PET imaging of adenosine A2A receptors
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After one and a half years of painstaking experiments on my first project — PET imaging of alpha-synuclein, I was sitting in Rudi’s office, feeling sad about the termination of my first project, and worried about the plan B — imaging of adenosine $A_{2A}$ receptors. I had no clue about the A2A project, so I asked a good deal of questions based on the limited literature that I had read, hoping to get some support and comfort from Rudi and my daily supervisors — Philip and Erik. But rather disappointingly, Rudi seemed unsatisfied at my reaction to my new project, he responded that I should not only post questions but find the way to solve them. ‘What! I am just a beginner. It’s already a great encouragement to ask these questions’, I went out of the office, unhappy. Rudi is right. Finally, I truly understood his attitude one year after the appointment. Now I am at the end of my PhD career and I know how a responsible researcher should be: asking interesting questions and dealing with them to the best of your ability. Thanks Rudi, your criticism pushes me moving forward in science.

Philip and Erik, my daily supervisors, thank you for your tolerance. I think I am a rather tough student, but don’t be annoyed with me. I challenged you as I challenge myself. When I disagreed, it usually means that I want more elaboration. Philip and Erik, thank you for your guidance and support during the past 5 years. I can still recall the moment when I had the telephone interview with Erik. I found it very stressful. I wrote down tips and taped them everywhere in the room: on the walls, tables, chairs, wardrobe doors… I was struggling to memorize and pronounce the names of isotopes correctly. At that time, I had no confidence about my level of English and no idea of radiochemistry. Through your education of me, I become a qualified radiochemist, an independent researcher, and am capable of completing my thesis, writing articles, and presenting my work in international conferences. I would like to thank Philip for providing me with opportunities and freedom to try my ideas. Without your help, I would not be able to test my compounds with alpha-synuclein in my first project and have successful cooperation with researchers from Japan in my second project. Erik, thank you for your constructive criticisms of my research and my writings. Your criticisms were difficult to handle and sometimes
made me feel awkward, but they were extremely helpful in improving my thinking and the quality of my manuscripts. Furthermore, thank you for saving many C-11 syntheses by fixing problems of RESY on time!

I would also like to thank my reading committee — Adriaan Lammertsma, Guy Bormans, and Teus van Laar — for spending the time critically reading and approving my thesis.

Many thanks are also addressed to Johan de Jong, my supervisor of the dosimetry study. Thank you for being my friend and for all the interesting discussions on wide variety of topics. I want to express my deep gratitude to Ronald Boellaard, thank you for teaching me everything interesting in kinetic modeling and your efforts in improving the quality of research in our department. I was impressed by your open and positive attitude on learning new things. Aren, I felt very happy and relaxed during our discussions. You are a very knowledgeable and kind person. Especially thank you for your patience and cooperation in our AcertaPharma project. Janine, because of your help with the Inveon camera, we have succeeded in the application of preclinical PET imaging in dosimetry studies. Thank you! Also many thanks for your involvement in the PD rat study. Chantal and Jürgen, thank you for being my parannymphs. Jürgen, I really appreciate all the work you have done for me. Thank you for providing the surgical training. Thank you for arranging PET scans, transporting and preparing animals. You were the unsung hero of my research. A special ‘thanks’ goes to Chantal. Your suggestions on \[^{[11]}\text{C}\]preladenant synthesis was a great help on optimization of tracer production. Also thank you for your friendship and help with my study. Bram and Rolf, you were always there when I needed your support. Your enormous help made my research much easier and more enjoyable. I will always remember the time we worked together in the PET lab. I would also like to thank Hilde, Michèl, Janet, and Petra, for your efforts to keep our lab clean and well organized. I want to thank Gert and Marianne for your help with metabolite analysis and LC-MS analysis. I am particularly grateful to Antoon and Michel Koole for the informative discussions on the basics of pharmacokinetic modeling, which sparked my interest in this field. Thanks to Klaas Willem for solving ICT-related problems. Sarita and Annegrit, thank you very much for your help with all arrangements and dealing with the many financial problems during my PhD.

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Thanks to my parents. Mama, Baba, no words can express how much I love you. You always show me your concern as I am still your little girl, but at the same time, you give me freedom to take risks, make mistakes, and pursue whatever future that I chose. Thank you for your understanding and great support!

Finally, my love goes to Guohui Huang. My achievement is partly yours. Thank you for all your affection, even though it is coming from thousands of miles away, I can still feel the warmth of your love. You are the person I believe and trust the most, and the reason why I strive to achieve my best. Because of you, I have managed to keep healthy and overcome all obstacles, because I believe in the future, our future.

Xiaoyun Zhou
26 November 2016

‘In a thousand different forms you may hide yourself, but all the same, my best-beloved, I will recognize you’
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
List of Abbreviations

Aβ          Amyloid-β peptide
A<sub>n</sub>R Adenosine A<sub>n</sub> receptor
AC          Adenylyl cyclase
AD          Alzheimer’s disease
AIC         Akaike information criterion
AIM         Abnormal involuntary movement
ANOVA       Analysis of variance
ARG         Autoradiography
ATP         Adenosine triphosphate
AUC         Area under the curve
BBB         Blood brain-barrier
BD          Biodistribution
B<sub>max</sub> Total density of target molecules
BOLD        Blood oxygenation-level dependent
BP<sub>ND</sub> Non-displaceable binding potential
Bq          Becquerel
BRET        Bioluminescence resonance energy transfer
cm          Centimeter
CBV         Cerebral blood volume
Ci          Curie
CNS         Central nervous system
COV         Coefficient of variation
C<sub>P</sub>  Radioactivity concentration in plasma
C<sub>R</sub>  Radioactivity concentration in a reference region
C<sub>T</sub>  Radioactivity concentration in tissue
CT          Computed tomography
Da          Atomic mass unit dalton
D<sub>n</sub>R Dopamine D<sub>n</sub> receptor
DMAA        N,N-Dimethylacetamide
DMSO        Dimethyl sulfoxide
2D-OSEM     2-Dimensional ordered-subset expectation maximization algorithm
DVR         Distribution volume ratio
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Effective dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ED_{50}$</td>
<td>Drug dose corresponds to 50% occupancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERK</td>
<td>Extracellular signal–regulated kinase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESI-HRMS</td>
<td>Electro-spray ionization high-resolution mass spectrometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fmol</td>
<td>Femtomole</td>
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<tr>
<td>fMRI</td>
<td>Functional magnetic resonance imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDG</td>
<td>Fluo-2-rodeoxy-D-glucose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOV</td>
<td>Field of view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Gram</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBq</td>
<td>Gigabequerel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCF</td>
<td>Global correction factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDNF</td>
<td>Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPe</td>
<td>Globus pallidus pars externa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPi</td>
<td>Globus pallidus pars interna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCl</td>
<td>Hydrogen chloride</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>Huntington’s disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPLC</td>
<td>High performance liquid chromatography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hz</td>
<td>Herz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>Intra-class correlation coefficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRP</td>
<td>International Commission on Radiological Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keV</td>
<td>Kiloelectronvolt</td>
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<tr>
<td>$K_1-k_n$</td>
<td>Rate constant ‘n’</td>
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<tr>
<td>kBq</td>
<td>Kilobecquerel</td>
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<tr>
<td>kDa</td>
<td>Kilodalton</td>
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<tr>
<td>$K_d$</td>
<td>Dissociation constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kg</td>
<td>Kilo gram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_i$</td>
<td>Inhibition constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_i$</td>
<td>Metabolic rate constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-DOPA</td>
<td>Levodopa</td>
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<td>LGA</td>
<td>Logan graphical analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LID</td>
<td>Levodopa-induced dyskinesia</td>
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<td>LogD$_{7.4}$</td>
<td>Octanol water partition coefficient at pH7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>min</td>
<td>Minute</td>
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<td>mL</td>
<td>Minilitre</td>
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<tr>
<td>mm</td>
<td>Minimitre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>--------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>mmol</td>
<td>Minimole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mM</td>
<td>Minimolar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Molar concentration (1 M = 1 mole/litre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBq</td>
<td>Mega becquerel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHz</td>
<td>Megahertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
<td>Magnetic resonance imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTM</td>
<td>Ichise’s multilinear reference tissue model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nm</td>
<td>Namometre</td>
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<tr>
<td>nM</td>
<td>Nanomolar</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMDA</td>
<td>N-methyl-D-aspartate</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMR</td>
<td>Nuclear magnetic resonance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occ_{max}</td>
<td>Maximum occupancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-OHDA</td>
<td>6-Hydroxydopamine</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSEM3D/MAP</td>
<td>Ordered set expectation maximization-3-Dimension/maximum a posteriori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>Phosphate-buffered saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>Parkinson’s disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG400</td>
<td>Polyethylene glycol 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET</td>
<td>Positron-emission tomography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVE</td>
<td>Partial volume effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>Quality control</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLogan</td>
<td>Reference tissue Logan plot</td>
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<td>ROI</td>
<td>Regions of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>Reverse-phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT</td>
<td>Residence time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNc</td>
<td>Substantia nigra pars compacta</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNr</td>
<td>Substantia nigra pars reticulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPM</td>
<td>Statistical parametric mapping</td>
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<td>SPMS</td>
<td>Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRTM</td>
<td>Simplified reference tissue model</td>
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<tr>
<td>STN</td>
<td>Subthalamic nucleus</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUV</td>
<td>Standardized uptake value</td>
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<td>SUV_r</td>
<td>Standardized uptake value ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sv</td>
<td>Sievert</td>
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<td>Symbol</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t(_{1/2})</td>
<td>Half-life</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>Tesla</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Time-activity curve</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAT</td>
<td>Trans-activator of transcription</td>
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<tr>
<td>nTCM</td>
<td>n-Tissue compartment model</td>
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<tr>
<td>THF</td>
<td>Tetrahydrofuran</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>Thin-layer chromatography</td>
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<tr>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Transmembrane</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRV</td>
<td>Test-retest variability</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSPO</td>
<td>Translocator protein 18 kDa</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPLC</td>
<td>Ultra-high performance liquid chromatography</td>
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<tr>
<td>v/v</td>
<td>Volume per volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>V(_B)</td>
<td>Fractional blood volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>V(_{ND})</td>
<td>Non-displaceable volume of distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>VOI</td>
<td>Volume of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>V(_T)</td>
<td>Volume of distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>YFP</td>
<td>Yellow fluorescent protein</td>
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<tr>
<td>µg</td>
<td>Microgram</td>
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<tr>
<td>µL</td>
<td>Microlitre</td>
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<td>Micromolar</td>
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<td>µm</td>
<td>Micrometre</td>
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<td>µSv</td>
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