

Figure S1-R1

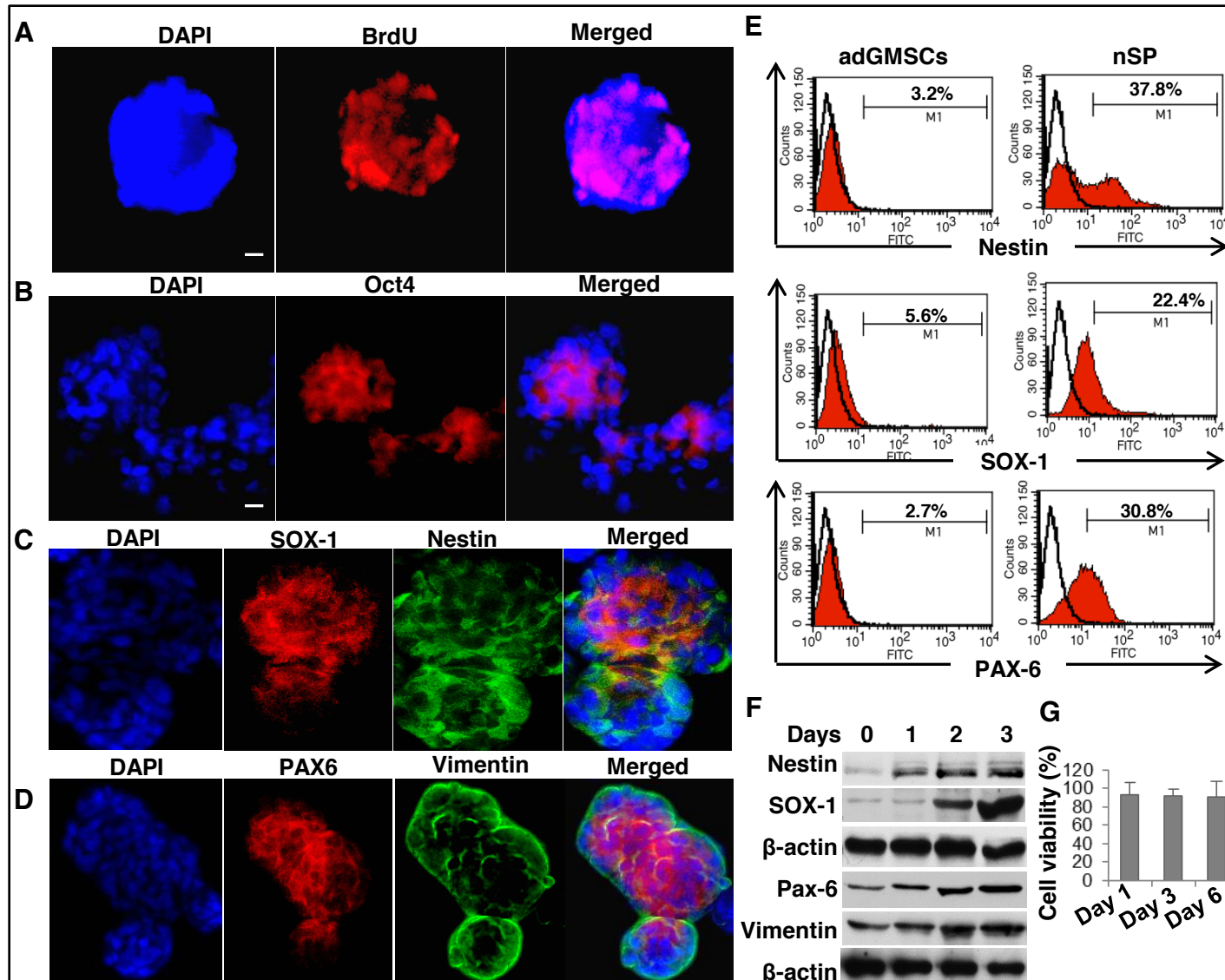


Figure S2-R1

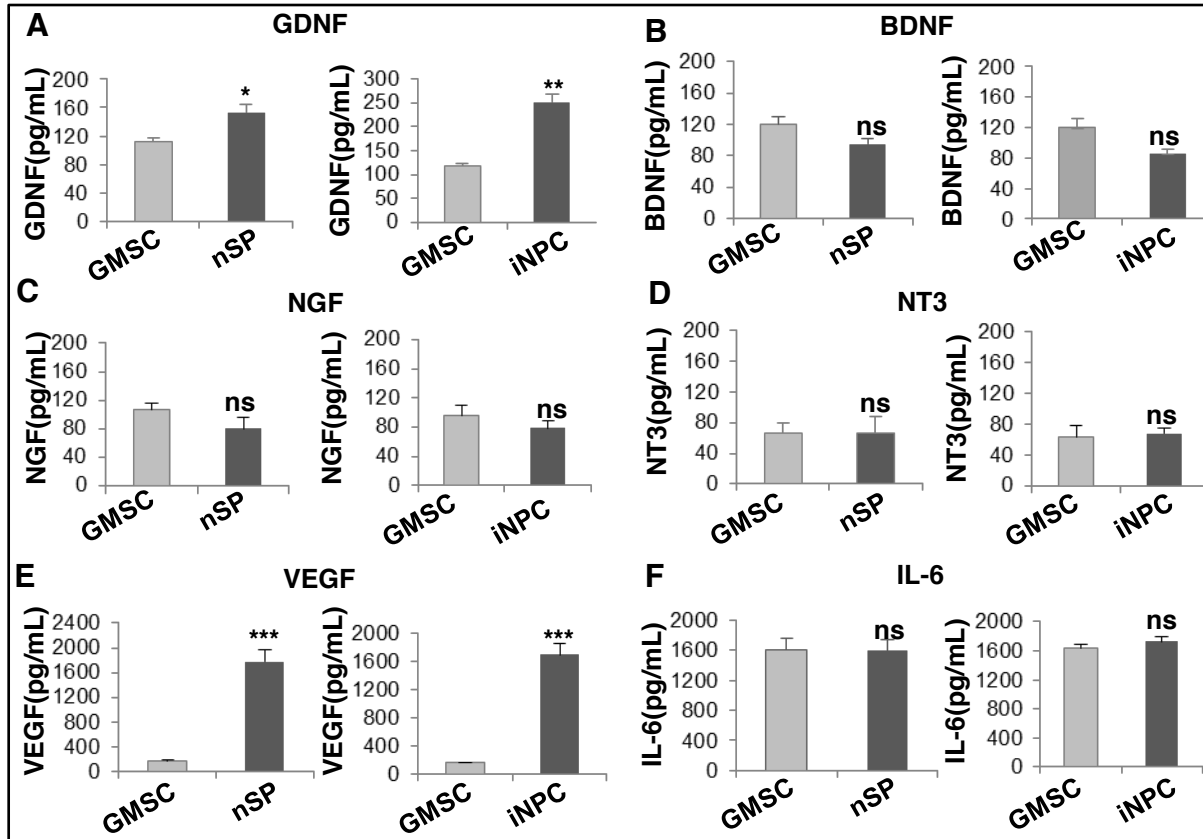
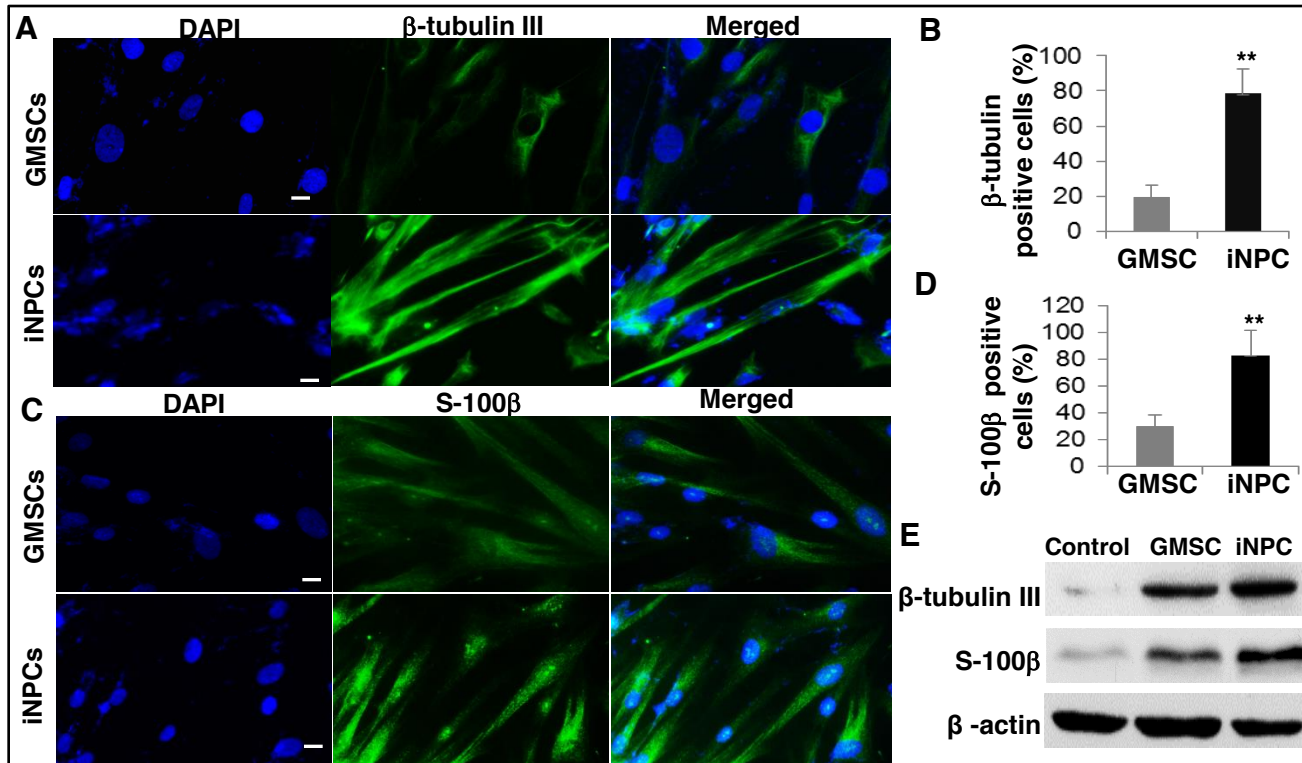
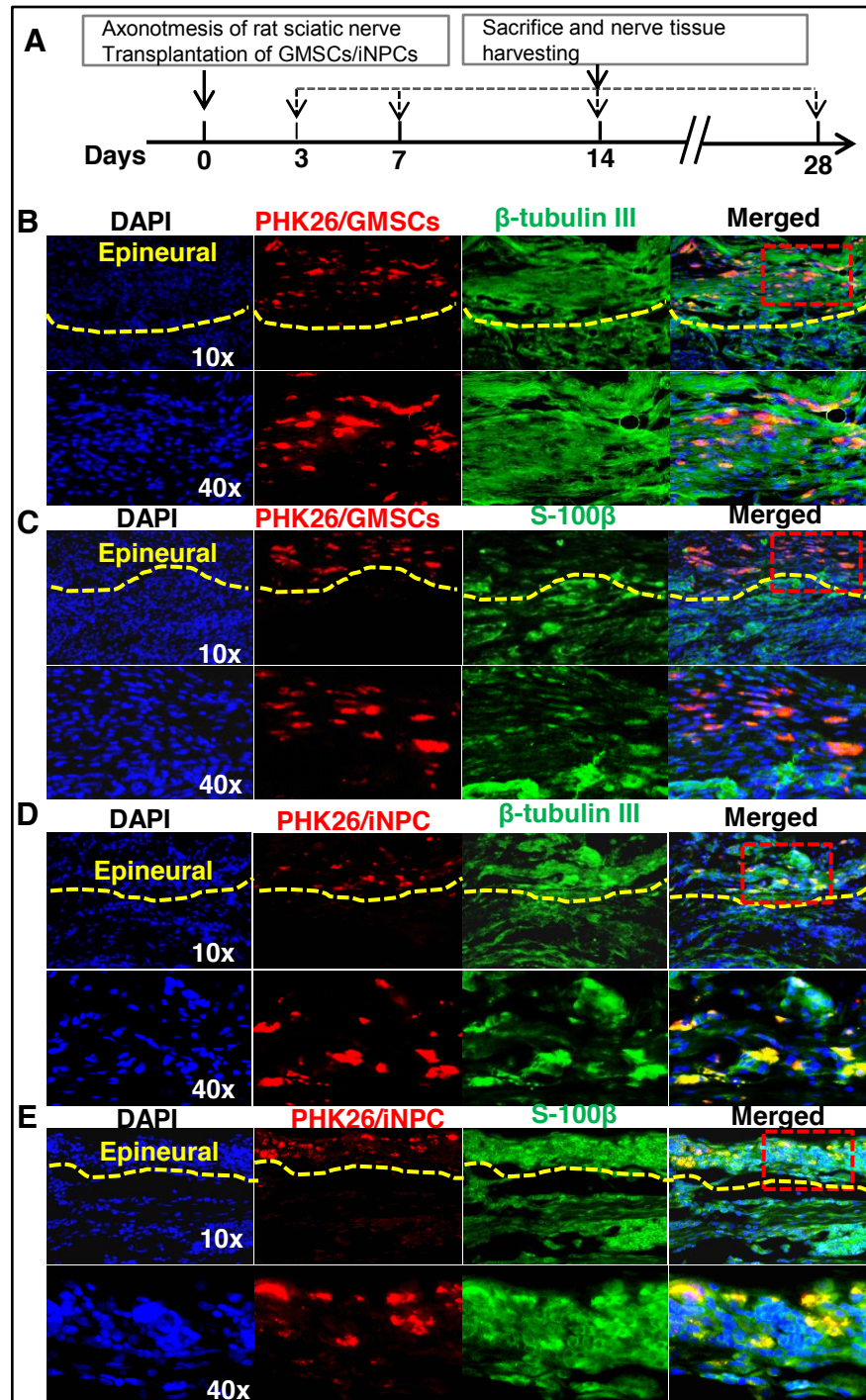


Figure S3



# Figure S4-R1



**Fig. S1. Increased expression of neural stem cell-related genes in spheroid GMSCs.** GMSCs were cultured in neurobasal medium supplemented with 1% N2, 2% B27, 20 ng/mL EGF, and 20 ng/mL bFGF, under suspension culture condition for 3 days. **(A-D)** Immunofluorescence studies on the expression of Nestin, SOX1, PAX6, and Vimentin, in spheroid GMSCs. Nuclei were counterstained with 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; blue). Scale bars, 20 $\mu$ m (40 $\times$ ). **(E)** The percentage of cells positive for Nestin, SOX1, and PAX6 in GMSCs cultured under either regular adherent (adGMSC) or suspension spheroid (nSP) culture conditions, as determined by flow cytometry. **(F)** Western blot analysis of the expression of Nestin, SOX1, PAX6, and Vimentin in cells following spheroid culture for different days, while  $\beta$ -actin was used as the internal control. **(G)** Following spheroid culture for different days, the cell viability of dissociated single cells was determined by trypan blue staining. Abbreviations: BrdU, 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine; adGMSC, adherent GMSCs; nSP, neural spheroid cells.

**Fig. S2. ELISA analysis of neurotrophic factors and cytokines secreted by GMSCs, neural spheroid cells and iNPCs.** GMSCs, neural spheroids and iNPCs ( $2 \times 10^5$ /well) were seeded in 6-well plates and cultured under distinct conditions for 3 days and the conditioned media were collected for ELISA analysis on the secretion of various neurotrophic factors, GDNF **(A)**, BDNF **(B)**, NGF **(C)**, NT3 **(D)**, and cytokines VEGF **(E)** and IL-6 **(F)**. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \* $P < 0.05$ ; ns, no significance.

**Fig. S3. Differentiation of iNPCs into neuronal and glial cells.** GMSCs and iNPC were cultured under neuronal or glial cell induction conditions for 14 days. The expression of the neuron marker,  $\beta$ -tubulin III **(A)**, and the Schwann cell marker, S-100 $\beta$  **(C)**, were determined by immunofluorescence staining. Nuclei were counterstained with 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; blue). The images shown are representative of a randomly selected field from three independent cultures. **(B, D)** For semi-quantitative analysis, cells with positive signals in at least six random high-power fields (HPF) were visualized, counted and expressed as the percentage of total DAPI-positive cells. The data were representative of results from three independent studies. Scale bars, 20 $\mu$ m (40 $\times$ ). \*\* $P < 0.01$ . **(E)**: GMSCs and iNPC were cultured under neuronal or glial cell induction conditions for 14 days, and the expression of  $\beta$ -tubulin III and S-100 $\beta$  was determined by Western blot analysis, while the non-differentiated GMSCs were used as control.

**Fig. S4. Transplanted GMSCs and iNPCs differentiated into neuronal and Schwann cells *in vivo*.** (A) A diagram showing the timelines for nerve injury and cell transplantation. A cell scaffold product of GMSCs or GMSC-derived NPC-like cells pre-labeled with PKH26 (Red) and mixed with GelFoam was transplanted and wrapped around the damaged sciatic nerve of rats induced by axonotmesis crush injury. (B, C) Immunofluorescence studies on the expression of  $\beta$ -tubulin III (B) or S-100 $\beta$  (C) in GMSCs following transplantation for 4 weeks. (D, E) Immunofluorescence studies on the expression of  $\beta$ -tubulin III (D) or S-100 $\beta$  (E) in iNPCs following transplantation for 4 weeks. Nuclei were counterstained with 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; blue). Scale bars, 100  $\mu$ m (10 $\times$ ) or 20 $\mu$ m (40 $\times$ ). Abbreviations: iNPCs, induced neural progenitor-like cells.