

Quantitative Proteomic Analyses of Dynamic Signalling Events in Cortical Neurons Undergoing Excitotoxic Cell Death

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Supplemental Experimental Procedures

Materials

Neurobasal medium, B-27 supplement, GlutaMAX-I, Penicillin, Streptomycin and RPMI 1640 medium were purchased from GIBCO (Rockville, MD, USA). Trypsin, soybean trypsin inhibitor, sodium pyruvate, L-glutamine, glutamate, DMSO, DNase, poly-D-lysine, iodoacetamide, formic acid, 2,5-dihydrobenzoic acid, sodium cyanoborohydride, formaldehyde solution were purchased from Sigma (St Louis, MO). Bond-Breaker TCEP solution from ThermoFisher Scientific, Titansphere (10 μ m) from GL Sciences, Oasis HLB 1cc cartridges from Waters, sequence grade trypsin from Promega and formaldehyde-D2 were sourced from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories. Anti-Akt, phospho-Akt (S473), phospho-Akt (T308), anti-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2), phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2), anti-GSK3 $\alpha\beta$ and phospho-GSK3 $\alpha\beta$ (Ser21/9), anti-CK2 α , antibodies were sourced from Cell Signalling and used at 1:1000 dilution unless otherwise mentioned.

Culture of primary mouse cortical neurons

All experiments involving animals were approved by the University of Melbourne Animal Ethics Committee (Licence number: 161394.1) and were performed in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 under the guidelines of the National Health and Medical Research Council Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Experimental Purposes in Australia. For preparation of primary cortical neuronal cultures, embryos were collected from pregnant mice (gestational day 15-16) after they were euthanized by CO₂ asphyxiation. The cortical region was aseptically micro-dissected out of the brains of the embryos, free of meninges and dissociated in Hanks Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) (9.5 g/l Hanks Balanced Salt, 7.4 mM glucose, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 10 mM HEPES, 0.35 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 1.2 mM MgSO₄ and 3 mg/ml BSA). The suspended tissues were subjected to trypsin digestion (0.2 mg/ml trypsin and 0.04 mg/ml DNase in HBSS) at 37°C for 5 min and trypsin was inactivated by the addition of trypsin inhibitor (0.08 mg/ml). The suspension was centrifuged at 1000 \times g for 5 min at room temperature. The tissue pellet was then subjected to mechanical trituration in HBSS solution containing 0.04 mg/ml DNase and 0.5 mg/ml trypsin inhibitor and then allowed to stand for 30 sec. The single-cell suspension was then transferred to a new sterile 50 ml tube and centrifuged for 5 min at 1000 \times g at room temperature. The cell pellet was then re-suspended in warm (37°C) neurobasal medium supplemented with 2.5% B-27 supplement, 0.5 mM GlutaMAX-I, 100 IU/ml penicillin and 100 μ g/ml streptomycin (NB/B27). Cells were counted and then plated at a density of 6 \times 10⁵ cells per well in 24-well plates and at 1.5 \times 10⁶ cells per well in 6-well plates pre-treated with 0.1 mg/ml Poly-D-lysine. All cultures were maintained at 37°C in a humidified incubator supplemented with 5% CO₂. After ~18-20 h, the medium was replaced with fresh NB/B27 culture medium. The cultured neurons were incubated for seven days (DIV7) with 50% of the medium replaced with fresh medium at DIV5. The DIV7 cultures were highly neuronal enriched and were used for the experiments.

Western blotting

Western blotting was performed as described previously¹. Briefly, proteins (~30 μ g in each well) in neuronal cell lysates were separated by 10 % SDS-PAGE gels using running buffer [25 mM Tris-HCl, 192 mM glycine, 10 % (w/v) SDS] for approximately 1.2 h at 150 V, and then transferred onto PVDF membranes. The membranes were then blocked with 3% (w/v) non-fat dry milk in Tris buffered saline with Tween-20 (TBST) (0.2 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 1.5 M NaCl, and 0.1 % Tween-20). After blocking and washing with TBST, the membranes were probed with the primary antibodies overnight. The membranes were washed with TBST 3 \times before probing with horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit or goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibodies (1: 5,000) (Monash Antibody Technologies Facilities, Victoria,

Australia) for 1 h at room temperature. Protein bands were visualized using chemiluminescence (ECL, Amersham Biosciences) according to manufacturer's instruction. Images were taken using Fuji film LAS-3000. For Western blot with anti-Tau, phospho-Tau and anti-CK2 antibodies, neuronal lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE on 12% gels and transferred to Immobilon-FL PVDF membranes (EMD Millipore). Membranes were blocked in PBS + 0.1% Tween-20 (PBST) with 2% (w/v) non-fat dry milk in PBST for 30 min at room temperature, washed and then incubated overnight with primary antibodies (1:1000 dilutions in PBST). After washes with PBST, membranes were incubated with anti-rabbit or anti-mouse IgG secondary antibodies, fluorescently-labelled with IR680 or IR800 dye, for 1 h. Immunoreactive bands were visualised on an Odyssey® Infrared Imaging System with densitometry analyses determined using Image Studio Lite software (LI-COR Biosciences).

Histology methods

Primary cortical neurons were seeded at a density of 80,000 cells per well into a 12 well dish and grown on a poly-D-lysine treated 15 mm diameter glass coverslips. After 7 days *in vitro* culture, the cells were treated with 0 (untreated) and 100 μ M glutamate for 240 min. At completion of treatment, cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (in PBS buffer) followed by cell permeabilization treatment (0.075% triton X in blocking buffer) and blocking (10% goat serum in PBS buffer) at room temperature. Primary antibodies were diluted in blocking buffer and incubated on cells overnight at 4°C then washed in PBS buffer followed by incubation in secondary antibodies for 60 min at RT, washed in PBS buffer then mounted on a glass slide with mounting media (prolong gold, Invitrogen). Slides were allowed to dry for at least 48 hr before imaging. Images were taken on a Zeiss axio scope epifluorescence microscope through either a 40 \times /0.75 or 63 \times /0.95 EC Plan-neofluor air objectives using a combination of excitation/emission filter sets for green (495nm/537nm), red (546nm/590nm) and DAPI (350/460nm), illuminated by a LED X-cite power source. Images were taken using a coolsnap ES² Monochrome CCD camera from Photometrics and ZEN2 pro software from Zeiss. Fluorescence images (8 to 10 slices) were taken using the z-stack module then processed using the modules for deconvolution and image projection into a single image using the ZEN pro software v 2.3 and exported as a .tiff file. Bright field images were taken by illuminating the cells using a Halogen 100W lamp. Antibodies used were: anti-MAP2 (mAb 1:500, Merck, Australia), anti-mAb-488 (1:500, Invitrogen, Australia), DAPI (Sigma, Australia), anti-GFAP (mAb 1:500, Cell Signalling Technology, Australia), anti-Tau (Rb, 1:2000, Dako Australia), anti-Iba1 (Rb, 1:500, Novachem, Australia). The purity of the DIV 7 neuronal cultures were assessed by staining cultures for neurons, microglia and astrocyte using specific marker antibodies. Over 90% of cells in the neuronal cultures were found to be neurons (data not shown).

Monitoring the cleavage of specific neuronal proteins by calpains and caspase 3 activated by treatments with glutamate, staurosporine (STS) and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)

Lysates of primary cortical neurons (DIV7) with and without treatment with glutamate (100 μ M), staurosporine (1 μ M) or H₂O₂ (50 μ M) for 240 min were analyzed by Western blotting. Lysates were run on 12% and 8% SDS_PAGE gels for caspase 3 and α -fodrin blots, respectively. The primary antibodies used were α -fodrin (1:1000, Cell Signalling #2122), caspase 3 (1:1000, Cell Signalling #9662) and α -tubulin (1:1000).

Supplemental Results

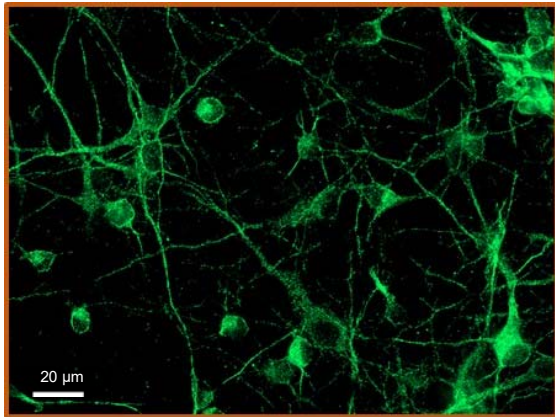
Neurons treated with glutamate for 240 min exhibited biochemical features of regulated necrosis but not apoptosis

Apoptosis and regulated necrosis are two major cell death mechanisms directing neuronal death (reviewed in ²). One of the key events in apoptosis is activation of procaspase 3 by its upstream pro-apoptotic proteases such as caspase 9, which catalyze proteolytic processing of procaspase 3 (~32 kDa) to form the active caspase 3 consisting of the p17 and p12 subunits (reviewed in ³). Thus, formation of the active caspase 3 is a biomarker of apoptosis. Regulated necrosis of neurons, however, is governed by over-activation of the calcium-dependent proteases calpains, which directly cleave many neuronal proteins to cause cell death.² Among them, α -fodrin and procaspase 3 are direct substrates of calpains.⁴⁻⁶ Upon cleavage by calpains, α -fodrin forms two major proteolytic fragments of 145 kDa and 150 kDa while procaspase 3 forms a truncated fragment of 30 kDa.^{5,7} Furthermore, calpain cleavage of procaspase 3 and procaspase 9 was found to prevent their activation by proteolytic processing to form the active caspase 3 and caspase 9.⁴ Hence, both 145/150 kDa α -fodrin proteolytic fragments and 30 kDa truncated procaspase 3 fragment are biomarkers of necrosis.

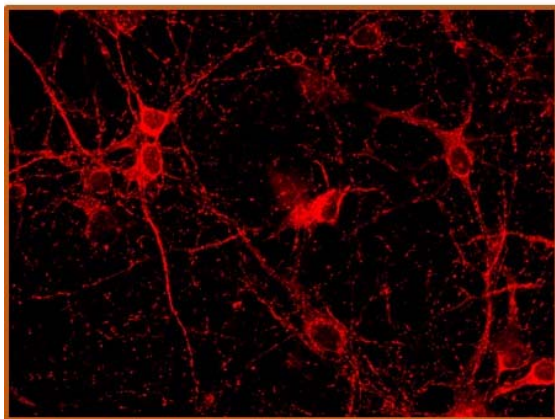
To define the type of neuronal death triggered by glutamate over-stimulation, we monitored the activation states of procaspase 3 and α -fodrin in neurons with and without glutamate over-stimulation for 240 min. We included neurons treated with cytotoxic levels of staurosporine (STS) and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) as controls because treatments of cultured primary neurons with both compounds were previously found to induce significant activation of calpains and slight activation of procaspase 3 ^{4,8}. Supplemental Figure S3 shows that treatment of cultured cortical neurons with glutamate, STS or H_2O_2 induced limited proteolysis of intact procaspase 3 to form the 30 kDa truncated procaspase 3 fragment. Presumably, the fragment was generated by calpain cleavage of the Ser-7/Val-8 peptide bond of intact procaspase 3 ^{4,5} defined previously by Wolf *et al.* ⁵ (Figure S3). In contrast, the active caspase 3 p17 subunit was not detectable in the lysate of neurons over-stimulated by glutamate while only a weak caspase 3 p17 subunit signal was detected in lysate of neurons treated with STS and H_2O_2 . These procaspase 3 cleavage patterns suggest that all three treatments over-activated calpains in neurons and had little or no effect on procaspase 3 activation. This notion is further supported by the cleavage pattern of α -fodrin – all three treatments caused a significant reduction in intact α -fodrin accompanied by a significant increase in the abundance of the 145kDa/150kDa fragment generated by direct calpain cleavage of the Val-1175/Tyr-1176 and Gly-1230/Ser-1231 peptide bonds of intact α -fodrin ⁷. Thus, results of Figure S3 indicate that necrosis associated with over-activation of calpains was the major type of cell death of neurons caused by glutamate over-stimulation and treatments with STS and H_2O_2 for 140 min. The results also reveal that glutamate over-stimulation did not cause apoptosis while treatment with STS and H_2O_2 only induced slight stimulation of the apoptotic signalling pathway.

Supplemental Figures

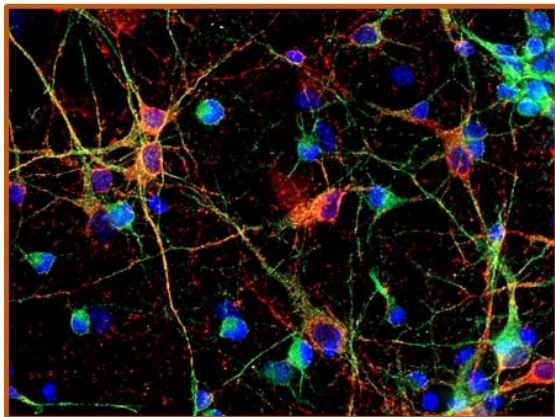
Figure S1



Green: anti-MAP2



Red: anti-Tau



Merged

Green: anti-MAP2
Red: anti-Tau;
blue: DAPI

Figure S1. Morphological features of cultured primary cortical neurons at seven days *in vitro* (DIV7)

Untreated mouse primary cortical neurons were grown in culture for 7 days *in vitro* then fixed and immunostained for neuronal marker proteins, MAP2 (green) and Tau (red) proteins and the cell nucleus was stained using DAPI (blue) dye. Scale bar 20 μm .

Figure S2

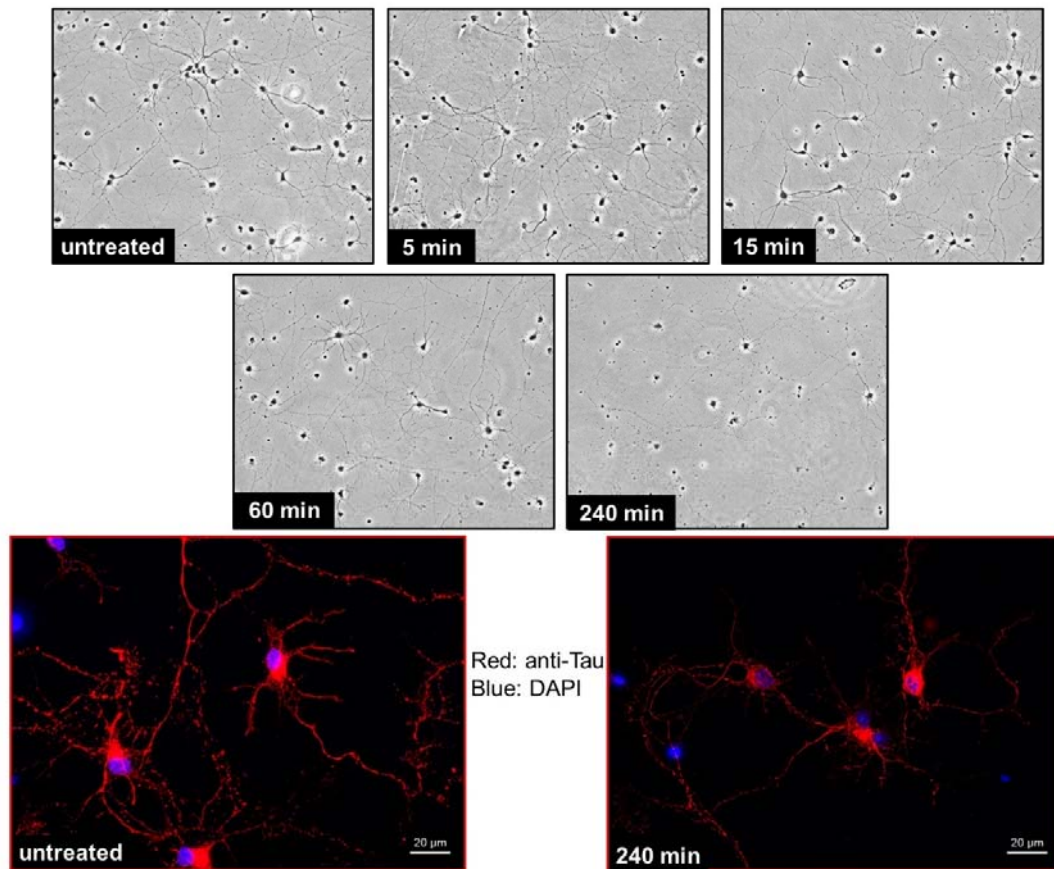


Figure S2. Time-dependent morphological changes of cultured primary cortical neurons in response to glutamate treatment

Glutamate treatment of cortical neurons causes morphological changes over time. Mouse primary cortical neurons were grown in culture for 7 days *in vitro* then treated with 100 μ M glutamate for 5, 15, 60, and 240 min. Following treatment, cells were fixed and prepared for histological imaging (refer to the “Histology Methods” section). Phase contrast images of treated cultures (top panel of images) were taken to demonstrate how the presence of the neurite architecture morphology and cell soma shape in the untreated cells gradually diminished and dramatically altered especially in the 240 min treated cultures. Fixed cells were immunostained for the neuronal protein, Tau (red) and nucleus stained with DAPI (blue). The anti-Tau immunofluorescence intensity and extent of neurite architecture are dramatically diminished in the 240 min glutamate treated cultures compared to the untreated cultures (lower panels). Scale bar 20 μ m.

Figure S3

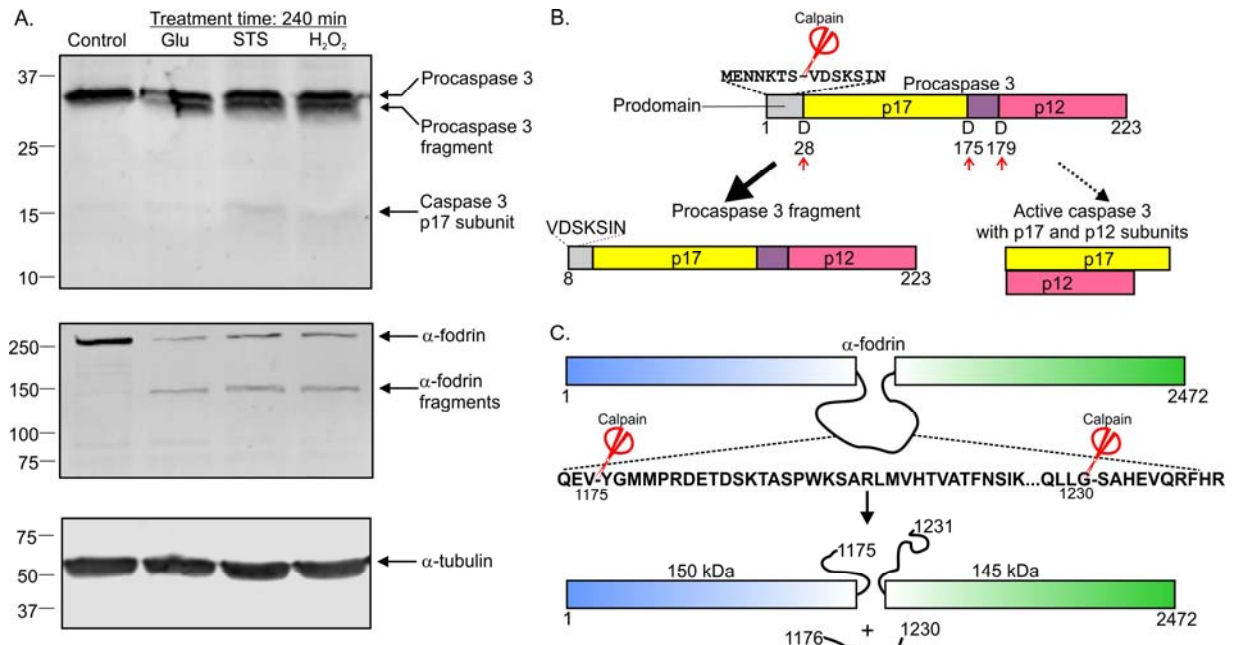


Figure S3. Necrosis involving the activation of calpains is the major cell-death signalling mechanism in neurons treated with glutamate for 240 min

A. Western blot analysis of crude lysates of control neurons and neurons treated with glutamate (100 μ M), staurosporine (1 μ M) and hydrogen peroxide (50 μ M) for 240 min (labelled as Glu, STS and H_2O_2 , respectively). The blots were probed with the antibodies against α -fodrin, caspase 3 and α -tubulin. **B.** Schematic depicting the products generated by calpain-mediated cleavage of procaspase 3 (~32 kDa) at the Ser-7/Val-8 peptide bond to generate the procaspase 3 fragment of ~30 kDa. In cells undergoing apoptosis, procaspase 3 is activated to form the activate caspase 3 fragments of 12-17 kDa. Results shown in panel A suggest that most of procaspase 3 molecules in neurons were cleaved by calpains to form the procaspase 3 fragment of ~30 kDa (indicated by the large solid black arrow). Only a very small portion of procaspase 3 molecules underwent proteolytic processing (indicated by the small dotted black arrow) at Asp-28, Asp-175 and Asp-179 (upward red arrows) by the upstream pro-apoptotic proteases to form the active mature caspase 3 consisting of the p17 and p12 subunit of ~12-17 kDa. As the epitope of the anti-caspase 3 antibody is mapped to the p17 subunit segment of intact procaspase 3, the antibody recognizes procaspase 3, procaspase 3 fragment, the p17 subunit but not the p12 subunit. **C.** Schematic depicting the products generated by calpain-mediated cleavage of α -fodrin at Val-1175/Tyr-1176 and Gly-1230/Ser-1231 peptide bonds. The numbers refer to the amino acid residue numbers of mouse α -fodrin (uniprot identifier P16546-1). Cleavage at the two sites is expected to convert intact α -fodrin (~285 kDa) to two fragments of 145-150 kDa.

Figure S4A

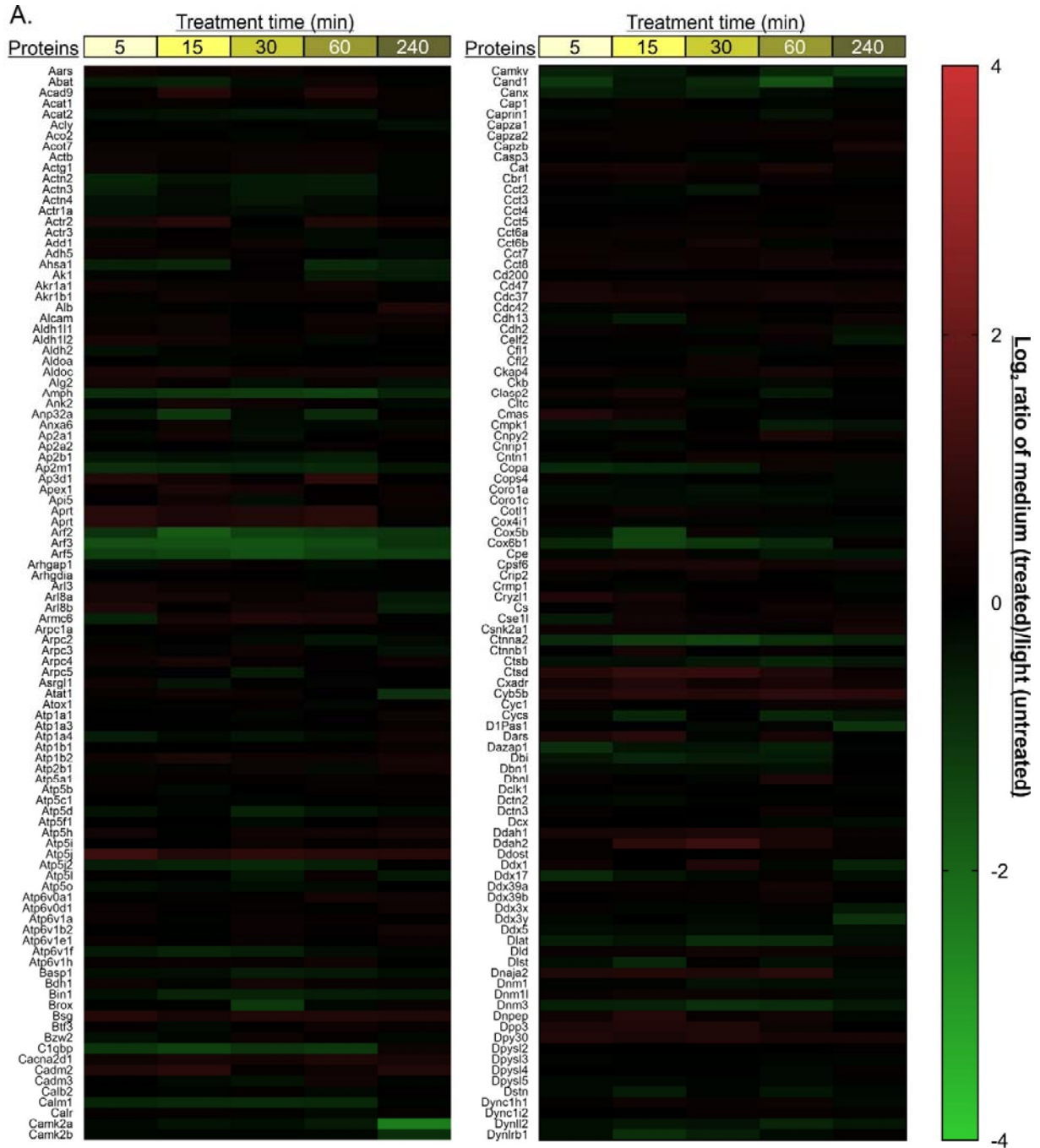


Figure S4B

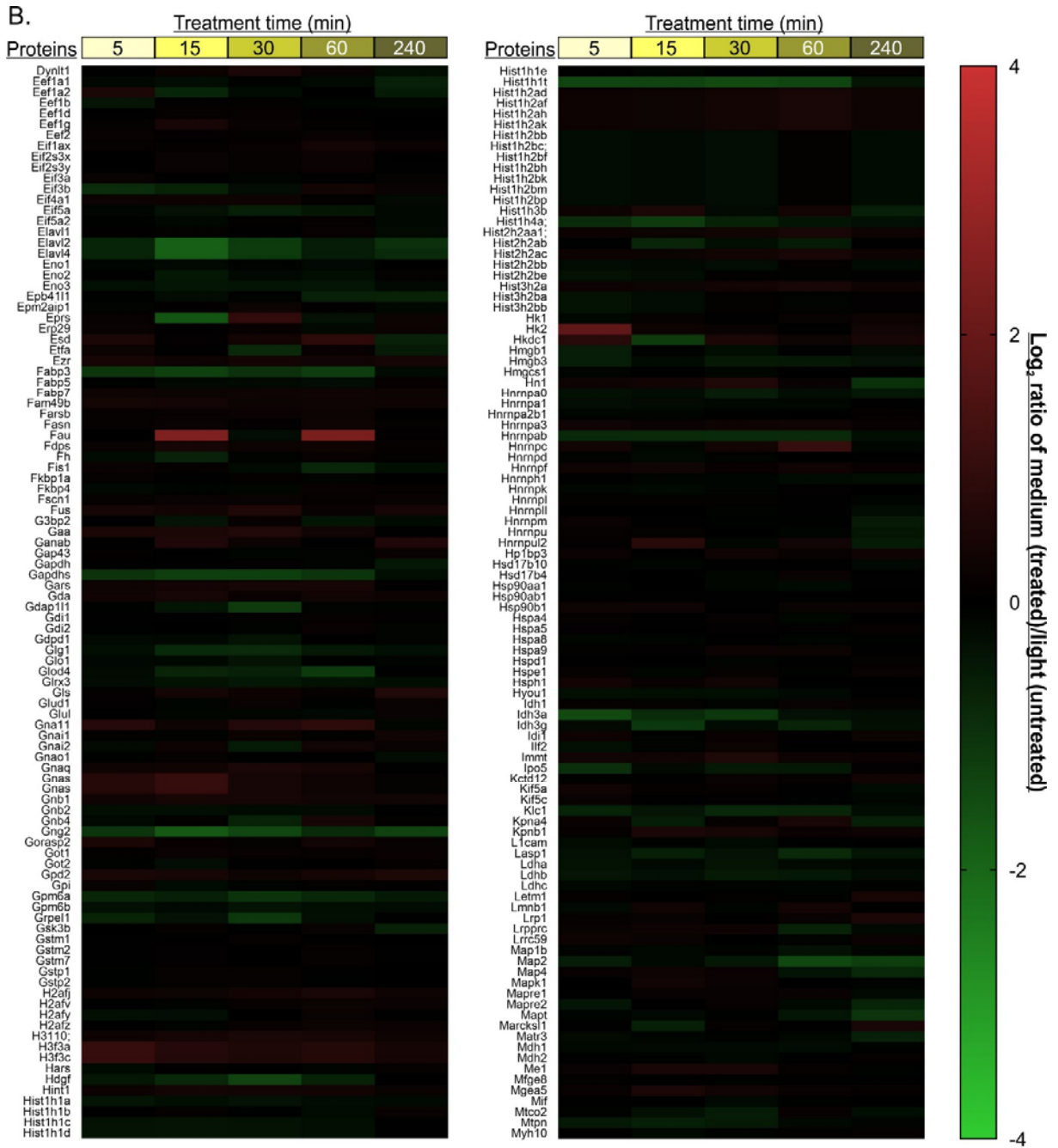


Figure S4C

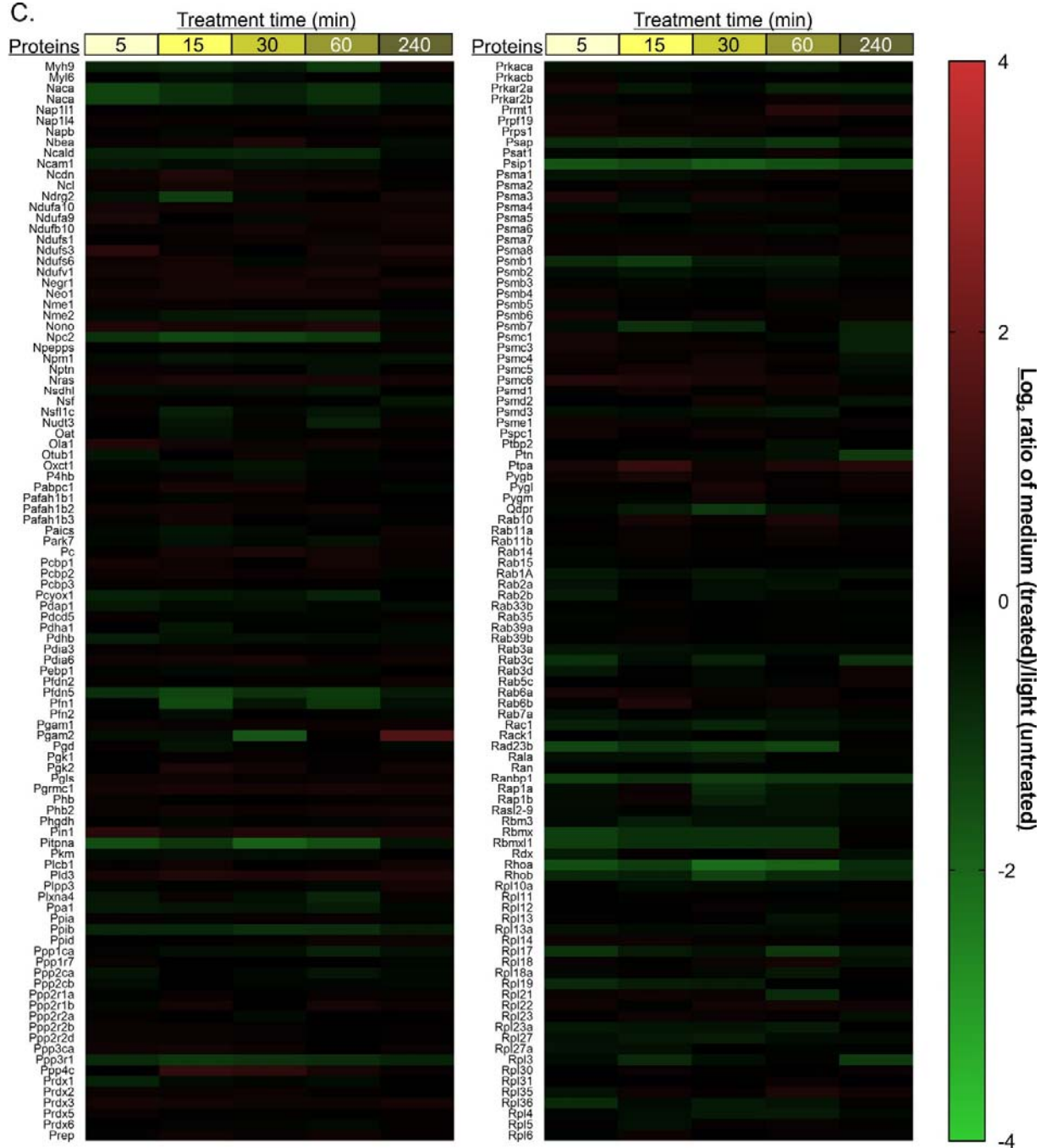


Figure S4D

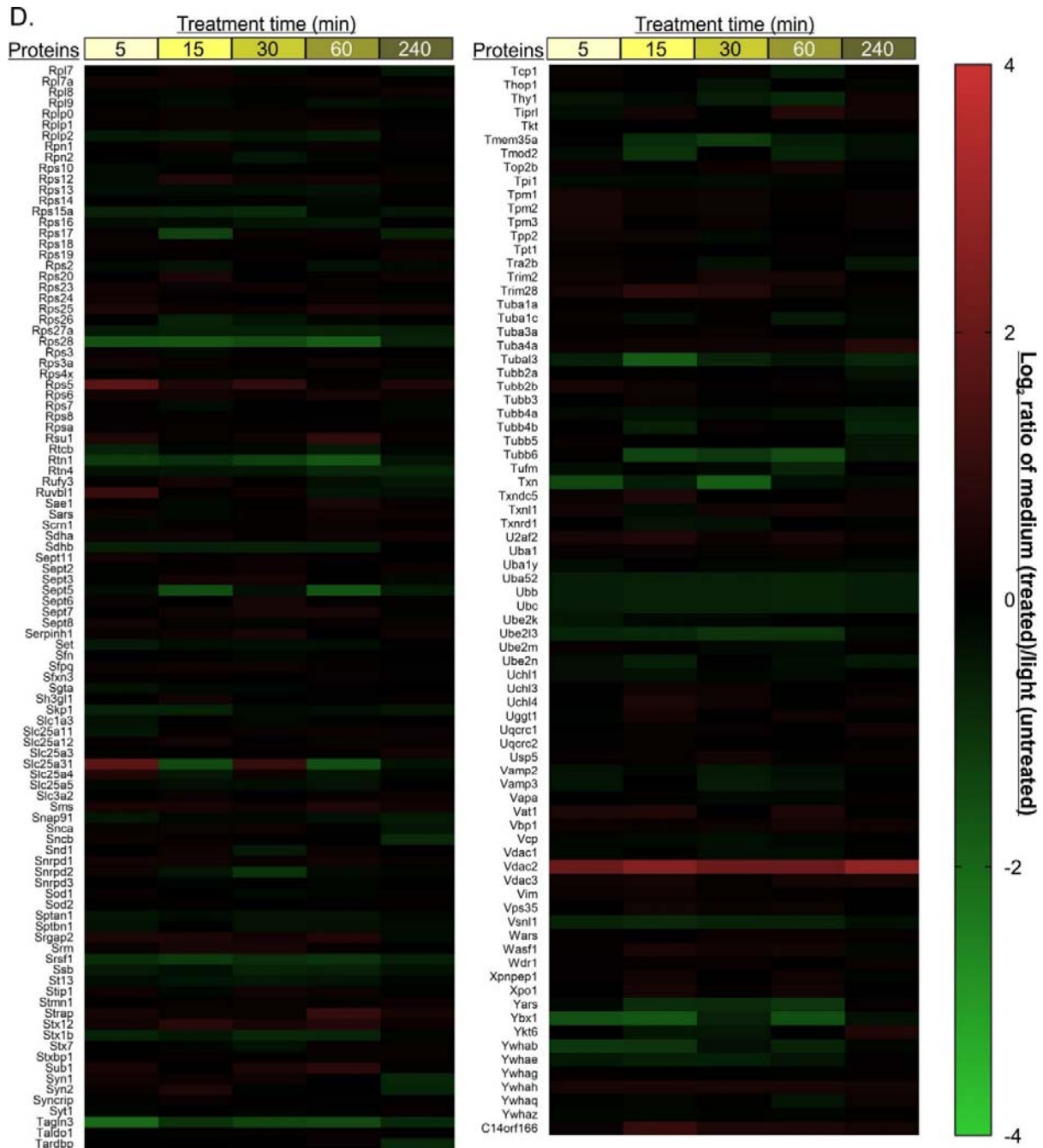


Figure S4. Heat maps depicting time-dependent changes in abundance of selected neuronal proteins

Temporal changes (5 min to 240 min) in abundance of selected neuronal proteins from global proteome data are presented in heat maps. Only neuronal proteins identified in at least two biological replicates in all the time points are selected for presentation. For the complete list identified proteins and corresponding abundance ratios, readers are requested to check Table S1.

Figure S5

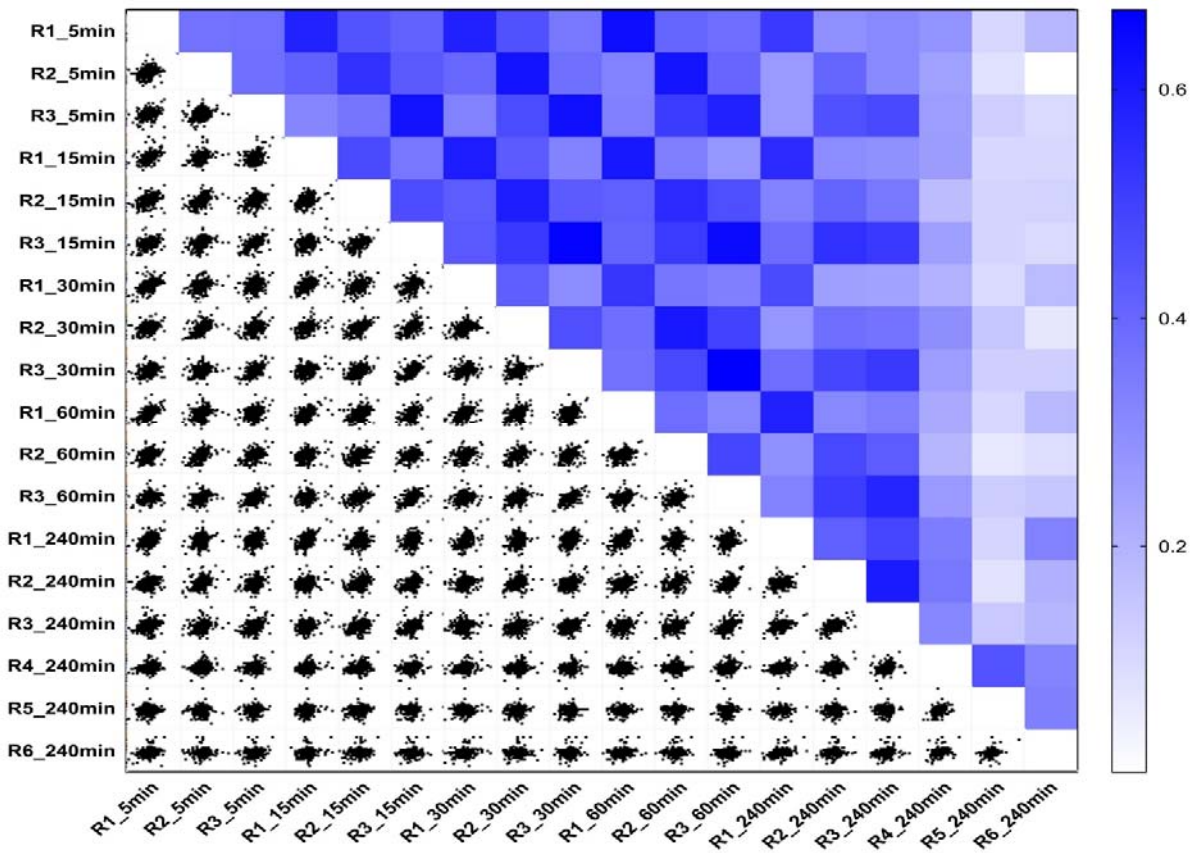


Figure S5. Multi-scatter plot showing the correlation between replicates of global proteomic changes at different time points

This plot depicts the variability in identified neuronal proteins over time. Darker blue represents higher Pearson's correlation between samples.

Figure S6

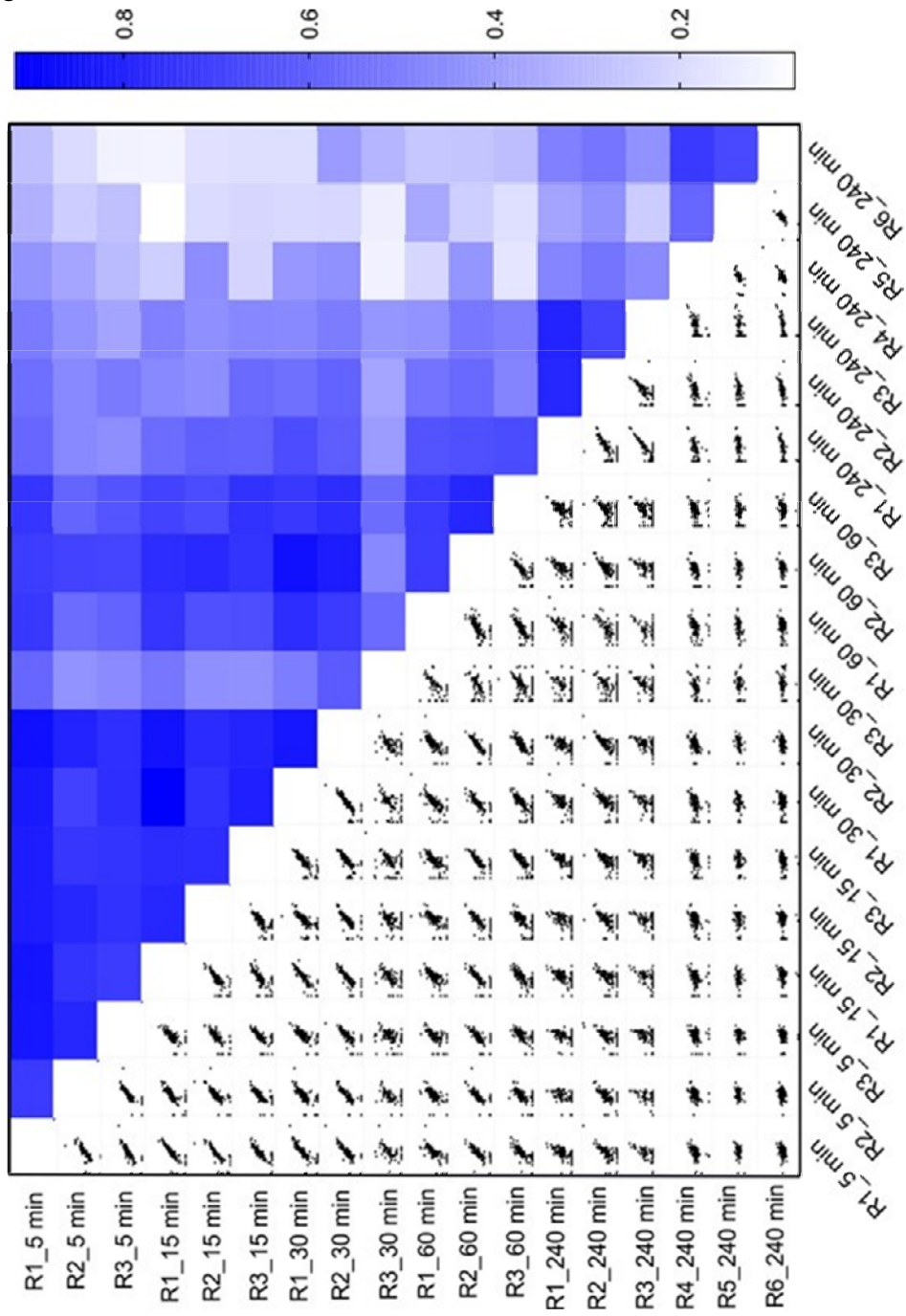


Figure S6. Multi-scatter plots showing the correlation between replicates of phosphopeptides at different time points.

This scatter plot depicts the variability in identified neuronal phosphopeptides over time. Darker blue represents higher Pearson's correlation between samples.

Figure S7

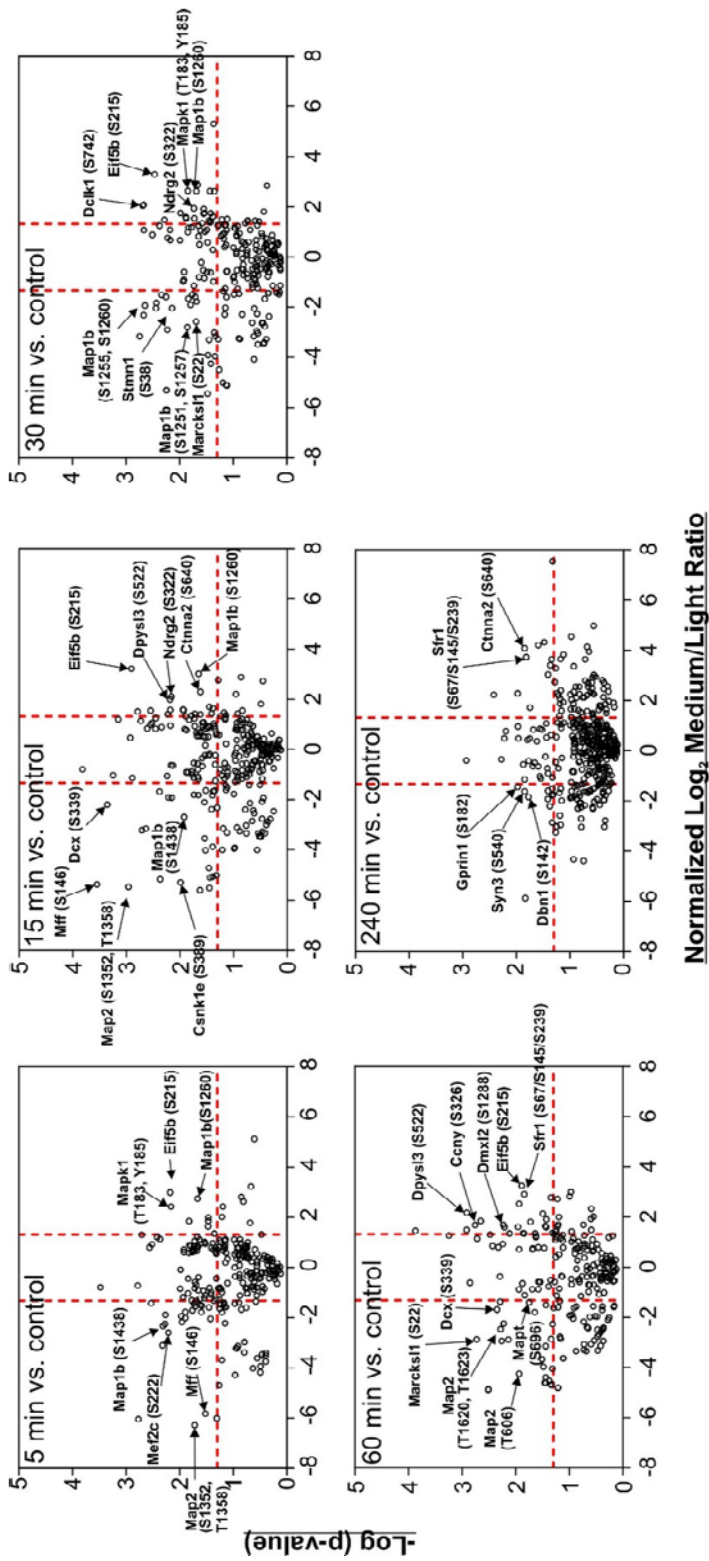


Figure S7. Volcano plots showing the temporal changes in abundance of identified phosphopeptides in neurons at different time points after glutamate treatment

Volcano plots depicting the quantified neuronal phosphoproteins with corresponding phosphopeptides identified at different time points following glutamate treatment. Selected neuronal proteins showing significant changes (± 2.5 -fold changes, $p \leq 0.05$) in phosphorylation are also highlighted.

Figure S8

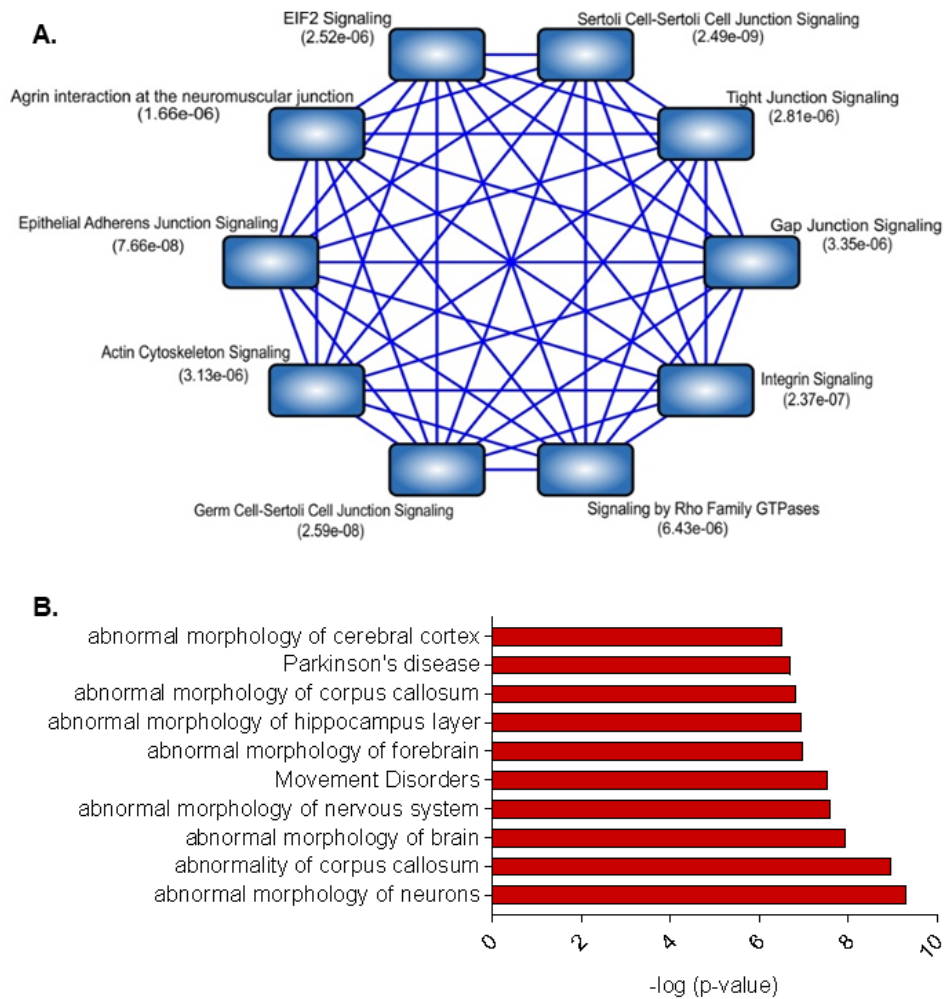


Figure S8. Top canonical pathways and disease and function annotations identified by IPA

A. Top 10 canonical pathways those are affected by the identified significantly perturbed neuronal proteins and phosphoproteins are presented. Pathways (overlapping pathways) containing identified sharing protein molecules are shown and p -values of individual pathways are in parentheses. B. Top 10 disease and function annotations identified by IPA are presented with corresponding p -values.

Figure S9

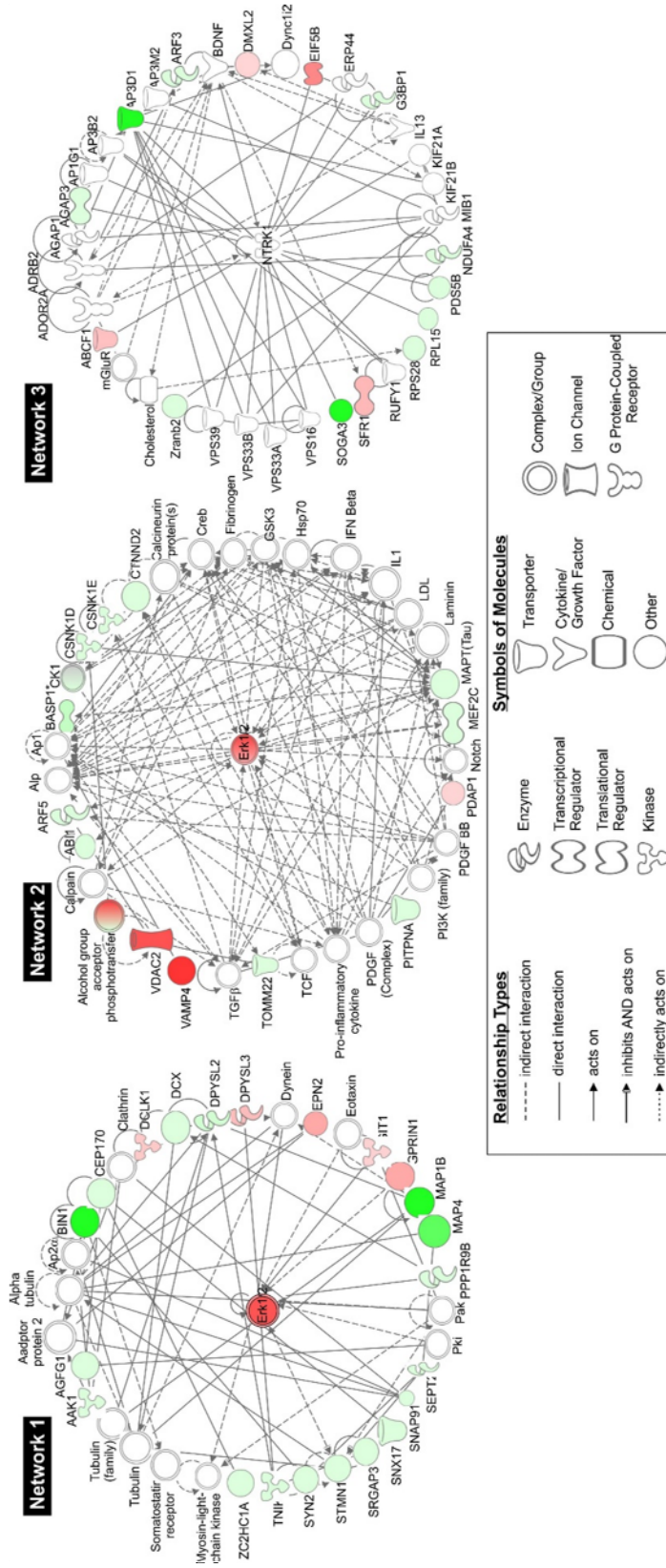


Figure S9. Top-ranked disease and function interaction networks identified by IPA

From the significantly changed neuronal proteins and phosphoproteins (± 2.5 -fold changes), IPA predicts the disease and function interaction networks. Three of the top-ranked networks are presented. The diseases and functions associated with the three networks and their scores are: Network 1, cell morphology, cellular assembly and organization, cellular development (score: 45); Network 2, Cellular Assembly and Organization, Embryonic Development, Organismal Development (score: 22); Network 3, molecular transport, protein trafficking, carbohydrate metabolism (score: 25). Protein molecules showing decrease in abundance or phosphorylation are highlighted in green in the networks, while neuronal proteins showing increased abundance or phosphorylation following glutamate treatment are presented in red symbols. The score of each network is derived from a *p*-value that indicates the likelihood of the perturbed neuronal proteins in the network being found together due to random chance (Kramer, *et al. Bioinformatics* 2014, **30**(4):523-530).

Figure S10

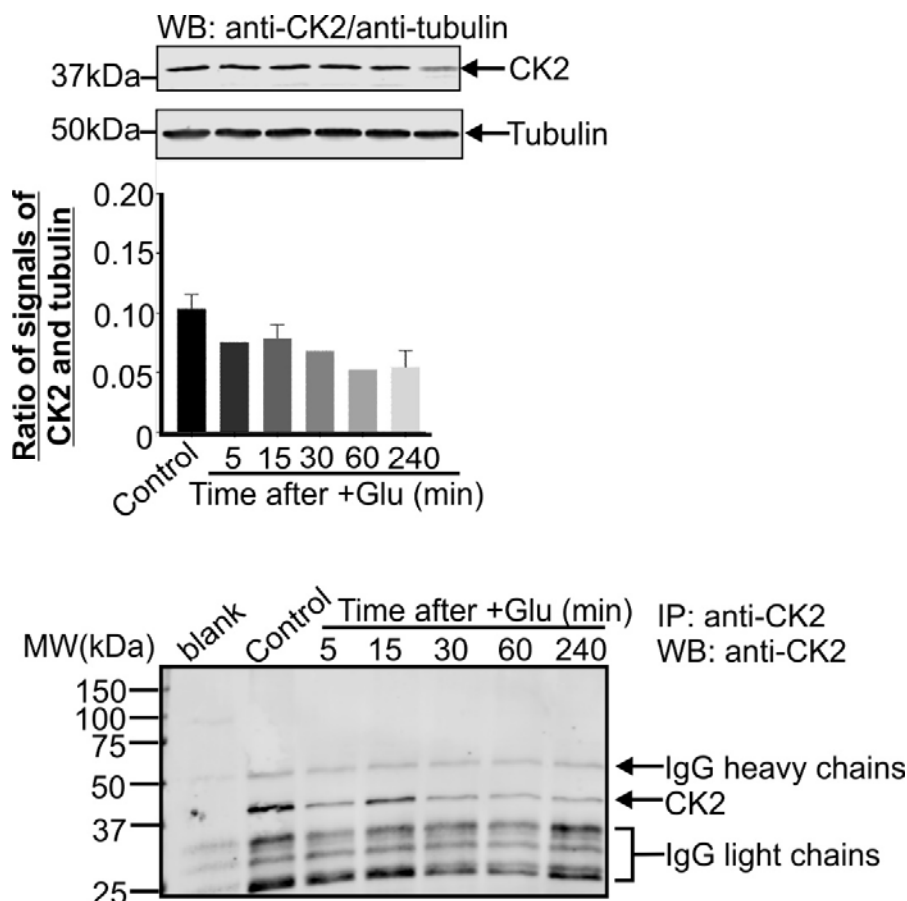


Figure S10. Western blot analysis of the CK2 expression in neurons and detection of CK2 immunoprecipitated from neuronal lysate

Lysates from control neurons and neurons over-stimulated with glutamate at 5, 15, 30, 60 and 240 min were monitored for expression levels of CK2 by Western blotting (top part of the upper panel). The expression levels of tubulin were used as the loading control. The ratios of densitometric values of the signals of CK2 versus those of tubulin are presented (lower part of the upper panel). CK2 in the neuronal lysates was purified by immunoprecipitation for kinase activity assay. The amounts of CK2 in the immunoprecipitates were monitored by Western blotting. The heavy and light chains of IgG in the immunoprecipitates are indicated. The portion of this blot showing the immunoreactive signals of CK2 was also shown in Figure 8B. The densitometric values of the immunoprecipitated CK2 were used to calculate the specific enzymatic activity of the immunoprecipitated CK2 in each neuronal lysate. Temporal changes of CK2 specific enzymatic activity in response to glutamate over-stimulation are presented in Figure 8B.

Supplemental References

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