

## A Comprehensive Resource for Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells from Patients with Primary Tauopathies

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### SUMMARY

Primary tauopathies are characterized neuropathologically by inclusions containing abnormal forms of the microtubule-associated protein tau (MAPT) and clinically by diverse neuropsychiatric, cognitive, and motor impairments. Autosomal dominant mutations in the *MAPT* gene cause heterogeneous forms of frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tauopathy (FTLD-Tau). Common and rare variants in the *MAPT* gene increase the risk for sporadic FTLD-Tau, including progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) and corticobasal degeneration (CBD). We generated a collection of fibroblasts from 140 *MAPT* mutation/risk variant carriers, PSP, CBD, and cognitively normal controls; 31 induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) lines from *MAPT* mutation carriers, non-carrier family members, and autopsy-confirmed PSP patients; 33 genome engineered iPSCs that were corrected or mutagenized; and forebrain neural progenitor cells (NPCs). Here, we present a resource of fibroblasts, iPSCs, and NPCs with comprehensive clinical histories that can be accessed by the scientific community for disease modeling and development of novel therapeutics for tauopathies.

### INTRODUCTION

Frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD) with inclusions containing the microtubule-associated protein tau (FTLD-Tau) account for half of all cases of FTLD. This heterogeneous group of diseases includes progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), corticobasal degeneration (CBD), Pick disease, and other rare forms of tauopathy. Patients with FTLD-Tau exhibit a broad range of neurological deficits including movement and motor neuron disease (e.g., gait and balance disturbances, impaired speech and swallowing, visual impairment), psychiatric impairment (e.g., mood and behavior), and cognitive impairment (e.g., memory, execu-

tive dysfunction, language and attention) (Perry et al., 2017). Due to significant overlap in the clinical syndromes, a definitive diagnosis can only be obtained by postmortem examination of brain tissue obtained at autopsy or more rarely by biopsy (Perry et al., 2017). Thus, to understand disease etiology, it is particularly valuable to generate a collection of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from patients who have been followed clinically and from whom detailed neurological, neuroimaging, and neuropathological data and tissues are available. This requires a coordinated multidisciplinary effort and is the central impetus for the development of the resource described here.





**Table 1. Neuropathology in FTLT-Tau Associated with *MAPT* Mutations**

Mutation	Clinical	Neuropathology			Tau Isoforms	References <sup>a</sup>	iPSCs Reported
		Macroscopy	Microscopy	Tauopathy			
P301L	bvFTD, personality change, language abnormalities	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes, basal ganglia, hippocampus, and depigmentation of substantia nigra	neuronal loss, ballooned neurons, and gliosis	neurons: tau-immunoreactive perinuclear, ring-like and dot-like cytoplasmic inclusions, fibrillary neuronal inclusions, and neuropil threads  astrocytes: thorn-shaped inclusions  oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies	4R	Mirra et al., 1999	Iovino et al., 2015; Paonessa et al., 2019; Silva et al., 2019
S305I	bvFTD, personality change, language abnormalities, Parkinsonism	atrophy of medial temporal lobe, temporal pole, and hippocampus	neuronal loss, gliosis, and ballooned neurons	neurons: tau-immunoreactive fibrillary inclusions and diffuse cytoplasmic staining  astrocytes: thorn-shaped inclusions  oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies  argyrophilic grains	4R	Kovacs et al., 2008	N/A
S305N	bvFTD, personality change, memory loss	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes	neuronal loss and gliosis	neurons: tau-immunoreactive Pick body-like and ring-like inclusions  astrocytes: thorn-shaped inclusions  oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies	4R	Boeve et al., 2005; Iijima et al., 1999	N/A
S305S	bvFTD, memory loss	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes	neuronal loss, gliosis, and ballooned neurons	neurons: tau-immunoreactive neurofibrillary tangles and pretangles  astrocytes: tuft-shaped inclusions  oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies	4R	Skoglund et al., 2008; Stanford et al., 2000	N/A
IVS10+16	bvFTD, personality change, executive dysfunction, memory loss, parkinsonism, non-fluent aphasia	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes, cingulate and insular cortex, hippocampus, striatum, amygdala and brainstem	neuronal loss, gliosis, and ballooned neurons	neurons: tau-immunoreactive fibrillary inclusions and diffuse cytoplasmic staining  astrocytes: thorn-shaped inclusions  oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies	4R	Janssen et al., 2002; Lantos et al., 2002	Espuny-Camacho et al., 2017; Esteras et al., 2017; Paonessa et al., 2019; Sposito et al., 2015

(Continued on next page)



**Table 1. Continued**

Mutation	Clinical	Neuropathology			Tau Isoforms	References <sup>a</sup>	iPSCs Reported
		Macroscopy	Microscopy	Tauopathy			
V337M	antisocial behavior, paranoia, executive dysfunction	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes and hippocampus	neuronal loss and gliosis	neurons: tau-immunoreactive neurofibrillary tangles, pretangles, and neuropil threads astrocytes: tuft-shaped inclusions oligodendrocytes: none	3R & 4R	Spillantini et al., 1996; Spina et al., 2017	Ehrlich et al., 2015; Sohn et al., 2019
G389R	progressive aphasia, apathy, rigidity	atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes, hippocampus, and amygdala	neuronal loss and gliosis	neurons: tau-immunoreactive Pick body-like and filamentous inclusions astrocytes: none oligodendrocytes: none	3R & 4R	Murrell et al., 1999	N/A
R406W	memory loss	severe atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes and hippocampus	neuronal loss, gliosis, and ballooned neurons	neurons: tau-immunoreactive neurofibrillary tangles, Pick body-like inclusions astrocytes: thorn-shaped inclusions oligodendrocytes: coiled bodies	3R & 4R	Miyasaka et al., 2001; Reed et al., 1997	Imamura et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2018
R406W/ R406W	bvFTD	N/A	N/A	N/A	3R & 4R	Behnam et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2015	N/A

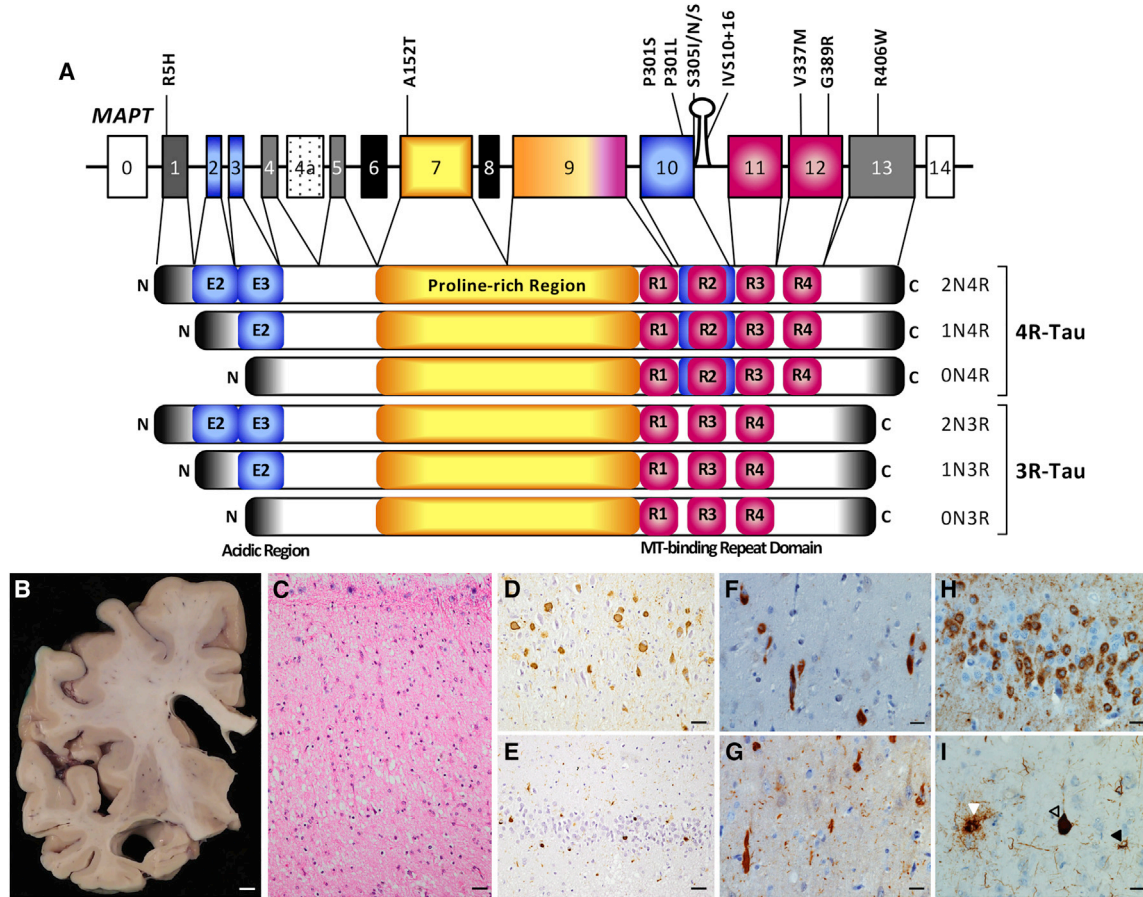
N/A, not available.

<sup>a</sup>See additional references at the AD/FTD Mutation Database (Cruts et al., 2012).

While the majority of patients with primary tauopathy are sporadic, autosomal dominant FTLT-Tau families have been reported to carry mutations in the microtubule-associated protein tau (*MAPT*) gene. More than 50 *MAPT* mutations are reported to cause FTLT-Tau (Table 1; <http://www.molgen.ua.ac.be/ADMutations/>) (Cruts et al., 2012). The *MAPT* gene is alternatively spliced in the central nervous system (CNS) to produce six tau isoforms that differ based on the presence of the N-terminal insertion (0N, 1N, 2N) and the number of microtubule-binding repeats (MTBR; 3R, 4R; Figure 1). In normal adult human brains, the ratio of 3R/4R tau is 1:1 (Trabzuni et al., 2012). *MAPT* mutation carriers may bear 3-repeat (3R), 4-repeat (4R), or mixed 3R/4R tau inclusions (Table 1) (Cairns et al., 2007).

Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain how *MAPT* mutations cause disease: abnormal *MAPT*

splicing, altered microtubule-binding kinetics, impaired degradation, or tau accumulation and aggregation, among others (van Swieten and Spillantini, 2007). We have focused our collection on mutations that represent these proposed mechanisms. A subset of *MAPT* mutations occur at sites that alter *MAPT* splicing, resulting in increased levels of exon 10-containing (4R) mRNA (e.g., IVS10+16, S305I, S305N, S305S) (Liu and Gong, 2008). In the case of intronic mutations such as IVS10+16, no mutant protein is produced. Instead, there is a shift in the levels of 4R tau, skewing the normally balanced 3R/4R tau ratio in human adult brain. Another set of mutations occurs in exon 10, which is exclusively present in 4R tau isoforms (e.g., P301L, P301S) (Hutton et al., 1998). Many of the mutations located in and around exon 10 have been implicated in disrupting microtubule-binding kinetics (Dayanandan et al., 1999; Fischer



### Figure 1. *MAPT* Mutations Cause Primary Tauopathy

(A) Schematic of the location of *MAPT* mutations reported in this collection. *MAPT* A152T, V337M, G389R, and R406W occur in all tau isoforms expressed in the brain. *MAPT* P301L, P301S, and S305I/N/S occur exclusively in transcripts containing exon 10 (2N4R, 1N4R, and 0N4R). *MAPT* P301L/S, S305I/N/S and IVS10+16 alter splicing of tau such that more 4R-containing transcripts are expressed.

(B–I) Neuropathology in human brains with primary tauopathies. (B–E) *MAPT* R406W carrier. (B) Atrophy of the frontal lobe with dilatation of the lateral ventricle and prominent shrinkage of the medial temporal lobe. Scale bar, 0.5 cm. (C) Neuronal loss, gliosis, and microvacuolation of superficial laminae of the superior temporal gyrus. H&E. (D) Neuronal cytoplasmic PHF1-immunoreactive inclusions are seen in the hippocampal CA1 subfield. (E) Pick body-like, PHF1-immunoreactive inclusion bodies in the dentate fascia. Scale bar in (C), (D), and (E), 50  $\mu$ m. (F and G) Anterior cingulate gyrus of a *MAPT* V337M carrier. (F) RD4-immunoreactive cytoplasmic inclusions in spindle, also called von Economo, neurons and surrounding layer V neurons. (G) R3 (RD3) tau-immunoreactive cytoplasmic inclusions in spindle and surrounding layer V neurons, and in the neuropil. (H) Dentate gyrus of *MAPT* P301L case showing typical pTAU (CP13) ring-like perinuclear deposit and Pick body-like inclusions. (I) PSP associated with a *MAPT* A152T variant. Tufted astrocyte (left; white arrow), neurofibrillary tangle (center; open arrow), and oligodendroglial coiled bodies (right; black arrow), stained with a phospho-tau antibody (CP13). Scale bar, 25  $\mu$ m.

et al., 2007). Other *MAPT* mutations are located some distance from exon 10 and are expressed by all *MAPT* transcripts (e.g., R5H, V337M, G389R, R406W); thus, their mode of action may be linked to aspects of tau biology beyond microtubule binding, such as membrane association (Gauthier-Kemper et al., 2011). Additionally, all *MAPT* mutations increase the propensity for the tau protein to aggregate. Despite the clear association of *MAPT* mutations with FTLT-Tau, we have little under-

standing of the mechanisms by which these mutations lead to disease.

Rare and common variants in *MAPT* have been associated with increased risk for PSP, CBD, and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) (Coppola et al., 2012; Höglinger et al., 2011). *MAPT* A152T decreases binding of tau to microtubules and increases tau oligomer formation *in vitro* (Coppola et al., 2012). When expressed in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, *MAPT* A152T induces neuronal dysfunction,





mislocalization of pre-synaptic proteins, and distorted mitochondrial distribution and trafficking, and reduces life span independently of protein aggregation (Butler et al., 2019; Pir et al., 2016). Mouse models expressing A152T demonstrate age-dependent neuronal loss and seizures, which occur both in the presence (Decker et al., 2016) or absence of tau aggregates (Maeda et al., 2016). iPSC-derived neurons from *MAPT* A152T carriers exhibit increased total tau levels and phosphorylation, detergent-insoluble tau, dysregulation of proteostasis pathways involving autophagy and lysosomal activity, and vulnerability to specific cellular stressors (Biswas et al., 2016; Fong et al., 2013; Silva et al., 2016). Our fibroblast and stem cell resource containing *MAPT* variants that are predicted to modify PSP and CBD risk will allow for the cellular and molecular dissection of disease phenotypes.

Patient-derived iPSCs have emerged as a powerful resource to study the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases. These iPSCs can be differentiated into the neuronal and glial subtypes that are affected in primary tauopathies, giving us a tool toward understanding the biology of tau in a human cell model that may more faithfully reflect the endogenous condition. To date, iPSCs carrying the *MAPT* mutations N279K, P301L, V337M, R406W, and IVS10+16 and the risk variant A152T have been described, and their neural derivatives show phenotypes such as tau accumulation, tau hyperphosphorylation, tau insolubility, vulnerability to specific cellular stressors, and other phenotypes that begin to reveal possible disease mechanisms (Ehrlich et al., 2015; Hallmann et al., 2017; Imamura et al., 2016; Iovino et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2018; Seo et al., 2017; Silva et al., 2016; Sposito et al., 2015; Wren et al., 2015). Most prior studies, however, have not included genome-edited isogenic controls, which increase the power to detect variant-specific phenotypes by decreasing inter-individual variability. These promising findings warrant the investment in a comprehensive, isogenically controlled collection of *MAPT* iPSC lines.

Here, we present a resource of fibroblast and iPSC lines that includes known disease-associated *MAPT* mutations and paired isogenic iPSCs, *MAPT* risk variant carriers, and PSP-syndrome (PSP-S) and corticobasal syndrome (CBS) lines from individuals where a *MAPT* mutation has not been detected. Most of the cell lines presented in this study were obtained from participants who underwent detailed clinical phenotyping, and for whom fluid biomarkers, imaging biomarkers, and genetic and neuropathological information are available that can be used for correlative analyses with cellular phenotypes. Together, this represents a comprehensive resource that can be accessed for tauopathy modeling and the discovery of novel therapeutics.

## RESULTS

### Selection of Fibroblast Lines

Dermal fibroblasts were collected from: (1) families with pathogenic *MAPT* mutations; (2) individuals carrying *MAPT* missense variants that increase risk for PSP, CBD, and FTD; (3) sporadic PSP-S and CBS cases; and (4) cognitively normal (non-mutant) controls at the Memory and Aging Center at the University of California San Francisco, the Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center at Washington University, and the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke (NINDS) Cell Repository. A total of 36 fibroblast lines were generated from individuals with pathogenic *MAPT* mutations (P301L, S305I, IVS10+16, V337M, G389R, R406W; Figure 1 and Table 2). These mutations are representative of some of the most common *MAPT* mutations and capture the range of clinical and neuropathological phenotypes associated with FTLT-Tau (Tables 1 and 2). The collection also includes fibroblasts from eight *MAPT* A152T risk variant carriers, which has been reported to increase the risk for PSP, CBD, and FTD (Coppola et al., 2012). Additionally, we have banked fibroblast lines from research participants clinically diagnosed with PSP-S, CBS, or mixed dementias (Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body disease) and from cognitively normal controls (Table 2). These fibroblasts were obtained from subjects who are part of larger clinical programs that obtain a detailed clinical history, including physical and neurological examinations, cognitive testing, and neuroimaging (magnetic resonance imaging [MRI],  $\beta$ -amyloid positron emission tomography [PET], and tau PET). Many fibroblast lines also have corresponding plasma and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples. Additional covariates for the fibroblast lines including age at biopsy, sex, and genotypic data are available upon request from <http://neuralsci.org/tau>.

The patient-specific fibroblasts in this collection capture classical aspects of clinical and neuropathology associated with primary tauopathies (Table 1). A *MAPT* R406W carrier presented with progressive memory loss and later developed the behavioral variant of FTD (bvFTD). Macroscopically, there was pronounced atrophy of the temporal lobe (cell line F11362; Figures 1B–1E). Microscopically, there was severe neuronal loss and gliosis and cortical neurofibrillary tangles similar to those seen in Alzheimer's disease. Frequent Pick body-like, tau-immunoreactive inclusions were seen in affected areas including the hippocampus and dentate gyrus. Tau-immunoreactive glial inclusions were also present. A *MAPT* V337M carrier included in the collection exhibited bvFTD; neuropathological examination revealed inclusions containing both 3R and 4R tau (cell line GIH6; Figures 1F and 1G). *MAPT* P301L cases more commonly present clinically with bvFTD, and

**Table 2. Dermal Fibroblast Bank to Model Primary Tauopathies**

<i>MAPT</i>	Classification	Clinical Presentation	Tau Isoform	Mean AAO <sup>a</sup>	Mean Disease Duration <sup>a</sup>	Fibroblasts	Families
A152T	PSP, CBD, FTLD-Tau	bvFTD	4R	57.5	N/A	8	N/A
P301L	FTLD-Tau	bvFTD	4R	52.6	6.7	13	3
S305I	FTLD-Tau/AGD	bvFTD	4R	39	2	2	1
IVS10+16	FTLD-Tau	bvFTD/AD	4R	49.1	10.3	4	1
V337M	FTLD-Tau	bvFTD	3R & 4R	51.5	15.4	4	2
G389R	FTLD-Tau	bvFTD	3R & 4R	39.8	2.5	3	1
R406W	FTLD-Tau	AD	3R & 4R	56.3	11.5	9	2
R406W/R406W	FTLD-Tau	bvFTD	3R & 4R	34	7	1	1
WT	PSP	PSP-S	4R	N/A	N/A	12	N/A
WT	CBD	CBS	4R	N/A	N/A	5	N/A
WT	PSP/CBD mixed	PSP-S/CBS/mixed	4R	N/A	N/A	10	N/A
WT	normal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	69	N/A

AAO, age at onset; bvFTD, behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia; AGD, argyrophilic grain disease; AD, Alzheimer's disease; PSP, progressive supranuclear palsy; CBD, cortical basal degeneration; N/A, not available.

<sup>a</sup>Data from the AD/FTD Mutation Database presented in years (Cruts et al., 2012).

pathologically display neuronal cytoplasmic inclusions with perinuclear ring-like concentration and the presence of mini Pick body-like inclusions (Figure 1H). A *MAPT* A152T carrier (cell line FTD19; Figure 1I) included in the collection presented with symptoms characteristic of PSP-S, including motor slowing, falls, and cervical dystonia that progressed to dysarthria as well as supranuclear gaze palsy, and neuropathological examination revealed classical PSP neuropathology featuring 4R tau-immunoreactive tufted astrocytes (white arrow in Figure 1I), neurofibrillary tangles (open arrow in Figure 1I), and oligodendroglial coiled bodies (black arrow in Figure 1I).

### Generation and Characterization of iPSCs

To establish cellular models that can inform on the pathophysiological mechanisms of *MAPT* mutations, *MAPT* risk variants, and sporadic PSP, including cell types affected by disease, we reprogrammed a subset of fibroblasts described in Table 2 into iPSCs. All iPSCs were generated using non-integrating Sendai virus carrying *SOX2*, *OCT4*, *KLF4*, and *cMYC* (Table 3, Figure 2A). Multiple clones are available for each line. iPSCs were grown in feeder-free conditions using Matrigel and maintained in mTeSR1. Resulting iPSCs have been characterized for pluripotency based on morphology and gene expression markers (Figures 2B and 2C). We confirmed the silencing of exogenous Sendai virus-driven pluripotent markers by qPCR (Figure 2C). Correct mutation propagation was verified by Sanger sequencing (Figure 2D), chromosomal stability

was assessed by karyotyping (Figure 2E), and the capacity to form cell types from the three germ layers was also confirmed (Figures 2F and 2G). All iPSC lines reported in this study meet these quality-control criteria (Table S1 and Figure S1), are included in the cell bank, and are available upon request from <http://neuralsci.org/tau>.

### Genome Editing and Characterization of iPSCs

Genetic background of individual donors is a large contributor to phenotypic variability in iPSCs (Kilpinen et al., 2017). To define phenotypes driven specifically by a mutant or risk allele, we used CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing to establish isogenic controls of donor iPSC lines (Figure 2A). For each set of edited lines, additional iPSC clones were selected that underwent the CRISPR/Cas9 editing pipeline but remained unmodified. These unmodified iPSC clones serve as important controls, in addition to the parental donor line, to account for selective pressures that may occur during the editing process (Budde et al., 2017). Donor iPSC lines carrying the *MAPT* mutations IVS10+16, P301L, S305I, R406W, and V337M have been corrected to wild type (WT; Tables 4 and S2).

The most commonly used mouse model of tauopathy overexpresses *MAPT* P301S (Yoshiyama et al., 2007). Clinically, *MAPT* P301S carriers present with a more aggressive form of FTD than *MAPT* P301L carriers and have an earlier age at onset (P301S: mean age at onset 33.7 years and mean disease duration 4.2 years; P301L: mean age at onset 52.6 years and mean disease duration 6.7 years) (Cruts et al.,



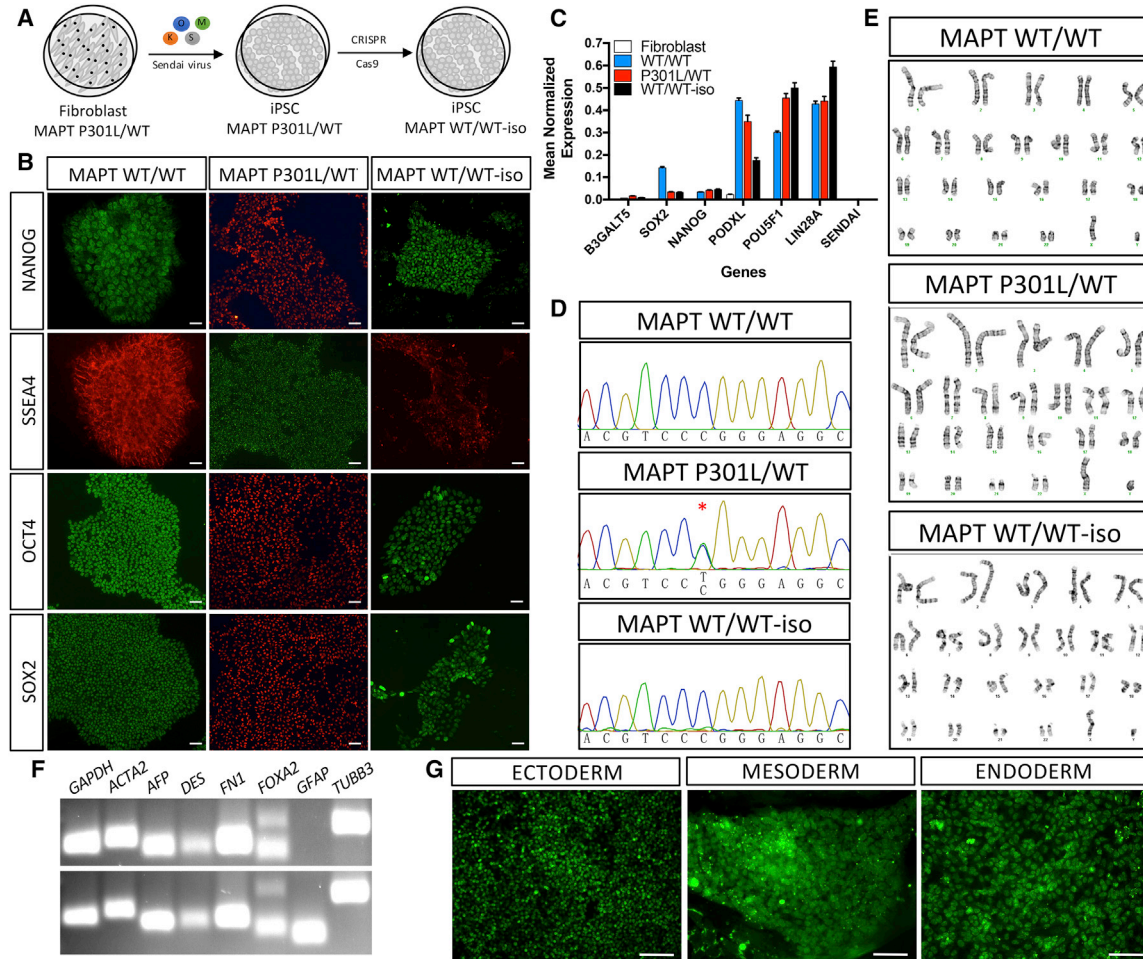
**Table 3. Human iPSCs for Modeling Primary Tauopathies**

Donor ID	Alternative Donor ID	Mutation	Clinical Status <sup>a</sup>	Autopsy	Corrected Line	Fibroblast Source	Neural Induction
FTD30 (FTD-FF)	151209SBA1	A152T/WT	S	pending	no	UCSF	yes
FTD19 (FTD-T)	151209SBA2	A152T/WT	S	PSP	no	UCSF	yes
GIH2	151209SBA3	A152T/WT	A	N/A	no	UCSF	yes
FTD38	151209SBA4	A152T/WT	A	N/A	no	UCSF	yes
GIH169	160311SBA5	A152T/WT	S	N/A	no	UCSF	yes
GIH56	160311SBA6	A152T/WT	S	N/A	no	UCSF	yes
TAU6 (Tau1225-7)	160311SBA7	A152T/WT	S	CBD	no	UCSF	yes
F0510	F0510	P301L/WT	A	N/A	yes	NINDS repository	yes
F13535	F13535	P301L/WT	A	N/A	no	WUSM	N/A
F14537	F14537	P301L/WT	S	FTLD-Tau	no	WUSM	N/A
F14536	F14536	WT/WT <sup>b</sup>	A	N/A	no	WUSM	N/A
MHF110	17524NCE1	S305I/WT	S	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
75.11	AG255075	S305I/WT	N/A	N/A	yes	ARTFL/LEFFTDS	N/A
300.12	AG251300	S305N/WT	N/A	N/A	no	ARTFL/LEFFTDS	N/A
GP1.1	GP-1i	S305S/WT	N/A	FTLD-Tau	yes	NSWBB	N/A
GIH36	160311SBC1	IVS10+16/WT	A	N/A	yes	UCSF	yes
GIH161	I18XXYYNCG1	WT/WT <sup>b</sup>	A	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
GIH178	I18XXYYNCC3	IVS10+16/WT	N/A	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
GIH6	160311SBB1	V337M/WT	S	FTLD-Tau	yes	UCSF	yes
GIH7	160311SBB2	V337M/WT	A	N/A	yes	UCSF	yes
GIH155	160311SBB3	V337M/WT	S	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
ND32951A	ND32951A	V337M/WT	A	N/A	yes	NINDS repository	yes
MHF100	171018NCD1	G389R/WT	A	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
MHF101	171018NCD2	G389R/WT	A	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
MHF102	171018NCD3	G389R/WT	S	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
F11374	F11374	R406W/WT	A	N/A	no	WUSM	N/A
F11362	F11362	R406W/WT	S	FTLD-Tau	yes	WUSM	yes
F11421	F11421	R406W/WT	A	N/A	yes	WUSM	yes
GIH143	UCSF1	R406W/R406W	S	N/A	no	UCSF	N/A
GIH131	170524NCF1	WT/WT	S	PSP	no	UCSF	N/A
GIH92	171013NCF3	WT/WT	S	PSP	no	UCSF	N/A

UCSF, University of California San Francisco Memory and Aging Center; WUSM, Washington University, Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; NINDS repository, National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke; ARTFL/LEFFTDS, Advancing Resource and Treatment for Frontotemporal Dementia/Longitudinal Evaluations of Familial Frontotemporal Dementia Subjects; NSWBB, New South Wales Brain Bank; N/A, not available.

<sup>a</sup>At biopsy: A, asymptomatic; S, symptomatic.

<sup>b</sup>Non-carrier, related to MAPT family.



### Figure 2. Generation and Characterization of iPSC Models of Tauopathy

Representative images of control (*MAPT* WT/WT), mutant (*MAPT* P301L/WT), and CRISPR/Cas9-edited, isogenic control (*MAPT* WT/WT-iso) iPSCs.

(A) Diagram of reprogramming and CRISPR/Cas9 editing.

(B and C) Immunostaining (B) and qPCR (C) for pluripotency markers. Graph represents mean  $\pm$  SEM.

(D) Sanger sequencing.

(E) Karyotyping.

(F and G) Spontaneous differentiation into cells within the three germ layers evaluated by RT-PCR (F) and immunostaining (G). *MAPT* WT/WT (iPSC line: F11350); *MAPT* P301L/WT (iPSC line: F0510); *MAPT* WT-iso (iPSC line: F0510.2Δ2'H1). Scale bars, 50  $\mu$ m.

See also [Table S1](#).

2012). However, fibroblast lines from *MAPT* P301S carriers, which would be useful to validate mouse studies, were not available for reprogramming at the time of this study. Thus, we used CRISPR/Cas9 to mutate the *MAPT* P301L donor iPSC line to *MAPT* P301S ([Tables 4](#) and [S2](#)). For this series, we performed whole-genome sequencing and analysis of the mutational burden induced by genome editing and observed no modifications at computationally predicted off-target sites from CRISPR/Cas9 ([Budde et al., 2017](#)). The mutational burden that was observed in the edited iPSC lines was largely driven by selective pressures of cul-

ture ([Bhutani et al., 2016](#); [Budde et al., 2017](#); [Merkle et al., 2017](#)).

To understand the specific contribution of *MAPT* mutations and risk variants to disease phenotypes, we introduced *MAPT* mutations into an unaffected control line. In a control donor iPSC line (F11350) from a male individual carrying *APOE* 3/3 and *MAPT* H1/H1, we introduced *MAPT* R5H, P301L, or G389R ([Tables 4](#) and [S2](#)). In a second control iPSC line (F13505) from a female individual carrying *APOE* 3/3 and *MAPT* H1/H1, we introduced *MAPT* S305I or S305S ([Tables 4](#) and [S2](#)). All resulting edited or





**Table 4. CRISPR/Cas9-Edited iPSC Lines**

Donor ID	Donor Genotype	Isogenic Genotype	<i>Ngn2</i> Integration	Engineering Method <sup>a</sup>	Line Name	Neural Induction
F11362	R406W/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	F11362.1Δ1C11, F11362.1Δ1B6	yes
F11421	R406W/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	F11421.12Δ2A07	yes
F11374	R406W/WT	N/A	yes	TALENs	NF11374.65	yes
160311SBB1	V337M/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	GIH6C1Δ1E11	yes
160311SBB2	V337M/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	GIH7C2Δ2B12, GIH7C2Δ2F02	yes
ND32951A	V337M/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	ND32951A.15Δ1B06, ND32951A.15Δ1C12	yes
GIH36	IVS10+16/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	GIH36C2Δ1D01	yes
F0510	P301L/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	F0510.2Δ2E7, F0510.2Δ2'H1	yes
F0510	P301L/WT	P301L/P301S	no	CRISPR	F0510.2Δ3A11, F0510.2Δ3A9	yes
F0510	P301L/WT	WT/P301S	no	CRISPR	F0510.2Δ3E10, F0510.2Δ4B3, F0510.2Δ4B4	yes
F0510	P301L/WT	P301S/P301S	no	CRISPR	F0510.2Δ3B5	yes
F0510	P301L/WT	N/A	yes	TALENs	NF0510.23, NF0510.12	yes
75.11	S305I/WT	WT/WT	no	CRISPR	75.11-IW1A12	N/A
75.11	S305I/WT	S305I/S305I	no	CRISPR	75.11-IH1B9	N/A
GP1.1	S305S/WT	S305S/S305S	no	CRISPR	GP1.1-SH1G8	N/A
F13505	WT/WT	S305I/WT	no	CRISPR	F13505.1-I1B10	N/A
F13505	WT/WT	S305S/WT	no	CRISPR	F13505.1-S3H5	N/A
F11350	WT/WT	WT/R5H	no	CRISPR	F11350.1.R5HΔ2F06	N/A
F11350	WT/WT	WT/G389R	no	CRISPR	F11350.1.G389R.1C05ΔE03	N/A
F11350	WT/WT	P301L/P301L	no	CRISPR	F11350.1.P301LΔ4A02, F11350.1.P301LΔ4A08	N/A
F12468	WT/WT	N/A	yes	TALENs	NF12468.131	yes
WTC11	WT/WT	N/A	yes	TALENs	NWTC11.G3	yes
WTC11	WT/WT	WT/WT	yes	TALENs/CRISPR	NWTC11.G3.0036	yes
WTC11	WT/WT	V337M/WT	yes	TALENs/CRISPR	NWTC11.G3.0212	yes
WTC11	WT/WT	V337M/V337M	yes	TALENs/CRISPR	NWTC11.G3.3917	yes

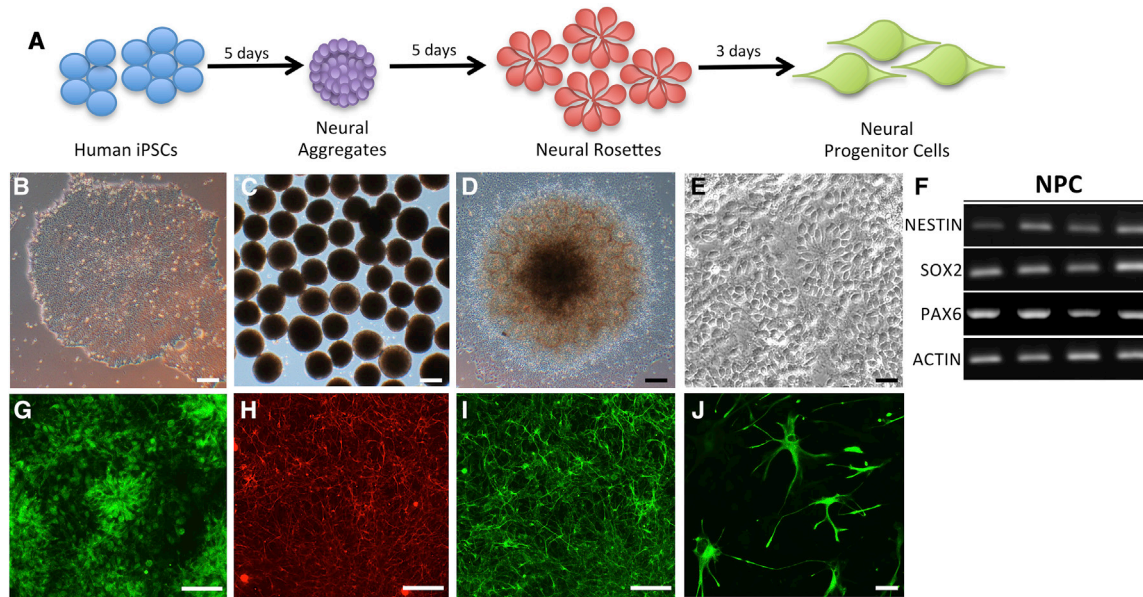
<sup>a</sup>*Ngn2* was engineered by TALENs; *MAPT* mutations/corrections were engineered by CRISPR/Cas9.

unmodified clones were characterized for pluripotency and chromosomal stability as described above (Table S2). We are continuing to build this collection on the same genetic background with additional *MAPT* mutations.

### Differentiation of iPSCs into Neural Progenitor Cells and Differentiated Neural Cells

iPSCs have the capacity to form the diverse neural cell types affected by primary tauopathies. By exploiting our under-

standing of CNS development, several groups have established protocols to generate neuroectodermal neural progenitor cells (NPCs) that can be further patterned into specific neuronal subtypes (Doi et al., 2014; Elkabetz et al., 2008; Muratore et al., 2014). We adapted a neural aggregate-based method that allows for the efficient generation of a scalable pool of NPCs, which have the capacity to be patterned into cultures enriched for different types of neurons or glia (Figure 3). Production of cryopreserved



**Figure 3. Differentiation of iPSCs into Neural Progenitor Cells**

(A) Diagram for neural progenitor derivation protocol. (B–E) Bright-field images. (B) iPSC. (C) Neural aggregates. (D) Neural rosettes. (E) NPCs. (F) RT-PCR of neural progenitor cell markers, *NESTIN*, *SOX2*, *PAX6*, and the housekeeping gene, *ACTIN*. (G) Immunostaining for neural progenitor cell marker, *PAX6*. (H and I) Immunostaining of iPSC-derived neurons. (H) Tuj1. (I) MAP2. (J) Immunostaining of iPSC-derived astrocytes with GFAP. Scale bars, 50  $\mu$ m.

banks of stable and expandable intermediate NPC populations will help to reduce time, effort, and variability across experiments.

We have applied this neural induction protocol to the donor lines in this collection across multiple laboratories (Figure S1; Tables S1 and S2). We have verified that the iPSC collection presented here has the capacity to form NPCs that can be expanded and cryopreserved (Figures 3A–3E). These NPCs express early neuroectodermal markers including *PAX6*, *SOX2*, and *Nestin*, and lack expression of *SOX10*, which marks the neural crest, indicating a CNS expression pattern (Figure 3F). The viability of these NPCs after thaw is high (mean  $89\% \pm 1.2\%$  live cells). These NPCs maintain their capacity to differentiate into neuronal subtypes when used at early passages (between passage 1 and passage 5), while astrocyte differentiation as measured by glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and *S100 $\beta$*  can be promoted using NPCs from early or later passages (beyond passage 5). By incorporating fluorescence-activated cell sorting for cell-surface markers *CD133<sup>+</sup>*, *CD184<sup>+</sup>*, and *CD271<sup>-</sup>*, the resulting selected pool of NPCs can be maintained with a high proportion of neuronal differentiation for at least 50 passages (Cheng et al., 2017). It is critical to culture NPCs at a high density

for the successful maintenance of a stable and expandable population of progenitors (Cheng et al., 2017).

NPCs can be patterned into different neural CNS regions and differentiated into neuronal and glial subtypes to model primary tauopathies (Figures 3I and 3J) (Jiang et al., 2018; Silva et al., 2016; Tcw et al., 2017). By default, these NPCs tend to adopt anterior CNS characteristics, such as *FOXG1* expression, but this fate can also be stimulated by the addition of patterning factors (Kirwan et al., 2015; Saurat et al., 2016). The resulting forebrain neurons produce tau that is physiologically similar to human CNS tau (Sato et al., 2018), with the exception of intracellular 4R tau levels. Achieving splicing of the six major tau isoforms expressed in adult brains remains a challenge in the iPSC system (Hefti et al., 2018; Sposito et al., 2015). Despite the low levels of 4R tau, iPSC-derived neural cells from *MAPT* mutation/risk variant carriers phenocopy aspects of primary tauopathies. This includes the accumulation of phosphorylated forms of tau (Ehrlich et al., 2015; Imamura et al., 2016; Iovino et al., 2015; Silva et al., 2016, 2019), mitochondrial defects (Esteras et al., 2017), and increased cell vulnerability (Hallmann et al., 2017; Silva et al., 2016; Wren et al., 2015). More recently, we have demonstrated that neurons expressing *MAPT*



R406W (F11362) capture molecular signatures related to altered synaptic function that are also present in human brains from *MAPT* R406W carriers and in mouse models of primary tauopathies (Jiang et al., 2018). Cryopreserved NPCs from the iPSCs reported here (Tables 3 and 4) are available upon request from <http://neuralsci.org/tau>.

### Generation of Integrated, Isogenic, and Inducible Neurogenin-2 iPSCs

Integrated, isogenic, and inducible neurogenin-2 ( $i^3N$ ) iPSCs engineered with a doxycycline-inducible mouse Neurogenin-2 (*Ngn2*) transgene in the AAVS1 safe-harbor locus can be scalably differentiated to homogeneous excitatory neurons, which enables the use of human neurons for high-throughput drug discovery (Wang et al., 2017). We have engineered two healthy control WT (F12468 and WTC11), as well as *MAPT* P301L (F0510) and *MAPT* R406W (F11374), to  $i^3N$  iPSCs (Table 4) (Wang et al., 2017). We also mutagenized a control  $i^3N$  line (WTC11) to be heterozygous or homozygous for *MAPT* V337M (Sohn et al., 2019). All modified lines were characterized for chromosomal stability, and confirmed for *Ngn2* integration and neuronal differentiation (Figure S2 and Table S2), and are available upon request from <http://neuralsci.org/tau>.

## DISCUSSION

We present a comprehensive and valuable resource that can be used to model primary tauopathies and for drug discovery. Our patient-based cohort consists of a library of 140 dermal fibroblast lines and respective iPSC lines with multiple clones that are focused on primary tauopathies: 29 iPSC lines from patients carrying pathogenic *MAPT* mutations or risk variants; 2 iPSC lines from autopsy-confirmed PSP patients; 28 isogenic iPSCs; and 8 *Ngn2*-integrated iPSCs. Importantly, most of these cell lines were obtained from deeply clinically phenotyped individuals with detailed neurological and neuropsychological assessment and availability of fluid biomarkers (CSF and plasma), imaging biomarkers (MRI,  $\beta$ -amyloid PET, and tau PET), genetic data, and, for some, neuropathological data.

### Phenotypic Diversity of *MAPT* Mutations

More than 50 mutations in *MAPT* have been reported to cause FTLD-Tau and are located primarily in exons 9–13; yet FTLD-Tau is both clinically and neuropathologically heterogeneous (Table 1). Broadly, FTLD-Tau is defined by neuronal loss, gliosis, and spongiform changes in layer II with predominant involvement of the frontal, temporal, cingulate, and insular cortices and variable involvement

of subcortical nuclei. Clinically, patients with FTLD-Tau pathology can present with a broad range of phenotypes spanning behavioral, cognitive, and motor disturbances. Various different combinations of clinical symptoms may be seen in association with specific mutations and even among affected members of a single family (Spina et al., 2008). Hence, there is a need to understand the impact of specific *MAPT* mutations within the genetic background of individuals with known clinical and pathological manifestations. Our fibroblast and iPSC resources allow for the investigation of common and unique cellular phenotypes driven by these mutations.

### The Clinical and Pathological Spectrum of the Most Common 4R Primary Tauopathies

FTLD-Tau, PSP, and CBD are neuropathologically defined as 4R tauopathies (Kovacs, 2015). PSP pathology occurs in neurons and glia (astrocytes and oligodendrocytes) and preferentially affects the tectum, tegmentum, globus pallidus, diencephalon, and superior cerebellar peduncle (Dickson et al., 2007). In CBD, neuronal and glial pathology occurs within gray and white matter regions of the cortex, basal ganglia, diencephalon, and rostral brainstem (Forman et al., 2002). While 4R-tau aggregation is characteristic of both PSP and CBD, differences in proteolytic processing of tau have been reported to distinguish the two diseases: detergent-insoluble tau occurs at a doublet around 37 kDa in CBD and as a single band at 33 kDa in PSP (Arai et al., 2001, 2004). The *MAPT* A152T risk variant has been associated with both clinical and pathological forms of PSP-S/PSP and CBS/CBD. Our fibroblast resources containing sporadic PSP-S and CBS will allow for the cellular and molecular dissection of disease phenotypes, providing a powerful system for understanding the cellular mechanisms that drive phenotypic differences between PSP-S/PSP and CBS/CBD.

### Challenges in Modeling Primary Tauopathies in Traditional Cell and Mouse Models

Current cellular and animal models used to study primary tauopathies have several limitations. Critically, there is no natural animal model of tauopathy, as these diseases are largely restricted to *Homo sapiens* (Heuer et al., 2012; Holzer et al., 2004). While tau isoforms may share broad functional similarities, different isoforms likely play distinct physiological and pathological roles in the cell (Goedert and Jakes, 1990; Karch et al., 2012; Kosik et al., 1989; Panda et al., 2003). Notably, the expression of tau isoforms drastically differs between human and rodent brains. While the adult human brains have roughly equal levels of 3R and 4R tau, adult rodents express almost exclusively 4R tau, limiting the conclusions that can be drawn from mouse models (Trabzuni et al., 2012). Additionally, most cellular



and transgenic models (e.g., *C. elegans*, *Drosophila*, and mice) rely on overexpression of a mutant transgene comprising a single tau isoform, which may produce effects that are a function of excessive protein expression, specific isoform expression, and possible off-target effects, rather than a disease-relevant phenotype. Finally, neuronal and glial cells are the primary cell types affected in tauopathies; therefore, studies in immortalized cell lines may fail to capture the phenotypes specific to neurons and glia. Thus, our understanding of how tau is metabolized in the human brain has been obtained from experimental paradigms that do not fully capture physiological conditions relevant to human tauopathies. Stem cell models begin to address these gaps; however, tau generated by stem cell-derived neurons remains in the fetal state (e.g., primarily 3R0N) (Hefti et al., 2018; Iovino et al., 2015; Sposito et al., 2015). Nevertheless, cells expressing 4R-containing *MAPT* mutations, such as P301L, exhibit altered tau phosphorylation, tau accumulation, and cell vulnerability (Iovino et al., 2015; Silva et al., 2019). These phenotypes can be reversed with novel tau degraders (Silva et al., 2019).

### Basic Science, Clinical, and Translational Applications of Human Tauopathy Models

Beyond modeling the molecular and cellular pathophysiology of primary tauopathies, the derivation of patient-specific expandable NPCs enables large-scale functional genomics, proteomics, and small-molecule-based and CRISPR-based genetic modifier screens (Boselli et al., 2017; Cheng et al., 2017; Silva et al., 2016; Tian et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2017). This includes the use of high-content imaging methodologies with subcellular level resolution of molecular and morphological changes in defined neuronal subtypes with and without glial subtypes. We envision that using the framework of phenotypes from the autosomal dominant mutations and risk factors for tauopathy described here will also assist in the interpretation of genetic variants of unknown pathological significance that are being identified by exome and whole-genome sequencing projects.

One of the challenges in modeling diseases that typically present clinically in mid to late adulthood is to accelerate aging in iPSC-derived cells. This is particularly difficult given that during reprogramming to pluripotency, the features of aging present in originating somatic cells are reset. In contrast, fibroblasts directly reprogrammed into neurons retain their aging characteristics such as DNA methylation (Huh et al., 2016; Maherali et al., 2007; Mertens et al., 2015). Efforts to induce chronological aging in iPSC-derived neurons are under way (Miller et al., 2013). In the meantime, the ability to study both reprogrammed iPSCs and their source fibroblasts directly differentiated into neurons may help the field dissect how gene muta-

tions contribute to the neurodegenerative process at both early and late age-dependent stages.

Our intention is to extend the existing resource, particularly by adding fibroblasts and iPSCs carrying novel mutations with clear pathogenicity and unique clinical features such as those associated with extremely early age of onset or rapid disease progression. Other variants in specific domains of tau or in non-coding genomic elements (e.g., 5'/3' UTRs, enhancer sites) would also be of interest to the collection as well as additional genome engineering in existing lines.

### Conclusions

In total, the resource presented here represents an opportunity to understand the mechanisms by which pathogenic mutations or risk variants in *MAPT* drive tauopathy. This resource will also be of interest to the broader community working on neurodegenerative disease. The collaborative efforts through which this resource has been generated can serve as a model for other neurodegenerative disease subtypes as well as other neurological and non-neurological diseases under genetic influence. Our intention is to broadly share the collection of fibroblasts, iPSCs, and NPCs and related data and information, which are available upon request. We are continuing to build this collection with additional reprogramming and genome editing, and updates will be available at <http://neuralsci.org/tau> (Figure S3).

### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

The Washington University and University of California San Francisco Institutional Review Boards reviewed the Neuropathology Cores (from whom the brains were obtained) operating protocols as well as this specific study and determined it was exempt from approval. Our participants provide this consent by signing the hospital's autopsy form. If the participant does not provide future consent before death the DPOA or next of kin provide it after death. All data were analyzed anonymously.

Skin punches were performed following written informed consent from the donor. The informed consent was approved by the Washington University School of Medicine and the University of California San Francisco Institutional Review Board and Ethics Committee (IRB 201104178, 201306108 and 10-03946). The consent allows for use of tissue by all parties, commercial and academic, for the purposes of research but not for use in human therapy.

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells or dermal fibroblasts were transduced with non-integrating Sendai virus carrying OCT3/4, SOX2, KLF4, and cMYC. iPSC lines were analyzed for pluripotency markers by immunocytochemistry (ICC) and qPCR; spontaneous differentiation into the three germ layers by ICC or qPCR; and chromosomal abnormalities by karyotyping. Human iPSCs were edited using CRISPR/Cas9 as previously reported (Budde et al.,





2017).  $i^3N$  iPSCs were generated as described previously (Wang et al., 2017). See [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#) for additional details.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stemcr.2019.09.006>.

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