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Human spinal cord differentiation proceeds rapidly in vitro and only initially maintains differentiation pace in a heterologous environment

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Abstract

Species-specific differentiation pace in in vitro assays indicates that some aspects of neural

differentiation are driven by cell-autonomous processes. Here we describe a novel in vitro

human neural rosette assay that recapitulates the temporal sequence of dorsal spinal cord

differentiation but proceeds more rapidly than in the human embryonic spinal cord,

suggesting that in vitro conditions lack endogenous signalling dynamics. To test the extent to

which this in vitro assay represents a cell intrinsic differentiation programme, human iPSC-

derived neural rosettes were homo-chronically grafted into the faster differentiating chicken

embryonic neural tube. Strikingly, in vitro human differentiation pace was not accelerated,

even in single host-integrated cells. Moreover, rosette differentiation eventually stalled in a

neural progenitor cell state. These findings demonstrate the requirement for timely extrinsic

signalling to accurately recapitulate human neural differentiation tempo, and suggest that

while intrinsic properties limit differentiation pace, such signals are also required to maintain

differentiation progression.

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Introduction

Understanding human embryonic development is a major challenge in contemporary biology and is in large part investigated by creation of pluripotent cell derived in vitro models of developing tissues and organs. One of the most striking features of such in vitro assays is the remarkably faithful recapitulation of specific differentiation programmes in minimal culture conditions. For example, species specific patterns of cell proliferation and timing of neuronal sub-type differentiation are evident in human and macaque cortical progenitors, even when these cells are cultured together (Otani et al. 2016), strongly supporting the notion that cell autonomous mechanisms direct differentiation programmes. Recent analyses of potential mechanisms that account for human specific differentiation tempo have identified general protein stability and cell cycle duration as parameters that constrain this process in spinal cord progenitors (Rayon et al. 2020). Moreover, a human specific gene, *ARHGAP11B*, has recently been shown to promote the enhanced proliferative capacity of human basal cortical progenitors by augmenting a specific metabolic pathway (Namba et al. 2020): and so uncovering a genetic basis for such cell autonomous cell behaviour. Such findings indicate that cell intrinsic mechanisms underpin differentiation programme progression and suggest that this process can proceed from the neural progenitor cell state with minimal extrinsic signals. Evaluation of the extent to which human neural progenitors differentiate cell autonomously requires a detailed understanding of the differentiation timing of specific cell types during normal human embryogenesis and how well this is recapitulated in vitro.

As in other vertebrate embryos, the extracellular environment, including spatially and temporally regulated signals provided by neighbouring tissues, is likely to orchestrate human embryonic differentiation. In vitro models, from rosettes to more complex three-dimensional organoids and gastruloids, aim to recreate this by provision of supportive extracellular environments and timely exposure to ligands or small molecules that modulate signalling activity (Lancaster et al. 2013, Otani et al. 2016, Ogura et al. 2018, Chiaradia and Lancaster 2020, Moris et al. 2020). A critical test of the extent to which neural progenitor differentiation is governed by cell autonomous mechanisms is their behaviour in a heterologous environment. However, studies examining differentiation pace and accuracy in such contexts are lacking. This is obviously important when considering use of such neural progenitors in cell replacement strategies following injury or disease (Sofroniew 2018) or for local delivery of secreted factors for therapeutic effect (Zhang et al. 2017), as these approaches involve transplantation into heterologous environments and yet anticipate differentiation into specific cell types, e.g. (Kumamaru et al. 2018, Kumamaru et al. 2019).

A relatively simple region of the developing nervous system in which to evaluate the extent to which human neural progenitors differentiate cell autonomously, is the developing spinal cord. In vitro generation of spinal cord progenitors from mammalian pluripotent cells has been achieved by approaches in which anterior neural tissue is induced and then caudalised, e.g. (Meinhardt et al. 2014, Gupta et al. 2018). Recent advances in understanding the cellular origins of the spinal cord have further shown that it arises from a bipotent epiblast cell population adjacent to the anterior primitive streak known as neuromesodermal progenitors (NMPs) (Tzouanacou et al. 2009, Gouti et al. 2014, Gouti, Metzis, and Briscoe 2015, Henrique et al. 2015, Gouti et al. 2017, Steventon and Martinez Arias 2017). Moreover, in vitro generation of spinal cord progenitors from NMPs may align better with the temporal sequence of cell fate decisions in the embryo. Derivation of NMP-like cells from pluripotent cells has been demonstrated (Turner et al. 2014, Gouti et al. 2017, Frith et al. 2018, Verrier et al. 2018, Frith and Tsakiridis 2019, Edri et al. 2019) and this has catalysed investigation of mechanisms regulating human as well as mouse spinal cord development.

Here we present a novel human pluripotent cell-derived in vitro neural rosette assay that recapitulates dorsal spinal cord differentiation observed in vertebrate embryos and use this to evaluate to the extent to which human neural progenitors differentiate cell autonomously. Using key cell type-specific marker proteins we compare in detail in vitro neural differentiation with that in the human embryonic spinal cord. In a series of grafting experiments, in which human iPSC derived spinal cord progenitors are transplanted into the chicken embryonic neural tube, we further test whether human differentiation pace can be increased in this faster differentiating environment, as well as the extent to which the differentiation trajectory of transplanted cells relies on timely provision of extrinsic signalling.

Results

In vitro generation of human dorsal spinal cord rosettes

An in vitro protocol which generates dorsal spinal cord from human pluripotent cell-derived NMP-like cells with brachial/ thoracic character (Verrier et al. 2018) was used to make neural rosettes (Fig. 1A). The precise timing with which NMP-like cells (derived from H9 hESCs) enter the neural differentiation programme was assessed by quantifying cells expressing a range of neural progenitor markers during the first 10 days of two-dimensional culture in a minimal medium (Figs. 1A,B). This early neural tissue formed compact condensations of cells by day 4 (D4) of NMP-like cell differentiation, which lacked overt apico-basal polarity as indicated by localisation of N-Cadherin (Cadherin-2) at most cell-cell interfaces (Hatta and Takeichi 1986, Dady, Blavet, and Duband 2012) (Fig. 1B). These cells expressed SOX2, characteristic of both pluripotent, NMP and neural progenitor cells (Uchikawa et al. 2003, Uchikawa et al. 2011, Bylund et al. 2003) (Ellis et al. 2004), and the neural progenitor protein PAX6 (Walther and Gruss 1991, Pevny et al. 1998). Some cells expressing the early neural crest marker SNAI2 were also detected on D4 (Nieto 2002, Jiang et al. 2009, Dady and Duband 2017) (Fig. 1B). The expression of PAX7, which distinguishes dorsal neural progenitors (Jostes, Walther, and Gruss 1990) (Gruss and Walther 1992) and the absence of OLIG2, characteristic of more ventral spinal cord (Mizuguchi et al. 2001, Novitch, Chen, and Jessell 2001) further indicated that at D4 this differentiation protocol had generated human neural tissue with dorsal spinal cord identity (Fig. 1B).

By D6 neural rosettes composed of apico-basally polarised SOX2, PAX6 and PAX7 expressing progenitors had formed, with a single, central lumen and peripheral SNAI2 neural crest cells (Fig. 1B). This spatial reorganisation was accompanied by decline in SNAI2+ cells and the appearance, by D10, of a scattering of OLIG2 expressing cells (Fig. 1B). This emergence of neural rosettes from a condensing epiblast cell population at D4, may equate to the formation of the neural plate and establishment of the pseudostratified neuroepithelium, but it is also reminiscent of the phases of embryonic secondary neurulation (Schoenwolf and Nichols 1984, Catala, Teillet, and Le Douarin 1995, Dady, Blavet, and Duband 2012, Dady et al. 2014, Fedorova et al. 2019).

These findings show that differentiation of human ESC derived NMPs in a minimal culture medium containing retinoic acid (RA) is sufficient to generate self-organising dorsal spinal cord rosettes and accompanying neural crest. Moreover, this protocol induced similar dorsal spinal cord differentiation in hiPSC-derived NMP-like cells (Fig. S2).

Figure 1. Human pluripotent cell derivation of NMP-like cells and their differentiation into dorsal spinal cord neural rosettes. (**A**) Timeline and protocol for induction and differentiation of dorsal spinal cord neural rosette from human pluripotent stem cells (hPSC); (**B**) Expression patterns and quantification of cell type specific proteins in rosettes on days (D)4, D6 and D10 detected by immunofluorescence combined with heterochromatin marker DAPI: apical polarity marker N-Cadherin (NCAD), neural progenitor markers SOX2, PAX6, early neural crest marker SNAI2, and dorso-ventrally restricted neural progenitor markers PAX7 and OLIG2. Quantifications indicate proportions of expressing cells in either a defined field on D4 or within a rosette D6 and D10, in 15 samples for each marker (n=5 from each of 3 independent differentiations, see Methods). Data analyzed with Mann-Whitney test, errors bars ± S.E.M, p-values = * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01 and **** p < 0.0001. Scale bar = 50μm.

Sequential differentiation of human dorsal spinal cord progenitors is recapitulated in vitro

Dorsal spinal cord rosettes were further characterized as they progressed through their differentiation programmes (Fig. 2A). Decline of SNAI2-expressing cells at D10 coincided with the emergence of migrating neural crest cells expressing HNK1 (Tucker et al. 1984, Bronner-Fraser 1986), SOX10 (Bondurand et al. 1998) and TFAP2α (Zhang et al. 1996, Betters et al. 2010) in cells now just outside the rosettes (Jiang et al. 2009) (Fig. 2B). The onset of neuron production was assessed in several ways; (i) by analysis of immature neuronal marker Doublecortin (DCX) expression (Gleeson et al. 1999, Brown et al. 2003) (using a hESC (H1) neuronal reporter cell line in which a yellow fluorescent protein (*YFP*) sequence is fused to endogenous *DCX* (Yao et al. 2017) (Fig. 2C), and ii) by characterization of cdk inhibitor P27/KIP1 expression, which identifies post-mitotic cells in the neural tube (Gui, Li, and Matise 2007) (Fig. 2D). These analyses defined a neurogenesis timeline which commenced by D8, peaked at D14 and progressed through to D20.

By D20 DCX-expressing neurons largely resided at the rosette perimeter and the early glial progenitor marker, the transcription factor Nuclear factor 1 A-type (NFIA) (Deneen et al. 2006), was now detected in cells within the rosette (Fig. 2C). This indicates operation of a switch from neurogenic to gliogenic differentiation programmes in the human spinal cord rosettes that is similar to that observed in the mouse embryo (Deneen et al. 2006).

Finally, we determined the identity of neurons generated in this in vitro assay by immunofluorescence of dorsal interneuron (dIs) subtype-specific markers. In the mouse embryonic neural tube distinct sensory interneurons arise in specific dorsoventral positions and express distinguishing marker proteins (Lai, Seal, and Johnson 2016). By D10, proprioceptive interneurons (dI1s) and mechanosensory interneurons (dI3s) were detected by the expression of LHX2 (Fig. 2E) and ISLET1 (Fig. 2F), respectively (Liem, Tremml, and Jessell 1997). By D14, dI5 interneurons expressing BRN3A were detected (Ninkina et al. 1993, Fedtsova and Turner 1995) (Fig. 2G). Moreover, ISLET1+ cells did not co-express the transcription factor HB9, a marker of spinal cord motoneurons (Arber et al. 1999), confirming their dI3 identity (Fig. 2F). In contrast, LHX1/dI2s/dI4s expressing cells were not identified (Fig. S1), indicating that this protocol is insufficient to generate all types of dorsal interneurons.

These data document the differentiation capacity in this human spinal cord rosette assay and demonstrate that it reproducibly generates dorsal neural differentiation programmes. These begin with dorsal neural progenitors and emerging neural crest, progress to neurogenesis (of specific dorsal interneurons dI1s, dI3s and dI5s) and a later switch to

Figure 2. Human dorsal spinal cord rosettes exhibit stereotyped sequence of cell-type specific differentiation
(**A**) Schematic of in vitro sequence of cell-type specific differentiation of dorsal spinal cord rosettes; (**B**) Emergence of migrating neural crest from rosettes by D10, documented by IF for key marker proteins HNK1, (lumen defined by apical marker ZO-1), SOX10 (neural progenitors defined by SOX2) and TFAP2α and quantified for SOX10 and TFAP2α; (**C**) Transition from neurogenesis to gliogenesis documented and quantified in immature neuronal reporter line (H1:DCX-YFP) with co-IF for gliogenesis marker Nuclear Factor I-A (NFIA) at key timepoints; (**D**) P27/KIP1 expression which by analogy identifies most dorsal post-mitotic neurons, confirms neurogenesis onset by D8; (**E-G**) Emergence of dorsal interneuron (dIs) subtypes by D10 indicated by dI1s/LHX2 (**E**), dI3s/ISLET1 (**F**) (note lack of HB9/ ISLET1 co-expression distinguishes these cells from motor neurons) and dI5s/BRN3A (**G**). Sample numbers, statistics and error bars as in Figure 1, each dot represents a single rosette and see Materials and Methods; Scale bar = 50µm.

233 gliogenesis: a sequence that recapitulates the temporal order of differentiation observed in
234 the spinal cord of mouse and avian embryos (Fig. 2A) (Deneen et al. 2006, Glasgow et al.
235 2017, Andrews et al. 2017).
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Human spinal cord differentiation in vitro progresses more rapidly than in the
human embryonic spinal cord
This conservation in the sequence of the dorsal neural differentiation programme contrasts
with the longer duration of human embryogenesis in comparison with that observed in the
mouse and chicken. Indeed, the pace of differentiation in the developing nervous system and
that of body axis segmentation is slower in human embryos (Rayon et al. 2020, Matsuda et al.
2020). These latter studies suggest the presence of species-specific cell intrinsic differences
that govern developmental tempo. To understand how well this tempo is captured in our in
vitro assay we next sought to compare the sequence and timing of differentiation progression
in human spinal cord rosettes with that observed in the human embryo.

The pattern and timing of key marker protein expression in human embryonic spinal
cord was assessed using a combination of tissue samples provided by the HDBR (Figs. 3A-H)
and available data. One way in which to assess differentiation progression is to take
advantage of the spatial separation of the temporal events of differentiation along the
embryonic body axis, and so analyses were carried out at distinct rostro-caudal levels in
Carnegie stage (CS) 12/13 (gestational weeks 4-4.5) human embryos (O'Rahilly 1987); sacral
(the most caudal and least differentiated region), lumbar and thoracic/brachial (more rostral
and most differentiated region). Developmental time along the body axis can be
approximated by that indicated by segmentation progression from the sacral to thoracic
region, which involves generation of ~20 somites (with 1 human somite generated every 5
hours (Turnpenny et al. 2007, Hubaud and Pourquié 2014, Matsuda et al. 2020) this
represents, 100h or ~4 days (Fig. 3A).

The sacral spinal cord at CS12/13 stage was composed of progenitors expressing
dorsal (PAX7) and ventral (OLIG2) markers (Fig. 3B) as well as pre-migratory neural crest cells
expressing SNAI2 (Fig. 3C) and lacking migratory neural crest cell marker HNK1 (Fig. 3D).
Moreover, neurogenesis, revealed by the pan-neuronal marker TUJ1, was only detected
ventrally (Menezes and Luskin 1994) (Figs. 3E). The differentiation state in the dorsal region
of the CS12/13 sacral neural tube therefore aligns well with that found in D6 dorsal spinal
cord rosettes, which constitute apico-basally polarised neuroepithelium expressing PAX6,
PAX7 and SNAI2 (Fig. 1B) that lacks migratory neural crest and neurons (Figs 2B-G).

Figure 3 Characterization of neural progenitors and neuronal subtypes in human embryonic spinal cord and comparison with in vitro neural rosette differentiation. (**A**) CS12 human embryo with anatomical sub-regions indicated and their alignment with in vitro spinal cord rosette differentiation (see text); (**B-H**) transverse sections through human embryonic spinal cord at sacral, lumbar and thoracic levels at 4/4.5 weeks (CS12/CS13) and at brachial/thoracic at 7/7.5 weeks (CS18) analysed by IF for expression of (**B and B'**) dorsal, PAX7, or ventral, OLIG2, spinal cord progenitor markers (note novel PAX7 detection in the floor plate, arrow) and (**B'**) waning PAX7 at CS18 (arrow); (**C**) premigratory neural crest cell marker SNAI2 is only detected in sacral regions (arrow) shown here with pan-neural progenitor marker SOX2; (**D**) differentiating migrating neural crest expressing HNK1 emerges from the lumbar region (arrow); (**E**) neuronal differentiation detected with pan-neuronal marker TUJ1 is manifest dorsally in lumbar regions; dorsal interneurons indicated by (**F**) dI1 specific transcription factor LHX2 and (**G**) dI3 identifying ISLET1 expressing cells were not detected dorsally in any region of the spinal cord at CS12/CS13; (**G'**) dorsal ISLET1 interneurons at CS18; (**H, H'**) gliogenesis marker NFIA detected dorsally only at CS18; (**I**) Schematic aligning dorsal brachial/thoracic spinal cord differentiation in human embryo and in hPSC derived dorsal spinal cord rosettes, based on (1) Bondurand N. et al. 1998, O'Rahilly and Müller 2007; (2) This study, Rayon T. et al. 2020, Marklund et al 2014; (3) This study, Rayon T. et al. 2020); three sections were analysed at each level for each marker in n = 2 CS12/13 and n = 1 CS18 human embryos. Scale bar = 50µm.

Figure S1. **Dorsal interneurons type 2 expressing LHX1, dI2/LHX1, are not generated in human spinal cord neural rosettes in vitro**. (**A**) dI2 neuron differentiation analysed by IF for expression of LHX1 in stages CS12 and CS18 human embryonic spinal cord; note dI2 neurons are only detected at CS18 (arrow indicates LHX1 expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image); (**B**) LHX1 is not detected in neural rosettes differentiated in vitro. Three sections were analysed at each stage in n = 1 CS12 n=1 CS13 and n =1 CS18 human embryos. Three independent cell differentiations were performed to generate rosettes. Five neural rosettes from each experiment were then analysed for quantification at each time point (n=15). Data were analysed using non-parametric Mann-Whitney test. Scale bar = 50µm

In the more rostral, lumbar region, PAX7 and OLIG2 domains have enlarged
(Marklund et al. 2014) and, while SNAI2-expression has declined (Fig. 3C), migrating HNK1-
expressing neural crest cells have now emerged (Fig. 3D). The first neurons are now detected
in the dorsal half of the neural tube as indicated by TUJ1 expression (while co-expression of
ISLET1 and HB9 identifies ventrally located motor-neurons (Arber et al. 1999, Rayon et al.
2020), Figs. 3E, G). The dorsal neurons may correspond to the DCX /P27 expressing cells
detected in D8 rosettes (Figs. 2C,D), however, their identity remains undefined. Neurons in
this dorsoventral position (ventral region of dorsal half of the neural tube) in the mouse and
chicken neural tube express LHX1 (Lai, Seal, and Johnson 2016, Andrews et al. 2017), but this
protein was not detected in neural rosettes and appears much later in the human embryo
(Fig. S1). Given the alteration in transcription factor combinatorial code created by the
expansion of the OLIG2 domain in human spinal cord progenitors (Marklund et al. 2014), one
possibility is that human-specific neuronal cell types arise in this region. The dorsal region of
the lumbar neural tube therefore broadly aligns with D8-D10 dorsal spinal cord rosettes in
which neuronal differentiation and neural crest migration have now commenced (Figs. 2B-D).

Importantly, dorsal interneurons dI1 and dI3 indicated by LHX2 and ISLET1/HB9-
expression respectively were not detected in the human CS12 or CS13 embryonic spinal cord
at lumbar or the thoracic levels assessed here (which included sections from presumptive
forelimb level, brachial spinal cord), (Figs. 3F, G), although a few dorsal ISLET1 positive cells
were detected in brachial spinal cord of a further CS13 embryo (T. Rayon pers comm.). This
suggests that these interneurons are just beginning to be generated at CS13. In contrast,
ISLET1 and LHX2 positive cells were found in all D10 neural rosettes (Figs. 2E, F). This suggests
that the dorsal interneuron differentiation programme progresses more rapidly in vitro than
in the human embryonic spinal cord.

A further way to assess differentiation tempo is to align progression of a defined cell
population in vitro and in vivo using time elapsed from a key landmark event. The NMP-like
cells generated in our protocol have a brachial/thoracic regional character as indicated by Hox
gene expression (Verrier et al. 2018) and differentiation of this region can be compared in
vitro and in embryos over time. Detailed analysis of the first appearance of spinal cord neural
crest in the human embryo provides a clear landmark with which to align in vivo and in vitro
differentiation (Bondurand et al. 1998, O'Rahilly and Muller 2007). These latter studies
identify morphological emergence of migrating neural crest in cervical level spinal cord at
CS11 human embryo (O'Rahilly and Muller 2007) and in even more caudal spinal cord at this
stage using *SOX10 mRNA* expression (Bondurand et al. 1998). From this we infer that pre-

migratory neural crest is present prior to CS11 in brachial/thoracic spinal cord, and so aligns

this region in CS10-11 embryos with D6 in our neural rosettes, which express SNAI2 but lack

migratory neural crest markers proteins SOX10, HNK1 and TFAP2α (Figure 1B and 2B). Using

this alignment point we then compared time to appearance of later cell type specific markers

in neural rosettes and human embryos (Fig.3I). As above, dorsally located ISLET1/dI3s first

appear ~ CS13 and are robustly detected at CS15 ((Rayon et al. 2020); and see HDBR Atlas

http://hdbratlas.org), and here this indicates that these neurons appear at least ~4 days

earlier in D10 rosettes (Figs. 2E,F, 3I). The landmark switch from neurogenesis to gliogenesis

indicated by NFIA expression in dorsal neural progenitors was detected in human embryos at

CS18 (gestational weeks 7-7.5) (Fig. 3H') and not at CS17 (Rayon et al. 2020). This is ~ 1 week

later than in neural rosettes, where NFIA was robustly found at D20 (Figs. 2C, 3I). Moreover,

the overall time from spinal cord migratory neural crest appearance to dorsal gliogenesis

takes ~ 2 weeks (D6 -D20) in human dorsal spinal cord rosettes *in vitro* and ~ 3-3.5 weeks

(CS10/11-CS17/18) in the human embryonic spinal cord (Fig. 3I). These findings indicate that

in vitro conditions can alter the pace of neural differentiation progression, which proceeds

faster than in vivo within the context of these self-organizing neural rosettes.

Cell intrinsic differentiation of human spinal cord progenitors is unaltered by

differentiation cues from the more rapidly developing chicken embryonic

environment

In the vertebrate embryo, the timing of neural differentiation is orchestrated by signals from

adjacent tissues, which drive and coordinate axial differentiation (Diez del Corral, Breitkreuz,

and Storey 2002, Diez del Corral et al. 2003) but the localised and temporally controlled

characteristics of this regulatory influence are lacking in vitro. Indeed, in the embryo, neural

progenitors will generate more cells to make a bigger structure and so proliferative phases

that expand cell populations might be longer. We have found that the smaller rosette

structures generated in vitro differentiate more rapidly and this raises the possibility that

differentiation pace in this minimal assay reflects the species-specific intrinsic constraints on

this process (Rayon et al. 2020). To test whether rosette cells retain such a cell intrinsic

differentiation programme or if this can run still faster in a more rapidly developing embryo

that also provides a more coherent extracellular environment, we next homo-chronically

grafted human neural rosettes into the dorsal neural tube of the chicken embryo.

To this end, human iPSCs (Cellartis hIPS4 cell line engineered to express a plasma

membrane tagged GFP, ChiPS4-pmGFP, see Methods) were differentiated into NMPs and

Figure 4. Homo-chronically transplanted hiPSC-derived neural rosettes exhibit cell autonomous differentiation despite exposure to more rapidly developing chicken embryonic environment. (**A**) Schematic of human dorsal spinal cord neural rosette transplantation experiment; (**B-B'**) Two days after grafting human cells were observed in: 1) cell groups or 2) isolated individual cells incorporated within the chicken neural tube, or 3) rosette-like configurations contiguous with chick neural tube. (**C-G**) IF to detect key marker proteins in control (non-grafted, note these sham operated embryos regenerate the dorsal neural tube by 2 days post-operation) and grafted embryos after 2 days incubation (**C**) ZO1, (**D**) SOX2, (**E**) PAX7, (**F**) P27, (**G**) ISLET1 (arrowheads indicate examples of candidate protein expressing cells in the chicken host tissue; arrow indicate example of P27 and GFP co-expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image), three transverse sections from each of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analysed for each marker combination and the proportions of SOX2/GFP +ve, PAX7/GFP +ve and P27/GFP +ve cells in configurations 1, 2 or 3 were quantified, each dot represents data from one histological section, note the small number of isolated cells (group 2) underlies lack of significant difference between groups (see Materials and Methods), data analysed with Mann-Whitney U test with. Errors bars are ± SD. Scale bar = 50μm.

Figure S2. Expression patterns of key marker proteins in human dorsal spinal cord rosettes cultured in vitro in parallel with those homochronically grafted into chick spinal cord. (**A**) Human dorsal spinal cord rosettes from the same differentiation assays used for homochronic grafting experiments were cultured in parallel in vitro and subjected to IF for SOX2, PAX7, SNAI2, P27, ISLET1, HNK1 and TFAP2α SOX2, PAX7 and SNAI2 were expressed from D6(D0). P27, HNK1 and TFAP2α were detected from D8(+2D). ISLET1 was detected from D11(+5D). (**B**) Quantifications, percentage of cells in D6 rosettes expressing each marker on the day of grafting operation D6(D0), two Days after transplantation (+2D) which equals D8 in vitro, and five Days after transplantation (+5D), which equals D11 in vitro differentiation. Five rosettes from each of 3 independent differentiation experiments were used for quantifications, each dot represents data from a single rosette. See methods for statistical analysis. Errors bars are ± S.E.M. Probability of similarity, p-value ** p < 0.01 and **** p < 0.0001. Scale bar = 50μm.

Figure S3. Dorsal region of the chicken neural tube removal prior to grafting. (**A**) E2 (10-15 somite stage, HH 10/11+) chicken embryo following removal of the dorsal part of neural tube. (**B**) High magnification of the newly formed somite region, where the dorsal part of the neural tube was surgically removed prior to grafting. (**C**) Transverse sections of chicken neural tube subjected to IF for SOX2, SNAI2, PAX7, OLIG2, ISLET1, NCAD, ZO1 and HNK1 in the region anterior to the removal site (1), the removal region (2), and the region caudal to the site (3). The neural tube region removed is only composed of neural crest and neural progenitors expressing respectively SNAI2 and PAX7 and is similar to D6 human spinal cord neural rosettes. At least three chicken embryos and three sections were analysed for each marker combination. Scale bar = 50μm.

then into D6 neural rosettes as described above (Fig. 1A). Multiple plates of rosettes were

generated so that control in vitro differentiation of iPSC derived rosettes was monitored in

parallel with that of D6 rosettes grafted into the chicken embryo. Expression of key marker

proteins in these iPSC derived rosettes was found to be the same as that in D6 rosettes

derived from the hESC H9 line (Fig. S2). Individual neural rosettes were micro-dissected,

lightly dissociated and grafted in place of one side of the dorsal neural tube adjacent to newly

formed somites in stage HH10-11 (Embryonic day 2, E2) chicken embryos (Figs. 4A, S3). At

this anatomical level the host chicken dorsal neural tube and grafted human D6 rosette are

composed of similar populations of dorsal neural progenitors and neural crest expressing

respectively PAX7 and SNAI2 and lack neurons and migrating neural crest (Figs. S2, S3);

moreover, the D6 rosettes which have brachial/thoracic regional character where grafted into

the corresponding region in the developing chicken embryo (opposite somites 10 - 16)

providing a regionally appropriate homochronic context in which evaluate differentiation

progression. After two days incubation, grafted cells retained apico-basal polarity as

indicated by localized ZO-1 and N-cadherin expression (Aaku-Saraste, Hellwig, and Huttner

1996, Hatta and Takeichi 1986, Dady, Blavet, and Duband 2012) (Fig. 4C) and the majority of

cells had formed rosette-like structures, which were adjacent but contiguous with the host

neuroepithelium, while subsets of cells were incorporated within the host neuroepithelium,

including some single cells (Figs. 4B, B'). At this time, most grafted cells still expressed neural

progenitor proteins (SOX2 and PAX7)(Figs. 4D, 4E) and the first P27 expressing neurons

appeared (Figs 4F and S2), but ISLET-1 expressing (dl3) interneurons were not yet detected

(Fig. 4G). This is in good alignment with neural differentiation progression observed in the

now D8 rosettes cultured in parallel in vitro (Fig. S2). Importantly, at this stage in the chicken

embryo ISLET-1/dl3 expressing neurons are detected (Fig. 4G) (Andrews et al. 2017),

consistent with the faster differentiation of the host tissue and indicating that the pace of

neural differentiation in grafted human rosettes is unaltered in this more rapidly

differentiating environment.

One possibility is that a community effect (Gurdon 1988) operates within grafted rosettes,

which overcomes differentiation signals provided by host tissues. We therefore analysed

separately human cells which were directly incorporated into the chick neuroepithelium,

either in small groups or as single cells to determine if these differentiated more rapidly (Fig.

4B'). However, no differences were found between contiguous rosettes and incorporated

human cell groups (Figs. 4D-G), and in single cells a slight tendency for reduced progenitor

marker expression and increased incidence of P27 was not statistically significant.

Figure 5. Homo-chronically transplanted hiPSC-derived neural rosettes exhibit cell autonomous neural crest differentiation in the chicken embryonic environment (**A-C**) IF to detect key neural crest marker proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted embryos after 2 days incubation (**A**) SNAIL2, (**B**) HNK1, (**C**) TFAP2α (arrowheads indicate examples of candidate protein expressing cells in the chicken host tissue; arrows indicate examples of candidate protein and GFP co-expressing cells, note most cells at graft periphery, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image). Three transverse sections from each of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analyzed for each marker and the proportions of SNAIL2/GFP +ve, HNK1/GFP +ve and TFAP2α /GFP +ve cells in cell configurations 1, 2 or 3 were quantified, each dot represents an histological section analyzed, note the small number of isolated cells (group 2) underlies lack of significant difference between groups (see Materials and Methods), data analyzed with Mann-Whitney U test. Errors bars are ± SD. Scale bar = 50μm.

Figure S4. Transplanted human dorsal spinal cord rosettes express SOX10, a specific marker of differentiated neural crest 2 days after grafting. IF to detect expression of the neural crest marker **(A)** SOX10 in control sham operated, and **(B)** grafted chicken embryo following 2 days incubation (dashed white box indicates area of magnification in next adjacent image). One chicken embryo and three sections were analysed. Scale bar = 50µm.

Moreover, no ISLET-1 positive cells were found in single cells. This reinforces the conclusion
that the pace of human neural differentiation in these rosettes is directed by cell intrinsic
factors.

Analysis of neural crest differentiation in grafted rosettes after 2 days further
confirmed the asynchrony between graft and host cell differentiation progression. SNAI2-
expressing neural crest cells where still found within grafted rosettes, while delamination of
host neural crest was now complete, as indicated by absence of Snail2 positive cells in the
chicken dorsal neural tube (Fig. 5A). Moreover, expression of migratory neural crest markers
HNK1 and TFAP2α in the rosette periphery further aligned human rosette differentiation in
vivo with that observed in vitro (Figs. 5B, C and S2). As single cells, integrated human cells
were more likely to express markers of migrating neural crest cells HNK1 (Fig. 5B) and TFAP2α
(Fig. 5C) exhibiting neural crest differentiation progression similar to that found in *in vitro*
conditions (Fig. S2).

Intriguingly, despite this apparent lack of influence of the chick host on grafted
human cells, we found some evidence that human cells altered chick neural crest
differentiation. At this stage, chicken neural crest cells have normally delaminated and
migrated to the dorsal root ganglia (DRGs) (Kalcheim 1999). However, close to integrated
human cells chicken neural crest expressed early migration phase markers HNK1 (Fig. 5B),
TFAP2α (Fig. 5C) and Sox10 (Fig. S4) suggesting that the presence of human cells delays
progression of the host neural crest differentiation program.

Together these findings indicate that after two days, differentiation in grafted human
spinal cord rosettes progresses at the same pace as in vitro despite exposure to the more
rapidly differentiating environment of the chicken host embryo.

Longer term analysis reveals impaired differentiation in grafted human neural
rosettes
To address whether the differentiation pace and trajectory in grafted human rosettes
continues in synchrony with that in vitro, analysis was further undertaken five days after
grafting. At this time point all human cells were incorporated within the host
neuroepithelium, either as cell groups or single cells (Figs. 6A-6B') and the majority of cells
remained dorsal neural progenitors expressing SOX2 and PAX7 (Figs. 6C,D). Importantly,
neuronal differentiation now continued (Fig. 6E-G) indicated by the increase of P27 and
ISLET1 positive human cells. However, the proportion of cells expressing P27 in transplanted
rosettes decreased between day 2 and day 5 and was also significantly reduced compared

Figure 6. Longer term analysis reveals impaired neuronal differentiation and cell type specification in grafted human neural rosettes (**A**) Schematic of human dorsal spinal cord neural rosette transplantation protocol and (**B-B'**) transplanted cell configurations 5 days after transplantation; (**C-F**) IF to detect key marker proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted chicken embryos after 5 days incubation, neural progenitor markers (**C**) SOX2, and (**D**) PAX7, post-mitotic neuronal (**E**) P27 and dorsal interneuron type 3, dI3s, (**F**) ISLET1 markers (arrows indicate examples of P27 and GFP co-expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image, asterisks indicate examples of host blood cells). Three transverse sections from each of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analyzed for each marker and the proportions of SOX2/GFP +ve, PAX7/GFP +ve, P27 /GFP +ve and ISLET1/GFP +ve cells in configurations 1 or 2 were quantified, each dot represents an histological section analyzed, no significant differences were found; (**G**) Comparison of proportion of ChiPS4-pmGFP derived neural progenitors and neurons expressing SOX2, PAX7, P27 and ISLET1 in rosettes cultured in vitro in parallel with those transplanted into chicken embryos, assessed after 2 and 5 days, each dot represents a single rosette (5 rosettes sampled from each to 3 independent differentiations), see Fig S2 and proportions of these same marker proteins in transplanted rosettes after 2 and 5 days in chicken embryonic environment, each dot represents data from one section, with 3 sections from each of 3 grafted chick embryos, analysis Mann-Whitney U test. Errors bars are ± SD. p values (see methods). Scale bar = 50µm.

Figure 7. Longer term analysis reveals no neural crest differentiation in grafted human neural rosettes (**A-C**) IF to detect key neural crest marker proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted chicken embryos after 5 days incubation reveals no expression of neural crest progenitor markers in any cell configurations (**A**) SNAI2 (1: 0/860 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/70 GFP+ cells), (**B**) differentiated neural crest cells HNK1 (1: 0/956 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/57 GFP+ cells) and (**C**) TFAP2α (1: 0/1175 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/66 GFP+ cells) (asterisks indicate host blood cells). At least three chicken embryos and three cross-sections were analyzed for each marker. Scale bar = 50µm.

Figure S5. Ectopically positioned human dorsal spinal cord rosette reveals retention of ability to differentiate into neural crest Chicken open neural tube with a human dorsal spinal cord rosette following transplantation 5 days previously, analysed with IF to detect expression of differentiated neural crest cell markers (**A**) HNK1, (**B**) TFAP2α and (**C**) pan-neural marker SOX2 (arrows indicate examples of candidate proteins and GFP co-expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image). One chicken embryo and three sections were analysed. Scale bar = 50µm.

with their in vitro counterparts, where the proportion of P27 cells increased in this time

frame (Fig. 6G). The neural marker ISLET1 was first detected five days after grafting, both in

vivo and in vitro (equivalent to D11 rosettes) (Fig. 6G, S2). However, the rate of ISLET1

positive cells was significantly reduced in transplanted rosettes compared with their in vitro

counterparts (Fig. 6G). Moreover, the neural progenitor cell population continued to expand

in vivo to greater extent than in vitro, as indicated by higher proportion of SOX2 and PAX7

expressing cells in transplanted rosettes (Figs. 6G, S2). Together, these results indicate that,

the rate of neurogenesis gradually attenuates in transplanted rosettes while the neural

progenitor population expands.

Furthermore, day 5 transplanted rosettes lacked the neural crest markers assessed

(SNAI2, HNK1 and TFAP2α), but these were detected in rosettes cultured in parallel in vitro

(Figs. 7A, B, C and S2). This indicates that this later chicken embryo environment is no longer

conducive to human neural crest differentiation. However, we note that human neural crest

cells were still generated in one chimera excluded due to open neural tube defects (Fig. S5),

suggesting that human neural rosettes retain the potential for such differentiation in an

appropriate environment.

Overall, longer term analysis of differentiation in transplanted human rosettes

revealed that rather than proceeding more rapidly in the chicken embryo, even the intrinsic

differentiation pace and trajectories of human dorsal neural progenitors and neural crest are

ultimately not sustained and cells in the human rosettes stall in the expansive neural

progenitor phase.

Discussion

This study presents a novel in vitro human neural rosette assay that recapitulates the

temporal sequence of dorsal spinal cord differentiation observed in vertebrate embryos.

Importantly, this differentiation programme progresses more rapidly in vitro than in the

human embryonic spinal cord. It may therefore capture the cell intrinsic differentiation pace

of this cell population, while lacking signals present in the embryo that influence the normal

duration of steps in spinal cord differentiation. The initial retention of this in vitro

differentiation pace in rosettes challenged by transplantation into the faster differentiating

environment of the chicken embryonic spinal cord, further suggests that this reflects a cell

intrinsic species-specific differentiation pace. However, analysis of transplanted rosettes after

a longer period revealed that not only do these cells fail to respond to differentiation cues in

the chick embryonic environment, but also no longer follow their intrinsic differentiation
programme, and persist instead in the expansive neural progenitor cell state.

In vitro differentiation of human pluripotent cell derived neuromesodermal
progenitors in minimal medium containing low level retinoic acid (Verrier et al. 2018) was
sufficient to generate self-organizing dorsal spinal cord rosettes composed of neural crest and
neural progenitors. We demonstrated that such structures reproducibly differentiate in a
specific temporal sequence which follows that observed in the embryonic dorsal spinal cord
(Fig. 3I), with neural crest differentiating first, then dorsal-interneurons (dI1/3/5s) and finally
glial cells (Duband, Dady, and Fleury 2015, Jiang et al. 2009, Andrews et al. 2017, Deneen et
al. 2006). One peculiarity in this assay, the lack of dI2/4s interneurons, may be explained by a
requirement for more nuanced exposure to BMPs (Andrews et al. 2017, Gupta et al. 2018,
Duval et al. 2019), which, although endogenously expressed in this assay, are not exogenously
provided in this protocol (Verrier et al. 2018).

Two lines of evidence indicate that these human dorsal spinal cord rosettes exhibit a
cell intrinsic differentiation pace. First, the timing of neural progenitor differentiation was
found to be more rapid in vitro than in the human embryo. This was indicated by the earlier
appearance of ISLET1+/HB9- expressing neurons and of NFIA expressing gliogenic progenitors
in neural rosettes than in the human embryonic dorsal spinal cord; indeed, the period from
migratory neural crest emergence to gliogenesis onset was ~1.5 weeks faster in vitro than in
the human embryo (Fig 3I). This detailed comparison of the timing of the appearance of
specific cell types in the human embryo with in vitro data may help to inform modelling
approaches which largely rely on morphological changes to align differentiation tempo
(Workman et al. 2013). This discrepancy in differentiation timing supports the idea that in
vitro conditions represent a differentiation pace that reflects cell intrinsic constraints.
Secondly, homo-chronic transplantation of these rosettes into the chicken neural tube, which
has a more rapidly progressing differentiation tempo, did not accelerate rosette
differentiation (even in individual human cells incorporated within the chicken
neuroepithelium), further suggesting that rosette differentiation pace reflects species-specific
cell intrinsic constraints. This conclusion is consistent with the distinct differentiation pace
manifest in vitro in human and in mouse ventral neural progenitors cultured in similar
conditions, which have been shown to reflect species-specific differences in cell cycle length
and general protein stability (Rayon et al. 2020).

In this context, it is informative that our experiments demonstrate that the pace of

human neural differentiation in vitro is faster than that observed in the human embryo. This

likely reflects longer time spent in expansive neural progenitor phases in the embryo, where

this leads to generation of a much larger structure than a rosette. This raises the interesting

possibility that overall differentiation pace, beyond that governed by cell intrinsic factors,

might be influenced by and scale with the size of a self-organising cell group. In vertebrate

embryos, however, the timing of specific phases of neural differentiation is known to be

orchestrated by signals from adjacent tissues, which drive and coordinate axial

differentiation: this includes adjacent somites (Diez del Corral, Breitkreuz, and Storey 2002,

Diez del Corral et al. 2003), underlying notochord (Placzek et al. 1990) and overlying

ectoderm/roof plate (Liem, Tremml, and Jessell 1997, Lee, Dietrich, and Jessell 2000). Clearly,

the localised and temporally controlled characteristics of such regulatory influences are

lacking this in vitro assay. The importance of timely exposure to extrinsic cues is further

underscored by the cell intrinsic behaviour of transplanted human rosette cells, despite

exposure to signals from an appropriate extra-cellular environment. One possibility is that the

slower human cell cycle (Rayon et al. 2020) contributes to this lack of response to

endogenous chick differentiation cues. Indeed, transcriptional onset of differentiation genes

may require exposure to signals in a specific cell cycle phase (Pauklin and Vallier 2013, Pauklin

et al. 2016) and involve defined changes in replication timing at the early G1 timing decision

point (Dimitrova and Gilbert 1999, Hiratani et al. 2008). Perhaps related to this is the finding

that while human and mouse neural progenitor cells similarly transduce exogenously

provided signalling molecule sonic hedgehog, human cells are slower to transcribe *OLIG2* and

NKX6.1, key downstream ventral patterning genes (Rayon et al. 2020).

Previous studies have used xenografting assays to evaluate the behaviour of human

progenitors generated *in vitro* (Valensi-Kurtz et al. 2010, Frith et al. 2018) or for potential

long-term regenerative therapy purposes using either neural progenitor cells or differentiated

neurons, e.g. (Kumamaru et al. 2018, Kumamaru et al. 2019, Linaro et al. 2019). Here we have

focused on the differentiation potential of human neural progenitors in an ectopic cellular

environment. We have found that these cells only initially follow the intrinsic differentiation

programme that they exhibit in vitro. Five days following rosette transplantation neuronal

differentiation declines compared to in vitro conditions, neural crest differentiation ceases

and cells retain dorsal neural progenitor gene expression. This loss of differentiation

progression reveals a limitation of the cell intrinsic neural differentiation programme and

underscores the requirement for appropriate extrinsic inputs to maintain differentiation

trajectory. Indeed, this suggests that differentiation signals are soon lacking in the chick

embryonic environment but are provisioned sufficiently in minimal culture conditions: this

might include exogenously provided retinoic acid. In addition, we cannot rule out inhibitory

signals acting on grafted human neural cells. Most striking was the continued expansion of

these no longer differentiating transplanted neuroepithelial cells; a behaviour reminiscent of

neural cancers such as Glioblastoma that share a similar neural progenitor gene expression

profile (Agnihotri et al. 2013, Hassn Mesrati et al. 2020). In addition to providing novel insight

into the regulation of human neural differentiation, this assay may therefore also offer an

opportunity to study cancer origins as well as inform cell-based therapeutic approaches to

neural injury and disease.

Materials and Methods

hESC and hiPSCs culture and differentiation

hESC (H9 or AI03e-DCX-YFP H1 line) and hiPSCs (ChIPS4, Cellartis AB) were maintained as

feeder-free cultures in DEF-based medium supplemented with bFGF (30ng/mL, Peprotech,

Cat. No. 100-18B) and Noggin (10ng/ml, Peprotech, Cat. No. 120-10C) on Geltrex matrix

coated plates (10μg/cm^2, Life Technologies, Cat. No. A1413302), and enzymatically passaged

using TryPLselect (Thermofisher, Cat. No. 12563011). For PSC passaging, the medium was

complemented by addition of the Rho kinase inhibitor Y-27632 (10mM, Tocris, Cat. No. 1254).

HPSC quality control and passage number information are provided as metadata.

For differentiation assays, PSC were plated on Geltrex matrix at 40000cells/cm^2 and

shifted to N2B27 medium after 24h. Cells were then differentiated for 3 days (D) in N2B27

supplemented with 3 μM Chiron99021 (Tocris, Cat. No. 4953) and 20ng/ml bFGF (PeproTech,

Cat. No. 100-18B), in the presence of 50ng/mL Noggin (Peprotech, Cat. No. 120-10C) and

10ng/mL SB431542 (Tocris, Cat. No. 1614) from D2 to D4 to generate NMPs, see (Verrier et

al. 2018). For further differentiation, NMPs were passaged using PBS-EDTA 0.5mM and

seeded back at controlled density (10^5 cells/cm^2) on Geltrex (20μg/cm^2, Life Technologies,

Cat. No. A1413302) in the presence of Y-27632 (10mM, Tocris, Cat. No. 1254). Cells were

then cultured in N2B27 containing 100nM all-trans-Retinoic Acid (SIGMA, Cat. No. R2625) for

the indicated time to obtain and differentiate neural progenitors. First human neural rosettes

were observed from D06 with this regime. All work with hESCs was undertaken in accordance

with the UK Stem Cell Bank steering committee (license numbers SCSC14-28 and SCSC14-29).

Immunofluorescence

Primary antibodies for immunofluorescence were obtained commercially for SOX2 (1/200;

Millipore), ZO1 (1/500; Invitrogen), NCAD (1/500; SIGMA), TUJ1 (1/1000; SIGMA (Rabbit) or

BioLegend (Mouse), OLIG2 (1/200; Millipore), LHX2 (1/200, SIGMA), TLX3 (1/200, Abcam),

ISLET-1 (1/200; Abcam), HB9 (1/10; DHSB), PAX7 (1/10; DHSB), SNAI2 (1/200; BD Biosciences),

SOX10 (1/200; BD Biosciences), TFAPα (1/10, Santa Cruz), HNK1 (1/10; DHSB), P27 (1/100, BD

Biosciences). Human embryonic tissue fixed in 4% PFA for 2h at 4°C was provided by HDBR

tissue bank (project no 200407) and processed for cryo-sectioning using standard procedures.

hESCs or iPSCs were fixed in 1% Paraformaldehyde solution overnight at 4°C, permeabilized

with 0.1% Trixton X-100 in PBS 1X, subjected to immunofluorescence labeling using

appropriate secondary antibodies conjugated to Alexa-fluor 488, 568 or 594 (Life

Technologies), and processed for DAPI staining to visualize cell nuclei. Fluorescent images

were captured using a Leica SP8 confocal using a 20X air or 63X NA1.2 APO water immersion

objectives.

Pm-eGFP Plasmid construction for engineering hIPS cells

A plasmid was constructed for engineering hIPSCs with the piggybac transposase system

using the aPX1 transposon plasmid (kind gift from Timothy Sanders, University of Chicago),

containing the cytomegalovirus (CMV) enhancer, chicken b-actin (CAG) promoter expression

and including the Invitrogen Gateway RfA cassette, allowing for phiC31-mediated

recombination from Gateway Entry vectors. Finally, the CAG promoter and Gateway cassette

(cargo) are flanked by two Inverted Terminal Repeat sequences (ITR, TTAA) allowing the

piggyback transposon action. To label the cell membrane, a plasma membrane (pm)

associated palmitoylated fluorescent protein was generated by the addition of the 20-amino

acid sequence of ratGAP-43 MLCCMRRTKQVEKNDEDQKI to the N-terminus of the monomeric

enhanced GFP (eGFP) (K. Svoboda, Addgene plasmid 18696) through sequential PCR

amplification to make a pm-eGFP sequence. This pm-eGFP sequence was then inserted into

the aPX1 donor vector using the Gateway System$^{©}$ (ThermoFisher).

HiPSCs transfection

HiPSCs (Cellartis hIPS4 cell line) cells were transfected using the Neon^{TM} transfection System

(Life Technologies, Cat. No. MPK10025). Briefly, a mix of aPX1-pm-eGFP construct and

piggyback transposase (Yusa et al. 2011), with a final concentration of 1-2 µg/µl, was added to

a solution of 10^7 cells and a single pulse of 1100V with 30 ms duration was delivered via the

Neon transfection system$^{©}$. Transfected cells were then plated back on Geltrex coated dishes

(10µg/cm2, Life Technologies) and cultured in DEF-based medium supplemented with bFGF

(30ng/mL, Peprotech) and Noggin (10ng/ml, Peprotech).

Chick embryo grafting assay

Fertilized chicken eggs (Gallus gallus domesticus) from a commercial source (Winter Farm,

Hertfordshire-Royston, UK) were incubated at 38°C to Hamburger and Hamilton (HH) stage

11-12 (13 to 16 somites) (Hamburger 1951). A polyclonal population of transfected hIPS4-pm-

eGFP cells were cultured 6 days from NMPs differentiation, newly formed human neural

rosettes were then manually micro-dissected using a sharp glass needle (0.290-0.310 mm)

(Vitrolife). After resting in CO_2 incubator at 37°C for 2 hours, cell aggregates (diameter ≈ 50-

100 µm) were gently dissociated and implanted into the dorsal region of one side of the

neural tube of stage HH 11-12 chicken embryos. Before implantation, the dorsal region on
one side of the neural tube was removed at the level of the most recently formed somite
(Figure S3). Embryos were then harvested 2 days or 5 days post-transplantation (Stage HH 23-
24 and HH 30-31 respectively). Chicken embryos were fixed in 4% PFA overnight at 4°C, rinsed
in PBS and left in PBS/30% sucrose solution overnight at 4°C, then embedded and in agar,
frozen and cryo-sectioned at 20 μm and subjected to immunofluorescence processing (as
above).
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Cell counts and statistical analysis
At D4 of in vitro differentiation from NMP-like cells, defined fields (200 $μm^2$) of neural
progenitors forming a neural plate-like shape were selected for quantification. At later time
points, human neural rosettes were selected for analysis and quantification by their shape
(round with a single lumen) and size (neural rosette diameter, D6: 70-100 μm, average: 84
μm ± 2,7 μm; D10: 125-137 μm, average: 129 μm ± 1,5 μm; D14: 155-195 μm, average: 179
μm ± 2,7 μm). All cell counts are an average percentage of cells positive for each protein of
interest compared to total (DAPI+ or GFP+) cells counted within a field of neural progenitors
(D4) or a rosette and contacting cells at its periphery. Fifteen fields of neural progenitors (D4)
or 15 rosettes (D6 and later) were analysed for each marker (n=15, 5 fields of neural
progenitors or rosettes from each of 3 independent differentiation experiments). For
transplanted human rosettes at least 3 sections from grafts in 3 different embryos were used
to determine the proportion of cells expressing a protein of interest. Transplanted human
cells were only counted when cells were positive for GFP, immunoreactivity for protein of
interest and DAPI. To avoid counting the same cells in consecutive sections, alternate sections
were used for each different immunolabelling assay (4 different immunofluorescent
assays/transplanted embryos)(metadata Tables S1-7). Statistical analysis was performed using
non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test for none normally distributed data using Prism V8.
Results are represented as means +/- SEM or SD as indicated in figures and p-values are
indicated with * $P<0.05$, ** $P<0.01$, *** $P<0.001$ and **** $P<0.0001$.

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microscope used for imaging was purchased with support from Wellcome Trust Multi-User

Equipment grant (WT101468).

Figure legends

<u>Figure 1. Human pluripotent cell derivation of NMP-like cells and their</u>

<u>differentiation into dorsal spinal cord neural rosettes</u>

(**A**) Timeline and protocol for induction and differentiation of dorsal spinal cord neural rosette

from human pluripotent stem cells (hPSC); (**B**) Expression patterns and quantification of cell

type specific proteins in rosettes on days (D)4, D6 and D10 detected by immunofluorescence

(IF) combined with DNA stain DAPI: apical polarity marker N-Cadherin (NCAD), neural

progenitor markers SOX2, PAX6, early neural crest marker SNAIL2, and dorso-ventrally

restricted neural progenitor markers PAX7 and OLIG2. Quantifications indicate proportions of

expressing cells in either a defined field on D4 or within a rosette from D6, in 15 samples for

each marker (n=5 rosettes from each of 3 independent differentiations, each dot represents a

single rosette), see Materials and Methods). Data analysed with Mann-Whitney test, errors

bars ± S.E.M, p-values = * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and **** $p < 0.0001$; Scale bar = 50μm.

<u>Figure 2. Human dorsal spinal cord rosettes exhibit stereotyped sequence of</u>

<u>cell-type specific differentiation</u>

(**A**) Schematic of in vitro sequence of cell-type specific differentiation of dorsal spinal cord

rosettes; (**B**) Emergence of migrating neural crest from rosettes by D10, documented by IF

for key marker proteins HNK1, (lumen defined by apical marker ZO-1), SOX10 (neural

progenitors defined by SOX2) and TFAP2α and quantified for SOX10 and TFAP2α; (**C**)

Transition from neurogenesis to gliogenesis documented and quantified in immature

neuronal reporter line (H1:DCX-YFP) with co-IF for gliogenesis marker Nuclear Factor I-A

(NFIA) at key timepoints; (**D**) P27/KIP1 expression which by analogy identifies most dorsal

post-mitotic neurons, confirms neurogenesis onset by D8; (**E-G**) Emergence of dorsal

interneuron (dIs) subtypes by D10 indicated by dI1s/LHX2 (E), dI3s/ISLET1 (F) (note lack of

HB9/ ISLET1 co-expression distinguishes these cells from motor neurons) and dI5s/BRN3A.

Sample numbers, statistics and error bars as in Figure 1, each dot represents a single rosette

and see Materials and Methods; Scale bar = 50μm.

<u>Figure 3 Characterization of neural progenitors and neuronal subtypes in</u>

<u>human embryonic spinal cord and comparison with in vitro neural rosette</u>

<u>differentiation</u>

(**A**) CS12 human embryo with anatomical sub-regions indicated and their alignment with in vitro spinal cord rosette differentiation (see text); (**B-H**) transverse sections through human embryonic spinal cord at sacral, lumbar and thoracic levels at 4/4.5 weeks (CS12/CS13) and at brachial/thoracic at 7/7.5 weeks (CS18) analysed by IF for expression of (**B and B'**) dorsal, PAX7, or ventral, OLIG2, spinal cord progenitor markers (note novel PAX7 detection in the floor plate, arrow) and (**B'**) waning PAX7 at CS18 (arrow); (**C**) premigratory neural crest cell marker SNAI2 is only detected in sacral regions (arrow) shown here with pan-neural progenitor marker SOX2; (**D**) differentiating migrating neural crest expressing HNK1 emerges from the lumbar region (arrow); (**E**) neuronal differentiation detected with pan-neuronal marker TUJ1 is manifest dorsally in lumbar regions; dorsal interneurons indicated by (**F**) dI1 specific transcription factor LHX2 and (**G**) dI3 identifying ISLET1 expressing cells were not detected dorsally in any region of the spinal cord at CS12/CS13; (**G'**) dorsal ISLET1 interneurons at CS18; (**H, H'**) gliogenesis marker NFIA detected dorsally only at CS18; (**I**) Schematic aligning dorsal brachial/thoracic spinal cord differentiation in human embryo and in hPSC derived dorsal spinal cord rosettes, based on (1) Bondurand N. et al. 1998, O'Rahilly and Müller 2007; (2) This study, Rayon T. et al. 2020, Marklund et al 2014; (3) This study, Rayon T. et al. 2020); three sections were analysed at each level for each marker in n = 2 CS12/13 and n = 1 CS18 human embryos. Scale bar = 50µm.

<u>Figure 4. Homo-chronically transplanted hiPSC-derived neural rosettes exhibit cell autonomous differentiation despite exposure to more rapidly developing chicken embryonic environment</u>

(**A**) Schematic of human dorsal spinal cord neural rosette transplantation experiment; (**B-B'**) Two days after grafting human cells were observed in: 1) cell groups or 2) isolated individual cells incorporated within the chicken neural tube, or 3) rosette-like configurations contiguous with chick neural tube. (**C-G**) IF to detect key marker proteins in control (note, these non-grafted /sham operated embryos regenerate the dorsal neural tube by 2 days post-operation) and grafted embryos after 2 days incubation (**C**) ZO1, (**D**) SOX2, (**E**) PAX7, (**F**) P27, (**G**) ISLET1 (arrowheads indicate examples of candidate protein expressing cells in the chicken host tissue; arrow indicate example of P27 and GFP co-expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image), three transverse sections from each of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analysed for each marker combination and the proportions of SOX2/GFP +ve, PAX7/GFP +ve and P27/GFP +ve cells in configurations 1, 2 or 3 were quantified, each dot represents data from one histological section, note the small

1023   number of isolated cells (group 2) underlies lack of significant difference between groups (see

1024   Materials and Methods), data analysed with Mann-Whitney U test with. Errors bars are ± SD.

1025   Scale bar = 50μm.

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Figure 5. Homo-chronically transplanted hiPSC-derived neural rosettes exhibit

cell autonomous neural crest differentiation in the chicken embryonic

environment

(**A-C**) IF to detect key neural crest marker proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted

embryos after 2 days incubation (**A**) SNAIL2, (**B**) HNK1, (**C**) TFAP2α (arrowheads indicate

examples of candidate protein expressing cells in the chicken host tissue; arrows indicate

examples of candidate protein and GFP co-expressing cells, note most cells at graft periphery,

dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent image). Three transverse

sections from each of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analysed for each marker

and the proportions of SNAIL2/GFP +ve, HNK1/GFP +ve and TFAP2α /GFP +ve cells in cell

configurations 1, 2 or 3 were quantified, each dot represents data from one histological

section, note the small number of isolated cells (group 2) underlies lack of significant

difference between groups (see Materials and Methods), data analysed with Mann-Whitney

U test. Errors bars are ± SD. Scale bar = 50μm.

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Figure 6. Longer term analysis reveals impaired neuronal differentiation and

cell type specification in grafted human neural rosettes

(**A**) Schematic of human dorsal spinal cord neural rosette transplantation protocol and (B-B')

transplanted cell configurations 5 days after transplantation; (**C-F**) IF to detect key marker

proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted chicken embryos after 5 days incubation, neural

progenitor markers (**C**) SOX2, and (**D**) PAX7, post-mitotic neuronal (**E**) P27 and dorsal

interneuron type 3, dI3s, (**F**) ISLET1 markers (arrows indicate examples of P27 or ISLET1 and

GFP co-expressing cells, dashed white boxes indicate area of magnification in next adjacent

image, asterisks indicate examples of host blood cells). Three transverse sections from each

of at least three grafted chicken embryos were analysed for each marker and the proportions

of SOX2/GFP +ve, PAX7/GFP +ve, P27 /GFP +ve and ISLET1/GFP +ve cells in configurations 1

or 2 were quantified, each dot represents an histological section analysed, no significant

differences were found; (**G**) Comparison of proportion of ChiPS4-pmGFP derived neural

progenitors and neurons expressing SOX2, PAX7, P27 and ISLET1 in rosettes cultured in vitro

in parallel with those transplanted into chicken embryos, assessed after 2 and 5 days, each

dot represents a single rosette (5 rosettes sampled from each to 3 independent differentiations), see Fig S2 and proportions of these same marker proteins in transplanted rosettes after 2 and 5 days in chicken embryonic environment, each dot represents data from one section, with 3 sections from each of 3 grafted chick embryos, analysis Mann-Whitney U test. Errors bars are ± SD. p-values (see Methods). Scale bar = 50µm.

Figure 7. Longer term analysis reveals no neural crest differentiation in grafted human neural rosettes

(**A-C**) IF to detect key neural crest marker proteins in control (non-grafted) and grafted chicken embryos after 5 days incubation reveals no expression of neural crest progenitor markers in any cell configurations (**A**) SNAI2 (1: 0/860 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/70 GFP+ cells), (**B**) differentiated neural crest cells HNK1 (1: 0/956 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/57 GFP+ cells) and (**C**) TFAP2α (1: 0/1175 GFP+ cells and 2: 0/66 GFP+ cells) (asterisks indicate host blood cells). At least three chicken embryos and three cross-sections were analysed for each marker. Scale bar = 50µm.

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1441

SOX2

D4 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D6 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
142	206	68.932		60	80	75		171	208	82.211
150	221	67.873		78	88	88.636		162	195	83.076
193	237	81.434		67	90	74.444		190	230	82.608
262	312	83.974		65	96	67.708		155	194	79.896
139	185	75.135		58	95	61.052		186	202	92.079
140	195	71.794		81	90	90		136	183	74.316
320	478	66.945		83	101	82.178		179	200	89.5
225	325	69.23		95	119	79.831		150	194	77.319
195	261	74.712		74	82	90.243		185	223	82.959
150	231	64.935		67	92	72.826		114	138	82.608
160	210	76.19		65	95	68.421		146	171	85.38
157	246	63.821		58	80	72.5		106	143	74.125
281	322	87.267		62	103	60.784		92	124	74.193
142	193	73.575		67	101	66.336		102	137	74.452
				42	78	53.846		84	113	74.336

	D4	D6	D10
mean	73.27264286	73.587	80.60386667
sd	7.106480884	11.0684337	5.77519715
SEM	1.899286907	2.857857293	1.491149492

n=3 independent differentiations
N=15 field of view at D04 (5 per differentiation)
N=15 rosettes (5 rosettes per differentiation)

PAX6

D4 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D6 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
84	226	37.168		35	65	53.846		48	121	39.669
55	140	39.285		45	109	41.284		45	119	37.815
56	144	38.888		48	93	51.612		53	102	51.96
105	219	47.945		35	90	38.888		55	127	43.307
30	180	16.666		29	98	29.591		47	125	37.6
77	208	37.019		44	84	52.38		38	112	33.928
50	190	26.315		48	93	51.612		31	115	26.956
50	164	30.487		51	117	43.589		42	105	40
103	204	50.49		57	120	47.5		39	110	35.454
58	154	37.662		37	109	33.94		55	130	42.307
64	150	42.666		55	97	56.701		65	143	45.454
80	200	40		47	115	40.869		79	161	49.068
64	190	33.684		45	96	46.875		73	140	52.142
54	166	32.53		52	125	40.8		51	145	35.172
				58	106	54.716		57	151	37.748

	D4	D6	D10
mean	36.48607143	45.61353333	40.572
sd	8.546111437	8.032117234	6.97188923
SEM	2.284044356	2.073883752	1.800134058

SNAI2

D4 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D6 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
80	322	24.844		41	103	39.805		30	208	14.423
40	193	20.725		36	101	35.643		26	195	13.333
30	131	22.9		23	78	29.487		36	230	15.652
41	206	19.902		28	107	26.168		28	194	14.432
58	279	20.788		31	95	32.631		18	202	8.91
62	312	18.871		28	106	26.415		37	183	20.218
70	259	27.027		33	101	32.673		29	200	14.5
37	245	15.102		34	123	27.642		35	194	18.041
44	222	19.819		36	85	42.352		30	223	13.452
45	210	21.428		37	95	35.789		33	138	23.913
72	243	29.629		56	138	40.579		28	171	16.374
82	282	29.078		39	92	42.391		29	143	20.279
25	121	20.661		39	125	31.2		32	124	25.806
62	234	26.495		28	132	21.212		36	137	26.277
				30	103	29.126		33	113	29.203

	D4	D6	D10
mean	22.66207143	32.8742	18.32086667
sd	4.190494362	6.450151318	5.791062595
SEM	1.119956727	1.665421909	1.495245933

PAX7 / OLIG2

D4 PAX7 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		OLIG2 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D6 PAX7 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		OLIG2 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 PAX7 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		OLIG2 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
98	306	32.026		3	306	0.98		62	105	59.047		0	105	0		190	250	76		8	250	3.2
60	307	19.543		0	307	0		55	120	55		0	120	0		196	300	65.333		15	300	5
109	295	36.949		2	295	0.677		32	88	32		0	88	0		182	248	73.387		7	248	2.822
119	304	39.144		6	304	1.973		40	118	33.898		3	118	2.54		80	158	50.632		10	158	6.329
80	290	27.586		4	290	1.379		45	90	50		0	90	0		92	153	60.13		9	153	5.882
123	339	36.283		3	339	0.884		41	80	51.25		0	80	0		110	185	59.459		7	185	3.783
206	551	37.386		10	551	1.814		60	128	46.875		2	128	1.562		120	199	60.301		10	199	5.025
159	500	31.8		13	500	2.6		55	116	47.413		3	116	2.586		110	180	61.111		12	180	6.666
85	291	29.209		4	291	1.374		50	90	55.555		0	90	0		126	228	55.263		13	228	5.701
125	339	36.873		5	339	1.474		39	60	65		0	60	0		80	138	57.971		18	138	13.043
88	310	28.387		3	310	0.967		45	80	56.25		1	80	1.25		81	125	64.8		14	125	11.2
105	320	32.812		6	320	1.875		42	65	64.615		1	65	1.538		76	108	70.37		8	108	7.407
155	402	38.557		30	402	7.462		60	105	57.142		0	105	0		115	142	80.985		9	142	6.338
115	313	36.741		9	313	2.875		65	90	72.222		0	90	0		60	90	66.666		9	90	10
								42	88	47.727		0	88	0		120	175	68.571		12	175	6.857

	D4 PAX7	OLIG2	D6 PAX7	OLIG2	D10 PAX7	OLIG2
mean	33.09257143	1.881	52.93293333	0.63173333	64.73193333	6.61686667
sd	5.488390709	1.775240655	10.81540754	0.982757958	8.161667463	2.868857958
SEM	1.466834117	0.474453022	2.79252622	0.253738513	2.107333478	0.740735939

Table 1. Figure 1 quantification

SOX10

	D6 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D14 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
SOX10	3	109	2.752		38	141	26.95		52	215	24.186
	3	103	2.912		72	223	32.286		34	211	16.113
	0	112	0		60	256	23.437		53	189	28.042
	0	151	0		35	183	19.125		57	249	22.891
	0	96	0		45	202	22.277		48	263	18.25
	3	122	2.459		40	215	18.604		62	213	29.107
	0	120	0		25	185	12.513		85	222	38.288
	0	139	0		15	166	9.036		55	212	25.943
	4	102	3.921		21	156	13.461		48	238	20.168
	0	114	0		75	161	46.583		37	187	19.786
	3	121	2.479		80	181	44.198		41	242	16.942
	1	126	0.793		72	152	47.368		31	182	17.032
	2	115	1.739		35	211	16.587		65	201	32.338
	0	112	0		29	192	15.104		27	197	13.705
	9	111	8.108		48	203	23.645		21	230	9.13

	D6	D10	D14
mean	1.677533333	24.74493333	22.12806667
sd	2.248816732	12.50822433	7.661348785
SEM	0.580641984	3.229609635	1.97815175

n=3 independent differentiations
N=15 neural rosettes (5 rosettes per differentiation)

TFAP2a

	D6 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D10 Positive Cells	Total cells	%		D14 Positive Cells	Total cells	%
TFAP2a	3	109	2.752		36	141	25.531		49	215	22.79
	3	103	2.912		58	223	26.008		27	211	12.796
	0	112	0		60	256	23.437		39	189	20.634
	0	151	0		32	183	17.486		56	249	22.489
	0	96	0		35	202	17.326		48	263	18.25
	2	122	1.639		39	215	18.139		46	213	21.596
	0	120	0		25	185	13.513		65	222	29.279
	0	139	0		12	166	7.228		45	212	21.226
	1	102	0.98		21	156	13.461		36	238	15.126
	3	114	2.631		74	161	45.962		36	187	19.251
	4	121	3.305		71	181	39.226		35	242	14.462
	0	124	0		68	152	44.736		28	182	15.384
	0	91	0		32	211	15.165		41	201	20.398
	0	82	0		29	192	15.104		30	197	15.228
	0	108	0		42	203	20.689		31	230	13.478

	D6	D10	D14
mean	0.947933333	22.8674	18.8258
sd	1.311119776	11.72124353	4.47669274
SEM	0.33852967	3.026412065	1.155877095

Bottom table (DCX / NFIA across timepoints)

D6

DCX Positive Cells	Total Cells	%	NFIA Positive Cells	Total Cells	%
0	177	0	0	177	0
3	152	1.97	0	152	0
1	145	0.689	0	145	0
0	172	0	0	172	0
3	155	1.935	0	155	0
1	139	0.719	0	139	0
0	159	0	0	159	0
1	135	0.749	0	135	0
1	145	0.689	0	145	0
0	162	0	0	162	0
1	175	0.571	0	175	0
2	190	1.052	0	190	0
0	162	0	0	162	0
0	171	0	0	171	0
0	155	0	0	155	0

D8

DCX Positive Cells	Total Cells	%	NFIA Positive Cells	Total Cells	%
7	157	4.45	0	157	0
18	145	12.413	0	145	0
19	110	17.272	1	110	0.909
18	106	16.981	0	106	0
12	139	8.633	1	139	0.719
14	105	13.333	0	105	0
15	132	11.363	1	132	0.757
14	154	9.09	0	154	0
21	153	13.725	0	153	0
15	146	10.273	0	146	0
12	127	9.448	0	127	0
12	101	11.881	0	101	0
15	137	10.948	1	137	0.729
12	146	8.21	0	146	0
15	141	10.638	0	141	0

D10

DCX Positive Cells	Total Cells	%	NFIA Positive Cells	Total Cells	%
80	230	34.782	0	230	0
78	241	32.365	0	241	0
58	145	40	0	145	0
64	186	34.408	0	186	0
121	330	36.666	5	330	1.515
112	297	37.71	2	297	0.673
48	166	28.915	2	166	1.21
42	162	25.925	3	162	1.851
57	180	31.666	0	180	0
48	172	27.906	0	172	0
61	165	36.969	0	165	0
41	193	21.243	2	193	1.036
28	137	20.437	0	137	0
49	172	28.488	0	172	0
69	201	34.328	1	201	0.497

D14

DCX Positive Cells	Total Cells	%	NFIA Positive Cells	Total Cells	%
198	364	54.395	1	364	0.274
92	227	40.528	0	227	0
83	201	41.293	0	201	0
168	325	51.692	0	325	0
78	181	43.093	0	181	0
89	209	42.583	0	209	0
63	125	50.4	0	125	0
152	280	54.285	0	280	0
85	180	47.222	0	180	0
68	135	50.37	0	135	0
95	225	42.222	0	225	0
98	211	46.445	0	211	0
78	178	43.82	0	178	0
125	233	53.648	0	233	0
112	215	52.093	0	215	0

D20

DCX Positive Cells	Total Cells	%	NFIA Positive Cells	Total Cells	%
38	168	22.619	45	168	26.785
49	200	24.5	24	200	12
71	222	31.981	22	222	9.909
67	190	35.263	32	190	16.842
47	135	34.814	10	135	7.407
34	101	33.663	20	101	19.801
25	94	26.595	16	93	17.204
40	138	28.985	14	138	10.144
23	120	19.166	20	120	16.666
68	194	35.051	12	194	6.185
42	126	33.333	18	126	14.285
56	178	31.46	14	178	7.86
71	230	30.869	39	230	16.956
55	152	36.184	17	152	11.184
56	180	31.111	7	180	3.888

Summary statistics

	D6 DCX	D6 NFIA	D8 DCX	D8 NFIA	D10 DCX	D10 NFIA	D14 DCX	D14 NFIA	D20 DCX	D20 NFIA
mean	0.557866667	0	11.245	0.2076	31.45386667	0.451466667	47.60593333	0.018266667	30.37293333	13.1414
sd	0.676940266	0	3.304071	0.358694	5.872021	0.647926	5.069843	0.070746	5.069818	6.025462
SEM	0.174785225	0	0.853107	0.092614703	1.516149552	0.167293405	1.309027978	0.018266667	1.309021628	1.555767656

Table 2A. Figure 2 quantification

P27

	D6 Positive Cells	D6 Total Cells	D6 %	D8 Positive Cells	D8 Total Cells	D8 %	D10 Positive Cells	D10 Total Cells	D10 %	D14 Positive Cells	D14 Total Cells	D14 %
P27	0	93	0	10	121	8.264	26	116	22.413	60	175	34.285
	0	89	0	10	104	9.615	18	107	16.822	57	162	35.185
	0	109	0	8	94	8.51	28	101	27.722	49	139	35.251
	0	118	0	11	94	11.702	29	115	25.217	39	149	26.174
	0	96	0	9	96	9.375	24	104	23.076	45	145	31.034
	0	88	0	12	108	11.111	33	119	27.731	56	136	41.176
	0	83	0	15	123	12.195	51	120	42.5	43	146	29.452
	0	84	0	11	104	10.576	49	109	44.954	54	150	36
	2	114	1.754	7	114	6.14	26	95	27.368	44	144	30.555
	0	95	0	6	95	6.315	22	78	28.205	64	148	43.243
	2	105	1.904	12	115	10.434	26	114	22.807	65	157	41.401
	0	103	0	10	103	9.708	27	103	26.213	61	167	36.526
	1	92	1.086	13	112	11.607	31	116	29.31	65	136	47.794
	0	86	0	10	96	10.416	26	105	24.761	69	157	43.949
	0	98	0	11	98	11.224	28	118	23.728	81	172	47.093

	D6	D8	D10	D14
mean	0.3162666667	9.8128	27.5218556	37.27453333
sd	0.6751062284	1.842630891	7.288052956	6.5877314411
SEM	0.174311693	0.4757652155	1.881767182	1.7009449636

LHX2

	D6 Positive Cells	D6 Total cells	D6 %	D10 Positive Cells	D10 Total cells	D10 %	D14 Positive Cells	D14 Total cells	D14 %
LHX2	1	120	0.833	43	212	20.283	41	177	23.163
	0	132	0	19	160	11.875	38	168	22.619
	0	109	0	21	166	12.65	49	175	28
	0	106	0	9	106	8.49	51	215	23.72
	0	118	0	6	111	5.405	36	205	17.561
	0	96	0	12	101	11.881	55	225	24.444
	0	111	0	15	127	11.811	69	227	30.396
	0	104	0	9	107	8.411	65	216	30.092
	0	95	0	21	136	15.441	60	265	22.641
	0	118	0	15	105	14.285	40	202	19.801
	0	110	0	18	103	17.475	27	210	12.857
	0	95	0	17	115	14.782	40	230	17.391
	0	93	0	9	75	12	35	250	14
	0	85	0	9	90	10	49	275	17.818
	0	101	0	11	85	12.941	48	267	17.977

	D6	D10	D14
mean	0.055533333	12.51533333	21.49866667
sd	0.215079675	3.71742952	5.387370849
SEM	0.055533333	0.959836175	1.391013172

ISLET1 / HB9

	D6 ISLET1 Pos. Cells	D6 Total cells	D6 %	D6 HB9 Pos. Cells	D6 Total cells	D6 %	D10 ISLET1 Pos. Cells	D10 Total cells	D10 %	D10 HB9 Pos. Cells	D10 Total cells	D10 %	D14 ISLET1 Pos. Cells	D14 Total cells	D14 %	D14 HB9 Pos. Cells	D14 Total cells	D14 %
ISLET1	1	90	1.111	HB9 0	90	0	ISLET1 15	144	10.416	HB9 0	144	0	ISLET1 30	246	12.195	HB9 0	246	0
	0	116	0	0	116	0	7	140	5	0	140	0	38	190	20	0	190	0
	2	87	2.298	0	87	0	15	132	11.363	0	132	0	29	150	19.333	0	150	0
	0	100	0	0	100	0	27	240	11.25	0	240	0	35	171	20.467	0	171	0
	0	111	0	0	111	0	15	190	7.894	0	190	0	38	175	21.714	0	175	0
	0	100	0	0	100	0	18	198	9.09	0	198	0	46	148	31.081	0	148	0
	0	94	0	0	94	0	10	190	5.263	0	190	0	49	204	24.019	0	204	0
	0	102	0	0	102	0	16	174	9.195	0	174	0	46	214	21.495	0	214	0
	0	119	0	0	119	0	21	180	11.666	0	180	0	57	172	33.139	0	172	0
	0	101	0	0	101	0	7	134	5.223	0	134	0	39	200	19.5	0	200	0
	0	105	0	0	105	0	22	186	11.827	0	186	0	41	210	19.523	0	210	0
	0	96	0	0	96	0	15	211	7.109	0	211	0	37	170	21.764	0	170	0
	0	117	0	0	117	0	13	157	8.28	0	157	0	31	221	14.027	0	221	0
	0	122	0	0	122	0	11	156	7.051	0	156	0	31	191	16.231	0	191	0
	0	109	0	0	109	0	1	204	0.491	0	204	0	41	205	20	0	205	0

	D6 ISLET1	D6 HB9	D10 ISLET1	D10 HB9	D14 ISLET1	D14 HB9
mean	0.227266667	0	8.074533333	0	20.96586667	0
sd	0.640332224	0	3.170170159	0	5.462900235	0
SEM	0.165333328	0	0.818534415	0	1.410514776	0

BRN3A

	D6 Positive Cells	D6 Total cells	D6 %	D10 Positive Cells	D10 Total cells	D10 %	D14 Positive Cells	D14 Total cells	D14 %
BRN3A	0	90	0	0	134	0	17	221	7.692
	0	116	0	5	186	2.688	12	191	6.282
	0	87	0	3	211	1.421	26	205	12.682
	0	100	0	0	157	0	32	196	16.326
	0	111	0	0	156	0	28	213	13.145
	0	100	0	2	204	0.98	18	168	10.714
	0	94	0	0	163	0	26	170	15.294
	0	102	0	0	185	0	23	157	14.649
	0	119	0	0	108	0	26	134	19.402
	0	101	0	0	115	0	14	128	10.937
	0	105	0	0	120	0	31	145	21.379
	0	96	0	0	167	0	17	125	13.6
	0	117	0	0	181	0	23	151	15.231
	0	122	0	1	156	0.641	13	120	10.833
	0	109	0	0	161	0	21	128	16.406

	D6	D10	D14
mean	0	0.382	13.63813333
sd	0	0.775840834	4.041510801
SEM	0	0.200321242	1.043513602

Table 2B. Figure 2 quantification

	SOX2+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	22	22	100		
	28	28	100		
	18	20	90	mean	93.6715
	16	19	84,21	sd	6.217388383
	25	26	96,153		
	22	24	91,666		
individual cells	2	3	66.666		
	2	3	66.666		
	0	5	0	mean	47.49966667
	1	6	16.666	sd	31.1581664
	3	4	75		
	3	5	60		
contiguous rosette	5	5	100		
	3	3	100		
	16	16	100	mean	96.27216667
	13	14	92.857	sd	4.152548346
	156	171	91.228		
	145	155	93.548		
	n=3 different transplanted chicken embryos				
	3 different sections per markers				
	PAX7+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	38	40	95		
	34	35	97.142		
	10	10	100	mean	92.982
	8	10	80	sd	6.938540481
	23	25	92		
	30	32	93.75		
individual cells	5	7	71.428		
	3	3	100		
	0	1	0	mean	58.5712
	5	7	71.428	sd	37.25248656
	1	2	50		
contiguous rosette	110	120	91.666		
	90	91	98.901		
	37	37	100	mean	96.8634
	30	32	93.75	sd	3.890197913
	1	1	100		
	P27+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	3	15	20		
	7	40	17.5		
	3	35	8.571	mean	13.0895
	10	80	12.5	sd	5.30865255
	1	17	5.882		
	10	71	14.084		
individual cells	2	4	50		
	2	5	40		
	2	3	66.666	mean	38.33316667
	2	5	40	sd	22.08553574
	1	3	33.333		
	0	4	0		
contiguous rosette	5	20	25		
	10	60	16.666		
	7	120	5.833	mean	15.95983333
	13	46	28.26	sd	11.01915936
	4	20	20		
	0	10	0		
	ISLET1+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	0	10	0		
	0	19	0		
	0	24	0	mean	0
	0	31	0	sd	0
	0	19	0		
individual cells	0	6	0		
	0	1	0		
	0	1	0	mean	0
	0	1	0	sd	0
	0	6	0		
contiguous rosette	0	45	0		
	0	205	0		
	0	10	0	mean	0
	0	21	0	sd	0
	0	40	0		

Table 3. Figure 4 quantification

	SNAI2+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	11	61	18.032		
	2	10	20		
	2	19	10.526	mean	12.55116667
	1	8	12.5	sd	5.462052816
	1	13	7.692		
	4	61	6.557		
individual cells	3	5	60		
	1	3	33.333		
	1	2	50	mean	51.6665
	0	2	0	sd	33.58237964
	2	2	100		
	2	3	66.666		
contiguous rosette	8	47	17.021		
	3	37	8.108		
	5	22	22.727	mean	15.5712
	1	10	10	sd	6.317817796
	1	5	20		
		n=3 different transplanted chicken embryos			
		3 different sections per markers			
	HNK1+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	8	101	7.92		
	4	82	4.878		
	3	58	5.172	mean	6.0592
	2	30	6.666	sd	1.242225905
	3	53	5.66		
individual cells	5	9	55.555		
	1	4	25		
	3	7	42.857	mean	51.349
	2	2	100	sd	29.47698406
	1	3	33.333		
contiguous rosette	7	30	23.333		
	6	34	17.647	mean	19.099
	3	16	18.75	sd	2.948239588
	3	18	16.666		
	TFAP2a+	Total GFP+	%		
incorporated cells	2	13	15.384		
	11	64	17.187		
	6	50	12	mean	11.50033333
	10	82	12.195	sd	5.06104233
	3	107	2.803		
	5	53	9.433		
individual cells	4	6	66.666		
	4	10	40		
	0	4	0	mean	41.94433333
	3	4	75	sd	28.33158295
	2	4	50		
	1	5	20		
contiguous rosette	8	109	7.339		
	10	113	8.849		
	4	49	8.163	mean	13.5995
	10	49	20.408	sd	6.397391398
	8	37	21.621		
	7	46	15.217		

Table 4. Figure 5 quantification

	SOX2+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	107	107	100		
	28	28	100		
	139	139	100		
	97	103	94.174	mean	95.86522222
	90	103	87.378	sd	5.018030435
	87	87	100		
	98	111	88.288		
	56	58	96.551		
	107	111	96.396		
individual cells	4	5	80		
	0	0	0		
	26	30	86.666		
	20	26	76.923	mean	54.80022222
	28	34	82.352	sd	38.38133378
	0	0	0		
	1	8	12.5		
	5	7	71.428		
	30	36	83.333		
			n=3 different transplanted chicken embryos		
			3 different sections per markers		

	PAX7+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	88	96	91.666		
	184	194	94.845		
	92	98	93.877		
	10	10	100	mean	77.25233333
	170	238	71.428	sd	26.90855654
	119	234	50.854		
	12	66	18.181		
	181	195	92.82		
	102	125	81.6		
Individual cells	8	8	100		
	6	6	100		
	0	0	0		
	0	6	0	mean	63.8446
	36	47	76.595	sd	40.93906927
	4	20	20		
	3	3	100		
	23	27	85.185		
	5	6	83.333		
	11	15	73.333		

	P27+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	13	174	7.471		
	14	240	5.833		
	3	55	5.454		
	16	175	9.142	mean	6.646444444
	17	184	9.239	sd	1.59168253
	2	40	5		
	9	146	6.164		
	8	136	5.882		
	4	71	5.633		
individual cells	0	6	0		
	0	9	0		
	1	18	5.555		
	1	16	6.25	mean	3.331555556
	1	16	6.25	sd	3.186384868
	0	3	0		
	1	19	5.263		
	1	15	6.666		
	0	4	0		

	ISLET1+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	2	23	8.695		
	10	287	3.484		
	3	129	2.325		
	5	71	7.042	mean	5.002444444
	10	171	5.847	sd	2.176657076
	4	65	6.153		
	5	210	2.381		
	6	112	5.357		
	4	107	3.738		
Individual cells	0	2	0		
	0	0	0		
	0	0	0		
	0	6	0	mean	0
	0	6	0	sd	0
	0	7	0		
	0	1	0		
	0	10	0		
	0	6	0		

Table 5A. Figure 6 quantification

ChiPS4-pmGFP — SOX2

	2DPO-D08 SOX2+	Total	%		5DPO-D11 SOX2+	Total	%
	90	99	90.9		147	174	84.482
	88	102	86.27		115	150	76.666
	98	115	85.217		147	169	86.982
	118	130	90.769		213	233	91.416
	58	95	61.052		105	155	67.741
	87	99	87.878		140	171	81.871
	83	101	82.178		141	151	93.377
	101	119	84.873		89	111	80.18
	120	129	93.023		198	215	92.093
	115	122	94.262		131	164	79.878
	80	95	84.21		171	208	82.211
	99	110	90		172	205	83.902
	82	103	79.611		190	230	82.608
	78	101	77.227		165	204	80.882
	115	132	87.121		196	212	92.452
mean	84.97273333			mean	83.78273333		
sd	8.147069425			sd	6.852543787		
SEM	2.10356428			SEM	1.769319198		

n=3 independent differentiations
N=15 neural rosettes (5 rosettes per differentiation)

ChiPS4-pmGFP — PAX7

	2DPO-D08 PAX7+	Total	%		5DPO-D11 PAX7+	Total	%
	60	103	58.252		122	151	80.794
	55	120	45.833		200	270	74.074
	42	98	42.857		157	201	78.109
	65	128	50.781		120	168	71.428
	66	100	66		104	160	65
	52	90	57.777		170	220	77.272
	71	138	51.449		134	180	74.444
	67	116	57.758		126	181	69.613
	60	100	60		125	171	73.099
	69	90	76.666		146	200	73
	65	100	65		174	250	69.6
	72	95	75.789		203	300	67.666
	70	115	60.869		181	248	72.983
	76	100	76		101	158	63.924
	73	118	61.864		126	228	55.263
mean	60.45966667			mean	71.0846		
sd	10.38827646			sd	6.370944646		
SEM	2.682241448			SEM	1.644970834		

ChiPS4-pmGFP — P27

	2DPO-D08 P27+	Total	%		5DPO-D11 P27+	Total	%
	10	121	8.264		30	145	20.689
	10	104	9.615		25	146	17.123
	8	94	8.51		30	245	12.244
	11	94	11.702		23	170	13.529
	9	96	9.375		22	125	17.6
	12	108	11.111		29	170	17.058
	15	123	12.195		26	150	17.333
	11	104	10.576		28	149	18.791
	7	114	6.14		24	140	17.142
	6	95	6.315		24	153	15.686
	12	115	10.434		35	145	24.137
	10	103	9.708		29	138	21.014
	13	112	11.607		33	121	27.272
	10	96	10.416		51	145	35.172
	11	98	11.224		31	126	24.603
mean	9.8128			mean	19.95953333		
sd	1.842630891			sd	5.873229215		
SEM	0.47576525			SEM	1.516461262		

ChiPS4-pmGFP — ISLET1

	2DPO-D08 ISLET1+	Total	%		5DPO-D11 ISLET1+	Total	%
	0	162	0		5	65	7.692
	0	175	0		7	80	8.75
	0	166	0		5	68	7.352
	0	59	0		15	100	15
	0	60	0		9	81	11.111
	0	59	0		3	55	5.455
	0	89	0		7	55	12.727
	0	98	0		4	50	8
	0	88	0		10	100	10
	0	125	0		23	153	15.032
	0	120	0		25	155	16.129
	0	119	0		13	156	8.333
	0	132	0		15	132	11.363
	0	140	0		7	134	5.223
	0	127	0		7	140	5
mean	0			mean	9.811133333		
sd	0			sd	3.655095619		
SEM	0			SEM	0.943741631		

Table 5B. Figure 6 quantification

	SNAI2+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	0	150	0		
	0	185	0		
	0	16	0		
	0	144	0	mean	0
	0	49	0	sd	0
	0	22	0		
	0	12	0		
	0	126	0		
	0	29	0		
	0	81	0		
	0	46	0		
Individual cells	0	3	0		
	0	7	0		
	0	6	0		
	0	12	0	mean	0
	0	3	0	sd	0
	0	9	0		
	0	6	0		
	0	14	0		
	0	3	0		
	0	7	0		
	0	0	0		
	n=3 different transplanted chicken embryos				
	3 different sections per markers				

	HNK1+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	0	157	0		
	0	190	0		
	0	56	0		
	0	134	0	mean	0
	0	69	0	sd	0
	0	36	0		
	0	25	0		
	0	116	0		
	0	59	0		
	0	51	0		
	0	63	0		
Individual cells	0	3	0		
	0	6	0		
	0	5	0		
	0	8	0	mean	0
	0	4	0	sd	0
	0	7	0		
	0	9	0		
	0	10	0		
	0	1	0		
	0	4	0		
	0	0	0		

	TFAP2a+ cells	Total GFP+	%		
Incorporated cells	0	165	0		
	0	180	0		
	0	85	0		
	0	154	0	mean	0
	0	80	0	sd	0
	0	51	0		
	0	75	0		
	0	135	0		
	0	80	0		
	0	75	0		
	0	95	0		
Individual cells	0	15	0		
	0	4	0		
	0	6	0		
	0	4	0	mean	0
	0	3	0	sd	0
	0	4	0		
	0	3	0		
	0	5	0		
	0	6	0		
	0	12	0		
	0	4	0		

Table 6. Figure 7 quantification

ChiPS4-pmGFP

D06-D0

	SOX2			PAX7			SNAI2			P27			ISLET1			TFAP2a	
SOX2+	Total	%	PAX7+	Total	%	SNAI2+	Total	%	P27+	Total	%	ISLET1+	Total	%	TFAP2a+	Total	%
167	212	78.777	103	164	62.805	40	120	33.333	0	204	0		97	0	0	105	0
176	226	77.876	99	155	63.87	28	80	35	0	201	0		120	0	0	115	0
175	221	79.185	101	162	62.345	37	125	29.6	0	200	0		134	0	0	97	0
187	219	85.388	186	286	65.034	50	155	32.258	0	125	0		151	0	0	120	0
174	206	84.466	191	282	67.73	37	120	30.833	0	120	0		120	0	0	85	0
176	209	84.21	176	276	63.768	65	151	43.046	0	119	0		101	0	0	105	0
261	301	86.711	48	87	55.172	55	181	30.386	0	38	0		165	0	0	103	0
220	284	77.464	53	86	61.627	25	104	24.038	0	40	0		145	0	0	135	0
238	287	82.926	40	79	50.632	31	129	24.031	0	38	0		110	0	0	107	0
141	161	87.577	88	140	62.857	53	184	28.804	0	99	0		94	0	0	145	0
143	178	80.337	63	131	48.091	75	284	26.408	0	91	0		100	0	0	120	0
147	171	85.965	81	130	62.307	20	100	20	0	73	0		103	0	0	110	0
88	96	91.666	69	124	55.645	17	65	26.153	0	132	0		95	0	0	90	0
81	100	81	74	128	57.812	28	168	16.666	0	140	0		102	0	0	101	0
84	113	74.336	123	219	56.164	25	121	20.661	0	127	0		85	0	0	111	0
mean		82.5256	mean		59.72393333	mean		28.08113333	mean		0	mean		0	mean		0
sd		4.629129566	sd		5.567674681	sd		6.668137916	sd		0	sd		0	sd		0
SEM		1.195236115	SEM		1.437567421	Sem		1.721705807	SEM		0	SEM		0	SEM		0

n=3 independent differentiations
N=15 neural rosettes (5 per differentiation)

ChiPS4-pmGFP

D08-2DPO

	SOX2			PAX7			SNAI2			P27			ISLET1			TFAP2a	
SOX2+	Total	%	PAX7+	Total	%	SNAI2+	Total	%	P27+	Total	%	ISLET1+	Total	%	TFAP2a+	Total	%
90	99	90.9	60	103	58.252	20	102	19.607	10	121	8.264	0	162	0	14	90	15.555
88	102	86.27	55	120	45.833	24	97	24.742	10	104	9.615	0	175	0	16	108	14.814
98	115	85.217	42	98	42.857	19	101	18.811	8	94	8.51	0	166	0	17	68	25
118	130	90.769	65	128	50.781	23	99	23.232	11	94	11.702	0	59	0	16	88	18.181
58	95	61.052	66	100	66	19	60	31.666	9	96	9.375	0	60	0	10	91	10.989
87	99	87.878	52	90	57.777	20	81	24.691	12	108	11.111	0	59	0	16	90	17.777
83	101	82.178	71	138	51.449	20	96	20.833	15	123	12.195	0	89	0	13	96	13.541
101	119	84.873	67	116	57.758	10	74	13.513	11	104	10.576	0	98	0	8	51	15.686
120	129	93.023	60	100	60	21	75	28	7	114	6.14	0	88	0	12	77	15.584
115	122	94.262	69	90	76.666	25	106	23.584	6	95	6.315	0	125	0	10	76	13.157
80	95	84.21	65	100	65	75	301	33.222	12	115	10.434	0	120	0	26	100	26
99	110	90	72	95	75.789	78	287	27.177	10	103	9.708	0	119	0	25	106	23.584
82	103	79.611	70	115	60.869	27	100	27	13	112	11.607	0	132	0	18	107	16.822
78	101	77.227	76	100	76	22	70	31.428	10	96	10.416	0	140	0	12	88	13.636
115	132	87.121	73	118	61.864	63	184	34.239	11	98	11.224	0	127	0	24	108	22.222
mean		84.97273333	mean		60.45966667	mean		25.44966667	mean		9.8128	mean		0	mean		17.5032
sd		8.147069425	sd		10.38827646	sd		5.827383788	sd		1.842630891	sd		0	sd		4.618523113
SEM		2.103564288	SEM		2.682241448	SEM		1.504624024	SEM		0.4757652	SEM		0	SEM		1.19249754

ChiPS4-pmGFP

D11-5DPO

	SOX2			PAX7			SNAI2			P27			ISLET1			TFAP2a	
SOX2+	Total	%	PAX7+	Total	%	SNAI2+	Total	%	P27+	Total	%	ISLET1+	Total	%	TFAP2+	Total	%
147	174	84.482	122	151	80.794	31	146	21.232	30	145	20.689	5	65	7.692	15	88	17.045
115	150	76.666	200	270	74.074	20	125	16	25	146	17.123	7	80	8.75	21	114	18.421
147	169	86.982	157	201	78.109	20	120	16.666	30	245	12.244	5	68	7.352	13	101	12.871
213	233	91.416	120	168	71.428	15	87	17.241	23	170	13.529	15	100	15	20	118	16.949
105	155	67.741	104	160	65	11	101	10.891	22	125	17.6	9	81	11.111	18	80	22.5
140	171	81.871	170	220	77.272	31	146	21.232	29	170	17.058	3	55	5.455	18	100	18
141	151	93.377	134	180	74.444	30	145	20.689	26	150	17.333	7	55	12.727	14	90	15.555
89	111	80.18	126	181	69.613	24	135	17.777	28	149	18.791	4	50	8	18	85	21.176
198	215	92.093	125	171	73.099	19	101	18.811	24	140	17.142	10	100	10	10	86	11.627
131	164	79.878	146	200	73	21	100	21	24	153	15.686	23	153	15.032	17	107	15.887
171	208	82.211	174	250	69.6	18	120	15	35	145	24.137	25	155	16.129	20	100	20
172	205	83.902	203	300	67.666	16	163	9.815	29	138	21.014	13	156	8.333	15	90	16.666
190	230	82.608	181	248	72.983	25	135	18.518	33	121	27.272	15	132	11.363	16	101	15.841
165	204	80.882	101	158	63.924	26	146	17.808	51	145	35.172	7	134	5.223	17	110	15.454
196	212	92.452	126	228	55.263	25	138	18.115	31	126	24.603	7	140	5	19	90	21.111
mean		83.78273333	mean		71.0846	mean		17.38633333	mean		19.95953333	mean		9.811133333	mean		17.27353333
sd		6.852543787	sd		6.370944646	sd		3.437058266	sd		5.873229215	sd		3.655095619	sd		3.030563052
SEM		1.769319198	SEM		1.644970834	SEM		0.887444628	SEM		1.516461262	SEM		0.943741631	SEM		0.782488015

Table 7. Figure S2 quantification

Quality control and passage numbers for pluripotent cells used in this study

H9 (WA09) hES cells were purchased from Wicell and were supplied at passage 24. The cells were thawed and cell banks prepared at passage 29. For experiments the cells were used between passage 29 and 39.

H1 (WA01) hES cells were purchased from Wicell and were supplied at passage 30. The cells were thawed and cell banks prepared at passage 34. For experiments the cells were used between passage 34 and 44.

H1-*DOUBLECORTIN-CITRINE* cells were obtained from the Allen Institute and were supplied at passage 63. The cells were thawed and cell banks prepared at passage 66. For experiments the cells were used between passage 66 and 76.

ChiPS4 hiPS cells were purchased from Cellartis AB and were supplied at passage 9. The cells were thawed and cell banks prepared at passage 13. For experiments the cells used between passage 13 and 23.

To make ChiPS4-pmGFP, the cells were transfected with the PiggyBac and transposase constructs at passage 17 and GFP +ve cells selected by fluorescence activated cell sorting at passage 19. The polyclonal cell line was banked at passage 23. For experiments the cells were used between passage 23 and 33.

For quality control purposes, representative lots of each cell bank were thawed and tested for post-thaw viability, and to ensure sterility and absence of mycoplasma contamination. After 2 passages the cell lines were tested to check for the uniform expression of pluripotency markers (Oct4, Sox2, Nanog, SSEA-3, SSEA-4, TRA-1-60 and TRA-1-81) and absence of differentiation markers (SSEA-1, HNF-3 beta, beta-III-tubulin and smooth muscle alpha-actinin) by immunofluorescence.