

Gene therapy could improve Alzheimer's disease

Submitted by: BlueSky Public Relations Ltd

Tuesday, 25 September 2018

Introducing healthy genes into missing or damaged cells could help cure degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Huntington's, according to new research from Université Paris-Saclay.

The researchers injected mice with an enzyme that is missing in Alzheimer's and Huntington's sufferers.

They discovered this enzyme is critically important as it is responsible for the regulation of cholesterol in the brain.

"The regulation of cholesterol is important for the regulation of signals between brain cells (neurons). We have found if you give mice more of the enzyme that regulates cholesterol, you can improve the signals between neurons and therefore improve the symptoms of Alzheimer's or Huntington's disease." Says Dr Nathalie Cartier.

The researchers are now preparing the first therapeutic trial of the drug to patients suffering with Huntington's disease. If this is a success, the same approach could be used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

It is a huge step for the treatment of severe neurodegenerative diseases.

/ENDS

For more information, a copy of the paper, or to speak to Dr Nathalie Carter contact Kate Mowbray at BlueSky PR on kate@bluesky-pr.com or call +44 (0)1582 790 957