

Different autoantibody concentrations in serum and CSF in Gilles de la Tourette syndrome

Kurt-Wolfram Sühs^{1*}, Natalia Szejko^{2,3*}, Thomas Skripuletz¹, Torsten Witte⁴, Kirsten Müller-Vahl⁵

¹Department of Neurology, Hannover Medical School, Germany

²Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Calgary, Canada,

³Department of Bioethics, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

⁴Department of Immunology and Rheumatology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

⁵Department of Psychiatry, Socialpsychiatry and Psychotherapy, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

*Authors contributed equally

Background and aim

1. Several lines of evidence support the hypothesis of an **autoimmune** origin of Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (GTS) (Figure 1).
2. Accordingly, in a recent study we detected positive **oligoclonal bands** (OCB) in cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) in >30% of adult patients indicating an **intrathecal antibody synthesis**.
3. However, until today no corresponding antibodies could be identified.

Research questions

Are there any specific **serum autoantibodies** in GTS? Are there any specific **CSF autoantibodies** in GTS?

Methods

1. We included **20** adult patients with GTS (male: female=18:2, median age 36.1 years \pm 14.34 SD)
2. IgG antibodies with binding capacities to central nervous system (CNS) proteins were identified with a **protein macroarray** representing 6,909 human brain proteins using **CSF** and **serum** from three of these patients.
3. Based on binding patterns, and overlap positivity (Figure 2) of detected autoantibodies **six autoantibodies** were chosen and analyzed using solid-phase **ELISAs** in a larger collective of patients with GTS (N=70) and compared to non-inflammatory CSF controls and blood donors.

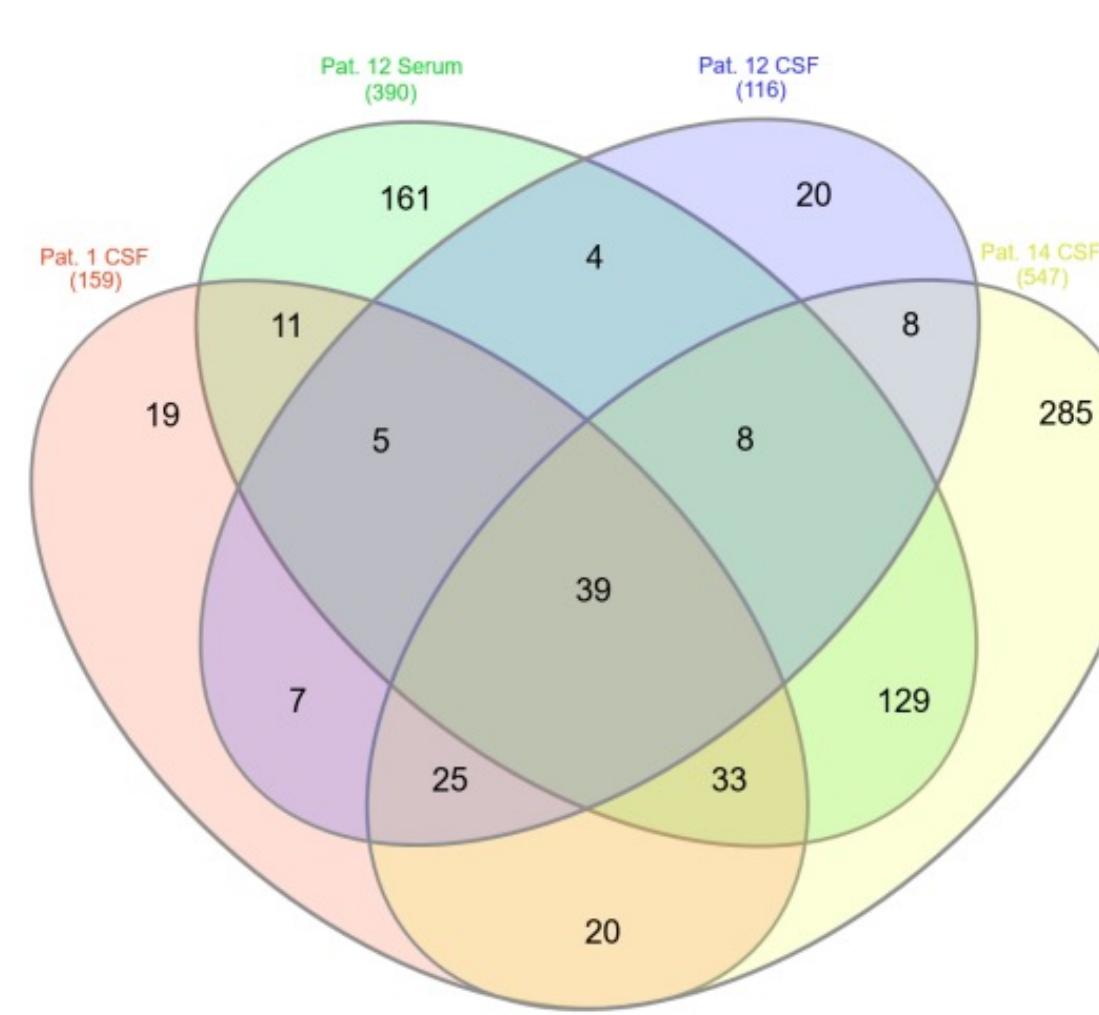
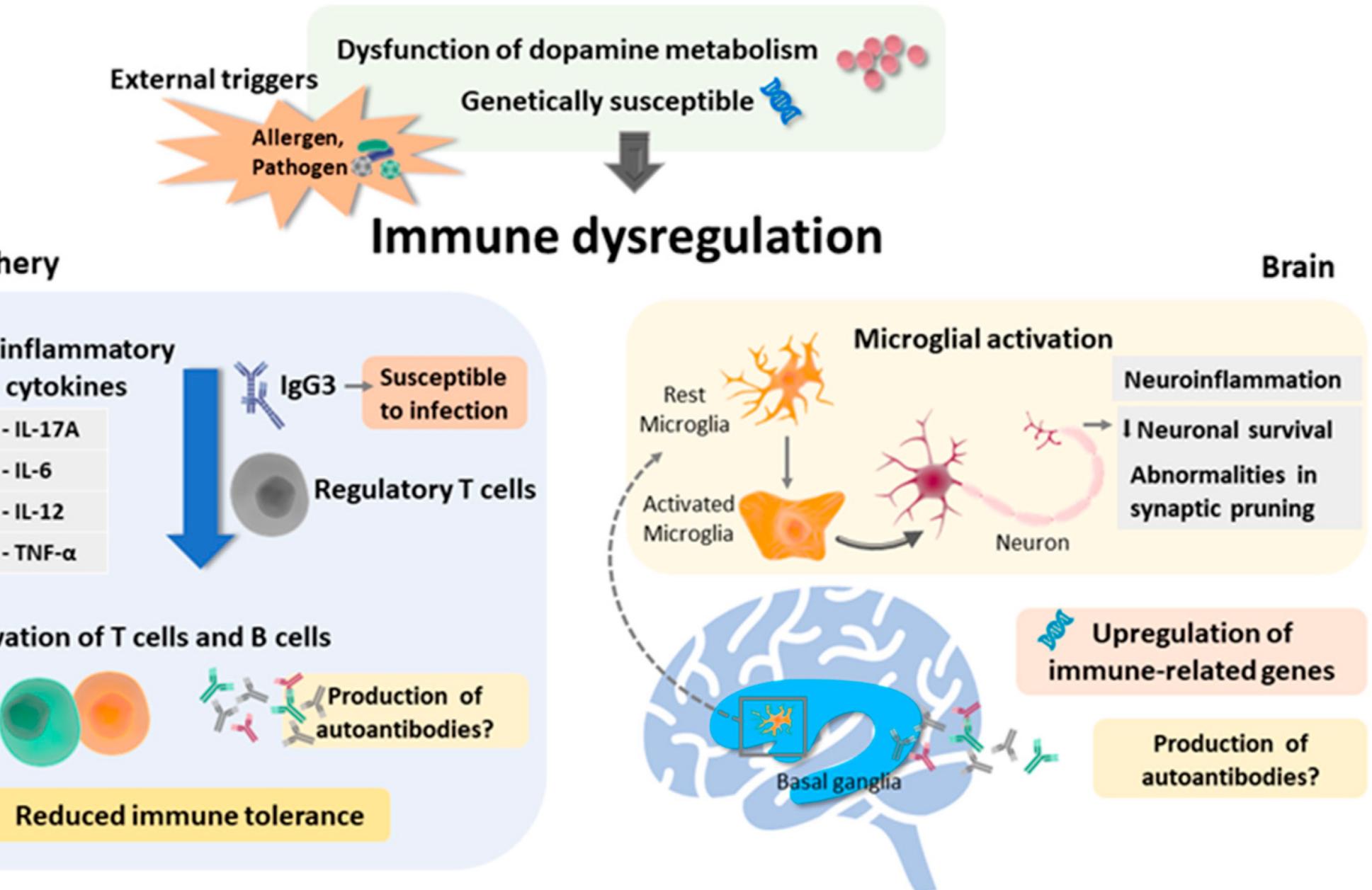


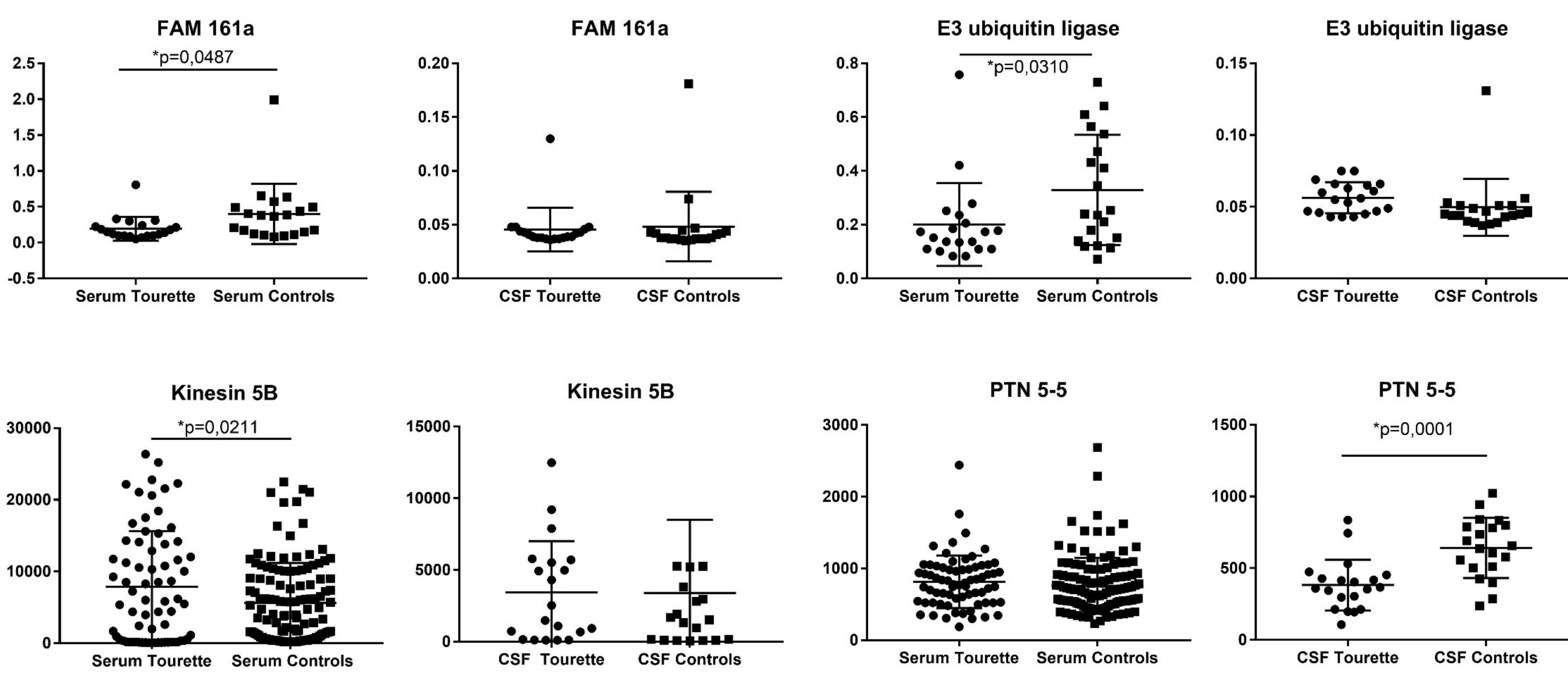
Figure 2. Overlap in positivity for all samples using a hEXselect Protein macroarray (engine biomarker company, Hennigsdorf, Germany). Numbers represent antibodies binding to proteins on the assay in the four selected samples.

Figure 1. Summary of the possible underlying mechanism leading to immune dysfunction in GTS.



Adapted from Chia-Jui Hsu et al. Immunological Dysfunction in Tourette Syndrome and Related Disorders. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 2021, 22(2), 853; <https://doi.org/10.3390/jims22020853>

Figure 3. Detection of autoantibodies in CSF and serum of patients with GTS and HC (blood donors) and non inflammatory CNS samples



Results: CSF

1. Significant different autoantibody concentrations were only found against **pleiotrophin** (PTN), a protein involved in **cell differentiation and survival**.
2. Compared to controls autoantibody concentrations against PTN (**p=0.0001**) were decreased in GTS patients.

Conclusions

1. Our results indicate that autoantibodies might play a role in the pathophysiology of GTS.
2. Main pathways involved in autoimmunity in GTS are related to cell differentiation, intracellular transport, synaptic plasticity and dopaminergic neurotransmission.