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## NOOPEPT IMPROVES THE SPATIAL MEMORY AND STIMULATES PREFIBRILLAR $\beta$ -AMYLOID<sub>(25 – 35)</sub> ANTIBODY PRODUCTION IN MICE

**N. V. Bobkova<sup>1</sup>, M. A. Gruden<sup>1,2</sup>, A. N. Samokhin<sup>1</sup>, N. I. Medvinskaya<sup>1</sup>, E. I. Elistratova<sup>2</sup>, L. Morozova-Roch<sup>4</sup>, T. A. Gudasheva<sup>3</sup>, R. U. Ostrovskaya<sup>3</sup>, and S. B. Seredenin<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Cell Biophysics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Pushchino, Moscow oblast, 142292 Russia;

<sup>2</sup> Anokhin Institute of Normal Physiology, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, Russia;

<sup>3</sup> Zakusov Institute of Pharmacology, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, 125315 Moscow, Baltiyskaya ul. 8, Moscow, 125315 Russia;

<sup>4</sup> Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Umeå University, Umeå, SE-90741, Sweden

The effects of the novel proline-containing nootropic and neuroprotective dipeptide noopept (GVS-111, N-phenylacetyl-L-prolylglycine ethyl ester) were studied on NMRI mice upon olfactory bulbectomy, which had been previously shown to imitate the main morphological and biochemical signs of Alzheimer's disease (AD). The spatial memory was assessed using the Morris (water maze) test; the immunological status was characterized by ELISA with antibodies to prefibrillar  $\beta$ -amyloid<sub>(25 – 35)</sub>, S100b protein, and protofilaments of equine lysozyme, which are the molecular factors involved in the pathogenesis of AD. The control (sham-operated) animals during the Morris test preferred a sector where the safety platform was placed during the learning session. Bulbectomized animals treated with saline failed to recognize this sector, while bulbectomized animals treated with noopept (0.01 mg/kg for 21 days) restored this predominance, thus demonstrating the improvement of the spatial memory. These animals also demonstrated an increase in the level of antibodies to  $\beta$ -amyloid<sub>(25 – 35)</sub> — the effect, which was more pronounced in the sham-operated than in bulbectomized mice. The latter demonstrated a profound decrease of immunological reactivity in a large number of tests. Noopept, stimulating the production of antibodies to  $\beta$ -amyloid<sub>(25 – 35)</sub>, can attenuate the well-known neurotoxic effects of  $\beta$ -amyloid. The obtained data on the mnemotropic and immunostimulant effects noopept are indicative of good prospects for the clinical usage of this drug in the therapy of patients with neurodegenerative diseases.