

# Alzheimer's Disease in Down Syndrome | Latest Updates

**NDSC Annual Convention GLOBAL Research and Medical Care Roundtable  
June 25, 2020**

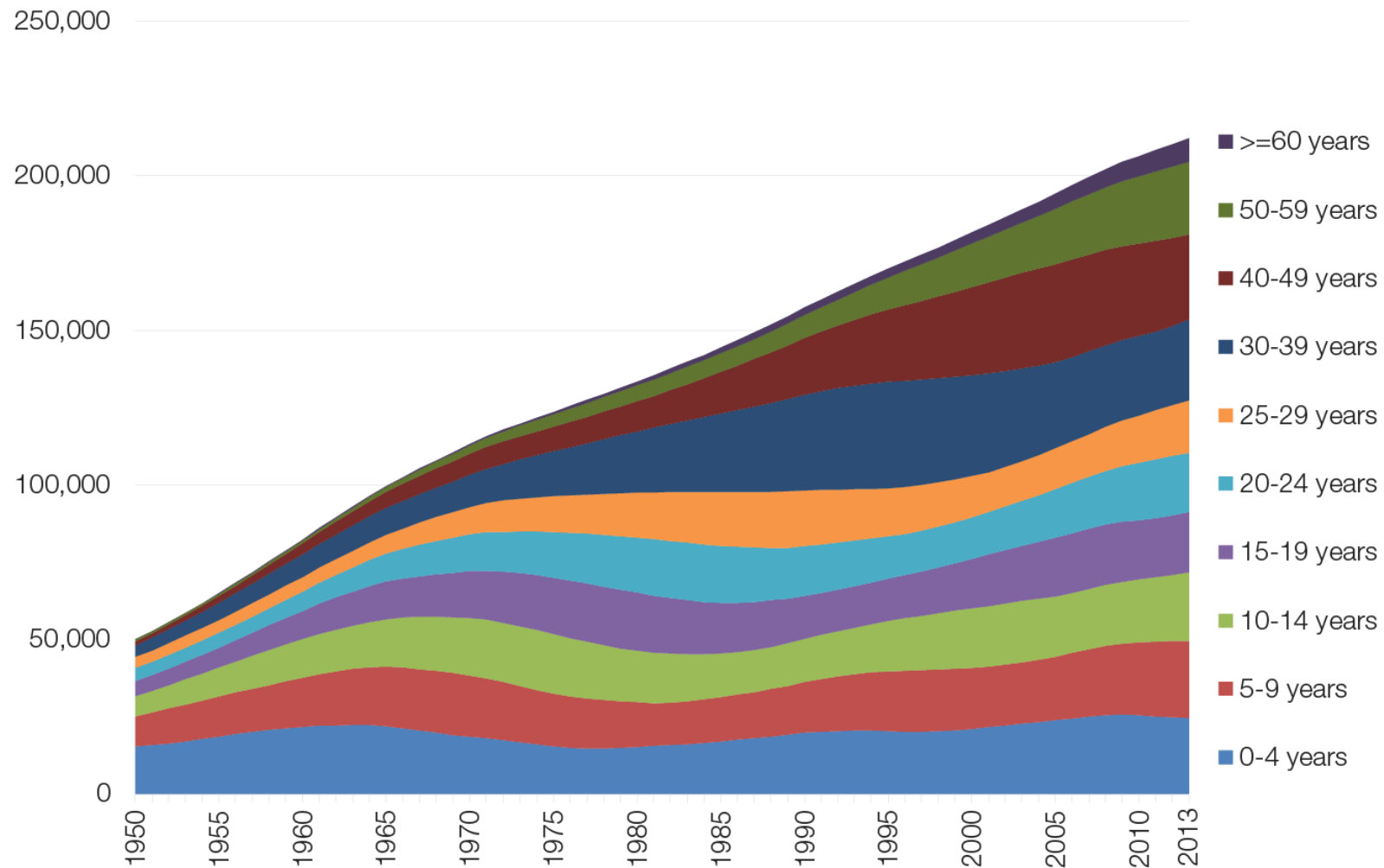
Michael Rafii, MD, PhD

Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute (ATRI)

Keck School of Medicine

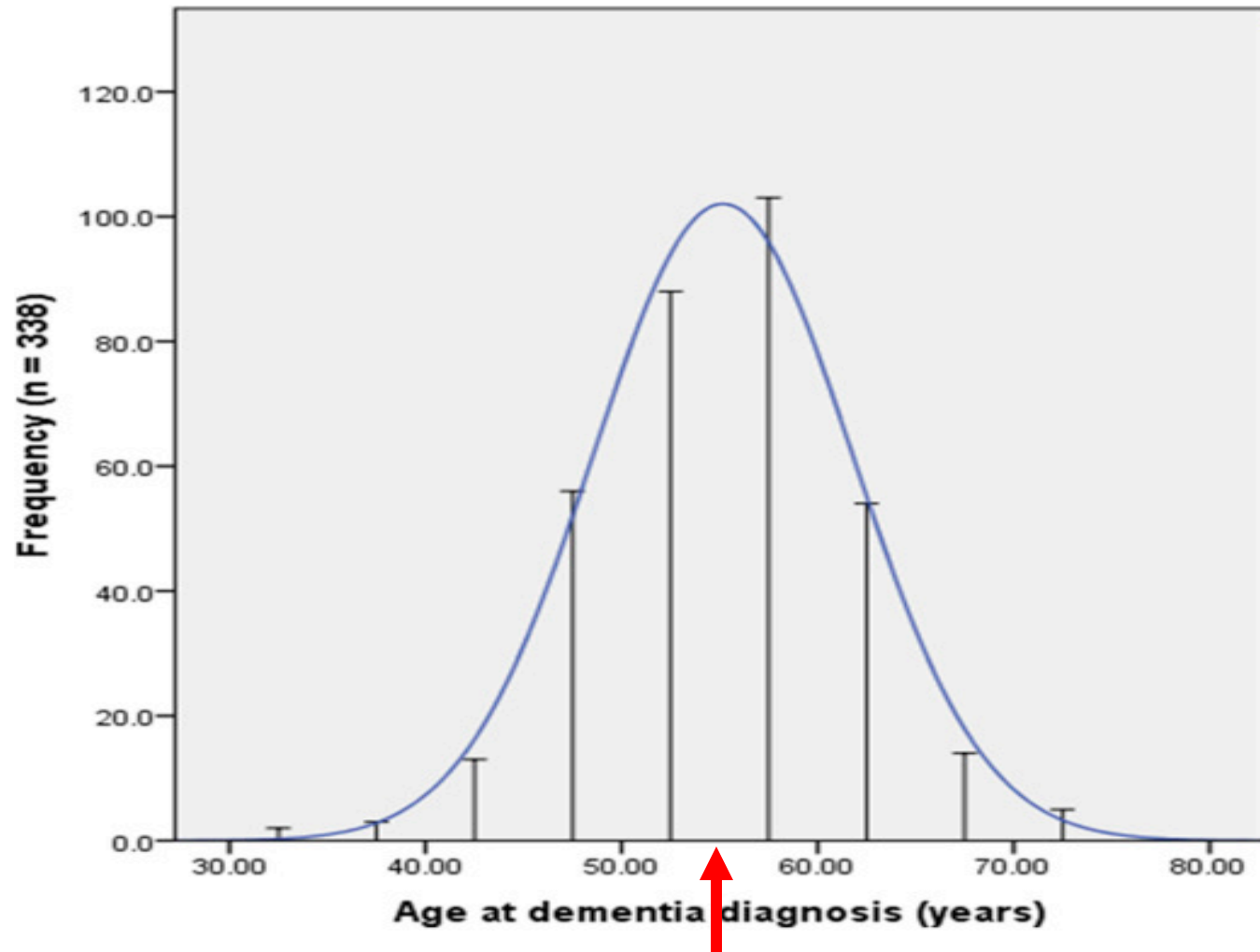
University of Southern California

# Population of People with DS in the USA, 1950-2013



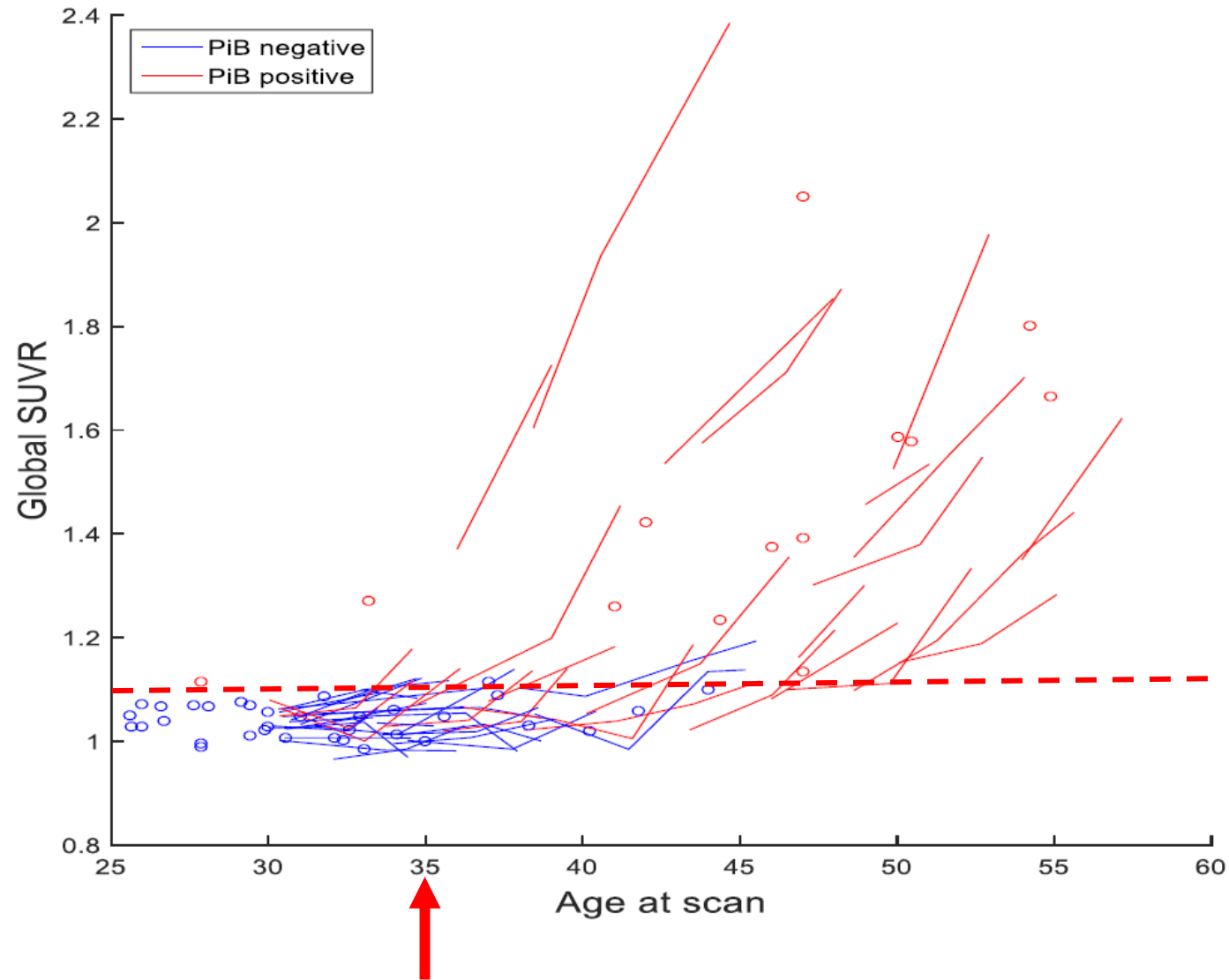
Li et al, 2013

Mean age of dementia diagnosis in DS is 54 years



90% lifetime risk for developing AD dementia

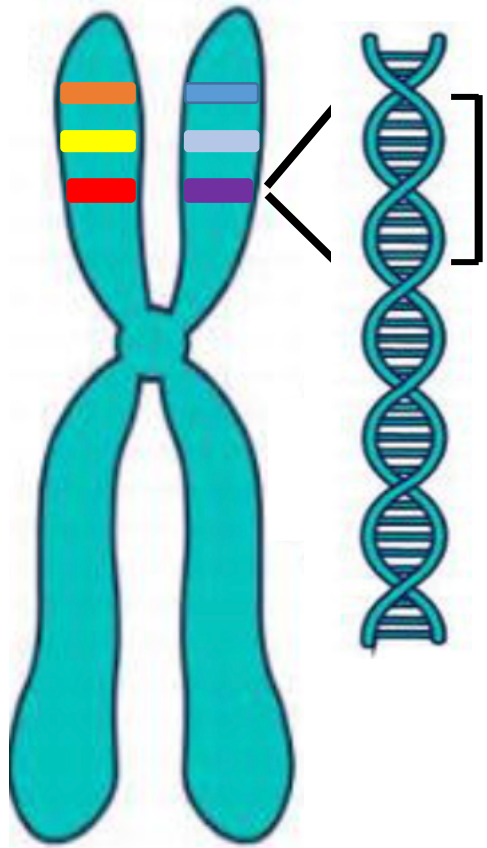
But Amyloid PET positivity begins at age 35 years



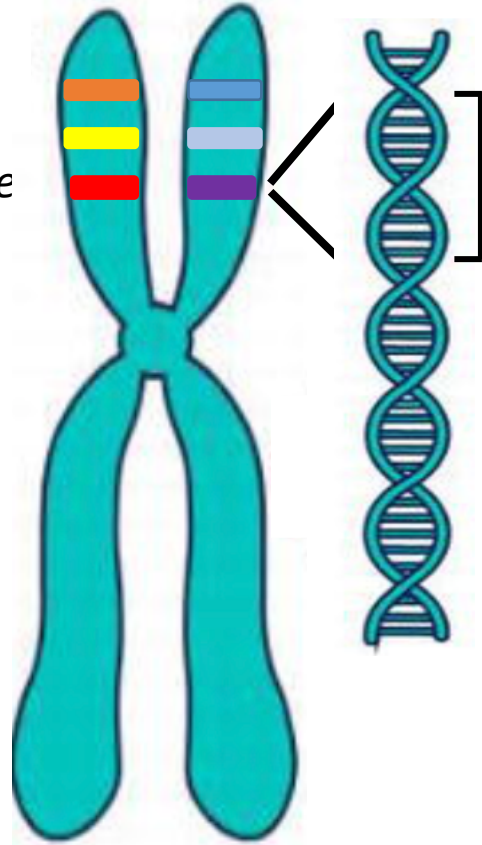
Lao et al, 2018



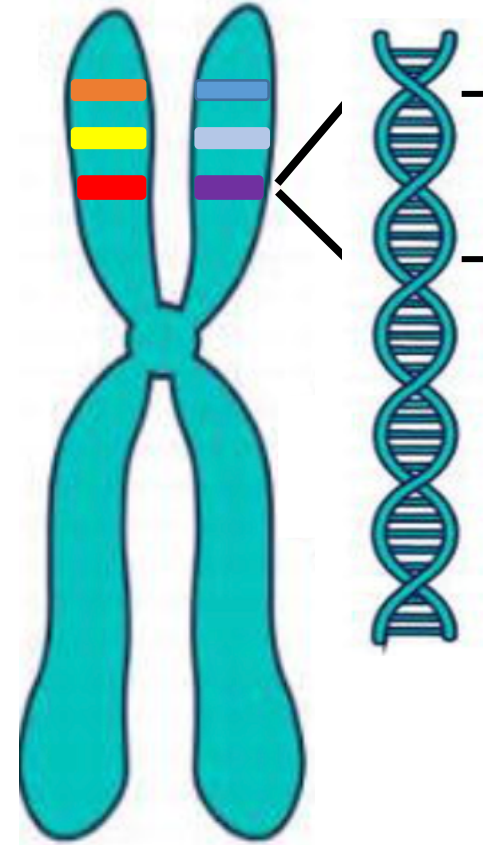
# Trisomy 21 leads to excess APP gene and APP protein



Chromosome 21

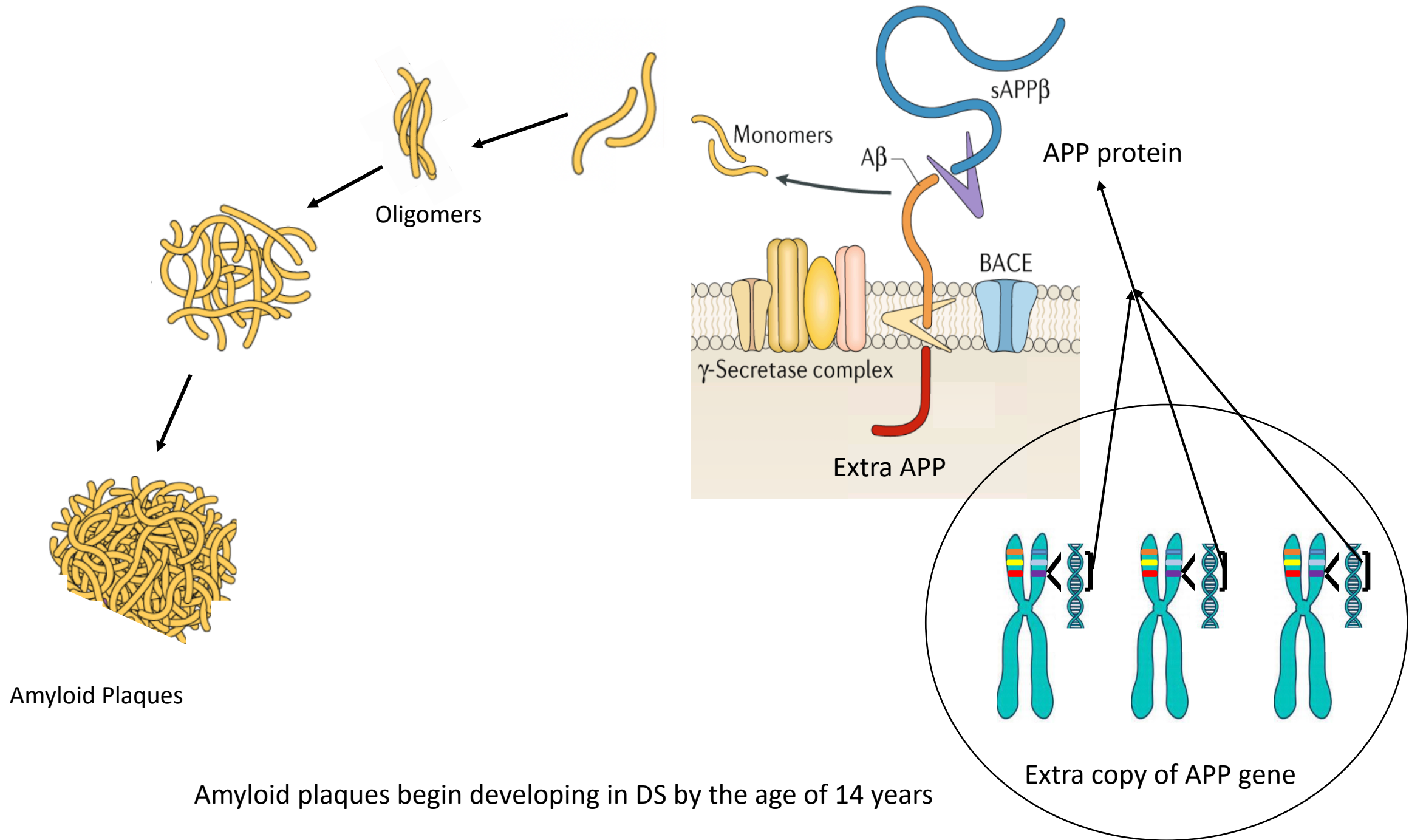


Chromosome 21

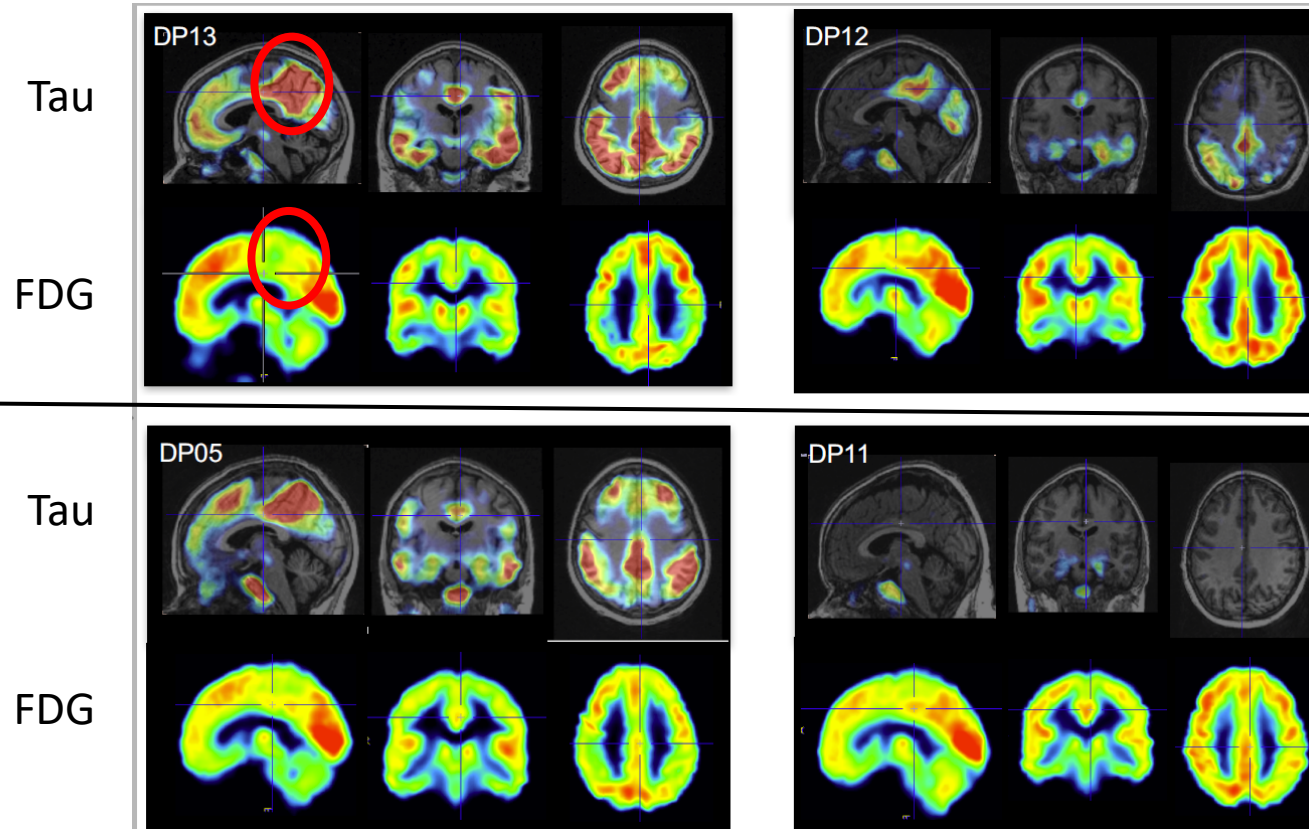


Extra Copy of Chromosome 21

Individuals with mosaic DS  
without extra APP do not  
develop AD

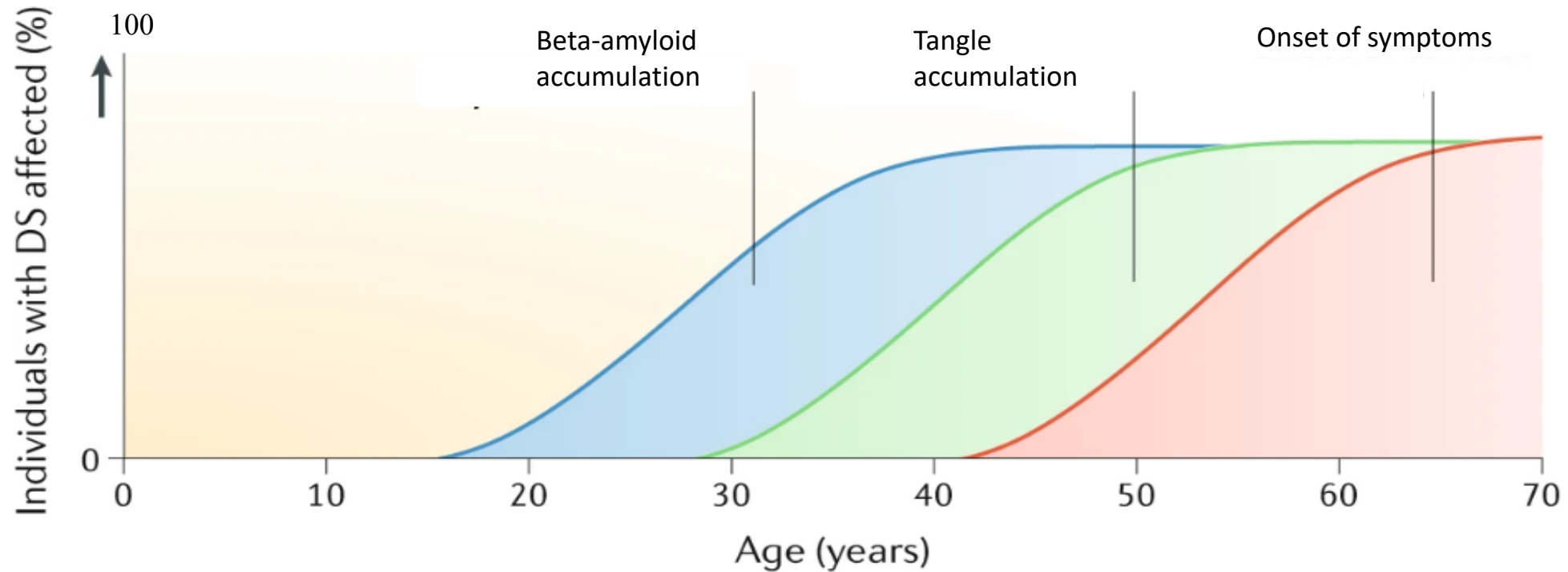


# Tau Pathology in Areas of Amyloid Pathology and Abnormal Regional Glucose Metabolism



Areas with greater tau burden have less regional glucose metabolism

# Targeting AD in DS



Adapted from Lott and Head, 2019

Changes related to Alzheimer's disease begin 15-20 years prior to the onset of symptoms

# Important Questions for Clinical Trials

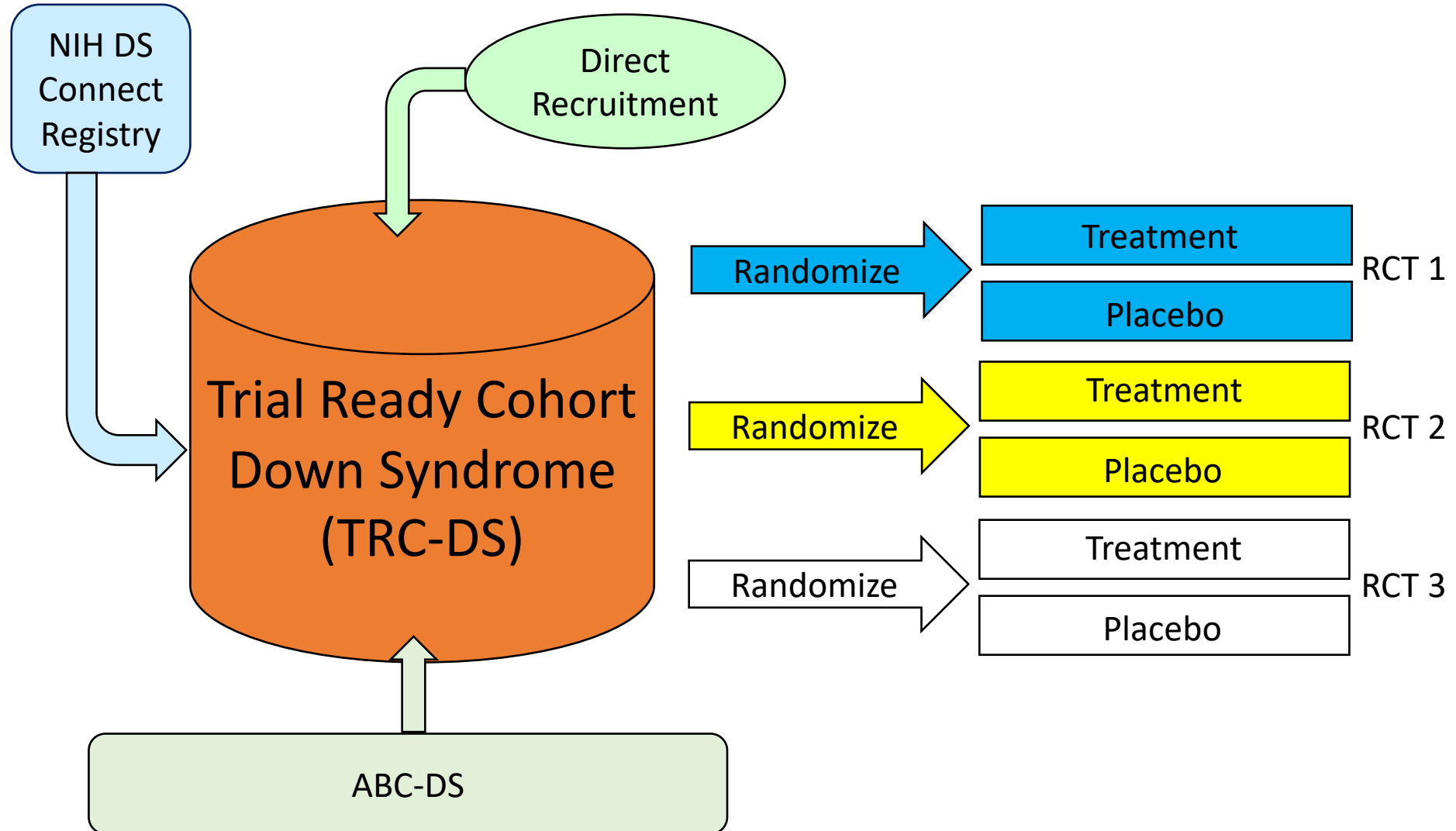
- How will removal of amyloid (and/or tau) impact cognitive and functional measures in addition to biomarkers?
- How does the manifestation of AD in DS impact the safety profile of various treatments, including immunotherapies?
- How early in the course of AD in DS does treatment need to begin and for how long should it continue in order to show efficacy?
- What will regulatory agencies consider appropriate outcomes for AD in DS within the new FDA framework on drug approval for 'Early AD'?

# ACTC-DS: A CLINICAL TRIALS PLATFORM TO PREVENT AD IN DS

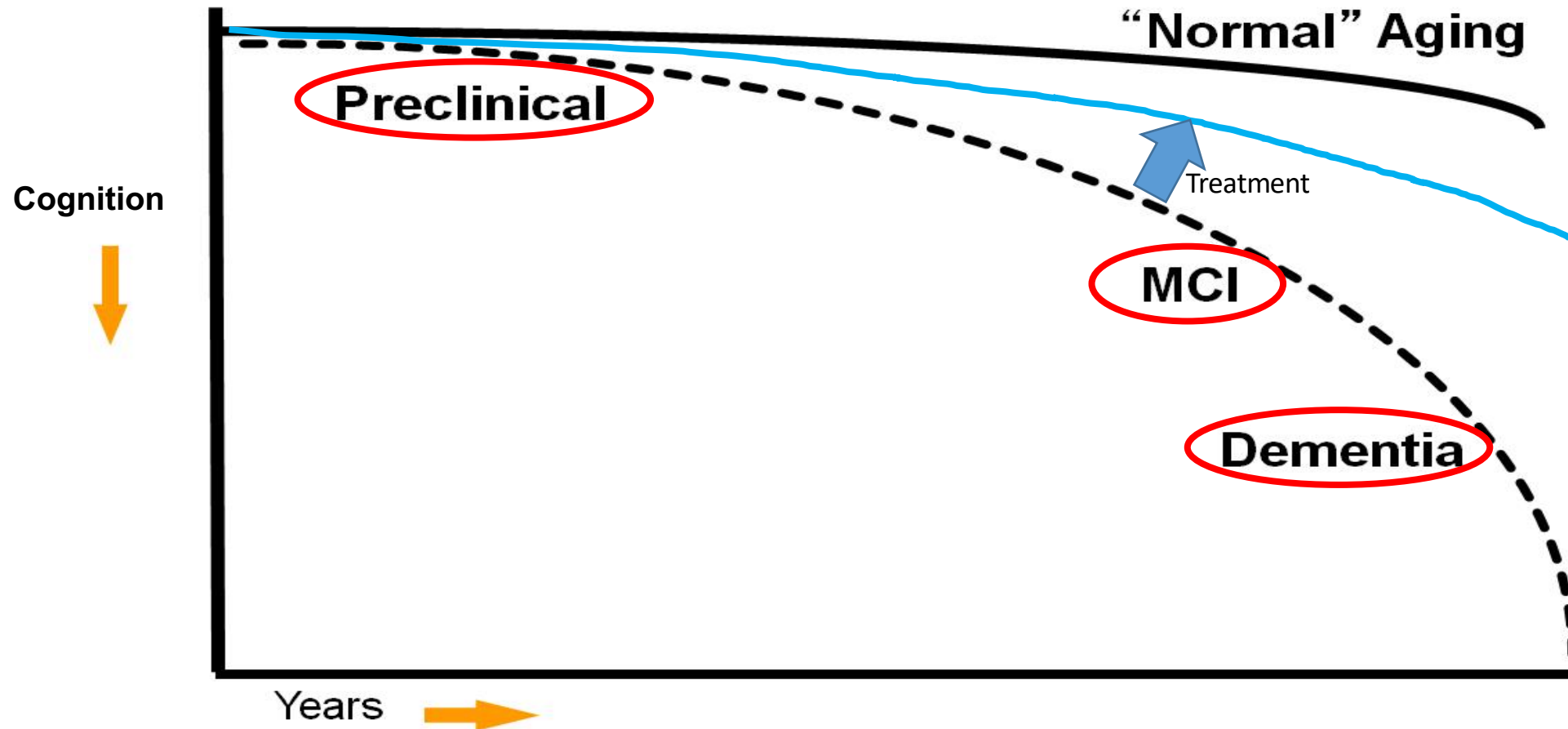


15 international performance sites with experience in AD and DS  
clinical research. \$4.7 Million award from NIH INCLUDE

# Trial Ready Cohort - Down Syndrome



# Flattening the Curve of AD in DS





# Conclusions

- New treatments for AD in DS are urgently needed and the NIH INCLUDE initiative is accelerating our ability to meet this need with ACTC-DS.
- Very exciting time in AD research- Aducanumab is being reviewed by FDA for possible approval.
- ACTC-DS sites provide unparalleled experience in conducting RCTs for AD in DS.
- TRC-DS will enable rapid-enrollment into trials for AD in DS

[www.actc-ds.org](http://www.actc-ds.org)



**Thank you!**