Turbulence orchestrates actin-mitochondria dynamics to preserve GPIbα and support

iPSC-derived platelet biogenesis

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ABSTRACT

The *in vitro* manufacturing of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived platelets (iPSC-platelets) remains limited by low yield and poor quality, thus impeding practical clinical application. To address this, we developed a turbulence-assisted system using defined physical stimulation to enhance platelet production from immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell lines (imMKCLs). This approach significantly increases the yield of glycoprotein Ibα (GPIbα)$^+$ functional iPSC-platelets. However, the underlying mechanisms remained unclear. Here, we reveal that GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-platelets retain high mitochondrial membrane potential, low phosphatidylserine (PS) exposure, and active ATP-dependent flippases, preserving mitochondrial integrity and platelet functionality. In contrast, GPIbα$^-$ platelets exhibit PS exposure, ADAM17 activation, and selective GPIbα shedding. Notably, turbulent flow induces late-stage actin depolymerization, promoting even mitochondrial distribution within maturing imMKCLs and enhancing mitochondrial inheritance to iPSC-platelets. These findings highlight the key role of turbulence in regulating actin dynamics and mitochondrial allocation during platelet biogenesis, providing a mechanistic foundation for improving in vitro platelet production for therapeutic use.

INTRODUCTION

Amid the scarcity of safe and immediately effective definitive therapies for patients with thrombocytopenia or acute bleeding, transfusion medicine using donor-derived platelet products remains the cornerstone of available treatments. However, these products face significant limitations, including a short shelf life of approximately 4–5 days (Brixner et al., 2024) due to the lack of long-term storage methods that simultaneously prevent the risk of bacterial growth and preserve platelet function and morphology, as well as an inconsistent supply that is entirely dependent on donors. A major clinical challenge is alloimmune platelet transfusion refractoriness (allo-PTR), which arises from alloimmunization due to previous transfusions or pregnancy (Panch et al., 2023). This condition is primarily driven by sensitization to platelet alloantigens, such as human leukocyte antigen class I (HLA-I) and human platelet antigen (HPA). Currently, there are no effective practical treatments when matched donor products for HLA-I or HPA are unavailable.

In this context, we conducted the first-in-human clinical trial of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived platelets (iPSC-platelets) as an autologous transfusion to an allo-PTR patient with anti-HPA-1a antibodies (Sugimoto et al., 2022a). The trial was made possible by developing immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell lines (imMKCLs) capable of generating iPSC-platelets (Nakamura et al., 2014). Following an established protocol for imMKCL generation, we successfully created a master cell bank of imMKCLs, enabling on-demand platelet production (Sugimoto et al., 2022b).

Another key breakthrough in platelet biomanufacturing was the development of an efficient, large-scale production system. A pivotal innovation in this field involved identifying a novel mechanobiological concept: turbulence synergizes with shear stress to promote megakaryocyte maturation and functional platelet biogenesis. This was inspired by *in vivo* observations where physical stress—generated by blood flow—enhanced platelet formation, a phenomenon subsequently recapitulated *in vitro*.

In vivo, multiple mechanisms of thrombopoiesis have been proposed, including proplatelet

extension, cytoplasmic rupture, fragmentation, and membrane budding at the bone marrow

sinusoidal interface (Nishimura et al., 2015; Tilburg et al., 2022; Potts et al., 2020). Moreover,

recent discoveries have identified the pulmonary vasculature, especially at vessel bifurcations,

as a significant site of platelet generation (Lefrançais et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2023). These

bifurcations induce turbulent flow, which can be mimicked in vitro using platforms like the

VerMES reactor or even in simple flask cultures. Under such conditions, the number of GPIbα^+

platelets markedly increases (Ito et al., 2018; Okamoto et al., 2024). However, the precise

molecular mechanisms by which turbulence enhances GPIbα^+ platelet production remain poorly

understood, thereby preventing full optimization of *in vitro* systems.

While crucial for thrombosis, the N-terminal domain of GPIbα—the platelet receptor for von

Willebrand factor (vWF) and fibrinogen—is also known to be shed by ADAM17. Despite this,

the GPIb complex, comprising GPIbα, GPIbβ, GPV, and GPIX, remains structurally stable

under shear stress caused by blood flow (Nishikii et al., 2008). In addition to ectodomain

shedding, desialylation of the N-terminal region of GPIbα also leads to rapid clearance of

platelets *in vivo* (Jansen et al., 2012). Therefore, wholly preserving the structural integrity of

GPIbα is essential for maintaining the functional quality of platelets, even after *in vitro*

production.

Mitochondria are essential for platelet function, primarily by generating ATP to support

platelet activation and aggregation (Melchinger et al., 2019). They also regulate reactive oxygen

species (ROS) levels and calcium homeostasis—both of which are critical for platelet activity

(Chen et al., 2013; Kholmukhamedov et al., 2018; Ajanel et al., 2023). Mitochondrial

dysfunction impairs platelet responses (Richman et al., 2023; Ding et al., 2023) and has been

associated with various pathological conditions, including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's

disease, and type 2 diabetes (Shi et al., 2008; Avila et al., 2012; Zharikov and Shiva, 2013;

Antony et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2017; Twomey et al., 2018; Melchinger et al., 2019). These

findings underscore the critical role of mitochondria in maintaining normal platelet function.

However, our understanding of mitochondrial dynamics during platelet production remains

limited. In particular, how mitochondria are evenly distributed to platelets during their

biogenesis has not been investigated.

In this study, we revealed that functional platelet production was significantly increased

under turbulent flow by enhancing balanced mitochondrial segregation. Specifically, GPIbα$^+$

iPSC-platelets generated under turbulent conditions show elevated mitochondrial membrane

potential and reduced phosphatidylserine (PS) exposure, indicating preserved mitochondrial

function. In contrast, GPIbα$^-$ iPSC-platelets, lacking sufficient ATP to fuel flippases, display

increased PS exposure and undergo ADAM17-dependent GPIbα shedding. Furthermore,

turbulence promotes balanced F-actin dynamics in megakaryocytes, supporting even

mitochondrial distribution and facilitating efficient platelet biogenesis. These findings

underscore the critical role of turbulence in orchestrating intracellular cytoskeletal remodeling

and mitochondrial integrity, offering key insights into improving both the quality and yield of *in*

vitro platelet production systems.

RESULTS

Turbulence enhances high-quality iPSC-platelet production indicated by increasing

GPIbα expression and mitochondrial membrane potential

To determine whether varying levels of turbulent energy and shear stress influence GPIbα

expression, we compared iPSC-platelet production from Clone 17 imMKCLs in different

conditions: static culture (dish), orbital shaking flask (sub-optimal shear and turbulence), and

the VerMES™ bioreactor (optimal shear and turbulence) (Ito et al., 2018) (Fig. 1 A; Fig. S1 A).

By analyzing surface markers such as integrin alpha 2b (CD41) and GPIbα, we found that

turbulence not only increases the functional iPSC-platelet yield but also improves the proportion

of functional iPSC-platelets (Fig. 1, B–D). Only GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-platelets were activated by

ADP/Trap6 or phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) stimulation (Fig. S1 B) and fluorescent

upon Calcein-AM incubation, indicating high viability (Fig. 1 E). Interestingly, GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-

platelets showed higher mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP), as revealed by MitoTracker

Deep Red staining, compared to GPIbα$^-$ iPSC-platelets (Fig. 1 F). Additionally, a culture swap

experiment (dish to flask, flask to dish on day 4) revealed that turbulence from day 4 onward,

aligned with the onset of iPSC-platelets production (Fig. S1, E and F), is essential for improved

iPSC-platelet yield (Fig. 1, G and H), suggesting a positive relationship between mitochondrial

health and GPIbα expression that is promoted by turbulence after day 4.

Mitochondria activity regulates GPIbα expression

Next, we investigated whether mitochondria play a positive regulatory role in GPIbα

expression. We compared MMP, reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels, and ATP levels in

GPIbα$^+$ versus GPIbα$^-$ iPSC-platelets and found that GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-platelets exhibited higher

levels across all three parameters (Fig. 2 A). Furthermore, MMP was inversely correlated with

phosphatidylserine (PS) exposure, measured by annexin V binding, a marker of apoptosis (Fig.

2 B). These findings were consistent in the produced iPSC-platelets from imMKCLs transfected

with CoralHue mito-mAG vector, which allowed visualization of the reduction in intact

mitochondria in static iPSC-platelets compared to those cultured in flasks (Fig. 2 C; Fig. S2 A).

To further investigate the role of mitochondria in GPIbα expression, we inhibited

mitochondrial activity using FCCP (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone), a

well-known uncoupler of proton-mediated ATP production in mitochondria. This treatment led

to a decrease in GPIbα expression, which was reversed when iPSC-platelets were pre-treated

with ADAM17 inhibitors such as KP457 (Hirata et al., 2017), high concentration of GI254023X

(Metz et al., 2012), TAPI-1 (Nishikii et al., 2008), and GM6001 (Bergmeier et al., 2004) (Fig. 2

D). These results were also observed in donor-derived human platelets (Fig. S2 F).

Additionally, to confirm whether MMP levels are dependent on the GPIb-X-IX complex, we

used GPIX- knockout (KO) imMKCLs, which predominantly produce GPIbα⁻ iPSC-platelets.

However, no significant difference in MMP was observed between these and control cells (Fig.

2, E and F), thus confirming that mitochondria are a positive upstream regulator of GPIbα.

Mitochondria supply flippases with ATP to maintain GPIbα expression

It has been previously reported that flippases mediate PS exposure, which in turn activates

ADAM17 (Sommer et al., 2016), and that scramblases, such as TMEM16F (Fujii et al., 2015),

become active during platelet functional decline. To determine whether mitochondrial

regulation of GPIbα expression involves these factors, we examined PS and

phosphatidylcholine (PC) dynamics in iPSC-platelets using fluorescent PS (NBD-PS) and PC

(NBD-PC), which are internalized by recipient platelets when flippases or scramblases are

active, respectively (Fig. 3 A). Consistent with our earlier findings using the annexin V binding

assay (Fig. S1 C), NBD-PS was internalized by GPIbα⁺ but not GPIbα⁻ iPSC-platelets (Fig. 3 B;

Fig. S3 A). When ionomycin was added, a significant increase in calcium levels and a

subsequent decrease in ATP levels were observed, resulting in reduced GPIbα expression and

diminished NBD-PS internalization (Fig. 3, C and D; Fig. S3 A), indicating that mitochondrial

ATP production fuels flippases, internalizing PS and maintaining the inactive conformation of

ADAM17, preventing GPIba shedding in iPSC-platelets.

Turbulence imMKCLs exhibit uniform mitochondria distribution

Next, we investigated intracellular differences between maturing dish and flask imMKCLs,

as mouse and human platelets inherit their mitochondria from megakaryocytes (Richardson et

al., 2005; Jacob et al., 2024). After staining mitochondria with MitoTracker Deep Red and F-

actin with SPY555-FastAct, a F-actin-stabilizing jasplakinolide derivative, respectively, while

confocal imaging revealed uniform distribution of mitochondria and F-actin in flask imMKCLs,

dish imMKCLs displayed distinct megakaryocyte polarization. However, no differences were

observed in the surface expression of CD41/GPIbα or mitochondrial membrane potential

(MMP) over the 6-day culture period (Fig. 4, A and B; Fig. S4, A and B). When mitochondrial

distribution was disrupted using Mdivi-1, there was a dose-dependent shift toward GPIbα⁻

iPSC-platelet production (Fig. 4 C). Although no significant differences were observed in the

oxygen consumption rate between day 4 dish or flask imMKCLs, differences in MMP were

only seen in iPSC-platelets (Fig. 4, D and E), suggesting that turbulence promotes uniform

mitochondrial distribution in megakaryocytes leading to efficient mitochondria inclusion by

platelets.

Turbulence regulates actin dynamics to produce high-quality platelets

The actin cytoskeleton is known to play a crucial role in the distribution of mitochondria

during cell division (Moore et al., 2021). To determine whether actin contributes to the uniform

mitochondrial distribution in imMKCLs, we examined cytoskeletal dynamics under different

culture conditions. Interestingly, there were no significant differences in the expression of

cytoskeleton-related genes (Fig. 5, A–C) or total actin protein levels (Fig. 5, D and E) between

dish and flask cultures. However, from day 4 onwards, we observed a marked, turbulence-

190 dependent reduction in F-actin-specific signals in turbulent cultures compared to static dish

191 cultures (Fig. 5 F).

192  To explore how reduced F-actin levels—detected by SPY555-FastAct staining—might relate

193 to mitochondrial delivery, we first investigated the effects of Latrunculin A, a monomeric actin-

194 binding molecule that prevents actin polymerization. Treatment with Latrunculin A resulted in a

195 dose-dependent decrease in both GPIbα expression and mitochondrial membrane potential

196 (MMP), accompanied by increased annexin V binding as well as decreased F-actin levels in

197 imMKCLs (Fig. 5, G and K). Conversely, treatment with Cytochalasin D, which protects actin

198 filament barbed ends, but not pointed ends, from actin polymerization, significantly enhanced F-

199 actin levels in imMKCLs but still led to diminished GPIbα expression in iPSC-platelets (Fig. 5,

200 H and L). These results suggest that an intermediate, dynamically relaxed actin structure—

201 characterized by moderate F-actin levels (Fig. 5 F)—may be optimal for functional platelet

202 production.

203  To further assess whether actin polymerization-depolymerization dynamics influence GPIbα

204 expression in iPSC-platelets, we evaluated the roles of cofilin, a key mediator of actin

205 depolymerization, and the Arp2/3 complex, a regulator of actin branching (reference). Inhibition

206 of cofilin using SZ-3, or the Arp2/3 complex using CK-666, also resulted in reduced GPIbα

207 expression (Fig. 5, I and J), further supporting the importance of actin dynamics in platelet

208 production.

209  Collectively, these findings highlight the pivotal role of turbulence in modulating actin

210 dynamics and mitochondrial distribution, both essential for generating functional iPSC-platelets.

211 We therefore propose that the dynamic turnover of actin filaments—through a process of

212 balanced polymerization and depolymerization, known as treadmilling—represents a critical

213 mechanism for enabling optimal mitochondrial delivery and efficient iPSC-platelet production

214 (Fig. 5 K).

DISCUSSION

In this study, we sought to elucidate the underlying mechanisms by which turbulent flow facilitates the generation of GPIbα⁺ iPSC-platelets from imMKCLs, as previously described (Ito et al., 2018). To this end, we conducted comparative analyses under turbulent flow and static culture conditions (Fig. 1 A; Fig. S1 A). These experiments revealed that both the absolute platelet number and proportion of GPIbα⁺ iPSC-platelets were significantly increased under turbulent conditions (Fig. 1, B–D). Further characterization confirmed the high quality of these platelets, as demonstrated by assays assessing GPIIb/IIIa activation and P-selectin (CD62P) exposure (Fig. S1 B), annexin V binding (Fig. S1 C), Calcein-AM retention (Fig. 1 F) (Moreau et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2023), and uptake of fluorescently labeled Factor V (Fig. S1, J–L) (Sim et al., 2017). GPIbα expression levels were correlated with other activation-related markers, such as PAR1 and GPVI (Fig. S1 D). These markers are also known to undergo ADAM-mediated shedding, similar to GPIbα, suggesting that GPIbα⁻ platelets may be more prone to shedding under whole-cell conditions (Ludeman et al., 2004; Gardiner et al., 2007).

Notably, GPIbα⁺ iPSC-platelets retained functional mitochondria, as evidenced by preserved mitochondrial signals, maintained membrane potential as well as robust ROS and ATP production (Fig. 1 E, Fig. 2, A and C). Using peripheral blood-derived human platelets, we confirmed that prolonged storage at 22°C or 37°C led to a decline in mitochondrial membrane potential, accompanied by reduced GPIbα expression and increased phosphatidylserine (PS) exposure (Fig. S2, D and E).

These findings suggest that turbulent flow enhances the efficient incorporation of mitochondria into platelet particles. A culture-switch experiment further demonstrated that introducing turbulence from day 4 onward—corresponding to the late maturation stage of imMKCLs—is critical for increasing GPIbα⁺ iPSC-platelet yields (Fig. 1, G and H), indicating that mitochondrial allocation into platelets is regulated during late-stage megakaryocyte maturation and subsequent platelet release (Fig. S1 F). Concomitantly, we observed a

turbulence-specific reduction in F-actin levels from day 4, prompting the hypothesis that

turbulence modulates F-actin dynamics to facilitate mitochondrial distribution, a point we

explored further below.

Previous reports have shown that GPIbα is subject to ectodomain shedding via ADAM17,

reducing its surface expression on both iPSC- and primary platelets (Bergmeier et al., 2004;

Nishikii et al., 2008). However, the upstream regulatory mechanisms have remained elusive. In

this study, we demonstrate that GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-platelets maintain ATP-dependent flippase

activity, which actively suppresses PS externalization. In contrast, impaired mitochondrial

function leads to PS exposure and subsequent ADAM17-mediated GPIbα shedding.

Importantly, scramblase activity was not elevated in GPIbα$^-$ iPSC-platelets, suggesting that PS

exposure in this population arises solely from diminished flippase activity—a departure from

earlier findings implicating Ca^{2+}-dependent scramblase TMEM16F in PS externalization (Fujii

et al., 2015). Ionomycin stimulation failed to elicit Ca^{2+} influx in GPIbα$^-$ iPSC-platelets (Fig. 3

D), indicating a deficiency in the calcium regulation, in contrast to intact peripheral platelets.

Supporting this, peripheral blood platelets subjected to long-term storage at 22°C exhibited

increased scramblase and decreased flippase activity (Fig. S3 B).

While our previous work demonstrated that the ADAM17 inhibitor KP457 enhances the

production of GPIbα$^+$ iPSC-platelets (Hirata et al., 2017), our current findings suggest that

mitochondrial dysfunction is an upstream event regulating GPIbα shedding. Importantly, GPIbα

expression itself did not affect mitochondrial function, as shown in GPIX knockout (KO)

imMKCLs (Fig. 2, E and F). Furthermore, KP457 did not influence the number or function of

resulting platelets (Fig. S1, G–I). Despite prior use of KP457 in culture, our data put into

question its necessity for future iPSC-platelet manufacturing protocols.

In cells, including platelets, intracellular ATP production is supported not only by

mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation but also by glycolysis. While earlier studies reported

that glycolysis is the predominant ATP source in platelets (Akkerman and Holmsen, 1981),

recent advances in analytical techniques have shown that mitochondrial ATP production may

actually be dominant, with oxidative phosphorylation accounting for approximately 75% of

total ATP generation (Jedlička et al., 2021). These findings suggest that mitochondrial

dysfunction can cause intracellular ATP depletion to an extent sufficient to impair flippase

activity and ultimately trigger GPIbα shedding, as demonstrated by treatment with the

depolarizing agent ionomycin (Fig. 3 E).

Mechanistically, turbulence was found to optimize F-actin dynamics by finetuning the

balance between polymerization and depolymerization, thereby ensuring uniform mitochondrial

distribution within maturing megakaryocytes and promoting efficient platelet biogenesis. The

reduction in F-actin levels under turbulent conditions during the late maturation stage (as noted

earlier) highlights this critical window for enhanced GPIbα[+] iPSC-platelet generation. To

validate this, we treated cultures with compounds targeting F-actin (Latrunculin A, Cytochalasin

D), cofilin (SZ-3), the Arp2/3 complex (CK-666), and Drp1 (Mdivi-1). Each of these

interventions led to a dose-dependent decline in GPIbα[+] iPSC-platelet output, although

mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) levels remained relatively unchanged.

Interestingly, previous work has implicated actin polymerization in promoting GPIbα

shedding (Zhou et al., 2022). While Cytochalasin D treatment paradoxically increased F-actin

levels, Latrunculin A reduced both F-actin content and GPIbα expression. Actin filaments were

visualized using a fluorescent derivative of the cell-permeable F-actin-stabilizing compound,

jasplakinolide (Milroy et al., 2012; Merino et al., 2020). As jasplakinolide stabilizes actin

filaments, increases in the F-actin signal should be interpreted with caution (Pospich et al.,

2020; Merino et al., 2020). Nevertheless, the data support a critical role for actin filament

dynamics in mitochondrial distribution and GPIbα expression. These findings suggest that

GPIbα shedding is not simply dictated by polymerized actin quantity but rather by the dynamic

equilibrium of actin turnover. Consistent with this, image analyses revealed uniform

mitochondrial distribution in imMKCLs exposed to turbulent flow. Given that actin treadmilling

is crucial for organelle distribution from mother to daughter cells (Moore et al., 2021) and

neuronal mitochondrial transport relies predominantly on microtubules, our results instead

emphasize an actin-centric mechanism in megakaryocytes. Together, these data support a model

in which actin treadmilling—characterized by continuous polymerization and

depolymerization—governs the even allocation of mitochondria and is fundamental to the

production of functional platelets.

While this study underscores the pivotal role of turbulence in regulating F-actin dynamics

and mitochondrial distribution, the precise mechanotransductive link between turbulent forces

and cytoskeletal modulation in megakaryocytes remains to be further defined. Future work

utilizing confocal and super-resolution microscopy, in conjunction with analysis of specific

actin-binding proteins, will be critical for dissecting actin dynamics in ex vivo megakaryocyte

cultures. Further clarification of the roles of cofilin and the Arp2/3 complex in this context is

also warranted. Finally, identifying the extracellular cues that influence intracellular actin

organization will provide valuable insights for refining iPSC-platelet manufacturing strategies.

In summary, our findings reveal that turbulent flow is a key regulator of actin-dependent

mitochondrial segregation, a process central to generating high-quality iPSC-platelets. These

insights not only advance our understanding of platelet biogenesis but also offer practical

avenues to improve the scalability and quality of iPSC-platelet manufacturing.

Materials and Methods

Cells

imMKCL Clone 17, originally established by the Eto group at Kyoto University, was used in all

experiments except those related to *GP9* knockout (GPIX-KO). GPIX-KO cells were generated

by the Freson group at KU Leuven from clone 7 imMKCL, using the CRISPR-Cas9 system to

introduce a frameshift variant in the *GP9* gene, creating a homozygous deletion. Immunoblot

analysis confirmed the absence of GPIX expression and GPIbα in GPIX-KO cells (De

Wispelaere et al., in revision, *HemaSphere*).

Culture medium

The basal medium consisted of IMDM (Sigma-Aldrich, #I3390) supplemented with 2 mM L-

glutamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #25030-081), insulin-transferrin-selenium (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, #41400-045), 50 µg/mL ascorbic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, #A4544), and 450 µM 1-

thioglycerol (Sigma-Aldrich, #M6145). For DOX-ON cultures, the basal medium was further

supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Sigma-Aldrich, #172012), 50 ng/mL animal

component-free recombinant human stem cell factor (SCF; Wako, #193-15513), 200 ng/mL

TA-316 (Nissan Chemical), and 5 µg/mL doxycycline (Clontech, #631311). For DOX-OFF

cultures, the basal medium was supplemented with human plasma (Japan Blood Products

Organization), 1 IU/mL enoxaparin sodium (Kaken Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.), 50 IU/mL

Cleactor Intravenous Infusion (Eisai Co., Ltd., #3959407D2034), 50 ng/mL SCF, 200 ng/mL

TA-316, 0.75 µM SR-1 (Calbiochem) or 0.5 µM GNF-351 (Calbiochem), and 10 µM Y-27632

(Wako) or 0.5 µM Y-39983 (MedChemExpress).

Cell culture

DOX-ON proliferation culture

The expansion culture (DOX-ON stage) was performed as previously described (Ito et al.,

2018). Briefly, cells were passaged twice a week, maintaining cell densities between $1 \times 10^5 - 2$

$\times 10^6$ cells/mL throughout the culture period. For all experiments except those using the

VerMES bioreactor, DOX-ON cultures were conducted in 10-cm culture dishes (Thermo

Scientific, #150466). For larger-scale experiments using the VerMES bioreactor, cell expansion

was achieved through sequential upsizing as follows: starting with 10-cm static dishes, followed

by 125 mL and 500 mL Corning Erlenmeyer cell culture flasks (Sigma-Aldrich, #431143 and

#431145) under shaking conditions using a Lab-Therm shaker (Kuhner), and finally scaled up

to a 10 L CELLBAG™ operated with the ReadyToProcess WAVE 25 system (Cytiva,

#CB0010L10-03) under rocking motion.

DOX-OFF differentiation culture

For platelet production following imMKCL maturation (Dox-OFF stage), approximately $1-3 \times$

10^5 cells/mL were cultured for 6 days under one of the following conditions: in 10-cm culture

dishes (Thermo Scientific, #150466), in 125 mL Corning Erlenmeyer cell culture flasks (Sigma-

Aldrich, #431143) under shaking conditions using a Lab-Therm shaker (Kuhner), or in a

VerMES bioreactor (SATAKE Co., Ltd., Saitama, Japan). The VerMES bioreactor was

equipped with vertically oscillating two-stage mixing blades, and the optimal operating

conditions for the 8 L VerMES were a stroke of 40 mm and a speed of 150 mm/s.

Human platelets

Donor-derived human platelets were provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society. Human

platelets and plasma were used in compliance with the Guidelines on the use of Donated blood

in R&D, etc., from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.

Flow cytometric analysis

Flow cytometric analysis was performed using a FACSLyric cytometer (BD Biosciences) for

the experiments described below (platelet count, annexin V binding assay, platelet activation,

flippase and scramblase activity, calcium assay, factor V assay, Calcein-AM assay,

mitochondrial measurements, and F-actin detection). The following antibodies and reagents

were used: anti-human CD41-APC (BioLegend, #303710), anti-human CD41-PE (BioLegend,

#303706), anti-human CD42b-PE (BioLegend, #303906), anti-human CD42b-PerCP

(BioLegend, #303910), anti-human CD42a-FITC (eBioscience, #11-0428-42), anti-human

GPVI-Brilliant Violet 421 (BD Biosciences, #743941), anti-human CD62P-Brilliant Violet 421

(BioLegend, #304926), PAC-1-FITC (BD Biosciences, #340507), and Annexin V-FITC (BD

Biosciences, #556419). All flow cytometry data were analyzed using FlowJo v10 (BD

Biosciences).

Platelet count

The number of platelet particles per imMKCL cell was defined as the total count of $CD41^+$

iPSC-platelets or $CD41^+CD42b^+$ iPSC-platelets on the indicated day, divided by the number of

imMKCL cells on day 0 of the Dox-OFF culture. Platelet counts were determined using

Trucount Tubes (BD Biosciences, #340334).

Annexin V binding assay

Staining with FITC-conjugated annexin V, together with anti-CD41 and anti-CD42b antibodies,

was performed in the annexin V binding buffer (BD Biosciences, #556454) supplemented with

1 µM $CaCl_2$. For positive and negative controls, 20 µM ionomycin (Wako, #091-05833) or

EDTA (Nacalai Tesque, #06894-14) were added to each sample, respectively, prior to staining.

Platelets activation

Platelet activation was evaluated by measuring PAC-1 binding and P-selectin (CD62P)

expression, following the protocol described in our previous study (Sone et al., 2021). Briefly,

culture suspensions of iPSC-platelets were stimulated with or without 0.2 µM phorbol 12-

myristate 13-acetate (PMA) or a combination of 100 µM adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and

40 µM thrombin receptor-activating peptide 6 (TRAP-6). Cells were then incubated with anti-

CD62P, anti-human CD41a, and PAC-1 antibodies for 30 minutes at room temperature. After

incubation, samples were diluted in HEPES-Tyrode buffer (10 mM HEPES, 15 mM $NaHCO_3$,

138 mM NaCl, 5.5 mM glucose, 2.6 mM KCl, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, and 2 mM $CaCl_2$) and analyzed by

flow cytometry.

Flippase and scramblase activity

Flippase and scramblase activity was measured as previously described (Miyata and Segawa,

2022). Briefly, iPSC-platelets were stained with 0.5 µM 18:1-06:0 NBD-PS (Merck, #810194P)

for 20 minutes or 0.5 µM 16:0-06:0 NBD-PC (Merck, #810130P) for 60 minutes, together with

anti-CD41 and anti-CD42b antibodies. After staining, 2% BSA (prepared by diluting a 10%

stock solution; Merck, #A1595) was added to remove non-specific binding. To confirm staining

specificity, 60 µM ionomycin was added during NBD-PC or NBD-PS staining.

Calcium assay

iPSC-platelets were stained with 3 µL Fluo-4 AM (Dojindo Molecular Technologies, Inc.,

#F312) together with anti-CD41 and anti-CD42b antibodies for 20 minutes. To assess calcium

influx in response to stimulation, 2 µM ionomycin was added immediately prior to flow

cytometric analysis.

Factor V assay

Human factor V (Haematologic Technologies Inc., #HCV-0100) was fluorescently labeled

using the Fluorescent Protein Labeling Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #A10235) prior to its

addition to imMKCL cultures on day 3 of the Dox-OFF stage. The incorporation of factor V

into the produced platelets was evaluated on day 6.

Calcein-AM assay

Calcein-AM (FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, #341-07901) uptake by iPSC-

platelets was assessed on day 6 of Dox-OFF cultures. Platelets were stained with 2 µM Calcein-

AM together with anti-CD41 and anti-CD42b antibodies for 30 minutes.

Mitochondrial measurements

The reagents and their concentrations used in these experiments were as follows: 100 µM

BioTracker ATP-Red Live Cell Dye (Merck, #SCT045) for ATP content; 1 µM CellROX Deep

Red Flow Cytometry Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #C10491) for reactive oxygen

species (ROS) production; 100 nM MitoTracker Deep Red (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

#M22426) or the MT-1 MitoMP Detection Kit (Dojindo Molecular Technologies, Inc., #MT13)

for mitochondrial membrane potential; 1:10,000 dilution of PicoGreen (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, #P11495) for mitochondrial DNA detection; and 50 nM MitoTracker Green (Dojindo

Molecular Technologies, Inc., #MT10) for mitochondrial presence. Platelets or imMKCLs were

stained with each reagent and antibodies against CD41 and CD42b for 30 minutes.

F-actin detection

For F-actin-specific detection, platelets or imMKCLs were stained with SPY555-FastAct

(Cytoskeleton, Inc., #CY-SC205) together with an anti-CD41 antibody for 2 hours.

Metabolic flux analysis

imMKCL cells were seeded into wells of an XF96 microplate pre-coated with 0.1%

poly-L-lysine to measure the oxygen consumption rate (OCR) using an Agilent Seahorse XF

Pro analyzer. The assay was performed with the Seahorse XF Cell Mito Stress Test Kit (Agilent

Technologies, #103015-100) and XF RPMI Medium, pH 7.4 (Agilent Technologies,

#103576-100). After seeding, the plate was centrifuged at $200 \times g$ for 1 minute to form a

monolayer, then equilibrated for 40 minutes at 37 °C in a CO_2 incubator before starting the

assay. The Cell Mito Stress Test protocol included sequential injections of oligomycin (1 μM),

FCCP (2 μM), and a mixture of rotenone and antimycin A (1 μM each). For each injection, four

measurement cycles were performed, consisting of 3 minutes of mixing followed by 3 minutes

of measurement. OCR data were analyzed using Wave 2.6 software (Agilent Technologies).

Protein Quantification Using Wes System™

Protein levels were analyzed using the Wes™ automated capillary electrophoresis-based

immunoassay system (ProteinSimple). Cells were lysed in RIPA buffer supplemented with

protease and phosphatase inhibitors, and protein concentrations were measured using the BCA

Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The following antibodies were used: anti-β-actin

(Cell Signaling Technology, #4970), anti-TOM20 (Abcam, #ab186735), and Anti-Rabbit

Detection Module Chemiluminescence (ProteinSimple, #DM-001). Equal amounts of total

protein, blocking reagent, primary and secondary antibodies, and chemiluminescent substrate

were loaded into the Wes™ assay plate according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Chemiluminescent signals were acquired and quantified using Compass for Simple Western

software (ProteinSimple). β-actin levels were normalized to TOM20.

Electron Microscopy

Platelet pellets were fixed with a mixture of 0.5% glutaraldehyde and 2% paraformaldehyde in

0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) for 60 minutes at 4 °C. After washing with phosphate buffer,

samples were post-fixed with 1% osmium tetroxide in phosphate buffer for 60 minutes on ice.

Following dehydration, pellets were infiltrated with and embedded in epoxy resin. Ultrathin

sections (60–80 nm thick) were cut, stained with 2% uranyl acetate in 70% methanol and

Reynolds' lead citrate, and examined using a transmission electron microscope operating at 80

kV (HT-7700; Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan).

Live-cell imaging

For live-cell imaging using confocal microscopy, u-Dish 35 mm Quad ibiTreat sterilized dishes (Nippon Genetics, #ib80416), pre-coated with 0.1% poly-L-lysine, were used. Imaging was performed using a ZEISS LSM 900 confocal microscope equipped with Airyscan 2 and a 63×/1.40 numerical aperture oil-immersion objective. The following reagents were used for staining imMKCLs or platelets: APC-conjugated anti-human CD41 antibody, PerCP-conjugated anti-human CD41 antibody, MitoTracker Green, SPY555-FastAct, Plasmem Bright Green (Dojindo Laboratories, #P504), and Hoechst 33342 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, #62249). Confocal images were acquired using the same system.

Small molecule compound treatments

Mdivi-1 (Sigma-Aldrich, #M0199-5MG) was added on day 0 of the DOX-OFF culture to inhibit mitochondrial fission. Latrunculin A (FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, #125-04363), Cytochalasin D (Cayman Chemical, #11330), SZ-3 (MedKoo Biosciences, #208333), and CK-666 (Selleck, S7690) were added on day 3 of the Dox-OFF culture. Various ADAM inhibitors were used as follows: 15 µM KP-457 (Kaken Pharmaceutical), 10 µM GI254023X (Selleck, #S8660), 100 µM TAPI-1 (Selleck, #S7434), and 10 µM GM6001 (Ilomastat; Selleck, #S7157). For all experiments, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was added to control wells and used as the solvent for compound dilution.

Mitochondrial mAG overexpression

The CoralHue™ mitochondria-targeted monomeric Azami-Green (pMT-mAG1) plasmid was provided by RIKEN BRC through the National BioResource Project of MEXT, Japan (Cat. #RDB18311). A *piggyBac* transposon vector system was used to establish stable mitochondrial labeling in imMKCLs. The gene of interest (GOI), encoding CoralHue mitochondria-targeted monomeric Azami-Green, was amplified from pMT-mAG1 (Karasawa et al., 2003) via PCR.

The amplified GOI was inserted into the backbone vector using the In-Fusion HD Cloning Kit

(Clontech, #639649).

Bulk RNA-sequencing analysis

Total RNA was extracted from cultured imMKCLs on DOX-OFF day 4 using the RNeasy Plus

Micro Kit (Qiagen, #74034). For each sample, up to 10 ng of total RNA was processed using

the SMART-Seq v4 Ultra Low Input RNA Kit for Sequencing (Clontech, #634890).

Complementary DNA (cDNA) was fragmented using an S220 Focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris),

and the cDNA library was prepared and amplified with the NEBNext Ultra DNA Library Prep

Kit for Illumina (New England Biolabs, #E7370L). Library size distribution was evaluated

using a Bioanalyzer with the Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit. Sequencing was performed on

an Illumina NextSeq 500. FASTQ files were generated using *bcl2fastq* v2.20. Adapter

sequences and low-quality bases were trimmed from raw sequencing reads using *cutadapt* v4.1

(Kechin et al., 2017). Trimmed reads were aligned to the human reference genome (hg38) using

STAR v2.7.10a (Dobin et al., 2013) with the GENCODE annotation file (release 32,

GRCh38.p13) (Frankish et al., 2019). Uniquely mapped reads were quantified at the gene level

using *htseq-count* v2.0.2 (Anders et al., 2015) with the same GENCODE GTF file. Gene

expression levels were calculated and expressed as transcripts per million (TPM).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 10 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla,

CA). Data are expressed as the mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM). To determine

statistical significance, an unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test was used. Details of sample sizes,

statistics, and statistical significance are indicated in each figure legend.

Data and code availability

RNA-seq data have been deposited in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under

accession number **GSE298561**.

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Author contributions

E.N. and Y.H. conducted most experiments and analyzed data. K. Freson., K.D.W., and C.T.

generated GPIX-KO clone 7 imMKCLs. A.S. conducted the platelet transmission electron

microscopy and analyzed data. K. Fujio. constructed the vector system and analyzed related

results. S.N. and S.S. supervised the experimental design. E.N., Y.H., and K.E. wrote the

manuscript. K.E. edited the manuscript.

Declarations of competing interests

K.E. is a founder of Megakaryon Co. Ltd. and currently has no stock. K.E. previously received

collaborative research funding from Megakaryon Co. Ltd. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

The interests of K.E. have been reviewed and are managed by Kyoto University in accordance

with its conflict-of-interest policies.   Other authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Turbulence enhances high-quality iPSC-PLT production, as indicated by increased GPIbα expression and mitochondrial membrane potential

(A) Schematic illustration of three culture systems: dish (static), flask (suboptimal turbulence), and VerMES (optimal turbulence).

(B–D) Analysis of integrin αIIb (CD41) and GPIbα expression on day 6 platelets derived from each culture condition. Platelets were defined as CD41$^+$ particles.

(B) Representative flow cytometry plots of platelets generated under dish (left), flask (middle), and VerMES (right) conditions.

(C) Quantification of the number of GPIbα$^+$ (orange) and GPIbα$^-$ (blue) platelets produced per megakaryocyte.

(D) Quantification of the percentage of GPIbα$^+$ (orange) and GPIbα$^-$ (blue) platelets. Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical significance was determined using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (***$p < 0.001$).

(E) Representative flow cytometry plots showing Calcein-AM fluorescence (left) and surface expression of GPIbα and CD41 (right) in day 6 platelets cultured in a dish (top) or flask (bottom).

(F) Representative flow cytometry plots showing mitochondrial membrane potential (MitoTracker Deep Red) and GPIbα expression in day 6 platelets cultured in a dish (left), flask (middle), or VerMES (right).

(G, H) Platelet production per megakaryocyte in a day 4 culture swap experiment.

(G) Schematic diagram of the experimental design for culture condition swapping.

(H) Quantification of platelets produced per megakaryocyte under the following conditions: dish-dish, flask-dish, dish-flask, and flask-flask. Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (ns, not significant; *$p < 0.05$).

Figure 2. Mitochondrial activity regulates GPIbα expression

(A) Representative flow cytometry plots and histogram overlays showing staining for mitochondrial DNA (PicoGreen), mitochondrial content (MitoTracker Green), mitochondrial membrane potential (MT-1), reactive oxygen species (ROS; CellROX), and adenosine triphosphate (ATP; BioTracker ATP Red) in GPIbα$^+$ (red) and GPIbα$^-$ (blue) day 6 platelets cultured under static conditions. Unstained controls are shown in gray.

(B) Representative flow cytometry plots showing mitochondrial membrane potential (MitoTracker Deep Red) and phosphatidylserine exposure (annexin V) in day 6 platelets cultured in a dish (left) or flask (right).

(C) Representative flow cytometry plots showing GPIbα staining and mitochondria-specific mAzami Green fluorescence in day 6 platelets derived from dish (left) or flask (right) cultures.

(D) Representative histograms showing GPIbα expression (far left, middle right) and mitochondrial membrane potential (MitoTracker Deep Red; middle left, far right) in control (blue) and after treatment with DMSO (red), KP457 (orange), GI254023X (green), TAPI-1 (dark green), or GM6001 (purple) in day 6 platelets prior to FCCP treatment, from dish (left) or flask (right) cultures.

(E, F) Comparison of platelet production and mitochondrial membrane potential between wild-type and GPIX-KO imMKCLs.

(E) Quantification of the percentage of CD41$^+$/GPIbα$^+$ platelets produced by wild-type (green) or GPIX-KO (orange) imMKCLs. Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical significance was determined using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (***p < 0.001).

(F) Representative histograms showing mitochondrial membrane potential in platelets derived from wild-type (green, middle) or GPIX-KO (orange, bottom) imMKCLs. Unstained control is shown in gray (top).

Figure 3. Mitochondrial ATP production supports flippase-mediated membrane

asymmetry

(A) Schematic illustration of the assay used to evaluate flippase and scramblase activity.

(B, C) Representative flow cytometry plots showing surface GPIbα expression and NBD-

labeled phospholipid incorporation in day 6 platelets cultured in a dish (left) or flask (right). (B)

NBD-phosphatidylserine (NBD-PS); (C) NBD-phosphatidylcholine (NBD-PC).

(D, E) Flow cytometric analysis of GPIbα expression, intracellular calcium levels, and ATP

content in day 6 platelets derived from dish and flask cultures.

(D) Representative plots and histograms showing surface GPIbα expression and intracellular

calcium levels (Fluo-4) in platelets from dish (left) and flask (right) conditions.

(E) Representative flow cytometry plots showing surface GPIbα expression and intracellular

ATP levels (BioTracker ATP Red) in platelets cultured in a dish (left) or flask (right).

(F) Schematic model illustrating differences in GPIbα expression between high-quality (left)

and low-quality (right) iPSC-platelets.

Figure 4. Turbulent culture conditions promote uniform mitochondrial distribution in

imMKCLs

(A, B) Confocal imaging and fluorescence intensity analysis of day 4 maturing imMKCLs

cultured under static (dish) or turbulent (flask) conditions.

(A) Representative confocal images of day 4 maturing imMKCLs. Top panels show original

images (scale bars, 10 µm); bottom panels show magnified views (scale bars, 5 µm) of cells

cultured in a dish (left) or flask (right). Mitochondria were stained with MitoTracker Green

(green), F-actin with SPY555-FastAct (red), and nuclei with Hoechst 33342 (blue).

(B) Fluorescence intensity profiles of F-actin (red) and mitochondria (blue) along the central

axis (yellow line in A, magnified images).

(C) Quantification of the percentage of GPIbα$^+$ (red) and GPIbα$^-$ (blue) platelets on day 6

following Mdivi-1 treatment. Data are shown as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical significance

was determined using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.01).

(D) Oxygen consumption rate (OCR) of day 4 maturing imMKCLs cultured in a dish (red) or

flask (blue), measured using the Seahorse Flux Analyzer.

(E) Representative histograms showing mitochondrial membrane potential (MitoTracker Deep

Red) in day 6 imMKCLs (left) and iPSC-platelets (right) cultured in a dish (top, pink) or flask

(bottom, blue).

Figure 5. Turbulence regulates actin dynamics to promote high-quality platelet production

(A–C) Transcript levels of cytoskeletal genes related to actin (A), tubulin (B), and myosin (C) in

day 4 maturing imMKCLs cultured in a dish or flask. Gene expression is shown as transcripts

per million (TPM). Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical analysis was

performed using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (ns, not significant).

(D, E) Protein levels of β-actin normalized to TOM20 in day 5 maturing imMKCLs cultured in

a dish (orange) or flask (purple).

(D) Representative Simple Western (Wes) images.

(E) Quantification of β-actin expression. Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical

analysis was performed using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (ns, not significant).

(F) Fold change in F-actin levels (SPY555-FastAct signal) from day 1 to day 6 in maturing

imMKCLs cultured in a dish (orange), flask (purple), or VerMES (green). Data are presented as

mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical comparisons were performed independently on day 5 and day 6

between dish and flask and between dish and VerMES using unpaired two-tailed t-tests (ns, not

significant; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01).

(G) Representative histograms showing surface GPIbα expression (left), phosphatidylserine

exposure (annexin V binding, middle), and mitochondrial membrane potential (MitoTracker

Deep Red, right) in day 6 iPSC-derived platelets (iPSC-PLTs) cultured with Latrunculin A at 0.1

µM (dark green), 0.3 µM (lime green), 1 µM (orange), 3 µM (blue), or 10 µM (red). EDTA-

treated (purple) and untreated control (mauve) samples are shown at the top.

(H–J) Quantification of the percentage of GPIbα⁺ (red) and GPIbα⁻ (blue) platelets on day 6

following treatment with: (H) 100 nM or 1 µM Cytochalasin D, (I) 10 µM or 20 µM SZ-3, or (J)

50 µM, 100 µM, or 200 µM CK-666. Data are presented as mean ± SEM (n = 3). Statistical

analysis was performed using an unpaired two-tailed t-test (ns, not significant; **p < 0.01; ***p

< 0.001; ****p < 0.0001). (K, L) Quantification of F-actin levels in day 5 imMKCLs using

SPY555-FastAct following actin-targeting compound treatment. Geometric mean fluorescence

intensity is shown for cells treated on day 3 with (K) 1, 5, and 10 µM Latrunculin A, or (L) 100

nM and 1 µM Cytochalasin D. (M) Schematic model illustrating the relationship between F-

actin levels, the polymerization/depolymerization state of intracellular actin, and their effects on

platelet production in maturing imMKCLs.

Figure 6. Graphical summary

Turbulence reduces actin (red) polymerization during imMKCL maturation, facilitating efficient

incorporation of mitochondria (green) into the resulting iPSC-platelets. This process is disrupted

by actin polymerization inhibitors (CK-666, SZ-3), leading to the production of low-quality

platelets similar to those generated under static culture conditions.

Figure 1

Figure 1

G

H

Figure 2

A

Dish

GPIbα

Integrin alpha 2b (CD41)

Count

PicoGreen

MitoTracker Green

MT-1

CellROX

BioTracker ATP-Red

Unstained
GPIbα-
GPIbα+

B

Dish   Flask

MitoTracker Deep Red

Annexin V

C

Dish   Flask

GPIbα

mAG

D

Dish   Flask

GM6001
TAPI-1
GI254023X
KP457
DMSO
Control

+ FCCP

GPIbα   MitoTracker Deep Red   GPIbα   MitoTracker Deep Red

Figure 2

E

F

Unstained

Wild-Type

GPIX-KO

MitoTracker Deep Red

Figure 3

Figure 3

E

High-quality iPSC-PLTs

Active flippase

ATP

High MMP

Internalized PS

Inactive ADAM17

Intact GPIbα

Low-quality iPSC-PLTs

Inactive flippase

PS exposure

No ATP

Low MMP/no mitochondria

Active ADAM17

GPIbα shedding

Figure 4

A

B

Figure 4

Figure 5

A Actin-related gene expression

B Tubulin-related gene expression

C Myosin-related gene expression

Figure 5

D

KDa

Dish Flask

47- -Beta Actin

19- -TOM20

E

ns

Normalized Chemiluminescence

Dish Flask

F

Geometric MFI (Fold change)

- Dish
- Flask
- VerMES

ns

*

*

**

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6

G

Latrunculin A

EDTA
Control
0.1μM
0.3μM
1μM
3μM
10μM

GPIbα

EDTA
Control
0.1μM
0.3μM
1μM
3μM
10μM

Annexin V

EDTA
Control
0.1μM
0.3μM
1μM
3μM
10μM

MitoTracker Deep Red

M

Figure 6

Immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell line (imMKCL)

CK666
SZ-3

Turbulence +

High-quality iPSC-PLTs

Turbulence −

Low-quality iPSC-PLTs