SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure S1. Cas9 Nickase-Mediated Site-Specific Mutagenesis of SNCA Exon 4. Related to Figure 1.

(A) SURVEYOR assay of Cas9 nickase-mediated cleavage at SNCA exon 4 in HEK293T, BE(2)-M17 and SH-SY5Y cells. Teal arrows $= 408$ bp cleavage products, red arrows $= 357$ bp cleavage products.

(B) Indels formed in HEK293T (HEK), BE(2)-M17 (M17) and SH-SY5Y (SH) cells by Cas9 nickase-mediated cleavage. Chart shows mutagenesis efficiency in each cell type. PAMs and sgRNA target sequences are highlighted in red and teal, respectively. A 12 nt duplicated region is indicated in bold and italic text. Base pair mutations are indicated in bold red text.

(C) qRT-PCR for total SNCA mRNA in HEK293T, BE(2)-M17 and SH-SY5Y cells. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM.

(D) ELISA for SNCA protein in HEK293T, BE(2)-M17 and SH-SY5Y cells. Data are represented as mean ± SEM. $*_{p} \leq 0.05$, $*_{p} \leq 0.01$

Figure S2. Mutation Analysis and Quality Control of Isogenic iPSCs. Related to Figure 1.

(A) Representative sequence chromatograms from the top two putative off-target cleavage sites examined by PCR amplification and Sanger sequencing.

(B) Left panel (top to bottom): morphology of Clone 1-13 iPSCs at magnifications of 4x (scale bar = 1000 μm), 10x (scale bar = 400 μ m), 20x (scale bar = 200 μ m) and 40x (scale bar = 100 μ m). Central panel (top to bottom): immunostaining for DAPI, Nanog, Tra-1-60 and the merged image (scale $bar = 200 \mu m$). Right panel (top to bottom): immunostaining for DAPI, Oct4 and the merged image (scale $bar = 200 \mu m$). The bottom right panel demonstrates the normal 46,XX g-banded karyotype of Clone 1-13 iPSCs.

(C) Scatterplots and corresponding correlation coefficients of the hPSC ScoreCard Ct values for each sample further demonstrate that the edited Clone 1-13 (double knockout) iPSCs remain similar in their expression of pluripotency and differentiation related genes to the NCRM-5 (control) and ND34391G (SNCA triplication) iPSCs (r^2 = 0.94 – 0.96).

(D) TaqMan hPSC ScoreCard analysis demonstrates that the expression of pluripotency genes and genes required for differentiation along endodermal, mesodermal and ectodermal lineages falls within the same range as the reference sample and is similar between the NCRM-5 (control), ND34391G (SNCA triplication) and Clone 1-13 (double knockout) iPSC lines.

Figure S3. Characterization of iPSC-Derived Neurons. Related to Figure 2.

(A) Left: schematic representation of neuronal differentiation protocol via an intermediate neural stem cell population.

(B) Morphology of NAS and AST iPSCs (10x magnification), NSCs (20x magnification) and neurons (20x magnification). Intracellular inclusions are highlighted in expanded view inserts by red arrows. Far right neuronal panels show α -synuclein immunostaining which demonstrated α -synuclein dense foci in the same perinuclear location as the intracellular inclusions (white arrows), also highlighted in expanded view inserts.

(C) RT-PCR evaluation of expression of markers of fate-committed neurons in NAS, AST and AST^{ISO} iPSC-derived neurons.

(D) Phase contrast images demonstrating morphology of iPSC-derived neurons from AST and ASTiso genotypes.

(E) Heatmap showing expression of selected markers enriched in astrocytes, glia, microglia, neural precursors, neurons, oligodendrocytes, stem cells and other cell types in AST and AST^{iso} neurons. Colour shows expression level in transcripts per million (TPM) in RNAseq data, and three biological repeats of each genotype are shown.

Figure S4. Characterisation of Gene Expression in AST and ASTiso iPSCs and differentiated neurons by RNAseq. Related to Figure 2.

(A) Quantification of *SNCA* expression from RNAseq as transcripts per million (TPM) in iPSC and iPSC-derived neurons in AST and ASTiso lines.

(B) Heatmap of significant gene expression changes between AST and ASTiso genotypes in iPSC-derived neurons (q<0.01 and FC>2). KEGG enrichment identifies protein processing in the ER and spliceosome genes as most highly enriched in this set. Color indicates log2 fold changes.

(C) Expression of genes contained within the triplication region. The log2 fold changes in gene expression between the AST and isogenic lines are shown in both iPSCs (red) and neuronal derivatives (blue). Positive changes indicate an increased expression in AST when compared to the isogenic control. The extent of the deletion is highlighted in red. MMRN1 was excluded due to very low expression levels.

Figure S5. Transcriptional Activation of *SNCA* **with dCas9-VPR in NAS Neurons Induces** *IRE1a* **Expression. Related to Figure 2 and 3.**

(A) Co-transfection of dCas9-VPR with the TSS2-2 sgRNA in NAS neurons (VPR) induces *SNCA* mRNA expression up as measured by qRT-PCR.

(B) Analysis of the same cells for components of the three branches of the UPR shows upregulation of *IRE1a* mRNA in VPR neurons. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM of three biological repeats. ***p ≤ 0.001

Figure S6. Analysis of UPR Effectors in *SNCA* **Triplication iPSC-Derived Neurons by RNA-seq and Western Blotting. Related to Figure 3.**

(A) Gene expression of XBP1 targets across differentiation stage and genotype. Data of three biological replicates from RNAseq is shown as transcripts per million (TPM) in iPSC and iPSC-derived neurons in AST and AST^{iso} lines. *p \leq 0.05, **p \leq 0.01 and ***p \leq 0.001

(B) Validation of protein expression level differences in terminal UPR effectors by western blotting. Levels of BCL-2 and Beclin-1 protein were evaluated by western blotting in NAS, AST and ASTiso iPSC-derived neurons. Images of immunoblots appear in the left panel and quantified protein levels are graphically represented in the right panel. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM of biological triplicates. *p \leq 0.05, **p \leq 0.01 and ***p \leq 0.001

Figure S7. Progressive Activation of the IRE1a/XBP1 Arm of the UPR During Neuronal Differentiation of iPSCs. Related to Figure 3.

UPR gene expression profiling by qRT-PCR comparing NAS and AST iPSCs, NSCs and neurons. AST iPSCs generally lack UPR activation compared to NAS iPSCs. Activation of the IRE1a/XBP1 axis of the UPR becomes evident in AST NSCs and amplified in AST neurons compared to NAS NSCs and NAS neurons, respectively. Notably, terminal UPR activation is attenuated in AST NSCs compared to AST neurons, as evidenced by the lesser induction of CHOP and BIM, and compensatory activation of BCL-2. Data are represented as mean ± SEM of three biological repeats. *p ≤ 0.05 , **p ≤ 0.01 and ***p ≤ 0.001

Figure S1. Cas9 Nickase-Mediated Site-Specific Mutagenesis of SNCA Exon 4. Related to Figure 1.

Figure S2. Mutation Analysis and Quality Control of Isogenic iPSCs. Related to Figure 1.

Figure S3. Characterization of iPSC-Derived Neurons. Related to Figure 2.

Figure S4. Characterisation of Gene Expression in AST and ASTiso iPSCs and Differentiated Neurons by RNAseq. Related to Figure 2.

Figure S5. Transcriptional Activation of SNCA with dCas9-VPR in NAS Neurons Induces IRE1a Expression. Related to Figures 2 and 3.

Figure S6. Analysis of UPR effectors in SNCA triplication iPSC-derived neurons by RNA-seq and Western blotting. Related to Figure 3.

Figure S7. Progressive Activation of the IRE1 α /XBP1 Arm of the UPR During Neuronal Differentiation of iPSCs. Related to Figure 3.

Table S1. Top KEGG Pathways Enriched in Differentially Expressed Gene Set. Related to Figure 2.

Cell death (especially autophagy / apoptosis) Metabolism (especially catabolic processes) Transcription, differentiation, cell fate

Table S2. Top GO Biological Processes Enriched in Differentially Expressed Gene Set. Related to Figure 2.

Table S3. Patient Characteristics. Related to Figure 4.

PMD = post-mortem delay

Table S4. Oligonucleotide Sequences. Related to Figures 1, 3, S1, S2, S3, S5, S7

*From Applied StemCell

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS AND METHODS

iPSC Culture and Transfection

NCRM-5 (normal alpha-synuclein = NAS) healthy control iPSCs were obtained from the NIH Center for Regenerative Medicine and are distributed through RUDCR Infinite Biologics at Rutgers University. ND34391G (alpha-synuclein triplication = AST) PD patient-derived iPSCs were obtained from the Coriell Institute and are distributed through the NINDS Repository Fibroblasts and iPSCs Collection. Clone 1-13 (AST isogenic = AST^{ISO}) iPSCs were generated in this study. All iPSCs were maintained under feeder-free culture conditions on BD Matrigel Matrix Growth Factor Reduced (BD Biosciences)-coated tissue culture dishes in Essential 8 (E8) medium (Life Technologies), with 100% daily medium replacement. Cells were passaged when reaching 70% confluence with a solution of 0.5 mM EDTA (Life Technologies) diluted in calcium- and magnesium-free DPBS (Life Technologies). Cells were seeded at a subcultivation ration of 1:6 to 1:24 and supplemented with 10 μM ROCK inhibitor (Y27632; Tocris Bioscience) for the first 24 hours after passaging.

To generate ASTiso iPSCs, AST iPSCs were transfected with the Neon Transfection System 10 μL Kit (Life Technologies). Two hours prior to transfection, 100% E8 medium containing 10 μM ROCK inhibitor was replaced on iPSCs. Cells were subsequently dissociated to a single-cell suspension with StemPro Accutase Cell Dissociation Reagent (Life Technologies) treatment and gentle trituration with a 1000 μL pipette tip. Accutase was quenched with 5 volumes of E8 medium. Cells were counted, distributed at a density of 1 x 10^6 cells per 15 mL conical tube, and pelleted by centrifugation at 200 x g for 2 min at room temperature. Cells were then washed in 3 mL PBS and repelleted. Equivalent amounts of each SNCA exon 4 Cas9 nickase plasmid (1 μg sgRNA1, 1μg sgRNA2) were distributed to separate tubes for each transfection reaction, totaling 2 μg of DNA per tube. Washed cells were resuspended in 10 μL Resuspension Buffer R and transferred to tubes containing DNA. The DNA and cell mixture was then electroporated using default system settings (1,400 V, 20 ms, 1 pulse) via aspiration into the 10 μL Neon tip. Cells were dispensed directly into CF-1 (GlobalStem) MEF-coated tissue culture vessels containing pre-equilibrated (37°C, 5% CO2) E8 medium with 10 μM ROCK inhibitor for the first 24 hours. On the day after transfection, cell debris was gently removed by washing with DPBS, and 100% E8 medium was replaced. Cells were expanded and adapted to feeder-free culture as described in Experimental Procedures and above.

Mutation Detection by High Resolution Melt (HRM) Analysis, SURVEYOR Assay and Sanger Sequencing

For HRM analysis, HRM master mix was generated, consisting of 10 μL MeltDoctor HRM Master Mix (Life Technologies), 1.2 μL (5 μM) forward primer (Table S3), 1.2 μL (5 μM) reverse primer (Table S3) and 6.6 μL nuclease-free water for a volume of 19 μL per reaction. Genomic DNA was extracted from iPSC clones using the DNEasy Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen). Samples were diluted to 20 ng/μL and 1 μL of template was added to each well for a final reaction volume of 20 μL. Genomic DNA extracted from AST iPSCs was run as the reference sample. Samples were run in duplicate and the experiment was repeated, with the same four clones identified as variants. Cycling was performed on a 7500 Fast System (Life Technologies) with the following program: 95°C for 10 min, 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 sec and 60°C for 1 min, followed by the high resolution melt curve program, 95°C for 10 sec (100%), 60°C for 1 min (100%), 95°C for 15 sec (1%), 60°C for 15 sec (100%). High Resolution Melt Analysis

Software (Applied Biosystems) was used for data analysis to call variants.

Clones identified as variants by HRM were further analyzed by SURVEYOR assay. For SURVEYOR assay, the targeted region was amplified with Pfu polymerase and SURVEYOR assay primers (Table S3), followed by heteroduplex formation and SURVEYOR nuclease (Transgenomic) digestion. Cleavage products were visualized on a 2% agarose gel with 1X GelRed (Biotium).

For sequencing, PCR products were cloned into ZeroBlunt pCR vector (LifeTechnologies) and transformed into TOP10 E. coli (Life Technologies). DNA was amplified by colony PCR with the SURVYEOR assay primers and ExoSAP-IT (Affymetrix)-purified DNA was sequenced with the PCR forward primer.

iPSC Quality Control

AST^{ISO} iPSCs were quality controlled by karyotyping, immunofluorescence (IF) detection of pluripotency markers and TaqMan hPSC ScoreCard analysis (Life Technologies). G-band karyotyping was performed by the Cytogenetics

Laboratory at Cambridge University Hospitals. IF was performed as follows: cells were fixed in a solution of 4% paraformaldehyde diluted in PBS for 15 minutes, washed 3 times for 5 minutes in PBS, blocked in a solution of 0.3% Triton X-100 and 5% goat serum diluted in PBS, incubated in primary antibody overnight at 4°C in a solution of 0.3% Triton X-100 and 1% BSA diluted in PBS, washed 3 times for 5 minutes with PBS, incubated in secondary antibody for 3 hours, washed 3 times for 5 minutes with PBS and mounted with Vectashield HardSet Mounting Medium with DAPI (Vector Laboratories). Images were acquired using an EVOS FL Imaging System (Life Technologies). The following antibodies were used for pluripotency immunostaining: Nanog (PeproTech, 500-P236), Tra-1-60 (Millipore, MAB4360), Oct4 (Cell Signaling, 2750), goat anti-rabbit IgG Alexa Fluor 488 (Life Technologies, A-11034) and goat anti-mouse IgM 555 (Life Technologies, A-21426). TaqMan hPSC ScoreCard analysis was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 20 μL of cDNA from 1 μg of RNA was diluted in 610 μL of nuclease-free water. Subsequently, 630 μL of 2X TaqMan Fast Advanced Master Mix was added, and 10 μL of the reaction mixture was loaded per well into the plate, using a fresh tip for each well. Cycling was performed on a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Life Technologies) under fast cycling conditions with the following program: 50°C for 2 min, 95°C for 20 sec and 40 cycles of 95°C for 1 sec and 60°C for 20 sec. Data were analyzed using hPSC ScoreCard Analysis Software (Life Technologies).

Derivation, Maintenance and Neuronal Differentiation of iPSC-Derived NSCs

The derivation and maintenance of NSCs from NAS and AST iPSCs was previously described (Heman-Ackah et al. 2016). Importantly, to reduce the possibility of introducing experimental variability during neural induction, we used the NSC Generation Service from Applied StemCell to generate AST^{ISO} iPSCs via the Chambers protocol (Chambers et al., 2009), in the same manner as AST NSCs. Like AST NSCs, AST^{iso} NSCs were maintained on Geltrex LDEV-Free Reduced Growth Factor Basement membrane Matrix (Life Technologies) in Applied StemCell NSC Expansion Medium, containing 1:1 Neurobasal (Life Technologies) and DMEM/F-12 (11320-033, Life Technologies), 1X B27 supplement (Life Technologies), 1X N2 supplement (Life Technologies), 1X GlutaMax (Life Technologies) and 20 ng/mL bFGF (Peprotech). NSCs were passaged at a subcultivation ration of 1:3 to 1:6 with Accutase, and quenched with 5 volumes of culture medium per 1 volume of Accutase.

Two days prior to seeding NSCs for neuronal differentiation, tissue culture vessels were coated with a solution of 0.01% poly-L-ornithine (Sigma-Aldrich) diluted 1:5 in culture grade water (Life Technologies). After 24 hours, poly-L-ornithine was aspirated and tissue culture vessels were rinsed twice with culture grade water before the application of 10 μg/mL laminin (Life Technologies). On the day of seeding (day 0), laminin was aspirated from tissue culture vessels and cells were seeded at a density of 1 x 10^5 NSCs per cm². On day 1, 100% medium was replaced with Neuronal Differentiation Medium (NDM) consisting of Neurobasal, 1X B27 supplement, 1X GlutaMax, 20 ng/mL BDNF (R&D Systems) and 20 ng/mL GDNF (R&D Systems). Medium was replaced every other day. On day 7, neural progenitors were dissociated with Accutase and re-seeded onto poly-L-ornithine/laminin-coated tissue culture vessels to retain the initial cell density. Cells were seeded in NDM supplemented with 0.5 mM dbcAMP (Sigma-Aldrich) to promote maturation. Cells were processed for analysis between days $10 - 15$.

VPR based *SNCA* **overexpression**

We used the previously published *SNCA* TSS2-2 sgRNA and modified F+E sgRNA backbone (19) for overexpression of *SNCA*, cloned with a human U6 promoter by overlap PCR into pGEM-Teasy (Promega) and co-transfected with the SP-dCas9-VPR vector, which was a gift from George Church (Addgene #63798). Normal alpha-synuclein (NAS) neurons were derived from NCRM-5 iPSCs, via a stable intermediate iPSC-derived neural stem cell (NSC) population (Figure S3A). On day 0, 7.5 x 10⁶ NSCs were seeded onto poly-L-ornithine (Sigma)/laminin (Life Technologies) coated T75 tissue culture flasks. On day 1, 100% medium was replaced with Neuronal Differentiation Medium consisting of Neurobasal (Life Technologies), 1X B27 supplement (Life Technologies), 1X GlutaMAX (Life Technologies), 20 ng/mL BDNF (R&D Systems) and 20 ng/mL GDNF (R&D Systems). 100% medium was replaced every other day, until day 7. On day 7, neuronal progenitors were dissociated with Accutase. 5 x 10⁵ neuronal progenitors were Neon transfected with dCas9-VPR and sgRNA expression plasmids according the manufacturer's protocol, using default system settings (1400 V, 20 ms, 1 pulse). Neuronal progenitors were transfected in triplicate with 2 µg final DNA used per reaction. A CAG-driven tdTomato expression vector was used as a transfection control for all experiments. Following Neon transfection, cells were plated directly onto poly-ornithine/laminin-coated 12 well tissue culture dishes in Neuronal Differentiation Medium containing 10 μ M ROCK inhibitor (Tocris Bioscience) to promote survival and 0.5 mM dbcAMP (Sigma) to promote maturation. Neurons were processed for analysis 72 hours after transfection. All RT-PCR primers are listed in Table S4.

Immunostaining

For immunostaining, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) diluted in 1X PBS. Fixative was removed and cells rinsed three times with 1X PBS for 5 min each wash. Cells were then blocked with a solution of 0.3% Triton X-100, 5% goat serum in 1X PBS for one hour at room temperature. Blocking reagent was aspirated and primary antibodies (rabbit anti- α -synuclein, Abcam) were applied in antibody dilution buffer (0.3% Triton X-100, 1% BSA in 1X PBS) for overnight incubation at 4°C. Primary antibodies were aspirated, and cells were rinsed three times with 1X PBS for 5 min each wash. Secondary antibodies (goat anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 488, Life Technologies, A-11034)

were applied for two hours at room temperature. Secondary antibodies were then removed and samples rinsed three times with 1X PBS for 5 min each. The cells were then mounted with VECTASHIELD Mounting Medium with DAPI (Vector Labs) and glass coverslips. Images were acquired using an EVOS FL Imaging System.

Culture and Transfection of HEK293T, BE(2)-M17 and SH-SY5Y Cells

HEK293T and SH-SY5Y cells were maintained in DMEM (Life Technologies) supplemented with 10% HyClone FBS (GE Healthcare) with complete medium replacement every 2 days. BE(2)-M17 cells were maintained in OptiMEM (Life Technologies) supplemented with 10 % HyClone FB with complete medium replacement every 2 days. Cells were passaged when reaching 70% confluence. Twenty-four hours prior to transfection HEK293T and BE(2)-M17 cells were seeded at a density of 1.3 x 10^5 cells per well to 24-well plates. HEK293T and BE(2)-M17 cells were transfected with Lipofectamine 2000 (Life Technologies) using 500 ng final DNA used per well, according to the manufacturer's instructions. SH-SY5Y cells were Neon transfected at a density of 1 x 10^6 cells and 2 ug DNA per reaction, as described above.

RNA Extraction, RT-PCR, qRT-PCR and RNA-Seq Library Preparation

Cells were lysed for RNA extraction with Qiazol lysis reagent (Qiagen) and RNA was purified on RNEasy spin columns (Qiagen). Reverse transcription was performed with SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis SuperMix for qRT-PCR (Life Technologies), per the manufacturer's instructions. RT-PCR was performed on undiluted cDNA with Platinum PCR SuperMix (Life Technologies). RNA was diluted in nuclease-free water (Ambion) for qRT-PCR,

which was performed under standard cycling conditions with KiCqStart SYBR Green Master Mix (Sigma-Aldrich). All primers for RT-PCR and qRT-PCR are provided in Table S3.

For RNA-seq, libraries were prepared using Illumina's TruSeq Stranded mRNA HT kit (cat number RS-122-2103) from 1ug (iPSCs) or 320-400ng (neurons) total RNA, pooled and sequenced over 2 lanes of HiSeq4000 at 75b paired end.

RNA-Seq Analysis

Around 30 million reads per sample were obtained, and were quality controlled, mapped to the human genome and differential expression called using HTseq and DEseq2 (15) on the Ensembl gene set (release 82). We implemented a generalized linear model within DESeq2 to test the effect of differentiation stage (iPSC vs. neuron), genotype (AST vs ASTiso) and interaction differentiation x genotype on gene expression. KEGG and GO pathway enrichment analysis was performed using GOseq (Young et al., 2010).

Alpha-Synuclein ELISA

Alpha-synuclein protein levels were quantified using the Human Alpha-Synuclein ELISA Kit (KHB0061, Life Technologies), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, standards and samples were diluted in Standard Diluent Buffer before loading onto Alpha-Synuclein Antibody-coated assay wells. Alpha-Synuclein Detection Antibody was added to assay wells for three hours at room temperature. Assay wells were washed four times with 1X Wash Buffer. Anti-Rabbit IgG HRP was added to assay wells for 30 min at room temperature. Assay wells were washed four times with 1X Wash Buffer. Stabilized Chromogen was added to all wells, including chromogen blanks, for 30 min at room temperature. An equal volume of Stop Solution was added and absorbance was immediately read at 450 nm. A standard curve was generated in GraphPad Prism 6 (GraphPad Software) and used to calculate the unknown concentrations of alpha-synuclein in lysates.

Western Blotting

Protein lysates (40 μg per sample) were resolved in 15% SDS-PAGE gels and transferred to 0.45 μm pore PVDF membranes (GE Healthcare) for 2 hours at 100V in a transfer buffer containing 25 mM Tris, 200 mM glycine, and 20% (v/v) methanol. Membranes were blocked in 0.1% Tween-20 Tris-buffered saline with 5% skimmed powdered milk for 1 hour with constant agitation. Primary antibodies were diluted in blocking solution as follows: Bcl-2 1:1000 (Santa Cruz, sc-492), Beclin-1 1:500 (Santa Cruz, sc-11427), β-actin 1:5000 (Abcam, ab6276) and incubation was performed overnight at 4°C. After 4 washes in Tris-buffered saline supplemented with 0.1% Tween 20, membranes were incubated with 680 RD goat anti-rabbit IgG (Licor, 926-68071) or 800 CW goat anti-mouse IgG (Licor, 926- 32210) and fluorescent signal captured with Odyssey Fc system (Li-Cor) and quantified with Image Studio 2.0 software, using β-actin as a reference protein.

Post-Mortem Brain Tissue

Human brain specimens were obtained from the Biobank Pathology unit, VU University Medical Center under approval of the ethics committee of the VU University Medical Center. Human autopsy material was obtained with informed consent for research. Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue from the mesencephalon was used from six control and five PD cases. Control cases had no known clinical history of dementia or motor disturbances, and died of causes unrelated to the central nervous system. Control and PD cases were selected based on clinical diagnosis and confirmed by neuropathological evaluation. Control cases showed no immunoreactivity for alpha-synuclein or pIRE1a in the mesencephalon. Patient characteristics including sex, age, post-mortem delay, clinical diagnosis or cause of death is shown in Table S2.

Immunohistochemistry

Sections (5 µm thick) were mounted on SuperFrost Plus tissue slides (Menzel-Gläser, Germany) and deparaffinized. Subsequently, sections were immersed in 0.3% H₂O₂ in methanol for 30 min to quench endogenous peroxidase activity. Sections were treated in 10 mM pH 6.0 citrate buffer heated by microwave during 10 min for antigen retrieval. Primary antibodies were dissolved in Normal Antibody Diluent (Immunologic, Duiven, The Netherlands) and applied overnight at 4°C. Rabbit anti-pIRE1a (pSer724, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, CO, USA) was diluted 1:10,000 and mouse anti-alpha-synuclein (clone LB509, Zymed Laboratories, San Francisco, CA) was used at a 1:200 dilution. Between incubation steps, sections were rinsed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.4). As secondary step, sections were incubated with EnVision detection system (goat anti-mouse/rabbit horseradish peroxidase, DAKO) for 30 minutes at room temperature. Color was developed using 3-amino-9-ethyl-carbazole (AEC, Zymed, San Francisco, CA) and nuclei were stained with haematoxylin. Immunohistochemical evaluation was performed on the substantia nigra pars compacta and pars reticulata at the level of the third cranial nerve. The immunoreactivity score ranged from

0 to 2, with 0 indicating no, 1 moderate, and 2 strong immunoreactivity of the relevant antibody in the studied cells. The IHC score for each case was an average of at least four microscopic fields (magnification 10X).

To determine the colocalization of pIRE1a with alpha-synuclein, double-immunohistochemistry was performed on two PD cases. Sections were immersed in 0.3% H₂O₂ in methanol for 30 min to quench endogenous peroxidase activity. Sections were treated in 10 mM pH 6.0 citrate buffer heated by microwave during 10 min for antigen retrieval. Subsequently, sections were co-incubated with rabbit anti-pIRE1a (dilution 1:10,000) and mouse anti-alpha-synuclein (dilution 1:200, clone LB509, Zymed Laboratories, San Francisco, CA) diluted in normal antibody diluent overnight at 4°C. Sections were washed with PBS and co-incubated with EnVision (goat anti-rabbit HRP, DAKO) and alkaline phosphatase conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (dilution 1:200, SouthernBiotech, Birmingham AL, USA) for 30 min. Sections were washed and colors were developed with AEC and subsequently with Fast Blue BB Base (Sigma, St. Louis, MO). Sections were counterstained with haematoxylin and mounted using Aquamount (BDH, Poole, England). The Nuance spectral imaging system (CRi, Woburn, MA) was used for the analysis of double-stained specimens. Spectral imaging unmixes colors based on their spectral characteristics, enabling visualization of the different reaction products. Spectral imaging data cubes were taken from 460-660 nm at 10 nm intervals and analyzed with the Nuance software. Spectral libraries of single-red (AEC), single-blue (Fast Blue BB Base), neuromelanin and haematoxylin were obtained from control slides. The resulting library was applied to the double stained slides and the different reaction products were then spectrally unmixed into individual black-and-white images, representing the localization of each of the reaction products, and reverted to fluorescence-like images composed of pseudo-colors using the Nuance software.

Statistical Methods

Results of qRT-PCR experiments represent technical triplicates of biological triplicates, and results of alpha-synuclein ELISA represent technical duplicates of biological triplicates. Levene's homogeneity test was used to evaluate the null hypothesis that population variances were equal. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Bonferonni where samples met the homogeneity of variances assumption or Games-Howell where samples did not meet the homogeneity of variances assumption.

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