



Duke File (IDF) Number

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Meet the Inventors

[Vitek, Michael](#)
[Colton, Carol](#)
[Davis, Judianne](#)
[Van Nostrand,](#)

Department

Neurology (Dept. & CRU)

Publication(s)

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External Link(s)

- [From the lab of Dr. Michael P. Vitek](#)
- [From the lab of Dr. Carol A. Colton](#)
- [From the lab of Dr. William E. Van Nostrand](#)
- [The impact of human and mouse differences in NOS2 gene expression on the brain's redox and immune environment \(Molecular Neurodegeneration, 2014\)](#)
- [The effects of NOS2 gene deletion on mice expressing mutated human AbetaPP \(Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, 2008\)](#)
- [Quantitative measurement of postural sway in mouse models of human neurodegenerative disease \(Neuroscience, 2007\)](#)
- [Characterization of NO and cytokine production in immune-activated microglia and peritoneal macrophages derived from a mouse model expressing the human NOS2 gene on a mouse NOS2 knockout background \(Antioxidants & Redox Signaling, 2006\)](#)

Mouse model of Alzheimer's disease

Unmet Need

Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disease marked by loss of cognitive function. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease. In fact, the limited therapies available only alleviate symptoms for a short time yet have no effect on disease progression. The prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. is estimated to be 10.3% for people above the age of 65 with nearly 700,000 deaths due to Alzheimer's disease or related complications in 2015. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. There is a need for methods to study this disease.

Technology

Duke inventors have developed an animal system to study Alzheimer's disease. This is intended to be used by research and development teams to develop effective therapies for Alzheimer's disease and offer groundbreaking treatment options to the affected population. Specifically, the inventors have developed a murine model of Alzheimer's disease characterized by an active human amyloid precursor protein, known to aggregate during disease progression. This has been demonstrated by its inducible nitric oxide synthase reduction compared to normal animals.

Other Applications

This technology could also be used when researching other diseases that have differential inducible nitric oxide synthase. These diseases could potentially include Crohn's disease, celiac disease, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, asthma and more.

Advantages

- Provides a method to study a disease with no current effective treatments
- Effective model with behavior symptoms that replicate disease
- Well researched model and published compared to other systems

