



Dec 18, 2019

TRANSFECTION OF i<sup>3</sup>NEURONS (Support Protocol 3) [↗](#)

In 1 collection

Michael S. Fernandopulle<sup>1</sup>, Ryan Prestil<sup>1</sup>, Christopher Grunseich<sup>1</sup>, Chao Wang<sup>2</sup>, Li Gan<sup>2</sup>, Michael E. Ward<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, <sup>2</sup>Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease, Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, California

1

Works for me

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5wug7ew](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5wug7ew)

Neurodegeneration Method Development Community

## ABSTRACT

Transient protein expression can easily be studied in i<sup>3</sup>Neurons using lipid-based transfection. This protocol is identical to that in iPSCs (see [Basic Protocol 2](#)). i<sup>3</sup>Neurons are modestly transfectable, with 5 % to 10 % of cells showing fluorescent protein expression after 24 hr. We have found that refreshing neuronal medium 1 to 2 hr after transfection both allows successful DNA entry into cells and largely prevents cytotoxicity resulting from the transfection reagent. Unlike iPSCs, i<sup>3</sup>Neurons show increased protein expression/accumulation over time, with greater fluorescence 48 to 72 hr after transfection than at 24 hr. Transient transfections also show more durable expression in i<sup>3</sup>Neurons than iPSCs, likely because episomes are not diluted by cell division. i<sup>3</sup>Neurons can be transfected in suspension (i.e., re-plating after day 3 of differentiation) or as an adherent culture, although better results are observed in adherent cultures. They are also amenable to serial transfections (i.e., re-transfecting with the same construct 24 hr apart) if higher-percentage transfections are desired.

## EXTERNAL LINK

<https://doi.org/10.1002/cpcb.51>

## THIS PROTOCOL ACCOMPANIES THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION

Fernandopulle, M. S., Prestil, R., Grunseich, C., Wang, C., Gan, L., & Ward, M. E. (2018). Transcription-factor mediated differentiation of human iPSCs into neurons. *Current Protocols in Cell Biology*, e51. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1002/cpcb.51>

fernandopulle2018.pdf

## GUIDELINES

This protocol is identical to that in iPSCs (see [Basic Protocol 2](#)). i<sup>3</sup>Neurons are modestly transfectable, with 5 % to 10 % of cells showing fluorescent protein expression after 24 hr. We have found that refreshing neuronal medium 1 to 2 hr after transfection both allows successful DNA entry into cells and largely prevents cytotoxicity resulting from the transfection reagent. Unlike iPSCs, i<sup>3</sup>Neurons show increased protein expression/accumulation over time, with greater fluorescence 48 to 72 hr after transfection than at 24 hr. Transient transfections also show more durable expression in i<sup>3</sup>Neurons than iPSCs, likely because episomes are not diluted by cell division. i<sup>3</sup>Neurons can be transfected in suspension (i.e., re-plating after day 3 of differentiation) or as an adherent culture, although better results are observed in adherent cultures. They are also amenable to serial transfections (i.e., re-transfecting with the same construct 24 hr apart) if higher-percentage transfections are desired.

## SAFETY WARNINGS

Please see SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for hazards and safety warnings.



This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited