

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Neuronal MHC-I display in T-cell mediated neurodegeneration

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From Molecular Neurodegeneration: Basic biology and disease pathways  
Cannes, France. 10-12 September 2013

Parkinson's disease (PD) and other disorders feature the degeneration of ventral midbrain (VM) catecholamine neurons. Recent data suggest that neuroinflammatory mechanisms contribute to a cascade of events leading to chronic neuronal degeneration.

In primary murine neuronal cultures, substantia nigra (SN) and locus coeruleus (LC) neurons are induced to express the major histocompatibility class I complex (MHC-I) by the proinflammatory cytokine,  $\gamma$ -interferon, L-DOPA, or conditioned medium from microglia exposed to  $\alpha$ -synuclein or NM. SN DA neurons, moreover, process the foreign protein ovalbumin to an antigenic peptide that is presented by their MHC-I and triggers their specific destruction by CD8<sup>+</sup> killer T-cells. In human postmortem samples, we find by immunolabel, mRNA profiling, and proteomic analysis that neuromelanin (NM)-containing catecholamine SN and LC neurons in adult human control and PD brains express MHC-I, often in proximity to CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells. These data reveal a novel inflammatory T-cell mediated neurodegenerative processes that could underlie neuronal death.

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Published: 13 September 2013

doi:10.1186/1750-1326-8-S1-P38

Cite this article as: Cebrián *et al.*: Neuronal MHC-I display in T-cell mediated neurodegeneration. *Molecular Neurodegeneration* 2013 **8**(Suppl 1):P38.

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