

## MS05-03 | TRANSPORT OF ENANTIOMERIC NEUROTRANSMITTERS BY SLC1A FAMILY OF PROTEINS

Guskov, Albert (University of Groningen, Groningen)

Mammalian glutamate transporters (belonging to Solute Carrier Family 1 of transporters) are crucial players in neuronal communication as they perform neurotransmitter reuptake from the synaptic cleft. Besides L-glutamate and L-aspartate, they also recognize D-aspartate, which might participate in mammalian neurotransmission and/or neuromodulation. We investigated binding and transport of enantiomeric substrates in archaeal homologue of glutamate transporters - Glt<sub>Tk</sub> from *Thermococcus kodakarensis*. We observed that Glt<sub>Tk</sub> transports D-aspartate with identical Na<sup>+</sup> : substrate coupling stoichiometry as L-aspartate, and that the affinities ( $K_d$  and  $K_m$ ) for the two substrates are very similar. Additionally, we solved a crystal structure of Glt<sub>Tk</sub> with bound D-aspartate at 2.8 Å resolution and compared it with the L-aspartate bound Glt<sub>Tk</sub> structure. The new structure explains how the geometrically different molecules L- and D-aspartate are recognized and transported by the protein in the same way and provides a clue to explain the puzzling observation why mammalian SLC1A transporters readily transport L- but not D-glutamate.