

## Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided  
*Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g.  $F$ ,  $t$ ,  $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and  $P$  value noted  
*Give  $P$  values as exact values whenever suitable.*
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's  $d$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Data analysis

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences       Behavioural & social sciences       Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sample size     | Data were generated as multiple exploratory analyses to generate hypotheses and biostatistical planning for future confirmatory studies. Data analysis, processing, descriptive and formal statistical testing were done according to the current customary practice of data handling using Excel 2016, GraphPad PRISM 5.0 and ImageJ. |
| Data exclusions | Outliers were not excluded.  |
| Replication     | Technical replicates were used and several (at least 3) independent experiments were performed.  |
| Randomization   | Not relevant as mice were not separated in groups.   |
| Blinding        | Investigators were blinded whenever blinding was possible.   |

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

### Materials & experimental systems

| n/a                                 | Involved in the study   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antibodies                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Human research participants            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern           |

### Methods

| n/a                                 | Involved in the study                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging    |

## Antibodies

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Antibodies used | GLT-1 (Cell Signaling, 3838S, 1:1000), S100b (Abcam, ab41548, 1:500), GFAP (Abcam, ab4674, 1:1000), O4 (Miltenyi Biotec, 130-115-810, 1:100), ARL13B (Proteintech, 17711-1-AP, 1:1000), gamma-Tubulin (Sigma, T6557, 1:800), ACSA-2 antibody (1:10, Miltenyi Biotec, 130-102-315), FITC-labelled CD11b antibody (1:200, Biolegend, 101206) |
| Validation      | 2nd antibody only stainings were performed for each antibody   |

## Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines](#)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cell line source(s)  | Embryonic stem cells derived from C57Bl/6N mice (mESCs; GSC-5003, MTI-GlobalStem) |
| Authentication   | Cell line was bought and not additionally authenticated.                          |
| Mycoplasma contamination   | Cell lines were negative for mycoplasma contamination.                            |
| Commonly misidentified lines<br>(See <a href="#">ICLAC</a> register) | Cell line was not found in the register of misidentified cell lines.              |

## Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Laboratory animals      | C57BL/6J mice, both genders, AdAC: 100-140d or neoAC: p4-8  |
| Wild animals            | Wild animals were not included in the study.  |
| Field-collected samples | Mice were group housed under specific pathogen-free conditions on a 12 h light/dark cycle, and food and water were provided to the mice ad libidum.   |
| Ethics oversight        | All animal experiments were performed in accordance with the national animal protection guidelines approved by the regional offices for health and social services in Berlin (LaGeSo, license numbers T 0276/07 and O298/17). |

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Flow Cytometry

### Plots

Confirm that:

- The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

### Methodology

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sample preparation        | Murine astrocytes were isolated by MACS or differentiated from neural stem cells. For Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting (FACS) of cultured cells, cells were detached in PBS using a cell scraper. For FACS analysis directly after cell isolation, cells were collected after flushing from MS columns. |
| Instrument                | BD FACS Canto 2  |
| Software                  | BD DIVA + FlowJo 7.6.5 software  |
| Cell population abundance | Purity analysis using ACSA-2 and CD11b as markers  |
| Gating strategy           | Doublets were excluded by gating before analysing percentage of ACSA-2-positive/ CD11b-positive cells using unstained as negative controls.  |

- Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.