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## Annotated list of publications

My complete list of publications contains about 675 papers, with *h*-index: 142 (Scopus) 162 (Google Scholar); total citations: 61975 (Scopus) 80620 (GS), as of November 2018, using “Bjorklund A” and “Lund” as search items.

This list is a selection of my published papers, original articles and reviews, organised under eight main themes:

- 1. Studies related to the dopamine system and animal models of Parkinson’s disease**
- 2. Studies of axonal regeneration and reconstruction of neural circuitry by neural transplants in brain and spinal cord**
- 3. Development of dopamine cell replacement therapy in Parkinson’s disease**
- 4. Neural grafting in animal models of Huntington’s disease**
- 5. Transplantation of cholinergic neurons in animal models of cognitive decline**
- 6. Studies on the neuroprotective effects of NGF, GDNF and Neurturin in the brain**
- 7. Studies aimed at new therapies for L-DOPA-induced dyskinesias**
- 8. Studies aimed at the development of gene therapy for continuous local delivery of L-DOPA.**

### **1. Studies related to the dopamine system and development of animal models of Parkinson’s disease**

*The focus of my postdoctoral work was to sort out the anatomical organization of the dopamine and noradrenaline neuron systems in the brain using the new glyoxylic acid histofluorescence method. This method, which I developed in collaboration with my former PhD student and close collaborator Olle Lindvall, allowed for the first time the visualisation of the dopamine neuron system in its entirety, and allowed us to map anatomically the previously unknown dopamine projections to cortical and limbic areas. We were also the first to identify and map the dopaminergic projections to the habenula and the spinal cord, and reveal the special dendritic projections from the nigra compacta neurons that allow dopamine to be released from dendrites in the pars reticulata.*

*A second line of studies has been focused on the characterisation and standardisation of the 6-OHDA lesion models in rats and mice, which has been used in our regeneration and neuroprotection studies. Over the last decade my lab has pioneered the development of the  $\alpha$ -synuclein overexpression model of PD, using AAV vector technology.*

### **a. Anatomy**

1. Lindvall, O., Björklund, A.: The glyoxylic acid fluorescence histochemical method: a detailed account of the methodology for the visualization of central catecholamine neurons. *Histochemistry* 39:97-127, 1974.
2. Lindvall, O., Björklund, A.: The organization of the ascending catecholamine neuron systems in the rat brain as revealed by the glyoxylic acid fluorescence method. *Acta Physiol. Scand. Suppl* 412, 1974.
3. Lindvall, O., Björklund, A., Moore, U., Stenevi, U.: Mesencephalic dopamine neurons projecting to neocortex. *Brain Research*. 81:325-331, 1974.
4. Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Dopamine in dendrites of substantia nigra neurons: suggestions for a role in dendritic terminals. *Brain Research*. 83:531-537, 1975.
5. Björklund, A., Divac, I., Lindvall, O.: Regional distribution of catecholamines in monkey cerebral cortex, evidence for a dopaminergic innervation of the primate prefrontal cortex. *Neurosci. Lett.* 7:115-119, 1978.
6. Lindvall, O., Björklund, A.: Dopaminergic innervation of the globus pallidus by collaterals from the nigrostriatal pathway. *Brain Research* 172:169-173, 1979.
7. Björklund, A., Skagerberg, G.: Evidence for a major spinal cord projection from the diencephalic A11 dopamine cell group in the rat. *Brain Research* 177:170-175, 1979.
8. Lindvall, O., Björklund, A., Skagerberg, G.: Selective histochemical demonstration of dopamine terminal systems in rat di- and telencephalon: new evidence for dopaminergic innervation of hypothalamic neurosecretory nuclei. *Brain Research* 306:19-30, 1984.
9. Skagerberg, G., Lindvall, O., Björklund, A.: Origin, course and termination of the mesohabenular dopamine pathway in the rat. *Brain Research* 307:99-108, 1984.
10. Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Dopamine-containing systems in the CNS. In: *Handbook of Chemical Neuroanatomy*, Vol. 2. Elsevier Science Publ. B.V., pp. 55-122, 1984.
11. Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Catecholaminergic brain stem regulatory systems. In: *Handbook of Physiology - The Nervous System*, Vol.4: Intrinsic regulatory systems of the brain, pp.155-235,1986.
12. Cenci, M.A., Kalén, P., Mandel, R.J., Björklund, A.: Regional differences in the regulation of dopamine and noradrenaline release in medial frontal cortex, nucleus accumbens and caudate-putamen: a microdialysis study in the rat. *Brain Research* 581:217-228, 1992.
13. Björklund A, Dunnett SB.: Dopamine neuron systems in the brain: an update. *Trends in Neuroscience* 30(5):194-202, 2007.

### **b. The 6-OHDA lesion model**

1. Cenci, M.A., Campbell, K., Wictorin, K., Björklund, A.: Striatal c-fos induction by cocaine or apomorphine preferentially occurs in output neurons projecting to the substantia nigra in the rat. *Eur.J.Neurosci.*, 4:376-380, 1992
2. Cenci, M.A., Björklund, A. Transection of corticostriatal afferents reduces amphetamine- and apomorphine-induced striatal Fos expression and turning behavior in unilaterally 6-hydroxydopamine-lesioned rats. *Eur.J.Neurosci.* 5:1062-1070, 1993.
3. Campbell, K., Björklund, A. Prefrontal corticostriatal afferents maintain increased enkephalin gene expression in the dopamine-denervated rat striatum. *Eur.J.Neurosci.*6:1371-1383, 1994.
4. Lee, C.S., Sauer, H., Björklund, A. Dopaminergic neuronal degeneration and motor impairments following axon terminal lesion by intrastratial 6-hydroxydopamine in the rat. *Neuroscience* 72: 641—653, 1996.
5. Kirik, D., Rosenblad, C., Björklund A. Characterization of behavioral and neurodegenerative changes following partial lesions of the nigrostriatal dopamine system induced by intrastratial 6-hydroxydopamine in the rat. *Exp Neurol.* 152: 259—277, 1998.

### ***c. Studies on the pathogenesis of PD using the AAV- $\alpha$ -synuclein model***

1. Kirik D, Rosenblad C, Burger C, Lundberg C, Johansen TE, Muzyczka N, Mandel RJ, Björklund A. Parkinson-like neurodegeneration induced by targeted overexpression of alpha-synuclein in the nigrostriatal system. *J Neurosci.*;22(7):2780-91, 2002.
2. Kirik, D, Annett, LE, Burger, C, Muzyczka, N, Mandel, RJ, Björklund A. Nigrostriatal  $\alpha$ -synucleinopathy induced by viral vector-mediated overexpression of human  $\alpha$ -synuclein: A new primate model of Parkinson's disease. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 100:2884-2889, 2003.
3. Grealish S, Mattsson B, Draxler P, Björklund A. Characterisation of behavioural and neurodegenerative changes induced by intranigral 6-hydroxydopamine lesions in a mouse model of Parkinson's disease. *Eur J Neurosci*, 31(12):2266-2278, 2010.
4. Ulusoy A, Decressac M, Kirik D, Björklund A. Viral vector mediated expression of  $\alpha$ -synuclein as a progressive model of Parkinson's disease, *Prog Brain Res*, 184:89-111, 2010.
5. Decressac M, Ulusoy A, Mattsson B, Romero-Ramos M, Kirik D, Björklund A. GDNF fails to exert neuroprotection in a rat  $\alpha$ -synuclein model of Parkinson's disease. *Brain*. Aug;134(Pt 8):2302-11, 2010.
6. Decressac M, Mattsson B, Lundblad M, Weikop P, Björklund A. Progressive neurodegenerative and behavioural changes induced by AAV-mediated overexpression of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in midbrain dopamine neurons. *Neurobiol Dis.* Mar;45(3):939-53, 2012.
7. Lundblad M, Decressac M, Mattsson B, Björklund A. Impaired neurotransmission caused by overexpression of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in nigral dopamine neurons. *Proc Natl Acad Sci.*109(9):3213-9, 2012.
8. Decressac M, Mattsson B, Björklund A. Comparison of the behavioural and histological characteristics of the 6-OHDA and  $\alpha$ -synuclein rat models of Parkinson's disease. *Exp Neurol.* May;235(1):306-15, 2012.
9. Decressac M, Kadkhodaei B, Mattsson B, Laguna A, Perlmann T, Björklund A.  $\alpha$ -Synuclein-Induced Down-Regulation of Nurr1 Disrupts GDNF Signaling in Nigral Dopamine Neurons. *Science Transl Med.* Dec 5;4(163): 163ra156, 2012.
10. Decressac M, N, Björklund A, Perlmann T. NURR1 in Parkinson disease--from pathogenesis to therapeutic potential. *Nat Rev Neurol.* 2013 Nov;9(11):629-36. doi: 10.1038/nrneurol.2013.209.
11. Decressac M, Mattsson B, Weikop P, Lundblad M, Jakobsson J, and Björklund A. TFEB-mediated autophagy rescues midbrain dopamine neurons from  $\alpha$ -synuclein toxicity. *Proc Natl Acad Sci, USA*, May 7;110(19):E1817-26. doi: 10.1073, 2013.
12. Kadkhodaei B, Alvarsson A, Schintu N, Ramsköld D, Volakakis N, Joodmardi E, Yoshitake T, Kehr J, Decressac M, **Björklund A**, Sandberg R, Svenningsson P, Perlmann T. (2013) Transcription factor Nurr1 maintains fiber integrity and nuclear-encoded mitochondrial gene expression in dopamine neurons. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2013 Feb 5;110(6):2360-5. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1221077110.
13. Decressac M, Volakakis N, **Björklund A**, Perlmann T. (2013) NURR1 in Parkinson disease--from pathogenesis to therapeutic potential. *Nat Rev Neurol.* 2013 Nov;9(11):629-36.
14. Caudal D, Alvarsson A, **Björklund A**, Svenningsson P (2015) Depressive-like phenotype induced by AAV-mediated overexpression of human  $\alpha$ -synuclein in midbrain dopaminergic neurons *Experimental Neurology* 273, 243-252
15. Volakakis N, Tiklova K, Decressac M, Papathanou M, Mattsson B, Gillberg L, Nobre A, **Björklund A**, Perlmann T. (2015) Nurr1 and Retinoid X Receptor Ligands Stimulate Ret Signaling in Dopamine Neurons and Can Alleviate  $\alpha$ -Synuclein Disrupted Gene Expression. *J Neurosci.* 35(42):14370-85.
16. Tozzi A, de Iure A, Bagetta V, Tantucci M, Durante V, Quiroga-Varela A, Costa C, Di Filippo M, Ghiglieri V, Latagliata EC, Wegrzynowicz M, Decressac M, Giampà C, Dalley JW, Xia J, Gardoni F, Mellone M, El-Agnaf OM, Ardah MT, Puglisi-Allegra S, **Björklund A**, Spillantini MG, Picconi B, Calabresi P. (2016) Alpha-Synuclein Produces Early Behavioral Alterations via Striatal Cholinergic Synaptic Dysfunction by Interacting With GluN2D N-Methyl-D-Aspartate Receptor Subunit. *Biol Psychiatry.* 79(5):402-14.
17. Alvarsson A, Caudal D, **Björklund A**, Svenningsson P (2016) Emotional memory impairments induced by AAV-mediated overexpression of human  $\alpha$ -synuclein in dopaminergic neurons of the ventral tegmental area *Behavioural Brain Research* 296, 129-133

18. Wan OW, Shin E, Mattsson B, Caudal D, Svenningsson P, **Björklund A** (2016)  $\alpha$ -Synuclein induced toxicity in brain stem serotonin neurons mediated by an AAV vector driven by the tryptophan hydroxylase promoter Sci Rep. May 23.
19. Thakur P, Breger LS, Lundblad M, Wan OW, Mattsson B, Luk K, Lee VMY, Trojanowski JQ, **Björklund A** (2017) Modeling Parkinson's disease pathology by combination of fibril seeds and  $\alpha$ -synuclein overexpression in the rat brain. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2017, Sep 26;114(39):E8284-E8293.
20. Faustini G, Longhena F, Varanita T, Bubacco L, Pizzi M, Missale C, Benfenati F, **Björklund A**, Spano P, Bellucci A Synapsin III deficiency hampers  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation, striatal synaptic damage and nigral cell loss in an AAV-based mouse model of Parkinson's disease. *Acta Neuropathol*. 2018 Jul 25

## **2. Studies of axonal regeneration and reconstruction of neural circuitry by neural transplants in brain and spinal cord**

*My interest in neuronal regeneration in the CNS was triggered by the American neurologist Robert Katzman. In 1969-70 he spent a sabbatical in Bengt Falck's lab at the Department of Histology in Lund. Using the Falck-Hillarp histofluorescence technique Bob made the serendipitous observation that the nigral dopamine neurons exhibited a surprisingly abundant and extensive axonal sprouting after axotomy. He asked me to join in the study of this phenomenon, which led me in onto an exciting series of studies on axonal regeneration of axotomised monoamine neurons in the brain and spinal cord, performed in collaboration with a gifted MD/PhD student, Ulf Stenevi (later Professor of ophthalmology at Göteborg University), and a young neurosurgeon, Niels Svendgaard (later Professor of Neurosurgery at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, now diseased).*

*During the 1970ies I and Ulf embarked on a new line of research based on the idea that immature neurons or neuroblasts could be made to survive and integrate in the damaged adult brain, and that they could be made to substitute anatomically and functionally for neurons lost to damage. This line of reserach was further developed in collaboration with a leading neurophysiologists, Menahem Segal, in Israel, and with Rusty Gage when he worked as a postdoc in the lab.*

*Our studies demonstrated a remarkable capacity of the central serotonergic, noradrenergic and cholinergic systems to regenerate, re-grow of long distances, and re-innervete previously denervated targets in the adult rat brain and spinal cord. In further studies using transecting lesions of the septo-hippocampal cholinergic pathway we showed for the first time the possibility to use intracerebral implants to achieve effective, functional and anatomical accurate regeneration of a transected pathway in the brain.*

1. Katzman, R., Björklund, A., Owman Ch., Stenevi, U., West, K.A. Evidence for regenerative axon sprouting of central catecholamine neurons in the rat mesencephalon following electrolytic lesions. *Brain Res*. 25:579-596, 1971.
2. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Growth of central catecholamine neurons into smooth muscle grafts in the rat mesencephalon. *Brain Res*. 31:1-20, 1971.
3. Björklund, A., Nobin, A., Stenevi, U.: Regeneration of central serotonin neurons after axonal degeneration induced by 5,6-dihydroxytryptamine. *Brain Res*. 50:214-220, 1973.
4. Nobin, A., Baumgarten, H.-G., Björklund, A., Lachenmayer, L., Stenevi, U.: Axonal degeneration and regeneration of the bulbo-spinal indolamine neurons after 5,6-dihydroxytryptamine treatment. *Brain Res*. 56:1-24, 1973.
5. Björklund, A., Jonsson, B., Stenevi, U., Svendgaard, N.-Aa.: Reestablishment of functional connections by regenerating central adrenergic and cholinergic axons. *Nature* 253:446-448, 1975.
6. Svendgaard, N.-Aa., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Regenerative properties of central monoamine neurons as revealed in studies using iris transplants as targets. *Adv. Anat. Embryol. Cell Biol*. 51:1-77, 1975.
7. Svendgaard, N.-Aa., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Regeneration of central cholinergic neurones in the adult rat brain. *Brain Res*. 102:1-22, 1976.
8. Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Regeneration of normal terminal innervation patterns by central noradrenergic neurons after 5,7-dihydroxytryptamine-induced axotomy in the adult rat. *Brain Res*. 171:271-293, 1979

9. Björklund, A., Wiklund, L.: Mechanism of regrowth of the bulbospinal serotonin system following 5,6-dihydroxytryptamine induced axotomy. I. Biochemical correlates. *Brain Res.* 191:109-127, 1980.
10. Wiklund, L., Björklund, A.: Mechanisms of regrowth in the bulbospinal serotonin system following 5,6-dihydroxytryptamine induced axotomy. II. Fluorescence histochemical observations. *Brain Res.* 191:129-160, 1980.
11. Kromer, L.F., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Innervation of embryonic hippocampal implants by regenerating axons of cholinergic septal neurons in the adult rat. *Brain Res.* 210:153-171, 1980.
12. Kromer, L.F., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Regeneration of the septo-hippocampal pathways in adult rats is promoted by utilizing embryonic hippocampal implants as bridges. *Brain Res.* 210:173-200, 1981.
13. Segal, M., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Reformation in adult rats of functional septohippocampal connections by septal neurons regenerating across an embryonic hippocampal tissue bridge. *Neurosci. Lett.* 27:7-12, 1981.
14. Gage, F.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Reinnervation of the partially deafferented hippocampus by compensatory collateral sprouting from spared cholinergic and noradrenergic afferents. *Brain Res.* 268:27-37, 1983.
15. Gage, F.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Dunnett, S.B.: Functional correlates of compensatory collateral sprouting by aminergic and cholinergic afferents in the hippocampal formation. *Brain Res.* 268:39-47, 1983.
16. Gage, F.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Local regulation of compensatory noradrenergic hyperactivity in the partially denervated hippocampus. *Nature* 303:801-821, 1983.
17. Gage, F.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Denervation releases a neuronal survival factor in adult rat hippocampus. *Nature* 308:637-639, 1984.
18. Stenevi, U., Björklund, A., Svendgaard, N.-Aa.: Transplantation of central and peripheral monoamine neurons to the adult rat brain: techniques and conditions for survival. *Brain Research* 114:1-20, 1976.
19. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Svendgaard, N.-Aa.: Growth of transplanted monoaminergic neurones into the adult hippocampus along the perforant path. *Nature* 262:787-790, 1976.
20. Björklund, A., Segal, M., Stenevi, U.: Functional reinnervation of rat hippocampus by locus coeruleus implants. *Brain Res.* 170:409-426, 1979.
21. Kromer, L.E., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Intracerebral implants: A technique for studying neuronal interactions. *Science* 204:17-1119, 1979.
22. Schmidt, R.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Intracerebral grafting of dissociated CNS tissue suspensions: a new approach for neuronal transplantation to deep brain sites. *Brain Res.* 218:347-356, 1981.
23. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Schmidt, R.H., Dunnett, S.B., Gage, F.H.: Intracerebral grafting of neuronal cell suspensions. I. Introduction and general methods of preparation. *Acta Physiol. Scand.*, Suppl. 522, 1-8, 1983.
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25. Björklund, A., Nornes, H., Gage, F.H.: Cell suspension grafts of noradrenergic locus coeruleus neurons in rat hippocampus and spinal cord: reinnervation and transmitter turnover. *Neuroscience* 18:685-698, 1986.
26. Buzsáki, G., Gage, F.H., Kellenyi, L., Björklund, A.: Behavioral dependence of the electrical activity of intracerebrally transplanted fetal hippocampus. *Brain Res.* 400:321-333, 1987.
27. Buzsáki, G., Gage, F.H., Czopf, J., Björklund, A.: Restoration of rhythmic slow activity ( $\theta$ ) in the subcortically denervated hippocampus by fetal CNS transplants. *Brain Res.* 400:334-347, 1987.
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29. Barry, D.I., Kikvadze, I., Brundin, P., Bolwig, T.G., Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Grafted noradrenergic neurones suppress seizure development in kindling-induced epilepsy. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 84: 8712-8715, 1987.
30. Barry, D.I., Wanscher, B., Kragh, J., Bolwig, T.G., Kosaka, M., Brundin, P., Björklund, A., Lindvall, O.: Grafts of fetal locus coeruleus neurons in rat amygdala-piriform cortex suppress seizure development in hippocampal kindling. *Exp. Neurol.* 106:125-132, 1989.
31. Nilsson, O.G., Clarke, D.J., Brundin, P., Björklund, A.: Comparison of growth and reinnervation properties of

- cholinergic neurons from different brain regions grafted to the hippocampus. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 268: 204-222, 1988.
32. Daszuta, A., Strecker, R.E., Brundin, P., Björklund, A.: Serotonin neurons grafted to the adult rat hippocampus: I. Time course of growth as studied by immunohistochemistry and biochemistry. *Brain Res.* 458: 1-19, 1988.
  33. Daszuta, A., Kalén, P., Strecker, R.E., Brundin, A., Björklund, A.: Serotonin neurons grafted to the adult rat hippocampus. II. 5-HT release as studied by intracerebral microanalysis. *Brain Res.* 498:323-332, 1989.
  34. Victorin, K., Brundin, P., Gustavii, B., Lindvall, O., Björklund, A.: Reformation of long axon pathways in adult rat central nervous system by human forebrain neuroblasts. *Nature* 347:556-558, 1990.

### **3. Development of dopamine cell replacement therapy in Parkinson's disease**

*In 1980 Steve Dunnett (the a young PhD student in Susan Iversen's lab in Cambridge, UK) and Rusty Gage joined the lab. This was an exciting time, and together with two very gifted PhD students, Patrik Brundin and Ole Isacson, we performed a series of studies in animals models of neurodegenerative diseases and cognitive decline that led to the first clinical trial of dopamine neuron transplantation in PD patients, performed in 1987. Over the years the Lund program, led by Olle Lindvall, has been in the forefront of the development of cell replacement therapy for PD.*

*Apart from its potential clinical usefulness, intracerebral cell transplantation is an interesting tool to explore the plasticity of the brain and its capacity for regeneration and repair, and restoration of functional neural circuitry after damage. Our work on transplants of fetal cholinergic neuroblasts in hippocampus and cortex has been particularly interesting in this regard. Current research in my lab is aimed at applying this knowledge, and our experimental skills, to the rapidly developing stem cell field.*

#### **a. Dopamine neuron transplants in animal models of Parkinson's disease**

1. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Reconstruction of the nigrostriatal dopamine pathway by intracerebral nigral transplants. *Brain Research* 177:555-560, 1979.
2. Björklund, A., Dunnett, S.B., Stenevi, U., Lewis, M.E., Iversen, S.D. Reinnervation of the denervated striatum by substantia nigra transplants: functional consequences as revealed by pharmacological and sensorimotor testing. *Brain Research* 199:303-333, 1980.
3. Björklund, A., Schmidt, R.H., Stenevi, U.: Functional reinnervation of the neostriatum in the adult rat by use of intraparenchymal grafting of dissociated cell suspensions from the substantia nigra. *Cell Tiss.Res.* 212:39-45, 1980.
4. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Dunnett, S.B., Iversen, S.D.: Functional reactivation of the deafferented neostriatum by nigral transplants. *Nature* 289:497-499, 1981.
5. Dunnett, S.B., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Iversen, S.D.: Behavioural recovery following transplantation of substantia nigra in rats subjected to 6-OHDA lesions of the nigrostriatal pathway. I. Unilateral lesions. *Brain Research* 215:147-161, 1981.
6. Dunnett, S.B., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Iversen, S.B.: Behavioural recovery following transplantation of substantia nigra in rats subjected to 6-OHDA lesions of the nigrostriatal pathway. II. Bilateral lesions. *Brain Research* 229:457-470, 1981.
7. Dunnett, S.B., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Iversen, S.D.: Grafts of embryonic substantia nigra reinnervating the ventrolateral striatum ameliorate sensorimotor impairments and akinesia in rats with 6-OHDA lesions of the nigrostriatal pathway. *Brain Research* 229:209-217, 1981.
8. Schmidt, R.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Intracerebral grafting of dissociated CNS tissue suspensions: a new approach for neuronal transplantation to deep brain sites. *Brain Research* 218:347-356, 1981
9. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Dunnett, S.B., Gage, F.G.: Cross-species neural grafting in a rat model of Parkinson's disease. *Nature* 298:652-654, 1982.
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38:737-748, 1982.

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12. Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Schmidt, R.H., Dunnett, S.B., Gage, F.H.: Intracerebral grafting of neuronal cell suspensions. I. Introduction and general methods of preparation. *Acta Physiol. Scand., Suppl.* 522, 1-8, 1983.
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14. Schmidt, R.H., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U., Dunnett, S.B., Gage, F.H.: Intracerebral grafting of neuronal cell suspensions. III. Activity of intrastriatal nigral suspension implants as assessed by measurements of dopamine synthesis and metabolism. *Acta Physiol.Scand., Suppl.* 522, 19-28, 1983
15. Dunnett, S.B., Björklund, A., Schmidt, R.H., Stenevi, U., Iversen, S.D.: Intracerebral grafting of neuronal cell suspensions. IV. Behavioural recovery in rats with unilateral implants of nigral cell suspensions in different forebrain sites. *Acta Physiol.Scand., Suppl.* 522, 29-38, 1983.
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18. Gage, F.H., Dunnett, S.B., Björklund, A., Stenevi, U.: Aged rats: recovery of motor coordination, impairments by intrastriatal nigral grafts. *Science* 221, 966-969, 1983.
19. Isacson, O., Brundin, P., Kelly P.A.T., Gage, F.H., Björklund, Functional neuronal replacement by grafted striatal neurones in the ibotenic acid-lesioned rat striatum. *Nature* 311:458-460, 1984.
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## **6. Studies on the neuroprotective effects of NGF, GDNF and Neurturin in the brain**

*My interest in neurotrophic factors and neuroprotection started in the mid-1980ies when Rusty Gage was working as a postdoc in my lab. Using highly purified NGF that we obtained from Silvio Varon's lab in San Diego, we were the first to report the neuroprotective effect of NGF on axotomised basal forebrain cholinergic neurons in the rat brain, and went on to show that this trophic effect of intracerebrally infused NGF was also effective in reversing age-related atrophy and functional impairments in the forebrain cholinergic system. This work, continued by Mark Tuszynski and his collaborators in San Diego, has led to the first trials of NGF delivery in patients with Alzheimer's disease.*

*When GDNF was discovered in 1993 we were quick to obtain samples of recombinant GDNF, and later also neurturin, from Genentech and, in parallel with two other labs in the USA, we were first to show the profound neuroprotective effect of GDNF and neurturin in the 6-OHDA lesion model. Over the subsequent years we published a series of papers that characterised the neuroprotective and regenerative effect of GDNF in detail in the rat model, and were also first to use lentiviral and AAV vectors to deliver GDNF to the striatum and nigra by gene therapy, an approach now actively pursued clinically by Ceregene and AMT.*

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### **b. GDNF and Neurturin**

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## 7. Studies aimed at new therapies for L-DOPA-induced dyskinesias

*It was a postdoctoral student, Chong S. Lee (then in Don Calne's department in Vancouver, now Professor of Neurology in Seoul) who brought the interest in L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia to my lab. Together with a former PhD student of mine, Angela Cenci, we pursued Chong's idea that L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia could be well and reproducibly generated in rats, using the unilateral 6-OHDA lesion model, provided that the neurological assessment was performed in a more refined way than had been done previously. This turned out to be a success, and Angela has since made a fantastic job in the development and validation of this model to the point that it now has become a standard tool in dyskinesia research.*

*My own research using this model has focused on two aspects: the ability of dopamine cell replacement therapy to reverse L-DOPA-induced dyskinesias; and the role of the serotonin neurons (as a source of dysregulated dopamine release) in the induction and maintenance of L-DOPA- and graft-induced induced dyskinesia. Our most interesting discovery is the observation that silencing of the serotonin neurons (and hence dampening of dopamine release from serotonin terminals) can completely block dyskinesia in the rat and monkey PD models, an effect that we have explored, together with our partners in London, also in patients affected by graft-induced dyskinesia.*

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## 8. Studies aimed at the development of gene therapy for continuous local delivery of L-DOPA.

*The idea to deliver DOPA or dopamine locally in the brain by ex vivo or in vivo gene therapy goes back to the late 1980ies. Our first attempt was made in collaboration with Jacques Mallet's lab in Paris, based on the use of cell lines engineered to secrete DOPA or dopamine. In the two studies we published together using this approach we could show that DOPA producing cells were more effective than dopamine-producing ones, but that the level of DOPA production obtained with this ex vivo approach was not enough to give any behavioral improvement in the rat 6-OHDA model.*

*The advent of high titer, highly prurified AAV vectors made the difference. The study we published in PNAS 2002, in collaboration with Ron Mandel and his colleagues at University of Florida, was a turning point: for the first time we could obtain sufficient levels of DOPA production in the dopamine-depleted striatum to achieve full functional recovery in the 6-OHDA lesion model. And in a subsequent study, published in Brain in 2005 we could show that AAV-mediated DOPA delivery was efficient in reversing L-DOPA-induced dyskinesias in this model. Based on these results we have now embarked on a program aimed to test this local DOPA delivery approach in PD patients.*

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