

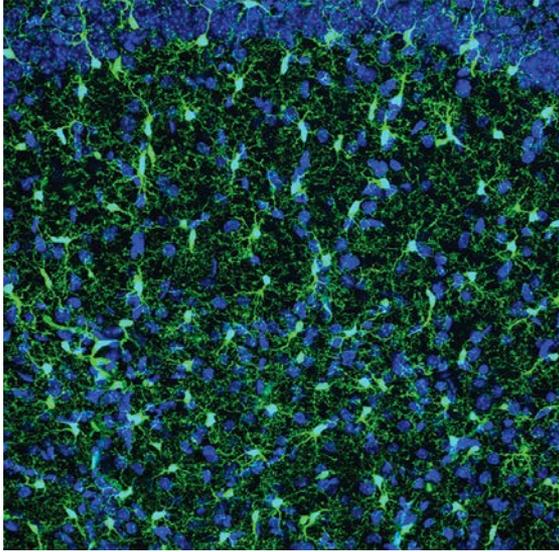


# Neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's Disease

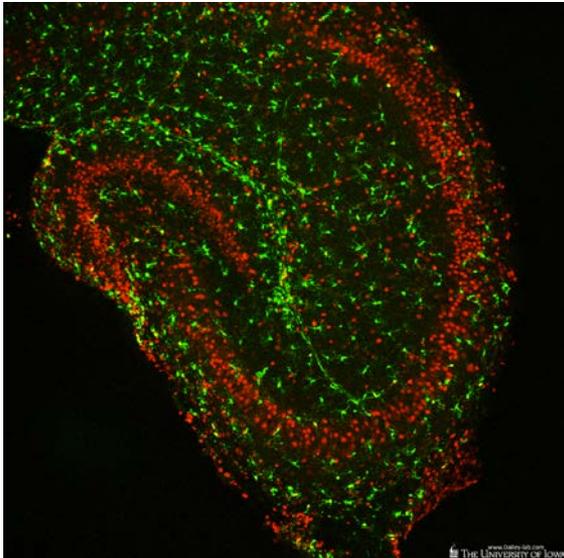
**Gary Landreth**

**Stark Neurosciences Research Institute  
Indiana University School of Medicine**

# Neuroinflammation is an Invariant Feature in Neurodegenerative Diseases



- Microglia, the brain's resident macrophage, performs immune surveillance, but is now understood to have a broad range of brain-specific functions.
- Microglia are highly dynamic and continuously extend and retract processes throughout the brain parenchyma
- The brain undergoes complete surveillance by microglia every few hours with each microglia surveying an area with a radius of about 80 $\mu$ m



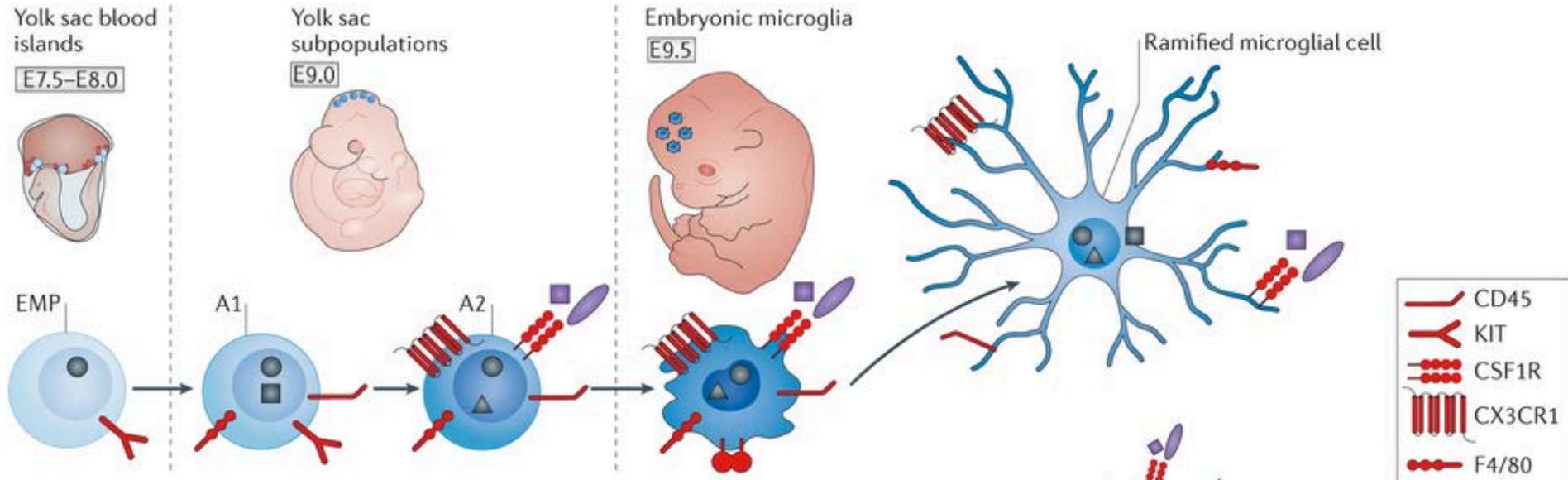
- **Neuroinflammation arises from disease-related perturbations in the brain that subsequently induce a pro-inflammatory response by microglia, which exacerbates disease severity and accelerates disease progression, resulting in neuronal loss.**

# Ontogeny of microglia:

Microglia are derived from early yolk sac derived myeloid precursors that invade and populate the developing brain

## Microglia self renew from endogenous progenitors

### a Microglial development



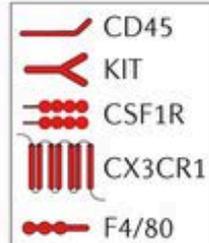
Expression of PU.1 and myeloid cell markers

#### Surface markers

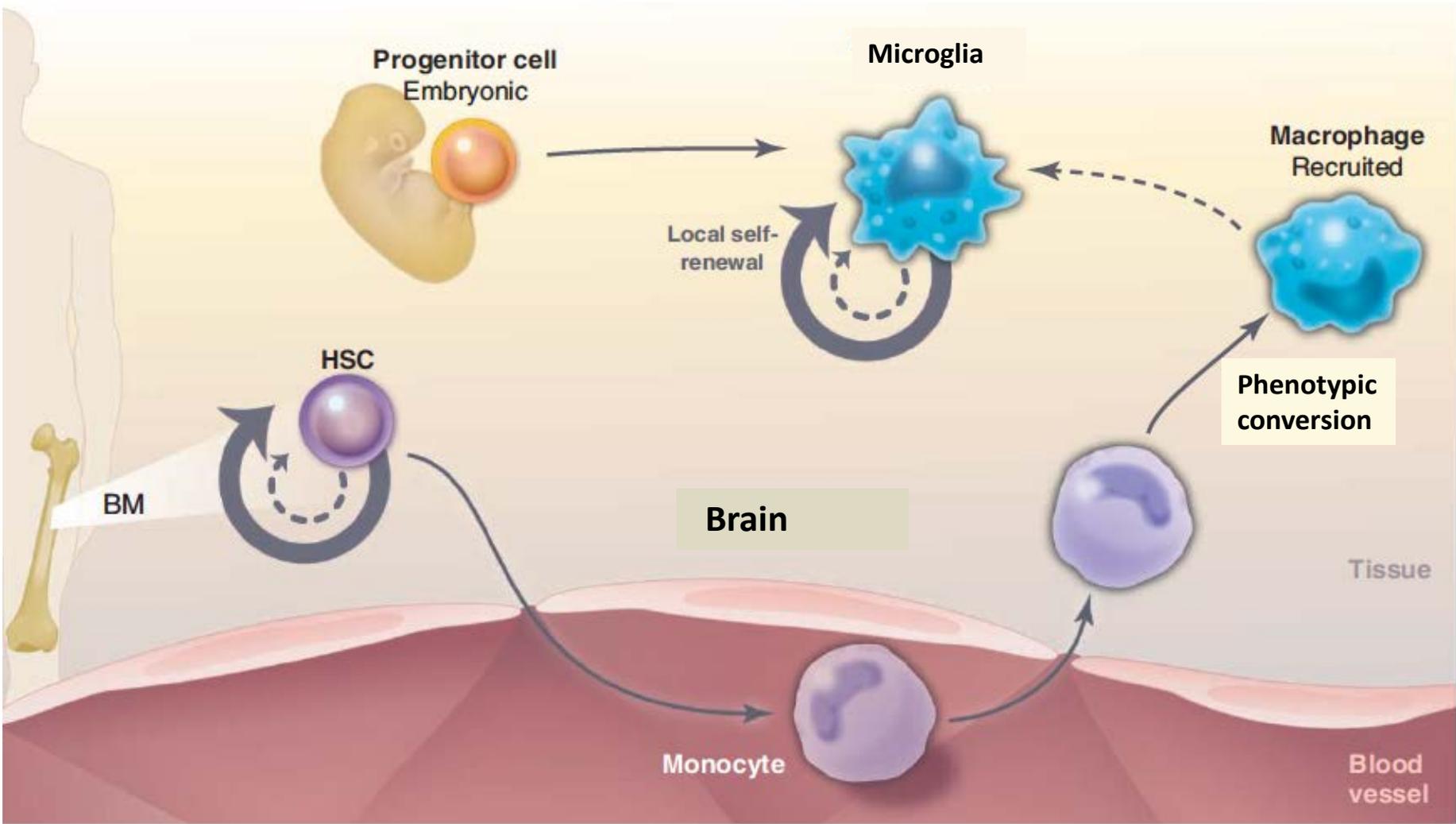
Iba1  
CX3CR1  
P2RY12/13  
CD45<sup>lo</sup>  
MerTK

#### Transcripts:

Sall1  
Tmem119  
Olfml3  
C1qa  
Gas6  
Pros1  
Fcrls  
GPR34

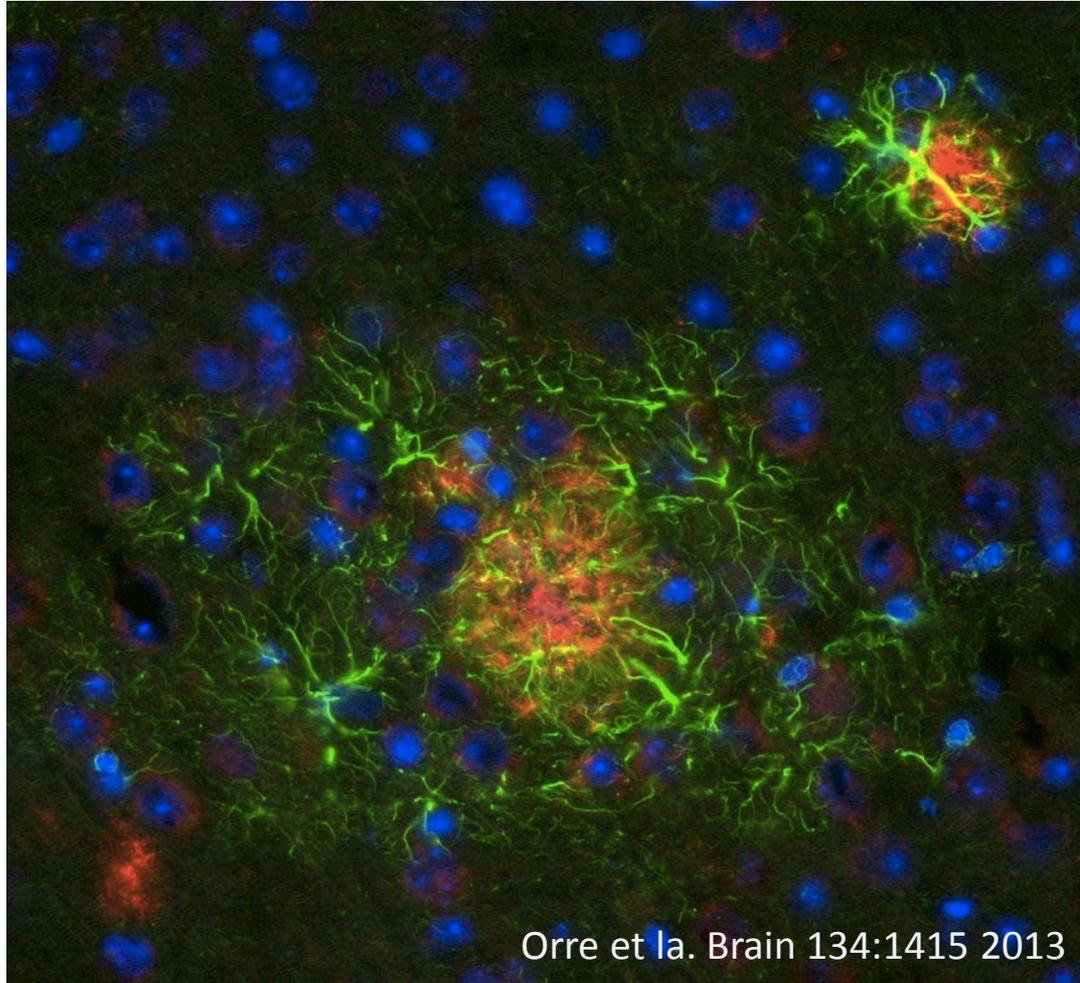


# In many CNS disorders blood borne monocytes infiltrate the brain



CNS Disease:  
CCL2-mediated infiltration of monocytes into the brain

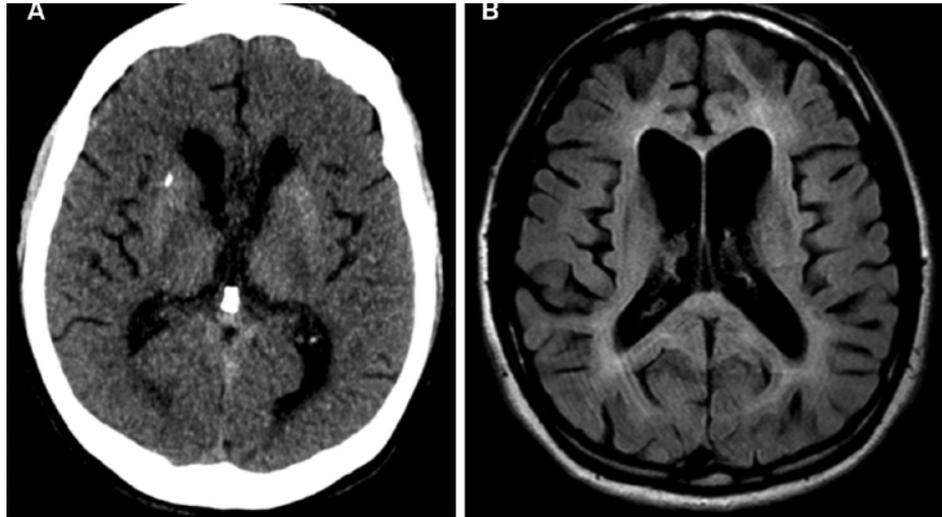
# Amyloid deposition results in the accumulation of macrophages on and around the plaque



**The plaque associated macrophages exhibit a proinflammatory phenotype but are inefficient phagocytes**

# Nasu-Hakola Disease: Demonstration that perturbation of microglia is alone sufficient to cause Neurodegenerative Disease

- Nasu-Hakola disease (aka PLOSL) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that arises from mutation of the myeloid specific gene, TREM2 or its signaling adapter protein DAP12 (TyroBP)
- In the brain TREM2 and DAP12 are exclusively expressed by microglia.



# TREM2

## Variants in the microglial receptor TREM2 confer risk for developing neurodegenerative diseases

TREM2 is expressed on myeloid cells and exclusively on microglia in the brain

Its ligand(s) are unknown and are postulated to be

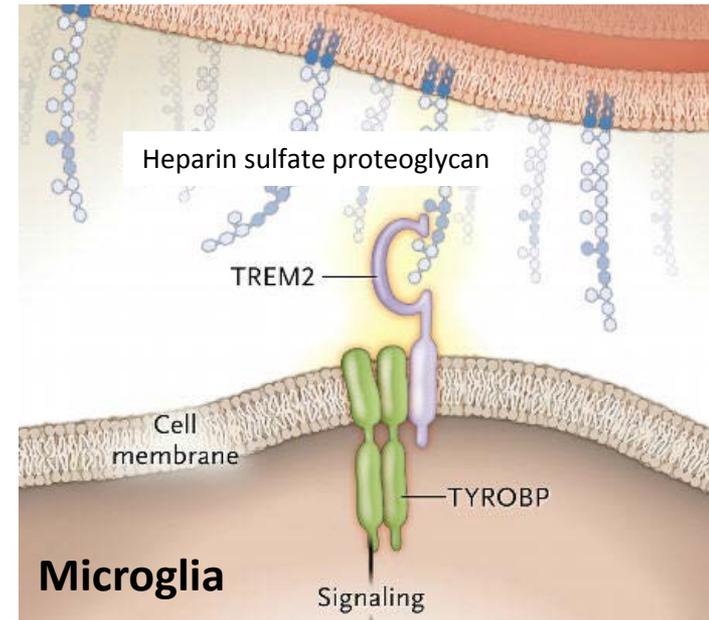
- Lipids, including phospholipids/ApoE.
- Cell surface proteins that interact with heparin sulfate-containing proteoglycans.

TREM2 phospholipid binding does not result in signaling,

**The function of TREM2 remains controversial:**

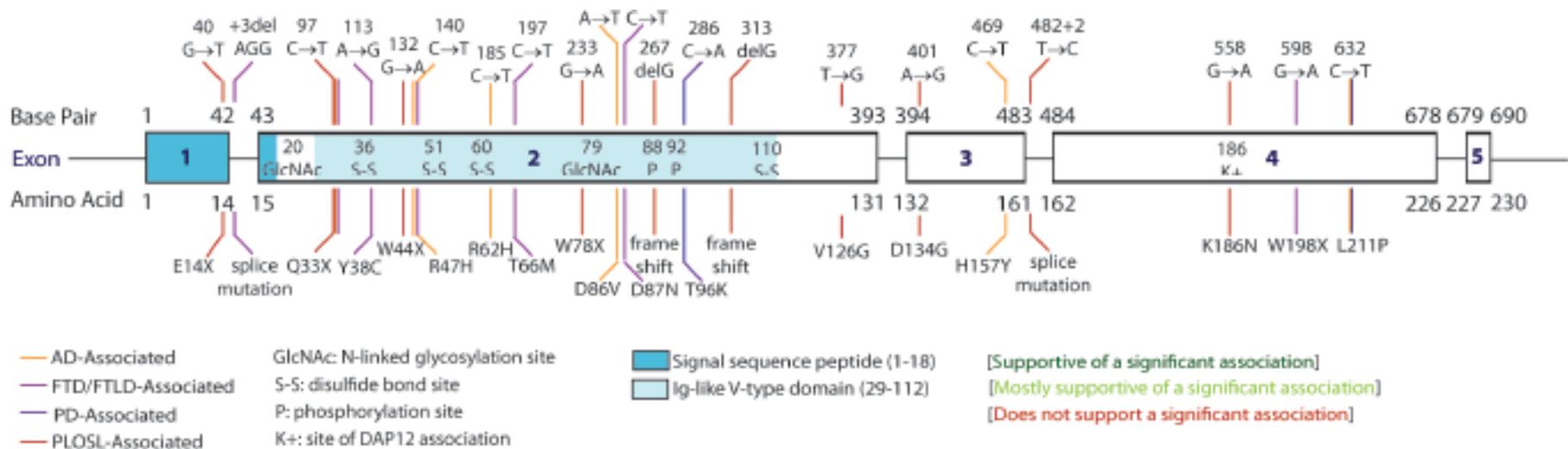
It has been postulated to be a phagocytic receptor.

TREM2 has been shown in vitro to suppress inflammatory responses. However, this conclusion is not supported in several in vivo settings.



# TREM2 variants are associated with neurodegenerative diseases

GWAS have identified a number of TREM2 variants linked to neurodegenerative diseases

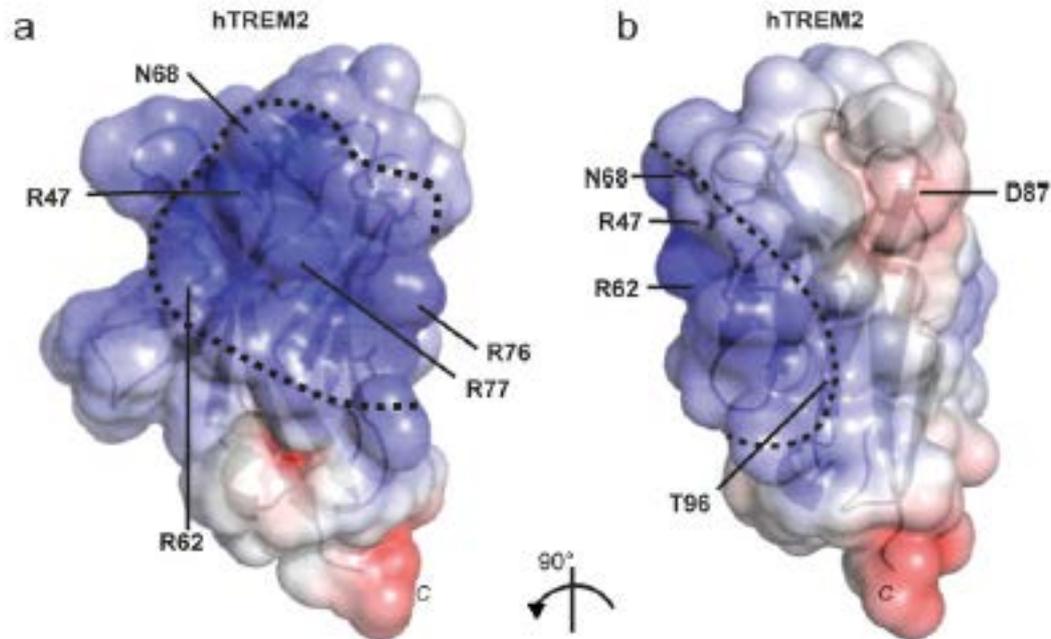


R47H increases the risk for AD by approximately 3 fold, an effect size similar to that observed with APOE4

The TREM2 R47H variant is linked to AD, FTD/FTLD, ALS.

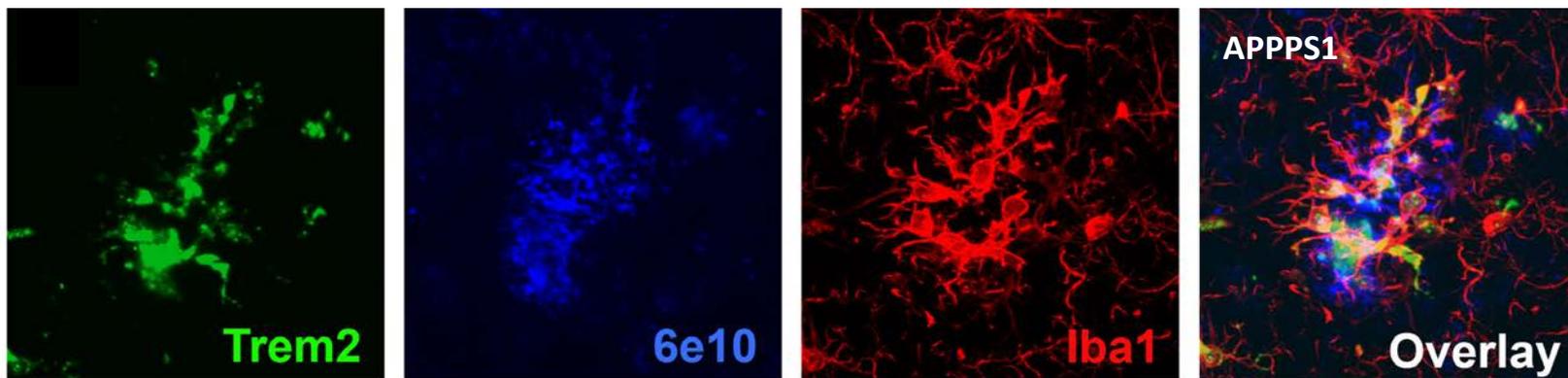
# AD-linked TREM2 mutations are confined to a surface ligand binding domain that alters binding affinity

Nasu-Hakola and other LOF mutations are buried and affect folding and stability

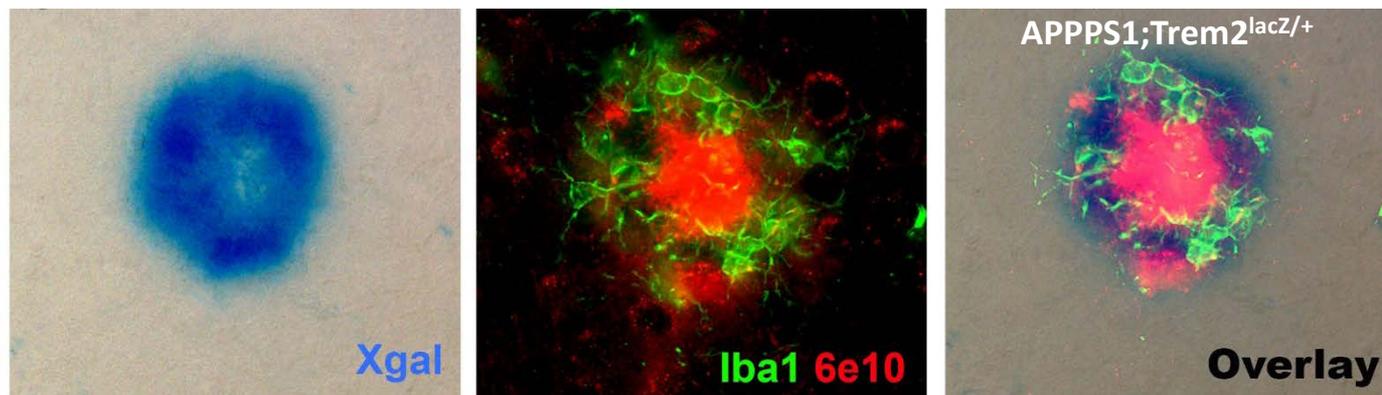


TREM2 extracellular domain

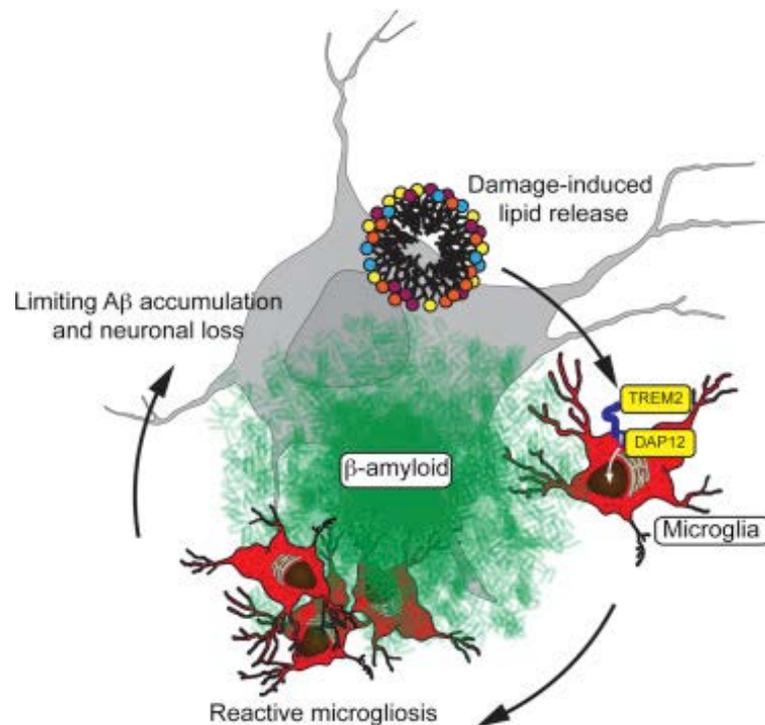
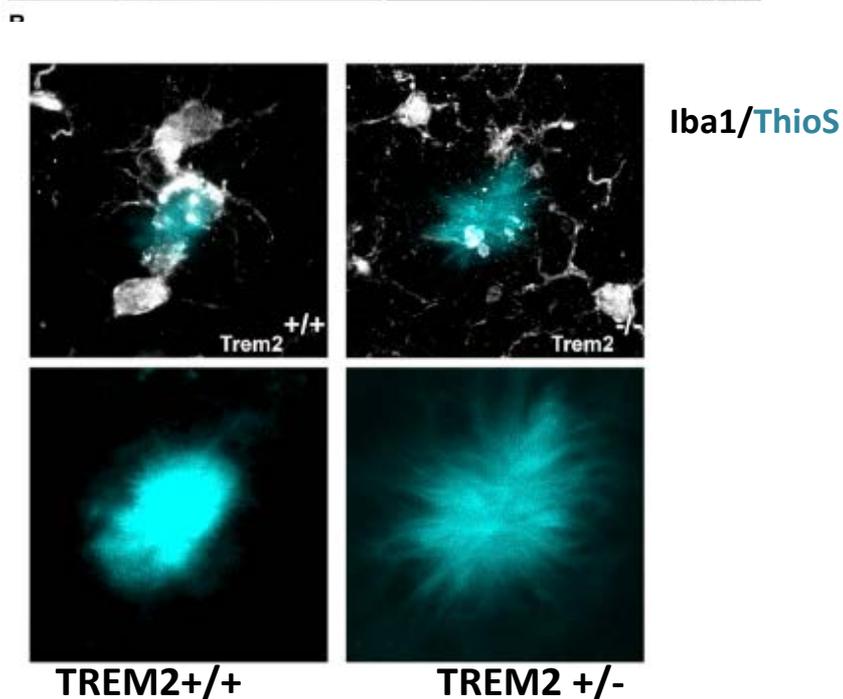
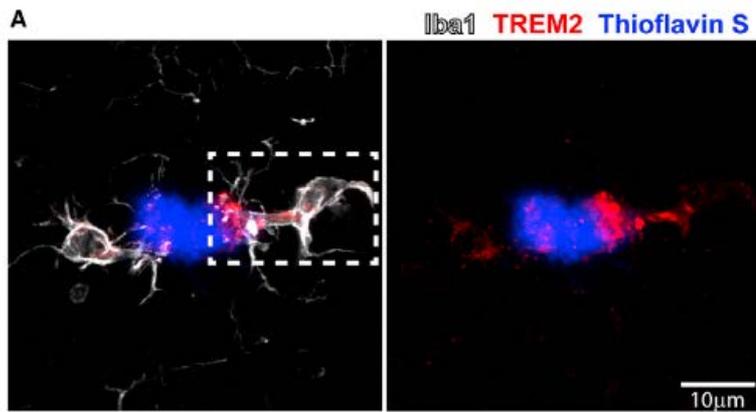
# Plaque-associated macrophages express high levels of TREM2



APPPS1;Trem2<sup>lacZ/+</sup>

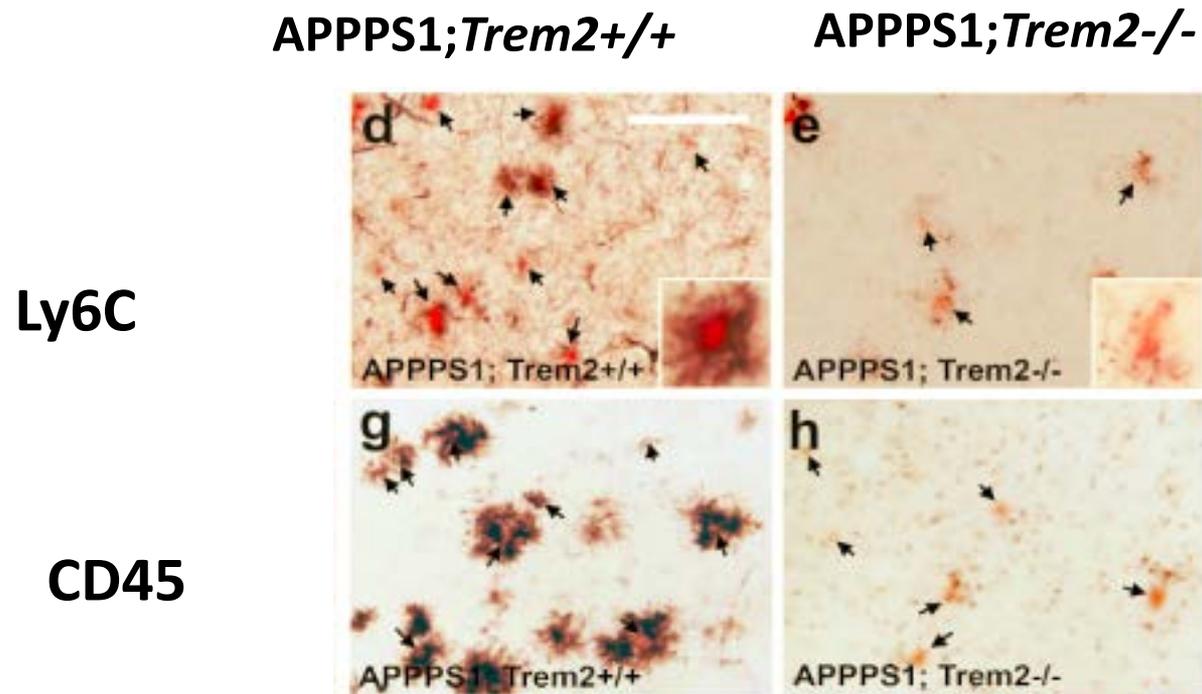


# TREM2 is focally expressed at plaque interface, curbing plaque growth and abrogating microglial barrier function

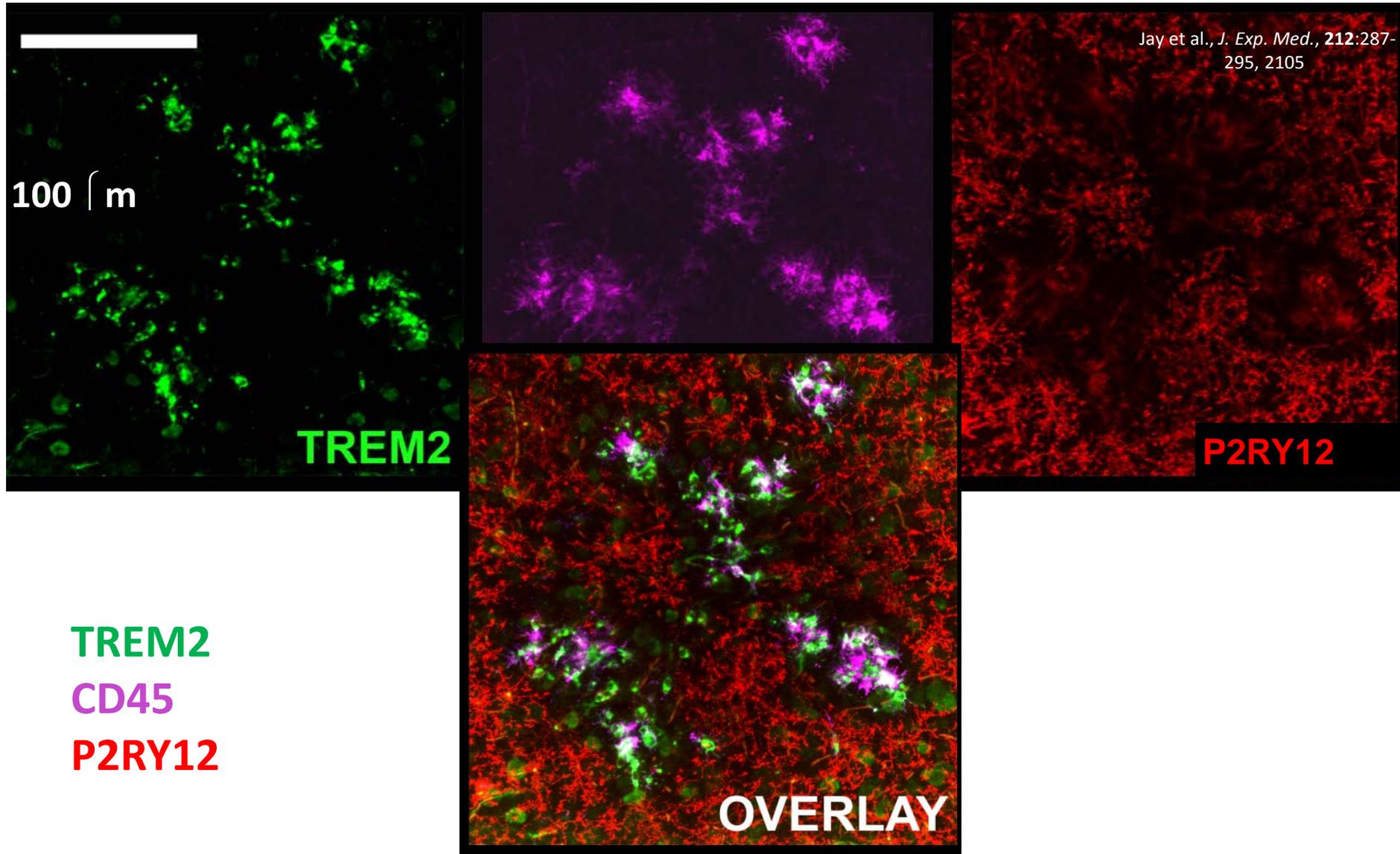


Yuan et al. Neuron 90:724, 2016

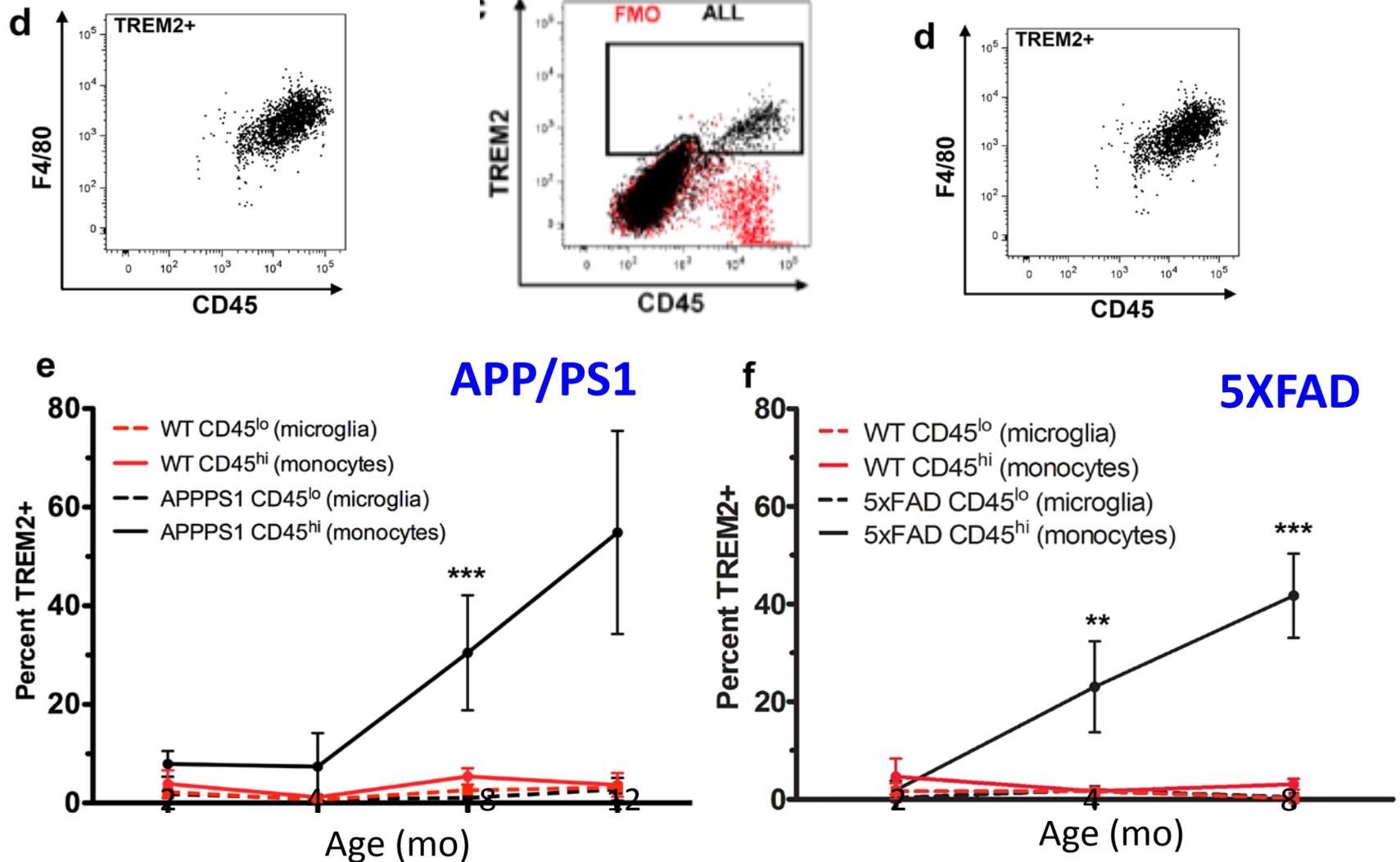
# Plaque-associated macrophages bear markers of peripheral monocytes



# Resident microglia do not associate with plaques in AD Mouse Models



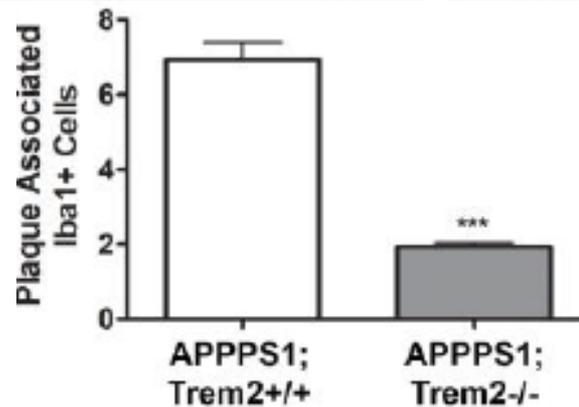
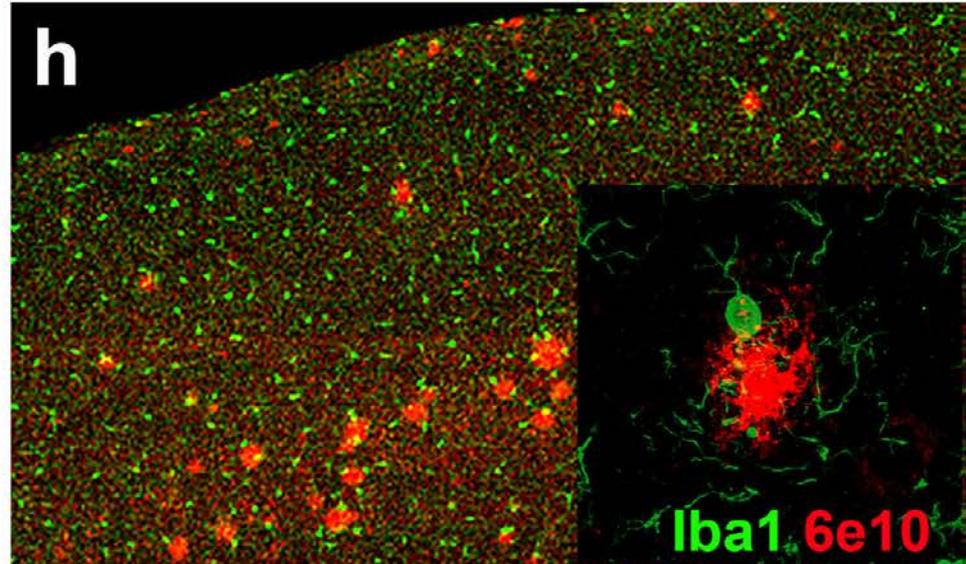
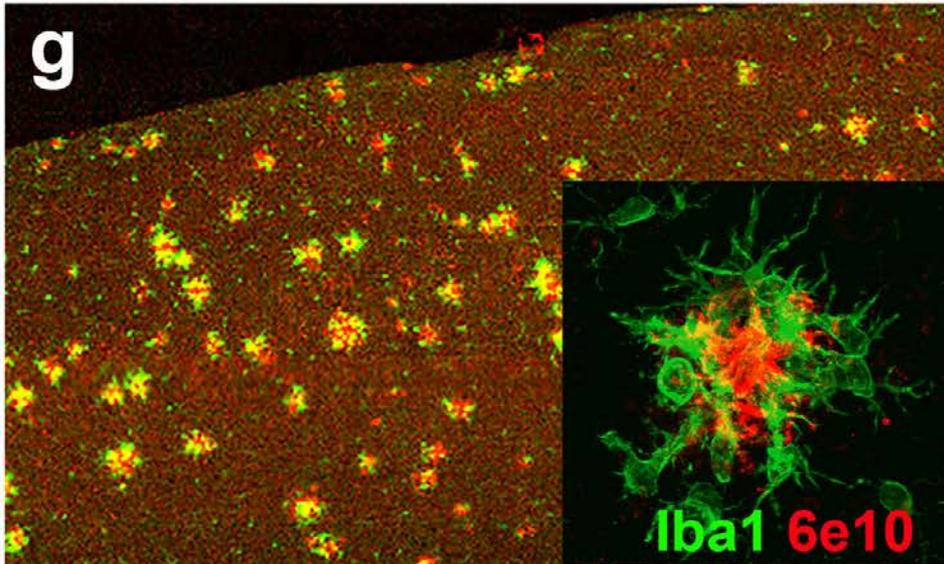
# TREM2<sup>+</sup>, CD45<sup>hi</sup> myeloid cells are elevated in the brains of 2 different AD models



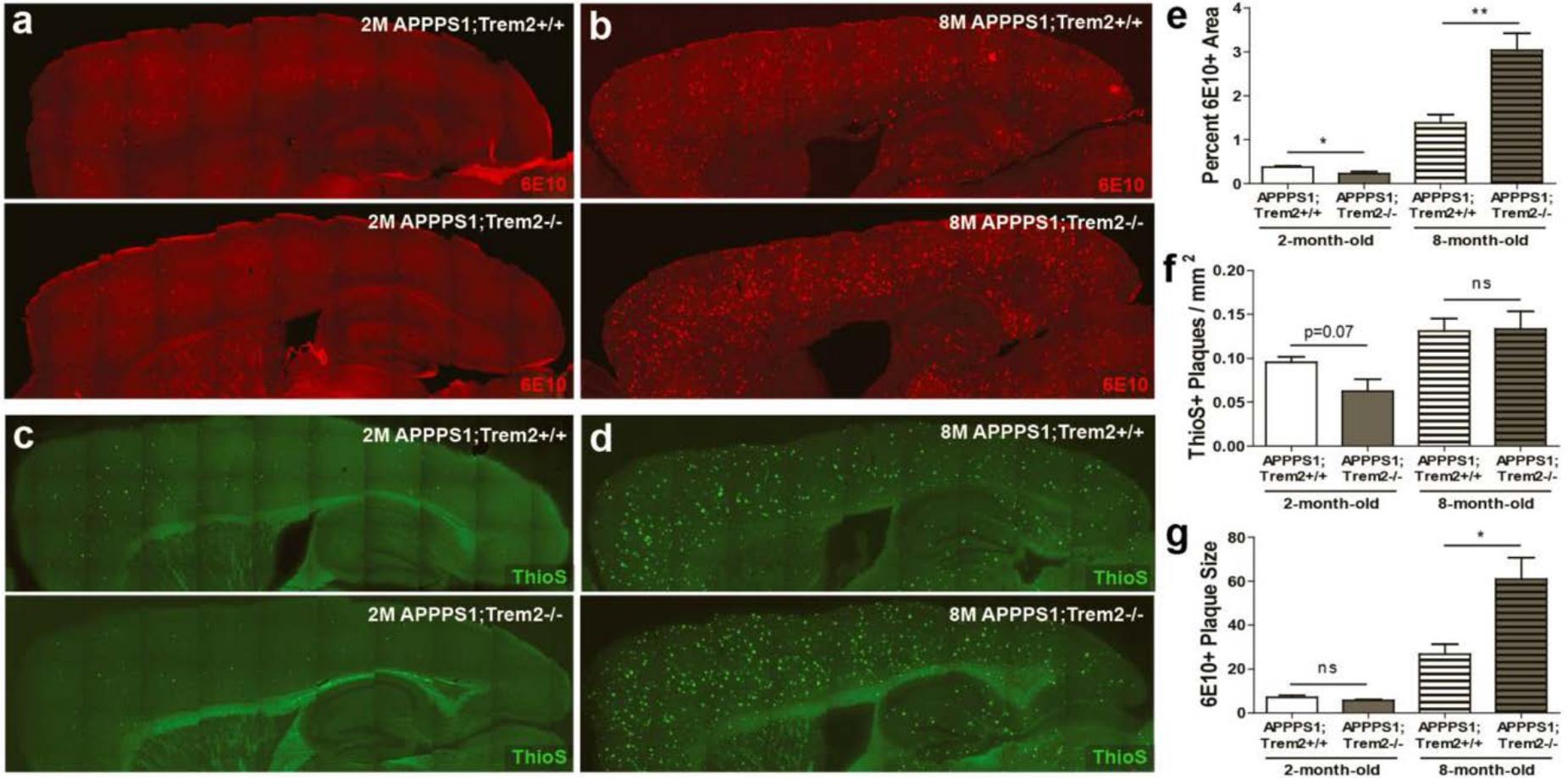
# Plaque associated macrophages are absent in the TREM2 KO

APP/PS1

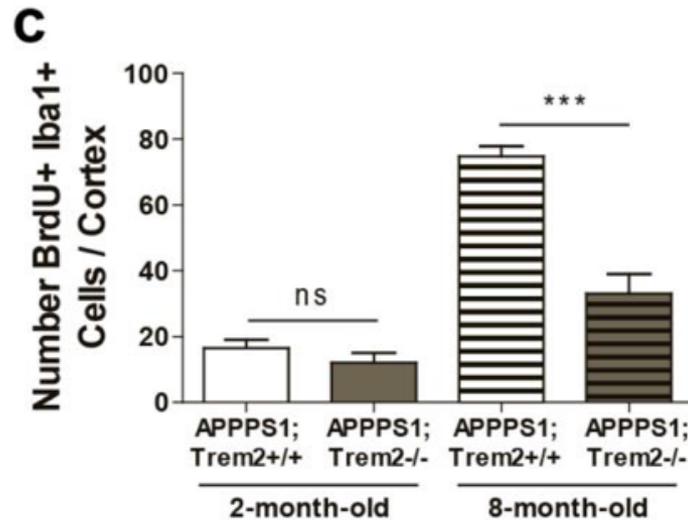
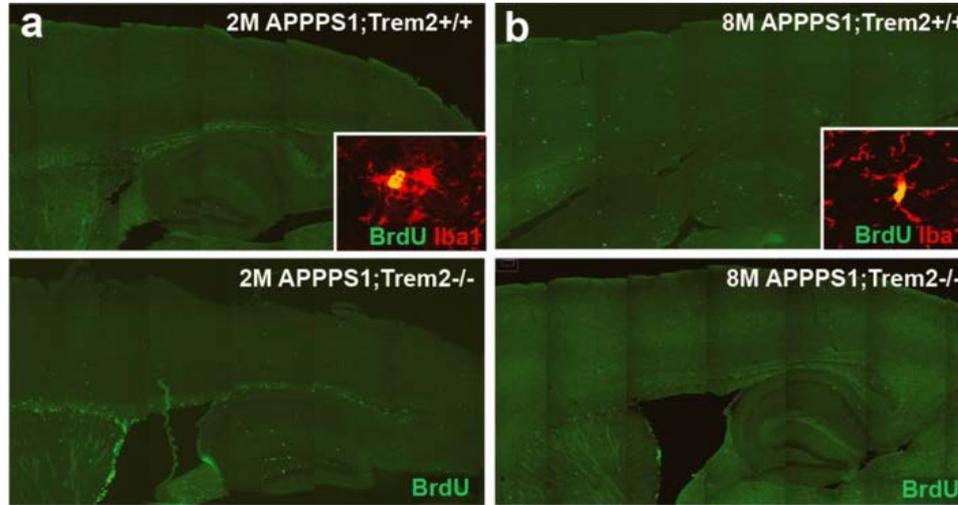
APP/PS1; TREM2<sup>-/-</sup>



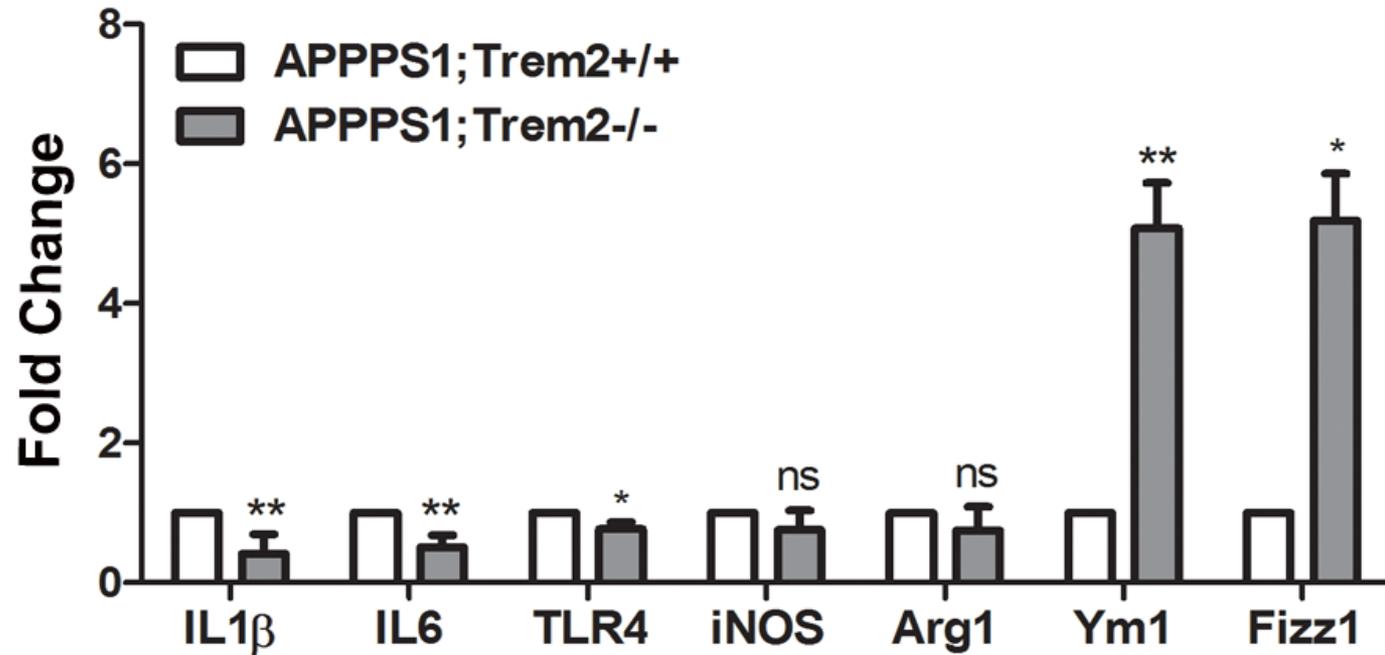
# TREM2 Deficiency Regulates A $\beta$ Deposition in an Age and disease progression-Dependent Manner



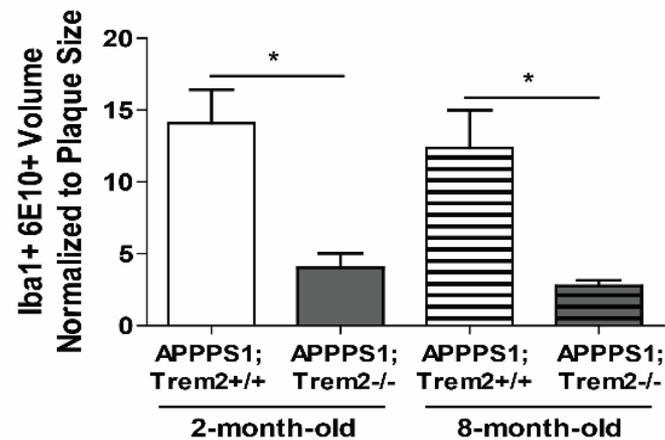
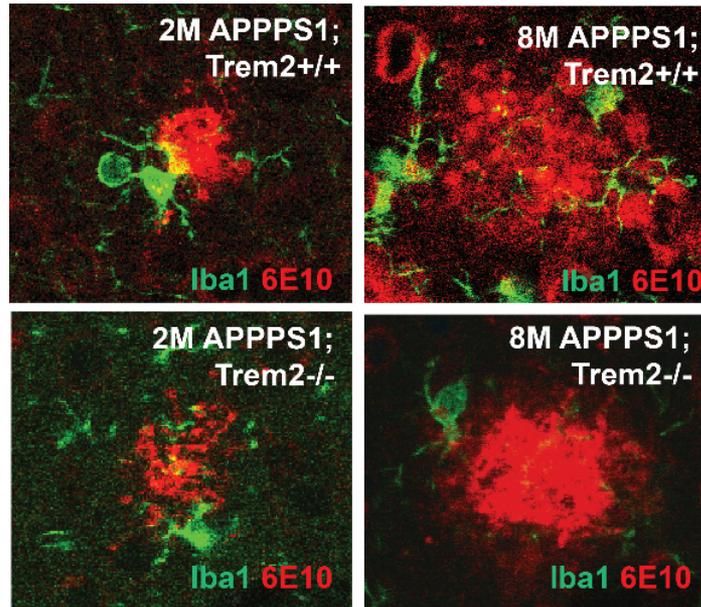
# TREM2 Deficiency Reduces Proliferation of Resident Microglia At Late Disease Stages



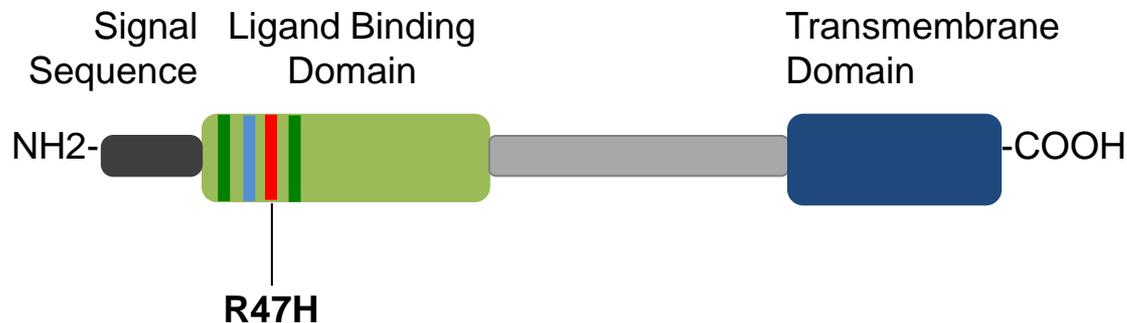
# Trem2 deficiency is linked to microglial 'alternative activation' phenotype



# TREM2 deficiency reduces amyloid internalization in plaque associated macrophages

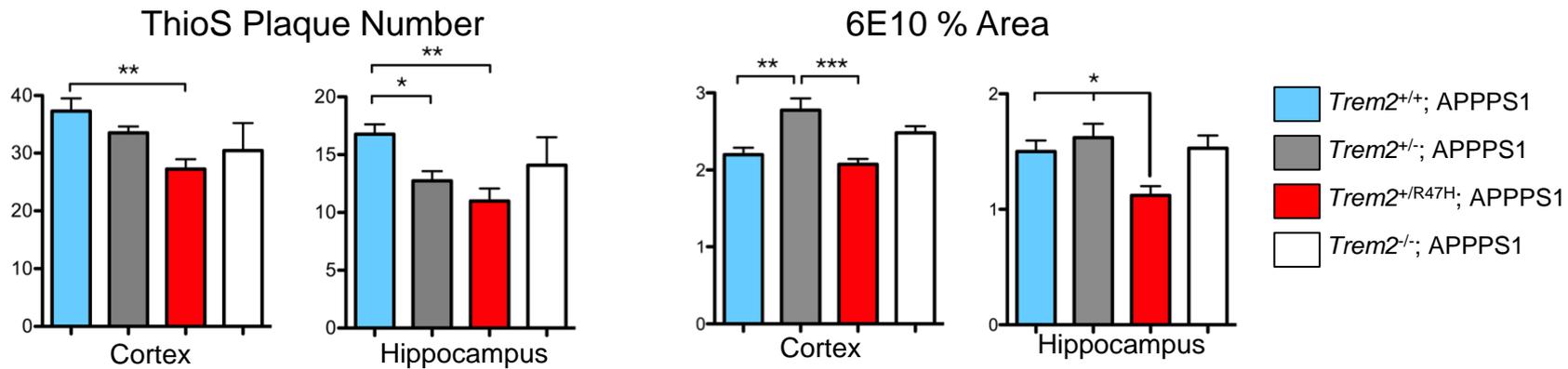
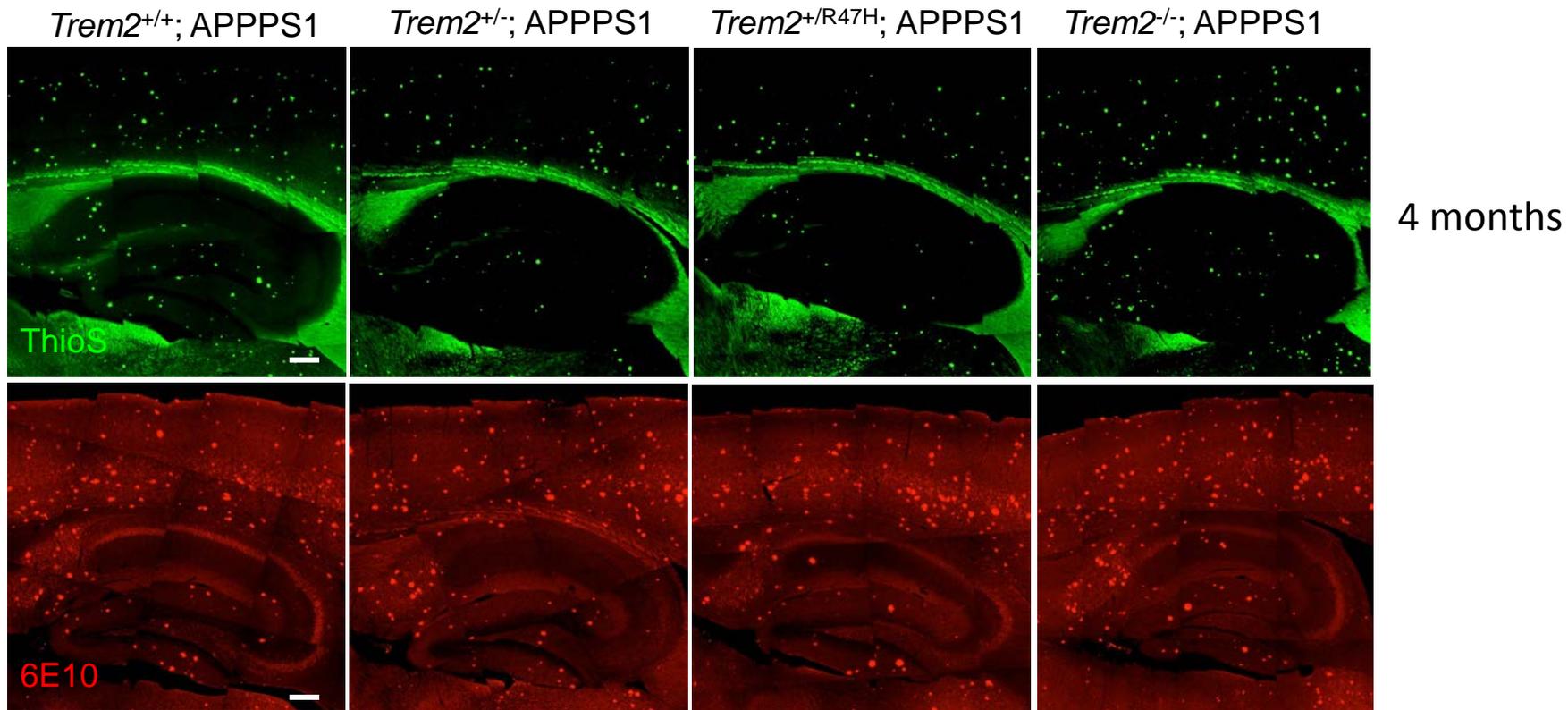


# The TREM2 R47H Mutation Increases AD Risk



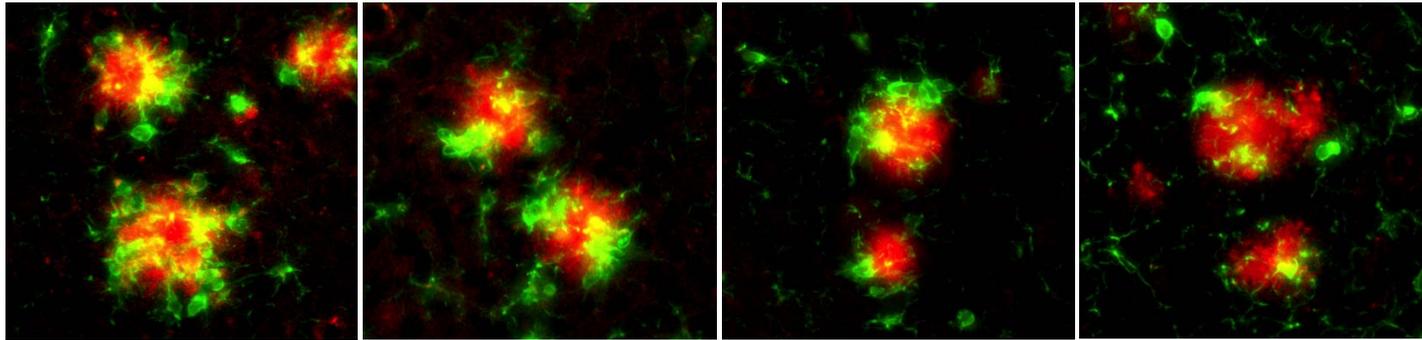
| Population              | OR   | CI        | <i>p</i> Value | Reference              |
|-------------------------|------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| European-North American | 4.5  | 1.7-11.9  | <0.001         | Guerreiro et al., 2013 |
| European                | 2.83 | 1.45-5.40 | 0.002          | Jonsson et al., 2013   |
| French                  | 4.07 | 1.29-16.8 | 0.009          | Pottier et al., 2013   |
| European-North American | 3.3  | 1.3-9.8   | 0.0044         | Giraldo et al., 2013   |
| North American          | 3.5  | 1.3-8.8   | 0.008          | Murcia et al., 2013    |

# Amyloid burden is modestly reduced in *Trem2*<sup>+/*R47H*</sup>; APPPS1 mice

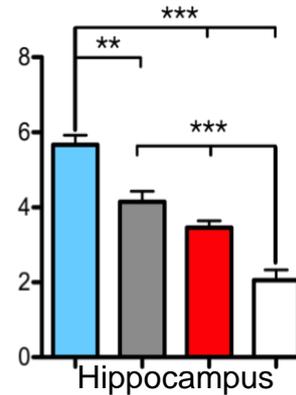
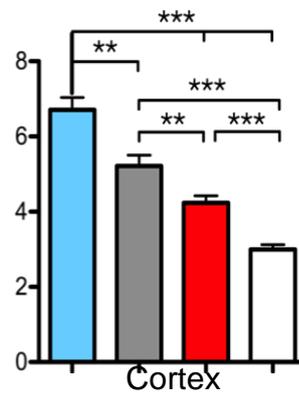


# Plaque associated Iba1+ cells are significantly reduced in *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPPS1 mice</sup>

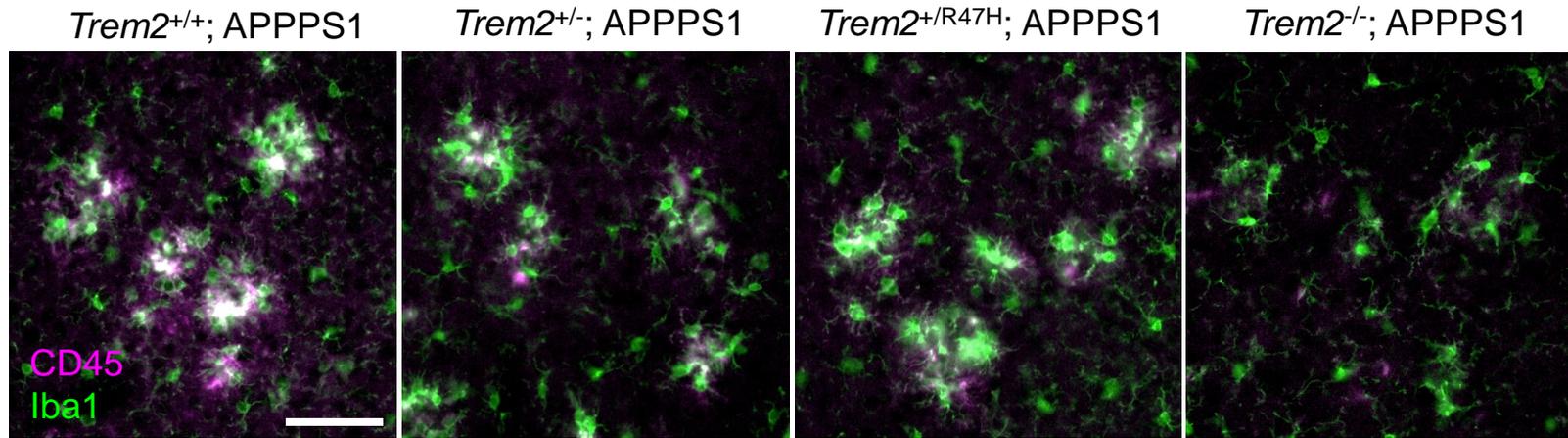
*Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>+</sup>; APPPS1    *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>-</sup>; APPPS1    *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPPS1    *Trem2*<sup>-/<sup>-</sup>; APPPS1</sup></sup></sup></sup>



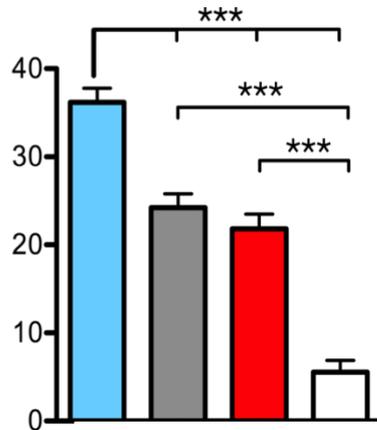
Iba1+ Cells / Plaque



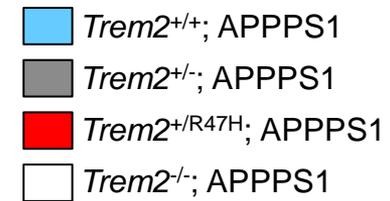
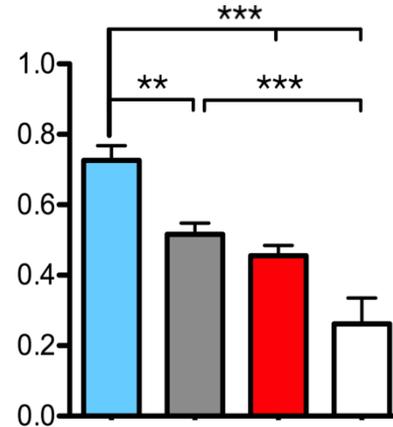
# CD45, a marker of peripheral myeloid cells, is significantly reduced in *Trem2*<sup>+/*R47H*</sup>; APPPS1 mice



CD45 Area / 6E10 Area



CD45 Area / Iba1 Area



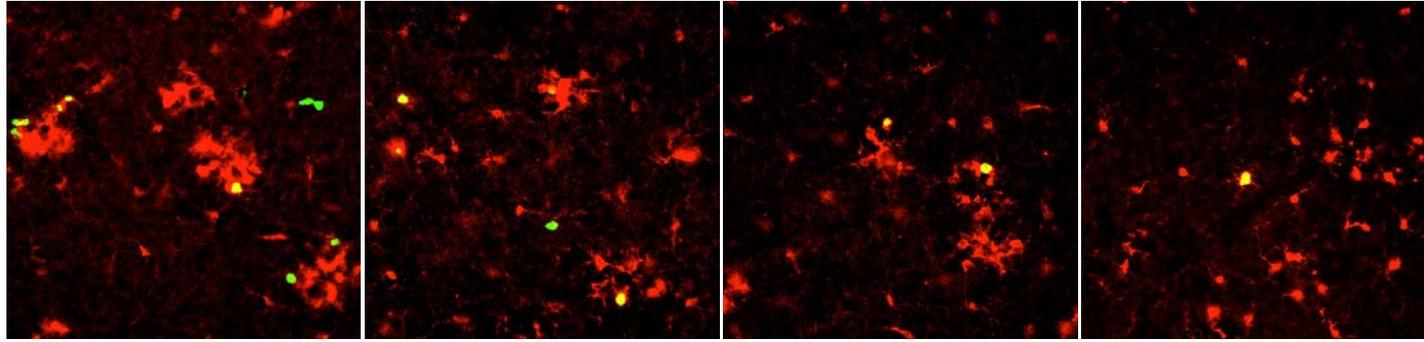
# Plaque associated myeloid cell proliferation is significantly reduced in *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup></sup>; APPS1 mice

*Trem2*<sup>+/+</sup>; APPS1

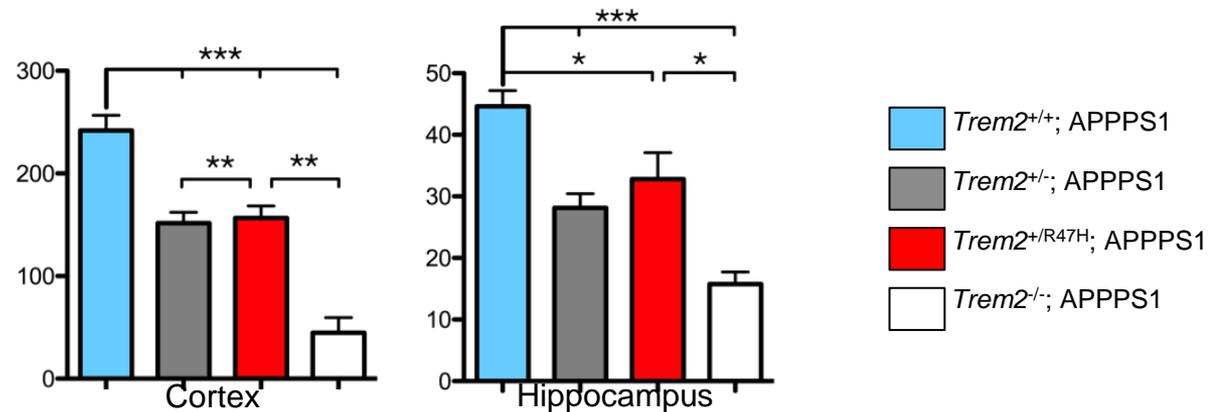
*Trem2*<sup>+/-</sup>; APPS1

*Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup></sup>; APPS1

*Trem2*<sup>-/-</sup>; APPS1



Total Ki67+ Iba1+ Cells



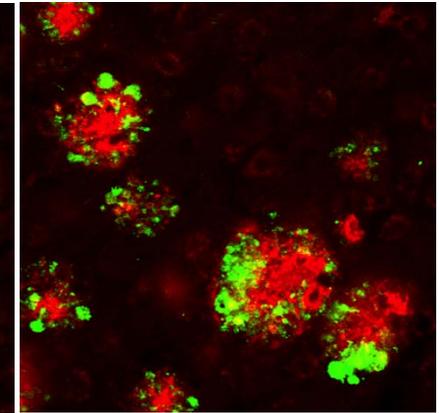
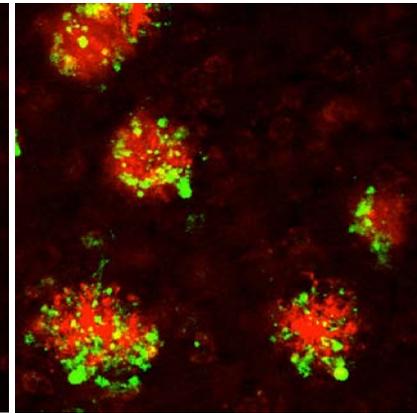
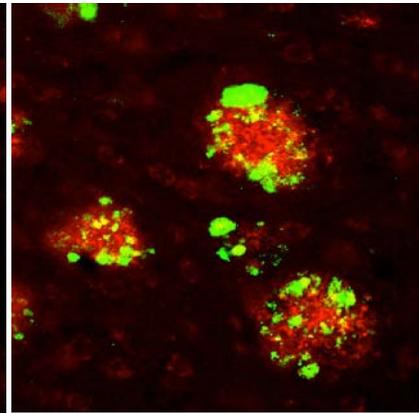
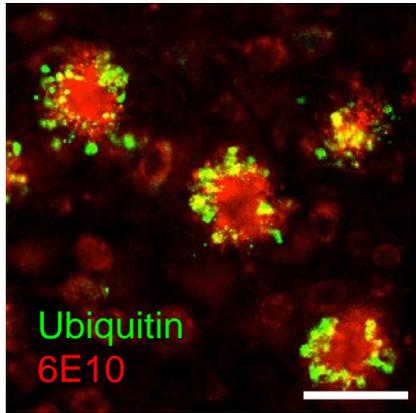
# Plaque associated neuritic dystrophy is modestly increased in *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPS1 mice</sup>

*Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>+</sup>; APPS1</sup>

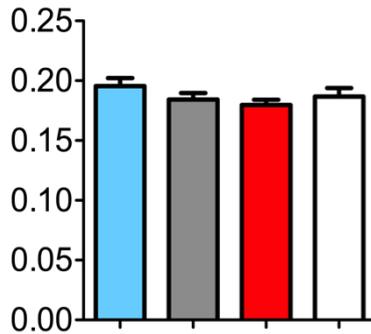
*Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1</sup>

*Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPS1</sup>

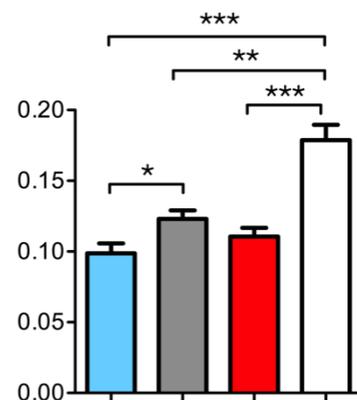
*Trem2*<sup>-/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1</sup>



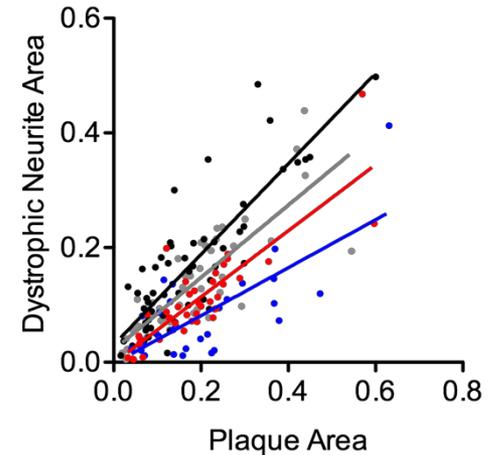
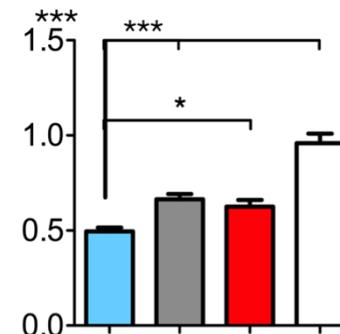
Plaque Size (AU)



Ubiquitin Area (AU)



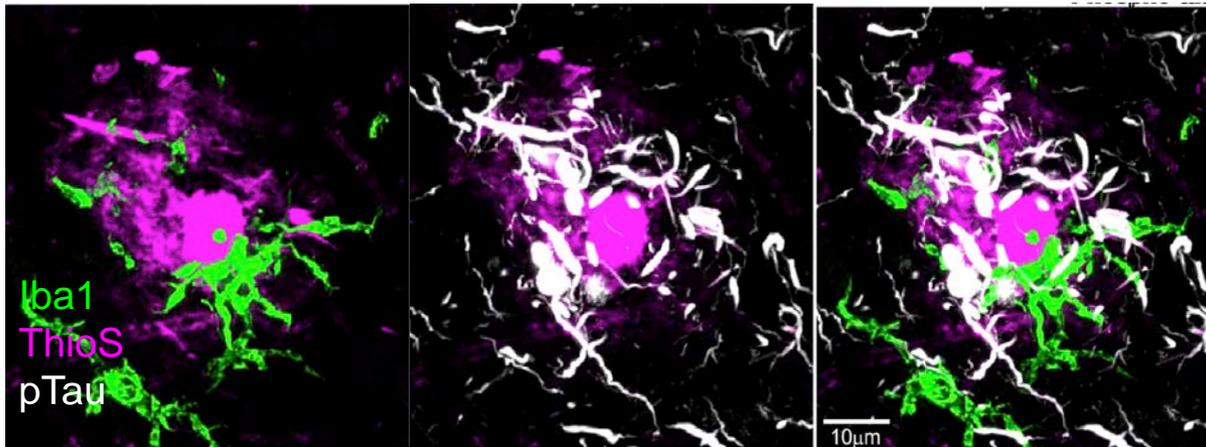
Ubiquitin Area /  
Plaque Size



■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>+</sup>; APPS1     ■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPS1  
■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1     ■ *Trem2*<sup>-/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1</sup></sup></sup></sup>

■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>+</sup>; APPS1  
■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1  
■ *Trem2*<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup>; APPS1  
■ *Trem2*<sup>-/<sup>-</sup>; APPS1</sup></sup></sup></sup>

# Human R47H carriers exhibit impaired Myeloid Cell Barrier and enhanced Plaque Associated Neuronal Dystrophy

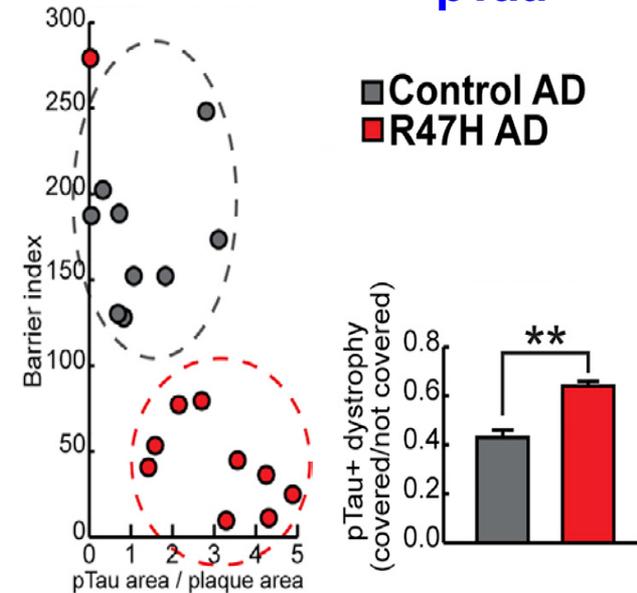


Plaque regions poorly covered by myeloid cell processes have more neuritic dystrophy

Yuan et al., Neuron (2016)

Barrier Function

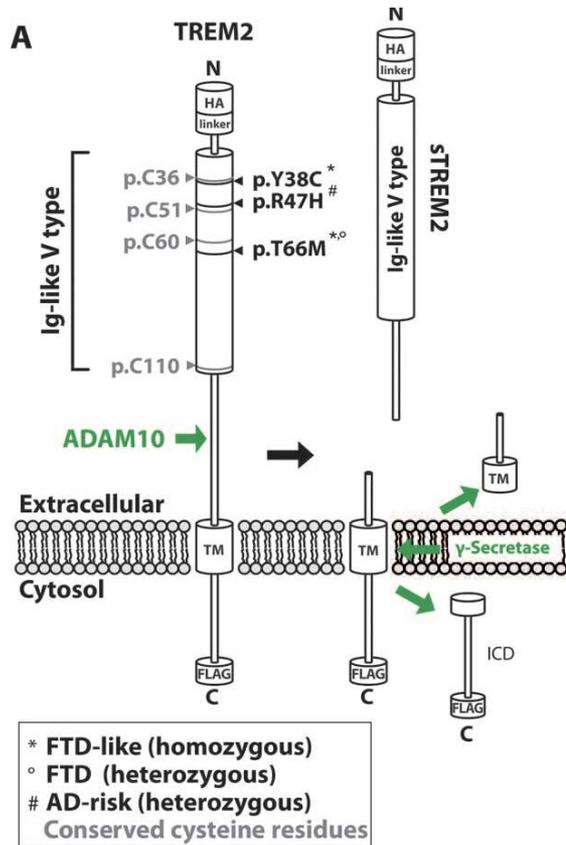
pTau



TREM2 R47H reduces myeloid barrier index and increases neuritic dystrophy

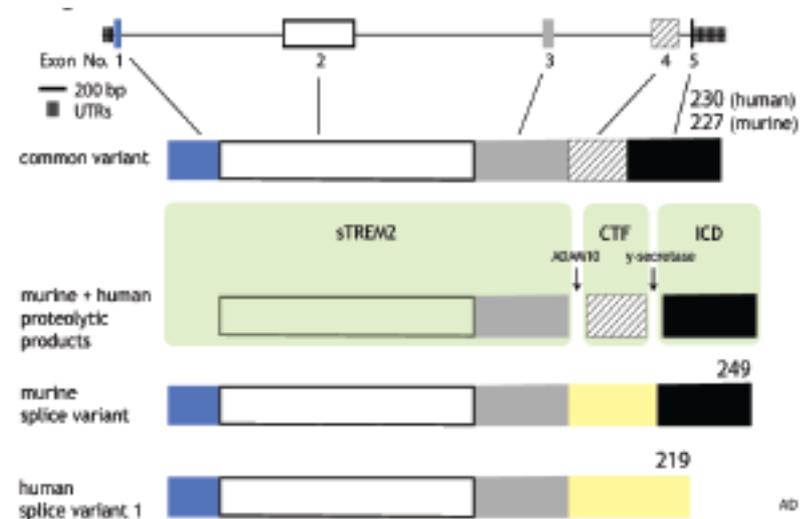
# Soluble Trem2 extracellular domains are released from microglia

## Proteolytic cleavage



Klineberger et al.

## Alternatively spliced mRNAs

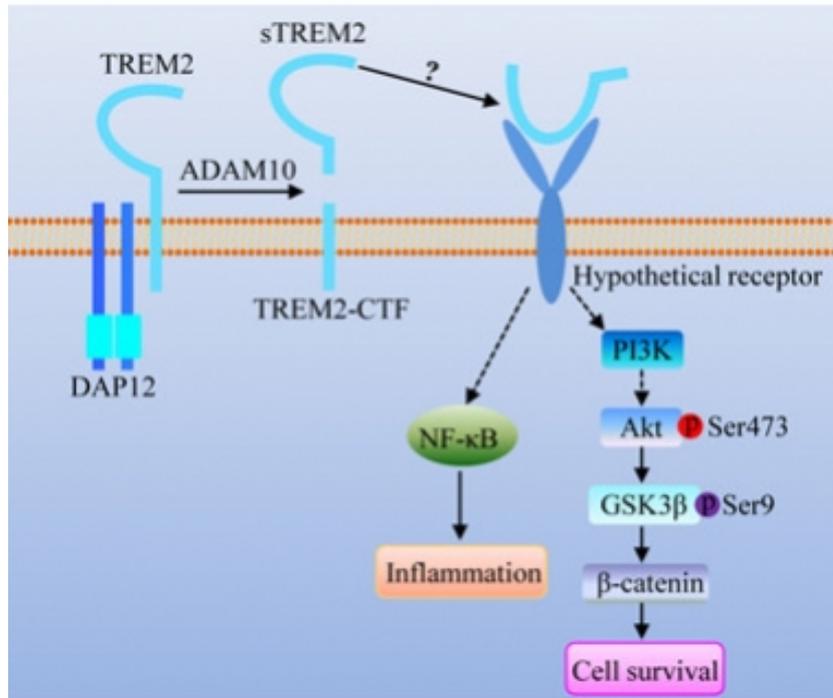


Alternatively spliced mRNAs have not been shown to be translated

Jin et al.

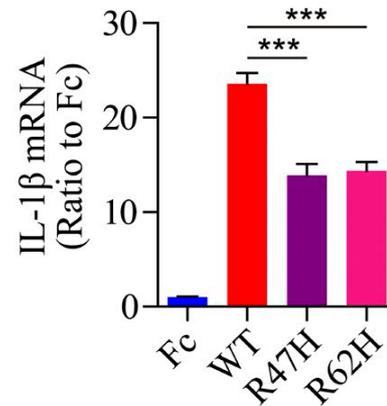
# sTREM2 stimulates proinflammatory gene expression in microglia

sTREM2 acts in an autocrine or paracrine manner to drive microglial activation



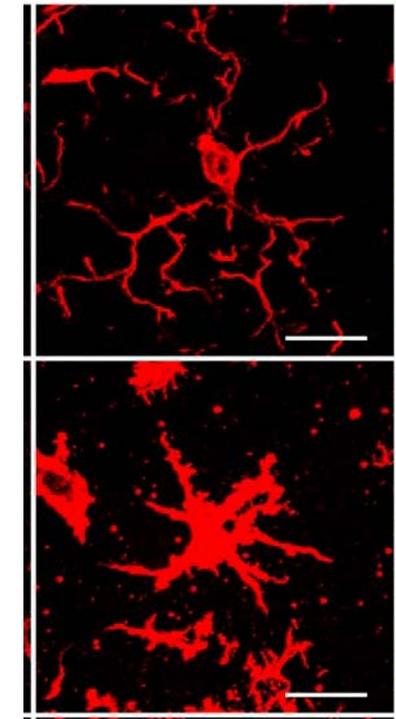
Zhong et al. JEM 2017

In vitro



Ex vivo

Iba1

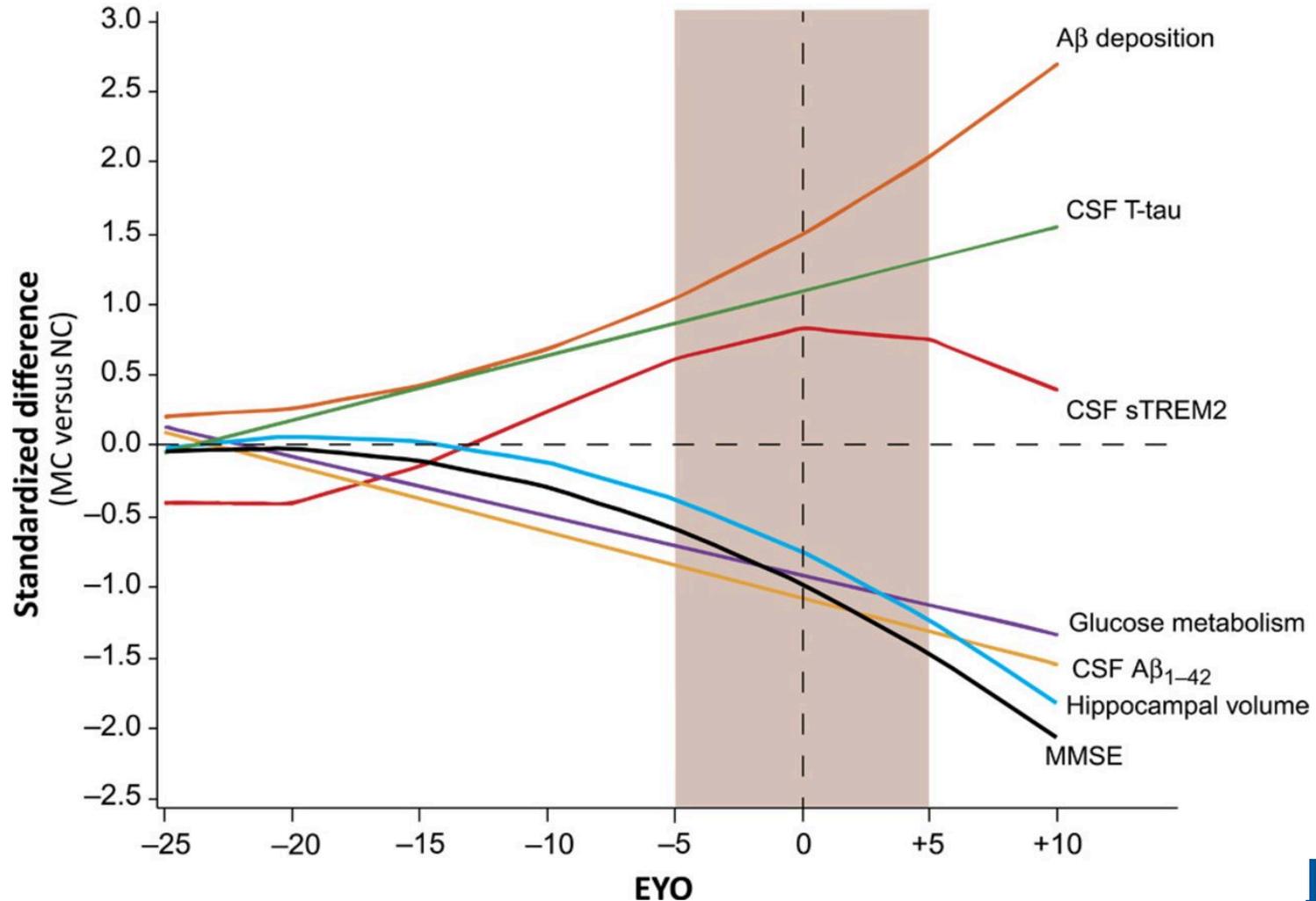


control

sTREM2

These data force a reevaluation of TREM2 actions in the brain and its roles in neurodegenerative diseases

# sTREM2 appears in CSF after amyloid deposition and concurrent with other disease markers in dominantly inherited forms of AD



# Summary

- Perturbation of microglial function through loss of TREM2 is sufficient to cause neurodegenerative disease
- TREM2 deficiency ( $-/- > +/-$ ) reduces plaque associated peripherally-derived macrophages
- TREM2 deficiency results in reduced microglial proliferation
- Age and disease progression-dependent phenotypes preclude firm conclusions with regard to effect of TREM2<sup>+/<sup>R47H</sup> mutation on plaque and neuritic dystrophy</sup>
- The preliminary findings suggest the TREM2<sup>R47H</sup> variant appears to be LOF
- CSF levels of sTREM2 may be a useful biomarker for AD

# Investigators/Collaborators

Taylor Jay



Erin Reed-Geaghan



Crystal Miller



Paul Cheng-Hathaway



Bruce Lamb



Richard Ransohoff

# Acknowledgements

## Landreth Lab

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Brad Casali  
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## Collaborators:

Bruce Lamb- Indiana Univ  
Richard Ransohoff-Biogen

## Stark Neurosciences Research Institute



END

