

**ESM Figure 2: Reduced NK1R expression in stem cells of diabetic patients**. CD34<sup>+</sup> cell count (**a**), and the respective expression of the SP receptor NK1R (**b**) were quantified in non-diabetic (black) and type 2 diabetic patients divided according to complications (none, white; neuropathic, light grey; or neuroischaemic, dark grey, \*P<0.05 vs. ND. Panel **c** shows a representative FACS plot to illustrate the gating strategy used to assess NK1R expression on CD34<sup>+</sup> cells.