

The Dietary Flavonoid, Luteolin, Negatively Affects Neuronal

Differentiation

Amrutha Swaminathan^{1,2¶#}, Moumita Basu^{1#}, Abdelhamid Bekri^{2,4}, Pierre Drapeau^{3,4} and Tapas K Kundu^{1*}

¹ Transcription and Disease Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore, India

² Department of Biochemistry, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada

³ Department of Neurosciences, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada

⁴ Research Center of the University of Montréal Hospital Center (CRCHUM), Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada

¶ **Present Address:** Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

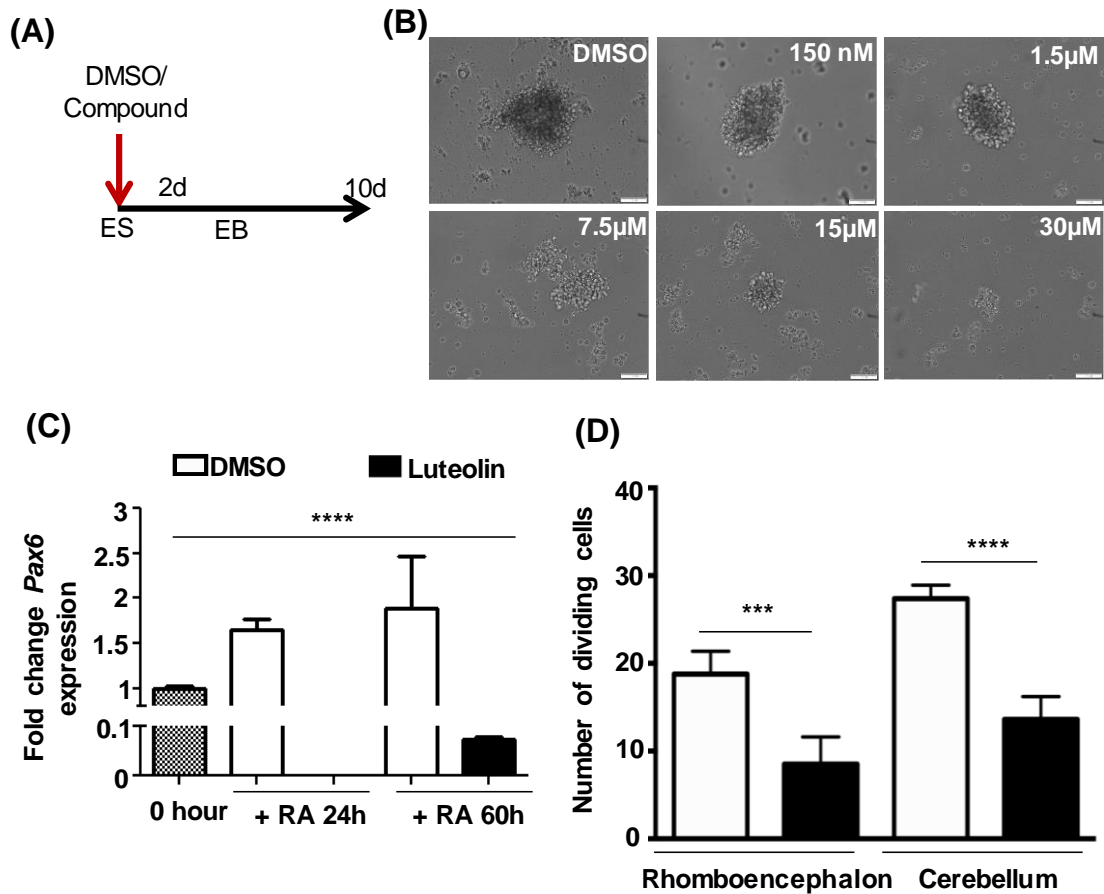
Equal contribution

* **Address for correspondence:**

Prof. Tapas K Kundu, Transcription and Disease Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Genetics Unit, Bangalore, India

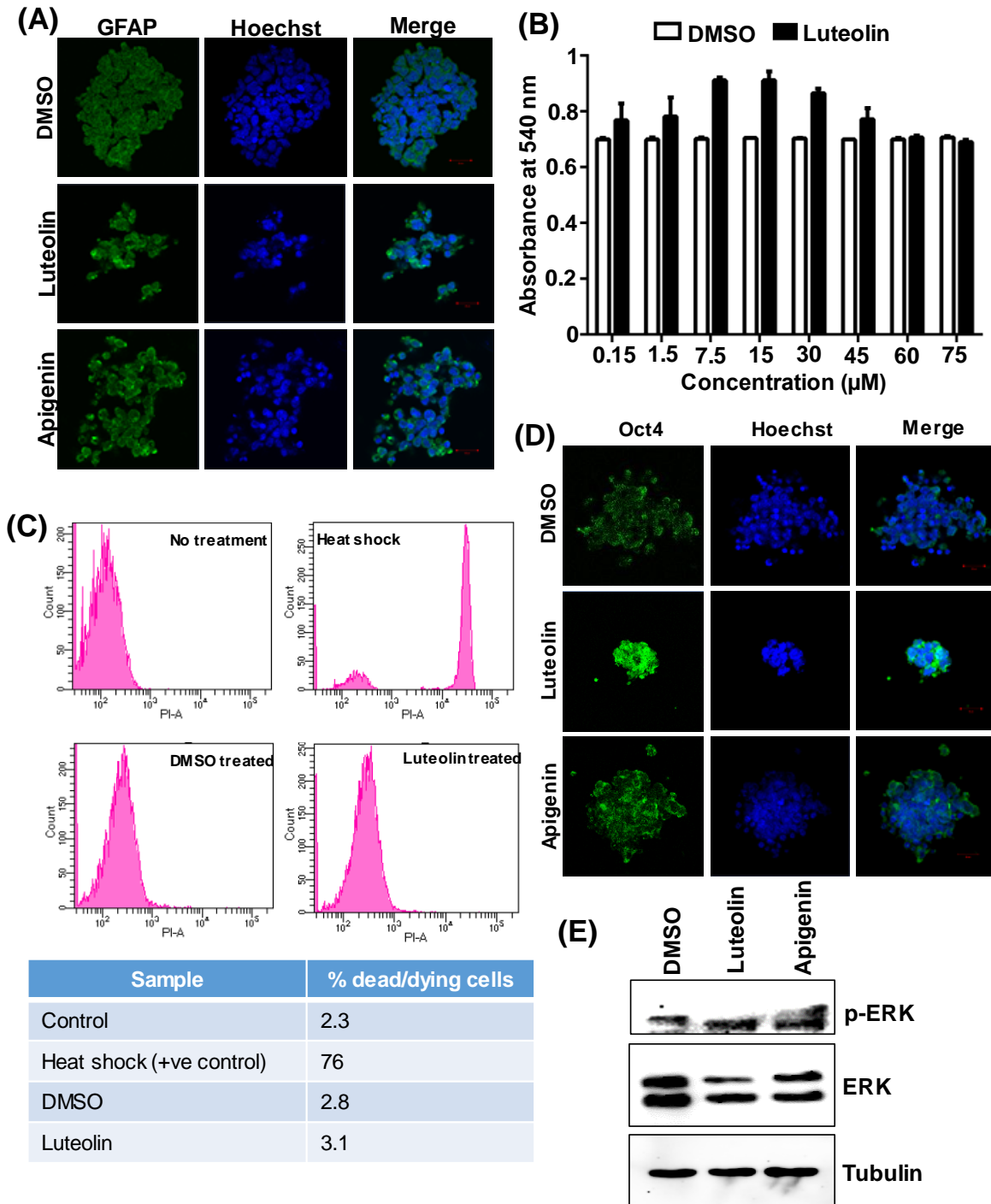
tapas@jncasr.ac.in

20 **Supplementary figures:**



21

22 **Figure S1:** (A) Scheme showing the timeline of treatment followed in 1(A) and 2(B). (B) Bright
 23 field images of EBs treated with DMSO/luteolin after 36 hours of induction show that luteolin
 24 treatment has a dose-dependent effect on EB formation. Scale: 100 μm. (C) qRT-PCR analysis of
 25 ESCs treated with retinoic acid (0.5 μM) and DMSO or luteolin (15 μM) for 24 and 60 hours to
 26 quantify expression of early neuronal markers *Pax6*. DMSO treated undifferentiated ESCs were
 27 taken as control, GAPDH expression was used for normalization. One-way ANOVA: $p < 0.0001$.
 28 (D) Quantification of the number of dividing cells in 2 brain regions showing the significant
 29 reduction upon luteolin treatment (n=6 embryos per treatment). Unpaired t-test of luteolin vs
 30 DMSO: Rhombencephalon: $p < 0.001$; Cerebellum: $p < 0.0001$.



31

32 **Figure S2:** (A) Immunofluorescence analysis of glial marker expression GFAP in EBs treated
 33 with DMSO, luteolin or apigenin (15 μM) for 24 hours from 48 hours. Scale bar: 20 μm . (B)

34 MTT assay of mESCs and EBs treated with DMSO, luteolin or apigenin for 24 hours. (C) Flow

35 cytometric analysis of E14Tg2a cells treated with DMSO/luteolin/heat shock, washed, fixed and

36 stained with PI. (D) Immunofluorescence analysis of the pluripotency marker expression Oct4 in
37 EBs treated with DMSO, luteolin or apigenin (15 μ M) for 24 hours from 48 hours. Scale bar: 20
38 μ m. (E) Immunoblotting of lysates extracted from E14Tg2a mouse embryonic stem cells using
39 antibodies against phospho-ERK, ERK and tubulin. Treatment of mESCs with 15 μ M luteolin or
40 apigenin did not result in any change in phospho-ERK levels in comparison to treatment with
41 DMSO treated cells.

42

43 **Supplementary methods:**

44 **MTT assay:**

45 Equal number of E14Tg2a cells ($\sim 3 \times 10^4$ cells/well) or embryoid bodies were seeded into a 96-
46 well plate and treated with 15 μ M compound/DMSO for 24 hours in 100 μ L of respective
47 supplemented media. Post-treatment, 10 μ L of 5mg/mL MTT reagent (Sigma, Cat# M5655
48 dissolved in 1X PBS) was added and incubated at 37°C for 3 hours in 90 μ L serum free
49 media. MTT-formazan was dissolved in 100 μ L DMSO by incubating at 37°C for another 2 hours
50 after discarding the media; absorbance at 540nm was measured using VERSA max microplate
51 reader (Molecular Devices).

52 **Flow cytometry analysis:**

53 For FACS, mESCs were grown to ~ 80 - 90% confluency and treated with 15 μ M luteolin and equal
54 vol (5 μ L) of DMSO for 24 hours. Cells were harvested by trypsinization and collected by
55 centrifugation. Cells were resuspended in 1X annexin binding buffer (BD Biosciences kit 556547)
56 by maintaining total population of $1-2 \times 10^6$ cells/mL. 100 μ L cell suspension was incubated with
57 5 μ L Annexin V FITC and 5 μ L PI (BD Biosciences- kit cat # 556547) for 10 minutes in dark at
58 RT. Cells were flushed with 400 μ L of 1X annexin V binding buffer to stop the reaction.

59 Unstained, single (FITC or PI) stained, heat treated cells were used as controls. Cells were analyzed
60 by BD FACSDiva 8.0.1 flow cytometer (70 μ m nozzle).