Probing sporadic and familial Alzheimer’s disease using induced pluripotent stem cells

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Our understanding of Alzheimer’s disease pathogenesis is currently limited by difficulties in obtaining live neurons from patients and the inability to model the sporadic form of the disease. It may be possible to overcome these challenges by reprogramming primary cells from patients into induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). Here we reprogrammed primary fibroblasts from two patients with familial Alzheimer’s disease, both caused by a duplication of the amyloid-β precursor protein gene (APP; termed APPDp), two with sporadic Alzheimer’s disease (termed sAD1, sAD2) and two non-demented control individuals into iPSC lines. Neurons from differentiated cultures were purified with fluorescence-activated cell sorting and characterized. Purified cultures contained more than 90% neurons, clustered with fetal brain messenger RNA samples by microarray characterization. Purified cultures expressed markers of mature neurons. Relative to controls, iPSC-derived, purified neurons from the two APPDp patients and patient sAD2 exhibited significantly higher levels of the pathological markers amyloid-β (1–40), phospho-tau (Thr 231) and active glycogen synthase kinase-3β (aGSK-3β). Neurons from APPDp and sAD2 patients also accumulated large RAB5-positive early endosomes compared to controls. Treatment of purified neurons with β-secretase inhibitors, but not γ-secretase inhibitors, caused significant reductions in phospho-Tau (Thr 231) and aGSK-3β levels. These results suggest a direct relationship between APP proteolytic processing, but not amyloid-β, in GSK-3β activation and tau phosphorylation in human neurons. Additionally, we observed that neurons with the genome of a sAD patient exhibited the phenotypes seen in familial Alzheimer’s disease samples. More generally, we demonstrate that iPSC technology can be used to observe phenotypes relevant to Alzheimer’s disease, even though it can take decades for overt disease to manifest in patients.

Alzheimer’s disease is a common neurodegenerative disorder, defined post mortem by the increased presence of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain. Amyloid plaques are extracellular deposits consisting primarily of amyloid-β peptides, and neurofibrillary tangles are intraneuronal aggregations of hyperphosphorylated tau, a microtubule-associated protein involved in microtubule stabilization. The causative relationship between amyloid plaque/amyloid-β and tau pathologies is unclear in humans. Although the vast majority of Alzheimer’s disease is apparently sporadic with significant non-Mendelian genetic contributions, analyses of cellular and animal models of rare, dominantly inherited familial forms of Alzheimer’s disease have driven most ideas about disease mechanisms. These rare cases have mutations or a duplication of APP, which encode the amyloid-β precursor protein, or mutations in the presenilin genes, which encode proteolytic enzymes that cleave APP into amyloid-β and other fragments. Mouse models that overexpress familial Alzheimer’s disease mutations develop extensive plaque deposition and amyloid-associated pathology, but neurofibrillary tangles and significant neuronal loss are conspicuously absent. Fetal human cortical cultures have also been used to study the APP–tau relationship. For example, cortical cultures treated with 20 μM amyloid-β have elevated phosphorylated tau (p-tau). However, it is still unclear whether physiologically relevant levels of amyloid-β directly cause elevated p-tau and which kinases are directly involved in this aberrant phosphorylation. Additionally, experimental approaches using fetal human neurons are hindered by limited availability of samples and unknown genetic backgrounds. The recent developments in iPSCs and induced neurons have allowed investigation of phenotypes of neurodegenerative diseases in vitro. However, not all diseases have been successfully modelled using iPSCs, and it is unclear whether iPSCs can be used to study sporadic forms of disease.

Here we report the derivation and neuronal differentiation of iPSCs from patients with familial and sporadic Alzheimer’s disease, as well as from non-demented, age-matched controls. Using purified human neurons we probe three key questions concerning Alzheimer’s disease: (1) can iPSC technology be used to observe phenotypes of patients with Alzheimer’s disease, even though it can take decades for overt disease to manifest; (2) is there a causative relationship between APP processing and tau phosphorylation; and (3) can neurons with the genome of a sporadic patient exhibit phenotypes seen in familial Alzheimer’s disease samples? Supplementary Fig. 1 summarizes the experimental approach and findings.

We characterized APP metabolism in fibroblasts before reprogramming to iPSCs (Supplementary Fig. 2). APP expression and amyloid-β secretion were quantified in early-passage primary fibroblasts from two non-demented control (NDC) individuals, two sAD patients and two APPDp patients (Table 1). The presence of the genomic duplication was confirmed in fibroblasts. Relative to NDC and sAD cells, APPDp fibroblasts expressed higher levels of APP mRNA and secreted 1.5–2 twofold higher amounts of amyloid-β(1–40) peptides into culture media compared to NDC cells. We did not detect significant increases in amyloid-β(1–42/1–40) or amyloid-β(1–38/1–40) in patient samples versus controls.

We generated iPSC lines by transducing fibroblasts with retroviruses encoding OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC and, in one-third of cultures, EGFP. Each of the six individuals was represented by three clonal iPSC lines. All 18 iPSC lines maintained embryonic stem (ES)-cell-like morphology, expressed the pluripotency-associated proteins NANOG and TRA1-81, maintained euploid karyotypes, expressed endogenous locus-derived SOX2, repressed retroviral transgenes, and could differentiate into cells of ectodermal, mesodermal and...
endodermal lineages in vitro (Fig. 1a–d, Supplementary Figs 3a–e and 4). All lines tested (one per individual) formed teratomas when injected into nude rats (Supplementary Fig. 5). Supplementary Table 1 provides details of each iPSC line.

Variability in differentiation efficiency exists between pluripotent cell lines. To analyse variability in our iPSC lines, we used a fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS)-based method of neuronal differentiation and purification (summarized in Supplementary Fig. 6), based on work described previously[2]. Briefly, the 18 iPSC lines were first differentiated into cultures containing neural rosettes ( Supplementary Fig. 3f). From these cultures, neural progenitor cells (NPCs) were purified and the efficiency of NPC formation was assessed by CD184+CD15−CD44−CD271− immunoreactivity. These FACS-purified NPCs maintained expression of NPC-associated markers, such as SOX2 and nestin, over multiple passages (Fig. 1c, d). NPCs were differentiated for 3 weeks into heterogeneous cultures containing neurons (Supplementary Fig. 3g, h). APP copy number was faithfully maintained in differentiated cultures (Supplementary Fig. 3i). From these cultures, neurons were purified to near homogeneity, and the efficiency of neuron generation was assessed by CD24+CD184−CD44+ CD271− immunoreactivity. No significant differences between any of the individuals in the efficiency of NPC or neuronal differentiation were detected (Fig. 1k, l).

Although we observed variability in differentiation among lines from each individual, the extent of inter-individual variation was less than observed intra-individual variability. These results suggest that any observed biochemical aberrations in neurons, if present in multiple lines derived from the same patient, are probably caused by features of that patient’s genotype. Purified neurons were plated at a density of 2 × 10⁶ cells per well of a 96-well plate and cultured for an additional 5 days. More than 90% of cells in these cultures were neurons, as judged by the presence of βIII-tubulin[2], MAP2+ projections (Fig. 1e–h). Genome-wide mRNA expression profiles of five representative purified neuronal cultures were compared to the parental iPSC lines and samples from fetal brain, heart, liver and lung (Supplementary Fig. 7 and Supplementary Table 2). Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis revealed that purified neurons most closely resembled fetal brain samples, in part due to a global upregulation of neuronal genes. Interestingly, the largest difference between fetal brain samples and purified neurons was downregulation in purified neurons of the hippo signalling cascade (~6.1 fold), which regulates proliferation of cells such as NPCs and glia[13, 14].

We determined multiple electrophysiological properties of purified neurons to assess passive membrane properties and synaptic connectivity (Fig. 1i, j, Supplementary Table 3 and Supplementary Fig. 8). Notably, virtually all neurons tested generated voltage-dependent action potentials and currents (Fig. 1i), which were blocked by tetrodotoxin (Supplementary Fig. 8). Transient bath application of ionotropic receptor agonists (25 μM muscimol or 10 μM AMPA) evoked transient currents, showing that purified neurons expressed functional GABA and AMPA receptors, respectively (Supplementary Table 3). To determine whether neurons were also able to form functional synaptic contacts, we analysed continuous whole-cell voltage clamp recordings. We detected spontaneous inhibitory and/or excitatory synaptic currents in a subset of cells (~40%). Analysis of the kinetics of those events combined with reversible blockade using GABA_A receptor antagonists demonstrated that the neurons not only fire action potentials but also made functional synaptic contacts (Supplementary Table 3). The electrophysiological results were supported by analysis of expression of protein markers of glutamatergic and GABAergic neuronal subtypes (VGLUT1 and GABA, respectively), which were detected by immunofluorescence, with approximately 15% of cells staining brightly for VGLUT1 and 8% for GABA, and most remaining neurons staining dimly for one of the markers (Supplementary Fig. 9a).

RNAs indicative of glutamatergic, GABAergic and cholinergic subtypes (that is, VGLUT1, GAD67 and CHAT, respectively) were detected by quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR). Importantly, no significant differences in neuronal subtypes were detected between patients and controls (Supplementary Fig. 9b–f).

Elevated or altered secretion of amyloid-β peptides by fibroblasts is a feature common to all familial Alzheimer’s disease mutations
identified so far. It is not known if iPSC-derived neurons from familial Alzheimer's disease patients maintain the elevated amyloid-β production seen in the parental fibroblasts. In SAD fibroblasts and other peripheral cells, APP expression and amyloid-β secretion are not consistently altered. To determine if iPSC-derived neurons from APPDp1 and SAD patients exhibit elevated amyloid-β secretion, amyloid-β levels in neuron-conditioned media were measured and normalized to total protein levels of cell lysates. Purified neurons from patients APPDp1 and APPDp2, each represented by three independently derived iPSC lines, secreted significantly higher amyloid-β levels in neuron-conditioned media compared to NDC levels (Fig. 2a). Neurons from patient SAD2 also had significantly higher amyloid-β levels compared to NDC neurons, even though no difference was observed between the fibroblasts of SAD2 and NDC individuals. We found that amyloid-β(1–42) and amyloid-β(1–38) levels in these purified neuronal cultures were often below the detection range of our assay, owing to the relatively small number of neurons purified. By cell type, neurons exhibited a larger difference in amyloid-β levels between APPDp and NDC than fibroblasts, further suggesting that fibroblasts are not fully predictive of neuronal phenotypes (Fig. 2b).

Genetic evidence implicates altered or elevated APP processing and amyloid-β levels as the driving agents behind familial Alzheimer’s disease and, because of identical neuropathology, sporadic Alzheimer’s disease. However, tau, although not genetically linked to Alzheimer’s disease, forms neurofibrillary tangles, which correlate better with disease severity than plaque numbers. The mechanism by which altered APP processing might cause elevated p-tau and neurofibrillary tangle pathology is unclear. Tau phosphorylation at Thr 231, one of several tau phosphoepitopes, regulates microtubule stability and correlates with both neurofibrillary tangle number and degree of cognitive decline. To determine if tau phosphorylation at Thr 231 is elevated in APPDp and SAD neurons, we measured the amount of p-tau(Thr 231) relative to total tau levels in lysates from purified neurons from three iPSC lines from each of the NDC, SAD and APPDp patients. Neurons from both APPDp patients had significantly higher p-tau/total tau ratios than neurons from NDC lines (Fig. 2c). p-Tau/total tau in the two SAD patients mirrored the amyloid-β findings; no difference was observed between SAD1 and NDC neurons whereas SAD2 neurons had significantly increased p-tau/total tau.

Tau can be phosphorylated by multiple kinases. The kinase GSK-3β can phosphorylate tau at Thr 231 in vitro and co-localizes with neurofibrillary tangles and pre-tangle phosphorylated tau in SAD post-mortem neurons. GSK-3β is thought to be constitutively active but...
is inactivated when phosphorylated at Ser 9 (ref. 23). To determine if iPSC-derived neurons with elevated p-tau have increased GSK-3β activity, the proportion of aGSK-3β in purified neurons was calculated by measuring the amount of GSK-3β lacking phosphorylation at Ser 9 relative to total GSK-3β levels. We observed that neurons from patients APPDp1, APPDp2 and sAD2 had significantly higher αGSK-3β than NDC neurons (Fig. 2d). The amyloid-β, GSK-3β and tau findings of sAD2 were verified by analysing an additional two iPSC lines (sAD2.4 and sAD2.5; characterization in Supplementary Fig. 10), and we observed that levels remained consistently elevated (Fig. 2e). Results are detailed per patient in Supplementary Table 4a, per cell line in Supplementary Fig. 11, and per cell culture in Supplementary Table 5.

Although amyloid-β, p-tau and GSK-3β clearly have roles in Alzheimer’s disease pathogenesis, their relationship is unclear. We observed that iPSC-derived neurons exhibited strong or very strong correlations between amyloid-β(1–40), p-tau/total tau and αGSK-3β levels (Fig. 2f and Supplementary Table 4b). We reasoned that if APP proteolytic products, such as amyloid-β or carboxy-terminal fragments (CTFs), have a causative role in p-tau and αGSK-3β elevation, then inhibiting γ- or β-secretase activity could reduce p-tau and αGSK-3β. We treated purified neurons from NDC1, NDC2, sAD2 and APPDp2 (2–3 iPSC lines each) with γ-secretase inhibitors (CPD-E and DAPT) or β-secretase inhibitors (BMS-II and OM99-2) for 24 h and measured amyloid-β, GSK-3β and p-tau/total tau compared to vehicle-treated samples. All inhibitors reduced amyloid-β(1–40) by similar levels (32–45% in patient samples) (Fig. 2g). Intriguingly, for both sAD2 and APPDp2 neurons, we observed that β-secretase inhibitors significantly reduced αGSK-3β and p-tau/total tau (Fig. 2g, and shown per iPSC line in Supplementary Fig. 12). Neither γ-secretase inhibitor significantly differed from control-treated samples for αGSK-3β levels and p-tau/total tau.

We extended phenotypic characterization of sAD2 and APPDp by analysing endosomal and synaptic markers in FACS-purified neurons co-cultured with astrocytes for 12 days. Accumulation of large RAB5+ early endosomes in neurons has been observed in autopsies from sporadic Alzheimer’s disease and some forms of familial Alzheimer’s disease24,25. As β-secretase is localized to endosomes and has an acidic pH optimum, it has been proposed that early endosomes potentially mediate the effects of APP processing on downstream pathways such as increased p-tau, neurofibrillary tangles, synaptic loss and apoptosis26; however, these hypotheses have been difficult to test directly without live, patient-specific neurons. To determine if early endosome phenotypes are present in iPSC-derived neurons from Alzheimer’s disease patients, purified neurons from NDC1, NDC2, sAD2 and APPDp2 (two iPSC lines each) co-cultured with astrocytes were harvested and large and very large RAB5+ early endosomes (1–2.1 μm³ and 2.1–7 μm³) in neuronal soma were counted. Whereas control neurons generally had few RAB5+ structures >1 μm³, neurons from both sAD2 and APPDp2 frequently had RAB5+ early endosomes highly similar in volume, morphology and localization to what has been observed in autopsy samples (Fig. 3a–c). When compared, the neurons from both sAD2 and APPDp2 had significantly increased numbers of both large and very large early endosomes relative to controls (Fig. 3d). We sought to determine if neuronal cultures from sAD2 and APPDp2 also contained reduced levels of the presynaptic marker synapsin I. In Alzheimer’s disease autopsies, synaptic loss is one of the strongest pathological correlates with dementia severity, and in regions of the brain affected by Alzheimer’s disease, the presynaptic marker synapsin I is decreased in patients versus controls27,28. To analyse synapsin I levels in iPSC-derived neurons co-cultured with astrocytes, we quantified synapsin I+ puncta on MAP2+ dendrites (Fig. 3e). We found no significant difference between NDCs and either sAD2 or APPDp2 in the number of puncta per μm dendrite (Fig. 3f).

Extended culture periods may be required to study Alzheimer’s disease-associated loss of synaptic proteins.

The results of this study provide strong evidence that iPSC technology can be used in concert with post-mortem samples and animal models to study early pathogenesis and drug response in sporadic and familial Alzheimer’s disease. In purified, electrophysiologically active neurons from one sporadic Alzheimer’s disease and two APPDp patients, each represented by at least three clonally derived iPSC lines, we observed significantly increased levels of three major biochemical markers of Alzheimer’s disease: amyloid-β(1–40), αGSK-3β and p-tau/total tau. Increased sAD2 amyloid-β levels were not observed in the parental fibroblasts, suggesting a cell-type-specific phenotype. Among the individuals in this study, not only did strong correlations exist between amyloid-β(1–40), p-tau/total tau and αGSK-3β, but both p-tau/total tau and αGSK-3β levels were also partially rescued in neurons from sAD2 and APPDp following treatment with β-secretase inhibitors, suggesting that the APP processing pathway has a causative role in Tau23 phosphorylation in human neurons. Because γ-secretase inhibition did not cause a significant effect, products of APP processing other than amyloid-β may have a role in induction of GSK-3β activity and p-tau. One potential culprit is the β-CTF, the levels of which correlate with axonopathies in mouse models harbouring APP duplications29 and mediate early endosome accumulation in human Down’s syndrome fibroblasts30. The observation that neurons from patients sAD2 and APPDp2 have early endosome phenotypes raises the question of how aberrant early endosomes relate to other phenotypes of Alzheimer’s disease, such as axonopathies, synaptic loss and cell death, in human neurons. Neurons and synapses rely heavily on endocytic pathways, and thus iPSC technology can now be used to study the role of this dynamic process in live patient-specific neurons. One point of caution is that it is possible that the cultures of purified neurons that we...
generated and studied may not have been fully mature, as they lacked repetitive action potentials and had limited spontaneous activity. Although some types of mature neurons also have these properties, it is conceivable that the phenotypes we observed might be modified by duration of *in vitro* culture. In this context, while there is debate about when Alzheimer’s disease phenotypes initiate, evidence exists that Alzheimer’s disease-like pathology can occur in Down’s syndrome fetuses as early as 28 weeks of gestation.

Our finding that the genome of patient sAD2, but not patient sAD1, generates significant Alzheimer’s disease phenotypes in purified neurons has important implications. First, this finding suggests that an unknown frequency of sporadic Alzheimer’s disease patients will have genomes that generate strong neuronal phenotypes. The frequency of such genomes in the sporadic Alzheimer’s disease population cannot be determined from the small sample size we report and will require a larger sample size to ask how frequent such genomes are in the clinical population diagnosed with sporadic Alzheimer’s disease. Second, the genome of sAD2 clearly harbours one or more variants that generate Alzheimer’s disease phenotypes, which can thus be elucidated by future molecular genetic studies. Third, we speculate that sporadic Alzheimer’s disease might be sub-divided depending on whether neurons themselves are altered, as in the case of sAD2, as opposed to other cell types such as astrocytes, which could be altered in other cases, for example, sAD1. Thus, future iPSC studies examining larger numbers of patients and controls have the potential to provide great insight into the mechanisms behind the observed heterogeneity in sporadic Alzheimer’s disease pathogenesis, the role of different cell types, patient-specific drug responses, and prospective diagnostics.

**METHODS SUMMARY**

**iPSC generation and differentiation.** Primary fibroblast cultures were established from dermal punch biopsies taken from individuals following informed consent and Institutional Review Board approval. To generate iPSCs, fibroblasts were transduced with MMLV vectors containing the complementary DNAs for OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC and R-GFP. iPSC-derived NPCs were differentiated for 3 weeks, neurons were purified by FACS, and amyloid-β, p-tau/total tau and aSGK-3β were measured on purified control and mutant neurons from multiple lines cultured in parallel for an additional 5 days by multi-spot electrochemiluminescence assays (Meso Scale Diagnostic). Early endosomes were analysed by confocal microscopy on purified neurons co-cultured with human astrocytes (Lonza) for 12 days. To ensure reproducibility, we performed our study in triplicate. Full Methods and any associated references are available in the online version of the paper at www.nature.com/nature.

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METHODS

Patients and fibroblast derivation. NDC and sAD individuals were enrolled in the longitudinal study at the UCSD Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. APP\textsuperscript{bp} individuals were patients at the Department of Clinical Medicine, Neurology, UCLA University Hospital, Oulu, Finland. For all individuals, dermal punch biopsies were taken following informed consent and Institutional Review Board approval. Primary fibroblast cultures were established from biopsies using established methods\textsuperscript{31}. Fibroblasts were cultured in DMEM containing 15% FBS, l-glutamine and penicillin/streptomycin.

iPSC generation and expansion. iPSCs were generated as described\textsuperscript{32}, with the following modifications. The cDNAs for OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC and EGFP were cloned into pCX4 vectors\textsuperscript{33} and vectors were packaged into VSVG-pseudotyped retroviruses. For each patient, three independent viral transductions were performed. Three weeks each containing \(1 \times 10^5\) fibroblasts, were transduced with retroviruses. On days 2–8, 2 mM valproic acid was added to cultures. Potential iPSC colonies were picked at 3–8 weeks and transferred to 96-well plates containing irradiated mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs). For passaging, cells were dissociated with TrypLE (Invitrogen). The efficiency of potential iPSC colony formation was roughly 100 colonies per \(1 \times 10^5\) fibroblasts at 3 weeks. The efficiency of successful establishment of a stable iPSC line from an initial colony was roughly 10%.

Karyotype analysis and pluripotency assays. Karyotype analysis was performed by Cell Line Genetics. iPSCs were assayed for teratoma formation by injections into spinal cords of athymic rats, as previously described\textsuperscript{34}, with the following modifications: cells were dissociated with Accutase (Innovative Cell Technologies) and passed through a 100-\(\mu\)m mesh filter before injections and each animal received 10 injections of roughly 10,000 cells. For in vitro pluripotency assays, iPSC cultures were dissociated with dispase, and embryoid bodies were generated in low-attachment plates in media containing 15% fetal bovine serum (FBS). After 7 days, cultures were plated on Matrigel (BD Biosciences)-coated glass coverslips and cultured for 7 days.

Genotyping and qPCR. To determine APP copy number, genomic DNA was isolated from fibroblasts or differentiated NPCs. qPCR was performed using FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master Mix (Roche) and analysed on an Applied Biosystems 7300 Real Time PCR System using the isolated from fibroblasts or differentiated NPCs. qPCR was performed using the software (Molecular Devices). ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health) was imaged on a Nikon TE2000-U inverted microscope and acquired using Metamorph software (Molecular Devices). ImageJ software was used to count number of separate cultures analysed, with each iPSC line contributing equally to total NDC pool by ANOVA followed by Tukey’s test. Data were analysed using JMP software (SAS Institute). Statistical analysis was assisted with Clampfit 10.3, Igor Pro 6, Prism 5 and Microsoft Excel. Mean \pm standard error of the mean were reported.

Amyloid-\(\beta\), p-tau/total tau and aGSK-3\(\beta\) measurements. FACs-purified cells were cultured at a density of \(2 \times 10^5\) cells per well of a 96-well plate. Cells were cultured for an additional 5 days with a full media change on day 3. Amyloid-\(\beta\) was measured with MSD Human 6E10 Abeta3-Plex Kits (Meso Scale Discovery). p-tau/total tau was measured with a MSD Phospho/Total GSK-3\(\beta\) Duplex Kit. Fibroblast and neuronal amyloid-\(\beta\) levels were normalized to total protein levels determined by BCA assay (Thermo Scientific). aGSK-3\(\beta\) (the per cent of unphosphorylated GSK-3\(\beta\) at Ser 9) was calculated by manufacturer’s recommendations: \(1 - (2 \times \text{phospho signal} / \text{phospho signal + total signal})\) 100.

Inhibitor treatments. CPD-E (Compound-E) and DAPT were used at a final concentration of 200 nM [J506-II (Aβ-secretase inhibitor II) and OM99-2 were used at 1.5 and 750 nM, respectively]. Inhibitor or vehicle was added to the existing culture media of parallel cultures on day 4 and cultures were harvested on day 5. All inhibitors were from EMD Chemicals and were dissolved in DMSO.

Endosomal analysis. \(1.5 \times 10^5\) per FACS-purified neurons were plated per well of a 96-well plate that was seeded the previous day with 5,000 human astrocytes (Lonza). After 12 days of culture, cultures were stained for RAB5 and JUN-tubulin and imaged on a PerkinElmer UltraView VoX microscope with a \(x\)-step of 0.5 \(\mu\)m. Quantification was performed blinded to genotype with Velocity software (PerkinElmer) on JUN-tubulin (+) cells only.

Statistics. Data were analysed using JMP software (SAS Institute). \(P < 0.05\) was considered statistically significant. Individuals were statistically compared to the total NDC pool by ANOVA followed by Tukey’s test. \(P\) values signify the total number of separate cultures analysed, with each iPSC line contributing equally to the total. Drug responses were compared to controls by Dunnett’s method. Correlations were determined by calculating Pearson coefficients (\(R\)).

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