Triggering Calcium Responses in Various Human iPSC-derived Neural Cell Types

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Transformative Potential of iPSC Technology:

Enabling for Drug Discovery, Toxicology, and Regenerative Medicine





Several Different Human Neural Cell Types Available...





iCell Neurons

iCell DopaNeurons



iCell Astrocytes



iCell Motor **Neurons**



iCell GlutaNeurons



iCell Induced Neurons

500 400 300

200

... with Numerous Different Applications







Area of Interest – Calcium Signaling Assays in Neurons





- Calcium plays an important role in cell signaling
 - Direct signal transduction or as 2nd messenger
- Calcium is involved in:
 - Membrane excitability and depolarization
 - Synaptic plasticity and neuronal transmission
- There is interest in human iPSC-neurons because they posses relevant markers/channels that are present at endogenous expression levels:
 - Voltage-gated calcium channels (VGCCs)
 - Internal Ca2+ stores (IP3 and ryanodine receptors)
 - Ionotropic glutamate receptors (NMDA and AMPA)
 - Metabotropic Glu receptors (mGluRs)



1st Tier Approach: Ligand-induced Ca²⁺ Flux

96-well plates; HTS-compatible



Profiling of multiple receptor agonists



Measurable across multiple neuronal subtypes



Ca²⁺ signal can be inhibited / competitively antagonized





2nd Tier Approach: Measuring Network Connectivity iPSC-derived Dopaminergic Neurons



Network Bursts

- ✓ High neuron purity (>95% MAP2+)
- ✓ High TH expression (>80% DIV 14)
- Appropriate gene expression (cells are more *excitatory* than *inhibitory*; VGLUT2 > VGAT)
- Responsive to various DA-specific pharmacology (cAMP HTRF assay)
- Develops organized network-level bursting patterns on MEA (DIV >14)



2nd Tier Approach: Measuring Network Connectivity Assay Development Highlights

Consistent phenotype / assay signal from well-to-well



Timing and media considerations



DIV >14

Pharmacological modulation of signal

20 µM D-AP5



$5 \ \mu M \ DNQX$





Example Pharmacology with iCell DopaNeurons



1.

2.

3.



3rd Tier Approach: 'Next Gen' Assays with FDSS/µCell

Ca²⁺ response evoked by EFS



Electric field stimulation (EFS) parameters

Voltage	20 V
Pulse Width	2.0 ms
Number of pulse	50 times at each stimulation
Frequency	10, 20, 30, 40 Hz

Natsumi Kato, Sunao Hisada, and Fumio Iwase, Systems Division, Hamamatsu Photonics K.K., Hamamatsu 431-3196, Japan Ko Zushida and Hideo Saotome, IPS PORTAL Inc., Kyoto 602-0841, Japan

Membrane Potential





(Data from cells on same plate)

3D Cell Culture / Co-Culture







Other Functionally Relevant Human Cell Types from iPSC





iCell Skeletal Myoblasts



EarlyTox calcium dye



Compound Treatment



Electrical Field Stimulation (EFS)



Final Thoughts





Lego building blocks



Platform provider; Data analysis



CDI provides highly pure cryopreserved cells



iCell Operating System



Study neurological diseases