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#### **1** Supplemental Information

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#### 3 Figure S1, Related to STAR Methods. Kinetics of WNV infection in C3H mice

4 (A) Brain viral loads (days 1 through 9 p.i.) in C3H mice challenged intraperitoneally (i.p.) with 5  $100LD_{50}$  WNV. Data are mean WNV titers per gram of tissue and each dot represents one 6 mouse. The dotted line represents the limit of detection for the assay. ND-not detectable. (B) 7 Fluorescence microscopy images of brain tissue sections from control mice (Mock-infected) or 8 mice infected with 100LD<sub>50</sub> of WNV days 5 through 9 p.i. depicting TUNEL-positive cells. 9 Merged images depict DAPI nuclear stain (blue) overlaid with TUNEL stain (green). Scale 10 bar=30  $\mu$ m (C) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of C3H mice after i.p. challenge with 100LD<sub>50</sub> 11 WNV. Data are from multiple experiments representing a total of 22 mice in each group. Mock-12 infected mice- No WNV and Mock-treated mice- mice infected i.p. with 100LD<sub>50</sub> of WNV.

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#### 14 Figure S2, Related to Figure 1. Analysis of i.n. siRNA delivery to the brain

15 (A) Fluorescent images of the organs in Figure 1A. Mock- Mice administered i.n. PBS. (B) 16 Representative images of organs isolated at 24 h after i.n. administration of PBS (mock), and 17 RVG9R-complexed siFITC (5 µg) administered i.v. or i.n. Flourescent images are overlaid on 18 their bright-field counterparts. (C) qPCR for SOD1 mRNA in isolated mouse brain regions at 12, 19 24 and 48 h following i.n. treatment with RVG9R-siSOD1 (solid bars) and RVG9R-siNT (open 20 bars). NT- non-targeting siRNA, siCD4. A single dose of RVG9R-siRNA (13.5 µg) was 21 administered. Data are percent relative gene expression (± SD) relative to GAPDH after 22 normalizing with corresponding data from the mock (PBS)-treated cohort. Data are combined 23 from 2 experiments with individual mouse cohorts of n = 3 per treatment at each time point. (C) 24 qPCR for SOD1 mRNA in mouse brain regions at 48 h after the fourth treatment with 13.5 μg 25 (lo) or 70 µg (hi) of RVG9R-siSOD1 aministered i.v. or i.n. Data are percent relative gene 26 expression ( $\pm$  SD) relative to GAPDH after normalizing with corresponding data from the mock 27 (PBS)-treated cohort. Data are with individual mouse cohorts of n = 3 per treatment. (E) qPCR 28 for SOD1 gene expression in brain regions at 24 h following i.n. treatment with siSOD1 29 complexed to 9R. Data are mean percent gene expression (± SE) relative to GAPDH after normalizing with corresponding data in a mock-treated cohort (n=3). \*P  $\leq 0.05$ ; \*\*\*P  $\leq 0.001$ ; 30 \*\*\*\*P < 0.0001; ns- not-significant. 31

### Figure S3, Related to Figures 2 and 3. Analysis of RVG9R-siFvE<sup>JW</sup>-treated WNV-infected mice

34 (A) Representative images of WNV-infected mouse brain sections from the olfactory bulb, 35 cortex and cerebellum analyzed by fluorescent immunohistochemistry at day 9 p.i. for GFAP 36 expression (left) and TUNEL-positive cells and WNV antigen (right). Nuclei were stained with 37 DAPI (blue). Mock-treated- Mice administered i.n. PBS. Scale bar= 30 µm. (B) Spleen viral 38 burden measured by IPMA in the spleens of wild-type C3H mice at the indicated days (left) and RVG9R-siFvE<sup>JW</sup> treated C3H mice on day 8 (right) after infection with WNV. Each data point 39 40 represents one mouse. Data are mean WNV titers per gram of tissue and the dashed line 41 represents limit of detection for the assay. nd-not done; ND- not detected. Mock-treated- Mice 42 administered i.n. PBS. (C) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of C3H recipients that received splenocyte populations (w/w/o immune serum) from donor RVG9R-siFvE<sup>JW</sup> treated WNV-43 44 infected mice that survived challenge. C3H recipients underwent adoptive transfer either a day 45 before or on day 6 p.i. with WNV. n = 2-3 mice per group.

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# Figure S4, Related to Figure 4. Analysis of viral titers and survival kinetics of RVG9RsiFvE<sup>JW</sup>-treated mice after secondary challenge with WNV.

49 (A) Infectious viral loads in the spleens of RVG9R-siFvE<sup>JW</sup> treated C3H mice challenged for a 50 second time with 100LD<sub>50</sub> WNV on day 4 after second challenge. Data are mean WNV titers per 51 gram of tissue and the dashed line represents limit of detection for the assay. Each data point 52 represents one mouse. ND- not detectable. (B) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of mice challenged 53 intraperitoneally (i.p. 100LD<sub>50</sub>) or intracranially (i.c. 20LD<sub>50</sub>) with WNV. For mice treated with 54 i.n. siRNA, this represented a second exposure to the virus. WNV<sub>inact</sub> refers to mice immunized 55 with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-inactivated WNV.

Oligonucleotides	Sequence 5'-3'	Reference
WNV primers	F: TCACGCATCTCTCCACCAAAG3 R: GGGTCAGCACGTTTGTCATTG3	(Papin et al., 2004)
SOD-1 primers	F: CCAGTGCAGGACCTCATTTT3 R: CACCTTTGCCCAAGTCATCT3	This paper
GAPDH primers	F: AACTTTGGCATTGTGGAAGG R: GGAGACAACCTGGTCCTCAG	This paper
siSOD1	Sense strand: GGUGGAAAUGAAGAAAGUA	(Kumar et al., 2007)
Human siCD4	Sense strand: GAUCAAGAGACUCCUCAGU3	(Kumar et al., 2007)
siLuc (siNT)	Sense strand: GGACAUUACUAGUGACUCA	(Kumar et al., 2006)
siFvE <sup>JW</sup>	Sense strand: GGGAGCAUUGACACAUGUGCA	(Kumar et al., 2006)
siScr	Sense strand: GTGAACCTATCGACGGAGTGA	This paper

Table 1. Oligonuleotide sequences. Related to STAR methods.