

Tetrahydrobiopterin Improved Clinical Phenotype in a Fatal Model of Krabbe Disease

Zaenab Dhari MD^{1,2,3}, Stephen Crocker PhD³

¹Mandell MS Center, Trinity Health of New England, Hartford, CT,

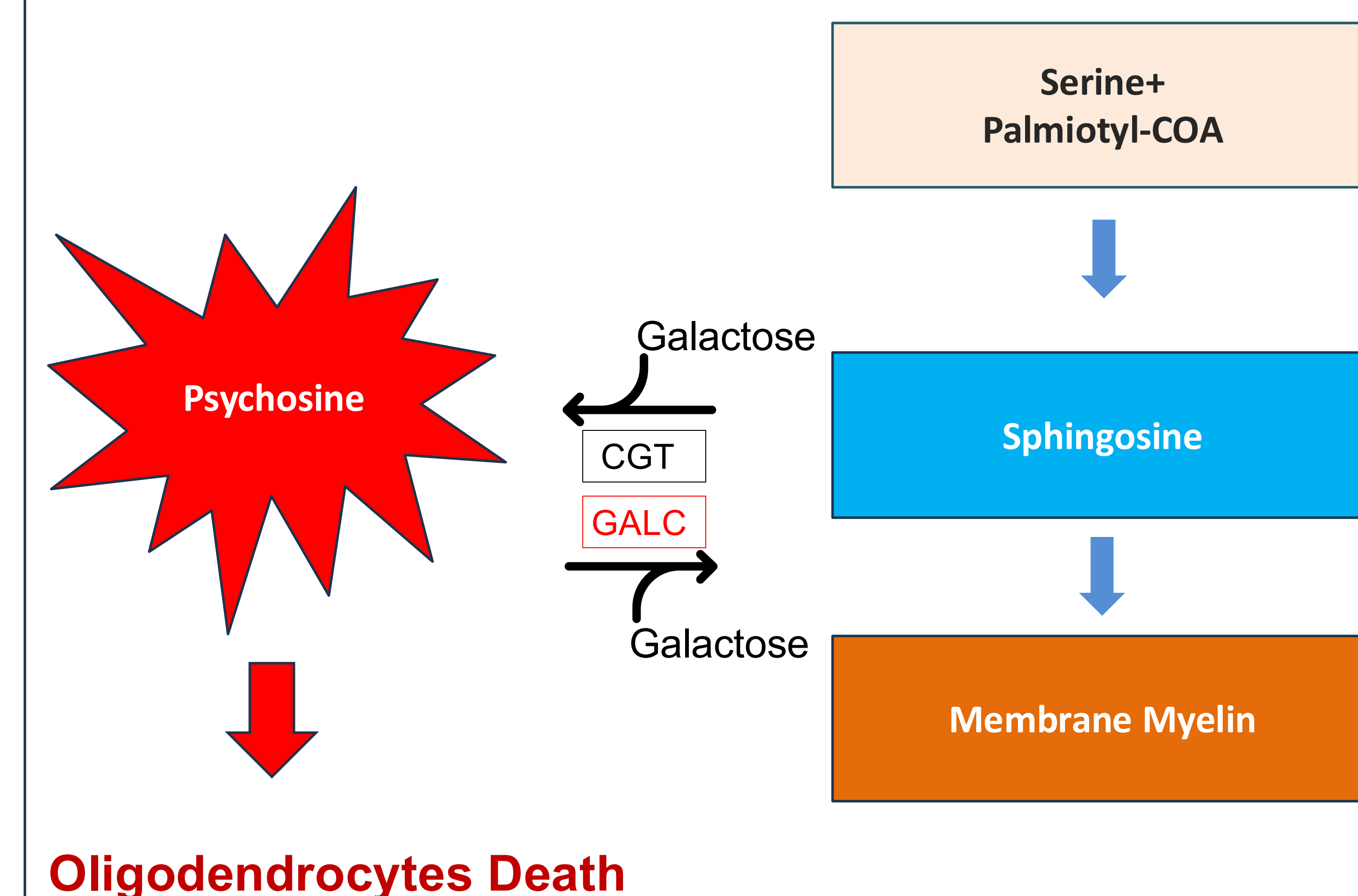
²Frank Netter School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University, North Haven CT

³UConn Health, Farmington, CT



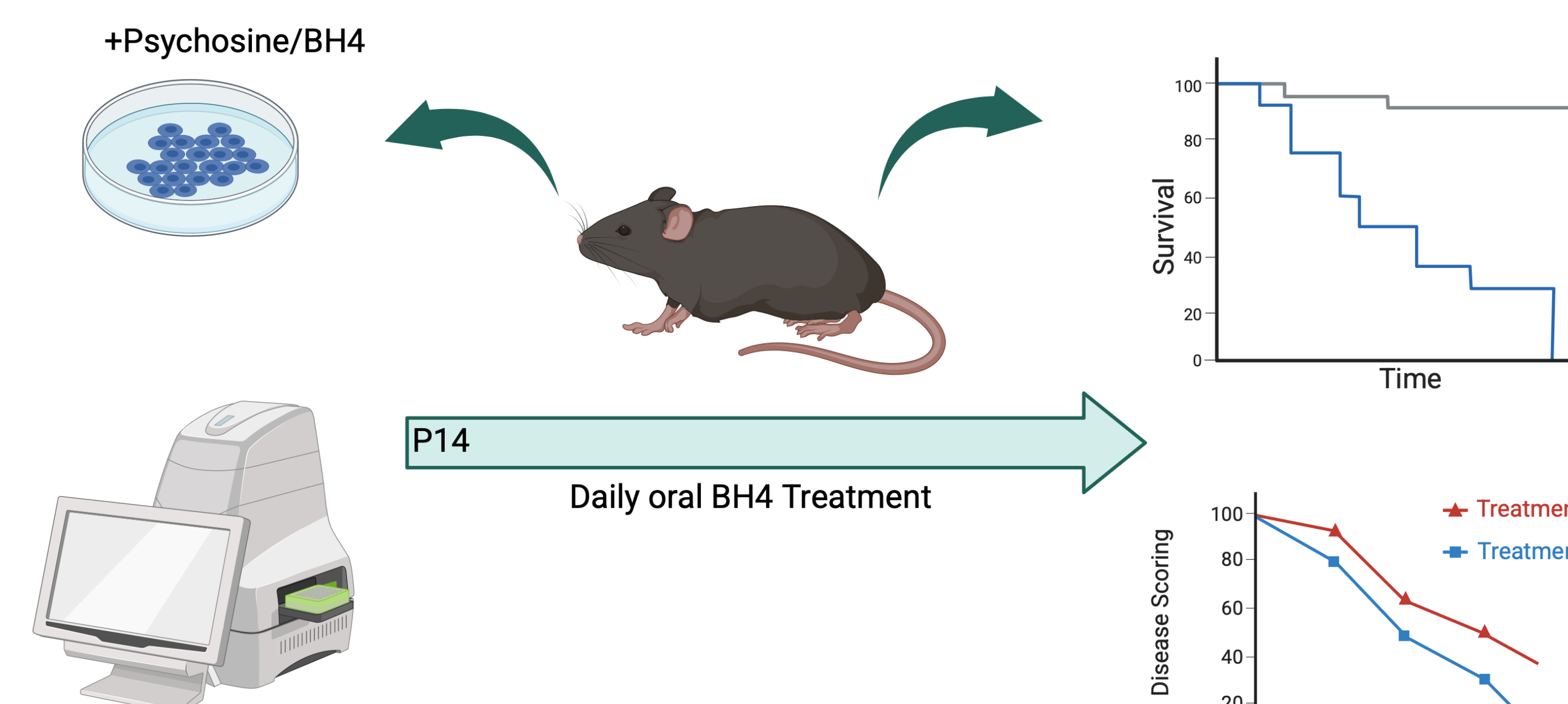
Background

- ❑ Rare autosomal recessive leukodystrophy
- ❑ Caused by mutations in the *GALC* gene → deficiency of **galactocerebrosidase (GALC)**
- ❑ Leads to accumulation of **psychosine**, a toxic metabolite
- ❑ **Incidence:** ~1 in 100,000 live births
- ❑ There is no available treatment except HSPT.
- ❑ Different types and onset, infantile form is the most severe type
- ❑ Symptoms include weakness, tremor, spasticity, fever.
- ❑ Mortality by age of 4 (infantile onset)



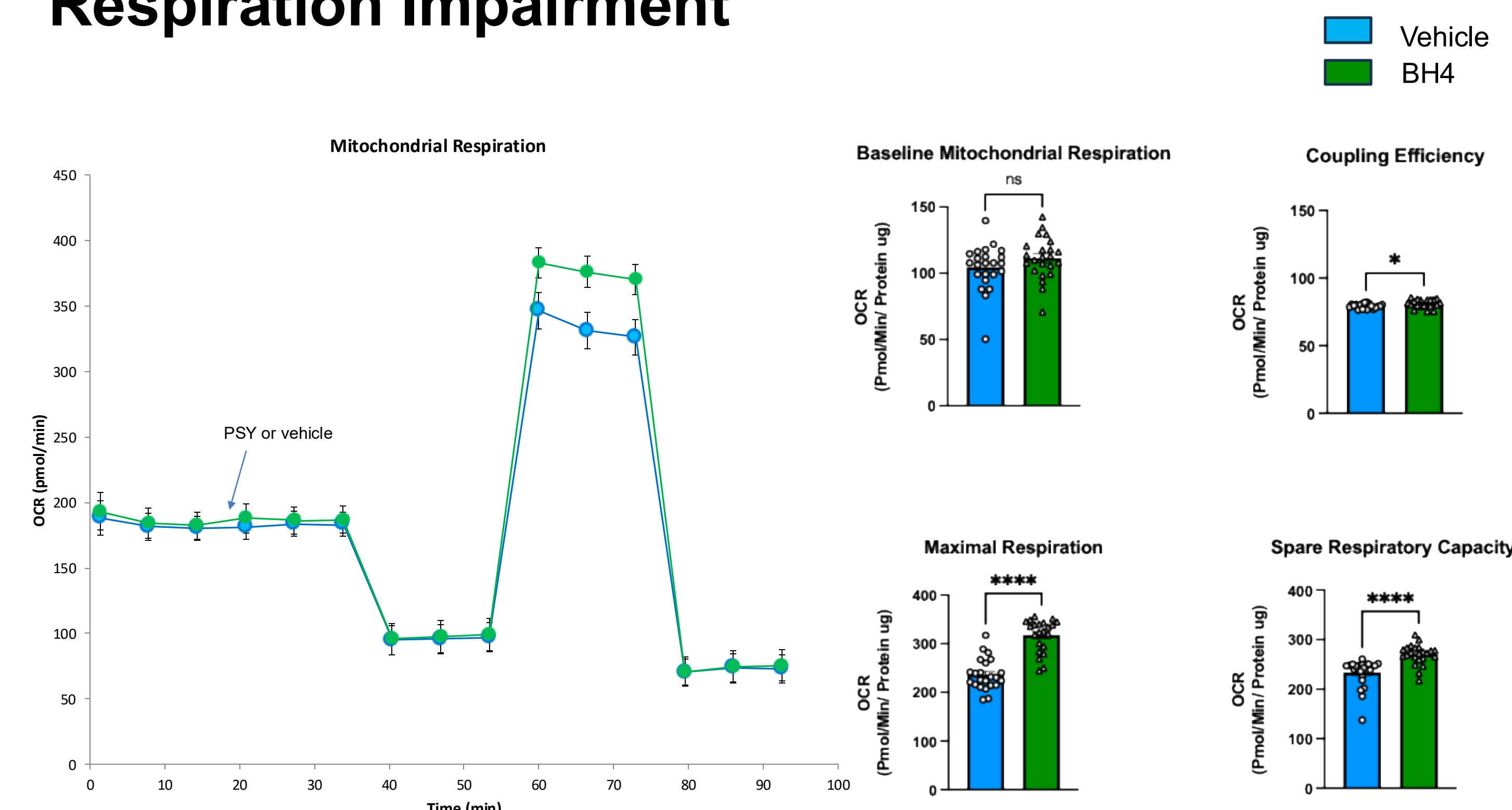
Methods

Twitcher mouse is an Authentic Model of Krabbe Disease



Results

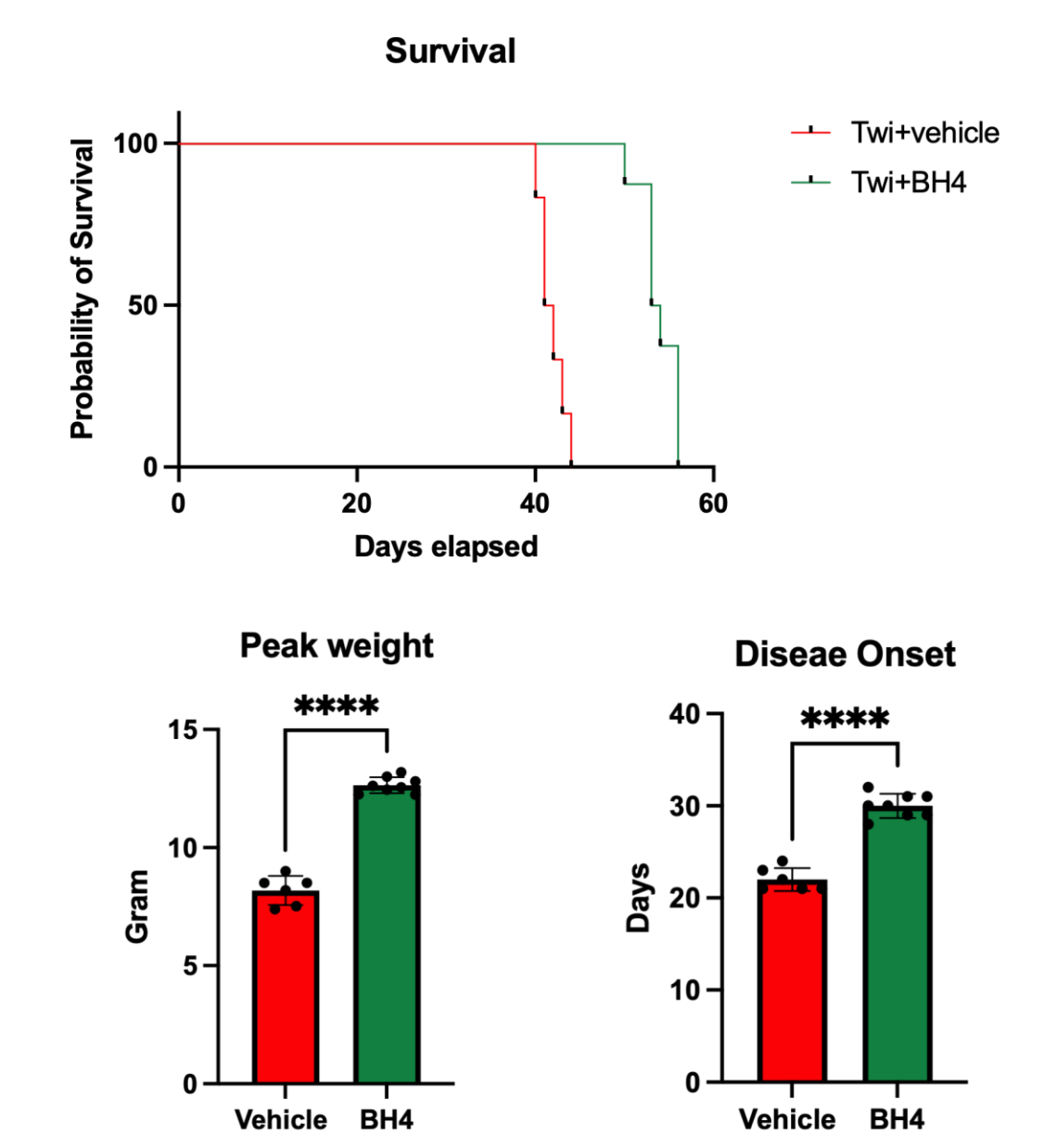
BH4 Reversed Psychosine Induced Mitochondrial Respiration Impairment



Results

Overall Improvements in Clinical Disease Outcomes in The Twitcher Model

Outcome	Vehicle	BH4	Results
Disease Onset (Day) Mean±SD	22±1.27	30±1.3	Delayed
Peak Weight (Gram) Mean±SD	8.2±0.62	12.6±0.34	Improved 35%
Survival (Day) Median	41.5	53.5	Increased 29%



Conclusion

- ❑ BH4 improved mitochondrial energy shifting in the presence of inflammation
- ❑ BH4 Improved survival and overall wellness
- ❑ Further studies are needed to replicate and expand our findings

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Joyce and Andy Family Foundation, the Barbara and Bill Foundation, and the Rosenau Family Foundation for their generous support and funding that made this project possible.