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A Neuron-Glial Trans-Signaling Cascade Mediates LRRK2-Induced Neurodegeneration

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SUMMARY

Pathogenic mutations in leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) induce an age-dependent loss of dopaminergic (DA) neurons. We have identified Furin 1, a pro-protein convertase, as a translational target of LRRK2 in DA neurons. Transgenic knockdown of Furin1 or its substrate the bone morphogenic protein (BMP) ligand glass bottom boat (Gbb) protects against LRRK2induced loss of DA neurons. LRRK2 enhances the accumulation of phosphorylated Mad (pMad) in the nuclei of glial cells in the vicinity of DA neurons but not in DA neurons. Consistently, exposure to paraquat enhances Furin 1 levels in DA neurons and induces BMP signaling in glia. In support of a neuron-glial signaling model, knocking down BMP pathway members only in glia, but not in neurons, can protect against paraquat toxicity. We propose that a neuron-glial BMP-signaling cascade is critical for mediating age-dependent neurodegeneration in two models of Parkinson's disease, thus opening avenues for future therapeutic interventions.

Graphical Abstract

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, A.P.H. and E.M.; Methodology, A.P.H., E.M., and E.H.L.; Investigation, A.P.H., E.M., and E.H.L.; Writing – Original Draft, A.P.H. and E.M.; Writing – Review & Editing, A.P.H., E.M., and E.H.L.; Visualization, E.M. and A.P.H., Funding Acquisition, A.P.H.



In Brief

Mutations in the Parkinson's-related gene LRRK2 lead to an age-dependent loss of dopaminergic neurons. Maksoud et al. show that this loss is mediated by Furin 1, a translational target of LRRK2. A critical step mediating this neurotoxic effect is a neuron-glia BMP-signaling cascade that is induced by Furin 1.

INTRODUCTION

Mutations in leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) have been linked to autosomal dominant forms of familial Parkinson's disease (Cookson, 2010; Paisán-Ruíz et al., 2004; Zimprich et al., 2004). LRRK2 encodes a 286-kDa protein with multiple functional domains; among the various mutations in *LRRK2*, pathogenic mutations are primarily concentrated in the Ras of complex proteins (ROC) and the C-terminal of ROC (COR) domains, as well as in the kinase domain (G2019S and I2020T) (Cookson, 2010). Since the discovery of the association between LRRK2 mutations and Parkinson's disease, LRRK2 has been implicated in a variety of cellular functions, indicating that it is a multifunctional protein (Drolet et al., 2011; Martin et al., 2014a; Mata et al., 2006; Price et al., 2018; Wallings et al., 2015). In particular, LRRK2 has been implicated in the regulation of protein synthesis in *Drosophila* and in induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived human neurons (Imai et al., 2008; Martin et al., 2014c; Taymans et al., 2015); however, no specific disease-related translational target has yet been identified.

While the details of how LRRK2 enhances translation are not yet fully understood, there is strong consensus that LRRK2 gain-of-function enhances translation (Imai et al., 2008; Martin et al., 2014b; Penney et al., 2016; Tain et al., 2009). LRRK2 promotes cap-dependent translation and shows strong genetic interaction with core members and regulators of the cap-binding protein complex (Imai et al., 2008; Penney et al., 2016; Tain et al., 2009). A major regulatory step in translation initiation is provided by the action of the target of

rapamycin (TOR). TOR activity promotes cap-dependent translation primarily through phosphorylation of 4E-BP (eukaryotic initiation factor 4E [eIF4E] binding protein) and S6K (S6 ribosomal protein kinase) (Hay and Sonenberg, 2004; Ma and Blenis, 2009). LRRK2 shows strong genetic interaction with all aforementioned translation factors, and pharmacological inhibition of cap-dependent translation with rapamycin suppresses LRRK2 gain-of-function phenotypes (Imai et al., 2008; Martin et al., 2014b; Penney et al., 2016; Tain et al., 2009). In addition to the regulation of cap-dependent translation, LRRK2 has been suggested to promote cap-independent translation through direct phosphorylation of the ribosomal protein s15; introduction of a phospho-deficient s15 protects against LRRK2induced toxicity both in Drosophila and in iPSC-derived human neurons in culture (Martin et al., 2014b, 2014c). Finally, in vitro reporter assays as well as ³⁵S-methionine and ³⁵Scysteine labeling experiments in mammalian cells have demonstrated the ability of LRRK2 to enhance protein synthesis (Martin et al., 2014c; Penney et al., 2016). These findings together build a strong case for a critical role of LRRK2 in the regulation of translation and underscore the need for the identification of endogenous translational target(s) of LRRK2 as a means for gaining insight into the mechanism of LRRK2-induced neurodegeneration.

We have previously identified Furin 1 (Fur1), a pro-protein convertase, as a translational target of LRRK2 and a mediator of LRRK2's ability to regulate synaptic transmission at the Drosophila larval neuromuscular junction (Penney et al., 2016). We set out to test whether Furl also responds translationally to LRRK2 in the adult fly brain and whether it is involved in mediating the toxic effect of LRRK2 in DA neurons. The Drosophila dopaminergic system has been a powerful model to study age-dependent neurodegeneration as a consequence of overexpression of LRRK2 mutations in DA neurons (Liu et al., 2008; Venderova et al., 2009) and has allowed for genetic interaction experiments that have linked LRRK2 to other Parkinson's-related genes, including Parkin, DJ-1, and PINK-1 (Ng et al., 2009; Tain et al., 2009; Venderova et al., 2009). Our assessment of fly brains indicates that Fur1 is highly concentrated in DA neurons and is indeed translationally regulated by LRRK2. Most importantly, we find that genetic knockdown of Fur1 specifically in DA neurons is sufficient to protect DA neurons against the toxic effect of LRRK2. Our findings indicate that limiting the bone morphogenic protein (BMP) ligand glass bottom boat (Gbb), a known substrate for Fur1 in DA neurons, can ameliorate the toxic effect of LRRK2. Moreover, by using the paraquat-induced model of Parkinson's disease, we find a strong enhancement of Fur1 in DA neurons and show that limiting Fur1 or Gbb in DA neurons protects flies against paraquat toxicity. Finally, our genetic and immunohistochemical experiments indicate that this toxicity is mediated, in large part, by DA neuron-initiated activation of BMP signaling in glia. Neuron-glial transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) and BMP signaling has a conserved role in mediating neuronal survival, inflammation, and degeneration in both flies and vertebrates (Brionne et al., 2003; Hegarty et al., 2014; Kohta et al., 2009; Nahm et al., 2013; Tesseur and Wyss-Coray, 2006; Tesseur et al., 2006, 2017; Wyss-Coray et al., 1997). Therefore, our discoveries provide an important conceptual advance in our understanding of LRRK2 biology and its role in Parkinson's disease-related neurodegeneration.

RESULTS

Furin 1 Is a Translational Target of LRRK2 in DA Neurons

In order to test whether Fur1 plays any role in mediating LRRK2-induced toxicity in dopaminergic (DA) neurons, we stained dissected adult Drosophila brains with a previously characterized anti-Fur1 antibody (Roebroek et al., 1993). Fur1 antibody produced a broad staining pattern in the brain (Figure 1A); however, we found significantly higher Fur1 staining in tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)-positive DA neurons (Figures 1B-1D). Transgenic knock down of Fur1 with RNAi by using the DA neuron-specific driver Ddc-Gal4 (Li et al., 2000) diminished the signal, confirming that the signal produced by the Fur1 antibody is specific to Fur1 (Figures S1A-S1D). DA neurons are organized in distinct clusters (Mao and Davis, 2009) from which we focused on four clusters, namely, PPL1 that belongs to the family of protocerebral posterior lateral (PPL) clusters and PPM1-3 that belong to the protocerebral posterior medial (PPM) clusters (Figure S1E). To test whether LRRK2 can translationally regulate Fur1 in DA neurons, we first overexpressed a pathogenic mutantform of LRRK2, LRRK2^{I2020T} (referred to as LRRK2^{IT}) (Venderova et al., 2009), in DA neurons by using the Ddc-Gal4 driver. Our findings indicated that Fur1 protein expression level (Figures 1E, 1F, and 1H) but not transcript level (Figure S1F) was increased. In addition, we detected a similar increase in Fur1 immunoreactivity in response to transgenic overexpression of a constitutively active S6K (S6K^{STDE}) (Barcelo and Stewart, 2002) in DA neurons (Figures 1G, 1H, and S1F). These results suggest that the increase in Fur1 immunoreactivity is likely a result of translational enhancement of Fur1. To provide more direct evidence for translational regulation of Fur1 in DA neurons, we took advantage of a transgenic translational reporter that combines the 5' UTR of the *fur1* gene with the open reading frame of EGFP (referred to as Fur1 sensor) (Penney et al., 2012). When expressed in DA neurons, Fur1 sensor produces a detectible GFP signal (Figure 1I); this signal was enhanced by 82% (p < 0.001) or 44% (p < 0.01) on average in response to LRRK2^{IT} or S6K^{STDE}, respectively (Figures 1J, 1K, and 1M). On the other hand, reporter activity was reduced by an average of 33% (p < 0.05) in response to DA-specific overexpression of a TOR-insensitive 4E-BP transgene, 4E-BPAA (Figures 1L and 1M) (Teleman et al., 2005). Transcription of this reporter was not affected in any of the above genetic manipulations (Figure S1G). These results together indicate that Fur1 is translationally regulated in DA neurons and establish Fur1 as a translational target of LRRK2 in these neurons.

Furin 1 Mediates LRRK2-Induced Toxicity in DA Neurons

The preferential expression of Fur1 in DA neurons together with the strong translational regulation of Fur1 by LRRK2 prompted us to test the relationship between Fur1 and LRRK2-induced age-dependent loss of DA neurons. Overexpression of pathogenic LRRK2 transgenes LRRK2^{IT}, LRRK2^{R1441G} (referred to as LRRK2^{RG}), and LRRK2^{G2019S} (referred to as LRRK2^{GS}) using the DA neuron-specific driver Ddc-Gal4 can lead to an age-dependent loss of DA neurons (Gehrke et al., 2010; Venderova et al., 2009) (Figures 2A, 2C, 2E; Figures S1E, S2A–S2I, and S4F). We did not find widespread apoptosis or degeneration as a result of overexpression of these transgenes (Figures S2L–S2P).

We found that genetic removal of one gene copy of *fur1* (Penney et al., 2016) was sufficient to counteract the toxic effect of both LRRK2^{IT} and LRRK2^{RG} transgenes (Figures 2A–2E and S2F–S2I). In addition to DA neuron loss, LRRK2 pathogenic mutants cause climbing defects in adult flies and negatively influence their lifespan (Martin et al., 2014b, 2014c; Venderova et al., 2009); both these toxic effects of LRRK2^{IT} and LRRK2^{RG} were also ameliorated as a result of *fur1* heterozygosity (Figures 2F, 2G, S2J, and S2K; Table S1).

Consistent with previous studies indicating that enhanced translation is detrimental to the survival of DA neurons (Imai et al., 2008; Tain et al., 2009), we found that enhancement of translation by overexpression of S6K^{STDE} led to a qualitatively similar loss of DA neurons (Figures 2H, 2J, and 2L). We found that *fur1* heterozygosity had a similar beneficial effect in flies challenged by DA neuron-specific overexpression of S6K^{STDE}, counteracting the toxic effect of enhanced translation in these neurons (Figures 2H–2L).

Although this dominant suppression indicates a strong genetic interaction between LRRK2 gain-of-function and *fur1*, it does not conclusively show the spatial requirement of Fur1. To test whether Fur1 is required specifically in DA neurons, we simultaneously knocked down Fur1 with RNAi while overexpressing LRRK2^{IT} in DA neurons. Our findings indicated that transgenic knock down of Fur1 in DA neurons alone was sufficient to block the toxic effect of LRRK2^{IT} (Figures 2M–2Q). These findings together provide strong evidence for a critical role for Fur1 in mediating LRRK2-induced age-dependent toxicity and DA neurodegeneration and suggest that Fur1 upregulation might be a common step in inducing age-dependent toxicity by translational mechanisms in DA neurons.

Enhanced Levels of Furin 1 Are Neurotoxic

Our findings thus far indicate that Fur1 mediates the toxic effect of LRRK2, raising the possibility that increased Fur1 protein expression alone in DA neurons (independently of LRRK2 levels) might be sufficient to induce age-dependent toxicity. To test this idea, we overexpressed Fur1 transgenically in DA neurons and assessed DA neuron survival and flies' lifespan. Our assessment indicated that both these indices were sensitive to Fur1 levels: overexpression of Fur1 specifically in DA neurons was sufficient to cause an age-dependent loss of DA neurons and shorten flies' lifespan (Figures 3A-3D; Table S1). This prompted us to test whether Fur1 levels or activity was relevant to DA neurotoxicity in other models of Parkinson's disease. For this, we tested the well-characterized paraquat model. Feeding paraquat (1,1'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride) to flies induces a rapid degeneration of DA neurons and severely affects the longevity of flies (Cassar et al., 2015) (Figures S3A-S3C). We first tested whether exposure to paraquat influenced Furl levels in DA neurons. Indeed, after 4 days of exposure to 2 mM paraquat, we detected a significant increase in Fur1-antibody immunoreactivity in DA neurons (Figures 3E–3G), without any detectable change in *fur1* transcription (Figure S3D). Moreover, the Fur1 translational reporter (Fur1 sensor) showed a large increase in its activity as a result of exposure to paraquat (Figures 3H–3J) without any change on its transcription (Figure S3E). These results indicate that, in a similar manner to LRRK2-induced toxicity, paraquat-induced toxicity enhances Fur1 translation in DA neurons. If the relationship between Fur1 and paraquat exposure was relevant to paraquat-induced toxicity, then limiting the amount of Fur1 in DA neurons

should reduce paraquat-induced toxicity. Our genetic experiments supported this idea: transgenic knockdown of Fur1 in DA neurons provided significant protection against paraquat toxicity and extended flies' median survival by 45% (p < 0.001), while overexpression of Fur1 further exacerbated the toxic effect of paraquat (Figures 3K and 3L; Table S1). These results highlight a critical role for Fur1 in Parkinson's-related DA neuron toxicity and support the idea that Fur1 activity might be initiating a cellular program that is central to the process of neurodegeneration.

Limiting BMP Signaling Protects against LRRK2 Toxicity

Furl is a pro-protein convertase with a large number of predicted targets but few have been experimentally verified (De Bie et al., 1995; Molloy et al., 1992). Among these are two BMP ligands: decapentaplegic (Dpp) (Irish and Gelbart, 1987) and Gbb (Akiyama et al., 2012; Künnapuu et al., 2009; Yarfitz et al., 1991). TGF-β and BMP signaling has been implicated in neurodegeneration mechanisms in flies and has been linked to neuroinflammatory signaling in models of Parkinson's disease in mice (Andrews et al., 2006; Nahm et al., 2013; Sánchez-Capelo et al., 2003; Wyss-Coray et al., 1997). We, therefore, set out to test whether Gbb and/or Dpp would play any role in mediating LRRK2-induced toxicity in DA neurons. We took advantage of transgenic RNAi to knock down either Gbb or Dpp while overexpressing LRRK2^{IT} in DA neurons. Overexpression of LRRK2^{IT} or LRRK2^{IT} together with mCherry RNAi (control) produced typical age-dependent degeneration in all DA clusters examined (Figures 4A-4C and 4F); however, knocking down Gbb countered the age-dependent loss of DA neurons and protected the neurons against LRRK2 toxicity (Figures 4E and 4F), without affecting the level of LRRK2^{IT} expression (Figure S4C). On the other hand, knock down of Dpp did not have any detectible effect on LRRK2-induced neurodegeneration (Figures 4D and 4F); however, because the transgenic knock down of Dpp was less effective (Figures S4A and S4B), we cannot fully rule out a role for Dpp at this point. These findings provide strong evidence for an important role for Gbb in mediating the toxic effect of LRRK2 in DA neurons. Using a hemagglutinin (HA)tagged genomic Gbb transgene, we examined the expression pattern of Gbb in adult fly brains. We found that Gbb was expressed broadly in neurons (Figure S4D); interestingly, however, TH-positive DA neurons showed an increased Gbb expression, reminiscent of Fur1 preferential expression in DA neurons (Figure 4G). To examine the role of Gbb in mediating age-dependent DA neurodegeneration, we asked whether transgenic overexpression of Gbb could have a toxic effect on DA neurons. Our findings supported this idea as transgenic expression of Gbb in DA neurons led to a strong age-dependent degeneration (Figures 4H-4J) reminiscent of that induced by Fur1 or LRRK2.

To add further strength to the relevance of BMP signaling in mediating the toxic effect of LRRK2, we asked whether we could detect a genetic interaction between LRRK2 or Fur1 gain-of-function and core genes involved in BMP signaling, the type I BMP receptor *thick veins (tkv)* (Reuter and Szidonya, 1983), BMP transcription factor *Mad* (Raftery et al., 1995), and transcriptional cofactor *Medea* (Raftery et al., 1995) in addition to *gbb*. Heterozygosity for *gbb, tkv, Mad, or Medea* significantly ameliorated the toxic effect of LRRK2^{IT} and Fur1 overexpression and reduced DA neuron loss (Figures 4K–4X; Figure

S4E). Similarly, heterozygosity for tkv and Mad reduced the toxicity caused by the overexpression of LRRK2^{GS} (Figures S4F and S4G).

This dominant genetic interaction indicates that BMP signaling plays a key role in mediating LRRK2-induced age-dependent DA neurodegeneration.

Disruption of Neuron-Glial BMP Signaling Is Protective against LRRK2 Toxicity

BMP ligands interact with BMP receptor complexes comprised of BMP type I and type II receptors. Upon ligand binding, the type II receptor phosphorylates the type I receptor, rendering it an active kinase. The activated type I receptor can now phosphorylate receptoractivated transcription factors, known as receptor-regulated Smads (RSmads) (Massagué et al., 2005). In flies, BMP transcription factor Mad (homolog of Smad1 and Smad5 in mammals) is phosphorylated by the Tky receptor; phosphorylated Mad (pMad) then binds to its co-factor Medea (Smad4 in mammals) and translocates to the nucleus to regulate gene transcription (Ball et al., 2010; Hamaratoglu et al., 2014; McCabe et al., 2003; Shi and Massagué, 2003; Wrana et al., 1994). We used a commercially available antibody that recognizes pMad (Smith et al., 2012) and examined the pattern of pMad accumulation in brains of adult flies. Our immunohistochemical analysis suggested that pMad is broadly localized in the brain and is expressed in both neurons and glial cells (Figures S5A-S5C). In order to further verify the ability of neurons or glia to respond to BMP activation, we used transgenic overexpression of a constitutively active BMP type I Tkv receptor (Tkv^{ACT}) (Haerry et al., 1998) in either all neurons or all glia by using temporally controlled drivers (see STAR Methods). In both cases, we were able to see an enhancement of the pMad signal in respected tissues (Figures 5A-5D), suggesting that BMP activation could occur in both neurons and glia. In order to assess the tissue specificity of BMP signaling and simplify the genetic interpretations, we established protocols to test whether limiting BMP signaling in either neurons or glia could counteract paraquat-induced toxicity and early lethality. We took advantage of tools allowing tissue-specific knock down of BMP receptor Tkv or BMP transcription factor Mad in either all neurons or all glia in a temporally controlled manner (Figures 5E and 5F). Our analysis indicated that knocking down Tkv or Mad in in neurons (Figures S5D and S5E) for 5 days prior to exposure to paraquat had no protective effect and further exacerbated the toxicity (Figure 5E; Table S1). Conversely, knocking down Tkv or Mad in glia during the same period led to a significant protection against paraquat toxicity, increasing the average lifespan of flies by 30% (p < 0.001) (Figure 5F; Table S1) and partially restoring DA neuron loss (Figures 5G–5K). Our results are consistent with the wellestablished growth-promoting role of TGF- β and BMP signaling in neurons (Meyers and Kessler, 2017; Tesseur and Wyss-Coray, 2006; Tesseur etal., 2017), by showing that limiting BMP signaling in neurons could compromise the health of neurons and reduce their ability to withstand the cellular stress caused by paraquat toxicity. Indeed, under control conditions, transgenic knock down of Tkv in neurons in wild-type flies can lead to widespread degeneration (Figures S5F–S5H). Most importantly, by showing that genetic knock down of BMP signaling in glia is protective against paraquat toxicity, our results highlight the critical importance of an intercellular BMP signal from DA neurons to glia in mediating the paraquat-induced toxicity.

These findings together predict that overexpression of LRRK2 or exposure to paraquat, through translational enhancement of Fur1 and by Gbb in DA neurons, might enhance BMP signaling in glia. We tested this idea by assessing pMad immunoreactivity in the vicinity of DA clusters (PPM1-2) while overexpressing LRRK2^{IT} in DA neurons. In support of our genetic results, we found that overexpression of LRRK2^{IT} led to a significant enhancement of pMad accumulation in the nuclei of glia surrounding DA neurons but not in DA neurons themselves (Figures 5L–5N). Similarly, we found that pMad accumulation in glial cells showed a strong trend toward enhancement (15% increase in mean pMad fluorescence intensity; p = 0.069) as a result of exposure to paraquat.

Our results thus far provide strong evidence for a model in which BMP signaling in glia is critical for mediating the toxic effects of paraquat and LRRK2. It is, therefore, conceivable that the activation of BMP signaling in glia, in the absence of any toxic stimuli, is sufficient to produce age-dependent DA neurodegeneration. We tested this idea by overexpressing either Tkv^{ACT} or Mad specifically in all glia in otherwise wild-type flies. Our findings showed that the activation of BMP signaling in glia alone led to a statistically significant loss of DA neurons after 40 days (Figures 50–5R).

Our findings together make a strong case for the presence of neuron-glial activation of the BMP signaling cascade in response to LRRK2- or paraquat-induced toxicity and suggest that this neuron-glial signaling is a critical step in the process of age-dependent DA neurodegeneration in these Parkinson's-related models (Figure 6).

DISCUSSION

Although the role of LRRK2 in the regulation of translation has been recognized for over a decade, its specific disease-related translational targets have not been identified. Using the power of *Drosophila* genetics, we have identified Fur1, a pro-protein convertase, as a translational target of LRRK2 in DA neurons. DA neuron-specific knock down of Fur1 or its substrate, the BMP ligand Gbb, protects against LRRK2- or paraquat-induced toxicity, while overexpression of either gene leads to age-dependent degeneration of DA neurons. Interestingly, we find that LRRK2-paraquat-induced toxicity is associated with an increase in pMad accumulation in the glial nuclei surrounding DA neurons but not in DA neurons. Supporting the critical importance of glia, our genetic manipulation of BMP receptor Tkv and BMP transcription factor Mad show that limiting BMP signaling in glia, but not in neurons, can ameliorate toxicity induced by paraquat. Based on these findings, we propose a model (Figure 6) in which DA neuron-specific overexpression of pathogenic LRRK2 transgenes or exposure to the toxin paraquat increases the translation of Fur1 in DA neurons, leading to trans-activation of a BMP-signaling cascade in glia; our model predicts that this transsignaling cascade mediates LRRK2 or paraquat-induced neuro-degeneration. These findings not only identify a disease-related translational target of LRRK2 in DA neurons but also reveal a detailed mechanistic link between a DA neuron-initiated cue and a glial signaling pathway that is crucial for the progression of neurodegeneration in two Parkinson's disease models in Drosophila. Future work is required to investigate whether the role of Fur1 or its target(s) are conserved in mammalian or human neurons. Fur1 homologs in humans form a family of proprotein convertases with many predicted targets. As these

enzymes have been targets for clinically approved drugs (Klein-Szanto and Bassi, 2017), future research could lead to the development of alternative therapies for Parkinson's disease.

Our genetic experiments not only show that the BMP ligand Gbb is required in DA neurons for the full extent of LRRK2-paraquat toxicity but also demonstrate that mere overexpression of Gbb is sufficient to induce DA degeneration in a manner that is qualitatively identical to the LRRK2 pathogenic effect, highlighting the critical importance of the activation of BMP signaling in glia in mediating neurodegeneration. TGF- β , activin, and BMP signaling is a major intercellular signaling that has been implicated in a variety of neuronal processes from neuronal growth and survival to synaptic plasticity and neurodegeneration (Brionne et al., 2003; Hegarty et al., 2014; Kohta et al., 2009; Nahm et al., 2013; Tesseur and Wyss-Coray, 2006; Tesseur et al., 2006, 2017; Wyss-Coray et al., 1997, 2001). Consistent with findings in vertebrate systems, our results show that limiting BMP signaling in neurons in aging fly brain compromises neuronal survival. However, at the same time, our results indicate that limiting BMP signaling in glia could protect neurons against Parkinson's disease-related toxicity. A more granulated picture of the role of BMP signaling in neurodegeneration, therefore, will require the identification of specific genes under the transcriptional control of BMP signaling in specific populations of neurons or glia under different disease-related conditions.

The role of stress pathways and inflammatory signals in the progression of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, has been long recognized (Amor et al., 2010). It is likely that DA neuron-induced BMP signaling in glia leads to the activation of stress and inflammatory pathways that are akin to microglial activation. Accumulating evidence suggests that while both systemic and brain-specific stress and inflammatory signals contribute to neuroinflammation, a cross talk between neurons and microglia is key for the activation of microglia and the progression of neurodegeneration (Joers et al., 2017; Kierdorf and Prinz, 2013; Lan et al., 2017; Liddelow et al., 2017; Subramaniam and Federoff, 2017); however, in spite of its importance, the nature of neuron-glia signaling in Parkinson's disease is not fully understood in vivo. Our findings contribute to this area of knowledge by providing insight into the molecular events that link pathogenic LRRK2 gain-of-function in DA neurons to the activation of BMP signaling in glial cells in the aging fly brain. Our findings point to a role for LRRK2 in activating translational mechanisms in DA neurons and thereby activating neuronal-derived signals that ultimately determine the glial response during the progression of Parkinson's disease. As such, our findings present a framework for studying Parkinson's-related neurodegeneration, opening avenues for therapeutic discoveries.

STAR*METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Pejmun Haghighi (phaghighi@buckinstitute.org).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

All experiments were performed in female *Drosophila melanogaster* flies according to standard procedures.

METHOD DETAILS

Fly Genetics—Flies were incubated at 25°C on a 12-hour day/night cycle on standard yeast-molasses based medium (see method details for recipe). For Gal80^{ts} experiments, 5-day-old female flies were shifted to 29°C. For paraquat experiments, 5 day-old-female flies were shifted to 2 mM paraquat in a sucrose- (5%) and agar-containing (1.3%) medium (Shukla et al., 2014). For Gene-Switch experiments, 5-day-old flies were transferred to standard or paraquat media and were supplemented with 200 μM RU486. Refer to Key Resources Table for fly lines used in this study.

Standard molasses-yeast fly food recipe—Flies were maintained on standard molasses/yeast food. Recipe as follows: 1 l distilled water, 13.8 g agar, 22 g molasses, 80 g malt extract, 18 g Brewer's yeast, 80 g corn flour, 10 g soy flour, 6.25 mL propionic acid, 2 g methyl-p-benzoate, 7.2 mL of Nipagin (20% in EtOH).

Immunohistochemistry—Whole fly brains were dissected in ice-cold PBS (Phosphate Buffered Saline) and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBST at room temperature for 30 min. Fixed brains were washed 3 times in PBST for 20 min. They were then incubated in blocking buffer (PBST with 5% normal goat serum) for 30 min and for 48 h at 4°C with primary antibody in blocking buffer. Stained brains were washed 3 times in PBST for 20 min and then incubated with secondary antibody in blocking buffer for 2 h at room temperature. Later, they were washed 3 times in PBST for 20 min and mounted in VECTASHIELD anti-fade mounting media (Vector). Brain samples were imaged on confocal microscope (LSM-700 and LSM-780, Zeiss). Image analysis was performed using FIJI software (Schindelin et al., 2012) or Imaris image analysis software (Bitplane).

For pMad quantification, 5 µm confocal stacks were processed in FIJI software. The pMad mean fluorescence intensity of Repo positive cells surrounding PPM1-2 DA neurons clusters was normalized by the cell surface area. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism software. Refer to Key Resources Table for antibodies used in this study.

Assessment of DA neuron loss—Whole mount adult brains from at least 22 female flies per genotype were labeled with anti-TH antibody and imaged under an epifluorescence microscope. The number of TH positive neurons in clusters PPL1, PPM1-2 and PPM3 was scored manually. The mean number of cells per cluster was calculated for 22 hemispheres from each brain for each genotype.

Lifespan analysis—For lifespan and survival analysis, male and female flies were cohoused for 5 days immediately after eclosion; following which 10 female flies were collected in individual vials for further analysis. For lifespan, the flies were transferred to fresh food every 2 days and death events were recorded. For survival on paraquat, the flies were transferred to fresh food every day and death events were recorded every 12 h.

Lifespan or survival was scored for a total of 100 female flies ($n = 10 \times 10$). Each experiment has been repeated three times from independent genetic crosses (3×100). Also see Table S1.

Climbing activity—For climbing activity, male and female flies were co-housed for 5 days immediately after eclosion; following which 10 female flies were collected and maintained in individual vials. Every 5 days, flies were tested for standard negative geotaxis test. In brief, they were placed in an empty plastic vial and gently tapped 3 times to the bottom. The number of flies that crossed a line situated at 5 cm from the bottom within 15 s was recorded. Six independent replicates were averaged per genotype. For each cohort the test was repeated 5 times at each time point. The percentage of climbing activity was determined by dividing the average number of flies that reached the designated height during 5 tests by the total number of flies in a tube at the starting day

Quantitative PCR—Total RNA was extracted from 20 female heads using TRI reagent RT (Molecular Research Center) method according to the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was prepared from 300 ng total RNA with iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad). mRNA expression was measured by quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) with iTaqTM universal sybrR green supermix (Bio-Rad) on a Bio-Rad CFX96 thermocycler.

For all experiments flies were 10 days old at the time of RNA extraction. When transfer to paraquat or RU486 media was required, the flies were transferred to their special food at 5 days of age. Refer to Table S2 for primers.

Histology and TUNEL assay—Fly heads without proboscis and antennas were fixed in fresh Carnoy's fixative (ethanol: Chloroform: acetic acid at 6:3:1) overnight at 4°C. Heads were then consecutively washed at RT with 40, 40, 70 and 100% EtOH for 10 min each; following which they were incubated in methyl benzoate for 30 min at RT and in methyl benzoate: paraffin at 1:1 ratio for 1 h at 65°C. Heads were then infiltrated with paraffin twice for 1 h at 65°C and embedded in paraffin blocks. The blocks were sectioned at a thickness of 5 µm, subjected to hematoxylin and eosin staining, and examined by brightfield microscopy (Axioskop 2 Plus, Zeiss). For each genotype, vacuoles were counted from one slice around mid-brain from 20 single flies. For TUNEL assay, 5 mm paraffin sections of 40-day-old fly heads were stained using the FragELTM DNA fragmentation detection kit, fluorescent– TdT Enzyme (Millipore, Sigma) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Image analysis was performed using FIJI software (Schindelin et al., 2012) or Imaris image analysis software (Bitplane).

Cloning of pUAST-eGFP—eGFP fragment from pTGW was cloned into pBKSM as an XbaI/NotI fragment to make pBKSM+eGFP. eGFP was then cut from pBKSM+eGFP as an EcoRI/NotI fragment and then cloned into pUASt to make pUAST-eGFP. Enzymes were acquired from NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS. Refer to Key Resources Table for plasmids.

Cloning of pUAST-eGFP-Fur1—Fur1 was PCR amplified with OED461 and OED462 oligos (Table S2) with cDNA clone LD33976 (key resources table) as template. PCR fragment was then cloned into pUAST-eGFP as an AgeI/NotI fragment.

Transgenic Fly production—DNA plasmids were injected into embryos using standard protocols.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Survival curves of different genotypes were compared using Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests. DA neuron counts and climbing activity from tested genotypes were compared using oneway or two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni and Dunnett post tests respectively. mRNA levels from quantitative PCR experiments and relative fluorescence quantification were compared using one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test or Student's t test when comparing only two conditions. All statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism software. Further statistical details for each experiment can be found in the corresponding figure legend.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes five figures and two tables and can be found with this article online athttps://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2019.01.077.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- Overexpression of LRRK2 and paraquat exposure enhance Fur1 translation in DA neurons
- Knockdown of Fur1 in DA neurons protects against LRRK2-paraquat toxicity
- LRRK2-Paraquat-Furin1 toxicity is associated with increased BMP signaling in glia
- This neuron-glia trans signaling mediates neurotoxicity in the fly Parkinson's model

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Figure 1. LRRK2 Overexpression Enhances Fur1 Translation in DA Neurons

(A) Dorsal view of a whole-mount 10-day-old female *Drosophila* brain (*yw*) stained with anti-Fur1 (green).

(B–D) Left: adult *Drosophila* brain stained with anti-TH (red) (B), anti-Fur1 (green) (C), and merged (D). Right: magnification of the PPL1 cluster in boxed region for (B)–(D).

(A-D) Imaging was performed at 63x magnification. Thirty-six images were captured and tiled following a rectangular grid mode using Zen software.

(E–G) PPL1 clusters double stained with anti-TH (red) and anti-Fur1 (green) in flies expressing (E) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/UAS-LacZ), (F) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+) and (G) UAS-S6K^{STDE} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-S6K^{STDE}/+) in dopaminergic (DA) neurons.

(H) Quantification of Fur1 sensor fluorescence intensity relative to TH for genotypes in (E)–(G). Each data point represents fluorescence from a single neuron. n = 100 neurons from 10 PPL1 clusters for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(I–L) PPM1-2 clusters expressing Fur1 sensor (5[']UTR of Fur1 upstream of EGFP) (green) and stained with anti-TH (red) in flies co-expressing (I) UAS-LacZ (UAS-Fur1-sensor/UAS-LacZ; Ddc-Gal4/+), (J) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (UAS-Fur1-sensor/+; Ddc-Gal4/UAS-LRRK2^{IT}), (K) UAS-S6K^{STDE} (UAS-Fur1-sensor/+; Ddc-Gal4/UAS-S6K^{STDE}) and (L) UAS-4E-BP^{AA}

(UAS-Fur1-sensor/+; Ddc-Gal4/UAS-4E-BP^{AA}) in DA neurons. GFP corresponding to Fur1 sensor (green) is directly imaged without antibody staining.

 $\left(M\right)$ Quantification of Fur1 sensor fluorescence intensity relative to TH for genotypes in

(I)-–(L). Each data point represents fluorescence from a single neuron. n = 50 neurons from 10 PPM1-2 clusters for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

p < 0.05, p < 0.01, p < 0.001, p < 0.001.

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Figure 2. Fur1 Heterozygosity Is Protective in LRRK2^{IT}-Overexpressing Neurons

(A–D) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (A) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/ UAS-LacZ), (B) *fur1*^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/+; *fur1*^{rl205}/+), (C) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+), and (D) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, *fur1*^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/*fur1*^{rl205}). (E) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (A)–(D). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test. (F) Representative lifespan curves for genotypes in (A)–(D). n = 100 females for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

(G) Climbing activity for genotypes in (A)–(D). n = 60 flies for each genotype. Data are represented as mean ± SEM. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett post-test. (H–K) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (H) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/ UAS-LacZ), (I) fur1^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/+; *fur1rl205*/+), (J) UAS-S6K^{STDE} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-S6K^{STDE}/+), and (K) UAS- S6K^{STDE}, fur1^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- S6K^{STDE}/fur1^{rl205}). (L) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (H)–(K). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test. (M-P) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies for the following genotypes: (M) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/ UAS-LacZ), (N) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+), (O) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, Fur1^{RNAi} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/UAS-Fur1-RNAi), and (P) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, mCherry^{RNAi} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/UAS-mCherry-RNAi). (Q) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (M)–(P). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

p < 0.05, p < 0.01 + p < 0.001

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Figure 3. Fur1 is Neurotoxic

(A and B) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 35 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (A) UAS-eGFP (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-eGFP/+) and (B) UAS-Fur1 (Ddc-Gal4/UAS-eGFP::Fur1).

(C) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (A) and (B). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(D) Representative lifespan curves for genotypes in (A) and (B). n = 100 female flies for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

(E and F) PPL1 clusters double stained with anti-TH (red) and anti-Fur1 (green) in (*yw*) flies raised on (E) sucrose or (F) 2 mM paraquat-containing medium.

(G) Quantification of Fur1 fluorescence intensity relative to TH for conditions in (E) and (F). Each data point represents fluorescence from a single neuron. n = 70 neurons from 7

PPL1 clusters for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. Student's t test.

(H and I) PPM1-2 clusters stained with anti-TH (red) in Fur1 sensor (UAS-Fur1-sensor/+;

Ddc-Gal4/+) flies raised on (H) sucrose or (I) 2 mM paraquat containing medium. GFP corresponding to Fur1 sensor (green) is directly imaged without antibody staining.

(J) Quantification of Fur1 sensor fluorescence intensity relative to TH for conditions in (H) and (I). Each data point represents fluorescence from a single neuron. n = 50 neurons from

10 PPM1-2 clusters for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. Student's t test.

(K) Representative survival curves for WT (wild-type) female flies (DDC-Gal4/+) and Fur1^{RNAi} flies (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-Fur1-RNAi/+) raised on 2 mM paraquat-containing medium. Flies were transferred at 5 days to paraquat-containing medium. n = 100 female flies for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

(L) Representative survival curves for female flies of the genotypes in (A) and (B) raised on 2 mM paraquat-containing medium. n = 100 female flies for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 ***p < 0.001.



Figure 4. LRRK2 Toxicity Is Mediated by BMP Signaling

(A–E) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (A) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/UAS-LacZ), (B) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+), (C) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, mCherry^{RNAi} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/UAS-mCherry-RNAi),
(D) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, Dpp^{RNAi} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/UAS-Dpp-RNAi), and (E) UAS-LRRK2^{IT}, Gbb^{RNAi} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/UAS-Gbb-RNAi).

(F) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (A)–(E). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(G) Neurons from the PPL1 clusters in a 10-day-old female Drosophila brain (Gbb-HA) double stained with anti-TH (green) and anti-HA (red).

(H and I) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60-day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (H) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/UAS-LacZ) and (I) UAS-Gbb (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-Gbb-GFP/+).

(J) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (H) and (I). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(K–P) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (K) UAS-LacZ (Ddc-Gal4/ UAS-LacZ), (L) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+), (M) UAS- LRRK2^{IT}, *gbb* ^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/*gbb¹* UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/+), (N) UAS- LRRK2^{IT}, *tkv*^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/*tkv*⁷; UAS-LRRK2^{IT}/+), (O) UAS- LRRK2^{IT}, *Mad*^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/*Mad*^{k00237}; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/+), and (P) UAS- LRRK2^{IT}, *Med*^{+/-} (Ddc-Gal4/+; UAS- LRRK2^{IT}/*Med*^{C246}).

(Q) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1–2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (K) to (P). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(R–W) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 60 day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (R) UAS-LacZ (UAS-LacZ/+; Ddc-Gal4/+), (S) UAS-Fur1 (UAS-eGFP::Fur1/+; Ddc-Gal4/+), (T) UAS- Fur1, $gbb^{+/-}$ (UAS-eGFP::Fur1/gbb¹; Ddc-Gal4/+), (U) UAS- Fur1, $tkv^{+/-}$ (UAS-eGFP::Fur1/ tkv^{7} ; Ddc-Gal4/+) (V) UAS- Fur1, $Mad^{+/-}$ (UAS-eGFP::Fur1/ Mad^{K00237} ; Ddc-Gal4/+), and (W) UAS- Fur1, $Med^{+/-}$ (UAS-eGFP::Fur1/+; Ddc-Gal4/ Med^{C246}).

(X) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (R)–(W). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test. ***p < 0.001, #p < 0.05; ##p < 0.01, ###p < 0.001.





(A and B) Representative images from the upper right quadrant of a 10-day-old adult female *Drosophila* brain double stained with anti-elav (green) and anti-pMad (red) of the following genotypes: (A) UAS-LacZ (elav-GS/UAS-LacZ) and (B) UAS-Tkv^{ACT} (elav-GS/+; UAS-Tkv^{ACT}/+). Mated female flies were transferred to RU486 containing medium at 5 days of age.

(C and D) Representative images from the upper right quadrant of a 10-day-old adult female *Drosophila* brain double stained with anti-repo (green) and anti-pMad (red) of the following genotypes: (C) UAS-LacZ (tub-Gal80^{ts}/UAS-lacZ; repo-Gal4/+) and (D) UAS-Tkv^{ACT} (tub-

Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-Tkv^{ACT}). Mated female flies were transferred to 29°C at 5 days of age.

(E) Top: Experimental design timeline: 5 day-old mated female flies were transferred to RU486 medium for 5 days and then transferred to paraquat-RU486 medium at 25°C to start the survival experiment. Bottom: Representative survival curves for female flies of the following genotypes: mCherry^{RNAi} (elav-GS/+; UAS-mCherry-RNAi /+), tkv^{RNAi} (elav-GS/+; UAS-tkv-RNAi/+) and Mad^{RNAi} (elav-GS/+; UAS-Mad-RNAi/+) raised on 2mM paraquat-RU486-containing medium. n = 100 female flies for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

(F) Top: Experimental design timeline: 5 day-old mated female flies were transferred to 29°C for 5 days and then transferred to paraquat containing medium at 25°C to start the survival experiment. Bottom: Representative survival curves for female flies of the following genotypes: mCherry^{RNAi} (tub-Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-mCherry-RNAi), tkv^{RNAi} (tub-Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-tkv-RNAi) and Mad^{RNAi} (tub-Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-Mad-RNAi) raised on 2 mM paraquat-containing medium. n = 100 female flies for each genotype (see also Table S1). Log-rank and Wilcoxon tests.

(G–J) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 15-day-old mCherry^{RNAi} (control) female flies raised on sucrose and agematched female flies for genotypes in (F) raised on paraquat for 5 days.

(K) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (G)-(J). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test.

(L and M) Representative images of glial cells in the proximity of DA neurons in the PPM1-2 cluster double stained with anti-Repo (blue) and anti-pMad (red) for the following genotypes: (L) UAS-LacZ (UAS-Fur1-sensor/UAS-LacZ; Ddc-Gal4/+) and (M) UAS-LRRK2^{IT} (UAS-Fur1-sensor/+; Ddc-Gal4/UAS-LRRK2^{IT}). GFP corresponding to Fur1 sensor (green) is directly imaged without antibody staining.

(N) Quantification of pMad staining for genotypes in (L) and (M) normalized to the surface area of Repo. Each data point represents fluorescence from a single glial cell. n = 100 glial nuclei in the vicinity of PPM1-2 clusters from 10 brains for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. Student's t test.

(O–Q) Representative images of DA neurons stained with anti-TH antibody (red) from PPL1 clusters in 40-day-old female flies of the following genotypes: (O) UAS-LacZ (tub-Gal80^{ts}/ UAS-LacZ; repo-Gal4/+), (P) UAS-Mad (tub-Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-Mad), and (Q) UAS-Tkv^{ACT} (tub-Gal80^{ts}/+; repo-Gal4/UAS-Tkv^{ACT}/+). Mated female flies were transferred to 29°C at 5 days of age.

(R) Quantification of the number of TH-positive DA neurons in the PPL1, PPM1-2, and PPM3 clusters for genotypes in (O) to (Q). n = 22 hemispheres for each genotype. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, #p < 0.05, ###p < 0.001.



Figure 6. Proposed Working Model

Pathogenic LRRK2 or paraquat exposure can enhance translation of the proprotein convertase Fur1 in DA neurons. Increased Fur1 expression, most likely, promotes the processing of Pro-Gbb into its active form. Secreted from DA neurons, Gbb binds to its bone morphogenic protein (BMP) type I and type II (Tkv) receptors in glial cells and activates a BMP signaling cascade in glia. We hypothesize that this BMP-signaling cascade, in turn, contributes to age-dependent degeneration of DA neurons, possibly by activating inflammatory or stress signals.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
TH (1/250)	Novus biologicals	Cat# NB300-109; RRID:AB_10077691 Lot ajo125 g
TH (1/250)	Immunostar	Cat# 22941; RRID:AB_5/2268 Lot 1602001
Funni (1/100)	Roebroek et al., 1993	N/A
HA (1/100)	BioLegend	Cat# 901303; KKID:AD_2303003 L01 D14CP00350
repo (1/250)	DSHB	Cat# 6D12 anti-kepo; KKID:AD_326446
clav (1/250)	DSHB	Cat# ELAV $7F0A7$, KRID.AD_231430
Smad3 (1/250)	Abcam	Cat# eLAV /E0A10, KND.AD_320210
DAPI (1/1000)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# D1306
	Themio Tisher bechune	
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Biological Samples		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Methyl viologen dichloride hydrate	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#856177-1G
Mifepristone	Cayman chemical company	Cat#10006317
Critical Commercial Assays		
TUNEL assay (FragEL [™] DNA fragmentation detection kit, fluorescent – TdT Enzyme)	Millipore Sigma	Cat#QIA39-1EA
iTaqTM univesral sybrR green supermix	Bio-Rad	Cat#172-5121
iScript cDNA synthesis kit	Bio-Rad	Cat#170-8891
Deposited Data		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
UAS-hLRRK2 ^{I2020T}	Venderova et al., 2009	FBal0244982
UAS-hLRRK2G2019S	Gehrke et al., 2010	FBal0249350
UAS-dLRRK ^{R1441G}	D. Park	FBal0322854
UAS-Gbb.GFP	R. Ray	BDSC_63058
UAS-eGFP::Fur1	This paper	N/A
UAS-Tkv ^{ACT} (UAS-tkvQ199D)	Haerry et al., 1998	FBal0051065
UAS-eGFP	This paper	N/A
UAS-Mad	McCabe et al., 2004	N/A
UAS-S6K ^{STDE}	Barcelo and Stewart, 2002	BDSC_6913
UAS-LacZ	Exelixis, Inc.	BDSC_8529
UAS- 4E-BPAA	Teleman et al., 2005	N/A

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
UAS-mCherryRNAi	Perkins et al., 2015	BDSC_35787
UAS-Fur1RNAi	Dietzl et al., 2007	VDRC 22853
UAS-Mad ^R NAi	Perkins et al., 2015	BDSC_31316
UAS-tkyRNAi	Perkins et al., 2015	BDSC_35653
UAS-DonRNAi	Perkins et al., 2015	BDSC_25782
UAS GbbRNAi	Perkins et al., 2015	BDSC 34898
6wt1205	Pennev et al., 2016	BDSC 10341
1011 Na- 4K00237	Li et al., 2005	BDSC 10474
Mad C246	Aberle et al 2002	FBal0156263
Medea 2 10	Nellen et al. 1994	RDSC 3242
	M.R. O'Connor	ED_0000072
gbb ⁴	Barka et al. 2004	FDdi0072773
dLRRK=03060	Parks et al., 2004	FDdt0103431
gbb.HA	M.B. O'Connor	N/A
Ddc-Gai4	Li et al., 2000	BDSC_/010
mana Gald	Ei et al., 2000	BDSC 7415
alow CS	Octorwalder et al. 2001	N/A
1 67c23	B Gelbart	RDSC 6599
Conton S	Kuoto stock conter	BDSC_077
1 506	G Karpen	BDSC_04349
y ¹ ; ry ⁵⁰⁰	G. Kaipen	
	R. Levis	DDSC_5003
UAS-Full I-sellsol	Penney et al., 2012	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
qPCR and sequencing primers, Refer to Table S2	Integrated DNA technologies	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
cDNA clone: LD33976	DGRC	Stock#5309
Plasmid: pTGW	DGRC	Stock#1075
Plasmid: pUASt	Brand and Perrimon, 1993	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Illustrator (CS6)	Adobe	RRID:SCR_014198; https://www.adobe.com
Photoshop (CS6)	Adobe	RRID:SCR_014199; https://www.adobe.com/
Zen	Zeiss	RRID:SCR_01367; https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/int/products/microscope-software/zen.html
FIJI is just ImageJ (v. 2.0.0)	NIH	RRID: SCR_003070; https://fiji.sc
Prism (v. 7)	GraphPad Software	RRID: SCR_002798; https://www.graphpad.com
Imaris (v. 7.5.2)	Bitplane	RRID:SCR_007370; http://www.bitplane.com
Other		
N/A	N/A	N/A