# **Network-Based Approach to Identify Potential Targets and Drugs that Promote Neuroprotection and Neurorepair in Acute Ischemic Stroke**

Yiwei Wang<sup>4+</sup>, Hailong Liu<sup>1+</sup>, Yongzhong Lin<sup>5+</sup>, Guangming Liu<sup>6</sup>, Hongwei Chu<sup>4</sup>, Pengyao Zhao<sup>6</sup>, Xiaohan Yang<sup>4</sup>, Tiezheng Zheng<sup>4</sup>, Ming Fan<sup>7</sup>, Xuezhong Zhou<sup>6,\*</sup>, Jun Meng<sup>8,\*</sup>, Changkai Sun<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>

<sup>+</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Electronic Information and Electrical Engineering,

Dalian University of Technology, Dalian 116024, China

<sup>2</sup>Research Center for the Control Engineering of Translational Precision Medicine, Dalian University

of Technology, Dalian 116024, China

<sup>3</sup>State Key Laboratory of Fine Chemicals, Dalian R&D Center for Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian 116024, China

<sup>4</sup>Liaoning Provincial Key Laboratory of Cerebral Diseases, Institute for Brain Disorders, Dalian Medical University, Dalian 116044, China

<sup>5</sup>Department of Neurology, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Dalian Medical University, Dalian 116027, China

<sup>6</sup>School of Computer and Information Technology and Beijing Key Lab of Traffic Data Analysis and Mining, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing 100044, China

<sup>7</sup>Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Beijing 100850, China

<sup>8</sup>College of Electrical engineering, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, China

#### **\*Corresponding authors:**

Changkai Sun: [cksun110@vip.sina.com](mailto:cksun110@vip.sina.com)

Xuezhong Zhou: [xzzhou@bjtu.edu.cn](mailto:xzzhou@bjtu.edu.cn)

Jun Meng: [junmeng@zju.edu.cn](mailto:junmeng@zju.edu.cn)

### **1. Basic datasets compilation and preprocessing**

The datasets used in our work include AIS MeSH headings, AIS disease-gene relationships, human protein-protein interactions and drug-target relationships. We will introduce the main compilation and preprocessing tasks in the following sections.

#### **1.1Disease-gene relationships**

To identify the AIS related disease terms, we searched the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH, 2014 version) terminology database using the key words "stroke" and "infarction" on the MeSH Browser website (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html) and ultimately confirmed (by the neurobiologists in our author list) 12 AIS related MeSH headings (**Table S1**)

With these 12 MeSH headings as disease keywords, we downloaded 1425 significant disease-gene associations ( $p<0.05$ ) in batch mode from Coremine database<sup>1</sup>.

#### **1.2 Curation of AIS disease-gene associations**

Since we have downloaded all the related PubMed identifiers relevant to each disease-gene association, we manually checked the reliability of each disease-gene association by the several following key steps. 1) We ranked the related PubMed literatures of disease-gene associations in descending order by their publication date; 2) For each disease-gene associations, we manually checked each of the related PubMed literatures from the latest one. 3)If we find there are clear declarations in the literatures to indicate the disease-gene association is exactly positive, then the corresponding disease-gene association would be considered as reliable. 4) Otherwise, if we find clear indications to show that the disease-gene association is negative, then we would annotate the corresponding disease-gene association as false one. 5) If we cannot confirm from the current literature, we would go next literature, which is published earlier than the current one. When we go through all the PubMed literatures of a disease-gene association, but could not confirm whether it is true or not, we would exclude it from our final results as well. There are more than 4500 PubMed literatures been readed.

From PubMed literatures, we found out the sentences supporting or objecting to the disease-gene associations. If there is evidence supporting a disease-gene association, it will be a real relationship and gene in it is a credible gene. Finally,  $1042/1042/1425 = 73.12\%$  real relationships were confirmed containing 606 distinct genes. To evaluate quality of our data, we checked two other well-known disease-gene association databases: OMIM<sup>2</sup>[\(http://www.omim.org/\)](http://www.omim.org/) and DiseaseConnect<sup>3</sup> [\(http://disease-connect.org/\)](http://disease-connect.org/). We find that there are9 AIS genotype-phenotype relationships containing 6 genes in the OMIM database and 3 disease–gene relationships with 2 genes in the DiseaseConnect database. It is interesting that all of these genes are included in our AIS disease-gene associations curated from CoreMine database. (**Data S1**)

#### **1.3 Human protein-protein interactions**

Although with numerous curation efforts, human protein-protein interactome(PPI) data is incomplete. However, there are several integrated high quality PPI databases like STRING 9.1 database<sup>4</sup>[\(http://www.string-db.org/\)](http://www.string-db.org/)that we could utilize. STRING 9 database is a comprehensive PPI data source developed by integrating various data sources of experimental, predicted and transferred interactions, together with interactions obtained through text mining.It conteins about 5 million proteins and >200 million interactions. There is a confidence level of each interaction. The interactions whose score≥700 have high confidence or better. We filtered to obtain the high quality human PPI records by the weighted score≥700 and finally obtained 218,409 PPI records with 15,551 proteins.

#### **1.4 AIS existing drugs-targets associations**

In recent years, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) have classified ischemic stroke into the study of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease events<sup>5</sup>. We obtained 87 known AIS drugs from the guideline designed by AHA and American Stroke Association  $(ASA)$  professionals<sup>6,7</sup>. Comprehensive information about these drugs was obtained from the DrugBank database<sup>8</sup>(http://www.drugbank.ca/). And there are totally 161 targets of these drugs. (Table S2)

### **2 Detection of PPI topological modules**

Community structures are widely existed in complex network, for each community it comprises of nodes that are densely connected among its members and sparsely connected with nodes in other modules<sup>9</sup>. There are various community detection algorithms that can be used for identifying the topological modules from large-scale network. We used the widely used algorithm (called BGLL)  $^{10}$ , which is based on modularity evaluation, to obtain the

topological modules of the whole PPI network. Because BGLL would get some modules with very large (e.g. several thousand) member nodes, we iteratively divided the modules by BGLL and finally obtained the topological modules with the number of member nodes between 5 and 400. However, different community detection algorithms would exactly obtain different results. Therefore, to validate the possible influence to our results, we performed another network partition method based on NMF algorithm to get the similar number of communities for comparison.

We identified 301 modules from String 9.1 PPI network. We assumed that if the module results are similar, we could find similar communities from another module set for a given module in one module set. Therefore, we calculated the Jaccard similarity between each pairs of modules derived from two module sets. Then we calculated the module similarity distribution. The similarities of 78.095% modules are more than 0.6(Figure S1). So there is no siginificant differences between these two therapies.



#### Figure S1.Jaccard similarity between different modules results.

We counted the number of disease genes in each module and calculate OR (Odds Ratio). Assume that there are *A* disease genes in the whole PPI metwork and distribute in many modules in which there totally are *M* nodes. If there are *a* disease genes in a module which has *m* nodes, then the OR of this module is:

$$
OR = \frac{a/(m-a)}{A/(M-A)}_{(1)}
$$

There are 71 modules whose OR>1.0 and 29 modules whose OR>2.0. In the **Data S2**, there are the nodes information of the 29 modules.

## **3 GO enrichment analysis**

The GeneOntology database<sup>11</sup> provides three different types of annotations for proteins: biological process, molecular function, and cellular component. GO enrichment analysis can define gene groups based on the categories in the GeneOntology database<sup>12</sup>. With the plugin BiNGO 2.44 of Cytoscape 2.8.213, 14, an open-source software platform for visualizing molecular interaction networks, we analyzed the disease genes, existing drug targets, and proteins in the modules. And the statistical test is Hypergeometric test and Benjamini & Hochberg False Discovery Rate (FDR) correction to gain a corrected P-value. The significance level is 0.05.

In the result of AIS credible genes, there are 1392 Biological process terms, 216 Molecular function terms and 108 Cellular component terms. Here we list part of them. **(Table S3-S5, Data S3)**

In the GO enrichment analysis result of AIS existing durg targets, there are 860 Biological process terms, 213 Molecular function terms and 88 Cellular component terms. **(Data S4)**

The GO analysis result of 29 modules (OR>2) are showed in **Data S5.**

### **4 Pathway enrichment analysis**

Pathway analysis has become a vitally important method for gaining insight into the underlying biological functions of genes and proteins. The Reactome database is a manually curated open-source and open-data resource of human pathways. We obtained the enriched Reactome pathways using the KOBAS2.0 online software<sup>15</sup>[\(http://kobas.cbi.pku.edu.cn/home.do\)](http://kobas.cbi.pku.edu.cn/home.do). In the pathway analysis result of AIS credible genes, there are 84 enriched pathways. All of them are listed in **Table S6.** And enriched pathways of AIS existing drug targets (Data S6) and 29 modules(OR  $>$ 2) are showed in **Data S7**.

## **5 Shortest paths between drug targets and seed genes**

The shortest paths are a significant topological statistical quantity used for the analysis of social and biological networks. The most outstanding example of its use is likely to be the well-known small world property of many complex networks16. We used the Dijkstra's algorithm to find the shortest path lengths between AIS drug targets and credible genes17. To obtain random controls for the target-gene, we generated 100 independent randomized samples in the PPI network. Significant difference was calculated statistically using t-test analysis. In PPI network, the hubs is not suitable for AIS treatment18. However the shortest paths analysis result showed that the distances between AIS drug targets and credible genes are enriched at the low range distances (i.e.  $\leq$  =1). This means that existing AIS drugs regulate disease by targeting disease genes directly or neighbors of AIS genes. Otherwise we caculated the degrees of AIS related drug targets in which degrees of more than 45% targets are bigger than 50. It is statistically higher than those of the whole PPI network (Table S7).

## **6 Analysis of potential targets**

#### **6.1 Potential targets in M64**

In M64, there are 184 nodes containing 21 AIS genes and 57 drug targets in DrugBank database. Proteins in it are enriched in 81 Reactome pathways. Here we list the top 20 pathways containing 7 pathways shared with the result of AIS credible genes (**Table S8** and **Table S9**). Between these 7 pathways, there is an including and included relationship **(Figure S2)**.With the pathway "Unblocking of NMDA receptor, glutamate binding and activation", we identified 9 potential targets whose lenth from AIS genes is  $\leq 1$ .

#### **6.2 Analysis of M145**

In M64, there are 145 nodes containing 9 AIS genes and 47 drug targets in Drugbank. Proteins in it are enriched in 28 Reactome pathways. And 20 pathways are shared with the result of AIS credible genes (**Table S10**). The most enriched pathway "G Alpha (i) Signaling Events" is at the bottom of the pathway tree. There are 14 potential targets on this pathway. The distances between them and AIS genes are 0 or 1.

# **7 Potential Drugs**

With the potential targets in M64 and M145, we screened out some drugs from DrugBank database. With the analysis of M64, we found out 21 potential drugs. Otherwise, 25 potential drugs were based on the analysis of M145. All of them are showed in **Table S11**.

Unique ID	Unidentified <b>MeSH</b> headings	<b>Identified</b> <b>MeSH</b> headings	<b>Scope Note</b>
D002544	Cerebral Infarction	Cerebral Infarction	The formation of an area of necrosis in the cerebrum caused by an insufficiency of arterial or venous blood flow. Infarcts of the cerebrum are generally classified by hemisphere (i.e., left vs. right), lobe (e.g., frontal lobe infarction), arterial distribution (e.g., infarction, anterior cerebral artery), and etiology (e.g., embolic infarction).
D020767	Intracranial Thrombosis	Intracranial Thrombosis	Formation or presence of a blood clot (thrombus) in a blood vessel within the SKULL. Intracranial thrombosis can lead to thrombotic occlusions and brain infarction. The majority of the thrombotic occlusions are associated with arterosclerosis.
D020766	Intracranial Embolism	Intracranial Embolism	Blocking of a blood vessel in the skull by an embolus which can be a blood clot (thrombus) or other undissolved material in the blood stream. Most emboli are of cardiac origin and are associated with heart diseases. Other non-cardiac sources of emboli are usually associated with vascular diseases.

**Table S1. Acute ischemic stroke–related MeSH headings.**







**Table S2. AIS existing Drug-target associations. There are 292 associations between 87drugs and161 targets.**





















DB06779	Dalteparin	Approved	<b>SELP</b>
<b>DB06822</b>	Tinzaparin	Approved	SERPINC1
<b>DB06822</b>	Tinzaparin	Approved	ITGA4
<b>DB06822</b>	Tinzaparin	Approved	CXCL12
<b>DB08813</b>	Nadroparin	Approved	SERPINC1
<b>DB08813</b>	Nadroparin	Approved	<b>FOS</b>
<b>DB08813</b>	Nadroparin	Approved	<b>SELP</b>
<b>DB08814</b>	Triflusal	Approved	NOS <sub>2</sub>
<b>DB08814</b>	Triflusal	Approved	PTGS1
<b>DB08814</b>	Triflusal	Approved	PDE10A
<b>DB08814</b>	Triflusal	Approved	NFKB1
<b>DB08816</b>	Ticagrelor	Approved	P2RY12
<b>DB08836</b>	Temocapril	Investigational	<b>ACE</b>

**Table S3. GO enrichment analysis-Biological process terms of AIS genes.** Here we showed the toppest 200 Biological process terms of AIS credible genes. The PV and CPV respectively mean Pvalue and Corrected p-value.















GO:0031399	regulation of protein modification process	1.08E-10	2.34E-09
GO:0050820	positive regulation of coagulation	1.19E-10	2.56E-09
GO:0023051	regulation of signaling process	$1.2E-10$	2.59E-09
GO:0051173	positive regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic	1.25E-10	2.68E-09
	process		
GO:0055080	cation homeostasis	1.32E-10	2.8E-09
GO:0006874	cellular calcium ion homeostasis	1.36E-10	2.88E-09
GO:0042312	regulation of vasodilation	$1.43E-10$	3.01E-09
GO:0051707	response to other organism	1.57E-10	3.28E-09
GO:0006917	induction of apoptosis	1.73E-10	3.61E-09
GO:0003008	system process	1.87E-10	3.87E-09
GO:0033554	cellular response to stress	$2.02E-10$	4.15E-09
GO:0040008	regulation of growth	2.04E-10	4.19E-09
GO:0060284	regulation of cell development	2.15E-10	4.38E-09
GO:0032583	regulation of gene-specific transcription	2.19E-10	4.44E-09
GO:0050729	positive regulation of inflammatory response	2.25E-10	4.54E-09
GO:0060341	regulation of cellular localization	2.49E-10	5E-09

**Table S4. GO enrichment analysis-Molecular Function terms of AIS genes.**



















**Table S5. GO enrichment analysis-Cellular component terms of AIS genes.**









GO:0045177	apical part of cell	5.20E-03	2.52E-02
GO:0043204 perikaryon		5.67E-03	2.69E-02
GO:0005758	mitochondrial intermembrane space		2.69E-02
GO:0030666	endocytic vesicle membrane		$3.02E - 02$
GO:0005850	eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 complex		3.12E-02
GO:0034362	low-density lipoprotein particle	6.98E-03	3.22E-02
GO:0031974	membrane-enclosed lumen	7.93E-03	3.62E-02
GO:0008021	synaptic vesicle	8.03E-03	3.63E-02
GO:0031594	neuromuscular junction	8.39E-03	3.75E-02
GO:0019866	organelle inner membrane	9.45E-03	4.19E-02
GO:0005783	endoplasmic reticulum	1.02E-02	4.48E-02
GO:0033268	node of Ranvier	1.09E-02	4.66E-02
GO:0031088	platelet dense granule membrane	1.09E-02	4.66E-02
GO:0030877	beta-catenin destruction complex	1.09E-02	4.66E-02

**Table S6. Reactome Pathway enrichment analysis of AIS genes.**









**Table S7. The degrees of AIS existing drug targets.** There are totally 161 targets in which 152 are included in the String9.1 PPI network. And more than 45% have degrees larger than 50.





**Table S8. Enriched Reactome pathway of the 10 significant modules.** Here we list the highly enriched pathways of 10 classic module. PV and CPV respectively are P-value and Corrected P-value. And the in the time line we annoted the time of the events occur in ischemic cascade. "s", "m", "h", "d", "w", "M" and "y" respectively mean second, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years.









**Table S9. M64 Reactome Pathway analysis.** There are 81 enriched pathways. 53 pathways involved in the process of ischemic stroke. These events can appear in the stages in minutes(m), hours(h), days(d), weeks(w), month(M) or years(y). The stage a pathways involved is displayed in the "Timing". And "Unblocking of NMDA receptor, glutamate binding and activation" is the sinificant pathway of M64.19, 20









![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Table S10. M145 Reactome Pathway analysis.**There are 28 enriched pathways. The 20 pathways in red are shared with the analysis result of credible genes. The most highly enriched pathway "G alpha (i) signalling events" is sinificant pathway of M145.

![](_page_51_Picture_204.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_160.jpeg)

**Table S11. Novel drugs about neuroprotection of AIS.** "Action" means the interaction between drugs and targets. Based on the analysis of M64, There are 21 potential drugs. And 25 potential drugs are screened out based on M145 analysis.

![](_page_52_Picture_161.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_166.jpeg)

In addition, there are additional supplementary data files as following, all of which will be supplied if necessary.

### **Data S1. Identified disease-gene relationships of AIS from Coremine**

**Data S2. The nodes in 29 modules (OR>2).**

**Data S3. GO analysis of AIS confirmed genes**

**Data S4.GO analysis of AIS existing drug targets.**

**Data S5. GO analysis of 29(OR>2) AIS related modules.**

**Data S6. Pathway analysis of AIS drug targets.**

**Data S7. Pathway analysis of 29 AIS related modules.** 

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