



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

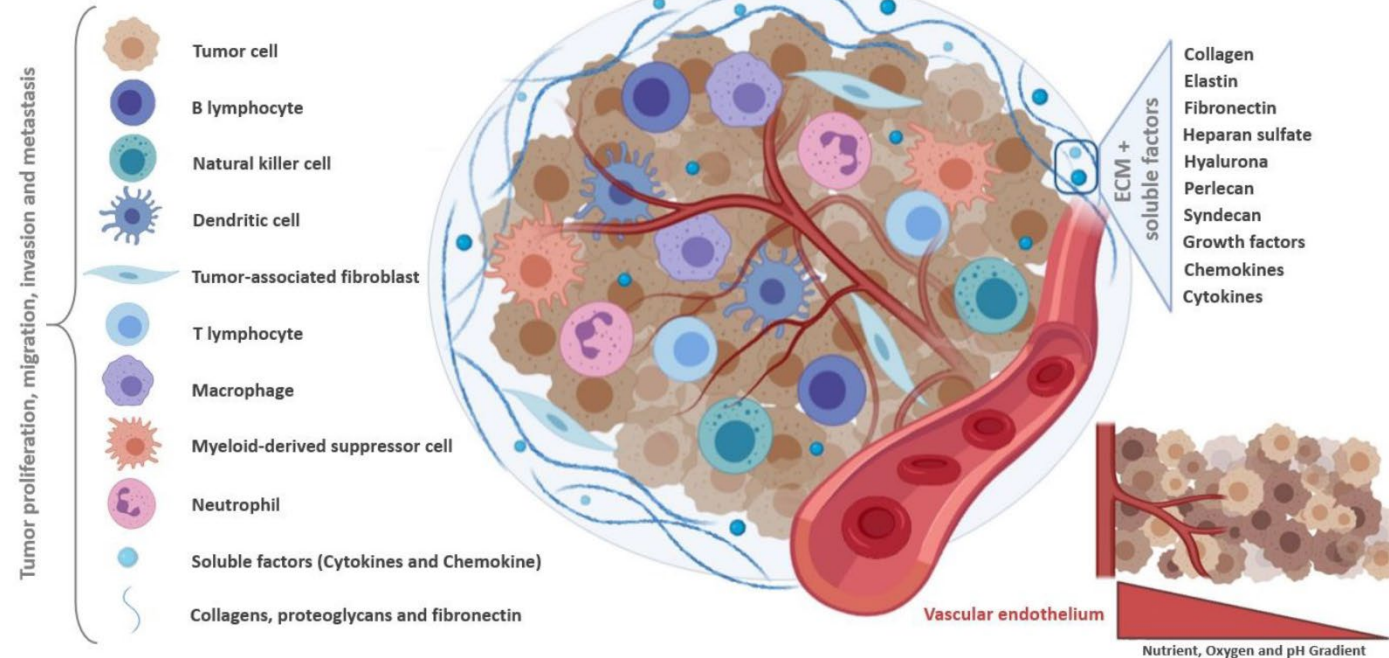
Mass spectrometry –based proteomics (and metabolomics) to elucidate tumor-microenvironment metabolic interactions

Angela Bachi

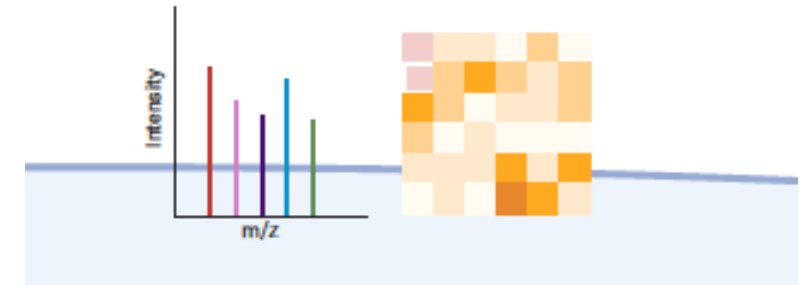
IFOM – AIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology
angela.bachi@ifom.eu



Tumor MicroEnvironment



Proteomics & Metabolomics



Soluble factors

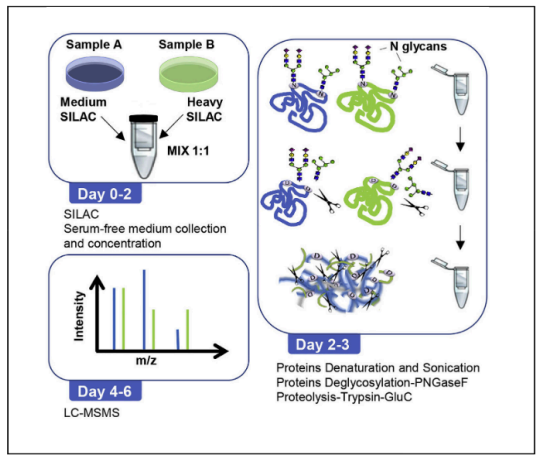
Metastatic melanoma secretome is enriched in amyloid aggregates

STAR Protocols

CellPress
OPEN ACCESS

Protocol

Secret3D Workflow for Secretome Analysis

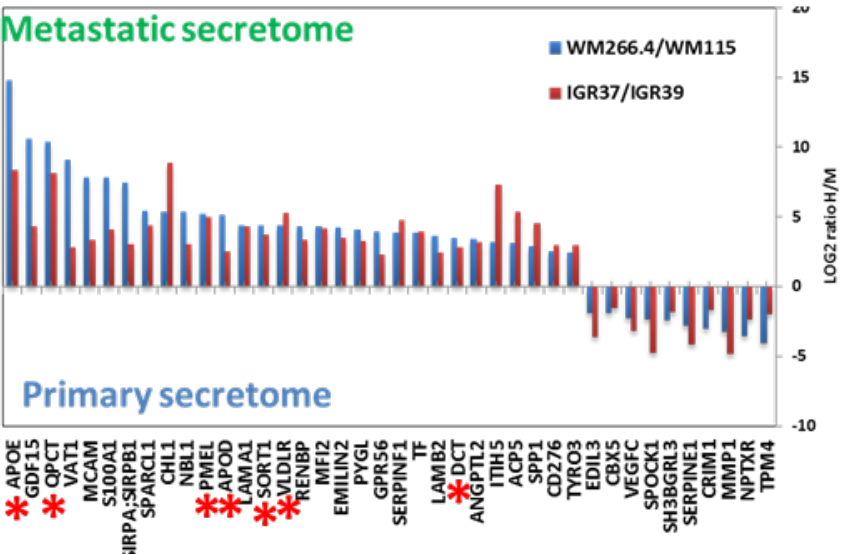


Vittoria Matafora,
Angela Bachi
vittoria.matafora@ifom.eu
angela.bachi@ifom.eu
(A.B.)

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

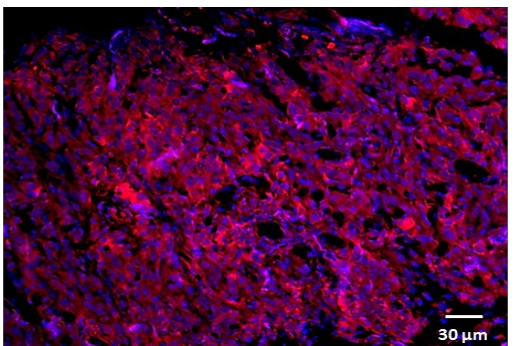
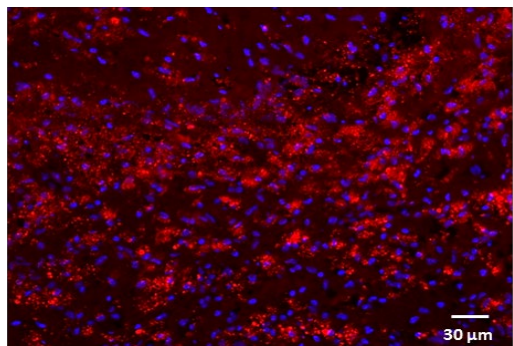
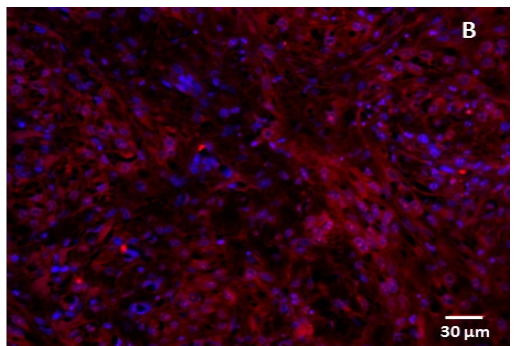
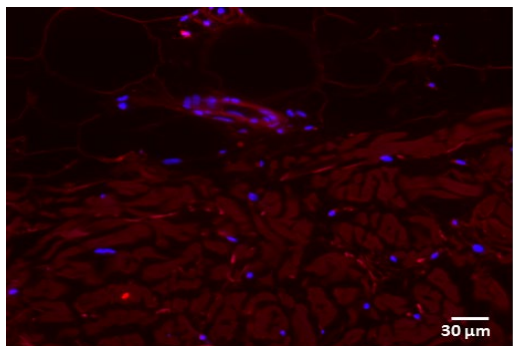
De-glycosylation and double digestion enhance protein identification and quantification

Identification of putative glycosylation sites of the secreted proteins



Healthy skin

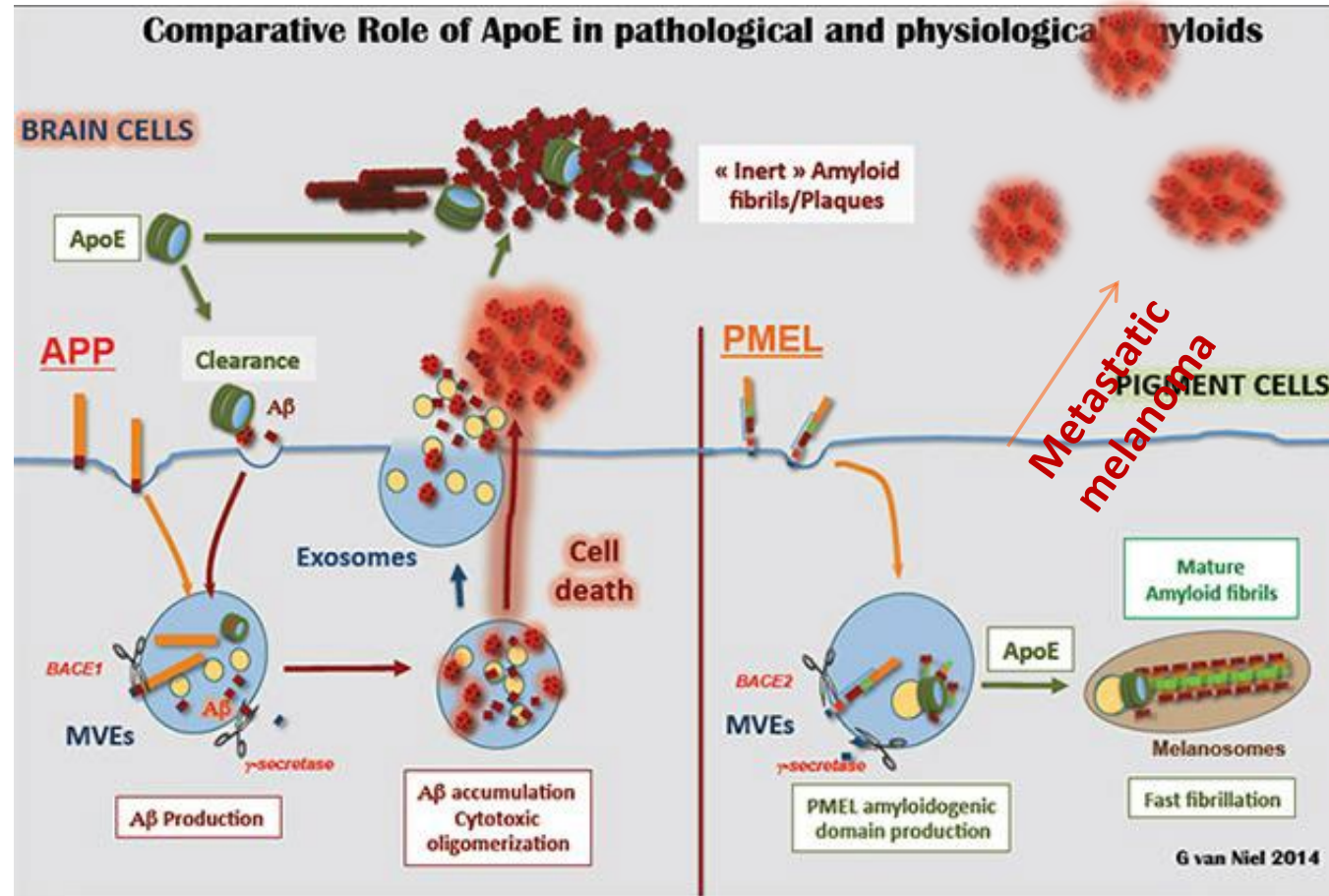
Primitive tumor



Brain metastasis

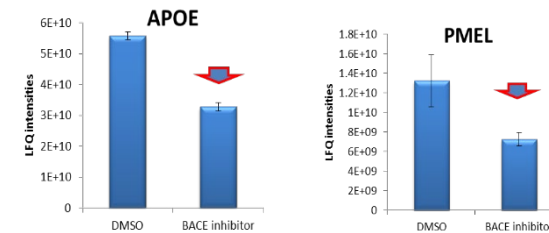
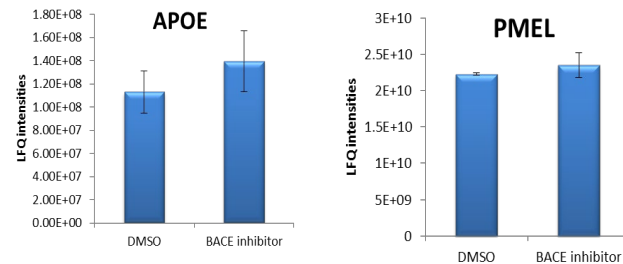
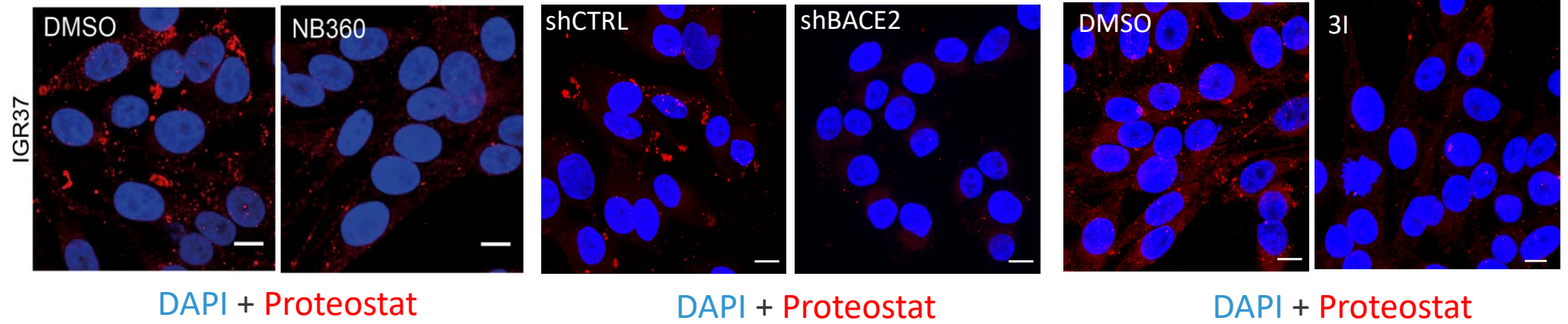
Lung metastasis

How are amyloids produced?



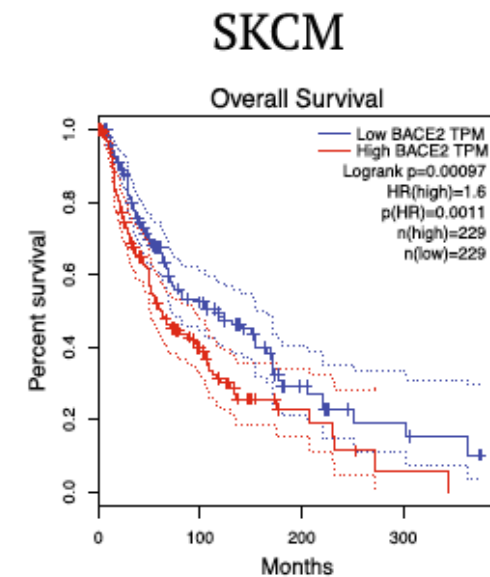
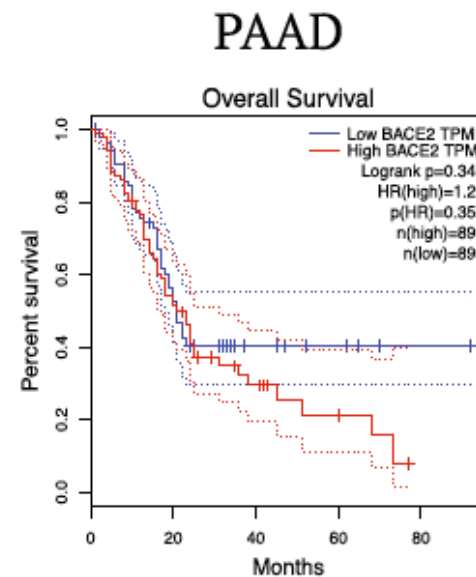
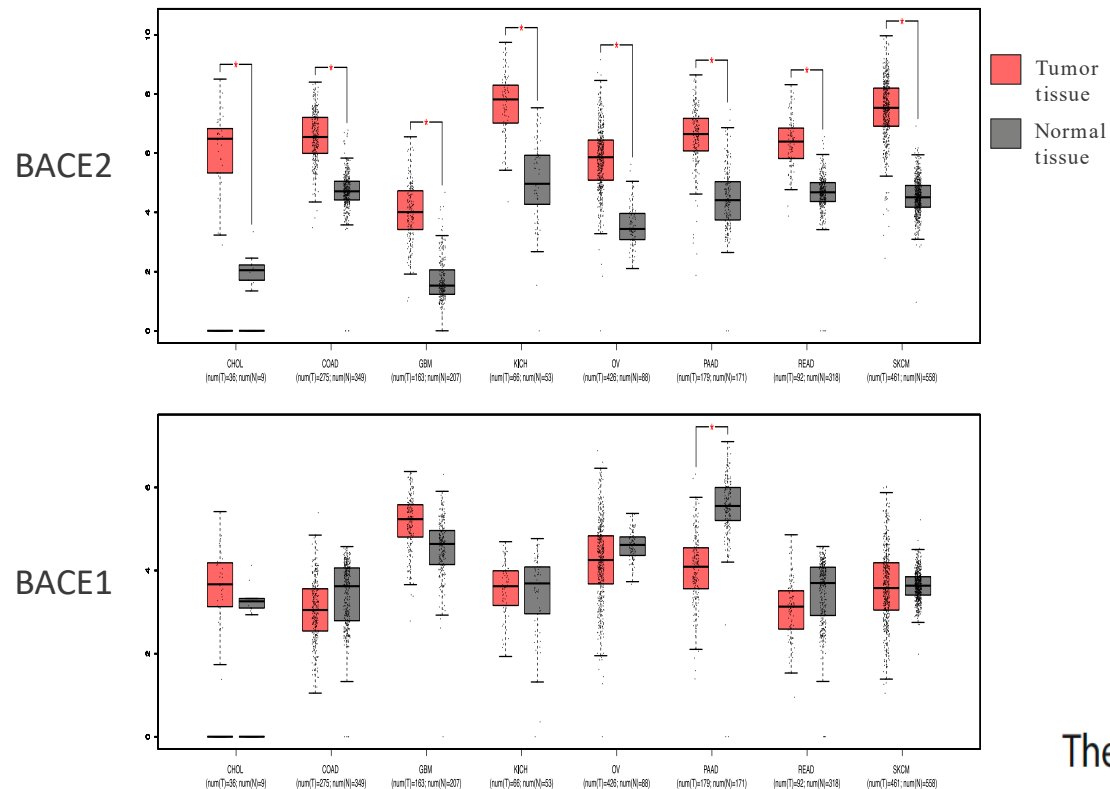


BACE2 produces amyloid aggregates in melanoma





BACE2 in cancer

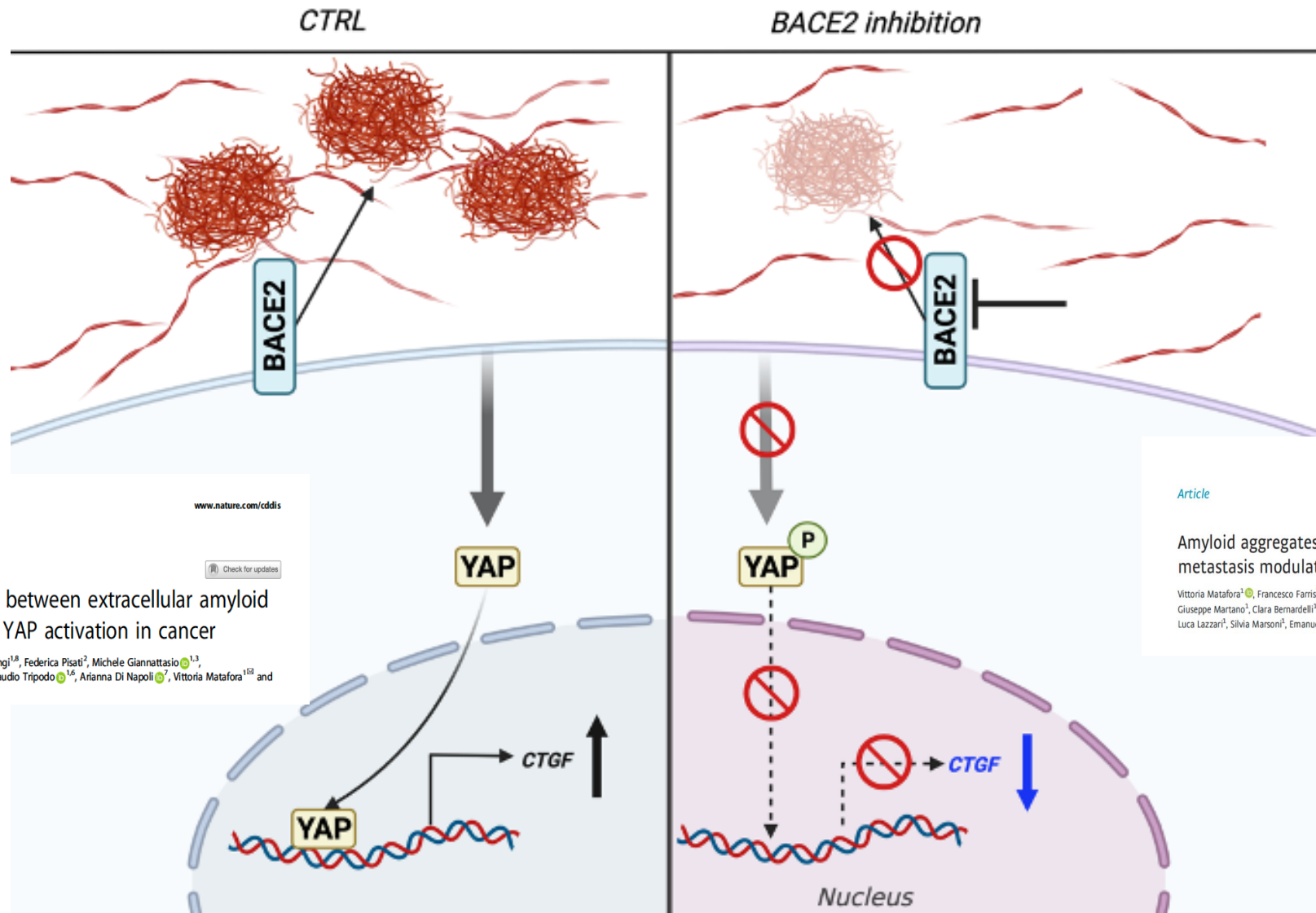


The emerging role of β -secretases in cancer

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

ARTICLE OPEN

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

Francesco Farris¹, Alice Elhagh¹, Ilaria Vigorito¹, Nicoletta Alongi^{1,2}, Federica Pisati², Michele Giannattasio^{1,3}, Francesca Casagrande^{1,3}, Lisa Veghini⁴, Vincenzo Corbo^{4,5}, Claudio Tripodo^{1,6}, Arianna Di Napoli^{1,6}, Vittoria Matafora^{1,5,2} and Angela Bachi^{1,5,2}

Article



EMBO reports

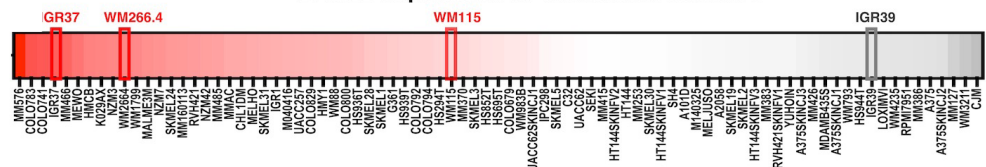
Amyloid aggregates accumulate in melanoma metastasis modulating YAP activity

Vittoria Matafora¹, Francesco Farris¹, Umberto Restuccia^{1,2}, Simone Tamburri^{1,2}, Giuseppe Martino³, Clara Bernardelli^{3,4}, Andrea Sofia^{1,2}, Federica Pisati^{1,3}, Francesca Casagrande¹, Luca Lazzari¹, Silvia Marsoni¹, Emanuela Bonoldi¹ & Angela Bachi^{1,2}

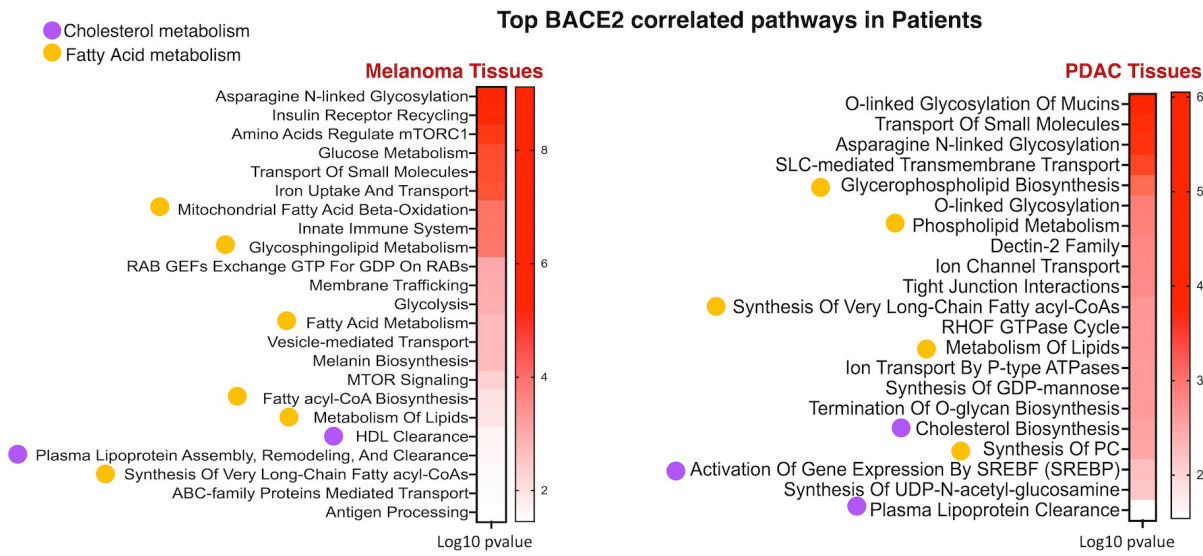
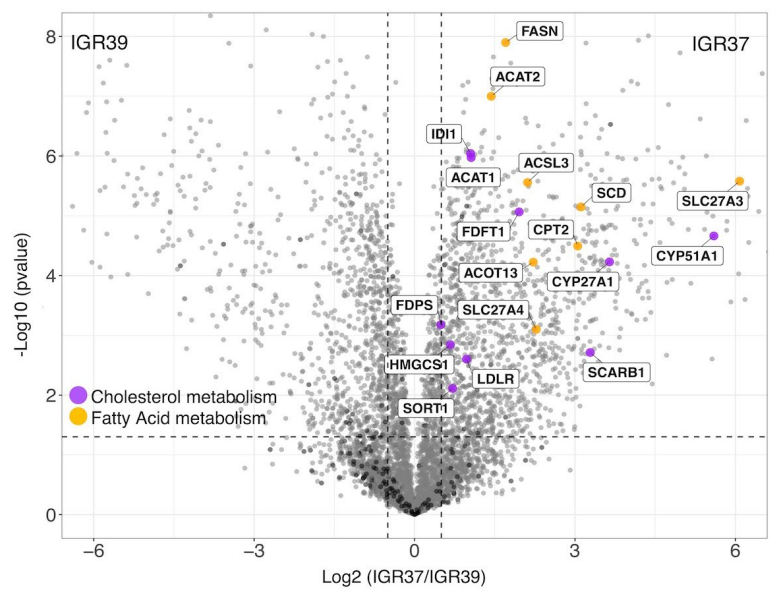


BACE2 in cancer is linked to lipid metabolism

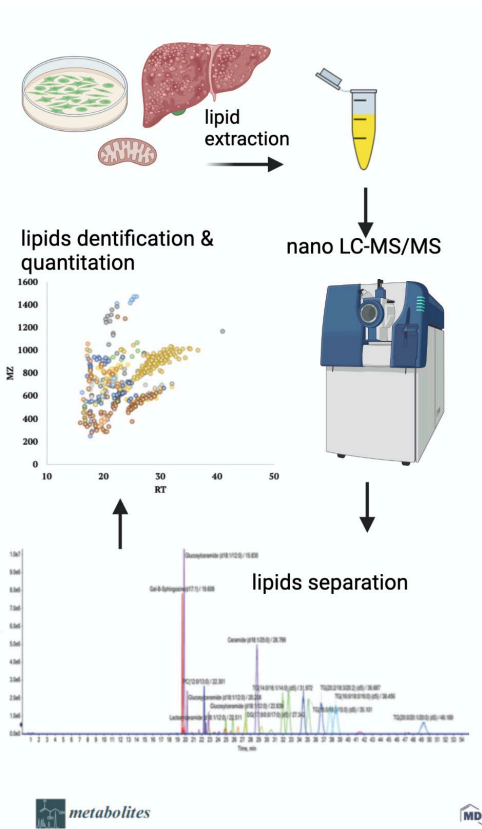
BACE2 expression in melanoma cell lines



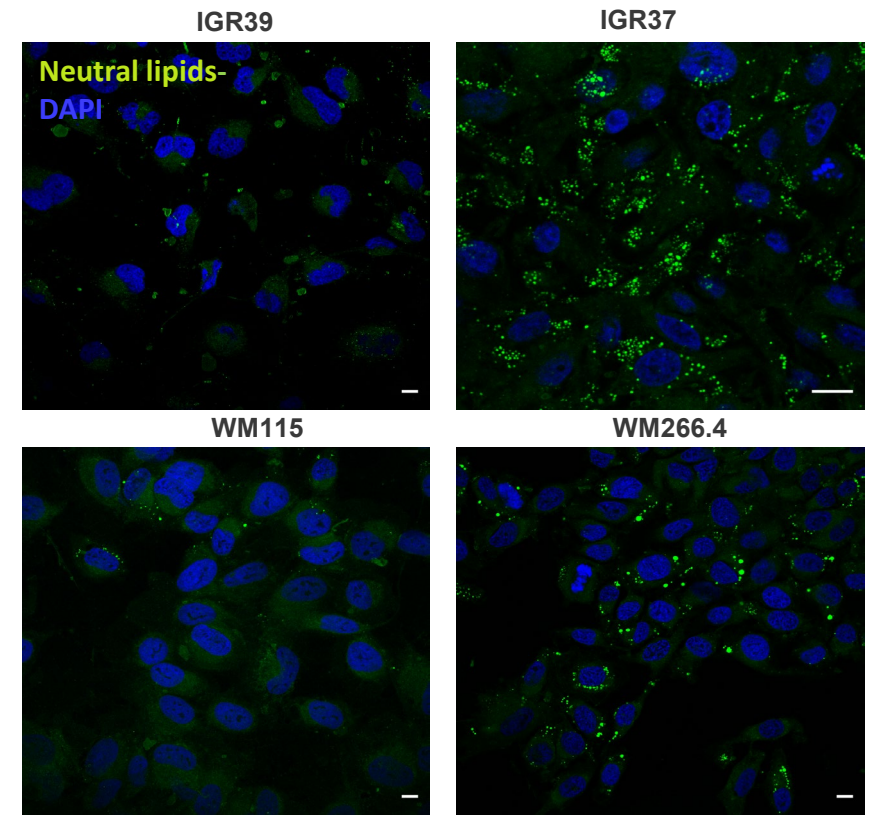
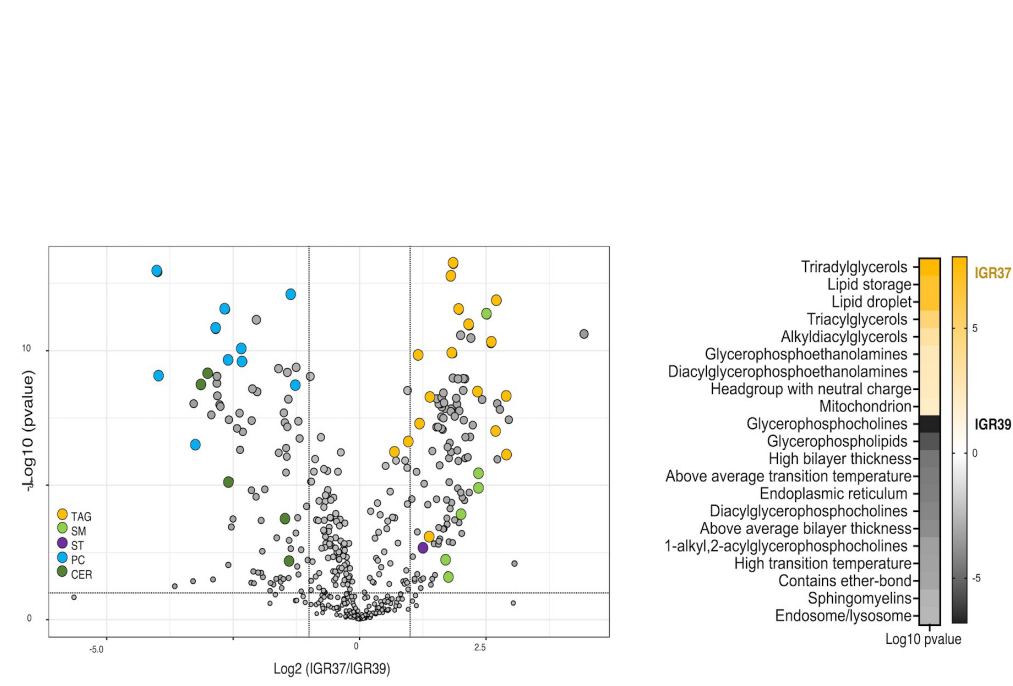
Gene Expression Profiling Interactive Analysis



Unpublished data

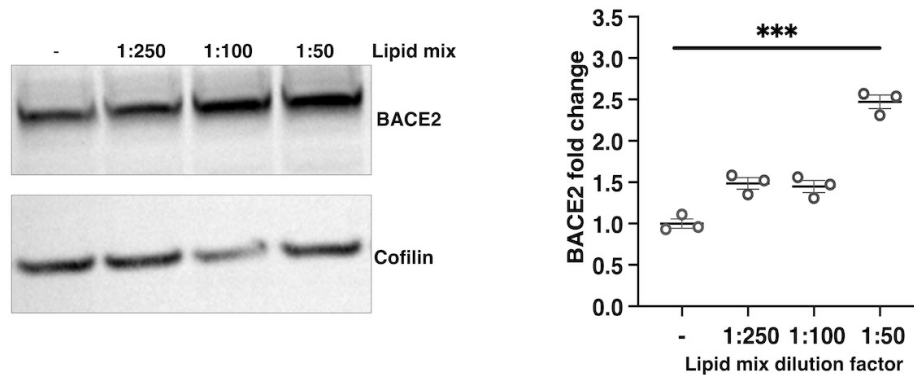


Article
Opti-nQL: An Optimized, Versatile and Sensitive Nano-LC Method for MS-Based Lipidomics Analysis

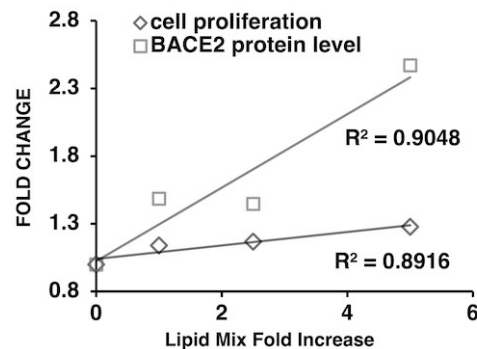




Increasing lipid availability promotes BACE2 expression and cell proliferation

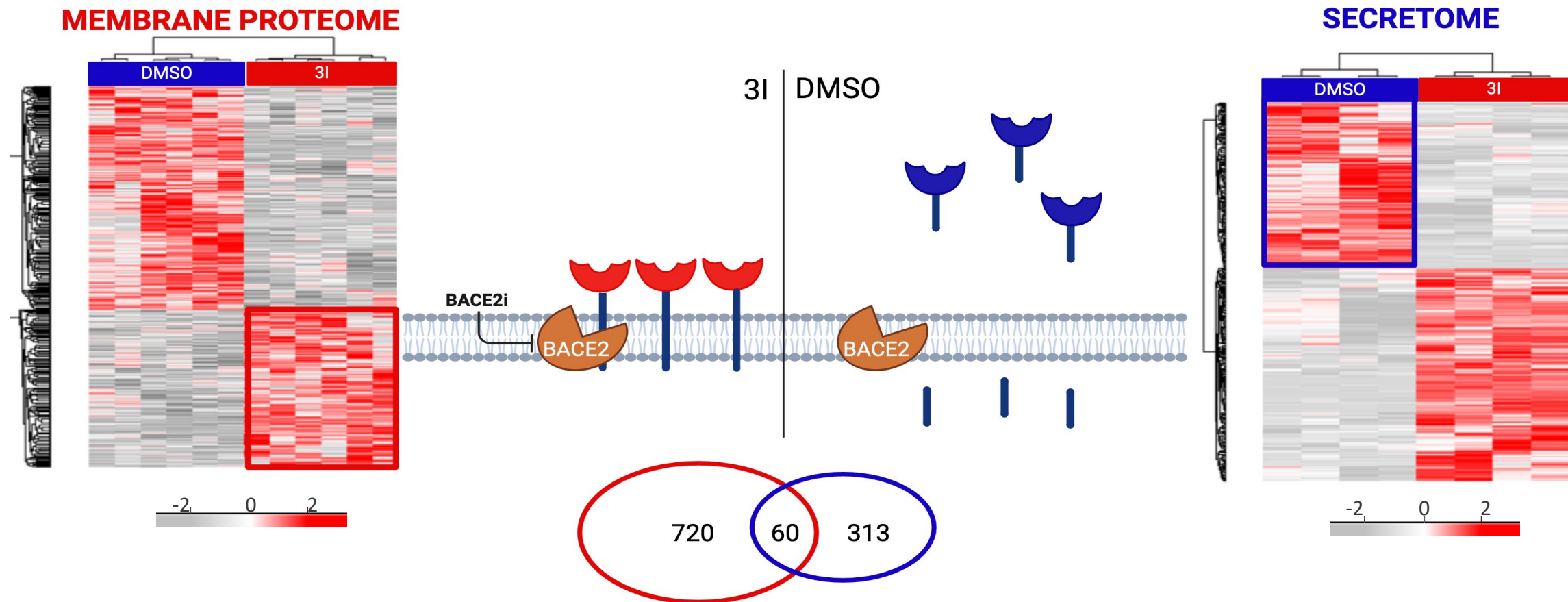


- High BACE2 cancers show an enhanced lipid metabolism
- Increasing extracellular lipids increases BACE2 levels
- More BACE2, higher proliferation of cancer cells





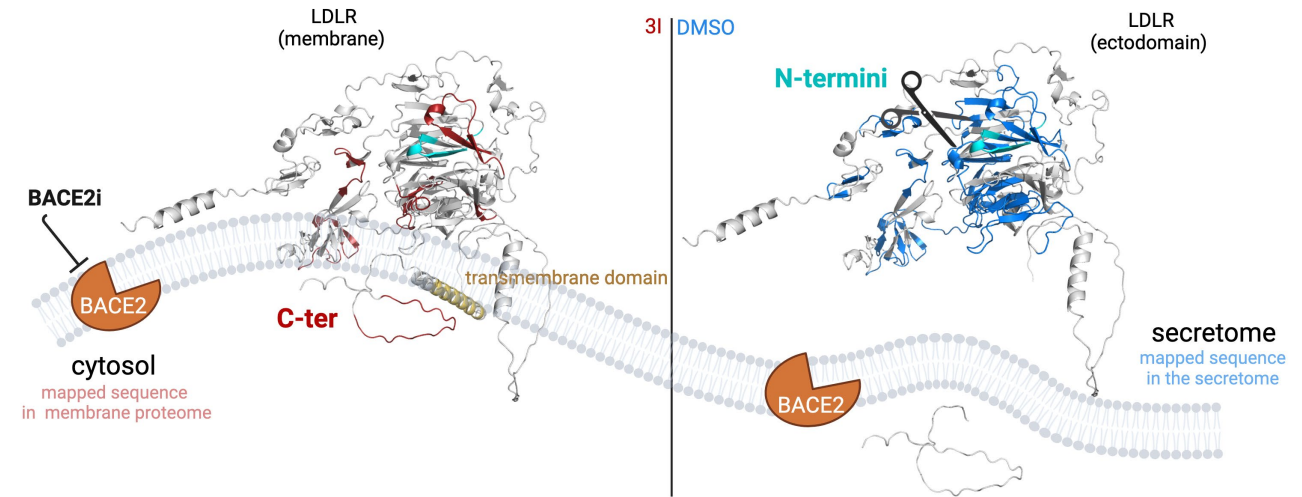
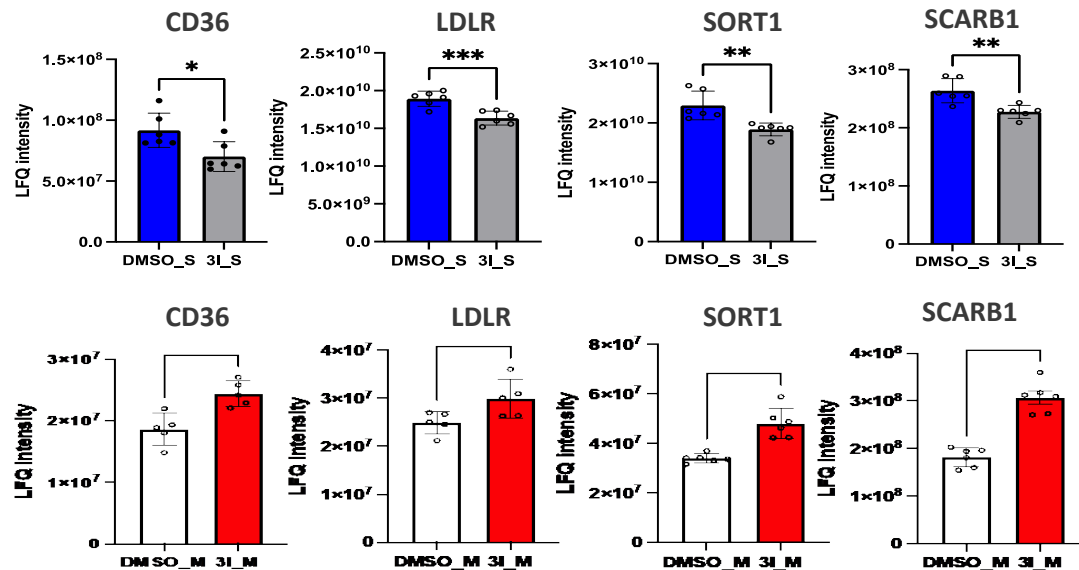
What is the molecular link between lipid metabolism and BACE2 activity?





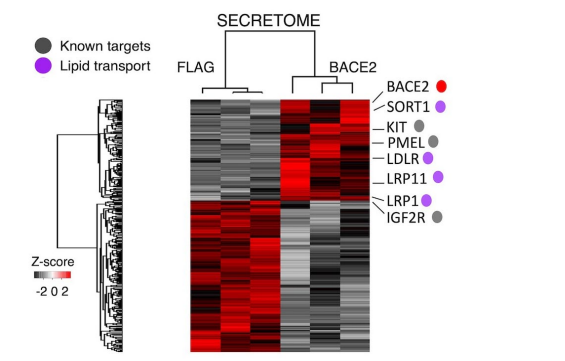
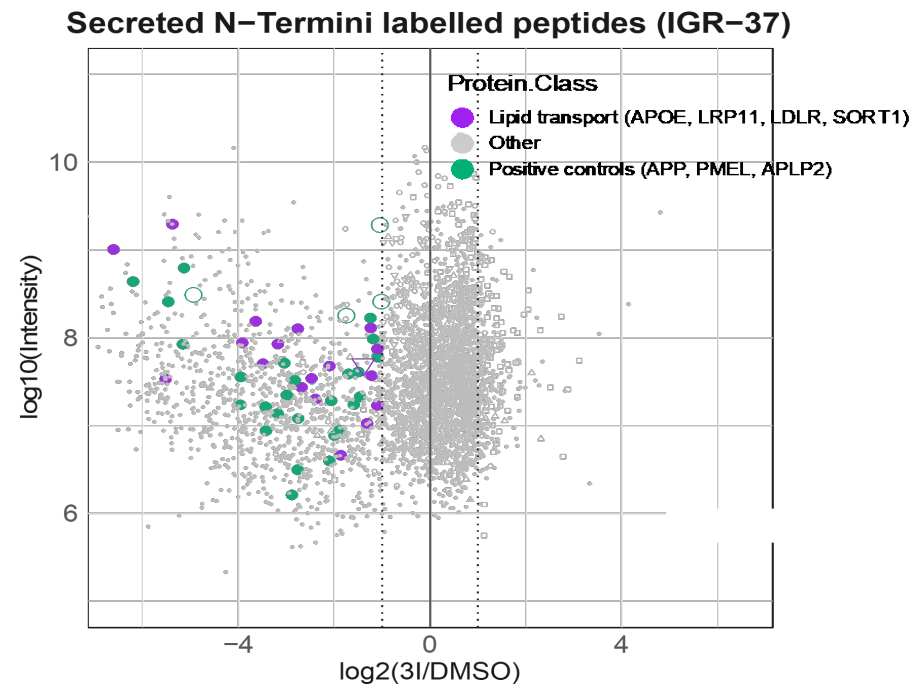
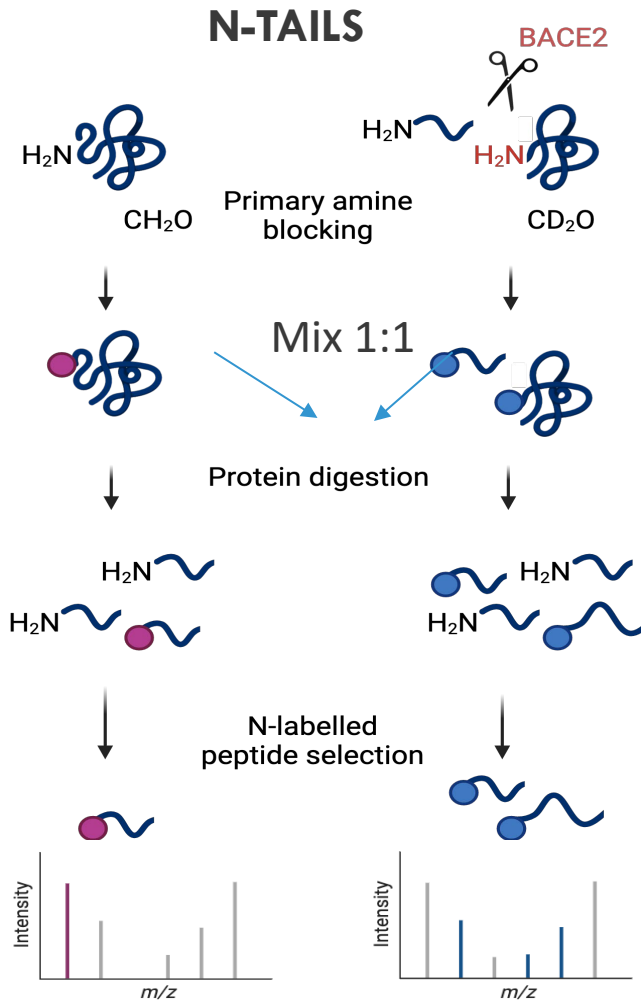
BACE2 regulates lipid transporters ectodomain shedding

LIPID TRANSPORTERS





BACE2 regulates lipid transporters ectodomain shedding



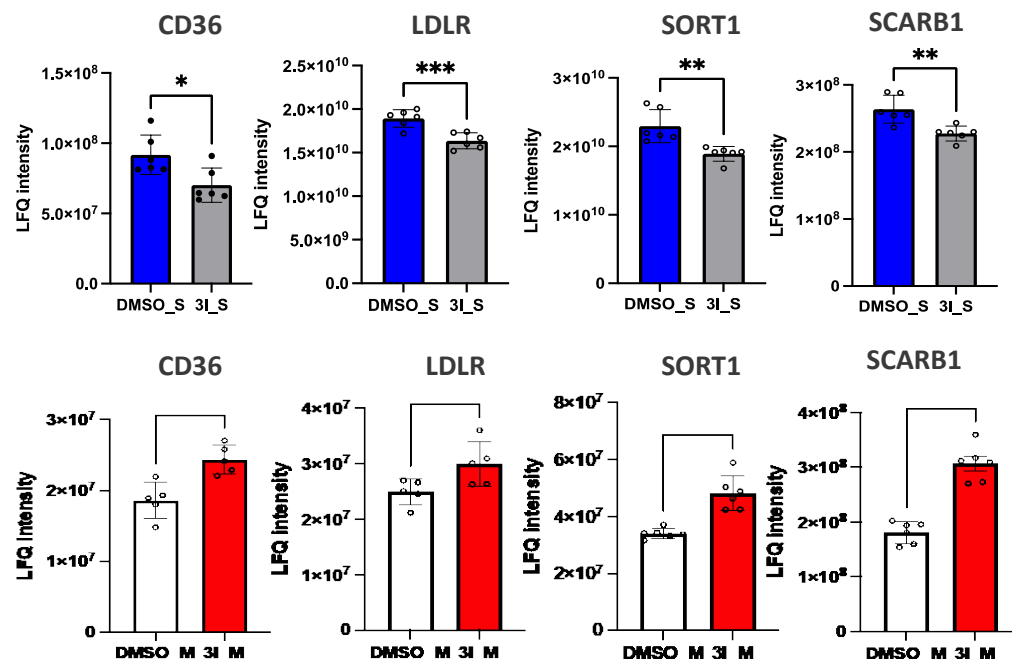
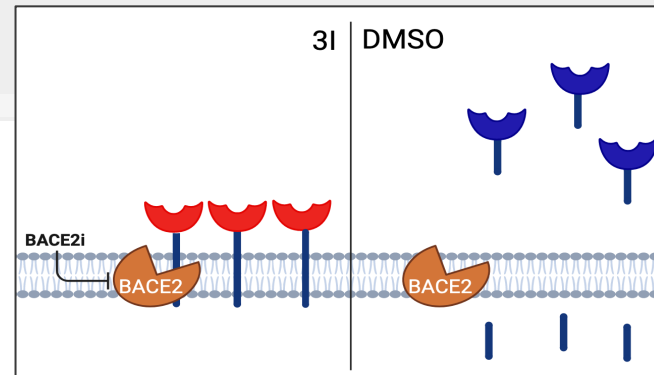
BACE2 overexpression in HEK

Unpublished data

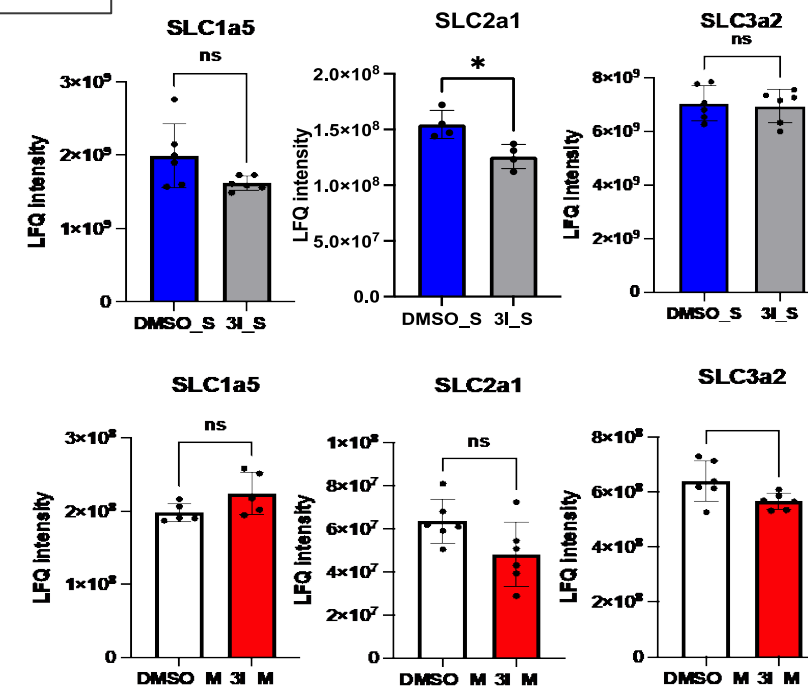


BACE2 specifically acts on lipid transporters

Lipid Transporters

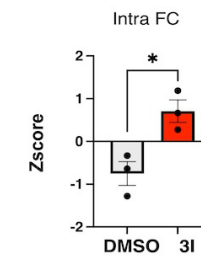
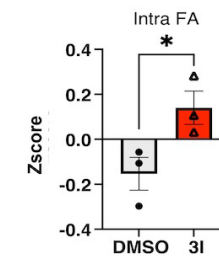
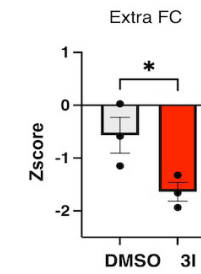
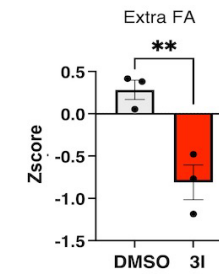
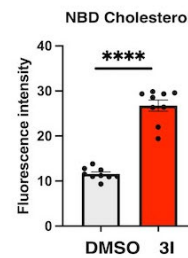
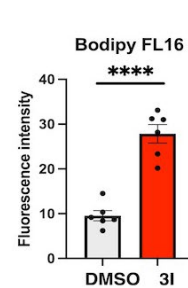
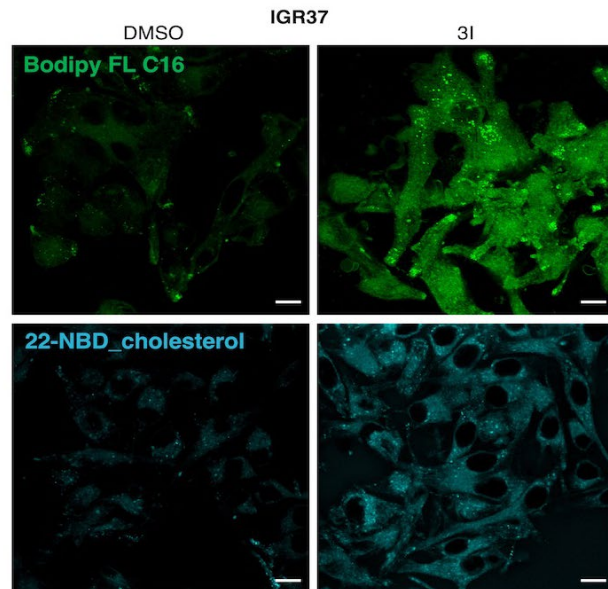


AA and Glucose Transporters





BACE2 regulates lipid transporters activity and lipid uptake





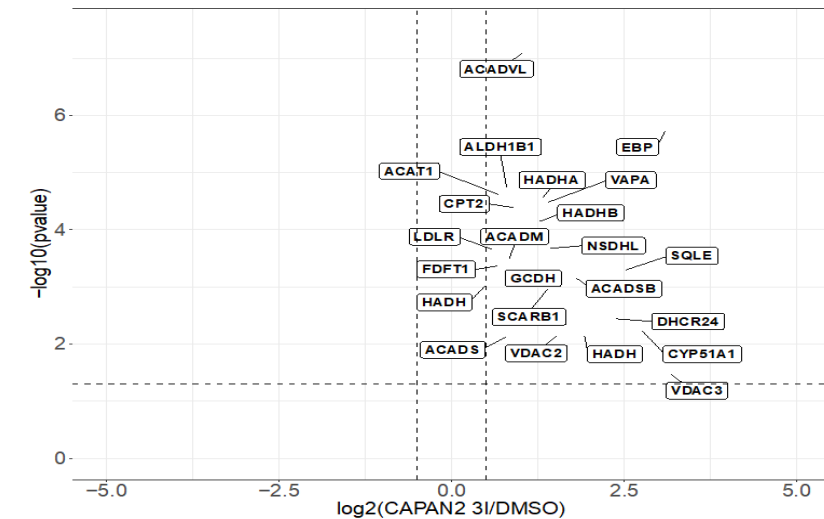
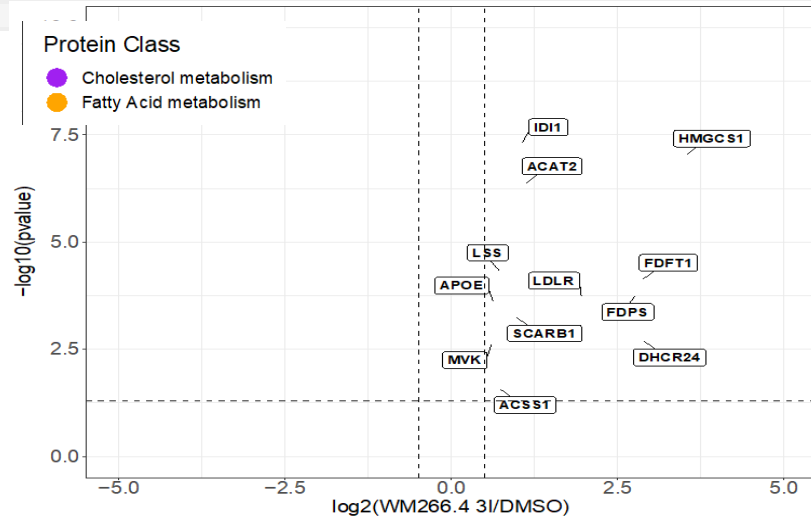
Which are the functional consequences of modifying lipid uptake in cancer cells?

- 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

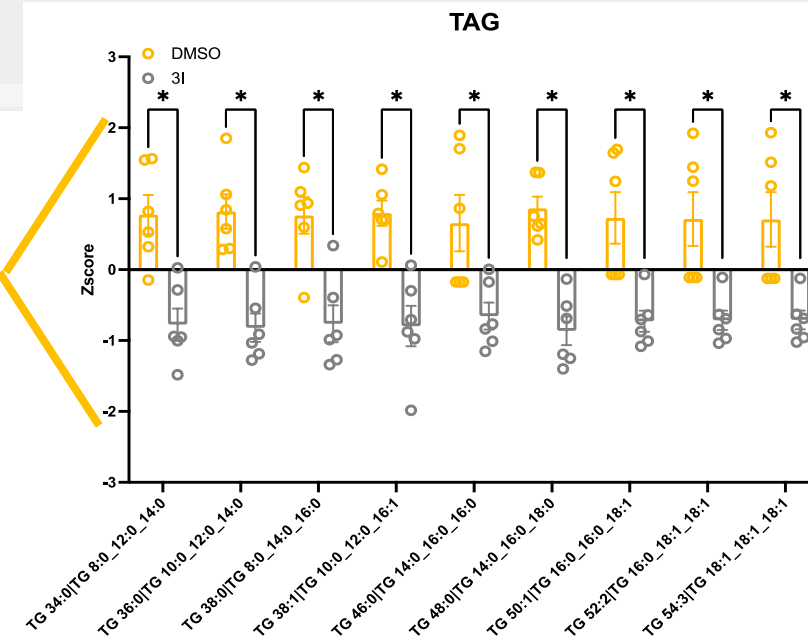
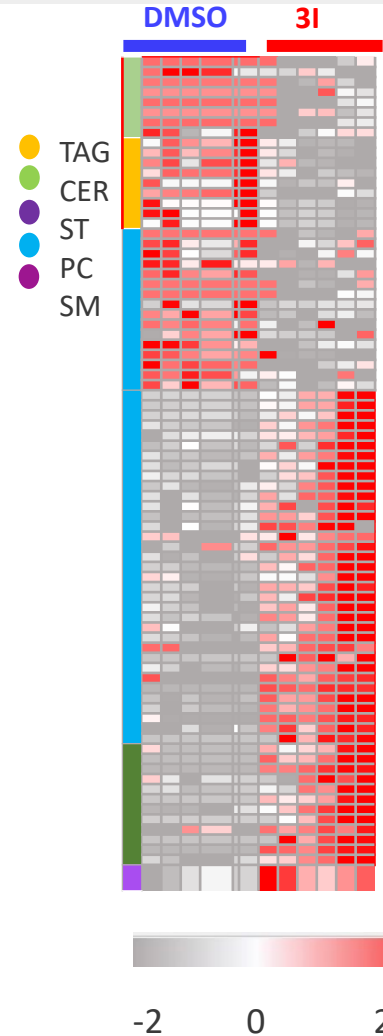


BACE2 affects lipid metabolism and proliferation

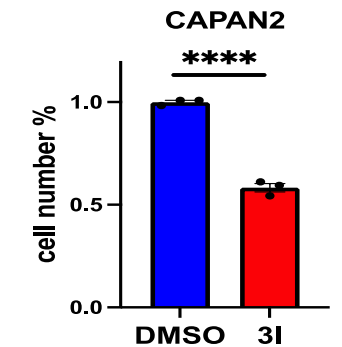
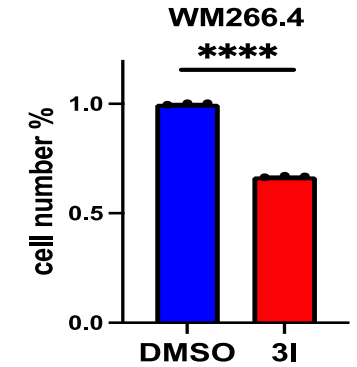
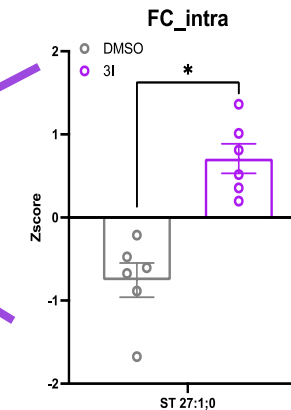
PROTEOMICS



LIPIDOMICS



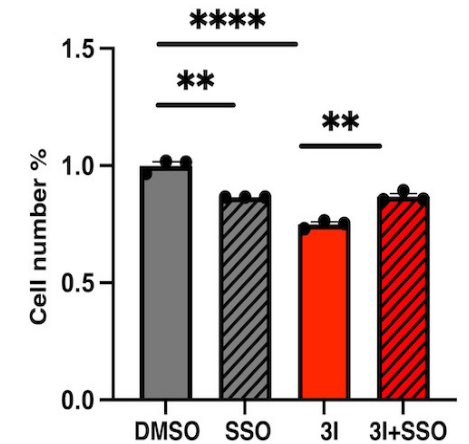
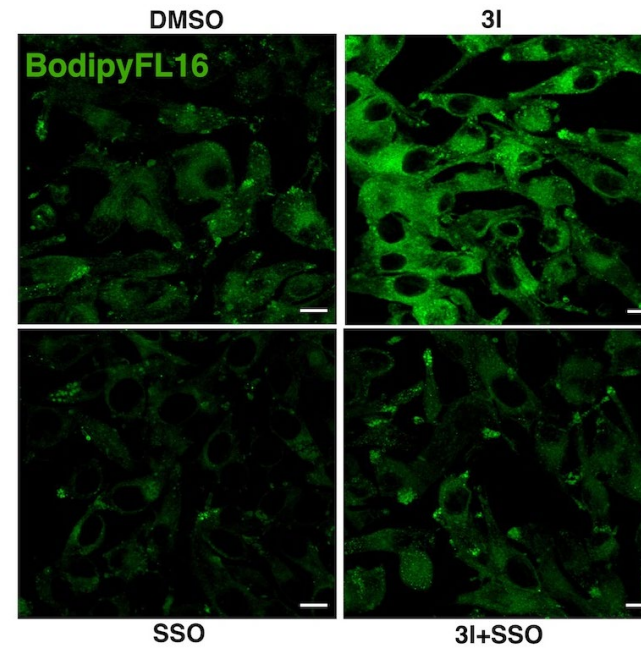
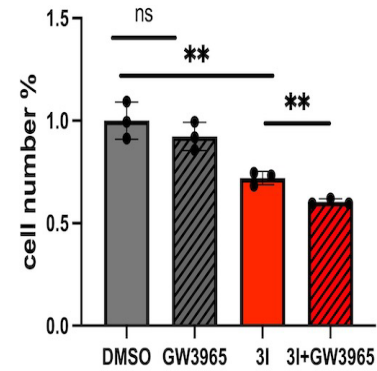
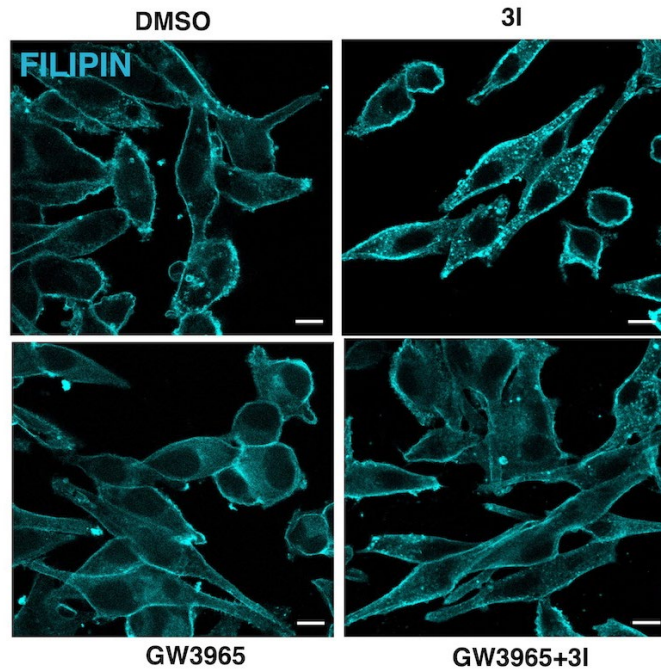
Free cholesterol



Unpublished data



Which lipids interfere with cell proliferation?

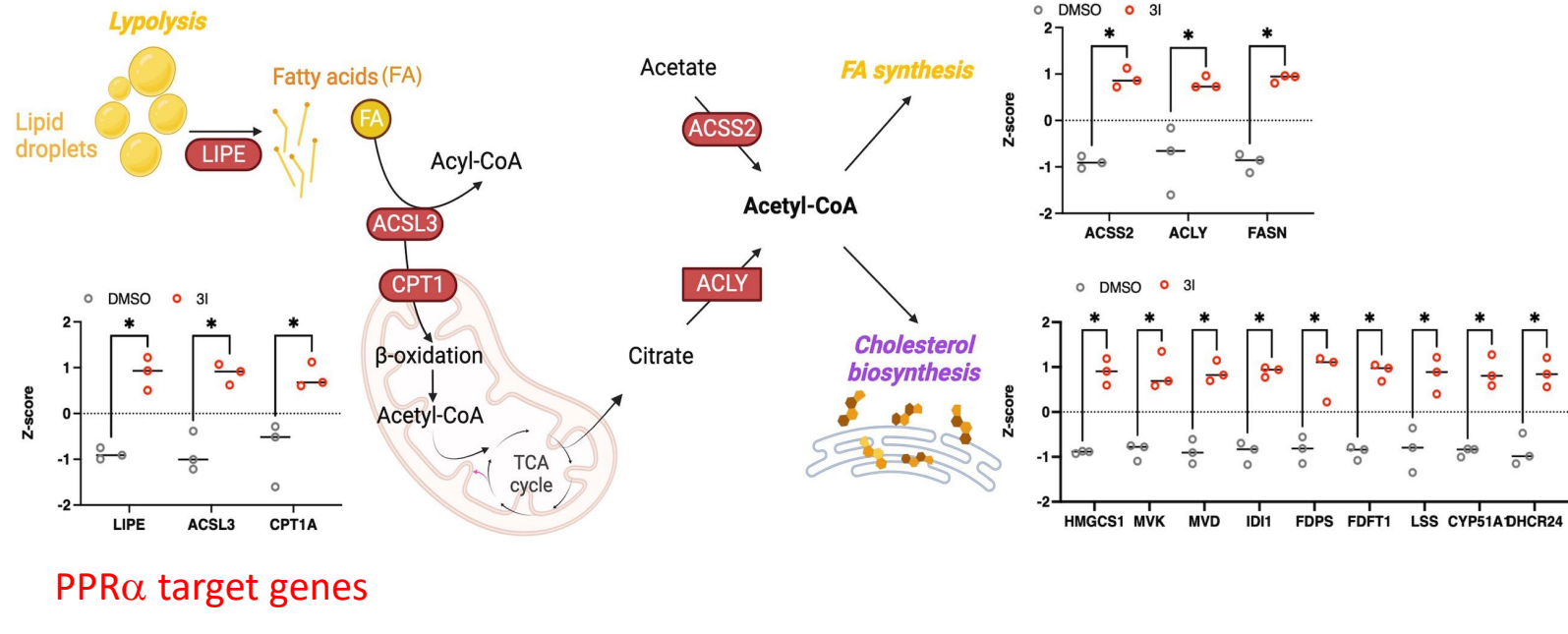
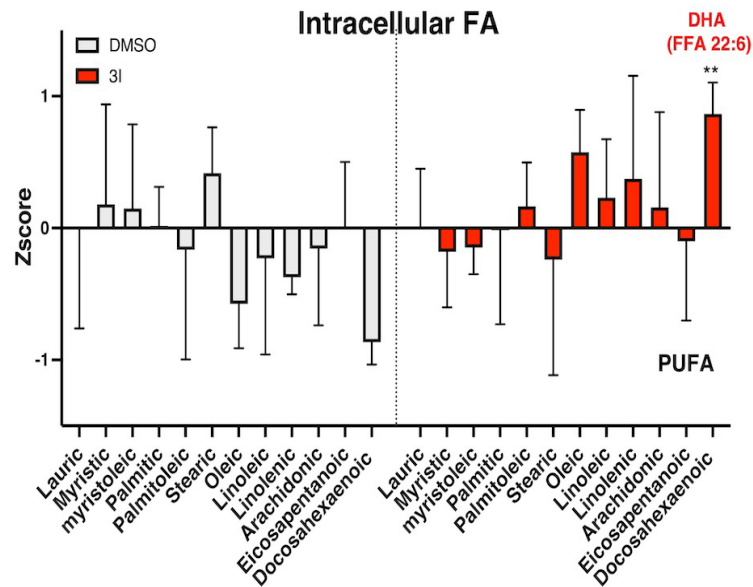


FA influx is a major contributor to the anti-proliferative effects of BACE2 inhibition.

Unpublished data



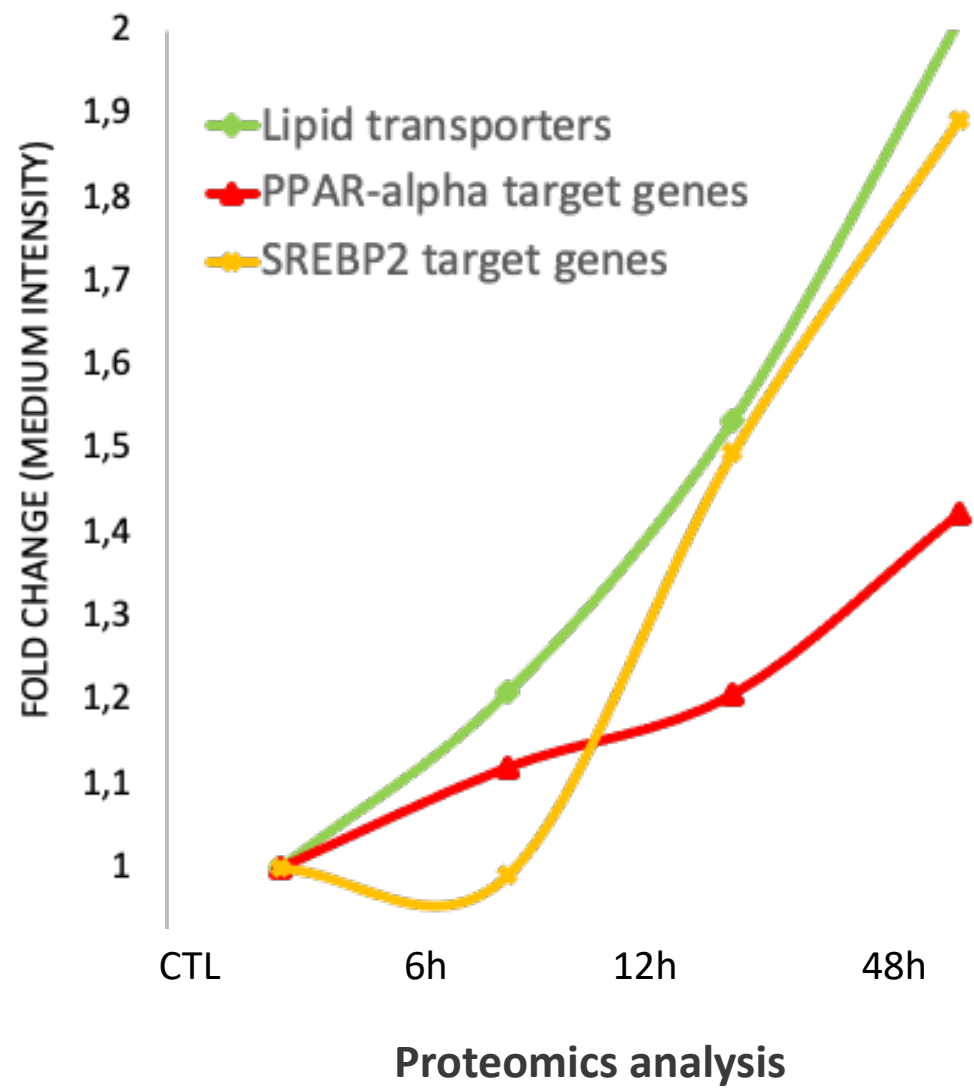
BACE2 increases intracellular PUFA and activates PPR α





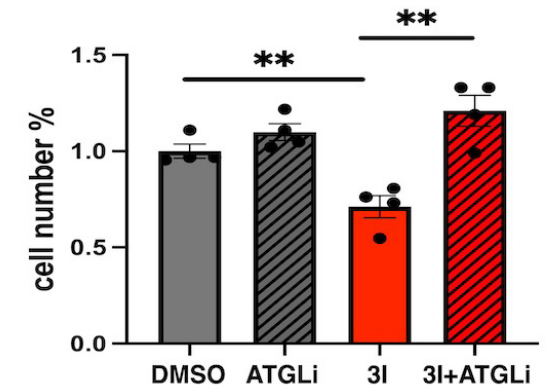
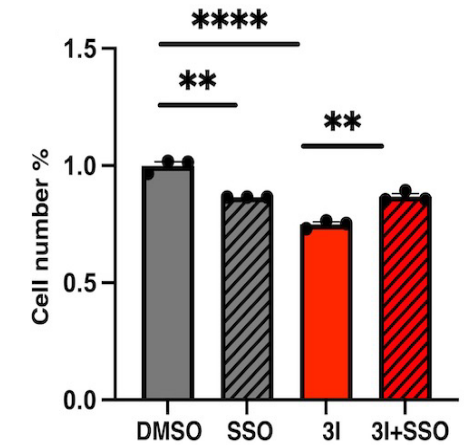
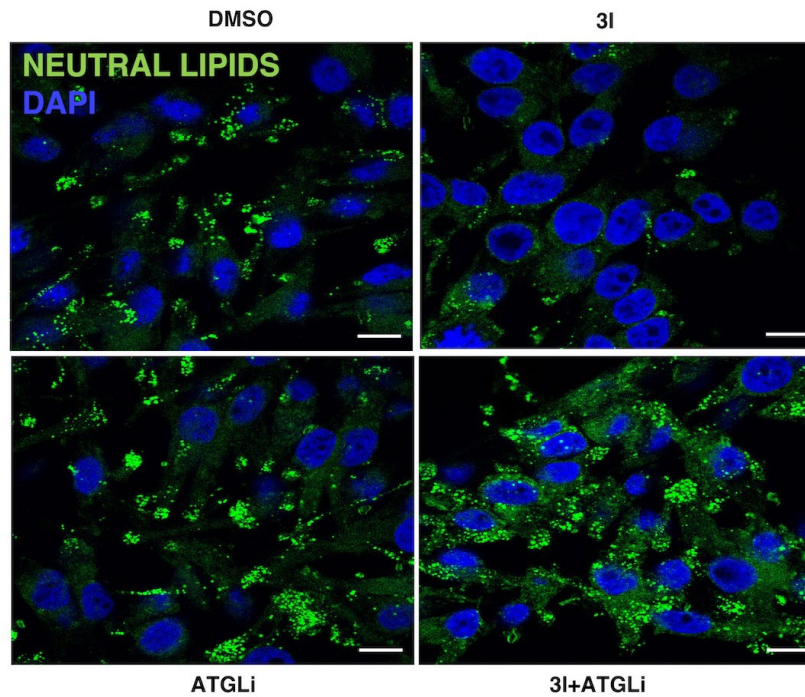
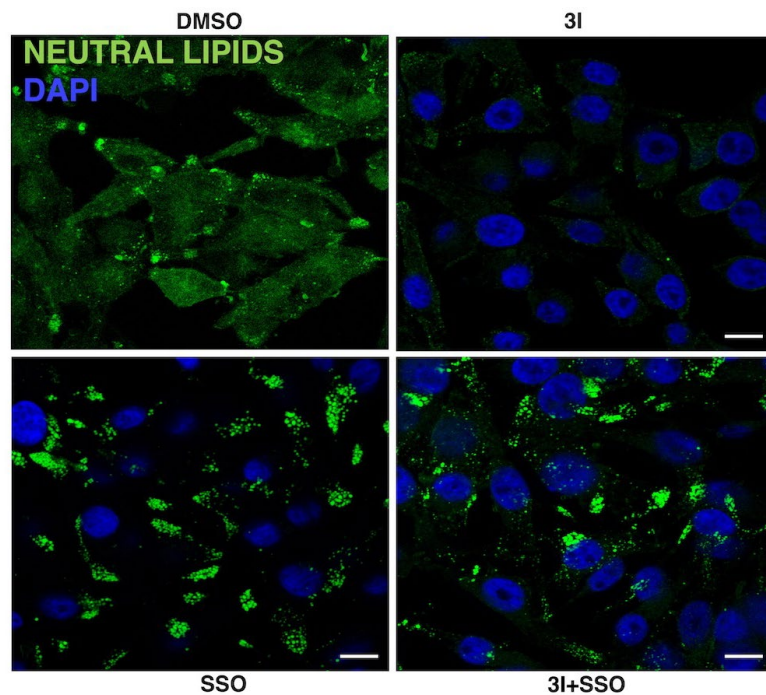
Lipid transporters accumulation is faster than lypolisi and steroidogenesis

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				





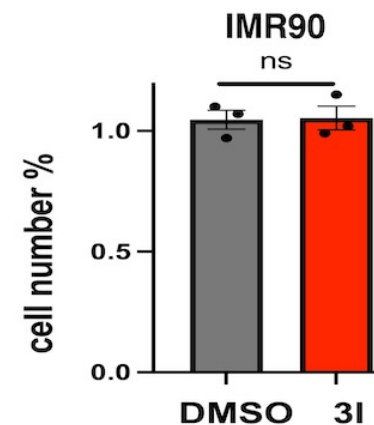
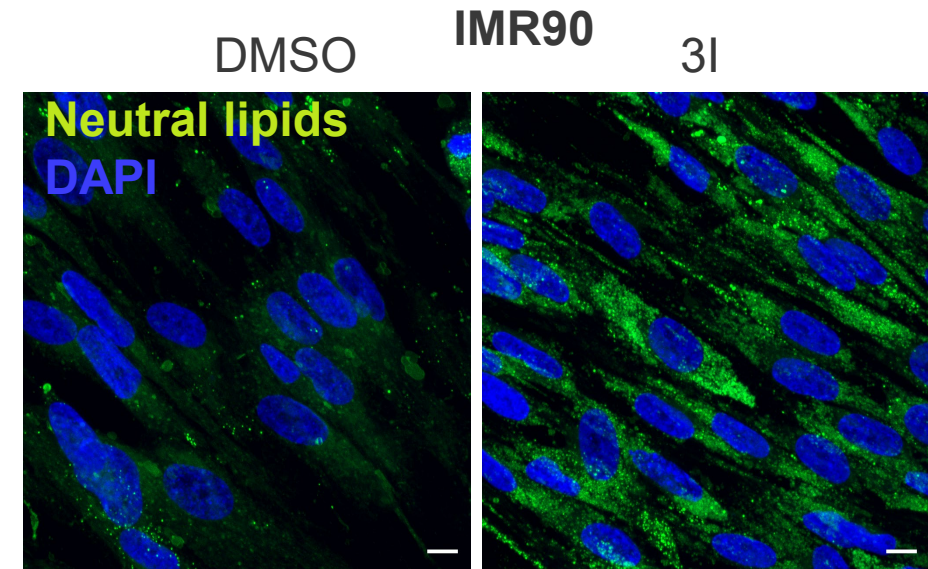
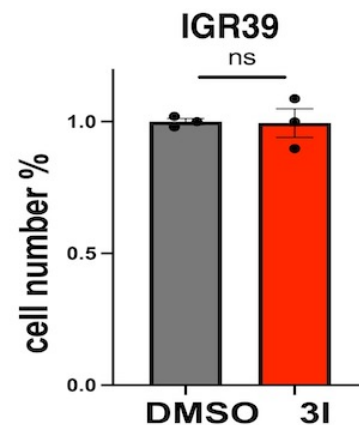
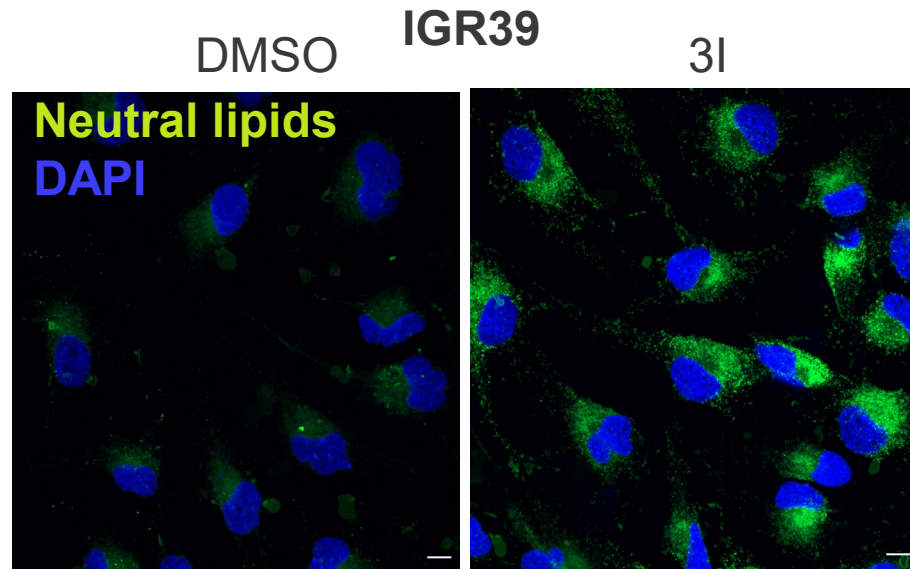
Blocking lipolysis rescues the proliferation impairment induced by BACE2 inhibition



Unpublished data

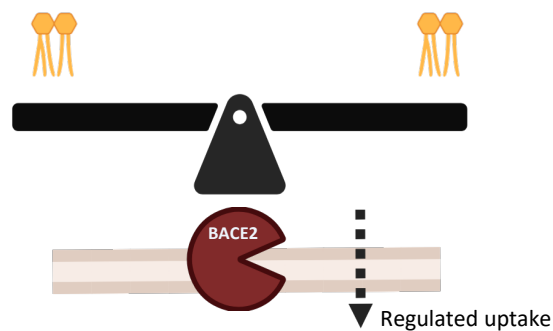


The lipid-proliferation link is specific for high BACE2 cancer cells

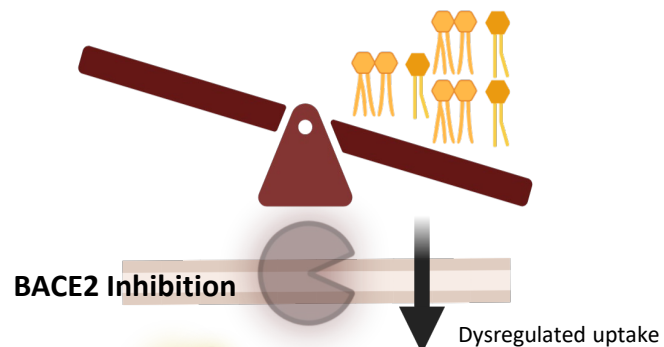




BACE2 is a lipid sensor and gatekeeper

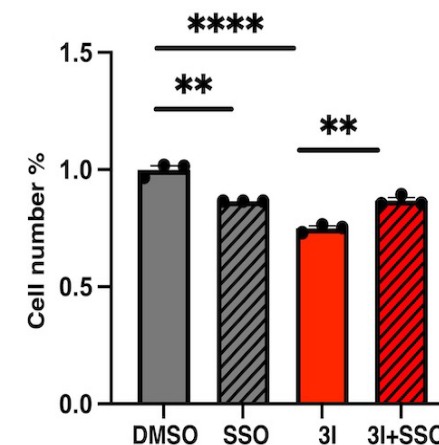


Highly proliferative cells

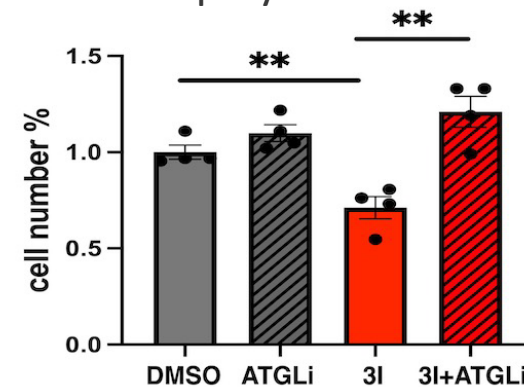


Proliferation impairment

Lipid uptake

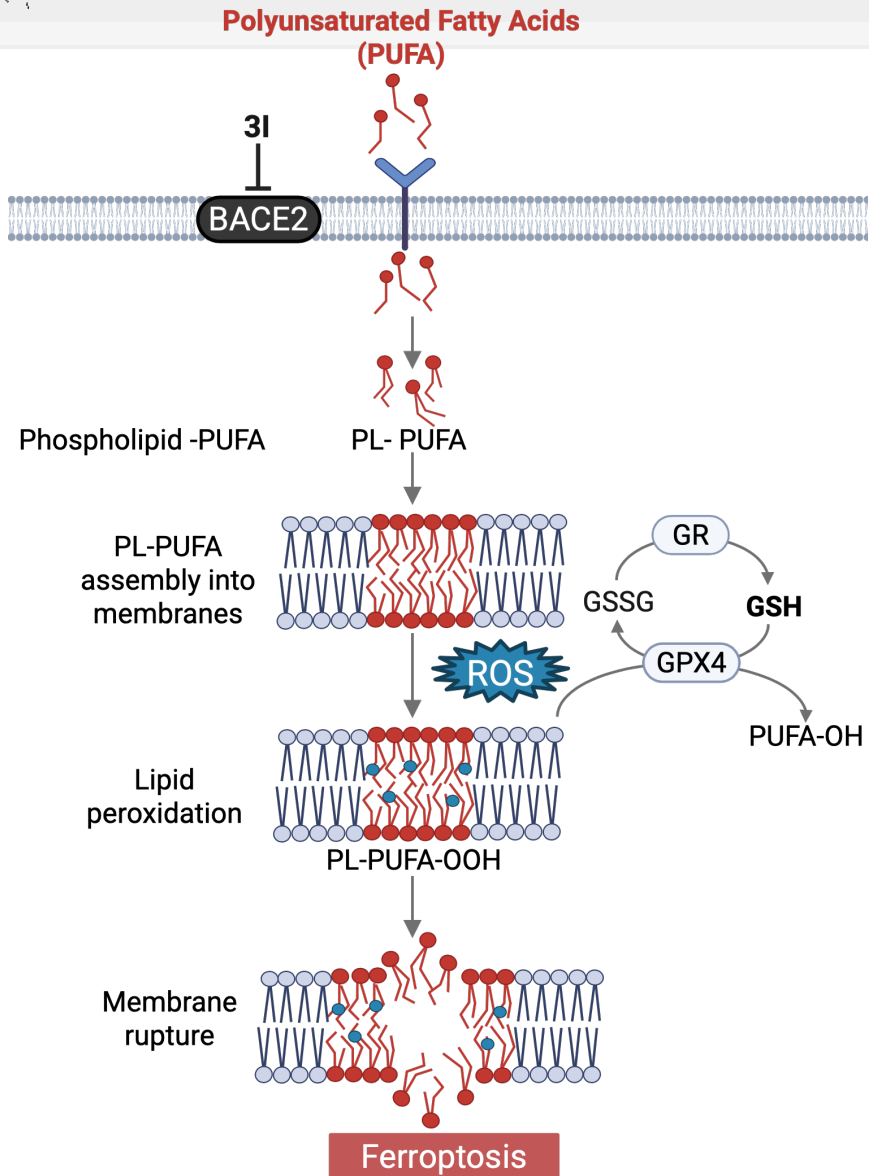


LDs lipolysis





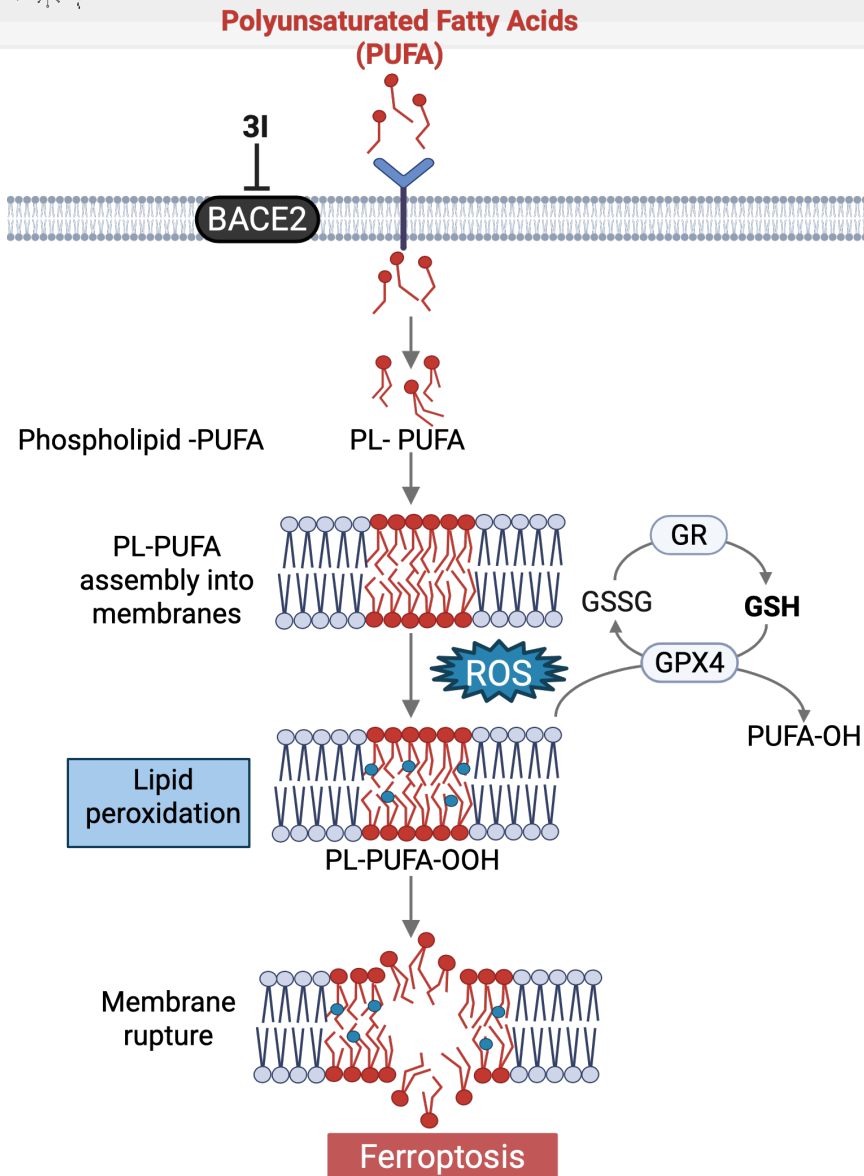
How lipid overload impairs cell proliferation?



The antioxidant capacity is compromised

Unpublished data

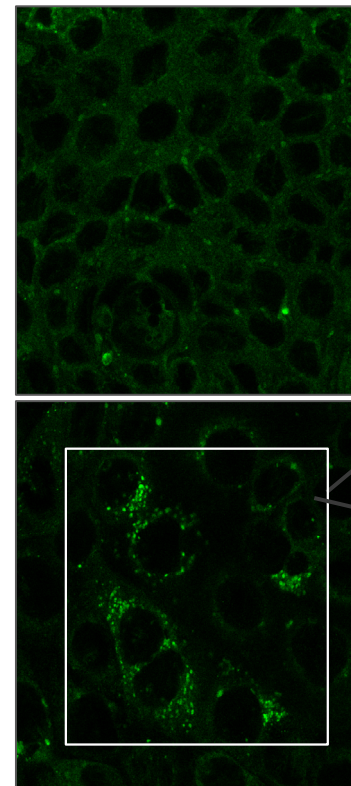
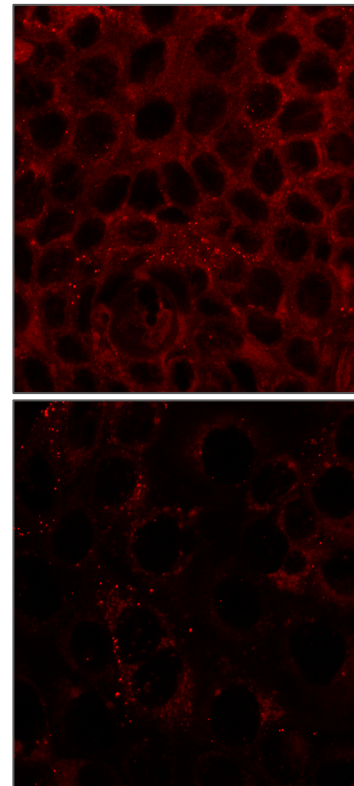
Does BACE2 inhibition induce ferroptosis?



Reduced lipids

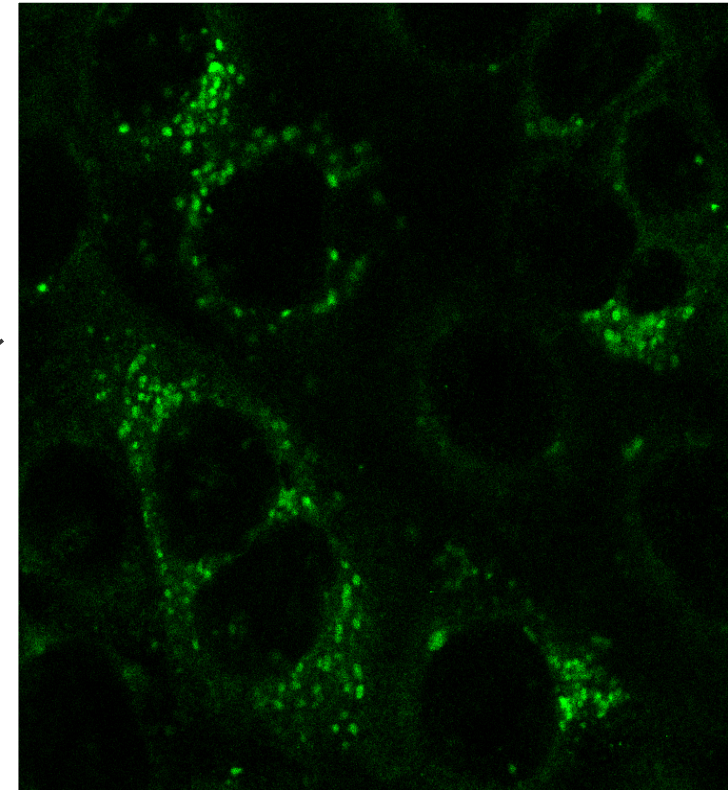
Oxidized lipids

Bodipy C11



DMSO

3I

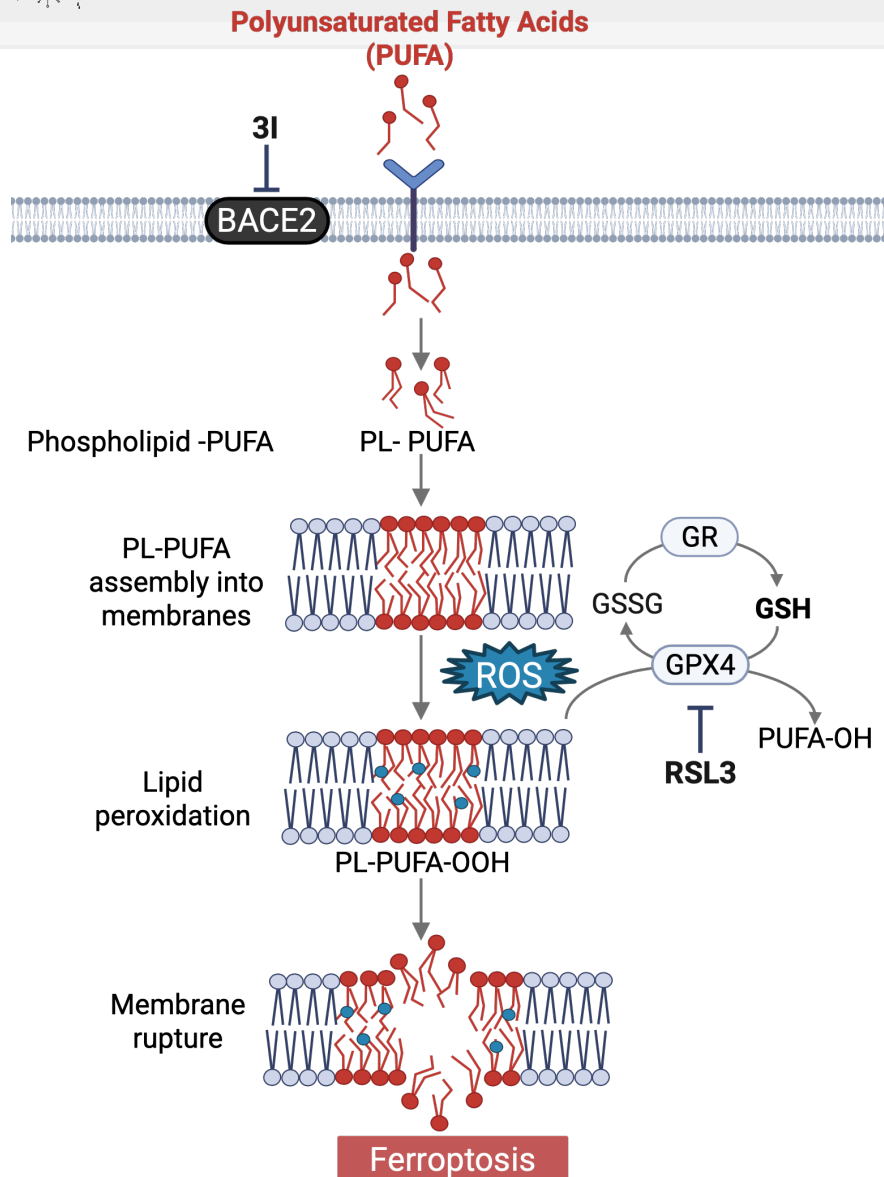


Lipid oxidation is increased upon BACE2 inhibition

Unpublished data



Does BACE2 inhibition induce ferroptosis?

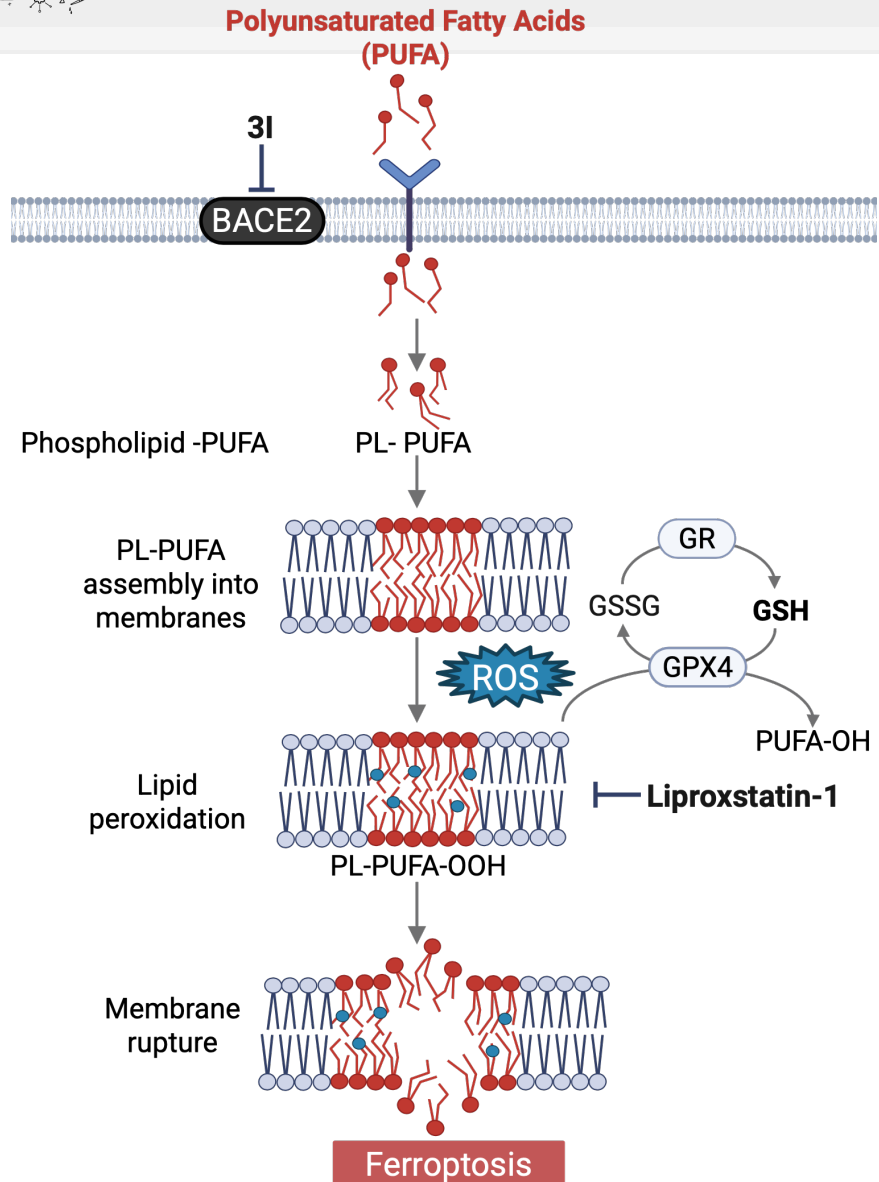


RSL3 exacerbates decreased proliferation induced by BACE2 inhibition

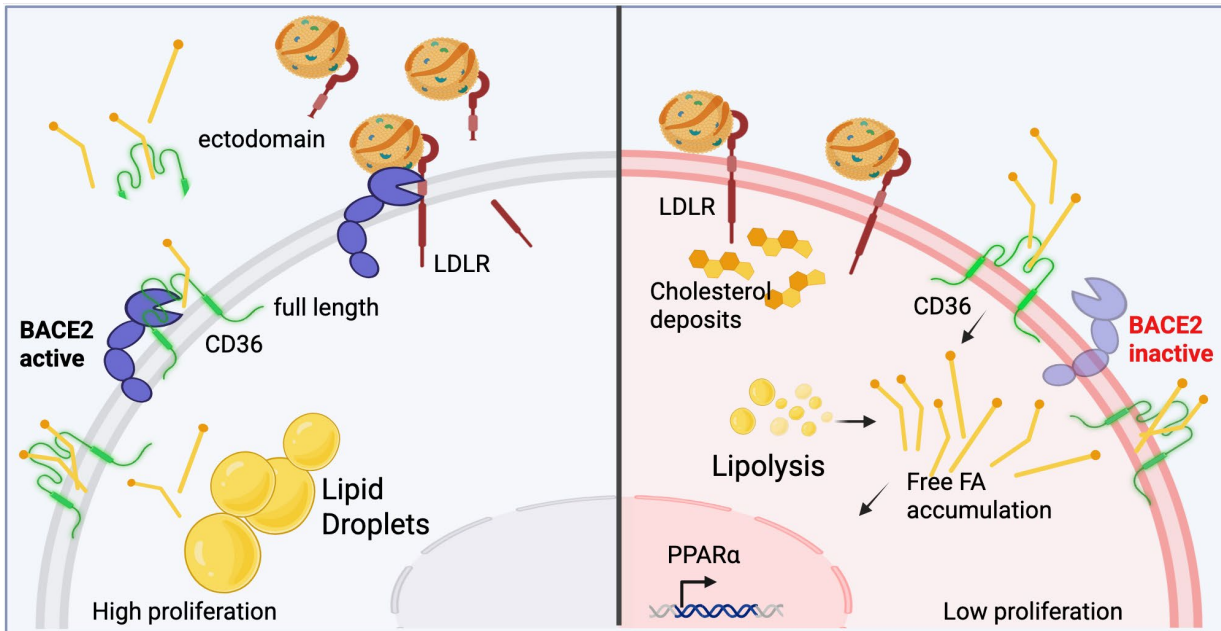
Unpublished data



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:

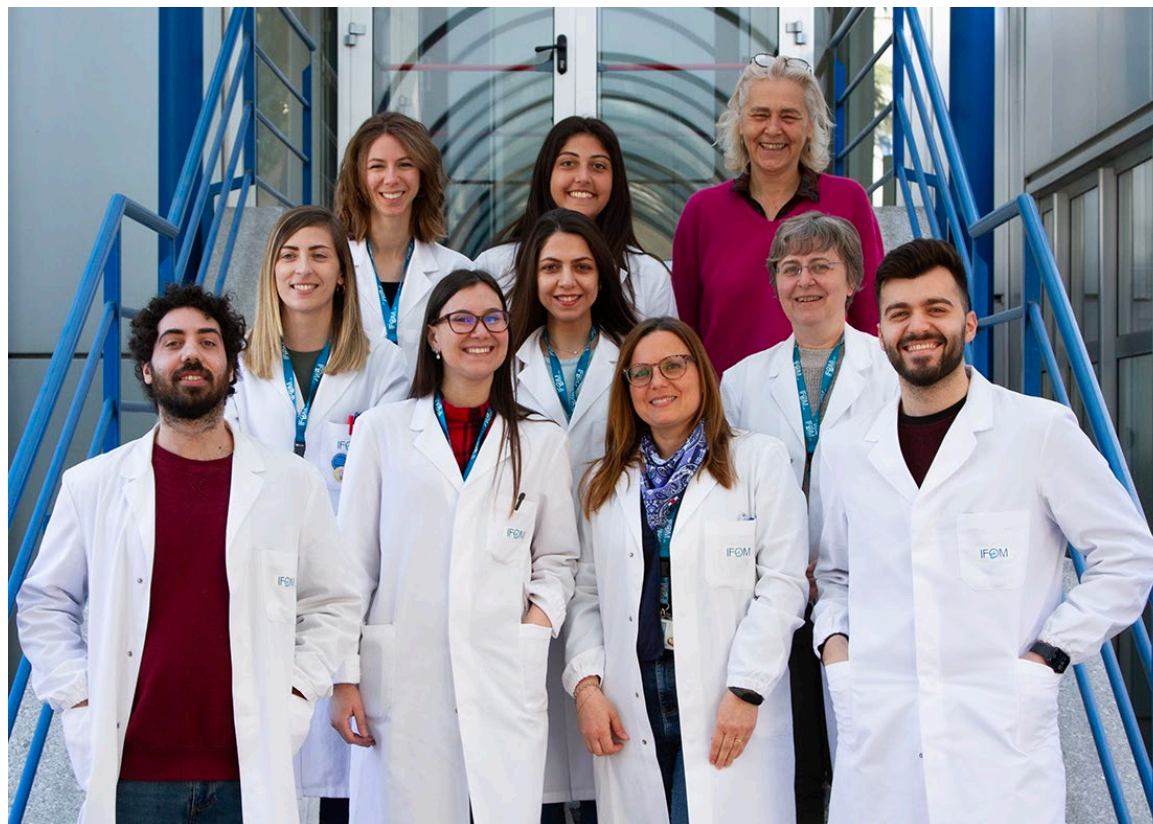


Proteomics and Metabolomics Facility

Angela Cattaneo
Giorgia Parodi
Laura Tronci

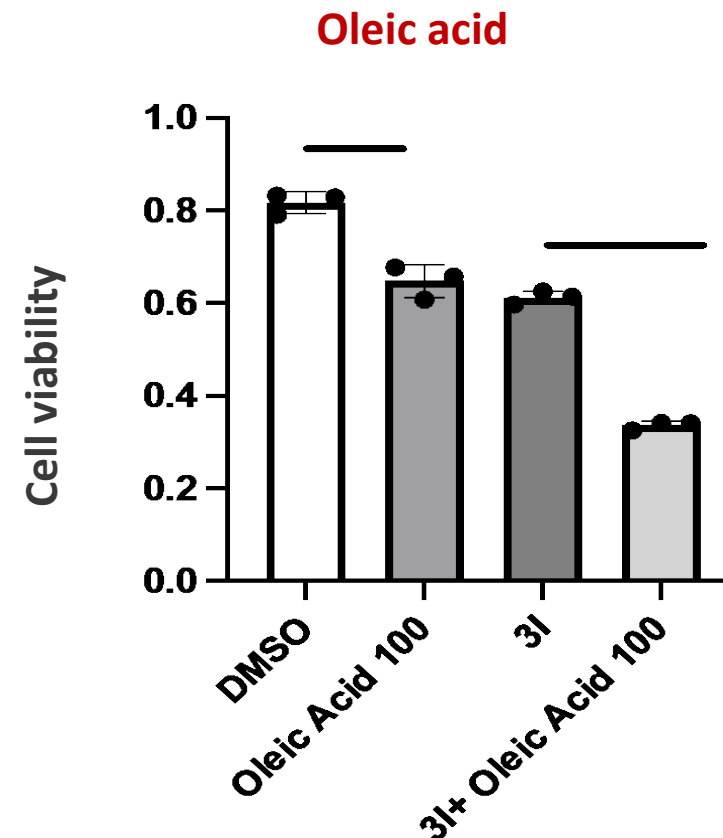
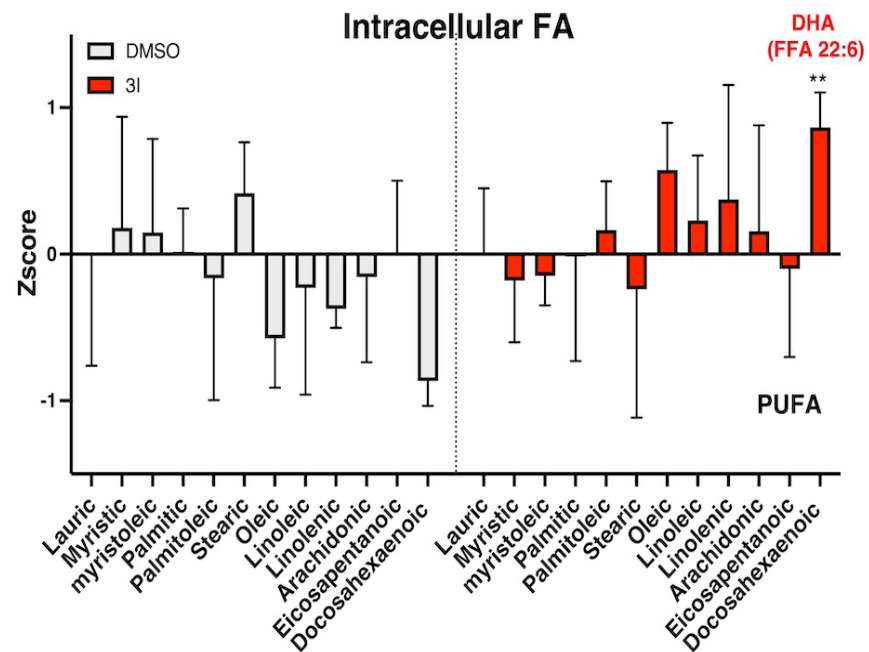
Functional Proteomics Group

Alessandra Morelli
Alice Elhagh
Francesco Farris
Vittoria Matafora
Nicol Berti
Mohamad Haidar
Greta





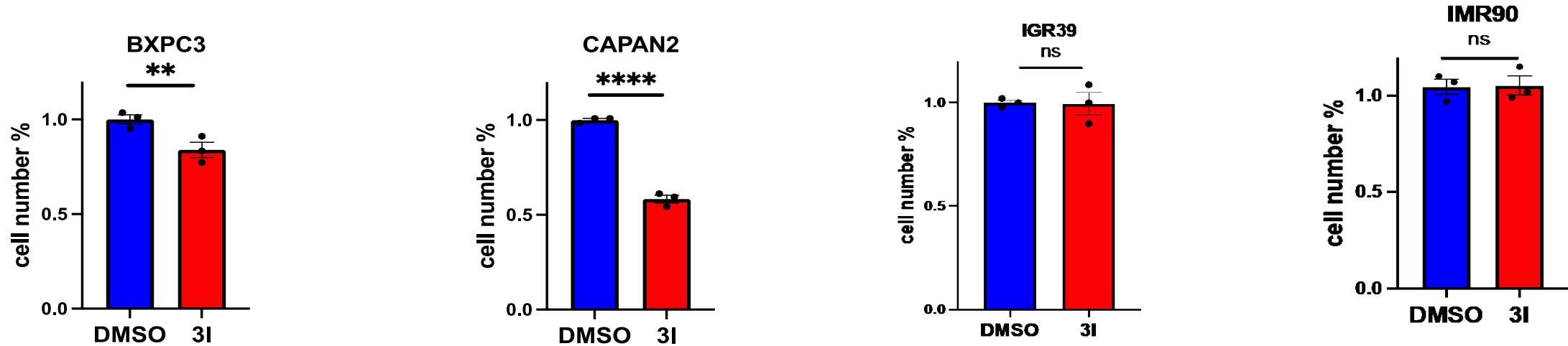
BACE2 increases intracellular PUFA which are toxic for the cells



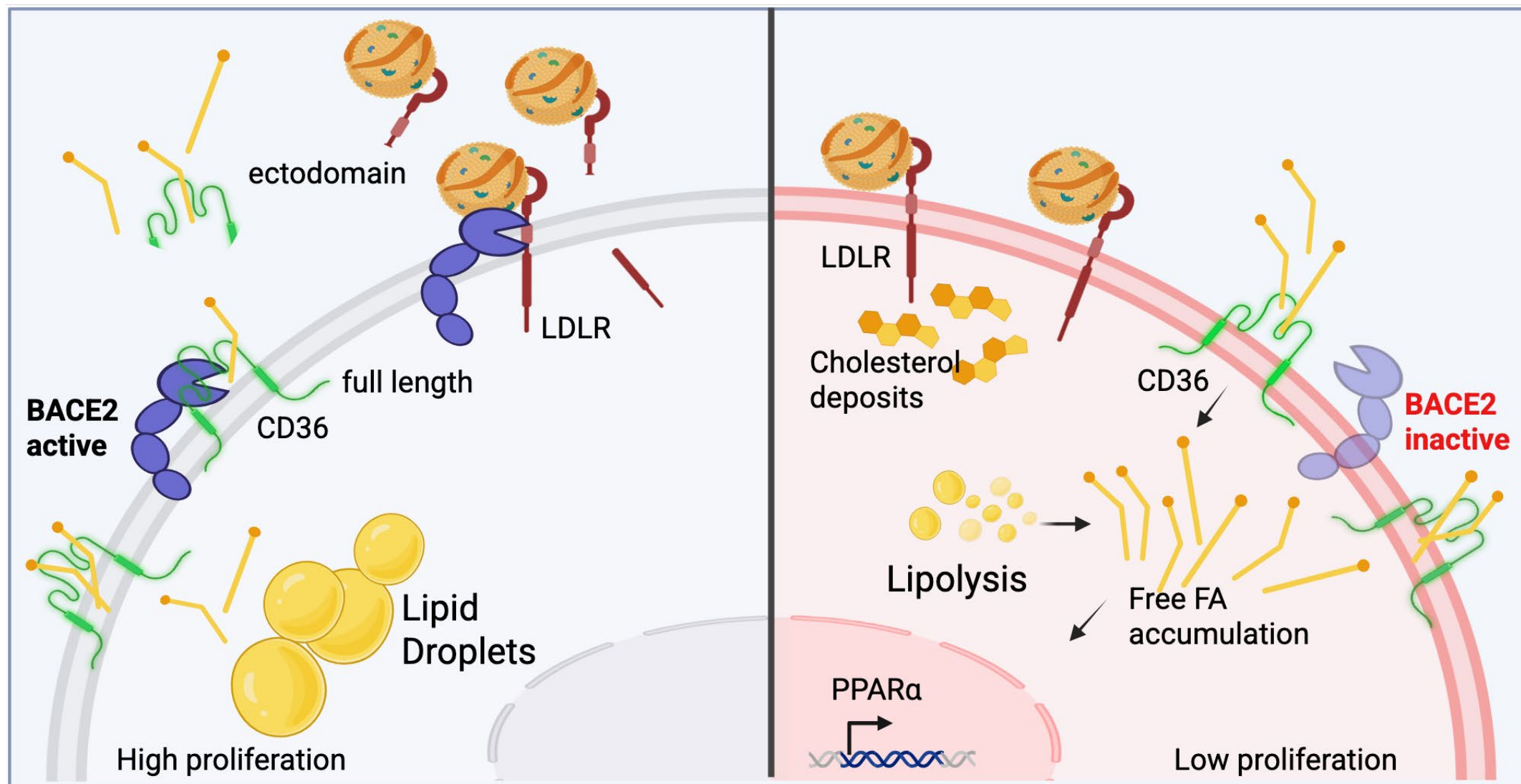
Unpublished data



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

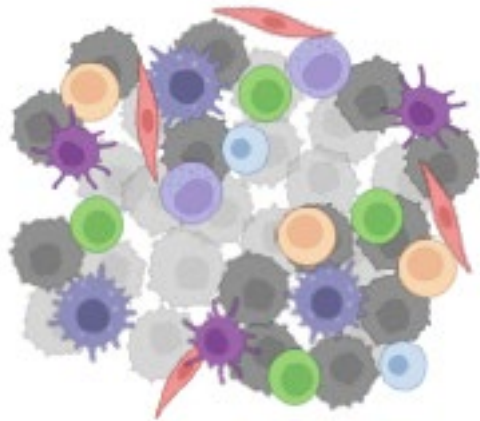


Conclusions





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



Proteomics & Metabolomics

