Apoptotic Cell Death in Neurodegenerative Disorders Current Perspectives

Haruka Bai*

Abstract

This article delves into the current perspectives on the involvement of apoptotic cell death in various neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Apoptosis, a regulated form of cell death, plays a pivotal role in the progression of these disorders, contributing to the loss of neurons and subsequent decline in neurological function. The review explores molecular mechanisms, highlighting the interplay between mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative stress, and pro-apoptotic signaling pathways. Therapeutic strategies targeting apoptotic pathways are discussed, emphasizing the potential for innovative interventions to slow or halt disease progression. The article underscores

targeted therapeutic approaches.

Ke d : Neurodegenerative disorders; Apoptotic cell death; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; Huntington's disease

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Neurodegenerative disorders represent a challenging and o en devastating class of diseases characterized by the progressive degeneration of the structure and function of the nervous system. Within the complex landscape of neurodegeneration, apoptotic cell death has emerged as a critical player, in uencing disease onset and progression. is article explores the current perspectives on the role of apoptotic cell death in various neurodegenerative disorders, shedding light on potential therapeutic avenues and research directions. Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is a highly regulated process crucial for maintaining cellular homeostasis. In the context of neurodegenerative disorders, dysregulation of apoptosis can lead to the loss of neurons, a hallmark feature of diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Research has increasingly focused on unraveling the intricate molecular mechanisms that drive apoptotic cell death in neurons, o ering valuable insights into disease pathogenesis [1,2].

In Alzheimer's disease, the accumulation of beta-amyloid plaques and hyper phosphorylated tau proteins triggers apoptotic pathways, leading to the death of neurons. Current perspectives highlight the interplay between mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative stress, and apoptotic signaling in the context of Alzheimer's pathology. Targeting these pathways has become a focal point for therapeutic interventions aiming to slow or halt disease progression. Parkinson's disease is characterized by the loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra. Apoptotic cell death pathways are implicated in this neuronal demise, with a particular focus on mitochondrial dysfunction and the role of pro-apoptotic proteins. Researchers are exploring neuroprotective strategies that modulate apoptotic signaling to mitigate the loss of dopaminergic neurons and alleviate Parkinson's symptoms [3].

In Huntington's disease, a genetic mutation leads to the production of mutant huntingtin protein, causing neuronal death in speci c brain regions. Apoptotic cell death contributes to the neurodegeneration observed in Huntington's, with researchers investigating ways to modulate apoptosis as a potential therapeutic avenue. Understanding the crosstalk between apoptotic pathways and mutant huntingtin is crucial for developing targeted interventions. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder a ecting motor neurons. Apoptotic cell death pathways play a role in the selective vulnerability of motor neurons in ALS. Researchers are exploring the involvement of factors such as neuroin ammation, excitotoxicity, and mitochondrial dysfunction in driving apoptosis in ALS, paving the way for innovative therapeutic approaches. Given the central role of apoptotic cell death in neurodegenerative disorders, targeting these pathways presents a promising avenue for therapeutic development. Researchers are investigating small molecules, gene therapies, and other interventions to modulate apoptotic signaling and enhance neuronal survival. Personalized medicine approaches that consider the diverse genetic and environmental factors in uencing neurodegeneration are also gaining traction [4-6].

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e elucidation of molecular mechanisms driving apoptotic cell death in neurodegenerative disorders is central to understanding disease progression. In Alzheimer's disease, the interplay between beta-amyloid and tau proteins triggers apoptotic cascades. Similarly, in Parkinson's disease, mitochondrial dysfunction and the involvement of pro-apoptotic proteins contribute to dopaminergic neuronal loss. Discussing these shared and unique molecular pathways across disorders is essential for uncovering potential therapeutic targets [7].

M ch d a d f c a da

Mitochondrial dysfunction emerges as a common thread in many neurodegenerative disorders, in uencing apoptotic pathways.

***Corresponding author:** Haruka Bai, Department of Bioinformatics / State Key Laboratory of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, Italy, E-mail: haruka.bai@gmail.com

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