**Casein kinase 1δ-regulated formation of GVBs induces resilience to tau**

**pathology-mediated protein synthesis impairment**

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**Abstract**

In Alzheimer's disease, many surviving neurons with tau pathology contain granulovacuolar degeneration bodies (GVBs), neuron-specific lysosomal structures induced by pathological tau assemblies. This could indicate a neuroprotective role for GVBs, however, the mechanism of GVB formation and its functional implications are elusive. Here, we demonstrate that GVB formation depends on CK1δ activity and basal autophagy. We show that neurons with GVBs (GVB+) are resilient to tau-induced impairment of global protein synthesis and are protected against tau-mediated neurodegeneration. GVB+ neurons have multiple adaptations to counteract the tau pathology-induced decline in protein synthesis, including increased ribosomal content. Importantly, unlike neurons without GVBs, GVB+ neurons fully retain the capacity to induce long-term potentiation-induced protein synthesis in the presence of tau pathology. Our results have identified CK1δ as a key regulator of GVB formation that confers a protective neuron-specific proteostatic stress response to tau pathology. Our findings provide novel opportunities for targeting neuronal resilience in tauopathies.

**Main**

The progressive intraneuronal accumulation of aggregated proteins is central in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases, with tau protein in Alzheimer's disease (AD) and frontotemporal dementias (FTD) as a prime example[1]. Neurons depend on robust protein homeostasis (proteostasis) to acquire and maintain properties required for neuronal function. Moreover, post-mitotic neurons cannot self-renew and their unique features that are acquired throughout their lifetime make them difficult to replace. Pathological tau accumulation impairs neuronal protein synthesis[2–6], thereby strongly challenging proteostasis. Consequently, neurons must possess intrinsic mechanisms to withstand proteostatic disturbances. Granulovacuolar degeneration bodies (GVBs) are membrane-delineated structures that accumulate in the soma of a subset of neurons affected by early stages of tau pathology[7–9], yet their functional role in tau pathogenesis remains unclear. The high number of GVB+ neurons in brains of cognitively healthy centenarians[10,11] and the observation that the majority of surviving neurons in the AD hippocampus have GVBs[12], suggest that the presence of GVBs may signify a protective proteostatic response. It has been hypothesized that GVBs may protect neurons by sequestering damaging proteins[9,12,13]. Alternatively, the direct connection with pathological tau accumulation could suggest that GVBs function to enhance tau degradation to restore proteostasis. However, there is no convincing evidence for the accumulation of tau in GVBs[13,14], raising the possibility that GVBs affect neurons via an alternative mechanism. Here, we investigated the formation and functional significance of GVBs to elucidate the molecular pathways underlying neuronal resilience to pathological tau-induced proteostatic disturbance.

GVBs were merely enigmatic appearances in *post-mortem* human brain tissue, until our lab recently developed experimental models of tau-induced GVB formation that allow mechanistic study[14–16]. We have demonstrated that the formation of GVBs is a neuron-specific response that is triggered by intraneuronal pathological protein assemblies[14,15]. GVBs are proteolytically active lysosomal structures that contain endo- and autosomal cargo, accumulated in one or multiple dense cores[14]. These cores are strongly immunopositive for several epitopes, including phosphorylated protein kinase R (PKR)-like endoplasmic reticulum kinase (pPERK)[13], that are useful as markers to detect GVBs. However, it is largely unknown whether the immunopositivity of the GVB core reflects the presence of specific proteins or just protein fragments or neo-epitopes (extensively reviewed before[9,13]). To date, the serine/threonine protein kinase casein kinase 1δ (CK1δ) is the only protein validated to selectively accumulate in GVBs using direct fluorescence[14]. However, the mechanism of the formation of GVBs and the potential functional involvement of CK1δ therein is completely unknown.

In the present work, we demonstrate that neurons with GVBs (GVB+ neurons) are more resilient to pathological tau-mediated neurodegeneration. We identified CK1δ activity as a rate-limiting factor in the formation of GVBs and showed that GVB formation requires the autophagic machinery. Neurons with GVBs have an increase in lysosomal and ribosomal content and are resilient to tau-induced impairment of global protein synthesis. Importantly, GVB+ neurons are resilient to the associated impairment of long-term potentiation (LTP)-regulated protein synthesis. Our results demonstrate that GVB formation protects neurons against the proteostatic disturbance induced by tau pathology.

**Results**

**GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced neurodegeneration**

To study the formation of GVBs in relation to tau pathology over time, we employed our extensively characterized and validated primary neuron model for seed-independent tau pathology where lentiviral transduction with FTDtau[1+2] (2N4R human tau with the P301L/S320F FTD mutations) results in progressive pathological tau accumulation accompanied by GVB formation[15,16] (Fig.1a). Like GVBs observed in the human brain, these GVBs contained a core positive for CK1δ- and pPERK (Fig.1b) delineated by a lysosomal membrane (Fig.1c) as previously shown[15]. 15 days after FTDtau[1+2]-transduction, around 10% of the neurons with pathological tau assemblies have formed GVBs[15,16] (tau+/GVB+ neurons). At this point, neuronal loss or degeneration of neurites or synapses was not observed (Extended Data Fig.1a-g), and calcium imaging analysis showed that neuronal network activity was unaffected (Extended Data Fig.1h-o), indicating that this timepoint represents a stage in tau pathogenesis that precedes neurodegeneration. However, exposure to tau pathology for an additional week (Fig.1d) induced neuronal loss (Fig.1e). In line with studies in human brain[12], this demonstrated that in contrast to the loss of GVB-negative (GVB-) neurons as tau pathology progresses (Fig.1f), the number of GVB+ neurons increased (Fig.1g), identifying GVB+ neurons as more resilient to tau-induced neurodegeneration. To study the temporal dynamics of GVB formation, the percentage of GVB+ neurons was determined at different incubation periods with FTDtau[1+2] (Fig.1h, i). While the accumulation of MC1- and AT8-positive tau assemblies started to plateau after 22 days of exposure to FTDtau[1+2], the number of GVB+ neurons continued to increase up to 35% after 29 days (Fig.1i, j and Extended Data Fig.1p, q). These findings highlight that GVB formation progresses whereas GVB- neurons are lost to tau aggregation, suggesting that GVBs play an adaptive role in neuronal resilience to tau-induced neurodegeneration.

**GVB formation requires basal autophagy**

Since lysosomal dysfunction is a hallmark of tauopathies[17,18] and GVBs are lysosomal structures, we investigated whether tau aggregation alters lysosomal characteristics by quantifying lysosomal organelles per neuron using high-resolution confocal microscopy. FTDtau[1+2]-transduced (tau+) neurons displayed fewer and smaller lysosomal organelles than untransduced (tau-) neurons (Fig.2a-c), indicating that intraneuronal tau pathology reduces the lysosomal content. Comparison of tau+/GVB+ to tau+/GVB- neurons showed that GVB+ neurons have more lysosomal organelles, whereas the organelle volume is not different (Fig.2d-f). These findings suggest that GVB+ neurons are resilient to the tau-induced reduction in lysosomal content.

Tau aggregation induces the formation of GVBs, however, in line with previous data from the
human brain and experimental models (reviewed previously[9,13]), pathological tau does not
accumulate in GVBs (Fig.1a). This was not affected by inhibition of lysosomal degradation
using E64D and Pepstatin A (Fig.2g), excluding that tau is rapidly degraded in the GVBs. In
addition, whereas intraneuronal tau pathology was positive for the aggregate-binding dye
Proteostat, no positive signal was observed in GVBs (Fig.2h). Despite the increased lysosomal
content in GVB+ neurons, this suggests that GVBs do not play a key role in pathological tau
degradation. This prompted us to investigate the broader role of the endo-autolysosomal
system in GVB formation. To test the role of endocytosis, tau+ neurons were treated with
Filipin3 or Dyngo-4a. This resulted in inhibition of lipid raft- and dynamin-mediated
endocytosis, respectively (Extended Data Fig.2a, b). In contrast, the number of GVB+ neurons
was not affected, indicating that endocytosis is not required for GVB formation (Extended Data
Fig.2c). To explore the role of autophagy, tau+ neurons were treated with Sar405 to block
VPS34 (Fig.2i and Extended Data Fig.3a). This efficiently inhibited autophagic flux, as
indicated by strongly increased levels of P62 (Extended Data Fig.3b). In addition, the number
of GVB+ neurons gradually decreased over time down to 22% of control after 8d treatment
(Fig.2i, j). To further support the involvement of autophagy in GVB formation, knock-down
(KD) of *Fip200* and *Atg5*, that act after autophagy initiation, was performed (Extended Data
Fig.3a). *Fip200* as well as *Atg5* shRNAs[19,20] efficiently reduced the protein levels of their
targets (Extended Data Fig.3c, d, f, g) and both increased P62 levels (Extended Data Fig.3e,
h), showing inhibition of autophagy. All shRNAs reduced the number of GVB+ neurons
(*shFip200* to 38% and *shAtg5* to 25% of control) (Fig.2k-n). To test the effect of activation of
autophagy, we employed the mTOR inhibitors Torin1 and rapamycin for 48h (Extended Data
Fig.3a). Both treatments strongly reduced 4E-BP1 phosphorylation, showing efficient inhibition
of mTOR activity (Extended Data Fig.3i, k). In contrast, the number of GVB+ neurons was not
affected by either treatment (Extended Data Fig.3j, l). Together, these results demonstrate
that GVB formation is dependent on the autophagic machinery and flux but is not stimulated
by increasing autophagic activity.
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## CK1δ activity is a key regulator of GVB formation

To investigate the molecular mechanism associated with the formation of GVBs, the kinase
CK1δ is a prime candidate because it selectively accumulates in GVBs[14]. To study the role of
CK1δ, tau+ neurons were treated with the CK1δ/ε-specific ATP-competitive kinase inhibitor
PF670462[21,22] (CK1δᵢ). We studied the effect of CK1δᵢ 15 days after FTDtau[1+2]-transduction.
CK1δᵢ treatment was initiated either before or after the first GVBs are detected at day 13[15]
(Fig.3a, b). CK1δᵢ did not induce toxicity or negatively affect neuronal morphology or synapse

number (Extended Data Fig.4a-m). Using pPERK as a GVB marker, we found that CK1δ$_i$ treatment for 48h or 8d reduced the number of GVB+ neurons to 32% and 3% of control, respectively (Fig.3a, c). This shows that the formation of GVBs is reduced by CK1δ$_i$ when initiated before or during the first GVBs occur. In contrast, CK1δ$_i$ treatment for 24h or less did not significantly change the number of GVB+ neurons (Fig.3a, c). To test if this was due to the shorter incubation period or if CK1δ$_i$ has no effect once GVB formation is in progress, tau pathology exposure was extended to 22 days, with treatment starting well after the onset of GVB formation (Extended Data Fig.4n). The number of GVB+ neurons was also strongly reduced upon CK1δ$_i$ treatment after 48h (63% of control) and 8d (12% of control) (Extended Data Fig.4o), indicating that CK1δ is required both for the initiation and progression of GVB formation. To exclude that the effect of CK1δ$_i$ was due to altered phosphorylation of GVB-cargo that may affect the detection of phospho-epitopes like pPERK, we tested the effect of CK1δ$_i$ using a non-phospho GVB marker that has been identified in AD post-mortem brain, GOLGINA4[23,24]. GOLGINA4 was validated as a bona fide GVB marker in our experimental model as well (Extended Data Fig.5a, b). CK1δ$_i$ treatment strongly reduced GOLGINA4-detected GVB+ neurons to 30% of control (Extended Data Fig.5c), confirming that CK1δ$_i$ decreases GVB formation. CK1δ is reported to phosphorylate tau *in vitro*[25,26], therefore we assessed pathological tau accumulation as previously described[15,16,27]. Treatment with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h or 8d did not affect the level of MC1-positive FTDtau[1+2] accumulation (Extended Data Fig.5d, f) and the phospho-epitope-independent direct fluorescence intensity of MeOH-insoluble FTDtau[1+2]-GFP (Extended Data Fig.5e, g). This indicates that the effect of inhibition of CK1δ activity on the number of GVB+ neurons is not caused by an indirect effect on tau pathology. Together, these data place CK1δ upstream in the pathway driving GVB formation.

To further confirm the key role of CK1δ in GVB generation, shRNA-mediated KD was employed to reduce CK1δ protein levels (Extended Data Fig.6a-c). *shCsnk1d* significantly reduced the percentage of GVB+ neurons to 52% of control (Extended Data Fig.6d, e). Because of the high toxicity associated with *shCsnk1d*-treatment (Extended Data Fig.6f), overexpression of a *shRNA*-resistant CK1δ variant (GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$) was used to distinguish the effects of CK1δ KD on the formation of GVBs from its toxic effects (Extended Data Fig.6g-j). Although not sufficient to rescue the toxic effect of CK1δ KD (Extended Data Fig.6k), overexpression of GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ rescued the inhibition of GVB accumulation induced by *shCsnk1d* (Extended Data Fig.6l), further supporting an essential role for CK1δ in the formation of GVBs.

Next, we investigated if regulation of CK1δ levels or activity underlies its role in GVB formation. Tau aggregation did not alter the total protein level of CK1δ (Extended Data Fig.7a, b) with no

difference in somatic CK1δ intensity between GVB- and GVB+ neurons (Extended Data
Fig.7c). In contrast, treatment with CK1δi strongly increased CK1δ levels, independent of the
presence of tau (Extended Data Fig.7a, b). Moreover, CK1δi increased nuclear CK1δ levels
(Fig.3d, e and Extended Data Fig.4p), in line with a previous study that showed localisation of
inactive CK1δ to the nucleus[28]. To exclude that the effect of CK1δi on GVBs was indirectly
caused by a changed balance in cytosolic-to-nuclear CK1δ levels, we employed GFP-CK1δ
with a nuclear export signal (GFP-CK1δ-NES) to force its cytosolic localization (Fig.3f). GFP-
CK1δ-NES selectively localized to GVBs (Extended Data Fig.7d, e), indicating that the NES
sequence does not interfere with the localization of CK1δ to GVBs. Upon treatment with CK1δi,
GFP-CK1δ relocalised to the nucleus like endogenous CK1δ, whereas -as expected- the
localisation of GFP-CK1δ-NES was not changed (Fig.3g, h). However, GFP-CK1δ-NES was
not able to rescue the CK1δi-induced decrease in number of GVB+ neurons (Fig.3i), indicating
that the activity of CK1δ directly affects the formation of GVBs. To further support the direct
involvement of CK1δ activity in GVB formation, GFP or GFP-CK1δ[14] was overexpressed in
tau+ neurons (Fig.3g). GFP-CK1δ+ neurons were 1.72 times more likely to form GVBs than
GFP+ neurons (Fig.3j). Moreover, the effect of GFP-CK1δ overexpression on GVBs was lost
when neurons were treated with CK1δi (Fig.3j). This demonstrated that the activity of CK1δ is
required to generate GVB+ neurons.
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To study the connection between CK1δ and autophagy in GVB formation, we assessed
whether increased CK1δ activity can circumvent autophagy inhibition. To this end, we
employed a doxycyclin (Dox)-inducible expression system for GFP-CK1δ (Dox-GFP-CK1δ,
Extended Data Fig.7f, g). Increasing CK1δ levels by the addition of Dox before inhibition of
autophagy with Sar405 rescued GVB formation (Fig.3k, l). To assess if in turn increased
autophagy can also compensate for decreased CK1δ activity, autophagy was stimulated with
Torin1, before treatment with CK1δi (Fig.3m). Torin1 did not rescue the CK1δi-induced
reduction in GVB+ neurons (Fig.3n). These results suggest that CK1δ can override impaired
autophagic flux and place CK1δ activity upstream in the pathway leading to GVBs.
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**CK1δ accumulation in GVBs marks the appearance of GVB+ neurons**

To better understand the connection between the role of CK1δ activity in GVB formation and
its accumulation inside GVBs, we first investigated whether the effect of CK1δi on GVB+
neurons is binary (GVB+ or GVB- neuron) or more continuous (affecting the number of GVBs
per neuron). To this end, the effect of CK1δi treatment on GVBs was analysed by high-
resolution confocal microscopy (Fig.4a). This demonstrated that inhibition of CK1δ decreased
the number of GVBs within a single neuron, but not the size or the GVB over cytosol (G/C)

ratio of CK1δ fluorescence intensity of individual GVBs (Fig.4b-d). These data indicate that

CK1δ activity stimulates the formation of GVBs also after the first GVBs have formed.

To investigate the role of CK1δ activity in CK1δ localization to GVBs more directly, a kinase-

dead K38M CK1δ mutant was employed (Extended Data Fig.7e)[28,29]. GFP-CK1δ-K38M

selectively accumulates in GVBs (Fig.4e), albeit with a lower G/C ratio (2.5) than wildtype

(WT) GFP-CK1δ (3.8; Fig.4f). This indicates that although CK1δ activity is necessary for GVB

formation, the activity of an individual CK1δ molecule (*in cis* activity) is not required for its

specific accumulation in the core of GVBs.

To study the dynamics of CK1δ accumulation in GVBs, we used the Dox-inducible expression

system for GFP-CK1δ. Dox-GFP-CK1δ was first detected in GVBs 24h after induction and

strongly increased at 48h, after which it started to plateau (Fig.4g, h), indicating that a steady-

state of newly labelled GVBs is obtained at this point. In the presence of CK1δ$_i$ (condition 1-

3, Fig.4g), the formation of neurons with Dox-GFP-CK1δ+ GVBs was completely prevented

(Fig.4h). Because CK1δ activity *in cis* is not required for GVB localisation (Fig.4e), this

suggests that the targeting of CK1δ to the core of GVBs is directly coupled to the formation of

GVBs. To formally exclude the possibility that rather than inhibiting the formation of new GVBs,

CK1δ$_i$ stimulates the turnover of already formed GVBs, Dox-GFP-CK1δ expression was

induced 24h or 48h before CK1δ$_i$ treatment (condition 4-5, Fig.4g). CK1δ$_i$ treatment reduced

the number of Dox-GFP-CK1δ+/GVB+ neurons, but did not completely block it (Fig.4h). This

indicates that the remaining Dox-GFP-CK1δ+/GVB+ neurons were formed before CK1δ$_i$ was

added. Consequently, we were able to calculate the stability of GVBs. Since CK1δi blocks

new GVB formation, the observed GVB+ neurons (Extended Data Fig.4o) existed before

treatment. The difference between expected (Fig.1h) and observed GVB+ neurons (Extended

Data Fig.4o) was used to calculate an average $t_{1/2}$ of 5.4 days (Extended Data Fig.8a). This

is supported by live cell microscopy of GFP-CK1δ-labeled GVBs, demonstrating that GVBs

were relatively stable for at least 9h (Supplementary Video1), indicating a low-turnover rate.

Furthermore, using fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP) imaging, we observed

that no new CK1δ is incorporated into the pre-existing GVBs over a span of ±17h (Fig.4i).

These collective data identify CK1δ as an upstream regulator of GVB formation and indicate

that CK1δ is targeted to the GVB core during this process. Given the stability of the CK1δ

accumulations in GVBs, they reflect the initiation of the GVB condition in the neuron.

**GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced protein synthesis impairment**

To investigate potential functional implications of the presence of GVBs, early proteome changes induced by tau pathology at day 15 were determined (Fig.5a and Supplementary Table 1). Gene ontology (GO) analysis indicated that the upregulated functional processes primarily involved pathways affecting the synapse (Fig.5b) in line with the tau/GVB model representing an early stage preceding neurodegeneration (Extended Data Fig.1a-o). The most significantly downregulated functional protein groups are solute carrier membrane transport proteins, predominantly amino acid transporters (Fig.5b). This may impact the availability of amino acids for the biosynthesis of proteins and may point to reduced protein synthesis as an early tau-induced process. To directly determine *de novo* protein synthesis in relation to tau pathology and GVB condition, we employed the SUnSET puromycin labelling assay[30,31] combined with quantitative high-content automated microscopy to analyse tau- and tau+ neurons at day 22. We developed a script to differentiate between tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons within the tau+ population. Tau+/GVB- neurons, which constitute the majority of tau+ neurons, displayed a pronounced reduction in protein synthesis rates of 31% compared to tau- neurons (Fig.5c, d). In contrast, tau+/GVB+ neurons retained protein synthesis rates similar to those of tau- neurons (Fig.5c, d).

To study the mechanism underlying these differences, we investigated the involvement of transient adaptation of protein synthesis rates by proteostatic stress responses, where the integrated stress response (ISR) is a central player (Fig.5e). To test whether the ISR is activated, the nuclear intensity of the ISR target ATF4 upon tau aggregation was assessed. This demonstrated a small increase in ATF4 levels in the GVB+ population, making it unlikely that the ISR activation underlies the tau-induced protein synthesis decline, as would have resulted in a higher signal in the GVB- neurons (Fig.5f). However, because ATF4 induces the expression of factors involved in amino acid metabolism[32], we assessed the levels of SLC3A2, a component of the major neutral amino acid transporter that was downregulated by tau aggregation (Fig.5a). SLC3A2 levels were found to be 22% higher in tau+/GVB+ neurons compared to tau+/GVB- neurons (Fig.5g), potentially contributing to increased free amino acids for protein synthesis in GVB+ neurons. To test if the GVB+ neurons actively maintained protein synthesis rates or were less responsive to ISR-induced protein synthesis reduction, neurons were treated with the ISR inducer tunicamycin (TM). TM treatment resulted in a strong reduction in protein synthesis and increased nuclear ATF4 intensity independent of the presence of tau pathology or GVBs (Fig.5h, i and Extended Data Fig.9a). This shows that GVB+ neurons can dynamically adjust their protein synthesis levels in response to stress, indicating that they exhibit resilience to tau-induced impairment in *de novo* protein synthesis.

Moreover, 48h TM treatment did not alter the number of GVB+ neurons (Extended Data Fig.9b). Furthermore, inhibition of the activity of the different ISR kinases (EIF2AK1-4: HRI, PKR, PERK, GCN2, respectively; Fig.5e) using a pharmacological inhibitor of EIF2AK3 (PERKi) or knock-down of *Eif2ak1, 2 or 4* (validated previously[31]) did not alter the formation of GVB+ neurons (Extended Data Fig.9c, d), further supporting that the ISR is not involved. Protein synthesis can also be transiently reduced by the mTOR pathway. However, there was no difference in the phosphorylation of the mTOR substrate 4E-BP1 neurons without and with tau pathology, suggesting that the mTOR pathway is not activated in the pool of tau+ neurons (Extended Data Fig.9e, f). Also, treatment with pharmacological inhibitors of the mTOR- and Angiogenin-mediated stress pathways did not affect protein synthesis rates in tau+/GVB- or tau+/GVB+ neurons (Extended Data Fig.9g, h). These collective data show that transient stress pathways are not directly involved in the tau-induced protein synthesis reduction or the resilience there to in GVB+ neurons.

To determine whether adaptations in the protein synthesis machinery itself underlie the resilience, we measured the levels of ribosomal proteins and biogenesis factors in tau+ neurons. The levels of ribosomal proteins RPL24, RPL15 and RPS12 were increased in tau+/GVB+ neurons compared to tau+/GVB- neurons by 16%, 9% and 18%, respectively (Fig.5j-l). Also the levels of ribosomal assembly factors BYSL and LTV were 20% higher in tau+/GVB+ neurons (Fig.5m, n). To investigate whether the GVB itself functions as a localized hub for protein synthesis, we assessed the colocalization of GVBs with key components of the translation machinery using confocal microscopy. We stained for RNA, using RNASyto Green, nascent proteins via puromycin pulse labelling and RPS12 and RPL24 (Fig.5o-r). No overlap was observed between these markers and GVBs, making it unlikely that GVBs themselves directly contribute to protein synthesis. These results suggest that GVB+ neurons have elicited a response to ameliorate reduced protein synthesis upon tau aggregation that includes increased ribosomal content.

**GVB+ neurons fully retain the capacity to control LTP-regulated protein synthesis in the presence of tau pathology**

We showed that GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced neurodegeneration (Fig.1e-g). To investigate whether the increased survival of GVB+ neurons is related to protein synthesis capacity, protein synthesis was inhibited using 48h of anisomycin treatment (Fig.6a), which reduced protein synthesis to a similar extent in GVB- and GVB+ neurons, 66% and 65% respectively (Fig.6b). However, while anisomycin treatment resulted in a 28% reduction to control in the number of GVB- neurons, GVB+ neuron number was unaffected (Fig.6c). These

results suggest that GVB+ neurons are more resilient to toxicity induced by protein synthesis

inhibition.

To study the relevance of the resilience of GVB+ neurons for neuronal function, we assessed

the capacity of tau+ neurons to regulate the acute synthesis of immediate early genes (IEGs)

that are involved in the changes of synaptic strength, which is essential for learning and

memory-related processes[33,34]. To study if tau aggregation also reduces long-term

potentiation (LTP)-related IEG induction in our model, neuronal plasticity was induced using

4BF for 4h after 15 days of tau exposure. 4BF induces chemical LTP and induces the

expression of the IEGs ARC and c-FOS[35]. Quantitative high-content automated microscopy

was employed to determine expression levels of ARC and c-FOS in the nucleus of tau-,

tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons. Both ARC and c-FOS expression were strongly

increased upon the induction of chemical LTP (Fig.6d-g). In tau+/GVB- neurons, ARC and c-

FOS levels upon LTP induction were significantly lower than in tau- neurons (decreased by

34% and 19%, respectively), while the tau+/GVB+ neurons do not differ or are even higher in

ARC and c-FOS expression levels from tau- neurons, respectively (Fig.6f, g). As expected,

the upregulation of ARC and c-FOS upon LTP induction was dependent on *de novo* protein

synthesis as anisomycin reduced the increase of these proteins (Fig.6f, g and Extended Data

Fig.10 a, b). These data show that GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced impairment in

LTP-regulated protein synthesis.

**Discussion**

In response to pathological protein assemblies, including tau and α-synuclein, neurons can develop GVBs[14,15]. In the human AD brain -like in our model- GVB+ neurons are the surviving neurons upon neuronal loss with increased disease severity[12,36,37], in accordance with a protective rather than a degenerative role. Our collective data support a model where GVB+ neurons have adapted to tau-induced reduction of protein synthesis (see model in Fig.7). Our findings demonstrate that CK1δ activity is essential for GVB formation. In addition, we show that autophagy but not endocytosis is required for GVB formation. Activation of autophagy does not affect the number of GVB+ neurons and does not rescue GVB formation when CK1δ is inhibited. In contrast, overexpression of CK1δ enhances the GVB+ neuron number and overrides inhibition of autophagy, identifying it as a rate-limiting factor. Our data are compatible with a CK1δ-driven process that employs the basal autophagic machinery.

Disturbed translational regulation and overall protein synthesis impairment are observed in models of tauopathies[2–6] and several other neurodegenerative proteinopathies[38–43]. Therefore, impaired protein synthesis is considered an important pathogenic mechanism in neurodegenerative diseases, supported by the amelioration of neurodegenerative phenotypes by the rescue of protein synthesis[5,43–46]. Prolonged reduction of protein synthesis rates affects neuronal viability and function by impairing replacement of critical structural proteins, but also by directly affecting synaptic plasticity, which requires adequately regulated *de novo* protein synthesis[47,48]. The acute and dynamic demand for protein synthesis that is required for synaptic plasticity includes the rapid induction of IEG proteins. Tau pathology has been demonstrated to impair synaptic plasticity, as well as the expression of IEGs in animal models[49,50]. Also in our model, tau aggregation reduces global protein synthesis rates as well as the LTP-regulated induction of IEGs c-FOS and ARC. c-FOS is synthesized in response to increased neuronal activity[51,52] and ARC is required for the consolidation of LTP and maintenance of synaptic strength[53,54], both essential for learning and memory-related processes[33,34]. Our data demonstrate that GVB+ neurons not only retain global protein synthesis rates similar to those of neurons without tau pathology, but also importantly retain the capacity to adequately regulate LTP-related IEG protein expression. This demonstrates that GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau pathology-induced protein synthesis decline.

To identify the mechanism by which GVB+ neurons adapt to the tau-induced protein synthesis decrease, transient proteostatic responses mediated by the ISR, mTOR and Angiogenin were investigated. No evidence for their involvement in GVB+ neurons was found, suggesting that the rescue of protein synthesis involves an adaptation of the protein synthesis machinery.

Paradoxically, a small increase in nuclear levels of the ISR-induced transcription factor ATF4

was found in GVB+ neurons. Although this excludes the involvement of the ISR in the global

protein synthesis rescue in GVB+ neurons, it may explain the expression of ATF4-regulated

factors like the amino acid transporter SLC3A2[32], which is increased in GVB+ neurons. In AD,

progressive ribosomal loss correlates with tau pathology[55], aligning with studies in tauopathy

mouse models that demonstrate decreased ribosomal protein synthesis accompanied by

reduced overall protein synthesis[6]. Moreover, targeted laser capture proteomics of human AD

hippocampus demonstrated that tangle-bearing neurons exhibit a loss of ribosomal proteins;

however, in GVB+ neurons the ribosomal protein levels are similar to those in neurons without

tau pathology[56]. We demonstrate here that GVB+ neurons have increased levels of the small

ribosomal subunit protein RPS12, the large ribosomal subunit proteins RPL15 and RPL24 as

well as the ribosomal biogenesis factors LTV1 and BLTV.

Interestingly, while GVB+ neurons exhibit an autolysosomal response accompanied by

increased lysosomal content, this does not significantly contribute to the degradation of

pathological tau aggregates, as tau pathology is not different between GVB- and GVB+

neurons[15]. Proteomics analysis showed that in a stage preceding neurodegeneration, tau-

pathology induces reduced levels of several amino acid transporters. Given the close

collaboration between autolysosomal degradation and amino acid transporters in the

maintenance of the free amino acid pool[57], we propose that the increased lysosomal content

functions to generate amino acids to boost protein synthesis in GVB+ neurons. Whereas

classical proteostatic stress responses involve increased lysosomal capacity and reduced

protein synthesis, GVB+ neurons have initiated a unique proteostatic program that increases

both lysosomal and ribosomal content. This shows that GVB+ neurons have multiple

adaptations that allow them to counteract the tau pathology-induced decline in protein

synthesis (Fig.7), supported by the resilience of GVB+ neurons to protein synthesis inhibition.

GVBs have similar degradative capacity as the non-GVB lysosomes in the same cell and are

distinguished by the presence of one or multiple dense cores[14]. Live-cell imaging and half-life

calculations show that GVB cores are highly stable. Inhibition of autophagy does not result in

accumulation of GVB cores in the cytosol, indicating that they either form within

autolysosomes or originate in the cytosol but are rapidly degraded if not engulfed. The

prominent presence of CK1δ in the core could indicate a negative feedback mechanism to

sequester the key regulator of the protective mechanism in GVB+ neurons to prevent

overactivation of the pathway. Although CK1δ activity is required for the resilience of GVB+

neurons, CK1δ activity *in cis* is not required for its localization to GVBs. The collective data

are in agreement with a model where the accumulation of CK1δ in GVBs occurs during the

formation of GVB+ neurons. The lack of interventions that can disconnect the resilience program in GVB+ neurons and the formation of GVBs makes it difficult to conclusively assess whether GVBs are merely a byproduct of activation of the protective mechanism in GVB+ neurons. However, currently, there is no indication for a specific function associated with GVBs themselves.

Follow-up studies should address how tau aggregates induce CK1δ activity and what substrates are involved in resilience. CK1δ is traditionally considered a constitutively active protein, relying on binding partners or scaffold proteins for subcellular localization[58,59], although differential autophosphorylation was more recently shown to regulate substrate selectivity[60]. CK1δ binds to and phosphorylates tau at different sites[59]. Tau assemblies may provide a platform for CK1δ binding and signalling, leading to GVB formation. This may involve structural rather than primary sequence motifs because GVBs also form in response to α-synuclein aggregates[15], although the involvement of CK1δ and protein synthesis resilience in α-synuclein-induced GVBs has currently not been demonstrated. The number of neurons with tau pathology that become GVB+ increases over time, suggesting a (partially) stochastic process. The high toxicity of CK1δ KD and the strongly increased levels of CK1δ upon inhibition of its activity suggest that neurons require tight regulation of CK1δ that may also involve a non-catalytic role of the protein. CK1δ has been implicated in autophagy[61–64] and was previously demonstrated as a critical regulator of ribosome assembly through phosphorylation of assembly factors LTV1 and BYSL[65,66]. The increased levels of these factors in GVB+ neurons, together with increased levels of ribosomal proteins, support a mechanism involving ribosomal biogenesis.

The identification of specific molecular targets to stimulate GVB formation has therapeutic potential. Because GVBs form selectively in neurons, it is likely that, in addition to CK1δ, cell type-specific factors are involved. Ultimately, combining resilience-boosting therapy with tau-reducing therapies like *MAPT* antisense oligonucleotides or tau immunotherapy is an attractive scenario to halt the disease while also protecting neurons against the cellular effects of tau pathology to help them to retain function. By elucidating the mechanistic underpinnings of the formation and functional implications of the presence of GVBs in neurons, our work offers new insights into neuronal resilience in tauopathies.

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## Methods

### Animals and primary cell culture

Animals were kept and bred according to institutional and Dutch governmental guidelines and experiments were approved by the animal ethical committee of the VU University/VU University Medical Center. C57BL/6 mice were bred in-house or obtained from Charles River.

Embryonic day (E) 18.5 WT mouse embryos or postnatal day 1 (P1) mice were dissected to obtain cerebral cortices after disposal of the meninges. The cortices were digested in Hanks balanced salt solution (HBSS, Sigma-Aldrich) containing 10 mM HEPES (Gibco; Hanks-HEPES) and 0.25% trypsin (Gibco) for 20 min at 37°C. Hereafter, the digested tissue was washed twice with Hanks-HEPES and subsequently with DMEM (Lonza) containing 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (Gibco), 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco) and 1% non-essential amino acid solution (Gibco; DMEM+) in which the tissue was triturated using a fire-polished Pasteur pipette. Subsequently, the dissociated cells were spun down for 5 min at 800g at room temperature (RT), resuspended and plated in neurobasal medium (Gibco) supplemented with 2% B-27 (Gibco), 18 mM HEPES, 0.25% Glutamax (Gibco) and 0.1% penicillin-streptomycin (NB+).

Primary cortical neurons were cultured in plates and glass coverslips coated with 5 μg/mL poly-L-ornithine (Sigma-Aldrich) and 2.5 μg/mL laminin (Sigma-Aldrich and Bio-Techne) overnight (O/N) at room temperature (RT). All cells were maintained at 37°C and 5% $CO_2$. For Western blotting, cortical neurons were plated in a 6-well plate at a density of 300.000 neurons per well. For immunolabeling, neurons were plated on 13 mm glass coverslips or in a 96-well plate (Greiner) at a density of 40.000 cells or 12.500 cells per well, respectively. After 10 days *in vitro* (DIV10), fresh NB+ was supplied to each well at 40% of the total volume in the well.

### Lentiviral transduction in primary cells

Lentiviral transduction with the human 2N4R P301L, S320F tau (FTDtau[1+2]) and FTDtau[1+2] with an in-frame C-terminal EGFP tag (FTDtau[1+2]-GFP) were performed on DIV3 (Day0), unless otherwise specified, in primary neurons[15,16,27].

WT mouse CK1δ (kind gift from Dr. Y.E. Greer) has been described before[67] and the formation of N-terminally tagged CK1δ with EGFP (GFP-CK1δ) has been described before[14]. GFP-CK1δ[RES] was changed from WT CK1δ in the *shCsnk1d* target sequence to prevent KD (Table 1) (new sequence: CGGGA**CC**G**T**GA**G**GAACGATTA). A nuclear export signal (NES) was N-

terminally cloned into the GFP-CK1δ construct. For the kinase-dead variant of CK1δ, a single point-mutation in lysine-38 to methionine-38 (AAG to ATG) was created to form GFP-CK1δ-K38M. As a control for EGFP-tagged constructs, a lentiviral CMV-driven EGFP construct was used. All constructs were subcloned into lentiviral backbone vectors under the cytomegalovirus (CMV), the neuron-specific synapsin (Syn) or a doxycycline-inducible Syn promoter using the Gateway system (Invitrogen). The production of lentiviral particles was performed as described previously[68] and the lentiviral particles were stored at -80°C until use.

Plasmids for short hairpin RNA (shRNA) constructs for the scrambled control (*shScr*), CK1δ (Sigma-Aldrich; TRCN0000023773) and EIF2AK1/2/4 were obtained from the MISSION shRNA library (Sigma-Aldrich; TRCN0000028788, TRCN0000027041, TRCN0000028842) and previously validated in our lab[31]. shRNAs targeting FIP200 (kind gift of Dr. Marijn Kuijpers)[19] and ATG5 was cloned using oligonucleotides (Sigma-Aldrich) based on previously published research[20]. The shRNAs were cloned into a second-generation lentiviral backbone under a CMV promoter.

Table 1: The names, targeting gene and sequence of the shRNA of all shRNAs used in this research.

| Name | Gene | Sequence |
|------|------|----------|
| *shScr* | - | CCGCAGGTATGCACGCGT<br>or<br>TTCTCCGAACGTGTCACGT |
| *shCsnk1d* | CK1δ | CGGGATCGAGAAGAACGATTA |
| *shFip200* | FIP200 | GAGAGAACTTGTTGAGAAA |
| *shAtg5* | ATG5 | GCAGAACCATACTATTTGCTT |
| *shHri* | EIF2AK1 | GCTCGGAATTGGAAGGGAATT |
| *shPkr* | EIF2AK2 | CGCCAGGTTTAACAGCGATTT |
| *shGcn2* | EIF2AK4 | GCCAACCATCAACTCACTAAT |

All lentiviral constructs were transduced on DIV10 (day 7), except FTDtau[1+2](-GFP) (specified in the text), *shCsnk1d-1* and the *shScr* as control on DIV14 (day 11) and GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ and GFP as control on DIV7 (day 4).

**Cell treatments**

Primary neurons were treated with 50 μM E64D and 20 μM Pepstatin-A (Sigma-Aldrich) for 24h. For the inhibition of endocytosis, neurons were sequentially incubated on DIV16 (day 13) and DIV17 (day 14) with 10 uM Dyngo4a (final concentration is 20 uM; Bio-Connect) and 0.5 μg/ml Filipin3 (final concentration is: 1.0 ug/ml; Sigma-Aldrich). 5 μM of Sar405 (Sigma-Aldrich) was used for indicated times to inhibit VPS34 and 5 μM Torin1 (Bioke) (72h, 48h or 24h) or 1 μM rapamycin (Hello Bio) (48h) were used to inhibit mTOR. To inhibit CK1δ, neurons were treated with PF-670462 (CK1δ$_i$, TargetMol) for indicated times at a concentration of 12.5 μM. To induce ER-stress, primary neurons were treated with tunicamycin (TM, Sigma-Aldrich) for 24h or 48h at 5 μg/ml. PERK inhibitor (GSK2606414, Sigma-Aldrich) was added 48h before fixation at a final concentration of 0.5 μM. Angiogenin inhibitor (NSC-65828, National Cancer Institute) was added 24h before fixation at a final concentration of 75 mM. PERK inhibitor and angiogenin inhibitor were previously validated[31]. Anisomycin (Sigma-Aldrich) was added for 48h, or directly before the induction of LTP, at a final concentration of 50 ng/ml to determine the effect on global protein synthesis. To label *de novo* synthesised proteins, we performed surface sensing of translation (SUnSET) as previously described[30]. In short, primary cells were incubated with 2 μM puromycin (InvivoGen) for 15 min before fixation. Using the anti-puromycin antibody (see Supplementary Table 1), puromycinylated proteins were detected. To stain nucleic acids, cells were incubated with 1 μM SYTO RNASelect (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 4 hr before methanol fixation. Compounds were dissolved in $H_2O$ (puromycin) or DMSO (the rest) and diluted in NB+. Equal amounts of solvent were added to the control conditions or when multiple concentrations were used, the highest concentration was used to determine the amount of vehicle added.

**Induction of chemical LTP**

Neurons at DIV18 (day 15) were stimulated for 4 hours, after which they were directly fixed. A cocktail of chemicals was used to induce network activity and plasticity for generation of immediate early gene (IEG) expression. The 4BF cocktail consists of 100 μM 4-aminopyridine (Sigma, A78403), 50 μM bicuculline (Sigma, 14343) and 50 μM forskolin (Sigma, 344282) as previously described[35].

**Fixation and immunolabeling of primary neurons**

On DIV18 (day 15), DIV25 (day 22) or DIV32 (day 29) neurons were fixed in 1.85% formaldehyde (FA, Electron Microscopy Sciences) in PBS (pH 7.4) by the addition of equal volumes of 3.7% FA to the culture medium for 10 min followed by fixation in 3.7% FA for 10

min at RT. Primary neurons shown in Fig.5r and Extended Data Fig.5 v were fixed in ice-cold
methanol for 15 min on ice to remove soluble proteins. After fixation, cells were washed with
PBS and stored at 4°C in PBS (pH 7.4) in the dark until further use. Fixed cells were
permeabilised in 0.5% Triton X-100 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in PBS (pH 7.4) for 5 min at RT
and blocked in 2% normal goat serum (Gibco) and 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS (blocking
solution) for 30 min at RT. Primary antibodies were diluted in blocking solution and incubated
O/N at 4°C in the dark. The primary antibodies used and their dilutions are listed in Table 2.
After 3 PBS washes, cells were incubated with Alexa Fluor (405, 488, 546, 568, 647)-
conjugated secondary antibodies (Abcam and Thermo Fisher Scientific) in a 1:500 dilution in
blocking solution for 1 h at RT in the dark. Cells were subsequently washed thrice with PBS.
Aggresomes were visualised using the proteostat aggresome detection kit (Enzo) according
to the manufacturer's details and washed three times with PBS. Hereafter, to visualise nuclei,
cells were incubated with DAPI (Brunschwig Chemie) diluted in PBS (5 µg/mL) at RT for 5
min, followed by two PBS washes. Coverslips were mounted on microscope slides (Thermo
Fisher Scientific) using Mowiol (Sigma-Aldrich) and were kept in the dark O/N at RT to dry.
Slides were stored in the dark at 4°C until imaging. 96-well plates were stored in the dark at
4°C until imaging with the wells filled with 100 µl PBS.

Table 2: Antibodies used in this research. From left to right: The target protein the primary
antibody was raised at; for antibodies targeting specific phosphor-sites, the phospho-epitope
is listed; the species of the primary antibody; the dilution used for immunofluorescence (IF) or
western blot (WB); the source; the product number.

| Antibody | Phospho-epitope | Species | Dilution | | Source | Product number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | IF | WB | | |
| AT8 | Ser202/Thr205 | Mouse monoclonal | 1:400 | | ThermoScientific | MN1020 |
| ATG5 | | Rabbit polyclonal | | 1:1000 | Proteintech | 10181-2-AP |
| ARC | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:500 | | Synaptic Systems | 156 003 |
| BYSL | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:250 | | ThermoScientific | PA5-56679 |
| c-FOS | | Rat monoclonal | 1:1000 | | Synaptic Systems | 226 017 |
| CK1δ | | Mouse monoclonal | 1:1000 | 1:2000 | Santa Cruz Biotechnology | sc-55553 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FIP200 | | Rabbit monoclonal | | 1:1000 | Cell signaling | 12436S |
| GOLGA4 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:2000 | | Sigma-Aldrich | HPA0351021 |
| GFP | | Rabbit polyclonal | | 1:500 | Bio-Connect | GTX20290 |
| LAMP1 | | Rat monoclonal | 1:500 | | BioLegend | 121601 |
| LAMP1 | | Rat monoclonal | 1:1000 | | Abcam | ab25245 |
| LIMP2 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:500 | | Novus Biologicals | NB400-129 |
| LTV1 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:250 | | ThermoScientific | PA5-56373 |
| MAP2 | | Chicken polyclonal | 1:500 | | Abcam | ab5392 |
| MC1 | | Mouse monoclonal | 1:500 | | Kind gift from Dr. Peter Davies | |
| pPERK | Thr981 | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:1000 | | Santa Cruz Biotechnology | sc-32577 |
| pPERK | Thr982 | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:500 - 1:1000 | | ThermoScientific | PA5-102853 |
| Puromycin | | Mouse monoclonal | 1:500 | | Milipore | MABE343 |
| Puromcyin | | Mouse monoclonal | 1:3000 | | Kerafast | EQ0001 |
| P62 | | Rabbit polyclonal | | 1:2000 | ThermoScientific | PA5-20839 |
| RPL15 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:250 | | Proteintech | 16740-1-AP |
| RPL24 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:250 | | Proteintech | 17082-1-AP |
| RPS12 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:250 | | Proteintech | 16490-1-AP |
| SLC3A2 | | Rabbit polyclonal | 1:400 | | Proteintech | 15193-1-AP |

| SYP1 | | Guinea pig polyclonal | 1:1000 | | Synaptic Systems | 101004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4E-BP1 | | Rabbit monoclonal | | 1:1000 | Cell Signaling Technology | 9644 |
| p-4E-BP1 | Thr37/Thr46 | Rabbit monoclonal | | 1:1000 | Cell Signaling Technology | 2855 |

**Confocal microscopy and confocal image analysis**

The mounted coverslips were imaged using a Nikon Eclipse Ti confocal microscope controlled by NisElements 4.30 software (Nikon), equipped with a 60x oil immersion objective (NA = 1.4) or a 40x oil immersion objective (NA = 1.3). Z-stacks with a step size of 0.25, 0.5 or 1 µm were obtained. Laser settings were adjusted to reduce saturation and kept the same in every independent experiment between conditions.

**Live microscopy**

The cells were placed in a Tokai Hit live-cell microscope incubation system mounted in the Nikon Eclipse Ti confocal microscope, equipped with a 40x oil immersion objective (NA = 1.3) or a 10x air objective (NA = 0.45) for calcium imaging. 10 min before calcium imaging, 0.5 µM X-Rhod-1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added to the cells. A video with 8fps was made for the duration of 5 min. For following GVB dynamics, every 10, 20 or 30 min for a period of minimally 9h, a Z-stack with a step size of 1 µm was obtained. When FRAP was applied, a specified region in the GVB+ soma was photobleached and followed over the same period as described in the text.

Confocal images were analysed using ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health). Neurons with 2 or more CK1δ or pPERK bright punctae were defined as GVB+ neurons and neurons without any punctae were defined as GVB- neurons. Single confocal planes are shown unless otherwise stated.

Line segments were drawn to determine the overlap between multiple markers. The line graphs show fluorescence intensity in arbitrary units (AU).

The amount and size of somatic lysosomes were determined using an in-house developed script named "LysoFinder", which is publicly available (https://git.vu.nl/public-neurosciences-fga/imagej-apps/lysofinder). The amount, intensity and size of GVBs in neurons transduced

with the GFP, GFP-CK1δ and GFP-CK1δ-K38M constructs or neurons treated with CK1δ$_i$

were determined using an adapted version of the LysoFinder script. In short, maximum

intensity projections were created and based on a pPERK mask, the amount and size of single

GVBs within a manually drawn neuronal soma were determined. The intensity of the protein

of interest was measured within the GVB-mask and outside the mask within the soma. The

ratio of the intensity in the GVB over cytosol (G/C) was then calculated and was used to

determine the GVB-selective localization of the protein.

**High-throughput microscopy and automated analysis**

Cells cultured in a 96-well plate were imaged using CellInsight CX7 High-Content Screening

(HCS) Platform (Thermo Fisher Scientific) controlled by HCS Studio Cell Analysis software

(Thermo Fisher Scientific). 10x, 20x and 40x air objectives were used in widefield mode. The

10x or 20x objectives were used to determine toxicity of the treatment compared to control.

The 20x objective was used for determination of morphology. The 20x and 40x objectives

were used to measure intensity and determine the number of GVB+ neurons. A single focal

plane was obtained for all channels. 25 or 30 fields, distributed throughout the well, were

imaged for 10x or 20x and 40x, respectively. In all cases, DAPI signal was used for autofocus

for every image individually. On average, 10x imaging obtained data from 1000-10000

neurons per well, 20x imaging from 50-1000 neurons per well and 40x 25-500 neurons per

well.

The data obtained from the high-throughput microscopy were analysed with Columbus

analysis software (v2.5.2.124862; PerkinElmer) by in-house developed scripts. Each script

was optimized per independent experiment. In every analysis, neuronal nuclei were defined

by overlap between the nuclear marker DAPI and the neuron-specific marker MAP2 as well

as the size and roundness of the nucleus. Outcome parameters were averaged per well (when

applicable) and normalised to the mean of the control wells. These values were used in the

analysis.

**Neuronal morphology**

Dendritic morphology and pre-synaptic density were determined using in-house developed

scripts, previously published[27,31]. In short, based on MAP2 staining, dendritic morphology was

determined using a built-in CSIRO neurite analysis module. Morphological features, including

dendrite length, number of extremities, segments and primary dendrites were normalised to

the number of neuronal nuclei within that well. The amount of synaptophysin 1 (SYP1) positive

pre-synapses was determined based on local intensity maxima within an enlarged MAP2

mask. The pre-synapse density was determined by dividing the total amount or SYP1 puncta over total dendrite length.

**Tau intensity in MAP2 mask**

The intensity measurements of multiple readouts of tau aggregation, GFP-tagged and untagged FTDTau[1+2], were performed by measuring the sum of the intensity of FTDTau[1+2]-GFP or the conformational pathogenic tau marker MC1 in a MAP2 mask. The absolute intensity was normalised to the total area of the MAP2 mask.

**GVB selection**

GVB+ neurons were defined using an altered protocol, as previously described[14,15]. In short, the GVB marker (pPERK, CK1δ, Dox-GFP-CK1δ or GolginA4) was subjected to a filter step to decrease background intensity using a curvature optimized per marker. Single puncta were selected based on intensity. The single puncta were subsequently clustered based on their proximity to one another. These clusters were defined as GVB-clusters based on their size, roundness, intensity of the GVB-marker, the intensity of MAP2 in the cluster and exclusion of the cluster within the nucleus based on DAPI-signal. The percentage of GVB-clusters was calculated by dividing the number of GVB-clusters by the number of neurons in the same well.

**Somatic and nuclear intensity**

The soma was defined as the MAP2-positive signal 13μm around the neuronal nucleus (excluding overlap between bordering somas), after smoothing and filling the holes of the MAP2 signal. Subsequently, somas in neurons transduced with FTDtau[1+2] were defined as GVB- or GVB+ as previously described. False positives were excluded in tau- neurons. Within each soma, the mean intensity of the marker (e.g. puromycin, SLC3A2, RPS12, RPL15, RPL24, LTV1 and BYSL) was measured in the complete soma (cytosol and nucleus). Somatic CK1δ levels were determined by measuring CK1δ intensity in the soma without the GVBs. Nuclear intensity for CK1δ was corrected by subtracting the mean nuclear intensity by the mean intensity level of the cytosol without the nucleus. When determining CK1δ levels in a GVB+ neuron, pPERK was used to define GVB-positivity. The nuclear intensity of c-FOS and ARC were not background corrected. The number of GVB+ somas was divided by the number of somas to calculate the percentage of GVB+ somas.

**GVB selection in GFP-positive neurons**

For the selection of GFP-positive (GFP+) neurons, the soma was defined as previously described. Mean GFP intensity was measured in the complete soma region, including the nucleus. Based on an untransduced negative control, a threshold was set to select neurons

with a higher somatic mean GFP-intensity than the negative control. These neurons were
defined as GFP+ neurons. GVB-clusters were defined as GFP+ if they were localised within
the GFP+ soma, creating GVB-/GFP+ and GVB+/GFP+ somas. Within these two populations,
mean GFP-intensity was measured in the complete soma (cytosol and nucleus), only the
nucleus and the cytosol without the nucleus. Nuclear intensity was corrected by subtracting
the mean nuclear intensity by the mean intensity level of the cytosol excluding the nucleus
and GVBs, per neuron. The number of GVB+/GFP+ neurons was divided by the number of
GFP+ neurons to calculate the percentage of GVB+/GFP+ neurons.
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**Primary neuron lysis and western blot analysis**

Cells were washed 2x with ice-cold PBS and samples for the isolation of total proteins were
scraped in loading buffer containing dithiothreitol (50mM) and 2% sodium dodecyl sulfate
(SDS) to lyse the cells. The samples were triturated by a 21-gauge needle to sheer the DNA.
For analysis of cytosolic proteins, cells were lysed in 1%-Triton X-100 (Thermo Fisher
Scientific) in PBS supplemented with cOmplete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) and
PhosSTOP phosphatase inhibitors (Roche). To purify these whole-cell lysates, the lysates
were centrifuged at 14.000 g for 10 min at 4°C. The total protein content of the supernatant
was determined with the Pierce BCA protein assay kit (BCA) protein assay (Thermo Fisher
Scientific). All samples were boiled for 5 min at 95°C. An equal volume or amount of the
samples was loaded to a 4-15% Mini-Protean TGX stain-free precast polyacrylamide gels
(Bio-Rad) and Precision Plus ProteinTM All Blue Standards (Bio-Rad) was used as a ladder.
The total amount of protein on the gel was visualised using the Gel Doc EZ System (Bio-Rad)
and analysed using Image LabTM 6.0 (Bio-Rad). The total protein content was determined by
correcting for the measured area size. The samples were then transferred onto 0.2 µM
nitrocellulose membranes with the TransBlot Turbo transfer system and kit (both from Biorad).
The membranes were then blocked with 5% skimmed milk powder (Millipore) in TBS
containing 0.05% Tween (TBS-T) (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at RT. Afterwards, the
membranes were incubated with primary antibody diluted in blocking buffer overnight at 4°C
(See table 1 for the dilutions of the primary antibodies). Subsequently, the membranes were
washed 4x 15 min in TBS-T whereafter the membranes were incubated with HRP-conjugated
secondary antibodies (DAKO) diluted in blocking buffer (1:2000) for 1 hour at RT. Last, the
membranes were washed 4x 15 min with TBS-T and submerged with SuperSignalTM West
Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrate kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Membranes were
stripped for reblotting using ReBlot Plus Strong Antibody Stripping Solution (Merck). The
chemiluminescence was visualized with the Odessey Fc system (Li-Cor) and analysed using
Image Studio 6.0 software (Li-Cor). Band intensities were corrected for the background signal.

**Proteomics analysis of primary neurons**

      **Sample preparation**

At day 15, media was aspirated and neurons were subjected to 2x gentle ice-cold PBS washes. Neurons were then collected into 1.5 mL tubes using ice-cold PBS supplemented with protease inhibitor (Roche). Samples were centrifuged for 5 min at 3000 x g at 4°C and the remaining pellet was resuspended in 7 µL of 5x loading buffer containing 10% SDS, 0.25 M Tris pH 6.8, 0.1% bromophenol blue, 0.5 M DTT, 50% glycerol. Samples were stored at −20°C until further use. A total of 14 samples from two independent experiments were employed per condition.

      **Protein in-gel digestion**

Cell lysates were incubated at 98°C for 6 min to denature the proteins followed by incubation with 30% acrylamide/Bis Solution 37.5:1 (Bio-Rad) for 30 min at RT to block cysteine residues. Samples were loaded onto 1 mm thick acrylamide gels. They were composed of 10% acrylamide, 0.375 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.8), ultra-pure $H_2O$, 0.1% (w/v) APS and 6 µL N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylene-diamine (TEMED; Biorad) per gel. Proteins were allowed to migrate into the gel by electrophoresis (120 V) for approximately 10 min. Peptides were extracted as previously described[69]. Briefly, gels were fixed O/N in a solution containing 50% (v/v) ethanol and 3% (v/v) phosphoric acid in $H_2O$ at RT and stained with Colloidal Coomassie Blue (34% (v/v) methanol, 3% (v/v) phosphoric acid, 15% (w/v) ammonium sulphate and 0.1% (w/v) Coomassie brilliant blue G-250 (Sigma-Aldrich)). Sample-containing lanes were separated and cut in blocks. Gel fragments were destained in 50 mM $NH_4HCO_3$ (99% $NH_4HCO_3$, Fluka) and 50% (v/v) acetonitrile (HPLC grade; JT Baker), dehydrated using 100% acetonitrile, re-swell in 50 mM $NH_4HCO_3$ containing 10 µg/ml trypsin (sequence grade; Promega) and incubated O/N in a humidified chamber at 37°C to facilitate protein digestion. Peptides were extracted with a solution containing 0.1% (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid (Sigma-Aldrich) and 50% (v/v) acetonitrile. Samples were dried using a SpeedVac (Eppendorf), and stored at −20°C until LC-MS analysis.

      **LC-MS analysis**

Samples (75 ng) were loaded into EvoTips (EV2003; Evosep) and run on a 15 cm x 75 µm, 1.9 µm Performance Column (EV112; Evosep) using the Evosep One LC system with 30 samples per day program. Peptides were electro-sprayed into the TimsTOF Pro 2 mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) and analysed with diaPASEF[70]. The MS was operated with

the following settings: scan range 100-1700 *m/z*, ion mobility 0.6 to 1.6 Vs/cm$^2$, ramp time 100

ms, accumulation time 100 ms and ramp rate 9.42 Hz.

**Data analysis**

Raw diaPASEF data from the TimsTOF Pro 2 were searched with a virtual spectral library

generated from the UniProt mouse proteome UP000000589_1090 using DIA-NN 1.8.1[71].

Deep-learning-based spectra and cross-run normalisation were activated. The maximum

number of missed cleavages was set to 1. The peptide length range was 7-30, the precursor

charge range to 2-4, the precursor m/z range to 300-1800 and the fragment ion m/z range to

200-800. A fixed modification of UniMod: 24, 71.0371 at C was used, which represents

acrylamide adduct. The precursor False Discovery Rate (FDR) was 1% (default). The rest of

the settings were used as default.

MS-DAP (v. 1.0)[72] was used for quality control and candidate discovery on the results obtained

from DIA-NN. Only peptides identified and quantified in at least 6 samples from each group

were included in the analysis. The batch effect of samples from different experiments was

removed by including the variable "batch" in MS-DAP. Normalisation of peptide abundance

values was applied and the MSqRob algorithm was used for differential analysis at the peptide

level using an FDR threshold of 5%.

GO and pathway analysis was performed using ShinyGO (v. 0.81)[73] with an FDR-adjusted p-

value threshold of 0.05. All detected proteins were used as background dataset. The glial

genes GFAP, OLIG1, OMG and AQP4 (as shown by squares in Fig.5a) were omitted for the

GO-term analysis. A minimum of 3 proteins belonging to the same pathway and a maximum

of 500 were considered to identify that pathway as a hit.

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange

Consortium via the PRIDE[74] partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD061887.

**Statistics**

GraphPad Prism 8.4.2 software was used for statistical analysis. Mean per neuron or mean

per well was used for the analysis of data obtained via confocal microscopy or high-throughput

microscopy, respectively. Data were normalised to the mean of the control condition, per

timepoint unless otherwise specified. Visual outliers in the pooled data were tested using the

ROUT method (Q = 1%) and excluded when significant. When applicable, a two-way ANOVA

was run followed by a Tukey's or Sidak's post-hoc test. Otherwise, the data were tested for

normality using the Shapiro-Wilk test. If the data were not normally distributed, the non-

parametric Mann-Whitney test for the comparison of two groups and a Kruskal-Wallis test

followed by a Dunn's multiple comparison post-hoc test for the comparison of more than two

groups were used. For normally distributed data, the conditions were grouped based on

experiments and a nested t-test was used for the comparison of two groups or a nested one-

way ANOVA followed by a Dunnett's multiple comparison of more than two groups. For the

comparison of tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons from the same well, a paired t-test was

used. For western blot analyses, an unpaired t-test was used to compare two groups or a two-

way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was used when applicable. Only the most

relevant $P$-values were included in the figures. A $P$-value of $< 0.05$ was considered statistically

significant. *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not significant.

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# Figure 1

**Figure 1: GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced neurodegeneration. a-c**
Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 22. Neurons were
immunostained for the phosphorylated tau marker AT8 (green) and the GVB marker CK1δ
(magenta) (**a**), the GVB markers pPERK (green) and CK1δ (magenta) (**b**), pPERK (green)
and lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (magenta) (**c**) and the dendrite marker MAP2 (red).
The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed white squares and the yellow arrow represents
the location of the line intensity profiles. **d** Schematic of the experimental timeline indicating
the time of transduction with FTDtau[1+2], start of tau aggregation and GVB formation, analysis
was at day 15 or 22. **e-g** Quantification of tau-induced neuronal loss (tau+; **e**), tau+/GVB- (**f**)
or tau+/GVB+ (**g**) neurons analysed at day 15 or day 22, normalised to the mean number of
tau- neurons per timepoint. For day 15, N=15 and n=57 (tau-) and 52 (tau+/GVB- and
tau+/GVB+). For day 22, N=6 and n=27 (tau-) and 27 (tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+). A nested
t-test (**e, f**) and a Mann-Whitney test (**g**) were used. **h** Schematic of the protocol used to assess
the progression of tau aggregation and GVB+ formation by transduction with FTDtau[1+2] at the
indicated points. **i** Representative high-content microscopy images at different FTDtau[1+2]
exposure durations as indicated. Neurons were immunostained for AT8 (green), MAP2 (red)
and pPERK (magenta). The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed black squares. Green
arrowheads indicate GVB+ neurons. **j** Quantification of the percentage GVB+ neurons and the
mean AT8 immunofluorescence intensity normalized to 29 days FTDtau[1+2] exposure (1) and
untransduced (0). Single datapoints represent one well. N=4 and n=10, 10, 12, 12 and 11 for
0, 11, 15, 22 and 29 days with FTDtau[1+2], respectively. A nested one-way ANOVA followed by
a Dunnett's post-hoc test (AT8 intensity) and a Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Dunn's post-
hoc test (GVB%) were used. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue) and separate channels
are shown in greyscale (**a-c, i**). Single datapoints represent one well (**e-g, j**). Data are
presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$,
****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not significant.

# Figure 2

**Figure 2: GVB formation requires basal autophagy. a** Representative confocal images of tau- or tau+ neurons analysed at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for the pathological tau marker MC1 (green), the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and the lysosomal membrane marker LIMP2 (magenta). **b, c** Single cell quantification of the number of LIMP2+ lysosomes in the soma (**b**) and lysosomal volume (**c**) in tau- and tau+ neurons analysed at day 15. Data were normalised to tau- neurons. N=3 and n=32 (tau-) and 97 (tau+). A Mann-Whitney test (**b, c**) was used. **d** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons at day 15, immunostained for MC1 (green), the GVB-marker pPERK (red) and the lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (magenta). **e, f** Single cell quantification of the number of LAMP1+ lysosomes in the soma including (**e**) and lysosomal volume (**f**) in tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 15. Data were normalised to the mean of tau+/GVB- neurons. N=3 and n=36 (tau+/GVB-) and 27 (tau+/GVB+). A Mann-Whitney test (**e, f**) was used. **g** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons treated with lysosomal inhibitors E64D and PepstatinA (PepA) for 24h analysed at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for the phosphorylated tau marker AT8 (green), LAMP1 (red), pPERK (magenta) and MAP2 (blue). **h** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 15. Neurons were treated with Proteostat (red) to detect aggregated proteins and immunostained for AT8 (green), pPERK (magenta) and MAP2 (blue). **i** Representative high-content microscopy images of tau+ neurons treated without or with the VPS34 chemical inhibitor Sar405 for 48h, 72h or 8d analysed at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for MAP2 (red) and pPERK (green). **j** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons upon Sar405 treatment normalised to untreated per timepoint at day 15. N=3 and n=9 and 8 (48h), n=8 and 8 (72h), n=8 and 9 (8d), Ctr and Sar405, respectively. A nested t-test (48h and 72h) and a Mann-Whitney test (8d) were used. **k, m** Representative high-content microscopy images of tau+ neurons transduced with a control (*shScr*), shRNA targeting *Fip200* (*shFip200*; **k**) or *Atg5* (*shAtg5;* **m**) 8d before analysis at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for MAP2 (red) and pPERK (**k**) or CK1δ (**m**) (green). **l, n** Quantification of the the percentage of pPERK+ (**l**) or CK1δ+ (**n**) GVB+ neurons upon *Fip200* (**l**) and *Atg5* knock-down (KD) (**n**) normalised to *shScr*. N=3 and n=9 and 8 (*Fip200* KD), n=6 and 6 (*Atg5* KD), *shScr* and *shFip200* or *shAtg5*, respectively. A nested t-test was used (**l, n**). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue) and separate channels are shown in greyscale (**a, d, g, h, i, k, m**). Zoomed regions are indicated by a dashed white square and the yellow arrow represents the location of the line intensity profile (**g, h**). Green arrowheads indicate single GVB+ neurons (**i, k, m**). Single datapoints represent one well (**j, l, m**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001 and ns: not significant.

**Figure 3**

**Figure 3: CK1δ is a key regulator for the formation of GVBs**. **a** Representative high-
content microscopy images of tau+ neurons without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 6h, 24h, 48h or 8d
analysed at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and
the GVB marker pPERK (green). Green arrowheads indicate single GVB+ neurons. **b**
Schematic of the timeline of CK1δ$_i$. **c, e** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+
neurons (**c**) or mean nuclear CK1δ intensity (**e**) upon CK1δ$_i$ treatment analysed at day 15
normalised to untreated per timepoint. N=3 and n=8 and 8 (6h), 8 and 8 (24h), 8 and 7 (48h),
8 and 8 (8d), for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A nested t-test (6h, 24h and 48h; **c, e**) and a
Mann-Whitney test (8d; **c, e**) were used. **d** Representative high-content microscopy images of
tau+ neurons treated without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h analysed at day 15. Neurons were
immunostained for MAP2 (red) and CK1δ (magenta). **f** Schematic representation of
subcellular localization of GFP-CK1δ and GFP-CK1δ-NES in the absence and presence of
CK1δ$_i$. **g** Representative high-content microscopy images of tau+ neurons transduced with
GFP, GFP-CK1δ or GFP-CK1δ-NES without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h analysed at day 22. Shown
are GFP signal (magenta) and immunofluorescent signal for MAP2 (red) and pPERK (green).
**h** Quantification of mean nuclear GFP signal of neurons transduced with GFP, GFP-CK1δ or
GFP-CK1δ-NES upon 48h of CK1δ$_i$ treatment in GFP-selected neurons analysed at day 22.
First, the nuclear GFP intensity was normalised per group upon CK1δ$_i$, after which it was
normalised to the response in GFP-transduced neurons. N=3 and n=9 (GFP), 8 (GFP-CK1δ),
9 (GFP-CK1δ-NES). A Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Dunn's post-hoc test was used. **i**
Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons of neurons transduced with GFP,
GFP-CK1δ or GFP-CK1δ-NES upon 48h of CK1δ$_i$ treatment in GFP-selected neurons
analysed at day 22 normalised to untreated per group. N=3 and n=9 and 9 (GFP), 9 and 8
(GFP-CK1δ), 9 and 9 (GFP-CK1δ-NES), for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A nested t-test was
used. **j** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons transduced with GFP or
GFP-CK1δ, upon 48h of CK1δ$_i$ treatment in GFP-selected neurons analysed at day 22 and
normalised to untreated GFP-transduced neurons. N=3 and n=9 and 9 (GFP), 9 and 8 (GFP-
CK1δ), for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A two-way ANOVA followed by a Sidak's post-hoc test
was used. **k** Schematic of the timeline of induction of CK1δ expression (Dox) and inhibition of
autophagy (Sar405). **l** Quantification of the percentage of GFP+/GVB+ neurons transduced
with Dox-GFP-CK1δ and treated with Dox for 72h, without or with Sar405 for 48h, analysed at
day 15 and normalised to untreated. GVBs were defined using Dox-GFP-CK1δ as the GVB-
marker. N=3 and n=9. A nested t-test was used. **m** Schematic of the timeline of induction of
autophagy (Torin1) and CK1δ$_i$. **n** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons
upon CK1δ$_i$ treatment without or with prior Torin1 treatment analysed at day 15 normalised to
untreated. N=4 and n=11. A two-way ANOVA test followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was
used. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue) and separate channels are shown in greyscale

(**a, d, g**). Single datapoints represent one well (**c, e, h-j, l, n**). Data are presented as

mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and

ns: not significant.

**Figure 4**

 **Figure 4: CK1δ accumulation in GVBs marks the appearance of GVBs**. **a** Representative
confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h analysed at day 22
(maximum intensity projected Z-stacks). Neurons were immunostained for the GVB markers
CK1δ (magenta) and pPERK (green) and the dendrite marker MAP2 (red). **b-d** Single cell
quantification of number of GVBs per neuron (**b**), single GVB size (**c**) and the ratio of CK1δ
intensity in the GVB over the cytosol (**d**) of tau+/GVB+ neurons without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h
analysed at day 22. N=3 and n=61 and 57, for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A Mann-Whitney
test (**b-d**) was used. **e** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at
day 22. Neurons were transduced with GFP, GFP-CK1δ or GFP-CK1δ-K38M. The neurons
were immunostained for pPERK (magenta), the lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (red)
and MAP2 (blue). The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed white squares and the yellow
arrow represents the location of the line intensity profiles. **f** Single cell quantification of the
ratio of GFP, GFP-CK1δ or GFP-CK1δ-K38M intensity in the pPERK+ GVBs over the cytosol
analysed at day 22. N=3 and n=42 (GFP), 40 (GFP-CK1δ), 45 (GFP-CK1δ-K38M). A two-way
ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was used. **g** Schematic overview of tau+ neurons
transduced with Dox-GFP-CK1δ treated with doxycycline (Dox) for 6h, 24h, 48h, 72h or 96h
as indicated by the pink arrow and without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 6h, 24h or 48h indicated by the
green arrow. **h** Quantification of the percentage of GFP+/GVB+ neurons treated with Dox and
without or with CK1δ$_i$ according to the conditions specified in **g** normalised to control neurons
treated for 96h with Dox analysed at day 22. GVBs were defined using Dox-GFP-CK1δ as the
GVB-marker. Single datapoints represent one well. N=3 and n=8 and 8 (condition 2), 9 and 9
(for the other conditions), Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. **i** Representative live confocal images
of tau+/GVB+ neurons transduced with GFP-CK1δ and followed over time after FRAP. Shown
are cells directly after FRAP (t=0h) and at the end of the experiment (t=17h) is shown. The
red square indicates the region that was exposed to FRAP. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI
(blue) and separate channels are shown in greyscale (**a, e**). Data are presented as
mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not
significant.

# Figure 5

**Figure 5: GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced protein synthesis impairment. a**
Volcano plot showing significantly upregulated (green) and downregulated (pink) proteins in
tau+ neurons (q-value < 0.05) analysed at day 15. See Methods for details. **b** Most significant
terms resulting from the GO enrichment analysis of significantly upregulated (green) and
downregulated (pink) proteins in tau+ neurons. The circle size at the tip of the bar represents
the number of significant proteins involved in the process and the colour intensity is indicative
of the significance of the GO term. See Methods for details. **c** Representative high-content
microscopy images showing tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 22.
Neurons were treated for 15min with puromycin and were immunostained for puromycinilated
proteins (green), the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and the GVB marker pPERK (magenta). **d**
Quantification of puromycin intensity as a measure for *de novo* protein synthesis in tau-,
tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons analysed at day 22 normalised to tau-
neurons. N=4 and n=12. A nested one-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was
used. **e** Schematic overview of the integrated stress response (ISR). **f** Quantification of mean
nuclear ATF4 intensity in tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (CK1δ based) neurons at day 22
normalised to tau-. Single datapoints represent one well. N=3 and n=9. A nested one-way
ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was used. **g** Quantification of SLC3A2 somatic
intensity in tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (CK1δ based) neurons analysed at day 22. N=3 and
n=9. A paired t-test was used. **h** Quantification of puromycin intensity as a measure for *de*
*novo* protein synthesis in tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons treated
with TM for 24h analysed at day 22 normalised to each group. N=3 and n= 8 and 9 (tau-), 9
and 9 (tau+/GVB-), 9 and 9 (tau+/GVB+), for Ctr and TM, respectively. A nested t-test was
used. **i** Quantification of mean nuclear ATF4 intensity in tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+
(CK1δ based) neurons treated with TM for 24h analysed at day 22 normalised to each group.
N=3 and n=9. A nested t-test was used. **j-n** Quantification of somatic intensities in tau+/GVB-
and tau+/GVB+ (CK1δ based) neurons analysed at day 22 for 40S ribosomal protein S12
(RPS12) (**j**), 60S ribosomal protein L15 (RPL15) (**k**), 60S ribosomal protein L24 (RPL24) (**l**)
and ribosome biogenesis factors BYSL (**m**) and LTV1 (**n**). RPS12 (**j**): N=6 and n=18. RPL15
(**k**): N=3 and n=9. RPL24 (**l**): N=6 and n=18. BYSL (**m**): N=4 and n=11. LTV1 (**n**): N=4 and
n=11. A paired t-test (**j-n**) was used. **o-r**, Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+
neurons analysed at day 22. Neurons were treated with SYTO RNASelect to visualise RNA
for 4h (green) and immunostained for CK1δ (magenta) (**o**), puromycin (green) and pPERK
(magenta) (**p**), RPS12 (green) and CK1δ (magenta) (**q**) and RPL24 (green) and CK1δ
(magenta) (**r**) and MAP2 (red). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). The zoomed regions
are indicated by dashed white squares and the yellow arrow represents the location of the line
intensity profiles. The red arrow points to a single GVB core. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI
(blue) and separate channels are shown in greyscales (**c, o-r**). Single datapoints represent

one well (**d, f, g, h, i, j-n**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P$ <

0.05, **$P$ < 0.01, ***$P$ < 0.001, ****$P$ < 0.0001 and ns: not significant.

# Figure 6

**Figure 6: GVB+ neurons fully retain the capacity to control LTP-regulated protein synthesis in the presence of tau pathology. a** Schematic of the timeline of protein synthesis inhibition using anisomycin (Ani). **b** Quantification of puromycin intensity as a measure for *de novo* protein synthesis in tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons treated with Ani for 48h analysed at day 15 and normalised to untreated per group. N=3 and n=6. A Mann-Whitney test (tau+/GVB-) and a nested t-test (tau+/GVB+) were used. **c** Quantification of neuron number of tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons treated with anisomycin for 48h analysed at day 15 and normalised to untreated per group. N=4 and n=12. A nested t-test was used. **d, e** Representative high-content microscopy images of tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons treated without or with 4BF (see Methods) for 4h. Neurons were immunostained for IEGs ARC (**d**) or c-FOS (**e**), the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and the GVB marker CK1δ (magenta). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). Separate channels are shown in greyscales. **f, g** Quantification of mean nuclear ARC (**f**) or c-FOS (**g**) in tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (CK1δ (**f**) or pPERK (**g**) based) neurons upon 4BF-dependent LTP-induction treated without or with anisomycin before LTP-induction normalised to tau-LTP-induced response. Single datapoints represent one well. N=4 (Ctr and 4BF) and 3 (4BF + Ani) and n=8, 8 and 8 (Ctr), 12, 12 and 12 (4BF), 6, 6 and 6 (4BF + Ani), for tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+, respectively. A two-way ANOVA test followed by a post-hoc Tukey's test (**f, g**) was used. Single datapoints represent one well (**b, c, f, g**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not significant.

**Figure 7: Model for the resilience to tau pathology-mediated neurodegeneration by GVB**
**formation**. Intraneuronal tau aggregation impairs protein synthesis and ultimately leads to
neuron loss. In a subset of neurons, CK1δ activation drives GVB formation in an autophagy-
dependent manner. GVB+ neurons are resilient to tau-induced protein synthesis impairment
and neurodegeneration. This resilience is facilitated by enhanced ribosomal and lysosomal
content, which supports protein synthesis by increasing the protein synthesis machinery as
well as the free amino acid pool. This allows GVB+ neurons (in contrast to GVB- neurons) to
fully retain the capacity to induce the LTP-induced synthesis of IEGs in the presence of tau
pathology, unlike GVB- neurons. Our data identify CK1δ-induced GVB formation as an
intrinsic neuron-specific resilience mechanism that provides neuronal protection against tau
pathology.

**Extended Data Fig.1**

**Extended Data Fig.1: Tau aggregation does not alter neuronal morphology, viability and network activity. a** Representative high-content microscopy images showing the workflow for assessing neuron and pre-synapse morphology based on immunofluorescence staining of the dendrite marker MAP2 (red, grey) and the pre-synapse marker synaptophysin (green, grey) analysed at day 15. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed white squares. The detection of dendrites is based on the MAP2 signal (red traces, 1) and pre-synapses (yellow outline, 2) are defined using synaptophysin punctae within the dendrite region (red outline, 2). **b-g** Quantification of neuron and pre-synapse morphology in tau- or tau+ neurons analysed at day 15, including dendrite length (**b**), number of extremities (**c**), number of segments (**d**), and number of primary dendrites (**e**), normalised to neuron number. Pre-synaptic analysis includes pre-synapse density (**f**) and synaptophysin intensity (**g**) normalised to dendrite length. N=3 and n=9. A Mann-Whitney test (**b**) and a nested t-test (**c-g**) were used. **h-o**: Quantification of network activity in tau- or tau+ neuronal networks using calcium imaging analysed at day 15 including network frequency (**h**), mean full width half maximum (FWHM) (**i**), mean calcium intensity (**j**), mean rise time (**k**), mean frequency (**l**), peak participation (**m**), participation (**n**) and mean decay tau (**o**). Single datapoints represent recordings from 10 neurons per field of view. N=3 and n=18 (tau-) or 16 (tau+). A Mann-Whitney test (**h-k, n, o**) and a nested t-test (**l, m**) were used. **p** Representative high-content microscopy images at different FTDtau[1+2] exposure durations as indicated. Neurons were immunostained for the pathological tau marker MC1 (green) and MAP2 (red) and nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). MC1 channel is shown in greyscale. **q** Quantification of mean MC1 immunofluorescence intensity normalized to 29 days FTDtau[1+2] exposure (1) and untransduced (0). Single datapoints represent one well. N=3 and n=9 for all FTDtau[1+2]-exposures. A Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Dunn's post-hoc test was used. Single data points represent one well (**b-g, q**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.2: Inhibition of endocytosis does not affect the formation of GVBs.**

**a** Schematic of interventions used to block dynamin- and lipid raft dependent endocytosis. **b**

Representative confocal images of tau+ neurons analysed at day 15. Neurons were left

treated without or with the dynamin inhibitor Dyngo4a or the lipid raft inhibitor Filipin3 for 48h.

The neurons were incubated for 23h with transferrin-488 (TFN-488) or for 30 min with Cholera

Toxin Subunit B (CTB-488) and immunostained for MAP2 (blue). Nuclei were visualised by

DAPI (blue). Separate channels are shown in greyscale. **c** Quantification of the percentage of

pPERK+ GVB+ neurons upon Dyngo4a or Filipin3 treatment, normalised to untreated. Single

datapoints represent one well. N=3 and n=17 (Ctr), 18 (Dyngo4a) and 18 (Filipin3). A nested

one-way ANOVA test followed by a Dunnett's post-hoc test was used. Data are presented as

mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.3**

**Extended Data Fig.3: Validation of autophagy interventions. a** Schematic of interventions used to block mTOR-dependent autophagy. **b** Representative western blot of P62 of neurons treated without or with Sar405 for 8d, 72h or 48h, analysed at day 15. **c** Representative western blot of FIP200 of neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shFip200* 8d before analysis at day 15. **d** Quantification of FIP200 intensity over total protein upon *Fip200* knock-down (KD) normalised to *shScr*. Single datapoints represent individual experiments. N=3. An unpaired t-test was used. **e** Representative western blot of P62 of neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shFip200* 8d before analysis at day 15. **f** Representative western blot of ATG5 of neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shAtg5* 8d before analysis at day 15. **g** Quantification of ATG5 intensity over total protein upon *Atg5* KD normalised to *shScr*. Single datapoints represent individual experiments. N=3. An unpaired t-test was used. **h** Representative western blot of P62 of neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shAtg5* 8d before analysis at day 15. **i, k** Representative western blot of p-4E-BP1 and 4E-BP1 of neurons treated without or with Torin1 (**i**) or rapamycin (**k**) for 48h analysed at day 15. **j, l** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ (**j**) or CK1δ+ (**l**) GVB+ neurons upon 48h of Torin1 (**j**) or rapamycin (**l**) treatment normalised to untreated per timepoint analysed at day 15. Single datapoints represent one well. N=3 and n=8 and 8 (Torin1) or n=11 and 8 (rapamycin), Ctr and Torin1 or rapamycin, respectively. A nested t-test was used (**j, l**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$ and ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.4**

**Extended Data Fig.4: CK1δ inhibition does alter neuronal morphology. a-l** Quantification of neuron and pre-synapse morphology of tau+ neurons treated without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h or 8d analysed at day 15. Dendrite length (**a, g**), number of extremities (**b, h**), number of segments (**c, i**) and number of primary dendrites (**d, j**) were normalised to number of neurons. Number of pre-synapses (**e, k**) was normalised to dendrite length and the intensity of synaptophysin was measured within single pre-synapses (**f, l**). N=3, n=9 and 9 (48h), 9 and 6 (8d), for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A nested t-test (**a-f, h-l**) and a Mann-Whitney test (**g**) were used. **m** Quantification of tau+ neuron number upon CK1δ$_i$ treatment for 6h, 24h, 48h or 8d analysed at day 15 normalised to untreated per timepoint. N=3 and n=8 and 8 (6h), 8 and 8 (24h), 8 and 7 (48h), 8 and 8 (8d), for Ctr and CK1δ$_i$, respectively. A nested t-test was used. **n** Schematic of the timeline of CK1δ$_i$. **o, p** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons (**o**) and mean nuclear CK1δ intensity (**p**) upon CK1δ$_i$ treatment analysed at day 22 normalised to untreated per timepoint. N=3 and n=9. A Mann-Whitney test (24h; **p**) and a nested t-test (the rest) was used. Single data points represent one well (**a-l, m, o, p**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, ***$P < 0.001$, ****$P < 0.0001$ and ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.5: CK1δ does not affect GVB detection or tau pathology. a, b**
Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed on day 22. Neurons were
immunostained for the GVB markers CK1δ (green) and GOLGINA4 (magenta) (**a**), the
lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (green) and GOLGINA4 (magenta) (**b**) and the dendrite
marker MAP2 (red). The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed white squares and the
yellow arrow represents the location of the line intensity profiles. **c** Quantification of the
percentage of CK1δ+ or GOLGINA4+ GVB+ neurons upon 48h of CK1δi treatment analysed
at day 22 normalised to untreated per GVB-marker. N=3, n=8. A nested t-test was used. **d, e**
Representative high-content microscopy images of FTDtau[1+2]- (**d**) or FTDtau[1+2]-GFP-
transduced (green) (**e**) neurons treated without or with CK1δi for 48h and analysed at day 15.
Neurons were immunostained for the pathological tau marker MC1 (green) (**d**) and MAP2
(red). **f** Quantification of mean MC1 immunofluorescence intensity upon CK1δi for 48h or 8d
normalised to untreated control. N=3 and n=8 and 9 (48h), 7 and 9 (8d), for Ctr and CK1δi,
respectively. A nested t-test was used. **g** Quantification of mean FTDtau[1+2]-GFP intensity upon
CK1δi for 48h or 8d normalised to untreated control. Single data points represent one well.
N=4 and n=12 and 10 (48h), 12 and 11 (8d), for Ctr and CK1δi, res ectively. A nested t-test
was used. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue) and separate channels are shown in
greyscale (**a, b, d, e**). Single data points represent one well (**c, f, g**). Data are presented as
mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$ and ns: not significant.

# Extendetd Data Fig.6

**Extended Data Fig.6: CK1δ knock-down reduces GVB formation. a** Schematic of the timeline of CK1δ knock-down (KD). **b** Representative western blot of CK1δ of neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shCsnk1d* 4d before analysis at day 15. **c** Quantification of CK1δ intensity over total protein upon *Csnk1d* KD normalised to *shScr*. Single datapoints represent individual experiments. N=4. An unpaired t-test was used. **d** Representative high-content microscopy images of tau+ neurons transduced with *shScr* or *shCsnk1d* 4d before analysis at day 15. Neurons were immunostained for the GVB marker pPERK (green) and the dendrite marker MAP2 (red). Green arrowheads indicate GVB+ neurons. **e, f** Quantification of the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons (**e**) or neuron number (**f**) of tau+ neurons upon 4d of *Csnk1d* KD normalised to *shScr*. Single datapoints represent one well. N=4 and n=11 and 12, for *shScr* and *shCsnk1d*, respectively. A nested t-test (**e, f**) was used. **g** Schematic of the timeline of CK1δ KD and rescue. **h** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 22. Neurons were transduced with GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ which also localised to GVBs. The neurons were immunostained for pPERK (magenta), the lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (red) and MAP2 (blue). The zoomed region is indicated by a dashed white square and the yellow arrow represents the location of the line intensity profile. **i** Representative western blot of CK1δ of neurons transduced with GFP-CK1δ or GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ at day 4 and subsequently transduced with either *shScr* or *shCsnk1d* at day 11 and analysed at day 15. **j** Quantification of CK1δ intensity over total protein upon *Csnk1d* normalised to *shScr* per group and analysed at day 15. GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ shows a partial rescue of CK1δ protein levels. Single datapoints represent individual experiments. N=3. An unpaired t-test was used. **k, l** Quantification of the number of GFP+ neurons (**k**) or the percentage of pPERK+ GVB+ neurons transduced with GFP or GFP-CK1δ$_{RES}$ upon *Csnk1d* KD analysed at day 15 and normalised to *shScr* treated neurons per group. N=4 and n=12. Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue) and separate channels are shown in greyscale (**d, h**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001 and ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.7: Tau aggregation does not increase CK1δ levels. a** Representative western blot of CK1δ of tau- or tau+ neurons that were treated without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h. **b** Quantification of CK1δ intensity of tau- or tau+ neurons that were treated without or with CK1δ$_i$ for 48h and analysed at day 15. Single datapoints represent individual experiments. N=7. A two-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test was used. **c** Quantification of somatic CK1δ intensity in tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons, excluding the GVB-area, normalised to tau+/GVB- neurons. Single data points represent one well. N=3 and n=8. A paired t-test was used. **d, f** Representative confocal images of tau+/GVB+ neurons analysed at day 22. Neurons were transduced with GFP-CK1δ-NES (**d**) or Dox-GFP-CK1δ and treated with Dox for 48h (**f**). The neurons were immunostained for the GVB marker pPERK (magenta), the lysosomal membrane marker LAMP1 (red) and the dendrite marker MAP2 (blue). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). Separate channels are shown in greyscale. The zoomed regions are indicated by dashed white squares and the yellow arrow represents the location of the line intensity profiles. **e, g** Representative western blots of CK1δ of neurons transduced with GFP-CK1δ (**e, g**), GFP-CK1δ-NES (**e**), GFP-CK1δ-K38M (**e**) or Dox-GFP-CK1δ and treated with Dox for 48h (**g**) and analysed at day 15. Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: *$P < 0.05$ and ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.8: GVBs are stable structures. a** Visualisation of GVB half-life ($t_{1/2}$)

based on the polynomial equation obtained from Fig. 1h ($y = 0.05x^2 - 0.3x + 0.2$) to calculate

the expected amount of GVB+ neurons after different exposure periods to tau aggregation

(grey line) and the observed amount of GVB+ neurons upon 24h, 48h and 8d of CK1$\delta_i$

(Supplementary Fig. 4o). Assuming an exponential decay ($N_t=N_0e^{-kt}$ and $t_{1/2}=\ln2/k$), $t_{1/2}$ was

calculated using the ratio of expected over observed amount of GVB+ neurons upon CK1$\delta_i$.

The green arrows indicate the difference in expected and observed amount of GVB+ neurons

per timepoint.

**Extended Data Fig.9: GVB formation and regulation does not depend on transient stress pathways. a** Representative high-content microscopy images showing tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons treated with TM for 24h analysed at day 22. Neurons were treated for 15min with puromycin and were immunostained for puromycinilated proteins (green), the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and the GVB marker pPERK (magenta). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). Separate channels are shown in greyscales. **b, c** Quantification of the percentage of CK1δ+ (**b**) or pPERK+ (**c**) GVB+ neurons upon TM (**b**) or PERK$_i$ (**c**) treatment for 48h analysed at day 15 normalised to untreated. N=3 and n=7 (TM; **b**), 9 (PERKi; **c**). A Mann-Whitney test (**b**) and nested t-test (**c**) were used. **d** Quantification of the percentage of CK1δ+ GVB+ neurons after 8d of knock-down of the EIF2AK proteins *Gcn2* (*Eif2ak4*), *Pkr* (*Eif2ak2*) and *Hri* (*Eif2ak1*) normalised to neurons transduced with the *shScr*. N=3 and n=6. A nested one-way ANOVA followed by a Dunnett's post-hoc test was used. **e** Representative western blot of p-4E-BP1 and 4E-BP1 of tau- or tau+ neurons analysed at day 15. **f** Quantification of p-4E-BP1 over 4E-BP1 intensity of tau+ neurons normalised to tau- analysed at day 15. N=3. An unpaired t-test was used. **g, h** Quantification of puromycin intensity as a measure for *de novo* protein synthesis in tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ (pPERK based) neurons treated with angiogenin inhibitor (ANG$_i$, **g**) or Torin1 (**h**) for 24h analysed at day 22 normalised to untreated per group. N=3 and n=9. A nested t-test (**g, h**) was used. Single datapoints represent one well (**b-d, g, h**). Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. *P*-values are indicated: ns: not significant.

**Extended Data Fig.10: LTP-dependent induction of immediately early genes (IEGs) is**
**dependent on protein synthesis**. **a, b** Representative high-content microscopy images of
tau-, tau+/GVB- and tau+/GVB+ neurons treated with anisomycin prior to treatment with 4BF
(see Methods) for 4h. Neurons were immunostained for IEGs ARC (**a**) (green) or c-FOS (**b**)
(green), the dendrite marker MAP2 (red) and the GVB markers CK1δ (magenta) (**a**) or pPERK
(magenta) (**b**). Nuclei were visualised by DAPI (blue). Separate channels are shown in
greyscales.

**Supplementary Video 1: GVBs are stable, dynamic structures.** Representative live imaging of a tau+ neuron transduced with GFP-CK1δ (grey) and imaged at day 21. An image was taken every 20 min for the duration of 9.20h. Although GVBs very rarely appeared or disappeared, this example shows a GVB disappearing (red arrow) and one appearing (black arrow).