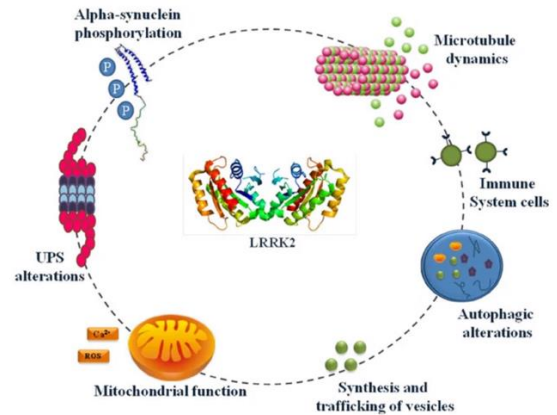


Hawaii joins Harvard, Duke and UCSF to investigate BIIB122 blocking LRRK2 (Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2) to Restore Lysosomal Activities to Slow Parkinson's Progression

According to [Parkinson's News Today](#), Parkinson's does not have a clear genetic cause, but research suggests that mutations in the gene that codes for the protein leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2), also known as dardarin, may increase a person's disease risk. Mutations in the LRRK2 gene, which broadly cause an overactivation of LRRK2, are associated with both familial and sporadic Parkinson's disease, but patients without these mutations also show higher levels of active LRRK2 protein.



The many jobs of LRRK2. Source: Researchgate

While the role of LRRK2 is not fully clear, a body of research suggests that its aberrant activation affects transit within cells, particularly the activity of lysosomes, subcellular compartments responsible for breaking down and recycling excess material and damaged cell parts. Abnormalities in lysosome activity may contribute to neurodegeneration. *Photos credit:*

<https://scienceofparkinsons.com/2022/01/24/lrrk2-2/>



BIIB122/DNL151, co-developed by Denali and Biogen, is a selective small molecule designed to cross the blood-brain barrier and block LRRK2 activity, specifically in the nervous system. The companies believe that doing so could restore lysosomal function and potentially slow Parkinson's progression. Phase 2b LUMA study — will evaluate BIIB122/DNL151 in patients with and without LRRK2 mutations.

Who can qualify? Diagnosed with PD within 2 years, Currently on No PD medications



"Our team of neurologists, neuroscience specialists and researchers in Hawaii cannot be more proud to be part of this ground breaking research to develop a drug to potentially slow Parkinson's disease progression" says [Kore Liow, MD](#), Principal Investigator, Neurologist & Neuroscience Chair at Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience & Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University Hawaii JABSOM



CLINICAL TRIALS

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