#### The Pathophysiology of JC Virus infection leading to progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy NINDS LMMN and CLIA Laboratory

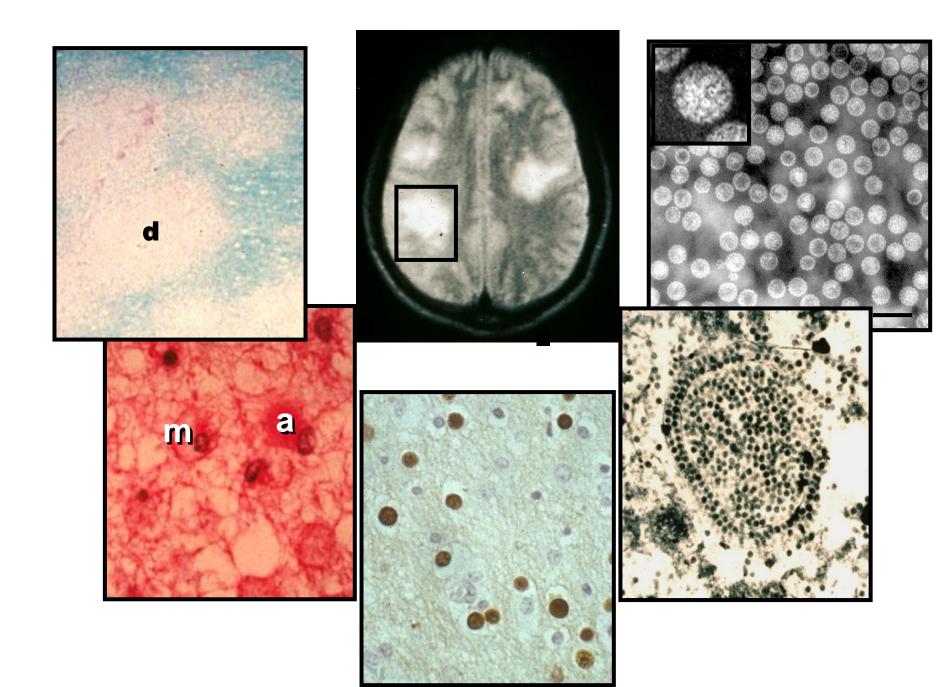
#### Eugene O. Major, Ph.D.

FDA/NIH PML Workshop September 21, 2021 E.O. Major, Ph.D. Disclosures

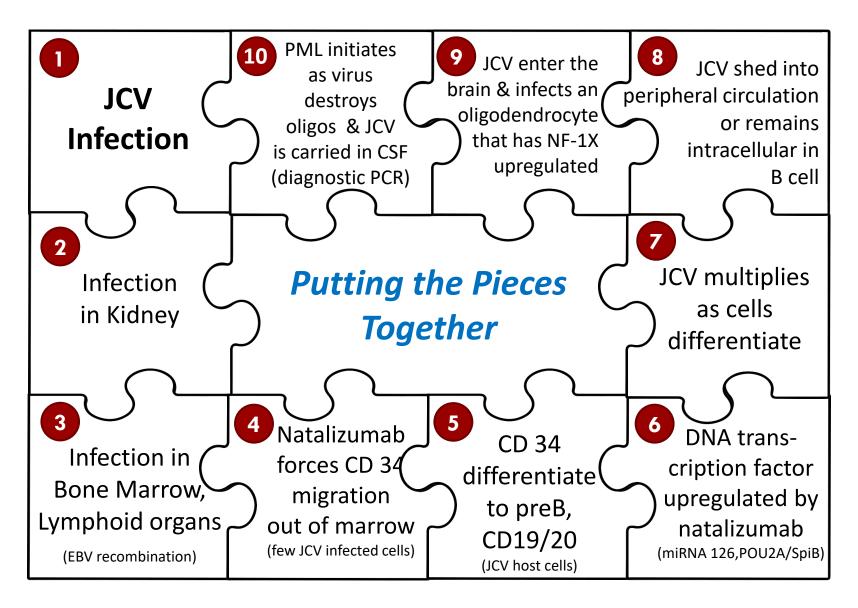
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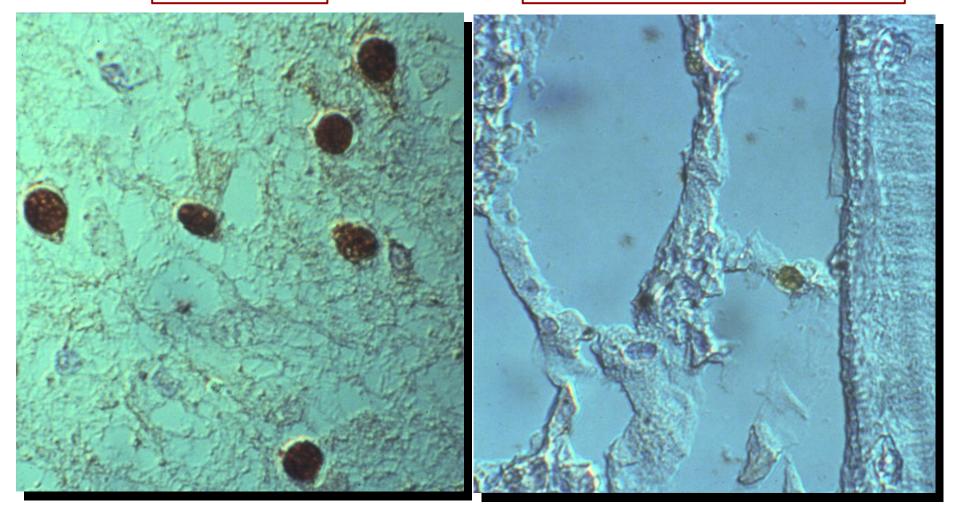
# JCV Pathogenesis of PML:



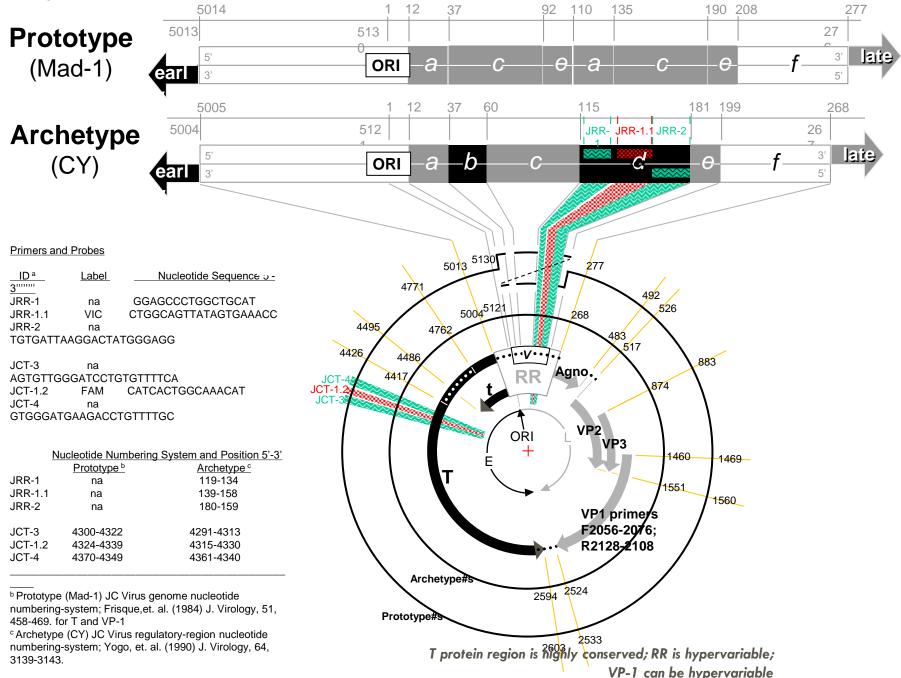
#### In Situ Hybridization of Biopsy Tissue with Genomic JCV DNA Probe

## BRAIN

### BONE MARROW

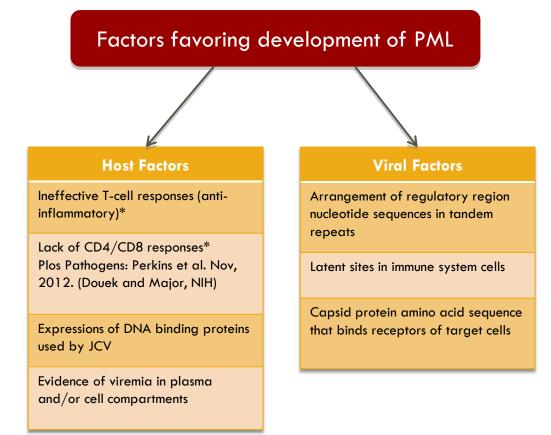


JCV genome map: Tri-Plex qPCR assay targets T, NCCR, and VP-1 genome regions and defines variants



## Pathogenic Mechanisms in Patient Populations

- Lack of immune surveillance (T cell)
  - Cellular immune response against the virus (functional/ineffective)
  - Humoral immune response (unknown role of antibody)
- Virus reactivated from latency in peripheral compartments that are affected by alterations of immune function i.e. natalizumab, rituximab, efalizumab; 'stochastic event' but linked with mechanism of immune modulation/suppression (no data suggest that therapies assist in establishment of viral latency)
- Different mechanisms for viral reactivation depending upon patient history and treatment for underlying disease; HIV infection differs from Mab treatments differs from small molecule drugs like mycophenylate.



#### Summary for JCV/PML

- 1. Antibody levels can rise during active infection but no evidence for protection. *Issue: Routine/Reliable assay; standards are needed*
- 2. T cell responses directed to structural and non structural proteins; controls infection. *Issue:* CD 4 and CD 8 responses to viral antigens
- 3. JCV latency is associated with cells of the immune system; reactivation can follow alteration of normal immune cell function and traffic virus to brain *Issue: sites of viral latency; outside/inside the brain*

<u>Risk 'assessment' markers for PML that can be measured in blood:</u>

1. Rising antibody titers 2. Any evidence of viremia with pathogenic genotype 3. Ineffective T cell responses 4. Molecular host factors that support JCV infection

Major E.O. et al. Annals of Neurology 69: 430-431, 2011.