

MARDI 16 SEPTEMBRE 2025

MAS, Paris 13e

10 rue des terres au curé



# LA PROTÉOMIQUE À LARGE ÉCHELLE POUR L'ÉTUDE DU MICRO- ENVIRONNEMENT TUMORAL

GROUPE MICROENVIRONNEMENT TUMORAL

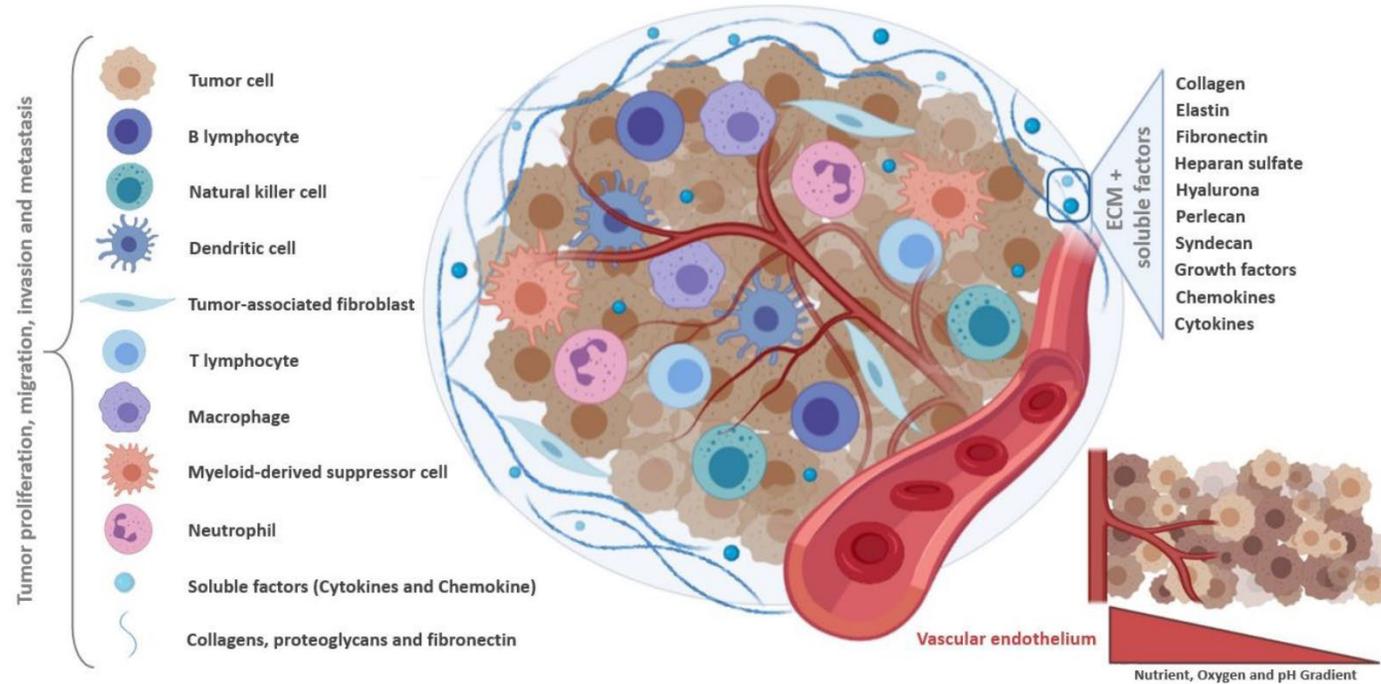
## Mass spectrometry –based proteomics (and metabolomics) to elucidate tumor-microenvironment metabolic interactions

Angela Bachi

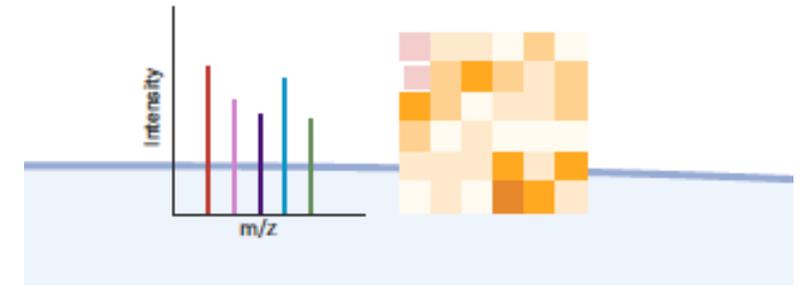
IFOM – AIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology  
angela.bachi@ifom.eu



# Tumor MicroEnvironment



## Proteomics & Metabolomics



Soluble factors

# Metastatic melanoma secretome is enriched in amyloid aggregates

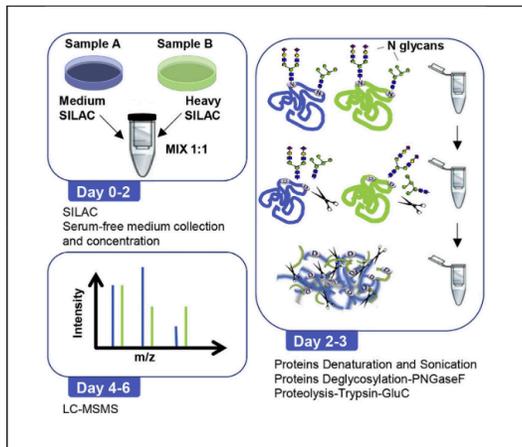


## STAR Protocols



### Protocol

### Secret3D Workflow for Secretome Analysis



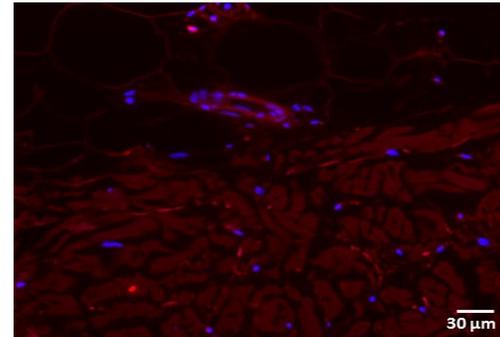
Vittoria Matafora,  
Angela Bachi  
vittoria.matafora@ifom.eu  
(V.M.)  
angela.bachi@ifom.eu  
(A.B.)

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
Secret3D workflow allows the analysis of secreted proteins from *in vitro* cultured cells

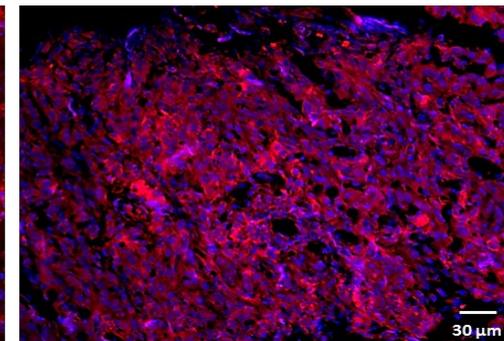
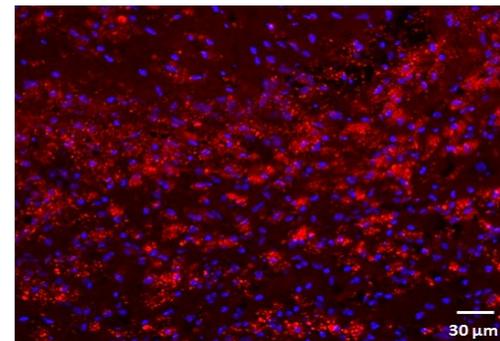
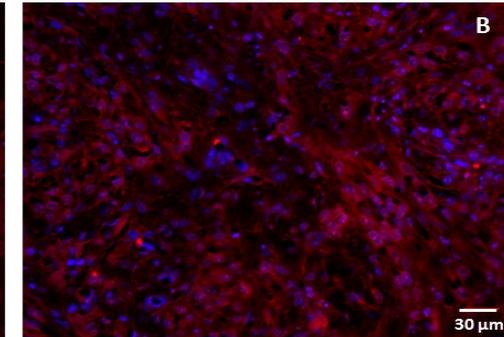
De-glycosylation and double digestion enhance protein identification and quantification

Identification of putative glycosylation sites of the secreted proteins

### Healthy skin

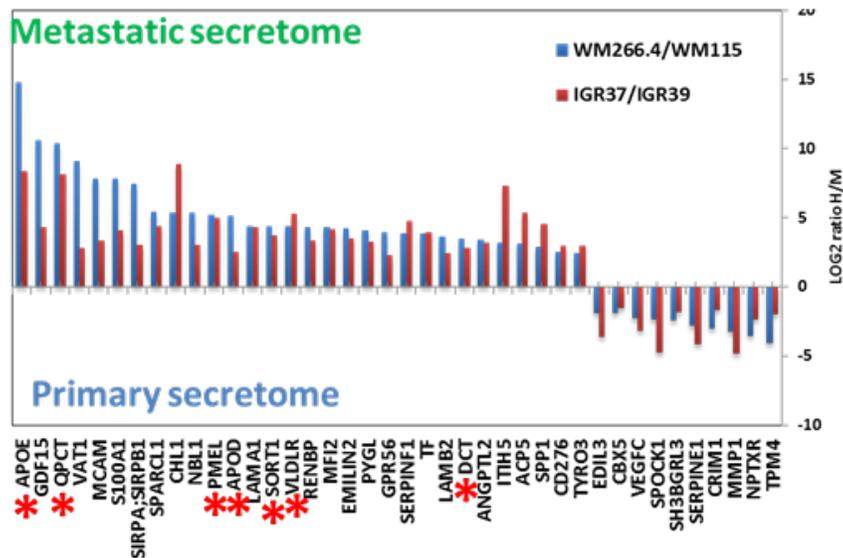


### Primitive tumor



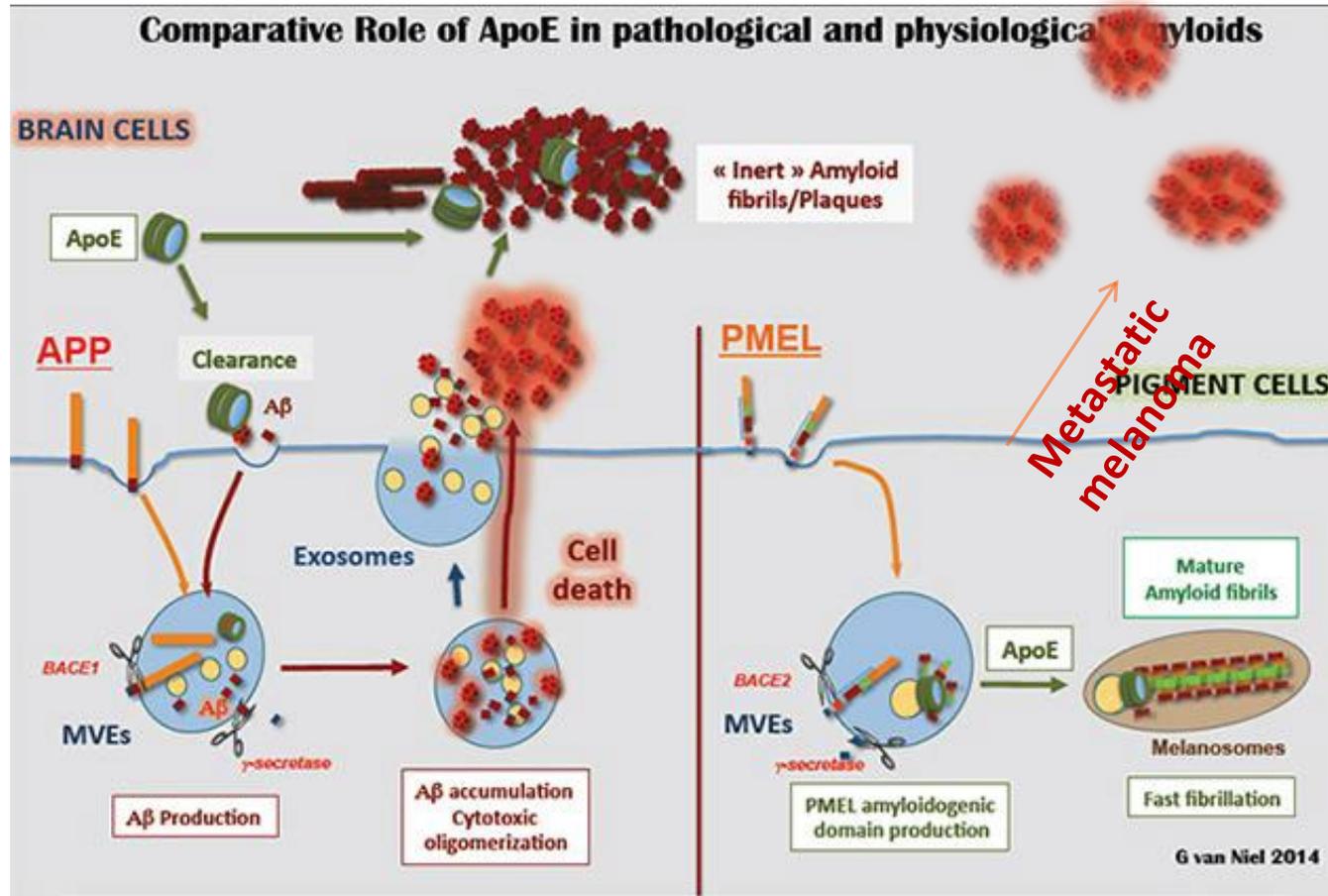
### Brain metastasis

### Lung metastasis



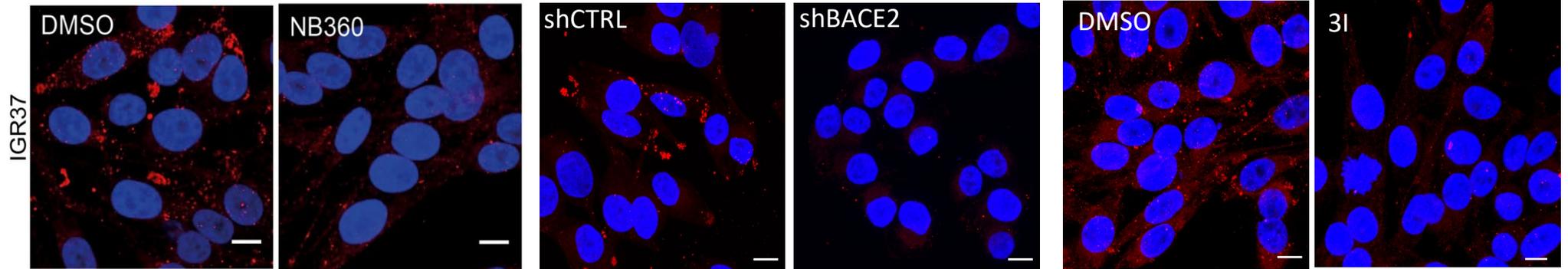


# How are amyloids produced?





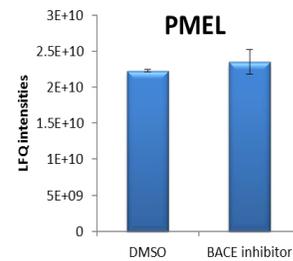
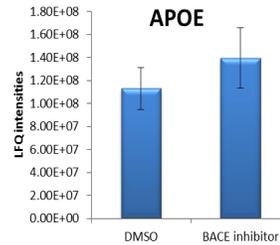
# BACE2 produces amyloid aggregates in melanoma



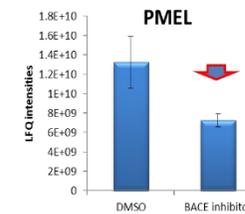
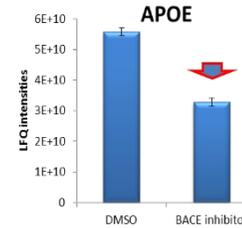
DAPI + Proteostat

DAPI + Proteostat

DAPI + Proteostat



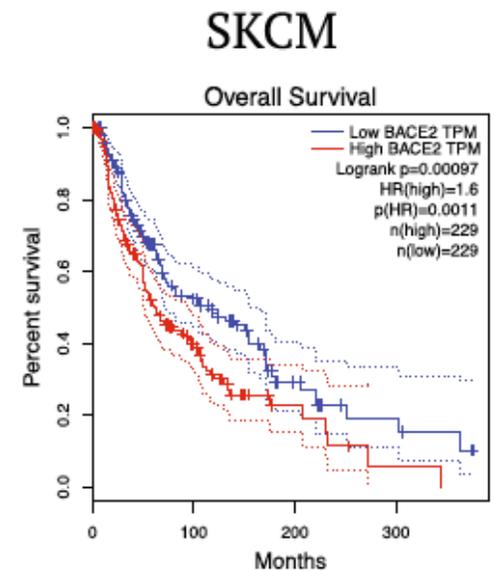
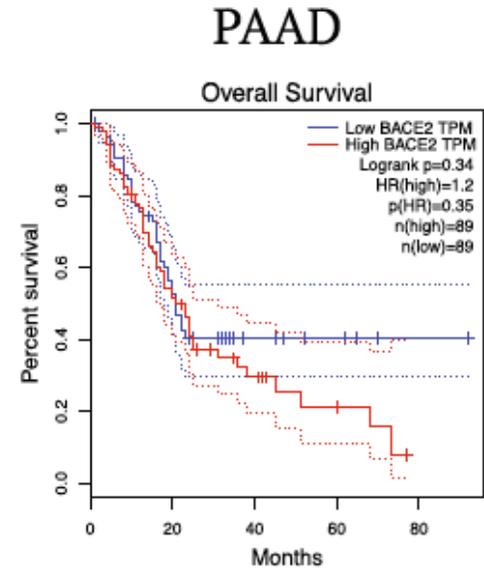
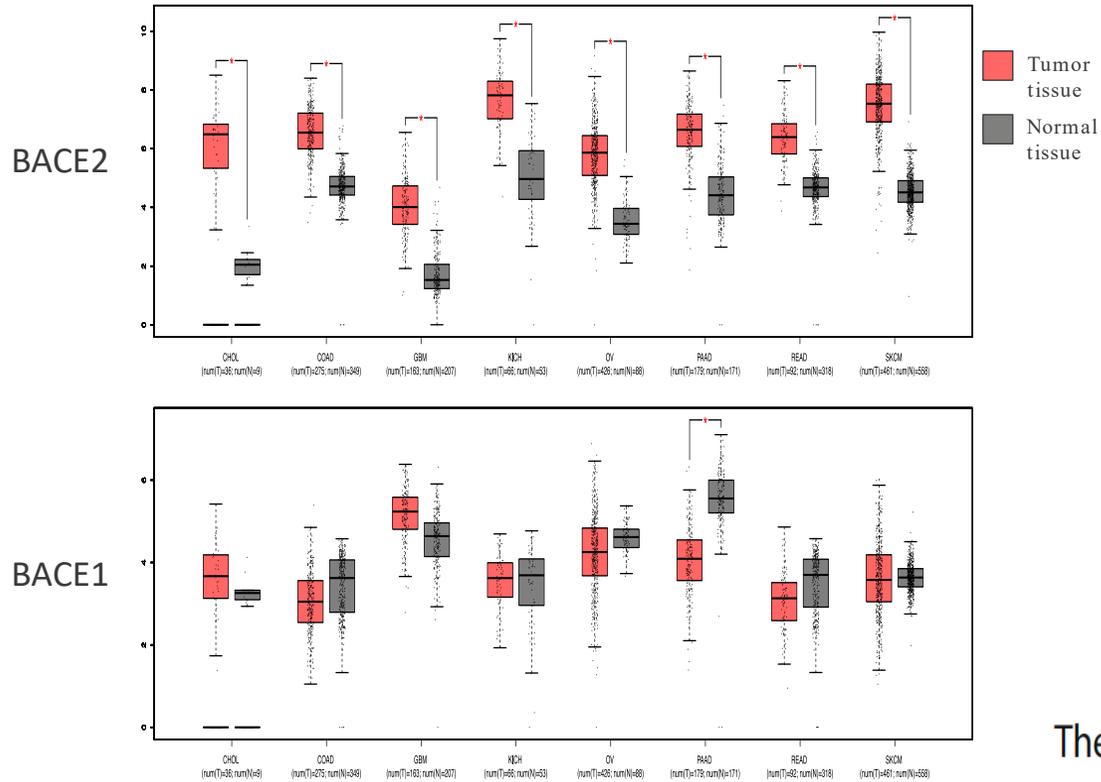
proteome



secretome



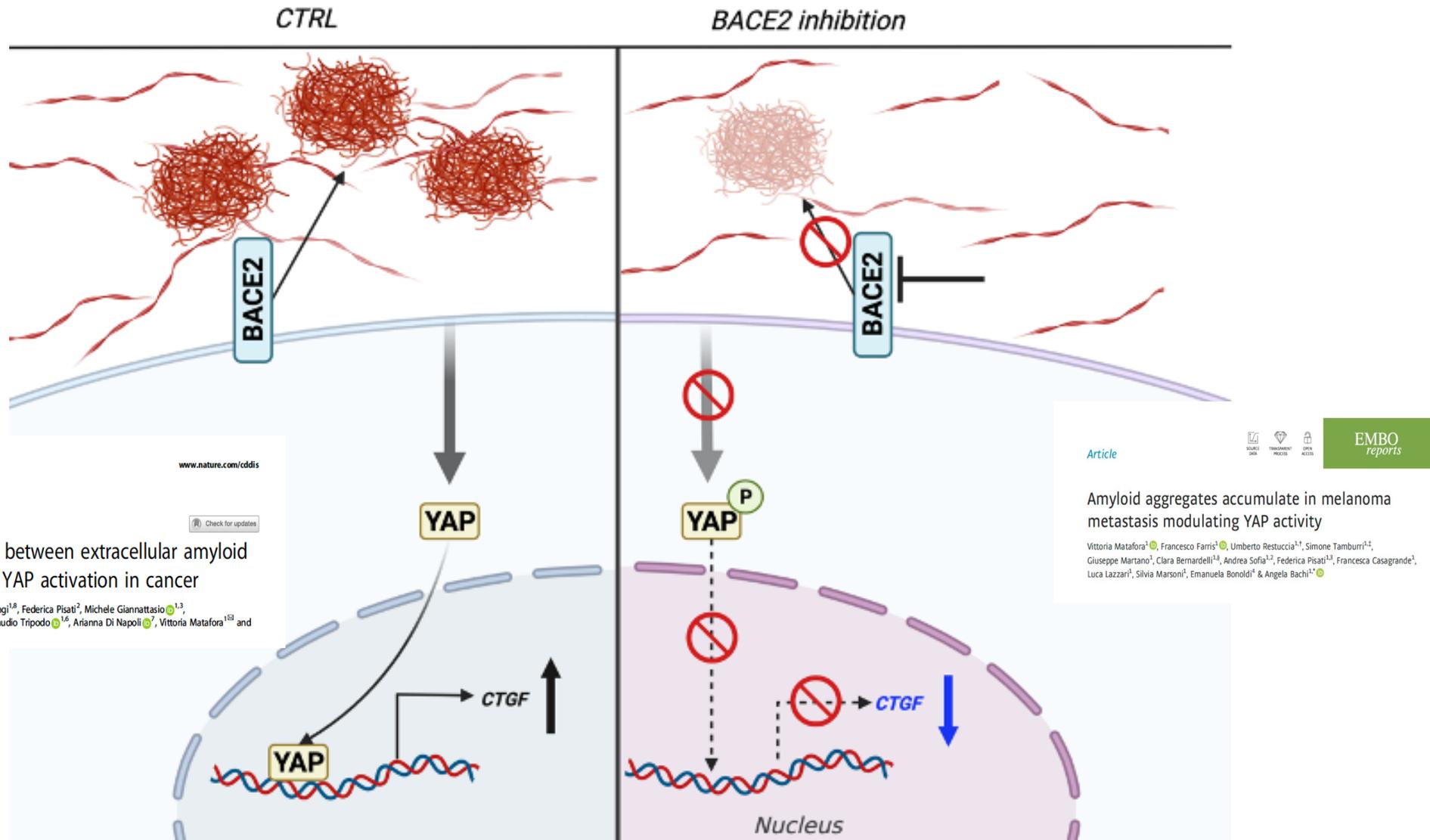
# BACE2 in cancer



The emerging role of  $\beta$ -secretases in cancer

Farris et al. *Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research*  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13046-021-01953-3>

# Amyloid aggregates are new players in tumor microenvironment



CDDpress

www.nature.com/cddis

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ARTICLE OPEN

Unveiling the mechanistic link between extracellular amyloid fibrils, mechano-signaling and YAP activation in cancer

Francesco Farris<sup>1</sup>, Alice Elhagh<sup>1</sup>, Ilaria Vigorito<sup>1</sup>, Nicoletta Alongi<sup>1,4</sup>, Federica Pisati<sup>2</sup>, Michele Giannattasio<sup>1,3</sup>, Francesca Casagrande<sup>1,9</sup>, Lisa Veghini<sup>4</sup>, Vincenzo Corbo<sup>4,5</sup>, Claudio Tripodo<sup>1,6</sup>, Arianna Di Napoli<sup>7</sup>, Vittoria Matafora<sup>1,10</sup> and Angela Bachi<sup>1,10</sup>

Article

SOURCE DATA  
TRANSPARENT  
OPEN ACCESS

EMBO  
reports

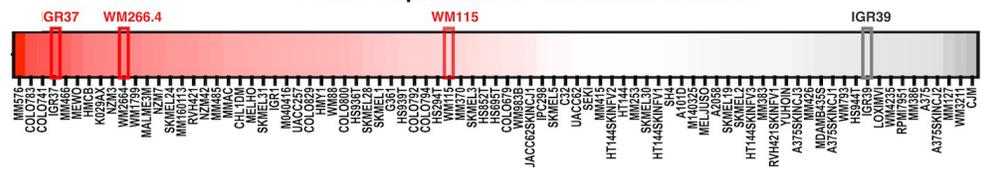
Amyloid aggregates accumulate in melanoma metastasis modulating YAP activity

Vittoria Matafora<sup>1</sup>, Francesco Farris<sup>1</sup>, Umberto Restuccia<sup>1,11</sup>, Simone Tamburri<sup>1,12</sup>, Giuseppe Martano<sup>3</sup>, Clara Bernardelli<sup>4,8</sup>, Andrea Sofia<sup>1,13</sup>, Federica Pisati<sup>1,3</sup>, Francesca Casagrande<sup>1</sup>, Luca Lazzari<sup>1</sup>, Silvia Marsoni<sup>1</sup>, Emanuela Bonoldi<sup>1</sup> & Angela Bachi<sup>1,14</sup>

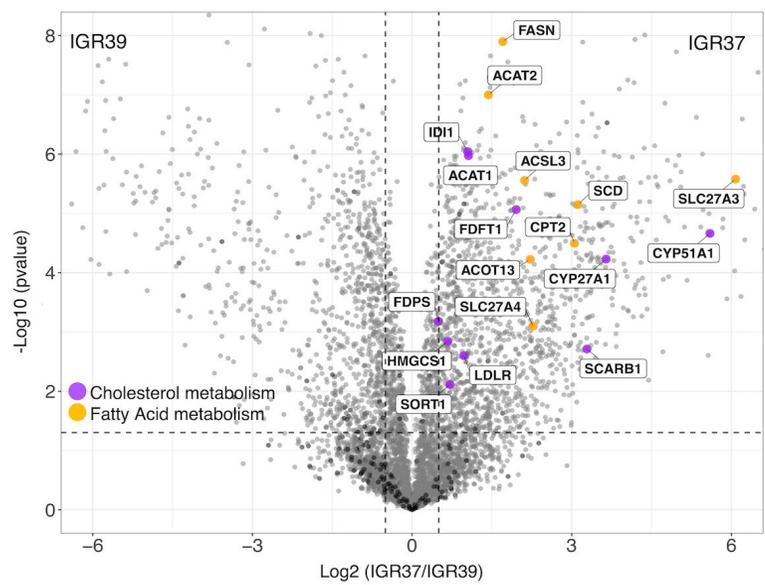


# BACE2 in cancer is linked to lipid metabolism

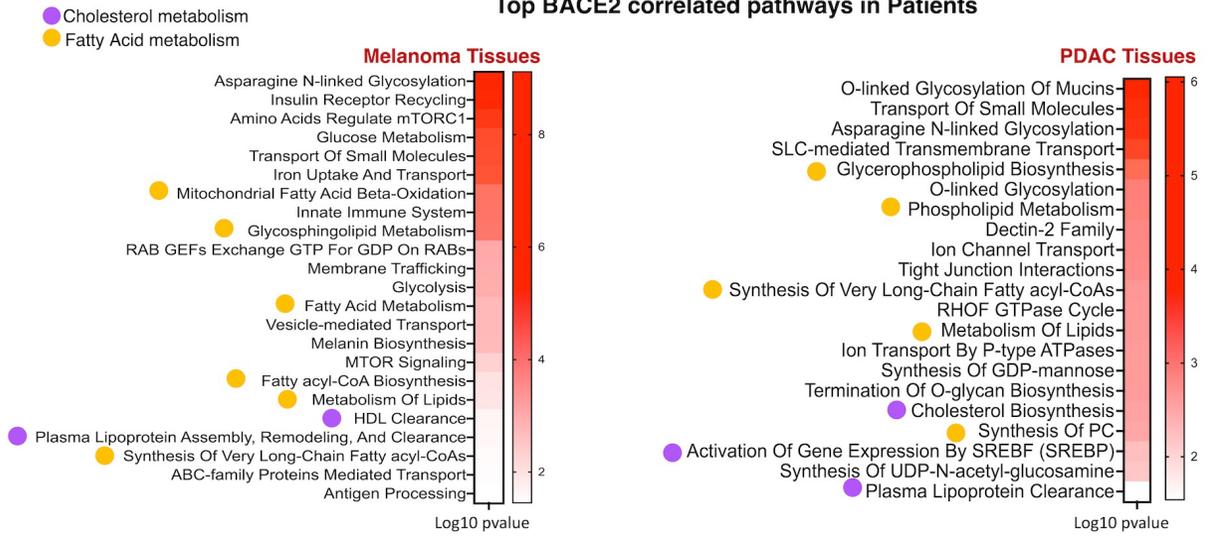
BACE2 expression in melanoma cell lines



## Gene Expression Profiling Interactive Analysis

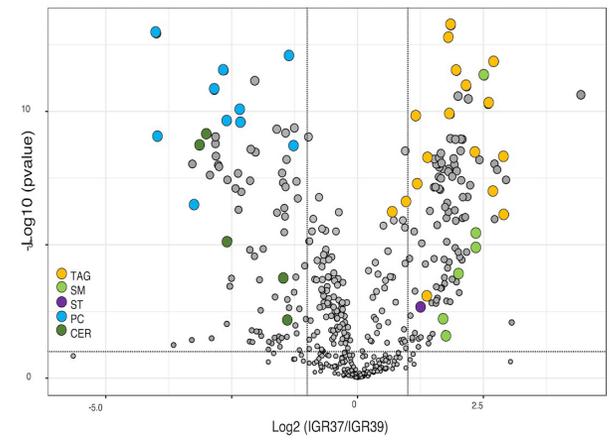
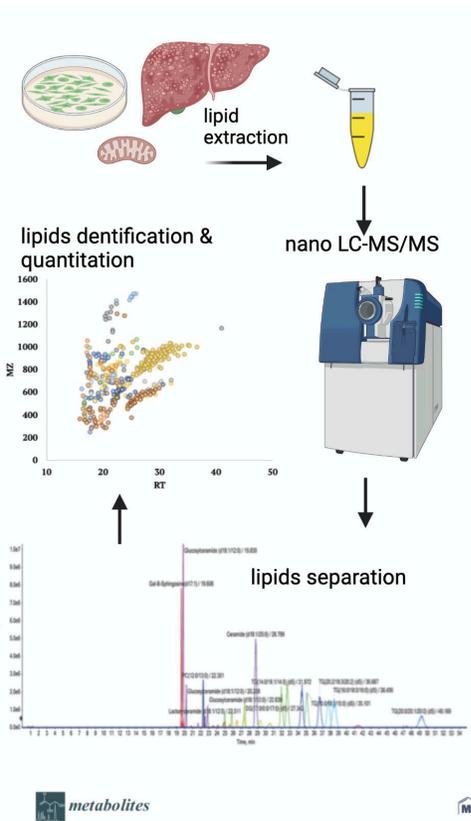


Top BACE2 correlated pathways in Patients

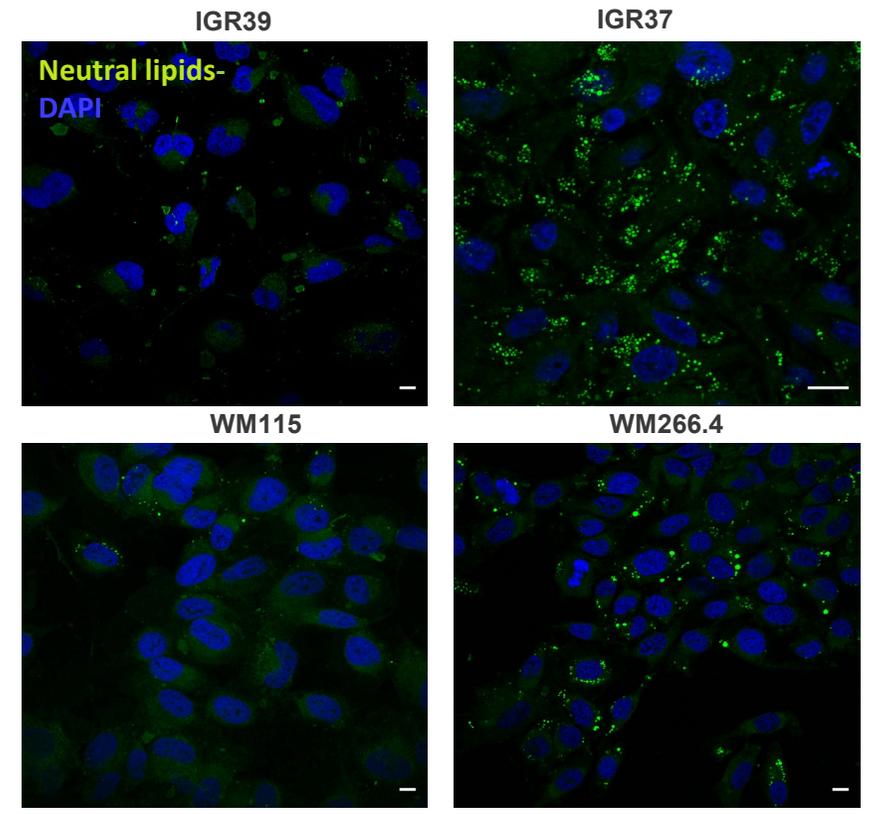




# BACE2 in cancer is linked to lipid metabolism



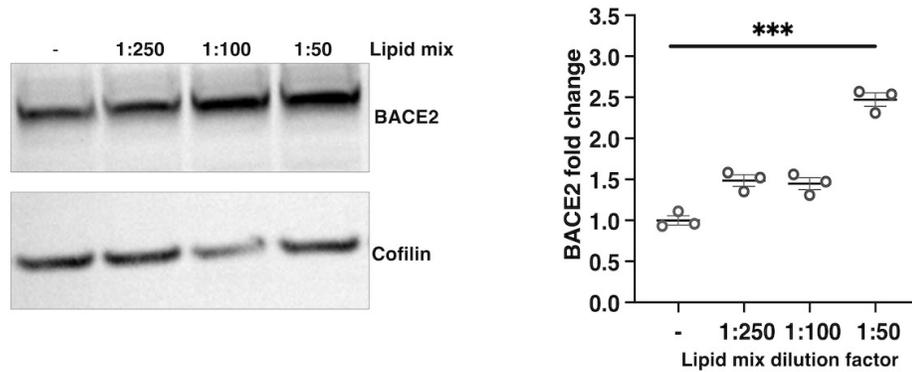
- Triradylglycerols
  - Lipid storage
  - Lipid droplet
  - Triacylglycerols
  - Alkyl diacylglycerols
  - Glycerophosphoethanolamines
  - Diacylglycerophosphoethanolamines
  - Headgroup with neutral charge
  - Mitochondrion
  - Glycerophosphocholines
  - Glycerophospholipids
  - High bilayer thickness
  - Above average transition temperature
  - Endoplasmic reticulum
  - Diacylglycerophosphocholines
  - Above average bilayer thickness
  - 1-alkyl,2-acylglycerophosphocholines
  - High transition temperature
  - Contains ether-bond
  - Sphingomyelins
  - Endosome/lysosome
- Log10 pvalue



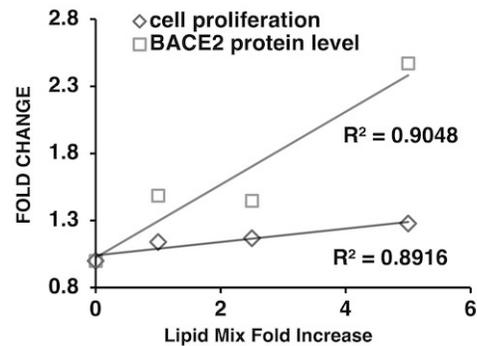
Article  
 Opti-nQL: An Optimized, Versatile and Sensitive Nano-LC Method for MS-Based Lipidomics Analysis



# Increasing lipid availability promotes BACE2 expression and cell proliferation



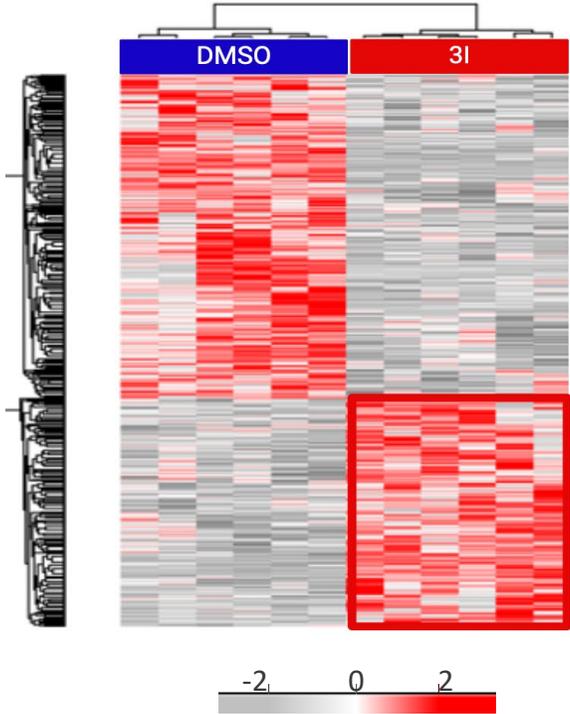
- High BACE2 cancers show an enhanced lipid metabolism
- Increasing extracellular lipids increases BACE2 levels
- More BACE2, higher proliferation of cancer cells



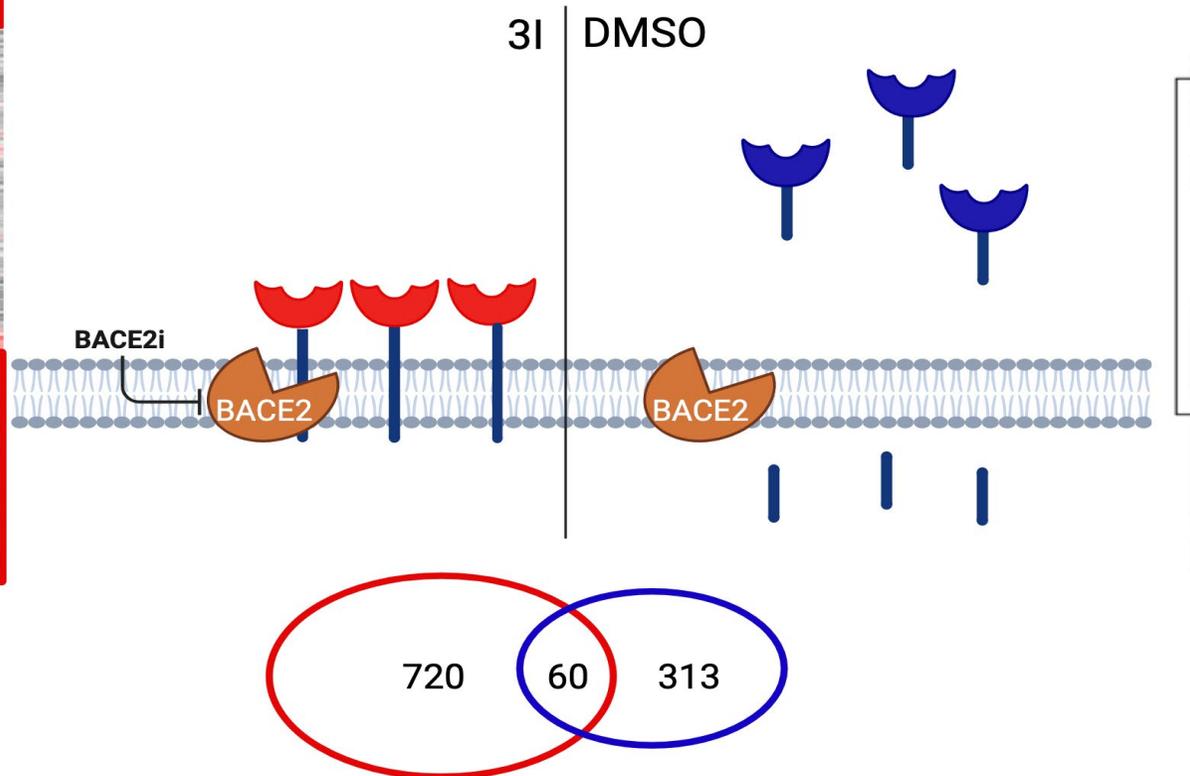
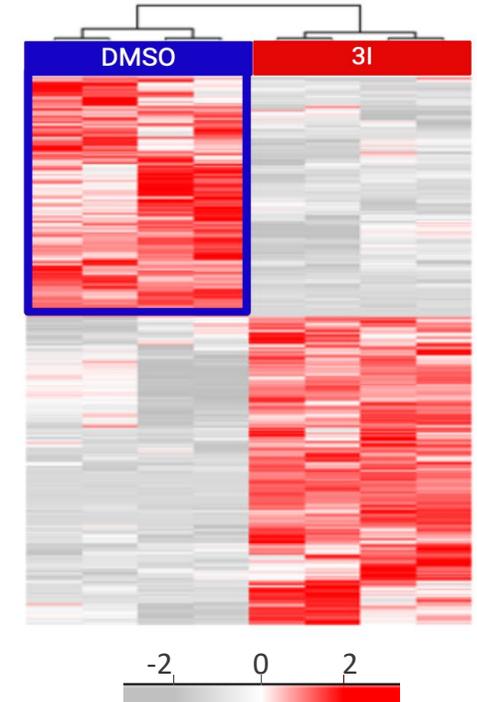


# What is the molecular link between lipid metabolism and BACE2 activity?

## MEMBRANE PROTEOME



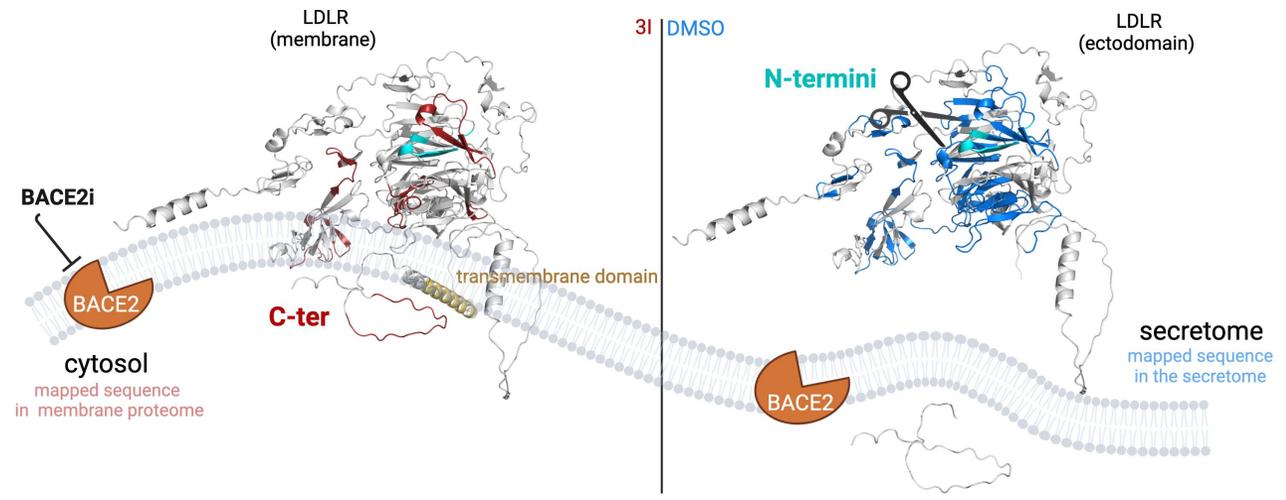
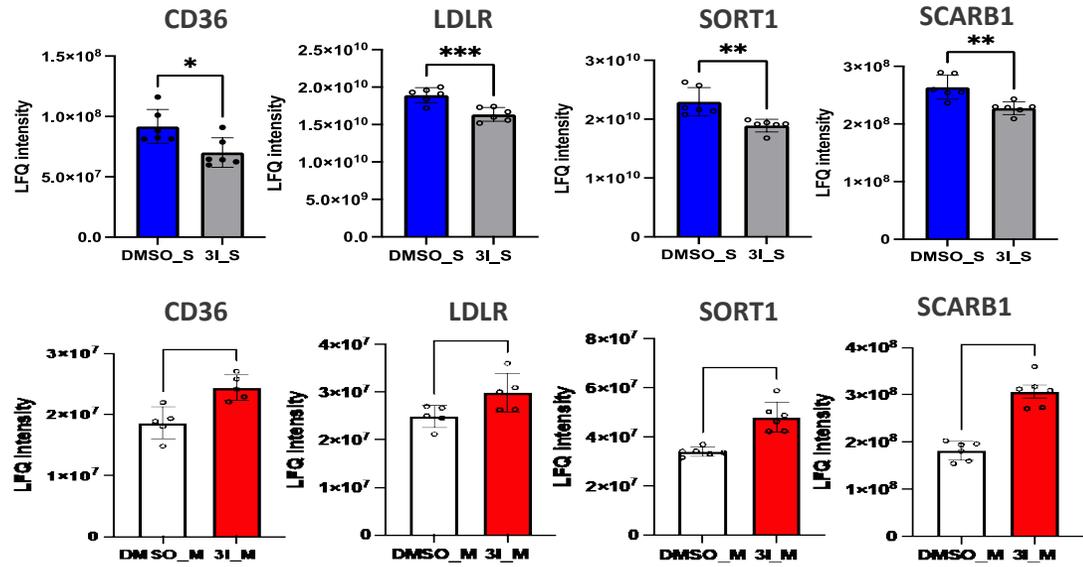
## SECRETOME





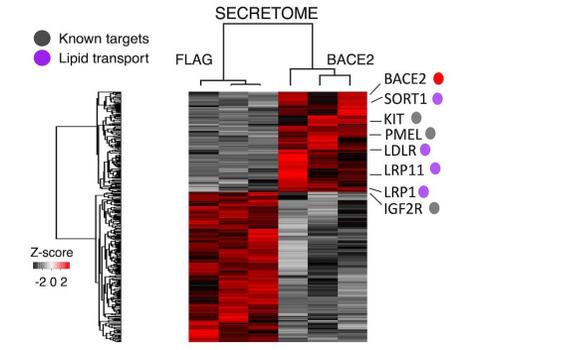
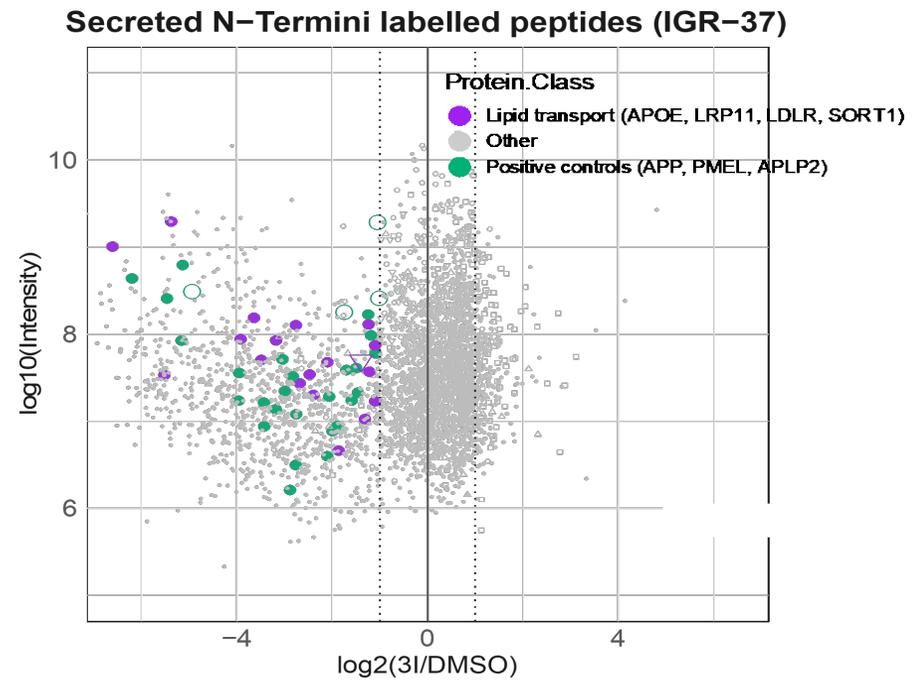
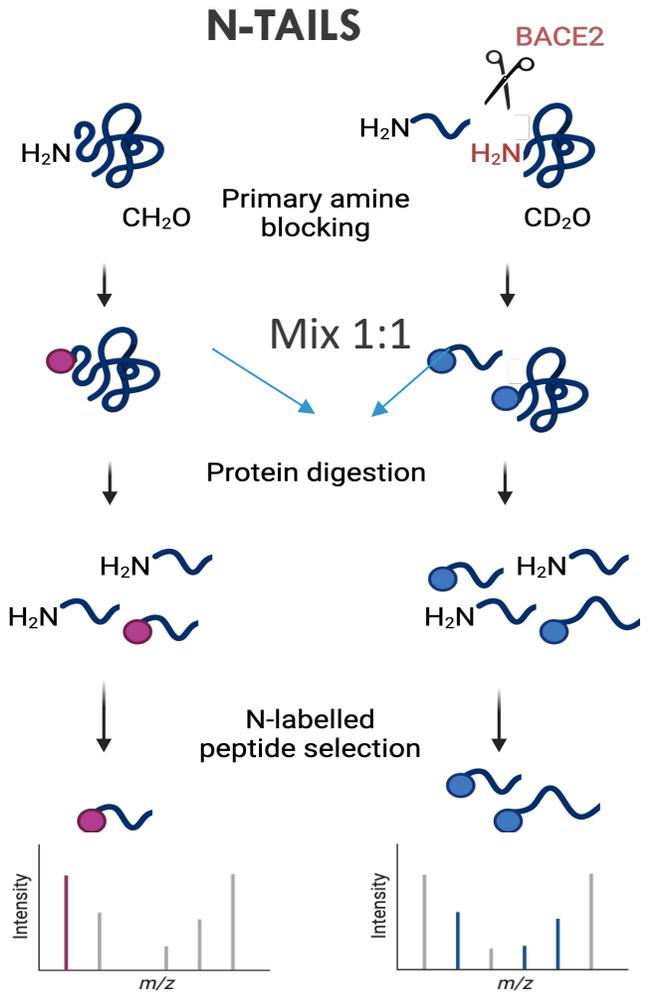
# BACE2 regulates lipid transporters ectodomain shedding

## LIPID TRANSPORTERS





# BACE2 regulates lipid transporters ectodomain shedding



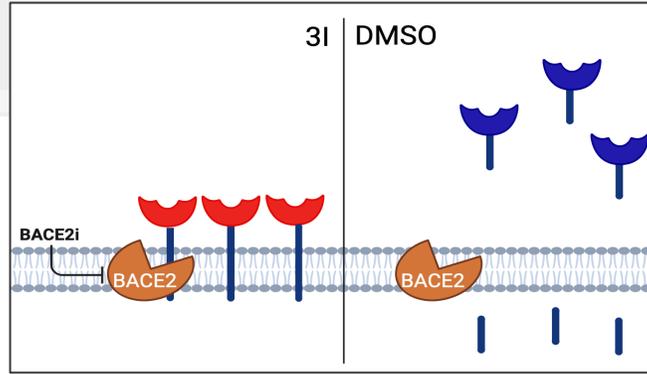
BACE2 overexpression in HEK

Unpublished data

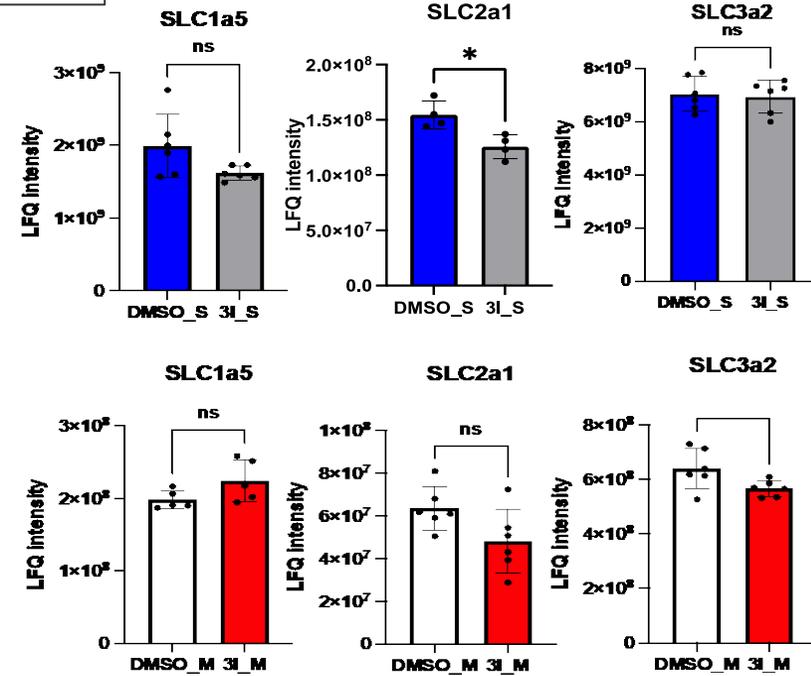
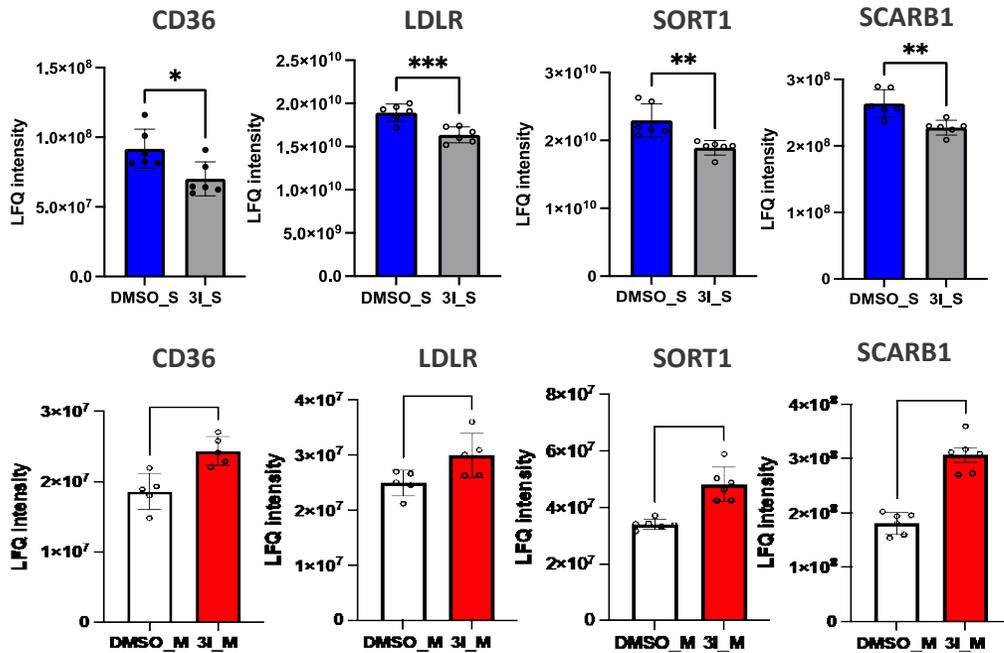


# BACE2 specifically acts on lipid transporters

## Lipid Transporters

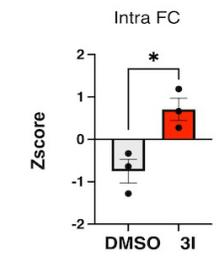
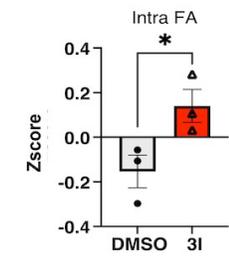
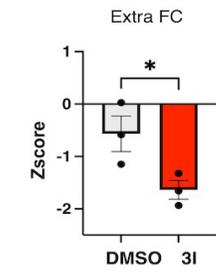
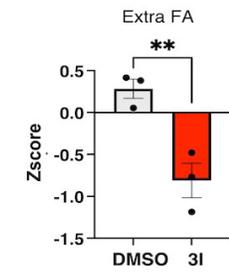
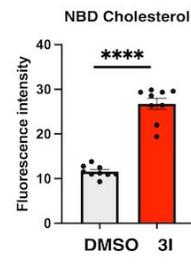
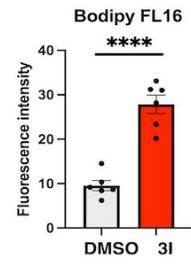
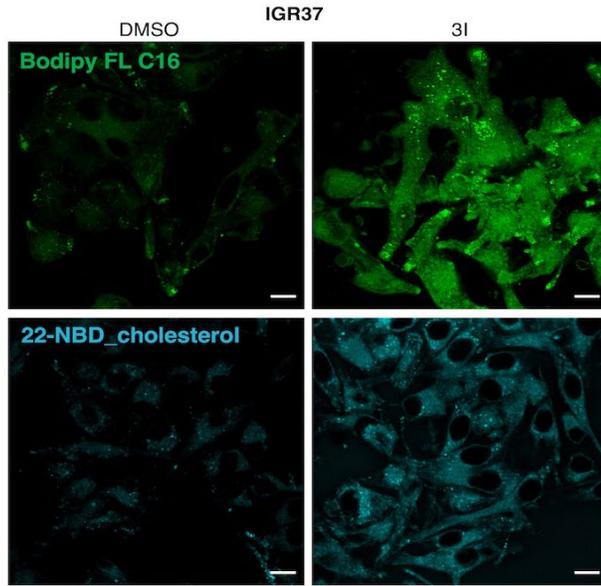


## AA and Glucose Transporters





# BACE2 regulates lipid transporters activity and lipid uptake





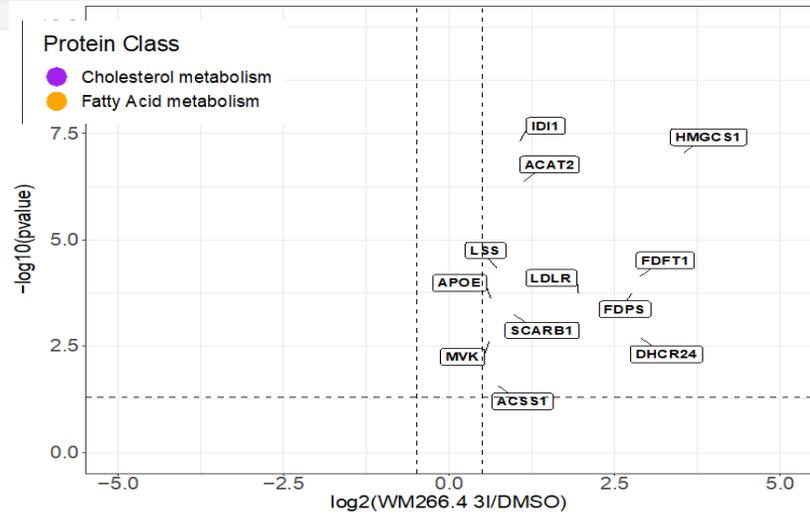
# Which are the functional consequences of modifying lipid uptake in cancer cells?

- High BACE2 cancers show an enhanced lipid metabolism
- Increasing extracellular lipids increases BACE2 levels
- BACE2 tunes lipid influx by modulating lipid transporters activity
- More BACE2, higher proliferation of cancer cells

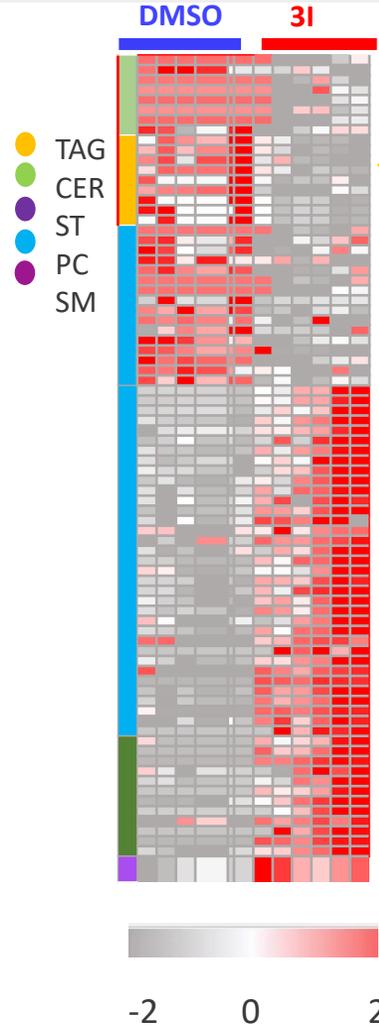
# BACE2 affects lipid metabolism and proliferation



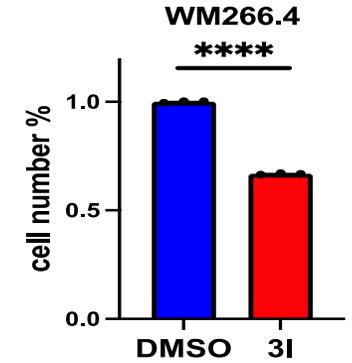
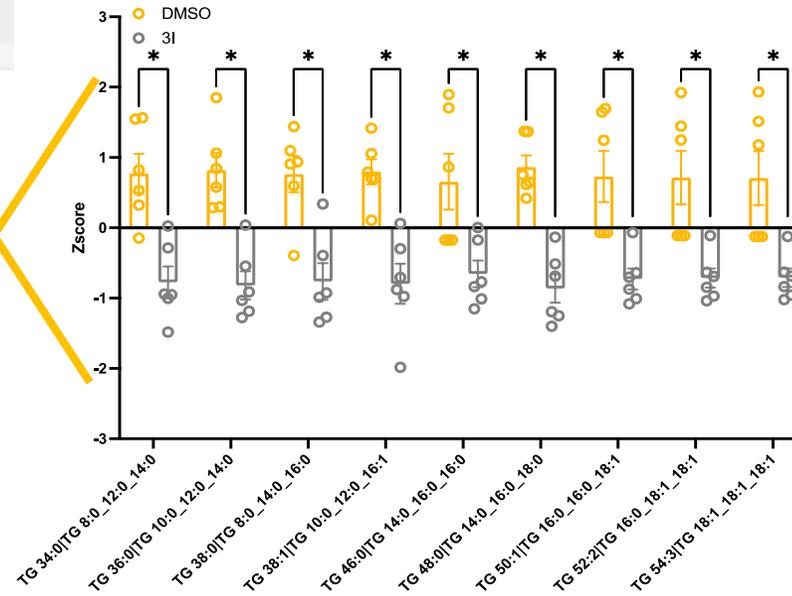
## PROTEOMICS



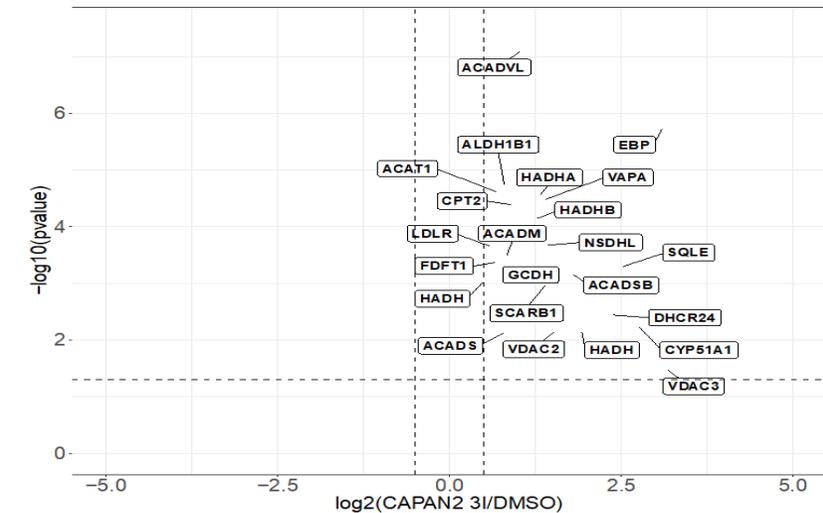
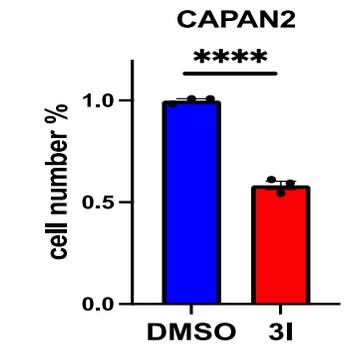
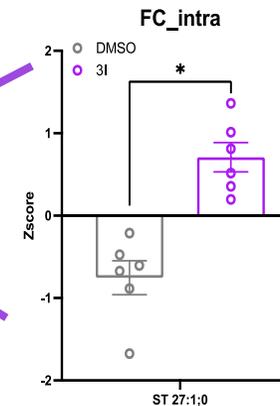
## LIPIDOMICS



## TAG



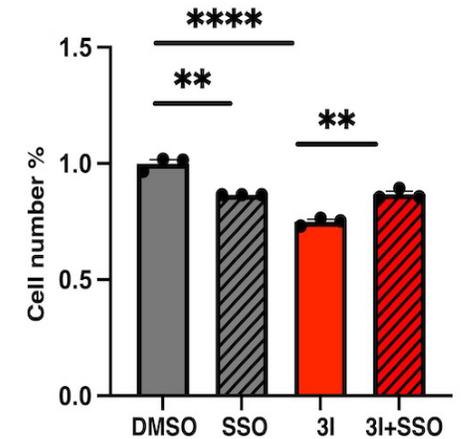
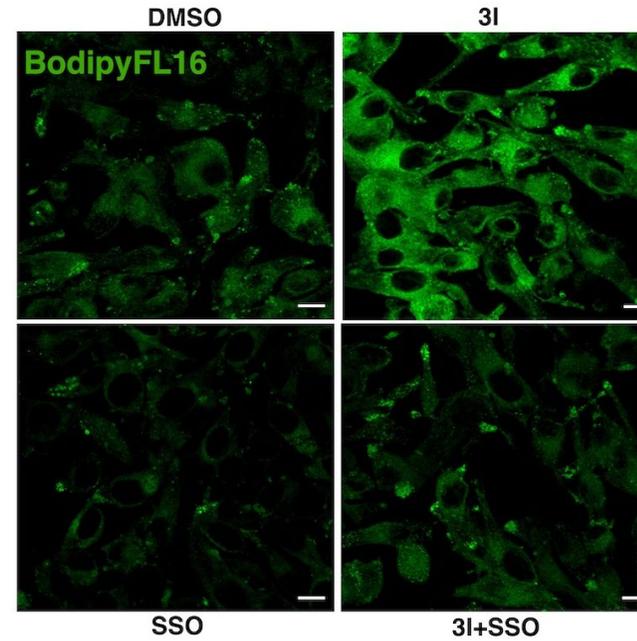
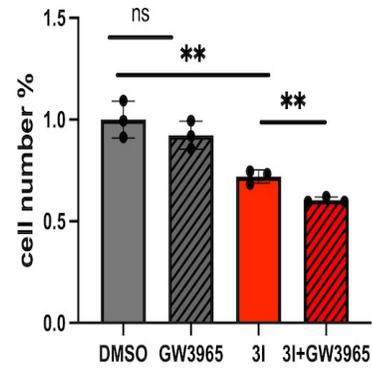
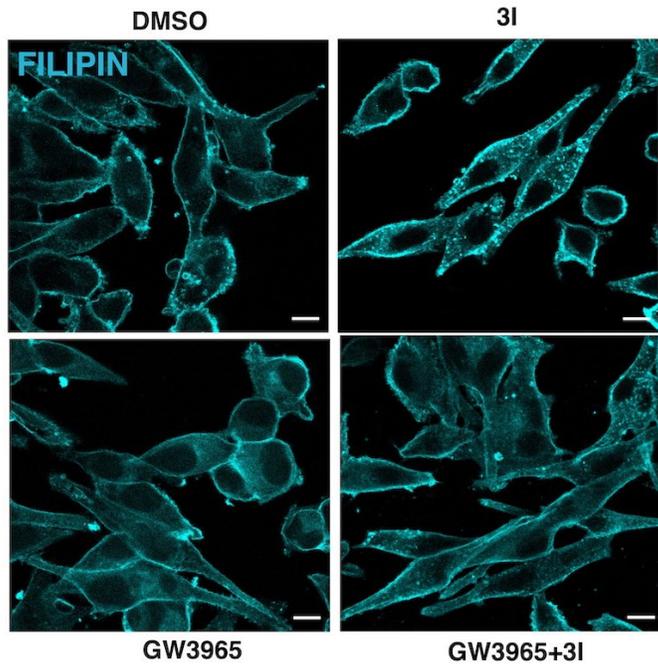
## Free cholesterol



Unpublished data



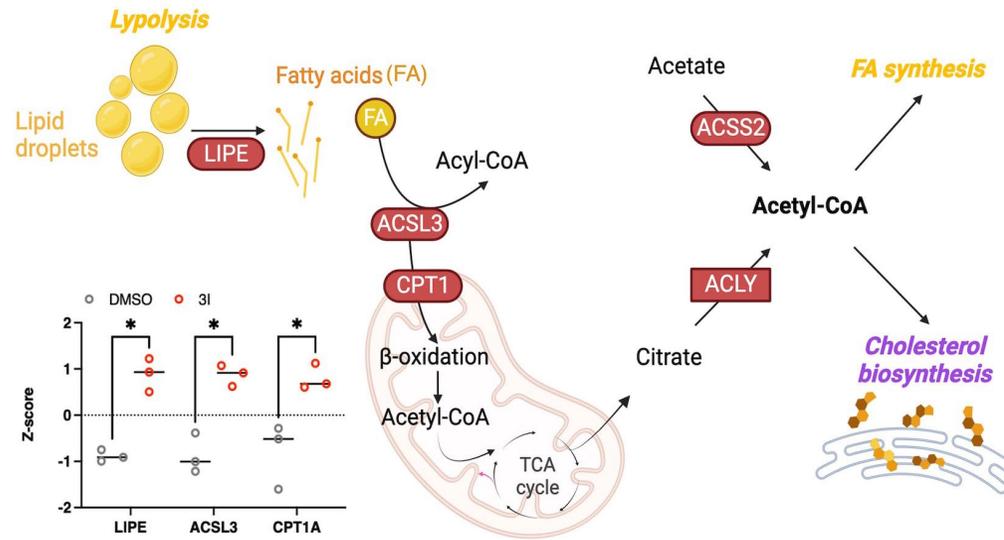
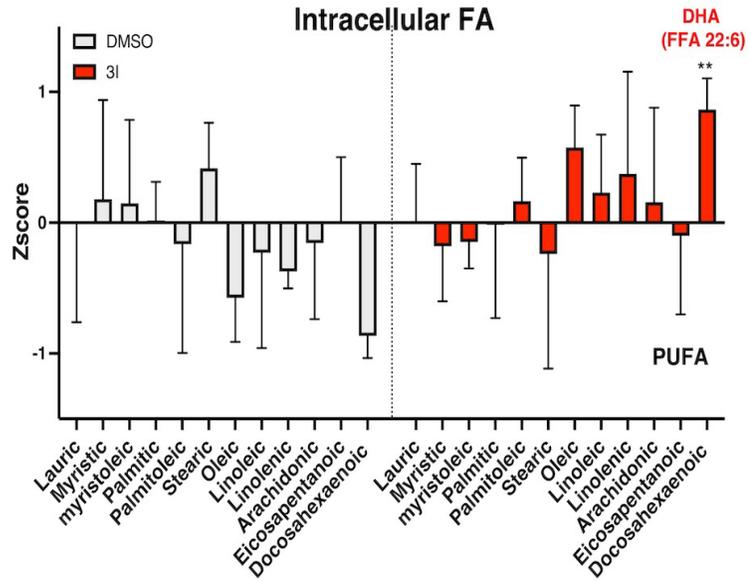
# Which lipids interfere with cell proliferation?



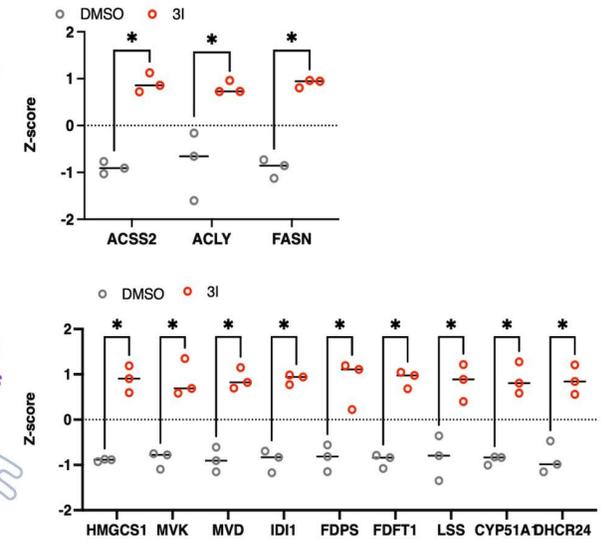
FA influx is a major contributor to the anti-proliferative effects of BACE2 inhibition.



# BACE2 increases intracellular PUFA and activates PPR $\alpha$



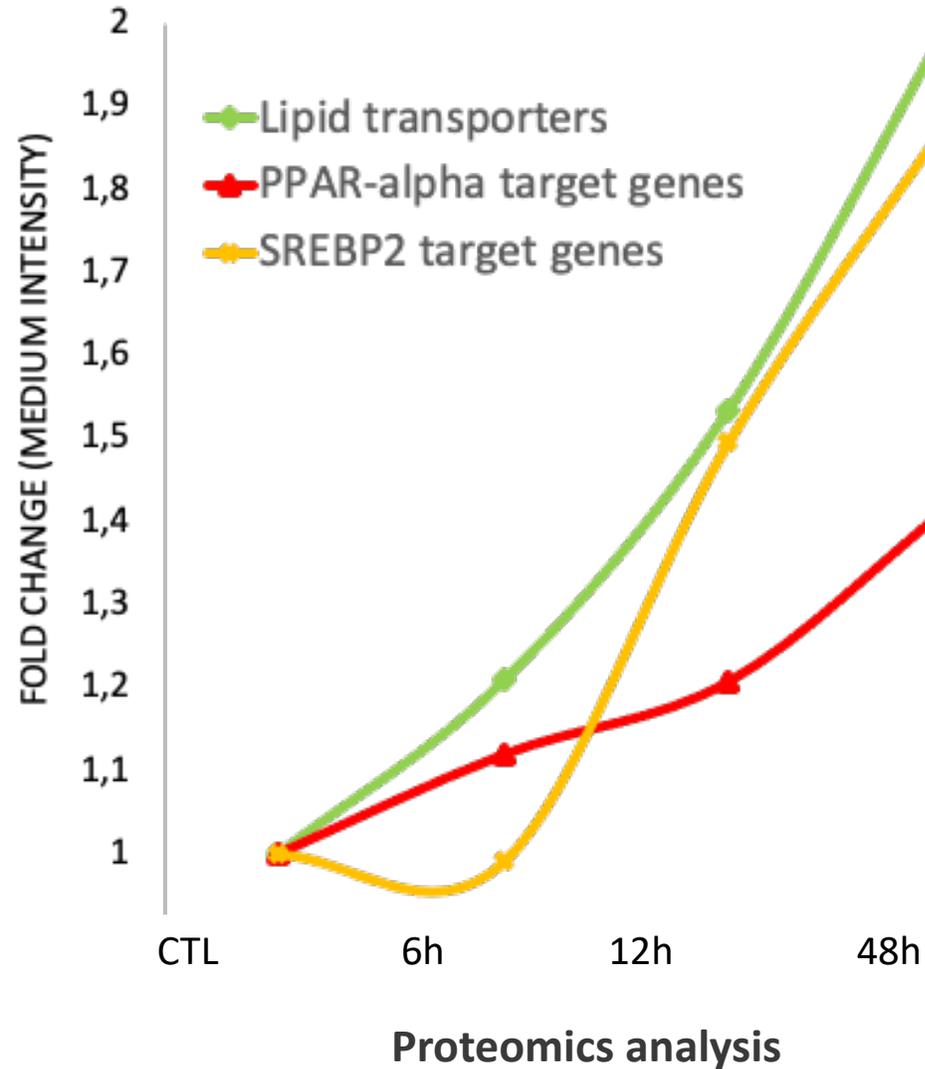
PPR $\alpha$  target genes





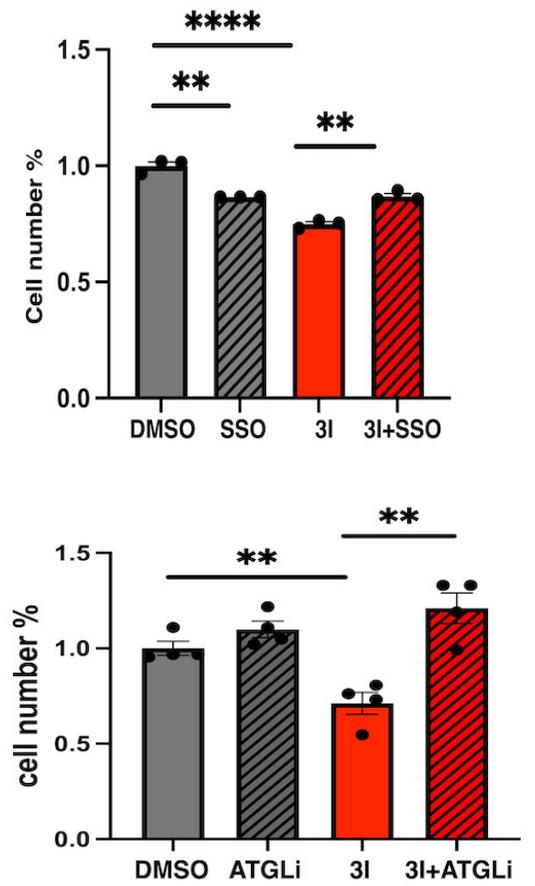
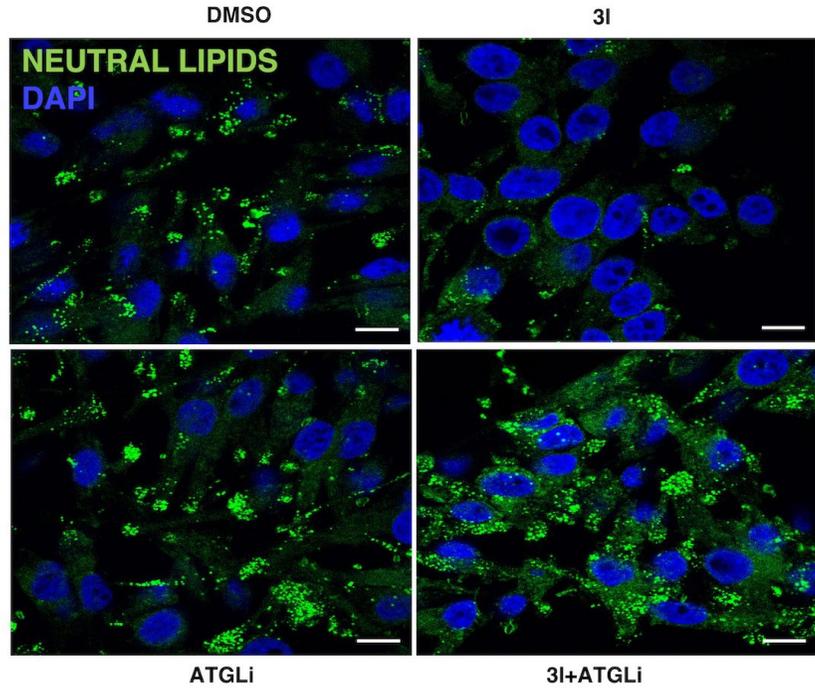
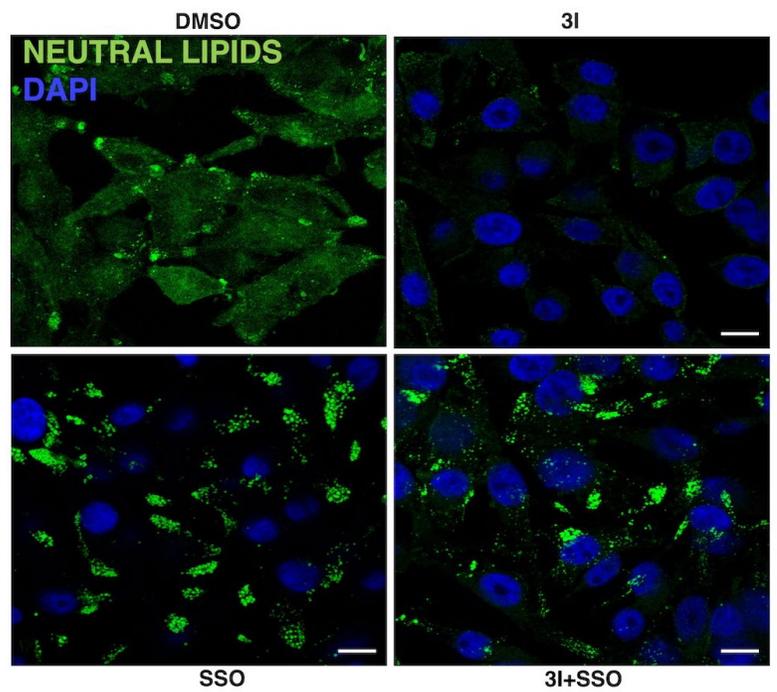
# Lipid transporters accumulation is faster than lypolisi and steroidogenesis

Gene name	DMSO	6h	12h	48h
SORT1				
CD36				
PTGFRN				
LDLR				
LRP1				
SCARB2				
SCARB1				
CD63				
LIPE				
LIPA				
CPT2				
ACSL1				
LSS				
CYP51A1				
FDFT1				
DHCR24				
DHRS4				
HMGCS1				
SREBF2				





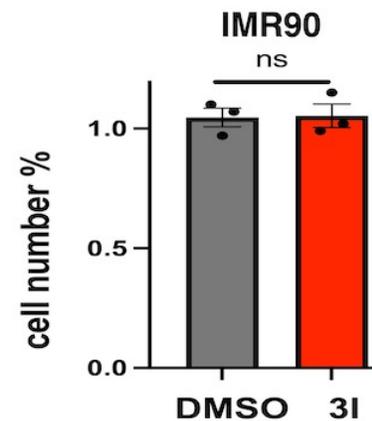
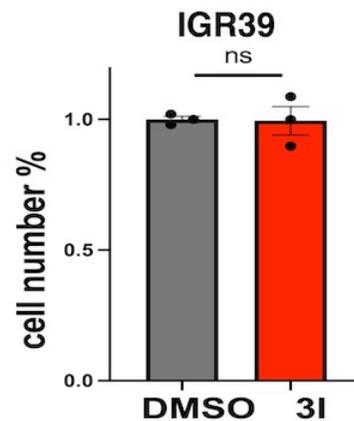
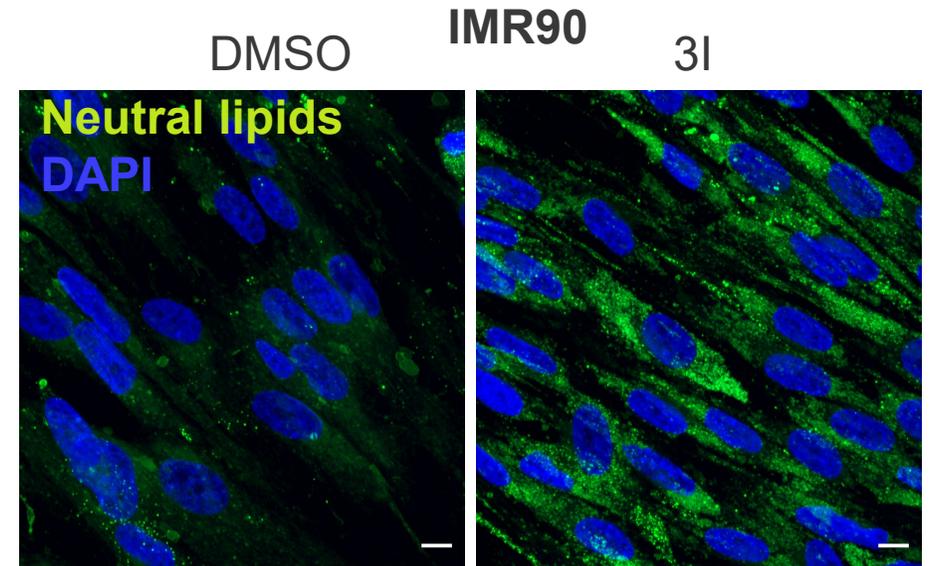
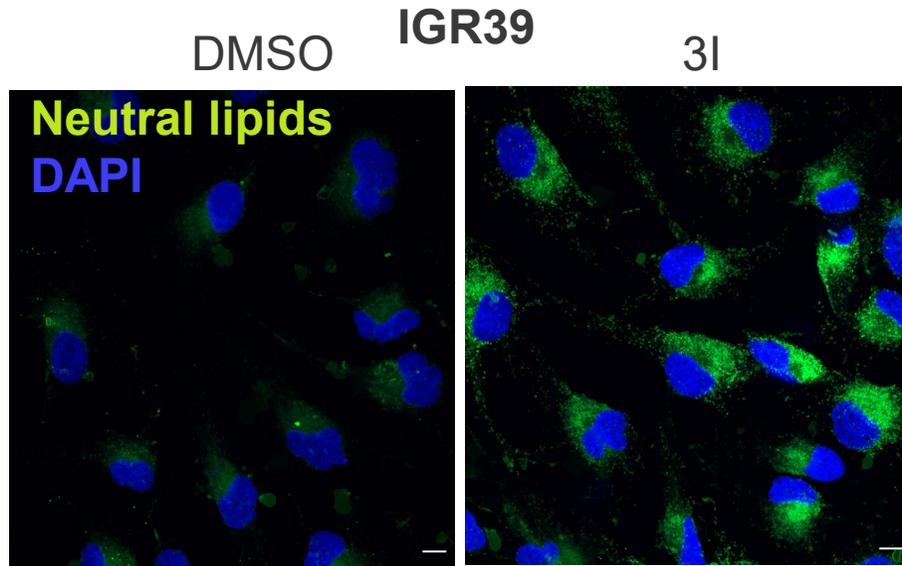
# Blocking lipolysis rescues the proliferation impairment induced by BACE2 inhibition



Unpublished data

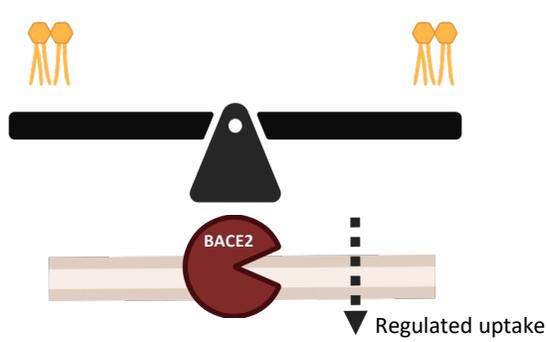


# The lipid-proliferation link is specific for high BACE2 cancer cells

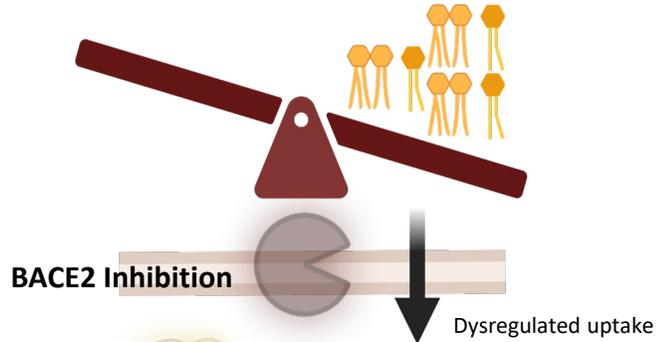




# BACE2 is a lipid sensor and gatekeeper

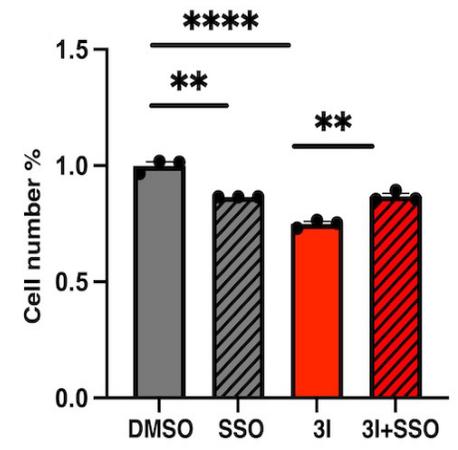


Highly proliferative cells

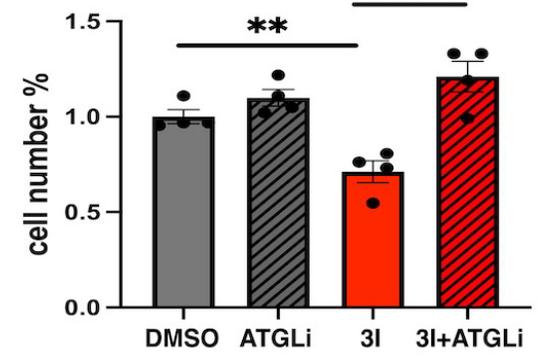


Proliferation impairment

## Lipid uptake

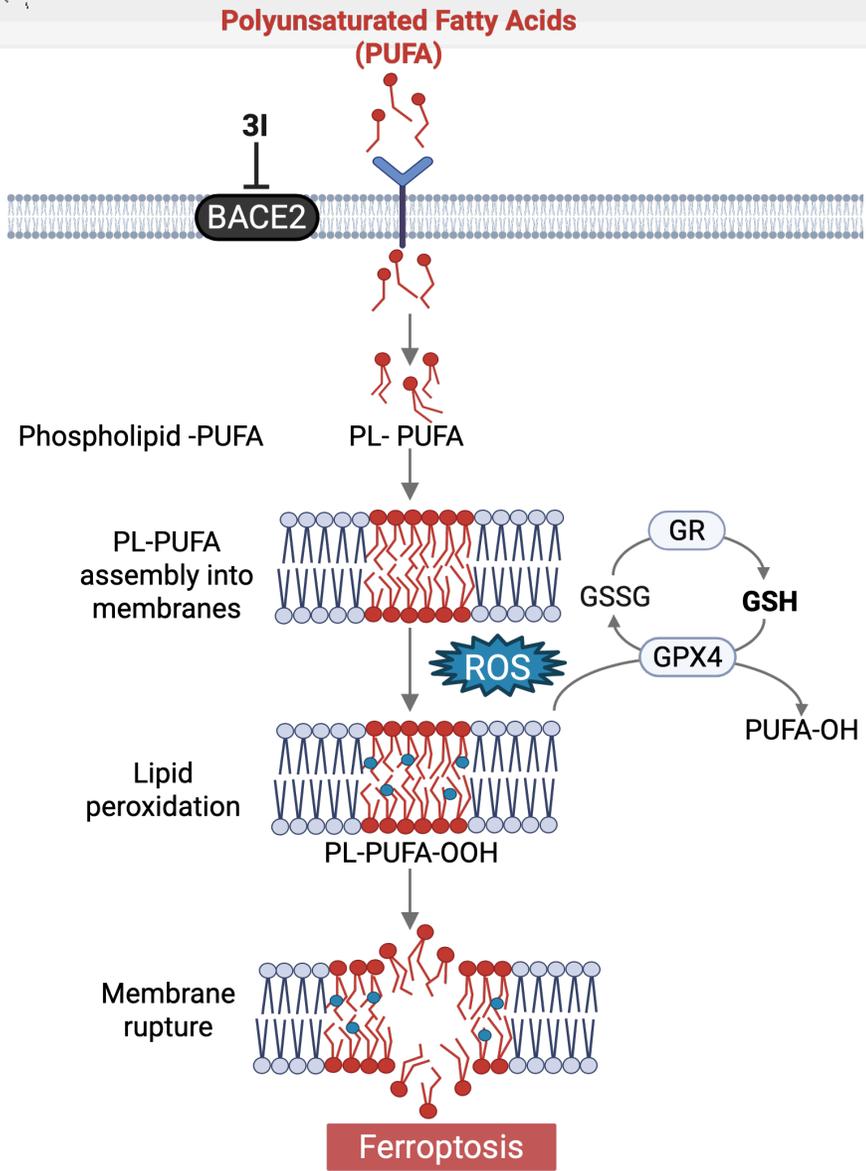


## LDs lipolysis





# How lipid overload impairs cell proliferation?

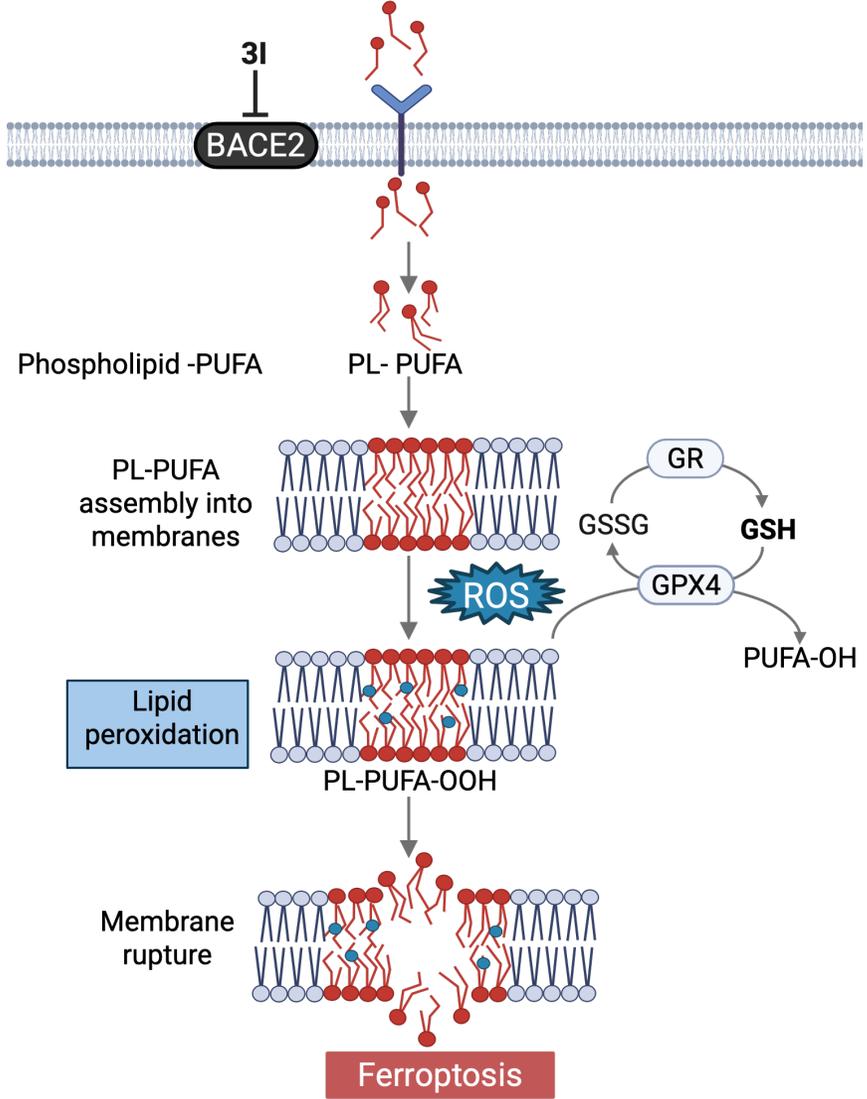


The antioxidant capacity is compromised



# Does BACE2 inhibition induce ferroptosis?

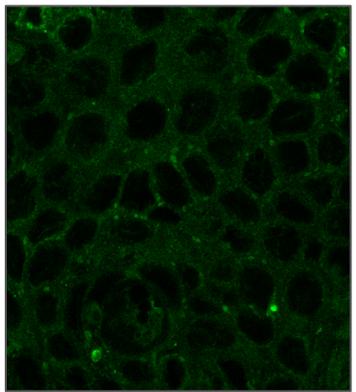
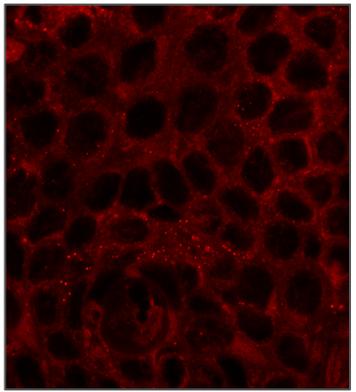
Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA)



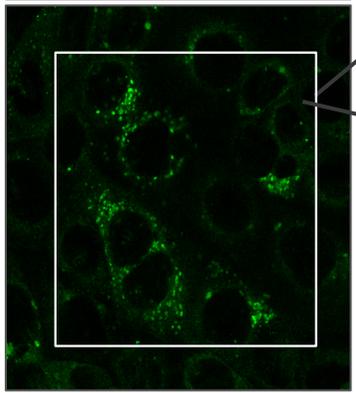
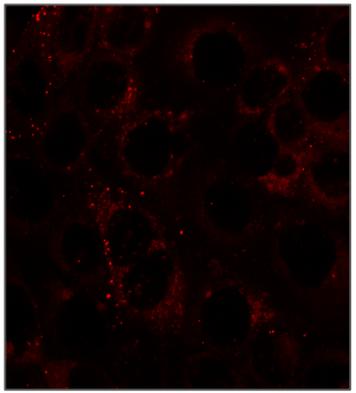
Reduced lipids

Oxidized lipids

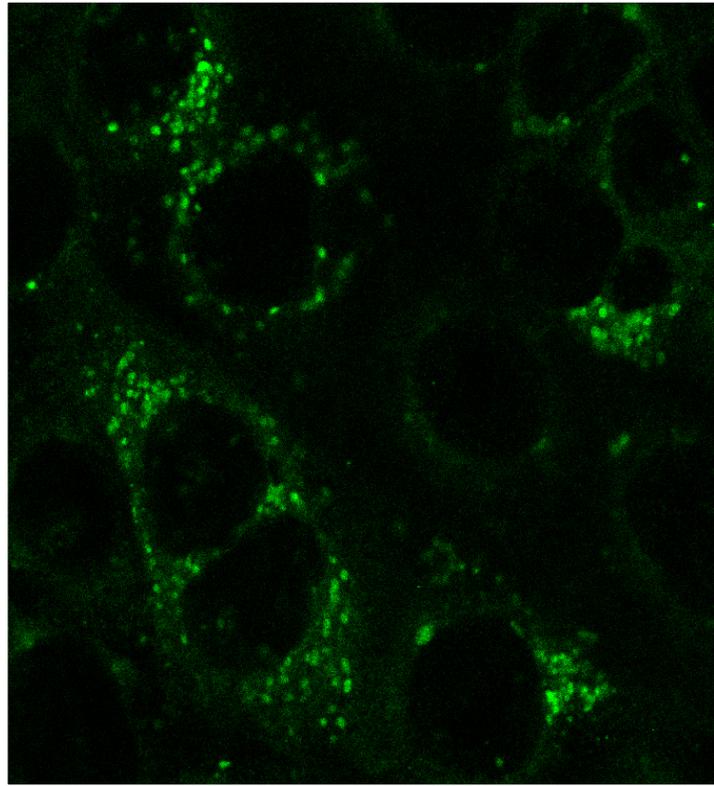
Bodipy C11



DMSO



3I

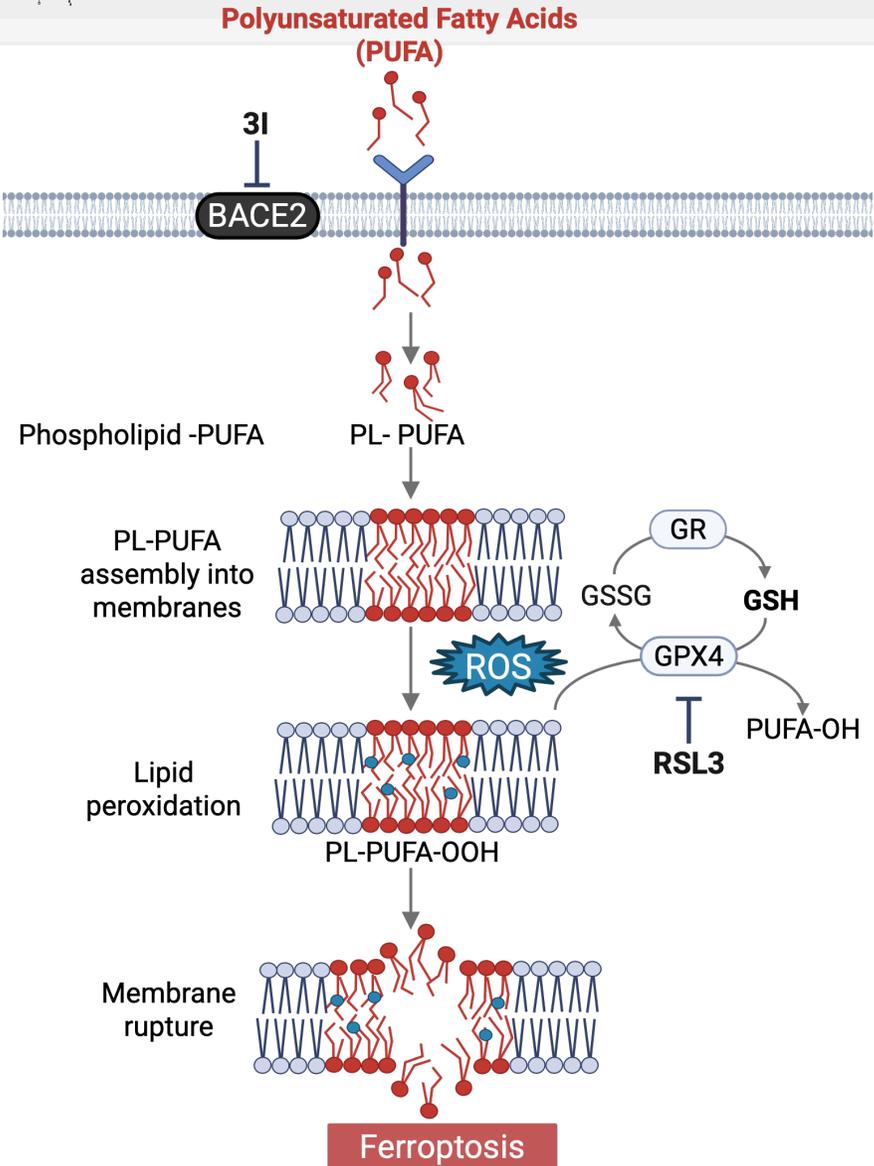


Lipid oxidation is increased upon BACE2 inhibition

Unpublished data



# Does BACE2 inhibition induce ferroptosis?

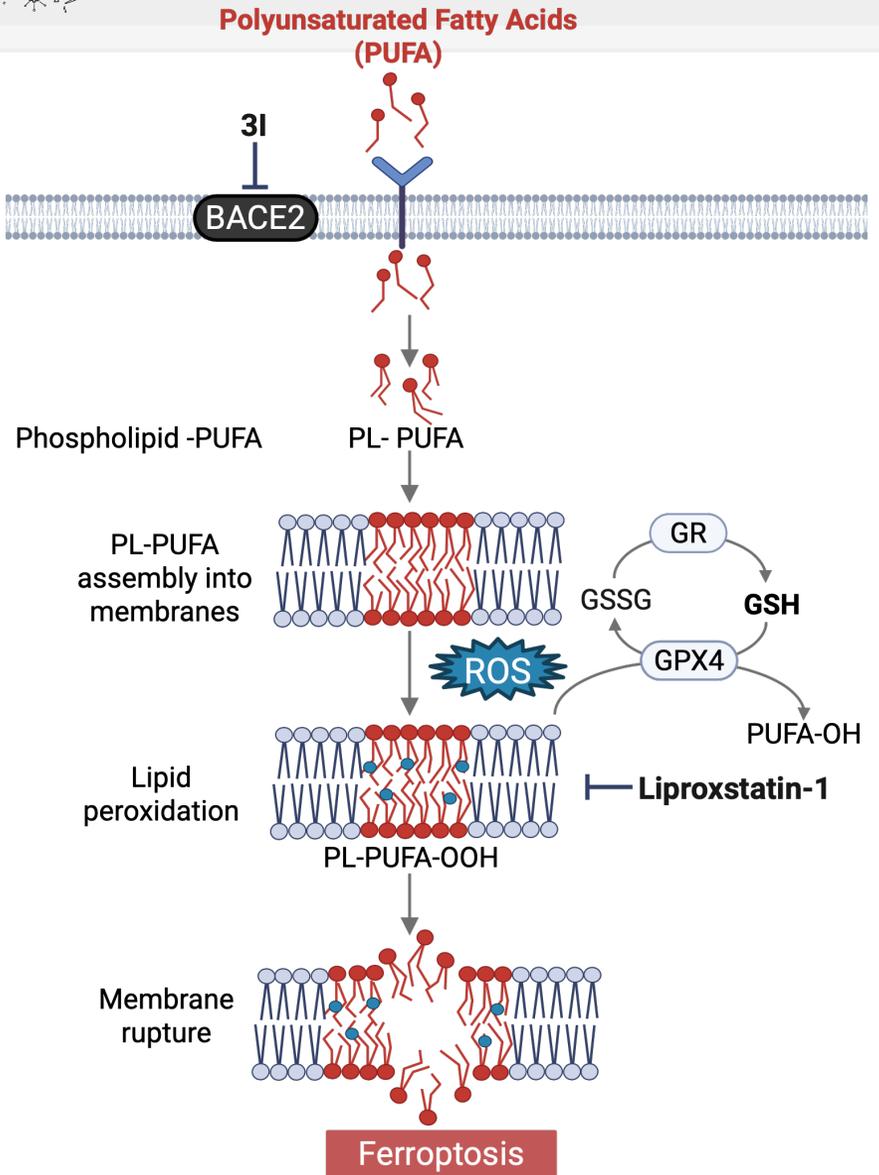


RSL3 exacerbates decreased proliferation induced by BACE2 inhibition

Unpublished data

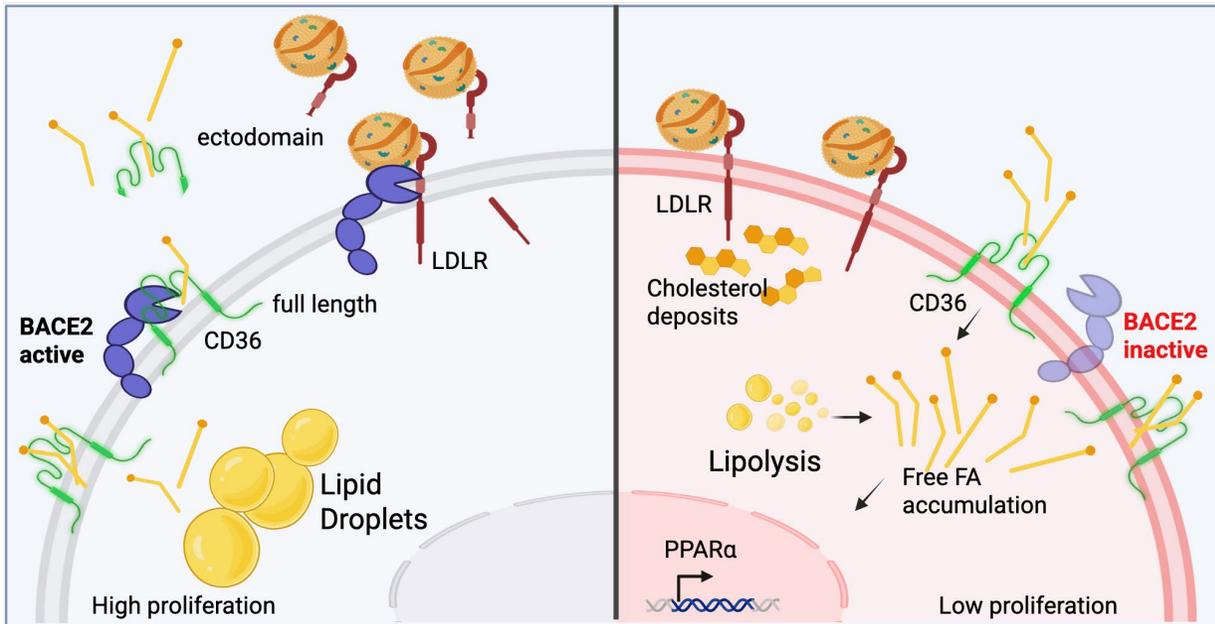


# Does BACE2 inhibition induce ferroptosis?





# Conclusions and perspectives



- BACE2 regulates lipid transporters shedding and lipid uptake in cancer and normal cells
- BACE2 regulates intra and extracellular lipid content
- Manipulating lipid fluxes affects cancer cells viability inducing a lipid overload mediated toxicity
- Lipid metabolism could be targeted in BACE2 over-expressing tumors
- BACE2 in combination with ferroptosis inducers to enhance the anti-tumoral effects

- How is the specificity for lipid transporters regulated?
- How is BACE2 expression regulated?
- Can we exploit BACE2 modulation to rewire immune/stromal cells metabolism or reprogram their behavior in cancer TME ?



# THANKS TO:

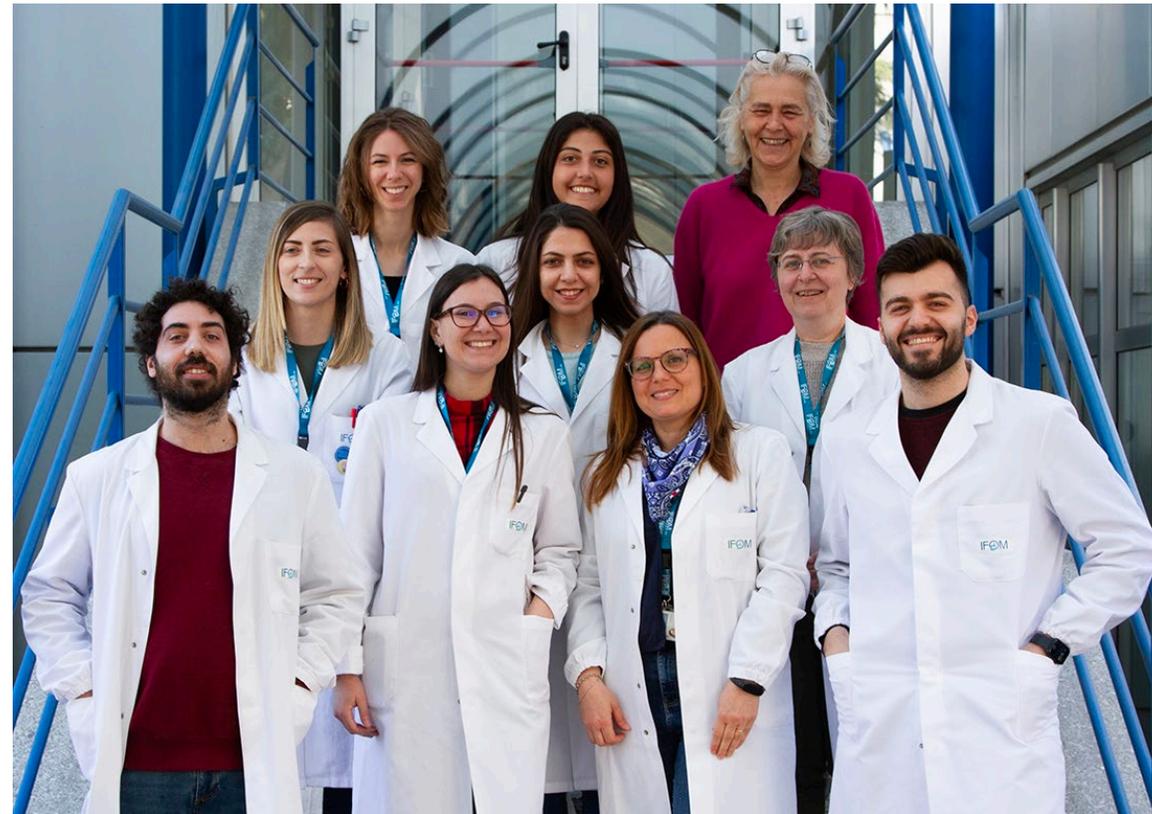


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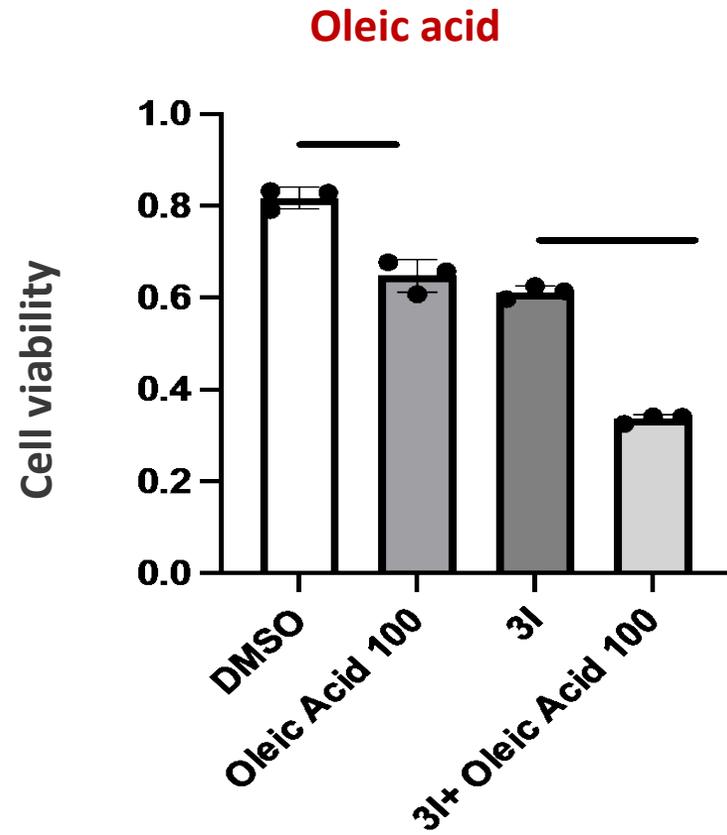
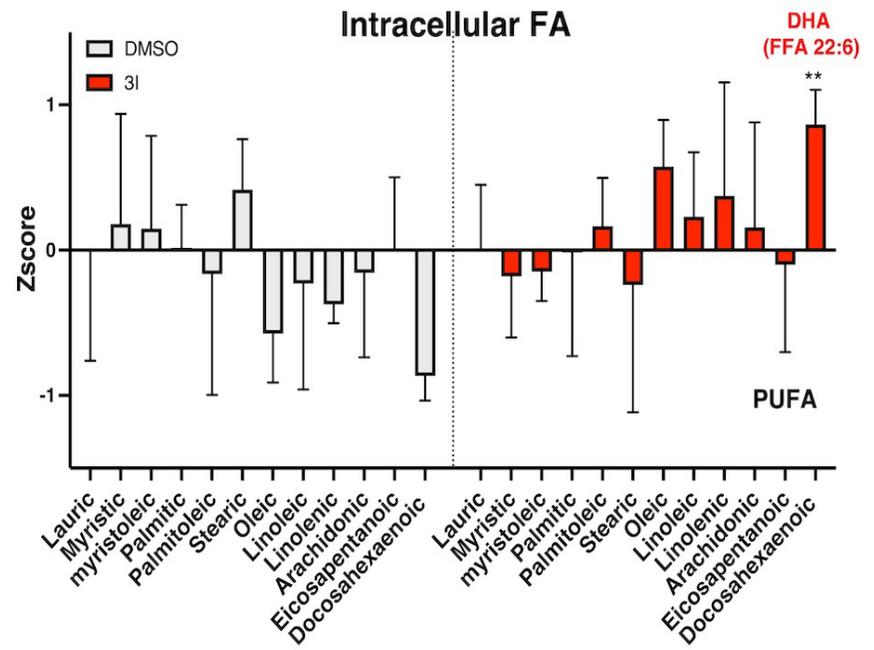
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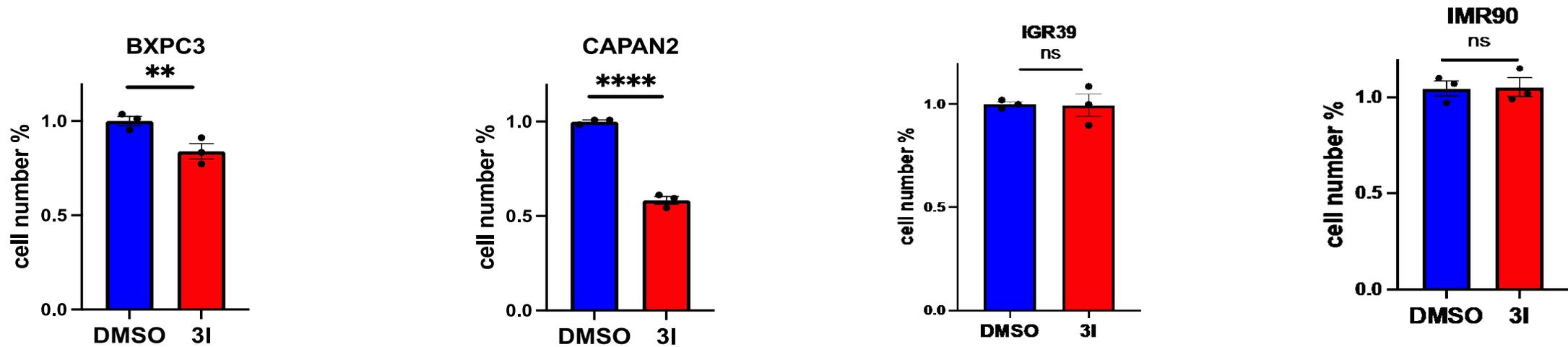


# BACE2 increases intracellular PUFA which are toxic for the cells



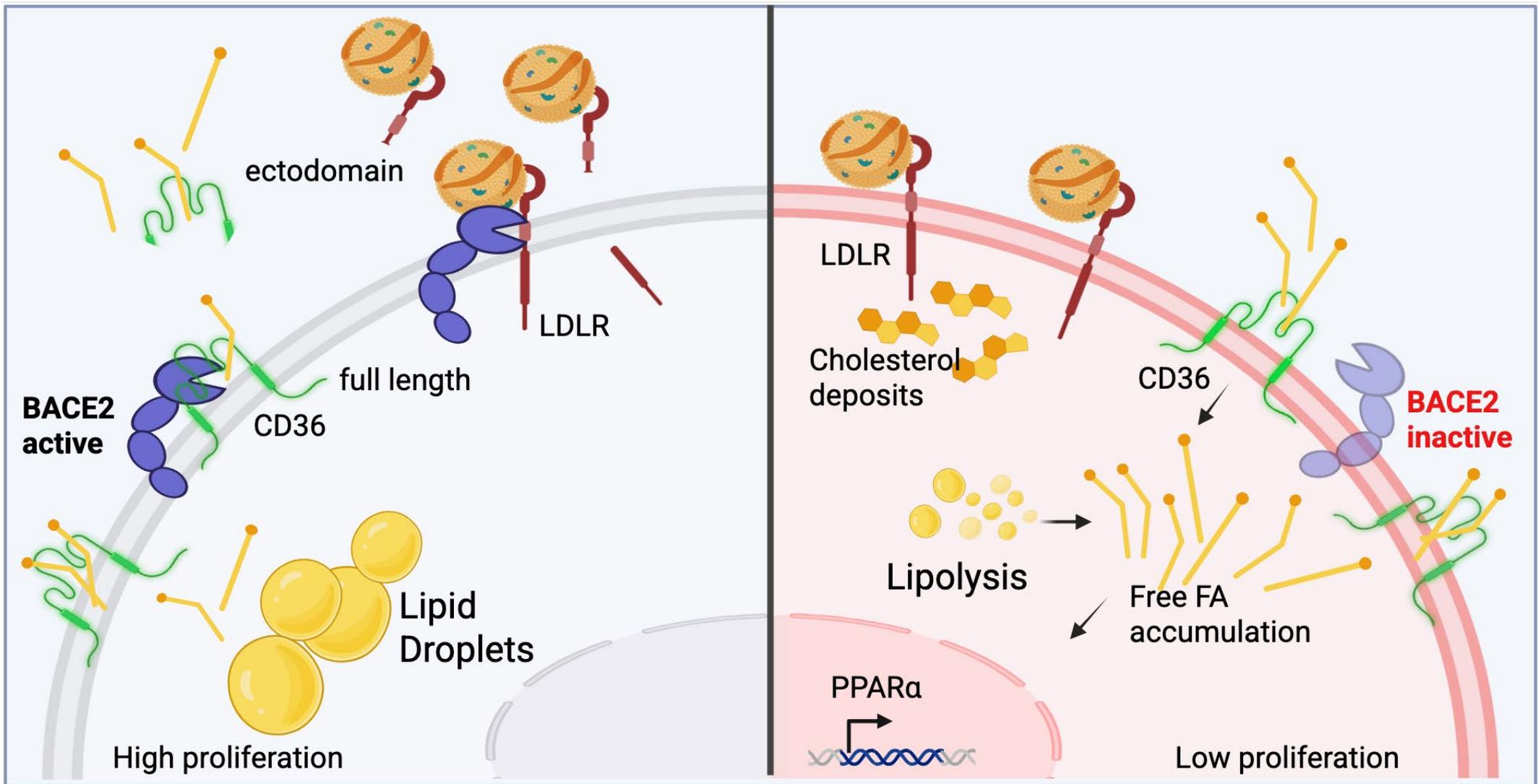


## The lipid - proliferation link is specific for high BACE2 cancer cells



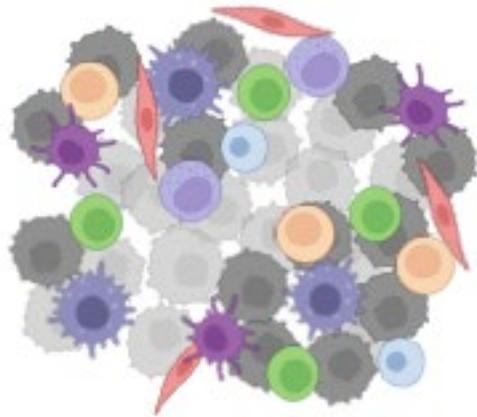


# Conclusions





# Is there a direct link between lipids metabolism and BACE2 activity?



## Proteomics & Metabolomics

