

# Amyloid- $\beta$ oligomers induce differential gene expression in adult human brain slices

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Cognitive decline in Alzheimer disease (AD) is increasingly attributed to the neuronal impact of soluble oligomers of the amyloid- $\beta$  peptide (A $\beta$ Os). Current knowledge on the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the toxicity of A $\beta$ Os stems largely from rodent-derived cell/tissue culture experiments or from transgenic models of AD, which do not necessarily recapitulate the complexity of the human disease. Here, we used DNA microarray and RT-PCR to investigate changes in transcription in adult human cortical slices exposed to sublethal doses of A $\beta$ Os. The results revealed a set of 27 genes that showed consistent differential expression upon exposure of slices from three different donors to A $\beta$ Os. Functional classification of differentially expressed genes revealed that A $\beta$ Os impact pathways important for neuronal physiology and known to be dysregulated in AD, including vesicle trafficking, cell adhesion, actin cytoskeleton dynamics, and insulin signaling. Most

genes (70%) were down-reg