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Multifaceted Properties of Human Serum Albumin as a Potential Therapeutic Approach to Treat Alzheimer's Disease

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Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder involving many related and interdependent pathologies that manifest simultaneously.

No treatment is currently available; however, an agent addressing several key pathologies simultaneously has a better therapeutic potential. Human serum albumin (HSA) is a highly versatile protein, harboring multifunctional properties that are relevant to key pathologies. HSA decreased with aging and is associated with cognitive impairment in the elderly, further implicating its involvement in AD. HSA affects AD pathologies from several different aspects such as antioxidant activity, detoxification, anti-inflammatory properties, reduce BBB permeability and promote neuronal survival. All of these properties have significance in relation to AD pathology especially it interacts directly with amyloid beta peptide ($A\beta$), one of the hallmark pathologies in AD. HSA and $A\beta$ interaction *in vitro*, show that HSA can reduce oligomeric $A\beta$ and induced cellular stress *in vitro* due to direct binding to $A\beta$ rather than other properties of HSA.

In vivo, we treat the mice with pumps infusing HSA intracerebroventricularly (ICV), in an AD 3xTg mice model. A significant effect on amyloid- β ($A\beta$) pathology was observed. $A\beta$ 1-42, soluble oligomers, and total plaque area were reduced as well as total and hyperphosphorylated tau. HSA treatment also reduced brain inflammation, affecting both astrocytes and microglia markers. Finally, evidence for blood-brain barrier and myelin integrity repair was observed. The work presented here sheds light over the mechanism of HSA and $A\beta$ interaction and demonstrates that ICV administration of HSA is a potential therapeutic approach with multifaceted beneficial effects to treat AD.

Biography:

Professor Beka Solomon earned her Ph.D. in 1976 from the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel. She joined Tel-Aviv University in 1979 following post-doctoral studies and training periods at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA. She is a member of the editorial board of *Drugs of Today*, *Recent Patents on CNS Drug Discovery*, *Neurodegenerative Diseases* and *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. She was awarded the prestigious Zenith Award of the Alzheimer Association, and received the Dana Foundation Award for Neuroimmunology. In 2007 she was included in *Scientific American's* List of 50 of the World's Leading Innovators.