VASCULAR CALCIFICATION IN THE BRAIN

Vascular calcification associated with the vascular aging is prevalent in the elderly population. Unlike peripheral vascular calcification, intracranial calcifications are poorly characterized. Due to relatively low resolution of CT imaging, additional histopathological analyses are required to identify calcification of microvasculature. Dr. Keller will in detail discuss the pathophysiology of vascular calcification in a neuropsychiatric disease – primary familial brain calcification, where the presence of vascular calcification in the basal ganglia is a diagnostic criterion. In addition, she will present recent findings on the role of microglia in regulating the growth of these vascular calcifications.