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### Title

Pro-resolving Lipid Mediators Within Brain Esterified Lipid Pools are Reduced in Female Rats Chronically Exposed to Traffic-Related Air Pollution or Genetically Susceptible to Alzheimer's Disease Phenotype

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1 **Pro-resolving lipid mediators within brain esterified lipid pools are reduced in female rats**  
2 **chronically exposed to traffic-related air pollution or genetically susceptible to Alzheimer's**  
3 **Disease phenotype**  
4

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27

28 **Running title:** Air pollution and AD modify brain esterified lipid mediators

29 **Abstract:**

30 Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) is a risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) where  
31 neuroinflammation underlies disease progression and pathogenesis. Unresolved inflammation in  
32 AD is known to be exacerbated by brain deficits in unesterified pro-resolving lipid mediators  
33 enzymatically synthesized from polyunsaturated fatty acids. Recently, we reported that in the  
34 brain, unesterified pro-resolving lipid mediators which are bioactive, can also be supplied from  
35 less bioactive esterified lipid pools such as neutral lipids (NLs) and phospholipids (PLs). It is not  
36 known whether esterified pro-resolving lipid mediators are affected by AD pathology and  
37 exacerbated by TRAP exposure. In the present study we addressed this data gap using TgF344-  
38 AD male and female rats that express human AD risk genes and their wildtype littermates  
39 exposed to filtered air (FA) or TRAP from 1 to 15 months of age. Esterified lipid mediators  
40 within NLs and PLs were quantified by mass-spectrometry. We observed a significant reduction  
41 in pro-resolving lipid mediators in both NLs and PLs of female TgF344-AD rats compared to  
42 wildtype controls. TRAP exposure also reduced pro-resolving lipids in the female brain, mainly  
43 in PL pools, but did not exacerbate changes observed in TgF344-AD rats. Minimal changes were  
44 observed in males. Our findings indicate that AD genotype and chronic TRAP exposure result in  
45 sex-specific deficits in brain esterified pro-resolving lipid mediators, the pool that supplies free  
46 and bioactive lipid mediators. These data provide new information on lipid-mediated  
47 mechanisms regulating impaired inflammation resolution in AD, and show for the first time that  
48 chronic TRAP exposure targets the same lipid network implicated in AD.

49

50 **Keywords:**

51 oxylipin, Alzheimer's Disease, air pollution, rat brain, lipid mediator, phospholipid, neutral lipid,  
52 mass-spectrometry, inflammatory resolution

53 **Abbreviations:**

54 AA: arachidonic acid

55 AD: Alzheimer's Disease

56 ALA: alpha-linolenic acid

57 ANOVA: analysis of variance

58 BHT: butylated hydroxytoluene

59 COX: cyclooxygenase

60 CYP: cytochrome P450

61 DGLA: dihomo-gamma-linoleic acid

62 DHA: docosahexaenoic acid

63 DiHETE: dihydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid

64 DiHETrE: dihydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid

65 DiHOME: dihydroxy-octadecenoic acid

66 DiHPDA: dihydroxy-docosapentaenoic acid

67 EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid

68 EPA: eicosapentaenoic acid

69 EpDPE: epoxy-docosapentaenoic acid

70 EpETE: epoxy-eicosatetraenoic acid

71 EpETrE: epoxy-eicosatrienoic acid

72 EpOME: epoxy-octadecenoic acid

- 73 FA: filtered air
- 74 HDoHE: hydroxy-docosahexaenoic acid
- 75 HEPE: hydroxy-eicosapentaenoic acid
- 76 HETE: hydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid
- 77 HETrE: hydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid
- 78 HODE: hydroxy-octadecadienoic acid
- 79 HOTrE: hydroxy-octadecatrienoic acid
- 80 LA: linoleic acid
- 81 LOX: lipoxygenase
- 82 LT: leukotriene
- 83 LX: lipoxin
- 84 NO<sub>2</sub>: nitrogen dioxide
- 85 NL: neutral lipid
- 86 oxo-ETE: oxo-eicosatetraenoic acid
- 87 oxo-ODE: oxo-octadecadienoic acid
- 88 PM: particulate matter
- 89 PG: prostaglandin
- 90 PGDH: hydroxy-prostaglandin dehydrogenase PL: phospholipid
- 91 PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acid
- 92 sEH: soluble epoxide hydrolase
- 93 SPE: solid phase extraction
- 94 TPP: triphenyl phosphine
- 95 TRAP: traffic-related air pollution

- 96 TriHOME: trihydroxy-octadecenoic acid
- 97 TX: tromboxane
- 98 UPLC-MS/MS: ultra high-pressure liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

## 99 **1. Introduction**

100 Alzheimer's disease (AD), the main cause of age-related dementia, affects 6.2 million  
101 Americans aged 65 or older [1], and is the fifth-leading cause of death among the elderly [2]. At  
102 present there is no therapy for AD, which is why considerable efforts have been made to  
103 understand modifiable risk factors such as environmental exposures (reviewed in [3]).

104 One environmental factor strongly associated with increased risk of AD is chronic exposure  
105 to traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) [4, 5]. TRAP is a complex and heterogeneous mixture of  
106 vehicle emissions, road dust and secondary air pollutants including gases and particles [6].  
107 Evidence from epidemiological studies suggests that individuals who live less than 50 meters  
108 from a major roadway have a 7% increased risk of dementia compared to individuals living 200  
109 meters away [7]. Consistent with these observations, increased exposure to TRAP components  
110 (i.e., ozone and particulate matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) [8], nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> [9]) has been  
111 shown to increase the risk of AD.

112 Both AD and TRAP exposure are associated with immune activation characterized by an  
113 elevation in circulating and tissue (lung and brain) cytokines [10-12]. In vivo, the effects of  
114 cytokines are mediated by short-lived bioactive lipid mediators (i.e. oxylipins) derived from the  
115 oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids via cyclooxygenase (COX) [13, 14], lipoxygenase (LOX)  
116 [15, 16], cytochrome P450 (CYP) [17], 15-hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase (15-PGDH) [18]  
117 and soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH) enzymes [19-21]. Pro-inflammatory oxylipins are elevated  
118 in the brain of transgenic animal models of AD [21, 22] and in post-mortem brain of patients  
119 with AD pathology [15, 23, 24]. Similarly, TRAP exposure has been shown to increase the  
120 concentration of pro-inflammatory oxylipins in human serum/plasma [25, 26].



121 Oxylipins are also involved in inflammation resolution, the process of halting inflammation,  
122 and repairing or replacing damaged cells [27]. Resolution pathways are impaired in AD, as  
123 evidenced by the marked reduction of pro-resolving oxylipins of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA),  
124 including 10,17S-docosatriene (neuroprotectin D1) and maresin 1, as well as arachidonic acid  
125 (AA)-derived lipoxin A4 (LXA4) in cerebrospinal fluid, hippocampus, and entorhinal cortex of  
126 AD patients compared to non-AD controls [24, 28, 29]. Brain concentrations of pro-resolving  
127 DHA-derived neuroprotectin D1[30] and DHA-epoxides (epoxydocosapentaenoic acids,  
128 EpDPEs)[31], as well as AA- derived epoxides (epoxyeicosatrienoic acids, EpETrEs) [21, 31, 32]  
129 and 15-hydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid (15-HETE) [22], were also shown to be lower in  
130 transgenic mouse models of AD compared to genetically unaltered controls. It is not known  
131 whether TRAP exposure alters these inflammation resolution oxylipin pathways in the brain.

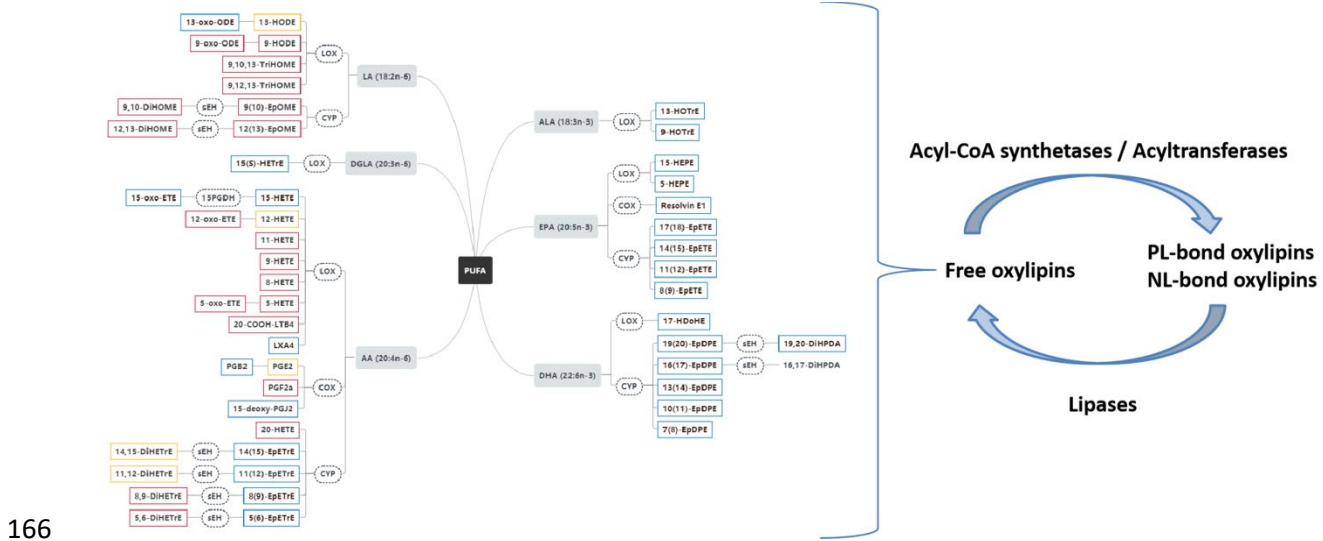
132 To date, all studies have characterized lipid mediator disturbances in AD by measuring the  
133 concentration of free (i.e., unesterified) oxylipins. Although oxylipins are enzymatically  
134 synthesized in the brain by COX, LOX, 15-PGDH, CYP450 and sEH, they can also be released  
135 from or sequestered (i.e. re-esterified) to the more abundant esterified lipid pool within the brain  
136 as shown in the pathway illustrated in **Figure 1**. In this regard, we reported that approximately  
137 90% of oxylipins in the rat brain are bound to phospholipids (PLs) and neutral lipids (NLs)  
138 consisting of triacylglycerides and cholesteryl esters [33, 34]. We also showed, in vivo, that  
139 esterified oxylipins can both release or sequester free oxylipins through a turnover pathway that  
140 regulates the bioavailability of the free oxylipin pool (**Figure 1**) [34]. Free oxylipins are  
141 bioactive [35, 36], whereas oxylipins bound to PLs or NLs are inactive [37, 38].

142 It is not known whether *esterified* oxylipins involved in inflammation or resolution are  
143 altered in AD or by TRAP exposure. This knowledge gap is important to address because

144 changes in the esterified oxylipin pool might mechanistically explain why free pro-resolving  
145 oxylipins are reduced in animal models of AD and in human post-mortem brain of subjects with  
146 AD pathology. Also, knowing whether TRAP exposure targets the same pathways might help  
147 understand convergent biochemical networks that underlie AD etiology.

148 The purpose of this study was three-fold. First, we aimed to test whether bound (i.e.  
149 esterified) oxylipins involved in inflammation and inflammation resolution are altered by AD  
150 phenotype in rats. Second, we wished to understand whether chronic TRAP exposure, a  
151 significant risk factor for AD, also alters bound oxylipins in a manner similar to AD. Third,  
152 because AD disproportionately affects more females than males [39, 40], we explored whether  
153 females would be more impacted than males by the effects of AD and TRAP.

154 We hypothesized that AD genotype and TRAP exposure alter rat brain NL- and PL-bound  
155 oxylipins in a sex-dependent manner. The TgF344-AD rat, a transgenic rat model of AD  
156 expressing mutations in the human Swedish amyloid precursor protein (APP<sup>swe</sup>) and  $\Delta$ exon 9  
157 presenilin-1 (PS1 $\Delta$ E9), was used to test this hypothesis. The TgF344-AD rat develops cognitive  
158 impairment and neuropathological features of AD including microglial activation, beta amyloid  
159 plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain, unlike other transgenic models of AD which  
160 develop only a subset of these hallmark AD phenotypes [41]. TRAP exposure was recently  
161 shown to promote AD phenotypes in the TgF344-AD rat and their WT littermates [42] Thus, in  
162 this study, we exposed male and female TgF344 and wildtype littermate rats for 14 consecutive  
163 months to filtered air (FA) or TRAP captured from a heavily trafficked freeway tunnel in  
164 Northern California, to test whether AD genotype or chronic TRAP exposure alters esterified  
165 oxylipins in the brain.



166

167 **Figure 1.** Pathway of detectable oxylipins that were measured in the present study. Frames  
 168 surrounding each oxylipin classify whether it is pro- or anti-inflammatory based on the literature:  
 169 1) oxylipins with red frames have pro-inflammatory effects; 2) oxylipins with blue frames have  
 170 anti-inflammatory / pro-resolving effects; and 3) oxylipins with yellow frames have both pro-  
 171 and anti-inflammatory effects. Esterified oxylipins within phospholipids (PL) or neutral lipids  
 172 (NL) pool can be released via lipase enzymes to generate free (unesterified) oxylipins. Free  
 173 oxylipins can also be sequestered into NL and PL pools via acyl-CoA synthetase and  
 174 acyltransferase enzymes. Both lipase-mediated release and acyl-CoA synthetase/acyltransferase-  
 175 mediated sequestration regulate the availability of free oxylipins. Abbreviations: PUFA,  
 176 polyunsaturated fatty acid; LA, linoleic acid; DGLA, dihomo-gamma-linoleic acid; AA, arachidonic  
 177 acid; ALA, alpha-linolenic acid; EPA, eicosapentaenoic acid; DHA, docosahexaenoic acid; COX,  
 178 cyclooxygenase; CYP, cytochrome P450; LOX, lipoxygenase; sEH, soluble epoxide hydrolase; 15-  
 179 PGDH, 15-hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase; DiHETE, dihydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid;  
 180 DiHETrE, dihydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid; DiHOME, dihydroxy-octadecenoic acid; DiHPDA,  
 181 dihydroxy-docosapentaenoic acid; EpDPE, epoxy-docosapentaenoic acid; EpETE, epoxy-  
 182 eicosatetraenoic acid; EpETrE, epoxy-eicosatrienoic acid; EpOME, epoxy-octadecenoic acid;  
 183 HDoHE, hydroxy-docosahexaenoic acid; HEPE, hydroxy-eicosapentaenoic acid; HETE, hydroxy-  
 184 eicosatetraenoic acid; HETrE, hydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid; HODE, hydroxy-octadecadienoic  
 185 acid; HOTrE, hydroxy-octadecatrienoic acid; oxo-ETE, oxo-eicosatetraenoic acid; oxo-ODE,  
 186 oxo-octadecadienoic acid; TriHOME, trihydroxy-octadecenoic acid; LX, lipoxin; PG, prostaglandin;  
 187 LT, leukotriene.

188

189

190

## 191 **2. Methods**

### 192 *2.1 Chemicals and reagents*

193 Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA; Cat #EDS-100G), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT;  
194 Cat #W218405-SAMPLE-K) and triphenyl phosphine (TPP; Cat #3T84409) were purchased  
195 from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

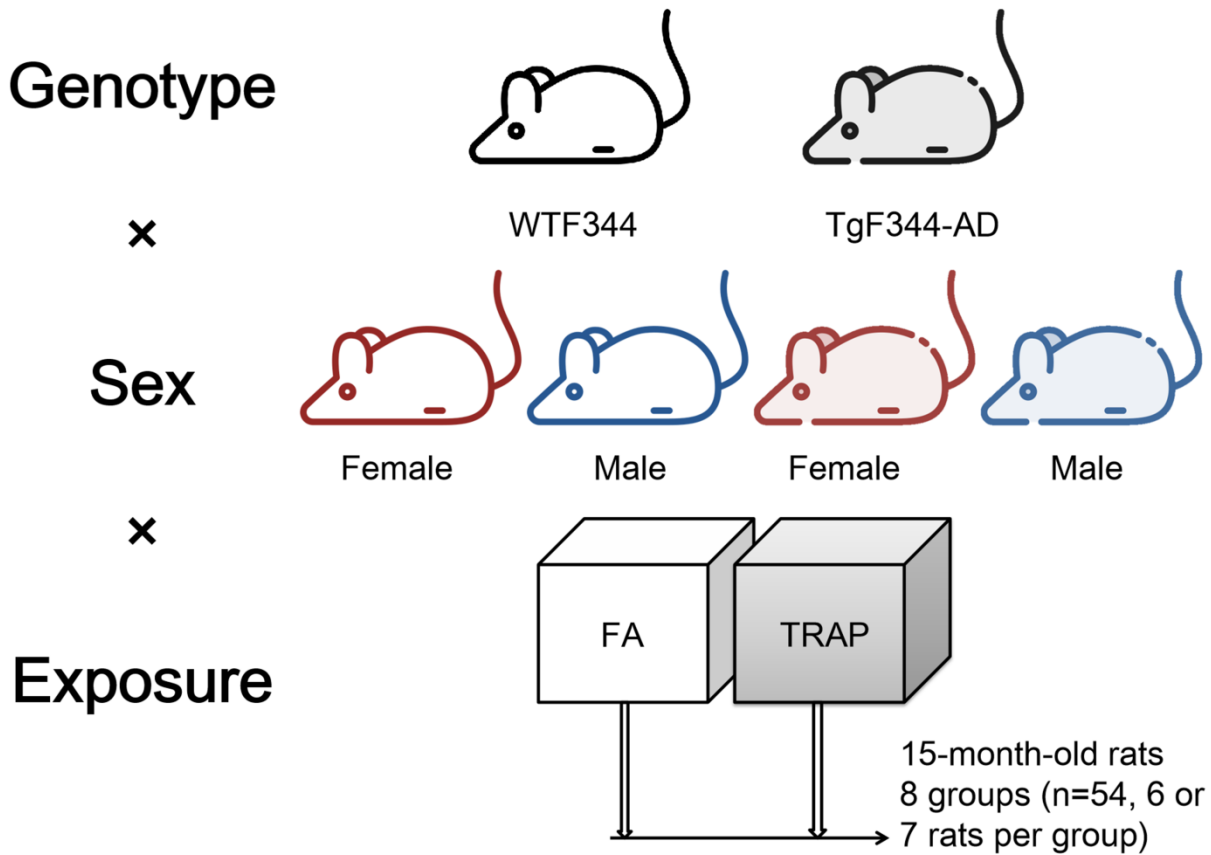
196 Oxylin standards were purchased from Cayman Chemical (Ann Arbor, MI, USA) or  
197 Loradan Biomedical (Davis, CA, USA). Deuterated surrogate standards used for oxylin  
198 quantitation were obtained from Cayman Chemical. These include d11-11(12)-  
199 epoxyeicosatrienoic acid (d11-11(12)-EpETrE, Cat # 10006413), d11-14,15-  
200 dihydroxyeicosatrienoic acid (d11-14,15-DiHETrE, Cat # 1008040), d4-6-keto-Prostaglandin F1  
201 alpha (d4-6-keto-PGF1a, Cat # 315210), d4-9-hydroxyoctadecadienoic acid (d4-9-HODE, Cat #  
202 338410), d4-Leukotriene B4 (d4-LTB4, Cat # 320110), d4-Prostaglandin E2 (d4-PGE2, Cat #  
203 314010), d4-Tromboxane B2 (d4-TXB2, Cat # 319030), d6-20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid  
204 (d6-20-HETE, Cat # 390030), and d8-5-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (d8-5-HETE, Cat #  
205 334230).

### 206 *2.2 Animals and traffic-related air pollution exposure*

207 Animal experiments were conducted according to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of  
208 Laboratory Animals and were approved by the UC Davis Institutional Animal Care and Use  
209 Committee (IACUC). Male TgF344-AD transgenic rats expressing Swedish” mutant human APP  
210 (APP<sup>sw</sup>) and  $\Delta$  exon 9 mutant human presenilin-1 (PS1 $\Delta$ E9) genes were obtained from Emory  
211 University [41]. Female wildtype Fischer 344 (WTF344) rats were purchased from Charles River  
212 Laboratories. Male TgF344-AD and female WTF344 rats were bred at UC Davis vivarium, and  
213 the resulting offspring was genotyped [42]. On postnatal day 28 (approximately 1 month of age),

214 54 rats (27 males and 27 females consisting of TgF344-AD and WTF344 rats each) were  
215 transferred to a tunnel facility situated near a heavily trafficked freeway tunnel system in  
216 Northern California (see next paragraph for details) [43]. Half of the rats per genotype and per  
217 sex were randomly assigned to the FA vs. TRAP groups and exposed continuously for up  
218 to 14 months as previously described [42]. Thus, there were 8 groups in total as shown in the  
219 overall study design depicted in **Figure 2** (n=54 rats in total, 8 groups, 6 or 7 rats per group). The  
220 animals were euthanized at 15 months of age.

221 The tunnel facility was built to capture gaseous and particulate components of real-world  
222 TRAP [44, 45]. It had a filtering system that provided FA to exposure chambers housing the FA  
223 group or TRAP collected from the traffic tunnel and delivered unchanged in real-time to  
224 exposure changers housing the TRAP group. During the 14 month-long exposure period, total  
225 particle numbers and mean 24 h PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in the TRAP chambers were 10-100 and ~62 fold  
226 higher than in FA chambers, respectively [42]. At the end of the exposure period, rats were  
227 transported to the UC Davis vivarium, where they were anesthetized with 2-3% isoflurane for a  
228 single MRI/PET imaging session before being euthanized 23 days later with 4% isoflurane  
229 (Southmedic Inc., Barrie ON) in medical-grade air/oxygen (2:1 v/v) mixture delivered at a rate of  
230 1.5 L/min followed by exsanguination via perfusion of ice-cold saline as previously described  
231 [42]. Brains were dissected and cut in half using a stainless-steel rat brain matrix (Zivic  
232 Instruments, Pittsburgh, PA). The left hemisphere was microdissected to obtain brain regions for  
233 cytokine assays. The right hemisphere was used for lipidomic measurements as detailed below.  
234 Samples were immediately collected in centrifuge tubes, snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and  
235 stored at -80 °C until they were analyzed.



236

237 **Figure 2.** Study design. A total of 54 male and female TgF344-AD and WTF344 rats were  
238 randomly distributed to filtered air (FA) or traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) exposure  
239 beginning at approximately one month of age (at postnatal day 28) until they were 15-months old  
240 (total exposure period of 14 months). There were 8 groups in total, each composed of 6 or 7 rats  
241 per group.

242

### 243 2.3 Brain lipid extraction

244 Brain total lipids were extracted from the right hemisphere using a modified Folch method  
245 [46, 47]. Brains were weighed and transferred into new 2 mL centrifuge tubes pre-cooled and  
246 maintained on dry ice. The average brain weight was ~800 mg. Three zirconia beads and  
247 approximately 700  $\mu$ L solution of 1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA and 0.9% NaCl dissolved in MilliQ water  
248 (kept at 4 °C before use) were then added into each centrifuge tube containing the brain samples.  
249 Because rat brain contains ~90% water [48], the total volume of the aqueous phase was

250 approximately ~1420  $\mu\text{L}$  (700  $\mu\text{L}$  added + ~720  $\mu\text{L}$  coming from the brain). The brain was  
251 homogenized in a Bullet Blender (Next Advance Storm 24, Averill Park, NY, USA) for 30 s  
252 twice, and the resulting homogenate was transferred into 8 mL glass tubes containing 4 mL  
253 chloroform. The centrifuge tubes were then washed with 1 mL of 0.006% BHT methanol  
254 solution (pre-cooled in a 4 °C fridge before use) and vortexed for 30 s. The mixture in the  
255 centrifuge tubes was transferred into the above 8 mL glass tubes. This step was repeated one  
256 more time to ensure that all lipids in the 2 mL centrifuge tubes were completely transferred to the  
257 8 mL glass tubes. The 8 mL glass tubes containing brain total lipid extracts were vortexed and  
258 centrifuged at  $920\times g$  for 15 min at 0 °C in a Sorvall RT 6000 centrifuge (Bio Surplus, San  
259 Diego, CA, USA). The bottom chloroform layer from each extraction was transferred into a new  
260 8 mL glass tube. 4 mL chloroform were added to the remaining upper layer and the samples were  
261 vortexed and centrifuged again at  $920\times g$  for 15 min at 0 °C. The bottom chloroform layer was  
262 transferred and combined with the first chloroform extract in the 8 mL glass tube.

263 The total brain lipid extract was dried under nitrogen and reconstituted in 8 mL of  
264 chloroform/isopropanol (2:1 v/v). Samples were stored in a -80 °C freezer. Every 19 brain  
265 samples were accompanied by an additional method blank consisting of 800  $\mu\text{L}$  of MilliQ water  
266 (instead of 800 mg of rat brain), that underwent the same extraction procedures outlined above.

#### 267 *2.4 Separation of neutral lipids (NL) and phospholipids (PL)*

268 Waters silica solid phase extraction (SPE) columns (Sep-Pak Silica, 1 cc, 100 mg, Waters  
269 Corporation, Milford, MA; Cat #WAT023595) were used to separate NLs from polar lipids  
270 including PLs and any residual free oxylipins that were not removed during Folch extraction [49].  
271 Methanol (1.5 mL) and 2:1 v/v chloroform/isopropanol (1.5 mL) were loaded onto each silica  
272 SPE column to activate and equilibrate the column. The column was loaded with 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of brain



273 total lipid extract (containing ~ 3 mg of total lipids) dissolved in chloroform/isopropanol (2:1  
274 v/v), and eluted with 1.5 mL of chloroform/isopropanol (2:1 v/v). The eluent containing NLs was  
275 collected in 2 mL centrifuge tubes. The column was then loaded with 1.5 mL of 95% methanol,  
276 and the eluent containing polar lipids (e.g. phospholipids) was collected in another 2 mL  
277 centrifuge tube.

278 The eluent containing polar lipids in 95% methanol was adjusted to 80% methanol by  
279 adding 281  $\mu$ L of MilliQ water to the 1.5 mL extract. The entire mixture was loaded onto Waters  
280 tC18 columns (Sep-Pak tC18, 1 cc, 100 mg, Waters Corporation, Milford, MA; Cat  
281 #WAT036820) pre-rinsed with one column volume of methanol and 1.5 mL of 80% methanol.  
282 The column was washed with 2 mL of 80% methanol to remove free fatty acids and free  
283 oxylipins, followed by 2 mL methanol to elute PLs which were collected in 2 mL centrifuge  
284 tubes and stored in -80 °C until further use. The efficiency of separation of PLs from free  
285 oxylipins was confirmed using free oxylipin surrogate standards subjected to the same separation  
286 method; here though, both the PL and free oxylipin fractions were collected and analyzed by  
287 mass-spectrometry to measure recoveries. As shown in **Supplementary Table 1**, 97.8%-99.3%  
288 of the free deuterated surrogate standards were recovered in the free fraction, suggesting that free  
289 oxylipins were well-separated from PLs. The only exception was free d6-20-HETE which had a  
290 recovery of 66.9% in the free fraction. This means that approximately 33% of free HETEs are  
291 likely to co-elute with PLs, leading to overestimation of their concentrations in PLs.

### 292 *2.5 Hydrolysis of neutral lipid (NL) and phospholipid (PL)*

293 The collected NL and PL fractions were dried under nitrogen and dissolved in 200  $\mu$ L of  
294 ice-cold extraction solvent containing 0.1 % acetic acid and 0.1% of BHT in methanol. Each  
295 sample was spiked with 10  $\mu$ L of antioxidant solution containing 0.2 mg/mL BHT, EDTA and



296 TPP in water/methanol (1:1 v/v) and 10  $\mu$ L of surrogate mix standard solution containing 2  $\mu$ M  
297 of d11-11(12)-EpETrE, d11-14,15-DiHETrE, d4-6-keto-PGF1 $\alpha$ , d4-9-HODE, d4-LTB4, d4-  
298 PGE2, d4-TXB2, d6-20-HETE, and d8-5-HETE in LC-MS grade methanol (i.e. 20 picomole per  
299 sample). Then, 200  $\mu$ L of 0.25 M sodium hydroxide in water/methanol (1:1 v/v) was added to  
300 each sample. The mixture was vortexed and heated for 30 minutes at 60°C on a heating block to  
301 hydrolyze esterified oxylipins. After cooling it for 5 min, 25  $\mu$ L of acetic acid and 1575  $\mu$ L of  
302 MilliQ water were added. The samples were vortexed and stored at -20 °C (for ~1 h) for further  
303 purification of the hydrolyzed oxylipins by SPE as described in the following section.

#### 304 *2.6 Oxylipin separation by SPE*

305 Free oxylipins were isolated using Waters Oasis HLB SPE columns (3 cc, 60 mg, 30  $\mu$ m  
306 particle size; Waters Corporation, Milford, CA, USA; Cat #WAT094226) as previously  
307 described [49]. The SPE columns were washed with one column volume of ethyl acetate and two  
308 column volumes of methanol, and pre-conditioned with two column volumes of SPE buffer  
309 containing 0.1% acetic acid and 5% methanol in MilliQ water. The hydrolyzed samples were  
310 loaded onto the columns, which were then washed with two column volumes of SPE buffer and  
311 dried under vacuum ( $\approx$ 15-20 psi) for 20 min. Oxylipins were then eluted from the columns with  
312 0.5 mL methanol and 1.5 mL ethyl acetate, and collected in 2 mL centrifuge tubes. The samples  
313 were dried under nitrogen, reconstituted in 100  $\mu$ L LCMS grade methanol, vortexed for 2 min,  
314 and centrifuged at 15,871  $\times g$  (0°C; 5424 R Centrifuge; Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) for 2  
315 min. The samples were transferred to centrifuge tubes containing a filter unit (Ultrafree-MC VV  
316 Centrifugal Filter, 0.1  $\mu$ m; Millipore Sigma, Burlington, MA, USA; Cat # UFC30VV00) and  
317 centrifuged at 15,871  $\times g$  (0°C) for 20 min. The filtered samples were transferred into 2 mL  
318 amber LC-MS vials (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA; Cat #AR0-3911-13) with pre-slit caps

319 (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA; Cat #AR0-8972-13-B) and inserts (Waters Corporation,  
320 Milford, CA, USA; Cat #WAT094171). Samples were stored in a -80 °C freezer for further ultra  
321 high-pressure liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS) analysis.

### 322 *2.7 Oxylipins analysis by UPLC-MS/MS*

323 A total of 76 oxylipins were measured with UPLC-MS/MS, using an Agilent 1290 Infinity  
324 UPLC system coupled to an Agilent 6460 Triple Quadrupole mass-spectrometer (Agilent  
325 Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The ULC was equipped with an Agilent ZORBAX  
326 Eclipse Plus C18 column (2.1 × 150 mm, 1.8 µm particle size; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara,  
327 CA, USA; Cat #959759-902) to separate oxylipins. The column was kept at 45 °C. The system  
328 was operated in a negative electrospray ionization mode with optimized dynamic Multiple  
329 Reaction Monitoring (dMRM) conditions. Optimized MRM parameters for each oxylipin are  
330 shown in **Supplementary Table 2**.

331 The temperature of the auto-sampler was set at 4 °C and the sample injection volume was  
332 10 µL. Mobile phase A contained 0.1% acetic acid in MilliQ water and Mobile phase B  
333 consisted of acetonitrile/methanol (80:15 v/v) containing 0.1% acetic acid. The mobile phase  
334 gradient and pressure program was as follows: 1) 0-2 min, 35% B, 0.25 mL/min (this was  
335 diverted into a waste bottle and not injected into the mass-spec); 2) 2-12 min, 35 to 85% B, 0.25  
336 mL/min; 3) 12-15min, 85% B, 0.25 mL/min; 4) 15.1-17 min, 85% to 100% B, 0.4 mL/min; 5)  
337 17.1-19 min, 100 to 35% B, 0.4 mL/min; and 6) 19-20 min, 35% A, 0.3 mL/min. The total run  
338 time was 20 minutes.

### 339 *2.8 Data and statistical analysis*

340 Data were analyzed on GraphPad Prism v.8.02 (La Jolla, CA, USA) or SPSS 20.0 (SPSS  
341 Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Data are presented as mean ± standard deviation (SD). Missing

342 oxylipins values in 1, 2 or 3 subjects per group were imputed by dividing the lowest observable  
343 concentration on the standard curve by the square root of 2. The number of imputed values for  
344 each group are shown in **Supplementary Table 3**. The effects of sex, genotype and exposure on  
345 brain NL and PL oxylipins were compared by three-way analysis of variance (ANOVA); the  
346 effects of genotype and exposure on brain NL or PL oxylipins per sex were compared by one-  
347 way ANOVA followed by Duncan's post-hoc test. Statistical significance was accepted at  $p <$   
348 0.05.

### 349 **3. Results**

#### 350 *3.1 Effects of AD genotype and TRAP exposure on NL-bound oxylipins in brain of 15-month-old* 351 *rats*

352 Three-way ANOVA showed that sex and AD genotype were the main factors affecting  
353 oxylipins in NLs; in contrast, TRAP was not a main factor affecting oxylipins (**Supplementary**  
354 **Table 4**).

355 Sex effects were statistically significant for dihomo-gamma-linoleic acid (DGLA)-derived  
356 15(S)-hydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid (15(S)-HETrE), AA-derived 12-oxo-eicosatetraenoic acid  
357 (12-oxo-ETE), 5(6)-EpETrE, and LXA4, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)-derived 11(12)-epoxy-  
358 eicosatetraenoic acid (11(12)-EpETE) and Resolvin E1, and DHA-derived oxylipins including  
359 19(20)-epoxy-docosapentaenoic acid (19(20)-EpDPE), 16(17)-EpDPE, 13(14)-EpDPE, 10(11)-  
360 EpDPE, 7(8)-EpDPE, and 16,17-dihydroxy-docosapentaenoic acid (16,17-DiHPDA). All of  
361 these oxylipins were significantly higher by 16% to 65% in brain NLs of females compared to  
362 males.

363 AD genotype significantly impacted DGLA-derived 15(S)-HETrE, AA-derived 15-HETE,  
364 11-HETE, 11(12)-EpETrE, 14,15-DiHETrE, 11,12-DiHETrE, and 8,9-DiHETrE, EPA-derived

365 11(12)-EpETE, and DHA-derived 19(20)-EpDPE, 19,20-DiHPDA and 16,17-DiHPDA within  
366 NLs ( $p < 0.05$ ; **Supplementary Table 4**).

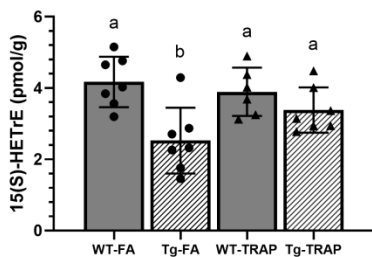
367 To better visualize AD-specific changes per sex, a one-way ANOVA was applied in male  
368 and female wildtype and TgF344-AD rats exposed to FA or TRAP. The analysis revealed  
369 significant changes in NL-bound oxylipins in TgF344-AD females exposed to either FA or  
370 TRAP (**Figure 3**), and a few changes in males (**Supplementary Table 5**).

371 In females (**Figure 3**), DGLA-derived 15(S)-HETrE (**3-a**), AA-derived 20-HETE, 15-  
372 HETE, 11-HETE, 11(12)-EpETrE and 14,15-DiHETrE (**3-b**), EPA-derived 17(18)-EpETE and  
373 11(12)-EpETE (**3-d**), and DHA-derived 19(20)-EpDPE, 16(17)-EpDPE, 13(14)-EpDPE, 10(11)-  
374 EpDPE, 7(8)-EpDPE and 19,20-DiHPDA (**3-e**), were significantly lower by 22%-43% in Tg-FA  
375 rats compared to WT-FA controls ( $p < 0.05$ ). The majority of these oxylipins (AA-derived  
376 11(12)-EpETrE and 14,15-DiHETrE, and DHA-derived 19(20)-EpDPE, 16(17)-EpDPE, 13(14)-  
377 EpDPE, 7(8)-EpDPE and 19,20-DiHPDA), as well as AA-derived 5-oxo-ETE and 11,12-  
378 DiHETrE, and DHA-derived 16,17-DiHPDA, were also lower by 8%-43% in Tg-TRAP rats  
379 compared to WT-FA or WT-TRAP, suggesting an AD-effect, independent of TRAP exposure on  
380 these oxylipins. Alpha-linolenic acid (ALA)-derived 13-hydroxy-octadecatrienoic acid (13-  
381 HOTrE) was 4-fold higher in Tg-TRAP compared to WT-TRAP (**Figure 3-c**,  $p < 0.05$ ), but  
382 neither groups differed significantly from WT-FA controls. Overall, the data suggest that AD-  
383 genotype reduced multiple oxylipins in NLs of female rats, and that TRAP exposure did not  
384 further exacerbate the effects of AD genotype on NL oxylipin concentrations.

385 TRAP exposure minimally affected NL oxylipins in WT rats. The few observed changes  
386 included a significant increase in AA-derived 12-oxo-ETE by ~2-fold in WT-TRAP rats

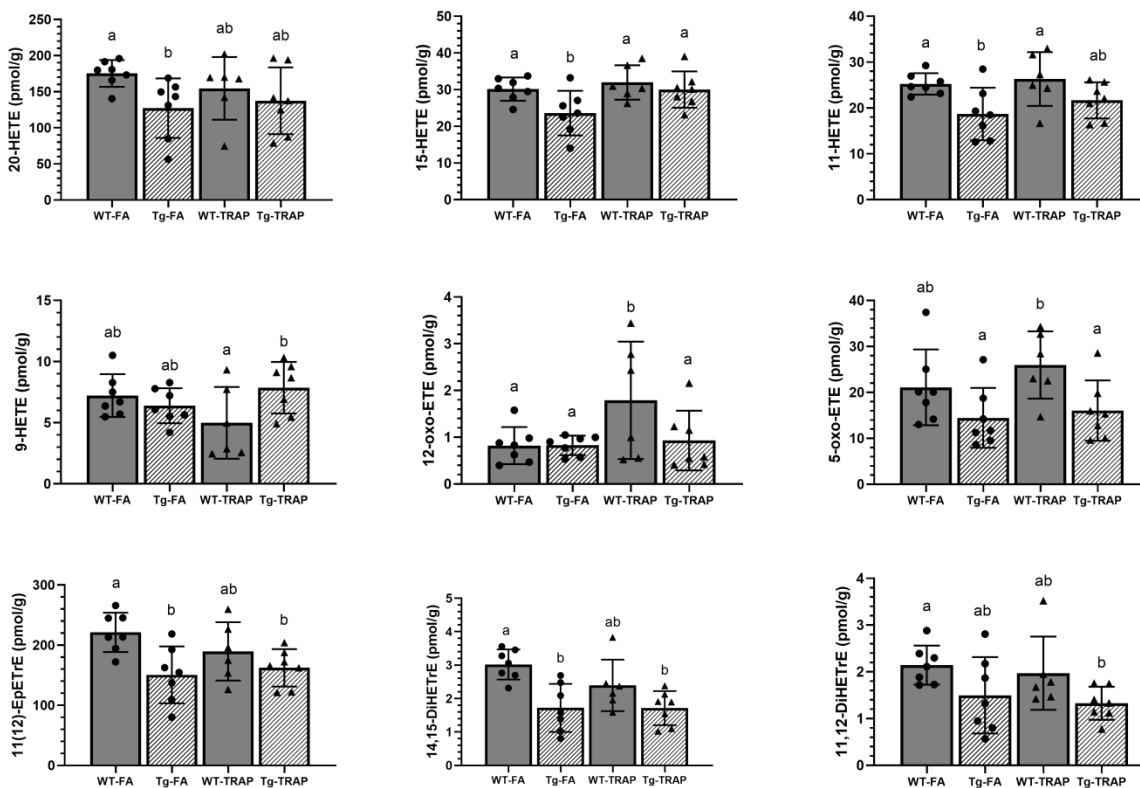
387 compared to WT-FA, Tg-FA and Tg-TRAP rats (**Figure 3-b**), and a significant 22% decrease in  
388 DHA-derived 7(8)-EpDPE in WT-TRAP rats compared to WT-FA controls (**Figure 3-e**).

### (a) DGLA-derived oxylipins



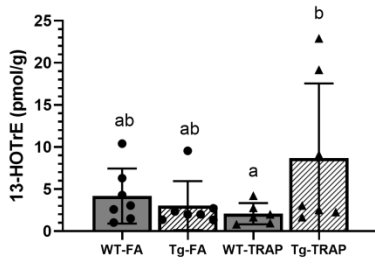
389

### (b) AA-derived oxylipins



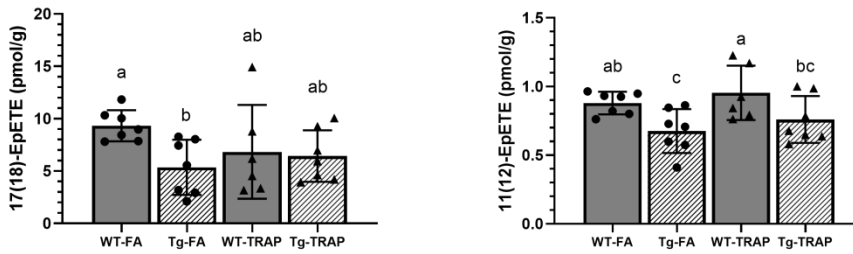
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### (c) ALA-derived oxylipins



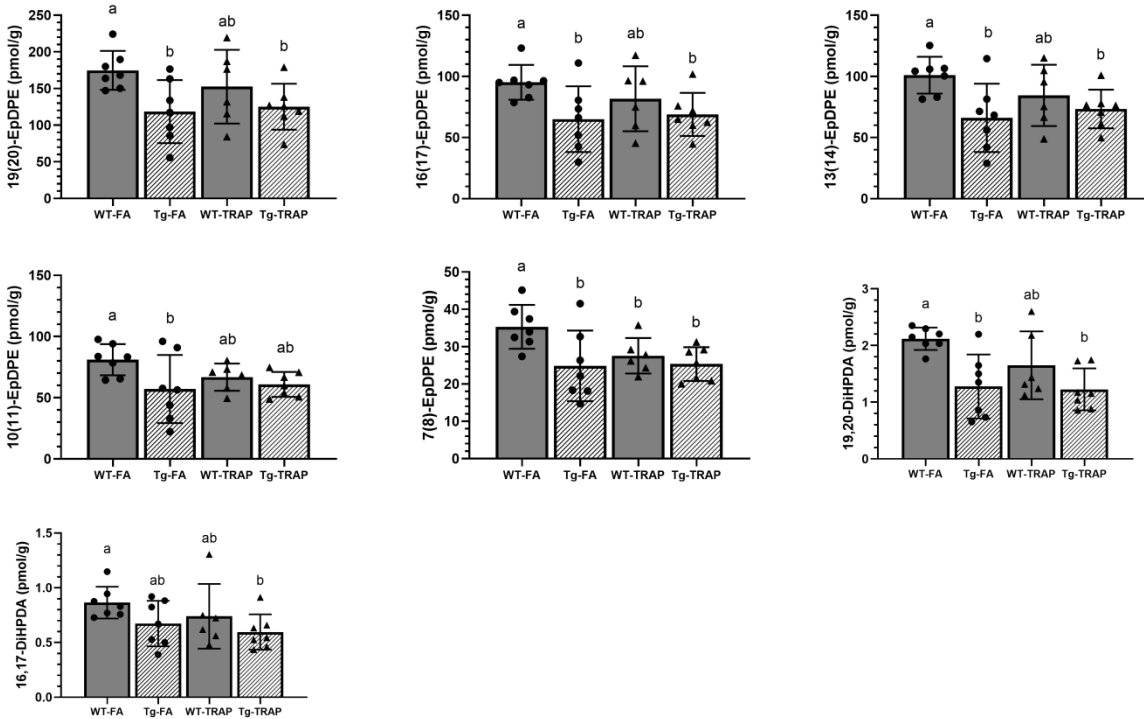
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### (d) EPA-derived oxylipins



392

### (e) DHA-derived oxylipins



393

394 **Figure 3.** Oxylipin concentrations in brain neutral lipids (NLs) of 15-month-old wildtype (WT)  
395 or TgF344-AD (Tg) female rats exposed to filtered air (FA) or traffic-related air pollution (TRAP)  
396 for 14 months (n=27). Bar graphs represent mean  $\pm$  SD of n = 7 WT-FA, n = 7 Tg-FA, n = 6  
397 WT-TRAP, and n=7 Tg-TRAP. (a) dihomo-gamma-linoleic acid (DGLA)-derived oxylipins; (b)  
398 arachidonic acid (AA)-derived oxylipins; (c) alpha-linolenic acid (ALA)-derived oxylipins; (d)  
399 eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)-derived oxylipins; (e) docosaehaenoic acid (DHA)-derived  
400 oxylipins. Oxylipin abbreviations: DiHETE, dihydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid; DiHETrE,  
401 dihydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid; DiHOME, dihydroxy-octadecenoic acid; DiHPDA, dihydroxy-  
402 docosapentaenoic acid; EpDPE, epoxy-docosapentaenoic acid; EpETE, epoxy-eicosatetraenoic  
403 acid; EpETrE, epoxy-eicosatrienoic acid; EpOME, epoxy-octadecenoic acid; HDoHE, hydroxy-  
404 docosaehaenoic acid; HEPE, hydroxy-eicosapentaenoic acid; HETE, hydroxy-eicosatetraenoic  
405 acid; HETrE, hydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid; HODE, hydroxy-octadecadienoic acid; HOTrE,  
406 hydroxy-octadecatrienoic acid; oxo-ETE, oxo-eicosatetraenoic acid; oxo-ODE, oxo-  
407 octadecadienoic acid; TriHOME, trihydroxy-octadecenoic acid.  
408

409 In males, no significant differences in brain NL-bound oxylipins of LA, DGLA, ALA, EPA  
410 and DHA were observed (**Supplementary Table 5**); however, a few AA-derived oxylipins were  
411 altered (**Supplementary Table 5**). 9-HETE was 40% lower in Tg-TRAP versus Tg-FA rats ( $p <$   
412 0.05), 8-HETE was lower by 45% in Tg-TRAP compared to WT-TRAP, and 15-deoxy-PGJ2  
413 was 49% lower in Tg-TRAP than WT-FA ( $p < 0.05$ ). These minimal changes are difficult to  
414 interpret.

### 415 *3.2 Effects of AD genotype and TRAP exposure on PL-bound oxylipins in brain of 15-month-old* 416 *rats*

417 Three-way ANOVA showed significant main effects of sex, TRAP exposure and AD  
418 genotype on brain PL oxylipins (**Supplementary Table 6**). Sex significantly altered LA-derived  
419 13-oxo-octadecadienoic acid (13-oxo-ODE) and 12(13)-epoxy-octadecenoic acid (12(13)-  
420 EpOME), which were higher by 21% and 19% in brain PLs of females than males, respectively  
421 ( $p < 0.05$ ). TRAP significantly altered PL-bound AA-derived 11,12-DiHETrE and LXA4, and  
422 DHA-derived 19,20-DiHPDA ( $p < 0.05$ ). Genotype significantly altered AA-derived 20-HETE,



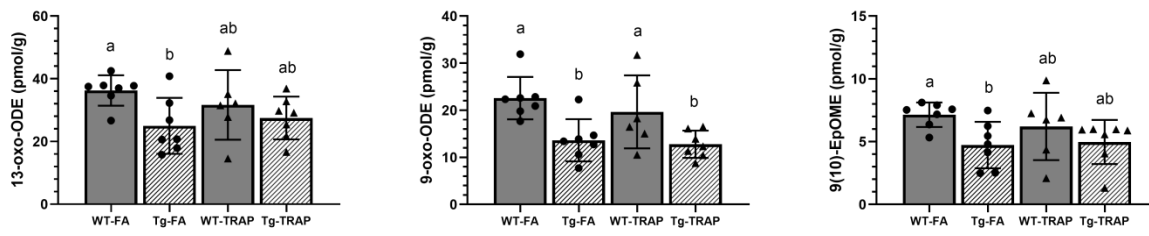
423 8-HETE, 8(9)-EpETrE, 14,15-DiHETrE, 11,12-DiHETrE and 8,9-DiHETrE, and DHA-derived  
424 19,20-DiHPDA ( $p < 0.05$ ).

425 A one-way ANOVA followed by Duncan's post-hoc test was used to examine the effects of  
426 genotype and exposure within female and male rats. **Supplementary Table 7** shows all oxylipin  
427 concentration values in brain PLs of males and females. As shown, there were no significant  
428 effects of AD genotype or TRAP exposure in males. However, significant changes were  
429 observed in females as depicted in **Figure 4**. AD genotype was associated with significant  
430 changes in PL-bound oxylipins. Compared to WT-FA controls, the Tg-FA group had  
431 significantly lower concentrations of LA-derived 13-oxo-ODE, 9-oxo-ODE and 9(10)-EpOME  
432 (by 31%-40%, **Figure 4-a**), AA-derived HETEs, 15-oxo-ETE, 12-oxo-ETE, 8(9)-EpETrE,  
433 DiHETrEs, PGE2 and PGB2 (by 27%-63%, **Figure 4-b**), EPA-derived 15-hydroxy-  
434 eicosapentaenoic acid (15-HEPE) (by ~42%, **Figure 4-c**), and DHA-derived 17-hydroxy-  
435 docosahexaenoic acid (17-HDoHE), 19(20)-EpDPE, 19,20-DiHPDA and 16,17-DiHPDA (by  
436 24%-42%, **Figure 4-d**). Similar reductions in PL-bound oxylipins were observed in Tg-TRAP  
437 rats compared to WT-FA controls.

438 TRAP exposure alone resulted in significant reductions in AA, EPA and DHA-derived PL-  
439 bound oxylipins in wildtype rats. Compared to WT-FA controls, WT-TRAP rats showed  
440 significant reductions in AA-derived 15-HETE, 11-HETE, 9-HETE, 5-HETE, 14,15-DiHETrE,  
441 11,12-DiHETrE and 5,6-DiHETrE by 23%-40% (**Figure 4-b**,  $p < 0.05$ ), EPA-derived 15-HEPE  
442 by 27% (**Figure 4-c**,  $p < 0.05$ ), and DHA-derived 17-HDoHEE, 19,20-DiHPDA and 16,17-  
443 DiHPDA by 29% to 37% (**Figure 4-d**,  $p < 0.05$ ).

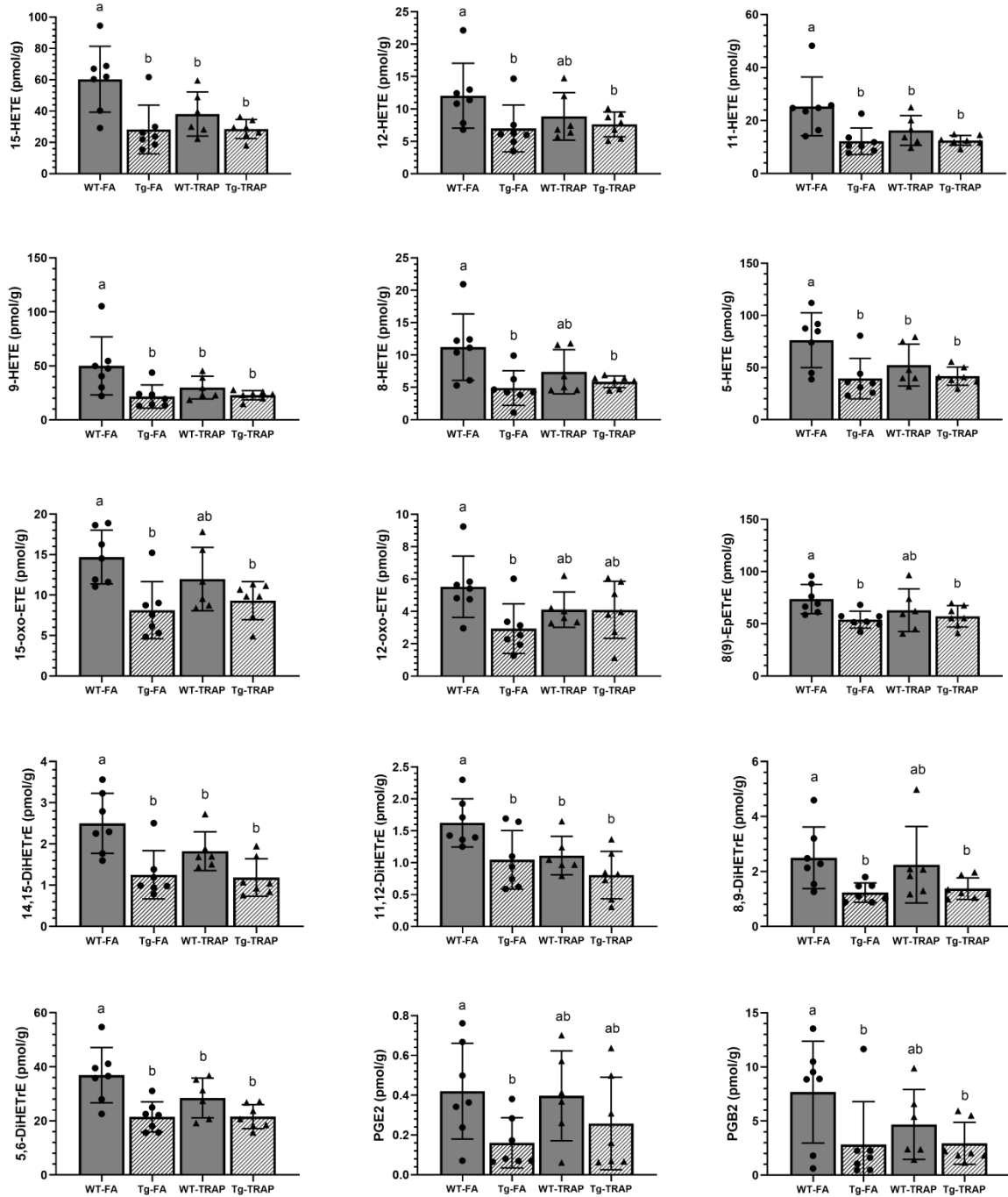


## (a) LA-derived oxylipins



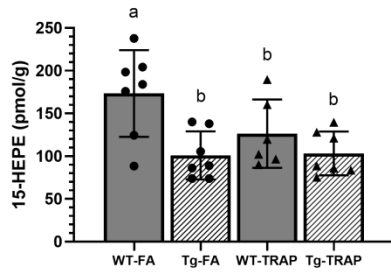
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## (b) AA-derived oxylipins



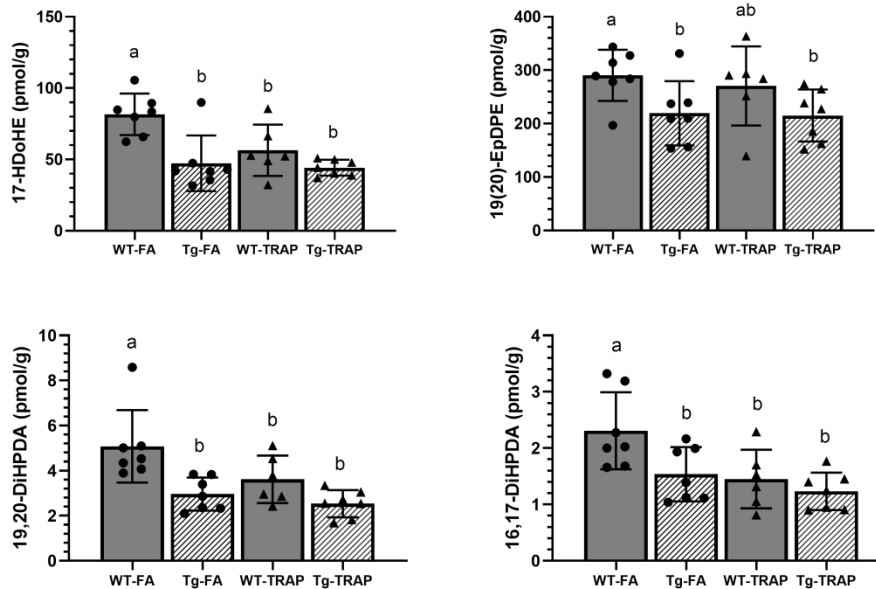
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### (c) EPA-derived oxylipins



446

### (d) DHA-derived oxylipins



447

448 **Figure 4.** Oxylipins concentrations in brain phospholipids (PLs) of 15-month-old wildtype (WT)  
 449 or TgF344-AD (Tg) female rats exposed to filtered air (FA) or traffic-related air pollution  
 450 (TRAP) for 14 months (n=27). Bar graphs represent mean  $\pm$  SD of n = 7 WT-FA, n = 7 Tg-FA, n  
 451 = 6 WT-TRAP, and n=7 Tg-TRAP. (a) linoleic acid (LA)-derived oxylipins, (b) arachidonic acid  
 452 (AA)-derived oxylipins, (c) eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)-dedrived oxylipins, (d)  
 453 docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)-derived oxylipins. Oxylipin abbreviations: DiHETE, dihydroxy-  
 454 eicosatetraenoic acid; DiHETrE, dihydroxy-eicosatrienoic acid; DiHOME, dihydroxy-  
 455 octadecenoic acid; DiHPDA, dihydroxy-docosapentaenoic acid; EpDPE, epoxy-  
 456 docosapentaenoic acid; EpETE, epoxy-eicosatetraenoic acid; EpETrE, epoxy-eicosatrienoic acid;  
 457 EpOME, epoxy-octadecenoic acid; HDoHE, hydroxy-docosahexaenoic acid; HEPE, hydroxy-  
 458 eicosapentaenoic acid; HETE, hydroxy-eicosatetraenoic acid; HETrE, hydroxy-eicosatrienoic  
 459 acid; HODE, hydroxy-octadecadienoic acid; HOTrE, hydroxy-octadecatrienoic acid; oxo-ETE,

460 oxo-eicosatetraenoic acid; oxo-ODE, oxo-octadecadienoic acid; TriHOME, trihydroxy-  
461 octadecenoic acid; PG: Prostaglandin.  
462

#### 463 **Summary of findings:**

464 More pro-resolving than pro-inflammatory oxylipins were changed in AD and TRAP-  
465 exposed female rats. Of the 20 significantly altered oxylipins in brain NLs of female TgF344-AD  
466 rats or WT/ TgF344-AD female rats exposed to TRAP, 75% (or 15 oxylipins) have pro-resolving  
467 effects in vivo (**Figure 3** or **Supplementary Table 5**). Similarly, in PLs, of the 23 significantly  
468 altered oxylipin , 61% (14 oxylipins) are considered pro-resolving (**Figure 4** or **Supplementary**  
469 **Table 7**). Specifically, the following anti-inflammatory oxylipins were significantly lower in  
470 female brain NLs of TgF344-AD rats by 23%-42% relative to WT controls: DGLA-derived  
471 15(S)-HETrE, AA-derived 11(12)-EpETrE, EPA-derived 17(18)-EpETE and 11(12)-EpETE, and  
472 DHA-derived 16(17)-EpDPE, 13(14)-EpDPE, 10(11)-EpDPE and 7(8)-EpDPE). In PLs, the  
473 following species were reduced in TgF344-AD rats relative to WT controls by 27%-63%: LA-  
474 derived 13-oxo-ODE, AA-derived 15-oxo-ETE, 8(9)-EpETrE and PGB<sub>2</sub>, EPA-derived 15-HEPE,  
475 and DHA-derived 17-HDoHE.

476 In TRAP-exposed WT female rats, anti-inflammatory DHA-derived 7(8)-EpDPE was  
477 significantly lower by 22% in brain NLs pool compared to WT-FA controls, and in PLs, WT-  
478 TRAP females exhibited significant reductions 23%-37% in pro-resolving AA-derived 15-HETE  
479 and 5,6-DiHETrE, EPA-derived 15-HEPE, and DHA-derived 17-HDoHEE and 19,20-DiHPDA.

#### 480 **4. Discussion**

481 The main finding of this study is that AD genotype or TRAP exposure for 14 months  
482 reduced the concentration of esterified lipid mediators in the brain of 15-month old female rats.  
483 Most of the changes were seen in pro-resolving lipid mediators. The effects of AD genotype

484 were seen in both NL and PL pools, whereas the effects of TRAP exposure were mainly seen in  
485 PLs. Changes were mainly seen in females but not males, suggesting sex-specific effects.  
486 Together, our findings reflect a sex-dependent deficit in PL- and/or NL-bound pro-resolving  
487 lipid mediators in rats genetically pre-disposed to AD or exposed to TRAP for 14 months.

488 Prior studies have shown a reduction in free pro-resolving lipid mediators in the brain of  
489 transgenic mouse models of AD (DHA-derived EpDPEs [31] and AA-derived EpETrEs [21, 31,  
490 32]) and in the post-mortem brain of AD patients (resolvin D5, maresin 1 and protectin D1 [24,  
491 28], and LXA4 [50]), reflecting impaired resolution pathways. Our present findings point to  
492 marked reductions in esterified lipid precursors to free pro-resolving lipid mediators, in TgF344-  
493 AD and TRAP-exposed WT female rats. As noted earlier, free oxylipins are bioactive, whereas  
494 esterified oxylipins have minimal bioactivity. Thus, a deficit in the esterified oxylipin pool,  
495 which serves as a major source of free oxylipins [34], may explain why free pro-resolving  
496 oxylipins are reduced in AD, where inflammation resolution is impaired. In this study, we also  
497 extend these findings to TRAP exposure, a significant risk factor for AD dementia [4, 5].

498 The observed reduction in esterified pro-resolving lipid mediators in AD and TRAP-  
499 exposed rats may be attributed to changes in brain oxylipin turnover, involving the release of  
500 bound oxylipins and re-esterification of free oxylipins. Oxylipin release is enabled by lipase  
501 enzymes [51], whereas re-esterification is enzymatically facilitated by the acylation of free  
502 oxylipins via fatty acyl-CoA synthetases [52] and esterification of acylated oxylipins (i.e.  
503 oxylipin-CoA) into NLs or PLs by one of 9 sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase isoforms in  
504 the brain (also known as lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferases) [53]. Thus, a decrease in  
505 esterified oxylipins could be due to an increase in lipase-mediated release, decreased acyl-CoA

506 synthetase/ transferase-mediated esterification or a combination of both of these pathways as  
507 shown in **Figure 1**.

508       There is limited information on the specific lipase, acyl-CoA synthetase and acyltransferase  
509 isoforms involved in brain oxylipin turnover. Brain lipase enzymes, including calcium-dependent  
510 phospholipase A2, have been shown to be upregulated in transgenic models of AD and in  
511 humans with AD dementia [28, 54], although it is not known whether these isoforms release  
512 bound oxylipins. Klett et al. showed that recombinant acyl-Co synthetase 4 preferentially  
513 incorporates AA-derived epoxides into PLs in vitro [52], potentially implicating this particular  
514 isoform in the observed reduction in PL-bound AA-epoxides. To our knowledge, acyltransferase  
515 enzymes involvement in oxylipin turnover have not been studied. Identifying the specific lipase,  
516 acyl-CoA synthetase and acyltransferase isoforms involved in pro-resolving oxylipin turnover in  
517 AD and TRAP-exposed rats may inform on new targets that control the bioavailability of free  
518 pro-resolving lipid mediators in the brain.

519       If indeed lipase-mediated release of oxylipins is increased, and their esterification decreased  
520 as we propose above, one would expect an increase in free pro-resolving mediators in AD and  
521 TRAP-exposed brains. Although literature on brain lipidomic changes following TRAP exposure  
522 is lacking, in AD, marked reductions (not increases) in free pro-resolving lipid mediators were  
523 observed in transgenic mouse models and human brain [19, 24, 28, 30, 50]. This could be due to  
524 increased degradation of free pro-resolving lipid mediators upon synthesis, as supported by  
525 studies showing elevated levels of sEH in transgenic mouse models of AD [21]; sEH converts  
526 CYP-derived pro-resolving AA and DHA epoxides into less active fatty acid diols [55]. We did  
527 not measure free pro-resolving oxylipins in this study, because their concentrations change by up  
528 to 150-fold due to post-mortem ischemia and brain dissection compared to esterified oxylipins,

529 which only change by 27-112% [34, 56]. Thus, accurately capturing changes in the free oxylipin  
530 pool ought to be conducted after head-focused microwave irradiation, to stop post-mortem  
531 changes in free oxylipin metabolism.

532 It is also unlikely that the observed reductions in esterified oxylipin concentrations in AD  
533 and TRAP-exposed rats were due to decreases in free oxylipin synthesis via LOX, COX, CYP,  
534 15-PDGH and sEH, a process which would decrease the availability of free oxylipins available  
535 for esterification into NLs and PLs. This is because some of these enzymes (12/15-LOX, 5-LOX  
536 and sEH) were shown to increase in both animal model of AD [21, 32] and in human AD post-  
537 mortem brain [15, 16], suggesting increased capacity to make free pro-resolving oxylipins. The  
538 fact that the pro-resolving free lipids are reportedly reduced in AD suggests that they are  
539 degraded faster than they are synthesized or released from esterified oxylipin pools.

540 Most of the reductions caused by AD or TRAP exposure were observed in pro-resolving  
541 lipid mediators, with only a few reductions seen in pro-inflammatory lipid mediators. Pro-  
542 inflammatory lipid mediators that changed include LA-derived 9-oxo-ODE and 9(10)-EpOME  
543 and AA-derived DiHETrEs, which were reduced by 34-51% in PLs pool of female TgF344-AD  
544 rats, and AA-derived HETEs and epoxyketones (oxo-ETEs) were reduced by 26%-57% in both  
545 NLs and PLs of female TgF344-AD rats or TRAP-exposed WT rats. This is both an interesting  
546 and peculiar finding, because it suggests that AD and TRAP exposure almost selectively impact  
547 pro-resolving lipid pathways versus pro-inflammatory pathways. These observations may be in  
548 response to pro-inflammatory cytokines shown to be elevated in the brain, heart and plasma of  
549 AD transgenic and TRAP-exposed rats (brain data are currently under peer review whereas heart  
550 and plasma data are reported here: [43]). Our findings demonstrate a deliberate attempt by the

551 brain to resolve AD- or TRAP-induced inflammation, likely by utilizing the esterified pro-  
552 resolving lipid pool to generate more free pro-resolving lipid mediators.

553 TRAP exposure reduced esterified oxylipin concentrations in the brains of WT female rats  
554 similar to what we observed in TgF344-AD female rats, suggesting that both environmental and  
555 genetic predispositions to AD target the same lipid esterification pathways. A notable distinction,  
556 however, is that AD genotype reduced pro-resolving lipids in both NLs and PLs, whereas TRAP  
557 exposure reduced them almost exclusively within PLs. It is not entirely clear why different lipid  
558 pools are affected by the two conditions, when neuroinflammation plays a role in both. It is  
559 possible that prolonged exposure to TRAP might alter NL-bound oxylipins. If so, this would  
560 mean that PL-bound oxylipins are more vulnerable to the effects of brain inflammation than NL-  
561 bound oxylipins. In other words, the brain might utilize PL-bound oxylipins first before utilizing  
562 NL-bound oxylipins. This remains to be confirmed with longer exposure studies.

563 There were no additive effects between AD genotype and TRAP exposure, meaning that  
564 TRAP exposure did not further exacerbate the deficits in esterified oxylipin concentrations in  
565 AD transgenic rats, compared to FA exposure. This could be because both AD genes and TRAP  
566 act on a common target (e.g. enzyme or receptor), that release esterified oxylipins or re-esterify  
567 free oxylipins. The net effect, based on this study, is a reduction in esterified pro-resolving  
568 oxylipins. However, further studies are needed to understand the molecular mechanisms  
569 involved.

570 Interestingly, two pro-inflammatory oxylipins were significantly increased in brain NLs of  
571 AD and TRAP-exposed rats. AA-derived 9-HETE was 58% higher in Tg-TRAP females than  
572 WT-TRAP females, and AA-derived 12-oxo-ODE was 2-fold higher in WT-TRAP females than  
573 WT-FA females. This is consistent with studies showing increased free HETEs in AD transgenic



574 mouse brains [22] and human post-mortem brain [15, 23], possibly due to increased  
575 esterification as a mechanism to deactivate their pro-inflammatory free form.

576 The effects of AD-genotype and TRAP were mainly seen in female rats, suggesting greater  
577 vulnerability of females to AD and TRAP exposure. This is consistent with epidemiological data  
578 showing that the risk of AD is about twice greater in females than in males [39, 57]. TRAP  
579 exposure may also contribute to sex vulnerabilities to dementia as a recent study found that,  
580 compared to men, women had a significantly higher risk for cognitive function decline  
581 associated with increased exposure to air pollution (i.e., PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5-10</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>) [58]. This is  
582 mechanistically aligned with findings of this study showing sex-specific changes in esterified  
583 lipid mediators, and with our previous study showing that TRAP-exposed females had more  
584 amyloid plaque deposition compared to TRAP-exposed males at early ages [42].

585 One limitation of this study is that unesterified oxylipins were not measured. This is  
586 because they are more affected by the effects of post-mortem ischemia compared to esterified  
587 oxylipins as discussed above [34, 56]. High-energy microwave-irradiation is necessary to  
588 prevent the artefacts of post-mortem ischemia on the free oxylipin pool, and should be  
589 considered in future studies (Reviewed in [59]). Another limitation is that the animals were  
590 moved from the exposure tunnel to the UC Davis main campus vivarium for 23 days (for  
591 MRI/PET imaging) prior to euthanasia. This exposure-free period is unlikely to change the  
592 outcome of the present study as it is known that PM and various dust elements accumulate and  
593 reside in the brain for a few months post-exposure [60-63]. A third limitation is that we did not  
594 assess vulnerabilities in esterified oxylipins in different brain regions and at earlier time-points.  
595 Doing so would allow us to track age-dependent changes in resolution pathways and to see

596 whether they start in brain structures known to be involved in AD pathogenesis (e.g.  
597 hippocampus).

598 In summary, the present study found significant reductions in pro-resolving lipid mediators  
599 in brain esterified lipid pools of female rats expressing an AD phenotype or exposed to TRAP.  
600 Esterified oxylipins within PLs and NLs were impacted by AD, whereas PL-bound oxylipins  
601 were impacted by TRAP exposure. Our study shows disturbances in major lipid pools regulating  
602 the in vivo availability of free pro-resolving lipid mediators in brain. This may explain why  
603 inflammation resolution pathways are impaired in AD, and why chronic TRAP exposure  
604 increases the risk of AD dementia (i.e. by impairing resolution pathways involving esterified  
605 lipids). Targeting pro-resolving oxylipin release or esterification may have therapeutic benefits  
606 in AD caused by genetic vulnerabilities or chronic TRAP exposure.

607

#### 608 **Acknowledgements:**

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613

#### 614 **Conflicts of interest:**

615 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

616

617 **Supplementary information:**

618 **Supplementary Table 1.** Percentage of free surrogates in phospholipids (PL) and free lipids  
619 fractions (n=3). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD.

620 **Supplementary Table 2.** Retention time, parent ion, product ion, and internal standards used in  
621 neutral lipids (NL) and phospholipids (PL) of the 76 quantified oxylipins in rat brain samples.

622 **Supplementary Table 3.** Number of imputed oxylipins values in each group of 15-month-old  
623 rats that were missing 1, 2, or 3 values.

624 **Supplementary Table 4.** Three-way ANOVA *p* value results of brain oxylipins in neutral lipids  
625 fraction of 15-month-old rats (n=54)

626 **Supplementary Table 5.** Oxylipins concentrations in brain neutral lipids of 15-month-old rats  
627 (n=54). Data within female or male groups are analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by  
628 Duncan's post-hoc test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. WT: wildtype gene; Tg: Alzheimer's  
629 Disease transgenic gene; TRAP: traffic-related air pollution exposure; FA: filtered air exposure.

630 **Supplementary Table 6.** Three-way ANOVA *p* value results of brain oxylipins in phospholipids  
631 fraction of 15-month-old rats (n=54)

632 **Supplementary Table 7.** Oxylipins concentrations in phospholipids fraction of 15-month-old  
633 rats (n=54). Data within female or male groups are analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by  
634 Duncan's post-hoc test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. WT: wildtype gene; Tg: Alzheimer's  
635 Disease transgenic gene; TRAP: traffic-related air pollution exposure; FA: filtered air exposure.

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