Comparisons of dual isogenic human iPSC pairs identify functional

alterations directly caused by an epilepsy associated *SCN1A* mutation

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Abstract:

Over 1250 mutations in *SCN1A,* the Nav1.1 voltage-gated sodium channel gene, are associated with seizure disorders including GEFS+. To evaluate how a specific mutation, independent of genetic background, causes seizure activity we generated two pairs of isogenic human iPSC lines by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. One pair is a control line from an unaffected sibling, and the mutated control carrying the GEFS+ K1270T *SCN1A* mutation. The second pair is a GEFS+ patient line with the K1270T mutation, and the corrected patient line. By comparing the electrophysiological properties in inhibitory and excitatory iPSC-derived neurons from these pairs, we found the K1270T mutation causes cell type-specific alterations in sodium current density and evoked firing, resulting in hyperactive neural networks. We also identified differences associated with genetic background and interaction between the mutation and genetic background. Comparisons within and between dual pairs of isogenic iPSC-derived neuronal cultures provide a novel platform for evaluating cellular mechanisms underlying a disease phenotype and for developing patient-specific anti-seizure therapies.

Keywords:

Isogenic, induced pluripotent stem cells, neurons, *SCN1A*, genetic epilepsy with febrile seizure plus, electrophysiology, disease modeling

1. Introduction

Genetic epilepsy with febrile seizure plus (GEFS+) is a form of epilepsy with febrile seizures that persists beyond six years of age (Scheffer and Berkovic, 1997). The clinical phenotype of GEFS+ is characterized by febrile seizures beginning in infancy that persist beyond 6 years of age and in some cases individuals also experience myoclonic, atonic and/or absence seizures (Miller and Sotero de Menezes, 2014). Mutations in a variety of genes that encode ion channels and neurotransmitter receptors have been identified in individuals with GEFS+ (Baulac et al., 2001; Dibbens et al., 2004; Escayg et al., 2001, 2000; Harkin et al., 2002; Sugawara et al., 2001; Wallace et al., 2002, 2001a, 2001b, 1998). One hot spot for mutations causing GEFS+ is the *SCN1A* gene which encodes the alpha subunit of the Nav1.1 voltage-gated sodium channel. Approximately 50 missense mutations at locations throughout *SCN1A* are associated with different individuals diagnosed with GEFS+ (Meng et al., 2015). There are also multigenerational families in which individuals with the same *SCN1A* mutation exhibit a broad range of seizure phenotypes (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001; Goldberg-Stern et al., 2014).

The heterogeneity of disease phenotypes arising from different mutations in the same gene, and from the same mutation between individuals complicates understanding of the underlying cellular mechanisms. Model systems that aid in mapping the links between individual *SCN1A* mutations and their cellular effects can facilitate development of more effective patient-specific drug therapies. Zebrafish, knock-in *Drosophila* and mouse models have all been important tools in this endeavor (Schutte et al., 2016) but evolutionary distances leading to species-specific mechanisms may lead to

failed therapies in patients (Marian, 2011; Maxwell et al., 2014).

In recent years, patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)

that can be differentiated into neurons have emerged as a new model to

explore how epilepsy-associated *SCN1A* mutations affect activity and sodium

channel properties in human neurons. These studies have focused on

mutations associated with Dravet syndrome (DS), a form of epilepsy that is

typically more severe than GEFS+. Previous studies in iPSC-derived neurons

have shown that nonsense R1645X, and missense S1328P and Q1923R

mutations in *SCN1A* associated with DS confer impaired excitability and

reduced sodium current density in inhibitory neurons, giving rise to

hyperactivity in neural networks (Higurashi et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2016; Sun et

al., 2016). However, examination of the DS-associated *SCN1A* missense

mutations, Q1923R and F1415I, revealed increased excitability and increased

sodium current amplitudes in excitatory neurons (Jiao et al., 2013). Further,

the IVS14+3A>T mutation which causes truncation of DIIS2 and S3 of Nav1.1

affects both excitatory and inhibitory neurons (Liu et al., 2013).

In addition to alterations caused by discrete mutations, differences in

genetic background represent a major source of variability that complicates

interpretation of any experimental findings as they can influence phenotypic

differences (Liang and Zhang, 2013; Vitale et al., 2012). Evaluation of a large

cohort of control and patient iPSC lines can help assess the contribution of

mutations to disease phenotypes (Sandoe and Eggan, 2013). This is

problematic when evaluating potential changes in electrophysiological

properties that require examination at the single cell level in multiple cells from

a large number of cell lines. However, a more direct way to examine the effect

of a mutation independent of genetic background is to compare the cellular

changes caused by a single mutation in isogenic pairs of control and mutant

iPSC lines (Bassett, 2017; Chen et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2016; Sandoe and

Eggan, 2013; Smith et al., 2018). A recent study of the DS-associated *SCN1A*

Q1923R mutation used transcription activator-like effector nucleases

(TALENs) to generate an isogenic corrected line by removing the *SCN1A*

mutation (Liu et al., 2016). Comparison of the isogenic corrected versus the

patient line revealed a decrease in sodium current density in inhibitory

neurons in the patient line. Comparison of the isogenic corrected line with a

control line from a different genetic background revealed additional alterations

in the voltage dependence of sodium current activation and action potential

(AP) threshold suggesting these might be associated with the genetic

background of the patient. An isogenic mutant line in which the mutation had

been introduced into the control would have been able to distinguish whether

this was due to genetic background or interaction between the mutation and

the genetic background.

The current study focuses on assessing the contribution of the autosomal

dominant *SCN1A* K1270T mutation identified in a GEFS+ family to the

etiology of the disease (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001). Two isogenic pairs of iPSC

lines generated by CRISPR/Cas 9 gene editing were used: 1a) control

(unaffected sibling), 1b) mutated control homozygous for the K1270T

mutation, and 2a) patient heterozygous for the K1270T *SCN1A* mutation

(GEFS+ sibling), 2b) corrected patient. All 4 iPSC lines in the two isogenic

pairs can be differentiated into functional mixed neuronal cultures containing

both GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons that expressed Nav1.1.

Comparison of electrophysiological properties of neurons within and between pairs identified mutation-dependent alterations independent of genetic background. There were also differences found to be associated with the genetic background and others the result of interactions between the mutation and the background. Such CRISPR/Cas9-based disease modeling strategy with dual isogenic pairs of iPSC-derived neurons represents a promising platform for studying the causality of mutations related to genetic diseases and developing patient-specific therapies based on disease mechanisms.

2. Methods

2.1 Preparation and maintenance of hiPSCs

Skin fibroblasts were collected from two male siblings of the GEFS+ family by Kevin Ess (Vanderbilt University Medical Center) after obtaining informed consent using IRB approved protocol #080369. The control fibroblast donor had no known clinical diagnoses; the patient sibling had four febrile seizures beginning at 6 months of age and four generalized atypical absence seizures since the age of two (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001). Age at time of biopsy the control sibling was 23 years and the patient sibling was 21 years old.

Skin fibroblasts were reprogrammed into iPSCs using nonintegrating Sendai virus by the Schwartz laboratory as published (Stover et al., 2013). Two human iPSC lines were generated, SC210.12-SF6-2I3.M11S8 (control) and SC215.19-SF4-2I8.M10S6 (patient). iPSCs were maintained in feeder-free conditions following published protocols (Stover et al., 2013; Stover and Schwartz, 2011).

2.2 CRISPR/Cas9 editing on iPSCs derived from two siblings

To generate a mutated control line, the K1270T mutation was knocked

into an iPSC line generated from the unaffected sibling (SC210.12-SF6-2I3-

M11S8-S4-S6-S2). The 20-nt guide RNA (sgRNA) 5'-

CTTCTAAAATGGGTGGCATA-3' was designed using the CRISPR design tool

(http://crispr.mit.edu) from the Zhang laboratory and cloned into plasmid

pSpCas9(BB)-2A-Puro (Px459) V2.0 (Addgene, 62988). Plasmid constructs

were purified with the Endo-free Plasmid Maxiprep kit (Qiagen). The 140-nt

repair template ssODN1 5'-

GATTAAGACGATGTTGGAATATGCTGACAAGGTTTTCACTTACATTTTCATT

CTGGAAATGCTTCTAACATGGGTGGCATATGGATATCAAACATATTTCACC

AATGCCTGGTGTTGGCTGGACTTCTTAATTGTTGATG-3' (Integrated DNA

Technologies) was designed with two homologous arms flanking the Cas9

cleavage site, the threonine codon (ACA) at the mutation site and an addition

of a silent EcoRV mutation.

To generate a corrected patient line, the mutation was removed from a

patient iPSC line (SC215.19-SF4-2I8.M10S6-S2-S2). sgRNA (5'-CTTCTAAC

ATGGGTGGCATA-3') complementary to the target sequence of mutated allele

was cloned into the same plasmid. The 140-nt repair template ssODN2 5'-

GATTAAGACGATGTTGGAATATGCTGACAAGGTTTTCACTTACATTTTCATT

CTGGAAATGCTTCTAAAATGGGTGGCATATGGCTATCAAACATATTTCACC

AATGCCTGGTGTTGGCTGGACTTCTTAATTGTTGATG-3' (Integrated DNA

Technologies) was similar to ssODN1 but with the lysine codon at the

mutation site (AAA) and without EcoRV silent mutation. 8 x 10^5 cells were co-

transfected with 3 µg plasmid-sgRNA construct and ssODN (0.6 µM final

concentration) with Amaxa Human Stem Cell Nucleofector Kit 1 (Lonza) and

program A-023 for the Amaxa Nucleofector Device II. To obtain low seeding

density, the transfected cell suspension was diluted in a 1:6 - 1:8 ratio and

plated into Matrigel (BD Biosciences)-coated wells of 6-well plates. 24 hours

post-transfection, cells were treated with 2 µg/ml puromycin (Sigma-Aldrich) in

StemPro complete media (Stover and Schwartz, 2011) containing 0.58 µl/ml

SMC4 (Corning). 48 hours post-transfection, cells were switched to normal

StemPro complete media containing 0.58 µl/ml SMC4. Continued

maintenance required media that included 50% conditioned media from 70-

90%-confluent unedited iPSC cultures and 50% StemPro complete media

with 55 µM β-mercaptoethanol (Invitrogen), 1×StemPro (Invitrogen), 20 ng/ml

bFGF (Stemgent) and 0.58 µl/ml SMC4. 6-8 days post-nucleofection, isolated

iPSC colonies with 20-30 cells were formed, picked manually using

customized glass hooks, and transferred to single wells in 96- or 48-well

plates with pre-wet 20 µl barrier micropipette tips. StemPro complete media

supplemented with 0.58 µl/ml SMC4 was used for daily feeding. At 100%

confluence, clones were split with pre-warmed 62 µl (96-well plate) or 125 µl

(48-well plate) of Accutase (Millipore) in a 1:2 ratio. Cells were eventually

expanded into two wells in a 48-well plate to be used for freezing as well as

sequencing and/or restriction digestion, respectively. All media for feeding and

splitting were prepared immediately prior to use and equilibrated at 37°C and

5% CO_2.

A protocol for freezing iPSCs in low density was modified from Stover *et*

al (Stover and Schwartz, 2011). Cells at 100% confluence were cryopreserved

with pre-chilled freezing medium containing 40% conditioned medium from

70-90% confluent culture, 40% StemPro complete medium, 10% DMSO

(Sigma-Aldrich), 10% bovine serum albumin (25% BSA, Gibco) with addition

of 0.58 µl/ml SMC4. To increase viability of cells during defrosting, clones from

48-well plates were frozen with 50-250 µl of freezing medium depending on

the size of pellets after centrifugation and were stored in 1.2 ml cryo-vials at -

80°C.

Genomic DNA was extracted with 10-13 µl of QuickExtract DNA

Extraction Solution (Epicentre). Fragments around the intended mutation sites

were amplified by PCR in 50 µl reactions with Taq DNA polymerase

(Invitrogen), forward primer 5'- CTACCATAGATTCCATCCCCCAA -3' and

reverse primer 5'- TTCCACCAATAGTCTTTCCCCTG -3'. PCR products were

confirmed by gel electrophoresis and purified with MinElute PCR Purification

Kit (Qiagen) prior to sequencing (Retrogen). MacVector software was used to

analyze sequencing data.

Additionally, a subset of mutated control clones was subject to restriction

digestion by EcoRV prior to sequencing analysis. As we observed the

absence of EcoRV mutation in some of the positive clones with K1270T

mutation, direct sequencing was used to screen the remaining clones.

The top five potential off-target sites from CRISPR/Cas9 editing as

identified by the CRISPR design tool (http://crispr.mit.edu) from the Zhang

laboratory, were *SCN7A*, *FLII*, *SCN2A*, *SCN3A* and *SCN9A*. To determine if

any of these were also affected by the editing in the mutated control or the

patient corrected line, primers were used to interrogate the relevant region of

homology in each gene. PCR conditions were 94 °C, 45 s, 60 °C, 33 s and

72 °C, 55 s for 35 cycles.

To evaluate the expression level of off targets, mRNA was extracted from

neuronal cultures of the mutated control line. cDNA was synthesized following

the instructions of TRIzol (Thermo Fisher) and SuperScript™ III First-Strand

Synthesis SuperMix for qRT-PCR kit (Thermo Fisher), followed by nested

PCR. Expression of the off-target gene was compared to *SCN1A* and

normalized to *ACTB*. Nested PCR conditions were 94 °C, 45 s, 60 °C, 33 s

and 72 °C, 60 s for 35 cycles for all primers. Primers for sequencing and

nested PCR are in Supplementary Table 1.

All 4 iPSC lines were karyotyped and cell lines at low passage were

expanded for cryopreservation. When samples were thawed for expansion

and use in differentiation studies, the *SCN1A* gene was sequenced every 20-

30 passages. Research was approved by hSCRO (#2011-1023) and IBC

protocols (#2011-1377).

2.3 Differentiation of two pairs of isogenic iPSCs into neurons

Two pairs of isogenic iPSCs (4 lines total) within 40 passages of the

original generation were patterned into neurons as described (Xie et al.,

2018). Neural progenitor cells derived from iPSCs were plated on top of 50-

70% confluent mouse astroglial feeder layers that were prepared following a

published protocol (Schutte et al., 2018).

At D17 post-plating, excitatory and inhibitory neurons were labeled by

transfection with CaMKII-eGFP (Addgene, 50469) and GAD1-mCherry

(Genecopoeia, HPRM15652-PM02) plasmids in Opti-MEM (Gibco) and DNA-

in (MTI-GlobalStem) or ViaFect (Promega) reagents.

2.4 Immunostaining and imaging

To evaluate the expression of pluripotency markers, iPSCs were plated onto glass coverslips coated with Matrigel diluted 1:30 in DMEM/F-12 + Glutamax (Gibco). iPSCs were maintained using StemPro medium (section 2.2). When grown to ~70% confluence, coverslips were fixed and stained as described (Xie et al., 2018). Primary antibodies OCT-3/4 (1:100; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-5279), SOX2 (1:100; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-365823) and NANOG (1:50; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-293121) were used to characterize the pluripotency of the iPSCs. 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; Life Technologies) staining was added to visualize nuclei.

iPSC-derived neurons were stained with antibodies of βIII-tubulin (1:1000; Sigma-Aldrich, T8660) and GABA (1:4000; Sigma-Aldrich, A2052) to assess the proportion of GABAergic neurons. Neurons were identified by morphology, expression of βIII-tubulin in the cell bodies and neuronal processes, and nuclear localization of DAPI. Identities of neurons labeled by GAD1-mCherry and CaMKII-eGFP plasmids were verified by staining with antibodies of GABA and CaMKII (1:800; Cell Signaling Technology, 3362) respectively. Expression of Nav1.1 was examined in GABA$^+$ (1:100; Aldrich-Sigma, A0310) and CaMKII-eGFP$^+$ cells by staining with anti-Nav1.1 antibody (1:800; Alomone Labs, ASC-001).

Images were taken by a Zeiss M2 Imager fluorescence microscope and processed using the supplied Zen software.

2.5 Whole-cell recording

Whole-cell recordings were obtained from iPSC-derived inhibitory and

excitatory neurons at D21-23 post-plating at room temperature. This time

period was selected based on studies in two control cell lines demonstrating

that a high percentage of neurons were functionally active by this age (Xie et

al., 2018). Patch pipettes were pulled from unpolished borosilicate glass

(VWR International) by PC-10 pipette puller (Narishige). Open tip resistance

was 6-8 MΩ. External solution contained (in mM): 120 NaCl, 5.4 KCl, 0.8

$MgCl_2$, 1.8 $CaCl_2$, 15 glucose, 20 HEPES, with pH at 7.2-7.4. Osmolality was

adjusted to 290 - 295 mOsm. Internal solution contained (in mM): 120

potassium gluconate, 20 NaCl, 0.1 $CaCl_2$, 2 $MgCl_2$, 1.1 EGTA, 10 HEPES, 4.5

Na_2ATP with pH at 7.2. Osmolality was around 280 - 283 mOsm. Voltages

were corrected for a 5 mV junction potential. To record evoked action

potentials, membrane potential was held at -75 mV by injecting sub-threshold

currents and cells were depolarized by a series of current injections.

Excitatory and inhibitory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs and IPSCs) were

separated at reversal potentials (-49 mV and -2 mV) with a gap-free protocol

under voltage clamp. Recordings of spontaneous PSCs (sPSCs) were

performed with the standard external solution and a cesium gluconate internal

solution containing (in mM): 130 Cs^+ gluconate, 0.2 EGTA, 2 $MgCl_2$, 6 CsCl,

10 HEPES, 2.5 adenosine 5' triphosphate sodium salt, 0.5 guanosine 5'

triphosphate sodium and 10 disodium phosphocreatine. Voltages were

corrected for a 7 mV junction potential. Miniature postsynaptic currents

(mPSCs) were recorded in external solution containing 1 µM TTX

(tetrodotoxin; Alomones Labs).

Isolated sodium currents were recorded with external solution containing

(in mM): 120 NaCl, 5.4 KCl, 0.8 CoCl$_2$, 15 glucose, 20 HEPES, 2.5

tetraethylammonium and 1.0 4-aminopyridine. The same cesium gluconate

internal solution for PSC recording was used for sodium current recording.

Voltages were corrected for a 10 mV junction potential. P/N leak subtraction

was turned on. The voltage dependence of activation was determined with a

step protocol. Cell membrane potential was increased from a holding potential

of -100 mV to a range of potentials between -100 mV and 30 mV for 45 s with

a step interval of 5 or 10 mV. Currents recorded at the shared voltage steps

were included for current density analysis and G-V graph plotting. Peak

transient currents were plotted against holding potentials and fit with the

following equation:

$$I = \frac{(V - Vrev) \times Gmax}{1 + \exp\left(-\frac{V - Vhalf}{k}\right)} \quad (1)$$

where I is the peak current amplitude, V is the holding potential of each pulse,

V_{rev} is the reversal potential, G_{max} is the maximal conductance, V_{half} is the

voltage with 50% channels activated, and k is the slope. Current data in 5 mV

and 10 mV step intervals were used for fitting. Conductance was calculated

with the following equation:

$$G = \frac{I}{V - Vrev} \quad (2)$$

where G is conductance, and I, V, V_{rev} were as described in equation (1).

The voltage dependence of steady-state inactivation was analyzed with a

two-step protocol. It began with a holding potential of -100 mV. Next the

conditioning pulse was increased through a series of voltage steps from -100

mV to 30 mV for 90 ms with a step interval of 5 or 10 mV. Currents recorded

at the shared voltage steps were included for G-V graph plotting. A test pulse

at -10 mV for 90 ms was immediately applied and followed by a holding

potential of -100 mV. The peak current amplitude during test pulses were

normalized to that during the first test pulse and then plotted against the

holding potential of the conditioning pulse. The I-V curves were fitted to the

following equation:

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$$I = \frac{1}{1 + exp\frac{V - Vhalf}{k}} \qquad (3)$$

where I is the normalized peak current amplitude during the test pulses, V_{half}

is the voltage with 50% channels inactivated, and k is the slope. Current data

in 5 mV and 10 mV step intervals were used for fitting.

The recovery from steady-state inactivation was determined using a

second two-pulse protocol. Following a holding potential of -100 mV for 27

ms, two test pulses at -10 mV for 90 ms were separated by a time interval

with a range of 1-10 ms with an increment of 1 ms in the first protocol, and 10-

50 ms with an increment of 5 ms in the subsequent protocol. Peak current

amplitude from the second pulse was normalized to the average current

amplitude from the first pulse to calculate the fractional recovery. The data of

recovery were fitted using the following equation:

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$$I = A \times \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau}\right) + B \qquad (4)$$

where I is the normalized current amplitude, A is the relative percentage of

recovered currents, t is the time interval, and τ is the time constant of

recovery.

Electrophysiological data were collected with a List EPC7 amplifier and a

Digidata 1320A D-A converter (Axon Instruments), or a MultiClamp 700B

amplifier and a Digidata 1440A D-A converter (Axon Instruments). Recordings

were obtained by pClamp8 or pClamp10 (Axon Instruments) software with a

Bessel filter at 2 kHz and a low-pass filter at 10 kHz.

2.6 Data Analysis and Statistics

Counting from fluorescent micrographs was conducted in a blinded fashion with respect to cell line. For each coverslip, at least 3 fields with evenly distributed cells observed via DIC were chosen for counting. 3 coverslips each from individual plating of an iPSC cell line were included for counting the number of cells expressing pluripotency markers.

Electrophysiological data were analyzed using Clampfit 10.6 (Molecular Devices). Cells that were included in electrophysiological analyses had a leak current amplitude smaller than 50 pA at a holding potential of -75 mV. Evoked action potentials (APs) recorded under current clamp were included if they had a stable baseline at -65 ~ -85 mV with sub-threshold current injection, a peak amplitude ≥ -5 mV on the first AP and ≥ -15 mV in subsequent APs within the train. AP events were excluded if the maximum firing frequency deviated from mean by more than ± 2SD. Rheobase data were excluded if the resting membrane potentials (RMP) were more depolarized than -35 mV. AP properties were examined in the first AP at rheobase that first elicited AP firing. AP threshold was identified as the first derivative of the membrane potential (dV/dt) 5% or higher than the peak rate of change. AP amplitude was defined as the change of membrane potential from the threshold to the peak. AP amplitude and half-width data were not included if the cell did not fire evoked AP. PSCs recorded under voltage-clamp were analyzed using Mini Analysis 6.0.7 (Synaptosoft). PSCs were identified as events with an amplitude ≥ 5 pA (2× RMS noise of 2.5 pA) and were then manually verified individually. To calculate the (E-I)/(E+I) index, the absolute values of amplitude

or charge transfer of EPSCs and IPSCs were used for E and I respectively.

Cells were excluded from sodium current analysis if their current density in the

range of -10 - 40mV was 2SD beyond the mean.

Electrophysiological data are presented with n = number of recorded cells

and the number of individual platings shown in parentheses. All data were

analyzed with D'Agostino-Pearson normality test. Statistical tests were

selected based on the normality test results and performed in Prism 7.0.2

(GraphPad Software). Figures were generated using DeltaGraph 7.1 (Red

Rock Software).

3. Results

3.1 Two pairs of isogenic iPSCs generated by CRISPR/Cas9 editing

The autosomal dominant K1270T *SCN1A* mutation identified in a GEFS+

family results in a lysine-to-threonine conversion in the second

transmembrane segment of the third homologous domain in the α subunit of

the human Nav1.1 protein (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001) (Figure 1A). Skin

fibroblasts were collected from two male siblings (an unaffected control and a

GEFS+ patient) and both were reprogrammed into iPSC lines using the

nonintegrating Sendai virus (Figure 1B). To examine the contribution of the

K1270T mutation to disease phenotypes, two pairs of isogenic lines were

included in this study. In the first pair, the GEFS+ K1270T mutation

(c.4227A>C) was knocked into the unaffected sibling derived control line

using CRISPR/Cas9. For the second isogenic pair, the K1270T mutation in

the patient line was corrected (c.4227C>A; Figure 1C). The mutated control

clone with desired sequence was homozygous, likely the result of the short

distance (9 bp) between the Cas9 cut site and the K1270T mutation locus

(Paquet et al., 2016).

Sequencing of DNAs from the iPSC lines in the 2 isogenic pairs

confirmed that the control line did not have the mutation at site 1270

($SCN1A^{+/+}$). The mutated control was homozygous for the mutation

($SCN1A^{KT/KT}$) based on sequencing and this was further confirmed by the

presence of the silent EcoRV mutation from the repair template in only one

allele, demonstrating that the editing process did not also result in loss of one

allele and therefore, a hemizygous clone. The patient line was confirmed to be

heterozygous for the mutation ($SCN1A^{KT/+}$) and the mutation was absent in

the corrected patient lines ($SCN1A^{+/+}$; Figure 1D). The engineered

homozygous mutated control provides a unique opportunity to evaluate its

cellular defects since two copies of $SCN1A$ mutations are usually lethal to

organisms $in vivo$ (Martin et al., 2010; Yu et al., 2006).

Karyotypes of four iPSC lines were verified normal with 46, XY

chromosomes (Figure 1E). Pluripotency of each of the 4 cell lines was

confirmed by staining for expression of OCT-3/4, SOX2 and NANOG (Yu et

al., 2007) (Figure 1F). The top five potential off-target sites for mutations were

evaluated, including $SCN7A$, $FLII$, $SCN2A$, $SCN3A$ and $SCN9A$

(Supplementary Figure 1A). There were no off-target mutations in candidate

genes in the corrected patient line. In the homozygous mutated control line,

there was a mutation only in $SCN7A$, in addition to the K1270T knock-in

mutation. Since $SCN7A$ encodes a non-voltage-gated, TTX-insensitive Na_x

sodium channel, it is unlikely to affect evaluation of sodium currents and firing

properties that are both completely eliminated by addition of TTX to the

recording solution (Supplementary Figure 1C). In addition, this gene is

expressed in astrocytes, and neurons in circumventricular organs (Gautron et

al., 1992; Watanabe et al., 2000) and there is no evidence that this gene is

expressed in our iPSC-derived neurons based on nested PCR reactions that

resulted in clear amplification of *SCN1A* transcripts with undetectable levels of

SCN7A (Supplemental Figure 1C).

Figure 1. Isogenic pairs of iPSCs generated by CRISPR/Cas9 editing. (A) The K1270T mutation is located in the second transmembrane segment of the third homologous domain of Nav1.1 alpha subunit. (B) CRISPR/Cas9 editing was used to generate two isogenic pairs from iPSCs derived from two siblings in the GEFS+ family (control and patient) followed by differentiation into functional neurons. (C) Scheme of CRISPR/Cas9 editing design. Additional silent mutation introduced by ssODN1 resulted in an EcoRV restriction site for clone screening when knocking in the K1270T mutation. (D) Sequencing of two isogenic iPSC pairs confirmed the absence and the presence of the mutation. (E) All four lines had normal karyotypes (46, XY). (F) iPSCs of two isogenic pairs were stained with nuclei marker DAPI and pluripotency markers OCT-3/4, SOX2 and NANOG individually. The percentage of cells positive for each of the pluripotency markers was not significantly different between the 4 lines (p = 0.1, 0.06 and 0.2 for OCT-3/4, SOX2 and NANOG respectively, one-way ANOVA). Scale bar represents 50 μm. Data represented as mean + s.e.m. Data represent counts from three fields in three coverslips from three platings for each genotype.

3.2 iPSC-derived neuronal cultures contain both inhibitory and excitatory

neurons

We previously optimized a direct differentiation protocol that gives rise to

neuronal cultures containing excitatory and inhibitory neurons (Schutte et al.,

2018; Xie et al., 2018). With this protocol, iPSCs from both isogenic pairs

were differentiated into neural progenitors followed by plating onto astroglial

feeder layers for neuronal differentiation. To evaluate the morphology of

neurons and quantify the proportion of inhibitory GABAergic and excitatory

glutamatergic neurons in the cultures derived from the four iPSC lines,

cultures were fixed at D21-24 post plating and stained with anti-βIII-tubulin

and anti-GABA or anti-CaMKII antibodies. Cultures from all lines stained βIII-

tubulin positive cells with elongated branched neurites (Figure 2A).

GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons comprised 30-40% and ~50% of the

total neuronal population respectively, with no significance between

genotypes (Figure 2B, p = 0.1, one-way ANOVA for GABAergic neurons and p

= 0.6, Kruskal-Wallis test for glutamatergic neurons).

In order to identify inhibitory and excitatory neurons during live recording,

cells were transiently transfected with GAD1-mCherry and CaMKII-eGFP

plasmids at D17 post plating. Visualization of the cultures with fluorescent

illumination at D21-24 post plating was used to identify and record from

mCherry expressing GAD1-positive inhibitory neurons and eGFP expressing

CaMKII-positive excitatory neurons (white arrows, Figure 2C). The plasmid

labeling strategy accurately identified GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons

based on the colocalization of anti-GABA staining in 90.05% ± 3.26% of

GAD1-mCherry$^+$ and anti-CaMKII staining in 97.15% ± 2.47% of CaMKII-

eGFP$^+$ neurons examined. Further, *SCN1A* was expressed in both inhibitory

and excitatory neurons of the control and the mutated control lines based on

Figure 2. Cultures from two isogenic pairs contain a similar proportion of GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons. (A) Representative micrographs from cultures of two isogenic pairs of iPSC-derived neurons stained with neuronal subtype markers GABA or CaMKII antibodies to identify GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons at D21-24 post plating. (B) The percentage of GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons (white arrows) in neuronal cultures at D21-24 post plating in each line. There was no significant difference between cell lines (p = 0.1, one-way ANOVA for GABAergic neurons and p = 0.6 Kruskal-Wallis test for glutamatergic neurons). (C) Identification of inhibitory (top) and excitatory (bottom) neurons at D21-24 post plating labeled with plasmids via transient transfection during live recording (white arrows). At least 3 coverslips of 2-3 individual platings were evaluated for each line. (D) Localization of Nav1.1 in GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons of the control line (white arrows). Data represented as mean + s.e.m. Ctrl = control, mut ctrl = mutated control, corr pt = corrected patient, and pt = patient. Scale bar represents 50 µm.

(Figure 2D).

3.3. Inhibitory neurons: the K1270T mutation reduces evoked firing and

sodium current

To determine if the K1270T mutation causes cell type-specific alterations

in excitability, evoked action potential recordings were obtained at D21-D24

post plating from iPSC-derived inhibitory neurons in cultures from two

isogenic pairs: 1a) control ($SCN1A^{+/+}$), 1b) mutated control, homozygous

($SCN1A^{KT/KT}$); 2a) corrected patient ($SCN1A^{+/+}$), 2b) patient, heterozygous

($SCN1A^{KT/+}$). To account for variability between platings, and within plating,

data for all electrophysiological properties represent recordings from multiple

cells in at least three independent platings, and these values are presented in

each figure or table.

Over 90% of inhibitory neurons in each genotype fired action potentials

(Figure 3A and 3D). Assessment of firing frequency vs current step curves

demonstrated a decrease in mean firing frequency in the homozygous

mutated control line compared to the control line (Figure 3B). Both the main

effect associated with genotype and an interaction effect for firing frequency

were significantly different (genotype: p = 0.0092, interaction: p < 0.0001, two-

way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure 3B and Table 1). The AP

amplitude was also significantly smaller in the homozygous mutated control

line compared to the control (p = 0.0073, two-tailed unpaired *t* test; Figure

3C).

In the heterozygous patient line compared to the corrected patient line,

there was no significant decrease in firing frequency associated with the main

effect of genotype, but there was a significant interaction effect (genotype: p =

0.067, interaction: p = 0.007, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure

3E and Table 1). This indicates that the firing frequency differed between the

two lines depending on the injected currents. Specifically, the heterozygous

patient line had decreased firing frequency at small current steps compared to

the corrected patient line. However, at current steps of 50 pA and above, the

firing frequency of the patient and the corrected patient line were largely

overlapping (Figure 3E and Table 1). The AP amplitude in the heterozygous

patient line was smaller than that in the corrected patient line, but the

difference was not significant (Figure 3F). The reduction in firing frequency

and AP firing amplitude in the heterozygous patient line was approximately

half that seen in the homozygous mutated line compared to the control line at

the low current steps (Figure 3B and 3E and Table 1). These data suggest

that the impairment of action potential firing in inhibitory neurons is gene

dose-dependent. There were no differences in AP threshold, rheobase, the

injected current that first elicited AP firing, and half width within and between

isogenic pairs (Table 2).

The control and the mutated control had similar input resistance (IR),

whole cell capacitance (C_m) and rest membrane potential (RMP; Table 3).

Interestingly while the patient line had comparable input resistance to the

isogenic corrected line, it had a significantly smaller whole cell capacitance

and a more depolarized RMP (p = 0.024, and < 0.0001 respectively, Mann-

Whitney U test for C_m and unpaired *t* test for RMP; Table 3).

To examine whether reduced firing frequency and AP amplitude is

associated with alterations in sodium current, isolated sodium currents were

recorded in inhibitory neurons at D21-24 post plating. All inhibitory neurons in

each genotype expressed sodium currents. Sodium currents were not well

space clamped at this age in culture in any of the lines (Figure 3G and 3I),

consistent with the localization of some sodium channels at sites electrically

distant from the neuronal cell bodies as is typical of neurons that fire multiple

APs. This is also consistent with many other studies in which iPSC-derived

neurons that are capable of firing a train of APs do not have well clamped

sodium currents (Jiao et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2016, 2013; Sun

et al., 2016). However, comparative analysis of sodium current properties

between control and patient lines in these studies, as in other published

studies, provide insights into the disease mechanism. Therefore, our study

focuses on comparing sodium current properties from a family of traces within

and between isogenic pairs. While the absolute values may not be reflective

of the biophysical properties of sodium currents measured from single

channels or in expression systems where there is good voltage control, they

allow identification of properties that are or are not associated with the

mutation in the native environment.

The mean sodium current density versus voltage curves, generated from

analysis of inhibitory neurons in each line of an isogenic pair, were compared.

The sodium current density in the homozygous mutated control line was

reduced compared to the control line. Both the main effect of genotype and an

interaction were significant (genotype: $p = 0.050$, interaction: $p = 0.016$, two-

way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure 3G and 3H). In the patient line,

heterozygous for the K1270T mutation, there was a similar trend towards a

decrease in mean sodium current density at each voltage step above -30 mV

compared to the corrected line but the main effect associated with the

genotype and the interaction effect were not significantly different (genotype: p

$= 0.27$, interaction: $p = 0.33$, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure

3I and 3J).

No differences were observed in the voltage-dependence of activation, steady-state inactivation, or recovery from inactivation within the isogenic pairs (the mutated control line compared to the control; the patient compared to the corrected patient line; Figure S2). However, comparison between the isogenic pairs revealed a ~4 mV depolarized shift in voltage dependence of activation in the pair derived from the control compared to the pair derived from the patient (genotype: $p = 0.0065$, interaction: $p < 0.0001$, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Table 4 and Figure S2A and S2B). There was also a 3 mV depolarized shift in the voltage dependence of steady-state inactivation in the control vs the patient derived lines (genotype: $p = 0.28$, interaction: $p < 0.0001$, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Table 4 and Figure S2C and S2D). Shifts between pairs are likely associated with the genetic background of the GEFS+ patient which would not be found if using unrelated control and patient cell lines. Time constant of recovery from inactivation was similar within isogenic pairs (Table 4 and Figure S2E and S2F).

Overall the differences within the isogenic pairs demonstrate that the K1270T mutation causes reduction in evoked firing, action potential amplitude and sodium current density recorded at the cell body in inhibitory neurons. The alterations observed in voltage dependence of activation and steady-state inactivation of sodium currents between isogenic pairs suggest these changes are associated with the genetic background, independent of the mutation.

Figure 3. In inhibitory neurons, the K1270T mutation causes impaired AP firing and reduced sodium current density. (A) Traces of action potential firing with 30 pA injected in inhibitory neurons of the first isogenic pair of the control (ctrl) and the homozygous mutated control (mut ctrl). (B) The input-output curves of action potentials in inhibitory neurons of the first isogenic pair. (C) AP amplitude of the first AP at rheobase in inhibitory neurons of the first isogenic pair. ** denotes $p < 0.001$, two-tailed unpaired *t*-test. (D-F) Same as A and B, but in inhibitory neurons of the second isogenic pair of the lines from the corrected patient (corr pt) and the heterozygous patient (pt). (G) Traces of voltage-gated sodium currents in inhibitory neurons of the first isogenic pair. The activation protocol started with a prepulse at -100 mV followed by a series of steps ranging from -100 to 30 mV in 10 mV intervals. (H) Current-voltage relationship in inhibitory neurons of the first isogenic pair. Whole cell currents were normalized to capacitance. (I-J) Same as G and H, but in inhibitory neurons of the second isogenic pair. Data presented as mean + s.e.m in C and F, and mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons evaluated and the number of individual platings in parentheses for each line in B,E,H, and J. * and # represent significant differences in genotypes and interaction within an isogenic pair respectively, two-way ANOVA and *post hoc* Sidak's analysis. One to four symbols denote p values < 0.05, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001 respectively.

Table 1. Firing frequency of inhibitory neurons

Currents (pA)	Control	Mutated control	Mean change (pair 1)	Corrected patient	Patient	Mean change (pair 2)
-10	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0
0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0
10	1.3 ± 0.6	2.7 ± 0.9	1.4	2.7 ± 0.8	1.3 ± 0.4	1.4
20	6.6 ± 1.0	4.4 ± 1.0	2.2	6.1 ± 1.0	3.6 ± 0.7	2.5
30	7.6 ± 0.9	4.2 ± 0.9	3.4	6.6 ± 1.3	4.3 ± 0.8	2.3
40	7.7 ± 1.0	4.0 ± 0.8	3.7	5.6 ± 1.0	4.9 ± 0.9	0.7
50	7.4 ± 1.0	3.7 ± 0.8	3.7	4.2 ± 0.7	4.7 ± 1.0	-0.5
60	6.8 ± 1.0	2.9 ± 0.5	3.9	3.3 ± 0.5	4.4 ± 1.0	-1.1
70	4.8 ± 0.6	2.6 ± 0.4	2.2	3.0 ± 0.4	4.1 ± 0.9	-1.1
80	4.0 ± 0.5	2.5 ± 0.4	1.5	2.9 ± 0.3	3.6 ± 0.8	-0.7
90	3.4 ± 0.5	2.4 ± 0.3	1.0	2.6 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.8	-0.9
100	3.1 ± 0.3	2.1 ± 0.3	1.0	2.4 ± 0.3	2.7 ± 0.4	-0.3

a. Data reported as mean ± s.e.m.

Table 2. Measurements of excitability in two isogenic pairs

Cell type	Genotype	Threshold (mV)	Rheobase (pA)	AP half-width (ms)
Inhibitory	Ctrl	-36.2 ± 1.0 n = 13 (3)	18.8 ± 1.7 n = 13 (3)	3.6 ± 0.2 n = 16 (3)
	Mut ctrl	-34.1 ± 1.5 n = 19 (5)	22.5 ± 3.8 n = 16 (5)	4.8 ± 0.6 n = 19 (5)
	Corr pt	-34.8 ± 0.8 n = 16 (4)	15.3 ± 1.7 n = 15 (4)	4.6 ± 0.7 n = 16 (4)
	Pt	-35.4 ± 0.8 n = 25 (6)	23.9 ± 3.3 n = 26 (6)	6.1 ± 0.8 n = 25 (6)
Excitatory	Ctrl	-37.5 ± 1.4 n = 9 (3)	23.3 ± 2.4 n = 9 (3)	3.9 ± 0.4 n = 15 (3)
	Mut ctrl	-36.3 ± 0.8 n = 17 (5)	21.3 ± 1.9 n = 15 (5)	3.9 ± 0.2 n = 29 (5)
	Corr pt	-35.9 ± 1.1 n = 15 (5)	17.5 ± 1.9 n = 16 (5)	4.0 ± 0.5 n = ? (5)
	Pt	-35.7 ± 0.6 n = 31 (8)	18.7 ± 2.4 n = 32 (8)	4.2 ± 0.2 n = 33 (8)

a. Data reported as mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons (number of individual platings) underneath.
b. Ctrl = control, mut ctrl = mutated control, corr pt = corrected patient, and pt = patient.

Table 3. Comparison of passive membrane properties in two isogenic pairs

Cell type	Genotype	IR (GΩ)	C_m (pF)	RMP (mV)
Inhibitory	Ctrl	1.6 ± 0.1 n = 16 (3)	27.8 ± 2.8 n = 15 (3)	-48.0 ± 2.7 n = 13 (3)
	Mut ctrl	1.6 ± 0.1 n = 21 (5)	27.8 ± 2.8 n = 22 (5)	-49.3 ± 2.7 n = 18 (5)
	Corr pt	1.6 ± 0.2 n = 22 (4)	32.1 ± 2.4* n = 22 (4)	-62.8 ± 1.3**** n = 17 (2)
	Pt	1.6 ± 0.1 n = 26 (6)	24.9 ± 2.3 n = 26 (6)	-50.8 ± 2.3 n = 13 (2)
Excitatory	Ctrl	1.0 ± 0.1 n = 16 (3)	30.5 ± 2.5 n = 15 (3)	-52.0 ± 3.2 n = 9 (3)
	Mut ctrl	1.3 ± 0.09* n = 30 (5)	32.6 ± 2.9 n = 28 (5)	-49.9 ± 2.3 n = 17 (5)
	Corr pt	1.3 ± 0.09 n = 24 (5)	31.3 ± 1.4 n = 24 (5)	-56.1 ± 2.0 n = 14 (2)
	Pt	1.5 ± 0.09 n = 48 (8)	36.7 ± 1.8 n = 48 (8)	-54.1 ± 2.4 n = 12 (2)

a. Data reported as mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons and number of individual platings in parentheses.
b. Ctrl = control, mut ctrl = mutated control, corr pt = corrected patient, and pt = patient.
c. Statistically significant differences within isogenic pair: * $p < 0.05$ and **** $p < 0.0001$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test for IR and C_m and unpaired t-test for RMP.

Table 4. Comparison of Voltage dependence of Nav in isogenic pairs

Cell type	Line	Activation		Inactivation		Recovery
		$V_{1/2}$ (mV)	k (mV)	$V_{1/2}$ (mV)	k (mV)	τ (ms)
Inhibitory	Ctrl, n = 32 (4)	-38.2 ± 1.4	1.7 ± 0.3	-44.0 ± 1.0	5.5 ± 0.2	3.0 ± 0.2
	Mut ctrl, n = 29 (4)	-35.1 ± 1.4	2.1 ± 0.3	-43.3 ± 0.6	6.3 ± 0.3	3.2 ± 0.2
	Corr pt, n = 27 (5)	-32.0 ± 0.9	2.2 ± 0.3	-41.0 ± 0.4	6.3 ± 0.3	2.8 ± 0.1
	Pt, n =24 (4)	-31.3 ± 1.3	2.5 ± 0.4	-41.0 ± 0.8	6.1 ± 0.3	2.9 ± 0.2
Excitatory	Ctrl, n = 36 (4)	-35.4 ± 1.1	1.7 ± 0.2	-43.2 ± 0.5	5.7 ± 0.1	3.0 ± 0.1
	Mut ctrl, n = 27 (4)	-35.3 ± 1.3	2.2 ± 0.3	-44.0 ± 0.9	5.8 ± 0.2	3.4 ± 0.2
	Corr pt, n = 26 (5)	-31.5 ± 1.0*	2.3 ± 0.3	-42.5 ± 0.7*	7.2 ± 0.5**	2.9 ± 0.1
	Pt, n = 26 (4)	-34.7 ± 1.0	2.0 ± 0.3	-40.5 ± 0.4	5.4 ± 0.2	3.1 ± 0.1

a. Data reported as mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons and number of individual platings in parentheses for each line.
b. Ctrl = control, mut ctrl = mutated control, corr pt = corrected patient, and pt = patient.
c. Statistically significant differences within isogenic pairs: * $p < 0.05$ and *** $p < 0.001$, two-tailed unpaired *t*-test for activation and inactivation $V_{1/2}$, and Mann-Whitney U test for inactivation k.

3.4 Excitatory neurons: the K1270T SCN1A mutation reduces sodium current

density but does not reduce firing.

Previous studies in iPSC and mouse models have suggested that *SCN1A*

mutations reduce evoked firing and sodium currents specifically in inhibitory

neurons (Hedrich et al., 2014; Martin et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2016; Yu et al.,

2006). However, some studies in other *SCN1A* mutations showed excitability

and sodium currents of both excitatory and inhibitory neurons are affected by

SCN1A mutations (Jiao et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2013; Mistry et al., 2014).

Antibody staining demonstrated that both excitatory and inhibitory iPSC-

600 derived neurons in our cultures express Nav1.1 channels. Therefore, it was

601 important to evaluate evoked firing and sodium currents in iPSC-derived

602 excitatory neurons in the same two isogenic pairs examined in the previous

603 section at D21-24 post plating.

604   Over 93% of excitatory neurons in each genotype fired action potentials

605 with injection of depolarizing currents (Figure 4A and 4D). There was no

606 significant main effect difference or interaction effect in the firing frequency

607 versus injected current curves in the homozygous mutated control compared

608 to the control (genotype: $p = 0.91$, interaction: $p = 0.57$, two-way ANOVA with

609 repeated measures; Figure 4B). However, in the heterozygous patient line the

610 firing frequency was significantly increased compared to the corrected patient

611 line at current injections over 30 pA (genotype: $p = 0.041$, interaction: $p =$

612 0.0042, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure 4E). Since the

613 increased firing frequency in excitatory neurons is only in the patient-derived

614 line and not in the isogenic corrected line or in the control-derived pair (control

615 and mutated control lines), this suggests the phenotype is associated with an

616 interaction between the mutation and the patient genetic background. There

617 was no significant difference in the AP amplitude, threshold, rheobase and AP

618 half-width within or between the isogenic pairs (Figure 4C, 4F and Table 2).

619   The input resistance in the mutated control was slightly higher than that

620 of the control ($p = 0.025$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test; Table 3). However,

621 there was no difference in the input resistance between the patient vs the

622 corrected patient line (Table 3). The whole cell capacitance and RMP were

623 similar within the isogenic pairs (Table 3).

624   Based on the lack of decrease in firing in excitatory neurons, and the

increase in firing in the patient line, it seemed likely there would be no

decrease in sodium current density in the mutated control and possibly an

increase in the patient line. To evaluate this, isolated sodium currents were

recorded at D21-24 post plating and like inhibitory neurons, all excitatory cells

expressed sodium currents that were not well clamped (Figure 4G and 4I).

Unexpectedly the current density vs voltage curve demonstrated a significant

reduction in sodium current density recorded in the cell body in the

homozygous mutated control line compared to the control line (genotype: $p =$

0.0025, interaction: $p < 0.0001$, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures;

Figure 4H). The sodium current density in the heterozygous patient line was

also smaller compared to the corrected patient line. While the main effect of

genotype was not significant, there was a significant interaction effect

indicating that sodium current density differed between the two lines

depending on the voltage steps (genotype: $p=0.056$, interaction: $p < 0.0001$,

genotype, two-way ANOVA with repeated measures; Figure 4J). The reduction

of sodium current density in the heterozygous patient line at the higher

voltage steps was approximately half the magnitude seen in the homozygous

mutated control line (Figure 4H and 4J). This is consistent with a gene dose-

dependent effect of the mutation.

Since there was no concomitant reduction in firing frequency in the

excitatory neurons in the homozygous mutant line, this suggests that the

properties of other channels, for example potassium channels, in excitatory

neurons are more influential in determining the firing phenotype. However, this

does not address how a decrease in sodium current in the patient line is

consistent with a small but significant increase in excitatory neuron firing

frequency. Comparison of other sodium current properties revealed two

additional changes in the heterozygous patient line that were not seen in any

of the other three lines. There was a hyperpolarized shift in the voltage-

dependence of activation and a depolarized shift in steady-state inactivation in

the heterozygous patient compared to the corrected patient line (p = 0.028

and 0.015 respectively, two-tailed unpaired *t* test; Table 4 and Figure S3B and

S3D). These alterations are both likely to lead to increased channel opening

probability over a larger voltage range that would result in an increased

evoked firing rate only in this line (Figure 3F). The differences in activation

and steady-state inactivation in only one of the four lines indicate that it is due

to an interaction between the K1270T mutation and the patient genetic

background.

Taken together, similar to the inhibitory neurons, the K1270T mutation

causes reduced sodium current density in excitatory neurons. However, the

decreased sodium current density caused by the mutation in excitatory

neurons is not sufficient to reduce the evoked firing or AP waveforms in the

mutated control line. Further, interactions between the mutation and the

patient background appear to alter other properties of the sodium channel that

increase firing in excitatory neurons of the patient line which may contribute to

increased network activity.

Figure 4. In excitatory neurons, the K1270T mutation affects AP firing and decreases sodium current density. (A) Traces of action potential firing with 30 pA injected in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair of the control (ctrl) and the homozygous mutated control (mut ctrl). (B) The input-output curves of action potentials in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. (C) AP amplitude of the first AP at rheobase in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. (D-F) Same as A and B, but in excitatory neurons of the second isogenic pair of the lines of corrected patient (corr pt) and the heterozygous patient (pt). (G) Traces of voltage-gated sodium currents in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. The activation protocol started with a prepulse at -100 mV followed by a series of steps ranging from -100 to 30 mV with a 10 mV interval. (H) Current-voltage relationship in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. Whole cell currents were normalized to capacitance. (I-J) Same as G and H, but in excitatory neurons of the second isogenic pair. Data presented as mean + s.e.m in C and F, and mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons evaluated and the number of individual platings in parentheses for each line in B,E,H, and J. * and # represent significant differences in genotypes and interaction within an isogenic pair respectively, two-way ANOVA and *post hoc* Sidak's analysis. One to four symbols denote p values < 0.05, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001 respectively.

3.5. The K1270T mutation results in a hyperexcitable network.

A previous study from our laboratory found that the large majority of

neurons in iPSC-derived cultures receive spontaneous glutamatergic and

GABAergic synaptic input at D21-24 post plating (Xie et al., 2018). To

determine if the K1270T mutation, that specifically reduces firing of inhibitory

neurons or increases firing of excitatory neurons in the patient line, causes an

increase in excitability of the neuronal network, spontaneous excitatory and

inhibitory post-synaptic currents (sEPSCs and sIPSCs) were recorded from

excitatory neurons in each genotype.

All neurons that received both sEPSCs and sIPSCs were included for

analysis. Recordings were obtained at two different holding potentials, -2 mV

and -49 mV in each neuron corresponding to the reversal potential for EPSCs

and IPSCs, respectively (Figure 5A and 5D). To determine whether there was

any change in the balance of excitation vs inhibition, an index, (E-I)/(E+I) was

used, where E and I represented amplitude or charge transfer of sEPSC and

sIPSC respectively in excitatory neurons. This symmetric index ensures that E

and I have the same scale, in contrast to an E/I ratio where the range is

asymmetrical. An increase in the (E-I)/(E+I) index indicates an increase in

excitatory drive or a decrease in inhibitory drive, and vice versa.

The (E-I)/(E+I) index based both on synaptic current amplitude and

charge transfer, was significantly larger in the homozygous mutated control

line compared to the control and these differences were significant (p =

0.0002 and 0.046 respectively, two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test; Figure 5B and

5C). There was a similar trend of larger (E-I)/(E+I) index in the heterozygous

patient line compared to the corrected patient line but these differences were

not significant (Figure 5E and 5F). This indicates the mutation results in increased excitability in the neural networks formed in these cultures, consistent with the effects of mutation on sodium currents and evoked firing in inhibitory neurons. It also suggests that the increased firing frequency in the excitatory neurons in the patient line does not significantly affect network activity.

To test whether the increased excitatory drive in the network was also influenced by alterations in synaptic vesicle release, miniature excitatory and inhibitory PSCs (mEPSCs and mIPSCs) were recorded in excitatory neurons in the presence of 1 μM tetrodotoxin to block action potentials. The frequency, amplitude, and charge transfer of mEPSCs were similar between genotypes with the same genetic background (Figure S4A-C). There were also no changes in the mIPSCs (Figure S4D-F). This suggests that the K1270T mutation does not affect the synaptic vesicle release.

Together these data indicate that the K1270T mutation results in an imbalance in excitation and inhibition that leads to hyperactivity in the neural network.

Figure 5. The K1270T mutation gives rise to a hyperactive neural network. (A) Spontaneous excitatory and inhibitory post-synaptic currents received by excitatory neurons in the first isogenic pair of the control (ctrl) and the mutated control (mut ctrl) line. (B) The ratio of spontaneous (E-I)/(E+I) amplitude in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. (C) The ratio of spontaneous (E-I)/(E+I) of charge transfer in excitatory neurons of the first isogenic pair. (D-F) Same as A-C, but in excitatory neurons of the second isogenic pair of the corrected patient (corr pt) and the patient (pt) lines. Data reported as mean ± s.e.m. The total number of neurons and number of platings in parentheses for all four lines are 29 (7), 17 (4), 13 (3), and 18 (3) respectively. *p < 0.05 and ***p < 0.0001, two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test.

4. Discussion

4.1 Advantages of dual isogenic pair approach

Previous studies have used pairs of isogenic human iPSCs to explore

relationship between gene mutations and phenotypes (Ananiev et al., 2011;

Bellin et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2018). To our knowledge, ours is the first study

to use two pairs of isogenic iPSCs (control sibling vs mutated control, and

corrected patient vs patient sibling) to examine the direct relationship,

independent of genetic background, between a single ion channel mutation

and cellular mechanisms of genetic epilepsy. This approach is an efficient

strategy to evaluate the causality of single gene mutations that require

analysis at the single cell level to understand cellular mechanisms as is the

case for the many different ion channel mutations linked to epilepsy.

Mutations that are not only necessary but sufficient to cause the

functional change are identified as alterations that occur in both mutant lines,

the patient line that carries the endogenous mutation and the mutated control

line where K1270T was introduced by CRISPR, and not in the control or

corrected patient lines that both lack the mutation but the corrected line has

been subjected to CRISPR. In the present study, decreases in firing frequency

in inhibitory neurons, and sodium currents in excitatory neurons, in both

mutant lines and not in the isogenic controls indicate these phenotypes are

due to the K1270T mutation, independent of genetic background. Other

changes, AP amplitude and sodium current density in inhibitory neurons and

excitatory synaptic drive in excitatory neurons were significant only in the

homozygous mutant line compared to its isogenic control. However, changes

in the same direction for these properties that were smaller magnitude in the

heterozygous line compared to its isogenic control suggest a dose-dependent

effect of the K1270T mutation (Table 5). A limitation of this interpretation is that

the homozygous and heterozygous mutations are in different genetic

backgrounds. To determine how the zygosity of the mutation affects the

neuronal activity in the same genetic background, future studies will include

generation of a heterozygous mutated control line and a homozygous patient

line using CRISPR/Cas9 editing to compare with the existing lines.

This comparative strategy also allows for identification of alterations due

to the genetic background based on changes that are found in both lines of

one isogenic pair but not in the other isogenic pair (Smith et al., 2018), as is

seen in the voltage dependence of Nav activation and inactivation in inhibitory

neurons of the patient-derived pair only (Table 5). Further, a change in one

mutant line that is not seen in the other mutant line or the controls, identifies

alterations associated with an interaction between the mutation and the

genetic background, as is observed in the voltage dependence of Nav

activation and inactivation and increased firing frequency in excitatory

neurons of the patient line (Table 5).

The GEFS+ patient from whom we collected skin fibroblast had

prolonged febrile seizures and generalized afebrile absence seizures that are

more severe than other members with the same *SCN1A* mutation in the

pedigree (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001). It is likely that genetic background-

dependent functional alterations that were observed in the patient line in the

current study contribute to the differences in seizure phenotypes between

patients in the GEFS+ family. It will be interesting to compare the genetic

background of this individual to other GEFS+ family members to identify

specific genetic modifiers that exacerbate or ameliorate the cellular defects.

For instance, a missense mutation in *SCN9A* that encodes Nav1.7 has been

identified in other *SCN1A*-associated epilepsy patients (Singh et al., 2009). To

identify genetic modifiers that are altered in the *SCN1A* GEFS+ mutants,

single cell RNA sequencing or exome sequencing will be useful for screening

candidates in a high-throughput manner (Hawkins et al., 2016; Landis et al.,

2017).

Table 5. Origins of effects

Origin	Mutation independent of background	Genetic background	Interaction between mutation

Cell types	In			Ex			In		and background Ex		
Properties	AP freq	AP amp	I_{Na}^+	I_{Na}^+	E/I index (amp)	E/I index (Q)	Nav act	Nav inact	AP freq	Nav act	Nav inact
Ctrl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mut Ctrl ($SCN1A^{KT/KT}$)	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↑↑	↑↑	-	-	-	-	-
Corr pt	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓	↓	-	-	-
Pt ($SCN1A^{KT/+}$)	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑

a. Ctrl = control, mut ctrl = mutated control, corr pt = corrected patient, and pt = patient.
b. In = inhibitory neurons, ex = excitatory neurons.
c. Amp = amplitude of synaptic currents, Q = charge transfer of synaptic currents.
d. Nav act = voltage dependence of activation of Nav, Nav inact = voltage dependence of
steady-state inactivation of Nav.
e. Number of arrows represent fold changes. In properties related to voltage, ↑ and ↓
represent more depolarized and hyperpolarized respectively.
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Transcriptomic analysis in multiple iPSC lines generated from different

individuals reveals genetic background variation accounts for differences

between lines (Burrows et al., 2016; Rouhani et al., 2014). Therefore, it will be

interesting to generate additional cell lines and multiple clones from each line

via genome editing to robustly interrogate the interaction between the

mutation and genetic background in determining cellular phenotypes.

4.2 Alterations in excitability and sodium current density in inhibitory neurons

To examine the cell type-specific effect of the mutation in the

electrophysiological properties, inhibitory and excitatory neurons are labeled

by transfection of the GAD1-mCherry and CaMKII-eGFP plasmids

respectively. Specificity of the labeling was verified by immunostaining with

their own markers (Figure 2C). It is unlikely that the majority of the iPSC-

derived neurons are of an intermediate phenotype, expressing both GABA

and CAMKII, for the following reasons. (1) GABAergic and glutamatergic

neurons account for ~35% and ~55% of total neuronal population. If there was

a large percentage of neurons that co-express both markers, we would expect

to see their additive percentages exceed 100%. (2) The proportion of different

neuronal subtypes in cultures is consistent with data from the pharmacology

experiment in our previous study in which we found the majority of synaptic

connections in neural networks are GABAergic and glutamatergic, and a small

population is glycinergic (Xie et al., 2018). (3) If the majority of the neurons

express both GABA and CaMKII, the effect of the mutation on the

electrophysiological properties would have been the same, not different in

neurons with GAD-1 driven mCherry expression and CaMKII driven eGFP

expression. Together these data indicate the plasmids label neuronal

subtypes with high specificity.

Our results demonstrate that in inhibitory neurons, the K1270T *SCN1A*

mutation causes decrease in evoked firing frequency and AP amplitude. The

reduced excitability and sodium currents in inhibitory neurons is consistent

with a number of studies in mouse and iPSC model systems (Martin et al.,

2010; Sun et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2006). In particular, previous studies have

shown impaired excitability in two subtypes of GABAergic neurons,

parvalbumin (PV)- and somatostatin (SST)-expressing interneurons in mouse

models of *SCN1A* epilepsy (Favero et al., 2018; Tai et al., 2014). Selective

deletion of *Scn1a* in PV and SST interneurons causes hyperactivity in neural

networks and seizure behaviors, suggesting the importance of Nav1.1 in

regulating inhibitory neuron activity and the E/I balance (Cheah et al., 2012;

Dutton et al., 2013; Rubinstein et al., 2015). Our preliminary data reveal that

GABAergic neurons in our cultures can be divided into at least two groups

staining iPSC-derived neurons with anti-βIII-tubulin and PV or SST antibodies

(data not shown). However, we did not observe fast spiking, bursting or

adapting firing patterns characteristic of PV and SST interneurons in recorded

GAD1-mCherry$^+$ neurons. This suggests that functional maturation of

interneuron subtypes require a longer time in culture. Future studies will be

directed to determine the effect of *SCN1A* mutation in the electrophysiological

properties of identified PV and SST interneurons.

iPSC-derived inhibitory neurons in the present study had large sodium

currents, but they were not well space clamped. This is typical in neurons that

are capable of firing multiple APs (Jiao et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2018; Liu et al.,

2016, 2013; Sun et al., 2016). While evaluation of sodium currents that are

not well space clamped does not resolve absolute biophysical properties,

comparisons of sodium current properties within and between isogenic pairs

are still informative in identifying alterations caused by the mutation. For

example, pair wise comparisons demonstrate that the K1270T mutation

causes a decrease in sodium current density in inhibitory neurons. Further

studies will be necessary to determine if the reduction in sodium current

density recorded at the cell bodies is due to a decrease in total number of

sodium channels expressed or a change in localization of channels as

channels distant from the cell soma might reduce their contribution to the

recorded currents. This could be addressed by immune-electron microscopy

to evaluate voltage-gated sodium channel localization in neurons from the

different genotypes.

4.3 Alterations in excitability and sodium current density in excitatory neurons

Previous studies have reported mutation of *SCN1A* has little effect on

sodium currents in excitatory neurons (Martin et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2016; Yu

et al., 2006). In contrast we report that the K1270T mutation results in a

similar decrease in sodium current density in excitatory and inhibitory

neurons. This is consistent with Nav1.1 staining not only in GABAergic

neurons but in our CaMKII-eGFP[+] neurons. While previous studies suggest

that Nav1.1 is strongly expressed in inhibitory neurons (Ogiwara et al., 2007),

other studies report that Nav1.1 is present in a subset of excitatory neurons

(Dutton et al., 2013; Ogiwara et al., 2013).

Interestingly, the decrease in sodium current density does not result in

reduced firing in the excitatory neurons as it does in inhibitory neurons. This

indicates that the changes in the sodium current density were not sufficient to

reduce excitability in this cell type. This could be due to compensation from

potassium currents, as a voltage-gated potassium channel Kv8.2 has been

shown to function as a genetic modifier increasing the susceptibility of an

Scn2a mutant mouse to epilepsy (Bergren et al., 2009; Jorge et al., 2011).

Altered currents of Kv1 and Kv4 are associated with increased excitability in a

subset of pyramidal neurons in a mouse model of fragile X syndrome

(Kalmbach et al., 2015). *CACNB4* and *CACNA1A* that encode Cav have also

been identified as genetic modifiers that result in a gain of function in families

with *SCN1A* Dravet syndrome (Ohmori et al., 2013, 2008).

Further, the AP firing frequency is actually increased in the excitatory

neurons in the patient line resulting from an interaction between the mutation

and the patient genetic background. This is consistent with changes in the

voltage-dependence of sodium current activation and inactivation only in the

patient excitatory neurons. These changes predict that the channel is open

over a wider voltage range and is thus consistent with the increase in AP firing

seen in patient excitatory neurons. To explore the biophysical changes in finer

detail it would be possible to lower the external sodium concentration to

reduce the size of the sodium currents and increase potential for good voltage

control (Colatsky, 1980). One could also examine the biophysical properties of

single sodium channels in excised or cell attached patches from the cell body

(Franciolini, 1986; Stühmer et al., 1987). Both of these would provide

additional insight, but they also have the limitation of restricting analysis to a

small population of channels in a restricted location (on or near cell body) that

may not represent the full population of channels that define the firing

properties of the neurons.

4.4 Hyperactive neural network

Our previous study demonstrates that iPSC-derived neurons form

functionally active neural networks that contain GABAergic and glutamatergic

synaptic connections (Xie et al., 2018), allowing us to evaluate the effect the

K1270T mutation on the network activity of the neuronal cultures. Our results

reveal an increase in excitatory drive relative to inhibitory drive in excitatory

neurons.

There are no significant differences in the (E-I)/(E+I) index on the basis of

sPSC frequency between the two lines within the same isogenic pairs.

Therefore, it is likely that alteration in the index based on charge transfer is

associate with that on PSC amplitude. However, how a mutation in Nav leads

to increased PSC amplitude is still unclear. It is likely that homeostatic

regulation in genes that encode post-synaptic receptors is involved. Future

studies will include examination of expression of glutamate receptors such as

NMDA and AMPA receptors and GABA receptors such as GABA$_A$ receptors

etc.

Hyperexcitable neural networks are implicated in epileptic disorders (Shao

et al., 2019). Therefore, our iPSC-derived neuronal cultures provide insights

into the underlying mechanism of how an epilepsy-associated *SCN1A*

mutation gives rise to increased probability of seizures in patients. To

understand the effect of the mutation on the spontaneous network activity and

network synchrony more broadly, our future studies will use multi-electrode

arrays that allow for mechanistic study and anti-epileptic drug screening in a

high-throughput manner (Tidball and Parent, 2016).

4.5 Developmental maturation

Using our neuronal differentiation protocol that includes plating iPSC-

derived neural progenitors onto astroglial feeder layers, the large majority of

neurons fire multiple action potentials (Schutte et al., 2018; Xie et al., 2018).

The derived neurons not only have sodium currents larger than 1 nA in

average and fire multiple action potentials at 7-8 Hz comparable to other iPSC

studies (Liu et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2016), but they also receive glutamatergic

and GABAergic synaptic input within 3 weeks of plating. However, their

electrophysiological properties are less mature than neurons expected in an

adult brain, based on lower firing frequency, larger input resistance, and

depolarized RMP. Single-cell transcriptome analysis reveals development of

interneurons at D54 *in vitro* recapitulates those in human fetal cortex at 100

dpc (Close et al., 2017). While we cannot rule out the possibility that the

K1270T mutation causes a developmental delay in neuronal development in

culture, it seems unlikely to explain our results of reduced firing frequency and

action potential AP in inhibitory neurons associated with the mutation because

1) there was no consistent change in RMP or input resistance and 2) the

excitatory neurons of the mutated control and the patient lines were able to

fire APs in similar or higher frequency compared to their controls. However

future studies could evaluate effects of the mutation on further maturation in

long-term cultures.

4.6 Off-target mutation

Sequences of the top five off-target sites from CRISPR/Cas9 editing,

including *SCN7A*, *FLII*, *SCN2A*, *SCN3A* and *SCN9A* were examined. The

corrected patient line did not have off-target mutations in the candidate genes

(Supplementary Figure 1A). While the mutated control line did not have off-

target mutations in the other genes, it harbored one in *SCN7A*. It is very

unlikely that this mutation affected the results reported based on the following

considerations. First, *SCN7A* encodes the Na_x sodium channel in heart,

uterus, skeletal muscle, and peripheral nervous system (Goldin et al., 2000)

and RT-PCR analysis demonstrated that it is not expressed in our iPSC-

derived neurons of the mutated control line (Supplementary Figure 1B).

Secondly, the channel is insensitive to changes in membrane potential and

TTX, a voltage-gated sodium channel blocker (Hiyama et al., 2002). Isolated

sodium currents in iPSC-derived neurons at D21-24 post plating were

completely eliminated in the presence of 1 µM TTX (Supplementary Figure

1C). Third, while it is possible that the off-target mutation in *SCN7A* could

trigger homeostatic regulation by up- or down-regulating *SCN1A* expression,

this is unlikely as the alterations in sodium currents/evoked firing in the

homozygous mutated control line were in the same direction and twice as

large as the heterozygous patient line that did not undergo editing process.

4.7 Comparison with the previous knock-in fly model

The reduced excitability observed specifically in iPSC-derived inhibitory

neurons is consistent with the decreased excitability specifically in inhibitory

neurons in the brains of K1270T GEFS+ knock-in *Drosophila* (Sun et al.,

2012)*.*   Since both flies and patients exhibit heat-induced seizures, this

provides additional support to the hypothesis that reduced firing specifically in

inhibitory neurons is critical to the disease phenotype in humans. However,

the cellular defect associated with reduced excitability is distinct between the

models demonstrating two independent mechanisms that result in a similar

phenotype. In the iPSC-derived neurons there is a significant decrease in the

amplitude of the transient currents that are the dominant form of sodium

current in these neurons. In flies the reduced firing is associated with a

hyperpolarized shift in the deactivation threshold of the large persistent

sodium currents characteristic of inhibitory neurons in the adult fly brain. It is

possible that modifying the persistent currents in iPSCs by shifting their

voltage dependence could moderate the deficits associated with a reduced

transient sodium current.

In addition, an increase in excitability was observed in excitatory neurons

of the patient line, consistent with the higher firing rate in excitatory neurons in

the GEFS+ flies (Schutte et al., 2016). The alterations in fly are seen

predominantly at high temperature, so it is possible that elevated

temperatures will reveal additional or more severe alterations in sodium

currents in iPSC-derived neurons, as the patient sibling from whom the skin

fibroblast was collected showed more severe seizure phenotypes of febrile

seizures compared to afebrile seizures (Abou-Khalil et al., 2001).

4.8 Summary

Overall the CRISPR/Cas9-based disease modeling strategy with iPSC-

derived neurons can validate clinically relevant phenotypes and reveal the

sufficiency and necessity of *SCN1A* mutations for specific phenotypes in the

human genetic background. Furthermore, a library of patient iPSCs with a

variety of *SCN1A* mutations built using this approach, in combination with a

high-throughput drug screening method such as multi-electrode array (MEA),

will facilitate the development of personalized anti-epileptic medicine (Du and

Parent, 2015; Odawara et al., 2016; Parent and Anderson, 2015).

 5. Supplemental information

Supplementary Table 1. Primers for off-target gene sequencing and expression

Gene	Reference	Direction	Sequence
Off-target gene sequencing			
SCN7A	NG_031928.1	Fwd	5' ACAAGCATAGTGAACCAGCCCT 3'
		Rev	5' GATCAGCCCTGCACTTGTGAAC 3'
FLII	NG_023243.1	Fwd	5' GGCTGCAGACAAGAGCAAGAAA 3'
		Rev	5' CACAGCTGTTCTTTCTGCCCAG 3'
SCN9A	NG_012798.1	Fwd	5' CAGCACTGGTGAGAAGGCTAGA 3'
		Rev	5' ACTTGATGTGCCCCTCATCCTC 3'
SCN2A	NG_008143.1	Fwd	5' CCCTTGGTTGACTGAAATGCCC 3'
		Rev	5' TGCGAAATGTGAGTGTGCAAAA 3'
SCN5A	NG_008934.1	Fwd	5' GGAGAATCACTTGAACCCGGGA 3'
		Rev	5' GGCAGGACCCTGTCTCCTATTT 3'
SCN3A	NG_042289.1	Fwd	5' TTCCCTGCCAGCATTTTCACAC 3'
		Rev	5' ACAATTCTCCCTGTGTTTGCTCT 3'
Off-target gene expression			
SCN1A	NM_001165963.2	Fwd (ext)	5' TCCTTCGGGATCCATGGAACTG 3'
		Rev (ext)	5' CGTTTTCCCAGCAGCACGTAAT 3'
		Fwd (int)	5' TGTCTCGGCATTGAGAACATTC 3'
		Rev (int)	5' ATTGGTGGGAGGCCATTGTAT 3'
SCN7A	NM_002976.3	Fwd (ext)	5' AGCTGAGGGAAAACTAGTGCCC 3'
		Rev (ext)	5' GTGGATCAGGACCCCTACAAGG 3'
		Fwd (int)	5' AGAACCTAAGGGCCTTGTTCCC 3'
		Rev (int)	5' ACACAAGATGGAAGCCGCATTG 3'
ACTB	NM_001101.5	Fwd	5' CCACCATGTACCCTGGCATT 3'
		Rev	5' ACTCCTGCTTGCTGATCCAC 3'

a. Off-target gene expression was examined by nested PCR that uses two sets of primers.
b. Fwd, rev, ext and int are abbreviated for forward, reverse, external set and internal set of primers.

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A   Mutated control   Corrected patient   **B**

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Supplementary Figure 2 related to Figure 3. Properties of Nav in inhibitory neurons. (A-B) Conductance vs voltage curves of activation in inhibitory neurons of the control vs the mutated control lines, and the corrected patient vs the patient lines respectively. (C-D) Current vs voltage curves of steady-state inactivation in inhibitory neurons of isogenic pairs. (E-F) Recovery of inactivation in both isogenic pairs. Data presented as mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons and number of individual platings in parentheses evaluated in each line. Two-way ANOVA and *post hoc* Sidak's analysis.

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Supplementary Figure 3 related to Figure 4. Properties of Nav in excitatory neurons. (A-B) Conductance vs voltage curves of activation in excitatory neurons of the control vs the mutated control lines, and the corrected patient vs the patient lines respectively. (C-D) Current vs voltage curves of steady-state inactivation in excitatory neurons of isogenic pairs. (E-F) Recovery of inactivation in both isogenic pairs. Data presented as mean ± s.e.m with total number of neurons and number of individual platings in parentheses. * and # represent significant differences in genotypes and interaction within an isogenic pair respectively, two-way ANOVA and *post hoc* Sidak's analysis. One and four symbols denote p values < 0.05, and 0.0001 respectively.

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Supplementary Figure 4 related to Figure 5. Miniature EPSCs IPSCs received by excitatory neurons were unaltered by the K1270T mutation. (A-C) The frequency, amplitude and charge transfer of mEPSCs in the control (ctrl) vs the mutated control (mut ctrl), and the corrected patient (corr pt) vs the patient (pt) lines. (D-F) Same as A-C, but for mIPSCs. Data reported as mean + s.e.m. The total number of neurons and number of individual platings in parentheses for all four lines are ctrl: 9 (5), mut ctrl: 7 (3), corr pt:10 (4), and pt:10 (3).

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7. Author contributions

The laboratory of K.C.E. provided skin fibroblasts from the unaffected sibling

and the patient sibling from the GEFS+ family. The laboratory of P.H.S.

reprogrammed the fibroblasts into iPSCs. O.S.S. and M.A.S. designed the

CRISPR/Cas9, and O.S.S., Y.X., N.N.N. and C.M.R. performed screening of

positive clones. C.M.R., N.N.N., O.S.S. and Y.X. prepared astroglial cultures.

Y.X., N.N.N. and C.M.R differentiated iPSCs into neurons. Y.X. and N.N.N.

performed electrophysiological recording. Y.X., N.N.N. and C.M.R analyzed

the electrophysiology data. Y.X. and N.N.N. performed immunostaining,

imaging and cell counting. Y.X. wrote the manuscript, N.N.N., O.S.S., K.C.E,

P.H.S., M.A.S. and D.K.O. edited the manuscript.

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