1 NEAT1 involves Alzheimer's Disease (AD) progression via regulation 2 of glycolysis and P-tau

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22 **Abstract**

23 Nuclear paraspeckles assembly transcript 1 (NEAT1) is a well-known long noncoding
 24 RNA (LncRNA) with unclear mechanism in Alzheimer's disease (AD) progression.
 25 Here, we found that NEAT1 down-regulates in the early stage of AD patients and
 26 APPswe/PS1dE9 mouse. Moreover, knockdown of NEAT1 induced
 27 de-polymerization of microtubule (MT) and axonal retraction of nerve cells by
 28 dysregulation of the FZD3/GSK3 β /p-tau signaling pathway. Histone acetylation
 29 analysis at the Frizzled Class Receptor 3 (FZD3) promoter shows a marked decreased
 30 in the levels of the H3K27 acetylation (H3K27Ac) after NEAT1 knockdown. Our
 31 data demonstrates that P300/CBP recruited by NEAT1 to the FZD3 promoter and
 32 induced its transcription via histone acetylation. In recent years a growing number of
 33 evidences have shown an abnormal brain glucose homeostasis in AD. In the present
 34 study we also observed an abnormal brain glucose homeostasis and enhanced sirtuin1
 35 (SIRT1) activity after knockdown of NEAT similarly as in AD. Our results provided
 36 insight into the role of NEAT1 in the maintenance of MT stability and its effect on
 37 glucose metabolism during early stages of AD.

38

39 **Keywords:** Alzheimer's Disease, NEAT1, FZD3, H3K27Ac, Glycolysis;

40

41 **Introduction**

42 Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the leading cause of dementia among the aging
 43 population that involves complex neurodegenerative alterations. There are several

44 hypotheses to explain the basis of AD. Among them, the cholinergic, amyloid- β (A β)
 45 and tau hypotheses are the most recognized doctrine [1-4]. Currently, the available
 46 therapy of enhancing the acetylcholine response is not much satisfactory, and the
 47 trials targeting A β in AD repeatedly failed [5]; therefore, the microtubule associated
 48 protein tau (MAPT) hypothesis has gained much attention. In animal model,
 49 hyper-phosphorylated tau induces neurofibrillary tangles and microtubule
 50 disintegration, triggering the death of neurons [6, 7]; but, the precise molecular
 51 mechanism leading to the hyper-phosphorylation of tau remains unclear.

52

53 Nuclear enriched abundant transcript 1 (NEAT1) is a type of nuclear bodies exist in
 54 highly organized manner in mammalian nuclei to control gene expression and
 55 epigenetic events, is critical for the formation and maintenance of paraspeckles, [8, 9].
 56 The NEAT1 gene has two isoforms, NEAT1v1 (3.7 kb in length) and NEAT1v2 (23
 57 kb in length). NEAT1v2 binds directly to the paraspeckles proteins P54nrb/NONO
 58 and SFPQ/PSF, which results in the recruitment of NEAT1v1 and PSPC1 [10]. The
 59 primary function of paraspeckles is to sequester A-to-I hyper-edited RNAs which
 60 composed of an inverted repeat of Alu elements (IRAlus) in the nucleus to prevent the
 61 incorrect translation of edited RNAs. Chen and Carmichael investigated that, NEAT1
 62 knockdown leads to the collapse of paraspeckles as well as increased export of mRNA
 63 containing IRAlus, suggesting a close relationship between NEAT1 and the function
 64 of nuclear retention[12]. In addition to its involvement in the regulation of multiple
 65 genes expression by modulating their transcriptional activities NEAT1 also
 66 implicated in some neuronal loss diseases and neurodegenerative processes, such as
 67 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, traumatic brain injury and Huntington's disease.,
 68 However very little is known about the precise roles of NEAT1 in AD progression

69 [13-15]. In our recent study, we found that NEAT1 expression down-regulated in the
70 early stage of AD and its downregulation contribute to amyloid- β deposition [16] and
71 the change of glucose metabolism.

72

73 Several lines of studies have shown that abnormal glucose homeostasis in the brain
74 associates with AD pathogenesis. Increased in brain glucose levels and reduced in
75 glycolytic influx due to impair glucose metabolism seems to be an intrinsic features of
76 AD, appear early before the onset of clinical symptoms[17]. Epidemiological studies
77 indicate that elevated blood glucose levels are a risk factor for dementia. Patients with
78 type 2 diabetes are more likely to develop AD, suggesting that abnormal glucose
79 metabolism plays an instrumental role in the development of AD [18, 19]. In this
80 study, we found that NEAT1 down-regulation during early stage of AD disturbed
81 glucose metabolism of neuron cells and impaired microtubule (MT) stabilization via
82 dysregulation of the FZD3/GSK3 β /p-tau signaling pathway. Metformin abandon tau
83 hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration via increased NEAT1 expression.
84 Our results suggest new insights into the relationship between AD and diabetes
85 mellitus.

86

87 **Results**

88 **NEAT1 silencing induces de-polymerization of microtubules (MTs) during early**
89 **stages of Alzheimer Disease (AD).**

90 With the help of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, we analyzed, the expression profiles in
91 hippocampus of different stage AD patients and normal persons using data from the

92 National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). The expression levels of
93 NEAT1 in the hippocampus of AD patients at different stages (GSE84422) is shown
94 in figure 1A. NEAT1 expression significantly reduced in Braak stage 1 and 2,
95 representing an early-stage of AD, compared to patients in other Braak stages or
96 normal persons (Fig 1A). Braak stage 1 and 2 are the earliest disease phases in AD, in
97 which abnormal tau and neurofibrillary tangle start to appear. Interestingly in our
98 study, we observed a significantly reduced Neat1 expression levels in the
99 hippocampus of 2-month-old APP^{swe}/PS1^{dE9} and C57 mice (wild type) representing
100 an early stage of AD (Fig 1B).

101

102 To know the effect of down-regulation of NEAT1 on nerve cells, first we generated a
103 NEAT1-deficient (shNEAT1v2) and negative control (shNC) stable cell lines on U251
104 using lentivirus based shRNA with inhibition efficiency approximately up to 80%
105 (Fig 1C). After that, Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) from human placenta treated
106 with suitable neuron-specific induction medium to induce neuron-like cells (NLCs),
107 displayed neuron-protrusion morphologic changes during the first 4-6 days (Appendix
108 Fig S1A). The expression of neuronal markers assessed by real-time PCR showed that
109 GFAP (astrocyte marker), NF-M (neurofilament medium) and NSE (neuron-specific
110 enolase) (neuronal marker) up-regulate in differentiated cells compared to the
111 untreated MSCs (Appendix Fig S1B), [20-22]. The levels of NEAT1 mRNA declined
112 significantly after transfection with lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 compared to shNC
113 (small RNA with random sequence) in NLCs (Fig 1D). Moreover, the primary mouse
114 neurons also transfected with lentivirus based shNeat1v2 and shNC, resulted in 50%
115 inhibition ratio (Fig 1E).

116

117 We performed an Immunostaining with anti- α -tubulin antibodies in these cells and
 118 observed that down-regulation of NEAT1 induced the shrinkage of U251 cells (Fig
 119 1F and Appendix Fig S1C) and significantly decreased the length of glial cell
 120 terminals in shNEAT1v2 cells compared to shNC cells (Fig 1G). Next we examined
 121 whether NEAT1 down-regulation have any effect on neurites extension of NLCs or
 122 mouse primary neurons. Immunofluorescence analysis (Fig 1H-K) and optical
 123 microscopic observation (Appendix Fig S1D), showed decreased in the axonal
 124 length and shrinkage of NEAT1 knockdown NLCs or primary mouse neurons,
 125 suggesting that depolymerization of MTs and degeneration of axons is mediated by
 126 the down-regulation of NEAT1, an important pathological changes towards AD
 127 development. The normal primary mouse neurons were also immunostained by
 128 α -tubulin antibody (Appendix Fig S1E). The western blot analysis shows the
 129 decreased expression of acetylated tubulin in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line and
 130 NLCs, representing a reduction in polymerized tubulin[23], therefore suggesting an
 131 aggravated de-polymerization of MTs (Fig 1L)

132

133 **NEAT1 silencing mediates de-polymerization of MTs via FZD3/GSK3 β /p-tau** 134 **signaling pathway**

135 To further investigate the potential mechanisms of NEAT1 in AD patients, a
 136 correlation analysis performed by using hippocampus samples. The expression
 137 profiles of (GSE84422) from GEO datasets, and a cluster ($|r| > 0.4$) of
 138 NEAT1-associated genes obtained from braak stage 1/2 AD patients. Moreover, GO
 139 analysis performed by using the NEAT1-positive correlation genes. Expression profile

140 of GSE84422 showed that NEAT1 primarily associate with Wnt signaling pathway
141 (Fig 2A). The results of GO analysis also showed that Wnt pathway may have some
142 relationship with changes in NEAT1 expression during early stage of AD patients. We
143 observed the expression of some important proteins in Wnt signaling pathway and
144 found that the level of FZD3 mRNA in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell and NLCs reduced
145 considerably compared to shNC (Fig 2B and C). We also found that siNEAT1v2
146 similarly to siFZD3 also down-regulated FZD3 expression in U251 (Fig 2D).

147

148 In addition to its role in Wnt signaling, FZD3 regulate GSK3 β activity. Activation of
149 disheveled protein 1(Dv1) by FZD3 suppress GSK3 β activation via Dv1-mediated
150 inhibition[24]. Glycogen synthase kinase 3 β (GSK3 β) is also an important tau protein
151 kinase [4, 25, 26]. Therefore, we next examined the level of P-GSK3 β , P-tau and
152 FZD3 proteins in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line, NEAT1 siRNA, FZD3 siRNA
153 transfected U251 cells and shNEAT1v2 transfected NLCs. The results show that
154 NEAT1 knockdown significantly decreased the expression of FZD3 and p-GSK3 β
155 (ser9) but the level of total GSK3 β remain unchanged, suggesting a decreased in
156 p-GSK3 β /t-GSK3 β ratio (i.e., increased GSK3 β activity). Phosphorylation of GSK3 β
157 at serine 9 (p-GSK3 β) is a modification process required to inhibits GSK3 β activity [4,
158 25]. The decreased in p-GSK3 β /t-GSK3 β ratio thereby increased an active form of
159 GSK3 β , and ultimately result an elevated level of Phosphorylated form of Tau protein
160 (Fig 2E-G).

161

162 **NEAT1 regulates FZD3 expression via interaction with P300/CBP**

163 To understand the molecular mechanism of NEAT1-regulated FZD3 expression, we

164 generated luciferase reporter constructs containing the promoter region of FZD3 and
165 transfected the reporter vector into NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line. The results of the
166 luciferase activity assay showed that NEAT1 knockdown reduced the transcriptional
167 activity of the FZD3 promoter, indicating that NEAT1 regulate the expression of
168 FZD3 at transcriptional level, (Fig 3A). H3K27Ac is a well-established marker for
169 active transcription, we therefore analyzed its changes by using chromatin
170 immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assays and the results reveal a broad and significantly
171 decreased enrichment of H3K27Ac at the FZD3 promoter (Fig 3B).

172

173 Genome-wide profiling analysis using ChIP-sequencing have identified thousands of
174 functional/active enhancers that are either bound by the transcriptional co-activator
175 p300/CBP, or characterized by their association with high levels of H3K27Ac[27]. In
176 our previous study of RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP) assay we have shown that
177 p300/CBP pulled down several fragments of NEAT1. Moreover NEAT1 also
178 co-localized with p300/CBP therefore influence its acyltransferase activity by direct
179 interaction[16]. To reveal the potential mechanism how NEAT1 regulates FZD3
180 transcription, we designed four paired primers (P1, P2, P3, P4) across the promoter
181 region (-1000bp to +1000bp) of FZD3 and then subjected to ChIP-PCR assay to
182 identify its regulatory mechanism. The results showed that P300/CBP likely to bind to
183 P2 region of FZD3 promoter (Fig 3C), which is -661bp to -269bp from transcription
184 start site of FZD3. To further clarify the relationship between p300/CBP and FZD3,
185 we cultured normal U251 with 20 uM C646, a selective inhibitor of p300, for 48h and
186 observed a significant reduction of H3K27Ac enrichment at FZD3 promoter
187 compared to untreated U251(Fig 3D). Taken together, our preliminary results suggest
188 that NEAT1 recruits p300/CBP at FZD3 promoter region therefore influence its

189 transcription due to change in H3K27Ac levels.

190

191 H3K4Me3 is an active transcription marker, whereas H3K27Me3 suppress
192 transcription. We therefore examined the methylation pattern of histones proteins
193 including tri-methylated histone H3 at lysine 4 (H3K4Me3) and tri-methylated histone
194 H3 at lysine 27 (H3K27Me3), after down-regulation of NEAT1. The results show that
195 decreased enrichment of H3K4Me3 and increased enrichment of H3K27Me3 at the
196 FZD3 promoter region, is due to the down-regulation of FZD3 (Appendix Fig S2A
197 and B) in NEAT1 down-regulated U251 stable cell line. Overall, our data suggest that
198 NEAT1 knockdown enhance the phosphorylation of tau by inhibiting FZD3
199 transcription whereas activating the GSK3 β signaling pathway (Appendix Fig S2C).

200

201 **NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via impaired glycolysis and**
202 **increased SIRT1 activity.**

203 During our investigation, we observed that in similar cell numbers (Appendix Fig 3A
204 and B), NEAT1 deficient U251 cells produced less acid in medium compared to
205 control cells as evident of slow change in color to yellowish (Fig 4A), suggesting that
206 knockdown of NEAT1 induced down-regulation of glycolysis and its acidic
207 metabolites. To further confirm the glycolysis of NEAT1 deficient U251 cells, we
208 used Seahorse ECAR (Extracellular Acidification Rate). In Figures 4B and C,
209 glycolysis and the glycolytic capacity shows a 46.5% and 40.1% decreased
210 respectively in NEAT1 stable knockdown cells (Fig 4B and C). Consistent with the
211 color change of the culture medium, the intracellular pH value detected by flow
212 cytometer also increased in shNEAT1v2 cells (Fig 4D). NEAT1 silencing also caused

213 a decline in the expression profile of multi-glycolysis related genes, including
 214 PFKFB2, PKM2 and HK2 (Fig 4E). Furthermore, NEAT1 silencing-mediated
 215 down-regulation of glycolysis increased the ratio of NAD/NADH and the activity of
 216 SIRT1 (Fig 4F and G).

217

218 To investigate how NEAT1 regulate cellular glycolysis, we detected H3K27Ac
 219 enrichment on the promoter regions of these glycolysis related genes. The results
 220 showed that NEAT1 knockdown significantly reduced H3K27Ac enrichment levels
 221 when compared with shNC cell line (Fig 4H-J). SIRT1 is a nuclear enzyme of
 222 NAD-dependent histone deacetylase, and its catalytic activity mainly depends on
 223 NAD/NADH. An increased in the ratio of NAD/NADH may attenuates H3K27Ac
 224 enrichment at the promoter regions of FZD3 or other genes, due to enhanced activity
 225 of SIRT. We therefore sought to know whether increased in SIRT1 activity is
 226 mediated by NEAT1 silencing which contributes to FZD3 transcription, SIRT1
 227 inhibitor Sirtinol added to cultured shNEATv2 deficient cells to analyze alterations of
 228 H3K27Ac enrichment at FZD3 promoter region. The results reveal a significantly
 229 increased enrichment of H3K27Ac at the FZD3 promoter after adding 20μM Sirtinol
 230 for 48 h, suggesting an increased in SIRT1 activity to some level therefore may
 231 influence FZD3 transcription (Fig 4K and L).

232

233 **Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration via**
 234 **increased NEAT1 expression**

235 Metformin originally been used as an anti-diabetic agent, but recently, it is considered
236 as promising agent for the treatment of AD [28]. We therefore investigated whether
237 metformin can retard tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration. To apply an
238 optimum concentration of metformin, first we calculated LC50 of the drug (from 0 to
239 15mM) for U251 cells by using cell counting kit 8 assay. The results show that cell
240 viability not influenced significantly by low concentration (from 0 to 2mM) of
241 metformin (Appendix Fig 3C). We also observed that metformin concentration
242 dependently increased NEAT1 as well as FZD3 expression in U251 cells. Metformin
243 concentration ranged from 0 to 0.5 or 1mM increased the expression of NEAT1 or
244 FZD3 and reached to the maximum level after that decreased steadily (Fig 5A).

245

246 The expression levels of downstream genes, including FZD3, P- GSK3 β , as well as
247 tau hyper-phosphorylation also rescued by 0.5 mM metformin in NEAT1 deficient
248 U251 cells (Fig 5B). Furthermore, expression of FZD3, P-GSK3 β and tau
249 hyper-phosphorylation also reduced by 1mM metformin in shNEAT1v2 and shNC
250 transfected NLCs (Fig 5C). We also observed that compared to control, treatment
251 with metformin, rescued the glial cell terminal length in U251 cells and the average
252 terminal length analyzed by Image J (Fig 5D and E). Interestingly the rescued axonal
253 length also observed in shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs (Fig 5F and G and
254 Appendix Fig S3D). However, high concentration of metformin not only failed to
255 rescue the axonal degeneration but further triggered cell lesion and even death in
256 NLCs, showing its cytotoxic effect in neuronal cells (Appendix Fig S3E).

257

258 **Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation in hippocampus of**
 259 **APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice**

260 We next examined Neat1 expression in the hippocampus of 2-month-old wild type
 261 and AD transgenic mice, showing an early stage of AD (Fig 1B). We also examined
 262 Fzd3 expression levels in 2-month-old mice and found decreased in mRNA levels of
 263 Fzd3 in hippocampus of AD mice (Fig 6A). The rescuing effects of metformin further
 264 confirmed by in-vivo studies. In our previous study, we detected the mRNA levels of
 265 Neat1 in 3-month-old APP/PS1 double transgenic mouse, and found reduced Neat1
 266 expression compared with C57 mice [16]. In present study, these nearly 3 months old
 267 AD mice were observed an increased in the level of Neat1 and Fzd3 mRNA in the
 268 hippocampus of metformin treated group compared to control group treated with
 269 ddH2O (Fig 6B and C). Furthermore, we found increased H3K27Ac protein
 270 expression and reduced P-tau level in metformin treated AD mice group compare with
 271 ddH2O group (Fig 6D).

272

273 Next we performed Immunohistochemistry (IHC) in the whole hippocampus and in
 274 the CA1 hippocampal area of differently treated mice. The results show a significantly
 275 high H3K27Ac-positive and FZD3-positive neuronal cells in CA1 hippocampal area
 276 of metformin treated AD mice, compared to APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice
 277 treated with ddH2O. The accumulation of hyper-phosphorylated form of tau
 278 decreased significantly in the hippocampus, showing the rescue effect of metformin
 279 (Fig 6E-G). Quantification of the relative area fraction occupied by
 280 immunohistochemical staining was analyzed with Image J (Fig 6H).

281

282 **Discussion**

283 NEAT1 is implicated in many neurodegenerative disorders, including amyotrophic
284 lateral sclerosis (ALS) [13] and Huntington's disease (HD) [9, 15]. In our recent study,
285 we found that NEAT1 also involves AD progression. The down- regulation of NEAT1
286 expression contributed to amyloid- β deposition, via inhibiting expression of multi
287 endocytosis related genes. Through interaction with P300/CBP complex, NEAT1
288 regulated expression of these genes via affecting H3K27 acetylation (H3K27Ac) and
289 H3K27 crotonylation (H3K27Cro) in the promotor region of these genes[16]. In this
290 investigation, we found that NEAT1 involves AD progression also through
291 dysregulation of glycolysis and up-regulation of p-tau.

292

293 According to the early reports from other authors, the disorder of glucose
294 metabolism has some relationship with AD. FDG PET study revealed that decrease
295 utilization of glucose in the brain of patients with "sporadic" AD caused by gene
296 mutation even before any visible symptoms of dementia, suggesting that disturbance
297 in glucose metabolism is closely linked to AD development [29, 30]. In vivo diabetic
298 model of mice demonstrates morphological and molecular alterations in the brain
299 similar to those observed in other neurodegenerative disorders [31, 32]. However, the
300 mechanism is still poorly understood. In our investigation, we found that NEAT1
301 expression markedly declines in the early-stage of AD patients. Down-regulation of
302 NEAT1 mediates decrease in glycolysis and enhance the NAD/NADH ratio and the

303 activity of SIRT1, which is a nuclear enzyme of NAD-dependent histone deacetylases
304 (Fig 6I).

305

306 In addition to its function as a fundamental structural component of paraspeckles to
307 regulate RNA nuclear retention and RNA splicing, NEAT1 involves in the epigenetic
308 regulation of gene expression. Chen et al. reported that NEAT1 mediates H3K27me3
309 of Axin2, ICAT, and GSK3 β in glioblastoma by binding to EZH2[33]. NEAT1 also
310 associates with H3K4me3 [34, 35]. In the present study, we reported that NEAT1
311 regulates the tri-methylation and acetylation of H3K27 of the FZD3 promoter. Our
312 investigation for the first time highlights NEAT1-mediated regulation of H3K27
313 acetylation at promoter region of the FZD3 gene. Through regulation of H3K27
314 acetylation of FZD3, NEAT1 activates GSK3 β .

315

316 GSK3 β play roles in both diabetes and AD progression. Insulin resistance
317 dysregulates the insulin/PI3K/Akt/GSK3 β signaling pathway, leading to the inhibition
318 of Akt and de-phosphorylation of GSK3 β (activation), result in tau
319 hyper-phosphorylation [36-39]. The NEAT1/FZD3/GSK3 β signaling pathway
320 reported in this investigation also associate with hyper-phosphorylation of tau.
321 Therefore, GSK3 β appears to be a possible connection between the
322 NEAT1/FZD3/GSK3 β and insulin/PI3K/Akt/GSK3 β pathways in AD progression.
323 Our result also suggests that increased in SIRT1 activity mediated by NEAT1
324 down-regulation at least partially contribute to the change of enrichment of H3K27Ac

325 at the FZD3 promoter region and the activity of FZD3/GSK3 β signaling pathway (Fig
326 6I).

327

328 Metformin has been recommended as a first-line therapy for patients with type
329 2 diabetes mellitus since 2009 [40]. Because it can penetrate the blood-brain barrier ,
330 metformin is also used as a promising drug for treating AD. Chen et al. reported that
331 metformin improve memory impairment and inhibit neuronal apoptosis and
332 accumulation of A β in the hippocampus of db/db mice [41]. In our study, we reported
333 that metformin rescued NEAT1 down-regulation and axonal degeneration by
334 regulating the FZD3/GSK3 β /p-tau signaling pathway. Consistent with our finding,
335 researchers also reported that both in vitro and in vivo, metformin reduce tau
336 phosphorylation in murine neurons, but via the mTOR/protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A)
337 signaling pathway [42]. However, Barini et al., reported that metformin treatment
338 in a mouse model of tauopathy promotes tau aggregation and exacerbates abnormal
339 behavior[28]. Moore et al. reported that using metformin aggravated cognitive
340 impairment of AD patients compared to control group. They think that MET-induced
341 vitamin B12 deficiency may cause AD[43]. In our study, we found that high dose of
342 metformin is cytotoxic for neuron cells. In short, when metformin is use to prevent or
343 treat AD, dose is an important consideration.

344

345 **Experimental Procedures**

346 **Mice**

347 Animals were kept in an environmentally controlled breeding room (temperature: 20
348 ± 2 °C; humidity: 60% $\pm$ 5%; 12 h dark/light cycle). The animals were fed standard
349 laboratory chow diets with water ad libitum. The study was performed in strict
350 accordance with the recommendations of the Guide for the Care and Use of
351 Laboratory Animals of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tsinghua
352 University. The protocol was approved by the Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee
353 of Tsinghua University, China. C57BL/6 (wild type mice) and APPswe/PS1dE9
354 double transgenic mice (transgenic AD mice) both at the ages of 2 months were
355 obtained from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME, USA) and were housed in
356 individually ventilated cages. 2 month old C57BL/6 (n=7) and same age
357 APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice (n=6) were killed by decapitation to obtain
358 hippocampus tissue and detected mRNA levels of Neat1 and Fzd3.

359
360 2 month old C57BL/6 (n=8) and same age APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice
361 (n=12) were obtained from the same source and were divided into 3 groups: 1) a sham
362 group (which only received normal diet, daily intragastric administration of ddH₂O,
363 C57BL/6 (n=8).) 2) a control group (which only received normal diet, daily
364 intragastric administration of ddH₂O, transgenic AD mice (n=6).) 3) a case group
365 (which received daily intragastric administration of 200mg/kg metformin (Abcam,
366 #ab120847) dissolved in ddH₂O for 9 weeks, transgenic AD mice (n=6).) For
367 Immunostaining, WT mice and AD mice were killed by decapitation to obtain
368 hippocampus tissue and perfusion were performed with 4% PFA in PBS. To quantify
369 Neat1 expression levels, C57BL/6 mice and AD mice were anesthetized with
370 pentobarbital and hippocampal tissue was eluted in RNAiso Plus (Takara, D9108B)
371 followed by RNA extraction.

372

373 **Dataset**

374 mRNA expression data sets and the associated clinical information were obtained
375 from GSE84422 (GEO, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gds/>) database. GSE84422 is
376 titled as molecular signatures underlying selective regional vulnerability to
377 Alzheimer's Disease, which includes RNA samples from 19 brain region isolated
378 from the 125 specimens. NEAT1 expression in the hippocampus of 44 AD patients
379 with different braak stage and 11 normal persons was analyzed using nonparametric
380 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

381

382 **Cell culture**

383 Human glioma U251 cells (China Infrastructure of Cell Line Resources) were
384 cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 12800-017)
385 containing 10% fetal bovine serum (PAA, A15-101), 10 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin
386 (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 15140-122) in a 5% CO₂-humidified incubator at 37 °C.

387

388 Human placenta derived mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) were isolated and cultivated
389 according to a previously published protocol [44]. MSCs (5×10^4 per well on a 6-well
390 culture plate) were cultured in low-glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
391 (LG-DMEM) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 10U/mL
392 penicillin/streptomycin at 37°C, and 5% (v/v) CO₂. Primary hippocampal neurons
393 were isolated from embryonic E18.5 C57BL/6 mice and approximately 2×10^3
394 cells/well were plated on poly-D-lysine-coated glass coverslips (20 µg/ml) for

immunofluorescence. The plating medium was DMEM-F12 (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 10565-018) supplemented with 10% horse serum (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 26050-070), 10mM sodium pyruvate (P4562, sigma), 0.5mM glutamine (G6392, sigma) and 1% D-Glucose (G6152, sigma). After 2-4 h, the medium was changed to neuronal growth medium (500ml Neurobasal medium (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 21103-049) with 10ml B27(Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 17504-001), 5ml N-2 Supplement (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, A13707-01)10ul 45% D-Glucose (G6152, sigma) and 5ml L-Glutamine (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, A2916801)). 5ug/ml AraC (C6645, sigma) was added to neuronal growth medium after 72h to reduce glial growth. Lentivirus transfections were conducted as follows.

405

406 **Cell transfections**

All the synthetic lentivirus-based shRNAs (shNEAT1v2 and shNC) and siRNAs (siNEAT1v2 and siNC) were purchased from Shanghai GenePharma Co., Ltd. All the siRNAs were transfected with lipofectamine™ 2000 (Invitrogen, 11668-019) according to the manufacturer's protocol, and shRNAs were co-transfected with polybrene (GenePharma Co. (Shanghai, China)). The siRNA sequences were showed in table S1.

413

414 **Construction of stable cell lines**

Human glioma U251 cells were cultivated in 6-well plate (1×10^4 /well). When the cell density reached 40-50% confluence, the Lentivirus based shRNAs were used for cell transfection to generate stable monoclonal cell lines (shNEAT1v2 cells and shNC cells). Puromycin (A1113803, Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Lnc) selection

419 (10ug/ml) started 24h after transfection. The medium with 10 µg/ml puromycin was
420 changed every 2-3 days. Following 2-4 weeks, isolated colonies were selected and
421 grown for later assays.

422

423 **MSC induction**

424 MSCs were incubated for 7-10 days in neuronal differentiation medium containing 10
425 ng/ml epidermal growth factor (EGF, sigma), 10 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor
426 (bFGF, sigma), 10 µM Forskolin (Macklin, F823536, Shanghai), 10 ng/ml
427 brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF, sigma), 0.1 mM 3-isobutylmethyl-xanthine,
428 IBMX (Macklin, 1811775, Shanghai), 0.5 µM retinoic acid (RA, sigma), 5% FBS and
429 the DMEM/F-12, GlutaMAX™ medium (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle
430 Medium/Nutrient Mixture F-12, 10565018 Gibico). Using real-time PCR detects the
431 expression changes of several neuronal marker genes after this induction, including
432 GFAP, NF-M and NSE [45-47]. The primers were showed in table S2.

433

434 **Reverse Transcription and Quantitative PCR**

435 Reverse transcription was performed using ReverTra Ace® qPCR RT Master Mix
436 with gDNA remover (TOYOBO, FSQ-301) according to the manufacturer's protocol.
437 The resultant cDNA was measured by quantitative PCR using following system: 4µl
438 of RNase-free H₂O, 0.5 µl of forward primer (1 µM), 0.5ul of reverse primer (1 µM),
439 1 µl of cDNA (50 ng) template, and 5 µl of SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (TOYOBO,
440 QPK-201) at 95°C for 30 s, followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 s, 60°C for 15 s and
441 70°C for 15 s. All mRNA levels were normalized to beta-actin. The primers were
442 showed in table S2.

443

444 **CCK8 assay**

445 Approximately 5×10^3 cells per well were plated in a 96-well culture plate and
446 incubated 24 h, followed by treating different concentrations of metformin for 48 h.
447 Then, 10 μ l CCK8 reagent (MedChem Express, HY-K0301-500T, China) were added
448 to each well and maintained for 4h at 37°C After that, the absorbance at 450nm was
449 detected by using a microplate reader.

450

451 **Western blot**

452 The antibodies used for Western blotting included an anti-GSK3 β antibody (cell
453 signaling, #12456), an anti-Phospho-GSK3 β (ser9) antibody (cell signaling, #9322),
454 an anti-FZD3 antibody (Abcam, ab75233), an anti-phospho-Tau (S396) antibody
455 (Abcam, ab109390), an anti-Phospho-Tau (Ser400/Thr403/Ser404) antibody (Cell
456 signaling, #11837), an anti-acetyl-Tubulin antibody (Sigma, T6793), an anti-PKM2
457 antibody (Cell signaling, #4053) an anti-HK2 antibody (Cell signaling, #2867), an
458 anti-PFKFB2 antibody (Cell signaling, #13045) and an anti- GAPDH antibody
459 (Proteintech,10494-1-AP) was analyzed by western blot. Protein sample was lysed in
460 ice-cold whole cell extract buffer B (50 mM TRIS-HCl, pH 8.0, 4M urea and 1%
461 Triton X-100), followed by being heated at 100°C for 10 min with 5 $\times$ loading buffer.
462 Then, equal amount of protein sample was separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred
463 onto PVDF membranes (Millipore, Immobilon-NC). Membranes were blocked for 1h
464 at room temperature with 5% non-fat milk and successively incubated overnight at 4°C
465 with primary antibody and 2h room temperature for secondary antibody. After that,
466 ECL Blotting Detection Reagents were used to visualize protein bands.

467

468 **Immunohistochemistry**

469 The hippocampus of mouse was isolated and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA)
470 and then placed in 30% sucrose in PBS for 1 day. Paraffin-embedded tissue sections
471 (10um thickness) were treated in 0.01M PBS containing 3% hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)
472 for 10 min. Then blocked in 3% BSA and were incubated in following antibodies: an
473 anti-phospho-Tau (S396) antibody (Abcam, ab109390), an anti-FZD3 antibody
474 (Abcam, ab75233) and an anti-acetylysine antibody (Cat#PTM-102, clone Kac-11).
475 Specimens were visualized under an inverted phase contract fluorescent microscope
476 [48].

477

478 **Immunofluorescence**

479 Antibodies against α -tubulin (Sigma, T6074) and the secondary antibodies Alexa
480 Fluor 594 (Life Technologies Corp.) were employed in immunofluorescence staining.
481 Microscopic analysis that clearly reflecting changes of axonal length were captured
482 using an Olympus FV1000 confocal laser microscope.

483

484 **Luciferase Assay**

485 The dual-luciferase promoter assay system was generated by inserting sequences from
486 -500bp to +500bp relative to the transcription start sites (TSS) of FZD3. The inserted
487 reporters were obtained from Shanghai GenePharma Co. Ltd. Luciferase activities
488 were assayed using a Dual-Luciferase Reporter System (Promega, E1960).

489

490 **ChIP Assay**

491 ChIP assays were performed as described previously [49]. Briefly, the cells were
 492 digested with ChIP lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCL PH=8.0, 5 mM EDTA, 0.1%
 493 deoxycholate, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NACL in 1* PIC (protease inhibitor)), And
 494 were crosslinked with 1% formaldehyde and sonicated for 180s (10s on and 10s off)
 495 on ice shear the DNA to an average fragment size of 200-1000bp. The 500ul of
 496 sonicated chromatin was purified by centrifugation, and then, the supernatants were
 497 incubated with the ChIP grade antibody against 2-5ug anti-KAT3B/P300 (Abcam,
 498 ab54984), anti-Histone H3 (acetyl K27) (Abcam, ab4729), anti-Histone H3 (tri
 499 methyl K4) (Abcam, ab8580), anti-Histone H3 (tri methyl K27) (Abcam, ab6002) and
 500 100ul DynabeadsTM protein G (Invitrogen, 10004D, USA). Finally, chromatin DNA
 501 was subjected to Quantitative PCR and all primers for ChIP-qPCR are listed in table
 502 S3.

503

504 **NAD/NADH and SIRT1 deacetylase activity**

505 The experiment was performed using NAD⁺/NADH Assay kit (Abcam, ab176723)
 506 according to the manufacturer's instruction. SIRT deacetylase activity was measured
 507 using a colorimetric assay kit (Abcam, ab156915) and nuclear extracts were prepared
 508 using Nucleoprotein Extraction Kit (Sangon Biotech, C500009, Shanghai).

509

510 **Seahorse extracellular flux analysis**

511 The extracellular acidification rate (ECAR), indicating glycolysis, was measured
 512 using Seahorse XFe96 analyzer (Seahorse Bioscience, North Billerica, MA). XFP

513 Glycolysis Stress Test Kit (Seahorse Bioscience, Part# 103017-100) was used to
514 detect three indexes including Glycolysis, Glycolytic Capacity and Glycolytic
515 Reserve. Before the experiments, shNC cells or shNEAT1v2 cells were seeded at
516 5000 cells/well in 8 wells Seahorse cartridge which was hydrated before. After
517 adhering, the medium in the wells was gently changed by supplementing XF Base
518 Medium, which was added 2mM glutamine, as a starting point. The 8 wells Seahorse
519 cartridge was incubated at 37°C in non-CO2 incubator for 1h. And then, the assay was
520 performed through injection of 3 metabolic compounds: glucose, oligomycin and
521 2-DG. All the results were calculated on the average of the three measurements.

522

523 **Measurement of intracellular pH (pH_i)**

524 Measurements of pH_i were performed using the cell permeable pH-sensitive dye
525 BCECF-AM (2',7'-bis(2-carboxyethyl)-5(6)-carboxyfluorescein-acetoxymethylester;
526 Calbiochem). Fluorescent probe BCECF (Aladdin, B115503) which is excited by
527 visible light (488 nm) and diffuses out of cells very slowly was dissolved in DMSO
528 for stock solutions (100mM), and the working concentration was 100nM. After
529 adding BCECF to the culture medium and incubated in 37 °C for 20min, the flow
530 cytometry analysis was performed to determine the intracellular pH of treated cells
531 (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA).

532

533 **Reagent treatment**

534 Sirtinol (Sigma, S7942), a pan sirtuin inhibitor, was dissolved in ddH2O for stock
535 solutions (2M). The cells were plated and treated with 10mM and 20mM sirtinol for
536 24h. Metformin (Abcam, #ab120847) was dissolved in ddH2O for stock solutions

(1M) and used fresh or before 6 months. And subsequently diluted to different final concentrations: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 15mM with culture medium. C646 (Abcam, #ab146163) was dissolved in DMSO for stock solutions (20M) and diluted to different concentrations with culture medium.

541

542 **Statistical analysis**

543 All assays were repeated at least three times and data are shown as means $\pm$ SEM. P values were determined by comparing the data from treated and control cells. Data were evaluated with two-tailed t-test. Differences were considered significant with a value of $P < 0.05$.

547

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552

553 **Author Contribution**

554 Yiwan Zhao and Ziqiang Wang designed and conducted the experiments, Yiwan Zhao analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. Yiwan Zhao, Yunhao Mao, Shikuan Zhang, Songmao Wang, Yuanchang Zhu, conducted the experiments. Bing Li conducted the bioinformation analysis. Weidong Xie and Naihan Xu revised the manuscript. Yaou Zhang designed the experiments, supervised the project, and wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

560

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752

753 **Figure legends**

754

755 **Figure 1. NEAT1 silencing induces de-polymerization of microtubules (MTs)**
756 **during early stages of Alzheimer Disease (AD).**

757 A. The expression of NEAT1 in the hippocampus of AD patients with different braak
758 stage and normal persons was analyzed in GSE84422. B. Neat1 analysis in
759 hippocampi of 2-month-old AD mice and wild-type mice. C. The NEAT1 mRNA

760 expression levels were measured by quantitative PCR in stable NEAT1 deficient cell
761 line on U251. D. Quantitative PCR analysis of NEAT1 mRNA levels in lentivirus
762 based shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs. E. Neat1 mRNA expression was
763 detected by quantitative PCR in lentivirus based shNeat1v2 and shNC transfected
764 primary mouse neurons. F. Immunofluorescence analysis of α -tubulin (red) in stable
765 NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251, H. shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs, J.
766 shNeat1v2 and shNC transfected mouse primary neurons. DAPI (blue) was used to
767 stain the nuclei. Scale bars, 20 μ m. G. The average terminal length of stable U251 cell
768 lines was calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. I. The average synaptic length
769 of shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs was calculated from 30 randomly
770 selected cells. K. The average dendritic length of shNeat1 and shNC transfected mouse
771 primary neurons was respectively calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. Image J
772 software was used to count the cell length (mean $\pm$ s.d, $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$, $***P <$
773 0.001 , Student 2-tailed t test). L. Western blot analysis for acetylated tubulin
774 expression levels in stable U251 cell lines as well as shNEAT1v2 and shNC
775 transfected NLCs.

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783 **Figure 2. NEAT1 silencing mediates de-polymerization of MTs via**
784 **FZD3/GSK3β/p-tau signaling pathway** A. GO analyses were performed using the
785 NEAT1 positive-associated genes in GSE84422. B. The FZD3 mRNA expression
786 levels were measured by quantitative PCR in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on
787 U251. C. The mRNA levels of FZD3 in lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 and shNC
788 transfected NLCs. D. The mRNA levels of FZD3 in U251 after being transfected with
789 NEAT1 siRNA, FZD3 siRNA and negative control. (mean ± s.d, * $P < 0.05$, Student
790 2-tailed t test). E-G. The expression levels of the FZD3, GSK3β, p-GSK3β,
791 p-Tau(s396) and p-Tau(s400/t403/s404) were analyzed with Western blotting
792 respectively in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251, NEAT1v2 siRNA, FZD3
793 siRNA transiently transfected U251 and shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs.

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795 **Figure 3. NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via recruitment of**
796 **P300/CBP and reduced level of H3K27Ac**

797 A. After co-transfection with siNEAT1v2 or negative control siRNAs and the pGL3
798 enhancer plasmid containing FZD3 promoter fragments for 48h, the relative
799 transcriptional activities were determined with a luciferase assay in three independent
800 experiments. B. The histone modification status of H3K27Ac on FZD3 promoter
801 detected by ChIP assays in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251. D. ChIP-PCR
802 showed that P300/CBP occupied the FZD3 promoter region. D. The 20μM C646
803 treated and normal U251 cells were collected for ChIP assays to analyse the relative

804 fold enrichment of the FZD3 promoter using anti-H3K27Ac antibody. (mean $\pm$ s.d,

805 $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$, Student 2-tailed t test).

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825 **Figure 4. NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via impaired glycolysis**
 826 **and increased SIRT1 activity.**

827 A. The color change of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines were cultured in a 6-well
 828 plate for different time. B. The Seahorse Flux Bioanalyser was used to measure

829 ECAR of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines in real time under basal conditions and in
830 response to glucose, oligomycin, and 2-Deoxy-D-glucose (2DG). n=3, *P < 0.05. C.
831 Basal glycolysis (after the addition of glucose), glycolytic capacity (after the addition
832 of oligomycin), and glycolytic reserve (calculated as the difference of oligomycin rate
833 and glucose rate) ECAR. n=3, *P < 0.05. D. The value of intracellular pH in stable
834 NEAT1 deficient cell lines detected with Flow cytometry by using fluorescent dye,
835 BCECF. E. Immunoblotting analysis of PFKFB2, PKM2, and HK2 in stable NEAT1
836 deficient cell lines on U251. F. Analysis of NAD⁺ / NADH ratio in stable NEAT1
837 deficient cell lines on U251. G. The assay of SIRT1 activity in stable NEAT1
838 deficient cell lines on U251. H-J. ChIP assays of H3K27Ac enrichment on the
839 promoters of HK2, PFKFB2 and PKM2, the fold enrichment of H3K27Ac on these
840 promoter fragments was standardized relative to the input level. K. Western blotting
841 analysis of SIRT1 expression after treated with 0, 10, 20μM Sirtinol for 24h. L. Using
842 ChIP analysis to detect the H3K27Ac enrichment on FZD3 promoter regions when
843 the NEAT1 deficient cell lines were treated with 20 μM Sirtinol for 48h. *P < 0.05,
844 **P < 0.01, Student 2-tailed *t* test.

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854 **Figure 5. Metformin induces tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal**
 855 **degeneration via increased NEAT1 expression**

856 A. Quantitative PCR analysis of NEAT1 and FZD3 expression of 0 to 2mM
 857 metformin treatment on normal U251 cells. B. Expression levels of FZD3,
 858 GSK3β, P-GSK3β, P-tau(ser396) was detected by Western blotting after 48h treatment of
 859 0.5mM metformin in stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines on U251. C. Expression levels
 860 of FZD3, P-GSK3β, GSK3β, P-tau(ser396) was detected by Western blotting after
 861 48h treatment of 1mM metformin in lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 and shNC
 862 transfected NLCs. D. Metformin treated stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines on U251
 863 were stained with antibody against α-tubulin(red) and subjected to confocal
 864 microscopy analysis. DAPI(blue) was used to stain the nuclei. Scale bars 20 μm. E.

865 The average terminal length of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines treated with
 866 metformin was calculated from 30 randomly selected cells, respectively. F.
 867 Metformin treated shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs were stained with
 868 antibody against α -tubulin(red) and subjected to confocal microscopy analysis.
 869 DAPI(blue) was used to stain the nuclei. Scale bars 20 μ m. G. The average synaptic
 870 length of shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs treated with metformin was
 871 calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. Image J software was used to count the
 872 cell length. (mean $\pm$ s.d, $*P < 0.05$, Student 2-tailed t test).

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889 **Figure 6. Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation in hippocampus of**
890 **APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice**

891 A. Fzd3 analysis in the hippocampi of 2-month-old APPswe/PS1dE9 double
892 transgenic mice (n=6) and wild-type mice (n=7). B and C. Quantitative PCR analysis
893 of Neat1 and Fzd3 expression of 4-weeks ddH₂O treated (n=6) and metformin treated
894 (n=6) APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice. D. Expression levels of P-tau(S396)
895 and H3K27Ac were detected in the hippocampus of ddH₂O and metformin treated
896 APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice. E-G. The hippocampus of different treated
897 mice was immunohistochemically stained with H3K27Ac, FZD3 and Phosphorylated
898 Tau(Ser396), Scale bars 50μm. H. Quantification of the relative area fraction occupied
899 by immunostaining of H3K27Ac, FZD3 and Phosphorylated Tau(Ser396) in CA1 of
900 hippocampus were analyzed by Image J. (mean ± s.d, **P* < 0.05, Student 2-tailed *t*
901 test). I. Summary of the mechanism of downregulated NEAT1 during the early stage
902 of AD.

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915 Appendix information

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917 **Figure S1. NEAT1 knock-down shortens the length of axon in Neuron like cells**
918 **and synapse in U251.**

919 A. Morphologic change was observed after 4-6 day's induction from MSCs to NLCs.

920 Scale bars 100 μ m. B. Quantitative PCR analysis of expression levels of several

921 neuronal marker genes, GFAP, NF-M and NSE in MSCs and NLCs. C. The
 922 morphologic changes of stable cell line on U251 transfected with lentivirus based
 923 shRNA expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP). D. Shortened axonal length was
 924 observed after NLCs transiently infected with Lentivirus carrying shNEAT1v2 for
 925 96h compared with shNC. Scale bars 100 μ m. E. Immunofluorescence analysis of
 926 α -tubulin (red) in primary mouse neurons, DAPI (blue) was used to stain the nuclei.
 927 Scale bars, 20 μ m.

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947 **Figure S2. NEAT1 knock-down regulated FZD3/ GSK3β / p-tau signaling**
948 **pathway via changes of histone modification.**

949 A. ChIP assays were performed with an anti-H3K4me3 antibody in stable NEAT1
950 deficient cell lines on U251, the fold enrichment of TSS1-6 fragments within FZD3
951 promoter by H3K4me3 relative to the input level was examined with real-time PCR.

952 B. ChIP assays were performed with an anti-H3K27me3 antibody in stable NEAT1
 953 deficient cell lines on U251, the fold enrichment of TSS1-6 fragments within FZD3
 954 promoter by H3K27me3 relative to the input level was examined with real-time PCR.
 955 (mean $\pm$ s.d. of 3 independent experiments). * $P < 0.05$, Student 2-tailed t test. C.
 956 NEAT1 knock-down up-regulated phosphorylation of tau via inhibiting FZD3
 957 expression and activated GSK3 β signaling pathway.

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978 **Figure S3. Several concentrations of metformin treatment influenced NEAT1**
 979 **and FZD3 expression in U251 cells.**

980 A. The cell number of stable NEAT1 deficient cell line was analyzed by
 981 Hemocytometer after cultured 24h, 48h, 72h, and 96h in a 6-well plate. B. The cell
 982 proliferation was determined by Cell Counting Kit-8 at OD 450 nm in stable NEAT1
 983 deficient cell line after cultured 24h, 48h, 72h, and 96h. C. The cytotoxicity of
 984 different metformin concentration (from 0 to 15mM) on U251 cells was determined

985 by Cell Counting Kit-8 at OD 450 nm after 48h treatment. D. Rescued axonal length
 986 was observed on shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs after treated with 1mM
 987 metformin for 48h under optical microscope. Scale bars 20 μ m. E. The U251 cells
 988 were cultured with 1mM, 2mM, 10mM and 15mM metformin for 96h. Cell lesion
 989 could be observed in 10mM and 15mM metformin treated wells under optical
 990 microscope. Scale bars: 100 μ m (mean $\pm$ s.d, $*P < 0.05$, Student 2-tailed t test).

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1010 **Table S1. List of siRNAs sequence**

siRNA	Sequence
NC	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGU
siNEAT1v2#1	CAAACUCUGUACCCAUAUA
siNEAT1v2#2	CCUCUACUACAAGCACCUGAA
siFZD3#1	GGAGAACCAAGAUAAAUA
siFZD3#2	AUACCUGAUGGCUCUCAUA
siFZD3#3	AUACUCCUAUCAUAAGAAA

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1022 **Table S2. List of primers used for RNA analyses**

hNEAT1v2	Forward Primer	ACATTGTACACAGCGAGGCA
	Reverse Primer	CATTTCCTTTGGGGTCAGC
mNEAT1v2	Forward Primer	CTTGCCACACCTTGTCTTGC
	Reverse Primer	TAGCTGGTGCATCCTGTGTG
FZD3	Forward Primer	GTTTCATGGGGCATATAGGTGG
	Reverse Primer	GCTGCTGTCTGTTGGTCATAA
hActin-beta	Forward Primer	GACGTGGACATCCGCAAAG
	Reverse Primer	CTGGAAGGTGGACAGCGAGG
mActin-beta	Forward Primer	TACCCAGGCATTGCTGACA
	Reverse Primer	GCAGCTCAGTAACAGTCCG
GFAP	Forward Primer	CAGCCTCAGGTTGGTTTCATC
	Reverse Primer	AAGGGAGACTGAGGCAGGTAT
NF-M	Forward Primer	TCTCTACTTTTCCGGCAGTGA

	Reverse Primer	GATGGTGTCTGCGCCATTCC
NSE	Forward Primer	AGCAGAAGTTTCCTTTCAGGGG
	Reverse Primer	AGATGGTCTGGCAGGCAAAT

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1024 **Table S3. List of primers used for ChIP analyses.**

Primers pairs	Sence sequence	Anti-sence sequence
FZD3-Tss-1	TCAGGGATCGTTCCTCTCGT	GGCGGACAGGGTTAACAGTC
FZD3-Tss-2	TGTTTCGCGTGGAGCTCTG	TGTGATTGCAGGACCACCTAC
FZD3-Tss-3	ACCTCCCGATGTTGAGCTAT	CTCTGGAGATGTGCTGCGAG
FZD3-Tss-4	GTGTAGGTGGTCCTGCAATCA	CCTGGAGGCGCTCATCTG
FZD-TSS-5	CCTATTCTGTCCGCTACGCT	AGGTGTGATTGCTACGCT
FZD3-Tss-6	CCGGGAGACTGTAAACCCTG	CCCCCGGAGCATTGTCTT
FZD3-Tss-P1	CATTCCACCTCCCGATGTT	GAACGCCCCCAAAGGTTAGA
FZD3-Tss-P2	CAGGGATCGTTCCTCTCGTC	GCCAAGAAAAGCACCTTGG
FZD3-Tss-P3	ATCTCAGATGAGCGCCTCCA	GAGGGGAAACTTTCAGGCGT
HK2-Tss-1	ACCAACATTAGAGCACAGGAGA	TAACCAACTCTACAGAACCCACGTT
HK2-Tss-2	AACTGTGGCCACTGAACAAAGA	AGCTCCACCTGGATCAAGGATAC
HK2-Tss-3	ACTCATTTCAAAAACACCTACACAT	AATCCATTCCCACGGCATCC
HK2-Tss-4	TCAAACCTTTGAGGGCTAGTTA	TGACTTTCAGCTTGAAATGGCTT
PKM2-Tss-1	CCTGATGACCAATGGGGACG	TGCCCCGGAACCCATAAATC
PKM2-Tss-2	GGGCCGATAACCTATGCAGG	TTGCTGGCTAACAACCTGGGA
PKM2-Tss-3	AATCACAGGCCTTCATTTCGC	GGGACCAGGAAAAGACTTACAGAA
PKM2-Tss-4	TCAATCACGAGGGACCGAGA	CGTTCCTTCCAGATCAGGCG

PFKFB2-TSS-1	CGCCCGATTGGTGGATGATT	GTGGCTCACCTACGATCTC
PFKFB2-TSS-2	CTGTGGAGCCGGGTATGTAT	CGGGTGACGAGAAAATGCTG
PFKFB2-TSS-3	GCAATTTTCCTCCTTGTTCTTCA	CCCGGTGGACTTCTAACCAC
PFKFB2-TSS-4	AGGATCTTCCGTCCTCACCA	AGTCTAAAGAACGCCGGAGC

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