Marmosets as translational models for aging research



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Aging Research



Marmosets

- •NHP models allow control of environment, diet, and medicines
- •Small (350-450 g)
- Rapidly reproducing
- Relatively short lifespan and development
 - Reach adult size ~2 years
 - Average lifespan ~6 years in captive colonies
 - Oldest marmoset ~22 years



Longevity



⁽Ross & Salmon 2018)







(Ross 2018) (Ross et al 2017)

Causes of Death



(Tardif et al, 2011)

Characterizing Marmoset Aging – 5 domains

- Metabolic
- Homeostatic
- Immune
- Mobility
- Cognition



Metabolic Aging

- Lose weight at an increasing rate above middle age (Power et al 2001, Tardif et al 2011)
- Aging associated with decreased fat mass (longitudinal follow) (Ross et al 2012)
- Response to a glucose challenge is not significantly different for geriatric marmosets
- Geriatric marmosets have significantly reduced VO₂ compared to young animals

Homeostatic Aging

 Geriatric marmosets have significantly higher diastolic and mean arterial pressure



Homeostatic Aging

 Geriatric marmosets have significantly less diverse gut microbiome



Immune Aging

• Serum albumin concentrations decrease with age (Ross et al 2012)



 Older animals express increased inflammatory states

Translational Phenotyping – from mouse & human to marmoset













Stimulus Pair 1

Stimulus Pair 2

Stimulus Pair 3







Stimulus Pair 4

Stimulus Pair 5

Stimulus Pair 6

Mobility



Geriatric marmosets have significantly reduced movement, but retain normal social behaviors

Hanging (stretching) behavior is significantly associated with risk of death in next 6 months

Mobility



Cognition

 Tasks to assess visual learning, spatial learning, impulse control, and executive function



Photo: Georgia Tech

Marmoset Conveyor

Single Treat

Marmoset Conveyor

First Dual Treat

Marmoset Conveyor



Subjects :39 Older 8+ years, n = 21 Young <8, n= 18

(Alex Greig)

Detoured Reach

Detoured **Reach Task**

(Khira Wharford)

Detoured Reach



Intervention testing -Rapamycin





Marmoset Rapamycin



Pilot study: 14 months Marmosets aged 7 – 9 yrs Rapa - 4 male/female pairs Control – 2 male/female pairs



- Marmosets trained to receive oral daily doses of rapamycin
- Serum rapamycin values similar to those published for rodent and human studies

(Tardif et al 2014)



Marmosets receiving rapa do not exhibit significantly altered glucose metabolism

(Ross et al 2015)

Longitudinal follow - No significant detriment in glucose metabolism with 12 months treatment



Salmon, Unpublished Cohort 1 Males and females

Rapamycin Conclusions

- Rapamycin is having no negative impacts on metabolic function in marmosets
- •There are currently no significant differences between rapamycin and control animals for
 - Activity
 - Locomotion
 - Metabolic function

Continue to follow the progress

Marmoset Aging

- •We are able to quantify more than just longevity
- •We are able to use techniques from mice and humans to examine marmoset aging behaviors
- •We are able to begin testing interventions that may increase health-span

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