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# **Profiling of Differential Expression of Genes in Mice Carrying Both Mutant Presenilin 1 and Amyloid Precursor Protein Transgenes with or without Knockout of B2 Adrenergic Receptor Gene**

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## **Abstract**

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a lifelong progressive neurodegenerativa disease related with accumulation of amyloid β peptide (Aβ) produced by processing of amyloid precursor protein (APP) in the brain. In spite of several-decades effort on AD, there is still no medicine used to intervene with its pathological processes. Our previous studies made in transgenic animal models harboring familial AD genes of mutant presenilin 1 and amyloid precursor protein (APP) showed that  $\beta_2$ AR gene knock-out ( $\beta_2$ AR-KO) is beneficial in senile AD animals. Consistently, an epidemiological study lasted for two decades showed that the sole usage of  $\beta$  blockers as antihypertensive medicines is associated with fewer brain lesions and less brain shrinkage seen in senile AD patients. In order to understand why senile  $\beta_2$ AR-KO AD mice had better learning and memory, genomic effects of  $\beta_2$ AR-KO in the double transgenic AD mice were investigated. In the analysis, major genomic significance of  $\beta_2$ AR-KO was directed to influence protein-processing and presentation involving membrane structure and MHC class I and II protein complex, and lysosome and hydrolase activity for protein degradation, which are critical for accumulation of amyloid β peptide, the hallmark of AD.

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### **Keywords**

 $\beta_2$  adrenergic receptor; Alzheimer's disease; Genome; Differential expression; Protein processing and presentation; Lysosome

### **Introduction**

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease characterized by accumulation of plaques composed of amyloid β peptides (Aβ) in the brain related with abnormal processing and presentation of Aβ by cells [1]. Studies have shown that the number of β<sub>2</sub> adrenergic receptor (β<sub>2</sub>AR) is increased in the prefrontal cortex and the hippocampus of AD subjects, while it is not correlated with age [2]. Since the cortex and the hippocampus are major brain regions that are highly degenerated in AD and the cortex is the earliest to form Aβ plaques, it is supposed that  $\beta_2$ AR may play an important role in AD [3]. A study has shown that chronic treatment with  $\beta_2AR$  agonist enhances  $\gamma$ -secretase activity, and related  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  production and formation of  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  plaques [4]. Using AD transgenic mouse model harboring human familial AD genes of mutant presenilin 1 (PS1) and amyloid precursor protein (APP), we have found that  $β_2AR$  gene knock-out (KO) improved learning and memory in 1-year-old senile AD mice, although there was a weak decreasing tendency of the performance in 6-month-old young wild type (WT) mice [5]. In addition, removing the gene encoding  $\beta_2AR$  increases the survival rate in P301S mutant tau-transgenic mice [6]. An epidemiological study showed that variations in  $\beta_2AR$  gene are involved in the pathogenesis of sporadic late onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD) [2]. In an epidemiological study made in 2,197 participants conducted from 1991 to 2010, it was found that clinical use of β-blockers was associated with a lower risk of cognitive impairment, and the association was more obvious in senile men who were more than 75-years old [7]. An autopsy study made on 774 brains of male AD patients after death showed that the patients who took βblockers had less brain lesions and shrinkage than those who took other medications for blood hypertension and those untreated, and their brains showed that they suffered less microinfarcts [8]. A parallel study showed that patients who took β-blockers experienced less cognitive decline as they aged compared to control groups [9].

 $\beta_2AR$  which consists of seven transmembrane  $\alpha$ -helices belongs to G protein-coupled receptor superfamily and transduces signal via  $Ga_s$  and also GβY proteins [10].  $β_2AR$  is distinct from β<sub>1</sub>AR in that β<sub>2</sub>AR internalizes after binding to isoproterenol or Aβ [11]. In response to  $\beta_2$ AR endogenous ligands norepinephrine and epinephrine,  $Ga_s$  dissociates from Gβγ to stimulate adenylyl cyclase to produce cAMP, which activates protein kinase A (PKA) and the exchange protein activated by cAMP (Epac) [10,12].  $G\beta\gamma$  dimer interacts with many different proteins, and different combinations of  $G\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  subtypes transduct signals diversly with or without the association of Gα subunit to inhibit or activate various downstream signaling components, including ion channels, G protein-coupled receptor kinases (GRKs), phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K), mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) signaling mediated by small GTPase Ras, phospholipase A and C, and  $etc$  [13–16]. The signal transductions mediated by  $Ga_s$  and  $G\beta\gamma$  regulate a few of transcription factors, such as cAMP response element binding protein (CREB), extracellular signal-regulated

kinases (ERKs) and *etc.*, therefore,  $\beta_2AR$  activation regulates expression of genes, however integrative influence of  $\beta_2AR$  on genomic expression is still unknown.  $\beta_2ARs$  are expressed throughout the brain, abundantly in the cortex and the hippocampus, which are the two brain regions essential for higher cognitive functions [6]. Despite being involved in fundamental biological processes,  $β_2AR$  geneknockout (KO) mice are viable and fertile [6].

In the study, a genetic approach was adopted to remove  $\beta_2AR$  gene from a double transgenic mouse model of AD that overexpresses mutant human PS1 gene harboring M146L and L286V familial AD mutations, and APP gene (695) harboring Swedish (K670N, M671L), Florida (I716V) and London (V717I) mutations, and the effects of β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO on genomic expression profiles in PS1/APP transgenic AD mice was investigated.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Animals**

PS1/APP double transgenic and β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO/PS1/APP mice in B6 background were described previously [11,17,18], and 1-year old mice were used for analysis of whole genome gene expression. The PS1/APP mice, which are transgenic animal models of Alzheimer's disease, were purchased from Jackson laboratory (stock number: 006554), which overexpress human PS1 gene harboring two familial AD mutations, M146L and L286V and APP (695) gene with Swedish (K670N, M671L), Florida (I716V) and London (V717I) familial AD mutations [18]. PS1/APP mice were crossbred with  $\beta_2$ AR-KO mice to produce  $\beta_2$ AR-KO/PS1/APP mice. All animal experimental procedures were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of University of Illinois and Hainan University.

#### **Whole-genome expression analysis**

One-year-old PS1/APP and  $\beta_2$ AR-KO/PS1/APP mice were sacrificed, six mice in each group. The cerebrums were dissected out, and one side of the cerebral hemispheres of each mouse was used for the study. The cerebral hemispheres were homogenized separately on ice, and total RNA was extracted using RNeasy® Lipid Tissue Kit (Qiagen). Whole-genome expression profiles of PS1/ APP Alzheimer's disease mice and  $\beta_2$ AR-KO/PS1/APP mice were tested using the Mouse WG-6 v2.0 BeadChips and HiScan System (Illumina). The Mouse WG-6 v2.0 BeadChips have probes for the NCBI Mouse Reference Sequence (RefSeq) Release 22, including 26,766 manually annotated and reviewed coding transcripts designated as known mRNAs which begin with NM, 6,856 predicted coding transcripts (XM), and 56 annotation-well-established noncoding transcripts (XR). The BeadChips also have probes for 5,659 transcripts described in the Japan RIKEN Functional Annotation of Mouse (FANTOM) 24–6 database, 3,573 additional sequences listed in the RefSeq Release 5 (Build 33.1), and 2,371 sequences listed in the Mouse Exonic Evidence Based Oligonucleotide (MEEBO) set. In the single factor experimental design, PS1/APP transgenic mice were used as background controls for the gene expression profile of the Alzheimer's disease model, and  $β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO$  was the only factor of treatment.

# **Results**

#### **Principal components analysis for all biological samples**

Principal component analysis (PCA) is a multivariate statistical method to analyze internal correlation or variation among original variables by constructing linear combinations of the variables, which were gene expression levels in the study. During the process the dimensionality of original variables is reduced and the newly constructed variables designed to preserve much original information are independent to each other. The linear combination with biggest variance is treated as the first or the primary principal component (PC), which was designated as PC1 in the study, and the second one was PC2. The PCs which were orthogonal to each other effectively show variation of gene expression levels among thousands of noise in each subject. In the study, PC1 showed that  $\beta_2$ AR-KO-induced significant change in genomic expression, in that the two experimental groups which are PS1/APP double transgenic AD mice (PA) and β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO/PS1/APP mice (B2P) were distributed in two separated regions along the PC1 axis; PC1s for PA samples fell into the region from 19 to 39, however, B2P samples were in the region from −40 to −12 (data not shown). In other words,  $\beta_2$ AR-KO in PS1/APP mice significantly changed the distribution of PC1 values, indicating a prominent consequence resulted from  $\beta_2$ AR-KO.

# **Numeric statistics of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) related with** β**2AR-KO in transgenic animal model of AD**

Raw data of the expression levels of the 45,281 transcripts were normalized to systematic differences between different BeadChips. Differential expression analysis on the normalized data was made by DEseq. Those genes whose normalized expression levels have absolute values of log2 ratio that are not less than one and a false discovery rate less than 0.05 (q<0.05) were taken as DEGs. Knock-out of  $\beta_2$ AR gene significantly changed the expression levels of more than 50% of total genes manifested as the total transcripts probed, with down-regulated transcripts being more than up-regulated transcripts (Figures 1a, 1b).

# **Hierarchical cluster analysis of DEGs related with** β**2AR-KO in transgenic animal model of AD**

Hierarchical cluster analysis is a statistical approach to assign normalized DEG values into different clusters, with intra-cluster difference being much smaller than intercluster difference. It is different from classification in that it is an unsupervised mathematical grouping regardless of biological functions related with a normalized value. Phenotype structures of the samples are revealed by a hierarchical clustering figure. The R software was used by us to show two-dimensional hierarchical clustering. One dimension of the construction is the biological samples listed individually in horizontal, the other is DEGs identified in the above statistics. A dendrogram along the vertical axis showing hierarchical clustering of DEGs was achieved according to the Euclidean metrics of the Log2 values of the expression levels of DEGs (Figure 2). Zooming in the hierarchical clustering diagram, the most intuitive changes are that the DEGs with moderate transcriptional levels in PS1/APP mice are obviously decreased by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO, and some other genes with relatively lower transcriptional levels are obviously increased.

# **Gene ontology (GO) classification of DEGs related with** β**2AR-KO in transgenic animal model of AD**

Currently, GO construction is aimed to pave the way to interpret or predict functions of genes or proteins by extracting and analyzing gene-related knowledges accumulated in large amount of literatures, leading to artificial intelligence. In GO consortium, there are three independent ontology domains, which are biological processes, cellular component and molecular function, using controlled vocabularies which are updated dynamically. In each of the three domains, there are subdomains to form tree structures with levels, nodes and relationships. According to the biological terms at the third level specified in the GO database typically, the expression of genes up- or down-regulated by  $\beta_2AR-KO$  are classified and counted (Figure 3). There are four biological processes that are prominently affected by β2AR-KO, which are cellular process, single-organism process, metabolic process and biological regulation, each comprises more than 35% of total DEGs. In the domain of cellular components, gene expression levels that are mostly changed by  $\beta_2AR-KO$  are cell part, membrane, membrane part, organelle, organelle part and macromolecular complex. In the domain of molecular function, the most prominent result is that the genes whose biological function is relavent to binding comprises more than 50% of total DEGs. At this step, these results primarily associated  $\beta_2AR$  with membrane and its main function which is binding, which are indispensable for protein processing and presentation, which are immunological functions and shown in the following section.

# **Q-value distribution of GO terms enriched with DEGs related with** β**2AR-KO in transgenic animal model of AD**

In order to control increased probability of type I error within all rejections associated with multiple hypothesis test of differential expression levels, false discovery rate (FDR) was calculated. The q-value is the minimum positive FDR (pFDR) to reject a null hypothesis for a given rejection region  $\Gamma \alpha$  of a GO term enriched with genes and an observed statistic  $T=t$ , and is defined as  $\inf_{\Gamma\{\alpha: t \in \Gamma\alpha\}}$  pFDR(Th) (19). The distribution charts for GO term-enriched DEGS related with β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO were drawn according to q-values (Figures 4, 5a, 5b). The biological process (BP) domain comprises terms describing series of events accomplished by organized assemblies of molecular functions in living units. In GOBP, most of the terms enriched with DEGs are directly related with immunological function; there are 88 in total 117 terms are related, and 54 in 68 terms have very high strength which were highlighted in red (Figure 4). The top 3 highest enriched GO terms showed that  $\beta_2AR$  primarily affects protein processing and presentation in the transgenic animal model of AD, which is pertinent to abnormal Aβ accumulation in the brain (Figure 4). Besides the top 3, twelve terms showed facets of the protein processing and presentation affected by β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO, including MHC class I and II mediating presentation of endogenous and exogenous proteins, peptides and even polysaccharides (Figure 4). In addition to the primary effects of β<sub>2</sub>AR on gene expression, other genes are also affected. There are six enriched GO terms related with protein folding, four related with nitric oxide synthesis, three related with response to stimulus, and ten related with chemical metabolism (Figure 4). Another two terms drawn attention are mRNA splice site selection and sphingolipid biosynthesis (Figure 4). In the GO domain of cellular component (CC), almost all of the terms are membrane-related events (27 out of total 30 terms), including MHC protein complex, plasma membrane, external side of

plasma membrane, intrinsic component of membrane, endosome, vesicle, secretory granule and *etc.* (Figure 5a). The most prominent GOCC results are consistent with GOBP (Figure 5a). In the GO domain of molecular function, there are only two significantly enriched terms, and the most affected one is unfolded protein binding, which is a membrane function related with protein processing and presentation (Figure 5b).

# **Hierarchical relationships of GO terms highly enriched with DEGs related with** β**2AR-KO in transgenic animal model of AD**

Hierarchical relationships among GO terms highly enriched with DEGs were shown by directed acyclic graphs (DAG) in detail (Figures 6–8). DAG was drawn based on automated analysis in each of the three independent GO ontologies which are biological process, cellular component and molecular function. In each of the three GO ontologies, top five DEGs-enriched GO terms are major nodes in DAG. In GOBP, all six highly enriched nodes are related to immune, with q-values ranging from 3.05  $e^{-14}$  to 1.57  $e^{-9}$ , and 4 out of the 6 nodes showed that β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO fundamentally changed expression levels of genes regulating antigen processing (Figure 6). Top genes annotated in GO to be related to antigen processing and presentation were listed in the sequence of the fold of change (Table 1). In GOCC, the GO terms enriched with DEGs whose expression was affected by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO are directed toward two directions. One group of GOCC nodes are directed toward MHC protein complex which was highly enriched with a q value of 1.3 e<sup>-9</sup> through 3 paths, two of which are significantly enriched and related with membrane (Figure 7). The other group of GOCC nodes are directed toward a one-way path consisted of three consecutive nodes starting from vacuole (q=1.93 e<sup>-10</sup>), which in animals are typically founded in the protein-processing steps of endocytosis and exocytosis, and ending with lysosome (q=6.32  $e^{-11}$ ) which is a component of protein processing and presentation (Figure 7). Top genes annotated in GO to be related to lysosome (Tables 2a and 2b) and MHC protein complex (Tables 3a and 3b) were listed in the sequence of the fold of change. In GOMF, there are 3 unrelated paths. One is the hydrolase activity path, which can be found in lysosomes and related to protein processing and presentation. The hierarchical node sequence in the hydrolase activity path is catalytic activity (GO:0003824, q=7.064 × 10<sup>-3</sup>, enrichment rate (ER):1181/6588), hydrolase activity (GO:0016787, q=2.29  $\times$  10<sup>-4</sup>, ER: 521/2686), hydrolase activity acting on glycosyl bonds (GO:0016798, q=3.23  $\times$  10<sup>-4</sup>, ER: 37/125) and hydrolase activity hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds (GO: 0004553, q=2.11 e−5, ER: 34/99) (Figure 8). Top genes annotated in GO to be related to hydrolase activity were listed in the sequence of the fold of change (Tables 4a and 4b). Another path is directed toward unfolded protein binding, which is a step of protein processing and presentation and may be related with AD pathology. The node sequence of the binding path is binding (GO: 0005488, q=2.0986  $\times$ 10−2, ER: 2376/13682), protein binding (GO: 0005515, q=4.253 × 10−3, ER: 1383/7736) and unfolded protein binding (GO: 0051082, q=2.05  $e^{-0.5}$ , ER: 36/107) (Figure 8). Top genes annotated in GO to be related to unfolded protein binding were listed in the sequence of the fold of change (Table 5). The third path is from the node of enzyme regulatory activity (GO: 0030234, q=1.6829  $\times$  10<sup>-2</sup>, ER: 175/889), which is reserved for cases when the regulator directly interacts with the enzyme, to nitric-oxide synthase regulator activity (GO: 0030235, q=1.41 × 10<sup>-4</sup>, ER: 5/5) (Figure 8). Besides, by further reviewing of DEG data, it was found that the expression of all 5 genes comprised in GO nodes of nitric-oxide synthase

regulator activity was decreased by  $\beta_2AR-KO$  in the transgenic AD animal model. In addition to the above GO analysis, the genes that are annotated to be related to AD in the KEGG's pathways were listed in Table 6, including Apolipoprotein E, which is the strongest genetic risk factor for both early- and late-onset AD found in one third of the cases of AD.

# **Discussion**

AD has baffled scientists ever since German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer reported the first case of AD in 1906, the cause of which has been poorly understood until now [19,20], and there is neither treatment to intervene its development, nor particular measure to be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of AD [21].

Traditional amyloid hypothesis proposes that abnormal accumulation and aggregation of Aβ in the brain is the central event triggering neuronal degeneration in AD, which may be related to abnormal protein processing and presentation. Since the early days, the aggregated Aβ has been believed to be the causal factor of AD disrupting homeostasis of calcium ions in neurons and inducing apoptosis [22,23]. However, the driving force for abnormally increased accumulation and aggregation of  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  in AD are still vague. In recent years, psychological stress has been identified to be a possible trigger for AD, and the roles of adrenergic receptors especially  $\beta_2 AR$  have attracted researchers' notice. Partially because of the inconsistency in the localization of aggregated Aβ plaques and degenerated neurons, in recent years, the effects of soluble  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  including  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  dimers have been studied [5,17,24–26]. In recent studies on soluble Aβ, the role of  $\beta_2$ AR in mediating some of the effects of soluble Aβ has been identified [5,6,17,26]. It has been found that polymorphism of β<sub>2</sub>AR gene may play a role in the pathogenesis of sporadic late - onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD) in that both the 16Gly allele and the 27Glu allele of the  $\beta_2AR$  gene were associated with an increased risk of LOAD and there was a significant interaction with the apolipoprotein E gene ε4 allele, the presence of which markedly increases the incidence of LOAD (3). From a point of view, a study showed that activation of β<sub>2</sub>AR enhances  $\gamma$ -secretase activity and Aβ production, which requires agonist-induced internalization of both  $\beta_2AR$  and PS1 in a complex to late endosomes and lysosomes, where Aβ production was increased [4]. Furthermore, cerebral amyloid plaques were increased by chronic treatment with β<sub>2</sub>AR agonists in animal model of AD [4]. A genetic study showed a complicated scenario: βAR may be related to AD through numerous factors, including human leukocyte antigen genes, the renin-angiotensin system, poly (adenosine diphosphate- ribose) polymerase 1, nerve growth factor, vascular endothelial growth factor, the reduced form of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, matrix metalloproteinases, mitogen-activated protein kinase pathways, prostaglandins, cyclooxygenase-2, and nitric oxide synthase [27]. In AD patients, there is the loss of neurons in the locus ceruleus (LC), however the density of  $\beta_2AR$  is increased in the cortical laminae II, III, IV and V in AD patients [2], whereas the cortex is highly degenerated during the development of AD, and is the earliest region to have  $A\beta$ deposition [28]. The observed results indicated the association of  $\beta_2AR$  with AD.

Major discoveries in the study first arose from the analysis of q-value distribution of GO terms enriched with DEGs that are related with  $β_2AR-KO$  in the three GO domains, which are GOBP, GOCC and GOMF. The q-value introduced by John D. Storey in 2003 is a

measure of the probability of type I error within all statistical rejections made for the test of differential expression of genes, instead of within all samples, and it is a multiple hypothesis testing quantity and a natural counterpart to the p-value [19,29]. The q-value is the minimum pFDR to reject the null hypothesis that  $β_2AR-KO$  induces no change for a specified rejection region and an observed statistic [19,29]. FDR was calculated to control the probability of type I error which was increased when multiple hypothesis tests are applied to massive samples of DNA microarray. In the study, the q-values are indicated with each statistic when multiple hypothesis tests were made using FDR [19,29]. The q-value distribution analysis revealed major effects of  $β_2AR-KO$  in the transgenic animal model of AD. In the first place, in GOBP most of the DEGs affected by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO are related to immunological processes, in which the top 3 GO terms are antigen processing and presentation of peptide antigen, antigen processing and presentation, and antigen processing and presentation of endogenous peptide antigen. In GOCC, the notion was supported by that most of the terms are related to membrane structure and function, especially the MHC I and II protein complexes which are essential elements for endogenous and exogenous protein processing and presentation. In GOMF, the only two significantly enriched entries strengthened the above notion; one is unfolded protein binding, the other is hydrolase activity hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds. The GO synonym of binding is involved in both the posttranslational folding process aided by chaperones to form correct three-dimensional conformation and tagging of proteins for degradation. Some of misfolded proteins are degraded in cytosol. Aberrant folding processes and accumulation of misfolded proteins may be related with neurodegeneration including AD. The q-value distribution analysis in the three GO domains was the first step to show consistently that the immunological effects of  $\beta_2AR$ - KO on protein processing and presentation for both endogenous and exogenous proteins.

DAGs showed in detail the hierarchical relationships of GO terms that were enriched with DEGs affected by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO in the transgenic animal model of AD. In the three GO domains, which are GOBP, GOCC and GOMF, the hierarchical relationships were shown by networks connecting GO nodes, in each of which the genes are assorted using an updated and controlled GO vocabulary. In the domains, the effects of  $\beta_2$ AR-KO on the expression of genes for protein processing and presentation was further interpretated showing the relationship between the genomic effects of  $\beta_2$ AR-KO on membrane structures, hydrolysis of proteins in lysosome, presentation of processed protein debris through MHC protein complex. In GOBP, β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO affected not only immune response but also antigen processing and presentation. On one hand, the immune response was affected through both the response to stimulus and immune system process involved in the development and functioning of the immune system. The two aspects have been thought to be factors influencing the onset of AD. On the other hand, the four interconnected GO nodes showed that fundamental effects of  $\beta_2$ AR-KO on genomic expression were to change antigen processing and presentation including proteins, peptides and lipids. In GOCC, the genomic effects of β<sub>2</sub>AR-KO on lysosome and MHC protein complex were revealed, which are cellular components required for protein processing and presentation. In addition to exogenous antigens, intracellular peptides can be presented to TCRs as potential foreign antigens by complexing with MHCs. MHC molecule and the processed antigen bound to it interact with both CD4/CD8 coreceptors and variable Ig-like domain of TCR on cell surface

to trigger activation of T lymphocytes [30]. Proteins or peptides are processed and presented by two classical pathways: cytosolic MHC class I and endocytic MHC class II pathways. In cytosolic or endogenous pathway, any nucleated cell presents cytosolic proteins by MHC class I molecules, including not only endogenous peptides derived from defective translation or protein turn over but also heterogenous proteins resulted from microorganism infection or cancerous proteins degraded by proteosome. Upon recognizing MHC I molecules, natural killer (NK) cells are inhibited, therefore NK cells recognize stressed cells to induce apoptosis faster when there is a reduction of MHC class I molecules on the surface of stressed cells. In endocylic or exogenous pathway, antigen-presenting cells, such as dendritic cells and macrophages phagocytize antigens into phagosomes. After they matured to lysosomes, antigens are cleaved and processed by acidic hydrolases, then bind to MHC class II molecules on cell surface. The cleaved peptides bound to MHC molecules on lysosomal membrane and exhibiting immunodominance are trafficked to and externalized on cell surface for presentation [31]. In addition to the major genomic effects of  $\beta_2AR$  on protein processing and presentation, in GOMF, there are three subfields directed to unfolded protein binding, hydrolase activity hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds and nitric- oxide synthase regulator activity. The synonyms of unfolded protein binding comprise chaperone activities, including fimbrium-specific, glycoprotein-specific, histone-specific, ribosomal and tubulinspecific activities, and binding unfolded endoplasmic reticulum proteins. The parent term for "unfolded protein binding" is protein binding, the synonyms of which are protein amino acid binding, protein degradation tagging activity, protein tagging activity, protein folding chaperone and alpha-2 macroglobulin receptor-associated protein activity.

# **Conclusion**

The analyzation in the transgenic animal models of AD showed genomic effects of p2AR-KO on immunological processes, which are mainly protein-processing and presentation activities involving membrane structure and MHC class I and II protein complex. Besides, protein folding and degradation participated by chaperones and misfolded protein tagging are also affected by  $β_2AR-KO$ .

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## **Figure 1:**

Numeric statistics of differentially expressed genes whose expression was affected by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO. a. Count of differentially expressed genes. The statistical analysis was made with DEseq. The criteria for differentially expressed genes were defined as |log2Ratio| ≥ 1 and q<0.05, where Ratio equals to fold change. b. Volcano plot showing expression levels of genes affected by  $\beta_2$ AR-KO. PA, PS1/APP double transgenic mice. B2P,  $\beta_2$ AR-KO PS1/ APP-double transgenic mice.



#### **Figure 2:**

Hierarchical clustering analysis for differentially expressed genes. The dendrogram on the left shows the hierarchical clustering of the genes which was made according to the Euclidean distance of Log2 values of the expression levels of the genes. The red color indicates relatively high levels of genes expression, and the blue color indicates relatively low gene expression levels. PA, PS1/APP double transgenic mice. B2P, β2AR-KO PS1/APPdouble transgenic mice.



#### **Figure 3:**

GO classification of differentially expressed genes. Up- and down-regulated genes are assorted under GO terms in the three GO domains, which are biological process, cellular component and molecular function. PA, PS1/APP double transgenic mice. B2P,  $β<sub>2</sub>$ ΆP-ΚO PSI/APP-double transgenic mice.

**agical\_process**<br>and processing and presentation of peptide antigen<br>antigen processing and presentation of exogenous peptide antigen<br>antigen processing and presentation of exogenous peptide antigen<br>included in adaptive imm biological process sstive regulation of adaptive immune<br>tidigen processing and presentation of<br>tein folding<br>gulation of immune system process<br>gulation of immune system process<br>sitive regulation of immune respons defense response<br>regulation of immune system process<br>regulation of immune system process<br>positive regulation of immune response<br>regulation of immune response<br>positive regulation of presentation of peptide or polysaccharide pcyte proliferation<br>interactions and material conductive productions in the distribution<br>interalated immunity<br>interalated immunity<br>attation of hitric patie biosynthetic process<br>attain of cytokine production<br> $\sigma$ -reginates<br> nse to stress<br>olic process<br>rrone-mediated protein folding<br>ve regulation of cytokine production<br>vo posttranslational protein folding<br>vo posttranslational protein folding aliste regulation of cyclotal nuces<br>probable increases and the production<br>provide propositional protein for the production<br>of provide antigate proposition of peptide antigen via MHC class I<br>alim procedure and aligned prote aithe regulation of Ymphrocyte mediated mmunity<br>aither arguments of Prophrocyte mediated mmunity<br>aithers production - tormulation of monomuclear call profileration<br>affiling the production - the mediated mmunity<br>affiling co evelopment<br>on of T cell activation<br>regulation of osteoclast differentiation<br>ng positive regulation of osteoclast differentiation<br>cost in the polaritor of calculation of calculation<br>cells in the match of calculation of calculation<br>galaxies of Testi mediated of photocology<br>as propriated in the polarito nocyle activation<br>sues to stimulus<br>we regulation of inflammatory response<br>controgen compound metabolic process<br>we regulation of multicellular organismal proce<br>we regulation of response to external stimulus<br>port transport<br>positive regulation of immune effector process<br>leukocyte activation involved in immune response<br>humoral immune response<br>cell activation involved in immune response<br>T cell proliferation the minimized properties of properties and properties properties provided in the projection of defense response<br>the projection of defense response are regulation of defense response<br>the definition of constraints and the pr positive regulation of cartiage development<br>establishment of localization<br>problem establishment of localization<br>protein residuary of balogical process<br>regulation of fromune effector process<br>regulation of fromune effector p mye<br>nrot rytosis<br>id leukocyte mediated immunity<br>n import into nucleus, translocation  $\frac{1}{4}$ Ad SA

## **Figure 4:**

Q-value distribution of GO terms enriched with differentially expressed genes in GO domain of biological process. Statistical significance is denoted by shades of color; a smaller q-value is signified by a darker color, and vice versa. PA, PS1/APP double transgenic mice. B2P, β2ΆΡ-ΚO PS1/APP-double transgenic mice.





#### **Figure 5:**

Q-value distribution of GO terms enriched with differentially expressed genes in GO domains of cellular component and molecular function. Statistical significance is denoted by shades of color; a smaller q-value is signified by a darker color, and vice versa. PA, PS1/APP double transgenic mice. B2P, β2AR-KO PS1/APP-double transgenic mice.





### **Figure 6:**

DAG showing hierarchical relationships of GO terms highly enriched with differentially expressed genes in GO domain of biological process. Five top-enriched GO terms denoted with rectangles are major nodes of the DAG, and relationships of interrelated GO terms were shown in the diagram. Each node in the DAG was shown with a unique GO access number, title, q-value and the proportion of enriched genes in the node. Statistical significance is denoted by shades of color; a smaller q-value is signified by a darker color, and vice versa.



#### **Figure 7:**

DAG showing hierarchical relationships of GO terms highly enriched with differentially expressed genes in GO domain of cellular component. Five top-enriched GO terms denoted with rectangles are major nodes of the DAG, and relationships of interrelated GO terms were shown in the diagram. Each node in the DAG was shown with a unique GO access number, title, q-value and the proportion of enriched genes in the node. Statistical significance is denoted by shades of color; a smaller q-value is signified by a darker color, and vice versa.



#### **Figure 8:**

DAG showing hierarchical relationships of GO terms highly enriched with differentially expressed genes in GO domain of molecular function. Five top-enriched GO terms denoted with rectangles are major nodes of the DAG, and relationships of interrelated GO terms were shown in the diagram. Each node in the DAG was shown with a unique GO access number, title, q-value and the proportion of enriched genes in the node. Statistical significance is denoted by shades of color; a smaller q-value is signified by a darker color, and vice versa.

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# **Table 1:**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta_2$ AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to antigen processing and presentation in Gene β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to antigen processing and presentation in Gene Profiles of differentially expressed genes in Ontology.



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# **Table 2a:**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta_2$ AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related lysozyme in Gene Ontology (Part I). β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related lysozyme in Gene Ontology (Part I). Profiles of differentially expressed genes in



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Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta_2$ AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to lysozyme in Gene Ontology (Part II). β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to lysozyme in Gene Ontology (Part II). Profiles of differentially expressed genes in



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# **Table 3a:**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta$ 2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to MHC protein complex in Gene Ontology (Part I). β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to MHC protein complex in Gene Ontology (Part I). Profiles of differentially expressed genes in



# **Table 3b**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta$ 2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to MHC protein complex in Gene Ontology (Part II). β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to MHC protein complex in Gene Ontology (Part II). Profiles of differentially expressed genes in



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# **Table 4a:**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta$ 2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to hydrolase activity in Gene Ontology (Top 30 β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to hydrolase activity in Gene Ontology (Top 30 Profiles of differentially expressed genes in increase).



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# **Table 4b:**

Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta$ 2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to hydrolase activity in Gene Ontology (Top 30 β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to hydrolase activity in Gene Ontology (Top 30 Profiles of differentially expressed genes in decrease).





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Profiles of differentially expressed genes in  $\beta$ 2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to Alzheimer's disease in KEGG's pathways. β2AR-KO transgenic AD model annotated to be related to Alzheimer's disease in KEGG's pathways. Profiles of differentially expressed genes in

