## Developing a Zebrafish Model of KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder

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### Kif1a transports cargo away from the cell body toward the synapse



https://imgur.com/gallery/TKtA28B (An animation extracted from The Inner Life of a Cell by Cellular Visions.) Front. Cell. Neurosci., 26 September 2019 | https://doi.org/10.3389/fncel.2019.00419

## Mutations that interfere with Kif1a motor domain function often result in dominant inhibition of Kif1a function



#### Variant key Disease severity

♦ Mild ♦ Moderate ♦ Severe ♦ Unknown ♦ Literature

Inheritance

Structure key ATP & MT-binding regions P-loop Switch I Switch II

Protein domains
Motor Neck coil Coiled-coil Forkhead associated Plextrin homology



### Figure adapted from Boyle et al 2021

The Posterior Lateral Line primordium -a model for understanding the selforganization of development in the embryo





Section on Neural Developmental Dynamics



### Features of an *in vivo* system to visualize and quantify deficits in anterograde transport and for preliminary evaluation of potential therapeutic approaches in KAND

- Visualize and quantify transport in axons
- Ease of cellular, molecular and genetic manipulation
- Ease of access to manipulation with exposure to drugs and small molecule inhibitors
- Use in high throughput studies



Catherine Drerup – prior colleague and neighbor at NIH in Bethesda, now at Madison, University of Wisconsin

### The Lateral Line as a model for studying axonal transport in zebrafish



mRFP-Dync1li1/Lamp1-GFP cotransport in a pLL axon at 2dpf. Cell bodies are to the left meaning that particles moving toward the left are moving in the retrograde direction.

Drerup and Nechiporuk (2016) In vivo analysis of axonal transport in zebrafish Methods in Cell Biology-Volume 131, Chapter 15, Pages 311-329

# Strategies for engineering expression of Wild-type and mutant Kif1a in zebrafish larvae



### Monitoring anterograde and retrograde transport with fluorescently labelled cargo





### PTS1-mCherry

Inject embryos at the 1-2 cell stage with with plasmids driving PTS1mCherry expression under control of a *neuroD* promoter (*nrd: PTS1-mCherry*)

#### From Drerup and Nechiporuk (2016)



The Peroxisome Targeting Signal 1 (PTS1) is used to target mCherry tp peroxisomes

### R316W Kif1a mRNA does not affect Lateral line morphology but stalls peroxisome movement





## **Future Plans**

• Quantify effects of injecting different concentrations of Wt and R316W Kif1a mRNA –

at what concentration does anterograde and retrograde transport get affected

- Does additional expression of Wt Kif1a reduce slowing due to R316W Kif1a
- How is transport of other cargoes affected?
- Establish R316W mutant line
- See if knockdown of Kif1a or ectopic expression of Wt Kif1a reduces problems.
- Can CRISPR be used to repair the endogenous mutation
- Make our system available for testing of any potential therapeutic agents or other

strategies suggested by the Kif1a scientist's network

## **Thank You!**



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