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From: [REDACTED]
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Subject: GI/neuro

Quick debrief

Looks like the Hopkins folks are really trying hard to push the boundaries and would be open to exploring

They are close but not really getting it - for example, they are working to improve motility in the gastroparetic Parkinsons patients (instead of realizing that Parkinson's probably starts as a GI disease) or they want to modulate neuroepithelial cells to fend off bacterial pathogenic toxins (instead of thinking through the microbiome and how to leverage that instead of screwing with your own cells) etc.

While they talk about the optogenetics to improve and focus the stimulation capacity in neurodegenerative disease they don't really think about how to fix it.

When I asked about the vagus nerve they were like "wow, yeah we just do GI stuff but if you want to come and be vagus genius that would be great" and i was a little disappointed that they just tried to understand their little gi/vagus part and not the whole thing

They do have some good techniques that could apply broadly

the optogenetics stuff could be neat, sort like little vagal stimulators everywhere there were problems. like the heart (for afib) or spleen (for activated T cells, muy pronto) or even for seizures at the micro level. they are hoping to build microstimulators to adhere to neruepithelial cells in the gut - which is why i say that they can't connect the dots. why not create optogenetic stimulators from the cells and not adhere anything? or why not try to do a combo thing with probiotics (microflora) and channel optics.

But tons of potential

He's working bloomberg i think for \$12 million to do a mind-food institute so i think he's "close" to getting it

i will go visit lab next week and then you should find a time to come down and see

More soon