

Sep 29, 2025

# Generation of human iPSC-derived cortical neurons, astrocytes, and microglia

 In 1 collection

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.e6nvw4o97lmk/v1>

Maria Jose Perez J.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut Imagine

Team Deleidi



Federico Bertoli

ASAP

## Create & collaborate more with a free account

Edit and publish protocols, collaborate in communities, share insights through comments, and track progress with run records.

Create free account

OPEN  ACCESS



**DOI:** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.e6nvw4o97lmk/v1>

**Protocol Citation:** Maria Jose Perez J. 2025. Generation of human iPSC-derived cortical neurons, astrocytes, and microglia. protocols.io <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.e6nvw4o97lmk/v1>



**License:** This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

**Created:** September 25, 2025

**Last Modified:** September 29, 2025

**Protocol Integer ID:** 228162

**Keywords:** microglia generation of human ipsc, microglia generation, derived cortical neuron, generation of human ipsc, cortical neuron, human ipsc, ipsc

**Funders Acknowledgements:**

ASAP

## Abstract

Generation of human iPSC-derived cortical neurons, astrocytes, and microglia

## Generation of human iPSC-derived cortical neurons, astrocytes, and microglia

- 1 The control neuronal precursor cell (NPC) lines were previously generated and characterized (Ref main text n 8, 86)
- 2 For developing NPCs, select first iPSC colonies and culture them for 4 days in embryoid body (EB) medium containing 20% KO serum replacement, 80% DMEM/F-12, 1% nonessential amino acids (NEAAs), 1% penicillin–streptomycin (PS), 10  $\mu$ M SB431542 (SB), and 2.5  $\mu$ M dorsomorphin.
- 3 Beginning on day 5, culture EBs for 4 additional days in N2B27 medium containing 100% DMEM/F-12, 1% N2, 1% B27 without vitamin A, 1% NEAAs, 1% PS, 10  $\mu$ M SB, 2.5  $\mu$ M dorsomorphin, and 20 ng/mL FGF2.
- 4 Isolate neural rosettes with Accutase, replate on Corning® Matrigel® Growth Factor Reduced (GFR) Basement Membrane Matrix, and maintain in N2B27 medium.
- 5 Manually dissect secondary or tertiary rosettes to purify NPCs.
- 6 Maintain NPCs in basal NPC medium consisting of 1:1 DMEM–Ham's F-12 and Neurobasal medium, 0.5% N2, 1% B27 without vitamin A, 1% PS, and 1% GlutaMAX, supplemented with 3  $\mu$ M CHIR99021, 0.5  $\mu$ M purmorphamine, and 150  $\mu$ M ascorbic acid.
- 7 Split NPCs into Matrigel-coated wells every 5–6 days at a 1:10 ratio.

## Cortical neuron differentiation

- 8 Seed NPCs at 80% confluence in neuronal differentiation medium consisting of basal neuronal medium (1:1 DMEM–Ham's F-12 and Neurobasal medium), 0.5% N2, 1% B27 without vitamin A, 1% PS, and 1% GlutaMAX, supplemented with 200  $\mu$ M ascorbic acid, 1  $\mu$ M purmorphamine, and 100 ng/mL FGF8.
- 9 Culture for 7 days, then split and seed in neuronal maturation medium consisting of basal neuronal medium supplemented with 20 ng/mL BDNF and 1 mM dibutyryl-cyclic AMP (dcAMP).
- 10 Replace maturation medium every other day.
- 11 Perform a final split after 14 days in vitro (DIV).



- 12 Conduct experiments after 21 DIV.

## Astrocyte differentiation

- 13 Seed NPCs at 15,000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> in commercial astrocyte differentiation medium (ScienCell Research Laboratories).
- 14 Passage cells every 5–6 days at 15,000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> using Accutase and plate on Matrigel-coated wells in differentiation medium.
- 15 After 30 days, replace medium with astrocyte maturation medium. (Ref 87 main text)
- 16 Split cells at 90% confluence, maintain in astrocyte maturation medium, and use for experiments between passages 3 and 10 after the medium change.

## Microglia differentiation

- 17 Seed  $3 \times 10^6$  iPSCs into a well of an AggreWell 800 plate to form EBs.
- 18 Culture EBs for 4 days in mTeSR<sup>TM</sup> Plus medium supplemented daily with 50 ng/mL BMP4, 50 ng/mL VEGF, and 20 ng/mL SCF.
- 19 Transfer EBs to 6-well plates (15 EBs/well) and culture in X-VIVO15 medium supplemented with 1% GlutaMAX, 1% PS, 100 ng/mL M-CSF, 25 ng/mL IL-3, and 0.055 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol.
- 20 Add fresh medium weekly.
- 21 After 3–4 weeks, harvest macrophage precursors appearing in the supernatant.
- 22 Plate harvested macrophage precursors at 100,000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> and culture for 10 days in advanced DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with 1% N2, 1% GlutaMAX, 1% PS, 100 ng/mL M-CSF, 100 ng/mL IL-34, 10 ng/mL GM-CSF, and 0.055 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol.