

## Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see [Authors & Referees](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided  
*Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g.  $F$ ,  $t$ ,  $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and  $P$  value noted  
*Give  $P$  values as exact values whenever suitable.*
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's  $d$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

*Provide a description of all commercial, open source and custom code used to collect the data in this study, specifying the version used OR state that no software was used.*

Data analysis

*Provide a description of all commercial, open source and custom code used to analyse the data in this study, specifying the version used OR state that no software was used.*

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study contain patient-related clinical information and are not publicly available. However, anonymised raw data to generate figures and tables are available from the corresponding authors on reasonable request.

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences       Behavioural & social sciences       Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	No samples site calculation had been performed. The study included a total of n=472 cases/samples. To address the low case number in each diagnostic group, independent validation cohorts have been analysed.
Data exclusions	No data were excluded from the analysis.
Replication	For ELISA measurements, samples were run in duplicate. Inter- and intra-assay coefficients of variation were below 12% and 10%, respectively.
Randomization	Allocation of CSF cases in the ELISA plates was random.
Blinding	Laboratory technicians and scientists who performed measurement of CSF LCN2 were blind to patient characteristics and diagnoses.

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

### Materials & experimental systems

### Methods

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human research participants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

## Antibodies

Antibodies used	Describe all antibodies used in the study; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.
Validation	Describe the validation of each primary antibody for the species and application, noting any validation statements on the manufacturer's website, relevant citations, antibody profiles in online databases, or data provided in the manuscript.

## Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines](#)

Cell line source(s)	State the source of each cell line used.
Authentication	Describe the authentication procedures for each cell line used OR declare that none of the cell lines used were authenticated.
Mycoplasma contamination	Confirm that all cell lines tested negative for mycoplasma contamination OR describe the results of the testing for mycoplasma contamination OR declare that the cell lines were not tested for mycoplasma contamination.
Commonly misidentified lines (See <a href="#">ICLAC</a> register)	Name any commonly misidentified cell lines used in the study and provide a rationale for their use.

## Palaeontology

- Specimen provenance *Provide provenance information for specimens and describe permits that were obtained for the work (including the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).*
- Specimen deposition *Indicate where the specimens have been deposited to permit free access by other researchers.*
- Dating methods *If new dates are provided, describe how they were obtained (e.g. collection, storage, sample pretreatment and measurement), where they were obtained (i.e. lab name), the calibration program and the protocol for quality assurance OR state that no new dates are provided.*
- Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

## Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

- Laboratory animals *For laboratory animals, report species, strain, sex and age OR state that the study did not involve laboratory animals.*
- Wild animals *Provide details on animals observed in or captured in the field; report species, sex and age where possible. Describe how animals were caught and transported and what happened to captive animals after the study (if killed, explain why and describe method; if released, say where and when) OR state that the study did not involve wild animals.*
- Field-collected samples *For laboratory work with field-collected samples, describe all relevant parameters such as housing, maintenance, temperature, photoperiod and end-of-experiment protocol OR state that the study did not involve samples collected from the field.*
- Ethics oversight *Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.*

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Human research participants

Policy information about [studies involving human research participants](#)

- Population characteristics *The study population included 472 individuals (254 female, 218 male) with target conditions and control groups with other neuropsychiatric diseases. The mean age differed across the diagnostic groups (between 63 and 76 years).*
- Recruitment *Samples were collected and selected in clinical centers that are specialised in the treatment of dementia syndromes (Göttingen, Coimbra, Linköping, and Paris). The case selection was based on the availability of samples patients with the target conditions (VaD and important differential diagnoses) and complete information for clinical criteria application (including basic CSF analyses and neuroimaging).*
- Ethics oversight *The study was conducted according to the revised Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. Informed written consent was obtained from participants and/or their relatives. The study of CSF samples and case data was approved by the ethics committees of the University Medical Center Göttingen (Germany), Linköping (Sweden), Paris University Hospitals (France), and the Ethics Board of Coimbra University Hospital (Portugal). Post-mortem brain tissue was obtained from the Institute of Neuropathology brain bank, HUB-ICO-IDIBELL biobank following the guidelines of Spanish legislation (Real Decreto de Biobancos 1716/2011).*

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

- Clinical trial registration *Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.*
- Study protocol *Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.*
- Data collection *Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.*
- Outcomes *Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.*

## ChIP-seq

### Data deposition

- Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

#### Data access links

May remain private before publication.

For "Initial submission" or "Revised version" documents, provide reviewer access links. For your "Final submission" document, provide a link to the deposited data.

#### Files in database submission

Provide a list of all files available in the database submission.

#### Genome browser session

(e.g. [UCSC](#))

Provide a link to an anonymized genome browser session for "Initial submission" and "Revised version" documents only, to enable peer review. Write "no longer applicable" for "Final submission" documents.

### Methodology

#### Replicates

Describe the experimental replicates, specifying number, type and replicate agreement.

#### Sequencing depth

Describe the sequencing depth for each experiment, providing the total number of reads, uniquely mapped reads, length of reads and whether they were paired- or single-end.

#### Antibodies

Describe the antibodies used for the ChIP-seq experiments; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.

#### Peak calling parameters

Specify the command line program and parameters used for read mapping and peak calling, including the ChIP, control and index files used.

#### Data quality

Describe the methods used to ensure data quality in full detail, including how many peaks are at FDR 5% and above 5-fold enrichment.

#### Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the ChIP-seq data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

## Flow Cytometry

### Plots

Confirm that:

- The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

### Methodology

#### Sample preparation

Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.

#### Instrument

Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.

#### Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

#### Cell population abundance

Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.

#### Gating strategy

Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between "positive" and "negative" staining cell populations are defined.

- Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

## Magnetic resonance imaging

### Experimental design

#### Design type

Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.

Design specifications *Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.*

Behavioral performance measures *State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).*

## Acquisition

Imaging type(s) *Specify: functional, structural, diffusion, perfusion.*

Field strength *Specify in Tesla*

Sequence & imaging parameters *Specify the pulse sequence type (gradient echo, spin echo, etc.), imaging type (EPI, spiral, etc.), field of view, matrix size, slice thickness, orientation and TE/TR/flip angle.*

Area of acquisition *State whether a whole brain scan was used OR define the area of acquisition, describing how the region was determined.*

Diffusion MRI  Used  Not used

## Preprocessing

Preprocessing software *Provide detail on software version and revision number and on specific parameters (model/functions, brain extraction, segmentation, smoothing kernel size, etc.).*

Normalization *If data were normalized/standardized, describe the approach(es): specify linear or non-linear and define image types used for transformation OR indicate that data were not normalized and explain rationale for lack of normalization.*

Normalization template *Describe the template used for normalization/transformation, specifying subject space or group standardized space (e.g. original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152) OR indicate that the data were not normalized.*

Noise and artifact removal *Describe your procedure(s) for artifact and structured noise removal, specifying motion parameters, tissue signals and physiological signals (heart rate, respiration).*

Volume censoring *Define your software and/or method and criteria for volume censoring, and state the extent of such censoring.*

## Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings *Specify type (mass univariate, multivariate, RSA, predictive, etc.) and describe essential details of the model at the first and second levels (e.g. fixed, random or mixed effects; drift or auto-correlation).*

Effect(s) tested *Define precise effect in terms of the task or stimulus conditions instead of psychological concepts and indicate whether ANOVA or factorial designs were used.*

Specify type of analysis:  Whole brain  ROI-based  Both

Statistic type for inference (See [Eklund et al. 2016](#)) *Specify voxel-wise or cluster-wise and report all relevant parameters for cluster-wise methods.*

Correction *Describe the type of correction and how it is obtained for multiple comparisons (e.g. FWE, FDR, permutation or Monte Carlo).*

## Models & analysis

n/a | Involved in the study

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Graph analysis

Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity *Report the measures of dependence used and the model details (e.g. Pearson correlation, partial correlation, mutual information).*

Graph analysis *Report the dependent variable and connectivity measure, specifying weighted graph or binarized graph, subject- or group-level, and the global and/or node summaries used (e.g. clustering coefficient, efficiency, etc.).*

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis *Specify independent variables, features extraction and dimension reduction, model, training and evaluation metrics.*