

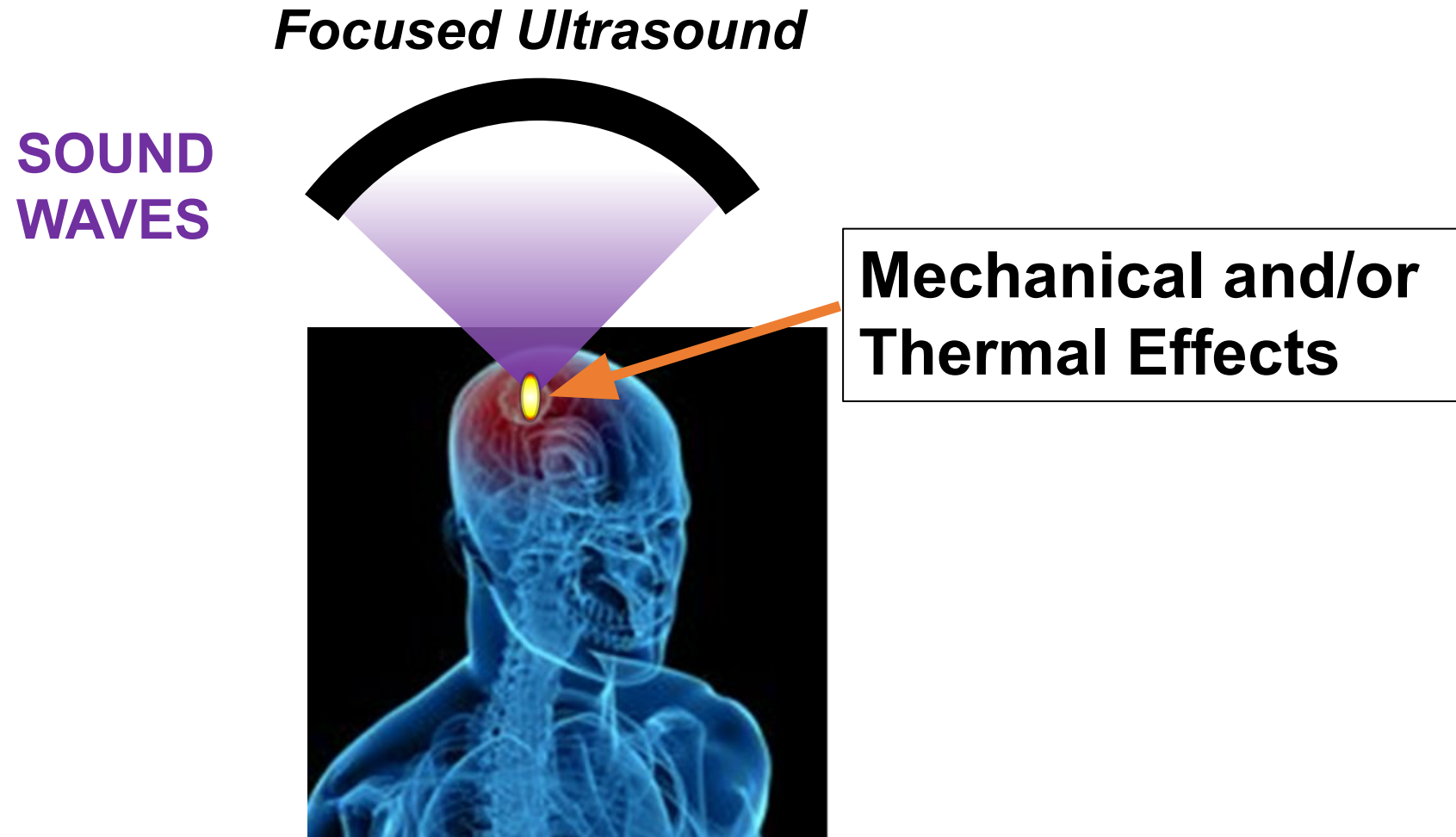
MRI-Targeted Drug and Gene Delivery to the CNS with Focused Ultrasound

Richard J. Price, Ph.D.

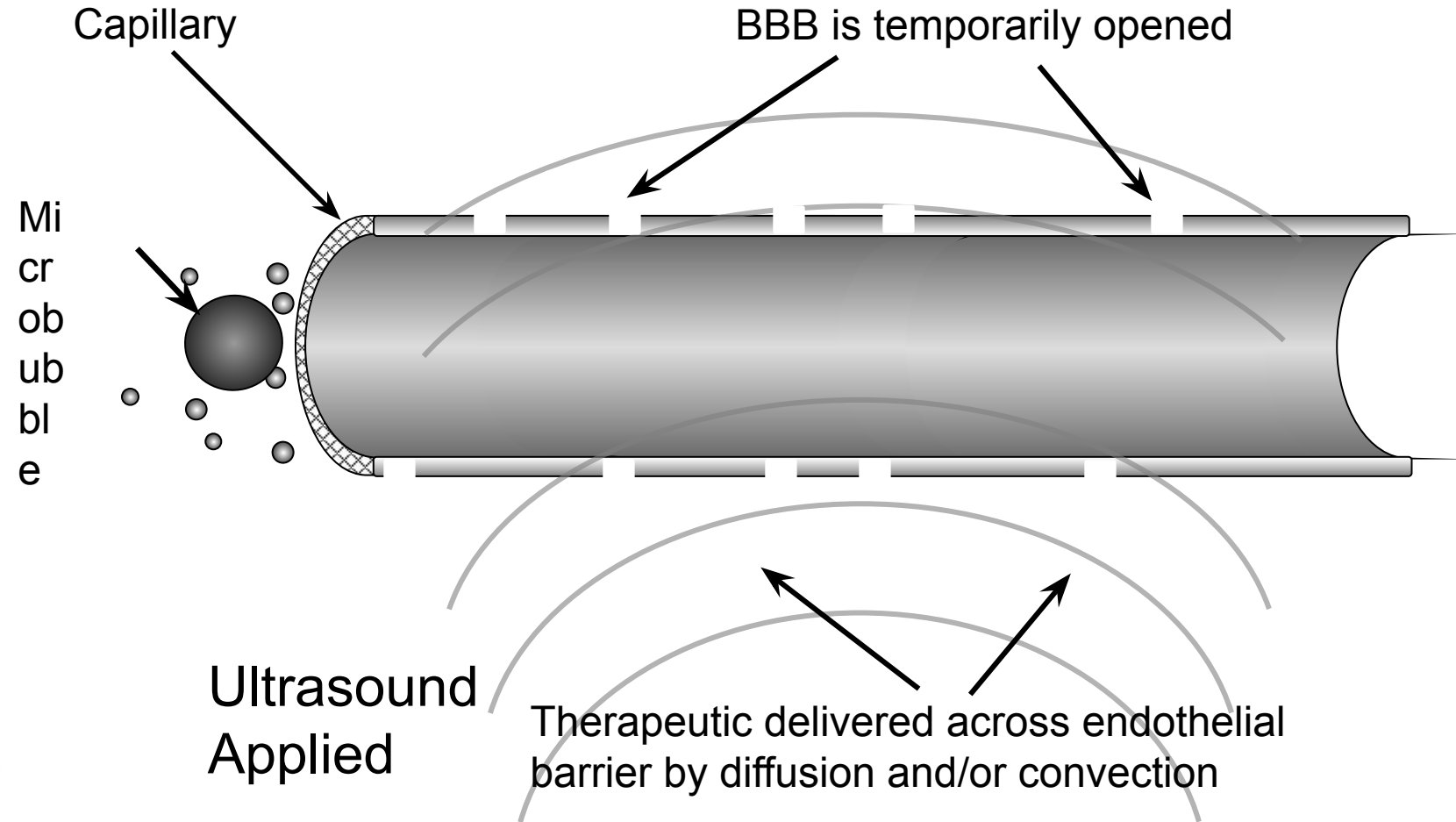
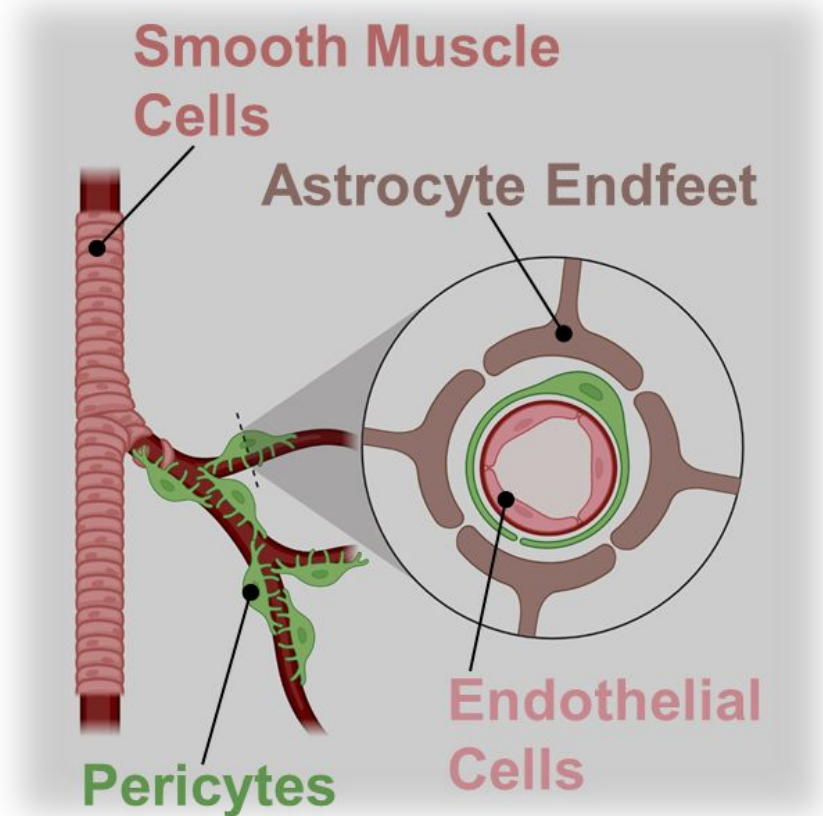
**Lawrence R. Quarles Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Co-Director, UVa Focused Ultrasound Cancer Immunotherapy Center
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

 **@PriceLabUVaBME**

Focused Ultrasound (FUS): Ultrasonic Energy Concentrated into a Small Ellipsoidal Volume



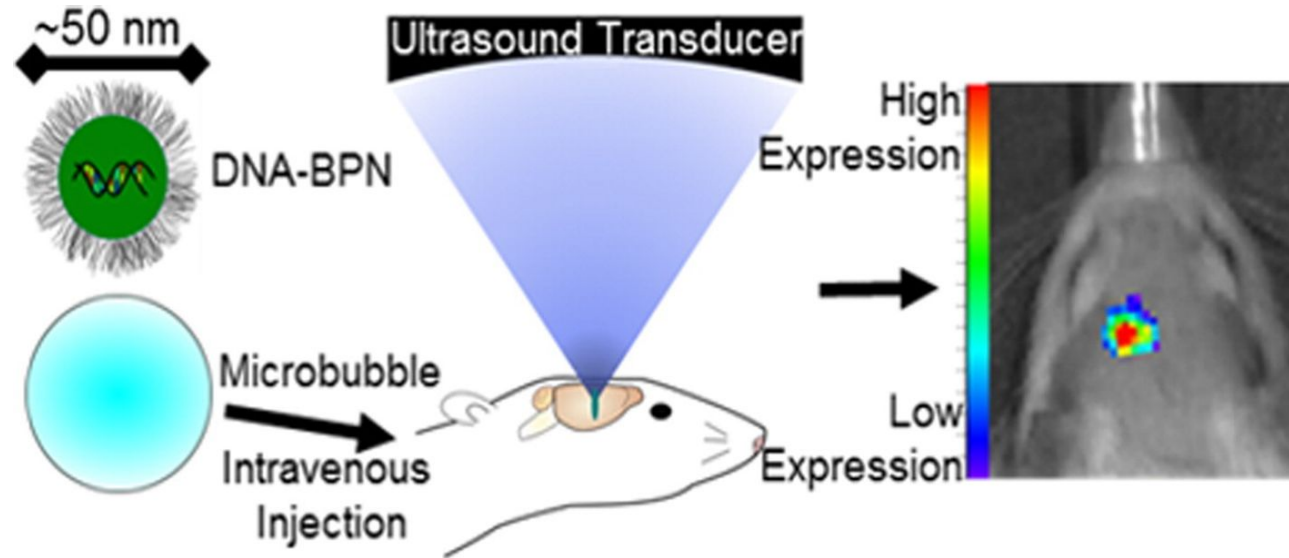
Drug and Gene Delivery Across the Blood-Brain (BBB) & Blood-Tumor Barriers (BTB)



Specific Applications

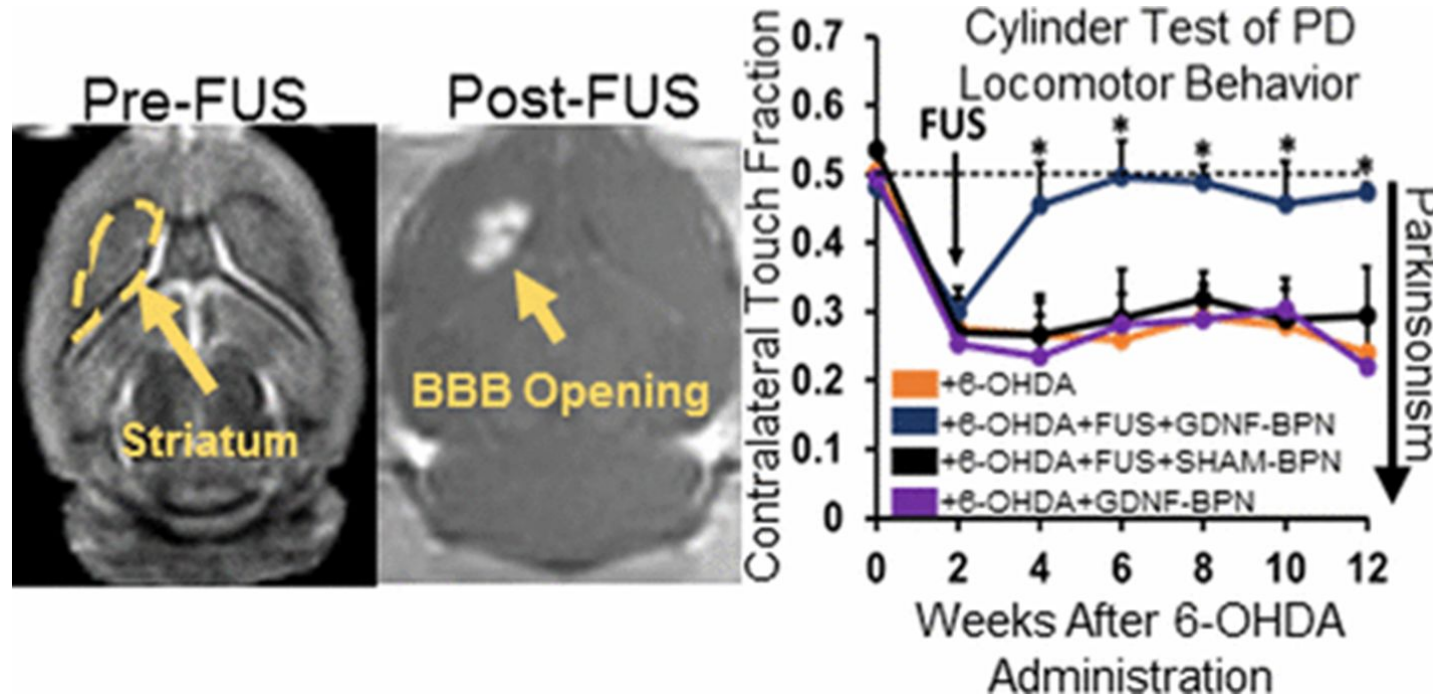
- **Gene Delivery (“Toolkit” Overview)**
- **Immunotherapy Delivery to Brain Tumors**
- **Cerebral Cavernous Malformations**

Non-Viral Nanoparticle Gene Delivery with FUS and MBs



MRI-Targeted Brain Transfection

Mead et al.
J Control Release 223:109-17;2016



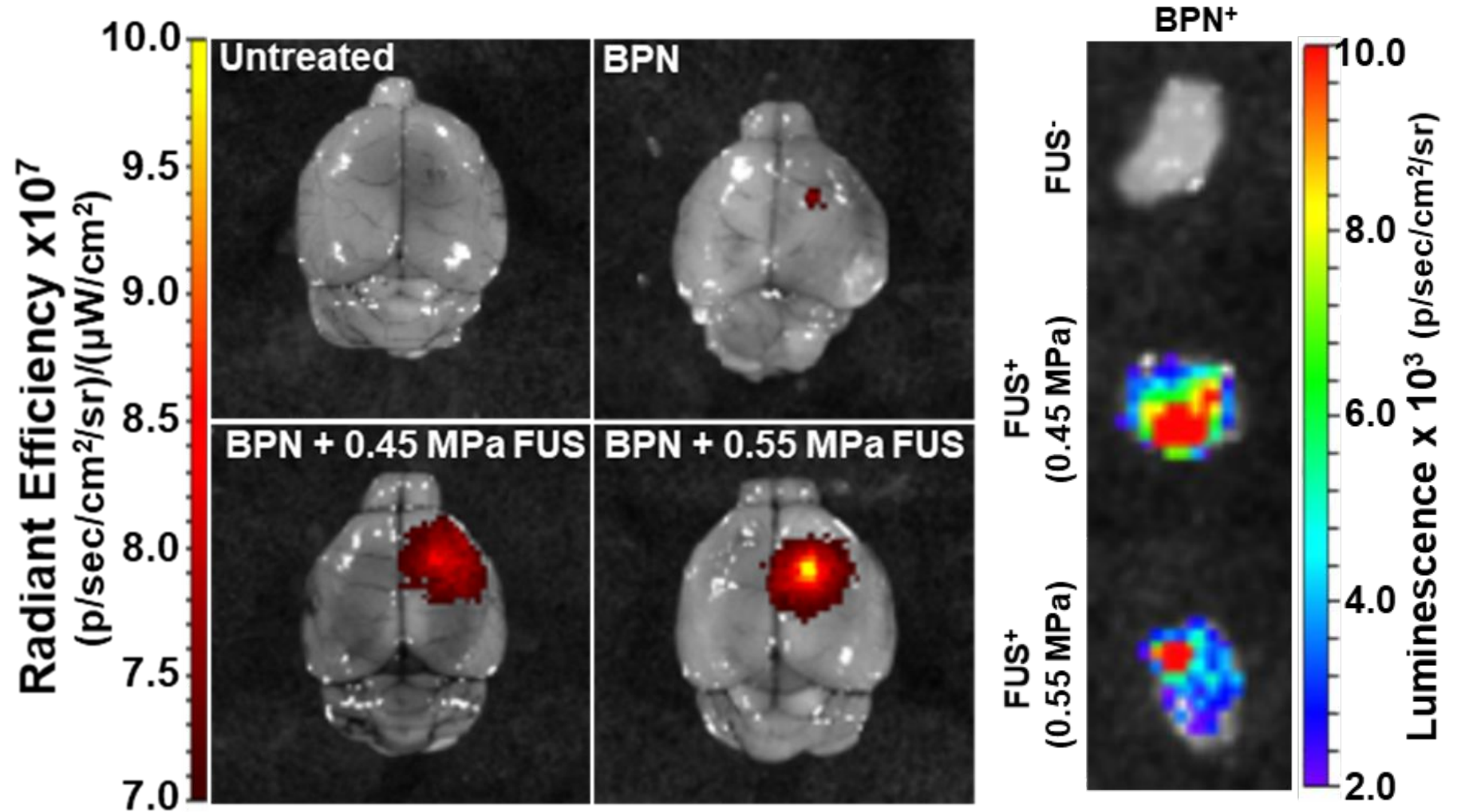
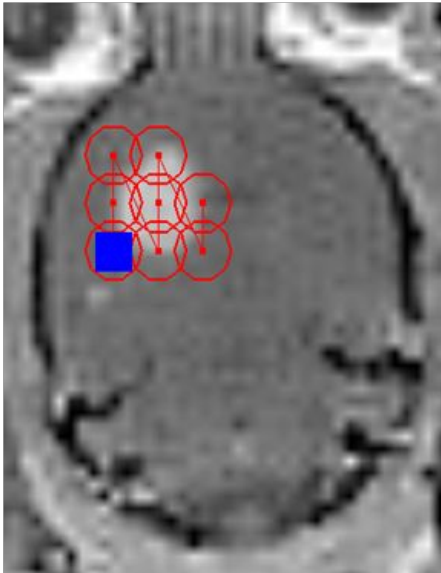
Neurotrophic Gene Delivery for PD

Mead et al.
Nano Lett. 17:3533-3542;2017

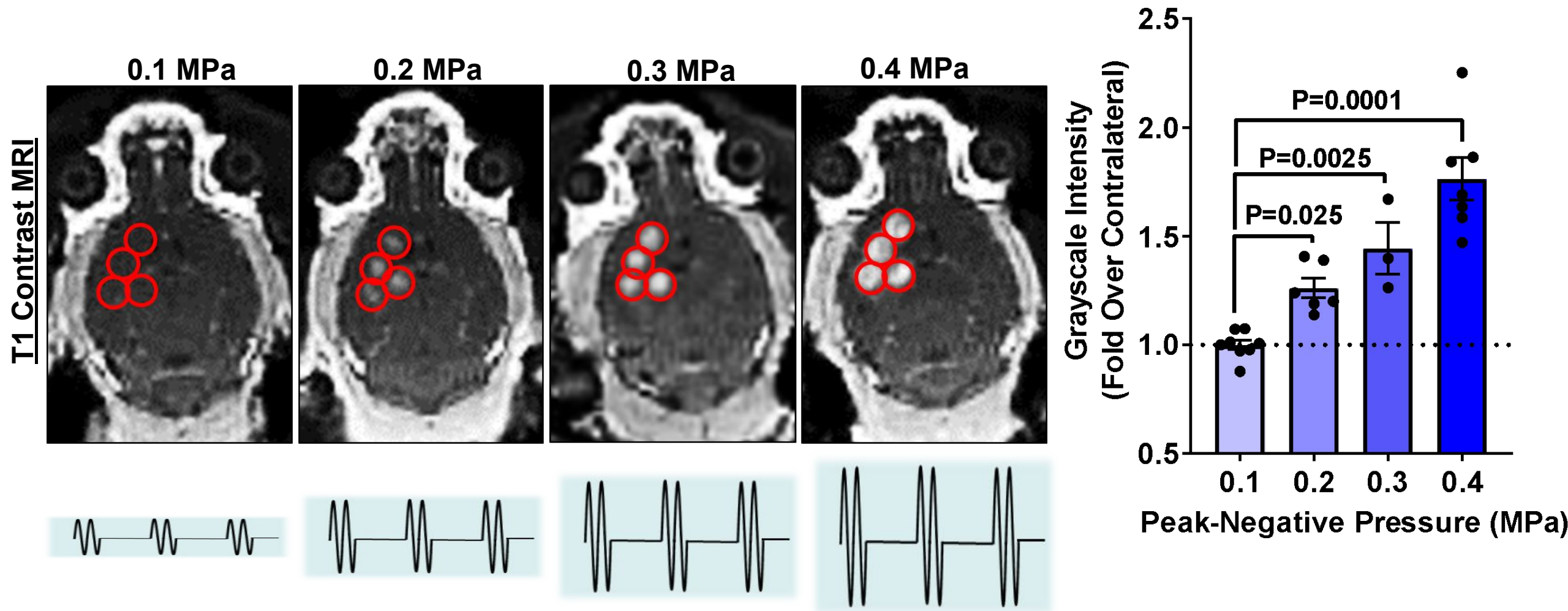
Nanoparticle (BPN) Delivery to Gliomas in Mice with MR Image-Guided Focused Ultrasound and Microbubbles (6h)

Barrier Opening

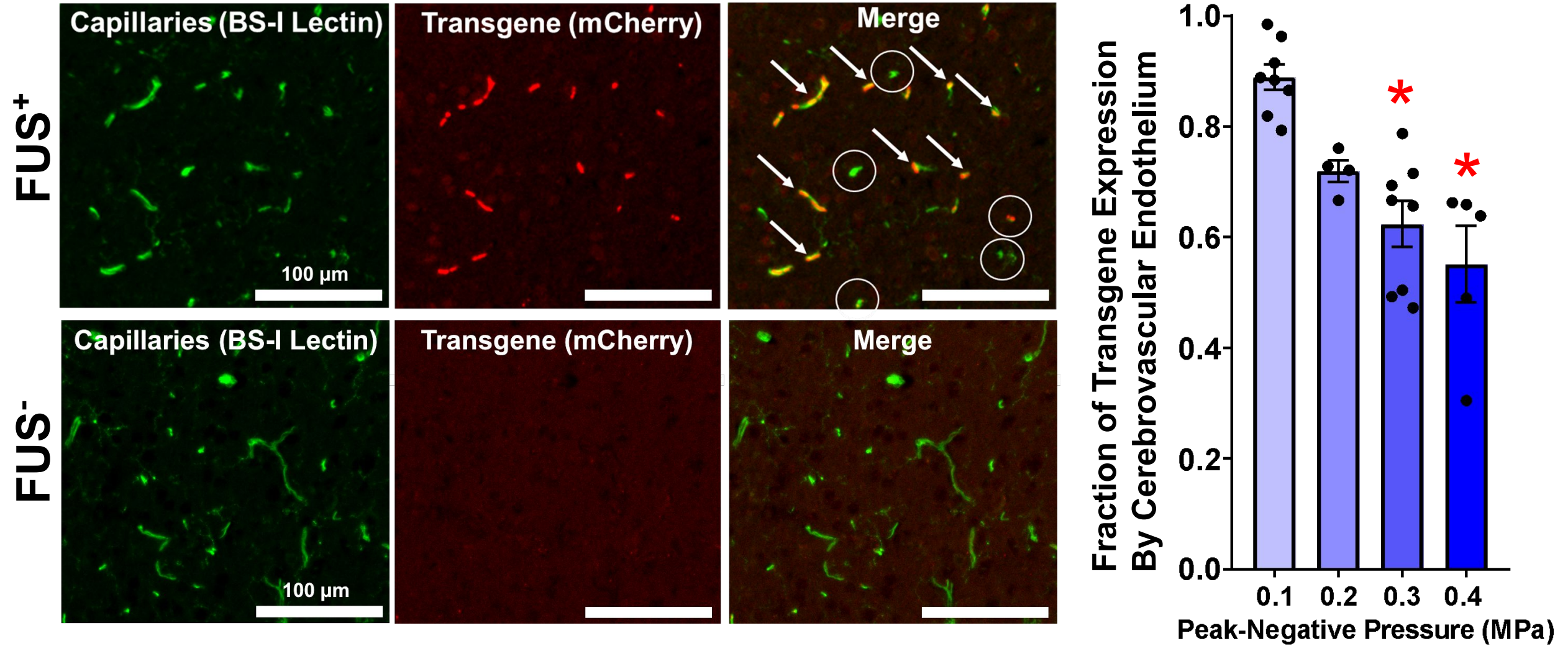
Treatment Plan



Relationships Between Focused Ultrasound Pressure and Transfected Cell Types



“Sonoselective” Endothelial Transfection At Low Pressures



Presentation Outline

- Gene Delivery (“Toolkit” Overview)
- **Immunotherapy Delivery to Brain Tumors**
- Cerebral Cavernous Malformations

FUS-Mediated BTB Opening Alone Does Not Markedly Alter Immune Landscape

Immunomodulation of intracranial melanoma in response to blood-tumor barrier opening with focused ultrasound

Colleen T. Curley¹, Aaron D. Stevens², Alexander S. Mathew¹, Katarzyna Stasiak³, William J. Garrison¹, G. Wilson Miller^{1,4}, Natasha D. Sheybani¹✉, Victor H. Engelhard³, Timothy N.J. Bullock²✉, and Richard J. Price^{1,4}✉

Theranostics

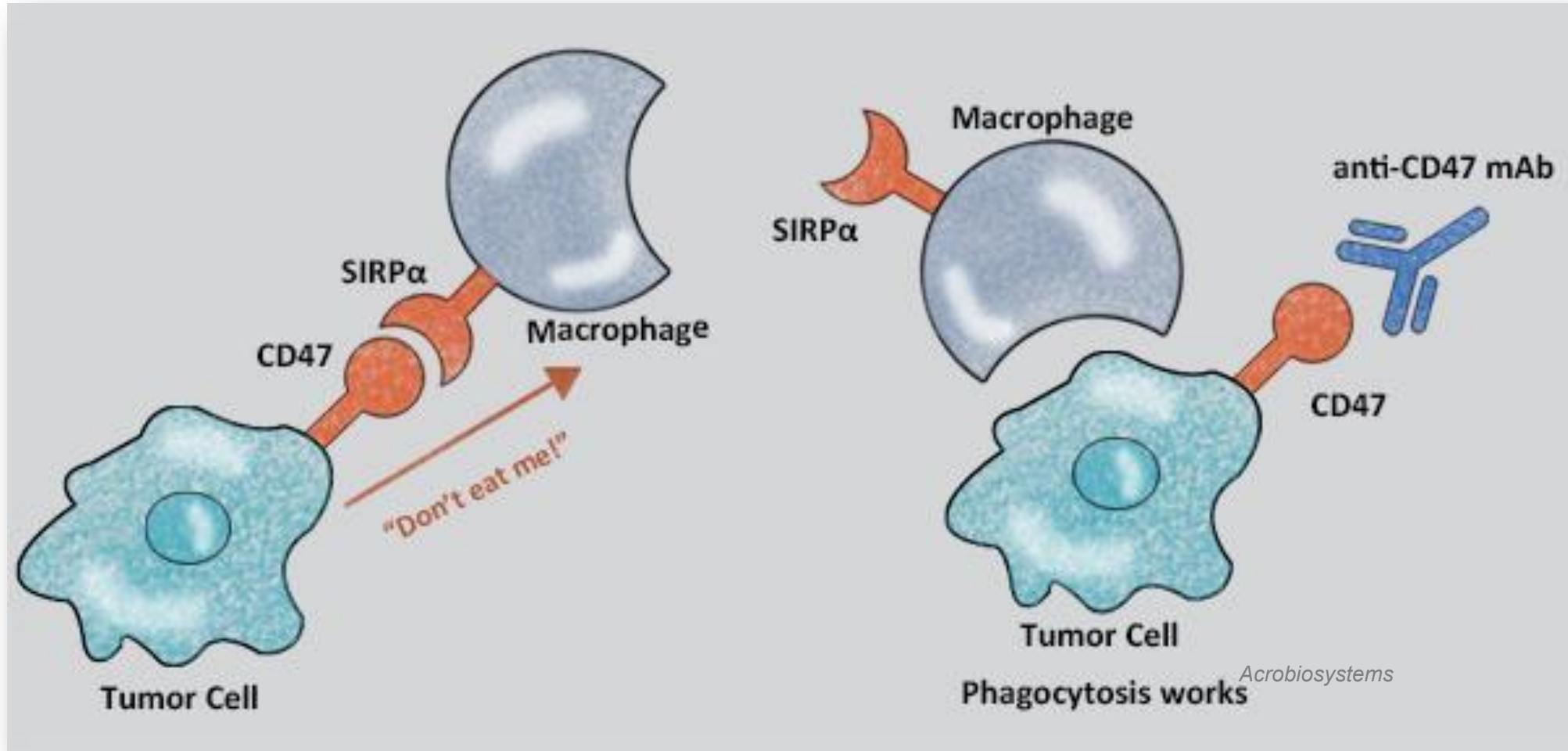
2020; 10(19): 8821-8833. doi: 10.7150/thno.47983

Profiling of the immune landscape in murine glioblastoma following blood brain/tumor barrier disruption with MR image-guided focused ultrasound

Natasha D. Sheybani¹  · Alexandra R. Witter² · William J. Garrison¹ · G. Wilson Miller³ · Richard J. Price^{1,3}  · Timothy N. J. Bullock² 

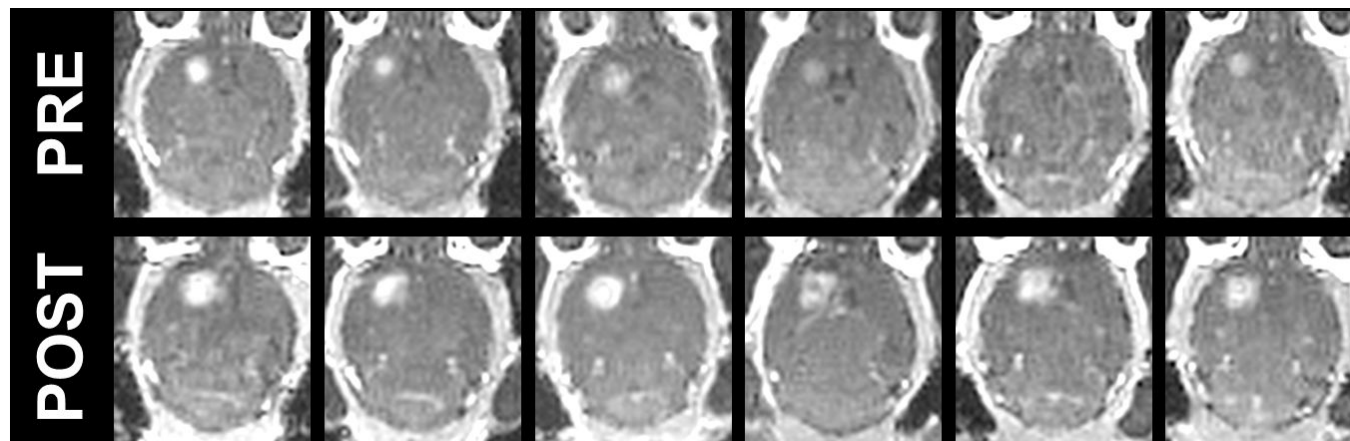
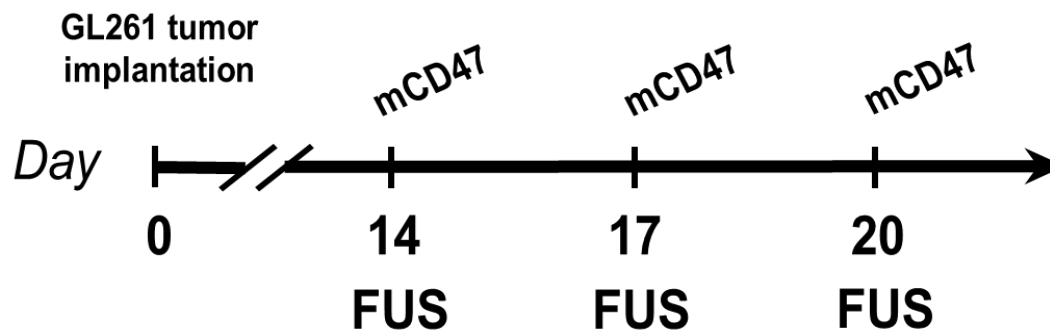
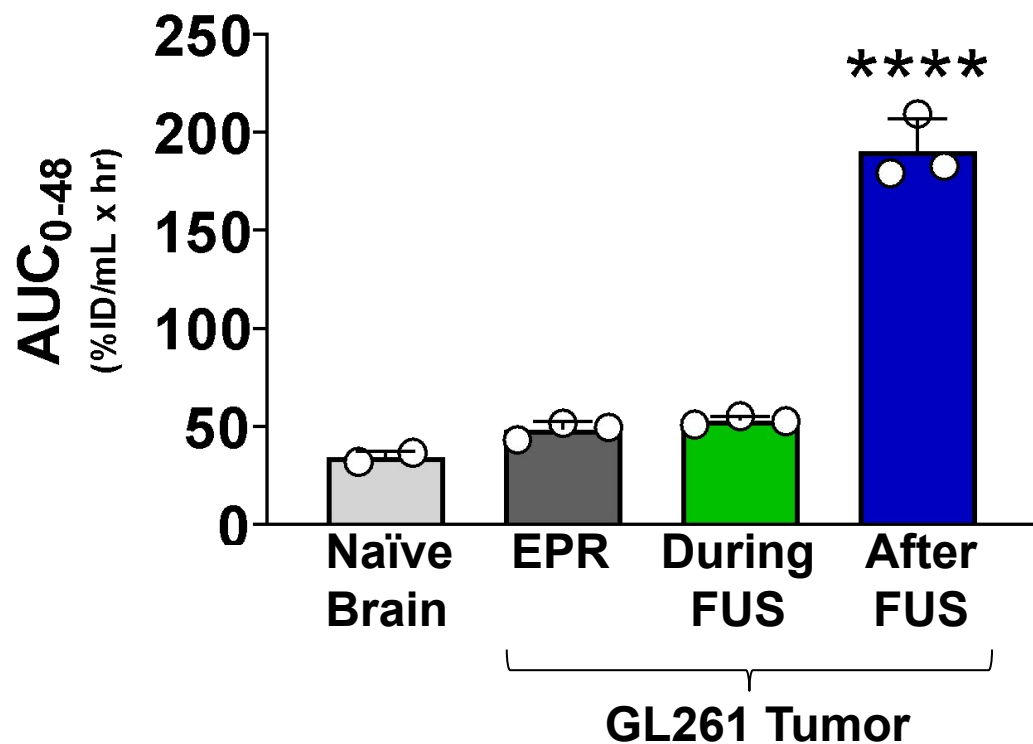
Journal of Neuro-Oncology (2022) 156:109–122
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11060-021-03887-4>

CD47 Blockade: An Immunotherapeutic Strategy for GBM

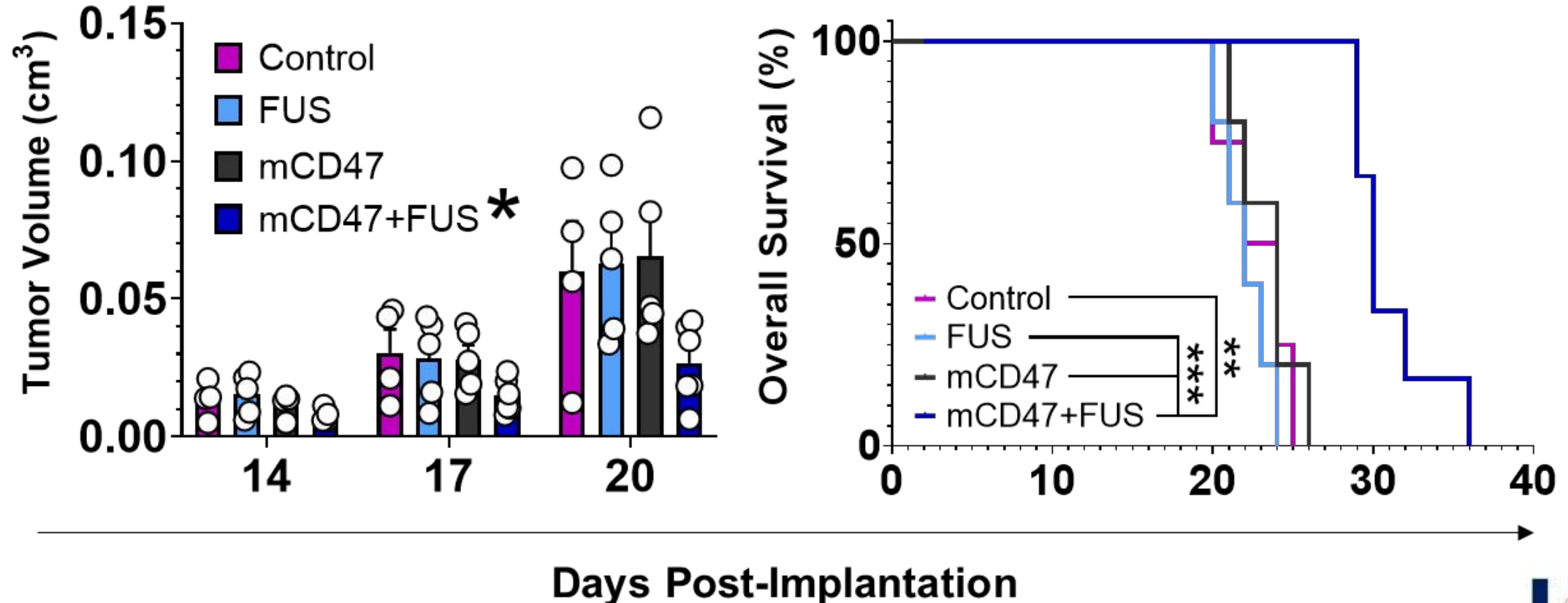


α CD47 Immunotherapy Delivery Protocol & Confirmation of BBB/BTB Opening

ImmunoPET Optimization of α CD47 Injection Timing

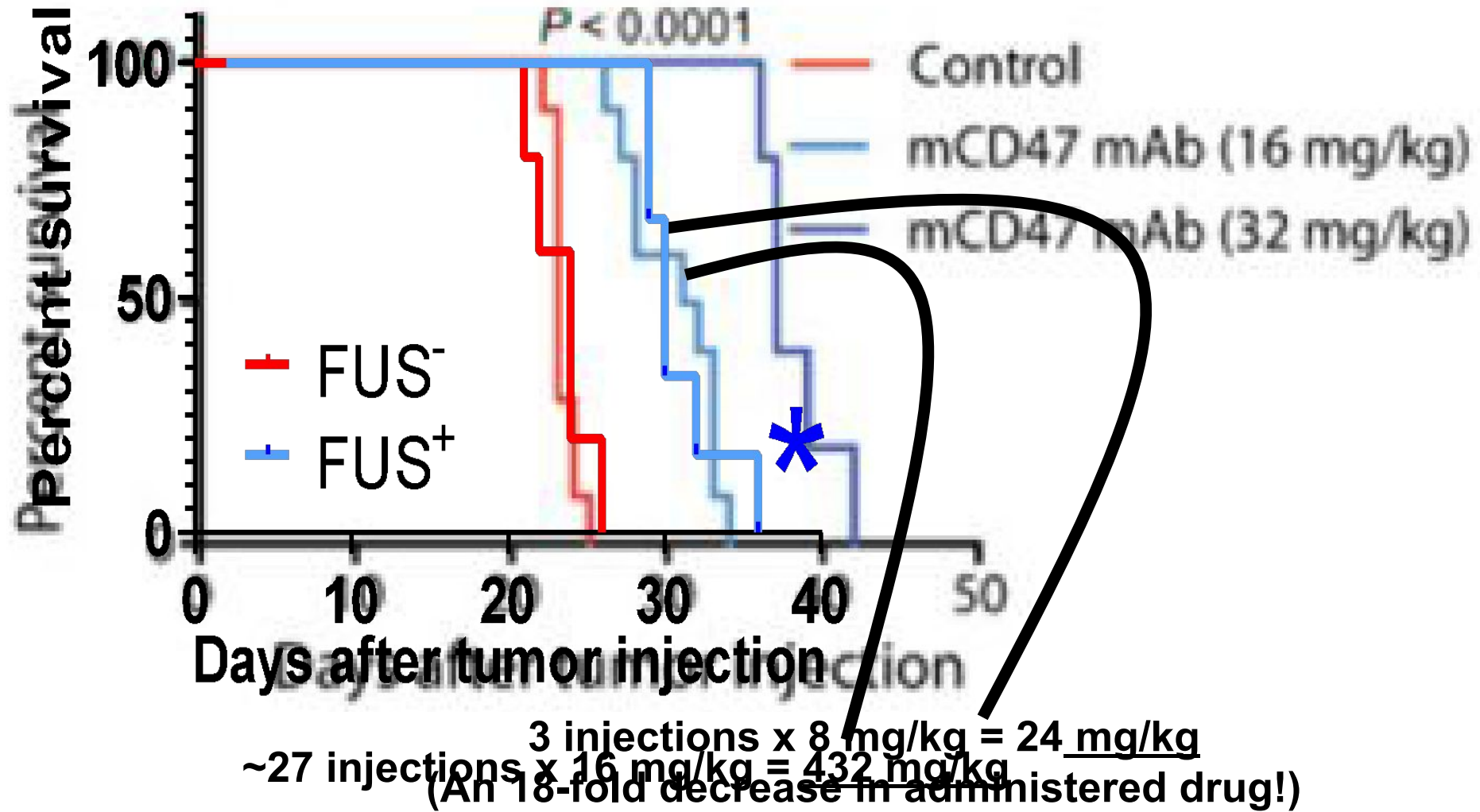


FUS-Mediated α CD47 Delivery Across the BBB/BTB Restricts GL261 Outgrowth and Improves Survival



M-FUS BBB/BTB Opening Permits Tumor Control with Markedly Lower Injected Mass of α CD47

Gholamin et al. *Sci Trans Med* 2017

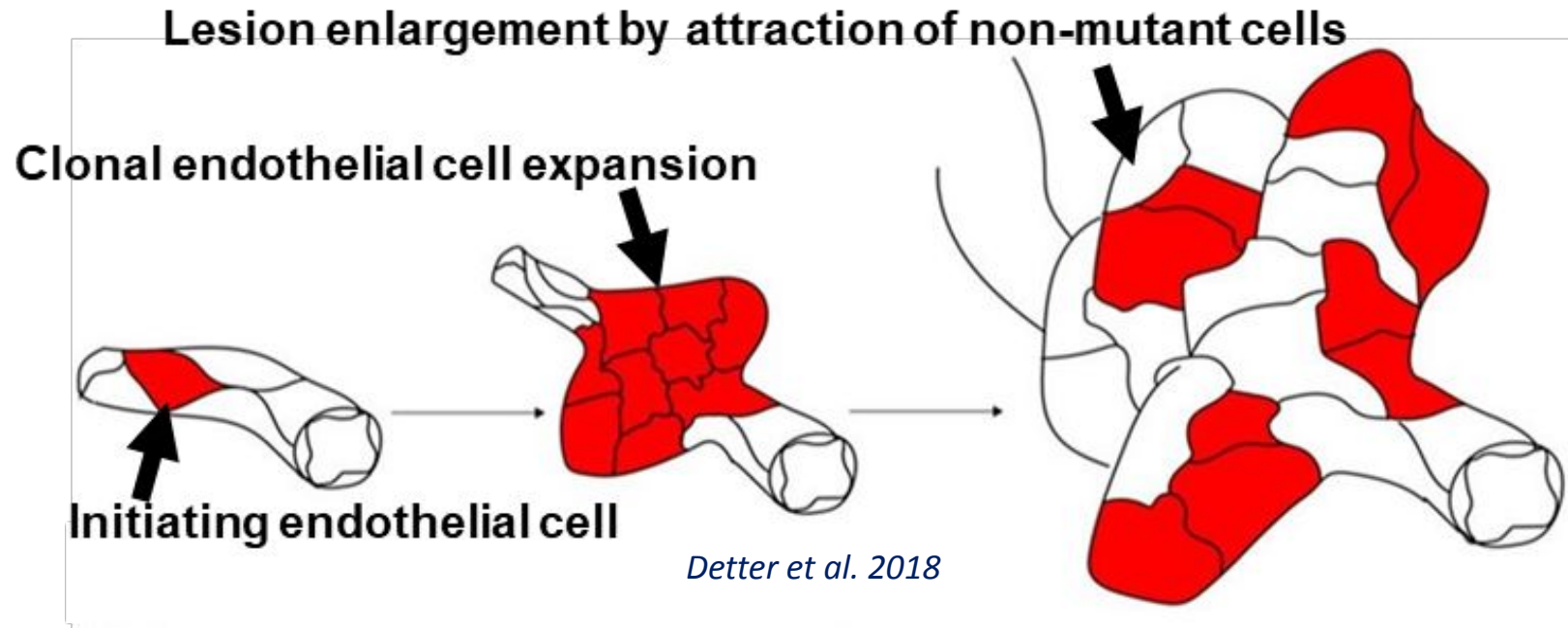


Presentation Outline

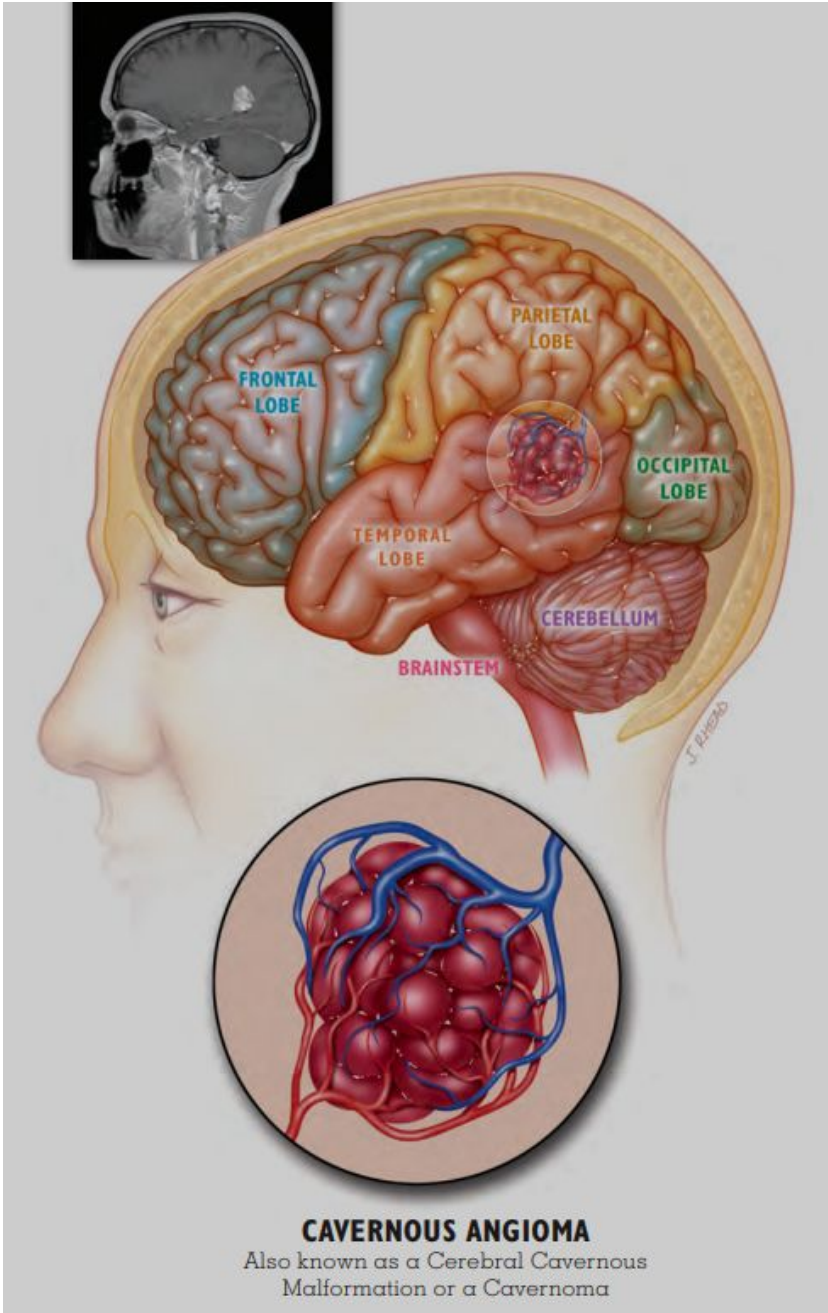
- Gene Delivery (“Toolkit” Overview)
- Immunotherapy Delivery to Brain Tumors
- **Cerebral Cavernous Malformations**

Cerebral Cavernous Malformation (CCM)

- Vascular lesions/neoplasms
- Biallelic loss-of-function mutation(s) in 1 of 3 CCM complex genes: KRIT1, CCM2, or PDCD10

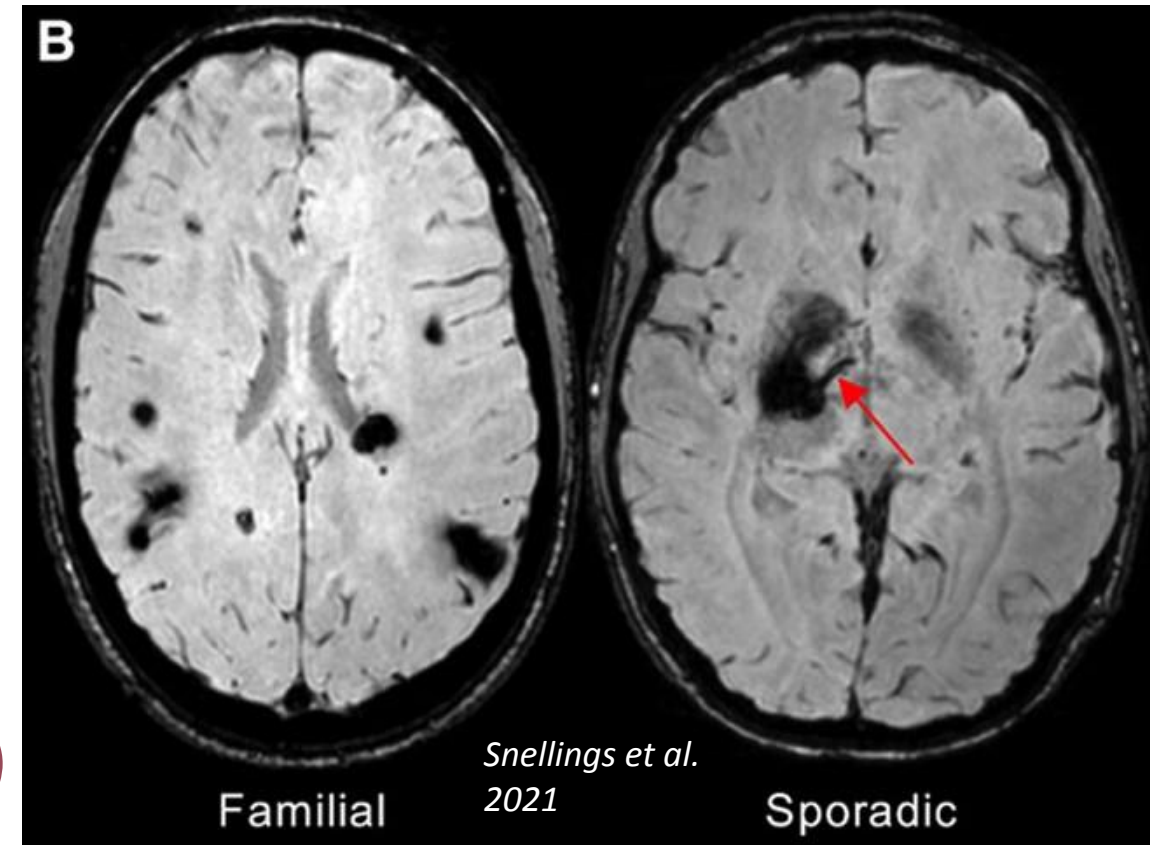


- “Familial” and “Sporadic” forms of the disease



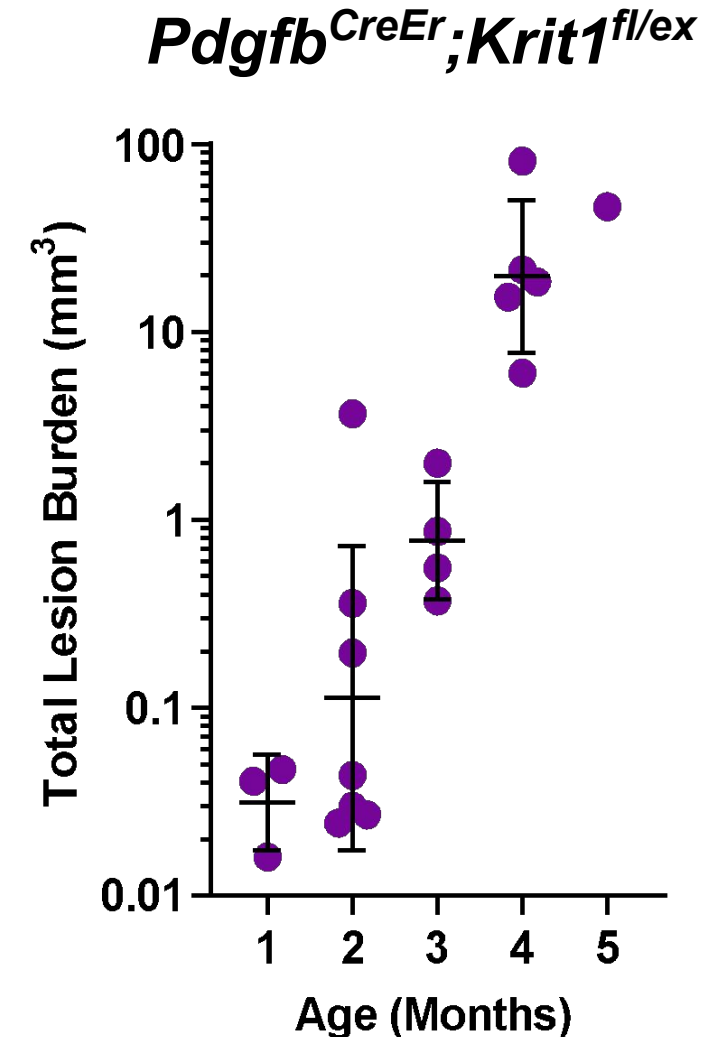
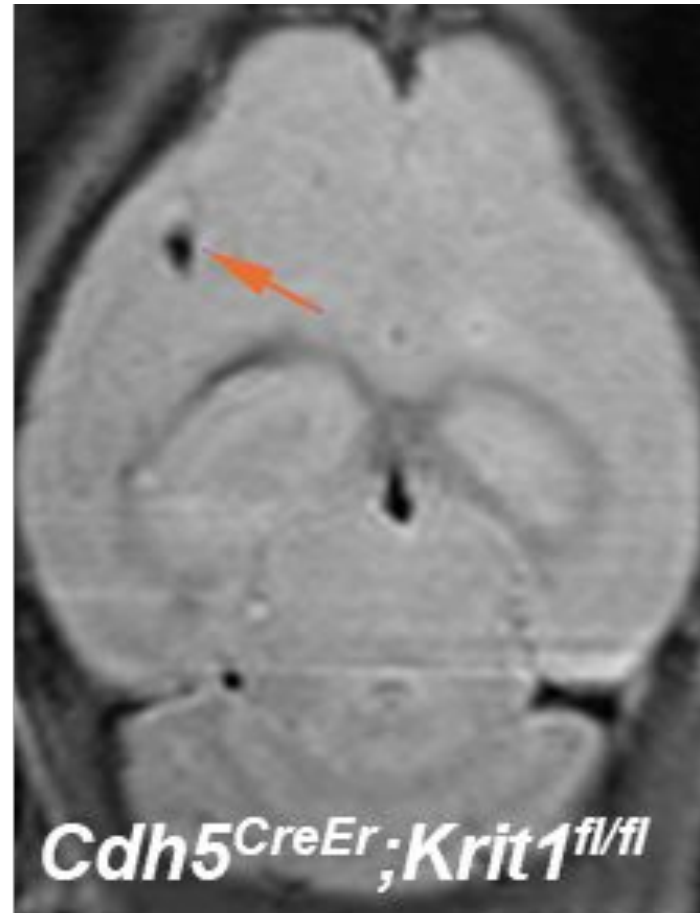
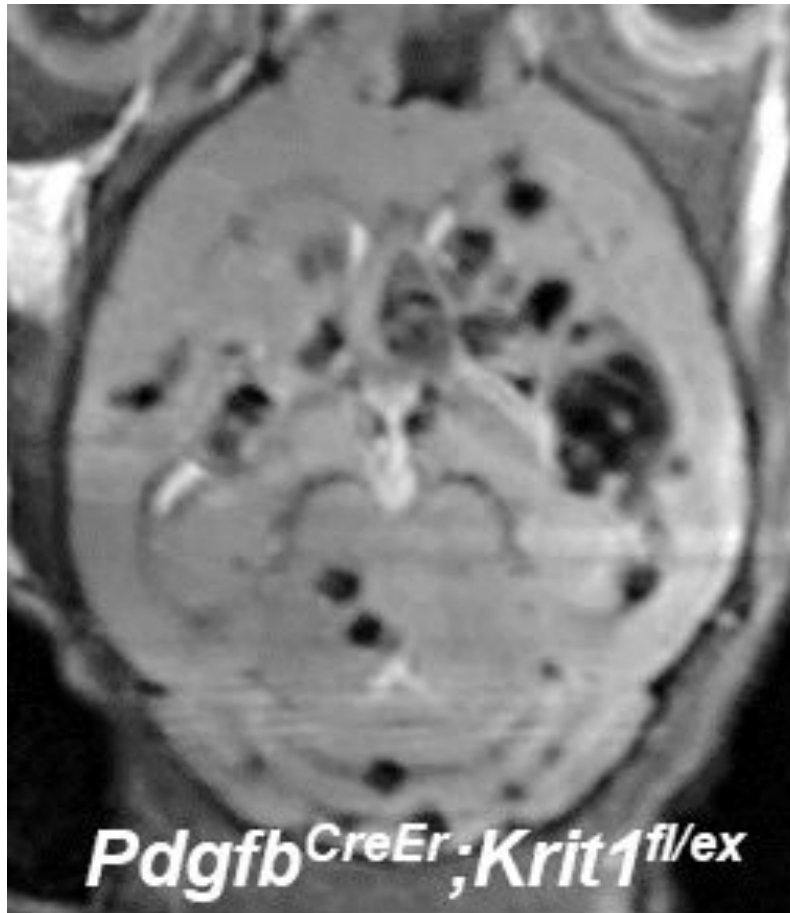
Rationale for Deploying FUS Against Cerebral Cavernous Malformations

- **Surgical resection** only current therapeutic option
- Few attempts have been made to deploy **biologics** (**> 1KDa**) against CCM
- Lesions are **discrete** and identified with **MRI (iron rich)**



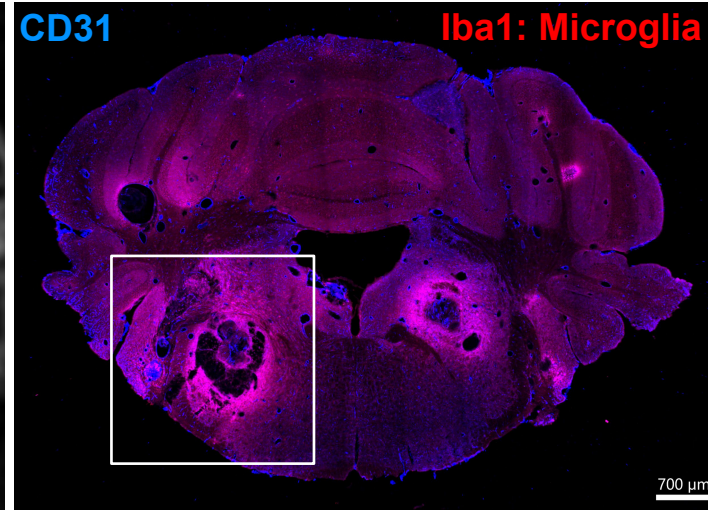
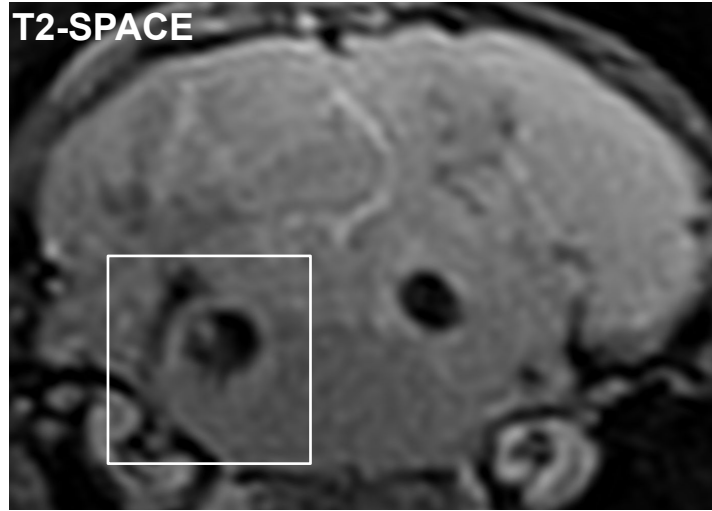
Mouse Models Representative of “Familial” and “Sporadic” Disease

T2 SPACE MRI

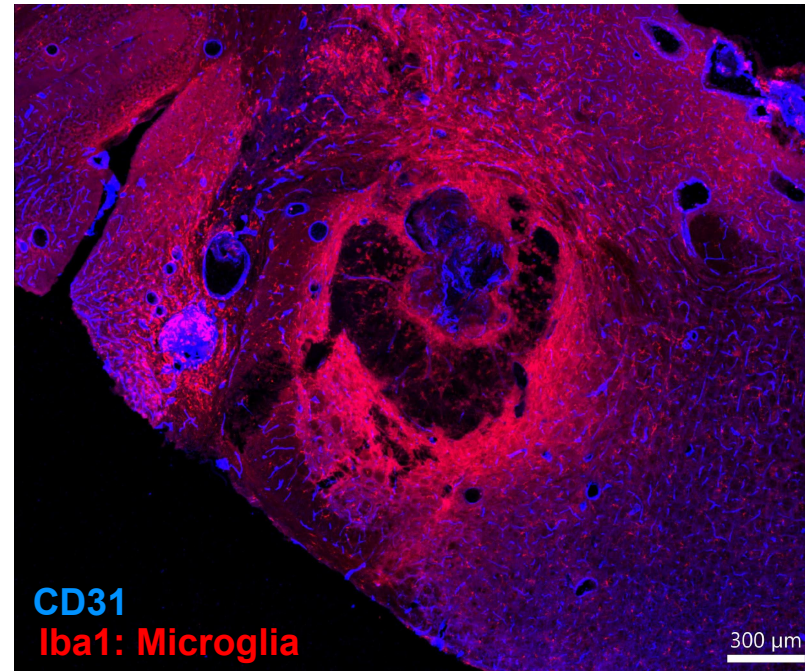


CCMs Cause Neuroinflammation and Oxidative Stress

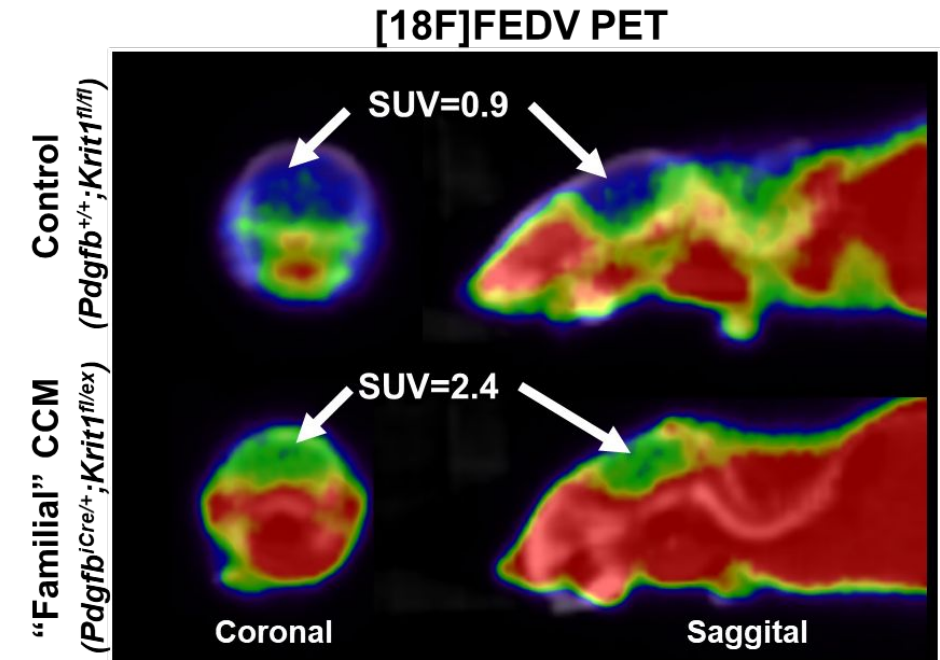
Pdgfb^{CreEr};Krit1^{fl/ex}



**Neuro-
inflammation**



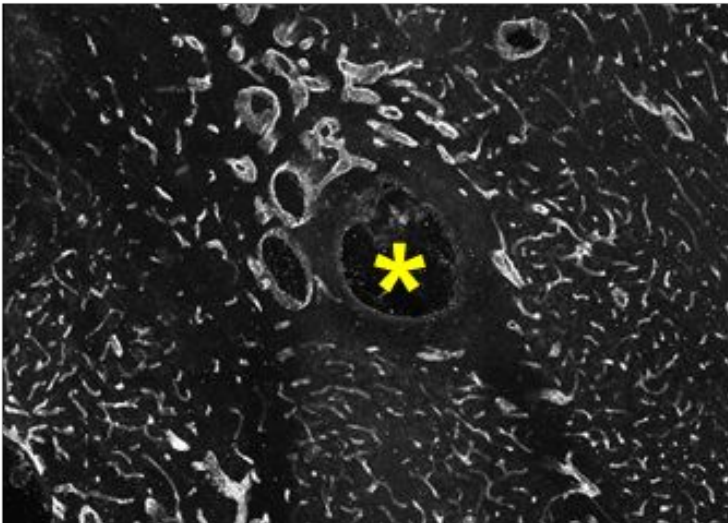
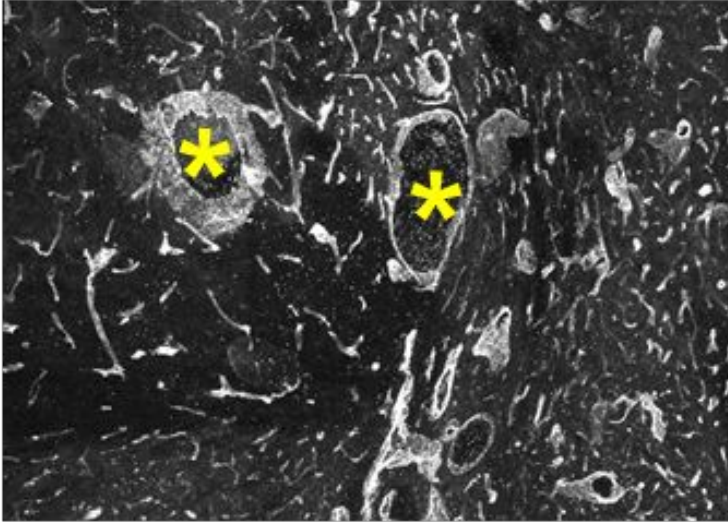
High Oxidative Stress



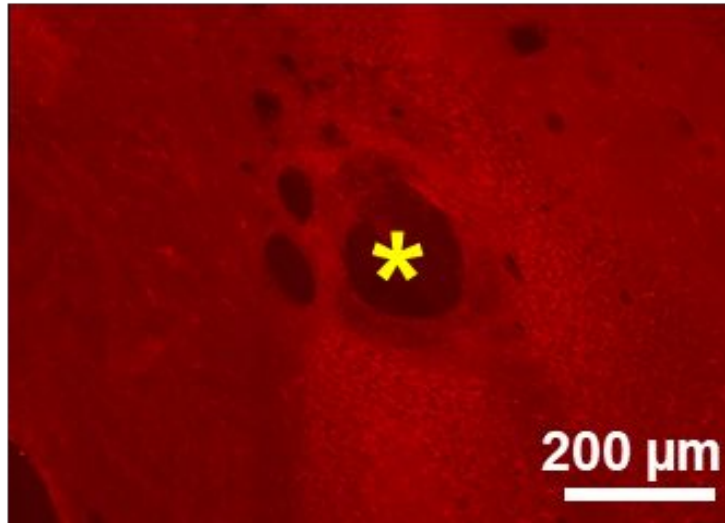
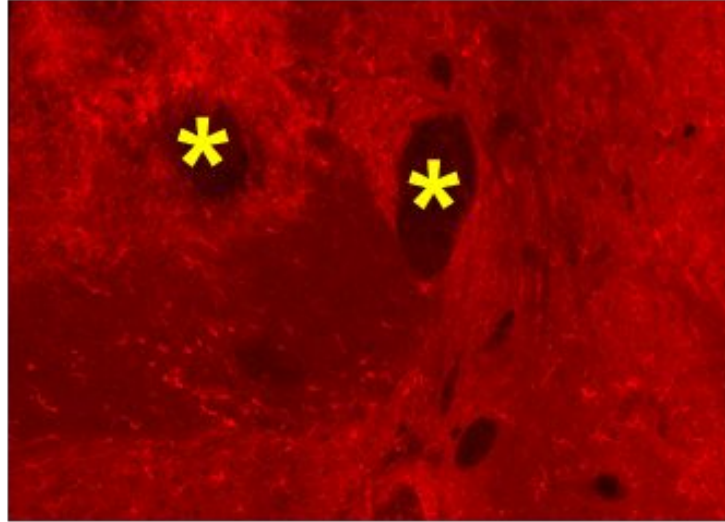
How might CCMs be accessed via the bloodstream?

Pdcbf^{iCre/+};Krit1^{fl/ex}

CD31 (Microvessels)



Iba1 (Microglia)



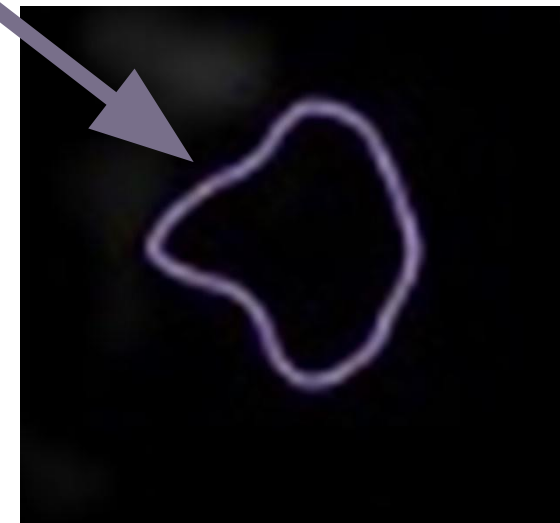
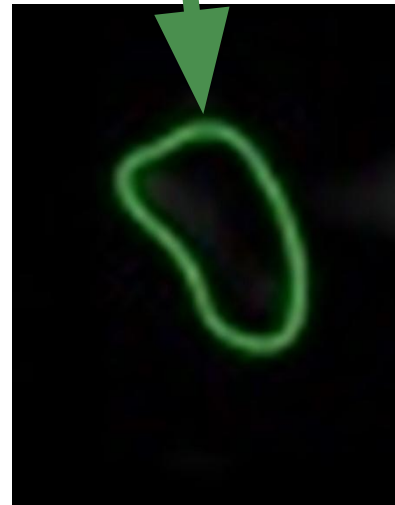
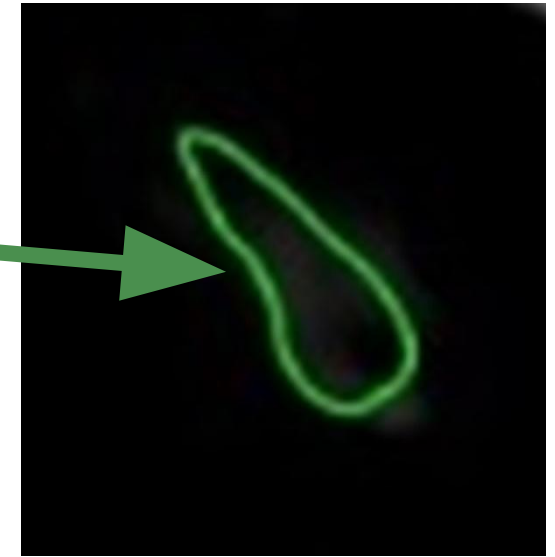
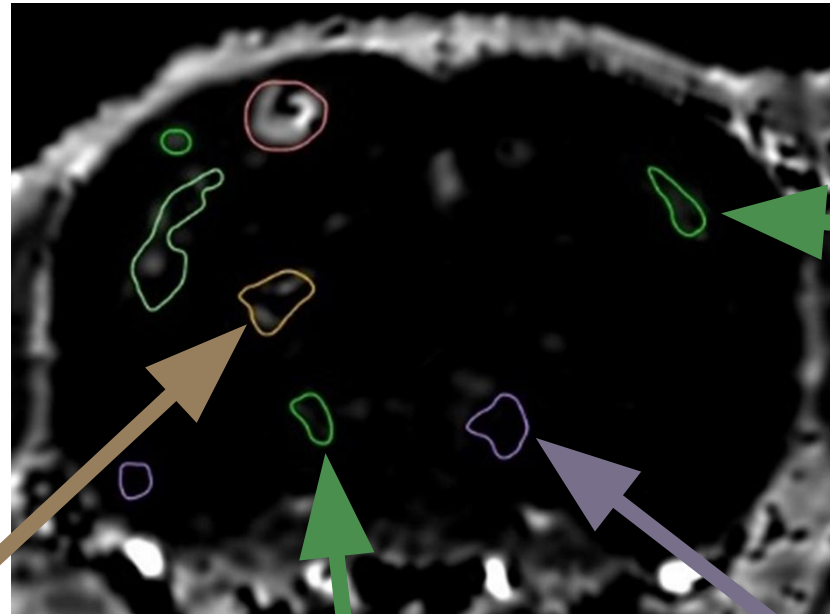
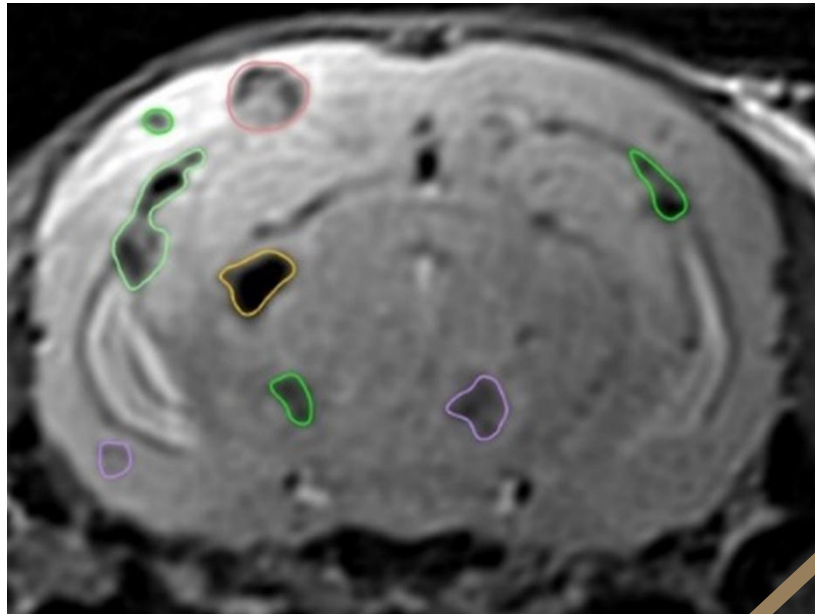
*** CCM "Lumen"**

Peri-CCM Microvessels Retain “BBB-Like” Function

T2 SPACE

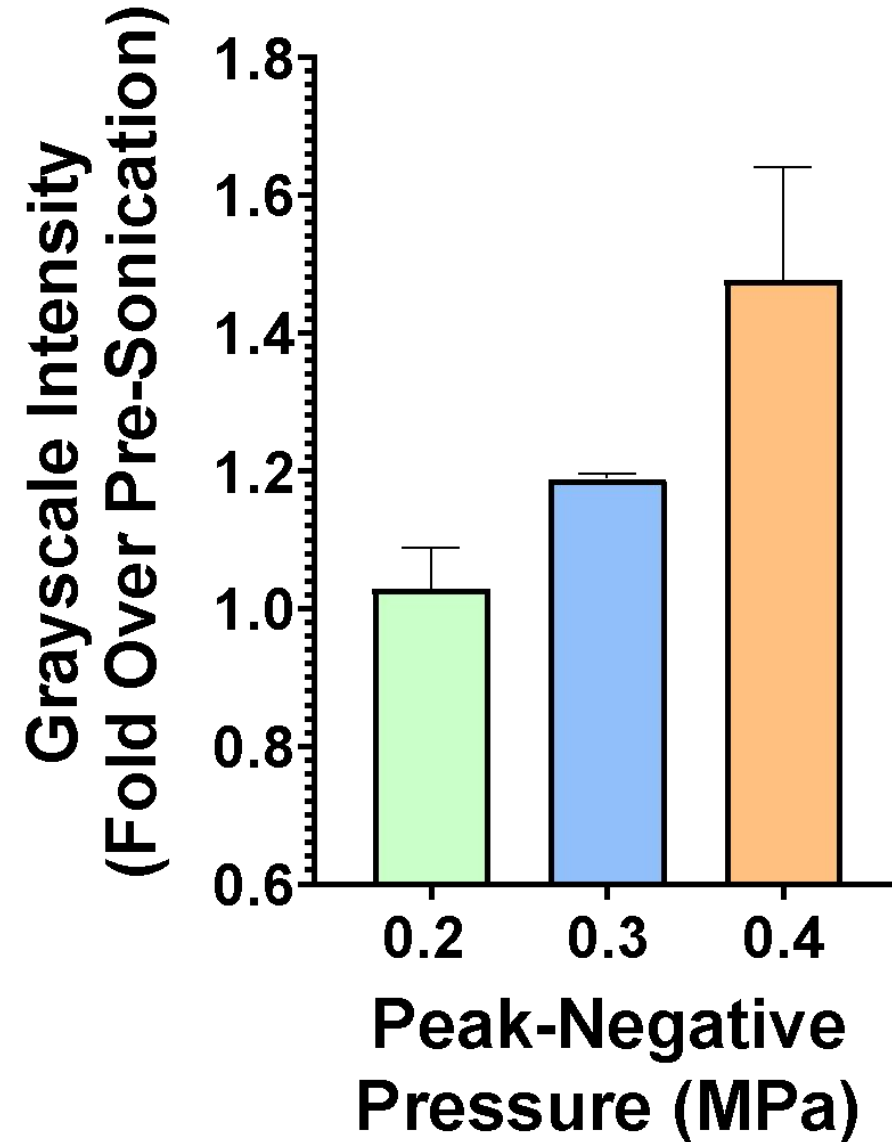
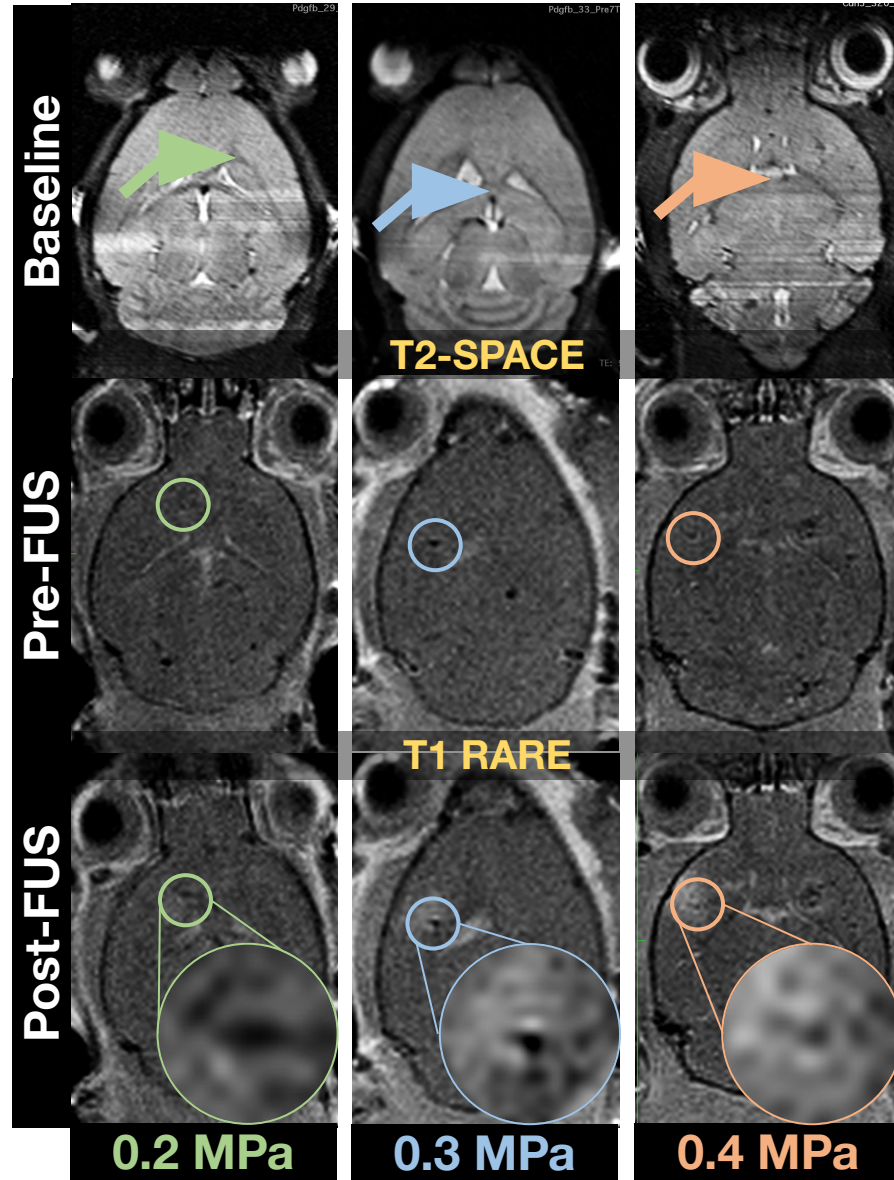
T1 Mapping

Pdgfb^{CreEr};Krit1^{fl/ex}



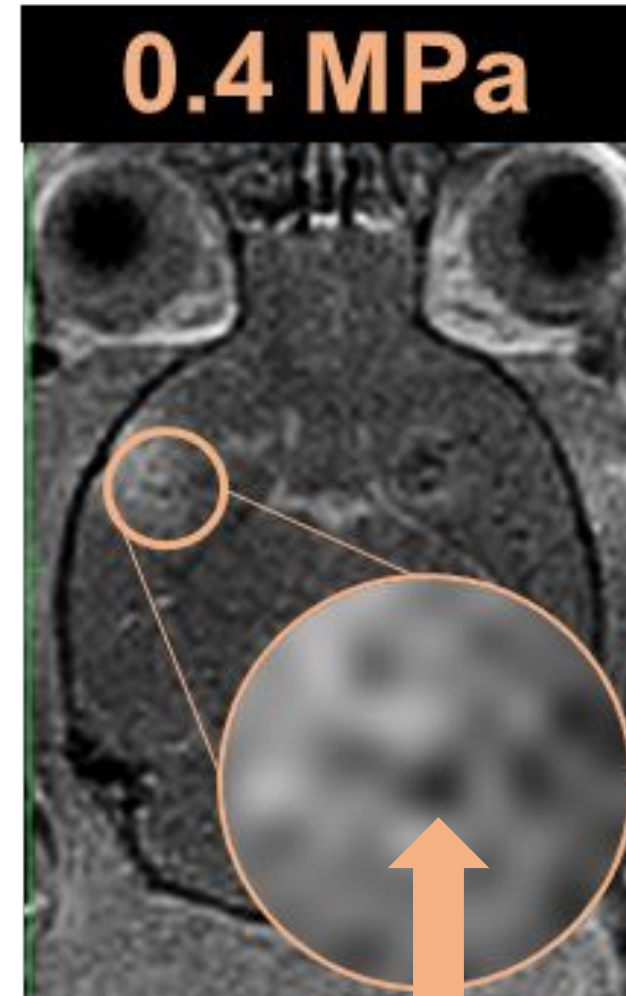
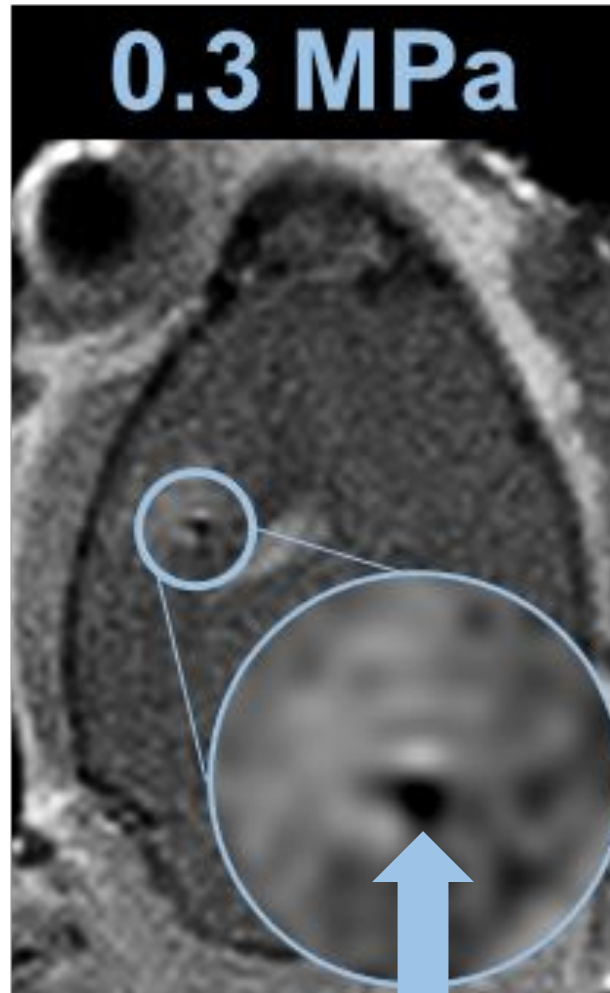
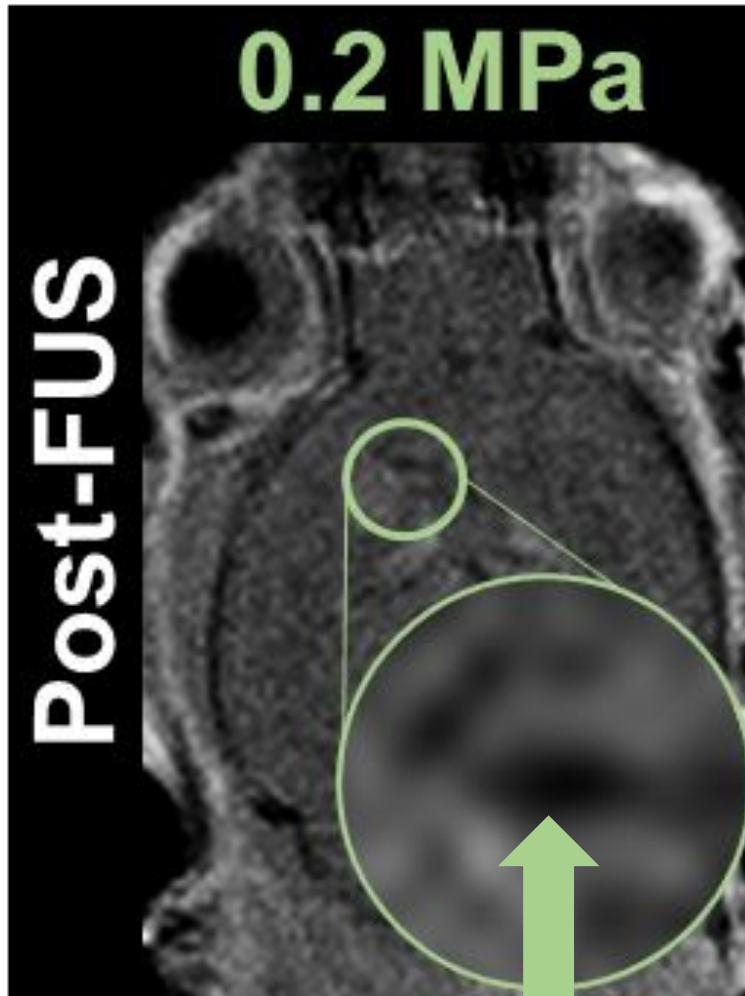
FUS+MBs Permeabilizes Peri-CCM Microvasculature

Cdh5^{CreEr};Krit1^{fl/fl}



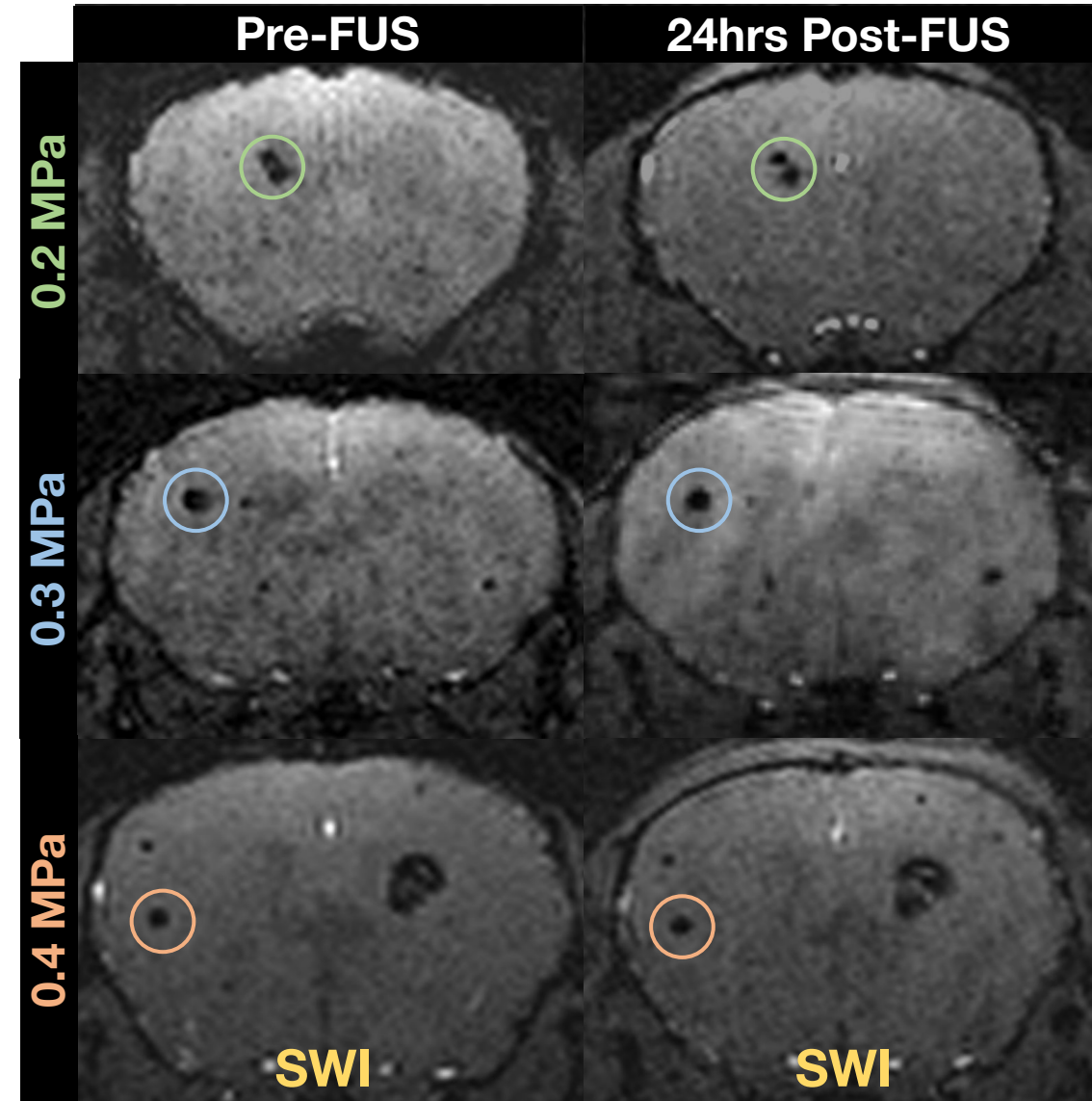
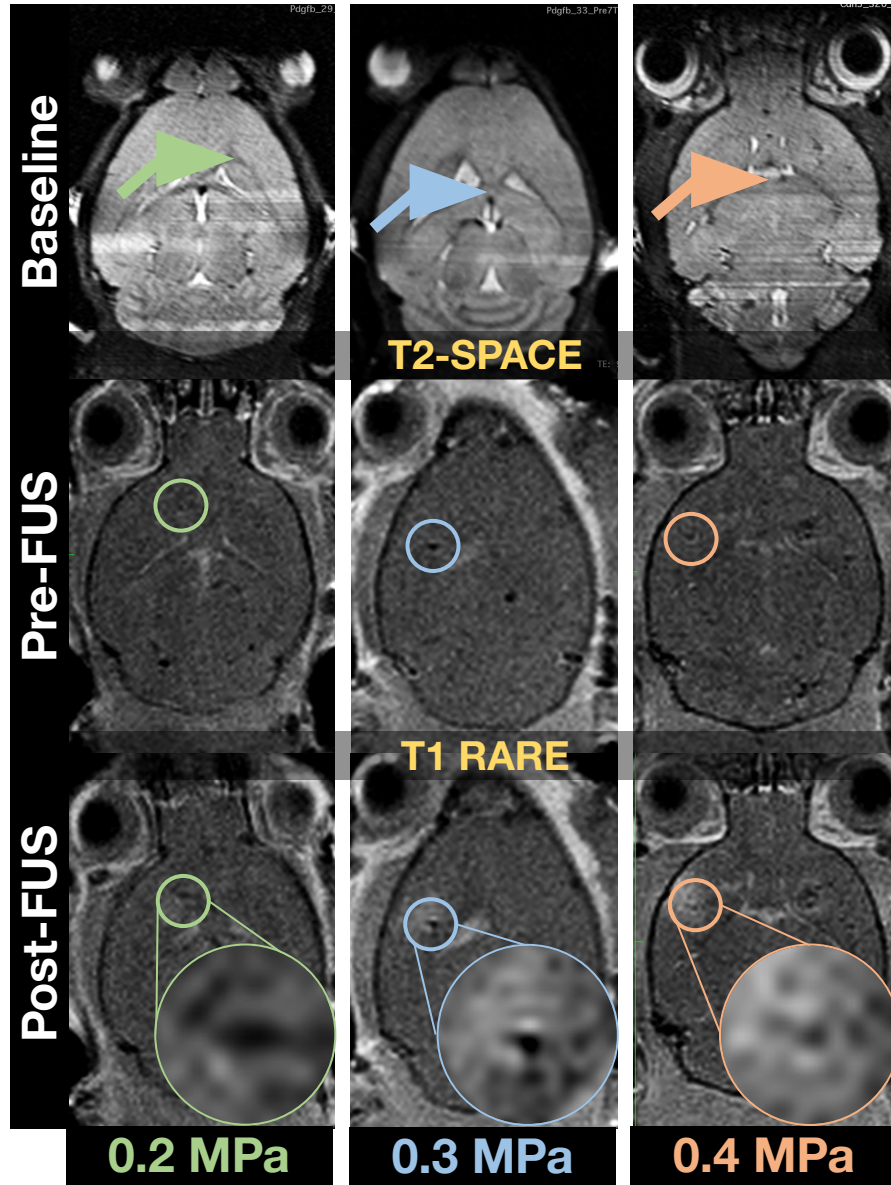
CCM “Lumens” Are Not Permeabilized by FUS

Cdh5^{CreEr};Krit1^{fl/fl}



No Evidence of CCM Bleeding or Petechiae

Cdh5^{CreEr};Krit1^{fl/fl}



In Summary, FUS+MBs.....

- **Permits MRI-targeted gene delivery to the CNS**
- **Enhances α CD47 delivery to GBM, controlling growth and improving survival**
 - **Next Step – drive systemic immune responses**
- **May facilitate safe and effective deployment of biologics against CCM**
 - **Next Step – control CCMs with biologics**

Acknowledgements

Current Grad Students

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Lab Manager

Ji Song



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 FOCUSED
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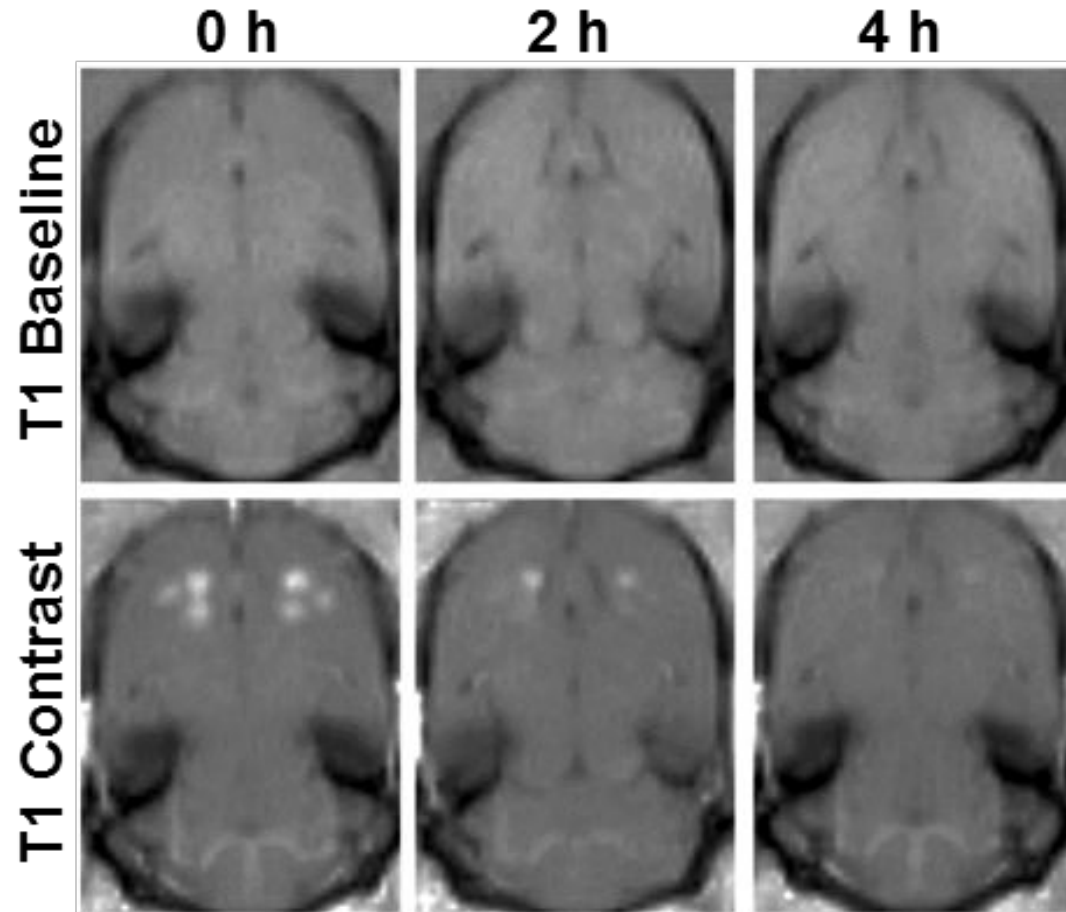
 UVA
FOCUSED ULTRASOUND

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price-lab.org

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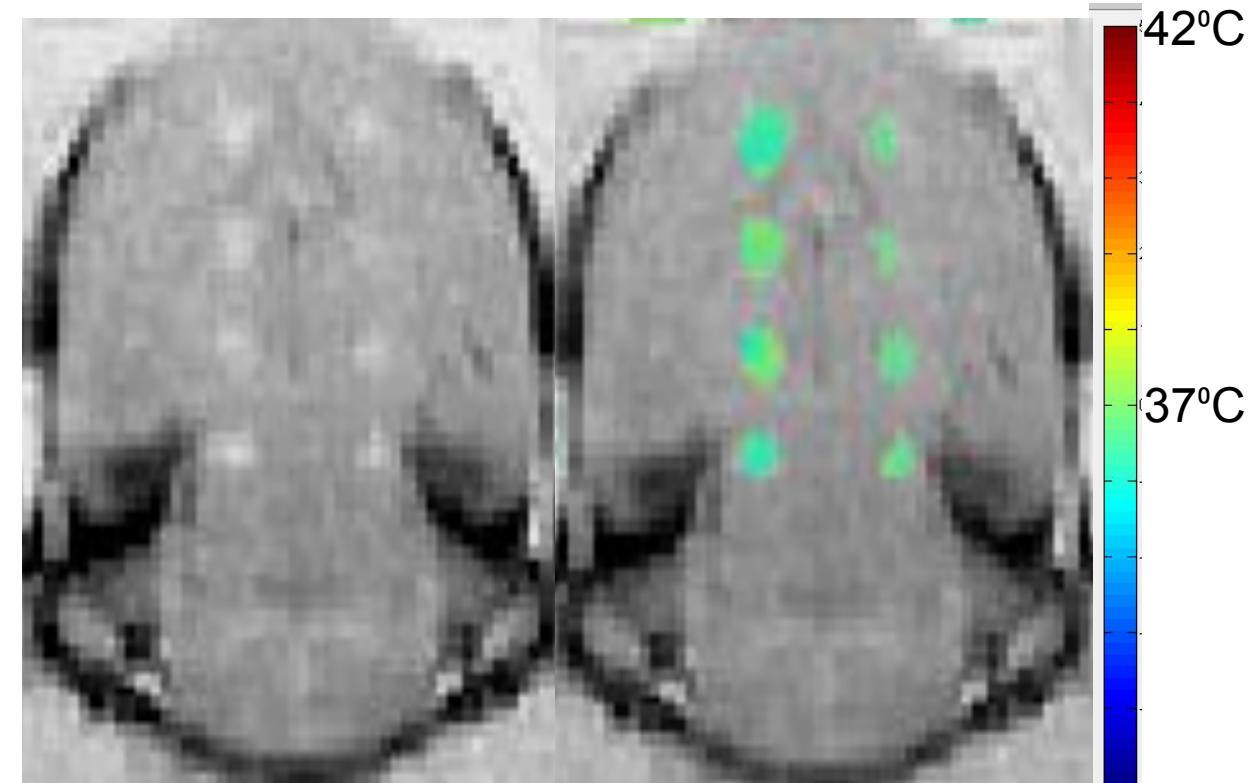
BBB Opening with Focused Ultrasound is Transient and Does not Elicit Significant Heating

Contrast Enhanced MRI



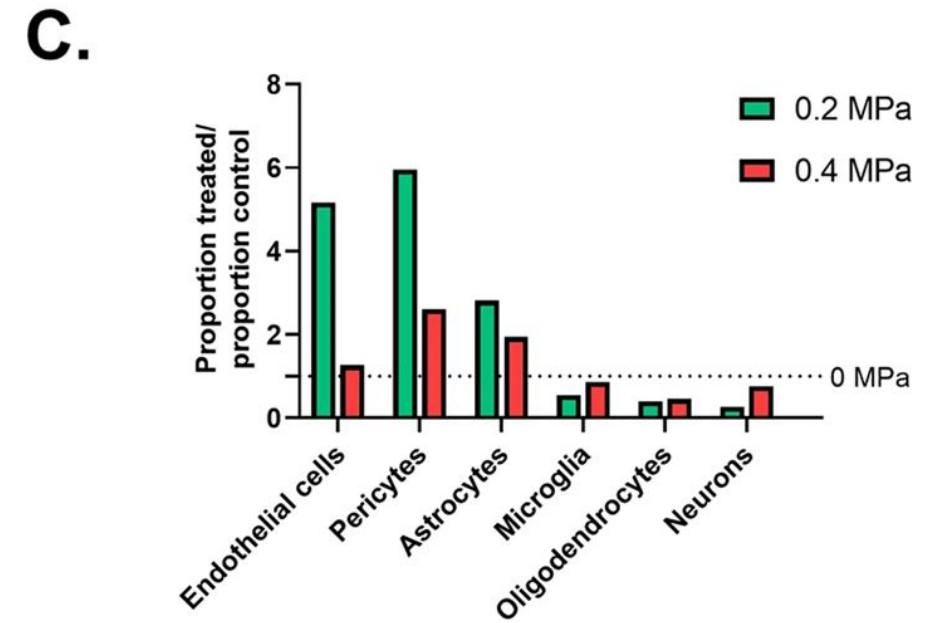
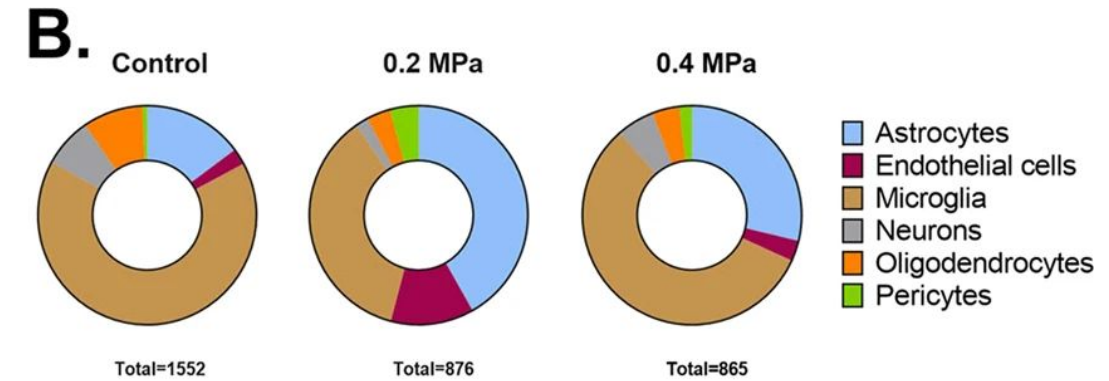
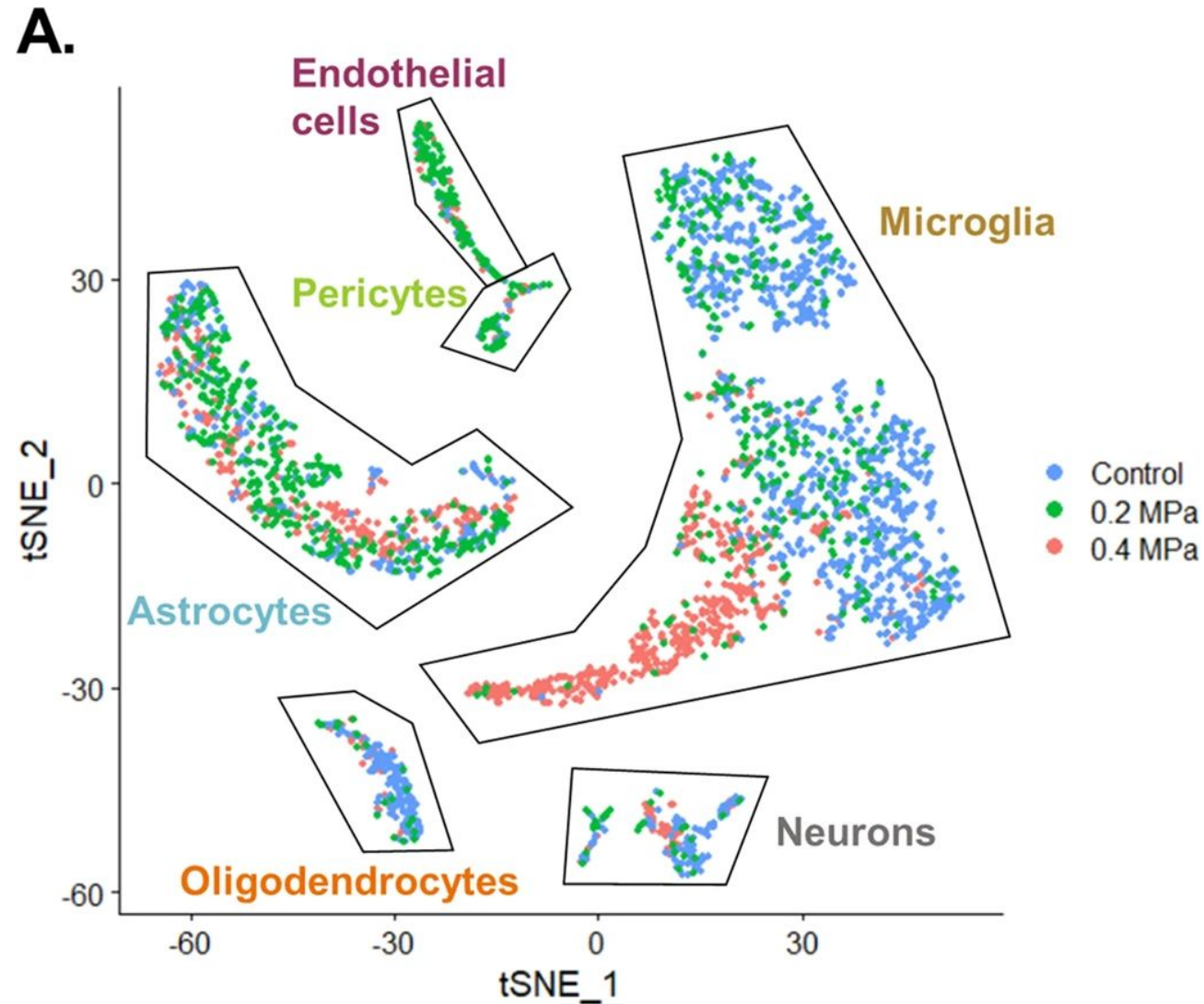
Mead, Curley et al. *Small* 15:e1903460;2019

MR Thermometry



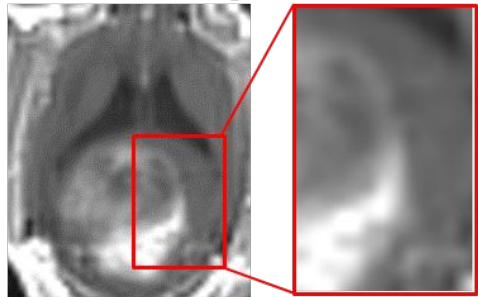
Nance, Timbie et al. *J Control Release* 189:123-32; 2014

Enhanced Transfection Beyond Neurovascular Unit at High Pressures

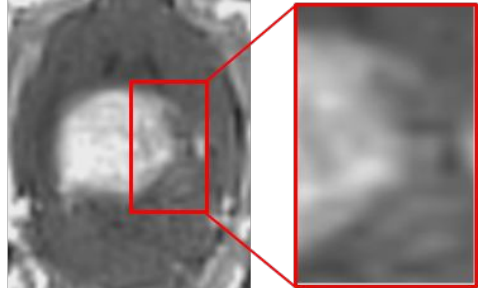


Day 28

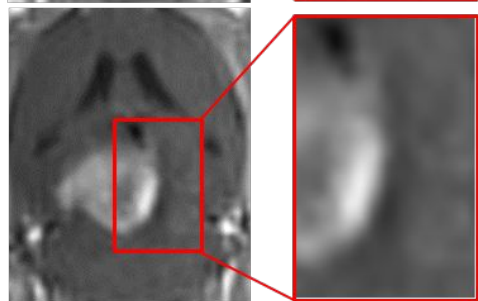
Untreated
Control



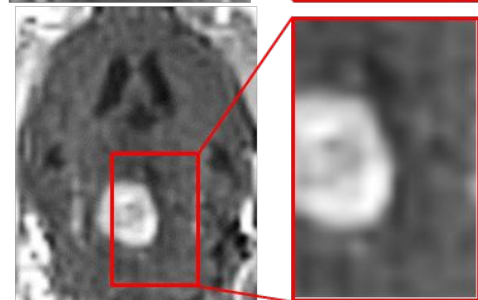
CDDP-BPN



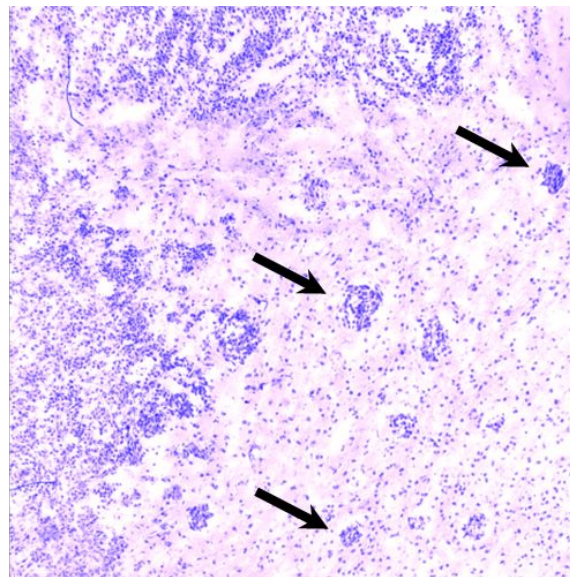
CDDP-BPN +
0.6 MPa FUS



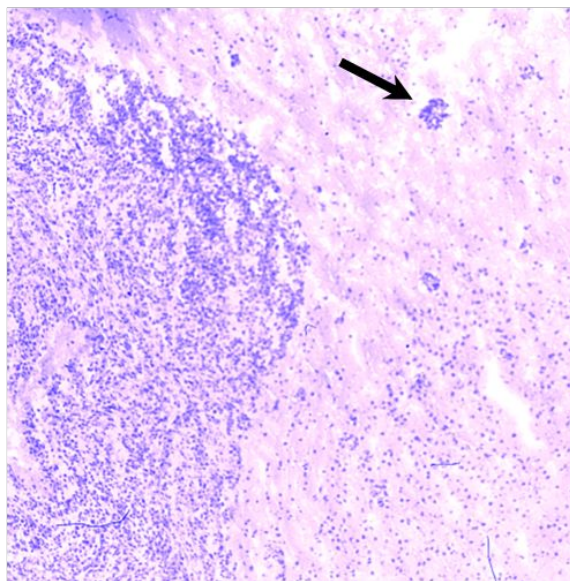
CDDP-BPN +
0.8 MPa FUS



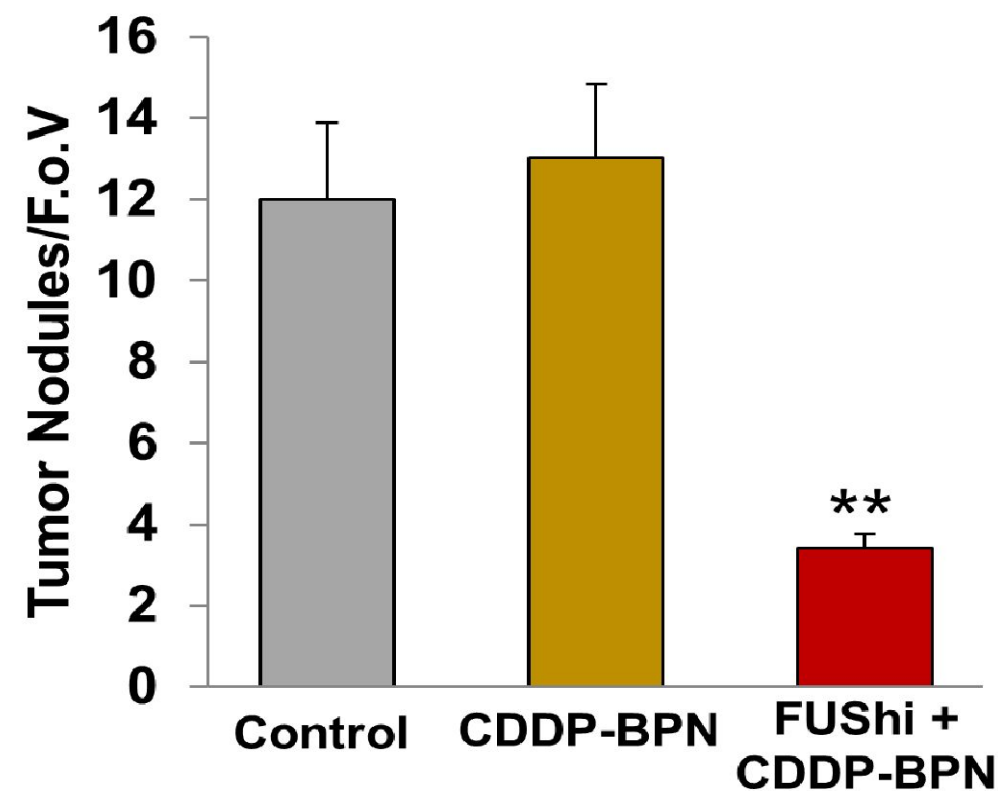
CDDP-BPN



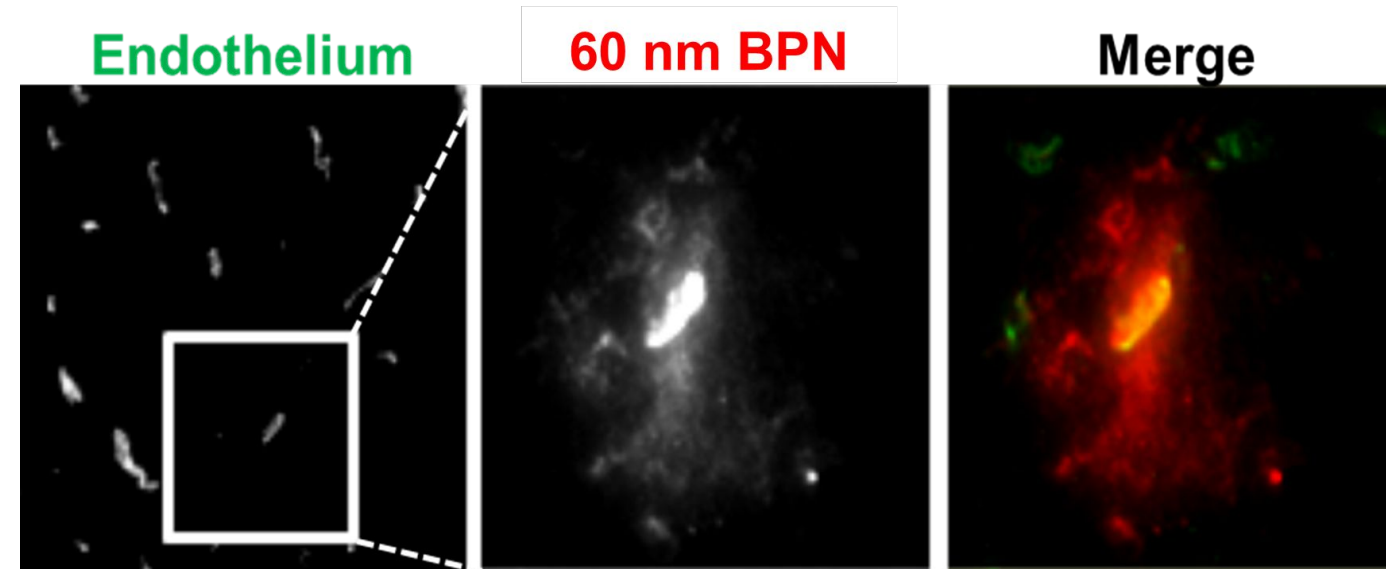
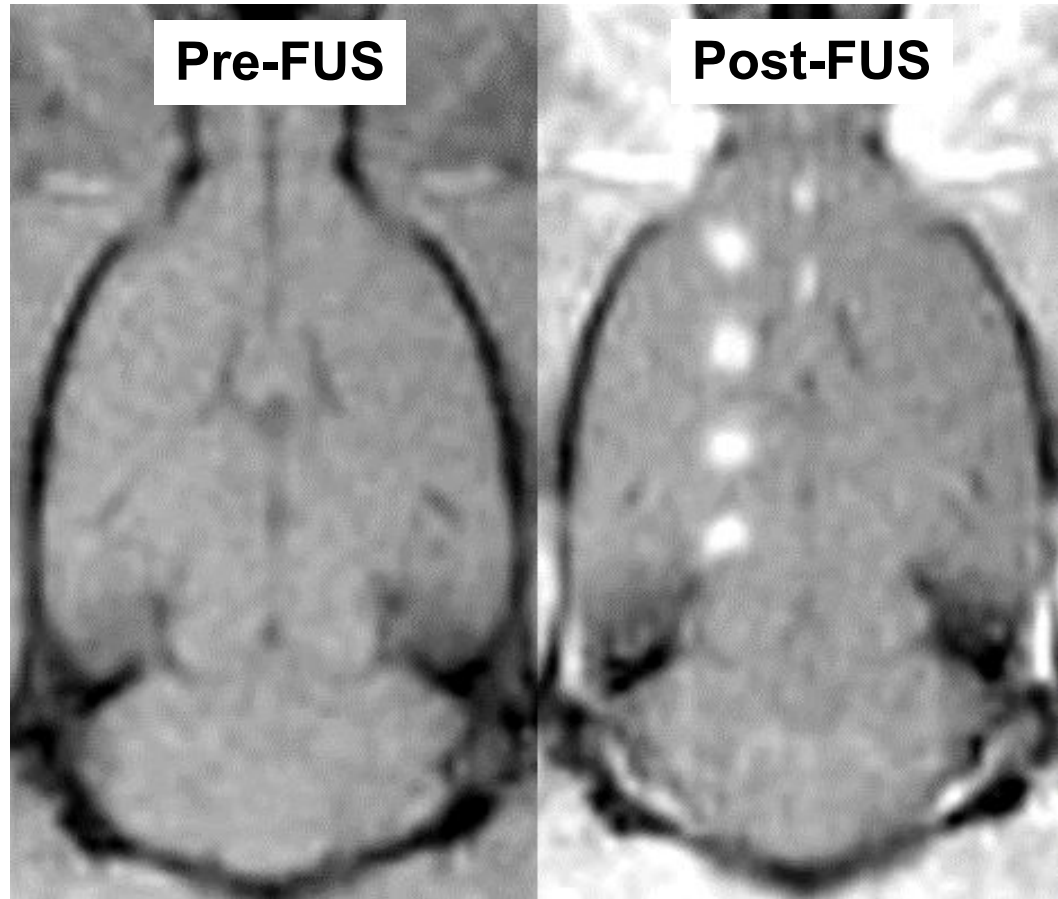
FUShi + CDDP-BPN



Cisplatin-Nanoparticle Delivery Inhibits Glioma Growth & Invasion



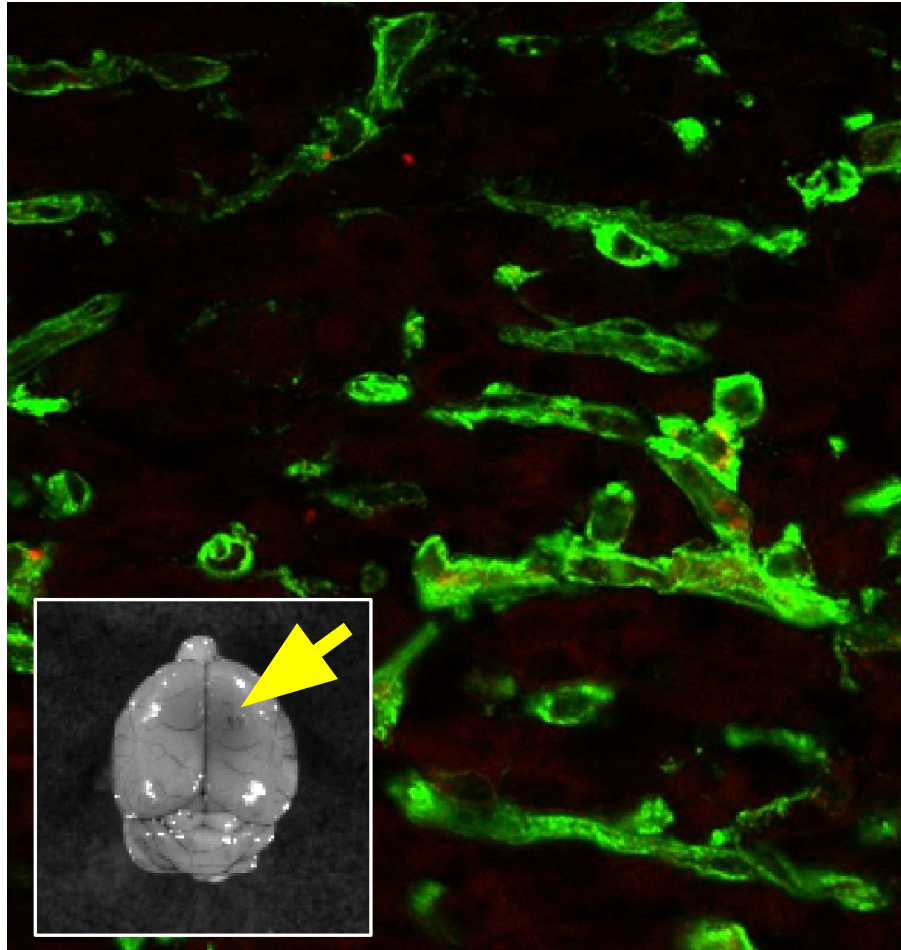
“Brain-Penetrating” Nanoparticle (BPN) Delivery Across the BBB via Microbubble Activation with Focused Ultrasound



Nanoparticle (BPN) Delivery to Gliomas in Mice with MR Image-Guided Focused Ultrasound and Microbubbles (6h)

BS-I Lectin/Cy5 BPN

Untreated Control



FUS + MB + Cy5 BPN

