TAU PATHOLOGY REDUCTION WITH SM07883, A NOVEL, POTENT, AND SELECTIVE ORAL DYRK1A INHIBITOR – POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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Background

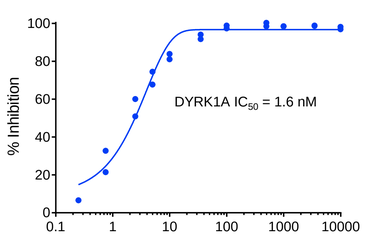
- Dual-specificity tyrosine phosphorylation-regulated kinase-1A (DYRK1A) overexpression in Alzheimer's (AD) and Pick's Disease has been correlated to Tau hyperphosphorylation, oligomer, and neurofibrillary tangle (NFT) formation[1]
- Elevated cellular stress signals (e.g. Aβ, TNFα) induce DYRK1A activity,[2-6] which then contributes to Tau pathology[1,7]
- A potential therapeutic for AD, SM07883 (novel, small molecule, DYRK1A inhibitor) was evaluated in preclinical models, compared to controls, for:
  - Inhibition of Tau hyperphosphorylation, aggregation, and NFT formation in a Tau transgenic mouse model
  - Effects on Tau-associated functional phenotypes
  - Effects on neuroinflammation
  - Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties

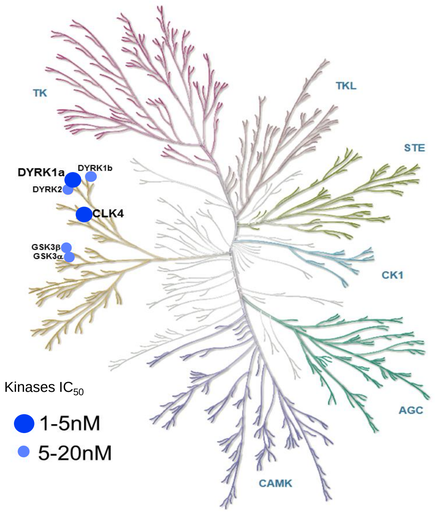
Conclusions

- SM07883 is a potent DYRK1A inhibitor with a novel selectivity profile and therapeutic brain and CSF exposures after oral administration in mice
- In preclinical models compared with vehicle, SM07883:
  - Reduced Tau pathology (pTau, aggregation, NFTs)
  - Improved functional deficits and health of Tau transgenic mice
  - Reduced associated neuroinflammation
- SM07883 may provide therapeutic, disease-modifying effects in AD

Results

Figure 1. SM07883 potently inhibited DYRK1A kinase activity with a novel selectivity profile

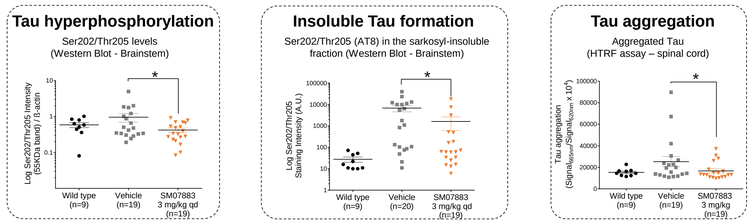


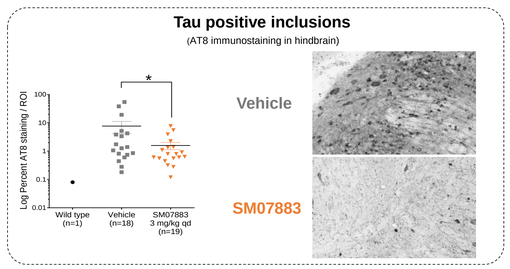


	Full IC_{50} (nM)	Fold over DYRK1A
DYRK1A	1.6	-
CLK4	2.8	2
DYRK1B	7.9	5
GSK-3β	11	7
GSK-3α	11	7
DYRK2	16	10

5 additional kinases within the 15-fold range of DYRK1A IC_{50}

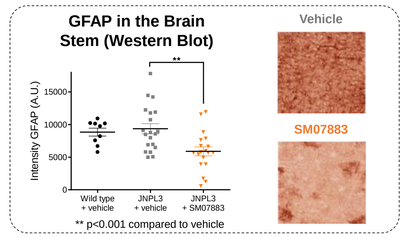
Figure 3. SM07883 inhibited Tau pathology in JNPL3 Tau mice





* p<0.05 compared to vehicle

Figure 5. SM07883 reduced Tau-induced glial activation (neuroinflammation) in JNPL3 mice



** p<0.001 compared to vehicle

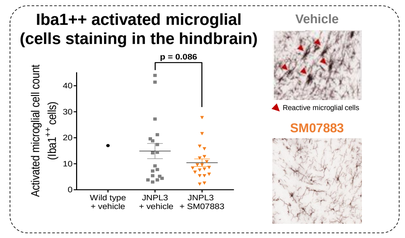


Figure 6. SM07883 was orally bioavailable and brain penetrant in mice with an apparent log-linear correlation between brain, plasma, and CSF

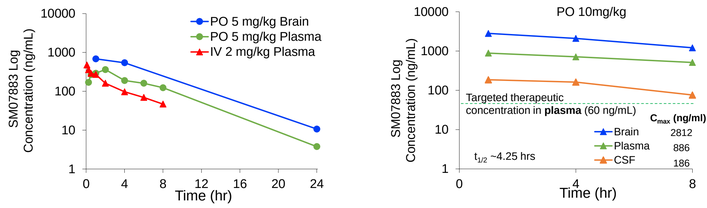
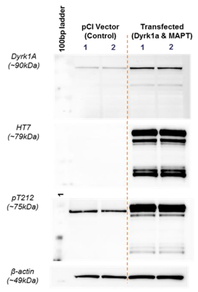
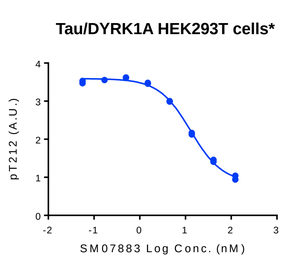


Figure 2. SM07883 potently inhibited DYRK1A-mediated Tau hyperphosphorylation *in vitro*

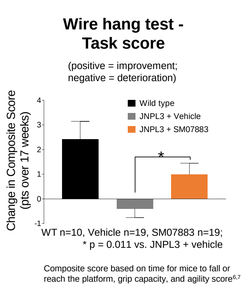


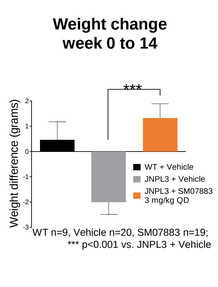


Tau/DYRK1A HEK293T cells	EC_{50}
pThr212	16 nM*
pSer202/Thr205 (AT8)	69 nM†
pThr181	127 nM†
Human neuroblastoma cells (SH-SY5Y)	
pSer396	200 nM*

*Measured by ELISA, †Measured in western blot;
Note: EC_{50} = average across multiple assays

Figure 4. SM07883 improved motor function, weight, and general health of JNPL3 Tau mice

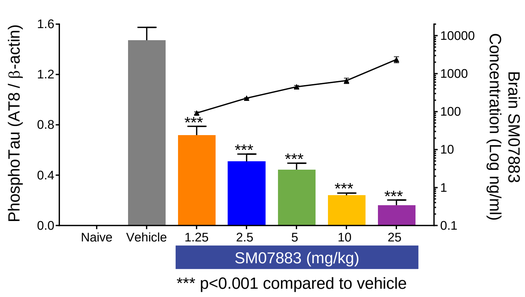




In-life observations at end of study

Morbidity/ Mortality	Vehicle	SM07883
Death	2/20	0/19
Pronounced hunched back	1/18	0/19
Severe tremors	3/18	0/19
Moderate tremors	6/18	0/19
Mild tremors	0/18	2/19

Figure 7. SM07883 reduced Tau phosphorylation in the mouse brain



*** p<0.001 compared to vehicle

Methods

- SM07883 selectivity/potency was evaluated in a 460 kinase inhibition panel
- Tau phosphorylation (pTau) inhibition was measured in human Tau/DYRK1A transfected HEK293T cells and human neuroblastoma cells
- Pharmacokinetics in brain, cerebral spinal fluid (CSF), and plasma were analyzed in wild-type (WT) mice after single administration of oral or intravenous SM07883
- Pharmacodynamics were measured after a single oral dose of SM07883 in WT mice in an anesthesia-induced transient Tau hyperphosphorylation model[8] with brain lysates quantified using Western Blot for pTau
- Ten-month-old JNPL3 mice (P301L human Tau overexpression mutation) were orally administered SM07883 or vehicle (3 mg/kg, QD, 3 months)
  - General tolerability was assessed monitoring weight, morbidity, and mortality. Motor coordination was evaluated after dosing using a wire hang test[9,10]
  - pTau, oligomeric, and aggregated Tau were biochemically quantified in brainstems and spinal cords. Tau-positive inclusions were detected and quantified by immunostaining with a Ser202/Thr205 (AT8 clone) antibody at 13 months in formalin-fixed brains
  - Glial activation was assessed in brainstems using glial fibrillary associated protein (GFAP) staining and Western Blot quantification. Activated microglia were identified by Iba1 staining at 13 months

References

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