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## ► To cite this version:

Eric Duplan, Jean Sévalle, Julien Viotti, Thomas Goiran, Charlotte Bauer, et al.. Parkin acts as a transcription factor modulating presenilin-1 and presenilin-2 promoter transactivations. Molecular Neurodegeneration, 2013, 8 (Suppl 1), pp.P56. inserm-00869879

HAL Id: inserm-00869879

<https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-00869879>

Submitted on 4 Oct 2013

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POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Parkin acts as a transcription factor modulating presenilin-1 and presenilin-2 promoter transactivations

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From Molecular Neurodegeneration: Basic biology and disease pathways  
Cannes, France. 10-12 September 2013

## Background

Parkin is associated to autosomal recessive early-onset Parkinson's disease. Parkin acts as an E3-ubiquitin ligase involved in the proteasome-mediated degradation of various substrates. It has been suggested that pathogenic mutations of parkin, abolishing its ubiquitin-ligase activity, could explain the accumulation of proteins and lead to neuronal death by apoptosis. However, besides this function, additional parkin-dependent cellular pathways exist. We demonstrated that parkin is a direct transcriptional repressor of the tumor suppressor p53 [1]. p53 regulates the expression and functions of presenilin-1 (PS1) and presenilin-2 (PS2), two members of the gamma secretase complex involved in the production of the amyloid  $\beta$  peptide (A $\beta$ ) and parkin could control the homeostasis of intracellular A $\beta$ . These findings prompted us to investigate whether parkin could control presenilins and if so, whether it is via a direct transcriptional control of PS promoters or indirectly, via p53.

## Materials and methods

Experiments were conducted on TSM1 neurons, SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma cells, human embryonic kidney 293 cells, and immortalized mouse embryonic fibroblasts invalidated or not for *parkin*, *presenilin 1* and/or *2*, *p19<sup>arf</sup>* and both *p19<sup>arf</sup>* *p53*. We also used primary cultured neurons and brain extract from mouse invalidated or not for *parkin*.

We did Q-PCR, Western-blot, caspases-3 activity measurement and in vitro gamma secretase assays experiments. We document by chromosome immune-

precipitation, gel shift, gene reporter and mutagenesis experiments parkin direct interaction with presenilins promoters.

## Results

Parkin controls presenilin 1 and 2 expressions, promoter activity, and mRNA levels *ex vivo* and in mouse brains. This regulation impacts on PS-dependent  $\gamma$ -secretase activity and presenilin-mediated control of cell death. This control is independent of parkin ubiquitin-ligase activity, does not involve p53 and is not affected by PS1 and PS2 functional interplay. Parkin binds to presenilins promoters via a consensus binding sequence that we identify and validate by functional analysis [2].

## Conclusions

This study is a "framework" for the identification of novel transcriptional targets of parkin and for a better comprehension of parkin's functions.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the 'Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale', the 'Conseil Général des Alpes Maritimes', and the LABEX (excellence laboratory, program investment for the future) DISTALZ.

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Published: 4 October 2013

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doi:10.1186/1750-1326-8-S1-P56

**Cite this article as:** Duplan et al.: Parkin acts as a transcription factor modulating presenilin-1 and presenilin-2 promoter transactivations. *Molecular Neurodegeneration* 2013 **8**(Suppl 1):P56.

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