

1 Cholinergic circuit genes in the healthy brain are  
2 differentially expressed in regions that exhibit gray  
3 matter loss in Parkinson's disease

4 Arlin Keo<sup>1,2</sup>, Oleh Dzyubachyk<sup>3</sup>, Jeroen van der Grond<sup>3</sup>, Anne Hafkemeijer<sup>3,4,5</sup>, Wilma D.J. van de Berg<sup>6</sup>,  
5 Jacobus J. van Hilten<sup>7</sup>, Marcel J. T. Reinders<sup>1,2</sup>, Ahmed Mahfouz<sup>1,2,8</sup>.

6 1. Leiden Computational Biology Center, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The  
7 Netherlands.

8 2. Delft Bioinformatics Lab, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands.

9 3. Department of Radiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

10 4. Department of Methodology and Statistics, Institute of Psychology, Leiden University, Leiden,  
11 the Netherlands.

12 5. Leiden Institute for Brain and Cognition, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands.

13 6. Department of Anatomy and Neurosciences, Amsterdam Neuroscience, Amsterdam UMC,  
14 location VUmc, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

15 7. Department of Neurology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

16 8. Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

17 Address correspondence to Dr. Ahmed Mahfouz, Leiden Computational Biology Center, Leiden  
18 University Medical Center, Einthovenweg 20, 2333ZC Leiden, the Netherlands. E-mail:  
19 a.mahfouz@lumc.nl

20 **Running title:** Transcriptomics of gray matter loss in Parkinson's disease

21 **Abstract**

22 Structural covariance networks are able to identify functionally organized brain regions by gray matter  
23 volume covariance. In Parkinson's disease, the posterior cingulate network and anterior cingulate  
24 network showed decreased gray matter and therefore we examined the underlying molecular processes  
25 of these anatomical networks in the healthy brain. Whole brain transcriptomics from post-mortem  
26 samples from healthy adults, revealed upregulation of genes associated with serotonin, GPCR, GABA,  
27 glutamate, and RAS signaling pathways in these PD-related regions. Our results also suggest involvement  
28 of the cholinergic circuit, in which genes *NPPA*, *SOSTDC1*, and *TYRP1* may play a protective role.  
29 Furthermore, both networks were associated with memory and neuropsychiatric disorders that overlap  
30 with Parkinson's disease symptoms. The identified genes and pathways contribute to healthy functions  
31 of the posterior and anterior cingulate networks and disruptions to these functions may in turn  
32 contribute to the pathological and clinical events observed in Parkinson's disease.

33

34 **Keywords:** Allen Human Brain Atlas, brain imaging, neuroinformatics, spatial transcriptomics, structural  
35 covariance networks

## 36 Introduction

37 Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder pathologically defined by the loss of  
38 dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra and the presence of Lewy bodies in selective brain regions  
39 (Goedert et al. 2012). Clinical symptoms involve impairment of diverse motor and non-motor symptoms  
40 that get progressively worse over time. The decline in clinical performance has been associated with  
41 changes in morphological properties of structural and functional neuroimaging networks (Lucas-Jiménez  
42 et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2016; de Schipper et al. 2017). In turn, studies have investigated the relationship  
43 between these imaging networks and genetic variants in PD-related genes to provide new insights into  
44 the pathogenesis of PD (van der Vegt et al. 2009). However, less is known about the functional pathways  
45 that underlie the spatial organization of brain regions contributing to PD. To identify the molecular  
46 mechanisms underlying changes in structural and functional networks in PD, imaging data has been  
47 integrated with brain wide expression atlases of the healthy brain (Hawrylycz et al. 2015; Arnatkevičiūtė  
48 et al. 2019). Regional brain atrophy in PD patients was found to be correlated with the expression of  
49 genes implicated in trans-synaptic alpha-synuclein transfer (Freeze et al. 2018) and a loss of regional  
50 connectivity in PD patients was correlated with the regional expression of *MAPT* in the healthy brain  
51 (Rittman et al. 2016). These studies show that combining imaging data in PD and gene expression from  
52 the healthy brain can shed light on the molecular mechanisms underlying the observed differences  
53 between PD and controls.

54 Structural covariance networks (SCNs) can reveal functional network organizations by identifying brain  
55 regions that co-vary in gray matter volume across a population (Alexander-Bloch, Giedd, et al. 2013).  
56 SCNs have been shown to be dysregulated in different neurological disorders (Alexander-Bloch,  
57 Raznahan, et al. 2013; Spreng and Turner 2013; Coppen et al. 2016; Huang et al. 2017; Liu et al. 2019),  
58 and variations in SCNs can be explained by transcriptomic similarity and structural connectivity (Romero-  
59 Garcia et al. 2018; Yee et al. 2018). Hafkemeijer *et al.* (Hafkemeijer et al. 2014) identified nine SCNs

60 based on gray matter variation among healthy middle-aged to older adults. Gray matter volume in four  
61 of these nine networks was negatively associated with age: a subcortical network, sensorimotor  
62 network, posterior cingulate networks, and anterior cingulate network. Two of these networks were  
63 found to show loss of gray matter volume in PD patients beyond the effects of aging: the posterior  
64 cingulate network and anterior cingulate network (de Schipper et al. 2017). These two networks were  
65 negatively associated with cognitive impairment and daytime sleepiness, respectively. Yet, it is unclear  
66 which molecular mechanisms contribute to these differences in SCNs in individuals with PD.

67 In this study, we aim to identify the molecular mechanisms within the healthy brain underlying the loss  
68 of integrity and atrophy in the anterior and posterior cingulate networks in PD patients. By integrating  
69 the nine SCNs with spatial gene expression data from the Allen Human Brain Atlas, we investigate  
70 whether expression patterns in the normal healthy brain are associated with patterns of gray matter  
71 loss in PD. We show that genes highly expressed in the posterior and anterior cingulate networks were  
72 associated with multiple neurotransmitter signaling pathways and involved in memory-related, pain-  
73 related, and neuropsychiatric disorders. In addition, both anatomical networks showed high expression  
74 of cholinergic gene markers known to act as regulators of extracellular signaling. Our results provide  
75 new insights into the molecular processes underlying anatomical network function and aids in  
76 understanding the selective progression of PD.

## 77 Materials and Methods

### 78 Transcriptomic data preprocessing

79 To understand transcriptomic signatures of nine anatomical networks of the healthy brain, we used  
80 normalized gene expression data from the Allen Human Brain Atlas (AHBA), a post-mortem microarray

81 data set of 3,702 anatomical brain regions from six healthy individuals (5 males and 1 female, mean age  
82 42, range 24–57 years) (Hawrylycz et al. 2015). We downloaded the data from <http://human.brain->  
83 map.org/. To filter and map probes to genes, the data was concatenated across the six donors. We  
84 removed 10,521 probes with missing Entrez IDs, and 6,068 probes with low presence as they were  
85 expressed above background in <1% of samples (PA-call containing presence/absence flag) (Hawrylycz et  
86 al. 2015). The remaining 44,072 probes were mapped to 20,017 genes with unique Entrez IDs using the  
87 *collapseRows*-function in R-package WGCNA v1.64.1 (Langfelder and Horvath 2008) as follows: i) if there  
88 is one probe, that one probe is chosen, ii) if there are two probes, the one with maximum variance  
89 across all samples is chosen (method="maxRowVariance"), iii) if there are more than two probes, the  
90 probe with the highest connectivity (summed adjacency) is chosen (connectivityBasedCollapsing=TRUE).  
  
91 For visualization of gene expression in heatmaps, data was Z-score normalized across all samples for  
92 each brain donor separately. Heatmaps were plotted using R-package ComplexHeatmap v2.0.0 (Gu et al.  
93 2016). Genes were clustered using complete linkage with Euclidean distances. The same color scale was  
94 used for all heatmaps.

## 95 **Mapping AHBA samples to SCNs of the healthy brain**

96 We focused on anatomical networks that were previously defined based on whole brain gray matter  
97 volume covariation in 370 middle-aged to older adults between 45 and 85 years; for more detailed  
98 information on the networks see Hafkemeijer et al. 2014. Nine networks were defined and named  
99 according to the presence of the main structures: thalamus (network A), lateral occipital cortex (network  
100 B), posterior cingulate cortex (network C), anterior cingulate cortex (network D), temporal pole (network  
101 E), putamen (network F), and cerebellum (networks G, H, and I). The same networks were previously  
102 investigated for loss of integrity in 159 PD patients from the same age range, where the posterior  
103 cingulate network (C) and anterior cingulate network (D) showed decreased gray matter; for

104 demographic and clinical information see de Schipper et al. 2017. All samples from each one of the six  
105 donors in AHBA were mapped to regions defined by the nine SCNs in MNI coordinate space. The  
106 mapping divided all the samples into two sets depending on their position inside (1) or outside (0) the  
107 SCN mask.

## 108 **Differential expression analysis**

109 Differential expression analysis was performed between each of the two PD-related networks (posterior  
110 and anterior cingulate cortex) and the other 7 non-PD-related networks together. A two-tailed t-test  
111 was used for each gene and the analysis was done separately for each donor from AHBA. Since the  
112 microarray data was  $\log_2$ -transformed, the mean expression difference is interpreted as the  $\log_2$ -  
113 transformed fold-change (FC). The effect sizes for each one of the six donors were combined by meta-  
114 analysis (metafor R-package 2.0). For the meta-analysis, a random effects model was applied which  
115 assumes that each brain is considered to be from a larger population of brains and therefore takes the  
116 within-brain and between-brain variance into account. The between-brain variance ( $\tau^2$ ) was estimated  
117 with the Dersimonian-Delaire model. Variances and confidence intervals were obtained using the *escalc*-  
118 function. The significance of summary effect sizes was assessed through a two-sided t-test ( $H_0$ : FC=0;  
119 unequal variances). *P*-values of the effect sizes were Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) corrected for all 20,017  
120 genes.

## 121 **Pathway analysis**

122 Pathway analysis was done with the ReactomePA R-package version 1.28 using the function  
123 *enrichPathway* searching for human pathways. All 20,017 genes in the AHBA dataset were set as  
124 background genes. Pathways with a minimum size of 10 genes were significant when BH-corrected  $P <$   
125 0.05.

126 **Cell-type marker enrichment**

127 Gene markers for 28 cell-types were downloaded from the Neuroexpresso database  
128 (<http://neuroexpresso.org/>) using markers from all brain regions. These have been identified in a cross-  
129 laboratory dataset of cell-type specific transcriptomes from the mouse brain (Mancarci et al. 2017). To  
130 assess their expression, Entrez IDs of the mouse cell-type specific markers were converted to human  
131 homologs (homologene R-package version 1.4) and filtered for genes present in the AHBA dataset  
132 (Supplementary Table 1). Two markers with different mouse gene IDs (14972, *H2-K1*, microglial, and  
133 15006, *H2-Q1* serotonergic), were converted to the same human gene ID (3105, *HLA-A*), and therefore  
134 removed before analysis. For cell-type enrichment, we assessed which cell-type markers were  
135 overrepresented among the differentially expressed genes. For 17 cell-types that had at least six  
136 markers (astrocyte, Bergmann, cerebellar granule, dentate granule, ependymal, GabaRln,  
137 hypocretinergic, microglia, activated microglia, deactivated microglia, noradrenergic, oligo, purkinje,  
138 serotonergic, spinal cord cholinergic, spiny, and thalamus cholinergic), we assessed the significance with  
139 the hypergeometric test and *P*-values were corrected for all 17 cell-types (BH-corrected *P* < 0.05).

140 **Enrichment of disease-associated genes**

141 Differentially expressed genes were also assessed for overrepresentation of disease-associated genes  
142 from DisGeNET (Piñero et al. 2017). A table of 628,685 gene-disease associations were obtained from  
143 DisGeNET version 6.0 (July, 2019) from <http://www.disgenet.org/>. A hypergeometric test was used to  
144 assess the significance of overlapping genes (*P* < 0.05), and *P*-values were BH-corrected for 24,166  
145 diseases. The odds ratio (OR) for cell-type and disease enrichment was calculated using the DescTools R-  
146 package.

## 147 Results

### 148 Transcriptomics of the posterior and anterior cingulate networks

149 We analyzed the transcriptomes of healthy subjects across nine anatomical networks defined by  
150 structural covariance of gray matter volume among healthy middle-aged to older adults (Hafkemeijer et  
151 al. 2014). We focused on the posterior cingulate network and the anterior cingulate network that  
152 showed loss of gray matter in PD patients which seemed to be associated with cognition and excessive  
153 daytime sleepiness (Figure 1) (de Schipper et al. 2017). For this we used the AHBA microarray dataset of  
154 spatial gene expression in post-mortem brains. AHBA samples were mapped to each one of the nine  
155 networks A-I (Table 1). We characterized the transcriptional signature of the two PD-related networks  
156 (Network C and Network D) in these AHBA samples by comparing their gene expression pattern to the  
157 remaining seven networks together (non-PD-related).

158 Genes were differentially expressed within the posterior cingulate network or the anterior cingulate  
159 network compared to the other networks combined when absolute fold-change (FC) > 1 and Benjamini-  
160 Hochberg (BH) corrected *P*-value < 0.05. Differential expression analysis showed a large overlap of genes  
161 that were differentially expressed in the same direction in the two networks. We found that 73 genes in  
162 the posterior cingulate network and 39 genes in anterior cingulate network were downregulated, of  
163 which 25 genes overlapped between both networks (Figure 2A and B, Supplementary Table 2 and 3).  
164 Furthermore, 200 genes in the posterior cingulate network and 269 genes in anterior cingulate network  
165 were upregulated, for which 144 genes overlapped (Supplementary Table 4 and 5). Among the  
166 differentially expressed genes in the posterior and anterior cingulate networks, we further assessed the  
167 presence of PD-implicated genes identified in familial and genome-wide association studies (Bonifati  
168 2014; Nalls et al. 2014; Chang et al. 2017). Although mutations in these genes may impact disease

169 outcome, none of these genes were differentially expressed in the posterior cingulate network and  
170 anterior cingulate network.

171 For functional interpretation, differentially upregulated genes were further assessed for enrichment of  
172 genes involved in pathways (Supplementary Table 6). As both networks shared many differentially  
173 expressed genes, they also shared similar pathways involved in transcriptional regulation by *MECP2*,  
174 GPCR signaling, voltage gated potassium channels, and neurotransmitter receptor and postsynaptic  
175 signal transmission (Figure 2C). The associated pathways were hierarchically related to each other based  
176 on the ontology of the Reactome Pathway Database. The posterior cingulate network was additionally  
177 related to more specific pathways such as lysosphingolipid and LPA receptors, GABA receptor activation,  
178 RAS-signaling mediated by NMDA receptors, glutamate binding, activation of AMPA receptors and  
179 synaptic plasticity, and long-term potentiation. The anterior cingulate cortex was additionally associated  
180 with serotonin receptors.

181 **Cell-type enrichment in anatomical networks**

182 The composition of specific cell-types can shape the transcriptomic features of anatomical networks.  
183 Therefore, we analyzed whether genes differentially expressed in the posterior and anterior cingulate  
184 networks were enriched for cell-type specific marker genes. Based on the average expression of marker  
185 genes of a cell-type, the posterior and anterior cingulate networks showed high expression of gene  
186 markers for brainstem cholinergic cells, GabaSSTReIn, GabaVIPReIn, glutamatergic, and pyramidal cells  
187 (Figure 3 and Supplementary Figure 1).

188 Among the differentially upregulated genes in the posterior and anterior cingulate networks, we found  
189 10 marker genes representing six cell-types: astrocyte, Bergmann, GabaVIPReIn, hypocretinergic,  
190 pyramidal, and thalamus cholinergic (

191 Table 2). Those that were significantly upregulated in the posterior cingulate network were also  
192 significantly upregulated in the anterior cingulate network. In both networks, the 10 markers were  
193 highly expressed in cortical regions, including the cingulate gyrus, and lowly expressed in limbic regions  
194 (Figure 4 and Supplementary Figure 2).

195 Only genes upregulated in the anterior cingulate gyrus were significantly enriched for a cell-type, namely  
196 thalamus cholinergic cells (OR = 17.12 and  $P = 2.01\text{e-}02$ ). The responsible markers *NPPA*, *SOSTDC1*, and  
197 *TYRP1* showed high expression within the anterior cingulate gyrus network, as well as in most parts of  
198 the posterior cingulate gyrus network (Figure 4). Additionally, we showed that their expression was low  
199 in limbic samples, including the thalamus, and high in cortical samples within both networks.  
200 Interestingly, other thalamus cholinergic marker genes showed opposite expression patterns with high  
201 expression in limbic samples and low expression in cortical samples (Supplementary Figure 3).

202 **PD-related networks are transcriptionally associated to other brain diseases**

203 Dysregulation of functional networks may result in a broader spectrum of disorders than PD. In addition,  
204 PD comprises a spectrum of disorders that may result from network dysfunction. Therefore, we  
205 assessed which disease-associated genes from DisGeNET were overrepresented among the differentially  
206 upregulated genes in the posterior cingulate network as well as the anterior cingulate network. Since  
207 both networks shared many upregulated genes, similar disease-associations were also found. We find  
208 that genes upregulated in both networks were significantly associated with epileptic and non-epileptic  
209 seizures, many mental disorders (bipolar, panic, autistic, cocaine-related, (age-related) memory, mood,  
210 major depressive, and anxiety disorder), pain and schizophrenia (Figure 5). The posterior cingulate  
211 network was more related to memory and pain-related disorders, while the anterior cingulate network  
212 was more related to mental and neuropsychiatric disorders.

## 213 Discussion

214 The posterior and anterior cingulate networks have been associated earlier with decreased gray matter  
215 in PD patients. We examined transcriptomic signatures of both networks in the healthy brain to identify  
216 molecular mechanisms underlying gray matter loss in PD. Pathway analysis revealed genes related to  
217 gPCR signaling, transcriptional regulation by *MECP2*, and neurotransmitter receptors and postsynaptic  
218 signal transmission. We only found significant enrichment of cell-types for genes upregulated in the  
219 anterior cingulate gyrus, which were the thalamus cholinergic marker genes. Upon further examination  
220 the specific genes were also highly expressed in the posterior cingulate cortex, although not  
221 significantly. Moreover, our results showed that SCNs involved in the pathology of PD are associated  
222 with multiple neurotransmitter signaling pathways, e.g. serotonin, GPCR, GABA, glutamate, and RAS.

### 223 Cholinergic function in PD

224 Genes that were highly expressed in the anterior cingulate network were significantly enriched for  
225 thalamus cholinergic markers, specifically: *NPPA*, *SOSTDC1*, and *TYRP1*. These marker genes, together  
226 with other markers of this cell-type, were defined based on their expression in cholinergic cells from the  
227 thalamus, more specifically the hubenula (Mancarci et al. 2017). Although these genes are considered  
228 thalamus-specific, according to the AHBA ontology the hubenula is not part of the thalamus. In this  
229 study, most thalamus cholinergic marker genes indeed showed high expression in thalamic regions.  
230 However, *NPPA*, *SOSTDC1*, and *TYRP1*, showed opposite expression patterns with mainly high  
231 expression in cortical regions and low expression in limbic regions, including the thalamus. Cholinergic  
232 circuits are key in cognitive functions which are impaired in neurodegenerative diseases, such as  
233 Alzheimer's disease and PD (Ballinger et al. 2016). In addition, cholinergic denervation of the cortex and  
234 thalamus in PD patients may contribute to the transition from PD to PD with dementia (Ballinger et al.

235 2016). We also found that glutamatergic and GABAergic marker genes were highly expressed in the  
236 AHBA samples within the posterior and anterior cingulate networks, although statistical significance  
237 could not be assessed due to the small number of marker genes. Interestingly, acetylcholine release by  
238 cholinergic neurons affects glutamatergic and GABAergic signaling by altering the synaptic excitability  
239 (Granger et al. 2015; Buendia et al. 2019). Moreover, it is thought that dysfunction of cholinergic circuits  
240 contributes to cognitive decline associated with neurodegenerative diseases (Ballinger et al. 2016).

241 ***NPPA, SOSTDC1, and TYRP1***

242 The cholinergic marker genes *NPPA*, *SOSTDC1*, *TYRP1* were highly expressed across the healthy donors  
243 in the posterior cingulate network and anterior cingulate network compared to the other seven SCNs.  
244 While the functions of these genes likely involve cholinergic signaling, several studies suggest they also  
245 function as extracellular regulators of multiple other signaling pathways, including cAMP, Wnt, and  $\beta$ -  
246 catenin signaling (Brenner et al. 1990; Hirobe 2011; Kutchko and Siltberg-Liberles 2013; De Vito 2014;  
247 Bansho et al. 2017; Millan et al. 2019).

248 *NPPA* (natriuretic peptide precursor A) and other natriuretic peptides are thought to be involved in a  
249 wide range of functions, including neurovascular functions, blood-brain barrier, brain homeostasis,  
250 neuroprotection, and synaptic transmission by regulating the release and re-uptake of  
251 neurotransmitters such as noradrenalin, dopamine and glycine (Mahinrad et al. 2016). Impaired function  
252 of natriuretic peptides in brains of AD patients could accelerate neurodegeneration and may impair  
253 structural integrity of the brain leading to a higher risk of cognitive decline (Mahinrad et al. 2018). Our  
254 results suggest that *NPPA* might similarly be involved in PD pathogenesis given its high expression within  
255 the anterior and posterior cingulate networks.

256 *SOSTDC1* (sclerostin domain-containing 1) is known as a negative regulator of bone morphogenetic  
257 protein (BMP) and Wnt-signaling, but recent studies also show that *SOSTDC1* regulates natural killer cell

258 maturation and cytotoxicity (Millan et al. 2019). An increased number of natural killer cells have been  
259 found in PD, but the actual relevance with PD risk is still unclear (Jiang et al. 2017). The BMP signaling  
260 pathway promotes the development of midbrain dopaminergic neurons (Jovanovic et al. 2018), in which  
261 *SOSTDC1* may play a role. Furthermore, *SOSTDC1* was upregulated in the striatum of Parkinsonian rats  
262 that were treated by subthalamic nucleus high frequency stimulation, and is therefore suggested to  
263 have neuroprotective effects (Lortet et al. 2013).

264 *TYRP1* (tyrosinase-related protein 1) produces melanocytes-specific proteins involved in the biosynthesis  
265 of melanin in brain, skin and eyes (Wang and Hebert 2006; Lu et al. 2011). Melanoma and PD share  
266 genes involved in the synthesis of melanin and dopamine, including *SNCA* which encodes the  $\alpha$ -  
267 synuclein protein found in Lewy bodies (Pan et al. 2012). Furthermore, neuromelanin is produced  
268 almost exclusively in human catecholaminergic neurons and is responsible for the pigmentation of  
269 dopaminergic neurons of the substantia nigra, and noradrenergic neurons of the locus cereleus (Pavan  
270 and Dalpiaz 2017). It is considered to be protective due to its ability to chelate metals, especially iron  
271 which increases with age (Pavan and Dalpiaz 2017).

272 **Disease-associations**

273 The posterior and anterior cingulate networks shared similar highly expressed genes and were likewise  
274 associated with similar diseases. Both SCNs represent anatomical networks that function normally in  
275 healthy brains, but their activity is reduced in aging and PD (Hafkemeijer et al. 2014; de Schipper et al.  
276 2017). As part of the default mode network, both the posterior and anterior cingulate cortex have been  
277 shown to be dysregulated in neuropsychiatric disorders (Broyd et al. 2009; Öngür et al. 2010). Based on  
278 our analysis of transcriptomic signatures in the healthy brain, we found that the posterior cingulate  
279 network showed stronger associations with memory and pain-related disorders compared to the  
280 anterior cingulate networks which showed stronger associations with mental and neuropsychiatric

281 disorders. Our findings suggest that genes involved in multiple signaling pathways, such as serotonin,  
282 GPCR, GABA, glutamate, and RAS, contribute to healthy functions of the posterior and anterior cingulate  
283 networks.

## 284 **Supplementary material**

285 Supplementary material is available online.

## 286 **Funding**

287 This research has received funding from The Netherlands Technology Foundation (STW), as part of the  
288 STW Project 12721 (Genes in Space). Dr. Oleh Dzyubachyk received funding from The Dutch Research  
289 Council (NWO) project 17126 (3DOMics). Dr. Wilma van de Berg received funding from Alzheimer  
290 Netherlands and LECMA (ISAO #14536-LECMA #14797) to study transcriptome datasets in the context of  
291 Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and was financially supported by grants from Amsterdam Neuroscience;  
292 Dutch Research council (ZonMW); Stichting Parkinson Fonds; Alzheimer association; the MJ Fox  
293 foundation and Rotary Aalsmeer-Uithoorn. Dr. Wilma van de Berg performed contract research and  
294 consultancy for Hoffmann-La Roche; Lysosomal Therapeutics; CHDR; Cross beta Sciences and received  
295 research consumables from Hoffmann-La Roche and Prothena. Prof. J.J. van Hilt received grants from  
296 Alkemade-Keuls Foundation; Stichting Parkinson Fonds (Optimist Study); The Netherlands Organisation  
297 for Health Research and Development (#40-46000-98-101); The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific  
298 Research (#628.004.001); Hersenstichting; AbbVie; Hoffmann-La-Roche; Lundbeck; and Centre of  
299 Human Drug Research outside the submitted work.

## 300 **Acknowledgements**

301 We thank Dr. L. E. Jonkman for her critical insight on the manuscript.

## 302 **Notes**

303 *Conflict of Interest:* None declared.

## 304 **References**

305 Alexander-Bloch A, Giedd JN, Bullmore E. 2013. Imaging structural co-variance between human brain  
306 regions. *Nat Rev Neurosci.* 14:322–336.

307 Alexander-Bloch A, Raznahan A, Bullmore E, Giedd J. 2013. The convergence of maturational change and  
308 structural covariance in human cortical networks. *J Neurosci.* 33:2889–2899.

309 Arnatkevičiūtė A, Fulcher BD, Fornito A. 2019. A practical guide to linking brain-wide gene expression  
310 and neuroimaging data. *Neuroimage.* 189:353–367.

311 Ballinger EC, Ananth M, Talmage DA, Role LW. 2016. Basal Forebrain Cholinergic Circuits and Signaling in  
312 Cognition and Cognitive Decline. *Neuron.* 91:1199–1218.

313 Bansho Y, Lee J, Nishida E, Nakajima-Koyama M. 2017. Identification and characterization of secreted  
314 factors that are upregulated during somatic cell reprogramming. *FEBS Lett.* 591:1584–1600.

315 Bonifati V. 2014. Genetics of Parkinson's disease – state of the art, 2013. *Parkinsonism Relat Disord.*  
316 20:S23–S28.

317 Brenner BM, Ballermann BJ, Gunning ME, Zeidel ML. 1990. Diverse biological actions of atrial natriuretic  
318 peptide. *Physiol Rev.* 70:665–699.

319 Broyd SJ, Demanuele C, Debener S, Helps SK, James CJ, Sonuga-Barke EJS. 2009. Default-mode brain  
320 dysfunction in mental disorders: A systematic review. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev.* 33:279–296.

321 Buendia JJD, Tiroshi L, Chiu W, Goldberg JA. 2019. Selective remodeling of glutamatergic transmission to  
322 striatal cholinergic interneurons after dopamine depletion. *49:824–833.*

323 Chang D, Nalls MA, Hallgrímsdóttir IB, Hunkapiller J, van der Brug M, Cai F, Kerchner GA, Ayalon G,  
324 Bingol B, Sheng M, Hinds D, Behrens TW, Singleton AB, Bhangale TR, Graham RR. 2017. A meta-  
325 analysis of genome-wide association studies identifies 17 new Parkinson’s disease risk loci. *Nat  
326 Genet.* 1–6.

327 Coppen EM, Grond J Van Der, Hafkemeijer A, Rombouts SARB, Roos RAC. 2016. Early grey matter  
328 changes in structural covariance networks in Huntington’s disease. *NeuroImage Clin.* 12:806–814.

329 de Schipper LJ, van der Grond J, Marinus J, Henselmans JML, van Hilten JJ. 2017. Loss of integrity and  
330 atrophy in cingulate structural covariance networks in Parkinson’s disease. *NeuroImage Clin.*  
331 15:587–593.

332 De Vito P. 2014. Atrial natriuretic peptide: An old hormone or a new cytokine? *Peptides.* 58:108–116.

333 Freeze BS, Acosta D, Pandya S, Zhao Y, Raj A. 2018. Regional expression of genes mediating trans-  
334 synaptic alpha-synuclein transfer predicts regional atrophy in Parkinson disease. *NeuroImage Clin.*  
335 18:456–466.

336 Goedert M, Spillantini MG, Del Tredici K, Braak H. 2012. 100 years of Lewy pathology. *Nat Rev Neurol.*  
337 9:13–24.

338 Granger AJ, Mulder N, Saunders A, Sabatini BL. 2015. Cotransmission of acetylcholine and GABA.

339 *Neuropharmacology*. 100:40–46.

340 Gu Z, Eils R, Schlesner M. 2016. Complex heatmaps reveal patterns and correlations in multidimensional

341 genomic data. 32:2847–2849.

342 Hafkemeijer A, Altmann-schneider I, Craen AJM De, Slagboom PE, Grond J Van Der, Rombouts SARB.

343 2014. Associations between age and gray matter volume in anatomical brain networks in middle-

344 aged to older adults. *Aging Cell*. 13:1068–1074.

345 Hawrylycz M, Miller JA, Menon V, Feng D, Dolbeare T, Guillozet-Bongaarts AL, Jegga AG, Aronow BJ, Lee

346 CK, Bernard A, Glasser MF, Dierker DL, Menche J, Szafer A, Collman F, Grange P, Berman KA,

347 Mihalas S, Yao Z, Stewart L, Barabási AL, Schulkin J, Phillips J, Ng L, Dang C, R Haynor D, Jones A,

348 Van Essen DC, Koch C, Lein E. 2015. Canonical genetic signatures of the adult human brain. *Nat*

349 *Neurosci*. 18:1832–1844.

350 Hirobe T. 2011. How are proliferation and differentiation of melanocytes regulated? *Pigment Cell*

351 *Melanoma Res*. 24:462–478.

352 Huang CW, Hsu SW, Tsai SJ, Chen NC, Liu ME, Lee CC, Huang SH, Chang WN, Chang YT, Tsai WC, Chang

353 CC. 2017. Genetic effect of interleukin-1 beta (C-511T) polymorphism on the structural covariance

354 network and white matter integrity in Alzheimer’s disease. *J Neuroinflammation*. 14:1–13.

355 Jiang S, Gao H, Luo Q, Wang P, Yang X. 2017. The correlation of lymphocyte subsets, natural killer cell,

356 and Parkinson’s disease: a meta-analysis. *Neurol Sci*. 38:1373–1380.

357 Jovanovic VM, Salti A, Tilleman H, Zega K, Jukic MM, Zou H, Friedel RH, Prakash N, Blaess S, Edenhofer F,

358 Brodski C. 2018. BMP/SMAD pathway promotes neurogenesis of midbrain dopaminergic neurons

359 in vivo and in human induced pluripotent and neural stem cells. *J Neurosci*. 38:1662–1676.

360 Kutchko MK, Siltberg-Liberles J. 2013. Metazoan innovation: from aromatic amino acids to extracellular  
361 signaling. *Amino Acids*. 45:359–367.

362 Langfelder P, Horvath S. 2008. WGCNA: an R package for weighted correlation network analysis. *BMC  
363 Bioinformatics*. 9:1–13.

364 Liu F, Tian H, Li J, Li S, Zhuo C. 2019. Altered voxel-wise gray matter structural brain networks in  
365 schizophrenia: Association with brain genetic expression pattern. *Brain Imaging Behav.* 13:493–  
366 502.

367 Lortet S, Lacombe E, Boulanger N, Rihet P, Nguyen C, Goff LK Le, Salin P. 2013. Striatal Molecular  
368 Signature of Subchronic Subthalamic Nucleus High Frequency Stimulation in Parkinsonian Rat. *PLoS  
369 One*. 8:e60447.

370 Lu H, Li L, Watson ER, Williams RW, Geisert EE, Jablonski MM, Lu L. 2011. Complex interactions of *TyRP1*  
371 in the eye. *Mol Vis*. 17:2455–2468.

372 Lucas-Jiménez O, Ojeda N, Peña J, Díez-Cirarda M, Cabrera-Zubizarreta A, Gómez-Estebar JC, Gómez-  
373 Beldarrain MÁ, Ibarretxe-Bilbao N. 2016. Altered functional connectivity in the default mode  
374 network is associated with cognitive impairment and brain anatomical changes in Parkinson's  
375 disease. *Park Relat Disord.* 33:58–64.

376 Mahinrad S, Bulk M, Van Der Velpen I, Mahfouz A, Van Roon-Mom W, Fedarko N, Yasar S, Sabayan B,  
377 Van Heemst D, Van Der Weerd L. 2018. Natriuretic peptides in post-mortem brain tissue and  
378 cerebrospinal fluid of non-demented humans and Alzheimer's disease patients. *Front Neurosci.*  
379 12:1–12.

380 Mahinrad S, de Craen AJM, Yasar S, van Heemst D, Sabayan B. 2016. Natriuretic peptides in the central  
381 nervous system: Novel targets for cognitive impairment. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev*. 68:148–156.

382 Mancarci BO, Toker L, Tripathy SJ, Li B, Rocco B, Sibille E, Pavlidis P. 2017. Cross-Laboratory Analysis of  
383 Brain Cell Type Transcriptomes with Applications to Interpretation of Bulk Tissue Data. *Eneuro*.  
384 4:1–20.

385 Millan AJ, Elizaldi SR, Lee EM, Aceves JO, Murugesh D, Loots GG, Manilay JO. 2019. Sostdc1 Regulates NK  
386 Cell Maturation and Cytotoxicity. *J Immunol*. 202:2296–2306.

387 Nalls MA, Pankratz N, Lill CM, Do CB, Hernandez DG, Saad M, Destefano AL, Kara E, Bras J, Sharma M,  
388 Schulte C, Keller MF, Arepalli S, Letson C, Edsall C, Stefansson H, Liu X, Pliner H, Lee JH, Cheng R,  
389 Parkinson I, Marder K, Fiske B, Sutherland M, Xiromerisiou G, Myers RH, Clark LN, Stefansson K,  
390 Hardy JA, Heutink P, Chen H, Wood NW, Houlden H, Payami H, Brice A, Scott WK, Gasser T,  
391 Bertram L, Eriksson N, Foroud T, Singleton AB. 2014. Large-scale meta-analysis of genome-wide  
392 association data identifies six new risk loci for Parkinson’s disease. *Nat Publ Gr*. 46:989–993.

393 Öngür D, Lundy M, Greenhouse I, Shinn AK, Menon V, Cohen BM, Renshaw PF. 2010. Default mode  
394 network abnormalities in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. *Psychiatry Res - Neuroimaging*.  
395 183:59–68.

396 Pan T, Zhu J, Hwu WJ, Jankovic J. 2012. The Role of Alpha-Synuclein in Melanin Synthesis in Melanoma  
397 and Dopaminergic Neuronal Cells. *PLoS One*. 7:3–10.

398 Pavan B, Dalpiaz A. 2017. Odorants could elicit repair processes in melanized neuronal and skin cells.  
399 *Neural Regen Res*. 12:1401–1404.

400 Piñero J, Bravo Á, Queralt-Rosinach N, Gutiérrez-Sacristán A, Deu-Pons J, Centeno E, García-García J,  
401 Sanz F, Furlong LI. 2017. DisGeNET: A comprehensive platform integrating information on human  
402 disease-associated genes and variants. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 45:D833–D839.

403 Rittman T, Rubinov M, Vértes PE, Patel AX, Ginestet CE, Ghosh BCP, Barker RA, Spillantini MG, Bullmore

404 ET, Rowe JB. 2016. Regional expression of the *MAPT* gene is associated with loss of hubs in brain  
405 networks and cognitive impairment in Parkinson disease and progressive supranuclear palsy.  
406 *Neurobiol Aging*. 48:153–160.

407 Romero-Garcia R, Whitaker KJ, Váša F, Seidlitz J, Shinn M, Fonagy P, Dolan RJ, Jones PB, Goodyer IM,  
408 Bullmore ET, Vértes PE. 2018. Structural covariance networks are coupled to expression of genes  
409 enriched in supragranular layers of the human cortex. *Neuroimage*. 171:256–267.

410 Spreng RN, Turner GR. 2013. Structural Covariance of the Default Network in Healthy and Pathological  
411 Aging. *J Neurosci*. 33:15226–15234.

412 van der Vegt JPM, Van Nuenen BFL, Bloem BR, Klein C, Siebner HR. 2009. Imaging the impact of genes on  
413 Parkinson's disease. *Neuroscience*. 164:191–204.

414 Wang M, Jiang S, Yuan Y, Zhang L, Ding J, Wang J, Zhang J, Zhang K, Wang J. 2016. Alterations of  
415 functional and structural connectivity of freezing of gait in Parkinson's disease. *J Neurol*. 263:1583–  
416 1592.

417 Wang N, Hebert DN. 2006. Tyrosinase maturation through the mammalian secretory pathway: Bringing  
418 color to life. *Pigment Cell Res*. 19:3–18.

419 Yee Y, Fernandes DJ, French L, Ellegood J, Cahill LS, Vousden DA, Spencer Noakes L, Scholz J, van Eede  
420 MC, Nieman BJ, Sled JG, Lerch JP. 2018. Structural covariance of brain region volumes is associated  
421 with both structural connectivity and transcriptomic similarity. *Neuroimage*. 179:357–372.

422

423

## 424 Tables

425 **Table 1** Number of samples from AHBA within SCN networks.

Donors	Network								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Donor 9861	72	67	157	47	74	90	26	39	83
Donor 10021	79	46	121	65	49	84	25	55	91
Donor 12876	37	24	57	28	42	45	6	17	25
Donor 14380	38	33	52	30	45	61	7	27	53
Donor 15496	34	24	41	21	39	55	13	24	69
Donor 15697	49	20	38	33	47	64	29	37	49
Total	309	214	466	224	296	399	106	199	370

A: Thalamus; B: Lateral occipital cortex, C: Posterior cingulate cortex, D: Anterior cingulate cortex, E: Temporal pole; F: Putamen; G, H, I: Cerebellum.

426

427 **Table 2** Differentially upregulated cell-type marker genes in the posterior cingulate network (C) and anterior cingulate network  
428 (D). Fold-change (FC) and Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) corrected P-value for cell-type markers genes that were differentially  
429 expressed in the PD-related networks compared to the non-PD-related networks. FC > 1 and BH < 0.05 are highlighted in red  
430 text.

Gene	Marker	Network C		Network D	
		FC	BH	Estimate	BH
<i>LHX2</i>	Astrocyte	2.21	3.92E-03	2.00	6.46E-03
<i>IGFBP2</i>	Astrocyte	0.69	5.80E-02	1.18	1.78E-02
<i>RORB</i>	Astrocyte	0.82	3.09E-02	1.19	1.39E-02
<i>WIF1</i>	Bergmann	1.02	8.74E-03	1.03	7.95E-03
<i>VIP</i>	GabaVIPReIn	1.67	4.23E-03	1.85	6.89E-03
<i>PCSK1</i>	Hypocretinergic	1.15	1.25E-02	1.57	1.06E-02
<i>NEUROD6</i>	Pyramidal	1.90	4.78E-03	1.92	6.76E-03
<i>NPPA</i>	ThalamusCholin	1.64	6.98E-03	2.09	6.39E-03
<i>TYRP1</i>	ThalamusCholin	0.81	2.41E-02	1.43	9.82E-03
<i>SOSTDC1</i>	ThalamusCholin	0.83	1.21E-02	1.14	6.39E-03

Fold-change (FC) and Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) corrected P-value for cell-type markers

genes that were differentially expressed in the PD-related networks compared to the

non-PD-related networks. FC > 1 and BH < 0.05 are highlighted in red.

431

## 432 **Figure captions**

433 **Figure 1.** Study overview. Transcriptomic data from AHBA were mapped to nine anatomical networks that have been defined  
434 based on healthy subjects. The posterior cingulate network and anterior cingulate network have been associated with gray  
435 matter loss in PD (PD-related), while the seven remaining networks were not related to PD (non-PD-related). We compared  
436 gene expression in each of the two PD-related networks to gene expression in all seven non-PD-related networks. Genes that  
437 were upregulated in the two PD-related networks were assessed for the overrepresentation of pathway-specific genes, cell-  
438 type marker genes, and disease-associated genes.

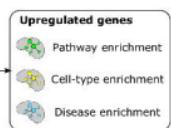
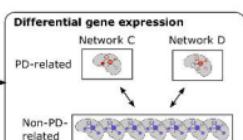
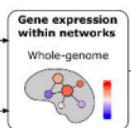
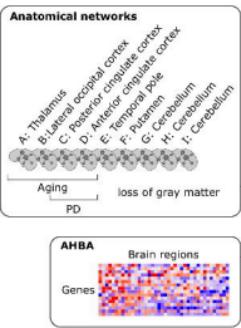
439 **Figure 2.** Differential expressed genes and associated pathways. Genes were analyzed for differential expression in the (A)  
440 posterior cingulate network (network C) and (B) anterior cingulate network (network D). Effect sizes were summarized across  
441 the six healthy donors of AHBA. For all genes (points) the  $\log_2$  fold-change (FC; x-axis) and  $-\log_{10}$  of nominal *P*-values (y-axis) are  
442 shown. Significant differentially expressed genes (t-test, BH-corrected *P* < 0.05 and  $|FC| > 1$ ) are unique for each network (blue  
443 and purple points) or significant in both networks (yellow points). For each network the top 10 genes with the highest absolute  
444 FC are highlighted, which highly overlap between both networks. (C) Pathway analysis of differentially upregulated genes in the  
445 posterior cingulate network and anterior cingulate network. Both networks share similar pathways (yellow) that are  
446 hierarchically organized in the Reactome database. The posterior cingulate network showed more specific associations with  
447 pathways involved in neurotransmitter receptors and postsynaptic signal transmission (blue). The anterior cingulate network  
448 was more specifically associated with serotonin receptors (purple). See Supplementary Table 6 for gene counts and BH-  
449 corrected *P*-values.

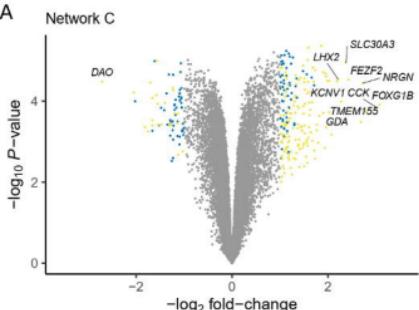
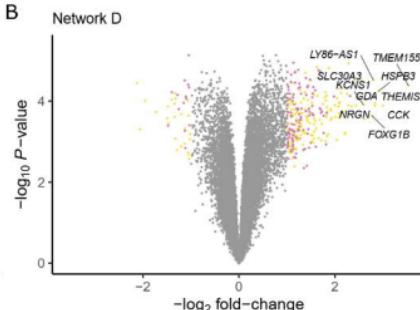
450 **Figure 3.** Expression of cell-types in anatomical networks. Gene expression was Z-scored and averaged across cell-type specific  
451 markers, samples within anatomical networks, and across the six donors in the Allen Human Brain Atlas. Separate heatmaps for  
452 each donor are shown in Supplementary Figure 1.

453 **Figure 4.** Expression of differentially upregulated cell-type marker genes in the posterior cingulate network (network C) and  
454 anterior cingulate network (network D). Heatmaps of differentially expressed marker genes (rows) are shown for one of the six  
455 donors in the Allen Human Brain Atlas (donor 10021). Samples from different anatomical substructures within the networks are  
456 color annotated (columns). Expression was averaged across samples from an anatomical substructure with the same acronym

457 ignoring left and right hemisphere annotations. See Supplementary Figure 2 for heatmaps for all six donors and Supplementary  
458 Table 7 for full names of the region-specific acronyms.

459 **Figure 5.** Disease associations of the posterior cingulate network (network C) and anterior cingulate network (network D).  
460 Differentially upregulated genes in each network were assessed for the enrichment of disease-associated genes from DisGeNET  
461 (hypergeometric test, BH-corrected  $P < 0.05$ ). Top plot shows odds ratios (ORs), and bottom plot shows significance of overlap  
462 indicated with  $-\log_{10} P$ -values (y-axis). Disorders (columns) are sorted based on highest ORs in either one of the networks.



**A****B****C**