Title: Bi-directional modification of sleep and wake by amyloid beta oligomers

One Sentence Summary: Amyloid beta acutely and size-dependently affects behavior through

distinct wake- and sleep-promoting pathways.

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Abstract

Disrupted sleep is a major feature of Alzheimer's Disease (AD), often arising years before

symptoms of cognitive decline. Prolonged wakefulness exacerbates the production of toxic

amyloid-beta (Aβ) species, suggesting that sleep loss further accelerates AD progression.

However, the mechanism by which Aβ affects sleep is unknown. We demonstrate here that Aβ

acutely and reversibly enhances or suppresses sleep as a function of oligomer length. Genetic

and pharmacological disruption revealed that short Aβ oligomers induce acute wakefulness

through Adrenergic receptor b2 (Adrb2) and Progesterone membrane receptor component 1

(Pgrmc1), while longer Aβ forms induce sleep through Prion Protein (PrP) signaling. We suggest

that changes to the brain's balance of Aβ oligomeric species during AD progression disrupts the

stability of a bi-directional, Aβ-sensitive sleep/wake switch.

Main Text

The first known event in Alzheimer's disease (AD) is an increase in soluble amyloid-beta (Aβ)

with small changes in Aβ levels detectable years before the development of Aβ plaques and the

onset of AD (*1-2*). Sleep disruption is also an early symptom of AD (*3*), and patients have sleep-

wake abnormalities, including an increase in the amount of wakefulness at night and increased

daytime napping (*4-6*). Multiple transgenic AD mouse models that overproduce Aβ also show

disrupted sleep phenotypes (*7-9*), often in the absence of neuronal loss and preceding

impairments of learning and memory (*10*). Understanding the relationship between Aβ

accumulation, sleep disruption, and AD pathogenesis may therefore lead to better early detection

and prevention of disease.

Some physiological changes, such as sleep, can alter the levels of extracellular Aβ (*11*). Aβ

levels in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) increase during wake and decrease during sleep (*11, 12*),

as the generation and release of both Aβ40 and Aβ42 are controlled by electrical and synaptic

activity (*13, 14*). These observations have led to the proposal that sleep and Aβ dynamics create

a vicious cycle, wherein increases in wakefulness result in increased extracellular Aβ and

aggregation, which then dysregulates sleep, further exacerbating pathogenic Aβ production (*9*).

How increased Aβ burden leads to disruptions in sleep remains unknown, although AD-related

cell death of critical sleep/wake regulatory neurons has been suggested as a possible mechanism

(*15-17*).

We tested an alternative hypothesis that Aβ species directly signal to alter sleep/wake states. We

took advantage of the ability to directly deliver small molecules and Aβ peptides to the brain of

larval zebrafish, which unlike *Drosophila* have a conserved repertoire of amyloid precursor

protein (APP) and its processing machinery. Moreover, sleep in zebrafish is diurnal and

controlled by similar genetic, pharmacological, and neuronal mechanisms as mammals (*18*). We

found that Aβ size-dependently and reversibly modulates behavior through two distinct genetic,

pharmacologically tractable pathways that regulate sleep in opposing directions.

To test the acute signaling effects of Aβ on sleep, we developed a minimally invasive intra-

cardiac injection assay in 5 days post fertilization (5dpf) larval zebrafish, which avoids direct

damage to brain tissue (Fig. 1A). This technique rapidly (<1hr, peaking within 2-3hrs) and

reversibly delivers Aβ to the larval brain, as assessed by injection of fluorescently tagged Aβ42

and subsequent confocal brain imaging (Fig. 1B and Fig. S1A-B). To generate different Aβ

oligomeric species, we incubated Aβ42 overnight at increasing temperatures, which significantly

varied the amount and lengths of Aβ oligomers as measured by Transmission Electron

Microscopy (TEM) (Fig. 1C and S1C). Aβ42 incubated overnight at 4ºC consists of fewer and

shorter oligomers (Aβ^{short}, mean 45±11 nm, median=39nm) than when incubated at 25ºC (Aβ^{long},

mean 75±10 nm, median=61nm) or at 37ºC (Aβ^{v-long}, mean 121±10 nm, median=88nm) (Fig.

1C).

We then assessed how each Aβ preparation affected sleep and wake behavior in zebrafish

relative to an Aβ42-1 "reverse" peptide control (Aβ^{rev}) using video-monitoring (Fig. 1A) (*19,20*).

In zebrafish larvae, sleep is defined as a period of inactivity lasting longer than one minute, as

this is associated with an increased arousal threshold and other features of behavioral sleep (*19*).

To determine the appropriate Aβ injection dose, we first injected 1nL of a 1-1000 nM dose

response series for both Aβ^{short} and Aβ^{long} and found each species had opposing effects on larval

sleep and waking activity (Fig. S1D-E), with maximal differences between these preparations at

10 nM (p≤0.01 doseXprep interaction, two-way ANOVA). As 1 nL of a 10 nM monomeric

concentration of Aβ will yield a final estimated brain concentration <50 pM (see Methods),

which is within the reported concentration ranges of Aβ42 in human CSF of 100 pM-5nM (*2*),

we chose this dose for all subsequent experiments.

We found that Aβ42 affected sleep and wake in opposing directions depending on its oligomeric

state (Fig. 1D-J). In the day following injection, Aβ^{short} significantly increased waking activity

(+19±6% relative to Aβ^{rev}) compared to Aβ^{long} oligomers, which reduced waking activity by -

9±5% (Fig. 1D-E, G). In contrast, Aβ^{long} significantly increased sleep during the post-injection

day by +19±8% while Aβ^{short} decreased total sleep by -12±9% (Fig. 1D'-E', I). Increased sleep

induced by Aβ^{long} was due to a significant increase in the average sleep bout length (Fig. 1I) but

also due to a modest increase in the number of sleep bouts (Fig. 1J), indicating higher sleep

initiation and consolidation. Injection of longer Aβ fibers (Aβ^{v-long}) had neither the wake-

promoting effect of Aβ^{short} nor the sleep-promoting effect of Aβ^{long} (Fig. 1F-J), demonstrating

that Aβ's biological activity *in vivo* is narrowly size-dependent. There were no significant

differences in sleep or waking activity among the Aβ preparations the night following injection

(Fig. S1J-K).

Several lines of evidence suggest the dual-effects of Aβ on sleep and wake are due to acute

signalling and not to long-term toxic effects from neuronal damage or death. First, injected

animals returned to baseline sleep and activity levels within 24 hours (Fig. S1F-I). Second,

injection with Aβ42 had no effect on apoptosis, as detected by staining for activation of Caspase-

3 (Fig. S2A-C). Finally, Aβ injected animals raised to adulthood showed no major differences in

their general health or in their survival rates (Fig. S2D). We therefore sought to identify the

neuronal and molecule substrates through which Aβ signals to modulate sleep/wake behavior.

If Aβ oligomers alter behavior through acute signalling in the brain, the differential effects of

Aβ^{short} and Aβ^{long} should be reflected at the level of neuronal activity. In situ hybridization (ISH)

for expression of the immediate early gene, *c-fos*, identified several areas of the larval brain that

are upregulated after injection of Aβ^{short} relative to Aβ^{rev}, including the posterior hypothalamus

and the dorsal and ventral telencephalon (Fig. 2A), which are also upregulated in hyperactive

zebrafish mutants[21]. In contrast, *c-fos* expression following Aβ^{long} injections was globally

dampened relative to Aβ^{rev} (Fig. 2B). Because immediate early gene expression is an imperfect

readout of changes in neuronal activity, we also used the MAP-Mapping technique to visualize

the relative brain-wide changes in phosphorylated ERK levels, which strongly correlates with

neuronal activity levels in zebrafish larvae (*22*). Consistent with *c-fos*, Aβ^{short} upregulated P-ERK

in the ventral telencephalon and posterior hypothalamus (Fig. 2C, C' and Supplementary Data 1),

while Aβ^{long} resulted in a widespread reduction in P-ERK levels throughout most of the brain

(Fig. 2D, D' and Supplementary Data 2). These neuronal activity maps are consistent with the

sleep and wake behavioral changes induced by Aβ^{short} and Aβ^{long}.

Many putative Aβ binding partners have been implicated in mediating the toxic signalling effects

of Aβ on synapses, with some targets showing preferences for Aβ dimers, such as adrenergic

receptor β2 (Adrb2) (*23*), or low molecular weight (50-75 kDa) species, such as the progesterone

membrane receptor component 1 (PGRMC1) (*24*), while other targets preferentially bind to

longer oligomers/protofibrils, such as the Prion Protein (PrP) (*25,26*). We therefore made genetic

lesions in candidate Aβ receptors (Fig S3, S5) and tested whether these had any effect on $Aβ^{short}$-

induced waking activity. Although $adrb2a^{-/-}$ and $pgrmc1^{-/-}$ exhibited only minor changes in

baseline sleep and wake on a 14hr:10hr light:dark cycle (Fig S4A-F'), they had profoundly

altered responses after injection of $Aβ^{short}$: Neither mutant increased waking activity (Fig. 3A-

C,E) or suppressed sleep as observed in wild type controls (Fig. 3A'-C',F). Injection of $Aβ^{short}$

into $adrb2a^{-/-}$ animals even significantly increased sleep instead of reducing it as in wild type

larvae (Fig. 3B',F). In contrast, $Aβ^{short}$ injected into mutants that lack both zebrafish Prp

orthologs ($prp1^{-/-}; prp2^{-/-}$) (*27,28*) elicited even stronger increases in waking activity and

reductions in sleep (Fig. 3D-F). Thus, the wake-promoting activity of $Aβ^{short}$ requires intact

Adrb2a and Pgrmc1 but not functional Prp1 and Prp2.

Because the oligomeric species in the $Aβ^{long}$ preparation falls into the range that interacts with

Prion Protein (PrP) with high affinity to modulate synapses (*25,26,29,30*), we tested whether PrP

is instead required for $Aβ^{long}$-induced sleep. Under baseline conditions, we detected no

significant differences in day or night sleep and waking activity in *prp* mutants compared to

$prp^{+/+}$ siblings generated from either $prp1^{+/-}; prp2^{+/-}$ or $prp1^{+/-};prp2^{-/-}$ in-crosses (Fig S6A-F').

However, after injection of $Aβ^{long}$, $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-}$ null mutants failed to increase sleep (-12±8%

vs. +64±17% change in wild type sleep, Fig. 4A-D). Zebrafish have a third PrP ortholog (Prp3)

with conserved GPI and repetitive prion protein domains but lacking all recognizable Aβ binding

regions (Fig. S5A,B). To ensure all Prp function was eliminated, we made genetic lesions in

prp3 (Fig. S5C,D) and found that the blockade of $A\beta^{long}$–induced sleep in *prp1[-/-];prp2[-/-]* double

mutants was not additionally modulated by *prp3[-/-]* (Fig. S7B,D). Thus, while Prps are not

required for the wake-inducing effects of $A\beta^{short}$, functional Prp1 and Prp2 are essential for sleep

induced by $A\beta^{long}$.

If $A\beta^{long}$ interacts directly with Prp to drive changes in sleep, pharmacological manipulations

known to disrupt this signalling cascade should similarly block the sleep-promoting effect of

$A\beta^{long}$ (Fig. 4E). Consistent with a role for direct $A\beta^{long}$-Prp interactions in sleep, soaking the

larvae in Chicago Sky Blue 6B, a small molecule reported to disrupt Aβ-PrP interactions (*31*),

significantly abolished the sleep-inducing effect of $A\beta^{long}$ (Fig. 4F-G, S7E-F). Similarly,

pharmacological inhibition of the putative Aβ-Prp downstream signalling components mGluR5

and Fyn kinase (*30,32*) significantly blocked the sleep-inducing properties of $A\beta^{long}$ (Fig. 4H-K,

S7G-H). Both the mGluR5 inhibitor MPEP and the Src-kinase inhibitor saracatinib even resulted

in significant sleep reductions after exposure to $A\beta^{long}$, consistent with $A\beta^{long}$-Prp activating this

pathway to signal sleep and oppose the wake-promoting effects of $A\beta^{short}$. Thus, both genetic

and pharmacological interference with Aβ-Prp signalling prevents the ability of $A\beta^{long}$ to

increase sleep behavior.

Previous studies have suggested that changes in sleep during AD may further accelerate Aβ

accumulation and neuronal damage, creating a viscous cycle that leads to further neuronal

dysregulation and increased sleep-wake cycle abnormalities (*9*). Our results show that Aβ42 can

acutely change sleep and wake depending on its oligomeric form, independently of neuronal

death. Not only does our data identify behaviorally relevant targets of Aβ, but our proposed bi-

directional model for Aβ sleep/wake regulation (Fig. 4L) predicts that alterations to the relative

concentrations of Aβ oligomers during healthy aging and AD disease progression will have dual

consequences on sleep and wake states.

Many potential receptors of Aβ have been proposed, but controversy surrounds both the nature

of the oligomeric species that interacts with each target and their relative importance during

progressive cognitive decline and other phenotypes associated with AD (*33*). We identified a

wake-promoting pathway requiring Adrb2a and Pgrmc1 that is activated by shorter Aβ species

and a distinct, Prp-dependent sleep-promoting pathway activated by longer oligomers. Since AD

brain extracts have been shown to activate both PGRMC1 (*24*) and Prp-signalling (*34*), both

signalling pathways may be directly relevant in AD sleep/wake regulation. However, our

identification of Aβ targets that are activated *in vivo* at low concentrations to alter behavior also

reveals potential roles for Aβ signalling in non-diseased contexts.

The Aβ assembly process is highly complex and meta-stability is an intrinsic property of Aβ

solutions[35]. While the precise makeup of Aβ species present in healthy and AD brains remains

difficult to determine, several studies have demonstrated that the amount and type of Aβ

oligomeric species (including dimer, trimers, and 56 kDa oligomers) in healthy brains change

across the human life cycle (*36*) and are heterogeneous and elevated in AD patients (*34,37*). Our

data suggests that changes in the relative concentration of sleep- and wake- promoting Aβ

oligomeric species over the course of both healthy aging and AD will signal either increases or

decreases in sleep (Fig. 4L). On shorter time-scales, sleep deprivation acutely increases Aβ

burden (*38*), fever promotes amyloidogenic Aβ generation (*39*), and microbial infection can

trigger Aβ fibrilization (*40*). Considering that infection and fever are also potent drivers of sleep

(*41*), the Aβ-Prp sleep signalling module identified here could mediate recovery sleep during

illness and should be the subject of future studies. On longer timescales, AD progression is

associated with increasingly large disruptions in sleep patterns, with patients exhibiting high

levels of sleep fragmentation, a lack of circadian rhythm, night-time insomnia and irregular

daytime napping throughout the day (*42*). Based on our results, the sleep symptoms associated

with normal aging and AD may reflect changes in Aβ burden that lead to altered sleep signalling

via molecular cascades that are potential therapeutic targets for treating disrupted sleep early in

AD progression.

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Fellowship. **Author Contributions:** GGO and JR conceived and designed the experiments.

GGO performed all experiments with assistance from SL. GGO, JR, and SL analysed the data.

GGO and SL generated the *prp3*, *adrb2a* and *pgrmc1* mutants. PLAL and WTA generated the

prp1 and *prp2* mutants. GGO and JR wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests. **Data and materials**

availability: All data is available in the manuscript or the supplementary materials.

List of Supplementary Materials:

Materials and Methods

Fig S1-S7

Supplemental Data 1-2

<u>Figure 1</u>. **Aβ oligomers bi-directionally affect sleep and wake in zebrafish larvae.**

A) Aβ was injected into the heart of 5 dpf larvae in the morning (ZT2= zeitgeber time 2, i.e. 2hr

after lights on) and behavior was transferred to a 96-well plate and monitored for 24 hours on a

14:10 light:dark cycle.

B) Heart-injected HiLyte™ Fluor 647-labeled Aβ (fAβ) penetrated the whole larval brain as

visualized by confocal microscopy (optical sections, dorsal view) taken 2 hr after injection.

Anterior is to the top.

C) Aβ prepared under increasing temperatures adopted longer oligomeric lengths, as measured

by electron microscopy. $**p \leq 0.01$, $****p \leq 1\text{x}10^{-7}$ Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post-hoc test.

The bars show the median. Data was taken from five randomly selected micrographs from two

independent experiments.

D-F') Exemplar 24-hr traces post-injection comparing the effect of Aβ preparations on average

waking activity (D-F) and sleep (D'-F') versus Aβ reverse peptide controls. Ribbons represent ±

the standard error of the mean (SEM). Light and dark bars indicate the lights ON and lights OFF

periods, respectively.

G-J) Each graph plots the percent change in post-injection daytime activity (G), sleep (H), sleep

bout length (I), and sleep bout number (J) relative to Aβ reverse injections. $*p \leq 0.05$, $**p \leq 0.01$,

$^{ns}p > 0.05$, Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post-hoc. Each dot represents a single larva and error

bars indicate ± SEM. Data is pooled from 4 independent experiments for each Aβ type.

Figure 2. Aβ oligomers differentially alter neuronal activity in the larval zebrafish brain.

A) As detected by ISH, the immediate early gene *c-fos* is upregulated in many larval brain areas

following Aβ^{short} injection, including the dorsal and ventral telencephalon (Tel) and the posterior

hypothalamus (black arrowheads), relative to Aβ reverse control injections. Hyp- Hypothalamus;

Hb- Hindbrain.

B) Compared to Aβ^{rev} injections, Aβ^{long} oligomers induce less *c-fos* expression. The Aβ^{rev} and

Aβ^{long} treated brains were stained longer than in panel A) to ensure capture of even weak *c-fos*

expression.

C-C') Brain expression of the neuronal activity correlate pERK/tERK comparing Aβ^{short} (n =6)

to Aβ^{rev} (n = 5) injected larvae identifies areas upregulated (green) and downregulated (magenta)

by Aβ^{short}. Data are shown as a thresholded maximum projection overlaid on the Z-Brain tERK

reference (gray). White arrowheads indicate regions in the ventral telencephalon and posterior

hypothalamus that are upregulated similar to *c-fos* in A). Dorsal view in C), lateral view in C').

D-D') pERK/tERK expression after Aβ^{long} injections (n=7) shows widespread downregulation of

neuronal activity (magenta) compared to Aβ^{rev} controls (n=7), consistent with *c-fos* data in B.

Dorsal view in D), lateral view in D').

Figure 3. Wake induction by Aβ^{short} requires Adrb2a and Pgrmc1, but not the Prion

Protein.

A-D') Exemplar 24-hr traces comparing the effects of Aβ^{short} oligomers on average waking

activity (A-D) and sleep (A'-D') versus Aβ^{rev} on wild type (A,A'), *adrb2a$^{-/-}$* (B,B'), *pgrmc1$^{-/-}$*

(C,C'), and *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$* mutant (D,D') backgrounds. Ribbons represent ± the standard error of

the mean (SEM). Light and dark bars indicate the lights ON and lights OFF periods, respectively.

E-F) Graphs plot the percent change in waking activity (E) and sleep (F) induced by Aβ^{short}

relative to reverse Aβ control injections on wild type and mutant backgrounds, with dotted line at

zero indicating Aβ^{short} oligomers had zero detectable effect. The wake enhancing and sleep

suppressing effects of Aβ^{short} is absent in *adrb2a$^{-/-}$* and *pgrmc1$^{-/-}$*, but present in *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$*

mutants, wherein the effects of Aβ^{short} are enhanced. $^{ns}p > 0.05$, $*p \leq 0.05$, $**p \leq 0.01$, $***p \leq 0.0001$,

$****p \leq 10^{-5}$ Kruskal-Wallis, Bonferroni corrected. Each dot represents a single larva and error

bars indicate ± SEM. Data is pooled from n=2 independent experiments for *adrb2a$^{-/-}$* and

pgrmc1$^{-/-}$ and n=3 for *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$*.

<u>Figure 4</u>. Sleep induction by Aβ^{long} requires signalling through Prion Protein

A-B') Exemplar 24-hr traces comparing the effects of Aβ^{long} oligomers on average waking

activity (A,B) and sleep (A'-B') versus Aβ^{rev} on wild type (A,A'), and *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$* mutant

(B,B') backgrounds. Ribbons represent ± the standard error of the mean (SEM). Light and dark

bars indicate the lights ON and lights OFF periods, respectively.

C-D) Graphs plot the percent change in waking activity (C) and sleep (D) induced by Aβ^{long}

relative to Aβ reverse control injections on wild type and *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$* mutant backgrounds

(mixed *prp3* background). The sleep promoting effect of Aβ^{long} is blocked in *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$*

mutants. $**p \leq 0.01$, Kruskal-Wallis. Each dot represents a single larva and error bars indicate ±

SEM.

E) Schematic showing how Aβ – Prp interactions are thought to signal through activation of Fyn

kinase. Small molecules that block each step in the pathway are indicated.

F) Representative traces of sleep behavior after $A\beta^{long}$ versus $A\beta^{rev}$ injections in the absence (top)

or presence (bottom) of the Aβ-Prion disruptor, Chicago Sky Blue (3nM). Ribbons represent ±

SEM. Light and dark bars indicate the lights ON and lights OFF periods, respectively.

G) The percent change in sleep induced by $A\beta^{long}$ relative to $A\beta^{rev}$ control injections in the

absence or presence of 3nM Chicago Sky Blue. **$p \leq 0.01$, Kruskal-Wallis. Each dot represents a

single larva from n= 2 independent experiments and error bars indicate ± SEM.

H-J) Representative traces of sleep behavior after $A\beta^{long}$ versus $A\beta^{rev}$ injections in the absence

(H) or presence of the Src-kinase inhibitor, saracatinib at 300 nM (I) or mGluR5 inhibitor, MPEP

(5 µM) (J). Ribbons represent ± SEM.

K) The percent change in sleep relative to reverse Aβ control injections in the absence or

presence of MPEP (5µM) and 300 nM saracatinib. **$p \leq 0.01$, ***$p \leq 1 \times 10^{-6}$ Kruskal-Wallis,

Bonferroni. Each dot represents a single larva and error bars indicate ± SEM. Data is pooled

from 2 independent experiments.

L) A bi-directional model for sleep/wake regulation by Aβ. In wild type animals (centre),

injection of $A\beta^{short}$ and $A\beta^{long}$ signal through Adrb2a and PrP to suppress or drive sleep,

respectively. Because Aβ preparations are a mixture of long and short forms, the behavioral

output is the summation of both signalling arms. In mutants that lack PrP (left), only the short,

wake-promoting Aβ species contribute to behavioral responses, while in mutants that lack

Adrb2a/Pgrmc1 (right), only the long, sleep-promoting Aβ species affect behavior.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Supplementary Materials (Ozcan et al.)

Materials and Methods:

Zebrafish strains and husbandry

Zebrafish (Danio rerio) were raised under standard conditions at 28°C in a 14:10 light:dark

cycle and all zebrafish experiments and husbandry followed standard protocols. AB, TL and

ABxTup wild-type strains were used in this study. *prp1* (ua5003/ua5003), *prp2*

(ua5001/5001), *prp3 (*u509/u509*), adrb2a (*u511/u511) and *pgrmc1 (*u512/u512*)* mutants were

outcrossed multiple times and *prp3* F5 generation, *pgrmc1* F2 and *adrb2a* F2 generations

were used for behaviour. Ethical approval for zebrafish experiments was obtained from the

Home Office UK under the Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986 with Project licence

numbers 70/7612 and PA8D4D0E5.

Aβ preparations

HFIP treated Aβ42 peptide (JPT Peptide Technologies), Aβ42-1 reversed peptide (Sigma), or

Aβ42 arctic peptide (Sigma), were dissolved in DMSO, vortexed occasionally for 12 min at

room temperature and sonicated for 5 min to obtain 100 μM solution. The stock solutions were

aliquoted as 5 μl in individual tubes and are kept are -80°C. 1 μl of the 100 μM stock was diluted

in (Phosphate buffered saline) PBS to yield 10 μM solutions which were incubated at 4°C, 25°C

or 37°C for 24 hours (1 hour for arctic). 1 hour before injecting, this stock was diluted to 10 nM

using 1:10 serial dilutions in PBS and kept at the respective temperature (4°C, 25°C, 37°C) until

injecting.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)

1 μl of (4°C, 25°C or 37°C incubated) 10 μM Aβ solution was loaded onto formvar/carbon

coated 300 mesh grids from Agar Scientific. The grid was washed twice in 20 mM phosphate

buffer for 10 seconds and negatively stained in 2% aqueous uranyl acetate for 30 seconds. After

drying for 2-3 days, samples were imaged using a Phillips TEM. At least 5 micrographs were

used for each condition to blindly measure the length of the Aβ42 oligomeric structures using at

least 30 measurements/condition. Using FIJI, 30-50 measurements were taken for each condition

by drawing a free-hand line on the fibril, which was then scaled using the scale bar.

Heart injections

Injections were carried out blindly with a Pneumatic PicoPump (WPI) and glass capillary

needles (Science Products Gmbh) prepared with a Micropipette Puller (Shutter Instruments). 5

dpf larvae were anesthetized using 4%Tricaine (42 mg/L MS222 (Sigma)) 30 min before

injections. Larvae were immobilized in 1.8 % low melting point agarose (ThermoFischer) in fish

water on their sides on a slide. Aβ was injected at 10 nM-1ul concentration, 1 nl into the heart

chamber of the fish along with a high molecular weight fluorescent dye (2000 kDa dextran-

conjugated FITC (3 mg/ml, Sigma). We estimated that 1 nl of a 10 nM Aβ injection into a ~3.01

(±0.16) x10^8 μm^3 (285-317 nL) 5dpf larva[43] yields a final monomeric brain/CSF concentration of

~28-32 pM. The success of the injection was checked under a standard fluorescent scope by the

presence of fluorescence in the heart of the animal. Larvae were transferred to fresh fish water

for 20 min to recover from Tricaine and transferred to sleep/wake behaviour box. For drug

blocking experiments, zebrafish were soaked into 3 nM Chicago Sky Blue 6B (Sigma), 5 μM

MPEP (Cambridge Biosciences), 300 nM Saracatinib (Generon) 1 day before the injections.

Fluorescently tagged HiLyte™ Fluor 647-labeled Aβ42 (Eurogentech LTD) was injected at 10

µM.

Behavioural experiments

Larval zebrafish behavioural experiments were performed and analysed as described[19]. Briefly, 5

dpf larvae were transferred to 96 square-well plates and continuously illuminated with IR and

white lights from 9 am to 11 pm in a Zebrabox (Viewpoint life sciences) for 24-48 hours. The

movement of each larva was measured and duration of movement was recorded with an

integration time of 10 sec. Data were processed using custom PERL and MATLAB (The

Mathworks, R2015a) scripts, and statistical tests were performed using MATLAB. Mutant

larval zebrafish experiments were performed on siblings from heterozygous in-crosses,

differing only in the mutation of the specific gene and genotyped at the end of the experiment.

In situ hybridization

RNA in situ hybridization to detect *c-fos* was performed as described before (Thisse &Thisse,

2007). Zebrafish larvae were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS at 4°C overnight. A

template for in vitro transcription was generated by PCR using a reverse primer that contains

a T7 promoter sequence 5'-TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG-3' from cDNA. A digoxygenin

(DIG)-labelled antisense RNA probe was synthesized using the DIG labelling kit (Roche) and

T7 RNA polymerase according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The probe was

detected with anti-DIG-AP antibody (1:2,000, Roche) and nitro-blue tetrazolium chloride

(NBT)/5-bromo-4-chloro-3′-indolyphosphate (BCIP) substrate (Roche) according to published

protocols. Embryos were stored in 60% glycerol/PBS for imaging.

KASP genotyping

For rapid genotyping of mutant zebrafish harbouring the *prp3Δ8*, *adrb2aΔ8* and *pgrmc1Δ16*

alleles, a mutant allele-specific forward primer, a wild-type allele-specific forward primer and

a common reverse primer were used (LGC Genomics). The primer sequences were targeted

against the following;

prp3

5'TTTTCGCAGCTCCTGTGGGGATGCWTTCCAAATTTAAGCTCTTCTCCTTCCTAAACTG

CCTGTTGCTGCTGGCTGTGCTGCTACCGGTAGCGCAGTCT**[CGCCGGGG/-]**CGG

GGGCTTCGGACGTGGCGGCGGGAGAGGTGGAGGCTGGGGAGGCAGCAGCTCGGGTC

GCGCGGGCTGGGGTGCAGCTGGAGGGCATCACCGAGCTCCACCCGTACACACGGGACAC-3'

adrb2a

5'TTTTACTACTTACTGTTTGCACAAACCTATGTTAACTGTGTTAACGTGTTTTCTTCT

GCTTTTCTTTCTTGATCTCTGTCAGGTCATGGGAAACATAAGGTCCTCAATACC**[CGA**

AGATC/-]TTATCTGTCCAAACAATACTAATGCCTCCACCAAAAGCGAACTACAGATG

ACAGTGCTGGGCACACTCATGTCCATTCTTGTCTTGATCATCGTCTTTGGCAATGTGA

TGGTGATTACAGCCA-3'

pgrmc1:

5'ATGGCTGAAGAAGCAGTCGAGCAAACTTCTGGAATCCTTCAGGAAATTTTCACGT

CGCCACTGAACATCAGTTTGCTATGTCTTTGTTTGTTCCTACTTTACAAAATCATCCG

CGGAGACAAGCC[**TGCAGACTATGGCCCG/-**]GYTGAGGAGCCGCTGCCCAAACT

CAAGAAAGAGATTTYACTTTAGCAGATCTGCAAGAGTACGATGGACTGAAAAACC

CAAGAATCCTGATGGCTGTCAACGGG-3'

where [x/-] indicates the indel difference in [WT/mutant]. PCR amplification was performed

using KASP Master mix (LGC Genomics) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Fluorescence was read on a CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad) and

the allelic discrimination plot generated using Bio-Rad CFX Manager Software.

Time lapse confocal microscopy

Three Casper fish at 5 dpf were mounted dorsally on a slide in 1.5% agarose. 10 nl of Aβ42-

Hi488 was intra-cardiac injected to embryos, control fish were untreated. Fish were imaged for 6

min taking 2 μm thick stacks through the whole brain using a confocal microscope (Leica SP8).

Each fish was imaged every 20 mins for 8 hours.

pERK/tERK staining and activity Mapping

Larvae were fixed overnight at 4°C in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) and 4% sucrose in PBS;

permeabilized 45 min in 0.05% trypsin-EDTA on ice; blocked 6 hr at room temperature (RT) in

phosphate buffered saline plus 0.05% Triton (PBT) plus 2% normal goat serum, 1% BSA, and

1% DMSO; and then incubated over sequential nights at 4°C in primary antibodies (Cell

Signaling Technology 4370 and 4696; 1:500) and secondary antibodies conjugated with Alexa

fluorophores (Life Technologies; 1:200) in PBT plus 1% BSA and 1% DMSO.

Larvae were mounted in 1.5% low melt agarose and imaged with a custom two-photon

microscope (Bruker; Prairie View software) with a 203 water immersion objective (Olympus).

Images were noise filtered using a custom MATLAB (The MathWorks) scripts and registered

into Z-Brain using the Computational Morphometry Toolkit

(http://www.nitrc.org/projects/cmtk/) with the command string: -a -w -r 0102 -l af -X 52 -C 8 -G

80 -R 3 -A "–accuracy 0.4 –auto-multi-levels 4" -W "–accuracy 1.6" -T 4. Registered images

were prepared using a custom MATLAB/MIJ (http://bigwww.epfl.ch/sage/soft/mij/) script to

downsize, blur, and adjust the maximum brightness of each stack to the top 0.1% of pixel

intensities to preserve dynamic range. Activity maps were generated using MATLAB scripts[22].

Crispr/Cas9 mutant generation

The CRISPR design tool CHOPCHOP (http://chopchop.cbu.uib.no) was used to identify a target

region in zebrafish *prp3*, *adrb2a* and *pgrmc1*. The gene specific oligomers were ordered from

Thermofisher including the 5' and 3' tags:

for *prp3:*

5'ATTTAGGTGACACTATA<u>GTAGCGCAGTCTCGCCGGGG</u>GTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATA

GCAAG-3'

For *adrb2a*:

5'ATTTAGGTGACACTATA<u>GTTTGGACAGATAAGATCTT</u>GTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG

CAAG-3'

For *pgrmc1*:

5'ATTTAGGTGACACTATA<u>TGCAGACTATGGCCCGGTTGG</u>TTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG

CAAG-3'

Constant oligomer:

5'AAAAGCACCGACTCGGTGCCACTTTTTCAAGTTGATAACGGACTAGCCTTATTTTA

ACTTGCTATTTCT AGCTCTAAAAC-3'

The constant oligomer and the gene specific oligomer were annealed on a PCR machine and

filled in using T4 DNA polymerase (NEB)[44]. The template was cleaned up using a PCR clean-

up column (Qiaquick) and the product was verified on a 2% agarose gel. The sgRNA was

transcribed from this DNA template using Ambion MEGAscript SP6 kit[44]. Cas9 mRNA and the

purified sgRNA were co-injected into one-cell stage embryos at a concentration of 200 ng and

100 ng per embryo, respectively.

Caspase-3 staining

5dpf larvae that were injected with Aβ oligomers or soaked in Camptothecin (1μM; Sigma

Aldrich) were fixed 5 hours after injection/drug treatment in 4% PFA and kept overnight at 4℃.

Brains were dissected and dehydrated next day and were washed 3 times in PDT buffer

(0.3 Triton-X in PBST with 1% DMSO) and incubated with Caspase-3 antibody (1:500; BD

Biosciences) at 4℃. The brains were incubated with Alexa Fluor 568 goat anti-rabbit antibody

(1:200; Invitrogen) next day at 4℃ overnight and imaged using a confocal microscope.

Statistical Analyses

Details of statistics used in each panel are also described in the figure legend. For multiple

comparisons, data was first tested for normality by the Kogloromov-Smirnov (KS) statistic and

extreme outliers were discarded by Grubb's test ($p \leq 0.05$). Those that violated normality were

analysed with the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test, with either Tukey-Kramer or Bonferonni

post hoc testing; otherwise, data was analysed with one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-

hoc testing. For dose response curves, a two-way ANOVA was performed to test the interaction

effects between preparation type and dose. For return to baseline statistics, paired t-tests were

performed. Survival curves were analysed with Kaplan-Meier log rank test. All statistical tests

and graphs were generated in MATLAB (R2015a) loaded with the Statistical Toolbox. Injection

and tracking experiments were performed blinded.

Supplementary Figure Legends

Fig. S1. **Aβ oligomers exert dose-dependent, short-term effects on zebrafish sleep**

A) Same images from Fig. 1B, highlighting the region of interest in the telencephalon for

fluorescence intensity measurements in B. Anterior is to the top, dorsal view.

B) Heart-injected fluorescently-tagged Aβ (black) penetrates the brain within 1 hr and peaks in

concentration 2-3 hr post-injection. Cyan shows background fluorescence of a negative control.

The shaded area shows $\pm$ standard deviation from 3 independent injections.

C) Electron micrographs of Aβ oligomers formed after 24 hr incubation at 4°C (A), 25°C (B),

37°C (C), and Aβ^{arctic} (as control) incubated at 25°C for 2 hr (D). The color code is used

throughout the main and supplementary figures. Scale bar = 100 nm

D) The Aβ^{short} (blue) and Aβ^{long} (green) have opposing, dose-dependent effects on average

waking activity. $p \leq 0.001$, prep effect; doseXprep interaction $p \leq 0.01$, two-way ANOVA. Each

dot represents a single larval injection. The error bars represent $\pm$ the SEM.

E) Aβ^{short} (blue) and Aβ^{long} (green) have opposing, dose-dependent effects on sleep. p≤0.05, prep

effect; doseXprep interaction p=0.08, two-way ANOVA. Based on the data in D-E, 10nM was

chosen as the concentration for all subsequent Aβ injection experiments.

F-I) The effects of Aβ^{short} (F,G) and Aβ^{long} (H,I) on waking activity (top) and sleep (bottom)

return to baseline after 24hr. Shown in F and H are traces for 48 hours post-injection on a

14hr:10hr light:dark cycle (indicated by the white and black bars). The ribbons represent ± the

SEM. Plotted in G and I are the percent change induced by Aβ relative to Aβ^{rev} for day 1 versus

day 2, demonstrating that these parameters return to baseline (*p≤0.01, paired t-test). Each line

represents a single larva, the thicker line represents the mean ± SEM.

J-K) Aβ oligomers have no significant effects on waking activity or sleep during the first post-

injection night (same injections as in Fig. 1G-J). Each dot represents a single larva, normalized to

the Aβ^{rev} control injections. The data is combined from n=4 independent experiments.

Fig. S2. Aβ exposure does not increase neuronal cell death and does not alter survival into

adulthood.

A) Dorsal and ventral views of representative 5 dpf larval brains stained for Caspase-3 activation

(purple) to map apoptosis. Exposure to the topoisomerase inhibitor camptothecin (CPT, 1µM),

which induces apoptosis, serves as a positive control. DAPI stains nuclei in white for reference.

Anterior is to the left.

B,C) Quantification of the number of Caspase-3 positive cells after exposure to 1µM CPT or Aβ

oligomer injections (n=5 brains for each condition, B-dorsal, C-ventral). Only CPT significantly

increased apoptosis relative to Aβ^{rev}. ns, p>0.05, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post-hoc test.

D) Survival curves to adulthood after 5dpf injection of Aβ oligomers. There are no significant

differences among survival curves, p>0.05, Kaplan-Meier log rank test.

Fig. S3. Crispr/Cas9 targeting of zebrafish *adrb2a* and *pgrmc1*

A) Human and zebrafish PGRMC1 contain a conserved Transmembrane (TM) domain (yellow)

and a Cytochrome b5-like Heme/Steroid binding domain (blue).

B) Protein alignment of zebrafish Pgrmc1 to human PGRMC1. Identical residues are marked in

black, similar residues in grey.

C) Crispr-Cas9 targeting of *pgrmc1* generated an allele with a 16bp deletion. The PAM sequence

is indicated in red.

D) The predicted translation of *pgrmc1* Δ16 leads to a premature stop codon.

E) Protein alignment of zebrafish Adrb2a and Adrb2b to human ADRB2. Identical residues are

marked in black, similar residues in grey. The N-terminal region (pink) is the putative Aβ

binding region. The C-terminal region is in green.

F) Crispr-Cas9 targeting of *adrb2a* generated an allele with an 8bp deletion. The PAM sequence

is indicated in red.

G) The predicted translation of *adrb2a*Δ8 leads to a premature stop codon lacking all functional

domains.

Fig. S4. *adrb2a* and *pgrmc1* mutations have small effects on baseline sleep:wake

parameters.

A-C') Sleep and waking activity plots for larvae from *pgrmc1*$^{+/-}$ in-crosses. A,A') show

representative 48hr traces for the indicated genotypes. The ribbon represents ± SEM. B-C')

Sleep and waking activity for each larva for all genotypes are plotted. The error bars represent

the mean ± SEM. There is a trend to decreased waking activity in *pgrmc1⁻ᐟ⁻* mutants compared to

wild type siblings. p=0.07, Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post-hoc.

D-F') Sleep and waking activity plots for larvae from *adrb2a⁺ᐟ⁻* in-crosses. D,D') show 48 hr

traces for all three genotypes. The ribbon represents ± SEM. E-F') Sleep and waking activity for

the day and night are plotted for each larva. The error bars represent the mean ± SEM. Compared

to both wild type and heterozygous siblings, *adrb2a⁻ᐟ⁻* mutants have increased sleep during the

day. *p≤0.05, Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post-hoc.

<u>**Fig. S5**</u>**. Relationship among zebrafish *prp* genes and Crispr-Cas9 targeting of *prp3*.**

A) Schematic comparing zebrafish Prp1-3 proteins to human Prp. SP, signal peptide (dark grey);

R, repetitive region (blue); HD, hydrophobic domain (yellow); N, glycosylation sites (black

lines); GPI anchor residue (triangle); hydrophobic tail (coral). Aβ oligomer binding regions are

shown in red. Breakpoints at repetitive regions indicate length variation. Adapted from [45].

B) Protein alignments of zebrafish Prp1, Prp2, and Prp3 proteins to human and mouse Prp

proteins. Identical residues are marked in black, similar residues in grey. Aβ oligomer binding

sites are indicated in red. The site of truncation mutations in *prp1* and *prp2* mutants are indicated

with a triangle.

C) Crispr-Cas9 targeting of *prp3* generated an allele with an 8bp deletion. The PAM sequence is

indicated in red.

D) The *prp3^{Δ8}* allele is predicted to encode a frameshifted protein after amino acid 27 and a

premature stop codon. The Prp3^{Δ8} protein lacks all the functional domains shown in A.

Fig. S6. *prp* **double and triple mutants do not affect baseline sleep or wake across the**

day:night cycle.

A-C') Sleep and waking activity plots for larvae from $prp1^{+/-}; prp2^{+/-}$ in-crosses. A,A') show

representative 48hr traces for the indicated genotypes. The ribbon represents ± SEM. B-C')

Sleep and waking activity for each larva for all genotypes are plotted. The error bars represent

the mean ± SEM.

D-F') Sleep and waking activity plots for larvae from $prp1^{+/-};prp2^{-/-}$ in-crosses. D,D') show 48

hr traces for all three genotypes. The ribbon represents ± SEM. E-F') Sleep and waking activity

for the day and night are plotted for each larva. The error bars represent the mean ± SEM.

G-I') Prp3 does not modify the $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-}$ mutant sleep and wake phenotypes, as shown in

sleep and waking activity plots for larvae from $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-};prp3^{+/-}$ in-crosses. G,G') show 48

hr traces for all three genotypes. The ribbon represents ± SEM. H-I') Sleep and waking activity

for the day and night are plotted for each larva. The error bars represent the mean ± SEM.

Fig. S7. The response to Aβ oligomers by $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-}$ **mutants is only partially modulated**

by *prp3*.

A-B) The effect of $A\beta^{short}$ and $A\beta^{long}$ on the waking activity of 5 dpf larvae, normalized to the Aβ

reverse control, in wild type and *prp* mutants during the day post injection. The enhancement of

waking activity by $A\beta^{short}$ is similarly enhanced in $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-}$ double and $prp1^{-/-};prp2^{-/-};prp3^{-/-}$

mutants (A), while the suppression of activity by $A\beta^{long}$ is blocked in both *prp1,2* double and

prp1,2,3 triple mutants (B). $^{ns}p>0.05$; $^*p\leq0.05$, Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post hoc test. The

error bars represent the mean ± SEM.

C-D) The effect of $A\beta^{short}$ and $A\beta^{long}$ on post-injection sleep of 5 dpf wild type and *prp* mutant

larvae, normalized to the $A\beta^{rev}$ controls. The reduction in sleep induced by $A\beta^{short}$ is stronger in

prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$;prp3$^{-/-}$ triple mutants compared to in *prp1$^{-/-}$;prp2$^{-/-}$* double mutants (C), while the

induction of sleep by $A\beta^{long}$ is blocked in both *prp1,2* double and *prp1,2,3* triple mutants (D).

$^{ns}p>0.05$; *$p\leq0.05$, **$p\leq0.001$, Kruskal-Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post hoc test. The error bars

represent the mean ± SEM.

E) Representative traces of waking activity after $A\beta^{long}$ versus $A\beta^{reverse}$ injections in wild type

larvae in the absence (top) or presence (bottom) of the Aβ-Prion disruptor, Chicago Sky Blue

(3nM). The data are from the same injections as in Figure 4F. Ribbons represent ± SEM. Light

and dark bars indicate the lights ON and lights OFF periods, respectively.

F) The percent change in waking activity induced by $A\beta^{long}$ relative to $A\beta^{rev}$ control injections in

the absence or presence of 3nM Chicago Sky Blue. **$p\leq0.01$, Kruskal-Wallis. Each dot

represents a single larva and error bars indicate ± SEM.

G) Representative traces of sleep behaviour after $A\beta^{long}$ versus $A\beta^{rev}$ injections in the absence or

presence of the Src-kinase inhibitor, saracatinib (300nM) or mGluR5 inhibitor, MPEP (5 µM).

Ribbons represent ± SEM. The data are from the same injections as in Fig. 4H-J.

H) The percent change in sleep induced by $A\beta^{long}$ relative to $A\beta^{rev}$ control injections in the

absence or presence of MPEP (5 µM) and (300nM) saracatinib. $^{ns}p>0.05$,*$p\leq0.05$ Kruskal-

Wallis, Tukey-Kramer post-hoc. Each dot represents a single larva and error bars indicate ±

SEM. Data is pooled from 2 independent experiments.

Figure S1

Figure S2

Figure S3

Figure S4

Figure S5

Figure S6

Figure S7