

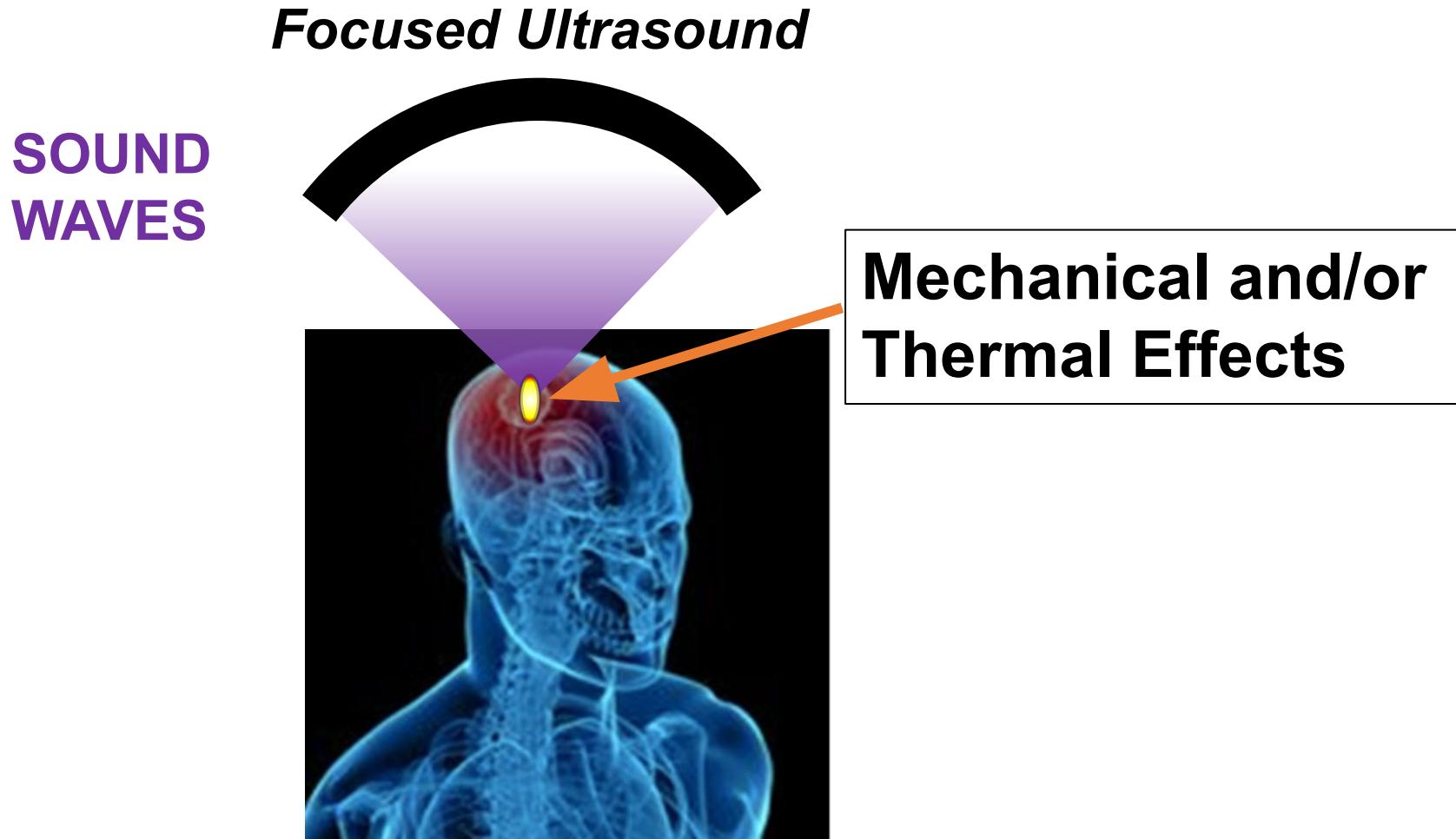
MRI-Targeted Drug and Gene Delivery to the CNS with Focused Ultrasound

Richard J. Price, Ph.D.

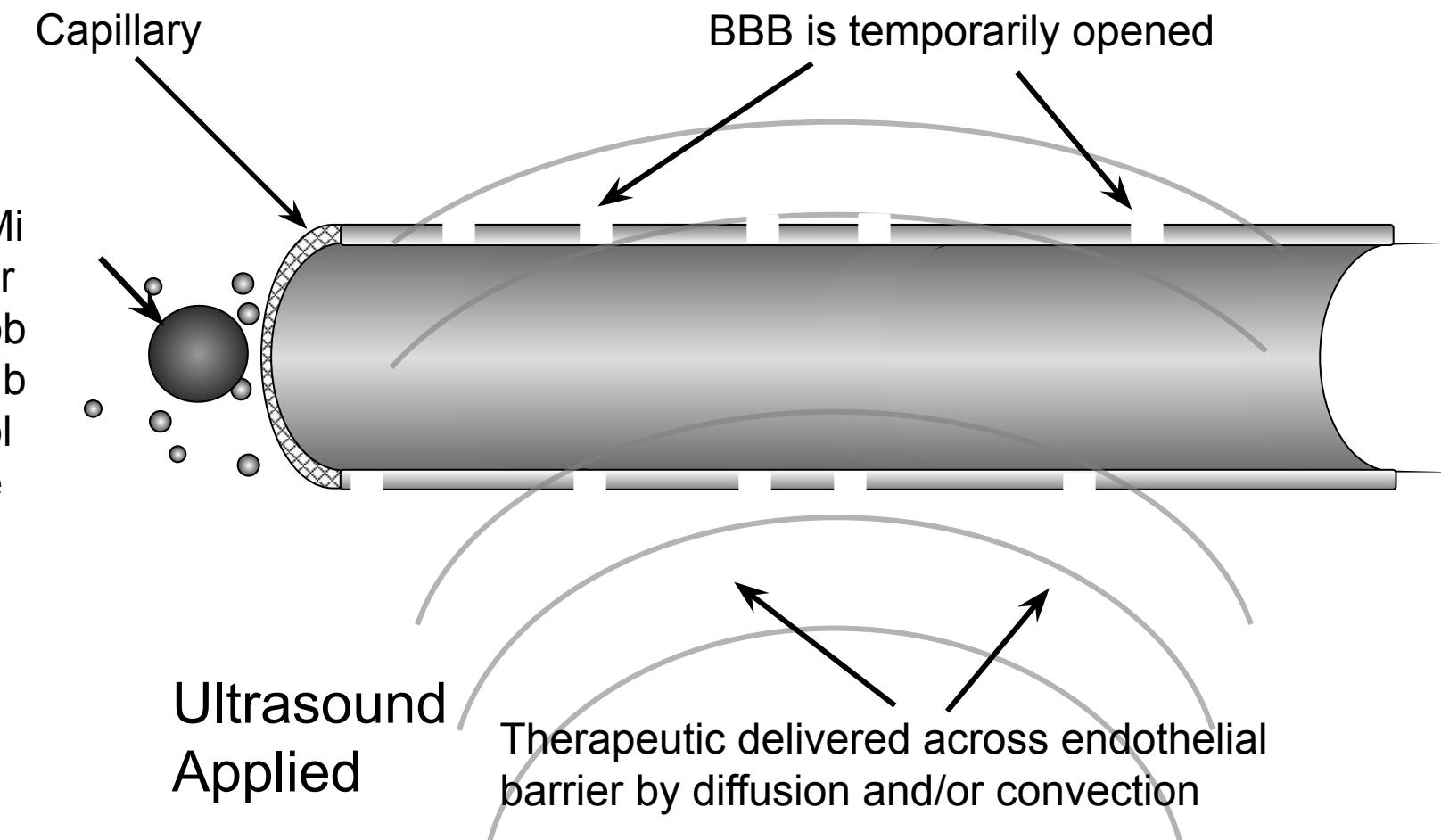
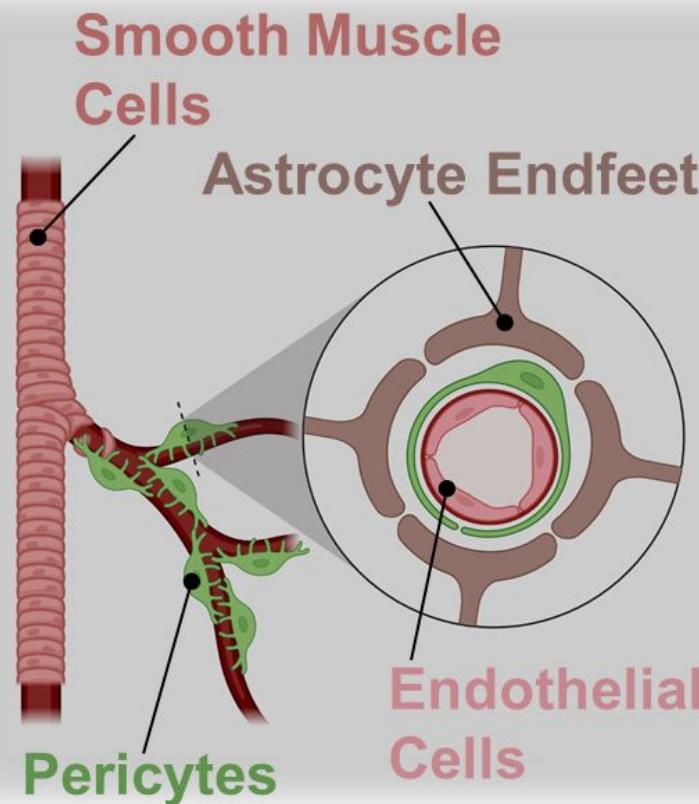
Lawrence R. Quarles Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Co-Director, UVa Focused Ultrasound Cancer Immunotherapy Center
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA



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



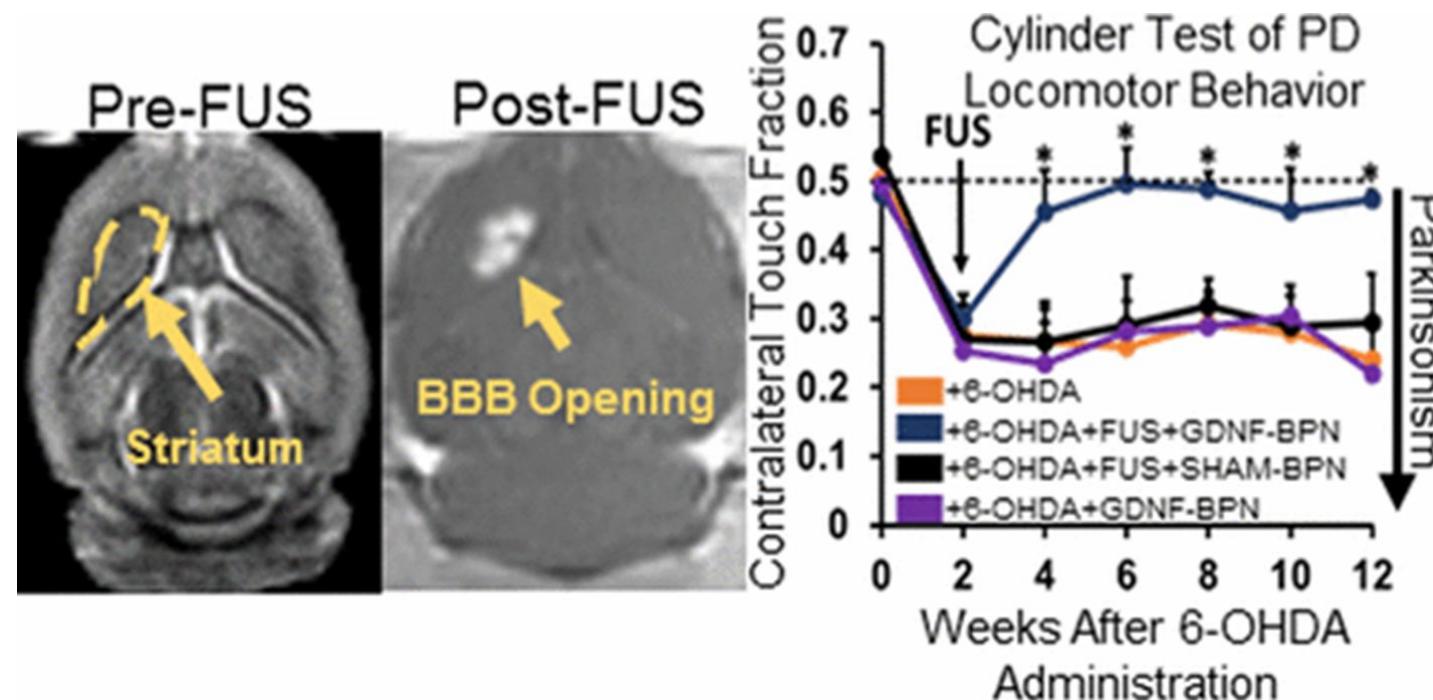
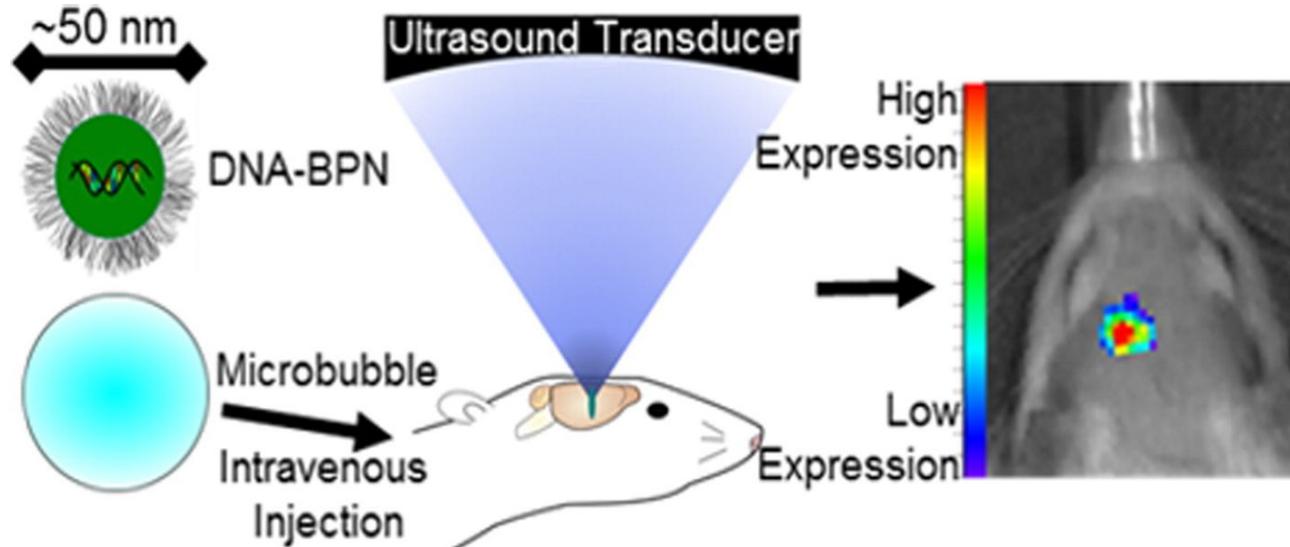
Drug and Gene Delivery Across the Blood-Brain (BBB) & Blood-Tumor Barriers (BTB)



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

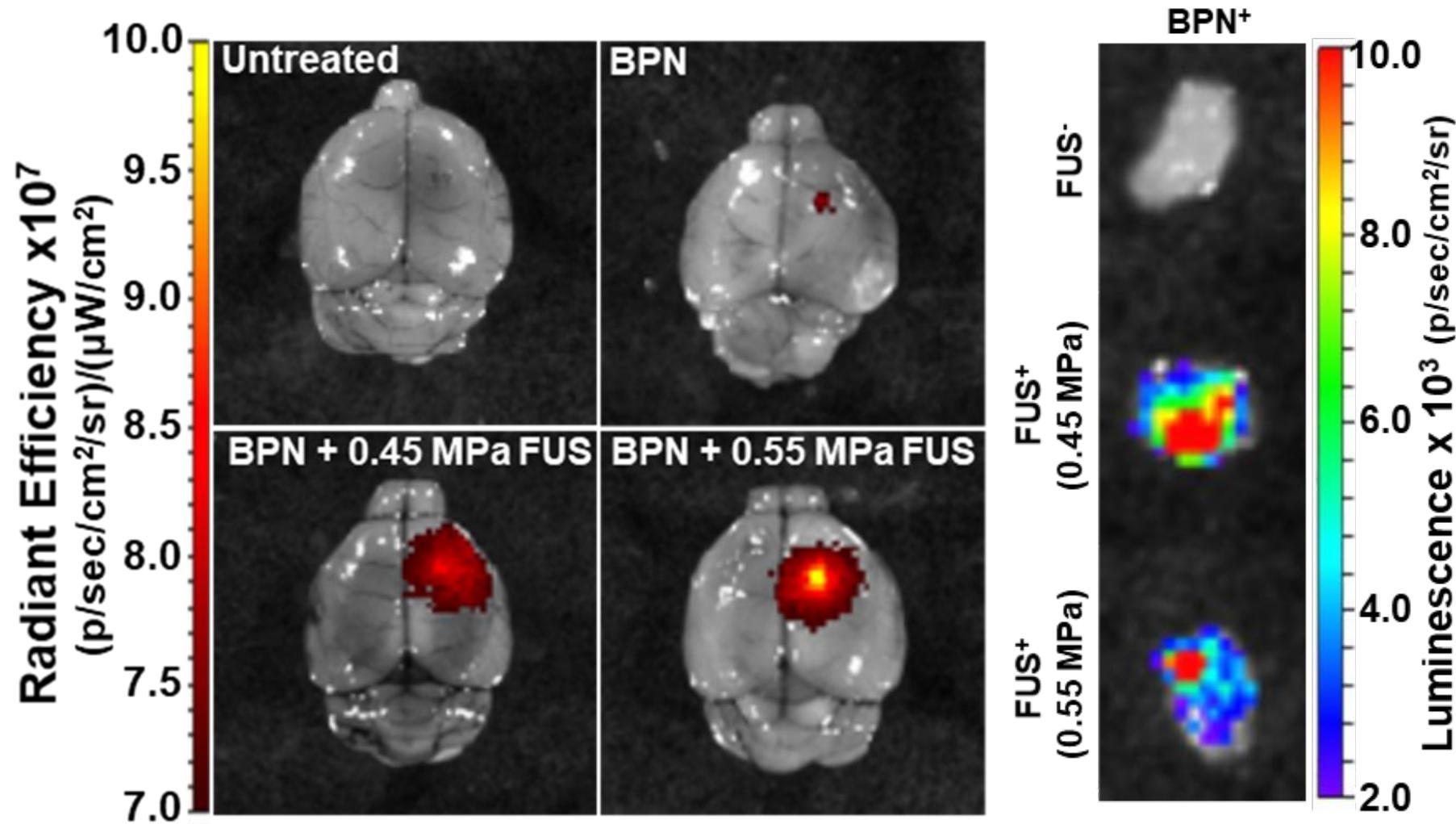
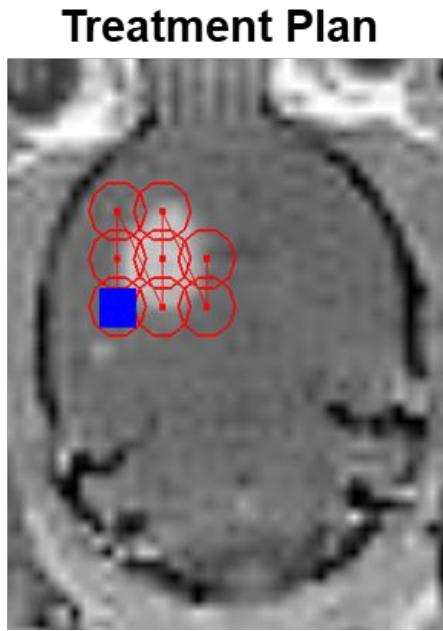
Mead et al.
J Control Release 223:109-17;2016

Neurotrophic Gene Delivery for PD

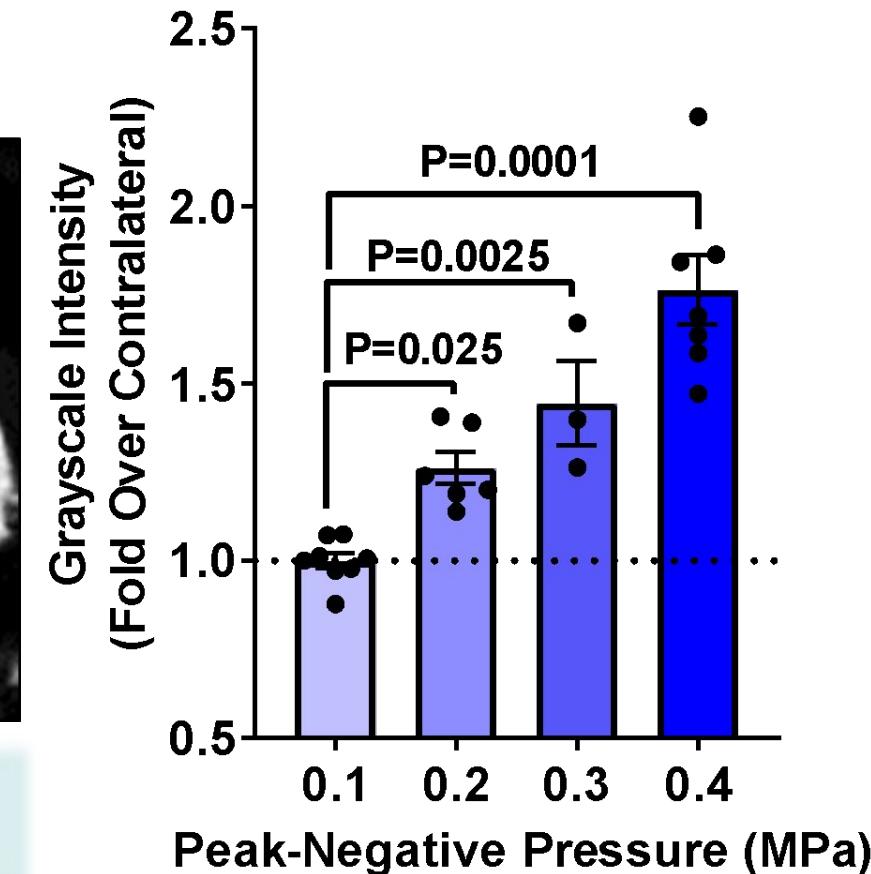
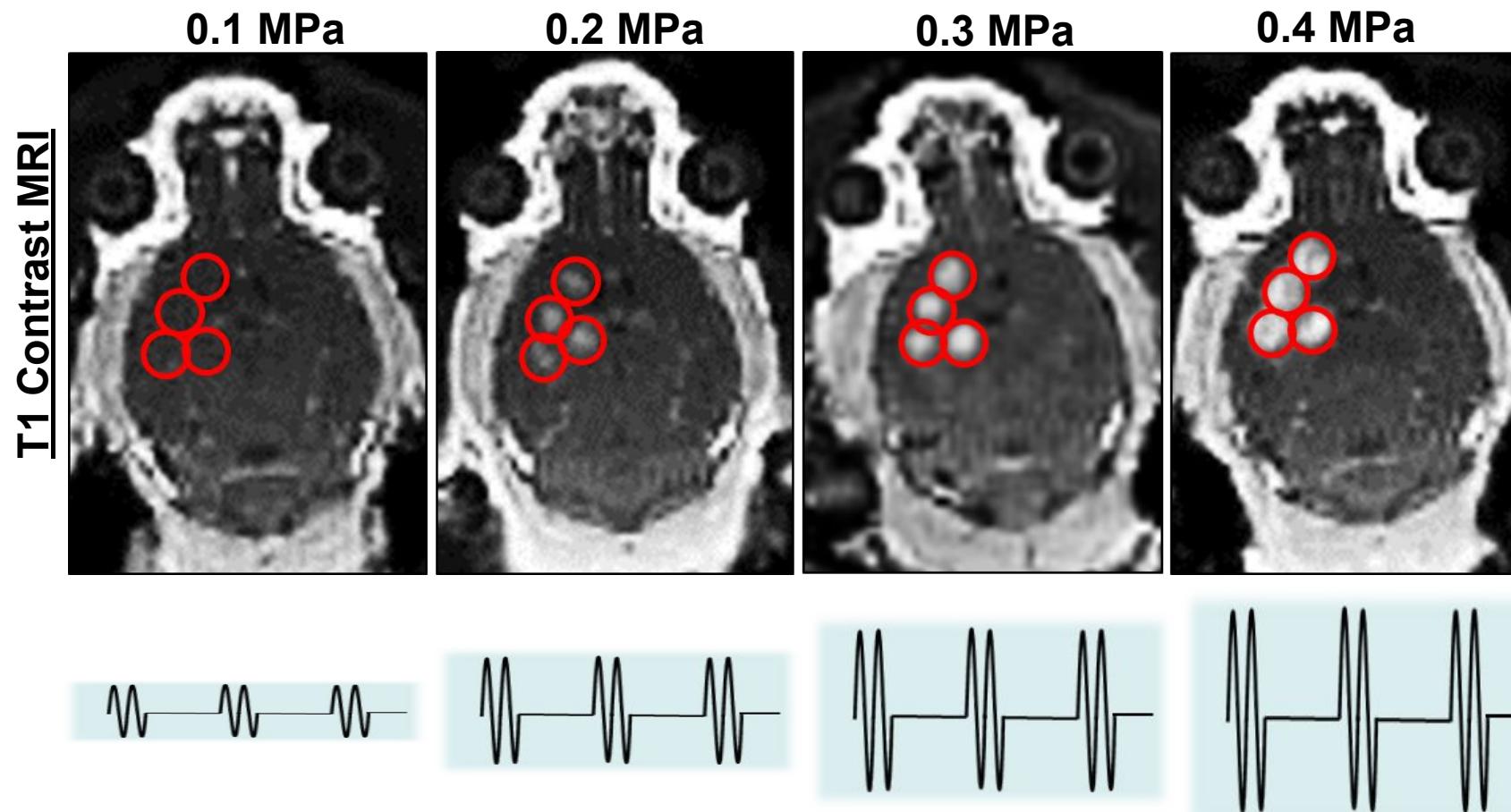
Mead et al.
Nano Lett. 17:3533-3542;2017

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

Barrier Opening

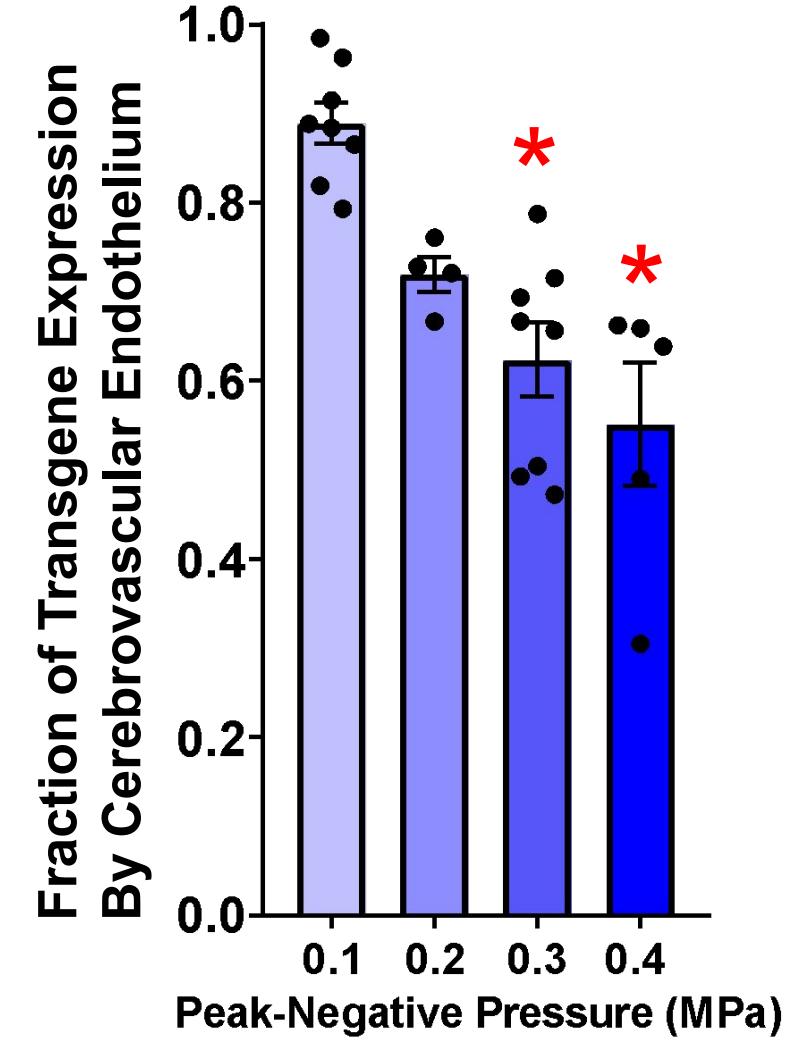
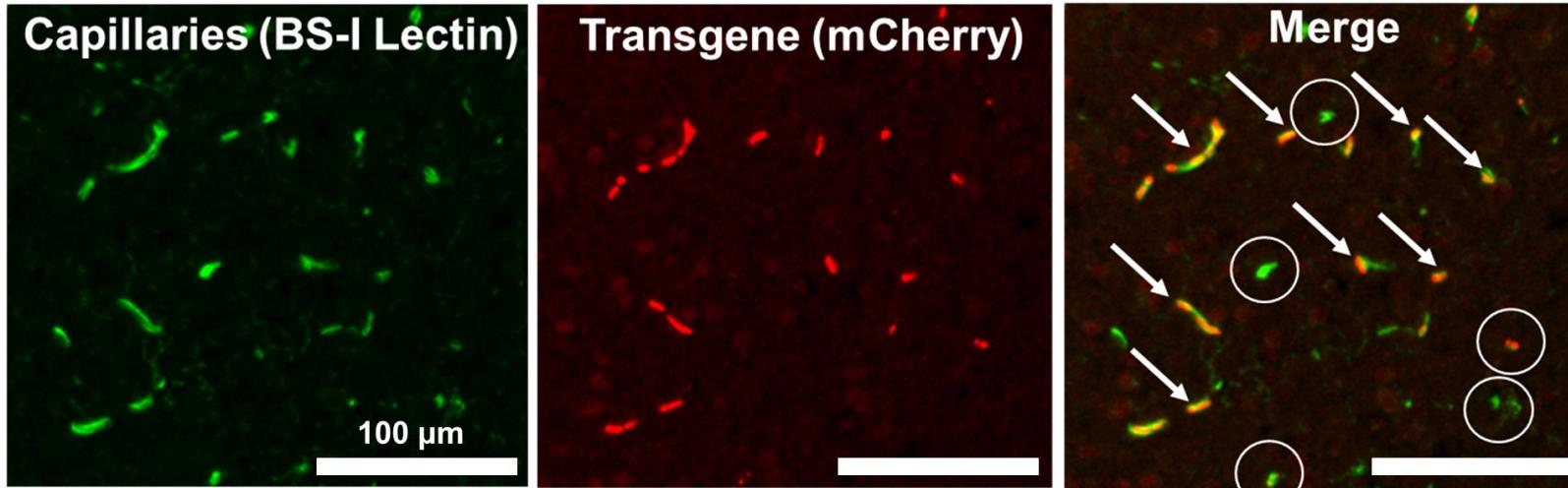


Relationships Between Focused Ultrasound Pressure and Transfected Cell Types



“Sonoselective” Endothelial Transfection At Low Pressures

FUS⁺



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



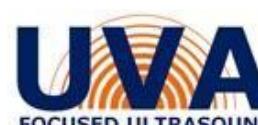
Colleen T. Curley¹, Aaron D. Stevens², Alexander S. Mathew¹, Katarzyna Stasiak³, William J. Garrison¹, G. Wilson Miller^{1,4}, Natasha D. Sheybani^{1✉}, Victor H. Engelhard³, Timothy N.J. Bullock^{2✉}, and Richard J. Price^{1,4✉}

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

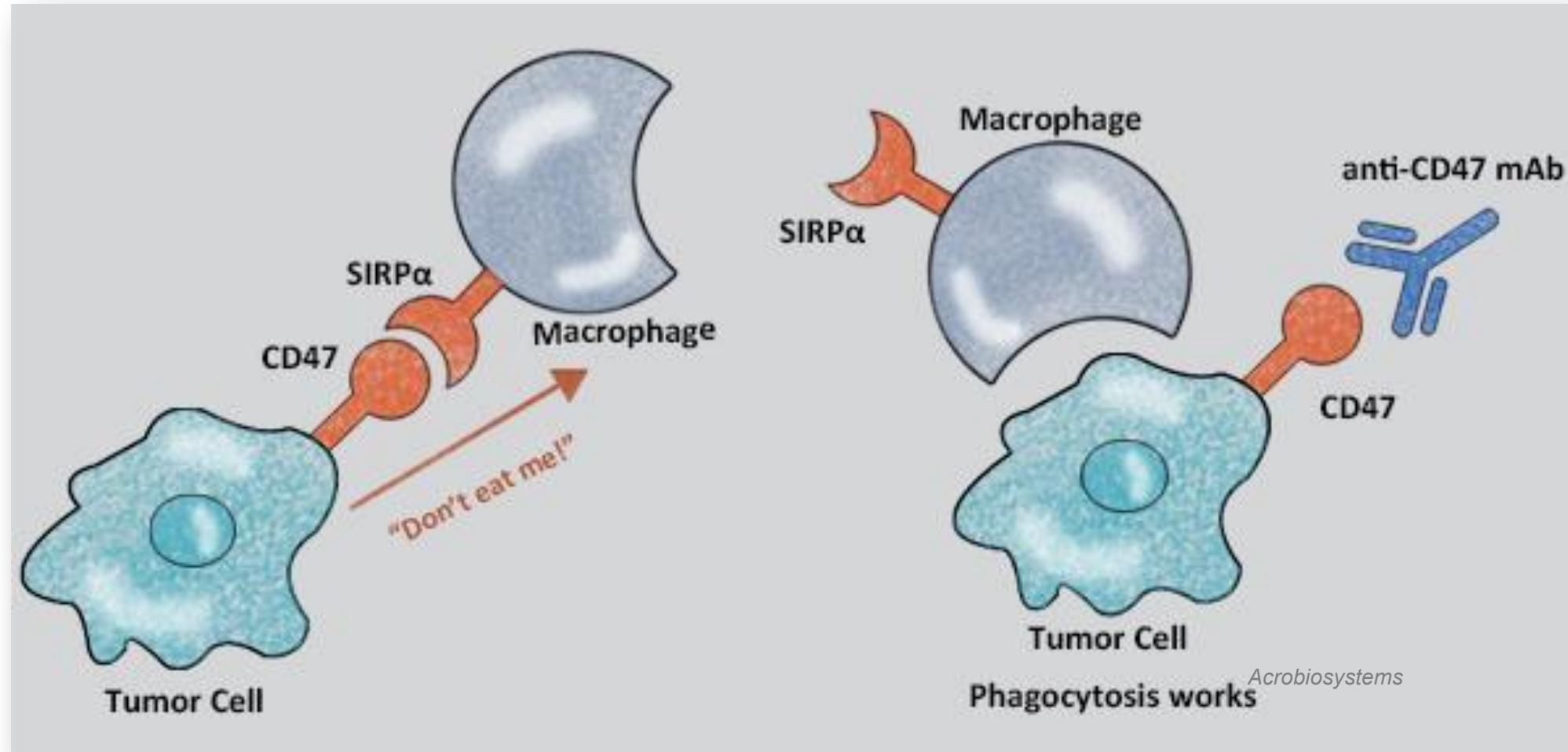
Profiling of the immune landscape in murine glioblastoma following blood brain/tumor barrier disruption with MR image-guided focused ultrasound

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

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

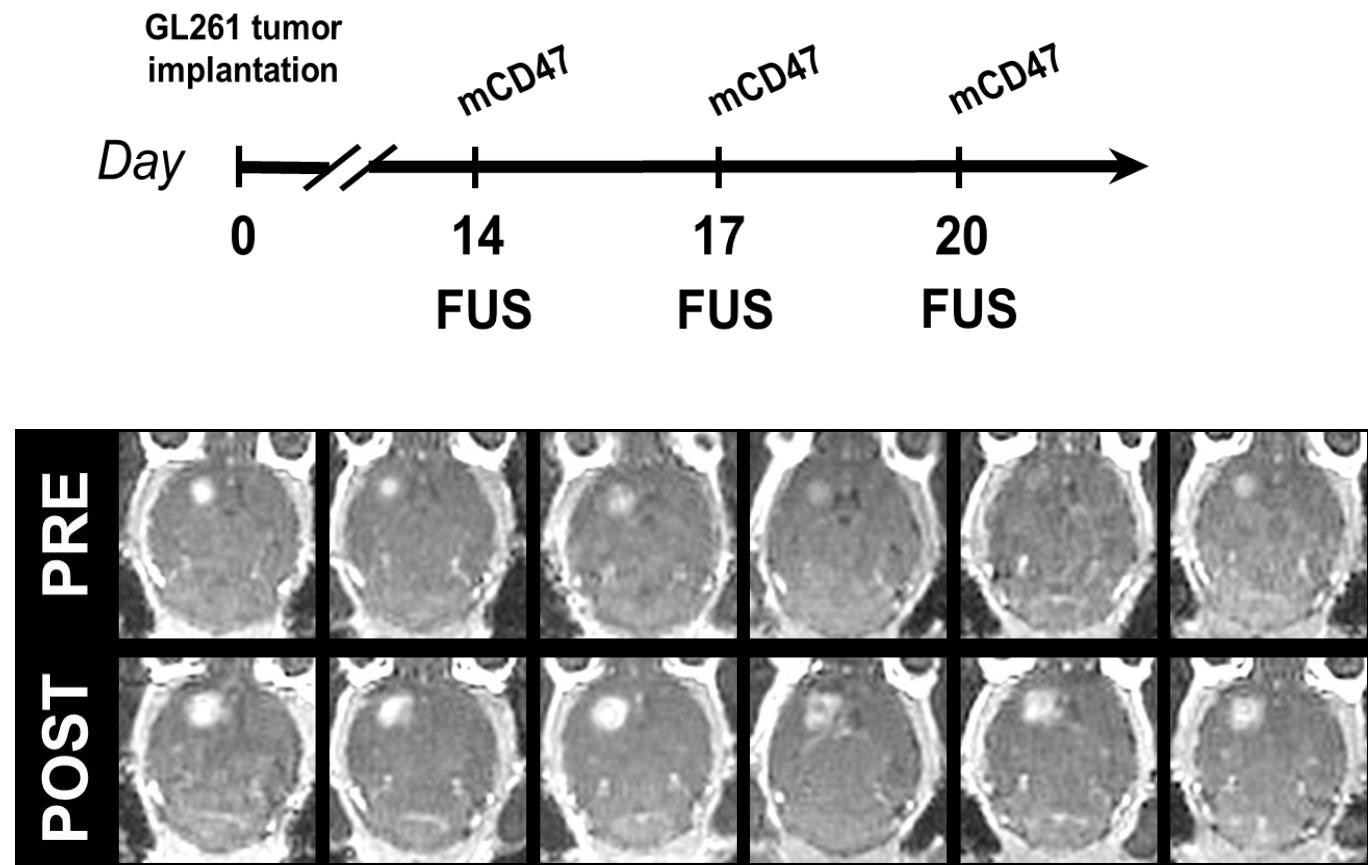
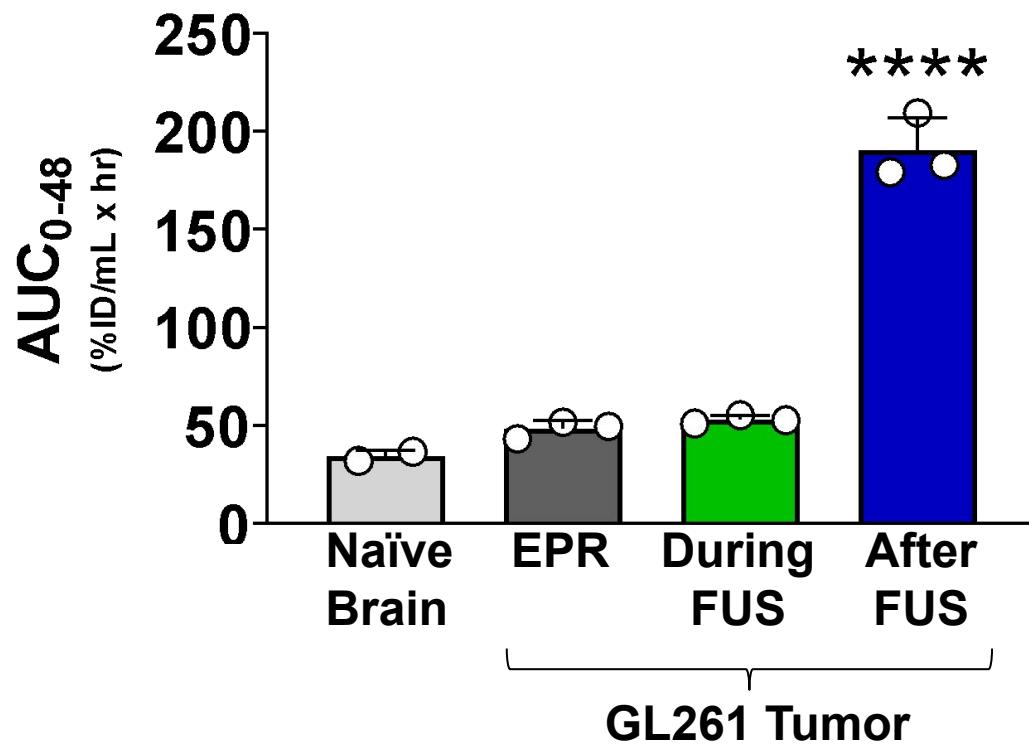


CD47 Blockade: An Immunotherapeutic Strategy for GBM

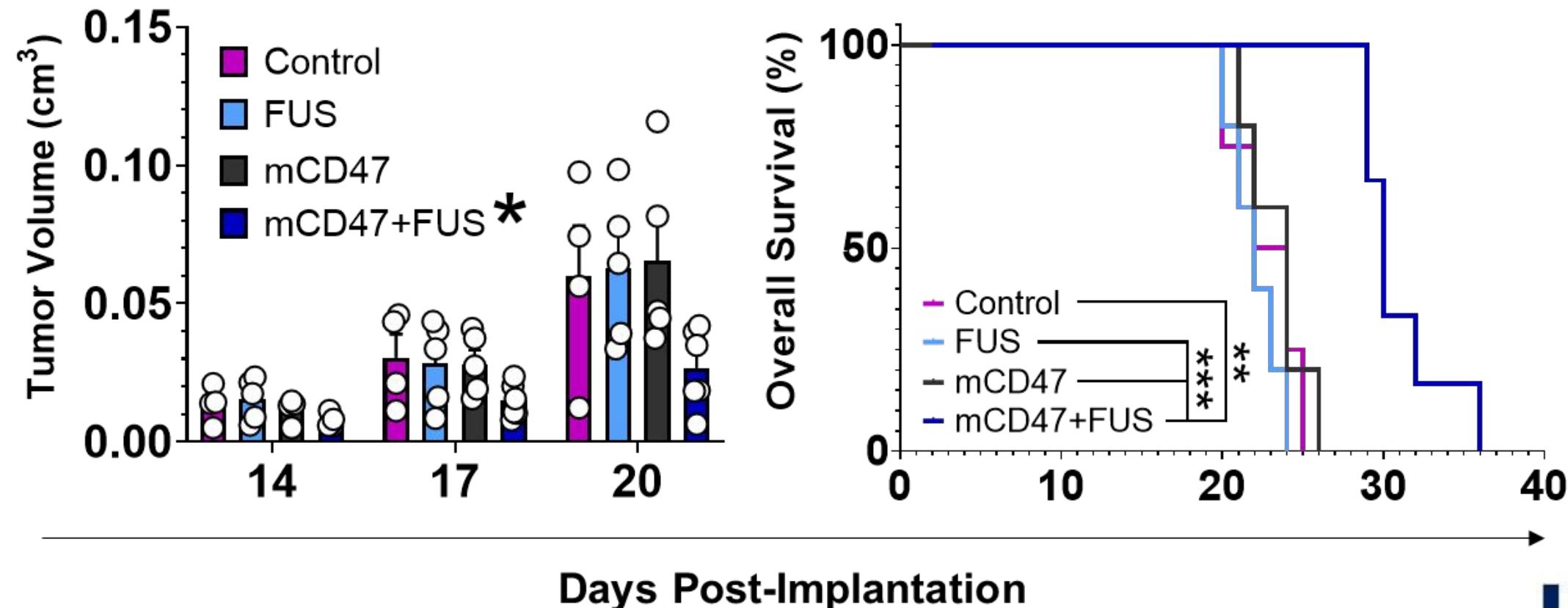


α CD47 Immunotherapy Delivery Protocol & Confirmation of BBB/BTB Opening

ImmunoPET Optimization of α CD47 Injection Timing

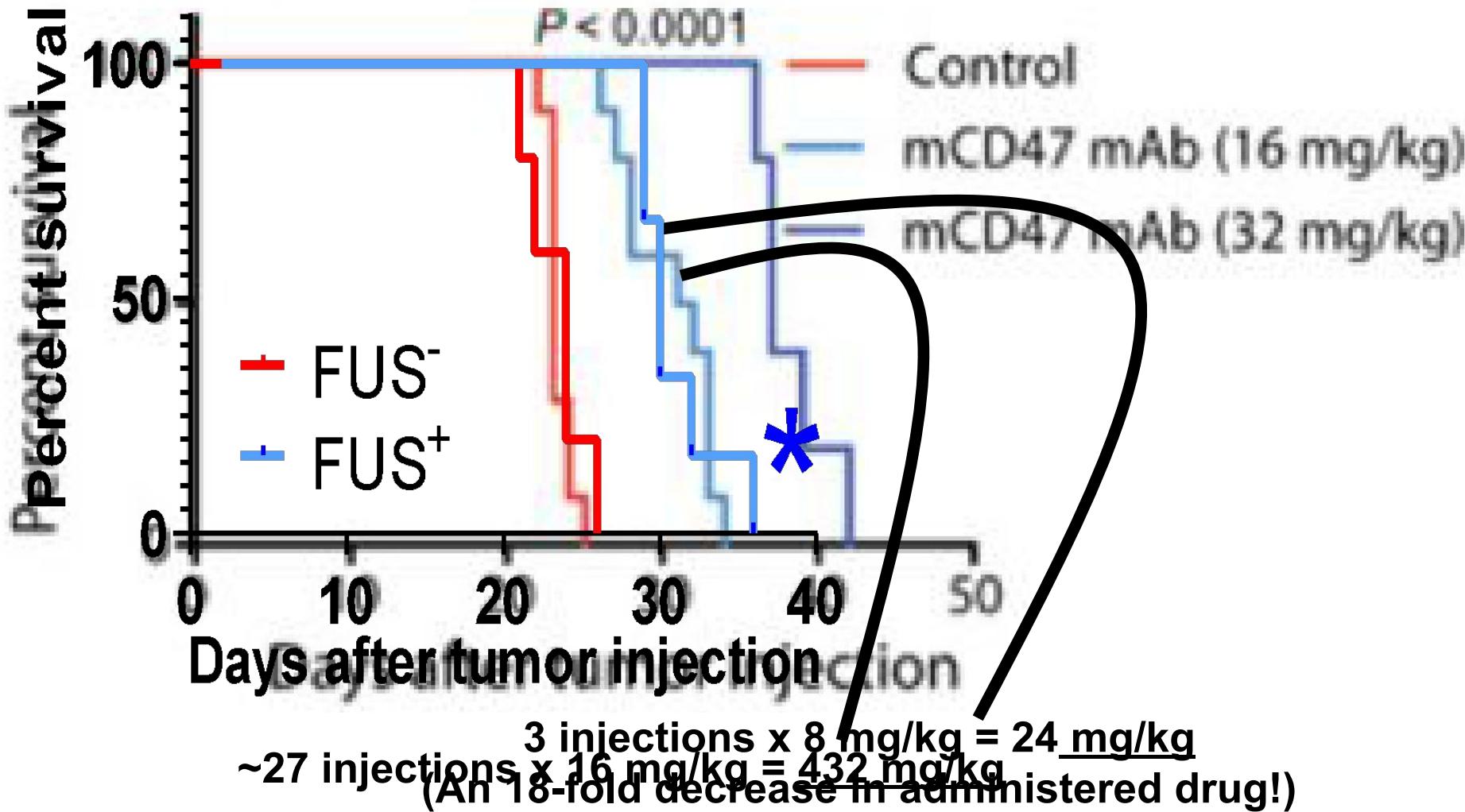


FUS-Mediated α CD47 Delivery Across the BBB/BTB Restricts GL261 Outgrowth and Improves Survival



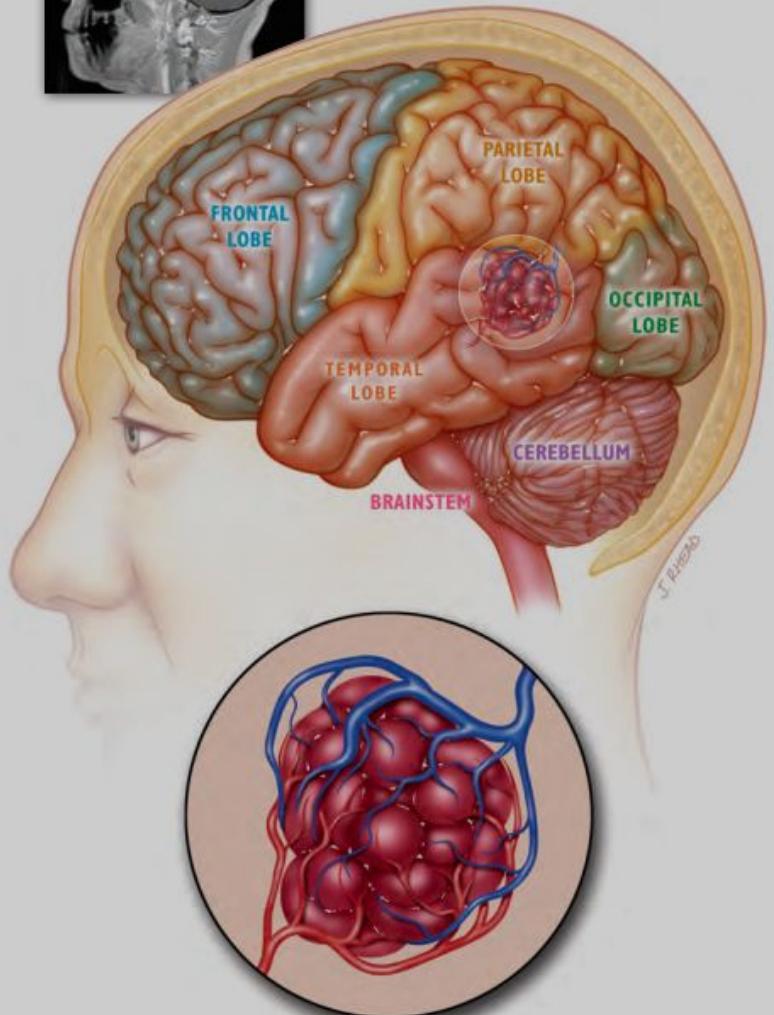
M-FUS BBB/BTB Opening Permits Tumor Control with Markedly Lower Injected Mass of α CD47

Gholamin et al. *Sci Trans Med* 2017



Presentation Outline

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

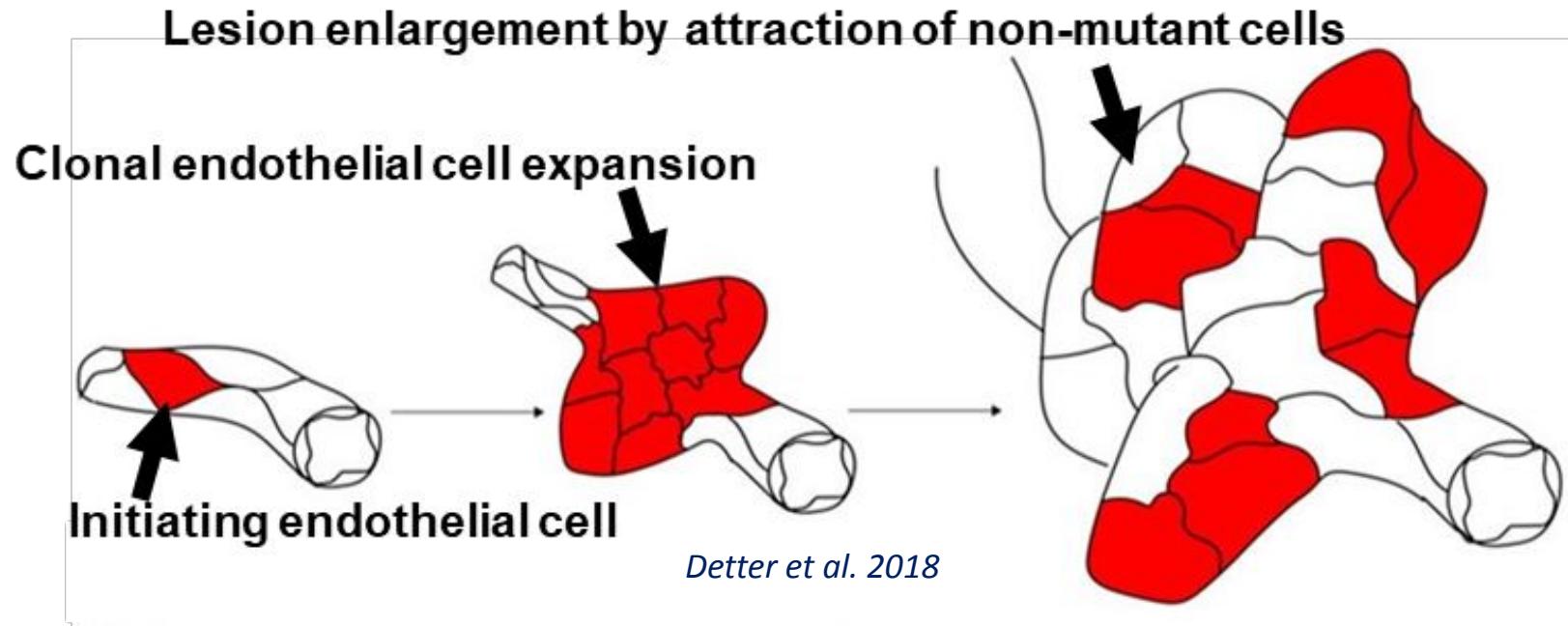


CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA
Also known as a Cerebral Cavernous Malformation or a Cavernoma

Angioma Alliance

Cerebral Cavernous Malformation (CCM)

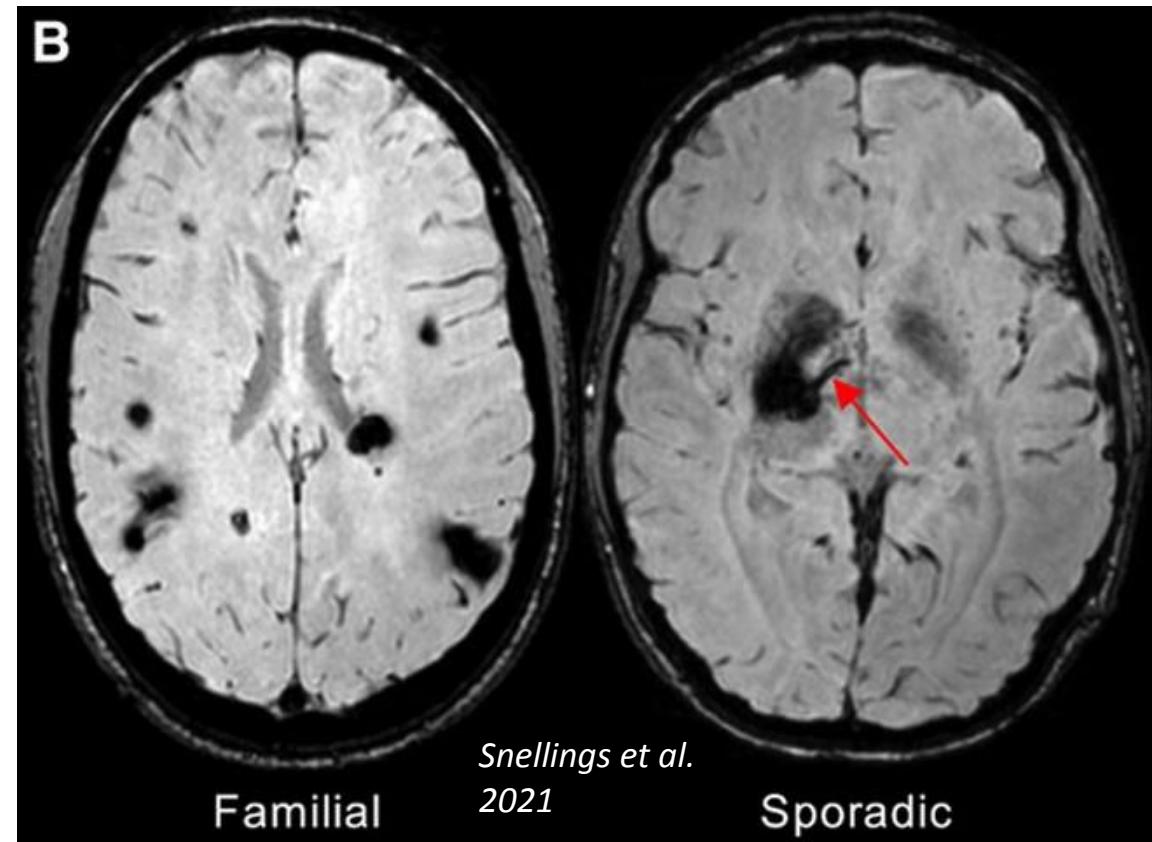
- Vascular lesions/neoplasms
- Biallelic loss-of-function mutation(s) in 1 of 3 CCM complex genes: KRIT1, CCM2, or PDCD10



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

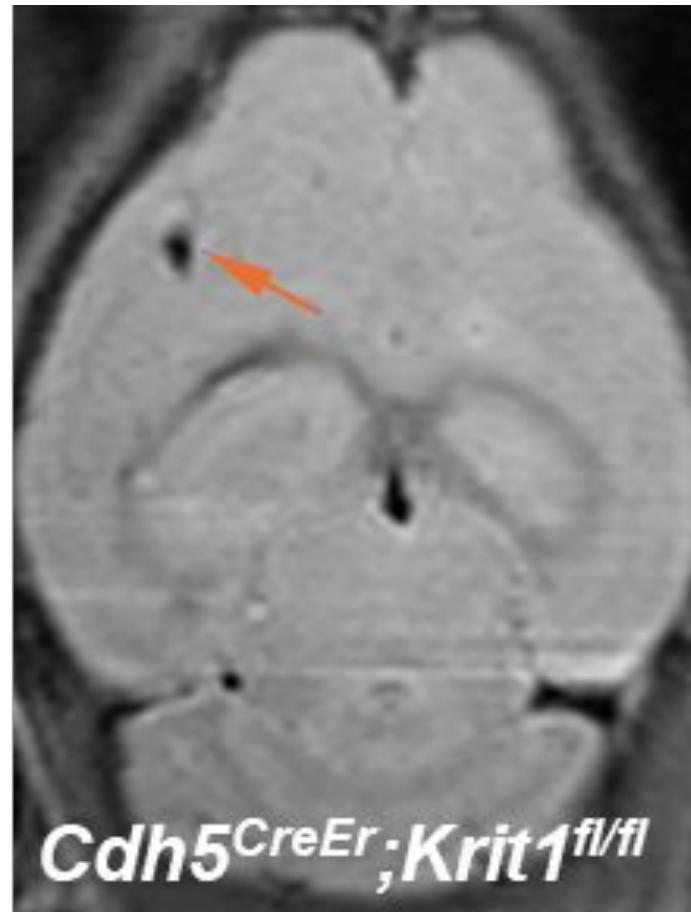
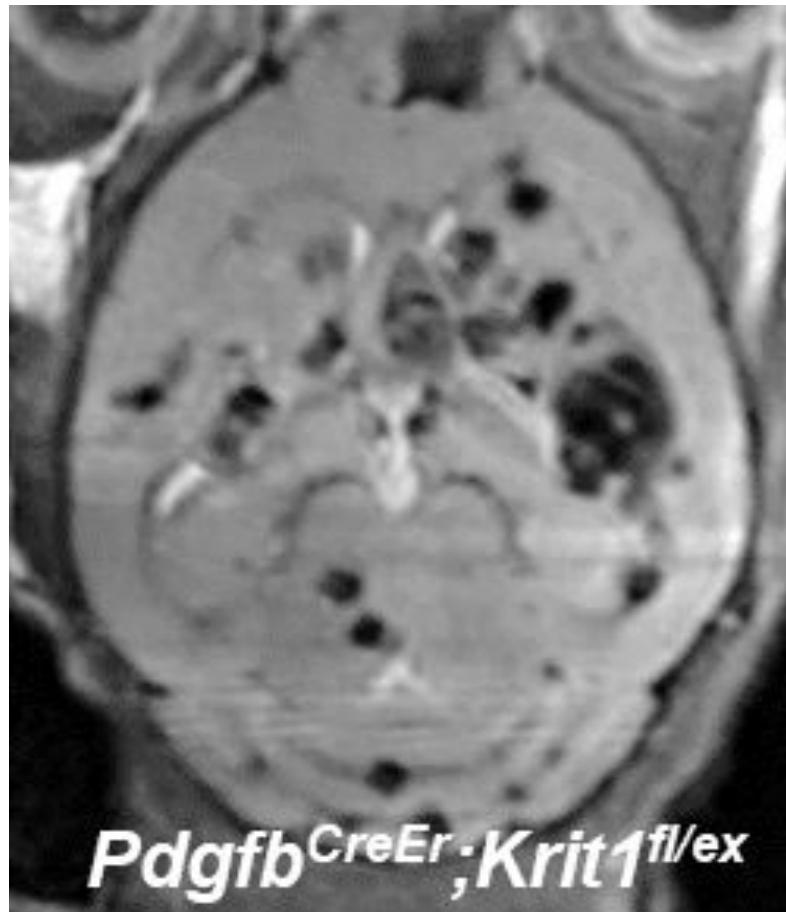
Rationale for Deploying FUS Against Cerebral Cavernous Malformations

- **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)**

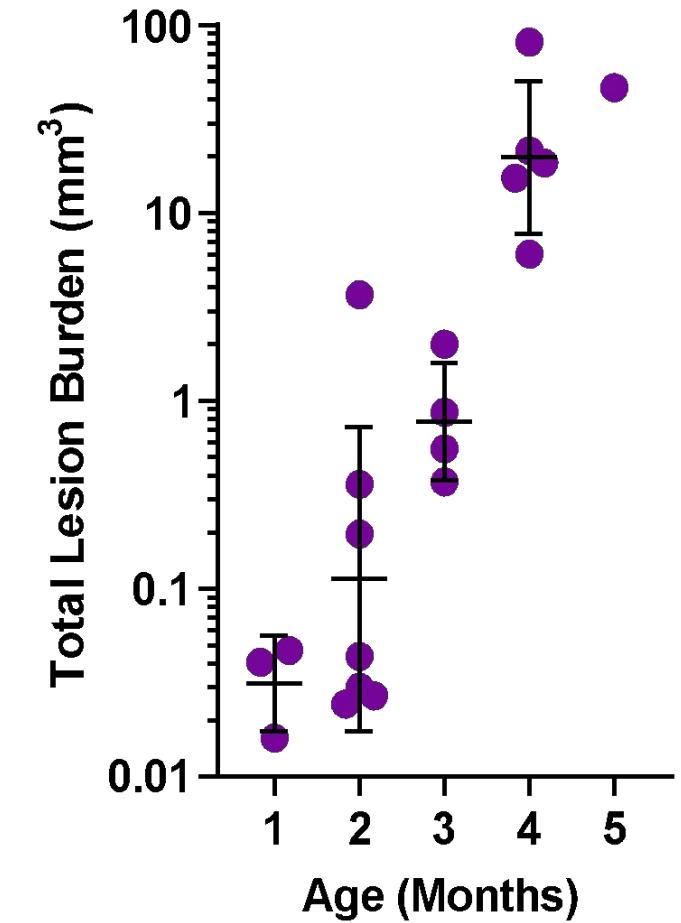


Mouse Models Representative of “Familial” and “Sporadic” Disease

T2 SPACE MRI

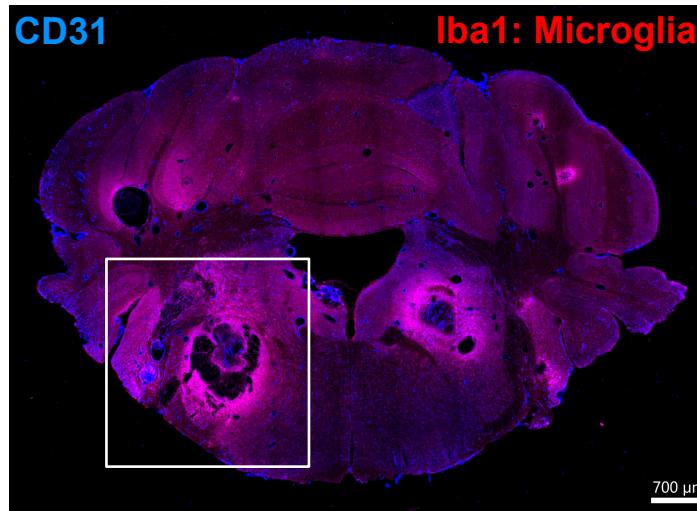
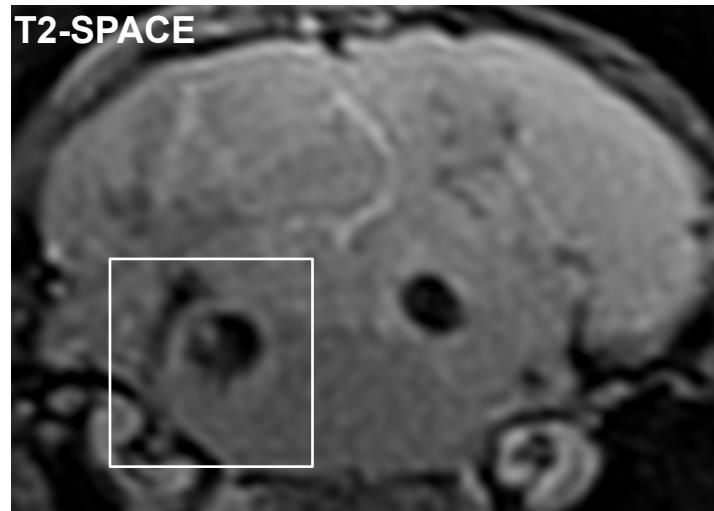


Pdgfb^{CreEr}; *Krit1*^{fl/ex}

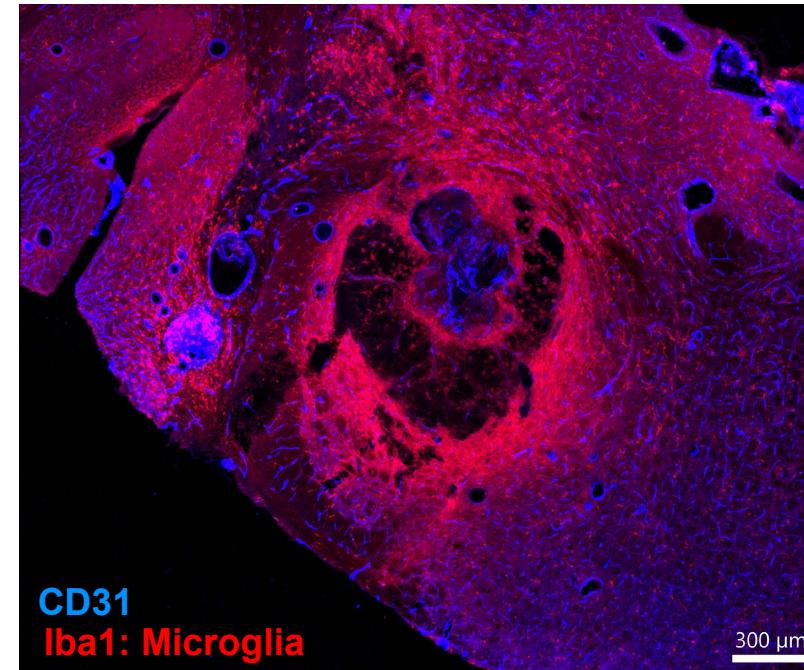


CCMs Cause Neuroinflammation and Oxidative Stress

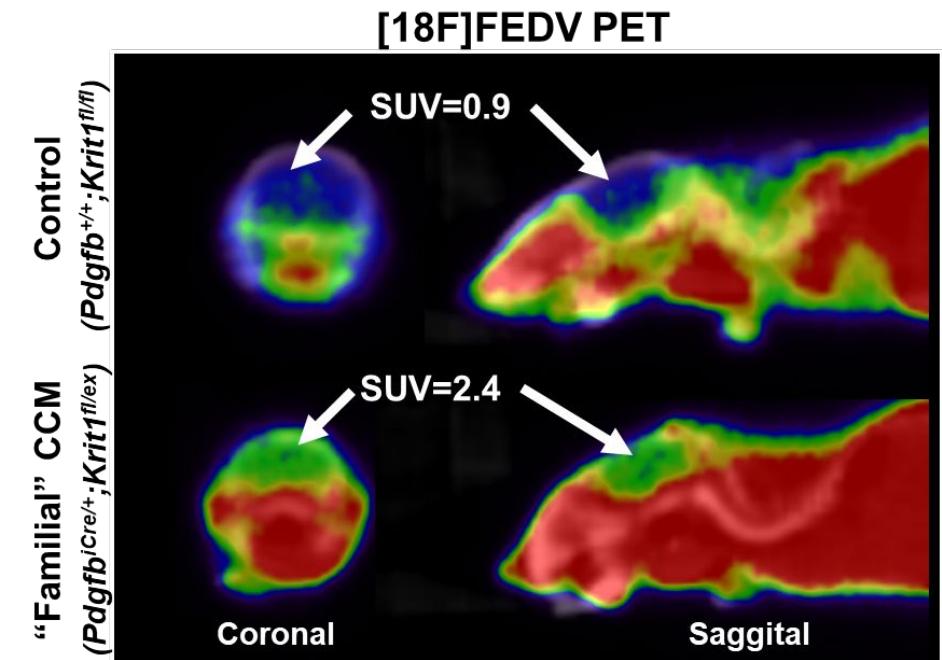
Pdgfb^{CreEr},*Krit1*^{f/f}



Neuro-inflammation



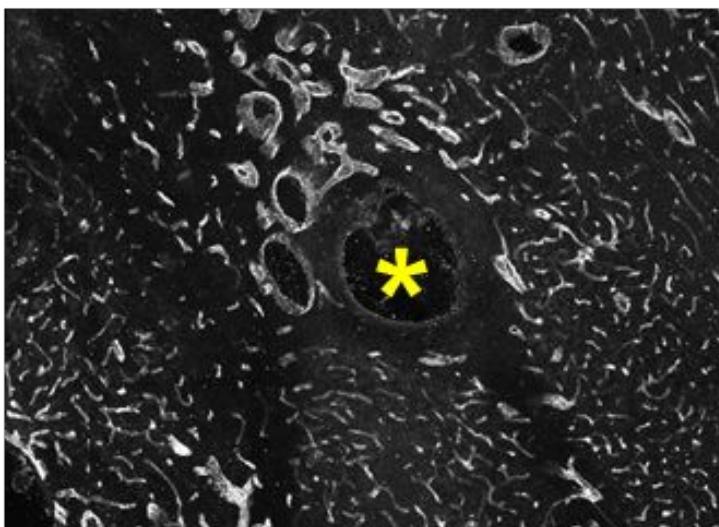
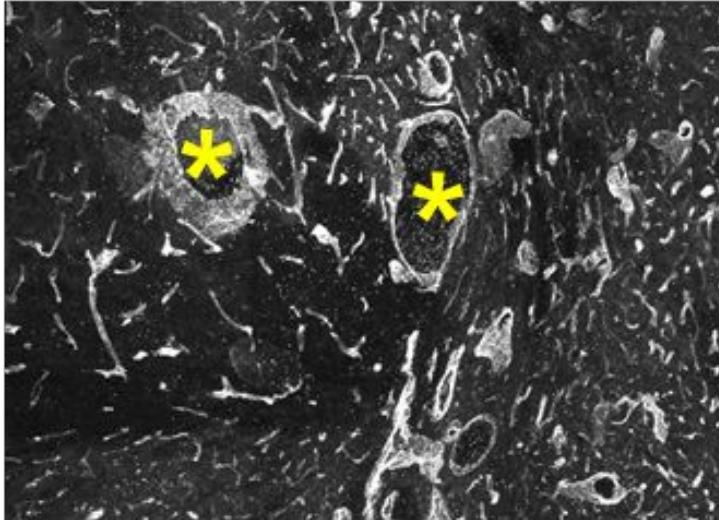
High Oxidative Stress



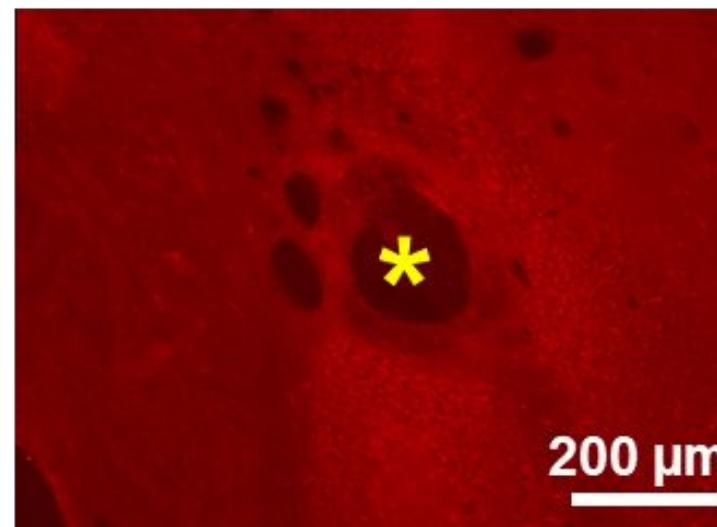
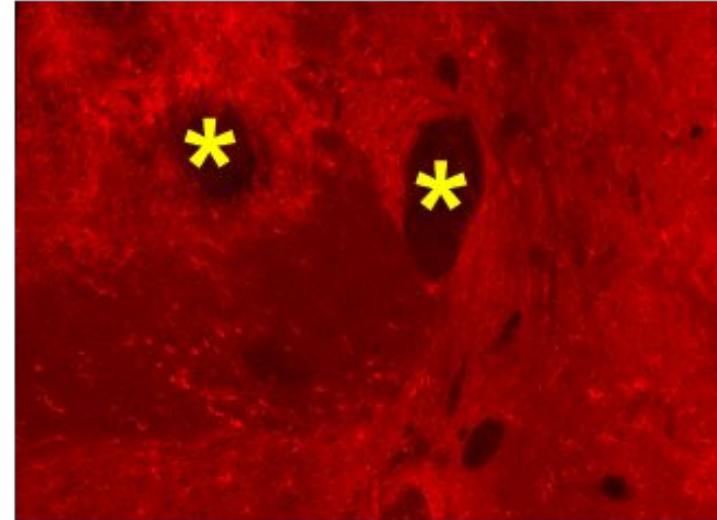
How might CCMs be accessed via the bloodstream?

*Pdbfb*cre/+;Krit1^{fl/fl}**

CD31 (Microvessels)



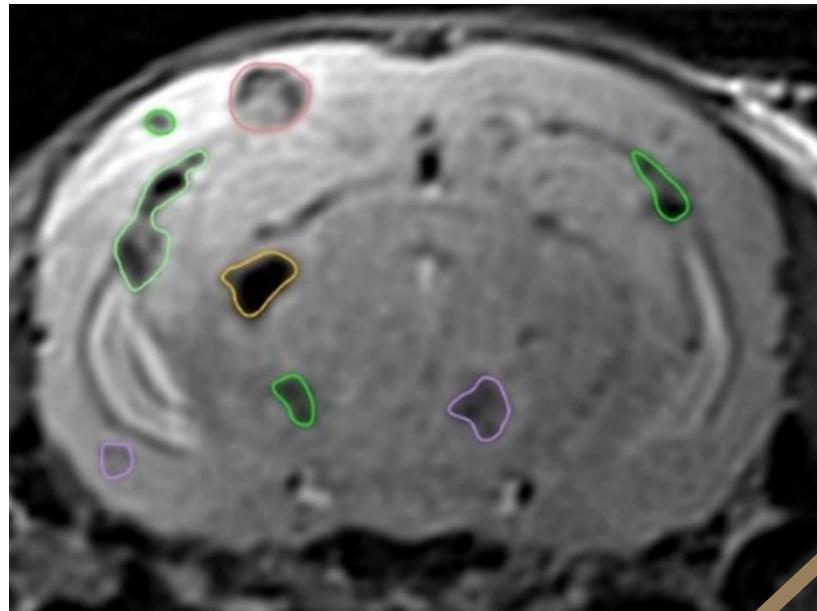
Iba1 (Microglia)



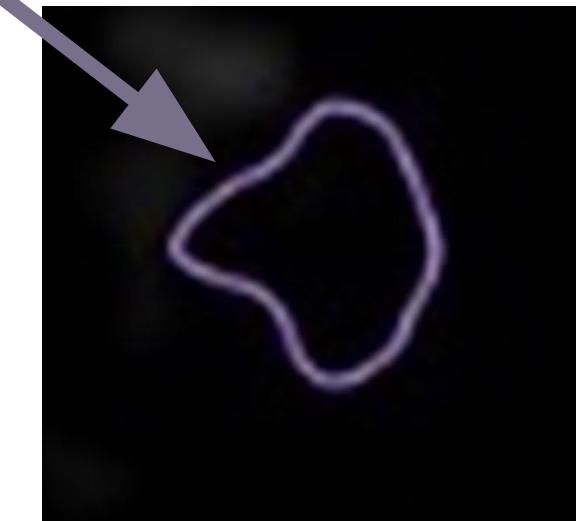
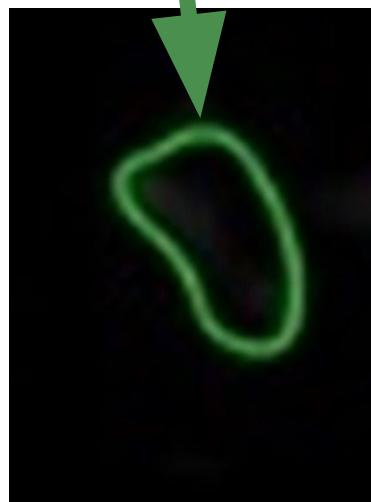
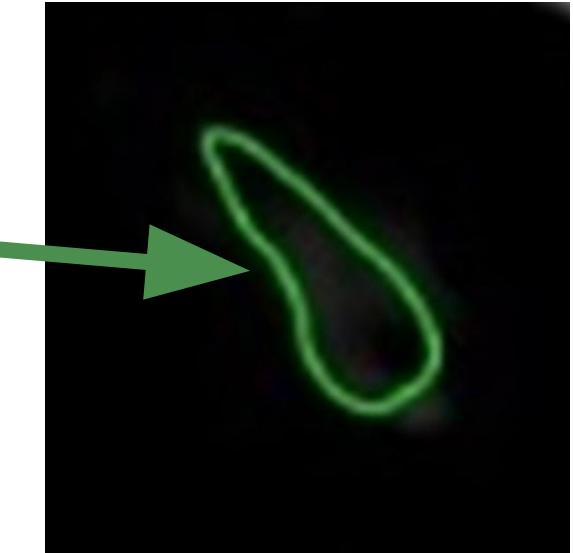
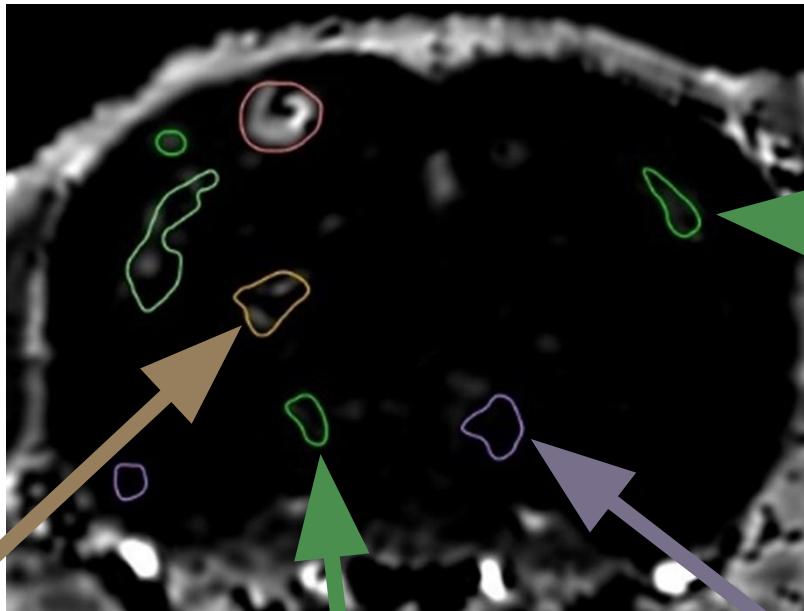
***CCM “Lumen”**

Peri-CCM Microvessels Retain “BBB-Like” Function

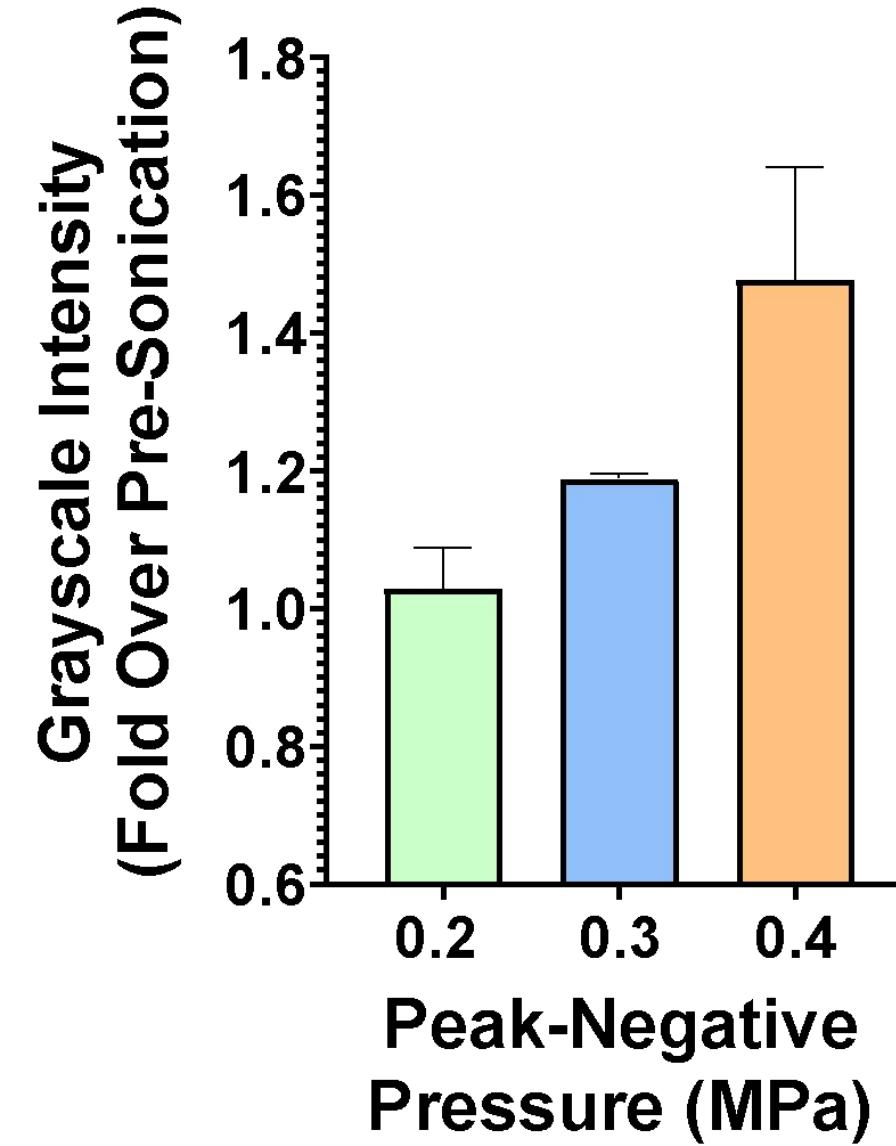
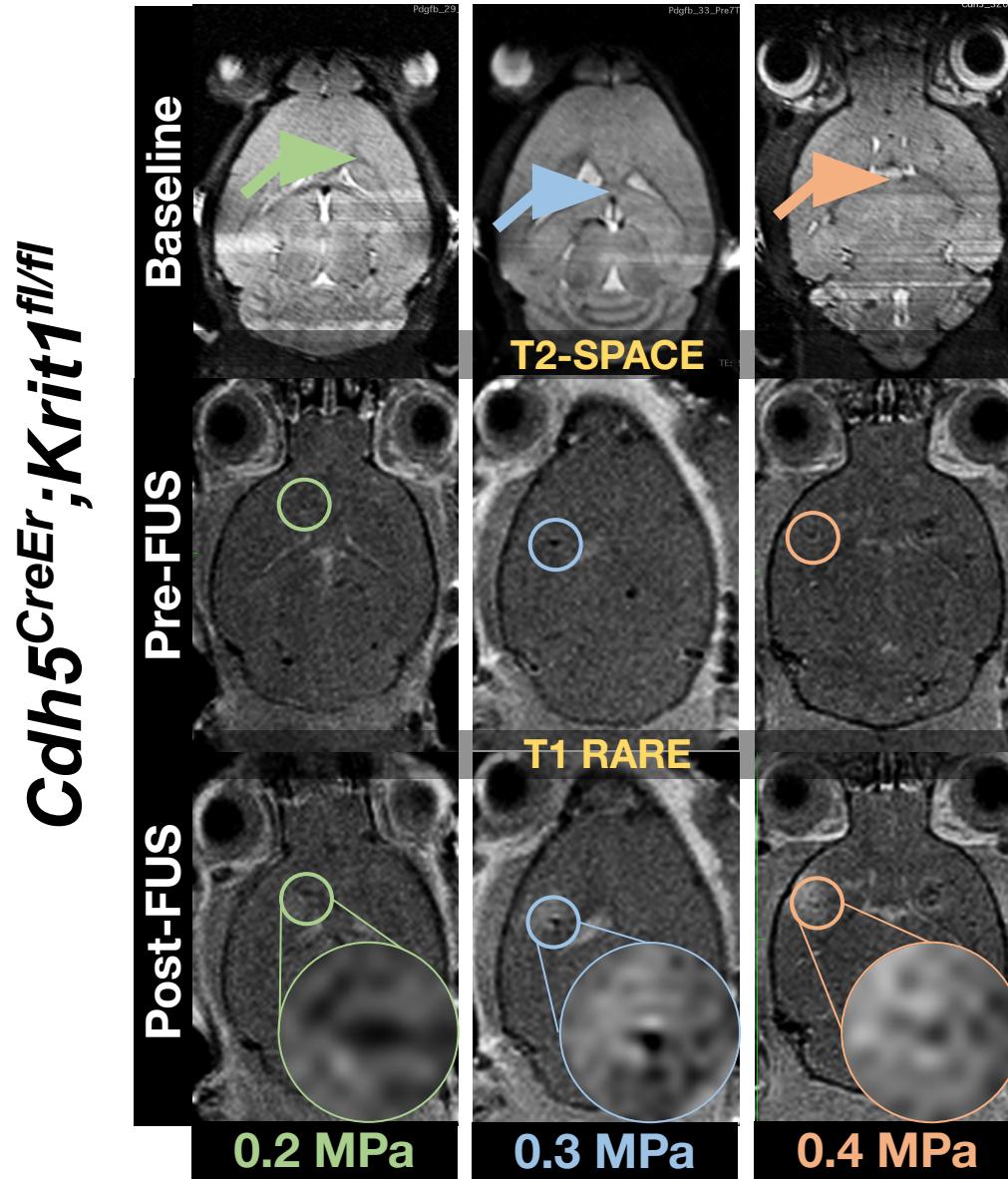
T2 SPACE



T1 Mapping

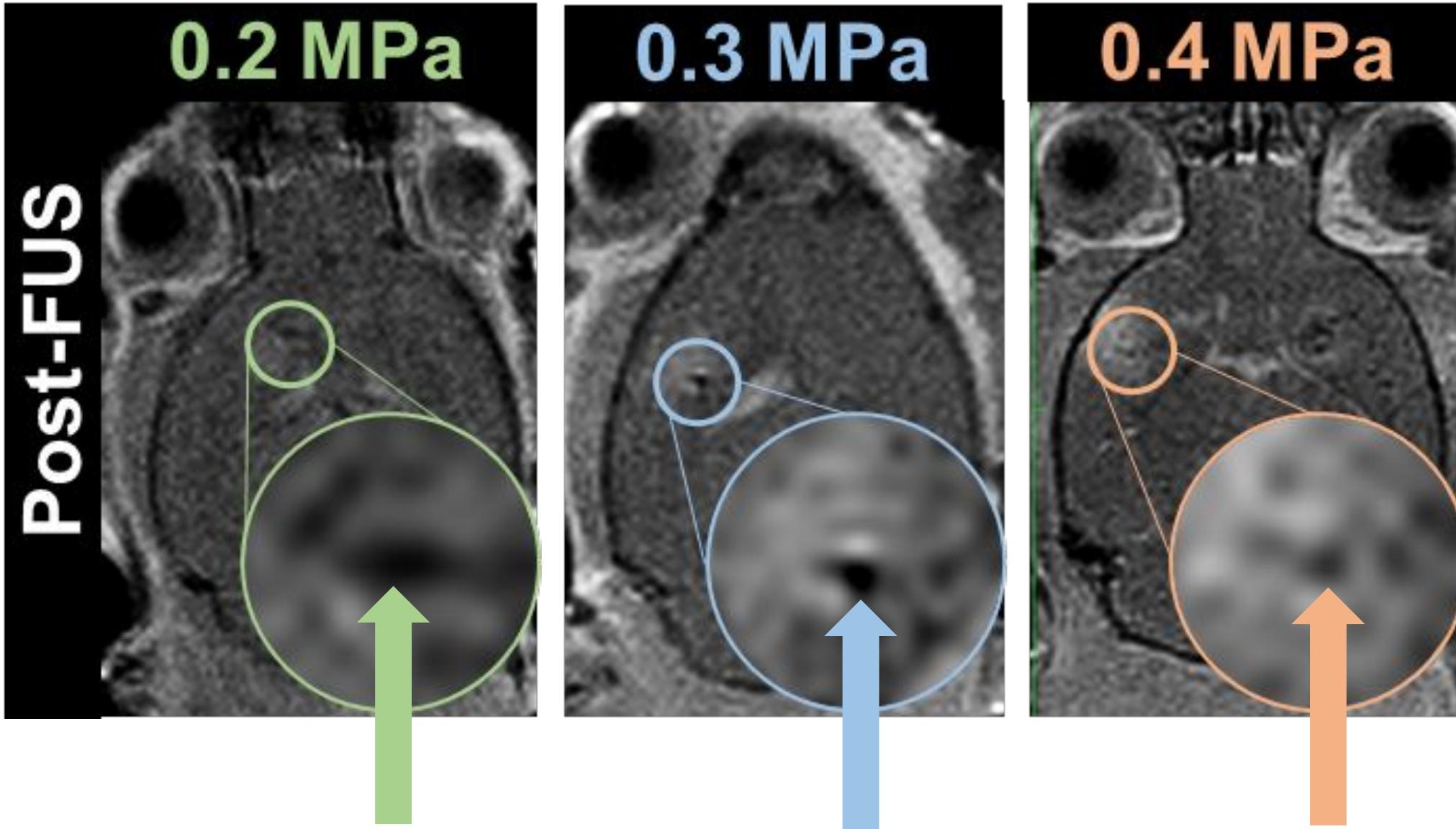


FUS+MBs Permeabilizes Peri-CCM Microvasculature

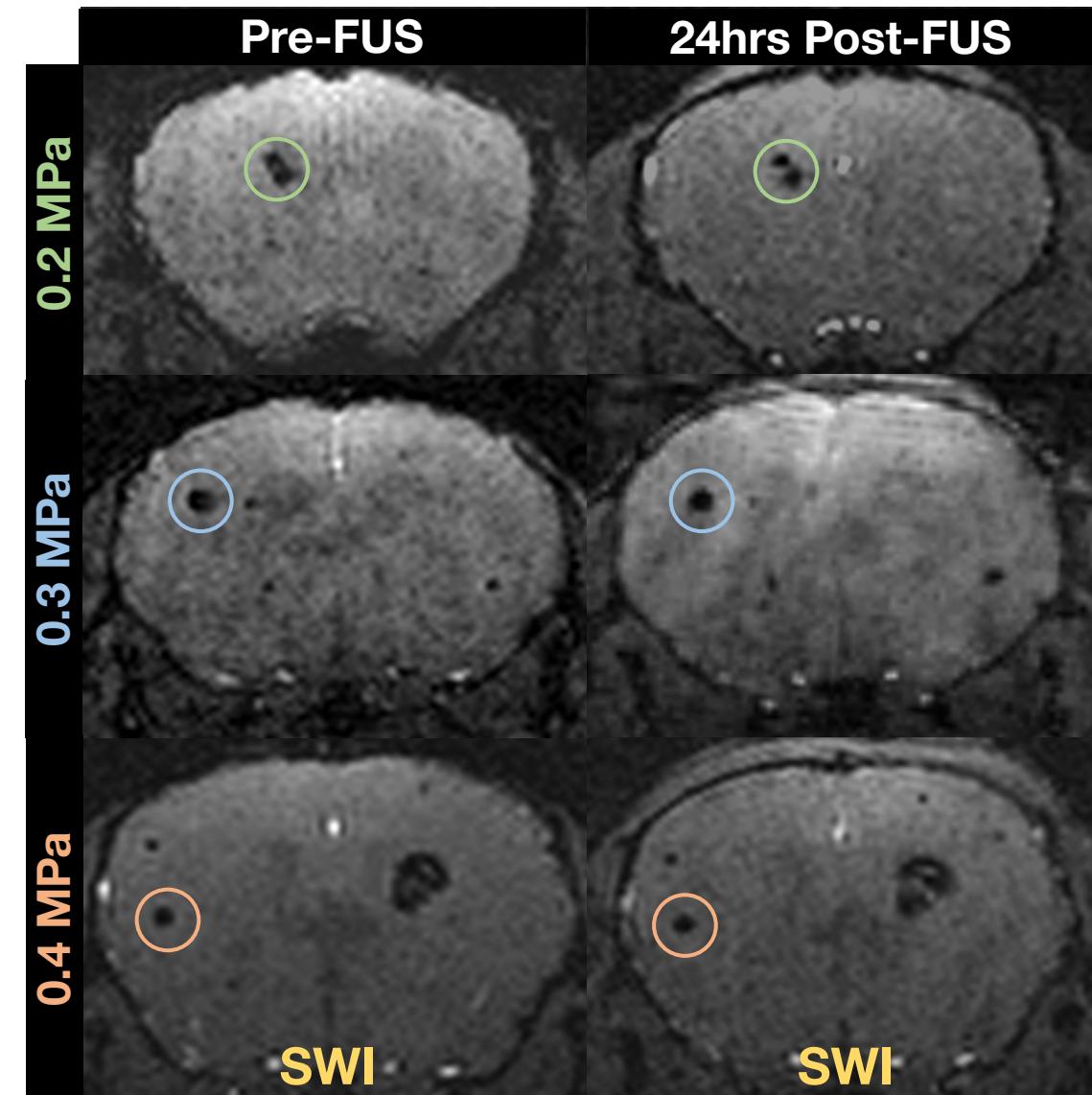
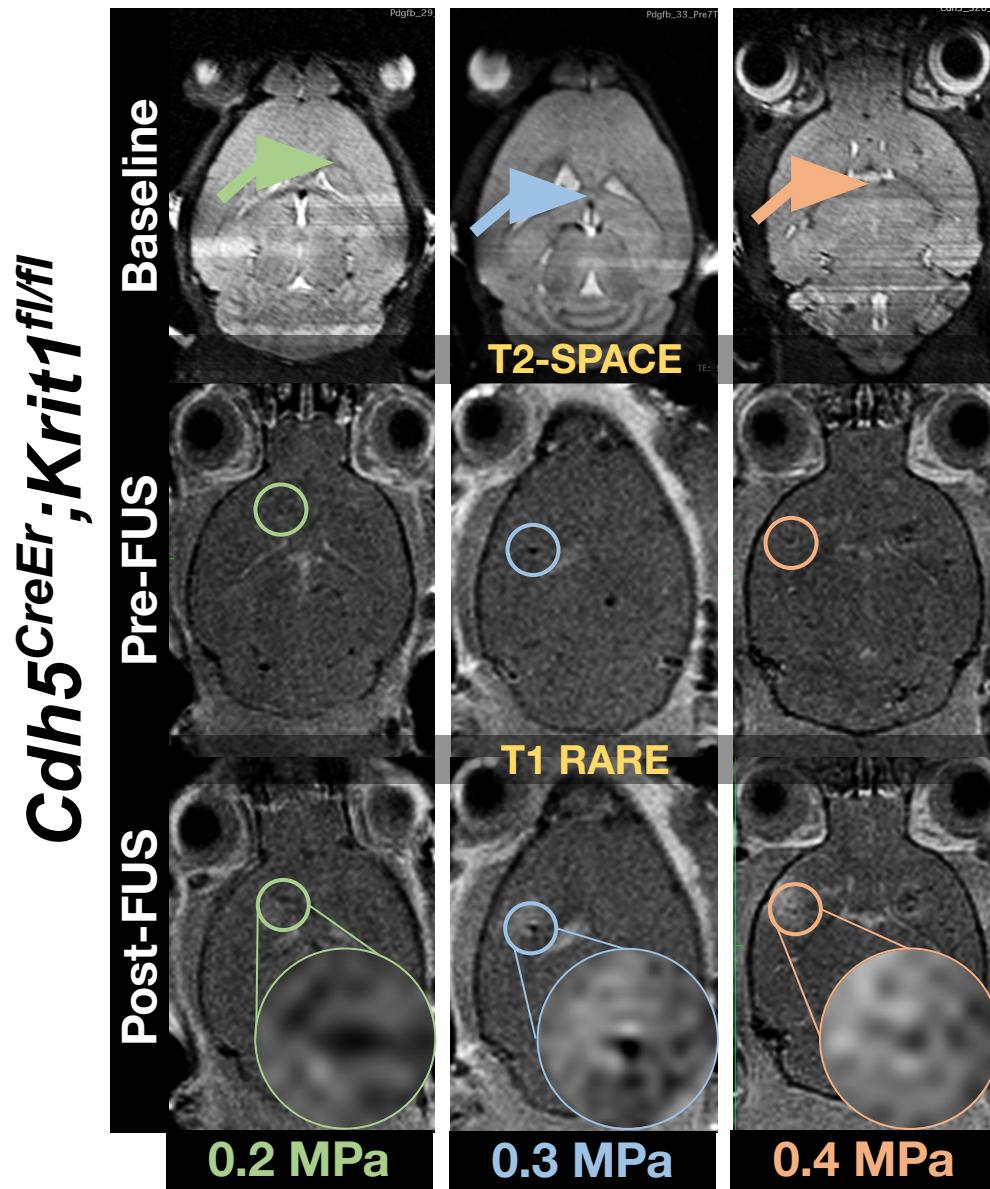


CCM “Lumens” Are Not Permeabilized by FUS

$Cdh5^{CreER};Krit1^{fl/fl}$



No Evidence of CCM Bleeding or Petechiae



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

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Tor Breza
Anna Debski
Mark Schwartz
Kathy Nowak
Matt Hoch
Lydia Petricca
Josh Samuels

Current Postdocs/Visiting Scholars

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Vinton Cheng

Lab Manager

Ji Song

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Alex Mathew
Natasha Sheybani
Aly Witter
Colleen Curley
Kelsie Timbie
Brian Mead
Josh Heuslein

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Jung Soo Suk (JHU)



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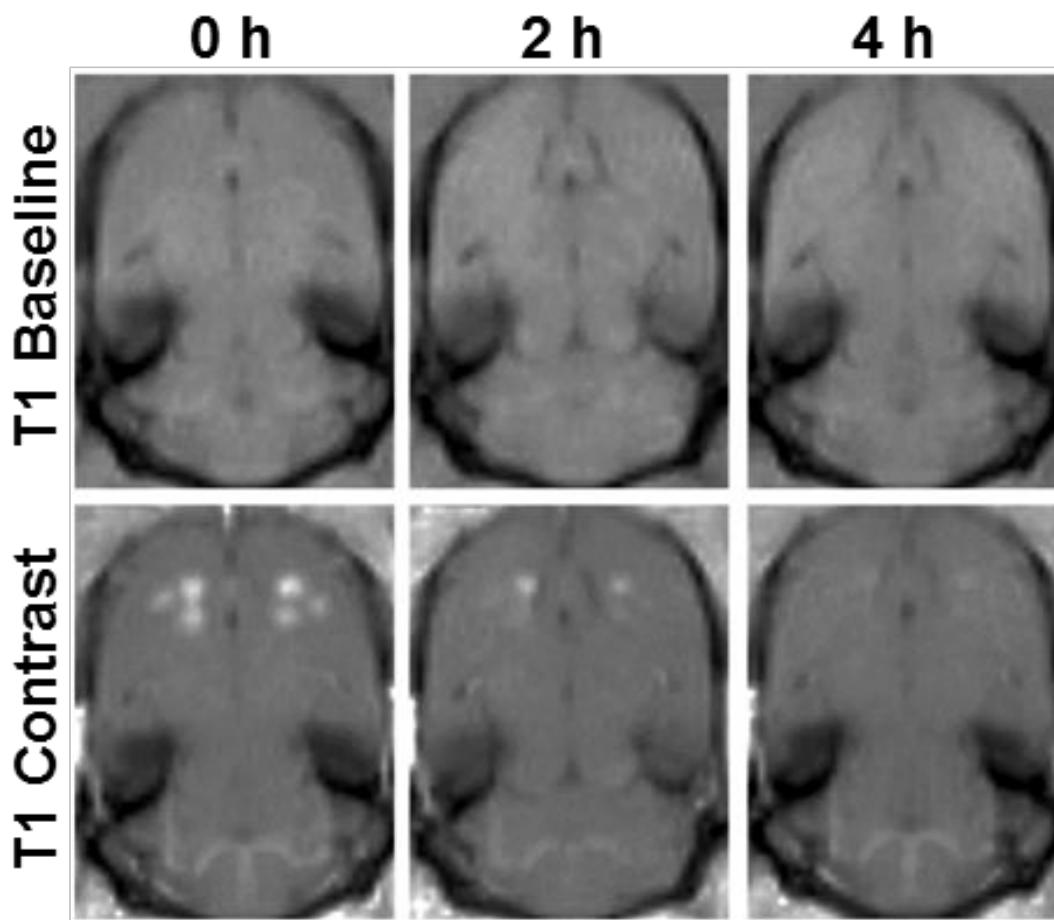


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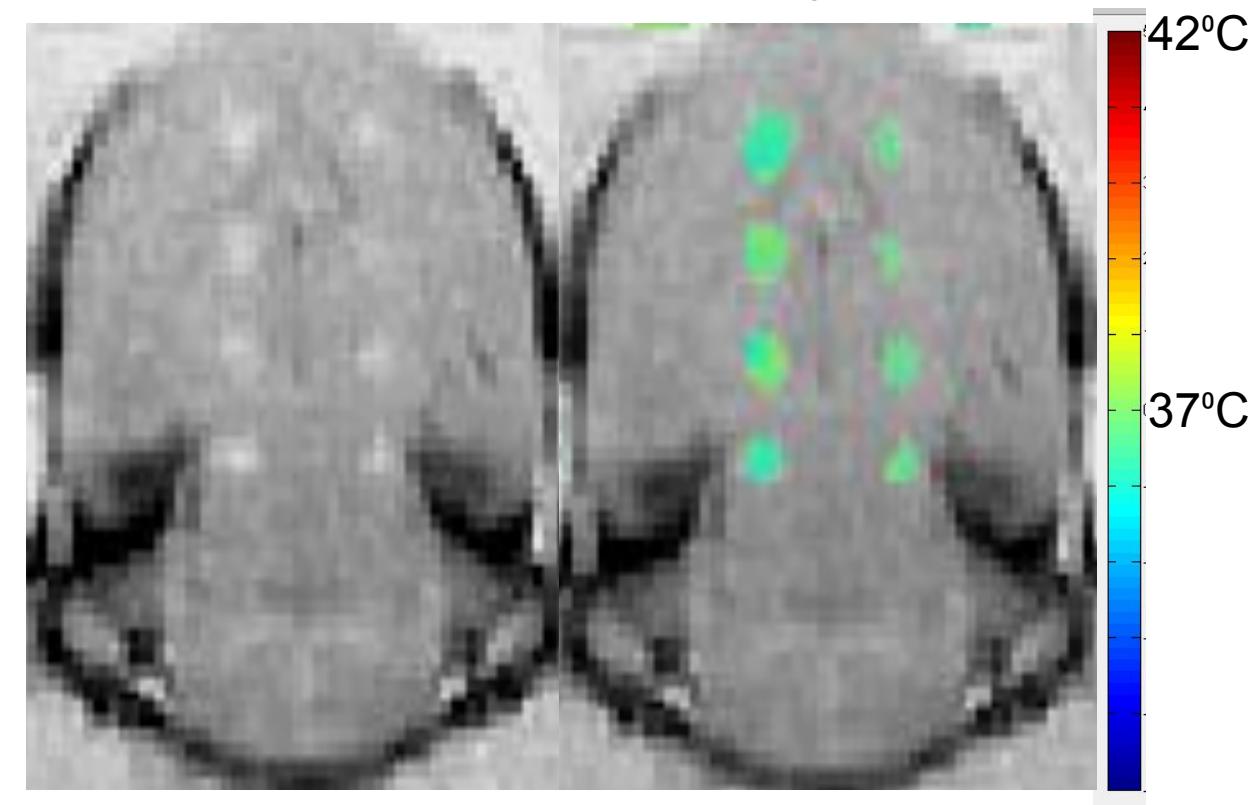


BBB Opening with Focused Ultrasound is Transient and Does not Elicit Significant Heating

Contrast Enhanced MRI



MR Thermometry

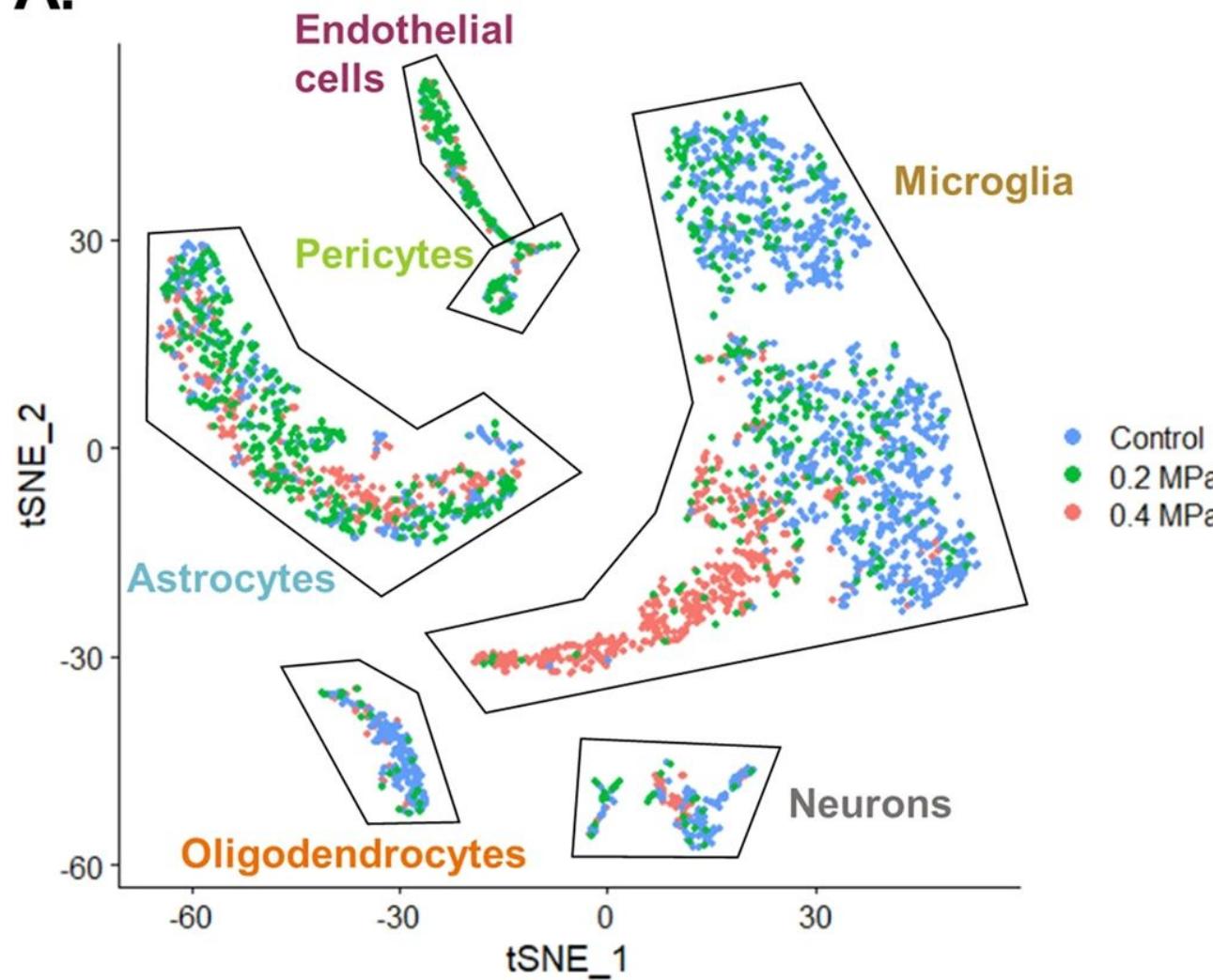


Nance, Timbie et al. *J Control Release* 189:123-32; 2014

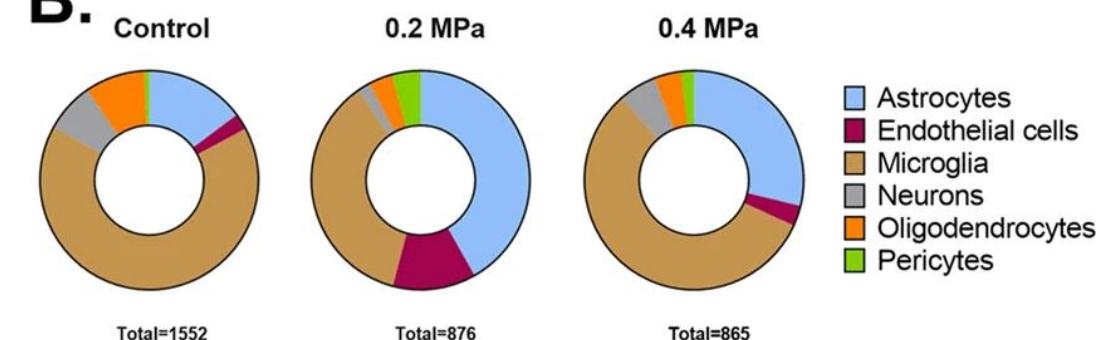
Mead, Curley et al. *Small* 15:e1903460;2019

Enhanced Transfection Beyond Neurovascular Unit at High Pressures

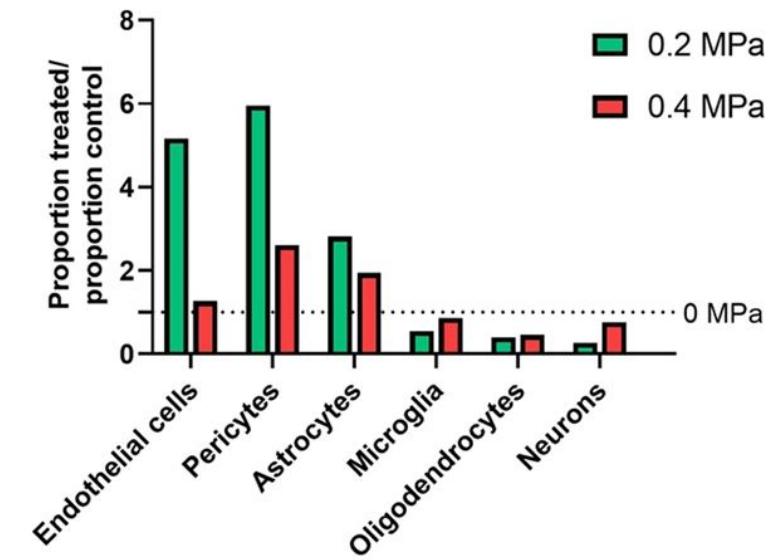
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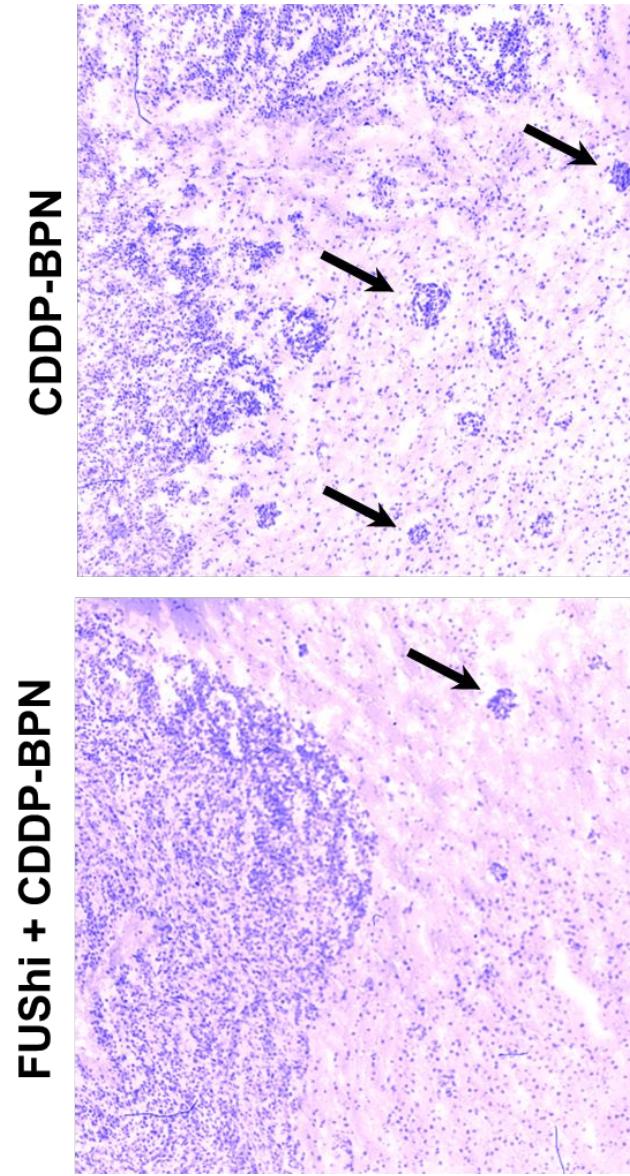
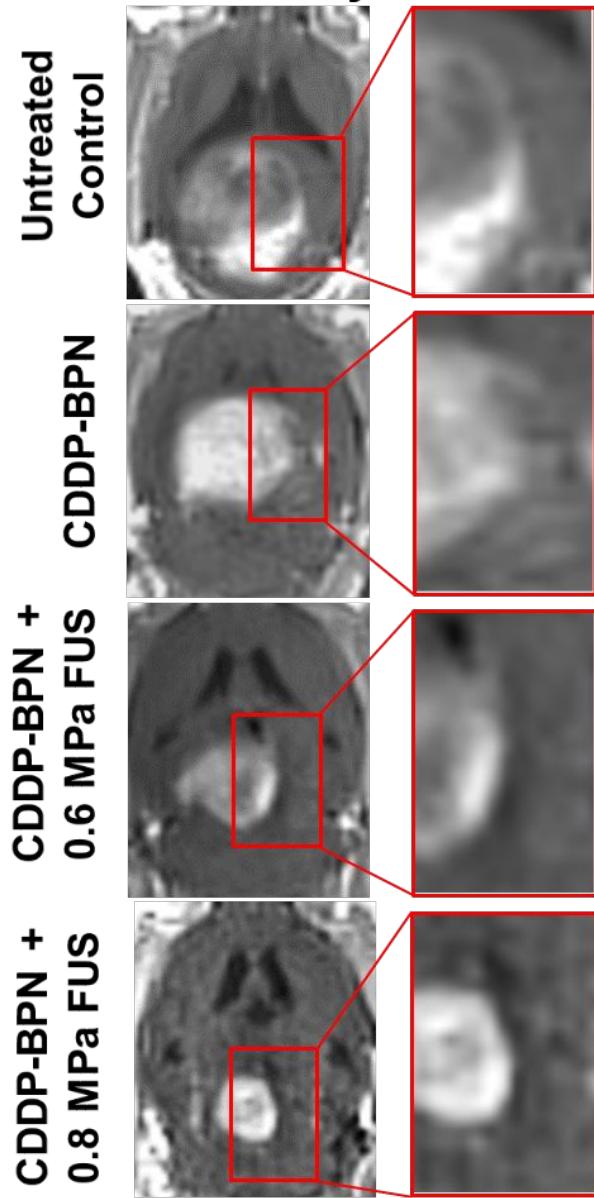
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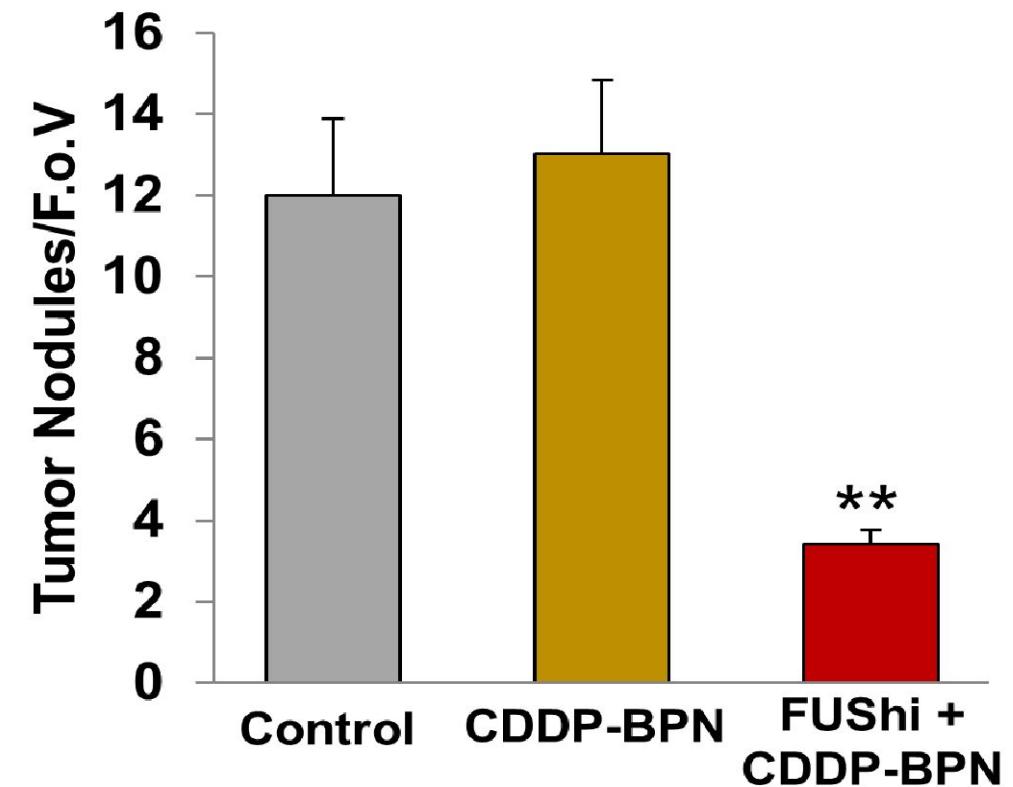
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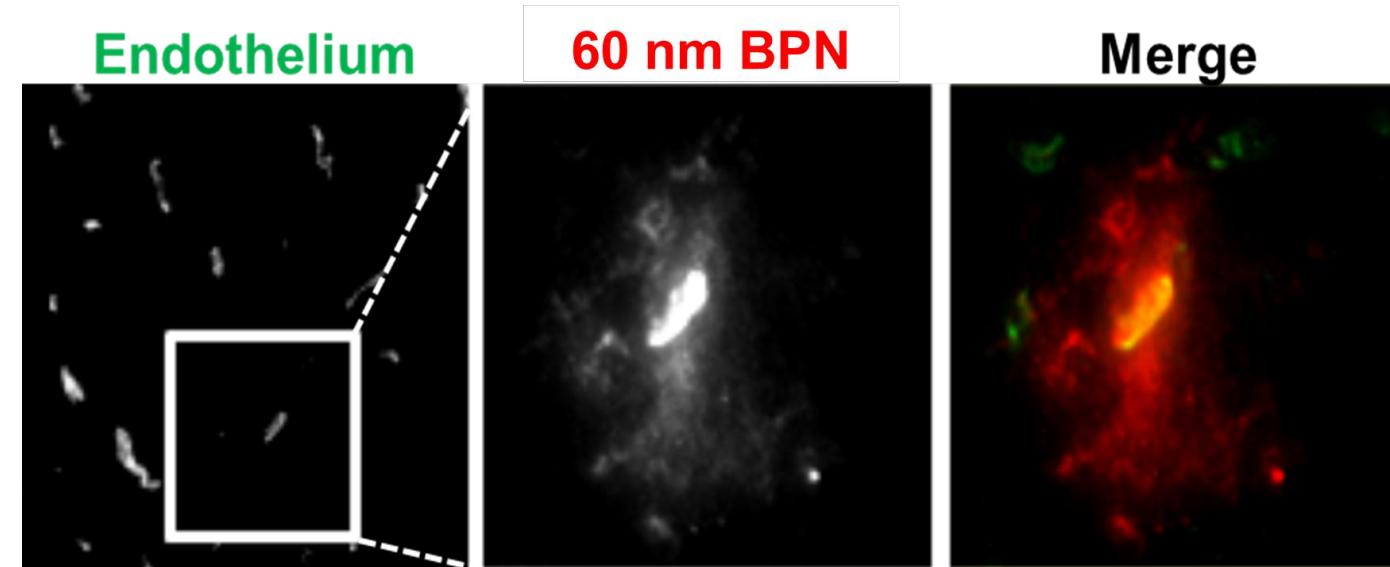
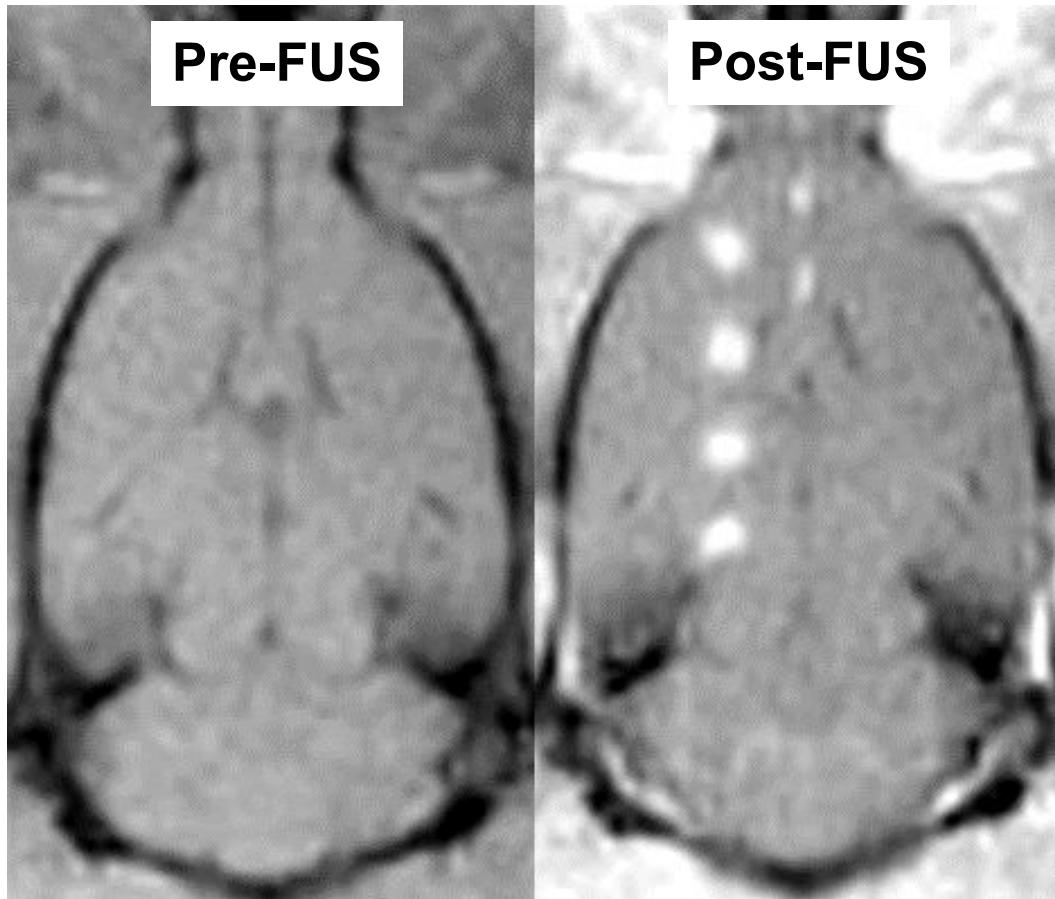
Day 28



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)

