SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Modelling rostro-caudal neural tube regionalisation from human embryonic stem cells with a microfluidic morphogenic gradient

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(Supplied as separate .xlsx file)

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Supplementary Fig. 1, related to Fig. 1

(a) Rendered visualisation of the arrangement of the parts and modules composing the MiSTR cell culture system (tubing and external pump system not shown).

(b) Photographic image of bottom PDMS module with Matrigel in the cavity inside the holding cassette. The PDMS contains a 1 mm deep cavity (Matrigel cavity) at the cell culture area. This well was filled with 200 µl Matrigel, onto which the hESC were later seeded. Note the elevations all around, allowing for the immersed alignment of the top PDMS module (containing the serpentine gradient generator) with the cell culture area.

(c) qRT-PCR analysis of hESC and MiSTR tissue for the pluripotency markers *OCT4* (*POU5F1*) and *NANOG*, and neural commitment markers *BRN2* (*POU3F2*), *CDH2* (N-Cadherin), *SOX1* and *SOX2*. Early mesodermal (*BRA*, *EOMES*, *MIXL1*) and endodermal (*CXCR4*, *GSC*, *SOX17*) markers were also analysed for MiSTR tissue as well as a positive sample. Mesodermal and endodermal positive samples were obtained by directed differentiation of hESC as described elsewhere (see Methods). Data as mean \pm SEM. The respective n for MiSTR tissues, ESCs and positive samples is in between parenthesis next to each tissue, for each marker.

(d) qRT-PCR analysis along the 5 regions A-E, of early neural genes (*OTX2*, rostral; *GBX2* and *HOXA1*, caudal) and canonical WNT signalling targets (*AXIN2*, *CCDN1*, *LEF1*) at 24 hours and 48 hours of differentiation in the MiSTR (0 μ M to 2 μ M GSK3i gradient). Line graphs represent individual experiments of 24 hours (orange) and 48 hours (black). Heatmap displays normalized data for each gene at 24 hours. The p-summary of the multiple comparison test is displayed above each graph. *p $<$ 0.05; **p $<$ 0.01; ***p $<$ 0.001; **** p $<$ 0.0001. Summary table of the multivariate analysis performed is presented on the right. See also Supplementary Table 2 for the p values of multiple comparison.

(e) qRT-PCR analysis along the 5 regions A-E, of early neural genes (*OTX2*, rostral; *GBX2* and *HOXA1*, caudal) and the retinoic acid synthesis enzyme *ALDH1A2* at 48 hours of differentiation under a Retinoic Acid gradient (0 nM to 200 nM) (n=4 tissues). Line graphs represent individual experiments. The p-summary of the multiple comparison test is displayed above each graph. $*p < 0.05$; $**p <$ 0.01. Summary table of the multivariate analysis performed is presented on the right side. See Supplementary Table 2 for the p values of multiple comparison.

 A B C D E

HOXA1 24 Kruskal-Wallis 85.10 <0.0001 **** Dunn's test *HOXA2* 24 Kruskal-Wallis 84.01 <0.0001 **** Tukey's test *HOXA3* 24 Kruskal-Wallis 75.61 <0.0001 **** Dunn's test *HOXA5* 24 Kruskal-Wallis 42.29 <0.0001 **** Dunn's test

 0 A B C D E

 A B C D E

Supplementary Fig. 2, related to Fig. 2

(**a**) qRT-PCR analysis along the 5 regions A-E, of forebrain, midbrain and hindbrain markers in 14 day old MiSTR tissues (0 μM to 2 μM GSK3i gradient). The p-summary of the multiple comparison test is displayed above each graph. $^{*}p$ < 0.05; $^{*}p$ < 0.01; $^{***}p$ < 0.001; $^{***}p$ < 0.0001. Data as mean \pm SEM. Summary of analysis is presented below, containing the respective n of MiSTR tissues. See also Supplementary Table 2 for p-values of multiple comparisons.

(**b**) Normalized mRNA expression of forebrain, midbrain and hindbrain markers along the 5 regions A-E of 14 day old MiSTR tissues (0 to 2 μM GSK3i gradient) derived from two hESC lines (H1, n = 4 MiSTR tissues, and RC17, n = 5 MiSTR tissues) and one hiPSC line (C11, n = 6 MiSTR tissues). Summary of statistical analysis tests are shown on the right side of each heatmap. See also Supplementary Table 2.

Normalised mRNA levels

Supplementary Fig. 3, related to Fig. 2

(**a**) Normalized expression of *OTX2* and *GBX2*, and relative expression of *EN1 and WNT1* along the 5 regions A-E of 14-day MiSTR tissues (n=4) formed under the steeper 0 μM to 4 μM GSK3i gradient. The graphical depiction of the *OTX2*/*GBX2* border is displayed together with the quantification (above). Quantification of the location of EN1/WNT1 peaks is displayed above respective region. Data as mean \pm SEM.

(**b**) qRT-PCR analysis of dorsal and ventral markers, along the 5 regions A-E of 14 day old dorsal (no SHH) and ventral (+SHH) MiSTR tissues under a 0 μM to 2 μM gradient. P-summary of Sidak's multiple comparison test after 2-way ANOVA between conditions at each region is displayed above each graph. $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$; $***p < 0.001$; $***p < 0.0001$. Summary table of analysis performed for each gene and respective n of MiSTR tissues is presented. Note that *OTX2* and *GBX2* expression are almost indistinguishable between dorsal and ventral samples and only the variation along the A-E regions is revealed in the analysis. Data as mean \pm SEM. See Supplementary Table 2 for the p values of multiple comparison.

(**c**) qRT-PCR analysis (normalized heatmap and line average graphs) of various RA target genes and hindbrain markers along the 5 regions A-E of 14 day old MiSTR tissues (n=4) differentiated under a RA gradient. The p-summary of the Tukey's multiple comparison test is displayed above each line graph. $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$; $***p < 0.001$; $***p < 0.0001$. Line data as mean \pm SEM. Schematic on the right shows overview of RA gradient differentiation protocol. See Supplementary Table 2 for pvalues of multiple comparison.

Supplementary Fig. 4, related to Fig. 3

(**a**) UMAP plot of day 14 MiSTR (n = 3, 17683 cells) scRNAseq dataset showing expression patterns of *FOXG1* (= telencephalon, Tel.), *GBX2* (= hindbrain, HB), *GDF15* (= roof plate, RP), *TOP2A* (= cycling cells) as well as *FGF8*, the FGF enhancer *FGFBP3* and FGF target genes *PTN* and *SPRY2* enriched in the MHB cluster.

(**b**) *In situ* hybridization images from sections of E11.5 mouse embryos, showing the expression of *Pax6* (neuroepithelial marker, excluded from the dorsal midbrain region), *Rspo2* (diencephalon) and *Fgf17* (midbrain-hindbrain boundary). Images are from the Allen Institute for Brain Science, available at: http://developingmouse.brain-map.org/.

(**c**) scRNAseq data of E8.5 mouse embryonic stage plotted in UMAP dimensions showing the expression of *Pax8* (midbrain), *Rspo2* (diencephalon) and *Stmn2* (neurons), within the selected neural tube region (FB/MB/HB - highlighted). Note that at this embryonic stage *Rspo2* is not yet expressed. Plots were obtained from the scRNAseq map of mouse early development¹⁷, available at:

https://marionilab.cruk.cam.ac.uk/MouseGastrulation2018.

(**d**) Dot plot showing top cluster genes found from SNN-based clustering in Seurat on day 14 dorsal MiSTR scRNAseq data. Corresponding cluster map is shown in Fig 3b.

(**e**) Sub-clustering of day 14 dorsal MiSTR neuronal cells (clusters 8+14 from Fig. 3b, 1047 cells combined). for identification of neuronal subtypes and key cluster genes (see also Supplementary Table 1). dHB: Dorsal Hindbrain, dDienc.: Dorsal Diencephalic, MHB: Midbrain-Hindbrain Boundary, FB: Forebrain

(**f**) Integration of day 14 dorsal MiSTR scRNAseq data (17683 cells) with mouse embryo data (16909 cells) from E8.5¹⁷, showing co-localisation of MiSTR cells with neural cells from the mouse. The annotations from the original paper 17 have been applied here.

Supplementary Fig. 5, related to Fig. 3

(**a**) Integration of day 14 dorsal MiSTR scRNAseq data (17683 cells) with only CNS neural cell clusters from mouse embryo data $E8.5^{17}$, excluding spinal cord and NMPs (i.e. clusters "rostral neuroectoderm", "forebrain/midbrain/hindbrain" and "neural crest", 3089 cells). The integration shows segregation of mouse neural cells to colocalise with either forebrain, midbrain, MHB or hindbrain cells.

(**b**) Integration of day 14 dorsal MiSTR scRNAseq data (17351 cells) with human stem cell-derived organoid data (3-month old, 8426 cells)¹⁸, showing an absence of midbrain, MHB and hindbrain markers from the organoid dataset.

(**c**) Integration of day 14 dorsal MiSTR scRNAseq data (17351 cells) with human stem cell-derived organoid data (10-day, 15-day and 32-day old, 5445 cells combined)¹⁹, showing an absence of midbrain, MHB and hindbrain markers from the organoid dataset. FB: Forebrain, MB: Midbrain, MHB: Midbrain-Hindbrain Boundary, HB: Hindbrain, NC: Neural Crest.

Supplementary Fig. 6, related to Fig. 3

(**a**) scRNAseq of 14 day ventral MiSTR tissue (n = 3 tissues, 12669 cells) plotted in UMAP showing selected marker genes of neural patterning. Note for instance the appearance of *OTP*⁺ hypothalamic neurons emanating from the *RAX*⁺ cluster of hypothalamic progenitors.

(**b**) Dot plot showing top cluster genes found from SNN-based clustering in Seurat on day 14 ventral MiSTR scRNAseq data. Corresponding cluster map is shown in Fig 3f.

(**c**) Sub-clustering of day 14 ventral MiSTR neuronal cells (clusters 10+13+14 from Fig. 3f, 1016 cells combined). for identification of neuronal subtypes and key cluster genes (see also Supplementary Table 1). vMB: Ventral Midbrain, vHB: Ventral Hindbrain, GE: Ganglionic Eminence.

b

WNT/beta catenin targets at 24h (PC2)

§ Identified on chip-atlas.org

Supplementary Fig. 7, related to Fig. 4

(**a**) qRT-PCR analysis of rostral, caudal, midbrain/MHB and neural markers, along the A-E regions at various time points (day 2, day 6 and day 14), in dorsal (no SHH) MiSTR tissues under a 0 μM to 2 μM gradient. For rostral, caudal and Midbrain/MHB markers: Tukey's or Dunn's multiple comparison test between all regions (A-E) within each timepoint. Comparisons A – E (for Forebrain and Hindbrain markers) and A-C (for Midbrain markers) are shown. For neural markers: 2-way ANOVA (timepoints x regions A-E) followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test between timepoints only. Data as mean \pm SEM. $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$; $***p < 0.001$; $***p < 0.0001$. See Supplementary Table 2 for summary of analysis and respective n of MiSTR tissues for each marker.

(**b**) List of WNT/b-catenin target genes identified within the 15 top loading negative score genes of PC2 (caudal associated) of 24 hour caudal MiSTR tissue (from **Fig. 4c**). Genes identified as predicted targets on the public Chromatin Immuno-Precipitation database ChIP-Atlas (available at https://chip-atlas.org, entering "*H. sapiens"* as species and "CTNN1B" as antigen for query) and/or through literature search are displayed.

Supplementary Figure 8

Supplementary Fig. 8, related to Fig. 4

(**a**) PCA of scRNAseq data from MiSTR differentiation at 0, 24 and 48 hours, of dorsal (D) and ventral (V) MiSTR tissue (n =3 MiSTR tissues for each of the five conditions, 28555 cells combined). *NANOG* expression indicates the differentiation path of MiSTR tissue from left to right on the PC1 axis. Plots of selected top loading negative genes on PC2 (*DDIT4*, *CRABP2* and *MAP1B*, i.e. genes associated with differentiation) reveal increasing expression of these genes from 0 to 48 hours. In contrast, the pan-neuroectodermal marker *SOX1* is not yet expressed at 48 hours of MiSTR differentiation.

(**b**) Heatmap (yellow, high expression; purple, low expression) of the top 15 positively- and negatively loading genes on principal component 1 (PC1) in 0 - 48 hour MiSTR tissues, i.e. low PC1 score = differentiation and high PC1 score = pluripotency. The top 500 cells with lowest and highest PC1 scores, respectively, are shown in columns. Top genes displayed in **a)** are highlighted in bold.

(**c**) scRNAseq of the E7.5 mouse embryo plotted in UMAP dimensions showing the expression of the top loading PC1 genes identified during the 0 to 48-hour MiSTR differentiation. Differentiationassociated genes identified in MiSTR (i.e. *Ddit4*, *Crabp2* and *Map1b*)*,* are not specific to neural fates but encompass both the epiblast and neuroectodermal compartments in the mouse. The panneuroectodermal marker *Sox1* is only expressed in few cells at this time point. In contrast, early rostral neuroectoderm markers identified in Fig. 4f (*Cyp26a1, Hesx1, Lhx5, Lmo1* and *Shisa2*) are exclusively expressed in mouse *OTX2*⁺ presumptive neuroectodermal cells. Note that the mouse cluster annotated as "rostral neuroectoderm" contains both *OTX2*⁺ and *GBX2*⁺ cells, i.e. covering both presumptive forebrain, midbrain and hindbrain cells. Plots were obtained from the scRNAseq map of mouse early development¹⁷, available at: https://marionilab.cruk.cam.ac.uk/MouseGastrulation2018.

(**d**) scRNAseq of the E7.75 mouse embryo plotted in UMAP dimensions showing the expression early rostral neuroectoderm markers obtained from analysis of 0 – 48 hour MiSTR scRNAseq dataset (Fig. 4f), within the selected regions, highlighted in the overall map (left). Early rostral neuroectodermal markers identified in MiSTR data (i.e. *Cyp26a1, Hesx1, Lhx5, Lmo1* and *Shisa2*) are strongly upregulated in only the OTX2+ compartment of the mouse neuroectodermal cells at E7.75. Plots were obtained from the scRNAseq map of mouse early development¹⁷, available at: https://marionilab.cruk.cam.ac.uk/MouseGastrulation2018.

Supplementary Table 1

Supplementary Table 1 is provided as a separate .xlsx File:

"Supplementary Table 1 scRNAseq markers.xlsx"

This table contains the marker genes for the cell clusters obtained for the following datasets: whole day 14 dorsal MiSTR, whole day 14 ventral MiSTR, neuronal sub-clustering of day 14 dorsal MiSTR, neuronal sub-clustering of day 14 ventral MiSTR, 0 – 48 hours MiSTR (data in Figures 3b, 3f 4b, 4e and 4f and Supplementary Figures 4d, 4e, 6b, 6c, 8a and 8b).

Supplementary Table 2

Supplementary Table 2 is provided as a separate .xlsx File:

"Supplementary Table 2 Summary Statistics.xlsx"

This table contains the extended summary of the statistical analyses graphically displayed in the main text and supplementary info: Figure 1e, 1i, Figure 2d, 2i, 2k, Figure 4a, and Supplementary Figures 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b, 3c, 7a. It also contains descriptive statistics for violin plots on Figure 4f.

Supplementary Table 3. Primary Antibodies used for immunostaining

Epitope	Species	Source	Cat#	RRID	Dilution	
NKX2-1	Mouse	AbCam	ab133737	N/A	1:200	
OTX ₂	Goat	R&D Systems	AF1979	AB 2157172	1:500	
PAX ₈	Rabbit	ProteinTech	10336-1-AP	AB 2236705	1:100	

.												
	Day ₀	24 hours		48 hours		day14 dorsal			day 14 ventral			
		dorsal	ventral	dorsal	ventral	run1	run ₂	run3	(5x hashtags)			
Number of cells captured	8160	1018	8850	4266	6325	7076	5246	5919	16744			
Median genes per cell	2889	3196	3200	1694	3517	2644	2722	3183	3903			
Mean reads per cell	23933	191636	25782	51531	43360	32035	33131	54781	43378			
Median UMIs per cell	8497	12045	11426	4646	14787	9115	9477	11961	13643			
Total genes detected	22501	20216	22647	20897	22428	22871	22070	23029	25638			

Supplementary Table 5. Summary of Single-Cell RNA-seq

SUPPLEMENTARY Notes

Péclet number calculations; Fluorescein Sodium Salt and GSK3i.

Considering a molecule like fluorescein sodium salt (FSS) flowing inside the cell culture chamber with the following dimensions:

$$
\begin{cases} width = 2 * 10^{-2} m \\ length = 1 * 10^{-2} m \\ height = 5 * 10^{-4} m \end{cases}
$$

Then we have a cross sectional area A given by:

$$
A = width * height
$$

$$
= 1 * 10^{-5} m^2
$$

The average flow speed v inside the cell culture chamber can be calculated from the total flow rate Q.

$$
v = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{160}{1 \times 10^{-5}} \frac{\frac{\mu l}{h}}{m^2} = \frac{4.44 \times 10^{-11}}{1 \times 10^{-5}} \frac{\frac{m^3}{s}}{m^2}
$$

$$
= 4.44 \frac{\mu m}{s}
$$

The hydraulic diameter d_h of the cell culture chamber is given by:

$$
d_h = \frac{4A}{P} = \frac{4(width * height)}{2(width + height)} = \frac{2 * (1 * 10^{-5}) m^2}{(2 * 10^{-2} + 5 * 10^{-4}) m}
$$

$$
= 976 \,\mu m
$$

where P is the wetted perimeter of the channel.

The Péclet number for FSS is given by:

$$
P\acute{e} = \frac{diffusion \, time}{convection \, time} = \frac{\frac{(L)^2}{D}}{\frac{L}{v}} = \frac{v \cdot L}{D} = \frac{4.44 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot 9.76 \cdot 10^{-4}}{7.3 \cdot 10^{-10}} = 5.74
$$

where L is the distance the molecule can travel by either diffusion or convection and D is the diffusion coefficient for the molecule ($D_{FSS} = 7.55 * 10^{-10} m^2/s$). We set *L* to be equal to d_h .

For GSK3i with a smaller diffusion coefficient that FSS ($D_{GSK3i} = 6.60 * 10^{-10} m^2/s$), the Péclet number is instead equal to: $P\acute{e} = 6.57$.

For RA with a smaller diffusion coefficient than that of FSS ($D_{RA} = 6.67 * 10^{-10} m^2/s$), the Péclet number was also >1, equal to: $P\acute{e} = 6.50$.

Shear Stress calculations for NPM cell culture medium.

The shear stress reported to affect the differentiation of stem cells and progenitor cells are in the order of $1 - 10$ dynes/ $cm²$ ³⁷, and other reported physiological shear stresses are within these orders of magnitude. For instance, the wall shear stresses in a human aorta was estimated to be in the range of 4.7 – 10.4 $dynes/cm²$ ³⁸, while wall shear stress of urine flow in the proximal renal tubule was reportedly to be of 0.17 $dynes/cm²$ ³⁹.

The wall shear stress in a parallel plate flow chamber is given by⁴⁰:

$$
\tau_{wall} = \frac{6 \mu Q}{h^2 w} \left[dynes/cm^2 \right]
$$

where u is the dynamic viscosity of the fluid, O is the flow rate, h is the height of the culture chamber and w is the width of the culture chamber. The cross-sectional area of the culture chamber has a high aspect ratio (width/height = 40) which could be approximated with the parallel plate model.

The dynamic viscosity of the neural proliferation media (NPM) was estimated at 37℃ by a fallingball viscometer:

$$
\mu_{NPM}^{37\text{ °C}} = 0.77 \times 10^{-3} Pa \times s
$$

similar to water ($\mu_{Water}^{37 \textdegree C} = 0.69 * 10^{-3}$ $Pa * s$).

Given this value of the dynamic viscosity along with previously stated parameters, it is possible to make an estimation of the wall shear stress, τ_{wall} , on the cells under flow:

$$
\tau_{wall} = \frac{6\mu Q}{h^2 w} = \frac{6*0.77*10^{-3}*4.44*10^{-11}}{(5*10^{-4})^2*2*10^{-2}} \frac{Pa*s*\frac{m^3}{s}}{m^3} = 4.1*10^{-5} Pa
$$

$$
\approx 4*10^{-4} dynes/cm^2
$$

SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

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