

ERNDIM Symposium 2025

# Cell trafficking and autophagy in neurometabolic disorders

**Alfonso de Oyarzábal, PhD**

Synaptic metabolism + personalized therapies lab

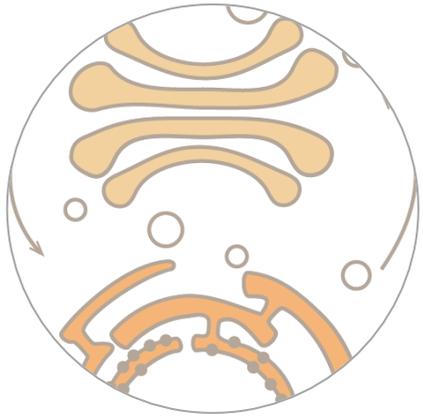
Neurology Department – Hospital Sant Joan de Déu

Universitat Abat Oliba-CEU

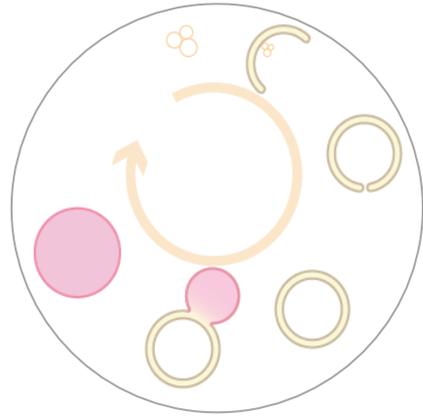
 **CEU** Universitat  
Abat Oliba | Barcelona

# What is **CELL TRAFFICKING**

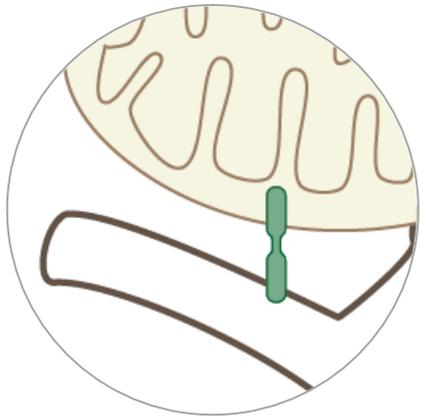
*Process of signals and metabolites exchange between cellular compartments.*



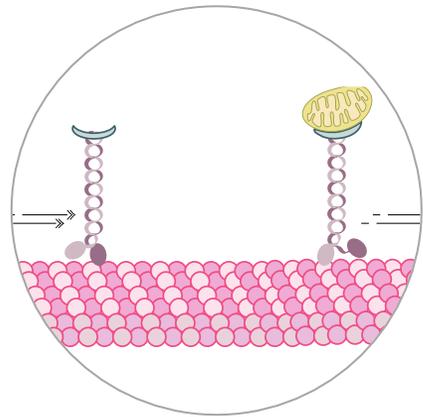
MEMBRANE TRAFFICKING  
*Traditional vesicular trafficking*



AUTOPHAGY



MEMBRANE CONTACT SITES



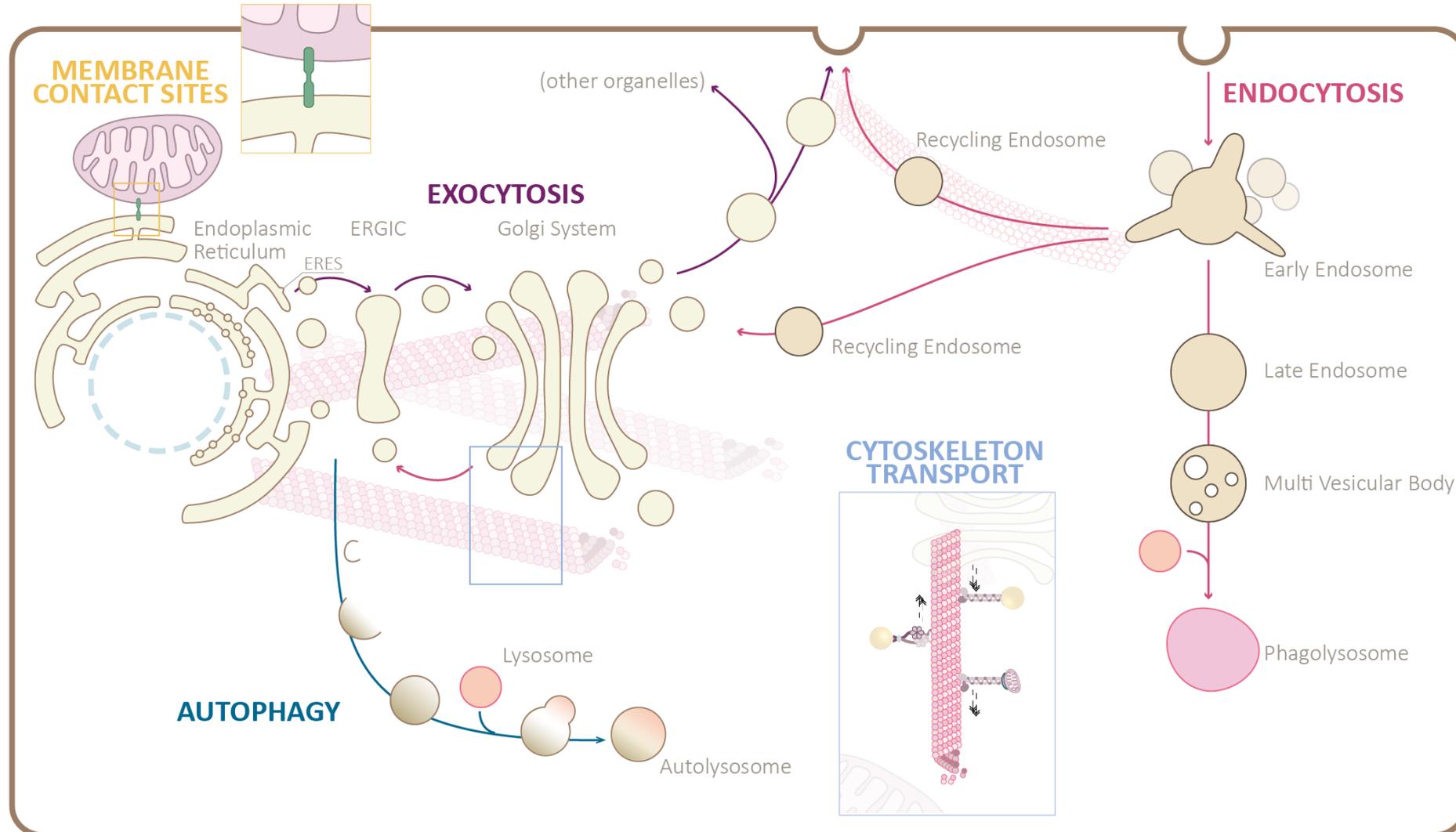
CYTOSKELETAL TRANSPORT

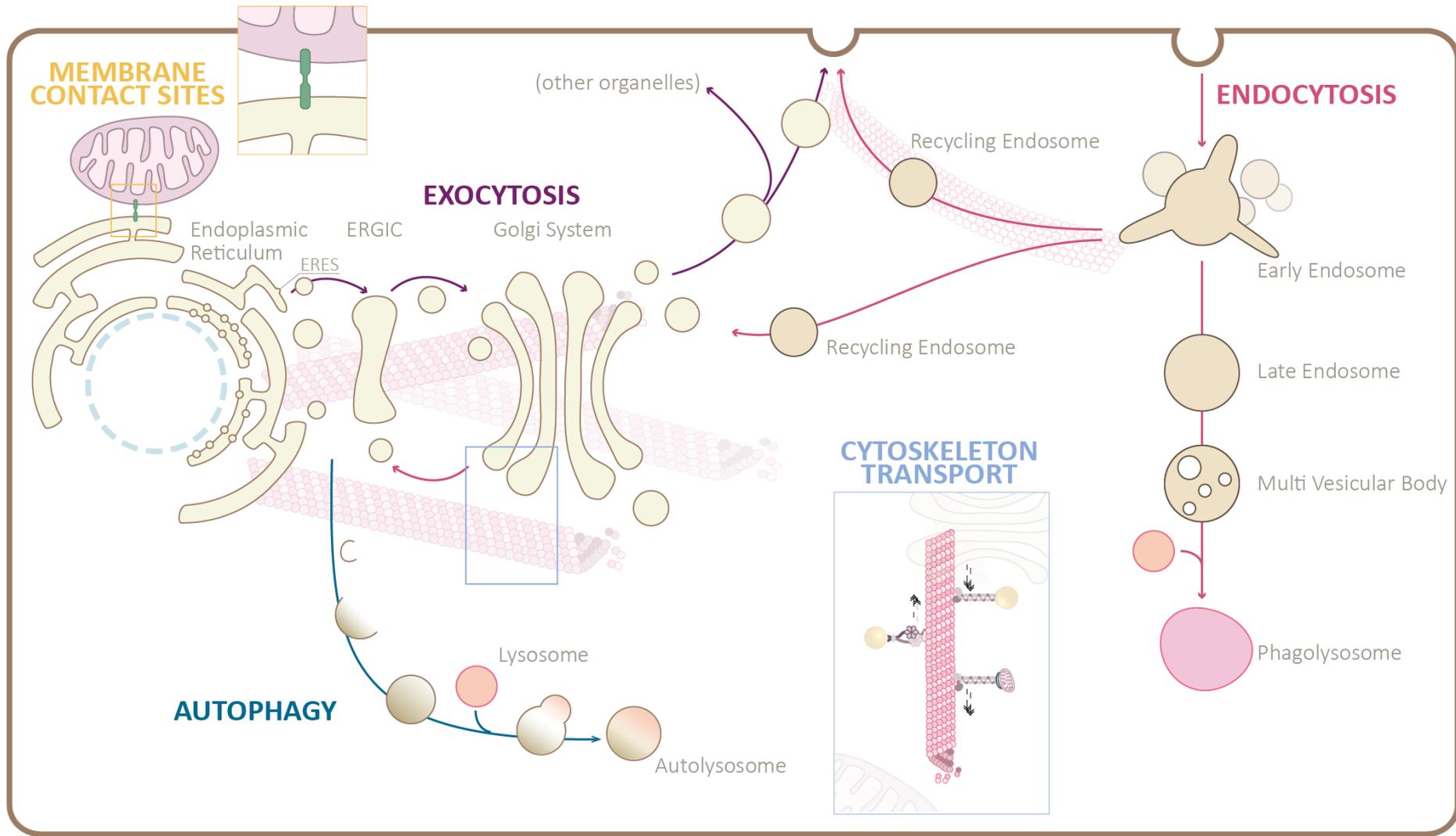
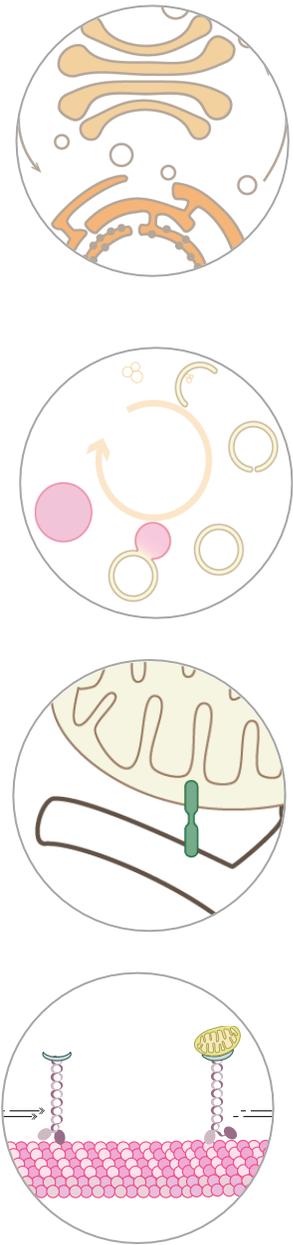
# What is **CELL TRAFFICKING**

*Process of signals and metabolites exchange between cellular compartments.*

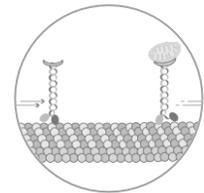
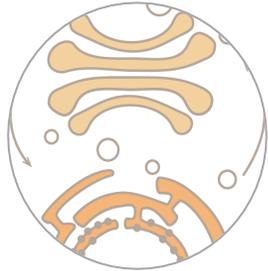
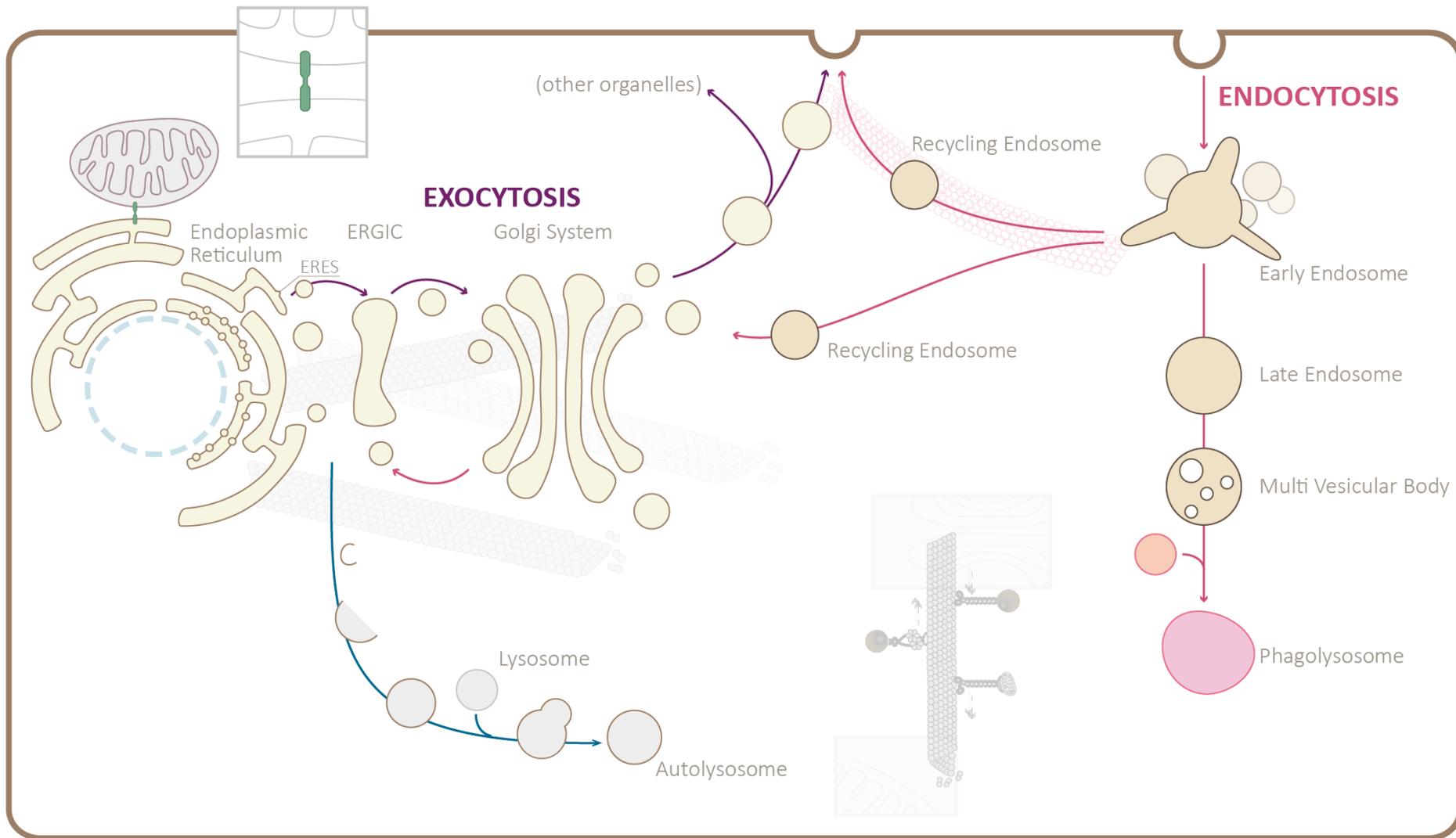


# All processes are interrelated



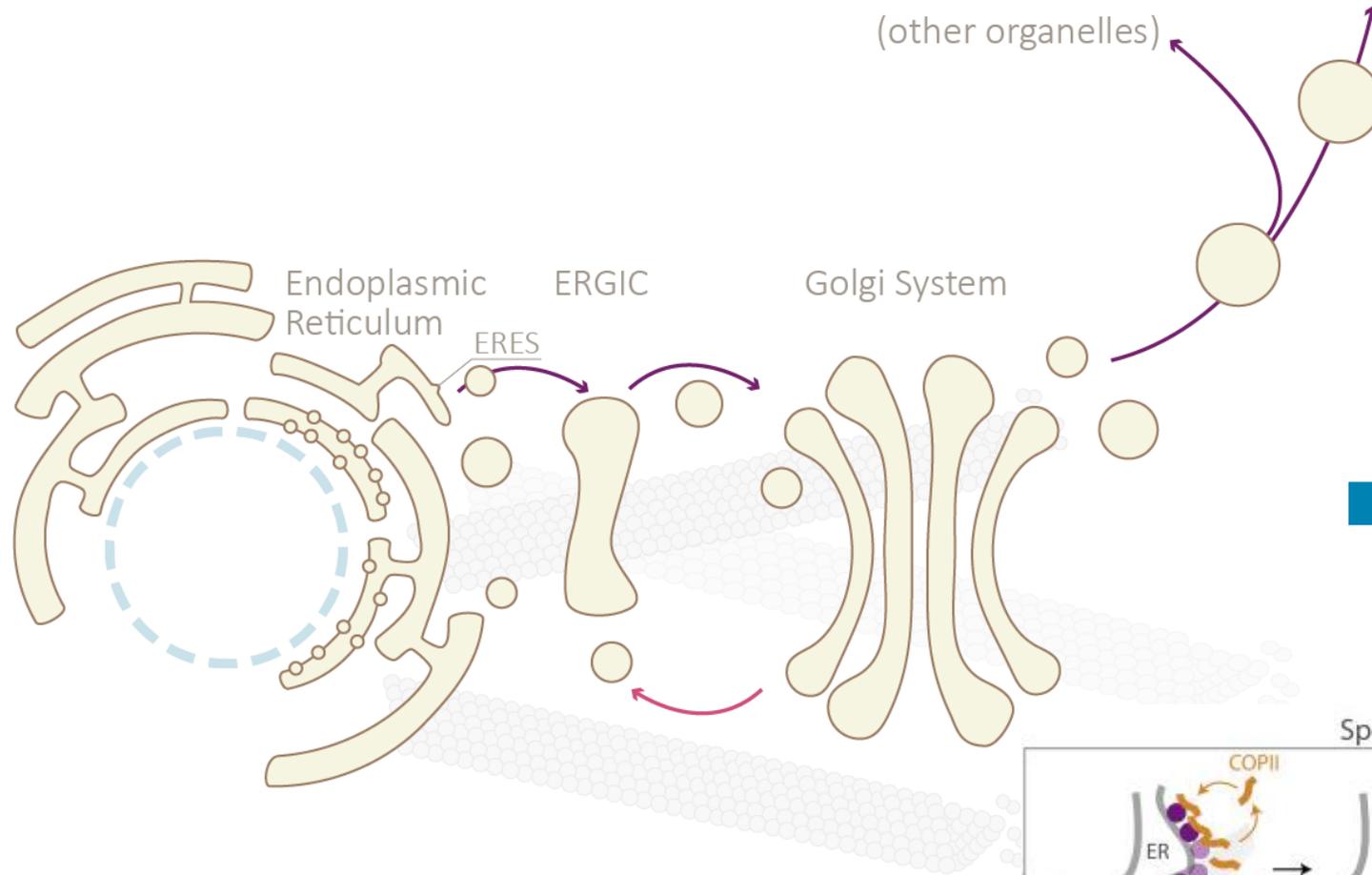


# MEMBRANE TRAFFICKING



# EXOCYTOSIS

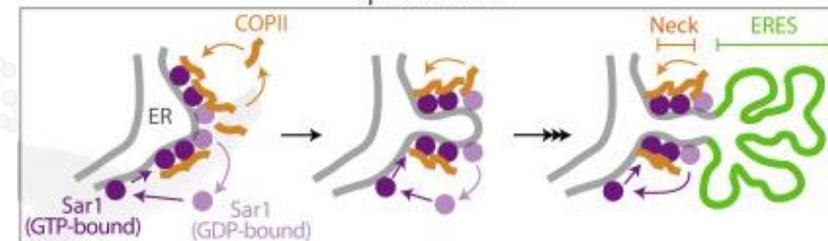
Movement OUTSIDE from the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins



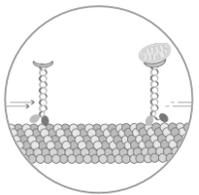
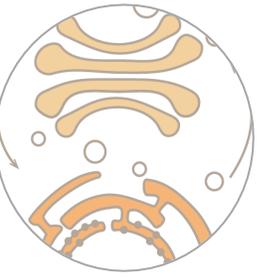
 CellPress

Article  
**ER-to-Golgi protein delivery  
through an interwoven, tubular  
network extending from ER**

Speculation



Weigel, Cell 2021



# EXOcyTOSIS

Movement OUTSIDE from the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins



ER – Golgi defects mutations affecting

Early onset | Congenital-postnatal  $\mu$ cephaly + ID | TRAPP  
Endoplasmic Reticulum | ERGIC | Golgi System  
NDD, acquired  $\mu$ cephaly + muscle | TANGO2, TRAPP  
Late onset | Motor dysfunction | TANGO2

Received: 18 December 2018 | Revised: 15 June 2019 | Accepted: 3 July 2019

DOI: 10.1002/jimd.12149

Received: 15 July 2021 | Revised: 21 September 2021 | Accepted: 29 September 2021

DOI: 10.1002/ajmg.a.62543

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF **PM** . . .

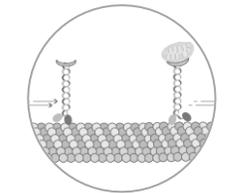
**scientific reports**

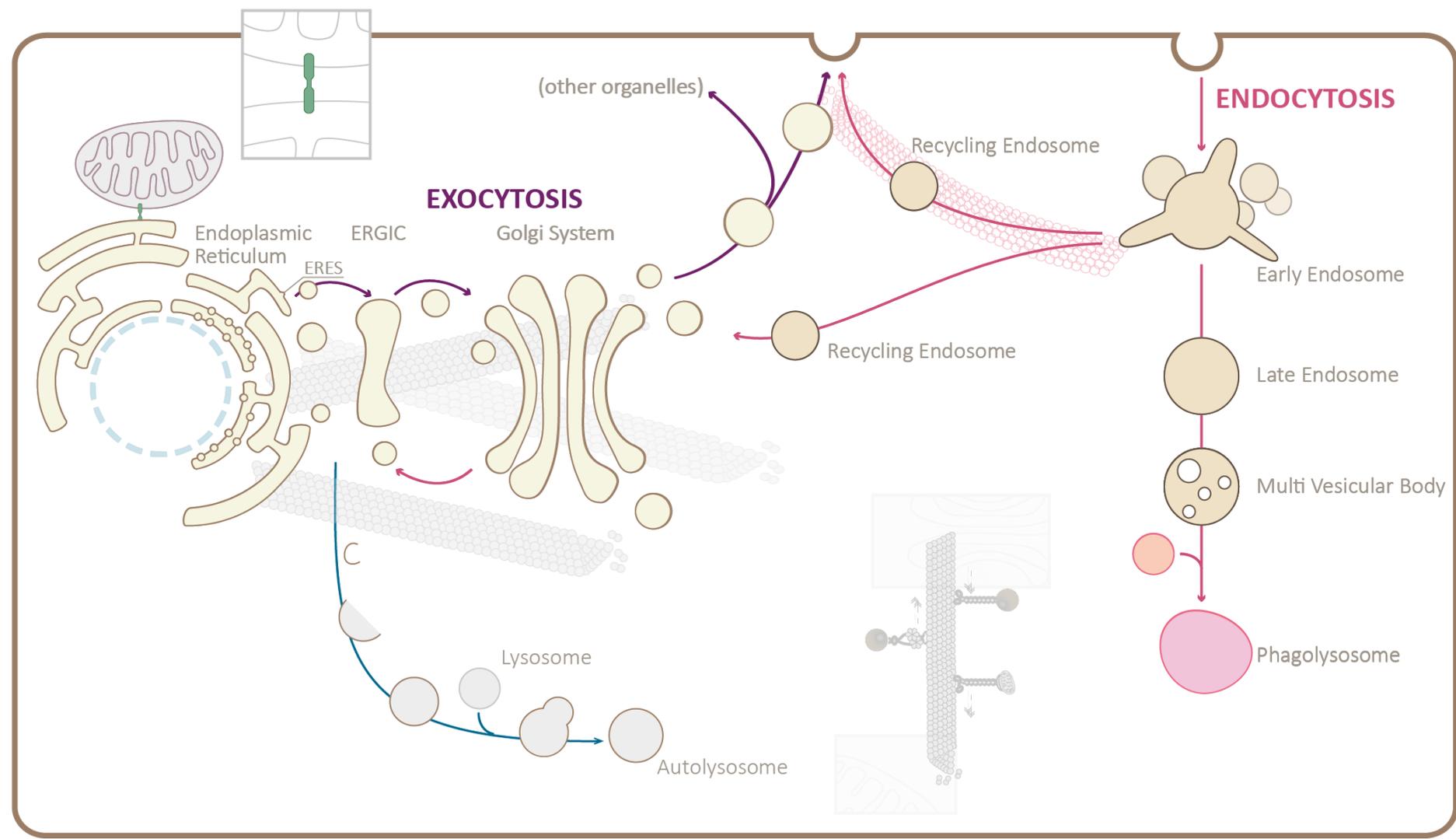
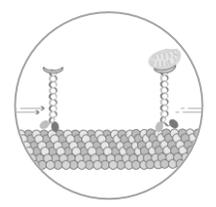
Check for updates

**OPEN** **Mitochondrial dysfunction associated with TANGO2 deficiency**

Paige Heiman<sup>1</sup>, Al-Walid Mohsen<sup>1,2</sup>, Anuradha Karunanidhi<sup>1</sup>, Claudette St Croix<sup>3</sup>, Simon Watkins<sup>3</sup>, Erik Koppes<sup>1</sup>, Richard Haas<sup>4</sup>, Jerry Vockley<sup>1,2</sup> & Lina Ghaloul-Gonzalez<sup>1,2</sup>✉

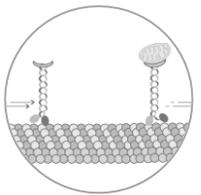
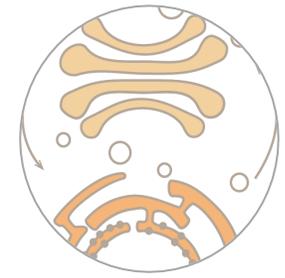
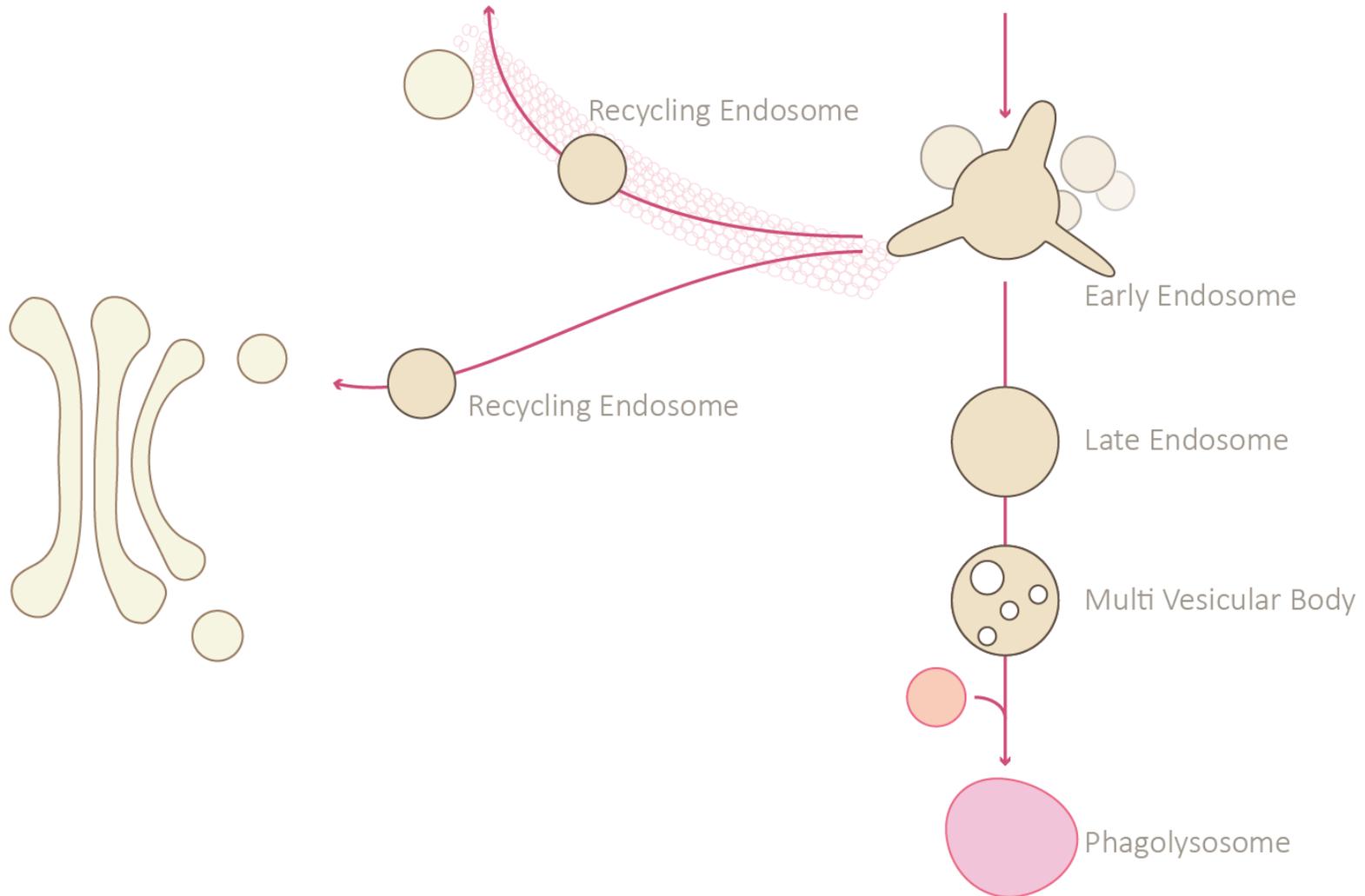
Scientific Reports | (2022) 12:3045





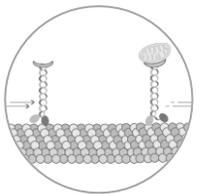
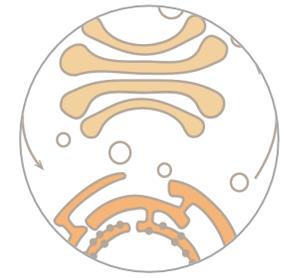
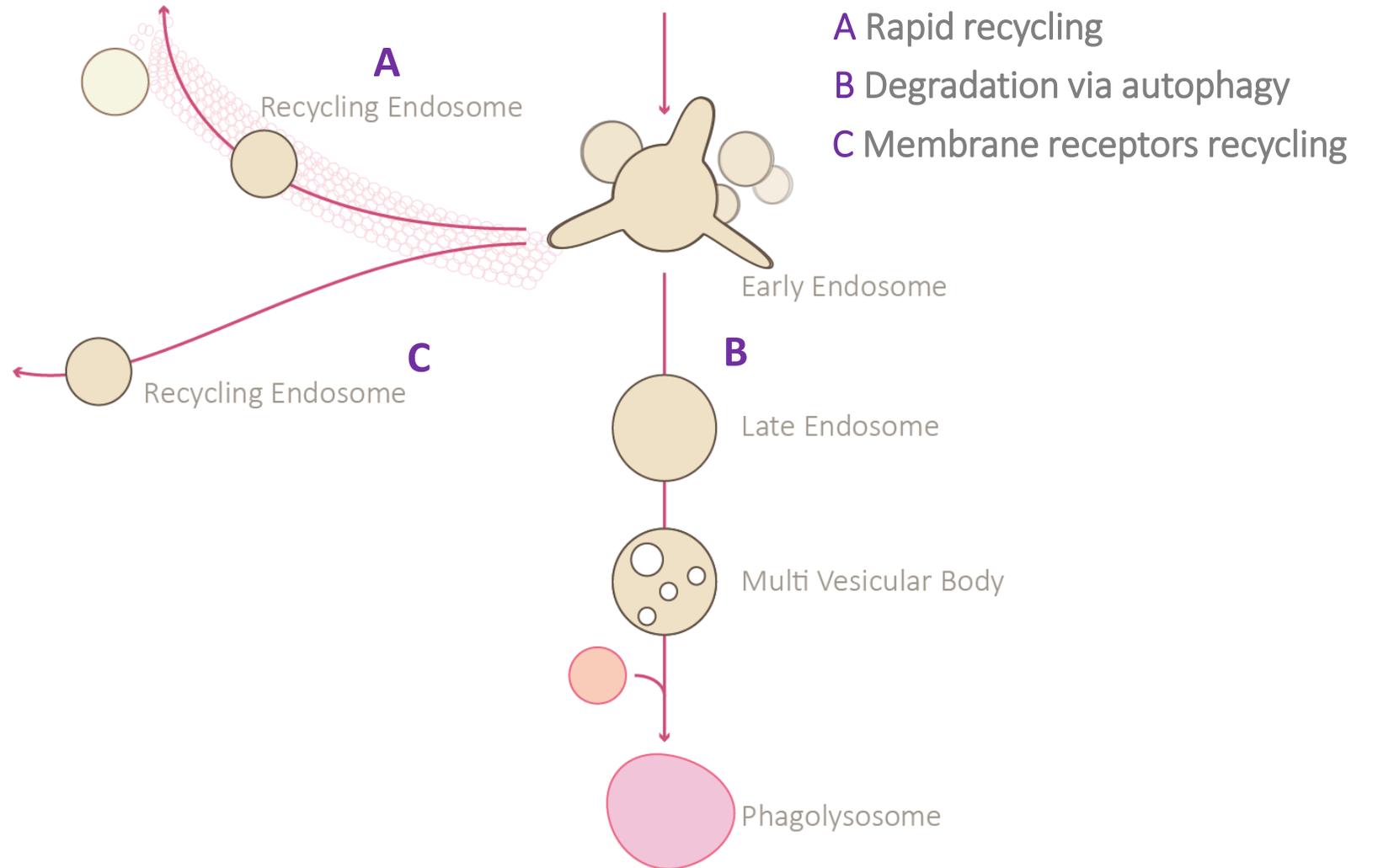
# ENDOCYTOSIS

Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins



# ENDOCYTOSIS

Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins

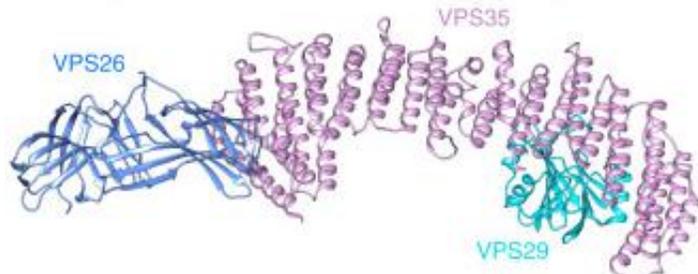


# ENDOCYTOSIS

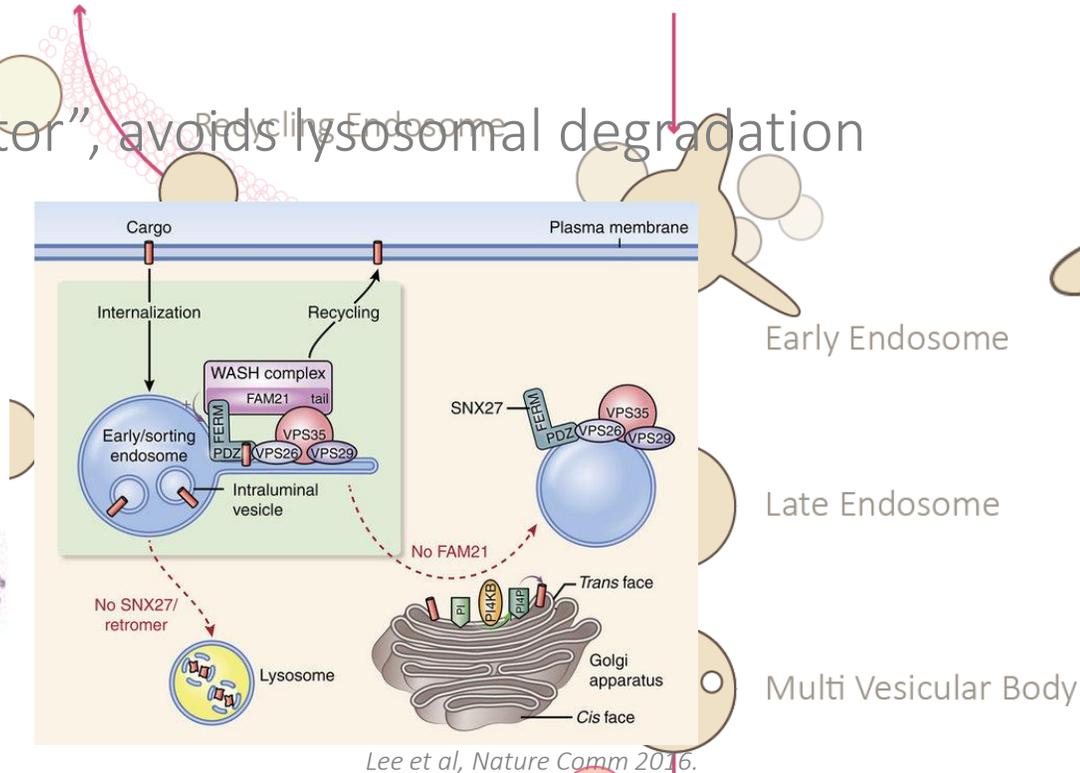
Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins

**RETROMER:** "Master regulator", avoids lysosomal degradation

Proposed model for retromer assembly

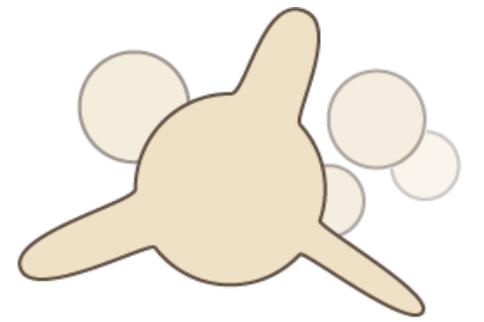
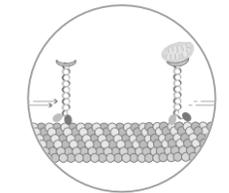


Gershilk et al, Current Biol 2017.



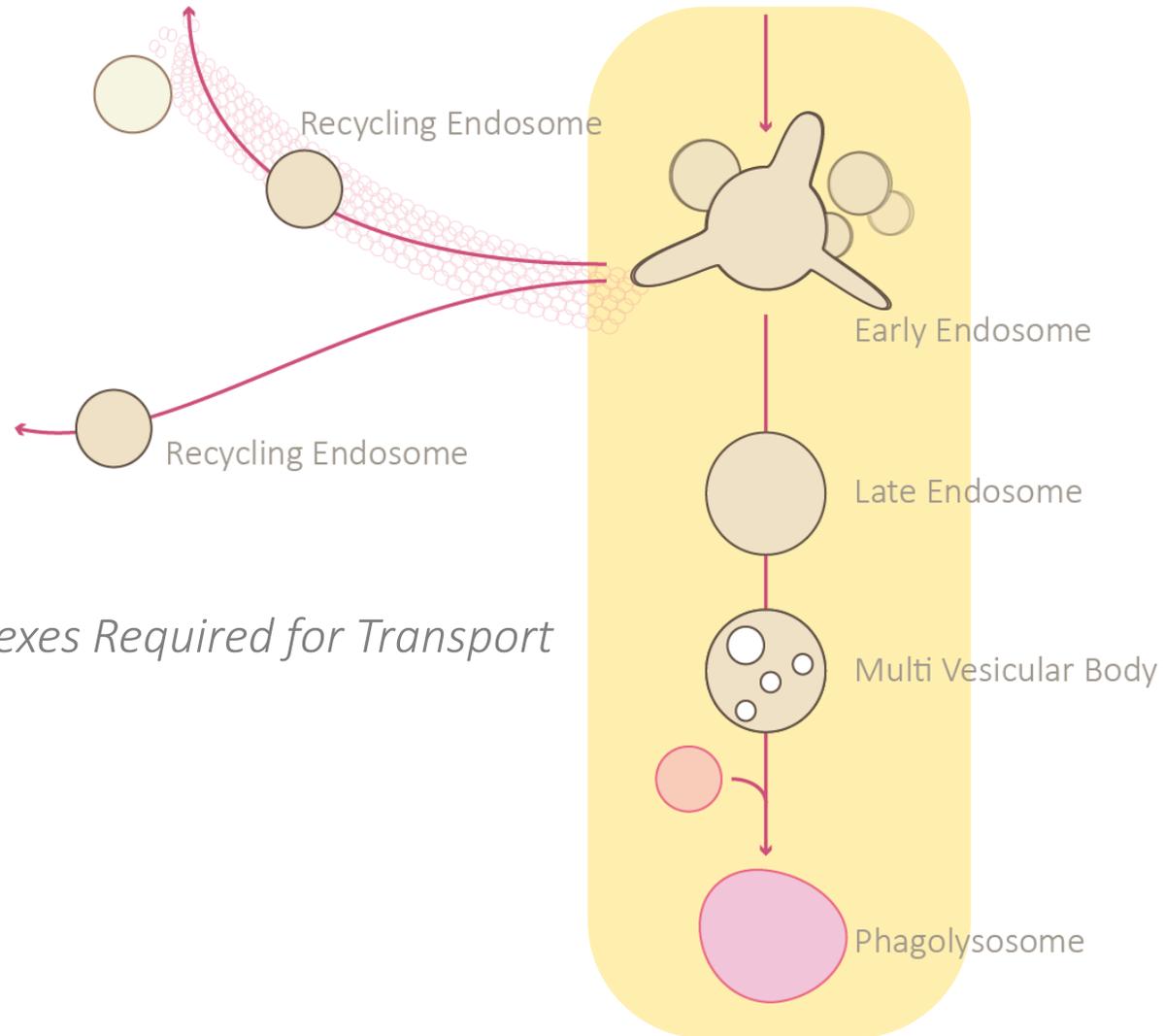
Lee et al, Nature Comm 2016.

- 1- Endosome recruits retromer
- 2- Cargo binds retromer via SNX27
- 3- Membrane deformation via SNX-BAR
- 4- Tubulation SNX-BAR + Actin + WASH complex

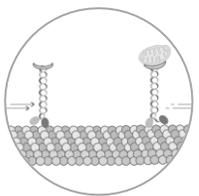


# ENDOCYTOSIS

Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins



*Endosomal Sorting Complexes Required for Transport (ESCRTs)*



# ENDOcyTOSIS

Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins

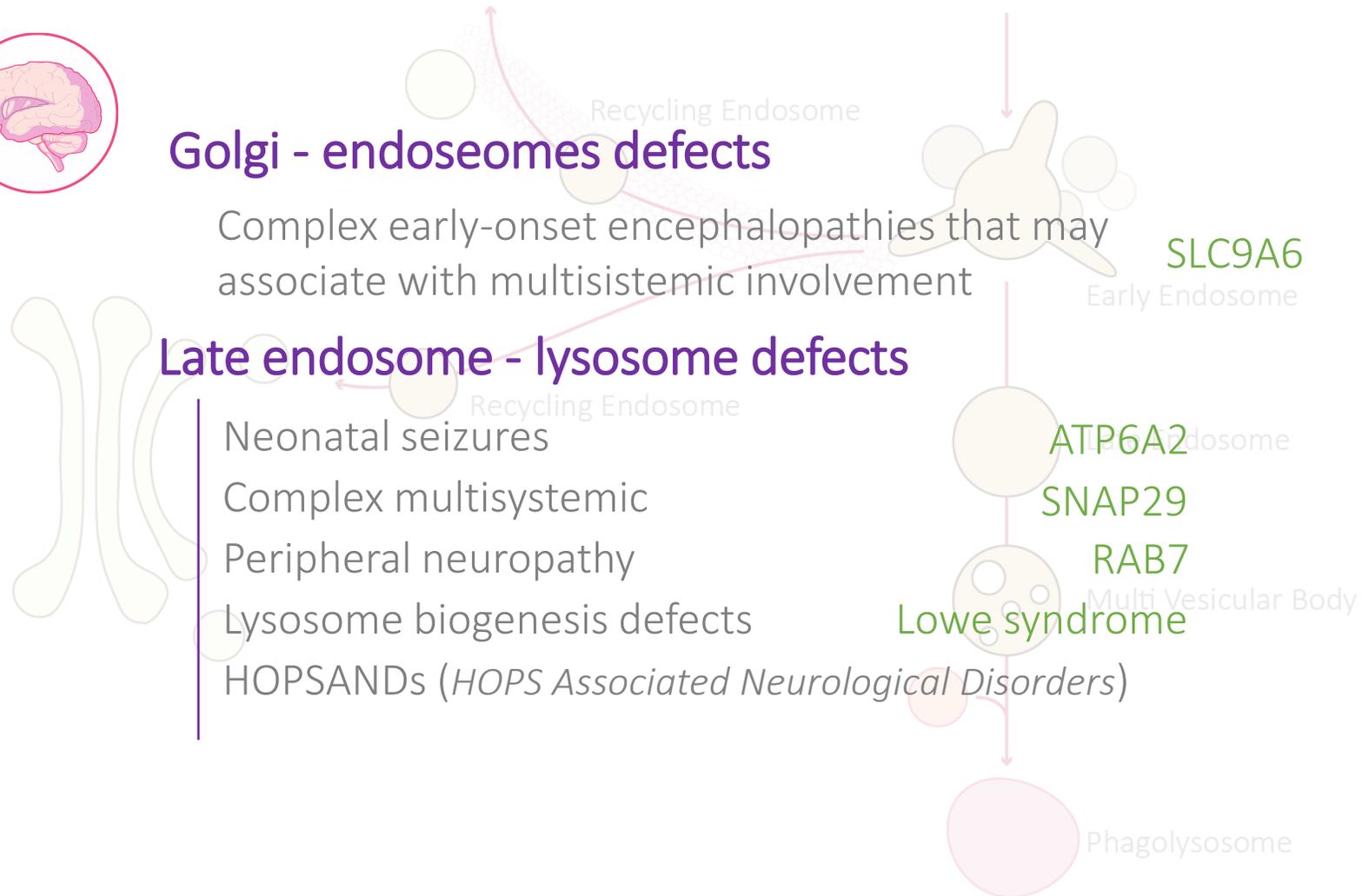


## Golgi - endosome defects

Complex early-onset encephalopathies that may associate with multisystemic involvement

## Late endosome - lysosome defects

- Neonatal seizures
- Complex multisystemic
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Lysosome biogenesis defects
- HOPSANDs (*HOPS Associated Neurological Disorders*)

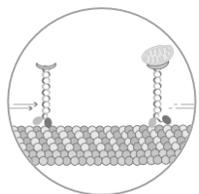


SLC9A6  
Early Endosome

ATP6A2  
SNAP29  
Late Endosome

RAB7  
Multi Vesicular Body  
Lowe syndrome

Phagolysosome



# ENDOcyTOSIS

Movement INSIDE to the cell.  
Secretory pathway and membrane proteins



## Golgi - endosome defects

Complex early-onset encephalopathies that may associate with multisystemic involvement

SLC9A6  
Early Endosome

## Late endosome - lysosome defects

doi:10.1093/brain/awab161

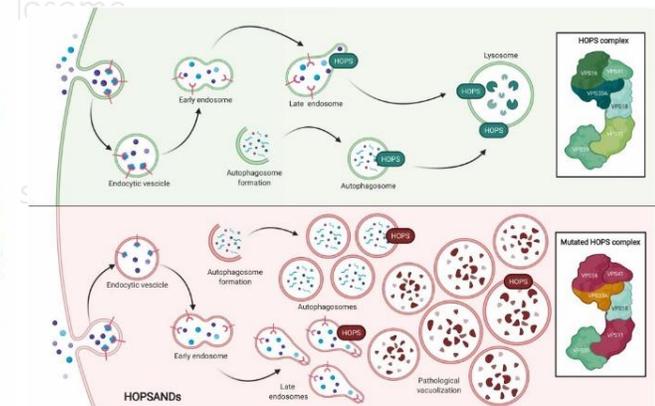
BRAIN 2021; 144; 2610–2615 | 2610

**BRAIN**  
UPDATE

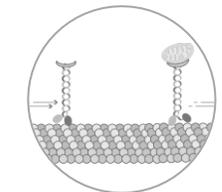
## HOPS-associated neurological disorders (HOPSANDs): linking endolysosomal dysfunction to the pathogenesis of dystonia

Edoardo Monfrini,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael Zech,<sup>3,4</sup> Dora Steel,<sup>5,6</sup> Manju A. Kurian,<sup>5,6</sup> Juliane Winkelmann<sup>3,4,7,8</sup> and Alessio Di Fonzo<sup>2</sup>

### HOPS complex

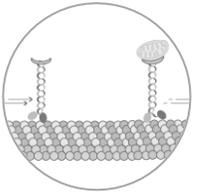
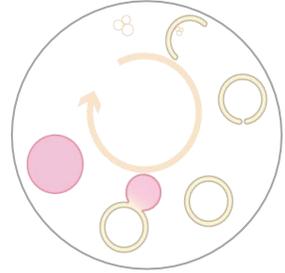


Phagolysosome

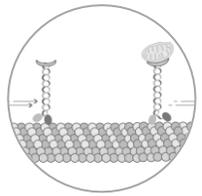




# AUTOPHAGY







endocytosis +  
cell trafficking

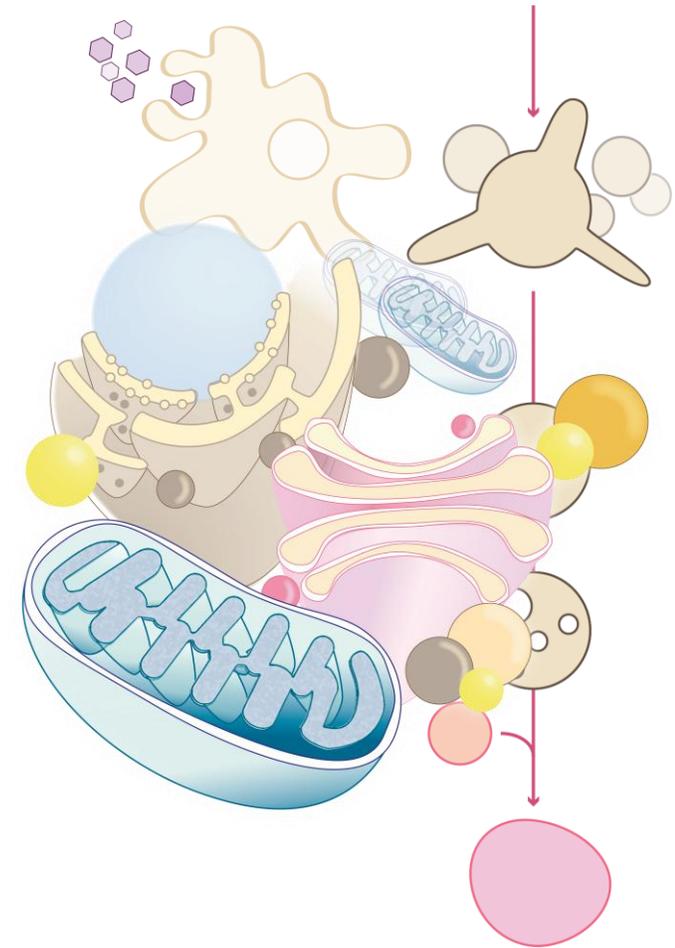
inter-organelle  
communication

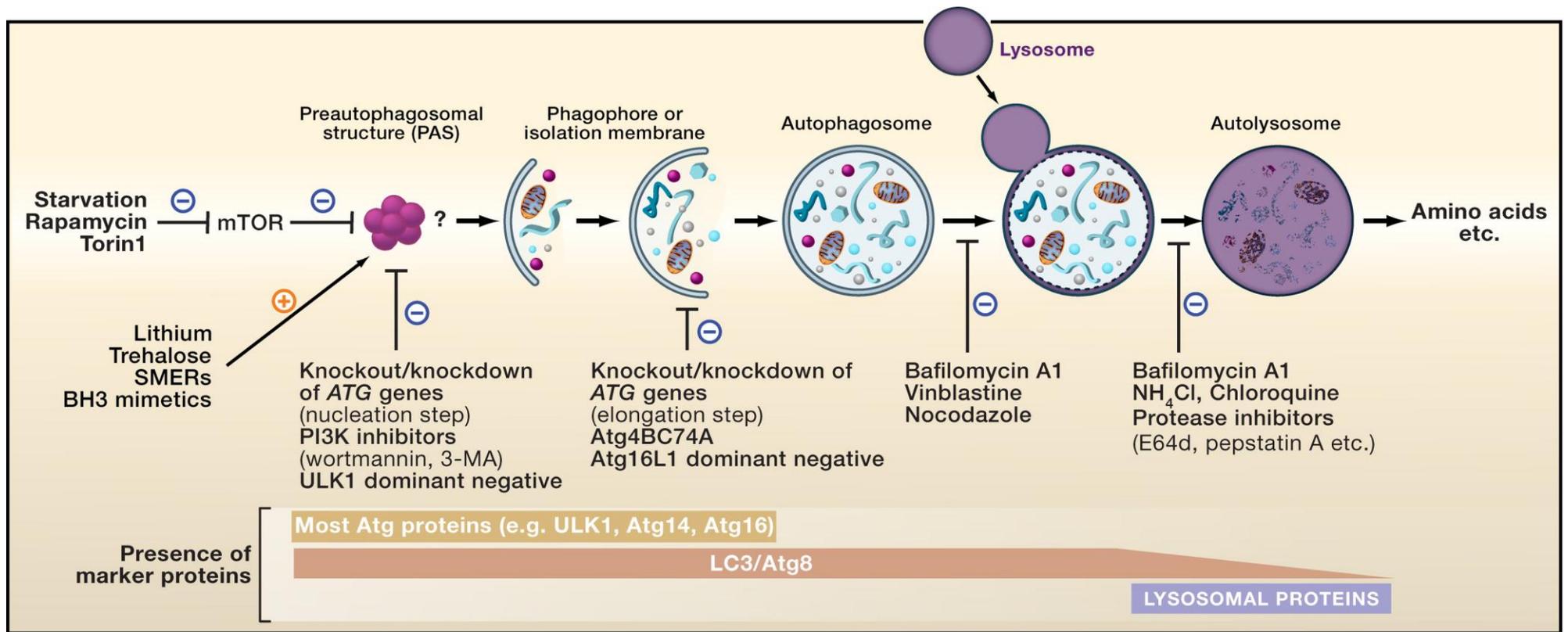
metabolism

immunologic  
processes

cell signaling

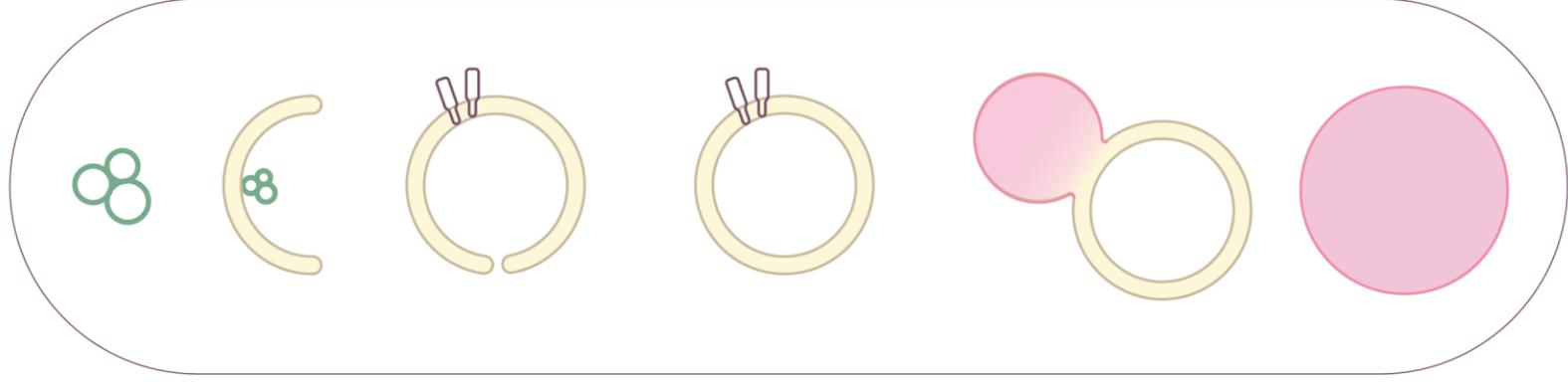
**LYSOSOME:**  
a cellular hub



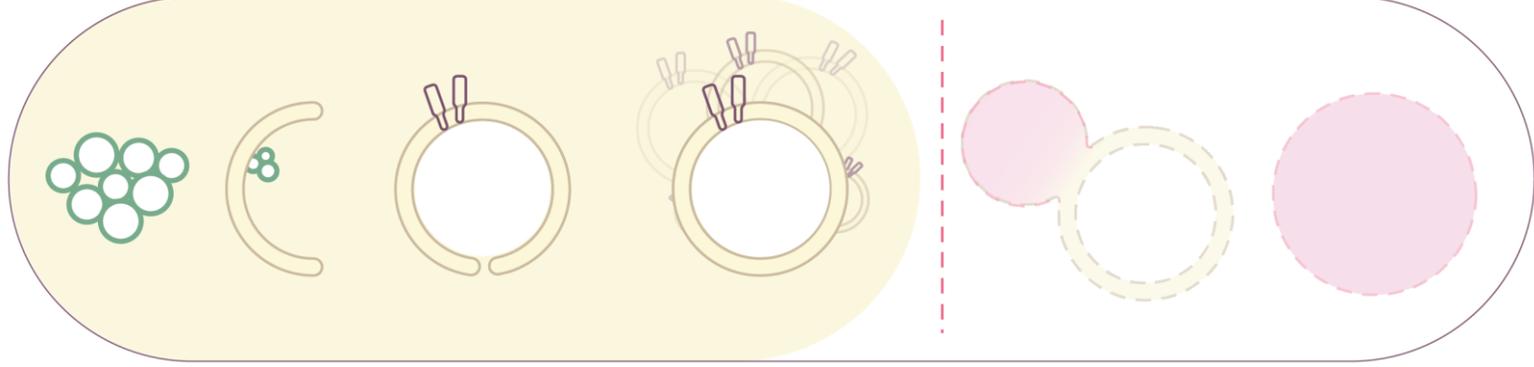


Noboru Mizushima, et al. Methods in Mammalian Autophagy Research, *Cell*, 2010

BASAL



BAF-A1 200nM 4h



EBSS 4h

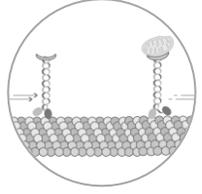
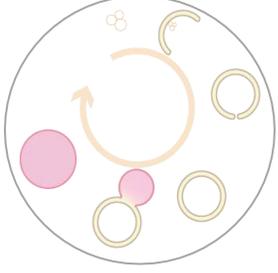
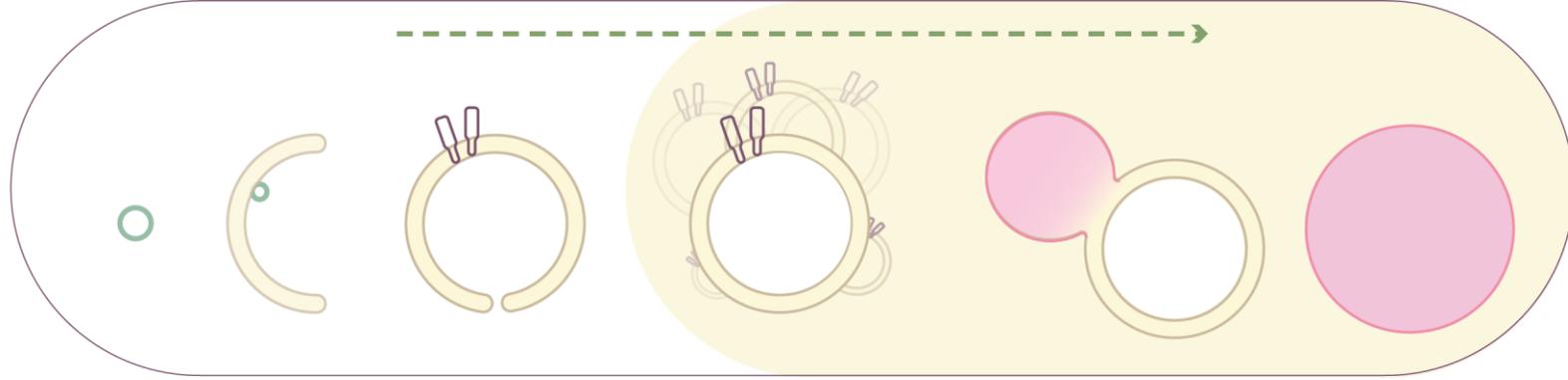
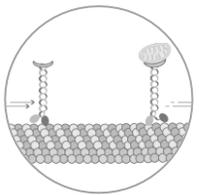


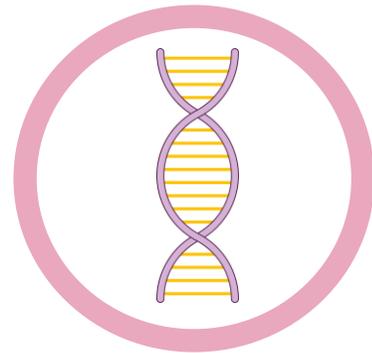
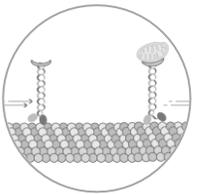
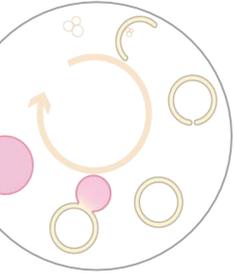
Table 2 | Human diseases linked to autophagy and clinical translation

Disease	Mechanism	Compounds
<b>Autophagy activation in neurodegenerative diseases</b>		
Alzheimer disease	mTOR inhibition (via 5-HT <sub>6</sub> R activation)	AVN-211; Lu AE58054 (idalopirdine); SB-742457
	Inhibition of AKT–mTOR pathway	rAAV/A $\beta$ vaccine
	ACAT1 inhibition	F12511
	mTOR inhibition	Rapamycin, latrepirdine and metformin
	AMPK activation	Resveratrol and resveratrol-like small molecules
	Lysosomal acidification	Nicotinamide
	GSK3 $\beta$ and IMPase inhibition	Lithium
	Unclear mechanism	Berberine
	MTMR14 (autophagy inhibitor) inhibition	AUTEN-67
Parkinson disease	NRF2 activation	DMF
	TFEB activation	Curcumin analogue
	Beclin 1 complex activation	<i>BECN1</i> gene transfer
	TFEB regulation	<i>TFEB</i> gene
	Beclin 1 activation	Dual GLP-1–GIP receptor agonists
ALS	Unclear mechanism	Berberine
Huntington disease	MTMR14 inhibition	AUTEN-67
	mTOR inhibition	Rapamycin
	Unclear mechanism	Berberine

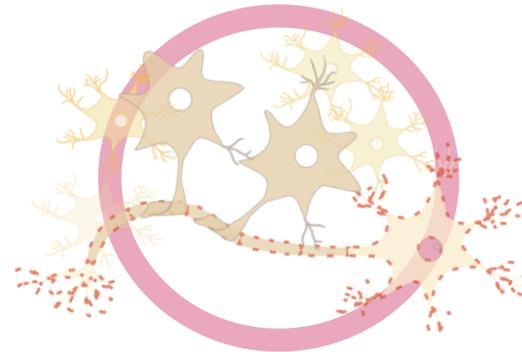


# AUTOPHAGY DEFECTS AS PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE DISEASE

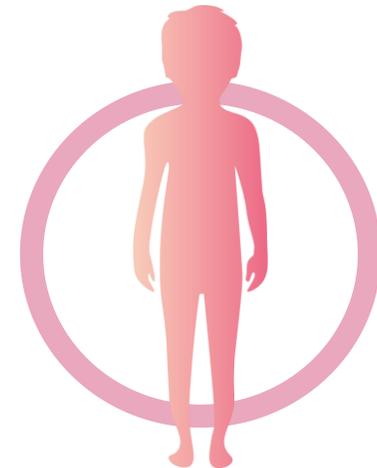
## Beta-propeller Protein-Associated Neurodegeneration (BPAN)



Caused by  
mutations in *WDR45*

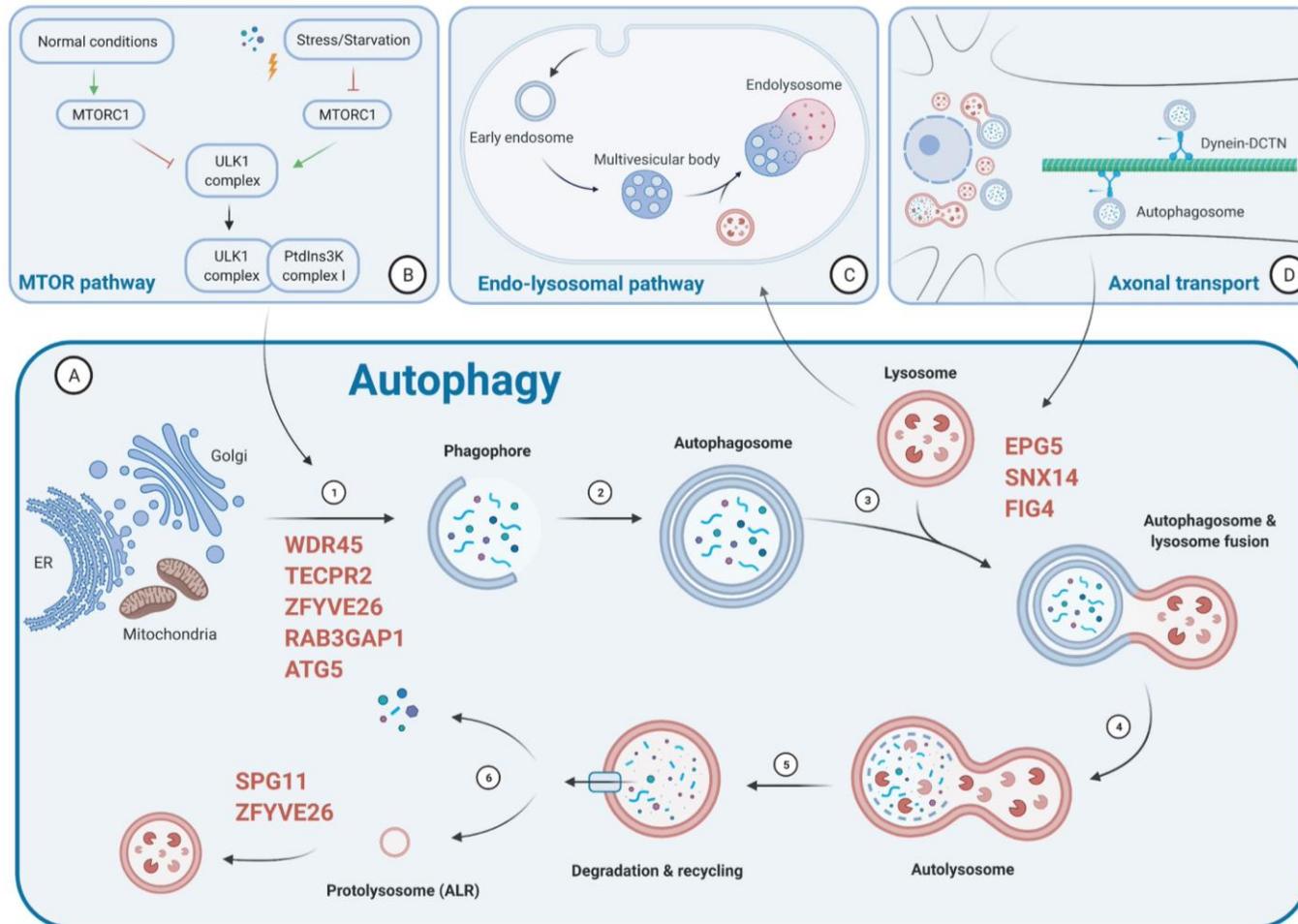


Neurodegenerative  
metabolic disease



Bi-phasic  
clinical course

# AUTOPHAGY DEFECTS AS PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE DISEASE



# AUTOPHAGY DEFECTS AS UNDERLYING ELEMENTS OF PATHOPHYS.

doi:10.1093/brain/awab161

BRAIN 2021; 144; 2610–2615 | 2610

**BRAIN**  
UPDATE



## HOPS-associated neurological disorders (HOPSANDs): linking endolysosomal dysfunction to the pathogenesis of dystonia

Edoardo Monfrini<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Zech<sup>3,4</sup>, Dora Steel<sup>5,6</sup>, Manju A. Kurian<sup>5,6</sup>,  
Juliane Winkelmann<sup>3,4,7,8</sup> and Alessio Di Fonzo<sup>2</sup>

Article



SOURCE  
DATA



TRANSPARENT  
PROCESS



OPEN  
ACCESS

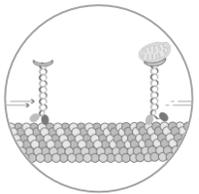
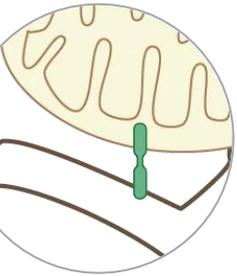


CHECK FOR  
UPDATES

EMBO  
Molecular Medicine

## Unraveling autophagic imbalances and therapeutic insights in Mecp2-deficient models

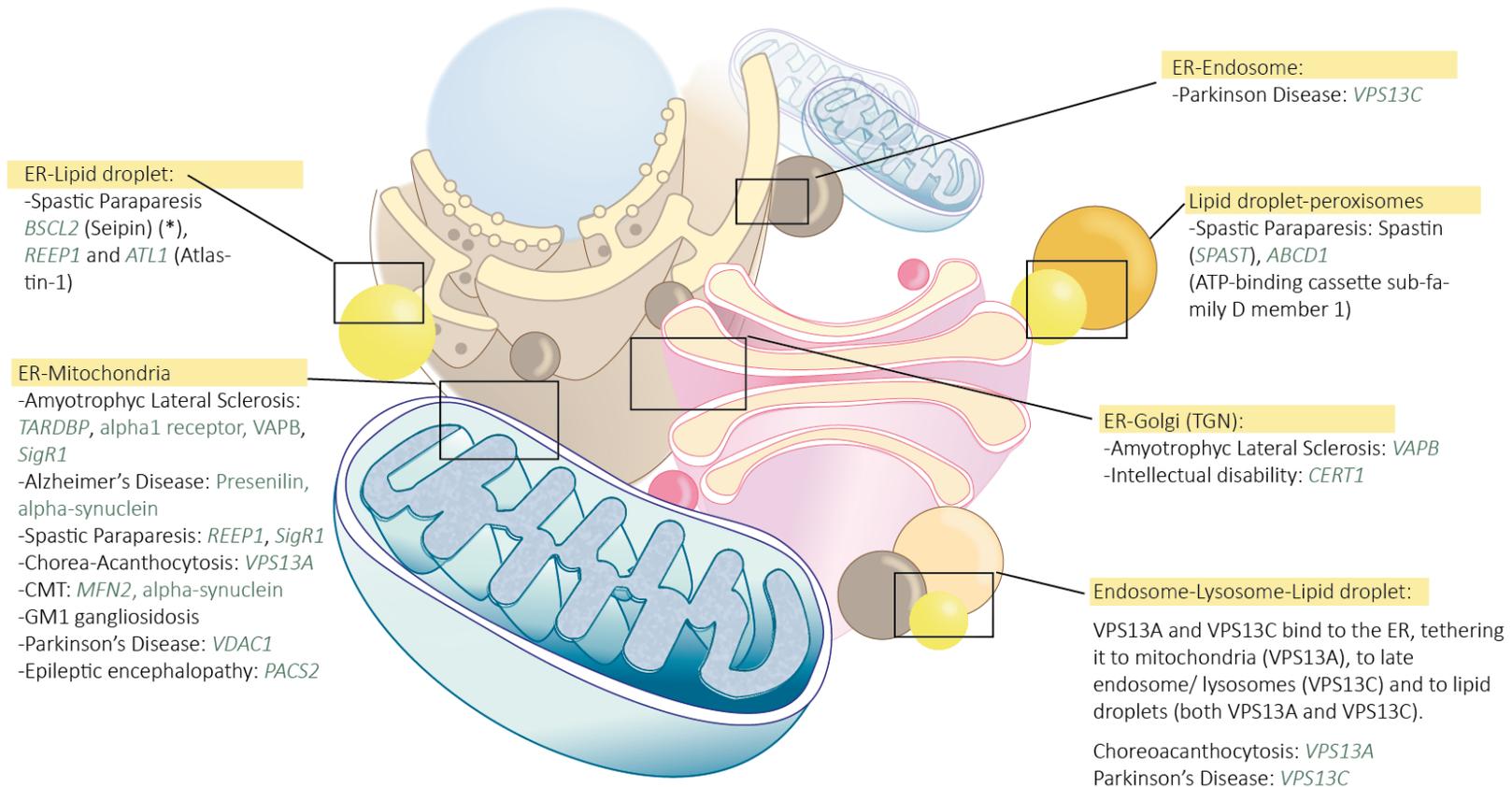
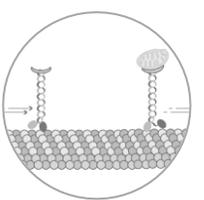
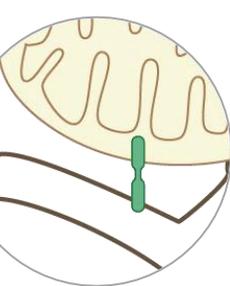
Alessandro Esposito<sup>1</sup>, Tommaso Seri<sup>1</sup>, Martina Breccia<sup>2</sup>, Marzia Indrigo<sup>1</sup>,  
Giuseppina De Rocco<sup>1,2</sup>, Francesca Nuzzolillo<sup>3</sup>, Vanna Denti<sup>4</sup>, Francesca Pappacena<sup>1</sup>,  
Gaia Tartaglione<sup>1</sup>, Simone Serrao<sup>4</sup>, Giuseppe Paglia<sup>4</sup>, Luca Murru<sup>5</sup>, Stefano de Pretis<sup>6</sup>,  
Jean-Michel Cioni<sup>1</sup>, Nicoletta Landsberger<sup>1,2</sup>, Fabrizia Claudia Guarnieri<sup>1,5</sup> &  
Michela Palmieri<sup>1,3</sup>



# MEMBRANE CONTACT SITES

Not membrane trafficking strictly, but crucial for communication

# MEMBRANE CONTACT SITES



**ER-Lipid droplet:**  
 -Spastic Paraparesis  
*BSCL2* (Seipin) (\*),  
*REEP1* and *ATL1* (Atlas-  
 tin-1)

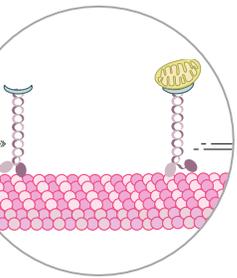
**ER-Mitochondria**  
 -Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis:  
*TARDBP*, alpha1 receptor, *VAPB*,  
*SigR1*  
 -Alzheimer's Disease: Presenilin,  
 alpha-synuclein  
 -Spastic Paraparesis: *REEP1*, *SigR1*  
 -Chorea-Acanthocytosis: *VPS13A*  
 -CMT: *MFN2*, alpha-synuclein  
 -GM1 gangliosidosis  
 -Parkinson's Disease: *VDAC1*  
 -Epileptic encephalopathy: *PACS2*

**ER-Endosome:**  
 -Parkinson Disease: *VPS13C*

**Lipid droplet-peroxisomes**  
 -Spastic Paraparesis: Spastin  
*(SPAST)*, *ABCD1*  
 (ATP-binding cassette sub-fa-  
 mily D member 1)

**ER-Golgi (TGN):**  
 -Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: *VAPB*  
 -Intellectual disability: *CERT1*

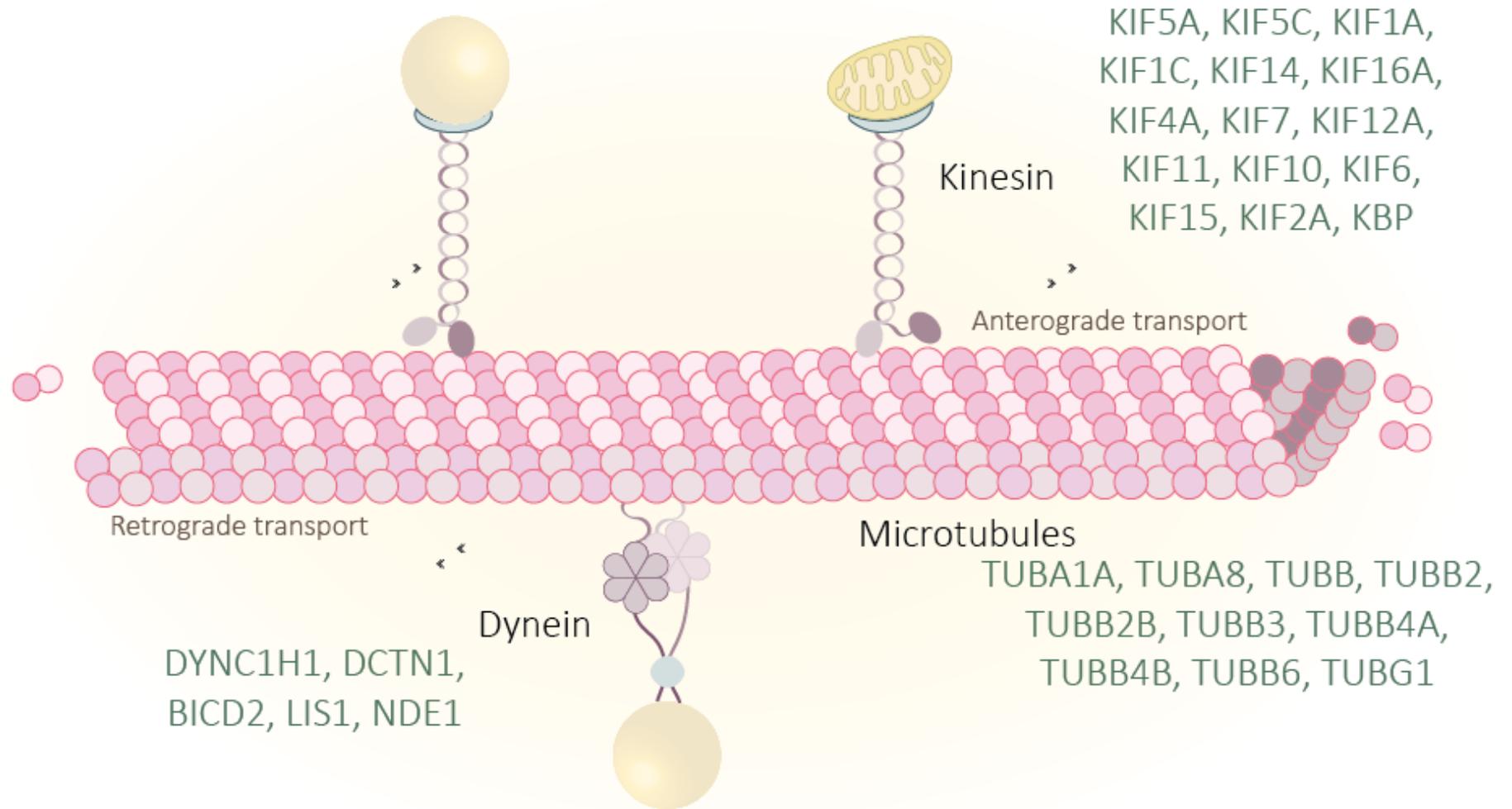
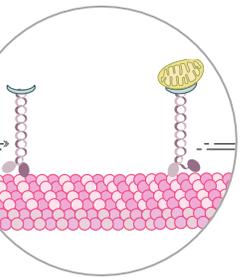
**Endosome-Lysosome-Lipid droplet:**  
*VPS13A* and *VPS13C* bind to the ER, tethering  
 it to mitochondria (*VPS13A*), to late  
 endosome/ lysosomes (*VPS13C*) and to lipid  
 droplets (both *VPS13A* and *VPS13C*).  
 Choreaocanthocytosis: *VPS13A*  
 Parkinson's Disease: *VPS13C*



# TRANSPORT ALONG THE CYTOSKELETON

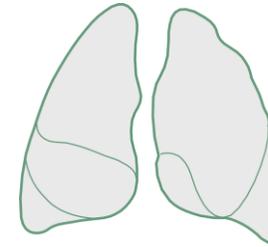
Not an IMD *per se*, but probably will fall in the category in the future

# TRANSPORT ALONG THE CYTOSKELETON



## Nervous system

CNS development  
Neuronal homeostasis  
Synaptic communication



## Respiratory system

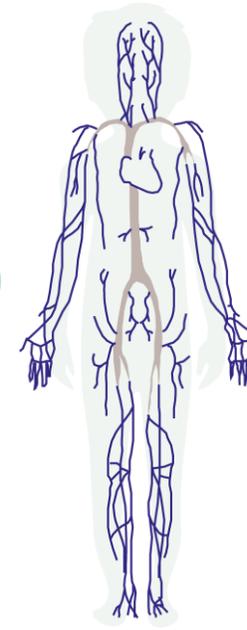
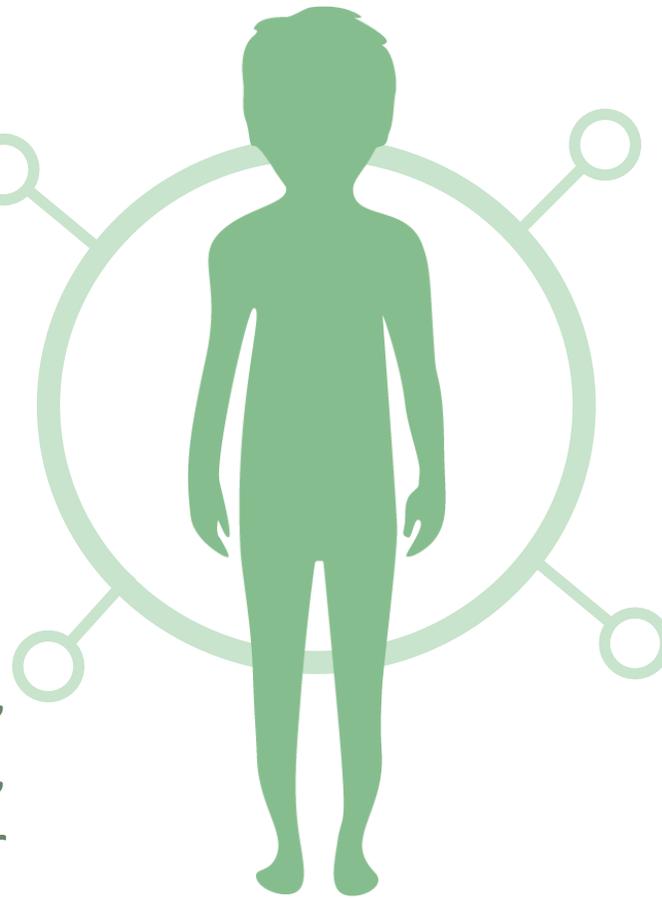
Mucociliary clearance

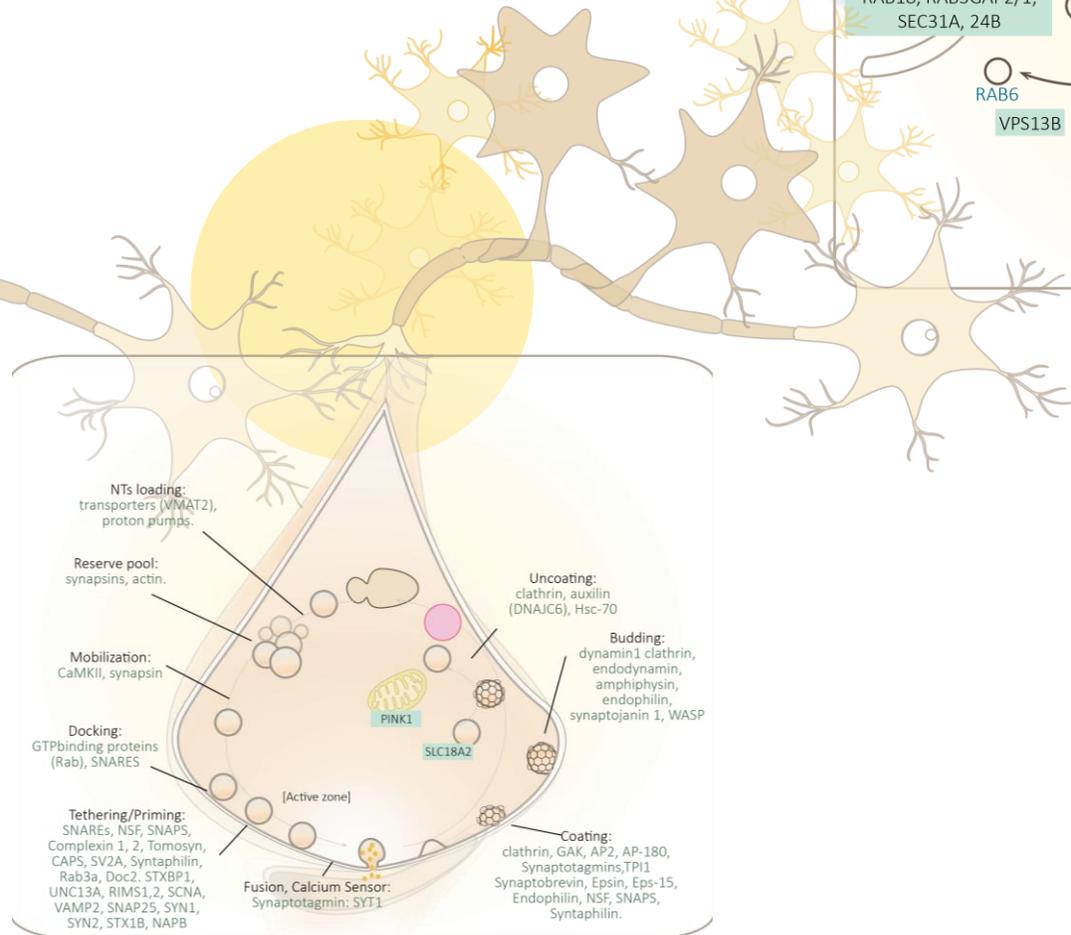
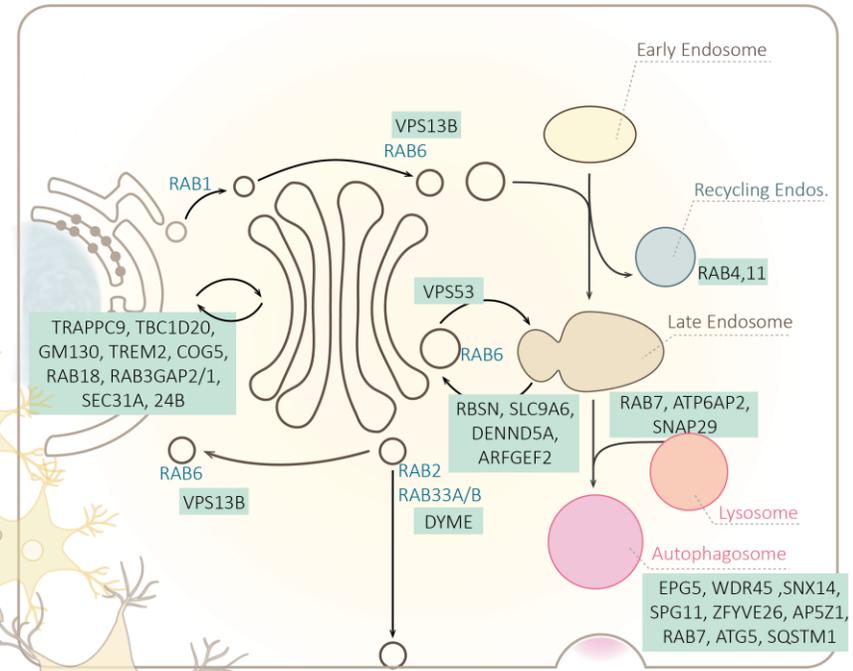
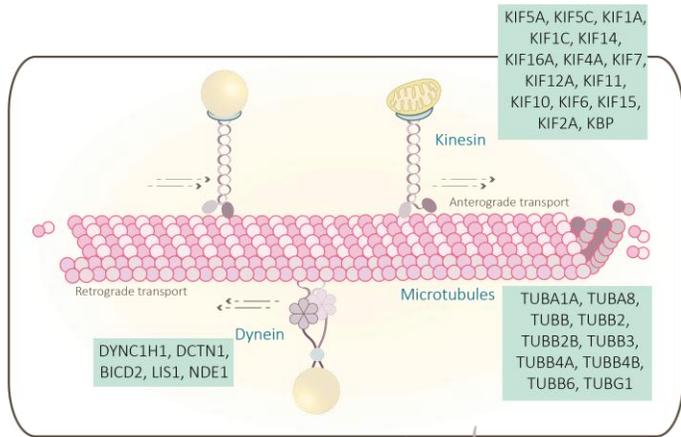
Endocrine,  
musculoskeletal,  
cardiovascular

....

## Blood + immune system

Haematopoiesis  
Cytokine release  
Pathogen removal





# **CELL TRAFFICKING**

**Cell trafficking is essential for cell function and represents a growing disease category**

**All cell trafficking processes are interconnected**

**Studying the cellular basis of cell trafficking is critical to understand their pathophysiology and define new treatments**

**Autophagy is a promising therapeutic target for these and other disorders**

ERNDIM Symposium 2025

# Cell trafficking and autophagy in neurometabolic disorders

**Alfonso de Oyarzábal, PhD**

Synaptic metabolism + personalized therapies lab

Neurology Department – Hospital Sant Joan de Déu

Universitat Abat Oliba-CEU

 **CEU** Universitat  
Abat Oliba | Barcelona

  
ERNDIM  
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN LABORATORY TESTING FOR IEM