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Supplemental Information

An Efficient Platform for Astrocyte Differentiation from Human Induced

Pluripotent Stem Cells

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Figure S1. Related to Figure 1 | Generation of hiPSC-derived astrocytes. (**A**) Cell morphologies across 12 screening conditions including 11 astrocyte differentiation condition and 1 cortical neuron differentiation condition after 20 days of differentiation from

NPCs. (**B**) Representative images of GFAP (green) and S100β (red) positive cells from two cell lines in top four selected conditions from (**A**). (**C**) Quantification of the number of cells positive for GFAP and S100β protein (N=5 from two cell lines) in top four selected conditions from (**A**). (**D**) Quantification of GFAP-positive cells normalized by S100β-positive cells (N=5 from two cell lines in top four selected conditions from (**A**). (**E**) Representative immunofluorescence images of GFAP (green) and S100β (red) across hiPSC-astrocytes differentiated from four control NPC lines (**Table S2**) at 20 days of differentiation using medium #2 condition. Images are quantified in (**F**) and (**G**). (**F**) Quantification of the number of cells positive for GFAP and S100β across hiPSC-astrocytes differentiated from four control NPC lines at 20 days of differentiation using medium #2 condition. (**G**) Percentage of GFAP-positive cells normalized by S100β-positive cells at 20 days and 30 days of differentiation using medium #2 condition. (**H**) Bright field images of hiPSC-astrocytes differentiated from 5 control NPC lines (**Table S2**) showing a similar astrocyte morphology at 10 days after medium #2 exposure. Scale bar = 500 µm. (**I**) Bright field images of hiPSC-astrocytes differentiated from 5 control NPC lines (**Table S2**) at 30 days of differentiation. Arrows represent fibrous-like morphology and arrowheads represent protoplasmic-like morphology of astrocytes. Each cell line includes both shapes of astrocytes (left, Scale bar = 200 µm). Higher density culture displays star-shaped astrocyte morphology (right, Scale bar = 500 µm). (**J-M**) Representative immunofluorescence images of S100β (green), GFAP (red), GLAST (EAAT1) (green) and VIMENTIN (green) of hiPSC-astrocytes differentiated from 7 control NPC lines from three independent hiPSC cohorts (**Table S2**). Scale bar = 200 µm. (**N**) Flow cytometric analysis of PAX6 and NESTIN-positive cells from the 7 isogenic NPC lines used for hiPSC-astrocyte differentiations in **J-M**. M1 represents positive cells expressing each marker protein. (**O**) GFAP (red) and S100β (green)-staining in primary astrocytes from different regions of human fetal brain including cerebral cortex, mid-brain, cerebellum and the whole brain (labeled mixed regions). Scale bar = 200 μ m. Data are represented as mean \pm error bar (Standard Deviation). hiPSC-Astros: human hiPSC-derived astrocytes, pAstros: primary human fetal astrocytes. A two-tailed homoscedastic Student's t-test, n.s.: not significant, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01 , *** p < 0.001 .

Top 100 varying genes

(**C**) Heatmap of hiPSC-derived NPCs, neurons and astrocytes compared to fetal and adult brain tissue (GSE73721) (Zhang et al., 2016) using the top 100 most varying genes, clustered by group (G) 1-3 and sub-group (S) 1-7.

Figure S3. Related to Figure 3 | Characterization of the neuroinflammatory status and reactivity of hiPSC-astrocytes.

(**A**) Heatmap-based cluster analysis of hiPSC-astrocytes and pAstrocytes compared to the astrocyte reactivity dataset (Zamanian et al., 2012), which was sorted by reactivity genes enriched in the A1 (LPS-treatment), A2 (MCAO ischemia) and pan-reactive phenotypes, or related controls (saline and sham, respectively). (**B**) Cytokine secretion from hiPSC-astrocytes and pAstrocytes measured by ELISA in response to 24-hour treatment with 5 μ M AB42. (N=2 from two different hiPSC-astrocyte lines and two independent preparations of pAstrocytes cerebral cortex, N, independent experiments.) (**C**) *IL-6* gene expression changes in samples used for (**D**). (N=3 from two different hiPSC-astrocyte lines and two independent preparations of pAstrocytes cerebral cortex, N, independent experiments.) (**D**) Proteome profiler human cytokine array (targets are listed in **Table S4**) of hiPSC-astrocytes and pAstrocytes, with or without 5 μM Aβ42 treatment. Unlabeled dot blots are positive experimental controls from the manufacturer. (**E**) Quantification of dot blots in (**D**). (N=2 from two different hiPSC-astrocyte lines and two independent preparations of pAstrocytes cerebral cortex, N, independent experiments.) Proteome profiler human cytokine array tests chemokine levels. Data are represented as mean ± SD. hiPSC-Astros: hiPSC-derived astrocytes, pAstros: primary astrocytes. A two-tailed homoscedastic Student's t-test, n.s.: not significant, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** $p < 0.001$

Figure S4. Related to Figure 4 | Impact of hiPSC-astrocytes on the phagocytic ability of BV2 microglial cells.

(**A**) Myelin is enriched after purification from brain (myelin prep) compared to whole brain homogenate (brain hom) as detected by western blotting. (**B, D, F**) Representative histograms used to quantify the values displayed in **Figure 4A, 4C, 4D** are shown in (**B**, **D**, **F**), respectively. Phagocytosing cells are marked as pHrodo+. (**C**) Phagocytic indices of BV2 cells, hiPSCastrocytes and pAstrocytes incubated with 20 μ g of pHrodo-labeled myelin or zymosan for 3 hours and analyzed by flow cytometry. Values were averaged from 4 to 8 different control hiPSC-Astrocytes and 2 to 4 different pAstrocytes. (**E**) Flow cytometry analysis of BV2 microglial cells and co-cultures of hiPSC-astrocytes and pAstrocytes with BV2 microglial cells stained with CD11b-APC and GFAP antibodies (n=5). Representative fluorescent intensity dot plots are shown. Data are representative of three independent experiments ($n = 3$) and shown as mean $±$ standard deviation. Treatment with 2 $µ$ M Cytochalasin D (Cyt) was used as a negative control for phagocytosis inhibition.

#1 is cortical neuron differentiation control and #2-12 are astrocyte differentiation conditions. Screening results from two cell lines evaluated by staining with a neuronal lineage marker, Class III β-tubulin (TUJ1), a neuronal marker, MAP2, astrocyte markers, GFAP and S100B, cell survival conditions and astrocyte-like morphologies.

Table S2 | Cell lines tested in each essay by four investigators.

INV, investigator 1-4, N/A, not applicable, check marks represent completed experiments, x marks represent experiment that have not performed.

Gene Symbol	Description
C ₅	Complement component 5
CD40LG	CD40 ligand
G-CSF	Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor
GM-CSF	Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor
CCL ₁	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 1
CCL2/MCP-1	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 2
CCL3/MIP-1 alpha	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 3
CCL5/RANTES	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 5
CXCL1	Chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 1 (melanoma growth stimulating activity, alpha)
CXCL10/IP-10	Chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 10
CXCL11/I-TAC	Chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 11
CXCL12/SDF-1	Chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 12
ICAM-1	Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1
IFN-gamma	Interferon, gamma
$IL-1\alpha$	Interleukin 1 alpha
$IL-1\beta$	Interleukin 1 beta
IL-1ra	Interleukin 1 receptor antagonist
$IL-2$	Interleukin 2
$IL-4$	Interleukin 4
$IL-5$	Interleukin 5
$IL-6$	Interleukin 6
$IL-8$	Interleukin 8
$IL-10$	Interleukin 10
IL-12 p70	Interleukin 12
$IL-13$	Interleukin 13
$IL-16$	Interleukin 16
$IL-17$	Interleukin 17
$IL-17E$	Interleukin 17E
$IL-18$	Interleukin 18
$IL-21$	Interleukin 21
$IL-27$	Interleukin 27
$IL-32\alpha$	Interleukin 32 alpha
MIF	Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (glycosylation-inhibiting factor)
Serpin E1/PAI-1	Serpin Family E Member 1/Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1
$TNF-\alpha$	Tumor necrosis factor-alpha
TREM-1	Triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 1

Table S5 | Proteome Profiler Human Cytokine Array.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

NPC-Astrocyte differentiation and culture

Forebrain NPCs were maintained at high density, grown on matrigel (BD Bioscience) in NPC medium (DMEM/F12 (Invitrogen: 10565), 1x N2 (Invitrogen: 17502-048), 1x B27-RA (Invitrogen: 12587-010)) and 20 ng/ml FGF2 (Invitrogen), resuspended in 1% BSA (Gibco) in PBS (Gibco)) and split approximately 1:3 every week with accutase (Millipore). NPCs could be expanded up to 14 passages. The quality of NPCs used for astrocyte differentiation is a critical variable in this protocol; careful quality control of NPC fate will increase the likelihood of a successful astrocyte differentiation. Low passage NPCs are frequently preferable. The astrocyte differentiation propensity of particularly intransient NPC lines can be improved by sorting for a CD271- /CD133+/CD184+ population by FACS (Cheng et al., 2017).

Forebrain NPCs were differentiated to astrocytes by seeding dissociated single cells at 15,000 cells/cm2 density on matrigel-coated plates in astrocyte medium (ScienCell: 1801, astrocyte medium (1801-b), 2% fetal bovine serum (0010), astrocyte growth supplement (1852) and 10U/ml penicillin/streptomycin solution (0503)). Initial NPC seeding density and single cell dissociation are critical, particularly during the first 30 days of differentiation, in order to efficiently generate a homogenous population of astrocytes.

At day -1, after 5-10 min incubation with accutase at 37° C, NPCs were pipetted with a p1000 pipette 3-5 times, in order to yield a single cell suspension but limit cell death. Additional NPC medium was added and cells were transferred to a 15ml tube, spun at 500g for 5min, and plated on a matrigel-coated plate in NPC medium. At day 0, NPC medium was switched to astrocyte medium. From day 2, cells were fed every 48 hours for 20-30 days. When the cells reached 90- 95% confluency (approximately every 6-7 days), they were split to the initial seeding density (15,000 cells/cm2) as single cells in astrocyte medium, and cultured on matrigel, following 5-10 min incubation with accutase, pipetting, and washing with DMEM (Gibco).

After 30 days of differentiation, astrocytes could be split 1:3 every week with accutase and expanded up to 120 days (15-17 passages) in astrocyte medium containing 2% FBS. Following the initial 30-day differentiation period, astrocytes survive and expand for up to 30 days without FBS. All cell lines in the manuscript routinely tested negative for mycoplasma with MycoAlert PLUS mycoplasma detection kit (Lonza).

We caution that morphology and functional properties of hiPSC-astrocytes can change with increased passage (data not shown), which should be carefully recorded and matched in all experimental comparisons.

NPC differentiation from human iPSCs

hiPSCs were maintained in Human Embryonic Stem cell (HuES) medium (DMEM/F12 (Invitrogen), 20% KO-Serum Replacement (Invitrogen), 1x Glutamax (Invitrogen), 1x NEAA (Invitrogen), 1x 2‐mercaptoethanol (Gibco), or complete mTeSR1 (StemCell Technologies) with 10 ng/ml StemBeads FGF2 (StemCultures) and differentiated to NPCs by either: 1) dual SMAD inhibition $(0.1\mu M$ LDN193189 and $10\mu M$ SB431542) (Brennand et al., 2011) during embryoid body (EB) and rosette formation in EB medium (DMEM/F12 (Invitrogen: 10565), 1x N2 (Invitrogen: 17502-048), 1x B27-RA (Invitrogen: 12587-010)) or 2) Neural Induction Medium (StemCell Technologies). Rosette selection was performed after 14 days of culture by Rosette Selection Reagent (StemCell Technologies). NPCs were validated immunocytochemically

and/or by FACS using markers for SOX2 (Cell signaling: 3579S), PAX6 (Abcam: ab5790), FOXP2 (Abcam: ab16046) and NESTIN (Abcam: ab22035).

Generation of iNeurons from Human NPCs

NPCs were dissociated with accutase (Innovative Cell Technologies) and plated at 500,000 cells per well of a 24-well plate on day -2. Cells were plated on matrigel (BD Biosciences) coated coverslips or plates in NPC medium (DMEM/F12/N2/B27/FGF2, Invitrogen). On day -1, h*NGN2* lentivirus (TetO-h*NGN2*-P2A-PuroR (Addgene: 79049) or TetO-h*NGN2*-P2A-eGFP-T2A-PuroR (Addgene: 79823)) together with CAGGs-rtTA lentivirus(Ho et al., 2015) at 1x106 pfu/ml per plasmid (multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 2) was added in fresh NPC medium and spinfected at 1,000g for 1 hours. After 3-4 hours, the medium was replaced with fresh NPC medium. Doxycycline (2µg/l, Clontech) was added on day 0 to induce TetO gene expression and retained in the medium until the end of the experiment. On day 1, a 48 hr puromycin selection (1 μ g/ml) period was started. On day 2, the culture medium was replaced by neuron medium: DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with N2/B27/Glutamax (Invitrogen) containing BDNF (20ng/ml, Peprotech), GDNF (10ng/ml, PeproTech), Dibutyryl cyclic-AMP (250µg/ml, Sigma), and L-ascorbic acid (200nM Sigma); Ara-C (2ug/l, Sigma) was added for 48 hours to the medium to inhibit proliferation of any non-neuronal cells. On day 4, hiPSC-derived astrocytes or primary astrocytes were seeded at 50,000 cells per well of the 24-well plate in the neuronal medium. FBS (2%) (Invitrogen) was added to the culture medium to support astrocyte viability. Beginning at day 4, half of the medium in each well was replaced every other day. h*NGN2*-induced neurons were assayed on day 17.

Flow Cytometry

Cells were dissociated using TryPLE (Gibco) or accutase (Millipore), fixed for 10 min in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA), permeabilized and blocked with 0.5% (v/v) Triton (Sigma)/1% (w/v) bovine serum albumin (BSA, Sigma) in PBS and labeled with primary antibodies S1008 (mouse, 1:200-1:1,000; Sigma-Aldrich: S2532), GFAP (chicken, 1:200-1:1,000; Aves Lab), GLAST/EAAT1 (rabbit, 1:100; BOSTER: PA2185), PAX6 (rabbit, 1:200; Abcam: ab5790), and NESTIN (mouse, 1:200; Abcam: ab22035) overnight at 4°C. Following 2 washes with 1 x PBS, the cell pellet was resuspended in blocking buffer with the appropriate Alexa Fluor 488, 568, or 647 conjugated secondary antibodies (1:200-1:1,000, Life Technologies) for 2hr at 4°C, then washed twice more with 1 x PBS, resuspended in FACS buffer (1 x PBS (no Mg2+/Ca2+)) and filtered using a 40 μm filter (BD Biosciences). Cytometry was performed using an LSR-II (BD Biosciences) and analysis was performed using Flowjo (v8.7.3, Treestar) or FCS Express 5 software (De Novo Software). Gating for positive cells was relative to a secondary antibody only control.

Immunocytochemistry

Cells were plated on acid-etched coverslips at 80,000-100,000 cells per well of a 24-well plate. Within 24hrs, astrocyte cultures were washed with PBS and fixed using 4% PFA (#15714, Electron Microscopy Sciences) for 20 min on ice, or 10% formalin solution (Sigma-Aldrich) for 15 minutes; washed 3 times with PBS 1X plus 0.01% Triton X-100 prior to pre-incubation with blocking solution made of PBS 1X plus 0.01% Triton X-100, and either 10% donkey serum or 1% bovine serum albumin (Sigma-Aldrich), for at least 1 hr. Cultures were then incubated in primary antibody solution overnight at 4˚C, followed by an incubation with secondary antibodies for 1-2hrs at room temperature. Primary antibodies used in this study were S100β (mouse, 1:1000; Sigma-Aldrich: S2532), GFAP (chicken, 1:2000; Aves Lab), Vimentin (rabbit, 1:500; Cell Signaling: R28#3932), b-III-tubulin (rabbit, 1:1000; Biolegend: 802001), polyclonal GLT1/EAAT2 and GLAST/EAAT1 (rabbit, 1:120, Life technology: PA5-34198), GLAST/EAAT1 (rabbit, 1:100; BOSTER: PA2185), ALDH1L1 (rabbit, 1:250; Abcam: ab190298) PAX6 (rabbit, 1:200; Abcam: ab5790) NESTIN (mouse, 1:500; Abcam: ab22035), and Myelin Basic Protein (rabbit, 1:1000; Abcam:ab40390). Secondary antibodies used were Alexa Fluor 488, 568, or 647 conjugated (1:300, Life Technologies). Cultures were counterstained using 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI, 1:1000-1:5000; Invitrogen: D1306). AquaPolymount mounting solution (#18606-20, Polysciences Inc.) was used to mount on coverslips. Coverslips were imaged with either a Zeiss LSM 780 microscope or Leica DMIL LED Inverted Routine Fluorescence Microscope.

RNA Expression studies for Quantitative Real Time PCR (qRT-PCR) and RNAseq

Cells were plated at 1,000,000 cells per well of a 6-well plate. Within 24-48 hrs, astrocyte cultures were washed with PBS and lysed with RLT buffer (Qiagen, # 74106) or Qiazol reagent (Qiagen). The total RNA was extracted from 30-day differentiated astrocytes with RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, # 74106) with on-column DNasel digestion (Qiagen, #79254) For standard qPCR, RNA was reverse transcribed into complementary DNA (cDNA) with iScript™ cDNA Synthesis kit (#1708890, Bio-Rad). cDNA was used as template for the quantitative PCR using a 7900 Real-Time PCR system (Applied Biosystems) with Power SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems). Gene expression was analyzed using the ∆∆Ct method. qPCR results were normalized to GAPDH, β-actin and TBP (TATA-box binding protein) expression, and the values of uninduced fibroblasts were set to 1. Three replicates were used to determine the standard error. See the **Supplementary Table 3** for primer sequences.

For microfluidic card assays, RNA was reverse transcribed using the high capacity RNA to cDNA kit (LifeTechnologies). Individual channels on the cards were loaded with cDNA and Taqman® Universal Master Mix II (LifeTechnologies). The Taqman assays included in the microfluidic cards are listed in **Supplementary Table 4**. Gene expression was analyzed using the ∆∆Ct method, and results were normalized to GAPDH and 18S ribosomal RNA. Gene expression fold changes were calculated compared to GAPDH expression. Each reaction was carried out in duplicate. The resulting data was subject to classical multidimensional scaling based on Euclidean distance in two dimensions, using R Studio (http://www.rstudio.com/). For RNAseq, RNA was quality controlled by BioAnalyzer (Agilent Technologies).

Analysis of RNA Sequencing Data

Paired-end RNA-seq data was generated using the Illumina HiSeq 2500 platform for hiPSCastrocytes (n=4), neurons (n=6) and NPCs (n=8) (**Supplementary Table 5**), as well as for two primary astrocyte samples. Total RNA extracted from these samples was validated by qRT-PCR analysis before RNA sequencing. The paired-end sequencing reads were aligned to human hg19 genome using Star Aligner (version 2.5.0b). Following read alignment, FeatureCounts(Liao et al., 2014) was used to quantify gene expression at the gene level based on Ensembl gene model GRCh37.70. The gene level read counts data was normalized as counts per million (CPM) using the trimmed mean of M-values normalization (TMM) method(Robinson et al., 2010) to adjust for sequencing library size difference. To control for potential sex differences in gene expression, sex effects were corrected by linear regression. Multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) and cluster analysis were performed using the R programming language. Differential gene expression between different cell types was predicted by linear model analysis using the Bioconductor package limma(Ritchie et al., 2015). For differential expression between hiPSC-derived astrocytes and NPCs/neurons, a paired comparison was performed to account for matched genotypes. To adjust for multiple tests, the false discovery rate (FDR) of the differential expression test was estimated using the Benjamini–Hochberg (BH) method(Vasudevan et al.) (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995). Genes with FDR < 0.05 and log2 fold change > 1 or < -1 were considered significant.

Meta-analysis of brain cell type specific RNAseq data from Zhang *et al* **2016**

We downloaded the raw RNAseq data of multiple brain cell types(Zhang et al., 2016) from gene expression omnibus (accession GSE73721) and then processed the sequencing reads using the same star-FeatureCounts pipeline as described above. The gene level read counts were combined with the data generated in this project. The merged data was normalized using the TMM approach and then corrected for sex and batch using linear regression. Hierarchical cluster analysis was performed using R.

Functional enrichment analysis

For functional enrichment analysis of differential expression gene signatures, the gene ontology (GO) annotations, and canonical pathways (Biocarta, KEGG and Reactome) gene sets were obtained from the Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB) v4.0(Subramanian et al., 2005). Enrichment analysis was carried out using the Fisher's exact test assuming the sets of genes were identically independently sampled from the genome-wide genes profiled. The BH approach was employed to constrain the FDR.

IL-6 ELISA, Multi-Analyte ELISArray and protein array

hiPSC-derived astrocytes and primary human fetal astrocytes were seeded at 200,000viable cells per well of a 24-well plate in astrocyte medium one day before the experiment. Cells were treated for 24 hours with 50 ng/ml or 100 ng/ml of Poly(I:C) (InvivoGen, #tlrl-pic), 10 µg/ml or 50 ug/ml of Lipopolysachharide (LPS) (Sigma-Aldrich, #L5886), or 5 uM or 10 uM of human beta amyloid, Aβ42 (CaliforniaPeptide, #641-15) and vehicle control solutions (Saline for Poly(I:C) and LPS or Tris-HCl, pH 7.5 for Aβ42). The medium from astrocyte-enriched cultures was collected, centrifuged at 21,000g for 5 min at 4˚C and stored at -20˚C or proceeded assays.

Samples from all experiments were processed in parallel; comparisons were made within ELISA plates but not between them. Samples were analyzed with an IL-6 ELISA assay (Affymetrix eBioscience, #88-7066) and Human Inflammatory Cytokines Multi-Analyte ELISArray (Qiagen, #MEH-004A), according to manufacturer's guidelines. Absorbance at 450 nm was measured by spectrophotometry and was quantified at 450 nm, using 570 nm as a reference wavelength. Gene expression profiles were analyzed by RT2 Profiler PCR Arrays (Qiagen). Proteome Profiler™ Human Cytokine Array (R&D Systems, #ARY005B) was used according to manufacturer's guidelines. Proteome profiler intensity dot blots were quantified using Gimp2.8 software and were normalized to mean intensities of reference spots.

Phagocytosis assay

BV2 mouse microglial cell line was maintained in DMEM (Gibco, 11965) supplemented with 5% FBS (Sigma, F4135) and 1:100 Pen Strep (Gibco, 15140). To analyze the influence of astrocyte-secreted factors on the phagocytic activity of BV2 microglia, hiPSC-derived astrocytes and primary human fetal astrocytes were plated at approximately 1 million cells per well in a 6 well plate and allowed to grow for 2 weeks prior to medium conditioning. Astrocyte conditioned medium (ACM) was collected after 2 days of incubation and centrifuged at 21,000g for 5min at 4 ˚C. BV2 cells were seeded at 200,000 cells per well in a 24-well plate and allowed to attach for 8 to 9 hours. Cells were washed once with PBS and treated with ACM from hiPSC-derived astrocyte and primary astrocyte cultures. BV2 cells incubated with fresh astrocyte medium were used as a control. Zymosan conjugated with a pHrodo red dye (Thermo Fisher, P35364) was dissolved in PBS at 1 mg/ml and sonicated for 10 minutes. After 20 hours of incubation with ACM, BV2 cells were washed with PBS once and further incubated with 30 ug of pHrodolabeled for 3 hours. Cells were trypsinized, washed with PBS once and resuspended in 500 µl of 1% BSA in PBS. Cells were kept on ice and immediately analyzed by flow cytometry.

To analyze the phagocytic ability of hiPSC-derived astrocytes and primary astrocytes in comparison with BV2, cells were seeded at 120,000 cells per well in a 24-well plate and allowed to reach confluency. Cells were incubated with 20 μ g of pHrodo-labeled myelin for 3 hours. Myelin was prepared from the wild type mouse brain as described in(Jahn et al., 2008), and labeled with red pHrodo dye according to the manufacturer's instructions (Thermo Fisher, P36600). After incubation cells were gently collected in accutase, washed with PBS and resuspended in 1% BSA in PBS. Uptake of pHrodo was immediately analyzed with flow cytometry.

To analyze the effect of astrocyte co-culture on the phagocytic ability of BV2 cells, hiPSCderived astrocytes and primary astrocytes were seeded at 120,000 cells per well in a 24-well plate. Cells were allowed to reach confluency, when BV2 cells were seeded on top of astrocytes at 150,000 cells per well. After 24 hours the co-culture was treated with 30 up of pHrodo-labeled zymosan for 3 hours, and collected in 1% BSA in PBS as described before for immediate analysis by flow cytometry.

For the analysis of cell populations in co-culture and their contribution to phagocytosis, incubation with pHrodo-labeled zymosan was followed by sample collection with trypsinization and further blocking in 2% BSA in PBS for 30 minutes on ice. Cells were surface-labeled with CD11b-APC (eBiosciences) 1:100 in 1% BSA in PBS for 1 hour on ice. For intracellular labeling cells were washed and fixed with 2% paraformaldehyde for 30 minutes on ice, then washed with PBS once and incubated with GFAP antibody 1:100 for 1 hour on ice. After a wash in PBS, cells were incubated with the secondary antibody 1:100 conjugated to AlexaFluor488 for 30 minutes on ice and prepared for flow cytometry analysis by a wash in PBS and resuspension in 1% BSA in PBS. At least 30,000 events were collected in each flow cytometry analysis. Cells were gated on an FSC-A / SSC-A dot plot to exclude cell debris, additional gating on an FSC-A / FSC-W dot plot was used to exclude doublets. Isotype control and secondary antibody only labeling were used to define the gates for cells positive for CD11b or GFAP labeling. Single labeling of cocultured cells with pHrodo-labeled zymosan, CD11b-APC and GFAP were used to set up compensation between channels. Cells pre-treated with 2µM Cytochalasin D for 30 minutes before and during the incubation with pHrodo-labeled zymosan were used as a negative control for phagocytic ability of BV2 and to define the population of phagocytosing cells.

All flow cytometry data were acquired on a LSRII (BD Biosciences) and analyzed using FCS Express 5 software (De Novo Software). Phagocytic index was calculated for pHrodo+ population as follows: % of gated cells was multiplied by geometric mean fluorescence intensity of pHrodo and then divided by $10⁶$ for presentation.

Spontaneous calcium transient imaging

Calcium imaging analysis was performed on hiPSC-derived astrocytes or human primary astrocytes from cerebral cortex region (ScienCell) on acid-etched glass coverslips. Cells were incubated for 15 min at room temperature with 2 µM Fluo-4-AM (Invitrogen, F-14201) and 0.02% Pluronic F127 in Krebs HEPES buffer (KHB) (10 mM HEPES, 4.2 mM NaHCO₃, 10 mM dextrose, 1.18 mM MgCl2.6H2O, 1.18 mM KH2PO4, 4.69 mM KCl, 118 mM NaCl, 1.29 mM CaCl₂, pH7.3), then washed three times with KHB and allowed to recover for 5 minutes in KHB. Time-lapse images (40x water-immersion objective; $NA = 0.8$) were acquired on the green channel (DM:485; BA:495-540HQ) at 1.16 s intervals (0.9 Hz) on an Olympus FV1000 MPE Microscope using a 473 nm laser (Olympus LD473nm (15mW)). Cells were imaged for 348 s under continuous perfusion with gravity-fed KHB. A single glutamate (3 µM) in KHB pulse was applied for 35 s beginning at \sim 35 s. We imaged an area of 380 μ m² for multiple coverslips originating from 4 different hiPSC-astrocyte lines and 3 different primary astrocytes

preparations. For peak analysis, ROIs were first identified by automated segmentation of timeaveraged images of image stacks using FluoroSNNAP (Patel et al., 2015) Fluorescence signal from the identified ROIs was then quantified by calculating mean pixel intensity values on the same program. Fluorescent traces were exported and then analyzed with custom Matlab routines that calculated the number and amplitude of $Ca²⁺$ spikes and percentage of spontaneously active cells. In peak detection, 50 RFU was taken as the minimum amplitude for a peak based on visual inspection of multiple recordings.

Statistical analysis

For all experiments, data are represented as mean \pm SD or SEM of three to five biological replicates. Statistical significance was determined using a two-tailed homoscedastic Student's ttest or one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's post-hoc test for differences of means between each group and a control group of data with parametric distribution. Significant comparisons are labeled with $* p < 0.05$, $** p < 0.01$, $*** p < 0.001$.

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