

Caleb E Finch PhD



Davis School of  
Gerontology,  
Dornsife College

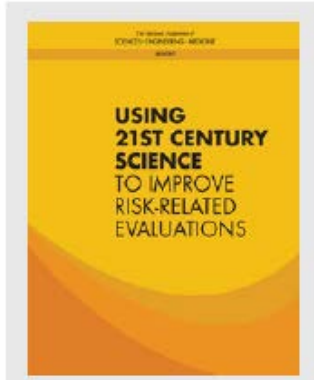
# **Environmental Gerogens in the AD Exposome**

## **Air pollution & Cigarettes**

*Environmental Neuroscience: Advancing the Understanding  
of How Chemical Exposures Impact Brain Health and Disease*

NAS Workshop, June 25, 2020

**Exposome** “record of all exposures, internal & external throughout the lifetime ...molecules to populations”



NAS Press 2019

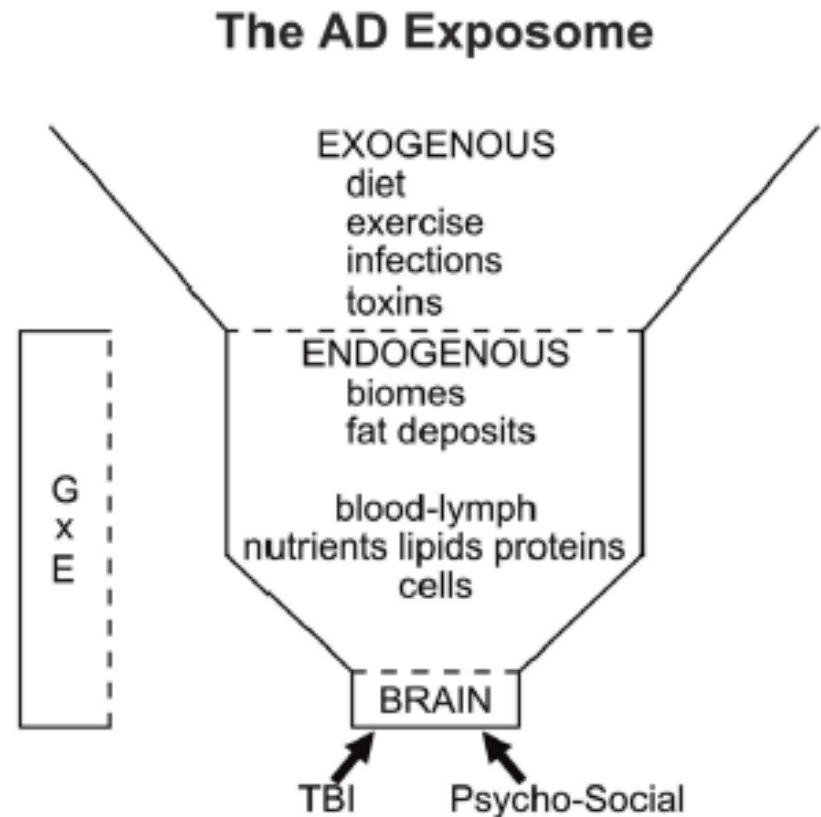
Niedswiecki et al 2019 *Ann Rev Pharm*

## Air pollution & Cigarettes

- I, Adult AD exposome
- II, Developmental AD exposome
- III, Interactions and Strategies

Heritability of AD in twins: women, 45%; men 58% (Gatz 2006)  
**half of individual AD risk may be environmental**

- Airborne toxicants
- Air Pollution & Cigarettes
- atherosclerosis
- neurodegeneration
- Obesity
- Psycho-social stress
- Synergies



Finch & Kulminski, *Alz Dementia* 2019

# Inflammation

## Pathogen-driven inflam.

- infections, acute/chronic
- Parasites

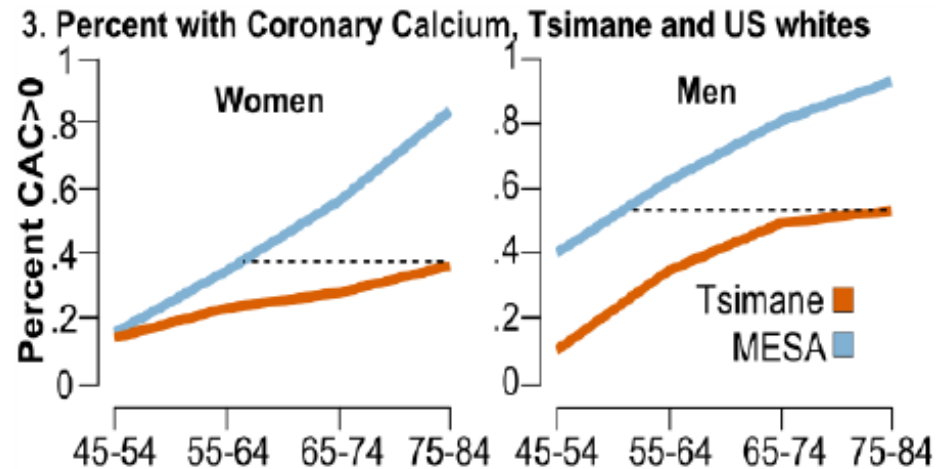
High energy cost of  
fever and tissue repair

## Sterile inflammogens

- fat tissue
- Air pollution
- Cigarettes
- Environmental toxins

Lower energy cost

# Bolivian Tsimane- pathogen-driven chronic inflammation strokes and heart attack 90% lower than US



Kaplan et al, *Lancet*, 2017

**Coronary aging of Tsimane is 25 years slower than US**

**Is brain aging also slower?**

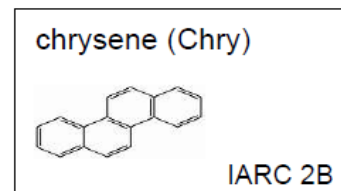
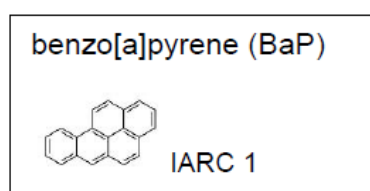
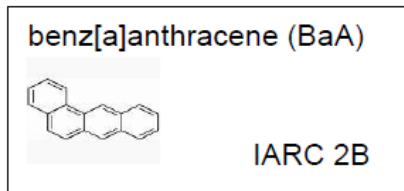
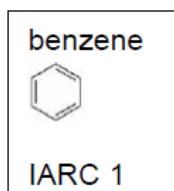
# Air pollution & cigarettes are

## **STERILE GEROGENS:**

- shorten lifespan by 5-10 years
  - accelerate diseases of aging
    - arteries:** heart attacks & strokes
    - brain:** Alzheimer's and brain atrophy
    - cancers:** lung, kidney
  - oxidative stress & inflammation
- shared pathology and accelerated aging**

# Fossil fuels and cigarettes shared toxins and gerogens

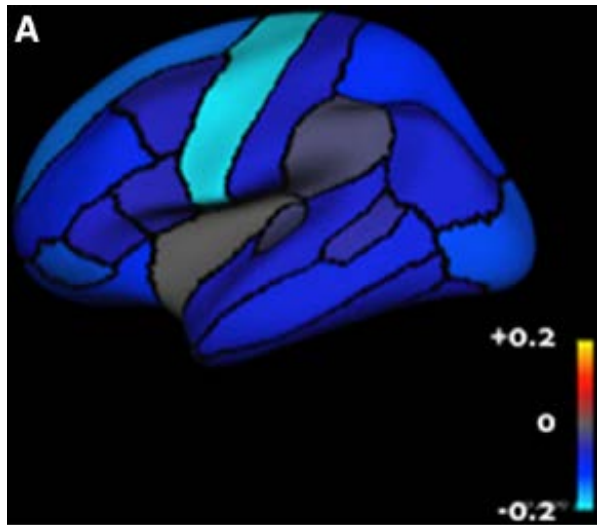
- Fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) deposited in lungs
- Incompletely burned carbon particles  
carcinogens: polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)



- Toxic metals: iron and lead
- 45% of US children incur 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke

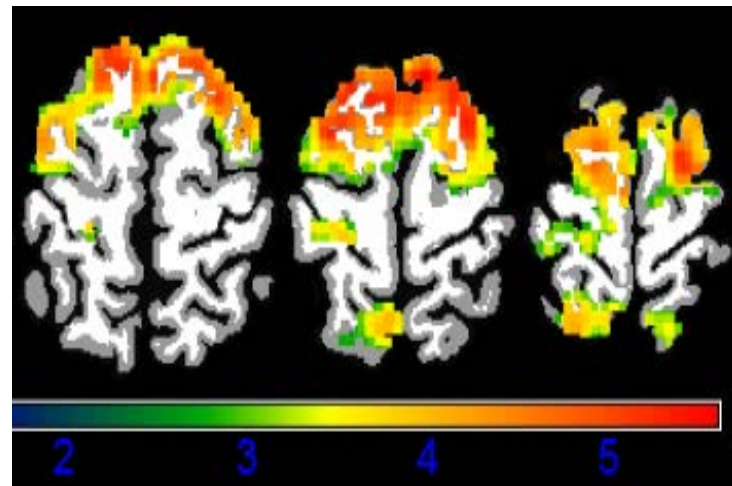
# Cerebral atrophy

- Smoking, pack yr



VETSA cohort, men, 56 y  
Prom-Wormley et al.  
*Behav Genet*, 2015

- air poll, PM2.5



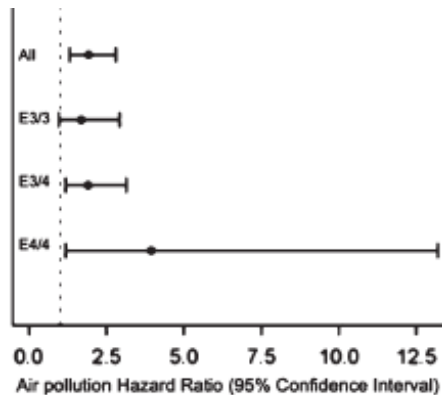
white matter loss 5 cm<sup>3</sup>/3.5 µgPM2.5/m<sup>3</sup>

WHIMS cohort, women, 70 y  
Casenova *FHN*, 2019



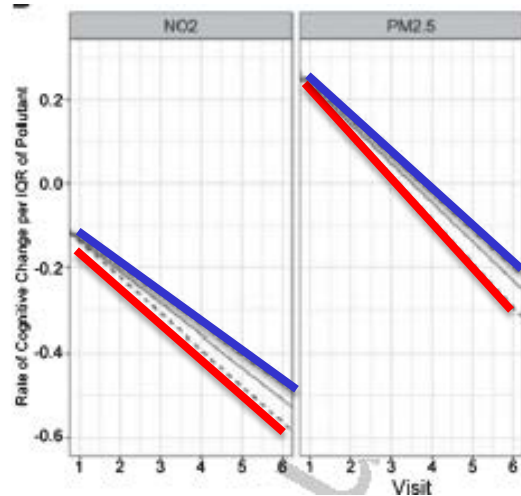
# air pollution accelerates cognitive aging in ApoE4

## WHIMS



Cacciottolo *Trans Psych* 2017;

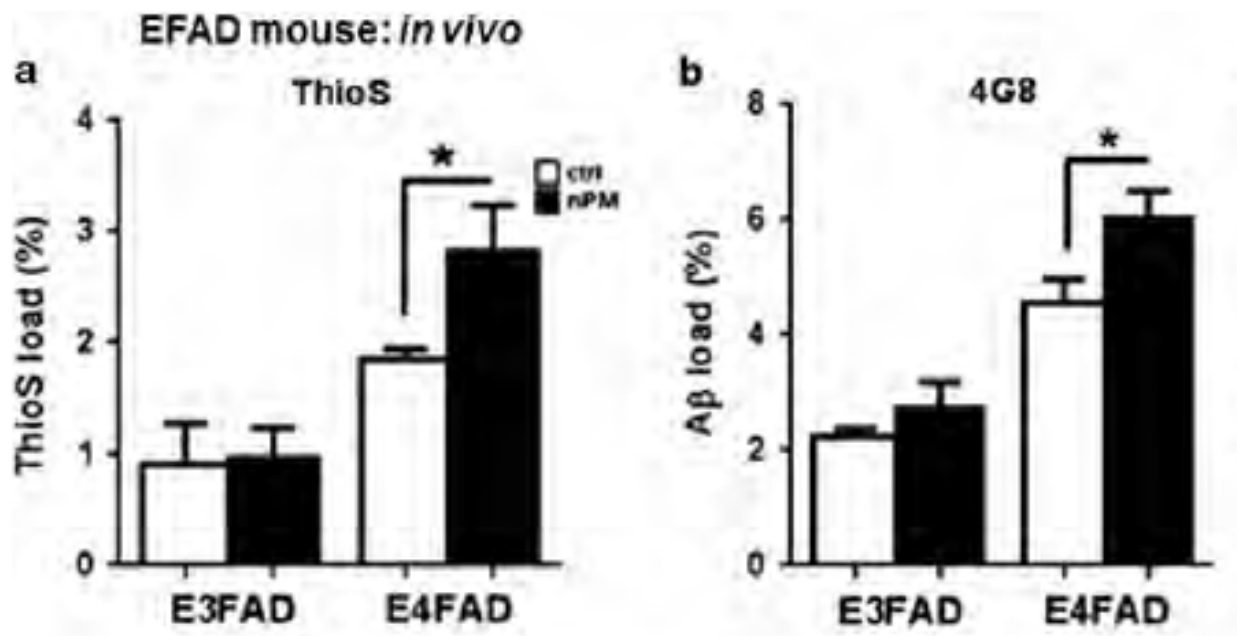
## WHICAP NO2 PM2.5



Kulick *Environ Int* 2020

E4  
E3

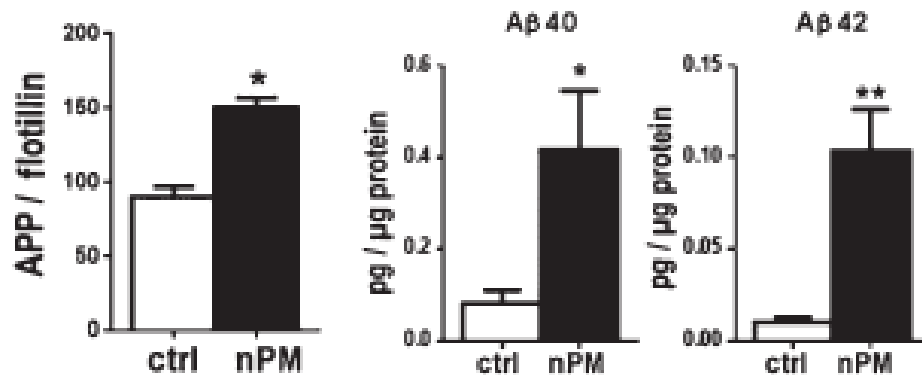
# Air Poll increases brain amyloid more in E4FAD mice



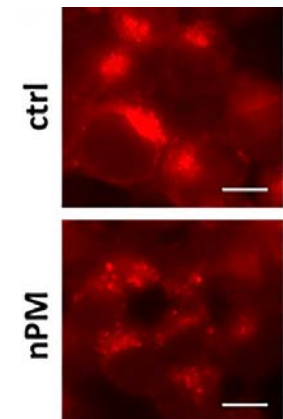
Cacciottolo et al 2017, *Transl Psych*

# nPM alters APP processing in lipid rafts pro-amyloidogenic pathways

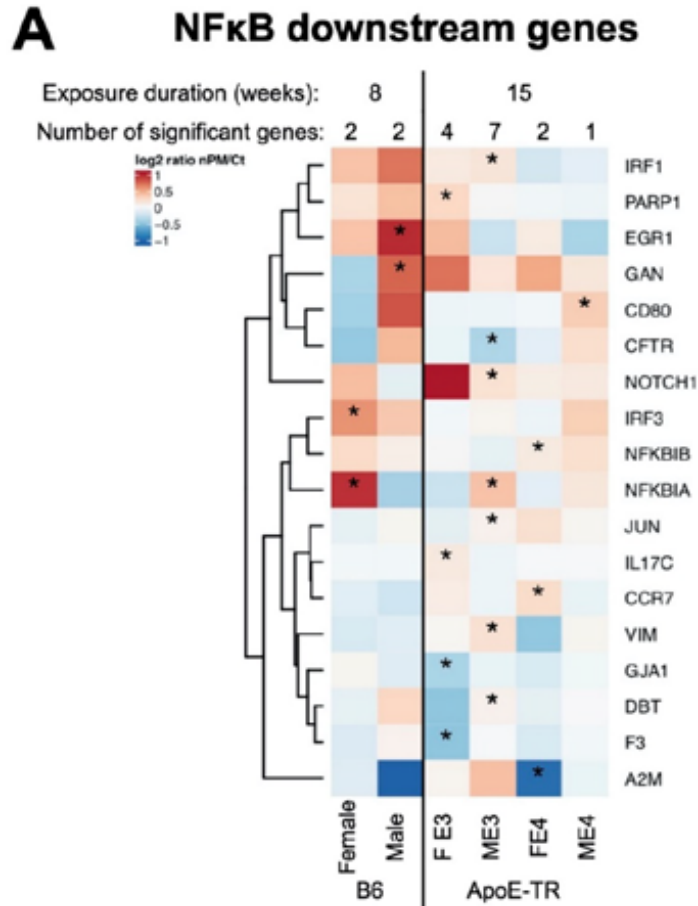
## Amyloidogenesis in lipid raft



## Lipid ganglioside

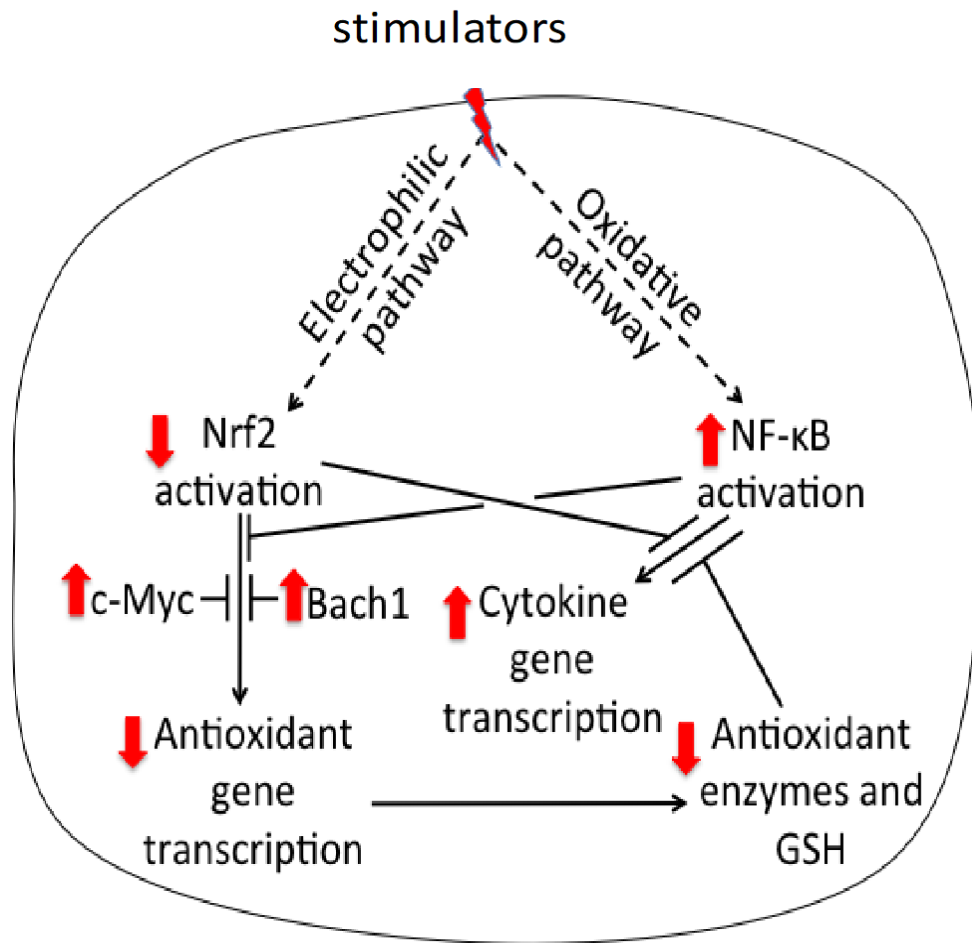


# NFkB path gene response to nPM differ by sex and ApoE



Haghani et al. *eLIFE*, in press

# AirPoll and CigS pathways



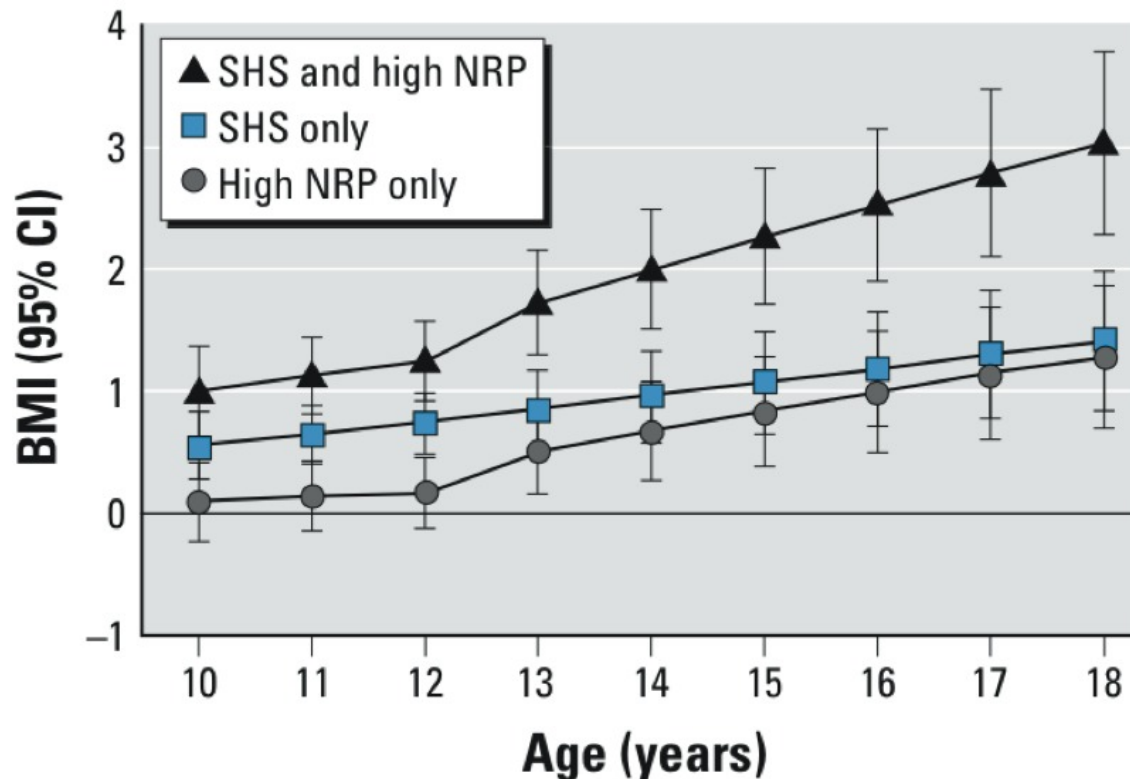
# Developmental impact with potential impact on brain aging

	Air Pollution	Cigarettes	Lead (Pb)
prematurity	+	++	++
autism spectrum	++		++
childhood obesity	++	++	
brain grey matter deficit	++		++
Atherosclerosis	++	++	
blood pressure, systolic	++	+++	+
DNA methylation	++	++	++

+, only human ; ++, human & rodent

Finch & Morgan *Ann Rev Devel Psych* 2020

# **Synergies: Childhood obesity greater than additive effects of secondhand tobacco smoke (SHS) & near roadway air pollution (NRP)**



# Synergies of PM2.5 and CigS

	Synergy	
Childhood BMI	1.3-fold	McConnell <i>EHP</i> 2105
Cancer of lung	2.3	Turner <i>AJE</i> 2015
Cognitive aging	1.9	Ailshire <i>AJE</i> 2014

Forman and Finch FRBM 2018



# Defining the personal exposome

- Residence level monitoring of air pollution

Oakland Study Apte *Env Sci Technol*, 2018

- Wearable detectors Michael Snyder (Stanford)

Personal aging markers & ageotypes by deep longitudinal profiling.

Ahadi *Nature Med* 2020

# Issues ahead

- Is impact on brain direct vs systemic
- SES and multiple morbidities on vulnerability
- Multigenerational impact
- Cohorts with unique exposure, e.g. lead (Pb)