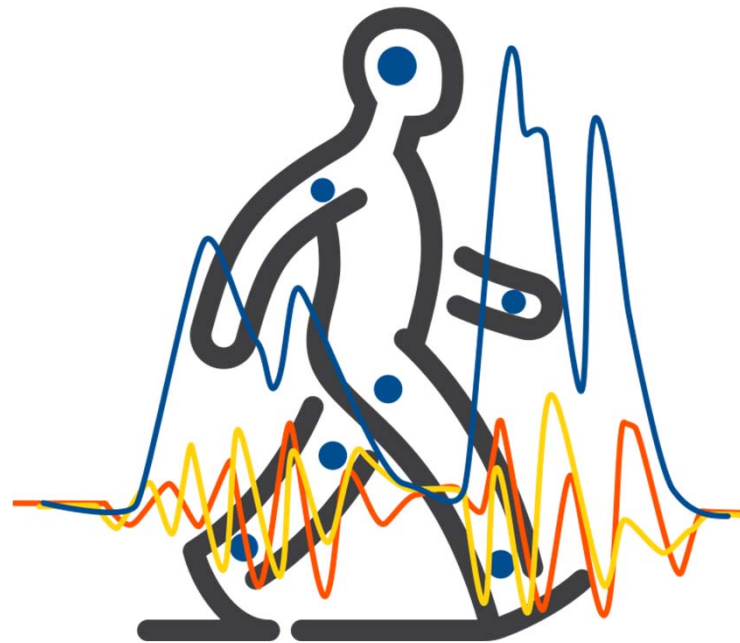




Joint webinar series



**‘Clinical practice recommendations for physical therapy for
Huntington’s disease’**

by G. Bernhard Landwehrmeyer

Department of Neurology, Ulm University, Germany

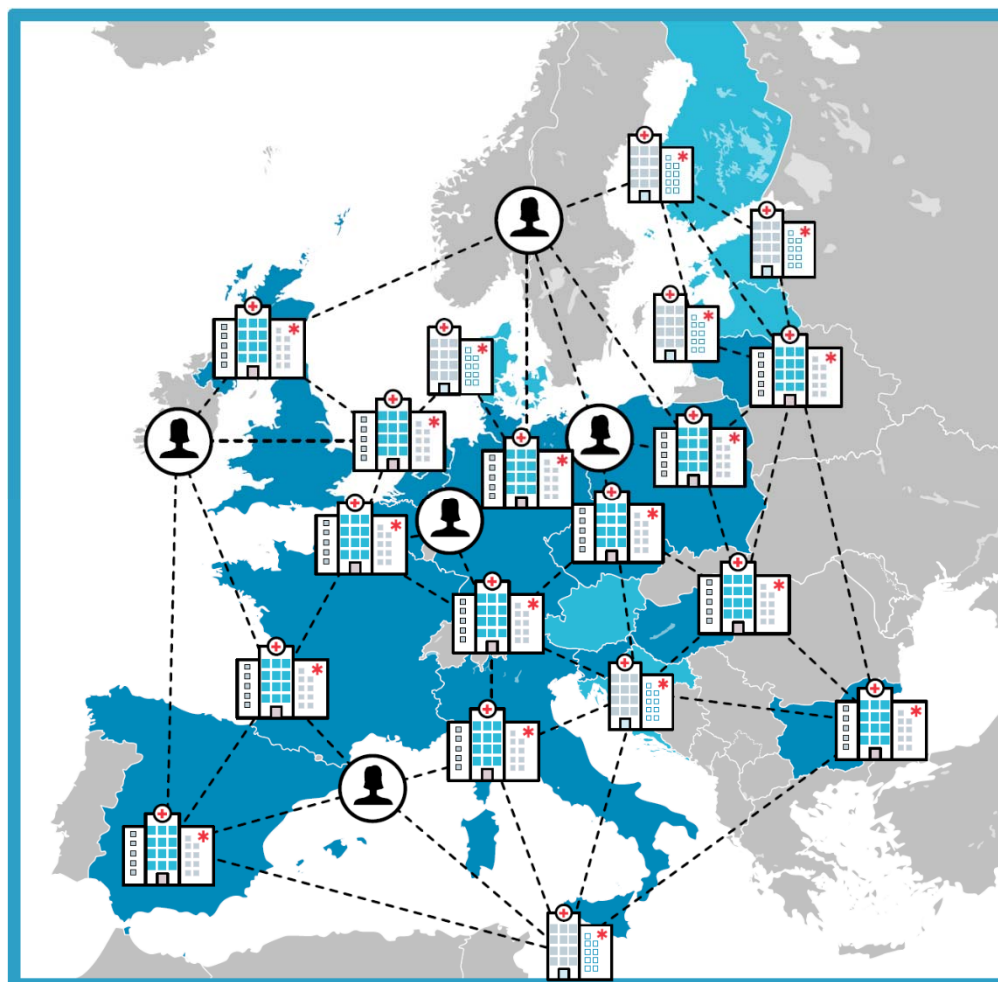


European Reference Network for RARE Neurological Diseases (ERN-RND)

- Countries with Full Members
- Countries with Affiliated Partners

ERN-RND covers 6 disease groups:

1. Ataxia and HSP
2. Leukodystrophies
3. Dystonias /NBIA/Paroxysmal disorders
4. Chorea and HD
5. FTD
6. Atypical Parkinsonism





General information about the webinars

- Focus on : RARE neurological, neuromuscular and movement disorders and **neurorehabilitation**
- 40-45min presentation
- 15min Q&A session at the end (please write your questions in the Q&A)
- Recorded Webinar and presentation to be found at the latest 2 weeks after on: <http://www.ern-rnd.eu/education-training/past-webinars/>
- Further information: <http://www.ern-rnd.eu/disease-knowledge-hub/choreas-huntingtons-disease/>
- Post-webinar survey (2-3min): satisfaction, topic/speaker ideas for next webinars



DG ,Chorea and HD'
13. October 2020

ePAG: european Patient Advocacy Groups

Astri Arnesen

President of the European Huntington Association



In ERN-RND Patient Advocate for the DG '**Chorea and HD**'

Show video



Speaker: Bernhard Landwehrmeyer

- **Current position:** since 1999 Full Professor of Neurology ‘Clinical Neurobiology,’ University of Ulm, Germany
- **Training:** MD from the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg in Germany, with residency in neurology and psychiatry. Additional postgraduate trainings at the Kantonsspital in Basel, Switzerland and a research fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston, Mass., USA.
- **Key positions:**
 - One of the founders of the European HD Network (EHDN: www.ehdn.org) and was Chairman of its Executive Committee in the first ten years since the constitution.
 - Since 2011: Global PI of ENROLL-HD, a worldwide, prospective, observational Huntington Disease (HD) cohort study for HD families, sponsored by CHDI Foundation, USA. (<https://enroll-hd.org/>)
 - Director of the HD center in Ulm, a multi-disciplinary center providing genetic counselling, clinical in- and out-patient services as well as rehabilitation for HD affected families.
- **Research focus:** neurodegenerative disorders, such as HD and Parkinson disease, ranging from bench work to clinical studies.



Webinar outline

- Introduction:
 - Physical therapy (PT) in rare disorders: clinical IMPRESSIONS versus EVIDENCE for impact/benefit
- PT in the HD context:
 - Clinical presentation & natural history of HD
 - PT as symptomatic therapy/to ameliorate symptoms & signs
 - PT as intervention to modify the course of disease?
 - Short term: rehabilitation
 - Long term: lifestyle
- Challenges ahead



Learning objectives

- By the end of this webinar you will be able to:
 - Describe the variable clinical presentations of HD
 - Explain the root cause of this variability
 - Describe the natural history of HD
 - State important PT approaches & interventions
 - Define the intentions motivating PT interventions
 - Understand the current grade of evidence for various PT interventions
 - Describe novel approaches/efforts currently under study
 - Identify practical challenges in implementing PT interventions



EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

Knowing the audience



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Physical therapy in rare disorders: Clinical impressions



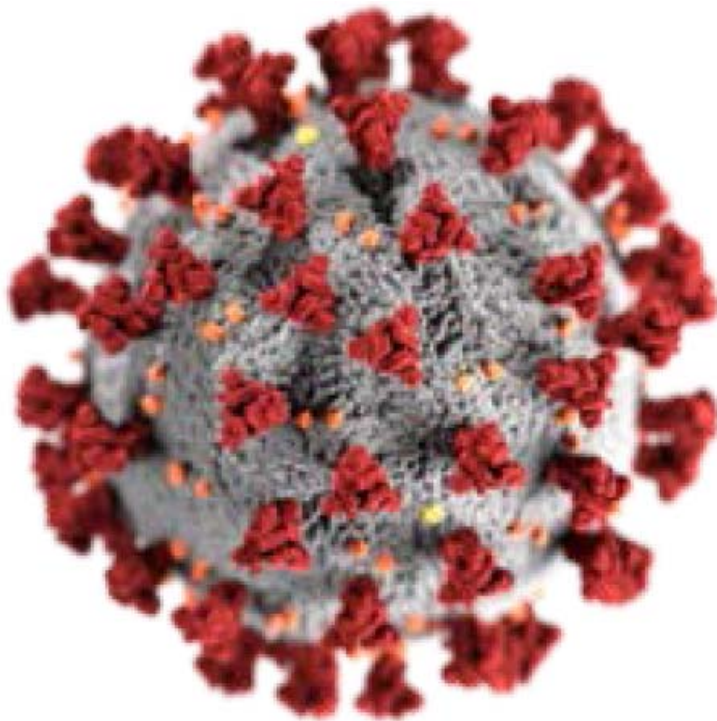
DeWeerd, *Nature* 2011

PREVENTION

Activity is the best medicine

Can exercise, social interaction and the Mediterranean diet really help to keep the cognitive decline of Alzheimer's disease at bay?

SARS-Cov-2 pandemic



„Evidence‘ from withdrawal

- Many patients affected by HD had no access to PT and other co-therapies (OT, speech therapy, occupational therapy) during lock-down.
- The clinical impression is that many patients deteriorated functionally to a clinically relevant degree

Exercise is beneficial

*Individuals with HD and their caregivers
perceive exercise as beneficial*

Physical benefits

- Gait (33)
- Balance (33)

Social Benefits

- Self-confidence and independence (33)
- Socialization and improved family and social relationship; reports of new friendships (33)



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Physical therapy in rare disorders: evidence

Evidence supporting exercise and physical therapy in HD

Effectiveness of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Pathology for People with Huntington's Disease: A Systematic Review

Belinda Bilney, Meg E. Morris, and Alison Perry

145

NEUROLOGY REPORT

Physical Therapy for People with Huntington Disease: Current Perspectives and Case Report

Lori Quinn, EdD, PT^{*}
Ashwini Rao, EdD, OTR^{*}

SPECIAL REPORT

For reprint orders, please contact: reprints@futuremedicine.com

Development of physiotherapy guidance and treatment-based classifications for people with Huntington's disease

Lori Quinn & Monica Busse^{*} On behalf of the members of the European Huntington's Disease Network Physiotherapy Working Group



What effect does a structured home-based exercise programme have on people with Huntington's disease? A randomized, controlled pilot study

Reliability and Minimal Detectable Change of Physical Performance Measures in Individuals With Pre-manifest and Manifest Huntington Disease

Lori Quinn, Hanan Khalil, Helen Dawes, Nora E. Fritz, Deb Regelmeyer, Anne D. Kloos, Jonathan W. Gillard, Monica Busse, for the Outcome Measures Subgroup of the European Huntington's Disease Network

Adherence to Use of a Home-Based Exercise DVD in People With Huntington Disease: Participants' Perspectives

A Randomized Feasibility Study of a 12-Week Community-Based Exercise Program for People With Huntington's Disease

Video game play (Dance Dance Revolution) as a potential exercise therapy in Huntington's disease: a controlled clinical trial

The effects of multidisciplinary rehabilitation in patients with early-to-middle-stage Huntington's disease: a pilot study

Brain and Behavior

The effect of multidisciplinary rehabilitation on brain structure and cognition in Huntington's disease: an exploratory study

Physical Activity Self-Management and Coaching Compared to Social Interaction in Huntington Disease: Results From the ENGAGE-HD Randomized, Controlled Pilot Feasibility Trial

Monica Busse, Lori Quinn, Cheney Drew, Mark Kelson, Rob Trubey, Kirsten McEwan, Carys Jones, Julia Townson, Helen Dawes, Rhiannon Tudor-Edwards, Anne Rosser, Kerenza Hood

A Classification System to Guide Physical Therapy Management in Huntington Disease: A Case Series

Nora E. Fritz, PT, PhD, DPT, NCS, Monica Busse, PhD, Karen Jones, PT, Hanan Khalil, PhD, Lori Quinn, PT, EdD, and the Members of the Physiotherapy Working Group of the European Huntington's Disease Network

Task-Specific Training in Huntington Disease: A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effects of multidisciplinary therapy on physical function in Huntington's disease

Travis M. Cruickshank, Alvaro P. Reyes, Luis E. Penailillo, Tim Pulverenti, Danielle M. Bartlett, Pauline Zienker, Anthony J. Blazewich, Robert U. Newton, Jennifer A. Thompson, Johnny Lo, Mel R. Ziman

Effects of a Two-Year Intensive Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation Program for Patients with Huntington's Disease: a Prospective Intervention Study

Can directed activity improve mobility in Huntington's disease?

M.E. Busse^a, A.E. Rosser^{b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z}

Client and therapist views on exercise programmes for early-mid stage Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease

Physical therapy in Huntington's disease – toward objective assessments?

Effects of an intensive rehabilitation programme on patients with Huntington's disease: a pilot study

Practice, Progress and Future Directions for Physical Therapies in Huntington's Disease

2002

2003

2007

2008

2009

2010

2012

2013

2015

2019

2020

Clinical recommendations to guide physical therapy practice for Huntington disease

Neurology®

Mixed methods systematic review using Joanna Briggs methodology including observational and experimental study designs.

2,377 records identified

2,144 records screened

31 full text-articles assessed for inclusion

18 studies selected based on quantitative synthesis

2 studies selected based on qualitative synthesis

Grade A Evidence


Aerobic training with or without resistance training


Improvements in fitness and motor function


Supervised gait training


Improved spatiotemporal features of gait

Grade B Evidence


Exercise improves balance but not fall frequency


Respiratory training improves breathing function and capacity


Caregiver education for maintenance of activity


Transfer training and getting up from floor may be beneficial



Quinn, L., Kegelmeyer, D., Kloos, A., Rao, A., Busse, M., & Fritz, N. (2020). Clinical recommendations to guide physical therapy practice for huntington disease. *Neurology*, 94(5), 1-12

NRL
Neurorehabilitation
Research
Laboratory



Recommended reviews

VIEWS & REVIEWS

OPEN ACCESS

Clinical recommendations to guide physical therapy practice for Huntington disease

Lori Quinn, EdD, PT, Deb Kegelmeyer, MS, PT, DPT, GCS, Anne Kloos, PhD, PT, NCS,
Ashwini K. Rao, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Monica Busse, BSc, BSc (Hons) MSc (Med) PhD, PT, and
Nora E. Fritz, PhD, PT, DPT, NCS

Correspondence

Dr. Fritz
nora.fritz@wayne.edu

Neurology[®] 2020;94:217-228. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000008887

A Mixed Methods Systematic Review

Nora E. Fritz^a, Ashwini K. Rao^b, Deb Kegelmeyer^c, Anne Kloos^c, Monica Busse^d, Lynda Hartel^e,
Judith Carrier^f and Lori Quinn^{g,*}

Resources



PHYSIOTHERAPY
CLINICAL
GUIDELINES

Huntington's disease

European Huntington's Disease
Network Physiotherapy
Working Group



ENGAGE-HD

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WORKBOOK

ENGAGE-HD study team: Dr Monica Busse, Dr Lori Quinn, Professor Helen Dawes, Dr Carys Jones, Dr Mark Kelly, Professor Kerenza Hood, Professor Rhiannon Tudor-Edwards and Professor Anne Rosser.

www.hda.org.uk/professionals/resources-for-professionals/best-practice-in-huntington-s-disease



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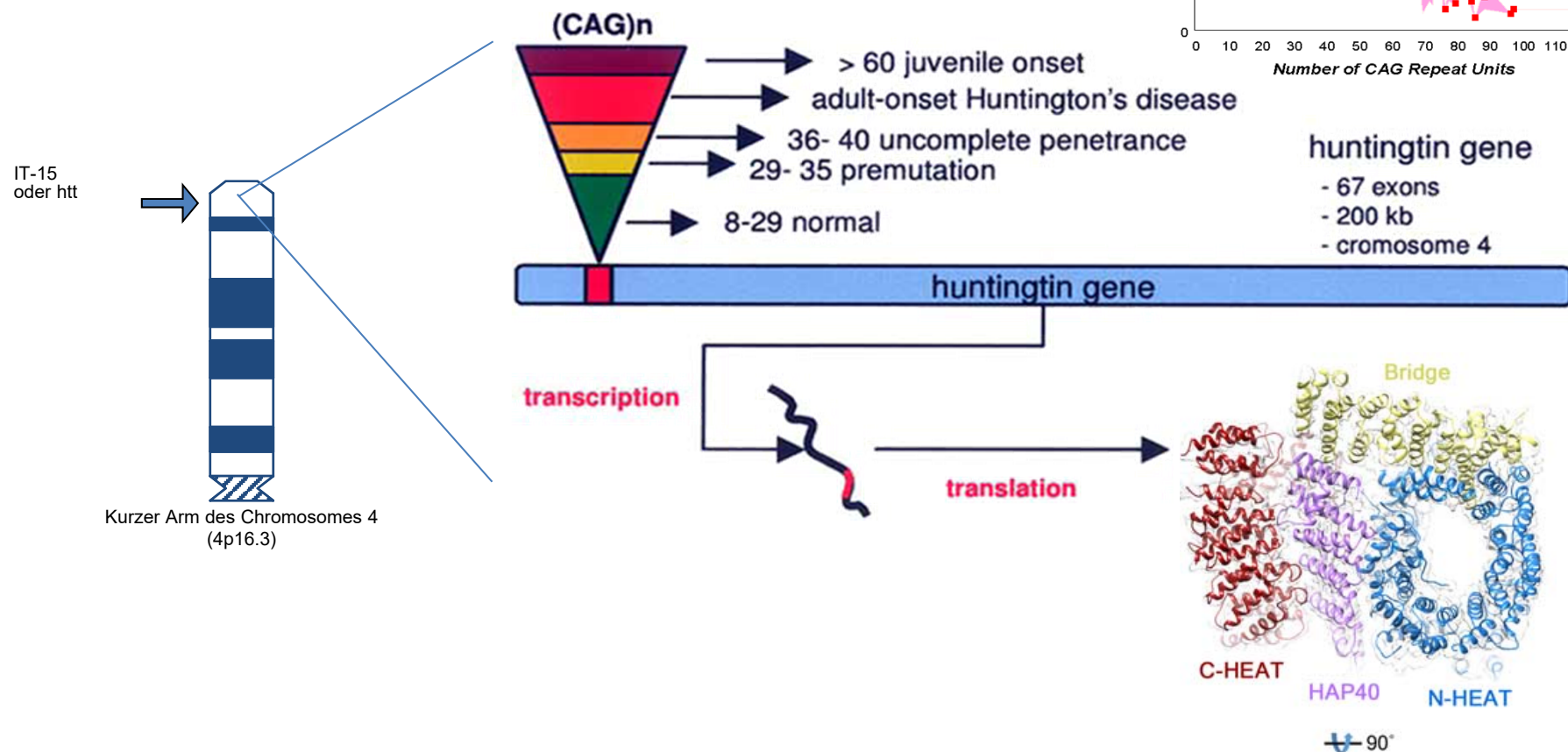
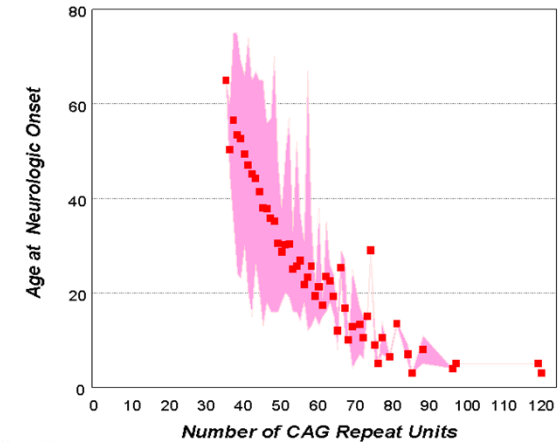
Physical therapy in the context of HD



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The clinical presentation of HD is variable ...

... despite the fact that HD is a mono-genetic disorder



Chorea is the typically the most prominent motor feature in patients with repeat expansion in the forties (40-49) ...



... and may evolve into ballistic chorea in the course of the disease



Bradykinesia-Dystonia – prominent in early onset HD with long repeat expansion



Dystonia as presenting, prominent motor feature in pediatric onset dystonia





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A first conclusion: the clinical presentation of HD depends on the size of the CAG expansion mutation



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Natural history of HD

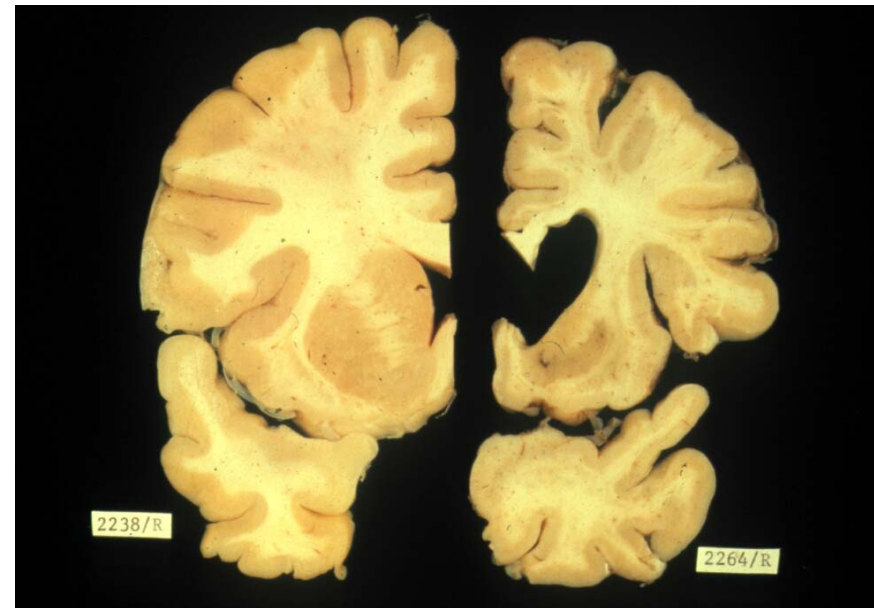
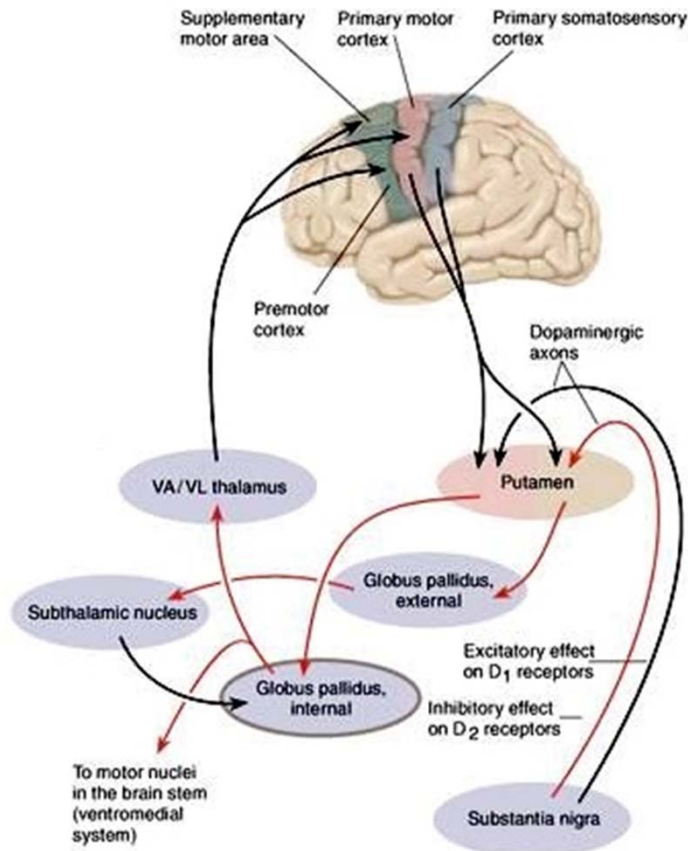
HD is more than a movement disorder

Neuropsychiatric disorder:

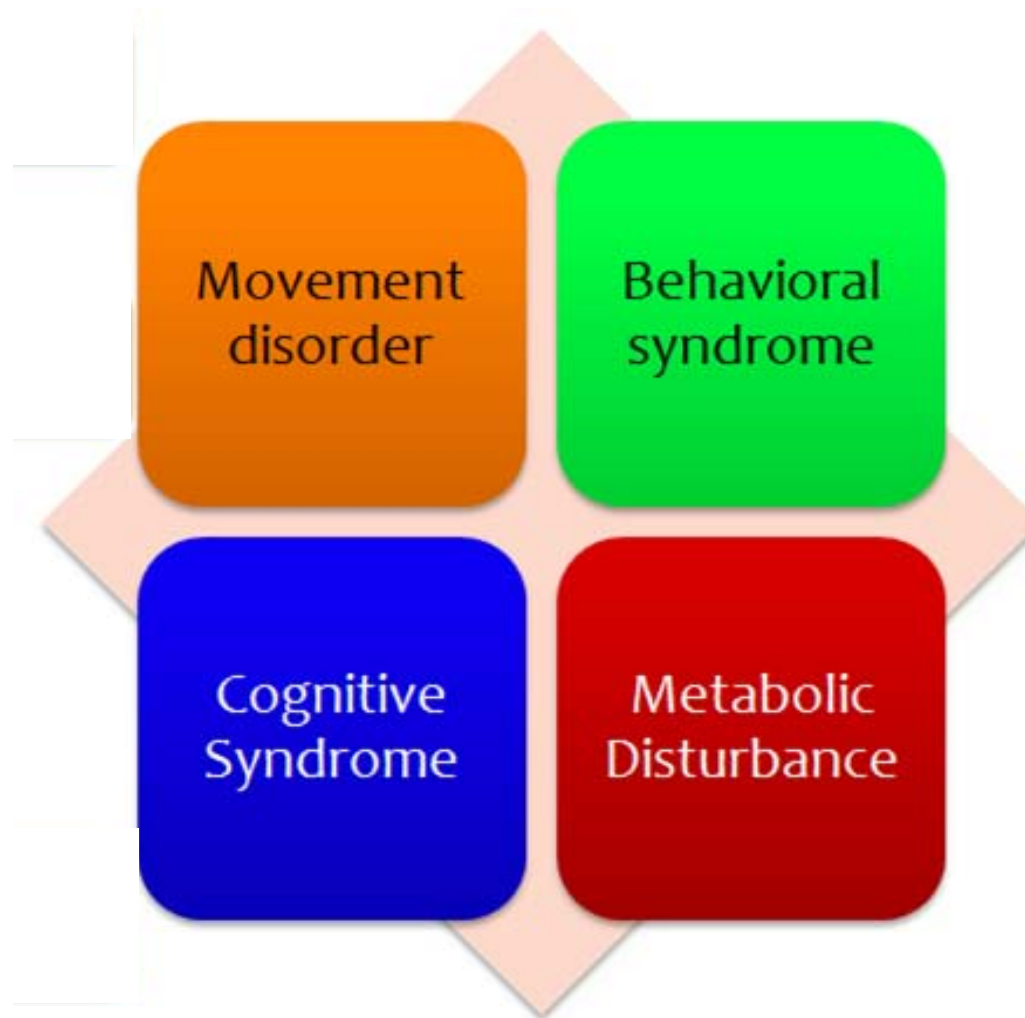
Personality changes

Cognitive deficits

Movement disorder

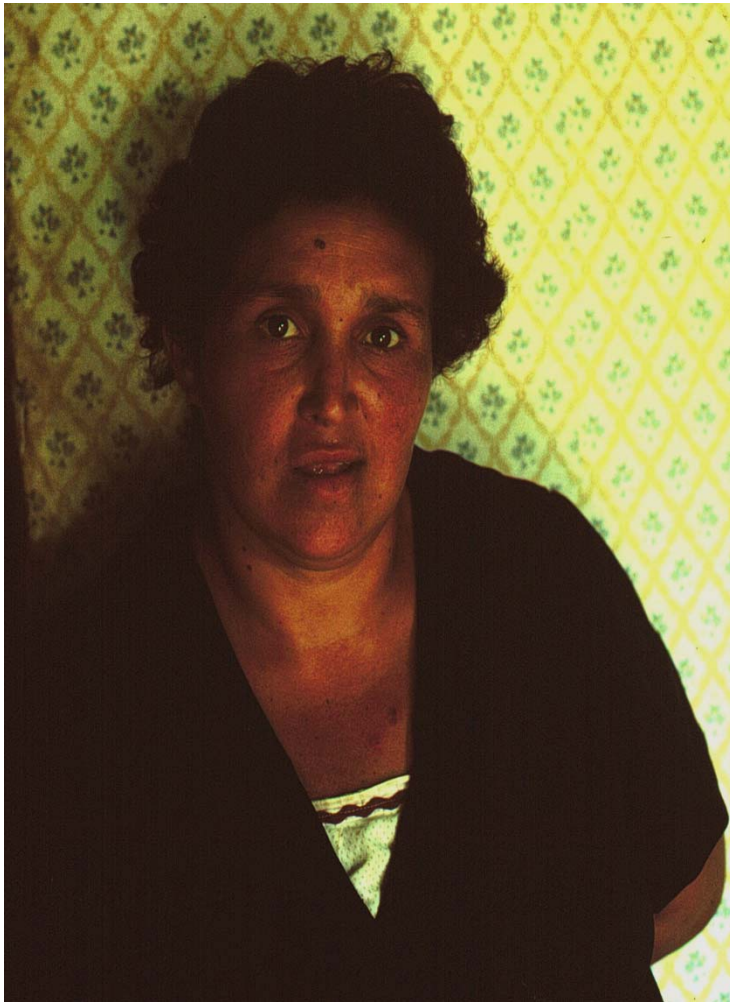


Huntington Disease symptomatic domains



HD is devastatingly progressive

1985

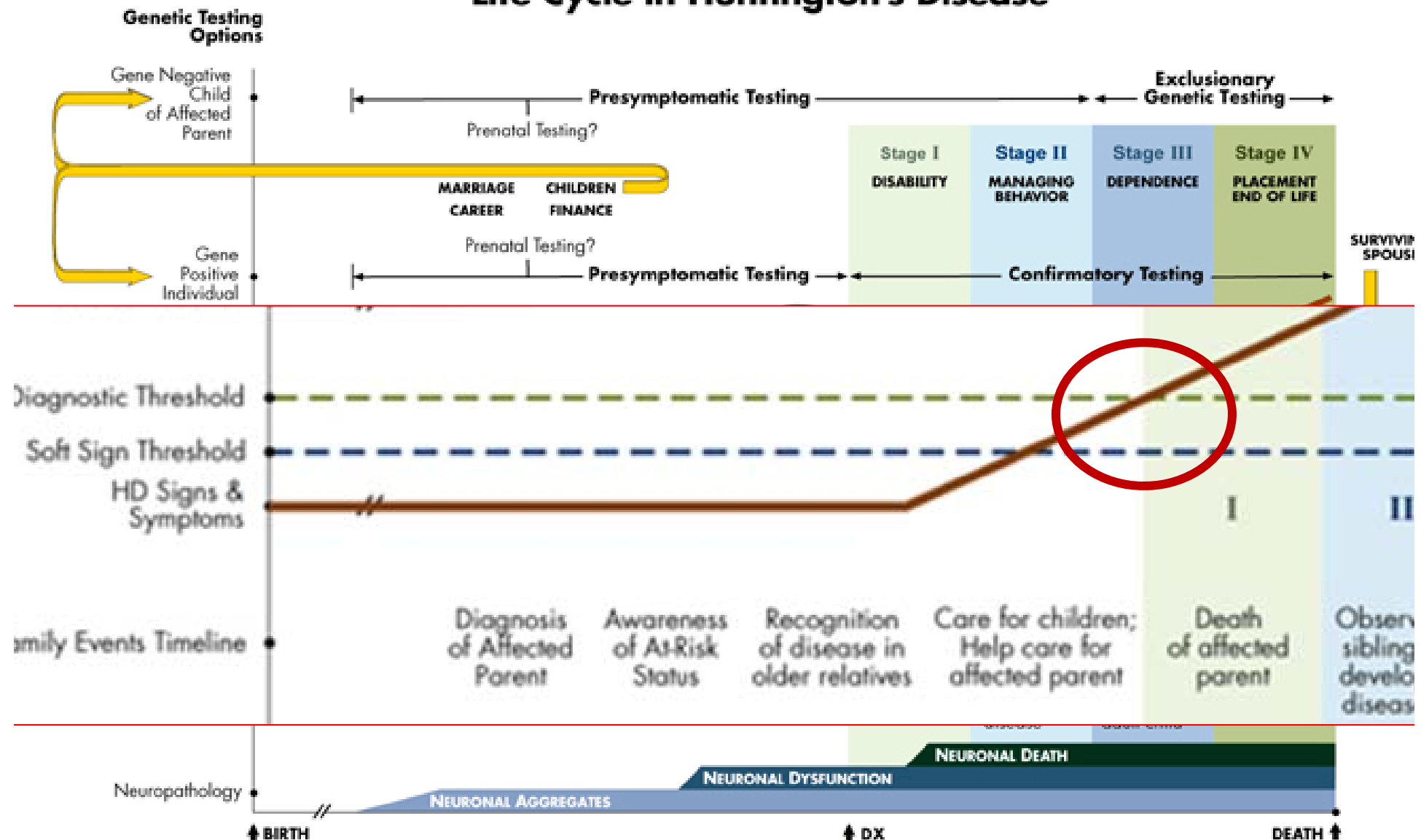


1998



The natural history of HD: a long course

Life Cycle in Huntington's Disease





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Insights from Large Natural History Studies



Working together worldwide to address a
disease that effects people all over the
world: Enroll-HD

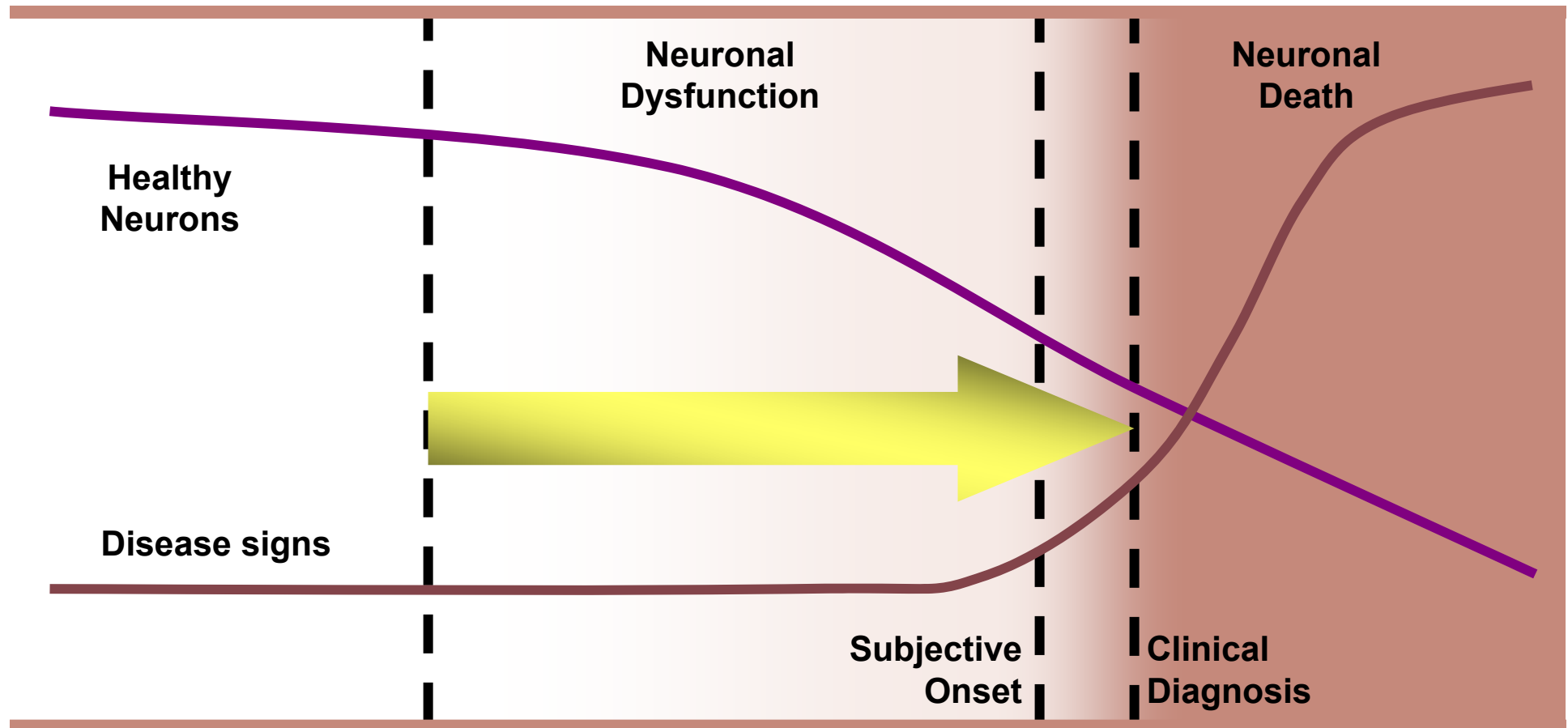
Enroll-HD is intended to be an enabling platform for translational and clinical HD research



- Sites: 200+
- Countries: 27
- Languages: 16
- COHORT + Registry participants: ~13,000
- Expected max. visits/month: 600
- Est. new participants/month: 200
- Globally enabled IT, bio-repository and data monitoring systems

Currently more than 25.000 participants

HD Natural History





EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

The clinically silent period:
asymptomatic stages

Looking early in HD expansion mutation carriers: trajectories



Biological and clinical characteristics of gene carriers far from predicted onset in the Huntington's disease Young Adult Study (HD-YAS): a cross-sectional analysis



Rachael I Scahill, Paul Zeun*, Katherine Osborne-Crowley, Eileanor B Johnson, Sarah Gregory, Christopher Parker, Jessica Lowe, Akshay Nair, Claire O'Callaghan, Christelle Langley, Marina Papoutsis, Peter McColgan, Carlos Estevez-Fraga, Kate Fayer, Henny Wellington, Filipe B Rodrigues, Lauren M Byrne, Amanda Heselgrave, Harpreet Hyare, Cristina Sampaio, Henrik Zetterberg, Hui Zhang, Edward J Wild, Geraint Rees, Trevor W Robbins, Barbara J Sahakian, Douglas Langbehn, Sarah J Tabrizi*

Summary

Background Disease-modifying treatments are in development for Huntington's disease; crucial to their success is to identify a timepoint in a patient's life when there is a measurable biomarker of early neurodegeneration while clinical function is still intact. We aimed to identify this timepoint in a novel cohort of young adult premanifest Huntington's disease gene carriers (preHD) far from predicted clinical symptom onset.

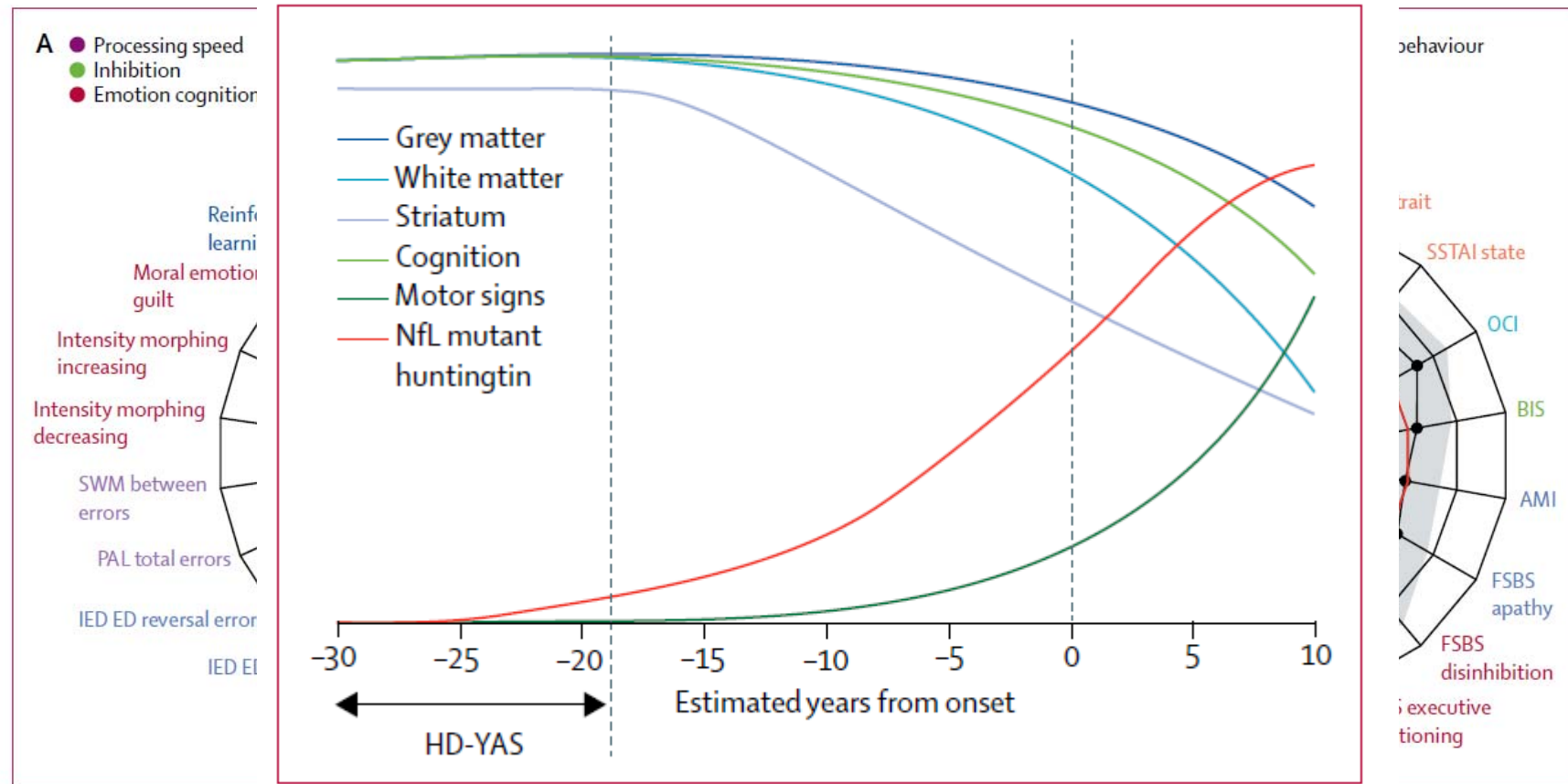
.ancet Neurol 2020; 19: 502–12

See [Comment](#) page 473

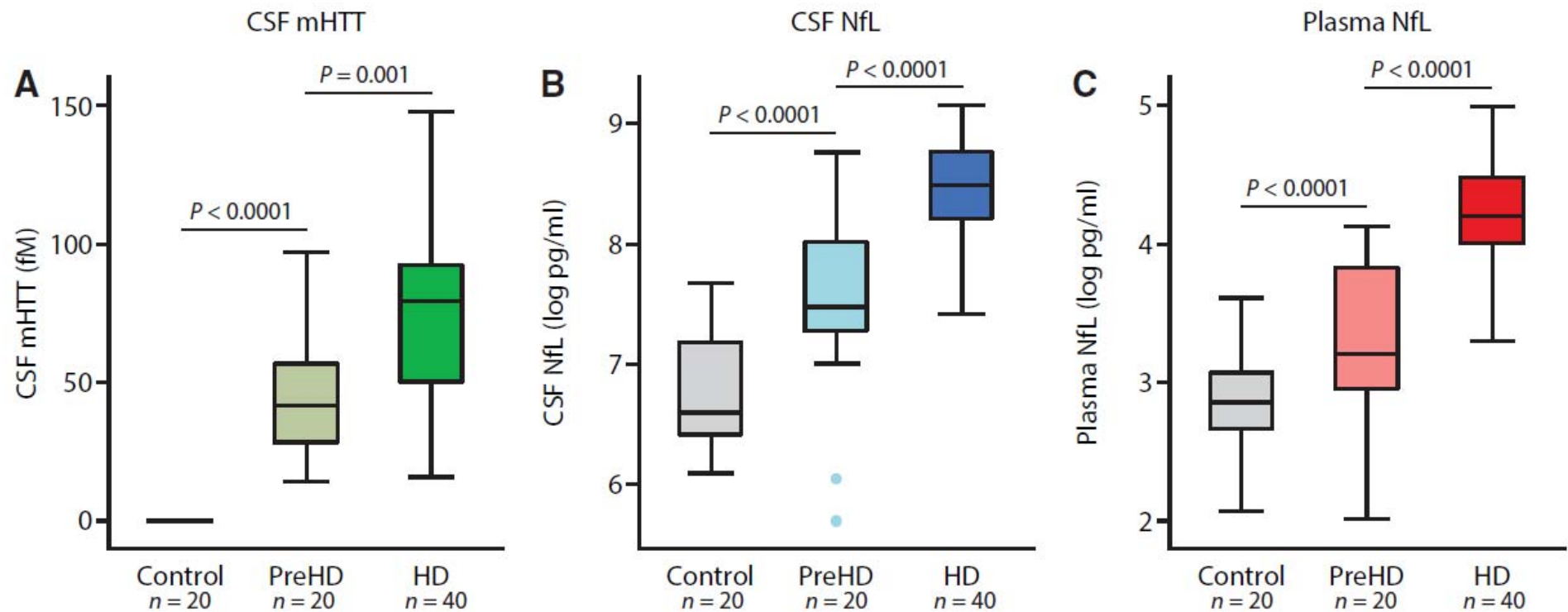
*Joint first authors

Huntington's Disease Centre,

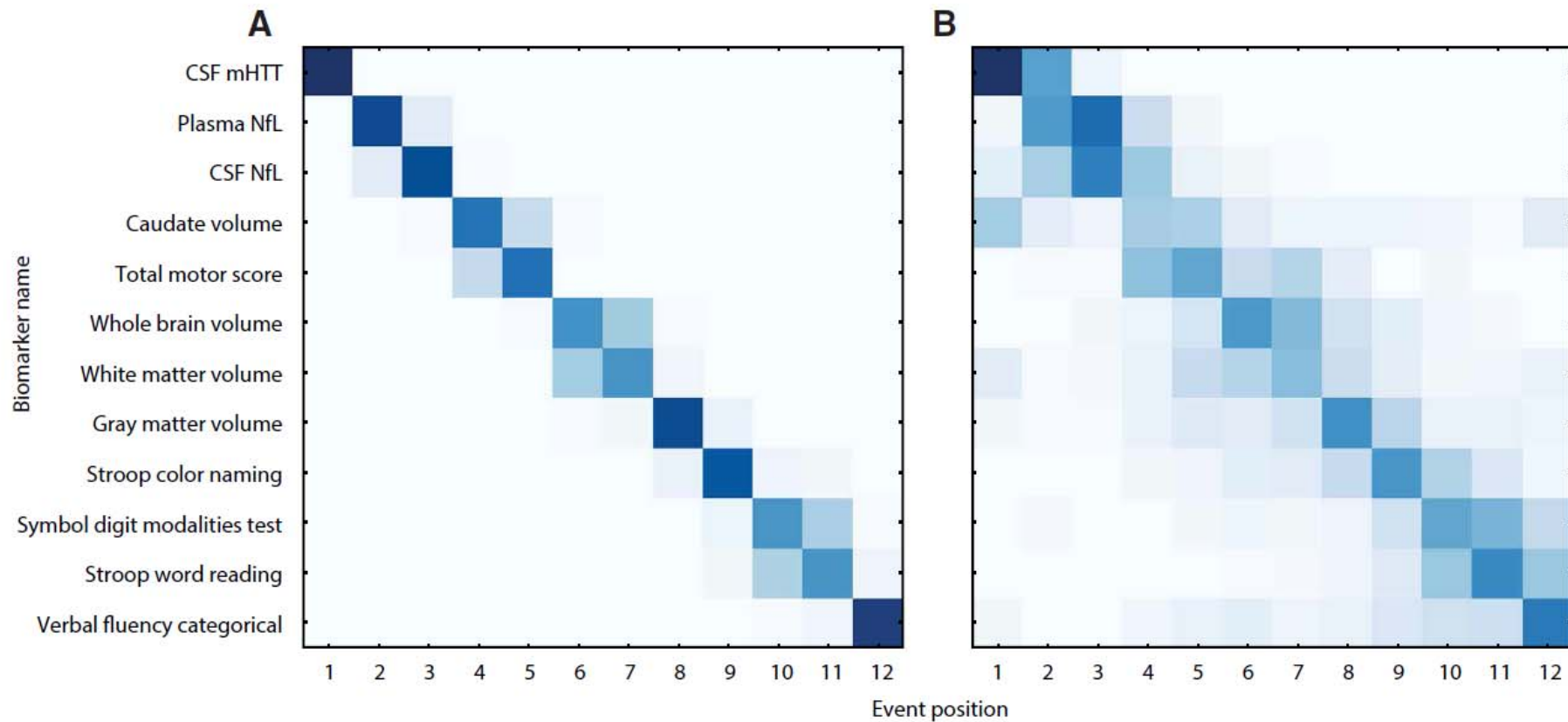
No alterations measurable, approximately 20 years before onset, with the potential exception of NfL



Adding wet markers



Integrating markers & clinical signs



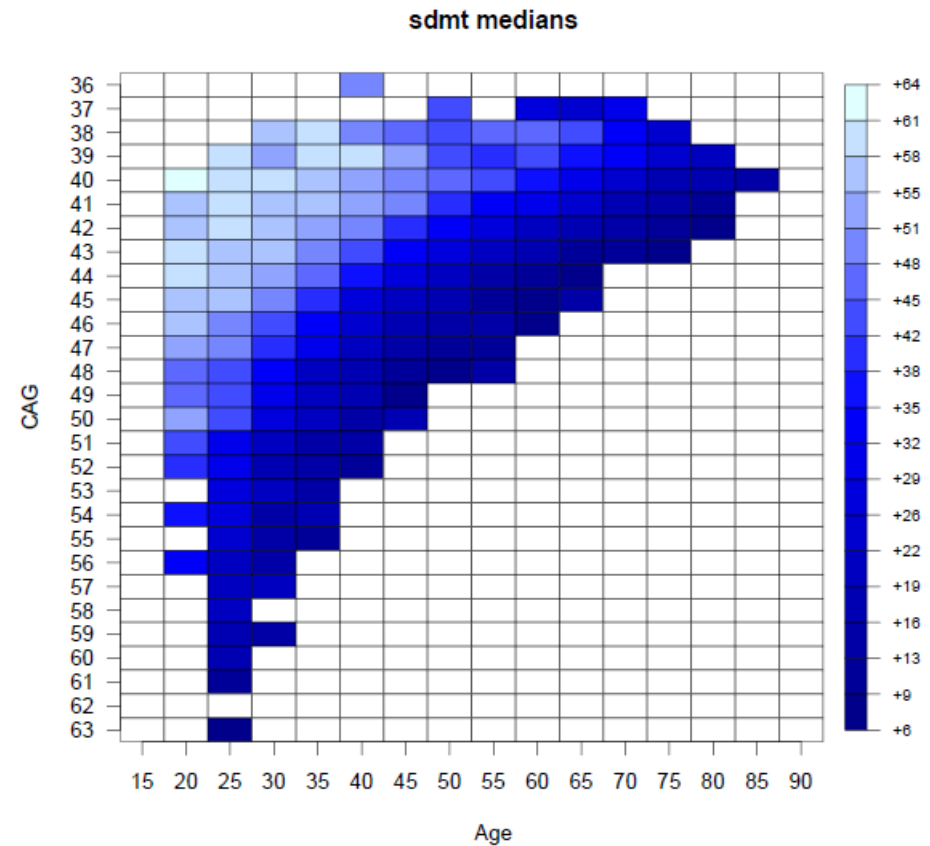
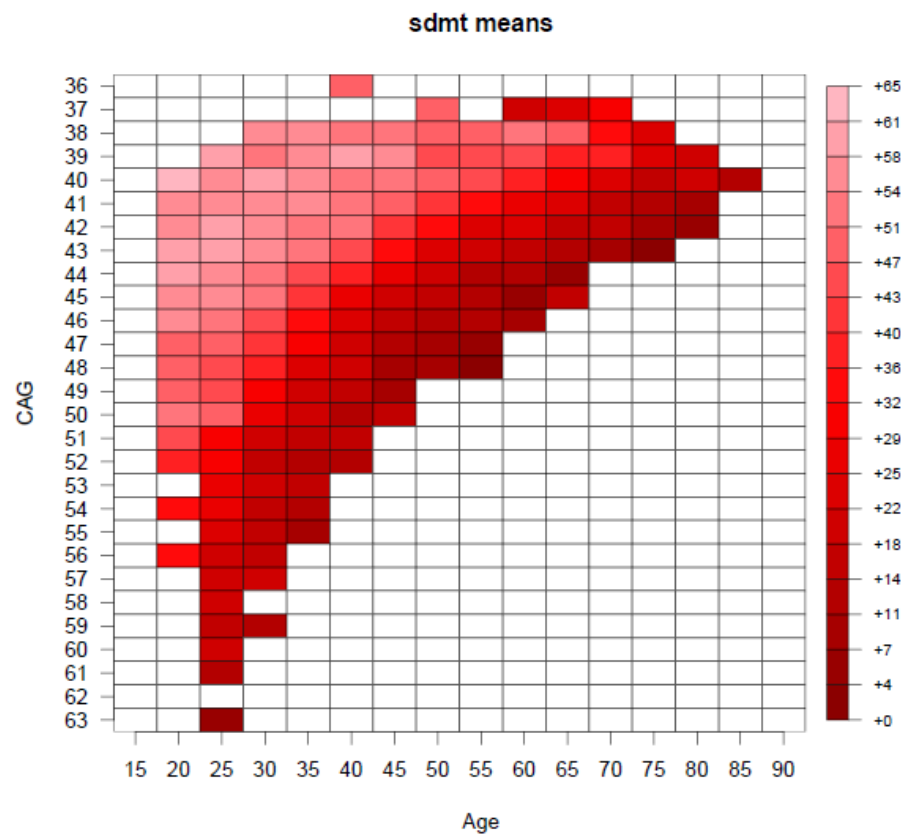


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Onset and Progression are Driven by Cumulative Exposure to Mutant huntingtin Gene Products. CAG-Length-and-Age-Product (= CAP Score) is a Measure of this Exposure.

Modelling HD: Doug Langbehn - Age-CAG

Heat Maps for each outcome

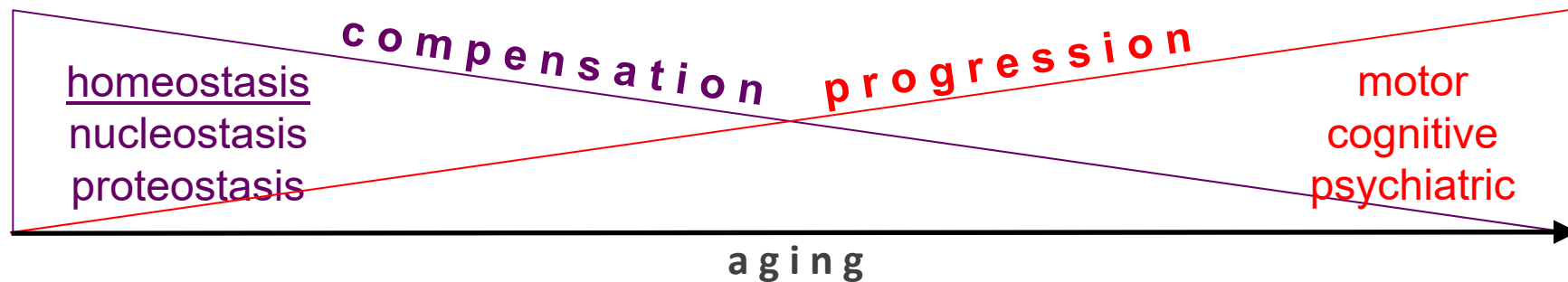




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General benefits of PT

Compensation: what holds dysfunction in check for so long?



- Organism are intrinsically capable of compensating for the effects of mHtt gene products
- Strengthening/boosting functional reserve
- Slowing decay of homeostasis

Activity/PT may restore balance





EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

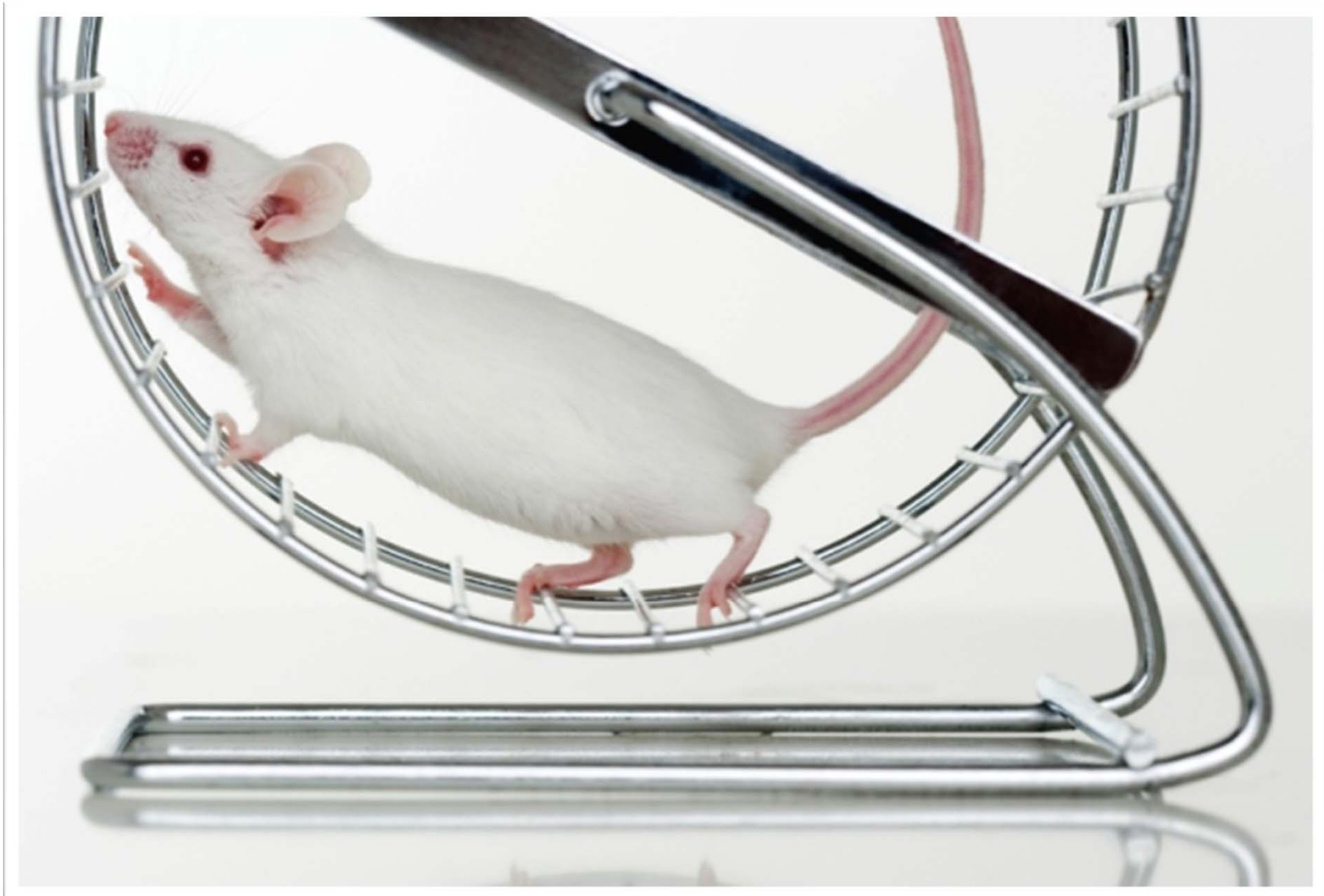
PT to ameliorate
symptoms & signs of HD



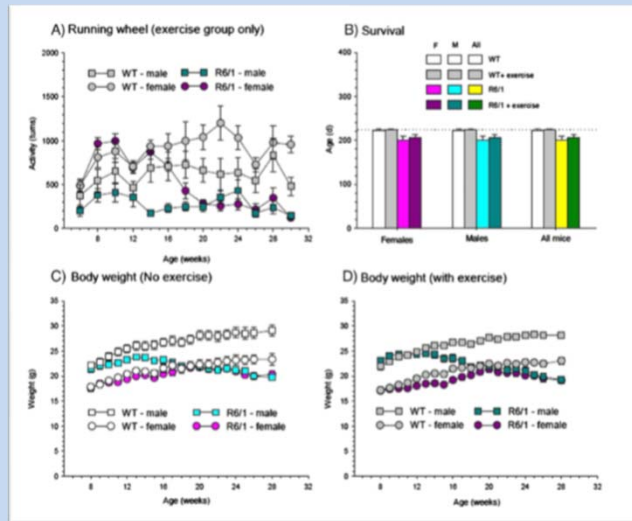
EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

PT as intervention to modify
the course of HD?

Preclinical studies



Preclinical studies



Sustained wheel running

- > improved gait and motor coordination
- > reduced striatal neuron loss

Six months treadmill running

- > increased striatal dopamine D2 receptor expression and dopamine neurotransmitter levels
- > reduction in HTT aggregate formation
- > improved behavioral and cognitive symptoms

Harrison et al., *Experimental Neurology* 2013; Stefanko et al., *Neurobiology of Diseases* 2017

Clinical feasibility studies & multi-disciplinary rehabilitation trials

Busse et al., A randomized feasibility study of a 12-week community-based exercise program for people with Huntington's disease. *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*. 2013

Busse et al., A randomized feasibility study of a 12-week community-based exercise program for people with Huntington's disease. *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*. 2013

Quinn et al., Task-specific training in Huntington disease: A randomized controlled feasibility trial. *Physical Therapy*. 2014

Quinn et al., A randomized, controlled trial of a multi-modal exercise intervention in Huntington's disease. *Parkinsonism & Related Disorders*. 2016

Busse et al., Physical activity self-management and coaching compared to social interaction in huntington disease: Results from the ENGAGE-HD randomized, controlled pilot feasibility trial. *Physical Therapy*. 2017

Thompson et al., The effects of multidisciplinary rehabilitation in patients with early-to-middle-stage Huntington's disease: A pilot study. *European Journal of Neurology*. 2013

Piira et al., Effects of a one year intensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation program for patients with huntington's disease: A prospective intervention study. *PLoS Currents*. 2013

Piira et al., Effects of a two-year intensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation program for patients with huntington's disease: A prospective intervention study. *PLoS Currents*. 2014

Ciancarelli et al., Influence of intensive multifunctional neurorehabilitation on neuronal oxidative damage in patients with Huntington's disease. *Functional Neurology*. 2015

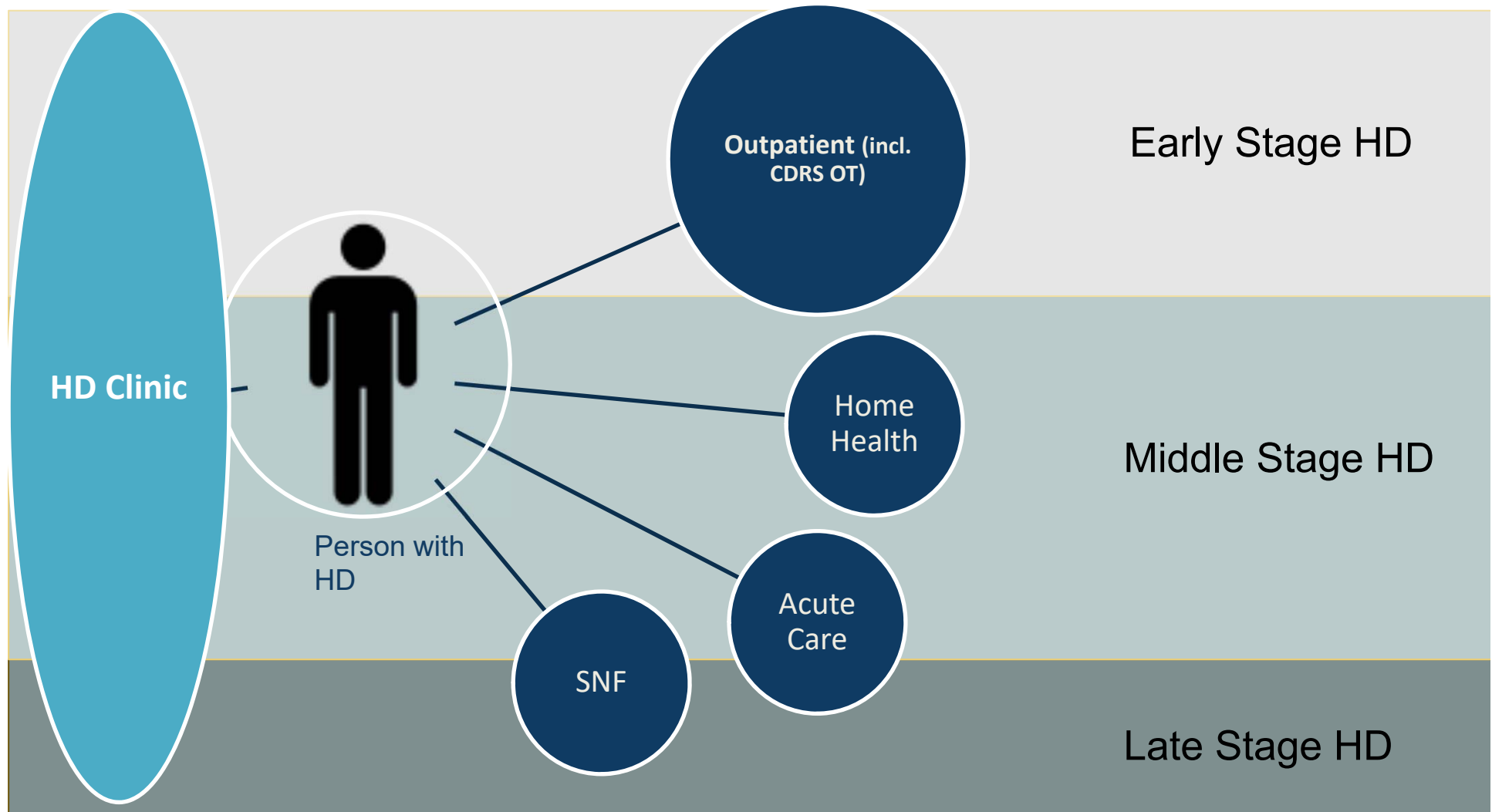
Cruickshank et al., The effect of multidisciplinary rehabilitation on brain structure and cognition in Huntington's disease: An exploratory study. *Brain and Behavior*. 2015



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PT as intervention to modify
the course of HD – rehabilitation

Rehabilitation Over the Course of the Disease



Literature

- Target groups: Early- to mid-stage HD
- Observational studies indicate positive effects of multidisciplinary rehabilitation on physical function/balance, swallowing, independence, mood and social relationships
(Zinzi et al, Clin Rehab 2007; Ciancarelli et al, Eur J Phys Rehabil Med, 2013; Thompson et al Eur J Neurol 2013)
- A randomized study of a 12-week community based program found that the program was safe, feasible, acceptable and suggests beneficial effects of rehabilitation
(Busse et al, JNPT, 2013)

The Norwegian Project: Jan Frich et al

- Intensive rehabilitation programs for patients with HD was funded by the Norwegian Directorate of Health in 2009
- The initiative was inspired by the results from a landmark observational study (Zinzi et al, Clin Rehab, 2007)
- The aim of the mixed-method evaluation was to assess the feasibility and the effects of participating in a one-year multidisciplinary rehabilitation program

Ethical approval by Norwegian Social Science Data Services (ref. 26587) and The Regional Ethics Committee, Health Region South-East (ref. 2010/1026-1)

One year program: 3 x 3 weeks stay + evaluation stay



Tromsø



Vikersund

Start of each stay

Cognitive function (MSSE),
depression (HADS), motor
function, balance, gait (ABC, 6
Min. Walk Test ...) ADL
(Barthel)

End of each stay

Motor function, balance, gait



Three weeks stay

- 8 hours of various activities 5 days a week
- Groups of 4-6
- Physiotherapy / exercise
- Group meetings, trips, making food, etc

3 months ...

The multidisciplinary team

- Physician/neurologist
- Nurses
- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Speech therapist
- Dietician
- Social worker
- Psychologist
- The institutions are specialised regional rehabilitation centres (stroke rehabilitation etc.)



Main findings

- Significant improvements were observed in gait function, balance, in physical quality of life, anxiety and depression, as well as in BMI
- ADL-function remained stable with no significant decline
- One cognitive measure (SDMT) showed significant decline, while no decline was observed for the remaining cognitive measures



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PT as intervention to modify
the course of HD – delaying onset, slowing
progression?

PACE-HD

Physical Activity and Exercise Outcomes in Huntington's Disease, Phase II

1:1 randomisierte
kontrollierte
Interventions-
Studie

Activity as usual



Physical therapy and exercise intervention including wearables

12 Monate

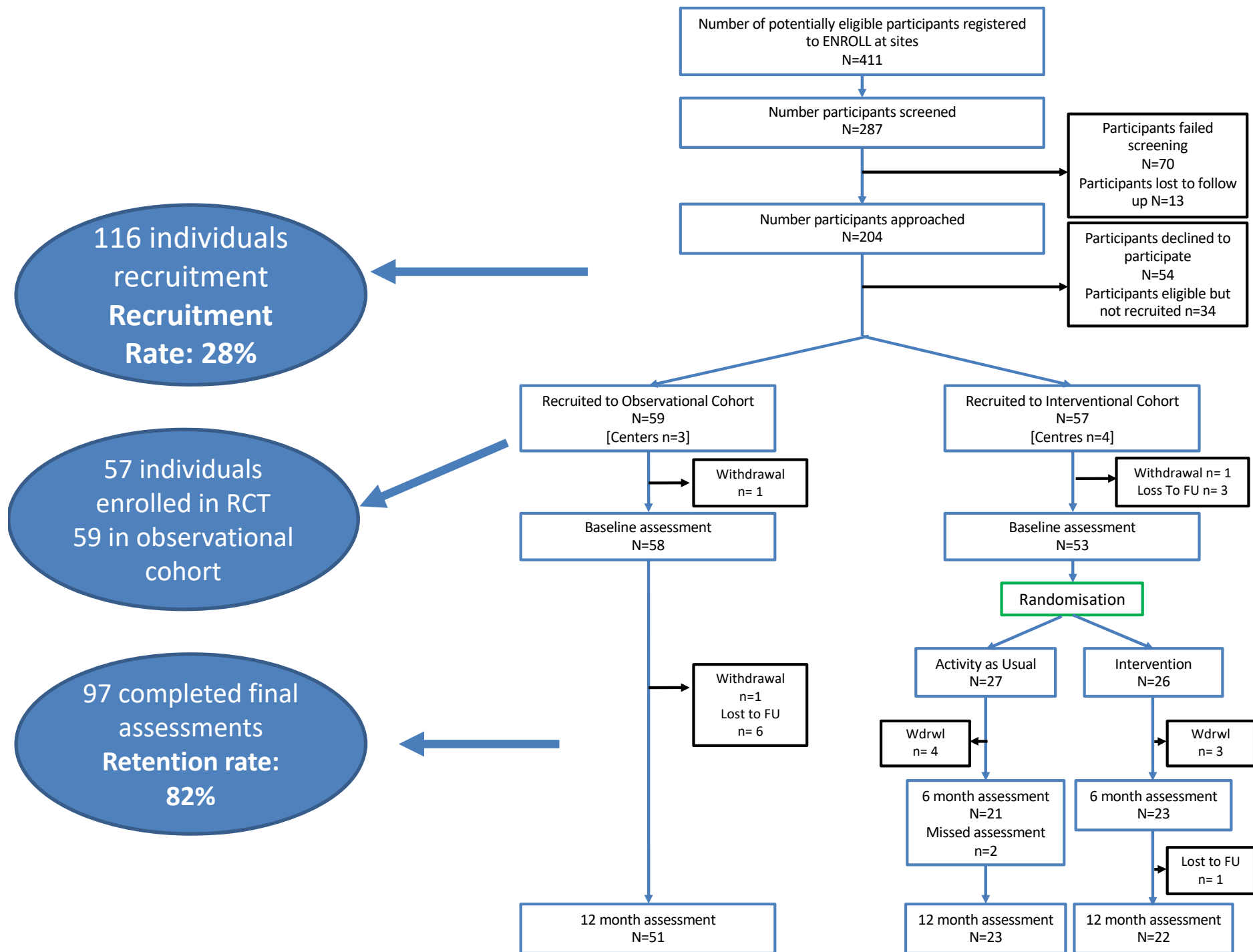


AIMS

1. To establish feasibility of a within cohort nested randomised trial of a 12-month physical activity intervention in people with HD
2. To explore effect estimates for physical activity, endurance, disease-specific motor function of long term (12 months) exercise in HD compared to usual activity.

Multi-center trial conducted in Europe and US

- UCLA/Columbia/Merced/FJD/Ulm/Aachen/GHI
- Individuals with early-mid stage HD
- Trial within Cohort –linked with Enroll



Pace-HD: Outcome Measures

Construct

- Fitness
- Walking endurance
- Physical activity

Measure

- Predicted VO2 max cycle ergometry
- 6 minute walk test
- Questionnaire (IPAQ)
GeneActiv accelerometers



PACE-HD Intervention

- **1:1 Physical therapy sessions**

focusing on increasing physical activity at home



- **Fitbit devices** for all participants to track activity and monitor goals



- **Choice of equipment** or funds to support community engagement



- **HD-specific exercise workbook** to support education and goal-setting





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Study is completed
Result is eagerly awaited



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Long-term clinical rate-of-progression
studies are needed



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Biomarker based studies (e.g. NfL, BDNF etc.) are needed



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Challenges ahead



EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

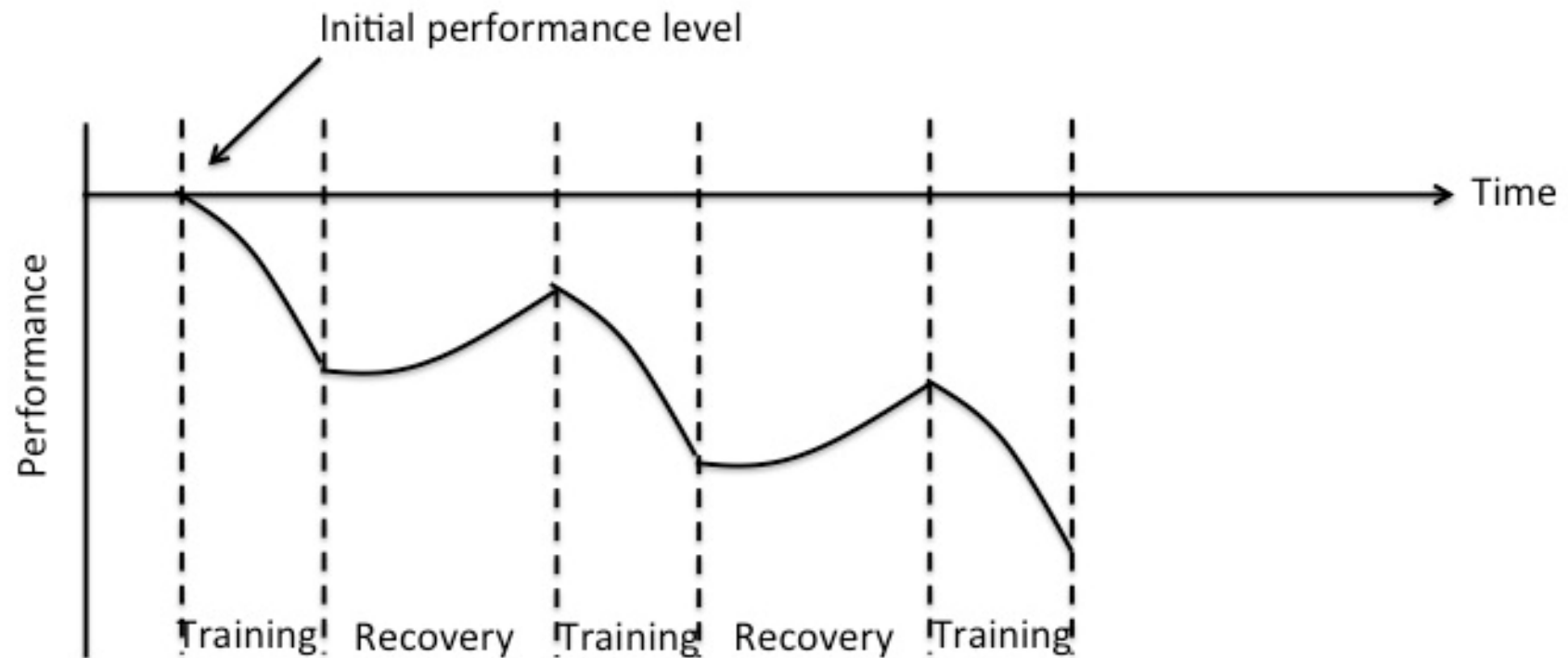
Defining who to treat when



EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

Defining the intervention

Defining dose



Model of overtraining: Training load followed by insufficient recovery results in decreased performance.



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Defining outcome measures



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Practical challenges in implementing PT

Facilitators

Identification of facilitators of participation in exercise for persons with HD

Personal Factors

- Self efficacy of the participant and his/her outcome expectations (34)

External Environmental Factors

- Identification and commitment of the caregiver/contact person (34, 34)

Training Factors

- Individualized plans and schedules (33)
- Intensive training is acceptable (33)
- Being part of a group is helpful (33)
- Cues provided by an exercise DVD helps with adherence (34)

Barriers

Identification of barriers to participation in exercise for persons with HD

Personal factors

- Cognitive impairment (33, 34)
- Physical factors (e.g. poor balance) (34)
- Lack of motivation (34)



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Apathy



EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

Participant fatigue



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Caregiver fatigue

The Golden Age of Telehealth Is Here (Thanks to the Coronavirus)

Mar 17th, 2020 3 min read



[Marie Fishpaw](#)

Director, Domestic Policy Studies

Marie Fishpaw is Director of Domestic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.





EUROPEAN **HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE** NETWORK

The situation may be shit, but it's our
fertilizer for the future

Lennart Georg Meri
President of Estonia, 1992 to 2001

From the in-clinic
interview, it might
sound like this ...



On telehealth,
the reality may
be visible...



Seeing the reality is better for making more appropriate, realistic recommendations

HEALTH –RND

European eHealth Care Model for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases



HD-Needs

- Development of Need-Based Quality of Life(QoL) Questionnaires
- HDEMCs and Caregivers
- Three stages

HD-eHelp

- Development of e-Health Care Platform with Users involved in all stages
- Multilingual and -disciplinary
- Three stages



HD-Proof

- Evaluation of e-Health Care Platform
- Proof of Concept Study (POC)
- e-Health Intervention vs. Treatment As Usual (TAU)
- Primary Outcome: Need-Based QoL
- Secondary Outcomes: effects for short (3 M), intermediate (6 M) and long term (12 M) exposure to the e-health care vs. TAU



Key Points /Conclusions

- There is evidence that PT has a beneficial impact for people affected by HD with respect to symptom relief and short-term improvement in most stages HD
- There is currently a lack of evidence for long-term impact and the potential of PT to modify the natural course of HD, in particular in pre-manifest/early stages of HD, dependent on novel assessment tools, e.g. biomarkers
- Telemedicine offers new avenues to deliver PT and to assess real life impact/benefit

Acknowledgments

- **Colleagues**

- **Lori Quinn**, PhD **Monica Busse**, PhD; Cheney Drew, PhD; Rhys Williams-Thomas
- **PACE Study sites and PIs**: Julie Hershberg, PT, DPT, NCS; Jesus Ruiz Idiago, MD; Lisa Muratori, PT, EdD; Ralf Reilmann, MD; Asunción Martínez
- Members of the Rehabilitation Working Group: **Una Jones** PhD, Nora Fritz, PT, DPT, PhD; **Ashwini Rao**, OTR, EdD, FAOTA; Deb Kegelmeyer, PT, DPT, MS, GCS; Anne Kloos PT, PhD

- People affected by HD and their partners & caregivers



Advancing Research, Conducting Trials, Improving Care



Thank you for your attention!

G. Bernhard Landwehrmeyer





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Neurological Diseases
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European
Reference
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for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases

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Neurological Diseases
(ERN-RND)



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Joint webinar series



THANK YOU

Next Webinar: ,Non-invasive stimulation for ataxias'
by Bart van de Warrenburg
3. November 2020, 15-16h CET