

DOES AD SPREAD IN A PRION-LIKE FASHION? NO

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Recent findings using animal and cell models suggest that the abnormal proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD) are able to trigger normal protein misfolding in a prion-like fashion. While provocative, these prior studies have not demonstrated that non-infectious proteopathic seeds act as true prions. Further studies are necessary to clarify if distinct conformations are capable of transmission into a living cell, propagation through multiple generations, extraction, and if re-introduction to naïve cells replicate the same structural phenotype, as only true strains can reliably predict disease phenotype, with related implications for diagnosis and therapy.