



"10th Meet the Experts: The Transporter
Conference - 2019" at JW Marriott Hotel, Seoul,
South Korea

12:40 - 13:20 (30 min + 10 min), Nov., 14, 2019

Keynote:

Regulation Mechanism of P-gp in the Blood-Brain Barrier

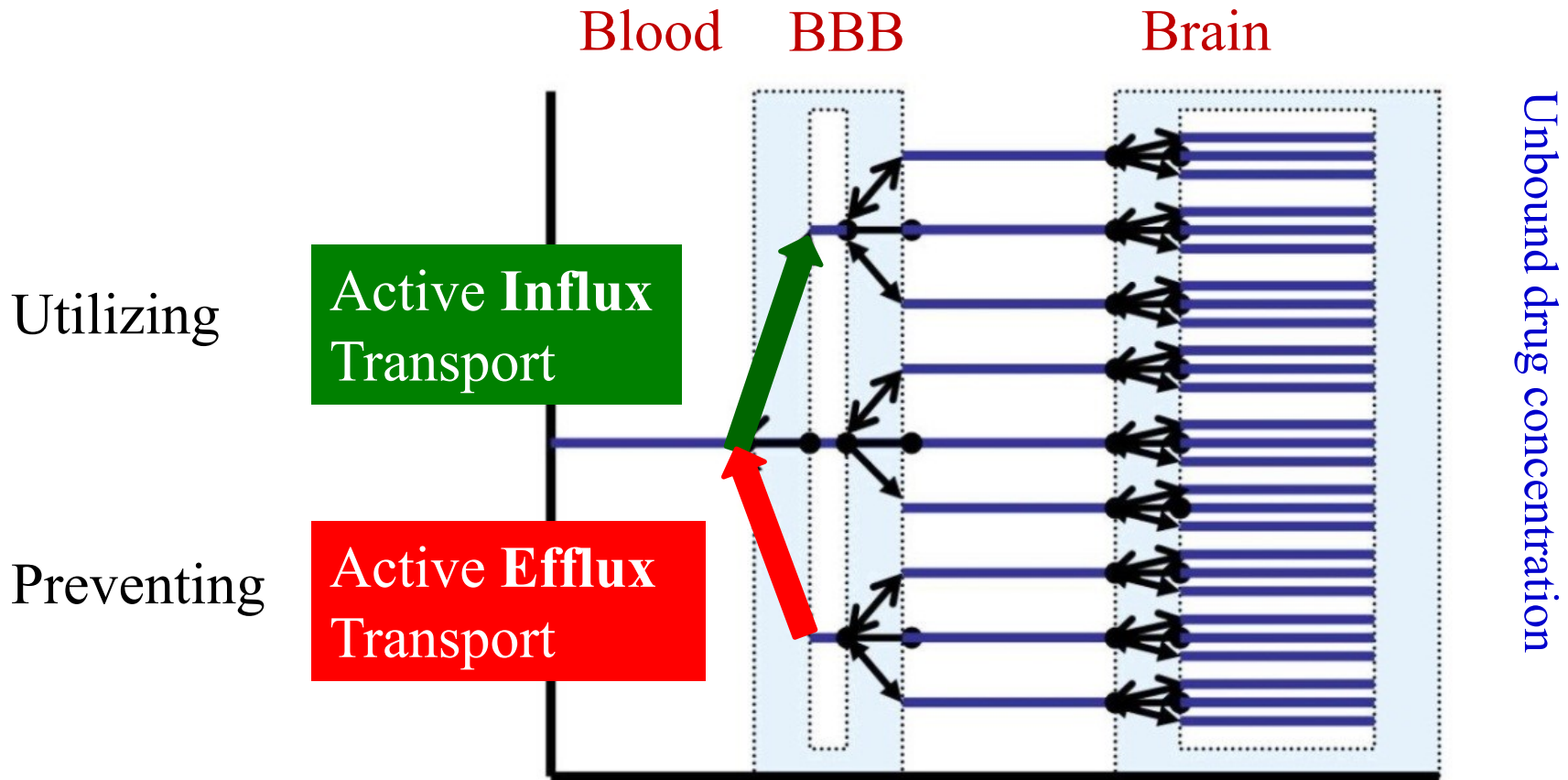
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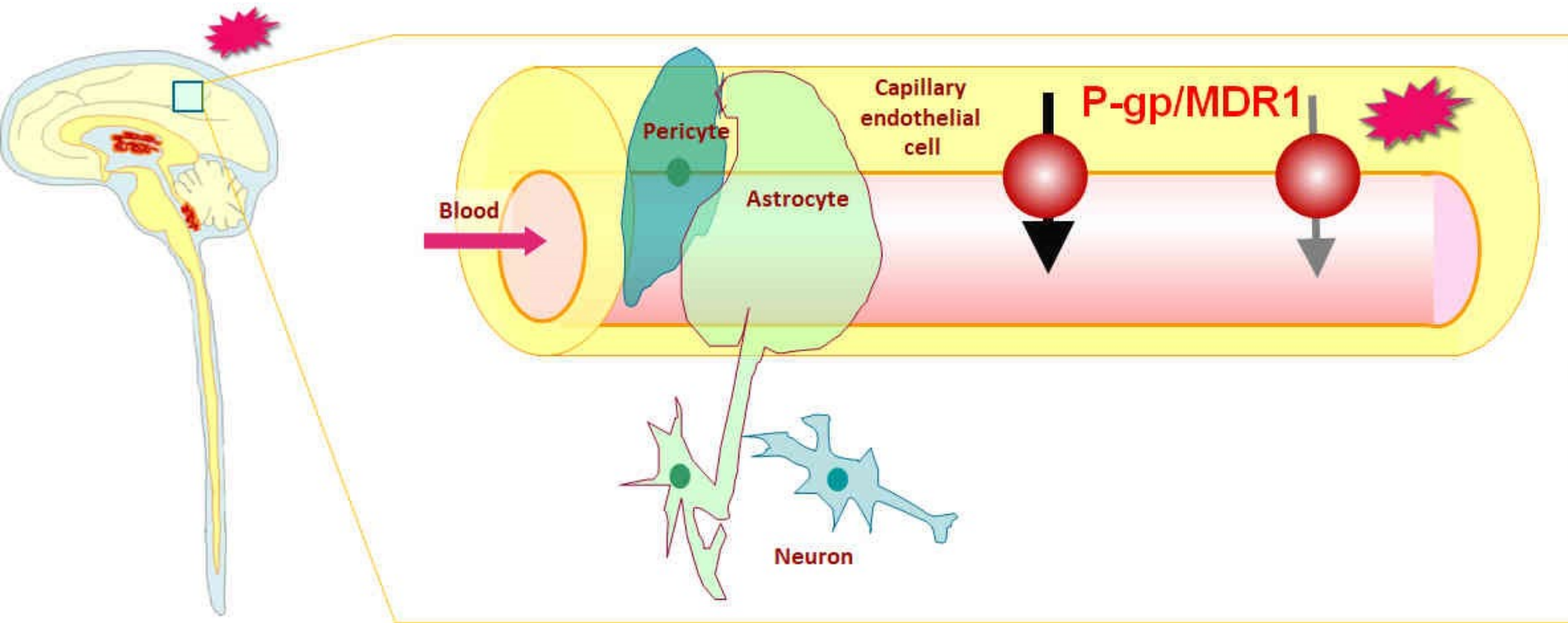
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BBB transport activity generate the unbound drug concentration gradient between brain and blood (K_p , u_u)



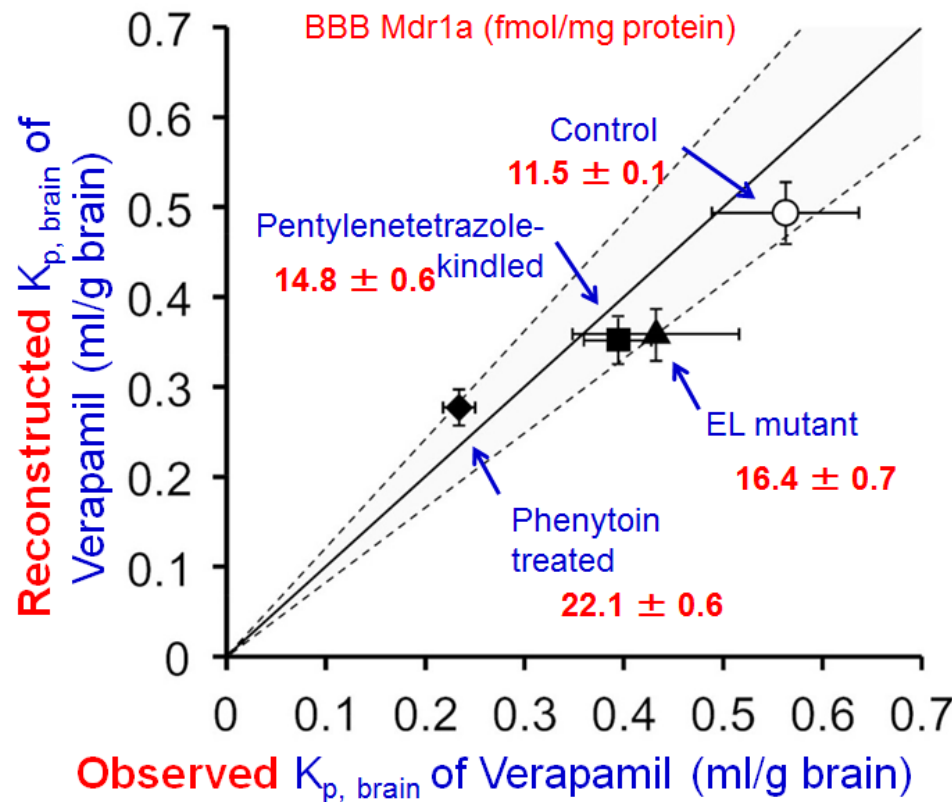
Now, we could reconstruct/predict the gradient (K_p , u_u) generated by P-gp efflux function in the animal model.

Understanding changes in transporter function and regulatory mechanisms at the blood-brain barrier (BBB) is important to predict and control drug uptake into the brain in patients with central nervous system (CNS) diseases.

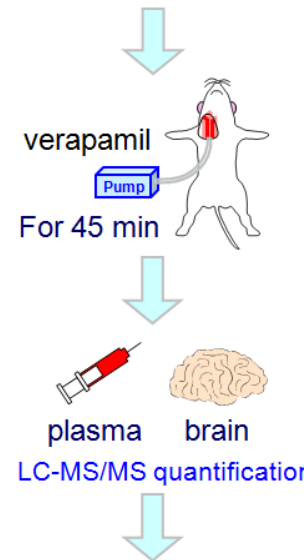


P-glycoprotein (P-gp) is the most important drug efflux transporter at the BBB. However, P-gp transport activity is altered in several CNS diseases.

Assuming the intrinsic P-gp activity is the same to that of normal mice, a significant coincidence was demonstrated for the observed $K_{p, \text{brain}}$ and the reconstructed $K_{p, \text{brain}}$ values of verapamil in PTZ-kindled, EL, PHT-treated, and control mice



i.p. injection once a day with PTZ (30 mg/kg/day) or PHT (50 mg/kg/day) for 5 weeks



$$K_{p, \text{brain}} = \frac{\text{Brain concentration}}{\text{Plasma concentration}}$$

Chronic phase

5 weeks treatment

Cited from our paper published in Drug Metab Dispos. 42: 1719-1726 (2014).

Induction of P-gp protein is determinant for in vivo P-gp efflux activity in the epileptic model and Phenytoin treated mouse.

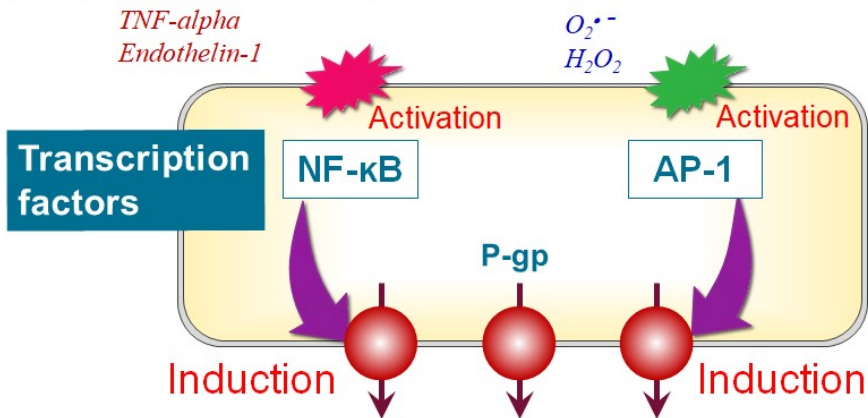
Molecular mechanism of induction will be

Glutamate initiated; $\text{Nf}\kappa\text{B}$

Drug initiated; Nuclear receptor

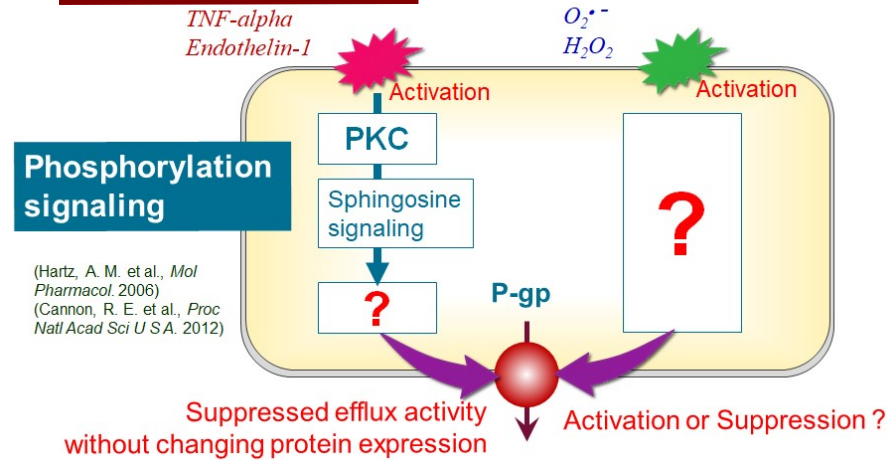
Inflammation and oxidative stress are associated with a variety of CNS disease.

Chronic phase (hour~day)



NF- κ B and AP-1 are known to be the key molecules of P-gp induction in the chronic disorder

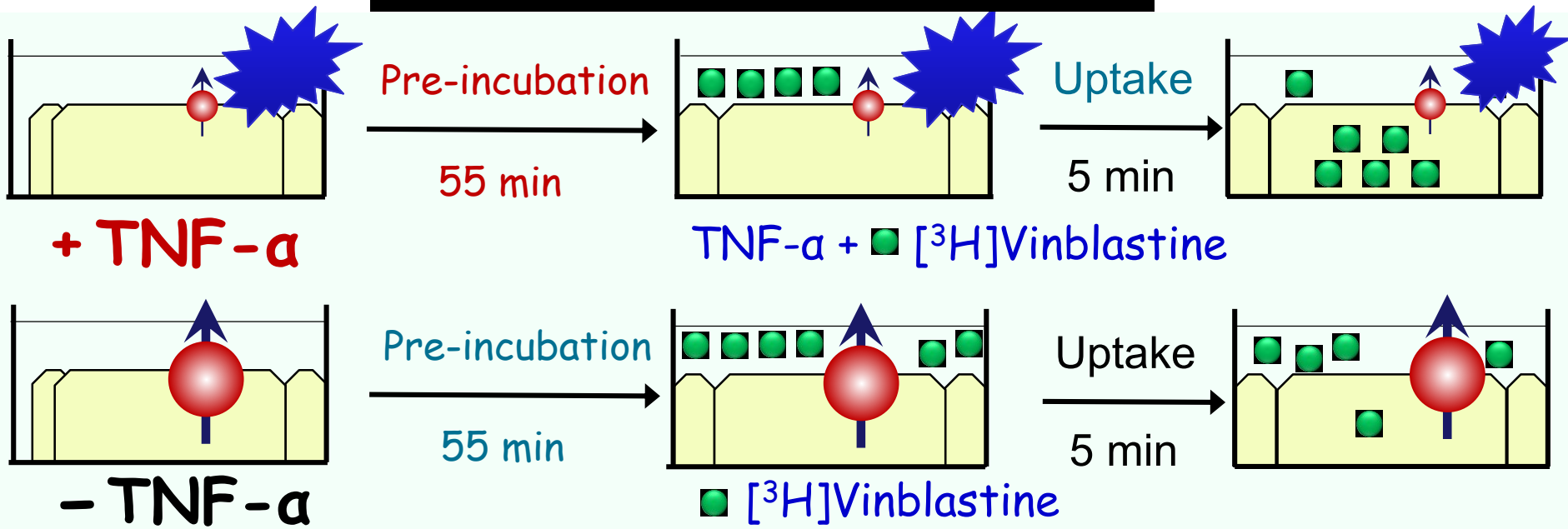
Acute phase (min~hour)



Only limited information is available for the regulatory mechanism of P-gp function in the acute phase of CNS disorder

- ✓ The purpose of the present work was to clarify regulatory mechanism in inflammatory or oxidative stress-induced decrease in apparent P-gp/MDR1 efflux function in human brain capillary endothelial cells.
- ✓ *TNF-alpha* treatment and *hydrogen peroxide* treatment were used for inflammation model and oxidative stress model, respectively.

TNF- α effect was evaluated



P-gp efflux activity was estimated from the difference of substrate accumulation in the presence and absence of P-gp inhibitor

$$= \text{[3H]Vinblastine accumulation with PSC833} - \text{[3H]Vinblastine accumulation without PSC833}$$

+ PSC833 **- PSC833**

Inflammation model:

TNF- α (10 ng/mL \times 1 hour) treatment

In vitro human BBB model:

hCMEC/D3 cell line

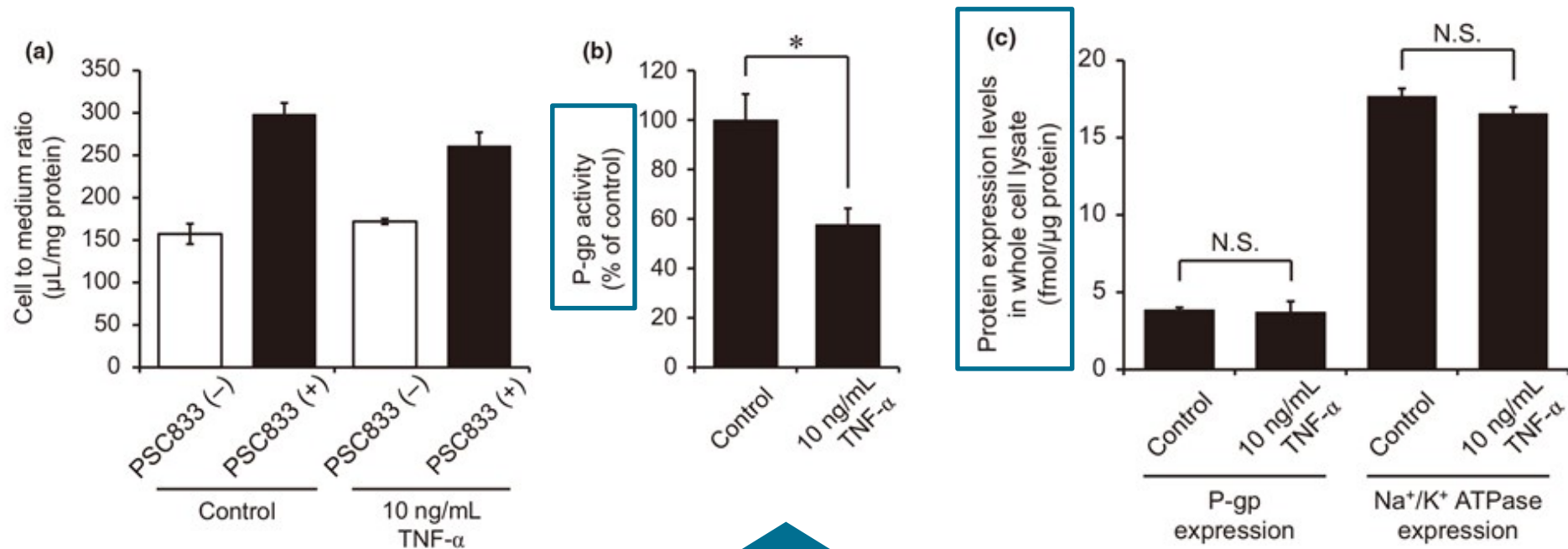
P-gp substrate :

[3H]Vinblastine

P-gp inhibitor :

PSC833

Effect of inflammatory mediator tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) on P-gp efflux activity and protein expression level in hCMEC/D3 cells



TNF- α treatment reduced P-gp efflux activity significantly



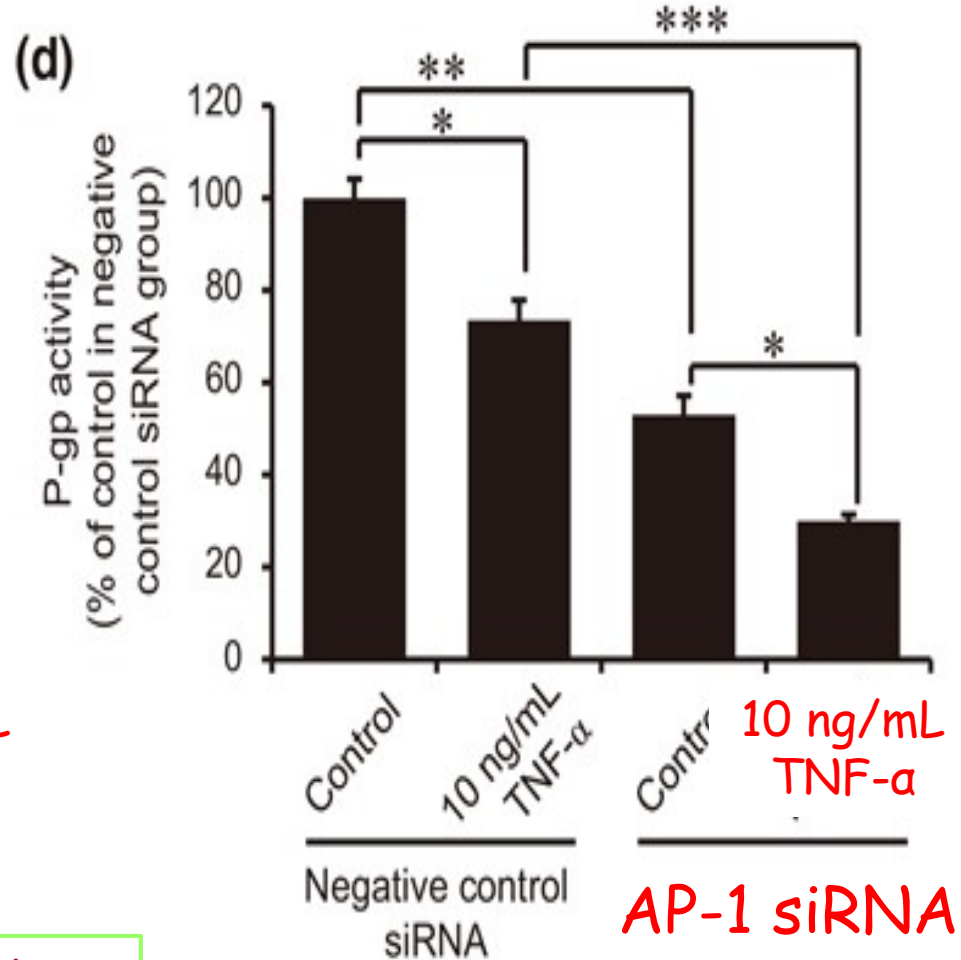
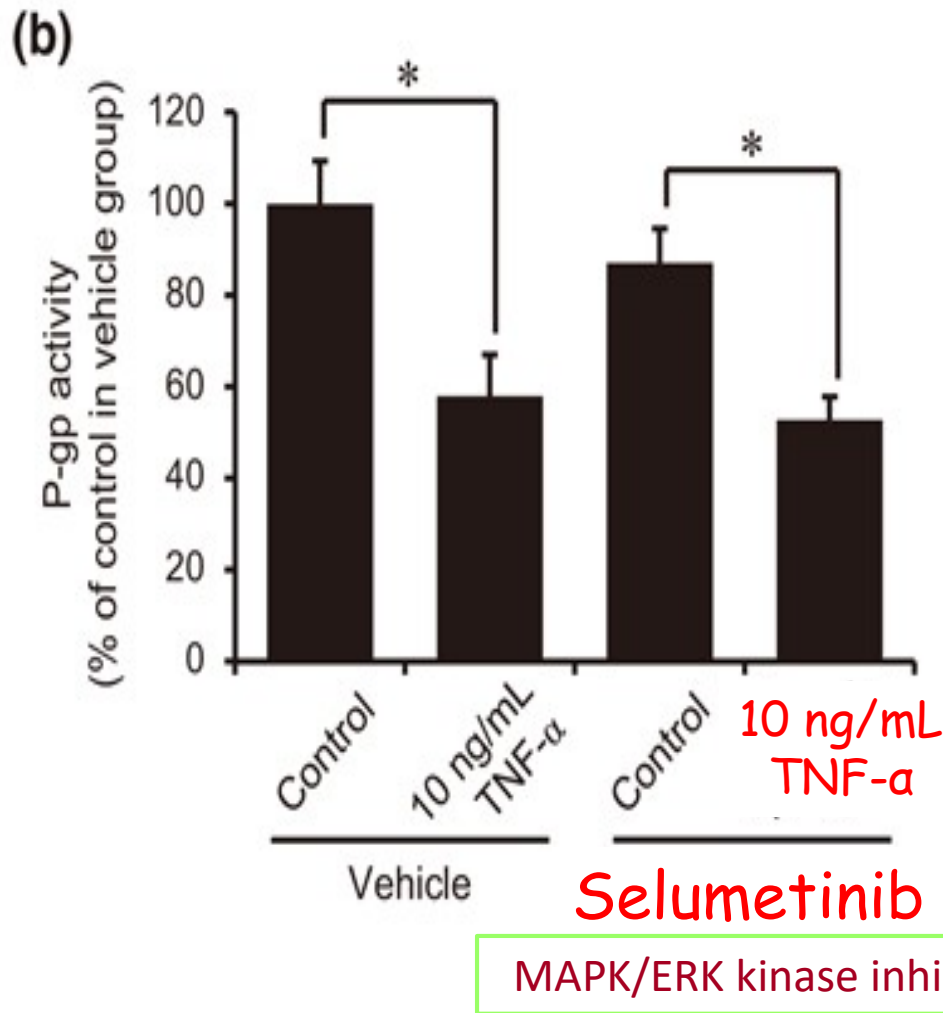
P-gp protein expression was not changed

To clarify the non-transcriptional mechanism that causes the decrease of intrinsic efflux activity of P-gp in acute inflammation, we applied comprehensive quantitative phosphoproteomics to compare hCMEC/D3 cells treated with TNF- α and vehicle (control).

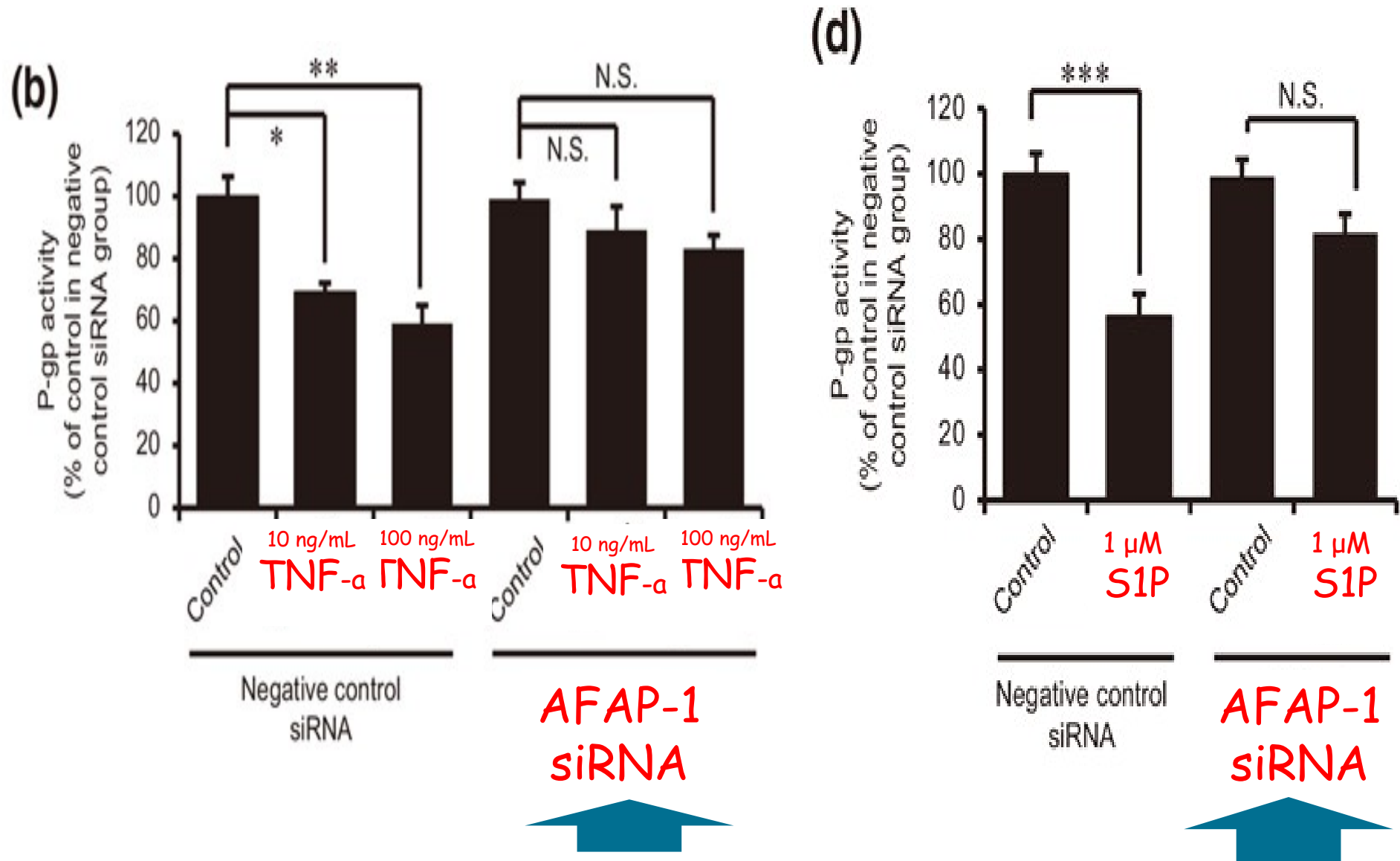
Table 3 Three candidate proteins selected based on the results of phosphoproteomic analysis

Protein name		Peak intensity ratio (10 ng/mL TNF- α /control)	
		1 h treatment	6 h treatment
Actin filament-associated protein 1 (AFAP-1)	AFAP-1	x 3.96 increase	Not detected ^a
Mitogen-activated protein kinase 1 (MAPK)	MAPK	x 3.03 increase	Not detected ^a
Transcription factor AP-1 (AP-1)	AP-1	x 5.08 increase	2.74
		x 4.09 increase	5.28

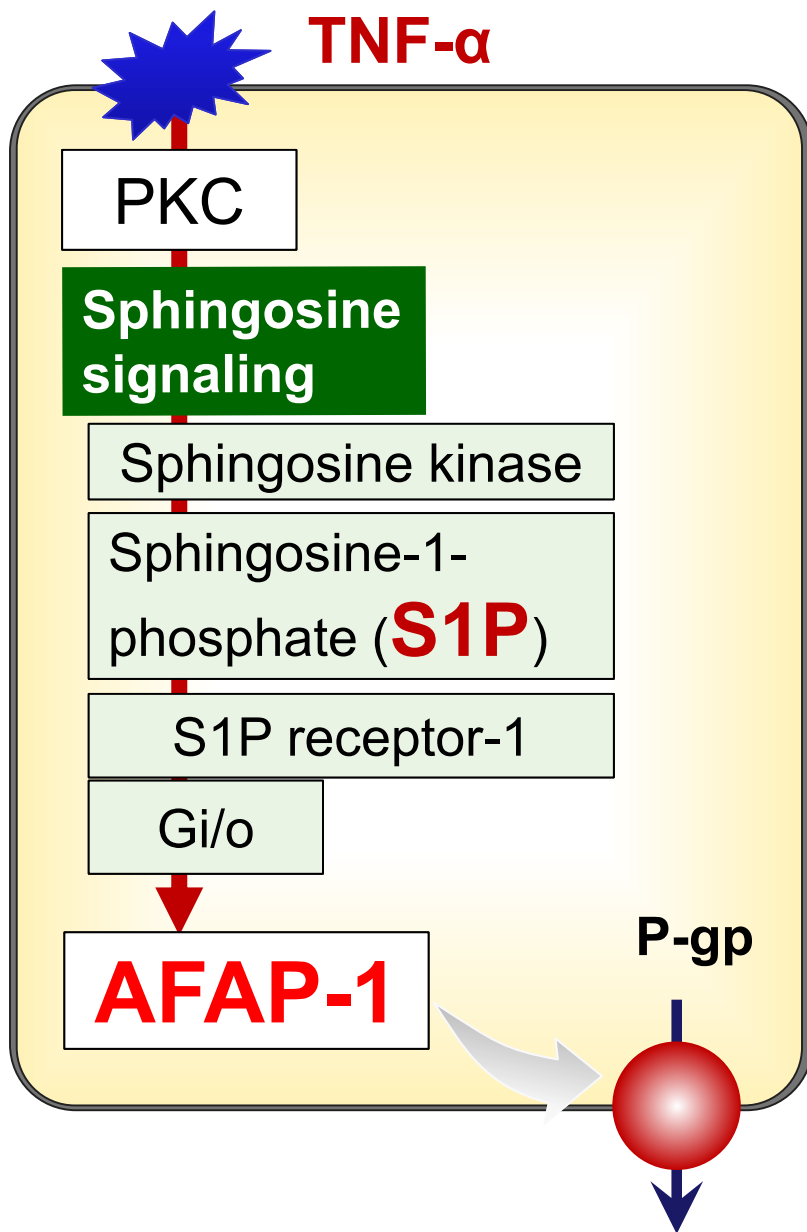
Actin filament-associated protein-1 (AFAP-1), MAPK1, and transcription factor AP-1 (AP-1) were significantly phosphorylated in TNF- α -treated cells, and were selected as candidate proteins.



Attenuation of P-gp efflux activity by TNF- α was **NOT** blocked by **MAPK** inhibitor or **AP-1** depletion.



Attenuation of P-gp efflux activity by TNF- α or sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) was **blocked** by **knockdown of AFAP-1**



Among the molecules identified in the inflammatory signaling pathway regulating the P-gp efflux activity at the BBB, S1P, and its receptor are located downstream of PKC activation (Cannon et al. 2012).

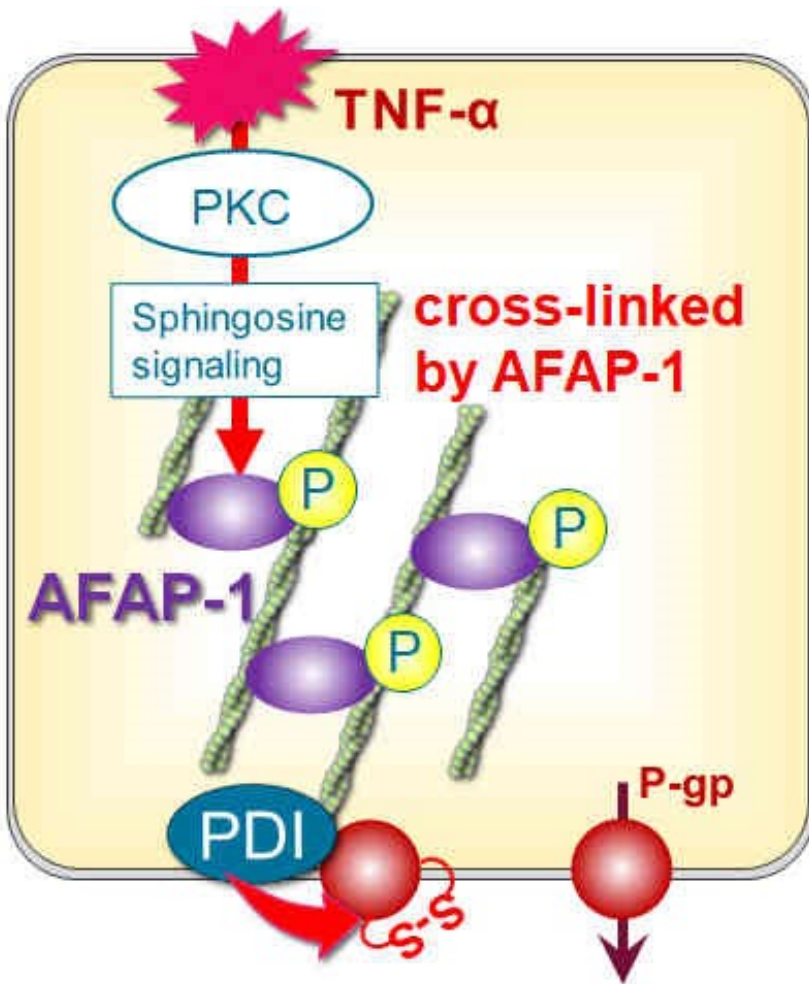
The AFAP-1 siRNA treatment attenuated the reduction in P-gp efflux activity by S1P, supporting the idea that **AFAP-1** is located downstream of S1P.

(Hartz, A. M. et al., *Mol Pharmacol.* 2006)

(Cannon, R. E. et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2012)

- ✓ AFAP-1 protein was detected only in the cytosol fraction, whereas P-gp was localized mostly in the plasma membrane fraction.
- ✓ AFAP-1 may not directly regulate P-gp function at the plasma membrane.

Protein name	Subcellular fraction	Protein expression levels (fmol/ μ g protein)			
		Negative control siRNA		AFAP-1 siRNA	
		Vehicle	10 ng/mL TNF- α	Vehicle	10 ng/mL TNF- α
AFAP-1	Cytosol fraction	1.58 \pm 0.22	1.50 \pm 0.22 ^{N.S.}	ULQ (< 0.495)	ULQ (< 0.493)
	Plasma membrane fraction	ULQ (< 0.552)	ULQ (< 0.556)	ULQ (< 0.552)	ULQ (< 0.562)
	Whole-cell lysate	ULQ (< 0.592)	ULQ (< 0.566)	ULQ (< 0.590)	ULQ (< 0.606)
P-gp	Cytosol fraction	ULQ (< 0.659)	ULQ (< 0.679)	ULQ (< 0.668)	ULQ (< 0.704)
	Plasma membrane fraction	8.47 \pm 0.22	9.67 \pm 0.93 ^{N.S.}	11.4 \pm 1.0	10.7 \pm 0.4 ^{N.S.}
	Whole-cell lysate	2.01 \pm 0.29	2.11 \pm 0.16 ^{N.S.}	2.62 \pm 0.25	2.27 \pm 0.02 ^{N.S.}
Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase	Cytosol fraction	ULQ (< 0.659)	ULQ (< 0.718)	ULQ (< 0.667)	ULQ (< 0.757)
	Plasma membrane fraction	51.4 \pm 2.8	53.0 \pm 1.9 ^{N.S.}	54.0 \pm 2.3	49.5 \pm 3.5 ^{N.S.}
	Whole-cell lysate	12.6 \pm 0.9	11.9 \pm 0.2 ^{N.S.}	13.5 \pm 0.2	14.6 \pm 1.0 ^{N.S.}

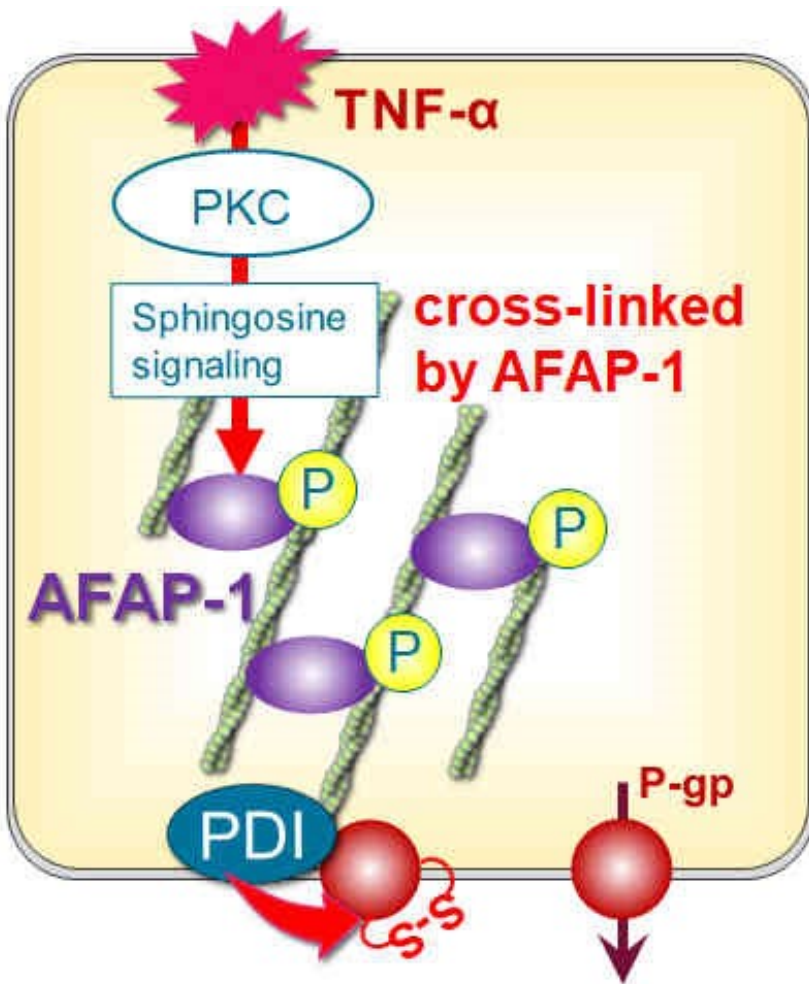


Reduce P-gp activity

- ✓ Recently, protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) was identified as P-gp binding protein in rat brain microvessels (Tome et al. 2015). PDI was reported to interact with β -actin (Sobierajska et al. 2014).
- ✓ Cell surface expression of PDI was inhibited by actin filament disruption (Wan et al. 2012) and because AFAP-1 is necessary to form the actin stress fibers (Dorfleutner et al. 2007).

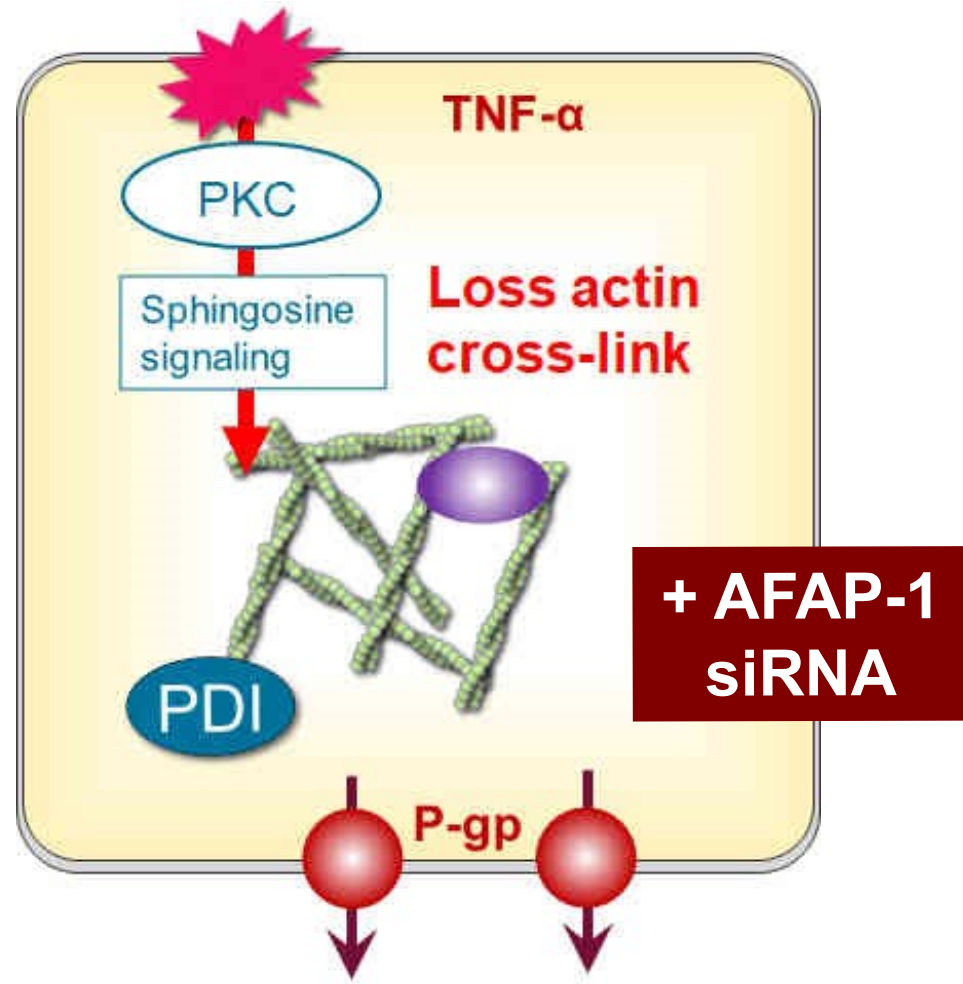
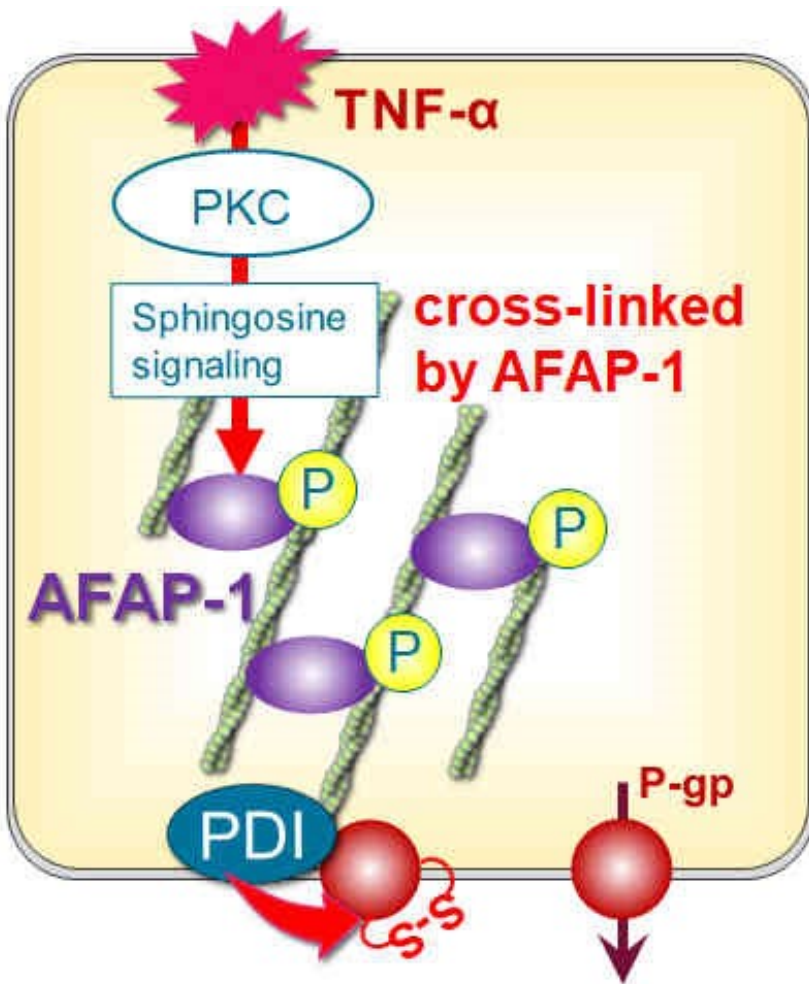
- ✓ These findings raise the possibility that **AFAP-1 is associated with the interaction between P-gp and PDI through the actin filaments.**

(Tome, M. E et al., *J Neurochem.* 2015) (Sobierajska, K. et al., *J Biol Chem.* 2014) (Dorfleutner A. et al., *J Cell Physiol.* 2007) (Wan SW. et al., *J Cell Biochem.* 2012) (Wilkinson, B. and Gilbert, H. F. et al., *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 2004) (Urbatsch, I. L. et al., *J Biol Chem.* 2001)



- ✓ Interestingly, the ATPase activity of purified wild-type P-gp was activated by dithiothreitol, which can reduce disulfide bonds (Urbatsch et al. 2001).
- ✓ The primary role of PDI is introducing disulfide bonds into proteins (Wilkinson and Gilbert 2004).
- ✓ This may indicate that **the formation of disulfide bonds in human wildtype P-gp keeps the ATPase activity low.**

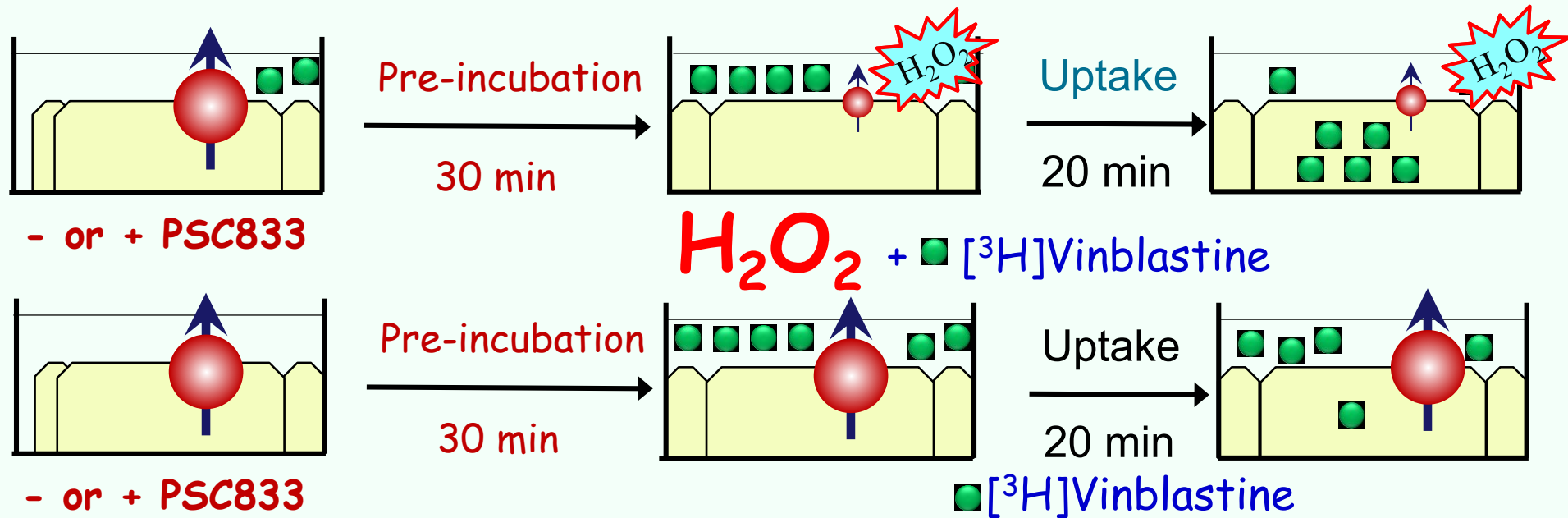
(Tome, M. E et al., *J Neurochem.* 2015) (Sobierajska, K. et al., *J Biol Chem.* 2014) (Dorfleutner A. et al., *J Cell Physiol.* 2007) (Wan SW. et al., *J Cell Biochem.* 2012) (Wilkinson, B. and Gilbert, H. F. et al., *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 2004) (Urbatsch, I. L. et al., *J Biol Chem.* 2001)



Reduce P-gp activity

In conclusion, AFAP-1 is a key molecule in the TNF- α -mediated inflammatory signaling pathway that leads to a rapid decrease in P-gp intrinsic transport activity without its translocation in human brain capillary endothelial cells.

H_2O_2 effect was evaluated



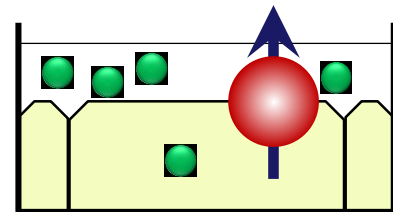
P-gp efflux activity was estimated from the difference of Vinblastine accumulation in the presence and absence of P-gp inhibitor

$$= \text{+ PSC833} - \text{- PSC833}$$

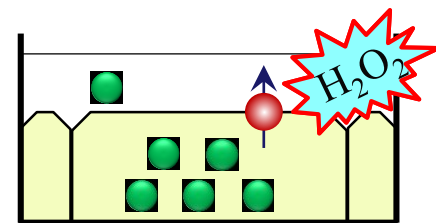
Oxidative stress model: H_2O_2 (0.05 ~ 5 mM x 20 min) treatment
 In vitro human BBB model: hCMEC/D3 cell line
 P-gp substrate : $[^3H]$ Vinblastine
 P-gp inhibitor : PSC833

Oxidative stress to the P-gp function in the BBB

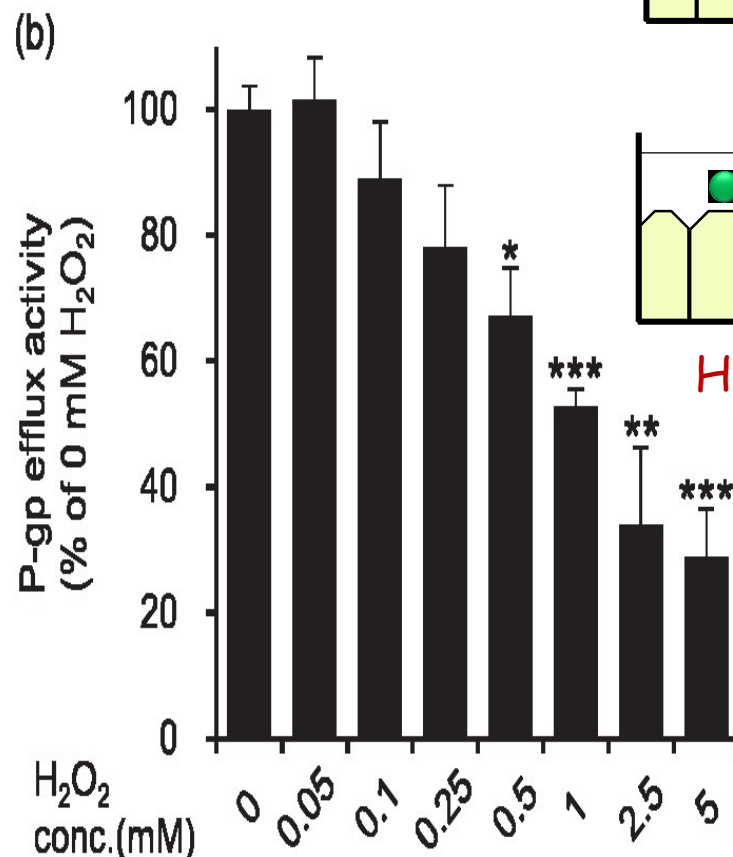
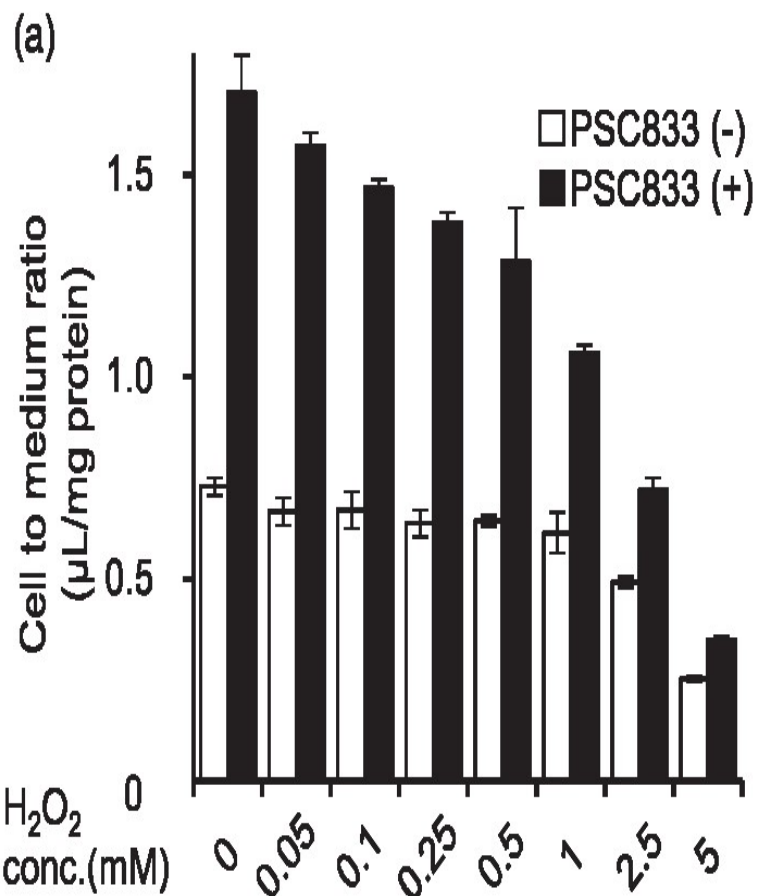
■ $[^3\text{H}]$ Vinblastine



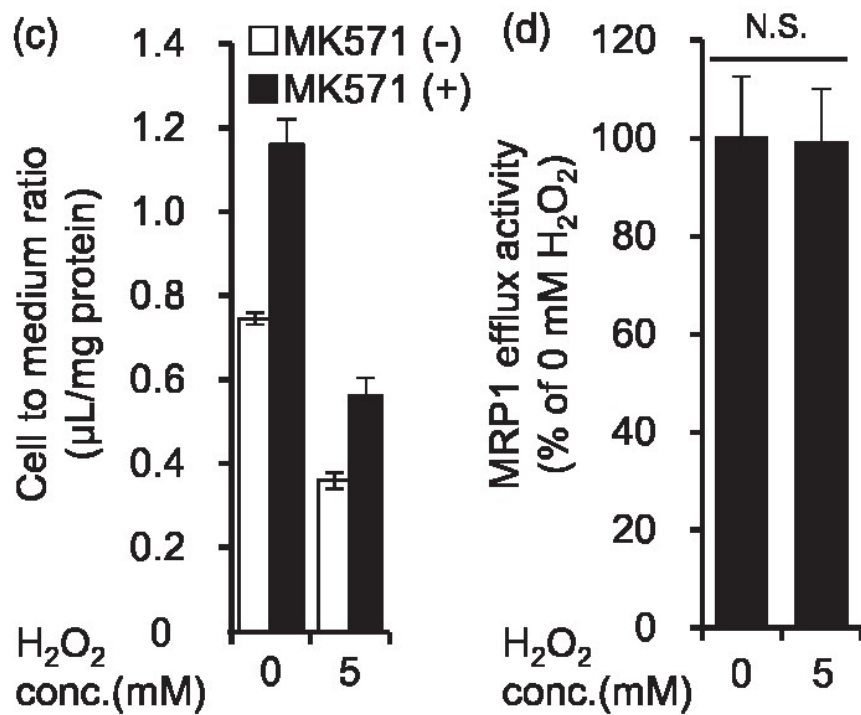
Control



H_2O_2 treated



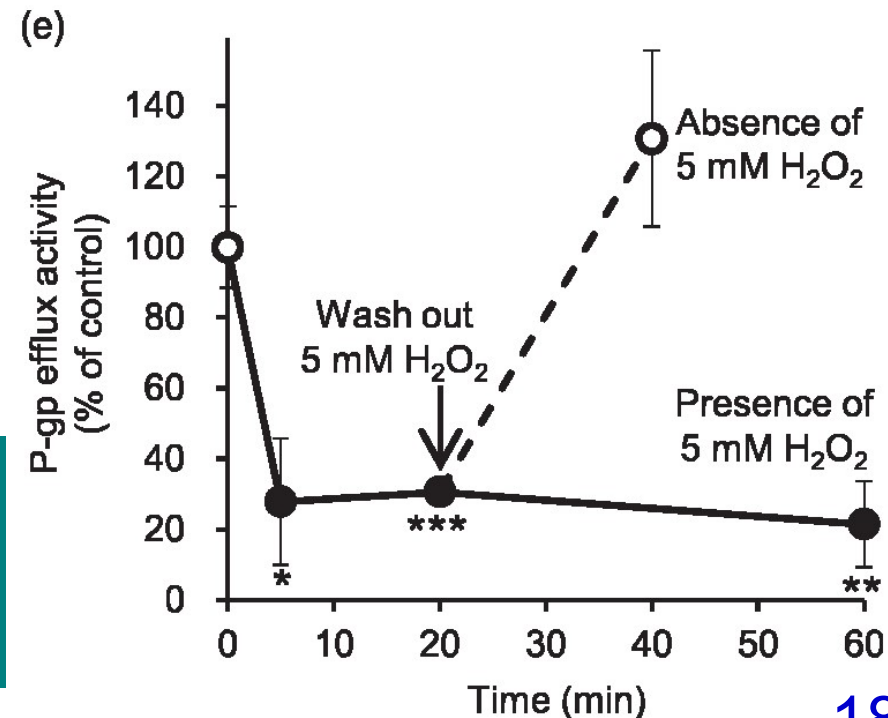
P-gp efflux activity (PSC833 sensitive vinblastine efflux) of the human CMEC/D3 was reduced by H_2O_2 treatment in a concentration dependent manner



We also examined the effect of MK571, an inhibitor of multidrug resistance-associated protein (MRP) transporters. The MK571-sensitive vinblastine efflux transport activity was not affected by treatment with 5mM H_2O_2 for 20 min.

The reduction of vinblastine efflux transport activity by H_2O_2 **does not involve MRP transporters**

The decrease of P-gp efflux transport activity by H_2O_2 is both **rapid and reversible**.

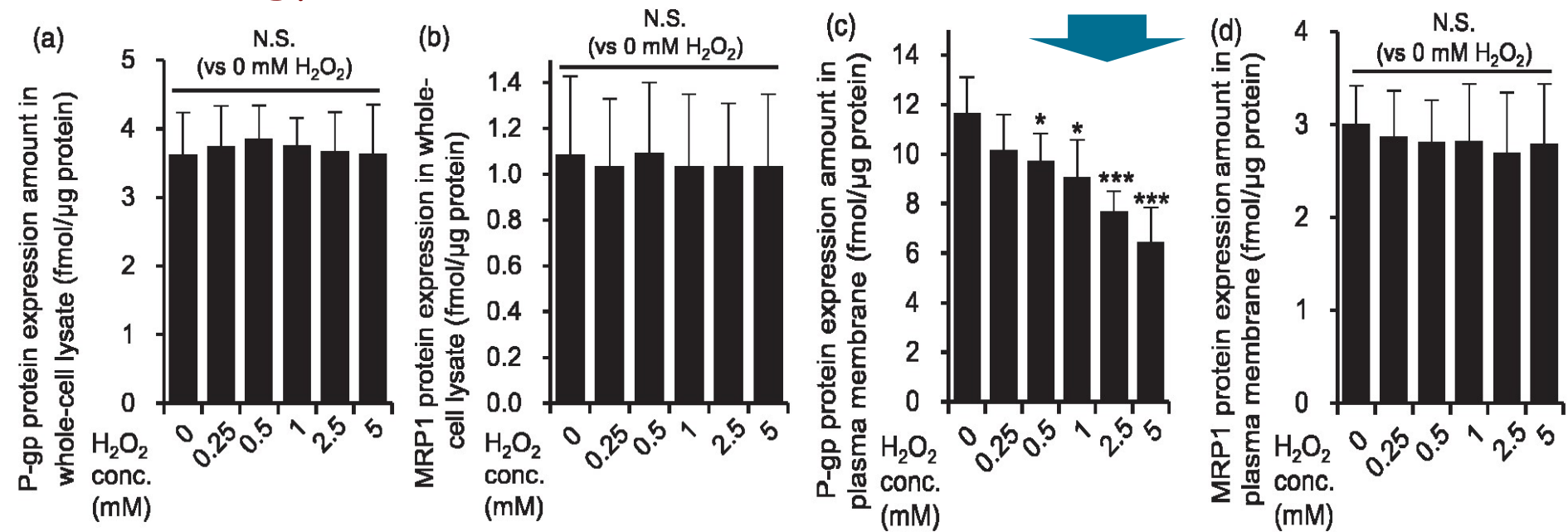


P-gp

MRP1

P-gp

MRP1

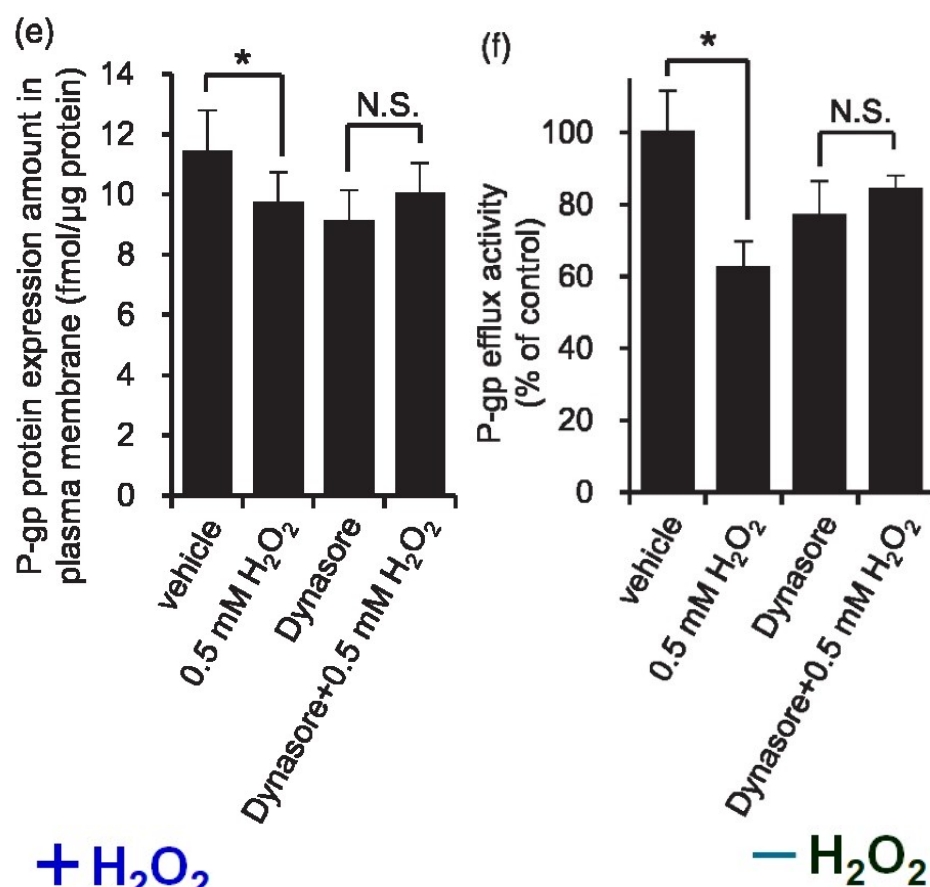


Protein amount in whole cell

Protein amount in plasma membrane

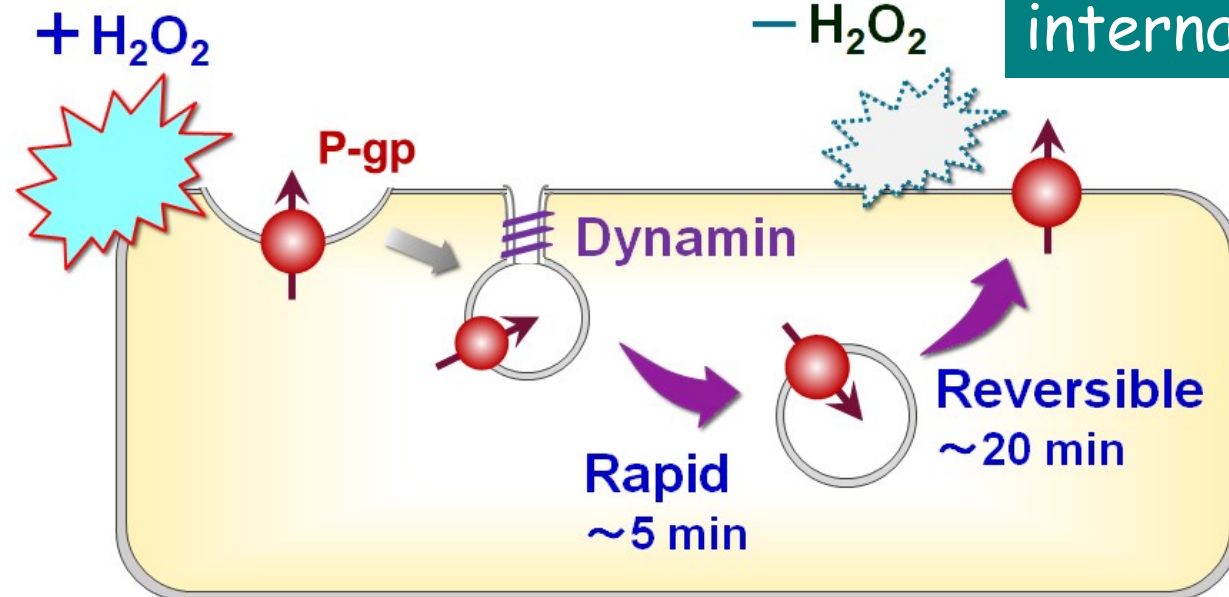
The P-gp protein expression amount in whole-cell lysate did not change during treatment with H_2O_2 . In contrast, P-gp in the plasma membrane fraction was decreased in a H_2O_2 concentration-dependent manner. There was no change in MRP1 expression either in whole-cell lysate or in plasma membrane fraction.

H_2O_2 induces a change of P-gp localization from the cell membrane to an intracellular site.



Dynasore (dynamin GTPase inhibitor) significantly suppressed the decrease of P-gp efflux transport activity and P-gp protein expression in plasma membrane by 0.5mM H_2O_2 .

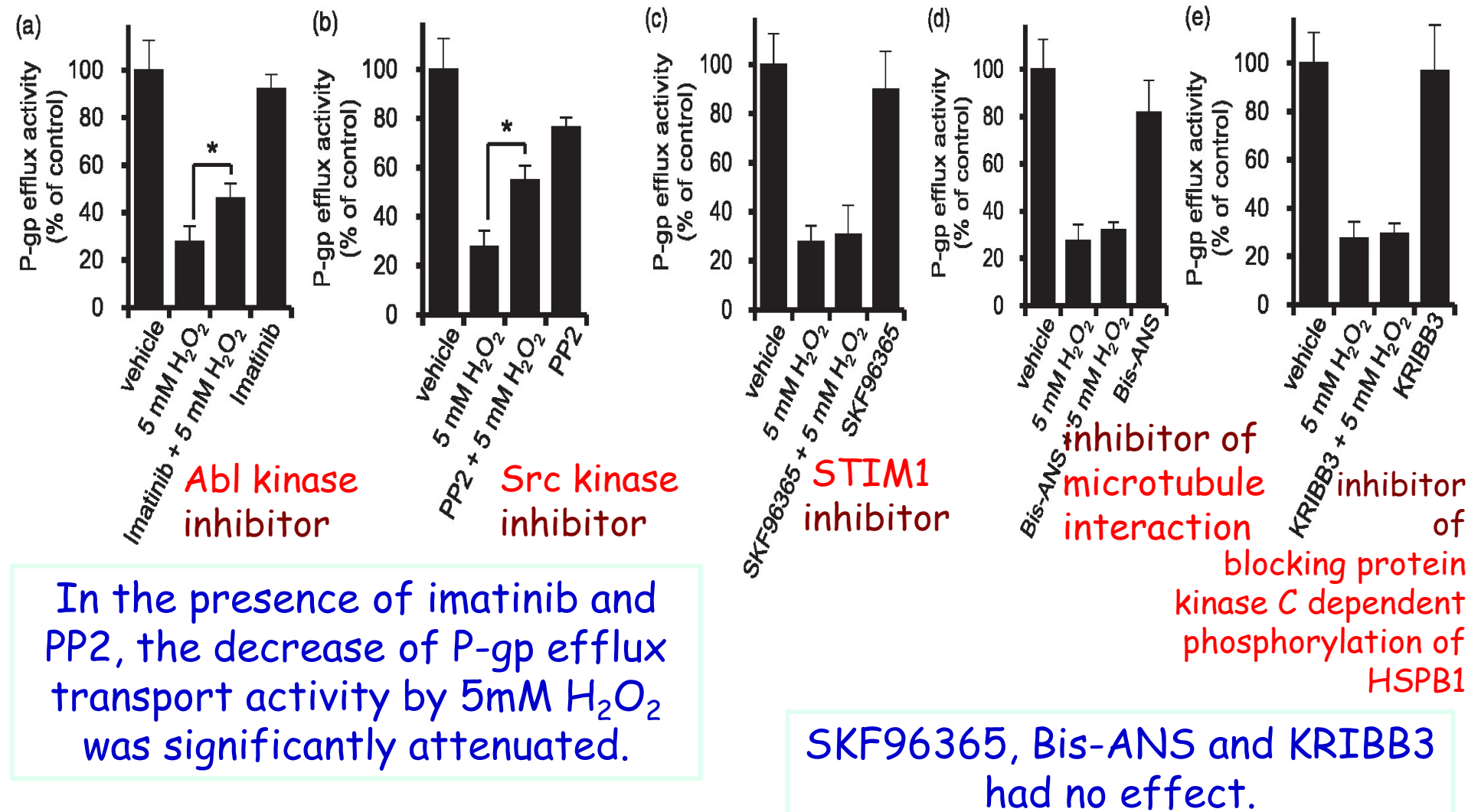
The reduction of P-gp efflux transport activity by H_2O_2 is due to dynamin-dependent internalization of P-gp.



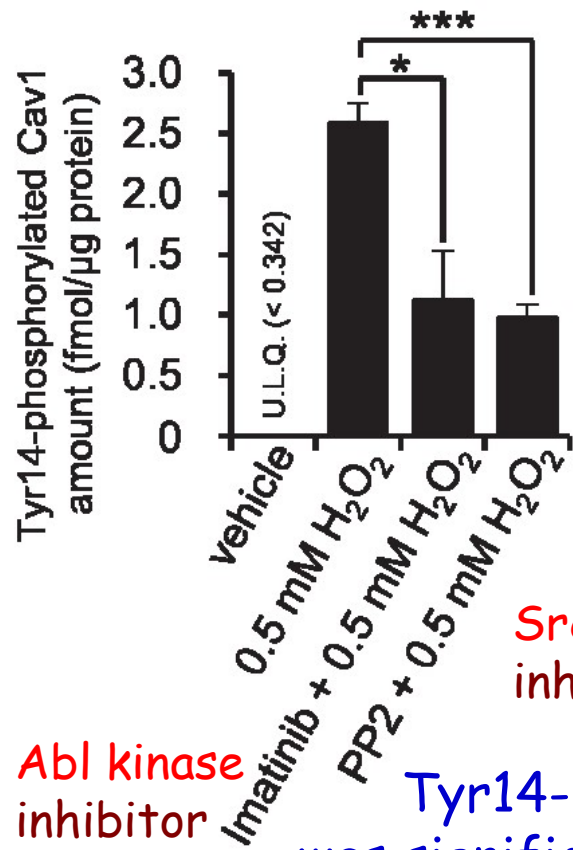
- ✓ Since phosphorylation is a rapid and transient regulatory mechanism, we hypothesized that it could play a role in the change of P-gp efflux function in response to oxidative stress.
- ✓ To find candidate substrates, we conducted comprehensive comparative phosphoproteomics.
- ✓ We focused on the nine phosphorylated proteins that commonly changed their phosphorylation levels in cells treated with 0.5mM and with 5mM H_2O_2 .

✓ Among them, we further examined four for which phosphorylation inhibitors are available: **Cav1**, stromal interaction molecule 1 (**STIM1**), microtubule-associated protein 4 (**MAP4**), and heat shock factor binding protein 1 (**HSBP1**).

Description		H ₂ O ₂ Conc.	Average peak intensity (cps)		Peak intensity ratio (H ₂ O ₂ /control)	Students <i>t</i> -test p-value
			H ₂ O ₂	Control		
Caveolin-1 (Cav1)		0.5 mM	6221	319	19.5	6.28E-06
		5 mM	16817	878	19.2	2.43E-05
		0.5 mM	5901	582	10.1	6.29E-05
Stromal interaction molecule 1 (STIM1)		5 mM	13395	402	33.3	2.69E-06
		0.5 mM	7993	1708	4.68	7.70E-05
	Nuclear mitotic apparatus protein 1	5 mM	15812	2260	7.00	2.05E-03
DENN domain- containing protein 4C		0.5 mM	2151	523	4.11	6.01E-04
		5 mM	4721	535	8.83	9.61E-06
		0.5 mM	14773	2730	5.41	1.36E-03
Microtubule-associated protein 4 (MAP4)		5 mM	12494	3054	4.09	1.92E-04
		0.5 mM	3312	849	3.9	9.57E-03
	Platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule	5 mM	33236	1545	21.5	1.01E-06
Myelin protein zero- like protein 1		0.5 mM	6495	1878	3.46	1.22E-04
		5 mM	15034	3492	4.31	2.94E-06
		0.5 mM	51592	15842	3.26	2.12E-04
Heat shock factor binding protein 1 (HSBP1)		5 mM	129024	21109	6.11	7.66E-07
		0.5 mM	513	3022	0.17	5.60E-05
	Proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase Src	5 mM	15848	5172	3.06	1.49E-02



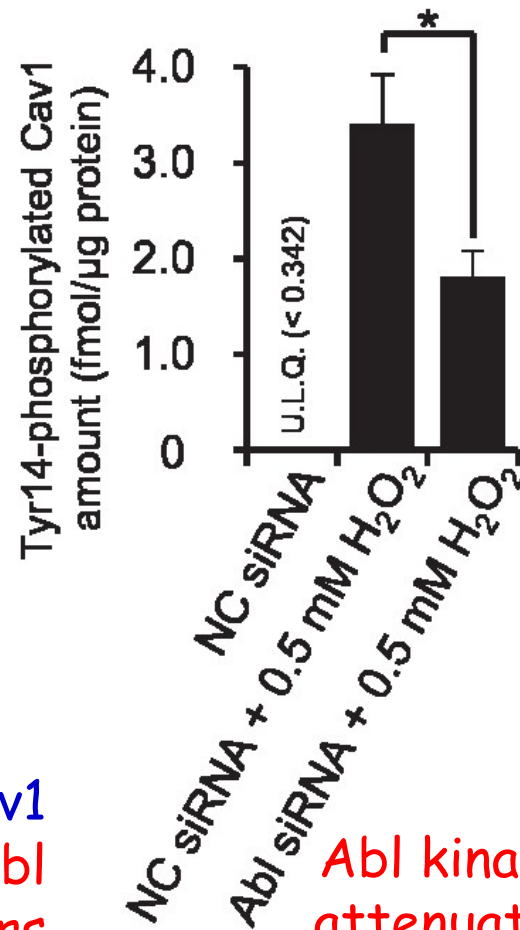
Phosphorylation of Cav1 by Abl kinase and Src kinase is involved in the decrease of P-gp function at the BBB under acute oxidative stress.



Abl kinase inhibitor

Src kinase inhibitor

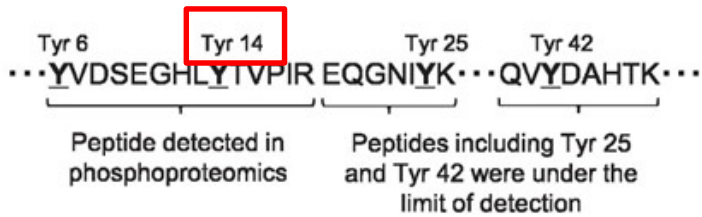
Tyr14-phosphorylated Cav1 was significantly increased. Abl and Src kinase inhibitors suppressed the increase of Tyr14-phosphorylated Cav1



Abl kinase knockdown attenuated the H₂O₂-induced increase of Tyr14-phosphorylated Cav1

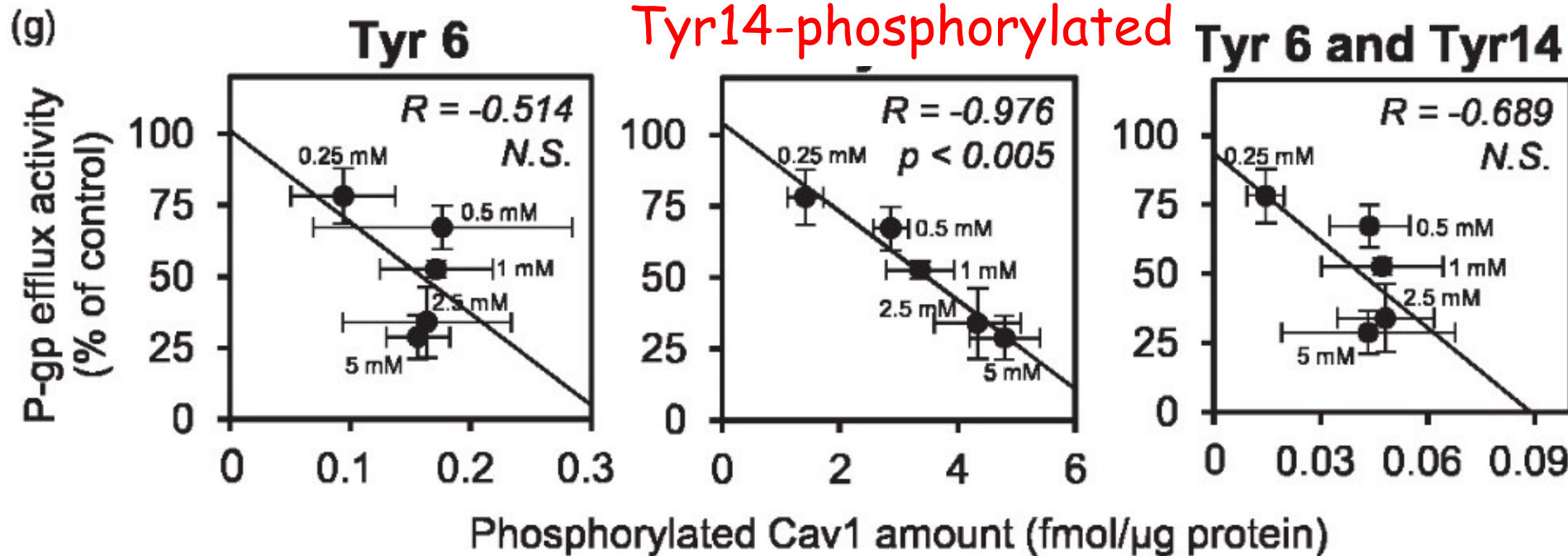
The expression amount of Tyr14-phosphorylated Cav1 is regulated through both Abl kinase and Src kinase at the BBB in the presence of oxidative stress.

Cav1 sequence



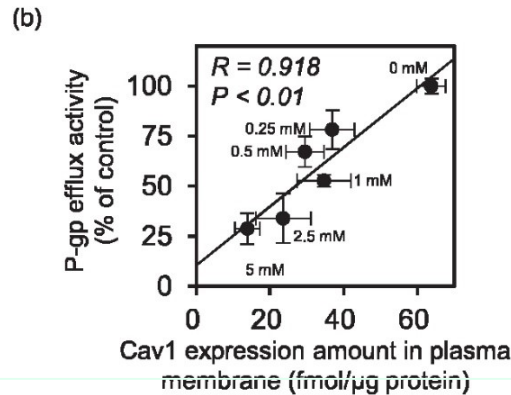
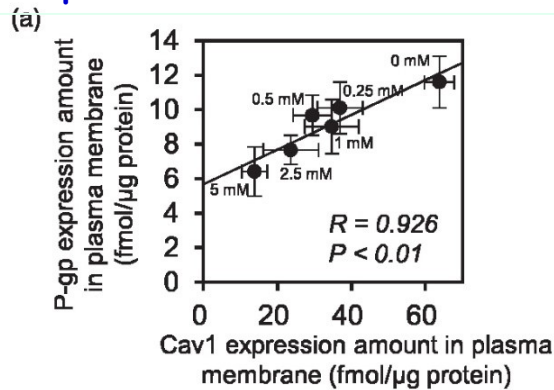
Quantity of Tyr14-phosphorylated peptide was significantly correlated with the decrease in efflux transport activity of P-gp, while Tyr6- or both

Tyr6 and Tyr14-phosphorylated peptides were not.



Tyr14 of Cav1 is a major phosphorylation site involved in the decrease of efflux transport activity of P-gp.

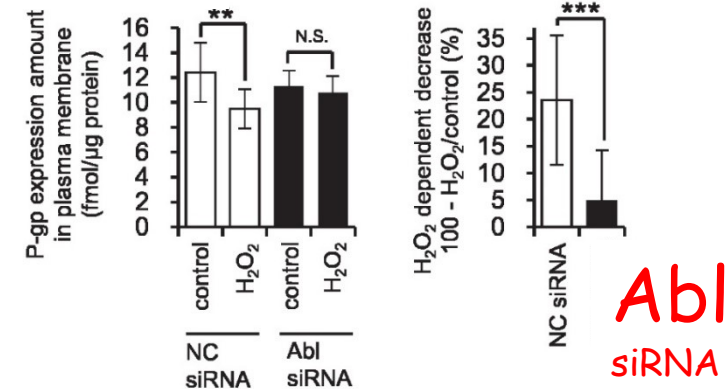
A statistically significant correlation between the amounts of P-gp and Cav1 in the plasma membrane fraction.



The efflux transport activity of P-gp was also well correlated with the expression level of Cav1 in the plasma membrane fraction.

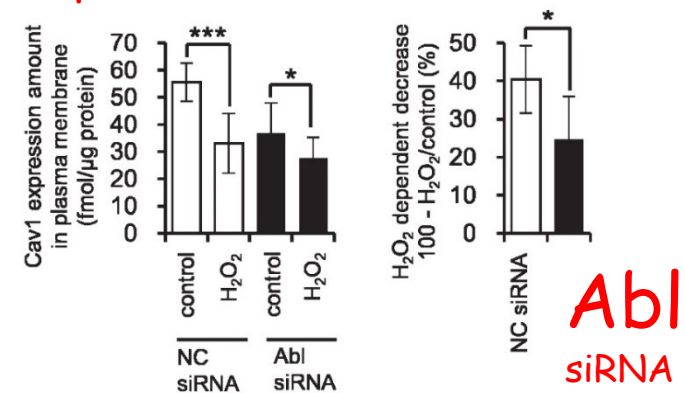
P-gp is internalized with Cav1 at the BBB under conditions of oxidative stress.

P-gp protein

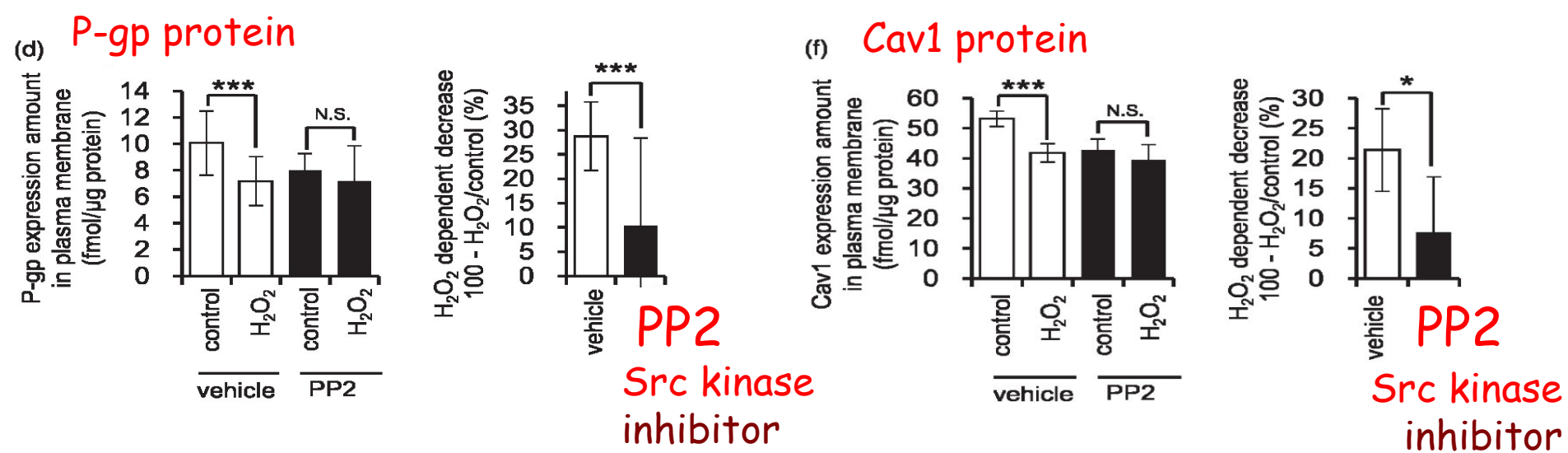


Abl kinase depletion significantly attenuated the H₂O₂-induced decrease in the plasma membrane expression of P-gp.

Cav1 protein



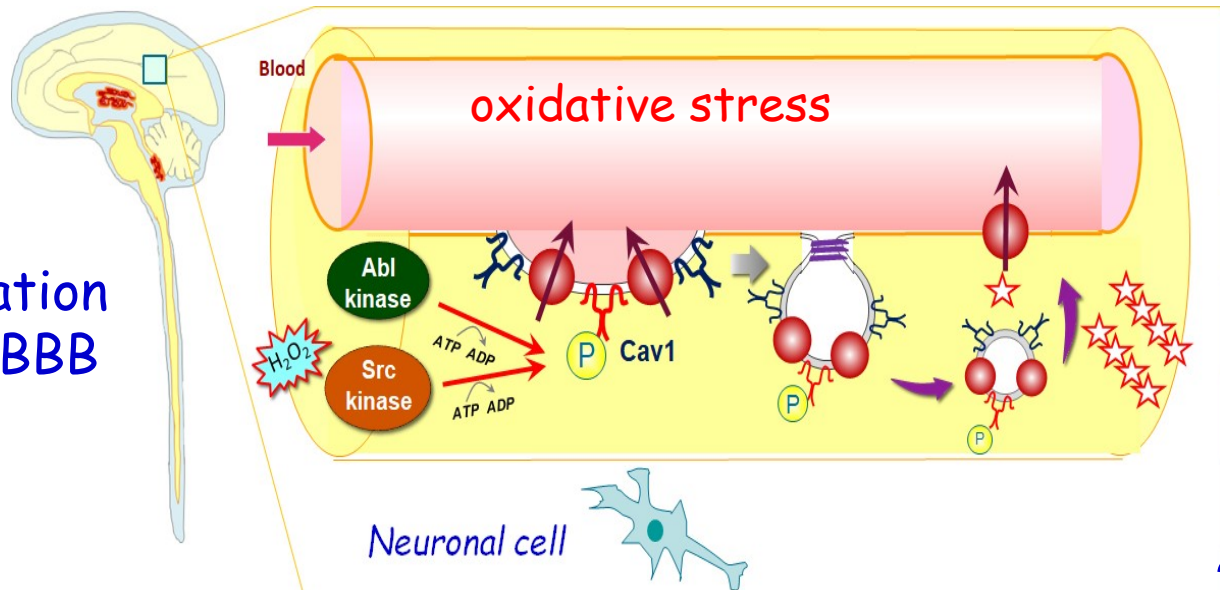
The amount of internalized Cav1 was also suppressed.



Src kinase inhibitor also significantly attenuated the H₂O₂-induced decrease of P-gp and Cav1.

Possible model of rapid and reversible reduction of P-gp efflux activity in the BBB

Activation of both Abl kinase and Src kinase mediates the internalization of P-gp and Cav1 at the BBB under conditions of oxidative stress.



To see whether the same mechanism operates **in vivo**, we conducted a brain perfusion study to measure P-gp efflux function at the rat BBB using a typical P-gp substrate, quinidine.

Pre-treatment

Constant infusion (30 min)

Rat, 8wk, male



Imatinib **Abl inhibitor**

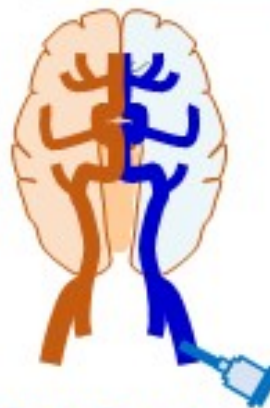
[5 uM in total blood]

PP2 **Src inhibitor**

[5 uM in total blood]

*Extra carotid
artery infusion*

in situ brain perfusion



Perfusion
(10 min)

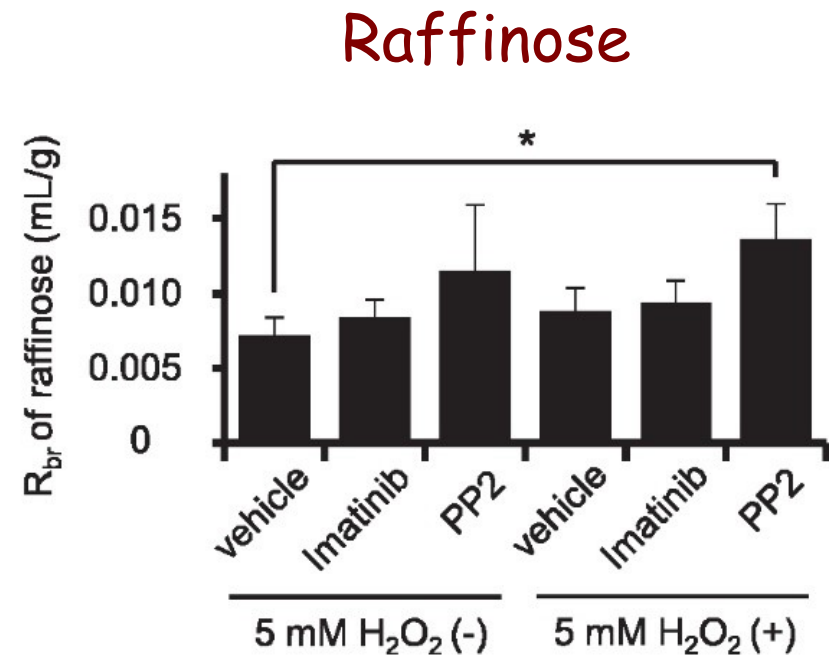
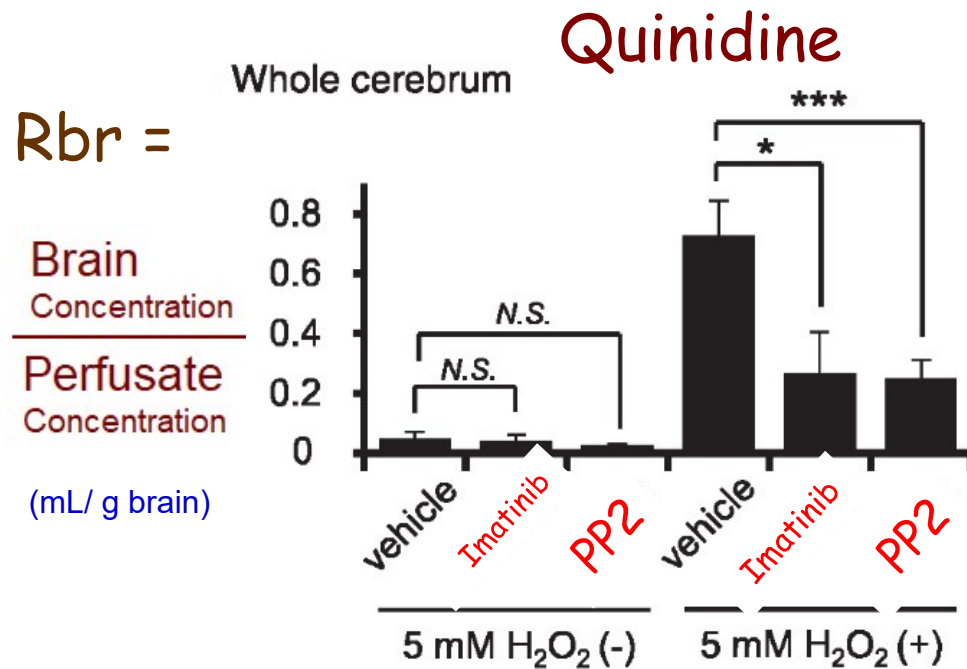
H₂O₂ [5 mM in perfusate]

Quinidine (P-gp substrate)

Raffinose Plasma membrane
non-permeable and non-degradative
sugar in the cell (Vascular space
marker)

✓ The ratio of brain concentration per perfusate concentration of **quinidine**, R_{br} , was increased significantly treated with 5mM H_2O_2 . This increase was significantly **suppressed** by **imatinib** or **PP2**.

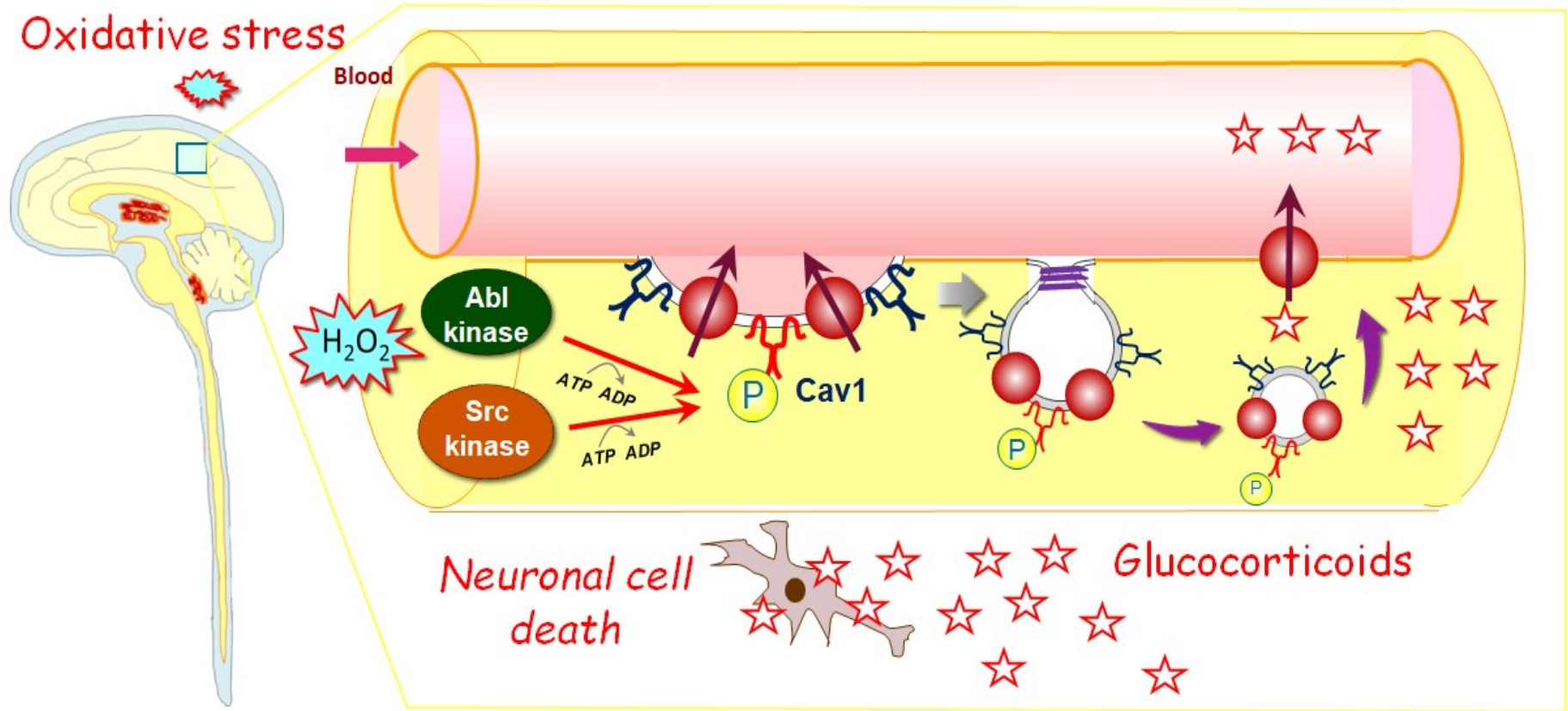
✓ No marked change of raffinose was observed, indicating that **tight-junction integrity** was well maintained.



H_2O_2 decreases the efflux transport activity of P-gp through the activation of Abl kinase and Src kinase **in vivo**.

Exposure to high levels of glucocorticoids in the brain induces hippocampal neuronal cell death

(Anacker C, et al., Neuropsychopharmacology 2013; Krugers HJ, et al., Stroke 2000)



① Stroke
(Ischemia, hypoxia, reperfusion)



② Oxidative stress



③ Internalization of P-gp mediated by Abl and Src kinase in the BBB



④ Accumulation of glucocorticoids in the brain



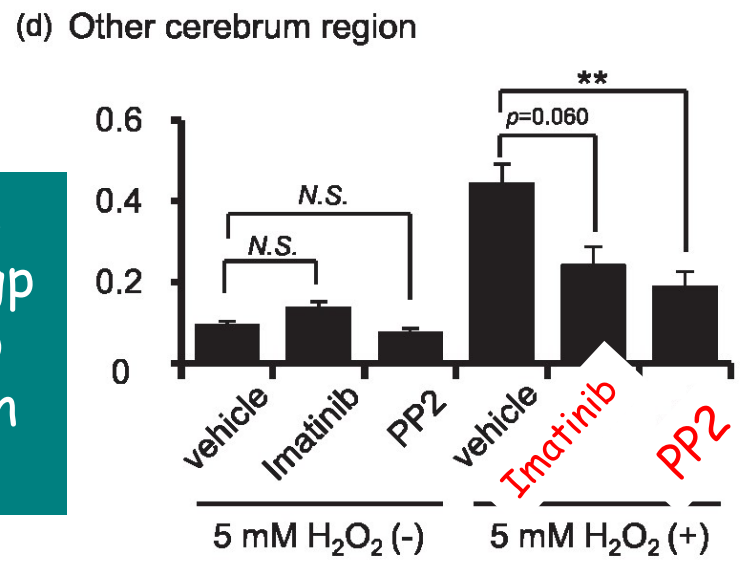
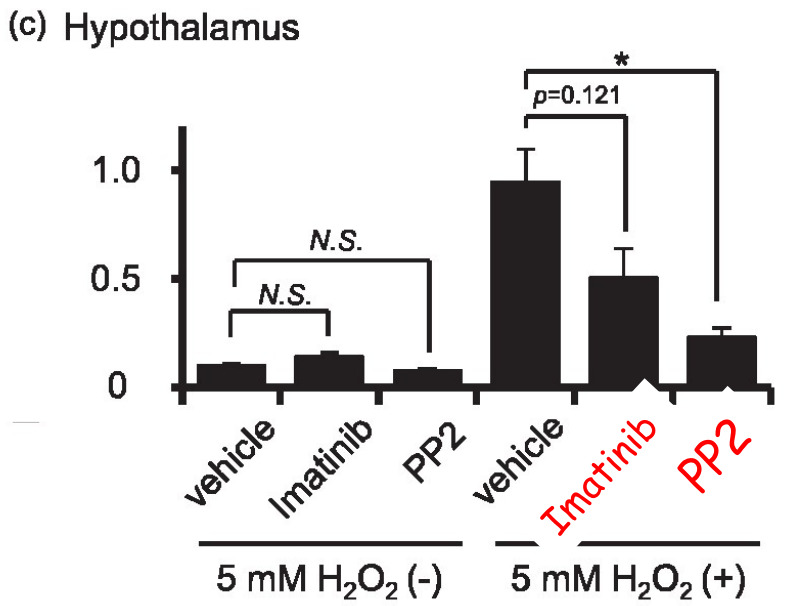
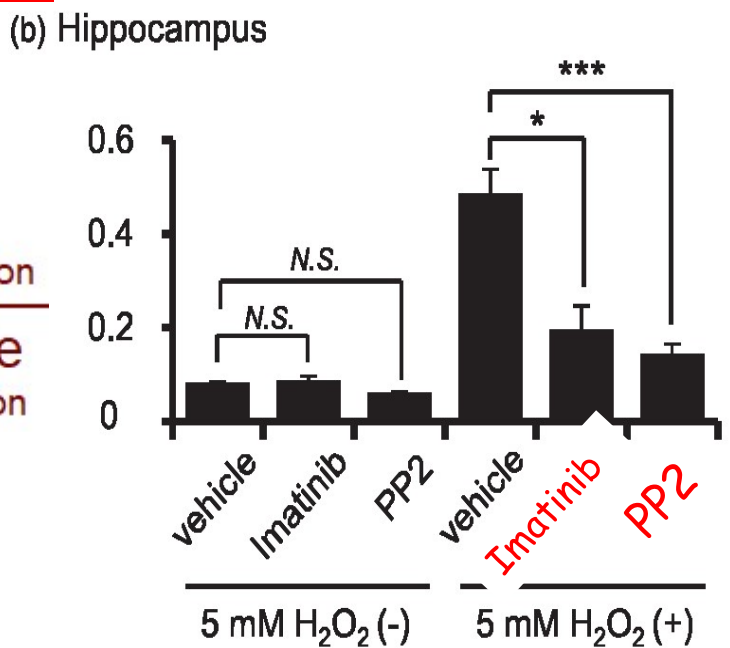
⑤ Hippocampal neuronal cell death

The Rbr values of cortisol in hippocampus, hypothalamus and other cerebrum regions were significantly elevated after the administration of 5mM H₂O₂. These elevations were significantly attenuated by imatinib (Abl kinase inhibitor) or PP2 (Src kinase inhibitor), while there was no significant alteration in the Rbr of raffinose (not shown).

Cortisol

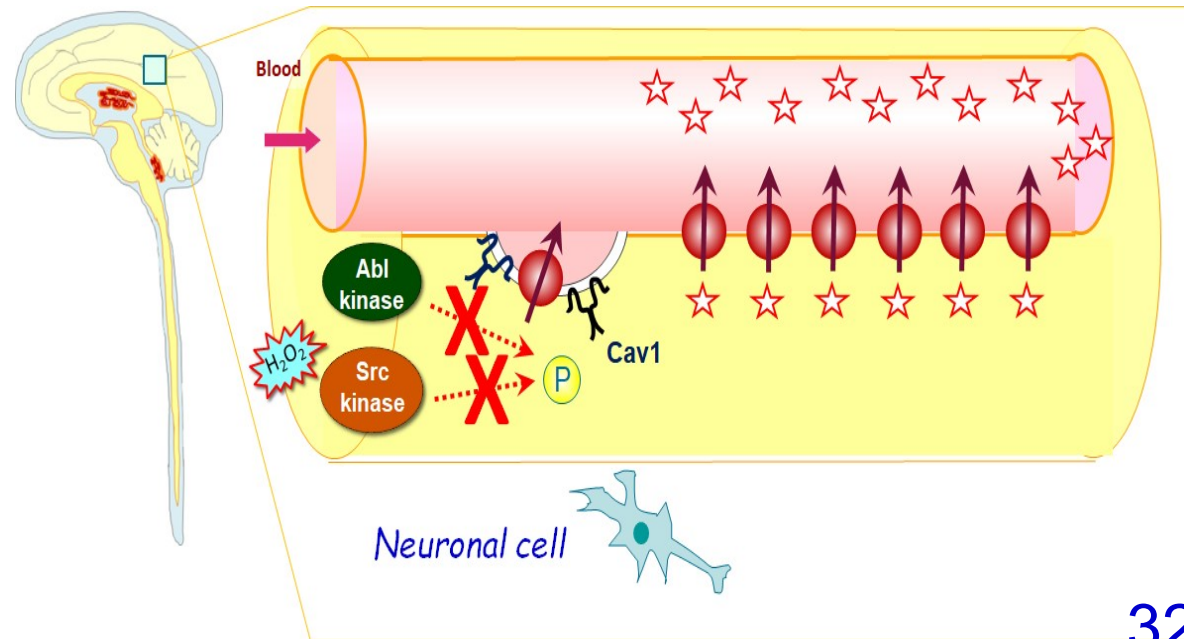
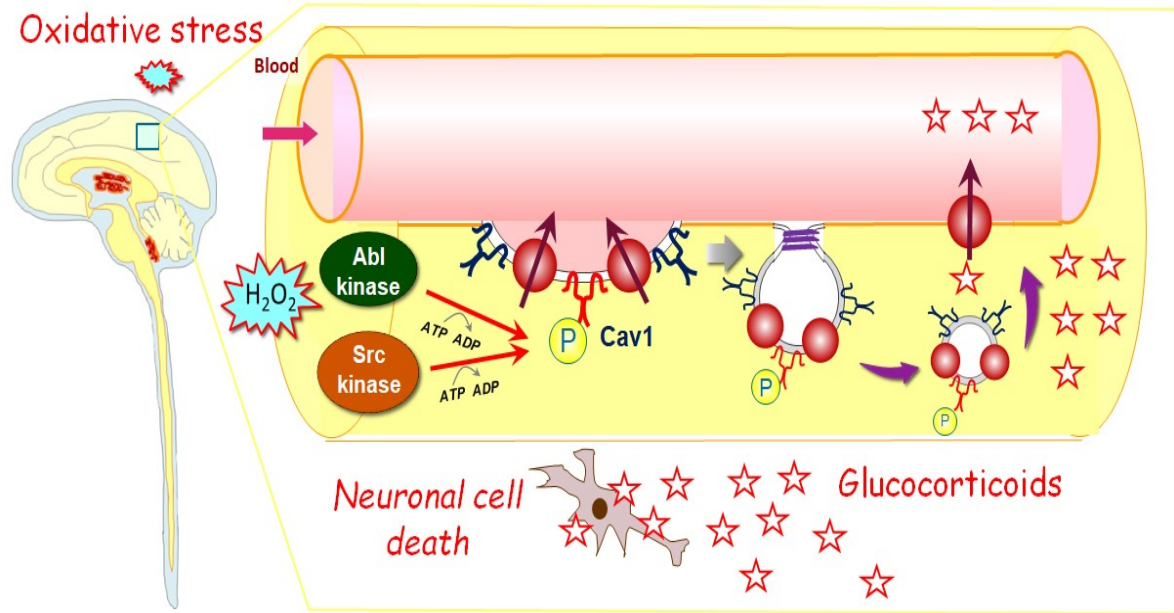
Rbr =

$$\frac{\text{Brain Concentration}}{\text{Perfusate Concentration}} \quad (\text{mL/g brain})$$



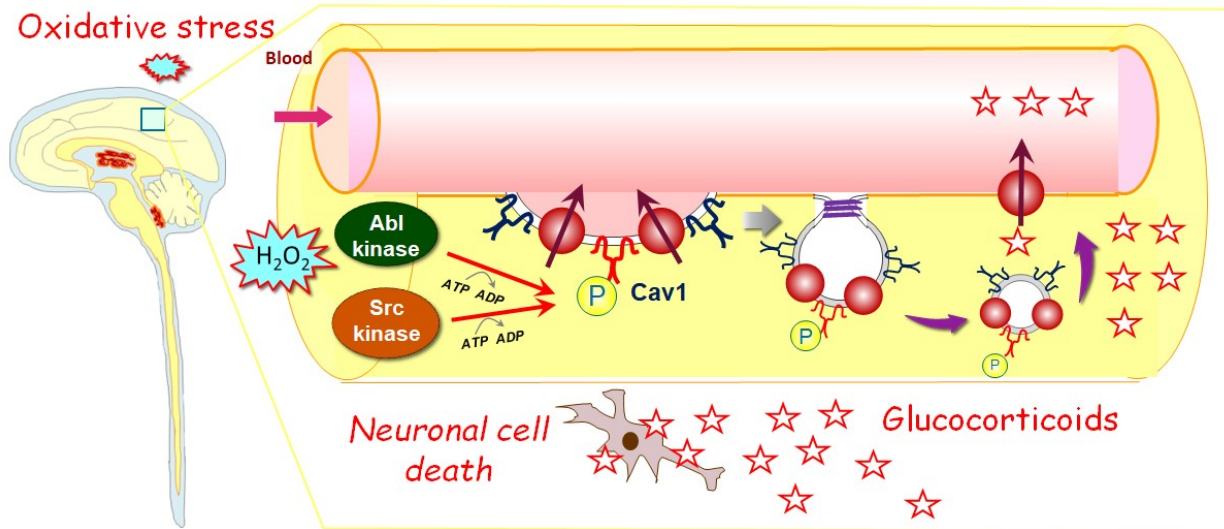
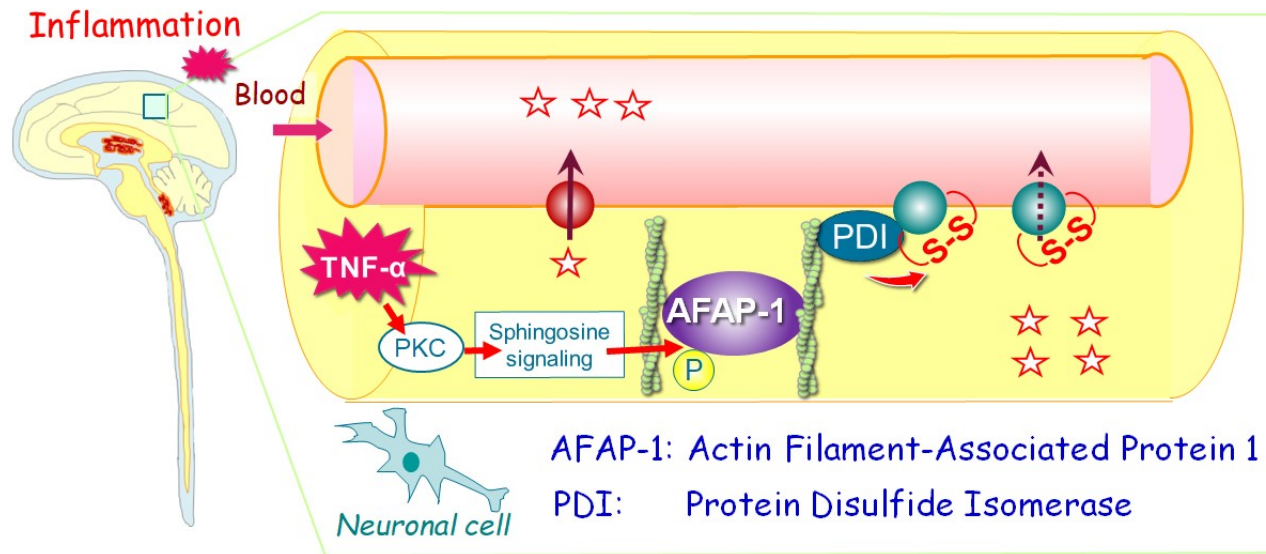
An oxidative stress-induced, Abl kinase and Src kinase-mediated decrease of P-gp efflux transport activity contributes to the elevation of cortisol concentration in the brain.

The suppression of elevated cortisol concentration in the brain may contribute to the **improvement of cognitive function** by **Abl kinase and Src kinase inhibitors**



Conclusion

The efflux activity of P-gp per protein was reduced by the treatment of TNF α in the BBB. Actin Filament-Associated Protein 1 (AFAP-1) will be a key mediator for the signaling-induced rapid attenuation of P-gp efflux activity.



The apparent P-gp efflux activity in the BBB was reduced by oxidative stress. Internalization of P-gp protein was facilitated via the signaling pathway of Abl and Src kinases.

Key References

1. Hoshi Y, Uchida Y, Tachikawa M, Ohtsuki S and Terasaki T, Actin filament-associated protein 1 (AFAP-1) is a key mediator in inflammatory signaling-induced rapid attenuation of intrinsic P-gp function in human brain capillary endothelial cells, *J Neurochem.*, 141(2):247-262 (2017). doi: 10.1111/jnc.13960.
2. Hoshi Y, Uchida Y, Tachikawa M, Ohtsuki S, Couraud PO, Suzuki T and Terasaki T, Oxidative stress-induced activation of Abl and Src kinases rapidly induces P-glycoprotein internalization via phosphorylation of caveolin-1 on tyrosine-14, decreasing cortisol efflux at the blood-brain barrier, *J. Cereb. Blood Flow Metab.*, 2019 Jan 9:271678X18822801. doi: 10.1177/0271678X18822801.