

UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

Facultat de Farmàcia  
i Ciències de l'Alimentació

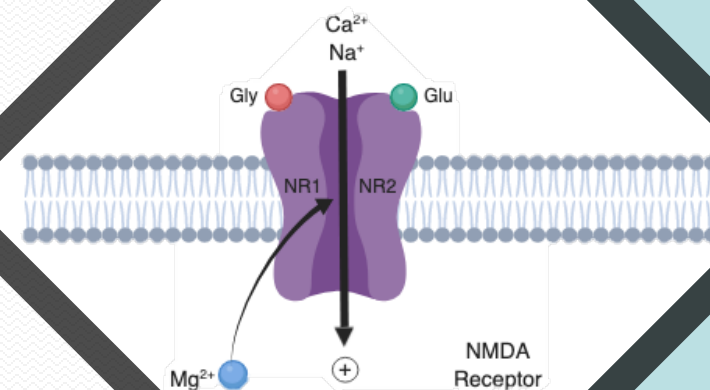
# Novel NMDA receptor antagonist: mechanisms of action in murine models of Alzheimer's disease.

Júlia Companys Alemany

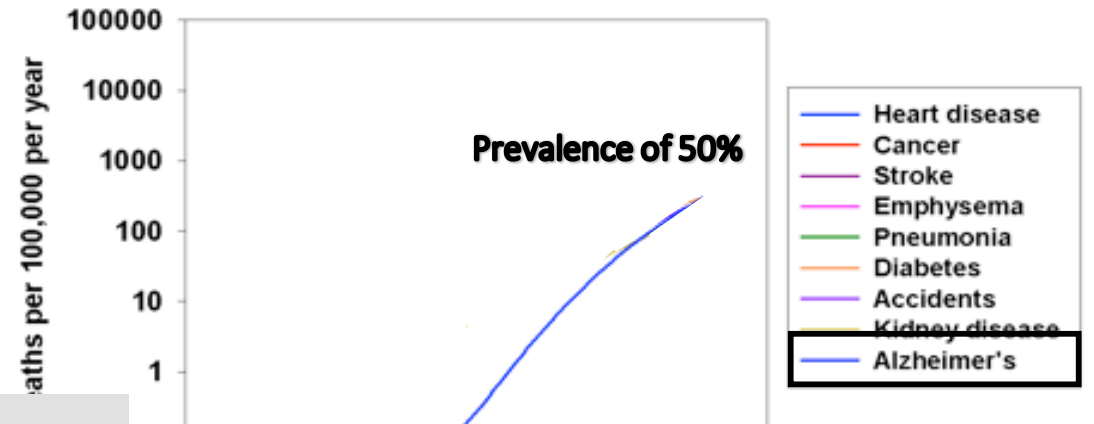
PhD Student

Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Medical Chemistry

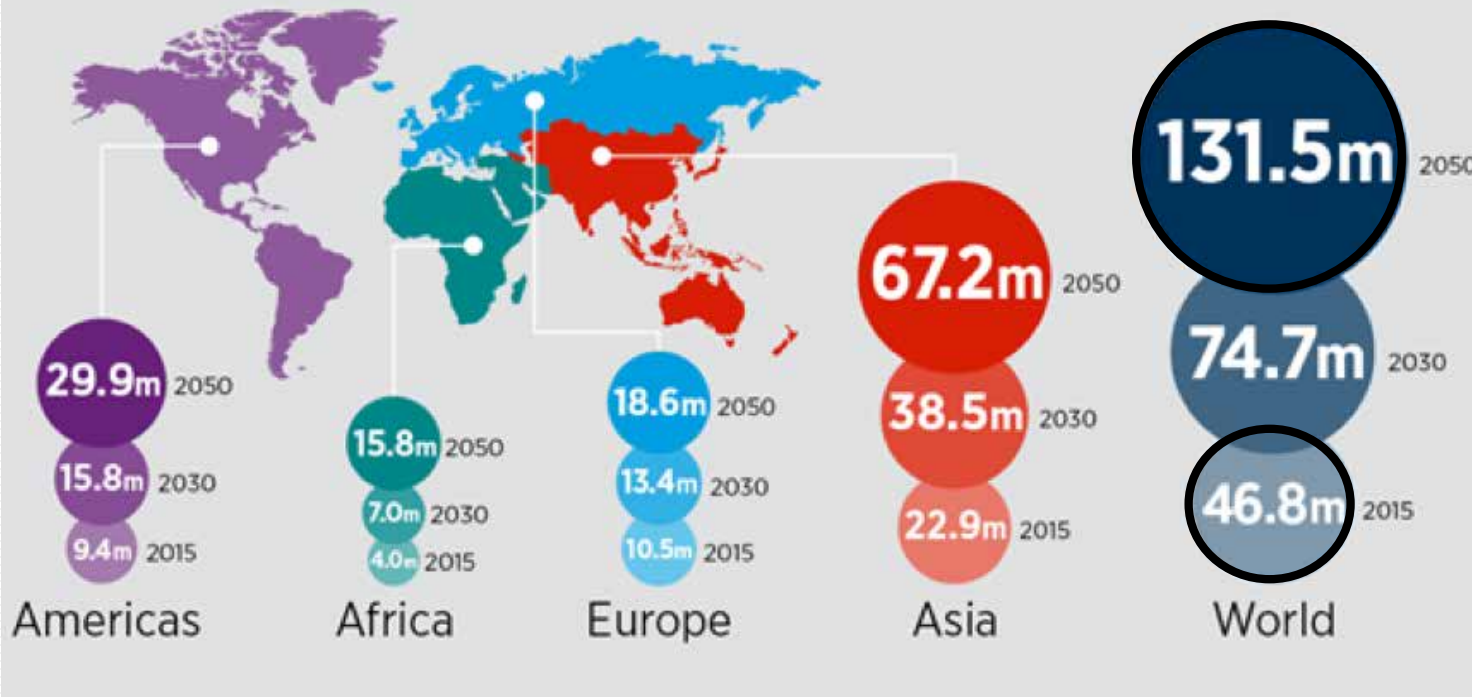
Universitat de Barcelona



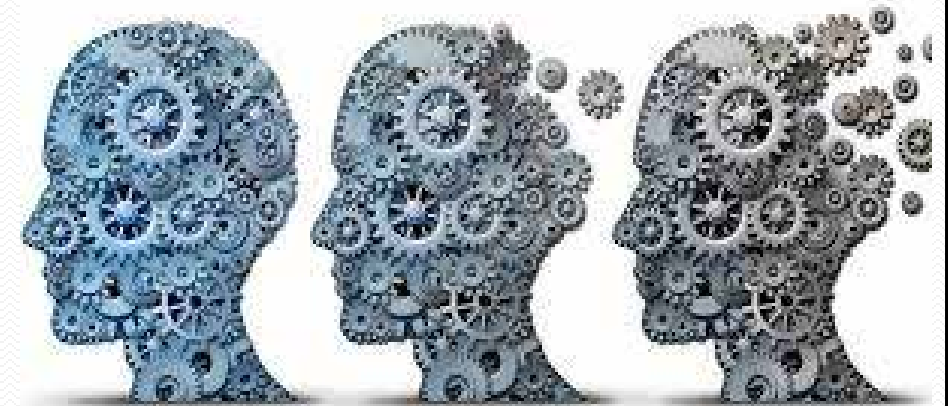
# Age Related Diseases



People living with **dementia** around the world

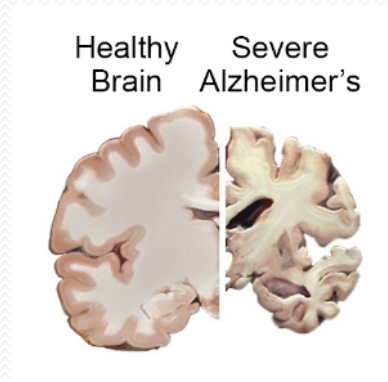


The greatest risk factor for AD is advanced age

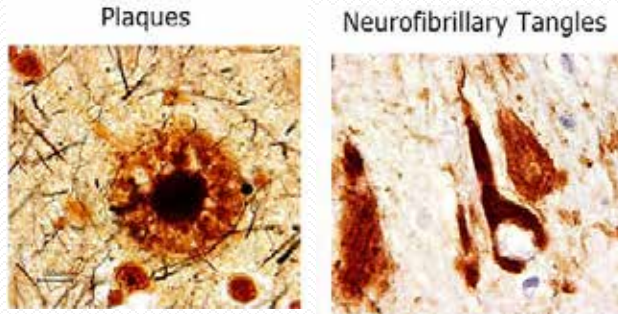


Projected growth of Dementia in the world in several areas. (Alzheimer's Disease International, 2015)

# Introduction. Alzheimer's Disease



Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive age-dependent neurodegenerative disease characterized by cognitive decline and memory loss



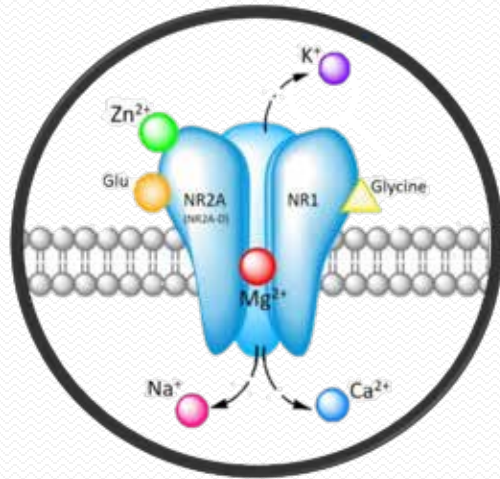
Neuropathological alterations:  $\beta$ -amyloid, Tau hyperphosphorylation, neurotransmitter deficits and cell death.

| Characteristics   | DONEPEZIL  | RIVASTIGMINE | GALANTAMINE           | MEMANTINE               |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chemical class    | piperidine | carbamate    | phenanthrene alkaloid | Similar to amantadine   |
| Primary mechanism | AchE inh   | AchE inh     | AchE inh              | NMDA antagonist         |
| Other mechanism   | None       | None         | Nicotine modulator    | HT3 receptor antagonist |
| Half life         | 70 h       | 90 min       | 7 h                   | 70 h                    |

Nowadays the available treatments for AD neither prevent nor reduce the progression of the disease. Therefore, new therapies are urgently needed

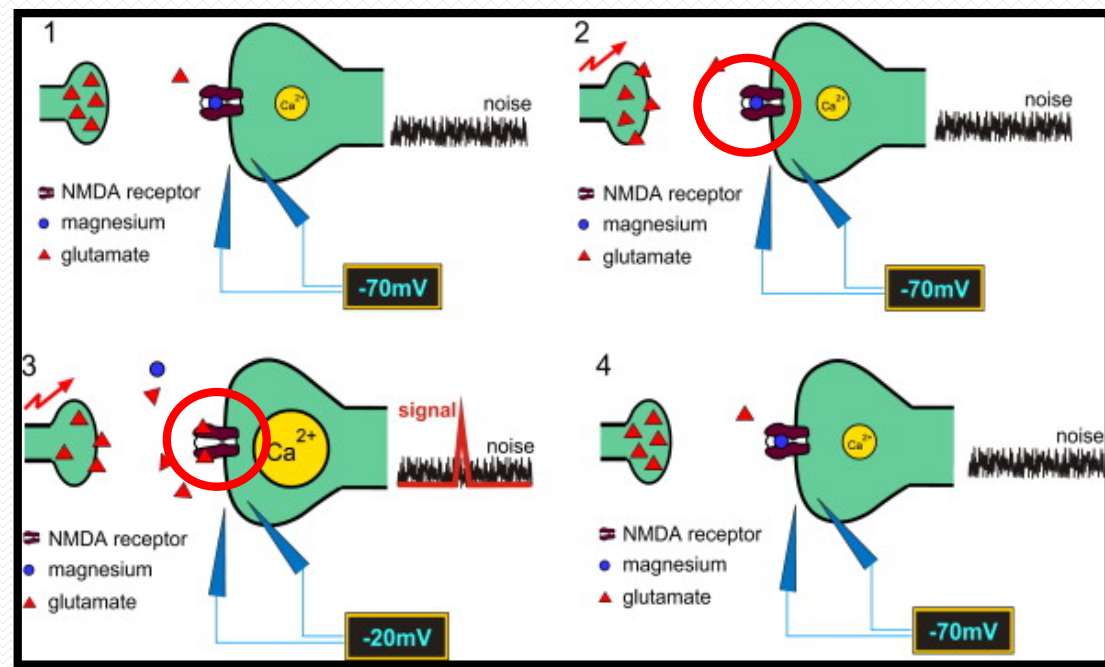
*Unmet medical need*

# Introduction



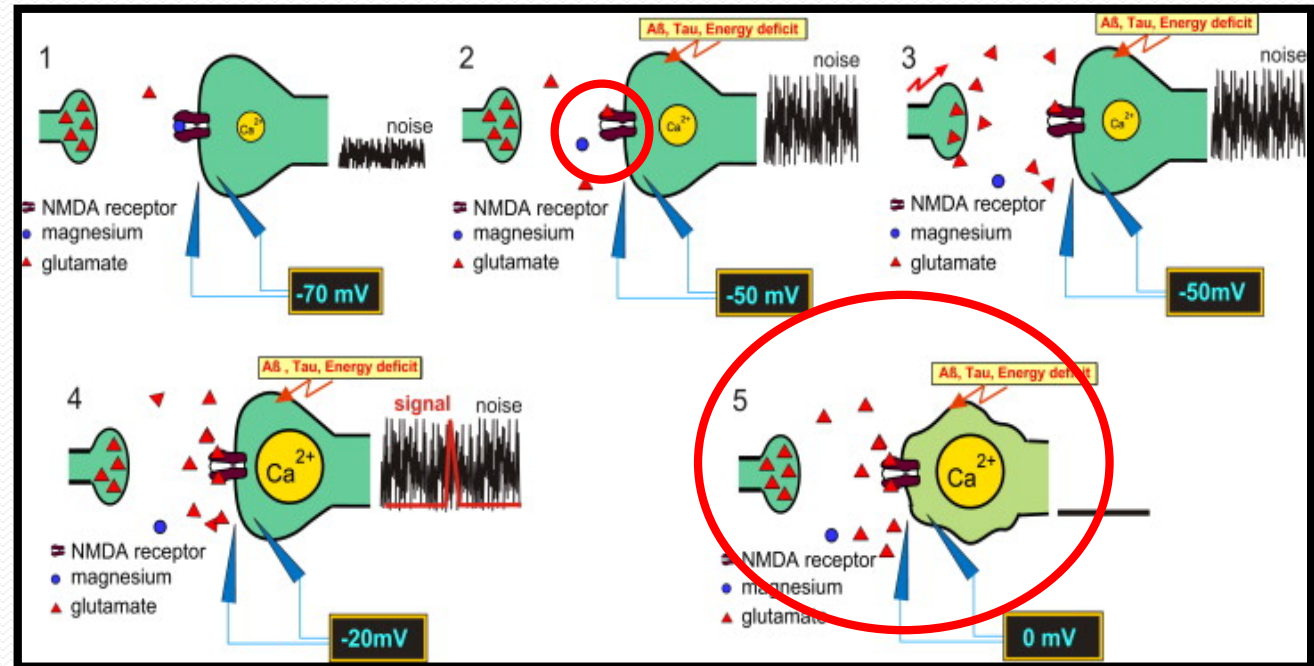
# NMDA Receptor

Healthy



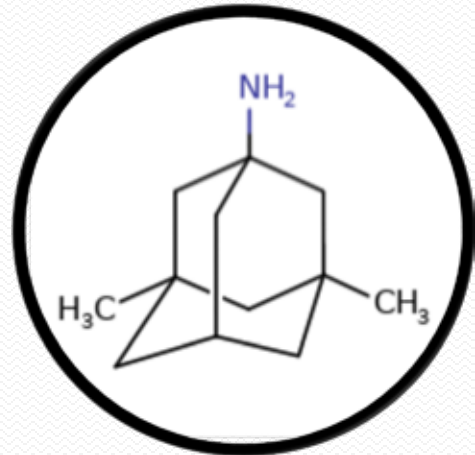
C.G. Parsons et al. / Neuropharmacology 53 (2007) 699-723

Alzheimer's Disease



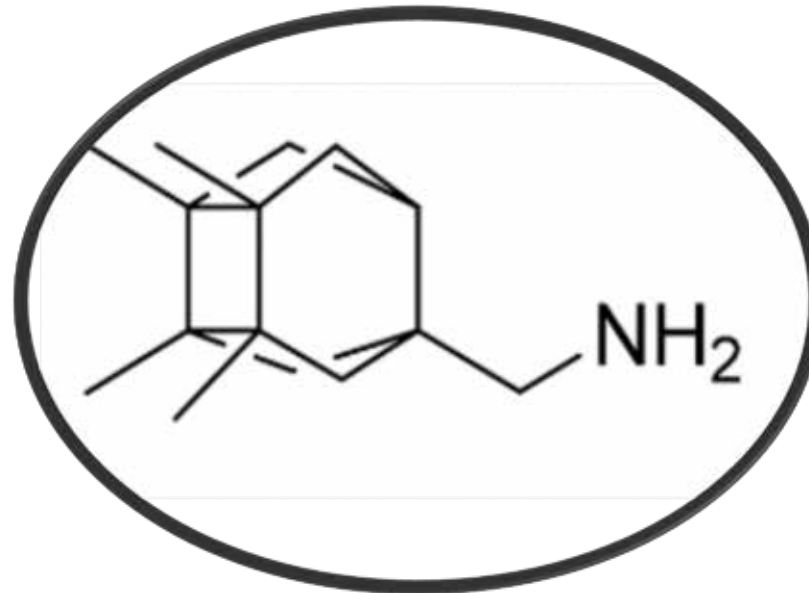
C.G. Parsons et al. / Neuropharmacology 53 (2007) 699-723

# Introduction



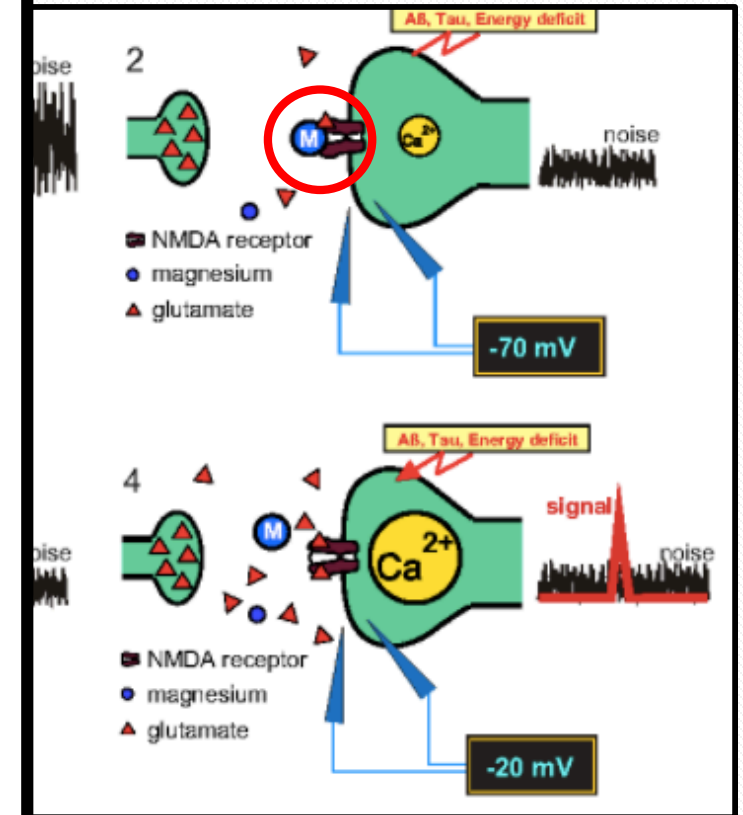
## Memantine

Memantine, a NMDAR antagonist, showed an improvement in cognition and molecular alterations.



## RL-208

Pharmacological evaluation of a new NMDAR antagonist, RL-208.



3 (2007) 699-723

# Senescence Accelerated Mouse Prone 8 (SAMP8)

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry

Neurol Sci (2013) 34:963–969  
DOI 10.1007/s10072-012-1173-z

ISSN: 0916-...

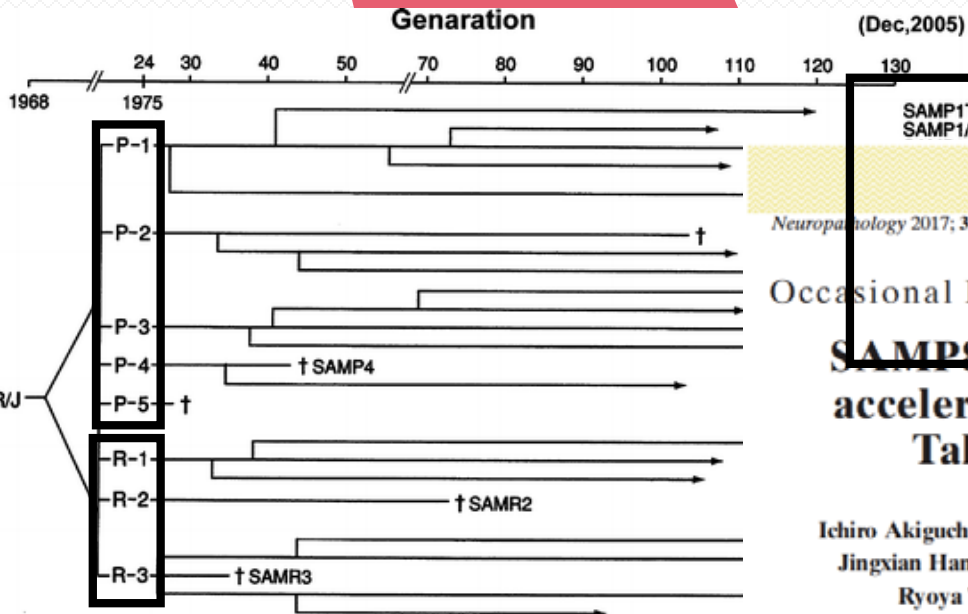
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**A $\beta$  induced hippocampal neuron loss is correlated with cognitive deficits in SAMP8 mice**

Kurara Takaguchi, Yanagihara, Ishiura, Guomin Li · Haiyan Cheng · Xuezhu Zhang · Xuemei Shang · Hui Xie · Xin Zhang · Jianchun Yu · Jingxian Han

Lo

Learning and memory tests



Dr. Takeda 1968

NEUROPATHOLOGY

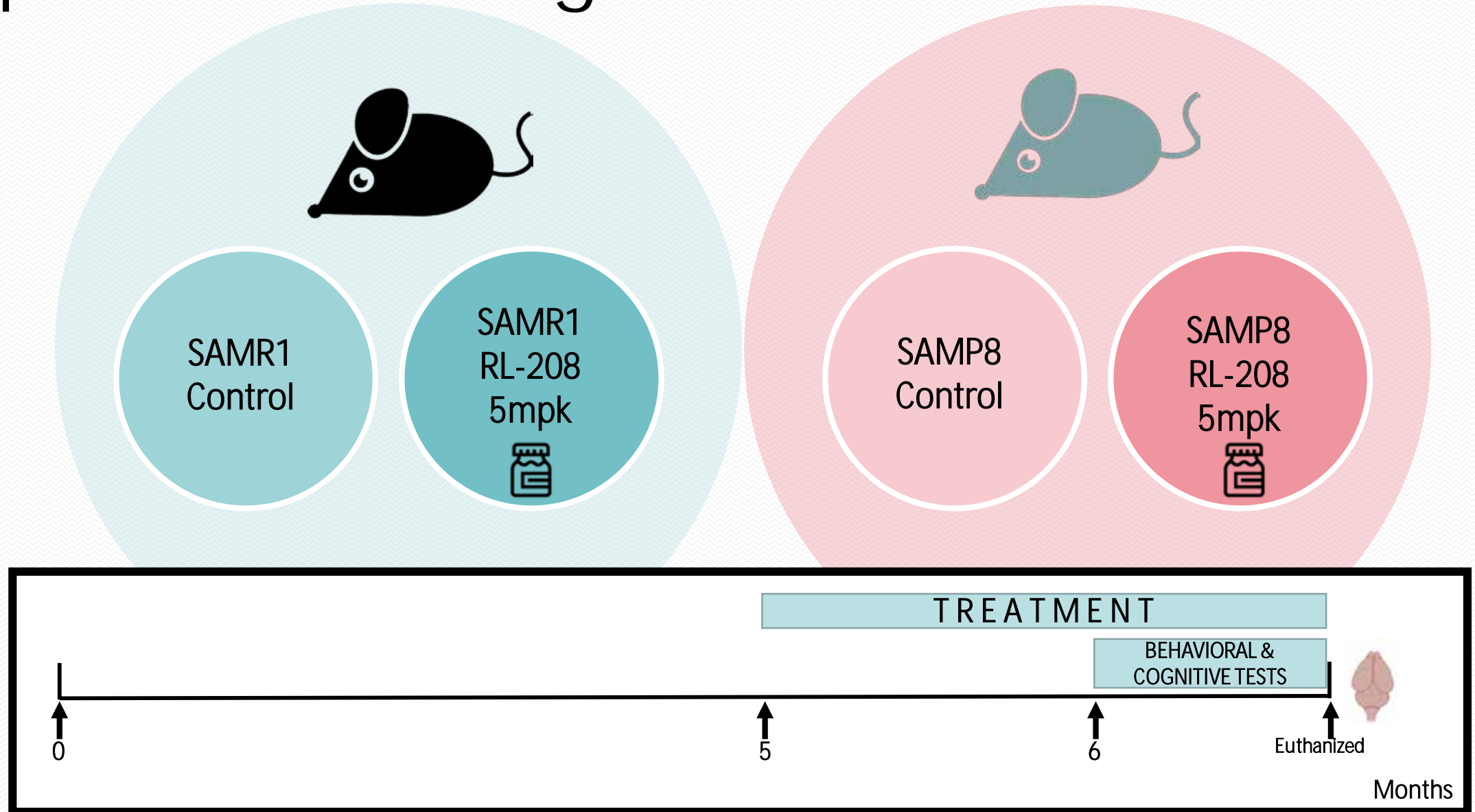
*Neuropathology* 2017; 37, 293–305  
doi:10.1111/neup.12373

Occasional Review

**SAMP8 mice as a neuropathological model of accelerated brain aging and dementia: Toshio Takeda's legacy and future directions**

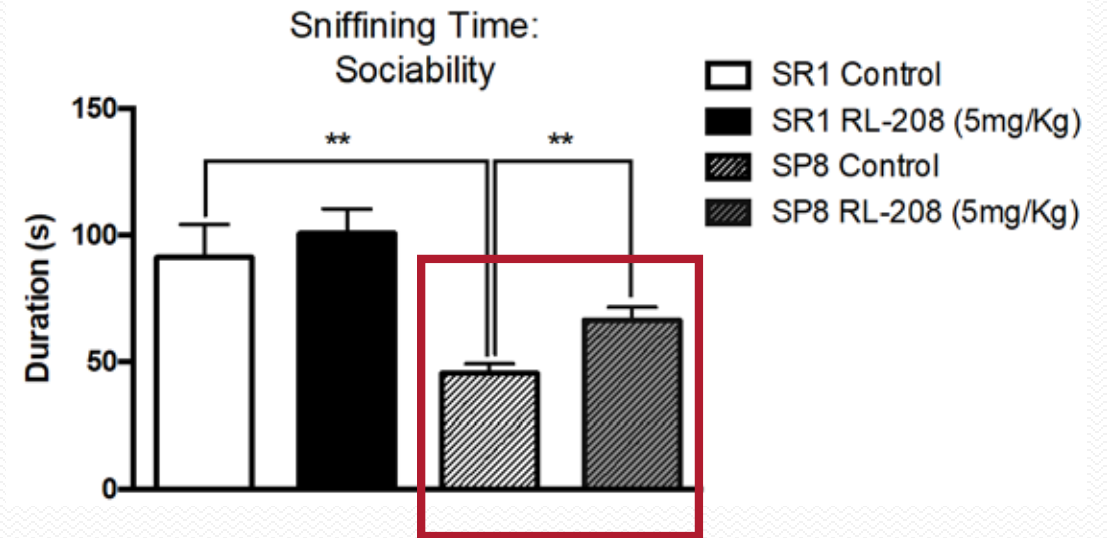
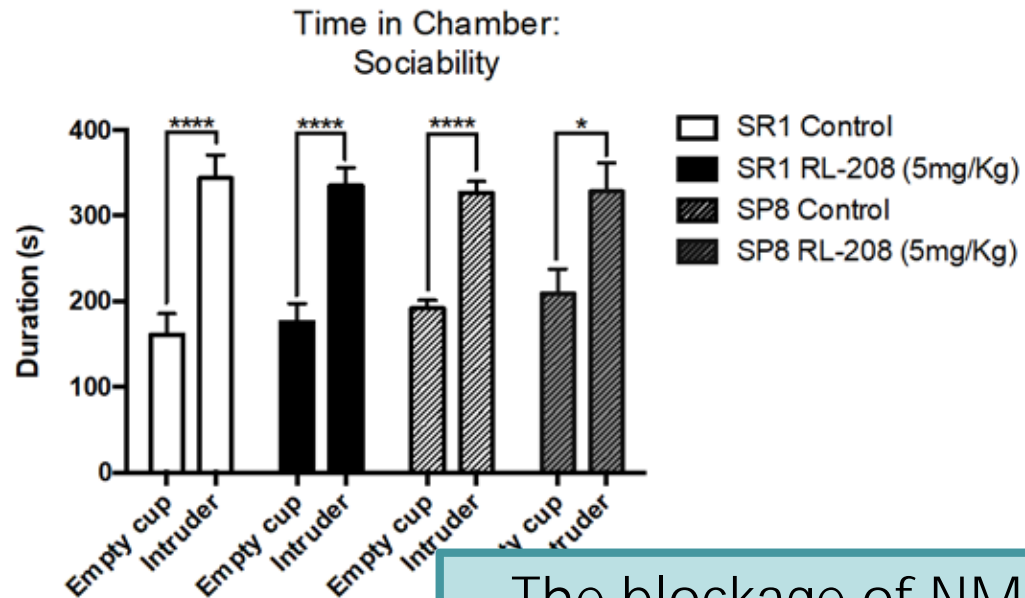
Ichiro Akiguchi,<sup>1,2</sup> Mercè Pallàs,<sup>10</sup> Herbert Budka,<sup>11</sup> Haruhiko Akiyama,<sup>4</sup> Masaki Ueno,<sup>5</sup> Jingxian Han,<sup>12</sup> Hideo Yagi,<sup>1</sup> Tomohumi Nishikawa,<sup>2</sup> Yoichi Chiba,<sup>5</sup> Hiroshi Sugiyama,<sup>3</sup> Ryoya Takahashi,<sup>6</sup> Keiko Unno,<sup>7</sup> Keiichi Higuchi<sup>8</sup> and Masanori Hosokawa<sup>9</sup>

# Experimental Design



# Behavioral Results

## Three Chamber Test

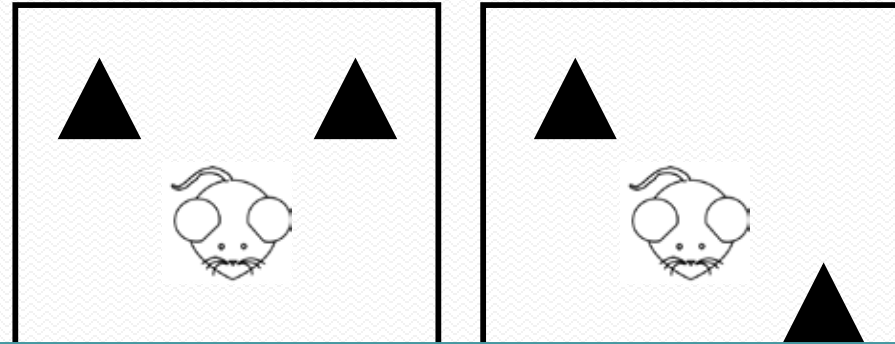


The blockage of NMDAR by RL-208 increased motivation for social behaviour in SAMP8



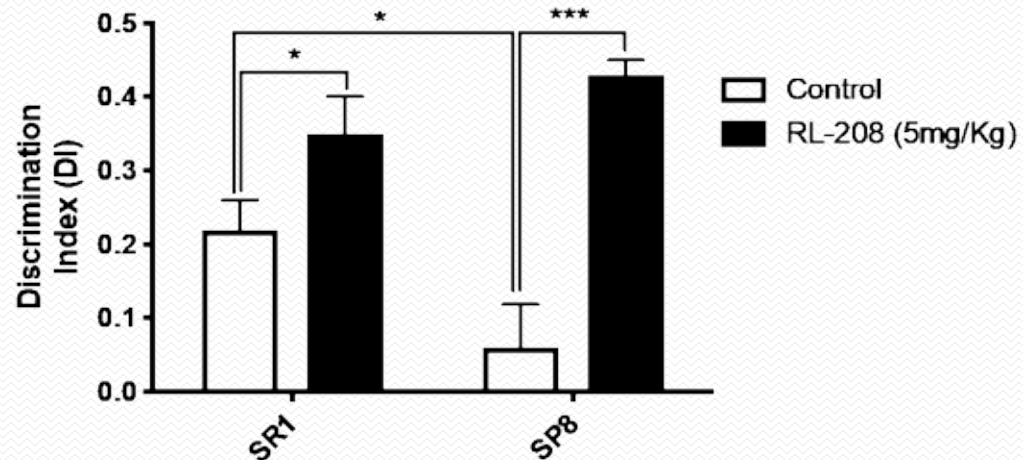
# Cognitive Results

## Object Location Test



The blockage of NMDAR improved spatial memory in SAMR1 and SAMP8 mice

Summary OLT



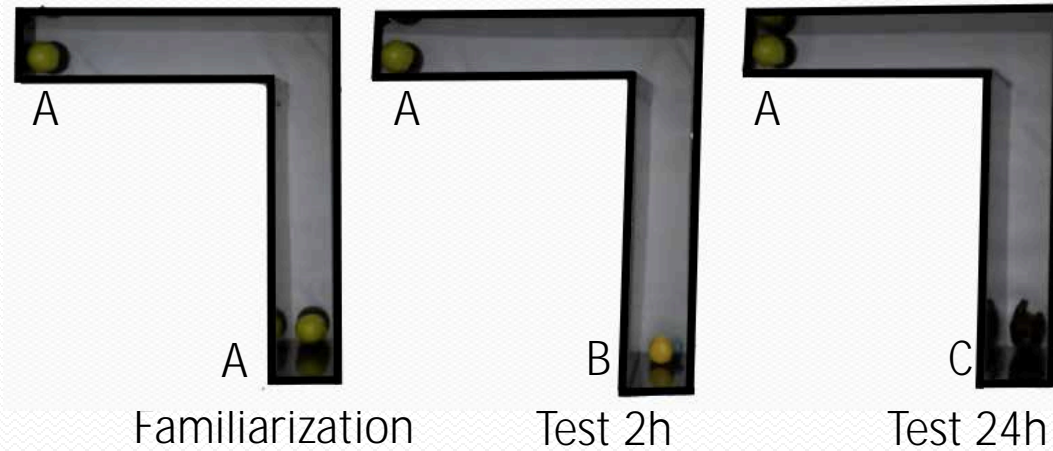
$$DI = \frac{TN - TO}{TN + TO}$$



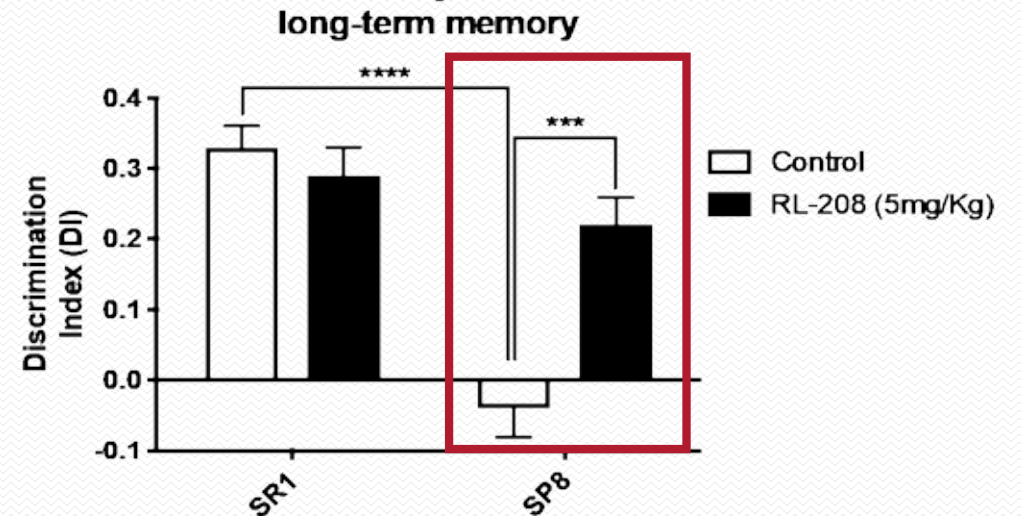
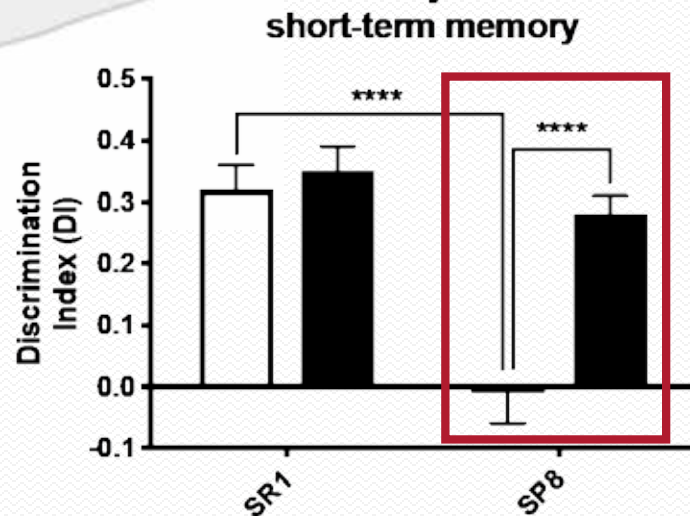
# Cognitive Results

## Novel Object Recognition Test

$$DI = \frac{TN - TO}{TN + TO}$$



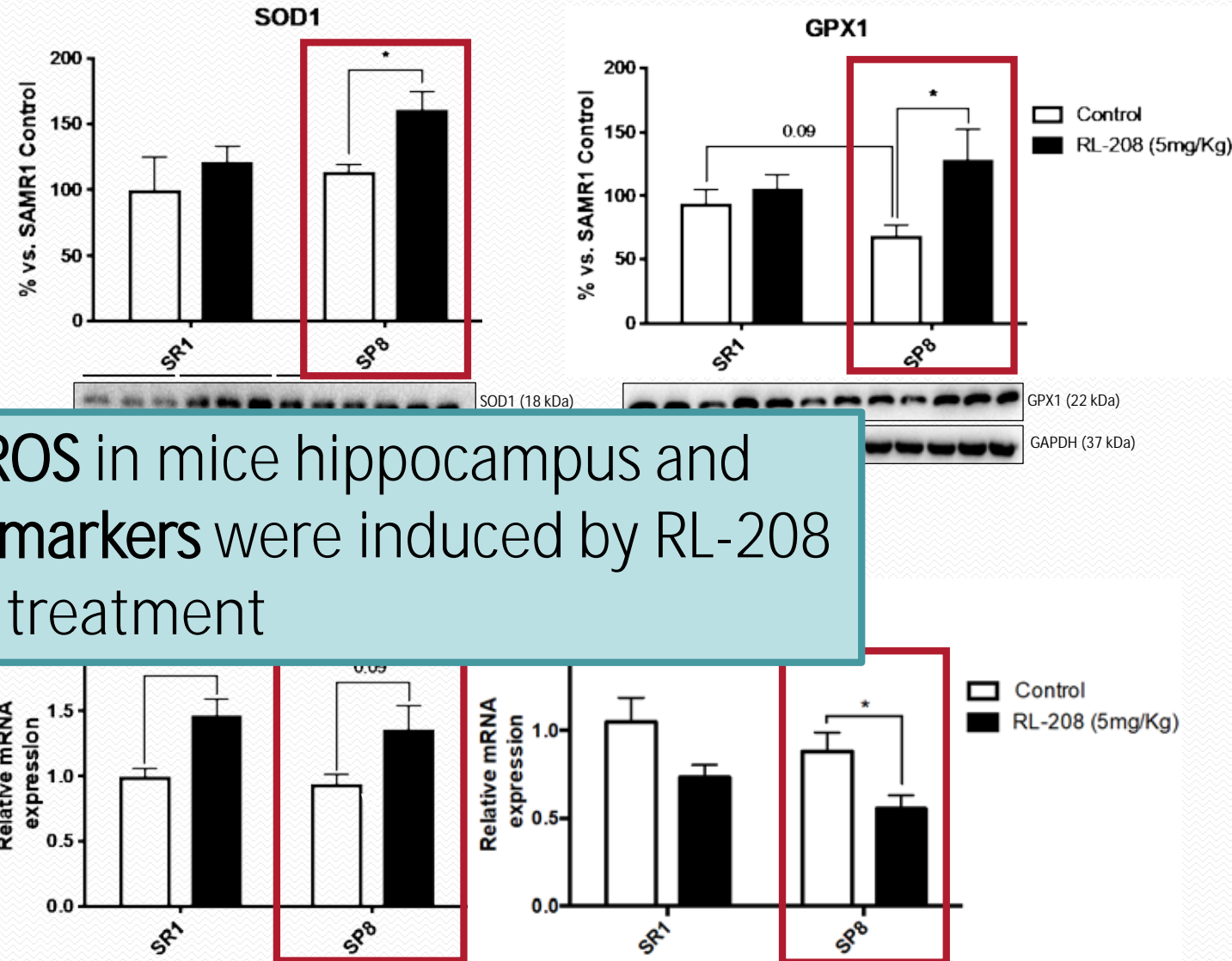
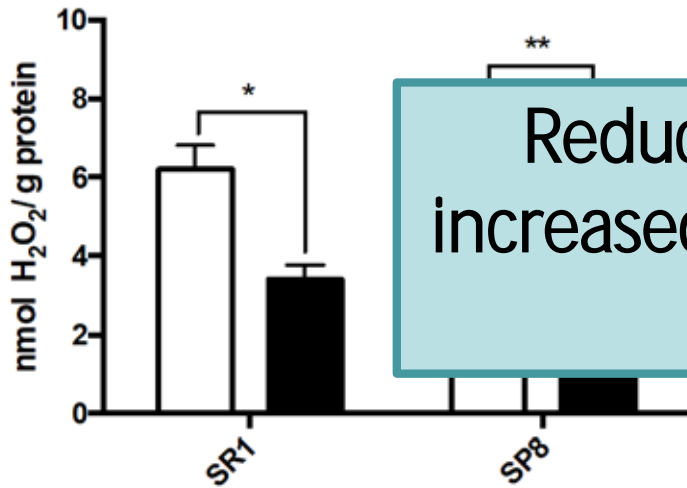
The blockage of NMDAR improved working memory in SAMP8



# Molecular Results

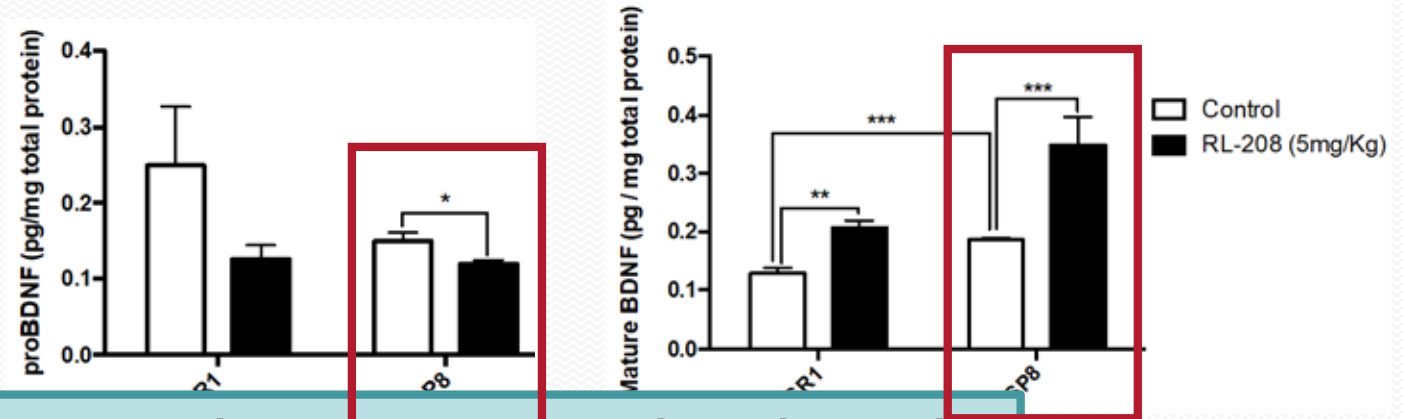
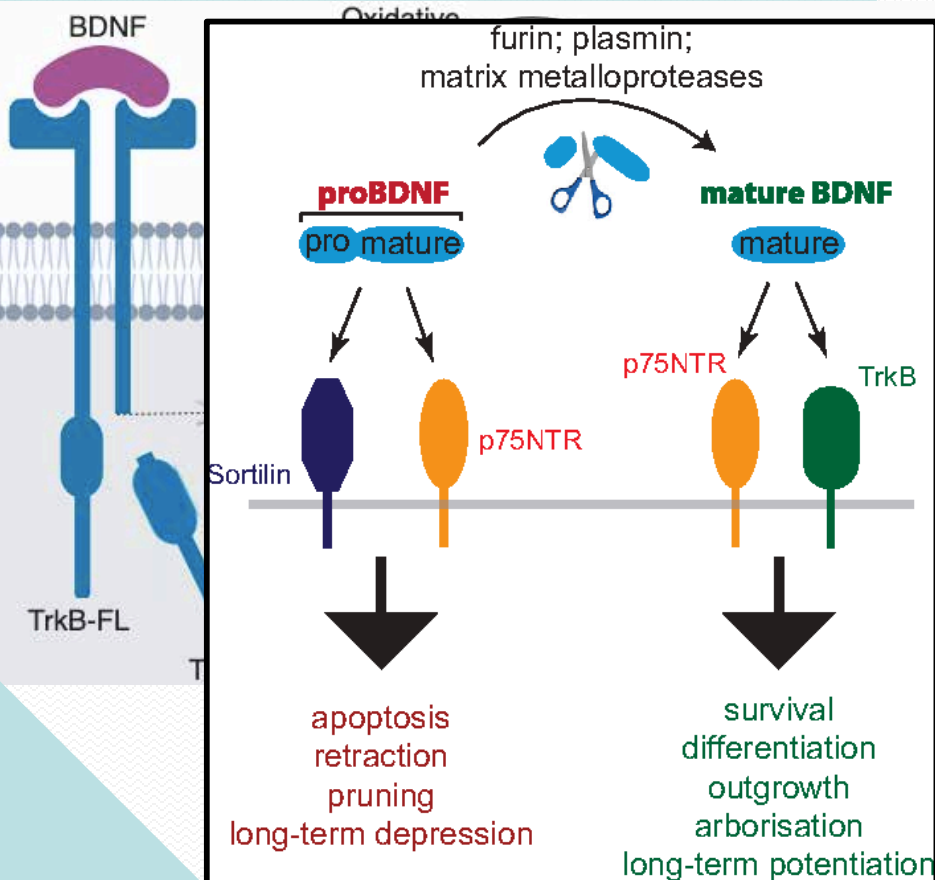
## Oxidative Stress

Reduced levels of ROS in mice hippocampus and increased antioxidant markers were induced by RL-208 treatment

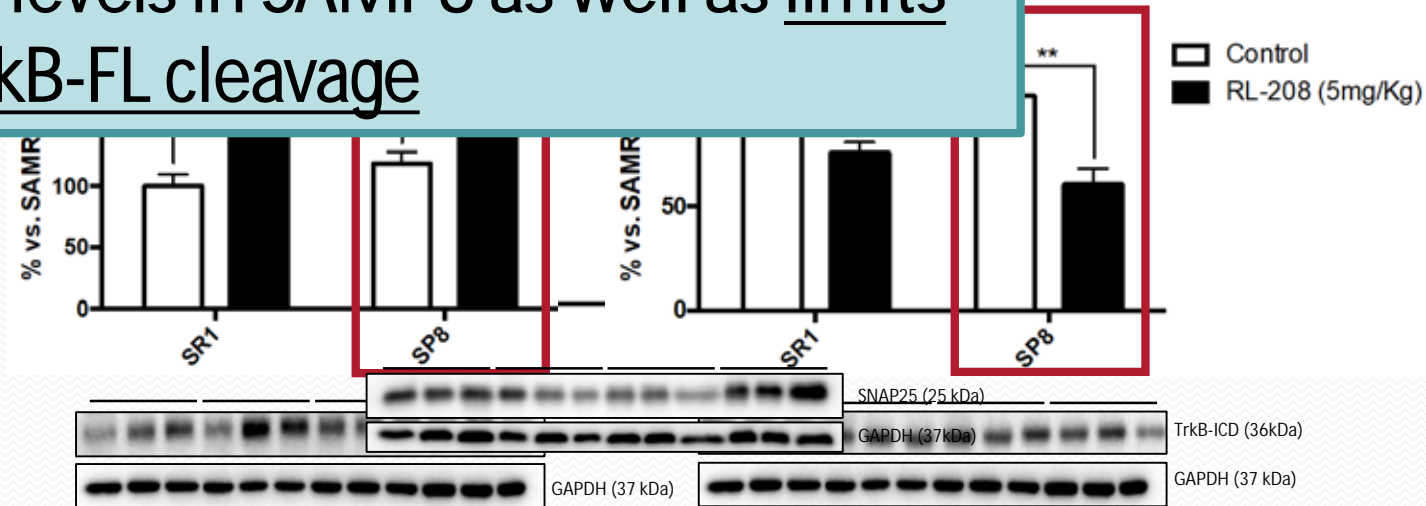


# Molecular Results

## BDNF/TrkB Signaling pathway



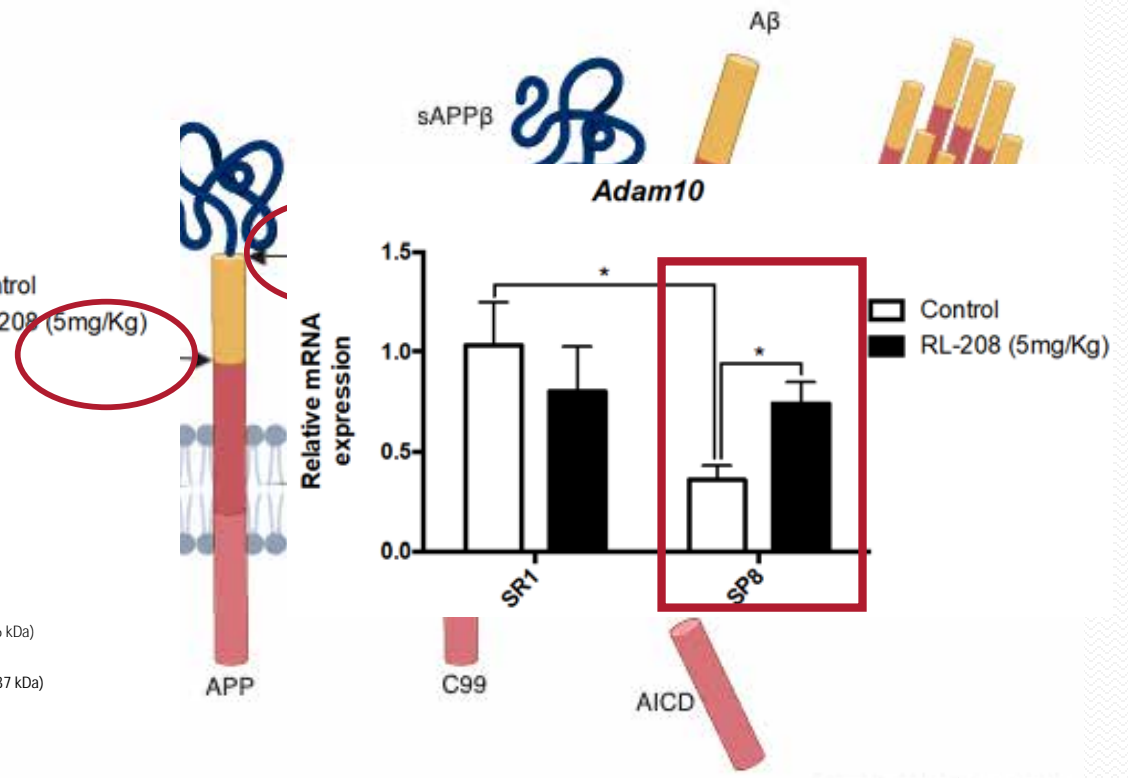
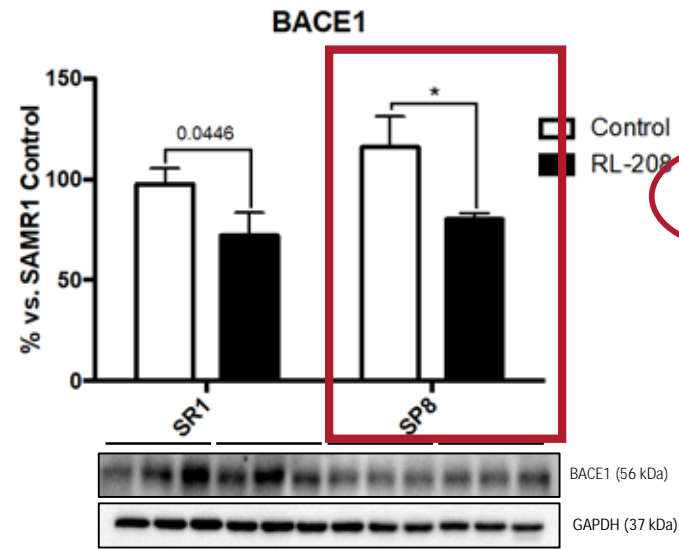
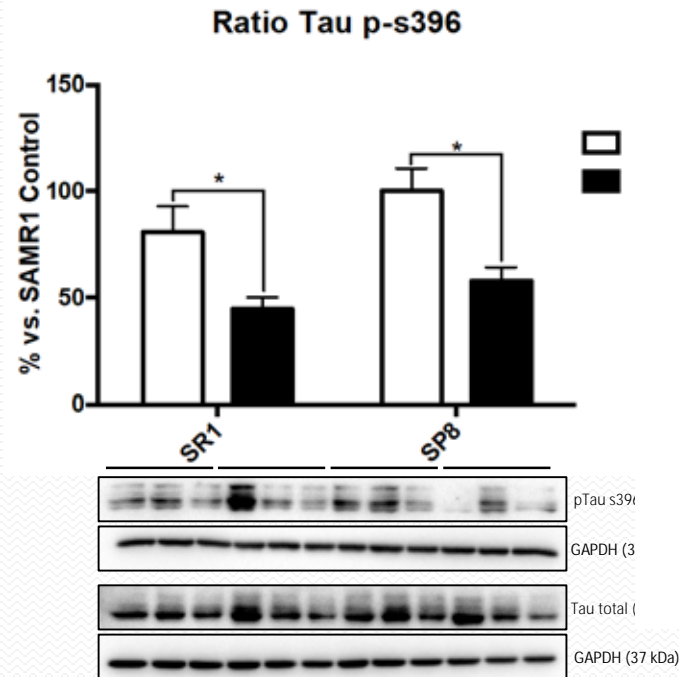
RL-208 treatment significantly increased mature BDNF levels and significantly decreased proBDNF levels in SAMP8 as well as limits TrkB-FL cleavage



# Molecular Results

## Alzheimer Disease Hallmarks

## Proteolytic processing of the Amyloid Precursor Protein APP



Non- Amyloidogenic pathway

Amyloidogenic pathway

# Conclusions

- ▶ SAMP8 mice treated with RL-208 improved the sociability, spatial and working memory.
- ▶ RL-208 treatment decreased ROS levels and showed increased protein levels and mRNA expression of antioxidant enzymes.
- ▶ RL-208 treatment induced synaptic plasticity by the increase of mBDNF levels and the inhibition of BDNF Receptor (TrkB) truncation. Furthermore, increased SNAP25 protein levels were demonstrated
- ▶ The blockage of NMDA receptor induced a **decrease in Tau hyperphosphorylation** and **decreased  $\beta$ -secretase** protein levels

These results demonstrate the neuroprotectant role of RL-208 treatment in SAMP8 mice, improving their behaviour and cognitive performance as well as molecular pathways involved in the neurodegeneration.



# Acknowledgments

## Neuropharmacology and Aging Prevention Group

Dra. Mercè Pallàs  
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Vanessa Izquierdo  
Júlia Companys



Collaboration with Dr. Santiago Vázquez Group

