

## **Proteomic study of neuron and astrocyte cultures from senescence-accelerated mouse SAMP8 reveals degenerative changes**

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**Abbreviations:** **AD**, Alzheimer's disease; **Aldh2**, aldehyde dehydrogenase mitochondrial; **CHAPS**, 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl) dimethylammonio] propanesulfonate; **Cox**, cytochrome oxidase; **DMEM**, Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium; **FBS**, fetal bovine serum; **HPI**, human protein interactome network; **MALDI-TOF-MS**, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight-mass spectrometry; **MOWSE**, molecular weight search; **PBS**, phosphate buffered saline; **PMF**, peptide mass fingerprint; **PP1**, serine/threonine-protein phosphatase type 1; **Ppp1ca**, Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PP1-alpha catalytic subunit; **SAMP8**, senescence-accelerated prone mouse strain 8; **SAMR1**, senescence-accelerated resistant mouse strain 1; **SDS-PAGE**, sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis; **SUMO**, small ubiquitin-like modifier.

## **Abstract**

Senescence-accelerated prone (SAMP) strain 8 mice suffer an earlier development of cognitive age-related pathologies and a shorter life span than conventional mice. Protein alterations in astrocytes, in addition to those in neurons, may contribute to neurodegenerative damage. We applied proteomics techniques to study cell-specific early markers of brain aging-related degeneration in SAMP8. The two-dimensional protein expression patterns of the SAMP8 neuron and astrocyte cultures were compared to those obtained from senescence-resistant strain 1 (SAMR1) cultures. Differentially expressed spots were identified by matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight peptide map fingerprinting and database search. Proteins belonged to cell pathways of energy metabolism, biosynthesis, cell transduction and signaling, stress response and the maintenance of cytoskeletal functions. Most of the changes were cell type specific. However, there was a general increase in cell transduction, signaling and stress-related proteins and a decrease in cytoskeletal proteins. In addition, neurons showed an increased expression of proteins involved in biosynthetic pathways. A number of the protein alterations have been previously reported in the brain tissue proteome of SAMP8, aged brain or AD brain. Alterations in neuron and astrocyte proteoma indicated that both cell types are involved in the brain degenerative changes of SAMP8 mice. However, network analysis suggests that neuronal changes are more complex and have a greater influence.

## **Keywords:**

Alzheimer's disease, brain aging, differential proteomics, neuron and astrocyte cultures, SAMP8 mouse

## **Running title:**

Proteomics of SAMP8 neurons and astrocytes

## Introduction

Age-associated neurodegeneration is the subject of intense research, in the hope of decreasing the incidence of mentally disabling diseases in the elder population. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common age-related neurodegenerative disease with an estimated 26 million people living with the condition worldwide. This number will quadruplicate by 2050.

The senescence-accelerated prone mouse strain 8 (SAMP8) is an established animal model for studying age-related cognitive decline, including the contribution of amyloid beta neuropathology (Flood and Morley, 1998; Butterfield and Poon 2005; Pallas *et al.* 2008; Tomobe and Nomura 2009). SAMP8 was obtained through phenotypic selection from a common genetic pool of AKR/J mice. It has a shorter life span than the reference strain (senescence-accelerated resistant mouse strain 1 [SAMR1]) and suffers age-related cognitive impairment (Takeda, 1999, 2009). Brain studies of SAMP8 have shown elevated levels of amyloid beta (Morley *et al.* 2002) with plaque-like formation (Takemura *et al.* 1993), tauopathy alterations (Canudas *et al.* 2005) and oxidative stress (Butterfield *et al.* 1997; Farr *et al.* 2003; Sureda *et al.* 2006), mainly attributed to mitochondrial dysfunction (Fujibayashi *et al.* 1998). Several authors have undertaken proteomic studies of SAMP8 brain tissue in a search for abnormal expression or oxidation of proteins that could shed light on the pathologically altered pathways (Butterfield and Poon 2005; Nabeshi *et al.* 2005; Wang *et al.* 2008). Although significant insights have been obtained, the complete protein alterations underlying SAMP8 brain changes are far from being elucidated. Moreover, it is not known the differential involvement of the main brain cell types, neurons and astrocytes. We and others recently demonstrated that SAMP8 cultured astrocytes exhibited age-related disturbances (García-Matas *et al.* 2008; Lü *et al.* 2008, 2009) and reduced neuroprotective capacity (García-Matas *et al.* 2008), as compared to SAMR1 astrocytes. Studies on SAMP8 cultured neurons confirmed some age-related disturbances, such as reduced mitochondrial functionality and higher vulnerability to oxidative injuries (unpublished results). In this work, we used the powerful proteomic technology to analyze SAMP8 brain protein expression changes down to the cellular level, in order to dissect the neuron and astrocyte contribution to pathological aging of the brain. For this purpose, we used cultures of cerebral cortical neurons and astrocytes of SAMP8 and SAMR1 mouse and analyzed the differential changes that appeared in the neuronal and astrocytic proteoma of SAMP8, as compared to SAMR1.

## **Materials and methods**

### **Animals and reagents**

SAMR1 and SAMP8 mouse breeders were purchased from Charles River Laboratories (Lyon, France) and their colonies were established in the University of Barcelona's Animal House. Animals were maintained and handled in compliance with protocols approved by the Generalitat (Autonomous Government of Catalonia), Spain, in accordance with EU guidelines, and in compliance with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare/National Institute of Health (identification number A5224-01).

Culture chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co (St. Louis, MO, USA) if not otherwise stated. Reagents and analytical grade chemicals for electrophoresis and gel staining were obtained from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany) or as indicated below.

### **Cell cultures**

#### *Neuron cultures*

Primary cultures of neurons were prepared from the fetal cerebral cortices of E15-E16 SAMR1 and SAMP8 mice, as previously described (Frandsen and Schousboe, 1990). Neocortices were dissected and mechanically minced. Tissue was then dissociated to single cells by mild trypsinization (0.02% w/v) at 37°C for 10 min followed by trituration in a DNase solution (0.004% w/v) containing a soybean trypsin inhibitor (0.05% w/v). The cells were re-suspended in a Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM; Biochrom AG, Berlin, Germany) supplemented with 100 mU/L insulin, 7 µM p-aminobenzoic acid, 0.2 mM glutamine, 100 µg/mL gentamicin and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Gibco-Invitrogen, Paisley, UK). The cell suspension was seeded at  $32 \times 10^4$  cell/cm<sup>2</sup> in T75 flasks (Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark) that had been precoated with poly-D-lysine, and incubated for 7-8 days in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub>/95% air atmosphere at 37°C. A mixture of 5 µM 5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridine and 20 µM uridine was added after 48 h in culture to prevent glial proliferation without damaging neurons. Highly pure neuron cultures were obtained, with glial cell contamination below 5-10%. Neurons were collected after 7 days in vitro.

#### *Astrocyte cultures*

Primary cultures of astrocytes were established from cerebral cortical tissue of 2-day old SAMR1 and SAMP8, as previously described (García-Matas *et al.* 2008) Briefly, cortices were dissected free of the meninges, diced into small cubes and dissociated by incubation with a 0.25 % trypsin / 1 mM EDTA solution (Gibco) for 25 min. After a further mechanical disaggregation, cells were resuspended in DMEM supplemented with 2.5 mM glutamine, 100 µg/mL gentamycin and 20% FBS. Cells were seeded at  $5 \times 10^4$  cell/cm<sup>2</sup> in T75 flasks and incubated at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> -95% air. The culture medium was changed twice a week. The concentration of FBS was changed to 15% and 10% after one and two weeks of culture, respectively. After 3 weeks, the flasks were shaken in an orbital shaker at 200 rpm for 4 h to dislodge microglia and the attached astrocyte monolayer was collected. This purified fraction contained more than 90-95% astrocytes, with a minor fraction of contaminating microglia.

## **Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis**

### *Sample preparation*

The neuron or astrocyte monolayer of a culture flask was washed with cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and maintained on ice while the cells were scraped with a rubber policeman. Cells were collected aseptically, centrifuged at 400 x g and rinsed with PBS. Three different flasks from each of two independent cultures of SAMR1 and SAMP8 astrocytes were harvested for the study. For neurons, also triplicate flasks were harvested from each of three independent cultures of SAMR1 and SAMP8. See the outline of the experimental design and main results in the flow chart (Fig. 1). The pellets were stored at -80°C until processed. Frozen samples were resuspended in 500µl of cold lysis buffer (7 M urea, 2 M thiourea, 4 % 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl) dimethylammonio] propanesulfonate (CHAPS), 40 mM Tris-base, 10 mM dithiothreitol and 1 mM phenyl-methylsulfonyl fluoride, sonicated for 30 s, shaken orbitally for 10 min, sonicated again for 30 s and centrifuged at 15000 ×g for 10 min, all at 4°C. Proteins were precipitated from the supernatant by orbital shacking in 10 % trichloroacetic acid for 90 min at 4°C and centrifugation at 15000 ×g for 10 min (Quero *et al.* 2004). The protein extracts were rinsed with iced acetone, resuspended in 500µl of rehydration buffer (7 M urea, 2 M thiourea, 2% CHAPS, 97mM DeStreak, 0.5 % IPG Buffer), and stored in aliquots at -80°C. Protein concentration was determined using the RC DC Protein Assay kit (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### *Isoelectric focusing*

First dimension isoelectrofocusing was performed on IPG strips (pH 3-10, 18 and 24 cm for astrocytes and neurons, respectively) using an IPGphor unit (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). A sample containing 100 µg of proteins was diluted with rehydration buffer to a volume 350 - 450 µL (Quero *et al.* 2004), loaded on strips, and then rehydrated without voltage application for 6 h and at 50 V for 6 h. Electrophoresis was performed at 20°C under the following conditions: 500 V (gradient over 1h), 1,000 V (gradient 1h), 4,000 V (gradient 1h), 8,000 V (gradient 1h) and 8,000 V (fixed to 60,000 1h). The electrofocused strips were stored at -80°C until sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).

### *SDS-PAGE*

The strips were immersed for 15 min in equilibration solution (50 mM Tris, 6 M urea, 30% glycerol, 2% SDS) containing 1% dithiothreitol and then transferred to another equilibration solution containing 2.5% iodoacetamide and shaken for 15 min. The separation of proteins was carried out using self-cast 8% and 12% acrylamide gels in an Ettan Dalt Six electrophoresis system (GE Healthcare) at 2.5 W per gel for 30 min followed by 17 W/gel for the next 5h. Six different neuron samples, including one triplicate flask from each of the three SAMR1 and three SAMP8 cultures of the study, were simultaneously run. The procedure was repeated twice with the two remaining triplicate flasks. Next, astrocyte samples were processed similarly, also running one of the triplicate culture flasks at a time. Protein spots in the 30 gels generated were visualized by silver staining according to the procedure outline elsewhere (Shevchenko *et al.* 1996).

### **Image analysis and statistics**

The gels were washed with water, scanned using a densitometer (GS-800, Bio-Rad) and analyzed with ImageMaster<sup>TM</sup> Platinum 5.0 software (GE Healthcare). A total of nine gels for each cell type and mouse strain were analyzed. Neuron and astrocyte gels were analyzed separately. A reference gel was constructed for each cell type using as a basis the gel with the maximum number of distinct spots. All the spots for a given gel were matched to the corresponding reference gel by means of the automatic analyses. They were then verified manually by local pattern comparison. The quantification of proteins was expressed as the relative volumes of all spots in each gel (% volume). Analytical and

biological coefficients of variance in these assays were typically up to 30% and 50%, respectively (Ramirez-Boo et al., 2006). Therefore, protein spots of SAMP8 mice were accepted as different from SAMR1 mice when the protein content was increased or decreased by at least two fold, and the Student's *t*-test confirmed the statistical significance of the results ( $p < 0.05$ ). Analysis was re-evaluated by visual inspection.

### **Protein identification**

The spots of interest were excised and subjected to in-gel digestion with trypsin as described elsewhere (Shevchenko *et al.* 1996). Tryptic peptides were extracted from the gel with acetonitrile/water/trifluoroacetic acid, and extracts were evaporated to dryness and redissolved in acetonitrile/water (1/1), 1% acetic acid. Peptide mass fingerprint (PMF) identification (was performed by matrix-assisted laser desorption-time of flight-mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) in a Voyager DE PRO (Applied Biosystems, Barcelona) working in positive reflectron mode. A 0.5  $\mu$ L sample fraction was loaded in a 96 x 2 well plate, was mixed with 0.5  $\mu$ L of matrix (3 mg/mL  $\alpha$ -ciano-4-hidroxicinamic acid in acetonitrile/water 2/1 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid) and was let to dry. Spectra were externally calibrated using a standard mixture (des-Arg1-bradiquinine (Mr 904.46), Glu1-fibrinopeptid B (Mr 2465.2), corticotropin-inhibiting peptide (Mr 3657.93) and, when possible, an internal calibration using the ions derived from the trypsin autodigestion was used. The Protein Prospector (<http://donatello.ucsf.edu>) and MASCOT (Matrix Science, Inc, Boston, MA) software packages were used for data mining in the Swiss-Prot (European Bioinformatics Institute, Heidelberg, Germany) and National Center for Biotechnology Information (Bethesda, MD) databases. The following parameters were used: peptide mass tolerance 100 ppm, enzyme set as trypsin and allowance up to two missed cleavages, static modification was cysteine carbamidomethylated (+57 Da) and dynamic modification was methionine oxidation.

### **Network analysis**

A network analysis was performed with the Combinatorica and Graph Utilities packages of Mathematica, version 6 (Wolfram Research, Inc., Champaign, IL), and the Python graph package NetworkX, version 0.36 (Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM) for both neuronal and astrocytic differential proteins. The constructed networks mathematically modeled the interactions between the whole set of differentially expressed proteins in neurons and in astrocytes. Nodes indicate the proteins and edges indicate their interactions. Complexity of

the node interactions correlates with the functional complexity of the proteins involved. Protein-protein interactions were obtained from the Human Protein Reference Database (<http://www.hprd.org>) (Mishra et al. 2006). The Human Protein Interactome network (HPI) was build with 35,021 interactions between 9,462 proteins, and its largest connected component has 34,876 interactions between 9,047 proteins. Human genes homologous to the differentially expressed mouse genes were obtained from the Entrez Gene database (NCBI, NIH). The following parameters were analyzed: a) *Average distance*, distance between the protein nodes that indicates the number of intermediate links through the shortest path; b) *Closeness centrality*, reciprocal of the mean shortest distance between a node and all HPI connected nodes that is a measure of the speed of the communication from each node protein to other reachable nodes in the whole HPI network; c) *Degree of centrality*, number of HPI links incident upon a node; d) *Betweenness centrality*, fraction of the shortest pathways between all HPI node pars that go through a given node; and e) *Clustering coefficient*, ratio of existing interconnections among all neighbors of a given node and their maximal possible interconnections.

### **Western blotting**

One representative protein for each cell type was selected to validate the proteomics results by Western blotting. Selected proteins were PP1-alpha catalytic subunit (Ppp1ca) for neurons and aldehyde dehydrogenase (Aldh2) for astrocytes. Two different membranes, each loaded with four samples of SAMR1 and four samples of SAMP8 were analyzed for each protein. Western blotting analysis was performed by standard procedures, as previously described (García-Matas et al., 2008). For details see Supporting information.

### **Results**

Representative images of neuron and astrocyte two-dimensional gels after silver staining are shown in Fig. 2. Approximately 900 spots were detected in astrocyte gels and 1200 in the higher resolution neuron gels. The differential proteomics analysis of the neurons of the two mouse strains showed 27 differential spots in SAMP8 as compared to SAMR1. Twenty-four spots were identified by PMF, which are listed in Table 1A. A total of 16 differentially expressed spots were obtained in astrocytes of SAMP8 as compared to SAMR1 mice. All spots were identified by PMF, as listed in Table 1B. MS data for each



spot are summarized in Tables S1A and S1B, for neurons and astrocytes respectively (Supporting information; see also PMF files). All the spots were identified with a high probability-related molecular weight search (MOWSE) score. The Mascot score was used for one mass spectrum (see Table S1A). Multiple differential spots were detected for three neuron proteins: tubulin alpha-1 chain, tubulin alpha-3 chain and tubulin beta-5 chain. This could indicate differential expression in several coexisting posttranslational modifications or isoforms of these proteins. The identified 17 neuron and 14 astrocyte proteins, can functionally be classified as those involved in the energy metabolism of the cell, biosynthetic pathways, transduction and signaling mechanisms, response to cellular stress and cytoskeletal functions. Additionally, one identified astrocyte protein has a transport function and a neuronal protein has an unknown function in mammals.

Densitometric analysis and representative images of Western blot are shown in Fig. S1 (Supporting information). Significant increases in the signaling protein Ppp1ca in neurons and in the stress response protein Aldh2 in astrocytes were in agreement with the proteomic analyses.

Network analyses were performed with 13 neuron and 9 astrocyte differentially expressed proteins, which were connected to other proteins in the HPI (Table 3, Fig. 3). Analytical parameters showed that neuron proteins were closely related, as they were connected by a shorter distance than average in HPI. In addition, much higher centrality parameters and clustering coefficient than the whole HPI indicated that these neuron proteins participate in many relevant cell pathways. The astrocyte protein network showed a higher clustering coefficient and a slight increase in two centrality parameters, that indicate its inclusion in more cell pathways than average in HPI.

## **Discussion**

The proteomic study of neuron and astrocyte cultures of SAMP8 mouse showed a differential pattern of protein expression alterations as compared to those of the reference strain SAMR1. The function of the proteins involved and the possible significance of the changes are discussed below.

### *Energy metabolism*

There was an increase in acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 2 expression in both neurons and astrocytes. In addition, a decrease in acyl coenzyme A thioesterase 1 expression was found in neurons. Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterases catalyze the hydrolysis of acyl-coenzyme A to free fatty acids and coenzyme A, providing the potential to regulate intracellular levels of these molecules. Isoform 1 is cytoplasmic and isoform 2 is mitochondrial. Fatty acids and their activated form, acyl-coenzyme A, are key components of numerous metabolic processes of biosynthesis/catabolism of lipids. The enzyme phosphoglycerate mutase 1, which catalyzes the interconversion of 3-phosphoglycerate and 2-phosphoglycerate during glycolysis and gluconeogenesis, showed decreased expression in SAMP8 neuron proteoma. A decrease in this enzyme has been reported in the hippocampus proteoma of AD (Sultana *et al.* 2007) and might be an AD biomarker (Zellner *et al.* 2009). It plays an important role in maintaining synaptic function. A decrease in glycolysis has been related to the abnormally low levels of brain acetylcholine in aged SAMP8 (Poon *et al.* 2004). SAMP8 astrocytes showed an increase in adenylate kinase isoenzyme 4, a phosphotransferase that catalyzes the interconversion of adenine nucleotides and therefore regulates mitochondrial respiration and cytosolic energy metabolism. Astrocyte cultures also showed a significant decrease in the precursor form of cytochrome oxidase (Cox) isoform 4-1. Cox catalyzes the electron transfer from ferrocytochrome *c* to oxygen in the mitochondrial electron transport chain. Isoform IV-1 predominates in brain tissue. Defective energy metabolism in aging and AD has been linked to decreased Cox 4 activity levels (Ojaimi *et al.* 1999; Maurer *et al.* 2000).

### *Biosynthesis*

SAMP8 neuron proteoma showed an increase in both enzymes that sequentially catalyze L-serine biosynthesis: D-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase and phosphoserine aminotransferase. L-serine is a building block for the synthesis of proteins and neural phospholipids. Astrocytes showed a decrease in dihydropteridine reductase, an enzyme that is involved in the maintenance of tetrahydrobiopterin levels. The latter is a cofactor in the synthesis of amino acid monooxygenases and nitric oxide production. SAMP8 astrocytes showed a more alkaline form of S-methyl-5-thioadenosine phosphorylase, a pentosyltransferase that participates in adenine and methionine metabolism and in the biosynthesis of polyamines.

### *Cell transduction and signaling*

SAMP8 neuron proteoma showed an increase in poly(rC)-binding protein 1 and protein 2, but only poly(rC)-binding protein 1 was increased in astrocytes. These are the two major poly(C)-binding proteins in mammalian cells and mediate a variety of post-transcriptional functions related to mRNA stability and expression. In addition, there were higher levels of Ppp1ca, a specific subunit of a key serine/threonine-protein phosphatase known as type 1 (PP1). Reversible protein phosphorylation is a fundamental mechanism by which many biological functions are regulated. PP1 participates in protein synthesis and long-term synaptic plasticity. It has been shown that PP1 needs to be inhibited to gate long term potentiation, because it limits learning and favors forgetting (Jouvenceau *et al.* 2006). Therefore, PP1 upregulation may contribute to the cognitive deficiencies in SAMP8 mice. Caspase-3 precursor was increased in SAMP8 neurons. This proenzyme undergoes proteolytic processing after a variety of apoptotic stimuli. It then acts as an effector caspase, and leads to cell apoptosis.

In astrocyte SAMP8 cultures there was an increase in the enzyme protein-arginine deiminase type 2, which catalyzes the conversion of arginine to citrulline. Citrulline is not incorporated into proteins, thus deimination of arginine residues appears to form a post-translational protein modification. Furthermore, this enzyme may be involved in nitric oxide synthesis.

#### *Stress response proteins*

SAMP8 neuron proteoma showed an increase in erlin-2, also named SPFH domain-containing protein 2. This is a key component of the recently described pathway for endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation, where it acts as a substrate recognition factor. This pathway accounts for the degradation of aberrant proteins and some other proteins that are metabolically regulated (Pearce *et al.* 2007). The small ubiquitin-like modifier (SUMO)-activating enzyme subunit 1 also increased. This integrates a nuclear and cytoplasmic dimeric enzyme that mediates the ATP-dependent activation of SUMO proteins. It is the first enzyme in the pathway that leads to the formation of ubiquitin-protein conjugates. Therefore, it is rate-limiting in the conjugation and increases in response to oxidative stress. The related ubiquitin-like protein NEDD8 was reported to be overexpressed in aged SAMP8 (Kumar *et al.* 2000). More generally, the ubiquitin/proteasoma pathway is critical for cell survival and repair and is involved in many cellular processes and age-related diseases (Vernace *et al.* 2007). A marked increase in brain ubiquitin has been reported in AD (Wang *et al.* 1991).

In astrocytes, there was an increase in sodium/hydrogen exchanger 5. Sodium/hydrogen exchangers comprise a family of integral plasma or mitochondrial membrane proteins that are involved in a variety of physiological processes, such as pH regulation, volume control and electrolyte transport. Isoform 5 is restricted almost exclusively to the brain. Its increase in SAMP8 could be linked to an increased demand for eliminating acids generated by metabolism under pathophysiological conditions or to counter adverse environmental conditions.

The antioxidant enzyme Aldh2 was increased in the SAMP8 astrocyte proteoma. Aldh2 is involved in the detoxification of reactive aldehydes in the mitochondria. An increase in Aldh2 has been described in the brain of old rats (Cao Danh *et al.* 1983), the olfactory system of aged mice (Poon *et al.* 2005) and in AD temporal cortex (Picklo *et al.* 2001).

### *Cytoskeletal proteins*

Actin cytoplasmic 2 (gamma-actin) was decreased in both SAMP8 neurons and astrocytes. It is present in most cells types as component of the cytoskeleton and mediator of internal cell motility. Tubulin is the major constituent of microtubules and is formed by dimers of alpha and beta chains. The isotypes 1A and 3 of the alpha chain and the 5 isotype of the beta chain were decreased in SAMP8 neurons. The appearance of differential expression in a number of spots for both tubulins is in agreement with the reported high diversity of modifications in cytoskeletal proteins (Verdier-Pinard *et al.* 2003). Disruption of microtubule-based transport and synaptic mechanisms occurs in AD neurons (Butler *et al.* 2007). Decreased tubulin alpha and beta chains have been reported in aged rodent brain (Poon *et al.* 2006; Tsugita *et al.* 2000). To notice that tubulin beta 5 is decreased in AD brain (Shiozaki *et al.* 2004; Sultana *et al.* 2007) and it might be a cytoskeletal AD biomarker (Zellner *et al.* 2009). Finally, the actin-related protein macrophage capping protein presented reduced expression in the SAMP8 astrocyte proteoma. Macrophage capping protein, discovered in macrophages, is present in a variety of tissues where it binds and caps actin filaments. Deficiency of capping proteins may contribute to derangement of cellular organelle motility in SAMP8. The actin-capping protein F has been described as decreased in fetal Down syndrome brain (Gulesserian *et al.* 2002). The latter was also reduced in aged rat hippocampus (Poon *et al.* 2006). This decreased expression of specific skeleton proteins is in general agreement with the cortical atrophy, axonal dystrophy with a reduction in dendritic spines, and membrane and transport alterations that have been described in SAMP8 brains (Kawamata *et al.* 1998).

Increased cytoskeletal proteins included fascin in neurons and stomatin-like protein 2 and myosin light polypeptide 6 in astrocytes. Fascin is an actin-crosslinking protein that is present in brain. It organizes actin filaments into tightly packed bundles and contributes to the architecture and function of cell protrusions and microfilaments. Stomatin-like protein 2 is an unusual member of the cytoskeletal stomatin family. Recent studies have associated stomatin-like protein 2 with the mitochondrial membranes and the maintenance of mitochondrial morphology (Hájek et al. 2007). Myosin is composed of 2 heavy chains and 4 light chains, where light polypeptide 6 is a regulatory chain. Myosin anchors to actin filaments and induces a movement that is coupled to the hydrolysis of a nucleoside triphosphate.

### *Miscellaneous*

Coatamer subunit epsilon was decreased in the SAMP8 mouse astrocyte proteoma. The coatamer is a cytosolic protein complex formed by at least seven subunits. It associates with specific Golgi vesicles to mediate biosynthetic protein transport from the endoplasmic reticulum to the Golgi network. It also mediates retrograde transport of immature or abnormal proteins from Golgi to endoplasmic reticulum. The epsilon subunit plays a structural role in the coatamer complex (Kimata *et al.*, 2000).

The significance of an increase in WD repeat-containing protein 61 in the SAMP8 neuron proteoma has not been clarified to date. The WD-sequence repeat-containing family of proteins is a large family with a wide range of roles in eukaryotic cells. The role of WD repeat protein 61, also known as Rec14, is not yet known in mammals. In yeast, it is functional in early stages of meiosis.

The proteins that were abnormally expressed in cultures of SAMP8 neurons and astrocytes were associated with pathways similar to those reported as altered in the brain tissue of SAMP8, aged brain or AD brain (Butterfield and Poon, 2005; Galvin and Ginsberg, 2003; Sowell *et al.* 2009). Namely, this study confirms the presence of previously reported neurodegeneration markers such as lower phosphoglycerate mutase 1, Cox 4, and tubulin proteins and higher aldehyde dehydrogenase and ubiquitin-related proteins. Interestingly these markers are detected whether in neurons or astrocytes. On the other hand we can suggest as a new marker an increased PP1 activity, after the increased expression of Ppp1ca in neurons. To highlight the number of mitochondrial proteins with altered expression, both in neurons and astrocytes, this supporting the mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative

stress in SAMP8 brain. Genomic studies of SAMP8 brain also found that genes related to mitochondria are abnormally expressed, in addition to cytoskeletal, neurotrophic and signaling-related genes (for revision see Tomobe and Nomura, 2009). According to our network analysis, many proteins affected in neurons belong to more crucial and complex pathways than those in astrocytes and their alteration may be highly disruptive of cognitive processes. In addition, astrocyte protein alterations are in agreement with their functional and neuroprotective capacity loss (García-Matas *et al.* 2008). We have to take into account the limitation of the proteomic approach where only abundant soluble proteins are detected and can be reliably compared between SAMR1 and SAMP8, and that the degree of variation for the different proteins is generally low. Nonetheless, the proteomic study of neuron and astrocyte cultures demonstrated that both cells types are implicated in the brain protein pathway alterations of the SAMP8 mouse model of age-related neurodegeneration, and that these alterations can be modeled in vitro.

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Table 1A Differentially expressed proteins in neuron cultures of SAMR1 and SAMP8

Protein function	Protein identified	Gene name	Change SAMP8 vs. SAMR1	SAMR1 mean $\pm$ SD	SAMP8 mean $\pm$ SD	Ratio SAMR1/ SAMP8	<i>p</i>	Spot
<b>Energy metabolism</b>	Acyl-coenzyme thioesterase 2	Acot2	Up	ND	0.040 $\pm$ 0.011	NA	NA	1162
	Phosphoglycerate mutase 1	Pgam1	Down	0.080 $\pm$ 0.054	0.029 $\pm$ 0.012	2.8	0.0211	1140
	Acyl-coenzyme thioesterase 1	Acot1	Down	0.048 $\pm$ 0.015	ND	NA	NA	1120
<b>Biosynthesis</b>	D-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase	Phgdh	Up	0.357 $\pm$ 0.198	0.719 $\pm$ 0.184	0.5	0.0014	188
	Phosphoserine aminotransferase	Psat1	Up	0.161 $\pm$ 0.080	0.324 $\pm$ 0.160	0.5	0.0164	542
<b>Transduction and signaling</b>	Poly(rC)-binding protein 2	Pcbp2	Up	0.089 $\pm$ 0.044	0.239 $\pm$ 0.114	0.4	0.0036	565
	Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PP1-alpha catalytic subunit	Ppp1ca	Up	0.064 $\pm$ 0.034	0.140 $\pm$ 0.058	0.5	0.0036	557
	Caspase-3	Casp3	Up	0.081 $\pm$ 0.022	0.154 $\pm$ 0.075	0.5	0.0130	765
	Poly(rC)-binding protein 1	Pcbp1	Up	0.102 $\pm$ 0.044	0.194 $\pm$ 0.032	0.5	0.0001	478
<b>Stress response</b>	Erlin-2	Erlin2	Up	0.058 $\pm$ 0.022	0.138 $\pm$ 0.056	0.4	0.0011	442
	SUMO-activating enzyme subunit 1	Sae1	Up	0.077 $\pm$ 0.035	0.172 $\pm$ 0.030	0.4	0.0000	496
<b>Cytoskeletal</b>	Fascin	Fscn1	Up	0.095 $\pm$ 0.048	0.230 $\pm$ 0.120	0.4	0.0070	228
	Tubulin alpha-3 chain	Tuba3a	Down	0.116 $\pm$ 0.057	0.059 $\pm$ 0.031	2.0	0.0256	917
			Down	0.108 $\pm$ 0.033	ND	NA	NA	1156
	Actin, cytoplasmic 2	Actg	Down	0.109 $\pm$ 0.073	0.044 $\pm$ 0.014	2.5	0.0027	503
	Tubulin alpha-1A chain	Tuba1a	Down	0.052 $\pm$ 0.031	0.024 $\pm$ 0.009	2.2	0.0191	1160
				0.277 $\pm$ 0.160	0.126 $\pm$ 0.062	2.2	0.0180	999
				0.093 $\pm$ 0.041	0.040 $\pm$ 0.012	2.3	0.0192	444
				0.068 $\pm$ 0.027	0.026 $\pm$ 0.010	2.6	0.0004	1161
				0.118 $\pm$ 0.033	0.034 $\pm$ 0.016	3.5	0.0001	494
				0.230 $\pm$ 0.125	0.061 $\pm$ 0.032	3.8	0.0066	700
	Tubulin beta-5 chain	Tubb5	Down	0.115 $\pm$ 0.052	0.049 $\pm$ 0.020	2.3	0.0042	889
				0.207 $\pm$ 0.101	0.066 $\pm$ 0.040	3.1	0.0151	649

<i>Miscellaneous</i>	WD repeat-containing protein 61	Wdr61	Up	0.063 ± 0.025	0.120 ± 0.026	0.5	0.0004	709
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Note: The normalized mean volumes of SAMR1 and SAMP8 differential protein spots and its ratio are indicated along with the changes shown by SAMP8. Normalized volumes were compared using a Student's *t*-test. Protein parameters are described in Supporting information Table S1A.

ND, not detectable; NA, not applicable.

Table 1B Differentially expressed proteins in astrocyte cultures of SAMR1 and SAMP8

Protein type	Protein identified	Gene name	Change SAMP8 vs. SAMR1	SAMR1 mean $\pm$ SD	SAMP8 mean $\pm$ SD	Ratio SAMR1/SAMP8	<i>p</i>	Spot
<b>Energy metabolism</b>	Adenylate kinase isoenzyme 4	Ak3l1	Up	ND	0.069 $\pm$ 0.029	NA	NA	671
	Acyl-coenzyme thioesterase 2	A Acot2	Up	ND	0.149 $\pm$ 0.020	NA	NA	273
	Cytochrome oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1	c Cox4i1	Down	0.054 $\pm$ 0.018	0.018 $\pm$ 0.010	3.0	0.0353	970
<b>Biosynthesis</b>	Dihydropteridine reductase	Qdpr	Down	0.741 $\pm$ 0.187	0.340 $\pm$ 0.110	2.2	0.0330	634
	S-methyl-5'-thioadenosine phosphorylase	Mtap	Increased <i>pI</i>	0.119 $\pm$ 0.033	0.092 $\pm$ 0.025	NA	NA	604 1088
<b>Transduction and signaling</b>	Protein-arginine deiminase type-2	Padi2	Up	ND	0.090 $\pm$ 0.003	NA	NA	412
	Poly(rC)-binding protein 1	Pcbp1	Up	0.108 $\pm$ 0.050	0.234 $\pm$ 0.047	0.5	0.0011	336
<b>Stress response</b>	Sodium/hydrogen exchanger 5	Slc9a5	Up	ND	0.075 $\pm$ 0.021	NA	NA	364
	Aldehyde dehydrogenase,	Aldh2	Up	0.056 $\pm$ 0.016	0.106 $\pm$ 0.033	0.5	0.0333	597
<b>Cytoskeletal</b>	Stomatin-like protein 2	Stoml2	Up	0.075 $\pm$ 0.021	0.159 $\pm$ 0.065	0.5	0.0134	361
	Myosin light polypeptide 6	Myl6	Up	0.833 $\pm$ 0.305	1.527 $\pm$ 0.551	0.5	0.0224	903
	Macrophage-capping protein	Capg	Down	0.138 $\pm$ 0.017	0.061 $\pm$ 0.024	2.3	0.0002	1075
	Actin, cytoplasmic 2	Actg	Down	0.123 $\pm$ 0.071	0.039 $\pm$ 0.022	3.2	0.0402	969
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Coatomer subunit epsilon	Cope	Down	0.529 $\pm$ 0.126	0.254 $\pm$ 0.027	2.1	0.0053	500

Note: The normalized mean volumes of SAMR1 and SAMP8 differential protein spots and its ratio are indicated along with the changes shown by SAMP8. Normalized volumes were compared using a Student's *t*-test. Protein parameters are described in Supporting information Table S1B.

<sup>a</sup>First spot number for SAMR1 and second for SAMP8.

ND, not detectable; NA, not applicable.



Table 2 Network analysis of differentially expressed SAMP8 neuron and astrocyte proteins

	<b>Average distance</b>	<b>Closeness centrality</b>	<b>Degree centrality</b>	<b>Betweenness centrality</b>	<b>Clustering coefficient</b>
Neuron nodes n=13	3.06 (1-4)	0.272 (0.229-0.330)	26.3 (2-125)	0.0021 (0.0000-0.0139)	0.177 (0-0.5)
Astrocyte nodes n=9	4.61 (2-8)	0.229 (0.143-0.283)	9.6 (1-37)	0.0005 (0.0000-0.0025)	0.160 (0-0.5)
HPI nodes n=9047	4.26 (1-14)	0.239 (0.103-0.354)	7.7 (1-248)	0.0004 (0.0000-0.0415)	0.106 (0-1)

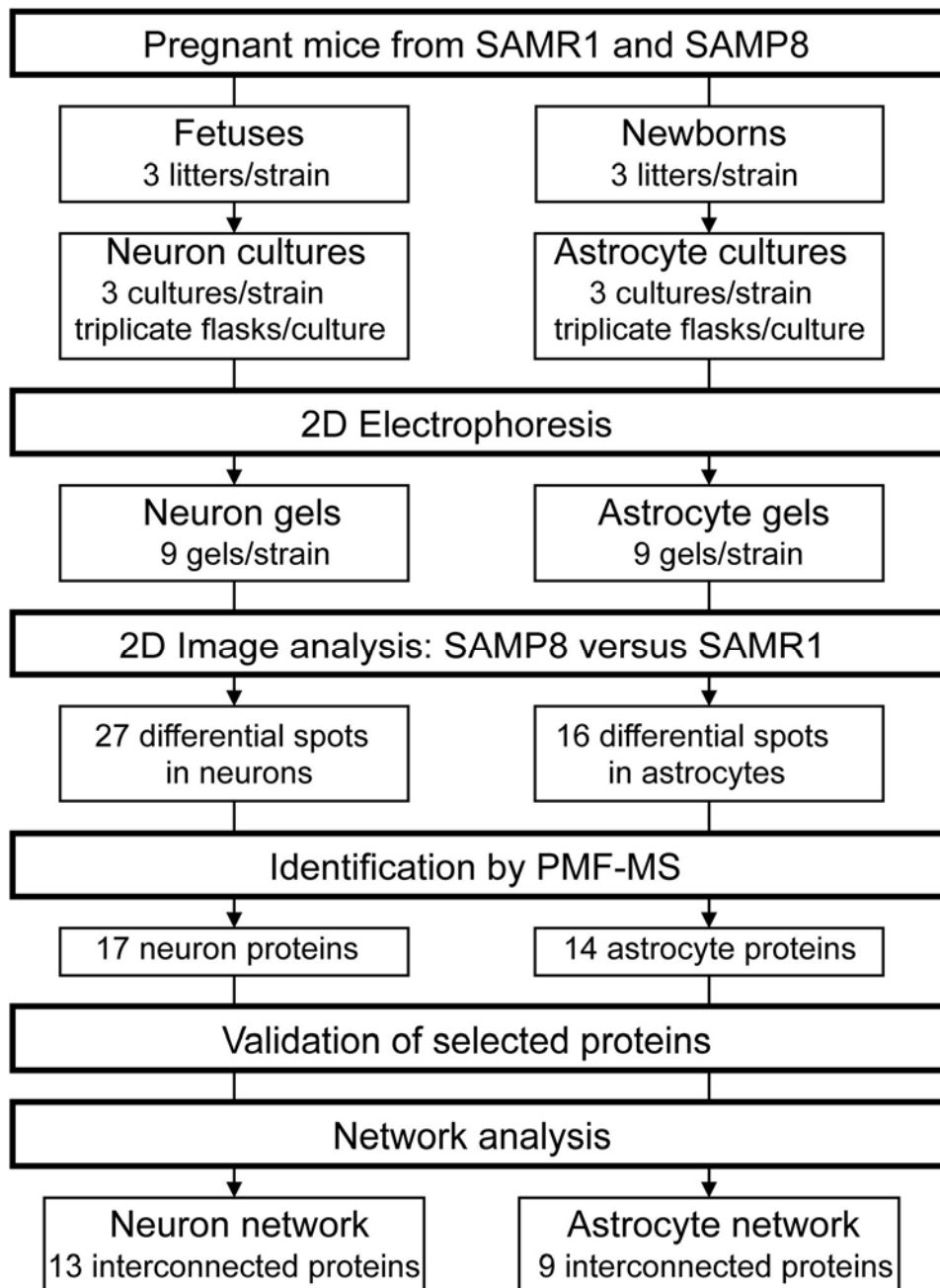
Note: Network analysis was performed for the proteins included in the largest connected component of the Interactome of the Human Protein Reference Database (HPI) as described in Methods. Neuron proteins were: Phosphoglycerate mutase 1; D-3-Phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase; Poly(rC)-binding protein 2; Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PP1-alpha catalytic subunit; Caspase-3; Poly(rC)-binding protein 1; SUMO-activating enzyme subunit 1; Fascin; Tubulin alpha-3 chain; Actin cytoplasmic 1; Tubulin alpha-1A chain; Tubulin beta-5 chain; WD repeat-containing protein 61. Astrocyte proteins were: Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1; S-methyl-5'-thioadenosine phosphorylase; Poly(rC)-binding protein 1; Sodium/hydrogen exchanger 5; Aldehyde dehydrogenase; Stomatin-like protein 2; Myosin light polypeptide 6; Actin cytoplasmic 1; Coatamer subunit epsilon. Results are presented as the average value and maximum and minimum values in parentheses.

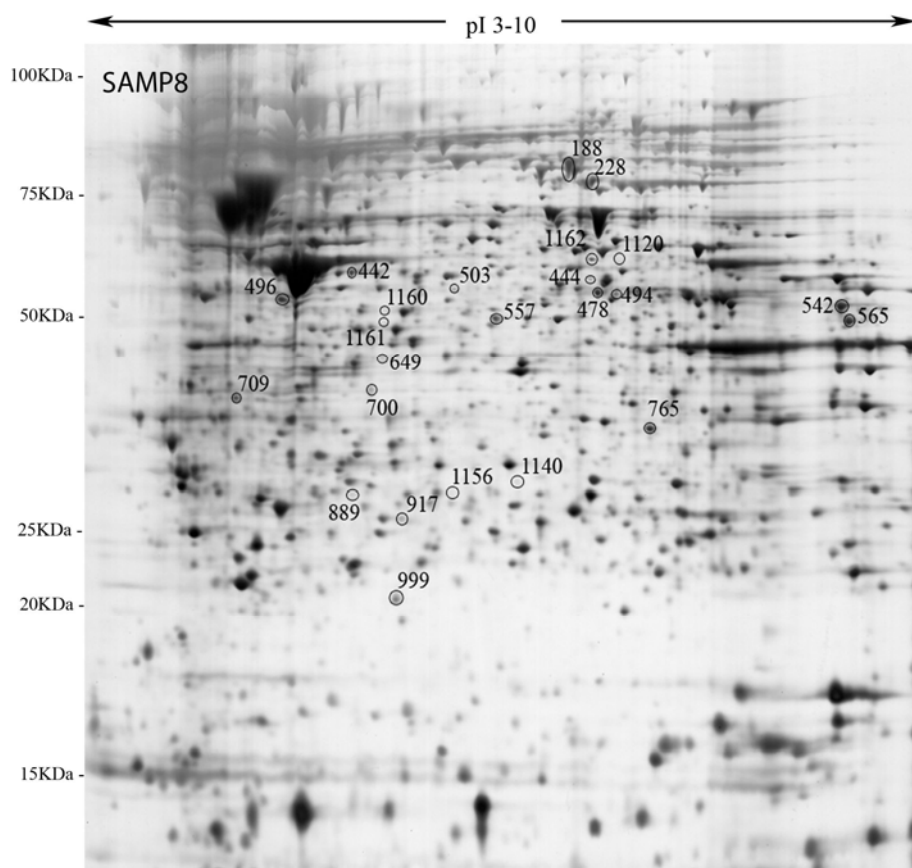
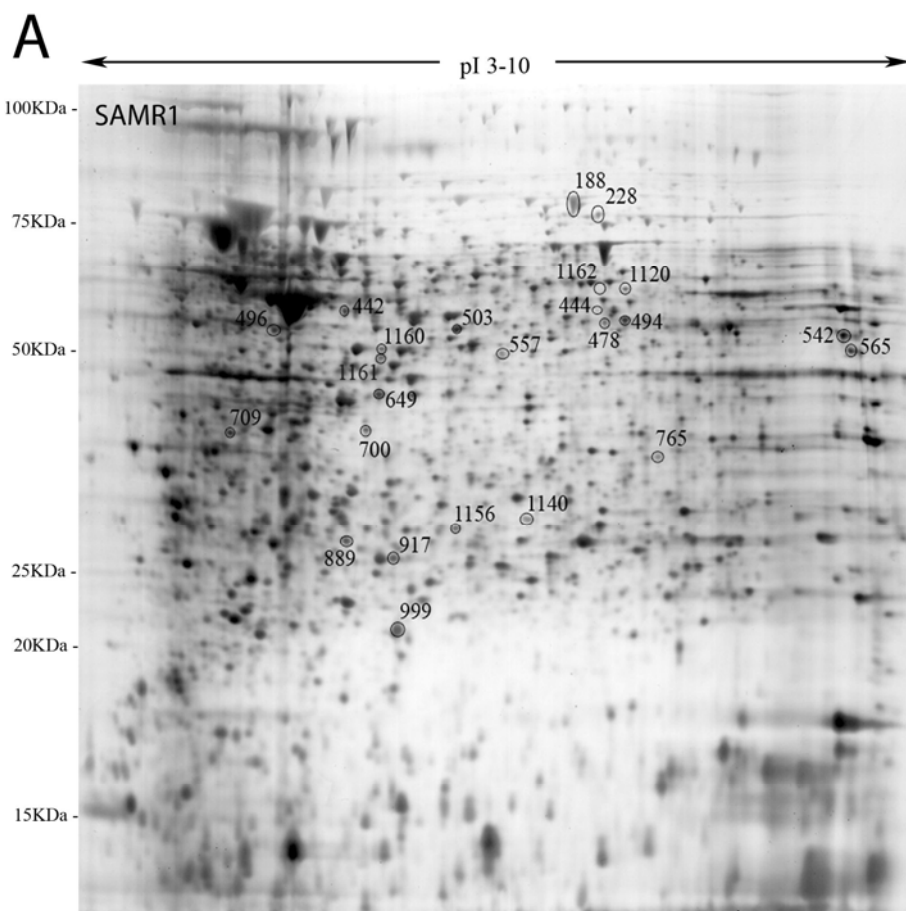
## Figure legends

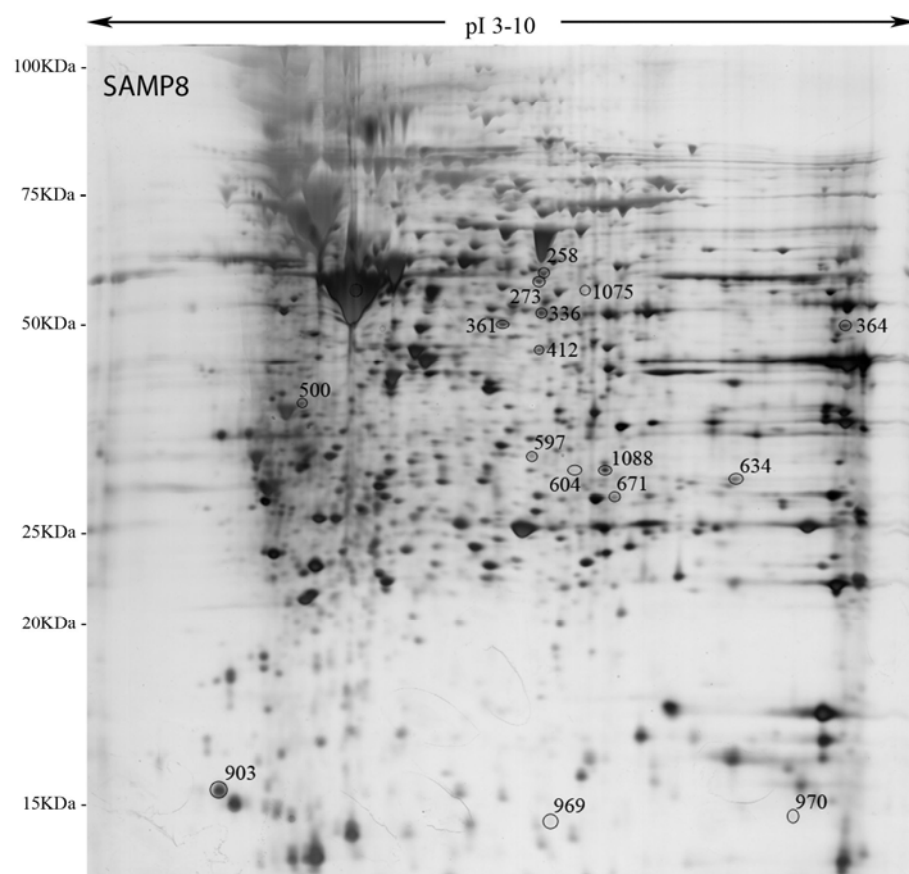
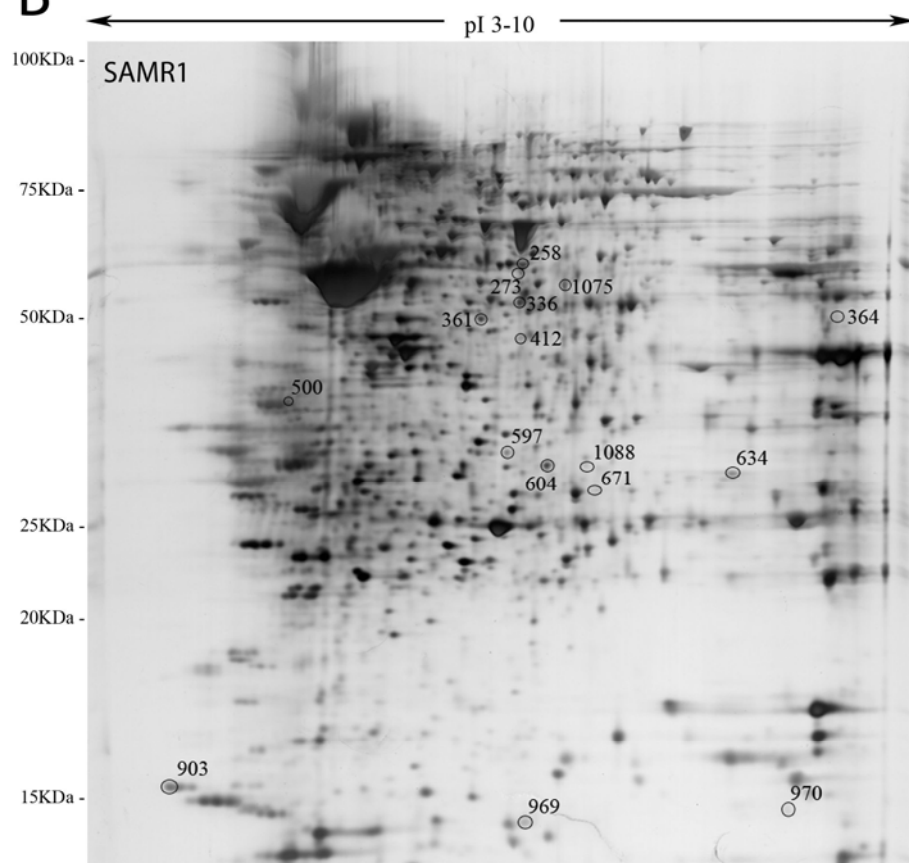
Fig. 1. Flow chart outlining the experimental design and the progression of the proteomic study in SAMR1 and SAMP8 neuron and astrocyte cultures. See text for details.

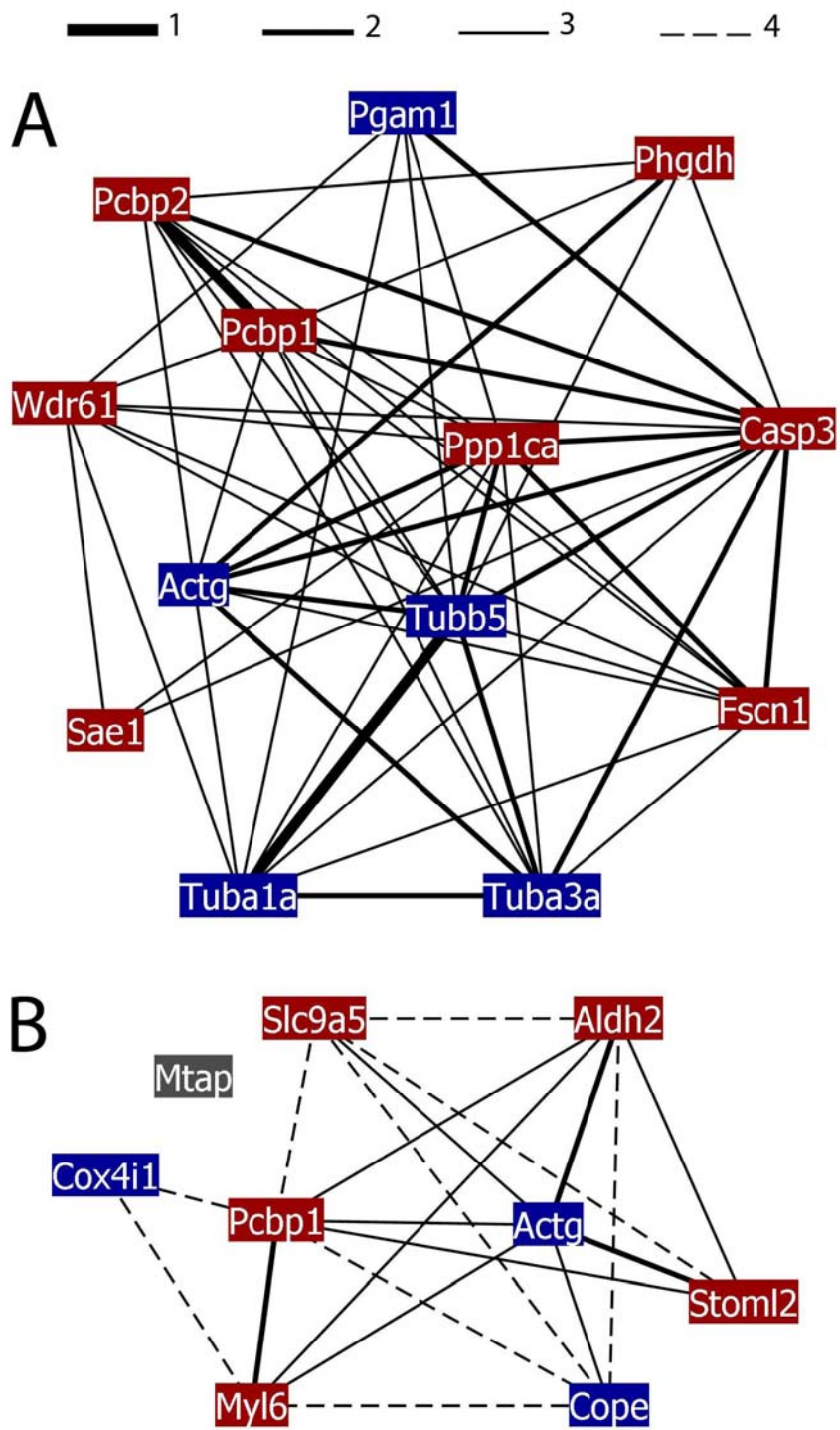
Fig. 2. Representative images of silver stained two-dimensional gels of neuron (A) and astrocyte cultures (B). Reference number of identified differential spots is indicated for both cell types. Gels were obtained as described in Methods.

Fig. 3. Neuron (A) and astrocyte (B) interacting protein networks for differentially expressed proteins in SAMP8 versus SAMR1. Connecting line thickness indicates proximity: 1, direct connection; 2, 3 and 4 connected through 1, 2 and 3 intermediate nodes, respectively; absence of line, connected through 4 intermediate nodes. Blue box indicates a decrease of SAMP8 versus SAMR1 protein expression; red box indicates an increase; grey box indicates a change of *pI*. Proteins are represented by their gene names, which are listed in Tables 1A and 1B.





**B**



## **Díez-Vives et al. 2009, Supporting information**

### **Western blotting method**

Cultured cells were lysed for 10 min on ice in RIPA buffer containing a protease inhibitor cocktail (Complete, Roche, Basel, Switzerland) and 1 mM orthovanadate. They were collected, sonicated to further lyse the cells, and centrifuged. The supernatants were frozen at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until assay. Proteins were quantified by the Bradford method and 15  $\mu\text{g}$  of protein extracts were denatured, loaded onto a SDS-polyacrylamide gel and electrophoresed. Proteins were transferred onto polyvinylidene fluoride membranes (Immobilon-P, Millipore, Bedford, MA). Neuron membranes were incubated with anti-PP1-alpha catalytic subunit (Ppp1ca) (Cell Signaling, Danvers, MA) and astrocyte ones with anti-aldehyde dehydrogenase (Aldh2) (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA), diluted 1:1,000. Membranes were then incubated with horseradish peroxidase conjugated secondary antibodies. Proteins were detected with a chemiluminescence detection system, based on the luminol reaction. Densitometric analysis of the digitalized immunoreactive bands was performed using Quantity One software (Bio Rad). The levels of protein immunoreactivity were normalized to that of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) by incubation with anti-GAPDH (Assay Designs, Ann Harbor, MI) 1:5,000.

### **Western blotting results**

Legend for Fig. S1. Representative immunoblots and densitometric analysis of selected proteins differentially expressed in SAMP8 (P8) and SAMR1 (R1) neuron or astrocyte cultures. Levels of Ppp1ca in neurons (A) and Aldh2 in astrocytes (B). \* $p < 0.05$ , Student's *t*-test.

### Mass spectrometry (MS) data for the differential spots

Table S1A Identification of proteins by MALDI-TOF MS in the two-dimensional gels of SAMR1 and SAMP8 neurons

Protein identified	Swiss- Prot Acc. No.	Theoretical Mr KDa	pI	Experimental Mr KDa	pI	Match Pept. No.	Seq cover %	MOWSE score	Spot
Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 2	Q9QYR9	50	6.9	58	6.7	8	26	2.06E+06	1162
Phosphoglycerate mutase 1	Q9DBJ1	29	6.7	26	6.3	8	50	4.00E+05	1140
Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 1	O55137	46	6.1	58	7.0	5	16	9.81E+03	1120
D-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase	Q61753	57	6.1	77	6.1	15	30	1.21E+08	188
Phosphoserine aminotransferase	Q99K85	40	8.2	49	9.3	15	37	7.02E+08	542
Poly(rC)-binding protein 2	Q61990	38	6.3	51	9.4	8	28	9.58E+04	565
Serine/threonine- protein phosphatase PP1-alpha catalytic subunit	P62137	38	5.9	49	6.2	10	38	5.26E+07	557
Caspase-3	P70677	31	6.4	35	7.1	4	19	6.71E+02	765
Poly(rC)-binding protein 1	P60335	37	6.7	50	6.8	5	23	2.82E+04	478
Erlin-2	Q8BFZ9	38	5.4	57	5.2	6	17	7.50E+03	442
SUMO-activating enzyme subunit 1	Q9R1T2	39	5.2	50	4.7	13	52	1.28E+08	496
Fascin	Q61553	54	6.2	75	6.8	9	24	1.81E+05	228
Tubulin alpha-3 chain	P05214	50	5.0	24	6.9	6	17	9.04E+04	1156
				24	6.0	4	8	1.48E+02	917
Actin, cytoplasmic 2	P63260	42	5.3	50	6.8	9	40	4.20E+04	503
Tubulin alpha-1A chain	P68369	50	4.9	51	5.3	6	18	1.16E+04	1160
				18	5.6	5	16	2.50E+03	999
				56	6.0	5	14	1.43E+03	444



				50	5.5	10	24	9.74E+04	1161
				49	5.5	8	32	7.95E+04	494
				42	6.8	8	27	3.15E+05	700
Tubulin beta-5 chain	P99024	50	4.8	25	5.5	9	26	3.91E+04	889
				47	5.4	8	34	1.18E+05	649
WD repeat-containing protein 61	Q9ERF3	34	5.1	40	4.4	12	40	74 <sup>a</sup>	709

Note: The theoretical and experimental molecular mass and *pI* are listed for all the differential spot proteins. The number of peptides that allowed the identification and the corresponding percentage of the sequence covered are also indicated.

<sup>a</sup>Mascot score.

Table S1B Identification of proteins by MALDI-TOF MS in the two-dimensional gels of SAMR1 and SAMP8 astrocytes

Protein identified	Swiss-Prot	Theoretical		Experimental		Match	Seq	MOWSE	Spot
	Acc. No.	Mr KDa	pI	Mr KDa	pI	Pept. No.	cover %	score	
Adenylate kinase isoenzyme 4	Q9WUR9	25	7.0	37	6.7	5	27	7.49E+03	671
Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 2	Q9QYR9	50	6.9	69	6.7	7	16	1.27E+03	273
Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1	P19783	20	9.3	15	8.9	9	52	2.23E+05	970
Dihydropteridine reductase	Q8BVI4	26	7.7	39	8.5	6	27	2.04E+03	634
S-methyl-5'- thioadenosine phosphorylase	Q9CQ65	31	6.7	40	7.0 <sup>a</sup>	12	51	2.29E+06	604
					7.3	11	52	3.20E+06	1088
Protein-arginine deiminase type-2	Q08642	76	5.4	50	6.7	7	19	3.03E+03	412
Poly(rC)-binding protein 1	P60335	37	6.7	55	6.8	8	36	7.30E+05	336
Sodium/hydrogen exchanger 5	Q9Z0X2	99	6.9	53	9.4	9	13	2.63E+04	364
Aldehyde dehydrogenase	P47738	57	7.5	43	6.6	7	22	2.23E+04	597
Stomatin-like protein 2	Q99JB2	38	9.0	53	6.4	6	24	1.01E+04	361
Myosin light polypeptide 6	Q60605	17	4.6	15	3.9	4	36	1.61E+02	903
Macrophage-capping protein	P24452	39	6.7	58	7.1	6	32	1.27E+04	1075
Actin, cytoplasmic 2	P63260	42	5.3	15	6.8	7	28	6.06E+03	969
Coatomer subunit epsilon	O89079	35	4.9	51	4.8	11	43	7.70E+06	500

Note: The theoretical and experimental molecular mass and *pI* are listed for all the differential spot proteins. The number of peptides that allowed the identification and the corresponding percentage of the sequence covered are also indicated.

<sup>a</sup>First data for SAMR1 and second for SAMP8 for the all row.

