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Suppression of amyloid beta a11-immunoreactivity by vitamin C: possible role of heparan sulfate oligosaccharides derived from glypican-1 by ascorbate-induced, no-catalyzed degradation.

Cheng, Fang; Cappai, Roberto; Ciccotosto, Giuseppe D; Svensson Birkedal, Gabriel; Multhaup, Gerd; Fransson, Lars-Åke; Mani, Katrin

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

**SUPPRESSION OF AMYLOID BETA A11-IMMUNOREACTIVITY BY VITAMIN C:
POSSIBLE ROLE OF HEPARAN SULFATE OLIGOSACCHARIDES DERIVED FROM
GLYPICAN-1 BY ASCORBATE-INDUCED, NO-CATALYZED DEGRADATION***

**Fang Cheng¹, Roberto Cappai^{2,3}, Giuseppe D. Ciccotosto^{2,3}, Gabriel Svensson¹, Gerd Multhaup⁴,
Lars-Åke Fransson¹ and Katrin Mani¹**

From the ¹Department of Experimental Medical Science, Division of Neuroscience, Glycobiology Group, Lund University, Biomedical Center A13, SE-221 84, Lund, Sweden, ²Department of Pathology, ³Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, and ⁴Institute for Chemistry/Biochemistry, Free University of Berlin, Thielallee 63, D-14195, Berlin, Germany

Running title: Amyloid beta A11-immunoreactivity and vitamin C

Address correspondence to: Katrin Mani or Lars-Åke Fransson, Department of Experimental Medical Science, Division of Neuroscience, Glycobiology Group, Lund University, BMC C13, SE-221 84 Lund, Sweden. Tel.: +46 46 222 8573. Fax.: +46 46 222 3128

Amyloid β (A β) is generated from the copper- and heparan sulfate (HS)-binding amyloid precursor protein (APP) by proteolytic processing. APP supports S-nitrosylation of the HS-proteoglycan glypican-1 (Gpc-1). In the presence of ascorbate there is NO-catalyzed release of anhydromannose (anMan)-containing oligosaccharides from Gpc-1-SNO. We have investigated whether these oligosaccharides interact with A β during APP processing and plaque formation. anMan-Immunoreactivity was detected in amyloid plaques of Alzheimer (AD) and APP transgenic (Tg2576) mouse brains by immunofluorescence microscopy. APP/APP degradation products detected by antibodies to the C-terminus of APP, but not A β oligomers detected by the anti-A β A11 antibody, colocalized with anMan-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts. A 50-55-kDa anionic, SDS-stable, anMan- and A β -immunoreactive species was obtained from Tg2576 fibroblasts using immunoprecipitation with anti-APP (C-terminal). anMan-Containing HS oligo- and disaccharide preparations modulated or suppressed A11-immunoreactivity and oligomerization of A β 42 peptide in an *in vitro* assay. A11 immunoreactivity increased in Tg2576 fibroblasts when Gpc-1 autoprocessing was inhibited by U18666A, and decreased when Gpc-1 autoprocessing was stimulated by ascorbate. Neither overexpression of Gpc-1 in Tg2576 fibroblasts nor addition of copper ion

and NO-donor to hippocampal slices from 3xTg-AD mice affected A11 immunoreactivity levels. However, A11 immunoreactivity was greatly suppressed by the subsequent addition of ascorbate. We speculate that temporary interaction between the A β domain and small, anMan-containing oligosaccharides may preclude formation of toxic A β oligomers. A portion of the oligosaccharides co-secrete with the A β peptides and are deposited in plaques. These results support the notion that inadequate supply of vitamin C could contribute to late onset AD in humans.

The amyloid β (A β) peptides that have a central role in Alzheimer disease (AD) are derived from the amyloid precursor protein (APP)¹. APP is a copper- and heparan sulfate (HS)-binding membrane protein, which is expressed in many cell types, including neural cells and fibroblasts (1-4). Processing of APP involves several proteases and regulatory proteins, collectively designated α -, β - and γ -secretases (Fig. S1a-c). Single α - or β -cleavages result in release of the large ectodomain, while the C-terminal fragments (APP-CTF- α and APP-CTF- β , respectively) remain tethered to the membrane. Combined β - and γ -cleavages are amyloidogenic and lead to release of the C-terminal cytoplasmic domain of APP and the generation of A β peptides, mostly A β 40 and A β 42. A β peptides first form soluble oligomers and then insoluble aggregates that accumulate as amyloid fibrils and senile plaques in the brain of AD patients. Soluble A β oligomers formed at early

stages of AD are believed to be particularly toxic and responsible for early memory failure (5-9).

Cell-surface located APP can be associated with lipid rafts and processed via β -cleavage during caveolar endocytosis (10-14). A β peptides are formed upon subsequent γ -cleavage inside neurons and are then secreted (7). Transgenic AD mouse models, such as Tg2576 and 3xTg-AD, overproduce A β peptides that oligomerize in late endosomes of neurons (15-18). Some of these toxic prefibrillar A β oligomers can be detected with the polyclonal antibody A11, which appears to recognize a particular conformation (8,18).

β -Secretase cleavage occurs in early endosomes and γ -cleavage can occur in multivesicular late endosomes where A β peptides associate with intraluminal vesicles, which can be secreted as exosomes (16,19,20). When γ -cleavage is inhibited, exosomes contain increased amounts of APP-CTF- β (20,21).

The role of glycosaminoglycans, such as HS, in APP processing and amyloid formation is not fully understood. While intact HS chains can change protein conformations into amyloidogenic forms, small HS oligosaccharides are without effect (22). HS degradation products may even inhibit amyloid formation, as overexpression of heparanase affords protection against amyloidosis (23). A β amyloid deposits contain HS and HS-proteoglycans (24-28). The origin of amyloid-associated HS is unclear, but some of the HS co-deposited with extracellular A β in both sporadic and familial AD as well as in Tg2576 mice can be derived from the HS-proteoglycans glypican-1 (Gpc-1) and syndecan-3 produced by glial cells (29).

APP interacts strongly with Gpc-1 (30), a major glypican isoform in the adult brain (31). Gpc-1, which is synthesized by both neural and glial cells, has a glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchor that localizes to lipid rafts, where Gpc-1 can interact with A β (14). Gpc-1 can also be internalized and recycled via a caveolin-1 associated endosomal route while subjected to modification and processing (32). Firstly, cysteines in the Gpc-1 core protein are S-nitrosylated (SNO) by endogenously formed nitric oxide (NO) in a Cu(II)-dependent redox reaction (33-35). Free copper ions are scarce *in vivo*, but Cu(II)-loaded cuproproteins, such as the

glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored ceruloplasmin (36) and prion proteins (34,37) as well as APP can support S-nitrosylation of Gpc-1. Moreover, APP and Gpc-1 colocalize in subcellular compartments of neuroblastoma cells (38).

Secondly, during endosomal transport, Gpc-1-SNO undergoes NO-dependent deaminative cleavage of its HS chains (Fig. S1d). This is induced by an unknown reducing agent (39) and probably catalyzed by nitroxyl (HNO) derived from the intrinsic SNO groups (33,40,41). Cleavage of the HS chains occurs at the relatively rare sites where glucosamine residues are N-unsubstituted (GlcNH_3^+). During cleavage GlcNH_3^+ is converted to anhydromannose (anMan) which becomes the reducing terminal sugar of the released HS degradation products. These products accumulate in Rab7-positive late endosomes (41). NO-release and subsequent deaminative cleavage of HS can also be induced by exogenously supplied vitamin C, in the ascorbate or dehydroascorbate form, depending on the cell type (40,41).

The reducing terminal anMan residue in the released HS degradation products contains a free aldehyde that can form an unstable aldimine bond to amino groups in proteins, *i.e.* a Schiff base. A stable covalent bond could then be formed by reduction or rearrangement (Fig. S1e; 31,42). Covalent conjugates between anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides and proteins have been found in T24 carcinoma and N2a neuroblastoma cells (43).

Because APP interacts with Gpc-1 and modulates copper- and NO-dependent release of HS from Gpc-1 both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (38), we decided to investigate whether anMan-containing HS degradation products generated by Gpc-1 autoprocessing interacts with APP degradation products and whether such HS is ultimately deposited in amyloid plaques. For this purpose, we examined normal human and AD brains, as well as brains and/or fibroblasts from wild-type, Tg2576 and 3xTg-AD mice for anMan- and A β -immunoreactive components. We show here that anMan-immunoreactivity is present in amyloid plaques from human AD and Tg2576 mouse brains. In extracts of fibroblasts from Tg2576 mice we found that anMan-immunoreactivity co-precipitated with APP-CTF- β yielding a 50-55-

kDa, A β (4G8)-immunoreactive, SDS-stable species. After radiolabelling with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ an anionic pool comprising both [^{35}S]HS and 70-75-kDa A β (4G8)-immunoreactive species was obtained. Addition of anMan-containing HS oligo- or disaccharides to A β 42 peptide monomers modulated or suppressed the transient appearance of A11-immunoreactivity and inhibited A β 42 oligomerization. A β A11-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts increased when NO-dependent cleavage of HS in Gpc-1 was suppressed. Conversely, when such cleavage was initiated by ascorbate in copper- and NO-supplemented Tg2576 fibroblasts or hippocampal slices from 3xTg-AD mice, A11-immunoreactivity was nearly eliminated.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Materials- Tg2576 mice have been described (44). Triple-transgenic AD mice (3xTg-AD) were a kind gift from Professor Mark P. Mattson, Laboratory of Neurosciences, National Institute of Aging Intramural Research Program, Baltimore, USA (17). Brain tissue from non-demented controls and AD patients was obtained from the Victorian Brain Bank Network. Embryonic fibroblasts from wild-type and Tg2576 mice were prepared and maintained as described elsewhere (38). Synthetic A β 42 was purchased from Millipore. A HS preparation (HS6) with an N-sulfate-to-hexosamine molar ratio of 0.72 was obtained as described elsewhere (45) and N-desulfated by solvolysis in 5% water-dimethylsulfoxide (46). anMan-Containing HS oligo- and disaccharides were generated by treating the N-desulfated HS with HNO_2 at pH 3.9 (35,47). The extent of degradation was monitored by oligosaccharide PAGE (48). A polyclonal antibody against the APP C-terminal (A8717) was from Sigma, a polyclonal anti-A β (H-43) from Santa Cruz, a polyclonal anti-A β -oligomer (A11) from Chemicon and an anti-A β 17-24 mAb (4G8) from BioSource. Lysotracker Red (LTR), rabbit polyclonal antibodies against Gpc-1, Rab7 and a mAb recognizing anMan-terminating HS oligosaccharides (mAb AM), suitably tagged secondary anti-rabbit, anti-mouse or anti-goat antibodies, proteinase K, U18666A (3- β -[2-(diethylamino) ethoxy] androst-5-en-17-one), and

ascorbate were generated/obtained as described previously (32-34,36,38,40,41,43,49). Thioflavin S and proteinase K were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All restriction enzymes used were from MBI Fermentas GmbH and Taq polymerase was obtained from Roche. BCA protein assay kit was purchased from Pierce, IL. Novex Tricine gels were from Invitrogen and Protein A-Sepharose CL-4B from Amersham Bioscience. ECL western blotting detection was from GE Healthcare.

siRNA preparation and transfection- The vector pRNA-U6.1/Neo containing the sequence GTTGGTCTACTGTGCTCAT (corresponding to nucleotides 753-771 in mouse Gpc-1) followed by a hairpin sequence TTCAAGAGA, then the reversed complementary Gpc-1 sequence with an additional C in the 5'-end and a stretch of six T for RNA polymerase III termination followed by GGAA in the 3'-end was synthesized by Genscript Corporation, USA. A negative control vector comprising a scrambled sequence was also prepared. Transfection was accomplished by using Lipofectamine (Life Technologies) according to the description of the manufacturer.

Ectopic expression of green fluorescent protein (GFP)-tagged Gpc-1- The Clontech vector pEGFP C1 was used to create a GFP-Gpc-1 vector. The sequence coding for the N-terminal signal peptide was amplified from cDNA by PCR. The PCR product was digested with AgeI/NheI and ligated into AgeI/NheI digested pEGFP C1. A Kozak sequence was also introduced with the forward primer. The sequence coding for the core protein and C-terminal signal peptide was also amplified by PCR. The PCR product was digested with HindIII/EcoRI and ligated into HindIII/EcoRI digested pEGFP C1. The start codon present in the sequence for EGFP was disrupted by using site-directed mutagenesis. The primers used are given in Table 1 in supplementary information. All mutations and constructs were verified by sequencing at Eurofins MWG Operon (Germany).

The cells were transiently transfected with the vector containing GFP-Gpc-1 for 72 h using Invitrogen's standard protocol for transfection with Lipofectamine 2000 according to the description of the manufacturer. The amount of expression was assessed by scanning with immunofluorescence microscopy.

Preparation of human brain tissue, thioflavin S staining and immunostaining-

Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded sections from the frontal cortex of post-mortem human brains from non-demented controls and patients with AD were used. Forty- μ m sections were deparaffinized for immunohistochemistry by standard methods. Sections were then permeabilized in 0.5% Triton X-100, 3% H₂O₂ in PBS for 5 min then pre-coated with 10% antimouse total Ig for 1 h at 20 °C. Immunohistochemical staining was performed using over-night treatment with mAb AM at 4 °C followed by treatment with Texas Red labelled goat anti-mouse total Ig secondary antibody for 1 h at 20°C. Controls lacking primary antibody were performed in parallel for all experiments. The thioflavin S staining was then performed as described by Bussi re and collaborators (50). Briefly, sections were post-fixed in 10% formalin for 10 minutes, then washed in PBS. After incubation for 10 minutes in 0.25% potassium permanganate, sections were washed in PBS and incubated in 2% potassium metabisulfite and 1% oxalic acid until they turned white. Sections were then washed in water and stained for 10 minutes with a solution of 0.015% thioflavin S in 50% ethanol. Finally, sections were washed in 50% ethanol and in water, then dried, and dipped into Histo-Clear before being coverslipped with Permount.

Preparation of brain slices and immunostaining- Animals were kept under pathogen-free conditions in the animal barrier facility at the Biomedical Centre, Lund University, according to the Swedish guidelines for humane treatment of laboratory animals. The experimental setup was approved by the ethical committee for animal research in Malm /Lund, Sweden. Hippocampal organotypic tissue cultures were prepared as described previously (51). Hippocampi were retrieved from 15-month old 3xTg-AD mice and cut into 250 μ m thick slices on a MacIllwain tissue chopper. Floating sections from hippocampus were maintained in a culture medium containing minimal essential medium (MEM) supplemented with 50% horse serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 units/ml penicillin G, 100 g/ml streptomycin, 0.25% glucose, 0.8% sucrose, and 2% B-27 in a CO₂ incubator at 35 °C for 1 day. Floating sections were then treated with different drugs and after treatments the sections were washed with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 30 min. The

endogenous peroxidase activity was quenched for 30 min in 3% H₂O₂. Sections were then incubated in 90% formic acid for 7 min to expose the epitopes. The appropriate primary antibody was applied overnight at 4 °C. Sections were washed with PBS and incubated with the appropriate secondary antibody for 1 h at 20°C.

Immunofluorescence microscopy- The various procedures including seeding of cells, fixation, the use of primary and secondary antibodies, generation of images by sequential scans and data processing were the same as those used previously (32,33,34,38,49) or as recommended by the manufacturers. Cells were first pre-coated with 10% antimouse total Ig and 1% goat serum and then exposed to primary antibodies. The secondary antibody used was either goat anti-mouse total Ig when the primary antibody was a monoclonal or goat anti-rabbit IgG when the primary antibody was polyclonal. The secondary antibodies were tagged with either fluoresceine isothiocyanate or Texas Red and appropriately combined for colocalization studies. In general, the former tag (green) was used for mAbs and the latter (red) for polyclonal antibodies, except in combination with LysoTrackerRed (LTR, red). In the controls, the primary antibody was omitted. The fluorescent images were analyzed by using a Carl Zeiss AxioObserver inverted fluorescence microscope equipped with objective EC "Plan-Neofluar" 63x/1.25 Oil M27 and AxioCam MRm Rev camera. Identical exposure settings and times were used for image capture when wild-type and Tg2576 cells or untreated and treated cells or tissues were compared.

Flow cytometry- Cells were seeded in 24-well plates and grown in MEM containing glutamine, penicillin, streptomycin and 10% fetal calf serum. Cells were rinsed with medium and detached using trypsin (0.5 ml 0.05% w/v of trypsin in PBS for 1 min). Trypsinization was terminated by replacing the trypsin solution with 0.5 ml medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum. Cells were recovered by gentle suspension and transferred to tubes, adding 1 vol. of PBS containing 1% BSA (w/v). Cells were then pelleted by centrifugation and resuspended in 0.2 ml PBS after removal of the supernatant. Cells were fixed for 30 minutes in 1 ml PBS containing 4% paraformaldehyde (w/v) whilst initially

vortexing. Permeabilisation was performed by incubation with 0.2% TritonX-100 in PBS (v/v) for 20 min. Immunostaining of the cells was performed as described for confocal microscopy. In the controls, the primary antibody was omitted. After each step, cells were recovered by centrifugation at 350 x g for 5 min. The cells (n = 5,000-10,000) were finally suspended in PBS containing 1% BSA, and analyzed for fluorescence in a fluorescence assisted cell sorting (FACS) instrument (Calibur, Becton Dickinson Biosciences, USA) operated by Cell-Quest software. Back-ground fluorescence intensity obtained by omitting the primary antibody was subtracted.

Isolation and characterization of HS-protein complexes- Fibroblasts were incubated with 50 μ Ci/ml [35 S]sulfate for 48 h prior to confluence or kept unlabelled as described elsewhere (43,47). Cells were lysed by homogenization in RIPA buffer, *i.e.* 0.1% (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS), 0.5% (v/v) Triton X-100, 0.5% (w/v) sodium deoxycholate in PBS supplemented with 0.5 mM phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride at 4°C. Immunoisolation of APP and APP-derived degradation products from unlabelled cells was performed by using anti-A β or anti-APP-CTF polyclonal antibodies followed by adsorption on protein A-Sepharose CL-4B (100 μ g protein A was swelled and used for 1 ml samples containing 1 mg/ml protein). In the controls, no antibody was added. Recovered immunisolates were displaced by using SDS and SDS-PAGE was performed on 10% Tricine gels under reducing conditions followed by transfer to PVDF membranes. After coating with unconjugated secondary antibody (1:50), western blotting was performed by using anMan- or A β -specific mAbs as primary antibodies followed by visualization using horse-radish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG as secondary antibodies (1:1000) and developed by ECL chemiluminescence according to the manufacturer's instructions (GE Healthcare) using a Fujifilm ECL detector. In the controls, the primary antibody was omitted. For more details, see legends to the appropriate figures.

Polyanionic compounds were isolated by passing RIPA extracts of cells through DE53 DEAE-cellulose columns (0.2 ml). After extensive rinsing with RIPA, bound anionic material was displaced with 3 x 0.2 ml of 1 M NaCl in the case

of unlabelled cells or 4 M guanidinium chloride in the case of [35 S]sulfate-labeled cells. Unlabeled eluates were subjected to immunoprecipitation after dialysis against water by spinning in Centricon 30 tubes, followed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting as above. Labelled eluates were subjected to gel exclusion chromatography on Superose 6 or Superdex peptide columns in 4 M guanidinium chloride. Pooled fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting as described above. Degradations were performed with proteinase K at a final concentration of 100 μ g/ml for 24 h at 56°C in buffer containing 50 mM Tris/HCl, 5 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.5, 0.25% SDS, and 0.25% Triton X-100 or by HS lyase, heparin lyase or HNO₂ at pH 1.5 or 3.9 as described earlier (43,47).

In vitro assay of A β 42 A11-immunoreactivity- Conversion of monomeric A β 42 to A11-positive soluble oligomers can be monitored by *in vitro* assays (52,53). We adopted the latter procedure. A β 42 (21 μ g) was first dissolved in 20 μ l hexaisoofluoropropanol that was evaporated overnight. A β 42 was then dissolved in 20 μ l 50 mM NaOH for 30 min, sonicated for 30 min, diluted in PBS (168 μ l), and centrifuged at 22,000 x g for 30 min. The supernatants were incubated in the absence or presence of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharide and disaccharide preparations (A β 42:HS, 1:1, 1:3 or 1:5 w/w). A β A11-immunoreactivity was analyzed by slot blotting to PVDF membranes incubated with A11 (1:1000) or 4G8 (1:1000) antibodies followed by visualisation using horse-radish peroxidase conjugated anti-rabbit IgG for A11 (1:500) and goat anti-mouse IgG for 4G8 (1:500). Oligomer state was monitored by SDS-PAGE on 4-12% Bis-Tris mini gels in MES running buffer followed by silver staining (54).

Statistics- One-way analysis of variance was used to determine significance.

RESULTS

Detection of anMan-immunoreactive products in plaques from AD and Tg2576 brains. Human brain sections were stained with thioflavin S and a mAb recognizing the anMan-containing epitope followed by immunofluorescence microscopy. The anti-anMan mAb was raised

against deaminatively degraded heparin and has been described and characterized by Pejler et al. (Fig. S1e). Amyloid plaques in AD brain slices that stained with thioflavin S (Fig. 1a, ThS, green) also stained for anMan-containing products (Fig. 1a, AM, red). The merged image indicated partial colocalization that was most intense in the center of the plaques (Fig. 1a, yellow in merged). In age-matched normal human brain there were small, scattered deposits of thioflavin S- and anMan-positive material (Fig. 1b).

Tg2576 mice are transgenic for the APP695 gene encoding the Swedish mutation K670N-M671L and are one of the most widely used animal models of AD (55,56). The mice have plaques and cognitive deficits but no cell loss and no neurofibrillary tangles (44). Brain slices from Tg2576 mice were stained with thioflavin S and the anti-anMan antibody. There was colocalization between thioflavin-S and anMan-positive material with the greatest intensity in the center of the plaques (Fig. 1c, yellow in merged). In wild-type mouse brain there were small, diffuse and scattered deposits of thioflavin S- and anMan-positive material (Fig. 1d).

Detection of A β , APP/APP-CTF, A β oligomers and anMan in fibroblast cultures by immunofluorescence microscopy. To examine if there was intracellular colocalization between anMan-containing HS degradation products and APP degradation products we performed cell culture studies using fibroblasts from wild-type and Tg2576 mice. The human APP transgene is expressed in Tg2576 fibroblasts as demonstrated by SDS-PAGE and western blotting using mAb WO2 which is specific for the human A β sequence (Fig. S2).

To investigate APP and HS degradation products in wild-type and Tg2576 fibroblasts we used antibodies recognizing the A β -region (mAb 4G8) or the C-terminus of APP (polyclonal Ab A8717) as well as the anMan-containing epitope (mAb AM). Staining for both A β - and anMan-containing material was more intense in fibroblasts from Tg2576 mice than in corresponding cells from wild-type mice (Fig. 2a-b, A β , green and 2c-d, AM, green). Staining using anti-APP-CTF was also more intense in Tg2576 cells than in wild-type cells (Fig. 2c-d, CTF, red). APP/APP-CTF-immunoreactivity colocalized with the anMan-staining at perinuclear sites (Fig. 2d, yellow in

merged), but there was also separate anMan-staining (Fig. 2d, green in merged).

A β peptides may convert into potentially toxic forms that can be recognized by the A11 antibody (8). It is our understanding that this antibody recognizes oligomeric forms and not fibrils. To search for possible colocalization between such oligomers and anMan-containing products Tg2576 fibroblasts were stained for anMan- and A11-immunoreactivity. There was limited colocalization and most of the cytoplasmic A11 staining was located close to the plasma membrane and also extracellularly, whereas anMan-staining dominated in the perinuclear area (Fig. 2e, merged). No staining was observed when the primary antibody was omitted (data not shown).

Detection of anMan-immunoreactive, HS-containing APP-degradation products in Tg2576 fibroblasts by SDS-PAGE and gel exclusion chromatography. The colocalization of anMan- and APP-CTF-immunoreactivity suggested an association between anMan-containing HS degradation products and APP or APP-degradation products in Tg2576 fibroblasts. To search for co-precipitation and co-migration on SDS-PAGE of anMan- and A β -immunoreactivity, RIPA extracts of confluent Tg2576 fibroblast cultures were immunoprecipitated with either the anti-A β (H-43) or the anti-APP C-terminal (A8717) polyclonal antibodies. The immunoprecipitates were western blotted using either the anMan- or the A β -specific (4G8) mAbs. The results showed that anti-A β (H-43) immunoprecipitate contained one specific anMan-positive species with an apparent M_r of approx. 50-55 kDa (Fig. 3a, lanes 1-2). Western blotting a parallel lane with the A β -specific mAb 4G8 stained a band in the same position (Fig. 3a, lane 3). A number of minor, 4G8-positive, anMan-negative species, ranging from approx. 20-60 kDa, were also observed. Immunoprecipitation using the anti-APP C-terminal antibody (A8717) yielded primarily the 50-55-kDa anMan- and A β (4G8)-positive species (Fig. 3a, lanes 4-6). No bands were observed when the primary antibody was omitted (Fig 3a, lanes 1 and 4).

If HS oligosaccharides were bound to APP-degradation products the complex should be negatively charged. To test this, polyanionic compounds were recovered from RIPA extracts of

Tg2576 cells by binding to DEAE-cellulose, then released by 1 M NaCl, dialysed and subjected to immunoprecipitation using the APP C-terminal antibody followed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting using the anMan-specific mAb. Again, a 50-55 kDa anMan-positive component was obtained (Fig. 3a, lane 7). As there were no bands at 90 kDa or higher, it appears likely that the anMan-containing HS degradation products were associated with APP-CTF- β generating a negatively supercharged complex.

To degrade the protein part of a putative, SDS-stable HS-APP-CTF- β complex, an anti-APP-CTF immunoisolate from Tg2576 fibroblasts was subjected to SDS-PAGE after treatment with proteinase K. This resulted in partial degradation and in the generation of a 30-35 kDa anMan- and A β (4G8)-positive component (Fig. 3b, lanes 1 and 2), suggesting that anMan-containing HS degradation products were associated with the A β region of APP-CTF- β .

Treatments with the HS and heparin lyases gave somewhat surprising results. There was no major change in size of the putative complex upon either HS or heparin lyase treatments (Fig. 3b, lanes 3-6). However, the intensity of the 4G8-staining was markedly increased after treatment with heparin lyase (Fig. 3b, lane 6; cf. Fig. 3a, lane 6). These results suggest that anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides associated with APP-CTF- β were small, sensitive to heparin lyase and interacting with the 4G8 epitope. Control experiments showed that the HS lyase preparation was active (57).

To generate radiolabelled HS-A β complexes, Tg2576 fibroblasts were incubated with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ and polyanionic products were isolated from the cell lysate by passage over DEAE-cellulose. Recovered products were displaced with 4 M guanidinium chloride and chromatographed on a Superose 6 column in the same solvent. In addition to a major proteoglycan pool (Fig. 3c, fractions 25-40), a smaller, more retarded peak was observed (Fig. 3c, fractions 41-49, see bar). Analysis of this fraction by SDS-PAGE yielded a 4G8-positive band with an apparent M_r of 70-75 kDa (inset in Fig. 3c). Analysis by gel exclusion chromatography on a Superdex peptide column before and after treatment with HNO_2 at pH 1.5 demonstrated the presence of HS (Fig. 3d-e). The

peak of free sulfate (Fig. 3e, fractions 42-44) should be generated from cleavage at GlcNSO₃ residues. The presence of oligosaccharides ranging in size from di- to deca-saccharides indicated that also extended sequences containing GlcNAc were present in this HS. The peak eluting closely after the void volume may represent HS stubs still attached to A β . As the radioactive HS-A β complexes were larger (70-75 kDa) than the resident material (50-55 kDa), the former may either contain longer HS oligosaccharides and/or represent higher A β oligomers.

Modulation of A11-immunoreactivity and oligomerization of A β 42 peptide by anMan-containing HS oligo- and disaccharides. The anMan-containing HS degradation products may largely interact reversibly with the A β domain in CTF- β or with A β peptides undergoing oligomerization. HS and HS degradation products interact, mostly non-specifically, with basic sequences in proteins. The sequence HHQK in A β may thus constitute a HS-attracting site. To test possible conformational effects of anMan-containing HS degradation products on A β we adopted a procedure whereby the conversion of monomeric A β 42 to A11-positive oligomers can be monitored *in vitro* (53).

anMan-Containing HS oligo- and disaccharide preparations were generated by partial or complete deaminative cleavage at pH 3.9 of N-desulfated HS6, a preparation where approximately 70% of the hexosamines should be N-unsubstituted and thus sensitive to cleavage by HNO_2 . Degradation was monitored by PAGE and the results are shown in Fig. 4a. Undegraded N-desulfated HS6, which is both charge and size polydisperse, migrated broadly but more slowly than the BPB marker (lane 1 in Fig. 4a). Degradations with reagent that was diluted generated mainly oligosaccharide products (migrating faster than BPB, see lanes 2-4 in Fig. 4a). The predominant product generated by undiluted reagent migrated as a disaccharide (lane 5 in Fig. 4a). The preparations used in the experiments were OligoII (lane 3) and Di (lane 5).

Unagitated, monomeric A β 42 spontaneously and transiently converts to an A11-positive conformation that oligomerizes (53). HS oligo- and disaccharides were added in an approximately 30 molar excess to A β 42 monomer

(assuming a disaccharide molecular weight of 600). This should correspond to an approximately 6 molar excess relative to the number of amino groups in A β (N-terminus, Q, K, N and K). A11-immunoreactivity usually appeared at Day 4 (sometimes at Day 3 and 4) in the absence of HS oligo- or disaccharides (Fig. 4b). In the presence of the HS disaccharide preparation (Di), no A11-immunoreactivity was observed. In the presence of partial HS degradation products (preparation OligoII) A11-immunoreactivity appeared at Day 3 instead of Day 4 (Fig. 4b). A11-immunoreactivity appeared somewhat later in our experiments than in those of Ladiwala et al. (53). 4G8-Staining was enhanced by the disaccharide preparation at Day 3. No staining was observed when the primary antibody was omitted (data not shown).

The starting A β 42 preparation (Day 0) was purely monomeric as judged by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 4c, lane 1). The presence of the anMan-containing HS disaccharide preparation (Di) did not alter the migration of A β 42 (Fig. 4c, lane 2). In one case, when large aggregates had not been completely removed (Fig. 4c, lane 3), these were disrupted in the presence of the HS oligosaccharide preparation OligoII (Fig. 4c, lane 4). However, the migration of monomeric A β 42 was not altered in the presence of OligoII. It should be added that HS oligo- and disaccharides were not detected by this staining technique (Fig. 4c, lanes 5 and 6).

The oligomer state of A β 42 after a 5-day incubation with or without anMan-containing HS oligo- or disaccharides (6 molar excess relative to the number of amino groups in A β) was also assayed by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 4d). Samples not exposed to HS degradation products contained oligomers with an M_r greater than 40 kDa, as well as tetramer and monomer (Fig. 4d, lanes 1 and 3). Incubation with the HS disaccharide preparation (Di) greatly inhibited formation of higher oligomers and tetramers (Fig. 4d, lane 2). Also HS oligosaccharide preparation OligoII inhibited formation of higher oligomers (Fig. 4d, lane 4). As there was no increase in A β monomer in the latter case (cf. lanes 2 and 4 in Fig. 4d) the longer HS oligosaccharides may have induced formation of insoluble A β aggregates. A 2-fold molar excess of HS disaccharide relative to amino groups, did not inhibit A β 42 oligomerization. However, a 2-fold molar excess of the HS oligosaccharide

preparation OligoII inhibited oligomerization partially (results not shown). In summary, these results indicate that an excess of small anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides, probably disaccharides, can modulate A11-immunoreactivity and inhibit formation of higher oligomers without forming SDS-stable conjugates with A β . These results may thus explain why anMan- and A11-immunoreactivity did not colocalize in Tg2576 fibroblasts (Fig. 2e).

Effect of silencing Gpc-1 expression or treatment with U18666A on A β , anMan- and A11-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts. As there is colocalization and a possible functional interplay between Gpc-1 and APP/A β we examined the effect of Gpc-1 silencing on A β -immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts using the mAb 4G8. When Gpc-1 expression was suppressed almost 5-fold (Fig. 5a), there was more than a two-fold increase in A β (4G8)-immunoreactivity (Fig. 5b) as measured by flow cytometry, suggesting that Gpc-1 is involved in APP/A β processing.

NO-dependent degradation of Gpc-1 HS results in formation of anMan-containing HS degradation products that may modulate A11-immunoreactivity. These products accumulate in Rab7-positive endosomes (40,41) and were also detected in Tg2576 fibroblasts (Fig. S3a). However, a portion of the anMan-staining colocalized with LysoTrackerRed in large vesicular structures (Fig. S3b).

Accumulation of anMan-containing HS degradation products in Rab7-positive endosomes diminishes when intra/inter-endosomal transport is blocked as in Niemann-Pick C1 fibroblasts or in normal fibroblasts exposed to the synthetic, cationic steroid U18666A, which mimics the disease (40,41). Under both of these conditions APP processing is also disturbed and accumulation of A β and APP-CTF in endosomes has been observed (58-60). Accordingly, when Tg2576 fibroblasts were treated with U18666A there was a 3-4-fold increase in A β (4G8)-reactivity as measured by flow cytometry (Fig. 5c) and also recorded by immunofluorescence microscopy (Fig. 5d-e, green). Moreover, U18666A-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts showed increased staining with the A β oligomer-selective antibody A11 (Fig. 5d-e, red). Most of the A11-immunoreactivity colocalized with A β in U18666A-treated cells (Fig. 5e, yellow

in merged). However, anMan-staining was only marginally suppressed by U18666A in Tg2576 fibroblasts (Fig. 5f-g), while there is significant suppression in other cell types (40,41).

To examine the effect of U18666A on the formation of the 50-55 kDa anMan- and A β -positive species we performed SDS-PAGE. The anMan-immunoreactivity was essentially unaffected (Fig. 5h, lanes 3 and 4) whereas the 4G8-immunoreactivity increased (Fig. 5h, lanes 5 and 6). This could reflect a change in A β conformation/epitope availability and/or accumulation of 50-55 kDa HS-CTF- β conjugates with a decreased HS-to-A β ratio. In the latter case, a reduction in size would be expected, unless the 50-55 kDa component is oligomeric and the HS adduct consists of short oligosaccharides.

Effect of ascorbate on A β - and A11-immunoreactivity in untreated or U18666A-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts. We have previously shown, using both purified Gpc-1 and cell cultures, that NO-catalyzed autoprocessing of Gpc-1, resulting in release of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides, can be stimulated by treatment with ascorbate. NO released by ascorbate from Gpc-1-SNO initiates degradation of Gpc-1 HS (32-34,36,40,41). To examine if increased formation of anMan-positive HS degradation products affects A β A11-immunoreactivity we used flow cytometry and immunofluorescence microscopy.

Ascorbate treatment of Tg2576 fibroblasts had no detectable effect on A β (4G8) staining intensity (Fig. 6a-b, green) but it reduced A11 staining (Fig. 6a-b, red) by more than 3-fold as measured by flow cytometry (inset in middle panels of Fig. 6a-b). We also tested the effect of ascorbate on Tg2576 fibroblasts that had been pre-exposed to U18666A. The U18666A treated cells continued to accumulate A11-immunoreactivity even during a 4 h-chase in fresh medium (Fig. 6c, red). However, when the chase medium included ascorbate, there was a reduction in A11-immunoreactivity (Fig. 6d, red) without much change in A β 4G8 immunoreactivity (Fig. 6c-d, green). This indicates that an A11-positive conformation that was induced by treatment with U18666A could be reversed by ascorbate.

Effect of Gpc-1 overexpression and/or copper-NO supplementation on A β A11-immunoreactivity in untreated or ascorbate-

treated Tg2576 fibroblasts. A high intracellular level of S-nitrosylated Gpc-1 is a prerequisite for the formation of high quantities of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides. To obtain Gpc-1 overexpression, the Tg2576 fibroblasts were transiently transfected with GFP-Gpc-1 (Fig. 7a, green). Colocalization between GFP-Gpc-1 and A β A11-immunoreactivity was restricted to perinuclear sites, whereas most of the GFP-Gpc-1 appeared throughout the cytoplasm (Fig. 7a, merged).

Stimulation of S-nitrosylation with Cu(II) ions plus sodium nitroprusside (NO donor) had no dramatic effect on A11 staining, neither in GFP-Gpc-1 transfected (Fig. 7a-b, red) nor untransfected cells (Fig. 7e-f). Subsequent treatment with ascorbate reduced A11 staining in transfected cells (Fig. 7c, red), while anMan-staining increased (Fig. 7d, AM, red; cf. inset in d). In the untransfected Tg2576 fibroblasts, copper and NO-supplementation followed by treatment with ascorbate almost completely eliminated A11-immunoreactivity (Fig. 7g), although the increase of anMan-containing products was less pronounced compared to transfected cells (Fig. 7h and inset in h). When untransfected Tg2576 fibroblasts that had been exposed to copper, NO-supplementation and ascorbate were incubated in fresh medium for an additional 3h, A11-immunoreactivity reappeared (inset in Fig. 7g).

These results show that suppression of A11-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts correlates with increased generation of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides and that the effect is greatly potentiated by preceding supplementation with copper and NO. Overexpression of Gpc-1 does not further potentiate suppression of A11-immunoreactivity, probably because most of the GFP-Gpc-1 is present in compartments not containing A β . The results also show that sustained suppression of A11-immunoreactivity requires constant supply of ascorbate.

Detection of anMan- and A β -immunoreactive components and suppression of A11-immunoreactivity in brains from 3xTg-AD mice. 3xTg-AD mice, which express mutant APP (APP^{swe}), tau (P301L) and presenilin 1 (M146V), have a pathology that more closely resembles human AD. At 15-20 months of age their brains contain high amounts of A11-immunoreactive material, primarily located to extracellular sites in

the hippocampus (18). We first examined whole brain extracts from 15-month old mice for the presence of anMan- and A β -immunoreactive components. SDS-PAGE and western blotting revealed the presence of the 50-55 kDa species but also some of lower molecular size, in particular a 30 kDa component. (Fig. 8a).

We then analyzed slices of hippocampus from these mice for both anMan- and A11-immunoreactivity by immunofluorescence microscopy. Strong staining with both antibodies was seen throughout the tissue (Fig. 8b, green and red). Incubation in medium containing Cu(II) ions and NO-donor did not much affect the staining intensities (Fig. 8c). Most strikingly, subsequent exposure to ascorbate almost completely eliminated A11-immunoreactivity (Fig. 8d, red). As staining for anMan was strong already in untreated slices, additional formation of anMan-containing HS degradation products was only marginal (Fig. 8b-d, green).

DISCUSSION

APP is a precursor to the amyloidogenic A β peptides in AD but the normal function of APP and its degradation products remains poorly understood. The N-terminal ectodomain is growth factor-like and has a neurotrophic role, while the cytoplasmic C-terminal participates in cell adhesion and gene regulation (for recent reviews, see 61,62). The A β peptides can assume a number of oligomeric conformations, some of which may be pore-forming (9,63,64). Whether this property is only a pathological feature remains unknown (65).

A β oligomers (size range, 40-60 kDa) may be responsible for the neurotoxicity in AD (for reviews, see 6,62). Moreover, A β can efficiently generate reactive oxygen species in the presence of transition metals, such as copper, and form, *e.g.*, carbonyl groups in amino acid side-chains or stable dityrosine cross-linked dimers (66). APP itself can also form dimers and oligomers, which are the likely physiological substrates for β -secretase (67-69). If the generated APP-CTF- β fragments remain oligomeric, this may facilitate A β peptide oligomerization upon subsequent cleavage by γ -secretase (Fig. 9a).

Tg2576 fibroblasts express a mutant APP that is especially sensitive to β -secretase cleavage, resulting in increased production of APP-CTF- β compared to wild-type cells. Here, we show that this is accompanied by increased formation of anMan-containing HS degradation products that colocalize with APP-CTF- β . We also show that anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides and, especially, disaccharides modulate/suppress A β A11-immunoreactivity and A β oligomerization *in vitro*. As the NO-sensitive GlcNH₃⁺ moieties are often clustered in Gpc-1 HS (70), anMan-containing di- and tetrasaccharides should be prominent products when NO-catalyzed HS degradation is stimulated by ascorbate *in vivo*. Moreover, as Gpc-1 colocalizes with APP, a high local concentration of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides may be generated.

A reaction $A\beta + HS-Di \leftrightarrow A\beta \bullet HS-Di$, which probably involves aldimine formation, should have an equilibrium far to the left. Therefore, a large excess of HS disaccharide may be required to generate sufficient complex formation. In cultured Tg2576 fibroblasts, some of the HS-CTF- β complexes appear to be converted to 50-55 kDa, negatively charged, SDS-stable, oligomeric HS-CTF- β conjugates. anMan-A β aldimines may be stabilized by reduction in late endosomes. Alternatively, prolonged exposure of A β to an excess of anMan-containing saccharides can result in rearrangement of the aldimines, generating a form of protein glycation.

A portion of newly synthesized HS in Tg2576 cells co-chromatographed with a 70-75 kDa A β -immunoreactive species suggesting that resident 50-55 kDa HS-CTF- β conjugates were derived from a larger precursor, possibly with longer GlcNAc-containing HS oligosaccharide adducts. Endohexanase and exoglycosidases may then degrade these oligosaccharides to the shorter, possibly highly sulphated stubs that were resistant to degradation by the bacterial HS lyase.

An APP-CTF- β tetramer should have an *M_r* of approx. 40 kDa. If the 50-55 kDa component is a tetrameric HS-APP-CTF- β conjugate, the HS adduct should amount to approx. 2.5 to 3.8 kDa in each A β domain. As there are at least 3 amino groups in A β that could be used as binding sites for anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides, each adduct may be very small (Fig. S1e).

Tg2576 fibroblasts displayed A11-immunoreactivity, indicating the presence of potentially toxic A β oligomers. However, the A11-positive material appeared to be mainly located separately from the anMan-immunoreactivity. In general, accumulation of misfolded proteins is accompanied by increased formation of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides as previously observed in tumour cells (43), in scrapie-infected neuronal cells (71) and now in hippocampal slices from 3xTg-AD mice (Fig. 8). In scrapie-infected neural cells the anMan-positive HS degradation products co-immunoprecipitated and co-migrated with the scrapie prions, suggesting that anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides were covalently bound.

U18666A treatment markedly increased A11 immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts. U18666A impedes transport from early to late endosomes and suppresses formation of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides from Gpc-1 in normal fibroblasts and in T-24 carcinoma and N2a neuroblastoma cell-lines (40,41). However, in Tg2576 fibroblasts, suppression of HS degradation was less pronounced. It is possible that Gpc-1 autoprocessing is maximally stimulated in Tg2576 cells and that HS-depleted HS-CTF- β conjugates accumulate in early endosomes of drug-treated cells. Excessive APP processing in combination with inadequate generation of HS degradation products may result in accumulation of oligomers selectively recognized by antibody A11 (Fig. 9a-b).

Ascorbate releases NO from Gpc-1-SNO which results in deaminative degradation of HS generating more anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides. As shown here, treatment with ascorbate suppresses A11 immunoreactivity. This was demonstrated *in vitro* with untreated as well as U18666A-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts, with GFP-Gpc-1 transfected fibroblasts and by *ex vivo* incubation of slices of hippocampus from 3xTg-AD mice. The effect of ascorbate was greatly potentiated by supplementation with Cu(II) ion and NO-donor. A11-immunoreactivity that was almost completely eliminated in Tg2576 fibroblasts reappeared when ascorbate was withdrawn. This indicates that the A11-positive conformation is reversible. There may also be a rapid turnover of A11-positive higher oligomers and fewer A11-positive smaller oligomers should be formed when

the generation of anMan-containing HS degradation products is stimulated by ascorbate.

We speculate that reversible and temporary interaction of APP-CTF- β with anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides modulates the conformation of the A β portion of APP-CTF- β . This may serve to maintain the A β domain in a non-toxic conformation after cleavage by γ -secretase (Fig. 9c). HS-A β complexes (temporary or permanent) are negatively supercharged, which may also limit oligomer/aggregate formation and confer resistance to proteolytic degradation. In AD, there may be insufficient formation of HS oligosaccharides to meet the needs resulting in secretion of partially conjugated A β oligomers as indicated by the presence of anMan-containing HS in AD plaques.

Other studies indirectly support a role for Gpc-1 in APP processing and A β clearance. It was recently reported that removal of NO-synthase 2 in APP transgenic mice resulted in a greater spectrum of A β -like pathologies (72). As NO is required for S-nitrosylation of Gpc-1, NO-catalyzed deaminative cleavage of the HS chains in Gpc-1 and subsequent formation of HS oligosaccharides would be diminished. Moreover, formation of anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides is markedly reduced when per-endosomal cholesterol traffic is slow or blocked as in Niemann-Pick type C disease (40,41). Indeed, aberrant cholesterol transport is associated with accumulation of APP-CTF- β and A β peptides (73,74). Modulation of APP processing can also be achieved upstream of APP-CTF- β formation. sorLA/LR11 (75) and ubiquilin 1 (76) are examples of proteins that can affect early steps in the trafficking of APP. Thus, Gpc-1 is yet another protein involved in regulating APP processing but downstream of β -cleavage.

Finally, it is remarkable that it takes three different mutations to generate AD-like pathology in mice, while humans without mutations in any of these genes can spontaneously develop AD. There are indeed many differences between mice and men, but one is that mice can synthesize ascorbate while humans cannot. It is well documented that ascorbate is important for neuroprotection and certain neurons may contain up to 10 mM ascorbate (for reviews, see 77,78). Moreover, administration of ascorbate reduces spatial learning deficits in APP/PSEN1 transgenic mice

(79). The present study supports the possibility that intracellular copper dysregulation, failing NO production and/or inadequate supply of vitamin C could contribute to late onset AD in humans.

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FOOTNOTES

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¹ The Non-standard abbreviations used are: A β , amyloid beta; anMan, anhydromannose; anManOH, anhydromannitol; AD, Alzheimer disease; APP, amyloid precursor protein; APP-CTF- α , C-terminal α -secretase cleavage product of APP; APP-CTF- β , C-terminal β -secretase cleavage product of APP; Gpc-1, glypican-1; GFP, green fluorescent protein; GlcNAc, N-acetylated glucosamine; GlcNH₃⁺, N-unsubstituted glucosamine; GlcNSO₃, N-sulfated glucosamine; HNO, nitroxyl; HS, heparan sulfate; LTR, LysoTrackerRed; NO, nitric oxide; siRNA, small interfering RNA; SNO, nitrosothiol; Tg, transgene; U18666A, 3- β [(2-diethylamino) ethoxy] androst-5-en-17-one; Wt, wild-type.

Key words: Amyloid, Copper, Glypican, Heparan sulfate, Nitric oxide, vitamin C

FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Detection of anMan-containing products in amyloid plaques. Immunofluorescence microscopy images of (a) AD and (b) normal human brain slices and (c) Tg2576 and (d) wild-type mouse brain slices stained for amyloid plaques using thioflavin S (ThS) and for anMan-containing HS degradation products using a specific mAb (AM). Scale bar: 50 μ m.

Fig. 2. Detection of A β -, APP/APP-CTF-, A11- and anMan-immunoreactivity in fibroblasts. The immunofluorescence microscopy images were obtained after staining cultures of wild-type (Wt) and Tg 2576 (Tg) fibroblasts with (a-b) the A β -specific mAb (4G8, green) or (c-e) the anMan-specific mAb (AM, green) and (c-d) the polyclonal anti-CTF A8717 (CTF, red) or (e) the A β oligomer-specific antibody A11 (red). Scale bar: 10 μ m. These experiments have been repeated twice.

Fig. 3. Detection of anMan-immunoreactive, HS-containing APP-degradation products in Tg2576 fibroblasts by SDS-PAGE and gel exclusion chromatography. RIPA extracts (1 ml) of confluent fibroblast cultures containing 1 mg/ml protein were subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) using (a) anti-A β (H-43, 1:250) or anti-C-terminal of APP (A8717, 1:500) followed by SDS-PAGE and transfer to PVDF membranes. Western blotting (WB) was performed with either the anMan-specific mAb AM (1:50) or the A β -specific mAb 4G8 (1:500). In the controls, precipitating or primary antibodies were omitted (-). In one case, the RIPA extract was passed through DEAE-cellulose (0.2 ml) to recover polyanionic compounds that were subsequently subjected to immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE and western blotting (DEAE+, lane 7). In (b) anti-C-terminal APP immunoprecipitates (IP) recovered by binding to protein A were treated (+) with proteinase K, HS lyase (HSase) or heparin lyase (Hepase) before electrophoresis. After treatment of the protein A-bound immunoprecipitates, salt was removed by dialysis against water, Novex Tricine SDS sample buffer (from Invitrogen) was added, the sample was boiled, protein A was removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was electrophoresed. Western blotting was performed as in (a). In (c) [35 S]sulfate-labelled, polyanionic products obtained from RIPA extracts of Tg2576 fibroblasts (6×10^6 cells) were recovered on DEAE-cellulose, displaced with 4 M guanidinium chloride and chromatographed on Superose 6 in the same solvent. Aliquots of the fractions were analyzed for radioactivity by β -scintillation. Fractions 41-49 were pooled (see bar in c) and half of this material was precipitated with ethanol, dissolved in SDS and subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by transfer to membranes that were probed with mAb 4G8 (inset in c). In (d-e) equal amounts of the other half of the same pool (41-49 in c) were chromatographed on Superdex peptide (d) before and (e) after treatment with HNO₂ at pH 1.5. Total radioactivity in each tube was recorded. V₀, void volume; V_t, total volume.

Fig. 4. Modulation of A β 42 A11-immunoreactivity and oligomerization by anMan-containing HS oligosaccharides and disaccharides. (a) Oligosaccharide PAGE of anMan-containing HS degradation products obtained by partial or complete deaminative cleavage at pH 3.9 of N-desulfated HS6. Lane 1, untreated HS; lanes 2-4, HS treated with HNO₂ reagent that was diluted 1:50 (lane 2), 1:25 (lane 3) or 1:10 (lane 4); lane 5, HS treated with undiluted reagent. Staining was performed with Alcian Blue. HS-deNSO₃, migration position of the charge and size polydisperse untreated HS; BPB, BromoPhenol Blue; Di, disaccharide. (b) Slot blot of A β 42 after incubation in the absence or presence of HS oligosaccharides (OligoII) or disaccharides (Di) as indicated (A β :HS=1:5 w/w). A β was detected using either the A11 antibody or mAb 4G8. (c-d) SDS-PAGE of A β 42 alone or exposed to HS oligosaccharides (OligoII) or disaccharides (Di) as indicated (A β :HS=1:5 w/w). In (c) the samples were analyzed directly after mixing (Day 0) and in (d) at Day 5.

Fig. 5. Effect of silencing Gpc-1 expression or treatment with U18666A on A β -, A11- and anMan-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts. The flow cytometry measurements (**a-c**) were obtained after staining (**a-b**) mock- (-) or Gpc-1 RNAi-transfected (+) Tg2576 fibroblasts for (**a**) Gpc-1 using a polyclonal antibody or (**b**) A β using mAb 4G8 and (**c**) after staining untreated (-) or U18666A-treated (+) cells for A β using mAb 4G8. The error bars indicate standard error of the mean; ***, $p < 0.001$. The results of RNAi-transfection were scored after 48 h of cell growth. The immunofluorescence microscopy images (**d-g**) were obtained after staining cultures of untreated (-) or U18666A-treated (+) Tg2576 fibroblasts for (**d-e**) A β using mAb 4G8 (green) and the polyclonal antibody A11 (red), respectively and (**f-g**) for anMan-containing HS degradation products using mAb AM (green). Scale bar: 20 μ m. SDS-PAGE was performed on (**h**) A β (H-43) immunisolates (IP) derived from untreated (-) or U18666A-treated (+) confluent Tg2576 fibroblast cultures followed by western blotting with the anMan-specific mAb (AM) or the A β -specific mAb (4G8). Band intensities were estimated by densitometry. Treatment with 10 μ g/ml of U18666A was carried out for 16 h. These experiments have been repeated twice.

Fig. 6. Effect of ascorbate on A β - and A11-immunoreactivity in untreated and U18666A-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts. The immunofluorescence microscopy images were obtained after staining cultures of (**a**) untreated, (**b**) ascorbate-treated (+Asc), (**c**) U18666A- or (**d**) U18666A and ascorbate (+Asc)-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts for A β using mAb 4G8 (green) and for A β oligomers using the polyclonal antibody A11 (red), respectively. In (**b**), treatment with 1 mM ascorbate was carried out for 4 h. In (**c-d**) cells were first exposed to 10 μ g/ml of U18666A for 16 h, then chased in fresh medium with or without 1 mM ascorbate for an additional 4 h. Scale bar: 20 μ m. The flow cytometry measurements (inset in **a-b**) were obtained after staining untreated or ascorbate-treated (+Asc) Tg2576 fibroblasts for A β oligomers using the polyclonal antibody A11. The error bars indicate standard error of the mean; ***, $p < 0.001$.

Fig. 7. Effect of ectopic expression of GFP-Gpc-1 and/or copper-NO supplementation on A β A11-immunoreactivity in untreated or ascorbate-treated Tg2576 fibroblasts. The immunofluorescence microscopy images show GFP-Gpc-1 transfected (**a-d**, green) or untransfected Tg2576 fibroblasts (**e-h**) that were (**a, e**) untreated, (**b, f**) exposed to medium containing 0.1 mM CuCl₂ and 1 mM sodium nitroprusside (SNP) for 1 h, or (**c, d, g, h**) to medium containing 0.1 mM CuCl₂ and 1 mM sodium nitroprusside (SNP) for 1 h and then with fresh medium containing 1 mM ascorbate for 3 h followed by staining for (**a-c, e-g**) A β oligomers using the polyclonal antibody A11 (red) or (**d, h**) anMan-containing products using mAb AM (red in **d**, green in **h**). Inset in **g** shows A11-staining of untransfected cells that were incubated in fresh medium for 3h after sequential exposure to CuCl₂, SNP and ascorbate. Insets in (**d, h**) show staining of untreated (**d**) GFP-Gpc-1 transfected or (**h**) untransfected cells for anMan-containing products using mAb AM. Scale bars: 20 μ m.

Fig. 8. Detection of anMan- and A β 4G8-immunoreactive components in extracts of whole brain and suppression of A11-immunoreactivity in slices of hippocampus from 15-month old 3xTg-AD mice. (**a**) RIPA extracts of brain were subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by western blotting using the mAbs AM and 4G8 as shown in Fig. 3. The immunofluorescence microscopy images were obtained after incubating slices with (**b**) culture medium or (**c**) culture medium containing 0.1 mM CuCl₂ and 1 mM sodium nitroprusside (SNP) for 1 h or (**d**) culture medium containing 0.1 mM CuCl₂ and 1 mM sodium nitroprusside (SNP) for 1 h and then with fresh medium containing 1 mM ascorbate for 3 h followed by staining for anMan-containing HS degradation products using mAb AM (green) and for A β oligomers using the polyclonal antibody A11 (red). Scale bar: 500 μ m.

Fig. 9. Postulated role for HS in the regulation of A β conformation. (**a**) APP (depicted as a dimer with N-terminal part not shown, A β domain black and C-terminal domain white) is processed by β -secretase to CTF and subsequently by γ -secretase to A β . (**b**) CTFs and A β may assume an A11-positive A β conformation (grey) and aggregate to higher oligomers (not shown). (**c**) CTFs that reversibly interact with

HS oligosaccharides (grey flags) may retain a non-toxic A β conformation. Secreted A β derived from such CTFs may sometimes contain covalently bound HS, which may ultimately appear in plaques.

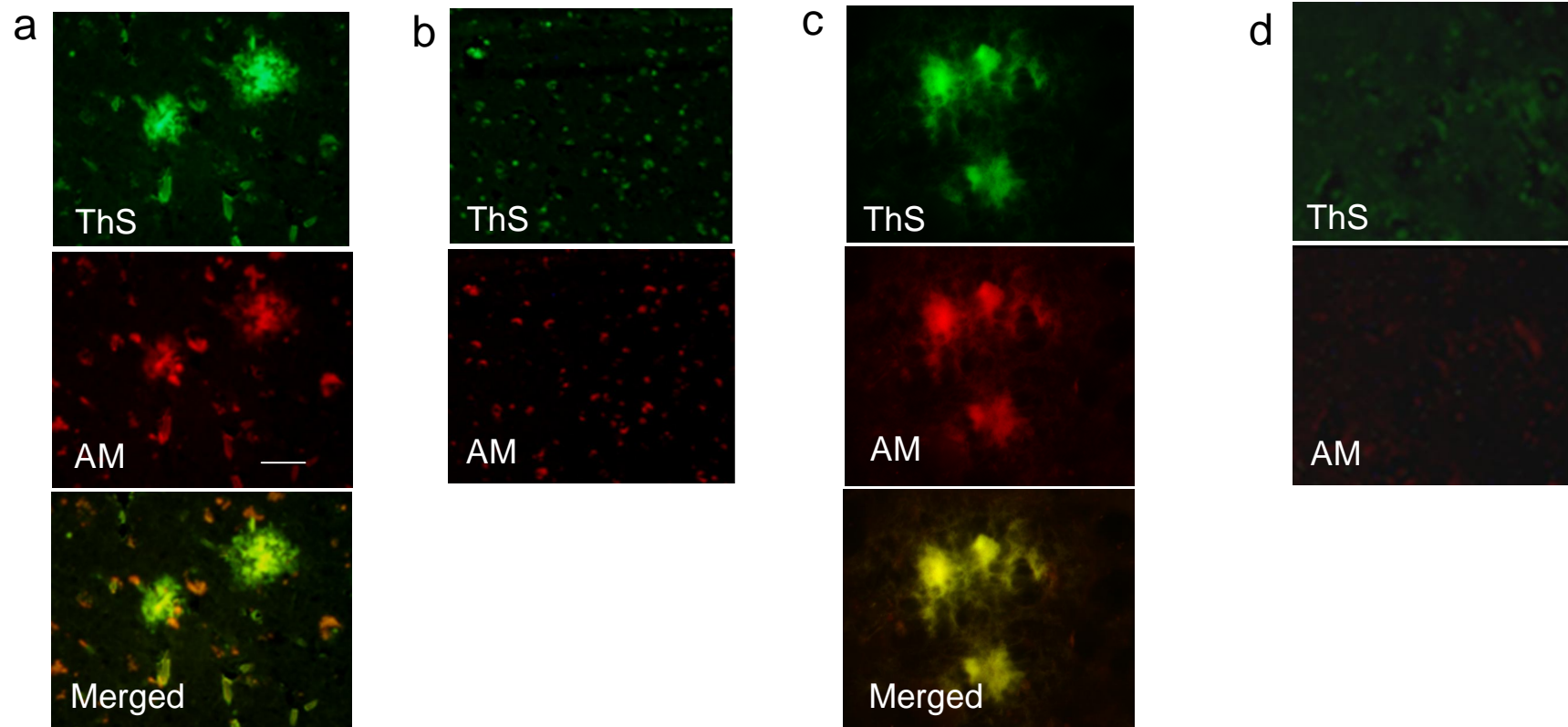


Fig. 1

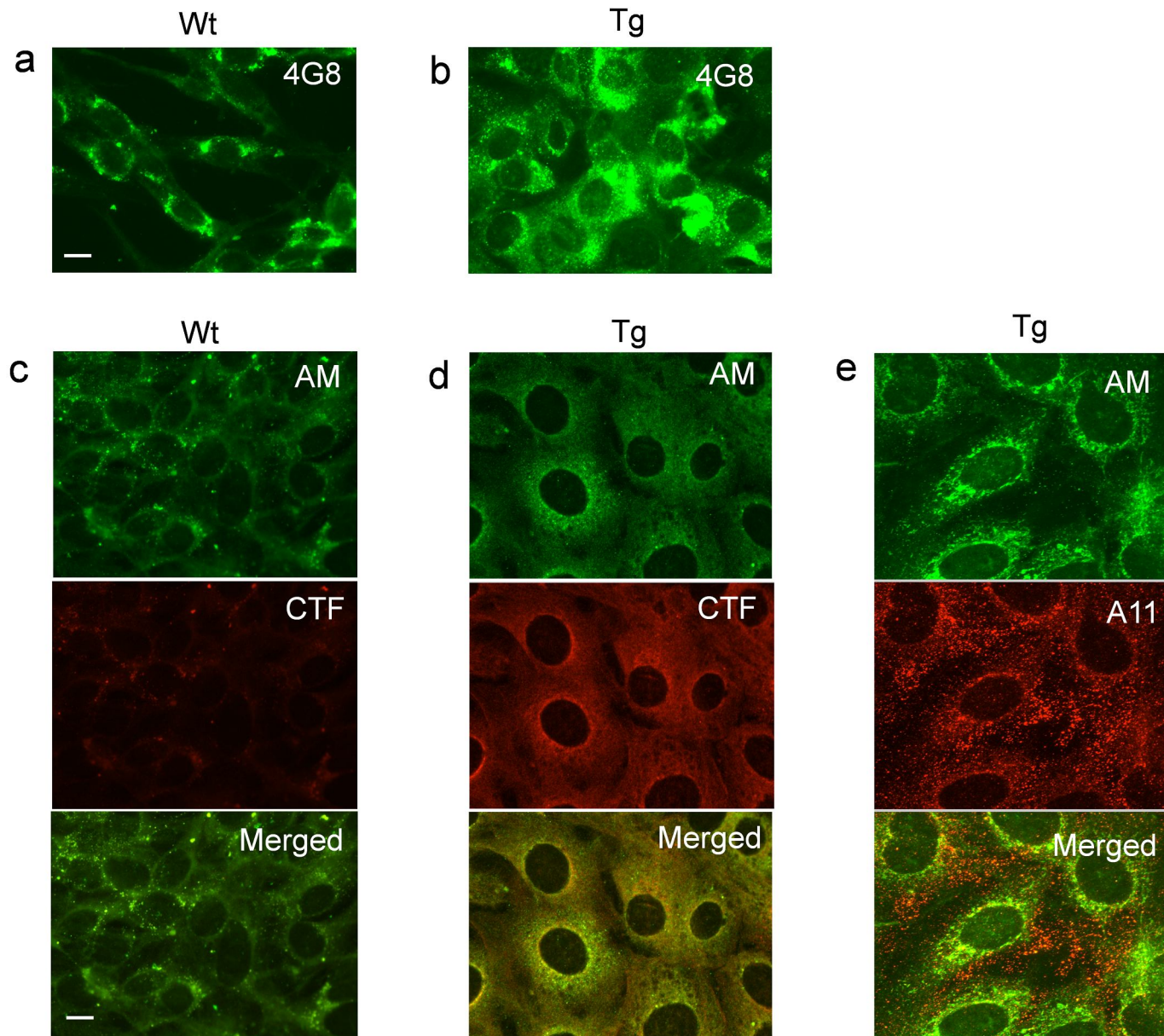
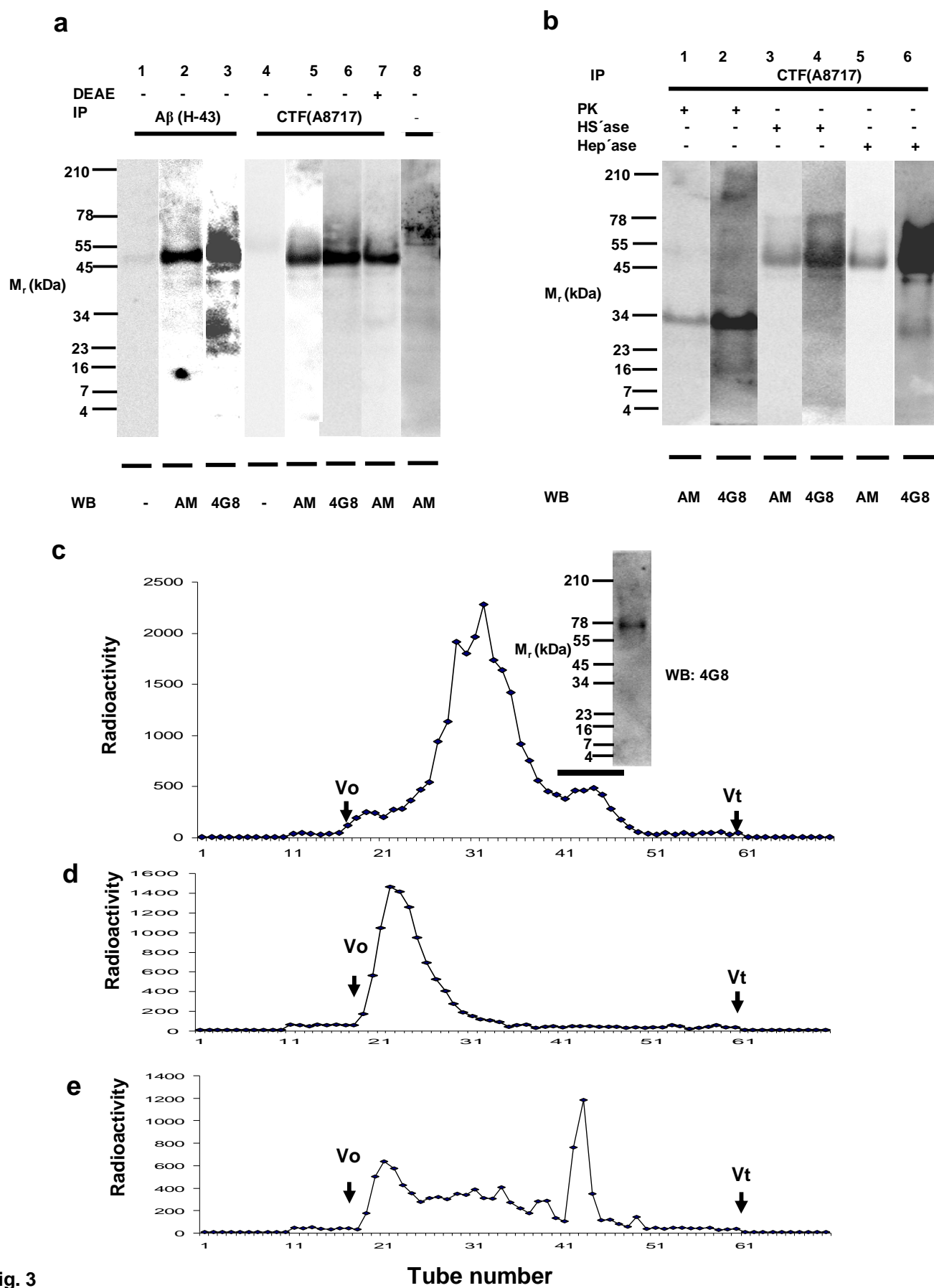
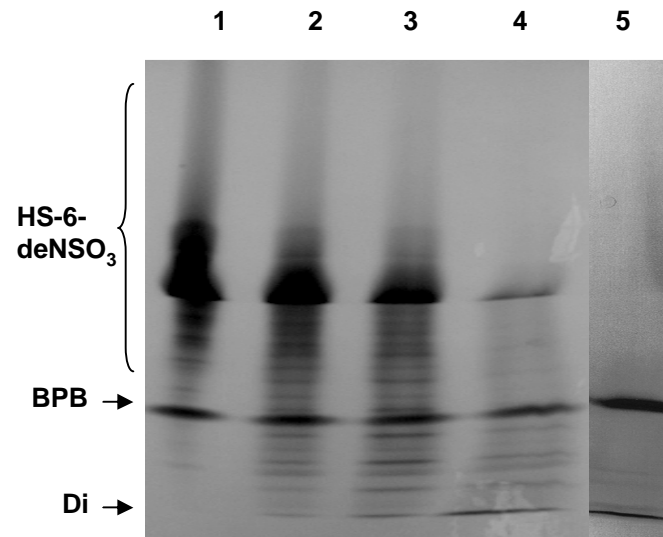


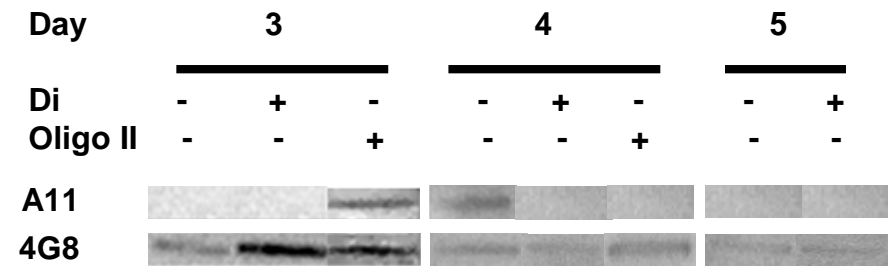
Fig. 2



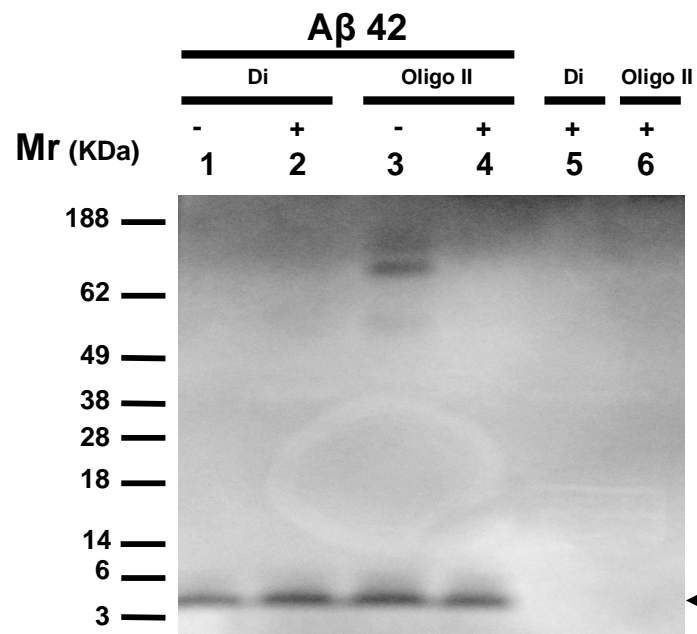
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

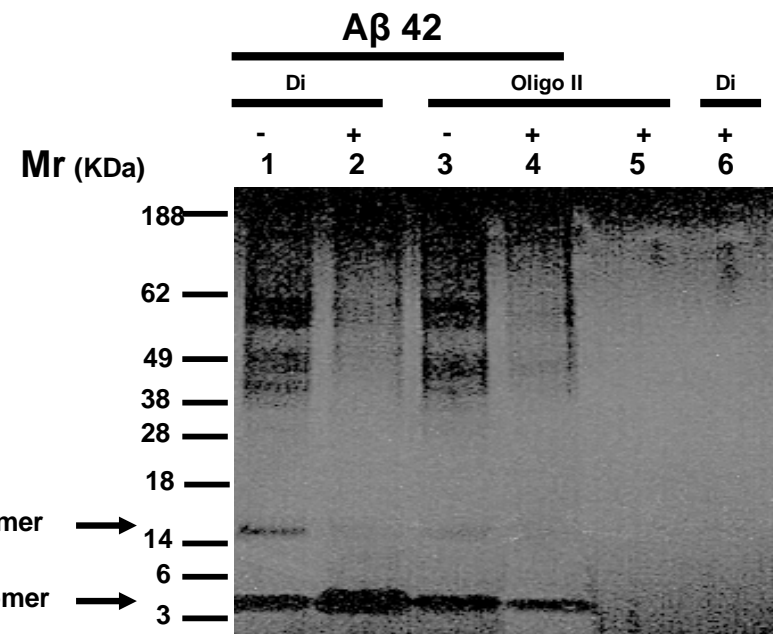
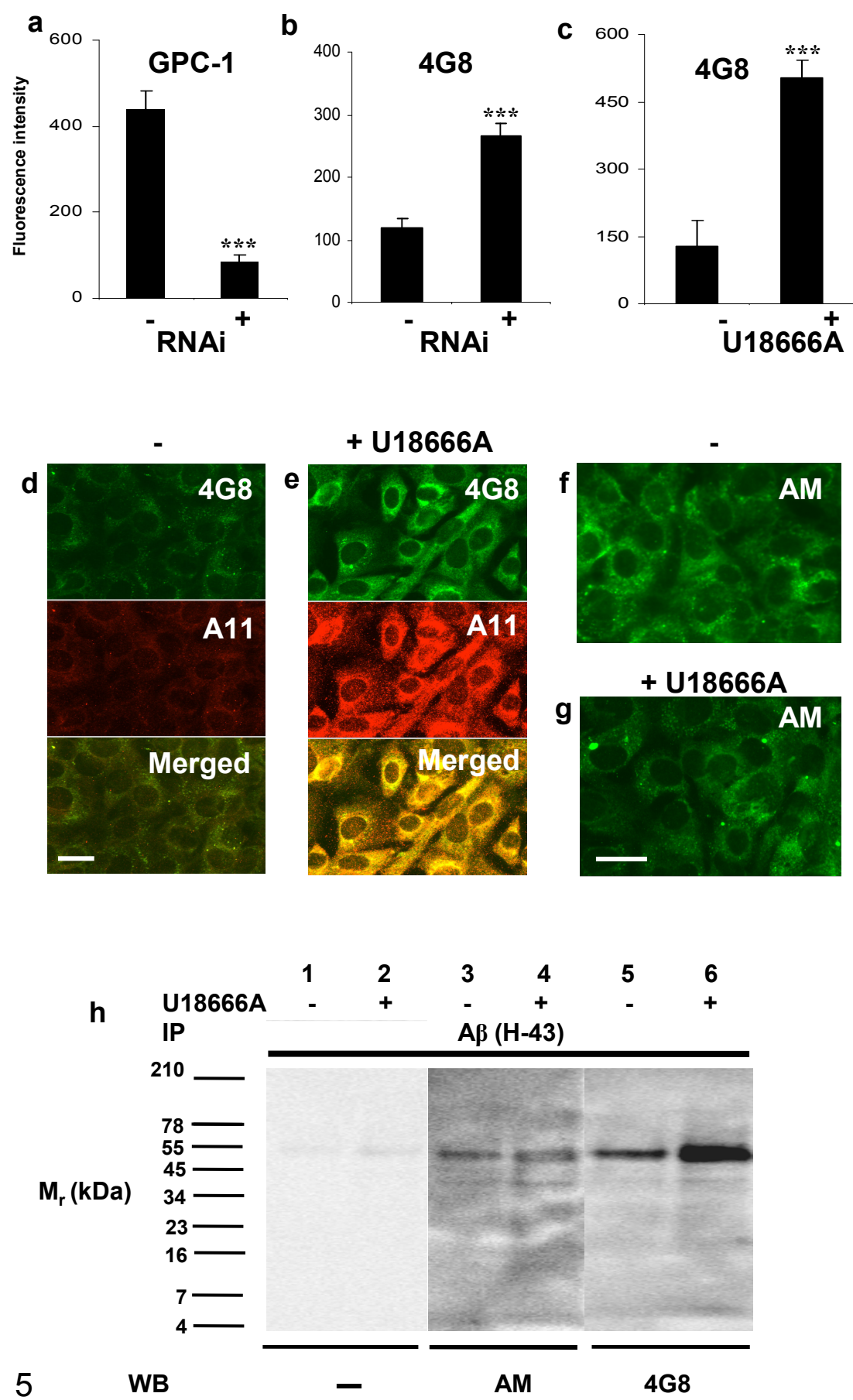


Fig.4



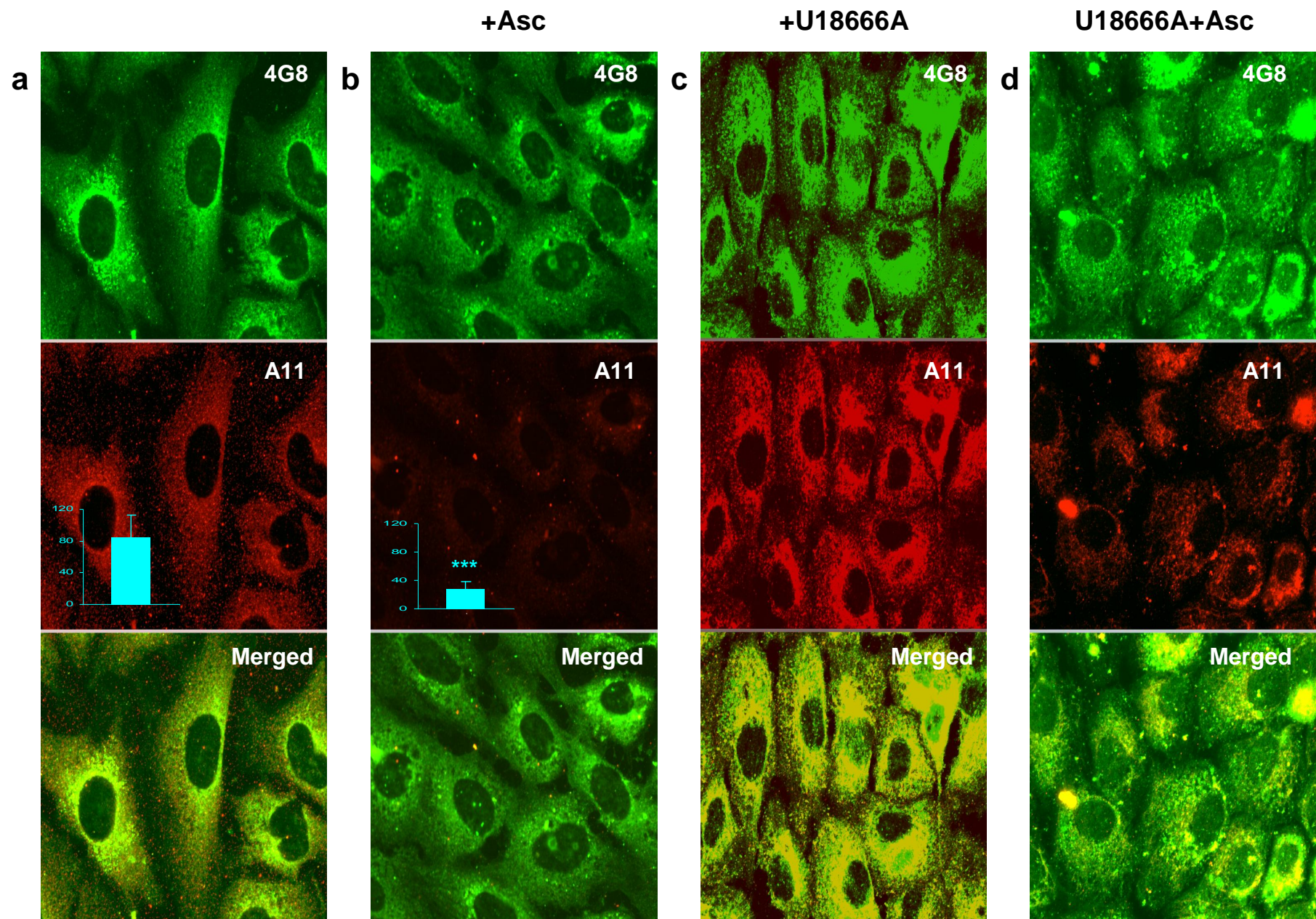


Fig.6

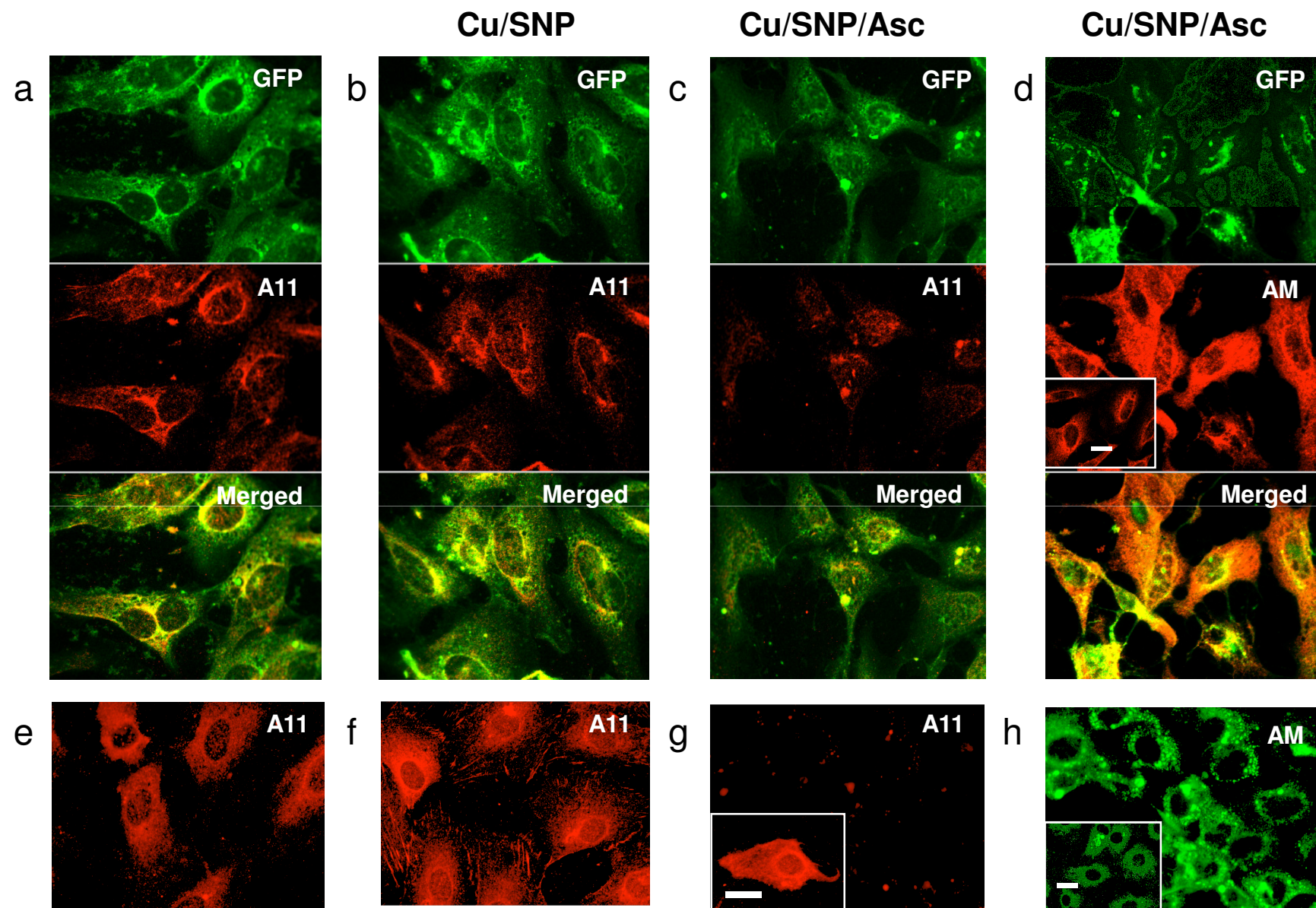


Fig. 7

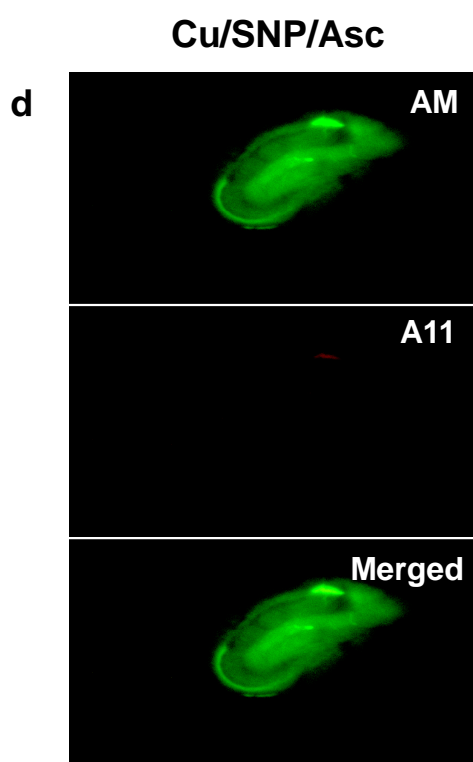
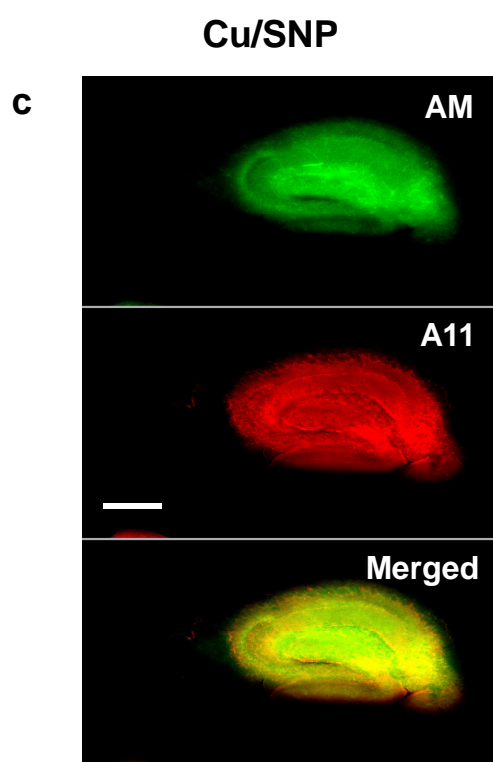
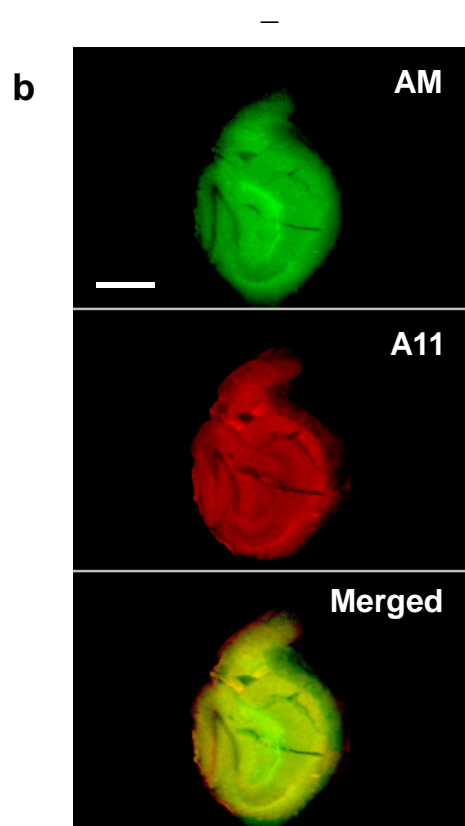
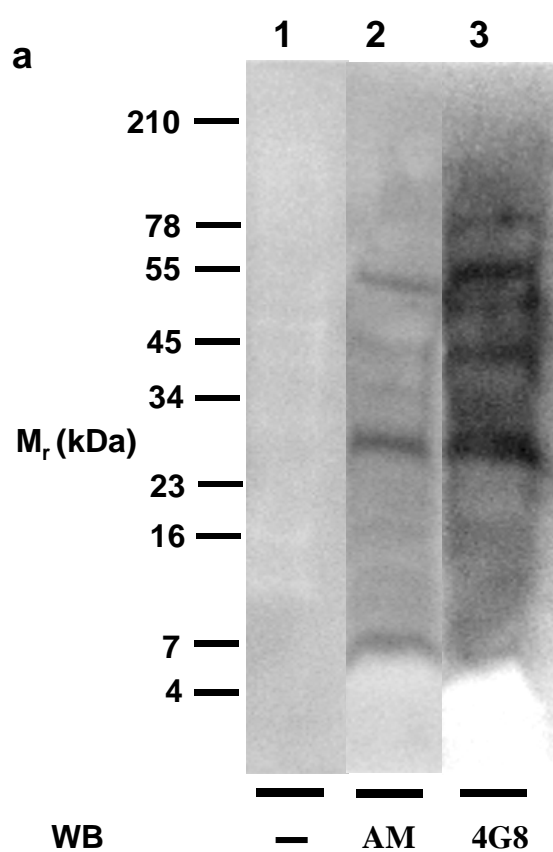


Fig. 8

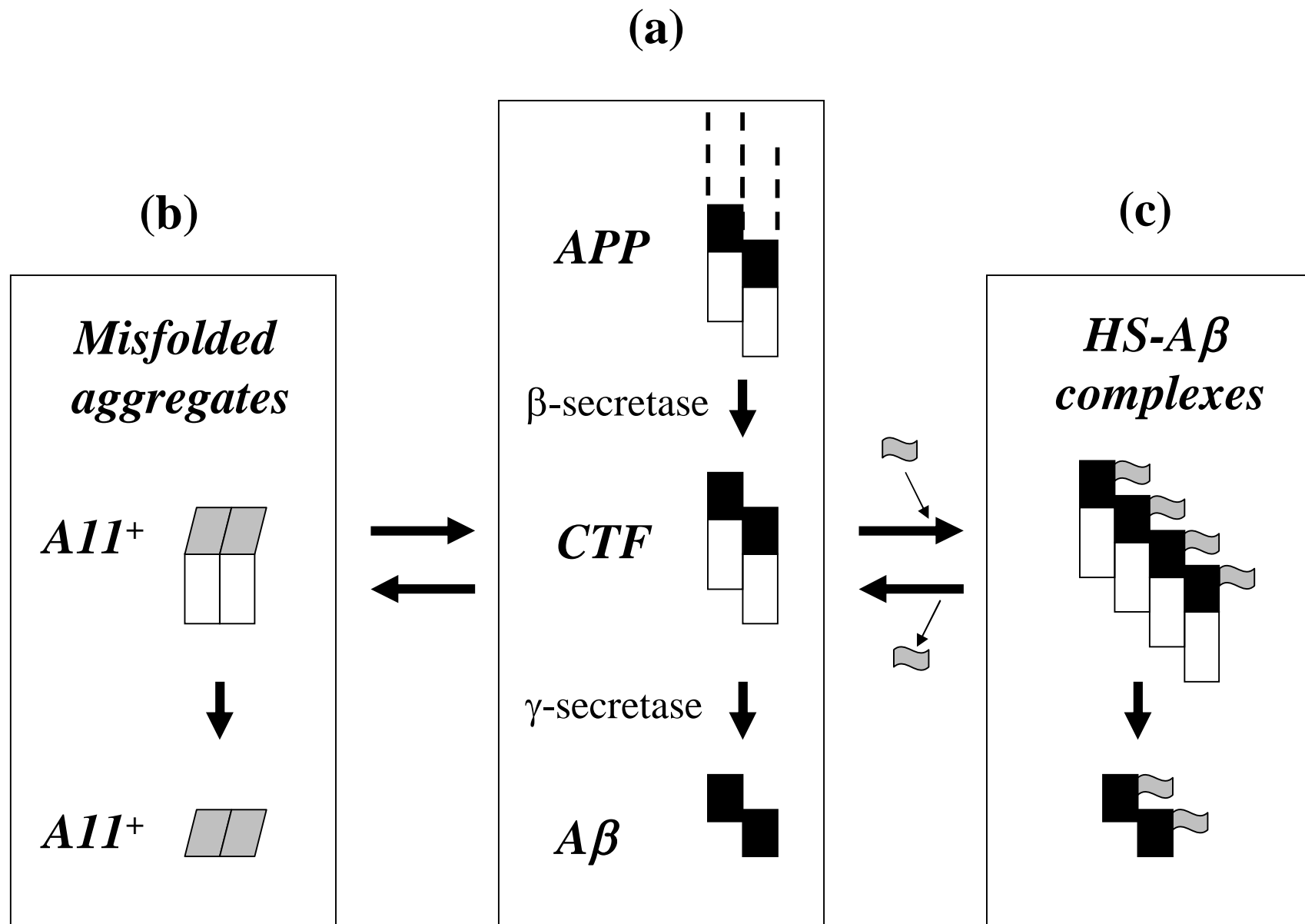


Fig. 9

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

Table 1. Ectopic expression of green fluorescent protein (GFP)-tagged Gpc-1:
Primers used for amplification of cDNA for introduction into pEGFP C1

1.	hGPC 1-92	5' -TAAT <i>GC TAGC</i> GCC GCC ACC ATG GAG CTC CGG GCC CGA-3' 5' -TAA <i>ACC GGT</i> CTC CGG CTC TTG CTG GC-3'
2.	hGPC 91- 1677	5' -TAA TAA <i>GCT TCA</i> AGC TGC GGC GAG GTC CGC CAG-3' 5' -TT <i>GAA TTC</i> TTA CCG CCA CCG GGG CCT GGC TAC-3'

Restriction enzyme cleavage sites are marked in italics.

Mutagenic primer to disrupt Kozak sequence in EGFP

5' -CACCGGTCGCCACTGTAGTGAGCAAGGGCGAG-3'

Fig. S1. Schematic structures of amyloid precursor protein (APP), glypican-1 (Gpc-1), their degradation products and possible HS-A β conjugates. **(a)** APP is a type I transmembrane protein with a large N-terminal ectodomain, a short C-terminal cytosolic portion and an A β segment (black box) that is partially embedded in the cell membrane (grey box). β -Secretase cleavage generates **(b)** a C-terminal fragment (expanded) containing closely clustered γ -secretase cleavage sites. Subsequent cleavage at these sites generates **(c)** A β peptides (mainly A β 40/42). Antibodies used to detect the C-terminus of APP and the A β region are indicated. **(d)** Gpc-1 is lipid-anchored (oval with two short rods), carries three heparan sulfate (HS) chains and has a large globular N-terminal domain (grey) (Svensson et al., 2009). Conserved Cys residues in the globular part are S-nitrosylated (SNO) by endogenously formed NO in a Cu(II)-dependent redox reaction. Cu(II)-loaded APP supports this reaction (Cappai et al., 2005). Gpc-1 can be endocytosed and recycled. An endogenous reducing agent present in endosomes (Fivaz et al., 2002; Mani et al., 2006), or exogenously supplied ascorbate, releases NO from Cys (SH). NO cleaves heparan sulfate at GlcNH $_3^+$ units (GN, see left blow-up), generating anhydromannose-containing oligosaccharides (AM) which contain a free aldehyde (see right blow-up). **(e)** The free aldehyde of the reducing terminal anhydromannose (anMan) in the released HS degradation products can form a Schiff base with amino groups in a reversible reaction. Stable HS-A β conjugates may be formed by reduction or via various rearrangements. The free aldehyde can also be reduced, generating a terminal anhydromannitol (anManOH) residue (containing -CH $_2$ OH). The anMan-specific mAb AM was raised against partially deaminatively cleaved heparin (Fragmin^R). The principal epitope should be a tetrasaccharide sequence IdoA(2-OSO $_3$)-GlcNSO $_3$ (6-OSO $_3$)-IdoA(2-OSO $_3$)-anMan(6-OSO $_3$), where GlcNSO $_3$ is N-sulfated glucosamine and IdoA is L-iduronic acid (Pejler et al., 1988). Similar sequences have been found in HS associated with amyloid deposits (Smits et al., 2010).

Fig. S2. Expression of APP in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) from Tg2576 (Tg) and wild-type (non Tg) mice as demonstrated by SDS-PAGE and western blotting using mAb WO2.

Fig. S3. Localization of anMan-immunoreactivity in Tg2576 fibroblasts. The immunofluorescence microscopy images were obtained after staining cultures of Tg2576 fibroblasts with the anMan-specific mAb (AM, green) and **(a)** a polyclonal anti-Rab7 (red) or **(b)** LysoTrackerRed (LTR, red). Scale bar: 20 μ m.

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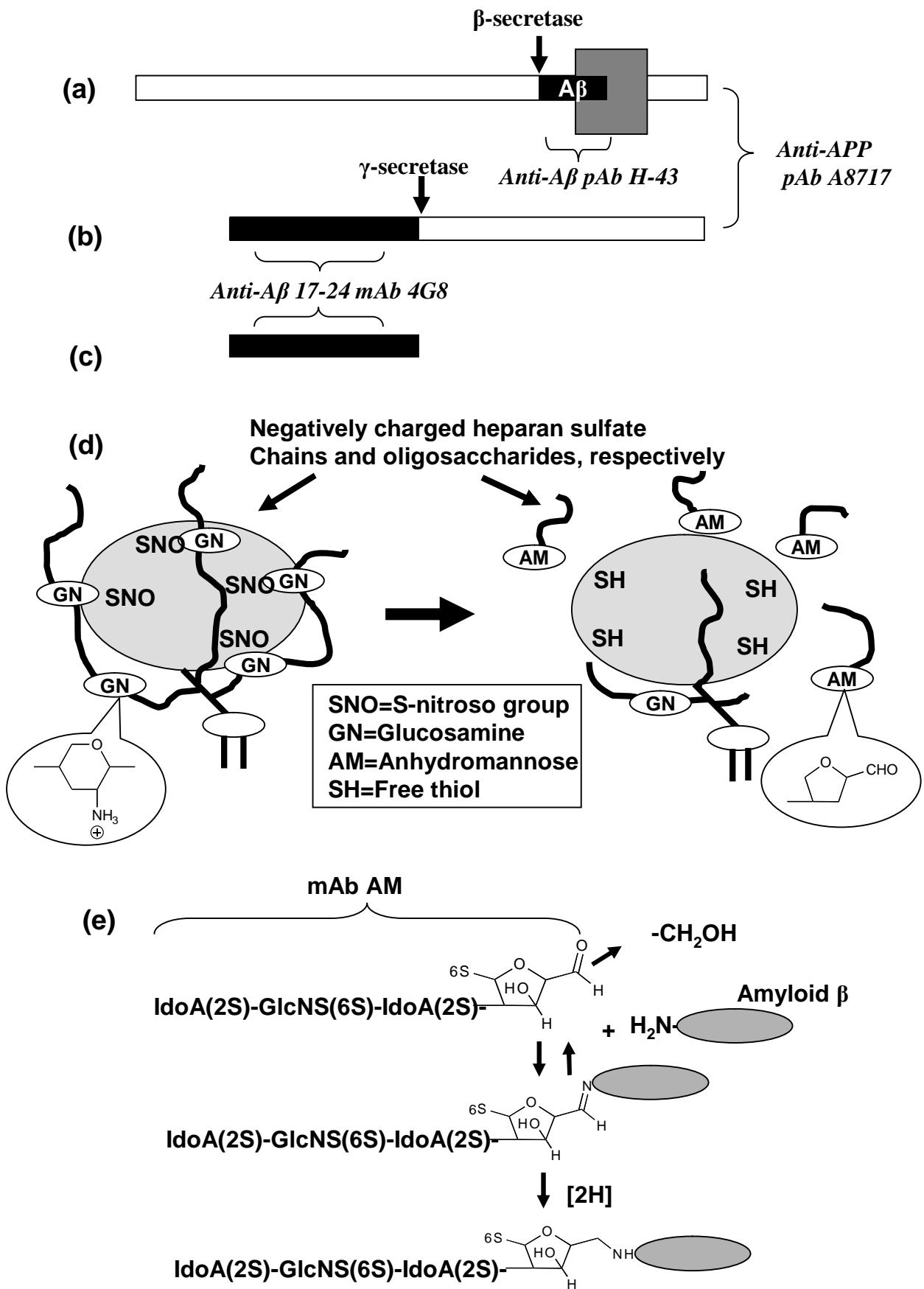


Fig.S1

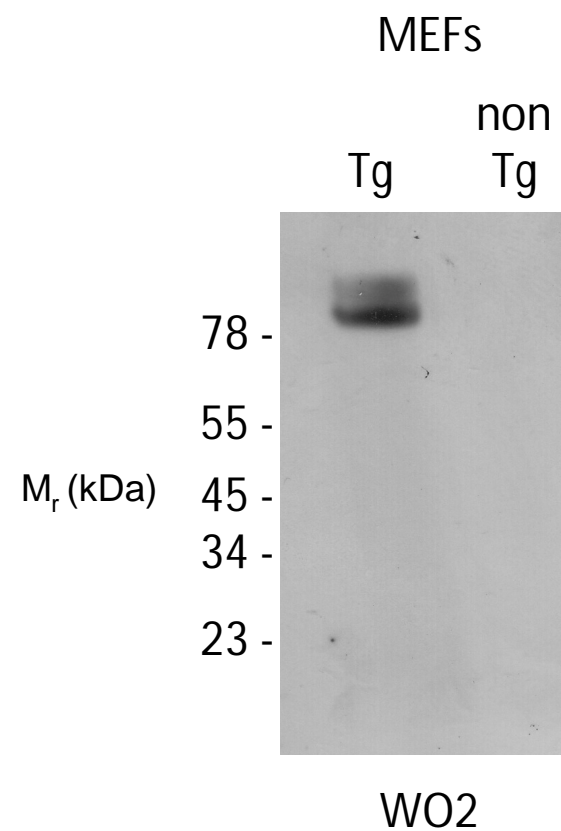


Fig. S2

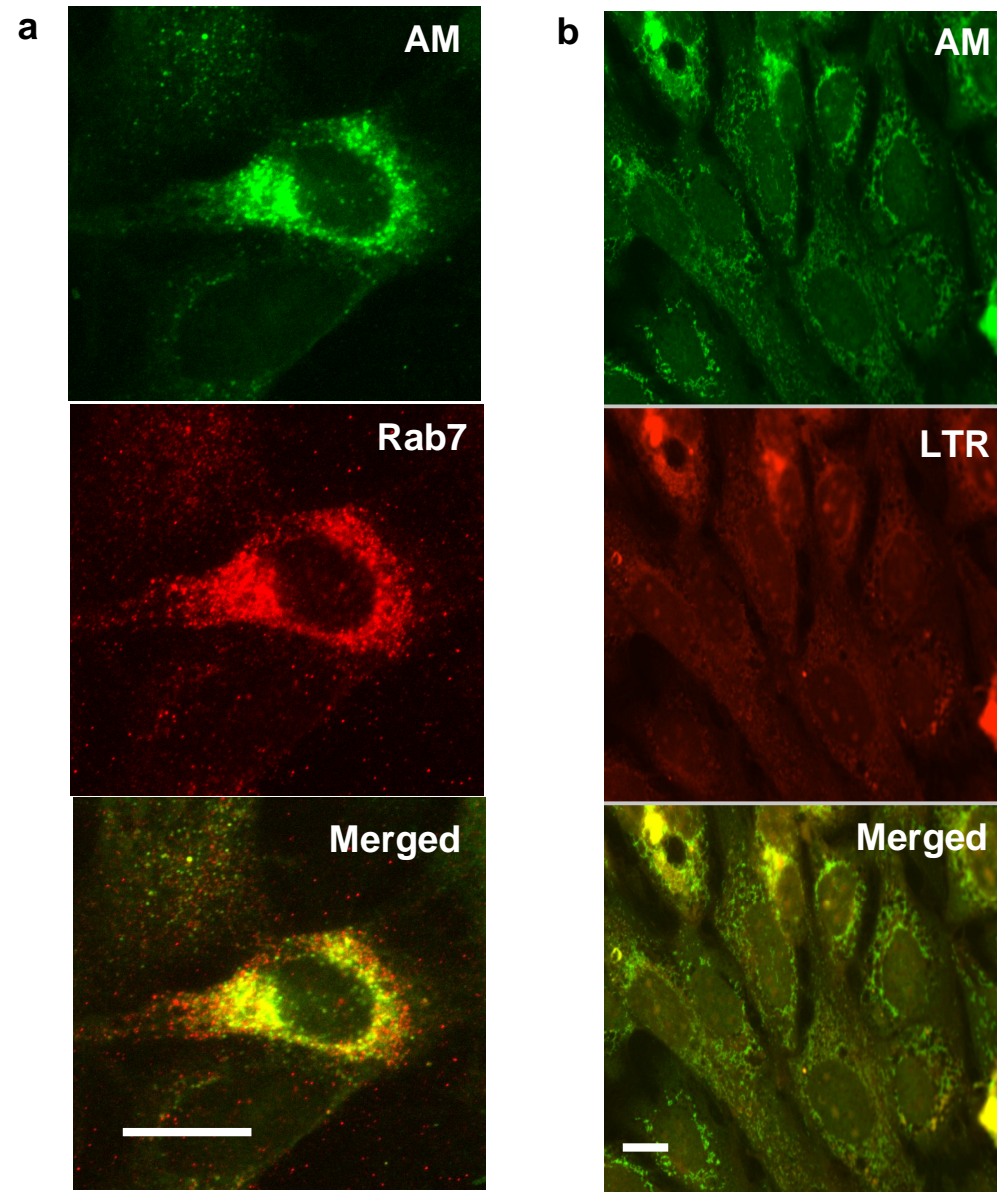


Fig. S3