

Tau Consortium Researchers Advance a Promising New Treatment for PSP, CTE, and Alzheimer's Disease

Antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) shown to reverse Tau pathology and extend survival in animals, could enter human clinical trials by the end of the year

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FORT WORTH, TX- Researchers believe that the Tau protein plays a key role in some of the world's most devastating neurodegenerative disorders, including progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), and Alzheimer's disease (AD). For years, researchers have been searching for novel strategies to reduce the damage caused by the accumulation of Tau in the human brain.

Today, a leading scientific journal published the results of an intriguing new study that may hold the solution that patients and families have been waiting for. In this new study, researchers have shown that antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) can reduce the expression of Tau in the brains of mice and monkeys. Additional testing in mice showed that reducing Tau in this manner prevented the death of neurons, improved key behaviors, and extended survival rates. With these exciting results in hand, Tau-lowering ASOs could be ready to enter human clinical trials before the end of the year.

The article was published in *Science Translational Medicine* and is titled "Tau Reduction Prevents Neuronal Loss and Reverses Pathological Tau Deposition and Seeding in Mice with Tauopathy". The study was led by a team of researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and was funded in part by the Tau Consortium, which is a program of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

Patrick Brannelly, Program Director of the Tau Consortium, said, "Richard Rainwater became an icon of American business by forging creative partnerships with the most talented people on the planet. With this important achievement, Dr. Tim Miller and his Tau Consortium collaborators have shown that the same approach can be used to accelerate progress in scientific research. We are honored to provide support for this important and exciting work."

Matthew Rainwater, a Trustee of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, said, "When our father was diagnosed with PSP, there were alarmingly few treatment options. Now, there are glimmers of hope. Our hearts go out to the people who are facing these terrible diseases, and we hope this news will inspire them to keep fighting. We are immensely grateful to all of the researchers who have dedicated their time and talent to this research."

Todd Rainwater, President of the Board of Trustees at the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, said, "Today's news is exciting, but we are on a mission to cure neurodegenerative disease once and for all. We will keep working until breakthroughs like these are brought all the way across the finish line. There are millions of patients who are waiting for effective treatments, and we do not intend to let them down."

About the Tau Consortium

The Tau Consortium is an innovative medical research program that is operated under the auspices of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation. The Consortium commissions world-class

basic research and drug discovery to treat and prevent progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) and other tauopathies. The Tau Consortium acts with urgency and with patients in mind. It ensures that its members work collaboratively and engage with partners who can accelerate their progress. Since founding the Tau Consortium in 2009, the Rainwater Charitable Foundation has committed nearly \$100 million to the program. There are currently four treatments in early stage human trials for PSP as a result of the Rainwater family's funding. Please visit <http://tauconsortium.org> for more information.

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