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# Human Models for Analysis of Pathways (Human MAPs) Center

## Bill Murphy

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Director, Forward BIO Institute  
University of Wisconsin



WISCONSIN INSTITUTES FOR  
MEDICAL RESEARCH



WISCONSIN INSTITUTES FOR DISCOVERY  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



UW COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

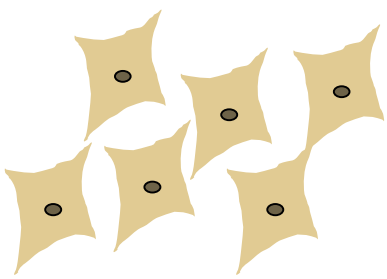


THE UNIVERSITY  
of  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON

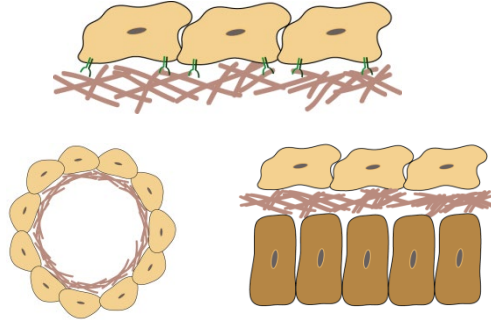


UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**MEDICAL SCHOOL**

# Human MAPs Center: Approach – practical innovation



Assembly



Morphogenesis

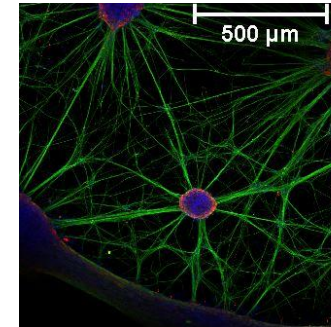


Screening

Human vascular assay platforms



Human neural assay platforms



EPA Toxcast (>1000 chemicals)



## Human MAPs Center: *Objectives*

- *Generate pluripotent stem cell-derived cells that properly represent the diverse phenotypic characteristics of developing or mature human somatic cells*
- *Generate organotypic cell culture models that are robust and reproducible*
- *Translate organotypic cell culture models to microscale systems for HTS*
- *Combine genomic/epigenomic analyses with bioinformatics to gain molecular level insights into organotypic model assembly and the pathways influenced by toxins*





# Human MAPs Center: *Initial projects*



**Critical Obstacle:** Protocols are already available that direct hPSCs toward a hepatic fate, but resulting cells are not fully metabolically mature, limiting their current use in toxicological studies.

**Goal:** To generate organotypic models that represent mature liver tissue.

## **Project PI Jamie Thomson**

- first to isolate hESCs and iPSCs
- pioneer in pluripotent stem cell biology and applying hPSCs to form a variety of tissues, including liver
- team of leading experts in synthetic materials (Murphy), automated screening (Project Automation Scientist Brian McIntosh) and bioinformatics (Prof. Sushmita Roy, Dr. Ron Stewart).

## **LIVER MAPs**



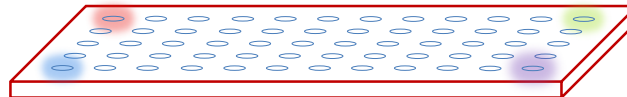
**Critical Obstacle:** *In vitro* modeling of the human central nervous system (hCNS) is challenging due to the extensive diversity of its constituent phenotypes.

**Goal:** To develop a hPSC-derived screening platform that captures the phenotypic diversity of the developing hCNS (w/ rostrocaudal & dorsoventral specification).

## **Project PI Randy Ashton**

- Expert on hPSCs differentiation into hCNS cells
- Focuses on using synthetic materials and microfluidics to control neuronal specification
- Team of leading experts in synthetic materials (Murphy), PSC biology (Thomson), automated HTS (Beebe, Brian McIntosh) bioinformatics (Roy, Dr. Stewart), and gene editing (Prof. Saha)

## **BRAIN MAPs**



## **CANCER MAPs**

**Critical Obstacle:** Urgent need for improved *in vitro* testing tools that can more efficiently evaluate a broad spectrum of chemicals in conditions that closely mimic human mammary ducts.

**Goal:** Apply a novel organotypic *in vitro* approach to recapitulate ER-mediated breast cancer, and to develop an AOP to identify chemical contributors.

## **Project PI David Beebe**

- world leader in microscale systems for high throughput screening in biological applications
- pioneer in human cancer biology applications
- team of leading experts in synthetic materials (Murphy), high-throughput screening (Dr. Kyung Sung), and cancer biology (Prof. Linda Shuler)

## **VASCULAR MAPs**

**Critical Obstacle:** *In vitro* models of the human neurovasculature do not properly capture critical interactions between endothelial cells and other cell types of importance to tox screening.

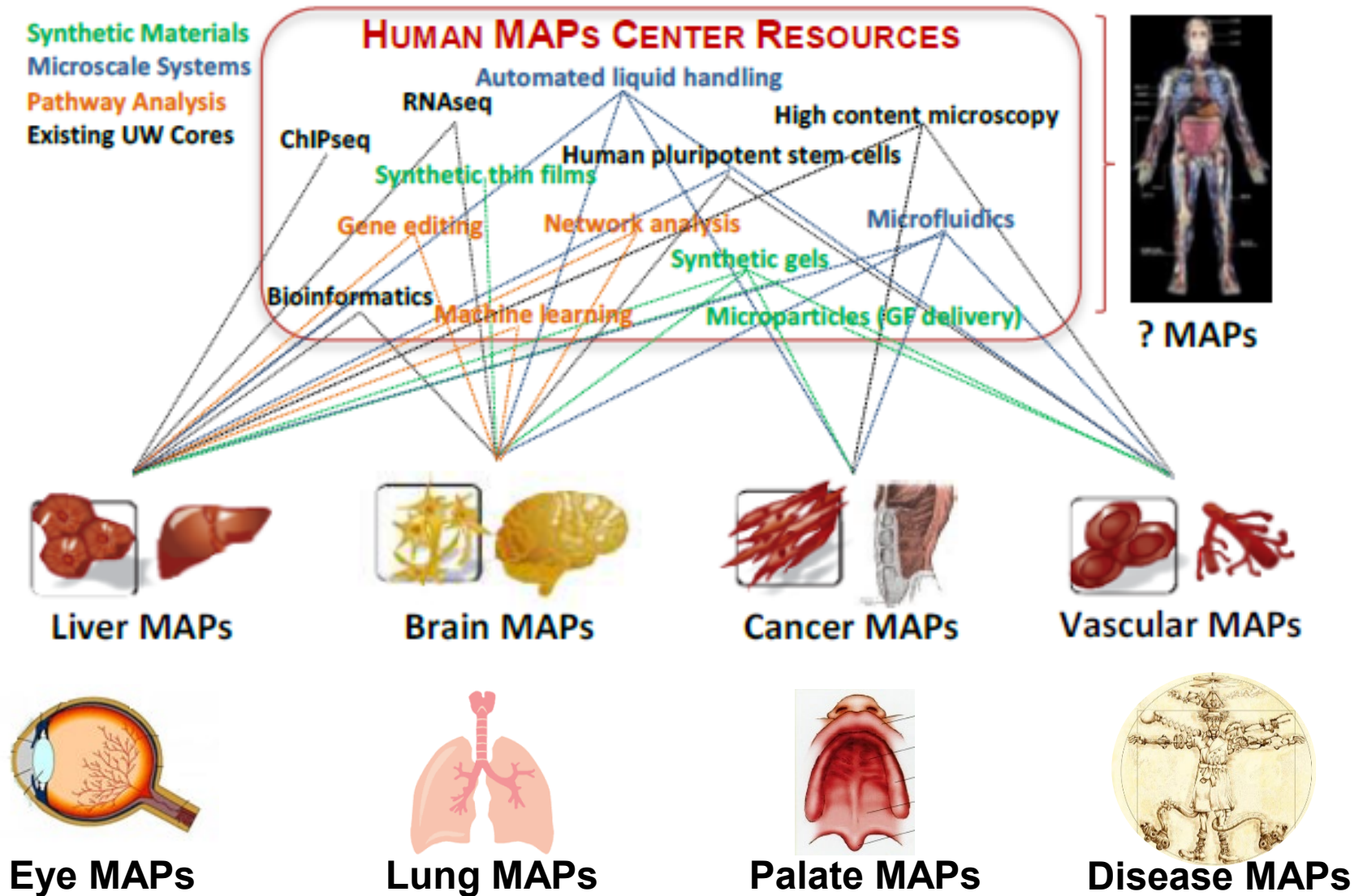
**Goal:** Develop hPSC-derived organotypic vascular networks (w/ pericytes/astrocytes) for toxin HTS.

## **Project PI Nader Sheibani**

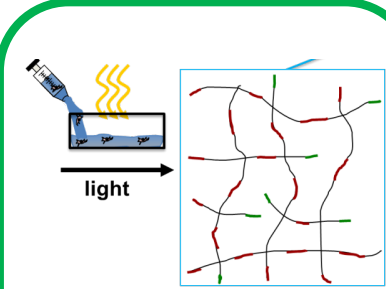
- Recognized leader in developmental and pathological angiogenesis
- Focuses on studying chemical disturbances of vascular and neurovascular function
- Team of leading experts in synthetic materials (Murphy, Dr. Ali Saghir), PSC biology (Thomson), and automated HTS (Beebe)



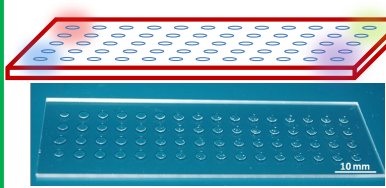
# Human MAPs Center: *Evolution of Projects*



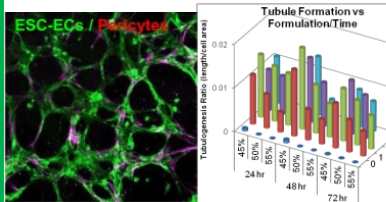
# Human MAPs Center: *Evolution of Cores*



**Adaptable synthetic chemistries**




**Synthetic matrix arrays**

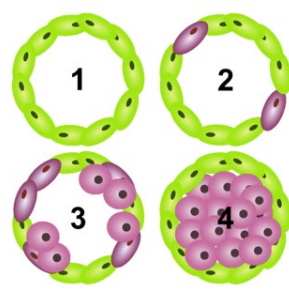


**ESC-ECs / Polycytes**  
e.g. human capillaries in a hydrogel

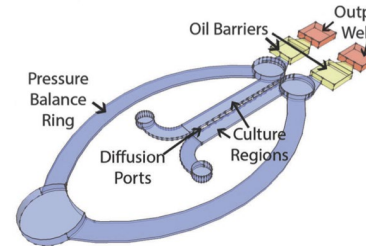
**Synthetic Matrices**



**Integrated  $\mu$ fluidics/automation**



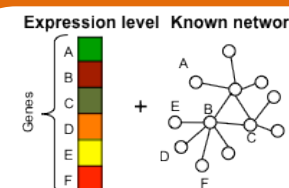
**$\mu$ scale organotypic assembly**



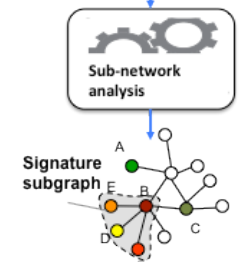
**"On chip" analysis - iFAST**

**Microscale Systems**

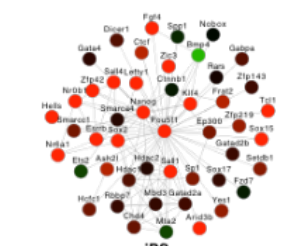
**Expression level Known network**



**Sub-network analysis**



**Identifying key pathways**



**IPS**

**Phenotypic analysis**

**Pathway Analysis**



## *Innovative Technology Cores (ITCs)*

**Metabolomics/secretome**

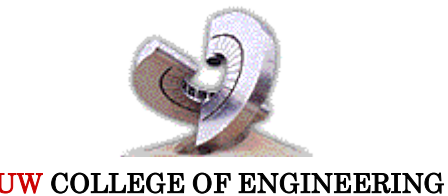
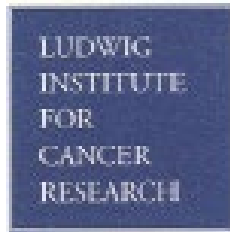
**Metabolic imaging**

**Embedded biosensors**

# Human MAPs Center: *Initial Partners*

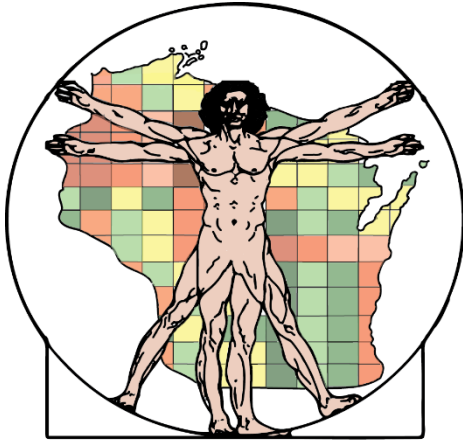
## Public

## Private





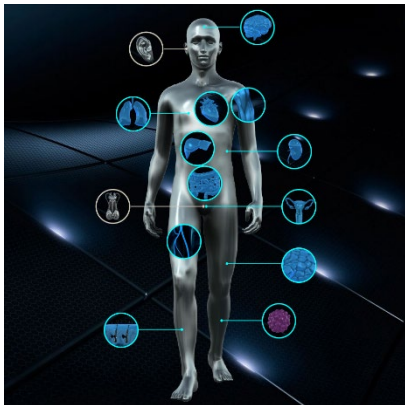
# Human MAPs Center: $\beta$ Testing Partners



Human MAPs Center



**EPA H-MAPs Center**



NCATS TC Testing Centers





# Human MAPs Center: *partners, reciprocal interactions*



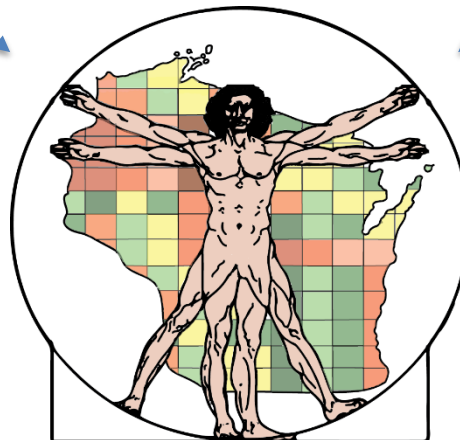
**Lonza**



**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC

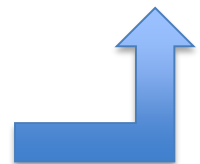
- In silico insights regarding cell/tissue assembly
- In silico insights regarding compound prioritization
- Suggest compounds to be tested based on mechanism
- Provide compound libraries for blinded testing

- Unique resources for model development
- Specific Voice of Customer and market information
- Identification of “non-starters” for broad end users
- Conduit for broad dissemination of technologies



Human MAPs Center

- New technologies
- New assays
- Experimental data
- Outstanding trainees



# EPA-funded Human MAPs Center: Outputs (2015 – 2018)

## Publications

- Over 70 publications

## Patents:

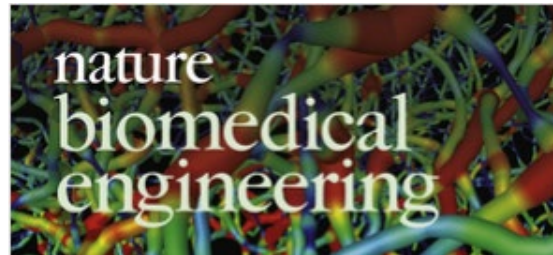
- 14 patents filed

## Presentations:

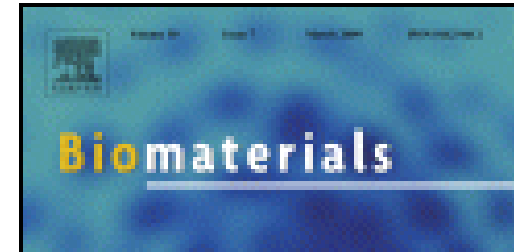
- Over 200 public presentations



I.F. 9.294 (3 articles)



I.F. 17.135 (2 articles)



I.F. 8.402 (2 articles)

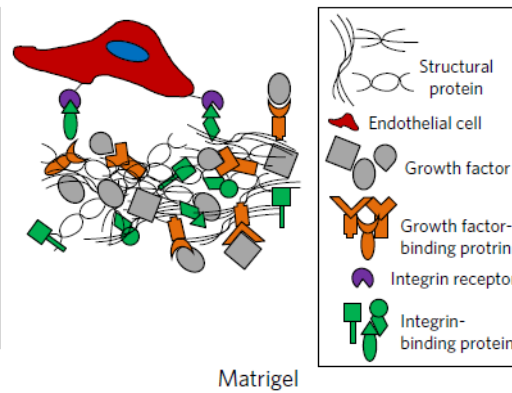
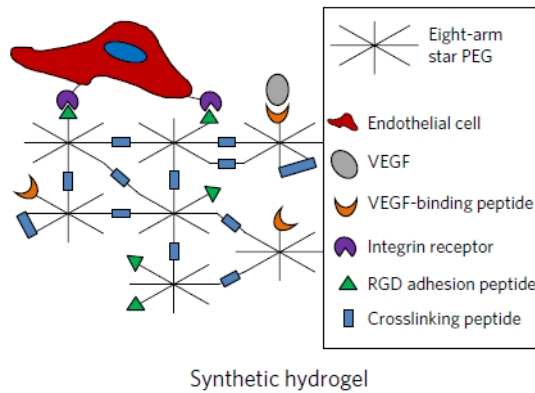


I.F. 11.127



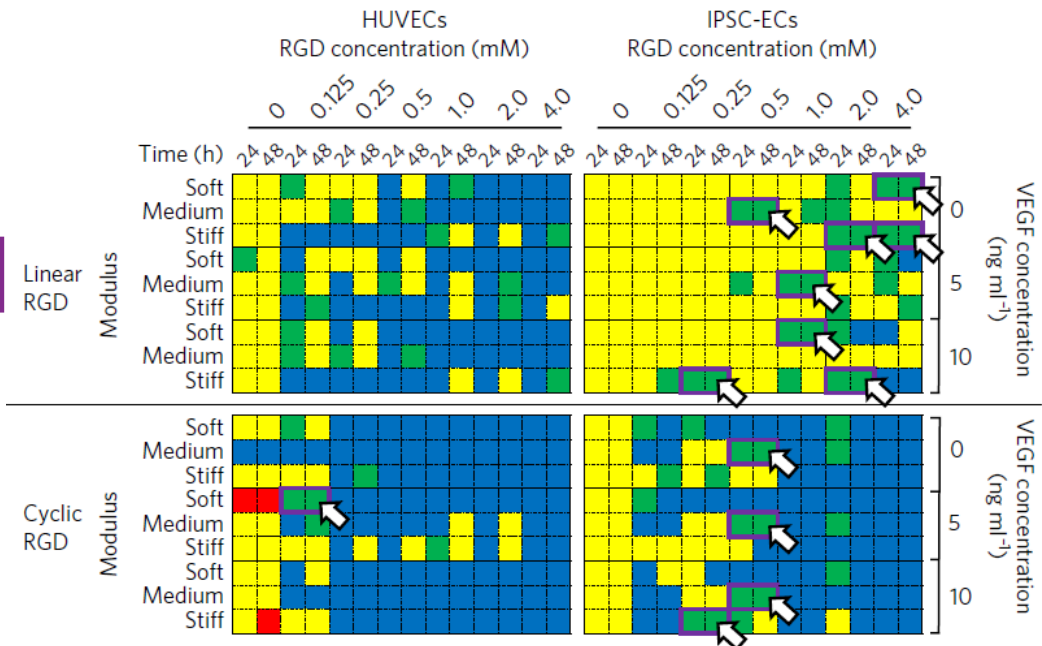
I.F. 8.2 (3 articles)

# Simple Example: Replacing Matrigel in vascular screening

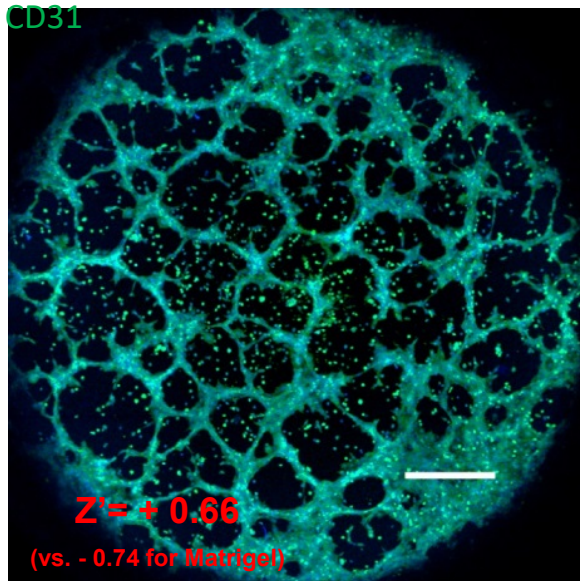
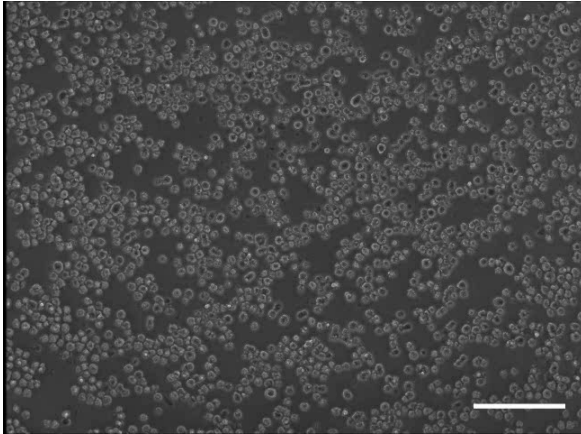


nature biomedical engineering ARTICLES  
 PUBLISHED: 11 JULY 2017 | VOLUME: 1 | ARTICLE NUMBER: 0096

Versatile synthetic alternatives to Matrigel for vascular toxicity screening and stem cell expansion



# Simple Example: Replacing Matrigel in vascular screening



Chemical Name:	Matrigel	Synthetic	pVDC score
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0	0	0.000
Decane	0	0	0.000
Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate	0	0	0.000
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	0	0	0.002
Pyrimetozine	0	0	0.002
Methimazole	0	0	0.002
Diethanolamine	0	0	0.002
Imazamox	0	0	0.007
D-Mannitol	0	0	0.007
Methylparaben	0	0	0.010
Valproic acid	0	0	0.018
2,4-Diaminotoluene	0	0	0.069
Bisphenol A	0	0	0.146
Haloperidol	0	0	0.177
Tris(2-ethylhexyl) phosphate	0	0	0.182
Tris(1,3-dihydroxy-2-propyl)phosphate	0	0	0.188
Cladribine	0	0	0.196
TNP-470	0	0	0.238
Oxytetracycline dihydrate	0	0	0.260
Celecoxib	0	1	0.269
Docusate sodium	0	0	0.304
C.I. Solvent Yellow 14	0	1	0.306
Reserpine	0	0	0.307
Quercetin	0	1	0.309
Phenolphthalein	0	0	0.327
5HPP-33	1	0	0.327
tert-Butylhydroquinone	0	0	0.336
Triclocarban	1	1	0.362
Triclosan	0	1	0.372
Pyridaben	0	1	0.379
1-Hydroxypyrene	1	1	0.386
Sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate	0	0	0.429
Disulfiram	1	1	0.432
Fluazinam	1	1	0.434
Octyl gallate	0	1	0.450
Bisphenol AF	0	1	0.457
PFOS	0	0	0.460
4-Nonylphenol, branched	0	0	0.461

pVDC Score: Non-Inhibitory █ Inhibitory █

	Synthetic	Matrigel
True Positives	11	5
False Positives	0	0
True Negatives	12	12
False Negatives	15	21
<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>61 %</b>	<b>45 %</b>

nature  
biomedical engineering

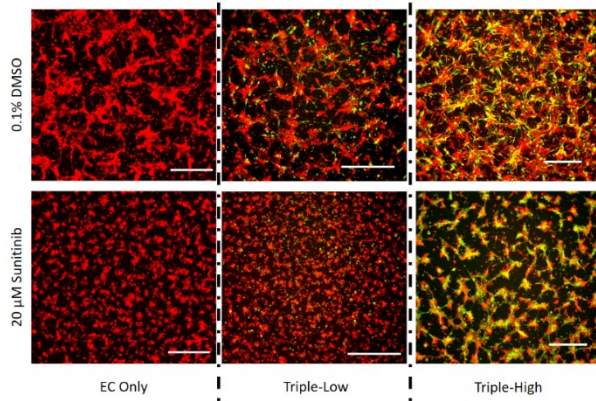
ARTICLES

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Versatile synthetic alternatives to Matrigel for vascular toxicity screening and stem cell expansion

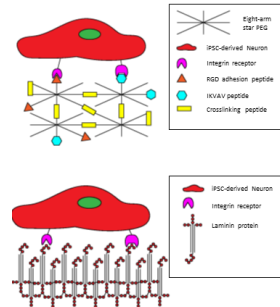


# Synthetic alternatives to naturally derived ECMs: screening applications

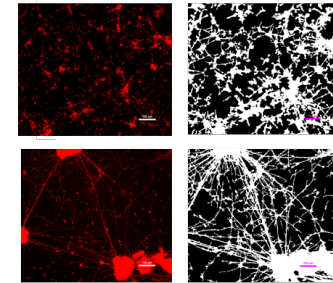


**Neurovascular (iPS-ECs, -PCs, -Astrocytes)**  
 Nguyen, et al. *Applied In Vitro Toxicology*, 2019.

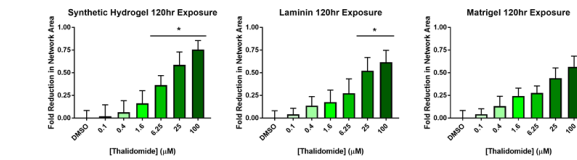
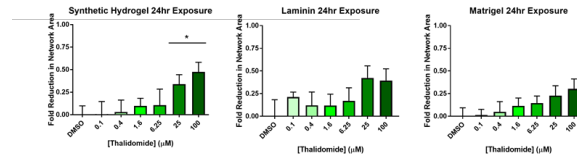
## System schematic:



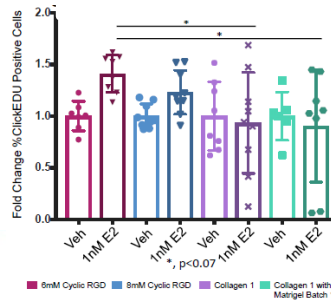
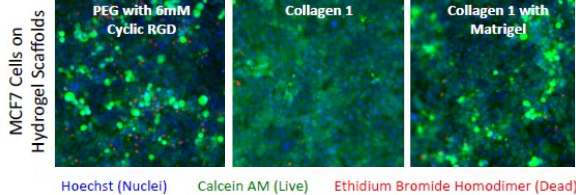
## Network Processing:



## Outcomes:



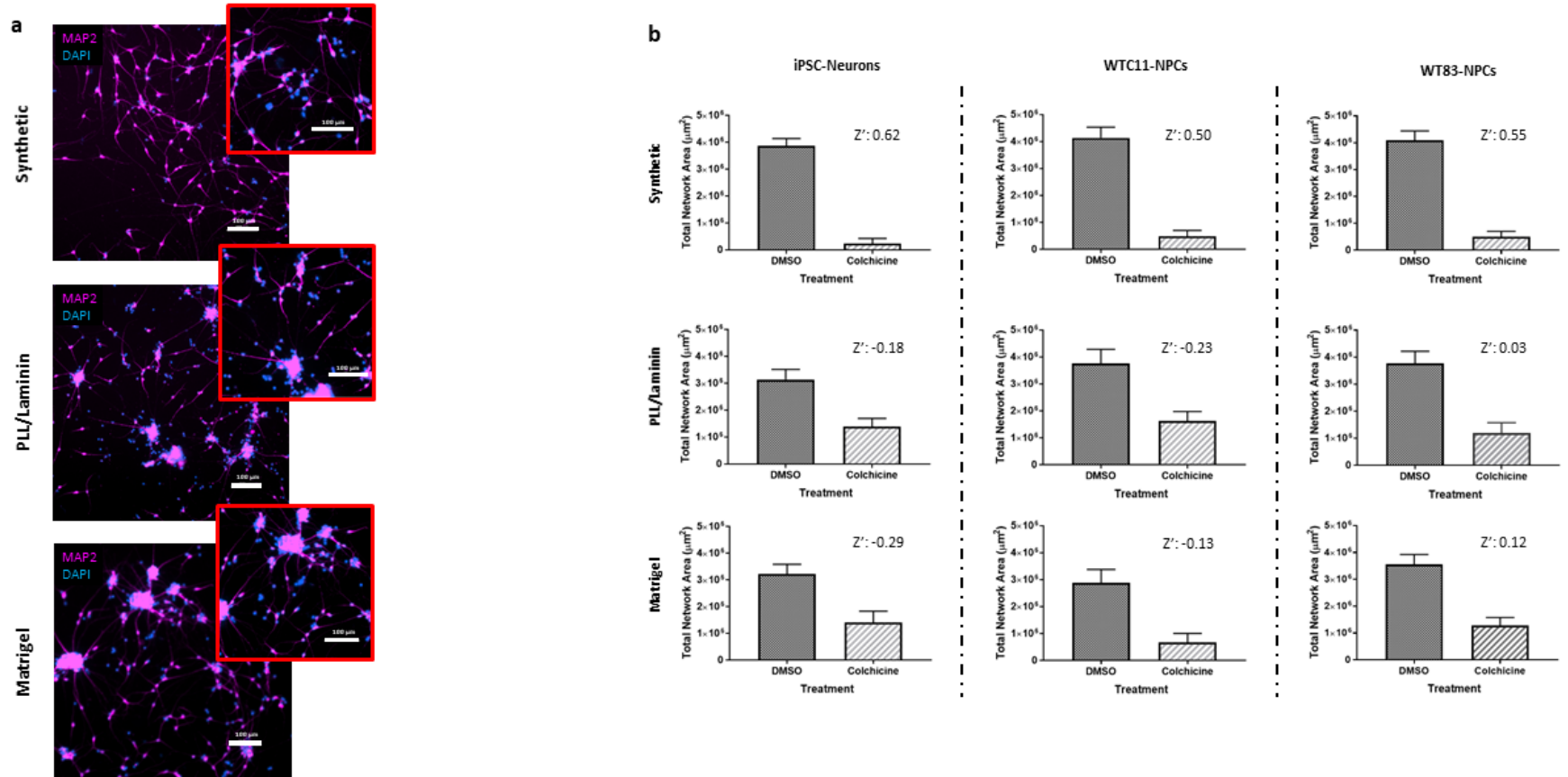
**Neural (iPS-neurons)**  
 Evans, Daly, et al., 2019



**Breast Cancer (MCF-7 cells)**  
 Livingston, et al., 2019.



# Neural model 1.0: neurogenesis

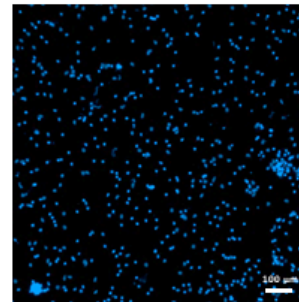
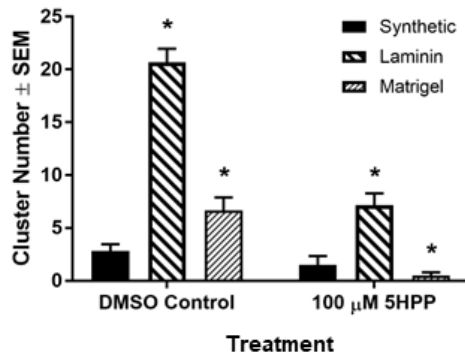
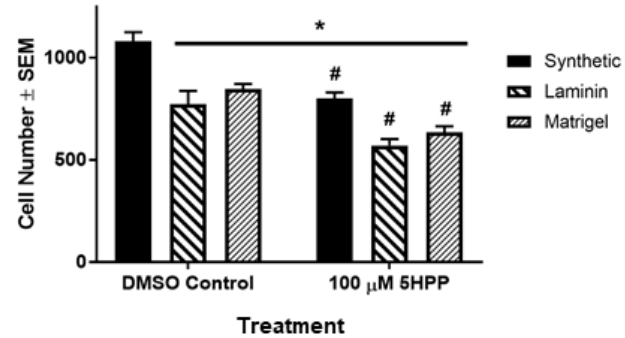
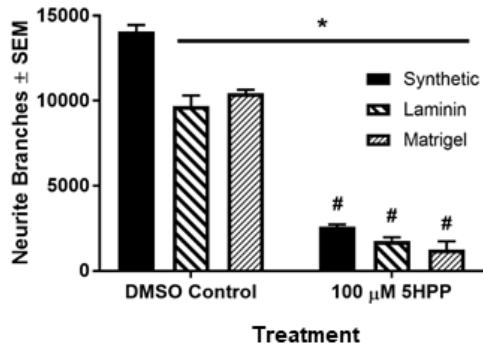


Neural (iPS-neurons)

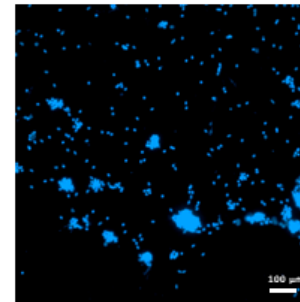
Evans, Daly, et al., 2019

“High-throughput toxicity screening of iPSC-derived neurons on synthetic hydrogels”

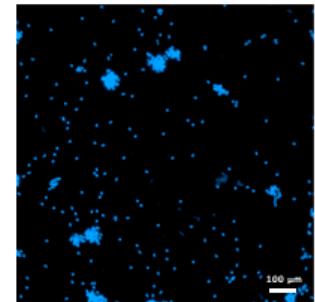
# Neural model 1.0: neurogenesis



Synthetic



PLL/Laminin



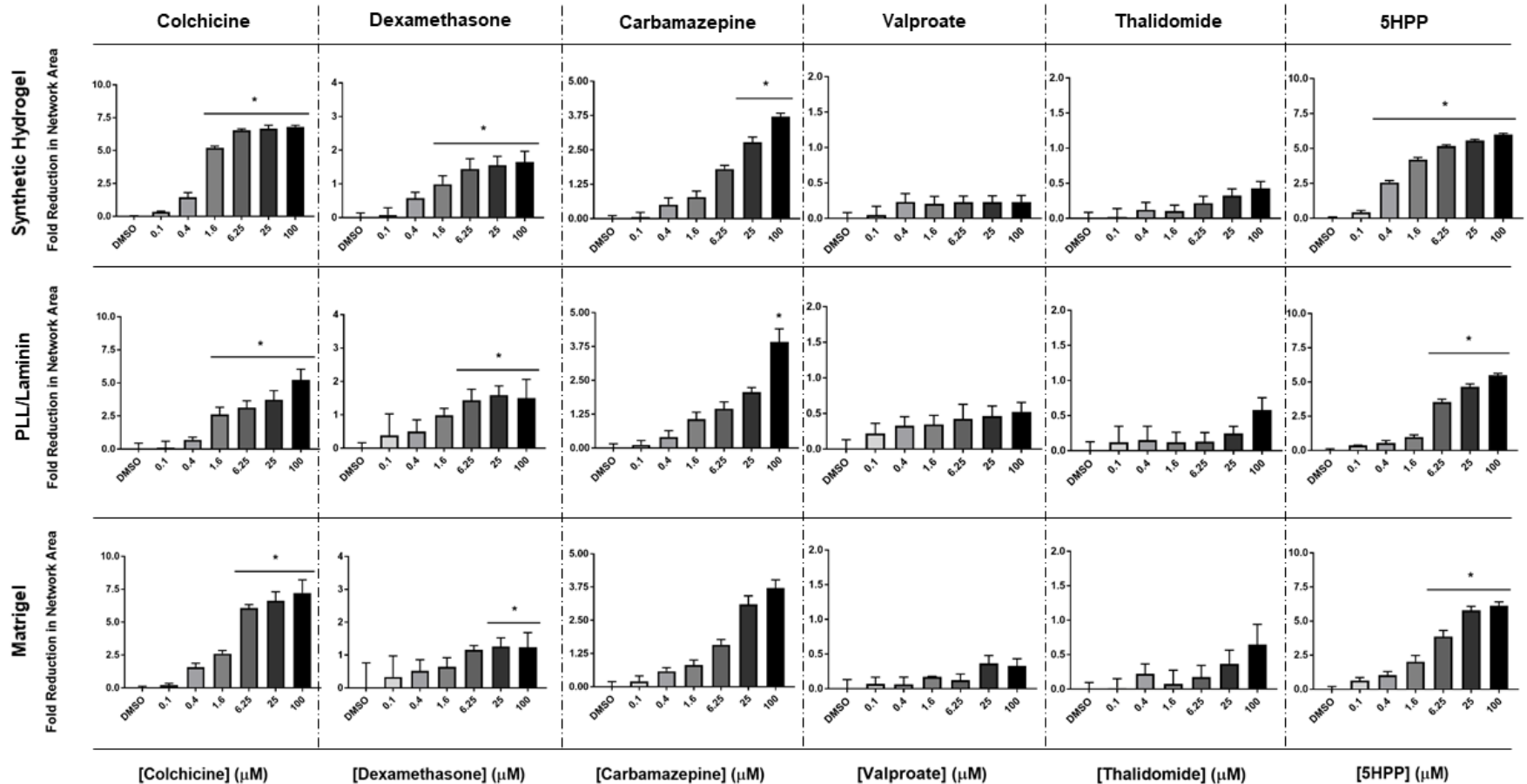
Matrigel

Neural (iPS-neurons)

Evans, Daly, et al.

“High-throughput toxicity screening of iPSC-derived neurons on synthetic hydrogels”

# Neural model 1.0: neurogenesis

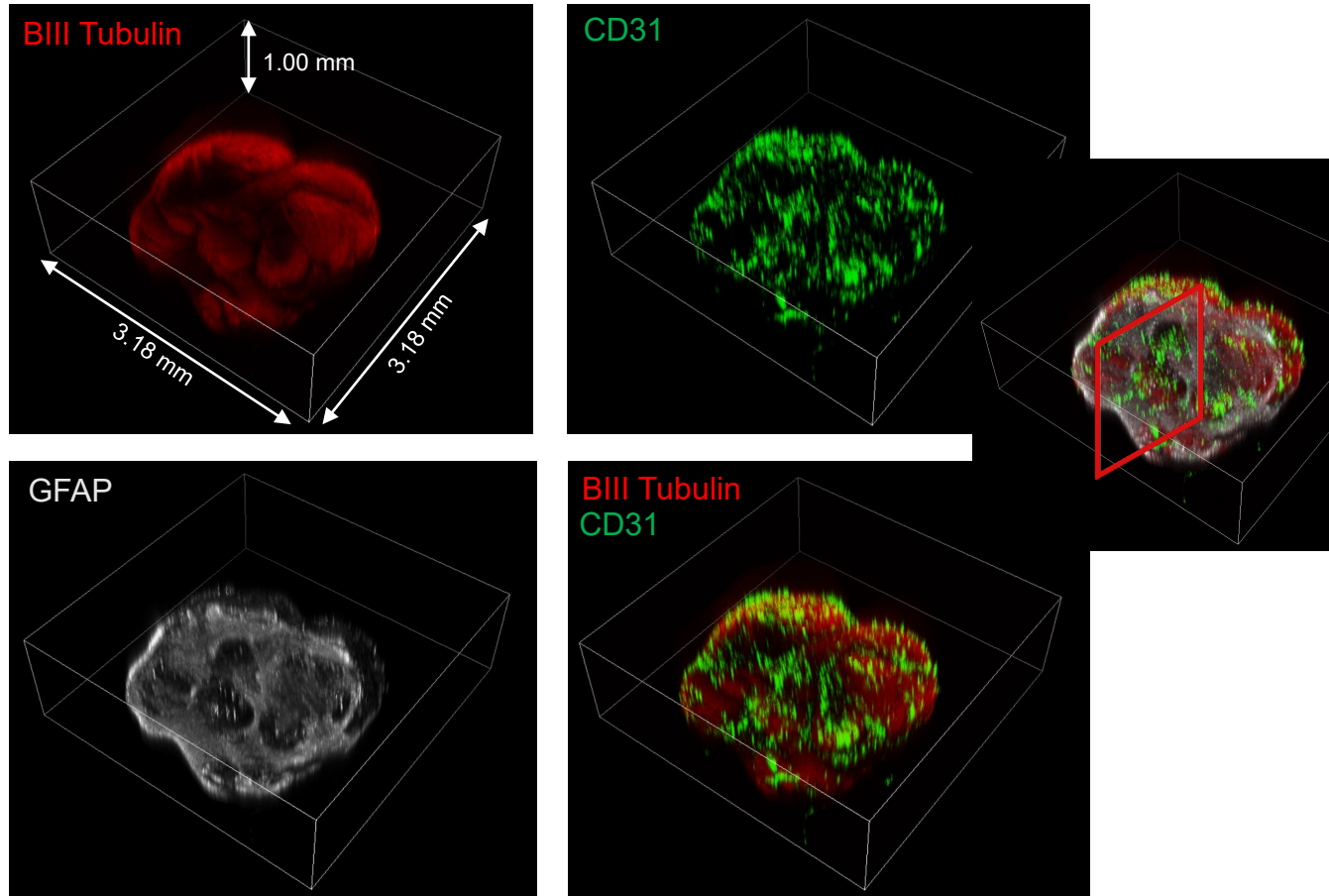


Neural (iPS-neurons)

Evans, Daly, et al.

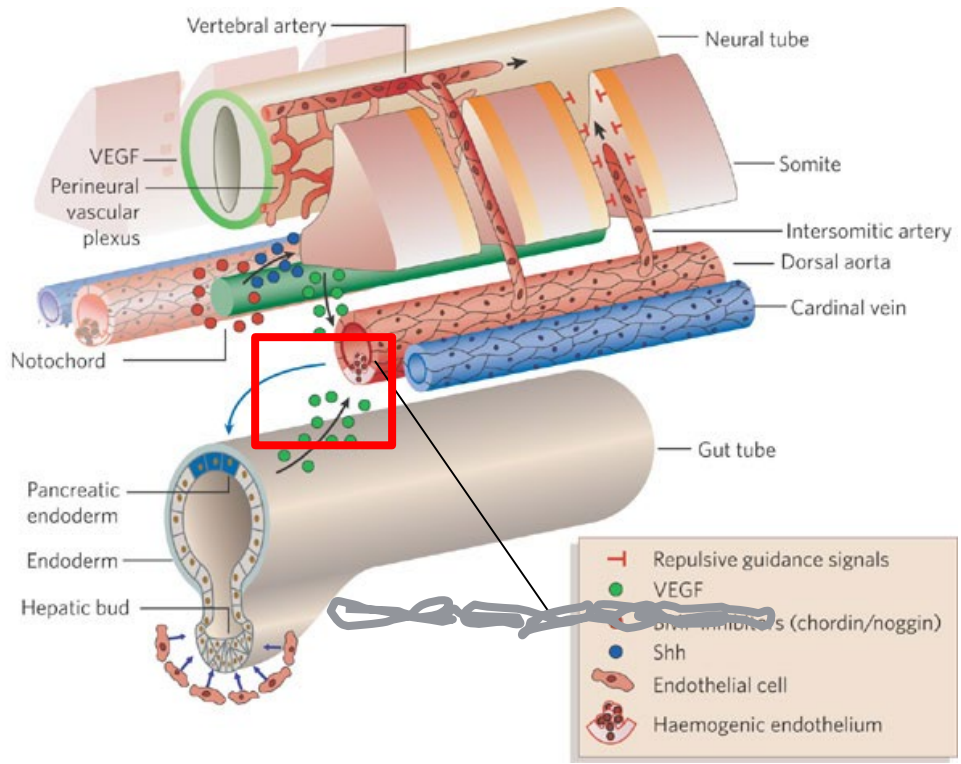
“High-throughput toxicity screening of iPSC-derived neurons on synthetic hydrogels”

# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus



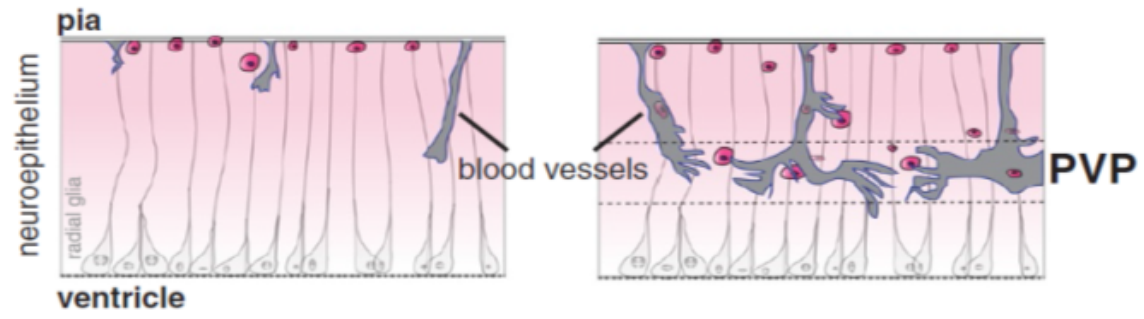
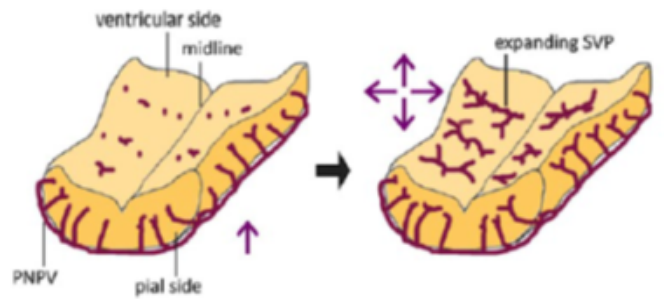
Day 21 - 96 wells

# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus



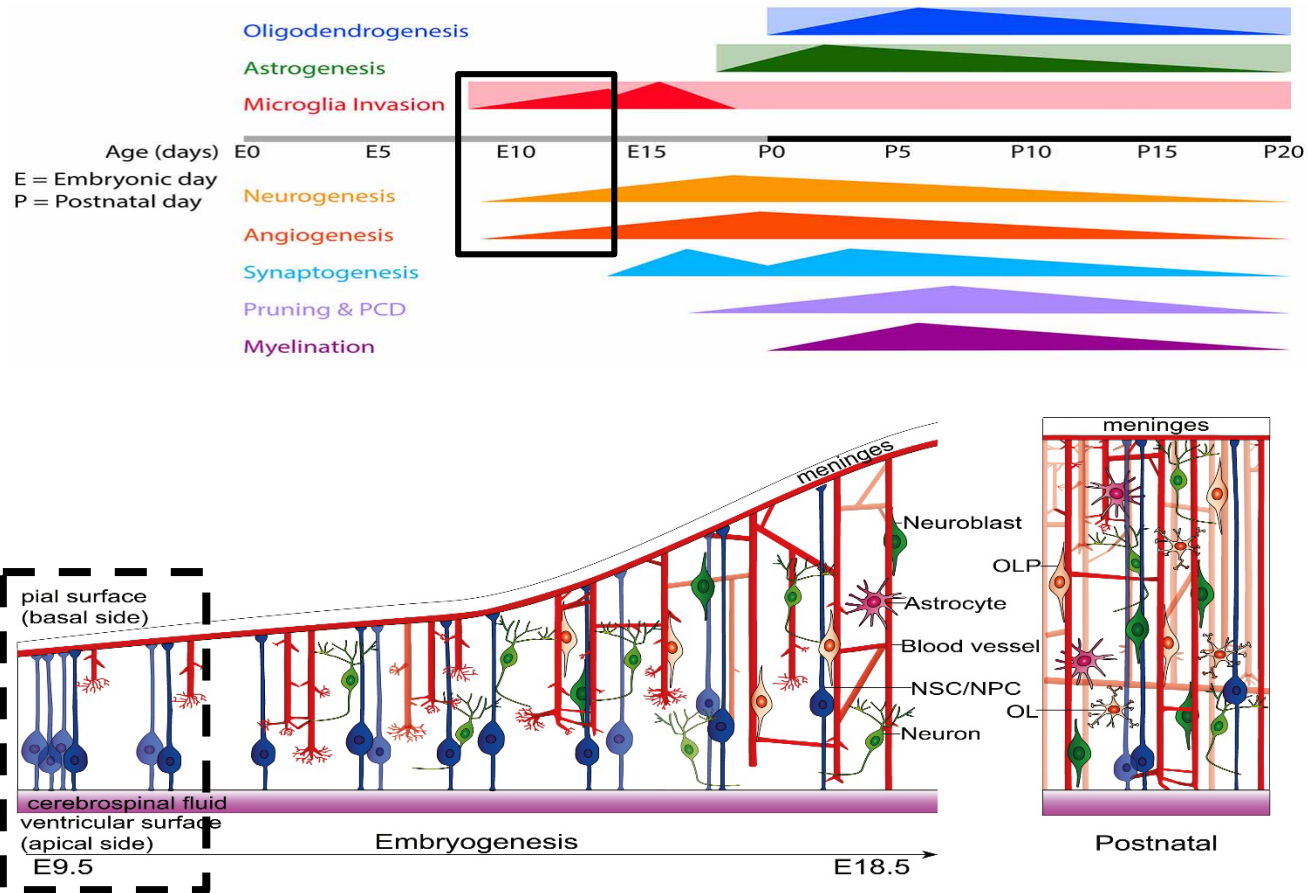
- Key Players in this process:**
- NPCs, radial glia and neurons
  - Endothelial cells
  - Pericytes
  - Microglia

- Repulsive guidance signals
- VEGF
- BMP inhibitors (chordin/noggin)
- Shh
- Endothelial cell
- Haemogenic endothelium



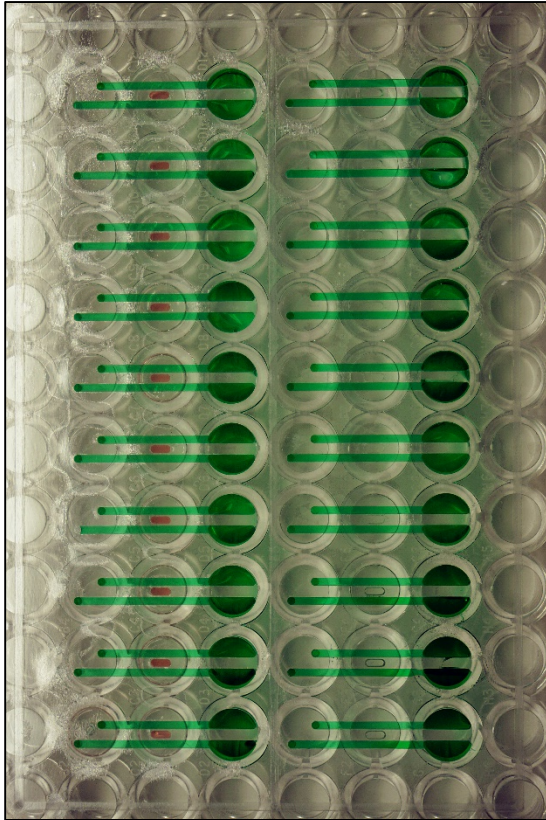


# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus



Adapted from Reemst *et al.* 2016 *Front. Hum. Neurosci.*; Paredes *et al.* 2018, *Cell*

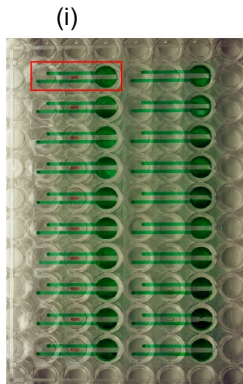
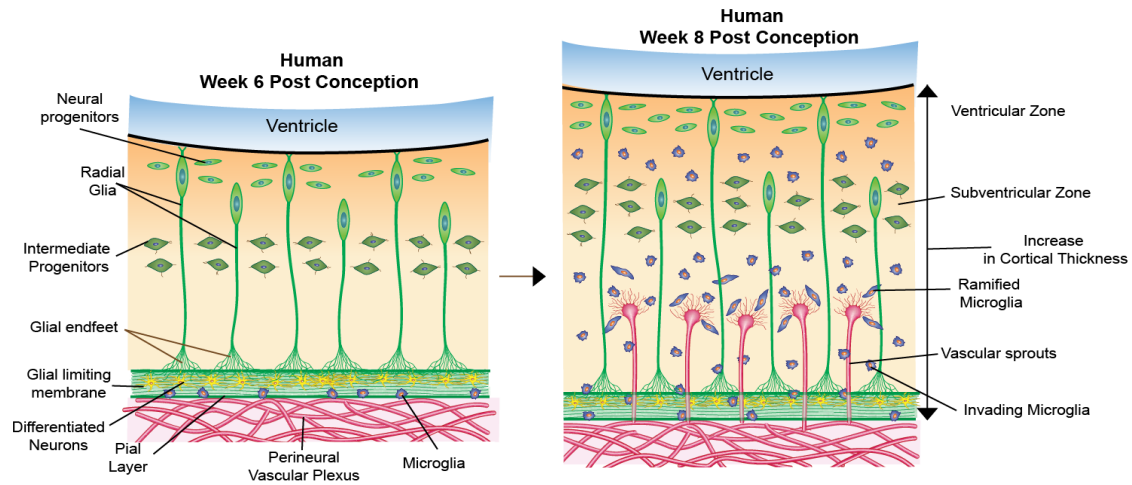
## Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus



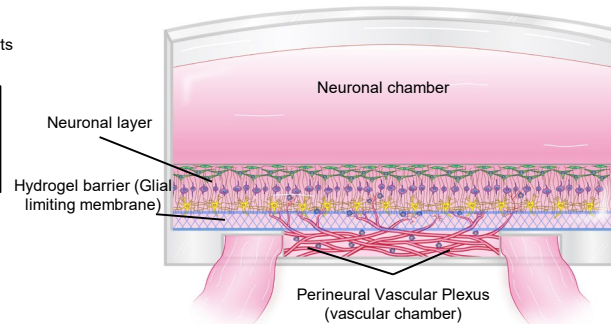
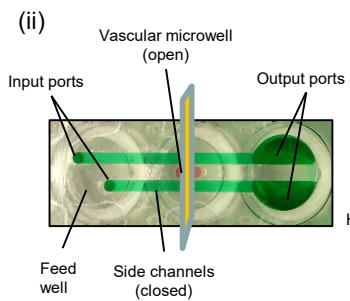
- Pumpless, tubeless
- 96 well format
- Short production time
- Optically transparent
- Increased outputs
- Closed format for vascularization
- Open format for organoid assembly
- Low media and cell volumes

UW: David Beebe, Brian Johnson

# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus



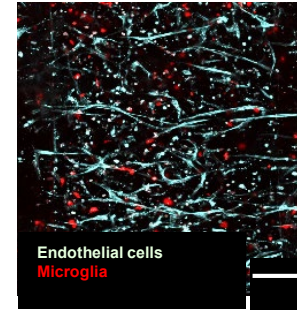
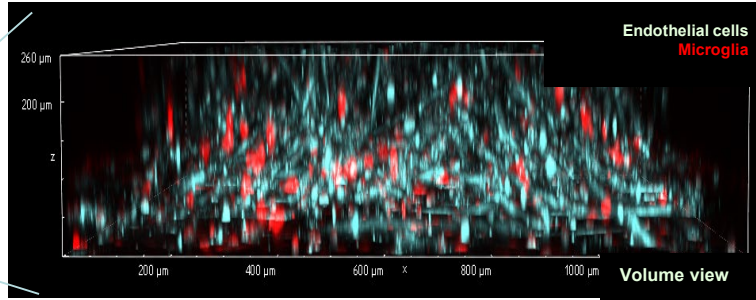
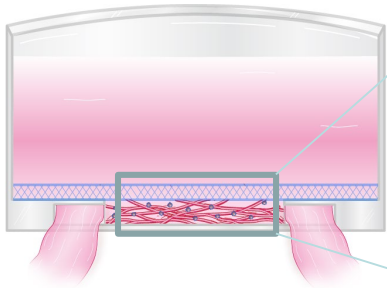
20 Device Microfluidics Plate (96 well format)



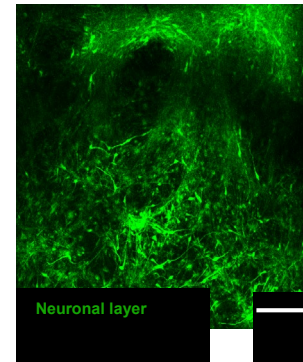
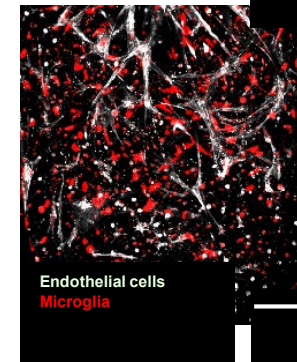
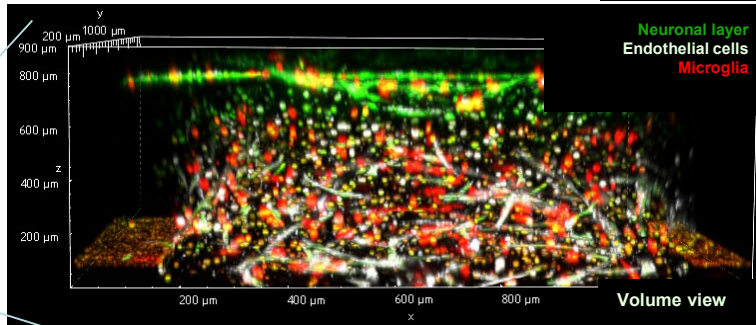
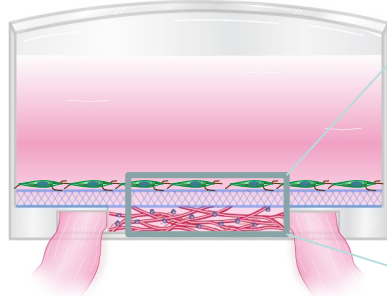
Cross-Section of 1/20 Device

# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus

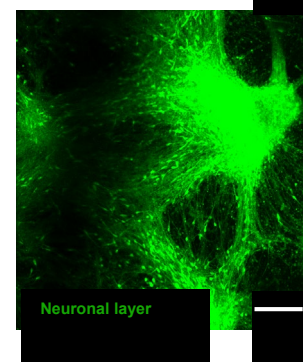
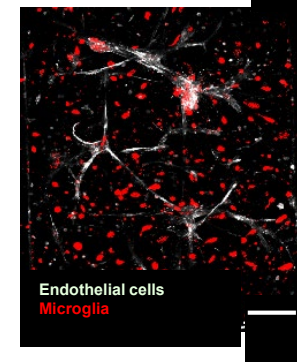
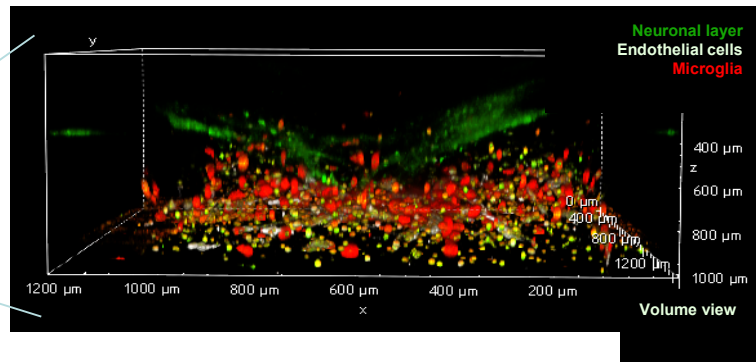
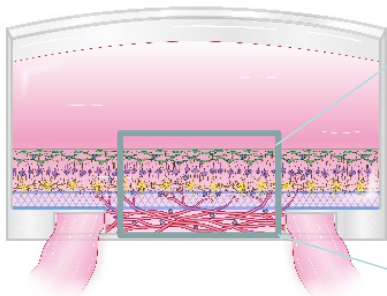
Day 5:



Day 14:

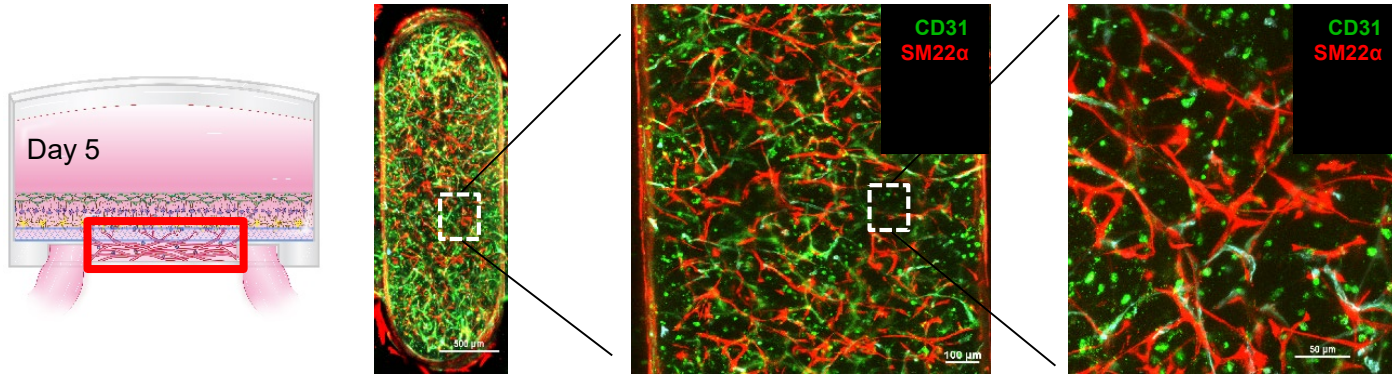


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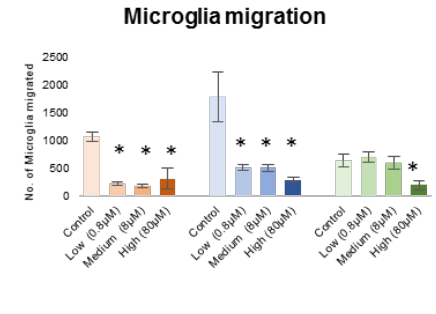
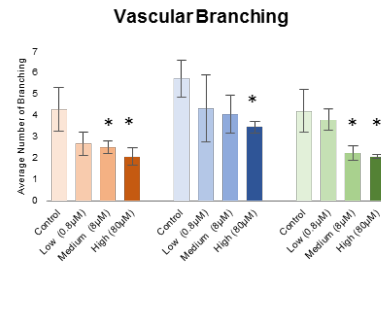
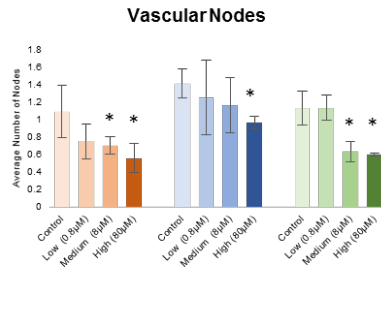
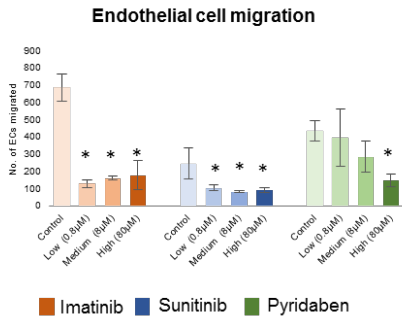


# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus (VDCs)



*Primary toxin effects*

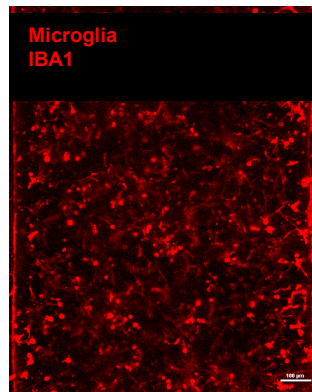
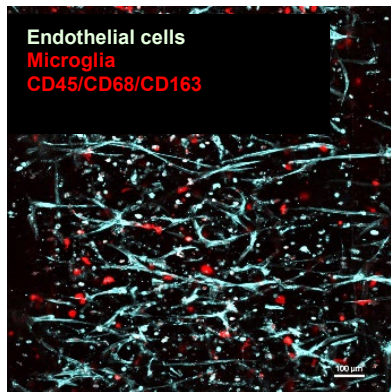
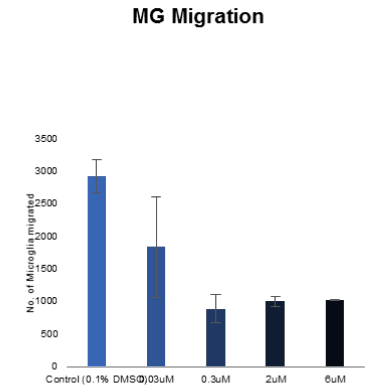
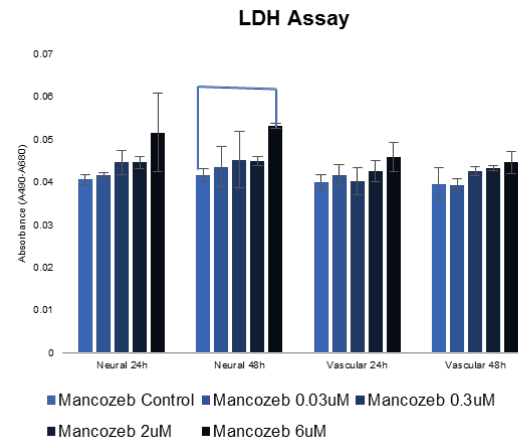
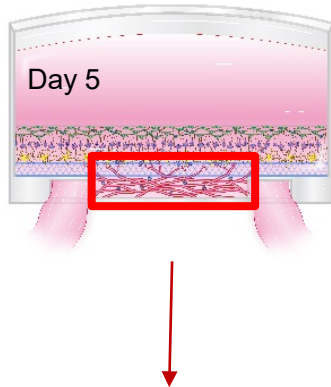
*Secondary effects*



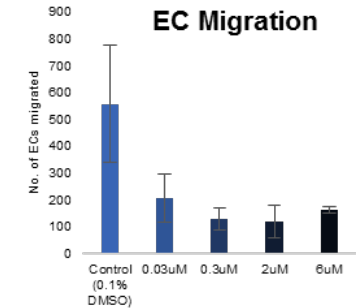
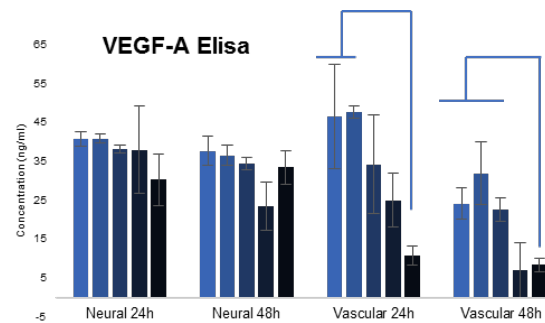


# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus (Mancozeb)

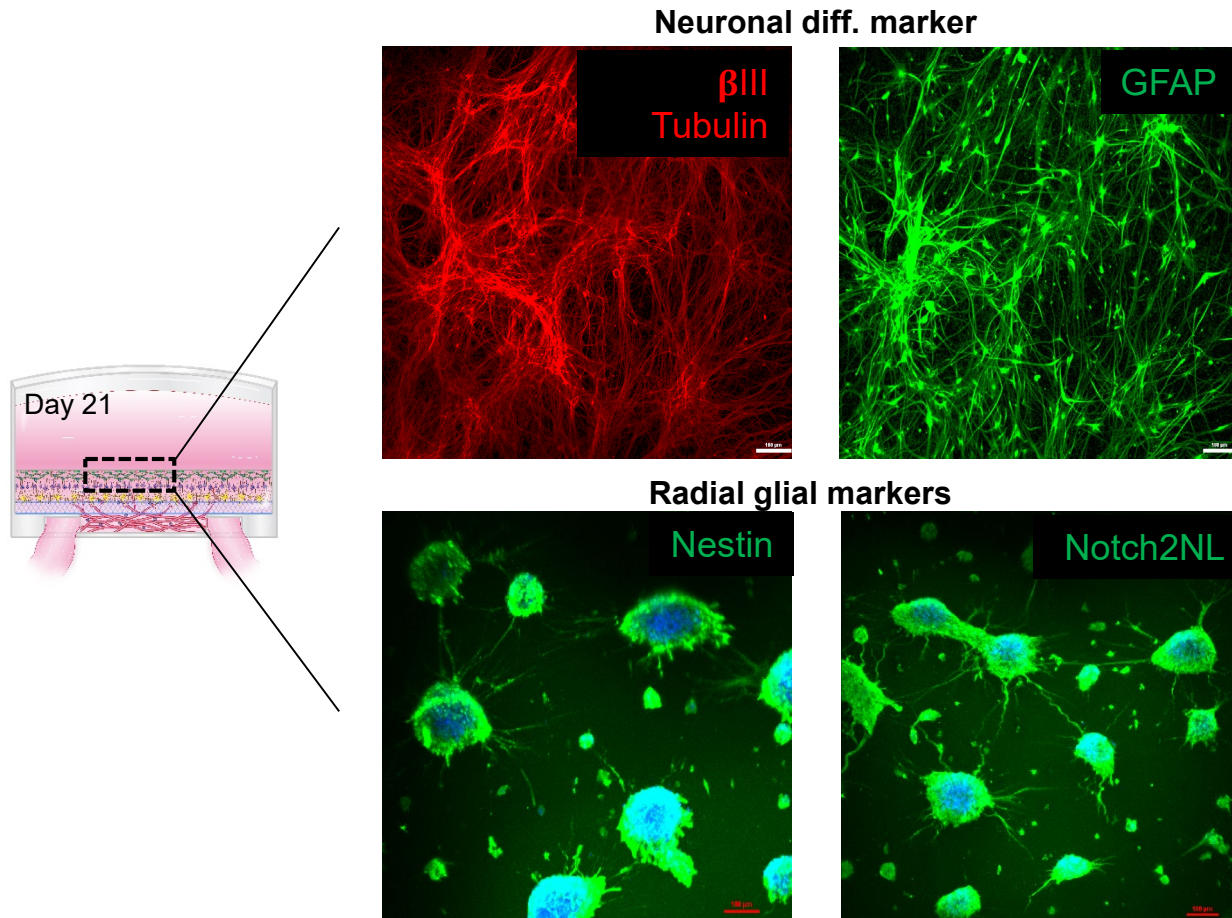
## Primary toxin effects



## Secondary effects

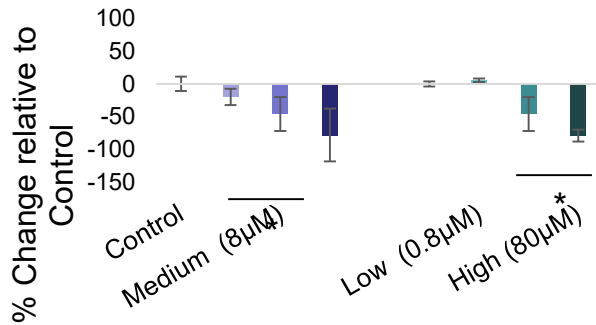


# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus

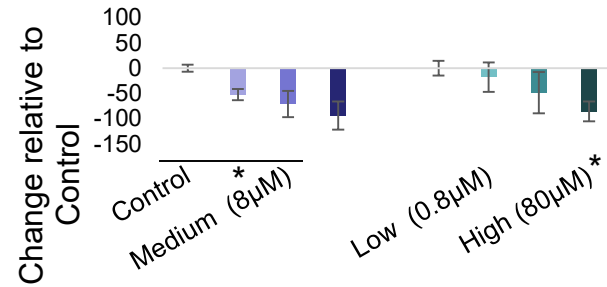


# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus (teratogens)

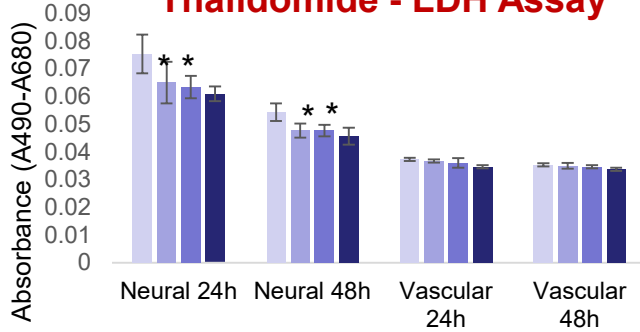
## Microglia Migration



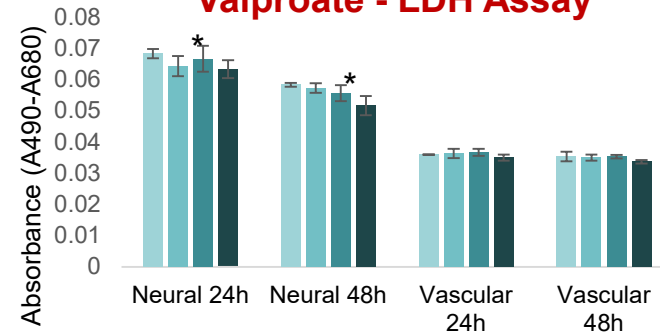
## Endothelial Cells Migration



## Thalidomide - LDH Assay

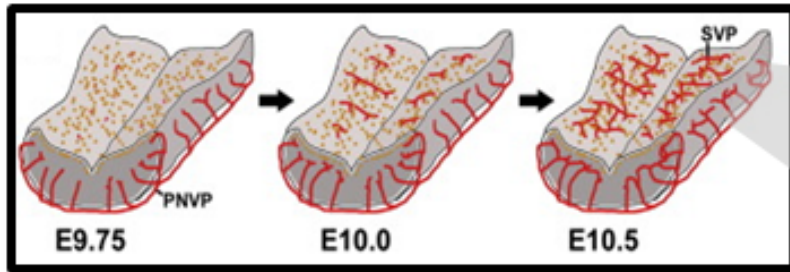


## Valproate - LDH Assay

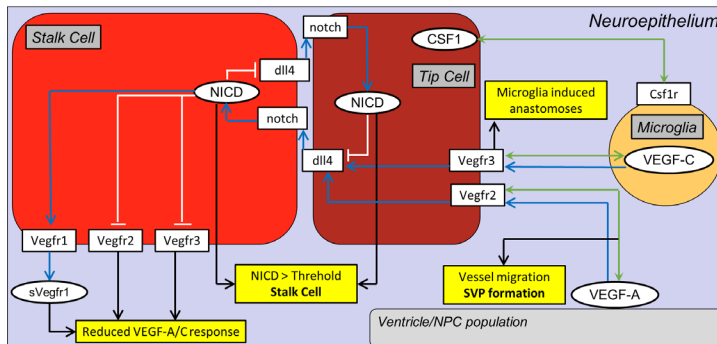
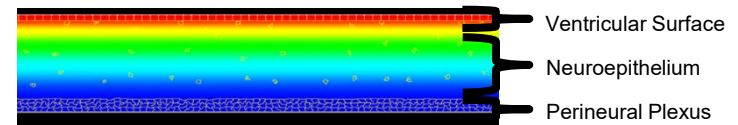


Thalidomide Valproate

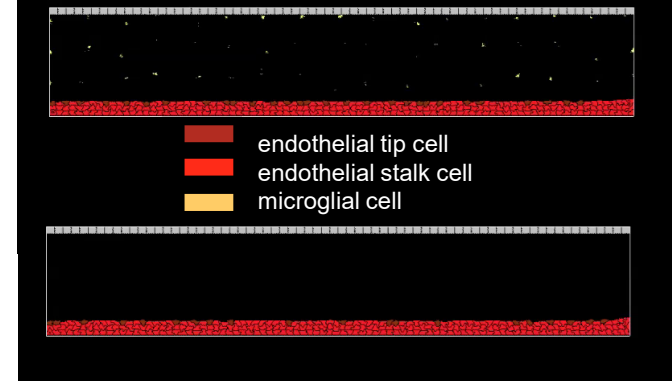
# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus (cell agent based modeling)



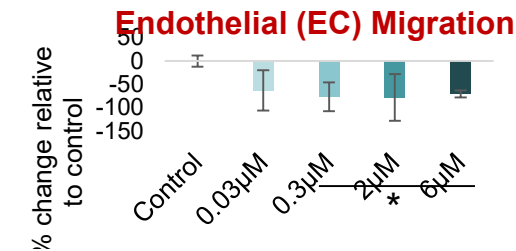
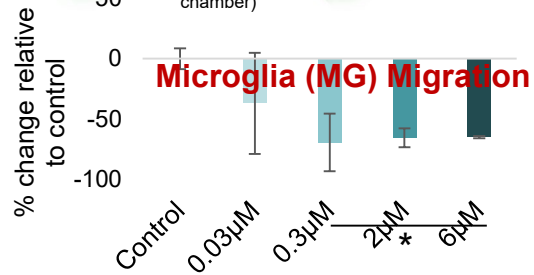
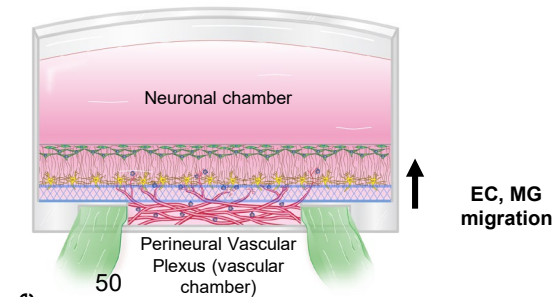
VEGF-A gradient: NPCs in the subventricular zone



Cell agent Based model of microglia-endothelial interaction



# Neural model 2.0: Perineural Vascular Plexus (cell agent based modeling)

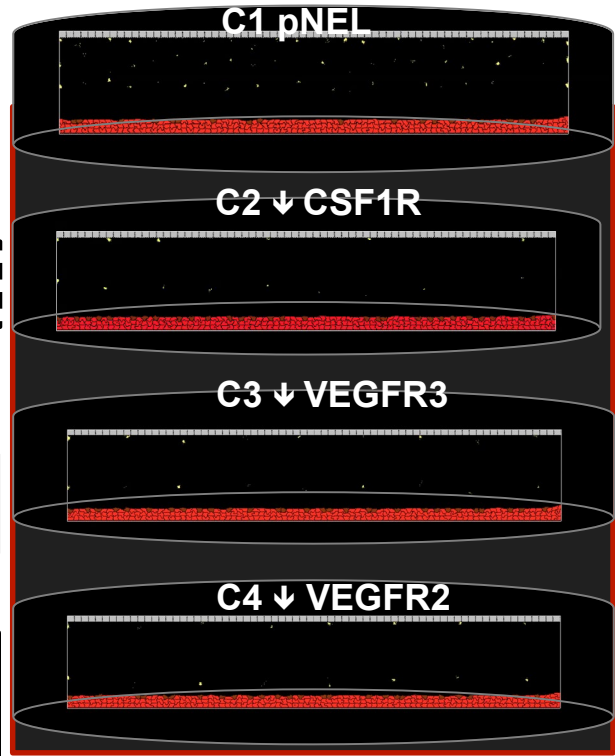


**0.03 µM**  
No significant reduction in any receptor

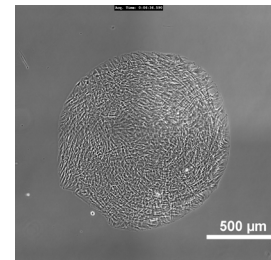
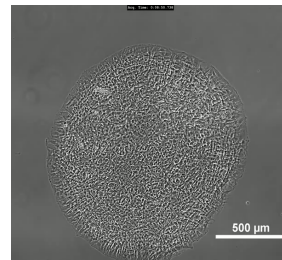
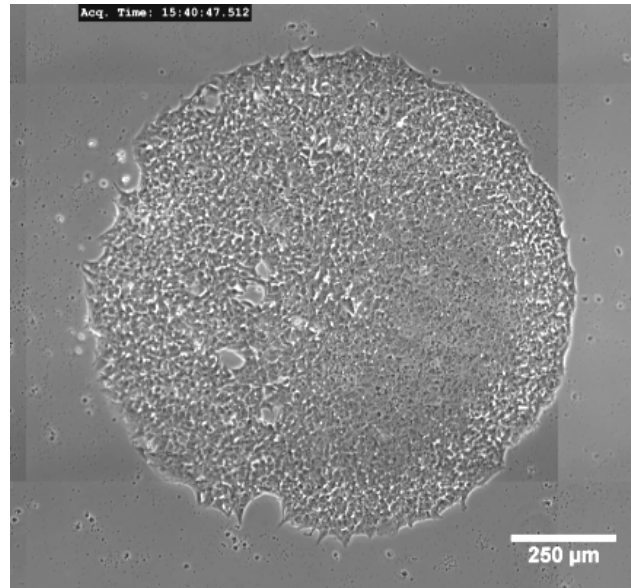
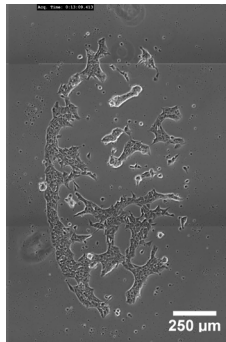
**0.3 µM**  
50% ↓ CSF1R  
*predicted low effect level (pLEL)*

**2 µM**  
50% ↓ VEGFR3  
80% ↓ CSF1R

**6 µM**  
50% ↓ VEGFR2  
85% ↓ VEGFR3  
95% ↓ CSF1R

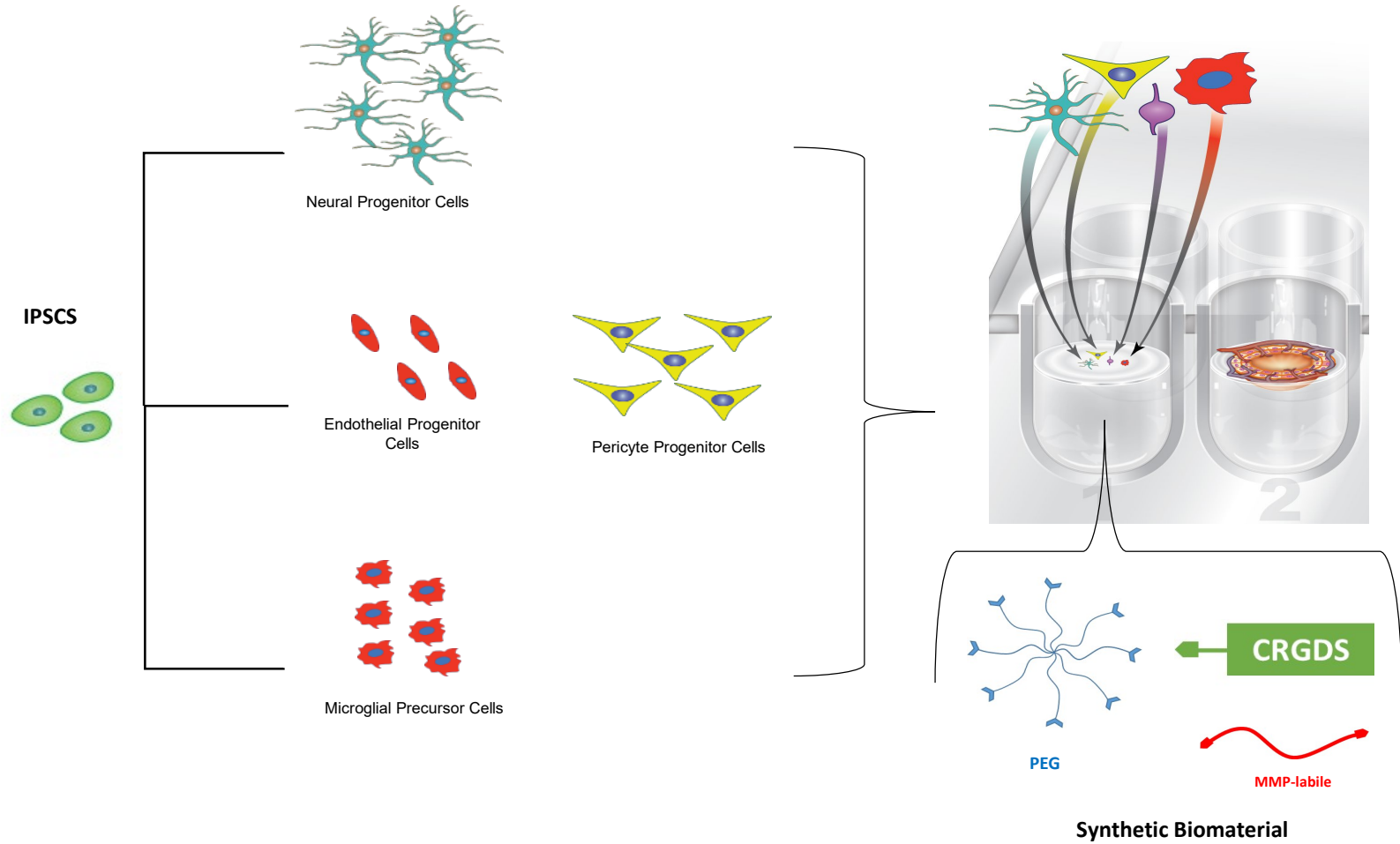


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid



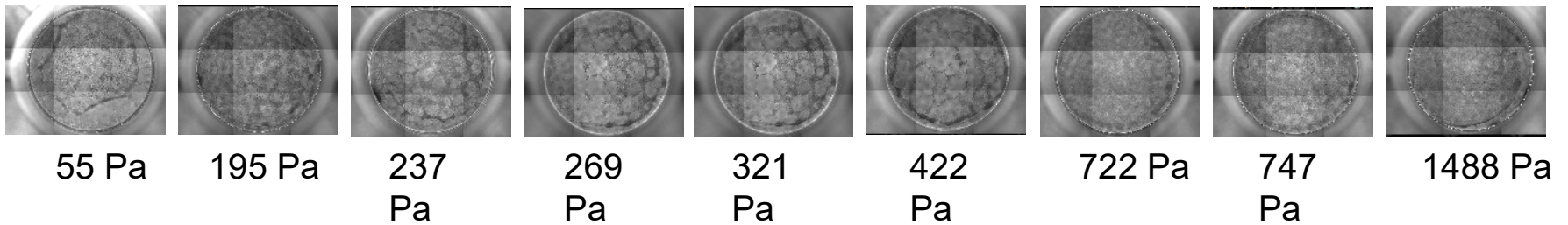


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

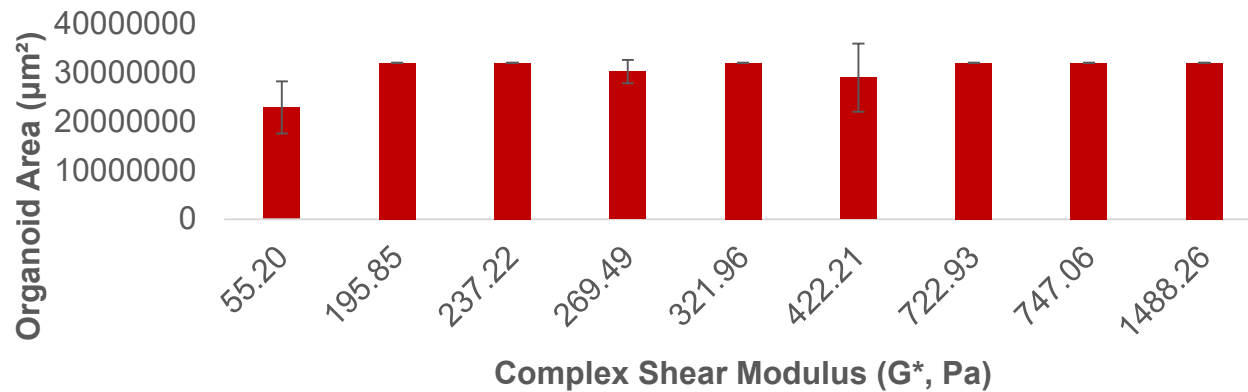


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

Increasing complex shear modulus ( $G^*$ ) – increasing hydrogel stiffness →

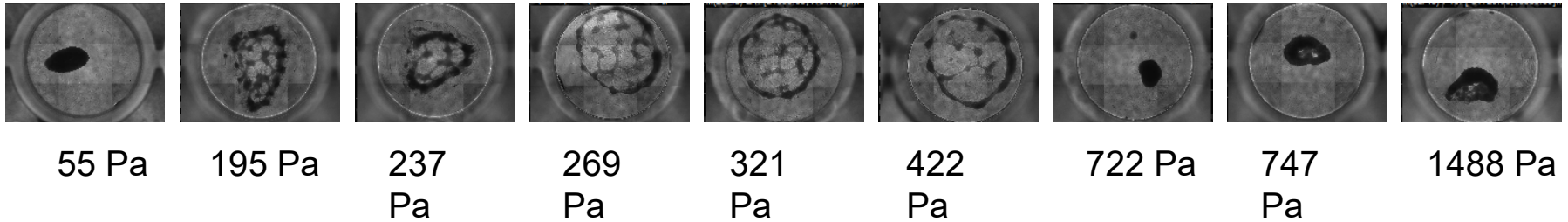


**Day 7: Organoid Size Relative to Hydrogel Stiffness**

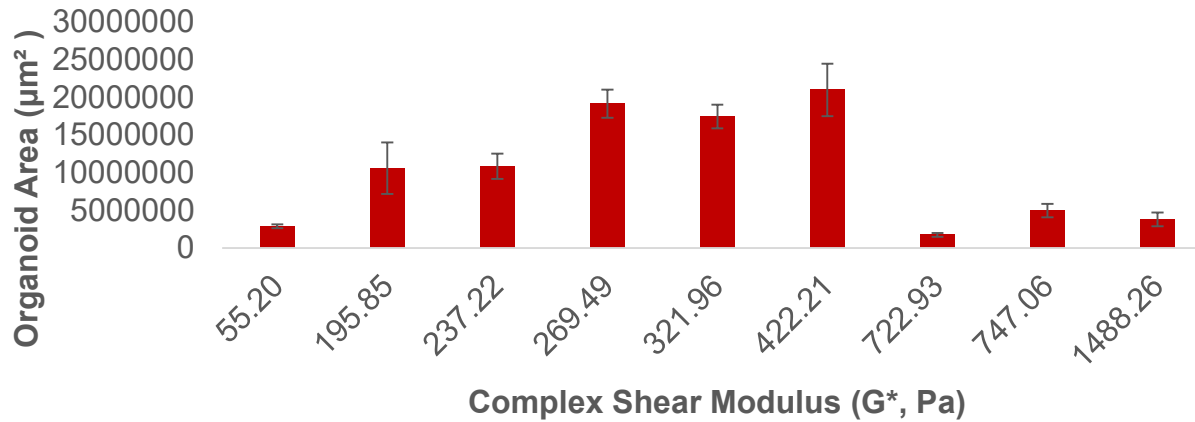


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

Increasing complex shear modulus ( $G^*$ ) – increasing hydrogel stiffness →



**Day 28: Organoid Size Relative to Hydrogel Stiffness**



# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

Increasing complex shear modulus ( $G^*$ ) – increasing hydrogel stiffness

55 Pa

195 Pa

237 Pa

269 Pa

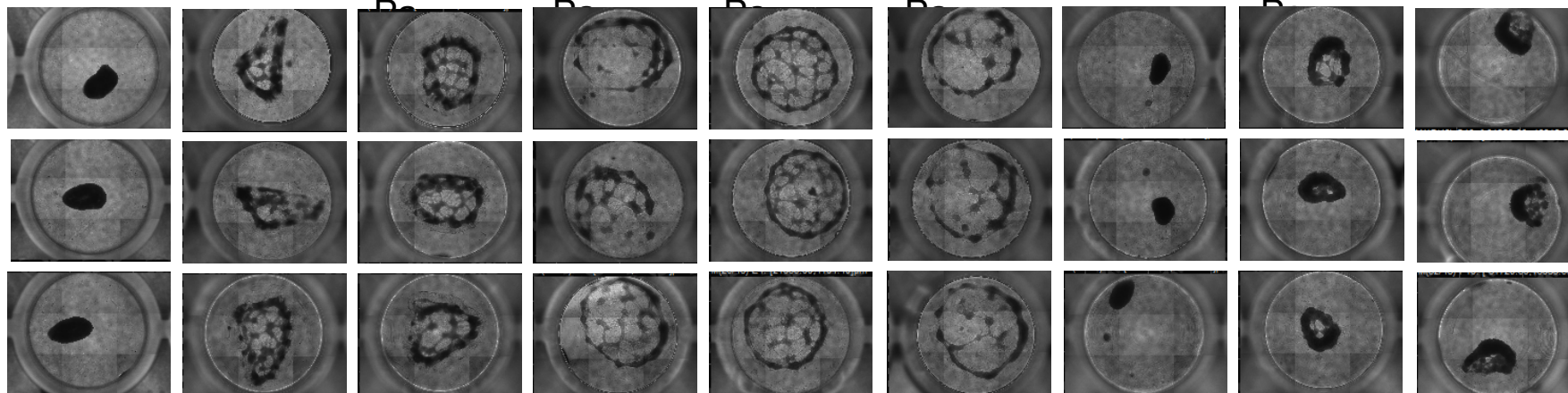
321 Pa

422 Pa

722 Pa

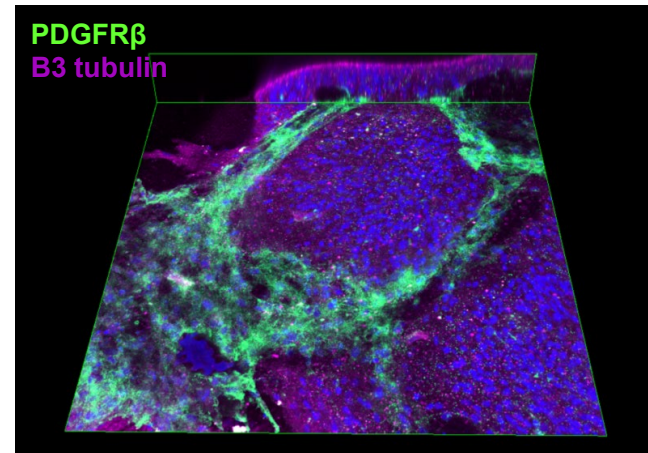
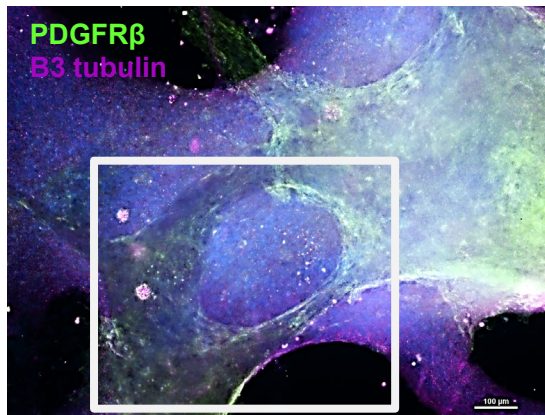
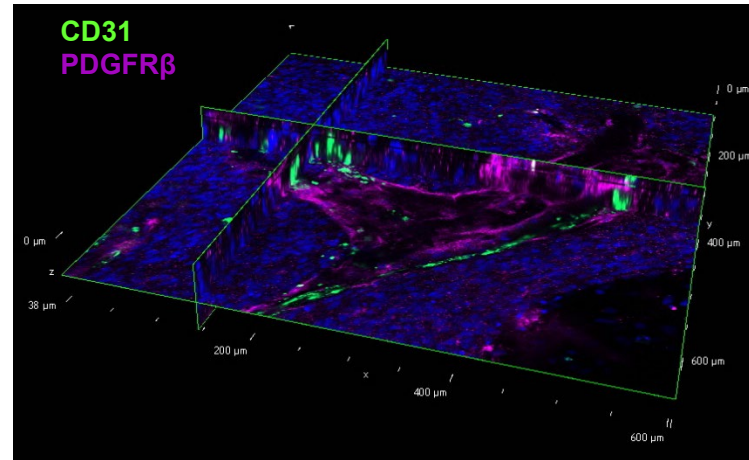
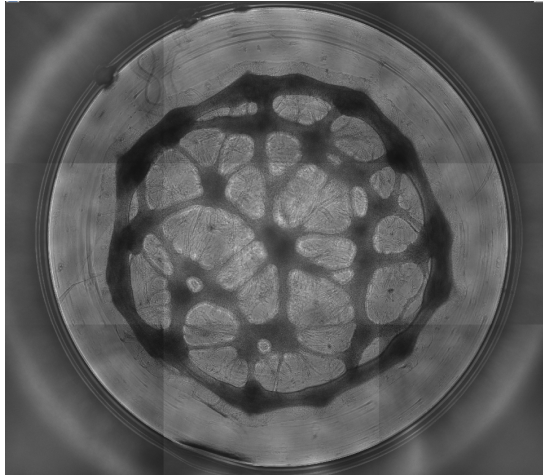
747 Pa

1488 Pa



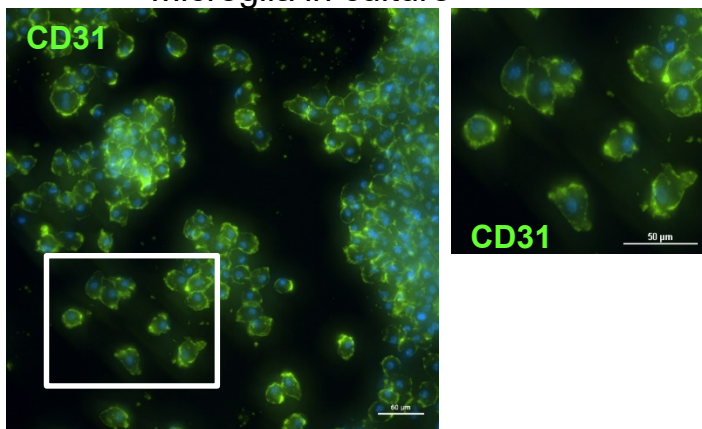


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

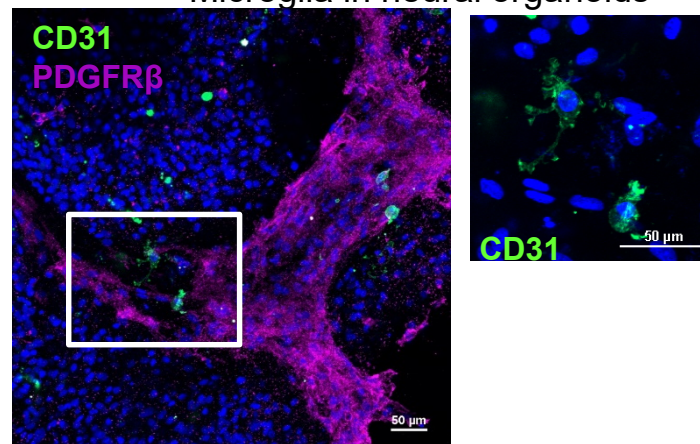


# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid

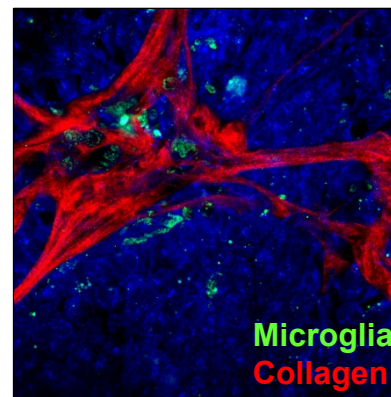
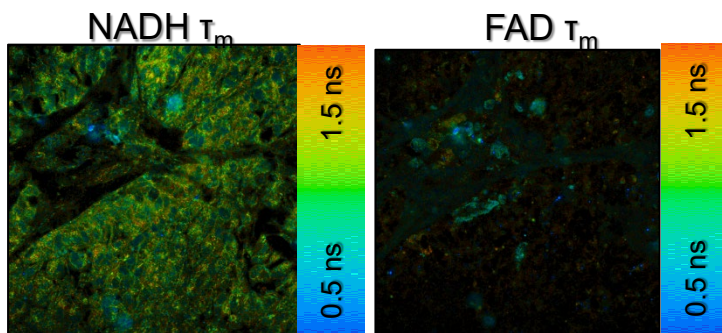
Microglia in culture



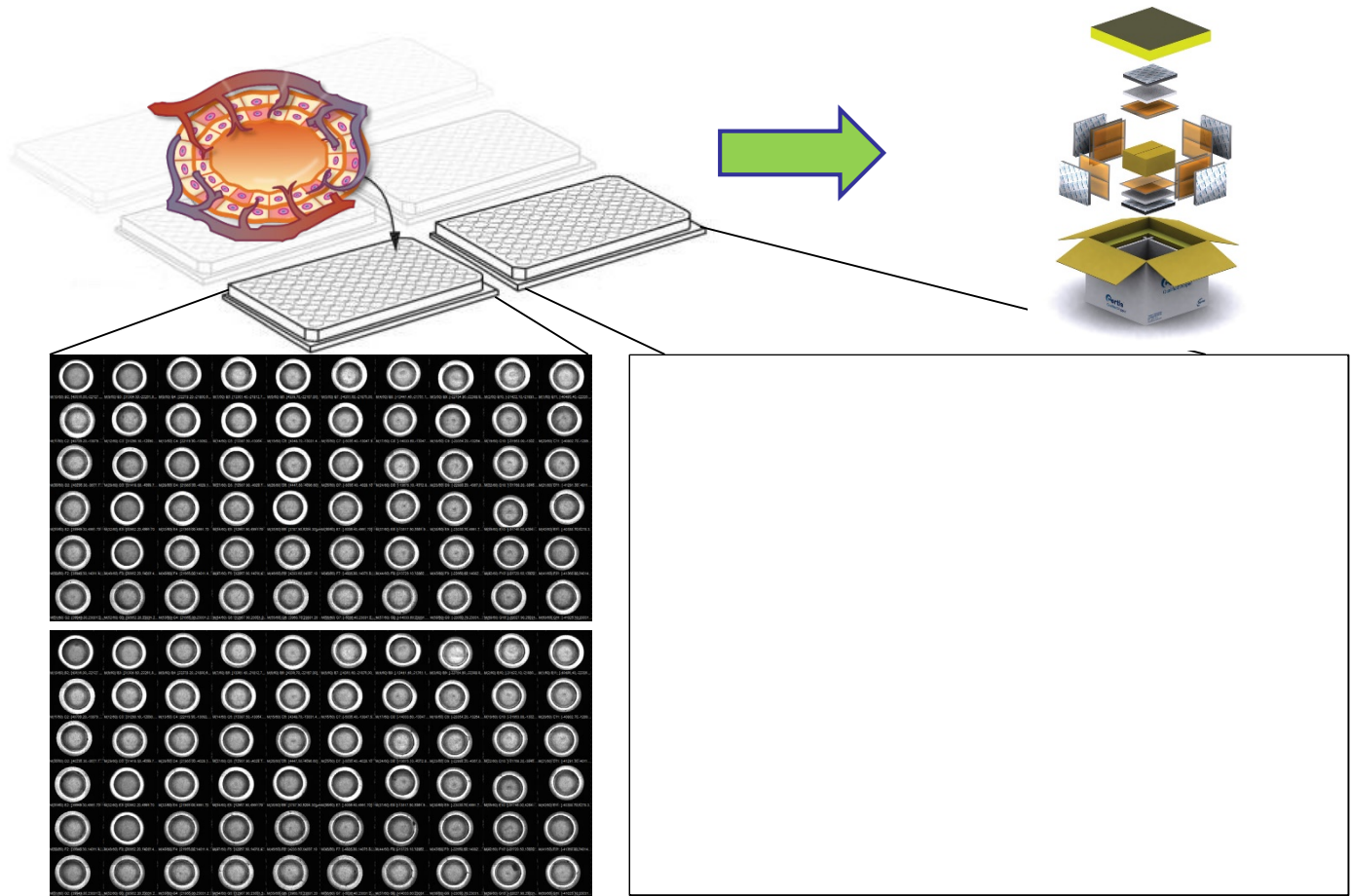
Microglia in neural organoids



Metabolic Imaging of Microglia in Organoids



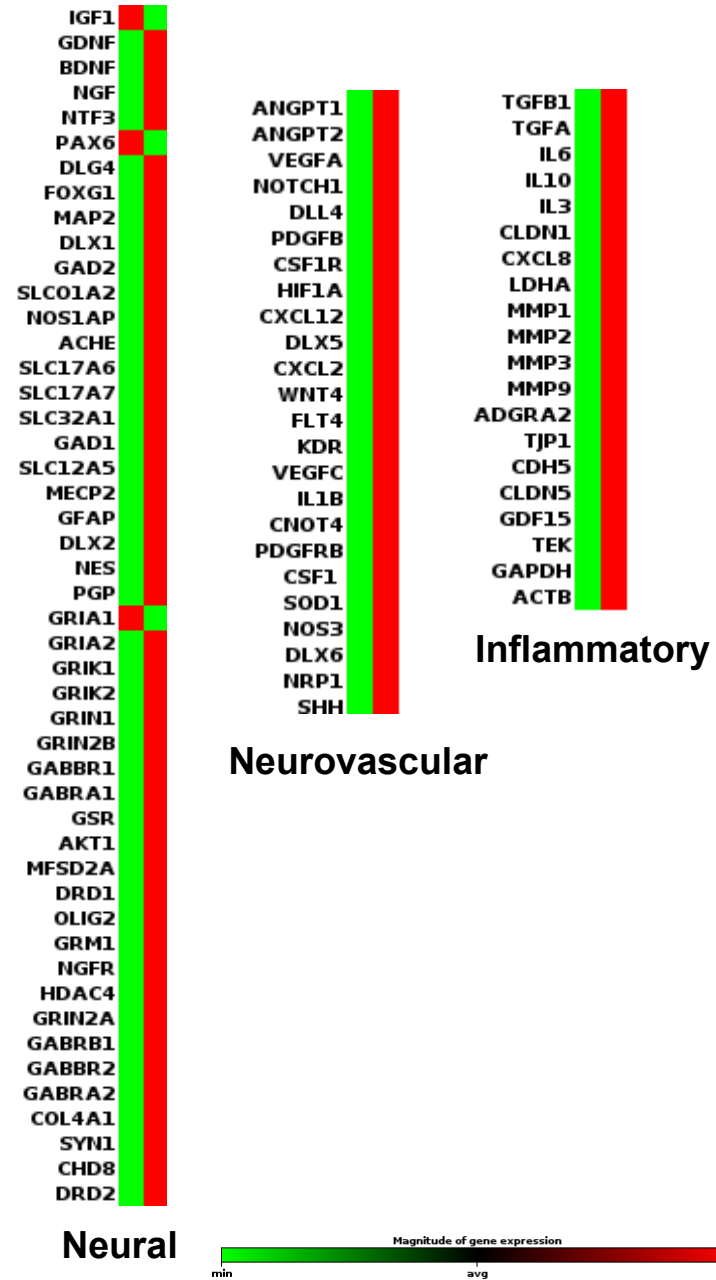
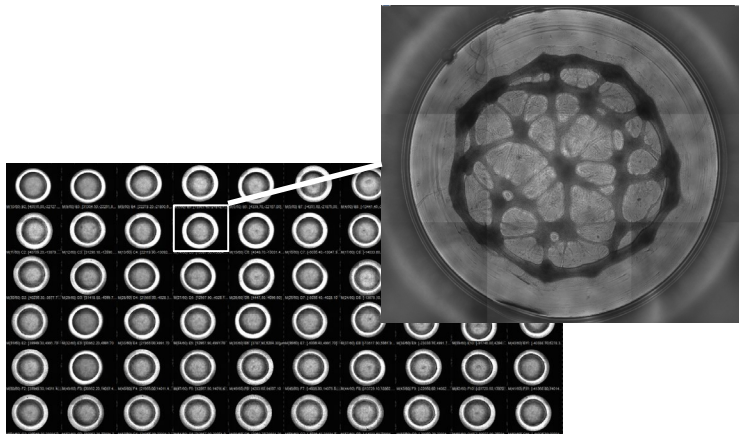
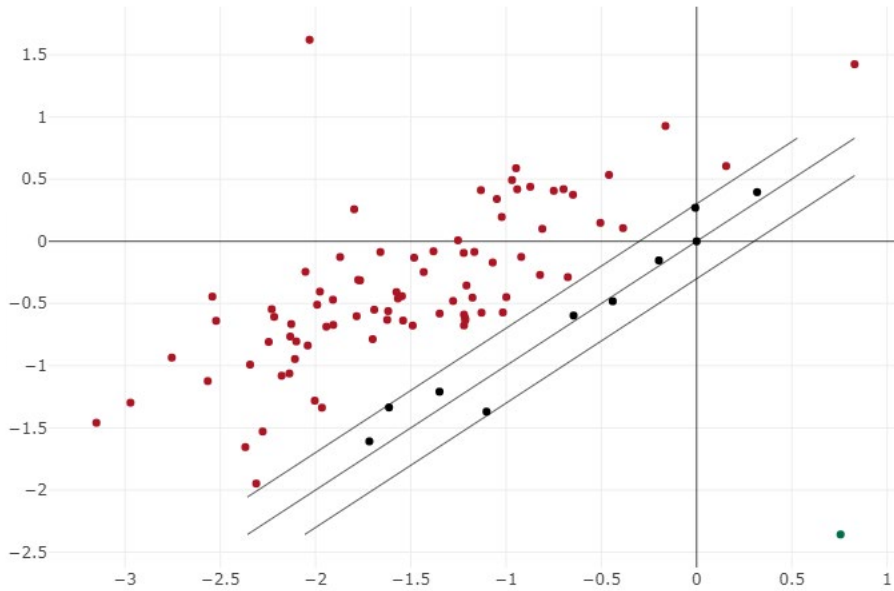
# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid



10 Plates, 960 Organoids, Testing of FDA approved Drugs and Neurotoxins at Three Doses – Cmax, 10 x Cmax, 100 x Cmax



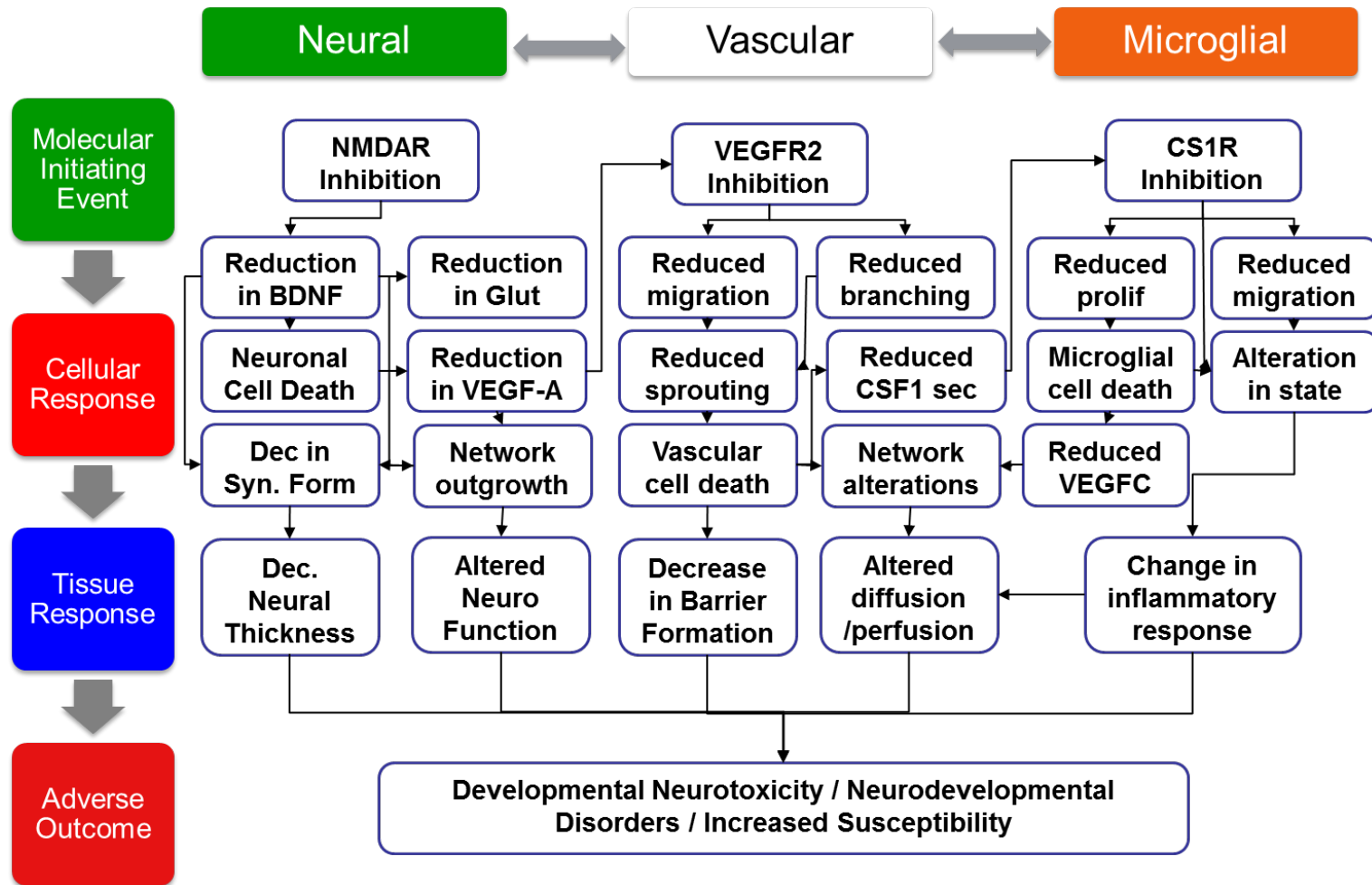
# Neural model 3.0: Human Brain Organoid





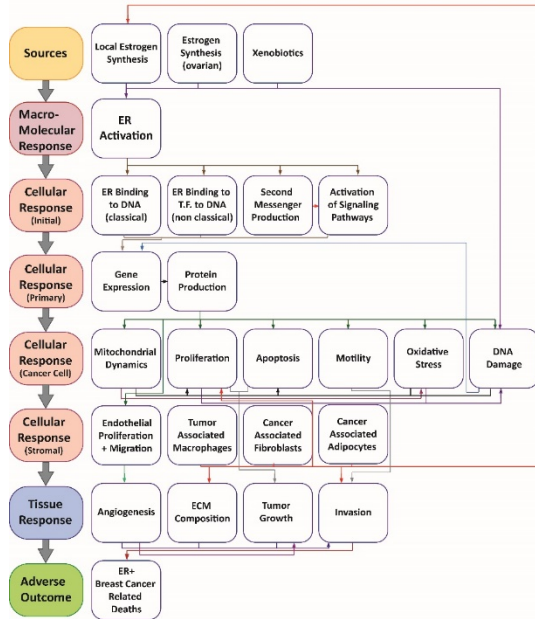
# DEVELOP AOPs in order to focus on specific important outcomes

## Disruption of NVU Receptors Leading to Neurodevelopmental Disorders



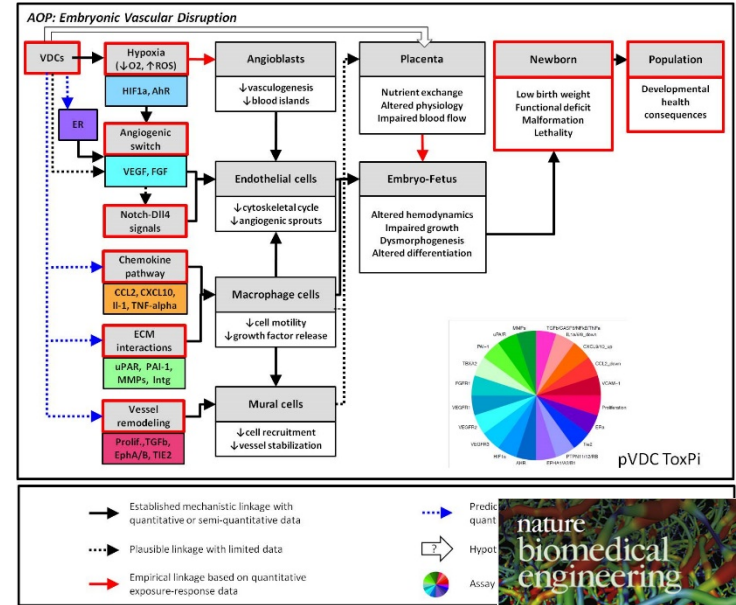
# DEVELOP AOPs in order to focus on specific important outcomes

## Estrogen Receptor Activation Leading to Breast Cancer (AOP Peta Award Winner)



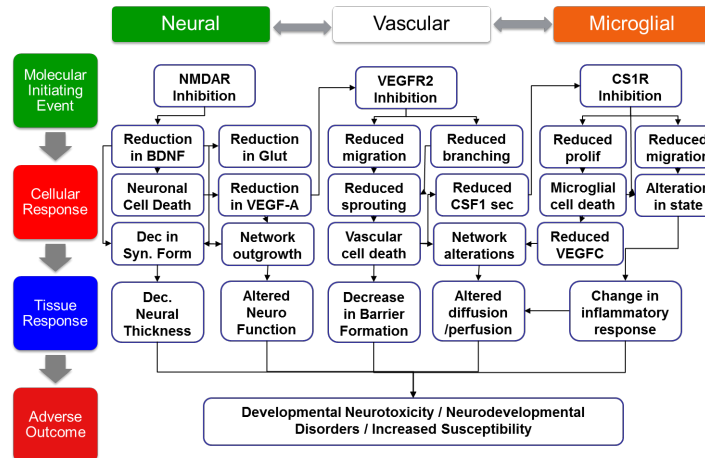
<https://aopwiki.org/aops/200>

## Disruption of VEGFR Signaling Leading to Developmental Defects

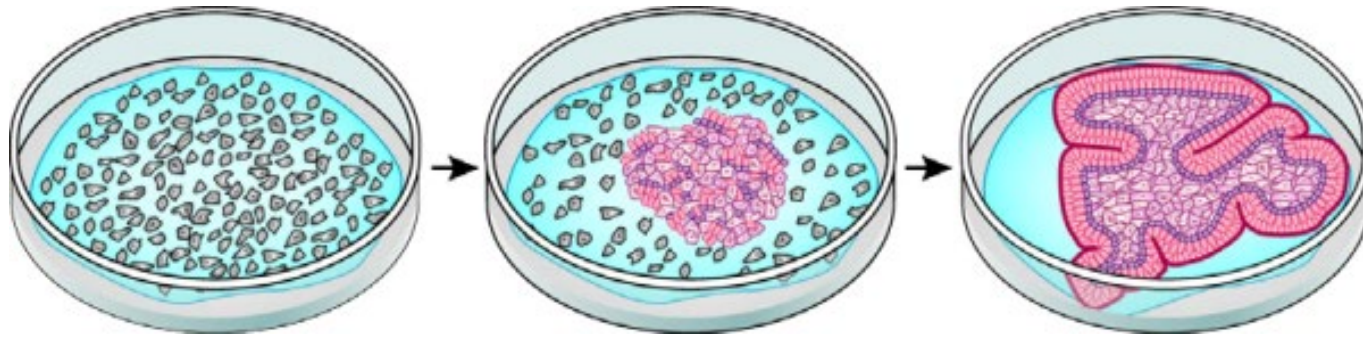


<https://aopwiki.org/aops/43>

## Disruption of NVU Receptors Leading to Neurodevelopmental Disorders



# LEVERAGE the mindset of industry to improve the science



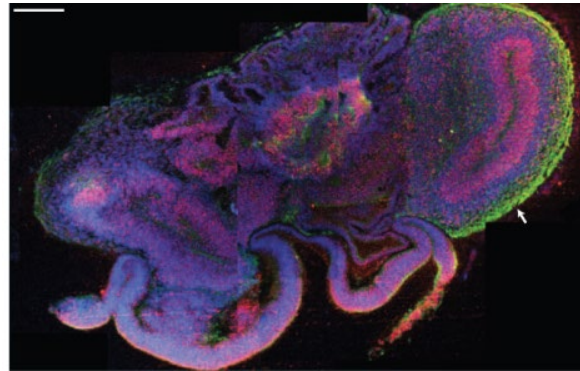
*Nature Methods* 2014 – News (Natalie DeSouza)

## Optic cup



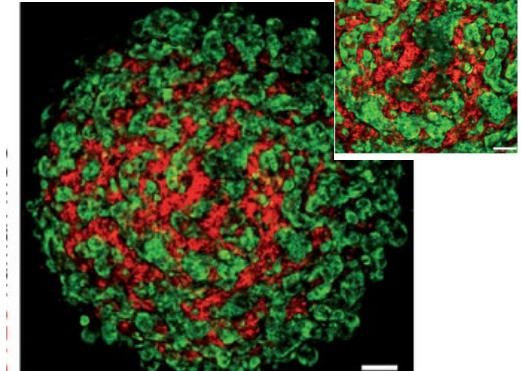
Eiraku et al. *Nature*, 2011

## “Brain organoid”



Lancaster *Nature* 2013

## Liver buds



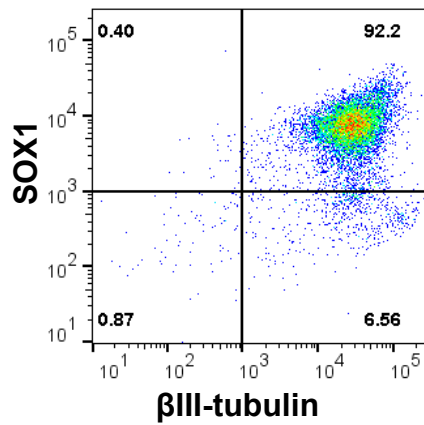
Takebe et al., *Nature* 2014

- Challenge – user independent reproducibility
- Challenge – generating robust quantitative data
- Challenge – transferrability to pharma & toxicology

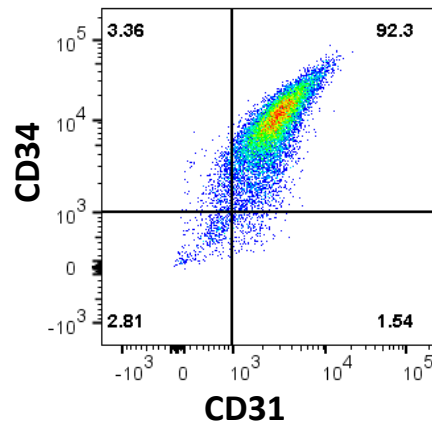
# PARTNER in areas of complementary interest/expertise



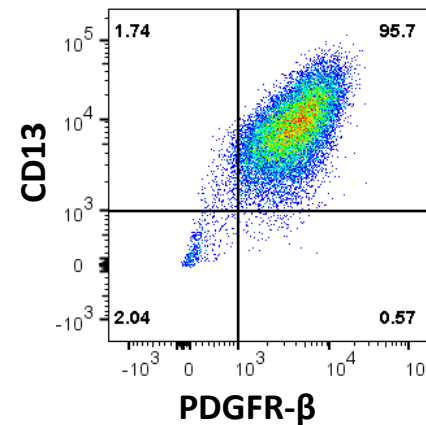
### Neural Progenitor Cells



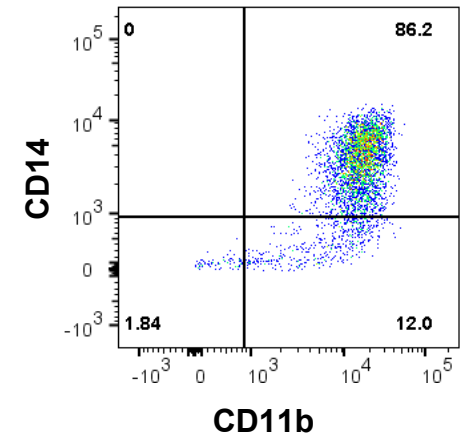
### Endothelial Cells



### Mesendodermal Cells



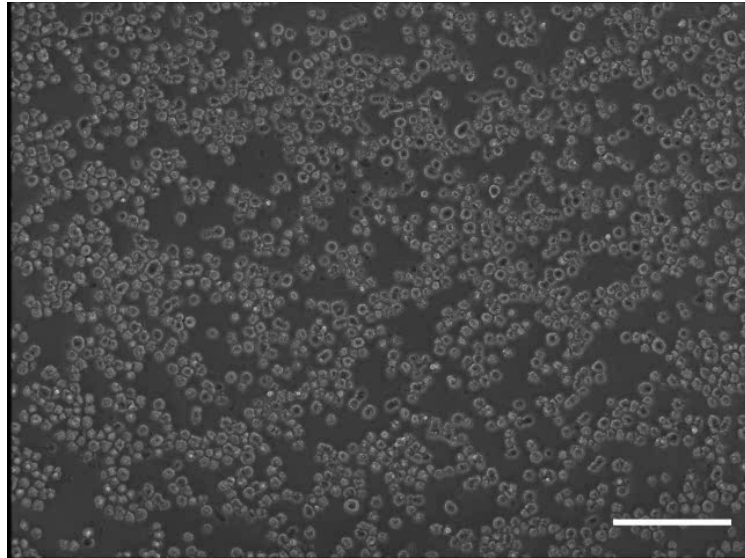
### Microglia Precursors



*> 90 % purity for all cell types*

- All components derived from human ES and iPS cells in defined conditions
- Purity of cell components verified by FACS
- **We develop → they may license**
- **They develop → we demonstrate utility**





## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

High-Content Assay Multiplexing for Vascular Toxicity Screening in Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Endothelial Cells and Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

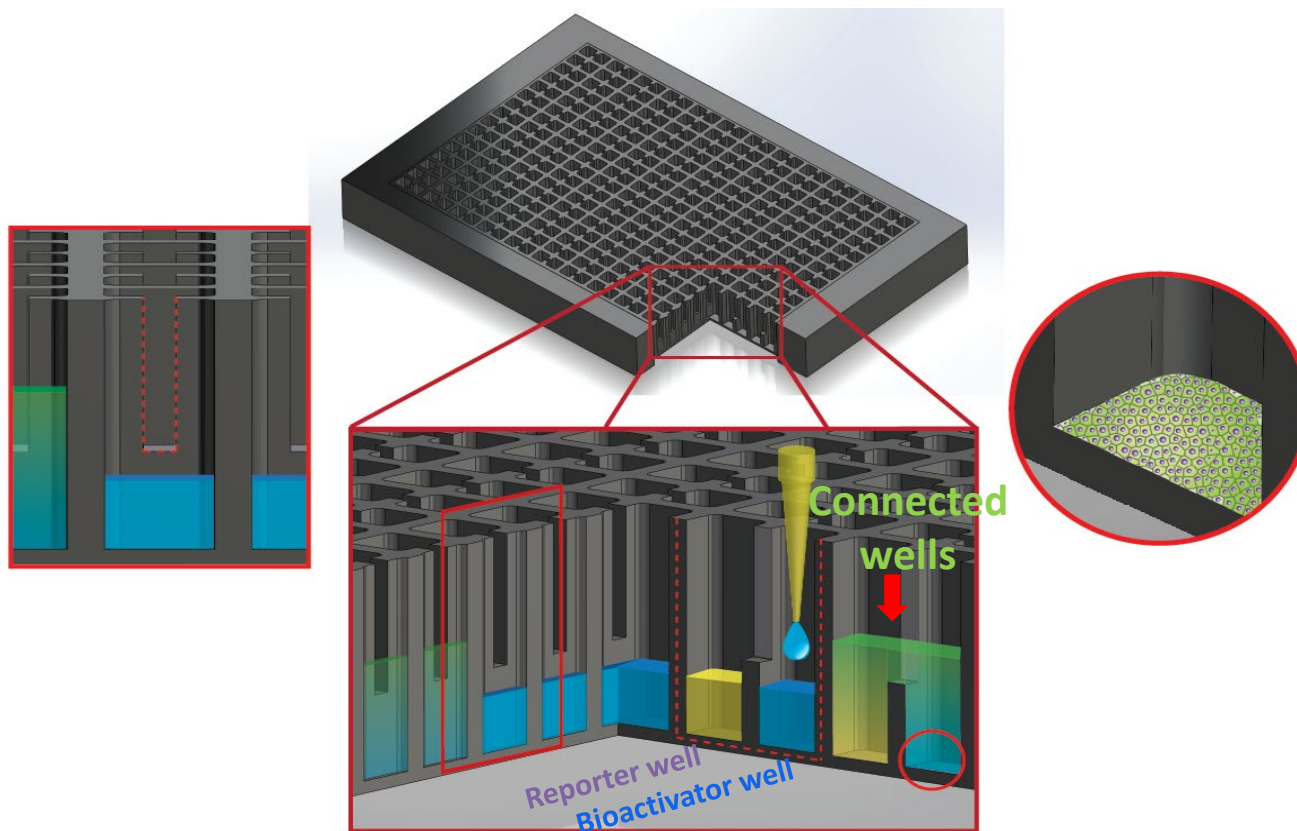
Yasuhiro Iwata<sup>1</sup>, William D. Klaren<sup>1</sup>, Connie S. Lebakken<sup>2</sup>, Fabian A. Grimm<sup>1</sup>, and Ivan Rusyn<sup>1</sup>

Keywords: endothelial cells, high-throughput, angiogenesis, iPSC-derived cells

**Assessment of Drug-Induced Toxicity Biomarkers in the Brain Microphysiological System (MPS) Using Targeted and Untargeted Molecular Profiling**

Sara G. Mina<sup>1†</sup>, Begum Alaybeyoglu<sup>1†</sup>, William L. Murphy<sup>2</sup>, James A. Thomson<sup>3,4</sup>, Cynthia L. Stokes<sup>5</sup> and Murat Cirit<sup>1\*†</sup>

## MICRO-MT High-throughput co-culture

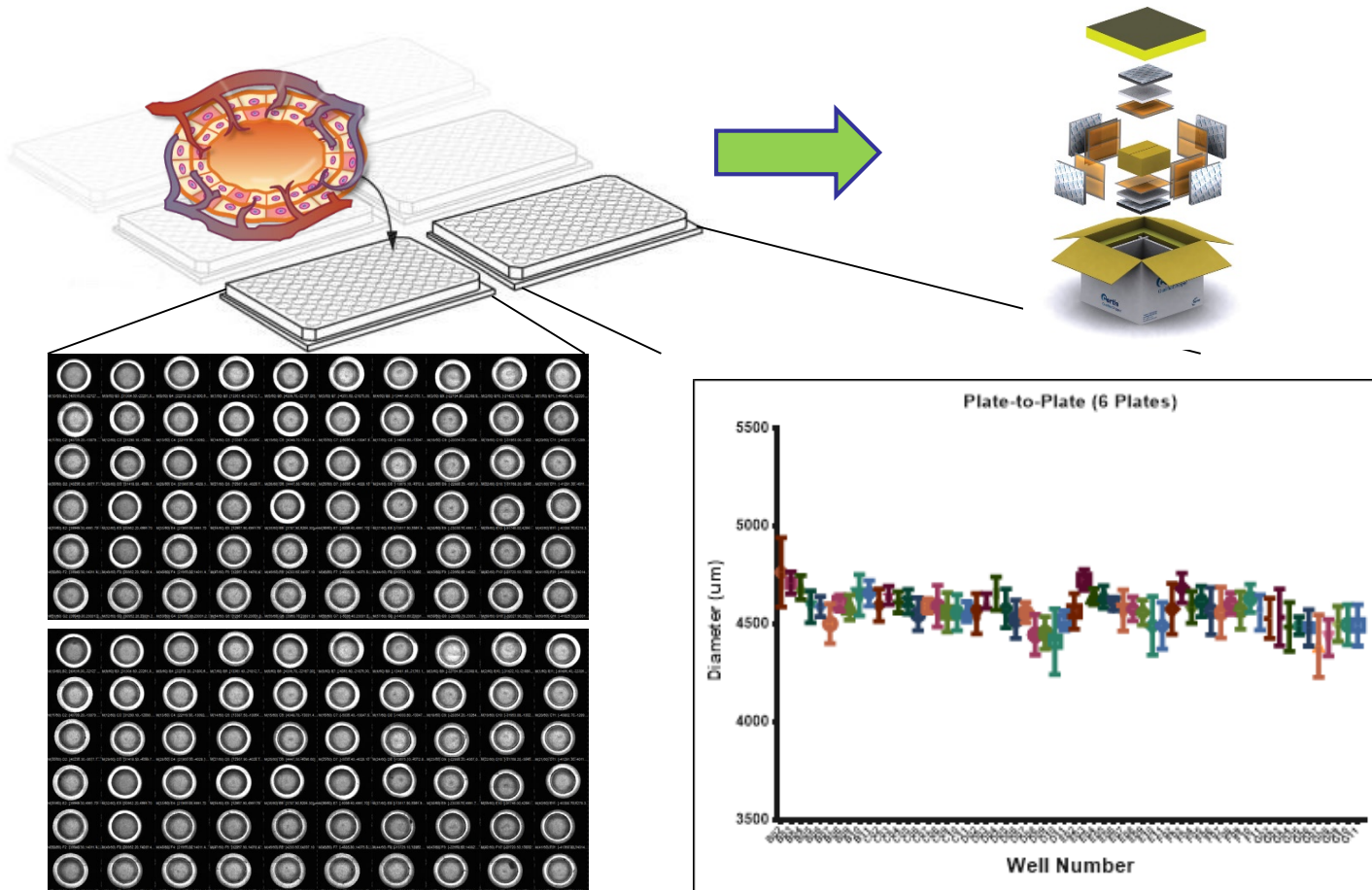


EMPHASIZE testing scenarios that are likely to be of broad end user interest



***Transferrable, Scalable, Adaptable***

# EMPHASIZE testing scenarios that are likely to be of broad end user interest



10 Plates, 960 Organoids, Testing of FDA approved Drugs and Neurotoxins at Three Doses – Cmax, 10 x Cmax, 100 x Cmax

---

## Are we there yet? What will it take for technologies to be broadly used in tox testing?

- TEMPLATE pathways from initial technology discovery to broad implementation
    - OECD guidelines? Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)?
    - iPSC CM – Comprehensive in Vitro Proarrhythmia Assay (CiPA) initiative?
  - SPECIFIC scenarios that would demonstrate unique physiological relevance
    - A specific perturbation and associated response that uniquely occurs in vivo
    - Specific compound sets that provide opportunity for blinded screening (EPA?)
  - UNDERSTAND technical issues that will limit transferrability
    - Use prior industry experience to appreciate pain points
    - Work to gain broad voice of customer (Tox-focused subcommittee of IQ Consortium?)
  - USE computational data sets and associated insights to provide scenarios for validation
    - Developmental scenarios that can be modeled in silico and recapitulated in experiment
    - Coalesce experimental data sets that combine distinct biological mechanisms (VTM)
  - DEVELOP and use AOPs in order to focus on specific important outcomes
    - Ensure that the most important biological outcomes are readily/robustly quantifiable
    - Build in the appropriate level of complexity, but no more...
    - Leverage other high value applications to develop systems for toxicity testing?
-



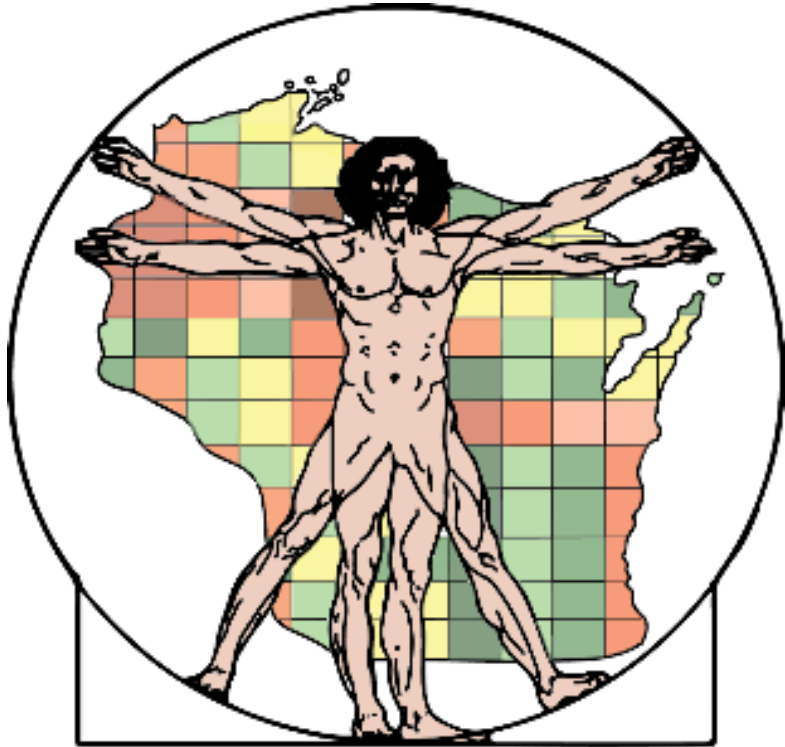
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## Driving DISSEMINATION and VALIDATION

### ***From Previous HMAPs SAC Discussions:***

- “How to best identify unmet needs? What is the best mechanism to source this info and input from Pharma?”
    - “Present systems to broader audience of target users and generate a due diligence checklist with our regulatory and pharmaceutical partners with a focus on scalability, reproducibility, etc.... give feedback on what they want to see (e.g. biomarkers).”
    - “[company] has checklists for liver, kidney, and skin. May have the data for other systems, but not necessarily consolidated.”
    - “Need VOC/end user feedback – application and workflow integration should have influence on the design.”
  - “What general insights can help us to create adoptable approaches/technologies?”
    - “Focus on Fit for purpose vs perfected systems. Evaluate the systems in that context or drive application to that unmet need.”
-

# Derive, Detect, Discover: *Next Generation Human Biology Models*



Human MAPs Center

- *Critical mass of innovative models in HMAPs*
- *Critical mass of key partners from industry*
- *Emergence of new UW-Madison initiatives*
  - *Forward BIO Initiative*
  - *WARF Human Therapeutics Program*
  - *ICTR Office of Therapeutics Discovery*
  - *UW Data Science Institute*
- ***What is the scope of the opportunity?***
- ***What form of UW initiative would be most beneficial?***
- ***What is the most productive way to partner with EPA?***

# Bioinspired Materials Laboratory (<http://bioinspired.engr.wisc.edu>)

## Collaborators

James Thomson (Morgridge)  
Linda Griffith (MIT)  
John Wikswa (Vanderbilt)  
Connie Lebakken (Stem Pharm)  
David Page (UW)  
Ron Stewart (Morgridge)  
David Gamm (UW)  
David Beebe (UW)  
Melissa Skala (Morgridge)  
David Mann (FCDI, DMW)  
Ivan Rusyn (Texas A&M)  
Nader Sheibani (UW)  
Randolph Ashton (UW)

## Research Sci/Spec

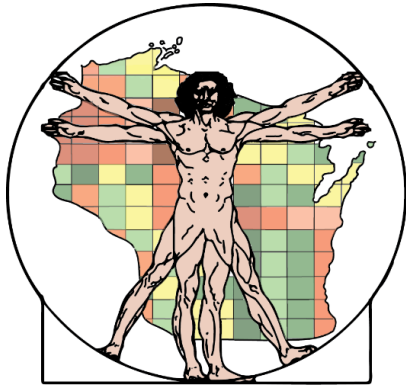
Jae Sung Lee  
Connie Chamberlain  
Michael Schwartz  
Tom Keenan  
Xiaohua Yu  
Dan Hellenbrand  
Ulrika Muller  
William Daly  
Elizabeth Torr  
Cheryl Soref

## Graduate Students

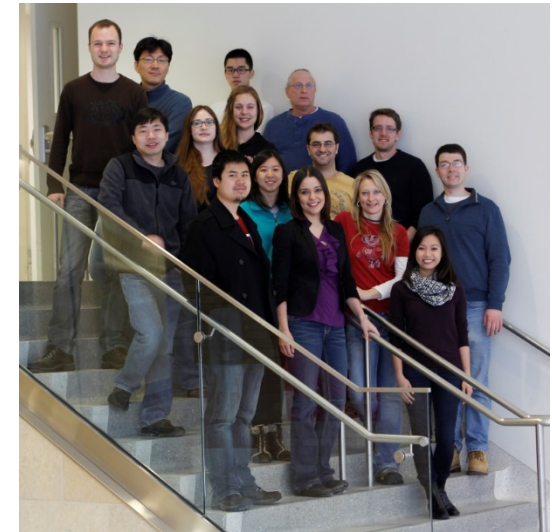
Ngoc Nhi Le  
Anna Clements  
Hamisha Ardalani  
Andrew Khalil  
Angela Xie  
John Krutty  
Tremaan Spearman-White  
Victoria Harms  
Junsu Yun

## Postdoctoral Fellows

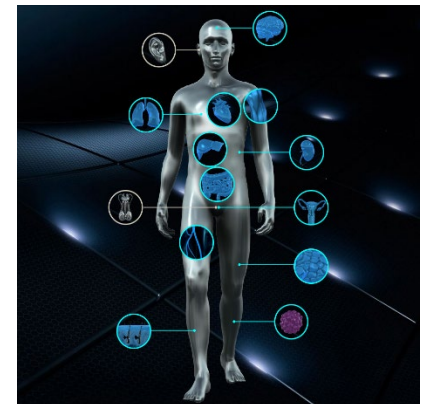
Gianluca Fontana  
Gaurav Kaushik  
Kate Barteau  
Elizabeth Aisenbrey  
Eric Nguyen



Human MAPs Center

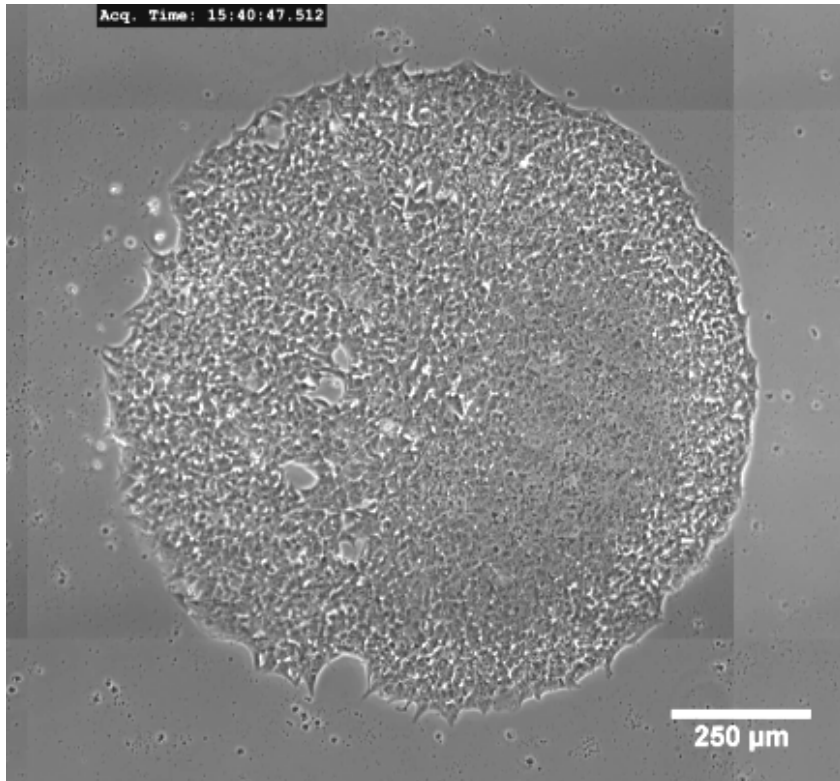


**This research is funded by  
US EPA STAR Grant  
#835737**



NIH MPS Program

# Derive, Detect, Discover: *Next Generation Human Biology Models*



- *Appropriate Complexity (but no more)*
- *Reproducibility*
- *Output Detection and Tracking*
- *Interface with Computational Modeling*
- *Transferability/Commercialization*