Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum
Bulgarian Anatomical Society

Acta morphologica et anthropologica, 21
Sofia ● 2015

Model Systems and Approaches to Study the Metabolism of Alzheimer's Amyloid Precursor Protein

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It is believed that amyloid precursor protein has a central role in the etiology of Alzheimer's disease, because of the β amyloid peptide contained in its structure. Here we present different methods employed to study the metabolism of APP, such as the use of native brain slices, isolated synaptosomal fractions, specific cholinergic immunotoxins, transgenic animals and monitoring the expression of amyloid precursor protein during ontogenesis.

Key words: Alzheimer's disease, APP, Aβ, animal models, ontogenesis.