, G., Da Silva Ramos, E.M., Geschwind, D., 2020. Age at symptom onset and death and disease duration in genetic frontotemporal dementia: an international retrospective cohort study. *Lancet Neurol.* 19, 145–156. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(19\)30394-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(19)30394-1).
- Murugesan, V., Chuang, W.-L., Liu, J., Lischuk, A., Kacena, K., Lin, H., Pastores, G.M., Yang, R., Keutzer, J., Zhang, K., Mistry, P.K., 2016. Glucosylsphingosine is a key biomarker of Gaucher disease: glucosylsphingosine is a key biomarker of Gaucher disease. *Am. J. Hematol.* 91, 1082–1089. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajh.24491>.
- Ni, X., Morales, C.R., 2006. The lysosomal trafficking of acid sphingomyelinase is mediated by sortilin and mannose 6-phosphate receptor: lysosomal trafficking of acid sphingomyelinase by sortilin. *Traffic* 7, 889–902. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0854.2006.00429.x>.
- Paushter, D.H., Du, H., Feng, T., Hu, F., 2018. The lysosomal function of progranulin, a guardian against neurodegeneration. *Acta Neuropathol.* 136, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00401-018-1861-8>.
- Pchelina, S., Baydakova, G., Nikolaev, M., Senkevich, K., Emelyanov, A., Kopytova, A., Miliukhina, I., Yakimovskii, A., Timofeeva, A., Berkovich, O., Fedotova, E., Illarioshkin, S., Zakharova, E., 2018. Blood lysosphingolipids accumulation in patients with parkinson's disease with glucocerebrosidase 1 mutations: lysosphingolipids in GBA-linked PD. *Mov. Disord.* 33, 1325–1330. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mds.27393>.
- Pettazzoni, M., Froissart, R., Pagan, C., Vanier, M.T., Ruet, S., Latour, P., Guffon, N., Foulhoux, A., Germain, D.P., Levade, T., Vianey-Saban, C., Piraud, M., Cheillan, D., 2017. LC-MS/MS multiplex analysis of lysosphingolipids in plasma and amniotic fluid: a novel tool for the screening of sphingolipidoses and Niemann-Pick type C disease. *PLoS One* 12, e0181700. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0181700>.
- Piraud, M., Pettazzoni, M., Lavoie, P., Ruet, S., Pagan, C., Cheillan, D., Latour, P., Vianey-Saban, C., Auray-Blais, C., Froissart, R., 2018. Contribution of tandem mass spectrometry to the diagnosis of lysosomal storage disorders. *J. Inher. Metab. Dis.* 41, 457–477. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10545-017-0126-3>.
- Polo, G., Burlina, A.P., Ranieri, E., Colucci, F., Rubert, L., Pascarella, A., Duro, G., Tummolo, A., Padoan, A., Plebani, M., Burlina, A.B., 2019. Plasma and dried blood spot lysosphingolipids for the diagnosis of different sphingolipidoses: a comparative study. *Clin. Chem. Lab. Med.* 57, 1863–1874. <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2018-1301>.
- Rascovsky, K., Hodges, J.R., Knopman, D., Mendez, M.F., Kramer, J.H., Neuhaus, J., van Swieten, J.C., Seelaar, H., Dopper, E.G.P., Onyike, C.U., Hillis, A.E., Josephs, K.A., Boeve, B.F., Kertesz, A., Seeley, W.W., Rankin, K.P., Johnson, J.K., Gorno-Tempini, M.-L., Rosen, H., Priloleau-Latham, C.E., Lee, A., Kipps, C.M., Lillo, P., Piguet, O., Rohrer, J.D., Rossor, M.N., Warren, J.D., Fox, N.C., Galasko, D., Salmon, D.P., Black, S.E., Mesulam, M., Weintraub, S., Dickerson, B.C., Diehl-Schmid, J., Pasquier, F., Deramecourt, V., Lebert, F., Pijnenburg, Y., Chow, T.W., Manes, F., Grafman, J., Cappa, S.F., Freedman, M., Grossman, M., Miller, B.L., 2011. Sensitivity of revised diagnostic criteria for the behavioural variant of frontotemporal dementia. *Brain* 134, 2456–2477. <https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/awr179>.
- Renton, A.E., Majounie, E., Waite, A., Simón-Sánchez, J., Rollinson, S., Gibbs, J.R., Schymick, J.C., Laaksovirta, H., van Swieten, J.C., Myllykangas, L., Kalimo, H., Paetau, A., Abramzon, Y., Remes, A.M., Kaganovich, A., Scholz, S.W., Duckworth, J., Ding, J., Harmer, D.W., Hernandez, D.G., Johnson, J.O., Mok, K., Ryten, M., Trabzuni, D., Guerreiro, R.J., Orrell, R.W., Neal, J., Murray, A., Pearson, J., Jansen, I. E., Sondervand, D., Seelaar, H., Blake, D., Young, K., Halliwell, N., Callister, J.B., Toulson, G., Richardson, A., Gerhard, A., Snowden, J., Mann, D., Neary, D., Nalls, M. A., Peuralinna, T., Jansson, L., Isoviita, V.-M., Kaivorinne, A.-L., Hölttä-Vuori, M., Ikonen, E., Sulkava, R., Benatar, M., Wuu, J., Chiò, A., Restagno, G., Borghero, G., Sabatelli, M., Heckerman, D., Rogava, E., Zinman, L., Rothstein, J.D., Sendtner, M., Drepper, C., Eichler, E.E., Alkan, C., Abdullaev, Z., Pack, S.D., Dutra, A., Pak, E., Hardy, J., Singleton, A., Williams, N.M., Heutink, P., Pickering-Brown, S., Morris, H. R., Tienari, P.J., Traynor, B.J., 2011. A hexanucleotide repeat expansion in C9ORF72 is the cause of chromosome 9p21-linked ALS-FTD. *Neuron* 72, 257–268. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2011.09.010>.
- Rojas, J.C., Wang, P., Staffaroni, A.M., Heller, C., Cobigo, Y., Wolf, A., Goh, S.-Y.M., Ljubenkova, P.A., Heuer, H.W., Fong, J.C., Taylor, J.B., Veras, E., Song, L., Jeromin, A., Hanlon, D., Yu, L., Khinikar, A., Sivasankaran, R., Kieloch, A., Valentin, M.-A., Karydas, A.M., Mitic, L.L., Pearlman, R., Kornak, J., Kramer, J.H., Miller, B.L., Kantarci, K., Knopman, D.S., Graff-Radford, N., Petrucelli, L., Rademakers, R., Irwin, D.J., Grossman, M., Ramos, E.M., Coppola, G., Mendez, M.F., Bordelon, Y., Dickerson, B.C., Ghoshal, N., Huey, E.D., Mackenzie, I.R., Appleby, B. S., Domoto-Reilly, K., Hsiung, G.-Y.R., Toga, A.W., Weintraub, S., Kaufer, D.I., Kerwin, D., Litvan, I., Onyike, C.U., Pantelyat, A., Robertson, E.D., Tartaglia, M.C., Foroud, T., Chen, W., Czerkiewicz, J., Graham, D.L., van Swieten, J.C., Borroni, B., Sanchez-Valle, R., Moreno, F., Laforce, R., Graff, C., Synofzik, M., Galimberti, D., Rowe, J.B., Masellis, M., Finger, E., Vandenberghe, R., de Mendonça, A., Tagliavini, F., Santana, I., Ducharme, S., Butler, C.R., Gerhard, A., Levin, J., Danek, A., Otto, M., Sorbi, S., Cash, D.M., Convery, R.S., Bocchetta, M., Foiani, M., Caroline, V.G., Peakman, G., Russell, L., Swift, I., Todd, E., Rohrer, J.D., Boeve, B.F., Rosen, H.J., Boxer, A.L., 2021. Plasma neurofilament light for prediction of disease progression in familial frontotemporal lobar degeneration. *Neurology* 96, e2296–e2312. <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.00000000000011848>.
- Saracino, D., Dorgham, K., Camuzat, A., Rinaldi, D., Rametti-Lacroux, A., Houot, M., Clot, F., Martin-Hardy, P., Joréna, L., Azuar, C., Migliaccio, R., Pasquier, F.,



- Couratier, P., Auriacombe, S., Sauvé, M., Boutoleau-Bretonnière, C., Pariente, J., Didic, M., Hannequin, D., Wallon, D., the French Research Network on FTD/FTD-ALS, the PREV-DEMALS and Predict-PGRN study groups, Colliot, O., Dubois, B., Brice, A., Levy, R., Forlani, S., Le Ber, I., 2021. Plasma NFL levels and longitudinal change rates in C9orf72 and GRN-associated diseases: from tailored references to clinical applications. *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* 92, 1278–1288. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2021-326914>.
- Saracino, D., Sellami, L., Boniface, H., Houot, M., Péligrini-Issac, M., Funkiewiez, A., Rinaldi, D., Locatelli, M., Azuar, C., Causse-Lemercier, V., Jaillard, A., Pasquier, F., Chastan, M., Wallon, D., Hitzel, A., Pariente, J., Pallardy, A., Boutoleau-Bretonnière, C., Guedj, E., Didic, M., Migliaccio, R., Kas, A., Habert, M.-O., Le Ber, I., on behalf of Predict-PGRN, 2023. Brain metabolic profile in presymptomatic GRN carriers throughout a 5-year follow-up. *Neurology* 100, e396–e407. <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000201439>.
- Sellami, L., Rucheton, B., Ben Younes, I., Camuzat, A., Saracino, D., Rinaldi, D., Epelbaum, S., Azuar, C., Levy, R., Auriacombe, S., Hannequin, D., Pariente, J., Barbier, M., Boutoleau-Bretonnière, C., Couratier, P., Pasquier, F., Deramecourt, V., Sauvé, M., Sarazin, M., Lagarde, J., Roué-Jagot, C., Forlani, S., Jornea, L., David, I., LeGuern, E., Dubois, B., Brice, A., Clot, F., Lamari, F., Le Ber, I., 2020. Plasma progranulin levels for frontotemporal dementia in clinical practice: a 10-year French experience. *Neurobiol. Aging*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurobiolaging.2020.02.014>. S0197458020300476.
- Sidhu, R., Mikulka, C.R., Fujiwara, H., Sands, M.S., Schaffer, J.E., Ory, D.S., Jiang, X., 2018. A HILIC-MS/MS method for simultaneous quantification of the lysosomal disease markers galactosylsphingosine and glucosylsphingosine in mouse serum. *Biomed. Chromatogr.* 32, e4235 <https://doi.org/10.1002/bmc.4235>.
- Smith, K.R., Damiano, J., Franceschetti, S., Carpenter, S., Canafoglia, L., Morbin, M., Rossi, G., Pareyson, D., Mole, S.E., Staropoli, J.F., Sims, K.B., Lewis, J., Lin, W.-L., Dickson, D.W., Dahl, H.-H., Bahlo, M., Berkovic, S.F., 2012. Strikingly different clinicopathological phenotypes determined by progranulin-mutation dosage. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 90, 1102–1107. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2012.04.021>.
- Staffaroni, A.M., Quintana, M., Wendelberger, B., Heuer, H.W., Russell, L.L., Cobigo, Y., Wolf, A., Goh, S.-Y.M., Petrucelli, L., Gendron, T.F., Heller, C., Clark, A.L., Taylor, Jack Carson, Wise, A., Ong, E., Forsberg, L., Brushaber, D., Rojas, J.C., VandeVrede, L., Ljubenkop, P., Kramer, J., Casaletto, K.B., Appleby, B., Bordelon, Y., Botha, H., Dickerson, B.C., Domoto-Reilly, K., Fields, J.A., Foroud, T., Gavrilo, R., Geschwind, D., Ghoshal, N., Goldman, J., Graff-Radford, J., Graff-Radford, N., Grossman, M., Hall, M.G.H., Hsiung, G.-Y., Huey, E.D., Irwin, D., Jones, D.T., Kantarci, K., Kaufer, D., Knopman, D., Kremers, W., Lago, A.L., Lapid, M.I., Litvan, I., Lucente, D., Mackenzie, I.R., Mendez, M.F., Mester, C., Miller, B.L., Onyike, C.U., Rademakers, R., Ramanan, V.K., Ramos, E.M., Rao, M., Rascovsky, K., Rankin, K.P., Roberson, E.D., Savica, R., Tartaglia, M.C., Weintraub, S., Wong, B., Cash, D.M., Bouzigues, A., Swift, I.J., Peakman, G., Bocchetta, M., Todd, E.G., Convery, R.S., Rowe, J.B., Borroni, B., Galimberti, D., Tiraboschi, P., Masellis, M., Finger, E., van Swieten, J.C., Seelaar, H., Jiskoot, L.C., Sorbi, S., Butler, C.R., Graff, C., Gerhard, A., Langheinrich, T., Laforce, R., Sanchez-Valle, R., de Mendonça, A., Moreno, F., Synofzik, M., Vandenbergh, R., Ducharme, S., Le Ber, I., Levin, J., Danek, A., Otto, M., Pasquier, F., Santana, I., Kornak, J., Boeve, B.F., Rosen, H.J., Rohrer, J.D., Boxer, Adam L., Frontotemporal Dementia Prevention Initiative (FPI) Investigators, ALLFTD Investigators, Apostolova, L., Barmada, S., Boeve, B., Boxer, A.L., Bozoki, A., Clark, D., Coppola, G., Darby, R., Dickson, D., Faber, K., Fagan, A., Galasko, D.R., Grant, I.M., Huang, E., Kerwin, D., Lapid, M., Lee, S., Leger, G., Masdeux, J.C., McGinnis, S., Mendez, M., Onyike, C., Pascual, M.B., Pressman, P., Rademakers, R., Ramanan, V., Rittner, A., Seeley, W.W., Sryjanen, J., Taylor, Jack C., Weintraub, S., Investigators, G.E.N.F.I., Esteve, A.S., Nelson, A., Greaves, C.V., Thomas, D.L., Benotmane, H., Zetterberg, H., Nicholas, J., Samra, K., Shafei, R., Timberlake, C., Cope, T., Rittman, T., Benussi, A., Premi, E., Gasparotti, R., Archetti, S., Gazzina, S., Cantoni, V., Arighi, A., Fenoglio, C., Scarpini, E., Fumagalli, G., Borraioni, V., Rossi, G., Giaccone, G., Di Fede, G., Caroppo, P., Prioni, S., Redaelli, V., Tang-Wai, D., Rogava, E., Castelo-Branco, M., Freedman, M., Keren, R., Black, S., Mitchell, S., Shoesmith, C., Bartha, R., Poos, J., Papma, J.M., Giannini, L., van Minkelen, R., Pijnenburg, Y., Nacmias, B., Ferrari, C., Polito, C., Lombardi, G., Bessi, V., Veldsman, M., Andersson, C., Thonberg, H., Öjjerstedt, L., Jelic, V., Thompson, P., Lladó, A., Antonell, A., Olives, J., Balasa, M., Bargalló, N., Borrego-Ecija, S., Verdelho, A., Maruta, C., Ferreira, C.B., Miltenberger, G., Simões do Couto, F., Gabilondo, A., Gorostidi, A., Villanua, J., Cañada, M., Tainta, M., Zulaica, M., Barandiaran, M., Alves, P., Bender, B., Wilke, C., Graf, L., Vogels, A., Vandenbulcke, M., Van Damme, P., Bruffaerts, R., Poesen, K., Rosa-Neto, P., Gauthier, S., Camuzat, A., Brice, A., Bertrand, A., Funkiewiez, A., Rinaldi, D., Saracino, D., Colliot, O., Sayah, S., Prix, C., Wlasich, E., Wagemann, O., Loosli, S., Schönecker, S., Hoegen, T., Lombardi, J., Anderl-Straub, S., Rollin, A., Kuchcinski, G., Bertoux, M., Lebourvier, T., Deramecourt, V., Santiago, B., Duro, D., Leitão, M.J., Almeida, M.R., Tábua-Pereira, M., Afonso, S., 2022. Temporal order of clinical and biomarker changes in familial frontotemporal dementia. *Nat. Med.* 28, 2194–2206. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01942-9>.
- Tanaka, Y., Chambers, J.K., Matsuaki, T., Yamanouchi, K., Nishihara, M., 2014. Possible involvement of lysosomal dysfunction in pathological changes of the brain in aged progranulin-deficient mice. *Acta Neuropathol. Commun.* 2, 78. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40478-014-0078-x>.
- Tayebi, N., Lopez, G., Do, J., Sidransky, E., 2020. Pro-cathepsin D, prosaposin, and progranulin: lysosomal networks in parkinsonism. *Trends Mol. Med.* 26, 913–923. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molmed.2020.07.004>.
- Valdez, C., Wong, Y.C., Schwake, M., Bu, G., Wszolek, Z.K., Krainc, D., 2017. Progranulin-mediated deficiency of cathepsin D results in FTD and NCL-like phenotypes in neurons derived from FTD patients. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 26, 4861–4872. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddx364>.
- Valdez, C., Ysselstein, D., Young, T.J., Zheng, J., Krainc, D., 2020. Progranulin mutations result in impaired processing of prosaposin and reduced glucocerebrosidase activity. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 29, 716–726. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddz229>.
- van der Ende, E.L., Meeter, L.H., Poos, J.M., Panman, J.L., Jiskoot, L.C., Dopfer, E.G.P., Papma, J.M., de Jong, F.J., Verberk, I.M.W., Teunissen, C., Rizopoulos, D., Heller, C., Convery, R.S., Moore, K.M., Bocchetta, M., Neason, M., Cash, D.M., Borroni, B., Galimberti, D., Sanchez-Valle, R., Laforce, R., Moreno, F., Synofzik, M., Graff, C., Masellis, M., Carmela Tartaglia, M., Rowe, J.B., Vandenbergh, R., Finger, E., Tagliavini, F., de Mendonça, A., Santana, I., Butler, C., Ducharme, S., Gerhard, A., Danek, A., Levin, J., Otto, M., Frisoni, G.B., Cappa, S., Pijnenburg, Y.A.L., Rohrer, J.D., van Swieten, J.C., 2019. Serum neurofilament light chain in genetic frontotemporal dementia: a longitudinal, multicentre cohort study. *Lancet Neurol.* 18, 1103–1111. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(19\)30354-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(19)30354-0).
- van der Ende, E.L., Xiao, M., Xu, D., Poos, J.M., Panman, J.L., Jiskoot, L.C., Meeter, L.H., Dopfer, E.G., Papma, J.M., Heller, C., Convery, R., Moore, K., Bocchetta, M., Neason, M., Peakman, G., Cash, D.M., Teunissen, C.E., Graff, C., Synofzik, M., Moreno, F., Finger, E., Sánchez-Valle, R., Vandenbergh, R., Laforce Jr., R., Masellis, M., Tartaglia, M.C., Rowe, J.B., Butler, C.R., Ducharme, S., Gerhard, A., Danek, A., Levin, J., Pijnenburg, Y.A., Otto, M., Borroni, B., Tagliavini, F., de Mendonça, A., Santana, I., Galimberti, D., Seelaar, H., Rohrer, J.D., Worley, P.F., van Swieten, J.C., 2020. Neuronal pentraxin 2: a synapse-derived CSF biomarker in genetic frontotemporal dementia. *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* 91, 612–621. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2019-322493>.
- Ward, M.E., Chen, R., Huang, H.-Y., Ludwig, C., Telpukhovskaia, M., Taubes, A., Boudin, H., Minami, S.S., Reichert, M., Albrecht, P., Gelfand, J.M., Cruz-Herranz, A., Cordano, C., Alavi, M.V., Leslie, S., Seeley, W.W., Miller, B.L., Bigio, E., Mesulam, M.-M., Bogoy, M.S., Mackenzie, I.R., Staropoli, J.F., Cotman, S.L., Huang, E.J., Gan, L., Green, A.J., 2017. Individuals with progranulin haploinsufficiency exhibit features of neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis. *Sci. Transl. Med.* 9 <https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.aah5642> eaah5642.
- Xiong, Z.-J., Huang, J., Poda, G., Pomès, R., Privé, G.G., 2016. Structure of human acid sphingomyelinase reveals the role of the saposin domain in activating substrate hydrolysis. *J. Mol. Biol.* 428, 3026–3042. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2016.06.012>.
- Zhao, X., Lin, Y., Liou, B., Fu, W., Jian, J., Fannin, V., Zhang, W., Setchell, K.D.R., Grabowski, G.A., Sun, Y., Liu, C., 2023. PGRN deficiency exacerbates, whereas a brain penetrant PGRN derivative protects, GBA1 mutation-associated pathologies and diseases. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 120, e2210442120 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2210442120>.
- Zhou, X., Sun, L., Bastos de Oliveira, F., Qi, X., Brown, W.J., Smolka, M.B., Sun, Y., Hu, F., 2015. Prosaposin facilitates sortilin-independent lysosomal trafficking of progranulin. *J. Cell Biol.* 210, 991–1002. <https://doi.org/10.1083/jcb.201502029>.
- Zhou, X., Sun, L., Bracko, O., Choi, J.W., Jia, Y., Nana, A.L., Brady, O.A., Hernandez, J.C. C., Nishimura, N., Seeley, W.W., Hu, F., 2017. Impaired prosaposin lysosomal trafficking in frontotemporal lobar degeneration due to progranulin mutations. *Nat. Commun.* 8, 15277. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms15277>.
- Zhou, X., Pausher, D.H., Pagan, M.D., Kim, D., Nunez Santos, M., Lieberman, R.L., Overkleeft, H.S., Sun, Y., Smolka, M.B., Hu, F., 2019. Progranulin deficiency leads to reduced glucocerebrosidase activity. *PLoS One* 14, e0212382. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0212382>.